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CANTON Observer

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Memo

Bring joy

Volunteers who give their time and energy to the Canton Public Library will be honored with a brunch at 11 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 11, at the library. Good food, good conversation and good friends are in store for all volunteers.

On the move

Harold Tellners CPA will host a ribbon-cutting and grand opening to celebrate his move to a new building at 25201 Michigan Avenue in Dearborn. The Canton Chamber of Commerce will be on hand to help celebrate the move with a ribbon-cutting at 12:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 5. The grand opening will run noon to 6 p.m.

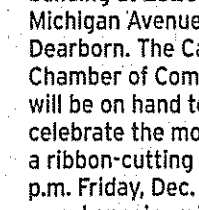
Craft show

St. Thomas a'Becket Catholic Church, 555 S. Lilley, will host a Christmas Craft show from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 6, at the church. More than 80 crafters will be on hand. A baked goods sale and lunch also will be available.

Proceeds will go to benefit the church. Admission is $2 and children 12 years and younger are free.

Cash and carry

The Canton Historical Society will offers residents a chance to buy holiday poinsettias and wreaths from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 7, at the Cherry Hill School on Ridge Road, just north of Cherry Hill.



For sale will be various sizes ranging from a 6-inch pot to 8.5-inch pot with four or three plants, as well as 16-inch decorated wreaths and hanging plants.

Prices range from $6 for the 6-inch pot of poinsettias to $25 for the hanging plants.

While at the schoolhouse you may drop off non-perishable foods and new toys for the Canton Goodfellows.

Give it a try

Spotlight Players, formerly Plymouth Theatre Guild, will hold auditions for the drama *Steel Magnolias* by Robert Harling at 7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 15, and Tuesday, Dec. 16, in the Arts 1 Room in the Summit, 46000 Summit Parkway. Roles are available for six women ages 20 and older. Call the director at (248) 701-1780 for information.

All shows will be dinner theatre performances in February 2004. Web site: www.spotlight-players.net.

Officer's death is a 'huge loss'

Darow

He was a police officer with "the patience of Job," a father whose favorite saying to his son was "it doesn't get any better than this" and a trim, gray-haired guy who, in profile, bore a striking resemblance to actor Lee Marvin.

That's how friends remembered Brian Darow, a 16-year-veteran of the Canton Police Department, who died early Monday of injuries received when he fell from a ladder at his home Sunday afternoon.

Friends and co-workers remember Brian Darow as an unflappable officer. News, Page A2.

Darow, 47, was stringing Christmas lights along a roof peak on the side of his home when he fell about 20 feet and struck his head on the driveway. He died a few hours later in St. Joseph Mercy Hospital of massive head injuries.

"His wife, Joan, was outside with him," longtime friend Bryan Amann said. "It was pretty windy. He fell backward and she tried to catch him, but he landed on the concrete not far from a grassy surface."

In addition to his wife, Darow, who was named Police Officer of the Year in 2001, is survived by his son, Jerald B.; his daughter, Mallory A.; his father, Edward; two brothers; and one sister. He received numerous awards during his career, including a Department Citation and a Certificate of Merit.

But according to Amann, he was not one to boast of his accomplishments.

"A lot of his friends and family were surprised to learn about the awards he had won," Amann said. "You couldn't get him to brag about himself if you twisted his arm. This is going to be a huge loss to the community."

Public Safety Director John Santomauro said Darow was "revered within the department and looked at as one of the finest Canton officers. His greatest quality was his positive attitude, not only about his family but about his profession."

A funeral Mass will be held at St. Thomas a'Becket Church, 555 S. Lilley Road, in Canton at 10:30 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 4. The body will be in state at 9:30 a.m. Burial will be in Knollwood Cemetery. Arrangements were handled by L.J. Griffin Funeral Home. Memorial contributions may be made to Thin Blue Line, Memorial Contributions, P. O. Box 415, Howell, MI 48844.

Fellow officers have also established a memorial fund to help the family. Donations to that may be made to: Officer Brian Darow Memorial Fund, c/o Bank One, 45345 Ford Road, Canton, MI 48187.

Bush draws protesters, supporters

As his presidential limo wheels around the corner of Koppernick and Ronda Drive in Canton, President George W. Bush waves to a small crowd of supporters and protesters.

All Brian Livingston of Plymouth wanted to do was keep a 1 p.m. appointment Monday with his attorney, whose office is on Ronda Drive in Canton.

But when he got to the intersection of Ronda and Koppernick, inside an industrial park west of Haggerty, he found his way blocked by a Canton Police car.

"They said they were paving the road today," Livingston said.

But that was not quite the case.

The occasion was a brief visit by President George W. Bush to Dynamic Metal Treating, a small auto supply factory, to use as a staging area to promote his tax cuts as helping small businesses and workers.

The invitation-only affair followed a fund-raising luncheon in Dearborn at which Bush reportedly raised about $750,000 from the 300 people who popped $2,000 a ticket for the occasion.

His Canton visit, which lasted about 40 minutes, was a staged "conversation" with the presidents of two small

PLEASE SEE **BUSH, A5**

Educators rally to save funds

More than 50 school administrators, school board members and their supporters from nearly a dozen school districts — including Plymouth-Canton and Redford Union — braved a blustery, below-freezing morning on the state Capitol steps Monday, urging the governor and state legislators to find ways to balance the state budget other than cutting the state foundation grant to school districts by nearly $200 per pupil.

"There are other options than to continue to slash and burn the revenue that is slotted for our public schools," said Redford Union school board president, Jim Taylor, to a round of cheers and applause. "We can't continue to balance the budget, or provide tax relief, on the backs of our students."

PLEASE SEE **FUNDS, A4**

Volunteers extraordinaire feel 100 times blessed

BY JOANNE MALISZEWSKI
STAFF WRITER

When they can help, John and Nancy Spencer's hearts just feel good.

"We get 100 times more blessings than what we receive," said Nancy Spencer, president of the Canton Goodfellows. "It makes your heart feel good when you've done something good for somebody."

Both have extensive volunteer resumes and are never far when someone needs help or support. The couple, who have a grown daughter, Julie, moved to Canton when John began working as the financial director for the township. "I wanted to move close to work and live in the community I work for," John said.

Both are native Detroiters, with a move to Dearborn Heights before landing in Canton. Both are products of Catholic schools. "He had priests. I had nuns," Nancy said. John's father owned a meat business in Detroit and was active in the nearby Catholic church and worked with the Little Sisters of the Poor. Helping is in John's blood.

If you talk to either Spencer, you would swear they know just about everybody in the community. At the very least, they know lots of people who either need help or can give help.

John Spencer is president of the Canton Veterans Memorial Association, the retired treasurer of the Vietnam Vets Chapter 528, a member of the Canton Lions Club, secretary of the Canton Friends of the Library, past commander of the Canton VFW and a member of the Knights of Columbus.

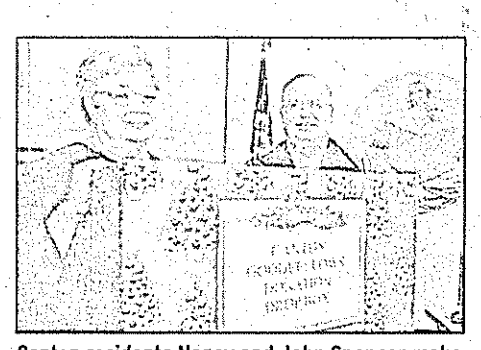
His wife's resume is just as varied and deep. She is the longtime president of the successful Canton Goodfellows, a founding member of the Homeowners Advisory Council, a former president and member of the Canton Friends of the Public Library and a founding member of the Canton Veterans Memorial Association. She is also an associate member of the VFA Chapter 528, volunteer for the Canton Seniors, fund-raiser for senior programs, a director of the Senior Players, volunteer for the Canton Firefighters Charity Foundation, representative on the parish council of St. Thomas A' Becket Catholic Church, former volunteer for the Canton Community Foundation, Canton Chamber of Commerce member and volunteer for the former D.A.R.E. program.

Enough said.

With the holiday season, the Spencers are up to their eyes in Goodfellows efforts. "I'm a pack mule for the Canton Goodfellows. That means I haul all the stuff," John said. After 10 years as Goodfellows president, Nancy says she assumes "it's a job for life." But it's one she loves and will continue to do as long as the other board members want her.

A turning point for Nancy came a number of years ago when she became ill. "I was not supposed to live and I did," she said. "So once I lived, I had to find out what I could do. I knew I had a big mouth and lots of contacts."

That did it. She knew she couldn't go back to work. She had been a dental hygienist and then a paraprofessional at East Middle School. But she could get involved.



Canton residents Nancy and John Spencer make no bones about giving their time and hearts to the community. Here they place a donation box for the Canton Goodfellows as the holiday season winds up.

"I thought it was a good change once I figured out what I was going to do," she said. "Doing for yourself isn't fun. But doing for someone else is great. I love to see that I can do something that helps make a difference in peoples' lives."

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Goodfellows will be out in force Dec. 6

The Canton Goodfellows will be out and about 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6 selling their annual Goodfellows newspaper to raise money to give less fortunate families in the area happy holidays.

The poor economy has put more people in Canton in need and the Goodfellows are gearing up to help. The organization, led by president Nancy Spencer, has 400 children - part of the "Be An Angel, Adopt a Child for Christmas" program.

The Goodfellows are asking residents to adopt by buying Christmas gifts for any one or more than one of these children for the holidays.

The kids to be adopted range in ages from infant to 18.

If you are interested in adopting, call Spencer at (734) 397-8975.

The Goodfellows will continue to provide an honest-to-goodness Christmas dinner with all the fixings for families in need.

Families also will receive gift certificates so they can buy perishable foods for the meal.

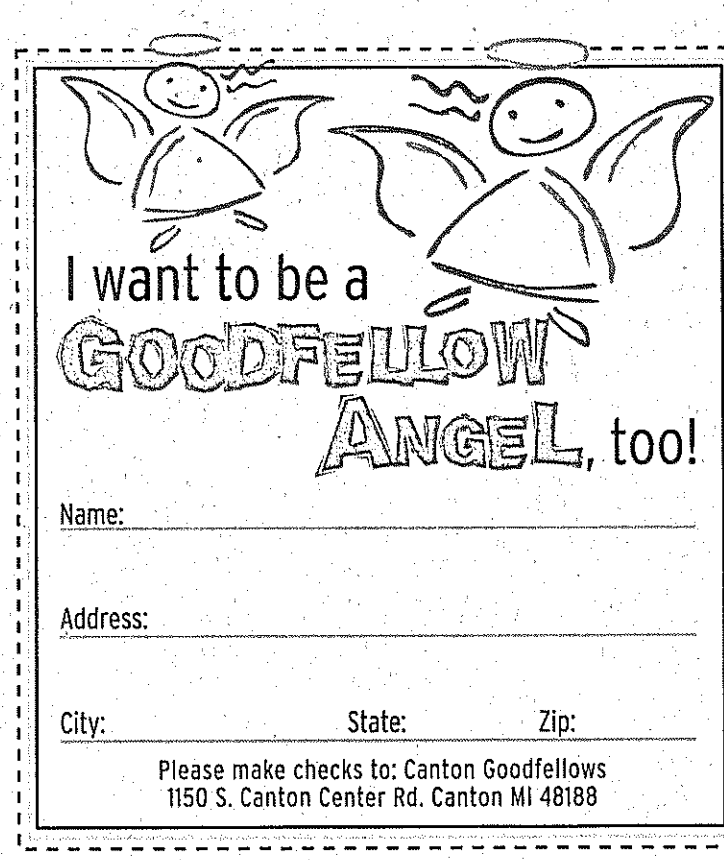
Proceeds from the newspaper sale will help the Goodfellows accomplish its goals.

Another upcoming fundraiser will be 5 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 10 at Fazoli's restaurant on Ford Road. A portion of the proceeds will go to the Goodfellows.

The Goodfellows will accept new toys, clothes and non-perishables now through Dec. 17. You may drop off donations at Canton Township Hall or the Canton Public Library. Sorting and wrapping will take place Dec. 17-19. Delivery Day is Dec. 20.

The Goodfellows will be at the following locations selling newspapers:

- ☐ Driveway at Tim Horton's at Haggerty and Ford roads.
- ☐ Driveway at ABC Warehouse on Ford Road.
- ☐ Driveway at Wordhouse Financial on the north side of Ford Road, west of Lilley.
- ☐ Driveway at Target on the north side of Ford Road, east of Sheldon.
- ☐ Driveway at Pizza Hut on the south side of Ford Road, east of Canton Center Road.
- ☐ Driveway at Frank's Nursery on the south side of Ford Road at Morton Taylor.
- ☐ Driveway at Canton Corners on the south side of Ford at Lilley.
- ☐ Driveway to Kroger on Michigan Avenue and Canton Center.
- ☐ Driveway at Keller & Stein on Michigan Avenue at Lilley Road.
- ☐ Holiday Market.
- ☐ Driveway at Farmer Jack on Morton Taylor, south of Joy.
- ☐ Driveway at Gallimore Elementary School on Sheldon Road, south of Joy.
- ☐ Driveway at Sheldon Road shopping center, north of Warren.
- ☐ At Used Sports Equipment Sale at Softball City on Michigan Avenue.



Name: _____

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Please make checks to: Canton Goodfellows
1150 S. Canton Center Rd. Canton MI 48188

Darow remembered as an unflappable officer

In addition to his duties in the Canton Police Department, Brian Darow worked as a driver training instructor for Advanced Driving Academy, operated by fellow Canton Police Officer Leonard Schemanske.

Darow was the first instructor Schemanske hired when he started the driver training program five years ago. Most of the instructors are off-duty police officers.

"Brian had legions of adoring former students and parents," said longtime friend Bryan Amann.

Schemanske, who had been friends with Darow for 15 years, remembered him as an unflappable officer.

"He was Mr. Smooth," Schemanske said. "He never raised his voice. Never lost control. If shots were fired, he never got spooked. He never over-reacted."

Schemanske said he had talked to Darow just a couple of hours before his accident.

"He had been doing driver's ed two hours before that," he said.

"He had a niece and he was trying to set up a road test for her. His family was always number one with him."

But Darow also loved to visit the casinos in Las Vegas, Schemanske recalled.

"One of his favorites sayings was, 'Put it on the red,'" he said. "He loved going to Vegas. Going to the casinos. He was trying to set up a Vegas trip for the end of this year."

Despite his trim physique, Schemanske said Darow was a snack eater.

"He loved his sweets," he said. "Everyone was jealous of him because he could stay so trim."

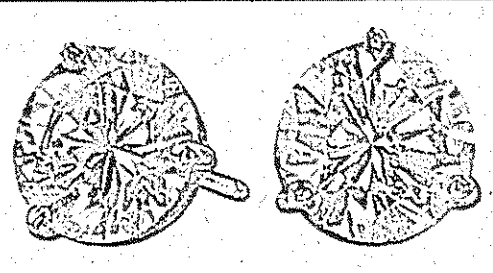
Darow was hired by the Plymouth police department in the summer of 1987 to help control the city's cruising problem.

Police Chief Wayne Carroll remembers him as a good cop, who eventually received a recommendation from the Plymouth police department when he applied for a position in Canton.

"He was a hard working, dedicated officer who did a good job," said Carroll.

"He fit in real well in the department, and was a very personable guy. He's going to be missed."

Darow joined the Canton department in 1987 and served on a number of special assignments, including the accident investigation team and the special enforcement unit. He was a motorcycle instructor in the training division and was responsible for training a number of motorcycle officers in the metro Detroit area.



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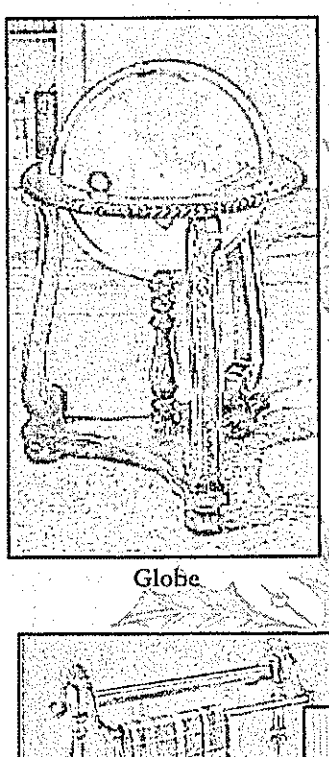
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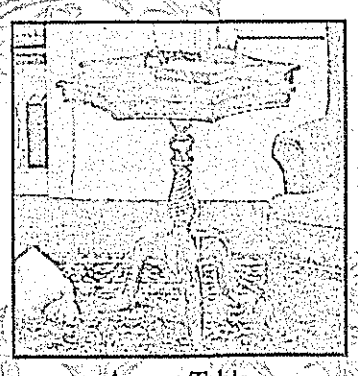
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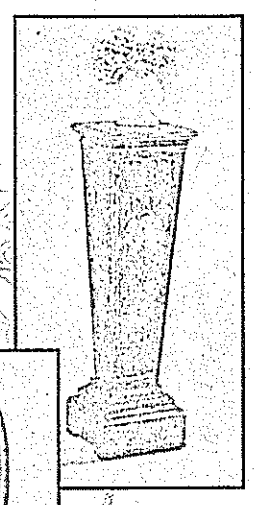
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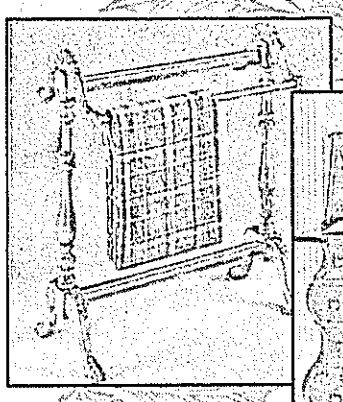
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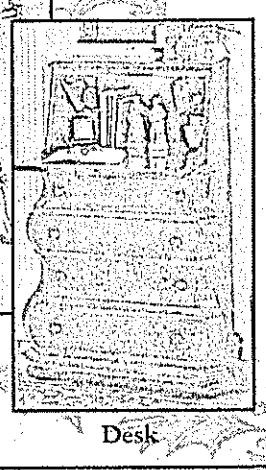
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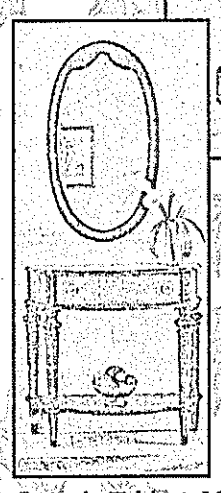
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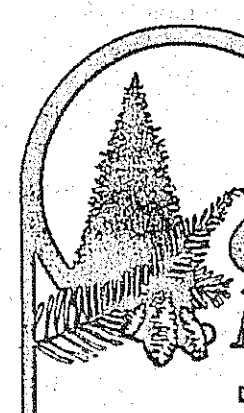

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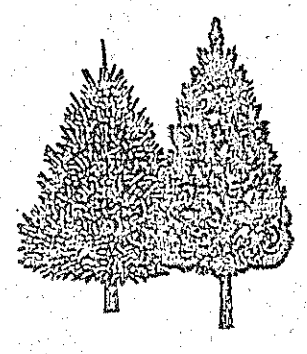
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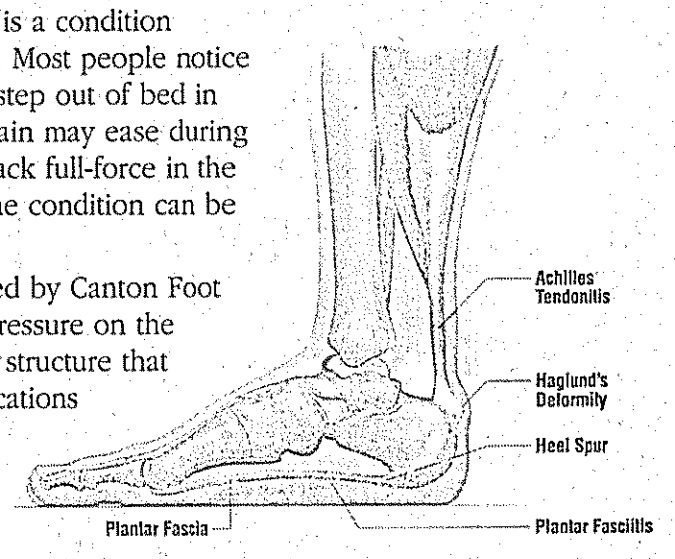

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Cuts create new palette of funding woes for arts

BY JOANNE MALISZEWSKI
STAFF WRITER

If there is an art to cutting the over-wrought state budget, arts and cultural group organizers don't see it. But they are changing how they do business.

"Individual people will have to make a conscious decision to support the arts in their communities," said Stella Greene, Plymouth Community Arts Council executive director. "It's a quality of life issue."

Bryan Amann of Canton agrees. As chairman of Canton's Partnership for the Arts, a nonprofit fund-raising organization for the Village Theater at Cherry Hill, he knows all about raising money for arts and culture.

"This is how things will have to be for the arts community," Amann said. "In Canton Township, it's a partnership. It's time for people to step up."

According to state Rep. Phil LaJoy's office, projected cuts in the arts statewide for the 2004 budget are significant at approximately $12 million. That takes arts and cultural funding from $69.2 million to $57.1 million.

"The state is just not in good fiscal shape," said LaJoy (R-Canton). "If you know you have to cut, everybody thinks everything is essential. But the (state) Constitution says we have to balance the budget."

When faced with potential large cuts in social and family services and safety, the choices are limited. "Nobody wants to take away the gains we have made in the arts. But we have to make cuts," LaJoy said.

Arts groups don't dispute his comments.

"Michigan had a wonderful run for a number of years and supported the arts at a wonderful level," said Debbie Mikula, executive director of the Michigan Association of Community Arts Agencies, which represents arts agencies throughout the state.

In fact, while the national average for state financing of arts was $1.85 per person, Michigan was giving $2.20. Compare that, she said, to Wisconsin at 55 cents per person and Colorado and California at zero per person.

"We took a huge cut, larger than any other piece in the budget," Mikula said. "But I guess there's always hope."

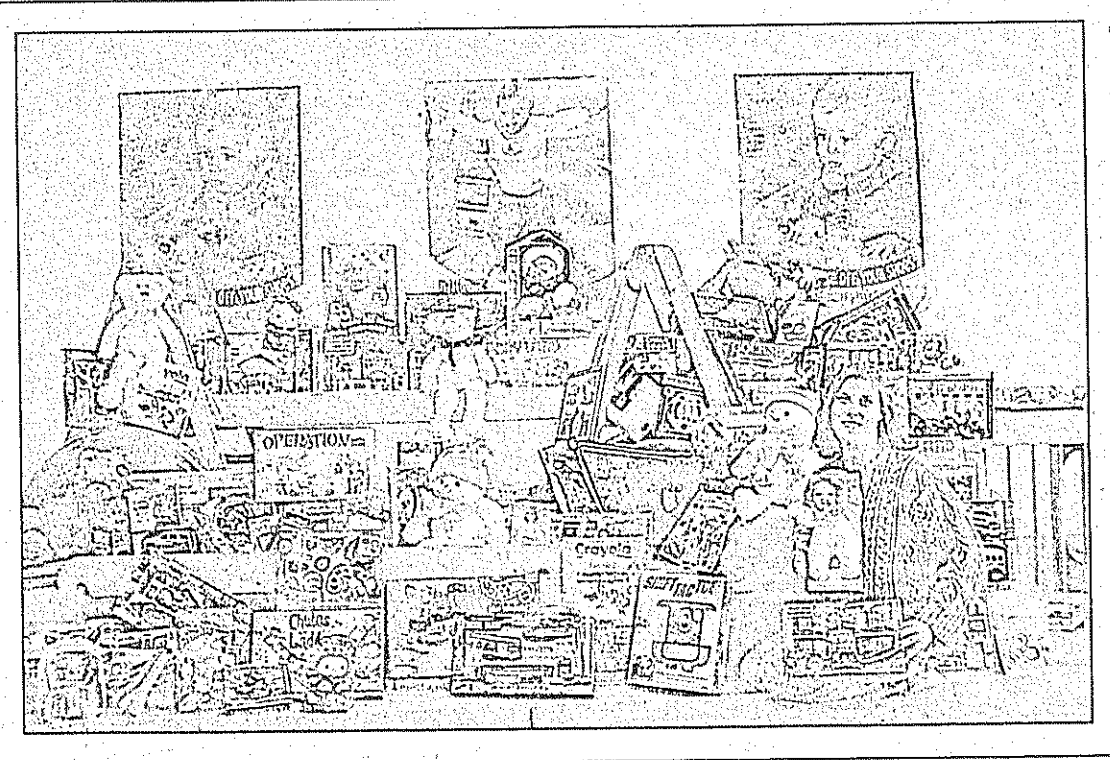
Her budget was cut by $250,000. Not small change. She believes the smaller organizations, those that essentially run on a shoestring, may just make it because their staff, if any, is smaller, as is their overhead.

Mikula agrees with other arts group representatives when they say other sources of financing will have to be discovered. "They need to regroup and think over their mission and core programming. What is going to keep you at a surface level?

"Treading water, that's what's going on," Mikula added.

Linda Alvarado, Plymouth Symphony program coordinator, says the state budget cuts are still a guessing game. Lansing announced to the media that the symphony was awarded a $15,900 grant. But like other arts groups, the symphony is looking at how it does business, such as reducing office costs. "We are trying not to drop programs," Alvarado said.

Even with state grants, local arts groups all fund-raise to provide their programs. Canton Project Arts is lucky in that it receives money from Canton Township. "The cuts will affect some grants we apply for," said Linda Shapona, chair. Like other groups, Project Arts, which will be replaced with a township-appointed commission, charges admission for many programs. "The township is very generous, but we try to cover as much as we can."



Tots for Tots

You can help Gymboree Play & Music of Canton with its second annual Toys for Tots holiday effort by stopping by the playschool at 8016 Sheldon Center Road with new, unwrapped toys until Dec. 15. Toys are needed for kids of all ages, especially the 10-13 age group. Monetary donations also will be accepted. Last year Gymboree collected enough to fill a Jeep Cherokee twice with toys for donation. 'We hope to do the same again this year,' said the Gymboree's Tammi Brandon.

Salvation Army's Red Kettle campaign prospers

BY BRAD KADRICH
STAFF WRITER

Canton High School students Janelle Hudak and Katie Huddleston were at Busch's Valu Land Monday, pulling a three-hour shift ringing the bell for the Plymouth Salvation Army's Red Kettle Campaign.

Because three hours is a long time to stand out there just ringing the bell, Hudak and Huddleston, both residents of Plymouth, broke out into song, delivering a variety of Christmas carols for the patrons of the store.

Apparently, people responded, because the kettle began filling up quickly.

"We found out a lot of people liked that," said Hudak, 15 and a Canton sophomore.

It's a phenomenon that has been taking place all over the area for the Salvation Army, whose biggest annual fundraiser is some 33 percent ahead of the pace set last year.

According to figures compiled by the Army, donations through the first six days of the campaign this year total some $27,000, nearly $7,000 more than the first seven days of the 2002 campaign.

The campaign kicked off Nov. 21 with the annual ceremony outside the Army headquarters on Main Street just south of Ann Arbor Road.

Since then, volunteers have been ringing bells at some 24 locations. Money has also come in from half-a-dozen counter kettle locations (businesses who allow a smaller version of the Red Kettle on countertops inside their stores).

The money is used to fund Salvation Army operations in its coverage area, which includes Plymouth, Canton, Belleville and Northville. Last year's campaign raised some $129,000; campaign coordinator Kelly Zmudczynski said she hopes to bring in $140,000 this time around.

"The kettle campaign is how we fund the majority of our services," Zmudczynski said.

Zmudczynski, a Canton resident, was hired as a part-timer last year, then added to the full-time staff this year. It's the first time the Army has employed someone year-round to coordinate the campaign. According to Maj. Stephen Hull, the Plymouth Salvation Army commander, the move has paid off. "The bell-ringing effort is off to a great start this year," Hull said. "I know it's still early, but it seems that (Zmudczynski's) work is paying off."

To volunteer to ring bells or for more information, call Zmudczynski at (734) 453-5464.

bkadrich@oe.homecomm.net | (734) 459-2700

Amusement center gets planning nod of approval

The cruisers may be coming to Canton. Not the automobile types that used to pack the streets of Plymouth on summer Saturday nights. These cruisers are strictly indoors.

And it's all planned to take place in the old Super Kmart building on Ford Road and Haggerty.

Craig's Cruisers, a western Michigan-based company, plans to open a family fun center at the site, complete with indoor electric Go-Karts, game rooms and a family-oriented restaurant.

The company won approval Monday from the Planning Commission for special land use that opens the door for the project.

Craig Cihak of Hart, Mich., company owner, said the concept behind the fun centers is to work with churches, schools and local businesses to offer a gathering place for meetings and outings.

"We're expanding into much more of a restaurant-type facility," he said, "in conjunction with the indoor Go-Karts."

Neighboring residents had some questions about the hours the facility would be open, but expressed no major concerns.

In other business, the commission approved a special land use request for a 20-acre housing project for the elderly on the northwest corner of Beck and Geddes. The request was tabled Nov. 3 after commissioners raised questions about the legality of restricting occupancy by age. But an attorney for the township said he had reviewed the Federal Fair Housing Act and the Federal Housing for Older Persons Act, and those statutes "permit a housing development for senior living despite age discrimination issues."

Experience the red carpet treatment with these special happenings at Laurel Park Place

A Laurel Park Exclusive Appearance:

Meet "Mr. Hockey" Gordie Howe

We're rolling out the red carpet for hockey legend Gordie Howe when he appears on Saturday, Dec. 13, at 10:00 am in the Center Court to sign his collectible "bobblehead"—the perfect gift for the sports enthusiast. Hurry...bobbleheads are limited.

FREE Limousine Rides to Laurel Park Place courtesy of Lavdas Limousine

Now through Dec. 24, we will pick you up (from anywhere in the tri-county area) and bring you directly to Laurel Park Place. Then, just schedule your return trip home with the Concierge. Or, have your packages delivered to your home in style...compliments of Lavdas Limousine.

Weekdays and Saturdays, No pick-up on Sundays. Call Concierge for details.

Santa Has Arrived!

Visit Santa in his special castle in Von Maur Court now through December 24. A wide variety of photo packages are available for purchase. Santa's hours are:

Dec. 7 . . . . . 12:00 pm–5:30 pm
Dec. 8-13 . . . . . 11:00 am–7:30 pm
Dec. 14 . . . . . 12:00 pm–5:30 pm
Dec. 15-19 . . . . . 11:00 am–7:30 pm
Dec. 20 . . . . . 10:00 am–8:30 pm
Dec. 21 . . . . . 12:00 pm–5:30 pm
Dec. 22-23 . . . . . 11:00 am–7:30 pm
Dec. 24 . . . . . 10:00 am–3:00 pm

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EQUAL HOUSING LENDER

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FUNDS

FROM PAGE A1

Schools across the state want the legislature to approve a plan by Gov. Jennifer Granholm to delay the state income tax rollback by a tenth-of-a-percent, which would help reduce the $350-million deficit in the state school aid fund.

Without the pause in the income tax rollback, Granholm's executive order would result in districts losing $196 in per-pupil funding. Plymouth-Canton currently receives $7,025 per pupil; Redford Union's subsidy is $6,715 per student.

School officials also point to Proposal A, which has given the state control over the funding dollars to school districts.

"We have a structural deficit in Proposal A, and we have to get out of that," said Mike Shibler, superintendent of Rockford Public Schools. "Getting out of that structural deficit isn't going to happen through cuts; it's going to happen by generating revenues for the program."

Plymouth-Canton school board trustee Joanne Lamar reminded legislators that former Gov. John Engler, who was the leader of the changes in public education funding, is no longer in control.

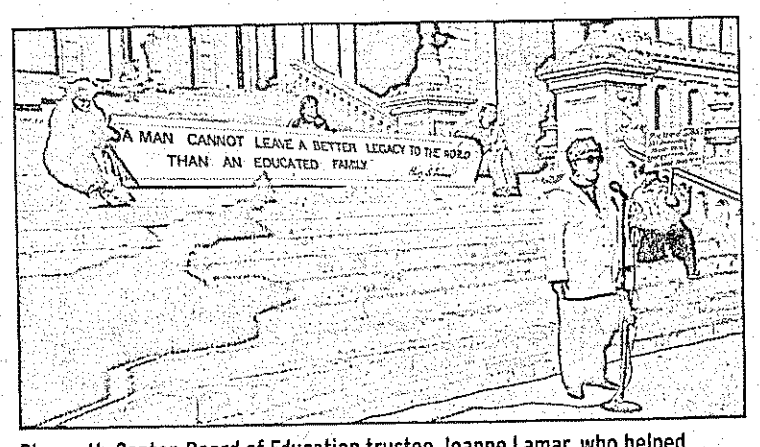
"I don't know if it's the spirit of John Engler doing something out there, but I think they (state legislators) are afraid to say anything," she said to the assembled crowd, which included Plymouth-Canton Schools Superintendent Jim Ryan. "Now, we let them know we're out there ... and they can do something to support public education."

Bettie and Guy Runyan of Canton braved the cold weather to show support for their schools at a rally to save school funding in Lansing.

Taylor challenged the state to be responsible with its budget, just as school districts have been responsible with their budgets.

"We have cut the things that are unnecessary; and we've done it without cutting programs, without shortchanging the kids in our district," he said. "Now, we are at the bone. Where do you want us to cut now?

"I pray that the governor will seriously consider those options, and that we will stop laying down the weapons of war and partisan politics and start working together," added Taylor. "We need our schools to be successful."



Plymouth-Canton Board of Education trustee Joanne Lamar, who helped organize Monday's rally to save school funding, speaks on the Capitol steps in Lansing.

State school Superintendent Tom Watkins agreed it's time for the legislature to step up.

"Our schools are the best economic development program the state can have," said Watkins. "Our future is looking us in the face, and it's time for the legislature and the governor to do right by our kids — hit the pause button, make sure we're putting resources behind our rhetoric and investing in Michigan's children."

Symphony, ballet and singers join forces to present 'Nutcracker'

In a long-standing tradition, the Plymouth Symphony will once again join with the Plymouth-Canton Ballet and the Plymouth Canton Educational Park Madrigal Singers to present the classic fairy tale - Tchaikovsky's *The Nutcracker* ballet.

Performances will be 11 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6, and 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 7.

All performances are at Salem High School Auditorium, 46181 Joy Road in Canton. This year's presentation features Dawnell Dryja and Calin Radulescu of the Grand Rapids Ballet.

Dawnell Dryja (Snow Queen/Sugar Plum Fairy) is originally from Canton, where she trained under her mother, Dawn Greene. Her past roles include Titania in *A Midsummer Nights Dream*; Sugar Plum and Snow Queen in *The Nutcracker;* Balanchine ballets, such as, *Divertimento No. 15, Jewels, Slaughter on Tenth Avenue,* and *Who Cares.*

Dryja has danced professionally for several years in companies such as Metropolitan Ballet Theatre, Dayton Ballet, and Cincinnati Ballet and has also performed, instructed, and ballet mistressed for Burklyn Ballet Theatre in Vermont.

She has previously held the titles of Petite Miss Dance of Michigan, Junior Miss Dance of Michigan, Junior Miss Dance of America, and Miss Dance of Michigan.

Calin Radulescu (Snow King/Sugar Plum's Cavalier) is from Bucharest, Romania, where he completed nine years of ballet school at the National Ballet School of Bucharest.

Following the Saturday 11 a.m. and Sunday 2 p.m. performances the Plymouth Symphony League will host the Sugar Plum Tea in the cafeteria. It's an opportunity for everyone to meet and take pictures with the dancers, enjoy some refreshments, and purchase an array of holiday gifts.

Formed in 1989, the Plymouth-Canton Ballet Company has been performing the Nutcracker annually with the Plymouth Symphony since 1990.

The company offers local communities high quality dance productions, bringing together dancers from throughout the metro Detroit area for these productions. The company is led by artistic director Dawn Greene.

These performances are made possible through the generous support of the Plymouth Symphony League and the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs, a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts.

Admission is $18 for adults and $10 for children. Sugar Plum Fairy Tea tickets are an additional $5. Groups of 10 or more will receive a 10 percent discount.

For tickets please contact the Symphony Office at (734) 451-2112 or at plymouthsymphony@aol.com.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS AGENDA
DECEMBER 11, 2003

Notice is hereby given that there will be a meeting of the Zoning Board of Appeals **THURSDAY, December 11, 2003 AT 7:30 P.M. The meeting will be held at the Summit on the Park located at 46000 SUMMIT PARKWAY, CANTON, MI 48188.** The following Agenda will be discussed:

Pledge of Allegiance to the flag

Roll Call: Randy Blaylock, Jim Cisek, Cathy Johnson, Phyllis Redfern and Steven Johnson.

Acceptance of Agenda

1. Matthew Rojer of Vital Signs, 37037 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150 representing Mel Morris of MJ Morris OVT LLC. Property located at 39600 Michigan Avenue, north side of Michigan Avenue between I275 and Hannan Road. The ordinance being appealed is Sign Ordinance 120, Section 5, 5.20, requirements for number of allowable signs.
   Zone C-3.
   Parcel #141-99-0002-000
   (Building)

Election of officers for 2004

Meeting Schedule for 2004

(November 11 rescheduled to November 18)

Approval of 9/11/03, 9/25/03, 10/9/03, 2003 Minutes

Publish December 4, 2003

OE08169240

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON
REQUEST FOR BID

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Charter Township of Canton, 1150 Canton Center S, Canton, Michigan will accept sealed bids at the Office of the Clerk up to 3:00 p.m., December 18th, 2003 for the following:

T1 DATA CIRCUITS

Bid forms may be picked up at the Finance and Budget Department counter or you may contact Mike Sheppard at (734) 394-5225. All bids must be submitted in a sealed envelope clearly marked with the proposal name, company name, address and telephone number and date and time of bid opening. The Township reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals. The Township does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age or disability in employment or the provision of services.

TERRY G. BENNETT, CLERK

Publish: 12/4/2003

OE08169239

NOTICE
CITY OF PLYMOUTH, MICHIGAN
DOG LICENSE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that current dog licenses will **expire on December 31, 2003.**

New pet owners must present a Rabies Vaccination Certificate that is valid during the next license period in order to obtain a license. Licenses may be purchased during regular City Hall hours, Monday - Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. The 2004 license will expire December 31, 2004.

License fee **$5.00 per dog**

A copy of Ordinance #99-9 is available in the Clerk's office.

TERESA CISCHKE, CMFA
City Treasurer

Publish: December 4 & 7, 2003

OE08169935

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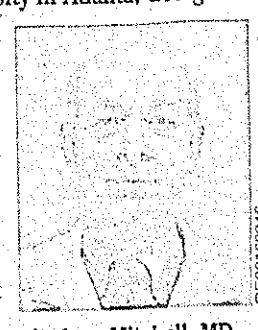

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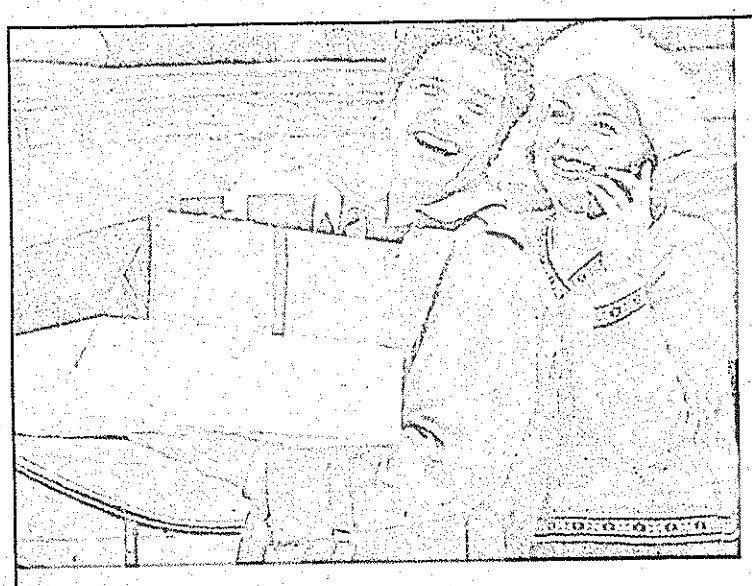

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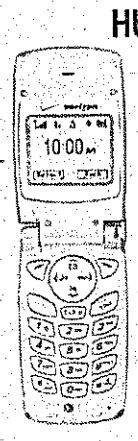

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315 E. Grand River
(East of Main St.)
810.227.7440

CANTON
44011 Ford Rd.
(3 blks. East of Sheldon Rd.)
734.981.7440

FENTON
18010 Silver Parkway
(in Silver Lake Village)
810.629.7440

HARTLAND
10112 Highland Rd.
(M-59 & Old US-23)
810.632.9300

HOWELL
4207 E. Grand River Ave.
(in Sears Plaza)
517.545.7220

LANSING
440 E. Edgewood
(in front of Sam's Club)
517.394.7441

MILFORD
101 E. Commerce
(at Main St.)
248.684.7440

NEW HUDSON
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248.437.5353

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27793 - C West Oaks Dr.
(in West Oaks II)
248.596.1900

OKEMOS
4738 Central Park Dr.
(Next to Panera Bread)
517.349.0300

SOUTH LYON
226 S. Lafayette
(Next to S. Lyon Bakery)
248.437.5300

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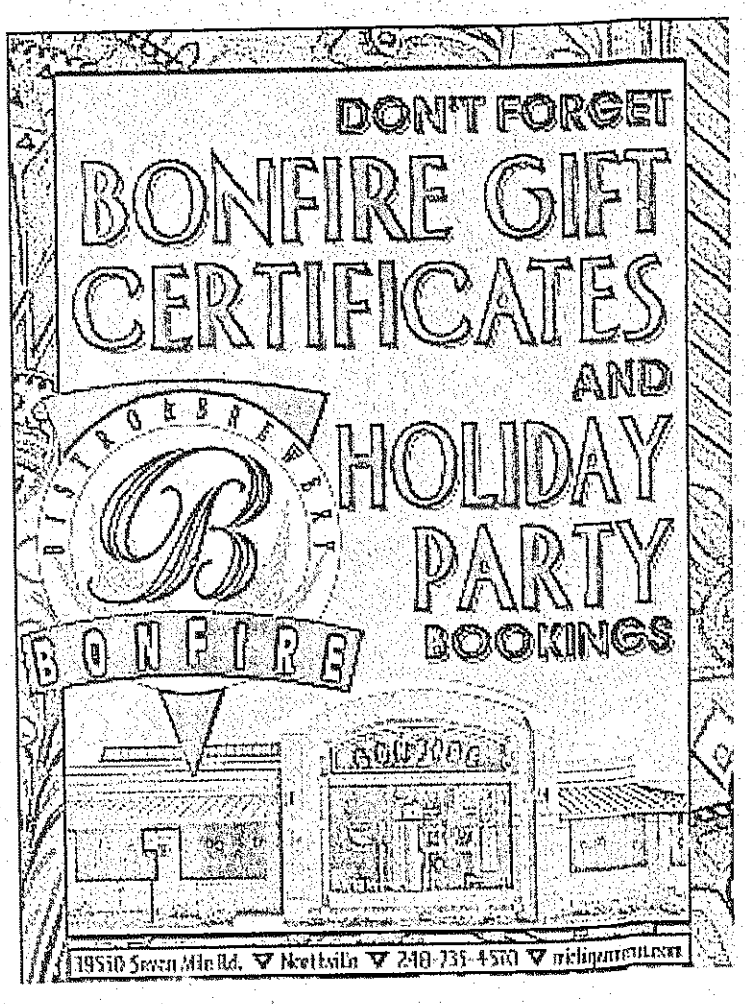


BUSH

FROM PAGE A1

companies and four blue-collar workers. Although it received national coverage from the White House press corps, local reporters were not allowed past the police lines.

Nor were people like Livingston, who were trying to conduct business as usual.

The intersection of Ronda and Koppernick, which is normally free of pedestrians, drew a small crowd of about 25 people to watch the presidential procession. Many of them were employees of businesses inside the park.

Ray Friedrich, general manager of Sterling Services, a vending machine company that sits on the southeast corner of the intersection, spent an hour or so outside the building watching the motorcycles, limos, staff vans, Secret Service agents and other standard trappings of presidential entourages.

"This is pretty neat," he said. "I'm a Republican, so I think it's great. It's a free country."

But Leslie Desmond of Ann Arbor, one of a handful of protesters who showed up, felt somewhat differently.

"This is supposed to be a free country," she said, after she was asked to move her car from a Sterling Services parking lot when she got out carrying a sign that said "Another Family for Peace."

"I'm carrying an American flag, too. So what's the problem?"

Still, she moved her car to an adjacent lot, but was asked to leave there also. Finally, after finding an acceptable parking place farther down the road, she returned, undaunted, to her post.

"I'm an attorney," she said. "And I'm a Quaker. I'm not a rabble-rouser. I'm a peacenik."

Not all sign carriers were protesters.

Chris Horne and Heather Sutton of Canton showed up with a sign reading, "President Bush You Have Our Vote."

"We're here to support the president," Horne said.

And a Southfield family just came to watch.

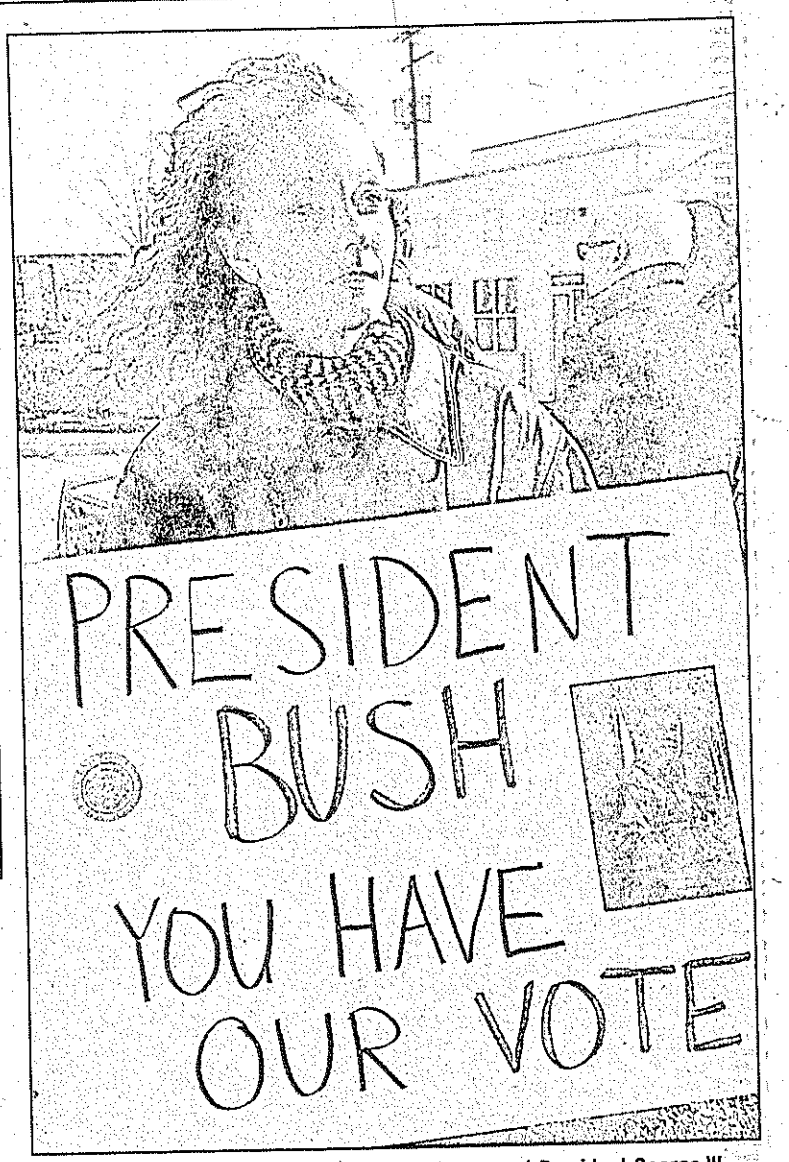
Andrew and Diane Mulhinch brought their son Eric, 4, to try to get a glimpse of the president.

They did, as he was leaving the area and waving from his limo window.

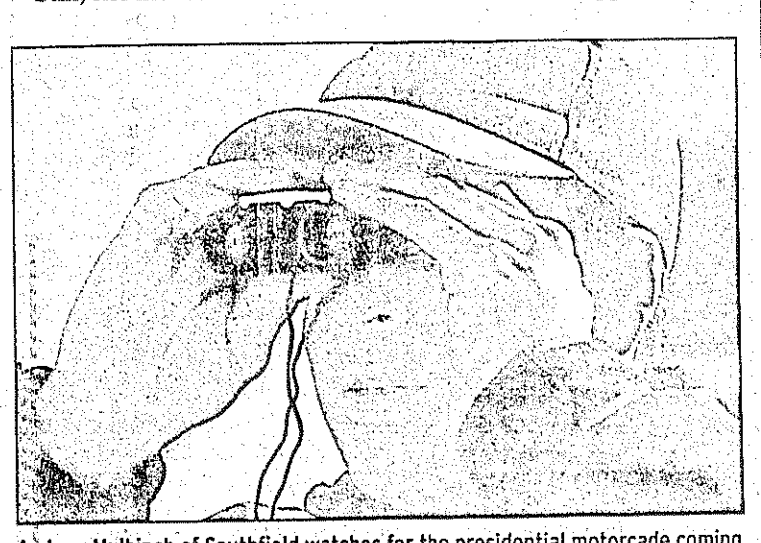
"We try to come whenever they're in town," Andrew said. "I saw Clinton when he came to Dearborn. I install garage doors, so with the weather and the holidays, this was a good day to come out."

And was Eric impressed with his first view of a real president? Not really. He was just cold in the 40-degree temperature and strong wind.

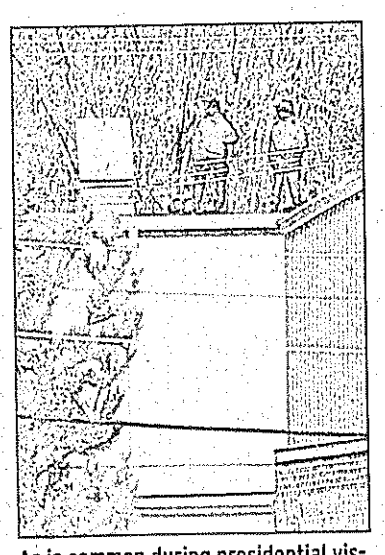
Diane Mulhinch, her son, Eric, 4, and husband Rick drove from their home in Southfield hoping for a glimpse of President George W. Bush who attended a private function in Canton Monday.



Canton resident Heather Sutton showed up to support President George W. Bush as he quickly visited Dynamic Metal Treating on Ronda Drive Monday afternoon.



Andrew Mulhinch of Southfield watches for the presidential motorcade coming down Ronda Drive Monday afternoon.



As is common during presidential visits, security was very tight and included officers perched on the roof of nearby businesses in Canton.

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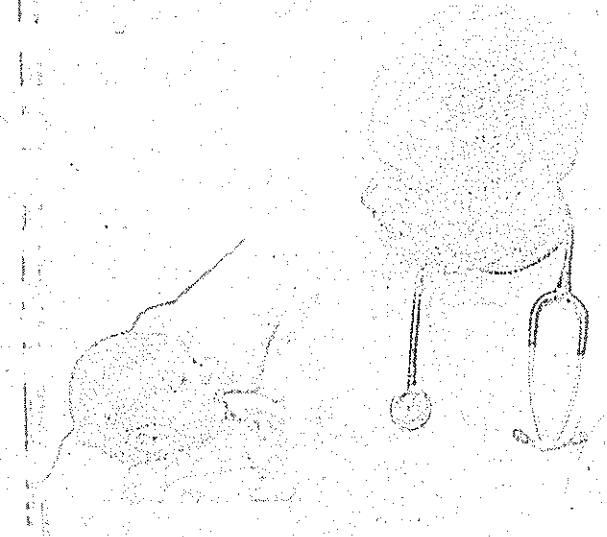

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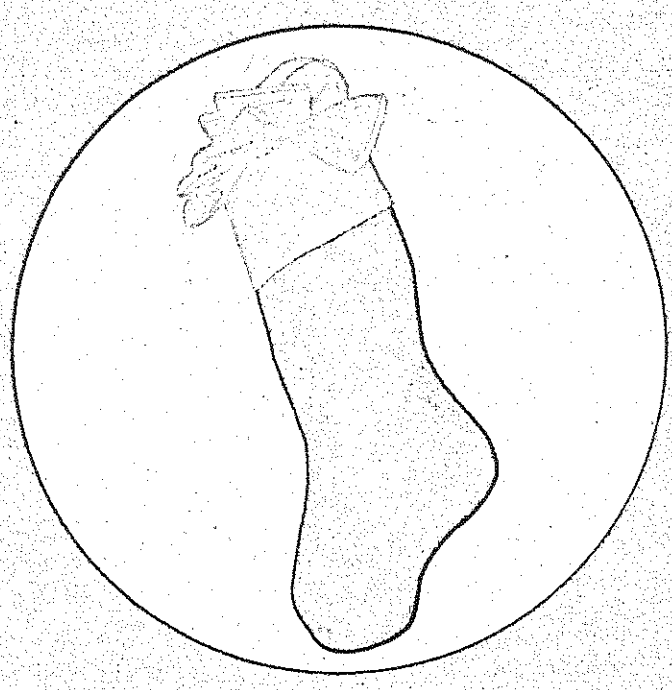

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Makes a Great Holiday Gift for Someone Special!

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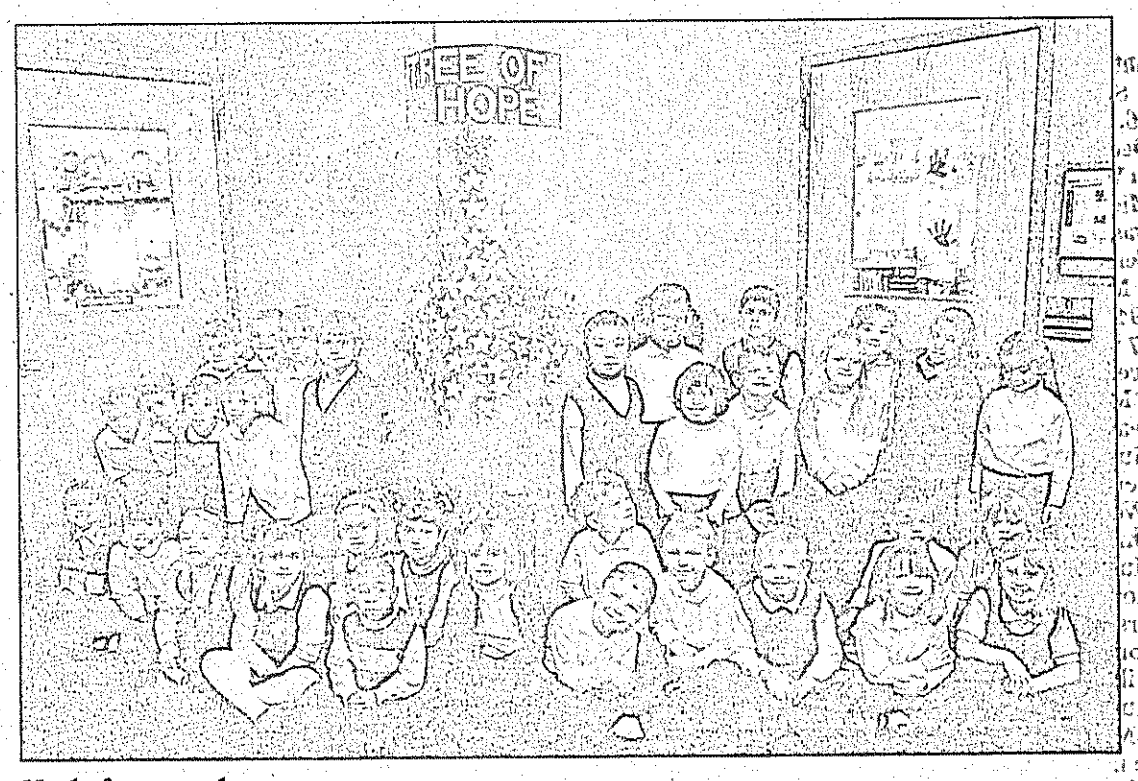

Helping out

These Canton Charter Academy kindergartners are having a concert from 6-7 p.m. Dec. 11 at the academy at Ford and Ridge roads, to raise money to help classmate Tyler Ewing, who was diagnosed with cancer before school started in the fall. The students also started a Tree of Hope as another means of raising money for Tyler and his family. The public is invited to the concert. Tickets are $3

CANTON 6
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$5.50 Kids all shows
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THE HAUNTED MANSION (PG) 11:45, 2:00, 4:40, 7:00, 9:10 FRI/SAT LS 11:15
TIMELINE (PG-13) 11:45, 2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 9:50
THE CAT IN THE HAT (PG) (SAT/SUN 11:00) 1:05, 3:10, 5:15, 7:20, 9:30 FRI/SAT LS 11:30
GOTHIKA (R) 1:00, 3:00, 5:10, 7:30, 9:40 FRI/SAT LS 11:40
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ACCESS TO PUBLIC MEETINGS

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David Medley, ADA Coordinator
Charter Township of Canton, 1150 S. Canton Center Road
Canton, MI 48188
(734) 394-5260

Publish: December 4, 2003

OE08169237

CANTON POLICE DEPARTMENT
1150 S. CANTON CENTER RD.
CANTON, MI 48188

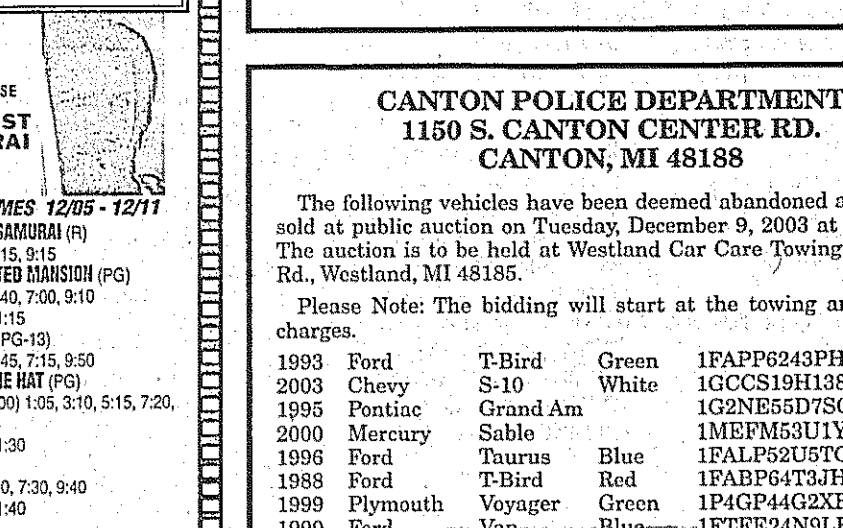
The following vehicles have been deemed abandoned and will be sold at public auction on Tuesday, December 9, 2003 at 10:00 AM. The auction is to be held at Westland Car Care Towing, 6375 Hix Rd., Westland, MI 48185.

Please Note: The bidding will start at the towing and storage charges.

1993	Ford	T-Bird	Green	1FAPP6243PH227021
2003	Chevy	S-10	White	1GCCS19H138199605
1995	Pontiac	Grand Am		1G2NE55D7SC819304
2000	Mercury	Sable		1MEFM53U1YG628340
1996	Ford	Taurus	Blue	1FALP52U5TG294518
1988	Ford	T-Bird	Red	1FABP64T3JH229261
1999	Plymouth	Voyager	Green	1P4GP44G2XB541599
1990	Ford	Van	Blue	1FTFE24N9LHA64055
1991	Geo	Metro	Green	2C1MR2461M6700220
1991	Chevy	Lumina		2G1WL54TXM9217773
1994	Ford	Ranger	White	1FTCR10A9RPB85705
1990	Nissan	Pickup	Grey	1N6SD16S3LC302782
1999	Ford	Escort	Black	3FAKP1138XR132216

Publish: December 4 & 7, 2003

OE08169939



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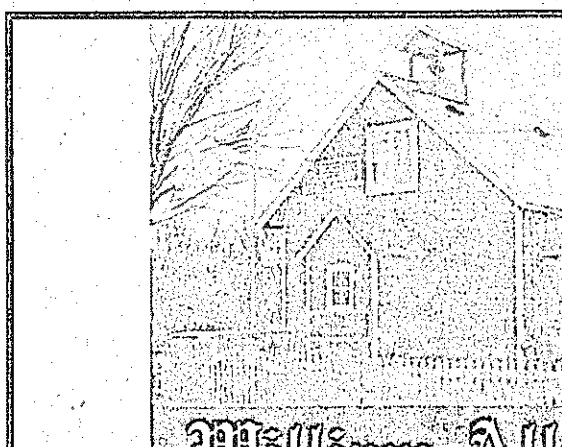

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OE08170133

OBITUARIES

Anthony T. Musto

Services for Anthony Musto, 56, of Garden City, were held Dec. 1 at St. Theodore Church in Westland with the Rev. Gary Michalik officiating. Burial was at Fort Custer National Cemetery in Augusta, Mich.

Mr. Musto was born Nov. 4, 1947, in Detroit and died Nov. 27 in Garden City. He had been employed as a laborer.

Mr. Musto was preceded in death by his father, Daniel Musto. Survivors include sons, Derek Musto and Frank (Wendy) Musto; daughter, Christine (Jeff Valentine) Musto; nine grandchildren; his mother, Anna M. Musto; sisters, Linda Smith, Laura Bonkowski and Theresa Miller; and brothers Daniel V. Musto and Patrick Musto.

Memorial contributions may be made to Hospice of Michigan.

Arrangements made by John N. Santieu & Sons Funeral Home.

Ezetta Grace Buhl

Services for Ezetta Buhl, 91, of Canton, were held Nov. 29 at Vermeulen Funeral Home with the Rev. Drex Morton officiating. Burial was at St. Hedwig Cemetery in Dearborn Heights.

Mrs. Buhl was born July 25, 1912, in Toronto, Canada, and died November 24 in Dearborn. She lived in Canton for two years (previously in Livonia for 24 years). She had been employed with General Motors-Cadillac for 30 years, retiring in 1972. She worked as a punch press operator at the Clark Street Plant and at the Poletown Plant.

Her hobbies included bowling (in a league for several years), loved to crochet (made all the grandchildren afghans), loved Bingo, enjoyed attending the Red Wings games at Olympia Stadium and attending the Tigers baseball games at Tiger Stadium.

Survivors include daughter, Dolores M. Swagel of Westland; granddaughters, Diane (Ken) Opalinski of Canton, Gail Bluhm of Waterford, Kim (John) Nadratowski of Canton and Karen (Gary) Armstrong of Canton; grandson Stephen Kachinski; and six great-grandchildren.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Heart Association, Memorials & Tributes Program, Dept. 77-3968, Chicago, IL 60676-3966. Arrangements made by Vermeulen Funeral Home.

B. Joanne Parrish

Services for B. Joanne Parrish, 73, of Westland (formerly of Plymouth), were held Dec. 1 at the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home with the Rev. Gilson Miller officiating. Burial was at Riverside Cemetery.

Mrs. Parrish was born Aug. 4, 1930, in Plymouth and died Nov. 28 in Westland. She was born and raised in Plymouth. She moved to Westland in 1957. She worked at Mervyn's Department Store as a sales associate. Mrs. Parrish graduated from Plymouth High School in 1948 and helped plan the class reunion this past year. She loved gardening and family and worked on family genealogy. She loved her grandchildren.

Mrs. Parrish was preceded in death by her husband, Rex. L. Parrish.

Survivors include children Michael Parrish of Westland, Ellen (David) Dickson of Wixom, Marilyn Leece of Livonia, Brian (Gail) Parrish of Chicago, Kim (Brenda) Parrish of Tulsa, and Randy (Kim) Parrish of Ann Arbor; 14 grandchildren; brother, Robert Cochrane of Ellsworth; sister, Marie French of Phoenix; and many nieces and nephews also survive. Memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society.

Arrangements made by Schrader-Howell Funeral Home.

Thomas William Farron

Services for Thomas Farron, 82, of Plymouth, were held Dec. 2 at the Revival Outreach Center in Plymouth with the Rev. Gary Mullendore officiating.

Mr. Farron was born Dec. 11, 1920, in Royal Oak and died Nov. 26 in Superior Township. He was a salesman who worked for several companies in the automotive machine tool industry. He retired after 40 years of service. He lived in Southfield until this year, when he moved to Plymouth.

He was a member of the Assembly of God Church in Petoskey. He was a member of the American Society of Automotive Engineers and the Nehemiah House, a charity in Petoskey. He was an avid golfer and loved anything to do with automobiles. His grandchildren were a special delight.

Mr. Farron was preceded in death by son, Thomas Woodard. Survivors include wife, Marie Gabrielle (Corbeau) Farron of Plymouth; daughter, Carla (John) Barrett of Plymouth; sons, Eric (Jan) Farron of Goodrich and Drew (Cindy) Farron of Ohio.

Memorial contributions may be made to Loyola High School; St. Joseph Mercy Hospital; or in Mass offerings. Arrangements made by Schrader-Howell Funeral Home.

Mary Ann Peters

Services for Mary Ann Peters, 86, of Canton Township, were held Dec. 2 at St. Clement Orthodox Church. Burial was at Grand Lawn Cemetery in Detroit.

Mrs. Peters was born Feb. 14, 1917, in Greece and died Nov. 28 at Arbor Hospice. She was a homemaker.

Mrs. Peters was preceded in death by husband, Christopher Peters. Survivors include sons, Daniel Thomas (Judith) and Christopher Mark; grandchildren, Edward and Anthony; and niece, Janet Gejoff.

Arrangements made by L.J. Griffin Funeral Home.

Brian R. Darow

Services for Brian Darow, 47, of Canton Township, were held Dec. 4 at St. Thomas a'Becket Catholic Church with the Rev. Richard Kelly, Jr. officiating. Burial was at Knollwood Cemetery.

Mr. Darow was born Dec. 31, 1955, in Detroit and died Dec. 1 in Superior Township. He was a police officer in law enforcement.

Survivors include wife, Joan T.; son, Jerald B.; daughter, Mallory A.; father, Edward Darow; two brothers; and one sister.

Arrangements made by L.J. Griffin Funeral Home Canton Chapel.

@ THE LIBRARY

Did You Know?

- A super simple idea may keep you healthy all winter long? Remember to lather up for National Handwashing Awareness Week, Dec. 8-14.
- The next meeting of the library's Teen Advisory Board will take place at 7 p.m. Dec. 9? All are invited to help chart the future of Teen Place and get volunteer credit in the process.
- The only U.S. State with one syllable is Maine?
- Teens can register now for an interactive mystery night party 7 p.m. Dec. 11? Call (734) 397-0999 or stop by in person to sign up.

Web Watch: Check out these new web sites:

- www.collegenews.org
- www.newdream.org/holiday
- www.toysfortots.org
- www.declareyourself.com

New Adult Books

- "The Breathtaker" - Alice Blanchard (fiction)
- "Brinkley's Beat" - David Brinkley (nonfiction)
- "The Dinner Doctor" - Anne Byrn (nonfiction)
- "Holly" - Jude Deveraux (fiction)

New Children's Books

- "An Ant's Day Off" - Bonny Becker (picture book)
- "Indescribably Arabella" - Jane Gilbert (picture book)
- "The Heroic Adventures of Hercules Amsterdam" - Melissa Haber (fiction)
- "Cold Tom" - Sally Prue (fiction)
- n "Cowboy Boy" - James Proimos (fiction)

New CD-ROMs

- "Life Begins"
- "Zoboomafoo: Animal Alphabet" (Ages 3-6 plus)

Holiday CDs

- "The Spirit of Christmas" - Ray Charles
- "We Three Kings" - Irish Tenors
- "December" - Moody Blues
- "Christmas Greetings" - Kenny Rogers

New Videos and DVDs

- "28 Days Later" (video and DVD)
- "finding Nemo" (video and DVD)
- "Whale Rider" (video and DVD)

New Audio Books

- "Lonely on the Mountain" - Louis L'Amour (fiction, cassette)
- "Every Second Counts" - Lance Armstrong (nonfiction, cassette and CD)
- "Blow Fly" - Patricia Cornwell (fiction, cassette and CD)
- "Love" - Toni Morrison (fiction, cassette)
- "Balance of Power" - Richard North Patterson (fiction, cassette and CD)

Hot Topic of the Week

Secondhand Prose, the Friends of the Canton Public Library Used Bookshop, is a must-visit stop on your holiday shopping list. During the month of December, you can get a 25 percent discount off already low prices on our vast selection of nearly new and gift books. We're sure you'll find the perfect present for all of the readers in your life! Members of the library's Teen Advisory Board will also be offering holiday gift-wrapping at Secondhand Prose on Saturdays throughout the month.

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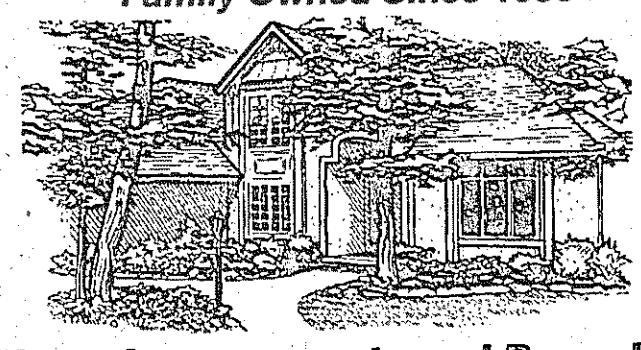
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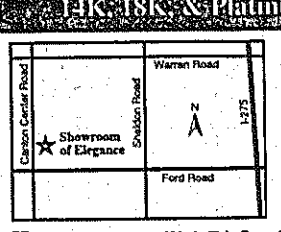

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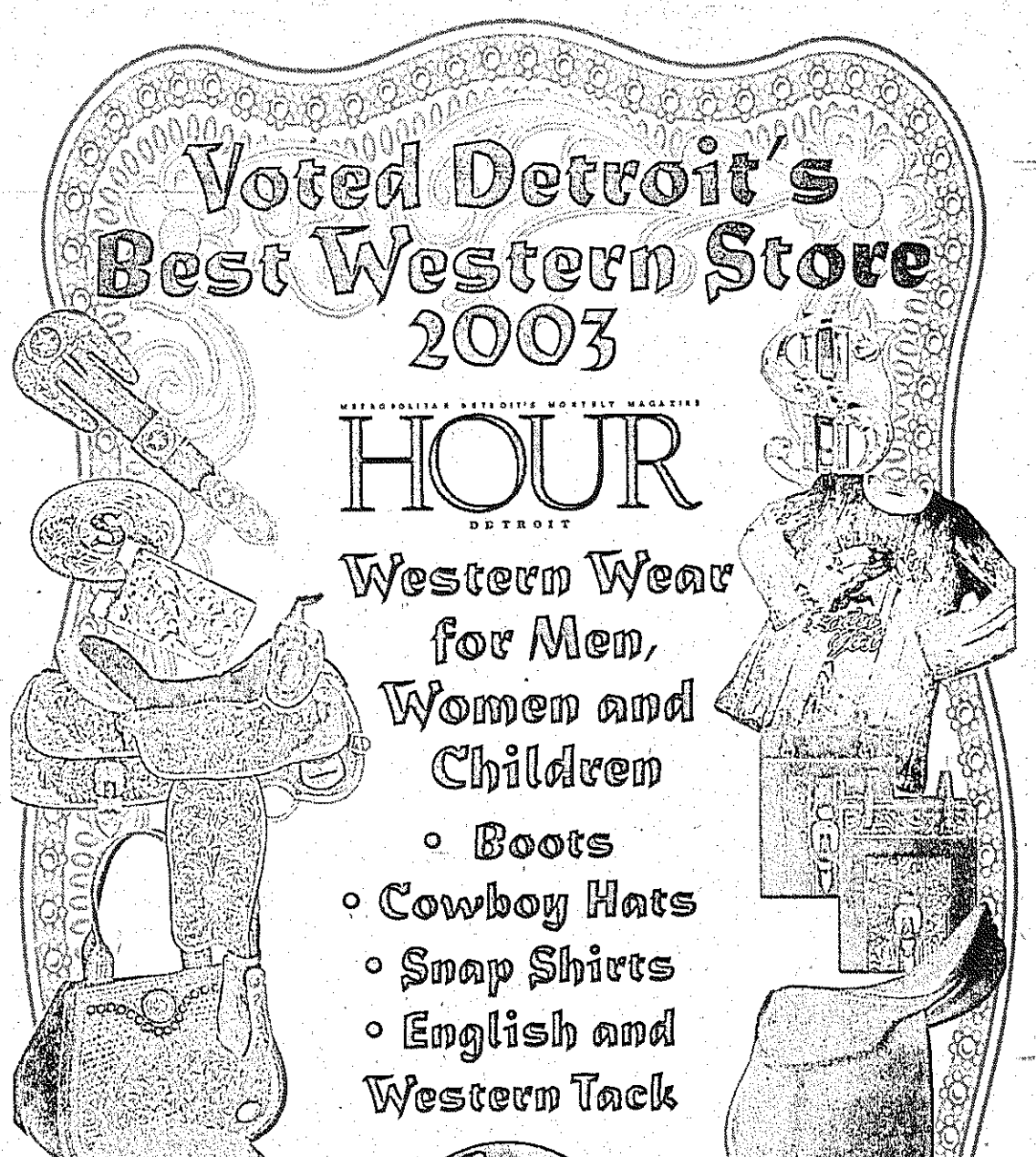
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Opinion

EDITORIALS ◘ LETTERS ◘ COLUMNS

OUR VIEWS

In-and-out visit has no impact

It's not every day the president of the nation shows up in Canton of all places. President George W. Bush's arrival at Dynamic Metal Treating on Ronda Drive was a private affair.

Not that Bush and his supporters aren't entitled to their private occasions. Considering the state of a nation at war and a grossly lagging economy, especially in Michigan, however, it would have been appropriate for the president of the country to have made a more public showing.

Township officials, all Republican, were appropriately on hand for the visit. The Secret Service apparently called the shots on who would attend. A private showing does little to boost morale in a state that faces an incredible deficit, high unemployment and plenty of soldiers who have found their way to Iraq, and even some who have not come back.

This visit, of course, could just be part of the new quick visits planned by the White House, similar to the one in which Bush quietly arrived, visited soldiers and quickly departed Iraq on Thanksgiving.

We have no doubt that next year when he is stumping for re-election, he will likely make a very public appearance in this Republican stronghold.

Officer leaves his mark on community

The year 2003 has been hard for Canton Public Safety with the untimely deaths of two veteran police officers.

Officer Brian Darow, who joined the department in 1987, passed away Monday morning from injuries sustained in a fall while putting up Christmas lights at his Canton home Sunday afternoon.

Darow was a friend of Officer Lew Stevens, who was killed in July when his parked police cruiser was struck from behind by a speeding car. Like Stevens, Darow played a significant role in the police department and its growth.

The department and the community have lost two special people and special officers, both who used their hearts to guide their work.

Darow's assignments were varied including Special Enforcement as a motorcycle officer, a training instructor and as a lead investigator on the department's Accident Investigation Team. He also taught driver's education with aplomb and kindness. His students long remember him.

In 2001, Darow was chosen at Police Officer of the Year by the Canton Rotary Club. "He understands the philosophy of the department and exemplifies it in his position as a police officer," Public Safety Director John Santomauro said at the time. "He displays a high level of professionalism, which is a standard for all officers to aspire to."

Darow received several department awards, including a department citation and certificate of merit. Santomauro said Darow was one of the finest officers in the department, revered and highly respected.

He will be missed in the department and in the community. Canton resident and community activist Bryan Amann, a friend of the family, said it best: "There are legions of people who love this guy."

Bill makes good sense

A proposal making its way through the state House, House Bill 4919, would mandate that townships allow developments with a density up to eight dwelling units per acre on at least 50 percent of undeveloped land with adequate water and sewer available. The legislation would apply only to counties with 750,000 or more population, which limits it to Macomb, Oakland and Wayne counties.

Some have complained that this legislation is an assault on local control. State Rep. Ruth Johnson (R-Holly), chair of the House Land Use Committee, has voiced strong opposition. She argues that the proposal takes away the rights of residents in favor of the rights of developers.

Proponents argue that township boards are making it impossible for builders to offer affordable housing in newer communities around Detroit. The bill's sponsor, Rep. Jacob Hoogendyk (R-Kalamazoo), is willing to discuss changes in the proposal, but he wants to see the proposal make its way through committee, where it is now stalled.

Hoogendyk's proposal is a sensible approach to slowing suburban sprawl. It deserves a serious consideration.

CANTON Observer

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Hugh Gallagher, Managing Editor | Peter Neill, General Manager

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Our fundamental purposes are to enhance the lives of our readers, nurture the hometowns we serve and contribute to the business success of our customers.

Members of the the Plymouth-Canton Ballet will join with the Plymouth Symphony and the Plymouth Canton Educational Park Madrigal Singers to present the classic fairy tale - Tchaikovsky's The Nutcracker ballet this weekend. The three talented groups have worked hard for this performance, one that shouldn't be missed.

LETTERS

Misread Constitution

I am responding to Janusz Szyszko's letter to the editor on Nov. 20, "Separate strictly."

In it he states, "This freedom is only possible by a strict separation of church and state as planned by our Founding Fathers."

Today many Americans falsely believe the Constitution forbids any religious expression in public schools, government facilities, or other public places.

In fact the phrase, "Separation of Church and State" appears no where in the Constitution.

The only reference to the relationship between the federal government and religion is in the First Amendment, which reads:

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free speech thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or of the right of the people peaceably to assemble and to petition the government for a redress of grievances."

Any fair reading of the First Amendment shows it is clearly intended to protect religion and the free expression of religious belief. Yet many opponents of Christianity have succeeded in using the courts to apply it in ways that suppress religion.

Barb Schmid
Canton

Buckle up

Today on Nov. 20, I was driving down Ford Road and I was extremely pleased to see the Canton Police working hard enforcing the seat belt law. I was shocked to see how many people were being pulled over. Is it so hard to click your seat belt? Is it worth a fine or your life? Now I would just love to see a traffic stop for people talking on cell phones while driving. That would be a welcomed addition to the service the Canton Police are working hard to uphold. Keep up the good work.

Bernadette Brock
Canton

First-family kudos

Kim Parnis of Livonia gave uninformed commentary when she discussed the Oct. 16 column which gave high marks to a stay-at-home parent in raising small children.

I wholeheartedly agree with the article in that it is exponentially beneficial to stay at home to raise your children. However, Kim Parnis should never have used it as an avenue to take pot shots at Gov. Granholm.

While it is obvious that Granholm works full time as our governor, she does not put her children in day care full time. I read an article recently that her husband left a high profile position to raise the children for the duration of her tenure.

Kudos to our first family for finding a millennium solution for an age-old issue. And especially to the First Father for not being afraid to take on the big job in the family!

Dianne Gonzalez
Plymouth

Get drugs' costs down

I have been reading with interest about the new health care bill that was passed. For some reason all that was done was to try to come up with funds to pay for what is really overpriced drugs. Living this close to Canada, we were able to seek a less expensive drug from there.

Well, the drug companies came up with this lame excuse that they could not guaranty that the drugs were safe. Does this mean that the drug companies are selling our neighbors inferior drugs? Or are they rejects from there factories that they need to dump somewhere for a cheaper price?

If the government would just get the cost of drugs at an affordable level, they would not need all these bills that they keep creating. They are not standing up to the drug companies, they are just hiding in their back pocket.

They are trying to get around the drug companies without losing face with American people.

Gary Locke
Westland

Safeguard Medicaid

The budget crunch faced by our state represents a significant challenge. Cuts will be made, it is said, "across the board." One spot on that board ought to be off limits, funding through Medicaid for care in nursing homes.

I administer a nursing home. I am keenly aware of the limited amount of funding the Medicaid program provides us. It is only about 25 percent of what hospitals receive for room and board and about the same as we pay to house prisoners. Our facility is about 75 percent dependent on these sub-optimal Medicaid moneys.

Nursing homes are often questioned in the media as to why they cannot do more for our frail elders. Why is there not a greater quality of life? It is quite simple. The reason is the lack of money.

If the state cuts funding to the Medicaid program which funds 70 percent of all nursing homes, the problem of what the public perceives as less than the best quality of life can only be exacerbated. However hard we work to provide excellent care, there must be the money to pay for it.

I urge everyone to contact the governor and their legislators and ask them to cut spending elsewhere. Cut prisons and the benefits to prisoners or the fat in bureaucracy before further decreasing care to the elderly.

Dennis Hayes,
administrator
Middlebelt Healthcare Center
Livonia

Innocent until when?

Former radio sportscaster, Mark Unger, will likely not only face criminal charges as a suspect in the tragic and suspicious death of his wife and the mother of their two sons in October, he will undoubtedly face the same fate that many fathers face when appearing before an Oakland County family division court.

That is, he will have his Constitutional rights abridged and lose his equitable parental rights simply because of an allegation or a "suspicion." Worst yet, his two young sons who have already lost their mother, will now needlessly lose their father prematurely, a loving dad who has shown no previous abuse to them.

As tragic as this case appears, what is fundamentally more tragic for our society in general is the basic loss of a tenet of the American Constitution and our judicial system. "Innocent until proven guilty" has been supplanted by so-called "best interests" as determined by a single family division judge.

Consequently, a sinister trend has emerged over the past several decades, any allegation of wrongdoing or simply by filing for divorce, a heretofore loving parent is either transformed into a visitor, or worse, loses their parental rights altogether. Therefore, our constitutional civil rights have also become victims in nearly every such case.

Should Mr. Unger be convicted of this crime, then the appropriate measures should be taken, of course.

However, prematurely terminating his parental rights or access to his children without a prior history or conviction of abuse to them should not be considered in this family's best interest. To do so, further traumatizes the children, perpetuates the civil rights abuses so prevalent in our state courts today, and fuels the 'rush to judgment' hysteria.

Murray Davis
founder and former executive director
Dads of Michigan

Supports alcohol rules

I respectfully disagree with your editorial of Nov. 20 espousing a "free wine market" (in a column by Phil Power). As an entrepreneur, I embrace free commerce but not free lunches. As a responsible citizen, I also realize there have to be rules. That is why there are stop signs at intersections. In a democracy the rules reflect the mores of the people governed and that is why alcohol has always been subject to a higher standard of regulation than most other consumer products.

We are not talking about corn flakes, toaster ovens or clothes. As pleasant as consuming wine can be, it is still an alcohol based product that is strictly controlled by the federal and state government. I would thoroughly enjoy watching you proselytize your position in front of a group from MADD or SADD. With the continuing concern and coverage about under age drinking, binge drinking and drunk driving, do you really feel this is a responsible position? It is important for your readers to understand the full implications of the decision by the three judge panel of the 6th Circuit Court. If the decision is not successfully challenged, it will mean that anyone, anywhere outside of Michigan can ship any form of alcohol to an adult resident of our state with no accountability or regulation.

Now consider the revenue implications. There is a sizeable amount of dollars collected in taxes from the sale of all alcohol, wine included. The three tier system has proven since repeal to be the most efficient way to collect this needed revenue. Surely, if your plan is implemented you have a suggestion as how to make up the revenue short fall. Raise some other taxes; perhaps a tax on the printed word?

The selfish desires of a handful of wine connoisseurs should not tear down meaningful regulation of alcohol, supported by a significant majority of Americans.

Sydney L. Ross
president
General Wine & Liquor Co.

SHARE YOUR OPINIONS

We welcome your letters to the editor. Please include your name, address and phone number for verification. We ask that your letters be 400 words or less. We may edit for clarity, space and content.

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Canton Observer
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Fax:
(734) 459-4224

E-mail:
jmaliszewski@oe.homecomm.net

QUOTABLE

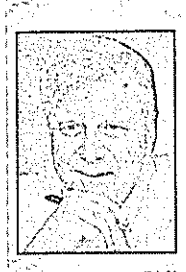
"Our community policing philosophy that we've used for years is beginning to pay dividends now."

– Public Safety Director John Santomauro, on news of Canton's ranking as 16th safest community in nation

No greater power than idea whose time has come

The week before Thanksgiving, the papers were filled with stories marking the 40th anniversary of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. The pictures, especially those of Mrs. Kennedy's bloodstained suit and glazed eyes, brought back so many sad memories I couldn't avoid tears.

I was a student at Oxford University in England when President Kennedy was killed — a far away place at a far away time. I remember being at a formal dinner when the master of my college came in, pale and drawn. I think he said something like this: "I am terribly sorry to interrupt this dinner to say that the news has just come over the radio that President Kennedy has been shot and, in all probability, killed."



Phil Power

I had arrived at Oxford that fall, directly from Fairbanks, Alaska, where I had been working as the sports editor of the *Fairbanks Daily News Miner*. Needless to say, the culture change was fairly extreme, and I had not been at Oxford long enough to make many friends.

I finished dinner, took my leave, and walked in tears across the quadrangle to my little room. When I opened the door, to my astonishment I found a dozen students — some acquaintances, some absolute strangers — in my room, listening to the radio. They all sat the death vigil with me until morning. I will never ever forget their caring and kindness.

So while my wife, Kathy, and I attended Thanksgiving service at our church, JFK was on my mind as somebody to be thankful for. His grace and sense of ironic humor charmed us. His intellectual capacity, knowledge of history and ability to use the language with precision and passion moved us. "The torch (of leadership) has been passed to a new generation," he said in his inaugural address, and it was true. For me and for many of my generation, President Kennedy's election marked a distinct and hopeful change in the political life of our country.

I saw him up close just once, while I was an undergraduate at the University of Michigan. Here's how:

In 1959, I joined a group rather ponderously called Americans Committed To World Responsibility. We sat up too late talking and we drank too much coffee (and far too much beer). But we wound up concluding our generation had more important things to do than merely going into business and making money. We felt young people could volunteer to serve abroad in less-developed countries, teaching English, helping with public health, doing whatever we might in order to exercise our responsibility as citizens of the world.

Of course, this being 1960, we wrote all this down as a manifesto. And because I was editorial page editor of the student newspaper, *The Michigan Daily*, I ran our manifesto in the paper. It provoked enormous interest. And so I sent it to the intercollegiate press service, which moved it to other student newspapers around the country, where it provoked much excitement, as well.

In time, we got the article to Mildred Jeffrey, the highest-ranking woman in the United Auto Workers union and a diminutive force of nature, still alive and kicking in Detroit today at 91 years young.

At the time, she also was a Democratic National Committeewoman. I believe she gave the piece to U.S. Sen. Hubert Humphrey (D-Minn.), who talked about it on and off during the presidential primaries. The thought was subsequently picked up by Theodore Sorensen, a lawyer writing speeches for Sen. Kennedy's presidential campaign.

Little did we know that Kennedy intended to talk about our idea when he came to Ann Arbor to give a campaign speech Oct. 14. And little did we know, as we waited in an enormous crowd gathered on State Street in front of the Michigan Union, that his speech would call for Americans to volunteer to serve abroad or that our idea would eventually wind up as the Peace Corps!

All I can remember about that night — in fact, it was 2 a.m.; Kennedy's entourage was running late — was how young and contemporary he looked as he stood on the steps of the Union and how his words, twanging with that distinctive accent, moved us beyond measure.

Here was a candidate for the presidency, talking to us in our own language, challenging us to believe we could help make a better world. The idea struck a spark with countless young people, and many in Kennedy's campaign later felt the young contributed significantly to his slim margin of victory.

Now, nearly 50 years after that speech, I conclude only two things. First, that there is no power greater than a good idea whose time has come. Second, that something has gone terribly wrong with our politics — now so partisan, parochial, tasteless and vicious — for such ideas seem these days to be in such short supply.

Phil Power is the chairman of the board of the company that owns this newspaper. He would be pleased to get your reactions to this column either at (734) 953-2047 or at ppower@homecomm.net.

Speaking English or American?

If you've ever been to another country, one in which you do not know how to speak the native language, much less understand a word anyone is saying, you know how isolating that can feel.

It is no different for foreign-born people who now live here. That doesn't mean that a family who is originally from Europe or Asia or South America and moves here did so without trying to first learn English. Many are fluent in their ability to read and write English, but have difficulty speaking the language.

Our English isn't English. It's American sprinkled with all kinds of slangs, clichés, poor grammar and new words, many thanks to marketing and plain, old laziness. It is likely that the English foreign-born people learned is not American at all, rather British English in one form or another.

Joanne Maliszewski

That distinction alone can be a big deal. I speak from experience. I am the daughter of a British mother, American father and I was raised in Brazil and Argentina and a little in England. By the time I arrived in America, my speech was sprinkled with Portuguese, Spanish (of the Latin American sort), British and American.

I spent much of my first day in an American school in western Michigan "talking" so my new classmates could hear how strangely I pronounced words. I made a decision then to change how I pronounced American words. Not an easy task when I couldn't even discern the British accent that drew Americans to my mother.

There's no wonder foreign-born people get confused and have a tough time speaking English here. There's a group though, perhaps not overly well known, that can help foreign-born people who want to speak English, rather American.

The Community Literacy Council, whose president is Carol Saunders, Plymouth-Canton school board member, can come to the rescue. They have 150 students and 100 tutors, with 18 people waiting to be trained as tutors, and plenty more students wanting to learn.

"We sort of go around the entire globe," Saunders said recently at a meeting of the Canton Public Library Multi-Cultural Initiative committee, another board on which she will serve.

