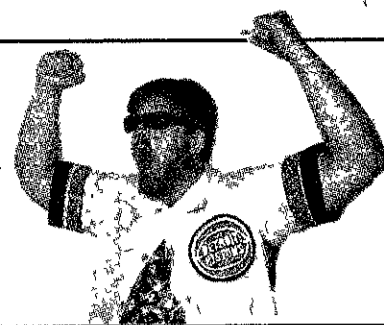


Tools require safe handling around the home - At Home, B1

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Celebrating Cinco de Mayo

TASTE, PAGE B5

THURSDAY
May 5, 2005

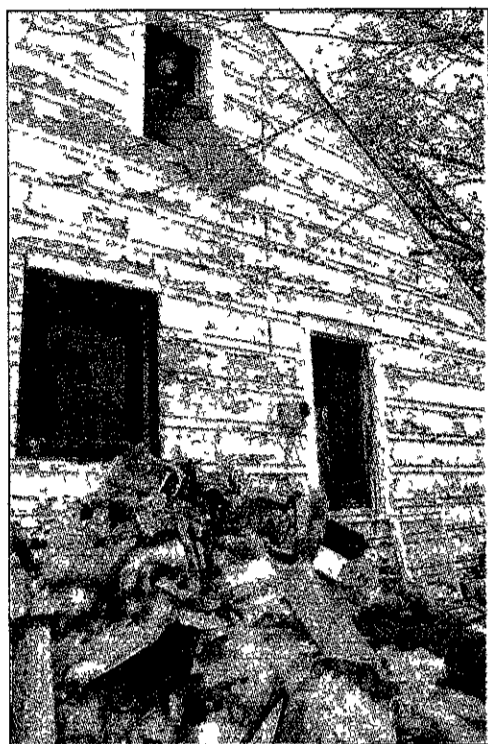
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Gary Hafemeister, of Plymouth, removes old insulation and other unwanted items from the attic of one of the Canton homes volunteers worked on during the Christmas in Action event on Saturday.

Hundreds of volunteers spread Christmas cheer at 'wonderful event'

BY NANCY DEUTSCH
CORRESPONDENT

For several Canton residents, Christmas came a little early this year. On Saturday, their gift bearers didn't bring the typical brightly colored packages, but instead brought with them hammers, drills, rakes and other tools. That's when Christmas In Action volunteers went to seven homes in the Canton area and

PLEASE SEE VOLUNTEERS, A6



PHOTOS BY DONALD J. ALLEY

Al Farhat (top) of Big Al's Roofing helps direct other volunteers, Andy Kowalski of Phase 3 Construction and Ron Kowalski of Designer Additions during the event.

Voters hand 2nd term to incumbent

BY TONY BRUSCATO
STAFF WRITER



Wysocki

Voters in the Plymouth-Canton school district gave school board Vice President Tom Wysocki a vote of confidence by electing him to a second four-year term Tuesday.

Wysocki beat challenger Emily Florence of Canton Township 4,270-2,278. Wysocki outpaced Florence in five of the six communities that encompass the Plymouth-Canton school district, including his hometown of Plymouth, Plymouth Township, Canton Township, Salem Township and Superior Township.

Florence had the edge in Northville Township, 91-82.

"As a board, we've done a very good job the last several years managing the district, keeping valuable programs and a good staff," said Wysocki in explaining why he won. "This will give us more time to work together as a team."

Florence said she was pleased with her first-time showing, and said voters will see her again.

"You'll see my name on the ballot in the future," Florence predicted.

"I had a lot of encouragement from a lot of people, who told me to get more involved and come back. They liked my energy and attitude, and believe I would be a good person to work with."

While the incumbent generally has the upper hand in an election, not even Wysocki knew what to expect since a revision of the election law that called for municipal clerks to conduct school elections.

As a result, the vote count was double that of more recent school board elections, but still less than 10 percent of the nearly 78,000 registered voters.

Canton Township Clerk Terry Bennett said 7 percent of voters participated, but that included Precinct 32, in the northeastern section of the township, in which not one of the nearly 1,500 registered voters cast a vote.

"We were hoping for a larger turnout," said Bennett.

"People need to get used to the new election dates. Hopefully, that's an education process that will improve over time."

Plymouth Township had 15 percent turnout for the election, but it was aided by a millage vote for police and fire services.

Wysocki, who said he would like to become the next school board president when the board reorganizes in July, said there are a number of tough issues to resolve in the near future.

"We've got to decide on what we're going to do with Central Middle School, our schools are overcrowded, and we need to improve state funding," he said.

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Carjacker targets local man, eludes police during chase

BY CAROL MARSHALL
STAFF WRITER

A carjacking that started in Canton ended in a high-speed car chase into Detroit. Police had to abandon the chase before the culprit was caught.

Canton police were called Friday night to an apartment complex on Sandhurst

to investigate the carjacking, which occurred just after 11 p.m.

According to police reports, the victim, a 34-year-old Canton man, said he had parked his 2003 Ford Mustang Cobra, valued at \$23,000, in the parking lot near his home. He got out, and was unloading a few items from the car, when

he saw a man he had never seen before come out of one of the apartment buildings and start walking toward him.

"Hey, how you doing?" the victim said to the man, according to police reports.

Suddenly the stranger pointed a silver handgun at the victim, he said. The armed man told him to hand

over the keys, as well as his wallet and cell phone. The victim gave the man what he wanted, including the \$200 that was in his wallet.

The robber got into the car and drove away.

After the victim reported the crime, Canton police issued a "be on the lookout" for the car and driver. Police officers from Livonia and

Redford Township spotted the car a few minutes later. They pursued the car eastbound on I-96, but decided to abandon the chase at Outer Drive in Detroit when speeds reached 120 mph. The case is still under investigation.

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Dishin' dirt about Shakespeare

Playwright's show sets audience straight about 'The Bard'

BY BRAD KADRICH
STAFF WRITER

Gillian Eaton got her first professional acting role playing Sabrina in a production of *Sabrina Fair* back in her native England at the age of 16.

A local reviewer was so enthralled by the performance, he wanted to write Eaton

"moved like a Vogue model." Unfortunately, somewhere in the editing process, a typographical error turned it into a "vague muddle."

Her family teased her mercilessly (and good-naturedly) about that first review, but it's now easy for Eaton to look back and laugh as she brings a distinguished resume to the Village

Theater at Cherry Hill.

Eaton, who now lives in Plymouth with her husband, Randy (a Plymouth native), stars in the one-woman show, *Mrs. Shakespeare dishes the dirt ...*, Friday-Sunday. While she's won numerous awards for her acting and directing, this is the first

PLEASE SEE BARD, A4



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Gillian Eaton of Plymouth stars as Mrs. Shakespeare, which runs at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill this weekend.

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Coming Sunday
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Student artist honored

Canton resident Freya Thodesen-Kasparian, 9, won the first place in the Thomas Kinkadee/Jack & Jill Magazine cover art contest at the 15th annual Tulip Time Scholarship Games recently held in Indianapolis. Young artists from across the country between the ages of 4 and 12 competed for college scholarships. Freya earned a \$1,000 scholarship to the Herron School of Art of Indiana University/Purdue University in Indianapolis.

In addition, her winning cover drawing will be featured on the cover of a future issue of Child Life magazine. The event was sponsored by the Children's Better Health Institute, the non-profit publisher of seven children's health magazines.

Fishing derby

On Saturday, May 7, Canton Leisure Services will open the ponds at Heritage Park for its annual "Fishing Derby." The event will run from 8:30 a.m. until 3 p.m. in two sessions. The first session, for children ages 12 and under, will take place from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. The second session is for children 16 and under, and runs from noon to 3 p.m. There is a \$2 fee per child that will be collected on site. The ponds will be filled with rainbow trout and, as always, there is a three fish limit. There is no need for a fishing license or advance registration, but this event is only for Canton residents, so bring

your proof of residency. After 3:30 p.m. the ponds will be available for any Canton resident to fish. No fishing license will be necessary.

Local student heads council

Albion College student Ottavio Palazzolo, a member of Sigma Chi fraternity, has been elected president of the college's 2005 Interfraternity Council (IFC).

The IFC serves as the governing body for the six national fraternities at Albion College. Its purpose is to coordinate the efforts of all the fraternities to promote a positive, educational experience for all men who affiliate with a fraternity.

Palazzolo is a junior majoring in economics and management. He is the son of Paolo and Fay Palazzolo of Canton, and a graduate of Plymouth Salem High School.

Preschool applications

Creative Day Preschool, located at 48815 Cherry Hill Road in Canton, is accepting registration for the fall 2005 sessions. Creative Day is a developmental program, designed to meet the needs of children ages 3 and 4.

To obtain a brochure, schedule a visit, or receive more information, please call Creative Day at (734) 981-3990, or Director Elaine Savola at (734) 981-6470.

Homeowners to meet

The Canton Homeowners Advisory Council is set to meet at 7 p.m. on Monday, May 9, at Fire Station #1, just north of township hall. This

month's subject will be Property Management Companies. The guest speakers are Ron Duprey and Homeowners Association Insurance speaker Lisa Kennedy. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Toastmasters meeting

The local chapter of Toastmasters International meets every Wednesday, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Canton Coney Island, which is located at 8533 N. Lilley Road in Canton.

Members, who are from all walks of life and join for a variety of reasons, will learn to overcome fear; be more confident; think on your feet; hone leadership skills and improve oral and written communication in a fun, supportive and positive learning environment.

Membership is \$40 for the first six months, then \$30 every six months thereafter. Guests are free, always welcome and never required to speak.

For more information, call Bonnie at (734) 994-0569, or via e-mail at pretty-monarch@comcast.net

Chiropractor honored

The Michigan Chiropractic Association presented Dr. Ken Hughes, of Dearborn, with the prestigious President's Award for 2005. This award is presented to the member doctor who shows outstanding commitment and leadership in the advancement of chiropractic in Michigan.

Hughes, a former president of the MCA, has received numerous awards throughout his 19 years as a chiropractor,

including the Chiropractor of the Year award two times.

"I'm very pleased to have been selected, especially because the outgoing president doesn't usually get these awards," said Hughes. "I feel pretty good about that."

Hughes grew up in Dearborn and attended Henry Ford Community College. He went to South Carolina to receive his chiropractic degree from Sherman College in 1986 before moving back to Dearborn. In 1991 he opened his own practice, Hughes Chiropractic, in his hometown, and also has a practice in Canton.

Liberty Fest volunteers

Canton Township is seeking volunteers and parade participants for the annual Liberty Fest on June 18. The parade begins at 9 a.m. at Heritage Park, which is the site for Liberty Fest events. For information, call Debbie Zevalkin at (734) 394-5188.

Canton Concert Band performance

The Canton Concert Band will present its first annual spring concert, "Sky Music, A Celestial Odyssey", at 8 p.m. on Saturday, May 14 at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill in Canton. Tickets are \$8.

The evening will feature songs inspired by the sky, ranging from a movement of Gustav Holtz's majestic "Planets" suite, to familiar movie themes like *Star Wars*, *ET*, and Disney's "When You Wish Upon a Star." The band, formed last June, has now grown to 60 members. Small groups, including a flute choir and sax quartet, will entertain in the theater lobby before the

concert and at intermission.

Tickets can be purchased at Summit on the Park, 46000 Summit Parkway, Monday through Friday.

The Village Theater box office, located at 50400 Cherry Hill Road, will also be open two hours prior to each performance.

The theater will offer hot hors d'oeuvres from 7-8 p.m. for an additional \$8.

For more information or to purchase tickets by mail, please call (734) 394-5460 or visit www.canton-mi.org. For more information about the Canton Concert Band, contact director Jim Blough at jimb323@excite.com, or go to www.cantonband.com

Women's Expo 2005

Canton's 2005 Women's Expo will feature the latest information on women's health and wellness. The Expo will be held at Fellow's Creek Golf Club on Saturday, May 7, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Registration is available online or at the Summit front desk. The registration fee is \$20 through May 6, and \$25 at the door on the day of the event.

The registration fee will include: Free health screenings; a chair massage; more than 40 exhibitors; door prizes; gift bag; refreshments; and entertainment.

Please call the Women's Expo hotline at (734)394-5396 with any questions.

Pom/dance tryouts

The Salem High School Rockette pom/dance team holds tryouts for 2005-06 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. during the week of May 16-21 in the Salem High School gym.

A mandatory parent-student meeting takes place at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 18 in the Salem High School cafeteria. Tryout packets can

be picked up in the Salem High School general office.

Color Guard tryouts

The Plymouth-Canton Educational Park Color Guard — the flag spinning, rifle-toting, saber-slashing arm of the award-winning P-CEP Marching Band — is preparing for its fall season.

The Plymouth High School Cafeteria will be the site for workshops from 5:30-8:30 p.m. today and on May 9. Auditions will be held Tuesday, May 10, at the same location and time.

All current P-CEP students as well as incoming freshmen are invited to participate. Contact Jennifer Leseth at pembguard@aol.com or (734) 582-5666 for more information.

LaJoy office hours

State Rep. Phil LaJoy, R-Canton, will hold district office hours from 3:30-5 p.m. on May 9 at Van Buren Township Hall, which is located at 46425 Tyler Road.

Local residents are invited to meet with LaJoy to discuss state government concerns or issues.

No appointment is necessary.

Prayer observance

Residents of Canton will be participating in the annual "Meet at City Hall" today to observe the National Day of Prayer, and to pray for a moral rebirth of America.

All are welcome to meet at the war memorial directly behind the administration building to pray for 20 minutes, beginning at 12:20 p.m. The building is located at 1150 S. Canton Center Road, between Cherry Hill and Palmer roads.

For more information, call (734) 981-3442.

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Few residents cast votes in election

BY SUE MASON
STAFF WRITER

After handling her first school election, Westland City Clerk Eileen DeHart is ready to press for a change in the state's new election consolidation law.

DeHart would like the deadline filing as a write-in candidate moved from the Friday before the election to three weeks earlier, giving clerks the ability to cancel an election if the races are uncontested.

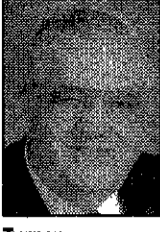
Her decision to lobby Lansing for the change comes on the heels of Tuesday's Wayne-Westland school election in which incumbents Ed Turner and Steven Becher were elected, Turner to his third four-year term and Becher to his first four-year term.

"It was a long day, it was a boring day," said DeHart. "We had to be here at 5:30 a.m. and stayed here until it was done."

The two men faced no challengers in the election which attracted about 3 percent of the district's more than 60,000 registered voters. More than 2,000 votes were cast in this year's uncontested election, far



Becher



Turner

exceeding the almost 900 votes recorded in the 2004 election in which had six candidates were vying for three seats.

Becher received the most votes with 2,277, while Turner received 2,219 votes, according to DeHart who coordinated the election.

She estimates that roughly 3 percent of the district's more than 60,000 voters cast ballots on Tuesday.

DeHart handled the election in the Westland, Canton, Dearborn Heights and Inkster portions of the district while the clerks in Wayne and Romulus handle voting in their respective communities.

Anticipating a low turnout, DeHart manned each poll with three workers, the minimum number allowed by law.

The precinct at Madison

Elementary in Westland was the busiest with 47 votes cast for Becher. Both men are well-known in the area. Becher taught at Madison while Turner lives in its attendance area.

One precinct, at Hayes Elementary, had no voters show up throughout the 13-hour time the poll was open.

DeHart said that the date change for filing as a write-in candidate would allow for the election to be canceled and the candidates declared the winners. It would also save school districts a large portion of what would be spent on an election. She estimates Tuesday's voting will cost the district about \$50,000.

"There would be some cost expended as far as absentee ballots and cards, but by being able to call an election if there is not challenge, would cut the cost by about two-thirds," she said. "It (a write-in) may never happen, but if you know enough in advance, you could end up not needing the election."

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Board debates allowing corporate sponsorship of township facilities

BY CAROL MARSHALL
STAFF WRITER

There could be Coca-Cola on township-owned gymnasium floors, or Budweiser beer on the scoreboards. The Canton Township Board of Trustees gave the initial nod to explore policy for private sponsorship and advertising for township properties and programs.

"We already have partners and collaborations as part of our strategic structure," said Leisure Services Director Ann Conklin. "We're always looking at ways to gain sponsorships."

The question is how much and how far to take it, Conklin said. The board had a discussion on its philosophical stance on sponsorships and partnerships with private businesses.

Canton currently has a list of more than 80 businesses, from ABC Warehouse to Zap Zone, that sponsor events such as Liberty Fest, and advertise at venues including the Canton Softball Center.

But most opportunities to raise revenue have so far been untapped. Conklin said that before the township staff starts investigating sponsorship possibilities she needed some direction from the board. If the township decides to seek advertising revenue from sponsors, now is the time to develop a policy on doing so, she added.

"So far there hasn't been the commitment or desire to do this," Conklin said, but the eco-

nomie conditions and the department's commitment to pursuing fresh revenue sources have opened the door.

Conklin said sponsors want to receive something in return for their money, especially in a challenging economy.

"The days of people just writing a check because it's a good thing to do are long gone," she said.

One thing residents don't want to see is renaming of Canton's signature programs.

"Every focus group we've asked has said they don't want to see Liberty Fest become 'Home Depot Liberty Fest,'" Conklin said. "But 'Canton Liberty Fest, sponsored by Home Depot' would be different."

On Tuesday, board members questioned if the presence of advertising in township-owned facilities would be offensive.

"Will this be negatively perceived by the public?" asked Trustee Melissa McLaughlin.

Though the presence of advertising is not offensive in itself, content should be considered cautiously, said the trustees.

"What I would not want to see is a company like Coke sponsor a gymnasium floor," said Trustee Todd Caccamo. "We have an epidemic of fat kids."

Maintaining control over content will be key, said Trustee Karl Zarbo.

"Done with the appropriate guidelines, you can get all the

control you need," he said.

One possible place for advertising is Canton's "Discover" magazine, which highlights recreational programs in the township. Direct mailed to 35,000 homes in Canton, the magazine could be attractive to advertisers, Conklin said.

The Canton Softball Center could be very attractive for advertisers, as well.

"At the Softball Center, Budweiser wants to sponsor as much as they can," Conklin said. Currently, Anheuser-Busch, which makes Budweiser, sponsors an annual softball tournament at the center.

Trustee Todd LaJoy encouraged the policy to include short-term commitments for advertising and sponsorships.

"The thing I worry about is losing the identity of Canton to commercialism," LaJoy said. "The shorter (the commitment) the better, as far as I'm concerned."

Township Supervisor Tom Yack said it's not likely that advertisers will be beating down the doors to sponsor every township property or program.

"What they look for is mass," he said.

"And the gymnasium floor at the Summit won't produce that. But Discover might."

The board agreed Conklin should research policy and potential advertisers.

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Incumbent Nodwell perseveres despite lack of support in Canton

BY CAROL MARSHALL
STAFF WRITER

Canton voters living in the Van Buren Public Schools district disagreed overwhelmingly with voters in the rest of the district.

Though incumbent Ralph Nodwell prevailed over challenger Andrew Wrenbeck, receiving 1,230 votes to Wrenbeck's 899, Canton voters favored Wrenbeck 2-to-1. In the two Canton precincts in the VBPS district, Wrenbeck won 164 votes to Nodwell's 72.

During his campaign to unseat Nodwell, who is entering his third term on the

board, 36-year-old Wrenbeck made an effort to reach out to Canton residents in his district, particularly the Canton residents who recently appealed to the Michigan Department of Education to be redistricted into Plymouth-Canton Community Schools.

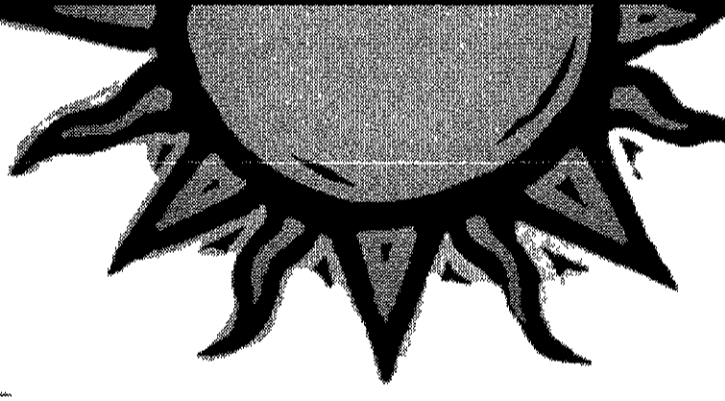
"We need to get better at dealing with Canton," Wrenbeck told a group of parents at a March meeting of the Canton Township Board of Trustees.

