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Politics takes center stage for 2003

Two thousand three has been a year of major political change in Wayne County and the state of Michigan. It has also been a year in which western Wayne County has played a major part in state politics.

The political changing of the guard takes center stage in a year marked by war, a major power blackout, tragic crime and a continuing crisis in government funding. But it has also been a year of eccentric acts and a major new facility at Schoolcraft College.

Northville resident Jennifer Granholm took office as Michigan's

first woman governor. Granholm took office following the 12-year reign of John Engler.

She was immediately confronted with major budget problems that continued through the end of the year. Negotiations over the 2004 budget came down to the final days of 2003, when the Republican-dominated Legislature and the Democratic governor agreed to deep cuts in state spending and a six-month pause in a scheduled tenth of a percent tax cut.

Wayne County Assistant

For the other major news stories of 2003, turn to pages A4-5.

Prosecutor Mike Cox moved into Granholm's former position as attorney general. The Republican from Livonia set about reorganizing the department. During the 2002 campaign, Cox had emphasized his commitment to pursuing dead-beat parents who are behind in their child-support payments and this became a focus of his department.

Another Livonia resident, Thaddeus McCotter, took his seat as a United States congressman for the new 11th District just as the nation was moving toward a war with Iraq.

There was a major shift in power in Wayne County as well. Sheriff Robert Ficano moved into the position of county executive, replacing Edward H. McNamara, who had held the position for 16 years. Ficano, who had often been at odds with McNamara, began to reshape the position in his own style. He also had to confront budget problems, especially in deal-

ing with health care for indigents. Wayne County Prosecutor Michael Duggan bowed out of elected politics at the end of the year to take the daunting position of CEO at the financially troubled Detroit Medical Center. Duggan, a longtime McNamara aide, said he has been interested in the DMC position for a long time. His first priority will be finding a way to keep Detroit Receiving and Hutzel hospitals in business when a state grant runs out in May.

Schoolcraft president spreads the gospel of second chances

BY HUGH GALLAGHER
STAFF WRITER

To Conway Jeffress, community colleges are the great opportunity, the second chance in which everyone who wants to can succeed.

As president of Schoolcraft College, Jeffress, 59, is passionate about what separates his college from others.

"Probably the greatest distinguishing factor is in the concept of an open door admissions," Jeffress said. "That is a very major social implication. If you think back historically 100 years, there were people saying that no woman could profit from higher education and it was accepted. As time passed, it was the issue of no minority could take advantage of higher education. Each decade proves those kinds of thoughts incorrect."

Jeffress said that the last two barriers to getting a higher education are money and a "history of performance" in grades and tests.

"What the community college does is say, if indeed a person is to be given a chance to do something and not be prejudged or excluded, then you've done a great thing socially," Jeffress said. "Because people have come out of community college and succeeded who would have been rejected by the four-year types."

This has been a year of mixed blessings for Schoolcraft's president. The high point was the opening of the VisITech Center, with its state-of-the-art culinary arts school and business conference facility on the Livonia campus on Haggerty near Seven Mile. The low point is the ongoing struggle with funding.

Schoolcraft is expecting a 4.38-percent reduction in state funding, coming in the middle of the budget year and following an earlier 11-percent reduction. It could mean a loss of \$500,000 to \$600,000.

PLEASE SEE PRESIDENT, A8



Conway Jeffress, president of Schoolcraft College, says community colleges serve an important role in providing everyone a chance at higher education.

Livonia native killed in Iraq

The call came as nothing less than a total shock on Christmas day.

U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Thomas Christensen, a 42-year-old native of Livonia, was one of two soldiers killed in battle in Baquba, Iraq, on Christmas day.

"He was a very, very special, wonderful person," said Sandra Whitener, a Farmington Hills resident and Christensen's aunt. She was holding back tears.

"He's going to be missed," she said. "He had a lot to offer the world. His life was cut short and it was Christmas day."

The news came first with a phone call to the Christensen home in Highland, Mich. Later that evening a commanding officer stopped by, confirming the chilling news.

Christensen came from a military-minded family. His father, Tom Christensen, fought in Korea, joined the National Guard in 1949 and enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1952. "I had two brothers," he said. "We were all in the service."



Christensen

Whitener called her nephew "a lifer. He'd been in the service for a long time."

Tom Christensen said his son served about nine years in the Army, which included two tours of Germany. He worked for a government contractor as well.

Christensen then entered the U.S. Army Reserves and honed his skills as a bridge builder, his father said. About a year and a half ago, he moved to Atlantic Mine, in the Upper Peninsula, and became one of 180 members of a combat engineering unit based in Marquette County.

That unit, part of the 652nd Engineer Battalion, was mobilized last March.

"He didn't go in on the first day of invasion," his father said. Instead, Christensen was sent to Kuwait, and later Iraq.

He stayed in regular contact with family members for as long as he could.

"He got one call every two weeks for 15 minutes," said his father. "It took five minutes to get through."

In addition to his military training, Christensen liked to fish and hunt, his father said. "He was a very avid reader, very intelligent."

Whitener said it was "heartbreaking" to learn that her nephew had died in the war. "We're just devastated," she said. "We think he should be recognized as the hero he was."

One of four siblings, Christensen is survived by his brothers, Chris Christensen of Detroit and Norman Christensen of Arizona; his sister, Heidi Christensen; his mother Janet Sprey of Arizona; his father and stepmother Tom and Mary Lu Christensen of Highland; and several aunts, uncles and cousins.

"He gave so much to the government, the Army, the world," Whitener said. "And now he's dead."

Memorial services for Christensen are still pending.

Canton man finds body days after he found personal effects

BY JOANNE MALISZEWSKI
STAFF WRITER

Bob Walker of Canton wasn't shocked when he found the partially clothed body of a 35-year-old woman on the rear of his property near an abandoned bike path along I-275 Monday afternoon. On Christmas Eve, he had found what may have been her personal belongings.

"I am disgusted with myself that I didn't see her on Christmas Eve," said the longtime Lotz Road resident.

Walker was clearing trees and brush from his property Christmas Eve when he found a camouflage Army-style jacket, a backpack, undergarments, socks and size 6 tennis shoes. He also found a few dollars nearby.

"With a size 6 shoe, my wife and I thought maybe it belonged to a teenager," Walker said.

Walker called police, who took the items, but whom he says did not walk the 600-700 feet to where he had earlier found the belongings. "A lot

of the items were muddy," Walker said, adding he cleaned them up before giving them to police.

"It definitely felt odd," Walker said about finding the items.

Canton police Tuesday identified the woman by her former married name, Sandra Dee Eller or Sandra Dee Spriggs, after her adopted mother, who lives in Grosse Ile, but who reportedly has not seen her in 15 years. She has no known Michigan address, but was traced to her ex-husband in Tennessee, where three of her five children live. An 18-year-old daughter reportedly lives in Michigan.

"We found a piece of paper on her with a phone number," said Capt. Alex Wilson of the Canton Police Department. The call led to Eller's ex-husband. "Through information from him, we were able to locate her adopted mother."

Pending the results of an autopsy that was to be conducted in Wayne County Tuesday afternoon, Canton police are treating the investigation as a suspicious death. There were no visible

signs of trauma to the woman's body and it was not immediately apparent how she died or how long she had been near the bike path. She was dressed in a blouse, that was partially ripped, and pants, with a pair of shorts laying next to her, Wilson said.

Walker was walking his property Monday just after noon when he spotted the woman's body behind some tree stumps. "When I found her belongings I was at the wrong angle," Walker said, explaining why he didn't find her Christmas Eve. "She was about 10 to 12 feet this side of the path."

Walker said he didn't hear anything out of the ordinary in the past week, except a gunshot, which he says is not unusual in the area because of wildlife.

Police have little information about the woman, except that she had been charged earlier with soliciting in Kent County.

jmaliszewski@oe.hometown.com | (734) 459-2700

HOLIDAY HOURS

Due to the New Year's holiday, the *Observer & Eccentric* Circulation Department will close at 1 p.m. New Year's Eve, Dec. 31, and reopen at 8:30 a.m. Friday, Jan. 2, to

assist customers with any delivery questions. You may e-mail customer service at custserv@oe.hometown.com or call (866) 887-2737 for assistance.

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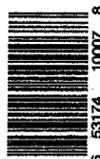
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FOR THE RECORD



"For the Record" appears in every edition of the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. This column soon will expand to include births and district court proceedings. Other obituaries can be found inside today's paper. Look for Passages to view paid obituaries.

Deaths

- B**
Kenneth Washburn Bailey, 88, formerly of Franklin, died Dec. 23
Jeanette Burchvera, 83, of Garden City died Dec. 24
- C**
Frank Cipelle, 73, of Bloomfield Village died Dec. 24
- F**
Nadine A. Farley, 82, of Westland died Dec. 22
Lenora R. Foster, 86, of Birmingham died Dec. 20
- G**
Robert Lee Gates, 66, of Howell, formerly of Southfield, died Dec. 28
- H**

- Walter Lester Hrobak, 84, formerly of Romulus, died Dec. 26
William M. Hutchins, 80, of Savannah, Ga., formerly of Birmingham, died Dec. 26
- K**
Jacqueline G. Kelly, 70, of Walled Lake died Dec. 24
John W. Kelly, 71, of Redford died Dec. 26
- L**
Frank C. Lee, 45, of Farmington died Dec. 22
Stephanie LaGosh, 83, of Plymouth died Dec. 8
Salvatore Lomedico, 77, of Canton died Dec. 26
- N**
Jean D. Newcomb, 90, of Bradenton, Fla., died Dec. 23
- P**
Ronald F. Page, 54, of Farmington Hills died Dec. 24
Frances J. Price, 89, of Southfield died Dec. 25
- R**
George Henry Ramsden, 85, of Livonia died Dec. 24
- W**
Suzanne M. Wong, 58, of Redford died, Dec. 23

Tax rush

It's not too late to pay your local property taxes and get credited on your 2003 Federal Income Tax.

In Livonia residents have until midnight Dec. 31 to drop their payments in a drop box at Livonia City Hall on Five Mile to receive the tax credit.

In Plymouth taxes can be put in the drop box at the Plymouth District Library or at City Hall. Those collected at 8 a.m. Friday will be considered paid in 2003.

In Plymouth Township any tax payments in the drop box at Township Hall at 8 a.m. Friday will be considered paid in 2003.

In Redford Township, offices are closed until Monday, but the township drop boxes will give you a few days' grace.

The boxes will be emptied before the opening of business Monday, and any payments dropped off by then can be considered made in 2003, as long as the check is dated no later than Dec. 31, 2003, according to Treasurer Robert Brang's office.

The drop boxes are located on the north side of township hall, 15145 Beech Daly at Elsinore, and at the Department of Public Services building, 12200 Beech Daly at Capitol.

In Westland, residents will be credited for paying their taxes in 2003 if they drop their

AROUND WESTERN WAYNE COUNTY

payments in a drop box at Westland City Hall before the opening of business on Friday morning. That means anyone who gets their taxes in on New Year's Day will get credit for a 2003 payment.

City treasurer's office employees will collect payments from the drop box first thing Friday morning. Anyone paying taxes after that will be credited as paying in 2004.

But not everyone will get a last minute reprieve.

In Canton any tax payments not made by 5 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 30, will be considered paid in 2004. The Canton Township office is closed Dec. 31 and reopens 8 a.m. Friday, Jan. 2.

Man bound over in traffic fatality

A Westland man has been ordered bound over to Wayne County Circuit Court on eight felonies in a traffic accident that killed an elderly woman.

Walter Ryan, 45, waived his preliminary examination in Garden City 21st District Court Monday. He was scheduled for circuit court arraignment on Jan. 12 and a \$150,000 cash bond was continued.

Charges against Ryan include operating under the influence causing death, manslaughter with an auto, negligent homicide, commission of a felony with a motor vehicle, two counts of second-degree child abuse and two counts of operating under the influence with occupants under 16.

On Oct. 5, Ryan was driving southbound on Inkster Road when he collided with a vehicle heading eastbound along Marquette.

The other driver, Wanda Kania, 82, of Dearborn Heights was fatally injured in the collision.

At the time of the accident Ryan was accompanied by his

sons, 14 and 15 years old. All three suffered minor injuries.

Based on their investigation, police reported Ryan had been drinking - an open liquor bottle was recovered at the scene - and had made no attempt to swerve or stop prior to the accident.

Police were unable to locate an independent witnesses to the accident. Ryan and his sons told officers they didn't know who what color light they had at the intersection.

Ryan had been in custody since the accident after being arrested for consuming alcohol in violation of his probation on a Westland domestic violence charge. He remains jailed in lieu of bond.

Bingo

Begin the New Year at St. Dunstan Church in Garden City for marathon bingo 1:30 to 8 p.m. Thursday. Refreshments will be offered for sale during bingo which will be held in the church Community Room.

St. Dunstan is located on Belton, two blocks west of Inkster between Ford and Marquette. For information, call (734) 425-6720.

Best jobs in Livonia

Quicken Loans - known locally as Rock Financial in Livonia - was named at No. 13 on Fortune Magazine's list of the 100 Best Companies to Work for in America. This was the first time the company made the Fortune 100 list, and Quicken achieved the highest ranking debut this year.

Bill Emerson, Quicken CEO, said they are honored, proud and humbled to be named on the list. Among the reasons the company was chosen, Emerson said they do have a great employee benefits program. But the company is "driven by a culture of empowerment where everyone has a voice and ability to change their work environment."

"They have a say in what they're doing on a daily basis," Emerson said. In addition, he said employees are recognized daily for personal victories.

"We continue, as much as we can, to let people know when they're doing a great job," Emerson said. "We take care of our people and they care of our customers. That's the stuff that sets us apart. We really do value our employees."

And Quicken Loans wasn't the only Livonia company to make the list.

Valassis, located next door to Quicken Loans, made it to number 68 on the Fortune 100 Best Companies to Work for in America.

"Being on Fortune's 100 Best list year after year is a vote of confidence from our employees," said Alan F. Schultz, CEO of Valassis.

This is the seventh consecutive year Valassis has made this list.

Redford library

Brian Spitzbergen of Growth Works will speak on "How To Talk to Your Kids About Drugs and Alcohol" Thursday, Jan. 15, at the Redford Township District Library, 15150 Norborne, south of Five Mile and west of Beech Daly.

The free talk, 7-8 p.m., is sponsored by Redford's Commission on Children's Issues. Registration is required. To register, leave a message with name and telephone number at (313) 937-9895.

For information on commission programs, call the office or visit the Web site www.childrensissues.com.

Children 3 and older can welcome the new year with stories, songs, games and crafts on Saturday, Jan. 10, at the Redford library. The free program begins at 11 a.m. Preschoolers must be accompanied by an adult.

Registration is required. Call (313) 538-4257 to register or for more information.

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MC SPORTS AD CORRECTION NOTICE

In the January 1, 2004 insert, the sale price and savings statement for the Proform 765i Interactive Trainer Treadmill were incorrectly listed. The correct sale price and savings statement are as follows: Sale Price - \$999.99; Savings - \$200.00. We regret this error and apologize for any inconvenience it may have caused you. Sincerely, MC Sports

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Low-carb grocery gives teeth to resolutions

BY CAROL MARSHALL
STAFF WRITER

The idea came from success, said Ronaele Bowman of Livonia. After losing more than 35 pounds on a low-carbohydrate diet, she along with husband Hugh Bowman decided what they wanted to do during retirement: open and operate a low-carb grocery.

Just in time for New Year's dieters, the Bowmans did just that, and last week opened Low Carb Depot in Livonia.

"We decided it was time to start a retirement project," Bowman said. She will retire next year, while her husband retired this year. "I started the Atkins diet in June, following foot surgery, when I put on a lot of weight."

It was the first diet that had worked well for her, and she said it's the flexibility and availability of craving-busting products which contributed to her success.

"I was talking to my husband one day about all the wonderful products that are out there, and I said, 'We could sell this stuff,'" Bowman said. "The products I was finding helped me stick with the diet. I used to always feel deprived and get bored on diets, but the supplements available to me now keep me on track. Why would I cheat on a diet if I'm getting everything I want?"

Then the couple's work began.

They began testing products, finding a location, getting permits and fixing up the store, located at 32622 W. Seven Mile (east of Farmington Road).

"In November there was nothing in here but four walls and concrete," said Hugh, looking around at the shelves they've installed and filled with low-carb foods.

They had planned to open by Thanksgiving, but the per-



The new Low Carb Depot on Seven Mile and Farmington has a wide variety of foods to choose from with low carbs (below). Store manager Ronaele Bowman (above, left) helps Beverly Verhines choose some low-carb bagels.



mit process took longer than expected, so the store didn't open until last week.

Before filling the store's shelves, the Bowmans have had to test every product.

"I have tried so many things that are available. Some are great. Some are awful. We just won't carry those. I will not sell anything that I haven't tried and liked," she said.

What she's found is a host

of low-carb cereals, sauces, and dressings, breads and bagels, brownies, candies and even cheesecake (which passes even her hard-core, sweet tooth test).

"They've come out with a new low-carb yogurt which is wonderful, and we'll carry that, too," she said. "What's nice about a lot of the products is that if you're going to a party and you want to bring something that everyone will

like, you can get a cheesecake or a cocktail mix and serve it to people who aren't on a low-carb diet. It tastes great, so you stay with your plan, and they'd never even know it's low-carb if you didn't tell them."

The store will also carry diet supplements and vitamins designed for low-carb dieters, as well as books.

Bowman not only hopes the store will offer her a satisfying way to spend her retirement, but will also offer an option for others who choose to shed pounds the low-carb way.

"We want people, especially those with New Year's resolutions, to lose some weight, to know that we're here, and we can help them," she said.

For more information, call the store at (248) 476-3064. Store hours are 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesday-Friday and 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday.

cmarshall@homecomm.net | (734) 953-2109

Compare your own resolutions to these

As the new year approaches, it's that time again - time to make those resolutions which may, or may not, be kept.

Here are some resolutions from area movers, shakers and just plain folks:

Canton

"I resolve in 2004 to renewing a number of friendships that need to be rekindled."

Tom Yack
township supervisor

"If you're not involved with the chamber, get involved. If you are involved, get more involved. If you're already more involved, thank you."

Todd LaJoy
incoming Chamber of Commerce president

"We all want to think thin and I'd like to be that physically. But make the arts fat. Build them. Embrace all parts of the community. Arts for all and all for arts."

Jennifer Tobin
Performing Arts coordinator

Plymouth

"Keep the arts a fresh and vital part of our everyday lives."

Stella Greene
executive director, Plymouth Community Arts Council

"To continue to provide outstanding services to the community in spite of continued budget cuts."

Paul Sincok
Plymouth city manager

Plymouth Township

"For the township to prosper and to somehow find a way to reinstate state-shared revenue cuts."

Steve Mann
Plymouth Township supervisor

Westland

"To continue maintaining a solid budget while providing excellent services to our residents. Personally, to eat healthy and exercise more."

Sandra Cicirelli
mayor

"I want to get as fit as the seniors who come in here every day for health and exercise."

Peggy Ellenwood
Senior Resources director

Livonia

"I resolve to continue to think the best of everyone and if I have the urge to complain to my government officials, I won't begin with 'I am a taxpayer and ...'"

Jack Kirksey
outgoing mayor

Garden City

"I resolve to continue the spirit of Christmas - joy, giving, working together - into a daily attitude so that the decisions we make as a council will reflect the desires and direction of the community and resonate positively on Garden City."

Jaylee Lynch
mayor

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2003 was year of tragedy, hijinks and change



Dave Cook, left, waits in line to buy one of the last generators at Saxton's Garden Center on the first day of the 2003 Blackout on Aug. 14.

Here are some of the top stories for 2003 in western Wayne County

Blackout 2003

On Thursday afternoon, Aug. 14, metro Detroit and most of northeastern North America were plunged into darkness by the most massive power outage in American history.

For many western Wayne County communities, the loss of electricity was compounded by a loss of water because Detroit Water and Sewerage pumps weren't working.

Though power started to come back early Friday morning, some were left without electricity or water until Sunday.

The blackout, which left about 50 million people without power, was finally traced to an outage in Cleveland.

CANTON

War hits home

The war in Iraq hit home with the death of Sgt. Trevor Blumberg, 22, of Canton, in September. He was the first and to date the only Canton soldier killed in the war. The 1999 Plymouth Salem High School graduate was a member of the 1st Battalion of the 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment. Blumberg had been deployed to Iraq just three days before he was killed when a roadside bomb hit a convoy and destroyed the Humvee he and three other soldiers were in.

His parents, Janet and Terry Blumberg of Canton, participated in a special ceremony in November in which a brick with his name was added to

the Veterans Memorial in Heritage Park.

Baby dies

Jennifer Ann Avery of Canton, who was charged in the drowning death of her 11-month-old son, Bryan, was determined incompetent to stand trial and is now in a psychiatric center where she will be treated and evaluated.

In November, Judge Ron Lowe of 35th District Court signed the order committing her to the center. A review of the case was tentatively scheduled for sometime in March.

Avery was charged with murder in the first degree, felony murder and first-degree child abuse. Bryan was drowned in a bathtub in the family apartment in Canton. Her husband was not home at the time.

She was arrested Oct. 22 after calling Canton Police and telling them her son had slipped in the bathtub and was not breathing. Bryan was taken to Oakwood Hospital-Annapolis in Wayne where he was pronounced dead. Bryan would have been 1 year old Nov. 13.

The charges against Avery will stay on hold until her competency is re-evaluated.

Over the falls

Kirk Jones, 40, of Canton shocked the country when he became the first to jump into Horseshoe Falls on the Canadian side of Niagara Falls without any safety devices — and live.

While Jones, who admitted he suffered from depression, made the television network circuit, a Canadian judge ordered him to stay out of Canada. He was charged with mischief and illegally performing a stunt.

Jones apparently had been planning the jump for at least a month although, according to his brother Keith Jones, "nobody believed him."

"He got obsessed with it about a month ago," Keith said. "He knew the history of the falls. He knew the story of the 7-year-old boy who had a life-jacket and survived. He said, 'I'm going to go him one better.'"

A friend of Kirk's, Bob Krueger, accompanied him on the trip and videotaped the action.

GARDEN CITY

First woman mayor

In 2004, Garden City got its first woman mayor. Councilwoman Jaylee Lynch was elected mayor in November, replacing William Kaledas, who had decided not to seek re-election.

A school principal, Lynch, 47, was in the middle of a four-year council term when she decided to run for mayor.

Life sentence

Garden City resident Steven Maier was sentenced to life in prison without parole for murdering a local man and his daughter following a Wayne County Circuit Court trial that spread over seven days in September.

A jury convicted Maier, 23, on multiple felonies in the shooting deaths of John Swinea, 33, and Stephanie Swinea, 7. Another daughter, Jennifer Swinea, then 13, survived being shot and testified against Maier, who had been staying with the family for several months.

LIVONIA

VisTaTech Center

Schoolcraft College opened the new \$27 million VisTaTech Center at its Livonia Campus in September. The 86,740-square-foot building provides a new home for the school's acclaimed Culinary Arts Department with state-of-the-art food preparation and training facilities and a new business training and conference center.

Schoolcraft President Conway Jeffers calls it a "giant icon" for the college and a showcase for the college's dedication to a high-tech future.

Guilty verdicts

The trials which resulted in guilty verdicts in the Dec. 21, 2002, murders of the Pesce family of Livonia began in March and concluded in May.

John Wolfenbarger, of Detroit, was found guilty of

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REVIEW

FROM PAGE A4

five counts of first-degree murder, for shooting and killing jeweler Marco Pesce, 38, Pesce's mother, Maria Vergati, 68, and Pesce's children: Carlo, 12, Sabrina, 9, and Melissa, 6. Dennis Lincoln, of Flint, was convicted of five counts of felony murder. Both have been sentenced to life in prison and are in separate maximum-security prisons in the Upper Peninsula.

Livonia Rec Center

Livonia's new Community Recreation Center opened April 14. The 130,000-square-foot, state-of-the-art facility was built with money from a permanent community recreation millage passed by Livonia voters in 2001.

The facility features a 42-foot tall climbing wall, a tree fort for children, two gymnasiums and two swimming pools, as well as an outdoor splash park and skate park.

Death in Iraq

The reality of war hit close to home Christmas day when family members were told Army Staff Sgt. Tom Christensen, formerly of Livonia, was one of two soldiers killed in Baquba, Iraq.

Christensen, 42, was born in Livonia and later moved to Brighton. Family members called him "a lifer" in the military.

New mayor
Livonia Councilman Jack Engbretson defeated Wayne County Commissioner Lyn Bankes to replace longtime Mayor Jack Kirksey.

PLYMOUTH/PLYMOUTH TOWNSHIP

Underpass

The on again, off again Sheldon Road/CSX Railroad underpass project is back on after the Plymouth city commission decided to fund the project in conjunction with Plymouth Township and Wayne County.

Commissioners in 1999 voted to pay \$503,000 for their part of the \$8.5 million project. But, as the project delayed and costs escalated — adding \$250,000 to the city's share — commissioners in May voted to back out.

Several months later, after some persuading by Wayne County officials and a cap on the city's costs back to the original dollar commitment, city commissioners voted once again to help fund the underpass.

Plymouth Township, which has said all along it is committed to its \$1.2 million share of the project, still has yet to vote on spending the money.

Wayne County officials hope to begin construction in the fall of 2004, closing Sheldon Road near M-14 for nearly 18 months.

Township hall

Plymouth Township trustees voted 4-3 in July to purchase more than nine acres of land for \$1.58 million from auto magnate Don Massey to construct a new township hall. The township complex and a public safety building will consolidate offices and provide more adequate space for police and fire operations.

In November, voters approved the sale of \$6 million in bonds to fund half of the estimated \$12 million cost of the new hall, which will be constructed at Haggerty and Ann Arbor roads.

Budget deficit

Voters in Plymouth overwhelmingly rejected a millage proposal in November, which would have allowed an increase in taxes to bail out the city from projected budget deficits over the next five years.

Instead, city commissioners will be looking at ways to trim

city services and expenditures to erase deficits ranging from nearly \$1.2 million in 2004 to \$2.4 million in 2008.

REDFORD

Motel shooting

Fugitive Edward Mathis carried the nickname "Lucky," but his luck ran out in Redford Aug. 16.

The 39-year-old, the alleged triggerman in a 1994 double homicide and an alleged co-leader of a Long Island, N.Y., drug gang, was fatally shot at the Dorchester Motel as deputies from the U.S. Marshals Service raided his room.

Police say Mathis pointed a

loaded pistol at deputy marshals and was shot three times. The Wayne County prosecutor's office ruled the incident a justifiable homicide.

Mathis had been featured four times on the television show *America's Most Wanted*, including on a segment that aired shortly before his death, and was on the Marshal Service's 15 Most Wanted list.

Police say he had been living in Detroit and working at a car wash.

WESTLAND

Killing in Westland

Sept. 11 brought more to Westland than memories of

terrorist attacks two years earlier. That evening, the city had its worse mass killings ever when 30-year-old gunman Michael Lamont Schofield of Detroit went into Neil's Party Store, on Newburgh near Ford, for a botched robbery that left four dead and two injured.

As a store video camera captured the horror, Schofield opened fire and killed store employee Feras Yousif, 29, of Oak Park and customer James Kuebler, 35, of Westland. After a pickup truck pulled up, Schofield went outside and shot dead Kenneth Sherman Littlefield, 63, and his nephew, Keith Gaddis, 44, both of

Canton.

Schofield also shot and wounded store employee Conrad Allen Hasper, 24, and customer Fuad Abuali, 29, both of Westland.

Schofield was accompanied by 24-year-old Leslie Gordon of Detroit, accused of being the lookout person while Schofield killed his victims one by one. Schofield eventually turned the gun on himself following a high-speed chase that ended in Detroit, leaving Gordon to face trial on her own for the party store murders.

Gordon faces trial Feb. 2 for four counts of first-degree murder, four counts of felony murder, two counts of assault

with intent to murder, and two counts of assault with intent to rob while armed. She will face life in prison if convicted.

'American Idol'

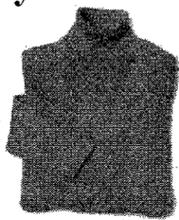
Westland native Josh Gracin, after singing his way into the hearts of millions of Americans on *American Idol*, was eliminated from competition in May after advancing to the final four. He earned a solid following as the country's singing U.S. Marine and, in a touching exit from the show, he held his then 12-month-old daughter, Briana, in his arms on stage as he sang *To Love Somebody* by the Bee Gees.

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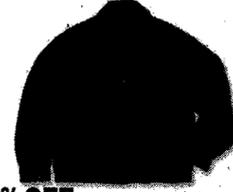
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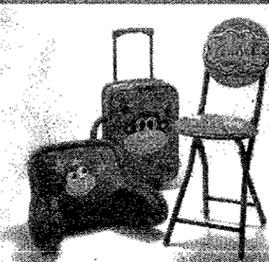
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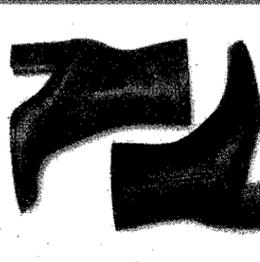
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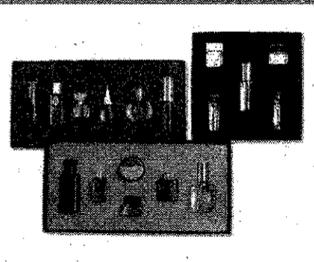
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OUR VIEWS

Difficult year makes case for compromise

Government officials will look back on 2003 as a difficult year.

Michigan and most other states had a serious cash flow problem. In Michigan, a combination of tax cuts and reduced revenues caused by a weak economy forced deep cuts in state programs, school grants and community revenue sharing. All levels of government were forced to try to meet needs with less revenue.

Gov. Jennifer Granholm and the state Legislature reached a year-end agreement that eases some of the problem for public schools, but schools and others will still feel the pinch. The agreement also pauses a planned tax reduction for six months.

Nationally, the economy began to show surprising strength in the third quarter. Solid figures in several key indicators, however, were not matched by a large increase in new jobs. The jobless rate has dropped slightly nationally.

Michigan has lagged behind in the recovery and the jobless rate remains moderately high, making it even more difficult for state and local governments to bring in revenue.

There is a continued need to both examine all government programs and explore new sources of revenue. Critics of government waste and special projects make a strong case, but there comes a point when the needs of citizens for government programs demand that revenues be increased. Perhaps the rising economy will eventually lift Michigan's boat as well.

A controversy continues to swirl around the importing of trash from Canada to private landfills in Michigan. At year's end, various proposals are being considered, but face stiff court challenges because of constitutional provisions and trade agreements. Canada has also complained that Michigan is exporting a lot of its toxic waste to Canada. Less rhetoric and more cross border cooperation could provide an environmentally sound agreement.

In education, this was the first year of President Bush's No Child Left Behind program. Michigan Educational Assessment Program results arrived late and left many educators complaining about the results and what they meant. While we have long supported the need for testing, we believe it is important that all parties agree on what the testing is meant to show and that all schools are treated fairly.

This has been a difficult year, but working through these problems makes a strong case for reasoned dialogue and compromise rooted in principle.

2004 brings challenges, opportunities for region

Our local communities — as indeed, the state — face a series of challenges in 2004. If handled properly, these challenges also represent opportunities to improve the quality of life in our hometowns.

In the coming year, the *Observer & Eccentric Newspapers* will concentrate our editorial focus on four critical issues: education, the environment, urban sprawl/managed growth and the relationship between the city of Detroit and its suburban neighbors.

All of these issues have a real and direct impact on the way we go about our daily lives. And all are tied to the state's economic condition, which hopefully will catch up with the rest of the country in its recovery. It is hard to bring about real change without sufficient resources.

A case in point is the much-needed expansion or replacement of Cobo Center. In order for metro Detroit to lure major conventions and the economic benefits resulting from them, something needs to be done with the aging facility.

Because of tight budgets, some suburban politicians already are turning a blind eye to building a coalition to finance a new convention center, which certainly would benefit the entire region.

The same is true for protecting our environment. The best policies become meaningless if there is no money for enforcing them. This is plainly evident in the state's failed wetlands mitigation program, which was documented in an *Observer & Eccentric* report earlier this year.

Perhaps the greatest challenge in the coming year will be preserving and improving our public school systems. The time has come to take a serious look at how we finance our public schools.

These are not easy issues to resolve, but they must be discussed in order for our state — and our hometowns — to move forward in the coming year.



The New Year may be a little hung up (or over) but here's hoping that it gets off to a good start and that 2004 is a happy, healthy, prosperous year for everyone.

LETTERS

A good compromise

Balancing the state budget is a difficult and complicated process. It has been increasingly difficult due to the budget deficit we are facing for this fiscal year.

Last week, after several compromises on all sides, the House of Representatives, Senate and Gov. Jennifer Granholm reached an agreement that balances the state budget.

Like all compromises, there are parts of this deal I do not like. For example, I was against the six-month pause in state income tax rollback. I was against pausing the income tax rollback not only because of the money it will cost most Michigan residents, though I am mindful of the burden it places on single parent families and seniors, but I was against it because of the message it sends. The Legislature needs to keep the promises it makes to residents and businesses. We promised Michigan residents the income tax would be cut on Jan. 1 and I worked hard to keep that promise. Instead of going back on our promises, we need to send a clear message that shows we know how to make government function more effectively and efficiently without raising taxes.

But we did get some important concessions from the governor in return for the rollback.

By pausing the income tax rollback for only six months, money will still be available for our public schools. The Governor recommended that millions of dollars in special funds for "hold harmless" school districts like Livonia and Clarenceville be eliminated. However, with this compromise, those funds were saved.

Also in the budget agreement is a single business tax credit for companies that provide health care for their employees. This will be an incentive for more small businesses to offer health care to their employees which will help all of those who are looking for health-care options.

I do believe this was the best deal we could make at this time.

As a member of the House Appropriations Committee, I vow we will get back to work in January to find a way to balance the budget without raising taxes or skimming on essential services and most importantly, keeping the promises we have made in the past.

Rep. John Pastor
(R-Livonia)

Unhappy with Stewart

What do you call a person who signed a pledge to not increase taxes, and then votes to raise your taxes?

What do you call a person who says they are "Pro-Life" and they fail to cast a vote to ban partial birth abortion?

What do you call an elected official who says, "stay away from me, my wife and the museum" to anyone who has the temerity to disagree with him? By the way, aren't you getting tired of him fleecing the

museum membership with fund raising and campaign activity?

What do you call a person who campaigned on public education and received most of his support from teachers, only to turn around and vote to take up to \$100 per student out of our schools ... again?

What would you call a person who had told a Mayor, City Commissioners, and a number of voters that he only wants to finish his third term for the lifetime health benefits? That's right, I was shocked, too!

What do you call a person who voted "Yes" to expand the prison in his own hometown, and then ran to the Governor for a veto when he finally got around to reading the legislation he voted for?

Michigan's unemployment remains above 7 percent. What do you call a person who sponsors no less than four specialty license plates instead of focusing on our economy?

That is what your State Representative has been up to for the past 12 months.

I call that person John Stewart.

Jonathon Grant
Plymouth

Letter to Granholm

We, who are approaching or at that time when we are in need of care at a nursing facility are very aware of the costs of such care. We know that there is a real drain on such places of residence. To effectively run a sound residence, it requires good help and sound management. Such a facility if the Church of Christ Care Center located in Mt. Clemens, Mich.

I have had relatives seek information about this care center and they have been told the care given their loved ones is a very organized and well-run facility. We also have had fellow Christians receive this very type of care and have seen for ourselves the loving care and peace they are experiencing.

It seems to me after all the years these people have labored to be able to pay into the Social Security fund, they should not be left out in the cold. This care center has already had Medicaid cuts. Steve Czekiel, the administrator, has had to tighten the belt with some layoffs, a wage freeze and a strict regimen of savings plus he has had to delay non-critical repairs. Further cuts will be painful.

Could you find other alternatives to seek other revenue to accomplish a sound budget?

May God be with you as you pursue your task.

Mary Parry
Livonia

On Stabenow

Regarding Sen. Debbie Stabenow's letter in the Christmas Day edition, the snoozer about Medicare and prescription drug coverage:

You would in no way let me get by writing a fragmented confusing letter like that. Shouldn't you hold a national senator to some sort of basic standards and not allow snoozers like that to be printed? Not only is it a real honker, she's trying to blow smoke in our ears with "I led this fight and that fight" baloney. She's only a junior senator. Give me a break.

The top priority for both state and federal politicians ought to be focused on forcing the medical professions to uphold medical delivery standards already in place. Our medical care is slipshod beyond belief. That is why it is ranked 43rd in the world, well behind some third world countries.

I could relate some hair-curling tales about medical care right here in Michigan so outrageous they are difficult to believe. But this paper would never print them. It would rather opt for the politically correct snoozers by smoke-blowing, self-serving politicians.

Kenneth Kemp
Farmington Hills

Keep press free

Freedom of the press is one of the most important values instilled in all Americans across our nation. It is a value that often separates our country from other countries.

Newspapers like other mass media outlets offer glimpses into the heart and souls of our fellow citizens. A community newspaper communicates, informs, challenges, educates, mourns and celebrates. This is why the recent attempt to firebomb the *Arab American News* is an insult to all Americans. The firebombing was an attack upon what we hold most dear.

The American Jewish Committee, Metropolitan Detroit Chapter, condemns this attack and urges the Dearborn police and the FBI to aggressively investigate and work to bring those responsible to justice.

Sharona Shapiro
Michigan Area director
American Jewish Committee

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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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.

QUOTABLE

"We're dealing with a 21st century crime with 19th century laws."

— Detective John Raymond, Livonia police, on identity fraud

Lingerie Bowl shows we haven't come such a long way, baby

So you think we've come a long way, baby? Think again. Without a doubt, American women have made progress since the turn of the last century. Our foremothers fought hard for our right to vote and wear comfortable shoes. We can go to work dressed in jeans and T-shirts if we please and, thankfully, the word "girdle" has all but disappeared from modern vocabulary.

Women are still paid less than men, but not quite as much less. Some of us have finally pushed through the glass ceiling, but apparently not high enough at DaimlerChrysler.

While the company has clearly backed away from the "Lingerie Bowl" — a sleazy pay-per-view event scheduled to run during halftime of the Feb. 2 Super Bowl — Dodge was reportedly 110 percent behind it until women customers threatened to take their business elsewhere.



Joni Hubred-Golden

Originally billed as a tackle football game between two teams of seven models wearing bras and panties, the game will go on because there will always be a market for pay-per-view events that involve sexy, half-naked women. One might expect such an event to be sponsored by ... oh, say ... *Playboy* or *Hustler*. "Behind the Green Door" enterprises.

Instead, Chrysler planned to use this event to promote the Dodge Durango. When criticism started brewing, event organizers went back to the drawing board. They didn't design a new event. No, they put together new costumes: form-fitting "boy" shorts and sports bras, along with a little protective gear.

But according to unidentified car dealers in the Detroit metro area, women were walking into their businesses and threatening to never again buy another Chrysler product. So the company pulled its sponsorship, and let the chicks fall where they may — so to speak.

I wasn't surprised that an auto manufacturer decided to sponsor a soft-core porn pay-per-view. This year, Chrysler promoted its high-powered Dodge Ram truck in a commercial that featured two men standing at a urinal, talking about whether size matters. Heck, Walt Disney World introduced us to a 5-year-old cherub who announced her baby brother was a "little souvenir" from her family's trip to the Magic Kingdom.