The help they give is free. Some of their students can read and write English. It's speaking the language that's giving them some trouble. Others just need a little work. Still others are illiterate in their own native language. That's the tough one.

What's amazing about these tutors is that they don't have to, and more than likely don't, speak the language of their students. And sooner or later, their students end up speaking English. Sometimes, it begins with just showing the student pictures and getting them to make the connection and repeat and repeat.

Canton is a highly diverse community, more so than Plymouth and Plymouth Township. In Canton, there are two Hindu temples, one mosque and a Chinese school. In the Plymouth-Canton school district, 43 languages are spoken, according to Saunders. In the district, 587 students kindergarten through 12th grade are enrolled in the English as a Second Language program. Eighty of those students are in high school, 127 in middle school and 380 in elementary school. The majority of ESL students live in Canton.

That's the primary reason Saunders was asked to join the multicultural initiative. What better place from which to get the word out that the Community Literacy Council is alive, doing great things and hoping for even better.

If you need help, Saunders wants to hear from you. Call the literacy council at (734) 416-4906. If you want to be a tutor, Saunders wants to hear from you. Call the same number.

Joanne Maliszewski is editor of the Canton Observer. She can be reached at (734) 459-2700.

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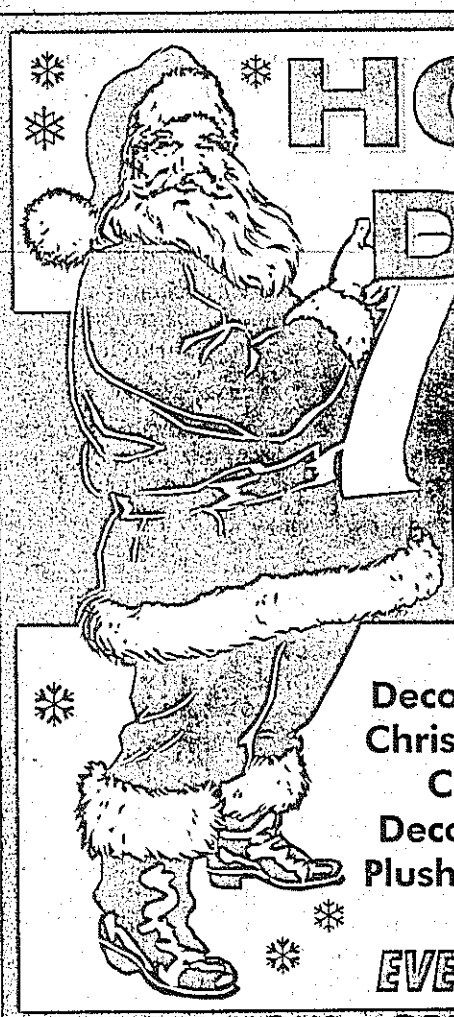

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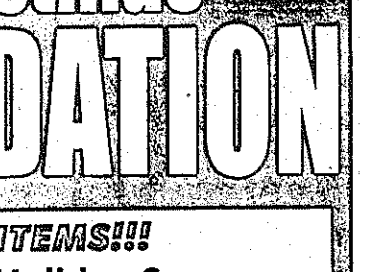

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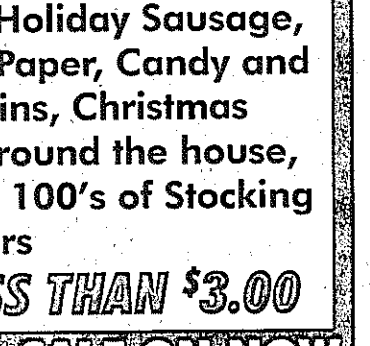

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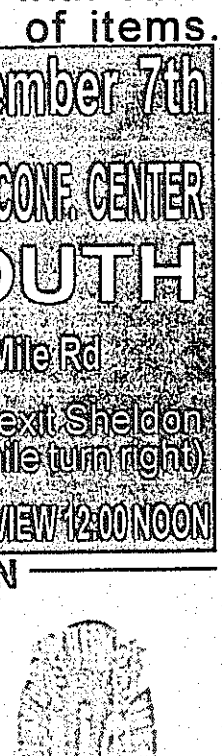

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Mack reappointed as chief judge

The Michigan Supreme Court has named Judge Milton L. Mack, Jr. to serve as Chief Judge of the Wayne County Probate Court in Detroit for a two-year term beginning Jan. 1, 2004.

This is Judge Mack's fourth term as Chief Judge. He also served three terms as Chief Judge Pro Tempore. Chief Judge Mack was appointed to Wayne County Probate Court in 1990.

Chief Judges serve as their court's representative in dealing with the public, the news media, the legal community, and other government agencies.

Chief judges oversee other judges and court staff, supervise caseloads and court finances, and set their court's hours and work policies.

Mack has also served as President of the Michigan Probate Judges Association and is a member of the Judicial Conference of the State Bar of Michigan, and is a member of the Board of Directors of the Wayne County Probate Bar Association. Mack was also a member of the Michigan Supreme Court Guardianship Task Force.

Mack is a graduate of Eastern Michigan University, Wayne State University Law School, and the Harvard University Program for Senior Executives in State and Local Government.

AAA offers tips for safe snowmobiling season

Following last winter's high death toll of snowmobile in Michigan, AAA says that good times and common safety sense should share space on the state's 6,100 miles of groomed trails.

"Despite the state's economic downturn, the sports of snowmobiliing remains hot," said AAA Michigan Community Safety Services Manager Richard J. Miller. "However, with the sport's popularity, the number of deaths has also spiked."

During the 2002-03 snowmobile season 46 persons were killed in 46 fatal crashes, compared with 33 who were killed in the 2002-03 season and second only to the 1995-96 season, when 48 persons lost their lives.

"Statistics show most of last season's deaths could have been prevented had drivers and riders followed simple rules of safety on the trail," Miller said. Speed, inexperience and recklessness were major players.

Speed was a factor in 33, or 72 percent of the fatal crashes. Today's snow machines can accelerate quickly to more than 100 mph, Miller said. Fourteen fatalities, or 30 percent of the fatal crashes, involved a snowmobile leaving a trail or road and striking a fixed object, like a tree, another indicator that driving too fast for the trail or conditions was a factor.

Eleven fatal crashes – one for every four last season – occurred when machines broke through unsafe ice. Other major factors in last season's crashes include alcohol and/or drugs. It was a known factor in 48 percent, or 22 of the facilities.

"Just like driving a motor vehicle, alcohol hinders your ability to handle a snowmobile, leading to lapses in judgment that can have horrific consequences," Miller said.

Careless or negligent driving was a factor in eight, or 17 percent of last winter's fatal crashes.

Each winter, more than a half-million Michigan snowmobilers take to the trails. Currently, there are 406,095 machines registered in the state, up 3 percent from the previous winter, the 11th straight seasonal increase. Nearly one-quarter are in Southeast Michigan.

Last winter, the number of students enrolled in snowmobile safety classes fell 22 percent, from 6,417 in the 2001-02 season, ro 4,958.

Snowmobilers can help dramatically reduce fatalities, injuries and crashes by heeding simple rules of the trail:

- Don't ride faster than your ability to maintain control and stop within a clear, safe distance. Don't drive after drinking alcohol. Twenty-two persons killed in last winter's fatalities had consumed alcohol.
- Be alert to oncoming traffic, fences, culverts, wildlife, ditches, stumps, posts, icy or bare spots and hidden wires. Stay on marked trails or where permitted on road right-of-way. Respect private property and obey all traffic laws.
- Carry a first-aid kid, compass, portable GPS, trail maps, cell phone, water, waterproof matches or lighter, survival blanket, tool kit, rope, extra key and energy foods.
- Wear an approved crash helmet. It is the law on public property and is your best defense in the event of a crash. It also protects against frostbite and injury from trees, brush and other trail hazards.
- Stop, look and listen when crossing roads. Never assume the route is clear. Snowmobilers ages 12 through 16 cannot drive across a highway or street without a valid safety certificate.
- Keep your sled in top condition. Take the keys when parked and lock it and your trailer when unattended.

Cats of many different kinds to compete in area show

More than 100 exhibitors from across the United States have cats entered in the first TICA (The International Cat Association) cat show to be held in the Metro Detroit area in years. TICA is the largest genetic cat registry in the world and with the Great Lakes Area Cat Enthusiasts (G.L.A.C.E) will be hosting this show Dec. 6-7 at Wayne Tree Manor 35100 Van Born Road in Wayne.

Each day six licensed judges from The International Cat Association will judge the cats and announce their top 10 Best in Show. The show is truly an international event with Judges from Japan, South America and across the United States as well as cats from around the world including Russia, Norway, Japan, Scotland, Egypt, Thailand and the states.

So ... what cats can you expect to see at the show? You'll see cats with long fur, cats with short fur. You'll see the curly coated Cornish Rex and the bare Sphynx's – like Austin Power's Mr. Bigglesworth.

Show times are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. both Saturday and Sunday.

Admission is $6 for adults, $5 for seniors. $4 for children under 12. Children under 5 are free.

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Incredible opportunity for students of Wayne County entering the 9th grade in the fall of 2004.

Henry Ford Academy, an innovative four-year public high school that emphasizes the application of math, science and technology, is sponsoring a series of open houses in January and early February 2004.

These events will provide applications and information about this unique educational opportunity for Wayne County students entering ninth grade in the fall of 2004.

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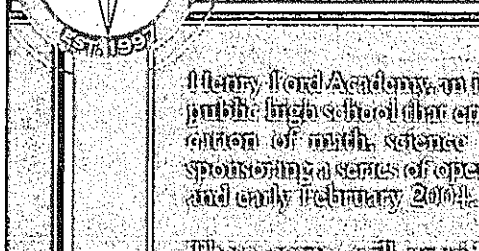

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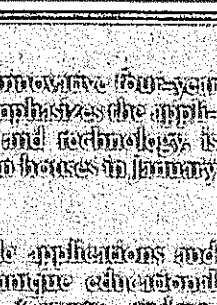

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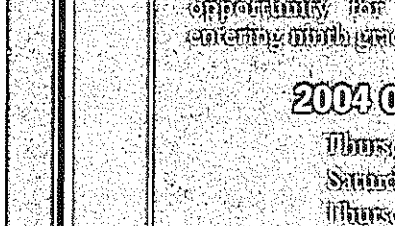

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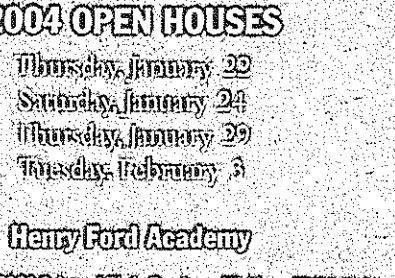

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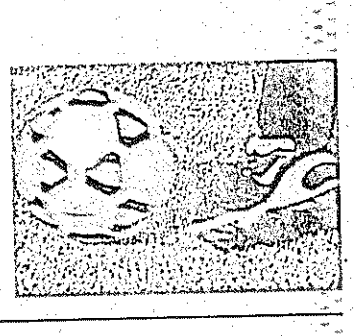
Sports

PREPS ▫ RECREATION ▫ OUTDOORS

Final 8
Salem grads find success with U-M soccer team. B2



Spotlight

☐ New league

The Plymouth/Canton Little League Baseball is starting a new league for nine-through-14 year-old players. Another informational and pre-registration meeting is scheduled for 1 p.m. Dec. 13 at the Plymouth Public Library.

Players from this league will be chosen for an all-star team to participate in the Little League World Series tournament system.

For more information, call Jim at (734) 207-7793.

☐ Kid's Corner

High Velocity Sports, Canton's multi-sport facility located on Michigan Avenue, has added a Kid's Corner to its list of services. For $5 per hour, parents may drop off children from three years to 10 years of age in a supervised play area, from 9 a.m. until 9 p.m. The rooms feature toys, videos and other activities for kids to enjoy while their parents are playing games or watching other siblings play.

Children must be fully potty trained (no pull-ups) and parents must specify the time frame that their child will be at Kid's Corner when they drop off the child. Late pick-ups are charged $5 for every 15 minutes the parent is late. Parents are not permitted to leave the facility for any reason while their child is at Kid's Corner.

"As a mother of three children, I'm always trying to occupy one child while watching another play, and keeping an eye on the third," said Tracy Thelen, the program's director. "Kid's Corner is a safe, supervised, and fun place for kids to go while parents are free to watch other siblings. It's also great for parents that play in leagues. Their children are safe and their minds are at ease while they play."

Thelen has 10 years of experience as a day-care center director. Thelen designed the program and will oversee the Kid's Corner staff.

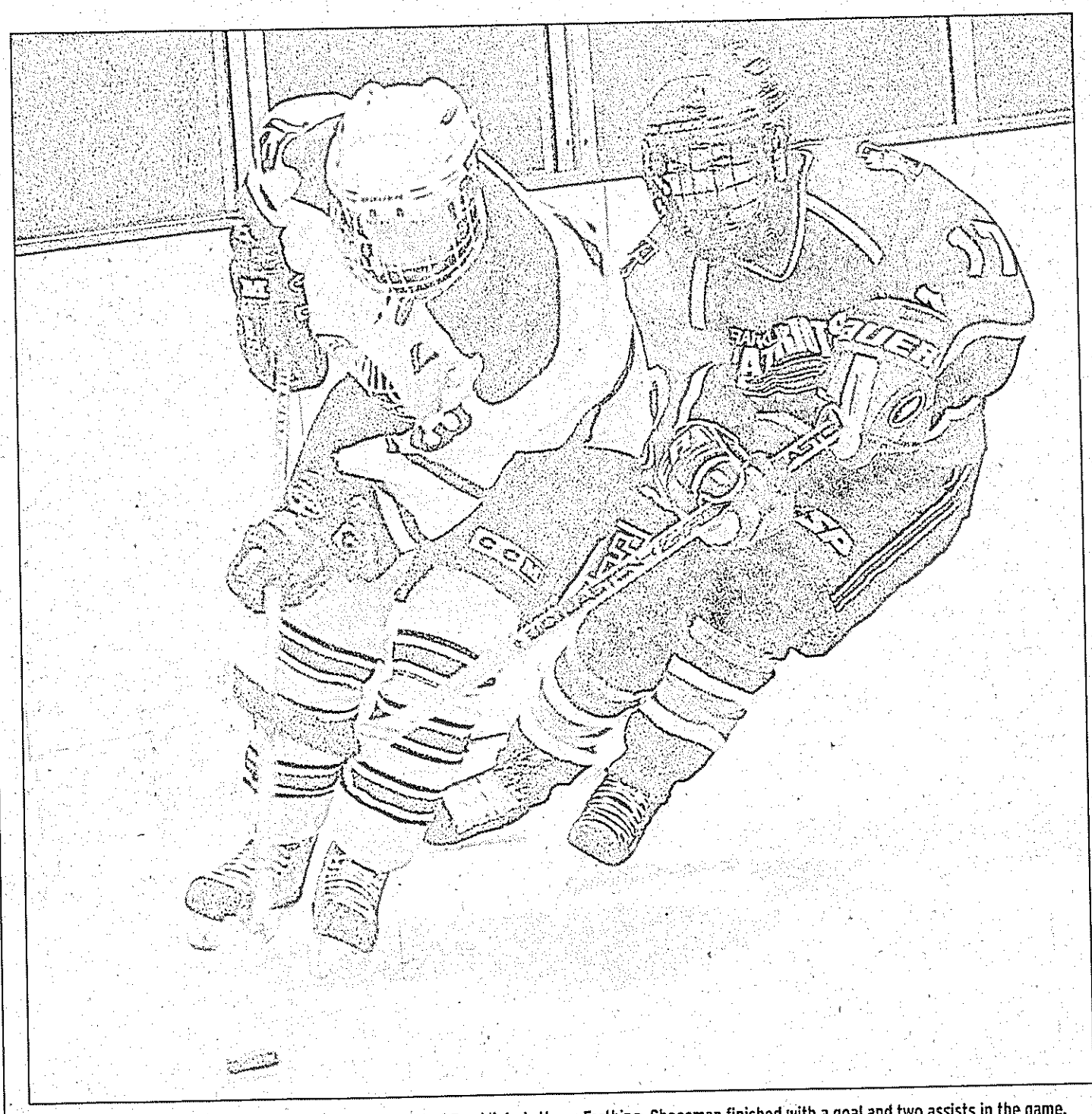
For more information on Kid's Corner or any other program at HVS, please call (734) HV-SPORT or go online at www.hvsports.com.

☐ Soccer signup

The city of Plymouth Recreation Department will be taking registrations for Spring Youth Soccer throughout January at the Recreation office, located at the Plymouth Cultural Center, 625 Farmer in Plymouth.

All first-time registrations require a birth certificate. The fee for those in the under-six through under-eight divisions is $60 for city of Plymouth residents and $85 for non-residents. For under-nine and older divisions, the cost is $65 for city of Plymouth residents and $95 for non-residents.

Call (734) 455-6620.



Salem's Aaron Cheesman (left) controls the puck in front of Franklin's Anthony Farthing. Cheesman finished with a goal and two assists in the game.

Salem battles Pats to a tie

All coaches want to see their teams play at a high level all the time. That's only natural.

All coaches also realize such standards are rarely, if ever, realized. So they settle for the next best thing: consistency.

Play consistently hard and — even if your team isn't the most talented — it will gain a high measure of success.

On Tuesday at the Plymouth Cultural Center, two teams going through a bit of rebuilding met in a Western Lakes Activities Association hockey game. Considering it was the fifth game of the season for one team, the third for the other, the level of consistency was about what each coach would expect it to be.

Elusive.

In the final analysis, Salem started strong, Livonia Franklin took over in the middle period, the Rocks regained some measure of control to start the third period, and the Patriots took it back at the end.

The end result: a 4-4 tie. It left Franklin at 2-0-1 for the season and Salem at 1-3-1.

"The first period was the difference," Patriots coach Terry Jobbitt said, describing the game. "We came out slow, they came out strong and fast. We weren't sure of ourselves, we kept making mental mistakes.

"It was our first league game and we do have 11 new players."

Salem's strong start was something that had been missing from its previous game plans. The Rocks got going quickly, Andy

PLEASE SEE **TIE, B2**

Madonna wins 1st

Crusaders on track

Bad start.

Fortunately for Madonna University's volleyball team, there was more than enough firepower to overcome it as the Crusaders opened pool play at the NAIA Tournament with a 23-30, 30-19, 30-19, 30-20 win over Lubbock (Texas) Christian Wednesday at Point Loma Nazarene College in San Diego.

The loss left Lubbock at 31-7 overall. Madonna improved to 41-3.

The Crusaders advance to play a pair of pool matches today, against Spring Hill (Ala.) College and Georgetown (Ky.) College. Spring Hill was 35-15 after a first-round loss to Dordt (Iowa) College Wednesday, and was to play Georgetown last night. Georgetown was 38-3 going into the tournament, with an early-season loss to Madonna.

One statistic that showed just how the Crusaders dominated play against Lubbock was kills. Madonna had 71; the Chaparrals had 53. The Crusaders also had 74 digs to Lubbock's 59.

The win was particularly sweet for Madonna: Lubbock was the team that ended the Crusaders' 26-match win streak in the opening round of the Houston Baptist Tournament in October.

Still, such incentive wasn't apparent in the opening game of the match. "We were giving them too many easy chances," said Madonna coach Jerry Abraham.

That changed in the next three sets. "We kept putting so much pressure on them, it turned it around," Abraham explained.

"We kept attacking them from different angles, with so many different people. If we pass the ball well, we can attack from antenna to antenna. That's what this team does best, attack the ball."

It showed in the kill totals, although the Crusaders' kill percentage was – for them – slightly low (.293). Natalja Tinina proved to be their best weapon, collecting 25 kills (with a .345 kill percentage). She also had a service ace and 14 digs.

Sharyse Bush totaled 14 kills; Laura Lesko contributed 13 kills and three

PLEASE SEE **MADONNA, B4**

To be a contender, Rocks have questions to answer

SALEM WRESTLING

There were problems with Salem's wrestling team last season, most notably in filling all the holes in the lineup. High-quality, experienced depth was hard to come by.

But the Rocks had their share of bright spots, too. Like Mike Goethe, who not only won the Western Lakes Activities Association championship at 135 pounds, but collected an individual state championship at 130 pounds.

Goethe was one of three Salem wrestlers to win division titles at the WLAA tournament — which was magnificent, except that that was last season. And this season Goethe is wrestling at West Virginia University.

Also gone is Pete Bobee, who was fourth in the WLAA at 125, and Allen Mlynek and Randy Bearden. Mlynek and Bearden wrestled in the 125-140 areas.

"The kids are pretty unproven," Salem coach Greg Woochuk said of this year's team. "We won't know just how good we are until mid-December."

It should be noted that even with the above-mentioned performances, the Rocks could

PLEASE SEE **ROCKS, B5**

Chiefs appear stronger, but can they challenge?

CANTON WRESTLING

There is good news for the Canton wrestling program.

First, the coach returns. Last season, Casey Randolph accepted the position about six weeks prior to the start of the season, which didn't leave him much time to put his program together.

Second, nearly all his wrestlers return. "We only graduated three kids," Randolph said. "We pretty much have all of our starters back."

But there is something that must be noted: Despite the returnees, Canton didn't do well last season. The Chiefs placed ninth at the Western Lakes Activities Association tournament.

Randolph, who also is an assistant coach on Tim Baehler's football staff, believes there will be noticeable improvement this season.

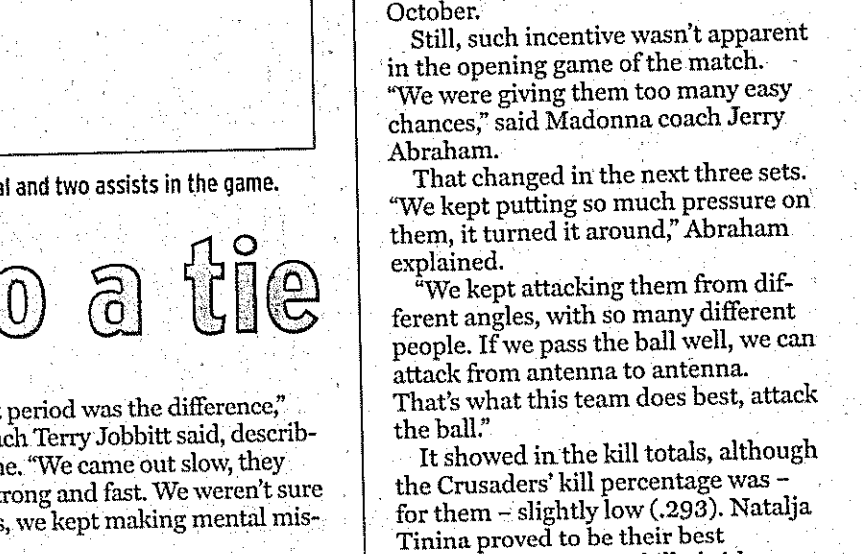
"We are going to be competitive," he said. "We'll struggle early in the year until we get the lineup set."

Two of his scorers at the WLAA tournament from last season, Rob Schnettler at 125 and Dan Bergsma at 130 (both placed third), have graduated. So has Tim Larson, the starter at 171; all three had at least 25 match wins.

Also, two senior starters Randolph is counting on will be delayed in joining the lineup. Mark Kersten, who wrestled at 215 last season, has been out of action since injuring his knee playing football for Canton in the season-opener against Ann Arbor Pioneer. He's expected back at the beginning of January.

Steve Hogg, who will wrestle at 125, is also sidelined until January for administrative reasons.

PLEASE SEE **CHIEFS, B5**



CC's Eric Vojtkofsky scored the team's first touchdown on Saturday.

Make that 3 straight!

CC's comeback catches Eisenhower

STATE FINAL

It wouldn't be a playoff football game for Redford Catholic Central if the Shamrocks didn't have to come from behind at least once.

And it wouldn't be a Shamrocks playoff game if they didn't take advantage of more big plays than their opponent.

They came from behind, they had more big plays, and yes, they won — this time a 24-16 win over old playoff rival Utica Eisenhower in Saturday's Division 1 championship game for CC's third state title in as many tries.

"I always felt we're lucky to have one title, let alone three," said running back Derek Brooks, whose 172 yards not only led all rushers, but made him just the second player in state history to run for more than 100 yards in two title games. "It's something you can't describe. It's the best feeling in the world three times. I couldn't think of a more perfect way to go out."

That was easy for Brooks to say, since his third-quarter touchdown kept momentum from staying with the Eagles.

Eisenhower's Anthony Skeltis set the table for the Eagles to take the lead about eight minutes into the third quarter — first picking off CC quarterback Dave Thomas and returning it 64 yards to the CC 1, then going the final yard on the next play. A bad snap created a missed extra point and Eisenhower (13-1) had a 13-7 lead.

PLEASE SEE **CHAMPIONSHIP, B6**

Salem grads help U-M reach Elite 8

BY ADAM LARK
CORRESPONDENT

COLLEGE SPORTS

For the first time in the University of Michigan men's soccer history, the 12th-ranked Wolverines were able to get past the Sweet 16 Sunday night, earning their first-ever trip to the College Cup Elite Eight with a 2-1 triumph over No. 3-ranked and Big East champion Notre Dame.

Michigan won in dramatic fashion, 4-3, in a shootout.

The Wolverines are slated to face No. 9 Santa Clara, 15-3-4 overall and unbeaten in its last 13 home matches, in the NCAA College Cup quarterfinals at 10 p.m. Saturday in Santa Clara, Calif.

Senior midfielder and second-year tri-captain Mike White (Livonia Stevenson), freshman midfielder Brian Popeney and walk-on freshman defender Kevin Savitskie (both from Salem) all did their part, playing prominent roles in the historic victory.

With everything on the line, White never wilted under the pressure, putting the ball in the back of the net for the game-winning goal.

"I had seen four guys shoot before me and (Notre Dame keeper Chris Sawyer) was jumping early," said White, whose second goal of the NCAA tourney in the first half tied him for Michigan's all-time career goal-scoring lead with 25.

"I knew (Sawyer) would jump early and react. I picked the side I didn't think he would go to, and fortunately for us, the ball went in."

With the shootout running neck-and-neck, Notre Dame had gained the upper hand, scoring on its first three attempts to take a 3-2 advantage.

Popeney, U-M's third shooter, then came off the bench and took to the field for his penalty try.

Although he didn't play in the match, the freshman converted his lone shot on goal past Sawyer to tie the duel at 3-3.

"We practiced penalty kicks for two weeks in practice, just in case something like this would happen," Popeney said. "I knew I would be the third shooter, I was prepared and ready to contribute."

Before his successful attempt, Popeney took the necessary time to warm up with teammates before taking the field.

"I couldn't have been more ready," he said. "It was a great honor helping the team get into the Elite Eight."

Meanwhile, the score remained deadlocked at 3-3 following missed chances by Notre Dame's Devin Prescod and Michigan's Mike O'Reilly.

A second consecutive diving stop by Wolverines goalie Peter Dzubay on Notre Dame's fifth shooter, Justin Detter, left the door wide open for White, the fifth and final shooter for U-M.

Both Salem graduates in 2003, Popeney and Savitskie earned Division 1 first team all-state honors in 2002. As freshmen and juniors, the duo helped the Rocks place runner-up in the 1999 and 2002 state tourneys.

A graduate from Stevenson in 2000, White was named Division 1 first team all-state during his senior season. He also was named first team all-*Observer* in 1999.

As a junior at Michigan, the economics major was named the Big Ten Conference Championships MVP.

With the Wolverines enjoying a banner season, White sits third on the team in scoring with nine goals and six assists (24 points).

Michigan head coach Steve Burns, who has guided the Wolverines into the Elite Eight without Big Ten Player of the Year Knox Cameron (currently with the U.S. National team), couldn't have scripted a better ending to the game.

He had nothing but high praise for White.

"You want that kid up there," the fourth-year coach said. "I knew he was going to make that shot and there was going to be huge celebration."

On Aug. 25 at South Bend, the Wolverines managed a 1-1 tie with the Fighting Irish.

Notre Dame finished one of its best seasons in recent years, bowing out with a 16-3-4 record. With the victory, the Wolverines improved to 14-6-1 overall.

Trailing 1-0 in the first half, White kept the game tied, scoring at 20:11 with Savitskie drawing the assist, his first point in NCAA tourney action.

White has started 11 games for Michigan and has seen action in 15, registering a goal and two assists.

Other Observerland players on the Wolverines roster include redshirt junior goalie Joe Zawacki (Livonia Stevenson), who is 2-0 in his two starts, and junior midfielder Karl Lopata (Farmington), who has appeared in four games.

"We've shown a lot of character in coming back and learning from our mistakes and making it this far," White said. "We're excited and happy to be playing (Santa Clara), and it's not over yet."

TIE

FROM PAGE B1

Thackaberry playing a major role in that start. A team captain, Thackaberry scored at 8:40 with assists from Aaron Cheesman and Matt Van Hoet.

Just over three minutes later, Salem doubled its lead when Kyle Emmons scored a power-play goal at 5:05. Craigen Bauldry and Thackaberry assisted. It looked pretty good for Salem at that point. But it changed in one quick flurry in the second.

"We got off of our game in the second period, got caught scrambling around," Salem coach Fred Feiler said. "We got back in the flow in the third."

But those three-plus minutes of the second period were costly. "In the second period we settled down," Jobbitt said. "I thought we outplayed them. Everyone played a good game, but it was up and down. They weren't all playing good at the same time."

That 3:23 span was pretty good for the Patriots. Jeff Paison started it, getting a power-play goal at 10:26 with an assist from Jake Garbutt to trim Salem's lead to 2-1. At 8:05, Matt Sgriccia knotted it for Franklin, with assists from Keith Robert and Brad Garbutt, just moments after a Salem penalty had expired.

It took just over a minute for the Patriots to take a 3-2 lead. Kurt Rogalla got the go-ahead goal, again on the power play, with assists going to Matt Kahkonen and Garrett Radford.

That's the way it stayed until the third period, when once again the momentum shifted. "In the third period they jumped on us again," Jobbitt said.

Cheesman's unassisted goal got the Rocks going, scored at 12:07 of the third to tie it at 3-3. Cheesman proved to be invaluable for Salem in the period, getting an assist on Buddy Musa's goal scored at 6:26. The Rocks were back on top, 4-3.

But they couldn't maintain it. Robert got the tying goal for the Patriots with 2:53 remaining, assisted by Steve South and Dave McCall.

Jeremy Peer had 27 saves in goal for Franklin. Joe Moore had 20 for Salem, including several on breakaways, according to Feiler. Letting the lead slip away in the final period and settling for a draw might have frustrated the coach of a more experienced team, but not Feiler.

"It wasn't a disappointment, not the way we've been playing," he said. "We showed a lot of improvement over the last couple of games. We played with some fire in our belly. You've got to play this game with emotion."

And hopefully, by season's end, consistency will replace the unpredictability.

Grosse Pointe South 8, PCS 1: The Plymouth/Canton/Salem Penguins managed to keep pace with the first-place team in the Michigan Metro High School Hockey League, Grosse Pointe South — at least for one period.

The Penguins trailed 2-1 at the end of one, but the Blue Devils struck for four unanswered goals in the second period, outshooting PCS 18-7 in the period. They added two more goals to their total in the third to secure the victory.

"(We) got tired in the second I think," PCS coach Susan McDowell said. "They had 18 shots on us, we only got seven shots off on them.

"We just broke down defensively and were suffering from an inability to stay with such a strong team. Still, we managed to frustrate them somewhat."

The Penguins' only goal came from Stephanie Murray, with an assist from Kelli Bargowski, at 3:16 of the first period.

McDowell was pleased with the play of defensemen Lauren Coleman and Amanda Rowley, as well as most of her forwards, including Bargowski and Murray. And goalie Amanda Watkins was credited with a strong game, too.

GPS got three goals and two assists from Emily Sherfferly, two goals from Stacey Campbell and three assists from Sarah Parker.

"We're not as deep on the bench, nor do we have the experience that the GPS players have, but we never gave up and we showed that we could hold them when we really, really worked," McDowell said. "This was a challenge and one that we met well."

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Petes overtake Whalers in 3rd-period

OHL HOCKEY

Tied 2-2 going into the third period, the Peterborough Petes took advantage of most opportunities that came their way as they scored three goals in the final period to notch a 5-2 win over the host Plymouth Whalers in an Ontario Hockey League game Saturday night at Compuware Arena.

Michael Tuoni knocked home the winning goal at 10:37 in the third period from Martin Lucko. Two goals then followed for the Petes, both from Jon Howse — the first at 11:44, assisted by Josh Patterson and Patrick Kaleta, the second an empty netter at 19:33 with Trevor Hendrix getting the assist.

With the victory, Peterborough improves to 9-11-1. The Whalers drop to 12-8-5.

Peterborough netminder Matt Iorianni helped his team's cause saving 23-of-25 shots.

The Petes outshot the Whalers, 30-23.

The Whalers scored the game's first goal at 9:02 in the first, with Tim Sestito netting his fifth on the season, a short-handed goal with Jonas Fielder and Erik Lundmark getting the assists.

Nick Vernelli rounded out the Whaler scoring tallying a goal from Fielder and Sestito at 18:36 of the second period.

Peterborough's Liam Reddox led all scorers with three points, his first point coming on a power-play goal in the first, an assist for the second point in the second period, and another assist in the third period for the third point.

Plymouth went 0-for-5 in power play opportunities while Peterborough converted 2-of-4.

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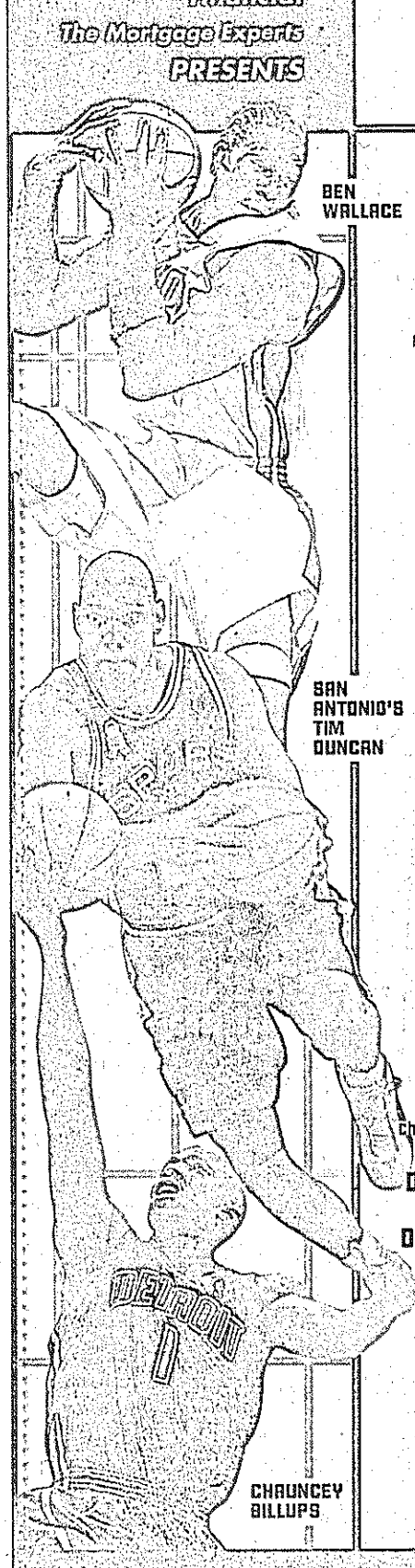

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Chauncey Billups Mini-Bobblehead Holiday Ornament Giveaway for the First 5,000 Fans Courtesy of Accident Fund

DECEMBER 21 VS UTAH JAZZ • 6:00 PM
Richard Hamilton Gantz Bobblehead Giveaway for the First 10,000 Fans Courtesy of Verizon Wireless

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DECEMBER 29 VS NEW ORLEANS HORNETS • 7:30 PM

DECEMBER 31 VS PORTLAND TRAILBLAZERS • 4:00 PM
New Year's Celebration – Postgame Festivities on the Pistons Floor for the Entire Family

JANUARY 2 VS PHOENIX SUNS • 8:00 PM
Pistons Gym Bag Giveaway for the First 5,000 Fans 14 and Under Courtesy of Meijer

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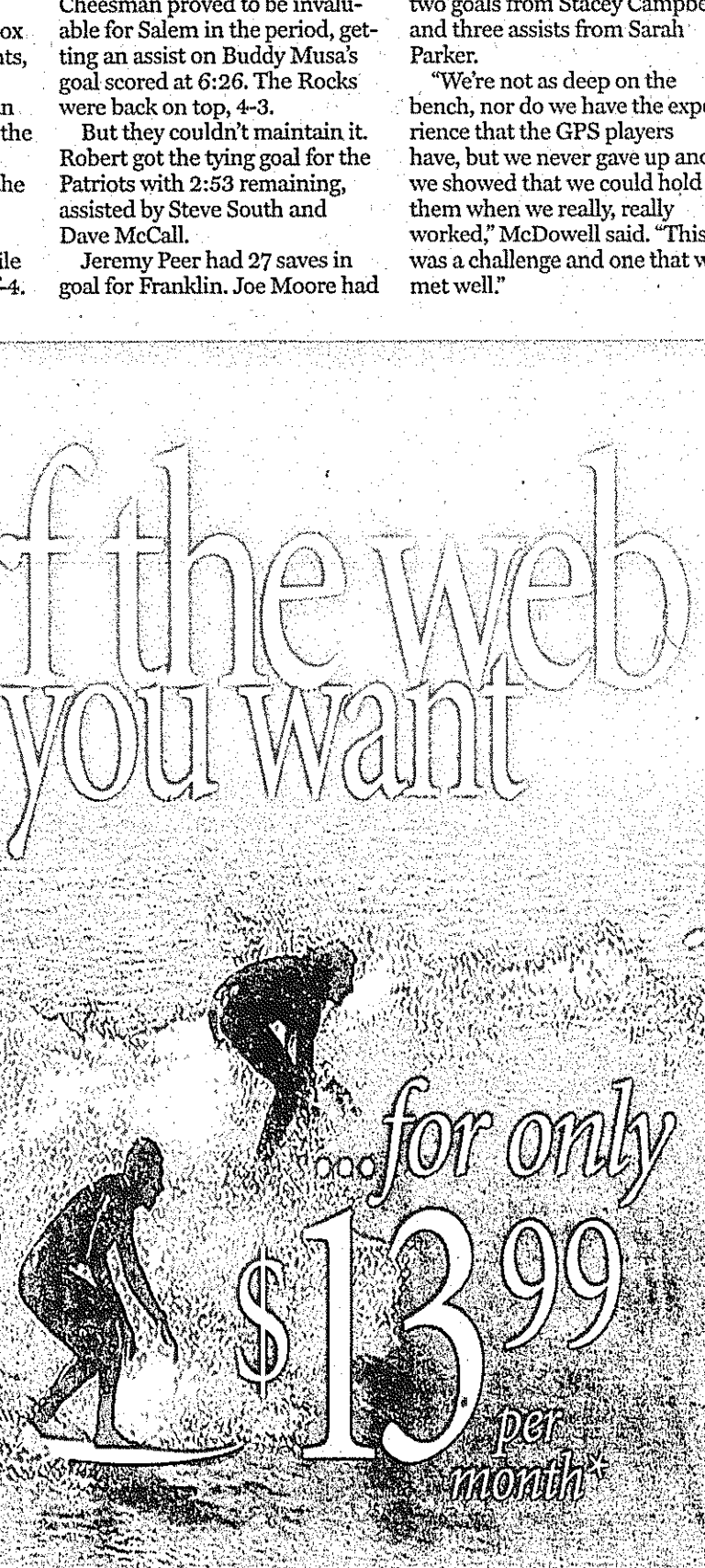

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Memories of a December elk hunt still strong

Outdoor Insights

Bill Parker

It was a cold December day in the early 1990s. The sound of the pick-up truck pulling into my driveway alerted me to the visitors and I dashed out the back door with anticipation dripping from my face like butter at a corn roast.

My friend Tim King had shot a bull elk during Michigan's elk season and was bringing the animal over to my house to be butchered. It was the first prized Michigan elk I had seen up close.

When I say prized, I'm not joking. Each year the Michigan Department of Natural Resources receives upwards of 40,000 applications for a lottery drawing for an elk harvest permit. On average about 150 to 200 permits are available, so being drawn for a permit is truly like winning a prize – a once-in-a-lifetime prize.

There hasn't always been an elk hunting season in Michigan. According to DNR records, Michigan's native elk disappeared in the late 1800s. The herd we cherish today is the result of hunter money being used to reintroduce elk to the state back in 1918. That year, seven elk were released near Wolverine in Cheboygan County and today's herd are direct descendants from those seven elk.

By the 1960s, the herd had blossomed to about 1,500 animals and limited hunts were held in 1964 and 1965.

Unfortunately, once word spread about the thriving elk population in northern Michigan, the corrupt element of our society stepped in. Over the next 10 years poaching was rampant. By 1975, poachers decimated the herd to about 200 animals.

Renewed public interest in, and protection of, the elk herd in the 1970s was fanned by oil exploration in the Pigeon River State Forest, the heart of the elk range. This increased awareness by hunters and local citizens helped put reigns on poaching. Habitat improvement programs, also funded by sportsmen's money, helped rekindle the herd to 850 animals by 1984.

Limited elk hunting resumed that year as 50 licenses were issued from a pool of 45,908 applicants.

The herd now fluctuates between 1,200 and 800 animals. The DNR's goal is for a winter herd of between 800 and 900 animals.

This year 100 hunters will participate in the Dec. 9-16 hunt. Of those successful applicants, 30 will have their choice of shooting an antlered elk or an antlerless elk and 70 can only shoot an antlerless elk. The DNR received 38,778 applications for this year's hunt.

If you were one of the lucky hunters and received a permit, be sure to give us a call at (248) 901-2564 or send a letter and a picture to share your experience with the readers of the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers.

Butchering Tim's bull was a bigger process than expected. Despite the fact that there were six of us working on him it still took us the better half of the day to complete that task. But the effort didn't come without mouth-watering rewards.

Tim was gracious and everyone had fresh elk venison to put in their freezer. Not only that, but by the time the beast was skinned and quartered, the grill was hot and ready to accept the tenderloins. It's amazing how much fresh, nutritional venison comes off a 500 to 800 pound animal. The loins alone were enough to feed six grown adults.

POACHING CONTINUES

The DNR is looking for information on the illegal killing of a 600-pound bull elk earlier this year in Montmorency County. The incident occurred around Sept. 20. The elk was found intact, but the antlers had been cut off.

"The remains of the animal were found in a fairly remote location, on public land off Crall Road, north of Growler Club Road in Vienna Township," said Sgt. Greg Drogowski, of the DNR's Law Enforcement Division.

He said a cash reward is available for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person or persons responsible for killing the elk. Any information pertaining to this or any investigation can be provided to the DNR's Report-All-Poaching (RAP) Hotline, 800-292-7800. Callers can remain completely anonymous.

In another elk poaching incident that took place in November of 2002, Jason Kirk of Romulus recently pleaded guilty to the illegal killing of the elk. The antlers on this animal were the 13th largest ever taken in Michigan.

Kirk was ordered to pay $1,655 in fines and court costs, plus $1,500 restitution. He was placed under a 30-day house arrest and will not be allowed to purchase any hunting license until 2006.

"This animal's antlers, meat and the firearm used to shoot the animal were seized in Wayne County, and the elk carcass, which had been buried underneath a camper-trailer, was recovered by officers in Montmorency County," Drogowski said. "At this time of the year, with so many hunters afield, it is especially important that if anyone sees something that appears suspicious in nature, or learns of information that may not have been made available to us previously, that they would please let us know," Drogowski said.

Bill Parker covers the outdoors for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. Hunters and anglers are urged to report their success. Questions and comments are also encouraged. Send information to: Bill Parker, c/o Outdoors, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham, MI 48009.

Snow leads latest Hall of Fame group

Ten Pin Alley

Al Harrison

One of the defining moments in the life of a good bowler is when he or she is recognized by their peers for outstanding performance on the lanes and over a considerable length of time.

Such was the case on Nov. 16 when the bowlers who were nominated and chosen for the Greater Detroit Bowling Hall of Fame.

The evening began with the cocktail hour and a fine dinner at the Ukrainian Cultural Center in Warren.

Some of the inductees brought in their relatives, family and close friends. In most cases, the presenters of the plaques made a short speech and then the inductee came out with a longer one.

Duplicate plaques will be on permanent display at the GDBA Hall of Fame, located inside Allen Park's Thunderbowl Lanes.

This year's noteworthy field includes Lee Snow, nicknamed "The Snowman," known for his coolness under pressure.

A longtime resident of Farmington Hills, Lee now calls Wixom home.

He was presented by his longtime friend, Dan Ottman of Troy.

Lee and his wife bowled together in the Greenfield Mixed League at Country Lanes for several years. Being in the same league, it was always a treat to watch this man bowl. A great southpaw, always smooth and accurate, a style that won him much money and this special place in the Hall of Fame.

Crystal Trombley earned her laurels by combining her talents with hard work, having maintained a 200-plus average since the 1997-98 season with 215 her highest.

She has two 300 games to her credit and was this year's winner of the all-events in the state tournament.

Dorothy Thompson made the presentation, while Ron Byrd was presented his plaque by Ed DeRonne, past president of the Greater Detroit Bowling Association.

Byrd has an illustrious tournament record, having won many titles including the GDBA events, he won the doubles (1985), singles (1989 and 1991). Byrd was also on the championship team (1994 and 1998).

He carried the high average in the Thursday All-Star Classic League in 1989-90. Ron has bowled and 800 series 10 times and has a total of 23 perfect games.

He is still going strong and earning more titles.

Mark Martin was elected to the hall for meritorious service.

His presenter was Tom McKay, one of our outstanding hall-of-famers both locally and nationally with the American Bowling Congress.

He worked his way up in the GDBA, first as a director and then as a lane inspector. He was Director-of-the-Year (1990) and Man-of-the-Year in 1995.

As executive director, he has provided leadership and outstanding ability. A glutton for punishment, he recently took over as executive director of the Detroit Women's Bowling Association as well.

His list of credentials is almost endless, not to mention that he is also quite a bowler himself, having averaged as high as 216.

Rick Strobl was chosen to receive the Judge John D. Watts Award in recognition of his promotion of the sport of bowling.

He became involved in the production of the Bowler's Digest in 1976. He became associate editor in 1980 and managing editor after Steve Cruchon passed away.

With his expertise, he helped launch the GDBA newsletter and is editor of the GDBA/DWBA yearbook. His plaque was presented by Judge David Szymanski.

The Thomas McKay Award went to hall-of-famer Joe Paulus for his long time interest and promotion of bowling.

Older bowlers will remember Joe as one of the great competitors back in the good old days of the sport, in a bygone era. He was the first to bowl an 800 series in the Detroit Athletic Club League in 1979.

A 300 game was racked up in the same league (1985) in which he was champion for 15 years and runner-up for 13 years.

The evening was a showplace for "who's who" in the Metro Detroit bowling scene as most of the GDBA and DWBA past hall-of-famers were on hand to renew friendships and greet old friends, teammates and adversaries alike.

Memories are built on times like this.

The evening was also enjoyed by Phyllis Mahlin of Southfield who bowled in an earlier era. She loved bowling, but was forced to quit the game because of back problems.

❑ Thank you, Lennie, for returning my lost ball. I tried to use yours, but the span was a little too long. I'm sure you took good care of my Storm Trauma. It has a lot of strikes left in it. You now have your Storm Big Hit back, and good luck with it.

❑ I hope everyone had a nice Thanksgiving holiday.

It is a very special time for a lot of bowlers, for tradition has it that many of the leagues pass along turkey coupons to the high game or over-average bowlers, per team, or pair, of lanes.

This tradition goes all the way back to the early settlers who came across on the Mayflower. (That is Mayflower Lanes in Redford, of course.)

If you get three strikes in a row bowling, that's called a "turkey," but you can't eat it.

Al Harrison is a resident of Livonia and a director of the Greater Detroit Bowling Association. He can be reached at (248) 477-1839.

ALL-STAR CATCHERS CAMP

The annual All-Star Catchers Camp will be from 9 a.m. to noon (ages 7-12) and 1-4 p.m. (ages 13-18) on Saturday, Dec. 6, Total Baseball, 30990 Wixom Road, Wixom.

Salem High coach Dale Rumberger will instruct on the mechanics of catching.

The cost is $75 per player.

For more information, call (248) 668-0166 or visit www.total-baseball.com to register.

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THE WEEK AHEAD

PREP HOCKEY
Thursday, Dec. 4
Ladywood vs. Mercy (Suburban), 7 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 5
Churchill at Canton (Arctic Edge), 6 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 6
Salem vs. W.L. Western (Lakeland Arena), 5:50 p.m.
Redford CC vs. Culver Military (Ind.) at Compuware (Olympic), 7 p.m.
Sunday, Dec. 7
Redford CC vs. Culver Military (Ind.) at Compuware (NHL), 1 p.m.
PREP WRESTLING
Thursday, Dec. 4
Redford CC at H.W. Notre Dame, 1:30 p.m.
Salem at Canton Quad Meet, 5 p.m.
Riverview Richard at Plymouth, 6 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 6
Franklin Patriot Tourney, 9 a.m.
Hudson Invitational, 9 a.m.
Lake Orion Invitational, 10 a.m.
WOMEN'S COLLEGE VOLLEYBALL
(NAIA National Tournament at Point Loma Nazarene, Calif.)
Thursday, Dec. 4
Madonna vs. Spring Hill (Ala.), 4:30 p.m.
Madonna vs. Georgetown (Ky.), 11:15 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 5
Madonna vs. Dordt (Iowa) at Point Loma Nazarene, 2:15 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 6
NAIA semifinals & finals, 7:30 p.m. (PST)
MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
Thursday, Dec. 4
(Olney, Ill. CC Rotary Classic)
Schoolcraft vs. Olney (Ill.), 8 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 5
(Olney, Ill. CC Rotary Classic)
Schoolcraft vs. Southeastern (Ill.), 6 p.m.
(Mount Vernon, Ohio Tourney)
WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
Friday, Dec. 5
(Schoolcraft College Invitational)
Kalamazoo Valley vs. Sinclair (Ohio), 6 p.m.
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Against Edison, SC led 37-34 at halftime, then pulled away with a 34-27 second-half surge. The Ocelots converted 12-of-14 from the line in the second half (85.7 percent); for the game, they were 16-of-20 (80 percent). Edison was 8-of-19 for the game (42.1 percent), making just 3-of-11 in the second half (27.2 percent). India Monteiro and Takara Tuff each scored 16 points to pace SC. Monteiro also had 14 rebounds, five assists and two steals. Crystal Pittman added 15 points and five boards, and Tiffani Pattillo had contributed eight points, four assists and three steals. Edison got 28 points and 10 rebounds from Carrie Bergman and 15 points and five assists from Chelsie Jay.

Friday's win over Columbus State was never in question. SC led 50-25 at halftime, making 16-of-31 (51.6 percent) from the floor to the Cougars' 10-of-32 (31.2 percent). For the game, the Ocelots were 36-of-80 (45 percent) to Columbus' 19-of-62 (30.6 percent), and they forced 44 turnovers. Sara Tyree (from Westland John Glenn) led SC with 23 points, making 11-of-14 from the field. She also had seven rebounds and two steals. Monteiro collected 15 points, 13 boards, three assists and five steals; Ashley Gibson had 13 points, eight assists and two steals; Pittman had 11 points; and Tara Charles (Redford Bishop Borgess) totaled nine points, six rebounds and four steals.

Kameria Mangum topped the Cougars with 18 points and 19 rebounds. Michelle Hollern added 11 points and seven steals.

SC hosts the Schoolcraft College Invitational Friday and Saturday, meeting Olive Harvey at 8 p.m. Friday after Kalamazoo Valley CC faces Sinclair College at 6 p.m. The consolation final is 1 p.m. Saturday, with the championship following at 3 p.m.

MADONNA

FROM PAGE B1

blocks; Tera Morrill (from Livonia Franklin) had 11 kills (.455), 13 digs and two aces; Amanda Suder (Salem HS) had 20 digs; and Ashley Frost had 59 set assists, 10 digs and two aces.

The Chaparrals were paced by Beth Ratliff with 15 kills. Meagan Kamplain and Stacy Simpson added 11 kills apiece.

Madonna finishes pool play with a match against Dordt Friday morning. The quarterfinals are Friday evening; the semifinals and finals are Saturday.

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THE WEEK AHEAD

PREP HOCKEY
Thursday, Dec. 4
Ladywood vs. Mercy (Suburban), 7 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 5
Churchill at Canton (Arctic Edge), 6 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 6
Salem vs. W.L. Western (Lakeland Arena), 5:50 p.m.
Redford CC vs. Culver Military (Ind.) at Compuware (Olympic), 7 p.m.
Sunday, Dec. 7
Redford CC vs. Culver Military (Ind.) at Compuware (NHL), 1 p.m.
PREP WRESTLING
Thursday, Dec. 4
Redford CC at H.W. Notre Dame, 1:30 p.m.
Salem at Canton Quad Meet, 5 p.m.
Riverview Richard at Plymouth, 6 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 6
Franklin Patriot Tourney, 9 a.m.
Hudson Invitational, 9 a.m.
Lake Orion Invitational, 10 a.m.
WOMEN'S COLLEGE VOLLEYBALL
(NAIA National Tournament at Point Loma Nazarene, Calif.)
Thursday, Dec. 4
Madonna vs. Spring Hill (Ala.), 4:30 p.m.
Madonna vs. Georgetown (Ky.), 11:15 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 5
Madonna vs. Dordt (Iowa) at Point Loma Nazarene, 2:15 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 6
NAIA semifinals & finals, 7:30 p.m. (PST)
MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
Thursday, Dec. 4
(Olney, Ill. CC Rotary Classic)
Schoolcraft vs. Olney (Ill.), 8 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 5
(Olney, Ill. CC Rotary Classic)
Schoolcraft vs. Southeastern (Ill.), 6 p.m.
(Mount Vernon, Ohio Tourney)
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The win, combined with Friday's 94-52 thrashing of Columbus State (Ohio) in the opening round of the tournament, gave SC a 4-2 overall record. Edison fell to 6-4; Columbus State was 1-1 after Friday's loss.

Against Edison, SC led 37-34 at halftime, then pulled away with a 34-27 second-half surge. The Ocelots converted 12-of-14 from the line in the second half (85.7 percent); for the game, they were 16-of-20 (80 percent). Edison was 8-of-19 for the game (42.1 percent), making just 3-of-11 in the second half (27.2 percent). India Monteiro and Takara Tuff each scored 16 points to pace SC. Monteiro also had 14 rebounds, five assists and two steals. Crystal Pittman added 15 points and five boards, and Tiffani Pattillo had contributed eight points, four assists and three steals. Edison got 28 points and 10 rebounds from Carrie Bergman and 15 points and five assists from Chelsie Jay.

Friday's win over Columbus State was never in question. SC led 50-25 at halftime, making 16-of-31 (51.6 percent) from the floor to the Cougars' 10-of-32 (31.2 percent). For the game, the Ocelots were 36-of-80 (45 percent) to Columbus' 19-of-62 (30.6 percent), and they forced 44 turnovers. Sara Tyree (from Westland John Glenn) led SC with 23 points, making 11-of-14 from the field. She also had seven rebounds and two steals. Monteiro collected 15 points, 13 boards, three assists and five steals; Ashley Gibson had 13 points, eight assists and two steals; Pittman had 11 points; and Tara Charles (Redford Bishop Borgess) totaled nine points, six rebounds and four steals.

Kameria Mangum topped the Cougars with 18 points and 19 rebounds. Michelle Hollern added 11 points and seven steals.

SC hosts the Schoolcraft College Invitational Friday and Saturday, meeting Olive Harvey at 8 p.m. Friday after Kalamazoo Valley CC faces Sinclair College at 6 p.m. The consolation final is 1 p.m. Saturday, with the championship following at 3 p.m.

MADONNA

FROM PAGE B1

blocks; Tera Morrill (from Livonia Franklin) had 11 kills (.455), 13 digs and two aces; Amanda Suder (Salem HS) had 20 digs; and Ashley Frost had 59 set assists, 10 digs and two aces.

The Chaparrals were paced by Beth Ratliff with 15 kills. Meagan Kamplain and Stacy Simpson added 11 kills apiece.

Madonna finishes pool play with a match against Dordt Friday morning. The quarterfinals are Friday evening; the semifinals and finals are Saturday.

Reloaded CC ready for another season

There's no doubt that Redford Catholic Central's wrestling team lost a lot of power from last season's 18-4 state regional finalist.

But the Shamrocks are reloading, rather than rebuilding, after losing six wrestlers to graduation — at least coach Mike Rodriguez thinks so.

"We've got people coming back from last year, but they wrestled behind the people who graduated, so they are relatively new to the varsity level," Rodriguez said. "I think by the end of the season, we'll be as tough if not tougher than last year. I guarantee that we won't get knocked out by one point at the regionals this year."

Rodriguez was referring to a loss to Roseville in the regional final last year — a one-point loss that wasn't as close as the final score indicated. He's banking on a couple of factors to make that happen. The first is using the season to get his younger wrestlers ready for the individual and team state tournaments.

"The season is jumping up on us fast and we're waiting for some football people to get their legs," Rodriguez said. "It's great to win the title, but it also means we have to wait for them to mend if they're hurt from football or to get their legs seasoned."

The second is that he's got two state champions, a third-place finisher and two other tourney qualifiers back to lead the way.

Junior Trevor Stewart (43-1) is the defending Division 1 champ at 160 pounds and senior Matt Steintrager (51-2) won at 112 last year, but will go at 119 this year.

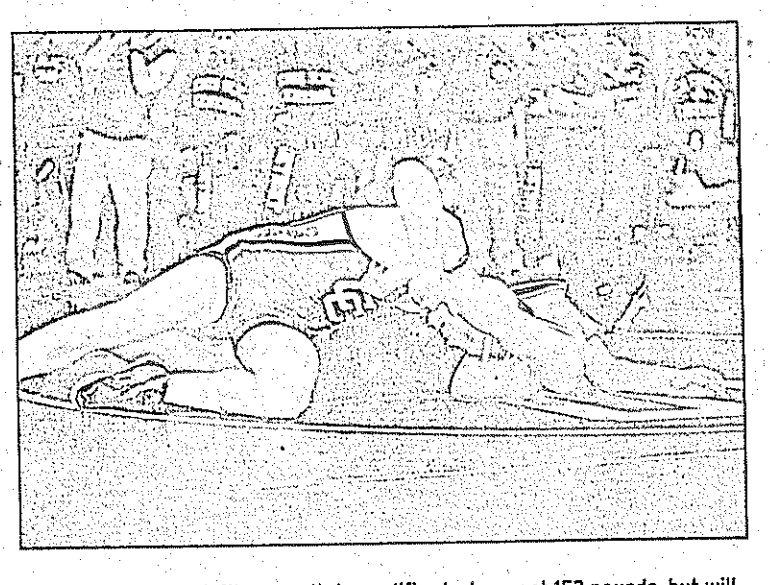
Sophomore Sean Dong (49-3) was third at 103 last year and will go at that weight again this year. Senior Scott Schwarzlose (40-12) qualified at 171 last year and junior Brad Bartram (31-8) qualified at 152.

But other than the state qualifiers, there's not a lot of experienced returnees.

"But we'll have a lot of competition to get seasoned," Rodriguez said. "They'll have to respond. Doing it right away isn't important. By the time March comes around, we'll be ready."

Sophomore Andrew Nader, whose brother and father were state champs at CC, will go at 112 and senior Mike McHenry will go at 125, with junior Dade DiMaggio getting the nod at 130.

Seniors John Kenny and Steve Petersen will switch at 135 and 140. Sophomore John Cox will go at 145. In the upper weights, junior Brendan Cowley go see time at 171, senior Brendan Albrecht will go at 189, sophomore John Kindille will go at 215 and junior John Morasso will make the move from 215 to heavyweight.



CC's Brad Bartram (left) was a state qualifier last year at 152 pounds, but will move up to 160 this season.

CHIEFS

FROM PAGE B1

That might make Randolph's sorting-out process a bit more difficult, but there is promising talent to build with — starting with Ryan Webb, a junior who will be at 135. Webb spent much of the off-season refining his craft, including a fourth-place finish at the Border Wars Tournament in November, a tournament that features wrestlers from nine states.

Last season Webb finished third in the WLAA, losing his semifinal match to Salem's Mike Goethe — the eventual league and state champ. A team captain, Webb is looking for something better this year.

The other team captains are Nick Poole, a junior who "works hard — we look for him to do well this year" at 112; Steve Hosey, a senior and returning starter at 145 who, despite being slowed by a knee injury much of last season, narrowly missed qualifying for the state regional; and Konrad Konsitzke, a sophomore who saw some varsity action last season and is "much improved," according to Randolph.

Others to watch — and there are plenty of them, noted Randolph: "Last year, we had 28 on the team. Now there are 50" — include sophomore Sam Santilli at 103, where he started last season; Corey Phillips, a freshman at 130 who took a silver medal at the AAU-sponsored National Duals Tournament in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, which featured wrestlers from 30 states; Jay Fleischmann and John McCue, a pair of juniors who will divide time in the 119 and 125 divisions; and Alex Amberg, a sophomore who saw some varsity action last season and will get a lot more at 152 this year.

Then there are sophomores Matt Sweda and Marwan Faraj, who will both see time at 160; Pat McWhitter, a junior who is moving into the starting lineup at 171; P.J. Caram, a junior who started at nose tackle in football and wrestled at 171 last season but will be at 189 this year; Dave Kersten, a senior and Mark's twin brother who started at heavyweight a year ago (he'll fill in for Mark at 215 until Mark returns; then Dave goes back to heavyweight); and Tom Bonnell, a sophomore who is recovering from a knee injury suffered in football but will wrestle at heavyweight, at least at the season's start.

A pair of juniors, Shane Gring and Pete Bonneau, will be in the lineup at times, too. Gring will wrestle at 140-145, Bonneau at 130-135.

"Our middle weights will be our toughest," Randolph said. "That will be the strength of our team, with Webb, Konsitzke, Hogg and Phillips. We may lose a couple of matches early that we'll win later. Hopefully, a number of our kids who can step in will step up."

Randolph figures defending WLAA champ Westland John Glenn will be strong again. So will Walled Lake Western and Northville, with Livonia Stevenson, Salem and Livonia Churchill on their tails.

As for Canton: "The thing is, no one expects us to win. We hope to surprise some people. We'll be in the mix somewhere," Randolph said. "We're taking the next step in rebuilding this program, on track to building a nucleus. That's what I want to build — a team."

One step at a time. Just how big that step will be this season won't be known until January.

Canton opens its season by hosting Salem, Monroe and Wayne Memorial in a quad dual meet starting today at 5 p.m.

ROCKS

FROM PAGE B1

manage only a fourth-place finish at the WLAA tournament. Their lineup, at least at present, doesn't appear to be any stronger.

Salem will get its first taste of action at 5 p.m. today in a quad dual meet with Monroe, Wayne Memorial and Canton, hosted by Canton. The Rocks will face Monroe and Canton.

While Woochuk is at best "cautiously optimistic," he does have some proven talent returning to lead his team and some strong newcomers to build around.

At the top of the list of returnees is junior Ryan Stump, a league champ at 103 last year and a state regional qualifier. A two-year starter, Stump will move up to the 112-119 division this season.

Also back is senior Jeremy Walker, who won the WLAA championship at heavyweight last season. Another two-year starter, Walker will return at the heavyweight division.

Mike Dendrinos, a senior and three-year starter, is also back and should fill the void created by Bobee's graduation at 125. Other seniors Woochuk is counting on are Will Schultz, a three-year veteran, at 152 where he was fourth at the WLAA; Brian Danville at 160; and Jordan Schaefer at 189, where he was sixth at the WLAA.

Another promising returnee is sophomore Jeremy Henderson at 215, where he placed fifth in the WLAA and was among the top four at Observerland.

Now for some of those less experienced, but talented wrestlers Woochuk hopes will make this Salem team a success. Among them are seniors Dave Burr and Zack Vaughn, who will be in the 130-135 divisions, together with Matt Sammut and juniors Scott Fysh and Josh Anson. Another junior, Ryan Olson, will be at 145.

Nick Morenci and Brian Dobson, both seniors, will wrestle in the 171 to 215 divisions. Andrew Ross, a sophomore, has also shown talent at 171.

The lower weight divisions seem a bit vacant, but Matt Keffler, a junior, should help at 112.

Asked where the Rocks' strength would be, Woochuk replied, "With our seniors. We have some experience, but (much of it) is not proven experience. We'll just have to see how much confidence they gain in the next month."

The divisions from 119 to 145 seem well-stocked, which could present a problem for Woochuk — considering the improvement shown by Fysh and Anson, as well as Schaefer at 189. "We'll probably end up doubling up in some divisions when we get to the state districts," he said.

As for the conference, defending champ Westland John Glenn still looks formidable, according to Woochuk. Right behind the Rockets are Livonia Churchill, Walled Lake Central and Walled Lake Western.

And Salem? Where do the Rocks figure in?

"I have no idea," Woochuk answered. "It all depends on how the kids step up this year. We've got a very talented group, they've got good technique. It depends how much confidence they gain, how hard they want to work."

Then he added, "We should know by the first weekend in January how good we can be. I'm not that optimistic, but we'll see in the next month."

Newspaper-In-Education

Activity Column

The game of BASKETBALL celebrated its birthday on December 1st. Use your local O&E newspaper to record statistics for your favorite local team this month. Record scores and opponents at home and away. Record individual numbers for free throws, baskets, three-pointers, rebounds, fouls, etc. In January, prepare a report on the team evaluating its performance during December. Use graphs, charts, and specific numbers to illustrate your statements. Which players made a difference for the team in December? Explain, using your statistics.

December 2nd was celebrated as International Day of Disabled Persons. Look in the advertisements, news, editorial and feature sections of the newspaper and on the Internet to find examples of how technology and science have combined to improve the lives of disabled persons. Do follow-up research at the library. Interview a disabled friend or relative and ask them to explain any therapy, medicine, or device that they have found to be helpful Present what you find in a display.

Sunday, December 7th is Pearl Harbor Day. This will be the 62nd anniversary of the United States' entry into World War II. Write a short radio report from the perspective of a sailor who witnessed the attack.

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THE Observer & Eccentric NEWSPAPERS

CHAMPIONSHIP

FROM PAGE B1

After the kickoff went into the end zone and CC got the ball at the 20, the Shamrocks (13-1) ran a play designed at halftime — a simple weak-side toss to Brooks. All Brooks did, with a little help from the offensive line, was hit the hole, break a tackle and run 80 yards for the score. Jason Gingell's extra point gave CC a 14-13 lead and brought momentum back to CC.

"I think there were a lot of big plays," said CC coach Tom Mach, who's now 9-3 in title games and a winner in his last eight. "Derek's run was a big play because it gave us momentum and that carried us through the second half."

Eisenhower came back with a big play of its own on its next series. Faced with a third-and-10 at its own 30, quarterback Jorel Petree rolled right and threw a running-off-the-wrong-foot bomb to Nick Skeltis at the CC 32, just over the outstretched arms of CC defensive back Alex Wojcik. Six plays later, Brett Meldrum's 28-yard field goal put Eisenhower on top, 16-14.

"All I ask of our kids every game is that they make big plays," said Eisenhower coach Bob Lantzy, who is 0-4 in state finals and 0-2 against CC. "(The plays) were coming for us in spurts, but CC kept striking back."

CC took the lead back on the next drive, as Gingell drained a 37-yard field goal to put the Shamrocks on top, 17-16.

But the back-breaker was yet to come. On the next series, CC linebacker Eric Vojtkofsky stepped in front of Petree's pass at the Eagles' 32. The Shamrocks drove to the 24 and faced a fourth-and-three. Gingell came in to try a 41-yard field goal, but it never happened as the left side of the Eagles' defensive line jumped offside, giving CC new life.

Six plays later, Nick Barrett went in from the Eisenhower 1 for a 24-16 lead.

Eisenhower wasn't done yet. The Eagles drove to their 46 and Petree lobbed a pass toward Steve Hoover. But Wojcik exacted his revenge for the earlier play by stepping in front of Hoover to pick off the pass with 12 seconds to play and ice the win for CC.

The two were virtually dead even in total offense as CC racked up 269 yards on the ground and none in the air, with Thomas going 0-for-3 with an interception. Petree was 16-for-27 passing for 227 yards and two interceptions.

"We did what we do best. We threw a pass and you saw what happened," Mach said, poking at Thomas. "But we weren't going to throw against their defense. All season long, they get to practice against a passing offense. That's what they do, throw, so they're good at stopping it. Dave's a great thrower, but throwing has never been our forte."

CC opened the scoring on its first drive, going 34 yards on four plays — all set up by a 23-yard return by Drew Amble. Vojtkofsky went the final 11 yards for the score.

Eisenhower came back in the second quarter, marching 81 yards on 11 plays with Justin Zimmerman going the final yard to even the score.

The Eagles dominated the first half, holding the ball for 16:31 of the 24 minutes. Brooks had 20 carries for his 172 yards, while Thomas gained 40 on six carries, and Barrett and Darnell Tyson had 25 yards each. Hoover and Nick Skeltis had four catches each for Eisenhower, for 66 and 42 yards, respectively. Anthony Skeltis caught two passes for 68 yards, while Petree led the Eagles' 41-yard rushing game with 38 of his own.

"They did to us what we try to do to other teams and that's control the football," Mach said. "They had the ball 16 minutes and we only had three sets of downs. They did a great job for 24 minutes. But it's a 48-minute game. We came out and did it."

Shamrocks celebrate yet another state title

He was sitting in the coaches office with assistant coach Roy Dudas, going over his notes for his upcoming speech before the student body, teachers and a smattering of parents.

He looked up from his notes and laughed, "I don't know which is harder — winning a state title or talking about it."

While winning a state title is never easy, it is becoming old hat for Catholic Central and its head coach, Tom Mach.

Saturday's 24-16 win over playoff rival Utica Eisenhower was the school's third straight Division 1 title — a record for big schools.

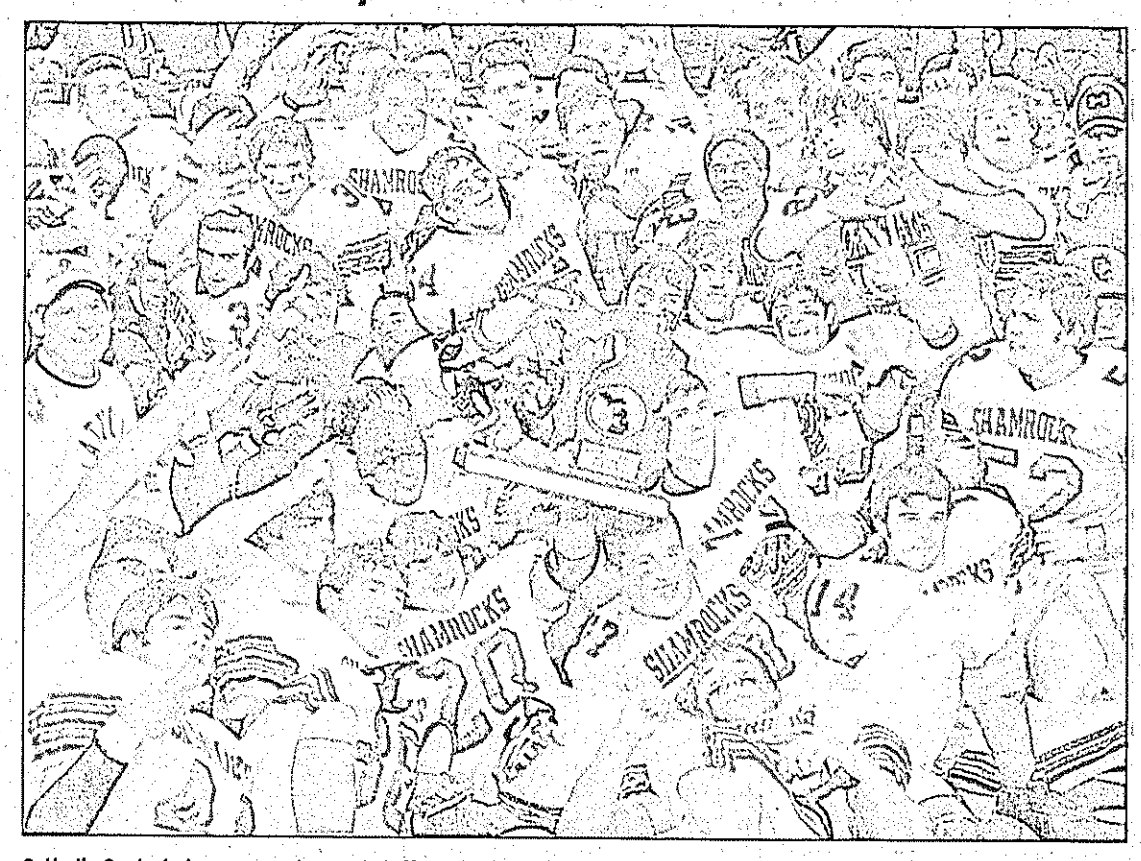
It was the school's sixth in the last nine years, ninth overall and gave Mach 258 wins in his career — a career that had him winning CC's first state title six years or so before most of this senior class was born. It also gave the 13-1 Shamrocks a No. 23 National ranking in the USA Today poll.

But nothing much has changed from the time the bookish, soft-spoken coach took the Shamrocks to their first title in 1979 to their ninth Saturday. He still preaches hard work, his teams are still predicated on the ground game on offense and a stubborn defense, and his teams still win.

"Dreams can come true," Mach said to the masses at Monday's celebratory assembly. "In 2001, it came down to a touchdown on our last offensive play of the game. In 2002, it was a whirlwind game that some people call the best ever. And in 2003, the defense again secured the title when Alex Wojcik intercepted a pass to finish off the game."

It was redemption for Wojcik, the senior defensive back who was on the wrong end of a big play earlier in the game — a 48-yard completion just over his outstretched fingertips that led to Eisenhower taking a 16-14 lead six plays later.

But Wojcik knew he'd get another chance. "I give their quarterback (Jorel Petree) a lot of credit for scrambling around to make that (touchdown) pass," Wojcik said Monday. "When they tried to come back on their last drive, I just sat back in my zone, saw my opportunity and picked off my pass."



Catholic Central players, coaches and staff celebrate their state title for photographers as Alex Wojcik (20), who made the game-clinching interception, holds up the championship trophy.

Defense. It's what wins championships. And for what seems like forever, Mach has had one of the best coaches around in defensive coordinator Rick Coratti.

But it's more than that, as coaches, players and administrators were quick to say Monday.

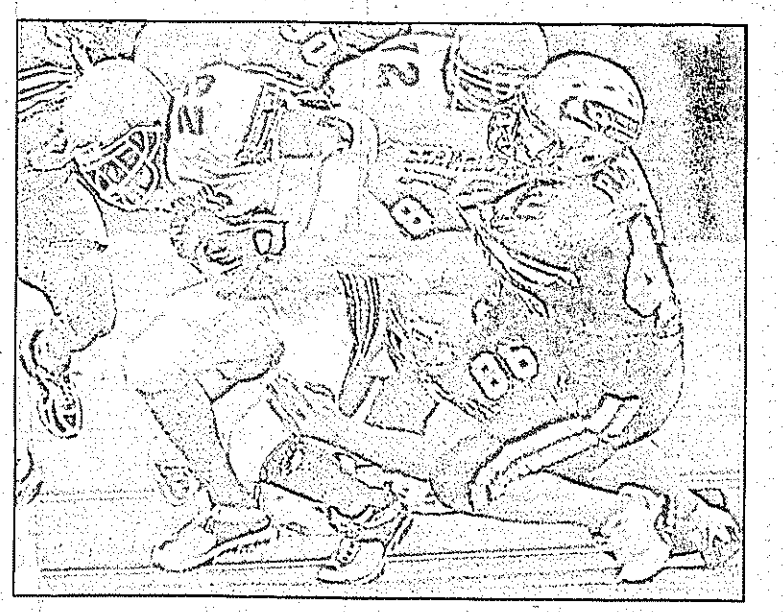
It comes from the players. It comes from the support of the students in the stands and from the band and from the cheerleaders — including the state's tallest in the form of 6-foot-10 Dan Waterstradt, who sometimes moonlights as the basketball team's center.

It comes from the whole program, the whole school.

It's why they've been able to celebrate a title for the last three seasons. It's why, once again, the captains — Derek Brooks, Blake Kavanaugh, Kyle Smith and Dave Thomas — were able to climb into the lift truck, raise themselves to the placard on the gym wall and place their year, their title, with all the rest.

But this one? This title was a little different than the rest.

"You'll always remember that this was one of the best teams in CC football history," Mach said. "We won the league title, the district, the regional and the state titles. We gave up an average of 9.8 points per game and had to come back in four of our five playoff games. We refused to quit. We emphasized class and poise. It was a proud day for the CC community. Winning a state championship is difficult to do."



CC's Derek Brooks is stopped by Eisenhower's Andrew Pendy (42) and Mark Goralewski (86) after a gain on Saturday.

Mach closed his speech to the assembly reminding them that anything was possible — for evidence, look at this football team.

"Don't think of the limitations in setting goals," Mach said. "Reach for the stars and you might just get there."

Just as his team did — again.

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ACCENTS

Grand Tour

This owl decorates a tree in a room once occupied by Danny Dodge, who loved the outdoors, at the home of Matilda Dodge Wilson and her family.

This owl decorates a tree in a room with an outdoors theme.

Today, that home is, of course, Meadow Brook Hall. Visitors to Meadow Brook Hall can relive the Grand Tour in 1935 of Matilda Dodge Wilson and her family and see some of the festive heirlooms purchased by family members. Holiday Walk 2003, the biggest fundraiser for Meadow Brook Hall and its operations and staff, runs through Tuesday, Dec. 23, with tours offered daily 11 a.m. until the last tour begins at 4 p.m.

The fourth largest historic house museum in the United States, the Tudor Revival style home has 110 rooms and 88,000 square feet. The residence was built in the 1920s by Matilda Dodge Wilson (widow of auto pioneer John Dodge) and her second husband, lumber broker Alfred Wilson, who also founded Oakland University.

Tickets are $20 for adults; $12.50 for children under 12; and children under 2 are free. A major fund-raising event for Meadow Brook Hall, all Holiday Walk proceeds are used for the preservation and interpretation of this significant historic property.

For additional information, call (248) 370-3140 or visit www.meadowbrookhall.org.

Christmas Walk

Seven homes in Livonia will be featured on the 15th annual Friends of Greenmead Christmas Walk, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6. The homes will be decorated for the holidays and open for viewing, along with the Hill House at Livonia's historic Greenmead.

Start your walk at the Hill House, where hot chocolate and homemade cookies will be served.

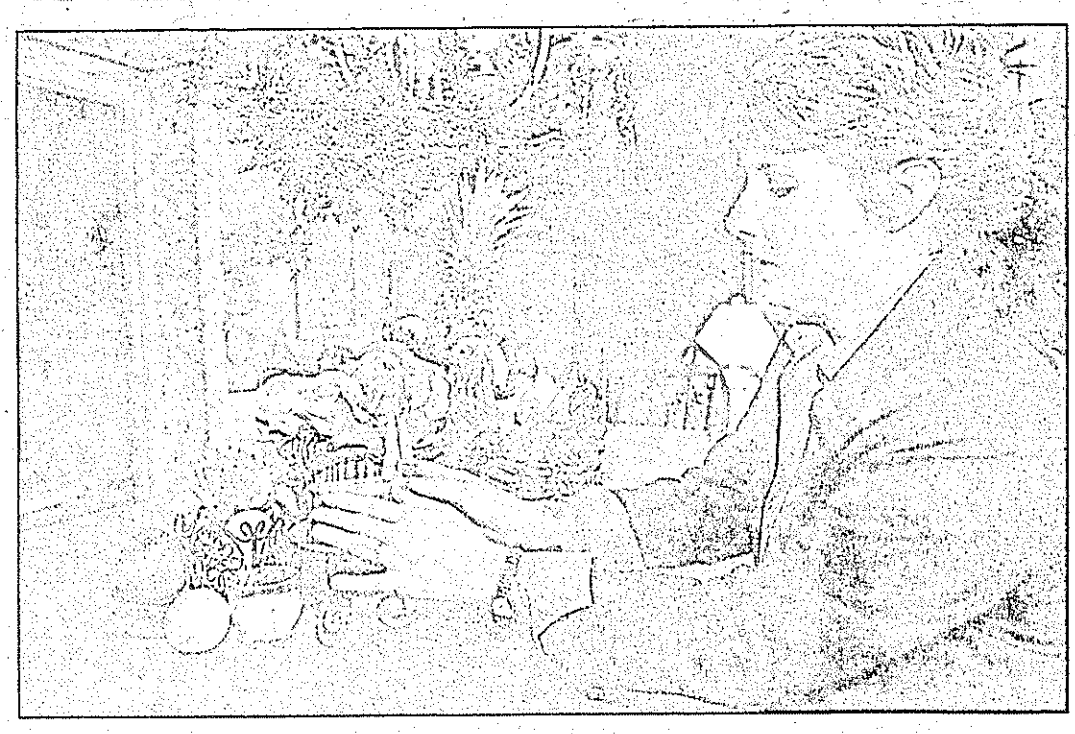
Unusual Christmas items will be available for purchase at the Hill House gift shop.

Tickets are $9 in advance and $10 in person the day of the event. Tickets can be bought at any of the Livonia libraries, the Livonia Civic Center Library Gift Shop at Farmington Road and Five Mile, Greenmead at Eight Mile and Newburgh, and the Department of Community Resources on the fifth floor of Livonia City Hall, Farmington Road and Five Mile.

For information, call (734) 466-3540 or (734) 425-4855.

'Tis the season

Decorations welcome your holiday guests



Above, ice crystals gleam over a mantle's decorations, accenting the gold ornaments and radiant red candles. At left, Sue Aprill fusses with her kitchen table centerpiece.

Decorators and interior designers believe you need to get beyond that traditional red and green for the holidays.

You can get a little more natural. You can use larger ornaments. And feathers are hot.

Those are just a few of the trends this holiday season.

Sue Aprill, a certified interior arranger and owner of Sue Aprill Interior Arrangements in Canton, believes natural accessories will work their way into more and more homes.

"I'm seeing a lot of fresh greenery on mantles and sprigs with berries," Aprill said. "It's really a natural look, and people are spending a little more money to make them look real." She'll use boxwood branches and crabapple branches to bring the outdoors inside.

"I really try to enhance the décor they have already," Aprill said. "You just try to pop a few pieces of greenery. You use it sparsely for just a pop of color and not overdo it."

BRING 'EM IN

Decorate around the home, but pick and choose areas to invite everyone in.

Aprill said areas of the home that you can decorate are the front porch (with a vignette) or front foyer (on a table). Glitter candles add to the holiday atmosphere, and the main rooms, such as the family room or great room, can be enhanced with focal points using the coffee table or mantle. But you should not decorate every end table, Aprill said. "Sometimes less is a lot more," Aprill said.

Decorators can pull in a deeper green in rooms with green. "I always like to do the main floor of the house, the living room and dining room," Aprill said.

The kitchen can be decorated with casual items: fresh fruit and vegetables, and they add some fresh natural accessories. "Scents are very important, such as cinnamon or pine," Aprill said.

Popular colors include aqua, seafoam green and iridescent purple. "There seems to be an explosion," Aprill said. Mid-jewel tone, burgundy and brighter blue are other colors that are popular.

A wreath should include winter flowers such as an amarilla, and add berries, feathers and crystal, inexpensive ornaments and iridescent ribbons. "Make it more 3-D, and not just a plain wreath. Make it warm and inviting, and say 'I really want to come into this house.' " Aprill advises.

VARY ORNAMENT SIZES

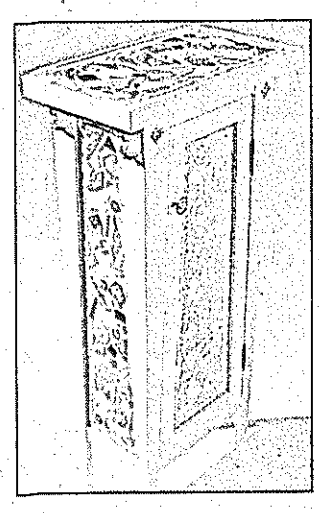
Anne Musson, an interior designer whose home was just featured on the Plymouth home tour, said home decorators should not

PLEASE SEE **DECOR, C5**

MARKET PLACE

Submissions

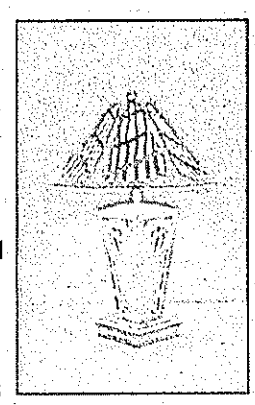
Do you have a special item you'd like to showcase in Marketplace on the front of At Home? We'd like to feature it! Send a photo or slide of the piece, along with information, to: Ken Abramczyk, At Home editor, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham 48009.



Marvelous market

Find unusual pieces for the home – such as this tile by Lori Rodgers, cabinet by Roslyn Tyge and lamp by Matthew Ozminski – at the 28th annual Potters Market, scheduled Friday-Sunday, Dec. 5-7, in Madison Heights. The event will take place at the United Food and Commercial Union Hall at 876 Horace Brown Drive, one block south of 13 Mile, between I-75 and John R.

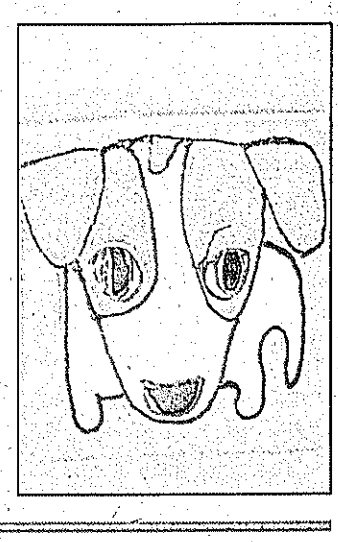
Admission and parking are free. Hours are 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday.



The Potters Market is the largest pottery sale of its kind in the country. More than 9,000 customers shop over the three-day weekend.

Presented by the advanced ceramic students and guest potters of the Oakland Community College Royal Oak campus, the market features almost 40,000 functional and decorative pieces by 137 potters. The items include pots, vases, platters, mugs, bird baths, jewelry, framed mirrors, sculpture and tables. Prices range from $5 to $400.

For more information, call (248) 246-2686 or visit www.thepottersmarket.com.



It's the dramatic cloud patterns combined with a red filter that gives strength and drama to this Monte Nagler photograph.

Shoot textures, shapes in clouds

One subject that has always excited me that I've written about in the past is clouds. We've all found ourselves staring at a dramatic cloud pattern oblivious of our surroundings.

Focus on Photography

Monte Nagler

Clouds come in a variety of shapes, textures and colors. They can be huge and billowy or soft and wispy. They can be bold and dramatic and even frightening at times. Capturing them on film is exciting and will definitely enhance your photographs.

How can you better photograph clouds? First, learn to really "see" them. Look for shapes and patterns as constantly changing cloud formations float across the sky. See how clouds can become a colorful palette at an approaching sunset. Notice how a receding black storm cloud becomes a sensational backdrop for foreground objects being lit by the rays of an emerging sun.

Enjoy foggy and misty days as I do. Some of the very best mood-filled pictures are shot in this type of weather.

Once you "see" the clouds, how do you enhance your photographs of them? Begin with a good sense of composition by using a low horizon line to accentuate the clouds and give your shot a feeling of spaciousness.

When shooting white, puffy clouds against a blue sky with color film, use a polarizer filter. Position yourself at a 4º angle to the sun and rotate your polarizer until you see maximum blue.

The result will be an impact-filled photograph showing the white clouds contrasted against a rich, deep blue sky.

At sunrise and sunset add spice to your cloud pictures by using colored filters such as orange or red. The results (use slide film) will be truly dramatic.

Black and white film "sees" white clouds and blue sky as identical tones and the clouds may become lost in the finished print. But filters in the yellow, orange and red values will achieve cloud/sky separation for you. A yellow filter will give you normal cloud/sky separation. Orange produces more. And a red filter renders a blue sky almost black producing very striking results.

Clouds from the air have a character all their own as they appear like a bed of fluffy cotton. Just set your camera at a fast shutter speed to eliminate the airplane's vibration and the shot is yours.

Do you get turned on by sunbeams bursting through a pattern of dramatic clouds? Underexpose slightly and you'll capture them on your film.

Here's another idea. Make a montage of slides of clouds with other images for a unique look. Clouds superimposed over trees, a lighthouse or flying birds will result in vivid, striking photographs.

Monte Nagler is a fine art photographer based in Farmington Hills. You can leave him a message at (734) 953-2047. His fax number is (248) 644-1314.

AT HOME CALENDAR

Sweet Peas

Sweet Peas, a home accessories store at 2006 Cole in Birmingham, has scheduled a variety of holiday shopping events.

Holiday Wassail Evenings take place Tuesdays and Thursdays Dec. 4-18 (with extended hours 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.), offering a warm taste of the holidays while you browse. During Ladies' Night Out (4-9 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 7), eat, drink and be merry, and save 20 to 50 percent.

Call (248) 988-2810.