Overall, voter turnout throughout the district was higher than usual, according to Paul Henning, VBPS spokesman.

"Last year when we had multiple candidates running for two seats we had just over 1,000 voters come out. This year they more than doubled that," he said. "We attribute that to our grass roots effort to publicize the financial worries of the state and how that is affecting the education of the students here in Van Buren."

Nodwell, 71, who is a resident of Van Buren Township, had been elected to the board twice before, and was appointed before that. He has served nine years on the Board of Education.

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BARD
FROM PAGE A1

time Eaton has written a role specifically for herself.

The role allows Eaton - who started in England's Royal Shakespeare Company and now teaches The Bard at Wayne State University - to combine her two biggest loves: performing and Shakespeare.

"Shakespeare has been a big part of my life," Eaton said. "You have to admire the sheer stamina of his work."

The curtain rises on performances at 8 p.m. Friday, 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday. Tickets are \$15 apiece. Village Theater director Jennifer Tobin said Eaton's presence makes the play a must-see.

"I've known Gillian a long time," Tobin said. "But even had I not known her, Gillian's reputation is flawless."

Eaton has devoted much of herself to Shakespeare, in her teaching, in her reading, in her performances. She hails *The Tempest* and *King Lear* as her favorite Shakespeare works, once did a rap version of *Midsummer Night's Dream* at the Roper School in Birmingham, and is even working on an all-female version of *Lear*.

Oddly enough, though, audiences attending performances of *Mrs. Shakespeare* this week-end won't ever lay eyes on him. He exists in Eaton's play only as a voice-over performed by Eaton's friend, Loren Bass.

"She's decided she's going to tell the truth about her husband - he was a little bit naughty, he didn't come home all the time," Eaton said of *Mrs. Shakespeare*. "It's really about a middle-aged woman figuring out what that 30-year marriage to her husband was all about."

Eaton took the idea for her play from a book, *Mrs. Shakespeare, the Complete Works*, written by Elizabethan expert Robert Nye. While the play isn't exactly an adaptation of the book, it does make use of the book's "irreverent tone" in dealing with and explaining Shakespeare.

"I used the book as a jumping off point," said Eaton. "I've been a great admirer of (Nye's) perspectives on the Elizabethans. I hope I paid him homage, and I hope I spark an interest. I hope people go home (from the play) and read a sonnet."

Eaton has built an impressive career with extensive credits in film, theater and television on both sides of the Atlantic Ocean. She has won the Los Angeles Film Critics award for acting and directing, and she earned the *Detroit Free Press* Best Actress Award for her performance in *Elizabeth Rex* at Performance Network in Ann Arbor.

Before coming "home" to Plymouth with Randy, she worked in theater in Los Angeles, San Francisco and San Diego in addition to her time with the Royal Shakespeare Company. That's

THE BARD ON STAGE
What: *Mrs. Shakespeare Dishes the Dirt ...*
Where: Village Theater at Cherry Hill, Cherry Hill and Ridge in Canton
When: Friday, 8 p.m.; Saturday, 2 and 8 p.m.; Sunday, 2 p.m.
Tickets: \$15
Also available - tea in the lobby after the show, a chance to chat with playwright/actor Gillian Eaton.
For more info: Call (734) 394-5484

Gillian Eaton says her one-woman play allows the character to 'tell the truth about her husband.'

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

all after growing up in a blue-collar family where her mother was an artist and her father a farmer. Arts was a "way of expression" for her family.

"The arts served my family as a way of laughing together," Eaton said.

She's passed that love of arts to her own family. The Eatons have one son who does design work for Ford and two others who are artists in New York. In fact, Randy Eaton runs the toy, design/manufacturing firm owned by a son. They also have a daughter who is a stage manager at the Milwaukee Repertory Theatre.

"I think we're all involved in the arts in some way," Eaton said. "I was never told you couldn't make a living at this."

It's her professional bona fides that make Eaton a natural for a performance at the Village Theatre at Cherry Hill, according to Tobin.

"For our first season, we wanted to make sure everything worked," Tobin said. "Bringing in professionals was a way to do that, and Gillian certainly fits that description."

Gillian was equally effusive about the Village Theatre, citing the facility's ability to establish "an intimate atmosphere" despite the fact it seats 400 people. Now she just wants the people filling those seats to enjoy themselves.

"I hope they laugh a lot," Eaton said of the audience. "There's very little actual Shakespeare, but if they know a little, it'll be very fun. I hope (audiences) find it funny."

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To Russia with love

Local women raising money for mission to Russian orphanages

BY CAROL MARSHALL
STAFF WRITER

Kara Brackney never used to smile the way she does now.

Hopping onto a step on the back of a transport truck, her blonde pig-tails bouncing, the 4-year-old reached out her hands and a broad smile stretched across her round-cheeked face as she fell into her mother's arms. Just a year ago, when her mother, Tara Brackney, brought her to her new home in Canton from a Siberian orphanage, Kara looked very different than she does today.

"She was in bad shape. She was malnourished, and her head was shaved - they shave all the children's hair because of lice. She had bruises and bite marks all over and she was really sick," said Tara Brackney, who, in June, will be one of nine people making a mission trip to two Russian orphanages.

The mission group is holding a fund-raiser yard sale May 6-7, on Ford Road at Lotz in Canton. Over the weekend the group, coordinated

by Solid Rock Bible Church in Plymouth, has been loading a truck full of donations for the super-sized sale.

"It will be more like a flea market than a yard sale," said Lesley Lee of South Lyon, who will also be making the 16-day trip in June.

Lee, who is herself adopted, has a warm place in her heart for unwanted children.

"I'm going to help because we have so much, and these kids have nothing," she said.

Lee's 11-year-old daughter, Chandler, agreed.

"I want to help the children because I've never been without food or love or clothing," she said.

The group will go to the baby homes (they don't call them orphanages because 65 percent of the children are abandoned, not orphaned), and do repairs on the buildings, bring food, cash and supplies, clothing for the children, and most importantly, love and support for the staff who work there.

"The care givers have a tendency

to just shut down emotionally. They have to because there is no way you can go to work there every day and be attached. It would just hurt too much," said Bobbi Radeck of Canton, who will also make the trip. "So we're going to go love on them and make them feel good about what they do."

The conditions at the baby homes are deplorable, even though the homes themselves are clean, said the women. The children are underfed, sustained only by soup and potatoes.

"Vegetables and fruits are a luxury, and they can't afford them most of the time," Radeck said. Besides being malnourished physically, the children are also starved for love and attention.

"I just fell in love with the kids," said Radeck, who is also adopted. "They just want love so badly you can't help but want to give it to them."

The yard sale will be held 9 a.m. to dusk May 6-7 at the corner of Ford and Lotz in Canton. The sale will be on the south side of the road, next to



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Chandler Lee (clockwise from left), Kara Brackney, Bobbi Radeck, Tara Brackney and Lesley Lee are holding a garage sale Friday and Saturday to raise money for Russian orphans. They will travel to Russia in June to distribute goods to the several orphanages.

Erhard BMW. All proceeds will help fund the mission trip, sponsored by Solid Rock Bible Church in Plymouth. For information, or to donate goods or cash, contact Bobbi

Radeck at (734) 674-2833 or Tara Brackney at (734) 748-4646.

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Boyfriend sought in shooting incident

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

Westland police were searching Wednesday afternoon for a gunman accused of opening fire on a van occupied by his girlfriend and their two children.

No one was injured. Authorities sought help Wednesday finding 24-year-old Charles Edward Withers,

described as a 5-foot-11, 170-pound black male with brown hair, dark eyes and a dark complexion. Withers was last seen wearing a dark shirt and light colored pants. Police Chief Daniel Pfannes urged anyone with information to call the Westland Police Department at (734) 722-9600 or Michigan Crime Stoppers at (800) 773-2587.

Withers was being sought following an incident that Pfannes said started about 2 a.m. on Belding Court, near Glenwood and Venoy in the city's Norwayne neighborhood.

Police received reports of shots being fired in the 33000 block of Belding.

"Upon arrival, officers investigated the matter and discov-

ered that a domestic dispute resulted in the male partner firing several shots from a long gun into a van that was occupied by his girlfriend and their children," Pfannes said in a statement he issued Wednesday afternoon.

The woman was inside the van with two children, including a 1-year-old girl and a 2-year-old boy. All three victims escaped injury.

Police surrounded the home and ultimately made their way inside, but they didn't find the suspect. As a precautionary measure, Wayne-Westland Community Schools officials closed two buildings close to the area - Adams Middle School and Lincoln Elementary School.

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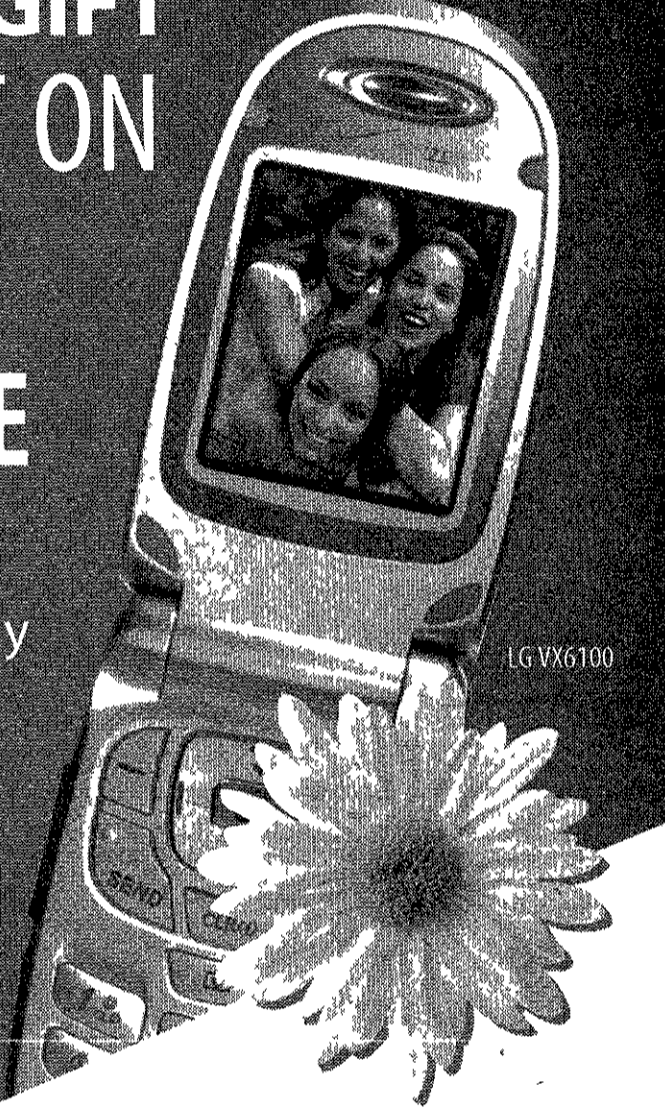
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VOLUNTEERS

FROM PAGE A1

renovated, repaired, cleaned and brought general good cheer.

Although this is the first year the event took place in Canton, Christmas in Action is actually a national organization that started in 1972 in Texas. Once a year, in April, volunteers collect whatever donated items are needed to fix up the homes of their elderly or disabled neighbors, who are financially strapped and unable to make the repairs themselves. Volunteers also complete all of the work that is needed.

The idea to bring the event to Canton started with resident Jim Cisek, who works for a developer in Oakland County, and saw people working on Christmas in Action there.

"I got to know the city program. I liked it so much that I thought I've got to do it in my community," Cisek said.

After getting Canton Township officials on board and enlisting several friends and acquaintances to help, Cisek started work on the project, which took about a year to organize. There were legal papers to file, equipment to borrow, volunteers to persuade and numerous other details to see to.

"Canton backs us 100 percent," Cisek said.

As a matter of fact, the township not only offered Cisek whatever it could in the way of space for meetings and services such as garbage removal, but various employees took part



DONALD J. ALLEY

Kurt Horton of Horton Tree Service in Garden City trims up one of several trees on the lot during the Christmas in Action event.

and others donated money to help out.

John Weyer, a township building official, joined the Christmas in Action board after Cisek asked him. He initiated a denim day at the township where employees could dress down for work for a donation to Christmas in Action. They netted \$500.

Altogether, through various fund-raising initiatives, the Christmas in Action volunteers raised \$30,000 to help fund various things needed for Saturday's event.

"It was nice to get support from other employees," Weyer said. Advertisements were posted seeking senior citizens or disabled residents who needed help with their home.

Only eight residents applied, and seven met all of the criteria: The home must be a house, not a condo or trailer home, and it must be owned. In addition, the owners must be financially strapped, as well as elderly or disabled.

Cisek thinks the number of applicants will probably increase every year, because the program is new and few knew about it this year. Cisek fully expects to make Christmas in Action an annual event.

"I expect to do 14 houses next year," he said.

If the number of volunteers who came out this year is any indication, he should have ample help. There were close to 300 volunteers of all ages, mainly from the Canton area. Many were skilled laborers whose expertise came in handy, but others simply came to help clean, rake or do whatever needed to be done.

George Shea, an attorney in Plymouth, filed corporate papers for the group and then helped organize the day.

"We're doing a good thing," he said. "We're helping some people who really need it. It's a wonderful community activity."

Rexanne Coyner, a 33-year-old from Canton, saw the need for volunteers on the group's Web site and spent her day doing what she could to help, which was "a little bit of everything."

"It's a great thing," she said. "It's helping out people."

One person who received help this year was Jean, who is almost 81 years old and has lived in her home in the center of Canton since her parents

bought the house when she was 16. Her home required the most extensive work of the seven homes. The home was in dire need of repair, requiring everything from a new roof, furnace, and porch, to some general yard work. The entire house was also painted and new siding applied.

"I need it all," Jean admitted, as she spent the day away at a friend's place while the repairs were being done to her home.

Even when her parents were alive (they died about 28 years ago), many of those repairs were needed, she said.

Hearing that so many volunteers would be in her home, Jean laughed. Her home is only 900 square feet.

"How can you get that many in that itty bitty house? But I'm real happy," she said.

The work on her home was actually completed mid-week because there was more work than anticipated, Cisek said, but the other homes, which required less extensive work, such as a new driveway, some painting or yard work, were finished on schedule.

Cisek is ready to start planning for next year, and he hopes to convince fellow communities Plymouth and Westland to participate in helping their own neighbors next April. "The whole day was absolutely fantastic," Cisek said. "We improved the lives of seven people. You get a warm feeling inside."

Volunteers interested in helping out next year can contact the Christmas in Action hotline at (734) 899-8400 or e-mail christmasinaction-wayne@comcast.net.

Shopping close to home, spending in NYC is all coming soon

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Shoppers who frequent Marshall Fields at Twelve Oaks Mall in Novi will soon have more space in which to shop.

The store announced plans to renovate and remodel, increasing the store by about 25 percent.

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According to McNamara, the three-level store, which opened in 1977, will be completely renovated and updated. Expect to see new flooring, lighting and fixtures inside, and a contemporary update to the store's exterior. According to Frank Guzzetta, president and chief executive officer, more means more.

"Following the renovation, guests will find more spacious departments, expanded merchandise assortments, and several new brands to choose from," said Guzzetta.

Construction is slated to begin next year and conclude in 2007. Once complete, the store will total almost 300,000 square feet.

More information can be found at fields.com.

MAKEOVER FOR MOM

Value City Department Store employees know what Mom's like. They'd like a dream weekend and a makeover in New York City. If that sounds like a mother in your life, enter an essay contest and your "most deserving mom" might just win.

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In celebration of Mother's Day, May 8, Value City Department Stores are sponsoring The Weekend Makeover contest. One grand prize winner will receive:

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Stop in at a Value City Department Store or go online at www.valuecity.com for contest entry forms now through May 7. In 125 words or less, convince judges why your mom deserves to win. Essays may be turned in or mailed to participating store locations by the deadline. First prize winners from each store will receive a spa basket and be entered to win the grand prize.

In Wayne County the participating stores include those at 36901 Warren Road in Westland and 29560 Seven Mile Road in Livonia.


Stephanie Angelyn Casola writes about new and changing businesses for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. E-mail tips on your new, favorite Wayne County shop to scasola@oe.homecomm.net or call (734) 953-2054.

Physical Therapy UPDATE
Hands On Center
Presented by Hands On Center For Physical Therapy
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While recumbent bicycles account for only about 1% of total bicycle sales, they are rapidly increasing in popularity. The bikes, which feature a laid-back riding position, are especially popular among Baby Boomers, who are seeking to relieve the strain on shoulders, arms, hands, and backs that may arise from leaning over the handlebars of a traditional road bike. When outfitted with full-sized seats, "bents" exert far less stress on the tailbone. Sitting in the reclining position takes the pressure off the upper part of the body. As an added benefit, recumbent bikes have a much smaller wind profile, which means they go much faster, especially downhill. In addition, recumbents offer a better view of the passing scenery than traditional bikes.

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WIN-WIN AGREEMENTS
When you are ready to negotiate a home purchase agreement, it's important to remember that a successful negotiation does not necessarily mean everyone gets what they want and no one goes home disappointed. "Win-win" is an easily misunderstood term. In a real-life "win-win" situation, some compromises are inevitable in the process of all parties coming to a fundamental agreement. The secret to negotiating a satisfactory purchase contract is to expect to make some concessions at the bargaining table.

Approach the meeting with a positive, open-minded attitude. Try to listen and stay sensitive to the other's point of view. Be clear about your priorities, but don't expect to prevail on every point. Stay focused on what you feel is truly important. Too often negotiations break down because people become fixated on issues of lesser consequence. When you become stuck on a point of contention as minor as the cost of painting the picket fence, be willing to split the difference. Above all, trust your real estate agent, who has the expertise to bring the proceedings to a happy resolution.

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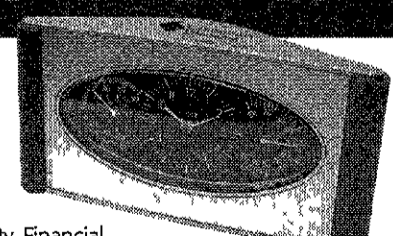
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POFOE0306457

Comic City to give away free comic books during annual event

BY CAROL MARSHALL
STAFF WRITER

Holy freebies, Batman! Comic lovers will be able to grab a stash of free comic books on Free Comic Book Day, May 7.

"It's a wonderful way to reward our loyal customers, as well as introduce comics to a new generation of young readers," said Jill Smethers, who owns with her husband, Bob, Comic City in Canton. "Comic books are an original American art form, and this is one way to demonstrate their significant influence on pop culture."

The store will celebrate the fourth annual event by giving away selected titles while supplies last. Titles include Star Wars, Batman Strikes, Betty and Veronica, Flight, Spider Man and The Simpsons. The event is observed by independent comic book stores worldwide.

The popularity of The Simpsons, Spider Man and Sin



Bob and Jill Smethers, who own Comic City in Canton, will be hosting a free comic book day on May 7.

City have generated a lot of interest," Smethers said.

She hopes that a visit from Spider Man will also draw some attention, as the web slinging super hero will make an appearance at the event from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Comic City is located at 42823 Ford Road. For more information call (734) 981-3561. The couple also owns two other Comic City locations, in Novi and Pontiac.

cmarsshall@oehomecomm.net



PHOTOS BY TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Walker-Winter fourth-grader Tasha Christensen takes her turn shoveling dirt around one of the trees the students planted to help the Rouge River.

Putting down roots

Walker-Winter students plant trees to aid Rouge

When teacher Mike Salminen told his fourth grade students at Walker-Winter Elementary in Canton that they were going to get their hands dirty in his class, he really meant it. Last week, Salminen's students, as well as those in Debbie Perkovich's fourth-grade class, put down the pencils and paper, and picked up shovels, so they could plant six trees on the school grounds.

According to Salminen, the school was one of eight Wayne-Westland schools to receive \$600 federal grants to purchase the trees, as part of a service learning project. In addition to providing shade, which will cool both the school and playground, the trees are also expected to stop stormwater run-off from the school's parking lot from getting into the Rouge River, which runs behind the school.