No, what I found most amazing about the Lingerie Bowl story had to do with the woman who decided Chrysler should jump on that bandwagon. According to *USA Today*, 33-year-old Julie Roehm, director of marketing commu-

I'm concerned about Michigan's 25-percent increase in poverty, a condition that disproportionately affects women and children — while far more men than women bring home a six-figure paycheck.

nications for Chrysler/Jeep/Dodge, 'fessed up to approving the sponsorship, which was designed to attract young men with a lot of money — the Durango's target audience.

Roehm, the mother of two small children, has said the event is completely misunderstood and is no different from *Sports Illustrated's* swimsuit edition. OK, so what about those of us who find them both offensive because of the way they objectify women?

I'm nobody's prude and until about six months ago, I would never have identified myself as "feminist." But I'm getting tired of seeing young single women wandering around trendy apartment sitcom sets and muttering about who's sleeping with whom and why they can't find a decent man.

I'm concerned about Michigan's 25-percent increase in poverty, a condition that disproportionately affects women and children — while far more men than women bring home a six-figure paycheck.

It bothers me that more women are filing gender discrimination suits, because it seems to make financial sense for a company to lay off a pregnant woman before she starts family leave, or a single mom who takes all her vacation days and falls into a very expensive health insurance category.

And, yes, I worry about the Lingerie Bowl. I worry that we're dumbing down our culture to appeal to the lowest common denominator, rather than striving toward greater creativity, sharper wit and more respectful treatment of our collective intelligence.

The one good thing about this Super Bowl Sunday extravaganza, which is expected to attract upward of 40 million viewers, is that proceeds will go to the American Foundation for AIDS Research. That group should pull in at least a few million dollars.

After all, sex sells.

Joni Hubred-Golden is editor of the *Farmington Observer*. She welcomes your comments in person or by mail at 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150; by phone, (734) 953-2131; by fax, (734) 591-7279; or via e-mail, jhubred@oe.homecomm.net.

New Year's holiday gives a time to reflect on things that matter

And there's a han' my trusty fiere
And gie's a han' o' thine!
And we'll tak a right gudewilly waught
For auld lang syne!

For auld lang syne, my Dear
For auld lang syne
We'll tak a cup o' kindness yet
For auld lang syne

— Robert Burns

Some years leave you a little shell-shocked. As we approach 2004, we leave behind one of those years.

The New Year's holiday has never been a favorite of mine. It was always the tag end of Christmas. As a child it was the holiday when Mom and Dad went out on New Year's Eve and left me home with my older brother (who loved to play his own special brand of "touch" football in the living room).



Hugh Gallagher

New Year's Day was an endless string of football games, only one or two of any real interest. As I grew older, the holiday never really defined itself. Some years we'd go to one of those hall parties that always seemed to break up after someone went crazy after too many drinks. We've done quiet dinners with friends, small parties with favors and Dick Clark and we've even gone to bed before the ball descended in Times Square, to be rudely woken at midnight by some idiot shooting off a rifle into the air.

Nothing really clicked, except a yearly call to my mother when she was alive. She waited for a call from each of her four children and we would compete to reach her the closest to midnight in the new year.

But it seems the year end has its place, its meaning in that sad old song of Bobby Burns that has been tied to the holiday as a jolting break in the "happy" celebration of a new year.

Here at the *Observer & Eccentric*, we've lost too many editorial employees to death in too short a time.

As 2002 drew to a close, Tedd Schneider, our Canton editor, died from cancer. Tedd was a man of strong opinions and a gift for expressing his views clearly and forcefully. But more importantly, Tedd was a good man, a good citizen, a good husband and father. He

Nothing really clicked, except a yearly call to my mother when she was alive. She waited for a call from each of her four children and we would compete to reach her the closest to midnight in the new year.

had received a kidney transplant in 2001 and was looking forward, renewed and happy. But his life took another turn when cancer was discovered. Still he stayed positive, hopeful to the end.

It wasn't long after Tedd's death that staff writer Renee Skoglund also died of cancer. For Renee it had been a long struggle, but one which she tried to keep to herself and which she bore with unbelievable grace and good humor. Renee was a beautiful writer, in love with words and with the people whom her words brought so vividly to life. She had a joyful approach to everything she did and it was infectious to everyone around her. In the face of death, she focused on the joy.

In summer, death came again. Doug Funke's death was sudden, shocking and a reminder of just how fragile life is: Doug, our real estate reporter, died of a heart attack at 50. He was a unique personality — blunt, funny, sympathetic, abrupt, grumbling and kind. He was all of those things and also a special friend. Doug's funeral was a reunion of former *Observer & Eccentric* employees who had been touched by Doug in some way over his many years with the paper. He was an important part of the newsroom culture.

As life often does, it gives as well as takes. In late September, I became a grandfather for the first time. As all grandfathers do, I think I have the most beautiful grandson in the world. He is certainly a smiling, blissful child, much loved and cared for by his parents.

In little Aidan, life promises to go forward and together we'll build new memories, as I will preserve the old.

For this New Year's serves a purpose, to slow down just a bit as the clock strikes midnight and drink a cup of kindness for old time's sake.

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

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PRESIDENT

FROM PAGE A1

"It's always difficult when you build a budget and you spend half of it to suddenly take that many dollars out of what's left," he said.

Jeffress isn't optimistic about the future. He said he doesn't trust state revenue projections and sees more cuts in state funding in the coming years - '05, '06 and '07.

In the last few weeks of the year, Schoolcraft has offered early buyouts to staff and faculty in anticipation of continued reduced revenues.

"We know how many people are willing to take it and that number is fairly significant," Jeffress said.

Jeffress said many of the 26 people taking the buyouts will be replaced by people at a lower pay rate. Some positions will be eliminated.

The next step is to take a hard look at the programs offered by the college that aren't as marketable.

"When we have a coincidence of program decline and faculty in that program taking an early out, that gives us an opportunity to face that kind of program out. That saves a lot of money," he said.

The final action will be tuition increases. Jeffress said increases have been kept low and steady over the years, but that he will not be able to keep a tuition increase below the 1.78 percent that would trigger an increase in state funding.

"We have tried to make cuts where there's no harm done, where people won't feel it," he said.

VISTATECH CENTER

Oohs and aahs greeted the September opening of the \$27 million VisTaTech Center. The 86,740-square-foot facility provides a new home for the Culinary Arts Department with

the latest in food preparation technology and a stylish restaurant. On the other side of the building, across "Main Street," is a business development facility with the latest in computer technology, a 270-seat auditorium and a multi-purpose room for exhibitions and demonstrations. The older, Waterman building has also been renovated. The building is debt-free.

"Basically it's a giant icon for the college," Jeffress said. "The building itself has the kind of high-tech glitz which we hope embodies our image as an institution. It also means a commitment to the things we want to do in that building."

Jeffress, who has been at Schoolcraft as an administrator for 23 years, found his way into education by taking a change of direction himself. He had been working in radio and television and thought he wanted to pursue an engineering degree. When he found that "not as interesting as I thought," he switched to psychology.

"The courses related to how people acquired information and retained information were most interesting to me," he said.

Jeffress was working at the Community College of Allegheny County in Pennsylvania when he met Dick McDowell. When McDowell took the presidency of Schoolcraft, he invited Jeffress to apply for a position. In 2001, the Schoolcraft board named Jeffress as McDowell's replacement as president.

"You don't deal with people who have it made from day one," he said. "You're dealing with people like divorcees who don't know what they want to do or maybe didn't do so well in high school. You can transform that person into something new, somebody who can do something, somebody who has ambition, somebody who can achieve."

Jeffress and his wife, Louise, live in Novi. They have two adult children and three grandchildren.

FATAL CRASH

Tache Bodge, 71, of Canton was killed in a two-car accident Friday afternoon in Lenawee County.

Bodge was a passenger in a car, driven by a Dearborn Heights man, that was hit broadside on the passenger side as it was making a left turn into a driveway on M-34. Bodge died at the scene of the accident. The two drivers were taken to a hospital in Adrian for minor injuries. The accident is under investigation.

BEER HUNT

Livonia police arrested four teens after they were caught cruising a subdivision, looking for open garages from which to steal beer.

According to police reports, three Livonia men and one Westland man, ages 17-19, were

seen at about 2 a.m. Monday, sneaking into a garage near Seven Mile and Gill.

A neighbor called police. When officers arrived, they asked the teens what they were doing, and they admitted they were looking for open garage doors, in hopes of finding beer in the garages.

Although the never found any alcohol to take, one of the teens said he stole a pair of sneakers from one of the garages.

TEEN BRAWL

Livonia police arrested and ticketed six people Saturday evening after a brawl at the Riverside Roller Arena on Plymouth Road near Levan.

"Some kids apparently were trying to get back in after they had left. When they weren't allowed back into the building, they got into a pushing match

POLICE BRIEFS

with security," said Livonia Police Lt. Ben McDermott. "Officers responded, and the group of kids also got into it with them, including a 15-year-old girl who started pushing one of the police officers."

In all there were six young people cited or arrested in the incident, he said.

HOME INVASION

A Redford man reportedly chased a stranger from his home on Fenton Street south of Plymouth Road Monday morning. The intruder was not caught, and nothing was stolen from the house.

Police say the man likely walked into the house through an unlocked back door. One resident heard a noise and called police about 9:45 a.m., and her housemate saw the man in a back room and chased him, a police report said.

Neighbors reported that the man got into a silver Ford Explorer and drove east on Elmira Street.

POT BUST

A 53-year-old Dundee, Mich., man was arrested on a marijuana-possession charge after a traffic stop in Redford on the day after Christmas.

The man was heading south on Telegraph in a Toyota pickup truck just before 5 p.m., a police report said, when he ran a red light near Graham Road. An officer pulled him over to write a ticket.

A second officer at the scene reported spotting a burned marijuana "roach" in the pickup's ashtray. Police searched the truck, found the suspected "roach," plus a plastic bag of suspected marijuana under the driver's seat, the report said.

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Sidelines

SC men win

Schoolcraft College's men's basketball team played the ungracious host over the weekend, easily winning its own tourney.

The Ocelots won the opener 102-54 over George Brown (Ontario) College, then stopped Kellogg Community College in the finale.

"We were supposed to play Owens (Ohio) Community College, but they bowed out at the last minute and George Brown filled in," said SC coach Carlos Briggs as his team improved to 9-2. "It was a good thing to play at home; between finals and grades, if you have one or two easy games, it helps.

"And I think it gives us some confidence for our league. We open with four games in eight days starting (Saturday) with 10-1 Kirkland and 11-1 Mott. We jump into the fire right away."

Ryan Baumgartner led SC against George Brown with 21 points, while Derrick Ponder had 15 to go with 10 rebounds, eight steals and five assists. Marcus Johnson and Raymond Metcalf had 12 points each, while Ricky Morgan had 10 points with seven rebounds.

Lamont Arrington led the way against Kellogg (4-8) with 23 points, while Tyrone Scott had 22, Anton Palmer had 18, Ponder had 14, and Morgan and Baumgartner had 10 each. Palmer also kicked in with 11 rebounds, while Morgan had eight assists. Will Smith led Kellogg with 18 points.

Kesler cut

Ryan Kesler (Livonia) got cut at the World Junior Hockey Championships in Finland on Sunday - literally. Just minutes after scoring to give Team USA a 4-0 lead over Slovakia, Kesler's forehead met with the stick of Slovakia's Ivan Baranka and gave him a deep cut.

Kesler received four stitches inside the eyelid and more than 20 outside. His status for the rest of the tourney was still questionable.

Kesler, who is splitting time with the Vancouver Canucks and the minor-league Manitoba Moose, has two goals and an assist in the tourney. The U.S. is one of the tourney favorites.

Coaches needed

Troy High and Troy Athens high schools are in need of girls water polo coaches. Interested candidates are asked to contact Troy Director of Athletics Jim Feldkamp at (248) 823-5093.

Farmington High School has a position available for someone willing to serve on a volunteer basis as a strength and conditioning coach for the football program. The position would involve approximately nine hours per week, starting in January. To inquire, call the athletic department at (248) 489-3352.

The best and brightest of 2003

Another year, another set of memories for area athletes, fans and coaches — some good and some bad. But all are memorable.

We couldn't nail down a top 10 list, so we thought we mention the most noteworthy items. There's no need to rank them, the memories speak for themselves.

Here's the best of area sports for 2003:

Athens 2004?

Livonia Franklin grad Paul Terek started the year clearing a personal best 18 feet, 8 inches in the pole vault and capped off his decathlon season by finishing 12th in the World Track and Field Championships in Paris, France. He was in the running for a fourth-place finish at the Worlds until he was disqualified in the 110-meter hurdles.

Terek, one of America's up-and-coming decathletes, scored a personal best 8,275 points to finish third in the USA Track and Field Championships held in Palo Alto, Calif.

Livonia triathlete Sheila Taormina, a Stevenson High grad and All-America swimmer from the University of Georgia, is also eyeing her third Olympics. The 1996 gold medalist in swimming was ranked as high as second in the International Triathlon Union women's rankings. She placed 13th in the ITU World Championships earlier this month in Queenstown, New Zealand.

She'll be fighting for one of three Olympic spots with Americans Barb Lindquist, Laura Reback and Joanna Zeiger.

Livonia Bentley High grad John Zurek, now residing in Arizona, won the 10-meter air pistol title at the USA Shooting Championships held last June in Fort Benning, Ga.

Title Town

Breakfast Drive was a busy place on several Monday afternoons during the year. And on certain Fridays, it was an empty place.

Why? School tradition dictates that the students get a day off after a team wins state championships. And on three Monday pep assemblies during the year, CC students were treated to days off for the school's titles in hockey, golf and football.

In March, the Shamrocks breezed through the state tournament, capping off a 26-3-0 season with a 4-0 win in the Division 1 finals — their fifth-straight hockey title.



Stevenson's Ashley Moccia advanced to the state quarterfinals and finished the girls tennis season with a 28-1 record.

Several Shamrocks took all-state honors, including forwards Brandon Naurato, Eric Reinhardt and Eric Giosa and goalie Jim Blanchard. Defenseman Andrew Eggert was named as the state's Mr. Hockey, the fourth Shamrock to win the award.

That same month, CC wrestlers Matt Steintrager (112 pounds) and Trevor Stewart (160) came away with Division I individual crowns.

In October, CC's golf team won its first Division 1 title, shooting a two-day total of 636 at The Meadows Golf Club in Allendale — topping runner-up Saline by six strokes. Senior Mike King was named first team all-state and coach Bill Hayes was named the coach of the year.

In November, CC's football team completed its trip through the state playoffs, capping a 13-1 with a 24-16 win over Utica Eisenhower in the Division 1 finals.



Catholic Central's Brandon Naurato celebrates a goal against Farmington in district hockey play. The Shamrocks went on to win their fifth-straight state title.

It wasn't CC's usual trip through the tourney as the Shamrocks came from behind in all but one of the playoff games including the finals as kicker Jason Gingell's 37-yard field goal gave CC the lead for good against the Eagles.

Year of the Warriors

What a year it was for the Warriors' boys soccer and wrestling teams in Division IV.

Coach Rich Block's soccer team, led by Brandon Noble and goalkeeper John Hilden, finished 16-4-4 and reached the state championship final before losing to Muskegon Western Michigan Christian in the finals held at Troy Athens High School.

The Warriors' mat squad finished 25-3 and reached the Elite Eight in Battle Creek before being eliminated by Decatur, 44-27.

Retiring, resigning sorts

Westland John Glenn's Chuck Gordon retired in November after 27 seasons as the Rockets' varsity football coach going 211-64, including 23 straight winning seasons and 16 playoff appearances and a 9-2 season in 2003. Gordon's 1993 team reached the state Class AA finals. He is one of 33 coaches in the state to win 200 or more games. Longtime assistant Todd DeLuca, a former Glenn quarterback, was named as his replacement.

Another area coaching staple also called it a career after 27 seasons — Livonia Churchill volleyball coach Mike Hughes, who guided the Chargers to a 49-8-3 record in his final year. He guided Churchill to 12 conference divisional titles, along with a 1991 s-

PLEASE SEE REVIEW, B2

Rocks take own tournament crown

Salem wrestling coach Greg Wochuk can't remember the last time his team won its own invitational tournament.

It will be a little easier to remember for next year — 2003.

The Rocks squeaked past runner-up Greenville and third-place Redford Union to win the title of the 16-team tourney, sponsored by the Plymouth Elks, on Saturday.

"It's the first time in a long time," Wochuk said. "It was close, but the difference was that our four kids in the finals all won their matches. We had a couple of kids come through during the day."

Salem won with 169 points, with Greenville second at 166.5 and RU third at 152. Livonia Franklin came in seventh with 98 points and Salem's 'B' team was 16th with 17 points.

The wins paid off for Salem in the finals, especially Jordan Schafer at 189 pounds.

"He was our wrestler of the meet," Wochuk said. "By far, he exceeded his seed. But Ryan Stump (119), Jeremy Walker (heavyweight) and Dave Burr (130) all won. And Mike Dendinos (125) had a tough bracket. But he still got us points."

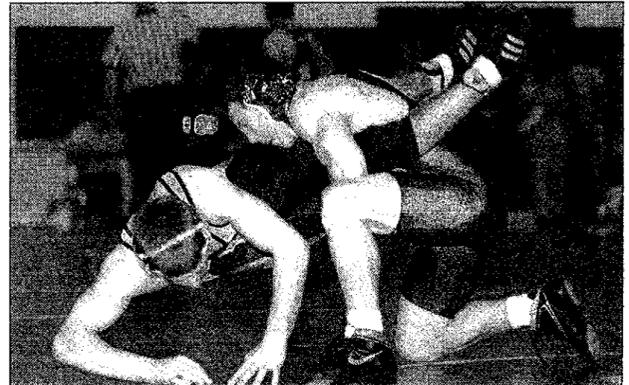
Even though they only

composed 20 percent of the teams, the four area teams placed 25 wrestlers at the meet with at least one in every event.

"I think it was a good thing for us," RU assistant coach Jim Gourlay said. "We ended up higher than we expected. We had a shot at winning heading into the final round, but none of our three wrestlers posted a win."

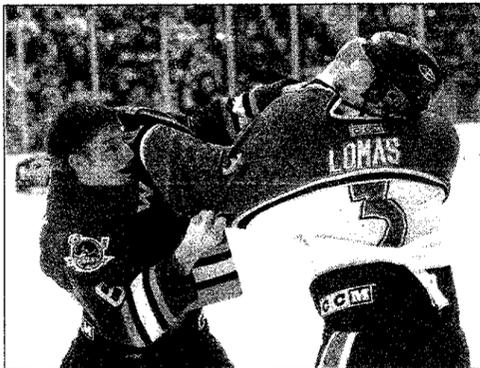
RU's Matt Shileikis was second at 215, as were Mike Taylor (171) and Jim Moore (135).

Franklin's win came at 171 pounds, when Chris VanCamp pinned Taylor in 5:59.



Ryan Olsen (top) of Plymouth Salem tries to turn David Watkins of Livonia Franklin during their match at 140 pounds. Watkins won the match, 9-5.

Whalers fight to 1-1 draw against Windsor



Plymouth's Erik Lundmark (left) and Windsor's David Lomas go toe-to-toe during their second period fight on Monday afternoon.

Goals were at a premium on Monday at Compuware Arena. Penalties weren't.

And even though The Plymouth Whalers had twice as many power-play opportunities as the Windsor Spitfires, they couldn't convert chances into goals as both teams skated to a 1-1 tie in the matinee game.

The two teams combined for 59 minutes in penalties, as Windsor had 39 of them — including a 17-minute trio of penalties by Windsor's David Lomas, who squared off in the second period with Plymouth's Erik Lundmark.

Plymouth (16-11-7-3) actually got on the board first with Ryan

Ramsay scoring his 14th of the year at the 13:01 mark of the second period from Jonas Fiedler and Richard Power.

Windsor (15-15-2-5) countered with a goal by Iain McPhee3:34 later with Craig Kennedy and John Scott Dickson assisting.

But that was it down the stretch and into overtime. Plymouth goalie Paul Drew made 32 saves, while Windsor's Matt Anthony stopped 27. The Whalers were 0-for-6 on the power play, while the Spits were 0-for-3.

On Sunday, the Whalers held a 3-1 lead heading into the third period, but allowed the Mississauga IceDogs to escape with a 4-3 overtime win.

Ryan Stokes got the game winner at the 3:43 mark of the extra period, finally putting the puck past Drew, who made 46 saves on the game.

Brad Efthimou put Mississauga on the board first, scoring 57 seconds into the game, but the Whalers got the next three as Ramsey had a first-period goal (from Dan Collins), while Jordan Grant (from John Mitchell) and Collins (from Ramsay and John Vigilante) added second-period scores.

The IceDogs got two back in the third as Chris Curran and Chad Painchaud scored to tie the game.

Doug Groenesteege made 22 saves in goal for Mississauga.

Area athletes offer their resolutions

Some New Year's resolutions work out. Some ring hollow. Then there was the one that Thurston's Dan Mapes set for himself for 2003 - to lose weight.

It seemed simple enough, but the best of intentions don't always work out.

"My goal was to lose weight, and I did that but it wasn't the best idea," lamented Mapes, a soccer player and swimmer at the school. "It was more of a pain than it was worth. My diet was the 'I'm not going to eat so much after school' diet."

"When I felt like eating after school, I had a small sandwich. When I was thirsty, I had water. And if you know me, that was a sacrifice."

So this year, Mapes kept it simple.

"My resolution is to continue to do well in school and hopefully fill out more college applications," said Mapes. "Mainly, I want to keep up good grades."

We asked several high school athletes what their resolutions were for the new year. Some will last for a long time, others will be forgotten by the time you finish reading this sentence.

But history will record their effort - the application is up to them.

Stephanie Cetnar, RU volleyball and cross country: I don't really have a particular one, but I would love it if we could start winning after break. I'd like to try and get a scholarship to play volleyball somewhere. I'm trying to push Wayne State into coming out and looking at me.

Madison McCoy, Thurston volleyball: Not to get mad at all of the stupid things and to let things go. I get mad too easily. Hey, I get mad if my shoes are untied. So I'm going to try and not get mad at the stupid stuff. And to save money to get a car this summer.

Terra Russell, Garden City softball and basketball: To be nicer to everyone I meet. When you're nice to someone, it makes them smile and makes them warm inside. But not during basket-

ball. You can't be nice to someone playing basketball, it just doesn't work. Afterwards, is a different story.

Jeff Madigan, Thurston golf, basketball and baseball: Probably to stop procrastinating. I get good grades and everything, I just wait until the last minute to put everything together. And to try my best at everything and all of that corny stuff.

Landon Koch, Thurston football, basketball and baseball: To try and get along with my sister and not tease her so much. It's been a problem since we were young. She's a year younger than I am and it's time to stop.

John Courlay, Redford Union football and wrestling: I don't have one made yet, the only thing on my mind is wrestling and school. I'd like to get my team to the state team tourney and I want to be all-state.

Bobby Lippe, RU cross country and hockey: To keep playing sports to my potential and put some pucks in the net. I also wouldn't mind giving up pop, but as many times as I've said I'd try it, it won't happen.

Kelly Elmore, Garden City volleyball and softball: I'm going to stop drinking pop. It's not good for you. I'm just going to drink water and I'm not going to binge on pop before the end of the year.

Janay White, Thurston volleyball: To live every day to the fullest and to try to let things go sometimes.

Chris Cappelli, Garden City football and basketball: I'd say cut back on the junk food. It probably won't happen, but it's always good to say though.

Tom Sweeney, RU baseball, cross country and basketball: To win the Mega Blue in basketball and to try and play basketball for the rest of the year. Nowhere in particular, just to play basketball.

Bryan Dutton, Garden City golf, baseball and basketball: To work hard in school and work hard on and off the field. What did Cappelli say? Cut back on junk food? He's probably going to go pig out at Buffalo Wild Wings later.

MU women take fourth in tournament

Madonna University's women's basketball team came away with a fourth-place showing over the weekend at the St. Xavier (Ill.) Christmas Tourney.

The Crusaders won their opener and lost in the semifinals before falling Monday in the third-place game to host St. Xavier, 78-68.

St. Xavier pulled out to a 33-22 halftime lead and was really never headed again. St. Xavier held the advantage in several areas, outscoring Madonna in the paint, 38-22, and getting 34 points off 41 Madonna turnovers. The Saints tried to play perfect hosts by coughing up the ball 34 times, but the Crusaders could score only 19 points.

Sarah Thompson led Madonna (3-12) with 13 points and added 10 rebounds in the game and was named to the all-tournament team. Marwa Ayoub had 12 points and 14 rebounds, Marlene Dietrich had 12 points and Jackie Pingston

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

had 10. Stephanie Childs added four steals and five assists to go with nine points.

Jayne Brown led St. Xavier (12-4) with 14 points, while Mary Cain had 12, Jen Belmonte had 11 and Stephanie Wright had 10.

On Saturday, the Crusaders opened the tourney with an 81-66 win over Calumet (Ill.) College by taking a 43-37 halftime lead and never looking back.

The key was the Crusaders' ability to take advantage of Calumet turnovers - scoring 35 points off 29 turnovers. MU trailed on the boards, 40-39, but shot 46 percent from the floor (35-of-76) to just 25-of-56 for Calumet.

Sarah Thompson led Madonna with 22 points, while Lydia Prusinowski had 14, Marwa Ayoub had nine, Jackie Pingston had eight and Amy Henry and Marlene Dietrich had seven each.

Ayoub also led the way on the boards with nine, while Prusinowski and Thompson had seven each. Prusinowski also had five steals and two blocks.

Kentrice Sanders and LaWanda Mitchell led Calumet with 12 points each, while Rochelle Huber had 11 and Dana Jeffries had 10.

Things weren't as kind Sunday as St. Ambrose (Iowa) University stopped Madonna in the semifinals, 74-66.

The Crusaders trailed by a point at half, 36-35, but stayed in foul trouble. Ayoub fouled out with 5:40 to play in the second half, but still led the Crusaders with 17 points and kicked in with two steals and five rebounds.

Prusinowski had 12 points, four rebounds and three assists, while Thompson had 10 points and a team-high eight rebounds. Jackie Pingston added seven points and six assists, while Stephanie Childs and Courtney Rehbine had six points each. Jennifer Goetz led St.

Ambrose with 22 points, while Kellie Metz had 20.

MU men lose opener

Late in the first half, Madonna's men's basketball team held a 37-33 lead over host Hope College in the opening round of the Russ DeVette Holiday Classic.

Over the next 3:50, the Flying Dutchmen went on a 14-0 run that gave them a 47-37 halftime lead and an eventual 98-76 win over the Crusaders.

Hope (8-2) cruised in the second half, opening up a 84-59 lead, but MU (5-9) came back with a 17-6 run to close the gap.

Noel Emehiser led the Crusaders with 23 points, while Dan Kurtinaitis had 18 points with six assists and Chad Nadolin had seven points with eight rebounds. Kyle Kleersnyder led Hope with 20 points, while Andy Phillips had 17, Greg Immink had 14, Daane Griffeth had 13 and Stephen Cramer had 10.

WRESTLING RESULTS



Ken Nelson of Redford Union (right) stares down Tony Glimps of Romulus during their 112 pound match at Salem on Saturday. Nelson won 11-6 and finished fourth overall.

SALEM INVITATIONAL
Dec. 27 at Salem

TEAM STANDINGS: 1. Salem, 169 points; 2. Greenville, 166.5; 3. Redford Union, 152; 4. Dearborn, 145; 5. Richmond, 136; 6. Fraser, 104.5; 7. Liv. Franklin, 98; 8. Harper Woods Notre Dame, 91.5; 9. Brighton, 74; 10. Novi, 72; 11. (tie) Melvindale and Wyandotte, 45.5; 13. East Detroit, 42; 14. Romulus, 39; 15. Saginaw Arthur Hill, 27; 16. Salem "B", 17.

FINAL INDIVIDUAL RESULTS

275 pounds: Jeremy Walker (S) decisioned John Vargas (Dbn), 5-0; **3rd place:** Brian Grabowski (Ric) pinned Dan Maggard (Mel), 2:15; **5th:** Ryan Pokrytky (LF) p. Odeil Johnson (RU), 4:20.

103 pounds: Jack Cassidy (Dbn) dec. Peter Hansen (GV), 9-3; **3rd:** Jesse Gardocki (LF) p. John Cole (Wya), 2:15; **5th:** Jeff Schweiger (Ric) p. Dan Moore (RU), 4:41.

112 pounds: Wayne Leonard (Ric) p. Ryan Ritter (GV), 1:01; **3rd:** Bill Dias (Bri) p. Ken Nelson (RU), 2:30; **5th:** Jerry Boggess (Wya) p. Tony Glimps (Rom), 4:30.

119 pounds: Ryan Stump (S) d. Ray Yanez (SAH), 9-7; **3rd:** Kevin Julien (Fra) d. Joel Boulware (Mel), 6-3; **5th:** Loam Chicote (Dbn) d. Scott Bergeson (Nov), 8-4.

125 pounds: Jon Gruenberg (ED) maj. dec. Sabah Akmrakash (dbn), 12-4; **3rd:** Chad Saladin (GV) d. Eric Hanson (Nov), 2-0; **5th:** Mike Dendinos (S) p. Mike Bolterstein (Bri), 5-0.

130 pounds: Dave Burr (S) d. Tony Schweiger (Ric), 7-3; **3rd:** Scott Johnson (GV) d. Scott Fysh (SB), 11-4; **5th:** Tim Lewis (Rom) d. Mike Green (ND), 8-5.

135 pounds: Blake Meeyn (Fra) d. Kim Moore (RU), 4-3; **3rd:** Matt Mortzfield (Rom) d. Zack Vaughn (S), 8-6; **5th:** Peyton Stanforth (Bri), 2-43.

140 pounds: Adam Julien (Fra) d. Matt Borodich (ND), 15-10; **3rd:** John Gourlay (RU) d. Nate Cooper (GV), 11-7; **5th:** Chris Gruenberg (ED) d. David Watkins (LF), 9-6.

145 pounds: Steve Chauvin (ND) d. Alex Grignon (Dbn), 3-2; **3rd:** Ted Murray (GV) d. Ryan Tooley (S), 10-3; **5th:** John Powell (Bri) d. Brian Klingenberg, 13-6.

152 pounds: Tom Lain (Ric) d. Josh Brodie (GV), 12-7; **3rd:** Will Schultz (S) p. John Favorite (Nov), 3:1; **5th:** Nate Mead (Wya) p. Nick Franks (ED), 5:55.

160 pounds: Wael Gharbie (Dbn) dec. A.J. Morris (Nov), 4-2; **3rd:** Josh Loar (RU) p. Derrick Boutin (Fra), 2:38; **5th:** Chris Weiss (LF) d. Brian Danville (S), 7-4.

171 pounds: Chris VanCamp (LF) p. Mike Taylor (RU), 5:59; **3rd:** Justin Cameron (Nov) p. Ian Wilberding (GV), 3:02; **5th:** Ross Barrett (Bri) p. Dave Webb (Dbn), 3:37.

189 pounds: Jordan Schafer (S) d. Dean Myers (Fra), 10-4; **3rd:** Jake Robbin (RU) d. Jeremy Stilson (GV), 5-1; **5th:** Rick Kidcaid (Dbn) d. Mike Skoglund (LF), 5:28.

215 pounds: Sean Misko (Ric) p. Matt Shilek (RU), 3:7; **3rd:** Adam Tipton (GV) p. Andrew Gray (ND), 5:8; **5th:** Jeremy Henderson (S) p. Greg Schuyler (LF), 1:37.

WRESTLING RANKINGS

OBSERVERLAND WRESTLING RANKINGS
(as of Dec. 29)

TEAM RANKINGS: 1. Redford Catholic Central; 2. Livonia Churchill; 3. Wayne Memorial; 4. Westland John Glenn; 5. Salem.

INDIVIDUAL RANKINGS

103 pounds: 1. Sean Dong, Redford Catholic Central; 2. Jesse Gardocki, Livonia Franklin; 3. Steve Ludke, Garden City; 4. Alex Fowler, Livonia Churchill; 5. Sam Santilli, Canton.

112: 1. Jason Crothers, Wayne Memorial; 2. Nick Poole, Canton; 3. Andrew Nader, Redford CC; 4. Ken Nelson, Redford Union;

125: 1. Kris Felice, Churchill; 2. Mike Dendinos, Salem; 3. Saif Naber, Westland John Glenn; 4. Alex York, Stevenson; 5. Josh Wischmeyer, RU.

130: 1. Corey Phillips, Canton; 2. Dave Burr, Salem; 3. Jim Moore, RU; 4. Saul Fuentes, Stevenson; 5. Robert Bytner, Lutheran Westland.

135: 1. Tim Hammer, Wayne; 2. Ryan Webb, Canton; 3. Darryl Rice, John Glenn; 4. Zak Vaughan, Salem; 5. Chris Tomasik, RU.

140: 1. Rece Cox, John Glenn; 2. John Gourlay, RU; 3. Jamie Murray, Churchill; 4. Rex Fugaban, Wayne; 5. Dave Watkins, Franklin.

145: 1. Dario Mainella, Stevenson; 2. Chris McGlone, Wayne; 3. Ali Ismail, Clarenceville; 4. Steve Hoesy, Canton; 5. Danny Clement, Churchill.

152: 1. Brad Bartram, Redford CC; 2. Daron Cruickshank, John Glenn; 3. Ben Adams, Churchill; 4. Doug Fellows, Stevenson; 5. Will Schultz, Salem.

160: 1. Trevor Stewart, Redford CC; 2. Emilio Perez, Garden City; 3. Brandon Noble, Lutheran Westland; 4. Josh Loar, RU; 5. Kyle Lis, Stevenson.

171: 1. Manuel Schubert, Churchill; 2. Bryan Longton, Wayne; 3. Scott Schwarzlose, Redford CC; 4. Jeremy Sparks, Garden City; 5. Dan Haller, Lutheran Westland.

189: 1. Jake Fairchild, John Glenn; 2. Neal Kemp, Lutheran Westland; 3. Joe Bargerstock, Stevenson; 4. R.J. Ramsey, Wayne; 5. Jordan Schaefer, Salem.

215: 1. Eric Schambers, John Glenn; 2. Hafeez Oureshi, Churchill; 3. Eric Vojtkofsky, Redford CC; 4. Jacob Galindez, Lutheran Westland; 5. Jeremy Henderson, Salem.

275: 1. Jeremy Walker, Salem; 2. Pat Draheim, Churchill; 3. John Morasso, Redford CC; 4. Jameson Higgins, Lutheran Westland; 5. Ryan Pokrytky, Franklin.

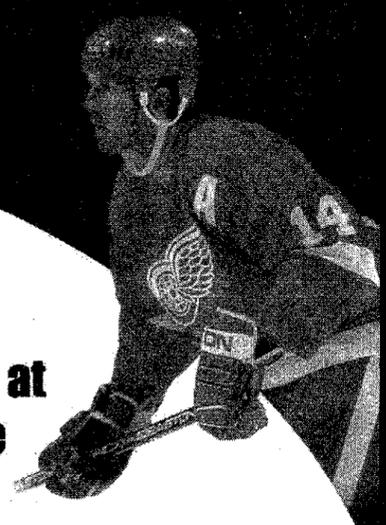
Note: The Observerland mat rankings are compiled by coaches Jim Gourlay (RU) and Dave Chiola (Franklin).

THE WEEK AHEAD

PREP HOCKEY
Friday, Jan. 2
Farmington Unified at Redford CC, at Compuware (NH), 7 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 3
Churchill at W.L. Northern, 5:50 p.m.
PREP GIRLS VOLLEYBALL
Saturday, Jan. 3
Saline Invitational, 8 a.m.
Flushing Invitational, 8:30 a.m.
Mich. Kick-Off at Dexter, 9 a.m.
W.L. Central Inv., 9 a.m.

PREP WRESTLING
Saturday, Jan. 3
Wyandotte Invitational, 9 a.m.
Redford CC at St. John's, 10 a.m.
PREP GIRLS GYMNASTICS
Saturday, Jan. 3
Salem Invitational, 9:30 a.m.
MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
Saturday, Jan. 3
Kirtland CC at Schoolcraft, 3 p.m.
WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
Saturday, Jan. 3
Kirtland CC at Schoolcraft, 1 p.m.
ONTARIO HOCKEY LEAGUE
Thursday, Jan. 1
Whalers at Owen Sound, 2 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 3
Whalers vs. Guelph (Compuware), 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, Jan. 4
Whalers at Saginaw, 2 p.m.

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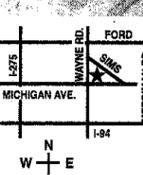


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REVIEW

FROM PAGE B1

Class A title and a Class A runner-up finish in 1979. He is replaced by assistant coach Mark Grenier.

■ In just five seasons, Livonia Clarenceville coach Greg Hudkins directed the Trojans to five straight playoff berths, 44 straight wins in the Metro Conference and a 51-7 record. His 2001 team reached the Division 5 state championship game.

But Hudkins resigned following Clarenceville's playoff loss to Goodrich after disagreements over his job status with school administrators.

■ Longtime Schoolcraft College athletic director Marv Gans also retired after over 40 years of service to the community.

Ice shavings

■ Livonia native Ryan Kesler was the 23rd selection overall in the first round by the Vancouver Canucks in last June's National Hockey League draft. Kesler signed in August and has appeared in seven games for Vancouver, scoring one goal and adding one assist.

The 6-foot-2, 195-pound center, who played one season at Ohio State and graduated from Churchill High, will represent the U.S. this month in the Under-22 World Championships.

■ The Westland Arena is renamed Modano Arena in dedication of NHL All-Star Mike Modano of the Dallas Stars.

■ The Plymouth Whalers enjoyed another outstanding season, and so did their leading scorer, Chad LaRose.

LaRose scored 117 points for the Ontario Hockey League West Division champs, including a team-record 61 goals.

■ Livonia native Bob Daniels (Churchill High) of Ferris State was named Central Collegiate Hockey League and National College Hockey Coach of the Year.

Soccer success

■ The Mid-Michigan Bucks, a Premier Development League D-4 of the Great Lakes Division owned and managed by Livonia natives Jim and



Adam Hogue was part of the reason that CC won its first state golf title.

Dan Duggan, lost to the New York-New Jersey MetroStars, 4-0, in the U.S. Open Cup before a capacity crowd last summer at Berkley's Hurley Field. The Duggans hope to bring an MLS franchise to Detroit.

■ The under-18 Michigan Wolves, coached by Livonia Stevenson's Lars Richters and featuring several area high school standouts, captured the Snickers US Youth National Championships this summer in Germantown, Md.

Individual achievements

■ Jeff Roth, a 1976 graduate of Plymouth Salem HS and the current golf pro at Knollwood Country Club, just kept adding titles to his collection. Roth won his fourth Michigan PGA championship in six years on Aug. 20 at Shanty Creek's Cedar River course. He has

won 10 major state championships, leading Ken Devine, CEO of the Michigan PGA, to remark: "If he's not the best player ever in Michigan, he's in the top three."

■ Stevenson High's Brady Crosby had quite a senior year, scoring 32 goals on the Spartans' No. 1-ranked soccer team en route to All-State honors. He also averaged 15 points per game on Stevenson's basketball team and reached the Division I state boys tennis final at No. 1 singles before losing to Birmingham Brother Rice's Matt Christian in straight sets.

Crosby finished his tennis season at 26-1 and is now attending Western Michigan University on a tennis scholarship. He was honored as the "Tomorrow's Star," the Prep Male Athlete of the Year at the Michigan Sports Hall of Fame



Lutheran Westland, helped by Adam Fisher (11) advanced all the way to the state soccer finals, before losing to Muskegon West Michigan Christian.

dinner last May at Ford Field. ■ Eggert, along with Garden City's Brian Burton and Dave Loney, were all named as Michigan High School Athletic Association scholar athletes.