Hanging of the Greens

The halls at the Troy Museum, 60 W. Wattles, will be decked for the holidays with decorations inspired by those of days gone by for the Hanging of the Greens 1-4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6. Admission is free. Parking and free shuttle bus service will be available from Walsh College, 3838 Livernois.

Call (248) 524-3570 for information.

A Victorian atmosphere will enhance the Pioneer Room, where the women of the Troy Garden Club will preside over complimentary holiday treats. Outside in the Historic Village, log cabin re-enactors and blacksmiths will be available for conversation in the buildings. Santa will visit; bring your camera if you want to take a photo while you tell him what's on your list this year.

Other festivities will include seasonal children's crafts, carolers, and familiar and unusual music of the season from Woodbridge.

Visit the current exhibit, Barns: Celebrating Michigan's Agricultural History, and the Museum Gift Shop for distinctive gifts and stocking stuffers.

Greenmead Christmas Walk

Seven homes in Livonia will be featured on the 15th annual Friends of Greenmead Christmas Walk 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6. The homes will be decorated for the holidays and open for viewing, along with the Hill House at Livonia's historic Greenmead.

Start your walk at the Hill House, where hot chocolate and homemade cookies will be served. Unusual Christmas items will be available for purchase at the Hill House gift shop.

Tickets are $9 in advance and $10 in person the day of the event.

Tickets can be bought at any of the Livonia libraries, the Livonia Civic Center Library Gift Shop at Farmington Road and Five Mile, Greenmead at Eight Mile and Newburgh, and the Department of Community Resources on the fifth floor of Livonia City Hall, Farmington Road and Five Mile.

For information, call (734) 466-3540 or (734) 425-4855.

Auction

The Frank H. Boos Gallery, 420 Enterprise Court in Bloomfield Hills, will conduct an auction 6 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday, Dec. 10 and 11. A preview will take place 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6; noon to 8 p.m. Monday, Dec. 8; and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 9.

The auction will feature jewelry, paintings, art glass and pottery, assorted clear and colored glass, dolls, toys, trains and vintage Christmas decorations.

Call (248) 332-1500, e-mail artandauction@boosgallery.com or visit www.boosgallery.com for information.

Holiday centerpieces

Learn to make a fresh evergreen arrangement suitable for your holiday table or mantel at a Holiday Centerpiece Workshop from the Meadow Brook Hall floral committee 2:30-5:30 p.m. and 6:30-9:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 9, in the Coach House adjacent to Meadow Brook Hall in Rochester.

Fresh greens and containers will be provided. Bring clippers, a utility knife and any trims that will match your decor. You will take home a finished arrangement that will last through the holidays.

Fee is $25, payable in advance. All proceeds benefit the gardens at Meadow Brook Hall. For reservations, call (248) 652-4676.

Animal attraction

"Paws" to help homeless animals while holiday shopping at the Store of Dreams, at Laurel Park Place, Six Mile and I-275 in Livonia, and Macomb Mall, Gratiot and Masonic in Roseville.

For the third year, the Michigan Humane Society has stocked up on great gifts, as well as informative and entertaining events, while participating in the third annual Store of Dreams sponsored by Schostak Brothers & Company now through Sunday, Dec. 21.

The schedule includes:

Microchipping and Meet the Vet, 6-8 p.m. Monday, Dec. 8; Christmas Party for Pets and Their People, 6-8 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 9; Meet the "Animal Cops," 7-8 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 10; Pet Education Center Consultations, 7-9 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 11; Volunteer Information Night, 7-8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 12; and Adopt-A-Pet, noon to 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14.

For more information, call (866) MHUMANE or visit www.michiganhumane.org.

Hands-on clinics

Home Depot offers free, weekly how-to clinics for do-it-yourselfers. Experienced associates provide step-by-step instructions during the clinics, which last 30 to 45 minutes. For information, contact your local Home Depot.

A Kids Workshop will take place 9 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 6.

The December schedule, beginning Dec. 6, will be: You Can Remove and Install Wallpaper and Borders, 7 p.m. Tuesdays; You Can Install a Toilet, 7 p.m. Thursdays; You Can Lay Ceramic Tile, 10 a.m. Saturdays; You Can Try Power Tools Before You Buy Them, 2 p.m. Saturdays; and You Can Apply Faux Paint Techniques, 2 p.m. Sundays.

Traditional Holiday Evening

Gather your friends for a festive evening out 5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 7 or 14, at the Edsel & Eleanor Ford House, 1100 Lake Shore Drive (between Eight and Nine Mile), Grosse Pointe Shores. See the elegant decorations, then enjoy a gourmet dinner and the entertainment of the Detroit Concert Choir (Dec. 7) or Detroit Brass Society (Dec. 14).

Cost is $45; reservations required. Call (313) 884-4222.

Pet photos with Santa

HomeFurEver Animal Rescue will be sponsoring Pet Photos with Santa 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13, at Pet Supplies Plus on Orchard Lake Road near 13 Mile in Farmington Hills.

Minimum donation of $5 for photos. Raffles for baskets of pet care products will be conducted throughout the day.

Grand tour

Experience the adventure of the Grand Tour at Meadow Brook Hall on the campus of Oakland University in Rochester by retracing the journey of the Dodge-Wilson family.

Guests will receive boarding passes upon arrival into the Great Hall, where they will be part of a festive bon voyage before embarking on their Grand Tour.

Tours are offered daily 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. with the last admittance at 4 p.m., now through Tuesday, Dec. 23.

Holiday tea and tour

Spend a leisurely afternoon with a tour at 3 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6 and 13, of the Edsel and Eleanor Ford House, 1100 Lake Shore Drive (between Eight and Nine Mile), Grosse Pointe Shores. The tour will be followed by sandwiches, pastries and tea in the Tea Room. The tea and tour are $23. Reservations are required.

Call (313) 884-4222 for more information.

If you have an item for the calendar, please submit it at least two weeks in advance of the date it should be published. Send to Ken Abramczyk, At Home Editor, Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150 or e-mail kabramczyk@oe.homecomm.net.

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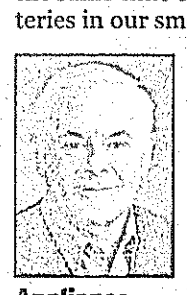
OE03169910

Follow a few holiday tips to ensure safety

It wasn't so long ago that we were told it was time to fall back with our clocks and at the same time change the batteries in our smoke and fire alarms. Yet we never hear anyone telling us to change the batteries in our heating and cooling programmable thermostats.



Appliance Doctor

Joe Gagnon

Why is it that this fact is omitted by so many and yet a phone call to my radio show became an eye opener for me? The caller explained that his house temperature went up to over 100º F while he was away for a week. Another homeowner reported that everything in his house froze last year while he was at his summer home in Florida.

I asked myself whether I have batteries in the thermostat and you can bet that I certainly do. I've lived in my house for 10 years. I didn't even realize the thermostat has them and I was very quick to replace them.

You can follow my example on this one folks and I hope the media does as well.

I hope you all enjoyed your Thanksgiving get-together and meal and I trust you have put your self-cleaning range through the clean mode. Oh, you say you're going to wait until after the Christmas and New Year's period because you have more cooking to do.

Well, guys, take it from an old guy who has knees that have hit too many ice pucks and it's not fun leaning over an oven door and scrubbing the inside of the oven and door, after it has gone through the cycle. Quite honestly, we waited too long before I put it through the self-clean cycle. When the by-products of cooking build up inside a range, there are few if any ovens which come out immaculate.

There are always remnants which remain and have to be wiped up but, holy smokes, mine had to be scrubbed with pure sweat and elbow grease. You could say I was mad at myself for not taking advantage of a feature which does it for you. (By the way, the outside front and side walls get so hot that I moved everything away from the side cupboards.) There is even a chance of plastic items melting in these spaces and keep things off the top of the stove as well. You should not not self-clean your range while you are away or sleeping and you should open the window for fresh air.

Do not boil anything in your microwave! Remember the story I wrote just a few years ago where it has been proven dangerous to boil something?

Super-heated energy can build up in a container and with the slightest movement can cause an explosion. This will burn your face and could cause serious damage to your eyes. The television networks have discussed this problem in investigative reports.

Watch out for the soap recipes that are circulating which tell you how to make your own laundry detergent. It wasn't long ago that a major appliance maker was replacing pumps by the armfuls because customers were not using their brand of recommended detergent. Some of these washer pumps are built so that any grit affect will lock up the impeller.

Also keep in mind that colors are affected differently by some brands of home made soap and so can the strength of the fabric. They don't make things like they used to and you don't want to test that theory.

Here's a holiday suggestion for anyone who is up in years. Go to the local shoe store and get yourself a pair of boots for winter use that have the biggest and ugliest treads on the bottom. I don't need to tell you the result of falling and breaking a hip but I can assure you, the snow tires on your feet can help to prevent it. Stay tuned.

Joe Gagnon can now be heard on WWJ-950 and WXYT-1270. He is a member and past president of the Society of Consumer Affairs Professionals. His phone number is (248) 455-7281.

Learn the easy ways to entertain

I would like to entertain more often but it is so much work. Is there an easy way to entertain dinner guests?

There are three steps to follow when you have guests over for dinner; plan ahead, serve dinner and clean up. Here are a few practical suggestions that will ease the pressure of entertaining so dinner parties can be a pleasant experience for the guest and the hostess.

Domestic Planner

Diana Koenig

PREPARE PROPERLY

Proper preparation is the most important part of having dinner guests. Most women find it difficult to entertain because of the amount of work involved in getting the home ready. This problem will go away if you clean routinely and maintain your house the remaining six days of the week. All family members should be responsible to put away their belongings.

Freshen the bathrooms each morning, empty trash cans, and do a quick house check. If you do this, your house will always be ready for guests. When the big day arrives, make sure the dishwasher is empty ahead of time so there will be plenty of room for the dinner dishes. Empty the kitchen trash can and make sure there are plenty of clean towels and dish cloths in the kitchen drawers. It is important to have everything ready for cleanup later in the evening.

Plan the meal according to your schedule. Look at your schedule the day before the dinner and the day of the dinner. This will determine which day you spend most of your time cooking. Dessert, Jell-O and some main dishes can be made the day before. If you are tight on time in the late afternoon, plan a crock pot meal. This can be prepared the morning of the dinner party. Meals prepared a few hours before the dinner are another option. An example of this kind of meal would be; Baked chicken with cheese, potato casserole, carrots with sauce, lettuce salad, dinner rolls and for dessert; cherries jubilee. This can all be done in two hours. Grocery shop 1-2 days ahead of time. Allow plenty of time to cook so you can relax when guests arrive. You do not want them to feel the anxiety of preparation but rather the warm hospitality of your home. Have food prepared and warm or simmer these dishes.

This allows you time to dress, fix hair and put on make-up. My goal is to be ready to serve dinner when my guests are due to arrive so I do not scramble to have dinner ready on time. If guests arrive late it is a challenge to keep dinner warm without overcooking.

Soon guests arrive and you are ready. It is important not to spend time rushing around the kitchen when they arrive. You want quality time with your guests.

When guests arrive, greet them and ask them what they would like to drink (ice has been placed in glasses ahead of time).

Family members can help put the serving dishes on the table. Sit at the end of the table so you can refill drinks and serving dishes.

CLEAN UP

Do minimum cleanup while guests are in your home. The reason they were invited was to spend time with you.

If you are cleaning the kitchen, you defeat your main purpose.

This procedure can be modified if you are having an informal dinner in the kitchen with close friends or family. Many friends insist on helping, so you can clean-up together while you talk. If you serve a formal dinner in the dining room, clean the table quickly, rinsing the dishes while preparing coffee and dessert. Put food items away to prevent spoilage. Wash dishes or load the dishwasher after guests have left.

Your husband can help when the guests leave.

If your children join you for dinner they can help clear the table and wash dishes.

After the kitchen is cleaned up, I vacuum and scrub the floors in each room.

My family members do not wear shoes in our house so our carpets are not used to the extra dirt brought in by guests.

I enjoy entertaining. It is not a burdensome task because I prepare ahead of time and I have the help of my family. Most importantly, working together we maintain a clean, organized home .

TODAY'S REFRIGERATOR BULLETIN:

"A well-planned dinner can be enjoyable for the cook!"

Send your questions and success stories to : Diana Koenig, P.O. Box 1702, Manchester, MO 63011.
E-mail dianakoenig@hotmail.com
www.domesticplanner.com

Manure is good, but not essential

BY LEE REICH
AP WEEKLY FEATURES

Many people are under the erroneous impression that you must have a good supply of manure to be able to grow ravishing roses, terrific tomatoes, and succulent strawberries. Some people even go so far as to keep cows, rabbits, chickens, or other farm animals mostly for the manure they can supply for the garden. Other people drive out to local farms for manure or buy manure packaged in plastic bags.

Manure makes good garden soil by providing nutrients, especially nitrogen, and bulk. You could get the nutrients more easily, however, from a bag of fertilizer because manure is not nearly as high in nutrients as bagged fertilizer.

What about that free fertilizer you get if you keep farm animals? The nutrients from such animals are determined by what you feed them. And because the animal must grow and run around, fewer nutrients come out than went in. Plants would get more of the nutrients if the animal feed was applied directly to the soil.

The other valuable part of the manure, the bulk, comes mostly from whatever bedding material is thrown on the ground beneath the animal to provide soft footing and absorb the manure and urine.

That bedding, usually hay or wood shavings, is mostly cellulose.

Cellulose fluffs up soils, helps hold moisture and feeds soil microorganisms.

But you do not need an animal to get the benefit from bedding either. As with the animal feed, you could just use the bedding directly in the garden, bypassing the animal, with the same benefit.

That bulk is the most valuable component of the manure.

After all, you can pick up a bag of fertilizer at a supermarket or drug store, but where do you get a truckload of cellulose? Search around a bit: leaves, wood chips, sawdust, and straw are also mostly cellulose, good for bulk, and often free for the hauling.

Volunteers plant thousands of daffodils

Come spring, a line of 20,000 yellow daffodils will run as far as the eye can see in the University of Michigan's Nichols Arboretum.

This thread of Marieke, a narcissi yellow trumpet daffodil, is the work of artist Susan Skarsgard who hopes the serpentine display will inspire contemplation on the idea of lines, borders and the definitions that people impose.

Skarsgard, a master of fine arts candidate in U-M's School of Art & Design, says this line, titled *Imagine/Align*, is an extension of her work as an artist, a calligrapher and as a designer for General Motors.

To make the project possible, Skarsgard recruited more than 150 volunteers from the U-M and Ann Arbor communities to plant the 10,000 bulbs that will produce 20,000 blooms this spring.

"This is the first time I've created a piece of art where I've had to rely on the help of others," Skarsgard said.

And she admits that there are a lot of aspects of the project over which she has no control, including the weather.

But it was something else over which she had no control that spurred Skarsgard to this project--walls.

She is disturbed by the use of walls to separate people, walls such as that being constructed in Israel and the former Berlin Wall that divided a country and its citizens.

Using a string and spray paint to mark the line through the Arboretum, a trenching machine then cut the designated path, making little or no impact on the environment.

Volunteers dropped the bulbs into the 6-inch to 7-inch deep, half-mile trench.

Once covered, the artist and others have only to wait for their emergence in late April, an emergence that will announce that spring has arrived in Southeast Michigan and give rise to thoughts on walls. The waiting for the blooming time will be a period when the "Imagine/Align" takes on even more meaning.

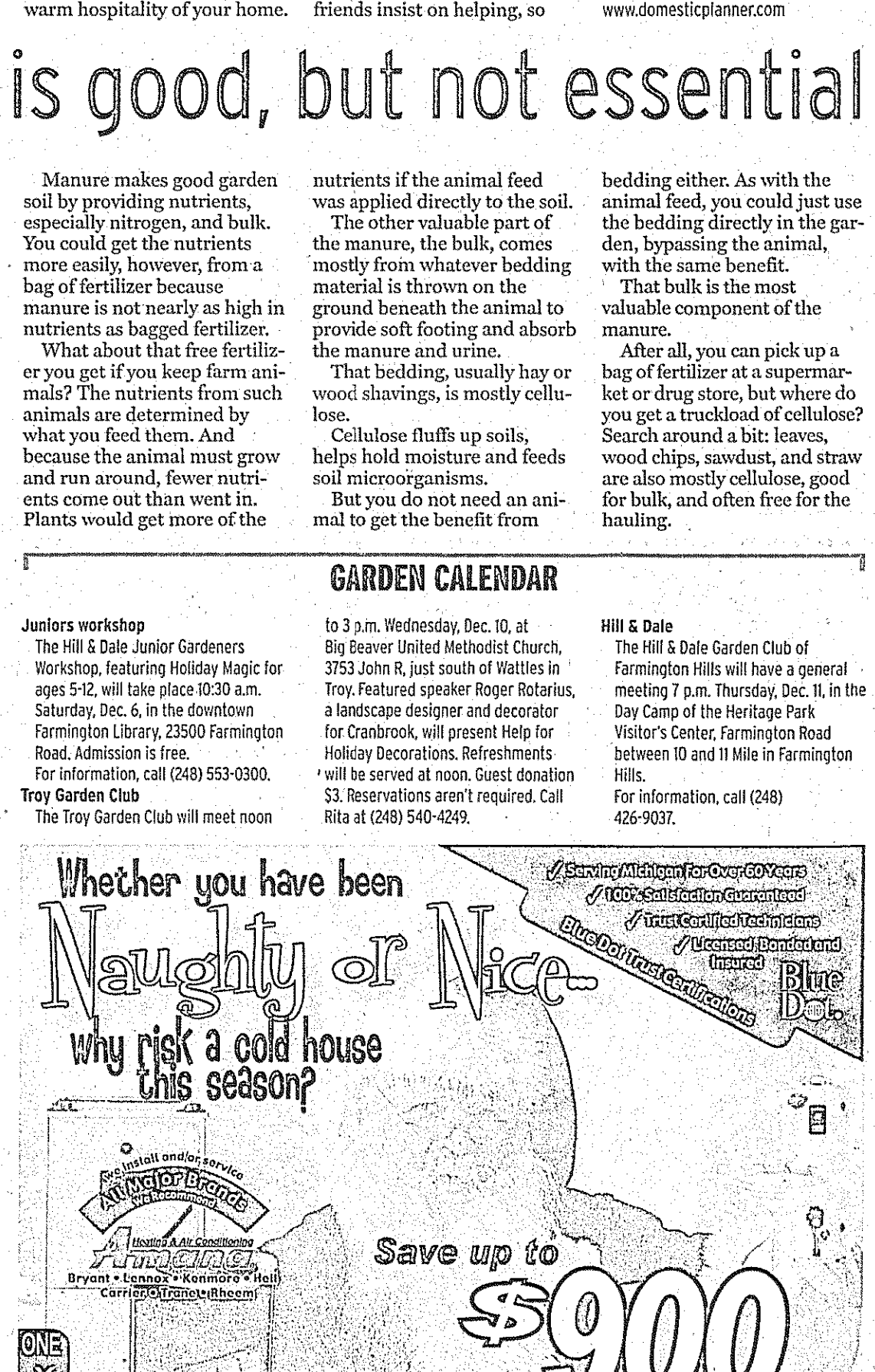
Documentation of the process of this project is available at http://www.imagine-align.org where numerous and timely updates will appear.

GARDEN CALENDAR

Juniors workshop
The Hill & Dale Junior Gardeners Workshop, featuring Holiday Magic for ages 5-12, will take place 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 6, in the downtown Farmington Library, 23500 Farmington Road. Admission is free.
For information, call (248) 553-0300.

Troy Garden Club
The Troy Garden Club will meet noon to 3 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 10, at Big Beaver United Methodist Church, 3753 John R, just south of Wattles in Troy. Featured speaker Roger Rotarius, a landscape designer and decorator for Cranbrook, will present Help for Holiday Decorations. Refreshments will be served at noon. Guest donation $3. Reservations aren't required. Call Rita at (248) 540-4249.

Hill & Dale
The Hill & Dale Garden Club of Farmington Hills will have a general meeting 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 11, in the Day Camp of the Heritage Park Visitor's Center, Farmington Road between 10 and 11 Mile in Farmington Hills.
For information, call (248) 426-9037.



If you want to submit an item for the religion calendar fax it to (734) 591-7279 or write: Religion Calendar, Observer Newspaper, 36251 Schoolcraft Road, Livonia, MI 48150. The deadline for an announcement to appear in the Thursday edition is noon Monday.

DECEMBER

Living Nativity
6-9 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Dec. 5-6, at Christ the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 42690 Cherry Hill, Canton. No charge. More than 200 nativities on display. Children can have their photo taken in the Child Size Living Nativity. Enjoy a cup of cocoa and a home-made Christmas cookie while listening to live Christmas music. The church is collecting blankets, warm gently-used men's clothes, men's boots, shoes, cans of soup, and all types of men's hygiene products. The items will be donated to New Life Rescue Mission Shelter. For more information, call (734) 981-0286.

Caribbean Christmas
Oakland University Steel Drum Band presents a Caribbean Christmas concert 7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 5, at First Presbyterian Church of Birmingham, 1669 W. Maple, between Cranbrook and Southfield roads. Meet the artists reception follows. Free will offering to benefit the band tour to Trinidad for the World Steel Pan Festival. For information, call (248) 644-2040.

Christmas in song
From the 16th century to the present performed by Detroit Lutheran Singers 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 5, at Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, 1800 W. Maple, Birmingham; 3:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 7, at Historic Trinity Lutheran Church, 1345 Gratiot, Detroit, and 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13, at St. John Lutheran Church, 16339 Fourteen Mile, Fraser. Tickets are $10, $7 seniors and all students. Call (248) 988-0604.
For more information and complete list of selections on program, visit www.detroitlutheransingers.com.

Christmas Fellowship Luncheon
12:15 p.m. Friday, Dec. 5, at Newburg United Methodist Church, 36500 Ann Arbor Trail, east of Newburgh, Livonia. The program features "The Choralation," a choreographed song and dance group from Churchill High School in Livonia.
Cost is $7, reservations required. Call (734) 453-1599 by Monday, Dec. 1. If baby sitting is needed, please call the same number by the same date.
Bring a wrapped "White Elephant" gift valued up to $5 to exchange during the Right Family Christmas game. No need to purchase something new. Bring something you might have around the house that is in good condition and that you no longer want. Also bring canned or boxed foods for local soup kitchen.

Cookie Walk
9 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 6, at Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 34567 Seven Mile, between Farmington and Newburgh roads, Livonia. There will be two sizes of boxes to choose from. For more information, call Judy Cook at (248) 442-8822.

Christmas Creche Exhibit
10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Dec. 5-6, and Monday, Dec. 8, and 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 7, at the Ann Arbor Chapel of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1385 Green. For information, call (734) 665-7852 or (734) 663-3699. The family oriented exhibit features more than 900 crèches (Nativity scenes) from 100 countries around the world.

Nativity at Nativity
100 nativity sets from around the world, hands-on center for kids to create, and nativity sets, books and gifts to buy 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6, at Nativity Episcopal Church, 21220 W. 14 Mile, between Lahser and Evergreen, Bloomfield Twp. Admission is $3, $12 for a family. If you would like to loan a nativity set for display, call Frances Hammond at (248) 646-5106 or send e-mail to franceshammond@comcast.net.

Christmas Cookie Walk
Cookie Walk sale with cookies sold by the pound 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6, at St. Michael's Orthodox Church, 26355 W. Chicago, between Beech Daly and Inkster, Redford.

Advent Communion breakfast
Presented by Detroit Presbyterian Men's Council 8 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 6, at 631 W. Fort Street, Detroit. Cost is $7. Call (313) 345-6550 or (734) 425-3024. Speaker is Rev. Ben Mathes, president of Rivers of the World (medical and religious agency).

Christmas craft show
More than 80 crafters exhibit their wares 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6, at St. Thomas a'Becket Church, 555 S. Lilley, Canton. Bake sale and lunch available. Tickets are $2, children under age 12 free. Fore more information, call (734) 981-1481.

Children's Christmas program
11 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 7, at Mt. Vernon Baptist Church, 8828 Wormer, Redford. For information, call (313) 537-7480.

The Star and the Stable
The Chancel Choir of St. James Presbyterian Church perform "The Star and the Stable" cantata with shadow puppets at the 10 a.m. service Sunday, Dec. 7, at the church, 25350 W. Six Mile, Redford. For more information, call (313) 534-7730.

The Chancel Choir
Performs "The Star and the Stable" Cantata with shadow puppets at 10 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 7, at St. James Presbyterian Church, 25350 W. Six Mile, Redford. For information, call (734) 534-7730.

Advent Retreat
Madonna University holds a Marian advent retreat 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 7, in the East Dining Room in the residence Hall on campus, 14221 Levan Road, Livonia. The day's activities include quiet reflection and prayer, 3 conferences, lunch, individual reconciliation, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. The mysteries of the rosary with meditation prepared and led by students, and Sunday mass celebrated in the University Chapel at 4 p.m.
The cost is $15, includes lunch and refreshments, $10 students, faculty and staff. For reservations or information, call (734) 432-5419. Advance registration required.

Youth choir
Livonia Youth Choir present the concert, A Winter's Journey, 3 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13, at Faith Lutheran Church, 30000 Five Mile, Livonia. Tickets are $2. For more information, call (734) 425-1749.

Cookie walk
9 a.m. (doors open at 8 a.m.) Saturday, Dec. 13, at Holy Transfiguration Orthodox Church, 36075 W. Seven Mile, between Farmington and Newburgh, Livonia. Features more than 50 different types of ethnic and traditional cookies and candy, pierogi, stuffed cabbage, bread, nut roll, and poppyseed rolls. For more information, call Rev. Michael Matsko at (248) 476-3432.

Christmas Splendor
A Broadway style musical with flying characters, cutting edge special effects, a cast of more than 200 people, special lighting, Nativity with live animals, children's toy scene, and a few surprises 7 p.m. Thursday-Sunday, Dec. 11-14, and 3 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13, at Detroit World Outreach, 23800 West Chicago, Redford. No charge. Call (313) 255-2222 or visit the Web site at www.wayofvictory.com.

Journey to Bethlehem
The play honors the birth of the Christ Child 6-9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 12, and 5-8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13, at Unity of Livonia, 28660 Five Mile, between Middlebelt and Inkster. For information, call (734) 421-1760. About 70 church members are involved with production, costumes and effects.

In Search of the Perfect Christmas
Spectacular Christmas celebration featuring the Trinity Choir, soloists and drama ministry in a presentation of "The Kingdom Song" by award winning composer and arranger Mark Hayes 7:30 p.m. (6:30 p.m.. hors d'ouevres) Friday-Saturday, Dec. 12-13, at Trinity Church, 10101 W. Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth. Special guest artists are Brass Works. Tickets available by calling (734) 459-9550.

Cookie walk
9 a.m. (doors open at 8 a.m.) Saturday, Dec. 13, at Holy Transfiguration Orthodox Church, 36075 W. Seven Mile, between Farmington and Newburgh, Livonia. Features more than 50 different types of ethnic and traditional cookies, candy, pierogi, stuffed cabbage, bread, nut roll, and poppyseed rolls.

Christmas and Advent music concert
4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14, at Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church, 14175 Farmington Road, north of I-96, Livonia. Features the Adult Festival Choir, Jubellation Handbell Choir, Confirmation Choir (grades 7 & 8), Laudate Choir (Grades 1-6), Brass Ensemble and other instrumentalists performing Advent and Christmas music along with carols. Free will offering. Call (734) 522-6830.

Christmas Concerts
"Gloria" 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13, and 5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14, featuring Chancel Choir, Orchestra, Chancel Ringers, Children's Choir, and Crossfire, at Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church, 40000 Six Mile, Northville. Childcare to age 4 provided. Call (248) 374-7400.

Behold That Star
The Lutheran Choralaires are celebrating 57 years of song in their Christmas Concert to be held 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14, at Peace Lutheran Church, 12 Mile and Market roads, Farmington Hills. Tickets are $10, $5 children age 12 and under. Call (248) 553-3380.
A Christmas Drama
11 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 14, at Mt. Vernon Baptist Church, 8828 Wormer, Redford. For information, call (313) 537-7480.

A Lesson of Lessons and Carols
Special music event featuring musical reflections on selected biblical reading that follow the journey from Advent to Christmas 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14, at First Presbyterian Church of Birmingham, 1669 W. Maple, between Cranbrook and Southfield roads. Meet the artists reception follows.
Free will offering to benefit future events in the Birmingham-First Concert Series. For information, call (248) 644-2040.

Christmas Journey
Follows a family worship with nursery (infant through 3 years old) care and 4 and 5 year old Sunday school at 10 a.m. Come and enjoy the sights and sounds of Christmas by journeying through specially decorated rooms with various themes from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14.
Nativities, angels, snowmen, the symbols of Christmas and Christmas around the world are the inspiration for the festive displays throughout St. Matthew's United Methodist Church, 30900 Six Mile, Livonia.
more information, call (734) 422-6038.

Christmas music
Including "Alleluia! Laudamus Te" performed by the Birmingham Concert Band and the Oakland Singers Encore 3:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14, at Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, 1800 W. Maple, between Southfield and Cranbrook roads, Birmingham. No charge. Donations to the Band's Interlochen and Blue Lake music camps scholarships gratefully accepted.

Breakfast with St. Nicholas
7-11 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 20, pancakes, sausage and beverage for $4 with children age 7 and under free, purchase, at St. Matthew's United Methodist Church, 30900 Six Mile, Livonia. Proceeds support the Noah project at Central United Methodist Church (feeding the hungry) and benevolent care at United Methodist retirement communities. For more information, call (734) 422-6038.

A Christmas Cantata
Title "Emmanuel, Hope of Our Hearts" 11 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 21, at Mt. Vernon Baptist Church, 8828 Wormer, Redford. For information, call (313) 537-7480.

Advent Lessons & Carols Concert
5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 21, at Christ Episcopal Church, 120 N. Military at Cherry Hill, Dearborn. Call (313) 565-8450.

Christmas Eve services
Wednesday, Dec. 24, 4:30 p.m. family service with music by Cherub and Wesley Children's Choirs, 6 p.m. community service with music by New Generation Choir, 8 p.m. metropolitan service "The Traditional Nardin Park Christmas Eve" with music by combined Chancel and Sanctuary Choirs, 11 p.m. candlelight service (a sacred communion service), at Nardin Park United Methodist Church, 29887 West 11 Mile, Farmington Hills. For more information, call (248) 476-8860.

More Christmas Eve Services
4 p.m. Family Christmas Celebration designed for families with young children (childcare provided for ages 2 and under), and 9 p.m. and 1 p.m. candlelight services Wednesday, Dec. 24, at Trinity Church, 10101 W. Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth. Call (734) 459-9550.

Christmas Eve at St. Matthew's
Services at 7 p.m. (more family oriented) and 11 p.m. (offering communion), St. Matthew's United Methodist Church, 30900 Six Mile, Livonia. For information, call (734) 422-6038.

New worship service
Plymouth Baptist Church has added a second Sunday worship celebration. The new service times are 8:30 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. Both services feature contemporary and traditional worship music and in-depth Bible teaching. Full nursery and preschool programs are also provided for both services. The church is at 42021 Ann Arbor Trail, west of Haggerty. For more information, call (734) 453-5534.

Aerobic Class
Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church is offering a light Aerobic Class 11 a.m. to noon through Thursday Dec. 18, at 14175 Farmington Road, south of Ford Field, Livonia. Cost is $18 per 6-week session. To register, call (734) 522-6830. The public is welcome.

Holiday shop
Global Gifts and Crafts Shop and UNICEF Card Shop continue offering items for sale through Dec. 20, at First Baptist Church, 300 Willits, Birmingham.
Call (248) 644-0550. Hours are 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesday-Saturday. Two hours of free parking are available in the municipal lot adjacent to the building as you enter the shop from the Bates Street door on the east side.
One of the major suppliers again this year is American Baptist World Wide Gifts at Green Lake. These gifts come from worker cooperatives resulting from the work of our ABC missionaries and partner Baptist conventions. Every $1,000 in sales provides a means for one family in the Third World to support itself for one full year.

Advent services
Continue to Dec. 21, 9:15 a.m. and 11 a.m. services, at Nardin Park United Methodist Church, 29887 West 11 Mile, Farmington Hills. Families will light the Advent wreath and read scriptures. For more information, call (248) 476-8860.

ONGOING

Worship services
8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. Sundays at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, Five Mile and Inkster roads, Livonia. For information, call (734) 422-1470.

Ablaze Young Adult Ministries
Presented by Detroit World Outreach 7:30 p.m. every Tuesday. Using cutting edge music, high-tech video and lighting, drama, multi-media, and a relevant message that can change lives, Ablaze is giving young adults ages 18 to 28 the opportunity to meet friends and hang out with people their age. Evening includes a live band, pool tables, ping pong, basketball, and the Motown Cafe in the Freedom Center on the Detroit World Outreach campus, 23800 W. Chicago near Telegraph, Redford. For more information, call (313) 794-0684 or visit the Web site at www.motownministries.org.

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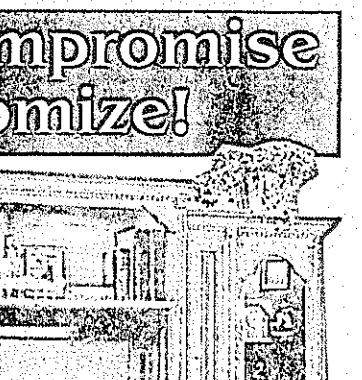
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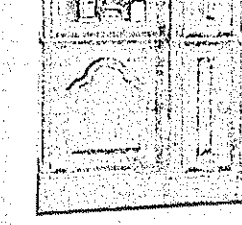

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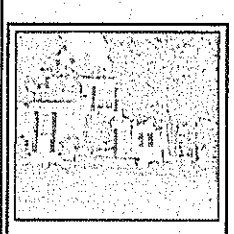
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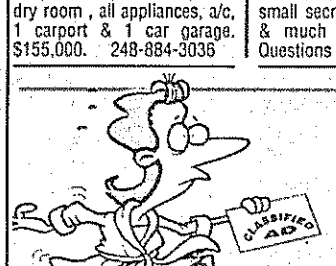

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Greenery can help your home's scenery

Christmas is almost here, and it's time for the "Hanging of the Greens" as we decorate our homes for the holidays. Fresh greenery is wonderful to use in swags, arrangements and wreaths.

Garden Spot

Marty Figley

The folks at Steinkopf Nursery, 20815 Farmington Road (one block north of 8 Mile Road), in Farmington Hills, offers an array of suitable materials for the do-it-yourselfers. They also offer pre-assembled wreath basis that are made from Noble or Frasier fir that can be personalized by the recipient, and loads of materials suitable for many projects. Some wreaths are pre-made and decorated with incense cedar, cones, and juniper, on a Noble fir base. A large bow of your choice can be added to the wreaths and swags.

I spoke with Beth Liskiewicz at the nursery to find out about the various kinds of greenery. Port Orford cedar, which is a deep green, is excellent for large or small swags and sprays. "The branches spray out like feathers and hold up really, really well," she said.

For color she recommends adding the extremely fragrant Incense cedar, which is a clear green with gold tips.. Branches of blue holly and/or variegated holly with green with yellow edges add a different texture. Both hollies have red berries. Juniper has blue ones.

One can purchase a premade garland and use some of it for arrangements rather than purchasing everything separately. This is an economical approach because the garland is sold by the foot.

Liskiewicz likes to use the pottery in which annuals grew outside last summer and dress them up for the holidays with an arrangement of greens. "They add such a bright note in the winter," she said. "One can look in their own backyard and add cuttings from evergreens. Also, look for red twig dogwood and curly willow that has a yellow stem. Michigan holly has small red berries all over. Pine cones and other natural things will make the creation personal."

When the supply is delivered, all the greenery is soaked thoroughly in Wilt-Pruf to hold the moisture and is sprayed with water if necessary. This pre-soak assures that the greens will last until the end of the holidays.

Liskiewicz advises to choose a container and decide what effect you want your design to convey, or where it will be used, before you begin. For instance, a long arrangement needs to spread out across the table, or an arrangement for a side or coffee table needs to be three-dimensional so it will be pretty from all sides. The size should complement the table.

Thirty minutes before you begin an arrangement, soak Smither's Oasis Floral Foam in water and check it periodically and wet it again, if necessary. This assures long life.

Cut Christmas trees are available up to 17 feet tall and Steinkopf carries a large variety such as Scotch pine, White pine, Douglas fir, Blue spruce, Concolor fir, which "makes an outstanding tree and has a soft gorgeous silvery blue color," Liskiewicz said. The best selling tree in Michigan is the Frasier fir.

Some of these trees are huge and need a really sturdy stand. Steinkopf has a metal one, The Last Stand, that will last indefinitely. Liskiewicz finds that tree selection is often based on emotions evoked from childhood memories and traditions.

Among the live trees, Liskiewicz feels that Spruce is best, however its very important to acclimate the tree before it's put indoors. Store it in an unheated garage or covered area. Keep it in the house no more than 10 days, then reverse the acclimation process when you take it back outdoors.

Be sure to dig the hole for the live tree now. Fill it with straw, hay, or shredded leaves. Cover the hole with a heavy board. Store topsoil in a place where it won't freeze so it's ready for replanting. Remove the heavy black plastic container when planting. Alternately, you can leave a live tree outside in the container until spring.

"Occasionally check the soil and once it's thawed from the winter recheck the soil for moisture; water accordingly," Liskiewicz said. "The key is to not let the soil dry out."

The nursery offers delivery service for any tree and will plant the live tree.

Liskiewicz offers this idea if you wish to bring a smile to nursing home or live-alone people:

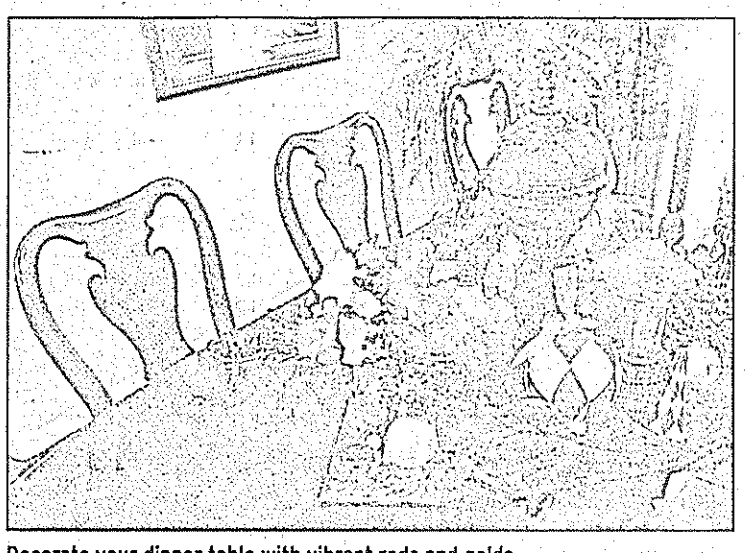
For a Christmas treat, make an arrangement in small pots out of the greens (use wet oasis to keep them fresh) so the recipients can enjoy the memorable fragrance of the holiday. At Valentines Day make a new arrangement in the same pots and then repeat at Eastertime. This would be a great project for a club or students.

Steinkopf Nursery was founded in 1931 by Fred I. Steinkopf and the business is now operated by his three grandchildren, John Steinkopf, Cindy Shay, Beth L. Liskiewicz, and great grandchild, Mike Shay. (Grandpa would be proud.)

For information about products or classes at Steinkopf, call (248) 474-2925.

MARTY FIGLEY

Beth Liskiewicz stands beside a Concolor fir.



Decorate your dinner table with vibrant reds and golds.

DECOR

FROM PAGE C1

be afraid to use big ornaments. "People need to put big things in the trees, and they need various sizes," Musson said.

They should use ribbon, which is now less expensive for decorating purposes. "It used to be expensive stuff, but now you can get it at Costco," Musson said. It recently cost $7.98 for 50 yards, she said.

Blue is a big Christmas color right now. Musson likes creams and golds in color.

'People need to put big things in the trees, and they need various sizes.'

Anne Musson
interior designer

SPECIAL COLLECTION

Shirley Marley, owner of Marley's at the Townsend in Birmingham, sells the Christopher Rafko collection with ornament selections.

All of them are unique as they are hand-painted, Marley said.

The ornaments take six or seven days to hand-paint, Marley said.

"The most unique ones are made in Italy," she said.

"The Italian ones are the good sellers. But we have so many to choose from."

Ornaments range from traditional Christmas figures such as Santas, but they include unique themes, such as a refrigerator, toaster and even a candy house, all on one tree.

Then there's Laurel and Hardy, Charlie Chaplin and Jimmy Stewart.

"We just have so many to choose from," she said.

"They truly are exceptional."

Aprill adds: "If someone is entertaining for the holidays it is always becoming to decorate inside the china cabinet or hutch. Also adding some simple decorations to the master bedroom and bedroom hallways can be an enhancing touch.

"Using lots of clear crystals and ice effects are very popular this holiday season."

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Stop that cold air in your fireplace

BY JAMES AND MORRIS CAREY
FOR AP WEEKLY FEATURES

Worried about that fateful night when you will be stopped by a policeman and given a ticket because your taillight is out? Want to know an easy way to prevent that?

Are deer a problem where you live? Want to know how other folks are keeping these beautiful, but pesky, flower-devouring creatures at bay?

Want to learn how you can keep cold air from entering your house through your fireplace this winter?

For solutions to these problems and more, read on. Messy power strip

If you have a home office or an at-home student, more than likely, you have a power strip sitting on the floor covered with an array of messy cords. A way to clean up that mess is to attach the power strip on the underside of the desk structure.

The task is easy because plug strips come with keyhole shaped screw slots that make mounting possible.

However, if you aren't real skilled with a measuring tape, the prospect of hanging the plug strip can be disheartening.

Set the stage to force bulbs

Many people are confused about how and when to force bulbs and think it must be much more complicated than it looks.

As with any show, the key to creating a beautiful forced-bulb flower display is setting the proper stage. That starts with giving your plants a comfortable setting, refreshments, cool temperatures and low light. When show time arrives, the lights and the temperature come up and your flowers urge to emerge is irresistible.

There are only two types of bulbs for indoor growing: those you need to pre-chill and those you don't. For fool-proof flower displays of pre-chilled bulbs, growers such as Dutch Gardens make available several pre-potted flower arrangements that come pre-chilled and are ready to bloom in about three or four weeks once they're delivered to your door.

Two of the simplest bulbs to grow are amaryllis and warmth-loving narcissus varieties such as paperwhites. These zone 8 to 9 bulbs have never known winter, so don't expect a cooling period.

Here's where you can add your special touches by choosing a glass dish, large saucer or pot to plant these type of bulbs. Just fill with soil, each bulb will come with planting instructions. Or just grow them in a shallow bowl and use pebbles to hold the bulbs in place. They'll usually bloom just four weeks after "planting."

To help keep stems short and sturdy, provide indirect light and temperatures of about 50º F for the first two weeks, then warmer, brighter conditions after that.

If you're growing your bulbs in water, it should cover no more than the bottom 1/4 to 1/3 of the bulb.

Amaryllis are available in many interesting colors and forms: There are bright reds, but you can also have white, lilac or peach, with single or double blossoms.

Try the smashing new and striking amaryllis called Charisma. It took years for the Dutch Amaryllis breeders to produce this unique variety that displays a sumptuous color combination of "raspberries and cream."

For a long lasting flowering extravaganza of dazzling amaryllis blooms, try growing three amaryllis in one pot. This grand sight will stop any flower lovers in their tracks.

Paperwhites offer beauty and a strong scent. Buy a couple dozen of these no-chill bulbs and store them in a cool, dry place. Start some every few weeks for blooms right through January.

Want absolute fool-proof color? Try pre-chilled plantings.

Bulbs that need pre-chilling require cool temperatures to stimulate a biochemical response inside the bulb that "turns on" the embryonic flower so it starts developing. Most bulbs need 16 to 18 weeks of cold before the flower is fully formed. At that point they're ready for light and warmth. If you cut the time short, the flowers will emerge but they will not be fully formed.

To force these bulbs yourself, you need to plan about 16 to 18 weeks ahead of time. Fortunately, Dutch Gardens has already done this work for you. All their bulb plantings are pre-chilled so all you have to do is add water, place the planted bulb basket in a bright spot and experience an early spring as it unfolds on your window sill.

To help chase away the gray days of winter and enjoy the full bounty of spring try the Deluxe Mixed Dutch Garden. With this planting you will be treated to the beautiful colors and delicate fragrances of spring with pink and white and cheery yellow daffodils, sunny yellow and strawberry and cream colored tulips, regal purple hyacinths, with their heady fragrance, and the earliest harbingers of spring, striped crocus.

Check furnace as winter draws near

Michigan residents are turning to long-dormant furnaces for comfort as another winter prepares to buffet our state.

Consumers Energy urges customers to take steps now to help keep their heat flowing reliably all winter.

"There are a number of things customers can and should do now to make sure their furnaces provide warmth safely throughout the heating season," said Paul Preketes, senior vice president of gas operations for Consumers Energy.

Preketes offers these tips:

☐ Inspect furnaces once a year using a qualified appliance service/heating and cooling professional.

☐ Natural gas appliances should operate with a steady blue flame. If the flame is mostly yellow, call a qualified service professional for further analysis.

☐ Change air filters frequently (at least every other month) during the heating season.

☐ Replace any worn belts. Also, lubricate the blower, fan bearings and pumps on appropriate models. Check owner manuals for further directions.

☐ Make sure furnace doors are closed when in operation.

☐ Remove lint, dust and debris from air ducts and registers.

☐ Keep clothing, papers and other flammable items well away from gas appliances.

☐ Check for rust and corrosion on the vent pipe connected to the chimney. Make sure it is secure at both ends.

☐ Perform an outside visual inspection of the chimney and vent pipes to make sure they are free of obstructions such as leaves or nests.

Preketes also recommended that homeowners install audible, Underwriters Laboratory-approved carbon monoxide alarms. These devices, similar to smoke detectors, will alarm if carbon monoxide is present in high amounts.

This gas is tasteless, odorless and colorless and can be deadly in high amounts. It is caused by the incomplete combustion of fuels including oil, propane, natural gas, coal, wood and kerosene.

"HO! HO! HO!"

As Santa's newest helper, I want to give you $500 cash to spend however you like . . .

It's True! I've just received word from the North Pole that I've officially been named as one of Santa's Helpers.

With this special assignment comes the power for me to do something very special for you . . .

From now until December 20, I am going to give you an immediate $500 cash rebate on any new furnace you buy from me. This is cash you can use to pay for holiday gifts, travel – whatever you like.

Think about this. If your furnace is 10 years old or older – even if it's still running – you're probably heating your home on borrowed time and paying more for utilities than you need to.

But at this time of year, who really wants to think about buying a new furnace, right?

That's why I'm pleased Santa has asked for my help. In addition to the $500 instant cash-in-your-pocket rebate, here's what else I'm going to give you.

• $1,000 - $2,000 off the regular list price of a top quality system

• $0 down, 0 interest, 0 payments for 6 full months – you don't pay a penny all winter

• Low weekly payments of just $13 - $20 . . . starting next summer

Call 248-449-8487 right now to make an appointment for your no-cost, no obligation Needs Analysis and Replacement Estimate. The sooner you call, the sooner I'll hand you that $500 you can use any way you want as an early present from Santa. And here's one more thing Santa asked me to do.

When you're one of the first 137 homeowners to call 248-449-8487 to set up a free furnace estimate, my Service Technician will install a brand new $189 "Talking" Thermostat, FREE. This patented electronic device (U.S. Patent Pending Serial No. 09/874,625) is highly accurate, easy to read, easy to set, and it literally tells you what to do if you have a heating or air conditioning problem. And we'll deliver, install and calibrate it for you at no cost.

So, if your furnace is 10 years old or older, don't let buying holiday gifts keep you from buying the furnace you need to keep your family safe and warm this winter.

Buy a furnace before December 20 and get . . .

• $500 cash rebate to spend however you want

• $1,000 - $2,000 off the regular full price of a top quality system

• $0 down and no payments with 0 interest for 6 months

• Payments of only $13 - $20/wk after 6 months

• Lower heating bills for the rest of the winter because of new energy-efficient furnace

• Plus, when you're one of the first 137 to call, you get a $189 "Talking" Thermostat as a special free gift.

Why wait?????

If you're concerned your furnace won't make it through the winter and you'd like to cut your utility bills, now is the time to act and get $500 cash.

Just call me Santa's Helper and call me today at 248-449-8487.

Happy Holidays!

Remember, Your free "Talking" Thermostat comes with a lifetime Replacement Warranty, plus a very unique emergency feature. If you ever have a problem with your furnace OR air conditioner, all you do is press a specially marked button and the thermostat *tells* you I've been in this business 10 years and I've never seen anything like it!

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OPEN 10-5	OPEN 12-9	OPEN 12-9	OPEN 12-9	OPEN 12-9	OPEN 12-9	OPEN 10-9
SUNDAY DEC. 7	MONDAY DEC. 8	TUESDAY DEC. 9	WEDNESDAY DEC. 10	THURSDAY DEC. 11	FRIDAY DEC. 12	SATURDAY DEC. 13
OPEN 10-6	OPEN 12-9	OPEN 12-9	OPEN 12-9	OPEN 12-9	OPEN 12-10	OPEN 10-10
SUNDAY DEC. 14	MONDAY DEC. 15	TUESDAY DEC. 16	TUESDAY DEC. 17	THURSDAY DEC. 18	FRIDAY DEC. 19	SATURDAY DEC. 20
OPEN 10-7	OPEN 10-10	OPEN 10-10	OPEN 10-10	OPEN 10-10	OPEN 10-10	OPEN 9-10

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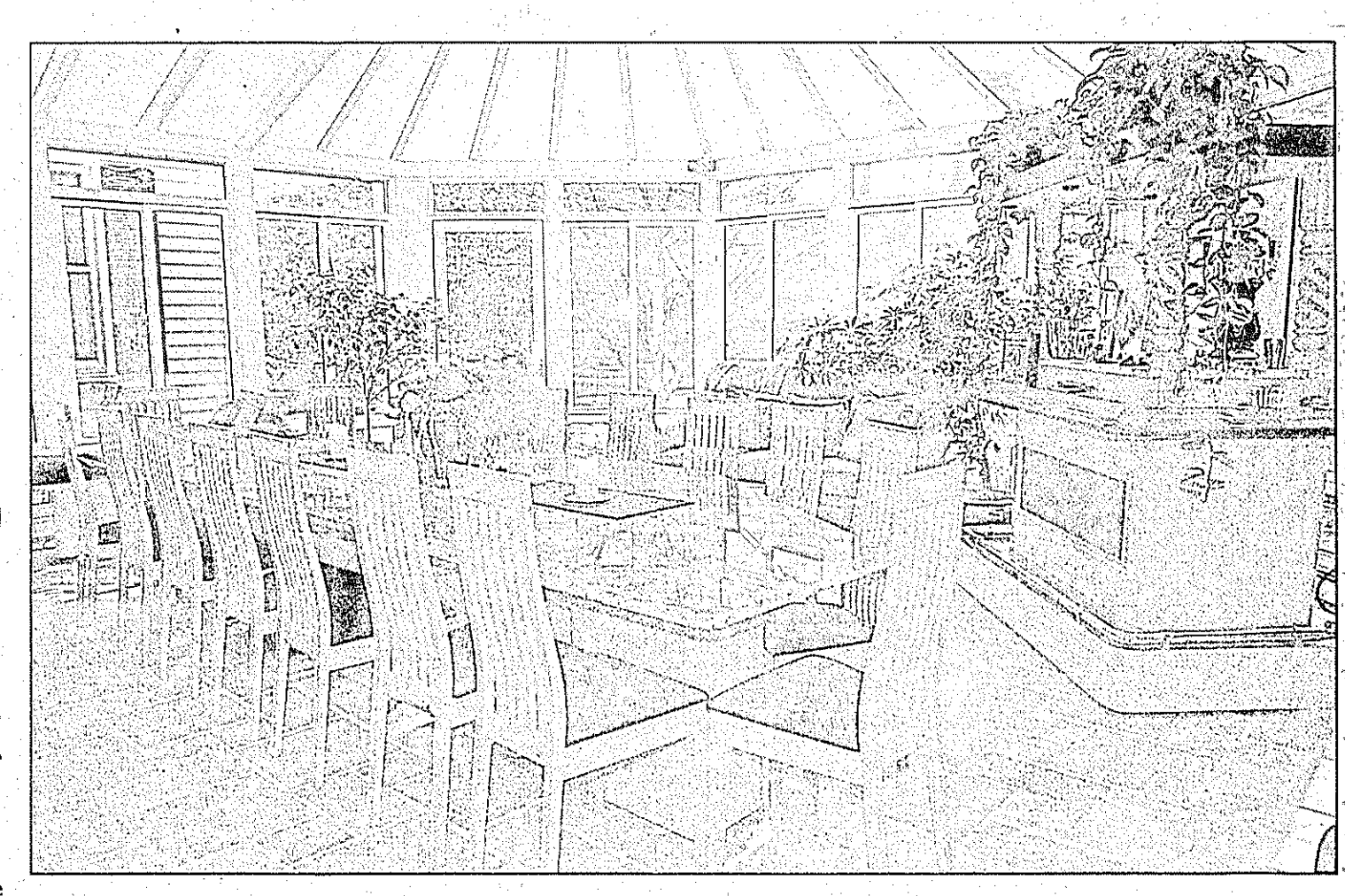
modern touches

Restored 1849 home featured on Holly Walk



The conservatory is stunning with a handcrafted table and bar. The table has a granite top and seats 16.

You'd never think that a home that is more than 150 years old is located here.

From Rochester Road a narrow road hardly wider than a driveway leads back past two apartment buildings. Just beyond an ancient stone wall sits a once modest and simple home built around 1849 which originally had two small bedrooms upstairs, a kitchen, parlor and carriage room.

Today that same home houses about 6,000 square feet and 17 rooms, including a conservatory, and an addition that contains a guest bedroom, home office and where a restored carriage is now parked permanently on display. The home is now owned by Gail Duncan and S.K. Paul.

The home is one of five featured on the Holly Walk in Rochester on Sunday, Dec. 14. The walk is the major fundraiser for the Friends of Rochester Hills Library.

Duncan and Paul began renovating the home after the couple purchased it four years ago, decorating it with a French Country flair. The home's white frame and gardens are reminiscent of New England.

An 1849 Gentleman's Brougham carriage, restored by Herb Adler, owner of Justin Carriage Works of Nashville, Mich., shines bright and new in the added carriage house, which features cedar walls and is located between the garage and the home office in a loft area. A replica of the carriage greets visitors in front of the home.

Four years ago, Paul traveled to South Africa to assist in constructing new buildings in a town to assist UNICEF. While he was away, Duncan, who also works in real estate, found out the Rochester home was for sale.

The couple liked the home because "you can walk to downtown," it had potential and it gave their two girls more privacy, Paul said. "I had a lot of ideas from my travels, too," Paul said.

The former carriage room became a living room, as Paul added a 16th century French tapestry of a palm reader.

Paul removed four floors, or about 18 inches thick of flooring material in the kitchen. He added desk space for Duncan and a television set that is embedded inside her desk surface. New Old World-style cabinets were built, and Paul added a cast iron oven and range that he purchased in France. A wood-burning oven was installed near the cabinets on the east wall. The granite surface of the island includes a steamer. A master suite is secluded and includes a sauna.

Paul and Duncan also added a conservatory, which features dynamic handcrafted furniture, including a long granite table and a bar built by Frank Beudoin, furniture designer for In Vogue, a furniture and cabinet company in Sterling Heights owned by Paul and Duncan.

Across the hall toward the front of the home, Paul revised the roof line and renovated a closet to create a media room. A poster of Marilyn Monroe graces the wall.

Other additions include a home office area, exercise area and guest bedroom. A smoke house is being renovated into a bath house, where guests can shower and change after using the pool.

Throughout the home colors range from burgundy and deep green on one end to a light blue on the other. They wanted an informal home, Paul said. "We wanted a level of comfort where you could put your legs up and relax."

Upstairs Paul added a bathroom and a library. A spiral staircase leads up to the library with handcrafted paneling. A deck with stairs leading down to the pool also was built.

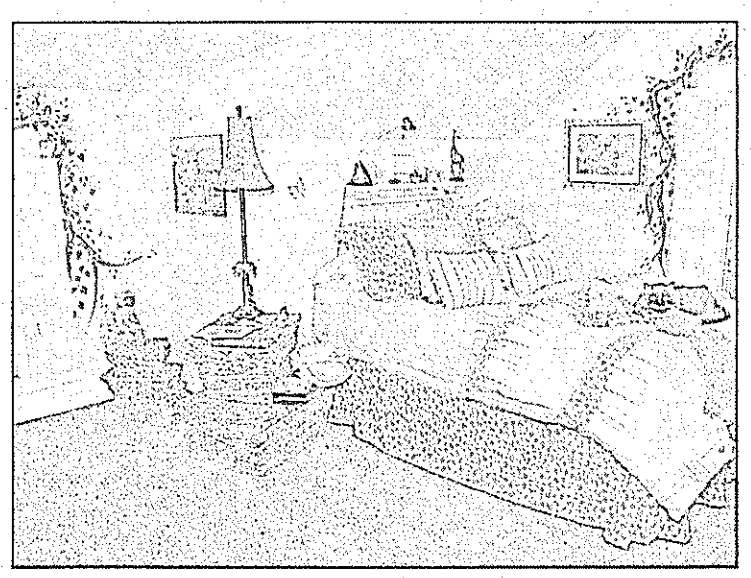
The home of Darlene and Robert Hubbard is a multileveled English country cottage decorated by Darlene, a professional decorator. The two-story foyer has an impressive chandelier and split staircase. On one side is a formal dining room, the other by a den with a striking fireplace and richly paneled walls. The great room features a massive stone see-through fireplace overlooking the deck, pool, ornamental pond and perfectly manicured grounds.

The home of Robin Karas is located on the Twin Lakes Golf Course. I

t features a great room with a huge window wall and comfortable hearth room with a two-way fireplace. The kitchen has cherry cabinets and a wine cellar with a unique wine bottle shape.

The home of Mary and Peter Salpietra overlooks the Westwynd Golf Course. Professionally decorated with old world elegance and two years in the planning, the home features satin hardwood and marble floors alternating throughout the home.

The dining room features antique furniture that's been in the family for more than 100 years. An oval office contains a functioning Franklin stove. This home also has a two-way fireplace, a breakfast room and a kitchen. These rooms open to views of the golf course. The stairway and elevator lead to the master suite and children's rooms. The lower level features a kitchen, built-in bar, theater and workout room.



An upstairs bedroom features ceilings accented with clouds and branches around the windows, comfortable enough for the family's cat.

Sue and Rod Wilson own a mission-styled ranch. The couple has an extensive collection of Rochester historical memorabilia.

The Rochester room (their living room) contains many kinds of collections from local signs to graduation pictures and rare yearbooks.

They also have a collection of Coca-Cola memorabilia, including a pinball machine, soda fountain and jukebox.

A Christmas tree is decorated with Coca-Cola ornaments.

Ticketholders can enjoy refreshments at the 1927 Dairy Barn at Van Hoosen Farm.

The family of Dr. Sarah Van Hoosen Jones once operated a prize-winning dairy farm.

Two exhibits A Lively Town: The History of Rochester 1817-1952 and Daguerrotype to Digital:

The History of Photography. Register for door prizes at the Dairy Barn. Mary Ellen Hahn, organizer of the walk, said the walk raises 15 -20 percent of the Friends of the Rochester Hills Library money.

HOLLY WALK

What: Friends of the Rochester Hills Public Library 2003 Holly Walk. Five unique Rochester-area homes will be decorated for this year's walk.

When: Noon-5 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 14

Tickets: $20. Must be purchased in advance through Dec. 13 at Bordine Nursery, 1835 S. Rochester Rd.; Dillman & Upton, 607 Woodward, Rochester; Friends of Rochester Hills Public Library Store (inside the library), 550 Olde Towne Road; Heslop's at Rochester Hills Village Mall, Sharon's Hallmark (Rochester Hills Plaza and University Square), Something Special Hallmark (Campus Corners) and Werner's Hallmark (Country Creek Commons at Adams and Silverbell).

For more information, call John Kruse at (248) 652-3549.

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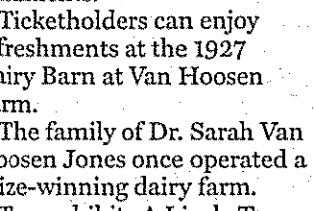
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Join **Eisenhower Dance Ensemble** for its festive holiday production! Back by popular demand, the company will present *The Land of Nod,* a fun and surreal journey into fantasy. Based on children's tales and with a cast of 40 dancers, this entertaining work is filled with visual and musical delights. This seasonal celebration of dance is fun for the **entire family.**
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Laurie Eisenhower, Artistic Director
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12 • 7:30pm
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Oakland Community College
Orchard Ridge Campus
Farmington Hills, MI
Box Office: 248.522.3420
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14 • 2:00pm
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THE FRIDAY BEFORE PUBLICATION

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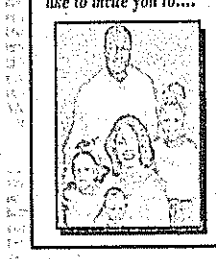
Wednesday Praise Service 6:00 p.m. • Wednesday Children, Youth and Adult Bible Study 7:00-8:00 p.m.



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Join us for Worship Service at 10:30am
Sunday School and/or New Members Orientation: 9:00am
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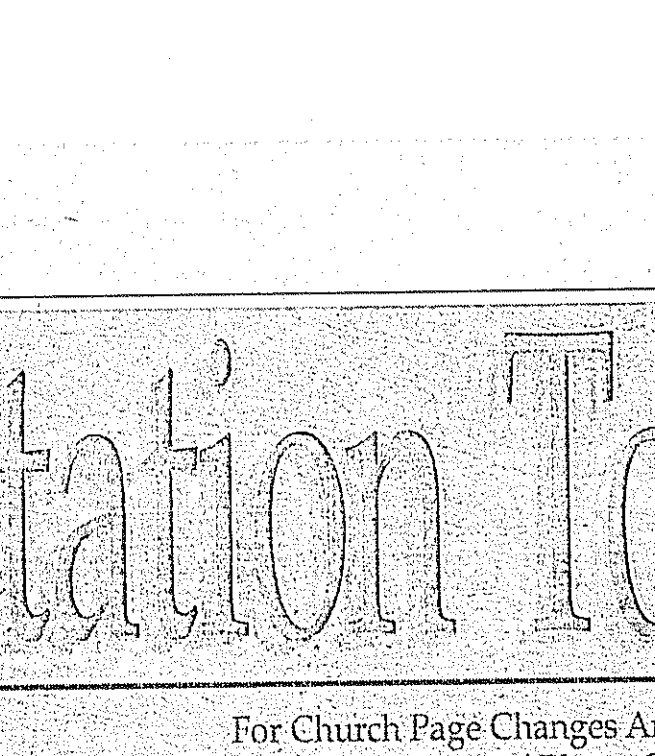

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God Hears Our Prayers

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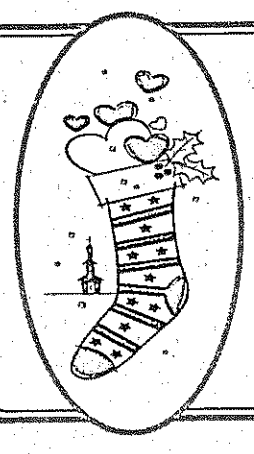

End the Year Well..... As we get older, it sometimes seems as if time is accelerating. Each year seems to go by a little bit faster than the one before, and perhaps this is just the wisdom of age reminding us how short our lives really are. Our busy schedules leave us little time for the things that we really value, and as we approach the year's end, the rush to prepare for the holidays exacerbates this feeling. We would like nothing more than to be able to spend time with our families and friends, but what we often end up doing is fighting the crowds at the mall in an attempt to finish up our last-minute shopping. Although the holidays are bound to be hectic, we shouldn't feel obligated to spend all of the time leading up to Christmas by shopping and going into debt. This year, consider telling your friends and family that you're going to have a modest Christmas with relatively few presents, and that what you really want to do is spend time with them. Telling your family and friends that you love them and that you enjoy their company may be one of the nicest gifts you give this year. Remember to also give your time to God, who surely enjoys knowing that you like His company too. Since none of us know how long we have left here on earth, we should spend our time wisely....

What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes. R.S.V. James 4:14

Holiday decorating moves toward convenience

This holiday season, metro Detroiters can deck the halls with holiday décor that offers more convenience, personality and style than ever before.

English Gardens, with the area's largest selection of Christmas trees and decorations, has identified new trends in holiday trees, décor and lighting.

"This year, holiday decorating will reflect more of people's personality and home decorating style," said John Darin, president of English Gardens.

"Plus, pre-lit items like trees, wreaths and garlands continue to sell well as people seek time-saving devices for a more stress-free holiday."

FESTIVE TREES

This season, convenience and personal style are reflected in the Christmas trees that fill the homes of metro Detroiters. Following are the big trends in trees and tree-trimming this year.

☐ Pre-Lit and Life-like Trees – The convenience of owning a life-like tree has now doubled with the ability to purchase pre-lit trees.

Pre-lit trees, with lights already installed, end the holiday hassle of untangling strands of lights. And life-like trees look more real than ever, adorned with everything from a frosting of faux snow to pine cones for a natural look.

Plus, life-like trees made with a poly-molded design make needles feel even more life-like.

☐ Trees in Twos – Instead of only trimming the traditional family tree, people are moving toward adding a second tree to their household, using their second tree to express their interests or decorating style.

Second trees often match the interior décor and color of a room and are used more as a decorating accent to a room.

☐ Tabletop Trees – Tabletop trees have become a popular item especially for apartment or loft dwellers, senior citizens or anyone who wants to add a nice holiday touch to a room.

Tabletop trees range from traditional, life-like evergreens, to modern tinsel trees, to trees in decorative containers.

HOLIDAY DÉCOR

Trimming the tree is one of the most beloved of holiday traditions. This year, put a new twist on the trimmings used on the tree.

Following are a few options for brightening up your Christmas tree.

☐ Colors – While red, silver and gold remain a popular holiday colors, people also are choosing more non-traditional colors to celebrate the season. Copper is hot this season, found in everything from ribbon, to ornaments, to other trimmings.

Various shades of purple, from deep royal purple to lavender, are also popping up in holiday decorations.

Ice blue is another popular color, appearing in everything from new lights to ornaments – giving trees a crisp, wintry feel.

☐ Themed Trees – Many people are decorating a second Christmas tree in a specific theme to express more of their personality or hobbies.

Consider a unique theme like a Parisian-themed tree featuring non-traditional trim items such as feather boas, silk red roses, tassels and novelty ornaments. A circus-themed tree is fun for kids and could feature such items as stuffed animals, colorful ornaments and balloons.

A sports- themed tree with favorite college colors and ornaments is a perfect addition to a den.

☐ Non-Traditional – Tree trimmings have come a long way from the traditional bulbs and tinsel. Chandelier prisms are very popular this year to add a twinkle to your tree, as well as large rhinestone and beaded ornaments that look like vintage jewelry.

Novelty ornaments such as beaded fruit and old-world glass also are adorning trees.

For a unique twist on the traditional garland, use items such as scarves, ribbons or even feather boas to go along with a theme or add flare. Adding three-dimensional objects is also a new way to trim the tree.

Consider adding a tree-house to a garden-themed tree, stuffed animals to a Noah's Arc-themed tree, or rolled sheet music for a music-themed tree.*

LIGHTS

Bright, twinkling lights are a staple of holiday decorations. From outdoor to indoor lights, there are more choices in lighting and advancements in quality.

☐ Blue LED Lights – Energy-efficient Light Emitting Diode (LED) lights use the newest technology for staying power, vibrancy and low energy.

Lasting up to 20 years, LED lights stay cool to the touch and are more vibrant than traditional bulbs – making colors like blue even more brilliant.

People will appreciate the savings on the electricity bill as well, since LED lights use 50 percent less energy than traditional bulbs.

☐ Rice Lights – As more people decorate tabletop trees, wreaths and other small holiday items, rice lights have become very popular.

The tiny lights and thin wiring allow the lights to be more convenient and concealed while displayed on a smaller item.

☐ Outdoor Lighting – Icicle lights, introduced a few years ago, continue to gain popularity and are now available in clear, as well as rainbow and six different colors. Consider professional-grade outdoor light sets guaranteed for three years.

English Gardens' Professional Outdoor Lighting Set ($14.99) can connect up to six sets end to end for 315 feet of continuous lights.

☐ Novelty lights – People choosing to add a second tree to their home have more choices of novelty lights for a themed tree, coming in the characters from Spongebob Squarepants to Looney-Tunes, as well as shapes like pinecones, flowers, grape clusters and snowmen.

The biggest trend this year in novelty lights is lighted "spheres" in different sizes and colors.

All five English Gardens stores feature 19 themed trees professionally decorated by designers, so customers can replicate the look.

Store locations are 6370 Orchard Lake Road, West Bloomfield (248) 851-7506; 44850 Garfield, Clinton Township (586) 286-6100; 22650 Ford Road, Dearborn Heights (313) 278-4433; 22501 Kelly Road, Eastpointe (586) 771-4200; 4901 Coolidge, Royal Oak/Troy (248) 280-9500

For the nearest store, call 1-800-335-GROW (4679) or click on www.englishgardens.com.

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THE Observer & Eccentric NEWSPAPERS
Subsidiary of HomeTown Communications Network

December 2003

Attention Carrier Collect Subscribers:

First of all, our Observer & Eccentric Newspapers' Circulation Department would like to wish you and your family a very happy and healthy holiday season!

As you may already know, your carrier is collecting for the deliveries from the month of November. After this, he/she will only be collecting for one more month – the month of December. Then all of our billings will be done from our office in 3, 6, or 12 month increments.

This will allow you to take advantage of special in-paper promotions where you can enjoy an extra month or two of delivery at no extra charge. Senior citizens will also be able to take advantage of discounts when they notify us that they qualify for the **Senior Discount.** Our carrier collect system does not allow us to manage multiple rates whereas our office pay system does which will benefit you, the subscriber, with better subscription offers!

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Thank you for your continued readership of your local Observer & Eccentric Newspaper. We do appreciate you and all of our subscribers and readers!

Sincerely,

LeeAnn Mitchell
Director of Circulation

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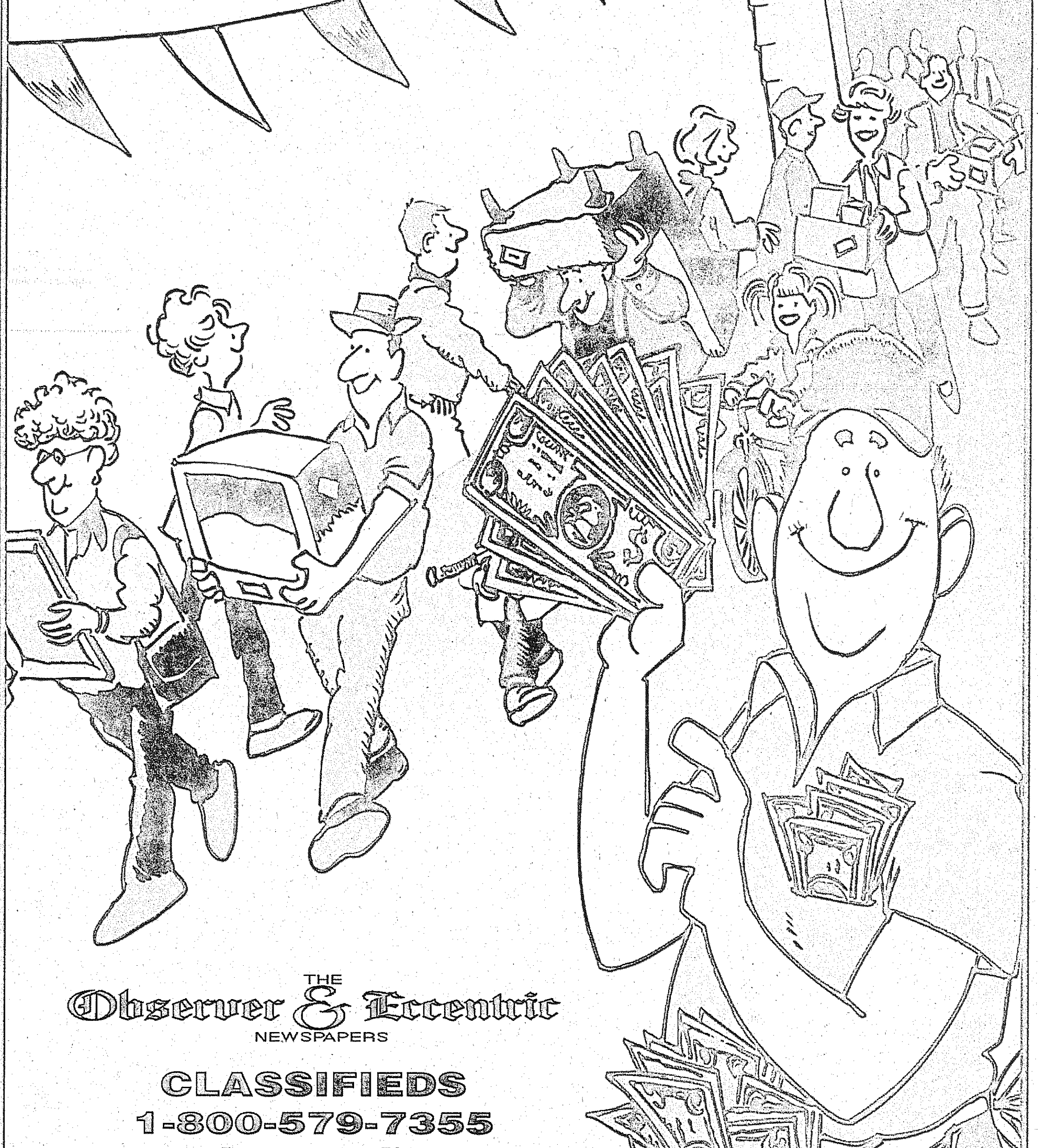

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Taste

WINE RECIPES SPECIALTIES

Slather on

Chef Foods, Inc. of Farmington Hills have created a unique line of gourmet barbecue sauces.

Owners Bobbie and Janet Patterson offer four different Rib House barbecue sauces: Original, Smokey, Jalapeno and Pineapple.

The Original is described as a subtle blend of spices. The Smokey enhances the Original flavor with a palatable hint of smoke. For those who enjoy heat, they can try Jalapenos.

An exotic influence of the islands is evident in the Pineapple.

For more information, contact Chef Foods at (248) 553-9144.

Holiday tips

Starbucks Coffee Co. will host an interactive holiday workshop at noon Saturday, Dec. 6 at 3584 Maple (at Lahser) in Bloomfield Hills.

Starbucks officials will share the tastes and traditions of the holiday season, teaching ways to entertain with coffee.

You'll learn the perfect coffee pairings for your holiday menu, scrumptious holiday recipes such as Starbucks Coffee Crème Brûlée, and how to make your favorite Starbucks holiday beverages at home, from Peppermint Mochas to Gingerbread Lattes.

Customers are invited to enjoy complimentary holiday food and beverage samples throughout the event.

The store's phone number is (248) 642-6904.

Grilled food

Rain or shine, everyone loves eating grilled foods. For the grill cook, though, it's not always fun to brace the weather for the sake of dinner.

Enter the countertop grill, an appliance whose popularity has skyrocketed in recent years.

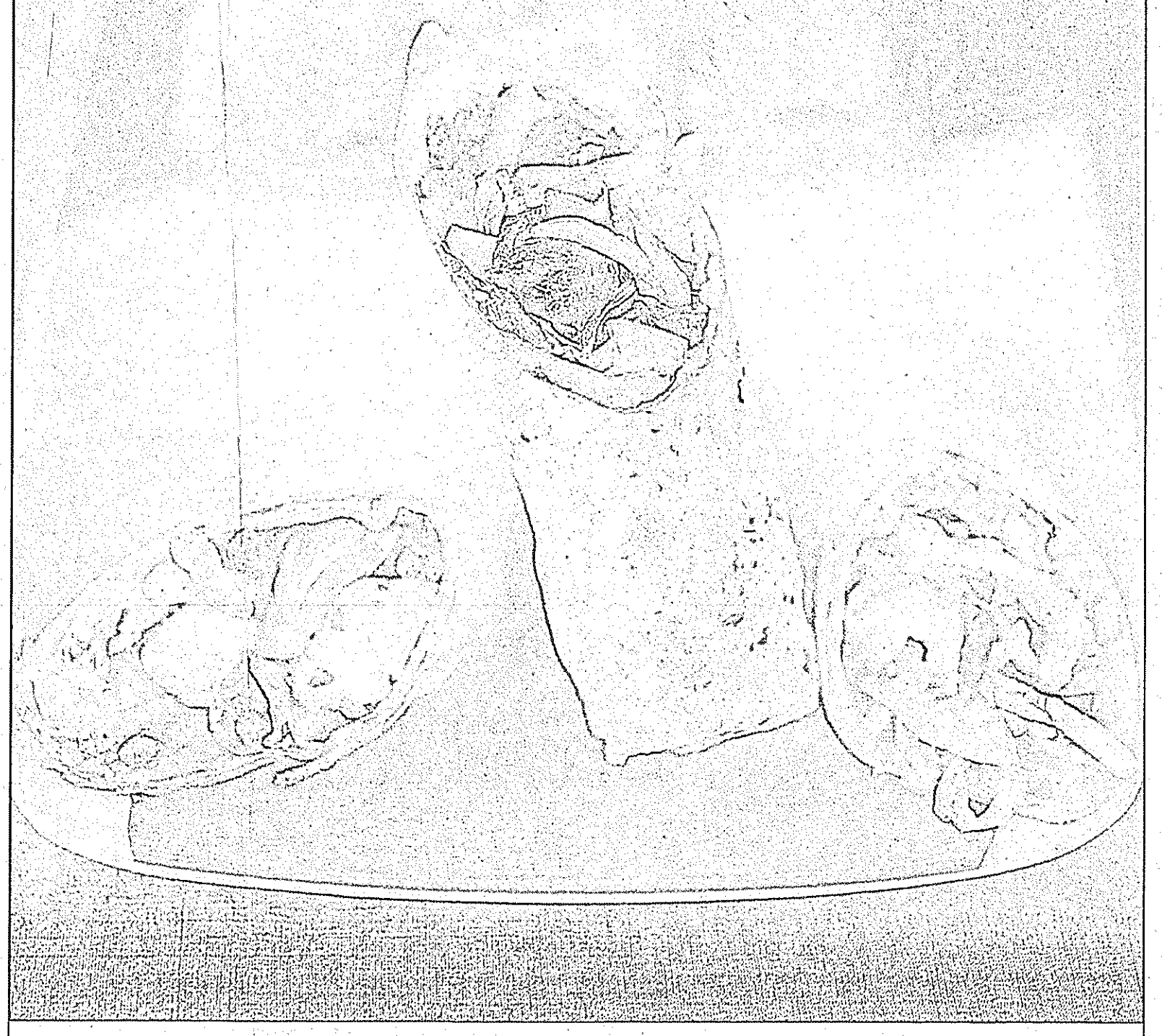
In the comfort of your own kitchen, you can achieve dazzling results - and quickly, too, because the food cooks on both sides at once.

This method works for all the usual grillables, and here's one you might not know about: pierogies.

Just spritz these potato-filled pasta pockets with cooking spray, season to your taste and, five minutes later, they're ready to enjoy.

Kids love pierogies, which are good as a snack, or with steak, burgers or chicken.

For recipes and information about low-fat Mrs. T's Pierogies, the perfect pairing of pasta and potatoes, visit www.pierogies.com.



For a big wrap party, make this Thai chicken wrap with spicy peanut sauce. A recipe for this dish can be found on page D3.

Getting Together

New book cooks up small parties

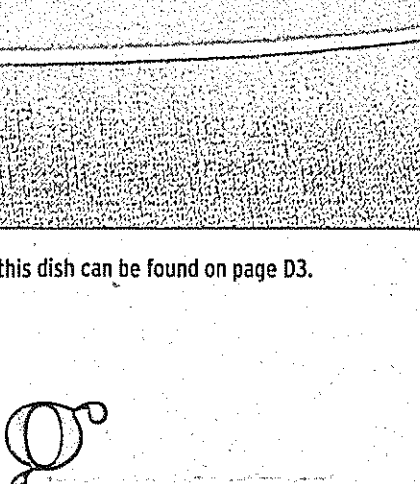
Rachael Ray appears on the Food Network as host of '30 Minute Meals.' Ray's new cookbook, '30-Minute Meals Get Togethers,' was released last month.

Anyone who watches the Food Network on a regular basis knows her.

She's the spunky one who prepares meals in a half hour, reciting her instructions, her shortcuts, all like she's sitting in her own kitchen in upstate New York, and not in the Food Network kitchens in Manhattan.

Rachael Ray, who hosts *30 Minute Meals* on the Food Network, enjoys preparing "date night" dinners at home with her boyfriend and other couples in between taping shows on the cable network.

Now she's written a book, *30-Minute Meals Get Togethers* (Lake Isle Press, New York, N.Y., $18.95), in which she highlights fun menus for date nights, football games, holidays, picnics, brunches, potlucks, tea parties and dinner parties.



Rachael Ray presents her meat and potatoes menu for two – tournedos with mushroom caps, red wine sauce, duchess-style potatoes and steamed broccoli spears.

Ray defines small get-togethers as "small, informal" gatherings that pair "great food with a few great people." Diners at smaller gatherings can enjoy themselves more than at parties where they mull through 50 people, Ray said.

"You really can enjoy (the dinners) a couple nights a week, rather than going out once a month," Ray said.

Ray, who was in town recently at a book signing in Ann Arbor, said she

PLEASE SEE **BOOK, D3**

Will state appeal wine decision?

As Gov. Jennifer Granholm conducted her statewide budget crisis tour around the state last month, she said, "We can't be making these decisions behind closed doors in Lansing."

Focus on Wine

Ray & Eleanor Heald

Ah, but if you don't object, there's one decision that will be made behind closed doors in Lansing!

That's whether the state will take Heald v. Engler to the U.S. Supreme Court. Heald v. Engler is the direct wine shipping suit we, a group of consumers and Domaine Alfred, a small premium California winery, brought against the state more than three years ago.

On Aug. 28, the U.S. 6th Circuit Court of Appeals rendered a unanimous opinion, stating that the State of Michigan's ban on direct wine shipping is unconstitutional.

In early November, the state was denied its request for a rehearing of the decision before the full court. Other than rewriting the state's liquor laws to allow direct shipping and demonstrate that it is consumer friendly, the state's sole recourse now is to appeal the decision to the Supreme Court, at a potential total cost of $1 million or more of your tax dollars.

WHO WILL BENEFIT?

With a $920 million state budget deficit at hand, perhaps $1 million is inconsequential. Yet it speaks to a spend-as-we- like, anti-consumer attitude in Lansing.

While the state ponders (it has until early February) whether it will spend your tax dollars unwisely, as citizens you must ask "why?" Who will benefit?

The opinion of the U.S. Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals knocked down the state's defense claim that allowing direct shipping would contribute to abuse by minors. The Federal Trade Commission report in July 2003 concluded similarly. The FTC surveyed 11 states that allow direct shipments and "found no evidence suggesting that direct shipping increases underage drinking beyond the levels attributable to sales by brick-and-mortar stores."

Michigan's unconstitutional ban on direct shipping prevents Michigan's 40 wineries

PLEASE SEE **WINE, D5**

Update your classic fish chowder

There is no reason why old-fashioned chowders can't be part of a new-fashioned diet. Classic chowders can be updated with more vegetables, low-fat milk and smart cooking techniques. And, if you make more than you need for one meal, you'll have a ready-made dinner that only improves with age.

The updated soup does not have to sacrifice the traditional rich flavor of a classic chowder. You can still have a full-bodied taste while minimizing fat and calories and maximizing the proportion of ingredients rich in cancer-fighting properties and other health benefits.

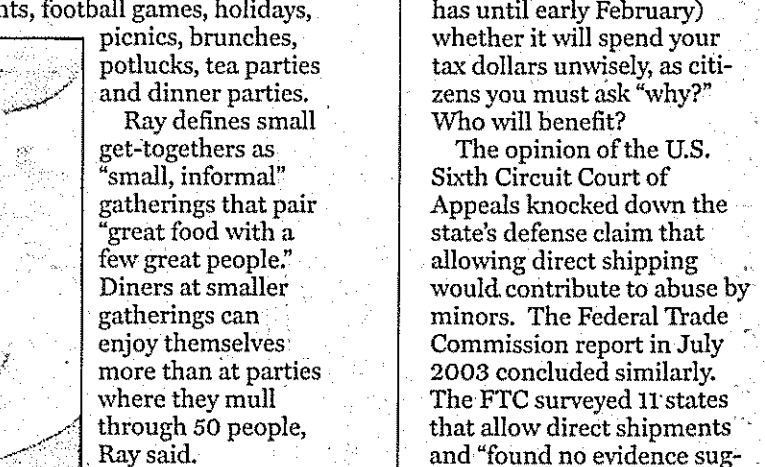
Fish soups are common in coastal regions around the world. Bouillabaisse is the familiar soup from the French coastal town of Marseille, but other areas have their own specialties, including the sweet-and-sour fish soups of Southeast Asia and the conch chowders of the Bahamas.

In colonial America, chowder usually referred to a dense soup made with clams or fish such as cod, often thickened with crackers and sometimes containing potatoes.

Depending on where it is served, chowder can be creamy, red, or clear. New England chowder is traditionally made with milk or cream, and Manhattan chowder has a tomato base.

The following updated chowder is a creamy fish soup – a comfort food without the usual fat – that achieves its rich body by puréeing both potatoes and (surprise!) squash.

PLEASE SEE **CHOWDER, D5**



AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR CANCER RESEARCH

This fish and vegetable chowder is a creamy fish soup – a comfort food without the usual fat – that achieves its rich body by puréeing both potatoes and squash.

Enjoy a Japanese salad dressing

BY DANA JACOBI
CORRESPONDENT

At Japanese restaurants, one thing I always look forward to is the small mixed salad served before the meal.

In particular, I enjoy the orange-colored dressing on top of this salad, because it strikes me as intriguingly familiar yet deliciously exotic. Although reminiscent of an old-fashioned, creamy French dressing (which was an American invention, by the way), the taste is unmistakably Asian.

It seems, however, that this salad and its carrot-based dressing are being served less frequently these days. I asked my friend Elizabeth Andoh, an American living in Japan who is an expert on their food and culture, if the same thing is happening there.

Her answer was yes – and no. She said that Western-style cooking remains popular in Japan, and sauces of this general type are still served regularly, but this particular salad dressing is not used as often as it once was.

Cooking in Japan is very much influenced by food fashions and fads, she said.

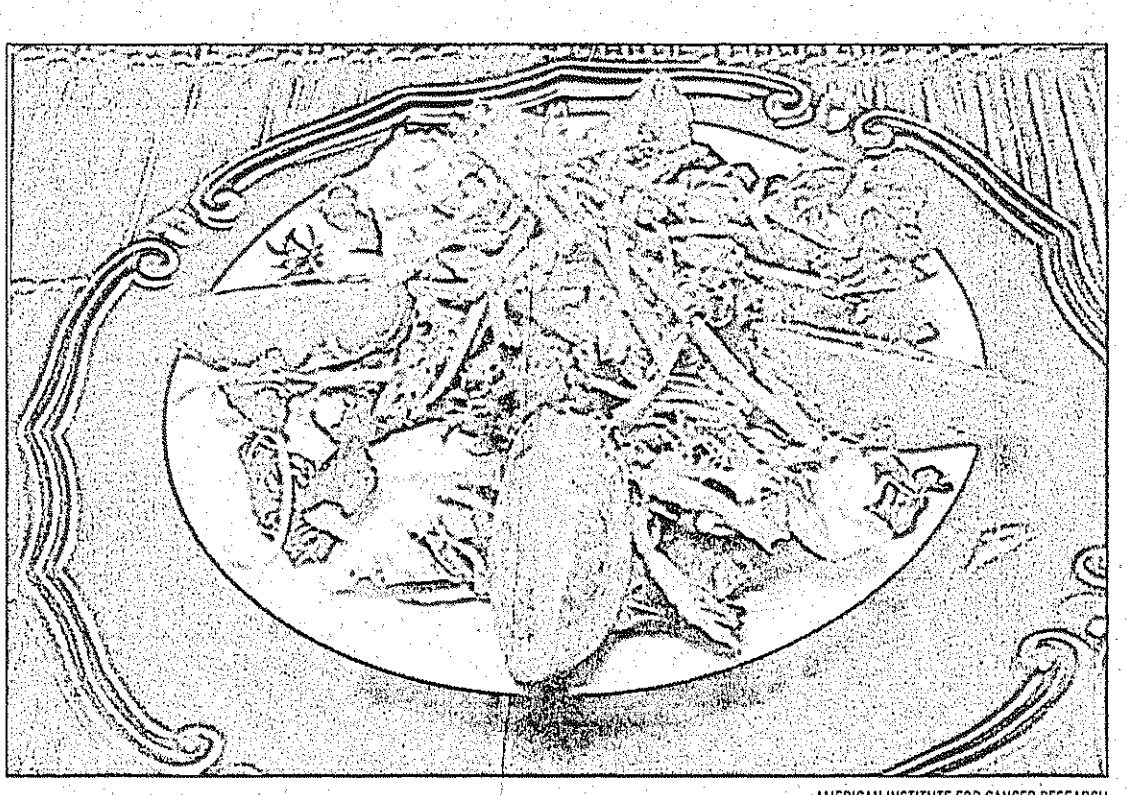
This dressing, for example, was created back in the 1970s. It is an example of yoshoku ryoori, an approach that adapts Western-style cooking to the Japanese palate. A fresh, garden salad was then a novel idea in Japan, where meals were traditionally accompanied by pickled vegetables. To make a dressing that would appeal to Japanese tastes, cooks turned to the miso-thickened sauces they already knew.

