



Couples share the romance Magic Moments

Observer Life

Section C

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Today's late delivery is not the fault of your Observer carrier. Due to technical difficulties, we were unable to get the newspaper out on time.

CANTON Observer

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Future
Robotic surgery could cut recovery time in half.
Health, C6



Memo

Family ice skating

Enjoy an evening of old-fashioned outdoor ice skating on the Heritage Park ponds by the gazebo 6:30-8:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 10. The ponds will be lighted and hot chocolate will be available for all to enjoy.

Variety series

The first date in the annual winter variety series at the Summit is Saturday, Feb. 28, featuring an hour of family entertainment with "Magic With Gordon Russ." The event will be in the Chestnut Room 10:30-11:30 a.m. Tickets can be purchased at the Summit for \$3 per person. (100 Days to Health participants can purchase tickets for \$2).

Road Rally

The Canton Thunderbirds Girls Fastpitch Softball is organizing a Road Rally for Saturday, March 13. Tickets are \$25 per person and include clue solving fun, buffet dinner and soft drinks, prizes and music. Cash bar available. Entries are limited. Contact Mike Roberts at (734) 397-1355 or look on their Web site at thunderbirdsoftball.tripod.com.

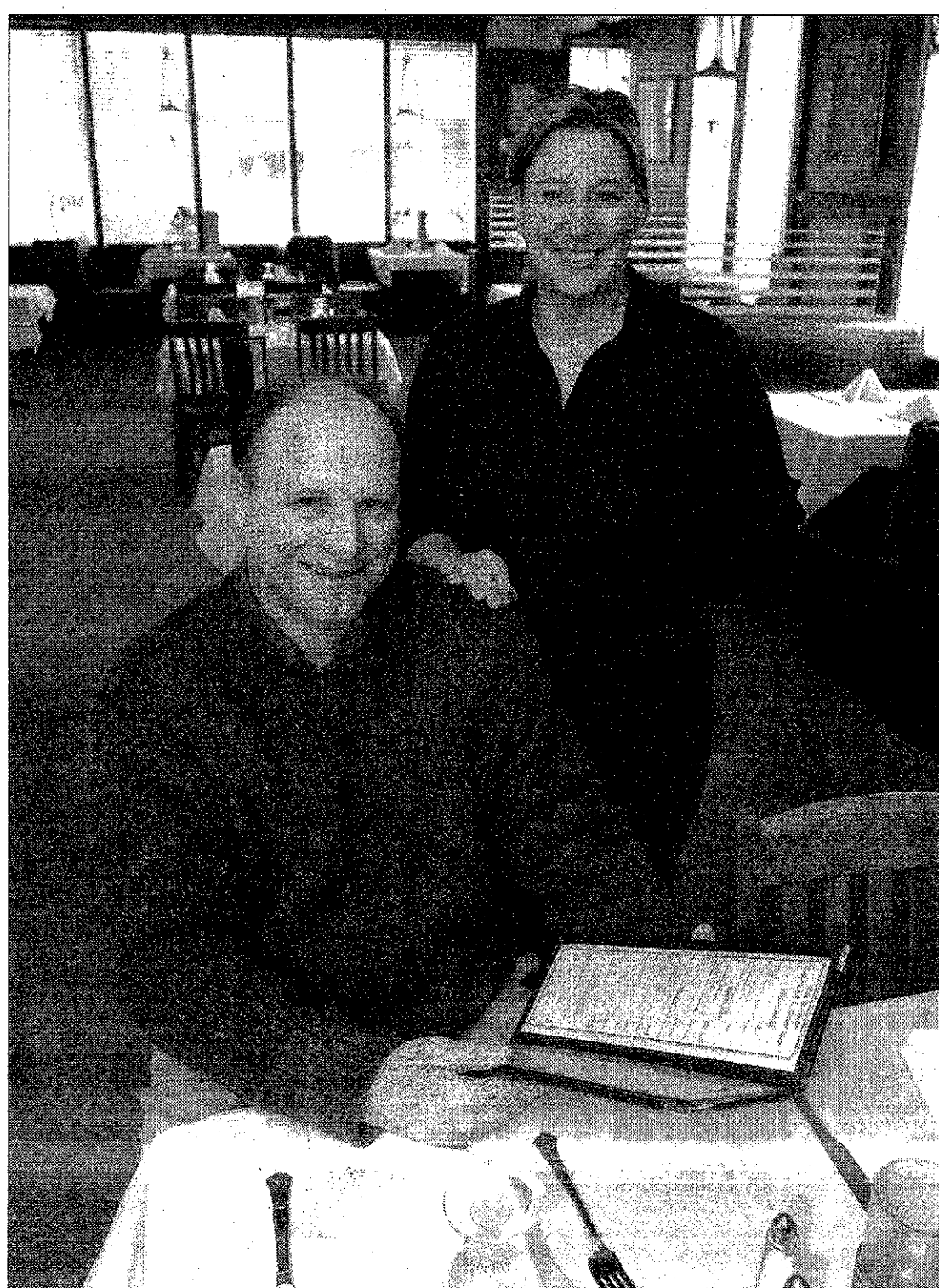
Fixup expo

The popular Canton Home Improvement Expo is being held on Saturday, March 6 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, March 7, 2004 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Summit on the Park. The Expo will showcase display booths from local businesses to give homeowners tips and information on a wide range of home improvement and repair projects. Several thousand people attended the two-day event last year.

The Parade of Homes is also returning this year after a popular debut last year. Local builders will open their model homes to run concurrently with the Home Improvement Expo.

A special appearance will be made both afternoons by Murray Gula, host of the radio call-in show Home Improvement on WJR 760 AM.

The Expo is being hosted by Canton's Building and Inspection Services Division, the Chamber of Commerce and the Canton Observer. For more information call Brenda Katulski of Canton's Building and Inspection Services Division at (734) 394-5200.



Touch of England

Michael Michaud, owner of Dartmoor, is with British native Jaye Haugh from his wait staff. The Plymouth pub has been open since May. For the story, see page A2.

Donation means a lot off the top

Abby Phillips went to some lengths - about 14 inches - to help a child cope with hair loss.

Abby, an 11-year-old from Canton Township, had her blonde tresses cut off Thursday to donate to Locks of Love, a Florida-based charity that provides hairpieces for needy children who suffer from medical conditions that have led to baldness.

"It feels a lot lighter," Abby said at the Cardinal Barber Shop in Redford as stylist Siham Jasmund gave her a layered bob.

"I hated blow-drying my hair because it takes, like, hours," Abby said. (Not hours, her mother, Carol, corrected her.)

Carol Phillips, who said the new cut made Abby look older, was obviously proud of her daughter.

"I heard about it and mentioned it to her, and as soon as I did, she was all over it," she said.

Abby, her mother said, hadn't had more than a trim since the first grade. She's now in the sixth grade at Pioneer Middle School.



Abby Phillips holds her cut hair as Siham Jasmund cleans up the ends.

Abby has two older brothers and a younger sister.

Abby said she's told schoolmates about her plans to donate her much-admired hair.

"They said it was cool," she said. A couple of her friends had already donated their hair, she

said. "The need is so tremendous," said Jasmund, who said she has perhaps three or four clients a year who donate their hair to Locks of Love.

She showed off a lock of dark hair, with gray in it, that she said she recently cut from a man in his 60s. She is sending that hair to Locks of Love along with Abby's.

Human hair is used in Locks of Love hair prosthetics, Jasmund said, because it looks more natural and is easier to manage than synthetic hair. The hairpieces are custom-made to fit recipients.

Jasmund attends NorthRidge Church in Plymouth Township, where Abby's father, Nick, is a pastor.

Abby was getting compliments on her new look Thursday at Cardinal, and was starting to tally up the benefits of shorter hair - a lighter feel, less shampoo, less fuss.

"It'll be a whole lot easier to brush," her mother added.

Canton facing water rate hike

BY TONY BRUSCATO
STAFF WRITER

When Plymouth commissioners voted in the late 1960s to shut down city wells and begin receiving water supplies from the Detroit Water Department, one of the major concerns was losing local control.

"At the time, many thought moving to the Detroit water system would mean we'd be at the mercy of Detroit," said City Manager Paul Sincock. "And, here we are, in 2004 ..."

Today, many of the 125 communities supplied by the Detroit Water Department feel they're being held hostage as water rate increases - some as high as 45 percent - are expected to be approved by the Detroit City Council.

Canton Township has received a proposed 12.4 percent water rate increase from the Detroit Water Department. John Spencer, budget and water billing manager, said he's been to a number of engineering meetings and believes the increase is reasonable.

"They have to improve the treatment plants to take care of terrorist issues, as well as modernize the plants," said Spencer. "Being a larger community, our peak demand factor is higher than some other communities."

In Plymouth's case, the proposed rate increase of 7 percent is much lower, but still under scrutiny by city officials.

"We're obligated, given our finan-



Victor Mercado

PLEASE SEE RATES, A5

Bentley diversity fest is next Friday

BY DOUG JOHNSON
STAFF WRITER

Bentley Elementary School will host its annual diversity festival 6-9 p.m. Friday, Feb. 13, at the school, 1100 S. Sheldon Road in Canton.

The Bentley Cultural Diversity Festival has received statewide recognition. Mina Jaura, a native of India, explained recently where the idea came from: "It all started four years ago when I attended a day-time hour-long celebration of the Martin Luther King Day at Bentley. I thought that there is something bigger that we need to do so we can encompass the larger diverse picture of the student body mix to learn and enjoy this rarity in our society."

"We know that in addition to excelling in education, sports and community events, our students should also be able to learn about cultural, racial and economic differences, sort of a first-hand 'touch and feel.' I recalled the annual day celebrations we used to have at school when I was growing up in India," she added.

Jaura had a chat with her husband and he gave her some ideas, too.

The festival began in 2002

as an evening where students, teachers and parents display cultural diversity in various forms.

"This is a homegrown event and it has expanded every year," Principal Jerry Meier said.

"It means about a month of intense work; the students have really been practicing for the entertainment."

The evening is broken into roughly three sections: first, entertainment with ethnic dancing, singing and native costume displays, and the Pledge of Allegiance and national anthem; second, classroom activities with a variety of displays; and third, food tasting from different cultures. Local merchants and restaurants participate by donating food.

Meier, in his fifth year as principal, guesses there are about 16 different ethnic groups in the 605-student population at Bentley.

As a way to thank the businesses and to honor the donors, an "Honor The Donors" list is prepared and posted on the school Web site.

"Personally, I have a passion for diversity and am a diversity ambassador, always trying to build the bridges of cultural awareness," Jaura said.

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LOOKING AHEAD

Untied knot?
Filter's Valentine's issue on next Thursday is dedicated to the world of singles.



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British native brings touch of England to Plymouth restaurant

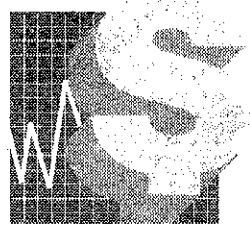
BY DOUG JOHNSON
STAFF WRITER

Michael Michaud wanted a restaurant that "promoted English pub culture" and he got it when he opened the walnut-paneled Dartmoor eight months ago in downtown Plymouth.

The pub was a labor of love; he and his father did all the remodeling of the old ice cream store (Cloverdale), adding a long bar, and a big fireplace.

Michaud's mother was British but he has lived in America all his life, the last five years in a home in downtown Plymouth.

And it was mostly serendipity that he added a genuine touch of England when he hired Canton resident Jaye Haugh last summer.



@ Work

Business: The Dartmoor
Address: 447 Forest Ave.
Owners: Michael Michaud
Established: 2003
Principal products: British pub
Number of employees: 10

'Plymouth has totally exceeded my expectations,' Michael Michaud.

ate of Salem High School, has been with Michaud since they opened.

"It's nice to have this home-grown talent," Haugh said. "The food is so well presented. You taste with your eyes first. And I think we are finding our niche in Plymouth."

The Dartmoor features a variety of beers and ales (naturally) as well as four dozen or so wines. The menu lists classic British fare such as bangers and mash, and Shepherd's pie, as well as American dishes. Each night several supper specials are offered including Maple Raspberry Salmon and Dartmoor Mixed Grill.

"We have a lot of regulars and they have their preferences. One Friday we had every table full and I took a count and about 40 percent were repeat customers we knew," Haugh said.

One of the events at the restaurant that Haugh has found interesting are wine dinners. Wine experts come in to speak and a variety of food and dinner specials are offered. "It's fun when we get complete novices at wine dinners," Haugh said.

Michaud explains that in England pubs are often "community centers for local culture. People all meet there. You know the owners and most times you'll see someone you know."

Both Michaud and Haugh love the big downtown events in Plymouth - Ice Spectacular, Art in the Park, Fall Festival - and use the venues to get the restaurants name out with fliers. Works from area artists hangs on the Dartmoor's walls.

For Michaud the restaurant is in a perfect place - one minute from home. As he tweaks the restaurant he also devotes time to remodeling his older Plymouth Union Street house where he lives with his wife and family.

The Dartmoor is open Tuesday through Thursday for lunch and dinner 4-9 p.m. and Friday and Saturday 4-10 p.m. and Sunday for dinner only, 4-8 p.m.

Detective: Murder suspect made conflicting statements

Murder defendant Leslie Gordon made conflicting statements about her involvement with a gunman who left a bloody trail of dead and wounded bodies last Sept. 11 at Neil's Party Store, a Westland police sergeant testified Friday.

Gordon, 24, initially told Sgt. David Heater that she was afraid of Michael Lamont Schofield, who murdered four men and injured two others before eventually killing himself with the same 9mm handgun.

On the way out of the store, Schofield shot and killed Kenneth Sherman Littlefield, 63, and his nephew Keith Gaddis, 44 - Canton men who happened to drive up in a truck.

One statement made by Gordon appeared to support defense attorney Marvin Barnett's claim that Gordon cooperated with Schofield because she feared for her own life inside the party store, on Newburgh north of Ford.

"I'm scared because I don't want him to shoot me," Heater said, reading from notes he took during an interview with Gordon. Describing her feelings as the massacre unfolded, Gordon told Heater, "I'm standing there praying he don't shoot me."

Contradicting herself, Gordon later gave a written statement admitting that she and Schofield, 30, intended to commit a robbery, Heater said. She admitted that they robbed a Novi party store before going to Neil's to commit another holdup, he said.

Gordon confessed to standing by the door, letting in customers who were gunned down, and then using a glove to wipe fingerprints from the door, Heater said.

Barnett pointed out a portion of Gordon's initial statement in which she claimed she made a cell phone call to a relative, before the killings,

and said, according to Heater's notes, "This man is crazy. He's going to kill me."

But Wayne County Assistant Prosecutor Christine Kowal questioned why Gordon, if she feared Schofield, didn't escape while Schofield was away from a Novi hotel room they were sharing.

"If you're scared, why not leave?" Kowal asked in court.

Kowal also questioned why Gordon, if fearful of Schofield, admitted in her own statement that she handed him the 9mm gun when it fell on the floor of a Corvette in which they were fleeing from police after the massacre. Kowal raised the issue of why Gordon would put a gun in Schofield's hand, if she feared he might kill her.

Gordon's jury trial on multiple charges, including first-degree murder, will continue Monday in front of Wayne County Circuit Judge Annette Jurkevics Berry. The Detroit defendant will face life in prison, if convicted as charged.

Gordon didn't fire any shots, but she is accused of serving as Schofield's lookout during the party store murders. Inside the store, Schofield shot and killed worker Feras Yousif, 29, of Oak Park and customer James Kuebler, 35, of Westland. He also wounded employee Conrad Hasper, 24, and customer Fuad Abuali, 29, both of Westland.

In court, Kuebler's mother, Linda Cantrell, held a small picture of her son and his wife. She initially had the photograph in a small, glass frame, but court security officers took the frame from her. Of her three sons, Cantrell said Kuebler was the middle child.

Comforted by her husband, John, Cantrell covered her ears with her hands Thursday as Westland police Sgt. Michael Willard took the witness stand and described the

crime scene where her son was slain.

In other testimony, witness Sonya Funchez testified that she was riding with her sister on the Southfield service drive just after Gordon and Schofield crashed.

Although Barnett earlier indicated that Gordon fled from Schofield after the accident, Funchez testified that Gordon was running in the same direction.

Funchez said her sister's car hit Gordon when Gordon ran onto the service drive, but she said Gordon got up and continued running.

In her statement, Gordon wrote that she and Schofield separated briefly after the crash and then met up in a residential back yard, where Schofield shot himself dead. Although Barnett has indicated that Gordon was a virtual hostage of Schofield, authorities said Gordon didn't appear relieved when they arrived near the crash site.

"There was no sign of relief ... like she was being held hostage or anything," said Michigan State Police Trooper Jack Taeff.

Meanwhile, Barnett accused Heater of initially failing to turn over certain statements made by Gordon, including her claim that she feared Schofield would kill her. Earlier, Barnett had accused Westland police of misrepresenting certain facts.

But Judge Berry told Barnett, "The Westland Police Department is not on trial here."

Barnett and Kowal have often clashed during the trial, which ended its first week Friday.

Kowal told Berry at one point that Barnett "is out of control" due to his aggressive questioning of witnesses. After Berry momentarily dismissed jurors, Barnett and Kowal continued to trade insults, prompting the judge to threaten to jail them unless they calmed down.

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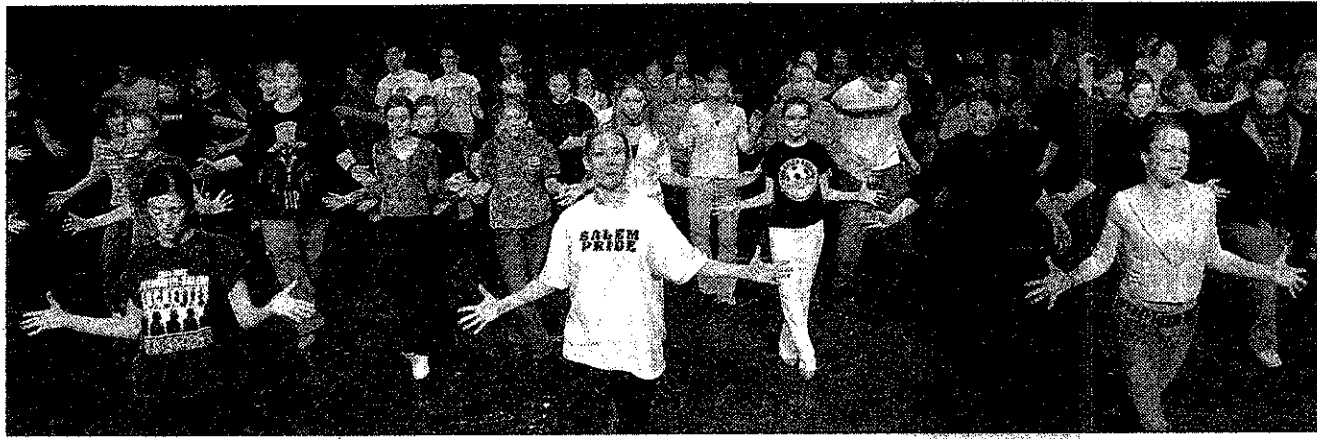
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A big crowd showed up for an after-school workshop to audition for the 60-member cast of '42nd Street.'

Park Players take on Broadway's best

BY BRAD KADRICH
STAFF WRITER

It didn't take Kristen Quesada long to start thinking big.

Quesada, in just her second year as director of the Plymouth-Canton Schools' Park Players, puts on the biggest show in more than a decade when her Players hit the stage in the annual spring musical next month.

The Players will do *42nd Street*, an ambitious production that features nearly 60 cast members and 10 sets, in a production scheduled to run March 25-27 in the Gloria Logan Auditorium at Salem High School.

The show, one of Broadway's most decorated, is currently running in revival in New York, and Quesada thought the timing was right.

"It's a show I've always liked, they did it here about 14 years ago," Quesada said. "It's running again on Broadway, so I thought it would be cool to do it again."

Cool perhaps, but it's also going to be a lot of work. Quesada, who has a strong dance background, looked for potential cast members who also had some dance experience. The parts she couldn't fill with dancers, she filled with students with strong voices and equally strong hearts.

In a play that features some 60 actors and "nine or 10" dance numbers, those were the important qualities.

"I'd say about half of the people cast have some prior dance knowledge from outside studios," Quesada said. "The other half have strong voices and have the heart and energy to learn. Between myself and my four dance captains, we're going to do our best to teach them the ropes and hope everything goes well."

Rehearsals have just started, so it's



Alison Sarsfield helps lead the dancers. The Park Players' spring production features some 10 dance numbers.

a bit early yet to tell how it's going. Quesada cast the four leads, choosing senior Courtney Gromacki to play dancer Peggy Sawyer; senior Joe Drake to play Billy Lawler, the play's romantic lead; junior Ashleigh Rotondo as Dorothy Brock, the leading lady the director thinks is "over the hill;" and junior Nathan Gardner to play Julian Marsh, the director hoping to put on a smash hit.