■ Redford Catholic Central track and field and cross country coach Tony Magni earned the Catholic League's Ed Lauer Award.

■ Stevenson's Hady Rahman won the Division I state shot put title with a throw of 54 feet, 2 inches. The All-Observer pick is playing football at Wayne State.

■ Stevenson's Kristen Polanski took third in the Division I girls golf championships and was named Golf Association of Michigan's Girls Junior Player of the Year. She now plays for Michigan State.

■ Livonia Churchill's Dan Clement (125) and John Glenn's Rece Cox (135) were state wrestling runners-up in Division 1.

■ Churchill's Jerry Murray and Stevenson's Ashley Moccia reached the Division I state quarterfinals in boys and girls tennis, respectively. Murray, now at Tennessee-Chattanooga, finished the year 17-5, while Moccia, a junior, went 28-1. Both lost to the eventual state champions.

Collegiate success

■ The Madonna University women's volleyball team reached the quarterfinals of the NAIA Nationals in San Diego before losing to Biola, Calif. The Crusaders, led by Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference Player of the Year Amanda Suder (Salem), finished 44-4 overall.

■ The Schoolcraft College women's soccer team, coached by Bill Tolstedt, took third place in the NJCAA Nationals and posted an 18-1 record.

■ Both the Madonna men's and women's soccer teams won WHAC championships.

■ Schoolcraft College's men's basketball team earned its third-straight trip to the NJCAA Division I tourney in Hutchinson, Kan.

Sending seven players to the NCAA Division I ranks, Schoolcraft finished 31-4 overall under coach Carlos Briggs.

Team achievements

■ The Stevenson girls swim team, coached by Greg Phill, captured its 13th straight Western Lakes Activities Association championship.

■ Concealed Security, a U-16 travel baseball team with several local players on it, finished

third in the nation at the AABC Mickey Mantle World Series in McKinney, Texas.

■ Both Redford Union and Garden City's girls basketball teams could have played better in the regular season, but excelled in the postseason as both won their first district titles in some time. GC last won a district title in 1995 while RU hadn't won one since 1979.

■ The Salem boys swim team, under the direction of Chuck Olson, collected its 11th-straight WLAA title and finished sixth in the state.

■ Canton's football team set a school record by winning 11 games in a row before losing to Catholic Central in the state tournament. The Chiefs were unbeaten in the WLAA and defeated a very dangerous Westland John Glenn team twice.

■ Redford Union's wrestling team overcame the mid-season death of its coach, Jim Carlin, and won a Division 2 district title.

Gone, but not forgotten

■ Former Plymouth-Canton Schools athletic director Paul Cummings.

■ Redford Union wrestling coach Jim Carlin.

■ Former Garden City High standout and Washington Redskin linebacker Pete Wysocki.

■ Former Little Caesars sandlot manager John Moraitis of the Livonia Adray Baseball League.

■ Former Westland Federation manager Jerry Pitcher.

■ Former Catholic Central standout, University of Detroit Mercy pitcher and Livonia Franklin High teacher and coach David Susalla.

■ Wayne State baseball coach Rodger George.

■ Former Garden City tennis coach George Hanosh.

■ Former Livonia Bentley baseball coach Marty Klozik.

New kids on the block

■ Madonna University dedicates its new baseball facility.

■ Clarenceville bowling.

■ Madonna men's and women's golf.

■ Field turf at Canton.

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RU, Thurston similar at UM-D CC bounces back with 2 big wins

Both Redford Union and Thurston came out of the Michigan-Dearborn volleyball invitational with virtually similar records.

But the reaction of the coaches was vastly different: RU's Marchelle Johnson saw a lot of improvement from her team, while the Eagles' Scott Gray felt his team slid a bit.

"I don't think we showed up," Gray said as his team fell to 2-2-1 overall. "For whatever reason, we fell back into going through the motions. There wasn't a lot of enthusiasm and our passing deteriorated. By the end of the day, we were doing the little things that fell by the wayside in the morning, but our outcome in pool play should have been better."

Both teams were in the same pool and both lost to Dearborn — Thurston on the short end of a 25-23, 25-14 decision and RU, 25-22 and 25-6. Thurston beat Wyandotte Mt. Carmel, 25-17 and 25-14, while RU split, losing 25-21 and winning 25-16.

The two teams split with the other as RU took the first game, 25-22, and Thurston the second, 25-20.

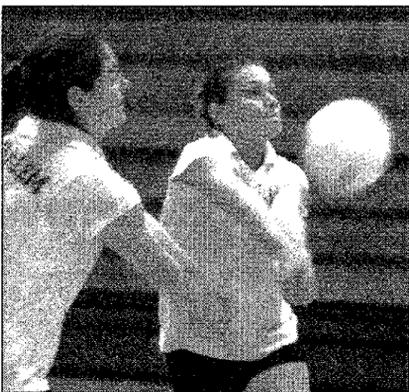
"That was our measuring stick to see if we made some improvement," Johnson said. "I like the improvement we've made. We were competitive in each game and in most games, the scores were close in comparison to our last tourney."

The two teams both lost out in the first round of championship play with Thurston falling to Pontiac Notre Dame Prep, 25-15 and 25-22, and RU losing to Walled Lake Northern, 25-20 and 25-23.

"We moved Shanon Monahan into the starting lineup at outside hitter and she's given us a little more offense," Johnson said. "If we keep improving, I can see us getting over the hump in league play and winning more games."

Stephanie Cetnar led RU with 16 kills on the day, while Monahan had 15 kills. Marissa Ketchum had five aces and 17 digs.

Janay White helped Thurston with 10 kills and six blocks, while Katie Moran had nine kills, 26 digs and seven blocks, Julie Carrier had 39



Plymouth Salem's Teresa Cappiellie (left) and Courtney Edwards go after the ball during the West Bloomfield Invitational on Saturday.

assists, eight kills and 12 digs, Madison McCoy had eight kills, eight assists and 27 digs, Jean Carrier had eight kills, seven assists, seven aces and 17 digs, Meghan Wafer had 23 digs and Natalie Wasio had 24 digs and four kills.

Salem falls in finals

At the annual West Bloomfield Volleyball Invitational tournament Saturday, Plymouth Salem lost to Chippewa Valley in the championship match for the third consecutive year. The Big Reds won 15-2, 15-4.

The Rocks advanced to the final by defeating Farmington Mercy in a semifinal match, 15-8, 15-10. Chippewa Valley defeated L'Anse Creuse 12-15, 15-12, 15-12 in the other semifinal.

In quarterfinal play, Salem stopped Dearborn Fordson, 15-4, 15-11.

Since losing Friday to Detroit Country Day, Redford Catholic Central's boys basketball team has been on a tear.

The Shamrocks stopped Ypsilanti on Saturday, then rolled over Pontiac Northern on Monday in the Motor City Classic at University of Detroit-Jesuit.

"We've really played well at both ends of the floor," CC coach Rick Coratti said after his team's 84-63 win against Northern. "On Monday, we hit some 3-pointers and had a pretty good inside-outside game."

CC ran out to a 32-26 lead at half and held a 56-40 lead after three quarters. Northern tried to make a run to start the fourth, but the Shamrocks (5-2) hit five 3-pointers to start the fourth and snuff the rally.

Jim Cash led the way with 30 points and nine rebounds and was named the game's Most Valuable Player. Dan Waterstradt had 23 points and 13 rebounds, Dave Herberholz had 10 points and Kyle Smith had nine points, eight rebounds and eight assists.

Dameon Abrams led Northern (5-1) with 17 points, while Quinmari Ross had 12.

On Saturday, CC bounced back from an opening-round loss in the Kalamazoo Central tourney to rout Ypsilanti in

BOYS BASKETBALL

the consolation game, 83-63.

"We played really well in that game," Coratti said. "We held them to just 31 points in the first three quarters and we shot better from the line. We were 15-of-18 against Ypsi and just 9-of-18 against Country Day."

CC, which held a 69-31 lead through three quarters, was led by Waterstradt with 26 points and 13 rebounds, while Cash had 16 points, Herberholz had 12 and Garrett Senczysyn had nine. Josh Young led Ypsilanti with 30 points — 14 in the fourth quarter — and Cortney Smith had 11.

Salem falls in final

One night after winning its first game of the season, Salem's boys basketball team struggled again — this time falling 59-45 to the host Jaguars in the finals of the Allen Park Christmas Tourney.

"It was much closer than the score indicated," Salem coach Bob Brodie said as his team dropped to 1-5. "We hung in there OK. We'll just continue to right the ship and improve."

The Rocks stayed close for

most of the first half, trailing by nine at the intermission (33-26), thanks to a couple of turnovers that led to Allen Park baskets.

"They slowed it down in the third quarter, pulled the ball out and we went into a zone," Brodie said. "We didn't come out, they kept shooting and missing. We did the job on defense, but on offense we had opportunities and didn't do it."

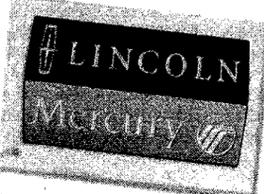
Dominique Washington led Salem with 10 points and six rebounds, Kevin Bradley had nine and Brian Bradley had eight as every Rock scored. Marty Dobek led Allen Park (5-1) with 14 points and Jake McGuicken had 11.

Glenn wins first

Westland John Glenn won its first game of the year Saturday night, stopping Detroit Holy Redeemer in the finals of the River Rouge Tourney, 86-42.

Jacques Burrell had 20 points to lead the Rockets (1-3), while Barry Eberhardt had 18. Derrick Bush added 13, Brandon Westbrook had 11 and Chris Czydlo had nine.

The Rockets, who led 39-25 at the half, shot 17-of-33 from the line to just 4-of-8 for the Lions. Redeemer was led by Tim Bartolo with 16 points.



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ACCENTS

Hidden hazards

If you knew how dangerous the average home can be for a pet, you might consider making tracks to pet-proof your house. Many hidden dangers in the home go unnoticed until it's too late.

Consider the dog that ate a pound of wire while the owner was standing nearby in the garage; the cat that was playing with a thread laying on the table and swallowed it with a needle at the end; the bird that took flight in the house and tragically got mixed up with a ceiling fan; a cat that jumped into the clothes dryer. While these circumstances may seem uncommon, similar incidents happen all too often in households across the nation.

According to data just released by Veterinary Pet Insurance, claims have increased over the last few years. In 2002 alone, Americans spent \$18 billion on veterinary care for their dogs and cats, and that doesn't include care for exotic pets.

Homeowners are familiar with some hazards in the home; they know about locking up the antifreeze and rodent and snail baits, and being mindful of poisonous plants such as lilies, poinsettias and mistletoe, but learning more about less common hazards can help avoid some tragic scenarios.

According to Dr. Aine McCarthy, director of veterinary marketing at VPI, "Pets have become such an integral part of the American household. Unfortunately, many people aren't aware of the less publicized dangers in their home that veterinarians see daily."

According to claims data from VPI, the nation's largest insurer of pets, the greatest household threats are:

Electric shock - Chewing on electrical cords, especially when extension cords are used. It is best to hide these cords so they aren't so accessible.

Lacerations and bruising - Injuries from jumping off beds (for small dogs) and fighting with other animals are all too common.

Food and poison - Cats and dogs may ingest varied toxic items, including insecticides, human medications, chocolate and pieces of dog toys and bones that may splinter.

Pet owners need to be aware of other hazards in the kitchen, including things commonly found in the trash can, such as coffee grounds, old batteries and cigarette butts.

Among other hazardous items in the bathroom or linen closets are dietary supplements, nicotine gum, mothballs, soap and chemical cleaning agents.

"It's important for people to be aware of the hidden dangers around the exterior of their house as well," said McCarthy.

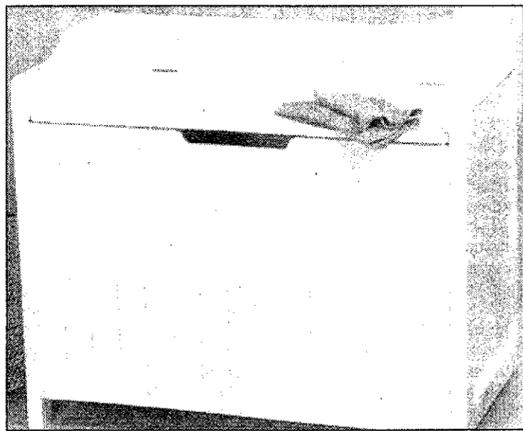
If you have a swimming pool that stays full during the winter, she suggests teaching your dog where the steps are so the dog won't panic and drown should it fall or jump in.

Stick it to clutter

This year, keep your resolution to get organized

This is a busy time of year at Organize-It, a Rochester Hills store that specializes in custom storage systems and organizational products.

Before Christmas, people are buying organizational kitchen, bath and laundry items for others; after New Year's Day, "it's for themselves," said employee Mary Ellen Warner, a professional organizer.



A bench hamper, new from Organize-It, offers seating and storage for comforters, blankets and other items. It features a safety locking mechanism.

"We get a lot of young mothers who have lots of mittens and toys ... (They ask) 'Do we have something to help (children) pick up?'" she said.

"Some people come in and say 'I need to have my whole kitchen organized.'"

"People have always wanted to organize their garage, to get two cars in. They're still having one car out (because of clutter)," said Al Nylen, also of Organize-It.

Whether they're clamoring over clutter, palpitating over paper accumulation or ticked off about poor time management, people want to get - and stay - organized.

TOP OF LIST

Getting organized is one of the top New Year's resolutions.

And it's a serious business, with professional organizers offering services and classes for the home and business, and stores

offering items and suggestions (see related articles).

"Most people ... want to be productive," said Betty Huotari, owner of Logical Placement in Fenton and vice president of the Michigan Chapter of National Association of

Professional Organizers (NAPO).

For individuals, that includes getting meals on the table, and seeing that family members make it to

their various activities, she said.

"It's being productive in a different light."

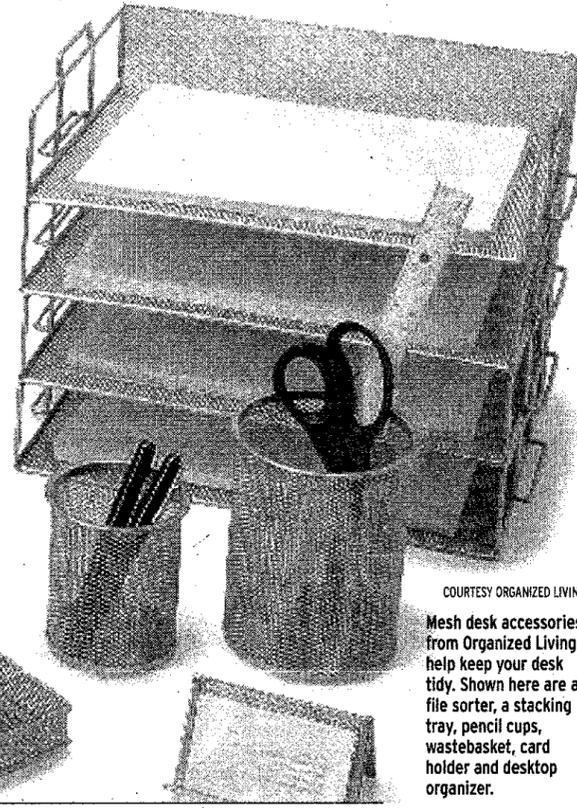
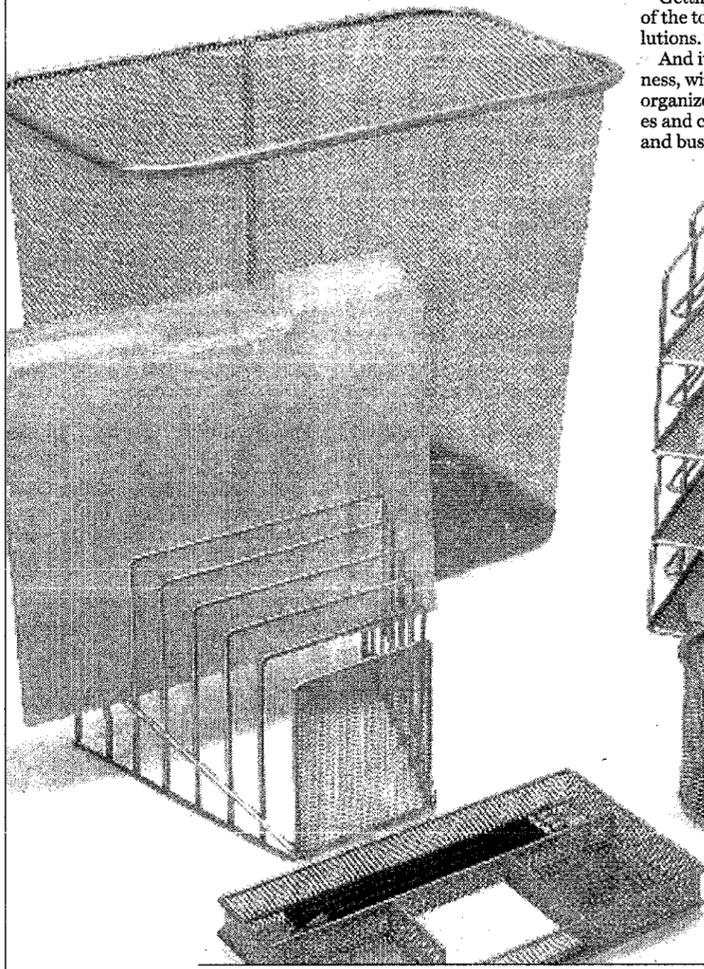
Being organized is being in control of your environment - able to retrieve things and meet deadlines, says Carrie Vance, president, Organized Business Solutions of Farmington Hills.

"A lot of my clients can't find documents ... They're late in responding (for deadlines)," said Vance, who often is asked by

'It's being productive in a different light.'

Betty Huotari
Owner, Logical Placement

PLEASE SEE ORGANIZE, C5



COURTESY ORGANIZED LIVING

Mesh desk accessories from Organized Living help keep your desk tidy. Shown here are a file sorter, a stacking tray, pencil cups, wastebasket, card holder and desktop organizer.

Start the New Year organized

Putting away your holiday decorations is a great way to start accomplishing your resolution to get more organized in the new year.

This practical organizing project has to be completed anyway.

"You can accomplish your resolution to get organized. Begin with a quick success project to gain momentum and build confidence to move forward with your goal," said Stephanie Denton, syndicated organization columnist and national spokeswoman for Organized Living, which has stores in Troy and West Bloomfield.

"An easy way to begin is to tackle what's right in front of you - storing your holiday decorations."

Denton offers the following tips for getting started:

■ As you take down your decor, sort it by room, color or type - however you'll think to use the items the next time around. This way, if you decorate in stages next year, you can retrieve only the boxes you need at the moment.

■ If you have settled on the perfect display of seasonal knick-knacks, or you have figured out how many staircase spindles should be between each loop of garland, sketch the design on a piece of paper and tuck the drawing inside the storage tote containing that decor.

■ Wrap ornaments and holiday dishes in plain packing paper or acid-free tissue to protect them. Avoid using newspaper because the ink can transfer and damage your treasures.

■ Choose the right containers.

There are totes large enough to hold artificial Christmas trees, boxes that are perfectly sized to fit a winter wreath, and archival-quality storage pieces for heirloom ornaments.

■ Clearly label the outside of each box. This makes finding things easier and putting things away simple - there's no need for decisions about what goes where.

■ Protect leftover holiday wrap with a hanging gift-wrap center.

Vinyl organizers are available at Organized Living that feature three compartments - one for wrap, one for bows and one for ribbons.

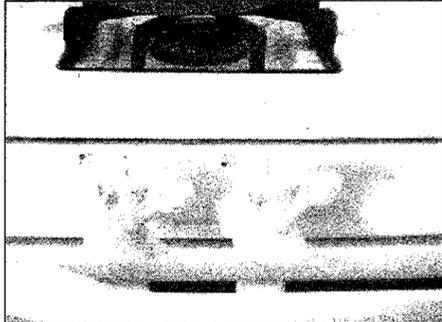
Side pockets can hold gift cards and tissue paper in one place, neatly preserving gift wrap for use next year.

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!

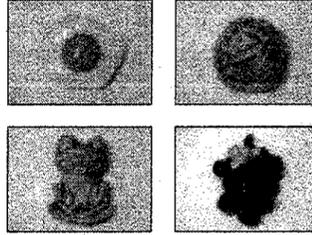
Send a photo or slide of the piece, along with information, to: Ken Abramczyk, At Home editor, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150.



Creative cooking

Spice up your cooking with Stove Top Fashions, handmade ceramic replacement knobs for stovetop and oven ranges. The designer knobs, invented and created by Rose and Glenn Brittain of Royal Oak, come in 35 different shapes. Besides the horse head, egg, cabbage, grapes and frog shown here, they include clover, butterfly, heart, sea shell, apple, lemon, sunflower, daisy, snowflake and star. All of the designs can be made to order as far as color to match just about every kitchen.

For a brochure or more information, visit www.stovetopfashions.com, e-mail stovetopfashions@cs.com or write Stove Top Fashions, P.O. Box 1414, Royal Oak 48068-1414.



Examples of oven knobs: Clockwise from top left, an egg, cabbage, grapes and a frog.

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Establish house rules, assign chores

Q. I am the only person in our home that puts things back where they belong. How can I get other household members to help?

A. Consider the following series of events: We get in our car, turn the key until the engine roars and put the car in drive. We glance to the side and notice the speed limit sign reads 25 mph.



Domestic Planner

Diana Koenig

Proceeding down the road, we approach an intersection where a yellow light turns red. Our foot swiftly goes from the gas pedal to the brake. The light turns green and we proceed until we come to a stop sign.

Again we put our foot on the brake until we come to a full stop.

We yield to a pedestrian crossing the street before we make a right turn and finally reach our destination.

We have made a decision to follow a set of rules. Rules are designed to help us and protect us, although they may also inconvenience us. House rules will help us and protect us from clutter.

You can avoid picking up after your family by establishing "house rules" and assigning chores.

Rules govern behavior, while chores are task related.

Arrange a meeting with everyone in the household. Discuss the rules and chores, then ask for additional suggestions.

Hang the list in the kitchen so every household member can see it often.

House rules should be written down so everyone will understand them.

When a rule becomes a house tradition, you don't write it on the list anymore. I have a rule not to wear shoes in our house.

Everyone understands and practices this rule diligently, so it isn't written.

CONSEQUENCES, REWARDS

Use the consequence system for breaking house rules. When a rule is broken, a privilege is taken away for a period of time.

If possible, the consequences would have some connection with the broken rule. For example, if someone leaves a toy in the middle of the floor, it becomes yours for a period of time.

Use a reward system when your children do their chores or help in other ways. Give an allowance for chores performed. If they give you extra help, you can pay them additional money, take them on a fun outing or buy them something they have been wanting.

I am pleased when other members of my household think of something to decrease my workload.

I have four children ranging from elementary school to college age. I wash and change bed linens every Monday. This is the only day my children and I don't make our beds in the morning. My three older children all enjoyed the day off until my youngest child started taking her sheets off her bed and putting them in the laundry room for me.

I asked her one day why she was taking her sheets off and she replied, "I knew you took them off every Monday to wash so I decided to do it for you." What a novel idea! Angela wasn't very popular with her three older siblings, but we had a new family tradition on Monday morning.

Another great reason to establish "house rules" is so you will have more time to spend with your family. If everyone helps a little, then one person doesn't bear the burden of all the work.

Your children can understand this concept. They will cooperate because they know you will have time to say yes when they want you to take them to their favorite discount store, movie rental, park or friend's house.

Instruct your children to make sure their visiting friends understand and follow your

house rules. Rules and chores teach responsibility and etiquette.

HOUSE RULES

Some suggestions for house rules:

- Don't wear shoes in the house.
- Don't sit on the bed-spreads.
- No food or drinks outside the kitchen - except on special occasions when you have a family movie night. (We sometimes spread a tablecloth on the family room carpet.)
- If you use it, you put it away.
- No singing at the table.
- Use kind words.
- Respect the possessions of other people.
- No fighting.
- Put your dirty dishes in the dishwasher.
- Treat others as you wish to be treated.
- Put your dirty clothes in the laundry room.
- Hang your bath towel up when you are finished using it.
- Wear clean clothes before sitting on the furniture.
- Wear a shirt and no hat at the dinner table.
- Use proper table manners.

HOUSE CHORES

Chores marked with an asterisk may be assigned to a specific individual and tied to their allowance or extra money earned.

- Empty clean dishes from dishwasher.*
 - Feed and water pets.*
 - Wash and dry laundry.*
 - Cut the grass.*
 - Help with yard work.*
 - Set the dinner table.*
 - Make your bed.
 - Put clean clothes away.
 - Keep your bedroom picked up.
- Today's Refrigerator Bulletin: "Follow the road to an organized home by obeying the rules!"

Send your questions or success stories to: **Diana Koenig**, P.O. Box 1702, Manchester, MO 63011, or e-mail dianakoening@hotmail.com. Visit www.domesticplanner.com.

HOME CALENDAR

Home decor

Haberman Fabrics, 905 S. Main in Royal Oak, presents home decor classes for a variety of levels of sewing experience.

You must register and pay tuition in advance. Call (248) 541-0010 for information. The schedule includes Lampshades (fee is \$80), four Sundays beginning Jan. 4; Beginner Pillow (\$60), Mondays, Jan. 5-19; Simple Curtain (\$60), Tuesdays, Jan. 6-20; and Traditional Slipcover (\$120), Wednesdays, Jan. 7 to Feb. 11.

Ford house

The elegant style of Eleanor Ford can be seen in the lovely decorations during this festive season at the Edsel & Eleanor Ford House, 1100 Lake Shore Drive (between Eight and Nine Mile) in Grosse Pointe Shores, now through Sunday, Jan. 4. Call (313) 884-4222 for more information.

The Community House

The Community House in Birmingham

presents a variety of classes related to the home. Call (248) 644-5832 for information.

In Quilting Made Easy!, six weeks beginning Monday, Jan. 12, learn to complete a laptop quilt in six weeks using a fast and easy method with a few simple rules. Class fee is \$47. A materials fee of \$10 is payable to the instructor. Additional materials will be needed throughout the sessions; the entire project will cost \$20 to \$25.

In The Art of Picture Framing, Tuesdays, Jan. 13-20, expand your hands-on learning of framing techniques. The class fee of \$50 includes an 8-by-10 ready-made frame.

Birmingham Community Education

Birmingham Community Education offers a variety of classes related to the home. Call (248) 203-3800 for information. The schedule includes Interior Design (fee is \$45), four weeks beginning Monday, Jan. 12; Handpainted Glassware (\$45), Monday, Jan. 12; Mosaic Mirror (\$99), four

weeks beginning Monday, Jan. 12; Handpainted Furniture (\$99), four weeks beginning Tuesday, Jan. 13; Wednesday, Jan. 14, or Thursday, Jan. 15; Dog Obedience (\$49), eight weeks beginning Tuesday, Jan. 13; Laptop Quilt (\$45), six weeks beginning Thursday, Jan. 15; and One-day Workshop for Furniture Painting (\$99), Saturday, Jan. 17.

Interior design

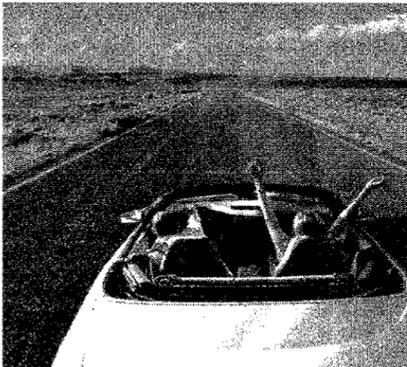
Class offerings in the College for Creative Studies Continuing Education program include Elements of Interior Design, 10 Saturdays beginning Jan. 31 (fee is \$275). Call (313) 664-7670 for information. An overview of the field of interior design, the course will show the methods used to create a room that is physically, visually and intellectually satisfying. Instruction will include the basic principles of space planning, drafting, color theory and materials and finishes. Students will work toward creating a finished residential room.

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Rooftop gardening shows high achievement

How would you like to live where you could step out of your home into a garden, high above the city? Jim Scott and Associates of Bloomfield Hills has just finished an outstanding rooftop garden at Bankers Square Townhouse Condominiums in Howell.

Garden Spot

Marty Figley

This concept of rooftop gardening is just catching on in the Detroit area, although it has been popular for a number of years in many large cities.

"There are roof scapes all over the country and (they) are popular in Europe," Scott said. The garden area, built above a parking garage, is shared by the owners.

I visited the installation in Howell in July and Scott explained how they constructed the garden for the three-story buildings.

"The installation is just like the ones at Cobo's flower show where we built on a hard surface, and to make sure there was good drainage and erosion control we built the sides strong," he said.

There is a lot of behind-the-scenes work in this type of installation that the general public doesn't know about. It took about six weeks to complete the garden, which is built on a 20-inch concrete deck. It is constructed by layered components.

First, crews began by installing a rubber membrane (like latex) instead of tar on the concrete. This was followed by 1-inch Styrofoam used as a separator.

Next, a drain board that has louvers (like little tunnels) was installed for water to run into a drain in the middle of the concrete floor.



The water feature provides a soothing sound and helps cover traffic noise.

Three inches of crushed stone formed the next layer, then a layer of landscape fabric covered as a separator.

Next came 12 inches of crushed stone for under the pavers, to direct water from the surface to the drains.

Then, 18 inches of topsoil - in which the plants grow - was blown in large tubes up from street level.

The area is 4,000 square feet in size and the quantities used for this garden are staggering: 100 tons of crushed stone, 5 tons of topsoil, and 4 tons of brick pavers!

FOCAL POINTS

There are 24 units in all. Each townhouse resident will have a patio area 8 by 12 feet for outdoor furniture and accessories, and one pot for flowers of their own choosing. The permanent plantings will be maintained by the association.

A curving path made of brick pavers winds its way from one end of the garden to the other. Landscape material has been planted in the 12 feet of space

between the patios. The design is repetitive with a rhythm to it.

"We used different heights to have a layered landscape, and most of the plants are a dwarf variety," said Scott, who is already working on other installations in the area.

Some gardens contain a Katsuratree, *Cercidiphyllum japonicum*. This tree has small, heart-shaped leaves that turn yellow in the fall, keeping with the color theme of white, yellow and red.

The other gardens' focal point is a white trellis on which white lace-cap blooms of climbing Hydrangeas, *H. petiolaris*, grow, with white *H. paniculata* growing near them.

Several ornamental grasses add another texture and interest. 'Stella De Oro' daylilies bloomed with their happy golden color in the spring, followed by golden black-eyed Susans to carry the color through the season. A pot of red double impatiens graces each patio.

Small boxwood shrubs march alongside the brick paths to separate the individual patios and one boxwood at each end of the row has been trained into a pyramid. Hicks yews, which will be clipped to be kept small, grow along the back edges of the gardens to soften the air conditioners.

A lovely water feature with lion heads on each of the four sides spouts water and provides a constant soothing sound.

It also helps drown out traffic noise. The material used is very compatible with the surrounding buildings, as are the plantings.

As a final touch, mini 12-volt lights were hidden throughout the planting to illuminate the patios and brick paths.

Marty Figley is an advanced master gardener based in Birmingham. You can leave her a message by dialing (734) 953-2047 on a touch-tone phone. Her fax number is (248) 644-1314.



This is an overview of the roof scape in Howell by Jim Scott and Associates of Bloomfield Hills.

PHOTOS BY MARTY FIGLEY

'World's largest living roof' grows well

Another type of roof garden in Dearborn is growing well.

Touted as "The world's largest living roof," it is at the Ford Rouge Center on top of the Dearborn Truck Plant final assembly building.

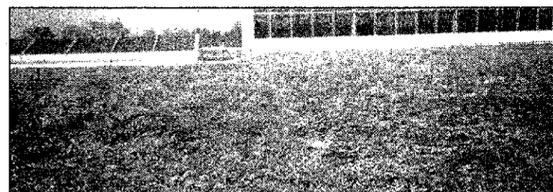
It is 10.4 acres in size, roughly the size of two football fields wide and three football fields long. It took four years to complete construction for this site.

Roger Gaudette, manager, engineering and Construction Ford Rouge Center, explained how the roof was constructed (very similar to the one in Howell), and why.

"The goal was to reduce storm water from polluting lakes and rivers," he said. "There are collection tubes to divert water to slow down storm events. The roof has a graded slant that slopes to the edge to encourage water to drain properly."

After much research, 13 varieties of sedum (stonecrop) were planted in a four-layer, 2- to 3-inch thick medium, a vegetated mat, rather than in loose soil.

There are many reasons why sedum was chosen. It absorbs rain and snow and uses the water to grow, reducing the amount of storm water running off the plants into nearby rivers and streams. It also collects and filters storm water



The many colors of sedum harmonize beautifully in early October. There is even more color in early spring.

MARTY FIGLEY

runoff. Sedum protects the roof from solar radiation, storms and thermal shock, which is the expansion and contraction a roof experiences due to extremes in daily temperatures. This type of roof acts as insulation to cool the building in the summer and warm it in the winter.

Sedum is drought- and disease-resistant and is tough. It's virtually self-sustainable and requires little maintenance. Sedum grows less than 6 inches tall and spreads horizontally, therefore it crowds out weeds and other undesirable stray seeds.

Another plus is that these plants trap dust and consume carbon dioxide, reducing the "greenhouse effect" that can threaten air quality.

The roof is constructed very much like the one in Howell. This living roof grows in a lightweight, four-layer mat

called Xero flor™. Sedum plants grow in a thin blanket of shale, sand, peat, compost and dolomite.

Under the sedum, a layer of fleece made from recycled materials retains water to nourish the plants. Excess water seeps down to a drainage layer that channels rainwater off the roof and into natural treatment wetlands.

Beneath the drainage layer, a special membrane protects the underlying building.

Hortech Inc., a wholesale grower from Spring Lake, Mich., provided some of the sedum for this roof.

To give some idea of the quantity of plants used, they shipped 7,368 flats (equaling 279,984 plants) of *Sedum midentorianum*, var. *diffusum*, for this green roof. Thirteen different varieties of sedum were used in all.