They also employed another much-used thickening technique – adding very finely grated vegetables or fruit, such as carrot, daikon radish, and apple. Both methods remain common in Japanese cooking, says Andoh.

To American home cooks, few cuisines seem as daunting as Japanese, despite the fact that Japanese restaurants are everywhere in the U.S. and sushi is almost as familiar as pizza.

Certainly, few Americans attempt to make Japanese dishes.

This version of a low-fat, carrot- based Japanese dressing might just inspire you to try more recipes from this brilliantly lean cuisine, which offers so many flavorful, easy ways of preparing vegetables, like eggplant grilled with miso, and cooked spinach topped with a nutty, sesame seed sauce.



AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR CANCER RESEARCH

This version of a low-fat, carrot- based Japanese dressing might just inspire you to try more recipes from this brilliantly lean cuisine.

Mixed Salad with Japanese Dressing

¼ cup reduced-fat mayonnaise
dressing
1 garlic clove, diced
1 tablespoon sweet or mellow white miso
1 teaspoon sugar
½ teaspoon wasabi powder or paste
⅓ cup carrot juice
1 teaspoon rice vinegar
¼ teaspoon toasted sesame oil
1 tablespoon finely grated daikon radish
1 large bag mixed salad greens
1 small carrot, finely shredded
4 plum tomatoes, quartered lengthwise

Place mayonnaise, garlic, miso, sugar, and wasabi in blender or mini-food processor. Add carrot juice, vinegar, and sesame oil. Whirl until dressing is smooth. (If you do not have a blender or food processor, cream miso into carrot juice in a small bowl using the back of a spoon to combine them.)

Squeeze grated daikon in your hand, making a fist to extract as much moisture as possible. Add daikon to dressing, and blend in well. (For optimum taste, the dressing should be made about an hour before using so that the flavors of the wasabi and daikon have sufficient time to develop and meld with the other ingredients.)

Transfer dressing to a jar or small bottle with tight-fitting lid. Just before adding dressing to the salad, shake vigorously to combine dressing.

Divide greens among four salad plates. Arrange one-quarter of carrots on top of greens. Arrange 4 tomato wedges around the greens, like points of star. Drizzle one-quarter of the dressing over each salad, and serve immediately. Makes 4 servings.

Nutritional information per serving: 96 calories, 6 g. total fat (<1 g. saturated fat), 10 g. carbohydrate, 2 g. protein, 3 g. dietary fiber, 310 g. sodium.

Dana Jacobi is the author of The Joy of Soy and writes for the American Institute for Cancer Research.

Steam cod for a delicate flavor

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Using foil to make a tent in which cod can steam in its own juices gives a very delicate, fragrant result. That's the word from food writer, chef and food show host Ainsley Harriott.

His cookbook *Ainsley Harriott's Low-Fat Meals in Minutes* (DK, 2003, $20) makes good menu reading, but it's also practical – as the following recipe indicates. Like others in the book, it uses simple fresh ingredients, is really low in fat, and takes less than 20 minutes to make.

The book's recipes range from soups to desserts, many shown in color photos, and there's a bonus of helpful basic information and tips packed into the book.

You can bake the foil-wrapped fish on the grill outdoors or in the oven. The real beauty of this dish is the aroma that fills the air when you pop open the foil corner, Harriott says.

Baked Cantonese Cod Corners

1¼ pounds cod fillets
4-inch piece fresh ginger, peeled and cut into matchsticks
6 scallions, shredded
2 garlic cloves, finely chopped
2 tablespoons soy sauce
1 tablespoon wine vinegar
1 teaspoon sesame oil
1 teaspoon red pepper flakes (optional)
Hot cooked rice, to serve, if desired
Chopped cilantro, to serve

Prepare the grill, or preheat the oven to 400º F.

Arrange each cod fillet in the center of its own large square of foil. Scatter over the ginger, scallions and garlic.

Drizzle each piece of fish with a little soy sauce, vinegar and sesame oil, and sprinkle with a few red pepper flakes, if using.

Pull the corners of the foil together and fold over the edges to make a tent around each fillet.

Grill over medium-hot coals for 8 minutes until the fish is just cooked.

Or place the fish bundles on a baking sheet and bake in the oven for 20 minutes. Serve the bundles whole if you wish to capture that aromatic moment when you open them; alternatively, remove the fish from the bundles and transfer to warmed serving plates. Serve with rice sprinkled with chopped cilantro, if desired. Makes 4 servings.

Nutritional information per serving: 139 cal., 28 g pro., 2 g carbo., 2 g fat (0 g saturated fat), 0 g fiber, 636 mg sodium.

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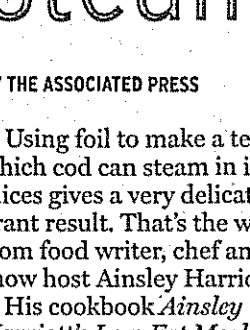
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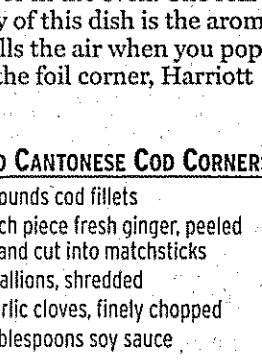
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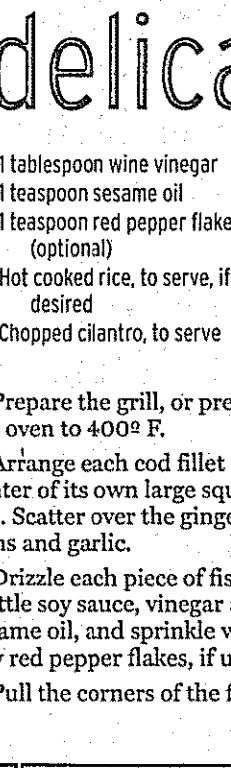
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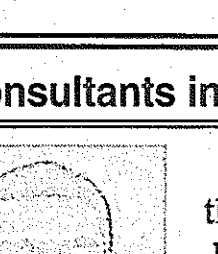
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CONTINUED FROM PAGE D1

Here are more recipes from Rachael Ray's kitchen

THAI CHICKEN WRAP WITH SPICY PEANUT SAUCE

3 chicken breasts (6 ounces each)
1 tablespoons soy sauce
1 tablespoon vegetable oil
Salad:
½ seedless English cucumber, peeled, halved lengthwise and thinly sliced on an angle
2 cups fresh bean sprouts
1 cup shredded carrots (available in sacks in produce department)
3 scallions, sliced on an angle
12 leaves basil, chopped or torn
3 tablespoons chopped mint (4 sprigs)
1 tablespoon sesame seeds
2 teaspoons sugar
2 tablespoons rice wine vinegar or white vinegar
Salt, to taste
Sauce:
¼ cup room temperature chunky peanut butter (soften in microwave if it has been refrigerated)
2 tablespoons soy sauce
1 tablespoon rice wine vinegar or white vinegar
¼ teaspoon cayenne pepper
2 tablespoons vegetable oil
4 twelve-inch flour tortilla wraps

Heat grill pan over high heat. In a bowl, toss chicken with soy and oil. Grill 6 minutes on each side.

Make the salad. Combine cucumber, sprouts, carrots, scallions, basil, mint and sesame seeds with a generous sprinkle of sugar and vinegar. Season with salt, to taste.

Make the sauce. Whisk peanut butter, soy sauce, vinegar and cayenne pepper. Stream in vegetable oil. Slice cooked chicken thinly on an angle. Toss with the salad. In a very hot nonstick skillet or over a gas burner, heat tortillas 15 seconds on each side. Pile chicken and salad in wraps and drizzle liberally with spicy peanut sauce before wrapping and rolling. Slice in half on an angle and serve. Yields 12 large wraps, ½ of each wrap is one serving.

MARC ANTONY'S SCAMPI WRAP

Shrimp
2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil (evoo) (twice around the pan)
4 cloves garlic, crushed
1 teaspoon red pepper flakes
24 shrimp, peeled and deveined, tails removed (ask for easy-peel raw deveined shrimp at seafood counter of market)
1 teaspoon grill seasoning blend, such as Montreal Seasoning by McCormick, or salt and freshly ground black pepper, to taste
Salad
2 hearts Romaine lettuce
3 tablespoons capers
4 anchovies fillets, chopped (optional)
Zest and juice of 1 lemon
2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil (evoo) (twice around the bowl)
Salt and freshly ground black pepper to taste
4 twelve-inch spinach or sun-dried tomato-flavored flour tortilla wraps

Cook the shrimp. Heat a large skillet over medium high heat. Add evoo, garlic, and pepper flakes. Add shrimp and seasoning. Cook stirring frequently, 3 minutes or until shrimp is pink and firm. Transfer shrimp to a cutting board until cool enough to handle 2 minutes. Coarsely chop shrimp and garlic. Wipe out pan.

Make the salad: Chop hearts of Romaine and place in a large bowl. Add chopped shrimp, capers, anchovies, and lemon zest and juice. Toss salad, then add evoo, and retoss. Season with salt and pepper.

Blister tortillas in very hot nonstick skillet or over the open flame on a gas burner for 15 seconds on each side to soften. Pile a quarter of the salad on each wrap. Tuck in sides, wrap and roll. Repeat.

TIP

To complete the menu:
☐ Mixed nuts
☐ Whole pieces of fruit
☐ Gourmet potato chip selections, such as Terra chips or Olive Oil Potato Chip Company brands (available in many larger markets.)
☐ For dessert, cut and serve store-bought brownies.

Recipes courtesy of Rachael Ray's 30-Minute Meals Get-Togethers.

BOOK

FROM PAGE D1

doesn't create "huge meals" and prefers a simple course. The book can assist the host or hostess of the four-, six- or eight-person meal that can be prepared quickly. She also fixes seasonal menus and romantic dinners.

These are meals you can fix, of course, in 30 minutes, similar to the ones she makes on the show with a flair for variety of dishes in ingredients and simplicity or complexity.

Some of the show's direction and the cookbook's come from viewers of her show, she said. "Oh absolutely, they give me ideas," Ray said. "Two years ago, nobody cared about low-carb diets, and now you hear so much about it. I'll put in four or five shows on low-carb, maybe we'll do one on takeout, and four or five on Mediterranean. Italian is so popular."

More recipes from Rachael Ray's book. Taste, Page D4.

Ray's direct and pleasant style in front of the camera is reflected in the simple style of the cookbook.

She'll make a Thai Chicken Wrap with spicy peanut sauce and Marc Antony's Scampi Wrap for a tailgate party. For great dates and a romantic menu, you can create Lobster Tails Thermidor. For Baja Blowout, try Mussels in Mexican Beer.

Comfort is the name of the game with Salisbury Steak with Wild Mushroom Gravy. That's part of her TV Dinner for Two menu.

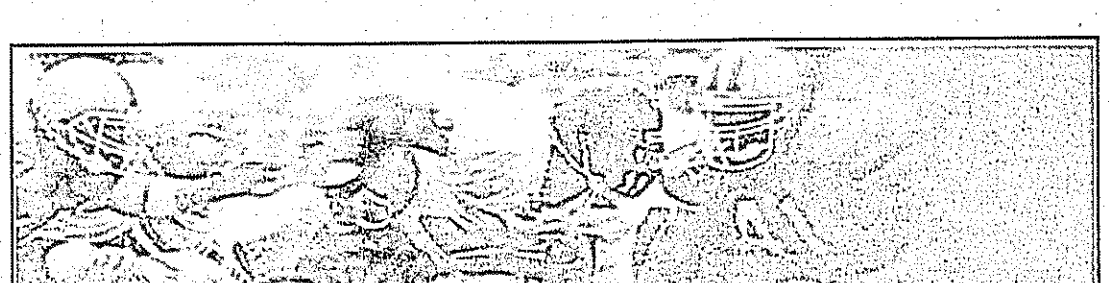
She even has "Small-Iday" (small holiday gatherings) suggestions.

"Many of us don't have the large gatherings like the Waltons anymore. Lifestyles have changed, and extended families cannot always get together for the holidays," she writes. "For these reasons, I've written menus for small holiday celebrations."

Ray enjoys her cable show, shot at Food Network's studios in Manhattan. "The staff there makes me feel very comfortable, and it feels like I'm cooking at home," Ray said.

But she doesn't watch her show. "My Mom was at my cabin watching my show, and it upset my dog," Ray said. "She saw me on TV, and I was in another room and it made her cry. So I never play 'me' at home."

Ray expects to continue her book tour, then will begin work on a third cookbook next year with 30-minute meals Around the Clock as a theme.



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CONTINUED FROM PAGE D1

RACHAEL RAY'S RECIPES

CHATEAUBRIAND (FOR 2 IN 30) TOURNEDOS WITH MUSHROOM CAPS, RED WINE SAUCE, DUCHESS-STYLE POTATOES, STEAMED BROCCOLI SPEARS

Potatoes

- 1 pound russet potatoes (2 medium-large potatoes)
- salt and freshly ground black pepper, to taste
- 2 egg yolks
- 2 tablespoons butter
- 2 tablespoons grated cheese, such as Parmesan
- 2 teaspoons extra-virgin olive oil (evoo)

Broccoli

- 2 clusters of broccoli tops, cut into spears, or 1 pound of broccolini, trimmed

Tournedos

- ½ tablespoon butter
- 1 tablespoon extra-virgin olive oil (evoo)
- 2 large stuffing mushroom caps, wiped with damp towel, stems removed
- 2 each, 1-inch thick beef fillets
- salt and freshly ground black pepper, to taste

Sauce

- 1 tablespoon butter
- 1 tablespoon flour
- ½ cup dry red wine
- ½ cup beef stock

Preheat oven to 450º F.

Make the potatoes: Peel and cut potatoes into chunks. Boil them until tender in salted water, about 10 minutes. Mix a little cooking water into 1 beaten egg yolk. Drain potatoes and transfer to food processor. Add egg yolk mixture, butter, and cheese. Process until smooth and add salt to taste. Scrape potatoes into a pastry bag or a cone made from rolled up waxed or parchment paper, a disposable alternative to a pastry bag.

Pipe potatoes into conical shapes on a nonstick cookie sheet or greased baking sheet.

Make a wash: Beat the remaining egg yolk with evoo and brush potatoes with wash.

Bake potatoes 10 minutes, until golden.

While the potatoes cook, steam the broccoli and make the tournedos.

Steam broccoli in 1 inch of water, covered, 3 minutes. Remove from heat. Drain, but leave covered in pan for another 5 minutes. The broccoli will continue to cook, but not lose all of its color.

Make the tournedos: In a small skillet, heat butter and evoo over medium-high heat. Cook mushroom caps 3 or 4 minutes until just golden; turn them and set to sides of pan. Season meat with salt and pepper and add to skillet. Cook 3 minutes on each side for medium-rare, 5 minutes on each side for medium-well. Remove steaks and caps from the pan and cover with a loose foil tent to keep warm and let juices distribute. Make the sauce: Add Butter and flour to the pan, cook for a few minutes, and whisk in wine. Scrape up drippings, reduce wine for half a minute, then whisk in a little beef stock. Thicken sauce another half minute, then remove from heat.

To serve, top each steak with a mushroom cap and pour a little sauce down over the top. Serve the potato cones and broccoli tops alongside. Makes a dinner fit for a king and a queen.

CUBAN-STYLE PORK TENDERLOIN SANDWICHES AND FRIED PLANTAINS

Pork Tenderloins

- 1-⅔ to 2 pounds pork tenderloin (2 pieces, the average weight of 1 package), trimmed
- Extra-virgin olive oil (evoo) or vegetable oil, for drizzling
- 1 small onion, minced
- 4 cloves garlic, finely chopped
- grated zest of 2 limes
- grated zest of 1 large orange
- a handful of fresh flat-leaf parsley, finely chopped
- 1 teaspoon coarse salt
- 1 teaspoon coarse black pepper
- 1 teaspoon dried oregano

Cuban Sweet Rolls

- 8 crusty rolls, such as Portuguese rolls, torpedo loaves, or muffaletta-style round rolls
- 4 teaspoons sugar

Plantains

- ¼ cup corn oil (4 times around the pan)
- 4 black-skinned plantains
- 1 teaspoon fine salt

Sandwich Fixin's

- 1 pound shaved ham (from the deli counter)
- 1 pound shaved Swiss cheese (from the deli counter)

Relish

- 6 dill pickles, chopped
- ½ cup sweet red pepper relish (found on the condiment aisle)
- 2 scallions, chopped

Preheat oven to 425º F.

Prepare the tenderloins: Coat them with evoo. Combine onion, garlic, citrus zest, parsley, salt, and coarse pepper, and oregano in a pile on a cutting board. Pack this coating evenly onto the tenderloins. Place tenderloins on a baking pan and place in hot oven to roast, 20 to 25 minutes. Wash your hands. Prepare the rolls: Brush rolls with a little warm water and sprinkle with ½ teaspoon sugar each. Place on a baking sheet, then in oven with meat for 5 minutes to crust rolls and set sugar. When ready, split and pile on serving plate. Cook the plantains; heat ¼ cup corn oil in a heavy skillet over medium-high heat. Peel plantains and cut in half lengthwise, then slice each half into thirds on an angle. Arrange plantains in pan in a single layer and cook until crisp on each side, about 3 minutes per side. Remove from skillet to a paper towel-lined plate and season with fine salt.

Remove pork from oven and transfer to a cutting board. Let meat rest 5 minutes, then thinly slice meat on an angle. Place ham and Swiss cheese on a serving plate, separating and fluffing up the shaved meat and cheese.

Make the relish: Combine chopped pickles, sweet red pepper relish, and scallions in a small bowl.

Arrange a buffet of relish, meats, cheese, rolls, and plantains. The sandwiches are made with layers of Swiss, ham, pork, and a generous slather of relish. A few slices of plantains per person are eaten as a side dish.

QUICK GINGER PEACH COBBLER

- 1 can (14-½ ounces) sliced peaches in juice, drained
- 1 inch fresh gingerroot, minced, or ½ teaspoon ground ginger
- 1 tablespoon softened butter
- 2 tablespoons brown sugar
- ½ cup granola cereal with raisins and nuts
- 1 egg white, beaten
- store-bought real whipped cream in spray canister (from diary aisle)

Preheat oven to 400º F.

Mix drained peaches with ginger. Place sliced peaches in small ovenproof bowls. Combine butter and sugar with a fork, then mix with granola. Fold in beaten egg white.

Mound the topping on top of the peaches.

Place dishes on a small baking sheet and bake, 10-12 minutes. Remove and cool cobbler while you enjoy dinner.

After dinner, serve warm cobbler with whipped cream.

TV DINNER: SALISBURY STEAK WITH WILD MUSHROOM GRAVY, SMASHED POTATOES WITH GARLIC AND HERB CHEESE AND CHIVES, CREAMED SPINACH

Potatoes

- 1 pound russet potatoes (2 large potatoes), peeled and chunked
- salt and freshly ground black pepper, to taste
- ¼ cup half-and-half or cream (eyeball it)
- 3 ounces (1/3 cup or half of one small container), garlic and herb cheese, such as Boursin
- 2 tablespoons chopped chives (6 blades), or 1 scallion, thinly sliced

Meat and Gravy

- ¾ pound ground beef sirloin
- 2 teaspoons Worchestershire sauce (eyeball it)
- ½ small onion, finely chopped
- 1 teaspoon steak seasoning blend, such as Montreal Seasoning by McCormick, or coarse salt and freshly ground black pepper, to taste
- Extra-virgin olive oil (evoo), 3 tablespoons (3 times around the pan)
- 1 tablespoon butter
- 6 crimini or baby portobello mushrooms, sliced
- 6 shiitake mushrooms, chopped
- salt and freshly ground black pepper, to taste
- 1 tablespoon flour
- ½ cup beef stock

Spinach

- 1 box (10 ounces) chopped spinach, defrosted in microwave
- 1 tablespoon butter, cut into pieces
- ¼ cup half-and-half or heavy cream
- salt and freshly ground black pepper, to taste

Start the potatoes: Place them in a pot with water. Cover pot, bring to a boil and lightly salt. Leave uncovered and simmer at rolling boil until tender, 8 to 10 minutes.

While potatoes cook, make the steaks: Combine meat, Worchestershire, onion, and steak seasoning, or salt and pepper. Form 2 large, oval patties, 1 inch thick.

Preheat a large nonstick skillet over medium-high heat.

Add a tablespoon of evoo and meat patties to hot pan. Cook 6 minutes on each side until meat is evenly caramelized on the outside and juices run clear.

Remove meat and cover with loose aluminum foil to keep warm. Add 1 more tablespoon evoo and the butter to the pan, then the mushrooms. Season with salt and pepper and sauté until tender, 3 to 5 minutes.

While mushrooms cook, make the spinach: To a small skillet, add butter and cream and heat to a bubble over moderate heat. Add the defrosted and "dried" spinach and salt and pepper. Cook until spinach thickens with cream, 3 to 5 minutes.

To mushrooms, add a sprinkle of flour to the pan and cook 2 minutes more. Whisk in stock and thicken 1 minute.

While sauce thickens, drain potatoes and return them to hot pot. Smash potatoes with a little half-and-half or cream and garlic and herb cheese. Smash and incorporate chives. Add salt and pepper to taste.

To serve, pour gravy over steak. Serve potatoes and creamed spinach alongside the steaks. Now that's a TV dinner, Delux!

ZUCCHINI AU GRATIN

- 2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil (evoo) (twice around the pan)
- 2 medium zucchinis, thinly sliced on an angle
- 1 medium onion, sliced
- salt and freshly ground black pepper, to taste
- 2 tablespoons butter
- 2 tablespoons all-purpose flour
- 1-½ cups milk
- ½ teaspoon grated or ground nutmeg
- ½ cup grated Parmesan cheese
- 1 cup shredded sharp white cheddar cheese
- 1 loaf crusty Tuscan or French bread, sliced at bakery counter

Heat a large skillet over medium-high heat.

Add 2 tablespoons evoo. Add zucchini and onions, season with salt and pepper and sauté, 10 to 15 minutes, turning frequently, until disks are tender and onions are caramelized at edges.

Preheat broiler to high.

Heat a small saucepan over moderate heat. Add butter and melt. Whisk in flour and cook together a minute or two. Whisk in milk and thicken to gravy-like consistency.

Season with salt, pepper, and nutmeg. Stir in grated Parmesan cheese.

Transfer zucchini and onions to a shallow baking dish or casserole. Pour sauce over the veggies and cover with cheddar cheese.

Brown cheese under broiler until bubbly.

Serve with sliced crusty bread.

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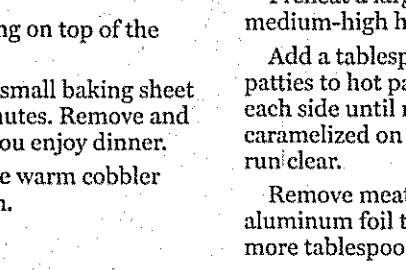

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WINE

FROM PAGE D1

from expanding business with direct-to-consumer shipments. Michigan wineries have only just begun to make progress and the state wants to kill potential expansion. Why? Is it anti-Michigan business?

A group that will benefit from a successful petition to the Supreme Court is the Michigan Beer and Wine Wholesalers who enjoy a monopoly under current state laws. Potentially, because the group has a large political action fund that contributes to state legislators' election campaigns, legislators favorable to wholesaler viewpoints may also benefit.

The MB&WW claim the state cannot allow direct out-of-state wine shipment to Michigan consumers because the state cannot collect liquor taxes. This is false. Model statutory language is available to allow Michigan wine shipping law to pass constitutional muster and allow the state to collect taxes due. Further legal challenges are a waste of time and money when a remedy stares the governor, the attorney general and legislators in the face.

YOUR REACTION NEEDED

If you want your constitutional rights protected, you need to react now. If you're a wine consumer and want special wines shipped to you, you need to react. If you'd just like to get wines already available in the state at a lower price, you need to react now. Here's a case in point. Duval-Leroy Blanc de Chardonnay champagne is priced in the Detroit metro area at $42. California wine shops offer it at $30. Even with a shipping cost of $4 per bottle, the savings on a case of this delicious bubbly is $96.

Send an e-mail and phone the following state officials and make your statement clear. "Do not waste my tax dollars appealing Heald v. Engler to the Supreme Court and potentially paying the plaintiffs' attorneys $1 million. Change the law to be consumer friendly and expand the business potential of Michigan wineries."

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Gov. Jennifer Granholm (517)373-3400, govfeedback@michigan.gov

Attorney General Mike Cox (517)373-1110, miag@michigan.gov

Speaker of the House Rick Johnson (517)373-1747, rickjohnson@house.mi.gov

Senate Majority Leader Ken Sikkema (517)373-0797, senksikkema@senate.michigan.gov

Senator Jason Allen, Senate Commerce and Labor Committee Chairman, (517)373-2413, senjallen@senate.michigan.gov

Search for your representative or senator contact information on http://house.michigan.gov and http://senate.michigan.gov. Both sites have searchable member lists.

The Healds are contributing editors for the internationally respected *Quarterly Review of Wines* and Troy residents who write about wine, spirits, food, and restaurants for the *Observer & Eccentric Newspapers*. To leave them a voice mail message, dial (734) 953-2047, mailbox 1864#.

CALENDAR

Please submit items at least two weeks in advance of the date it should be published. Send to Ken Abramczyk, Taste editor, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham, 48009 or e-mail kabramczyk@oe.homecomm.net

Cuisine du Jour

Chef Kipp Bourdeau of Bistro Bourdeau of Auburn Hills will instruct how to cook a Southern Style Holiday Feast 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 4, in the culinary training auditorium at Trevarrow, 1295 Opdyke in Auburn Hills. Class is $30 per person. For information call (248) 377-2300.

Wassail Feast

Oakland Community College's Culinary Studies Institute presents its 18th annual Wassail Feast at the Orchard Ridge Campus in Farmington Hills at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 4, on the third floor in the campus' Building J. The Wassail dinner is a contemporary version of an "Olde English" holiday feast with five courses prepared and served by the institute's students and chef instructors. Appropriate wines are included, and jesters, merrymakers, singers and musicians are on hand to make the event memorable. Admission is $50 per person and reservations must be made in advance. Call (248) 522-3703 for tickets. The Orchard Ridge campus is located at 27055 Orchard Lake Road, just south of I-696. Parking is free in nearby campus lots.

Cookie Walk

Delight yourself in all kinds of Christmas cookies on a Christmas Cookie Walk 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6, at St. Michael's Orthodox Church, 26355 W. Chicago, Redford (between Beech Daly and Inkster.) Cookies will be sold by the pound.

Holiday classes

Holiday Treats will be taught at 7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 8, at Bonnie's Patisserie, 29229 Northwestern Highway, Southfield. Classes are $35. Call (248) 357-4540 for information.

Holiday Appetizers

Learn an array of new recipes using meat, fish and vegetables at this class offered 7:30-9:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 11, at the Community House, 380 South Bates, Birmingham. Menu includes: hamburger wontons with curry dipping sauce, maple syrup glazed phyllos and much more. Michelle Bommarito is the instructor. Class is $22.

To register, call 248/644-5832 or register online at www.communityhouse.com.

Hansel and Gretel

Parent and child will build a real gingerbread house, complete with lots of frosting and candy at a class 10 a.m.-noon, Saturday, Dec. 13 at the Community House, 380 South Bates, Birmingham. This fun to build holiday house makes a great gift and is the start of a wonderful family tradition. T he class is taught by Lynn Heber, owner of Sweet Indulgence, located in Rochester Hills. Class is for children ages 5 to 9. One child per adult. One session is $16 for adult/child team. To register, call 248/644-5832 or register online at www.communityhouse.com.

Make a Gingerbread House

A fun, holiday project where each student (grades K-6) creates his/her own Gingerbread House using snow icing, then decorates it with a variety of candies. It makes a wonderful holiday decoration and a great gift (use it as a surprise box and hide gifts of money inside).

Each is a unique work of art. The class is presented by Ginger Works and is scheduled for 10 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 13, and 6:30-7:30 p.m. Tuesday, December 16, at Derby Middle School, Room 115. The class fee is $13 per person.

For registration and information, please call 248-203-3800.

Parent and child workshop

Together a parent and child will assemble and decorate an extra-large gingerbread house, approximately 4 pounds (or about 10-by-12 inches) made of sweet, fragrant gingerbread with lots of icing and candy. Please bring a cardboard box to carry it home. T

his class will be presented by Ginger Works, 10- 11 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 20 at Derby Middle School, Room 115. The class fee is $30.

For registration and information, please call 248-203-3800.

CHOWDER

FROM PAGE D1

VEGETABLE AND FISH CHOWDER

- ½ to 1 tablespoon canola oil
- ½ cup finely chopped onion
- 2 medium stalks celery, diced
- 1-2 cloves garlic (or to taste), minced
- 4 cups reduced-fat (2 percent) milk
- 1 cup potatoes, peeled and diced
- 2 cups butternut squash, peeled and diced
- 1 bay leaf
- 1 pound fish fillet cut in ¾ inch pieces
- ½ teaspoon dried thyme
- ½ teaspoon dried marjoram
- Salt and freshly ground white pepper, to taste
- Paprika for garnish

In a heavy, deep pan, heat the oil over low-medium heat. Add the onion, celery and garlic into the olive oil and cook for about 5 minutes, stirring occasionally, until soft, translucent and pale gold. Add milk, potatoes, squash and bay leaf. Bring to a boil over high heat, then immediately reduce heat to a gentle simmer. Partially cover with a lid and simmer about 15 minutes, or until vegetables are tender but not falling apart.

With a slotted spoon, transfer potatoes and squash to a blender. Purée with a small amount of the soup liquid until completely smooth. Transfer back to the pan.

Add thyme, marjoram, salt and pepper. Add fish and simmer gently until seafood is just barely cooked through, being careful seafood does not overcook.

Remove from the heat. Check seasoning and add salt and pepper, if necessary. Remove the bay leaf and ladle chowder into individual bowls. Garnish with a light sprinkling of paprika. Makes 5 servings.

Nutritional information per serving: 266 calories, 6 g. total fat (3 g. saturated fat), 28 g. carbohydrate, 25 g. protein, 4 g. dietary fiber, 190 mg. sodium.

Recipe courtesy of the American Institute for Cancer Research.

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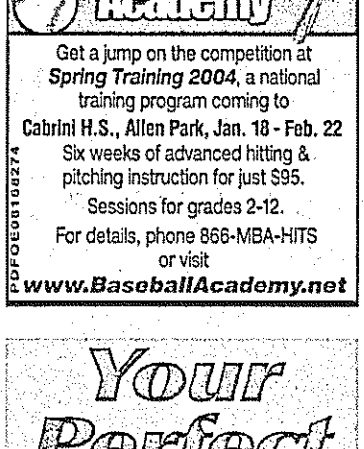
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Solo suppers can be delectable occasions

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Eating alone at home can be lonely, lazy or indulgent – or so absent-minded that the meal is forgotten as soon as swallowed.

However, on a cold, dreary evening, spirits can get a lift from making supper an occasion, a delectably satisfying entertainment.

Joyce Goldstein, a San Francisco-based chef, food writer and cooking teacher, has loads of encouragement to offer in her book *Solo Suppers: Simple Delicious Meals to Cook for Yourself* (Chronicle, 2003, $19.95 paperback).

She makes several points in her introduction. Singles are the fastest-growing segment of the U.S. population, she says. More people now live alone, but most cookbooks don't reflect this, and not all recipes reduce easily or well from quantities serving four or six people.

Goldstein says she has been a single diner for 10 years, knows her way around a kitchen, and has put what she's learned into her book. "I believe that I deserve a great meal, a glass of excellent wine, and the time to relax and enjoy my own company," she writes.

Besides plenty of recipes, Goldstein includes advice on planning, shopping and reheating – many of her recipes are for substantial one-dish meals, she says, and for some people may stretch to two meals.

Here are two main-dish supper recipes for singles to try. The chicken with potatoes and artichokes is a one-dish meal, to make with a recipe created for The Associated Press. The cream of potato soup is adapted from the book; round it out with a green salad.

Chicken With Potatoes and Artichokes

- 3 small red or white potatoes
- 2 boneless skinless chicken thighs, cut into 2 inch pieces, about ⅓ pound
- 1½ tablespoons olive oil
- ½ red onion, chopped
- 4 frozen artichoke hearts, thawed
- 1 large clove garlic, minced
- ½ cup low-sodium chicken broth
- 4 pitted oil-cured black olives, each cut in half
- Salt and pepper, to taste
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice
- 1 tablespoon chopped flat-leaf parsley

Parboil potatoes in salted water until tender; set aside. When cool, cut into ½-inch pieces. (You may want to double the potatoes for use in another recipe.)

Sprinkle chicken pieces with salt and pepper. Heat olive oil in a saute pan over high heat. Add chicken pieces and brown well on all sides. Remove chicken from pan and set aside.

To oil remaining in the pan add onion and saute over medium heat for 5 minutes. Return chicken to onions in pan, add artichoke hearts, garlic, and stock. Bring to a simmer, cover pan and cook over low heat until chicken and artichokes are tender, about 15 to 20 minutes. Add potatoes and olives and heat through. Season with salt, pepper, and lemon juice to taste. Sprinkle with chopped parsley.

Makes 1 serving.

Nutrition information per serving: 645 cal., 34 g pro., 46 g carbo., 35 g total fat (6 g saturated fat), 4 g fiber, 878 mg sodium, 100 mg chol.

Recipe created for AP by Joyce Goldstein, on behalf of the United States Potato Board.

Cream of Potato Soup With Sun-Dried Tomatoes

- 1 tablespoon unsalted butter
- ½ cup chopped onion
- 1½ cups peeled, diced russet potatoes
- 2 cups low-sodium chicken broth
- ¼ cup milk
- ⅛ teaspoon salt, or to taste
- ½ teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
- 1 tablespoon oil-packed sun-dried tomatoes, coarsely chopped
- 1 teaspoon fresh chopped mint

In a heavy saucepan, melt the butter over medium heat.

Add the onion and saute until tender and translucent, 8 to 10 minutes. Add the potatoes and stock and bring to a boil. Reduce the heat to low and simmer, uncovered, until the potatoes are tender, 15 to 20 minutes.

Remove from the heat and add the potatoes, onion and a little of the stock to a blender. Puree until smooth. Return the puree to the pan holding the remaining liquid and reheat gently.

The soup will be thick. Thin it with the milk, season with the salt and pepper, then pour into a warmed soup bowl.

Add sun-dried tomatoes. Garnish with mint and a drizzle of oil from sun-dried tomato jar, if desired.

Makes 1 generous serving (about 2¾ cups).

Recipe adapted from Solo Suppers by Joyce Goldstein, Chronicle, 2003, $19.95 paperback, on behalf of the United States Potato Board.

Pears, apricot preserves sweeten croustade

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A croustade is an edible pastry container, a kind of open pie, not baked in a dish. The French word sounds appealing, evoking the idea of a crisp, flaky crust. When it's filled with pears, as in the following easy, seasonal recipe, you can add other associations: fruity flavor and texture, and rich juice.

Bartlett Pear and Almond Croustade

- Pastry for single pie crust
- 4 ripe, but firm, Bartlett Pears, peeled, cored and sliced
- ¼ cup apricot preserves
- 2 tablespoons brown sugar
- 2 tablespoons cornstarch
- ¾ teaspoon almond extract
- ½ teaspoon cinnamon
- For the Topping:
- 2 tablespoons flour
- 1½ tablespoons butter
- 1 tablespoon brown sugar
- 2 tablespoons sliced almonds

Preheat oven to 400º F.

Lay pastry flat on a large parchment-lined baking sheet and set aside.

Place pears in a medium bowl and add preserves, brown sugar, cornstarch, extract and cinnamon; toss well to coat pears with mixture.

Mound pears in the center of the pastry and gather up the edges up to form a 2-inch rim of pastry around the outside.

In a small bowl, stir together the flour, butter and brown sugar until crumbly; sprinkle over the opening of the pie and top with almonds.

Bake for 20 to 25 minutes or until lightly browned. Let cool for at least 30 minutes to firm up the filling before cutting.

Makes 4 servings.

Nutrition information per serving: 560 cal., 5 g pro., 25 g fat, 81 g carbo., 10 mg chol., 5 g fiber, 340 mg sodium.

Recipe created for AP by the California Pear Advisory Board

PEAR TIPS:

Bartlett pear season runs from July through November.

To ripen Bartletts, place in a bowl at room temperature. Green and firm pears will take four to six days to ripen at room temperature.

When pears turn from green to golden yellow in color, they are at their ripest, most flavorful stage.

Once they have reached desired ripeness, place them in the refrigerator to slow further ripening. They can hold in the refrigerator for almost one week.

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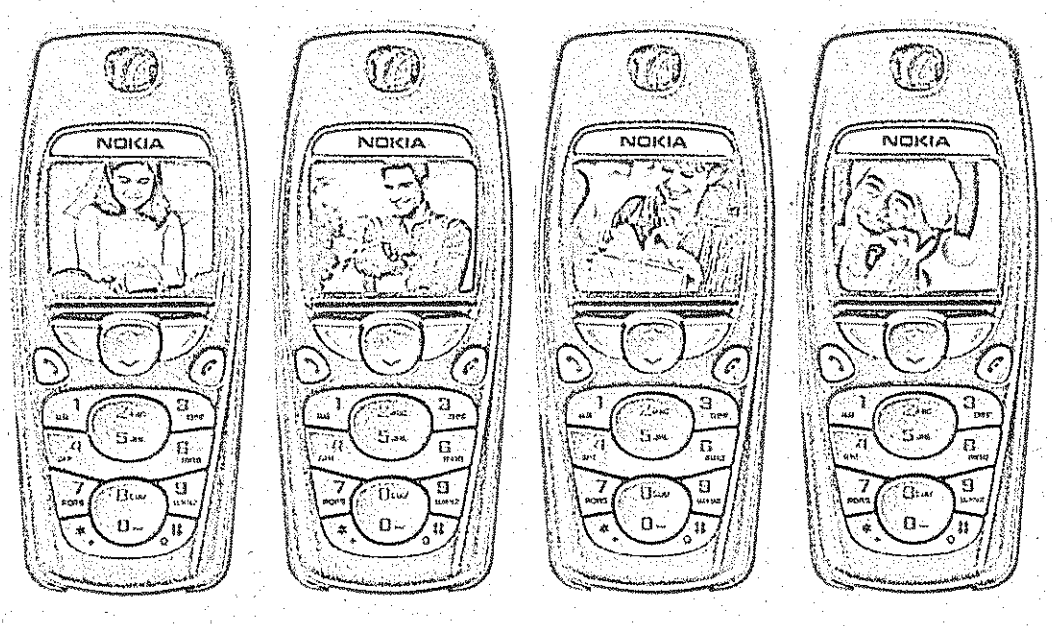

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Seasonal sounds

The Trans-Siberian Orchestra and other musical groups are tuned to put you in the holiday spirit.

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Hot Ticket

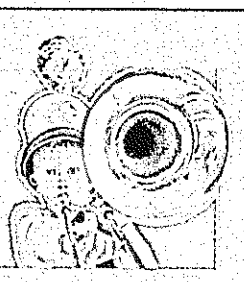
Christmas in the city goes urban at Noel Night. Page 3

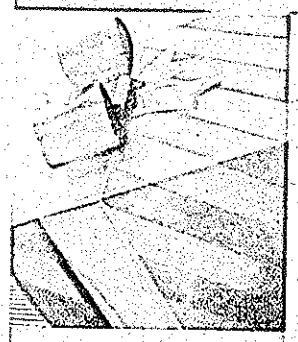
Table Hopping

Don't go to Hard Rock Cafe just for the memorabilia; go for the food. Page 12

BANDS

Tickets to a show or a gift certificate—this season's perfect present!!





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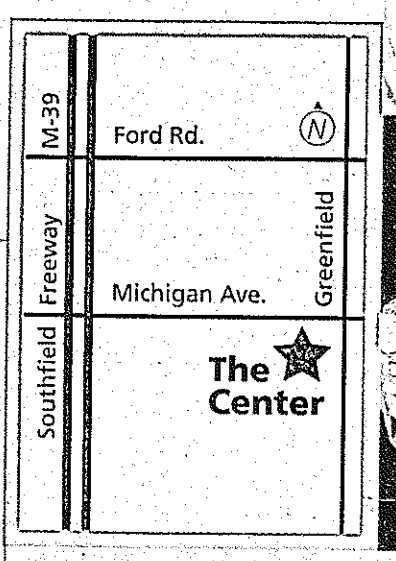

Blues

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A HomeTown Communications Network publication

Christmas in the City

Holiday season goes urban at Noel Night

In the Motor City, you can't ice skate on a plaza under a mammoth Christmas tree in the middle of midtown during the holiday season.

But Detroit does have its own version of Christmas in the city.

It's called Noel Night, and it runs 5-9:30 p.m. Saturday in midtown Detroit's University Cultural Center near the Detroit Institute of Arts and Wayne State University.

In its 31st year, the event packs in a diversity of seasonal sights, sounds and sensations – enough to last the month of December.

"It's a cultural open house – that describes some of the beauty of the event," said Maureen Riley, special events director for the University Cultural Center Association, which organizes Noel Night. "It's a great way to get into the holiday spirit. You can come to Detroit and really hang out. There are literally thousands of people walking around in Detroit."

Talk about city spirit.

There's even a community sing-along on Woodward Avenue led by the Salvation Army Band – a long-standing Noel Night tradition.

To get a sense of the size of the event, consider that more than 20 venues, including the Detroit Institute of Arts, the New Detroit Science Center, the Detroit Historical Museum, the Detroit Public Library, the Max M. Fisher Music Center, Wayne State University and College for Creative Studies, are participating.

Then imagine just about every holiday activity possible, from horse-drawn carriage rides, Victorian church decorations, choir performances and holiday arts and crafts sales to storytellers unraveling the origins of Hanukkah and Kwanza and a puppet show entitled, *An Old-Fashioned Southern Christmas.*

Put it this way: There's more to do and see than even Santa could handle.

"It's definitely not possible to make every venue," Riley said. On the other hand, there's something for everybody, she said.

Noel Night highlights include a showing of the film *It's A Wonderful Life* at the Bonstelle Theatre, the planetarium show *On a Clear Winter's Night* at Wayne State University, a tree-lighting ceremony in the rotunda of the Charles H. Wright Museum of African-American History, "Make and Take" crafts at the Detroit Public Library and performances by the Mosaic Youth Theatre.

Santa will visit with the little ones in several locations. Likewise, cookies, cocoa, hot apple cider and other holiday fare will be sold throughout Noel Night. As might be expected, numerous community music and dance groups are slated to perform as well.

"So look at all the options and plan where you want to go," said Riley.

SET THE TONE

What: 31st annual Noel Night.
When: 5-9:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6.
Where: Midtown Detroit's cultural center and museum district, between Cass and John R, Ferry and Warren.
Admission: Free, including shuttle service. For information, call (313) 577-5088 or visit www.detroitmidtown.com.

COURTESY OF THE UNIVERSITY CULTURAL CENTER ASSOCIATION

The St. Paul's Lutheran Bell Choir performs at Noel Night.

Murphy lacks enthusiasm in comic frightfest

BY BEN NUCKOLS
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

You don't have to sit through much of *The Haunted Mansion* before you realize Eddie Murphy isn't going to pull off what Johnny Depp did for *Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl.*

This time around, the star's wacky antics can't salvage a lame movie based on a theme park ride.

Murphy plods through this would-be comic frightfest without a hint of enthusiasm or fun.

Playing a workaholic huckster of a real estate agent who can't connect with his family, he's painfully insincere, as if he knows too well how far beneath him the material is. It's enough to make his work in *Daddy Day Care* look like the inspired stylings of a comic genius.

The Haunted Mansion is so forced, so mechanical, it's even worse than the scenes without Depp in *Pirates* – a stunning achievement.

Compared with sitting through this, snaking through a 90-minute line at Disney World would feel like sweet relief.

STORY LINE

Murphy is Jim Evers, who runs Evers & Evers Real Estate of New Orleans with wife Sarah (Marsha Thomason). While planning a weekend getaway with their kids – 13 year-old Megan (Aree Davis) and 10-year-old Michael (Marc John Jefferies) – they get a call from Ramsley (Terence Stamp), the zonked-out Gracie Manor butler who indicates the owner wants to sell.

Ramsley asks for Sarah to come alone, but she brings her kids and loudmouth husband along, intending just to take a peek at the property. But a storm forces them to spend the night.

The mansion has a history, involving an ancestor of Master Gracie (Nathaniel Parker), whose romance with a doppleganger of Sarah ended tragically and has left the house, you know, haunted. Exactly how haunted will soon become clear to the Evers family, although the audience is way ahead of them.

The romantic story line raises some apparently unintended questions. An affair a century ago between an Englishman living in New Orleans and a black woman may well have caused a stir, but we never learn what brought Gracie to America or how his beloved Elizabeth came to inhabit his social sphere. Instead, we are encouraged to think about it as little as possible.

But then, why did there have to be a thwarted romance? And why did the resolution have to be so simple?

This is an adaptation of a theme park ride, not a Jane Austen novel – the story possibilities are limited only by the imagination of the screenwriter.

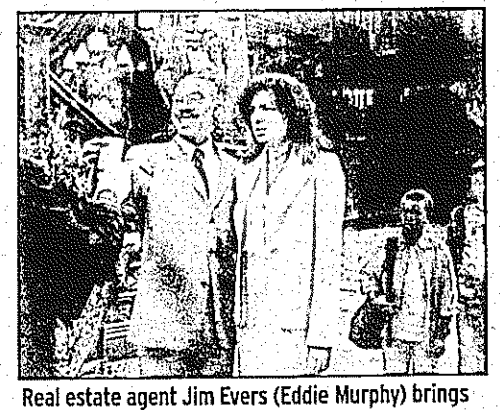
But then *The Haunted Mansion* smacks of a rush job, as if it went into production with a barely completed first draft by David Berenbaum (who wrote *Elf*) so that Disney could have a theme park movie for Thanksgiving.

It certainly doesn't appear that director Rob Minkoff (*Stuart Little*) was given much time to work on the spectral effects, which are hardly an advancement over 1984's *Ghostbusters*.

The capable supporting cast includes Wallace Shawn and Dina Waters as ghostly servants and Jennifer Tilly – who manages to outshine the rest of the cast – as a gypsy fortune teller whose head appears inside a crystal ball.

The Haunted Mansion is a waste of time, money, talent and, in the case of Murphy, a precious natural resource.

The Haunted Mansion, a Walt Disney Pictures release, runs 98 minutes. One star out of four.



Real estate agent Jim Evers (Eddie Murphy) brings his family – wife Sara (Marsha Thomason), son Michael (Marc John Jefferies), and daughter Megan (Aree Davis) – when he's mysteriously called to the mansion.

Murphy plods through this would-be comic frightfest without a hint of enthusiasm or fun. Playing a workaholic huckster of a real estate agent who can't connect with his family, he's painfully insincere, as if he knows too well how far beneath him the material is. It's enough to make his work in 'Daddy Day Care' look like the inspired stylings of a comic genius.

DVD/VIDEO RECOMMENDATIONS

Wondering what film to rent? Here are some recommendations from Blockbuster Video. Visit www.blockbuster.com for more movie and video game information.

Terminator 3: Rise of the Machines – The second sequel to the 1984 sci-fi action classic, Terminator 3: Rise of the Machines.

Finding Nemo – Andrew Stanton, who helped write Toy Story and Monsters, Inc., co-wrote and directed this computer-animated comedy-adventure about finding a very small fish in a very large ocean.

Legally Blonde 2: Red, White & Blonde – Taking home a paycheck that nearly rivals the budget of the first film, Reese Witherspoon reprises the role of Elle Woods in this sequel to 2001's surprise blockbuster Legally Blonde.

Dumb and Dumberer: When Harry Met Lloyd – Director Troy Miller follows up the little-seen Mr. Show movie Run Ronnie Run! with this prequel to Dumb and Dumber, the 1994 box-office smash that starred Jim Carrey and Jeff Daniels and launched the careers of writer/directors Peter Farrelly and Bobby Farrelly.

The Italian Job – A team of high-class thieves avenge their mentor's death – with the help of his own daughter – in this big-budget remake of the 1969 British caper classic. The Hulk – Ang Lee directs the live-action feature film The Hulk, based on the Marvel comic book created by Stan Lee and illustrated by Jack Kirby.

Daddy Day Care – Two fathers get a crash course in caring for kids other than their own in this family-friendly comedy. Charlie Hinton (Eddie Murphy) is an advertising executive whose job monopolizes his time, making it difficult for him to stay in touch with his young son, Ben (Khamani Griffin).

Anger Management – A man comes face to face with the rage he didn't know he had in this comedy starring Adam Sandler.

28 Days Later – Animal rights activists free a group of infected chimpanzees to horrifying results in this speculative sci-fi horror effort from Trainspotting director Danny Boyle.

'Crumb' portrays dark side of celebrated comic book artist

BY DAVID MACGREGOR
CORRESPONDENT

With the holiday season upon us, it's a good bet that you will find yourself at any number of festive family gatherings. And as you gaze about the room at yet another conglomeration of hormone-fueled cousins and eerily organized in-laws you might be tempted to think to yourself, "This has got to be the most dysfunctional family this side of the Mississippi." But wait. Before you commit yourself entirely to that position, you should check out this documentary on comic book artist Robert Crumb and his family.

These days, our ideas of odd or extreme behavior tend to be filtered down to the point that they are palatable for a mass-market audience. And whether it's Rush Limbaugh or Howard Stern or Tom Green, their relative oddness or extremeness is largely a schtick contrived to appeal to this or that demographic. True oddity and true extremity are almost entirely lacking from our popular culture, and it's that void that *Crumb* fills quite admirably.

This is a film that starts out simply enough. Robert Crumb draws comics and his work is collected all over the world as fine art. He is perhaps best known for the "Keep on Truckin'" figure that used to be so popular on truck mud-flaps. But there is more here than meets the eye. From the 1960s onward, Crumb's prodigious artistic output has served to both catalogue and critique our society. And yet, many of his most inspired and disturbing images are created when he looks inside himself. As Crumb notes in the film, he could have been a much more beloved artist if he had stuck to nice, cute images, but it was his darker side that "pushed itself through my pen and onto paper."

It's this dark side that has caused any number of commentators to label Crumb as sexist and racist, while other commentators are just as eager to rush to his defense.

BROTHERS

Any curiosity as to where this dark side came from is put to rest when we meet Crumb's two brothers, Charles and Max. Like Crumb, they are bright, cultured, articulate and astonishingly gifted artists. And yet, Charles lives at home with his mother, re-reading Victorian novels, and Max is a professional beggar in San Francisco who makes a practice of ingesting the same piece of string over and over to "gratify" his insides.

In old family photos, the family looks like something right out of Ozzie and Harriet, but somewhere along the line, something went very wrong.

The power of the film lies in the unflinching way all of the brothers reflect upon their own lives and director Terry Zwigoff's willingness to simply let the camera roll.

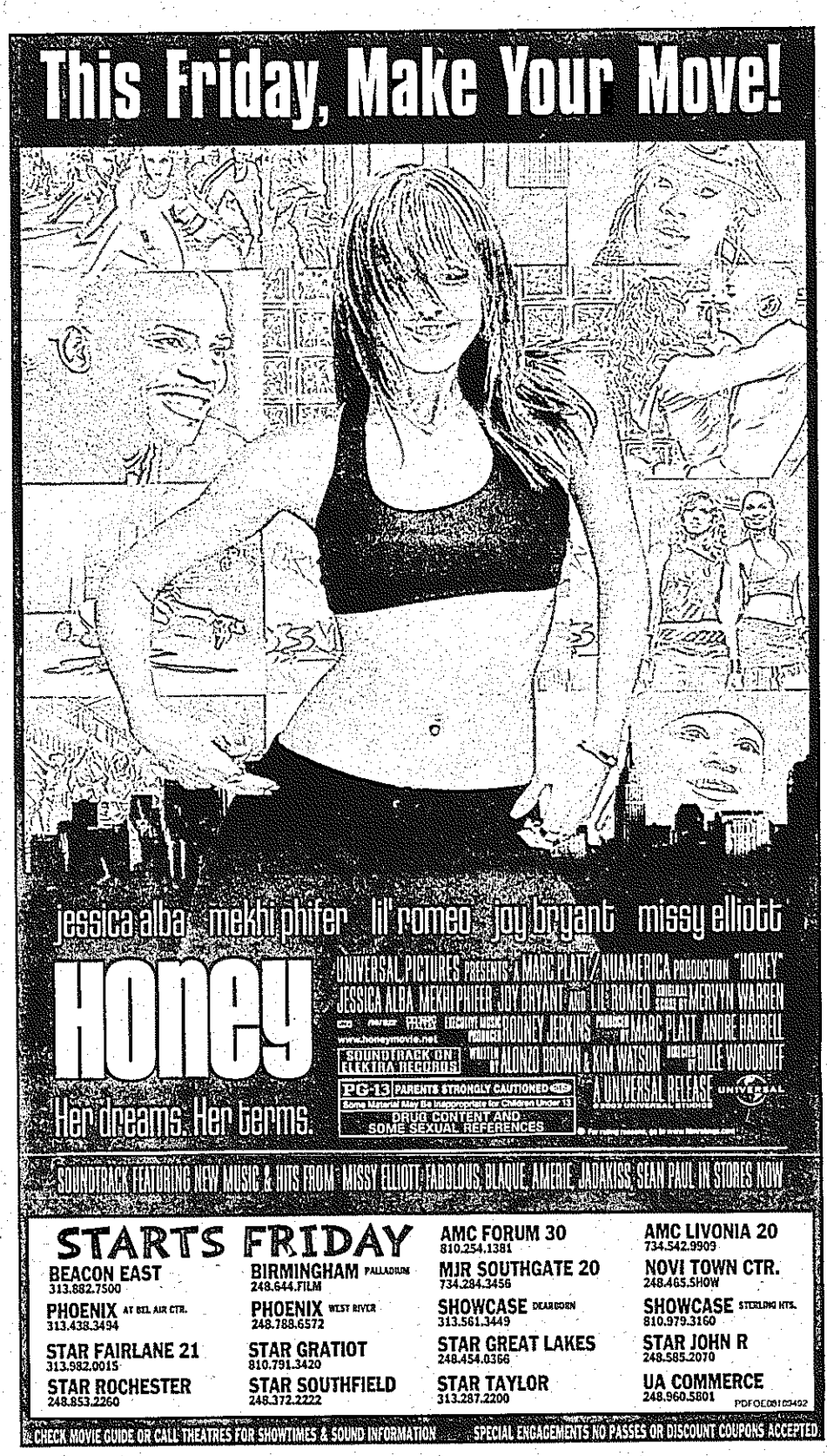
The overlapping stories of the brothers serve to create a complex tapestry of an American family that is all the more compelling because it is true.

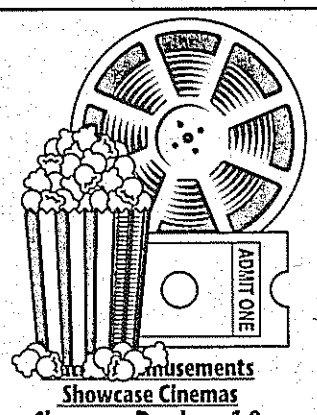
Crumb won the Grand Jury Prize at the Sundance Film Festival in 1995, but it should be noted that this is not a film for children or any viewers with delicate sensibilities.

Personally, I have seen people literally yelling at the figures on the movie screen in their outrage, while other viewers have described it as the most inspiring film they have ever seen. *Crumb* is a raw, honest and extremely poignant documentary that goes to places within the human psyche that very few films go. And at the very least, it will make you think that maybe your own family isn't so bad after all.

David MacGregor is a film instructor at Wayne State University and screenwriter who lives in Livonia.

Comic book artist Robert Crumb and his family are the subject of the documentary 'Crumb.' It won the Grand Jury Prize at the Sundance Film Festival in 1995.





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11:45 12:45 2:15 3:10 (4:30 5:30 @$5.00) 6:50 7:45 9:20 10:00
DR SEUSS' THE CAT IN THE HAT [PG]
12:15 1:00 2:30 3:15 (4:45 5:30 @$5.00) 7:00 7:45 9:15 9:55
ELF [PG]
12:10 1:15 2:45 (4:00 5:15 @$5.00) 6:40 7:40 9:10 10:00
(NP) HONEY [PG13]
1:20 (4:20 @$5.00) 7:20 9:40
(NP)THE MISSING [R]
1:10 (4:15 @$5.00) 7:10 9:50 *
(NP) TIMELINE [PG13]
1:30 (4:20 @$5.00) 7:20 9:45
(NP) BAD SANTA [R]
12:30 2:50 (5:10 @$5.00) 7:30 9:45
MASTER & COMMANDER:FAR SIDE OF THE WORLD
[PG13] 1:00 (4:00 @$5.00) 7:00 10:00
GOTHIKA [R]
1:50 (4:40 @$5.00) 7:15 9:50
LOONEY TUNES:BACK IN ACTION [PG]
11:45
LOVE ACTUALLY [R]
12:50 (4:10 @$5.00) 7:10 9:55
MATRIX REVOLUTIONS [R] 6:50 9:55
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(NP) HONEY [PG13]
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(NP)THE MISSING [R]
1:10 (4:15 @$5.00) 7:10 9:50 *
NO 7:10 ON 12/6
(NP) TIMELINE [PG13]
1:30 (4:20 @$5.00) 7:20 9:45
(NP) BAD SANTA [R]
12:30 2:50 (5:10 @$5.00) 7:30 9:45
MASTER & COMMANDER:FAR SIDE OF THE WORLD
[PG13] 1:00 (4:00 @$5.00) 7:00 9:55
GOTHIKA [R]
1:50 (4:40 @$5.00) 7:15 9:50
LOONEY TUNES:BACK IN ACTION [PG]
11:45
LOVE ACTUALLY [R]
12:50 (4:10 @$5.00) 7:10 9:55
MATRIX REVOLUTIONS [R] 7:00 9:55
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2:00, 5:15, 9:00
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1:30, 4:15, 7:05
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COLD CREEK MANOR (R)
145, 725
FIGHTING TEMPTATIONS (PG13)
1110, 155, 455, 735, 1025
FINDING NEMO (G)
1105, 135, 420, 645, 915
FREAKY FRIDAY (PG)
1115, 140, 425, 710, 940
FREDDY VS JASON (R)
1105, 505, 1015
HOUSE OF THE DEAD (R)
1135, 220, 510, 745, 1000
JEEPERS CREEPERS 2 (R)
1140, 210, 440, 720, 950
ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO (R)
1150, 235, 500,750, 1030
PRIATES OF THE CARIBBEAN (PG13)
1100, 150, 440, 730, 1020
RUNDOWN (PG13)
1145, 230, 515, 755, 1040
S.W.A.T. (PG13)
1125, 205, 450, 740, 1030
SECONDHAND LIONS (PG)
1115, 205, 445, 715, 955
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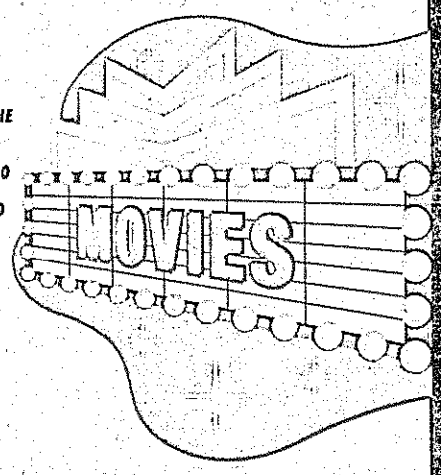

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More movies

'Bad Santa' edgy alternative to feel-good holiday films

BY CHRISTY LEMIRE
AP ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

You better watch out: The ads for *Bad Santa* suggest that it's a wacky holiday romp.

Far from it: The movie is relentlessly dark. It's also infinitely funnier than you'd expect.

Director Terry Zwigoff proves again, as he did with *Ghost World* (one of the best films of 2001), how acutely observant he is of human quirks. And Thornton proves again, as he's done in nearly every film he's ever made, that he's not afraid to play a miserable character.

There's nothing likable about Willie, a part-time department store Santa Claus and full-time alcoholic con man. Yet he's strangely irresistible – to his reluctant partner (Tony Cox), a midget who dresses as an elf; to a bartender (the sexy, adorable Lauren Graham) who happens to have a Santa fetish; and to a chirpy, cherubic boy (Brett Kelly) who truly believes Willie is Kris Kringle and clings to him as a father figure.

Willie and Marcus (Cox, best known for his memorable supporting role in *Me, Myself & Irene*) go from city to city, tolerating the seemingly endless array of children who want something shiny and new on Christmas morning. But the Santa gig is merely an excuse to get inside department stores in order to crack their safes and do a little after-hours shopping on Christmas Eve.

Then they get to Phoenix, where Willie's erratic behavior raises the suspicions of the department store manager (John Ritter in his last film role) and the security chief (an underused Bernie Mac), who's a suspicious character himself. Ritter, to whom the film is dedicated, plays the perfect uptight foil – similar to his character in *Sling Blade*, in which he also co-starred with Thornton.

Willie is profane and anti-social, a chain smoker who drinks so heavily, he's oblivious when he urinates all over himself. He's an unscrupulous shell of a man with no chance at redemption. Thornton plays him as if he were a character in a drama, without a trace of caricature, which makes him totally believable.

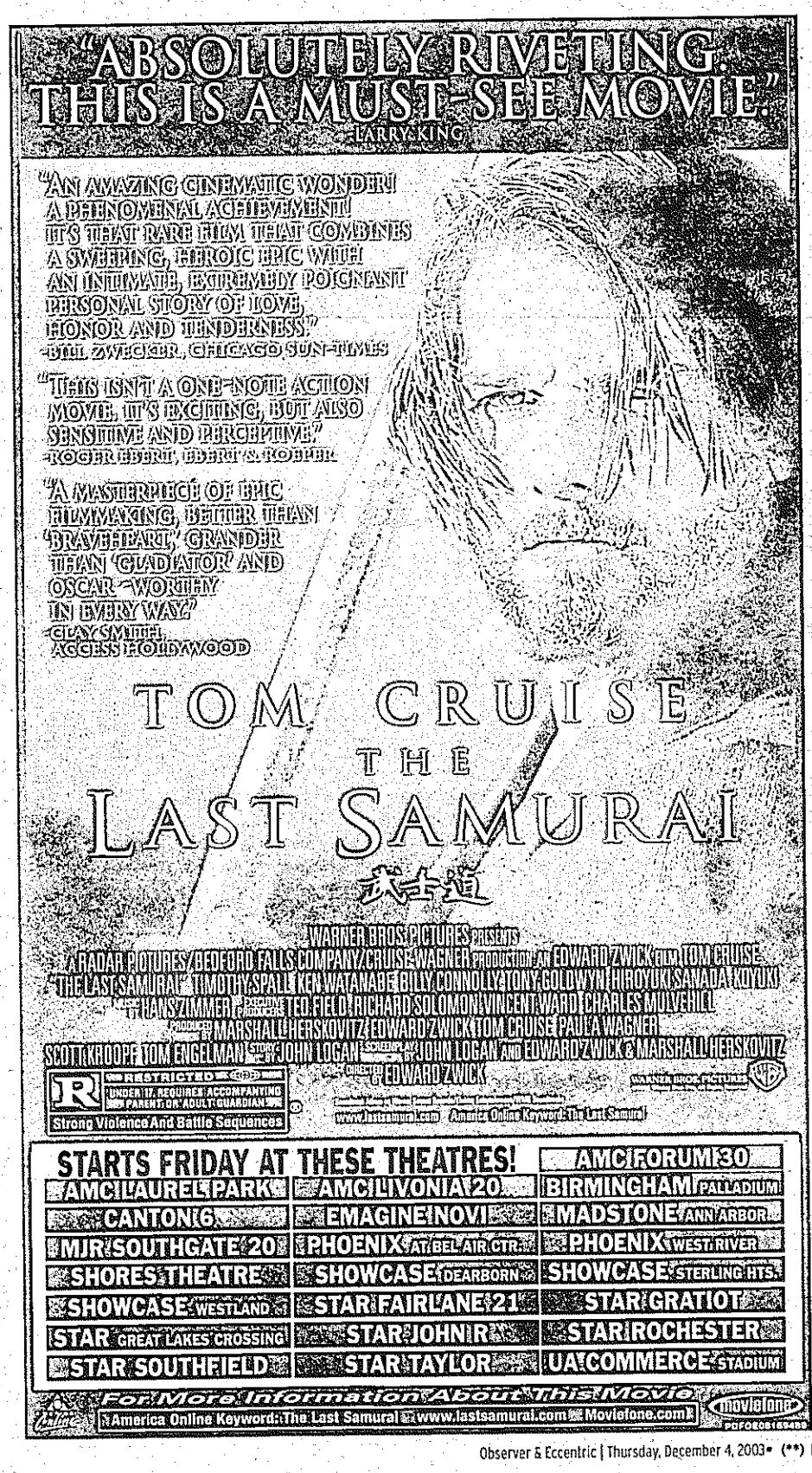
Somehow, Willie stumbles into a cushy life when he moves in with a chubby, insecure boy whose wealthy father is in prison; the only other person in the house is the boy's clueless grandmother (Cloris Leachman). He also gets a girlfriend, whom he didn't pursue but doesn't mind having around.

The humor from screenwriters Glenn Ficarra and John Requa, who also wrote the much tamer *Cats & Dogs*, sneaks up on you. While the film appears on its surface to be yet another exercise in cynicism, like the heavy-handed *Death to Smoochy*, its surreal, deadpan nature is more reminiscent of the underrated *Office Space*.

Even when the film threatens to turn feel-good, it thankfully resists the urge; when Willie finally comes up with a toy for the boy who's befriended him, it's covered in blood.

That's a perfect metaphor for the film itself.

Bad Santa, a Dimension Films release, runs 95 minutes. Three stars out of four.



Old West kidnap thriller feels contrived, obvious

BY BEN NUCKOLS
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

The Missing is Ron Howard's attempt to channel *The Searchers*, but what he achieves in this Western kidnap thriller is closer to *The Elizabeth Smart Story*: cloying and clunky, with the outcome never in doubt.

Howard, who won an Oscar for directing 2001's *A Beautiful Mind*, brings nothing new or exciting to the genres he pools together. *The Missing* is contrived and obvious, with a belabored father-daughter relationship serving as the backdrop for a perfunctory rescue mission.

It would take a far more inventive director than Howard to wrestle something interesting out of Ken Kaufman's meager script, adapted from Thomas Eidson's novel, *The Last Ride*.

The story feels arbitrary, giving us numerous examples of how creepy the villain is but never hinting at his motivations – even though as an American Indian in 1885 New Mexico, he should have plenty.

A ham-fisted scene with Val Kilmer as an Army general makes the point that the U.S. government was doing horrible things to Indians at that time and place, but the villains are presented as simply evil, apart from any social or historical context.

As the nasty mystic Chidin, Eric Schweig chews the scenery behind makeup that makes his face look scarred and pockmarked. He's the Snidely Whiplash of Indians; if he had a mustache, he would certainly twirl it.

The action begins when Chidin kidnaps the teenage daughter (Evan Rachel Wood) of cattle rancher Maggie Gilkeson (Cate Blanchett), intending to sell the girl into either marriage or prostitution (it's never clear) in Mexico.

Before the kidnapping, Howard clumsily introduces Maggie, her boyfriend (Aaron Eckhart), her two daughters (Jenna Boyd plays the younger one, Dot), and her estranged father, Samuel Jones (Tommy Lee Jones), who gets a chilly reception when he shows up uninvited at Maggie's home. It seems Samuel abandoned his family when Maggie was a girl to live with the Apaches.

Fending for herself since childhood, Maggie has become something of a super-frontierswoman: rancher, healer (physician, surgeon and dentist rolled into one), single mother, devout Christian and expert marksman.

She scrapes out a good living for her daughters, but Lily, the future kidnap victim, isn't grateful. Pining for technology and city life, she laments, "I was born into the wrong family, I swear to God I was!"

Are we in the Old West or "The O.C."?

Maggie's boyfriend and hired hand are killed during the kidnapping, and neither the local sheriff nor the Army offer any assistance, reducing her to ask ol' dad to help track the bad guys.

Howard will occasionally stop their journey dead in its tracks for some forced "bonding" between father and daughter.

While Howard includes enough grisly images to get an R rating for violence, he never creates a true sense of danger. We know there are lines that won't be crossed, and we know who will live and who will die heroically and photogenically.

While Howard includes enough grisly images to get an R rating for violence, he never creates a true sense of danger. We know there are lines that won't be crossed, and we know who will live and who will die heroically and photogenically. Howard telegraphs the story with the help of a simplistic, manipulative score by James Horner.

Howard telegraphs the story with the help of a simplistic, manipulative score by James Horner.

Howard also avoids stirring any religious controversy, giving equal credence to Maggie's Christian faith and the Indians' mysticism. When Chidin gets a hold of Maggie's hairbrush and uses the hair from it to hex her, she's saved by what may be history's first interfaith exorcism.

Blanchett is a force of nature, but relatively few directors have taken advantage of her boundless energy (Barry Levinson in the underrated *Bandits* was a notable exception).

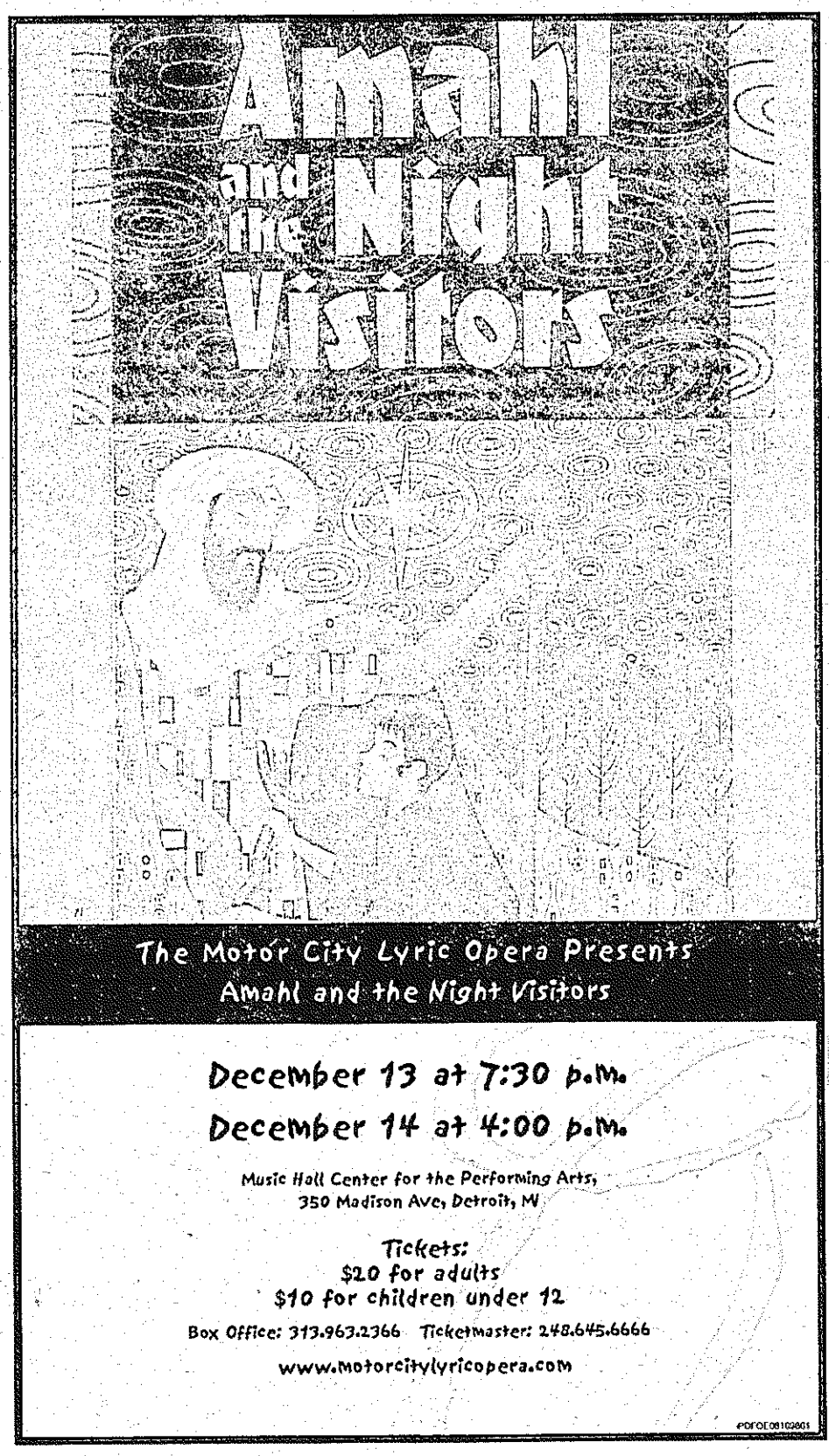
Just as she did in *The Gift* and *Charlotte Gray*, she devotes herself fully to a director's misbegotten vision.

Never an innovator, Howard plays by the contemporary Hollywood rules that say female action heroes can be just as indestructible – and uninteresting – as male ones.

Jones provides a moment or two of quiet levity but frequently veers close to parody. The writers of *Scary Movie 4* will hardly be able to contain themselves as they watch Jones chanting Apache prayers.

But then *The Missing* likely won't be popular enough to spoof.

The Missing, a Columbia Pictures release, runs 130 minutes. One and a half stars out of four.



More movies

'Timeline' shows promise, needs reworking

BY ANTHONY BREZNICAN
AP ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

Why make a time travel movie without a paradox? Why do it? That's like making a submarine movie without leaks, or a romantic-comedy with no wacky misunderstandings.

In *Timeline*, modern-day archaeology students travel back to the 14th century to rescue a colleague and get stuck in a bow-and-arrow battle between the evil British and the kindly French.

Sounds like it's loaded with paradoxes, right? Save the life of one soldier, and maybe the course of history changes. Interfere with an entire battle and the future-as-they-knew-it is obliterated, right?

There is no such delicate speculation in *Timeline*. Instead of timequakes and future-ripples, all we get are battle scenes and students who know who's going to win. This is just an excuse to put a pretty boy (Paul Walker of *The Fast and the Furious*) back in time. There is no mystery or imagination to be found in this "fantasy" from *Jurassic Park* writer Michael Crichton.

Walker plays the son of a famous archaeologist (Billy Connolly), who has disappeared in the midst of researching the 600-year-old ruins in the Dordogne Valley of France. Seems he crossed paths with Robert Doniger (David Thewlis) who heads the International Technology Corp.

Doniger is trying to perfect his 3-D fax machine, a huge mirror-filled contraption that can deconstruct objects into energy and make them appear at a receiver on the other side of the globe. Instead he discovers a wormhole that leads back in time.

THE CATCH

The catch is that it only leads to that one point: April 2, 1357.

The old professor got into the machine and vanished. Now they don't know how to bring him back, so they'll send his son, students and some company security to rescue him.

At best, this feels like a pilot for a TV time-travel series that shows promise but needs some reworking.

Timeline, a Paramount Pictures release, runs 116 minutes. One and a half stars out of four.

125th ums season 03/04

Celebrate the Holidays with Music

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Stephen Salters baritone
Carmen Harlan narrator
Mary Sue Coleman guest conductor
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California State University, Fullerton

Fri 12/5 8 pm
Crisler Arena

Back by popular demand, the Boston Pops Esplanade Orchestra takes center court in Crisler Arena for a special Christmas concert. Complete with seasonal music, standard game-time concessions, and guest appearances by Channel 4's Carmen Harlan and Santa Claus, this event is the perfect holiday celebration for the entire family!

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UMS Choral Union
Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra
Jerry Blackstone conductor
Dominique Labelle soprano
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Steven Tharp tenor
Michael Dean bass-baritone
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Sat 12/6 8 pm
Sun 12/7 2 pm
Michigan Theater

The UMS Choral Union is deeply embedded in the history of UMS; the formation of the ensemble ultimately led to the creation of UMS as a concert presenter 125 years ago. Since then, the ensemble has performed Handel's glorious oratorio, *Messiah*, nearly every season. Join the members of the UMS Choral Union and the Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra for this time-honored tradition. Jerry Blackstone, the Director of Choirs and Chair of the Conducting Department at U-M, serves as interim conductor for the UMS Choral Union during its 125th season.

Supported by Carl and Isabelle Brauer.

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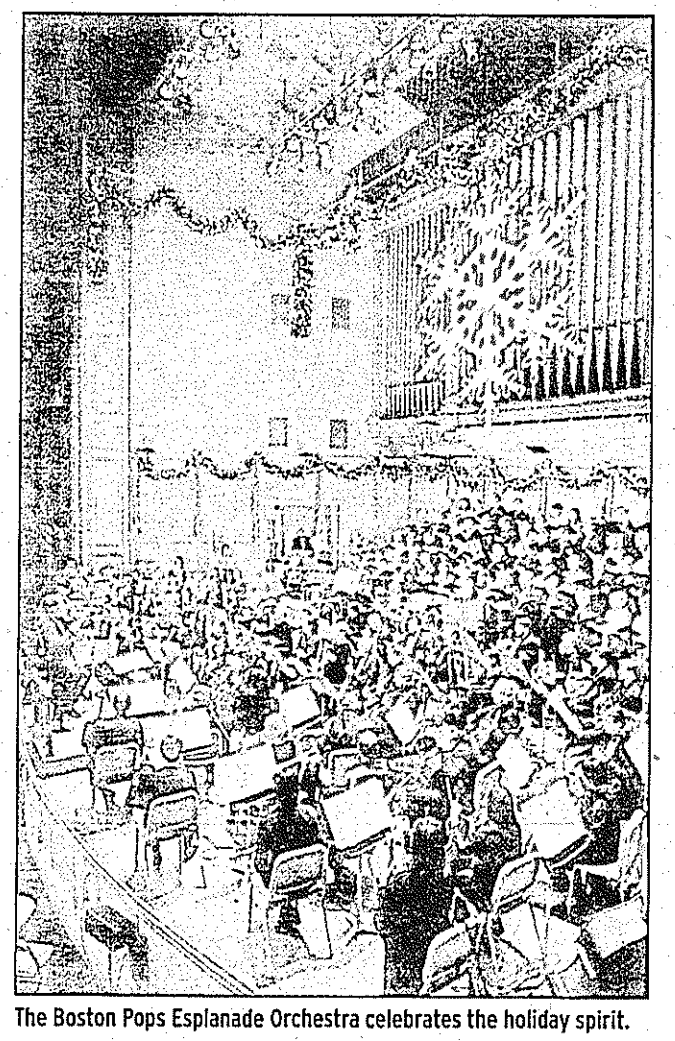
outside the 734 area code, call toll-free 800 221-1229 Ticket Office Hours: M-F 9 am-5 pm, Sat 10 am-1 pm

Seasonal Sounds

Holiday music ranges from metal to classical


The Boston Pops Esplanade Orchestra celebrates the holiday spirit.

CONCERTS

☐ **Boston Pops Esplanade Orchestra Christmas Concert** - 8 p.m. Friday, Crisler Arena, 333 E. Stadium, Ann Arbor. Tickets $18-$60, (734) 764-2358 or www.ums.org

☐ **Trans-Siberian Orchestra** - 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 20, The Palace of Auburn Hills. Tickets $32-$42; (284) 645-6666 or www.trans-siberian.com

☐ **DSO performances** - Kathleen Brass with the DSO, 8 p.m. tonight; The Colors of Christmas featuring Peabo Bryson, Sheena Easton, Christopher Cross and Irene Cara, 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday; Young People's Holiday Concert, 10 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. Saturday; Holiday Baroque, 8 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 11; 10:45 a.m. Friday, Dec. 12; 8:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13; 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14; Handel's *Messiah*, 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 12; 3 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13; Canadian Brass & The DSO, 8 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 17. All events at The Max 3711 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Tickets $10-$69, (313) 576-5111 or www.detroitsymphony.org

☐ **Harry Connick Jr. & His Band** - 8 p.m. Monday, Dec. 8, Detroit Opera House, 1526 Broadway. Tickets $32-$77, (248) 645-6666.

☐ **Detroit Chamber Winds & Strings** - 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 9, Costick Center, 28600 W. Eleven Mile Road, Farmington Hills. Tickets $18 adults, $15 senior citizens and students, (248) 473-1857. Also at 4:30 p.m. Sunday, Christ Church Grosse Pointe, 61 Grosse Pointe Blvd., Grosse Pointe; 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14, First Presbyterian Church, 1669 W. Maple Road, Birmingham. Tickets $19-$25 adults, kids 12 and under are $10. Available at the door or call (248) 559-2095; 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, Dec. 10, 1151 Scott Lake Road, Waterford. Adult admission $15, senior citizens, students are $10; (248) 623-9389.

☐ **Duke Ellington Christmas** - 8 p.m., Friday, Dec. 12, Ford Community & Performing Arts Center in Dearborn. Tickets $24-$30, (313) 943-2350 or www.dearbornfordcenter.com

☐ **Fort Street Chorale's *Messiah*** - 7:30 p.m. Saturday, 3 p.m. Sunday, Historic Fort Street Presbyterian Church, 631 W. Fort St., Detroit. Tickets $15; (313) 961-4533

If the idea of Santa wandering around your house while you and your children sleep seems more creepy than sweet, you might connect well with the haunting holiday sounds of the Trans-Siberian Orchestra performing 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 20, at The Palace of Auburn Hills.

No, the rock opera orchestra doesn't sing that Santa is going to rob us while we rest, but its grand, eerie renditions of holiday songs like *God Rest Ye Merry Gentleman* and *Hark the Herald Angels* Sing are so powerful, they're a bit frightening.

Trans-Siberian Orchestra was formed seven years ago by musician Paul O'Neill. Its holiday performances in metro Detroit have become a growing tradition. For the last several years the group played to sold-out crowds at smaller Detroit locations always on Christmas Eve, but this year it's playing at the Palace because of high demand.

"It's about creating great art," O'Neill said. "The purpose is to create an emotional response in the person that is exposed to that art."

There are three categories of art, O'Neill said: good, bad and great. Bad elicits no emotion. Good may stir emotions felt in the past such as a happy holiday morning. However, great art evokes emotions never experienced. Hence, the strikingly beautiful big holiday music Trans-Siberian performs is unlike any other mainstream holiday music.

This year the choices of other live holiday musical performances vary from the Trans-Siberian Orchestra to Harry Connick Jr., to the Duke Ellington Orchestra, Boston Pops Esplanade Orchestra, and of course the DSO.

If the Trans-Siberian Orchestra isn't traditional enough for you, members of the Canadian Brass will join members of the DSO's brass section for a fun-filled collaboration of lighthearted holiday tunes along with classical and pop compositions on Dec. 17.

The Detroit Chamber Winds and Strings will perform its Holiday Brass show in four area locations: Birmingham, Waterford, Farmington Hills and Grosse Pointe.

BOSTON POPS

Conductor Keith Lockhart and the Boston Pops Esplanade Orchestra bring Boston's Christmas tradition on a four-city tour that includes Ann Arbor. The show on Friday at Crisler Arena on the U-M campus in Ann Arbor features appearances by Carmen Harlan, Channel 4 news anchor, as guest narrator; Mary Sue Coleman, University of Michigan president, as guest conductor; the University Singers of California State University, Fullerton and baritone Stephen Salters.

Light classics, traditional carols and new holiday music are on the program. Highlights include Mozart's arrangement of *For Us A Child Is Born* from Handel's *Messiah*. It also includes Morton Gould's arrangement of the traditional carol *It Came Upon A Midnight Clear*. The show takes a lighter turn later in the evening when Santa arrives on stage and a singalong begins with *Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas, Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer* and more.

The Boston Pop's stellar reputation nationwide is why it was one of the most popular shows last year, said Sara Billmann of the UMS. Conductor Keith Lockhart is part of Pops prestige. Since he joined them in 1995, the orchestra's touring activity has tripled.

OTHER EVENTS

For hipsters, Harry Connick Jr. and His Band present the *Harry for the Holidays* show Monday at the Detroit Opera House. Audiences will be treated to holiday songs in a big band, dance in the aisles swing-era style.

DSO is also hosting holiday events. Tonight's performance at the Max features Kathleen Battle singing holiday spirituals. Battle has appeared on the stages of the world's leading opera houses including the Metro Opera and Royal Opera House, Covent Garden and the opera houses of Vienna, Paris and Chicago. The dynamic *Colors of Christmas* show on Friday and Saturday mixes holiday classics with pop and R&B blockbusters. This year's artists are Peabo Bryson, Sheena Easton, Christopher Cross and Irene Cara.

And one of the DSO's most popular holiday offerings is the *Young People's Holiday Concert* at 10 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. Saturday. Led by conductor Thomas Wilkins, the concert features a singalong, and holiday classics such as Tchaikovsky's *Nutcracker* and *March of the Toys* from Babes in Toyland. This concert is geared for kids ages 4 to 11.

On Dec. 12 the Duke Ellington Orchestra performs traditional classics at the Ford Community & Performing Arts Center in Dearborn. The Duke's grandson, Paul Mercer Ellington, is the conductor and bandleader. Mercer was just 18 when he took over as the bandleader in 1996.

This 'Nutcracker' is for the kids

You better watch out, but not for St. Nick.

Lurking behind the 90-foot Christmas tree on the Detroit Opera House stage are life-sized mice who like to fight with a gigantic toothbrush.

OK, they're really dancers dressed in mouse garb, and the toothbrush is a stage prop.

But soon enough the Nutcracker Prince appears, returning adults and children alike to the fantastical realm of a classic holiday ballet.

The Nutcracker opens tomorrow at the Detroit Opera House with 10 performances, all scheduled for Friday, Saturday or Sunday, through Dec. 12.

"The Cincinnati Ballet's *Nutcracker* is very kid-friendly," said DOH dance coordinator Carol Halsted of the program. "It's very traditional. And it's very funny at times."

Well-known San Francisco Ballet choreographer Val Caniparoli staged the Ohio dance company's rendition of *The Nutcracker*, which is divided into two 45-minute acts and features about 180 costumes.

About 100 local children are set to perform in the show – a young girl's dream about a magical prince, snow queen and sugar plum fairy on Christmas Eve.

The ballet, which is set to a score by Tchaikovsky, was created by Russian choreographer Marius Petipa in the 19th century.

Because *The Nutcracker* is a family show, DOH has scheduled several matinee performances and arranged a variety of activities just for kids.

Prior to each matinee, the opera house will open two hours in advance. Inside, Santa Claus and the Nutcracker Prince, as well as other characters from the ballet, will greet the little ones and sit for photographs.

Box lunches, which are priced $10 and must be pre-ordered, will be served in the General Director's Circle Lounge.

Also planned are clowns, face-painting and a post-show, onstage "Sugar Plum Parade" in which children from the audience can march with the ballet's cast.

"The Nutcracker is a big family show," said Halsted. "This is our way of making it an event."

HOLIDAY FANTASY

What: Cincinnati Ballet's 'The Nutcracker.'

When: 7:30 p.m. Friday; 1 p.m., 2 p.m., 5 p.m. or 7:30 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, Dec. 5-Dec. 12, show times vary according to exact date.

Where: Detroit Opera House, 1526 Broadway, Detroit.

Tickets: $23 to $65, call (313) 237-SING or TicketMaster at (248) 645-6666. Photos, $5, box lunch, which must be pre-ordered, $10. For more information, visit www.MichiganOpera.org.