Gromacki, 17, has taken tap since she was 5, and was a Hot Box girl in last year's Players' production of *Guys and Dolls*. She had no lines in that play, and so must make the adjustment to a huge speaking part this year.

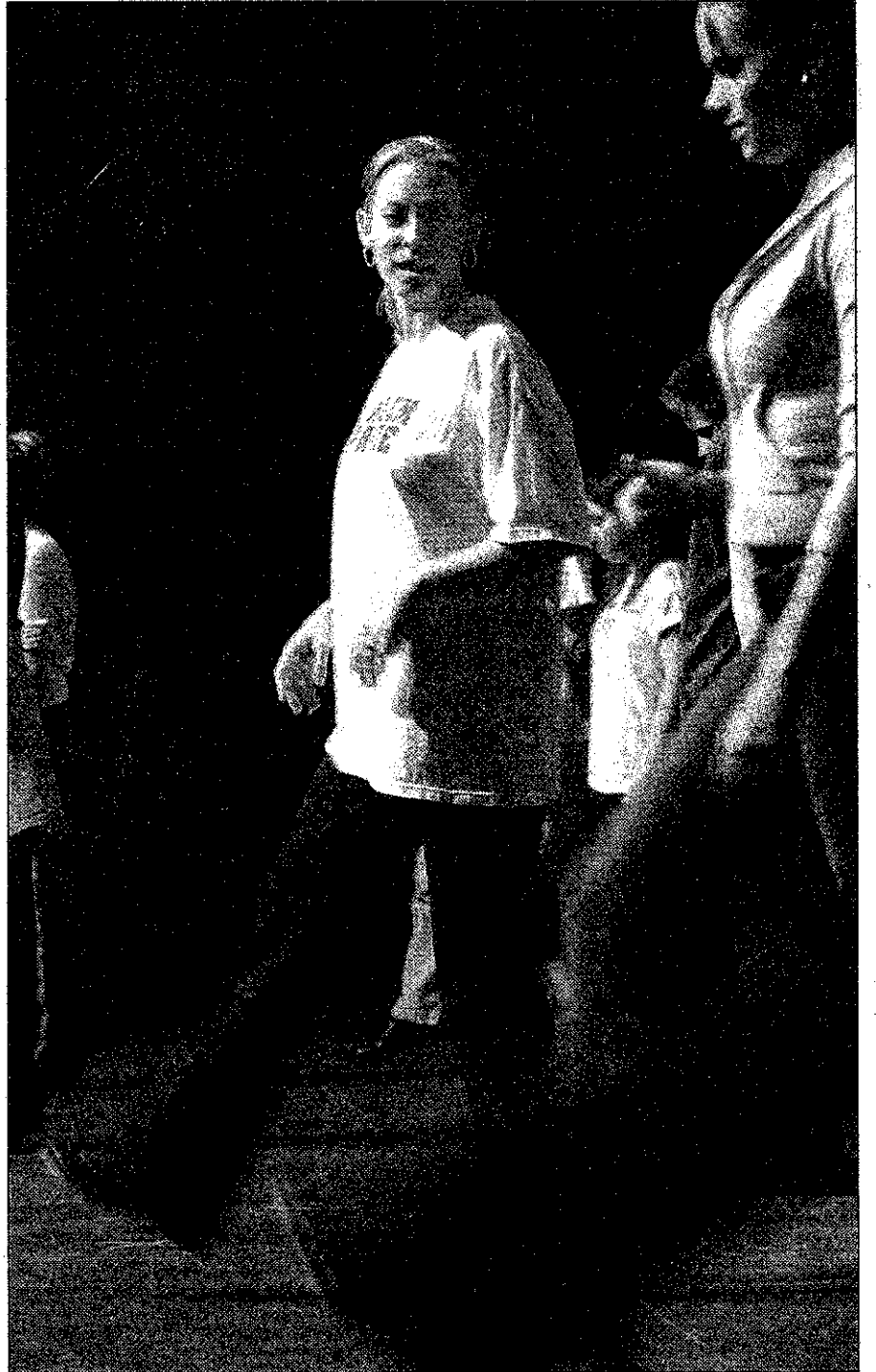
"I'm gonna have to be involved and get inside my character and really portray her," Gromacki said. "You have to understand your character. I never thought I could be the lead in a Broadway show, and that's how Peggy



Joe Kowaleski and Keith Brown were ready to dance at an audition for the upcoming student production.

feels, too, so I think it'll be easy for me to portray Peggy."

While the actors, especially the ones who aren't as well-versed in dance, will have their hurdles, the biggest challenge will come for the crew of set designers, who have to



Park Players director Kristen Quesada leads a crowd of student hoofers at an early audition for '42nd Street.'

come up with nearly three times the normal number of sets in a musical, including a pair of two-story sets and one three-story set.

Paul Bird has been the technical director for seven years, and next month's production is the largest put on by the Players in his tenure.

"They're all challenges, but this one is going to be just a bit more of a challenge because of the size," Bird said. "You never have time, so you make do with the time you have. The kids are great kids who do quality work, so I have no qualms about it at all. I know what the kids are capable of doing."

Quesada, who has taught dance for

11 years, feels the same way.

"The most challenging part is teaching the people who have never tapped before and putting them on stage with experienced dancers and trying to match the level so they look the same," Quesada said. "But it can be done. We're going to have to work constantly, bring 'em in over winter break, add some Friday rehearsals. We'll do whatever it takes to make it good."

42nd Street hits the stage with 8 p.m. performances March 25-27, with a 2 p.m. matinee March 27.

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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 proceeding. Other obituaries can be found inside today's paper. Look for Passages to view paid obituaries.

DEATHS
B Charles E. Brook, 92, of East Lansing, died Feb. 3.
F Donald J. Fournier of Westland, died Feb. 4.
H Karl A. Hamilton, 53, of Farmington Hills, died Feb. 2.
K Virginia K. Kliza of Redford, died Feb. 3.
O Lucille Orlewicz, 81, of Canton, died Feb. 1.
V Josephine K. Vukicevich of Plymouth, died Feb. 3.
W Angela M. Wilson, 77, of Farmington Hills, died Jan. 31.

DEAN'S LIST
The following students from Canton have earned a spot on the fall semester Dean's List at Schoolcraft College: Lori Michelle Aitken, Denise June Alcodray, Deborah Kay Allen, Jessica Mayra Arenas, Sophia Ashraf, Stephanie Elaine Baker, Daran Daniel Baloga, Sarah Elizabeth Bammel, Kyle Stephen Bansberg, Frances Andrea Barbero, Elizabeth Louise Barnes, And Kristin Jean Bence, Bhawanjit K. Benipal, Jayna Ruth Berger, Marcia Marie Bessey, Dhatri Bhatt, Canton Nirav Vinodrai Bhavsar,

Sachiko Yamaguchi Blair, Ghada Bochenek, Marie Bokor, Stefano Bolzonella, Michelle Renee Bonior, James David Bonneau, Wendy Marie Bonno, Jill Erin Brooks, Andrew Ryan Brown, Amy Rachele Burpo, Erin Elyse Byrne, Trudy Marie Cairo, Casey Patrick Callanan, Candice Campbell, Courtney Lynn Ceci, Mary Ann Cesarone, Joanne Chambos, Rebecca Lynn Cierley, Jennifer Leigh Clark, William Scott Clayton, Patrick John Coldren, Bradley Louis Collins, Stephen William Collins, Emily Antoinette Comito, Mary Joan Conrad, Karen Ruth Cooley, Cheryl Lynn Cosman, Megan Michael Crandall, Lucianne Agnes Croteau, Jennifer Lynn Cuedek, Hamzeh Darwiche, Melissa Erin Daugherty, Allison Jo Davis, Gregory Alan Davis, Gina Lynn Deiro, Cheryl June-Thora Delaney, Terri L. Dewyer, Deanna Marie DiCesore, Derek D Michael Diedrich, Anthony R. Dimauro, Joseph Paul DiPonio, Joseph Carl Dobis, Julie May Dodsworth, Lee Theodore Dreps, Cindy A. Dunnigan, Steven Richard Dyke, Linda L. Dziuban, William Joe Elias, Robert Lee Estep Jr, Fadia Fawzi Faraj, Arturo Ramirez Fidelino Jr, Kimberley Ann Fournier, Julie Kathleen Frayne, Robert George Frysinger, Lance Patrick Fuchs, Leesa Jill Gaydos, Amie Lynn Geisler, Elizabeth Ann Gierada, Victoria Jane Giesler, Prabhjot Gill, Lisa Ann Gillis, Elizabeth Ann Graham, Eric W. Grewe, Aimee Gale Hamlin, Lawrence Carter Henkel, Amy Marie Herberholz, Nicole A. Hlady, Amy Marie Holmes, Timothy Robert Hope, Gurleen Kaur Hora, Stacey A. Humphrey, Patricia Ann Hursin, Carrie Lynn Irwin, Christina Lou Jacobi, Kimberly Marie

Janiga, Robert Joseph Jastrzebski, Nadia Jishi, Molly Elizabeth Johnson, Raenece Danette Johnson, Mandip K. Kalsi, Jonathan D. Keim, Katherine Emily Keppen, Mahshid Keshavarz, Eun Duk Kim, Barbara Marie Kolb-Linebarger, Koteswara Rao Kolla, David Koshizawa, Esther Ruth Koslovsky, Erin Nicole Kozak, Abigail May Krupski, Amy Lynn Krupski, Christopher Ryan Lamasse, Stacie Lynn Lamp, Tatyana Yaroslavina Landon, Alicia Deanna Lepage, Melissa Ashley Lesz, Anthony Joseph Liberator, Joseph Brandon Lieberman, Yushun Shun Lin, Cheryl Lynn Locklear, Carol Ann Loper, Steven Matthew Lueck, Daniel Mark Lyons, Brian Gary MacDonald, Dana Marie Maiberger, Tarek O. Malek, Laura Bethany Manchester, Sarika Manocha, Karen Marie Maronde, Michelle Marie Marsh, Nancy L. Martin, Joseph Matuniak, Laura Ann Mayes, Maria Angela Mayotte, Jason Michael McCarthy, Kendra Anne McKinney, Constance Suzanne McMullen, Theresa Jane Meador, Erika Nicole Megna.
And, Jessica Ann Merryman, Brandon Christopher Merta, Francine Taku Meutcheho, Carianne Elizabeth Miller, Laura Ann Miller, Zachary Glen Miller, Milanka Miskovic, Kristina Marie Mizzi, Timothy Lewis Montessor, Debra Joy Moore, Mary C. Munoz, Magdalena Firuta Muresan, Carly Marie Musa, Angela Michelle Neiger, Tracey Marie Neino, Joanne Elizabeth Neme, Bridget Lee Newton, Hsiang-Ping Ni, Daniel Jordan Nichols, Melanie Rae O'Neil, Kimberly Penny Obregon, Blerina Onuzi, Kelly Ann Opdyke, Ranea K. Paiva, Artiben Thakorbbhai Patel, Binal Pinakin Patel, Bintaben Thakorbbhai Patel, Hiral V.

Patel, Mayur Rohit Patel, Parul Baldev Patel, Ronak Ranchhodlal Patel, Trupti K. Patel, Christina Michelle Peters, Thien Duc Pham, Sreelatha Ponnaluri, Lauren Danielle Pratt, Cathie Anne Przekop, Michael Sean Pydyn, Alice Irene Rahhal, Swati Rajpurohit, Tina Marie Randall, Lisa Marie Rasmussen, Mariam Raza, Melanie Rose Rebandt, Tim Allen Reich, Shannon Lynne Reighard, Michele C. Rich, James Michael Richards, Mary Jane Richards, Dawn Marie Richards-Plonka, Jeri Faye Ritter, Jennifer Lynn Ritzler, Andrew John Rowe, Craig Thomas Sanders, Dyan Jane Scanlon, Kory Andrew Scheiber, Joseph Thomas Schell, Jennifer Caroline Schmitz, Mary Christine Schrag, Chad R. Schroeder, Jessica Sue Scutt, Andrew Joseph Seal, Sheetal C. Sheta, Awatif Shivani, Daniel John Shooshanian, Shakti Shukla, Krista Lynn Shuler, Mohammed Sadrudin Siddiqui, Mandeep Kaur Sidhu, Daniel Forrest Sinclair, Peter Christopher Skinner, Jacquelyn Marie Smith, Erin Schmidt Sonntag.
And, Justin Scott Steckle, Lisa Rose Stephenson, Kurt Anders Stetler, Chelsie Linn Stromski, Melissa Jean Stump, Nicole L. Styles, Kellie Jo Symons, Audrey May Thomas, Laura Catherine Tillier, Brian James Titus, Rena Ann Tokarski, Anthony Joseph Vitale, Neetu Wagley, James Michael Walker, Leon Michael Walsh, Noreen Jane Watson, Teresa Jane West, Julie Ann Westveer, Caroline Jean Wetter, Judith Ann Wojcicki, Rebecca Lynn Wolf, Jessica Lynne Youngblood, and Monica Lee Zawacki.
Schoolcraft College is at 18600 Haggerty Road, between Six and Seven Mile roads, just west of I-275.

Road update lists plans for spring

The following is an update on various road construction projects currently taking place in the Canton community, as well as an update on locations of resurfacing road projects.

Saltz Road paving (Canton Center to Beck): Construction to occur in the spring of 2004. Detroit Edison has relocated utility poles and are awaiting relocation of telephone and cable lines.

Saltz Road paving (Beck to Ridge): Construction to occur in the spring of 2004.

Lotz Road paving (between Ford and Warren): Project to start in the spring of 2004. The portion of the water main on the east side of Lotz Road will be relocated before the road is constructed.

Lotz Road (Michigan Avenue, south 1,500 feet) - Construction of the paving and drainage improvements to occur in the spring of 2004.

Michigan Avenue (Belleville to Denton): Construction to begin in April 2004. Detroit Edison is relocating utility poles to the south side of Michigan Avenue before construction begins. New concrete pavement will be placed for the reconstruction.

Warren Road (Canton Center to Morton Taylor): The road will be widened to five lanes and cross-section will be 10-inch non-reinforced concrete pavement. Construction is scheduled for summer 2004.

Cherry Hill Road and N. Ridge Road: Construction for paving and drainage improvements will begin in the spring 2004.

Mast arms to be placed at the intersections of Cherry Hill Road and Denton Road, Cherry Hill Road and N. Ridge Road, and Cherry Hill Road and S. Ridge Road.

Denton Road Extension (N. Cherry Hill Road): Construction for the future extension of Denton Road to begin in the spring 2004.

COUNTY WORK
Resurfacing projects by Wayne County during construction season:

■ Canton Center Road: 0.04 miles N/Geddes to 1.07 miles N/Geddes.

■ Cherry Hill Road: Beck to 0.95 miles E/Beck (widening for Dodson school buses).

■ Sheldon Road: Canton Center to Sheldon.

■ Sheldon Road: Ford to 0.27 miles N/Ford.

■ Palmer Road: 0.05 mi. E/Canton Center to 0.40 E./Morton Taylor.

■ Ridge Road: County Line to Cherry Hill.

For up-to-date project information and detour maps, or for most projects, call 734-595-ROAD or call Canton Public Works. Residents may also check out Canton's Web site at www.canton-mi.org.

For more information about project development in Canton, call Canton Planning Services at 734 394-5170. Questions about infrastructure improvements and new subdivision construction should be directed to Canton Public Works at (734) 394-5150.

For assistance with building and ordinance issues, call Canton Building & Inspection Services at 394-5200.

NEW CLASSES Beginning February 16th
• Jump Roping (Choreographed Rhythmic Jumping)
• Musical Theatre (An Annie Review)
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• Ballet/Tap Combo
• Ballet/Jazz Combo
• Salsa • Aerobics • Pilates
For more info visit our website at: www.cantonpremieredance.com or call: 734-207-9774
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Canton getting new warning sirens

Phase one of Canton's new outdoor warning sirens installation is near completion. The second phase of the installation will include replacing existing one-way sirens with two-way sirens throughout the township.

New sirens were needed due to the amount of development and growth in the Canton community.

The sirens are being installed under the direction on the Canton Fire Department in an effort to

enhance notification to residents about emergencies such as severe weather, terrorism and tornados.

The newly installed sirens will be tested upon completion of the installation and regular testing of the sirens occurs on the first Saturday of each month at 1 p.m.

Two-way systems allow the Fire Department to monitor the outdoor sirens for malfunctions, tampering, etc. without sending personnel to the actual site.

RATES

FROM PAGE A1

cial constraints, to question it," said Mayor Stella Greene. "Although Detroit has taken some due diligence to address accountability ... it's their responsibility to give us sufficient information that the increases are warranted.

"I still have some significant questions," she said. "I haven't been convinced."

Plymouth Township Supervisor Steve Mann, whose community is expected to receive one of the lower water rate increases at 2.3 percent, said that despite two consecutive years of low rate increases he's not completely satisfied.

"There have been some intensive studies on how Detroit sets rates, and some recommendations for further studies," said Mann. "So far, Detroit is hesitant to take up those recommendations."

The Detroit water system pumps an average 500 million gallons a day to its customers, making it the third largest system in the country. Director Victor Mercado, who took over the department nearly 18 months ago, said he's added a number of efficiencies to the water system.

"For the third year in a row we have not increased our operational and maintenance budget; we've absorbed pay increases ... increases in benefits ... and administrative costs," said Mercado. "Our rate increase, this year, is for

capital improvement programs mandated by the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) and Safe Drinking Water Act."

The operating budget and capital improvement budget are about \$500 million each per year.

Mercado said factors involved in determining the costs for water include the elevation of a community, the distance from the pumping station, and water usage during peak time periods.

Plymouth Township decreased water costs to its residents by two percent last year; and Mann indicated "we're probably going to be in a position to keep current water rates without an increase," indicating there's enough money in the budget to absorb the additional cost.

Mann also said Plymouth Township is looking to construct a second water tower to keep peak usage to a minimum, thereby lowering rates to residents.

"Once we get a second water tower, we'll stabilize our use throughout the day and reduce peak demand," he said. "That will help reduce our rates from Detroit."

Officials of the three communities say they'll compile costs of water, sewerage, distribution, administration and capital improvement projects—such as new water mains—to come up with a total water and sewerage cost to residents.

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Help pick 'Best Of' winners

What's the "best ..." in our hometown, in metro Detroit? Help us pick the People's Choice for Filter and the Best Of in your community.

Readers who submit ballots for the local Best Of and People's Choice Award will be entered in a drawing to win gift certificates to area malls and restaurants, movie tickets, sporting events and more.

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To be eligible for the drawing, you must complete both the local and People's Choice Award ballots.

The People's Choice ballot can be found in Thursday's *Filter*.

Cut out the ballots, complete them and mail or fax to the address listed, or cast your ballots online at www.hometownlife.com.

Entries must be received by Wednesday, Feb. 11. Drawing winners will be notified by phone.

Look for the People's Choice awards in *Filter* on Thursday, March 25, April 1 and April 8, and the Best Of local awards on March 25.

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Manufacturers worry about job losses

BY TONY BRUSCATO
STAFF WRITER

Michael Aznavorian, owner of Clips & Clamps Industries in Plymouth Township's Metro West Industrial Park, said the loss of manufacturing jobs has forced his plant to struggle for the past three years.

"In fact, we haven't made any money over the three year period," said Aznavorian. "We're hanging on. We see a little brightness coming in 2004, only because we're getting a little business; not that we're getting higher prices for our product."

Aznavorian said he tries to do the right things as a businessman, but he wishes consumers would stop looking at the low prices of goods dumped into the U.S. from abroad and learn to Buy American.

"There are responsibilities of corporations to their communities," said Aznavorian. "And, there's responsibilities of consumers. They keep buying those goods with the little label that says 'Made in China.'"

"One day, we're not going to have any jobs here, and there's not going to be any income or taxation ... no income to buy things," he said.