Marty Figley

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WOOD FUTON \$229	FUTON BUNK BED \$179	OAK FUTON \$399	FUTON COUPON \$50 OFF Futon Package \$399 to \$399, \$100 OFF Futon Package \$600 to \$600. Excludes previous sales.
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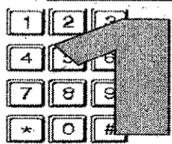
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women seeking men Call 1-900-226-9950 \$2.19 per minute, \$2.19 per call connect fee

ROMANCE ...is just around the corner. I am 5'2", with dark eyes and hair, 63. Looking to meet a tall gentleman, 5'9"-7'0, who likes dancing, cars, travel, and wants a long-term relationship. Ad#:403303

SEARCHING ...I love the loud pipes, Harley's, also likes The Red Wing's. Seeking SWM, 45-55. Ad#:501033

STRAIGHTFORWARD SWF, 40, 5'6", with brown hair and eyes. Enjoys dancing, biking, walking, movies and much more. In search of a SWM, 30-50, who is honest, caring and dependable. Ad#:578795

THIS IS LOVE This outgoing, single black female, 18, who enjoys her 2 children and enjoying life to the fullest, seeking a single male, under 36. Ad#:609514

ANXIOUSLY WAITING SWF, 60, 5'6", medium build, brown hair. Wants to meet a tall, SWM, 55-68, who likes to go places, is affectionate, fun-loving and looking for a serious relationship. Ad#:444245

PATIENTLY WAITING FOR YOU SWF, 60, Auburn hair, green eyes, professional. Enjoys travel, week-end get-a-ways, camping, boating, fishing and more. Seeking a SWM, 57-70, who is loving, humorous, N/S, N/D, fun and affectionate. Ad#:405309

TRAVEL COMPANION 59, attractive, outgoing, blonde, 5'6", SWF, seeking SM, good conversationalist, active, romantic, intelligent. Wants companion to travel to Florida for 1 month this winter. Ad#:560413

SOMEONE TO CARE FOR WWF, 55, enjoys old cars, relaxing, quality time with his special someone and more. Looking for a SWM, over 48, for a companionship and a shoulder to lean on. Ad#:599014

WALK INTO MY LIFE Loving and compassionate, SWF, 58, 5'8", salt & pepper hair, blue eyes, medium build. Enjoys working on cars, gardening, knitting, reading, cooking. Looking for a SWM, 60-63, who's out going, lots of fun and enjoys life. Ad#:593076

SOFT SPOKEN LADIES SWF, 51, 5'3", with very blue eyes, who enjoys quiet times, camping, reading, long walks, etc. Searching for a SWM, 47-57, who likes doing things and likes to cuddle. Ad#:508085

TIME AT HOME SWF, 27, 5'9", with long black hair. Enjoys reading, drawing, crafts, fishing, things and more. Looking for a SCM, 24-38, who is honest, with a nice personality. Ad#:588934

MY HEART & YOURS SWF, 50, who enjoys playing chess and bowling, seeking a family-oriented, SM, 45-60. If you think you may be interested, call me! Ad#:54996

LOOKING FOR LTR SWF, 59, easygoing, low maintenance, 5'3", with an average build. Looking for a loving, caring, happy, financially stable, SWM, 55-65, for a long-term relationship. Ad#:582529

NOT YOUR ORDINARY WOMAN Youthful, charming, energetic, SWF, 47, 5'4", 140 lbs. Seeking SM, 38-55, for healthy, monogamous relationship. You should be financially, emotionally and spiritually stable. Race open. Serious replies only. Ad#:592870

A DIFFERENT KIND OF AD ...Pette white female, 61, sort of cute and smart, spiritual and spirited. Living with some health challenges. Seeking an honest, happy, senior male, tired of facing his challenges alone and needing some tender, loving, care. Great cook, writer, philosopher. Ad#:572335

LET'S GET TOGETHER SWF, 51, 5'3", with Auburn hair and brown eyes, who enjoys golf, dancing, cooking and traveling. If you are a SWM, 59-65, and have similar interests call me soon! Ad#:580825

COMPANIONSHIP ...Expecting mother, with one child. Separated black female, 26. Looking for an open-minded single male, over 18, who enjoys children, for companionship. Ad#:580709

SEEKING KINDRED SPIRIT European, SWF, 56, 5'6", 135 lbs., blond, with a variety of interests. Looking for a SW gentleman, 80-75, to share life together. Ad#:578633

BEAUTIFUL PERSON Funny, easygoing and laid-back, SWF, 25, 5'11", brown eyes, black hair. Enjoys bowling, going out to eat and long walks. Looking for a sweet, honest, dependable, tall, SBM, 25-40, who likes spending time with a companion. Ad#:579506

LUCKY YOU Open-minded SWF, 48, financially and emotionally secure. Seeking mature SWM, 43-57. Enjoys reading, good movies, all music, open to newer interests. One who is looking for friendship first, and possibly more. Ad#:502459

HAPPINESS BEGINS HERE SWF, 33, 4'11", 180 lbs., N/S, 1 child, is looking for a friendly, single Black Christian male, 32-36, at least 5'9". She enjoys shopping, movies and horseback riding. Ad#:579038

QUIET, BUT FUN SWF, 50, 5'3", with brown hair. Enjoys long walks, the outdoors, cooking, gardening, dining out and more. In search of a SWM, 45-60, who is fun-loving, honest and caring, with a good sense of humor. Ad#:420017

READY TO SETTLE? Attractive, full-figured, SWF, 45, with many interests. I'm looking for a financially secure, SM, 42-57, a good friend. Someone who knows what he wants in life. Ad#:571927

FUN TO BE WITH SWF, 31, single mom, intelligent. Looking for a SWM, 30-40, who is intelligent and fun to be with. Ad#:578236

CLASSY SWF, 43, tall, with brown eyes. Interests are reading, music and much more. In search of a SWM, 38-50, who is very caring, loving and understanding. Ad#:578888

LEAVE A MESSAGE SWF, 42, enjoys bowling, dining, movies, long drives and much more. In search of a SWM, over 30, who is honest, caring and fun to be with. Ad#:578494

CARING & GIVING SWF, 36, attractive, outgoing, energetic and fun to be around. Interests are water skiing, bowling, traveling, reading and more. Looking for a SWM, 30-46, who is honest, caring and giving. Ad#:578196

SMILE WITH ME Laid back and kind SWF, 40, full-figured. Enjoys movies, dining out, church functions and quality time with family. Seeking good-natured, attractive and open-minded SWM, 40-48. Ad#:577548

LYING IS NOT AN OPTION SWF, 41, 5'6", 130 lbs., with blond hair and brown eyes. Interests are camping, the outdoors, Harley's and much more. In search of a height-weight proportioned SWM, over 18, who is outgoing, with similar interests. Ad#:577503

GET ALONG GREAT Outgoing and fun-loving, SW Mother, 21, who enjoys dining, movies, walks and meeting new people, especially a SWM, 21-30. Ad#:577137

CUTE BLONDE WIDOW I'm 5', 105 lbs., 58, romantic, secure SF, seeking a nice-looking male, 5'7" to 6', slim to medium build, who enjoys dancing, golf, live theater and good conversation. Macomb County. Ad#:543692

HONESTY ABOVE ALL Want to be spoiled? I'm a fun-loving, SWF, 35, tall, with green eyes and blonde-brown hair, who enjoys movies, camping, sewing, cooking and time at home. Looking for a sincere, warm, genuine, SWM, 55-68, who enjoys life. Must be a non-smoker. Ad#:543693

GOOD-NATURED SWF, 55, 6'1", medium build, college graduate, non-smoker. Enjoys working out, theater, movies, walking and more. Seeking a SWM, 6'3" plus, 53-62, who is well-groomed and professional, for friendship first. Ad#:470261

SOMEONE TO TALK TO SWF, 19, short, long hair, brown eyes, tattoos and piercings. Enjoys going to the movies, talking on the phone and hanging out with friends. Looking for a SM, age unimportant, just to talk to. If interested, please call! Ad#:574234

LOOKING FOR FUN SWF, 35, enjoys races, fishing, camping and much more. In search of a tall SWM, 35-45, for friendship to start. Ad#:573872

SAVVY LADY Cuddly, SWF, young-looking 52, short, full-figured, Irish look-a-like, energetic & good-natured. My enjoyments are theatre, movies or staying at home. I would like to meet an easy going, good friend. SWM, 45-55, for nice times. Ad#:562687

R-E-S-P-E-C-T 53F, 34, looking for a stable, communicative, honest, respectful, educated, SM, 25-45. Could this be you? Ad#:573681

SOUND LIKE YOU? Outgoing, SWF, 21, 5'5", 155 lbs., seeking a tall, truthful, silly but serious, SM, 29-50, preferably with no children, enjoyed with transportation. Ad#:573465

ONLY TIME WILL TELL Single, white lady, 70, 5'5", 125 lbs., blonde, blue eyes, easy to get along with. She has very versatile interests, and wishes to meet an honest, white gentleman, who is truly single, 65-75, to start out as friends. Ad#:571130

FUN TO BE WITH SWF, 44, N/S, N/D, who enjoys camping, walking, the outdoors, fishing, my children and experiencing new things. If you are a N/S, N/D, SWCM, 36-52, and are interested, call me and we'll talk! Ad#:417121

NO TEMPER! Petite, SWF, 40, 5'4", 110 lbs., dark hair, hazel eyes. Outgoing, laid back and up for anything. Enjoys reading, walking, boating, dining out. Seeking a fun and spontaneous, SWM, 37-43, who enjoys the outdoors. Ad#:570162

THINKING OF YOU Pretty DW, 47, 5'2", brown hair, blue eyes, medium build. Looking for a SWM, 5'8"-6", slim to medium build, for a sincere long term relationship. Preferably N/S and social drinker. I love hockey, music, movies, dining out and much more. Western area. Ad#:570055

HIGH ON LIFE Friendly, quiet SWF, 51, pleasantly plump. Enjoys the arts, walking, movies, & Church activities. I would like to meet a loving partner, under 65, to enjoy life. Ad#:570006

QUEEN OF HEARTS This 55 year old, SWF is a full-figured 5'10" beauty with brown eyes and a pretty face. She is intelligent, humorous, compassionate and loving. She enjoys antiques, golf, Lake Michigan and is seeking an attractive SWM, 45-50, to spend time with. Ad#:568864

FUN-LOVING SWF, 50, 5'5", with brown hair and eyes. Interests are time with friends, basketball, football, music, shows, etc. Looking for a tall, kind, sincere, trusting SWM, over 45, who is fun to be with and has similar interests. Ad#:568473

I'LL BE WAITING Calm, laid-back SWF, 52, 5'2", 110 lbs., blonde hair, blue eyes. Loves family activities, cooking, crocheting, cultural events and more. Seeks a kind, quiet SWM, 56+, who cares about other people, and loves animals. Ad#:567481

BEAUTIFUL INSIDE & OUT SWF, 57, 5'4", red curly hair, brown eyes. Enjoys movies, theater, boating, swimming, cooking and time with family. Seeking a SWM, 55-79, who is ambitious, spiritual, successful and fun. Ad#:473611

YOU WILL LIKE ME Attractive, blond, fun-loving, SWF, 66, medium-build, artist. Enjoys travel and cuddling with someone special, seeks a SWM, 60 plus. Ad#:567287

A DECENT LADY Attractive, intelligent, fun-loving, SWF, 64, enjoys simple pleasures. Willing to meet a SWM, 80 plus, honest gentleman, to share fun with. Ad#:567167

DON'T HESITATE... I'm ready for fun & laughter! SWF, 46, 5', a smoker, social drinker. I enjoy watching sports and traveling. I'm searching for a SWM, 55-70, who shares my interests. Ad#:503750

ARE YOU THE LOVING TYPE? Respectful, SWF, 28, 5'2", light skin, red hair. Enjoys sports, movies and shopping. Looking for an attractive, SM, 18-35, who is loving, open-minded & intelligent. Ad#:565568

HOW ABOUT US? SWF, 61 years old, social drinker. Enjoys walks, working out, photography, reading and more. Seeks a warm, honest, secure, easygoing, SWM, 57-68. Ad#:564711

ONE OF A KIND SWF, 48, attractive, intelligent, loving and dedicated. Seeking a SWM, 45+, a N/S, who is sincere, intelligent, humorous and honest, for a long-term, committed relationship. Ad#:448774

COMPARE INTERESTS SWF, 55, 5'7", attractive, brown-eyed brunette, seeks tall, athletic, energetic, trusting and educated, SWM, 60-60, N/S. Please call. Ad#:563521

JUST ME... SB Mom, 18, 5'8", dark complexion, a smoker. Likes going to the mall, watching TV and movies. Looking for a sincere SWM, 18-28. Ad#:563586

UNDERSTANDING SWF, 49, with black hair and brown eyes. Enjoys music, singing, the outdoors, etc. Searching for a SWF, 40-55, who is educated, fun-loving and communicative. Ad#:561932

PURSUE ME SB Mom, 23, 5'8", searching for a fun-loving SWM, 23-35, with ambition and goals. Must love kids. Ad#:561955

ALL AROUND GOOD WOMAN Funny, quiet-natured SWF, 31, 5'8", weight proportionate, light complexion, hazel eyes, one son. Enjoys reading, movies and family time. Looking for an up-front SWM, 32-40. Ad#:561671

SINGLE GIRL Fun to be around SWF, 27, 5'2". Enjoys walking, reading and writing. Seeking a SWM, 23-35, who enjoys children and having a good time. Ad#:561516

SOMETHING MISSING SWF, 49, with black hair and a special friend in my life. Missing the little things: a hug, a kiss, holding hands. Enjoys just about everything, but missing the most important thing... the other half in my life. Ad#:406107

For even more ads visit http://www.observersingles.com View a photo of this person online Respond to this ad for FREE by calling 1-800-487-2038 View an expanded profile for this person online

CHALLENGE ME I'm a very nice, attractive SWF, 38, with jet black hair. Enjoys music, dining and live concerts. Seeking respectful, handsome, SM, under 48. Waiting to hear from you. Ad#:557230

ARE WE ALIKE? SWF, 50, with above average looks, good communicator, amusing, loving soul mate. Seeking DW, 45-60, clean-cut gentleman, looking for serious relationship. Ad#:462566

COLORFUL. Generous-hearted, impulsive, care-free, professional, SWF, 41, a rare find. I'm seeking honorable, fun SWM, 36-55, cheerful, yet can be humorous. Ad#:557303

VISIONS OF LOVE I'm 5'3", with dark brown hair/eyes. A personable, SWF, 44, who enjoys quality time with my children, race cars & a variety of interests. Seeking a loving relationship, with a creative SM, 42-55, who's happy & confident. Ad#:556895

A FRESH START SWF Mom, 34, kids, looking for new friend, family-man, SWM, 27-40, variety of interests. Not into bar scene, enjoys dining out and family events. Ad#:552889

WILL YOU ACCEPT ME? I'm a 5'9", medium-built SW Mom, 27 years old, who enjoys movies, pool, quiet evenings, long drives, and much more. Seeking a SWM, 28-39, who is honest, caring and understanding. Ad#:496396

BOOK SMART Professional trainer, SWF, 33, with varied interests. Seeking well-groomed, athletic-minded SWM, 28-50, who stays in shape, has book smarts, and knows how to practice what his beliefs are. Ad#:550742

LIKE I AM Medium/large-built, amusing WWF, 48, looking for real hunter, fisherman, camper, SWM, 45-55, open, honest, for dating, possibly more. Stardust dancing? Ad#:550584

INTRODUCE YOURSELF SWF hair/eyes, fun-loving SWF, 39, I like sports, trying new things. Seeking SM, over 32, good friend, a love, someone with similar interests. Ad#:495946

BRIGHT & BRILLIANT SWF, 28, 5'11", 160 lbs., with brown eyes. Interests are shopping, exercising, movies, reading and more. Looking for a SWF, over 18, who has similar interests. Ad#:492420

LOOKING FOR YOU SWM, 45, 8'1", 200 lbs., enjoys reading sports and more. Looking for a curvy, height/weight proportionate SF, 32-45. Ad#:599774

GOOD HEARTED SWM, 22, with brown hair and green eyes. Enjoys walking, time with that special someone, movies and much more. In search of a SWF, 21-23, who is truthful and good natured. Ad#:595554

NICE & FUNNY SWF, 36, 5'11", 225 lbs., enjoys jazz, walking, cuddling and more. Looking for a SF, 48-58, who is loving, down-to-earth and sweet. Ad#:595284

DOWN-TO-EARTH SWM, 53, 5'11", N/S, with no dependent, blonde hair and blue eyes. Interests are the outdoors, traveling, the water, good conversation, family/friends, etc. Seeking a SWF, 42-55, who has similar interests. Ad#:595155

SOAR WITH ME I am a SWM, 61, pilot who enjoys fishing, flying, travel, etc. I would like to meet a SF, 48-58, in the White Lake area. All calls returned. Ad#:481076

SEEKING MY BEST FRIEND I'm a caring, silly, well-dressed, SWM, 26, tall, with braids. I enjoy time with my pets and working on cars. I'm looking for an outspoken, SF. Ad#:581203

JUST BE YOURSELF! SWM, 63, 5'10", 190 lbs., brown hair, blue eyes, fun and outgoing. Enjoys golfing, hunting, fishing, cooking, music and more. Seeking a SWF, 40-55, who is attractive, fit, slim, honest and sincere. Ad#:581082

BE TRUE SWM, 42, tall, dark complexion, outgoing and fun-loving. Enjoys a wide variety of interests. Seeking SWF, who is outgoing, loving and pleasant. Ad#:580747

BOOST MY EGO DW, 50, athletic, brown hair, blue eyes, 5'9", 175 lbs. Seeking a SWF, 38-49, who is petite, fit, confident and positive. Ad#:580705

A SWEETHEART SWM, 43, 5'4", nice-looking, kind, friendly and very giving. He enjoys playing chess, basketball, cards and dominoes. Seeking a SF, 18-50, for a possible relationship. Ad#:580413

FAMILY MAN SWM, 45, 6'2", 235 lbs, with a full head of hair. I love life and live it to the fullest. Looking for a long term relationship. Let's talk and see what we have in common. Ad#:579620

TIERED OF BEING ALONE SWM, 49, hardworking, 5'8", 175 lbs. Seeking a SWF, 45-48, who is easygoing, intelligent and fit, for a long-term relationship in the Redford area. No E-mails please! Ad#:406401

I-M YOUR GUY SWM, 49, looks 39, knows how to travel, a fun, downy guy who has a nice build and a pleasant personality. I am looking for a woman that is looking for a good man. Hope to hear from you as soon as possible. Redford area. Ad#:411537

SHY AT FIRST This 29 year old SWM is seeking a SF, 24-32, for friendship first and then a possible LTR. He might be shy at first, but once you get to know him he is very outgoing. Ad#:579474

SEE WHERE THE NIGHT TAKES US SWM, 45, 5'10", with brown hair. Enjoys fishing, hunting, water sports and much more. In search of a SF, 25-35, who is fun to be with. Ad#:579382

INTRODUCE YOURSELF SWM, 30, 5'8", brown hair and eyes. Hobbies and interests include, playing basketball and softball. Looking for a SF, 24-38, who is easy going and fun to be around. Ad#:579342

IN SEARCH OF LOVE SWM, 52, with brown hair and a mustache. Enjoys dining out, the outdoors, etc. Looking for a SWF, 40-53, who is looking for a long-term relationship. Flint area. Ad#:420370

THE PERFECT MAN Handsome, SWM, 35, 5'10", nice smile. I'm nice, honest & respectful. I enjoy cars, sports, sightseeing & life in general. I am ready to meet an attractive, slim to medium built, respectful, sincere SF, 100-160 lbs., who's marriage/family-minded. Ad#:561918

ARE YOU SINCERE? Seeking female, 60-75, petite, fun to be with, likes to quiet life and has time to build a loving & honest relationship. I have many interests, am 69, in the Flint area. Don't wait, call now! Ad#:403527

WILL YOU ACCEPT ME? SWM, 55, medium build. Enjoy fishing, movies, dining in/out, cutting, church and much more. Looking for an honest and sweet SWF, 51-55, for friendship first. Let's talk further, call now! Ad#:582823

LIFE IS BETTER SHARED White male, dentist, 6', 173 lbs., 54, very successful and attractive. Seeking a white female, 38 to 53, 5'4" plus, slim, non-smoker, very attractive and physically fit, who loves fine dining, travel, cuddling and is seeking a best friend. Ad#:403950

LET'S SHARE TIME TOGETHER Seeking a sincere, affectionate, attractive, very feminine, white or bi-racial female, hopefully for a permanent relationship. With a unique, dignified, cultured, nice-looking, well-employed, black woman, 5'7", 150 lbs. Ad#:582327

LAIID-BACK SWM, 20, with light skin, light green eyes. Interests are basketball, football, boxing, quiet times at home and more. Looking for a SWF, over 18, who is laid-back, hard-working, fun to be with and has a good sense of humor on her shoulders. Ad#:581839

NEW TO AREA SWM, 38, looking for a SWF, 30-50, who can show him the area, have good times with and just enjoy life. Ad#:581716

MATE FOR LIFE SWM, 53, 5'11", 195 lbs., brown hair and blue eyes. Seeking a classy, sweet and sexy SF, under 45, height/weight proportionate, who would like to share life with him at his Florida and Michigan homes. Ad#:576225

SEIZE THE DAY Energetic SWM, 45, 5'10", 170 lbs., blonde hair, blue eyes, with varied interests. Seeking talented, fun SWF, 30-40, who has the outdoors. Ad#:481086

SEEKING MY BEST FRIEND I'm a caring, silly, well-dressed, SWM, 26, tall, with braids. I enjoy time with my pets and working on cars. I'm looking for an outspoken, SF. Ad#:581203

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IN SEARCH OF LOVE SWM, 52, with brown hair and a mustache. Enjoys dining out, the outdoors, etc. Looking for a SWF, 40-53, who is looking for a long-term relationship. Flint area. Ad#:420370

THE PERFECT MAN Handsome, SWM, 35, 5'10", nice smile. I'm nice, honest & respectful. I enjoy cars, sports, sightseeing & life in general. I am ready to meet an attractive, slim to medium built, respectful, sincere SF, 100-160 lbs., who's marriage/family-minded. Ad#:561918

ARE YOU SINCERE? Seeking female, 60-75, petite, fun to be with, likes to quiet life and has time to build a loving & honest relationship. I have many interests, am 69, in the Flint area. Don't wait, call now! Ad#:403527

I-LL TAKE A CHANCE... Will you? Good-humored, easy-going, SWM, 44, N/S. Enjoys sports, movies, dancing and church. Looking for a light-hearted, cheerful, SF, under 48, with a sense of humor. Ad#:578682

HONESTY IS THE KEY SWM, 36, 5'8", 160 lbs., with salt/pepper hair, described as outgoing, hardworking and very honest. Interests are playing guitar, NASCAR, reading and much more. In search of a SWF, 30-45, who is very honest, for a one on one relationship. Ad#:579166

WHO'S OUT THERE? SWM, 26, 5', with brown hair and eyes. Looking for a SF, under 40, for a no strings attached relationship. Ad#:577941

SNOW ANGEL SWM, 31, who enjoys having some fun, nights at home, and going to the clubs and bars. I would like to meet a SWF, 18-43. Ad#:577802

LIFE OF THE PARTY SWM, 33, 5'4", with a bald head. Interests are all sports, shopping, etc. In search of a spontaneous, SF, 30-45, who knows what she wants out of life. Ad#:577763

LOOKING TO CHAT Single white male, 18, with blond hair and blue eyes. In search of a single white

ORGANIZE

FROM PAGE C1

business clients to help them get organized at home, too. There are personal benefits to being organized.

"If you're organized there's less stress in your life," Huotari said. "People who are organized feel better about themselves."

With mail and e-mail, paper can quickly pile up. The accumulation can easily get so overwhelming that people are reluctant to have company visit.

"They do the paper shuffle from the kitchen table to the kitchen counter," Huotari said.

"(There is) too much paper," Vance said. "There is information coming from everywhere."

SOLUTIONS

A solution is to categorize the information as it comes in, Vance said. Put it in files or folders.

"Go through information daily and categorize it," she said. "Is it filing? Is it something you need to do? Is it a 'toss'? Or is it 'I'm not sure, I'll come back to it later'? That way at least you're getting through something that might be urgent ... You're not going to miss a deadline."

Set realistic, attainable goals and put a plan together with a manageable deadline, Huotari said. Set a reasonable amount of goals - for example, three instead of 30.

"If you're able to break things down into manageable pieces, that is definitely the best approach to things," Huotari said.

"Say, 'This is what I need to get done.' If you set a schedule you're more likely to (meet) it."

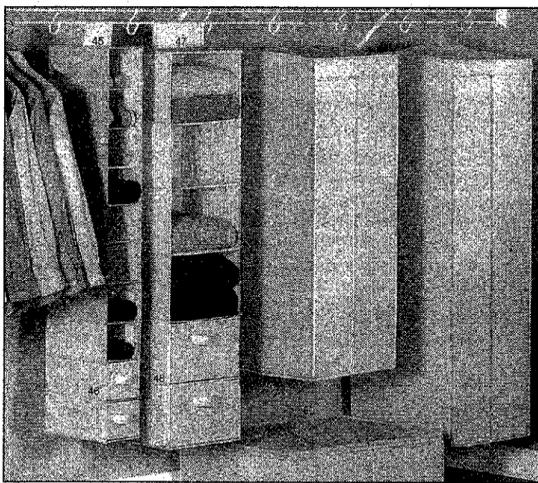
"Even if (goals) are small, you can gain confidence in yourself and attain larger goals later in the year."

Sometimes a client expects to organize the entire house in one weekend and gets frustrated when that isn't accomplished, Huotari said.

"It could take three to five hours on a particular room," she said.

"Be realistic about the time constraints and set a deadline."

Renée King, time manage-



Heavy-duty canvas bags from Organize-It are popular options to help organize a closet and protect a wardrobe. The bags can hang on a rod, sit on the floor or hang over a door.

ORGANIZE-IT

Classes scheduled

Here are some of the classes about getting organized that are scheduled around the area:

■ Organize or Agonize by Growth Strategies Birmingham Community Education - Six weeks beginning Tuesday, Jan. 20 (phone (248) 203-3800)

■ Organizing classes by Betty Huotari of Logical Placement (phone (810) 348-1772):

Farmington Hills Community Education - 7-9 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 3 (phone (248) 489-3333)

Novi Community Education - 7-9 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 24 (phone (248) 449-1206)

Plymouth-Canton Community Education - 7-9 p.m. Monday, March 1 (phone (734) 416-2937)

■ Help! I've Gotta Get Organized! by Debi Weinstein of I've Gotta Get Organized of Farmington Hills

The Community House in Birmingham - 7:30-9:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 25 (phone (248) 644-5832)

■ Organized Business Solutions presents seminars. Call (248) 661-3483.

ment and organizing expert with AT-A-GLANCE, a brand of planning, organizing and record-keeping products, offers suggestions. King is a member of the NAPO board of directors. King's tips include:

■ Assess how you currently use your time. For a few days, keep a log of how you use your time. This will help you determine what activities are necessary as opposed to those that don't contribute to reaching your goals.

■ Take five to 10 minutes to plan your day.

It can be done the evening before or early that morning.

■ Learn to be flexible. Realize that delays will occur and allow for "buffer zones" in your daily planning.

Items for organizing can be as small as those for pills or as large as those for equipment in the garage.

Among the popular pieces at Organize-It are dresser-top valets, travel jewelry cases, pet food containers that seal tightly, and canvas bags for shoes or garments, Nylan said.

New organizational items include a storage chest with 44 drawers, and a bench hamper that provides seating as well as storage, he said.

GARDEN CALENDAR

Hardy Plant Society

The Hardy Plant Society will have its regular monthly meeting 7 p.m. Monday, Jan. 5, at Congregational Church of Birmingham, on Woodward just south of Cranbrook Road in Bloomfield Hills. Jim Mackinder of Natural Organic Landscapes LLC will share more than 40 years of gardening knowledge, including creating and maintaining your garden; minimizing working time; selection and care of tools; and finding sources of information. Guest fee \$2. Call (248) 589-2286 for information.

Livonia Garden Club

The Livonia Garden Club will meet 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 6, at the Livonia Senior Center, Five Mile and Farmington Road. Glenda Glask, an expert orchid grower, will lead a program about this beautiful and fascinating flower. Visitors may attend.

Beverly Hills Garden Club

The Beverly Hills Garden Club will meet Tuesday, Jan. 6, at the Beverly Hills Village Office, 18500 W. 13 Mile. Guests may attend. A membership meeting will take place 11:30 a.m. and the program, Water Gardens, by Agua Fina, will begin at 1 p.m.

Design

The Community House, 380 S. Bates in downtown Birmingham, presents a variety of gardening classes. To register or for more information, call The Community House at (248) 644-5832, or visit www.community-house.com.

The offerings include Focus On Design, four Saturdays beginning Jan. 10 (fee is \$132). This class will give you an in-depth look at the elements of garden and landscape design such as site analysis, making a base plan, texture, color, shape, line, focal point, harmony, contrast and repetition. Gardeners can use these elements to improve existing plantings and evaluate proposed designs. Instructor Sue Grubba has been designing residential and commercial landscapes for 15 years. She is the owner of Creative Scapes, a landscape and flower garden design firm, and is an advanced master gardener and a senior instructor at the Michigan School of Gardening.

School of Gardening

The Michigan School of Gardening offers a variety of classes at 29429 Six Mile in Livonia, just west of Middlebelt in the Milo Shopping Plaza, and at Goldner Walsh Nursery, 559 Orchard Lake Road in Pontiac, north of Square

Lake Road and east of Telegraph. Register early. Seating is limited. Some classes have pre-requisites. For more information, call (248) 4-GARDEN or visit www.michigangardening.com. The schedule includes: Effective Hand-drawn Design, Fridays, Jan. 9-30 in Pontiac, or Wednesdays, Jan. 14 to Feb. 4, in Livonia (fee is \$162); Computer-assisted Design, Mondays, Jan. 12-26, in Livonia (\$132); and Ins and Outs of Plants, Tuesdays, Jan. 13-27 in Pontiac (\$98). Effective Hand-drawn Design will cover techniques and tools for converting design ideas to paper. In-class and independent practice selecting lines, symbols and other drafting variables and developing coherent compositions will be featured. The class will cover both precision drafting and "stand-up" drawing of on-site sketches. Pre-requisite is a Focus On Design class or equivalent experience. Computer-assisted Design will offer a practical look at how computer drafting, graphic and presentation programs can be used to render and present a garden or landscape design. Ins and Outs of Plants will cover how plants grow, the basics of plant propagation, and what gardeners need to make best use of reference books and catalogs.

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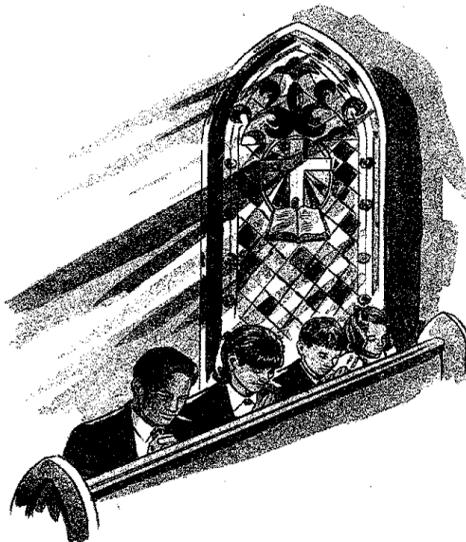
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WELCOME



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

RELIGION CALENDAR

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

Memorial service

For the Rev. Kenneth Davis 4 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 4, at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church on Hubbard, between Five and Six Mile, Livonia. For more information, call (734) 421-8451.

Epiphany service

Evensong 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 6, at Episcopal Church of the Holy Spirit, 10 a.m. is Holy Communion, at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church on east side of Hubbard, between Five and Six Mile, call (734) 421-8451.

Aerobics classes

Do you need to get your body back in shape following the holidays? Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church (14175 Farmington Rd; Livonia, just north of I-96) is hosting an aerobic class 4 p.m. Thursdays beginning Jan. 8. The instructor is Val Stroup. The class will run for 6 weeks with the registration fee of \$18 payable at the first class. Contact Linda Hollman at 734-522-6830 to register.

Friday talk

Doug Herman, author and pastor, will address "What Good is God? Finding Faith and Hope in Troubled Times" 7:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 9, at Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church, 40000 Six Mile, Northville. No ticket is necessary and all are welcome. For more information, call (248) 374-5920.

Pasty time

Make life easier in the New Year by ordering pasties that make great dinners and lunch box treats. Orders will be taken Jan. 11 and 18, at Newburg United Methodist Church, 36500 Ann Arbor Trail, Livonia, and by phone Jan. 13-14 at (734) 422-0149. Pick up dates are Jan. 22-23. Cost is \$3 each.

Marriage Enrichment Series

The Samaritan Counseling Center is offering a series of workshops entitled "Building a Shared World: Stages and Cycles of Relationship & Intimacy." The first begins with the topic "Stages and Cycles of Relationship & Intimacy" 7-8:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 12, at First United Methodist Church, 1589 W. Maple, Birmingham. Cost is \$10 per couple or single person per workshop or \$35 for all four. Call (248) 474-4701 to register. The program is open to all couples or individuals seeking to enhance their intimate relationships and/or lay ministry caregivers working with care receivers who are struggling with intimate relationship issues.

Comic evening

Comedian Ken Davis will provide a mixture of side-splitting humor and inspiration that delights and enriches audiences of all ages 7 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 17, at Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church, 40000 Six Mile, Northville. Tickets are \$8, \$32 for a family. Call (248) 374-7400.

Rally for Life

Celebrate life 2-3 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 18, at Madonna University, Schoolcraft and Levan, Livonia. Join us to hear inspiring speakers and live music. Enjoy the fellowship of other

pro-lifers. For more information, call Right to Life - Lifespan of Metro Detroit at (248) 777-9090.

Single Point Lighthouse Cafe

The Single Adult Ministries present a coffee house with live entertainment 7-10 p.m. Friday, Jan. 23, in Knox Hall at Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church, 40000 Six Mile, Northville. Cost is \$5. Hot dogs, goodies, and specialty coffers are offered. For more information, call (248) 374-5920. Free child care.

Housing the homeless

Newburg United Methodist Church takes part in an inter-faith rotating shelter program coordinated through Cass Community Methodist Jan. 24-31. Approximately 60 men, women and children arrive each day at 4 p.m., have dinner and stay until the next morning, leaving after breakfast with a packed lunch to take with them. Newburg church also provides them with a small hygiene kit and an opportunity to obtain coats or other clothing dependent on need and donations available. Donations of new underwear and socks or gently used clothing is appreciated. There are many ways to help. For more information or to volunteer help in coordinating this project, call Barb Trzcinski at (734) 464-7106.

ONGOING

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.

Contemporary worship service

11:30 a.m. the fourth Sunday of the month at St. Matthew's United Methodist Church, 30900 Six Mile, Livonia. For more information, call (734) 422-6038.

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.

Redford Church

Detroit World Outreach, a non-denominational church for all colors at 23800 W. Chicago in Redford, has Sunday services 9 a.m., 10:45 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. It also offers Sunday School 9:30-10:30 a.m. for all ages. Wednesday night is family night at 7 p.m. Tuesday night it offers a young adult services for ages 18-28 at 7:30 p.m. Bishop Jack C. Wallace is the senior pastor. Call (313) 255-2222 or visit www.dwo.org.

Watch safety when changing igniter

This is my only New Year's resolution for this year: I promise to reply to more e-mails than I ever have. So, here is the start.

Steve writes: "Hi, Joe. I have a Caloric gas stove-oven. As of late the element in the bottom glows but not as bright as the element at the broiler. Do I need a new porcelain igniter or a new oven? I also at times see it working fine but also smell gas. What's not cooking?"

Appliance Doctor

Joe Gagnon

Steve, you are going to fix this thing yourself, you are going to save a lot of money and you are going to be very proud of your accomplishment. Pay close attention!

The igniter in your range glows bright red when you turn it on and after a short period you can hear the gas ignite.

During this period of time, the glowing igniter is building up a small charge of electrical current called milliamps; when enough has built up, it is sent to the oven safety valve.

In this safety valve is a little plunger that will lift up and let a good volume of gas flow through it, which strikes the red-hot igniter, and bingo, you've got ignition.

That's how simple it is. In some cases like yours, the igniter is slowly breaking down and even though it glows, it isn't building up enough milliamps to open the little plunger all the way.

It is partially open and allows a small amount of gas to leak through, not enough to cause ignition but enough so that you will smell it. Change the igniter and you've solved the problem.

Now, Steve, so that you can enjoy the money you are going to save, I have a couple of serious rules to follow.

RULES

Please shut off the gas to the range and pull the electric cord out of the socket. This always helps to ease the minds of family members who know you're not going to blow the house off the foundation. It makes me feel better, too!

Take off the floor inside the oven cavity. Some just lift off and others might have a couple of screws to remove. You will see the igniter mounted inside a little wire cage. The cage and

all are one piece and held in place by two screws, mounted to a rail.

Make sure you use the right size screwdriver, because if it is too small, you will strip the screws very easily. They have been cooked many times over the years and they seem to lose their strength.

You will see two electrical leads coming off the back of the igniter that lead someplace. Follow these two leads and disconnect them from where they join two other wires. If you have a problem with this part of the job, cut the leads about 3 inches back from where they join the igniter. You can wire nut the new igniter leads to the existing wires. Putting in the new igniter is as simple as taking it out, but take note: Make sure, 100 percent positive, that you buy the correct igniter for your particular model range. They all look alike and there are many used in the industry. There is nothing worse for my image than some store selling you the wrong igniter.

They all have different electrical factors, which makes this point very important. They are so fragile that you must treat it like nitro glycerin. I have seen homeowners break the igniters by simply closing the door of the stove and letting them

slam shut.

Put the igniter in, replace the floor, turn on the gas and plug in the electrical cord to the wall socket and you are in business, my friend.

HISTORY AND OPINION

Twenty years ago when the pilot system was removed from gas ranges according to a government mandate, the igniter was invented.

I used to sell these igniters, and many consumers had to replace theirs more than once a year. The appliance industry was making a fortune based on what I thought was a piece of junk replacement part.

Although the igniters today seem to hold up better, my thoughts aren't that far removed from years past.

Although the replacement costs have reduced considerably, I still don't think the quality factor has gone up that much. It cost the manufacturers millions of dollars to make the change from pilot to igniter and I'm sure they have made it up by now. Treat that igniter like gold - it is. 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.

Reinforce wood picture frame joints

BY JAMES AND MORRIS CAREY
FOR AP WEEKLY FEATURES

Prints, photos and paintings can add interest and style to a home. Often, picture frames are as decorative and interesting as the items they house.

Unfortunately, over time, and with lots of roughhousing by kids and grandkids, wooden picture frames get knocked around and become out of square and beat up; miter joints can open up and glass can become cracked or chipped.

Rather than replacing an otherwise good frame with a new one, we suggest you make the repairs yourself. You will find that the frame will be as good as new for a modest investment, and you'll be glad that you didn't toss that favorite frame.

If the glass is damaged, look for a replacement at a local arts and crafts store that sells frames. Nonstandard size glass can be obtained from a local glass company.

You'll need a clean, stable work surface such as a work bench or counter.

To avoid further damage to the frame and to prevent it from slipping during the repair process, we suggest covering the work surface with a small piece of rubber carpet pad. It's great for other woodworking projects, too.

Before reinforcing the picture frame, use a speed square or triangle at the corners to check that they are 90-degree angles.

Another means of determin-

ing that the frame is square is to use a tape measure to measure diagonally from outside corner to outside corner. When both measurements are the same, the frame is square.

Once the frame is square and the mitered corners are closed, you can use one of the following repair methods:

One of the simplest and most effective means of reinforcing a frame joint is with a mending plate. It's essentially a dog-eared metal triangle with small return flaps at either end. The flaps are designed to wrap the outside edge of the frame and to further ensure that the frame is square.

Mending plates contain several holes through which wood screws are inserted into the frame. Use a driver drill along with a small bit to drill small pilot holes before driving the screws. Be careful not to drill through the face of the frame, and use screws that aren't too long so they won't penetrate the face of the frame.

Mending plates come in many sizes to accommodate various size frames.

Joints for small- to medium-sized frames can be reinforced using four- to sixpenny finish nails. Drive the two nails into the corner of the frame at a 90-degree angle for the most secure connection.

Wherever possible, the nails should be driven into the top or bottom (rather than the sides) where they will be less visible.

As with mending-plate installation, pre-drill small pilot holes to prevent the wood

from splitting. Use a punch to slightly countersink the nail heads to allow for putting. Use a vinyl spackle for painted frames and a putty stick or wood dough for stained or decorative ones.

Repairs can be touched up using an art brush and a dab of matching paint. Reinforcing joints on larger frames can be a bit more daunting. The process is similar to that of using finish nails; however, instead of using nails, we suggest using short pieces of half-inch diameter wooden dowels or "pegs."

Begin by drilling a hole at a 90-degree angle into the corner of the frame.

When possible, the holes should be at the top or bottom

of the frame where they will be less conspicuous.

Be sure to use a bit that corresponds to the size of the peg. Drill a test hole into a scrap piece of material and test the fit.

It should be snug - but not too tight. Drill the hole approximately 1/16-inch deeper than the length of the peg so that it can be countersunk to accept putty. Thoroughly coat the peg with carpenter's glue before inserting it into the hole, and carefully tap it into place using a small finish hammer.

Countersink the peg by inverting a punch and tapping on the narrow end, or you can use a hinge pin to sink the peg.

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HUTCHINS
William M. 80; passed away at home in Savannah, Ga; December 26, 2003. A 35 year resident of Birmingham, Michigan, he worked for Michigan Consolidated Gas and American Natural Gas. He was preceded in death by his wife Nancy Kim Hutchins, Jr. of Oxford, MI; Richard Hutchins of Birmingham, MI; ten grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Memorial services are pending. Fox and Weeks Funeral Directors, Savannah, Georgia.

JOHNSON
Phyllis R. Age 84, passed away December 23, 2003 in Ann Arbor, formerly of Farmington Hills. She was born Aug. 2, 1919 in Big Rapids, Michigan, the daughter of Roland and Mary Frantz. She was preceded in death by her husband, Dale C. Johnson, in 1988. She is survived by her children, Thomas Duane Johnson of Farmington Hills, Barry (Charlene) Johnson of Clarkston, and Lisa (Jeff Campbell) Johnson of Ann Arbor. Also surviving are 26 grandchildren, 17 great-grandchildren, a sister and a brother. At her wishes, cremation has taken place. A memorial service will be held Saturday, January 3, at 11 a.m. at First Presbyterian Church of Farmington Hills, 26180 Farmington Rd., Farmington Hills, 48334, with Rev. David Noble officiating. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the church or to the Alzheimer's Association.

BOLINGER
Barbara "Sue" December 28, 2003, Age 54 of Redford. Beloved wife of Ed. Dear Mother, sister of Karen (Sue) Kenneth (Mica), and Lindsey (Rich) Bevans. Loving grandmother of Brendan, Meghan, Halle, Ethan and Allison. Dearest daughter of Marilyn Porter, Dear sister of Karen, Judy, Linda, Debbie, and Kathy. Visitation was held at the Harry J. Will Funeral Home, 25450 Plymouth Road, Redford, Tuesday 2-9 p.m. Celebration of Life Service was Wednesday 9:30 am at the Funeral Home. Interment Parkview Memorial Cemetery.

CLARK
J. Bunker, 72, of Lawrence, KS, died Friday, December 26, 2003 at Lawrence Presbyterian Memorial Hospital. Memorial services will be held at 3:00 p.m. Friday, January 2, 2004 at Trinity Lutheran Church, Livonia. Interment will be in August on Bois Blanc Island, Michigan. Mr. Clark was born October 19, 1931 in Detroit, MI, the son of the Reverend George and Cleora (Quist) Clark. He attended Cass Technical School in Detroit, Cranbrook School in Bloomfield Hills, and received his Bachelor and Masters Degrees in music and the Ph.D. in musicology from the University of Michigan. He was a Fulbright Scholar at Cambridge University in England. Mr. Clark was interim organist at Christ Church Cranbrook and taught music history at Stephens College and the University of Kansas. In recent years, he edited some 700 books for Harmonie Park Press in Warren, MI. He spent summers since 1947 at the family home on Bois Blanc Island in the Straits of Mackinac. Mr. Clark is survived by his wife, Marilyn, a brother, Thomas D. Clark in Kerrville, TX. The family suggests memorial contributions to the Trinity Lutheran Church music fund, the Lawrence Chamber Orchestra, or Hospice Care of Douglas County and may be sent in care of Warren-McElwain Mortuary at 120 W. 13th St., Lawrence, KS 66044.

CIPELLE
Frank, Dec. 24, 2003. Husband of Joan. Memorial Service Wed. Jan. 7, 4pm at A.J. Desmond & Sons, 32515 Woodward Ave. See obituary; DesmondFuneralHome.com.