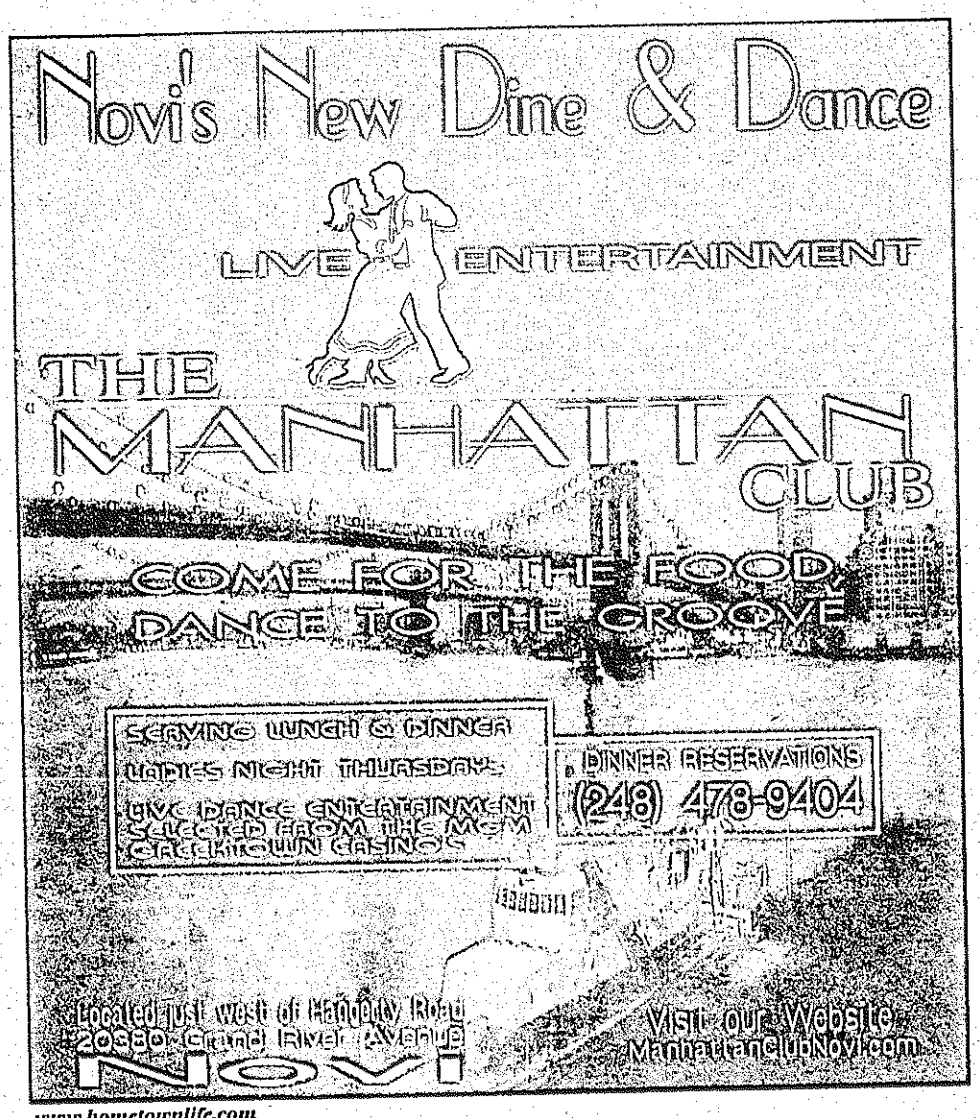


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Table hopping

Things are jumping at new Hard Rock Cafe

Hard Rock Cafe didn't gain fame for its food. People come for the memorabilia, atmosphere and to experience one of the world's most popular chain cafes.

Food seems to be an afterthought, but shouldn't be because the menu is well-planned and varied.

When you get to the Hard Rock Cafe, expect a line. Kill some time browsing in the attached store. Then pass the more than 250 pieces of memorabilia — from Iggy Pop and Madonna to Diana Ross and MC5 — and settle into a table, if you can get one. The cafe inside the Compuware Building World Headquarters in downtown Detroit seats a little under 300 people. In the past two weeks it's been busy from open to close.

"There hasn't been a slow time yet," said employee Tara Hippensteel. "We're busy all the time."

Hard Rock Cafes worldwide, from Rome to Detroit, have similar menus, but the prices vary.

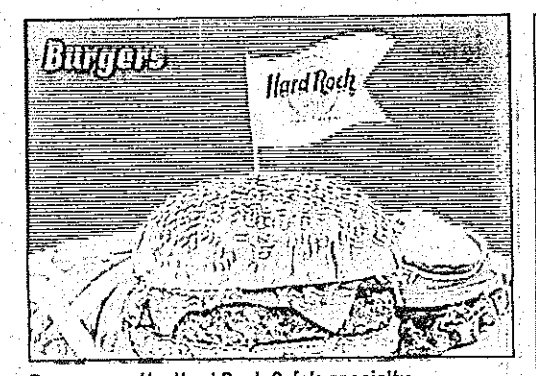
"New York and L.A. of course have higher prices than Detroit," Hippensteel said.

Here you can get the Hard Rock's signature drink, the Hurricane, in a 23-ounce take-home glass for $9.99.

"Not a bad price considering the glass costs $7.99 at the store," she said.

Try Electric Iced Tea – vodka, rum, gin, Blue Curacao, and sour mix with lemon lime soda.

Hard Rock Cafe offers a variety of beers including Rolling Rock, Budweiser, Sam Adams, Coors Light, Bass Ale, Labatt's Blue, Corona, Corona Light, and Heineken. Sam Adams, Bass Ale and Budweiser are on tap.



Burgers are the Hard Rock Cafe's specialty.

BURGERS

Hard Rock's burgers are the hottest menu item.

"They're the classics here," Hippensteel said.

Burgers are made with ground chuck, lightly seasoned, cooked to order and served on a freshly toasted bun. The Hickory Bar-B-Que bacon cheeseburger is basted with hickory barbecue sauce, smothered with caramelized onions, and topped with crisp peppered bacon and melted Cheddar cheese. The Natural Veggie Burger – vegetables, rice, cheese and spices – is served on a toasted bun with alfalfa sprouts, tomato, onion, lettuce and Cajun mustard mayonnaise.

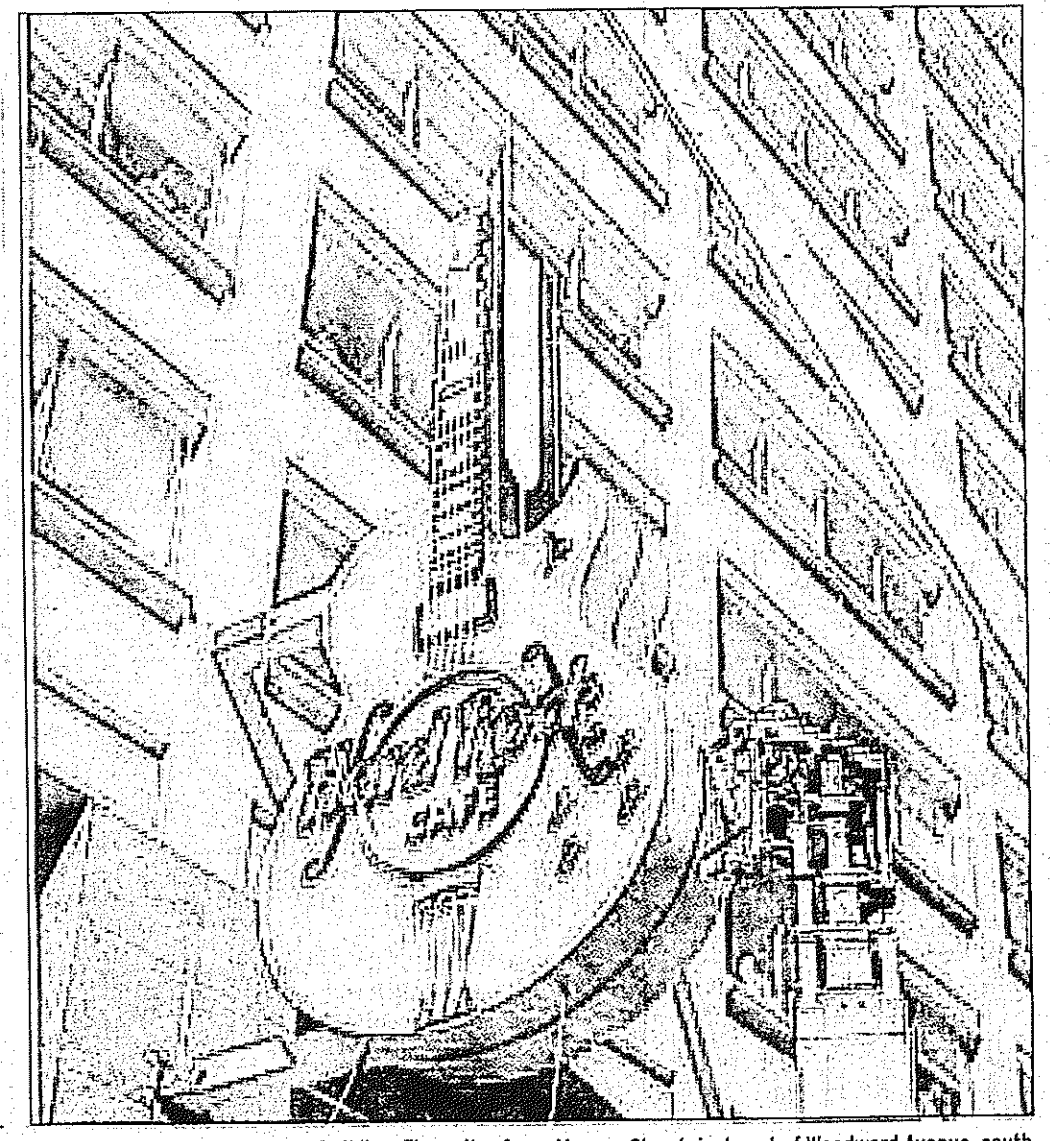
Try the Hard Rock house salad, a mix of crisp greens, onions, tomatoes, black olives, shredded carrots and homemade croutons. Also popular is the Haystack Chicken Salad – fresh mixed greens, carrots, corn, diced tomatoes, tortilla straws, shredded cheese, Tupelo fried chicken or grilled chicken breast, topped with Ranch dressing and spicy pecans.

The cafe is also known for its specialties like grilled fajitas – chicken, beef or fresh veggies – with salsa, jack and cheddar cheese, guacamole, sour cream, lettuce and hot tortillas. It's served with pinto beans and seasoned rice.

Roasted vegetable pasta with pesto – fresh roasted vegetables tossed in a pesto sauce served over ziti noodles and garnished with fresh parmesan and parsley — is another popular dish. You can add grilled shrimp or chicken for an additional charge.

For dessert try the Homestyle Cheesecake – signature cheesecake in a walnut-graham cracker crust, with a honey sour cream topping. Or Hard Rock Cafe's Signature Ice Cream – vanilla, strawberry, or chocolate.

While memorabilia makes the cafe a tourist destination, the quality menu makes it worth a return visit when you're looking for a fun, energetic evening.


Hard Rock is in the Compuware Building. The guitar faces Monroe Street, just east of Woodward Avenue, south of the Fox Theatre.

HARD ROCK CAFE

Where: 45 Monroe St. at Woodward Avenue inside Compuware World Headquarters, downtown Detroit, (313) 964-7625

Open: 11 a.m. to midnight Sunday-Thursday; 11 a.m. to 1 a.m. Friday-Saturday

Cost: Lunch entrees start at $4; dinner $15.

Parking: In the Compuware parking structure, free for two hours with validation

Web site: www.hardrock.com

Reservations: Not accepted

MENU HIGHLIGHTS

Starters: Onion rings with hickory barbecue sauce.

Sandwiches: Jerk chicken - breast of chicken marinated in spicy Jerk seasoning, chargrilled and topped with melted pepper Jack cheese and lime mayonnaise, served on a toasted bun with coleslaw and fries. Veggie sandwich - sliced avocado, tomatoes, Swiss cheese, onions, leaf lettuce, alfalfa sprouts, and roasted garlic mayonnaise on a French sub roll. Served with celery and carrot sticks and a side of ranch dressing.

Specialties: Grilled shrimp fettuccine parmesan, roasted vegetable pasta and grilled fajitas.

Bar highlights: Martini classic rock - a traditional Martini served with vodka or gin, up or on the rocks, with olives or a lemon twist. Yellow Submarine - peach Schnapps, banana liqueur, orange juice and pineapple juice. Riders on the Storms is a Hard Rock original - a blend of orange and pineapple juice with a splash of cranberry, Absolut Citron, peach Schnapps, and banana liqueur.

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Drinkology

Drink a little history and delicious reds

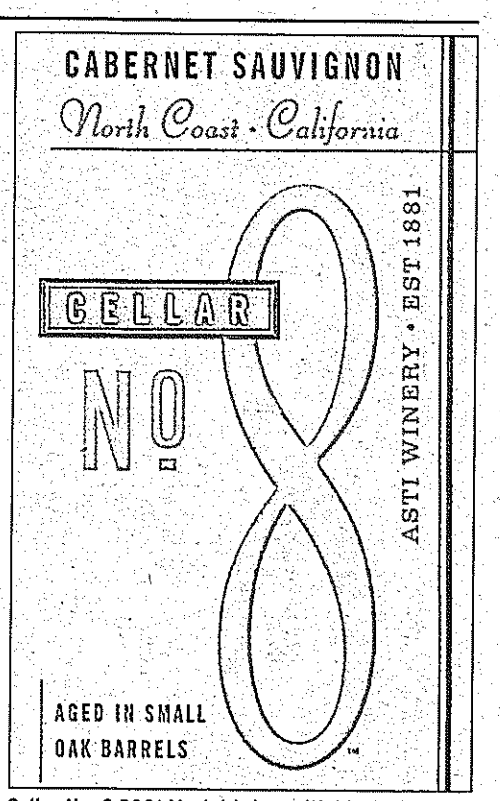
BY ELEANOR AND RAY HEALD
CORRESPONDENTS

Asti Winery 2001 Cellar No. 8 wines pay tribute to the original cellar at Asti Winery, dating back to the early 1880s.

That's when Andrea Sbarboro, an Italian immigrant and San Francisco banker, moved to California's northern Sonoma County and formed a community around the soul of winemaking.

Named after the Asti region in northern Italy, the original Asti Winery followed winemaking practices from the old country. Today, Cellar No. 8 pays tribute to the original cellar but uses state-of-the-art equipment to craft its rich, robust reds, each $14.

Cellar No. 8 2001 Merlot brims with black cherry fruit and gobs of flavor; cabernet sauvignon has layers of complex nuances and a touch of chocolate richness; and the Zinfandel has petite sirah blended in, offering a spicy kick to the finish.



Cellar No. 8 2001 Merlot brims with black cherry fruit and gobs of flavor.

All wines are enhanced by aging in premium oak barrels that enrich the wine, while retaining varietal character. At this price, California reds don't get much better. It's a toast to heritage and some very good wines at sensible prices!

Contact the **Healds** at (734) 953-2047, mailbox 1864#.

Festive meal

Celebrate the season Renaissance-style

Costumed servers will bring dinner, finishing with a flaming dessert. A limited number of VIP seats for guests in authentic costume are available for onstage dining with Queen Bess and her court.

The Players and the Renaissance Dance Company are joining forces to bring a cherished holiday tradition back to Detroit.

Wassailfest takes place at the Historic Players Playhouse Friday-Saturday, Dec. 12-13. Doors open 6:30 p.m. Trumpeters will herald the feast's commencement at 7:30 p.m.

Tickets are $50 per person (tables of six) or $75 for VIP seating. Call (313) 259-3385. The Players Playhouse is at 3321 E. Jefferson in Detroit.

Beefeaters dressed in royal red and gold will welcome guests to Wassailfest and lead them to a banquet hall festooned with banners, pennants and colorful murals.

Costumed servers will bring dinner, finishing with a flaming dessert. A limited number of VIP seats for guests in authentic costume are available for onstage dining with Queen Bess and her court.

For almost 30 years the Detroit Institute of Arts presented the Wassail Fest each holiday season delighting guests with an evening of Elizabethan feasting, frolic and fun. The final curtain came down on the at the DIA in 1999 when organizers started searching for a permanent home.

They found one at the Historic Players Playhouse. Designed in Mediterranean Renaissance style by Player William E. Kapp of Meadowbrook Hall and Scarab Hall fame, the dinner theater was built by the Players in 1925. It is listed on both the National and Michigan Register of Historic Places.

The same group of costumed entertainers that charmed audiences in the Great Hall of the DIA will take the stage at the Players Playhouse.

Renaissance Dance Company of Detroit will present the spirited dances of the court of Good Queen Bess, portrayed by founder and artistic director Harriet Berg. Master of Revels Gary Carpenter will keep the evening rollicking along. Neil Woodward will serenade on the lute, Wizard Charles Deak will amaze everyone with his magic, and Perry Perrault, the Marcel Marceau of Michigan, will render the audience speechless with his silent shenanigans.

Event proceeds support the Players and the Detroit Renaissance Dance Theatre.

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Downtowns ready to greet holiday shoppers

Holiday shopping choices are endless, here's just a sample of what some cities are doing this year:

In Rochester, Santa visits the downtown shopping area 1-3 p.m. Saturday, and on Dec. 13 and 20 in the Main Street Plaza lobby, 414 Main Street. The Rochester Lions club will take photos when your child visits Mr. Claus.

Saturday and Sunday is *A Plymouth Christmas* in downtown Plymouth. Hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday. Events include: Carolers on street corners; folks dressed up in Old World costumes; Little Drummer Boy marching and playing; Santa will be in his house; free horse and carriage rides; and refreshments in each shop. For more information call the Plymouth Chamber of Commerce at (734) 453-1540.

Also, Walk of Trees, Dec. 8-27, features decorated Christmas trees throughout Kellogg Park on Main Street between Penniman Avenue and Ann Arbor Trail in downtown Plymouth.

Native West – Unique American Southwest Art – presents its 14th Annual Jewelry Festival Thursday-Sunday. Opening reception is 3-9 p.m. tonight.

The gallery is at 863 W. Ann Arbor Trail in downtown Plymouth, (734) 455-8838.

The show features an assortment of sterling silver with turquoise, opals, coral and gold, Native American and contemporary jewelry. Gallery hours are 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday.

BIRMINGHAM

Birmingham's Holiday Moonlight Shopping Spree is Friday. Downtown stores will be open until 10 p.m. Shoppers can enjoy free carriage rides, see holiday carolers on the corners and enjoy some of the elaborate holiday window displays created by retailers.

Friday, Dec. 14, is the First Annual Downtown Birmingham Jewelry Crawl.

A mini bus will take shoppers to the city's jewelers who are hosting trunk shows and other specials.

'It spawned from the art gallery crawls. Many of our jewelers create original works of art ... and this time of year jewelry is the hot topic, so it all just fit together.'

John Heiney
executive director, Birmingham PSD

Hours are 6-10 p.m. and shuttles are available throughout the downtown area.

John Heiney, executive director of the downtown Birmingham Principle Shopping District, said the 14 participating jewelers will also host in-store events to raise money for COTS (Coalition on Temporary Shelter) of Oakland County. The idea for the event stems from the city's other successful events.

"It spawned from the art gallery crawls," Heiney said. "Many of our jewelers create original works of art ... and this time of year jewelry is the hot topic, so it all just fit together."

Some of the stores will also pass out free movie tickets to the Palladium Theatre.

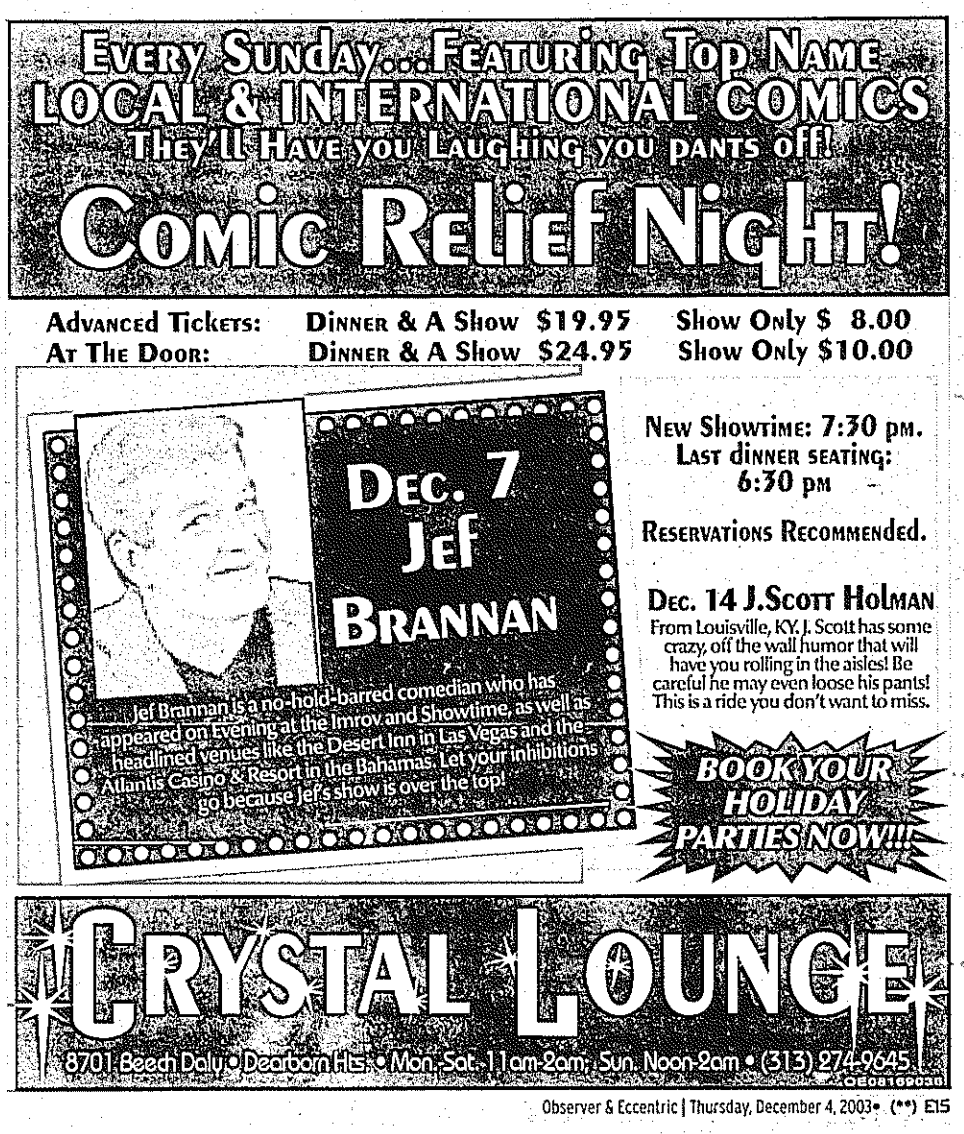
Downtown Holly presents its Dickens Olde Fashioned Christmas Festival every weekend through Dec. 21. For more information, call (248) 634-1900 or visit www.hollymi.com

Oakland Mall has changed its hours for the holidays.

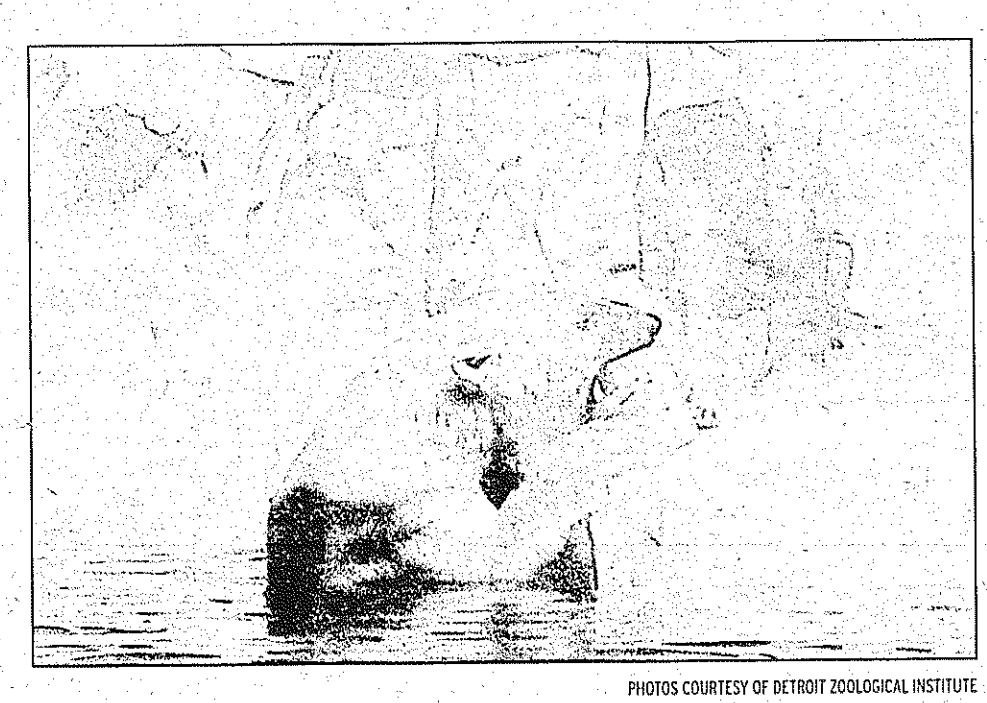
The mall is open 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday-Saturday, and until 9 p.m. on Sunday. However, mall hours expand further to 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Dec. 19-20; 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 21; 8 a.m. to 11 p.m., Monday-Tuesday, Dec. 22-23; and 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 24. Oakland Mall will be open 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 26, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 27; and 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 28.

Regular mall hours resume Dec. 29. The mall will be open on New Year's Eve until 6 p.m. and closed on Christmas and New Year's Day.

Chicago Nancy and Steve Price do some window shopping in downtown Birmingham.



Pancakes and Polar bears



PHOTOS COURTESY OF DETROIT ZOOLOGICAL INSTITUTE

Santa Claus isn't the only attraction at Wild Winter at the Detroit Zoo. Be sure to visit Polar Passage and see the big white bears.

Wild Winter makes for a North Pole-like adventure

Hey, it's no Winter Wonderland at the mall.

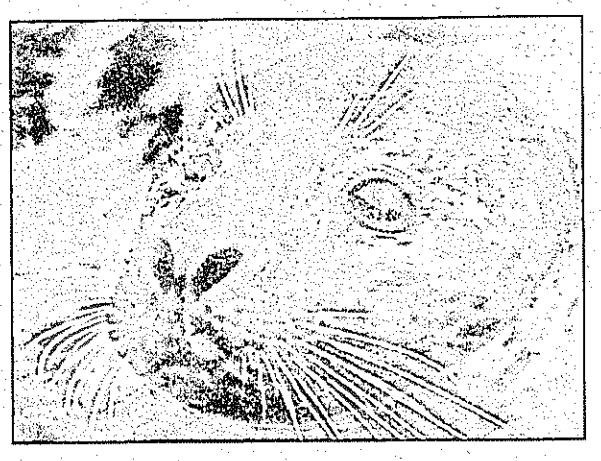
So if North Pole ambiance is what you're looking for, pay a visit to Santa Claus in an alternative locale this holiday season.

The Detroit Zoological Institute's third Annual Wild Winter, slated Saturdays, Dec. 6, 13 and 20, has the best of both worlds.

After a pancake breakfast with St. Nick inside the Wildlife Interpretive Gallery, little ones can frolic outdoors, or better yet, head to the Arctic Ring of Life for an authentic taste of Santa's chilly headquarters.

"It's a great wintertime visit," said Rana Kozouz, director of public relations at the Detroit Zoo in Royal Oak.

Arctic Ring of Life takes visitors on a trek to the North Pole to experience the tundra, open sea and pack ice of the Arctic environment. Inside Polar Passage, there's a 70-foot long clear tunnel that winds beneath a pool of diving polar bears and swimming seals.



All of the Detroit Zoo's favorite 'characters' await visitors to Wild Winter.

Other icy habitat creatures to see include the Arctic Fox, which changes color from grayish brown to pure white in the winter, snow monkeys soaking in their steamy hot tub and the Zoo's ever-popular penguins.

"This will be the first winter that our tiger cubs get to experience," Kozouz said of another surely popular animal exhibit this winter. "They'll see snow for the first time."

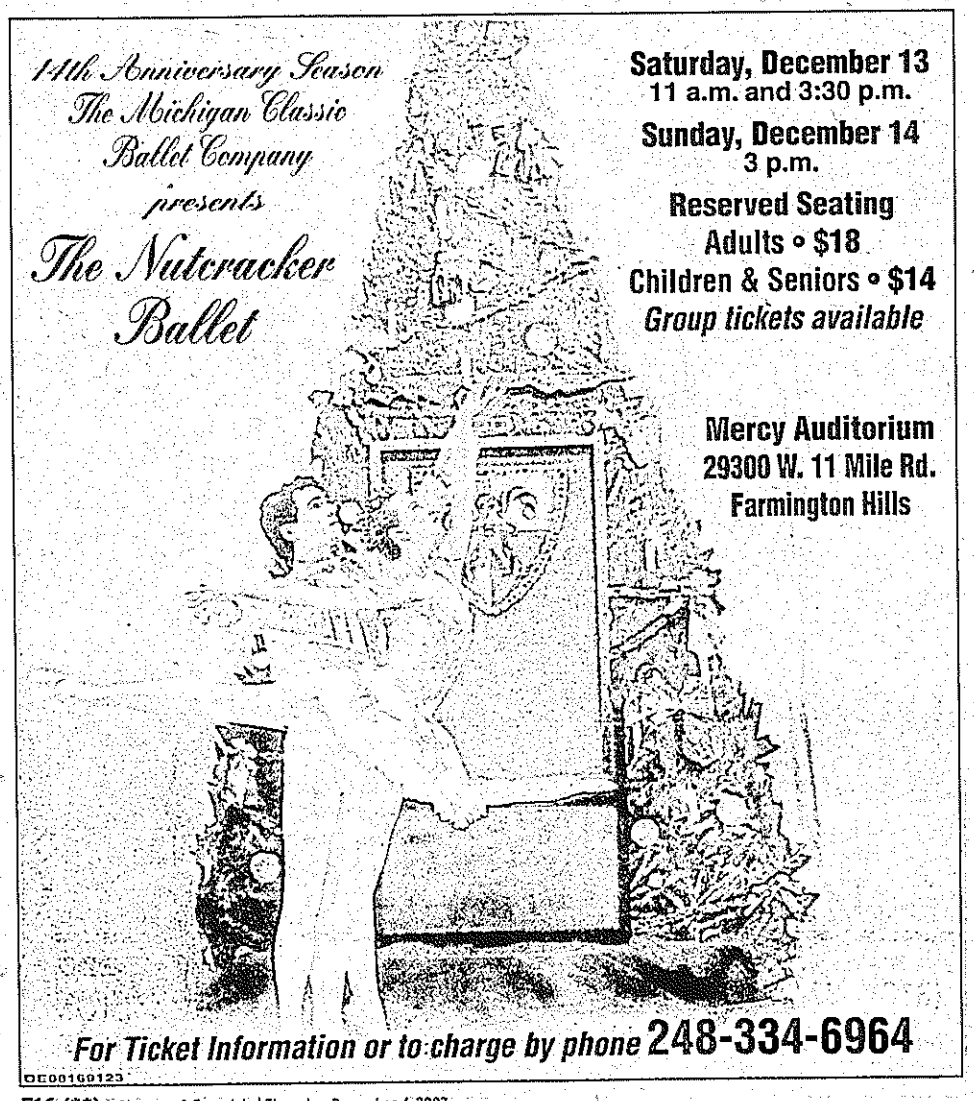
Holiday activities, decorated trees and other programs are also planned.

And when the chill outdoors gets frightful, take refuge inside one of the zoo's many indoor exhibits, all of which are open.

Who knows? Maybe the reptiles have turned silver and green.

WINTER WONDERLAND

What: 3rd Annual Wild Winter, family-style pancake breakfast with Santa at the Zoo.
When: 8:30-10 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 6, 13 and 20.
Where: Detroit Zoological Institute (in Wildlife Interpretive Gallery), 10 Mile Road at Woodward Avenue, just off I-696, Royal Oak.
Tickets: $35, adult, $20, children 12 and under (members receive discount), all tickets include regular admission and parking, call Detroit Zoological Society at (248) 541-5717 then select option 1, reservations required. For general information, call (248) 398-0900 visit www.detroitzoo.org.



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Art

Shop and slacken

Annual Potters Market serves dual purpose

'Tis the season for multi-tasking.

So if you're of the artsy persuasion, the 28th Annual Potters Market might qualify as both a gift-shopping expedition and a break from the holiday madness.

Slated Friday-Sunday at the United Food and Commercial Hall in Madison Heights, the event features 137 potters and almost 40,000 pieces of pottery.

Styles run the gamut from whimsical and decorative to functional and innovative.

"It's hard for me to believe, but the Detroit Potters Market has really become a Detroit institution," said Charlie Blosser, founder of the event and head of the ceramics technology department at Oakland Community College, Royal Oak campus.

The Potters Market is presented by the advanced students in the school's program, which has garnered praise for its training in technique and craftsmanship over the years.

A portion of the proceeds supports upgrades to the school's pottery studio, while the majority of sales goes directly to the artists.

Last year, attendance at the Potters Market reached 9,000 over the show's three-day period.

Prices range from $5 to $400, and all types of pottery are represented, including tiles, bird baths, sculpture, lamps, jewelry and Raku pots.

No need to come early, though.

"The advantage of this sale is that we constantly restock," said Blosser.

Plus, there's 14 cash registers.

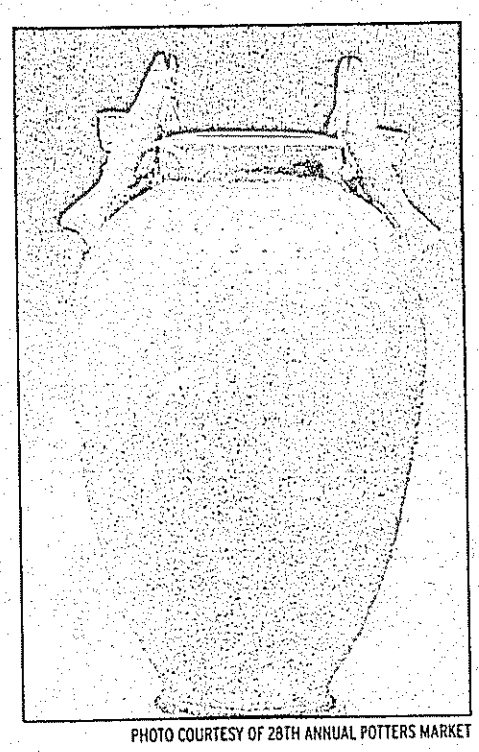

PHOTO COURTESY OF 28TH ANNUAL POTTERS MARKET

Stoneware by John Herbon is among the 40,000 pieces of pottery set to show at the 28th Annual Potters Market.

POT OF GOLD

What: 28th Annual Potters Market.

When: 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Friday; 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday; and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday.

Where: United Food and Commercial Union Hall, 876 Horace Brown Drive, south of 13 Mile Road and east of I-75, Madison Heights.

Admission: Free, including parking. For details, call (248) 246-2686 or visit www.thepottersmarket.com.

AT THE GALLERIES

Send, fax or e-mail information about new shows and receptions to Keely Kaleski, Assistant Managing Editor Features, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham, MI 48009, fax (248) 644-1314, e-mail kkaleski@oe.homecomm.net

Benefit stroll

Downtown Rochester 6-9 p.m. Friday features nine galleries including Eugenia's Third Street Hair/Gallery, 212 W. Third, corner of Pine. Proceeds from the evening's activities will go to Paint a Miracle, an organization that provides art classes for people with disabilities, and Suite Dreams, a group dedicated to providing special bedroom decor for children with chronic illnesses. Call (248) 656-0560.

Epiphany

Annual holiday show and sale, 2-10 p.m. Friday, noon to 5 p.m. Saturday, 770 Orchard Lake Road, Pontiac, (248) 745-3786, www.epiphanyglass.com. Glass blowing demonstrations, appetizers, gift wrapping/shipping available.

Lawrence St. Gallery

Celebrate Clay 2003 juried exhibition features one-of-a-kind pieces celebrating the uniqueness of clay, through Dec. 26. Opening reception 7-10 p.m. Friday, 22620 Woodward Ave., second block south of Nine Mile Road, Ferndale, (248) 544-0394, www.lawrencestreetgallery.com

Waterford Cultural Council Gallery

Collection of works by area watercolor artist, George Hemingway are on display through January. Opening reception for the artist 6:30-9 p.m. Friday, 5860 Andersonville Road, Waterford. Refreshments will be offered, and Hemingway will be available to share stories about his work. For details, call (248) 623-9389.

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Send fax or e-mail items for consideration in Get Out! To Keely Kaleski, assistant managing editor for features, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham, MI 48009, fax (2480 644-1314 or e-mail kkaleski@oe.homecomm.net

PROFESSIONAL THEATER

Detroit Repertory Theatre
Here and There by Esther Blumenfeld 8:30 p.m. Thursday-Friday; 3 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. Saturday; 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Sunday; $17; through Dec. 28, and New Year's Eve, 13103 Woodrow Wilson, Detroit; (313) 868-1347, www.detroitreptheatre.com

Century Theatre
Forbidden Christmas, 8 p.m. Wednesday, 2 p.m. & 8 p.m. Thursday, 8:30 p.m. Friday, 3 p.m. & 8:30 p.m. Saturday, 2:30 p.m. & 6:30 p.m. Sunday, $28.50-$37.50, dinner packages available, (313) 963-9800.

Meadow Brook Theatre
A Christmas Carol, through Dec. 21, campus of Oakland University, call (248) 377-3300 or Ticketmaster (248) 645-6666.

The Masonic Temple Theatre
The Producers, the new Mel Brooks musical, through Jan. 11 with Bob Amaral in the role of producer Max Bialystock, $27.50 to $75, (248) 645-6666, (313) 872-1000, www.nederlanderdetroit.com

Jewish Ensemble Theatre
Nobody's Gilgul by Lois Roisman continues to Jan. 4, Aaron DeRoy Theatre, 6600 W. Maple, corner of Drake, West Bloomfield, $20 to $32, discounts for seniors/students, (248) 788-2900.

The Radio City Christmas Spectacular
Through Dec. 27 at the Fox Theatre in Detroit. Tickets $18-$60.50, (313) 471-6611.

DINNER THEATER

Genitti's Hole-in-the wall
My Big Fat Michigan Holiday, dinner and show, every evening, through Wednesday, Dec. 31, $45; Children's theater, *Yap, Yammer and Yelp*, interactive lunch theater, Saturday-Sunday to Dec. 28, $12.95 children, $14.95 adults, 108 E. Main, Northville, (248) 349-0522, www.genittis.com

COMMUNITY THEATER

Farmington Players
On Golden Pond by Ernest Thompson 8 p.m. Thursday-Friday, Dec. 4-6, 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 7; Farmington Players Barn, 32332 W. 12 Mile Road, $13; (248) 553-2955.

Rosedale Community Players
The Clown Who Ran Away, a holiday show for the whole family, 2 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, Dec. 6-7, Dec. 13-14, Upstage Theatre, 21728 Grand Rive, 1/4 block east of Lahser Road, Detroit, $10 adults, $5 children, (313) 532-4010.

Broadway Studio Theatre
Scrooge Tells All, a new one-man adaptation of A Christmas Carol featuring Royal Shakespeare Company actor John Kane, 8 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, 1515 Broadway, Detroit, $15 & $8, (313) 965-1515.

COLLEGE

Hilberry
David Mamet's *Glengarry Glen Ross* opens 8 p.m. Friday continues in rotating repertoire to Jan. 31, 4743 Cass, Wayne State University campus, Detroit, $12 to $20, (313) 577-2972.

Eastern Michigan University
The Secret Garden, 8 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, Dec. 4-6, 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 6, Quirk Theatre, EMU campus, Ypsilanti. $6 Thursday performances, $14 Friday-Saturday, $12 Sunday, $2 discount for tickets purchased more than 30 minutes in advance, (734) 487-1221.

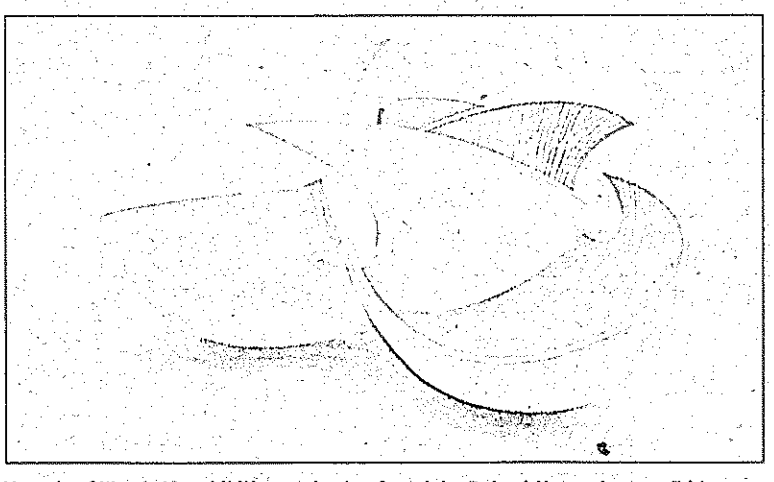
Bonstelle Theatre
It's a Wonderful Life, 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Dec. 5-6, Dec. 12-13, 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 7 and Dec. 11, 3424 Woodward Ave., corner of Eliot, Detroit, $10 adults, $8 seniors/students, (313) 577-2960.

University of Michigan
The Nutcracker by David Hammond 8 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, 2 p.m. Sunday, Power Center for the Performing Arts in Ann Arbor, 121 Fletcher St., $20 and $15, $7 students, (734) 764-2538.

YOUTH

Marquis Theatre
Christmas Bells are Ringing will be performing 7:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Dec. 6-17. The musical show is a mix of old and new tunes of the Christmas season. Tickets $12 adults, seniors/students $10. *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*, 2:30 p.m. Saturday-Sunday through Jan. 18, 135 E. Main St., Northville, $8, (248) 349-8110.

Children's only holiday shop
Through Dec. 6, children ages 3 to 11 will be assisted by teen and adult volunteers as they shop for gifts that range in price from $1 to $10, including tax. For more information, contact the Community House, 380 S. Bates St., Birmingham, (248) 644-5832.



Vessels of Wood: An exhibition and sale of work by Robert Howard opens Friday and runs through Dec. 20 at Sybaris Gallery, 803 N. Main St., Royal Oak. Opening reception 6-8 p.m. Friday. For more information, call (248) 892-2985 or e-mail sybarisgallery@comcast.net

British actor John Kane is Ebenezer Scrooge in a new one-man adaptation of Dickens' 'A Christmas Tale,' called 'Scrooge Tells All,' 8 p.m. Thursday-Saturday at 1515 Broadway Studio Theatre in downtown Detroit. Tickets $15 & $8, call (313) 965-1515.

Anderson Theatre
The Flight Fantastic in collaboration with Henry Ford Museum, 2:30 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, Dec. 6-7, 13-14, 20-21 and 27-30. $8 adults, $7 children, For reservations, call (313) 982-6001.

Theatre Livonia
Christmas Magic & A Charlie Brown Christmas, Dec. 6-7, Dec. 13-14, Dec. 20-21, lunch at noon show at 1 p.m. on Saturday, lunch at 1 p.m. show 2 p.m. Sunday, lunch & show $10, show only $7, Livonia Mall, 29514 Middlebelt at 7 Mile Road, use G entrance. *Miracle on 34th Street* 8 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, Dec. 11-13, 18-20, 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14 & 21, $8 adults, $6 seniors/students. (586) 344-7774.

Multicultural Soup
Folk tales from around the world, a presentation for young audiences, to Dec. 7 in Adray Auditorium, MacKenzie Fine Arts Center, Henry Ford Community College, 5101 Evergreen, Dearborn, performances 7 p.m. Friday, 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday, 3 p.m. Sunday, $7 adults, $4 children under 16, (313) 845-6475.

International Figure Skating Challenge
Featuring top singles stars, 7:30 p.m. Friday, The Palace, $15, $25 and $55, (248) 645-6666.

AUDITIONS

The Swan
Open casting call to participate in a new reality show that offers participants the opportunity to undergo a full-life makeover, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, Detroit/Southfield Embassy Suites, 28100 Franklin Road, Southfield, www.swancasting.com or www.Fox.com

SRO Productions
Beau Jest by James Sherman, 6:30 p.m. Monday, Dec. 8, Bergh Church, corner of Civic Center Drive and Berg Road (one light east of Telegraph, north of 10 Mile Road). Call (248) 796-4645 for information.

Bloomfield Players
*Honk (*award-winning musical version of *The Ugly Duckling*) 6:15-10 p.m. Monday-Tuesday, Dec. 8-9, Lahser High School, 3456 Lahser Road, Bloomfield Hills. www.bloomfieldplayers.org or call Steve and Sandi Krupa (248) 698-3498.

Broadway Onstage
Graceland & Asleep on the Wind and *Wearing the Same Dress*, 7:30 p.m. Monday and Wednesday, Dec. 8 and 10, 21517 Kelly at Toepfer (8 1/2 Mile Road) Eastpointe, call Dennis Wickline (586) 771-6333.

Spotlight Players
Formerly Plymouth Theatre Guild, auditions for *Steel Magnolias* by Robert Harling, 7 p.m. Monday-Tuesday, Dec. 15-16, Arts 1 Room in the Summit, 46000 Summit Parkway, Canton. Roles for six women, age 20 and older. Call (248) 701-1780 for information. All shows will be dinner theater performances, www.spotlightplayers.net

Youth Dream Choir
A multi-cultural musical escape for students in grades 4-8, auditions by appointment only, Dec. 15-17, Baldwin Library, 300 W. Merrill, Birmingham, rehearse 4:30-6:30 p.m. Mondays beginning in January at First Presbyterian Church, Birmingham. Call (313) 341-0448 or (248) 219-7644 for appointment, tuition/scholarship information, or email information@projectdaydream.com

DANCE

Ballroom Dancing
Moondusters will host ballroom dancing to live bands, featuring popular swing, fox trot, waltz, cha-cha and other Latin 8:30-11:30 p.m. every Saturday $6. Dressy attire. Singles and married. Meet at the Livonia Civic Center, 15218 Farmington Road and Five Mile, Livonia. Ballroom dance lessons 7-8 p.m. Saturday, call Joe (248) 968-5197.

Scottish Country Dance
Lessons 7 p.m. Thursday, Madison Heights, United Methodist Church, 246 E. 11 Mile Road, $4, first night free, no partner required, (248) 637-2824.

Sangria/Sky Club
Salsa night with DJ, Wednesday-Thursday, free salsa lessons at 8:30 p.m., 401 S. Lafayette, Royal Oak, (248) 543-1964, $5 cover, 21 and over, www.salsaDetroit.com

Heat
Salsa, Merengue, Bachata, DJ. free salsa lessons at 8:30 p.m. Friday, 2 N. Saginaw, Pontiac, (248) 756-4821, $7 cover, 18 and over, www.salsa.Detroit.com

Half Past Three
Latin night with DJ, free salsa lessons 8:30 p.m. Saturday, Grand River Avenue, two blocks east of Motor City Casino, Detroit, $8 cover, 21 and over, (313) 304-8953, www.salsaDetroit.com

COMEDY

Mark Ridley's Comedy Castle Dan Grueter with Keith Lenhart 8 p.m. Thursday, 8 p.m. & 10:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday, 269 E. Fourth, Royal Oak, (248) 542-9900, www.comedycastley.com. Next week Steve McGrew.

Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase
Peter Berman, 8 p.m. Thursday, 8 p.m. & 10:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday, 314 E. Liberty, Ann Arbor, (734) 996-9080.

Second City Detroit
Ten, 8 p.m. Wednesday-Thursday ($15), 7:30 p.m. & 10 p.m. Friday-Saturday ($20); Best of the Second City Touring Company 7 p.m. Sunday, ($12), 2301 Woodward Ave., Detroit, (313) 965-2222. Dinner show packages available. Call for information.

FOLK/WORLD/COUNTRY

Blackthorn
At O'Mara's Restaurant and Pub, 2555 W. 12 Mile Road, Berkley, 9:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Dec. 5-6, Dec. 19-20; (248) 399-6750, www.blackthorn1.com

John Cowley & Sons Irish Tavern
Shamrock Shore 9:30 p.m. tonight, Who Cares, (classic rock) 10 p.m. Friday-Saturday, 33338 Grand River, Farmington, (248) 474-5941.

Chris Winkler (left) and Bob McSweeney are featured in 'On Golden Pond' presented by the Farmington Players 8 p.m. Thursday-Saturday at the Farmington Players Barn, 32332 W. 12 Mile Road, Farmington Hills. Tickets $13, call (248) 553-2955 or www.farmingtonplayers.org

JAZZ/BLUES/MOTOWN

Ron's Fireside Inn
Larry Nozero, reeds, 7:30-11 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 10; 28937 Warren, Garden City, $5 cover with dinner, $10 cover without dinner and two-drink minimum, reservations recommended; Dec. 17, Barbara Ware, vocals, (734) 762-7756.**Mocha's Coffee Bar and Cafe**
Classic tunes of saxophonist Alan Posner and keyboardist, Justin Wedes, 8-11 p.m. Friday, Dec. 12; 6343 Haggerty Road, West Bloomfield, (248) 669-7400.

Edison's
The Blue Kings, 9:30 p.m. to 1:30 a.m. Friday; John D. Lamb, 9:30 p.m. to 1:30 a.m. Saturday, 220 Merrill St., Birmingham, (248) 645-2150.

Bakers Keyboard Lounge
Detroit Women in R&B perform their Blues to Gospel Brunch 1-3 p.m. Sunday, $20 including brunch, 20510 Eight Mile Road, corner of Livernois, Detroit, (248) 366-0027 or www.katehartblues.com

Paul Keller CD Release Party
Christmas Songs for Jazz Lovers 3-4:30 p.m. Sunday, Firefly Club, 207 S. Ashley St., Ann Arbor, $10, (734) 665-9090

ROCK

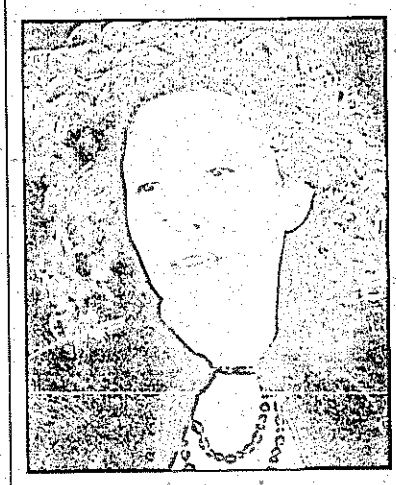
Silky's Martini & Musical Cafe
Ted Lamont (acoustic rock) Thursday, KGB (Motown) Friday, Pat Brennan Band (classic rock), Saturday, 9 p.m. to 1 a.m., 21931 Michigan Ave., Dearborn, $5 cover weekends after 8:30 p.m., (313) 565-6278, www.silkyslounge.com

A Doo Wop Christmas Spectacular
Featuring Terry Johnson & the Flamingos, Frankie Lymon's "Legendary" Teenagers, The Reflections, and Shirley Alston Reeves, 8 p.m. Saturday, Ford Performing ARts Center, 15801 Michigan Ave., Dearborn. $25, $35, $45 & $55, (313) 943-2354, Ext. 1.

NUTCRACKER BALLET

Plymouth Symphony Orchestra
With the Plymouth-Canton Ballet and Plymouth Educational Park Madrigal Singers, 11 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6, 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 7, Salem High School auditorium, 46181 Joy Road, Canton, $18 adults, $10 children. Sugar Plum Tea in cafeteria after performance. Tea tickets $5, (734) 451-2112 or www.plymouthsymphony.org

Flint Institute of Music
Features 80 local dancers and professional dancers from Dance Theatre of Harlem with the Flint Symphony Orchestra, 3 p.m. and 8 p.m. Saturday, 3 p.m. Sunday, The Whiting, 1241 E. Kearsley St., (888) 8-CENTER, (810) 237-7333 or www.flintinstitute of music, $9 to $28.



Melissa Manchester will join Al Jarreau and David Benoit in 'Charlie Brown & Friends - A Family Christmas Concert.' 7 p.m. Sunday at The Palace. Tickets $25-$65, at www.palacenet.com or call Ticketmaster at (248) 645-6666.

Michigan Classic Ballet
Will perform the Nutcracker Ballet at Mercy High School in Farmington Hills, 29300 West 11 Mile Road, 11 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13 and 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14. $18 adult, $14 senior/children (to age 12), (248) 334-6964.

University of Michigan
UM School of Music, Dept. of Theatre & Drama, 8 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, 2 p.m. Sunday, Power Center, $20 & $15, students $8, (734) 764-2538.

Eisenhower Dance Ensemble
Land of Nod and other dances 7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 12, Oakland Community College, Orchard Ridge Campus, 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14, John Armstrong Performing Arts Center, Clinton Township. $15, call (248) 522-3420 for Dec. 12 concert tickets, (586) 783-6520 for Dec. 14 tickets.

HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS/CONCERTS

Habatat Galleries
Reception to meet Leah Wingfield 7:30-10 p.m. Friday, 202 E. Maple Road, Birmingham, (248) 203-9900, www.habatat.com

Caribbean Christmas
Part of the Birmingham-First Concert Series 7:30 p.m. Friday, First Presbyterian Church of Birmingham, 1669 W. Maple, meet the artist reception follows program.

Detroit Lutheran Singers
Christmas in Song, from the 16th century to the present, 8 p.m. Friday, Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, 1800 W. Maple Road, Birmingham; 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Historic Trinity Lutheran Church, 1345 Gratiot Ave., Detroit, 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13, St. John Lutheran Church, 16339 14 Mile Road, Fraser.

'Messiah'
Presented by the University Musical Society 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6, 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 7, Michigan Theatre, 603 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. $24, $20, $14, $12, (734) 764-2538, (800) 221-1229, www.ums.org

Madrigal Chorale
Holiday music 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6, Old St. Mary's Church, St. Antoine & Monroe, Greektown, Detroit, $15 in advance, $18 at door, (248) 650-3208.

Chancel Choir
And soloists will present parts I and III of Handel's Messiah 7:30 p.m. Sunday in the sanctuary at Kirk in the Hills, 1340 W. Long Lake Road, Bloomfield Hills. $15, $12 seniors, $10 students, (248) 626-2515, Ext. 109.

Cantata Academy Chorale
Magnificent & Messiah, 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 7, St. Ambrose Catholic Church, 15020 Hampton St., Grosse Pointe Park and 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13, First Community Presbyterian Church, 44400 W. 10 Mile Road, Novi, $15, students/seniors $12.

Hope Holiday Musical Festival
Features Ortheia Barnes, Ron Coden Phil Esser, Robert Jones, Matt Watroba, Josh White Jr., and others, 3-6 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 7, North Rosedale Park Community House, 18445 Scarsdale, Detroit, $25, (313) 494-5500.

WJR Christmas Sing
Hosted by Paul W. Smith, 7:30-8:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 9, Greenfield Village, in front of the clock tower, features Wayne Renaissance Barbershop Chorus and River's Edge Chorus, will be broadcast live on WJR 760 AM.

Nardin Park
Holiday concert with the Madonna University Chorale, 3 p.m. Sunday, 29887 W. 11 Mile Road, Farmington Hills, $5.

Christmas Tapestry
Schoolcraft College Community Choir 7 p.m. Saturday, Cathedral Church of St. Paul, 4800 Woodward between Warren and Hancock and 4 p.m. Sunday at St. Matthew's United Methodist Church, 30900 W. Six Mile Road, between Merriman and Middlebelt.

Birmingham Concert Band
A holiday celebration with the Oakland Singers Encore, 3:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14, Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, 1800 W. Maple Road, www.birminghamconcertband.com

FILM

Uptown Birmingham 8
Classic Film Series 11:10 a.m., 1:10 p.m., 3:15 p.m., 5:15 p.m., 7:20 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. every Wednesday, 211 S. Old Woodward Ave., Birmingham, $5.50, (248) 644-FILM.

Film Wrap
With Ray MacDonald the last Friday of each month, 9-11 p.m. at the Scarab Club, 217 Farnsworth, Detroit. Discussion of the month's film showing at the Detroit Film Theatre. Donation $5, (313) 831-1250.

MUSEUMS, PARKS AND TOURS

Stoney Creek Metropark
Travels with a Naturalist - Africa: Hujambo Tanzania, 7:30 p.m. Friday, Nature Center, $2, call (800) 477-7756 to register.

Kensington Metropark
Nature Crafts for Kids 2 p.m. Saturday, $5 per participant, call (800) 477-3178 to register.

Cranbrook Institute of Science
Full Circle First Contact: Vikings and Skraelings in Newfoundland and Labrador, through Jan. 4, 39221 Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills, $7 adults, $5 children (877) 462-7262, www.cranbrook.edu

Rochester Hills Museum at Van Hoosen Farm
The 16-acre museum complex tells the story of Oakland County's earliest pioneers. Admission includes tours of the 1840 Van Hoosen Farmhouse, 1850 Tenant Red House and 1927 Van Hoosen Dairy Barn. The museum's new permanent exhibit, A Lively Town, uses more than 200 images and 100 artifacts to show the development of the Rochester area. Hours are 1-4 p.m. Wednesday-Saturday, at the museum on Van Hoosen Road, one mile east of Rochester Road off Tienken. (248) 645-4663 or visit www.rochesterhills.org/museum.htm

Tank of gas

Holland presents Winterfest

The streets of downtown Holland are alive with Dutch tradition and holiday cheer during Winterfest, which continues through Saturday, Dec. 13. This award-winning downtown is home to over 100 shops, galleries and eateries including the Holland Outlet Center and special import shops at Dutch Village and DeKlomp Wooden Shoe & Delft Factory. Warmed cobblestone sidewalks, Victorian lamp-posts, holiday lights and music provide a splendid backdrop for a weekend get-away.

Be sure to visit Kerstmarkt in Centennial Park. The European Christmas market offers a step back to the turn of the century when the park was Holland's central marketplace. Vendors offer unique gifts and food from charming wooden booths that line the winding brick pathways. Live holiday music echoes from the gazebo and lights twinkle from every tree and lamppost.

Booth selections include Christmas ornaments, Dutch gifts, hand-painted folk art, fresh greenery, garden decorations, handmade jewelry, homemade soaps, bakery goods, warm snacks and beverages. Hours are 5-8 p.m. Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, through Dec. 13.

Saturday, Dec. 13, highlights include an ice sculpting competition, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Centennial Park; Christmas Celebration Concert, featuring the Holland Chorale and Symphony Orchestra, 3:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. in Dimnent Chapel; and performances of *Mr. Scrooge* in the Holland Civic Theatre at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Concert tickets are $15 adult, $12 student, call (619) 494-0256. *Mr. Scrooge* tickets are $10, call (616) 396-2021.

At the Holland Museum, *Norman Rockwell: Covering America* – Saturday Evening Post covers from the Curtis Publishing Company Collection are on display through Jan. 4. *Sweet Saint Nicholas* – a private collection of holiday cookie planks and candy molds – continues through Jan. 26. Museum admission is $3 adult, $2 senior or child, call (616) 392-9084 for more information.

For more information contact the Holland Area Convention and Visitors Bureau, (800) 506-1299 or www.holland.org

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Bonstelle Theatre

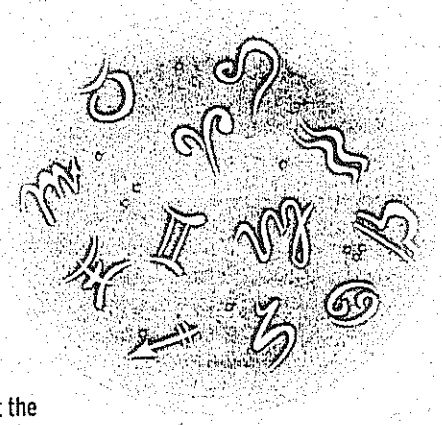
The historic Bonstelle Theatre is located at 3424 Woodward Ave., at the corner of Eliot.

Wayne State University

Horoscope

Star Struck

(Dec. 4-Dec. 6)
By Dennis Fairchild



ARIES (March 21-April 20)

Patience is hardly your strong point at the best of times. Impetuous Mars warns to keep a cautious rein on your temper and tongue now. Why push yourself to the limit when you can go further by lessening the stress in your life? Play for time and you'll play for keeps.

TAURUS (April 21-May 21)

Your strong sense of right and wrong has you in a good planetary position now, and you instinctively know whether or not an authority figure is telling you the entire truth. A subtle approach is far more effective now - avoid speaking your mind for another week.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21)

What you want and what other people think you should have are entirely different-colored horses, and it seems that you have to now decide whether to listen to yourself or others. A compromise may be the simplest solution - but is it the right one for you?

CANCER (June 22-July 23)

Avoid self-recrimination and soul-searching; they will lead you nowhere right now. Above all, you need an injection of self-confidence. Much more is going on than you seem to realize. Have faith in yourself, Moon Child - nothing is too wonderful to be true!

LEO (July 24-Aug 23)

You tend to demand a great deal of yourself, but don't think friends and certain family are meeting your high expectations right now, eh? Offer help and encouragement, if necessary, but don't show disappointment if they fail to live up to your hopes.

VIRGO (Aug 24-Sept 23)

Your self-assurance will be at an all-time high during pre-holidays, as well as your ability to prove yourself a class act. With so many potent planetary perks affecting you now, your biggest risk lies in doing too much, too soon. Little steps can overtake giant strides.

LIBRA (Sept 24-Oct 23)

If partners or colleagues seem uncooperative, it is probably due to their personal insecurities. Be patient and polite, and you will find that their tune changes as the week progresses. Trust your instincts and you'll know exactly how to handle a tricky situation.

SCORPIO (Oct 24-Nov 22)

YCertain people are too willing to take advantage of your overdeveloped sense of duty, and you may have to pull up your emotional drawbridge for the sake of your own happiness. The less pressure you're under, the more you'll achieve.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23-Dec 21)

The message is clear: The really stinky times are over, and no one can restrict or deceive you. Almost every Archer has a sad tale to tell, but it is more important that you bounce back now, rather than dwell on unwelcome experiences. Stand strong, and hold court!

CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 21)

The past few weeks have been about closing doors or ending associations that became costly in more ways than one. Now, however, you must put the pieces of your very own jigsaw puzzle together and create a picture of which you're proud. Enjoy and display it!

AQUARIUS (Jan 22-Feb 19)

Attitude and approach is what cosmically counts right now, and you'll get further focusing on the grand plan rather than tiny details. The expectations of business partners and loved ones is great - but so are your own. Think "success" and you will succeed!

PISCES (Feb 20-March 20)

It is sometimes necessary to take deliberate steps to demonstrate your worth in order to improve your professional status. With the Sun and Jupiter positively linked, this is the moment to approach those you need to impress or ask a favor. Seize the moment, fish!

Dennis Fairchild is a Birmingham-based astrologer and author of several books on divination. For information about personal consultations, phone (248) 646-3555 or e-mail at DenFairchild@aol.com.

Pure Picks

Selected from the reams of publicity propaganda, we present our top entertainment picks for the week, "Filtered" just for you.

Album

It's a mystery that a band from Dublin can channel the sun-soaked '60s California sound so easily.

On **The Thrills** major-label debut, ***So Much for the City,*** the band displays such obvious influences as The Beach Boys and Burt Bacharach.

Vocal harmonies, piano melodies and catchy hooks fill songs with sunny American titles like *Santa Cruz (You're Not that Far), Big Sur* and *Don't Steal Our Sun.* It's enough to make you wonder if that whole Dublin thing is a lie.

But if Jack White can have an English accent, I suppose an Irish band can sound exactly like indie band Apollo Sunshine.

For more on the band, check out http://www.thethrills.com. The record is available at most local record stores

Gallery

Lots of art on a small scale.

The **Detroit Contemporary** presents **Actual Size Biennial 2003** through Sunday, Dec. 21.

Participating artists created work in a variety of mediums, all maintaining the size restriction of 4.25 inches by 5.5 inches.

The exhibit features over 250 works, all small enough to fit in your back pocket.

The gallery is located at 5141 Rosa Parks Blvd., Detroit. It is open from noon to 6 p.m. Thursday through Saturday and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday.

For more information, call (313) 898-4ART. For a complete listing of participating artists and more information on the show, click on http://www.detroit-contemporary.com.

TV

Next Saturday, stay in and shout "Merry Christmas Charlie Brown!" ***A Charlie Brown Christmas*** will air at 8 p.m. on Dec. 13 on WXYZ. The sentimental story is the longest-running cartoon special in history.

The plot is simple: Linus helps Charlie Brown as he searches for the true meaning of the season among the holiday's commercialization. And who can forget the best cartoon dance sequences ever set to music?

Local band

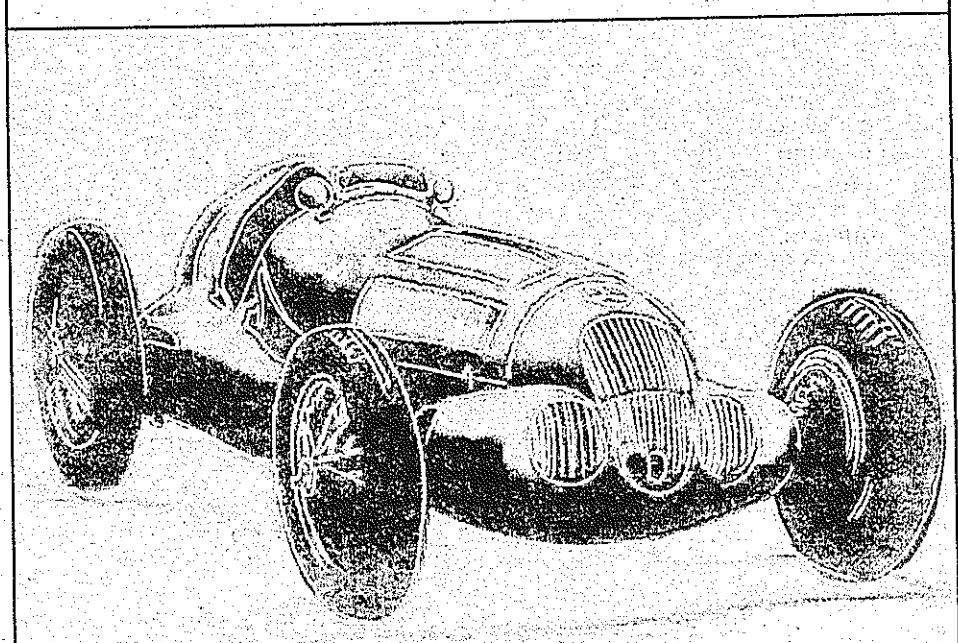
Real-life couple Nicola Kuperus and Adam Lee Miller formed Detroit's most buzz-worthy electronic duo **Adult.** in 1997. The duo spent much of 2003 touring Europe on the success of their April 2003 release *Anxiety Always.* Combining '80s influences with a danceable '90s techno beat, Adult. will perform a rare hometown date with Electonicat and Tamion on Friday at the Magic Stick, 4120 Woodward Ave., Detroit.

Doors open at 9 p.m. Cost is $12. 18 and up. Tickets can be purchased at Stormy Records, Neptune Records, Young Soul Rebels Records, and the Majestic Box Office. For more info, call (313) 833-9700.

Pure Picks is written by Stephanie Tardy. Is there something you want considered? To submit information on local entertainment or other ideas to be featured in this space, e-mail stardy@oe.homecomm.net.

THE DETROIT INSTITUTE OF ARTS

ON THE EDGE
contemporary art from the DaimlerChrysler collection



Through January 18, 2004
FREE with museum admission.

This exhibition has been organized by the DaimlerChrysler Collection and the Detroit Institute of Arts and is made possible by a generous grant from the DaimlerChrysler Corporation Fund, the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs, and the City of Detroit.

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Andy Warhol, **Mercedes-Benz Formel-Rennwagen W 125, 1937,** 1986. DaimlerChrysler Collection © 2003 Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts / ARS, New York

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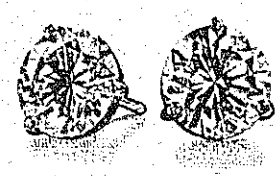

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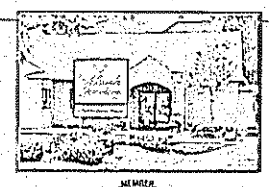

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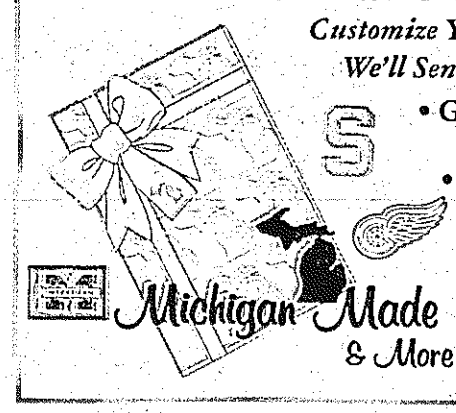

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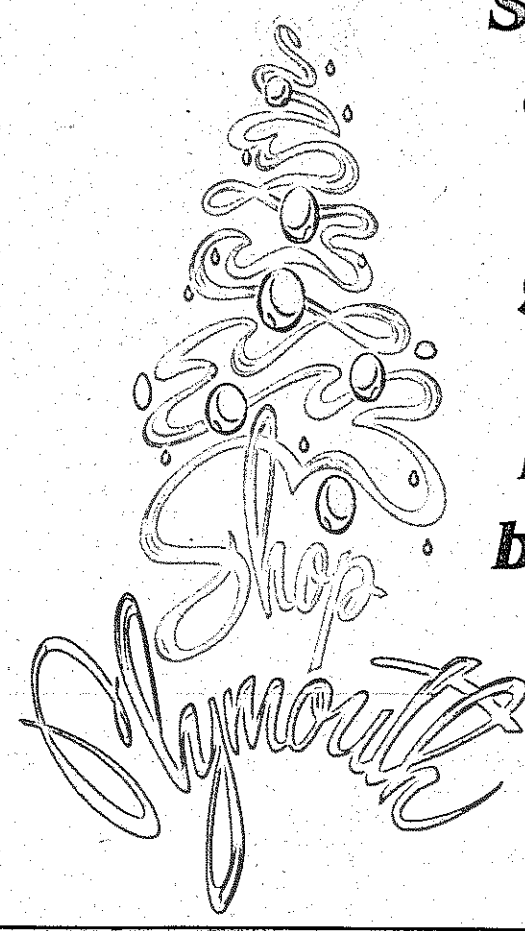

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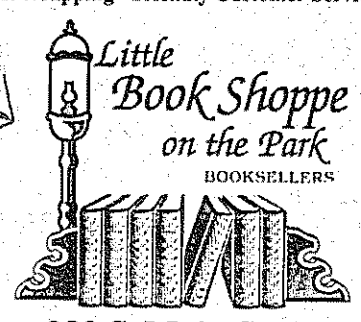

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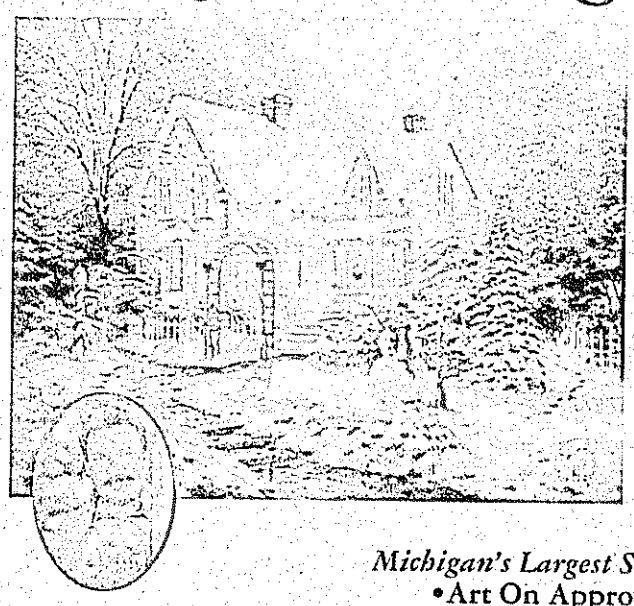

"Blessings of Christmas" by Thomas Kinkade

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Holiday Moonlight Shopping Spree

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December 12

First Annual Downtown Birmingham Jewelry Crawl

Ride minibuses to any or all of Downtown Birmingham's jewelers for trunk shows, in-store entertainment and specials. This sparkling spree is great for holiday shopping!

December 19

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Special in-store events honor customers! Unique gift ideas, free gift-wrapping and refreshments.

Coats for C.O.T.S.

Collection of outerwear, hats, gloves, coats for C.O.T.S. (Coalition On Temporary Shelter) in Detroit. Each participating store will host a collection box throughout the holidays.

For more information call Downtown Birmingham at 248-433-3550 or visit **www.enjoybirmingham.com**; click on "calendar" or "news".

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Real Estate Inquires

Robert M. Meisner

Water problem should have been revealed

I purchased a home and later found out that it had serious water penetration and foundation problems. Can we sue our buyer's agent for failing to notify us that the seller was required to provide a statement disclosing the condition of the property? The disclosure statement that was given to other prospective buyers indicated that the house had a history of water penetration problems, but we were not given this statement.

Your real estate broker has an obligation to represent your best interests. In a similar case out of South Dakota, the Supreme Court said that the Realtor had no duty to uncover and disclose defects with the seller's property. However, whether the Realtor as the buyer's agent owed a duty to the buyers to inform them that by law the seller must give them a disclosure statement is a separate issue. The court indicated that not unlike the requirement of other professionals to inform their clients, real estate agents are expected to advise their principals on the rules and procedures involved in a real estate transaction and held that the Realtor does have such an obligation.

I am wondering whether a guest of mine in my condominium could recover from the association or the management company for a defective condition of a deck that caused him injuries. My guest was my brother and I am wondering whether or not there is any exposure for the association or the management company.

While each case is fact intensive, there is a Michigan Court of Appeals decision that a condominium owner's guest could not recover from the condominium association or the management corporation for an allegedly defective condition of a deck that caused that person injuries. In that case, the guest was a sister of a unit owner and was deemed a licensee, thereby resulting in no duty owed by the association or the management company to the licensee based upon the status of the claimant. Of course, each case must be evaluated on its own and I would suggest that your brother retain the services of an attorney to consider the potential liability of the association. You should consider notifying the association and the management company of this potential claim as they may obviously want to notify their respective insurance carriers.

Robert M. Meisner is a lawyer and the author of *Condominium Operation: Getting Started & Staying on the Right Track*; second edition. It is available for $9.95 plus $2 shipping and handling. For more information, call (248) 644-4433 or visit bmeisner@mich.com. This column shouldn't be construed as legal advice.

'Tis the season

Holidays special time for home selling, buying

BY NORMAN PRADY
CORRESPONDENT

Buying a home for the holidays can be a wonderful gift, Laura Knuth said, but be careful of opening closets.

"Lookers expect some clutter" at this time of year, said Knuth, a sales associate with Knuth & Associates, Garden City. So she cautions home sellers: "Don't stuff everything into a closet where it will fall out when a looker opens the door. But we don't tell sellers to do anything extra during the holiday season. Just do what you would normally do. Some sellers take their houses off the market so they won't have to deal with the problems of the season."

One of those problems, Knuth said, can be how the children feel about leaving their home and moving during the holidays. It calls for thoughtfulness, she said.

"I haven't made any children unhappy," she said. "We try to treat these things as gingerly as possible."

Knuth said she likes when lookers bring youngsters along: "They get excited about moving on. They each pick out a bedroom right away at the new house."

CLUTTER

Seasonal clutter, however, is not just an appearance issue, Knuth said: "I've heard about security problems. Little things should be put away. Dealing with real estate agents is a more secure way to sell because we screen the people who come in."

Buying and selling a home, Knuth said, "is one of the most emotional things you do in your life" and more so during the holiday season.

"People say, 'Oh, my gosh, the house is on the market — it has to be perfect.' And that's hard to do when you have so many other obligations. It's very difficult to do everything at once."

Ah, but among the rewarding activities of home selling during the holiday season, Knuth recalls twice closing on houses early on Christmas Eve "and they moved in that night so they could be there on Christmas Day."

As sales agent Michele Casey-Kayne sees home selling these days, "The people who are out there now are very serious about moving."

Casey-Kayne is with Century 21 Sakmar & Associates, Rochester.

"People generally want to take it easy during the holiday season," she said. "So if you have a buyer now, it's because they want to move or have to move.

"What we're finding is that people who schedule appointments during the holidays are more likely to be buyers, as opposed to lookers. If you get a call on Christmas Eve, you know the buyer is serious.

"It can be hard for sellers because they don't want to pull out all of their decorations, but you don't want clutter when you're showing the house — you want it to be nice and neat and tidy. Less stuff the better."

That clutter, said Linda Martin, a sales agent with ERA Country Ridge Realty, Livonia, can visually "diminish room sizes."

"Put things away," she said, "and always let your house be shown. You don't have a chance to sell it if people don't see it."

Martin urges awareness of the variety of celebrations and observances that happen during the year-end weeks.

"We're a multi-cultural country," she said, "and holidays are not universal."

EMOTIONS

And if buying the new house during the holiday season can be joyful, can selling the old house be distressing? Lamar Spalding doesn't think so.

A sales agent with Re/Max Great Lakes, Farmington Hills, Spalding said, "Usually, people are selling homes to make money, so I don't think it's a sad time for them. If you have to move out over the holidays, it could be a little depressing. But if you're moving in, it's 'Happy Holidays.'"

"Added stress," said Diane Martin, sales agent, Remerica Hometown One, Plymouth.

"Buying a home is stressful enough," she said, "and more when you factor in the holidays and moving. The seller may have some emotional ties about how the house was decorated for the holidays and might be sad.

"But some people come in and see the decorations and say, 'Oh, that reminds me of when I was a kid. ... Oh, my mom used to do that.' And maybe they fall in love with the house because of that. Or how the holiday tree is placed in the front window 'just the way we used to have it.'

"And those lights. And the smell of cinnamon ..."

Mortgage rates creep up, but still low

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mortgage rates around the country edged up this week, but remain lower than during the same period a year ago.

For the week ending Nov. 28, the average rate on 30-year mortgages increased to 5.89 percent, up slightly from 5.83 percent the previous week, mortgage giant Freddie Mac reported Wednesday in its weekly nationwide survey.

Rates on 30-year mortgages slid to 5.21 percent, the lowest level in more than four decades, in the middle of June. Since then, rates on these benchmark mortgages have bounced up and down.

For 15-year mortgages, a popular option for refinancing, rates rose to 5.22 percent from 5.17 percent last week. Rates for one-year adjustable mortgages averaged 3.77 percent, compared with last week's 3.72 percent.

A year ago, average rates for 30-year mortgages stood at 6.13 percent, for 15-year mortgages at 5.57 percent and for one-year adjustable mortgages at 4.19 percent.

The nationwide averages for rates do not include add-on fees known as points. Each point represents 1 percent of the mortgage amount. Thirty-year mortgages carried an average fee of 0.6 points this week. Fifteen-year and one-year adjustable rate mortgages each carried an average fee of 0.7 points.

Even with the recent gyration in mortgage rates, economists predict home sales will hit a record high this year.

"A stronger economy and positive consumer confidence should continue to exert pressure on home building and buying, ensuring that the housing market retains its vibrancy into the coming year," said Frank Nothaft, Freddie Mac's chief economist.

Separately, the Mortgage Bankers Association of America said refinancing accounted for 53.3 percent of all home-mortgage applications filed last week, up from 48.1 percent the previous week.

The association's index of total mortgage applications — for home purchases and refinancing — filed last week increased by 16.9 percent from the previous week.

Mortgage Bits

Tim 'Timbo' Phillips

Smashing the FHA paradigms

My late grandmother did not taste pizza until she was 77 years old. During the last 22 years of her life, it was one of her favorite foods.

I recall times when she became angry at herself after enjoying a slice for allowing her "old country" food paradigms to keep her from trying that delightful dish.

Many home sellers are crippled by antiquated paradigms regarding FHA mortgages. Some are "spooked" by the perceived higher scrutiny of an FHA appraisal.

Others think borrowers must be "second-class" to have not qualified for a conventional mortgage.

Often, naïve Realtors are no smarter to allow sellers to function under those dreadfully wrong presuppositions. In worse cases, Realtors even nurture those faulty perspectives on the matter.

So let me set the record straight on a few issues on behalf of the FHA and its thousands of future beneficiaries.

People primarily look to FHA loans because the underwriting guidelines are generally more lenient than conventional rules. That's good news, not bad. It means that borrowers can normally carry more consumer debt and still get their loan approved.

The FHA's fixed-rate interest rates are usually within one-quarter to one-half percent of comparable conforming loans. The FHA also offers a deeply discounted adjustable-rate loan for borrowers who want to buy homes with a bare minimum cash flow for the first couple of years.

Both types of FHA mortgages are assumable, meaning it's less likely that users will be "stuck" with a home when they decide to sell.

Borrowers may qualify for FHA loans even if they are non-permanent resident aliens if they are going to live in the property themselves. The FHA also allows non-occupants' relatives to co-sign to help family members qualify for homes.

FHA mortgage lenders loan money for cash-out refinances up to 85 percent of the home's value. Existing FHA borrowers can get a streamlined no cash-out refinance done without an appraisal.

Perhaps most notably, borrowers can buy using the FHA with only 3 percent down, sometimes with no cash reserve requirement. They can get to 100 percent financing with gifted funds, but I'll cover that topic next time.

Timothy J. Phillips is a mortgage broker and newspaper columnist. You may access his archives at www.HomeQuarters.BIZ, and phone him toll-free at (866) 369-4516. Home buyers should always consult a professional for guidance specific to their situation.

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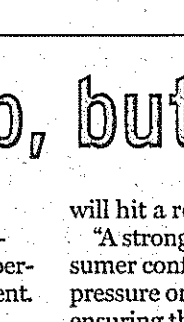
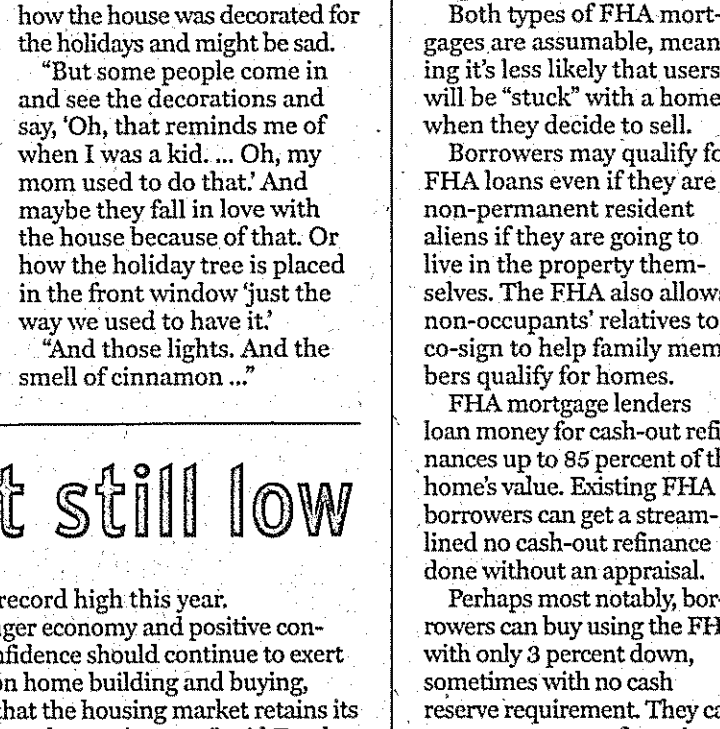




HOMES SOLD IN WAYNE COUNTY

These are the Observer & Eccentric-area residential real estate closings recorded the weeks of July 21-25 at the Wayne County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

Canton

39750 Bart	$166,000
40424 Bay Harbor Lane	$187,000
40436 Bay Harbor Lane	$146,000
6836 Brookshire	$203,000
190 Cherry Grove	$250,000
545 Cherry Orchard	$224,000
278 Country Club	$370,000
363 Darthmouth	$240,000
1310 Dundee	$265,000
44971 Fair Oaks	$232,000
45779 Gainsborough	$260,000
46971 Hidden River	$296,000
47332 Lyndon	$345,000
648 Merrimac	$208,000
641 Princess	$206,000
46212 Registry	$289,000
42464 Saratoga	$137,000
170 Savannah	$263,000
46527 Scotia	$420,000
48832 Stanton	$188,000
48918 Stanton	$170,000
2734 Stanton	$260,000
2852 Stanton	$232,000
2905 Stanton	$286,000
2918 Stanton	$291,000
43534 Stuart	$180,000
1891 Vine Way	$132,000
1966 Wentworth	$333,000

Garden City

33361 Brown	$139,000
6480 Dillon	$155,000
28636 Ford	$200,000
6857 Lathers	$135,000
7034 Middlebelt	$110,000

Livonia

14259 Adams	$210,000
16396 Aldrich	$258,000
36016 Ann Arbor	$113,000
36177 Barkley	$265,000
14170 Cardwell	$170,000
35359 Curtis	$485,000
19456 Deering	$127,000
31771 Fonville	$182,000
9374 Hix	$165,000
19377 Inkster	$103,000
37039 Ladywood	$228,000
11288 Middlebelt	$92,000
32817 Norfolk	$184,000
29455 Robert	$146,000
29875 Robert	$151,000
20121 Saint Francis	$85,000
18983 Vanderhaven	$145,000
19177 Weyher	$182,000

Plymouth

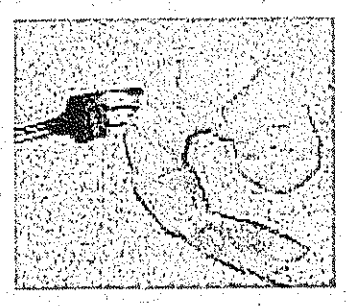
46502 Darwood	$550,000
770 Deer	$150,000
9444 Elmhurst	$164,000
10470 Fellows Hill	$480,000
41516 Greenbriar	$190,000
51264 Plymouth Ridge	$615,000

Redford

19358 Centralia	$106,000
10047 Crosley	$112,000
13502 Fenton	$125,000
19163 Gaylord	$133,000
15938 Indian	$147,000
20485 Indian	$115,000
19404 Inkster	$94,000
15879 Lenore	$40,000
9458 Marion	$160,000
15581 Norborne	$134,000
18406 Norborne	$148,000
18507 Olympia	$126,000
18686 Olympia	$109,000
24342 Orangelawn	$117,000
14006 Royal Grand	$110,000
14253 Seminole	$137,000
19996 Seminole	$115,000
15543 Winston	$98,000
12964 Woodbine	$124,000

Westland

31179 Avondale St	$140,000
33312 Belding	$86,000
36781 Cherry Oak	$232,000
2104 Emerson	$90,000
2104 Emerson	$105,000
1605 Gloria	$138,000
34520 Hazelwood	$152,000
35281 Lewis	$933,000
30683 Nelson	$254,000
6163 Oak Pointe	$175,000
35736 Rolf	$122,000
2315 S. Christine	$95,000
1511 S Walton	$116,000
1253 Selma	$148,000
1169 Shoemaker	$107,000



Find your favorite recipes each Thursday in Taste

Loss of wetlands continues in Michigan

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WAWATAM TOWNSHIP, Mich. – To the untrained eye, Cecil Bay Marsh might seem a wasteland – a vast, silent field of bug-infested weeds and squishy soil on the edge of Lake Michigan.

But picking her way through shoulder-high bulrushes and cattails a few miles southwest of the Mackinac Bridge, wetland ecologist Barbara Madsen sees a wondrous landscape teeming with life.

Tiny frogs sit motionless in clear, shallow pools. Dragonflies and monarchs flit among swamp grasses. Madsen identifies a staggering variety of plants, from ash and poplar seedlings to St. Johns wort and tiny orchid flowers.

"Wetlands like this are part of the balance of the ecosystem," the University of Michigan scientist said. "If we keep losing them, it's like taking bricks from a wall. Keep doing it and you reach a point where it all falls down."

Wetlands play an indispensable role in controlling erosion and floods, filtering pollutants from water, restoring groundwater and providing habitat for aquatic plants and animals.

But millions of acres in Michigan have disappeared since European settlers arrived more than two centuries ago, and losses continue nearly 25 years after the state enacted a law to protect them.

People have drained, filled and otherwise degraded wetlands, a term that can refer to marshes, swamps, bogs and more than a dozen other ecosystems.

They have been converted to farms, housing developments, shopping centers and highways from the Upper Peninsula to points south of Detroit.

It's uncertain how much acreage has been lost. But state and federal studies estimate that one-quarter to one-half of the state's wetlands were destroyed between 1780 and 1980, as Michigan evolved from pre-settlement to the modern era.

Since then, federal and state laws have slowed – but not stopped – the trend. The net loss nationwide was 58,500 acres in 1997, the latest figure available, said Craig Faanes of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which conducts a wetland inventory every 10 years.

Michigan doesn't catalogue annual wetland losses, but Steven Chester, director of the Department of Environmental Quality, said they have been "fairly substantial" in the past couple of decades.

For now, the DEQ says about 5.5 million acres – 16 percent of the state's land base – are wetlands, which state law defines as land with enough water to support wetland vegetation or aquatic life.

Some wetlands are easily identified because of features such as standing water, cattails or lily pads. But grassy meadows, shrubby fields and even mature forests can qualify.

The Legislature approved the Wetland Protect Act in 1979. Five years later, Michigan received permission from the EPA to administer on the state level the section of the federal Clean Water Act affecting wetlands. Thirty-seven of the state's local governments have wetland ordinances.

UNDER SIEGE

Yet today wetlands remain under siege, many scientists and environmental activists say, because too few people appreciate their importance and regulations are riddled with loopholes and are poorly enforced.

"We're losing wetlands at a slower clip than in 1979 but we're still losing," said Dave Dempsey, policy specialist for the Michigan Environmental Council.

"Pressure on wetlands is growing in many parts of the state, especially in heavily populated areas where the only lands that aren't built on are wetlands. In many cases we're seeing them destroyed."

Chester said he gets more complaints about wetlands than any other DEQ regulatory issue, some accusing the agency of doing too little to protect them and others of going too far.

"I have heard from many developers who are irate and consider the law an impediment to their right to develop their property," he said.

Under state law, anyone wanting to develop a wetland must apply for a permit. DEQ field staffers consider whether the project would be in the public interest, weighing its benefits against the environmental downsides and suggesting ways to reduce damage.

Field staffers occasionally attend workshops to examine case studies and discuss ways to keep rulings consistent around the state, said Peg Bostwick, a DEQ wetland policy specialist.

The agency is required to approve or reject most applications within 90 days. In a typical year, 85 to 90 percent of permit applications are approved, Bostwick said.

In a 1997 study, the Michigan United Conservation Clubs examined 368 applications from three different years and found 74.7 percent had been approved. Only 6.5 percent were denied. Others were withdrawn by the applicant or had files closed for lack of information.