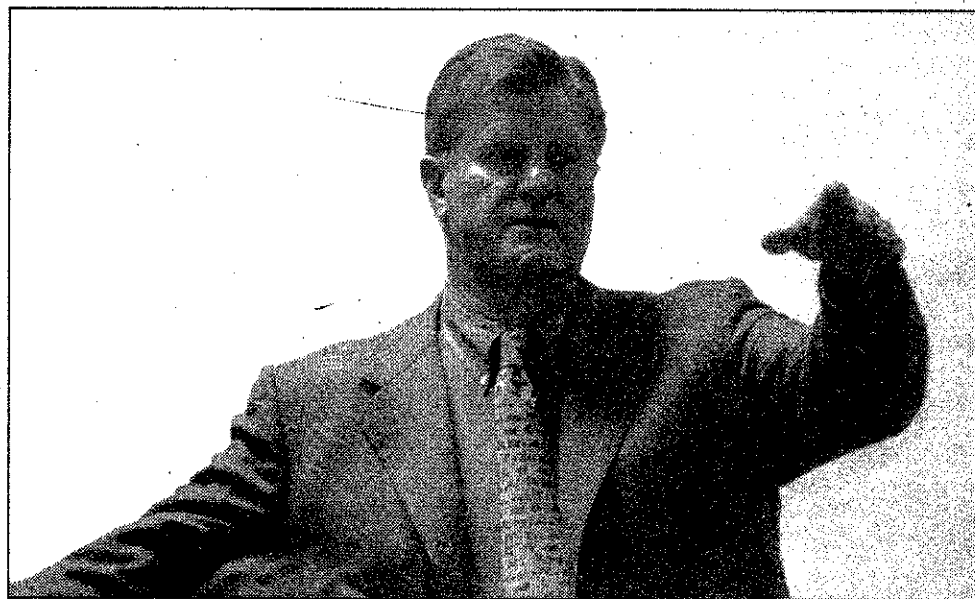
Aznavorian employs 60 people at his 50-year-old business. He hasn't laid off anyone, yet.

"I probably should have, but I didn't because they are my family," said Aznavorian. "I can't lay them off. How are they going to make it?"

Aznavorian was one of nearly 60 people who attended an afternoon-long Manufacturing Summit sponsored by Rep. John Stewart (R-Plymouth Township) last Friday.

Stewart also represents the eastern part of Canton.

What Stewart heard was bad news - with some solutions suggested - about the hundreds of thousands of manufactur-



Phil Power, publisher of the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers as well as others, spoke at the summit in Plymouth.

ing jobs lost in Michigan as a result of the economic downturn, and companies who are sending jobs to places like China and Mexico.

David Martin, senior vice president of Comerica Bank, said he's traveled to some border towns in Mexico, which are looking more and more like "Main Street corporate America."

"Every Fortune 500 company in the United States has major representation in these cities; who have literally explored millions and millions of manufacturing jobs across the border, where the wage rate is roughly \$1.50 an hour," said Martin. "Those jobs won't come back ... they're gone for good."

Wes Smith, president of E&E Manufacturing, one of Plymouth's largest employers and taxpayers, said while manufacturing is the engine of economic growth, there are a number of factors that are con-

tributing to manufacturing job losses.

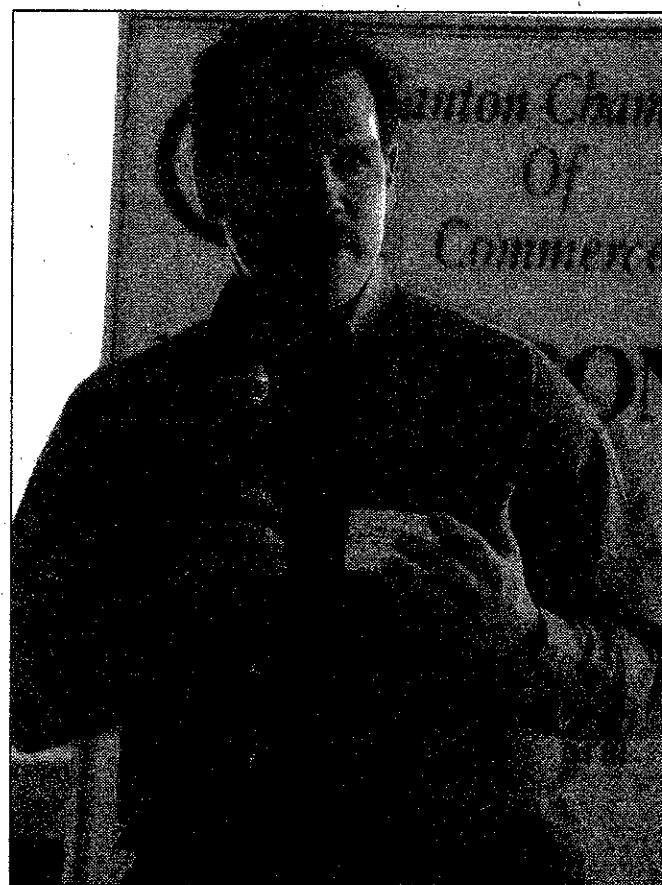
"Regulatory (mandates) cost manufacturing roughly \$8,000 per employee; rising healthcare costs is an epidemic hitting all segments of the economy; and rising energy prices ... " said Smith. "There is no incentive for research and development in the U.S, which is being outsourced to low-cost foreign countries."

"The Japanese and Chinese are holding more than a trillion dollars of our money to manipulate the currency ... to keep our currency strong against there's," he said.

The chairman of HomeTown Communications, Phil Power, said the playing global trade playing field needs to be leveled.

"We need to change the playing field that global corporations are now free to exploit," said Power. "We have to do that seriously, powerfully and more radically than less."

tbruscato@oe.hometown.com (734) 459-2700



Gotta have heart

Detroit Red Wings scout Craig Channel addressed the Canton Chamber of Commerce luncheon last week. Channel also coaches at the Arctic Edge, where the luncheon was held. What does he look for when he's scouting players? "Courage and determination," he said. And pointing at his heart he added, "You have to play from here."

Canton officer part of unity event

Officer Andrew Curry will represent the Canton Police Department in the annual Police Unity Tour. The bicycle tour will be held in May 2004, coinciding with Police Week. The tour is the single largest supporter of the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial.

The Police Unity Tour was first organized in 1997 and has grown from 18 members in New Jersey to more than 450 members in 11 states. Each year, these officers ride bicycles from the New York/New Jersey area to the Memorial in Washington, D.C., to raise awareness and

financial support for the NLEOM.

In an effort to honor Officer Lew Stevens, who was killed in the line of duty last year, the Canton Police Department has agreed to provide Curry with the use of a department bicycle and equipment and the required uniform. Curry must raise \$1,500 in sponsorship dollars prior to the ride. He is currently seeking donations.

For tax deduction information contact Police Unity Tour Inc., P.O. Box 528, Florham Park, NJ 07932. Phone: (973) 443-0030 or fax: (973) 443-0808.



PLYMOUTH HOUSING COMMISSION

Plymouth Housing Commission is seeking conceptual proposals for an office expansion. Work consists of architectural, structural, mechanical and electrical renovation of an approximately 1650 sq area into office usage. Selection of the architect will be based on many factors including but not limited to qualifications, knowledge of federal reporting guidelines, construction experience, and knowledge of local codes. Design proposals to include preliminary conceptual prints, costs for providing construction drawings and construction inspection. Tours of the proposed project can be made by calling 734-455-3670 ext. 222 or 226. Proposals to be submitted to Plymouth Housing Commission, 1160 Sheridan, Plymouth, MI 48170 no later than EOB Friday, March 26, 2004.

Publish: February 8 & 12, 2004

OE0818390

PLYMOUTH DISTRICT LIBRARY PUBLIC NOTICE

The Plymouth District Library Board will hold its REGULAR February meeting Tuesday, February 17, 2004 at 7:30 p.m. at 223 S. Main Street, Plymouth, Michigan 48170.

The Plymouth District Library will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audio tape of printed materials being considered at the meeting, to individuals with disabilities at the meeting/hearing upon seven (7) days notice to the Plymouth District Library. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Plymouth District Library by writing or calling the following:

Barbara Kraft, Library Secretary
Plymouth District Library
223 S. Main Street
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734-453-0750
X217

Publish: February 8, 2004

OE08184778

PLYMOUTH TWP. PD 734-453-3869 NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

Notice is hereby given that on 2/13/04 at 10 am at Mayflower Auto Transport, 1179 Starkweather, Plymouth, MI a public auction of the following:

1989 Cadillac Fleetwood 1G6CB5150K4202821
1989 Ford Thunderbird 1FAPP6244KH180560

Publish: February 8, 2004

OE08185862

STOW & GO SELF STORAGE AUCTION NOTICE

Pursuant to state law, Notice is hereby given that a public auction will be held at STOW & GO SELF STORAGE, 41999 ANN ARBOR ROAD, PLYMOUTH, MI on MARCH 12, 2004 at 10:00 a.m., on past due tenants listed below. The entire contents of the following units will be auctioned and sold to the highest bidder on each individual unit. CASH ONLY! DESCRIPTION IS BRIEF SUMMARY OF ITEMS, MAY OR MAY NOT CONTAIN MORE OR LESS ITEMS.

UNIT #348 - KEVIN EFIMETZ OF 23751 STONEHENGE, NOVI, MI 48375 - TV, furniture, grill, washer/dryer, fan, boxes, household items, other misc. items.

UNIT #354 - PAMELA BOYD OF 760 PARKVIEW, PLYMOUTH, MI 48170 - Clothes, fan, mirror, rugs, household items, other misc.

UNIT #524 - RICHARD E. CRONIN OF 9911 CENTRALIA, REDFORD, MI 48239 - Wheel barrel, motor, fish tanks, microwave, cooler, tires, tape deck, other misc. items.

UNIT #339 - JAMES ALTER (NWC INC.) OF P.O. BOX 512, DEARBORN HTS., MI 48127 - Brief case, fax machine, clothes, boxes, other misc. items.

UNIT #017 - LaBARON HUNT OF 42510 ADAMS CT., CANTON, MI 48187 - Chair, xmas tree, vacuum, silverware, boxes, other misc. items.

UNIT #034 - REBECCA PAVY OF 210 JUNALUSKA AVE., DOTHAM, AL 36303 - Ent. center, lamp, books, radio, desk, furniture, clothes, household items, other misc. items.

SALE DATE IS MARCH 12, 2004 AT 10:00 A.M.

Publish: February 8 & 22, 2004

OE08185860

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FRISAT LS 11:45
THE PERFECT SCORE (PG-13)
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FRISAT LS 11:30
THE BIG BOUNCE (PG-13)
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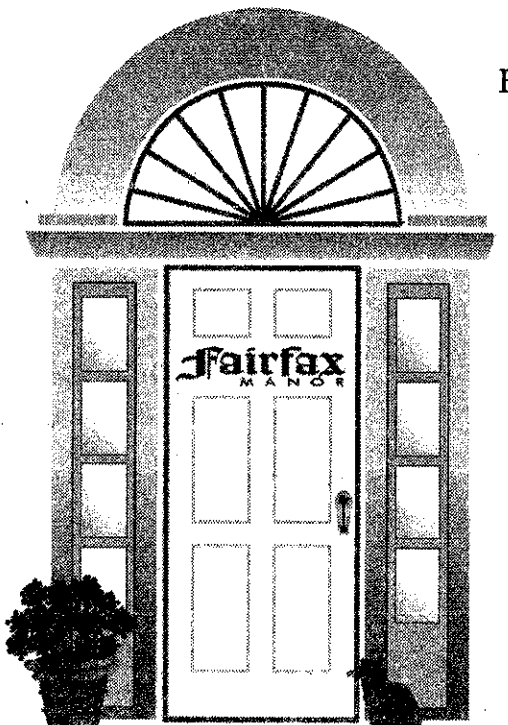
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A city's 'czar' stays firmly in total control - for now

Last week, as politicians seeking the presidency crisscrossed Michigan, Lou Schimmel, who has more power in a smaller space than any of them ever will, paused to look forward to the day he could give up his.

Nearly four years ago, he was named Emergency Financial Manager of perennially fiscally troubled Hamtramck, a tiny city long famous as a Polish cultural enclave, a place with more color, history and irresponsible politicians than most.

The "EFM" has been there ever since, in complete control of the city finances. Men in union jackets curse his

name in city bars. So do the politicians - though most will admit that the place was a fiscal mess, and bringing an economic dictator then was, damn it, probably necessary. But that was the fault of all those other guys, they add, and it is high time the man they call "Oscar Schimmel" was sent packing.

Nothing doing, says their emergency financial manager. Not yet. "The fact is that I would be happy to finish this task. I am planning on being out of here by the end of the year. But my first condition is that the mayor and the council and the unions independently adopt a balanced budget - and show good faith that they'll live up to it."

That has been the problem for a long time.

Time was when you could spend a lifetime in Hamtramck and never need a word of English. John Paul II came here, as have acres of presidential hopefuls courting the national Polish vote. Hamtramckans were solid people who crowded into tiny frame houses and mostly worked at the huge Dodge Main auto factory.

They kept the streets tidy and paid their bills. But the city

often didn't. Squabbling politicians who couldn't get along or balance a budget have been as much a part of Hamtramck's history as the enormous jelly doughnuts called paczki.

Scandals were common in the old days; and at least one mayor was trundled off to jail. But in the old days, there was always lots of tax revenue from Dodge Main and prosperous auto workers. But the great plant closed in 1980, and the city's fortunes have been drifting, mostly downward, ever since. Four years ago, things came to a head.

Michigan cities are required by law to balance their budgets. Despite the national prosperity, Hamtramck - which has 23,000 people, less than half its population in its "glory days" - was running a \$2.9 million deficit.

Exasperated, the state, after repeated warnings, took over the city. Now 66, Schimmel, who had absolutely no ties to Hamtramck, was starting to ease out of the public bond business when he got a call. Would he consider becoming what amounted to the czar of Hamtramck, with total financial powers? That was on a Wednesday night.

"They wanted me to start Friday. That may have been crazy, but I love a challenge." So he did. The place where his tidy office is today was a derelict room in a long-abandoned hospital turned city hall, littered with what pigeons produce.

He took immediate control. "Yes, I fired people, I eliminated positions. We had early retirements. I had to get the place's financial house in order."

On the streets and in the tough union bars, he became the most hated man on the planet. Noticing he had a German-sounding name, there were the inevitable Nazi jokes. Yet the garbage was getting picked up again.

Gary Zych, then the mayor, was a particular foe. He was essentially disenfranchised, as were the five city councilmen. For some months the EFM stopped paying their salaries. They battled him tooth and nail,

but he had the power and the purse. Campaigning largely against Schimmel, Zych was re-elected - by five votes - in 2002. But last November, he lost to a tavern owner, Tom Jankowski, who pledged to try for better relations with Schimmel "since he is going to be leaving."

Or maybe not. The EFM, never one to mince words, says the new mayor is a vast improvement over the old one. But the problem, as he sees it, is not personality, but form of government. The city has long had a weak mayor and no city manager, and consequently, nobody has overall responsibility.

"What Hamtramck needs is either a strong mayor or a city manager." Last fall, a new city charter that would have provided for a city manager form of government was offered to the voters. It was denounced by most of the usual politicians, and lost 55-45.

The city can try to pass the charter again. If voters do, Lou Schimmel would likely gratefully turn over the keys and go home. Last year, a new governor took office in Lansing, and some discreet inquiries were made as to whether he was about ready to declare his task done. "I can quit tomorrow," he offered.

"And they said, well, uh, no, that's not what we had in mind ...," he laughed. The state backed down. His department heads quickly got wind of that, however.

They promptly presented him with a certificate, which now proudly hangs in his conference room.

"We, the loyal few, do hereby attest that tyranny, wickedness and insolvency still reign upon the land. Let all men know, by affixing our signatures below, we freely and knowingly resolve to support our EFM in his quest to vanquish evil." He may have hired them, but at least a few Hamtramckans don't hate the boss.

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

Report cards may be helpful, but don't tell whole story

Some wags call the No Child Left Behind plan No Schools Left Standing. They argue that the remedies hurt schools that are already at a disadvantage. They also argue that funding is inadequate to provide the remedies recommended.

Some conservatives are scratching their heads over how a conservative Republican president could have instituted such a central-planning, federally controlled

system. Some liberals are wondering what his real scheme might be.

This week Michigan released its first annual report cards for schools, a part of the state's

Education Yes! program in compliance with the federal No Child Left Behind act. Some of the state's best high schools failed to meet AYP (for those who haven't been paying attention that's adequate yearly progress). The reason they failed to make AYP is because many of their students opt out of taking the MEAP, which isn't mandatory. To make AYP a school has to show 95 percent of students took the MEAP.

Among those schools are Plymouth Salem and Canton, Birmingham Groves and Seaholm, Bloomfield Hills Andover and Lahser. Of course, those schools and their highly motivated students did great on all other criteria and the sum ends up being far less than the parts.

Reaction to the report cards has been less than enthusiastic, though educators allow that the report cards are "one" and only "one" measure that parents can look at to evaluate the quality of a particular school or system. One area educator said the report card might have more importance for a family thinking about

moving to a particular community.

But the report cards for our school systems might just be as questionable as the report cards students receive, because they don't take into consideration enough factors and don't weigh differences adequately. For years, schools have struggled to perfect a report card that fully evaluates a student's growth, potential and special qualities. It might also take years to develop a report card that can properly evaluate our schools and provide for proper remedy.

Jay Young, director of communications for the Livonia Public Schools, says educating children is too complicated to reduce everything to a letter grade.

"It is frustrating to deal with such an arbitrary indicator of school success, especially given the lack of good, timely data from the state," Young said in an interview in Thursday's *Livonia Observer*. "As a result, the validity of the state report card is questionable."

The old computer term GIGO, garbage in-garbage out, might apply here. When districts received the report cards last fall, several districts appealed because of errors which delayed public release of the grades until last week.

Livonia actually did very well in the report cards, but Young stresses that what goes on the school buildings every day is more important than a letter grade from the state.

"We are heavily involved with and remain focused on our school improvement processes and strategies. They are much more comprehensive, timely and meaningful for our staff and students," Young said.

This might be a case of a program with a strong potential for good that has a long way to go.

Educators and parents have been frustrated for years about the quality of our public school systems. Public schools have become a target for some politicians, many with an

agenda to move more students into private education.

In the late 1950s, Americans woke up one morning to find that the Soviet Union had sent a satellite into orbit and began to question whether our children were receiving an education that could compete with an accomplishment like that.

In the 1980s, America was confronted with strong competition for business supremacy from Japan. Story after story began to appear about the superiority of Japanese schools and about how Japanese students practically never slept as they were so focused on academic achievement.

Columnists ruminate regularly about the pitiful state of public education.

Some of our schools are in trouble, many of them in our most economically distressed areas - big cities and rural communities. And some might question the rigor of our school curricula even in our better suburban schools.

But it seems a growing number of young people are finding their way into universities (if they can scrape up the money somehow) and are continuing to achieve higher levels of education than their parents. Most of our public schools are turning out students who're literate, computer savvy, technically aware.

Meanwhile, the Soviet Union doesn't exist anymore and Japan has been going through a 10-year economic slump.

We do need to work hard on improving truly failing schools and the underlying social conditions that make them failing schools.

And our local educators need to continue doing the generally outstanding job they do under sometimes trying circumstances.

Hugh Gallagher is the managing editor of the *Observer-News*. 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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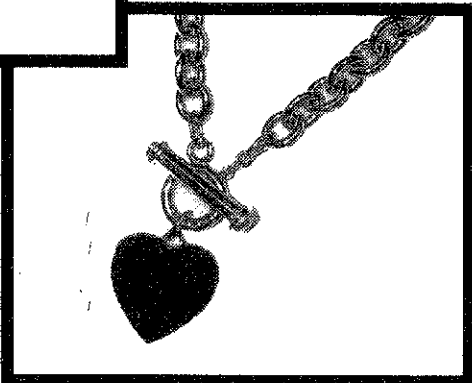
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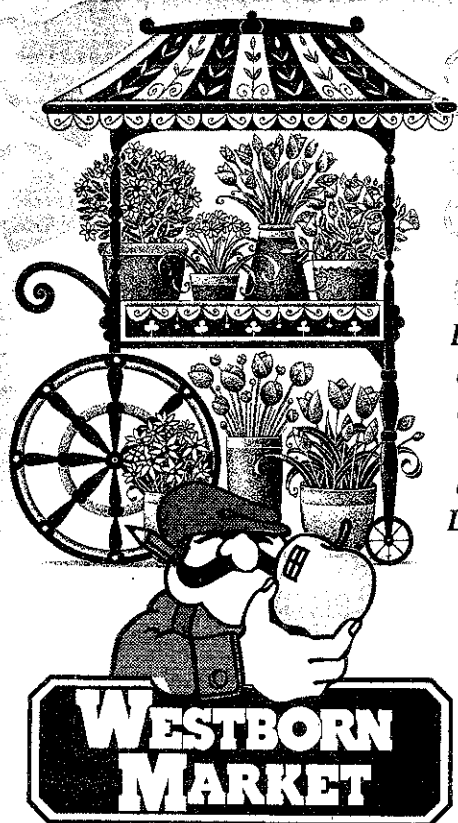
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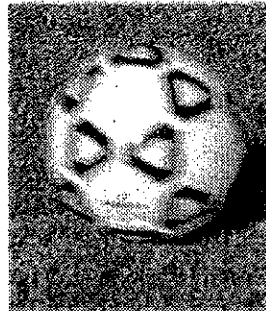
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Sidelines

PCA star signs

Rachel Rudzis, an all-Michigan Independent Athletic Conference keeper at Plymouth Christian Academy and a Canton resident, has signed a national letter of intent to attend and



play soccer at Indiana State University.