DERMINER
Michael James, born December 25, 2003, returned to God December 25, 2003. Beloved son of James and Michele of Southfield, Michigan. Dearest grandson of Leland and the late Catherine Derminer and John and Arlene Couets, both. Here but for a short time, loved by many family members and friends. Arrangements by the Harry J. Will Funeral Home, Redford.

Jenks
Jill A. of Farmington Hills, Dec. 26, 2003 at 57 years of age. Beloved wife of the late Harold "Spunk" Loving mother of Patti (Steve) Elliott, Kerri (Sam) Velez and Bradley, Cherished Grandmother of Alexandra and Samantha Elliott. Dear Sister of John "Jack" Butler, Michael, Diane, and the late Darlene Butler. Also survived by many loving family and friends. Family will receive friends Friday, January 2, 2004 from 10:00 - 3 PM followed by a funeral service at 8 PM at the Heene-Sundquist Funeral Home, 23720 Farmington Rd. (btwn 9-10 Mile Rds, just N. of Grand River) Downtown Farmington (248-474-5200). Memorials suggested to Barbara Ann Karmans.

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VETERINARY TECH/ASSISTANT Exp. only. Full-time. Resume/ref to: Strong Veterinary Hospital, 29212 Five Mile, Livonia. Ask for Eva.

RECEPTIONIST Mon-Fri, 2pm-7pm. Fax resume to Sheryl at 248-615-0415

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CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS AGENDA JANUARY 8, 2004

Notice is hereby given that there will be a meeting of the Zoning Board of Appeals THURSDAY, January 8, 2004 AT 7:30 P.M. The meeting will be held at the Summit on the Park located at 46000 SUMMIT PARKWAY, CANTON, MI 48186. 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

- Cherry Hill Investors LLC of Cherry Hill Village Planned Development, 2025 West Long Lake Road, Suite 104, Troy, MI 48098. Property located at 60523 Independence, south side of Cherry Hill Road between Ridge and Denton Roads. Sign Ordinance 120, Section 4, 4.9, number of flags allowed. Parcel #074-99-0002-703 (Building)
- Michael G. Brady, Esq. of Warner Norcross & Judd LLP, 2000 Town Center, #2700, Southfield, MI 48075 representing Meridian Automotive Systems, Inc. Property located at 4280 Haggerty Road, west side of Haggerty Road just south of Michigan Avenue. The ordinance being appealed is Zoning Ordinance Article 22.00, Section 22.03, A. Zoning Ordinance Article 5.00, Section 5.08, A5 and Fence Ordinance 103, Section 8, A, screening of outdoor storage areas in the LI-2 zoning district. Parcel #137-99-0012-173 (Planning)
- 31 Canton Associates LLC, 2025 West Long Lake Road, Suite 104, Troy, MI 48098. Property located at 50810 Mott Road (Parcel #123-99-004) and adjacent vacant acreage (Parcel #123-99-005), north side of Mott road between Barr and Ridge Roads. The ordinance being appealed is Zoning Ordinance Article 26, Section 26.02, b., minimum rear setback. Zone R1. Parcel #123-99-004-000 and #123-99-005-000 (Planning)

Approval of, 11/13/03 12/11,03 Minutes

Publish January 1, 2004

OE08175880



“THANK YOU DETROIT! Our Business Interruption Selloff began several weeks ago and has proved to be the most exciting event in our history! There remains just a few hours to shop these historic reductions. All three stores will be open this weekend ... the SELLOFF WILL END AT 5 P.M. SUNDAY! Sorry ... No Extensions!

John Tenpenny

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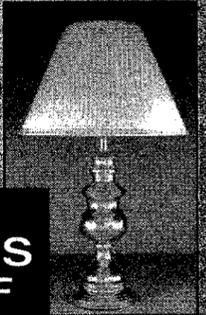


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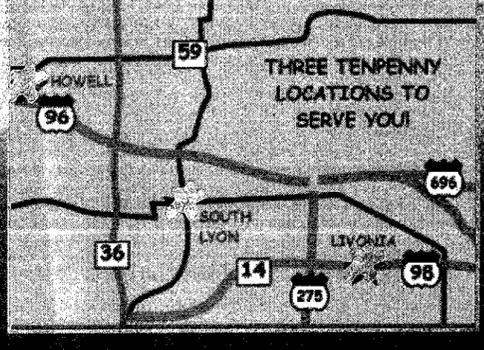
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Side dish

Harvest varies

Michigan's two major wine growing areas - in the northwest near Traverse City and in the Southwest near the

Indiana border - reported very different vintages for 2003, according to the Michigan Grape & Wine Industry Council.

The Southwest fared best, following two years of frost and freeze problems. It was a relatively cool growing season that got off to a late start.

Winemakers reported good flavors and great varietal character, especially for whites; and good color and great flavor for reds, especially Pinot Noir. The wines have "very focused aromas and flavors," said David Miller, vice president of winemaking at St. Julian Wine Co. in Paw Paw.

Wineries in the northwestern Lower Peninsula were hit with some extreme cold in early March, which killed many buds. Overall the crop was 10 percent to 30 percent of normal. Lee Lutes, winemaker at Black Star Farms in Suttons Bay, said that wasn't necessarily a problem, as the small crop of one-half to one ton per acre led to great flavor maturity.

Wineries don't have to rely exclusively on the 2003 vintage, as the 2002 vintage produced not only some of the best wines in the region, but also a fairly large supply according to the council. Most wineries will have enough wine to get through to the next harvest. To learn more about the vineyards and wineries of Michigan and for a listing of winery events and a copy of Michigan Wine Country magazine with maps to the wineries, visit www.michiganwines.com or contact the Michigan Grape and Wine Industry Council at (800) 292-3939.

Wine tasting

Speaking of wines, an Italian Wine Tasting Workshop is scheduled for four weeks at 7-9 p.m. Thursdays, starting on Jan. 15 at the Ann Arbor Art Center, 117 W. Liberty, in Ann Arbor. Representatives from the Big 10 Market will instruct students on the art of wine tasting. Each week the class will focus on wines typical of a particular region. History of winemaking will be discussed for each region, including grape varieties, climate, topography, soil composition, aromas and flavors. Wines to be sampled include Pinot Grigio, Chianti, Dolcetto and others. Matt Morgan, from the Big 10 Market, will discuss Australian wine in a tasting class that begins on March 11. He will discuss the qualities of great wine, regional differences, climate and flavors. Featured wines include Bowen, Frankland, Margan, Oliver's Taranga and more. For information, call (734) 994-8004. Register online at www.annarborartcenter.org



Kale and onions can be marinated in lemon juice and vinegar for a side dinner dish.



Susan Bellinson of Whole Foods Market enjoys poached halibut and baked butternut squash.

Well, you know, you can eat healthier dishes that taste delicious, too

Forget New Year's resolutions.

How about a new life and new lifestyle?

That's what nutritionists, doctors and health buffs preach ... losing weight and trimming down is all about lifestyle and diet changes and making better choices.

Diet doesn't have to be viewed with disdain. With study after study promoting more colorful foods in diets and less meat, Americans should eat healthier.

But how? Kathy Goldberg, an instructor at M-CARE, the University of Michigan's Health System in Ann Arbor, believes you don't have to give up the comfort foods and give up the taste. It's all about tak-



Baked butternut squash is an easy, healthy dish.

ing simple steps to cut the fat in macaroni and cheese, mashed potatoes and casseroles, taking simple steps like using lowfat sour cream or cheese in dishes.

Goldberg recently returned from the 5th annual Alternative and Complementary Medical Therapeutic conference in Chicago. That conference focused discussions on colorful foods that slow the progression of aging. "These are some of the foods you should

be eating all the time, the brightly colored foods, such as blueberries, raspberries and cranberries," Goldberg said. These foods also contain antioxidants, which help protect against cancer and also help fight inflammation of joints.

Of course, you also should eat less trans fats and simple sugars. And there are many ways to do just that.

When using oil, don't use more than a

PLEASE SEE HEALTHY, D2

HALIBUT POACHED WITH GINGER AND CILANTRO

1/2 cups white wine
1 tablespoon ginger, julienned as thinly as possible
1/2 cup cilantro, chopped
1 green onion, cut in half
Splash of tamar or soy sauce
Juice from 1 lime
4 halibut steaks

Combine first six ingredients in a deep roasting pan.

Cook the poaching liquid for 2-3 minutes, then add halibut, cover tightly, and gently simmer until cooked through (approximately 10

minutes per inch of thickness).

Garnish with sliced avocados, thinly sliced lime wheels and fresh cilantro. Serve with jasmine rice.

Nutritional information per serving: 280 calories, 44 g protein, 6 g fat (1 g saturated), 1 g carbohydrates, 82 mg cholesterol, 200 mg sodium. Exchanges: 6 extra-lean meat.

Recipe courtesy of Whole Foods Market in West Bloomfield and Troy.

KAREN SMYER'S BLACK BEAN PIZZA

1 pizza crust, Boboli type
1 teaspoon olive oil
1 medium onion, diced
1 clove garlic, finely chopped
15 ounces black beans, cooked (or 1 can drained and rinsed)
3/4 cup salsa
1/2 teaspoon cumin, or to taste
1 cup Mozzarella, low-fat shredded
1 bell pepper, yellow or red, diced
1 large tomato, diced
1/4 cup cilantro, coarsely chopped

Preheat oven to 450 degrees F. Place pizza crust on cookie sheet.

In a medium skillet, sauté onions and garlic in the olive oil for approximately 5 minutes. Add black beans, salsa, and cumin. Bring to a boil and simmer 5 to 10 minutes, or until well blended, mashing the beans a little to make them more spreadable.

Layer the ingredients onto the pizza crust in the following order; bean mixture, cheese, peppers, tomato, and cilantro.

Bake for 8-10 minutes

or until the crust becomes golden and the topping is bubbly. Serves 6.

Short cut: Replace onion, garlic, black beans, salsa and cumin with one 12 ounce jar of Saguaro Black Bean and Corn Salsa (or similar bean/salsa dip-combination). Proceed with the remainder of the recipe as written.

Recipe from *The High Fat - Low Fat Vegetarian Cookbook* by Elizabeth Burt, Kathy Goldberg and Kathy Rhodes.

For more recipes and tips for eating healthy in 2004, turn to page D2 and D3.

Bodegas Salentein stands on new-era edge

Argentina, the world's fifth largest wine producer, boasts over 500,000 vineyard acres and 1,200 wineries. With a long, proud history of winegrow-



Focus on Wine

Ray & Eleanor Heald

ing, the country stands on the edge of a new era. Leading wineries have been transformed with new plantings and application of modern winemaking techniques which have resulted in world-class wines and increased exportation.

As part of that era's wave of European immigration to the New World, Carlos Pulenta's grandparents arrived in Argentina from Italy in 1901. His father and four uncles created one of Argentina's most prominent wineries and since 1997, Pulenta has built Bodegas Salentein to produce premium Argentinean wines for the international market.

Pulenta's vision was to plant classic European grape varieties, more suited to elevations from 3,400 to 5,600 feet, in an area known as the Alto Valle de Uco. These high mountain vineyards are located in the region of Mendoza, near the border with Chile, east of the Andes Mountains.

BENEFICIAL LOCATION

Bodegas Salentein's location offers advantages of pure water from melting snowcaps and cooler nighttime temperatures that allow delayed harvest, resulting in a better balance of sugar and acid in the grapes, as well as enhanced color and aroma.

Mendoza enjoys a continental climate that is warmer in summer, cooler in winter, and sunny and dry all year round with an average of 320 sunny days per year. The Andes Mountains prevent moist Pacific Ocean air from reaching Mendoza, resulting in low rainfall which allows Bodegas Salentein to regulate irrigation, using snow melt water held in reservoirs.

A dry climate means that grapes are not threatened by moisture related diseases or insects. Therefore remedial chemical spraying is avoided.

"When a company like Salentein invests in Mendoza, the whole region benefits," said Pulenta. "This region has always offered promise. We provide opportunity to the people of Mendoza to learn new skills and build a life for their families in this beautiful valley."

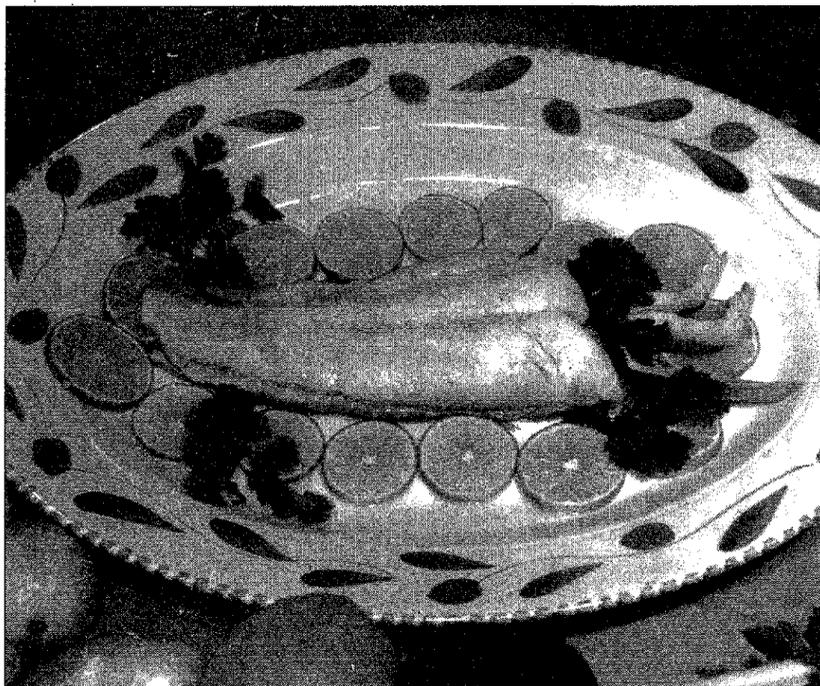
The Salentein Reserve wines are released only in vintages of exceptionally superior quality. The Salentein label showcases fruit sourced from three fincas (estates), located at different elevations with diverse soils and sun exposure. The wines are aged 12 months in French oak. Finca El Portillo wines are sourced from the estate vineyard of the same name. Winemaking techniques are meant to showcase the youthful forward fruit aromas and flavors in these wines.

BEST FROM BODEGAS

SALENTEIN

■ 2002 Finca El Portillo Merlot and 2001 Finca El Portillo Malbec, Cabernet Sauvignon and Shiraz, each \$9, offer easy drinking, approachable quaffs at a

PLEASE SEE WINE, D4



Poached fish also can cut the fat by keeping oil out of the recipe. Here, halibut is poached with ginger and cilantro.

HEALTHY

FROM PAGE D1

tablespoon, Goldberg said. Use olive, walnut, peanut or canola (but the canola can break down at high temperatures). Spray misters can allow you to disperse the oil without pouring a large amount in a pan. And eat less meat.

"You should only eat 4-6 ounces a week," Goldberg said. Using legumes such as beans is a good meat substitute to make a dish that otherwise uses meat. Goldberg said mushrooms also are a good meat substitute.

Susan Bellinson, marketing director of Whole Foods Market, suggests preparing slow cooked dishes the day before, then refrigerating to allow the fat to rise to the top.

Once it solidifies, it can be removed to further cut the fat.

"Cooking in advance allows flavors to develop," she said. Goldberg recommends that

legumes, fruits and vegetables should be included in daily diets. Whole grains break down slower than processed foods.

That means glucose levels aren't raised as high, less insulin is produced and fewer carbohydrates are stored as fat. Bellinson suggests marinating foods to add flavor intensify and lessen the need for adding oil. "Add less oil and balance flavors by adding acid (lemon juice or vinegar) at the end of preparation," Bellinson said.

"White wine vinegars will add high notes, while darker vinegars, such as balsamic, will add depth of flavor and a robust quality." But you can still enjoy the comfort foods. Macaroni and cheese doesn't have to include all the fat. Using a whole grain pasta will give more fiber in your diet, sometimes as much as 6 grams, rather than the usual 0 or 1 gram. That food also digests slower.

You can decrease the amount of cheese needed, too, by using a 2 percent sharp cheese.

"Cheese is a really good source of calcium, so I don't tell people to avoid it," Goldberg said. Cheese producers haven't made fat free cheese that "tastes good" yet, Goldberg said, but Goldberg believes it is improving. She recommends lowfat cheese.

Use whole wheat bread crumbs on baked chicken or fish. Dry out the bread in a low oven, then blend them. "You can mix garlic or fresh herbs with it for Italian bread crumbs," Goldberg said.

When cooking with the bread crumbs, use egg white mixed with one teaspoon of mustard (or Dijon mustard), then bake at 375-400° F. The pan should have a small amount of oil. "It's an 'oven frying' technique," she said.

What about pizza? "Where people get into trouble is with the toppings," Goldberg said. Sautéed onions, bell peppers and tomatoes, ham and pineapple and even black beans, can fill you up with a healthier version of pizza.

KALE WITH MARINATED ONIONS

2 bunches kale
1 cup finely diced yellow onion
5 teaspoons lemon juice
2 teaspoons rice wine vinegar
1 teaspoon sugar
dash of salt

Combine lemon juice, vinegar, sugar and salt. Toss with onions, set aside.

Wash kale. Cut leaves across the stem in 1/2 inch strips. Place kale in steamer basket over 1 inch of water. Cover pot, place over high heat. Cook 10 minutes or until tender.

Place kale in a serving bowl, toss with onions and marinade. Serves 4.

Nutritional information per serving: 31 calories, 1 g protein, 0 g fat (0g sat), 6 g carbohydrates, 0 mg cholesterol, 95 mg sodium. Exchanges: 1 vegetable

Recipe courtesy of Whole Foods Market in West Bloomfield and Troy.

BAKED BUTTERNUT SQUASH

2 small butternut squash (1 1/4 pounds each), halved lengthwise and seeded
1/2 cup orange juice
2 tablespoon apricot all-fruit spread
2 garlic cloves, minced
3 tablespoon chopped parsley
1 teaspoon olive oil
1/2 tsp salt
1/2 tsp pepper

Preheat oven to 425°F. Cut small piece off bottom of each squash half so that it will sit in pan.

In small bowl, stir together orange juice, apricot fruit spread, garlic, parsley, olive oil, salt, and pepper. Spoon mixture into hollow of each squash half, cover with foil, and bake until tender, about 45 minutes.

Nutritional information per serving: 151 calories, 1.4g total fat, 0.2g saturated fat, 0.9g monounsaturated fat, 0.2g polyunsaturated fat, 0.2g dietary fiber, 3g protein, 36g carbohydrate, 0mg cholesterol, 285mg sodium. Serves 4.

Recipe courtesy of Whole Foods Market in West Bloomfield and Troy.

M-FIT PEACH BLUEBERRY CRISP

2 pounds frozen peach slices (2 packages)
12 ounces frozen blueberries (1 package)

HEALTHY RECIPES

1/2 cup brown sugar, packed
2 tablespoons tapioca (minute tapioca)

Topping

1-1/2 cups oatmeal
1/2 cup brown sugar
1/2 cup sliced almonds
1 teaspoon cinnamon
1/4 teaspoon nutmeg
2 egg whites

Combine the fruit, sugar and tapioca in a large bowl. Mix well.

Distribute combined fruit into a 9-by-13-inch baking dish.

Combine the topping ingredients into the large bowl. Mix well. Distribute topping evenly over the fruit in the baking dish.

Place in the middle of a preheated 350 degree oven and bake 30-40 minutes, or until the fruit is bubbly and the topping is golden brown. Servings, 10.

Vary the fruit with the season such as pears and cranberries, apples and blackberries or plums.

Nutritional information per serving (excluding unknown items) - 272 calories; 5 g. Fat (15.6 percent calories from fat); 5 g. Protein; 55 g. Carbohydrate; 0 mg. Cholesterol; 25 mg. Sodium.

M-FIT BAKED MACARONI CHEESE

3 cups elbow macaroni, or shells
1/2 cup all-purpose flour
1/2 teaspoon dry mustard
1/2 teaspoon ground red pepper
3 cups skim milk
1 cup cheddar cheese, lowfat (sharp made from 2 percent milk), shredded
1/2 cup grated Parmesan cheese, preferably freshly grated
vegetable cooking spray
1/4 cup fine dry breadcrumbs, preferably home made whole wheat

Cook macaroni according to package directions; drain and set aside.

In a large heavy saucepan combine flour, mustard, and red pepper. Gradually add milk as you whisk well. Cook over medium heat, stirring constantly, about 10 minutes or until slightly thickened; remove from heat. Add cheeses and stir until they melt.

Stir in macaroni; spoon into a 2-quart baking dish coated with cooking spray. Sprinkle breadcrumbs over macaroni mixture. Cover and bake at 375 degrees for 30 minutes. Uncover and bake additional 5 minutes.

Servings, 6.

Delicious served with steamed tiny green peas. This dish freezes well.

Nutritional information per serving - 234 Calories; 3 g. Fat (13 percent calories from fat); 15 g. Protein; 35 g. Carbohydrate; 9 mg. Cholesterol; 281 mg. Sodium. Exchanges: 2 grain (starch); 1 lean meat; 1/2 non-fat milk; 0 fat.

M-FIT BAKED CHICKEN BREASTS TO RIVAL THE COLONEL'S

6 chicken breast halves without skin, and all visible fat removed
1 teaspoon Mrs. Dash lemon and herb seasoning
1 teaspoon minced garlic

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON ACCESS TO PUBLIC MEETINGS

The Charter Township of Canton will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting, to individuals with disabilities at the meeting/hearing upon two weeks notice to the Charter Township of Canton. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Charter Township of Canton by writing or calling the following:

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

Publish: January 1, 2004

CE08175976

CITY OF WESTLAND NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION

On JANUARY 6, 2004 the Westland Police Department will conduct public auctions of impounded, abandoned vehicles. The first auction will begin promptly at 10:00 am at Westland Service Towing, 37501 Cherry Hill, Westland, MI, County of Wayne, where the following vehicles will be offered for sale to the highest bidder:

YEAR	MAKE	BODY STYLE	COLOR	VIN
1984	DODGE	RAM/VAN	BROWN	2B4HB1T8EK211123
The second auction will begin promptly at 11:00 am at Westland Car Care, 6375 Hix Road, Westland, MI, County of Wayne, where the following vehicles will be offered for sale to the highest bidder:				
YEAR	MAKE	BODY STYLE	COLOR	VIN
1991	CHEVY	LUMINA/4 DR	GRAY	2G1WL5477M116298
1988	FORD	EXCORT/2 DR	MAROON	1FAPP2194JW239090
1989	FORD	TAURUS/4 DR	MAROON	1FABP62U2KG265813
1989	FORD	MUSTANG/2 DR	GRAY	1FABP41A5KF137539
1990	FORD	TAURUS/4 DR	WHITE	1FACP62U9L188623
1986	PONTIAC	SUNBIRD/2 DR	BLUE	1G2JD2709G7620667
1989	FORD	PROBE/2 DR	BLACK	1ZVBT20C1K5258150
1966	CADILLAC	3800/CONVIBLE	WHITE	F6282035
1997	FORD	EXPLORER/4 DR	GREEN	1FMDU34E7VUB94017
1996	FORD	CONTOUR/4 DR	PLUM	1FALP658TK115071
1988	MERCURY	SABLE/STWGN	SILVER	1MEBM547JG655284
1989	FORD	ESCORT/2 DR	BLUE	1FAPP192KW345550

All vehicles are sold in "as is" condition. Bidding on all vehicles will start at the amount due for towing and storage. Vehicles may be deleted from this list at any time prior to the start of the auction.

Publish: January 1, 2004

CE08176022

Visit the Observer online at
www.hometownlife.com

CITY OF CANTON NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION

Notice is hereby given that on (January 19, 2004), Tate & Co. Auctioneers, Executive Administrator for Storage USA, will be offering for sale under the judicial lien process, by public auction, the following storage units. The goods to be sold are generally described as household goods. The terms of the sale will be cash only. Storage USA reserves the right to refuse any and all bids. The sale will be at the following location: Storage USA, 6729 CANTON CENTER RD., CANTON, MI 48187 at 12:30 p.m.
Gloria E. Collins C-104, household, Geraldine Givens C-88, household, Cookies & Milk B-38, Misc Items, Michael Stone H-282, Misc Items, Brian Waskienewicz F-209 & H-293, Household.
Publish: January 1 and 8, 2004

CE08176167

Redford Township Department of Solid Waste Management 2003 Holiday Sanitation Schedule

Redford Township residents are reminded there will be no sanitation service on Thursday, December 25, 2003 due to the Christmas Holiday. Thursday's refuse will be picked up on Friday, December 26, 2003. The Friday, December 26th collection will be picked up on the Saturday, December 27, 2003.

Also, there will be no sanitation service on Thursday, January 1, 2004 due to the New Year's Holiday. Thursday's refuse will be picked up on Friday, January 2, 2004. The Friday, January 2nd collection will be picked up on Saturday, January 3, 2004.

Normal sanitation schedule will resume Monday, January 5, 2004.

Happy Holidays from:
Charter Township of Redford
Department of Solid Waste Management

Publish: December 21, 25, 28, 2003 & January 1, 2004

CE08176053

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH REQUEST FOR AN INDUSTRIAL FACILITIES EXEMPTION FOR KARMANN MANUFACTURING LLC TUESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2004

PLEASE TAKE NOTE: that a public hearing will be held on Tuesday, January 13, 2004, during a regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Plymouth to consider a request for a twelve year industrial facilities Exemption Certificate from Karmann Manufacturing, LLC, for a new facility to be located on Pilot Road, Metro West Industrial Park, Plymouth Township, Wayne County, Michigan.

The request is on file in the Clerk's Office where it is available for public perusal from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Any Township resident or member of any taxing authority within the Township of Plymouth shall have the right to appear and be heard. Written comments directed to the Clerk and received prior to the date of the meeting will be considered. Following the public hearing the Board of Trustees may consider the request.

The public hearing commencing at 7:00 p.m. will be held in the Meeting Room at Plymouth Township Hall, 42350 Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth, Michigan 48170, on Tuesday, January 13, 2004, during the regularly scheduled Board of Trustee Meeting. Telephone number 734-354-3224.

MARILYN MASSENGILL, CMC
Clerk, Charter Township of Plymouth

Publish: January 1, 2004

CE08175067

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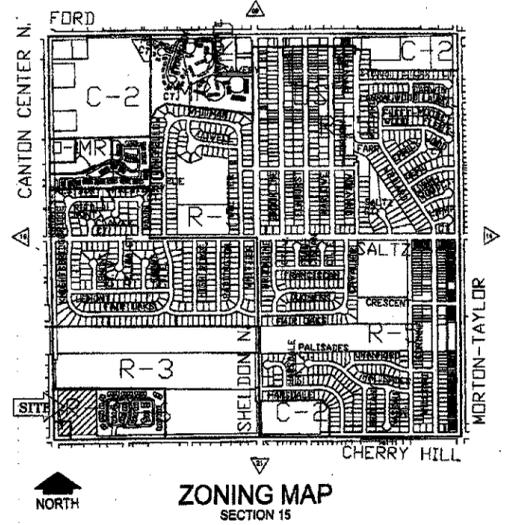
Rates apply: \$6 per line \$10 per photograph

PLANNING COMMISSION CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON, WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Act 184 of the Public Acts of 1943 of the State of Michigan, as amended, and pursuant to the Zoning Ordinance of the Charter Township of Canton that the Planning Commission of the Charter Township of Canton will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, January 5, 2004 in the **Chestnut Room, at Summit On The Park, 46000 Summit Parkway at 7:00 p.m.** on the following proposed amendment to the Zoning Ordinance.

BRUCECK/TOWNSHIP REZONING - CONSIDER REQUEST TO REZONE PARCEL NOS. 059 99 0004 710, R-6, SINGLE-FAMILY ATTACHED RESIDENTIAL AND 059 99 0005 701 FROM R-3, SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL (3 DWELLING UNITS/ACRE), TO C-2, COMMUNITY COMMERCIAL. Property is located at the northeast corner of Cherry Hill and Canton Center Roads.



ZONING MAP SECTION 15

Written comments addressed to the Planning Commission should be received at the Canton Township Administration Building, 1150 Canton Center S. prior to Friday, December 26, 2003 in order to be included in the materials submitted for review.

VIC GUSTAFSON, Chairman

Publish: December 14, 2003 & January 1, 2004

CE08174022

Cut the fat, not the flavor

Here are more tips from Whole Food Market to cut the fat in your diet while boosting flavors in recipes:

1. Brown meats and poultry in a non-stick skillet or seasoned iron skillet.
2. Lightly spray the pan with olive oil if additional oil is needed.
3. Grill foods. Lightly spray the food with olive oil before cooking.
4. Cook en papillote (in parchment paper) which requires little to no added fat and retains flavor and moisture.
5. Avoid the heaviness of fried foods by quick roasting at high temperatures to yield foods with a crisp exterior and moist interior.
6. Cook in a crock pot - many crock pot recipes do not require added oil and because the cooking process is slow, flavors in the dish have an opportunity to mingle and develop.
7. Prepare slow cooked dishes such as stews and soups, the day before.
8. Refrigerate to allow fat to rise to the top and solidify. Remove fat, reheat and serve. Cooking in advance allows flavors to develop.

TIPS

7. Skim liquid fat from the surface of warm dishes with a spoon, turkey baster, or paper towel.
8. Lighten up your milk - choose 2 percent or 1/2 percent over whole milk.
9. Always cook using olive oil, canola oil, or vegetable oil instead of butter - and use less than the recipe calls for.
10. Serve more steamed vegetables and less meat and poultry per serving.
11. Replace animal protein with beans and legumes.
12. Add herbs and spices and reduce added fat.
13. The herbs and spices will add flavor to your dish and also decrease the amount of salt needed.
14. Add less oil and brighten the flavor of your dish using heat (crushed red pepper flakes, cayenne and paprika).
15. Marinate your foods before cooking to add flavor intensity and lessen the need for additional oil.
16. Add less oil and balance flavors by adding acid (lemon juice or vinegar) at the end of

- preparation.
17. White wine vinegars will add high notes, while darker vinegars, such as balsamic will add depth of flavor and a robust quality.
 18. When your recipe calls for nuts or seeds, toast them before adding. Toasting intensifies the flavor of nuts and seeds.
 19. Increase flavor while using less oil by simmering herbs and/or garlic in olive oil. Strain before using.
 20. Pureed, roasted garlic adds flavor to low fat dishes.
 21. When recipes call for cheese, use a small amount of a high quality, intensely flavored cheese such as Reggiano Parmesan cheese.
 22. Replace some of the ground meat in meatballs with cottage cheese for a lighter, lower fat product.
 23. Use reconstituted, dried and pureed fruits to add richness and creaminess to fat-free or low-fat sauces.
 24. Replace up to half the fat in baked goods with applesauce or pureed prunes.
- Other prepared fat replacement products are available in the baking aisle of a natural foods store.

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Shurgard Storage Centers

"Notice is hereby given that the following units will be sold to the highest bidder by way of open auction on 01/09/04 at approximately 9:00 a.m. at the following locations:"

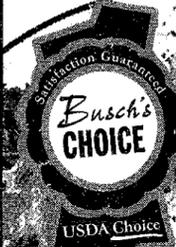
<p>Shurgard of Canton 2101 Haggerty Rd. Canton, MI 48187 (734) 981-0300</p> <p>Unit 3044 household goods Unit 3046 household goods Unit 5245 household goods Unit 6048 restaurant equipment</p>	<p>Shurgard of Southfield 19350 W. 8 Mile Rd. Southfield, MI 48075 (248) 357-1137</p> <p>Unit 1078 household goods Unit 1090 household goods Unit 1096 household goods Unit 1123 household goods Unit 1169 household goods Unit 1209 household goods Unit 2109 household goods Unit 2113 household goods Unit 2129 household goods Unit 2135 household goods</p>
<p>Shurgard of Canton South 45229 Michigan Ave. Canton, MI 48188 (734) 398-5416</p> <p>Unit 2016 household goods Unit 4003 household goods Unit 4051 household goods Unit 4139 household goods Unit 4159 household goods Unit 4223 household goods Unit 4225 household goods</p>	<p>Shurgard of Southfield @ Telegraph 24200 Telegraph Rd. Southfield, MI 48034 (248) 208-9000</p> <p>Unit 1071 household goods Unit 1077 household goods Unit 1131 household goods Unit 2001 household goods Unit 2031 household goods Unit 2089 household goods Unit 2091 household goods Unit 2121 household goods Unit 2161 household goods Unit 3053 household goods Unit 3133 household goods Unit 3160 household goods Unit 3163 household goods</p>
<p>Shurgard of Woodhaven 25080 Hall Rd. Woodhaven, MI 48183 (734) 676-8500</p> <p>Unit 233 household goods Unit 313 household goods Unit 431 household goods Unit 4031 household goods</p>	<p>Shurgard of Taylor 9300 Pelham Rd. Taylor, MI 48180 (313) 292-2950</p> <p>Unit 3029 household goods Unit 3064 household goods Unit 3067 household goods Unit 6074 household goods Unit 6129 household goods</p>
<p>Shurgard of Plymouth 41889 Joy Rd. Canton, MI 48187 (734) 459-2200</p> <p>Unit 2054 household goods Unit 9162 household goods</p>	<p>Shurgard of Westland 36001 Warren Rd. Westland, MI 48185 (734) 326-6000</p> <p>Unit 3166 household goods Unit 5098 household goods</p>
<p>Shurgard of Livonia 30300 Plymouth Rd. Livonia, MI 48150 (734) 522-7811</p> <p>Unit 2077 household goods Unit 3093 household goods Unit 9038 household goods</p>	<p>Shurgard of Ann Arbor 2500 Industrial Hwy. Ann Arbor, MI 48104 (734) 973-2212</p> <p>Unit 1058 household goods Unit 1061 household goods Unit 2033 household goods Unit 3006 household goods Unit 3051 household goods Unit 3053 household goods Unit 4004 household goods Unit 5002 household goods Unit 6026 household goods</p>
<p>Shurgard of Walled Lake 1901 East West Maple Rd. Walled Lake, MI 48390 (248) 669-4020</p> <p>Unit 29 Boat Unit 2018 household goods Unit 3003 RV/Boat Unit 3054 Boat Unit 3055 Jeep Unit 6004 household goods Unit 6038 household goods</p>	<p>Shurgard of Dearborn 24920 Trowbridge Rd. Dearborn, MI 48124 (313) 277-2000</p> <p>Unit 2320 household goods</p>

Publish: December 25, 2003 & January 1, 2004



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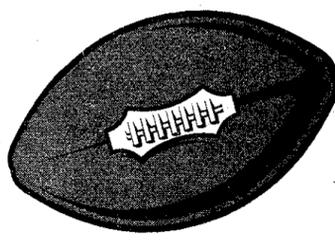
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PDF08017662

Mr. Pita restaurant offers weight loss contest

If you have returned to work carrying some post-holiday pounds, Mr. Pita wants to help you and your co-workers get back into shape.

The Shelby-Township based quick-service restaurant chain is currently soliciting participants for its second annual Weigh in at Work contest. The contest will pit teams of co-workers from area businesses against one another to see which team can lose the most

weight during a one-month time frame.

During the contest, participants will get a free, healthy, low-fat or low carb lunch delivered daily to their workplace by Mr. Pita. They will also receive a complimentary membership to Bally Total Fitness.

Six teams will be chosen to take part in the contest, which begins Jan. 19 and concludes Feb. 13. During the contest, each team will receive a platter

of sandwiches at lunchtime every Monday thru Friday. The platter will feature a variety of Mr. Pita's low fat UltraLite sandwiches and its new, low carbohydrate Lettuce DeLites. UltraLites, which average about two to three fat grams per seven-inch sandwich.

The new Lettuce DeLites are low in carbs with 19 of the 23 varieties containing fewer than 10 carbs per eight-inch sandwich. Some varieties are also

low in fat. To encourage a healthy lifestyle outside of work, contestants will also receive a free, one-month membership to Bally Total Fitness.

"This is a fun way to make a lifestyle change and a good way for people to start the New Year," said Frank Lombardo, founder and president of Mr. Pita. "If this contest can motivate folks to adopt a routine of healthy eating and exercise,

and if even a few of the contestants continue on that path throughout the year, then we've accomplished a worthwhile goal."

During the contest, participants will weigh in at work every Friday, reporting the results to Mr. Pita. The team with the highest average net weight loss at the conclusion of the contest will win free lunch-delivered once per week-for one year. In addition,

Mr. Pita will donate \$10 for each pound lost by the winning team to a charity of the team's choice.

Throughout the contest, WOMC radio's morning show with Dick Purton will track the progress of the competing teams.

To enter the Weigh in at Work contest, fax WOMC radio at (248) 399-1043 before January 5, or register via the Internet at WOMC.com.

WINE

FROM PAGE D1

value price.

■ 2001 Bodegas Salentein Chardonnay (\$18) highlights apples and pears with a bold, bright finish.

■ 2001 Bodegas Salentein Merlot (\$18) boasts full flavors, textures and solid structure. Worth the price.

■ 2001 Bodegas Salentein Malbec (\$18) has deep flavor impressions in a generous and ageable wine.

■ 2001 Bodegas Salentein Cabernet Sauvignon (\$18) has good structure and a big, rich extended finish.

■ 2001 Bodegas Salentein Shiraz (\$18) is big, bold and rich with plump, juicy and delicious flavors.

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#.

WINE PICKS

Here are new white wine tastes for a new year! Try any or all with Asian spicy dishes, crab or whitefish.

AUSTRALIA: 2002 Long Flat Semillon Sauvignon Blanc \$7.

CALIFORNIA: 2002 Joseph Phelps Viognier \$30 (one of the best); and 2003 Alexander Valley Vineyards New Gewurz \$9.

FRANCE: 2002 Georges Duboeuf Saint-Veran Flower Label \$11.50; and 2001 Hugel Gewurztraminer \$20 from Alsace.

ITALY: 2001 Rapitala Casalj \$11, unique blend of Catarratto (variety often used for production of marsala) and Chardonnay from Sicily.

OREGON: 2002 Erath Pinot Blanc \$13.

SPAIN: 2002 Torres Vina Esmeralda \$14, an attractive blend of moscatel and gewurztraminer.

All wines mentioned are available in the metro-Detroit area. If a retailer does not stock a specific wine, ask that it be ordered from the distributor.

CALENDAR

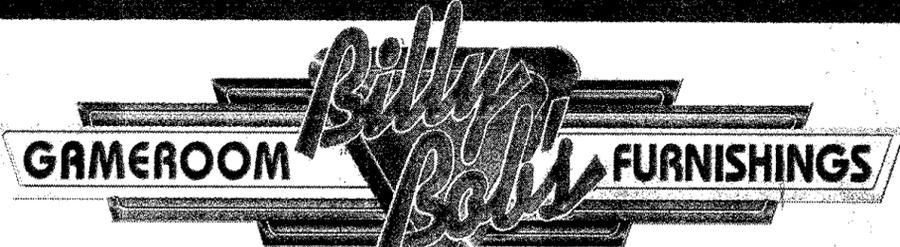
Super soups

M-Fit of the University of Michigan Health System conducts cooking classes in January, including one on soups 6-8 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 7 at the East Ann Arbor Health Center Demonstration Kitchen, 4260 Plymouth, in Ann Arbor. Wonderful Winter Vegetables will be taught 6-8 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 21 by chef Aaron Wynn. Pre-registration is required. Cost is \$30 per person or \$50 for two people attending together. Call Nicole Goyarts at (734) 975-4387, ext. 236 or sign up on line at www.mfitnutrition.com

Slow food

Save valuable time by using your slow cooker to make fabulous meals for your family and friends while you work and play. The inexpensive ingredients become succulent when simmered slowly all day. Taught through M-Care, University of Michigan Health System, the class is scheduled noon-1:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 3 at East Ann Arbor Health Center Demonstration Kitchen, 4260 Plymouth. Cost is \$30 per person or \$50 for two people attending together. Call Nicole Goyarts at (734) 975-4387, ext. 236 or sign up on line at www.mfitnutrition.com.