Canton Township workers actually dug the holes for the children, but they shoveled all the dirt that buried the root balls. They have also taken turns watering the trees this week.

Salminen said he chose this project for his students because it helps them connect to the school and the community.

"I wanted to do it because the kids take some ownership," he said. "They will be able to come back here years from now and say, 'Look what I did.'"



Kaelin Daniels drops a shovel full of soil on one of the six trees Walker-Winter students planted on school grounds last week.

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Yankee Air Museum launches \$55 million fund drive

BY HEATHER NEEDHAM
STAFF WRITER

Years before a fire tore through the Willow Run Airport's historic Yankee Air Museum, there were big plans to turn it into a historic hot spot.

Despite the October 2004 fire that destroyed the museum, that dream is still alive. A \$55 million fund-raising drive kicked off April 22 at the museum, amid flight demonstrations and unveiling of a Willow Run site plan that will include 11 new buildings.

Dennis Norton, president of the Michigan Aerospace Foundation, said the purpose of the restoration will be twofold - to educate visitors about Willow Run's place in history, and to take visitors back in time.

"From the exterior, we want it to look like the old Willow Run Air Base," Nelson said. "It will be kind of like a walk through history."

In the 1940s, Willow Run was the base of World War II B-24 Bomber production. Automaker Henry Ford brought his mass-production know-how to Willow Run, where more than 8,000 bombers were built on assembly lines.

World War II provided the backdrop for these pages in history

"The entire nation was mobilized for the war - it has never happened before and it's never happened since," Nelson said.

Willow Run also was a nerve center of invention and innovation, with many laboratories in operation. Aviator Charles Lindbergh even spent a couple of years at Willow Run, helping to test aircraft.

"There was a lot of very top-secret research going on," Nelson said, adding that strides were made toward inventing the laser at Willow Run.

The Ford Motor Co.'s Rouge facility made the parts, which were transported along what is today called I-94. Then, it was called the "Willow Run Expressway."

Plans include building a new Yankee Air Museum and

additional buildings, including a theater, aerospace and aviation educational facilities, an outdoor air park, aerospace library, restaurant, research center and meeting facilities.

To make all this happen, Nelson said big donations - preferably those with six or seven figures in the dollar amount - are going to have to pour in.

"We're talking big money," he said.

Eastern Michigan University wants to start an aerospace/aviation-based charter school at Willow Run. Under current state law, which capped the number of schools that could be chartered, additional charter schools cannot be authorized.

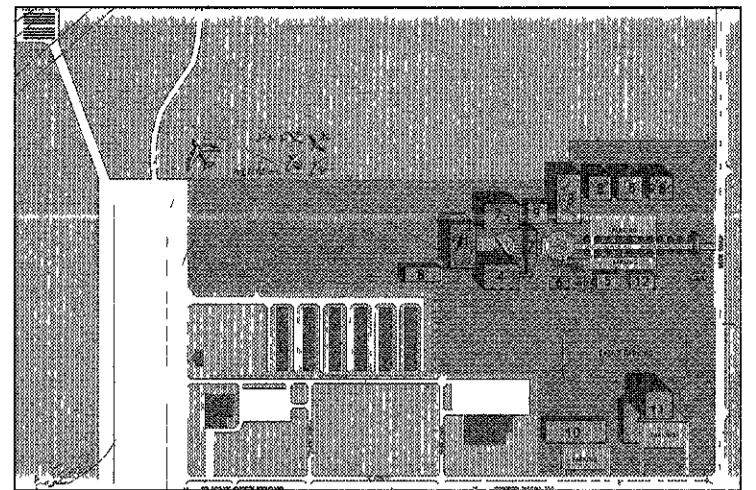
Tim Doyle, program coordinator for EMU's aviation management program in the School of Technology Studies,

said that being able to charter the school would be a plus.

"The primary interest in having a charter school with an aerospace focus is the chance (for aviation/aerospace) to compete with other careers that are rewarding to young people," Doyle said.

An aerospace-oriented charter school would help fill an educational niche.

"There is not a ton of these schools around," he said.



This is the proposed layout for the Yankee Air Museum restoration.

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Students to engage in hands-on learning

On May 18, nearly 6,000 students from 88 Metro Detroit schools will engage in hands-on learning and community service at dozens of sites along the Rouge River and its tributaries.

They will be participating in the Rouge Education Project, a program that promotes awareness and stewardship of the Rouge River watershed through school-based water quality monitoring, investigation and problem solving.

The non-profit organization Friends of the Rouge has coordinated the Rouge Education Project since 1987.

Elementary, middle and high school students from 33 communities will monitor biological, chemical and physical characteristics of the river, in many cases using methods similar to those used by professional scientists.

"The program is an incredible opportunity for students to gain experience in real-world science and provide a service to their communities by gathering information about the Rouge River," says Courtney Shosh, Rouge Education Project Coordinator.

"Also, as students learn about their local environment and what affects it, they develop a greater sense of ownership and responsibility to protect it. This is especially important in a highly developed watershed like the Rouge, where it's the individual actions of our daily lives that can cause the most harm to the river - such as how we care for our homes, cars and yards, for example."

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OUR VIEWS

Building doesn't have to harm Rouge

The Rouge River is actually a series of streams and tributaries, which drain much of metro Detroit, including all of Canton Township. All these "branches" ultimately come together in the Dearborn area to form the main stream of the Rouge. So when you are trying to gauge the health of the Rouge, it really depends on where you look.

It is no secret that most of the watershed has been the equivalent of an open sewer for generations, because we have used it as a dumping ground for everything from raw sewage to polluted stormwater runoff. Nowhere is this more evident than in the Lower Rouge River, which traverses Canton from west to east, before moving through Wayne, Westland, Inkster and Dearborn. Much of the area around the Lower is highly urbanized, and the stream has the scars to show it. The exception is in western Canton, which up until recently was still rural. In the area around Cherry Hill Village, the Lower Rouge is a small, clear-running stream that is considered part of the headwaters of the Rouge system.

Friends of the Rouge, a nonprofit organization that has been monitoring the health of the Rouge River for nearly 20 years, says this is one of the most critical areas of the entire watershed, largely because it still possesses wetlands, which filter out pollution. Not only does it add cool, clean water to the system, this portion of the river also provides important habitat for spawning fish, including a growing steelhead population, and other sensitive aquatic life including stoneflies and caddisflies.

But development around Cherry Hill Village is booming, and the Lower Rouge is starting to feel the pinch. Last year, Biltmore, the Troy-based development company, cut down nearly all the vegetation along the river where it runs next to Cherry Hill Road, just west of Ridge, so it could install a water main that will feed a new subdivision that is going up.

Recently, another developer - Ivanhoe Huntley Cos. - applied to fill wetlands in the area, so it can build roads for the soon-to-be built Cherry Hill Commons subdivision. The wetland area is less than an acre, which means it is not regulated by the state. The company is planning to replace the wetlands with two retention ponds that will collect flood water and stormwater runoff from the subdivision.

Canton officials often tout the township's record when it comes to protecting its natural resources. This is an opportunity for the township's planners to prove the claim, and work with the developer to insure these wetlands - and ultimately the stream itself - be preserved in some manner, and prevent it from showing the same scars as the rest of the Lower Rouge.

Motherhood: There's no job more valuable

A mother may also be a surgeon, judge, CEO or CPA, but raising her children will always be the most important job she does.

Study after study documents the influence a mother has on her children - from how well they perform in school to how well they get along with others.

It's no wonder. A mother carries her baby in her womb for nine months, forming a close bond unlike any other. She is her child's first teacher, imparting life's most important lessons - including those about love, compassion and caring - during those critical formative years.

Even in homes where both parents work, mom often continues to be the primary caregiver. She's more likely to pass up promotions, limit out-of-town travel and take time off around her children's schedules so she can be with her children as much as possible.

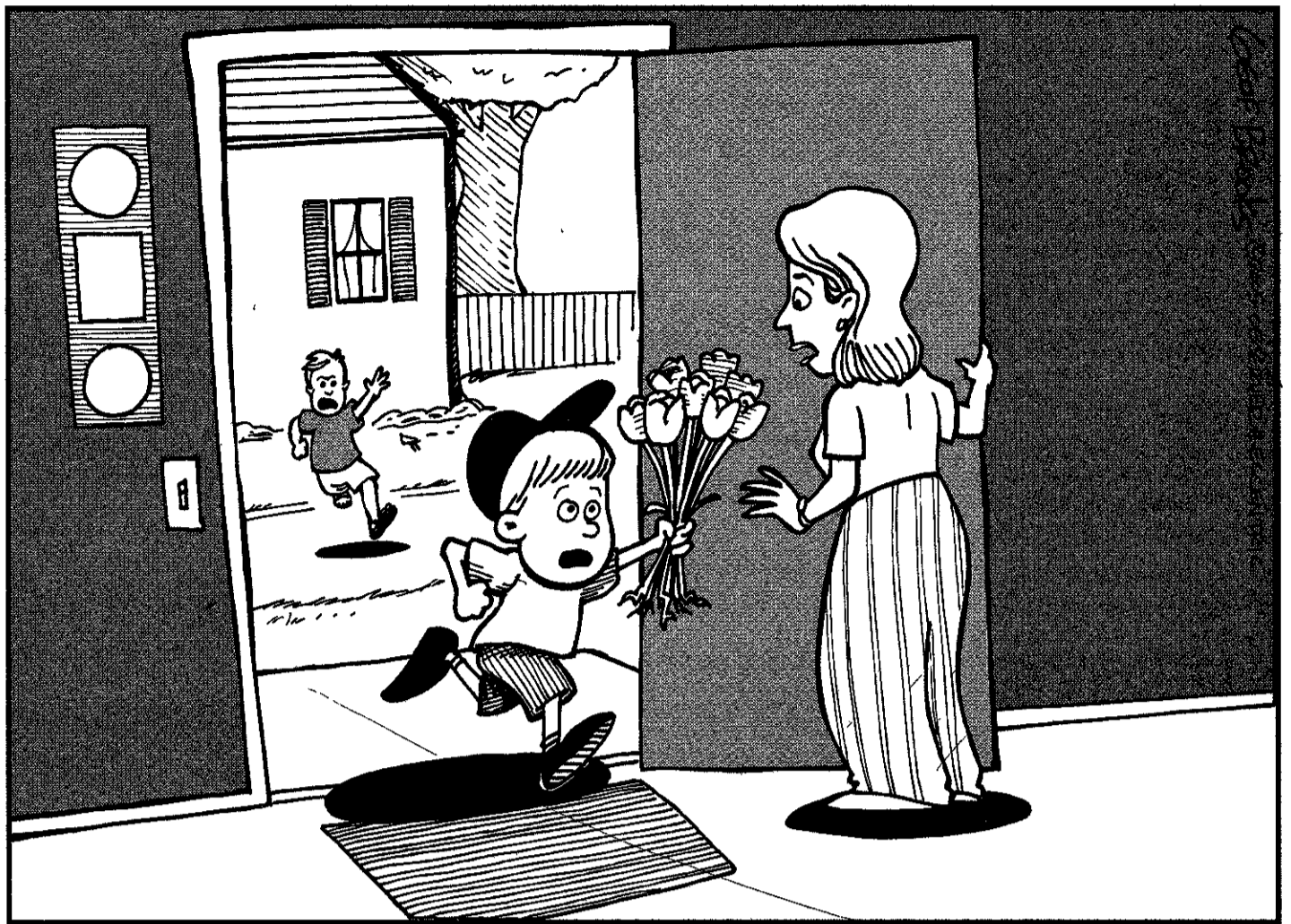
Long after her children are grown, her legacy lives on - in the way her children parent their children and then their children parent their children. From one generation to the next, the values she imparted are handed down.

If you are in the throes of parenting - especially as the mother of a tot or teen - take heart: Your days may be long and your nights sleepless, but these years pass quickly. You will not regret the time you spend with your children, holding them, praying for them, watching over them, supporting them.

If you appreciate the sacrifices your mother made for you - and you're fortunate to still have her around - thank her. Tell her how much you love her.

If you know a single mother who could use a little encouragement, help her anyway you can. She needs it.

If you are considering becoming a mother, know there is no more important job on Earth - or any that is more rewarding.



"Happy Mother's Day, Mom! Quick, say thanks before Mr. Benson gets here!"

LETTERS

Great program for girls

On Saturday, April 16, I was a first time presenter at the 2005 Girls Excel in Math and Science program (G.E.M.S.) that was held at Plymouth High School. This year's theme was "Math and Science: Treasures for your Future." The conference focused on careers dealing with math and science for middle school girls. There was a diverse choice of sessions for participants to choose from including 11 hands-on sessions and 14 role model sessions.

I felt that the G.E.M.S. program was an excellent opportunity for students to learn about future career choices. In my session on the topic of ergonomics, I found participants to be focused and prepared to learn. The event was organized and appeared to be fun for the participants. I am sure that many hours of hard work went into planning the event. I applaud the teachers, volunteers and students who worked on and who attended this program. This was a great way for girls to learn about career choices for their future.

Roxanne Gill
Canton

Confused about Caccamo

The April 28 *Observer* article about Trustee Todd Caccamo left me very confused. According to that article, Caccamo said he wanted to protect citizen participation in government and citizen oversight, but then he argued against a rule change that would allow all four board of trustee meetings each month to be televised. Mr. Caccamo wanted to keep two meetings per month as "study sessions," which are not televised. How does that facilitate citizen oversight?

Then Mr. Caccamo expressed concern that some current or future board members might "try to slip issues past the public," but he argued against a rule change that would prevent new issues to be raised at the last minute. The other trustees (according to the article) voted to ensure that the public would be given advanced notice of all issues, so they could attend the meeting and address them if they wanted. Mr. Caccamo wanted to retain the trustees' ability to ambush the public by bringing up an issues at the last-minute.

I am certainly confused about Mr. Caccamo's positions. Did the reporter get things mixed up? Or did Mr. Caccamo?

George Shea
Canton

Outstanding softball coverage

Thank you for your outstanding high school softball coverage. I have enjoyed following prep sports, especially softball, in the *Observer* for years. The softball coverage is the best it has ever been.

I also liked the article on Robert Mitchell. He helped me work the hot dog stand when my daughter played softball at Canton, and I took an immediate liking to the kid. He was always around with an upbeat attitude, and I found him a good, calming influence when I was stressing out while watching my daughter pitch.

Tom Roelofs
Plymouth

Changing meaning

It is amazing how the meaning of some words has changed with passing time, mostly for the worse. One so adversely affected is the word liberal.

Originally used in the positive sense; now, in most people's minds, it connotes immorality, Marxism, something that is undesirable, even in some respects evil.

We sincerely trust that our newly elected pope will not "turn out to be more liberal than we know from his record" ("Benedict XVI won't, can't be same man he was as cardinal," *Observer*, April 21) as suggestively speculated by some.

We also trust that Pope Benedict XVI will not be "a very different person" from that of the former Cardinal Ratzinger, willing to make changes "to accommodate the modern-age" evils, despite insinuations to that effect by the church's detractors, subversives and whomever else. These truly are "the beliefs of his parishioners around the world."

Unlike man-devised constitutions and laws which may be changed, manipulated or interpreted and re-interpreted even beyond recognition, those based on the universal law of God Doctrine of the established by Our Savior Jesus Christ Himself and inspired by the Holy Spirit Catholic Church and her ages-old holy tradition must not, and cannot, be changed at will, even by the popes. So why speculate, insinuate, instigate?

Joseph Wira
Plymouth

Supports Bolton

Fred Bolton's nomination to be ambassador to the United Nations would assure our country's participation in the world organization be one that would exist to seek true peace and understanding. The socialist goals of the "world society" need to be contradicted and discouraged.

The socialist influence and present domination in the world body is worse than scary. The leftism and socialist predominance has been a fact for decades.

The oil for food scandal has apparently been weathered by the participants grabbing billions available for plunder. Annan, innocent until proved guilty, yeah, didn't neglect to include family and friends when distributing the largesse. Or is Annan among the world's most stupid pretending the peace and prosperity mantra, invoking and incanting as he mysticizes among the sheep at the "nation?"

A man like Bolton is needed to represent our country if our wish is to continue our participation. We need the fox, not the hound dog, skunk, nor laughing hyena, to preclude the one-world order.

Neil Goodbred
Livonia

Reducing democracy

I listened to a discussion of several conservative politicians from Germany last week. The conservatives were calling for less democracy in their country. They felt unions and the ordinary majority of

the people had too much control in the governance of the citizens and in essence left politicians with too little control to manipulate the government.

It is baffling considering the direction of this country and the agenda of the current administration. Conservative Germans call it reduced democracy and our administration calls it less government.

The Republican Party has struggled with the English language for years, in particular, democracy. (Irony for a party siding with English-only education.) The conflicts of the rhetoric and results of action are numerous.

The democratic idea of freedom of speech, according to the Republican administration, is for a select few, not the majority. Mr. Bush's campaigns across the country do not allow the freedom of all its citizens to question Mr. Bush's agenda or programs, only citizens committed to allegiance to his ideas.

Mr. Bush also supports his religious beliefs to be law, not laws tolerant of the beliefs of all the people within the country and certainly not laws built from the consensus of all citizens.

The 500 or so soldiers in Guantanamo Bay prison camp being locked up in inhumane conditions in full knowledge of this administration deny their freedom to be judged fairly and speedily. The administration is trying hard to ramrod extremist judges onto the federal appeal court even going as far as rewriting procedures established over many administrations.

What the Republicans are calling shrinking of government is really a call for reducing democracy. Every recent Republican administration has campaigned for a smaller government, but actually increased the size of government saddling the citizens with even greater burden and less freedom.

The phrase Mr. Bush uses quite frequently, "I believe in my heart," can be added to a thesaurus and interpreted as, "I know I am lying, but you have to suck it up anyway."

Allan Biber
Westland

SHARE YOUR OPINIONS

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

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

QUOTABLE

"I have nothing against the city of Detroit. But why should county taxpayers send money to the city of Detroit so that Wayne County can fix up their parks? Don't collect tax money in Canton and send it to some other community."

- Canton Township Supervisor Tom Yack, on his opposition to a renewal of the Wayne County parks millage, which expires at the end of 2005

Here's one idea for fixing our broken political system

In last week's column, I argued that our politics have become excessively partisan, sterile and uncompetitive, largely because both political parties have mastered the art of gerrymandering boundaries so that the vast majority of districts are now virtually always for one party or the other.

The political process has been further distorted because activist partisans of both left and right often hijack our primary selection process by nominating candidates who are extremists of one sort or another. That, in turn, causes each party to largely play to its hard-core supporters, meaning that all too often, reasonable moderates in both parties feel left out.

But what can we do about it? Lots of well-intentioned people have proposed fixing the way district lines are drawn, but no solution solves the problem that partisanship will inevitably creep into any redistricting process. So I think we need to look at it in a new and different way. I've come to the conclusion that the core of the problem is not in the way that district lines are drawn, but in the fact that we have only single-member,

winner-take-all districts. Life is much more complicated than that. And way back in 1989, Bernard Apol, the universally respected Michigan elections director from 1967-80, wrote a paper for Public Sector Consultants in which he suggested we seat in our legislative bodies the two highest vote getters in each district.

Each would be allowed to vote on every bill — but their votes would be weighted to count just as much as the percentage of the vote they received in the general election. The Republican who won 70 percent of the district votes would have 0.7 of a legislative vote; the Democrat who won 30 percent of the votes could cast 0.3 of a legislative vote, and so on.

Here's why that would be better: First, it would do away entirely with gerrymandering. Each political party would get the same share of legislative voting power as it received in the popular votes across all districts, so there would be no point in fooling with district boundaries to guarantee election victories to one or party or the other.

Second, it would provide each voter, whether on the winning or losing side, with real representation. A Republican candidate running in Detroit might get only 10 percent of the vote, but the GOP split-vote representative would still have 0.1 of a legislative vote counted every time. Under our current system, citizens who vote for a loser wind up entirely unrepresented.

Third, it would make our political system far more competitive. Because in a split-vote system every citizen's vote would count, it would encour-

age each candidate to campaign hard and not take re-election for granted.