Despite such high approval rates, those who believe the law violates property rights insist the bar is too high.

"Virtually anything you might do (to a wetland) is regarded as against the public interest, and it's almost impossible for a property owner to prove that property rights should trump the public interest," said Diane Katz of the Mackinac Center for Public Policy, a research and advocacy institute in Midland.

PERMITS

Environmentalists contend the high approval rates show regulators aren't tough enough. Bostwick said the numbers don't include cases where people decided against degrading a wetland because the DEQ warned they probably wouldn't get a permit.

Also, she said, many permits are granted only after the DEQ helps landowners redesign projects to limit damage. For instance, last year the agency approved permits disturbing a combined 326 acres instead of the 450 acres originally requested.

Many permits are for seawalls, driveways, residences or other projects that affect wetlands only incidentally, Bostwick said.

But they add up, said Scott McEwen, former program director with the Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council, a Petoskey-based advocacy group.

"It doesn't seem like a big impact. But it's this nibbling effect, the cumulative effect of thousands of different individual decisions, that is harming our water resources."

Because of legal loopholes, many wetlands lack even the limited security of a permit, McEwen said.

Under federal and state law, some farming, ranching and logging activities in wetlands require no permit.

In a report last year, the EPA said Michigan exempts too many wetlands from regulation. Among them: wetlands smaller than 5 acres and "isolated" – having no direct link to a waterway such as a lake or river.

Also exempt are isolated wetlands of any size in counties with fewer than 100,000 residents. In a Nov. 7 letter to the EPA, Chester said Michigan would begin regulating them when it finishes a statewide wetland inventory required under the 1979 law. But most smaller wetlands will remain outside DEQ jurisdiction.

MAPS

The state has been compiling information for the inventory for years but only recently began producing county-by-county wetland maps, attributing the delay to money, staff and technology shortages.

Twenty-six of Michigan's 83 counties have been mapped, and the statewide inventory is scheduled for completion by Dec. 31, 2006.

The complicated process involves blending data taken from a national wetlands index, federal records on soil types, and state land-use information, said DEQ analyst Amy Lounds.

Aside from permitted and unregulated disturbances, wetlands are harmed when scofflaws develop them illegally or ignore permit stipulations.

Environmentalists say the DEQ has done poorly at enforcing wetland law – particularly under former Gov. John Engler and his DEQ director, Russell Harding, who they say emphasized issuing permits instead of nabbing violators.

"Enforcement was weak to non-existent," Dempsey said. "The law was often overlooked or waived during the last administration to allow development."

Harding said he pushed staffers to take quicker action on permits for a variety of programs – including wetlands – because huge backlogs were drawing complaints from businesses and legislators. But that didn't mean allowing projects that violated the law, he said.

"If someone wants to say I stressed getting permits out, I plead guilty – but not bad-quality permits," said Harding, now a consultant and lobbyist in Lansing.

Chester, appointed by Democratic Gov. Jennifer Granholm, said he wants to toughen sanctions for lawbreakers and beef up enforcement. But there's little money to hire more staffers, he said.

"Quite honestly, the budget is a huge constraint on what we can or cannot do," Chester said.

Less costly, he said, would be an education campaign to boost public support for wetlands – which agencies and environmental groups are planning around the state law's silver anniversary next year.

For their part, many business groups in Michigan say they can live with wetland protection laws but want more clarity.

Developers "will get started on projects thinking there are no wetlands on the property, and they get halfway through and someone comes up and says, 'Hey, you have a wetland,'" said Doug Roberts Jr., director of environmental and regulatory affairs for the Michigan Chamber of Commerce.

That can cause lengthy delays and boost costs as projects are redesigned, he said.

"It's a great frustration."

Landowners are responsible for determining whether their property has regulated wetlands. The DEQ provides background information and will provide on-site assessments for a fee, or the owner can hire a private consultant.

Environmentalists believe there will be fewer misunderstandings as people learn to value wetlands, which many still consider worthless. They've long been feared as dark, dangerous places – settings for scary folk tales and monster movies.

Cecil Bay Marsh is anything but frightening on a sunny afternoon as Madsen, the University of Michigan ecologist, catalogues its diverse plant life.

For more than 30 years, scientists from the university's biological station near Pellston have tracked how changing water levels affect vegetation in the marsh, wedged between a rural road and the Lake Michigan waterfront.

With the lake at its lowest ebb in decades, an 800-foot stretch of wetland is exposed – and the number of identifiable plant species has soared.

"When the water comes back, the vegetation will act as a buffer to protect the shoreline from erosion," Madsen said. "It provides habitat for insects, crayfish, birds, a spawning area for fish.

"It's all part of the cycle of nature, been going on for thousands of years. We just need to learn to appreciate it."

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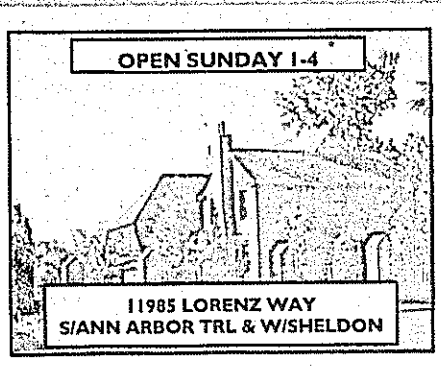

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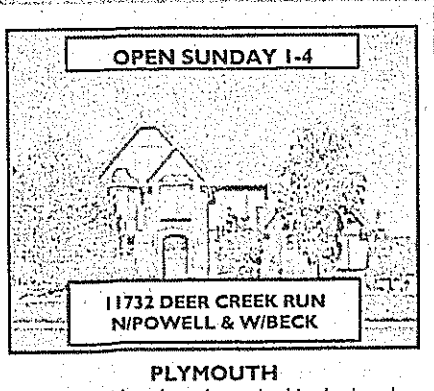

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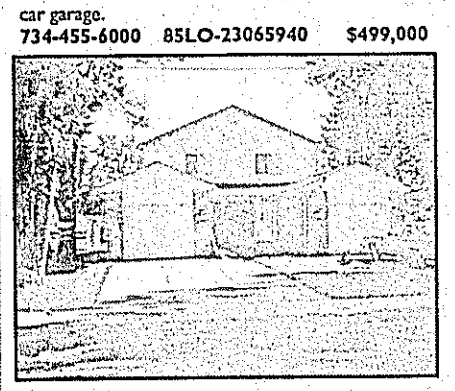

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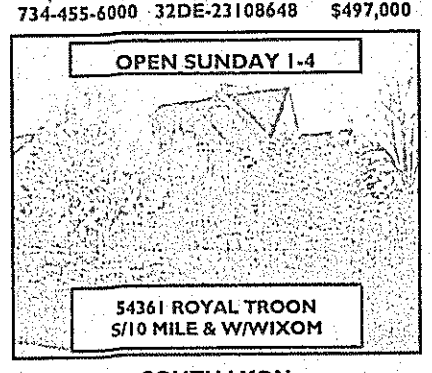

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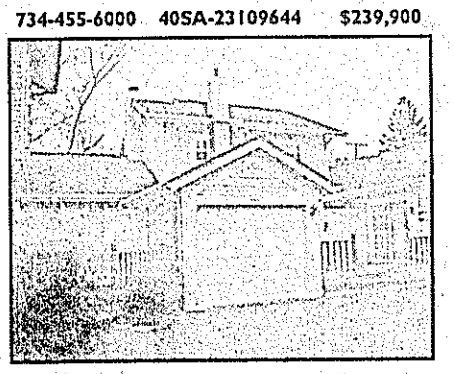

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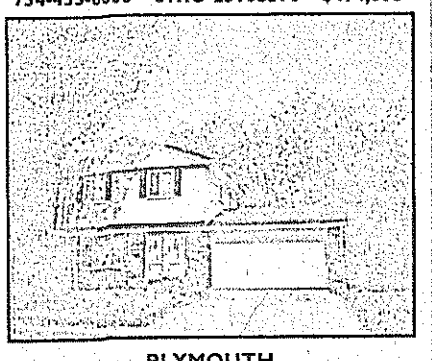

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5/1 Arm	4.375	0.00	30day $280	4.69apr
Open Sundays - No Cost Refinances / Purchase Special				
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248-545-1666				
MAINSTREET MORTGAGE, INC.				
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3/1 Arm	3.50	0.00	30day $300	3.69apr
5/1 Arm	4.25	0.00	30day $300	4.22apr
Option Arm 1.25% 3.34apr				
248-988-8488				
GOLDEN RULE MORTGAGE				
30yr Fix	5.25	1.625	30day 0.00	5.42apr
15yr Fix	4.625	1.625	30day 0.00	5.03apr
5/1 Arm	3.75	1.00	30day 0.00	3.87apr
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15yr Fix	5.00	0.00	30day Call	5.12apr
3/1 Arm	3.875	0.00	30day Call	4.00apr
248-540-1065				
ditech.com				
30yr Fix	5.375	2.00	30day Call	5.67apr
15yr Fix	4.625	2.00	30day Call	5.12apr
30yr Jmb	5.625	2.00	30day Call	5.87apr
15yr Jmb	5.125	2.00	30day Call	5.52apr
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DIRECT MORTGAGE FUNDING				
Call 866-654-9005 I Rates as low as 1.25%				
30yr Fix	5.65	0.00	30day Low	6.16apr
3/1 Arm	3.625	0.00	30day Low	4.17apr
15yr Fix	5.00	0.00	30day Low	5.03apr
5yr Arm	1.25	0.00	30day Low	4.08apr
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Changes proposed for mobile homes

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LANSING – Local governments soon may be able to check a few things off their holiday wish lists, including more control over manufactured housing developments and higher fees from residents of those communities.

A vote in the state House on the proposed changes comes as homeowners and groups representing local governments have stepped up efforts to show that continued development of large mobile home communities put a strain on roads, school systems and public services.

Local government officials want more money from manufactured housing residents, who pay a flat fee of $36 a year instead of property taxes.

They also want authority over the layout of mobile home developments built in their communities, a power currently held by the state.

The state Department of Consumer and Industry Services sets requirements for mobile home communities, right down to the width of the roads and how the community is laid out.

Local governments decide where to locate a mobile home development, but the courts make that decision when communities haven't planned for them or don't have an area zoned for them.

ARGUMENTS

Some township officials argue that they're bullied by park developers, through legal action, into accepting large mobile home complexes.

"The current system is an injustice. Park owners can go to court, but a local government's purse is limited," said Rep. Ruth Ann Jamnick, a Democrat from Ypsilanti who introduced a bill that would give local governments more say in the process.

Mark St. Charles, supervisor of Livingston County's Green Oak Township, said the township spent about $125,000 on legal fees to stop the development of a 900-unit community.

Although the developer ultimately won, the community will have only 599 units when it is finished.

Developers and others in the manufactured housing industry say they're worried that giving all decision-making authority to local governments will make it too hard to build manufactured housing developments.

"Local control is really a euphemism for local exclusion," said William Perrone, an attorney for the Michigan Manufactured Housing Association.

Jerry Ruggirello of Novi-based AJR Development, which has seven manufactured housing communities in southeast Michigan, said developers often are forced to go to the courts.

"I can't say that we don't start off with an attorney and court reporter because experience dictates that we're going to have the door shut in our face," he said. "They hear the words 'manufactured housing' and the trailer alarms go off in the heads of everyone."

About 750,000 people live in manufactured housing in Michigan, according to the Manufactured Housing Association. In many cases, it's the only affordable option. The median price for such a residence is $20,000, while the median price of homes is about $140,000, the group said.

Groups that represent the manufactured housing industry, and even some mobile home residents, say they could support legislation to gradually increase the fees they pay in place of property taxes. The fees haven't changed since they were set in the 1960s, Jamnick said.

"We want to pay our fair share," said Michael Sadler, who sells brake parts and lives in a mobile home community in Munith, about 15 miles northeast of Jackson.

FEES

The annual fee that mobile home residents pay to the state and local governments gradually would increase from $36 to $144 over five years under a bill introduced by Rep. Randy Richardville, R-Monroe.

The bill would set aside $72 from the higher fee for the local school district, $36 for the local township or city and $12 for the local county. The state School Aid Fund would continue to receive its current $24 allocation under the change.

If the annual fee stays at $36, it is expected to raise about $4.9 million in 2004, said Scott Schrager, a senior official at the state Treasury Department. Of that, $3.3 million is expected to go to the School Aid Fund and the rest goes to the local governments, he said.

Increasing the annual fee $144 would mean $9.9 million for local school districts next year, $1.9 million for townships or cities and $1.65 million for counties, Schrager said.

Despite the additional revenue, lobbyists representing local units of government argue that mobile home residents should pay property taxes based on the value of their homes to cover their use of local services and schools, as other property owners do.

"They receive same services as everybody else, and like everyone else they have to pay their fair share," said Jerry Griffin, director of legislative affairs for the Michigan Association of Counties.

Taxing mobile homes based on their value would generate about $52.6 million annually statewide, Schrager said.

Those in the manufactured housing industry point out that mobile home residents pay a 6-percent state sales tax when they buy their unit. They also pay rent for their lot, which covers property taxes paid by development owners. Those owners pay a 24-mill school operating tax.

"Our industry does pay its fair share, but we don't get the credit," said Tim DeWitt, director of the Michigan Manufactured Housing Association.

However, some local government officials, including St. Clair of Green Oak Township, said mobile home communities would be more accepted by neighboring communities if residents paid more taxes.

"There is no community that I can think of . . . that openly welcomes manufactured housing because they don't pay a substantial amount of taxes to pay for emergency services," he said.

TOWARD A VOTE

Lawmakers have long battled over mobile home development and taxes, but the issue appears to be finally moving toward a vote. Term limits prohibit Jamnick and Richardville from being re-elected next year, so they are eager to push the bills through soon.

The manufactured housing legislation needs the approval of the House Committee on Local Government and Urban Policy before it goes to the full House.

Sadler, who also is president of the Manufactured Home Owners Legislative Association of Michigan, agrees that the legislation should be passed soon.

"If we don't address these issues now, I don't know how long it's going to take to get to the point again," he said.

The manufactured housing bills are House Bills 4876, 4879, 4882, and 4106-13 and 4121.

REAL ESTATE BRIEFS

Real Estate Briefs features news and notes on professional associations, office activities, upcoming meetings and seminars, new services/products and consumer publications. Write: Real estate briefs, Attn: Keely Kaleski, Observer and Eccentric Newspapers, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham, MI 48009. Our fax number is (248) 644-1314. Our e-mail address is kkaleski@oe.homecomm.net.

HOME BUYERS

Free seminar presented by Atlantis Mortgage with Deborah Johnson of RE/MAX Great Lakes 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 9, 26200 Lahser Road, Suite 330, in Southfield. To register, call (248) 553-4448.

FIRST TIME HOME OWNERS

The law offices of Keith Sirlin, Sirlin Realty and Great Lakes Mortgage Co. will host a free seminar for first time home buyers, 7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 10, at 1071 W. Huron St., Waterford. Learn the legal, financial and personal benefits of owning a home. To reserve your seat, call (248) 682-6820.

BUYING A HOUSE

Learn how to plan for the biggest investment of your life at this free seminar 7-8:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 11, at the Baldwin Public Library, 300 W. Merrill, Birmingham. Presented by Chase Manhattan Mortgage Corp. and Christine Kageff, loan officer, the seminar will discuss tips and tools t make the home buying process manageable. For more information, call (248) 649-1062, Ext. 246.

SCHOLARSHIP CONTEST

RE/MAX of Southeastern Michigan announces its second annual "American Dream" scholarship program. It's open to high school seniors in Macomb, Oakland and Wayne Counties. Twenty students will be awarded a $1,000 scholarship. To apply, students must write a short essay on what the "American Dream" means to them and the role higher education plays in helping to achieve that dream. Essays and supporting materials will be judged on content, originality and creativity. The deadline for submitting applications is Feb. 1. For more information, or to obtain an entry form, contact Jeanette Schneider at (248) 644-6420, or check on-line at www.manyhouses.com or visit any local RE/MAX office.

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WOLVERINE LAKE! 4 BR, 2 BA ranch that has been completely renovated this year, including the kitchen, baths, windows, flooring, siding, roof, plumbing, electrical and more! Huge lot 30 feet from the access. Take the virtual tour @www.coldwellbanker.com. $229,900 (775AL)

TRADITION'S AT HOME HERE Meticulously maintained by original owners, this 4 BR/2.5 BA colonial offers you a tastefully updated kitchen with ceramic floor and backsplash, center island & ample pantry space. French doors from dining & nook to the spacious deck. $342,500 (069GR)

POPULAR LIVONIA SUB Brick ranch offering 3 bedrooms, 1.5 baths, and a 2.5 car garage. New Pergo floor in the neutral kitchen. Updated full bath with ceramic tile & a jetted tub. All appliances included. Full basement, a Florida room & a nice sized corner lot. Call for details. $184,500 (949PI)

COUNTRY CHARM IN CANTON 3 BR ranch w/open floor plan & neutral décor. Ceramic foyer opens to a beautiful great room w/fireplace. Spacious kitchen w/doorwall to deck. Formal dining, and a enviable master w/cathedral ceiling, WIC, jetted tub & separate shower. Extra deep basement. $369,900 (328CO)

SUPER, SUPER SHARP! Full brick with alum/vinyl trim. 3-bedrooms, family room with natural fireplace, oak cupboards, glass block in the basement with pool table & entertainment center, dream garage w/heat and electricity. Beautiful back yard. Clean & beautifully decorated. $174,900 (515SE)

NEW PULTE HOME Pulte's new Carlisle model on a premium lot. Open floor plan w/soaring ceilings, great room w/FP, master w/glamour bath & vaulted ceiling, 2 car garage and a full basement w/plumbing prep. Amenities incl. Community pool, walking trails, a tot lot, & wooded preserves. $229,500 (748RA)

ESCAPE THE RENT MONSTER! With small down payment, you can be homeowner. 3 BR ranch in move in condition. Kit w/oak cabs, built in dishwasher & doorwall to deck. Nice yard, fin. bsmt w/carpting & drywall. Updated electrical, extra wide driveway, & 2.5 car garage. Just a short walk to elementary school. $131,700 (005WI)

TASTEFULLY UPDATED 1600 sq. ft. contemporary with 3 bedrooms and an open floor plan. Vaulted ceilings, neutral paint & carpet, and an extra deep attached 2.5 car garage! Very quiet rear of the sub location Take the virtual tour, you wont be disappointed. $149,900 (332HA)

TRANSFER FORCES SALE Updated inside and out! Maple kitchen with Pergo floor and all appliances, both baths have been updated – main bath w/jetted tub, newer roof, windows, and furnace. Wonderful family room w/fireplace. 4 large bedrooms. Close to parks and schools. $219,900 (620MA)

WALL TO WALL CLASS 4 BR colonial featuring a 2-story hardwood foyer, large family room w/fireplace, and mood setting recessed lighting. Cheerful kitchen w/nook and appliances. Fantastic master w/cathedral ceiling, WIC, & private bath. Basement, patio, and outstanding landscaping. $284,990 (744PO)

CUSTOM BUILT ON 1 ACRE Spacious 3400 sq. ft. executive home w/2-story foyer, gourmet kitchen w/granite cook island and Cherry cabinetry, 4/5 bedrooms, & 3.5 baths. Formal living and dining rooms perfect for entertaining along with a fireplace in the family room & master. Many unique features. $535,000 (741CR)

LARGE LOT IN WESTLAND 196' deep lot in a desirable Westland sub. 4 bedroom Colonial with updates galore from rooftop to the basement. Family room with fireplace 1.5 baths and a 2.5 car garage. Close to the Elementary school. $179,900 (870WI)

SURROUNDED BY AN ACRE! Almost 2000 sq. ft. brick Cape w/hardwood floors & woodwork T/O except the kitchen. HUGE formal dining w/coved ceiling and beveled glass door separating the living room. Updated roof, copper plumbing, trim & eaves. Oversized engineered septic field. Inlaid brick patio. $222,500 (940SA)

GREAT FAMILY HOME Updated 3 bedroom Bungalow with newer carpet, copper plumbing, newer furnace, central air, cement patio, kitchen floor and more! Spacious second level bedroom with lots of storage space. 2.5 car garage and fenced yard. A great value! $119,900 (937PO)

LAKE ACCESS Spacious 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath ranch that is walking distance to Sand Shore Lake. New carpeting, new roof, furnace, and windows. Finished basement with a bar and half bath. Sun porch with hot tub! $299,900 (842EM)

GREAT OPPORTUNITY Large home offers over 1900 square feet with 5 possible 6 bedrooms, 2 baths, and a full basement. Large 2.5 car garage with a loft for extra storage. Fenced corner lot with plenty of potential. $87,000 (152MI)

ALL THAT GLITTERS...Sparkling clean 4 bedroom Canton colonial in move in condition. Open floor plan with formal living/dining, spacious family room w/fireplace, island kitchen, handsome master with private bath, and a step saving 2nd floor laundry. $334,900 (495NI)

PARK-LIKE SETTING Rare and wonderful describes this detached condo. One story with great room, hardwood floors, Corian counters, privacy daylight basement, gas fireplace, master suite and less than 2 years new. Call for more details! $369,000 (342PL)

UPDATED BRICK RANCH This spacious Canton 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath home boasts a large eat in kitchen, family room with fireplace, master bath, and a finished basement with a 1/2 bath. Central air, sprinkler system, newer roof, windows, siding and very nicely landscaped. $208,900 (673PR)

CANTON RANCH Sharp all brick 3 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath home is ready for immediate occupancy. This one has a family room with fireplace, central air, finished basement, 2-1/2 car garage and much more. Immediate occupancy. $177,500 (647HO)

CUTE & COZY RANCH Updated 2 bedroom ranch on a corner lot with a fenced yard. Room to expand! Updates include vinyl siding, windows and paved driveway in 2001. Roof approximately 8 years old. New stove, washer, dryer, & refrigerator in 2003. $77,000 (604CA)

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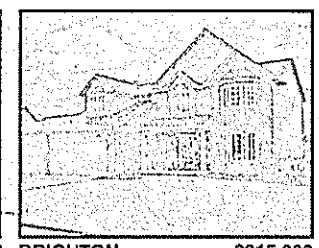
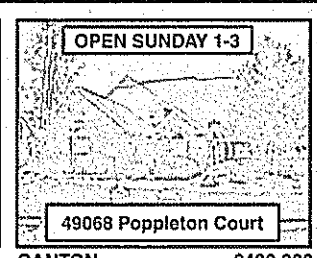
ALLEN PARK $170,000
Impeccable bungalow. Newer wdws w/glass Bl. Fur. 2 yrs. Elect. updated. New kthn & baths, 03. Copper plumbing 03. Roof 10 Yrs. oak floors T/O. Fnshd bsmt w/full bath 03. New 50 gal HWH. Mstr has WIC. 20x26 gar. w/220, 50 amp service. OEL05BAL 888-870-9105

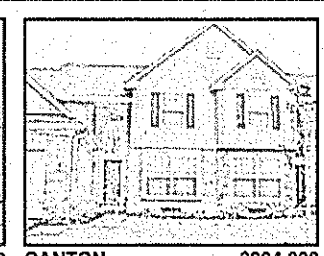


BRIGHTON $315,000
Wow! Great family sub w/nature trails.. Immaculate home with open floor plan. 4 bedroom, 2.5 baths, neutral decor, ceramic baths, whirlpool tub. Inground sprinklers. (BGSLY02CLA) 888-870-9131

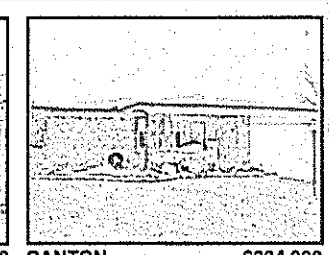


CANTON $439,900
Premium court Location! 4 BR, 2 1/2 BA Cape Cod. Grmt kit w/cherry cabs, island, mstr suite w/jacuzzi & doorwall to priv deck w/hot tub. GR w/cthdrl clng & adjoining DR. Prof fin LL w/wet bar. BGP-68Pop 888-870-9127

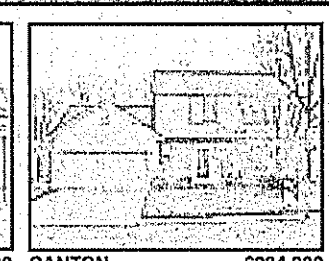
CANTON $349,900
Move In Condition! Exceptional 4 BR, 2.1 BA cape cod. Prof landscaped backyard w/beautiful inground pool. Spac kit & nook opens to great rm w/vaulted clg, skylights & gas FP. 1st flr master. BGP-80Cha 888-870-9127



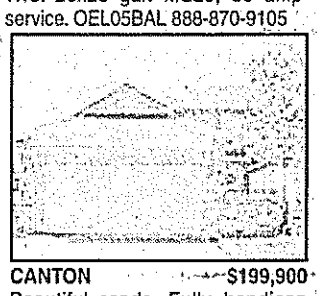
CANTON $294,900
Spectacular setting! Stunning cape cod. Golf course community. Open flr plan. Dream kitchen. Volume clg in GR w/2-story wndws. 2 Br upstairs w/full bath & add'l loft. Glamorous master suite. BGP-88Cle 888-870-9127



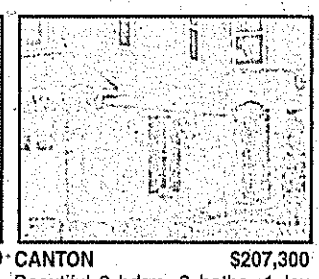
CANTON $234,900
Move In Condition! Beautifully updated brick ranch. Remodeled kit '00. Gorgeous Anderson bay wndw in liv rm. Fam rm w/beamed cath clg, nat brk FP & new carpet '99. Updates: roof, storm drs. BGP-31Fer 888-870-9127



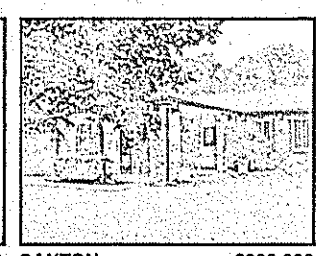
CANTON $234,900
Large lot backing to woods! 3 BR, 2.5 BA newer home. Neutral, clean & easy floor plan. Newer carpet & floor in kit & FR. FR w/fireplace and doorwall that opens to deck and spacious yard. BGP-06Wil 888-870-9127



CANTON $199,900
Beautiful condo. Fully handicap accessible! Rails throughout, seated shower in mst bath, 1st fl mst bedroom & laundry. Two decks, $300 gift certificate to Home Depot to buyer at closing. OEL54SAR 888-870-9105

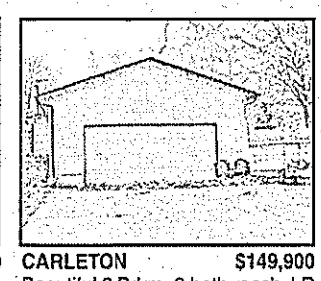


CANTON $207,300
Beautiful 2 bdrm, 2 baths, 1 lav condo! Ceramic tile foyer, great rm w/cathedral ceiling, gas frpl, oak cabs. Gourmet kitchen, 2nd flr has loft, built-in entertainment center. All appliances stay. Sec system. (BGN86HER) 888-870-9123

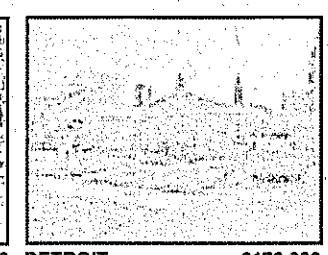


CANTON $200,000
Great value in Carriage Hills Subdivision! 4 sided brick 3 BR, 2 bath ranch. Great potential in large unfinished basement. Enjoy the natural fireplace in the family room. (BGN07GLO) 888-870-9123

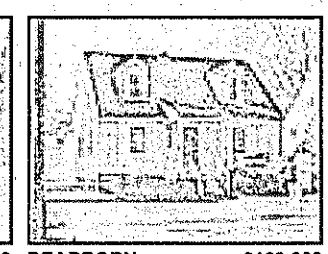
CANTON $199,900
Great price! Great location! 2 BR, 2 BA condo on a pretty interior setting. Spac white-bright kit (appls incl). Lux mast br w/vaulted clg, jac tub & fash bath. Two-way gas FP. Int to be painted 8/03. BGP-24Cop 888-870-9127



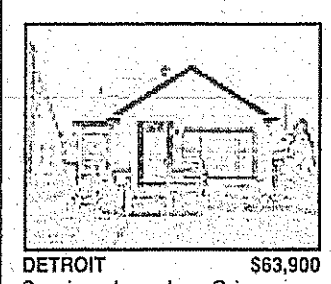
CARLETON $149,900
Beautiful 3 Bdrm, 2 bath ranch. LR & DR: Dbl hung windows T/O. Kitchen feat. Merrilat cabs. stove & refrigerator remain. Convenient 1st Flr laundry. Full basement w/ vented glass block windows. Great 2.5 car electrical garage. OEL15MAT 888-870-9105



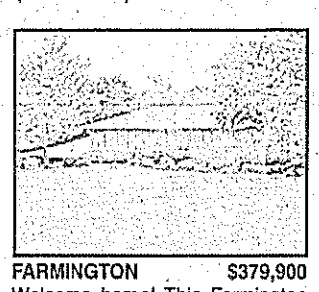
DETROIT $170,000
Spacious ranch. 3 bdrm/2 cer baths. Lg picture windows w/marble sills. Newer kitchen, fin bsmt, wood panel/wet bar/ 2nd frpl in bsmt. Newer furn & C/A & HWH. OEL41OUT 888-870-9105



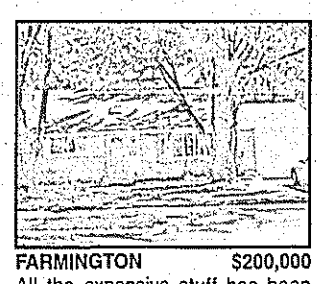
DEARBORN $169,900
4 Bdrm bungalow has newer oak kitchen w/lots of cupboards & counterspace, formal DR with Anderson bay window, Beautiful FR has frpl. refin hardwood floors on 2nd floor. Appliances included OEL00DET 888-870-9105



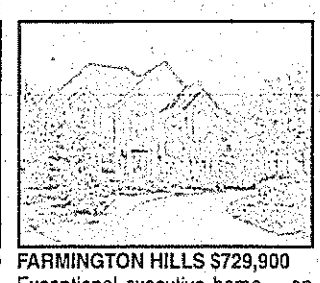
DETROIT $63,900
Spacious bungalow. Orig. owner has taken great care of this 1,254 sq. ft. 3 BR home. Roof (2000); newer furnace, porch and carpeting. Great home for the $. Seller to pay $2000 twrd clsng costs. OEL51VAU 888-870-9105



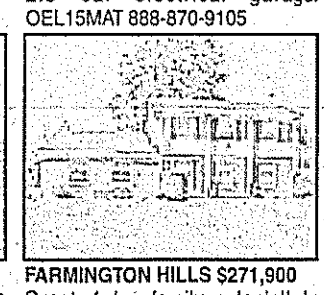
FARMINGTON $379,900
Welcome home! This Farmington Hills ranch boasts a 1 acre lot, finished walk-out basement, sunroom, new roof, updated landscaping, hot tub room, deck/patio and gorgeous wooded property. (BGN63FAR) 888-870-9123



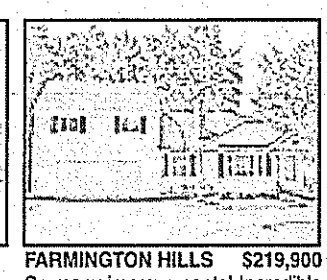
FARMINGTON $200,000
All the expensive stuff has been done! Windows, siding, doors, AC, hwh, furnace, electrical. 3 bedrooms, 1.5 baths, private yd. Vaulted ceilings, skylights, hwf. (BGN50POW) 888-870-9123



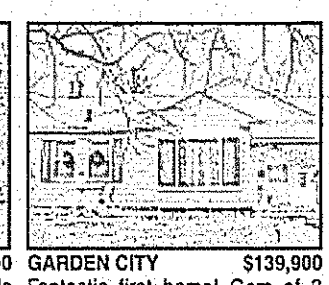
FARMINGTON HILLS $729,900
Exceptional executive home.... on premium court setting backing to trees & golf course. Impressive 2-story Fam Rm w/brick fireplace. Gourmet kit & nook. Lux master suite w/tray ceiling & 2 WIC's. BGP-93Tur 888-870-9127



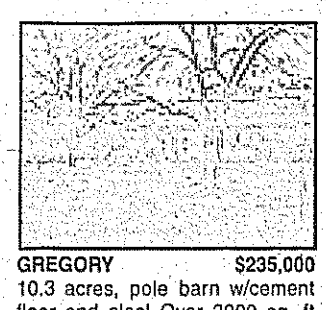
FARMINGTON HILLS $271,900
Great 4 br, family colonial! In popular Lincolnshire! Backs to school play area, large family room, rec. room w/wet bar, lots of storage, everywhere! Patio with awning! Great value! (BGN27LYN) 888-870-9123



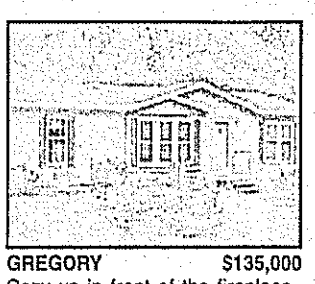
FARMINGTON HILLS $219,900
So many improvements! Incredible 3 br, 2 ba home boasting just under 1300 sq. ft. All new windows. New roof, lrg att gar. addit. Brand new kit w/new appl. Remodeled baths. Too much to mention. (BGN93MED) 888-870-9123



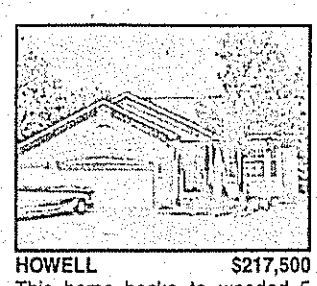
GARDEN CITY $139,900
Fantastic first home! Gem of 3 bedroom ranch. Neat, clean and move-in ready. Newer furnace and AC ('02). Updated kitchen with oak cabinets. Partially finished basement, 1-1/2 car garage. BGP-14She 888-870-9127



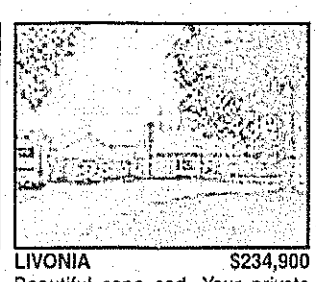
GREGORY $235,000
10.3 acres, pole barn w/cement floor and elec! Over 3000 sq. ft home, plus large garage/ workshop! This home is 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, walkout. Come take a look. Great price. Motivated seller! (BGSLY75GRE) 888-870-9131



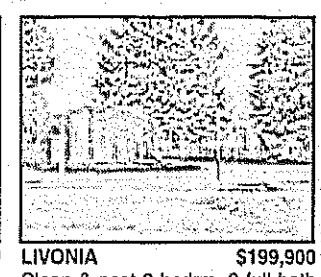
GREGORY $135,000
Cozy up in front of the fireplace.. This 1650 sq ft ranch has a large kitchen to make mom happy and the master bathroom features a newer jacuzzi tub to relax in. Great place to call home! (BGSLY21HOL) 888-870-9131



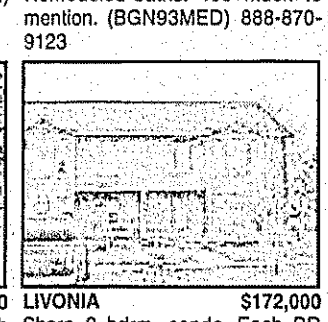
HOWELL $217,500
This home backs to wooded 5 acres. Vaulted ceilings, walk-out basement newer carpet & blinds. 3 bds, 2 baths, 2 prvt beaches, trails all-sports lake. Move in condition. (BGSLY10SHO) 888-870-9131



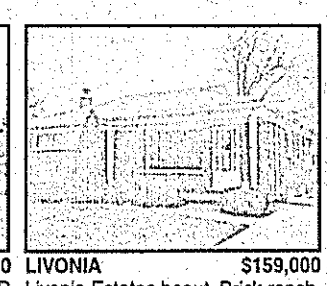
LIVONIA $234,900
Beautiful cape cod. Your private resort best describes 3 bedrm, 2 full bath home. LR W/FP. Kitchen w/oak cabinets & appliances. Large FR overlooking 1/2 acre lot w/above ground pool w/large wood deck. OEL21GRA 888-870-9105



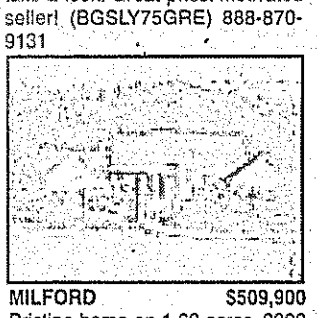
LIVONIA $199,900
Clean & neat 3 bedrm, 2 full bath brick "Renaissance" ranch In NW. Livonia. Open kitchen w/oven-range & built-in DW. FR w/brick wall fpl & doorwall to double tier concrete patio. Excellent fin bsmt w/possible 4th bedrm. 2 car att gar. OEL22RAM 888-870-9105



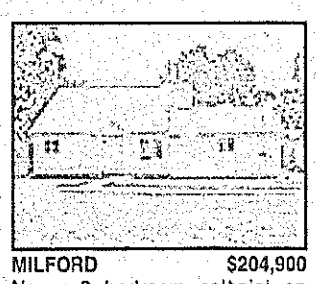
LIVONIA $172,000
Sharp 2 bdrm, condo. Each BR has it's own full bath. Oak kitch w/appliances. New roof-03. First floor laundry! Good size deck in rear. Full/private basement. 1-car carport + 2 assigned spaces. OEL82MER 888-870-9105



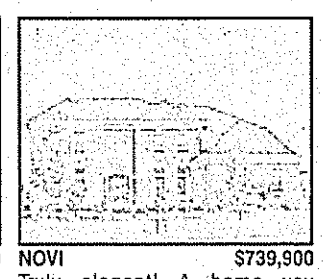
LIVONIA $159,000
Livonia Estates beaut. Brick ranch. Lg. LR, nice kitchen w/eating space & all appliances stay. Part fin. bsmt with glass block wind. Updated elec. 2 car gar. Washer & dryer stay. 2 car garage. Won't last! OEL62SUN 888-870-9105



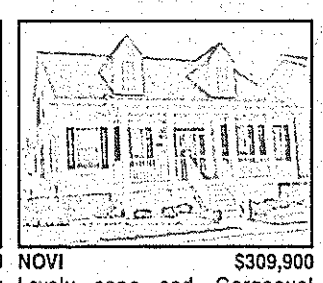
MILFORD $509,900
Pristine home on 1.62 acres. 2920 sq. ft contemporary home with 4 BR, 3.5 Baths, & 1st floor master suite w/sky lights & plenty of privacy. Professionally finished bsmt providing an add'l 1,400 sq ft. OEL67HER 888-870-9105



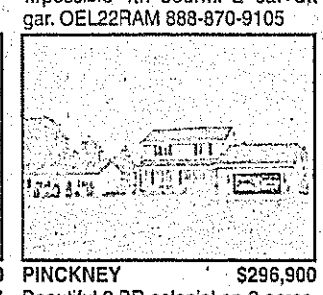
MILFORD $204,900
Newer 3 bedroom colonial on almost an acre. Open floor plan, neutral and ready to move into. Great room with cathedral ceilings - fireplace, sprawling kitchen, 2 car garage Full basement. (BGSLY57OLD) 888-870-9131



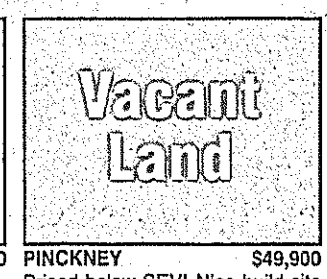
NOVI $739,900
Truly elegant! A home you deserve! 4 BR, 3.1 BA colonial. Dual staircase. Granite cntrtops, w/i pantry & cherry cbnts. 19 x 9 sun room off kitchen. Hdwd flrs in kitchen, nook & DR. BGP-30Abe 888-870-9127



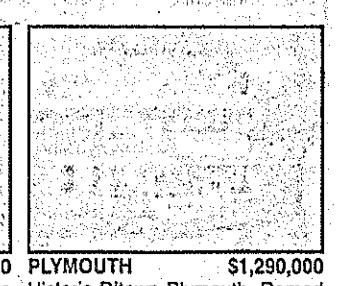
NOVI $309,900
Lovely cape cod. Gorgeous! Immaculate 2000 built home with 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, 2 car garage, basement. Numerous upgrades. First floor master suite with vaulted ceiling. Kitchen with hwf and nook. Fireplace. BGP-53Eme 888-870-9127



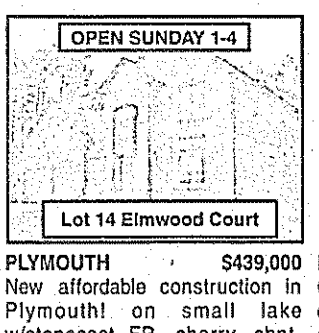
PINCKNEY $296,900
Beautiful 3 BR colonial on 2 acres. Pond in front. House w/matching 30x30 pole barn. Family RM w/fieldstone fireplace. Merillat, kinetico, & Bryant - all the best. Better than new home. (BGSLY06FRU) 888-870-9131



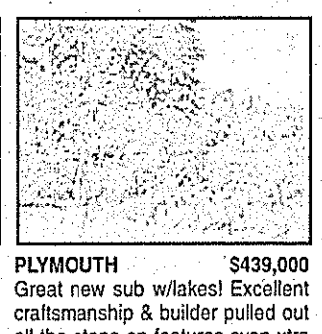
PINCKNEY $49,900
Priced below SEV! Nice build site 1 block from golf course. Deeded access on Rush Lake. Private lake with beaches. Land contract available. (BGSLYVLCOU) 888-870-9131



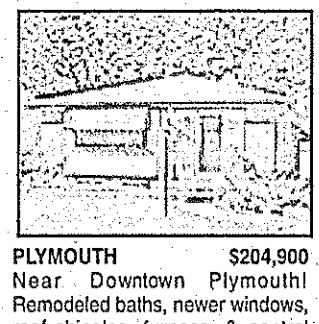
PLYMOUTH $1,290,000
Historic D'town Plymouth. Remod & updated. Carriage Hse feat 2 stes, ea w/priv ent, bath w/pool, fp & balc. 7 bdrms (6 w/priv bath). 3rd flr mstr ste feat sitting room, dress area, bath, and kitchenette. OEL32PEN 888-870-9105



PLYMOUTH $439,000
New affordable construction in Plymouth! on small lake w/stonecast FP, cherry cbnt, granite cntrs. Custom mlds & trim. Brazilian hdwd flrs. Ceramic BA & laundry. 4 BR, 2.5 BA, daylight bsmt. Available in Nov. BGP-00Elm 888-870-9127

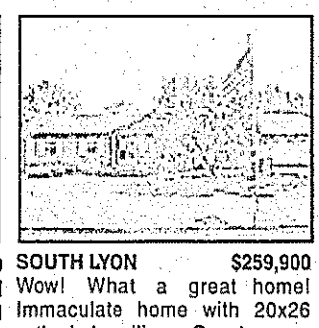


PLYMOUTH $439,000
Great new sub w/lakes! Excellent craftsmanship & builder pulled out all the stops on features even xtra deep bsmnt. Great pre-construction prices. (BGN18ELM) 888-870-9123

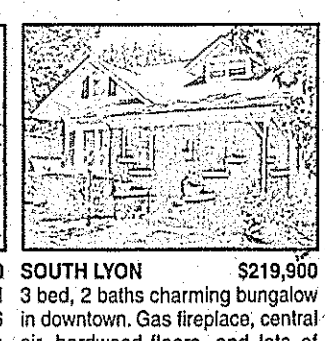


PLYMOUTH $204,900
Near Downtown Plymouth! Remodeled baths, newer windows, roof shingles, furnace, & central air, deck w/awning, extra wide driveway, hardwood floors, & coved plaster ceilings. (BGN20HOL) 888-870-9123

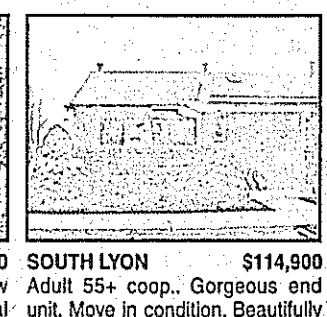
SOUTH LYON $315,000
Beautiful wooded lot. . Cape cod on an acre with four beds and baths. Walkout unfinished basement. Hardwood floors & new carpet. Home warranty. Move right in. What more could you want? (BGSLY47NOL) 888-870-9131



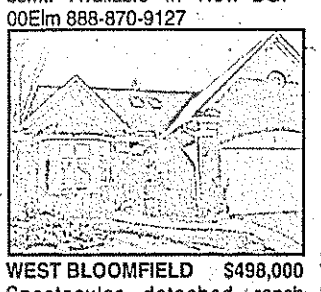
SOUTH LYON $259,900
Wow! What a great home! Immaculate home with 20x26 cathedral ceiling. Great room finished basement hot tub. Forever decking with pool! This home is maintenance free on 1/2 lot. Hurry! (BGSLY04SEQ) 888-870-9131



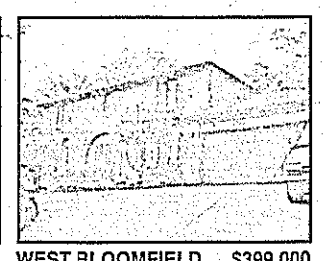
SOUTH LYON $219,900
3 bed, 2 baths charming bungalow in downtown. Gas fireplace, central air, hardwood floors, and lots of storage space. Partially finished basement, 1 car garage plus space for a boat. (BGSLY10WLAK) 888-870-9131



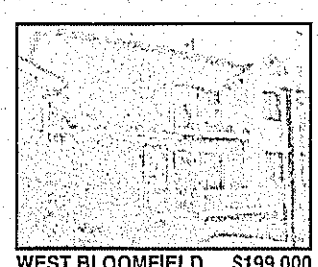
SOUTH LYON $114,900
Adult 55+ coop.. Gorgeous end unit. Move in condition. Beautifully maintained. All appl stay. LL 3rd BR. Fireplace in LL. Florida rm for added enjoyment. Inground pool and clubhouse. (BGSLY05CON) 888-870-9131



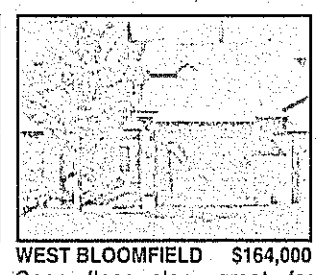
WEST BLOOMFIELD $498,000
Spectacular detached ranch condo! On wooded cul-de-sac w/dramatic ceilings & windows, skylights, open floor plan, finished baylight bsmnt, beautiful light decor & over 2300 sq. ft. (BGN77COU) 888-870-9123



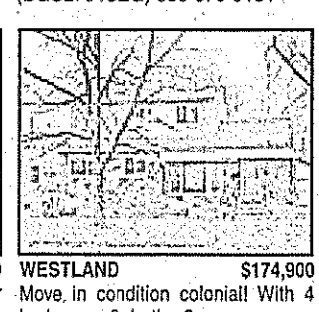
WEST BLOOMFIELD $399,000
Magnificent colonial! Sits high on the hill! For a private retreat. This 4 bdrm brick colonial has a lot to offer-formal dining room, full finished bsmnt, multi-tiered wet bar. (BGN80PON) 888-870-9123



WEST BLOOMFIELD $199,000
Exceptional 2 bdrm, 2 bath ranch condo! All appliances are included. Open floor plan, club house and pool, 2 car garage, basement, home warranty, clean and neutral. Sure to please. (BGN07ELM) 888-870-9123

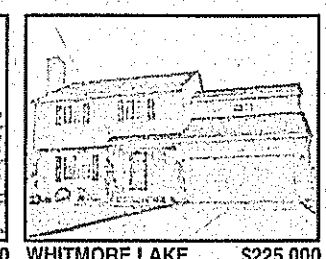


WEST BLOOMFIELD $164,000
Open floor plan, great for entertaining! Beautiful 2 br, 2 ba, w/garage condo. Cathedral ceiling & recessed lighting in GR, DR, and kitchen. Neutral decor thruout. In-unit laundry. (BGN20RID) 888-870-9123



WESTLAND $174,900
Move in condition colonial! With 4 bedroom, 3 bath, 3+ car garage. Many updates. Large family room with wood burning fireplace. Motivated seller! Immediate Occupancy! (BGN02HAZ) 888-870-9123

WESTLAND $164,900
Beautiful! 3 bed., 1.5 bath brick ranch offers newer roof, windows, sprinklers, oak Pennville cabinets. 2+ car garage is drywalled. Finished LL w/built-ins. central air, fenced yard, perennial. BGP-09Flo 888-870-9127



WHITMORE LAKE $225,000
Beautiful home on a gorgeous lot.. Built in 1998, neat and clean and ready to move in! Kitchen appliances included! (BGSLY36CHE) 888-870-9131

Tricha Kneiding
Northville-Novi
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Pam Danaher
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248-437-4500

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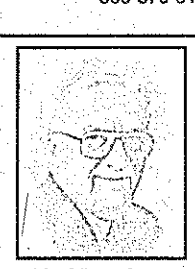

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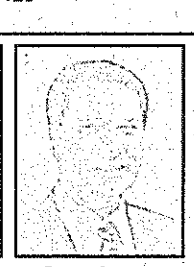

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Livonia
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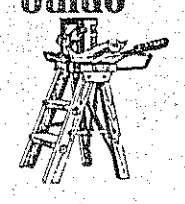
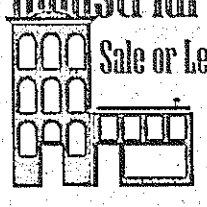
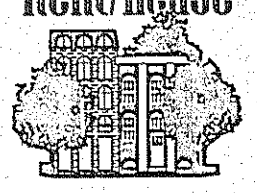


3000-3890
Real Estate For Sale

3890-3980
Commercial Industrial
Sale or Lease



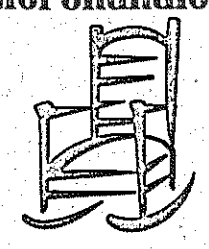
4000-4980
Real Estate Rent/Lease



5000-5980
Employment Instruction Services

6000-6980
Announcements

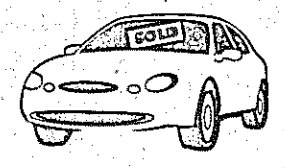
7000-7780
Merchandise



7110-7130
Garage and Moving Sale

7800-7980
Animals
Pets/Livestock

8000-8780
Automotive
Recreational Vehicles



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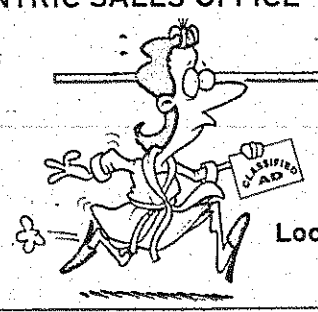
SUNDAY PAPER	5:00PM Friday
THURSDAY PAPER	5:30PM Tuesday



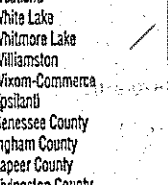
Too Late To Classifieds...

If you missed our regular Tuesday deadline for Thursday's publication, you can now call us 'til Wednesday at 11am and place your ad in our "Too Late To Classified" Section.
Look for this to appear in Section C of the paper!
Let us work for you!

3000's Real Estate

3000.....Homes
3030.....Open Houses
3040.....Ann Arbor
3043.....Auburn Hills
3045.....Belleville & Van Buren
3050.....Birmingham-Bloomfield
3055.....Bloomfield
3060.....Brighton
3070.....Byron
3080.....Canton
3090.....Clarkston
3100.....Cohoctah
3110.....Dearborn
3115.....Dearborn Hgts
3120.....Detroit
3130.....Chelsea
3135.....Dexter
3140.....Farmington
3145.....Farmington Hills
3150.....Fenton
3155.....Ferndale
3160.....Fowlerville
3170.....Garden City
3180.....Grosse Pointe
3190.....Hamburg
3200.....Hartland
3210.....Highland
3220.....Holly
3230.....Howell
3234.....Huntington Woods
3235.....Keego Harbor
3236.....Lake Orion
3238.....Lathrup Village
3240.....Linden
3250.....Livonia
3260.....Milford
3265.....Monroe
3270.....New Hudson
3280.....Northville
3290.....Novi
3300.....Oak Grove
3305.....Oak Park
3310.....Orion Township
3315.....Orchard Lake
3318.....Oxford
3320.....Perry
3340.....Pinckney
3345.....Pleasant Ridge
3347.....Plymouth
3350.....Redford
3360.....Rochester
3370.....Royal Oak
3380.....Salem-Salem Township
3390.....Southfield-Lathrup
3400.....South Lyon
3405.....Stockbridge-Unadilla-Gregory
3410.....Troy
3415.....Union Lake
3420.....Walled Lake
3423.....Waterford
3424.....Wayne
3430.....Webberville
3440.....West Bloomfield
3420.....Walled Lake
3423.....Waterford
3424.....Wayne
3430.....Webberville
3440.....West Bloomfield
3445.....Westland
3450.....White Lake
3460.....Whitmore Lake
3470.....Williamston
3480.....Wixom-Commerce
3490.....Ypsilanti
3500.....Genessee County
3510.....Ingham County
3515.....Lapeer County
3520.....Livingston County
3530.....Macomb County
3540.....Oakland County
3550.....Shiawassee County
3560.....Washtenaw County
3570.....Wayne County
3580.....Lakefront/Waterfront Homes
3590.....Other Suburban Homes
3509.....Out of State Homes/Property
3610.....Country Homes
3630.....Farms/Horse Farms
3640.....Real Estate Services
3700.....New Home Builders
3710.....Apartments For Sale
3720.....Condos
3730.....Duplexes & Townhouses
3740.....Manufactured Homes
3750.....Mobil Homes
3755.....Commercial/Retail For Sale
3760.....Homes Under Construction
3770.....Lakefront Property
3780.....Lakes & River Resort Property
3790.....Northern Property
3800.....Resort & Vacation Property
3810.....Southern Property
3820.....Lots & Acreage/Vacant
3830.....Time Share
3840.....Lease/Option To Buy
3850.....Mortgage/Land Contracts
3860.....Money To Loan
3870.....Real Estate Wanted
3880.....Cemetery Lots
3890.....Commercial/Industrial For Sale

3900-3980 Commercial/Industrial



3900.....Business Opportunities
3910.....Business/Professional Building
3920.....Commercial/Retail For Lease
3930.....Income Property For Sale
3935.....Industrial & Warehouse For Lease
3940.....Industrial & Warehouse For Sale
3950.....Office Business for Lease
3955.....Office Space For Sale
3960.....Commercial & Industrial For Lease
3970.....Investment Property
3980.....Land

1-800-579-SELL

Belleville & Van Buren 3045

BELLEVILLE
COUNTRY LIVING IN THE CITY. 3 bed. ranch on a dead end street. Newer roof & furnace. Close to shopping. Also included in prop ID#83059010056004,.04 acre adjacent to east side of lot. D110 **$138,900**
Real Estate One
(734) 326-2000

Bloomfield 3055

--BLOOMFIELD--
SALE OR LEASE
Great 1600 sq. ft. ranch w/Bloomfield Hills schools & Wing Lake privileges. Sale or lease w/option to buy! Sale $245,000, Lease $1300/mo. Please call John at (248) 225-9858
HANNETT • WILSON & WHITEHOUSE
(248) 646-6200

Brighton 3060

BRIGHTON/HOWELL 1800 sq. ft. homes on 1/2 acre lots. Great location, paved streets, sidewalks, sewers, golf & boating. Builders closeout, hurry only 6 lots left. $180,000 - $220,000 Liberty Homes 810-225-8944

Done to Perfection! Wonderful 4 bed. colonial on 1.61 acres. Transfer forces sale of this beauty. New oak kitchen & moldings. Master bedroom has huge bath. 2 way fireplace from living room to family room. 23H2787 **$479,900**
Real Estate One
(734) 455-7000

Canton 3080

BY OWNER:MUST SEE!
3 bed, 3 bath ranch, finished bsmt with wetbar. Move-In cond., $265,000.
734-812-7714

CENTRAL PARK ESTATES SUB
Executive home located on the 23rd. hole of prestigious Pheasant Run golf course. Colonial w/4 bed., 3 full baths, 2 lavs. (P21CEN) $479,900. QUALITY PROPERTIES, INC., GMAC REAL ESTATE. (734) 451-5400

Charming Canton colonial. 3 bed., 1.5 bath, large eat in kitchen w/bay window & new dishwasher '03, beautiful hardwoods in foyer, power room & kitchen, brick fireplace in living room, c.a., newer roof '98, deck & more! M43939 PC070232 **$199,900**
Real Estate One
(734) 591-9200

Decorated to Perfection! 4 bed., 2.5 bath colonial. 2 story foyer, formal living room & dining room, gourmet kitchen, master suite & bath, 1st floor laundry. Upgrades galore. Extra large corner lot. Walk to Dodson Elementary. 23W160 **$405,000**
Real Estate One
(734) 455-7000

Open Houses 3030

LIVONIA - Open Sun. 1-4
11201 Brookfield, S/Plymouth, E/Farmington.
3 bedroom, 2 bath ranch. $179,900. (734) 367-0983

When seeking out the best deal check out the Observer & Eccentric Classifieds!
1-800-579-7355

PLYMOUTH - Open Sun 1-5 Spectacular 4 bedroom colonial in Trillium Woods, close to schools, shopping & all x-ways 9126 Trillium Lane. $349,000. (734) 207-5182

Belleville & Van Buren 3045

BELLEVILLE
BELLEVILLE BEAUTY. This 4 bed. 4 year old 2 1/2 bath colonial w/2200 sq. ft. Hardwood floors in entry, hall, kitchen. Fireplace, c.a., two car attached garage. Sprinklers, patio. S427 PC220342 **$249,900**
Real Estate One
(734) 326-2000

Canton 3080

Immediate occupancy. Fresh paint, 2 bed., 2.5 bath, loft, great room w/fireplace, 1st floor laundry, appliances stay, deck, basement, 2 car attached garage. H45257 PC070692 **$187,900**
Real Estate One
(734) 591-9200

Location! Location! Location! Rare find! Enjoy court location which backs to a pond w/fountain. Master 1st floor. 3 car garage w/heat. Walkout basement, den off foyer, hardwood floors in kitchen, foyer, nook & hallway. B47539 **$419,900**
Real Estate One
(734) 591-9200

A word to the wise, when looking for a great deal check the **Observer & Eccentric Classifieds!**

Superb Home in Fox Run! Popular Pulte baybrook 4 bed. colonial. Finished basement. Open floor plan, luxurious master suite. Ready to move into, immediate occupancy. 23M5908 **$349,900**
Real Estate One
(734) 455-7000

Very unique colonial styled home! Located in cul-de-sac w/beautifully landscaped lot. Private study w/French doors, family room w/gas fireplace. Eat-in kitchen w/doorwall leading to cedar deck. Dining room w/butler pantry. 23D1173 **$294,900**
Real Estate One
(734) 455-7000

Canton 3080

BY OWNER:MUST SEE!
3 bed, 3 bath ranch, finished bsmt with wetbar. Move-In cond., $265,000.
734-812-7714

Clarkston 3090

CHARMING CLARKSTON home on historical Mill pond. Walking distance to downtown. Clarkston schools, 3-4 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, walk-out. Must see! For more info visit maxpages.com/clarkstonhome $259,900 or lease $2000/mo (248) 203-1705.

Dearborn 3110

BEAUTIFUL BUNGALOW
Harding @ Outer Drive area. Updated oak kitchen, newer vinyl windows, front porch, glass block windows, finished bsmt, hardwood floors. Immediate occupancy!
Asking $164,900
CALL BOB MERRY
734-453-8700
CROSSROADS

CUTE AND COZY DEARBORN BUNGALOW. This freshly painted home has 3 bed., 1 bath, hardwood floors on main floor. Updated windows, electric, hot water heater & upstairs carpet. Part finished basement, 2 car garage. Home warranty. 15MAD2 **$129,900**
Real Estate One
(248) 348-6430

TWO THOUSAND SQUARE FOOT DEARBORN COLONIAL. Remodeled in 2002. 4 bed., 3 baths, custom kitchen, garage, finished basement/w/bar-office. Hardwood floors, new carpet, c.a. Near Levagood Park. Land contract terms. D172 **$249,900**
Real Estate One
(734) 326-2000

Dearborn Heights 3115

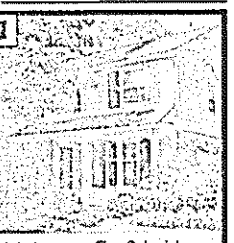
Sharp! Sharp! Sharp! 2 bed., 2.5 bath, exotic decor, very updated, vaulted ceiling, 2 story foyer, study on main floor, loft on 2nd level, lovely view of large deck. Fireplace in master bed. & more!!!A6717 **$229,900**
Real Estate One
(734) 591-9200

Farmington 3140

LOCATION, LOCATION
Must see. Lovely 4 bed, 2 1/2 bath brick ranch w/bsmt, family room, fireplace, hardwood floors, oak cabinets & immediate occupancy all on large cul-de-sac lot. Call to view, you'll be happy you did!
ANNIE NICHOLS
248-408-5695 248-348-6430
Real Estate One

A word to the wise, when looking for a great deal check the **Observer & Eccentric Classifieds!**

BIRMINGHAM
OPEN HOUSE
Sunday 12-7-03 1:00-5:00pm
1159 Lake Park
West of Woodward, South of Quarton



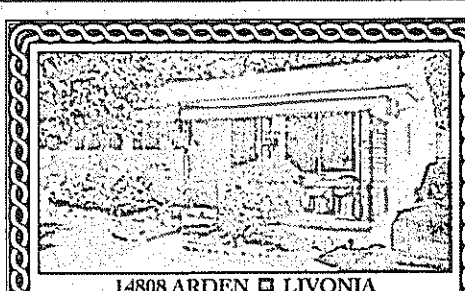
A Quarton Lake Estate treasure. Fine Colonial charm throughout this updated 5-bedroom home. Classic features such as hardwood floors and modern touches like an in-ground endless pool, spa, and patio make this home a must see! Dining room & living room each with wood-burning fireplaces are perfect for entertaining! One visit and you will fall in love with this home. View a virtual tour at: **www.unilandcorp.com**
UNILAND CORPORATION
248 593-6300

www.hometownlife.com

Farmington Hills 3145

Beautiful quiet courtyard setting overlooking pond. Sit & enjoy the deck, fireplace & skylights, large master w/walk in closet, kitchen w/oak cupboards, finished basement w/room /closets, newer furnace, soon a new roof (paid for). C31131 **$157,900**
Real Estate One
(734) 591-9200

FARMINGTON SCHOOLS
$79,900
WHY RENT!
This cute 3 bedroom home would make a great holiday present. Fenced yard, deck, storage shed.
JACQUELINE STEUER
248-505-3043
Coldwell Banker Schweitzer, 29905 Middlebelt Farmington Hills



14808 ARDEN ◘ LIVONIA
MOVE IN CONDITION. Open floor plan, three bedrooms, newer roof, windows, furnace, A/C, electrical and copper plumbing. Doors, recessed lighting. Lower level family room. [23119492-A] $179,900
SKBK SNYDER KINNEY BENNETT-KEATING REALTORS® SINCE 1932
— Ask For —
KERYN YOUNG
248.644.7000
OE00168597

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(734) 454-9535
COME VISIT US AT OUR NEW REAL ESTATE & MORTGAGE OFFICE COMPLEX IN CANTON LOCATED AT 7120 N. HAGGERTY ROAD

EMAIL: HOMES@HUSHOMES.COM & VISIT US AT WWW.HUSHOMES.COM

Canton–44036 Ardmore
3 bdrm, family room w/fireplace, fresh paint, huge bsmt w/possible 4th bdrm. $174,900

Canton–43697 Yorkville
2 bdrm Cape Cod style condo w/1 bdrm on main flr. End unit backs to woods. Deck $154,900

OPEN SUN 1–4 **Canton-50611 Fellows Creek**
4 bdrm. 4.5 bath Colonial. 4 car gar. Many amenities, aprox. 3,888 sqft. $629,900

Canton–45105 Horseshoe Circle
Beautiful 2 bdrm, 2.5 bath condo w/bsmt, nat. fireplace, 2 car att gar. Great location! $185,000

OPEN SUN 1–4 **Canton-47291 Fairlawn Ct.**
Pulte built in 2000, 3 bdrm. 1621 sqft ranch, upgrades throughout. $269,900

New Boston-36840 N. Jean Drive
Eagle Estates built in 1997. 5 bedrooms, pool, deck, 3 car garage. $385,000

Ypsilanti-6400 Meadowlark
Stunning 4 bedroom,2.5 bath, 2500 sqft Pulte Colonial. Extraordinary quality t/o. $309,900

Ypsilanti-7921 Creekbend
Newer const. 4 bdrm, 2.5 ba, 2,400 sqft colonial. Formal lr & dr, mstr ste w/garden tub. $289,900

Ypsilanti-5857 Pine View
3 bdrm 2 bath sprawling ranch, 1800+ sqft. 1st flr laundry, basement, 2 car att. Garage. $264,900

Dearborn Heights-6050 Dwight
3 bdrm, 1.5 bath brick ranch w/finished. Basement & 2 car garage. Mint Condition!! $177,400

Taylor-14245 Ziegler (condo)
2 bdrm condo w/clubhouse & pool, low assn fee, white bay kitch, huge deck, nice location.$88,000

Taylor-15664 Dupage (condo)
2 bdrm & 1.5 bath condo in private location, updates: windows, flooring, dishwasher. $69,900

OPEN SUN 1–4 **Plymouth-365 Roe**
Plymouth character & charm. Craftman style home. Many updates, low, low $200's

OPEN SUN 12–4 **Plymouth-9668 Haggerty**
Breathtaking! 3 bdrm ranch over 1,300 sqft , f.p., ingrnd pool/hot tub, lg master, fin bsmt. $214,900

OPEN SUN 2–5 **Van Buren–10823 Jackson**
Popular Van Buren Estates 3 bdrm ranch w/vinyl floor in kitchen, steel entry doors. 132,000

Redford-17215 Delaware
3 bedroom, 1.5 bath brick ranch w/finished basement & 2.5 car garage. Central air. $134,900

Redford-20372 Fox
3 bdrm brick ranch w/ vinyl windows, new carpet, fin bsmt, garage, oak kitchen. $119,900

Westland-8470 Rickle
Priced to sell! 3 bdrm brick ranch, basement, garage, Livonia Schools. $142,900

Westland-36756 Dartmouth
3 bdrm 1.5 ba Colonial, 2 car gar, part finished bsmt. Built in 1990. $197,900

Westland-38436 Palmer
Sprawling 3 bdrm ranch w/huge LR & FR w/nat. fireplace. 1+ acre, 3 car gar. $209,900

Westland-1290 Shoemaker (condo)
Stunning 2 bdrm, 2 ba. Condo, skylights & deck for entertaining. Backs to woods. $114,900

Westland-32479 Birchwood
3 bdrm, ranch w/2 fully remodeled baths. updated t/o. newer oak kitchen, c/a, fin bsmt. $144,900

Westland-39236 Phlox
Beautifully updated 3 bdrm colonial w/ vaulted ceilings & natural fireplace. Built 1993. $187,900

Westland-605 S. Wildwood
3 bdrm brick ranch, 2.5 car det gar, new roof, windows, furnace. Oak kitchen .$139,900

Westland-37668 Butler
3bdrm ranch w/vaulted ceilings, fireplace, master suite, two-tier deck, finished bsmt. $189,900

Westland-12331 Camden
1,100 square foot investor/handyman special, priced for quick sale. $109,900

Livonia– 9610 Cardwell
Beautiful brick 3 bdrm, 1.5 bath bungalow; custom updated kitchen, finished bsmt. $164,900

Livonia– 28505 Clarita
Newer const. Built in 2002. 3 bdrm ranch, basement, 1 bath. Nice lot. Livonia schools. $144,900

Wayne-34880 Winslow
Beautiful home'in mint cond.2.5 car gar. Double lot, newer roof & C/A. Basement. $117,900

Inkster-29733 Grandview
2 bdrm ranch plenty of updates inc. roof, windows, carpet. Must see! $68,900

Southfield-25069 Oakbrook Dr
Southfield Condo professionally designed. 3 bdrm 2.5 bath finished basement. $169,500

Detroit-6422 Auburn St.
Beautiful 3 bdrm bungalow, fin basement, den upstairs, garage, updated throughout! $114,900

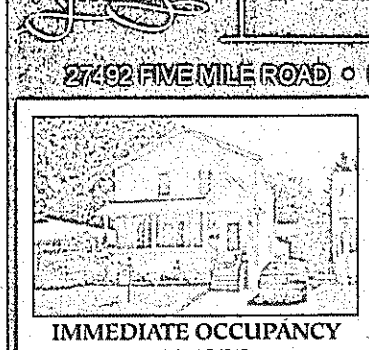
Detroit– 6332 Woodmont
3 bdrm brick ranch, basement, garage, new windows, refinished oak floors, C/A. $94,900

Detroit– 8634 Piedmont
Pre-remodeled! Kitchen, flooring, c/a, furnace blinds, newer roof. Waterproofed bsmt. $86,900

Sellers! Ask about our FULL service & LOW commission program. Have your home advertised here!

A better way to buy and sell real estate!

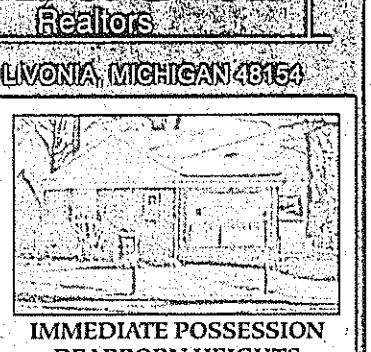
THE REAL ESTATE HOUSE Inc.
Season's Greetings
Clark & Fron Realtors
27492 FIVE MILE ROAD • LIVONIA, MICHIGAN 48154



IMMEDIATE OCCUPANCY
REDFORD
Large two story home with modern eat-in kitchen, dining room, family room, living room, six bedrooms, and basement. Newer furnace and central air. Great price: $139,900

LIVONIA-QUICK OCCUPANCY
Three bedroom ranch, family room with fireplace, attached two car garage, basement 60x150, and fenced lot. Asking $164,500

LIVONIA-MASTER SUITE
Make an offer on this 3 bedroom brick ranch with 3 full baths. Master also has two walk-in closets. Replacement windows, AC, finished bsmnt. Asking $179,900



IMMEDIATE POSSESSION
DEARBORN HEIGHTS
Three bedroom, 1½ story. Newer windows, plumbing, furnace and central air. Basement, garage, Dearborn Schools. Asking $132,900.

REDFORD - 1,300 SQUARE FEET
Appealing three bedroom, brick ranch. Large, newer 2½ car garage plus shed with electric. Updated electrical and plumbing. Asking $149,900

CONDO-FARMINGTON
Nice two bedroom corner unit. Large living room and master bedroom, balcony overlooking trees and creek. Central air. Asking $85,500

OE00168647

Ask for **Ron Fron 734-425-7300**

3000-3890 Real Estate For Sale

Open Houses 3030

Dearborn
OPEN HOUSE SAT. 1-4
24582 Woodcroft
N. Michigan/ W. Telegraph
This 3 bed., 2 bath Bungalow backs to golf course, bsmt, Garage. $180,000
CENTURY 21 PREMIER
(734) 453-4300
44958 Ford Rd. - Canton

FARMINGTON HILLS
OPEN SUN. 12:30-4
23201 Canfield. S. of 10 Mile/ E. of Middlebelt. Enter off Grayfield. New 4 Bed., 2 1/2 bath, 2600 sq.ft.. $299,900
CALL ED (248) 344-1800
REMERICA UNITED

homeTOWNlife.com

Open Houses 3030

LIVONIA - Open Sun. 1-4
11201 Brookfield, S/Plymouth, E/Farmington.
3 bedroom, 2 bath ranch. $179,900. (734) 367-0983

When seeking out the best deal check out the Observer & Eccentric Classifieds!
1-800-579-7355

PLYMOUTH - Open Sun 1-5 Spectacular 4 bedroom colonial in Trillium Woods, close to schools, shopping & all x-ways 9126 Trillium Lane. $349,000. (734) 207-5182

Belleville & Van Buren 3045

BELLEVILLE
BELLEVILLE BEAUTY. This 4 bed. 4 year old 2 1/2 bath colonial w/2200 sq. ft. Hardwood floors in entry, hall, kitchen. Fireplace, c.a., two car attached garage. Sprinklers, patio. S427 PC220342 **$249,900**
Real Estate One
(734) 326-2000

CLASSIFIEDS THAT WORK FOR YOU!
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Observer & Eccentric

Real Estate

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CROSSWORD PUZZLER

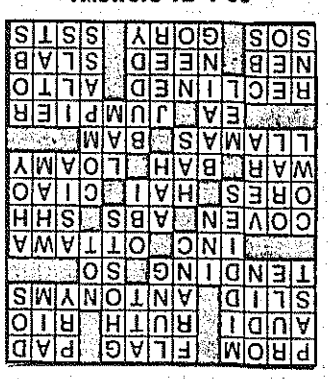
ACROSS

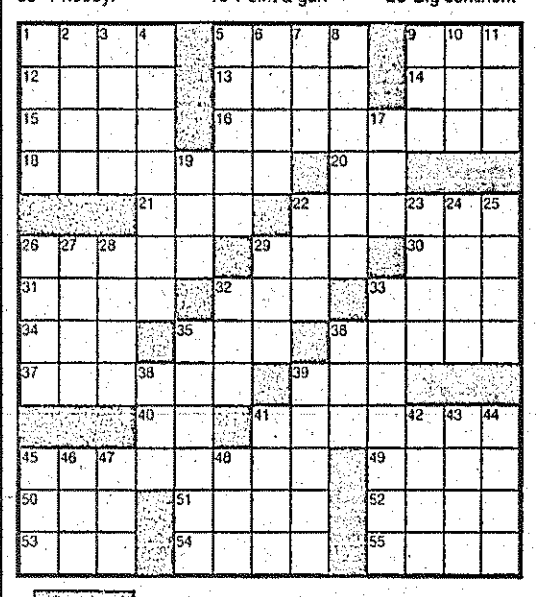
1 Gym event
5 Hail a cab
9 Tablet
12 German import
13 "Ask Dr. —"
14 Popular cruise stop
15 Used playground gear
16 "Black" and "white"
18 Caring for
20 "— sue me!"
21 Ltd. kin
22 Northern capital
26 Warlock's circle
29 Tummy muscles
30 "Keep it down!"
31 Crude metals
32 Yes, in Yokohama
33 Hi or bye
34 Major conflict
35 "Phooey!"
36 Fertile
37 Andes ruminants
39 Comic-book thud
40 Price wd.
41 More skittish
45 Laid down
49 Choir voice
50 Midwest st.
51 Can't do without
52 Side of bacon
53 Distress call
54 Like vampire movies
55 JFK visitors

DOWN

1 Over with
2 Axiom
3 Norse god
4 Loose blouses
5 Cannes coin
6 Item in a chest
7 Legal rep
8 Poltergeists
9 Use a crowbar
10 Point a gun
11 Hairstyles
17 Teen's denial
19 Bed-and-breakfast
22 Kimono sash
23 Big continent
24 "Pow!"
25 Captain's shout
26 Monk's hood
27 Type of tradition
28 Actress — Miles
29 Sigh of content
32 Owns
33 Direction finder
35 Sound from the cote
36 Hasty escape
38 Singer — Torme
39 Sidekick
41 Catcall
42 Wrongs
43 Coup d'—
44 Sticks up
45 MD assistants
46 Fair-hiring letters
47 TV network
48 Prefix for classic

Answers 12-4-03





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Metropolitan Consolidated Association of REALTORS

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Farmington Hills 3145

Open Sun. 1-4:00. OPEN COMMONS LOT on this stunning approximately 2,763 sq. ft. colonial w/full finished basement w/wet bar & full bath, updated kitchen w/granite tops & newer built ins, 3.5 baths, two story foyer, first floor den & laundry, brick paver patios & walk ways, quick occupancy and tons more. CALL KEN GENTILE. Quality GMAC (734) 542-2538 or Cell (734) 968-7213

Farmington 3155

RANCH, 2 bed.'s, completely remodeled & updated through out, desirable location! $129,900
CALL JOHN HOSKO
REMERICA HOMETOWN
734-459-6222

Garden City 3170

IMMEDIATE OCCUPANCY
On this north Garden City 3 bed., 2 bath ranch. Newer vinyl windows, nice landscaping, beautifully finished bsmt w/ wet bar, huge 2.5 car garage. Asking $154,900
CALL BOB MERRY
734-453-8700
CROSSROADS

OPEN FLOOR PLAN
3 bed, 2 bath ranch on lg lot. Needs some TLC. $104,900.
MAINTENANCE FREE
Custom built 3 bed ranch w/ bsmt & garage. $175,000
Century 21 Towne Pride
(734) 326-2600
www.century21townepride.com

SPACIOUS STARTER
3 Bed. ranch w/ family room on lg. lot. Florida room, 2 car garage and long list of major updates. A solid buy at $128,900!

STEAL THIS HOME
Hurry, first one will buy this 3 bed. brick ranch. Bsmt w/ 2nd bath, 2.5 garage, lg. covered patio, every update you can think of and top location backing to park. Just $139,900!!
Call The Anderson's Century 21 Dynamic
(734) 728-7800 Direct
6900 N. Wayne, Westland

This Classification continues in Section C

Garden City 3170

BEST BUY IN THE CITY. 1254 sq. ft. of luxury in Garden City. 3 bed., family room w/fireplace, living room, 1 full & 1 half bath, basement, newer patio, windows & c.a. K289 $145,000
(734) 326-2000

Earn extra $$ advertise with O & E
1-800-579-SELL

Grosse Pointe 3180

GROSSE POINTE FARMS
5 Bed., 3 bath, wood floors, fireplace, 4600 sq.ft. $896,000
ShareNet (248) 642-1620

Hartland 3200

EXCEPTIONAL 3-4 bed., 2.5 bath Tudor, C/A, 2 fireplaces, walkout, deck. $349,000
ShareNet (248) 642-1620

Hartland Schools
Open Sat. Dec., 6, 1-4pm
HANG YOUR MISTLETOE...in this attractive newer 3 bedroom, 2 bath ranch on partially wooded 1.6 acres. Open floor plan includes cathedral ceilings, convenient kitchen, dining area with snack bar, first floor laundry, full walkout basement prepped for 3rd bath and 2 car attached garage. Public access to Indian Lake nearby! $208,000. Take Latson Road North of M-59 & North of Center Road following open signs to 9143 Latson Road.
ENGLAND REAL ESTATE
888-211-9560, 810-632-7427

Howell 3230

COLONIAL WITH WALKOUT
1 acre, pond, 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, 3 car garage, appliances, $342,900. www.seehomephoto.com ad# 28973 (517) 540-9860

When seeking out the best deal check out the Observer & Eccentric Classifieds!
1-800-579-7355

Howell 3230

HOWELL CHARMER! Cute 3 bed. bungalow in downtown Howell. Hardwood floors, new windows throughout, new bathroom, large kitchen, dining room, basement, private deck, fenced yard, 2 car garage w/workshop & much more! 09JEW2 $169,900
Real Estate One
(248) 348-6430

Huntington Woods 3234

HUNTINGTON WOODS TWO HOMES COMING SOON
1. Totally REDONE brick colonial with 4 bed., 3.5 baths. Family room, library, rec room. Over 3,000 sq. ft. Like a new house. $739,900
2. NEW CONSTRUCTION - Get in on the ground floor. Planning for summer 2004. Tudor style +3,000 sq. ft. $799,000
FOR MORE DETAILS, CALL GAIL LINDEN, RE/MAX In the Hills
(248) 646-5000 or 542-0138

Linden 3240

Linden Schools
Open Sun. Dec.7, 1-4 pm
WELCOME HOME! - Excellent floor plan comes with this wonderful 3 bedroom, 2 bath ranch. Home features a convenient kitchen and dining area with doorwall to deck and pleasant treed back yard. Spacious great room, full basement and 2 car attached garage! Take Silver Lake Road West of US-23 to North on Ripley (South of Rolston) to 14461 Ripley Road. $159,500.
Linden Schools
Open Sun. Dec. 7, 1-4 pm
A GIFT THAT WILL KEEP GIVING! - Bright "new" 3 bedroom, 2 bath 2 story with peaceful setting on 2 acres, plenty of room for pole barn. Sharp, convenient kitchen with maple cabinets, comfortable great room with beautiful fireplace, basement with daylight windows and plumbed for bath. 2 car attached garage and more! $259,900. Take Lahring Road West of Linden Road, just East of Seymour Road to 13020 White Oaks Drive
Linden Schools
JUST LISTED! - Many custom features in this lovely Colonial on 5 acres! Home includes 4 bedrooms, huge kitchen with a lovely white cabinetry and hardwood floors. Formal dining room. Great room with gas fireplace, 1st floor den, 1st & 2nd floor laundry, 1st floor master suite. Finished walkout lower level includes 2 bedrooms, full bath, game room, family room and doorwall to stamped patio. Other features include deck, crown moulding, Corian counters in master bath and 3 car attached garage! $412,000
Linden Schools
MAKING SPIRITS BRIGHT! Welcome family and friends to this wonderful home! Features included in this 2500 sq. ft. 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath 1.5 story include a pretty living room w/soaring ceilings, great room w/wet bar, family room w/fireplace & door to Florida room. Well planned kitchen, wonderful master suite and partially finished basement. Deck with gazebo & garage! $209,900.
ENGLAND REAL ESTATE
888-211-9560, 810-632-7427

Livonia 3250

ALL BRICK RANCH WITH FINISHED BASEMENT! Big kitchen, hardwood floors that need Refinishing, 3 windows left to replace, furnace & c.a. 4 yrs. old, bathroom has double sinks, patio in back is brick & more! I150 PC220612 $134,900
Real Estate One
(734) 326-2000

ALMOST A 1/2 ACRE
With this 3 bed., 2.5 bath brick colonial. Dining room, huge isle kitchen, family room w/ fireplace, 1st floor laundry, bsmt & 2 car attached garage too! $269,000 (45MOR)
CENTURY 21 ROW
(734) 464-7111

BEAUTIFUL BRICK RANCH
With a remodeled kitchen, doorwall to patio, finished bsmt, 2 car garage, updates galore, must see. $175,900

GREAT PRICE
On this ranch style home with a huge living room, remodeled kitchen, 1 1/2 baths, partially finished bsmt, 2 car garage. Many updates. $149,900

CENTURY 21 CASTELLI
(734) 525-7900
Serving the area for 28 yrs

BRICK BEAUTY
Immediate Occupancy!
Sharp 3 bed. ranch, newer furnace, C/A & roof, doorwall to brick patio, 1.5 baths, finished bsmt w/ rec. room, 2 car garage, near schools & shopping. $194,900
CENTURY 21 JOHN COLE REALTY
(313) 937-2300
(734) 455-8430

BRICK RANCH w/vinyl trim, 1000 Sq. ft., 3 bed, 1 bath, updated kitchen, hardwood floors, large fence in yard, partially finished bsmt., 1.5 car detached garage. $195,000. 248-890-1318

CAPE COD
3 bedroom with finished basement. 1390 sq. ft. with an additional 700 sq. ft. in the finished basement. Master suite 13 by 23 feet. 1.5 car garage. Located in Rosedale Gardens. $219,900.
734-525-9600
Century 21 Hartford North

Dare to compare!!! You'll be amazed by all the custom extra's in this 3 bed., 1.5 bath brick ranch. Gourmet kitchen w/maple cabinets, spa type bath w/cherry cabinets, finished basement, newer roof & more! C28035 $179,900
Real Estate One
(734) 591-9200

Livonia 3250

Great location! 3 bedroom brick ranch, Apporx. 1300 sq.ft. 1.5 baths, a.c. built in stove/oven, dishwasher, finished basement, 2 car attached garage. $183,990. 517-548-4263 for appoint.

How Sweet It Is! Updated eat-in kitchen, formal dining room w/pantry. 3 nice size bed., large living room. Part finished basement. Master bedroom 1/2 bath, updated bath, 1/2 bath in basement. 2.5 car garage. Must see! 23W20032 $180,900
Real Estate One
(734) 455-7000

IMMEDIATE OCCUPANCY
On this 4 bed. colonial. Updated kitchen, roof, windows, furnace, C/A, carpet and more. Asking $259,900
CALL BOB MERRY
734-453-8700
CROSSROADS

IMPECCABLY MAINTAINED! Transferee perfect! Move right in, 4 bed., 3.5 bath colonial. Beautiful kitchen w/accent tile & island. Large family room w/fireplace & cathedral ceiling, master bedroom w/his/her closets, spacious bath. 10MAN2 $357,900
Real Estate One
(248) 348-6430

LIVING IN LIVONIA

COLONIAL-$299,900
IMMEDIATE OCCUPANCY
On cul-de-sac, 4-5 bed, 2.5 bath, 2,512 sq.ft. home w/bsmt & 2 car garage. Living & dining rooms, family room w/fireplace, library or 5th bed, kitchen w/oak cabinets, Florida room, 1st floor laundry. Hardwood floors, C/A & more. (BL153)

COLONIAL-$289,900
JUST REDUCED
Updated 4 bed, 2.5 bath Colonial has newer roof, furnace, C/A, Andersen windows & more! Formal living & dining rooms. Family room w/library area & fireplace. Updated kitchen w/oak cupboards, pantry, "no wax" floor & appliances. Bsmt. Raised patio. 2 car attached garage. (WE184)

RANCH-$159,900
IMMEDIATE OCCUPANCY
Well maintained 3 bed, 1.5 bath brick ranch w/bsmt & 2 car garage. Huge eat-in kitchen. Hardwood floors throughout. Newer C/A, furnace, windows. Pool table stays. (DE179)
Century 21 Today
(734) 462-9800
www.century21today.com

Location, Quality, Value & Charm! This well maintained 3 bed., 2.5 bath brick colonial has it all with 1700 sq. ft. of quality living area, master bed. w/full bath. Updated include: windows, kitchen & carpet. Nice yard! W19960 $220,000
Real Estate One
(734) 591-9200

LOVELY BURTON HOLLOW CAPE COD. New siding, front door & garage door. Newer roof '97, replacement vinyl windows, updated kitchen w/all appliances, updated baths, new carpet '98. Swim club & elementary school in sub. Home warranty. 12W002 $290,000
Real Estate One
(248) 348-6430

Move in at closing! Full brick ranch, cathedral ceilings throughout. 3 bed., 1.5 bath on main floor, newer windows, electric & plumbing, c.a., basement has wet bar, 2+ car garage. Hurry, won't last!!! 019184 $185,900
Real Estate One
(734) 591-9200

New opportunity in popular Kimberly Oaks. Loaded w/updates like a new kitchen & windows, beautiful fieldstone gas fireplace, brick paver patio & more. This 1377 sq. ft. ranch is looking for new owners before Christmas! B32755 $204,900
Real Estate One
(734) 591-9200

One half acre lot in quiet country sub in central Livonia. 1900 sq. ft. Cape Cod offers living room w/fireplace, family room, finished basement & updates throughout. Oversized mechanics 2 car garage w/loft. B14962 $199,900
Real Estate One
(734) 591-9200

Open Sun. 1-4:00 WOODED, RAVINE LOT on this 2,828 sq. ft. colonial w/full partially finished walkout basement, family room w/fieldstone fireplace, deck viewing nature beauty at its best, super landscaping w/full sprinkler, circular drive w/3 car side entrance garage & tons more. CALL KEN GENTILE, Quality GMAC (734) 542-2538 or Cell (734) 968-7213 N. Five on Hubbard to 32447 Camborne.