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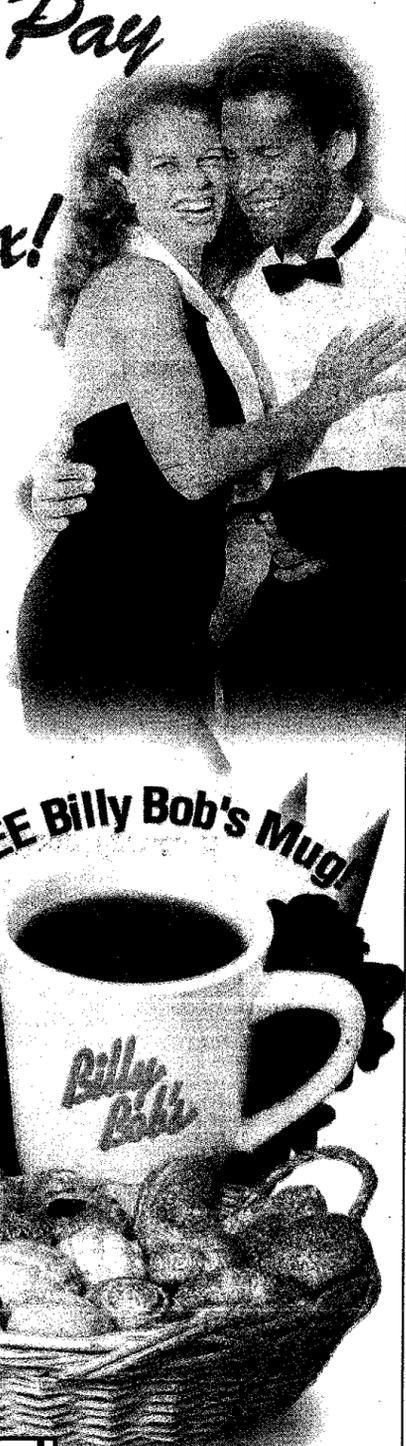
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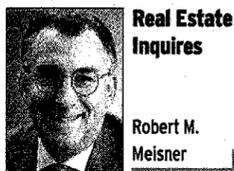
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Real Estate Inquires

Robert M. Meisner

Check deed restrictions on privacy fence

I live in a corner house and would love to put up a privacy fence around our yard but have been told by the township that it has to come in 25 feet from the sidewalk which significantly cuts down the size of our yard. Plus, there are two trees that my daughters play on that would be outside the fence. Due to a grandfather clause, there are many other corner lots in our subdivision that have fences to the sidewalk. My question is, what do we have to do to have a fence around our yard all the way to the sidewalk?

First, you have to check with your own Association Deed Restrictions to see whether there are any provisions for variance or a waiver assuming there is a prohibition similar to that of the township. Perhaps, if in fact your Association gives you a variance, the township will as well. Your recourse would be to go before the zoning board of appeals requesting a variance from the set back requirements showing the various other changes in the community which have allowed a fence to be built.

Our subdivision is 30 years old and there are homes that back up to a commons area which is owned by all the subdivision homeowners. Last year a vote was passed by all the homeowners to have the common areas surveyed and marked. The common area homeowners have now managed to elect their own board members and are planning to ignore the survey results. Their goal is to claim the common areas as their own. What can the rest of us do? Can they take over the land because it has not been surveyed?

Your question is extremely fact intensive in regard to whether or not there is a basis for adverse possession and who would be the claimant. Common area homeowners may or may not be legally constituted and may or may not have the legal right to assert any claims to the land in question. You are best advised to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in real estate law to look at all the facts and to provide you with a legal opinion.

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.



New Year looks prosperous

BY NORMAN PRADY
CORRESPONDENT

New Year's Eve. A crystal ball floats down. Crystal glasses are raised. Robert Burns' old Scottish song twirls through the last minute of the last day of the last month of the year.

And before the song is done, before glasses are lowered, before lips joined in celebratory kisses part, the world sets out to do it all over again with 527,040 new minutes. Yes, 1,440 extra ones in 2004 because it's a leap year with a Feb. 29.

In that last minute each time, a year is boxed up and stacked on a shelf, sent to be notes for the history books and taking with it all of its life and hopes. It's now time for fresh dreams.

A resolution — this new year will be as good as, perhaps better than, any known before it. A promising and successful year? Why, for example, just ask the folks who sell houses in our communities. Their work is about shelter, an unflagging need year after year.

BUYER'S MARKET

Carlene Slone, sales associate, Wilhelm & Associates, Clarkston — "It's going to be a great year. Everyone will come back to reality, seeing that times are good. Interest rates are still good and are going

to stay that way. It's a buyer's market. After the first, everything is going to skyrocket."

Erin O'Neill, sales agent, Weir Manuel Snyder & Ranke, Birmingham — "I'm very encouraged. It's been a good last month. The weather helped us — without having snow. The level of activity has increased — our phone calls, our sales. It's a busier office than it had been all fall. It's usually quieter after Halloween. There have been some very large sales recently — multiple millions. We foresee it continuing. Best year coming? I like to think the same thing about every year and it's gotten better every year."

HIGHER PURCHASE PRICES

Scott Nelson, Realtor, Realty Executives Express, Southfield — "As long as the economy looks like it's picking up, it should be a fine year. What we're expecting is that the number of units will be slightly down in the used-home inventory, but purchase prices will be slightly higher. The market will remain stable — buyer or seller. Over \$350,000, is a little tougher market. We'll see more brokerages being more inventive about how they do things, offering different sales programs and fees. It's not one-size-fits-all anymore. We'll work out ways to save them as much money as possible. There always will be

those who want full service but we're seeing more and more people who are able to do some things on their own. It's a changing marketplace."

Carol Kilner, associate broker and residential manager, Thompson Brown, Farmington Hills — "Who has a crystal ball? Well, maybe a small one. I've seen a lot of activity this month and normally December is not such a hot month. There's going to be a lot of inventory and with interest rates still low I think business should be good. The increase in inventory? Is that a good thing? Probably not for sellers, but for buyers. I see interest rates not increasing dramatically. I think it all depends on your own individual business. It depends on how you work. I've learned to work smart. That means knowing whom to spend and not spend time with — separate the buyers from the shoppers."

Kim Hahn, sales agent, Remerica Integrity, Livonia — "I have high hopes for a very prosperous new year. I can see people starting to get out and look right now. There's hustle and bustle going on. I see an incline in January in mid- to high-end houses, \$175,000 to \$400,000-\$500,000."

Ursula Cecile, sales agent, Real Estate One, Plymouth — "We're thinking 'up.' Very positive. I see a lot of business going on in this office, a lot of sales and prospective listings. I see bright days ahead."

Rates on 30-year, 15-year mortgages dip

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rates on 30-year and 15-year mortgages dipped for the third week in a row, offering a dose of cheer to prospective home buyers.

For the week ending Dec. 26, the average rate on 30-year mortgages nudged down to 5.81 percent, slightly lower than the 5.82 percent rate seen last week, Freddie Mac, the mortgage giant, reported Wednesday in its weekly nationwide survey of mortgage rates.

Rates on 30-year mortgages dropped 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 edged down this week to 5.13 percent from 5.14 percent the previous week.

ADJUSTABLE RATES

Rates for one-year adjustable mortgages, meanwhile, averaged 3.73 percent, down from 3.77 percent last week.

A year ago, rates on 30-year mortgages averaged 5.93 percent, 15-year mortgages were 5.32 percent and one-year adjustable mortgages stood at

4.01 percent.

The nationwide averages for mortgage rates do not include add-on fees known as points. Thirty-year mortgages carried an average fee of 0.7 point; fifteen-year mortgages carried an average fee of 0.6 point and one-year ARMs carried an average fee of 0.5 point.

"Interest rates cannot rise too quickly any time soon because the inflation indicators have been declining," said Amy Crews Cutts, Freddie Mac's deputy chief economist.

The housing market, powered by low mortgage rates has helped to support the economy this year. Even though the government

reported Wednesday that new-home sales fell by 2.4 percent in November, private economists predict home sales will set a record high for all of 2003.

REFINANCING

Separately, the Mortgage Bankers Association of America said refinancing accounted for 51.7 percent of all home-mortgage applications filed last week, down slightly from 51.8 percent the previous week. Refinancing this year has helped to underpin consumer spending, a main force keeping the economy rolling along.

Mortgage Bits



Tim 'Timbo' Phillips

Market share fight good for consumers

If you thought the past few years was an exciting time in the mortgage industry, put on your seat belts for next year's activities. We will not likely come close to seeing the record-setting mortgage volumes we saw during this recent refinance boom, but we should see some heavy-weight fighting for market share.

I love competition and truly free enterprise. Regardless of the field of endeavor — business, sports, academics, finance — I believe that metal sharpens metal. Such "head-on challenges" are healthy and ultimately help consumers.

RECOVERING ECONOMY

With the economy slowly recovering, interest rates should continue to slowly rise throughout the year. However, in spite of these increases, 2004 should remain primarily a fixed-rate mortgage market for most borrowers. Borrowers who are compelled to venture away from the fixed-rate world should do so for specific reasons.

Interest-only mortgages will gain popularity, not because they are superior products, but because they normally result in smaller monthly payments. Borrowers should use them judiciously.

Combination loans will continue to become more popular as more borrowers look for ways to avoid making PMI payments.

PIGGY-BACK HOME EQUITY

(HELOCs) will also help home owners free up more of their home equity to realign debts or to fund investments. More and more lenders now allow HELOCs up to 100 percent of a home's value. These strategies will recede at a rate inverse to property value appreciation as they will be less useful.

DOWN PAYMENT

Until the real estate market begins to sizzle again, builders and Realtors will learn to embrace down payment assistance as a means to sell more properties, or they will lose sales to those builders and Realtors who do so. Bridge loans, "no-document" type mortgages, and creative equity transfers will also help increase sales.

Senior home owners will continue to seek reverse mortgages to bolster their cash flows, and more lenders (and financial planners) will work to support these borrowers. More empty-nesters will seize the opportunity to downsize their homes to free up cash while snagging good interest rates that may still be available.

Timothy J. Phillips is a mortgage broker and newspaper columnist. You may access his archives at www.HomeQuarters.BIZ, and you may call him toll-free at (866) 369-4516. Homebuyers should always consult a professional for guidance specific to their situation.

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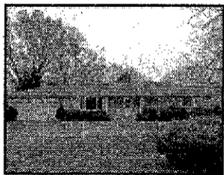
Thursday

6 p.m. Tuesday

Thursday Real Estate Display

3 p.m. Monday

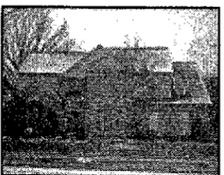
COLDWELL BANKER SCHWEITZER REAL ESTATE



BRIGHTON \$230,000
Gorgeous 3 br, 2 1/2 bath ranch. Glimpse of lake. Hardwood floors, built in china cabinet. Lrg family room in LL. Office/4th br in LL. Enclosed spa. Fenced in heated inground pool. Lake privileges. (BGSly65RED) 888-870-9131



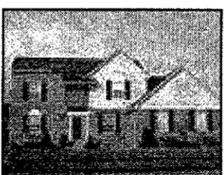
CANTON \$548,750
Why Build... 4BR, 3 full & 2 half bath "Carrington" brick colonial. Priv ct setting backing to woods. Kit & nook w/cherry cbnts & granite cntrops. 2-story FR w/dry bar. Lux master. BGP-84Sta 888-870-9127



CANTON \$434,900
WOW! What a home & what a setting! Totally redecorated 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath, 3,000 sq.ft. colonial on secluded lot backing to trees. Finished basement. (BGN56GLE) 888-870-9123



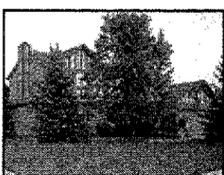
CANTON \$379,900
New Construction. LR, FR & Den. Featuring 2 Story Entry & Living Room W/spiral Staircase. Bays In Dining Rm & Den. Cathedral Master Suite. Gorgeous Covered Paladium Entry. Backing To Woods. OEL52SIN 888-870-9105



CANTON \$319,900
Former Model. Many Upgrades: Kit Cabinets, Ceramic Tile in Foyer & Bathrms. Neutral Decor T/O. Lg Master Bedrm W/ Dressing Area. Prof. Fin Bsmt W/full Kit & Bathrm. The 3 Car Garage Is Insulated, Floor Sealed & Painted W/office Space. OEL18KIM 888-870-9105



CANTON \$259,900
Best Buy!! On this 2 year old cape cod style condo with 2000 sq.ft., full basement, & 2 car garage in Plymouth-Canton school district. Loads of upgrades. (BGN21CHE) 888-870-9123



CANTON \$223,000
Canton Colonial! Fantastic 3 BR w/over 1800 sq. ft. Open floor plan. Great room w/fieldstone FP. Lg kitchen w/lots of cabinets. Generous size BR's. Dual access to deck. BGP-33Fer 888-870-9127



CANTON \$207,300
Beautiful 2 bdrm, 2bths, 1lav Condo! Ceramic tile foyer, great rm w/cathedral ceiling, gas frpl, Oak cabs, gourmet kitchen, 2nd fr has loft, built-in entertainment center. All appl. stay. Sec. System. (BGN86HER) 888-870-9123



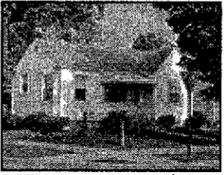
CANTON \$199,900
Beautiful Condo. Fully Handicap Accessible! Rails T/O., Seated Shower in Mst Bath, 1st Fl Mst Bedroom & Laundry. Two Decks, \$300 Gift Certificate To Home Depot To Buyer At Closing. OEL54SAR 888-870-9105



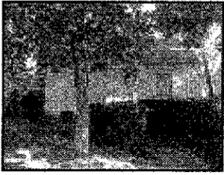
CANTON \$199,900
End Unit 3BR, 2.1BA Cape. Spacious kit-nook w/plenty of cbnt-ntrop space. Great rm w/ vaulted clg & gas fp. Lux 1st fr master ste w/fash bath. Full bsmt-part fin w/2 BR's. Deck off DR & nook. BGP-56Sar 888-870-9127



DETROIT \$93,500
Move in condition, neutral decor. Updates include newer carpeting, porch, driveway, awnings, C/A, water heater. Lrg Mstr BR includes Sitting Room/Office. 2 1/2 car Garage. OEL66PLA 888-870-9105



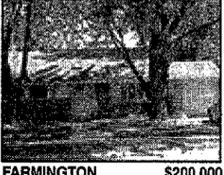
DETROIT \$64,900
Charming Home. Large corner lot, fenced yard with sprinkler system. HUGE master bedroom, formal dining room just off the kitchen, open into the family room. 1 year Home Warranty. (BGSly46ASH) 888-870-9131



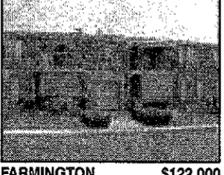
DETROIT \$44,700
Great Starter or Rental. 2 Bdrm Ranch W/ All New Updates Inc Furn, Elect, Plumbing, Doors, Windows, Gutters, Fresh Paint T/O Interior And Exterior. Beaut Hdwd Firs. New HWH. OEL44VAU 888-870-9105



FARMINGTON \$250,000
The Ultimate! Wonderfully charming & totally updated. Walk to downtown Farmington. Custom mstr ste, 2 frpl's, custom kitchen, built-ins, hdwd floors, landscaped lot. (BGN10STA) 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, hwh. (BGN50POW) 888-870-912



FARMINGTON \$122,000
Classy Condo w/Designer Décor. Updates Inc. Bit-in Bookcases, Ceramic Flooring @ Entry, Bath W/limestone Counter & Flooring. Kitchen W/ceramic Flr; Granite Counter* Open Flr Plan. OEL57SHI 888-870-9105



INKSTER \$124,900
Beautiful well maintained. 4 bedroom, 2 bath, brick bungalow. NE Inkster, 2 1/2 car garage. Finished basement. New Kitchen, newer windows. Freshly painted w/newer carpet. (BGSly35SHE) 888-870-9131



LIVONIA \$599,900
This One Is Special! Custom built brick colonial. Gourmet kit w/granite cntrops & b/l appl's. Two-story Fam Rm. Lux master ste, guest ste. Extra deep bsmt. 3 car s/e garage. Cul-de-sac. BGP-49Van 888-870-9127



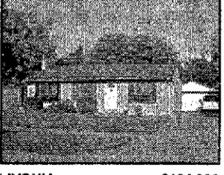
LIVONIA \$314,900
Classic colonial.. Large den, eat-in kit w/view of the back yard-fam rm has cath ceiling w/slides to deck. Mbr suite has w/i closet. Seller is motivated. Refrig nego. (BGSly01BRE) 888-870-9131



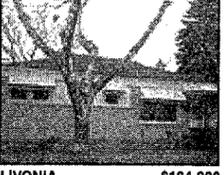
LIVONIA \$186,000
Well Maintained Home! This well maintained home has 3br, 1.5 baths, a 3-season rm, finished bsmt & 2.5 car garage. Close to schools, parks & shopping. Home warranty provided. (BGN21BRE) 888-870-9123



LIVONIA \$184,999
Brick Ranch w/Great Value! This buyers choice has newer roof, & vinyl windows. Copper plumbing, full basement & spacious 2 car garage. Easy access to highways. (BGN65HIX) 888-870-912



LIVONIA \$184,900
Pride of Ownership! All brick ranch, 3 bdrm, 2 bath, beautiful hdwd floors, family-sized kitchen, large dining area w/doorwall to large yard, 2.5 car garage, finished bsmt. Home warranty. (BGN94HOU) 888-870-9123



LIVONIA \$164,900
3 bdrm. brick ranch. Beaut. Updated kitchen cabinets, sink, counters & floor. Add'l updates: bath fixtures, neutral carpet T/O, vinyl windows, gas F/A furnace, copper plumbing, glass blk windows. OEL90HAT 888-870-9105



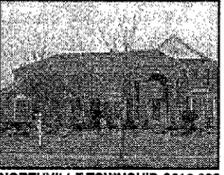
LIVONIA \$159,900
Livonia Estates. Clean & Neat Well Built 3 Bedrm, 1 Bath Brick Ranch. Lg LR. Nice Kitchen W/eating Space & All Appliances. Partly Finished Bsmt W/glass Block, Washer & Dryer, Central Air, Vinyl Windows, Updated Electrical Service. 2 Car Gar. OEL62SUN 888-870-9105



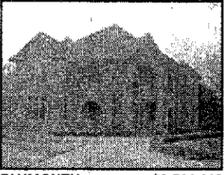
MILFORD \$398,900
Walk-Out Ranch. Gorgeous 1996 custom home on 1.2 acres offers 2847 ft & 1100 sq. ft. Fin bsmt, 4BR, 3BA, Great Rm w/FR, Master suite. Huge 2 car gar. Neutral decor, Florida Room. BGP-33Ann 888-870-9127



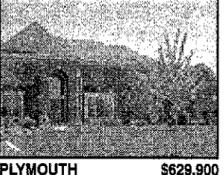
MILFORD \$204,900
Newer 3 bedroom colonial on almost an acre.. Open Floor plan, neutral and ready to move into. Great room with cathedral ceilings - fireplace, sprawling kitchen, 2 car garage. full basement. (BGSly57OLD) 888-870-9131



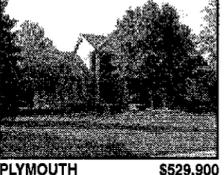
NORTHVILLE TOWNSHIP \$618,999
This One is Sharp! Stunning Richmond model! Gourmet kitchen w/42" cbnts & oversized nook. Hdwd flrs in kit, nook, foyer, DR. Impressive circular staircase. 2-story foyer & FR. Lux mstr ste. BGP-48Spr 888-870-9127



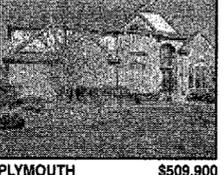
PLYMOUTH \$2,500,000
World Class Residence! 9+ acres w/pond & woods. 1st flr mstr ste w/ig wic & jac tub w/waterfall. Granite tops in both kits. French drs to 5 balconies. Add'l 10 acres available Tot \$250,000. BGP-31ANN 888-870-9127



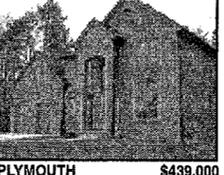
PLYMOUTH \$629,900
Country Club Village of Plymouth. 4BR, 3 full & 2 half bath colonial. Priv wooded setting. Gour kit w/cherry cbnts. Hdwd flrs nook & hearth rm. 2-story FR. Master ste w/sitting rm. Full extra hgt walkout. BGP-29Ply 888-870-9127



PLYMOUTH \$529,900
Beacon Meadows Sub. 4BR, 3.1BA Colonial. Spac kit w/nook, lg island w/smooth cooktop, MBR w/FR, jetted tub. Tiled foyer w/oak staircase. DW to lg deck. Fin bsmt w/full bath & wet bar. BGP-01Wes 888-870-9127



PLYMOUTH \$509,900
Builder's Own! Almost every custom feature known to man! 2-story foyer and Family room, 2 staircases to 2nd floor. Extensive custom decking, perfectly decorated with only the finest. BGP-82 Dee 888-870-9127



PLYMOUTH \$439,000
New Affordable Construction In Plymouth! On small lake w/stonecast FP, cherry cbnt, granite cntrs. Custom mlcs & trim. Brazilian hdwd flrs. Ceramic BA & laundry. 4BR, 2.5BA, daylight bsmt. Available in Nov. BGP-00Elm 888-870-9127



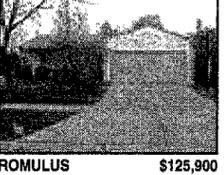
PLYMOUTH \$439,000
New Construction! Excellent craftsmanship & builder pulled out all the stops on features even extra deep bsmt. Great pre-construction prices. (BGN25COT) 888-870-9123



REDFORD \$134,900
Nice 3 Bdrm Brick Bungalow. 2 Car Garage, updated Kitchen, Ceramic Foyer, Newer Entry Doors, glass Block Windows In Basement. Newer front porch, nice landscaping. OEL58INK 888-870-9105



REDFORD \$109,900
Many Updates In This 3 Bdrm, Alum Bungalow. Kitchen W/All Appliances. Formal DR. Newer Copper Plumbing. Newer High-eff Furnace & Central Air. Newer Roof Shingles (tear-off) W/ice Shield. Bull Basement W/Glass Block Windows. OEL31KEE 888-870-9105



ROMULUS \$125,900
Nice 3br 2 Bath Ranch. All Appliances, Window Treatments And Wood Burning Stove In LR Remain. Eat-in Kitchen Plus Lg LR.. Nicely Landscaped W/sprinkler Sys. Alarm System. OEL22RIV 888-870-9105



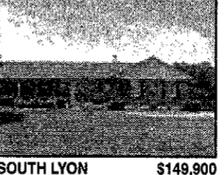
SALEM \$194,900
New construction home in growing small town! Superior craftsmanship in this 3 bdrm, 2 bath home. Master on 1st floor, 2 car garage, 200 sq. ft. unfinished bonus room over garage. Super insulation package. (BGSly54MCF) 888-870-9131



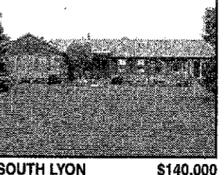
SOUTHFIELD \$195,000
Beautiful 3 BR, 2.5 BA Condo. Updates Inc. Kit Cabinets, Master Suite W/Walk In Closet. Stunning Decor & Excellent Condition. Best Location In Southfield. 2 Car Garage, All Appliances. \$195,000 OR LEASE FOR \$1,500/MO. OEL42ROD 888-870-9105



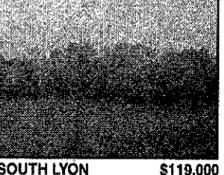
SOUTH LYON \$284,900
Custom Built 4 Bedroom Colonial. Meticulously maintained-hardwood floors, fresh paint, trac lighting, master bath, private wooded yard and 3 car garage. Home is warranted. (BGSly79CAL) 888-870-9131



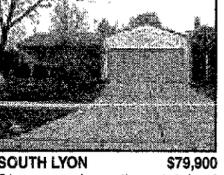
SOUTH LYON \$149,900
55+ walk-out condo. 3 bedrooms, 2 baths and large patio over looking stunning wildlife. Neutral decor w/ceramic entrance. Club house and beach. (BGSly70CAM) 888-870-9131



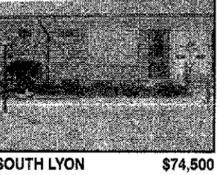
SOUTH LYON \$140,000
Co-op 55+ community.. Immediate occupancy. 3 br, 2 ba. Won't disappoint you. All appliances included. Central air. Lake priv on sandy beach. Call for appt. (BGSly45ARL) 888-870-9131



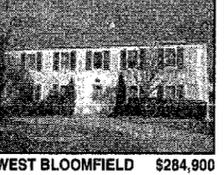
SOUTH LYON \$119,000
Excellent location for your dream home. 10 acres in area of farm and fine homes. Township says no splits available. Engineered septic system expected. (BGSlyVLSIX) 888-870-9131



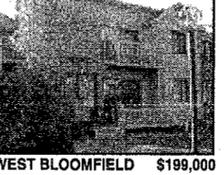
SOUTH LYON \$79,900
Clean and well maintained updated Co-op 55+! Nice open floor plan! Newer kitchen, newer carpet, freshly painted. Basement offers 3rd bedroom & family room! (BGSly26FRA) 888-870-9131



SOUTH LYON \$74,500
Adult coop-55 yrs or older. Beautifully decorated meticulously maintained! Living room has large front window which is open to dining room - bedroom doorwall to Florida room. (BGSly14POT) 888-870-9131



WEST BLOOMFIELD \$284,900
Spacious, Totally Updated! 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath colonial with W.Bloomfield Schools. Finished basement, attached garage, large lot & 2 fireplaces. (BGN42CED) 888-870-9123



WEST BLOOMFIELD \$199,000
Exceptional 2bdrm, 2 bath Ranch Condo! All appliances are included. Open floor plan, club house & pool, 2 car garage, basement, home warranty, clean & neutral. Sure to please. (BGN07ELM) 888-870-9123



WESTLAND \$189,500
Spacious Cape Cod on Premium Lot! 3bdrm, 2.5 bath, basement & lovely deck w/beautiful wooded view of wetlands. Neutral decor plus extra insulation make for quiet atmosphere. (BGN84RAV) 888-870-9123



WESTLAND \$149,900
Desirable "Surrey Heights"! 3 BR br ranch, newer wnds, roof shngs(2000), newer furnace blower, sec sys, newer ex. drs, newer kit cabs. Fncd yd w/playset & patio. Form LR, brfst area, lbr, LL w/bar. BGP-91Cam 888-870-9127



WESTLAND \$146,900
Awesome 3br, 2 bath Ranch! W/over 1300 sq.ft., open floor plan, vaulted ceilings, new ceramic floors & carpeting everywhere, AC, granite patio, all appliances stay, a must see. (BGN17WAL) 888-870-9123



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HOMES SOLD IN OAKLAND COUNTY

These are the Observer & Eccentric-area residential real estate closings recorded the week of Sept. 22-26 at the Oakland County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

Auburn Hills	3444 Paramount \$365,000	16005 Marguerite \$237,000
Beverly Hills	20435 Rondale \$338,000	18380 Warwick \$474,000
Birmingham	1721 E. 14 Mile \$83,000	920 Harmon \$395,000
	1777 Hazel \$265,000	868 N Adams \$135,000
	620 W Frank \$570,000	1641 Webster \$287,000
	2564 Windemere \$228,000	1410 Yorkshire \$490,000
	1912 Yorkshire \$490,000	
Bloomfield Hills/Township	100 Billingsgate \$230,000	1059 Clear Point \$437,000
	3732 Darlington \$520,000	7290 Glenview \$350,000
	1843 Golf Ridge \$255,000	4052 Lakeridge \$680,000
	6815 Meadowlake \$1,250,000	5568 Pine Brooke \$670,000
	4516 Ranch \$508,000	583 Reynard \$665,000
	372 S Gleggary \$287,000	1784 S Hills \$168,000
Clarkston	4515 Alexander Pines \$200,000	408 Circle \$269,000
	9748 Forest Ridge \$388,000	7057 Hickory \$295,000
	9568 Klats \$270,000	4559 Mountain View \$285,000
	5014 Oak Hill \$170,000	9040 Oakmont \$700,000
	10210 Wellington \$316,000	
Commerce Township	8217 Lake Pine \$285,000	5684 Lancaster \$98,000
	5561 Leafwood \$380,000	143 Osborne \$122,000
	1972 Portlock \$195,000	1571 Wandrei \$615,000
	6140 Warwick \$281,000	
Farmington	21408 Birchwood \$208,000	22725 Power \$185,000
Farmington Hills	32711 Balmoral \$222,000	30887 Country Ridge \$324,000
	31025 Evergreen \$470,000	29080 Forest Hill \$330,000
	20862 Halsted \$680,000	29150 Hemlock \$240,000
	28814 Hidden \$450,000	28418 Lake Park \$255,000
	38625 Lancaster \$286,000	29441 Laurel \$183,000
	30245 Meadow \$275,000	22200 Middlebelt \$130,000
	23460 N Stockton \$180,000	28891 Nottoway \$310,000
	30944 Pine Cone \$398,000	34067 Rhonswood \$113,000
	21524 Roosevelt \$134,000	21784 Ruth \$150,000
	27605 Shiawassee \$129,000	28471 Thorny Brae \$195,000
	23158 Tuck \$153,000	32288 W. 12 Mile \$167,000
Keego Harbor	2364 Fordham \$112,000	
Lake Orion	2693 Aubrey \$285,000	1241 Bald Mountain \$199,000
	916 Bayfield \$148,000	3120 Beechtree \$104,000
	2381 Brabant \$256,000	504 Joslyn \$172,000
	3518 Mill Creek \$81,000	1100 Miller \$164,000
	694 N Long Lake \$175,000	1952 Slater \$160,000
Lathrup Village	27723 Red River \$265,000	19050 San Quentin \$316,000
Oakland Township	5043 Belmonte \$372,000	2879 Hastings \$612,000
	1789 High Meadows \$450,000	2671 Long Winter \$725,000
	3378 Tremonte \$204,000	3395 Tremonte \$198,000
	1755 W Buell \$389,000	3856 Woodmonte \$154,000
Orchard Lake	5375 Trillium \$1,100,000	
Rochester	1619 Boulder \$285,000	1970 Catlin \$260,000
	1794 Flagstone \$170,000	430 Miller \$141,000
	327 N Helen \$170,000	1084 River Mist \$320,000
	107 Walnut \$148,000	
Rochester Hills	3853 Alida \$182,000	3099 Baypoint \$326,000
	1836 Burning Bush \$164,000	396 Buttercup \$300,000
	834 Dahlia \$255,000	637 Dartmouth \$260,000
	3341 Empire \$395,000	3205 Greenwood \$170,000
	771 Harlan \$242,000	2623 Hartline \$139,000
	841 Lion \$280,000	376 Meadow Bridge \$150,000
	3082 Midvale \$159,000	1713 Morningside \$219,000
	3211 Parkwood \$395,000	3199 Primrose \$319,000
	800 Snowmass \$345,000	1330 Tiverton \$291,000
	3839 W Auburn \$155,000	2186 Warrington \$241,000
	3057 York \$188,000	
Southfield	20221 Alhambra \$194,000	27355 Berkshire \$178,000
	19590 Cherry Hill \$218,000	26613 Franklin Pointe \$144,000
	22251 Ivanhoe \$210,000	19732 Jeanette \$25,000
	23670 Lee Baker \$139,000	27355 Marshall \$186,000
	20318 Larkmoor \$169,000	28553 Regent \$119,000
	16170 Roanoke \$158,000	16215 Roanoke \$185,000
	30003 Rock Creek \$129,000	19741 Silver Spring \$180,000
	29973 Spring River \$180,000	29540 Stellamar \$254,000
	2701 Sutherland \$162,000	21700 Virginia \$207,000
	17151 Wiltshire \$88,000	
Sylvan Lake	2195 Pontiac \$200,000	
Troy	2265 Atlas \$200,000	276 Billmore \$256,000
	4550 Bonlebrook \$260,000	1581 Brentwood \$157,000
	1510 Devon \$239,000	1516 Devon \$237,000
	1516 Devon \$237,000	1588 Devon \$275,000
	171 Harrington \$360,000	2283 Hempstead \$195,000
	3615 Millay \$195,000	75 Millstone \$266,000
	1405 Ralleghe \$297,000	1441 Ralleghe \$285,000
	2704 Red Fox Trail \$365,000	
Walled Lake	541 Alexander \$276,000	2185 Blue Stone \$340,000
	3498 Buss \$270,000	16202 Caitlin \$207,000
	132 Coalmont \$169,000	12024 Lindsey \$189,000
	2181 Marble \$225,000	162 Neptune \$126,000
	201 Neptune \$103,000	204 Osprey \$150,000
	477 Woodhaven \$245,000	
Waterford	911 Boston \$35,000	504 Cass Lake \$191,000
	2665 Catherham \$190,000	5630 Clinton River \$195,000
	387 Feather \$198,000	1352 Genella \$152,000
	3557 Lakewood \$825,000	3147 Megan \$149,000
	6477 Oak Valley \$345,000	4012 Olmstead \$169,000
	4068 Olmstead \$163,000	2864 Rowan \$208,000
	597 S Winding \$179,000	1238 Tull \$167,000
	3354 Warringham \$165,000	387 Waterfall Ridge \$243,000
	2588 Woodbine \$185,000	2664 Woodbine \$218,000
	6834 York \$216,000	
West Bloomfield	2145 Bordeaux \$261,000	6026 Cheryl \$280,000
	4176 Colorado \$227,000	5671 Culpepper \$230,000
	5744 Drake Hollow \$205,000	7618 Greenway \$435,000
	1736 Heron View \$286,000	5982 Lexington \$206,000
	5539 Northcote \$285,000	7265 Pontiac \$216,000
	6620 Red Cedar \$199,000	2218 Rhine \$260,000
	7275 Ward Eagle \$205,000	4408 Westover \$317,000

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.homedom.com.

contracts. The instructor, a licensed builder, will discuss the basics of buying property, building codes and permits, getting bids for labor and materials, and insurance requirements. The cost is \$180 plus \$30 for two textbooks. Register by Friday, Jan. 2, call (248) 433-0885.

Meeting
Building Owners and Managers Association of Metropolitan Detroit 2004 Economic Forecast - joint meeting featuring James A. Sansoterra, Comerica Bank, senior vice president & chief investment officer, 11 a.m. (registration & networking), lunch & program at noon Thursday, Jan. 8, Dearborn Inn-Dearborn Ballroom, 20301 Oakwood Blvd., Dearborn. To register call Cynthia Andary, (248) 848-3834 or candary@bomadet.org for information visit www.info@bomadet.org

Buy a home
Learn how to find and finance your home purchase at this free seminar 7-8:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 12, Troy Public Library, 510 W. Big Beaver Road, east of I-75 or 7-8:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 13, Baldwin Public Library, 300 W. Merrill, Birmingham, one block south of Maple, west of Old Woodward. Find out what price home you can afford and how your credit history can influence your purchase decision. Sponsored by Chase Manhattan Mortgage Corp. and Re/Max in the Hills.

Apartment Management Industry Excellence
Awards presentation 6:45-9 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 15, Novi Sheraton, 21111 Haggerty Road, Novi. Sponsored by the Property Management Council of Apartment Association of Michigan. The awards recognize achievement in the apartment management industry. Reservation, including hors d'oeuvres \$40 for AAM members, non-members and guests, call (248) 862-1004.

Builder's license
Seminar offered by Walled Lake Community Education with Oakland Builders Institute will help you pass the Michigan state builder's license exam. Meets 6-10 p.m. Monday & Wednesday, Jan. 5-14, Walled Lake Middle School, 46720 Pontiac Trail. Course for those who want to subcontract the construction of their own homes, estate investors and developers and building tradespeople. The cost is \$205 plus \$20 for textbook and sample questions. Preregistration required by Friday, Jan. 2, call (248) 956-5000. Course also offered Tuesday & Thursday, 6-10 p.m. at Berkshire Middle School, 21707 W. 14 Mile Road, Beverly Hills. The cost is \$180 plus \$20 for textbook. Call (248) 203-3800 to register by Friday, Jan. 2, or visit www.buildersinstitute.com. For free brochure and current schedule of classes call (800) 940-2014 or (248) 651-2771.

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 online at www.manyhouses.com or visit any local RE/MAX office.

Protecting you and your money
Seminar offered by Bloomfield Hills Community Education with Oakland Builders Institute 6-10 p.m. Tuesday & Thursday, Jan. 6-15, Andover High School, 4200 Andover Road. Course covers home financing, the building process, and builder's terms and

Developer buys Old Abilene Town

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A developer has purchased the Old Abilene Town and Museum property as the first step in a plan to turn the historic tourist site into an attraction similar to Silver Dollar City in Branson, Mo.

Terry Tietjens, president of Historic Abilene Inc., completed a deal on Dec. 15 to purchase the seven-acre museum property from the current owners.

Next, Tietjens will have to find funding options for New Old Abilene Town, which would cover 16 to 20 acres, cost \$7 million to \$8 million and - in concept - would be comparable to Silver Dollar City with entertainment, fine dining and working craftspeople.

"The next step is working through some of our state

offices, (the Department of Tourism, (the Kansas Department of Transportation), the Department of Commerce," Tietjens said. "We're looking for their help in grants."

Without funding, there is no definite timeline at this point, Tietjens said, but he estimates it will take about two years to complete the project.

"We will be buying extra land as financing and donations become available," he said. "A lot of things will depend on funding and how things go."

Existing buildings that hold historic value - including original log cabins, a schoolhouse, the T.C. Henry barn and the Bonebrake Opera House - will be refurbished, Tietjens said. The opera house will be converted into a theater.