A senior at PCA, Rudzis has been part of the Olympic Development Program state team since 1999 and made the ODP regional pool in 2000.

Her club team, the Michigan Hawks, won back-to-back Michigan State Cup championships the last two years, and Rudzis was the MVP keeper both times.

She was all-conference in 2001 and 2002 and was third team all-state in 2002.

"Rachel is a goalkeeper who has found success at all levels of her playing career, high school, club and ODP," said ISU coach Vernon Croft. "She is a very athletic goalkeeper who is more than capable of competing for the starting role on our team this fall."

Cheer champs

The Plymouth HS junior varsity cheerleaders came in first place at the Wolverine Regional Cheer Competition recently.

It was the first competition for the newly-formed squad, which had to overcome injuries and an adjusted routine just 48 hours before the event.

The win earned the Wildcat cheerleaders a bid to the National Cheer Competition in Orlando, Fla.

Team members are Ashley Altman, Alie Bates, Jenna Beauchamp, Adrienne Bielak, Carrie Brooks, Samantha Esper, Kalee Fox, Laura Freitag, Beth Gutowski, Katie Hale, Molly Howard, Amanda Kanaan, Samantha Panek, Brittany Petty, Chelsey Pickard, Courtney Pickard, Allison Poremba, Amy Quiambao, Alie Saker, Laura Tremonti, Amanda Waite, Breana Wallace and Emily Zelenak. The team is coached by Alisha Cieslak.

Gymnasts win

The Plymouth HS gymnastics team got a dual-meet win Wednesday, beating visiting Berkley 126.9-119.95.

The top all-around score went to the Bears' Gabby Mayes, who scored a 33.75.

Next best were two Wildcats: Amy Quiambao was second for Plymouth with a 32.85 and Courtney Pickard was third with a 30.25.

Plymouth clashes with Salem at 7 p.m. Monday.



Jordan Napier (left) collected 16 points and 10 rebounds for Canton Agape in its win over Plymouth Christian Friday. Daniel Carty had eight points for PCA.

Agape adjusts, bounces PCA

Poor shooting dooms Eagles

With the first quarter just past the halfway mark, Plymouth Christian Academy basketball coach Doug Taylor saw something he didn't like and called time out, his team trailing archrival Canton Agape Christian, 9-4. A half-dozen seconds after the timeout, PCA's Daniel Carty swiped the ball from Agape and dribbled in for an easy layup to make it a three-point game.

It was to be the Eagles last highlight of the half. Agape, embarrassed 67-58 on its homecourt by PCA in the two teams' first meeting Jan. 16, returned the favor by taking advantage of — and causing some — PCA shooting woes in a 54-40 victory Friday at PCA.

The Wolverines improve to 10-3 overall, 3-2 in the Michigan Independent Athletic Conference. PCA is 7-6 overall, 3-3 in the MIAC.

"Our kids were really focused," said Agape coach Chuck Henry. "Maybe after los-

ing at Discovery (Middle School, Agape's home court) we had a psychological advantage. But I was surprised we jumped 'em and got that big of a lead."

Certainly some of the things the Wolverines did differently this time around made a difference in the outcome, but PCA didn't help itself. After Carty's basket with 3:33 left in the first quarter, the Eagles missed six-straight shots. By the time they got their next basket, by Aaron Ciborowski with 5:36 left in the second quarter, Agape was already up 24-9. PCA would go another 3:18 without a point.

When halftime mercifully (for the Eagles) arrived, the gap had grown to 20 points, 35-15. PCA would either have to make every shot in the second half or play perfect defense to catch the Wolverines — or both.

As it turned out, the Eagles could do neither. They played good defense in the third quar-

PLEASE SEE AGAPE, B3

Wolverine comeback catches Eagles

One game into Thursday's match at Plymouth Christian Academy, it looked like a repeat of the first meeting Canton Agape Christian's volleyball team had against its nemesis.

That one ended with a PCA win on Agape's home court (Discovery Middle School). The Eagles' 15-7 win in Thursday's first set didn't indicate anything substantial had changed.

But it had. The Wolverines rallied, edging PCA in the next two games 15-12, 15-13 to take the match.

Agape improved to 5-9 overall, 2-5 in the Michigan Independent Athletic Conference. The Eagles are 10-9-1 overall, 4-2 in the MIAC.

"It was a very, very good comeback," said Agape coach Gretchen Sexton, singling out in particular the performance turned in by Tarah Armbruster. "She

VOLLEYBALL

played a great defensive game. She was our backbone."

Armbruster finished with five digs, two kills and a service ace. A.J. Creps had 11 kills, Ashley Paul got five kills, Emily Tong totaled 17 set assists, and Danielle Mosier finished with five aces and nine digs.

Agape plays at Deerfield Monday. PCA travels to Southfield Christian.

Canton clubs Western

This match had none of the suspense of last Monday's Western Lakes Activities Association match against Wayne Memorial. Canton had to rally from a 14-3 deficit in the second set to

get a win over Wayne.

Against Walled Lake Western Wednesday at Canton, the Chiefs were methodically efficient, dispensing with the Warriors 15-6, 15-8.

The victory improved Canton's record to 15-10-4 overall, 3-1 in the WLAA, 1-0 in the Western Division. Western is 1-3 in the WLAA, 0-1 in the Western Division.

Katie Esper led the Chiefs' attack with six kills; she also had four blocks and two digs.

Other Canton standouts were Kristen Lillie with 12 set assists and six digs, Heather Richardson with 10 digs and five set assists and Andrea Johnson with three service aces, three digs and two kills.

Canton hosts Livonia Stevenson at 7 p.m. Monday.

Canton jolts Franklin; CC wins, 6-1

Records meant nothing as Canton upset host Livonia Franklin 4-2 Wednesday in a Western Lakes Activities Association Western Division hockey encounter at Edgar Arena.

The Chiefs improved to 4-11-1 overall, 1-3 in the division with the victory. Franklin is 11-5-2 overall, 2-2 in the division.

Franklin, playing its fourth game in eight days and missing three players, couldn't overcome a 3-0 deficit after two periods. Franklin beat Canton in a Dec. 12 meeting, 8-3.

HOCKEY

"Canton's team is much improved," Franklin coach Terry Jobbitt said. "They played great hockey and they were the better team. They weren't the same team we faced the first time. They outplayed us the entire night. They beat us to the puck."

Matt Oliver gave Canton a 1-0 lead on an assist from Mike Stewart at the 0:47 mark of the first period.

Garrett Hyman made it 2-0 on a power-play goal from Stewart and Nick Leadford at 4:51 of the second period. Leadford, who is Jobbitt's nephew, scored at 6:24 of the same period from Stewart and Kyle Tollison.

"We were just better prepared," said Canton coach Jim Wheaton. "We've been improving as a team. It was just a matter of time before we started winning again."

"Before we couldn't seem to put it all together. We were finally able to play three strong periods. Now we want to build on it and get ready for the (state) playoffs."

Franklin got on the board at 5:28 of the final period — Matt Sgriccia from Dave McCall and Brad Garbutt. But Canton iced the victory on Kevin Tollison's goal at the 6:00 mark from Hyman.

McCall scored with 2:33 left from D.J. Tracy and Keith Robert.

Canton goaltender Chris Garrett made 28 saves, while Franklin's Sam Burrows stopped 18 shots.

CC 6, Trenton 1: Trenton scored first, but Redford Catholic Central got the next six as the Shamrocks got the win Wednesday night against the host Trojans at Kennedy Ice Arena.

"We played a really good game," said CC coach Todd Johnson as his team improved to 9-6-3 overall. "Our one line of Drew Kahle, Dan Barczuk and Derek New got the puck into the net, but our other three lines were solid as well."

"I think our guys are starting to realize that we're a good team when we work hard and move our feet."

PLEASE SEE HOCKEY, B3

Letizia's goal lifts Whalers

The Plymouth Whalers withstood a wild third-period comeback by the Erie Otters, then got the game-winning goal from Tim Letizia with just six seconds left in overtime to gain a 5-4 victory Friday in Erie.

The Whalers improved to 23-18-9-3 (58 points), solidifying their position in second place in the Ontario Hockey League's West Division. For Erie, it was its third-straight loss, leaving the Otters at 23-18-6-4 (56 points), fourth in the OHL's Midwest Division.

Plymouth got off to a fast start, getting first-period goals from Vaclav Meidl (from Jonas Fiedler and John Mitchell) and Tim Sestito (from Fiedler and Rane Carnegie), the latter coming on the power play. Erie's Rob Hisey narrowed the gap to 2-1 with a second-period score, then tied it with a power-play goal 1:38 into the third period.

The Otters got their first lead at the 3:33 mark of the third period, Geoff Platt

getting the goal to make it 3-2.

But the fireworks were just beginning. The Whalers had an answer, getting two goals in a 38-second span to retake the lead, 4-3. John Vigilante got the first on the power play, with assists from Ryan Ramsay and Mike Knight; the second came from Brent Mahon, from Carnegie and Sestito. Mahon's goal came with 8:50 left in regulation. With just :04 on the clock, Ryan O'Marra knocked in a shot for Erie to knot it at 4-all and force overtime.

Which set the stage for Letizia's OT heroics with :06 left. Carnegie got his third assist of the game on the game-winner, and Mitchell got his second. Fiedler also had two assists.

Hisey finished with two goals and an assist for Erie. Sean O'Connor had two assists. Paul Drew stopped 22 of 26 shots on goal for the Whalers. Jhase Snidermar and Josh Disher divided time in goal for the Otters. Erie was 1-of-9 on the power play; Plymouth was 2-of-5.



DONALD J. ALLEY

Mike Letizia got the game-winning goal with just six seconds left in overtime to lift the Whalers to a 5-4 win over Erie Friday.

First-half barrage boosts SC women to win

Schoolcraft College's women's basketball team got it going early Wednesday at Alpena CC's Park Arena, and the Ocelots never let up in posting a 68-43 victory.

SC improved to 15-6 overall, 9-2 in the MCCA's Eastern Conference. Alpena is 4-15 overall, 2-9 in the conference.

Shooting was the difference. The Ocelots connected on 15-of-34 first-half shots (44.1 percent) compared to the Lumberjacks' 8-of-32 (25 percent) — one reason SC led 33-19 at the intermission.

Alpena wasn't much better in the second half; for the game, the Lumberjacks hit 16-of-60 (26.6 percent), SC was 29-of-70 (41.4 percent). It wasn't any different from the free-throw line: SC was 8-of-12 (66.7 percent), Alpena hit 6-of-19 (31.5 percent). Six Ocelots scored nine or more points. Only two Lumberjacks managed that, and their top scorer, Megan

VanSchoten (16 points on 6-of-13 shooting, plus 10 rebounds and two blocked shots) fouled out.

Amantha Combs topped SC with 16 points (7-of-8 from the floor) and eight rebounds. Ashley Gibson and Tara Charles (from Redford Bishop Borgess) scored 11 points apiece, Gibson dishing out eight assists and Charles grabbing eight boards and making two steals.

Sara Tyree (Westland John Glenn) added 10 points and two blocks; Tiffani Pattillo totaled nine points, seven rebounds, five steals and four assists; and Crystal Pittman had nine points and five boards. Joni Ames added 15 points for Alpena.

Aquinas 70, Madonna 57: Aquinas didn't exactly light it up against visiting Madonna Wednesday in Grand Rapids, but the Saints were more accurate than

the Crusaders. Aquinas took advantage of Madonna's 9-of-37 first-half floor shooting (27.8 percent) to open up a 36-26 halftime lead. The Saints never let it get away, improving to 12-13 overall, 4-3 in the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference. Madonna fell to 9-15 overall, 5-3 in the WHAC.

Two Crusaders reached double figures in scoring: Marwa Ayoub and Hayley Myers each scored 11 points, Ayoub also grabbing nine rebounds, three steals, two blocks and two assists. Jackie Pingston added eight points and three assists.

Aquinas was paced by Kim Pomeroy with 13 points and 10 rebounds; Jackie Braspeninx with 12 points, 10 rebounds and nine blocked shots; and Cassie Chan with 10 points, three assists and two steals. Leslie Hoffman chipped in with nine points.

Aquinas outlasts Madonna

Madonna University ran out of gas down the stretch Wednesday, allowing Aquinas College to escape with an 83-76 victory at Madonna.

The Crusaders dipped to 8-15 overall, 2-6 in the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference. Aquinas is 15-9 overall, 4-3 in the WHAC.

Madonna was in the battle throughout the first half, taking a 37-29 lead on a Joe Kofahl three-pointer with four minutes left. The Crusaders couldn't hold it, however, getting outscored by the Saints 14-2 the rest of the half to trail 43-39 at the break.

A couple of threes by Noel Emehiser enabled Madonna to tie it at 48-48 early in the second half, and it stayed close until the final four minutes,

when Aquinas outscored the Crusaders 10-3 for the winning margin.

Emehiser finished with a game-high 26 points, including five three-pointers. Dan Kurtinaitis added 17 points, four assists and two steals, and Chad Nadolni had 16 points, 10 rebounds and three assists. Kofahl finished with nine points.

The Saints were paced by Damien Mayo with 24 points. Jeff Jayson contributed 17 points, Tom Kuslikis netted 14 and Kevin Murphy scored 10.

Aquinas hit 32-of-61 shots from the floor (52.9 percent); Madonna was 27-of-64 (42.2 percent).

Schoolcraft 97, Alpena 51: Anton Palmer scored 24 points

and collected 17 rebounds Wednesday as Eastern Conference co-leader Schoolcraft College (19-3, 10-1) routed cellar dweller Alpena Community College (4-15, 2-9).

The Ocelots, who bounced back from Saturday's 74-67 loss to Flint Mott, jumped out to a 49-22 halftime lead.

Ty Scott added 12 points for Schoolcraft, while Ricky Morgan contributed 11 points and seven assists. Ryan Baumgartner and Derrick Ponder each finished with 10 points. Ponder also grabbed 10 rebounds.

"We came out and played well as a team," Schoolcraft coach Carlos Briggs said. "We're only as good as when we played together as a team."

AGAPE

FROM PAGE B1

ter, limiting the Wolverines to seven points; unfortunately, they only scored 10, converting 3-of-18 shots.

"We just didn't shoot the ball well," said Taylor. "Some of our bad shooting can be attributed to their defense . . . don't get me wrong, they played well."

"But we had some wide-open looks. We just didn't make them."

Certainly those misses crippled PCA's comeback hopes. But the Wolverines' efforts at the other end made a difference, too. In the two teams' first meeting, PCA had concentrated its defensive efforts on containing Agape's one-two punch of Jordan Napier and Charlie Henry.

And it worked. But Taylor had no illusions as he readied his team for the rematch.

"Our double-teaming defense had a lot to do with that first one," said Taylor. "But trick defenses usually don't work more than once. We knew it wouldn't work again."

It didn't. PCA gave it a go, doubling both Napier and Charlie Henry to start the game, just to see how Agape adjusted. But the Eagles didn't stick with it. And the Napier/Henry twosome didn't dismantle PCA by themselves.

They did their damage, to be sure. Each scored 16 points, Napier also grabbing 10 rebounds and Charlie Henry dishing out four assists and making three steals. But Chuck Henry felt it was the rest of the team's scoring efforts that proved pivotal.

"Their defense the first time concentrated on stopping Charlie and Jordan," Chuck Henry said. "We've been working on that ever since. The first time we had shots, we just couldn't knock them down."

"This time we did. Eight of nine of our guys scored. They earned (the win) the first time, we earned it this time."

Matt Cross was next highest scorer for Agape with seven points.

Gabe Molnar totaled four points and five boards.

Also in the first meeting, four Eagles scored in double figures. That didn't happen in the rematch — Ciborowski led PCA with 14 points, Steve Sumner added 10 and Carty scored eight.

"What makes that team so effective is their inside-outside game," Chuck Henry said of PCA. "All five of their kids can score. Our focus on defense was apparent: They go from four in doubles (in scoring) to two in doubles."

PCA was able to narrow the gap to 14 in the second half. But that came against the Agape bench, and by then the gap was too big and the time was too little.

HOCKEY

FROM PAGE B1


Trenton's Jake Schering opened the scoring two minutes into the game, but Wade

Lafever tied it from Barczuk and Tim Buttery.

Kahle gave CC the lead for good four minutes into the second period from New, then CC scored four times in the third period to close it out.

Pete Pfeffer, Barczuk, Buttery

and Lafever all scored as Kahle added a pair of assists and Mike Monterey, Jimmy Burns and Michael Evans had one each. John Garza made 11 saves in goal for CC, while Neil Callahan had 30 saves for Trenton.



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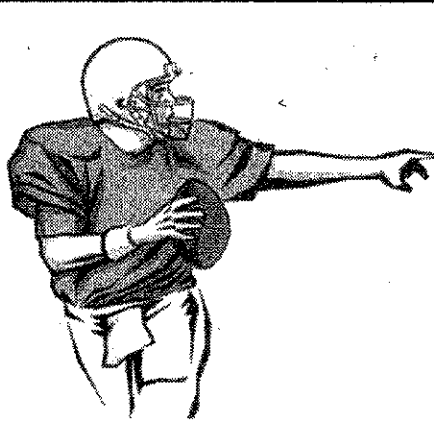
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THE WEEK AHEAD

PREP BOYS BASKETBALL
Monday, Feb. 9
 S'field, Christian at Ply. Christian, 7 p.m.
Tuesday, Feb. 10
 Churchill at Wayne, 7 p.m.
 Franklin at Salem, 7 p.m.
 Canton at Stevenson, 7 p.m.
 W.L. Western at John Glenn, 7 p.m.
 Huron Valley at Warren Zoe, 7 p.m.
 DeLaSalle at Redford CC, 7:30 p.m.
Friday, Feb. 13
 W.L. Northern at Canton, 7 p.m.
 Northville at Churchill, 7 p.m.
 W.L. Western at Franklin, 7 p.m.
 Salem at Stevenson, 7 p.m.
 W.L. Central at John Glenn, 7 p.m.
 A.A. Huron at Wayne, 7 p.m.
 Business Tech at Ply. Christian, 7:30 p.m.
 Huron Valley at Macomb Christian, 7:30 p.m.
 Redford CC at Brother Rice, 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, Feb. 14
 B.H. Roepert at Ply. Christian, 3 p.m.
GIRLS VOLLEYBALL
Monday, Feb. 9
 Churchill at Wayne, 6:30 p.m.
 Franklin at W.L. Western, 6:30 p.m.
 Stevenson at Canton, 6:30 p.m.
 Salem at W.L. Central, 7 p.m.
 Northville at John Glenn, 7 p.m.
Tuesday, Feb. 10
 Huron Valley vs. Franklin Road at Livonia St. Paul's, 6 p.m.
 Clarenceville at Lutheran N'west, 6:30 p.m.
 Luth. North at Luth. Westland, 6:30 p.m.
 Mercy at Ladywood, 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Feb. 11
 W.L. Western at Churchill, 6:30 p.m.
 Canton at Franklin, 6:30 p.m.
 Stevenson at W.L. Central, 6:30 p.m.
 John Glenn at Salem, 7 p.m.
 Wayne at Northville, 7 p.m.
Thursday, Feb. 12
 Huron Valley vs. Zoe Christian at Livonia St. Paul's, 6 p.m.
 Luth. Westland at Clarenceville, 6:30 p.m.
Saturday, Feb. 14
 Canton at Fraser Invt., 8 a.m.
 Salem at Temp. Bedford Invt., TBA
 Wayne State Invitational, TBA
PREP HOCKEY
Monday, Feb. 9
 Ladywood vs. Bloomfield at U.S. Blades, 7 p.m.
Tuesday, Feb. 10
 Northville vs. P-C-S Penguins at Arctic Edge, 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Feb. 11
 Ladywood vs. Cranbrook at Arctic Pond, 6 p.m.
 Franklin vs. Churchill (Edgar), 6 p.m.
 Salem vs. Dearborn Unified at D.I.S.C., 7 p.m.
 Stevenson vs. N'ville (Edgar), 8 p.m.
Thursday, Feb. 12
 Redford CC vs. P.H. Northern at McMorrin Arena, 6 p.m.
Friday, Feb. 13
 Churchill vs. W.L. Central (Edgar), 6 p.m.
 Salem vs. Canton at Arctic Edge, 8 p.m.
 Franklin vs. W.L. Western at Lakeland Ice Arena, 8:20 p.m.
 Stevenson at Utica Eisenhower, 8:30 p.m.
Saturday, Feb. 14
 P-C-S Penguins vs. Cranbrook at Cranbrook Arena, noon
 Stevenson vs. Redford Unified at Redford Ice Arena, 2:15 p.m.
 Redford CC vs. Grosse Pte. North at Compuware (Olympic), 7 p.m.
PREP WRESTLING
Wednesday, Feb. 11
 Clarkston at Redford CC, 5 p.m.
 Luth. Westland at Harper Wds., 6:30 p.m.
 Clarenceville, Hamtramck at Lutheran East, 6:30 p.m.
Thursday, Feb. 12
 Churchill at John Glenn, 6:30 p.m.
Saturday, Feb. 14
 WLAA Tourney at Churchill, 9 a.m.
 Metro Conf. at Clarenceville, 10 a.m.
PREP BOYS SWIMMING
Tuesday, Feb. 10
 Saline at Canton, 7 p.m.
 Stevenson at Churchill, 7 p.m.
Thursday, Feb. 12
 Canton at Churchill, 7 p.m.
 Salem at W.L. Central, 7 p.m.
 Franklin at Northville, 7 p.m.
 Stevenson at Wayne, 7 p.m.
 John Glenn at W.L. Northern, 7 p.m.
Saturday, Feb. 14
 MISCA meet at EMU, 8 a.m.
GIRLS GYMNASTICS
Monday, Feb. 9
 Salem at Plymouth, 7 p.m.
 Livonia Unified vs. Hartland at Churchill, 7 p.m.
Thursday, Feb. 12
 Wayne-Westland at Brighton, 7 p.m.
Friday, Feb. 13
 Livonia Unified at Royal Oak, 7 p.m.
PREP SKIING
Thursday, Feb. 12
 Regional at Alpine Valley, 9 a.m.
COMPETITIVE CHEER
Saturday, Feb. 14
 Livonia Public Schools Invitational at Stevenson, 10 a.m.
MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
Wednesday, Feb. 11
 Macomb CC at Schootcraft, 7:30 p.m.
 Madonna at Cornerstone, 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, Feb. 14
 Schoolcraft at Oakland CC, 3 p.m.
 Concordia at Madonna, 3 p.m.
WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
Wednesday, Feb. 11
 Macomb CC at Schoolcraft, 5:30 p.m.
 Cornerstone at Madonna, 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, Feb. 14
 Madonna at Concordia, 1 p.m.
 Schoolcraft at Oakland CC, 3 p.m.
ONTARIO HOCKEY LEAGUE
Thursday, Feb. 12
 Whalers at Windsor, 7:30 p.m.
Friday, Feb. 13
 Whalers at Guelph, 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, Feb. 15
 Whalers at Saginaw, 2 p.m.