Fourth, it would curtail the tendency of each party to nominate the most extreme candidates. Two-member districts would give political parties new incentive to nominate attractive, middle-of-the-road candidates who can appeal to a broad cross-section, thereby increasing their total vote. Republicans would quickly realize it would be smart to nominate moderate candidates to run in Democratic areas to win the biggest possible share of voting power; conservative Democrats could run in Republican districts and emerge with enough votes to still have influence on policy-making.

Both party caucuses would be obliged to consider moderate voices.

Sure, there are problems with this proposal. Dual representation from each legislative district could double the numbers of legislators (God forbid!) and double salary, fringe and staff costs. One solution would be to create a unicameral (one house) Legislature, as they have in Nebraska.

Another, which I prefer, would be to double the size of each current district in both the House and Senate. That would give us a state House consisting of 55 districts, each represented by two legislators, while the Senate would have 19 districts, with two lawmakers for each.

Would voting in each chamber be unnecessarily complicated, with each member having a fractional vote? That would perhaps have been a problem in the old days, when many legislators were hard put to add fractions (or much of anything else) without squinting at their fingers and toes. But today's computerized tote boards could solve the problem of recording proportionate votes for each legislator in a nanosecond.

Apol concluded his paper with these words: "Of all institutions in U.S. society, none has changed less than our political process and governing structure. Essentially, we run for office and run government much the same way as we did in the early years of the 19th century. Our dedication to a vital, representative form of government requires us to question age-old conventions and to seek means to make government as accountable, responsible and fairly representative as possible."

Amen. Anybody interested in improving our currently sterile, bitter and increasingly ineffective politics ought to be excited about the possibility of a change like this. Of course, current incumbent politicians will pooh-poo the idea ... but what does that tell you? To me, that makes it even more clear that this is an idea whose time has come.

Phil Power, the former chairman of HomeTown Communications Network and regent of the University of Michigan, is a longtime observer of politics, economics, and education issues in Michigan.



Phil Power

Service clubs offer members fun, sense of satisfaction

It was back-to-school day last Saturday for a number of local Rotarians.

Jim Karolyi, district governor-elect, greeted a group from Rotary District 6400 during an assembly April 30 at Schoolcraft College in Livonia. After a brief review of Rotary International and district goals, it was off to Schoolcraft classrooms for training on everything from the Internet and Web design to how to be an effective club officer.

"It's really good," Garden City Rotary President-elect Richard Witkowski said of the district assembly. "I think there's a lot of good information that comes out."



Julie Brown

As Garden City's school superintendent, Witkowski believes he should be involved in his community. "It's a lot of fun," he said. "It's a good group."

Those thoughts were echoed by Cindy Bartlett of Plymouth A.M. Rotary, who will be district Interact chair for 2005-06. She works with Interact, Rotary's high school organization, at Plymouth-Canton Educational Park and was recruited to Rotary by daughter Meagan, a charter member of that Interact club.

"It's awesome," Cindy Bartlett said of the assembly. "It's a great way to expand and find out information that's available to you."

She cited Interact support of the club's senior Christmas party in December, which included making fleece scarves for seniors. The Children of the Dump project in Nicaragua has received P-CEP Interact support, as has the Relay for Life American Cancer Society fund-raiser set for May 14-15 in Canton. Students have also produced an anti-smoking program for youth.

"I just love working with kids," said educator Bartlett.

Youth exchange programs are also a big draw for Ron Gaffney of Livonia Rotary, a past president, board member and foundation treasurer for that club. He and wife Deanna have hosted students from Mexico, Belgium, Turkey and Colombia and enjoyed the experience.

"It's great," Ron Gaffney, who works in insurance with Cambridge Underwriters, said of the gathering. "I think it's something every Rotarian needs to attend. There's always something to learn."

Sue Kowalski, Canton Rotary treasurer, has been involved about 2½ years. She raised her family and then returned to school, working now as a certified public accountant. Three of

her five children have been Rotary exchange students, visiting Finland, Australia and Italy. The family has hosted a number of exchange students over the years, some through Rotary, and currently has a young woman visiting from Indonesia. "It's very rewarding," said Kowalski, who also benefited from her training at district assembly. Her club is putting a clock in at Heritage Park in Canton. "We're hoping to have it done by Liberty Fest" in June, Kowalski said.

Mary Carlson, secretary-elect for Westland Rotary, was glad she attended that training session and others. Carlson is co-owner of the C&M printing business in Westland.

"I thought it was very informative," she said, adding she especially enjoyed the idea exchange among members of clubs. Four Westland Rotarians attended Saturday's program.

"Because I love to do things to help other people and I think Rotary's an effective way to do that," Carlson said in explaining her involvement. "And it's a lot of fun."

There was time Saturday for lunch and visiting before the Rotarians went their separate ways. Many cited the energizing impact of such an assembly, and how it invigorates clubs to do even more to serve their communities.

Have you ever considered joining Rotary, Kiwanis, the Lions or another service organization? Membership, both recruitment and retention, remains a perennial concern for such groups, and chances are they'd be glad to have you.

Why not consider stopping by the next meeting of your local service organization? By joining, you'll gain the satisfaction of serving your community and the larger world beyond it. You'll make some great friends at the same time.

Julie Brown, a Rotarian, is presentation editor for the *Observer & Eccentric Newspapers*. She can be reached at (248) 901-2565 or via e-mail at jbrown@oe.homecomm.net.

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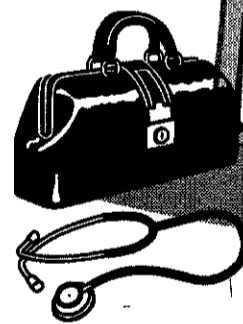
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Power saws make home improvement jobs easy, but users should be careful. Misuse and accidents causing contact with saw blades send more than 91,000 people to the emergency room every year.

Be careful when using ladders, saws and extension cords

BY KEN ABRAMCZYK
STAFF WRITER

One of the most potentially hazardous tools you use in the home doesn't have a sharp blade, a motor or electrical cords or wires. But it also sends more than 220,000 people to emergency rooms each year, more than lawn mowers and home workshop saws combined, said John Drengenberg, manager of consumer affairs at Underwriters Laboratories. Drengenberg was referring to ladders.

Home accidents increase once the weather gets warm. "We have accidents at this particular time of year in the spring, because we are in a hurry," Drengenberg said. "In the new modern America, we all have things to do. We drag out the ladder and the hedge trimmers, and all winter long we've waited for the warm weather. We want to get out to bike, hike and enjoy a

baseball game, so we want to rush through our chores."

Even stepladders can be dangerous even though they are smaller. "Even with smaller ladders, when you fall one or two feet, you create kinetic energy and you have a lot of energy there when you hit the ground," Drengenberg said.

BE CAREFUL

Whatever size the ladder is, you should take precautions before climbing. "You can just take a few seconds, to look at where the ladder is going to be placed and see if the grass is wet, sloped or the ground is slippery," Drengenberg said. "Put the ladder on a firm level surface and not on a slope or slippery grass."

"Make sure it's at a proper angle. Put your toes at the bottom of the ladder, and put your arms out straight. You should extend your arms straight

PLEASE SEE SAFETY, B4

Safety tips

EXTENSION CORDS

Underwriters Laboratories offer these additional safety tips when using extension cords:

Look for the UL mark which means that representative samples of the cord have been tested for safety hazards.

Store all cords indoors when not in use. Outdoor conditions can cause a cord to deteriorate over time.

Unplug an extension cord when it is not in use. The cord will still conduct electricity until it is unplugged from the outlet.

SAWS

Use the right saw for the task. For example, don't use a circular saw for cutting tree limbs or logs. A chain saw is the appropriate tool in this case.

Always wear safety glasses. Never wear loose clothing or dangling jewelry when using a saw. It can get caught in the saw's moving parts.

Never set the blade any deeper than 1/8-inch to 1/4-inch below the work piece. Kickback becomes more intense when there is more blade that can be pinched. Keep blades clean and sharp.

Use clamps or a vise to hold work in place. Never make cuts across the knee, foot or hand. Securing the work piece allows you to keep two hands on the saw and increases your control over a kickback.

Pay attention while making a complete cut. Alert users should feel resistance as the work piece or saw becomes harder to push through. In some instances, the blade may screech as it binds or slows, signaling a potential kickback situation.

If the blade begins to bind while making a cut, immediately stop the cut and hold the saw and work piece completely still. Wait for the saw blade to stop before pulling away from a cut.

Keep children away from the work area at all times. Never allow them to operate power saws.

Unplug or remove battery packs from all portable electrically operated power saws when not in use.

Sneak a peek inside the newspaper columnist's computer

Technology writers enjoy a special kind of celebrity. Readers, awed by our encyclopedic knowledge, tend to put us on pedestals.

Frankly, it's getting hard to walk down the street. I'm like some geek version of Paris Hilton, what with all the paparazzi, gawkers and throngs of people clamoring for PDA-buying advice.

To show you I'm just a "regular person," I'd like to invite you to browse my hard drive. See what makes Rick Broida so darn tech-savvy. *My computer is su computer*. Please, come in.

Ah, I see you've noticed my browser. I installed Mozilla Firefox (www.mozilla.org) a few months ago and haven't looked back.

Although it has compatibility problems with a few Web sites, it's signifi-



Tech Savvy

Rick Broida

cantly more resistant to spyware than Internet Explorer. Plus, it has cool features like tabbed windows and a built-in Google search bar.

Speaking of searching, a while back I wrote about Blinkx, a great tool for quickly finding documents, e-mails and other stuff scattered around your hard drive. I've since switched to Yahoo Desktop Search (desktop.yahoo.com), which I like even better.

We famous people are so fickle.

Now, if you'll just come with me - don't be shy - you'll see one of the most indispensable tools in the Rick Broida arsenal. It's called Mailblocks (www.mailblocks.com), and it has effectively made spam (you know, junk e-mail) a thing of the past.

Mailblocks isn't software - it's a service that intercepts your mail and lets only approved messages through to your PC. Senders you haven't pre-approved must perform a simple, one-time validation procedure. Automated spam systems are incapable of doing this, so their junk never gets through.

Now, when you're a Very Important Person like myself, you tend to accumulate a lot of Very Important Information - passwords, PINs, frequent flyer numbers and so on. I use

Passwords Plus (www.dataviz.com) to store, organize, access and protect my V.I.I.

So when I go shopping online (the better to avoid prying eyes), I don't have to wrack my brain to remember my password or turn the house upside-down to find my credit card number. I just fire up Passwords Plus and everything's at my fingertips. Plus, I can sync the data to my PDA, so it's available everywhere I go.

Spyware got you down? I'll let you in on a little secret: Microsoft Windows AntiSpyware (www.microsoft.com). This is now my preferred spyware detection, prevention and removal tool. It's a snap to use, and it provides real-time protection against spyware invasions - something you don't get from popular tools like Ad-Aware.

You can get the utility free from Microsoft - just tell 'em Rick sent you.

Finally, you'll often find me mastering virtual wargames in Command & Conquer: Generals (www.eagames.com), arguably the finest real-time strategy game of all time.

Just be warned: too much Generals can impact your productivity, causing your work to go in rather, er, lame directions.

Rick Broida writes about computers and technology for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. Broida, of Commerce Township, is the co-author of numerous books, including *How To Do Everything with Musicmatch* and *101 Killer Apps for Your Palm Handheld*. He welcomes questions sent to rick.broida@gmail.com.

Manufacturers report increase in appliances made in 2004

The year of 2004 was a good one for the appliance industry if you look how many products were shipped from manufacturers to the retail industry.

That number of major appliances reached a whopping number - nearly 78 million - and you could say, "that's a lot of steel."

Manufacturers have been hit with some serious price increases in steel and are fighting hard to keep prices competitive. Even so, the very common remark I hear from consumers so often is that they get sticker shock when they go shopping for an appliance.

Cooking appliances accounted for approximately 25.1 mil-

lion units shipped last year, which represented a 7.6 percent increase over 2003. Homeowners are adding more built-in electric ranges to their home's repertoire as consumers try to make the American kitchen a thing of beauty. Who can blame them? When family and friends visit, the kitchen is a popular gathering place.

Shipped microwave ovens totalled 15.2 million, an increase of 6.7 percent over 2003. Even though I think we reached the 100 percent saturation point years ago of microwaves operating in homes, you have to realize that microwave ovens are not made to last 15 years anymore. Also,



Appliance Doctor

Joe Gagnon

the product is less expensive than it was years ago.

The units for home laundry, which includes both washers and dryers, hit a figure of 16.7 million with 6.2 million electric dryers and 1.7 million gas dryers. I'm wondering if this big difference is due to the increases in the prices of natural gas and the fact that a gas dryer is \$30-40 more expensive at the point of purchase. We should ask today's electricians if they are installing more 220 volt outlets for consumers who want to switch from gas to electric.

In the kitchen clean-up division, which includes disposers, dishwashers and compactors, the numbers reached

almost 13.9 million. There were 153,000 portable dishwashers shipped compared with nearly 7 million built-in dishwashers.

Now, that's quite a difference in numbers and makes me wonder if any of us know people who still use a portable dishwasher. What about the increase in garbage compactors from last year (128,900, an increase of 2.5 percent) over 2003? I predicted these numbers would fall, and it just goes to show how wrong I was. It appears that consumers want to give their kitchens that final touch which gives them the ultimate.

In the food preservation category, refrigerators and freezers jumped 7.1 percent to 13.4 million. The numbers of freezers declined slightly.

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



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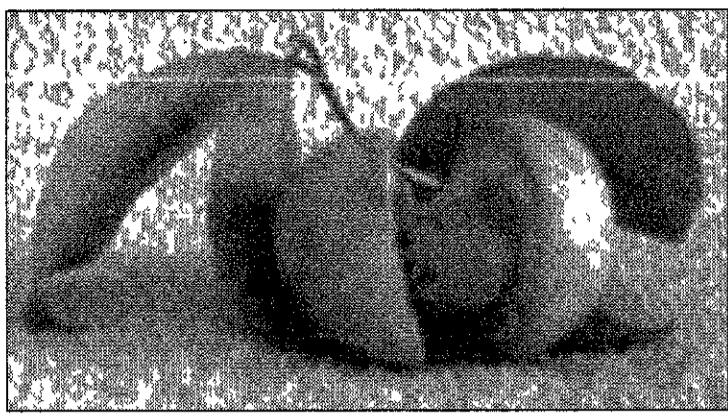
Shrubs stabilize your garden and yard

like shrubs. They add stability to the garden in several ways. Sometimes they're used to enclose a garden room, or fill a large area. Many times they are included in a mixed border; other time they are



Garden Spot

Marty Figley



MARTY FIGLEY

Nutmeg and mace are the only two spices found growing on the same plant.

used as specimen plants which really makes them stand out so you'll want to use one of your favorites. I like to watch and nurture a tiny plant from the time I place it in the ground, anxiously waiting for it to bloom for the first time. Whether it blooms or not, the different foliage makes an impact. As autumn approaches a new show begins as the leaves change color and fall to the ground and leave a silhouette to last through the winter.

I took a walk around the yard recently and it was very satisfying to see that the plants I put in the last couple of years are doing well. I'll share my findings with you so you'll have time to decide which one will find a home in your garden.

Rhamnus frangula Fine Line 'Ron Williams' began its journey in my garden when it was about six inches tall. The little ribbon-like leaves looked very healthy even though we had a hard winter last year. It will reach a height of 5-feet, 7-inches tall. Great in containers, for screens, and as accents they provide amazing textural contrast. One great feature of this Color Choice plant is the yellow autumn color. Fine Line likes sun to shade.

The budleas are showing green at the base. *Peacock, B. davidii* 'Peakeep' was also a tiny thing last year. The rich pink blooms of this butterfly bush will hopefully lure butterflies and hummingbirds. This is a compact size that will fit well near a porch or patio or in a mixed border. It likes full sun and will grow 4- to 5-foot tall

and 4- to 5-foot wide. Several hydrangeas were also added recently and they are showing green now. I anticipate their blooms this year. They will either bloom blue (in acid soil) or pink if the soil is alkaline. *Astrantia major* is new to me. I received it at a plant exchange. It, too is emerging from its winter home. *Astrantia* blooms from early summer in tiny green or pink, often purple-red flowers with star-shaped collars of pale pink bracts. It does well in moist soil and semi-shade.

I've joined iris and peonies in a side garden and last year it worked. When they begin to grow it won't be too long before they bloom. Whether you choose a something new-to-you or an old

favorite, experiment and enjoy the process.

Last year we had the pleasure to travel to Grenada, the Spice Island. There we took a tour though a small, but interesting botanical garden and also visited a nutmeg farm. It was fascinating to see the many, many nutmegs on racks drying in the hot sun. The nut grows in "layers." It has yellow fleshy fruit, rather like an apricot. Inside the ripe fruit, the nutshell is covered by an interlaced membrane, which is the bright red mace. Inside the shell the kernel of the fruit is the nutmeg. When it is harvested, the red mace mellowes to golden yellow when dried.

Mace and nutmeg are the only two spices found growing on the same plant. There is little comparison to freshly ground nutmeg and that found in a can. I can almost smell the delightful aroma now. The trees are said to thrive best where they are within sight of the sea. In the tropics, they grow in sheltered valleys in rich, sandy, well-drained soil.

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

GARDEN CALENDAR

Roses West

Roses West will meet 7.30-9.30 p.m. Thursday, May 5, at the Novi Community Center, 45175 W. 10 Mile. The program will be Tips on Exhibiting at Rose Shows, by Paul Scheel.

Planting roses

Roger and Nancy Lindley, owners of Great Lakes Roses, are celebrating spring with a series of free programs open to the public. Each presentation will last about 1-1/2 hours. Dress for the weather. Reservations aren't required. Great Lakes Roses is at 49875 Willow Road, between Rawsonville and Sumpter (Belleville) Roads in Sumpter Township, just south of Belleville. To learn about its roses, visit www.GreatLakesRoses.com or call (734) 461-1230 anytime to request a flyer.

How to Plant Roses, a slide lecture and hands-on garden demonstration, will take place rain or shine 1 p.m. Sunday, May 8 (Mother's Day); repeated 11 a.m. Monday, May 9.

Plant sharing

The Livonia Garden Club is sponsoring a Plant Sharing that will take place, rain or shine, 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, May 14, at Greenmead, Newburgh and Eight Mile in Livonia. Call (734) 425-6880 or (248) 486-9676 for information.

Herb study group

The friends of the University of Michigan Matthaei Botanical Gardens and Nichols Arboretum Herb Study Group will meet Monday, May 16, in the auditorium at the Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Road in Ann Arbor.

Lunch will be at noon and the meeting will begin at 1 p.m. Mary Light, local herbalist and naturopath, will discuss pet health. The public may attend. Admission is free.

For more information, call the Gardens at (734) 998-7061, or contact Joan Wycoski at (248) 349-5310 or jdwyoski@aol.com.

Faerie festival

Heavenly Scent Herb Farm's 15th annual Faerie Festival Spring Celebration will take place rain or shine Saturday-Sunday, May 7-8, at Heavenly Scent Herb Farm, 13730 White Lake Road in Fenton.

Hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday. Admission is \$1. The event will include free activities. Among these are storytelling 11:30 a.m. Saturday and 1 p.m. Sunday; Morris Dancers from Ann Arbor performing 12:30 p.m., 1:45 p.m. and 3 p.m. Saturday; and Faerie Parade/May Pole celebrations noon, 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. both days.

Nibble on wee faerie cake and taste sweet nectar punch. Enjoy faerie workshops. Create your own butterfly kite for \$8; bracelets with bells, colorful beads and a faerie for \$8; and a faerie purse out of leaves and flowers for \$12.

Visit the shoppe to find more than 100 of Cicely Mary Barker's collection of faeries for sale; handcrafted, colored copper mushrooms; faerie garden accessories; and mushroom faerie homes. Seek miniature plants, annuals, perennials, hanging baskets, herbs and other items at the greenhouse.

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SAFETY

FROM PAGE B1

at your shoulders and your palms should be open and rest on a rung."

Climbing the ladder should be "one step at a time, with two hands on the ladder," he said.

You also should always wear a tool belt (to hold the tools and not carry them up the ladder).

"You can't climb a ladder with just one hand," Drengenberg said. "If you put on a tool belt, you can support yourself and do the work up the ladder, or have someone hand the tools to you."