DEARBORN HEIGHTS. Beautiful spotless brick 3 BR bungalow w/great curb appeal & very well cared for. Loads of storage! Hdwd flrs under most carpet, fin'd bmt, wet plaster, cove ceilings, alum trim, 2 car gar. Updates include: new circuit box '03, copper plumb '94, windows '94, exterior drs. Home warranty! \$137,900 (D66Gra)



FARMINGTON HILLS. Transfer forces sale of this charming four bedroom, 2 1/2 bath colonial w/library, formal dining, separate breakfast room, 1st floor laundry, and attached garage. Backs to a beautiful commons area! \$253,000 (D55Sco)

CANTON. This new home has it all! Premium exterior elevation overlooks 101 ft. of woods. Impressive long entry drive greets your guests! 4 bedrooms, 3 1/2 baths, fireplace in family room + 2-way FP between breakfast rm & library. Oversized kitchen island, granite counters, upgraded cabinets & flooring, etc. A Must See!! \$489,900 (L66Taf)

LIVONIA. Priced to sell! Beautifully maintained three bedroom, 2 1/2 bath colonial with formal dining, family room w/fireplace, spacious kitchen, finished basement, 1st floor laundry, attached garage. Has it all, including updates for \$249,900 (L90Gat)

CANTON. A complete makeover w/new Anderson windows, profess. landscaping, vinyl siding, roof, garage, paint, carpet, etc. Pristine hdwd flrs in entrance & bright open KIT. Home office off foyer has French drs to spacious family rm w/FP. Great neighbors & sub! \$289,000 (L12Dre)

FARMINGTON HILLS. CUTE & CLEAN! Newly remodeled starter home w/neutral decor. New bath & new carpet. Fresh paint inside & out. Perfect for individual, couple or small family. Great neighborhood! Clean & ready to move in! Why Rent? One Year Home Warranty! \$124,900 (L35Vhe)

NORTHVILLE. Beautiful 3 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath condo w/open floor plan & lots of windows. Located on a cul-de-sac w/ private yard. Nville schools! Formal dining & living room w/gas FP & deck. Corian kitchen w/island, oak cabinets & floor. MBR has gas FP & balcony. Home Warranty! \$315,000 (L77Wal)

REDFORD. Charming 3 bedroom brick ranch w/newer roof, C/A, water heater, kitchen, and windows. A large fenced yard w/wuge beautiful deck attached to heated pool. This is a well maintained home w/hardwood floors, nice dining area, great landscaping, finished basement, and garage. A Must See! Home Warranty! \$149,500 (L95Sio)

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PRETTY AS A PICTURE Gorgeous brick and aluminum 2 bedroom, 1.5 bath condo features newer windows, furnace, hwh, carpet, and a remodeled kitchen with newer flooring, cabinetry, countertops, sink, and appliances. Finished basement with a dramatic den plus a sitting area! Outstanding. \$135,000 (D64NC)	HOW SWEET IT IS! 5 Yrs. Old! Better than new with professionally done landscaping, brick paver patio, privacy fence across the back. 3 bedrooms and 3 baths, finished basement and so much more! \$236,500 (980WI)	GARDEN CITY RANCH. Brick ranch with 3 bedrooms, 1.5 baths and a large fenced back yard in a great Garden City neighborhood. 2 car garage, some hardwood floors, and a finished basement with a possible 4th bedroom. \$139,900 (612CA)	SPECTACULAR WATERFRONT On 1.4 acres. Walkout ranch - 3 bedrooms, 3 baths, trees, privacy and 3 boat hoists on Belleville Lake. Rare opportunity. Call now. \$519,900 (830LA)	I'M GORGEOUS Three bedroom, 2-1/2 bath, natural fireplace in family room, 1st floor laundry. Huge beautifully landscaped yard. Sprinkler system, 2-tiered deck, alarm system. Great location. Ready for new owner! \$234,900 (489SN)	NEWER DETACHED CONDO This brick beauty has everything you want! 2 full baths, attached 2-car garage, first floor laundry, a full basement, 1302 square feet, a treed back yard, and all of the appliances will stay! \$209,900 (247TW)	YOU CAN HAVE IT ALL! Cozy 3 bedroom ranch with over 1100 sq. ft. situated on an extra deep lot! Includes new windows, central air w/humidifier, new side entry doors, vertical blinds, 10x10 shed, furnace, HWH, and roof. Freshly painted & carpeted w/neutral decor. \$114,900 (422OR)
MOVE RIGHT IN! Fabulous 3 bedroom ranch with finished basement, 4 season room with a gas fireplace, updated electrical, plumbing, roof, hot water heater, vinyl siding, and new windows. Located on an extra large lot with a 2-car garage and back to Voss Park. \$134,900 (361MA)	OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS! Over 2600 sq. ft. colonial w/4 bedrooms is ready to move into & features a private study, family room w/custom fireplace, formal living & dining, 1st floor laundry, sprinkler & water treatment systems all nestled in a beautifully serene area of parks & walking paths. \$315,000 (387WI)	PRIDE A PLENTY! Well maintained 2BR/2BA end unit condo worthy of your taste. Great room w/vaulted ceiling, kitchen w/pantry and all appliances, master w/plenty of closet space, full basement, attached 1-car garage, and an oversized deck. \$159,750 (864HU)	NEW CONSTRUCTION 2350 square foot Colonial with 4 bedrooms and 2 baths backing to the woods. Large open floor plan with formal living and dining rooms, hardwood floors, 2.5 car garage, and a basement with 9.6 foot ceilings. Maintenance free exterior. \$299,900 (906SO)	BEAUTIFUL CAPE COD 4 bedroom, 2 full bath cape cod with a huge 27x16 family room with a cozy gas fireplace, oak mantle and built in book shelves. Updated kitchen, separate dining room, basement and a 2 car garage with a walk up loft. 1754 square feet of living space! \$176,900 (176SE)	SMART VALUE You'll feel right at home in this 5 bedroom colonial with roomy yard. Ceramic foyer, gracious formal living and dining combo, family room w/fireplace. Modern kitchen w/window seat, enclosed sun room, laundry room incl. Appliances. Fully landscaped & freshly painted. \$264,900 (070BE)	GREAT LIVONIA BUY Spacious 3 bedroom contemporary - large living and family room with walkout. Newly tiled kitchen and dining area, hardwood floors throughout, 1-1/2 baths, partially finished basement, attached carport and a 2-1/2 car garage. Move-in condition. \$194,500 (535LA)

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In Alaska, environment, development not mutually exclusive

BY RACHEL D'ORO
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

Leigh Ann Bauer, who has lived in Alaska for 12 years, calls herself a "big-time animal lover." She also considers herself "pretty pro-oil development."

To many people in Alaska, those two things are not mutually exclusive.

In fact, sometimes it seems as if people outside Alaska see a bigger conflict between the environment and oil and gas drilling than those living here do - a phenomenon made clear during the recent debates over exploiting new sources of energy in Alaska as existing stores become tapped out.

Alaska's economy is heavily dependent on oil, while its vast wilderness is a lure for outdoors enthusiasts. As far as many people are concerned, those two interests exist in remarkable harmony, with about 150 million acres of national parks, refuges and forests where development is either restricted or prohibited altogether.

Since 1986, the Alaska Oil and Gas Association, an industry group, has regularly tracked public opinion on opening the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to exploration. Pollster Dave Dittman said 500 or more Alaskans are surveyed each year.

Over the years, public support has hovered around 70 percent, while the opposition average is 23 percent. Support dipped sharply only after the Exxon Valdez oil spill of 1989. That year, 54 percent supported development of the refuge, while 40 percent opposed it.

In a recent survey, 81 percent

said they believed oil and gas development has been environmentally safe. Fifteen percent disagreed.

PARADOX

"There may be a perceived paradox between development and the beautiful wilderness, but it's largely held outside Alaska," Dittman said. "Most Alaskans believe the oil industry and the environment have gotten along just fine."

Independent polls on the issue are hard to find. But one gauge of public opinion might be found at the ballot box - Alaskans tend to elect pro-development candidates, including Democrat Tony Knowles, Alaska's only two-term governor in two decades. The former governor is running for the Senate and plans to push oil and gas development.

"He has always said development and environmental stewardship go hand in hand. Because we have the development, we can take the steps to protect the environment," Knowles spokesman Bob King said. "I don't see a contradiction."

MAKING MONEY

The history of Alaska since the arrival of the Europeans in the 18th century is all about making money off of natural resources. The Russians came for fur, followed by people looking for gold, fish, timber, oil and gas.

"Most Alaskans are realistic about the fact that Alaska is a natural resource state. That's what pays the bills," said Terrence Cole, a history profes-

sor at the University of Alaska-Fairbanks. "If you take that away, I don't know what's left. The whole idea of statehood was to develop the heck out of it."

Alaska's most recent big economic boom started in late 1960s and early '70s when oil was discovered on the North Slope; the population more than doubled between 1963 and 1984.

"I'm a big-time animal lover and I love the wildlife up here. It's just awesome, but there needs to be a balance," said Bauer, a criminal defense attorney in Anchorage.

"Responsible development is the key. I think the oil companies are doing their job well."

Without oil, she said, the state would lose much of the revenue it needs to maintain the benefits to which Alaskans have grown accustomed.

Because of its oil riches, Alaska abolished its state income tax in 1979, soon after crude began flowing through the Alaska pipeline.

Also, practically every man, woman and child in the state gets a dividend check from the state's oil-royalty fund every year just for living here.

This year's check was for \$1,107.56. The state distributed more than \$663 million in all to nearly 599,000 Alaskans.

As for the effects on wildlife, oil drilling at Prudhoe Bay has not hurt the Central Arctic caribou herd, supporters point out. In fact, the herd has increased almost six times in size - from 5,000 animals in 1974 to nearly 32,000 in the latest count by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Caribou are commonly seen

grazing near oil rigs and pipelines.

The sheer size of Alaska means that drilling on the Arctic Circle is not exactly next door to the places most Alaskans live. For some in Anchorage to get upset about drilling in ANWR would be, geographically speaking, like someone in Memphis, Tenn., worrying about the environment in Detroit, more than 600 miles away.

Not everybody in Alaska feels that way.

ENVIRONMENTALISTS

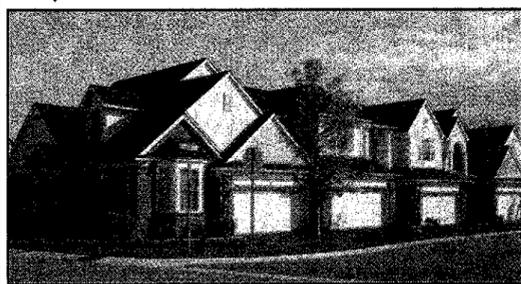
Some environmentalists in Alaska, along with their Lower 48 counterparts, are vocal in their opposition to development of the arctic refuge and, more recently, the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska. The refuge proposal was dropped recently from an energy bill in Congress.

"We're not opposed to oil development," said Stan Senner, executive director of the National Audubon Society's Alaska office. "The problem we've got with oil industry is that it's not willing to acknowledge that some places are so sensitive it should stay out of them."

Nori Piekrik of Anchorage, a 20-year Alaska resident, said the oil industry has proven itself a poor caretaker, most notably in the 11-million-gallon Exxon Valdez spill in Prince William Sound.

"After the Exxon Valdez disaster, I've been a little leery about any exploration and drilling and transfer of oil," Piekrik said. "There are other places to find oil other than Alaska."

Meadowbrook Townhomes Condominiums



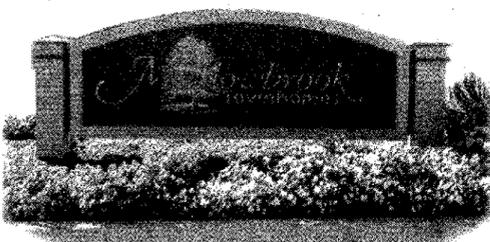
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HOMES SOLD IN WAYNE COUNTY

These are the Observer & Eccentric-area residential real estate closings recorded the weeks of Aug. 18-22 at the Wayne County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

7050 Epping \$265,000	31615 Pardo \$185,000	2740 Lyndon \$174,000	Redford	3008 Ann Arbor Trail \$147,000
5926 Fairborn \$397,000	32844 Pardo \$193,000	14415 Melrose \$234,000	69 Autumn Ridge \$273,000	69 Autumn Ridge \$273,000
6960 Harvard \$105,000	28604 Rush \$135,000	30450 Minton \$159,000	81 Autumn Ridge \$263,000	81 Autumn Ridge \$263,000
1646 Heritage \$202,000	28134 Acacia \$207,000	37015 Myrna \$245,000	3382 Avondale \$139,000	3382 Avondale \$139,000
2720 Hogan Way \$281,000	36060 Ann Arbor \$84,000	18274 Myron \$173,000	352 Avondale \$118,000	352 Avondale \$118,000
3988 Hunters \$157,000	20195 Antago \$125,000	36605 Pinetree \$180,000	2925 Badelt \$165,000	2925 Badelt \$165,000
6620 Lambeth Way \$277,000	15034 Bainbridge \$179,000	31703 Scone \$146,000	3409 Bayview \$141,000	3409 Bayview \$141,000
44105 Leann \$231,000	32543 Barkley \$207,000	18779 Sunset \$178,000	821 Beatrice \$150,000	821 Beatrice \$150,000
2019 N Woods \$292,000	18720 Blue Skies \$155,000	15666 Sussex \$236,000	14 Carson \$183,000	14 Carson \$183,000
8440 Orhan \$189,000	19579 Brentwood \$105,000	17238 Vacri \$285,000	17 Carson \$177,000	17 Carson \$177,000
904 Queens Way \$220,000	32002 Cambridge \$318,000	18986 Van \$485,000	3586 Columbia \$126,000	3586 Columbia \$126,000
3713 Riverside \$256,000	12243 Camden \$87,000	29736 W. Chicago \$135,000	641 Deerhurst \$155,000	641 Deerhurst \$155,000
42018 Saratoga \$206,000	16876 Canterbury \$350,000	32038 Washington \$174,000	119 Denice \$143,000	119 Denice \$143,000
47558 Scenic Circle \$267,000	12144 Cavell \$142,000	20332 Wayne \$318,000	760 Donna \$179,000	760 Donna \$179,000
46051 Spinning Wheel \$219,000	16822 Comstock \$270,000	502 Adams \$205,000	124 Dowling \$168,000	124 Dowling \$168,000
1824 W Roundtable \$181,000	16473 Country Club \$270,000	45951 Amesbury \$325,000	3878 Draper \$195,000	3878 Draper \$195,000
1693 Walnut Ridge \$228,000	11408 Cranston \$188,000	540 Blunk \$249,000	835 Emerald \$213,000	835 Emerald \$213,000
6338 Winter \$230,000	35359 Curtis \$495,000	93015 Corinne \$180,000	626 Glastonbury \$170,000	626 Glastonbury \$170,000
2012 Woodmont \$220,000	36812 Dardanelle \$286,000	14863 Dogwood \$260,000	2807 Hanover \$95,000	2807 Hanover \$95,000
2674 Woodmont \$210,000	9621 Deering \$147,000	500 Ford \$84,000	2015 Joy \$220,000	2015 Joy \$220,000
508 Worthington \$222,000	17603 Dolores \$152,000	435 Irvin \$192,000	3155 Judy \$154,000	3155 Judy \$154,000
	9874 E Clements \$150,000	644 Irvin \$375,000	22 Marigold \$144,000	22 Marigold \$144,000
	30010 Fairfax \$190,000	9420 Mapietree \$321,000	3015 Marshall \$212,000	3015 Marshall \$212,000
	17940 Fairfield \$242,000	48175 N. Territorial \$174,000	3450 Palmier \$127,000	3450 Palmier \$127,000
	18129 Fairway \$215,000	40306 Newport \$134,000	19D Player \$204,000	19D Player \$204,000
	14830 Flamingo \$190,000	18693 Poinciana \$118,000	731 Ravencrest \$183,000	731 Ravencrest \$183,000
	14593 Hubbard \$231,000	24623 Puritan \$103,000	1620 Regene \$141,000	1620 Regene \$141,000
	19323 Ingram \$178,000	42611 Oak \$285,000	1144 Selma \$155,000	1144 Selma \$155,000
	37948 Joy \$173,000	11702 Parkview \$219,000	3346 Shawnee \$139,000	3346 Shawnee \$139,000
	19969 Lathers \$156,000	49471 Pointe Crossing \$171,000	818 St. Johns \$302,000	818 St. Johns \$302,000
	27509 Long \$130,000	11655 Riverside \$180,000	214 Stieber \$75,000	214 Stieber \$75,000
	29569 Lori \$170,000	11768 Turkey Run \$231,000	56 Van Lawn \$116,000	56 Van Lawn \$116,000
		1375 W. Ann Arbor Trail \$615,000		
			Westland	
			1859 Ackley \$83,000	

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TERM	RATE	PTS.	LOCK	FEE*	APR*	TERM	RATE	PTS.	LOCK	FEE*	APR*	TERM	RATE	PTS.	LOCK	FEE*	APR*						
GOLDEN RULE MORTGAGE						DIRECT MORTGAGE FUNDING						NORTHLAW FINANCIAL											
30yr Fix	5.25	1.25	30day	0.00	5.38apr	30yr Fix	5.75	0.00	30day	Low	6.02apr	30yr Fix	5.375	0.00	30day	\$300	5.41apr						
15yr Fix	4.375	1.75	30day	0.00	4.85apr	3/1 Am	3.875	0.00	30day	Low	4.29apr	3/1 Am	3.50	0.00	30day	\$300	3.69apr						
5/1 Am	3.625	1.00	30day	0.00	3.75apr	15yr Fix	5.00	0.00	30day	Low	5.29apr	5/1 Am	4.125	0.00	30day	\$300	4.18apr						
No Application Fee / Ask About Interest Only						Call 866-654-9005 Rates as low as 1.25%						Option Arm 1.25% 3.34apr											
800-784-1074						800-586-9553						248-918-8488											
A1 MORTGAGES FOR YOU, INC.						1ST METROPOLITAN MORTGAGE						NORTHEAST FINANCIAL CORP.											
30yr Fix	5.375	0.00	30day	\$275	5.56apr	IF YOUR PAYMENTS ARE GREATER THAN...						30yr Fix	5.375	0.00	30day	\$300	5.36apr						
15yr Fix	4.75	0.00	30day	\$275	5.03apr	\$125,000 - 418.82 per month \$250,000 - 894.87 per month						15yr Fix	4.50	0.00	30day	\$300	4.56apr						
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30yr Fix	5.625	0.00	30day	Call	5.75apr	30yr Fix	5.50	0.00	30day	\$295	5.80apr	30yr Fix	5.625	0.00	45day	\$350	5.71apr						
15yr Fix	4.875	0.00	30day	Call	5.00apr	15yr Fix	4.875	0.00	30day	\$295	5.04apr	15yr Fix	5.00	0.00	45day	\$350	5.12apr						
3/1 Am	4.125	0.00	30day	Call	4.25apr	Open Sat. & Sun. 9-3						3/1 Am	3.75	0.00	50day	\$350	3.91apr						
248-540-1065						www.hfamerica.com						800-887-906 www.kansanvay.com											
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30yr Fix	5.625	0.125	30day	\$350	5.80apr	All Types of Credit Accepted																	
20yr Fix	5.375	0.00	30day	\$350	5.40apr	• CASH FAST TO PAY OFF BILLS & TAXES																	
15yr Fix	5.00	0.00	30day	\$350	5.03apr	• BANKRUPTCY (Current / Prior)																	
10yr Fix	4.375	0.125	30day	\$350	4.64apr	• SELF EMPLOYED / NO INCOME VERIFICATION																	
5/25 Bal	4.25	0.00	30day	\$350	4.28apr	• NO COST EQUITY LINES																	
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5 BR, 2.5 BA home on 1/2 acre w/ stream. HDWD flrs, newer roof & paint. Kitchen has W/I pantry, formal LR & DR. Huge 5th BR could be home office/play room. N'thville mailing, H.W. provided \$335,000

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ACROSS

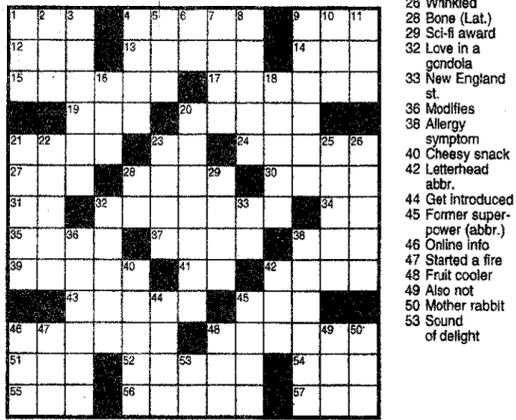
1 Card game
4 Regions
9 Mermaid's domain
12 "Hey, —!"
13 Didn't exist
14 Serpent
15 Confuse
17 Mouth, slangily
19 USO audience
20 Bunche or Lauren
21 Assayers' samples
23 Concerning
24 Thumbs through
27 Blushing
28 Cry of pain
30 Bronte heroine Jane —
31 Fridge maker
32 Surprise greatly
34 Battery size
35 Eliot's — Beds
37 Weather system

DOWN

1 Phys. ed.
2 Cash substitute
3 Poked
4 Cobblers' tools
5 Funny
6 Charlotte —
7 Plural ending
8 "Diana" singer
9 Quiet
10 Flight dir.
11 IRS month
16 Put down, slangily
18 Flisk a ticket
20 Kicks back

Answers 1-1-04

1. CARD
2. CASH
3. POKED
4. COBBLE
5. FUNNY
6. CHARLOTTE
7. S
8. QUIET
9. WEATHER
10. DIRECTION
11. JANUARY
12. HEY, HO!
13. DIDN'T
14. SERPENT
15. CONFUSE
16. PUT DOWN
17. MOUTH
18. TICKET
19. USO
20. LAUREN
21. SAMPLES
23. CONCERNING
24. THUMB
27. BLUSH
28. CRY
30. JANE
31. FRIDGE
32. SURPRISE
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4090.....Southern Rentals
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"WINTER SPECIAL"
California Style Apts.

- 1 bedroom from \$565
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- Fully carpeted
- Vertical blinds
- Great location to malls
- Livonia school system

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WESTLAND

FREE RENT!

Heat & water included

Great Specials
1 & 2 Bedrooms
Call for Details
734-721-0500

Westland Park Apts.

FREE RENT!

SPECIALS!!
\$200 Security Deposit
1st and 2nd month rent \$300 per month.
3rd month FREE (new residents only with approved credit)
2 Bedroom 1.5 bath 936 sq. ft. from \$650

1 bedroom 700 sq. ft. \$575
Heat/water included.
Very clean apartments - excellent maintenance
Central air, vertical blinds, intercom. Appliances include dishwasher.
Laundry facilities in each building. No pets.
(734) 729-6636

Apartment - Furnished 4010

Birmingham • Novi Royal Oak • Troy Furnished Apts.

- Monthly Leases
- Immediate Occupancy
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SUITE LIFE
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BIRMINGHAM 1920's bungalow, 2 bedroom suite, wood floors, appliances, bsmt, \$1000/mo. (248) 320-4141

BIRMINGHAM 2 bed, bsmt, garage, fee reimbursement, \$850/mo. Small charge. RENTAL PROS 248-356-RENT

BIRMINGHAM 3 bed ranch, appliances, C/A, pets neg. \$950/mo. Small charge. RENTAL PROS 248-373-RENT

BIRMINGHAM-1244 Emmons 3 bedroom ranch, 2 car garage, fenced yard, central air. \$1150/mo. with any days in January rent free! EHO The Benetick Group 248-642-8686

BIRMINGHAM: 3 bed, 1 bath, garage, deck, central air, new kitchen & windows, fenced yard on tree lined street. Walk to parks, schools & downtown. \$1,100. EHO 248-642-8686. 248-640-5855

BIRMINGHAM: 3 bed, ranch, air, all appliances, energy efficient furnace, nice. Good locast. \$1250. (248) 626-7333

CANTON 3 Bed, possible 4th on 3.5 acres w/pool on private drive. \$1800/mo. 2 car garage. (734) 812-8007

CANTON 4 bed, 2.5 baths, Master suite w/vaulted ceiling, c/a, fireplace, deck. 2010 sq. ft. \$1930/mo. 248-344-8999

CANTON 4 bedrooms, 2 baths, all appliances, attached garage, deck, fenced yard. \$1450/month. 734-981-6592

CANTON Brand new home, 4 bed, 2.5 baths, a/c, attached garage, new sub. \$1750. Immediate occupancy. 734-844-1874

4030
Duplexes

CLAWSON

Luxury Townhouse

447 N. Rochester Rd., #9, 2 bedroom, 1 1/2 bath luxury townhouse with fireplace, air, basement with hookups. We Love Pets. \$820. (248) 354-9119, Ext. 206

CLAWSON

Luxury Townhouse

526 Fourteen Mile Rd. 2 bedroom, 1 1/2 bath, full basement with hook-ups, central air, fireplace, air, We LOVE Pets. \$780. (248) 354-9119, Ext. 206

LIVONIA: 2 bed, fireplace, 1.5 car garage, basement, c/a, refrigerator & range included. \$895/mo. (248) 446-0805

LIVONIA: New Year's Special! 2 bedroom, basement, appliances, no pets. Flex lease. Rent \$795+deposit. 734-525-1797

NORTHVILLE 2 bed, ranch, fresh paint & carpet, new kitchen. No pets. \$595 + sec. 424 Gardner. 734-332-0259

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

ROYAL OAK

Luxury Townhouse

2706 Rochester Rd. 1 bedroom loft, 1 1/2 bath luxury townhouse with fireplace, air, full basement with hookups and we Absolutely Adore Pets! \$820. (248) 354-9119, Ext. 206

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, newly decorated, very clean. Fenced yard and shed. \$600 - 1 1/2 mo. security. 248-886-0627, 248-321-6220

WESTLAND 2 bedroom brick home. Newly remodeled, appliances incl. Section 8 ok. 313-492-9041 248-926-1217

FLATS

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/ret. Tina: 734-416-8736, Coldwell Banker Preferred

PLYMOUTH large upper 1 bedroom, deck, stove, frig, heat, water, no smoking or pets. \$650 + security. 734-453-9975

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Duplexes

CLAWSON

Luxury Townhouse

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PLYMOUTH large upper 1 bedroom, deck, stove, frig, heat, water, no smoking or pets. \$650 + security. 734-453-9975

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Homes For Rent

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, Avail. Jan. 1st. Reduced to \$1495/mo. Show w/ed. Sat. & Sun. 9:00 am or by appt. Office: 248-593-0064 Mobile: 313-920-5966

CANTON: Beautifully updated, all appliances, more. Finished bsmt. Large fenced yard \$1545/mo. (734) 516-1107

COMMERCCE
Clean 3 bedroom, 2 car garage, lake view. \$950/mo. Call Todd Smith Re/Max Classic 248-449-6263

DEARBORN - Ranch, bsmt, garage, fenced, \$700/mo. Small charge. RENTAL PROS 734-513-RENT

DEARBORN HGTS - 3 bed, option to buy, water paid, \$700/mo. Small charge. RENTAL PROS 734-513-RENT

FARMINGTON HILLS LUXURY CONDO
14 Mile at Orchard Lake Road 2500 sq. ft., 2 bedroom, 2 1/2 baths, all appliances including washer & dryer. Garage parking. \$1755 per month. Call: (248) 585-0900

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Homes For Rent

TROY 3 Bed, 2 bath, 1380 sq. ft. ranch. New paint, finished bsmt., all appliances, 3 car garage. \$1495. 248-842-0200

TROY Cute, 3 bed, 1 bath ranch, stove/fridge, nice yard, pets negotiable. \$875/mo. ShareNet (248) 642-1620

TROY Newer 4 bed, 2.5 bath colonial, appliances, c/a, bsmt, 2 car garage. \$2150/mo. ShareNet (248) 642-1620

W. BLOOMFIELD Beautiful fully furnished, 2 bedroom on the lake, through June. \$900. 248-661-5651 260-615-1532

WESTLAND - 3 bed, 1.5 baths, fenced yard, \$635/mo. Small charge. RENTAL PROS 734-513-RENT

WESTLAND: Clean 3 bed, 2 bath, appliances, bsmt, garage and more! \$1,025/mo. plus security (734) 425-9225

YPSILANTI TWP. 3 Bed, ranch, large fenced yard, recently updated. Very clean. \$875/mo. (734) 461-9127

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Homes For Rent

FARMINGTON HILLS
1 bedroom. \$90/wk & up. Appliances. No pets. Deposit required. (248) 473-5535

FARMINGTON HILLS
REDUCED RATES FIRST MONTH FREE
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Vacation & Resort Rentals

4110
Vacation & Resort Rentals

HARBOR SPRINGS/ PETOSKEY
Winter Sports Hideaway - minutes from Boyne Highlands and Nubs Nob ski resorts with the Petoskey State park as your own backyard. Newly constructed, newly furnished cedar log-sided, non-smoking condo. 3 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths, lower level recreation room, 1 1/2 car attached garage. Sleeps 9. Available over the holidays. 231-439-5590 Bear Creek Development Co.

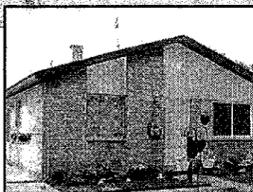
HARBOR SPRINGS: Short & Long Term Rentals. Close to skiing & snowmobile trails. Graham Mgmt. 231-526-9671

PORT RICHEY 2 bed/2 bath, garage, 1725 sq. ft., furnished incl all appliances, immaculate. \$950/mo. Seasonal or \$850/mo. + 1st/last/sec. (408) 209-9729 or (727)-319-3322

Michigan's #1 CENTURY 21 Firm!



CANTON - Great townhouse condo. 2 bedrooms with 1.5 baths. Crisp and clean, freshly painted, quiet location, updated kitchen & .5 bath. Nice bay window in dining room with window seat. 2 skylights, brick paver patio, full basement, appliances stay. A must see. (79ARB) \$139,900 734-455-5600



TAYLOR - Great home for under \$100,000. 3 bedroom, 1 bath ranch on large lot with fenced backyard. Newer Pergo floors, newer appliances, windows, interior & exterior doors, newer kitchen floor, ceramic tile in updated bath. Newer central air and furnace. Home warranty. (78BAI) \$99,900 734-455-5600



DETROIT - Great home in great area. Stunning 2 bedroom, 2 bath brick ranch with full basement, garage with electric & newer door. Hardwood floors, Wallside windows thruout. Replaced with-in the last few years. Updated kitchen with views of large backyard. Conveniently located near freeways. (11APP) \$79,900 734-455-5600



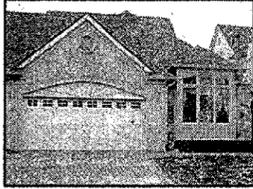
ROMULUS - Exciting combination. Hard to find ranch on golf course site. Cathedral ceilings, great room, fireplace. Many upgrades. Move right in. Model open daily. Check for additional golf course sites ready to build. \$189,900 (79CRY) 248-349-5600



NORTHVILLE - Popular Highland Lakes. 3 bedroom 2 story unit with living room, family room, dining room, full basement & patio. All appliances stay. Gas and water are included in association fee. Clubhouse, pool & Northville Schools. \$158,900 (05CRY) 248-349-5600



NORTHVILLE - Historic Northville. Vintage charm gracefully updated with newer windows, furnace, hot water heater, air conditioning, roof & more. Baths recently remodeled by current owner-architect. The investment is golden, lifestyle is sterling & potential is priceless. \$329,900 (34RAY) 248-349-5600



PLYMOUTH - A real masterpiece from top to bottom! 3 bedroom suite, 2 car attached garage, 2 gas fireplaces, marble foyer, maple cabinets, den with wet bar, impressive great room, stunning walkout lower level. Beautiful view of wooded area. (41BEA) \$445,000 734-455-5600



WESTLAND - Great starter home. 3 bedroom, updated bath, eat-in kitchen with ceiling fan and oak cabinets, vinyl windows, newer vinyl siding, 1st floor laundry and privacy fence in backyard. Nice home. (68CRO) \$113,900 734-455-5600



TROY - Candidate for Architectural Digest. Spectacular 4 BR, 5 BA custom built ranch w/over 5000 sq. ft. presents spacious GR w/cath ceil, gourmet kit w/hexagon brkfst room & custom cabinets, fully equipped kit in LL + bedroom & office. Hobbyist or collectors gar + 3 car att gar. (32ADA) \$693,000 734-455-5600



PLYMOUTH - Charming 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath saltbox colonial in Beacon Estates. 3 season sunroom off updated kitchen. 2 fireplaces. Gracious living room & dining room. Handsome family room. Detail molding inside and out. Exceptional home-has "Home sweet home" appeal. \$379,800 (85GLE) 248-349-5600



ROMULUS - Gorgeous 3 bedroom. First time buyers, this house is completely furnished-see it for yourself. Beautiful kitchen with ceramic tile. Home sets way back on approximately .35 acres of land with mature trees. Seller will assist in closing costs. \$124,900 (67EUR) 248-349-5600



CANTON - Spacious condo. Very neat & clean. 3 BR, 2.5 BA 2-story unit. Neutral decor thruout. Dining room has door wall leading to your large deck. Partially finished basement with rec room & additional room for office or extra storage. Large kitchen with breakfast nook. The list goes on & on. \$209,900 (79SAR) 248-349-5600



WESTLAND - A special colonial, 3 bedroom, 1.5 bath home with bright kitchen with all appliances, family room with gas fireplace leading to private yard with pool and hot tub. Finished lower level and 2 car attached garage. (39BRY) \$199,900 734-455-5600



DEARBORN HEIGHTS - Nice cozy updated home. Charming 2 bedroom brick ranch with 2 car garage, privacy fence, large patio + walk-in pantry, all appliances. Newer furnace, central air, and vinyl windows. (08ANN) \$89,900 734-455-5600

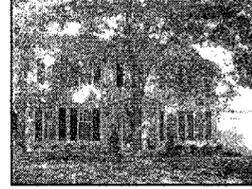


PLYMOUTH 705 South Main St. 734-455-5600
NORTHVILLE 175 CadyCentre 248-349-5600

Michigan's #1 Century 21 Firm!



NORTHVILLE - Cutest Victorian. 3 bedroom, 1 bath home on extra wide lot in "Hot" Cabbagetown. Screened front porch, hardwood floors, vintage woodwork, newer hot water heater. \$239,000 (29GRA) 248-349-5600



NORTHVILLE - A beauty. Northville schools & great neighborhood. Recent updates include: furnace/AIR CONDITIONING, hardwood floors thruout, Pella windows, sprinkler system. Freshly painted interior, finished basement and much more to make this a terrific buy. \$359,000 (90SPR) 248-349-5600



CANTON - Wooded end unit ranch. Sharp like new 3 bedroom, 2 bath condo offering 2 way fireplace, great room, formal dining room, 1st floor laundry, basement, 2 car attached garage in excellent location. (40HOG) \$304,755 734-455-5600



ALLEN PARK - A great place to start. Very cute 2 bedroom ranch with 2.5 car garage, huge attic for your storage. Decorated nicely and very clean. Close to all your needs, shopping, schools, freeway and parks. Home warranty. (44ARL) \$89,900 734-455-5600



CANTON - Best buy in the sub. 3 year old condo on premium lot backs to trees w/a beautiful view. Light & tastefully decorated. MSTR BR w/walk-in closet, garden tub, sep shower & double sinks. LR is cozy w/gas FPL, grand white mantle. Kit & dining area is perfect for entertaining. Nice landscaping. \$165,000 (49GRO) 248-349-5600



SOUTH LYON - Custom cape cod. 5 bedrooms, 3 baths, & 2 lavs in a golf community on approximately .65 acres. Solid oak doors & trim, sauna, dual staircase, Andersen windows, 4 car gar, finished bsmt, granite foyer, sound system. Bar in bsmt, 2 fireplaces, central vac. Walk to the course. \$679,000 (65STA) 248-349-5600



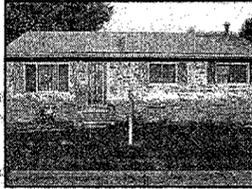
SOUTHGATE - A perfect 10! 4 bedroom cape cod with 2.5 baths, 2 car attached garage, basement with glass blocks, master bedroom with full bath and jacuzzi tub, great room with fireplace, dining room, cedar deck, brick paver walkway, central air, sprinkler. Gorgeous, gorgeous thruout. (25MOR) \$259,500 734-455-5600



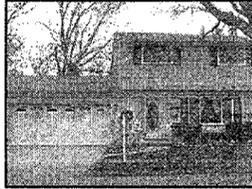
GROSSE ILE - In a choice neighborhood. 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath rambling brick ranch with 2 car attached garage, basement, formal dining room, library with bay window, vaulted ceiling in great room with fireplace, 1st floor laundry, oak kitchen with appliances, + 4 season sun room. (36LAS) \$499,885 734-455-5600



DEARBORN HEIGHTS - Cozy bungalow. 3 bedroom bungalow presents hardwood floors, finished basement, lots of storage, central air, newer furnace and hot water heater. Sellers motivated! (19HAZ) \$149,900 734-455-5600



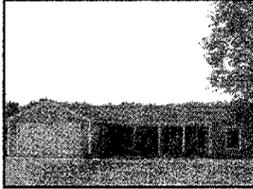
LIVONIA - Brightmoor gem, ranch. Exceptional quality remodeled kitchen-first class. Newer roof, windows, siding, gutters. HWH, fantastic finished basement w/family room. Garage is a mechanics dream, insulated w/heat. Newer landscape & exterior lights. 3 BDs, 2 baths, \$204,900 (36FAI) 248-349-5600



LIVONIA - Seller hates to leave this 3 bedroom brick colonial in ever-popular sub. Family room with fireplace and newer carpet and doorwall. Lots of other updates like: windows, roof, siding, garage, front door, and electric. Nice flowing floor plan. Nice neighbors. \$223,900 (42JAM) 248-349-5600



FARMINGTON HILLS - The lot is outstanding. Bring your builder or contractor! Renovation opportunity in Woodcreek Farms on a large treed ravine lot with stream. 4 bedroom ranch w/2.5 baths, Excellent floor plan including a walkout basement. Don't miss this one. \$298,000 (56WES) 248-349-5600



VAN BUREN - Feed the deer at home. Approximately 14.5 acres offering 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath, ranch with 2.5 car attached garage, pole barn, lots of closet space, beautifully tiled foyer. All this built in 2001. Custom kitchen and cabinets. A walk to Belleville Lake. Great location. (65MAR) \$299,900 734-455-5600



PLYMOUTH - Away from the urban crush. Master suite to match any. Foyer, library, dinette and kitchen in hardwood floors. Kitchen has a ton of oak cabinets & appliances. Double door entry to library with built-in bookcases. (72KAT) \$629,900 734-455-5600



CANTON - Beautiful 2 story condo. Lovely formal dining room with bay window opening to deck. 2 bedrooms open to huge bath with extra deep garden tub and walk-in shower, finished lower level, + loads of storage. (65HUN) \$161,000 734-455-5600



CANTON - Friendly sub. This is it. Nice brick colonial w/hardwood flrs, family room, natural fireplace, LR, 3 BR, updated baths, kitchen, attached 2.5 car garage, large covered patio, yard, partially finished basement. Appliances included. 1 year home warranty. Walk to twp. park or in-sub park. \$209,900 (44BRO) 248-349-5600



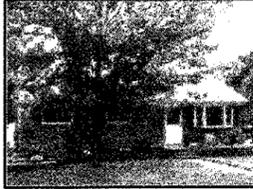
WHITE LAKE - Gorgeous setting. Beautifully updated 3 bedroom, 2 bath home on large treed lot. Short walk to all sports lake. Updated kitchen w/island. Large dining area w/built-in china cabinet. Living room & FR w/FPL. Newer windows, roof, furnace & C/A. Warranty included. \$195,000 (50LIT) 248-349-5600



LAKE ORION - Still brand new. Premium site backing to woods. Very private 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath, open kitchen to family room with soaring ceilings. Double staircases, whirlpool tub in master suite near Weber Elementary. \$307,900 (21YOS) 248-349-5600



WEST BLOOMFIELD - Timbers edge sub. 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath colonial w/2003 updates. Kitchen w/corain counters, A/C, roof, finished basement w/possible 4th bedroom, 2.5 car garage with newer door opener all sitting on a newer landscaped lot. (06GIL) \$179,900 734-455-5600



WESTLAND - All the updates are done. Maintenance free 3 bedroom, 2 bath brick ranch with updated kitchen, roof, furnace, C/A + finished basement w/possible 4th bedroom, 2.5 car garage with newer door opener all sitting on a newer landscaped lot. (06GIL) \$179,900 734-455-5600



WARREN - Beautiful 1st floor condo. Many updates in this 2 bedroom, 1.5 bath beauty. Newer carpet, paint, recessed lights, remarkable kitchen with ceramic tile and light maple cabinets, + new counters, sink, microwave and dishwasher all in 2003. A must see! (50HOO) \$85,900 734-455-5600



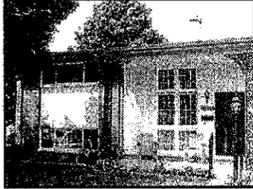
SOUTH LYON - Trotter's Pointe sub. Premium lot. 3 BR, 2.5 BA colonial w/2 car attached garage. Master bedroom w/bath & jetted tub. Family room w/fireplace. Hwd floors, basement. Contemporary colonial home with neutral decor. Sprinkler system, large private deck and appliances. \$264,900 (51COL) 248-349-5600



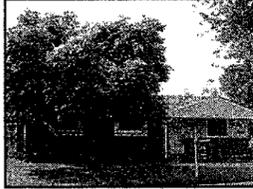
FARMINGTON HILLS - Stylish private townhome. Own a home for less than a rental. Very clean and neutral decor-looks brand new. 2 bedrooms, 2.5 baths (including master bath). All appliances stay. Access to pool, clubhouse and exercise room. \$133,900 (58NAN) 248-349-5600



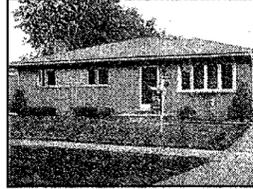
SOUTHFIELD - First class. 2 bedroom luxury condo. Huge rooms, 2 car heated garage with car wash, dining room, balcony & master bath. Community pool, clubhouse, elevator & in-unit laundry. Most square footage for the money. \$138,900 (33ARB) 248-349-5600



WESTLAND - Spacious 3 bedroom home. Newer vinyl windows and doorwall, 1.5 baths, 2.5 car garage, updated furnace and C/A, newer siding gutters and carpet. Great walkout to brick paver patio. Larger fenced yard. Home warranty included. Must see! (06BIR) \$139,900 734-455-5600



PLYMOUTH - Well maintained ranch. Updated 3 bedroom, 2 bath brick home with newer roof (tear off) cpt, furnace, air conditioning, ceramic bath, finished basement. 2.5 car garage, walking distance to elementary school. (21GRE) \$209,500 734-455-5600



WESTLAND - Brick ranch. 3 bedroom, 1.5 bath home with family room, partially finished basement, central air, 2 car garage, newer windows, big master bedroom, eat-in kitchen, sprinklers and more. (54FRA) \$184,900 734-455-5600



FARMINGTON HILLS - Welcome home. Professionally decorated 2 bedroom, 2 bath ranch end unit in desirable area. Newer appliances included. Walk to pool and tennis court. Home offers fireplace, cathedral ceilings, and full basement. One car garage and deck. \$182,500 (43COU) 248-349-5600



DEARBORN - Beautiful brick colonial. This spacious home features 3 bedrooms & 1.5 baths. Updated kitchen, electrical, custom window treatments, hardwood floors and a warm fireplace to welcome you home. \$205,000 (25ORC) 248-349-5600



PLYMOUTH - Beautiful colonial. 3 bedroom, 1.5 bath home that is updated. Natural fireplace in family room. Beautiful hardwood floors in kitchen and hallway. Newer kitchen cabinets and countertops. Florida room screened/stormed w/door-wall from family room. 2 car att gar. \$244,900 (80ASP) 248-349-5600

294 E. Brown, Birmingham (248) 642-8100 4820 Rochester Road, Troy (248) 524-1600 2600 Union Lake, Commerce Twp. (248) 363-1200 900 W. University, Rochester (248) 652-8000 7125 Orchard Lake, West Bloomfield (248) 626-8800 705 S. Main St., Plymouth (734) 455-5600 175 Cady Centre, Northville (248) 349-5600



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JAN. 3, - 10:00am til 3:00pm

Wayne County's Largest Dealer Gives You the Best Deal and A Lot More Money for Your Trade-In

2 Planners and Eligible Family Members Save an additional \$1000

2004 Escape! A PLAN ZERO DOWN \$216! MSRP \$23,340
24 MONTH WITH RENEWAL WITH \$100 DUE AT SIGNING \$16,605!

EVERYONE ZERO DOWN \$293! Take a look at these features on ESCAPE: Air Conditioning, CD Player, Power Windows, Power Seat, Power Locks, Keyless Entry, Speed Control. At this price - \$20 available.