Welcome home to this well cared for ranch. The open floor plan waits w/full size basement, copper plumbing, electric, 2 car garage, windows updated Beautiful hardwood floors throughout. Close to schools, parks and more. L27604 PC070572 $174,900
Real Estate One
(734) 591-9200

IT DOESN'T GET ANY BETTER THAN THIS.. Observer & Eccentric Classifieds! 1-800-579-SELL

Northville 3280

ELEGANT LAKEFRONT HOME IN NORTHVILLE. 4 bed., 3 baths/2 lavs. Hardwood, granite, 2 stairways. Master suite w/glamour bath & 20x10 closet. Neutral decor. Lush landscaping, Trex deck, patio, private beach. 25PAR2 $1,150,000
Real Estate One
(248) 348-6430

GORGEOUS NORTHVILLE CAPE COD - One year new home featuring premium wooded lot, cherry cabinets & vaulted ceilings. Must see-priced to sell at $419,900. (P02CYP)
QUALITY PROPERTIES, INC., GMAC REAL ESTATE.
(734) 451-5400

HISTORIC NORTHVILLE in for the holidays! Third bedroom currently used as first floor laundry/lav. Beautiful lot w/large trees for privacy. Detached garage, newer windows, basement. Great opportunity. 25CLE2 $229,900
Real Estate One
(248) 348-6430

MAGNIFICENT HOME on exceptional lot backing to nature preserve in Fox Hollow! Dramatic ceilings, gourmet kitchen w/granite. Magnificent master suite, finished walkout basement. Numerous amenities! 54WOO2 $1,295,000
Real Estate One
(248) 348-6430

MAGNIFICENT NEW CONSTRUCTION! Country French home nestled on private 1 acre site. 5 bed., 5.5 bath. Marble & hardwood floors. Granite & marble counters. Full finished au-pair residence w/private entrance. Quality throughout! 70VAL2 $1,650,000
Real Estate One
(248) 348-6430

Vintage Northville charm. Wonderfully restored & updated: New roof, furnace, central air, kitchen & windows. Pretty deck & private backyard. 2 bath, 3 bed., 100 year old beauty. 46GRA8 $294,900
Real Estate One
(248) 349-6200

Novi 3290

ARE YOU READY TO MOVE: PERFECT LOCATION. Nice room sizes. Living room w/natural fireplace, formal dining room, all appliances included. Full basement. Oversized private patio overlooking beautiful commons. Walk to club house & pool. This is a beauty. 76GLE2 $154,900
Real Estate One
(248) 348-6430

GREAT HOME FOR ENTERTAINING. Warm & inviting home, lots of updates, spacious kitchen & breakfast area, 3 nice size bed. , ideal family room, private office, home protection plan provided, also for lease. 45BUC2 $254,900
Real Estate One
(248) 348-6430

LIGHT-BRIGHT-AIRY
and open floor plan. Mint, updated 3 bed, 2.5 bath brick colonial w/full finished bsmt, 2 car garage, gorgeous landscaping. Many extras.
RE/MAX 100 248- 348-3000
THE FIRESTONE TEAM

New listing! 25857 Lochmoor Lane, Lochmoor Village. 4 bed, 3.5 bath colonial, large kitchen, FL room, wood floors, finished garden view bsmt. 2 car, $429,900. (248) 449-6534

STANDS COMPARISON
Flawless brick Colonial located in Dunbarton Pines. Over 2600 sq. ft. Offers 4 bedrooms, library or den, master suite with bay window. Professional landscaping with sprinklers. Big kitchen bay window & pantry. Extra large 2 car attached garage and more. Just listed. Immediate occupancy. $338,900.
Call Hal Romain Today
734-367-8161
Century 21 Hartford North

Plymouth 3347

A choice location in Plymouth! Walking distance from downtown, limited traffic sub. 1236 sq. ft. 3 bed., 1.5 bath, low maintenance in & out. Brick fireplace in family room. 2 car garage, newer windows, furnace, hot water heater & more! A42520 $204,900
Real Estate One
(734) 591-9200

Cute + Cozy = Yours. This home is perfect for you! Updates galore! 3 bed. ranch, ample storage. 1 car garage, under market! Must see! Call for more info. 23G14656 $169,900
Real Estate One
(734) 455-7000

EXQUISITE
Superb Location
4 bed, 3.5 bath, 3100+ sq.ft. home w/full basement, attached garage on premium lot backing to pond & commons. Quick drive to Ann Arbor or xways. $459,900.
KAREN BROWN
248-348-3000 ext. 212
www.karen-brown.com
RE/MAX 100

Family Home! 3 bed. home close to elementary school. Updated kitchen, large master bed. w/French doors. Home warranty. 23T8821 $214,900
Real Estate One
(734) 455-7000

Lake Pointe Ranch!
4 bed., 2 bath on 1st floor. Family room & fireplace. (LD64HAM) $209,900, Call Lynn DeJohn (734) 216-2800
QUALITY PROPERTIES, INC., GMAC REAL ESTATE.
(734) 451-5400

Plymouth 3347

MAINTENANCE FREE! Custom ranch w/cathedral ceilings, newer carpeting & windows, wood/ceramic kitchen, screened porch. Great access to Hines Park & downtown Plymouth. 66LAK2 $199,900
Real Estate One
(248) 348-6430

MOTIVATED SELLER
4 bedroom Colonial on ½ acre with 3 car garage. $239,900.
MIKE HEATH
734-462-3600
Re/Max Alliance

PRIVATE COUNTRY EQUESTRIAN ESTATE on 5.68 acres! Plymouth/Canton schools. 5 bed., 3.5 bath, 3-car garage, 6534 sq. ft. finished walkout. 1st floor master, corral/3-stall horse barn, cedar deck overlooks private pond. 91BRO2 $749,000
Real Estate One
(248) 348-6430

RIDGEWOOD WEST
Exceptional home! 4 bed., 3.5 bath colonial. Meticulous throughout! Spacious floor plan. Formal living room & dining room, family room w/fireplace. Fabulous master suite. Professional finished basement. W/wet bar & 3rd bath. Picturesque setting w/circle drive! Call today! (P12QUA) $425,000
QUALITY PROPERTIES, INC., GMAC REAL ESTATE.
(734) 451-5400

SPACIOUS 4 BED. OFFERS EASY LIVING. 4 bed. 2 story home w/floor plan offering open kitchen w/island & large breakfast room. Formal dining & large 3 car garage, 2 level patio for outdoor living. Great sub away from hwy noise. 49TIM2 $429,000
Real Estate One
(248) 348-6430

This is the one! Immaculate Rossi-built home. Attention to detail, beautiful oak kitchen, neutral decor. Professional landscaping on a 3/4 acre lot, awesome jacuzzi room off dick. 23W49651 $469,900
Real Estate One
(734) 455-7000

Welcome home! You'll be proud to call this beautiful colonial your new home! Price of ownership shines w/many updates: newer windows, siding, roof, kitchen, electric box, appliances & more. W10063 PC070672 $199,900
Real Estate One
(734) 591-9200

Redford 3350

A rare find! 3 bed. brick ranch. Remodeled kitchen w/bevelled counter tops, updated furnace, c.a., windows & roof. Finished basement w/rec. room. 2.5 car garage. L18347 PC070102 $141,900
Real Estate One
(734) 591-9200

Country in the city! This brick ranch sits on a half acre lot. New windows in family room w/fireplace & separate heat & air. Roof 3 yrs., furn/air 13 yrs., part finished basement, all appliances. M17394 PC070362 $174,900
Real Estate One
(734) 591-9200

GREAT PRICE
New Listing
3 bed, 1100 sq.ft. w/full bsmt & 2 car detached garage. Beautiful natural fireplace in living room and great location at Inkster Rd. & 5 1/2 Mile. $144,900.
KAREN BROWN
248-348-3000 ext. 212
www.karen-brown.com
RE/MAX 100

Here is a great opportunity to call this newly constructed 3 bed., 1.5 bath, 1260 sq. ft. 2 car attached garage colonial w/basement your new home! Act fast - this quality workmanship won't last long! S19335 PC070072 $149,900
Real Estate One
(734) 591-9200

It's no gamble...

...when you advertise in The Observer & Eccentric Classifieds!
1-800-579-7355

OPEN CONTEMPORARY DESIGN! Great open floor plan w/3 bed., 1.5 baths, living room w/fireplace, large family room, hardwood floors & more, 2.5 car garage & covered patio. Super starter home! 31WOR2 $149,900
Real Estate One
(248) 348-6430

OUTSTANDING
3 Bed. brick ranch w/ updates galore! Newer kitchen, bath, roof, plumbing, electric & more. Hardwoods under carpeting, finished bsmt & garage. Home Warranty too!
$154,900 (50KIN)
CENTURY 21 ROW
(734) 464-7111

PRICE REDUCED!
Lovely maintenance free ranch close to Lola Valley Park. Attached garage. $124,900
ASK FOR GREG or RON
CENTURY 21 ROW
(734) 464-7111

REDFORD CUTIE!
3 bedroom, 1.5 bath brick ranch. Finished basement, 2 car garage and a privacy fence. Updates include roof, furnace, electrical, and plumbing. Located on a low traffic street. $139,900.
734-525-9600
Century 21 Hartford North

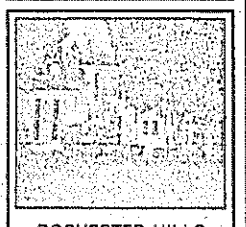
Redford 3350

REDFORD RANCH
IMMEDIATE OCCUPANCY
ONLY $94,500
Immaculate 2 bed ranch will please the fussiest buyer! Updated to perfection w/new kitchen, refinished hardwood floors & freshly painted thruout. Newer roof, windows, furnace, front porch. Full bsmt. (NE191)
Century 21
CENTURY 21 TODAY
(313) 538-2000
www.century21today.com

YOU'LL FALL IN LOVE. Super sharp & updated. 3 bed. ranch w/finished basement & 2 car garage. Newer electric service, windows, carpet, paint. Hot tub & pond w/waterfall. Gorgeous. G176 $142,900
Real Estate One
(734) 326-2000

Rochester 3360

ROCHESTER HILLS Christian Hills Sub 3 bed, 2 bath ranch sits on an oversized lot completely updated throughout w/skylights, recessed lighting, ceramic tile, french doors and hardwood floors $255,900. A must see! (248) 375-2007



ROCHESTER HILLS
Everything New! 4 bed, 3.5 bath Colonial. Outstanding interior & exterior! Lower level suite on cul-de-sac. $385,000
ShareNet (248) 642-1620

Royal Oak 3370

CHARMING BERKLEY STARTER HOME By owner. $135,000. Pre-approved buyers only. Updated 2 bed ranch, move-in cond, all appliances stay. (248) 546-1568

ROYAL OAK - Must See! Open Sun. 1-4, 3 bed., 1.5 bath. Multi-tiered deck overlooking deep private lot. New kitchen, roof, windows & siding. Master bed w/walk in closet & bath. Garage, air & alarm. 820 Fernwood, off S. side of Catalpa, 5 blocks E. of Woodward. $249,000.
(248) 797-0800

Southfield 3390

BRIGHT AIRY OPEN PLAN! 4 bed., 1.5 bath in family neighborhood. Central air, eat-in kitchen & separate dining. All appliances & freezer included. Fenced yard & shed. Priced to sell. Home warranty. $149,000

BEAUTIFUL COLONIAL W/MANY UPDATES
Including furnace, c.a., roof, freshly painted & light fixtures. Wood & ceramic floors. Marble gas fireplace. Home warranty. Much more! $219,900.

BIRMINGHAM SCHOOLS. 4 bed., 2.5 bath colonial. On quiet tree lined street. Move in condition. Master suite w/walk in closet. Hardwood floors under carpet throughout most of home. Close to everything. $225,000
Century 21 MJL Corporate Transferee Service.
248-851-6700

South Lyon 3400

LOVELY NEW CAPE COD
4 beds, 2 1/2 baths, 2711 sq.ft. in the popular Tanglewood Golf Course community. Much attention to quality details! Immediate occupancy!
RE/MAX 100 248- 348-3000
THE FIRESTONE TEAM

Wayne 3424

FOUR BEDROOMS, LARGE LOT. Full brick bungalow, basement, 2 car garage, many updates, formal dining room, corner lot. Hardwood floors in living room & dining room. Must see to appreciate. A324 PC220592 $127,500
Real Estate One
(734) 326-2000

HICKORY HOLLOW COOPERATIVE
Multi-family, non-profit housing cooperative located on 13.5 acres of open landscape. Near major freeways. Wayne-Westland School District. Current availabilities: 1 bedroom ranch.
Equities: $3930-$4100.
For more info, contact 734-729-7262.

West Bloomfield 3440

Chelsea Park 4 bed., 3.5 bath wooded lot, granite, hardwood, 2 story family room. 3 car garage. $610,000. Walled Lake schools.
Century 21 Town & Country
(248) 349-5600
Agent Kristin Halmaghi
(248) 735-2545

Just Listed. Premium home in wonderful location. Many improvements in past few years. Location is great, Maple & Orchard Lake area. 4 bed., 2 1/2 bath, family room, rec room, $314,900.
Max Broock Realtors Inc.
Jane Kasapis
(248) 626-4000
(248) 318-5552

West Bloomfield 3440

WEST BLOOMFIELD
COLOSSAL COLONIAL
Big 3,893 sq.ft., 4-5 bed, 3.5 bath home has 2 story foyer, formal living & dining rooms & library. Family room w/fireplace, soaring ceiling & many windows that overlook gorgeous treed yard. Kitchen w/breakfast room. Year round sun room. Master bed w/2 walk-in closets & glamour bath. Finished walk-out lower level has media room, 2nd kitchen, bed, full bath & fireplace. $599,000. (TO669)

CONTEMPORARY FLAIR
On beautifully landscaped corner lot, 4 bed, 3 bath, 1.5 story brick home. Living & dining rooms, family room w/fireplace. New kitchen w/appliances. Master ste w/2 walk-in closets Walk-out lower level. New windows, furnace, C/A. Swim club in sub. West Bloomfield Schools. $314,900. (ED678)

SUPER RANCH
Superbly decorated 3 bed, 1.5 bath brick ranch. Living room w/walled fish tank. Ceramic in foyer, kitchen & baths. Newer C/A, carpet, window treatments. All appliances stay. Deck. 2 car carport. West Bloomfield Schools. $163,900. (LI250)
Century 21
Century 21 Today
(248)855-2000
www.century21today.com

Westland 3445

2 STORY CONDO, 2 bed.'s, 1.5 bath, vaulted ceilings, living room w/ gas fireplace, updates through out, full bsmt, 2 car attached garage. $179,900
CALL LARRY SNYDER
REMERICA HOMETOWN
734-459-6222

BEAUTIFUL BI-LEVEL IN WESTLAND. 3 bed., bath & a half, well maintained home w/new carpet, Andersen windows, updated kitchen, bath & lavatory. Many more features to see. C653 PC220622 $147,900
Real Estate One
(734) 326-2000

LIVONIA SCHOOLS. 3 bed. brick ranch w/major updates. Newer windows, roof, siding, 2+ garage, hardwood floors. Part finished basement w/full bath, dry bar. Appliances stay. F827 $138,900
Real Estate One
(734) 326-2000

Tastefully decorated, well maintained 3 bed. ranch. Beautiful new birch cabinets, new floor, appliances stay, patio, full basement, oversized 2 car garage, tear off roof in 10/03, newer furnace, c.a., window. A great home! M304 PC070382 $169,900
Real Estate One
(734) 591-9200

Wixom-Commerce 3480

AWESOME HOME!
Sharp 2635 sq.ft. 4 bed, 2.5 bath Colonial on premium wooded lot. Ilsand kitchen, hardwood floors, crown moldings, part. finished bsmt! $349,000.
GAIL TURNER
(248) 873-0087
(248) 348-6430 x265
Real Estate One

Beautiful Home
NEW LISTING
Lovely 2100+ sq.ft. home with full bsmt & 3 car attached garage blt in 1999. Master ste w/sitting room, formal dining room, walk-in pantry & mint cond. $309,900
KAREN BROWN
248-348-3000 ext. 212
www.Karen-Brown.com
RE/MAX 100

Commerce - 3 bed. updated ranch. Pottery Barn cute. Newer bath & kitchen. $159,900
Century 21 Town & Country
(248) 349-5600
Agent Kristin Halmaghi
(248) 735-2545

COMMERCE
Country in the city! Up north feeling just minutes from city conveniences. Country size lot filled w/trees & perennials. A traditional 4 bed. Tudor completes the picture. M4225 $399,900
Real Estate One
(734) 591-9200

Fair Housing Your Right, Our Business

As members of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®, the METROPOLITAN CONSOLIDATED ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS® is proud of our contributions in support of the Fair Housing Act and other Fair Housing Compliance programs.

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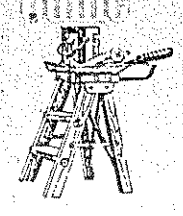
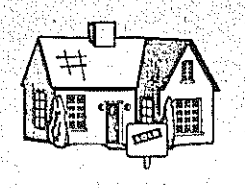
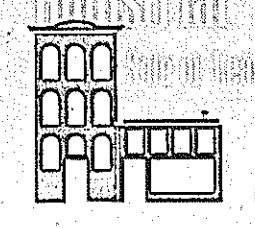
0001-2450 Home & Service Guide



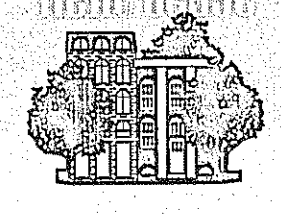
3000-3890 Real Estate For Sale



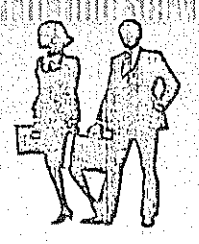
3890-3980 Commercial Industrial



4000-4980 Real Estate Real Lease

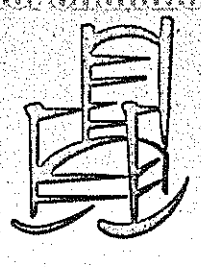


5000-5980 Employment Instruction Services

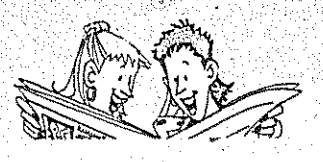


6000-6980 Announcements

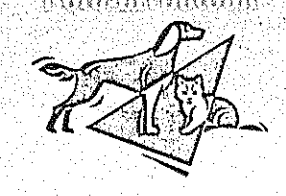
7000-7780 Merchandise



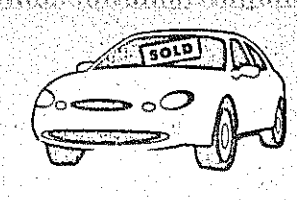
7110-7130 Garage and Moving Sale



7800-7980 Animals Pets/Livestock



8000-8780 Automotive Recreational Vehicles



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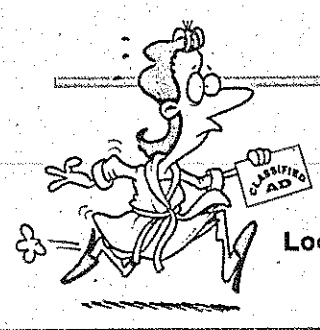
Fax your ad: 734-953-2232

Publication Day	Deadline
SUNDAY PAPER	5:00PM Friday
THURSDAY PAPER	5:30PM Tuesday



Too Late To Classifieds...

If you missed our regular Tuesday deadline for Thursday's publication, you can now call us 'til Wednesday at 11am and place your ad in our "Too Late To Classified" Section.
Look for this to appear in Section C of the paper!
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Wixom-Commerce 3480

NEW CONSTRUCTION
3388 W. Maple Road
Wixom, MI 48393
PRESTIGE HOME
2900 sq. ft. ranch on 1 acre. Detailed brick construction w/oversized 3 car garage. 3 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths, formal dining room, library, custom European kitchen w/stainless steel appliances. Breakfast room, sunroom, first floor laundry. Marble & granite throughout, 9x12 ft. soaring ceilings, 2 fireplaces, audio & alarm systems plus many more features. $499,900. Contact Dino 248-787-3686.

WIXOM
Country in the city! Contemporary 4 bed. home on 3/4 acre. Beautifully decorated - vaulted ceiling in family room, oak kitchen w/Pergo floor. 2 full baths. Pool built into deck. Large master bedroom. 23M4069 **$249,900**
Real Estate One
(734) 455-7000

Livingston County 3520

FOR SALE or LEASE
9.2 acres with 2100 sq.ft. Colonial, woods, covered deck, cathedral "wood" ceiling in family room, insulated and heated Pole Barn, 1/4 mile to pavement. Howell schools. $299,900. MLS#23084705.
Call Laura Edwards
1-800-810-0499
1-810-227-5005 x209
Real Estate One

Macomb County 3530

SHELBY TWP- Clean, well kept 4 bed. 2.5 bath w/ 3 Car Garage, 4600 sq.ft. $896,000
ShareNet (248) 642-1620

Wayne County 3570

DETROIT - 3 bedroom, 2 bath bungalow in Warrendale. Updates: furnace, C/A, windows, siding, electric, plumbing, kitchen & master bed & bath, glass block, garage door & security alarm. $99,900. (67SA)

INKSTER - 3 bedroom bungalow with 1½ baths in Wayne-Westland school system. Close to church, shopping and restaurants. Finished basement. Vintage charmer. $99,900. (70SH)

Century 21 Hartford South
734-464-6400
www.cent21.biz

INKSTER - A MUST SEE!
Completely redecorated 4 bed., 1.5 bath Bi-Level, Wayne-Westland Schools, garage. $125,000
CENTURY 21 PREMIER
(734) 453-4300
44958 Ford Rd. - Canton

ROMULUS
LOTS AND LOTS OF UPDATES! Newer windows including bay, newer entry doors, totally updated kitchen w/ceramic floor & lots of table space, updated bath w/jetted tub. Great curb appeal. M977 **$120,000**
Real Estate One
(734) 326-2000

ROMULUS
OVER 1700 SQ. FT. OF SPACE! Updated kitchen & bath. Lots of cupboard space, family room w/fireplace, Florida room off master bed. is plumbed for a Jacuzzi, finished basement w/kitchen & full bath & more. A158 **$160,000**
Real Estate One
(734) 326-2000

For the best auto classifications check out the Observer & Eccentric Newspaper. "It's all about RESULTS!"

Lakefront & Waterfront Homes 3580

HOWELL
Lakefront Living! Beautiful 1,700 sq.ft. 3 bedroom, 2 bath ranch, built in 2002, featuring a large kitchen & great room w/vaulted ceilings, 2 car garage, sandy beach. (60BLA). Asking $349,000 or lease at $1,750/mo. Call...
Robert or Judy...
REMERICA
INTEGRITY REALTORS
(734) 525-4200

Real Estate Services 3640

"INVESTORS"
Agent eager to work for you!
Call LAURA HALE
(734) 564-9382
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6900 N. Wayne Rd., Westland

I WILL BUY or lease Your Home. Make your payments, repairs, close quick, any area, price, cond. 734 377-1674

Condos For Sale 3720

BIRMINGHAM
$153,000 Priced to Sell!
Two story with finished basement, 900 sq.ft end unit - 2 bedrooms, 1 bath. Great location. Very clean. Private entrance. Close to park. Short walk to downtown. Central air. Hardwood floors under carpet. All appliances included.
248-703-8098, 248-231-0442

BLOOMFIELD HILLS
DESIRABLE MAIN FLOOR UNIT. Only building in complex w/2 units & attached garages. 2 bed., 2 bath, glassed in heated Florida room w/ceramic floor. 3 closets in master bed., walk-in hall closet. L150 **$239,900**
Real Estate One
(734) 326-2000

CANTON
Affordable condo! Great condition! Great location! 3 bed., 1.5 bath Townhome in Canton with a basement. Newer carpeting, hot water heater, furnace, c.a. Neutral decor. 23F1937 **$144,900**
Real Estate One
(734) 455-7000

CANTON
Exquisite Condo! Welcome home! This 2 bed. condo features updated Berber carpet, extra large cabinets, newer appliances, crown molding, mirrored doors & more! 23F2033 **$101,500**
Real Estate One
(734) 455-7000

CANTON
SPACIOUS END-UNIT CONDO! Small private complex, great room w/cathedral ceiling, master w/large bath & walk in closet. Full, partially finished basement w/full bath, pantry & extra storage. 2-car attached garage. 91MEA2 **$225,000**
Real Estate One
(248) 348-6430

Farmington
COOL IN THE CITY!
Farmington ranch, steps from Starbucks, movie house, cafes & bookstores. $89,900
CALL GREG MOLLET
CENTURY 21 ROW
(734) 464-7111

FARMINGTON - LONGACRE WOODS Detached condo. 3 bed, 2.5 bath, main floor master, partial hardwood floors; full bsmt., attached 2 car garage, built in 1995. $329,000. (248) 473-2505

FARMINGTON CONDO
2 bedroom, 2 bath, all new eat in kitchen, covered balcony, 1260 sq. ft., carport, pool, clubhouse, $230 maintenance includes utilities. $115,000. Call evenings: 734-464-4194

CLASSIFIEDS WORK!
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Condos For Sale 3720

FARMINGTON HILLS
TOWNHOUSE
$219,900
Across from the new Farmington Hills golf course, 3 bed, 2.5 bath unit in absolute move-in condition. Living room adjacent to formal dining room. Lg eat-in kitchen. 1st floor laundry. Open floor plan w/open staircase to 2nd story. Full bsmt. Deck. 2 car attached garage. (SA382)

RANCH $119,900
Upper 2 bed, 2 full bath unit. Formal living room & dining room. Kitchen w/appliances. In-unit laundry. Newer furnace. Well maintained complex w/pool & tennis courts. Near shopping & transportation. (F0305)

Century 21
Century 21 Today
(248) 647-8888
www.century21today.com

Farmington Hills
IN RAMBLEWOOD
Contemporary beauty decorated in neutrals. 3 large bedrooms, 1st floor master suite, 2.5 baths, 23x15 great room with fireplace, formal dining room, library, island kitchen with large breakfast room. Basement, attached 2 car garage, $309,900.

Livonia
NEWER CONSTRUCTION
Lovely Cape Cod, 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths. Natural fireplace in large living room, bright kitchen with breakfast room. Updates throughout. 1st floor laundry, basement. Abbey model, 2 car attached garage, $339,900.

Century 21Nada, Inc.
248-477-9800

FRASER - Sharp, 2 bed end-unit, open floor plan, neutral decor & carport. $104,900
ShareNet (248)642-1620

LIVONIA -detached, 2 bed., 2 bath, appliances, bsmt., 2 car attached garage, deck. $210,000 (734) 421-3467

LIVONIA
BEAUTIFUL LIVONIA RANCH CONDO! Gorgeous 1 bed./1 bath condo w/scenic view of pond. Close to shopping & highways. Enjoy the luxury of the condo swimming pool, tennis court & clubhouse. 55EIG2 **$99,500**
Real Estate One
(248) 348-6430

LIVONIA
Mint condition & immediate occupancy! 2 bed., 2.5 bath, 2 story condo, 2 story foyer w/skylite, large master suite w/cathedral ceiling, private bath w/separate shower & tub, deck off master bedroom & dining room, full basement 2 car garage. W9409 **$229,900**
Real Estate One
(734) 591-9200

NORTHVILLE 3 BED., 1.5 bath condo, free heat, remodeled. Purchase or lease option. $1550/mo. 810-231-1116

Northville - 1 bed. condo. Updated. Fairbrook Condos, $104,000
Century 21 Town & Country
(248) 349-5600
Agent Kristin Halmaghi
(248) 735-2545

NORTHVILLE
Convenience, style & functionality! Immediate occupancy in this end unit with all appliances included. New Berber carpet, paint & large laundry room w/lots of storage. Neutral decor, 1 car garage, finished basement. Hurry! G21228 **$189,900**
Real Estate One
(734) 591-9200

Condos For Sale 3720

NORTHVILLE
SOUGHT AFTER HIGHLAND LAKES CONDO! Spacious 2 story unit w/attached garage! Updated kitchen w/walk-in pantry, 3 bed., 2.5 bath, full finished basement. Huge patio w/built in gas grill & beautiful gardens. Great Buy! 72QUE2 **$199,900**
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(248) 348-6430

NORTHVILLE
Stunning neutral condo on the best dressed list! 2 bed., 2.5 bath. Numerous upgrades include: granite, lighting, carpet & cabinets. Extra crown molding. Luxury master bath. 80LYO2 **$455,000**
Real Estate One
(248) 348-6430

NOVI
Beautiful Condo! Enter this door to the best deal around. Entirely updated interior. Attached garage w/new opener. Full basement, new kitchen includes appliances, washer/dryer, ceiling lights & more! 23C22437 **$169,900**
Real Estate One
(734) 455-7000

PLYMOUTH
THIS ONE'S A KEEPER. Atrium entrance & clean as can be. 2 bed. condo in great location, center of complex & a couple of blocks from downtown Plymouth. Updates & lots of storage. P172 **$132,500**
Real Estate One
(734) 326-2000

SOUTHFIELD - ELEGANT & SPACIOUS CONDO will sure catch your eye! 3 bed., 2 bath completely remodeled w/new Pergo floors, carpet, bath, kitchen & laundry room in unit. Close to everything. $110,000
Century 21 MJL Corporate Transferee Service.
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Pictures Can Make A Difference!

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Observer & Eccentric

TROY END UNIT 2 bedroom, 2.5 baths, attached garage, pool view, private patio. $179,000. 248-362-3438

Manufactured Homes 3740

$0 DOWN- Save up to $30,000 on a newer bank repo. Must pay sales tax. Discount Homes 866-251-1670

CANTON - We have pre-owned homes for sale or lease. Call Sandy at Sun Homes for details at 734-397-0400

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INVEST
IN YOUR OWN
FARMINGTON HILLS
HOME
$427/mo.
Includes house payment & land lease.
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10% down, $327/mo. for 240 mos.
@ 10% APR
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★ LAND ★
★ HOME ★
★ PACKAGES ★
★ 0 ZERO DOWN ★
★★★★★★★★★★
Little Valley

Manufactured Homes 3740

Quality Homes
IN NOVI

FALL SPECIAL
BRAND NEW SKYLINE
2BR, 2BA, all deluxe appliances incl. washer/dryer. Only $34,900

BRAND NEW MODEL
Over 1400 sq. ft., all deluxe appliances, fireplace, walk in closet, doorwall, skylights and more $59,800

2 BR - 2 BA
Most appliances, large covered deck, premium site. $11,900

Others priced from $11,900 to $59,000 THE PLACE TO LIVE
HIGHLAND HILLS ESTATES
Call Joanne or Sue

Novi Schools
at
HIGHLAND HILLS ESTATES
on Seeley Rd.
N. of Grand River
bet. Meadowbrook & Haggerty Rds.
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MODEL BLOWOUT!
$5000 OFF!

New Homes
~~WAS $39,800!~~
NOW $34,800!
1369 sq. ft.
• 3 Bedrooms • 2 Baths
• Deluxe GE Appliances
• Skylights & More
$348/month
$3,694/down*
At These Fine Locations:

Cedarbrook Estates
Huron Valley Schools
On M-59 west of Bogie Lake Rd.
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Kensington Place
South Lyon Schools
Grand River, I-96 exit 153
Across from Kensington Metropark
(248) 437-2039

Stratford Villa
Huron Valley Schools
On Wixom Rd., 3.5 miles north of I-96
(248) 685-9068
Quality Homes
*Based on 10% down, 180 months, 9.5% APR

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THAT WORK FOR YOU!
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Manufactured Homes 3740

MODEL BLOWOUT!

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New Homes
$19,900!
929 sq. ft.
• 3 Bedrooms • 2 Baths
• GE Appliances
• Skylights & More
$199/month
$2,114/down
*On select models, based on 10% down, 9.75% APR, 180 payments, interest rate subject to change.

In Novi
NOVI MEADOWS
South Lyon Schools
on Napier Rd. 1 mile west of Wixom Rd., and 1 mile S. of Grand River
(248) 344-1988

In South Lyon/Milford
KENSINGTON PLACE
South Lyon Schools
on Grand River I-96, exit 153 across from Kensington Metropark
(248) 437-2039
Quality Homes

MODEL BLOWOUT!

PRICED BELOW INVOICE!
New Homes
$19,900!
929 sq. ft.
• 3 Bedrooms
• 2 Baths
• GE Appliances
• Skylights& More
$199/month
$2,114/down
*On select models, based on 10% down, 9.75% APR, 180 payments, interest rate subject to change.

In Canton
SHERWOOD VILLAGE
Wayne-Westland Schools
on the southeast corner of Michigan Ave. & Haggerty Rd.
(734) 397-7774
Quality Homes

Mobile Homes 3750

SCHULT- 1996, 2 br., 2 full bath, 16 x 60, open floor plan, air., #H14, 22600 Middlebelt Rd. Farmington Hills.
248-474-2131

Northern Properties 3790

EAST TAWAS $86.9k, Lk. Huron beach access, 3 bed, loft, 1.5 bath, fireplace. Open house on 11/22/23, 11/29/30, 12/6/7. 734-395-8083
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Northern Properties 3790

Newly developed- 4 - 2.8 acre parcels bordering state land, wooded, private. Roscommon. $13,500 each.
Newly developed-- several 5 acre parcels bordering state land, wooded. Mio/Roscommon. $22,900 & up
Rose City area- Three 13 acre parcels bordering state land, wooded. Excellent hunting. $39,900 each.
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40 ACRES-COTTAGE wooded, large pond. Rose City. $174,500
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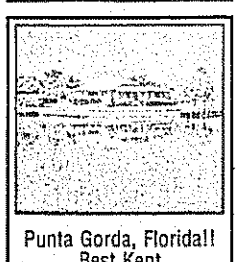
Eves: 989-826-3988
Real Estate One
Email: homes@realestateonemio.com
Web Site: www.realestateonemio.com

Southern Properties 3810



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Voted one of the best places to live by Money Magazine. Great waterfront living with access to the Gulf. Call or e-mail me for more information.
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Lots & Acreage/Vacant 3820

AN AWESOME FIND
2 Livonia lots 60x120, Livonia Schools.
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BEAUTIFUL "UP NORTH" NEIGHBORHOOD!
Wooded lot...in Brighton schools...Private sub beach on All Sports Lake, Dock too! Sewer and convenience to schools, shopping, Xway. $74,900. MLS#23119820.
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1-800-810-0499
1-810-227-5005 x209
Real Estate One

BRIGHTON - Prestigious Sub in Brighton Twp. Vacant walk-out lot approx 1.25 acres. $159,000. 248-866-3890

GREEN OAK
BRING YOUR OWN BUILDER! Desirable 5 acre parcel in growing area. South Lyon schools & mailing. Build your dream home on 300x720. Affordably priced parcel. 00RUS8 **$99,900**
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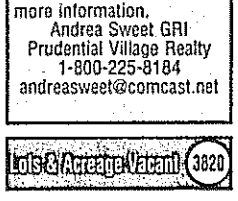
(248) 349-6200

HIGHLAND-WHITE LAKE AREA- 10 acres, heavily wooded, $550,000-40 acres w/private lake single build sites-can't be split- (248) 891-7470, 248-613-6515



THREE NEW developments. Near South Lyon & Hamburg with South Lyon, Brighton & Dexter schools. 1/2-4 acre wooded walkouts, parks, lakefront/lake access, paved streets. Compare my prices.
Owner: (734) 663-4886

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New Company in town
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DOWNTOWN NORTHVILLE BUSINESS! This car shop has it all: cards, stationary, gift wrap, shower supplies, balloons. Computer & card generating software. Complete w/fixtures, cash register, etc. 15MAI2 **$150,000**
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Comm Retail Sale-Lease 3920

PLYMOUTH- 1200 sq.ft., retail space on Ann Arbor Rd., just W/Lilley. Good visibility, overhead door. $2200/mo. net. #235523. kbsipos@ccim.net or call for more info. Bela Sipos, 734-747-7888, eves 734-669-5813.
Reinhart Commercial

Industrial/Warehouse For Lease 3940

Space for Lease
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• RETAIL •
Auburn Hills • Livonia
Pontiac • Westland
• LIGHT INDUSTRIAL •
Belleville • Canton
Novi • Wixom
• OFFICE •
Canton • Farmington Hills
Novi • Wixom
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AMERICENTERS
- Furnished, Windowed Offices
- Conference Rooms
- High-Speed Internet Access
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CANTON -Lilley/Ford Rd. Free standing, about 20,000 sq. ft; office building, over 5,000 sq. ft. available immediately, the rest available in early spring of 2004. For lease or sale. Call Carmen: cell: 248-420-4550, 248-684-0397

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Month-to-month Avail. 168 to 2700 sq.ft. I-275 x-way.
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(248) 559-7430

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1628 sq.ft. professional office space on Eight Mile. Five offices and reception area. Gross rent includes utilities/janitorial services and other tenant extras. 248-477-9112

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860-2400 sq.ft.
Several Locations
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Small suites available.
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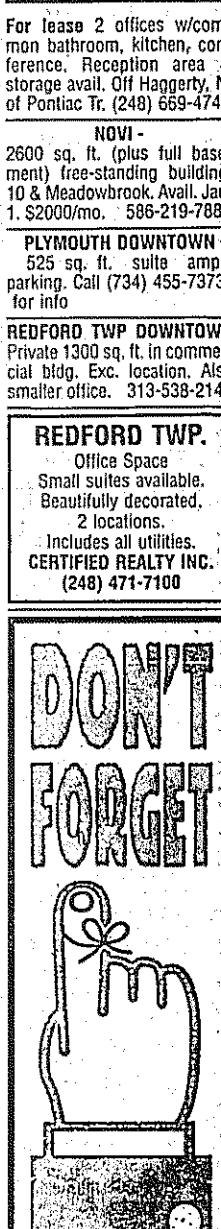
Private 1300 sq. ft. in commercial bldg. Exc. location. Also smaller office. 313-538-2147

PLYMOUTH DOWNTOWN
525 sq. ft. suite ample parking. Call (734) 455-7373 for info

NOVI -
2600 sq. ft. (plus full basement) free-standing building. 10 & Meadowbrook. Avail. Jan. 1. $2000/mo. 586-219-7880

DON'T FORGET



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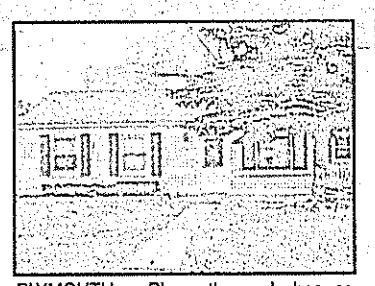
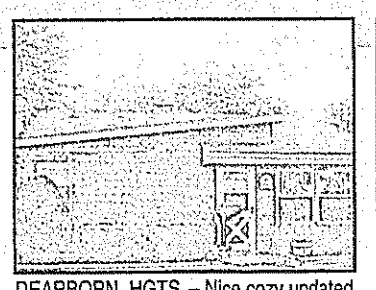
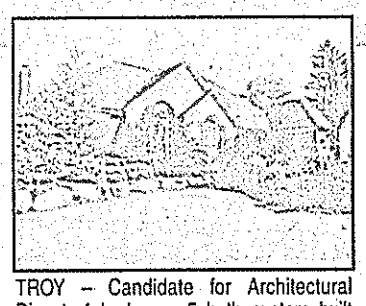
Michigan's #1 CENTURY 21 Firm!



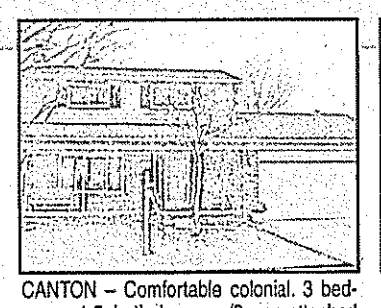
PLYMOUTH – Plymouth ranch has so many updates. Ready to move in! Freshly painted t/o, newer neutral carpet, blinds, kitchen has newer oak cabs, pantry, appliances, recessed lighting, newer vinyl siding, roof, windows. Wonderful large lot. Newer 2.5 car garage w/loads of storage. $184,900 (04ELM) 734-455-5600



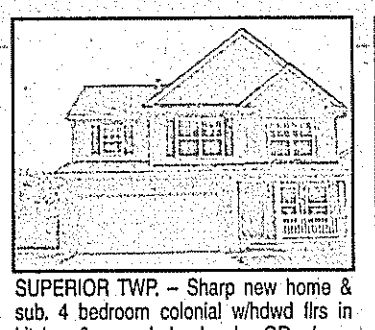
DEARBORN HGTS. – Nice cozy updated home. Charming 2 bedroom brick ranch w/2 car garage, privacy fence, large patio + walk-in pantry, all appliances. Newer furnace, AC & vinyl windows. $89,900 (08ANN) 734-455-5600



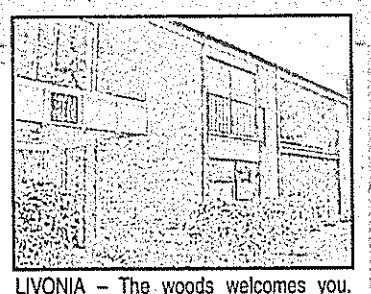
TROY – Candidate for Architectural Digest. 4 bedroom, 5 bath custom built ranch w/over 5000 sq. ft. presents spacious GR w/cath ceiling, gourmet kit w/hexagon brkfst room & cust cabs, fully equipped kit in LL & bdrm & office. Hobbyist or collectors gar + 3 car att gar. $693,000 (32ADA) 734-455-5600



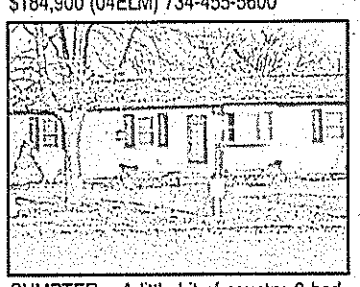
CANTON – Comfortable colonial. 3 bedroom, 1.5 bath home w/2 car attached garage in popular Windsor Park. Newer windows & doorwall. New carpet in LR & DR '03, AC '01. Remodeled main BA accessible from master. Home protection plan included. Relocating seller hates to go. $217,800 (60LOM) 248-349-5600



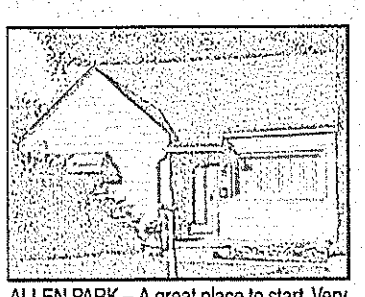
SUPERIOR TWP. – Sharp new home & sub. 4 bedroom colonial w/hdwd flrs in kitchen & upgraded oak cabs. GR w/marble surround, Berber carpet. Master bedroom suite w/cath ceiling, WIC, tiled bath, his/her vanities. Glass shower. Cul-de-sac location. Open floor plan. Great for entertaining. $249,900 (87PRE) 248-349-5600



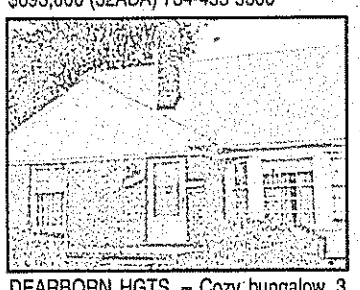
LIVONIA – The woods welcomes you. Entry level 2 bedroom, 2 bath ranch style condo. Updated kitchen, ceramic entry & newer carpet. Spacious living and dining rooms. Large utility room includes washer & dryer. 3 doorwalls to screened patio. Private entry, carport & pool. A must see. $136,500 (90UNI) 248-349-5600



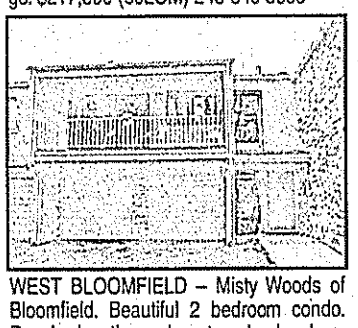
SUMPTER – A little bit of country. 3 bedroom ranch on approx. 1/2 acre fenced in lot backing to woods & wildlife. Large 2.5 car garage, kitchen updated w/custom oak cabinets & updated bath. Wallside windows, all appliances, vinyl siding new in '02 + home warranty. $159,900 (85ELW) 734-455-5600



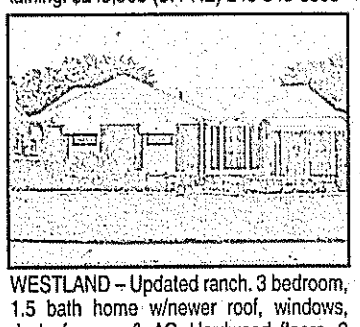
ALLEN PARK – A great place to start. Very cute 2 bedroom ranch w/2.5 car garage, huge attic for your storage. Decorated nicely & very clean. Close to all your needs, shopping, schools, Freeway & parks. Home warranty. $89,900 (44ARL) 734-455-5600



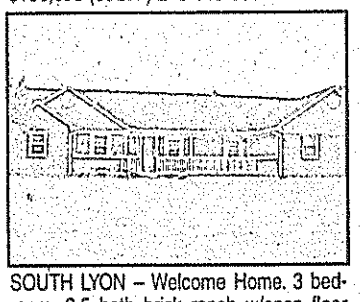
DEARBORN HGTS. – Cozy bungalow. 3 bedroom bungalow presents hardwood floors, finished basement, lots of storage, AC, newer furnace & hot water heater. Sellers motivated. $149,900 (19HAZ) 734-455-5600



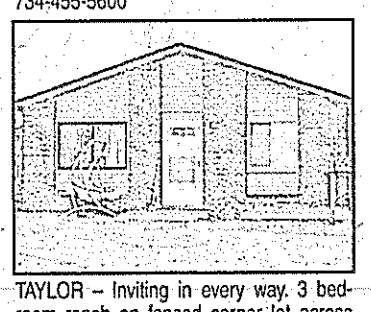
WEST BLOOMFIELD – Misty Woods of Bloomfield. Beautiful 2 bedroom condo. Popular location - close to schools, shopping and dining. Large master bedroom w/private bath. Neutral decor. Ceramic kitchen & foyer. All appliances. Patio balcony. $129,900 (25LON) 248-349-5600



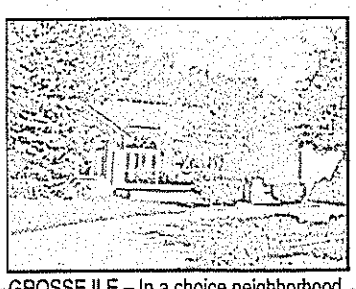
WESTLAND – Updated ranch. 3 bedroom, 1.5 bath home w/newer roof, windows, deck, furnace & AC. Hardwood floors, 2 car garage w/newer door & electric opener. Finished lower level makes nice family room. Fenced yard & highly sought after Livonia schools. $164,900 (50SAN) 248-349-5600



SOUTH LYON – Welcome Home. 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath brick ranch w/open floor plan on a large country lot. Newer windows & hardwood floors. Oak kitchen, brick fireplace & first floor laundry. 2 car side entry garage. Professionally decorated. $279,900 (74DAL) 248-349-5600

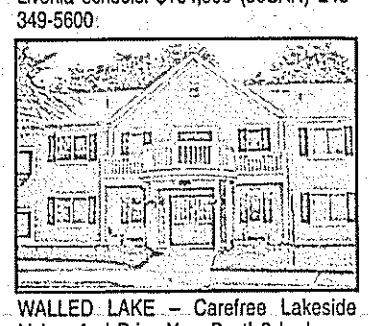


TAYLOR – Inviting in every way. 3 bedroom ranch on fenced corner lot across from a park offers updated electric, hot water heater, plumbing, furnace & much more. 2 car garage. $117,0000 (52HAR) 734-455-5600

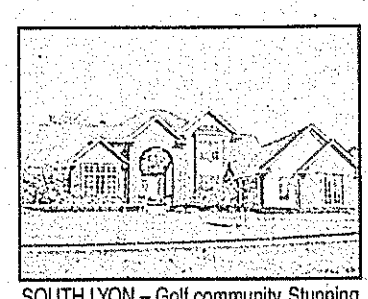


GROSSE ILE – In a choice neighborhood. 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath rambling brick ranch w/2 car attached garage, basement, formal dining room, library w/bay window. vaulted ceiling in great room w/fireplace, 1st floor laundry, oak kitchen w/appliances, + 4 season sun room. $499,885 (36LAS) 734-455-5600

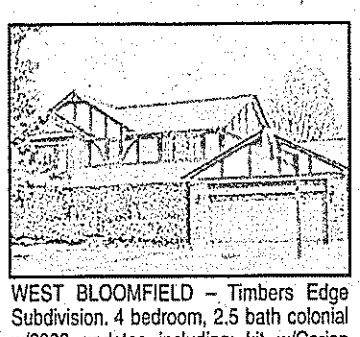
Century 21 Town & Country



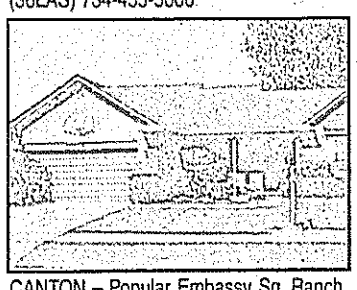
WALLED LAKE – Carefree Lakeside Living. And Bring Your Boat! 2 bedroom, bath condo in an adult 50+ community includes all appliances, a deeded boat slip on Walled Lake, private beach w/gazebo & picnic area, plus loads of other amenities. Delightful, relaxing living! $139,900 (27SOU) 248-349-5600



SOUTH LYON – Golf community. Stunning 4 bedroom, 2.2 bath cape cod w/golf view in front and nature preserve in back. First floor master. Large gourmet kitchen, 2 story great room w/gas fireplace. Finished walkout basement w/loads of storage. South Lyon Schools. $579,900 (00COU) 248-349-5600



WEST BLOOMFIELD – Timbers Edge Subdivision. 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath colonial w/2003 updates including: kit w/Corian counters, AC, roof, fin bsmt & upstairs carpet. Master suite w/2 WIC, oversize FR, library w/walk-ins. Formal DR, 2 car attached garage. Home Warranty incl. $374,900 (36SIL) 734-455-5600

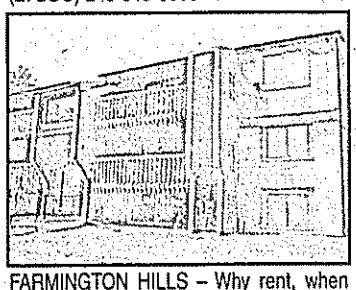


CANTON – Popular Embassy Sq. Ranch. Great value in this 3 bedroom, 2 bath home. Raised hearth, woodburning fireplace, large deck, master bath, basement & 2 car attached garage. $194,900 (78FAI) 734-455-5600

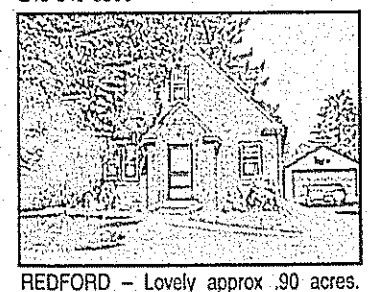
PLYMOUTH
705 South Main St.
734-455-5600

NORTHVILLE
175 CadyCentre
248-349-5600

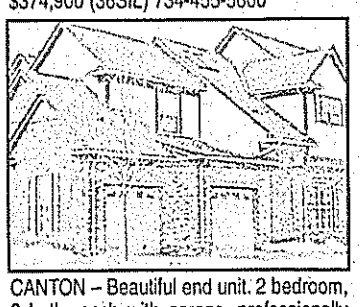
Michigan's #1 Century 21 Firm!



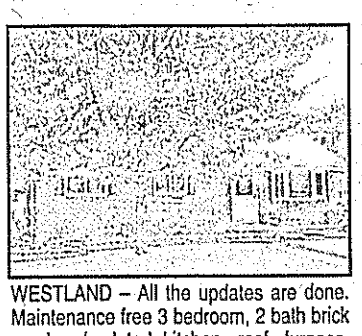
FARMINGTON HILLS – Why rent, when you can own! Move right into this beautiful upper ranch unit. Spacious master bedroom w/walk-in closet, in-unit laundry & all appliances stay. Updated & neutral throughout. Carport & pets allowed. Close to everything. $85,000 (50TWE) 248-349-5600



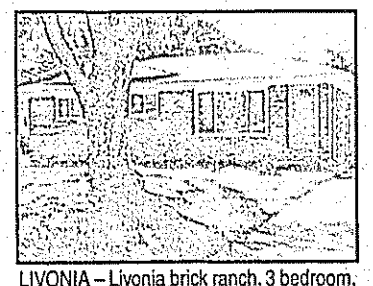
REDFORD – Lovely approx .90 acres. Must see that charming 3 bedroom brick bungalow w/2 car garage & partially finished basement. Loads of updates including windows, roof, furnace, carport, kitchen & more. Hardwood floor on main floor. Plaster walls w/coved ceilings. $169,999 (64JOY) 248-349-5600



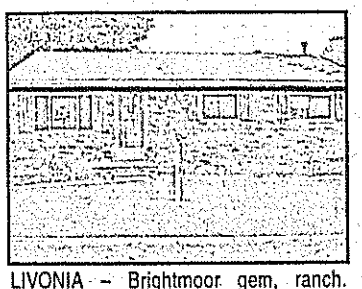
CANTON – Beautiful end unit. 2 bedroom, 3 bath ranch with garage, professionally finished basement, master suite w/Jacuzzi tub & separate shower, kitchen w/cherry cabinets & matching panels on stove & frig. Fireplace in living room, formal dining room w/mirrored wall. $223,900 (09COP) 734-455-5600



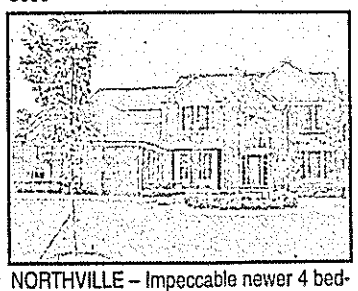
WESTLAND – All the updates are done. Maintenance free 3 bedroom, 2 bath brick ranch w/updated kitchen, roof, furnace, AC, + finished basement w/possible 4th bedroom, 2.5 car garage w/newer door opener all sitting on a newer landscaped double lot. $179,900 (06GIL) 734-455-5600



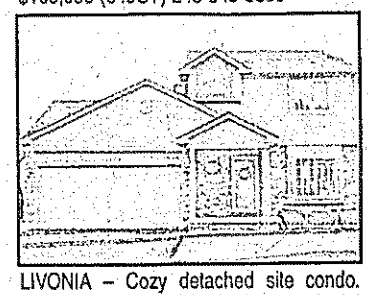
LIVONIA – Livonia brick ranch. 3 bedroom, 1 bath ranch updated throughout. Ceramic tile in kitchen & bath, Merrilat cabinets, 2 car garage, partially finished basement. Must see! $177,900 (15MAY) 734-455-5600



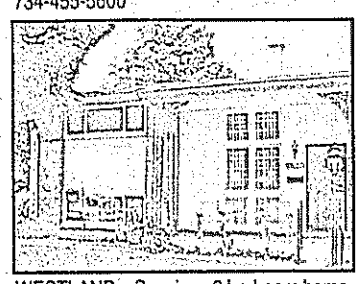
LIVONIA – Brightmoor gem, ranch. Exceptional quality remodeled kitchen - first class. Newer roof, windows, siding, gutters, hot water heater, fantastic finished basement w/FR. Garage is a mechanics dream, insulated w/heat. Newer landscape & exterior lights. 3 bedrooms, 2 baths. $204,900 (36FAI) 248-349-5600



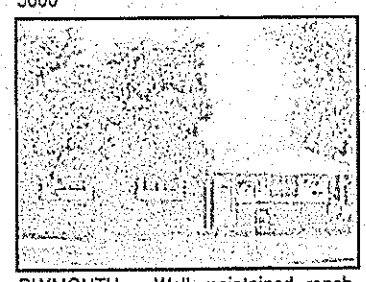
NORTHVILLE – Impeccable newer 4 bedroom, 3.5 bath colonial is still under builders warranty. Awesome cherry cabs & granite counters. Hdwd flrs in kitchen, GR & entry. 2-way frplc in GR & office. Huge master suite w/walk-in closets, Jacuzzi spa & ceramic upgrade. $559,900 (21WHI) 248-349-5600



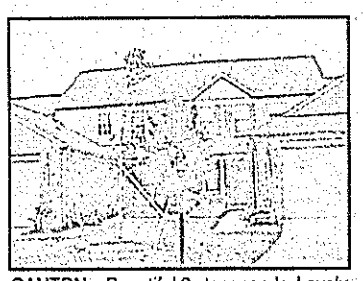
LIVONIA – Cozy detached site condo. Move right in to this 3 bedroom colonial w/open floor plan and neutral throughout, 2 car attached garage. Eat-in kitchen. All appliances. Livonia schools. $205,000 (21BAY) 248-349-5600



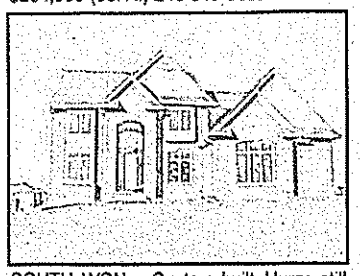
WESTLAND – Spacious 3 bedroom home, newer vinyl windows & doorwall, 1.5 baths, 2.5 car garage, updated furnace & AC, newer siding, gutters & carpet. Great walk out to brick paver patio. Larger fenced yard. Home warranty. Must see! $139,900 (06BIR) 734-455-5600



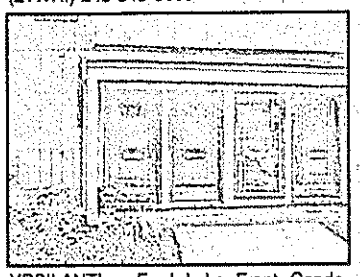
PLYMOUTH – Well maintained ranch. Updated 3 bedroom, 2 bath brick home w/newer roof (tear off), carpet, furnace, AC, ceramic bath, finished basement, 2.5 car garage, walking distance to elementary school. $209,500 (21GRE) 734-455-5600



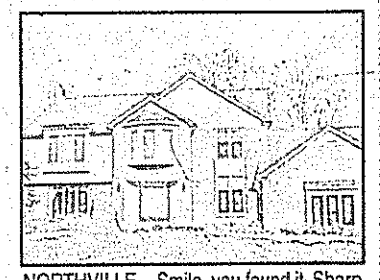
CANTON – Beautiful 2 story condo. Lovely formal dining room w/bay window opening to deck. 2 bedrooms open to huge bath w/extra deep garden tub & walk-in shower, finished lower level + loads of storage. $161,000 (65HUN) 734-455-5600



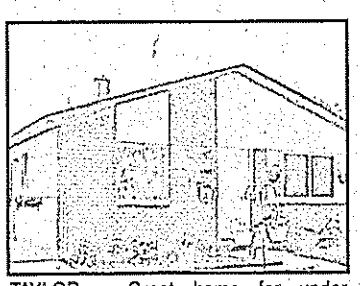
SOUTH LYON – Custom built. Hurry, still time to make selections. 4 spacious bedrooms, 3 full and 2 half baths. 3+ side entry garage. Golf course community. Walk out lower level. Corner lot in great neighborhood. Builder uses only top quality materials. $499,900 (01GRE) 248-349-5600



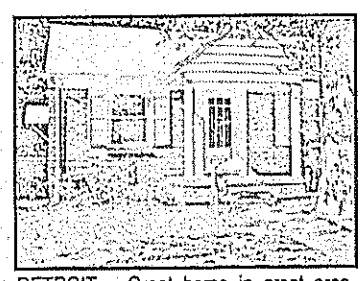
YPSILANTI – Ford Lake Front Condo. Beautiful studio condo, boat storage port, 2 carports, updated kitchen w/oak cupboards, newer carpet & freshly painted. Walk out your doorwall to the lake and your boat. $79,900 (67HAR) 248-349-5600



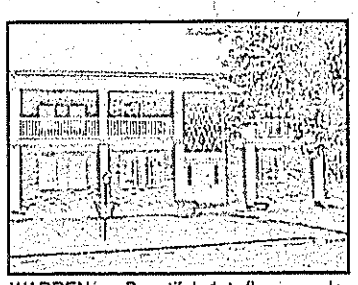
NORTHVILLE – Smile, you found it. Sharp 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath colonial family home. Great room w/fireplace off well-appointed kitchen. Door to multi-tiered deck. Finished walk-out lower level. Terrific master suite. 3 nice sized BR's. Plenty of storage. 3 car garage, more. Move right in. $448,900 (57HOL) 248-349-5600



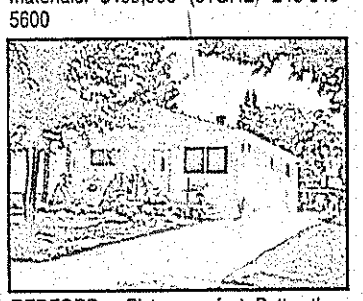
TAYLOR – Great home for under $100,000. 3 bedroom, 1 bath ranch on large lot w/fenced backyard. Newer Pergo floors, newer appliances, windows, interior & exterior doors, newer kitchen floor, ceramic tile in updated bath. Newer AC & furnace. Home warranty. $99,900 (78BAI) 734-455-5600



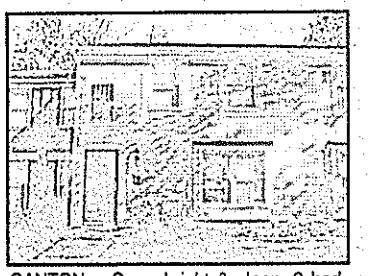
DETROIT – Great home in great area. Stunning 2 bedroom, 1 bath brick ranch w/full basement, garage w/electric & newer door. Hardwood floors, Wallside windows t/o replaced within last few years. Updated kitchen w/views of large back yard. Conveniently located near xways. $79,900 (11APP) 734-455-5600



WARREN – Beautiful 1st floor condo. Many updates in this 2 bedroom, 1.5 bath beauty. Newer carpet, paint, recessed lights, remarkable kitchen w/ceramic tile & light maple cabinets + new counters, sink, microwave & dishwasher all in 2003. A must see! $87,900 (50HOO) 734-455-5600

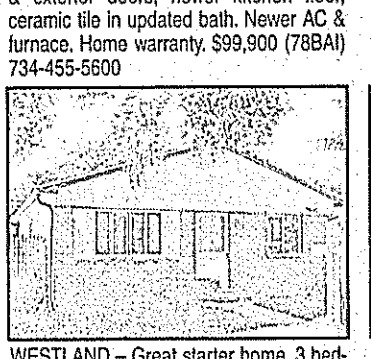


REDFORD – Picture perfect. Better than renting. 3 bedroom ranch with newer white kitchen, furnace, AC, roof, concrete, landscaping and windows updates. Soft neutral colors throughout. Move-in condition. $117,900 (26NOR) 248-349-5600

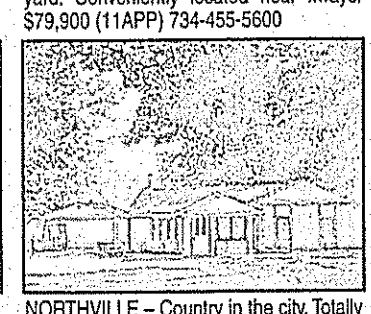


CANTON – Cozy, bright & clean. 2 bedroom, 1.5 bath 2-story condo located at the end of street in quiet community. Second floor laundry. All newer appliances including washer & dryer. Newer windows, carpet & cabinets. CA, dining room, doorwall. Plymouth Canton Schools. $109,900 (24ORC) 248-349-5600

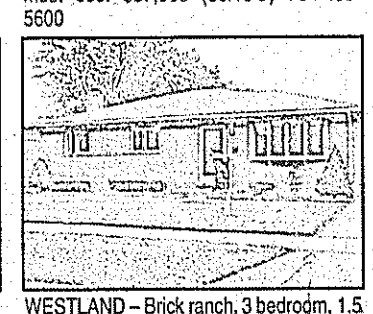
WHITMORE LAKE – Cottage on lake. 3 bedrooms w/newer windows, walk-out basement. Lake frontage with dock. Great vacation home or rental. Live on all sports lake. $189,900 (77NSH) 248-349-5600



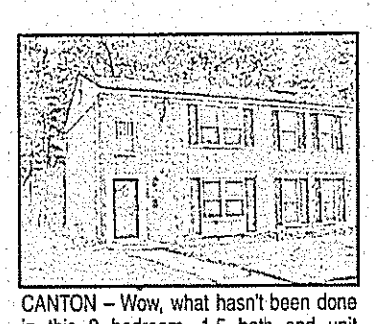
WESTLAND – Great starter home. 3 bedrooms, updated bath, eat-in kitchen w/ceiling fan & oak cabinets, vinyl windows, newer vinyl siding, 1st floor laundry & privacy fence in backyard. Nice home. $113,900 (68CRO) 734-455-5600



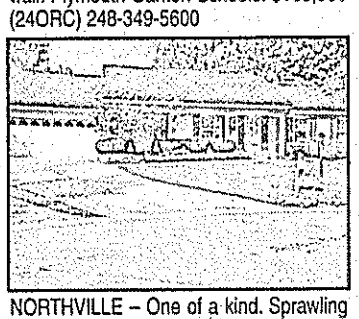
NORTHVILLE – Country in the city. Totally remodeled 3 bedroom, 2 bath ranch offers 2 car garage, circular driveway, Andersen windows, all appliances. Ready for immediate occupancy! $189,000 (52MAR) 734-455-5600



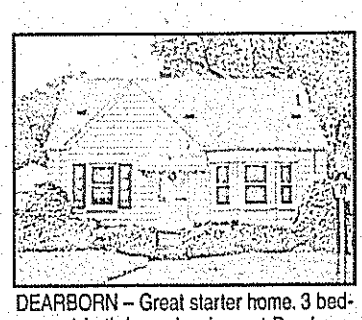
WESTLAND – Brick ranch. 3 bedroom, 1.5 bath home w/family room, partially finished basement, AC, 2 car garage, newer windows, big master bedroom, eat-in kitchen, sprinklers & more. $164,900 (54FRA) 734-455-5600



CANTON – Wow, what hasn't been done in this 2 bedroom, 1.5 bath end unit condo? From the new doors/moldings, ceramic floors in foyer, both baths, kit, to the all newer appls plus washer & dryer, newer windows & roof. Across from a golf course & surrounded by higher priced homes. $129,900 (23ORC) 248-349-5600



NORTHVILLE – One of a kind. Sprawling 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath ranch. Have your own resort right in your own backyard. Inground pool and Jacuzzi. Too many updates to mention. Bring your fussiest buyers. Home warranty included. $399,900 (64BEA) 248-349-5600



DEARBORN – Great starter home. 3 bedroom, 1 bath bungalow in west Dearborn. Roof & windows '02. Tub enclosure, updated kitchen cabinets, freshly painted in neutral colors. Fenced yard, close to park & schools. Appliances stay. $119,900 (00UNI) 248-349-5600

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CENTURY 21 INTERNATIONAL AWARD WINNING OFFICES

HOMES SOLD IN OAKLAND COUNTY

These are the Observer & Eccentric-area residential real estate closings recorded the week of Aug. 25-29 at the Oakland County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

Auburn Hills

2164 Dexter	$140,000
2361 Hempstead	$175,000
135 Juniper	$177,000
2240 Mattie Lu	$162,000
106 Oakmont	$155,000
862 Polo	$228,000
780 Provincetown	$176,000
2643 Williamsburg	$205,000

Beverly Hills

22190 Camelot	$600,000
16239 Madoline	$188,000
17022 Marguerite	$235,000

Birmingham

955 Arlington	$997,000
983 Bennaville	$190,000
2005 E 14 Mile	$450,000
1088 Mohegan	$389,000
850 N Adams	$135,000
946 N Adams	$125,000
323 N Eton	$104,000
323 N Eton	$110,000
1005 N Old Woodward	$183,000
1530 Northlawn	$725,000
2806 Pembroke	$265,000
662 Purdy	$164,000
559 Southfield	$330,000
1211 Stanley	$360,000
1085 Suffield	$695,000
1424 Webster	$185,000

Bloomfield Hills/Township

3932 Ann Rose	$549,000
136 Belroi	$335,000
2969 Berkshire	$305,000
2744 Brady	$300,000
6770 Colby	$400,000
636 E Fox Hills	$120,000
770 Foxhall	$640,000
25056 Glynholm	$358,000
4571 Grindley	$420,000
1924 Klingensmith	$143,000
1989 Klingensmith	$120,000
4732 Pickering	$380,000
2739 Rambling Way	$274,000
5779 Raven	$315,000
1185 Rolling Acres	$190,000
125 S Cranbrook Cross	$280,000
1047 Top View	$423,000
100 W Hickory Grove	$80,000
4476 W Maple	$412,000
4605 W Maple	$418,000
145 Westbourne	$314,000

Clarkston

4724 Alamo	$135,000
6613 Amy	$195,000
5823 Baypointe	$215,000
8302 Brookstone	$472,000
6728 Cascade	$492,000
8216 Cotswold	$700,000
4843 Eagle Springs	$415,000
6100 Eastlawn	$177,000
5513 Fox Chase	$198,000
5221 Glenwood	$290,000
906 Heather Lake	$398,000
9970 Misty Ridge	$318,000
305 Moonlite	$254,000
9857 Norman	$165,000
7064 Oak Meadows	$317,000
6220 Pinewood	$265,000
7277 Rabbit Ears Pass	$370,000
8106 Remington	$505,000
9840 Rilton	$260,000
6618 Roselawn	$125,000
8410 S Shore	$339,000
4845 Sashabaw	$142,000
8212 Staghorn	$380,000
9392 Thornhill	$575,000

Commerce Township

8090 Barnsbury	$420,000
4711 Birkdale	$460,000
1740 Fenwick	$460,000
2273 Glen Iris	$210,000
5541 Huron Hills	$360,000
4254 Marcello	$269,000
8888 Orrick	$339,000
8888 Orrick	$175,000
9531 Volga	$230,000

Farmington

20904 Birchwood	$183,000
22611 Brookdale	$209,000
22785 Floral	$171,000

Farmington Hills

29149 Bradmoor	$591,000
22368 Cape Cod Way	$126,000
29257 Chateau	$585,000
30426 Conway	$280,000
30745 Country Ridge	$465,000
28251 Danvers	$378,000
29824 Deer Run	$391,000
33521 Edmonton	$174,000
35305 Edythe	$205,000
37680 Emerald Forest	$408,000
28121 Forestbrook	$346,000
30390 Fox Club	$410,000
20768 Gill	$245,000
28562 Green Willow	$218,000
39030 Lancaster	$287,000
30334 Nantucket	$125,000
29814 Newberry	$390,000
26200 Pleasant Valley	$428,000
29216 Shenandoah	$367,000
28427 Thorny Brae	$170,000
32160 W 11 Mile	$320,000
34206 W 13 Mile	$230,000
27529 W Echo	$129,000
36049 W Lyman	$175,000
22921 Watt	$229,000
21513 Wheeler	$169,000

Franklin

30320 Rosemond	$380,000

Keego Harbor

1465 Beachland	$225,000
2903 Cordell	$126,000

Lake Orion

2774 Aldrin	$225,000
1016 Arbroak Way	$465,000
2136 Chestnut	$282,000
305 Glenn	$175,000
1165 Inca	$235,000
4601 Jamm	$133,000
3959 Kaeleaf	$392,000
109 N Andrews	$124,000
3067 Oakridge	$112,000
682 Pleasant	$140,000
2135 W View	$265,000

Lathrup Village

27934 California	$170,000
27828 Goldengate	$255,000
27415 Goldengate	$225,000
27828 Lathrup	$226,000
18230 Rainbow	$235,000

Oakland Township

2077 Aberdeen	$190,000
5055 Belmonte	$387,000
5146 Belmonte	$480,000
3493 Century Oaks	$645,000
5300 Creekmonte	$154,000
1887 High Meadows	$145,000
428 Maple	$124,000
3534 Normandy	$278,000
3467 Pear Tree	$275,000
3359 Rosemont	$440,000
5917 Stonehaven	$190,000
3443 Tremonte	$213,000
3447 Tremonte	$191,000

Oxford

6 Crawford	$150,000
570 Golf Villa	$268,000
11 Jersey	$164,000
4150 McIntyre	$217,000
736 N Lapeer	$241,000
250 Ora	$70,000
630 Oxford Oaks	$80,000
1228 Quail Ridge	$255,000
411 Teelin	$215,000
373 W Drahner	$65,000
3685 W Drahner	$170,000
1337 Wood	$435,000
1750 Wooley	$205,000

Rochester

146 Albertson	$160,000
908 Churchill	$265,000
883 Great Oaks	$420,000
1115 Krista	$386,000
1221 Letica	$446,000
747 Ludlow	$282,000
1416 Pebble Ridge	$590,000
1373 Sunview	$180,000
1332 Tulberry	$440,000
516 W University	$113,000
624 W University	$150,000

Rochester Hills

3102 Avon Manor	$150,000
2004 Baron	$330,000
3619 Blue Heron	$480,000
1832 Bromley	$365,000
3096 Charlwood	$371,000
1583 Charter Oak	$130,000
1162 Clear Creek	$509,000
1625 Colony	$196,000
3830 Cone	$185,000
916 Dickson	$230,000
925 E Avon	$86,000
3051 Honor	$403,000
448 Ivy Wood	$265,000
3575 Joshua	$305,000
1134 Kings Cove	$158,000
1302 Kingspath	$343,000
615 Lockport	$258,000
696 Majestic	$550,000
328 Maryknoll	$252,000
287 Meadow Bridge	$154,000
2939 Meadowbrook	$159,000
2371 Pleasant View	$312,000
2385 Rancroft Beat	$283,000
2046 Reagan	$327,000
2876 Rhineberry	$245,000
2347 Rochelle Park	$154,000
3276 Salem	$310,000
341 Sandalwood	$292,000
681 Spartan	$315,000
2821 Steamboat Springs	$282,000
54 Stratford	$170,000
93 Texas	$210,000
3812 Thornberry	$350,000
2449 W Auburn	$218,000
3613 Warwick	$401,000
700 Whitney	$235,000
2862 Woodelm	$187,000

Southfield

28279 Aberdeen	$100,000
23485 Almira	$125,000
23234 Antique	$165,000
21743 Duns Scotus	$93,000
27213 Farmbrook Villa	$130,000
21509 Frazer	$133,000
17368 Gateway	$179,000
16061 Harden	$250,000
29230 Heritage	$215,000
23580 Lahser	$120,000
25661 Lahser	$82,000
25535 Lahser	$76,000
24069 Lathrup	$169,000
27274 Lexington	$151,000
25044 Lindenwood	$225,000
30505 Nadora	$225,000
16955 New Hampshire	$265,000
24310 Norwood	$415,000
23590 Sargent	$182,000
25300 Shiawassee	$55,000
30310 Westbrook	$240,000
20202 Westland	$145,000
18410 Westover	$165,000

Sylvan Lake

2154 Avondale	$235,000
1937 Woodland	$160,000

Troy

1879 Beech Lane	$135,000
5345 Corbin	$385,000
6560 Crabapple	$450,000
3089 Daley	$315,000
2968 Dashwood	$170,000
5874 Dawn Ridge	$266,000
3877 Fadi	$590,000
4950 Flower Hill	$480,000
6856 Fredmoor	$308,000
2082 Hartshorn	$226,000
5098 Longview	$525,000
906 Minnesota	$145,000
1807 N Lake	$220,000
5741 Northfield	$184,000
1453 Raliegh	$273,000
1477 Raliegh	$300,000
6776 Serenity	$316,000
186 Starr	$190,000
649 Troywood	$184,000
6431 Vernmoor	$264,000
3424 Wendover	$213,000
2448 Wexford	$270,000

Walled Lake

1457 Dover	$143,000
2020 Serenity Way	$157,000
726 Woodhaven	$235,000

Waterford

1326 Bay Hill	$158,000
5670 Berkley	$149,000
3158 Brookside	$172,000
3162 Brookside	$177,000
98 Camley	$128,000
43 Carpenter	$118,000
3495 Clintonville	$459,000
1814 Colonial Village Way	$80,000
1864 Colonial Village Way	$70,000
3595 Dorothy	$525,000
282 Fernbarry	$150,000
4953 Fiddle	$141,000
1080 Forest Bay	$393,000
98 Garland Way	$225,000
5018 Harbor Oak	$153,000
3577 Hatfield	$140,000
3809 Hazelett	$132,000
3136 Hidden Ridge	$120,000
4078 Highview	$196,000
64 Hill	$157,000
4083 Ledgestone	$165,000
1031 Lochaven	$144,000
3945 Moforway	$125,000
7580 Pontiac Lake	$157,000
5090 Ridgetop	$90,000
7013 Rolling Hills	$105,000
5821 Shetland Way	$155,000
4054 Silverbirch	$170,000
2985 Tuxedo	$107,000
6355 Williams Lake	$163,000
2619 Woodbine	$167,000
4102 Woodmont	$175,000

West Bloomfield

4335 Bankside	$188,000
7092 Beverly Crest	$262,000
7225 Buena Vista	$135,000
6022 Charles	$600,000
5961 Christina	$298,000
4479 Deckerland	$400,000
5574 Fox Hunt	$290,000
6055 Glen Eagles	$368,000
7292 Green Farm	$187,000
6626 Hearthside	$163,000
1641 Huntwood Park	$280,000
2728 John Warren	$324,000
4090 Maple	$185,000
4156 Marlwood	$640,000
6656 Minnow Pond	$150,000
2940 Moon Lake	$197,000
2543 Ogden	$287,000
7184 Pebble Park	$199,000
6391 Royal Pointe	$475,000
6425 Tamerlane	$200,000
5540 Victoria	$180,000
5100 Virgie	$229,000
2661 Warner	$545,000
3240 Woodview Lake	$620,000

Area grows without 'magic' of Disney

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

HAYMARKET, Va. – There was no Industrial Revolution roller coaster, no Lewis and Clark raft ride, no Civil War fort and no nightly fireworks.

That's because Mickey Mouse and his friends never came to Northern Virginia. Their magic was no match for the intense opposition to an American history theme park proposed by Disney 10 years ago for western Prince William County's rolling hills.

Much has changed since Disney came knocking in November 1993.

The theme park's fierce opponents, who eventually forced Walt Disney Co. to abandon its plans, went on to build an anti-sprawl movement that has influenced the region's politics and growth.

But Disney's retreat didn't take development with it. Prince William has boomed, adding nearly 100,000 people in the past decade.

Thousands of upscale homes have sprung up in the area where Disney wanted to build a $650 million theme park. Rather than theme-park gridlock, western Prince William suffers from commuter gridlock.

Debate still simmers among some residents. Would the county have been better off with Disney and the accompanying T-shirt shops and fast-food restaurants, or has it benefited more from high-end homes?

If the park had been built, many say, it would have given the area an economic boost. At the same time, others say, it would have perpetuated Prince William's reputation as a county of mainly low-end retail businesses, stretching from the discount mall Potomac Mills in the east to Disney in the west.

"We're finally starting to break ourselves out of being completely dependent on a service economy and moving into the high-tech and biotech worlds," said county board chairman Sean Connaughton, a Republican, referring to Prince William's ability to lure outposts of corporate giants AOL and Eli Lilly.

"I don't think we ever would have done that if Disney became the driving force in the economy."

GROWTH

In the early 1990s, the county was lagging behind the progress reshaping much of Northern Virginia. It had the state's highest tax rate, and its business base was mainly confined to discount stores.

Ten years later, not far from where Disney would have gone, George Mason University has built a campus, AOL has established two data centers and pharmaceutical leader Lilly is building a $425 million facility that will employ about 700 people.

Time magazine named one of the county schools High School of the Year in 2001. Housing prices have soared so high that county leaders who once complained of too many cheap townhouses are considering building subsidized housing for county workers. County revenue is so healthy that the tax rate has dropped 20 cents in three years.

More growth is on its way. Last year, for example, Prince William supervisors approved a plan that could put development on the scale of Tysons Corner a short distance from the former Disney site.

DEBATE

The debate over the county's direction since Disney's demise seems to come up repeatedly at Red Rooster Antiques and Collectibles. It's one of the few surviving businesses in Haymarket, a town that once stood to gain from Disney.

Owner Pam Stu[illegible] said she was opposed to Disn[illegible] because she didn't understand why people would want to visit a re-created version of American history. She also said the resulting traffic would have been a nightmare.

"We got it anyway," Corinna Pearson said from behind the cash register.

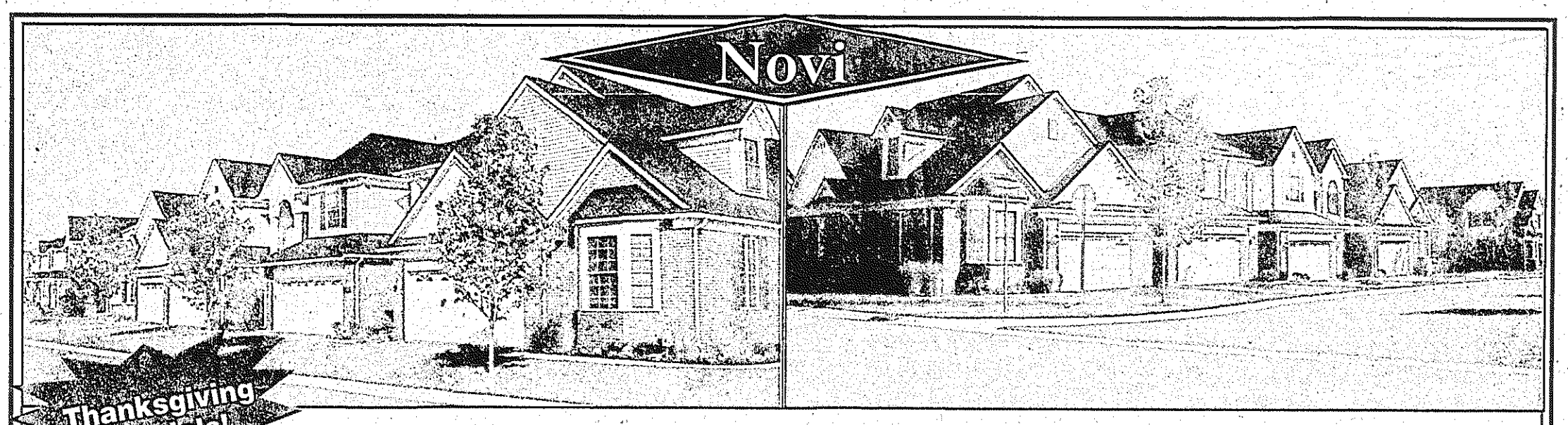
"The biggest complaint for everybody was too much traffic. Well, hello!" she said, pointing to the line of cars passing through town. "I think it would have brought more money into the area. It would be better than millions of houses."

Former Haymarket mayor John R. Kapp agreed. From the moment that a group of Disney executives crowded into his living room on a cold Wednesday in November 1993, he and other officials were excited by the idea of a major tourist attraction, employment center and tax generator at a time when the area was struggling to emerge from a crippling recession.

"Had Disney come, we would have had money and ... we wouldn't have had to pay for schools and infrastructure and roads," said Kapp, who retired to Williamsburg several weeks ago.

Shortly after Disney made its announcement, Virginia lawmakers approved $163 million in incentives for Disney, including about $130 million to improve nearby roads. Those fixes are on indefinite hold.

Others credit the thousands of homes built on the original Disney site for attracting wealthier, more educated residents who have elevated the county from its former poor-cousin status.



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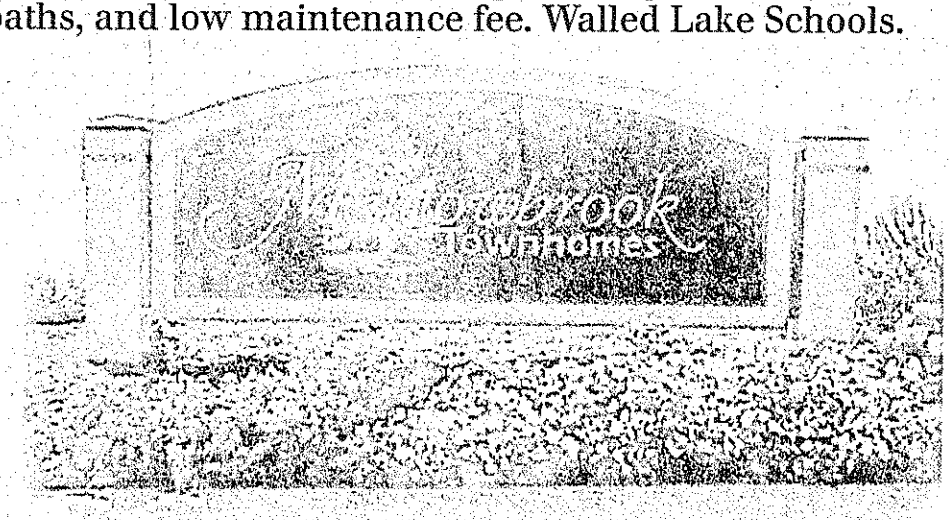

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4200.....Halls/Buildings
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4230.....Commercial/Industrial
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Apartments/Unfurnished 4000

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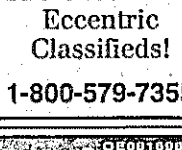
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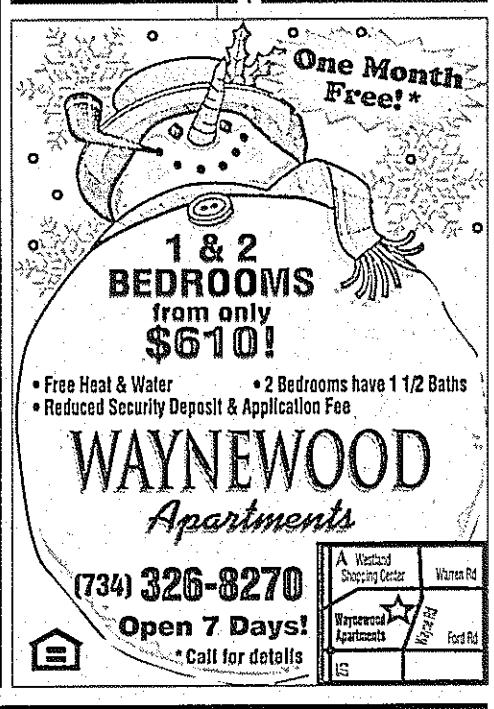

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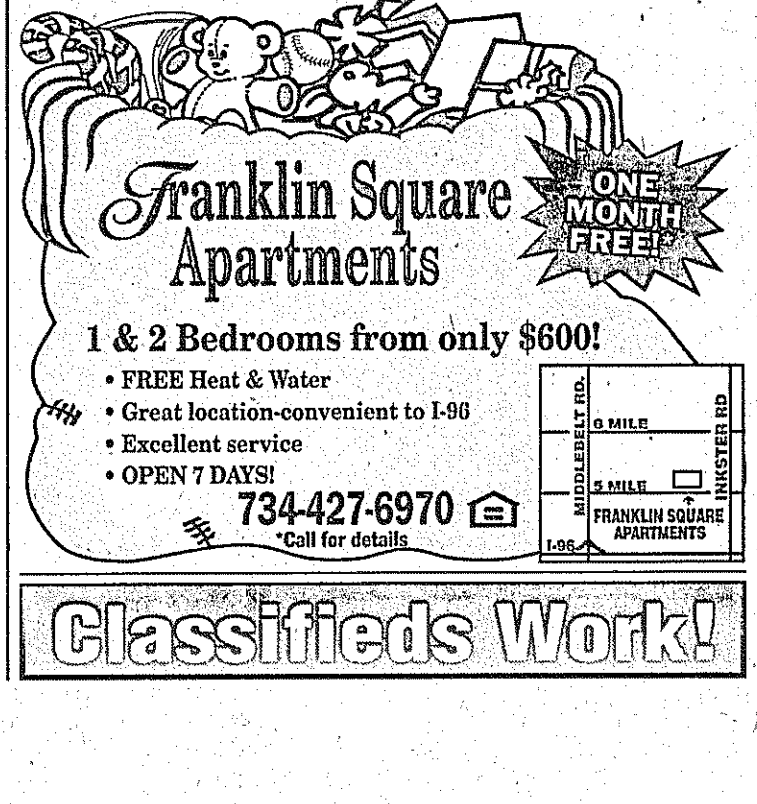

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2 Bedroom 1.5 bath 936 sq.ft. from $650

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Duplexes 4030

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PLYMOUTH
Clean 2 bedroom, 1.5 bath, stove & refrigerator, basement, $825/month. 734-421-6008

PLYMOUTH Sheldon-Junction area. 1 bedroom, utility room, air. No smoking or pets. $550 + security. 734-455-1040

PLYMOUTH: Walk to downtown. 1 bedroom, newly decorated, full basement. No pets. $650/mo. 734-455-8599

ROYAL OAK
2220 Thirteen Mile Rd. 2 bedroom, 1 bath colonial with full basement, central air, hookups for washer & dryer. Pets ARE welcome. $780/mo.
(248) 354-9119, Ext. 206

WESTLAND - Merriman/ Palmer. 2 bedroom. $625/mo plus security. Section 8 okay. 313-278-6745

WESTLAND - 2 Bedroom, full basement. New furnace/air. Ultra clean, move right in. From $645/mo. Ask about our special. 734-721-8111

WESTLAND- 2 Bed, all appliances, water included, fresh paint, quiet area. No pets. $625/mo. 734-464-3455

Flats 4040

FERNDALE - Beautiful 2 bed. lower in great area w/fireplace, c.a., washer & dryer, screened porch, garage, tons of storage, great yard. Many special features. Walk to downtown. A MUST SEE! $895 + utilities.
(248) 548-5946

GARDEN CITY 2025 Arcola. upper 1 bedroom, utilities incl $595/mo. Ref plus sec. 313-561-9240 or 313-938-6436.

NORTHVILLE
2 bedroom upper flat. Walk to downtown. Freshly painted, updated kitchen w/all appliances. Hardwood floors. Bsmt w/ washer/dryer hook-up,1 car garage. $775/mo. Security/ref. Tina: 734-416-8736, Coldwell Banker Preferred

Plymouth - Old Village, 2 bed lower flat, basement, front porch, all appliances, ca, available immediately. $800/mo. No pets. 734-216-1045

ROYAL OAK: 1st month FREE! 326 Oakland. Great location. 1 blk. from downtown. 4 bedroom upper flat, a/c, recently updated. $1200/mo.
(248) 545-7447

Homes For Rent 4050

BERKLEY Wonderful home 2 beds, laundry facilities. Hardwood floors, 1 1/2 baths. $1050+utilities.
248-414-7440

BEVERLY HILLS - 3 bed brick, C/A, Birmingham schools. $1000/mo. Small charge RENTAL PROS 248-373-RENT

BIRMINGHAM charmer. 4 bedrooms. Remodeled master w/garden tub. Fenced yard w/play area. 1 year lease. $2,650/mo. Call Vicki, Max Broock Realtors, (248) 625-9300 (60RIV)

BIRMINGHAM
3 bed, 1 bath, garage, deck, C/A, fenced yard on tree lined street. Walk to parks, schools & downtown. $1,100.