LACROSSE SIGN-UP

The Canton Leisure Services is sponsoring a Youth Lacrosse League, with the league running from March through June.

New and experienced players may join either the fifth-sixth grade team or the seventh-eighth grade team. Indoor practices are available in February.

Players must supply their own equipment, including helmet, stick, mouth guard, protective equipment and shoulder pads.

Teams must have a minimum of 10 players and no more than 25.

Included in the \$100 per player fee is a uniform, indoor practice time, a 12-week league schedule and an end-of-the-

SPORTS ROUNDUP

year jamboree tournament. Players may register right now at the Summit on the Park, located at 46000 Summit Parkway.

For more information, call the Canton Softball Center at (734) 483-5600.

ROAD RALLY

The Canton Thunderbirds girls fast-pitch softball organization is hosting its second-annual Road Rally on March 6. Space is limited; early registration is suggested.

Cost is \$25 per person, which includes meal, prizes and music.

For information contact Mike Roberts at (734) 397-1355 or on the Web at thunderbirdsoftball.tripod.com.

SOCCER CLINICS

The Michigan Wolves and Hawks Soccer Club is hosting two free clinics open to the public at Total Soccer's Wixom facility.

The girls clinic will feature Oakland University women's soccer coach Nick O'Shea, former Schoolcraft College and Livonia Churchill coach, and will be Feb. 11. The clinic times are: U13, U14 — 5:30-7 p.m.; U15, U16 — 7:30-9 p.m.; U17, U18 — 8:30-10 p.m.

The boys clinic will feature University of Michigan men's soccer coach Steve Burns and will be Feb. 19. Clinic times are: U13, U14 — 5:30-7 p.m.; U15, U16 — 7:30-9 p.m.; U17, U18 — 8:30-10 p.m.

Again, the clinics are free. The Wixom Total Soccer

Facility is located at 30990 Wixom Road, 1 1/2 miles north of I-96.

For more information, call Amy Richters are (248) 478-6692.

JERSEY RAFFLE

St. Agatha is raffling off a Pavel Datsyuk autographed Detroit Red Wings' jersey with wall mount display case with proceeds to benefit the school's youth sports program.

Tickets are \$5 each and can be purchased from St. Agatha athletic director Tim Sweeney at (248) 722-4036 or by e-mailing Jim Reed at original6@comcast.net.

The drawing will take place on Feb. 21.

The winner need not be present to win.

COACHES WANTED

Redford Union is looking for several coaches for its athletic programs.

For the Spring season, RU is seeking a girls junior varsity soccer and junior varsity baseball coach. For the Fall 2004 season, RU is seeking a varsity girls swimming coach, an assistant varsity football coach and a boys junior varsity soccer coach.

For more information or to apply, please call athletic director Brett Steele at (313) 242-4270.

Plymouth High School is looking for a ninth-grade softball coach for the 2004 season.

For more information or to apply, please call athletic director Terry Sawchuk at (734) 582-5700/02.

Livonia Ladywood has openings for a girls junior varsity golf coach and girls varsity and junior varsity tennis coaches. Interested candidates can fax their resumes to Ladywood High School at (734) 591-2386.

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- Mail or deliver ballots by Wednesday, February 11 to: The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, Attn: People's Choice 36251 Schoolcraft Livonia, MI 48150
- Fax ballots to 734-953-2121
- Vote online at our website: www.hometownlife.com

HAVE FUN AND HELP FILTER PICK THE PEOPLE'S CHOICE!

THE **Observer & Eccentric** NEWSPAPERS

FOOD

- Best place to take a first date _____
- Best place to have brunch _____
- Best restaurant to take your kids and still feel like you're an adult _____
- Best restaurant _____
 Italian _____
 Middle Eastern _____
 Thai _____
 Sushi _____
 Chinese _____
 Mexican _____
 Vegetarian _____
- Best place to wine and dine your clients _____
- Best place to tell someone you love them and then feed them dinner _____
- Best place to learn about wine while buying it _____
- Best late night menu _____

ENTERTAINMENT

- Best casino _____
- Best place to strike out (bowling that is) _____
- Movies _____
 Best place to watch a movie _____
 Best cheap flicks _____
 Best place to rent a movie/DVD _____
- Best comedy club _____
- Best place to see a play _____
- Best children's attraction _____
- Downtowns _____
 Best downtown to hangout _____
 Best downtown for wild night out _____
 Best downtown to find a date _____
- Best place to watch a game _____

MUSIC

- Best local band/musican/singer _____
- Best jazz/blues club _____
- Best club _____
- Best Country-Western bar _____
- Best place to go dancing _____
- Best place to see a concert _____
- Best outdoor concert venue _____
- Best place to buy a musical instrument and learn to play it _____
- Best place to buy a CD _____

BAR TIME

- Best bartender _____

ART

- Best place to buy art if you don't know art and don't want to feel stupid _____
- Best place to buy really great art _____
- Best place to buy art supplies _____
- Best art gallery to browse _____
- Best place to have something framed _____
- Best original jewelry _____
- Best fine arts organization _____
- Best art festival _____
 Winter _____
 Spring _____
 Summer _____
 Fall _____
- Best place to buy local artwork _____

FUN STUFF

- Best place to throw a party _____
- Best place to people watch _____
- Best place to propose marriage _____
- Best place to get pampered _____
- Best skateboard park _____
- Best place to sweat _____
- Best bookstore _____
- Best story time for kids _____
- Best outdoor bike trail _____
- Best Michigan _____
 Park _____
 Beach _____
 Picnic grounds _____
 Campground _____

SHOPPING

- Best mall _____
- Best resale shop _____
- Best home improvement store _____
- Best sports shop _____
- Best hardware store _____
- Best toy store _____
- Best shoe store _____
- Best pet & pet supply store _____

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Phone _____ E-mail _____



Cathy Standish

Atkins Diet: the next 'Survivor'

The cold of February has settled in, the deep freeze keeping us huddled in our warm homes. Only the heartiest of stock seem willing to venture out in the bone-numbing cold.

The beautiful sculpted ice art in downtown Plymouth still glistens. The snow crunches beneath our boots. The wind chills take our breath away, and we huddle in our homes, before our fires, finding entertainment in family activities, games such as Monopoly, Sorry! or Clue.

We read, we chat, and after we tire of all of that, we switch on the television.

The television treats us to heady fare as we curl up on the sofa, wrapped in a blanket, sipping hot chocolate.

We watch programs where bad hopeful singers get a dose of reality, we watch starving people stranded on remote islands get a dose of reality, and we watch seven young, drunken strangers living in a dream house get a dose of reality.

Christmas is long forgotten, the trees and lights are long put away. As we sit in our homes, hiding from the cold, we reluctantly remember our New Year's, recall the resolutions. It is from these resolutions that a twinkle of an idea starts to form, a glimmer of a plan, and a twinge of a plot.

A concept for a reality show, so innovative, so unique, yet so cruel.

"Survivor: The Atkins Diet."

Seven women, all of middle age, picked to live in a condo, existing in a world without carbs, living in a world without pretzels, in a world without bread, without chips, without chocolate or peanut butter cups.

As the camera rolls, we watch as the women sit and gossip, we giggle as "the cast" works to sabotage each other's diets and we anticipate each new week's offering of challenges and excitement.

Fun lights up the screen as the battling dieters play "toss the scale," "find the hidden calories" and "can you live without seconds?"

Viewers will look forward to special guest visits by the always bubbly, sometimes weepy, ever portly Richard Simmons. Susan Powter will stop by with tips on exercise and hair care, and Oprah herself will provide her insights on diet, exercise and life.

Even Simon Cowell takes a break from his weekly series to stop by and tell each and every contestant just how fat and out of shape she really is.

Each week the biggest loser will be voted off, sent back into the cold, cruel world of fast food and pizza.

Back in the house, the camera turns to the remaining "contestants" and the drama continues. The viewing public reels in horror when a plate of Danish is left unattended and an apprentice is fired for the error. The winner walks out with a cool million and starts a new diet craze set to launch in January 2005.

Network bidding for this new and innovative dose of reality is rumored to be beginning soon. Remember to check your local listings for air times and dates. In the meantime, could you please pass the rolls?

Cathy Standish is a Plymouth resident. She can be reached at Cate1956@aol.com.

Magic Moments

Couples share the romance

Anyone can tell by looking at Jeannie and Jeff Louks that they're in love. But sometimes daily life gets in the way so Jeannie likes to spice things up with a surprise getaway for just the two of them.

She was delighted to receive a phone call that her entry won the *Observer Newspapers' Magic Moments* contest so she could surprise Jeff. He was practically cheering when a reporter called to tell him they'd won a Valentine's Day package including two tickets to the Detroit Red Wings game. While Jeannie is looking forward to the game, she's especially excited about winning the \$200 gift card from Murray's Jewelry in Redford as well as dinner at George and Harry's in Dearborn and a singing valentine by a barbershop quartet from the Wayne Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society.

The Redford residents are avid hockey fans. Jeannie plans to replace the Red Wings necklace Jeff gave her on Mother's Day with the gift card. The necklace was lost when she had to be put on a respirator during an illness.

TOUGH CHOICE

It was difficult to choose a winner after reading through all of the romantic moments. There were so many that brought a tear to the eye or a chuckle. Special getaways were the topic of several readers.

Laura Zain wrote about reuniting with former Churchill High School sweetheart Dave Pennington. She hadn't heard from him in 23 years until he e-mailed her in August 2003 from California where he was living. She agreed to meet him in Chicago in mid-November after e-mailing and talking on the phone. Both were going through divorces. From the moment he stepped off the plane carrying a large box of lavender roses Zain says, she "felt like Cinderella."

After retrieving their bags, a white stretch limo took them to the Embassy Suites. When the door to the room opened there was a crystal vase with a dozen red roses and a bottle of wine. The Livonia resident felt like she was dreaming. The magical moments continued as she pulled Red Wings tickets out of a Jersey he'd sent earlier. The next night it was off to the theater in a black Mercedes Benz. All weekend the surprises kept coming and on Feb. 10 Pennington moves back to Livonia to pursue their relationship.



Jeff and Jean Louks will be enjoying dinner and a Red Wings game as winners of the Magic Moments contest.

Contest winner Jeannie Louks wrote about the 1995 Valentine's Day she arranged with the help of Jeff's boss. The Loukses never had a honeymoon after they were married 15 years ago. Jeannie stayed home to raise their three sons while Jeff worked 12-hour days. Jeannie writes "raising three sons is not easy or cheap. I felt we needed a mom and dad only time for one night."

SPECIAL TIME

So she asked Jeff's boss to send him on a bogus errand to pick up a check at a hotel suite on the east side. Jeff tried to get out of it and even asked a co-worker to go with him. But the entire office knew of the plan. Jeannie's surprise almost turned into a disaster when Jeff arrived and thought he had the wrong room when she answered

the door in a red negligée. It was a Magic Moment when he realized it was his wife and he didn't have to return to work until Monday. To celebrate Valentine's Day, the hotel staff sent them chocolate roses and a gift certificate for dinner. They ate the chocolate and never left the room.

Loren Warnemuende's Magic Moment happened thousands of miles away in Kenya. The Canton resident and her

boyfriend, Kraig, flew there to visit his parents who were missionaries. He proposed at the end of a romantic walk down the beach that ended with a glimmering lake where "hippopotami - truly ele-

gant river horses - spouted fountains as they gamboled in the water. It was incredible."

Miss Michigan Madonna Emond told us about her boyfriend proposing at the Eiffel Tower in Paris, not in English but French. Emond said she'd never heard such romantic words. Once the Livonia resident passes on her title, she will gain a new one - Mrs. J.P. Ladouceur. To her, "there is nothing more romantic than a supportive man." He has been right there for every pageant, cheering her on.

Caring actions like those have kept Tom and Helen Opat together for more than 50 years, 47 of them in Livonia. For them romance can be as simple as hearing their song, *I Just Called to Say I Love You*, and Tom reaching across the table to squeeze Helen's hand. "No words were spoken then. No words were needed. It was a magic moment."

Several readers wanted to share the extensive lengths they or their significant others went to demonstrate love. Bernice Delewsky wrote about her husband refilling a bottle of perfume that he first bought when he was stationed in Paris 50 years ago.

Emily Sikorski will never forget husband Jason's proposal in an empty theater. She never thought the lack of patrons was unusual considering this was a late weeknight movie. Then the film broke and Jason went to check on the problem. Within minutes slides began appearing on the screen as their favorite song played over the speakers. Jason entered the theater dressed in a tuxedo, carrying a dozen long stemmed red roses and a ring box. The box even had a built-in light to shine on the ring in the darkened theater.

One unsolved romantic mystery is still driving Pat Bellingham crazy after more than 50 years. The Livonia resident wrote about a secret admirer who sent her a beautiful orchid in 1946.

One of the entrants didn't want her identity known either. The anonymous writer brought tears to the eyes with a letter about her late husband leaving roses on the pillow next to her. Although he told her every day, the rose was an extra "I love you." Her husband died a number of years ago. She still misses him very much - and her morning roses.

Civil War era history comes to life at museum

Don't get Dave Tennes started talking about the role the 17th Michigan Volunteer Infantry played in the Civil War unless you have a couple of hours to spare. The Canton resident is especially proud to be one of the civilian re-enactors for the regiment during February when the Plymouth Historical Museum celebrates Black History Month and President Abraham Lincoln's birthday.

On Feb. 14-15, Tennes will don his top hat to portray Sen. Jacob M. Howard who drew up the 13th Amendment to the Constitution that ended slavery.

"Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation didn't free all of



Dave Tennes of Canton represents Sen. Jacob Howard.

the slaves. He went to Congress and said we need a law to end slavery," said Tennes. "When I went to research Sen. Howard, I discovered he was a very important man in our history. He served two terms as senator and came up with the words for the 13th Amendment. Sen. Howard was one of the founders of the Republican Party in Jackson, Michigan, in 1854 while he was attorney general for Michigan.

HOME FRONT

"At the museum I'll do some first person to teach about civilian life during the war - what were the people at home doing, how did they support the war? Instead of re-enactments we like to refer to it as Civil War living history."

As a second lieutenant with Company E of the 17th Michigan Volunteer Infantry, Westland resident Bill Ziembra will talk about life as an officer. An electrical engineer for Ford Motor Co. in Livonia, Ziembra joined the group five years ago. He'd been interested in the Civil War ever since reading Stephen Crane's *Red Badge of Courage* as a child. His curiosity continued to grow after attending the Muzzle Loaders Festival at Greenfield Village. When his daughter went off to college, he had extra money to

invest. He chose Company E, a unit comprised of university students and nicknamed the Normal Company. It was mustered in at Eastern Michigan University, then known as the Michigan Normal School. The unit won more medals of honor than any other unit from Michigan during the Civil War.

When President Lincoln called for volunteers from every state in the Union in 1861, Michigan answered by supplying more than 90,000 men to the war. The 17th Michigan Volunteer Infantry Regiment was one of 31 infantry regiments mustered in Michigan for service. As living historians, the 17th's members re-enact Civil War battles and camp life. They hold general meetings at the Plymouth Historical Museum on the second Sunday of the month when not traveling to locations such as Gettysburg. For more information, visit the Web site at www.17thMicoe.org.

"Initially, it's expensive," said Ziembra. "I'm a lieutenant so I have a sword, pistol and uniform that costs \$1,000, but you can survive a weekend on probably under \$5. You bring hard tack or biscuit issued as a rations and jerky and live out of your haversack, a black oil cloth pouch that carries mess utensils. I really enjoy the hobby, the people, the living

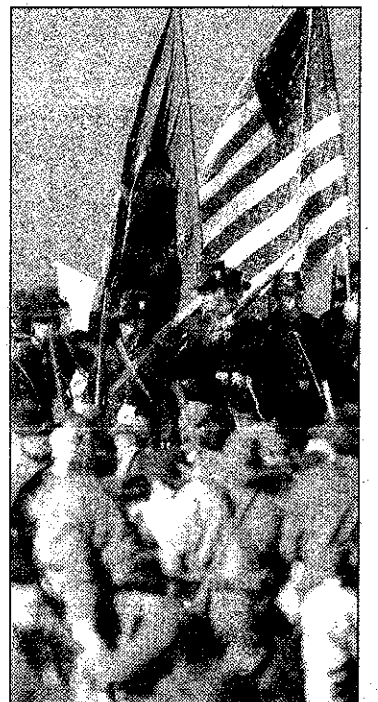
history. When you're out in early spring and your canteen freezes overnight you get a good idea of what the soldiers went through."

LOTS OF LEARNING

The Lincoln Family Weekend on Feb. 14-15 is just one of the happenings at the museum. In celebration of Black History Month, the Underground Railroad Quilt Exhibit tells the story of how quilts and quilt patterns were used as codes to help lead fugitive slaves along their way to freedom.

February is an especially good month to visit the Abraham Lincoln Collection at the museum. On Lincoln's birthday Feb. 12, Dr. Martin Herschock from the University of Michigan-Dearborn will speak at 7:30 p.m. about Lincoln and the founding of the Republican Party in Michigan. The Lincoln Family Weekend follows Feb. 14-15, with the Civil War re-enactors, demonstrations of toys and games from the Civil War, and free admission for children.

On Saturday, Feb. 21, a Victorian Tea recognizes our area's contributions to the Underground Railroad movement with a program by Sarah McChristian, a social worker and Salem historian, and Margaret Green, a professor at



Members of the 17th Michigan Volunteer Infantry reenacted the Battle of South Mountain that took place during the 140th anniversary of the Antietam Battle. Pictured are Bill Ziembra (left with the black feather), Jeff Lindsey (carrying regimental colors), Mike Steuwey, Ed Vitez, and Gerry Turlo.

Washtenaw Community College. Tickets are \$15 and include a Victorian Tea. Reservations are required. Call (734) 455-8940.

Symphony to perform

The Redford Civic Symphony presents a Family Concert 3 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 15, at Thurston High School on the I-96 service drive between Beech Daly and Inkster roads.

Priscilla Marino will perform the first movement of the Haydn *Violin Concerto No. 2* in G. After admission, Ralph Stillwell narrates and conducts a section on musical curiosities. He will discuss some of the zany compositions such as *Furniture Music* and *The Joke Quartet* that have made their way into the repertoire.