0% APR financing

2004 Mustang! A PLAN ZERO DOWN \$262! MSRP \$30,550
24 MONTH WITH RENEWAL WITH \$100 DUE AT SIGNING \$22,118!

EVERYONE ZERO DOWN \$317! Take a look at these features on ALL S1 ANG GLE V-8 Interior Upgrade, Leather Power Seat, Power Windows, 6-Disc Music System, ABS, Convertible Roof, Spoiler. At this price - \$9 available.

0% APR financing

2004 Freestar LIMITED A PLAN ZERO DOWN \$252! MSRP \$33,755
24 MONTH WITH RENEWAL WITH \$100 DUE AT SIGNING \$24,600!

EVERYONE ZERO DOWN \$319! Take a look at these features on FREESTAR LIMITED: Electronic Air, Auxiliary Air, Power Doors, Windows & Locks, Drivers Seat, Heated Mirrors, Leather Onyx Captain Chairs, 3rd Row Fold-in floor 3 Pass Bench, Rear Seat, Active Safety Package, Quick-Panic Brake Assist, Traction Control, Advance Trac & Reverse Sensing, Electrical Groups, Speed Control. At this price - \$94 available.

0% APR financing

2004 F-150 4x4 LIMITED SUPER CAB A PLAN ZERO DOWN \$291! MSRP \$35,320
24 MONTH WITH RENEWAL WITH \$100 DUE AT SIGNING \$26,096!

EVERYONE ZERO DOWN \$379! Take a look at these features on F-150 LIMITED SUPER CAB: Air Conditioning, Leather Captain's Chairs with console, Power Windows, Power Seat, Speed Control, 17" Wheel, 18" Bright Aluminum Wheels, Keyless Entry, Adjustable Pedals, Trailer Tow, Electrical Shift on the fly, Dual Media, Bedliner. At this price - \$42 available.

0% APR financing

2004 Taurus! A PLAN ZERO DOWN \$208! MSRP \$22,650
24 MONTH WITH RENEWAL WITH \$100 DUE AT SIGNING \$14,699!

EVERYONE ZERO DOWN \$253! Take a look at these features on TAURUS: Tree Moonroof, Spoiler, Console, Power Windows, Power Locks, Power Seat, Speed Control, 17" Wheel, CD Player, Keyless Entry, Adjustable Pedals. At this price - \$75 available.

0% APR financing

2004 Explorer ALL-DOOR! A PLAN ZERO DOWN \$234! MSRP \$29,425
24 MONTH WITH RENEWAL WITH \$100 DUE AT SIGNING \$19,949!

EVERYONE ZERO DOWN \$296! Take a look at these features on EXPLORER ALL-DOOR: Air Conditioning, Power Windows, Power Seat, Speed Control, 17" Wheel, CD Player, Keyless Entry. At this price - \$21 available.

0% APR financing

RIGHT NOW YOU CAN REPLACE WHAT YOU'RE DRIVING WITH A NEW BILL BROWN FORD AT PRETTY MUCH THE SAME PAYMENT.

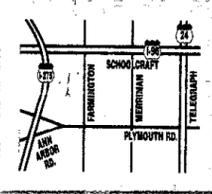
Five Hundred Dollars!

BILL BROWN \$500!

With the purchase or lease of a new or used vehicle, 1998 or newer vehicles. Less than 100,000 miles. Valid through January 3, 2004, only at Bill Brown Ford.

Extra for your trade-in!

BILL BROWN 1-800-854-3481



Located in Livonia, 32222 Plymouth Road
Browse our inventory at www.billbrownford.com

A plan renewal price includes assignment of all rebates to BBF and may require financing with Ford Credit, you pay tax, title & destination. *Subject to qualifying credit and monthly use tax; 10,500 miles per year. Not all buyers will qualify for lowest lease rate or 0% APR. Pictures may not represent actual vehicles. Payments per program in effect at publication are subject to change. These special offers end 1/3/04.

Quick Lane™ TIRE & AUTO CENTER
We're even open Saturdays! 8AM - 5PM

THE WORKS!
Up to five quarts of Motorcraft oil. Taxes extra. Diesel vehicles extra. See Store Manager for details. Offer valid with coupon. Expires 4/30/04.

- Motorcraft oil and filter change
- Rotate and inspect four tires
- Inspect brake system
- Test battery
- Check air and cabin air filters
- Check belts and hoses
- Top off all fluids

MOTORCRAFT BRAKE SERVICE
Install Motorcraft Preferred Value pads or shoes on most cars/light trucks. One axle. Excludes machining rotors and drums. Taxes extra. See Store Manager for details. Offer valid with coupon. Expires 4/30/04.

COOLING SYSTEM SERVICE
Up to one gallon of coolant. Disposal fee extra, if applicable. Taxes extra. See Store Manager for details. Offer valid with coupon. Expires 4/30/04.

- Inspect radiator for leaks
- Check hoses, clamps and belts
- Pressure test system for leaks
- Flr-3 and refill radiator

TIRE ROTATION
Free lifetime rotation with the purchase of any four tires! Applies to cars and light trucks, and to original tire purchases only. Valid only at tire-purchasing location. Tire lifetimes vary. See Store Manager for details. Offer valid with coupon. Expires 4/30/04.

Attention Classified Advertisers

Check out These Early Holiday Deadlines

Your advertising is important to us and we don't want to leave anyone's ads out of the paper.



Thursday, December 25th Publication		Help Wanted Display		Liners Class 3000-8900	
Real Estate Section	Automotive Display	3 pm-Friday, Dec. 19th	Noon-Monday, Dec. 22nd	3 pm-Monday, Dec. 22nd	6 pm-Monday, Dec. 22nd
Sunday, December 28th Publication		Help Wanted Display		Liners Class 3000-8900	
Real Estate Section	Automotive Display	5 pm-Tuesday, Dec. 23rd	Noon-Wednesday, Dec. 24th	Noon-Friday, Dec. 26th	5:30 pm-Friday, Dec. 26th
Thursday, January 1st Publication		Help Wanted Display		Liners Class 3000-8900	
Real Estate Section	Automotive Display	3 pm-Friday, Dec. 26th	Noon-Monday, Dec. 29th	3 pm-Monday, Dec. 29th	6 pm-Monday, Dec. 29th
Sunday, January 4th Publication		Help Wanted Display		Liners Class 3000-8900	
Real Estate Section	Automotive Display	5 pm-Tuesday, Dec. 30th	Noon-Wednesday, Dec. 31st	3 pm-Friday, Jan. 2nd	5:30 pm-Friday, Jan. 2nd

Please call early to place your ads and avoid the last minute holiday rush.
1-800-579-SELL (7355) or Fax Your Ad (734) 953-2232

Observer & Eccentric

Jobs and Careers

All Ads Run Online **FREE!**
 A Value Of Up To \$87.00
 www.hometownlife.com

5000's Jobs and Careers

5000...Help Wanted-General
 5010...Help Wanted-Computer/Info Systems
 5020...Help Wanted-Office Clerical
 5030...Help Wanted-Engineering
 5040...Help Wanted-Dental
 5050...Help Wanted-Medical
 5060...Help Wanted-Food/Beverage
 5100...Help Wanted-Health & Fitness
 5110...Help Wanted-Professional
 5200...Help Wanted-Sales
 5240...Help Wanted-Part-Time
 5260...Help Wanted-Domestic
 5300...Help Wanted-Entertainment
 5320...Students
 5340...Jobs Wanted-Female/Male
 5360...Childcare Services-Licensed
 5370...Childcare/Babysitting Services
 5380...Childcare Needed
 5420...Elderly Care & Assistance
 5440...Nursing Care & Homes
 5500...Summer Camps
 5600...Education/Instruction
 5620...Business & Professional Services
 5700...Attorneys/Legal Counseling
 5720...Help Wanted-Tax Services
 5740...Business Opportunities

1-800-579-SELL

This Classification continues from Section F

5000-5980

EMPLOYMENT

Multi-unit bowling centers seeking full & part-time help. Experience preferred but not necessary. Apply in person 26600 Plymouth Rd. Mon-Fri 9am-5pm. (313) 937-8420

hometownlife.com

Help Wanted General 5000

Auto Local Ford Dealer Looking For:

- Part Time - P.P.G. Certified Painter
- Full Time - Body Repair
- Ford/Diesel Heavy Engine Repair
- Ford/Light Repair Tech
- Sales Person

Ask for Carlo, 248-474-1234, ext. 263.

AUTO PORTER needed for our busy used car department. Must be reliable and have good driving record. Needed full time. Apply in person to Al Denomme at Gordon Chevrolet, 31850 Ford Rd., Garden City, (734) 427-8200

AUTO TECHNICIAN Wanted, must be under car certified. Call Auto Lab, Westland, Ask for Ric or Bill 734-721-6060

Help Wanted General 5000

Cement Contractor 18-20 houses per year in Royal Oak! Driveway, walks, porches & basements. Must be responsible & responsive. Call Paul at 248-908-6342

CLEANING PERSON Start Immediately Dependable person needed for housekeeping at a mid-size suburban apartment community. FAX RESUME (734) 729-8258

CLEANING TECH with chauffeur's license. Looking for fast track growth to supervision. Please send background / resume to: PO Box 40051, Redford, MI 48239 Attn: HR

Call to place your ad at **1-800-579-SELL (7355)**

Help Wanted General 5000

Customer Sales/Retail

AFTER CHRISTMAS HELP \$17.95 base/appt. Vector has many temp/permanent openings which must be filled by Jan. 8th. Flex schedules. We train. May continue when classes resume. Conditions exist, must be 18+. Livonia 734-522-4140 Troy 248-655-0130 Rochester 248-601-3212 Waterford 248-681-4788 Visit: eamparttime.com

CUSTOMER SERVICE REPS Full-time, benefits, Troy area. Fill out application at: 600 W. Maple, Mon-Fri. 9-4, 248-362-0400

CUSTOMER SERVICE/OPERATIONS AGENT Needed for Romulus freight forwarder for all shifts. Must have 3 yrs. of Customer Service & Freight Forwarder exp. Exc. pay, benefits & 401k. Send resume to: Box 0765 O&E Newspapers 36251 Schoolcraft Rd. Livonia, MI 48150

Direct Care: Positions available working with people in their homes, competitive pay & benefits; all shifts; paid training, great people, meaningful work. 734-728-4201

DJ - Must have some Night Club exp. playing top 40's or Country. Accepting resumes, Call between 9:30am-noon, Mon-Fri, Frankies in Garden City. 734-421-3424

Help Wanted General 5000

MAINTENANCE: Americas Choice for Apartment Living... Apartment community in Northern Oakland County seeks career minded, goal oriented experienced Maintenance Tech. to join our team. We Offer: Great Pay (Annual Bonuses), Excellent Benefits (Medical, Dental, Optical), Stock Purchase Programs, Paid Vacation, sick days, personal days, Paid Holidays & more. You must have: Knowledge of HVAC, Carpentry, Plumbing and Electrical, Valid Drivers License, Prior Property Maintenance experience beneficial. Fax Resume to: (248) 661-1812 or (248) 353-1372 EOE

MARKETER Earn income being a liberty tax service marketer. Call (248) 756-2246

MARKETING Assistant needed. Insurance office, downtown Northville needs part time help. Good people skills, computer & phone skills required. Fax resume to: 248-349-5169

MESSAGE THERAPISTS, RECEPTIONISTS, LADY'S MAID Full-time. Saturday req. Spa Julianna, 444 S. Main St., Plymouth, MI. 734-455-4445

Help Wanted General 5000

PREP PERSON Full-time for Southfield Apts. Must have own tools. Exp. in plumbing, electrical & dry-wall. 248-352-8125

RECEPTIONIST Full time for small Farmington Hills law firm. Individual must possess strong telephone skills and be able to use a multi-line phone system. Knowledge of Excel helpful. Excellent benefits. Fax resume to Nancy at: 248-851-0100

Retail Sales/Service

2004 EXPANSION \$17.25 base/appt. Many temporary & permanent positions to be filled by Jan. 8th. Flex around classes. Conditions exist, must be 18+. Visit: eamparttime.com Livonia 734-522-4140 Troy 248-655-0130 Rochester 248-601-3212 Waterford 248-681-4788

SALES ASSOCIATES Needed for condo sales, must have sales exp. & be able to work weekends. Westland. Please send resume to: 734-878-9636

Sales/Counter/Stock License preferred, full-time, benefits. Beauty distributor in Troy. 248-362-0400 Ask for Shelly

Sales/Counter/Stock License preferred, full-time, benefits. Beauty distributor in Madison Hts. 248-541-3280 Ask for Jackie

Office Clerical 5020

GENERAL OFFICE PART-TIME Industrial parts company looking for candidate to handle incoming calls, perform general office tasks, data entry & a working knowledge of Windows & Excel. Must have excellent customer service skills, and be a team player. Please submit resume to: 38291 Schoolcraft Unit 103 Livonia, MI. 48150

LEGAL SECRETARY - Looking for a great place to work? Are you seeking a professional, team-oriented atmosphere and great benefits? Then you are exactly the type of candidate we are seeking here at Howard & Howard! We are currently seeking PATENT & TRADEMARK Legal Secretaries for our Bloomfield Hills location. This position requires three or more years relevant experience, communication, organization, and an accurate typing speed of 70+ wpm. MS Word skills, High school diploma/GED, good judgement and ability to handle multiple projects also required. Send resume including salary requirements to: Howard & Howard Attn: W.Smith IPSEC1203DN 39400 Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304. Fax (248) 723-0500 Email WLS@H2LAW.COM EOE

Cash in!

It's that Garage Sale time of year....

With your Observer & Eccentric Classified Garage Sale Ad, you can instantly convert your unused art, that old chair, those mismatched golf clubs or Junior's road weary bike into cold hard cash!

Call us today to schedule your garage sale ad and clean house.... and cash in!

THE Observer & Eccentric NEWSPAPERS

CLASSIFIEDS
1-800-579-7355
 www.hometownlife.com

DRIVERS CDL A - 1 yr. experience needed. Afternoon & nights. Mileage & hourly runs. Home daily. Call John or Paul 7am-5pm daily. (734) 947-1405

ELECTRICIAN/JOURNEYMAN/JOB FOREMAN (m/f) or equivalent for residential wiring. Excellent benefits. (734) 779-0000

GROUNDS KEEPER for luxury apartment community in Farmington Hills. Full time. Irrigation experience preferred. Salary + benefits. Fax resume to 248-474-7043 or apply in person at Fairmont Park, located on the northeast corner of 9 Mile & Drake.

Hotel Executive Housekeeper for a 209 room property in Allen Park. Must have 1+ years of experience in a housekeeping management position, excellent personal health habits, ability to supervise, manage and meet company requirements. Fax resumes to: (313) 271-1600

HVAC SERVICE TECH Top pay. Full benefits. Call Jim: 248-356-1880

JANITORIAL Farmington/Livonia. Exp. in floors. Background check & drug test required. \$8.50-\$9/hr. (734) 434-8218

LEASING CONSULTANT part-time, for Canton apartment community. Great opportunity for right person. Please call (734) 937-1080.

MAINTENANCE Position immediately available for Farmington Hills apartment community. Related experience helpful, full benefit package including apt, medical, dental, vision, life, paid vacation, holidays & 401(K). Call Michele at (248) 569-8880.

MASTERS GREEN LAWN & TREE CARE Sales Person / Manager Trainee. Masters Green has opened another location, and we are looking for motivated sales people to join our staff. To help in our continued growth. Training, base salary plus commission, health insurance, 401k, advancement opportunity. Professional, fun atmosphere. Fax resume to: 734-451-5418 Come Grow With Us. Call: 734-451-8500

Mira Linder Spa - now hiring Spa director, receptionist, sales & hair dresser. Call: 248-877-1441

MORTGAGE BROKER MANAGER American Elite Financial Livonia office. Experience in mortgage business with proven, verifiable track record required. Candidate must be professional and able to recruit and train Loan Officers. Compensation includes full benefits. Call 734-462-3059x100 for confidential interview.

Mortgage Loan Officer Leads Provided! Local lender continues to expand, tentatively aggressive marketing. Openings for two additional loan officers with proven track record. True pricing and a fair split. Fax resume to: Manager, 248-932-4144

OPTICIAN-DISPENSER Experienced, private practice, rated top 100, Optical Retailer for 20/20 Magazine. Top salary and excellent benefits. No nights or Sunday's, ft. or pt. Management positions available. Excellent career opportunity. Call Bob. 313-565-5600

PHOTO LAB SUPERVISOR 5 yrs. exp. in digital, c-41, b/w, darkroom, & customer service. Send resume to: Occupant, P.O. Box 700473, Plymouth, MI. 48170

Pollution Control **ATTENTION** Local company has many openings in our Pollution Control Department. \$14.95/START • No Experience Necessary • Must Have Own Vehicle • Transportation Call Mon & Tues 10am-4pm 313-382-6022

SCRUBS & BEYOND Opening soon! Westridge Center (Target Plaza). Full & Part time positions. Call Michelle. 248-931-4057

SLITTER OPERATOR EXPERIENCED ONLY. Day shift. 313-491-9330.

STRUCTURAL STEEL ESTIMATOR For Building Supply Company. Ability to do shop drawings a plus. Must be able to accurately do take-offs from blueprints along with material lists for structural steel. Salary negotiable with competitive benefit package. Please send resume to: Box 0764 O&E Newspapers 36251 Schoolcraft Rd. Livonia, MI 48150

SURFACE GRINDER Exp. Blanchard Grinder. Must have own tools. Days. Top pay + benefits. (734) 722-9221

TAX PREPARER training provided, liberty tax service Call 248-756-2246.

PAYROLL CLERK Roush is an automotive supplier in the Metro Detroit area. Our payroll department has an immediate opening for a payroll clerk reporting to the Payroll Manager.

Requirements:

- This position requires one to three years of payroll experience.
- Minimum education High School diploma required.
- Associates Degree in accounting preferred.
- Must have excellent computer skills
- Multi-year experience with Excel required.
- Requires exceptional organizational skills.
- Must be able to work in a fast-paced office environment.
- Willingness to learn and grow with the Company.
- Excellent written and oral communication skills.

You must submit a resume with salary requirements and reference this posting to be considered. This posting will expire on January 9, 2004.

AA/EEO
 Attn: Betty Zink Roush Industries 11874 Market Street Livonia, MI 48150 Fax: 734-779-7804 Email: careers@roushind.com

ROUSH

RECEPTIONIST Receptionist wanted for one of Michigan's leading long-term care pharmacies. We are seeking a dynamic individual to greet visitors, handle and route incoming phone calls and perform general administrative duties including light typing and word processing. Must be able to work 10:30am to 6:30pm shift, Mon-Fri. We offer a competitive wage, comprehensive benefit package. Interested candidates should forward your resume to S.P.S. Inc., P.O. Box 3347, Livonia, MI 48151 Attn: Receptionist, EMAIL: jobs.sps@omnicare.com or fax to (734)513-9895 No phone calls please. EOE

RECEPTIONIST Full time for busy Garden City law firm. Exp necessary. Fax resume to: 734-261-4737

SECRETARY - Construction subcontractor's office. Must have experience in QuickBooks, A/R & A/P. Fax resume to Kathleen at 248-449-5272

It's no gamble...

 ...when you advertise in The Observer & Eccentric Classifieds!
1-800-579-7355

This Classification continues from Section C



Jobs and Careers

All Ads Run Online
FREE!
A Value Of Up To \$87.00
www.hometownlife.com

Office Clerical 5020

SECRETARY/RECEPTIONIST
OVER 100 YEAR OLD COMPANY with excellent benefits & stable work environment has immediate opening for full time, self-starter with good communication skills & phone etiquette. Applicants must possess basic clerical skills, type 50wpm, be proficient with MS Word & Excel and have filing skills. Minimum 2yrs. experience. Send resume to: Office Manager P O Box 9069 Farmington Hills, MI 48333

Medical 5060

DIRECT CARE STAFF
Full/part Days & afternoons. Benefits available for full time. WCLS trained only. Livonia area. Contact Debbie at 734-524-1361.

MANAGER
To coordinate care of 8 people with disabilities in Farmington. \$640-\$720 biweekly. Call Cynthia: (248) 980-3305

MEDICAL BILLER
Great permanent, immediate full time opportunity at Mitchell Home Medical, a fast growing Durable Medical Equipment Co. Must possess 2-3 years experience of insurance billing, DME billing, and working knowledge of HCPC & ICD-9 coding. Excellent wages and benefits, including 401k. Fax resume to: 734-572-0281 or email to: kirchmeier@mitchellhome.com

Professional 5110

CHILD CARE PROFESSIONAL NEEDED
PRE-K HEAD TEACHER
Learn While You Earn! The Learning Tree offers employees an Education reimbursement program, on-site training along with 401K Retirement Plan, Medical/Dental Benefits, Paid Vacation/Holidays, and Personal Days. Raise Reviews Biyearly Bonus Program. Call 734-525-5767 or apply in person.

Sales 5120

PART TIME SALES
Earn up to \$13/hr!
WEEDMAN, North America's largest franchised lawn care company has several immediate openings in our Farmington Hills office, hours are 6-9 evenings Mon-Thurs, 10am-2pm on Sat. If you are self motivated and enthusiastic we want to hear from you. We need experienced closers!! Please call 248-478-9393.

Sales 5120

Real Estate Agents

A CAREER IN REAL ESTATE!

ALL REAL ESTATE COMPANIES ARE NOT THE SAME

If you are serious about entering the business and profession of Real Estate Sales, you owe it to yourself to investigate why we are #1 in the market place and best suited to insure your success.

Sales 5120

Real Estate Agents

A NEW CAREER?

REAL ESTATE IS BOOMING
Excellent Commissions.
Great Training.
DOUG COURTNEY
REMERICA
HOMETOWN
(734) 459-6222

Child Care Needed 5380

MATURE, loving adult needed to babysit toddler in Canton home. 734-635-0684 586-575-8075

NANNY WANTED to care for our 2 boys, ages 8 & 11, 3:30-7:30pm weekdays in Birmingham. Must have own car to use on the job. Weekly guarantee. 248-760-9341

Business Opportunities 5740

EARN EXTRA INCOME
\$500-\$2000 Weekly. Join the fastest growing industry in America, e-commerce. For more information send a self-addressed stamped envelope to eSource, P.O. Box 680610, Miami, FL 33168

FREE GRANT MONEY
Never repay!! Guarantee acceptance funding available. For Housing Purchase, Home Repairs, Education, NOW. \$500.00 to \$500.000. Call 1-866-277-5600 Mon-Sat, 9am-7pm

Target 13 Million Homes With Your Ad

Advertise your product or service to 13 million households in North America's best suburbs by placing your classified ad in 800 suburban newspapers just like this one. Only \$895 for a 25-word ad. One phone call, one invoice, one payment. Call the Suburban Classified Advertising Network fax-on-demand service at 800-356-2061 or 312-644-6610 x4731 to speak with a sales coordinator.

Dental 5040

Attn: Exp. Dental Assistants, Hygienist & Receptionists
Now hiring for general offices. Fax resume to: 586-997-9210.

Medical Billers 5060

A growing billing company seeking experienced billers:

- Full-time
- Benefits
- Great opportunity

Fax resume to: 313-240-7301

Accounting Manager 5120

for mobile home dealership. Need extensive accounting and computer background, management exp. is necessary. Send resume to: Account Manager, 41000 7 Mile Rd., Suite 110 Northville, MI 48167, or fax resume to (248) 449-7288

Real Estate Agent

A CAREER IN REAL ESTATE! LOOK NO FURTHER

If you desire to work in western Wayne county, be with number 1, see our other ad for details. Call Denise Setser 734-392-6000

Real Estate Agents

SEARCHING FOR A NEW DIRECTION?

Why not become a member of the oldest and largest family owned real estate company in Michigan. We invite you to explore this exciting opportunity in downtown Birmingham by calling 248-644-6700

Sales 5120

AVON NEEDS

Representatives Now! Call 734-522-0993

Child Care & Babysitting Services 5370

CHILD CARE PROVIDED - In my Canton home. \$2.50/hr. Call Mariana, 734-416-8670

Medical Receptionist 5060

Exp. for internet office. 30-32 hrs/wk. Fax resume to: 734-464-9797

Food/Beverage/Restaurant 5080

COOK POSITIONS AVAILABLE
Full and part time shifts. Benefits. Busy one person kitchen. Duties include grill, chat grill, fryer and scratch cooking, sanitation. Nights and weekends. APPLY IN PERSON ONLY. NO PHONE CALLS!!! The Plymouth Pub Ann Arbor Rd. & Sheidon.

Dental Assistant 5040

New Center area dental office looking for a experienced second dental assistant. Very energetic, self-motivated with a good work ethic. Fax resume to 313-874-0757

Medical Receptionist 5060

Exp. for internet office. 30-32 hrs/wk. Fax resume to: 734-464-9797

Real Estate Agent

REAL-ESTATE at it's best!

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Real Estate Agent

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Real Estate Agents

DISCOVER THE DIFFERENCE
Call Jim Stevens or Alissa Nead

Child Care & Babysitting Services 5370

PEDIATRIC Registered Nurse on leave from hospital will baby sit your children in Canton. Mon-Fri. Daytime. Call Luann: 734-765-6771

Medical Receptionist 5060

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Dental Assistant 5040

Unique opportunity for busy dental implant practice. Prosthetic experience a plus. Fax resume: 248-642-3699 Or Call 248-642-3800

Dental Assistant 5040

Cheerful, experienced, for state of the art office. Benefits. Canton area. Call 734-455-2510 or fax resume to 734-455-7848.

Medical Receptionist 5060

Exp. for internet office. 30-32 hrs/wk. Fax resume to: 734-464-9797

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REAL-ESTATE at it's best!

Observer & Eccentric

Real Estate Agent

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Dental Assistant 5040

Unique opportunity for busy dental implant practice. Prosthetic experience a plus. Fax resume: 248-642-3699 Or Call 248-642-3800

Dental Patient / Business Coordinator 5040

Full-time position. Dental & computer experience required. Excellent environment & compensation. Send Resume: 734-464-4778

Medical Receptionist 5060

Exp. for internet office. 30-32 hrs/wk. Fax resume to: 734-464-9797

Real Estate Agent

REAL-ESTATE at it's best!

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Real Estate Agent

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Real Estate Agents

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Food/Beverage/Restaurant 5080

COOK POSITIONS AVAILABLE
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Snowmobiles 8110

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1980-1997 Class C MOTOR HOMES WANTED. Call Dale, (517)230-8865.

BEAUTIFUL Lake Chamung, RV campground membership & 35x12 Park model w/2x10 attached screen room, pool, clubhouse & beach, next to golf course. \$28,000. MUST SELL!! 352-552-4839 352-259-9138

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GULF STREAM El Capitan 1987 fully equipped. 27 ft. 31K mi. very good cond. Must sell! Best offer. 734-427-0478

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Mini Vans 8240

Dodge 2000 Caravan excellent condition, loaded, 52K \$6900. 734-669-4433

4 Wheel Drive 8280

Dodge 1999 Ram 1500 SLT 4x4, quad cab, 5.9L, 79K, warranty. \$10,900. 734-422-1993

Sport Utility 8290

Avalanche 2003 - loaded with North Face pkg, DVD/TV player, low miles. \$39,500. (248) 561-8815

Vans 8260

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2002 WINDSTAR- LX wagon, dual air, 7 pass. \$13,990

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2003 FORD E150- Club wagon, XLT (9), V8, dual, air/heal, loaded! From \$14,899

2003 FORD E350- "Chateau" club wagon, quad seats, dual air, 12K miles. \$19,990

2003 FORD E350- Club wagons, XLT (4), 15 pass., loaded. From \$16,990-17,990

2003 FORD E350 XLT- Club wagons (3) 15 passenger, loaded, low miles, choice, \$17,990

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2003 ESCAPES- (6) auto, air, loaded, low miles. From \$15,990

2003 EXCURSIONS- (3) "Eddie Bauer, 4x4, V10, TV, DVD, low miles. From \$30,590

2003 EXCURSIONS- 4x4, XLT, V10, loaded, 11,000 miles. From \$27,990

2003 EXCURSIONS- XLT, auto, dual air, 3rd seat. \$24,990

2003 EXPLORER - XLT 4x4, leather, side curtain air bags, 5,000 miles, \$23,900

2003 EXPLORER - 11,000 miles. \$21,900

2003 NAVIGATORS- (2), Moon, leather, loaded \$39,900

2002 EXPEDITION- XLT, 4x4, 5.4L, 3rd seat, 18K, \$22,990

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2003 EXCURSIONS- (3) "Eddie Bauer, 4x4, V10, TV, DVD, low miles. From \$30,590

2003 EXCURSIONS- 4x4, XLT, V10, loaded, 11,000 miles. From \$27,990

2003 EXCURSIONS- XLT, auto, dual air, 3rd seat. \$24,990

2003 EXPLORER - XLT 4x4, leather, side curtain air bags, 5,000 miles, \$23,900

2003 EXPLORER - 11,000 miles. \$21,900

2003 NAVIGATORS- (2), Moon, leather, loaded \$39,900

2002 EXPEDITION- XLT, 4x4, 5.4L, 3rd seat, 18K, \$22,990

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Sport Utility 8290

ESCAPE-XLS- 2001, 4 wheel drive, black, auto, v-6, good condition. pw/pl, cd player, newer tires. \$11,500. 248-641-8738

4 Wheel Drive 8280

Dodge 1999 Ram 1500 SLT 4x4, quad cab, 5.9L, 79K, warranty. \$10,900. 734-422-1993

Sport Utility 8290

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2003 ESCAPES- (6) auto, air, loaded, low miles. From \$15,990

2003 EXCURSIONS- (3) "Eddie Bauer, 4x4, V10, TV, DVD, low miles. From \$30,590

2003 EXCURSIONS- 4x4, XLT, V10, loaded, 11,000 miles. From \$27,990

2003 EXCURSIONS- XLT, auto, dual air, 3rd seat. \$24,990

2003 EXPLORER - XLT 4x4, leather, side curtain air bags, 5,000 miles, \$23,900

2003 EXPLORER - 11,000 miles. \$21,900

2003 NAVIGATORS- (2), Moon, leather, loaded \$39,900

2002 EXPEDITION- XLT, 4x4, 5.4L, 3rd seat, 18K, \$22,990

2003 NAVIGATORS- (2) moon, leather, loaded! \$39,500

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CADILLAC 1955: Fully restored. Everything new. \$15,000/best. 734-729-3711

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Dodge 8440

SPIRIT 1994 white, very clean, runs fine, air, 4 door. 112,000 mi. \$1500. SOLD!

4

Automotive

Classifieds inside

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Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, January 1, 2004

The 2004 Hummer 2

Advertising Feature

Thursday DriveTime



BY DALE BUSS

It's been on the road for awhile now, but it's still difficult not to be impressed by the sheer immensity of GM's Hummer 2 - and amazingly, it's not even as huge as its predecessor, the original Hummer, which essentially is a military Humvee converted to civilian use.

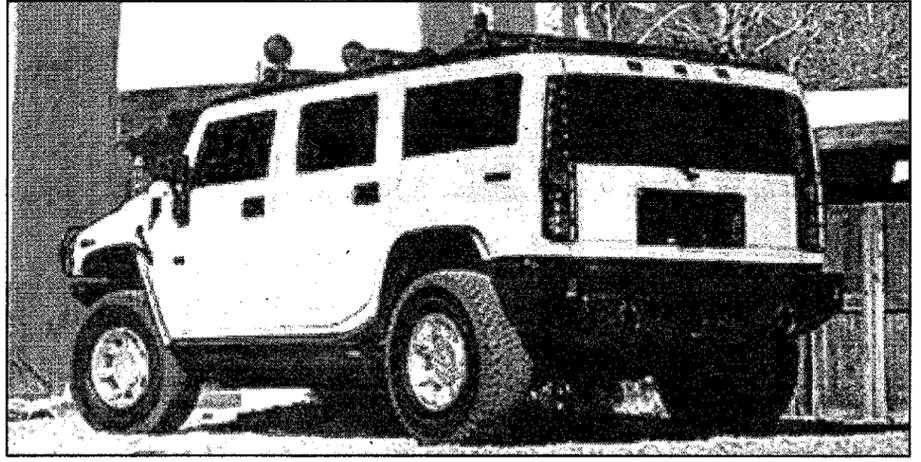
In one of the most impressive indications the General Motors management was turning things around, a few years ago the company beat an asleep-at-the-wheel Chrysler Group to the punch and reached a deal with the old Chrysler-affiliated manufacturer of the Humvee and Hummer, AM General, to sell the brand to GM. And the rest is automotive history.

Hummer 2 is one of those still-rare vehicles that delivers completely on its promise. The brand and the marketing of this vehicle promise a huge, nearly indestructible, go-anywhere transport to adventure that will guzzle gasoline, occasionally frustrate with its quirks and reliably intimidate and even enrage fellow motorists. That's exactly what Hummer 2 is and does.

Yet at a base price of around \$50,000 Hummer 2 does so in a way that's accessible to so many more buyers than its bigger, older brother, which checks in at retail prices tens of thousands of dollars higher.

The "H2" borrows styling from the H1, including the chock-a-block, heavy-duty construction, a distinctive jail-bar-style front grill, the up-high and extremely horizontal profile, the huge tires, and a bunch of other details. But it is designed not only to be less costly but more civilized. Its six-liter V8, four-speed automatic transmission, and major chassis components come from GM's full-size SUVs. And H2 is actually nine inches shorter in length than a Chevrolet Tahoe, though it is two inches wider and about 1,300 pounds heavier.

The sheer monstrosity of the H2 remains, true to the brand, the vehicles most distinguishing feature. Everybody wants to take a ride in it, including my elderly in-laws who had to step up onto a footstool even to be able to get into the H2. More than any other vehicle, because of its width, H2 also



The H2 will surprise you with creature comforts inside.

demands that you pay extreme attention to the width of the lane that you're driving in and to stay centered in it, as well as to the girth of your intended parking spot.

It takes more than a little practice to be able to figure out first time which spots you can squeeze H2 into and in which spots you'd just be creating problems for all three parties involved. It isn't long, however, before H2 drivers simply opt for some remote spot far out in the parking lot and just hope that the volume of vehicles parking in that lot doesn't catch up to their position.

For such a huge vehicle, the six-cylinder engine provides more than enough oomph in most situations and brings a maximum towing capacity of an incredible 7,000 pounds. Handling also is surprisingly nimble for the H2, on the 17-inch wheels and with a suspension attached to standard all-wheel-drive and chassis skid plates. The ride is slightly stiffer than in GM's largest SUVs but not so much as to be uncomfortable.

Clearly, H2 also is one of those vehicles that means it when it dares drivers to go off road, with its ample wheel travel, unmatched ground clearance and steep approach and departure angles. While I didn't test H2 by trying to drive cross-country through the hills of Oakland County, I did possess an extreme amount of inner peace at the possi-

bility of having to drive through four inches of snow on Christmas Day to pick up potentially stranded relatives.

And if I had gotten to do that, my passengers would be pleasantly surprised to find the creature comforts inside H2. First of all, the vehicle's wide stance creates the false impression from the outside that head room would be sparse; it isn't. And room runs horizontally in all directions. The back seat can very comfortably fit four adults across.

Dual-zone climate control, an in-dash driver-information center including a navigation device, and OnStar are standard equipment along with power everything and a keyless entry system. The Lux Series package adds leather seating, a chrome appearance package, a brushed-aluminum roof rack, and floor mats, while other options include heated seats and a power sunroof - which is huge.

My only real complaint about the inside of H2 is that the amount of cargo room in the rear would be phenomenal - if only H2's designers didn't insist on sticking the vehicle's huge spare tire to one side of the rear cargo area. Surely, with a vehicle whose footprint is that mammoth, they could have found somewhere else to put the spare.

Write Dale at daledbuss@aol.com.

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