Cleaning gutters also harbor another potential danger. That activity can result in the ladder climber overextending by leaning outside the uprights, an absolute no-no on a ladder.

"You cause the ladder to lean and you have no control, and you go for a ride to the emergency room," Drengenberg said.

Homeowners also don't want to climb too high on the ladder (like standing on the top step), and users should show extreme caution on the top three steps.

Take a good look at the ladder first, too. Wooden ladders should be inspected for loose nails or loose steps, uprights or other structural problems before using. "Take a look at it, and if it looks questionable, get a new one. Give it a good inspection," Drengenberg said.

TOOLS

Whether you're remodeling a basement, fixing a porch or building a deck, chances are you'll use a power saw.

Power saws make any home fix-it job easier, but be careful: Contact with saw blades spinning at 5,000 revolutions per minute sends more than 91,000 people to the emergency room every year.

Kickback, a hazard inherent to all power saws regardless of brand or style, is a leading cause of power saw injuries. It occurs when the material binds or pinches the saw blade during a cut. In a split second, kickback can jerk the saw out of your hands or shoot the piece of wood you're cutting back toward you.

The most dangerous problem with power tools is the user does not place both hands on the tool when using it, Drengenberg said.

"If your hand is on the piece of wood while cutting it with a saw, your fingers are in jeopardy."

Best to use both hands on the saw. "If the piece of wood needs to be held, always use a vice or clamps," Drengenberg said. "You can make the cut quite safely."

EXTENSION CORDS

According to the Consumer Product Safety Commission, misused or damaged extension cords cause about 3,300 residential fires each year, killing 50 people and injuring 270 others.

"Look for frayed wires and cracked insulation," Drengenberg said. "Throw away the cord, you don't want bare wires out there. Get one that's long enough. Buy the orange or yellow extension cords for outdoors."

"If you use an electric mower, you should start your cut near the outlet, because

you'll be pulling the cord behind you."

When working with a mower, don't put your hands or feet under the mower, Drengenberg said. "You shouldn't cut grass in flip flops or tennis shoes," he said. "If you slip, you fall with your hands outstretched. When people get hurt and lose a finger, they always say, it happened so fast. Everybody says that."

"If you have to work on the mower to remove clogged grass, remove your spark plug wire and, if it's electric, unplug the mower. Compression can cause it to kick and make the blade spin, so you need to remove the spark plug wire."

Of course, be aware of your surroundings while mowing. "Mowers can throw a stone a great distance at great velocity," Drengenberg said. "A child nearby is in jeopardy or it could severely injure a dog or cat. These accidents do happen."

Read the label when you're

buying a new extension cord. "Labels carry valuable information about the use, size and wattage rating of the cord," he noted. "This can help you choose the right cord for the right job rather than overloading or misusing a cord."

"For example, outside extension cords are clearly labeled. 'Suitable for Use with Outdoor Appliances.' Using an indoor extension cord outdoors could result in an electric shock or fire hazard."

Cords are marked with a size or gauge. "The larger the wire, the smaller the gauge number," he explained. "A 12-gauge wire is larger and can power larger wattage tools than a 14-gauge wire." Check with sales personnel at the hardware store on the right cord.

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Information in accompanying charts courtesy of Underwriters Laboratories

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Cinco Mayo

Foods help celebrate historic Mexican battle



Vicki and Ramon Castañeda both work in the kitchen.

BY KEN ABRAMCZYK
STAFF WRITER

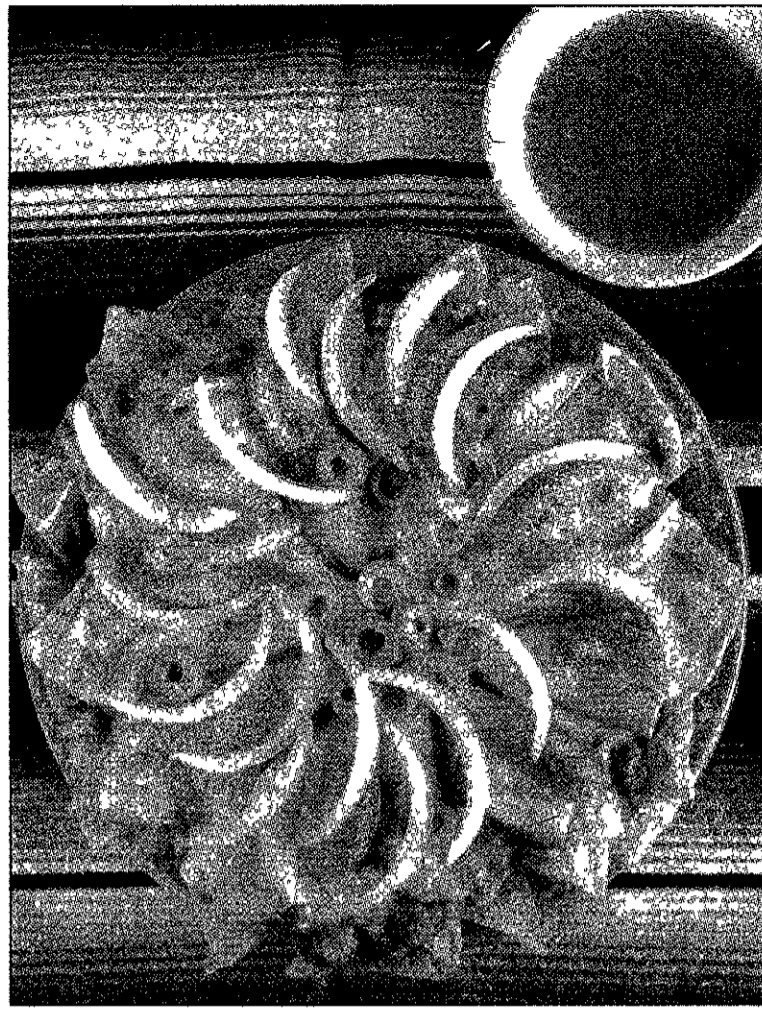
inco de Mayo, which is celebrated today, marks the victory of Mexican troops over the French in 1862 in Puerta, Mexico.

Lead by Mexican General Ignacio Zaragoza Seguin, about 4,500 men stopped and defeated a well-outfitted French army of 6,500 soldiers. While the French eventually took over Mexico with 30,000 more troops and installed Archduke Maximilian of Austria, the Mexicans - with the help of the United States in the form of political and military assistance - eventually expelled the French.

In Mexico, the actual Independence Day (Sept. 16) is a bigger celebration, but Cinco de Mayo is celebrated in many cities along the U.S. border.

Ramon Castañeda, owner of Viva Mexico in Farmington, compares it to St. Patrick's Day for the Irish in that it is celebrated more in the United States than it is in the homeland. Cinco de Mayo celebrates independence and freedom. "It is something we're very proud of," Castañeda said.

Castañeda has celebrated his share of Cinco de Mayos



Botanas are one of Ramon Castañeda's favorites.

PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

in the Detroit area from the time he and his wife Vicki opened Old Mexico at Grand River and Lahser in Detroit in 1971, then the Old Mexico restaurant on Five Mile in Livonia in 1975, and in 1986 on Walnut Lake Road and Drake in West Bloomfield. He remembers the mariachi bands and big hats and the parties outside at the West Bloomfield restaurant.

In 2000, they sold the restaurants and took time off, traveling to Mexico and enjoying their grandchildren.

Mexican eateries run in the family as son Tim owns Zumba's in Royal Oak with his wife Linda and Charles Barnes.

Ramon and Vicki Castañeda decided to get back into the restaurant business, though on a much smaller scale. They opened a smaller place in the Farmington Plaza on Grand River one block west of Orchard Lake Road in Farmington in 2002. "We can better check every plate and make sure the customers are happy," Ramon said. "The best way to be sure is that the owner is in the place and in the kitchen."

Castañeda enjoys the botana with chorizo, beans, muenster cheese, avocados, olives, onions, jalapenos

PLEASE SEE HOLIDAY, B7

Villa Maria wines define owner's passion

Several thoughts come to mind when New Zealand's award-winning Villa Maria Winery is mentioned.

First and foremost is passionate. No word suits Villa Maria's proprietor and managing director George Fistonich better. He founded the winery in 1961 and boasts that it is 100 percent New Zealand owned.

Mild-mannered, soft-spoken and serious business leader, Fistonich is comfortable in a hard hat at his latest winery construction site. From its early years, Villa Maria's focus has been on locating the best vineyard sites and then managing them expertly. To Fistonich, it's not simply a matter of a great site but "planting the correct grape variety on that site."

MULTIPLE SITES

Villa Maria farms exemplary sites in three of New Zealand's leading grape growing regions: Hawkes Bay, Gimblett Gravels and Marlborough.



Focus on Wine

Ray and Eleanor Heald

On the east coast of New Zealand's North Island, the climate and soils of Hawkes Bay, with long hours of sunshine and relatively rain-free warm summers and autumns, suits chardonnay, sauvignon blanc, merlot and cabernet sauvignon.

A Hawkes Bay appellation, known as Gimblett Gravels, has become New Zealand's premier region for growing Bordeaux varieties and syrah. Compared with most other areas in Hawkes Bay, the Gimblett Gravels District is warmer during the day in summer and autumn. It's the region

where Villa Maria sources the majority of its Bordeaux variety grapes.

Marlborough, located in the northeast of the South Island, also enjoys warm temperatures and extended hours of sunshine. Unlike the North Island winegrowing regions, Marlborough experiences cool nights, which together with generally dry autumns, create perfect conditions for chardonnay, sauvignon blanc, riesling and pinot noir.

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Vegetables steal the show

Brilliant colors and rich flavor and texture make a convincing culinary argument for changing the proportion of food on the American plate.

In response to scientific evidence on the health-protective features of plant-based foods, the American Institute for Cancer Research recommends the New American Plate, with savvier proportions than the old plate: two-thirds (or more) vegetables, fruits, whole grains and beans and one third (or less) animal protein.

A recipe for shrimp curry with asparagus and snap peas, for example, showcases vegetables and seasonings, while the shrimp take a supportive role. It is one of the recipes in *The New American Plate Cookbook: Recipes for a Healthy Weight and a Healthy Life*, recently published by the University of California Press. This new cookbook helps cooks maximize color, flavor and texture while helping to prevent cancer, heart disease, stroke and other chronic illnesses.

AICR developed the New American Plate in response to studies showing that chronic illness can be dramatically affected by diet. AICR and its British affiliate, the World Cancer Research Fund, commissioned an international panel of scientists to review more than 4,500 research studies. They found that between 30 and 40 percent of all cancer cases could be prevented by eating a healthy diet high in vegetables, fruits, whole grains and beans, maintaining a healthy weight and being physically active.



AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR CANCER RESEARCH

Fresh asparagus, snap peas and red pepper, along with curry powder, ginger and garlic, make a flavorful combination that complements the shrimp in this dish. Try it on top of steamed brown rice for a healthful and flavorful meal.

Only plant-based foods offer the thousands of phytochemicals - natural substances found in vegetables, fruits, whole grains, beans and nuts - that offer powerful health protection. They help the body repair itself, perform preventive maintenance on DNA, keep cells dividing smoothly and render potentially harmful compounds inert before they can do harm.

SHRIMP CURRY WITH ASPARAGUS AND SNAP PEAS

- 1 tablespoon cornstarch
- 2 teaspoons curry powder
- 1/2 teaspoon sugar
- 1 tablespoon reduced sodium soy sauce
- 1/4 cup fat-free, reduced-sodi-

- um chicken broth
- 3 teaspoons canola or peanut oil, divided
- 8 asparagus stalks (tough ends trimmed), in 1-inch pieces
- 1 red bell pepper, seeded and diced
- 1/4 pound sugar snap peas, strings removed
- 2 teaspoons grated or minced peeled fresh ginger
- 1 large garlic clove, minced
- 1/4 pound medium shrimp peeled and deveined

In a small bowl, combine cornstarch, curry powder and sugar. Mix in soy sauce, then broth. Set aside.

Heat a heavy skillet over high heat, add 1 teaspoon oil and heat until hot. Add

asparagus, pepper, peas, ginger and garlic. Stir-fry until vegetables are tender but still crisp. Transfer mixture with a slotted spoon to a plate.

Heat remaining oil in pan. Add shrimp and stir-fry until pink, about 1 minute. Stir in vegetables. Stir sauce, then pour into skillet. Bring to a boil, reduce heat and simmer until shrimp are opaque in the center, about 2 to 3 minutes. Serve immediately.

Makes 4 servings.

Per serving: 167 calories, 5 g. total fat (less than 1 g. saturated fat), 10 g. carbohydrates, 20 g. protein, 2 g. dietary fiber, 277 mg. sodium.

Recipe from *The New American Plate Cookbook*.



AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR CANCER RESEARCH

Any of the several varieties of dates available would be suitable for the following bar cookie recipe. The chewy fruit is combined with crunchy walnuts, with a small amount of applesauce to help these cookies achieve a low fat content.

You don't have to skip dessert

You can have your cake and eat it, too. All you have to do is follow a few simple guidelines.

In *The New American Plate Cookbook*, the American Institute for Cancer Research has a dessert section of pies, tarts, cakes and cookies that taste good and promote health. AICR believes it is not necessary to ignore health and diet concerns in order to enjoy a rich-tasting, soul-satisfying dessert.

The desserts in *The New American Plate Cookbook* minimize sugar without sacrificing flavor. All-purpose or refined flour is often replaced with whole-grain flour without diminishing taste and quality.

A pie crust recipe, for example, uses whole-wheat flour and replaces unhealthy hydrogenated fats with canola oil, and uses just enough butter to ensure good flavor and flakiness.

Fruit is, of course, the perfect dessert. And it doesn't take much effort, or many calories, to dress it up a little. A drizzle of good balsamic vinegar over ripe strawberries both heightens and contrasts the fruit's sweetness. A dollop of sour cream or yogurt enhances the taste of berries and other sweet fruits. A sprinkling of chopped nuts provides a nice crunch to fruits with soft textures.

Dried fruits are rich in substances that are being studied for their anti-cancer properties. Dried dates are among the sweetest, yet are low in fat and rich in potassium. Among the broad range of dried fruits, dates have the highest concentration of phenols, a group of powerful antioxidants.

Any of the several varieties of dates available would be suitable for the following bar cookie from *The New American Plate Cookbook*. The chewy fruit is combined with crunchy

walnuts, with a small amount of applesauce to help these cookies achieve a low fat content. Extra nutrition and phytochemicals are also provided by replacing refined flour with whole-wheat flour.

DATE-WALNUT BARS

- Canola oil spray
- 1/2 cup whole wheat flour, preferably stone-ground
- 1/2 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 large egg
- 1/2 cup honey
- 3 tablespoons unsweetened applesauce
- 2 tablespoons canola oil
- 1/2 teaspoon grated orange zest
- 1/2 cup chopped dates
- 1/2 cup chopped walnuts

Preheat the oven to 350°F. Lightly coat an 8-inch square baking pan with canola oil spray.

In a large bowl, mix together the flour, baking powder, baking soda and salt. In a medium bowl, stir together the egg, honey, applesauce, canola oil and orange zest.

Stir the wet ingredients into the dry ingredients until blended. Stir in the dates and walnuts. Spread the mixture into the prepared pan.

Bake about 25 minutes, until a tester such as a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean. Cool the cookie bars in the pan on a wire rack until completely cool. Cut into 16 2-inch bars. Store in a tightly covered container for 2 to 3 days.

Makes 16 servings. Per serving: 91 calories, 4 g. total fat (less than 1 g. saturated fat), 14 g. carbohydrates, 2 g. protein, 1 g. dietary fiber, 58 mg. sodium.

Recipe courtesy of the American Institute for Cancer Research.

CALENDAR

Please submit items at least two weeks in advance of the date it should be published. Send to Ken Abramczyk, Taste editor, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150 or e-mail kabramczyk@oe.homecomm.net

Great Wines
Sample wines from more than 80 vineyards and enjoy foods from 15 restaur-

ants 6-8:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 11 at the Great Lakes Great Wines Walk Around Tasting at the Ridgewood Cafe inside the J Building at Oakland Community College's Orchard Ridge campus, located just south of I-696 and west of Orchard Lake Road. Tickets are \$45 per person. For more information, call (248) 522-3700 or visit www.oaklandcc.edu/culinary.

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www.farmingtonplayers.org

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HOLIDAY

FROM PAGE B5

and tomatoes or making Viva Quesadilla, a mixture of chicken, spinach and cheese inside a grilled flour tortilla with guacamole, but tamales, he says, are a favorite for Cinco de Mayo.

"When you toast the quesadillas (on the grill), you get a little different flavor," Castañeda said.

Castañeda uses cilantro, habaneros and jalapenos in many of his specials. "You can make 1,000 different things, but the dishes most people are familiar with are the enchiladas, burritos and the tacos," he said. But that doesn't stop him from cooking up something different for a special.

"The reason why many people enjoy (Mexican food), is some get used to it at an early age, but there's a lot of information out now about how peppers are healthy for you," Castañeda said. "I'll have people come in here and order it because they have a cold, and I'll give them some of the hottest sauce, the habanero sauce."

Guacamole, salsa verde and pico de gallo all have to be fresh, Castañeda said. The Castañedas visit Mexico frequently, in areas ranging from Puebla, Oaxaca and Puerta Vallarta.

For Cinco de Mayo, Noel Villareal, manager of Mexican Fiesta II in Canton, said that eatery runs specials on fajitas and marqueritas.

Villareal was born in Mexico and raised in California before coming to Michigan. "We celebrate the Battalla de Puebla, named after where the French were defeated," Villareal said. "But it's not our Independence Day."

Cinco de Mayo "is a nice way to get into the Mexican culture," Villareal said. "You get a feeling for something here that is outside your country. You get a warmth about the country and feel a little pride without offending people. People are celebrating the story and culture of Mexico."

Victor Cordoba, manager at El Zocalo Mexican Restaurant in Detroit, said Cinco de Mayo is a civic activity in southwest Detroit. "It brings our history and traditions

back in place," he said. "We have a lot of special foods, dances, social activities and religious activities. We thank the Virgin of Guadalupe for the blessings of the army (that defeated the French)."

Cinco de Mayo is the "busiest time of year" for the restaurant, he said.

Viva Mexico, 31624 Grand River, Farmington (248) 477-5730; Mexican Fiesta II, 44401 Ford Road in Canton (734) 981-1048; El Zocalo Mexican Restaurant, 3400 Bagley in Detroit (313) 841-3700.

BOTANA

- 4 corn tortilla shells
- ½ pound chorizo
- 1 can refried beans
- Muenster cheese
- 1 avocado
- ¼ cup olives
- 1-2 jalapenos
- 1 tomatoes
- ¼ cup onions

Cook chorizo until meat crumbles. Place on tortilla shell, then top with muenster cheese. Melt cheese in oven, then top with remaining ingredients.

CHORIZO WITH SCRAMBLED EGGS

- ¼ cup chorizo
- 3 eggs
- 1 tomato
- ¼ cup onions
- 1-2 jalapeno (or other choice) peppers

Cook chorizo until meat crumbles. Scramble and mix chorizo and other ingredients with eggs while they are cooking.

SALSA VERDE

- 6 tomatillos
- 1 bunch cilantro
- 1-2 jalapenos, peeled and seeded (or to taste)

Boil or roast tomatillos, then add cilantro and jalapenos. Blend.

HOT SAUCE

- 1-3 jalapenos
- 2 cups tomato juice or sauce
- Salt, to taste
- pepper, to taste
- 1 clove fresh garlic

Blend all ingredients.

Recipes courtesy of Ramon Castañeda, owner of Viva Mexico in Farmington Hills

AROUND TOWN

Here is a list of what some restaurants have planned for Cinco de Mayo:

Border Cantina, 21420 Novi Rd., Novi (248) 347-7827: Mariachi band, starting at 5:30 p.m. Thursday.

Camelia's, 30701 W. 12 Mile, Farmington Hills (248) 474-0902: Margaritas and beer specials.

El Nibble Nook, 27725 Eight Mile, Livonia (248) 474-0755: Drink specials, necklaces/key-chains and shirts.

Monterrey Cantina, 314 S. Main in Royal Oak (248) 545-1940: Drink and food specials.