The program includes such selections as *The Star Spangled Banner*, *God Bless America*, *Straussiana Waltzes, No. No Nanette, El Capitan March* by Sousa, Barnum & Bailey's favorite march, *Symphony No. 3 in D* by Schubert, the *Toy Symphony* by Mozart, *1812 Overture Finale* by Tchaikovsky, and *Over There*, the World War Medley.

Marino, along with being a member of the Redford Civic Symphony Orchestra, is a member of the Birmingham-Bloomfield Symphony Orchestra, the Birmingham Musicales String Ensemble, and co-founder of the Varino String Quartet.

The symphony's next concert, a Cabaret, takes place 3 p.m. Sunday, March 14, at Hilbert Junior High School in Redford.

All concerts are presented free. However, it costs approximately \$1,000 per performance to cover expenses. Music trust funds, which helped to defray some of this cost in the past, no longer have monies available for use. The Redford Civic Symphony relies strictly on donations from members of the community and industry to sustain the orchestra. Lately, contributions have diminished substantially putting the concert season of four performances in jeopardy. Checks can be sent to Treasurer, Dr. Eileen Pdyn, 7934 Lawrence St., W. Bloomfield, MI 48322-2634. These donations are tax-deductible.

For more information, visit the Web site at www.red-fordsymphony.8m.net.

Railroading theme sets parties in locomotion

BY HUGH CALLAGHER
STAFF WRITER

All aboard!
Gary Rollins greets visitors to his Have Trains, Will Travel Entertainment Center in the long black coat and stiff round hat of a train conductor.

Inside the small store at Five Mile and Merriman in Livonia is a railroad fantasy for all ages created by Rollins and his wife, Laurie. Eighteen large LGB model trains wind their way through two layouts, featuring factory buildings, bridges and overpasses, cable cars and towns.

Have Trains, Will Travel, which has been at its current site for 2½ years, offers children and adults the opportunity to play with trains and have railroading parties.

"We originally got started doing large commercial displays for Greenfield Village, the Festival of Trees, Frankenmuth," Rollins said. "My wife and I discovered we had a knack for doing these large layouts in a matter of hours. We turned that into a side business."

The Rollinses started by taking the train party on the road to birthday parties. Instead of a magic act or clowning, they brought a model train setup complete with building models, landscapes and several trains for children to operate.

They still have a truck to take the show on the road, but they found that during the winter most people didn't have enough room inside to set up the layouts. Now the parties come to them.

Rollins said that when he was a kid the hot toy was slot cars not model trains. But trains have a special meaning.

"I got interested in trains because of my brother," he said. "My brother was born with leukemia and he was pretty much bedridden all his life. The only thing he could play with was what he could fit on a hospital tray. So I made him a little train set he could easily take off and put back on."

Rollins renewed his association with trains in 1984 when he did a display window for another business he had.

"This is not a business," he said. "We're financially secure, but it's a passion I love. I love kids, so does the wife. I'm trying to introduce the kids into the hobby. You go to a train show and you can't touch, can't do anything. Here it's hands on."

The business is a family affair. In addition to Gary and Laurie, their children, Chelsea, 22, Robert, 14 and Mason, 3, help out. The former Livonia residents now live in Grosse Pointe.

Rollins the conductor greets visitors to the store and gives them a rundown on the rules before let-



Large-gauge train layouts are part of the fun at Have Trains, Will Travel.

ting them lose to operate the controls, handle the cars and play train-related games. There's a TV train with a camera in the engine and a bubble car. The room is also decorated with Rollins' collection of model cars.

On the road, Rollins brings two tracks about 20 feet long by 8 feet wide. He said they have a number of train games they play but the favorite is always "crash the trains."

The store also does adult parties, using the open train cars as holders for traveling veggies, chicken wings and dip.

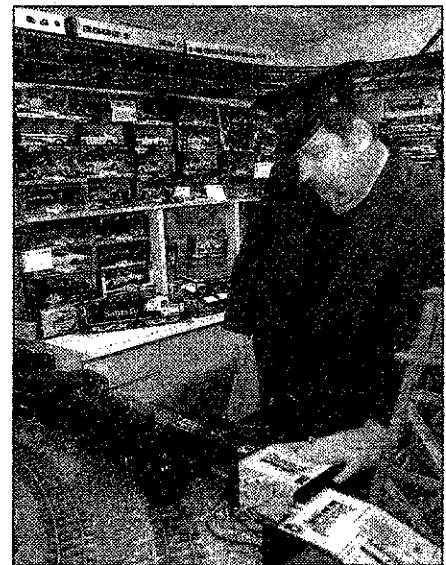
The store is open for individuals 2-8 p.m. Wednesdays through Saturdays and 2-6 p.m. Sundays. It's \$8 an hour for a child, \$5 for an accompanying adult. But the primary business is parties. The base one-hour party is \$13.95 a person and includes paper products (cups, plates, napkins, silverware), two liters of pop, an engineer's hat for the birthday child and four free adult admissions. Food is available for an extra \$3 per person and additional time can be purchased.

Rollins said he has bookings three months in advance. The business has been so successful he'd like to expand.

"We're about ready for a bigger store. We've out-

grown this one," he said. "We'd like to put in five layouts. We can accommodate only about 30-35 here and want a place for 100 people. I would also like a ride-on train and more train stuff."

For more information, call (734) 421-7255.



Gary Rollins is the engineer at Have Trains, Will Travel.

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CONGRATULATIONS!

to all the teachers who were nominated in our FEATURE TEACHER PROMOTION

Salem High School.....	Diane Gailey	Taylor Elementary.....	Ms. Lori Charochak	Academy of the Sacred Heart.....	Cheryl Choinski
Plymouth Salem High.....	Mrs. Cynthia Burnstein	Grant Elementary.....	Sandra Baer	Way Elementary.....	Rusty Peircey
Canton High School.....	Mr. Allie Suffety	Grant Elementary.....	Douglas Risko	Academy of the Sacred Heart.....	Catherine Parks
Tonda Elementary School.....	Kate Hondorp	Tyler Elementary.....	Kimberly Colaizzi	Pine Lake Elementary.....	Mr. Bob Schrupp
Canton High School.....	Ron Carlson	St. Edith School.....	Mrs. Malek	Springfield Plains.....	Miss Schoeneweg
Plymouth High.....	Mr. Andy Lennington	Livonia Career Tech Center.....	Joseph Costa	Springfield Plains.....	Mrs Janet Finney
Plymouth High.....	Mrs. Schlosser	St. Edith School.....	Mrs Korzym	Clarkston High.....	Chad Looper
Plymouth High.....	Mr. Robert deBear	Gill Elementary.....	Maria Blanco	Clarkston High.....	Kim Fletcher
Canton High School.....	Mr. William Omiatek	Jefferson Elementary.....	Mrs Paulisin	Clarkston High.....	Mrs. Nancy Mahoney
Salem High School.....	Mr. Guinta	Redford Union High.....	Mrs. Jo Anne Hutton	Pine Knob Elementary.....	Lars Covintree
Plymouth Canton High.....	Liz VanWestenberg	Vandenberg Elementary.....	Allison Moir	Everest Academy.....	Malinda Smith
Salem High School.....	Mr. Boyd	Vandenberg Elementary.....	Rachel Goff	Independence Elementary.....	Mrs Zittel
Salem High School.....	Mr. Silvester	Bishop Borgess High.....	Ronald Ferenczi	Everest Academy.....	Donna Mikulek
Eriksson Elementary.....	Mrs. Connie Jacobs	Vandenberg Elementary.....	Mr. Stewart	Independence Elementary.....	Dennis Klenow
Miller Elementary.....	Mrs. Kurnick	Fisher Elementary.....	Elise Lubaway	Clarkston High.....	Noah Sharrow
Miller Elementary.....	Mrs. Bolsier	Redford Union High.....	Mr. Evans	Bailey Lake Elementary.....	Kathy Noble
Miller Elementary.....	Kristine Oke	Jefferson Elementary.....	Cathy Paulisin	Independence Elementary.....	Laurie Stevenson
Canton High School.....	Mrs. Jane Throneberry	George H. Fisher Elementary.....	Susan Steele	Carpenter Elementary.....	Ms Becky Gretel
Tonda Elementary School.....	Val Mestrovich	Fisher Elementary.....	Mrs Richie	Webber Elementary.....	Mr. Dave Mick
Miller Elementary.....	Kim Martin	Adams Middle School.....	Susanna Smelcer	Paint Creek Elementary.....	Mrs Storis
Bird Elementary.....	Mrs. Julie Jones	Elliott Elementary.....	Mrs. Mary Daly	Daniel Axford Elementary.....	Shanie Williams
West Middle School.....	Ms. Griffard	Elliott Elementary.....	Mrs. Susan England	Lone Pine Elementary.....	Mrs Michaelson
Isbister Elementary.....	Aileen Wise	Elliott Elementary.....	Ms. Linda Cox	Meadowbrook Elementary.....	Jennifer Morris
Isbister Elementary.....	Brent Archer	John Glenn High.....	Mrs Gatherine German	Rochester Adams High.....	Dara McLean
Farrand Elementary.....	Ms. Tina Jones	John Glenn High.....	Ms. Irene Fritz	St John Lutheran.....	Jan Brautnick
Pioneer Middle School.....	Mr. Galante	Adams Middle School.....	Linda Lindbergh	Hugger Elementary.....	Lori McKinney
East Middle School.....	Mrs. Dohadwala	Lincoln Elementary.....	Jennifer Medvecky	Musson Elementary.....	Mrs. Jean Dertouzos
Bird Elementary.....	Kathy Dascenzo	Lincoln Elementary.....	Starr Lang	Stoney Creek High.....	Dorothy Engelman
West Middle School.....	Lynette Gordon	Adlai Stevenson Middle.....	Ms. Young	Hart Middle School.....	Vikki Derrigan
Our Lady of Sorrows.....	Mrs Neville	St. John's Lutheran.....	Tracey Bunde	McGregor Elementary.....	Mr. Kupp
Harrison High.....	Ms Holman	Elliott Elementary.....	Mrs. Karen Dodds	Deerfield Elementary.....	Teresa Roose
Our Lady of Sorrows.....	Mrs. Dawn Rahn	St. John's Lutheran.....	Ms. Bartholomew	Reuther Middle School.....	Mark Lane
N. Farmington High.....	Jan Brachel	Adams Middle School.....	Joan Cady	Hugger Elementary.....	Gail Davidson
Farmington High.....	Mark'Azeez	Patchin Elementary.....	Mrs. Rosalie Riemersma	Brewster Elementary.....	Michele Brown
Power Middle School.....	Mrs. Jan Griebel	Hamilton Elementary.....	Diane Moore	Delta Kelly Elementary.....	Shelly Welch
Power Middle School.....	Mr. Seavitt	William D Ford Career Tech Center.....	Leon Hanson	Brewster Elementary.....	Kathy Adams
Beechview Elementary.....	Mrs. Blazo	Lincoln Elementary.....	Laura Gutt	Birney Middle School.....	Randy Scott
Dunckel Middle School.....	Mr. Boda	Wayne Memorial High.....	Laura Oliver	Southfield Public Schools.....	Mr. Climie
Gill Elementary.....	Vicki Shaw	Adams Middle School.....	Rich Alder	Southfield Lathrup Senior High.....	Carolina Freshman
Longacre School.....	Mrs. Brueck	Stevenson Middle School.....	Celine McQuinn	John F. Kennedy Elementary.....	Mrs. Deborah Hall
Harrison High.....	Kathryn Chrzanowski	Lincoln Elementary.....	Alison Remer	Birney Middle School.....	K. Jill Bussler
Cloverdale Developmental.....	Ruth Whiteman	Roosevelt McGrath Elementary.....	Donna Colaianne	Birney Middle School.....	Joanne Bokas
Wood Creek Elementary.....	Michael Kanter	Edison Elementary.....	Mrs. Novack	Southfield-Lathrup Senior High.....	Davena Jackson
Highmeadow Common.....	Karen Farber	Perrinville.....	Karen Pence	Thompson Middle School.....	Hertha Woodruff
Fairview Early Childhood Center.....	Jenny Doherty	Marshall Middle School.....	Cheryl Fenton	Pembroke Elementary.....	Michelle Marcus
Dunckel Middle School.....	Benita Hong	Avondale High School.....	Ms. Laymac	Schroeder Elementary.....	Mrs. Mourie
Highmeadow Common.....	Kimberly Davis	Greenfield Elementary.....	Ms Lybeck	Schroeder Elementary.....	Mrs. Francis
Dunckel Middle School.....	Lisa Potter	Derby Middle School.....	Allie Gasiorowski	Bemis Elementary School.....	Mrs. Faith Clay
O,Connell School.....	Wendy Warren	Pierce Elementary.....	Mr. Cohen	Schroeder Elementary.....	Jamie Hagerly
Wood Creek Elementary.....	Laura Moyers	Birmingham High.....	Mary Stefano	Leonard Elementary.....	Angela Gadlage
St. Fabian School.....	Tim Spriggs	Quarton Elementary.....	Eileen McKinney	Troy High.....	Ms Barrett
Radcliff Junior High.....	Mr. Lenders	Quarton Elementary.....	Mrs. Kate Alexander	Wattles Elementary.....	Ms. Womack
United Christian.....	Mrs Karen McCaslin	Quarton Elementary.....	Mrs Polumbit	Wattles Elementary.....	Mrs Laura Chamberlain
St Raphael School.....	Mrs Bartkoviak	Quarton Elementary.....	Jan Yannelio	Walled Lk. Con. Schools.....	Doug Oganowski
Farmington Elementary.....	Ann Tobias	Derby Middle School.....	Renee Flennoy	St. Stephen Lutheran.....	Ms. Karla Heinert
Garden City High.....	Bill Abbott	Harlan Elementary.....	Kimber Ghareeb	Schoolcraft Elementary.....	Suzanne Stire
Farmington Elementary.....	Mrs. Mellos	Quarton Elementary.....	Ms. Wyatt	Ealy Elementary.....	Gayle Cox
Garden City Junior High.....	Mrs. Foley	Quarton Elementary.....	Melissa Couterier	Orchard Lake Middle.....	Mrs. Donna French
United Christian.....	Miss Gwen McQueen	Derby Middle School.....	Mr. Barry Imsande	Scotch School.....	Lauren Piontkowski
United Christian.....	Pam Figueiredo	Pierce Elementary.....	Carol Cote	Scotch School.....	Mrs. Penny Manzo
Farmington Elementary.....	Kathy Sharpe	Derby Middle School.....	Mr Ken Wilson	Abbott Middle School.....	Mrs. Jennifer Thrift
Webster Elementary.....	Sue Fraelich	Derby Middle School.....	Mrs Ann Cole	Ealy Elementary.....	Catherine McCotter
Webster Elementary.....	Christine Fankell	Andover High School.....	Patricia Clees	Abbott Middle School.....	Mr. Chris Finneran
Buchanan Elementary.....	Mrs. Trantham	The Roeper School.....	Mary Windram	West Bloomfield High.....	Kay Carpenter
Grandview Elementary.....	Kathy Damanskas	West Maple Elementary.....	Christine Stecker	Orchard Lake Middle.....	Jackie Klugman
Adams Elementary.....	Mrs. Kozan	International Academy.....	Terri Cafcalas	Eagle Elementary.....	Lynn Zurawski
Emerson Middle School.....	Mr. Jonathan Holtfreter	Harlan Elementary.....	Kimber Ghareeb	Eagle Elementary.....	Shannon Daniel

Please accept our sincere apologies if you were a nominee and your name is not here.

OE08186216, EPS

Rx briefs

'Heartburn free'

Anyone who has experienced heartburn knows it has the potential to ruin a romantic evening. The chest pain and burning throat that come along with acid reflux will leave you reaching for antacids instead of that special someone. With Valentine's Day approaching, Paulo Pacheco, M.D., author of *Living with Chronic Heartburn* (Healthy Living Books, \$15.95), offers tips for avoiding heartburn:

Be creative with gifts. Chocolate can trigger heartburn symptoms.

Eating spicy foods can aggravate heartburn by irritating the tissue in your esophagus that has been worn away by past acid reflux.

Alcohol consumption increases blood flow to the stomach and that increases production of acid. If you don't want to cut out the wine, drink in moderation.

Don't rely on antacids. Using antacids daily or a few times a week may control heartburn, but the chronic acid reflux causing symptoms may damage your esophagus.

Surgical robotics

State-of-the-art in prostate cancer treatment

The robotic arms slowly begin to move as Dr. James Relle places his hands on the control of the computer console. The eerie sight is like out of a sci-fi movie.

In just a few minutes a cancer patient will be wheeled into the Beaumont Hospital OR for surgery to remove his prostate. Robotic prostatectomy is the way of the future, according to Relle.

Two years ago, prostate cancer patients took about four-six weeks to recover from traditional open surgery. Relle expects today's patient to return to his normal routine in half of the time.

In January of 2003, John Morad went back to work as an attorney a little more than a week after surgery using the latest in robotic technology at Henry Ford Hospital.

BENEFITS TO PATIENT

Relle's patients are enjoying the shorter recovery time as well since Beaumont Hospital invested \$1 million dollars in the surgical robot and trained a team of seven surgeons to use it 18 months ago. Beaumont, Henry Ford and the University of Michigan are the only hospitals in the area equipped with surgical robotics.

On this day, Relle and Dr. Brian Seifman, his partner in the Southfield-based practice Preferred Urology Consultants, removed prostates from two cancer patients with the assistance of the robot. Removal of the prostate and surrounding tissue is one of the most effective therapies for the cancer.

The robotic laparoscopic procedure requires a team of two surgeons and typically lasts about two hours. Instead of an open incision across the abdomen, a surgeon makes several smaller ones to insert a laparoscope or lighted telescope, and instruments. Smaller incisions mean a shorter recovery time.

Both Relle and Seifman were fellowship trained in laparoscopy after their residency. About six months ago, the company which makes the da Vinci surgical robotic system approached them to instruct urologists around the country in the technology.

"Beaumont realized this would be cutting edge," said Relle, a 42-year old Bloomfield Township resident.

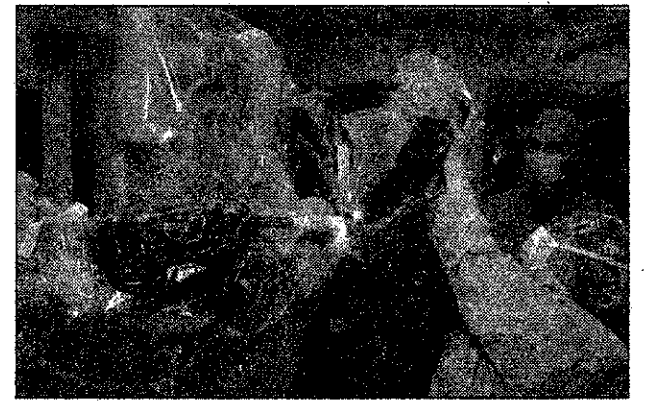
"Open surgery, popular for 20 years, is now being replaced by telescopic under minimally invasive conditions. We can see incredibly well with the 3-dimensional technology. Patients leave the hospital sooner, require less narcotic because of reduced pain, less time with catheter, have less blood loss.

"I see the patient satisfaction in my office. There's less fear of surgery. I see it being increasingly demanded by patients. In five years, it will be commonplace."

At Henry Ford Hospital, Dr. James O. Peabody says



Dr. James Relle checks the robotic controls before a prostate surgery. While Relle is at the console, Dr. Brian Seifman will stand alongside the patient in the background. Seifman changes instruments in the robot arms (covered with plastic) about three-four times during surgery. Above Seifman's head are five 2-dimensional monitors.



A nurse gets the surgical robot ready for prostate surgery while Dr. James Relle looks on.

his prostate cancer patients are recovering urinary and sexual functions more rapidly than with conventional surgery. Henry Ford Hospital leased their first robot in November 2000 then bought one the following March.

"We wanted to find a better way to do prostate cancer surgery," said Peabody, who works as a team with Dr. Mani Menon, director of the Vattikuti Urology Institute at Henry Ford Hospital.

"It's a step over the laparoscopic program. The robot was a boost because of better visualization with a 3-D image so it's lifelike, better magnification. Instrumentation are wristed so can do more precise movements. The miniaturized instruments are passed through narrow tubes. We can go in and rotate them with two joy sticks. As you open the thumb and forefinger the instruments do the same thing like little hands. It's much more precise than laparoscopy."

BRIGHT FUTURE

John Morad stayed in the hospital less than 24 hours and within four days was working at home. More importantly, because the prostate cancer was discovered early, his prognosis is good.