THE BENEICKE GROUP 248-640-5855

BIRMINGHAM Close to town! C/A, finished bsmt, covered porch. $855/mo. Small charge RENTAL PROS 248-373-RENT

BIRMINGHAM 1 MO. FREE! 2 bed, finished bsmt., fenced. 1 yr lease. $1150/mo. 248-642-3190.

BIRMINGHAM: Quarton Lake Estates. 3 bed, 2 full bath, new kitchen, living room w/fireplace, den, 2 car garage, hardwood floors thru-out. $1795/mo. (248) 646-3207

BLOOMFIELD 4 bedroom colonial. All appliances including washer/dryer, 2 car garage. Non-smoking. 1 year lease. $2400/mo. Call Vicki, Max Broock Realtors, (248) 625-9300 (81QUA)

BLOOMFIELD HILLS - 3 bedroom updated ranch, 2200 sq. ft., private lot, all appliances. $1700/mo. 248-373-7450.

CANTON 3 bedroom colonial, 1.5 bath, full bsmt, appliances. $875 + 1.5 security, avail. 2/1/04. 734-459-0853

CANTON Country living 3 bedroom farmhouse, new paint & carpet, garage. $900/mo. (734) 495-0883

CANTON - 1,900 sq.ft., 3 bed, 2.5 bath. Must see. 248-348-8189, #724 RICHTER & ASSOC. www.richterassoc.com

CANTON 2 bedroom, home duplex, older farmhouse, 1 bath, large dining &Living room, large 3/4 acre lot. $575/mo. (734) 480-1432

Canton Area- NEWLY BUILT COLONIAL
1800 sq.ft., 4 bed, 2 1/2 bath. Great opportunity! Crossroads: Ridge & Geddes. Smoke & pet free. Security/ref. $1600/mo. MARK or DEBRA DeMOSS 734-416-8732 Coldwell Banker Preferred

Canton, Livonia, Westland Rent 2 own. No bank qualifiy. Call 734-422-0419 or visit www.cjgpropertiesinc.com

CANTON/PLYMOUTH SCHOOLS - 2-3 bed ranch, partly finished basement, family room w/fireplace, 2 car, ca, non smoking, pet maybe, $1395. Real Estate One, 29630 Orchard Lk, 248-310-7349

CANTON: 41004 Westfield Circle, located at pond. 4 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths, family room w/fireplace, basement, C/A, 2 car attached garage, deck w/ gazebo. Available Jan. 1st. $1595/mo. Shown Wed., Sat. & Sun. @ 7pm or by appt. Office: 248-593-0064 Mobile: 313-920-5966

COMMERCE TWP./WIXOM Spacious 3 bed, 2 bath, appliances, pet neg. $1100/mo. 248-669-3012

DEARBORN - Air, appliances, heat & water paid. $650/mo. Small charge RENTAL PROS 734-513-RENT

DEARBORN HGTS - 3 bed, fenced, option to buy. $700/mo. Small charge RENTAL PROS 734-513-RENT

Dearborn Hts. North -3 bed, brick ranch, finished bsmt, 2 car garage, $1100/mo. + utilities. 313-478-5400

Homes For Rent 4050

DETROIT - 3 bedroom, fenced yard. Southfield & Warren area. 734-591-1361

DETROIT, NW - 2 bed. Open house 12/7, 12-3. 14310 Fielding. $425/mo.

Downtown Birmingham
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Dennis P. Dicksteln
Cell (248) 892-6900
Real Estate One

FARMINGTON (HILLS) Spacious 2 bed, no pets, full bsmt, front yard, $850/mo. Utilities paid. (248) 478-9948

FARMINGTON - 3 bed, finished bsmt, garage, pets welcome, $800/mo. Small charge RENTAL PROS 248-356-RENT

FARMINGTON HILLS
2 Bed, appliances, carport, pet negotiable $675/mo. 248-669-3012

FARMINGTON HILLS - 2 bed ranch, appliances, fenced yard, $675/mo. Small charge RENTAL PROS 248-356-RENT

FARMINGTON/LIVONIA Lease to own. 4 bed, 2.5 bath, 2500 sq. ft. 1/3 acre, $1550 /mo /230k. 248 980-6910

GARDEN CITY Awesome 3 bedroom brick ranch w/ garage & fenced yard. Neat as a pin. Avail. Dec. Rent or RENT TO OWN. Poor credit ok. $1050 734-761-9111

Garden City
BAD CREDIT?
YOU CAN STILL BUY A HOME WITH 0 DOWN IN ANY AREA!
Short term employment OK. Bankruptcy OK.
Call Randy Lesson, METRO FINANCE 248-709-2244

HOWELL - Newer contemporary 4 bed, 2,500 sq.ft., $1,995. 248-348-8189, #731 RICHTER & ASSOC. www.richterassoc.com

HOWELL- Lakefront Living! Beautiful 1,700 sq.ft. 3 bedroom, 2 bath ranch, built in 2002, featuring a large kitchen & great room w/vauleted ceilings, 2 car garage, sandy beach. (60BLA). Asking $349,000 or lease at $1,750/mo. Call **Robert or Judy,** Remerica Integrity 734--525-4200

HOWELL- Lakefront Living! Beautiful 1,700 sq.ft. 3 bedroom, 2 bath ranch, built in 2002, featuring a large kitchen & great room w/vaulted ceilings, 2 car garage, sandy beach. (60BLA). Asking $349,000 or lease at $1,750/mo. Call **Robert or Judy,** Remerica Integrity 734--525-4200

INKSTER 3 bedroom ranch, basement, $600; 2 bedroom, garage, basement, $450. Option on both. 248-788-1823

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LIVONIA 3 Bedroom brick ranch. Full bsmt. All appliances & water incl. Quiet area. $925/mo. 734-464-3455

LIVONIA Sharp 3 bed, 2.5 bath Ranch, bsmt, c/a, appliances. Garage. $1925/mo. ShareNet (248) 642-1620

LIVONIA - Brick, fireplace, option to buy. $750/mo. Small charge RENTAL PROS 734-513-RENT

LIVONIA - Clean 4 bed, den, 2 bath Cape Cod. Finished bsmt, 2,000 sq.ft., large lot, furnished? $1,750. 248-974-6652; 248-478-2094

LIVONIA - Ranch 3 bed, bsmt, 2 car. $995. 248-348-8189 #705. RICHTER & ASSOC. www.richterassoc.com

LIVONIA CONDO 1 bed, incl: pool, water/heat storage, balcony. Park-like view $750+security. 248 476-9300

LIVONIA(NW) 3 bed, 2.5 bath, all updated, many extras. Avail now. No-smoking, pets maybe. $1895/mo. 248-755-3125

Livonia- 9027 Melvin Ranch w/Livonia Schools
3 bed, 1 bath w/full bsmt. New kitchen & bath. Fresh, neutral carpet & paint thru-out. Smoke/pet free. Crossroads: Joy/Merriman. Security/Ref. $1050/mo. MARK or DEBRA DeMOSS 734-416-8732 Coldwell Banker Preferred

MILFORD ranch. Short term lease. Spend warm cozy evenings by the great room fireplace. Finished basement. Non-smoking. $1800/mo. Call Vicki, Max Broock Realtors, (248) 625-9300 (31MIL)

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Tel: 313-319-4818

NORTHVILLE - Reduced 4 bed, 2.5 bath, finished bsmt., $1,695. 248-348-8189, #716 RICHTER & ASSOC. www.richterassoc.com

Homes For Rent 4050

NOVI - 4 bedroom on Walled Lake. Basement & all appliances, a/c, dock. $1200/mo. (248) 926-8990

NOVI - 4 bed, 2.5 bath, walk-out basement. 248-348-8189, #717 RICHTER & ASSOC. www.richterassoc.com

OAK PARK Cute 2 bedroom ranch. Immediate occupancy. Option to buy available. $500 per month. 248-788-1823

OUR CHARITY
Will gift your down payment. Call for details.
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PLYMOUTH - 3 bedroom, 2 bath ranch, basement, garage. All appliances. $1200/month + security. (734) 981-1792

PLYMOUTH - Updated, 2 bed, appliances, bsmt, new/windows, walk to town. Garage. No pets $650 734-453-7962

PLYMOUTH 2 bedroom, new carpet, paint, laundry, a/c, balcony, cat ok. $795. Also 2 bed apartment, $775. 734-455-4169

PLYMOUTH Walk to downtown. 3 Bed, 1 bath, finished basement, fenced yard. $1225/mo. 248-515-5292

PLYMOUTH - Bsmt, appliances, garage, fenced. $650/mo. Small charge RENTAL PROS 734-513-RENT

PLYMOUTH-Lg 1 bed upper, garage, prime area. $775. (734) 591-6530/455-7653

Redford
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REDFORD - 2 bed, finished bsmt, attached garage, pets neg. $750/mo. Small charge RENTAL PROS 248-356-RENT

REDFORD - 3-4 bed, finished bsmt, 2 car garage, Section 8 ok. $900/mo. Small charge RENTAL PROS 248-356-RENT

REDFORD - Brick Tudor, 3 bed, 1.5 bath, 2 car. 248-348-5100, #111 RICHTER & ASSOC. www.richterassoc.com

REDFORD - North. 3 bedroom, 1 bath bungalow, $795/ mo.+ security. Pets ok. 810-229-7292

REDFORD, S. - 3 bed brick ranch, bsmt, garage, $900/mo. 2 bed, $600/mo. Small charge RENTAL PROS 734-513-RENT

RENT TO OWN
Programs Available. Could be 0 down. Call for details.
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ROYAL OAK 3 bed, 1.5 bath, stove, c.a. $875/plus security. No pets/smoking. (248) 588-5758

ROYAL OAK
NO BANKS REQUIRED! 3 bedroom remodeled bungalow. Finished basement w/bedroom & full bath. All appliances. Central air. Awesome master w/skylights! 2.5 car garage. $185,000
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ROYAL OAK - 3709 Woodland, 2 bed, 2 car, appliances, immaculate, great house & neighborhood, no pets. $800/mo. 248-360-2095

ROYAL OAK HOME 3 Bed, 2 baths, 2 garage. Vinsetta Blvd. New appliances, laundry. $1,300. 248-588-8798

SOUTHFIELD -3 bedroom, 1.5 bath, 2 car garage. Remodeled. Lease with option, $1550/mo. 810-231-1116

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Homes For Rent 4050

SOUTHFIELD - Buy option. 3 bed, fireplace, 2 car garage, $900/mo. Small charge RENTAL PROS 248-356-RENT

W. BLOOMFIELD Beautiful fully furnished, 2 bedroom on the lake, through June. $900. 248-661-5651 260-615-1532

WATERFORD - 2 bed, 1.5 bath, finished bsmt. $995. 248-348-8189, #727 RICHTER & ASSOC. www.richterassoc.com

WAYNE - 3 bed, fenced, appliances, option to buy. $775/mo. Small charge RENTAL PROS 734-513-RENT

WEST BLOOMFIELD - AVAILABLE 1/1/-4
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WESTLAND 2 Bed, 1 bath, fenced yard, clean, ready to move-in. $750/mo. 734-844-3813

WESTLAND 2 bedroom, large fenced yard, stove & fridge, garage, C/A, dishwasher, $825/month. 734-729-2219

WESTLAND - Brick, air, appliances, option to buy. $750/mo. Small charge RENTAL PROS 734-513-RENT

WESTLAND - 3 BEDROOM
1 1/2 bath ranch, 2 1/2 car garage, C/A, finished bsmt. All appliances included. Immediate occupancy. $1000/mo. + sec. For rental information.
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WESTLAND - Excellent area, 3 bed, 1.5 bath, bsmt, C/A, just decorated, appliances, no pets. $925. (734) 591-9163

WESTLAND- Livonia Schools, 2 bedroom, large fenced yard. Section 8 O.K.. $900/mo. Free Rent for Dec. 734-504-0137

WESTLAND: Available Now! (Merriman-Palmer). Very clean 3 bed duplex. fenced, carpet. $675/mo. 313-418-9905

WESTLAND: Large 2 bed, bsmt, washer/dryer, 2 car garage. $900/mo.+ sec. Section 8 welcome. 734-516-3118

WESTLAND: Livonia schools, clean 3 bedroom, 2 baths, basement, garage, and more! $1,025/mo. plus security (734) 425-9225

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Mobile Homes For Rent 4080

CANTON - We have pre-owned homes for sale or lease. Call Sandy at Sun Homes for details at: 734-397-0400

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Southern Rentals 4090

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Vacation & Resort Rentals 4110

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CANTON: Beautiful newer home on 9 acres, clean, quiet large room, $300/mo, includes util., (734) 658-8823

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REDFORD - Female to share my non-smoking home. Must like dogs. $300 + utilities. 313-541-1287

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Please mail resume to: P.O. Box 255005 West Bloomfield, MI 48325-3005

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DAMMAN HARDWARE has part-time and full-time openings at our BLOOMFIELD TWP. store. We offer competitive wages, Family Discount, and MORE!!Experience considered. Application can be made daily at 6650 Telegraph @ Maple.

CERTIFIED AUTO TECHNICIAN for growing dealership service center. Call Adam or Mike at Great Lakes Mitsubishi, 734-525-5678

CHEROKEE CARPET in Novi needs Vinyl & Carpet Installers. If interested, call: (248) 735-8405

CHIMNEY SWEEPS
$600-$1000 + per wk.
Will train. Truck & ladder required. 734-416-0800

CLEANERS/JANITORS
$7.50/hr. Part time, Mon-Fri. Neat appearance, Plymouth, 5:00 pm.-9:00 pm..
734-283-6934

CNC Mill Department Leader
Program, setup and editing. HAAS Mills experience. Excellent benefits. Relocate to Florida in approx 1 year. Apply within at:
March Performance,
6020 N. Hix Road, Westland

Commercial Cleaning, part time evenings. Wixom, Novi, Plymouth location. Must have exp. & reliable transportation. (734) 459-6190, Mon-Fri, 9-5.

COMPANY EXPANDING in your area $1380 Weekly at home. Full time /part time. No exp. necessary. $50 cash hiring bonus!! Guaranteed in writing!! Call now 888-225-8917

CONTINUING PART-TIME CLERK
The Charter Township of Canton is accepting applications to establish an eligibility list for the position of Continuing Part-time Clerk. This is a permanent, 20 hr. per week position, $13.20 per hr. Candidates will be subject to verification of background, work history, and medical/drug screening. Applications may be picked up at the Canton Township Human Resources Division, 1150 S. Canton Center Rd. An application form is also available on the Canton Township website at
www.canton-mi.org.
Job description will be posted at the Township Administration Building. A Canton Township application form must be completed in its entirety and on file in the Human Resources Division prior to 4pm, December 15, 2003. The Charter Township of Canton does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age or disability in employment or the provision of services. An Equal Opportunity Employer.

Help Wanted General 5000

COPIER TECHNICIAN
Are you dependable, self starting, and trustworthy? Entry level position with endless career possibilities await. Call Image Business Solutions, your Copier connection at: 866-77-IMAGE. Full benefits, bonuses and car programs available. Potential profit sharing depending on experience.

COPY EDITOR
Magazine seeking a part time copy editor/writer. Send resume and 3 samples of work to: Editor, 30095 Northwester Hwy., Suite 102, Farmington Hills, MI 48334

COULD EARN $15/hour and up! Medical Billing. Training Provided. PC Required! Call 7 dyas. 1-800-935-1311 ext. 308

COUNTER HELP
Dunkin Donut Amoco - 5am-1pm, shifts available, weekends included. Full-time. $8.50 per hr. Plymouth. (734) 459-5944

COUNTER HELP
for Dry cleaners in Farmington Hills. Exp.preferred. Call Melissa (248) 538-9490

CUSTODIAN - Janitorial experience required. Full time, flexible hours (evenings). Apply in person: Bob Jeannotte Pontiac, 14949 Sheldon Road, Plymouth. (734) 453-2500

Customer Sales/Service

SEMESTER BREAK WORK
$17.25 base/appt.
Now filling many openings for holiday help. 1-5 week work assignments. Gain $, fun, experience. All majors welcome. May continue in 2004. Conditions exist, must be 18. Apply now, work begins soon!
Livonia 734-522-4140
Troy 248-655-0130
Rochester 248-601-3212
Waterford 248-681-4788
Visit: semesterbreakwork.com

Customer Service Representative
For busy HVAC distributor. Must possess good personal, data entry, and organizational skills. Company offers pay commensurate with experience and comprehensive benefit package including 401K. Send resume to Carrier Great Lakes, Attn JG P.O. Box 2970 Livonia MI 48151.

DATA ENTRY Work from home. Flexible hours! Great pay! Computer required 1-800-382-4282 ext #63.

DIRECT CARE STAFF POSITIONS
in Dearborn Heights and/or Belleville group home. Days, afternoons, midnights and/or weekends. Must have current drivers license with good driving record. Will train.
Call 586-296-3602

Direct Care: Positions available working with people in their homes; competitive pay & benefits; all shifts; paid training, great people, meaningful work. 734-728- 4201

DRIVER
Must have Chauffeurs license. Will also clean up shop, package & band skids, ship & receive. Apply in person to: 33100 Capitol, Livonia, MI 48150. 734-427-8550

DRIVER
Needed for building supply company. Must have CDL-B with air. Heavy lifting & overtime expected. Apply at Wayne Oakland Building Supplies, 25018 Plymouth Rd., Redford.

DRIVER
Steel haulers. 1 year verifiable exp. Clean driving record, local. 313-215-5168

DRIVER (SEMI) - Local routes. Must pass physical & drug screen. Exc. driving record. Call (248) 437-7963

DRIVER WANTED -PART TIME
Use own car. Ideal for retired person. Pick up nurses aids at their homes in Detroit and drop them off at their clients in the suburbs. Apply at
Village Secretary Building
27350 Southfield Rd.,
Lathrup Village, MI 48076

EBAY OPPORTUNITY $11-$33/hr. possible training provided. No exp. required. For maore informaiton, Call 1-866-621-2384 ext. 7174

ELECTRICIAN/JOURNEY-MAN/JOB FOREMAN
(m/f) or equivalent for residential wiring. Excellent benefits. (734) 779-0000

FITNESS INSTRUCTOR
Canton Township is accepting applications for the position of Fitness Instructor (Aquatic). H.S. graduate or equivalent and interest in physical fitness and exercise promotion. Must possess current IDEA, ACE, or AFA certification. Ability to work days, evenings, weekends and holidays or flexible schedule. $18-$21 per hr. Applications can be picked up at the Canton Township Personnel Division, 1150 S. Canton Center Rd., Canton, MI 48188. An application form is also available on the CantonTownship website at www.canton-mi.org. All applicants must complete a Canton Township application form in its entirety and be received by Canton Township Human Resources prior to 4pm., December 30, 2003. Resumes will not be accepted without completed written application form. No faxed applications will be accepted. The Charter Township of Canton does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age or disability in employment or the provision of services. An Equal Opportunity Employer.

Help Wanted General 5000

FRONT DESK/FILE CLERK
For very busy office in Sterling Heights. Full time Monday through Friday.
Fax resume HR 586-274-4126 or call HR at 586-274-4100

GENERAL SHOP HELP Part or full time, for ulphostery shop, good driving record. Mon-Fri. 9-5, dependable, learn trade while you work. Livonia area. Contact Dick Bellanger 231-275-5459

GOVERNMENT JOBS Earn $12-$48.00 an hour. Full benefits, paid training on Homeland Security, Law enforcement, Wildlife, Clerical, Administrative & more.
1-800-320-9353 ext. 2200

HIRING FOR 2003 POSTAL POSITIONS. $600-$1520/ weekly plus full federal benefits. Entry-Professional level. No exp. necessary. Paid training/vacations. Green Card OK. 1-877-329-5268 ext 805

HOTEL GENERAL MANAGER DAYS INN - CANTON
Prefer HSS computer exp.
Call: (734) 721-6170

HVAC - GAS LINE INSTALLERS: Exp. in gas line installation & liners. Exp. only. 734-416-0800

INSTALLERS & SERVICE TECHS
For Pre-Fab Fireplaces & Garage Doors. Year round work in new homes. Must have truck & tools.
Call Ron after 1pm at: 248-446-8334

JAVA PROGRAMMER
National fulfillment company seeks motivated and experienced Java programmer for web application development. Must possess the ability to develop,maintain and enhance corporate web applications. Key skill areas are Java, Apache, Tomcat and HTML. Interested parties should email resume and salary requirements to jobs@datapakservices.com

LABORER
needed for residential remodeling co. Carpentry skills & job exp. are a must. We do background checks & drug testing. Truck & tools are definitely a plus!
Call Liz (734) 414-0448

LEASING/MARKETING MANAGER
West Bloomfield Apartment Community has immediate opening for an experienced Leasing/Marketing Manager. Candidate must possess strong verbal and written communication skills. Responsibilities include overseeing the execution of marketing budgets, marketing promotions, training, and monitoring leasing performance and vacancy reduction efforts. Full time position with excellent benefits. Please submit resume by fax to:
248-661-3246 EOE

MAINTENANCE
Needed for Pontiac apt. community. Must have basic skills in plumbing, carpentry and HVAC. Must have a valid drivers license and ability to pass a background check. Includes benefits. Call Rhonda (248) 373-1400 or fax resume to (248) 373-8946.

MAINTENANCE - Experienced for medium-size Westland apt. community. Must have own tools, good references & willing to perform variety of tasks.
Faye: (734) 722-4700.

MARKETING Assistant needed. Insurance office, downtown Northville needs part time help. Good people skills, computer & phone skills required. Fax resume to: 248-349-5169

MASSAGE THERAPIST
for busy day spa. Exciting job. Opening Nov. 28. Excellent compensation & working conditions. Carol, 248-624-7922

MINI-STORAGE MANAGER
Walled Lake, mini-storage warehouse, computer literate, full-time, with references, send resume to: Box 0747, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft Rd., Livonia, MI 48150.

Mortgage Loan Officers
Will pay top dollar for mortgage leads.(586) 419-2708

MOVIE EXTRAS Earn $200-$600/per day. All looks, ages, types. No experience required. TV, , music videos, film & commercials. Work with the best.
1-800-260-3949 ext. 3244

MYSTERY SHOPPERS: Earn $25/local business. FREE merchandise, meals, movies & more! No exp. Necessary! Search4Shoppers.com/job

NO COMMUTE. Learn to earn $2K-$5K/week from home training provided. Not MLM serious? Call 1-800-789-3990

NOW HIRING FOR 2003/04 POSTAL JOBS *$15.20-$39.00+/HR. Paid training, full benefits. No exp. nec. Green card OK. Call 1-866-895-3696 ext. 006.

PET GROOMERS
New salon in Plymouth/Canton area. Must be experienced & love pets. 734-453-6342

PLUMBER WANTED on a part-time basis. Hours can be pre-arranged commercial/residential.(734) 420-0455

PLUMBERS
Successful metro area plumbing company seeks service plumbers with 4+ years of experience to join our growing team. A leader in the industry for over 20 years, we offer great compensation, benefits, and career opportunities to motivated individuals. Please send resume to: PO Box 9, Northville, MI 48167-0009

PLUMBERS/ DRAIN CLEANERS
For Service Company. Great pay & benefits. Call Nick @ Mr. Rooter, 1-888-655-6700

Help Wanted General 5000

Pollution Control
ATTENTION
Local company has many openings in our Pollution Control Department.
$14.95/START
• No Experience Necessary
• Must Have Own Transportation Call Mon & Tues 10am -4pm
313-382-6022

POSTAL JOBS **Announcement/ Public #USPS2475** UP TO $29.16 HOUR, APPLICATION/INFORMATION. FREE CALL. NOW HIRING 2003! FEDERAL HIRE - FULL BENEFITS. 1-800-892-5144 ext. 97

PREP PERSON
Full-time for Birmingham Apts must have own tools.
248-646-9880

PROCESS TECHNICIAN
GERMAN BASED MACHINE TOOL MANUFACTURER
We are looking for individuals who are team players and have a strong desire to learn. Local and international travel will be required. Candidates must meet the following requirements: High school diploma. Valid Michigan drivers license. Good technical knowledge of machining tools. Exp-erience in NC controls. We are a drug-free workplace. Excellent benefits. Obtain an application at or send or fax your resume to:
Gehring L.P.
24800 Drake Road
Farmington Hills, MI 48335
Fax: 248.478.9787

PRODUCTION SUPERVISOR
Food wholesaler looking for a qualified person for scheduling & establishing production orders. Person must be able to direct & motivate associates to achieve maximum production levels. Competitive wages & benefits. Located at:
6100 Hix Road, Westland, MI.
Fax resumes: (734) 641-6095 or call for info: (734) 641-3353

PROFESSIONAL COURIERS/INDEPENDENT CONTRACTORS
Owners of newer model vans or capped trucks: Full time, all shifts. Responsible drivers only call between 10am-4pm @ 734.941.2020

Real Estate Sales Hostess for Subdivision in West Bloomfield. Sat./Sun. Noon-6PM. No experience necessary. Friendly, energetic personality a must. Fax resume/letter to (248) 788-2710

A word to the wise, when looking for a great deal check the **Observer & Eccentric Classifieds!**

RECEPTIONIST
Mon-Thurs. 12-8pm for outpatient counseling clinic in Clarkston. Data entry & insurance exp. req. Fax resume to: 734-737-1205

Retail Sales/Service

HOLIDAY HELP
Special 1-5 week work program. Flex hours. We train. All students 18+ & others may apply. Can continue when classes resume. Conditions exist. Apply now, work begins soon! Mon.-Fri., 9am-5pm.
Livonia 734-522-4140
Troy 248-655-0130
Rochester 248-601-3212
Waterford 248-681-4788
winterbreakwork.com

RoperNOP Mystery Shopping is currently recruiting shoppers in your area! Please visit our website at www.cybershoppersonline.com for more information and to register today!

SECURITY PERSONNEL
for security unit. Prior exp. and/or military exp. necessary. Openings for all shifts. Fax: 248-356-3768.

SHEET METAL FABRICATOR
Automotive prototype, pressbrake, hydraulic press and die construction, including set up. Welding experience helpful. Days, overtime, full benefits. Delta Research, Livonia. FAX RESUME to: 734-261-0909, OR CALL for interview, 734-261-6400, Email donm@delrecorp.com

SIDING CREWS WANTED
New Construction Siding Truck and Tools Required
Please call Mark at (248) 888-9323

SOCIAL WORK
Social Service Aide-provide small group services in a partial day activity to individuals with developmental disabilities. Associate's degree in social work or human services field required. Basic computer skills required. Must have own transportation, valid Michigan driver's license, and acceptable driving record. No phone calls please.

Human Resources
Adult Well-Being Services
1423 Field, Detroit, MI 48214
Fax: 313-924-0350 EOE

SORTER
Part time midnights. Plymouth area. Call Mike 734-354-6945 ext 222 leave name & number.

STAR TRANSPORT NEEDS. Inexperienced Drivers, Home most weekends, Peterbelt Trucks, Shared tuition Food and Lodging provided. Star Training provided through MTC Driver Training.
1-800-455-4682.

STORE MANAGER TRAINEE-COLORTYME RENTALS
• Salary $28,000+bonus
• 5 day work week
• Paid benefits
• Paid vacation
• No Sundays or Holidays
Call or fax resume attn Ron at:
Fax 734-641-1113
Call 734-641-1100

Help Wanted General 5000

TAX PREPARER /ACCOUNTANT
in Livonia. Fast-paced office seeking. detail oriented individual w/good computer, verbal & organizational skills. FULL TIME including some Saturdays. Salary commensurate with exp. Benefits available. fax resume to:734-261-4868 or email: resume@fipfinancial.com

TEACHERS
Tutor Time Child Care, Plymouth. Teachers full & part time & Assistant Teachers. Competitive wages & medical benefits. E.O.E. 734-420-2700

VENDING SERVICE TECH.
Top distributor of vending equipment, looking for vending service tech, for its Michigan office, refrigeration & recovery license preferred. Refurbish exp. a plus. Attractive compensation package including medical & 401 k. Send confidential resume to: Cleveland Coin Machine Exchange, 35525 Schoolcraft rd., Livonia 48150 Attn: B. Howard

WEIGHT LOSS MEETING FACILITATOR
Weight Watchers, a leading weight loss service organization, has a great opportunity available for individuals with dynamic speaking skills. We are looking for motivational, caring individuals to speak about a variety of topics related to weight loss and lifestyle changes. You may qualify, if you have had the experience of losing weight and are at a healthy weight now. You must be available during the day. Public, motivational speaking a plus! We offer training and flexible hours. Looking for facilitators for Livingston, Monroe, Macomb and Wayne Counties only. If interested, please fax resume to 248-553-2441 by Dec 10, 2003. Resumes after 12-10-03 will not be considered. EOE

Computer & Information Systems 5010

COMPUTER FIELD TECH
Immediate opening. Must be A+ Certfied experienced in all areas of PC repair and all Microsoft operating system versions from DOS to Windows XP. Opportunity for advancement. Guaranteed salary plus percentage of billing, company vehicle. Send resumes to (734) 468-0613.

Network Administrator
Wanted: Network Administrator for a 120 User LAN. Please send Resume and Salary Requirements to: ObserverEccentric Newspaper P.O. Box 0704 36251 Schoolcraft Livonia, MI 48150
Applications submitted without Salary Requirements will NOT be considered.

Office Clerical 5020

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE
Rapidly growing Novi area company, offering superior benefits and competitive wages, seeks self-motivated, enthusiastic Account Executive with Tech Support aptitude, a fantastic attitude and work ethic, excellent communication skills and experience with MS Office. Please forward resume to: PO Box 0749, Observer & Eccentric, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150

ACCOUNTING
A/R, A/P, General Ledger. Accounting Degree Req. Benefits. Brighton area. Fax resumes/email to: (248)446-8874 marty@owpsun.com

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
To President of our advertising agency. 3-5 yrs exp. Word/Excel, typing 50 wpm, outstanding communication skills. Full benefits. $12/hr. Fax or email 734-427-6629 carol@brioadvertising.com

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
in Livonia. Fast-paced office seeking detail oriented individual w/good computer, verbal & organizational skills. Must be competent in MS Word & Excel. Duties include filing, answering phones, ordering supplies, client service, data entry, administrative support & other duties. Full time including some Saturdays. Salary commensurate with exp. Benefits available. Fax resume to: 734-261-4868 or email: resume@fipfinancial.com

BOOKKEEPER -FULL TIME
For multi task position w/ fast pace real estate office. Applicants must possess computer skills and have attention to detail. Salary range $30,000 to $35,000.
Please forward resume to:
Email: carolync@kw.com
Fax: 248-380-8200

CAR BILLER/ TITLE CLERK
Excellent pay & benefits. Experience is required. Send resume to Varsity Lincoln Mercury Inc. P.O. Box 633, Novi, MI 48376-0633. Or phone Kevin at 248-465-8223

HUMAN RESOURCES - RECRUITING ASSISTANT
Interview and hire staff for homes serving developmentally disabled adults. Possess good people skills. Computer skills required. Full time, $12/hr plus benefits. Call (734) 458-8140

LEGAL SECRETARY
For Bloomfield Hills law firm. Litigation and Word Perfect experience. Dependable team player, with strong organizational and communication skills.
Please send resume to:
Personnel, 40950 Woodward, Ste. 350, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304

Office Clerical 5020

LEGAL SECRETARY
Insurance defense law firm located in Plymouth, MI, looking for experienced legal secretary. Salary & benefits commensurate with level of experience. Call: 586-246-4116

LEGAL SECRETARY
All qualified applicants should apply. Prefer experience. Fax resume to: 734-261-4737

Legal Senior Secretary
For Southfield P.I. law firm. Minimum 3 years experience. Windows/Microsoft Word knowledge a must. Salary commensurate with experience. Send resume to: Sherry Sinnott, 2928 Crooks Road, Royal Oak, MI 48073.

OFFICE ASSISTANT/Part Time
For professional setting. Answer phones, data entry, filing, Basic computer knowledge required $10/hr.248-735-0012

OFFICEMANAGER/ SECRETARY PART-TIME
for Psycholgist in Bloomfield Hills. Word, Excel, Quicken, Transcription skills. 60 wpm. Fax resume to 248-334-5810 or Call 248-334-9000

PARALEGAL/LEGAL ASSISTANT
Full time to work on case development, customer service experience, some knowledge of legal process. Ability to recognize and capitilize on opportunities. Will work with new prospective clients. Must be energetic and well -organized and must be detail oriented with excellent follow-up skills. Fax resume to: 734-261-4737

Engineering 5030

DESINE INC., a Professional Civil Engineering/Land Surveying firm located in Brighton, is looking for self-motivated individual for the following positions:
• **Licensed Civil Engineers** - with a minimum of 3 yrs of land development exp.
• **Engineering Technicians** - with a minimum of 2 yrs exp. in construction observation, soils testing or construction mgmt. Candidate should have knowledge in infrastructure and road construction
• **Designers** - with land development project exp., preparation of site plans and construction drawings.
Knowledge of AutoCAD required. We are an EOE employer with a competitive wage and benefit program. Please send correspondence:
DESINE INC., 2183 Pless Dr., Brighton, MI 48114. 810-227-9550.

Dental 5040

Attn: Exp. Dental Assistants, Hygienist & Receptionists
Now hiring for general offices. Fax resume to: 586-997-9210.

Chairside Dental Assistant
15 Mile / Telegraph area. Exp. necessary. No eves or Sats. Benefits avail. 248-645-9831

DENTAL ASSISTANT
Experienced (please!) to join our exceptional dental team. People skills, and superior work ethic most important. Mon-Wed., 11-5:30pm. Thurs. 7:45-5:30.
Send resume:
P.O. Box 510255,
Livonia, MI 48151.

DENTAL ASSISTANT
Downtown Plymouth dental office looking for an energetic, friendly, team player full-time. Experience needed. Fax resume to 734-453-4513

Dental Assistant
For Redford office. Full time. Will train right person.
(313) 937-2626

DENTAL ASSISTANT
Our family oriented practice is seeking a full time experienced dental assistant, with RDA/CDA certification. We offer a 4 day work week with occasional Saturdays as needed. Salary commensurate w/experience. Please call 734-455-4070 for an interview.

DENTAL ASSISTANT
Busy Novi office in need of highly motivated team player for full-time position. Exp. preferred but not necessary.
Please phone
248-669-4030 or
fax resume to 248-669-3530.

DENTAL HYGIENIST
For established Northville general practice. Full time, benefits, no evenings or weekends. 248-347-4250

DENTAL HYGIENIST
Plymouth Dental office seeking person Thursdays only, 8:30-5pm. Call 734-459-9360

DENTAL PATIENT COORDINATOR
Full-time. desired in Laurel Park, Livonia dental office. Experience required with Windows and dental scheduling skills. Excellent work environment & compensation. Resume: 734-464-4778

DENTAL RECEPTIONIST
Full-time, must be exp. with Dentech computer program. Positive, polite, energetic personality Dearborn Hts. dental office. Leave msg: 248-399-3548

DENTAL RECEPTIONIST
Part time to work at front desk. Experience with computer & handling patients needed. Must be able to smile!
(734) 425-2130

DENTAL RECEPTIONIST - Exp. Best in the field. We need you. Excellent salary, benefits & hours. 248-355-9800

DENTAL RECEPTIONIST - for a growing, caring office. Should have knowledge of computers. Full time, no evenings, no weekends. 2 Dr's with offices in Oakland County. Benefits available. Fax resume 248-669-7120

Dental 5040

FRONT DESK
Downtown Plymouth dental office looking for an energetic, friendly, team player full-time. Experience needed. Fax resume to 734-453-4513

Ramsey Dental
Now hiring experienced Waxer, with 5 yrs. experience minimum. Must have ability to wax full Contour for All Porcelain Crowns and Veneers.
Full time/Excellent benefits.
Call Pam. 248-442-4848

Medical 5060

CAREGIVER NEEDED - In Garden City for invalid woman. Flexible hrs. Leave msg, (248) 684-1939

CHIROPRACTIC ASSISTANT
The position will be between 30-40 hours per week. $10 an hour to start. Benefits are available. Willing to train for the right person. Call for more details (248) 644-9495

CLIENT SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE
Medical clinic has multifaceted position available. Experience as Medical Transcriptionists or X-RAY tech is a plus. Full time position requiring 35 hours per week. Salary commensurate w/exp. Livonia area.
Call: (734) 421-0123

DIRECT CARE GIVERS
To assist people with disabilities. $7.30 - $7.80 per hour + benefits.
Midnights in Dearborn
All shifts in SE Taylor.
Sigh language required in Taylor.
Call Patty -- 248-980-3307
(Candidates w/hearing Impairment please use Michigan Relay)

FRONT DESK/ RECEPTIONIST
Billing knowledge, for busy Farmington Hills medical office. Part/full-time. Computer experience, benefits. Fax resume to
248-538-4949.

LAB AID/ SPECIMEN PROCESSOR
Full time afternoon position, 80 hrs. bi-weekly with benefits. Rotating weekends and holidays. Type 40 wpm required. MA exp. preferred. Apply in person, mail or fax resume to:

HOSPITAL CONSOLIDATED LABORATORIES
23775 Northwestern Hwy.
Southfield, MI. 48075
Fax: 248-226-2075
email to:
resume@Providence-Hospital.org
Subject: Lab Aid/Specimen Processor NW

LPN / RN & RECEPTIONIST - Pediatrics. Full-time. Southfield. Fax resume: 248-539-1924

LPN/RN
Full or part time
Day Shift
Assisted Living Facility
PLYMOUTH INN
205 Haggerty Rd., Plymouth
734-451-0700
Fax: 734-451-0727

LPN/RN - Full or Part Time Nurse Supervisor - Full Time

Charter House of Farmington Hills is under new management that focuses on catching staff doing things right! We offer a clean and attractive air-conditioned facility, that is a positive work environment.

If you're committed to excellence, contact Chris Hamstra, DON at 248-476-8300

MAMMOGRAM TECH
Full or part-time. Good benefits. Livonia & Southfield areas. Call 734-462-2700

MEDICAL RECEPTIONIST
Internal Medicine practice seeking full-time receptionist. Great benefits package, excellent work environment. Medical office experience a must. Please fax resume to: 248-737-9774

MEDICAL RECEPTIONIST / ASSISTANT
needed part & full-time for busy podiatrist office. Exp. preferred, will train.
Fax resume to 248-474-0575 or call: 248-474-0040

MEDICAL ASSISTANT
Full-time for busy internal medicine office. Great pay, benefits & hours. No holidays or weekends. Exp. preferred. Call Lisa (313) 561-4540

MEDICAL ASSISTANT
Busy Farmington orthopedic practice seeks Medical Assistant. 3 yrs+ working in a private physician office setting. Surgery boarding a plus. Certification preferred. Flexible person with a stable work history.
Fax: 248-937-5150

MEDICAL BILLER
Royal Oak. Experienced, references, efficient, honest. Fax resume to: 248-737-0285

OPTICAL
Marshall Field's Optical has immediate full and part-time positions available. Great pay plus commission. Experience helpful but willing to train eager and friendly applicants. Please call 800-248-2255 EOE

PHYSICAL THERAPIST
Outpatient orthopedic clinic in Rochester seeking part time licensed PT to work approximately 24 hrs per week. Please fax resume to 248-650-8403.

RECEPTIONIST/BILLER - for W. Bloomfield psychiatric office. Fax resume & salary requirements 248-851-8294. or email to dr.fiksman@medscape.com

Medical 5060

RN-MANAGER
busy home care agency in Brighton seeks manager for operations, supervision, community relations and skilled care. Home care exp. a plus. Excellent pay and benefits.
FAMILY NURSE CARE
248-338-1016

Food/Beverage/ Restaurant 5080

BREAKFAST COOK
NIGHT LINE COOK
Creative American Menu
Top Pay/Health Ins/401K
Beverly Hills Grill
31471 Southfield Road

BUDDY'S PIZZA
Soup & Sauce Maker, Kitchen, Carry-out, Wait Staff
Flexible schedule, Matching 401K, Meal discounts & medical insurance.
Apply between 2 & 4pm.
Apply at: 31646 Northwestern Highway, Farmington Hills, MI 48334 248-855-4600

CASHIER Full & part-time positions. Company benefits. Good pay. Please ask for Sid or Harry: 248-352-7377

COOK
hiring full & part-time days & nights, exc. pay, exc. working conditions. Apply within 340 N. Main St. Plymouth.

COOKS POSITIONS & ASSISTANT KITCHEN MANAGER
Full-time. Salary commensurate w/exp. This is a great chance to become involved w/a progressive kitchen environment, w/training from a certified chef. Rocky's of Northville is an equal opportunity employer. Apply in person Mon-Fri 9:00-9:00. 41122 W. Seven Mile Rd. (1 1/4 Mile West of Haggerty Rd.) Northville, MI (248) 349-4434

COUNTER PERSON/ SANDWICH MAKER
For carry-out deli. Good pay, company benefits. Call 248-352-7377, ask for Sid or Harry

CREW MEMBERS - Coffee beanery cafe. Full or Part time. Competitive wages.
734-213-0238

DAYTIME COUNTER & KITCHEN HELP NEEDED
Elite Sweets, Livonia.
(248) 476-3600

IMMEDIATE OPENING
Experienced Kitchen Manager. Must be serve-safe certified. Also, Prep Cook/Dishwasher. Call Mike 248-960-9440

LOGAN'S ROAD HOUSE EXPERIENCED SERVERS GRILL COOKS & MEAT CUTTER
Full or part time. Employer of choice, fun casual atmosphere. Apply in person 28599 Schoolcraft, Livonia.

NOW HIRING!!
Banquet servers, experienced only. Flexible hours, various locations. Up to $11 per hour. Full or part time.
Executive Personnel Services
313-538-0449

QUIZNOS NOW HIRING!
Quiznos of Westland, opening shortly at Cherry Hill and Merriman, looking for energetic & fun Team Members. Part-Time/Full-Time. **For immediate consideration:**
Call Victor: 734-222-8000 or 734-834-0897 or apply in person at:
QUIZNOS,
31501 Cherry Hill,, Westland

SERVER
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Sales 5120

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Tues. Dec. 9 @ 7:00pm.
Seating is limited.
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Part-Time 5200

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thewolverinegrp@aol.com

Domestic 5240

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LIVE-IN CAREGIVER - For invalid woman. Good pay. Flexible days off as requested. In small Garden City home. Leave msg. (248) 684-1939

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(Driving Miss Daisy).
Southfield - 12 & Lahser.
248-352-9474

Child Care & Baby Sitting Services 5370

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Child Care Needed 5380

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Card of Thank's 6300

Novena to St. Jude. May the sacred heart of Jesus be adored, glorified, loved, and preserved throughout the world now and forever. Sacred Heart of Jesus, pray for us. St. Jude, worker of miracles, pray for us. St. Jude, helper of the hopeless, pray for us. Say this prayer 9 times a day; by the 9th day, your prayer will be answered. Publication must be promised. jk

Death Notices 6340

McNEILL, WILLIAM of Belleville; November 28, 2003 in Whittemore, Michigan at age 85. Beloved husband of Dolores. Dear father of Ronald (Kathy) McNeill, Laura (Randy) Dixon, Linda (Mark) Perry, Maureen (Adam Smelewski), Christine (Josh) Jewett and Kathleen (Fred) Sirhan. Grandfather of Andrew, Michael, Ann Marie, Amy, Garret, Shelby, Ryan, Sarah, Freddy, Christopher and Philip. Great grandfather of Samatha and Toddy. Brother of Sam (Pat) McNeill. Mr. McNeill was a member of the Livonia Masonic Lodge #586, a member of the National Rifle Association and a former pilot with the Royal Air Force. He enjoyed hunting & motorcycling. Funeral services will be 11:00 am. Tuesday, Dec. 2, 2003 at the Hale Chapel of the Buresh-Bennett Funeral Home, 121 S. Washington, Hale (989) 728-2571. The family receive friends Monday 5-8pm. Memorials suggested to the Masonic Home or American Lung Association. Interment at Reno Township Cemetery.

Lost & Found Merchandise 6360

FOUND Small ladies gold & diamond ring in Mitch-Housey's parking lot. Call & describe for return.
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LOST & FOUND PETS
See Classification 7930

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7000-7780 Merchandise

Absolutely Free 7090

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DOG HOUSE - Barn shaped. Size 30x30x36".
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Antiques & Collectibles 7020

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Antiques & Collectibles 7020

Ford Centennial Sell-A-Bration
Ford Motor Company will hold a public sale of commemorative Centennial merchandise. Proceeds benefit The Salvation Army. Banners - Flags - Coins - Posters - Pins - Books and more!
Friday, Dec 5 8am-7pm
Saturday, Dec 6 9am-5pm
800 Republic Dr. Allen Park
(South of Rotunda btwn Greenfield & Southfield Fwy - next to the Lion Training Facility)
Buy a piece of history & benefit a worthy cause!

GREAT LAKES MEMORABILIA SHOW & SALE
Sat., Dec. 6th, 10-2:30pm. at Belle Isle Casino in Detroit. For information: 586-777-8300.

HOLIDAY DOLL SHOW - Dec. 14th. Wayne Tree Manor, 35100 VanBorn Rd., Wayne. 11am-3pm. $5. 734-455-2110

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This Classification continues in Section C

TOY SHOW Sunday, Dec. 7, 10-3pm. 19801 Farmington. 734-747-7192, 586-795-8281

Arts & Crafts 7040

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Timothy Oeffrich H5
Beverly Williams F34

Auction Sales 7060

Du Mouchelles
AUCTION AT THE GALLERIES

Friday, December 12th at 6:30 p.m.
Saturday, December 13th at 11:00 a.m.
Sunday, December 14th at Noon

Exhibition Hours
Friday, December 5th.....9:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Saturday, December 6th.....9:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Tuesday, December 9th.....9:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Wednesday, December 10th...9:30 a.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Thursday, December 11th.....9:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

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7100 Estate Sales 7100

ANOTHER 2 SALES
By Everything Goes
Fri. Sat., Dec. 5 & 6, 10- 4

#1) 3809 Lakecrest, Bloom Hills, W. off Squirrel, S. of Long Lake Rd.
Wonderful Estate Sale! Baker, Thomlinson, Hadley Johnson, Fix Reed. Antiques, pottery, crystal, silver, curio items, oil paintings, china, rugs. Antique mahogany grandfathers clock. Jewelry, appliances & tons more

#2) 973 Orchard Lk. Rd, S.E. corner Orchard Lk & Telegraph, across from Pontiac Home Depot
5000 Sq. Ft. Filled! with estate furniture, tons of access, antiques & so much more! All Must Be Sold!
248-855-0053

BERKLEY Antiques & Collectibles. Closing store. 4105 W. 12 Mile Rd., (1) blk. E/Greenfield. Fri. 12/5, 9-3pm.

CHERYL & COMPANY ESTATE SALE
Dec. 5, 6, 7, 10am-4pm
6721 Mark Ct.
1 blk. E./Inkster, S./Maple
Enter on Halyard
French furniture, some contemporary, Persian, Afghan, Pakistan rugs, china, oils.
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CLASSIFIEDS WORK!
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CLARKSTON ESTATE SALE Sat. 9-4. 9525 Whipple Shores Dr. Pine Knob & Sashabaw. Antique furniture, Victorian child's chaise, Turn of the Century oak table, small secretary, t-back chairs & much more. Must sell! Questions call: 248-625-5603

DEARBORN 21800 Willoway. Thurs-Fri, 10-5. Dr.'s home filled with 50 yrs. of furniture, glassware, antiques from 1830's to 1960's. Cash only!

Dearborn Hts: 8444 Centralia. Dec. 4-6, 10-5. 100's of tools (Craftsman), 50's & 60's furniture, lawnmowers. Off Joy Rd. W. of Beech Daly. Follow signs. **Sale By Bags Included**

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ESTATE SALE BY GENE & MELISSA LALONDE - 33449 Michele, Livonia. N. of Joy, W. off Farmington Rd. Huge Sale! Furniture, lots of household & Christmas items. Priced to sell. Fri. & Sat. 9-5.

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Call Toll Free
1-800-558-8851

M & H ESTATE SALES
60125 Deer Creek, South Lyon
Dec 4-6, 10-4pm.
Full house of furniture! 5 new grandfather, 10+ wall & mantle clocks. New solid cherry & oak pieces. Riding mower, new generator, stereo equipment, **Our Numbers only, 9:30 Thursday.** Please see www.mhestatesales.com for full listing

SOUTHFIELD - Hummel & Rockwell plates, stoneware beer bottles, doll houses & miniature furniture, dining room set, sewing machine, breakfast table & chairs, beds, books, table, couch, small kitchen appliances, chest of drawers, dishes & pots, bedding, power tools, Christmas decorations, professional side storage cabinet with light box, much more. In Cranbrook Village, W. of Southfield, S. of 13 Mi, take Rock Creek to Northgate go left to 30259 Spring River Dr., Thur., Fri., Sat., 10-4.

WESTLAND 30857 Cherry Hill, bwtn. Merriman & Henry Ruff. Dec 4-5, 10-5. Over 30 yrs. of accumulated items, yard tools, furniture & Christmas items.

7100 Estate Sales 7100

• A BIG MOVIE • • BLOWOUT SALE! •
Fri, Dec 5th, 11-8
Sat, Dec 6th, 11-8
Sun, Dec 7th, 12-8
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1000's of New & Used VHS & Beta Movies $2.99
Lasers $5.00 each
DVD's - Hundreds of New @ $4.99
UNBELIEVABLE PRICES
Sale by
VIDEO LIQUIDATORS

Garage Sales 7110

Birmingham - 1997 Henrietta, 14 Mile & Pierce. Costume jewelry sale, contents of gift shop. Fri., Sat., 10-4. Cash.

When seeking out the best deal check out the Observer & Eccentric Classifieds!
1-800-579-7355

BIRMINGHAM - Pearl drum set, computer desks, futon, chairs & more. Sat., 10-2pm. 1090 Saxon. 248-646-5634

Moving Sales 7130

Almost everything must go! Furniture, electronics, piano. Designer womens and kids clothes & household. Cash only. 248-489-1196

BIRMINGHAM - Sat. & Sun. Dec. 6 & 7, 10-4. Furniture, household goods & lots more. 1851 Mansfield Rd., off 14 Mi.

LATHRUP VILLAGE Sale, sectional, tables, golf, decorative items, selling everything. (248) 559-8848 Days

MUST SELL - Furniture, E. Allen bookcases, sofa bed, some antiques, china, silver, decorating accessories, books, MUCH MORE! Fri/Sat, Dec. 5/6, 10-5. 3215 E. Breckenridge Ln., Bloomfield Twp., E. of Lahser, S. of Lincoln (14 1/2 Mi).

TROY- Sat. 12/06, 10-5pm. Furniture, appliances, toys, electronics, stereo, sewing, tools, gardening and much, much more! 5073 Longview. N. of Long Lake, E. of Adams

Clothing 7140

FUR COAT Coyote, full length, exc. cond. Size large. $500/best. 248--559-6497

Northern Lights fox full length fur coat in exc.cond. Appraised $9500. 248-305-9046

Household Goods 7160

AR INTERIORS-Holiday Sale, Carved king 4 poster 6 pc. bedroom set $3800. Gorgeous large mahogany lighted china cabinet, $2900. Mahogany leather top 40"x72" partners deck. 1930's Carved solid oak Jacobean 9 pc. dining set $2800. Round 54" Mahogany inlaid table & 6 chairs. Marble top tables, hand painted fruit design 36"x60" table & 6 chairs. Bombay chests, armours, artsy pieces, mirrors, stained glass and lots more.
607 S. Washington Ave.
DowntownRoyal Oak, Open Seven Days, 248-582-9646

BANQUET to traditional size dining room tables, round mahogany dining room tables, drop-leaf & apt size dining room tables, wide assortment of sideboards, buffets, servers, dining room chairs & china cabinets. Living room & bedroom furniture, lamps, paintings, stemware & sterling silver. Governor Winthrop Secretary desks, chandeliers, more!
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7 piece cherry sleigh, new in box. Sacrifice $650. Can deliver. 248-470-3350

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Bed $100 & up. All sizes. Warranty. • Leather furniture • Computers • Palm pilots. Lowest Prices. 734-231-6622

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BED, $210 - double pillow top, king size mattress/box set. New in plastic, w/warranty. Can deliver. 248-941-4206

BEDROOM SET 5 piece oak, $415. 1950 mahogany buffet $550. (248) 253-9422

BEDROOM SET - 5 pcs. walnut finish, good condition. $325. 248-471-7163

BEDROOM SET - Girls. Childrens desk, walnut desk, mahogany desk, computer desk. 248-449-7303

BEDROOM SET. 7 piece, brand-new in boxes. Valued at $1,800, must sell, $699. Can deliver. 248-941-4206

BEDROOM SET: King, 8 pc., Med-Style, by Unique. $2500. (248) 442-7117

BEDROOM SUITE 8 Pieces, new. Satin finish cherry sleigh bed, dovetailed, velvet lined. Paid $6000, must sell! $1950. 248-982-5595.

BOX & MATTRESS
Full pillow top. Brand new in plastic. Only $125. Can deliver. 248-470-3350

BOX & MATTRESS SET
Queen pillow top. New w/warranty. Only $160. Can deliver. 248-470-3350

BOX & MATTRESS SET
King pillow top. New w/warranty. Only $225. Can deliver. 248-470-3350

BOX SET & MATTRESS-
Queen plush top. New in plastic. Only $145. Can deliver. 248-470-3350

CEDAR CHEST 1940'S, Roos, $100. Lebarge glass top coffe table, wheat base,$200. Ssmall antique hutch, $50. Double bed mattress & springs set, $20. Microwave, glassware, linens & rugs. 734-522-7028

CHRISTMAS TREE 12 ft., $175. Glass table top, 48 x96 x 3/4", $200. 248-601-3623

COUCH, Loveseat, Chair $300; Dresser, armoire, nightstand $400; 5000 BTU window AC $75; King size head bed + frame $75.
248-674-0335

Household Goods 7160

Couch/loveseat, reclining Lay- Z-Boy, neutral, $900.Lane recliner, $300. Like new. (248) 652-3042

DINETTE- Cherry Queen Anne. 11 piece, new in box . Worth $3400, sell for $950. Can deliver. 248-470-3350

DINING ROOM SET
Beautiful, dark wood. Bedroom furniture, chairs, misc. pieces. 734-454-9883

DINING ROOM SET - 6 chairs & round glass top table. Must See. $2200. 248-644-4406

DINING ROOM SUITE New, cherry. Large double pedestal table w/8 chairs. China cabinet, server available. Paid $6800, sacrifice. $1850. 248-982-5595.

DINING ROOM SUITE
8 Piece, KINDEL, cherry, $4500. 248-646-1073

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Everett Spinet piano $700, Emerson flute $200, crib mattress (never used) $35, 2 drawer file cabinet $10, 4 drawer file cabinet $20, double rope hammock $20. Evenings & weekends, (248) 969-0636

Furniture - Moving

Must sell, will sacrifice entire contents of our elegant estate home! Includes gorgeous Italian leather, sofa & matching loveseat. Cost over $3000. Will sell both for $1,650. Elegant 11 pc. formal cherry Chippendale dining room suite, Cost over $6000, Sell $3,150. Two king size bedroom suites, 1-12 pc. Rice Carved, 1-11pc. Sleigh, 2 Grandfather clocks, 1-mahogany , 1-cherry. 2 queen size bedroom suites, 1- 9pc. solid oak Sleigh, 1 - 10 pc. solid mahogany. Two 3pc. coffee table sets - 1 oak, 1 cherry, 2 sofa tables, 10 pc. oak kitchen set, accent chest & mirror + much more. All in exc. cond. Less than 3 mo. old. Also have Sony 65" big screen tv & 1995 Mercedes S-320. Must be sold ASAP, no reasonable offer refused. Please call 248-848-9970

Gorman's glass top table w/ glass pedestal, glass chairs. New $4000, sell $1200.
313-565-1062

LIVING ROOM - Traditional, hallway mirror w/glass & brass table. Washer & electric dryer. Call: 248-514-6586.

MATTRESS in box, king sized, like new must see. $400. Call (734) 425-0423

NIGHTSTANDS (2) New, Stanley Translation, retail $1150, asking $700. Twin sleigh bed, nightstand & armoire, whitewash, Broyhill, asking $300 or best. 734-340-5666

PIANO - $250. Child's oak bedroom set, $450. Twin mattress, $25. Hanging lamp, $20. 248-661-3173

SOFA & LOVESEAT Thomasville contemporary ivory mauve gray $250. Queen Anne dining room table & chairs Thomasville 4 captains chairs $250. Oriental rug 8x10 Rose, black & ivory $450. (248) 366-0520

SOFA (80") & RECLINER MUST GO!
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$70 face cord, 4x8x16-18.
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Very good cond., Rich wood finish. $600. 248-848-0373

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STEINWAY GRAND 5 ft, 11", c. 1949. $25K. Ebony. 1 owner. Nice. 888-619-1557

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Model M1959 (mahogany), beautiful condition! $27,500. 734-282-0570

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180 Gallon. $450.
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Household Pets-Other 7880

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248-685-7616

Pet Supplies 7920

WANTED: 1 to 3 year old black dachshund.
(248) 644-4259

Lost & Found Pets 7930

FOUND CAT Black/lt brown. Short hair. Long Lake/Rochester Rd. area. (248) 879-1101

LOST CAT Black (sable) male, 14 yrs. old, needs special diet, "Alex", Redford. Reward $100. Tom Shaker, 313-532-7470

LOST: $100 REWARD
Brown Tabby cat white legs, nose & splash on side. Livonia/Plymouth area.
734-542-0052, 313-399-0764

Boats & Motors 8020

BASS BOAT- 20 ft., 1994 Astro, 200 merc, must sell! $12,000. 313-670-7353

CATALINA 27, Sailboat, roller, inboard gas engine, perfect, $10,000. (313) 881-8743

CHRYSLER 1975 - 14 ft., Tri-Haul, 55 hp w/trailer, $1400/best. Ask for Dan T.
(734) 422-7540

DONZI 1977 Ski-Sporter 350 Chevy, E-Z loader trailer, garaged, $6000.
248-553-4597

PONTOON 1997 Premier Grand Majestic, aluminum deck, Honda 40, 50 hrs, mint. $18,800. 248-608-0718

SEA DOO 1997 GTX 52 hrs., with trailer, 3 seater, mint. $4500. 248-608-0718

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Recreational Vehicles 8100

POLARIS 2000 4x4, Sportsman, 500 mi. Must sell. $3900/firm. 734-462-1356

Snowmobiles 8110

ARTIC CAT 1999 ZL500 EFI, studs, low mi, $2,820.
810-220-1481

SNOWMOBILES- (2) Ski-Doos', 1990 Safari,$1200. 1996 Grand Touring 2-up, $2800. Drive on Drive off Flo trailer, $1200. 734-422-7976

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BEAUTIFUL Lake Chemung, RV campground membership & 35x12 Park model w/22x10 attached screen room, pool, clubhouse & beach, next to golf course. $32,000,.PRICED TO SELL. 352-552-4839

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TERRY LITE 1999, 25', extras + hitch assembly. $13,690 many options. 734-427-6743

Junk Cars Wanted 8200

ALL AUTOS TOP$$
Junked, Wrecked or Running
E & M 248-474-4425
Evenings 734-717-0428

Trucks for Sale 8220

BUY A CAR, GET A GIFT!
TV/DVD Combo's, Refrigerators, Sound Systems, Microwaves, DVDs
2002 FORD F150- "Supercrews", (3) 4x4, XLT/ Lariat, from $22,990

2003 FORD F250- Super duty Supercab, 4x4, XLT, V10, auto, air. $25,492

2002 & 2001 FORD F150- XLT Supercabs (4), 4x4, 5.4L, low miles, from $19,900

2003 FORD F150- "Heritage Edition", supercab, 4x4, $23,990

2002 FORD F150- "Harley Davidson" supercrew, supercharger! Reduced, $28,310

2001 FORD F150- "Supercrew" XLT V8, auto, air, $18,488

2003 FORD F350- 4x4, dually supercab, Larait Chassie cab, 40 miles. $27,990

2003 & 2002 FORD RANGER- Supercabs, XLT, 4 dr., auto, air V6, low miles, from $12,990

2000 FORD F450- "Stake truck", 12 ft. diesel, 10K miles, $20,990

2001 FORD F150- "Lightning" 15K miles, showroom new! $21,910

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(734) 721-2600

DODGE DAKOTA 2000 Sport, V6, very clean. 17,000 miles. $9350. (248) 442-4995

F-150 1996 - Stick. 4.9L/6cyl., 62K, loaded, new brakes, cap, mint. $6300. 734-513-5770

F-150 1997 XLT Extended Cab, fiberglass top, alloys, light gold metallic, $8,980.
JOHN ROGIN BUICK
734-525-0900

FORD 1999 F150, Extended cab, very low miles, this week only $8995.
TYME AUTO (734) 455-5566

FORD 1997 F150 XLT - supercab, black, cap; $6900/best. 248-634-4338, 313-562-9969

FORD F150 1989 4X4, $1695/best. 248-478-7617 Call after 5pm.

FORD-F250 1999, ext. cab, auto, air, white, 100k miles, $9000. 248-719-3191

GMC 2002 SONOMA SLS, ext cab, blue, bedliner, 12K mi, $11,950. (734) 718-3448

GMC-2002 Savana Cargo van, white, auto., air, 80 k miles. $13,000. (248) 719-3191

RANGER 1996 Extended cab, 4x4, $1100 below black book. Only $99 down.
TYME AUTO (734) 455-5566

SONOMA-2003 White, auto, air, 9k miles. $12,000.
248-719-3191

TACOMA 1996 PICK-UP Very nice, 1 owner. 63k mi., regular cab, 4x4, $9,400/best. 734-777-3232

Mini Vans 8240

AEROSTAR 1994 Eddie Bauer 4.0L, V6, loaded, new tires/battery/shocks. 70K, good cond. $3800. After 5pm 248-431-3249

Dodge 2000 Caravan excellent condition, loaded, 52K $6900. 734-669-4433

Ford 1999 Windstar LX -4 dr., 3rd row seat, rear heat/air, 39k, $10,450/best. (734) 254-0560

FORD 2000 WINDSTAR SEL cruise, PS/PB/PL, power sliding doors, leather, 7 pass, TV-VCR, many extras! 50K. Extended Warranty $10,900. 734-819-1205, 734-451-1251

GRAND CARAVAN 1997 Air, cruise, CD, pw, am-fm stereo. Remote start. $5200. 734-522-5931

GRAND CARAVAN- LE 1996, one owner, good cond., $4900. 734-844-0162

GRAND VOYAGER- 1998, Superior cond., lady owned, 83K miles. 248-224-2712

MERCURY VILLAGER 1999 Auto, air, power, very clean. $9995
SATURN OF PLYMOUTH
734-453-7890

MERCURY, 1999, Villager Sport. 58K, black/silver, alarm, loaded, CD, captain seats, sharp! $7,995. 248-258-5209

PONTIAC MONTANA 2002 loaded, dvd, must see! Very clean, well-maintained, $16,500. (248) 258-6829

TOYOTA-PREVIA 1991, All track, exec. cond., 175k, $4900. 734-667-2315

VENTURE 1997, Ext., new tires/brakes/struts, exc. cond. $5600. (734) 261-8726

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If you're in the Christmas Tree business, The Observer & Eccentric Christmas Tree Guide is where you want to be!

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The Christmas Tree Guide publishes every Thursday beginning November 20th!

For more info call:
Katie
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2005

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Christmas Tree Guide

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• Warm Refreshments
"Hayrides with Santa" December 5, 6, 12, & 13
"Breakfast with Santa" December 5, 6, 12, & 13 (Reservations required)
517-546-0249 1005 Triangle Lake Road, Howell - Off U-19, 5 miles S of I-96 (exit 137)

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All trees grown on site!
Fraser Fir, Blue Spruce, Balsam Fir and White Spruce. Trees available up to 18ft.
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Pre-Cut ▪ Frazier Fir
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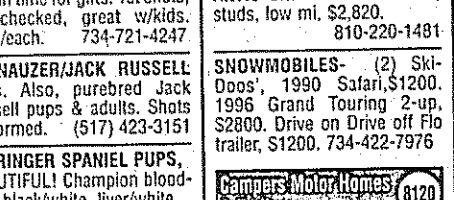
I-275 to Exit 8 (Will / Carleton Rd.) Follow Signs

Michigan Humane Society ADOPT-A-PET
This Week's Featured Pet



Ozzie

Ozzie is a sweet 2-year-old ferret who enjoys attention. She loves to play outside of her cage as long as she is closely supervised.

To make Ozzie the newest member of your family, visit the Michigan Humane Society Westland Shelter
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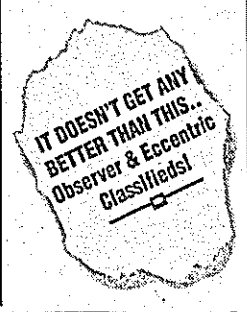
Mini Vans 8240

VENTURE 1999 Ext., 3.4L, V6, loaded, 88k, good cond., $6800/best. 810-735-9033

VOYAGER 1996 SE ps/pb, pw/pl, cassette, tinted windows, $3995. 248-813-9314

Vans 8260

1988-1998 HANDICAP VANS WANTED. Call Dale anyday, (517)230-8865.



Vans 8260

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2002 WINDSTAR- LX wagon, dual air, 7 pass. $13,990

2003 FORD E150 & E250- Extended cargo vans (3), 5.4L, auto, air, pw, pl, bulkhead liner, from $16,990

2003 FORD E250- Cargo van, V8, auto, air, pw, pl, 1,000 miles, $17990

2003 E150- XLT Club wagon, V8, dual, air, 8 pass., only 15 miles. $17,990

2003 FORD E150/E350- Club wagons XLT, 5,7 8, & 12 pass., (9) loaded, from $15,900

2003 FORD E150/E350- "Chateau" club wagons, quad seats, leather/cloth, loaded, from $19,990

2003 FORD E350 XLT- Club wagons (3) 15 passenger, loaded, low miles, choice, $17,990

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DODGE 2000 Ram Cargo Van, 41K, V-8, auto, air, $8,888.
Fox Hills Chrysler-Jeep
(734) 455-8740

DODGE CARAVAN 1997 good for parts, all major parts, $1000. (248) 910-5057

FORD 1999 CARGO, V8, auto, extra clean. Start your own business with this one. $3995. **TYME AUTO (734) 455-5566**

FORD- 150, Cargo, 1989, V-8. 118K, air, exc. cond. Must see! 248-851-2639 /248-851-1089

4 Wheel Drive 8280

BAD BOY 1986 Ford Pickup, 4x4. Sacrifice, $3,300. 734-421-8784

CHEVY 1999 3500 dual wheel 4x4, crew cab, 53K, mint, $17,888.
Fox Hills Chrysler-Jeep
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CHEVY 2000 Tracker 4x4, hard top, one owner, loaded, $7,495.
Fox Hills Chrysler-Jeep
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4 Wheel Drive 8280

DAKOTA 1996 Extended cab, 4x4, every option, cheap! **TYME AUTO (734) 455-5566**

DODGE 1989 Dakota 4x4, needs engine work. Many new parts, including tires. May part out. $600 or best. Ask for Nick, (734) 524-0889

F-350 1999 - 4x4, low miles, dually, 9 foot Fisher snowplow. $19,500. 248-347-6089

GMC 1996 1500, ext cab, 3rd door, leather, custom cap, exc. cond. $8400. 248-477-5899

GMC 2000 2500 Z71, 4x4, 18,000 miles, $21,980.
JOHN ROGIN BUICK 734-525-0900

Sport Utility 8290

AZTEC 2003 AWD, only 11,000 miles, leather, XM radio, loaded. $16,980.
JOHN ROGIN BUICK 734-525-0900

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2003 ESCAPES- (6) auto, air, loaded, low miles. From $15,990

2003 EXCURSIONS- (6) "Eddie Bauer, Limited & XLTs", low miles. From $24,990

2003 EXPEDIDTIONS- (5) "Eddie Bauer & XLTs" 4x4, 3rd seat. from $25,993

2003 NAVAGATORS- (2), Moon, leather, loaded $39,900

2002 EXPEDITION- XLT, 4x4, 5.4L, V8, 3rd seat, 18K miles, $22,990

2003 EXPLORER- xls, 4X4, auto, air, only 4000 miles! $19,990

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CHEROKEE 1995, auto, air, extra clean, $5999 **TYME AUTO (734) 455-5566**

CHEVY 2001 Tahoe LT burgundy, leather, 4x4, sharp! $21,995
BOB JEANNOTTE PONTIAC (734) 453-2500

DODGE 2000 Durango, black, SLT, leather, rear air, $13,995.
Fox Hills Chrysler-Jeep
(734) 455-8740

ENVOY SLT 2002 Fully loaded. Professionally detail every 4-6 months. $26,000. 248-561-8425

Sport Utility 8290

Expedition 2000 Eddie Bauer, loaded, tow pkg. 61k, exc. cond. $19,000. 248-457-1514

EXPLORER 1995 excellent condition with warranty, $4800 **TYME AUTO (734) 455-5566**

EXPLORER 1997 Sport, auto, air, 78K, black, $6, 795.
Collins Motor Sales III 734-405-5200

EXPLORER 2000 4 dr. 4x4, burgundy, 70K, $9,995.
BOB JEANNOTTE PONTIAC (734) 453-2500

FORD 1991 Bronco XLT, 4x4, silver & black, V-8, $4,995.
Collins Motor Sales III 734-405-5200

FORD 2001 ESCAPE XLT Loaded, air, exc. cond., manual, low mi, ext. warranty, $16,000/best. 734-427-7649

FORD 2002 Explorer Eddie Bauer, red metallic, 3 seats, sunroof, leather, heated seats, $19,980.
JOHN ROGIN BUICK 734-525-0900

GMC 2001 Jimmy SLE, 4x4, pewter, sunroof, full power, $12,980.
JOHN ROGIN BUICK 734-525-0900

GMC 2002 Envoy, blue, sunroof, 4x4, air, loaded, alloy wheels, $21,995
BOB JEANNOTTE PONTIAC (734) 453-2500

GMC 2002 YUKON - XL Denali, perfect, garaged, loaded, roof package, 26K, $34,000. 248-320-1800

GMC JIMMY 2001 Auto, air, windows, locks, clean. $9995. SATURN OF PLYMOUTH 734-453-7890

GMC SONOMA 2000 Ext cab, auto, air, and much more! $8975.
SATURN OF PLYMOUTH 734-453-7890

HONDA 1999 CRV, original owner, loaded, auto, 4x4, 92k, $9500. 248-668-0711

JEEP CHEROKEE 1996 Country, 36K, exc. cond., 1 owner, $7,500. 248 435-2928

Sport Utility 8290

LINCOLN NAVIGATOR- 1998, Mint, loaded, comes with 20" MKW wheels & tires along w/winter wheels & tires. 80k. $17,500. 734-458-3888

MOUNTAINEER 2002 AWD, sage, V-8, sunroof, leather, loaded, $20,980.
JOHN ROGIN BUICK 734-525-0900

RANGE ROVER-2001 4.6, loaded, roof package, white /gold, garaged, perfect,19k miles. $38,000. 248-320-1800

Toyota 1998 RAV-4 59K mi, 4wd, air, cruise, auto, pw/pl, remote entry, alarm, am/fm/cd. $7995. 248-473-1324

Sports & Imported 8300

BMW 1989, 535i, white, tan leather, CD, must sell, $4599/best. (248) 613-8287

BMW 1997 528i - Auto, CD, sunroof, premium package, heated seats, like new, 49K mi, $18,000. 248-651-4006

BMW 318is 1996 92K, exc. cond. $7800. New (2) tires &brakes 734-397-3375

CAMERO 228 1994- 6 spd., 5.7L LTI, white w/black leather interior. New tires, battery rear end, tinted windows, new sound system, runs excellent- must see! $5600. 248-941-4255

CHRYSLER CROSSFIRE Brand New 2004, Won in a drawing! V-6, 18v, Mercedes engine, 6 spd, leather, black. $6000 off sticker, best offer over $29k. Joel, 248-470-7429

CORVETTE 1992 Coupe, Bright Red, 6 speed, Loaded, 65K, 5k on rebuilt performance eng, 410 hp, Z06 chrome wheels, award winner, exc cond. $13,500 - 734-748-3135

CORVETTE 1996 LT4 Black/ black; GM warranty, new tires, 52k. $25,000. 248-921-3888

CORVETTE 1999 coupe, pewter, 6 speed, loaded, warranty, $23,000/best. 248-433-0821 734-261-7530

CORVETTE 2001 Convertible, silver, black top, auto, $33,995.
BOB JEANNOTTE PONTIAC (734) 453-2500

MERCEDES 1999 CLK430 AMG, black coupe, winter wheels, 44K, warranty. $30,000. 734-207-1767

Antique & Classic Collector Cars 8320

CADILLAC 1955: Fully restored. Everything new. $15,000/best. 734-729-3711

Cadillac 1975 Coupe Deville Roxanna red, white leather top, original owner, must see to appreciate. Woodward Dream Cruise "10". 248-471-1234

CHEVROLET CAPRICE 1975 White convertible, V8, exc. cond. $7000 248-545-1391

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FORD GALAXY 1965 - 390, black/black, 69K miles, original paint. $4500. (248) 347-6089

Monte Carlo 1987 SS Aero Coupe, exc. cond., very rare model. Appraised at $10,000. Must sell $6500/best. 248-471-7033

PONTIAC 1962 "Star Chief", all original, restorable, $1750 /best. 248-356-0322

ROLLS' ROYCE 1978. Silver Shadow II, mint condition., 22,600 miles, brown/beige, $28,000. 419-535-7293 or 419-276-8138

Buick 8360

CENTURY 1998 loaded, garaged, 1 owner, must see! $5500. (313) 442-0362

CENTURY 2000 Florida car, leather, loaded, 22k, $13,000. After 6pm, 248-433-3436

Buick 8360

CENTURY 2002 LIMITED Dark blue, leather seats, 18K miles, loaded, exc. cond! $12,500. 248 476-3265

CENTURY 2003 Loaded, like new! $11,995
SATURN OF PLYMOUTH 734-453-7890

LESABRE 2001 medium blue, one owner, $10,995.
BOB JEANNOTTE PONTIAC (734) 453-2500

REATTA 1991 Exc cond, 62K, make an offer! Super second car. (248) 276-0210

Regal 1998 - Anniversary edition, loaded, exc. cond. $7,000. (734) 453-9407

REGAL 2000 LS, leather, burgundy, 28K, $11,995.
BOB JEANNOTTE PONTIAC (734) 453-2500

Cadillac 8380

Cadillac1991 Limo 6 passenger, fully loaded, sunroof, very clean. 88k miles. One owner. $9400. 734-777-3232

CATERA 2000 green, sunroof, loaded, only 13,000 miles, $12,980.
JOHN ROGIN BUICK 734-525-0900

DEVILLE 2001 DTS, red pearl, sunroof, loaded, $18,980.
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ELDORADO 1999 Pewter, Bose, chrome wheels, 35,000 miles, $14,980.
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SEDAN DEVILLE-1996 69 k miles, Mist Green, very clean, $7900. 248-879-1586

Seville 1996 STS - Texas Car! 62K actual miles, Northstar, leather, loaded, must see! $9350/best. (313) 220-6253

SEVILLE 2001 STS, white diamond, factory warranty, $20,980.
JOHN ROGIN BUICK 734-525-0900

Chevrolet 8400

CAMARO 2002 RS, black, T-tops, auto, 31K, $12,995.
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CAVALIER 2002 4 door, 22,000 miles, white, $7, 695.
Collins Motor Sales III 734-405-5200

CAVALIER 2002 4 dr., black, low miles, $6,995.
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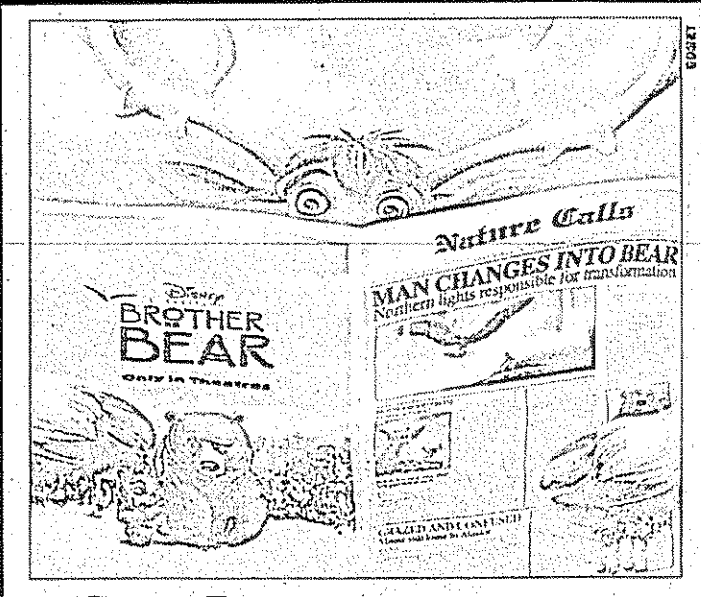
CAVALIER 2002, 1 owner, a title, 18K, $4300 **TYME AUTO (734) 455-5566**

CAVALIER-2001 air, cd, abs, 36k miles, white, 4 doors, exc. cond. $7650. 313-563-7537



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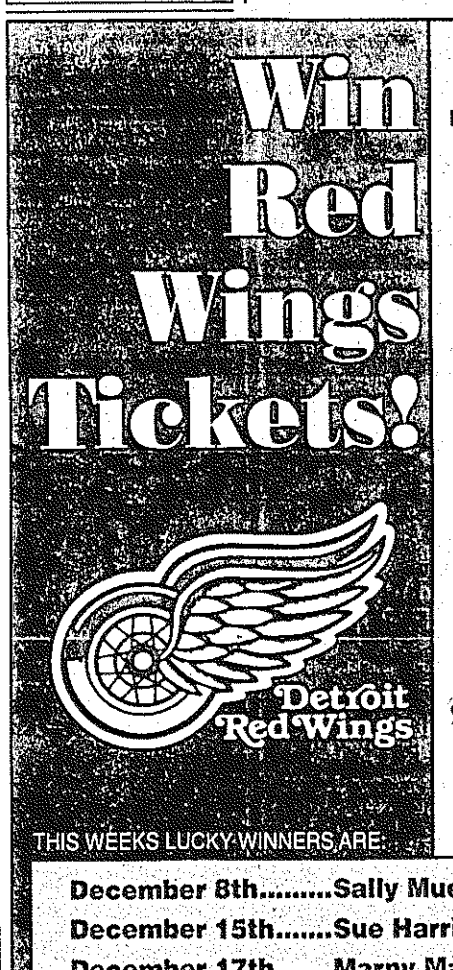

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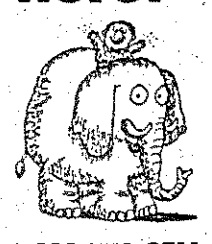

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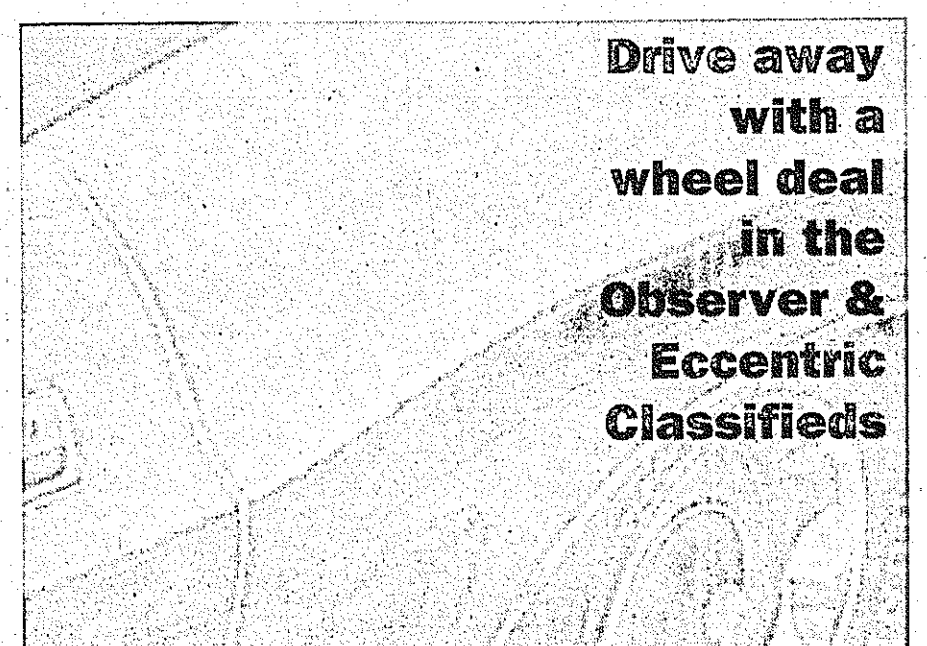

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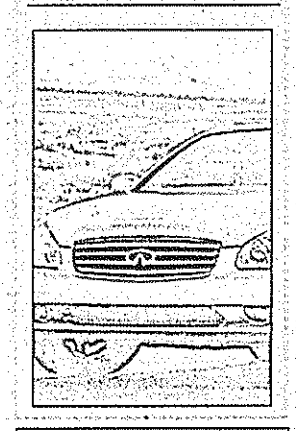

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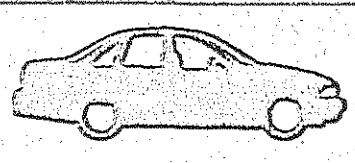
The New 2004 Ford Freestar

Advertising Feature

Thursday DriveTime



BY DALE BUSS

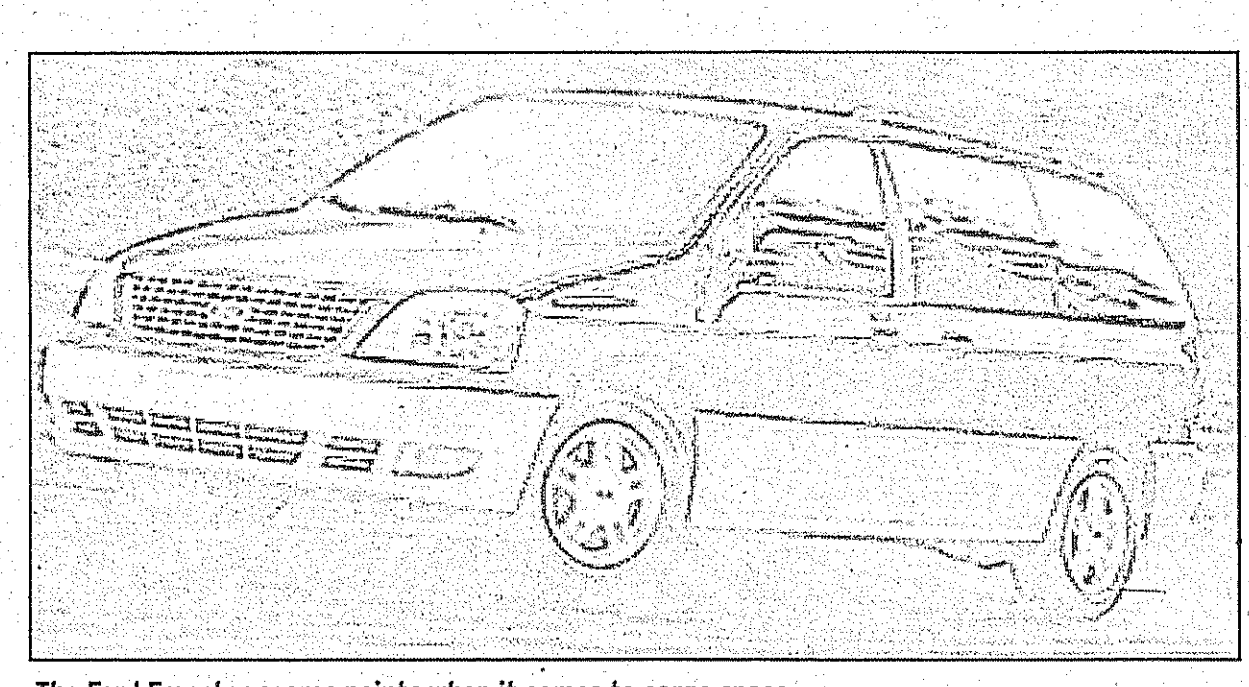
Ford invested considerably in the remake of its Windstar minivan, the 2004 Ford Freestar. And they deserve credit for making the effort, because Freestar represents a substantial upgrade over its predecessor. But I couldn't help feeling after spending a week with a Freestar that it remained one of the most non-descript, undistinguished new vehicles that I've experienced in a while.

In real life, I'm a minivan veteran, owner of two consecutive Chrysler Town & Country minivans. And while Freestar clearly beats the Chrysler mainstay in some areas such as the configuration of its rear cargo space, and the feeling of spaciousness in the driver's area of the vehicle, even the top-end Freestar that I drove falls short of Town & Country in an overall competition.

Coming into a minivan marketplace that is already several years past its soccer-mom glory and that is being redefined in stylistic terms, to some extent, by the innovative Nissan Quest, Freestar wasn't meant necessarily to excite consumers even though it is a brand new vehicle. And in that regard, the styling is almost painfully conservative. Freestar looks like it would be the generic picture of a minivan next to a dictionary definition of the word. The exterior is totally uninteresting, in the first place because it looks barely different from the Windstar. It is based on Windstar styling and, in fact, the hood, drillie, headlamps, front fenders and rear liftgate are the only exterior parts that are new.

It's as if Ford wanted to put all of its investment in Freestar under the hood and in the interior, and that, in fact, is what the company clearly did. The front-wheel-drive architecture is the same as Windstar's, but Ford did make many improvements. The standard 3.9-liter V6 engine generates 193 horsepower, and an optional 4.2-liter power plant delivers 201 horsepower. I drove a version with the 4.2-liter engine, and I found it more than adequate for any driving situation that a minivan pilot is likely to encounter.

The Freestar is extremely quiet, so Ford obviously put some of its investment into new soundproofing. Its ride is smooth, handling all but the biggest bumps and potholes evenly. Fuel economy should measure out in the range of 16 mpg in the city and 22 on the highway, about in the middle of the pack for minivans.



The Ford Freestar scores points when it comes to cargo space.

Entering the cabin of Freestar is really where consumers will notice the most improvement over Windstar. In the first place, the inside of the upper-end version of Freestar is very nicely appointed with leather upholstery and a leather-wrapped steering wheel. However, both the front and second-row captain's chairs seem a little bit on the slim side, and the third-row seating could be a bit higher on the back. The instrument layout is clear, and most controls are handy and well-marked. As is the rage with most nicer vehicles these days, Ford placed a nifty analog clock in the middle of Freestar's dashboard instead of a glaring digital readout.

Turning to smaller but important touches: The cupholders in Freestar, which are plentiful, grade out better overall than Town & Country's, in part because the two servicing the driver and front passenger are sealed all around and provide better "drink security." There's a shallow compartment that is built into the dashboard, with an easy-open flip-up top, but it isn't clear to me the purpose of the opening: It's about big enough for a file folder, I guess, but the cubby-hold is very shallow. Within it there's also a deeper well that could be handy to hold a cell phone or a modest amount of change. And while the popout fisheye mirror in the overhead console certainly is cool, I'm not exactly sure what service it is meant to perform.

Where Ford scored the most points with Freestar is in the re-engineering of the cargo area. Like other minivans before it, Freestar now dispenses with the third row of seating by allowing the customer to fold it down quickly, neatly and easily into a below-floor well. When the second-row seats also are removed, a huge, 135-cubic-foot cargo area is created, and because Freestar is so boxy, it has maximum utility as a hauler.

When the third-row seats re-deployed, the rear well is available as valuable extra luggage space. It can especially come in handy for grocery shopping, to keep the bags and their contents from rolling all over the vehicle.

That alone isn't enough reason to purchase Freestar, whose suggested retail prices range from $21,000-plus to $33,000. But it shows that Ford was listening when it jettisoned Windstar in favor of Freestar. And that means the new vehicle has enough attraction that it should appear on any minivan buyer's short list.

Write Dale at daledbuss@aol.com.

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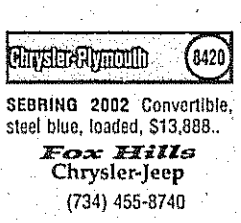

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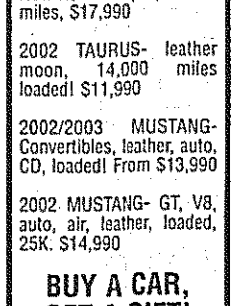

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Ford 8480

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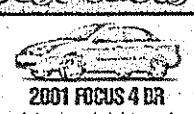

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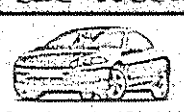

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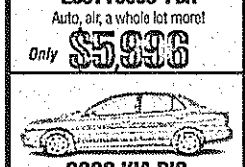

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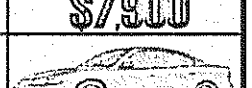

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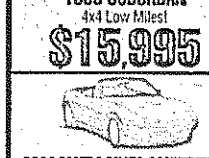

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