Old Mexico, 28407 Five Mile in Livonia (734) 421-3310: Gift certificates, T-shirts.

El Zocalo Mexican Restaurant, 3400 Bagley in Detroit (313) 841-3700: Special foods, mariachi band, music outside and dancing.

Other events
Redford hosts a Cinco de Mayo festival 1 p.m.-midnight, Saturday, May 7 in the parking lot behind Redford Township Hall, 15145 Beech Daly (just south of Five Mile, approximately one mile north of I-96).

Food, entertainment, tamale-eating contest, salsa contest, pepper eating contest, activities for children (including pinatas), beer, wine and dancing to music of a Latin band, a Mexican hat dance competition.

Cinco de Mayo activities in Detroit
Cinco de Mayo Parade from Patton Park to Clark Park 1 p.m. Sunday May 8.

South Meets North-all media Mexican local artists
May 5- June 25, opening reception today 5-8 p.m. Bagley Housing Art Gallery, 2715 Bagley. Free admission, donations accepted. (313) 964-5942.

Cinco de Mayo Workshop 10 a.m.-3 p.m. today and Friday, May 6. Matrix Theatre Company, 2730 Bagley. (313) 967-0999. Admission fee is \$3 per person. Reservations and walk-ins are welcome.

Let's Celebrate Cinco de Mayo 4:30-9 p.m. today. Mexicantown "Fiesta" Center, 4114 W. Vernor. Free admission. Food, music and cash bar. (313) 841-0400.

For more information, visit www.mexicantown.com.

Royal Park Hotel

Mother's Day Brunch in the Grand Ballroom features two seatings, 10:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. Prices are \$29.95 adults, \$14.95 children 5-12, and free for children 4 and under. Guests can enjoy a farm fresh omelet station; Belgian waffle station; carving table with salmon and artichoke wellington and four pepper crusted prime rib, hot favorites table; younger favorites table; bakery table; cold table, sweet table; includes coffees, fine teas, milk and fresh-squeezed juices. Reservations are highly recommended at (248) 652-2600. The Royal Park Hotel is located at 600 E. University, three blocks east of Main Street in downtown Rochester. Brookshire restaurant is also serving from the menu from noon to 8 p.m.

Also, busy mothers and daughters can enjoy some valuable respite together in the Belgian Conservatory at the Royal Park Hotel at the Mother and Daughter Tea 3-5 p.m. Saturday, May 7. Cost is \$30 per person; reservations by phone at (248) 652-2600. The Royal Park offers the Mighty Leaf Teas (www.mightyleaftea.com) every day in its Brookshire restaurant for meals or

MOTHER'S DAY EVENTS

weekly Afternoon Tea, which occurs Thursdays through Saturdays from 3-5 p.m.; \$24 per person, \$28 with a glass of sherry or flute of champagne.

Community House

The Community House, located at 380 South Bates Street in Birmingham, will host two events to honor mothers on May 7 and 8.

On Saturday May 7, The Community House will present The Grand Mother Tea. The tea is a springtime dress-up event complete with tea sandwiches (including peanut butter and jelly), tiny cookies and sweets, tea and punch - all served on china and silver with piano music and special group activities - a meaningful prelude to Mother's Day. Daughters ages 8 and under are encouraged to bring their favorite doll. Special recognition will be given for the best look-alike and dress-alike daughter and doll, as well as the best look-alike mother and daughter, the oldest and the youngest grandmothers, and the most members of the same family. The tea begins at 11:30 a.m. The tea is \$12 for children and \$16 for adults.

On Sunday, May 8 The Community House will present a Mother's Day Brunch, including a complete breakfast station with roma tomato and fresh herb scrambled eggs, Belgian waffles with assorted toppings, country fried potatoes, bacon and sausage. The lunch station will offer sauté chicken with sun-dried tomatoes and artichokes in a chardonnay cream sauce, grilled ham with a fresh pineapple salsa, rice pilaf and fresh seasonal vegetables. Other options include an omelet station, a carving station and a seafood station. The brunch is completed with a wide variety of desserts including assorted tortes, cookies, brownies and parfaits. Strolling music will be provided by La Corda Ensemble. Each attending mother will receive a rose. Seatings for the brunch are available between 10:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. The brunch is \$28.95 for adults, \$16.95 for children ages 4-12. Children 4 and under are free. Large parties may be accommodated in private rooms - inquire when making reservations. For reservations, contact The Community House at (248) 644-5832.

HEALDS

FROM PAGE B5

ery opened for harvest 2000. The multi-purpose facility was built to accommodate increasing quantities of grapes sourced from the Marlborough region, principally sauvignon blanc and pinot noir.

VARIOUS TIERS

To serve consumers in the United States, Villa Maria markets three distinct wine tiers. Private Bin varietal wines are targeted to everyday drinking. Approachability with easily-identified varietal flavors are their hallmarks. Cellar Selection wines, a step up in quality, are focused on individual wine styles. Reserve wines are produced from the finest vineyards in top vintages.

For quality reasons, Villa Maria wines are sealed under Stelvin screwcaps. "We are 100 percent committed to the quality that screwcap closures guarantee," Fistonich said. "It's screwcaps or nothing. This may seem harsh but no other industry in the

WINE PICKS

- Available wines from **New Zealand's Villa Maria Winery:**
- 2004 Villa Maria Private Bin Sauvignon Blanc, \$14, with its tropical and passion fruit aromas and lively lemon-lime crispness departs nicely from the aggressively-herbaceous style made by some New Zealand wineries.
 - 2003 Villa Maria Cellar Selection Sauvignon Blanc, \$20, is a step up in aroma and flavor intensity, finishing with a satisfying nervy acidity that complements oysters on the half shell.
 - 2002 Villa Maria Cellar Selection Pinot Noir, \$30, showcases rose petal and dark cherry aromas. Subtle toasty oak overlays flavors of dark cherry fruit that lead to a velvety finish.
 - 2002 Villa Maria Reserve Pinot Noir, \$40, is floral with red rose scents and a layered dark cherry, dark plum, silky palate impression with pleasing spice accents.
- All wines mentioned are available in the metro-Detroit area. If a retailer does not stock a specific wine, ask that it be ordered from the distributor.**

world accepts the type of product failure (cork taint and wine oxidation) experienced using cork closures."

The Healds are Contributing Editors for

the internationally-respected Quarterly Review of Wines and Troy residents who write about wine, spirits, and restaurants for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. Contact them by e-mail at focusonwine@aol.com.

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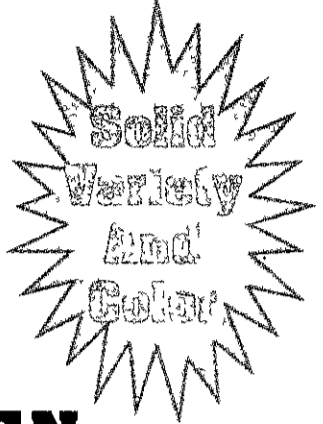
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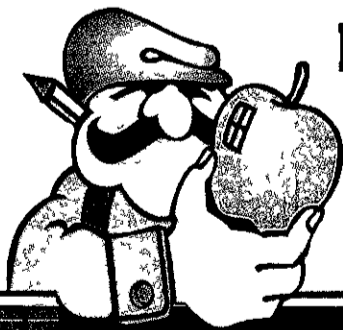
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P-CEP maintenance worker Mark Leright prepares to take markers to the varsity soccer field. There are six full-time employees who keep the school district's fields in shape.



Canton boys track-and-field team members Adam Somers, Kangmin Hur and Joey Massel rest after running repeated 200 meter sprints during Monday's practice.

High school sports facility one of largest in country

Want to get a bird's-eye view of the largest, most comprehensive outdoor high school athletic complex in Michigan?

Then do what I did Monday afternoon: ascend the 31 steps of the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park football field's west grandstand and take a long, slow, 360-degree look around you.

That's right: The most expansive set of outdoor high school athletic fields on one piece of land in the state — if not the country — is located in our own back yard.

Standing at the top of the grandstand, if you look to the west, almost as far as the eye can see, you'll notice a neatly laid-out grid filled with well-manicured baseball and softball fields that are lined-up on a huge stretch of land to the east of Plymouth High School, the south of Salem High School and west of Canton High School. Stretching even further in the distance are a second

Please see photo story on Page C4



Ed Wright

football field located south-east of Plymouth High School, two sets of tennis courts to the north of the building and a couple more softball fields to the northwest. If you spin around 180 degrees to the east, you can see the complex's varsity football field, the varsity soccer field and several soccer/football practice fields situated just east of Canton High School.

UNIVERSALLY UNIQUE

"I know it's a one-of-a-kind situation in Michigan," said Michigan High School Athletic

PLEASE SEE FACILITY, C5

PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Sidelines

Indians triumph

The Michigan Indians 13-and-under baseball team started its 2005 season by capturing the USSSA Michigan Bulls Tournament, which was held at Rotunda Fields in Dearborn. The Indians outscored their opponents by a combined score of 39-4.

In pool play, the Indians ousted the Troy Titans, 4-2, the Birmingham Bengals, 12-1, the Tecumseh Ontario Rangers, 9-0, and the South Farmington Blues, 6-0, to win the yellow division. In the championship game, the Indians defeated the previously unbeaten Detroit Eagles, 8-1, to earn a berth in the USSSA World Series later this summer in Orlando, Fla.

The team consists of: Kevin Delapaz (Plymouth), Adam Forster (Belleville), Nathan Gendron (Plymouth), Tyler Hamill (Belleville), John Jakubik (Plymouth), Brett Lubanski (Farmington Hills), Marty Mitchell (Dearborn), Aaron Roberts (Farmington Hills), Tyler Rusin (Canton), Kyle Sampson (Belleville), Matt Schaeffer (Plymouth), Joel Seddon (St. Clair) and Jeremy Shay (Garden City).

The team is coached by Cos Delapaz, Jim Gendron, Pat Rusin, Bob Schaeffer and Alan Shay.

Rock runners 7th

The Salem boys track team finished seventh in the nine-team J.D. Invitational held Saturday at Jackson High School.

Brian Rumao had a productive afternoon for the Rocks, winning the long jump with an effort of 21 feet, 2 inches, and finishing fifth in the 200-meter dash in 23.6.

Salem's Jon Marsh earned a third-place showing in the discus with a heave of 141-1 and he turned in a personal record in the shot put (45-1.50). The Rocks' 800-meter relay unit of Brad Sokolowski, Kevin Wesley, Nick Telenko and Joe Crist finished sixth in 1:38.5 while the mile-relay foursome of Alex Lumley, Justin Blazo, Kevin Wesley and Sokolowski was fifth in 3:41.5.

Other outstanding performances were recorded by pole vaulter J.P. Truesdell (sixth at 10-6), two-miler Dan Kapadia (fourth in 10:11.37) and 300 hurdler Baze Efermov (fourth in 42.7).

Chief runners shine

Six freshman and sophomore members of the Canton boys track team earned points at Saturday's Holly Relays at Holly High School.

The pole-vault tandem of Ryan Langdon and Brian Rakovitis finished third with a combined effort of 18-0 while the Chiefs' 1,600 relay quartet of Adam Somers, Tim Belcher, Marcus Sylvester and John Etim crossed the line in sixth place with a clocking of 3:49.9.

Twenty-five members

21 up, 21 down

Conlon throws perfect game

BY ED WRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

Mother Nature provided the cold for Tuesday night's Canton-Salem girls softball game at Plymouth's Massey Field.

But it was Chief pitcher Molly Conlon who brought the heat.

Pitching in sub-40-degree weather, the hard-throwing Conlon tossed a perfect game, leading Canton to a 9-0 victory against the Rocks. The win improved Canton's record to 15-0 overall and 8-0 in the Western Lakes Activities Association. Salem slipped to 9-6 overall and 3-5 in the WLAA.

Conlon, who now has eight shutouts this season, struck out 15 of the 21 batters she faced including 14 of the last 17 Rock hitters.

Salem's final batter, senior third baseman Ali Proodian, threatened to spoil Conlon's perfection, but her hard hit line drive to center field was snared by center fielder Alyssa Johnson to end the game.

The game was played before a large and vocal crowd at Massey Field, which served as a neutral site for the key cross-campus showdown.

"I threw mostly my rise pitch tonight and it seemed to be working," said Conlon, as a crowd of Canton supporters gathered behind her minutes after the game. "We hit the ball well tonight, too, and our defense played great. Before every inning when we go out on the field, we say, 'Let's get three outs,' and we did that tonight."

Canton scored its first run in the second inning when Erika Perkovich's sacrifice fly scored Melissa Cieniuch, who had reached base on a fielder's choice.

Chiefs look to defend Observerland title

BY ED WRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

The extended forecast for Saturday's 35th Annual Observerland Relays boys track-and-field meet calls for moderate temperatures and sizzling times.

"The weather conditions are supposed to be good (partly cloudy skies and temperatures in the high 60s), so I think we're going to see some really good performances on Saturday," said Canton coach Bob Richardson, whose Chiefs won last year's title for the fourth time in the past five years. "It's a big night for these athletes because it's one of the few chances they get to run under the lights against a lot of the best competition in

the area. When you put those two things together, it brings out the best in the kids. We're expecting the stands to be packed, too."

Seventeen teams from throughout the metropolitan Detroit area are expected to converge on the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park track to try to extract the championship trophy from the grip of defending champion and host Canton, which sprinted to last year's title with a balanced line-up that scored points in just about all of the events.

PLEASE SEE OBSERVERLAND, C5

TRACK AND FIELD

35th annual
OBSERVERLAND BOYS
TRACK & FIELD RELAYS
(Saturday, May 7)

Host school: Salem

Where: Centennial Educational Park (Canton).

Participating schools: Canton (defending champion), Salem, Plymouth, Livonia Churchill, Livonia Clarenceville, Livonia Franklin, Livonia Stevenson, Westland John Glenn, Wayne Memorial, Lutheran High Westland, Garden City, Redford Union, Redford Thurston, Redford Catholic Central, Farmington, Farmington Hills Harrison Northville

Field events: start at 3:30 p.m. (pole vault, long jump, high jump, discus, shot put)

Running events: start at 6:30 p.m. (6,400-meter relay, 110 hurdles, distance medley, 800 relay, 1,600 run, 3,200 relay, 100 dash, sprint medley, shuttle relay, 400 relay, 1,600 relay)

Admission: \$3 (students), \$5 (adults)

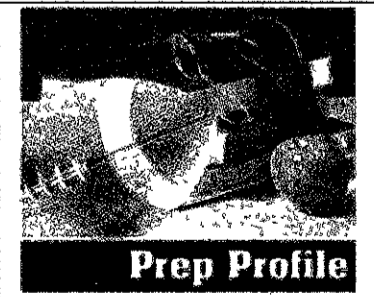
Experience helps Harvey lead 'Cats

BY ED WRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

Two summers ago, Alex Harvey sprinted to the shortstop position prior to the first inning of the "Reviving Baseball in the Inner Cities (RBI)" international championship baseball game played at Cleveland's Jacobs Field, the home of the Major League Baseball Cleveland Indians.

But Harvey was so pumped with adrenaline and excitement that afternoon, he probably could have floated out to his spot between second and third base.

"That's the most excited I've ever been for a baseball game," said Harvey, referring to his first action on an actual Major



Prep Profile

League Baseball field. "I mean, I was playing in the same spot where (Cleveland Indians' shortstop) Omar Vizquel played. One thing I learned from that experience is that Major League players have no excuses for making errors. That field was in perfect condition."

PLEASE SEE HARVEY, C5



TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Plymouth shortstop Alex Harvey, shown above chasing down a Belleville base-runner during a pickle, is one of the Wildcats' team leaders both on the field and off.

Supreme Court ruling favors status quo for prep sports seasons

BY JIM TOTH AND BRAD EMONS STAFF WRITERS

Don't distribute those 2005-06 high school athletics schedules just yet.

On Monday, the U.S. Supreme Court granted the Michigan High School Athletic Association's request for an appeal in the ongoing sports seasons litigation. It is therefore unlikely that any changes will be made in next year's high school sports calendar.

The Court asked the 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Cincinnati to re-examine the case following the high court's decision last month in Rancho Palos Verdes v. Abrams, which halts certain lawsuits when another part of federal law finds a solution.

"I was surprised by the Supreme Court's ruling," said Canton Athletic Director Sue Heinzman. "I thought they were going to go along with the Circuit Court of Appeals' decision, and I think there

were a lot of athletic directors around the state who felt the same way."

The association, after losing cases in state court, federal district court and circuit court, appealed to the Supreme Court that the suit had been filed wrongly. The association claims Communities for Equity, the group created by Roberts-Eveland, should have sued under Title IX (gender-equity law), instead of the 14th Amendment (equal-rights protection).

The present case originated from a lawsuit filed in 1998 by Grand Rapids residents Diane Madsen and Jay Roberts-Eveland, who felt their daughters were discriminated against and prohibited from receiving an equal opportunity for college scholarships.

The suit challenged Michigan's unique scheduling of prep girls basketball in the fall and girls volleyball in the winter. The parents alleged the

scheduling to be unfair and hindered athletes' chances for scholarships compared to those in other states.

Michigan is the only state to schedule girls volleyball in the winter and one of two states to hold the girls basketball season outside of winter. Girls basketball in Hawaii is played in the spring.

"I've never been in favor of the seasons change," said Livonia Stevenson athletic director Lori Hyman, who played basketball at Michigan

State and coached basketball in the Big Ten at the University of Illinois, Ferris State and Northwood. "Educational athletics is not about changing seasons because of scholarships."

Michigan has always been among the leading states in terms of participation per capita.

During the 2003-04 school year, MHSAA statistics show 20,661 girls played basketball and 21,320 competed in volleyball.

TENNIS RESULTS

PLYMOUTH 7 LIVONIA FRANKLIN 1
May 3 at Franklin

No 1 singles: Ryan Kingsbury (LF) defeated Luc Luca 6-2 6-0. **No. 2:** Dan Zhang (P) def Matt Vicini 6-3 6-1. **No. 3:** Kevin Welch (P) def Jason Madgwick 5-7 6-2, 6-3. **No. 4:** Clint Korpalski (P) def Kyle Fox 5-7 7-6 (5) 6-1.

No 1 doubles: Doug Eggleston Brad Yergensen (P) def Joe Turner-Uli Kersklick, 6-0 6-1. **No. 2:** Dave Snyder Brett Kavulich (P) def Feras Ackal-Zack Shaver, 6-1 6-2. **No. 3:** Erik Korpalski Dan Jeong (P) def Eric Cierpal Jon Roos 6-2 6-1. **No. 4:** Nick Mazzocco Anoop Gopal, 5-7 6-4 6-3.

Dual-meet records: Plymouth 4-3 WLAA Franklin, 18 overall 16 WLAA

SALEM 7 LIVONIA FRANKLIN 1
April 29 at Salem

No 1 singles: Ryan Kingsbury (LF) defeated Chris Treadwell 7-5, 6-2. **No. 2:** Rob Wallen (S) def Matt Vicini 6-3 6-0. **No. 3:** Lawrence Washington (S) def Jason Madgwick, 7-6 6-2. **No. 4:** Pete Bartlett (S) def Kyle Fox, 6 0 6 1.

No. 1 doubles: Blake Foster-Neil Bakshi (S) def Dave Ziolkowski-Uli Karkszek 6 0 6 0. **No. 2:** Alex Gai Pawel Karbol (S) def Feras Ackal-Zack Shaver, 6-2 6-2. **No. 3:** Dave Geick Alex Poe (S) def Kevin Jaksim-Jon Roos 6-3, 6-1. **No. 4:** Cam Loftus-Dave Juno (S) def Dan Camelleri Tony Semonick 6-2 6-2.

Franklin's dual meet record: 1-7 overall, 1 6 WLAA

Salem softball team sweeps Wyandotte

The Salem softball team swept a pair of home games from Wyandotte Saturday afternoon, 8-0 and 11-5. The twinbill sweep improved the Rocks' overall record to 8-5.