Morad had no symptoms but he did have a PSA (Prostate Specific Antigen) blood test annually with his physical exam. When the numbers steadily increased, he had it checked every six months. When it reached a level of 5.6, his doctor did a biopsy. The results came back positive.

Today, the 65-year old Bloomfield Township resident is back in his office, and doing commercials for Henry Ford Hospital.

"A good friend of mine had the traditional surgery and didn't feel good for six months," said Morad. "The side effects were nothing, a little continence problem that cleared up three months later."

"They said they got it all. Now I just want to help other men any way I can. I tell them try to get it detected early. There's much less chance the cancer has spread. Make sure you get the PSA as early and often as you can, at least once a year. Inquire about it, this is a disease men are so susceptible. If you do get cancer, you can beat it. I've had two friends with prostate cancer, the one who discovered late has died."

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Early detection, healthy lifestyle are key

Dr. James Relle says the good news about prostate cancer is "increased awareness is leading to early treatment and the hope it can be cured."

The Beaumont Hospital urologist typically treats men ages 50 to 70 who are relatively healthy without major illnesses - and whose prostate cancer was discovered because they were going regularly for checkups.

According to the American Cancer Society, there were 220,900 men diagnosed with prostate cancer last year. There is a 97 percent survival rate if detected and treated early.

"There are two things men can do - go for an annual physical exam then, starting at age 40, a digital rectal exam yearly thereafter, and an annual (PSA) Prostate Specific Antigen blood test."

"Take dietary and health measures to optimize overall health and prostate health."

Relle is part of an ongoing study SELECT (Selenium and Vitamin E Chemoprevention Trial) at Beaumont. Funded by the National Cancer Institute, SELECT involves 14 Michigan hospitals in addition to more than 400 other study sites in the

U.S., Canada and Puerto Rico. For more information, call (800) 4CANCER. "We're following men over a number of years with a preset vitamin regimen to see if it can reduce the risk of getting prostate cancer," said Relle.

"Another factor may be diet. The Western diet is high in animal fats and protein. The Asia or Eastern diet is high in soy we feel may be the reason their cancer rate is virtually nonexistent. It's almost rare to have prostate cancer in Asia. Antioxidants - cancer-stopping agents like green tea and selenium - mop up free radicals that attack DNA."

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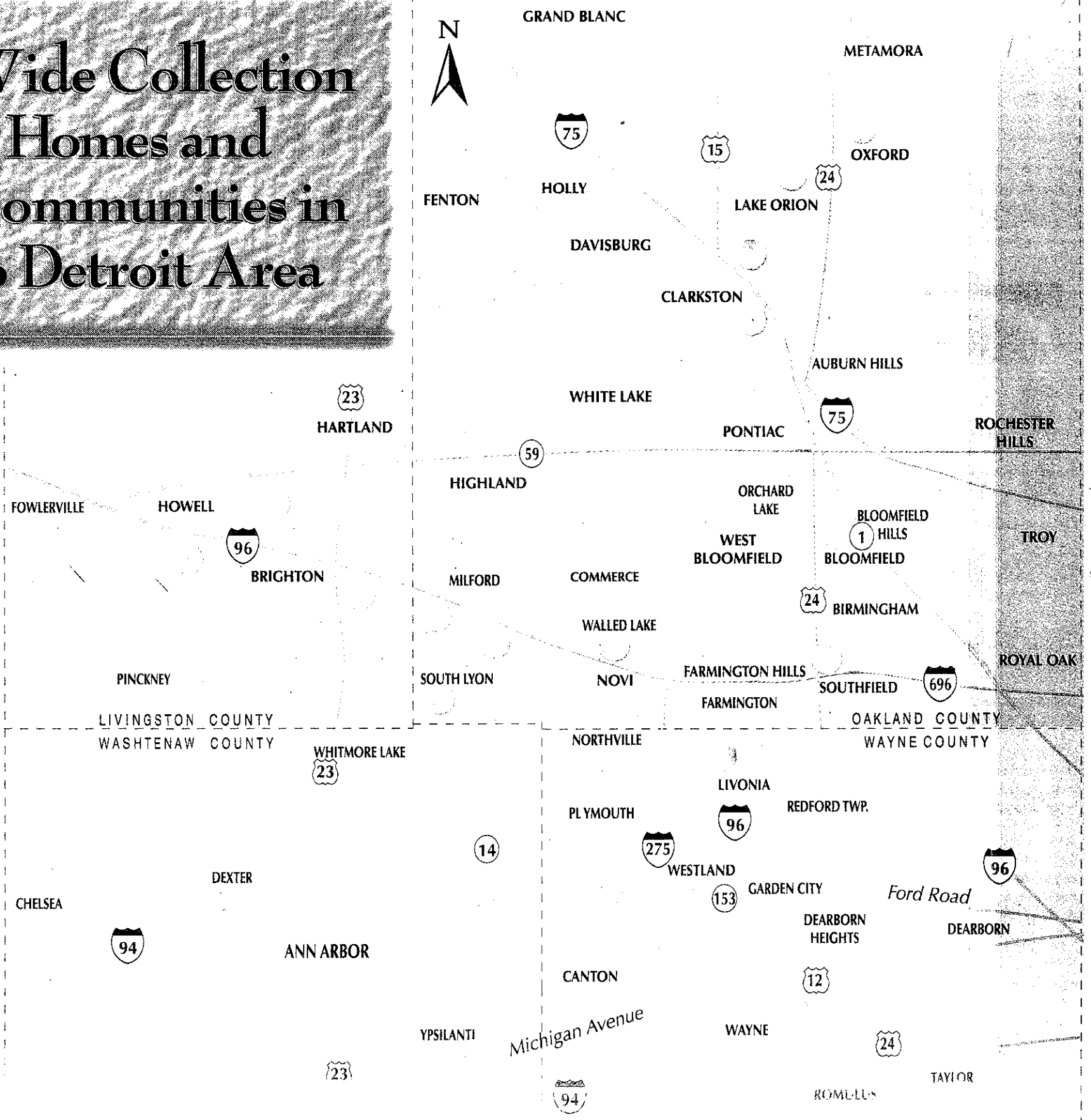
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<p>2 THE PONDS Walkout lots with Awesome Views! Single Family Site Condominiums On 1/2-3/4 acre lots From the \$250's Off 12 Mile W. of Millard (248) 349-4550 Real Estate One</p>	<p>5 Woodland Springs Hughes Rd., N. off Grand River, across from Lake Chemung & Public Access Homes from the \$200's Model Grand Opening (517) 545-1300 & (517) 545-7580 ivanhoeunleily.com bingham-homes.com</p>	<p>14 West Ridge Downtown Dexter's Premier Community! From the \$220's Take Baker Rd. exit off I-94 north to downtown Dexter. 734-424-1500 JR Homes</p>	<p>20 BRIDGE VALLEY Custom Estates on 1+ Acre Wooded Homesites Home Packages from \$750,000 Homesites from \$150,000's 248-620-6603 KIRCO Located in Clarkston off Holcomb Road</p>	<p>26 North Haven Woods 248-668-3820 FROM THE \$335'S Novi Mailing • Walled Lake Schools Multi Building Co., Inc. Located on West Park Drive between 12 Mile and Pontiac Trail WWW.THEMULTICOMPANIES.COM</p>	<p>32 CARRIAGE CLUB Homes Starting from the low \$250's East of Farmington, South of 1 Mile One mile East of Pontiac Trail (248) 486-2965 www.healyhomes.com</p>
<p>3 Fountain Park CONDOMINIUM LIVING IN LIVONIA Ranch floor plans from \$170,000 Sales hours: 11:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. daily or by appointment. Closed Thursdays. Phoenix Land Development, LLC 734-367-0922</p>	<p>9 HITECH BLDG. One acre lots, homes starting from \$240's. MODEL HOURS Tues. & Fri. 3pm - 7pm Sat. & Sun. 12pm - 5pm 57400 Spaulding Court 248-437-1909 South of 12 Mile, East of Millford Rd.</p>	<p>Check This Page Weekly For The Latest Development</p>	<p>Check Next Week For New Listings!</p>	<p>27 Wildbrook Single Family Homes Starting at \$205,990 South Side of Savage between Haggerty & Martinsville Road, Van Buren Township (734) 697-1555</p>	<p>Visit our Website www.hometownlife.com</p>
<p>4 Hometown Village of Marion neighborhood pool, fitness center, sidewalks & park. Howell Schools 1 1/2 miles S. of I-96, W. of D-19 From the \$180's Dexter (517) 540-1300</p>	<p>10 Belle Pointe Estates Single Family Homes 5 Models to Choose from Starting at \$200,900 N.E. Corner of Ecorse & Belleville Roads Call the Professional Sales Team 734-697-9390</p>	<p>check out the beautiful homes</p>	<p>22 MOUNT CHRISTIE ESTATES Spectacular Estate Homes On 1-2 Acre Wooded Sites in Beautiful Metamora Township Home estates from \$125,000 Custom homes from \$500,000 (248) 969-0400</p>	<p>Check This Page Weekly For The Latest Development</p>	<p>YOUR HOME COULD BE HERE!</p>
<p>5 HOMETOWN VILLAGE OF WATERSTONE Traditional neighborhood. Big front porches, white picket fences, sidewalks thruout. Adjacent to golf course. From the \$130's to low \$300's Off of Burdick Rd./Seymour Lake Rd. 1/2 mile W. of Lapeer Rd. in Oxford Dexter (248) 969-3200</p>	<p>11 BELL CREEK SQUARE Condo's - \$170's 6 Mile & Farmington Rd. Livonia, MI 48154 Sales Model 12-6 Daily • Closed Thursday Phoenix Land Development LLC (734) 367-7547</p>	<p>17 Pine Knob Enclaves Luxury Condominiums Hours Daily 12-5 Closed Thurs. 248-625-7466 6400 Royal St. George Sashabaw Road, South to Waldon Road, East to Pine Knob Enclaves Entrance www.pineknobenclaves.com</p>	<p>Check Next Week For New Listings!</p>	<p>29 Hillas of Oak Pointe On Brighton Rd., 2 miles W. of Downtown Brighton From the low \$300's Dexter 810-220-4800</p>	<p>35 Bromley Park BEST VALUE IN SUPERIOR TOWNSHIP Starting from the mid-160's On Gables Road between Ridge & Prosper 734-482-1440 OPEN DAILY 12-5, CLOSED THURSDAY</p>
<p>6 FOREST PARK CONDOMINIUM FINAL CLOSE-OUT Beautiful Ranch and Townhomes on wooded sites. From \$161,900 32994 FOREST AVE. CITY OF WAYNE (734) 722-3000 Daily Except Th. 12-5</p>	<p>12 OXFORD LAKE ESTATES Prices from the \$250's Lake living in Oxford. Traditional Brick Single Family Homes with access to beach club, tot lot & tennis. Walk to elementary and high schools. Call (248) 236-9061 On Lakeville Rd. East of Lapeer Rd. Wineman & Komer Building Co.</p>	<p>Visit our Website www.hometownlife.com</p>	<p>24 GRAND OPENING In Southfield/Farmington Hills! Priced from the mid \$300's Located off the east side of Truist Rd. Between 10 & 11 Mile Rds. 248-350-8700 JR Homes</p>	<p>30 Country French Estates Wooded homesites and community park, Ann Arbor Schools. Located on Zeeb Road on S.W. corner of Zeeb and Park Roads in Scio Twp. From the low \$200's Dexter 734-669-8080</p>	<p>36 Hometown Village of Ann Arbor from the low \$200's Dexter 734-302-1000</p>

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VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT:
www.newhomedirectory.net



Greene Farms enters final construction phase

Begun in 1999, Greene Farms in Ypsilanti Township, is in its fourth and final phase of development. Farmington Hills based Curtis Building Co. stresses values in the single-family homes it is building. Excluding lot premiums, the houses sell from \$199,900 to \$242,000.

"There are features in these houses you rarely see in \$200,000 houses said Melvin Menuck, vice president of Curtis Building Company. "The basic construction is the same as you'd get in a far more costly home."

All 48 houses in Phase 4 should be finished by the end of 2004, Menuck said. "We have four 'spec homes' (houses built before they are sold) in various stages of construction, and 10 vacant lots. Prospective buyers can choose from eight plans ranging in size from 1,506 to 2,339 square feet.

"We try to offer quality at an affordable price," said Menuck. The Georgetown is the best selling model. It's a traditional Colonial with four bedrooms and 2½ baths. Options include an alternate master bath or three bedrooms with a den. Standard features include landscaping, brick fronts and partial sides and rear of

brick; two-car garage, central air conditioning, hardwood floor in the foyer and carpeting throughout. The houses also have a built-in microwave oven, an 80% energy efficiency furnace, and 7-foot-10-inch poured basement walls.

Curtis is now a third generation company that's undergoing major expansion. Allen and Melvin Menuck head the company, which has been around since 1945.

Current Curtis communities under construction include:

- Kirkway Ravines, condo - Farmington Hills
- Preserve on Fellows Creek, condo; Cherry Hill Village, site condo - Canton
- Kirkways of Scio, site condo - Scio Township
- Peninsula at Stonewater, subdivision - Northville;

Northville Hills Golf Club, subdivision - Northville
 To get to the homes at Greene Farms, take I-94 to the Huron Street exit 183. Go south four miles on Whitaker Road to Greene Farm Drive, turn right. Stop at the first two model homes on the left side of the street.



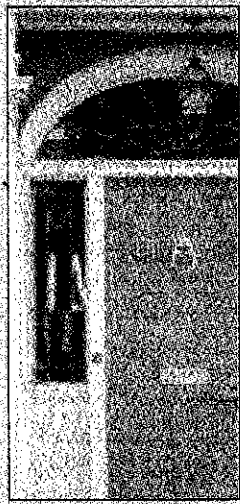
The Georgetown is the best selling model at Greene Farms. It's a traditional colonial with four bedrooms and 2½ baths.

Model homes are open noon to 6 p.m. daily. Call (734) 482-1220 for information, or visit the Web site www.curtisbuilding.com.

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Misc. Real Estate	3580-3680
Commercial/Industrial	3900-3980
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Our complete index can be found inside this section



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www.hometownlife.com

Buyer's agent can help you find a home to suit all your needs

(NAPSI) - Economists call it the "housing industry" but everyone buying some place to live knows that they are looking for more than just a "house." They also want a "home," a way of living that is far more than just four walls with a roof. And that lifestyle is a vision probably as unique as every proud new homeowner.

Buyers might see themselves sitting in front of the fireplace in their cozy den. Or tending to the best garden in the neighborhood. Or entertaining friends in their formal dining room. Or getting caught up in the energy of a thriving metropolitan center. There's just no limit to how buyers see themselves in their new home.

But how do prospective homeowners find the right property with the right combination of "bricks and mortar" and the intangibles that create a distinctive "home?" Looking for that property can be a frustrating task. But many buyers have discovered a way to make that search easier, more efficient and less stressful.

These buyers enlisted the help of an Accredited Buyer Representative, a real estate licensee with specialized skills. To earn the ABR designation, real estate professionals must complete a comprehensive training program and meet experiential requirements that demonstrate a thorough under-

standing of the entire home buying process-including the "soft skills" that help them locate available properties that are compatible with the buyer's lifestyle ideal.

Before beginning the search for that dream house, ABRs make every effort to learn from buyers what "makes them tick." Then, having gained an understanding of what the buyers want and need in their new home, they evaluate the inventory of available properties to find those that best fit with the vision of the buyers' unique lifestyle. Just as importantly, ABRs work for buyers, representing their best interests.

Clearly, all the properties those economists call the "housing industry" should never be regarded as commodities. They are all unique. So are homebuyers. ABRs understand this, and they know that "to see one is definitely not to see them all." And this applies equally to buyers, their lifestyles-and the dream home they're looking for.

To find an ABR in your area, call (800) 648-6224 or visit www.REBAC.net. The ABR designation is awarded by the Real Estate Buyer's Agent Council, an affiliate of the National Association of Realtors.

Whatever your particular style, an Accredited Buyer Representative can find a home to suit you.

Residences may come second

(NAPSI) - More than six million Americans currently own a second residence, and according to a recent study, by *American Demographics* magazine, the second home market is growing by more than 5 percent annually.

This rapid growth is due, in part, to the aging of Americans. As baby boomers approach retirement age, many want a second home that works as either a vacation home or a seasonal residence.

Real estate traditionally has been a profitable investment. Since the interest paid on second mortgages is tax-deductible, homeowners are able to write-off a portion of their monthly payment during tax time.

This means that second homeowners not only get the advantage of home and land appreciation, they also get an investment that pays them back every year.

While many of today's second home buyers look to site-built homes and condominiums, a new option is emerging-manufactured housing.

Built in a factory, then shipped to the final home site and finished, today's manufactured homes feature all the amenities and custom design features most consumers would expect to find in site-built homes, but at a fraction of the cost.

"Today's manufactured homes feature the latest in building materials and processes at a lower price per square foot than other options, an important consideration for those seeking to maximize their investment," said Grover Tarlton, vice president of marketing for Champion Enterprises, a manufactured housing industry leader.

OPEN HOUSES OF THE WEEK

14 UNITS OPEN!
 This Sunday!
 From... **\$65,000**
 Some former models and some newly built models

Colonial Acres

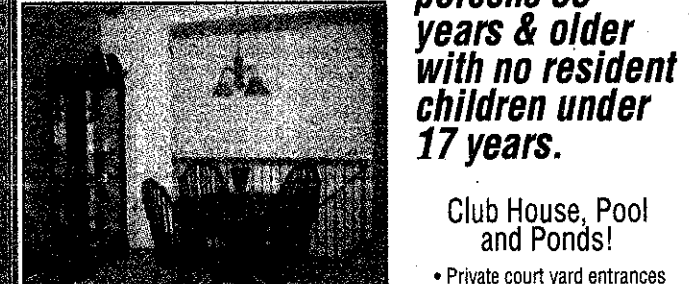
Sales by...
 Colonial Acres Sales, Inc.



Comfortable scenic living for persons 55 years & older with no resident children under 17 years.

Club House, Pool and Ponds!

- Private court yard entrances
- Ranch units w/full basement
- GE kitchen appliances
- Central Air
- 1 & 2 bedroom floor plans
- Merrilott kitchen cabinets
- Ceramic tile baths
- Thermal windows & doors
- Light fixtures
- Sound suppressing walls
- 2 assigned parking spaces
- Optional walk-out basements

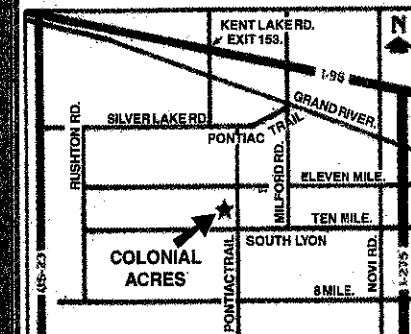


Current Specials

Interior Units
 Family room, Den, with walk-in closet and shower bath finished in Lower Level.

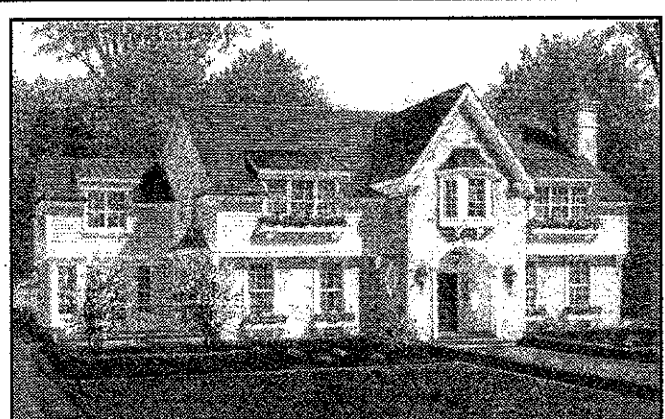
End Units

Three season room 10'x12'.



Take up to 6 months to close, you can make your own color selections or we have units ready to move into.

(248) 437-1159 Model, (248) 437-8193 Builders
 MODEL HOURS: Monday - Friday 12:00-4:00 Closed Thursday
 Saturday & Sunday 12:00-5:00



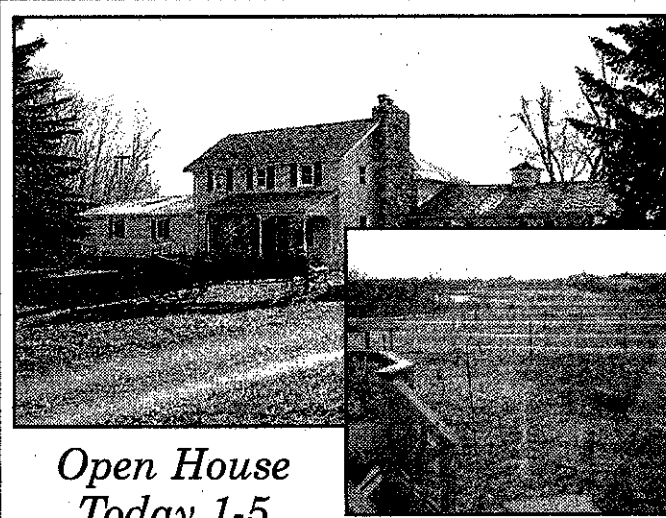
Magnificent Connecticut Farm Colonial Circa 2004

Beautifully located on one of Birmingham's premier streets is this wonderful 6,000 sq. ft. family home with beautiful grounds and large rear yard. Features include 5 bedrooms, 5½ baths, large gentleman's library, 20'x24' family room, 3 fireplaces, 3½ car garage with studio space above. Large designer kitchen with all premium appliances and bright morning room. This property has top-notch finishes and designer touches throughout. Available for summer delivery. Purchaser may make all finished selections, including colors, marble, granite, etc.

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6210 Cooley Lake Road

North of Commerce Rd., take Carey Rd. to Cooley Lake Rd.

This country estate offers great family and entertainment possibilities. Situated on 4 acres overlooking 2 18 holes golf courses this four bedroom home is ideal for spacious, secluded living. The first floor offers a large master bedroom suite with a spacious master bathroom plus a separate lavatory. This home offers a large formal living room with fireplace, a spacious family room which overlooks the large backyard, and a recently renovated gourmet kitchen. The second

floor provides 3 additional bedrooms and a full hall bathroom.

Other features include a side entrance attached garage, horse stable and fenced riding area plus a pool. Situated among 2 residential golf communities with large club houses this 4 acre estate is ideal for the family or may be divided into 8 residential home sites.

Visit us today or call for a private showing. For additional information on this home or other new homes available call:

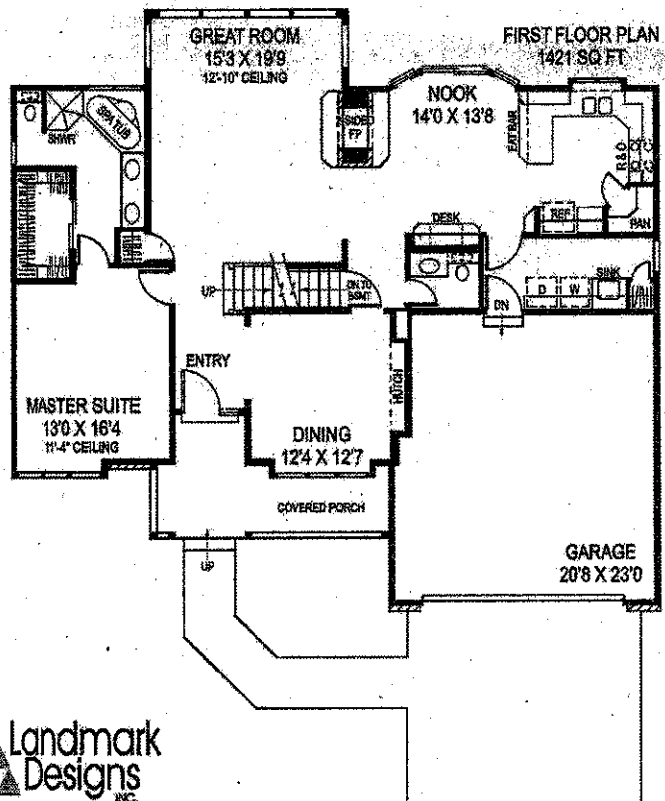
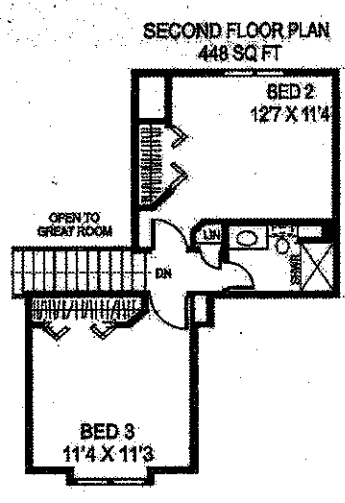
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Contemporary Trenton has plenty of great features

The Trenton 1 combines the contemporary look with rambler style. There is a covered porch with posts and railings, and a dormer over bedroom three. The vent on the garage has been designed to look like a dormer for accent. A combination of wood and brick further adds to the unique facade.

On the right is the dining room. It has a built-in hutch and three large paned windows. The great room. The rear wall is lined with large windows. There is a two-sided fireplace on the right separating the great room from the nook. Imagine yourself sitting in front of the fireplace sipping a cup of coffee with bayed windows behind.



KITCHEN

The corner kitchen has a garden window over the sink, an eating bar facing the nook, a corner pantry, and built-in desk for keeping recipes and records. Behind the kitchen is a large utility room with a door to the two-car garage.

On the left side of the Trenton 1 is the master suite and bath. The main suite area has a raised ceiling and long windows, creating a feel of spaciousness. The walk-in closet is adjacent to the master bath. A shower, spa tub, and "his and her" sinks make up the amenities of the master bath.

Upstairs are two other bedrooms, each with a wall closet and large windows. A full bath with a shower is between the two rooms.

An unfinished basement is available and would add 1,421 square feet of additional space if desired.

For a study plan, including scaled floor plan(s), elevations, section(s), and an artist rendering, send \$24.95 to Landmark Designs, 33127 Saginaw Road E., Cottage Grove, OR 97424. Please specify plan name (Trenton 1) and the number (D1330). A catalog featuring hundreds of home plans is available for \$12.95, or save by ordering both for \$29.95. For faster processing, call (800) 562-1151 or visit www.landmarkdesigns.com.

COPYRIGHT DESIGN BASICS, Inc.
TRENTON 1 (D1330)
OVERALL DIMENSIONS: 52'-0" X 47'-4"
LIVING: 1869 square feet
UNFIN. BASEMENT: 1421 square feet
GARAGE: 476 square feet



Building homes for long-term appeal

(NAPSI) - City planners have discovered that cutting construction costs by using inferior materials can be a bad idea - both for homeowners and the communities these homes are built in.

"The reality is that the builder owns the home for a few months, the new homeowner may own it for a few years, but the community will own it forever," said Charles Ostrander, executive director, Illinois Masonry Institute Promotion Trust, who works with some Chicago-area towns.

A growing number of communities are revising building ordinances, increasing the amount of brick, stone or concrete masonry required in new home construction.

Orland Park, Ill., a Chicago suburb, now requires 100 per-

cent masonry for commercial construction, 90 percent masonry for residential construction and 50 percent masonry for multi-family construction.

Denver suburb Aurora, Colo., now requires a minimum of 50 percent masonry on new single-family homes and 60 percent masonry on all new multi-family buildings.

"We spend a great deal of time master planning our communities to ensure they are developed according to very high design standards," said Aurora Mayor Paul Tauer.

To help cities, suburbs and their residents learn how to enact or amend masonry ordinances, a City Planner's Toolkit is now available at www.buildingwithbrick.net.

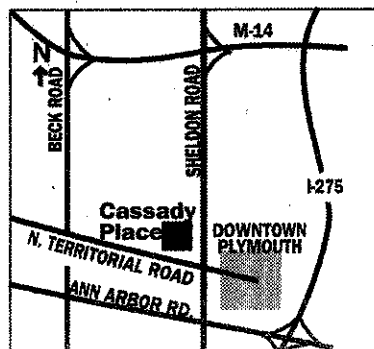
Cassady Place Plymouth Ranch Homes Available



30 Luxury Condominiums conveniently located in the city of Plymouth, and is just moments from downtown Plymouth. Stop by and see our model, beautifully decorated by Gabriela's Park View Gallery.

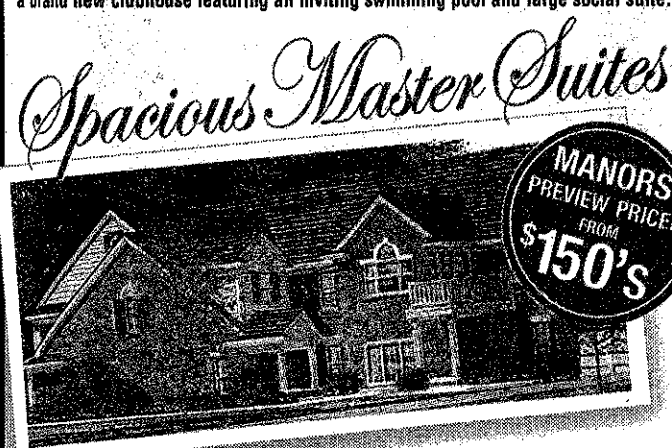
For information call 734-416-9118

- Features:**
- Two bedrooms
 - Two full bathrooms
 - Open floor plan
 - Garage
 - Basement
- Our model will be open daily from 12-5 pm
Brokers Protected



Priced from \$225,000

BEAUTIFUL ALL-BRICK 2 BEDROOM RANCH CONDOMINIUMS
Scenic landscaping and pond views decorate this lovely community complete with a brand new clubhouse featuring an inviting swimming pool and large social suite.



Spacious Master Suites

MANORS PREVIEW PRICED FROM \$150's

QUAINT DESIGN INCLUDES A HOST OF WONDERFUL AMENITIES, FEATURING:

- Up to 1,655 sq. ft. of living space
- Attached 1-car garages
- Kitchens complete with all appliances
- First-floor laundries with washer & dryer
- Balcones or covered porches
- Ceramic tile in baths
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OPEN DAILY 12:00 PM - 6:00 PM
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WWW.WOODBRIDGECONDOS.COM

BEAUTIFUL ALL-BRICK 2 & 3 BEDROOM TOWNHOME CONDOMINIUMS
Scenic landscaping and pond views decorate this lovely community complete with a brand new clubhouse featuring an inviting swimming pool and large social suite.



Attached 2-Car Garages

VILLAS PREVIEW PRICED FROM \$190's

DELIGHTFUL STYLE AND CONVENIENCE, INCLUDING THESE EXCEPTIONAL FEATURES:

- Spacious floorplans up to 1,835 sq. ft.
- Gourmet kitchens
- First floor laundries
- Full basements
- Luxurious master suites
- Ceramic tile in baths
- Special upgrades in select plans include three-way fireplace and cathedral ceilings

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734-844-8300

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ESTATES

LOCATED OFF GEDDES RD., WEST OF BECK RD.

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All information contained herein was accurate at the time of publication. In order to maintain the high degree of quality and incorporate management with greater flexibility and economy, we reserve the right to make changes in price, specifications, materials, or to change or discontinue models without notice or obligation. Floor plan dimensions are approximate. © Alexander Burgess & Associates 2003

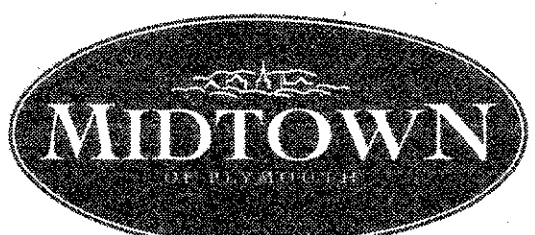
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- Incredibly Priced From \$134,500 (Reduced from \$154,500)
- Immediate Occupancy!
- Single-level Floor Plans Up to 1,250 Sq. Ft.
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Downtown Plymouth

*Limited offer, subject to availability.

Meadowbrook Townhomes Condominiums

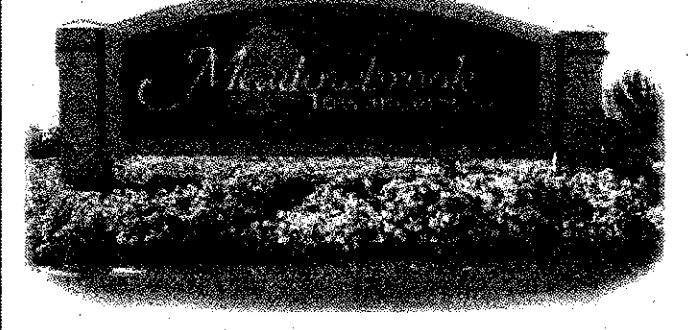


Conveniently located South of 15 Mile Road. West off Meadowbrook Road. Easy Access to M-5 and Twelve Oaks Mall.

Affordable Pricing Starting at \$229,900

Offering 12 distinct two story floor plans, a few with first floor master suites, 2 & 3 bedroom plans, ceramic baths, 9 ft. ceilings on main floor, first and second floor laundry rooms, full private basement with rough plumbing for bath, some daylight and walkout sites, 2 car garages, volume ceilings, walkout paths, and low maintenance fee. Walled Lake Schools.

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- Electric Range
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 - Microwave • Dishwasher • Disposal
 - Central Air
 - Deck (200 Series Units Only)
 - Hardwood Floors in Kitchen and Nook (100 Series Units Only)
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Model Hours are Saturday & Sunday 12:00-5:00 pm.
Weekdays 1:00-5:00 pm (Closed Thursday).

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\$5000 off base price or upgrades if purchased by Feb. 15th, 2004

- Canton Living at It's Finest**
- Take advantage of Pre-Model Pricing!!**
- Standard Features Include:**
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 - Full Basements
 - Hardwood Flooring
 - Ceramic Baths
 - Oak Cabinets w/Raised Panels
 - Open Oak Hand Rails
 - 12 x 12 Decks
 - Central Air Conditioning

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It's time to brush up on housing financing options

So, you've finally found your dream home after months of looking. Now you have to figure out how to pay for it. Before you shop for a mortgage loan, it's important to learn about the many options available to you.

A mortgage is a long-term loan used to buy a home. The home you are buying is generally used as collateral to secure the loan. Mortgages are most often described by their terms, such as the time frame for repayment, and whether the interest rate is fixed or adjustable. The most common loans available today include conventional mortgages, adjustable rate mortgages, Federal Housing Administration loans and Department of Veterans Affairs loans.



Stuart Michaelson

pays off the principal and interest on the loan in 360 equal monthly payments. The 15-year fixed rate mortgage is paid off in 180 equal monthly payments. A 15-year mortgage typically requires larger monthly payments than a 30-year loan, but allows an individual to pay off a mortgage in half the time, as well as substantially save on interest payments.

You can also save a considerable amount of interest if your mortgage lender allows you to make bi-weekly mortgage payments. With a bi-weekly mortgage, the borrower makes half the regular monthly payment every two weeks. Because there are 26 two-week periods in the year, the borrow-

er makes the equivalent of 13 monthly payments each year. This allows the borrower to complete payment of a 30-year mortgage within 16 to 22 years.

ADJUSTABLE RATE MORTGAGES

With a fixed-rate mortgage, the interest rate stays the same during the life of the loan. But with an ARM, the interest rate changes periodically, usually in relation to a specific index, such as the national average mortgage rate or the Treasury Bill rate.

Lenders generally charge lower initial interest rates for ARMs than for fixed-rate loans. This makes the ARM easier on your pocketbook at first than a fixed-rate mortgage for the same amount. It also means that you might qualify for a larger loan because lenders sometimes make this decision on the basis on your current income and the first year's payments. Moreover, your ARM could be less expensive over a long period than a fixed-rate mortgage - for example, if interest rates remain steady or move lower.

Against these advantages, you have to weigh the risk that an increase in interest rates would lead to higher monthly payments in the future. It's a trade-off. You get a lower rate with an ARM in exchange for assuming more risk.

FHA MORTGAGES

The Federal Housing Administration operates several low down payment mortgage insurance programs that buyers can use to purchase a home with a down payment of five percent or less of the sale price of the home. The most frequently used FHA program is the 203(b) program, which provides for low down payment mortgages on one- to four-family residences. The maximum loan amount

for a one-family home in Wayne, Oakland or Macomb counties is currently \$175,750. FHA-insured loans are available from most of the same lenders who offer conventional loans.

Veterans Affairs loans are also widely used to finance homes. Through the Department of Veterans Affairs Guaranteed Loan Program, qualified U.S. veterans, active service members, and reservists can obtain home loans without making a down payment. First-time VA borrowers only pay a one-percent funding fee, which can be rolled into the loan.

Stuart Michaelson is 2004 president of Building Industry Association of Southeastern Michigan. He is also president of the Windmill Group in Farmington Hills, and has been a master builder for 20 years.

CONVENTIONAL MORTGAGES

A conventional mortgage is a loan that is not insured or subsidized by the government. Lenders typically require a down payment of at least 20 percent, although you can put down less if you are willing to pay private mortgage insurance. PMI protects the lender if the homeowner defaults on the loan.

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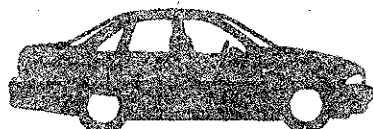
2004 Nissan Maxima refined, improved

Advertising Feature

CAReport



Anne Fracassa



**By Anne Fracassa
Avanti NewsFeatures**

Refinements and upgrades are what make this new Nissan Maxima as close to a fine luxury vehicle as you can get.

As the flagship of Nissan's growing line-up of vehicles that seems to fit nicely into every way of life and lifestyle, the Maxima proves itself worthy of the maximum balance of performance, comfort and value.

Now five -- can you believe it?!? -- five generations down the road from the very first Maxima gracing American roads, there is no change when it comes to exactly what this vehicle is all about: A four-door sports car.

And, for the first time since its birth in 1981, the Maxima is now assembled on our shores, at the Nissan manufacturing plant in Smyrna, Tenn.

Nissan first billed the Maxima as a performance sedan and it quickly took the front seat as a top-selling V6 import. Today's Maxima is no exception. Two models are available, the 3.5 SE and 3.5 SL. Both offer a host of delightful options including a new Skyview Roof that's standard equipment on all models.

Nissan promises you'll fall in love with this new Skyview Roof. The premise behind this neat option is that it creates an open-air above the front and rear passengers, while maintaining a solid roof structure.

Okay, let me try to explain. The roof has rectangular glass panels that start in the front and end in the rear. It has sliding sunshades that can easily block out the sunlight if you wish.

The best feature about the Skyview Roof is that it alters the interior of the Maxima by making you believe that the interior is actually larger than it really is. And, if you don't like the Skyview Roof, Nissan will allow you to option for the regular power sliding front sun roof.

One thing you'll notice right away when you slip behind the wheel of the Maxima is the amount of room within



The 2004 Nissan Maxima is one fine luxury vehicle.

the cabin. There's a longer wheelbase, larger width and larger trunk cargo space. With that added space, you and your passengers will have more comfort zones and the added cargo space will allow a few extras to fit in. Comfort of the driver was of utmost concern when designing this new Maxima. Nissan engineers took many hours to bring everything toward the driver and his/her comfort.

The steering wheel, instrumentation cluster and even the gearshift knob were moved strategically closer to the driver. Instrumentation, the center console stack and console itself are cleaner and easier to read. In the center, you'll find the essentials like heating and cooling controls, audio controls and the trip computer.

No reason to ever not use the Maxima on ultra-long drives. Go ahead, take it across the country. Stop only for gas, if you wish. The front seats are designed for it. They're billed as "low fatigue" seats and have special cross sections of the cushions and seat backs to offer the best support possible.

The driver's seat is an eight-way power seat and the passenger's seat is a four-way power seat. Both have height-adjustable head restraints. Go ahead and splurge on the optional driver's seat memory system that readjusts the seat, steering wheel and outside mirrors at the touch of a button.

There are four seats in the Maxima, all of which virtually look the same. It was done that way for a purpose. Available on the Elite Package, the ever-so-boring rear bench seat has been replaced with two independent bucket seats. This treatment makes the Maxima even more sporty.

Sure, it eliminates the five-passenger seating option, but it certainly looks cool and creative. Makes it look more like a two-door sports car without the hassles of getting in and out of the front doors. Just how many people really need the five-passenger seating option, anyway?

Nissan didn't ignore any safety issues with the Maxima, further enhancing crush zones, dual-stage front air bags with seat belt sensors, side curtain and front-seat side-impact air bags. There are active head restraints, emergency inside trunk release and the child seat anchor system as well.

Let's get to the heart of the matter -- exactly what's under the hood. The Maxima is powered by Nissan's VQ 3.5-liter that has won eight awards as one of the ten best engines. This dual overhead can 24-valve V6 produces 260 horsepower and has a tuned exhaust that makes it sound just so sweet.

Of course, this engine is mated to a standard 4-speed electronically controlled automatic transmission with a gated shifter. The SE model allows you to have a 5-speed automatic with a manual shift mode, too.

And for the really serious driver, a 6-speed close-ratio manual is option on the 3.5 SE models.

Ride characteristics and handling are taken care of by a luxury-tuned and performance-tuned suspension that provides a solid feel and a superb ride. I can't image ever wanting to get out of the Maxima once you've started rolling.

Go ahead, take it for a spin.

Write Anne Fracassa at avanti1054@aol.com.

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