Courtney Davis earned the mound victory in the opener, yielding six hits and striking out one without issuing a walk. Melissa Leach relieved Davis in the sixth and delivered two hitless innings. Leading the Rocks' offensive attack were Kelli Behr (3-for-3) and Ali

Proodian (2-for-3). Tina Sniegowski, Kait McKinley, Maureen Bohr and Crystal Rohn also ripped hits for the winners, who scored three runs in the fourth and five in the fifth. Leach pitched a one-hitter in the nightcap, striking out three without issue a base on balls. Salem was red-hot at the plate, exploding for 13 hits. Behr led the with three hits, including a double, and three RBI. Amy Caves (3-for-4, two RBI), McKinley (2-for-3, RBI),

Liz Thomas (2-for-3) and Proodian (two-run triple) also shined at the plate for the Rocks. Caves ended the five-inning, mercy rule-shortened contest with an RBI single that scored Behr.

"The girls played well this weekend," said Salem coach Bonnie Southerland. "I'm happy for them after the week we had last week. It just shows that they don't give up easily and we'll just keep plugging away one game at a time."

Salem 2, W.L. Northern 0: On Monday, Melissa Leach tossed a one-hitter for the Rocks, who were led offensively by Amy Caves (triple, double and RBI) and Crystal Rohn (RBI double).

Canton 1, W.L. Western 0: In a 10-inning thriller, the Chiefs won when Rachel Wade's single plated Brittany Scero, who had led off the inning with a solid double. Molly Conlon threw a complete-game, three-hit shutout at the Warriors who received a stellar pitching effort from Laura Shultz.

Northville 2, Plymouth 0: Bridget Hughes and Elise Fleishaker each ripped two hits for the Mustangs, who improved to 13-3 overall and 4-0 in the Western Lakes Activities Association. Plymouth statistics were not available at presstime.

Chiefs now contenders for WLAA baseball crown

BY ED WRIGHT STAFF WRITER

Canton's baseball team solidified itself as a legitimate contender in the Western Lakes Activities Association's Western Division Monday afternoon when it out-duelled state-ranked Walled Lake Western, 2-1, in eight innings on the Warriors' home turf.

The victory evened the Chiefs' overall record at 8-8. More importantly, it improved their division mark to 3-1 to move into a tie for first with Livonia Franklin. Canton ousted the Patriots earlier in the season, but will battle them in a key re-match on Monday at Franklin. The winner will put a stranglehold on the division title.

"This win was a big step for

our team," said Canton coach Scott Dickey. "Western was 11-1, so we obviously beat a very good team."

Canton starting pitcher Matt Hemmelgarn tossed a gem at the Warriors, limiting Western's powerful line-up to just four hits while striking out two over seven innings. Senior Jake Powers worked out of a jam in the eighth to earn the save.

"Matt did a great job," Dickey said. "He only walked one batter. His pitch count was up to about 90, so we took him out after the seventh."

Canton scored first in the top of the fourth when Tarik Khasawneh walked and was replaced by pinch-runner Joe Mishler. Mishler advanced to third on a single and scored

on Shawn Little's fielder's choice groundout.

After Western tied the game at 1-1 on a sacrifice fly, the Chiefs mounted the winning rally in the eighth on a Scott Steffes single, a walk to Craig Galarnau and a run-scoring suicide squeeze bunt by Khasawneh.

"He laid down a great bunt," Dickey emphasized.

The Warriors advanced a runner to third in the bottom of the eighth before Powers managed the final batter to fly-out innocently to centerfield.

Left-handed pitcher Brandon Borsen was tough on the Chiefs, limiting them to just three hits.

Northville 11, Plymouth 0: Mustang starting pitcher Steve Besk tossed a two-hitter at the Wildcats Monday afternoon to help Northville improve to 11-3 overall and 3-2 in the Western-

Lakes Activities Association. Ben Kosmowski ripped both of Plymouth's hits. Andy Swanson (1-2) suffered the loss on the mound for the Wildcats.

"We faced an experienced and talented team that just flat out played better than us today," said Plymouth coach Chuck Adams. "Besk had our hitters off balance all game long and we couldn't get anything going offensively."

"Defensively, we are still committing to many errors (five in five innings). To make matters worse, the errors seem to be coming at critical times in the game. Andy Swanson pitched well enough that the game should have been closer than the score indicated."

Canton Agape 8, Macomb Christian 2: The Wolverines improved their record to 2-9 overall and 1-3 in the Michigan Independent Athletic Conference Tuesday afternoon with a convincing victory over Macomb. Kyle Miller was the star for Agape both at the plate (3-for-4, two RBI) and on the mound (complete-game two-hitter). Jared Miller, the younger brother of Kyle, also had a productive day at the plate, ripping a pair of hits.

Agape scored three in the first before adding on single runs in the second, third and fourth, and a pair in the sixth.



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THE WEEK AHEAD

PREP BASEBALL
 Thursday, May 5
 Agape Christian at Baptist Park, 4:30 p.m.
 Oakland Christian at PCA, 4:30 p.m.
 Friday, May 6
 Wayne Memorial at Canton, 4 p.m.
 Salem at W.L. Central, 4 p.m.
 W.L. Western at Plymouth, 4 p.m.
 Saturday, May 7
 Canton at Farmington Tournament, TBA
 Milford at Salem (DH), 11 a.m.

GIRLS SOFTBALL
 Thursday, May 5
 Agape Christian at Baptist Park, 4:30 p.m.
 Oakland Christian at PCA, 4:30 p.m.
 Friday, May 6
 Canton at Wayne Memorial, 4 p.m.
 W.L. Central at Salem, 4 p.m.
 Canton at Plymouth, 4 p.m.
 Saturday, May 7
 Plymouth and Canton at Canton Classic Varsity Invite, 9 a.m.
 Salem Invitational, 9:30 a.m.

BOYS TRACK
 Thursday, May 5
 Northville at Canton, 4 p.m.
 Salem at Livonia Stevenson, 3:30 p.m.
 Plymouth at Wayne Memorial, 4 p.m.
 Saturday, May 7
 Plymouth, Canton and Salem at Observerland Relays at P-CEP track, 3:30 p.m.

GIRLS TRACK
 Thursday, May 5
 Canton at Northville, 3:30 p.m.
 Livonia Stevenson at Salem, 5:30 p.m.
 Wayne Memorial at Plymouth, 4 p.m.
 Saturday, May 7
 Salem at Stafford Relays, 10 a.m.

GIRLS SOCCER
 Thursday, May 5
 Zoe Christian at Agape Christian, 4:30 p.m.
 Birmingham Roeper at PCA, 4:30 p.m.
 Wednesday, May 4
 W.L. Northern at Canton
 Salem at Wayne Memorial, 4 p.m.
 Plymouth at Northville, 7 p.m.
 Friday, May 6
 Canton at Birmingham Seaholm, 7 p.m.
 Saturday, May 7
 Salem at Troy, 12:30 p.m.

BOYS TENNIS
 Thursday, May 5
 Salem at Plymouth, 4 p.m.
 Friday, May 6
 Livonia Stevenson at Canton, 4 p.m.
 Salem at Plymouth, 4 p.m.
 Saturday, May 7
 Salem at Warrior Classic, 8:30 a.m.

GIRLS GOLF
 Friday, May 6
 Wayne Memorial at Salem
 at St. Johns G.C., 3 p.m.
 Northville at Plymouth
 at Hickory Creek G.C.

BOYS LACROSSE
 Friday, May 6
 PCS at Saline, 7:30 p.m.

Canton's defense shuts down Saline

BY ED WRIGHT
 STAFF WRITER

You only had to look at the number on the back of Canton's Brittany Cervi's jersey to find out how much success Saline had against the senior goal-keeper Saturday afternoon.

Cervi wears number "0," which summed up the Hornets' success ratio against the Chiefs in the well-played, 0-0 non-conference showdown at the P-CEP soccer field.

Neither team could get much of an offensive attack established in the battle-for-every-loose-ball contest played at the P-CEP soccer field.

"Offensively, I didn't think we came to play like we could have," said Canton coach George Tomasso. "It was our first Saturday game and our last Saturday game, which may be a good thing. I was happy with our defensive effort. All four of our defenders — Andrea Johnson, Stephanie Price, Ali Lindow and Laura Gibson — and our goalie — Brittany Cervi — played well. The scoreless tie left Canton

with a 5-2-2 overall mark. Saline is 6-2-1.

"I thought it was a good, physical game," said Saline coach David Tapping. "Both teams played very equal. I thought we had some opportunities, but Canton did a good job of clearing the ball out of there when we'd get in close."

Tapping's team has now faced several of the area's top units, including Northville, Salem and Livonia Stevenson.

"And from what I've seen, Canton belongs in the mix with all those teams," he said.

Canton's best chance to score came with 25 minutes left in the game.

Johnson fired a free kick that was deflected to the right of the goal.

Johnson pounced on the rebound, but it was knocked away again by Saline goalie Mackenzie Gilmore.

"Saline has an excellent team, both offensively and defensively," Tomasso said. "They work hard and they never stop playing. They're a talented team."

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'Cat kickers blank Wayne, 3-0

BY ED WRIGHT
 STAFF WRITER

Getting a soccer ball past Plymouth goal-keeper Brittany Warner this season has been about as easy as slam-dunking a medicine ball through a basketball rim.

Nearly impossible.

Warner, a sophomore, blanked her eighth opponent of the season Monday night in the Wildcats' 3-0 triumph over visiting Wayne Memorial. The victory lifted the winners to 6-5-2 overall and 3-2-1 in the Western Lakes Activities Association's Western Division. The setback dropped the struggling Zebras to 1-10 overall and 0-5 in the division.

Plymouth was bolstered Monday night by the return of junior captain Colleen Flaherty, who scored the game's first goal 27 minutes into the game after taking an assist from sophomore captain Val Klemmer, who had also just returned from an ailment.

"It was nice to have both of them back in the line-up," said Plymouth coach John Delplace. "They both contributed right away, which was nice. We still have a couple of girls out hurt, so we're not quite at full strength."

You would have had a hard

Plymouth was bolstered Monday night by the return of junior captain Colleen Flaherty.

shots to lead Salem to the draw. The Rocks, who are now 4-5-2 overall, 4-0-2 in the Western Lakes Activities Association and 3-0-1 in the Lakes Division, haven't allowed a goal in their last three games.

"We came out a little flat and they took it to us in the first half," said Salem coach Joe Nora. "Overall, I thought they outplayed us. Alyssa played well and Kathryn Wheatley had a great game for us."

Northville 1, Canton 0: An otherwise stellar performance by the Chiefs was ruined by an out-of-this-world play by the Mustangs' Danielle Toney, who zig-zagged through the defense to score the game's lone goal eight minutes into the game. The loss dropped Canton's record to 5-3-2.

"They blew by everybody to score the goal," said Canton coach George Tomasso. "But other than that play, I thought our team stepped up and played outstanding soccer for 60 minutes. We just couldn't get the ball in the net. We hit the crossbar at least once."

Canton net-minder Brittany Cervi was brilliant in goal for the Chiefs, stuffing seven Mustang shots.

PCS falls to Mattawan

The Plymouth-Canton-Salem boys lacrosse team dropped a 9-6 decision to Mattawan Saturday afternoon at Mattawan. The victory improved the Wildcats to 5-4 while the Warriors slipped to 4-6. Mattawan led 3-1 after one quarter and 4-3 at the half. The game was knotted at 5-5 heading into the final quarter before the winners posted three goals in the final three minutes to clinch the win.

PCS was paced by Jared Ruark, who tallied three goals. Mitch French, Nick Cote and Alex Caryl added single goals for the Warriors, who received assists from French, Mike Bahrou and Curtis Rose. Chris Sorensen recorded 11 saves for PCS.

The Warriors outshot Mattawan, 35-30, however, the Wildcats won 10 of the 16 face-offs.

"I thought we played well today considering how short-handed we were," said PCS coach Mike Costello.

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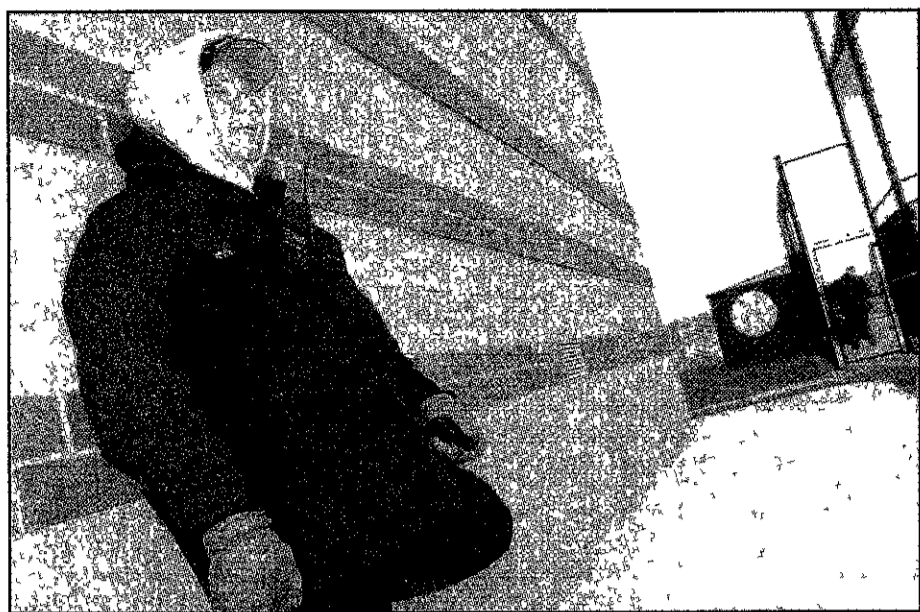
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Salem trainer Tony Bowers attends as many as four or five sporting events every weekday afternoon.



Salem baseball moms Diane Holka and Linda Leone try for an unobstructed view of their sons' Scott Holka and David Leone during Monday's game against Walled Lake Northern.



Scott Waidmann and Karl Brubaker served as volunteer announcers and scorekeepers for the Canton vs. Walled Lake Western junior varsity baseball game played Monday afternoon.



Shannon O'Guinn and Emily Clanton work the concession stand at the Plymouth baseball field. At right, a pair of muddy shoes and a catcher's mask sit idle until the next game.

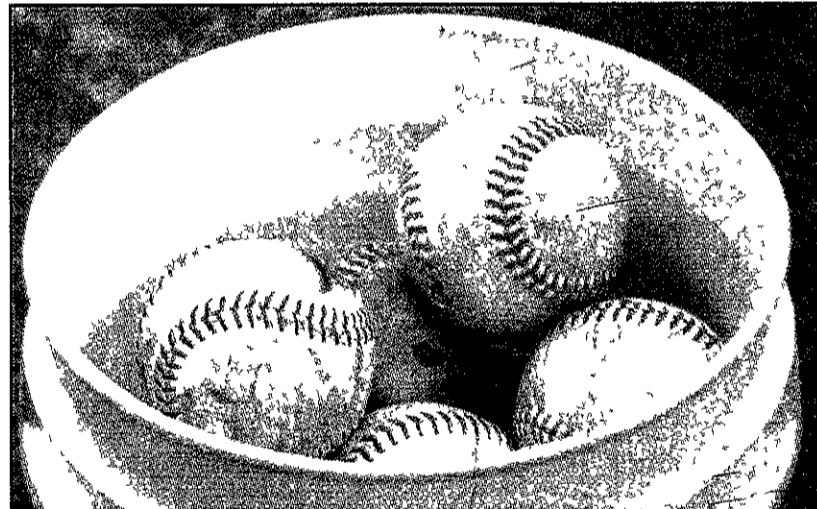
Observer & Eccentric photographer Bill Bresler spent over two hours Monday afternoon photographing sporting events and the behind-the-scenes volunteers who make the events run smoothly at the P-CEP outdoor athletic facility, which is one of the largest of its kind in the country. Pictured are some of the scenes Bresler captured.



A group of Salem track-and-field runners are pictured completing their laps during Monday's practice.



Stephen Betts throws batting practice during practice Monday for the Plymouth High School freshmen team.



A bucket of balls sits ready for action in the Plymouth-Northville softball game.

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INDIVIDUAL RESULTS:
Medalist: Meghan Hunter and Brittany Keller (Dexter), 76

Ladywood scorers: Lauren Doroghazi and Kelly Thomas, 78; Andrea Warzyneic and Angela Jamrog, 83; Kalfiyn Waldecker and Erica Mazur 97

Churchill scorers: Shannon Warner and Stacey Lewandowski, 84; Ashley Bint and Sarah Walls, 88; Theresa Nutten and Amanda Dobos 105

Canton scorers: Natalie Slupek and Katie Hoeksema, 87; Nicole Burdiss and Danielle Reinhardt, 119; Camal Miliwood and Emily Kenny, 129

Wayne scorers: Ashley Laws and Danielle Elswick, 94; Rayanne Gilmore and Christine Tupper 135; Jenny Schmidt and Kelly LaBeau 137

WAYNE MEMORIAL 236
CANTON 239
April 29 at Hilltop

Wayne scorers: Ashley Laws, 49; Danielle Elswick, 53; Jenny Schmidt, 65; Kellee LaBeau 69; Ravynne Gilmore, 91

Canton scorers: Natalie Slupek, 44 (medalist); Camal Miliwood, 61; Nicole Burdiss 66; Emily Kenny, 68; Janelle Hudak, 71; Ellie Kenny, 72

Dual meet records: Canton, 2-2 overall 2-2 WLAA, Wayne, 1-2 overall, 1-2 WLAA

SALEM 182
LIVONIA FRANKLIN 225
April 29 at Idyl Wyld

Salem scorers: Ashley Smith and Jamie Siedlaczek 42 each (co-medalists); Anna Ross and Kate Rzetelny 49 each Alyssa Mastic 49; Marissa Malcolm, 55

Franklin scorers: Marrel Meyers 49; Lisa Farrington, 56; Alison Sanborn 57; Jessica Stchur, 63; Suzie Esch 68; Angela Shamus 69

Franklin's dual meet record: 2-3 overall 1-3 WLAA

LIVONIA STEVENSON 201
PLYMOUTH 223
April 27 at Hickory Creek

Stevenson scorers: Jenny Kubert 42 (medalist); Abbey Wolfe and Chelsea Bathurst, 47 each; Christine Vance, 65; Rachel Dilley and Ashley Luke, 69 each

Plymouth scorers: Madeleine Salvaggio, 53; Elaine Lafayette 54; Patricia Burns and Melissa Miller 58 each; Liz Anderson, 59; Katie Ingraham, 61

Stevenson's dual meet record: Stevenson, 6-1 overall 6-1 WLAA

LIVONIA CHURCHILL 209
CANTON 262
April 27 at Whispering Willows

Churchill scorers: Shannon Warner 45 (medalist); Ashley Bint 50; Theresa Nutten 56; Stacey Lewandowski 58; Katie Tierney 61; Sarah Walls 68

Canton scorers: Katie Hoeksema 53; Camal Miliwood, 63; Nicole Burdiss 72; Danielle Reinhardt; 74; Emily Kenny, 75; Molly Mckey, 108

Churchill's dual meet record: 3-1 overall, 3-1 WLAA, Canton 1-2 overall 1-2 WLAA

HARVEY

FROM PAGE C1

Harvey not only didn't commit an error in that first inning — he made a play that would have made the golden-gloved Vizquel envious.

"I made a diving stop in the hole and threw the guy out at first," Harvey said. "It's something I'll never forget."

Two years later, Harvey finds himself in the heart of the Plymouth High School baseball program.

CATS' CATALYST

The Wildcats' baseball field may not be quite as pristine and the spotlight may not be nearly as bright as they were that day in Cleveland, but Harvey's passion for the game — every game — is as deep as ever.

The athletic junior is the Wildcats' starting shortstop for their inaugural varsity season. He's also the team's clean-up hitter and one of its top pitchers.

"We don't have captains, but I consider myself one of the leaders of the team," Harvey said. "I'm not real vocal, but I try to lead with my actions on the field."

Lead he has, compiling a .400 batting average while playing stellar defense for the Wildcats, who have struggled in their inaugural season, winning just one of their first eight games.

"The nice thing about this team is that we never get down after a loss," Harvey said. "We take a lot of pride in our work ethic and we're putting in a lot of time to get better. We have a very young and inexperienced team. Besides myself, only three other players played travel baseball. I think you'll see a lot of improvement out of this team next season."

'GLOVE' AT 1ST SIGHT

Harvey was introduced to baseball when he was a 3-year-old growing up in Detroit. When the inquisitive youngster asked a neighbor if he could join him in a game of catch, he slipped on his first mitt. The leather has rarely left his left hand since.

"I saw one of my neighbors out playing catch, and I asked him if I could play," he said. "He gave me a mitt and I loved it right away. I started playing T-ball the next year, but by the time I was six, they forced me out of T-ball and into the pitching league because I was hitting the ball so far. When I was eight, I started playing for the Detroit Expos' 10-and-under travel team. I had some great coaches growing up who have taught me a lot about the game."

The key to Harvey's prowess at the plate is the result of what goes on in his head as much as how he swings the bat, the 16-year-old player said.

"So much of hitting is about confidence," he said. "It's 90 percent mental, if you ask me. If you go up there thinking you're not going to get a hit, you're defeated already. You've got to think positive."

BROTHERLY LOVE

Those are words of advice he regularly passes down to his two younger brothers: 15-year-old David, a freshman on the Wildcats' junior varsity squad, and 9-year-old Sean, an aspiring athlete who participates in a number of activities, including karate.

"Alex pitches to me a lot and tells me what I need to do to improve my game," David said. "Sometimes I don't want to listen to him, but I know what he's telling me is going to make me a better player. Some day I want to get up to his level."

"David gets tired of me lecturing and coaching him sometimes," Alex Harvey said, "but I think he knows I'm doing it for his own good."

MULTI-TALENTED

While baseball is a big part of Harvey's life, it's only one slice of a very successful pie. The well-rounded youngster has a 3.4 grade-point average and was an instrumental part of the Wildcats' successful varsity basketball team this past winter. While he didn't lead the team in points, rebounds or assists — "I averaged about five points a game," he said — he was near the top of the charts in diving for loose balls and acquiring floor burns. In fact, Harvey's hustle and hard work earned him the team's "Coach's Award" at the post-season banquet.

As far as immediate baseball goals are concerned, Harvey is setting his sights on helping Plymouth's team elevate to the next level.

"My next goal is to try to get a college scholarship for baseball," he said. "My summer league coach has already contacted a couple of schools for me, including Alabama State."

After that, who knows? With his talent and work ethic, Harvey could find himself sprinting back out onto the infield at Jacobs field in the not too distant future.

Only this time, he could be wearing an Indians' jersey.

ewright@oe.homecomm.net | (734) 953-2108

FACILITY

FROM PAGE C1

Association Executive Director Jack Roberts, P-CEP outdoor athletic complex. "I can't say for sure if it's the biggest in the country, but I know it has to be one of the biggest. It's a very unique set-up, not only in our state, but in the United States."

For lovers of high school sports, the 305-acre site is an athletics version of Disney World.

But know this: There's nothing Mickey Mouse about the coordinating and planning of the hundreds of events that take place at "The Park" over the course of a spring sports season.

"There are no other athletic directors in the state who face the challenges that the three of us face," said Canton Athletic Director Sue Heinzman, referring to herself, Salem A.D. Tom Willette and Plymouth A.D. Terry Sawchuk. "It's like a three-ring circus sometimes when you consider all of the games, practices and make-ups we have to work with."

It's definitely a neat place to be on days when there's a lot going on. It's very unique."

UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL

It's easy to appreciate the size of the P-CEP athletic park from atop the grandstand. But you can't get a sense of the energy and all the behind-the-scenes work that goes on to make it tick until you walk around the complex during a peak period.

Observer & Eccentric photographer Bill Bresler and I did just that Monday afternoon in an attempt to capture a "typical" day at the unique complex.

We started at the southeast corner of the complex and did a complete, two-hour tour of the site.

When our journey was complete, I had a better appreciation of what it takes to make the place run as smoothly as it does on a daily basis.

More importantly, I left with a far greater understanding of the often thankless — and never dull — jobs of the athletic directors, and the behind-the-scenes volunteers who make the place tick.

OBSERVERLAND

FROM PAGE C1

der Rodney Preston, freshman sprinter Eric Piwowar, pole-vaulter Derek Reeves, distance specialist Eric Zech and all-purpose performer David Calille.

Since 2000, the only team other than the Chiefs to walk away with the first-place hardware was Farmington Harrison, which out-pointed the large and talented field in 2003.

"It's supposed to be a beautiful night weather-wise, which it should be for this event," said Salem coach Geoff Baker, who is coordinating the event. "As always, there will be a lot of top-notch competition, so it should be a fun night. It's the first year we've hosted the Observerland events, so our kids are fired up."

Baker predicted Canton has a good chance to retain its title, but a number of talented squads — most notably Livonia Churchill and Redford Catholic Central — bring formidable rosters to the track.

The field events are set to begin at 3:30 p.m. followed by the running competition.

The finals are slated for approximately 7 p.m.

"I think we should do quite well in the sprint relays and we should score some points in the field events as well this year," Richardson said. "The key to winning this event is to score points in a lot of events even if you don't win a lot of events."

"We have a balanced team this year, so I think we'll give it a good run. It will be fun, too, since we're running it in our own back yard this year."

Richardson said he's expecting big things this year from 110-meter hur-

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★ SNEAK PREVIEW ★
MONSTER-IN-LAW (PG-13) SUNDAY 4:00

○ KINGDOM OF HEAVEN (R)
2 PRINTS / 2 SCREENS (SAT/SUN 12:25) 12:50, 3:20, 3:45, 6:15, 6:40, 9:10, 9:35

○ HOUSE OF WAX (R)
12:55, 3:05, 5:15, 7:30, 9:45
FRI/SAT LS 12:00

○ THE HITCHHIKER'S GUIDE TO THE GALAXY (PG) 2 PRINTS / 2 SCREENS (SAT/SUN 11:30) 12:45, 1:45, 3:00, 4:10, 5:20, 6:50, 7:35, 9:05, 9:50
FRI/SAT LS 11:20, 12:05

○ THE INTERPRETER (PG-13)
(SAT/SUN 11:05) 1:35, 4:15, 7:00, 9:30
FRI/SAT LS 11:55

MISS CONGENIALITY 2: ARMED AND FABULOUS (PG-13) 9:25 FRI/SAT LS 11:35

ROBOTS (PG)
FRI/MON-TH 1:55, 3:50, 5:50, 7:40
SAT 12:00, 1:55, 3:50, 5:50, 7:40
SUN 12:00, 1:55, 3:50, 5:50, 7:40

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SOLSTICE RUN

The Fifth Third Bank Solstice Run will include a new 10-kilometer (6.2-mile) event along with the 5K run/walk and the kids fun run, Saturday, June 25, in Northville.

Packet pickup will be from 11:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Friday, June 24 at the Water Wheel Health Club in Northville, and also starting at 6:30 a.m. Saturday, June 25 at Ford Field in Northville.

Entry fees are \$25 (10K run), \$20 (5K walk/run) and \$9 (kids run).

Shirts will go to all entrants (if registered by June 20). Free entertainment with a live band will be provided at the finish line, along with music on the course.

Medals will go to the top three finisher in each age division (along with medals to the top 300). There is a total of \$5,000 in prize money and gift awards for the 10K and 5K races. The Foresters will prove medals to all kids participants.

You can register online at www.SolsticeRun.org.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON ACCESS TO PUBLIC MEETINGS

The Charter Township of Canton will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting, to individuals with disabilities at the meeting/hearing upon two weeks notice to the Charter Township of Canton.

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

Publiah May 5, 2005

060821291

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON REQUEST FOR BID

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Charter Township of Canton, 1150 Canton Center S, Canton, Michigan will accept sealed bids at the Office of the Clerk up to 3:00 p.m., May 19th, 2005 for the following:

PURCHASE OF CODE 3 LIGHT BARS FOR POLICE PATROL VEHICLES

Bid forms may be picked up at the Finance and Budget Department counter or you may contact Mike Sheppard at (734) 394-5225. All bids must be submitted in a sealed envelope clearly marked with the proposal name, company name, address and telephone number and date and time of bid opening.

TERRY G. BENNETT, CLERK

Publiah May 5, 2005

060821290

PUBLIC NOTICE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE PLAN YOUR COMMENTS ARE REQUESTED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Charter Township of Plymouth Wayne County, Michigan, is beginning a review of the Township's Recreation and Open Space Plan adopted by the community in 1999. The intent of this review is to update the Recreation and Open Space Plan to make sure the new plan reflects the needs of the community for the next five years and establishes a method for implementing the plan.

What do you think works? What suggestions do you have to improve recreation? What activities do you think are missing?

Please send your comments or recommendations to:

Ms. Susan Vignoe
Division of Public Services
46555 Port Street
Plymouth, MI 48170
or e-mail: svignoe@plymouthtwp.org
Phone (734) 453-8131 ext. 33

If you have any questions regarding this matter please contact Ms. Vignoe at the Division of Public Services at (734) 453-8131 ext. 33.

James D. Anulewicz
Director of Public Services

Publiah May 5, 2005

060821297

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS AGENDA May 12, 2005

Notice is hereby given that there will be a meeting of the Zoning Board of Appeals THURSDAY, May 12, 2005 AT 7:30 P.M. The meeting will be held in the Board Room at the Township Administration Building located at 1150 S. CANTON CENTER ROAD, CANTON, MI 48188. The following Agenda will be discussed:

Pledge of Allegiance to the flag

Roll Call: Randy Blaylock, Jim Cisek, Cathy Johnson, Vicki Welty and Steven Johnson.

Acceptance of Agenda

- 1. John Burdziak of Tradition Building Co., LLC, 49166 Dominion Ct., Canton, MI 48187 representing Warren & Josephine Palmer, 6460 Beck Rd., Canton, MI 48187, for property located at 6460 Beck Rd., appealing Zoning Ordinance Article 26.00, Section 26.02, variance from minimum lot size in the R-2 district, variance from the rear setback (east side) for existing house, variance from the minimum lot depth, variance from the front yard setback for existing house. Zone R-2. Parcel 034-99-0006-700 (Planning)
2. Steve Carson II, 2170 S. Cavalier Rd., Canton, MI 48188, for property located at same address, appealing Buildings and Building Regulations Ordinance Chapter 78, Article V, Section 78-121, regarding fences, walls and boarders. Zone R-5. Parcel 105-01-0186-000 (Building)
3. Daniel McCausland of IMAC Properties, 2011 Lotz Rd, Canton, MI 48187 representing IMAC Properties, for property located west side of Lotz Road between Lotz Road and I-275, appealing Sign Ordinance Chapter 102, Section 32, regarding navigational tower. Zone R-2. Parcel 051-99-0041-000 (Building)

Approval of April 6, 2005 Minutes (Special ZBA Meeting Regarding IKEA)

Approval of April 14, 2005 Minutes

Publiah May 5, 2005

060821293

PAR-TEE GOLF LEAGUE

The Par-tee Girls Golf League, which plays on Thursdays mornings at 8 a.m. at Canton's Hickory Creek Golf Course, is looking for new members.

The nine-hole league is set to begin May 5 and run through Aug. 19. Hickory Creek is located at Ford and Napier roads in Canton.

For more information, call Susan Moorman at (734) 414-9941.

BASEBALL SIGN-UPS

Registration for spring T-ball for children 4 and 5 years old, coach pitch for 6- and 7-year-old kids, and machine-pitch for kids between the ages of 8 and 10 are currently being accepted by the Plymouth Family YMCA.

For more registration information, call (734) 453-2904.

SOCCER CAMPS

For the 13th consecutive year, Bryan "Goose" Finnerty

will be hosting Goose's All-Star Soccer Camps in the metropolitan Detroit area. Joining Finnerty are former Detroit Rocker teammates Droe Callahan, the camp's director, Rodrigo Gonzalez, Marty Caves, Jim Lemley, Amy Knechtly, Emily Jackson, Gary Bell, Billy Joker and Brian Vanderziel.

All the coaches are licensed and serve as trainers for local soccer clubs year-round. The instructor-to-camper ratio is 1-to-10.

"My staff and I look forward to another exciting camp season," said Finnerty. "Being able to give back to our local communities is a highlight and an honor. The friendships we've built with the kids over the years make it like a mini-reunion every week. It's great to catch up on how they did in school and what new achievements were conquered both on and off the soccer field."

The camps include two options: a regular camp for

beginner to intermediate players; and advanced camps for striker/goalkeepers.

The advanced strike camp is an all-offensive camp that moves at an accelerated pace and focuses on finishing (scoring).

The fee for the regular camp is \$139 per player, while the advanced striker/goalkeeper camp runs \$179. Interested players can register at www.goose22.com by May 1, and receive \$20 off the registration fee.

For more information on Goose's All-Star Soccer Camps, visit www.goose22.com; or call (734) GOOSE-22.

There will be camps in Canton June 20-24 and July 18-22, both at Independence Park.

T-BALL LEAGUE

The City of Plymouth is accepting registrations for its Summer 2005 T-Ball league. For more information, call (734) 455-6620.

JUNIOR GOLF TOUR

Scholarship opportunities are available for local students between the ages of 12 and 18 who participate in the third season of the Top 50 Jr. Tour, which is presented by the Professional Golfers' Association Michigan Section. Play begins on June 11 and runs through the season-ending championship tournament on Aug. 8.

The full schedule is posted on the tour's Web site at www.Top50JrTour.com.

Interested parents and players should contact the tour at (248) 321-0000 or visit the tour Web site for a membership application.

The tour is presented by the PGA Michigan Section and the National Golf Scholarship Association (NGSA).

Items for the Sports Roundup may be faxed to (734) 591-7279 or mailed to The Observer, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI, 48150.

Charter Township of Canton Board Proceedings - April 26, 2005

The Board of Trustees convened at 6:00 p.m. in closed session to discuss employee negotiations and pending litigation. Members Present: Bennett, LaJoy, McLaughlin, Yack, Zarbo. Members Absent: Caccamo, Kirchgatter. Staff Present: Director Durack, Director Faas. Others Present: Carlito Young, Johnson & Rosati. Closed session adjourned at 6:40 p.m. Motion by Zarbo, supported by LaJoy to move from closed session to open session at 7:00 p.m. Motion carried by all members present. A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Canton was held Tuesday, April 26, 2005, at 1150 Canton Center S. Supervisor Yack called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Roll Call Members Present: Bennett, Caccamo, LaJoy, McLaughlin, Yack, Zarbo. Members Absent: Kirchgatter. Staff Present: Director Minghine, Director Durack, Director Santomuro, Director Conklin, Director Faas. Adoption of Agenda Motion by Bennett, supported by Zarbo to approve the agenda as amended to move G-11 and place it after G-4. Motion carried by all members present. Approval of Minutes Motion by Bennett, supported by McLaughlin to approve the Regular Board Minutes of April 12, 2005. Motion carried by all members present. Motion by Bennett, supported by LaJoy to approve the Board Study Minutes of April 19, 2005. Motion carried by all members present. Payment of Bills Motion by Bennett, supported by McLaughlin to approve payment of the bills as presented. Motion carried by all members present. Expenditure Recap for April 26, 2005 General Fund 101 \$321,706.64, Fire Fund 206 317,885.41, Police Fund 207 91,087.45, Summit Operating 208 38,487.58, Cable TV Fund 230 1,551.36, Auto Forfeiture(wva) 267 3,425.29, Federal Grants Fund 274 4,276.40, Auto Theft Grant 289 1,669.70, Downtown Dev. Auth. 294 11,692.79, Cap Proj-Summit Const 402 88,963.97, Cap Proj-Road Paving 403 116.55, Golf Fund 5 8 4 54,877.31, Water & Sewer Fund 592 762,533.66, Construction Escrows 702 51,315.09, Post Employ. Benefits 736 438.92, Total - All Funds 1,750,028.12. CONSENT CALENDAR: Item 1. REAPPOINTMENTS TO THE HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION. (ACSD) Motion by Bennett, supported by McLaughlin to approve the Township Supervisor's nomination of Stephen Foley and Melissa McLaughlin for reappointment to the Canton Historic District Commission for three year terms effective through April 30, 2008. Motion carried by all members present. Item 2. SPECIAL COMMUNITY EVENT STATUS FOR BRACKNEY CHIROPRACTIC WELLNESS CENTER RUMMAGE SALE TO BENEFIT ORPHANS. (T. CACCAMO) Motion by Bennett, supported by McLaughlin to approve special event status and placement of signs (5 days prior and removed at the conclusion of the event on May 7th) for Brackney Chiropractic Center's Orphan Benefit Rummage Sale on May 6-7, 2005, located at 2222 Al Smith Dr (Ford Rd west of Lotz.) Motion carried by all members present. Item 3. SPECIAL COMMUNITY EVENT STATUS AND THE INSTALLATION OF SIGNS FOR CHRIST THE GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH'S SUMMER DAY CAMP PROGRAM. (MSD) Motion by Bennett, supported by McLaughlin to approve special event status and placement of a banner (4' x 8' on the east side of the church's driveway on May 2 and will be removed May 27, 2005) for Christ the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church's Summer Day Camp program, June, July and August 2005. Motion carried by all members present. GENERAL CALENDAR: Item 1. CONSIDER BEYDOUN REZONING. (MSD) Motion by Bennett, supported by McLaughlin to adopt the rezoning request of Ali Beydoun. Motion carried by all members present. BOARD OF TRUSTEES CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON Rezoning Request of Ali Beydoun WHEREAS, the petitioner has requested approximately 1.37 acres located on the north side of Michigan Avenue between Canton Center and Beck Roads be rezoned from RR, Rural Residential to C-3, Regional Commercial District; and, WHEREAS, the requested rezoning WOULD be in conformity with the Future Land Use Map of the Comprehensive Plan, and WHEREAS, the Canton Township Planning Commission recommended APPROVAL of the request; NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Canton, Michigan does hereby APPROVE the request of the petitioner to rezone property identified by property tax EDP # 131-99-0011-000 from RR, Rural Residential to C-3, Regional Commercial Item 2. CONSIDER RIVIERA DEVT. (MSD) Motion by Bennett, supported by Zarbo to adopt the resolution for the rezoning request of Angelo Constantine. Motion carried by all members present. RESOLUTION OF BOARD OF TRUSTEES CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON Request of Angelo Constantine WHEREAS, the petitioner has requested approximately 12.93 acres located on the east side of Beck Road between Saltz and Cherry Hill Roads be rezoned from RR, Rural Residential to R-3, Single-Family Residential District; and, WHEREAS, the requested rezoning WOULD be in conformity with the Future Land Use Map of the Comprehensive Plan, and WHEREAS, the Canton Township Planning Commission recommended APPROVAL of the request; NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Canton, Michigan does hereby APPROVE the request of the petitioner to rezone property identified by property tax EDP # 063-99-0006-701, 063-99-0007-000 and 063-99-0008-000 from RR, Rural Residential to R-3, Single-Family Residential District. Item 3. CONSIDER SITE PLAN FOR CENTER CROSSING SHOPPING CENTER. (MSD) Motion by Bennett, supported by McLaughlin to adopt the resolution for the site plan for Center Crossing Shopping Center. Motion carried by all members present. RESOLUTION OF BOARD OF TRUSTEES CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON Site Plan for Center Crossing Shopping Center WHEREAS, the Project Sponsor, Mr. Sharif Makki, has requested site plan approval for the Center Crossing Shopping Center to be located on Canton Center Road between Ford and Hanford Roads, identified as tax EDP # 039-99-0019-702; and, WHEREAS, the Planning Commission reviewed the site plan and made a recommendation to approve the request to grant site plan approval, as summarized in the attached written analysis and recommendation. NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Canton, Michigan does hereby approve the request of the petitioner, Mr. Sharif Makki, to approve the site plan for the proposed Center Crossing Shopping Center subject to any and all state and local development regulations and further subject to any conditions recommended by the Planning Commission and staff, as described in the analysis and recommendation attached hereto and made a part hereof. Item 4. CONSIDER SITE PLAN FOR MYSTIC FOREST COURT PRIVATE DRIVE. (MSD) Motion by Bennett, supported by McLaughlin to adopt the resolution for the site plan for Mystic Forest Court Private Drive. Motion carried by all members present. RESOLUTION OF BOARD OF TRUSTEES CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON Site Plan for Mystic Forest Court Private Drive WHEREAS, the Project Sponsor, Mr. Kevin Chen, has requested site plan approval for Mystic Forest Court Private Drive to be located on Saltz Road between Beck and Ridge Roads (Tax ID # 065-99-0027-702); and, WHEREAS, the Planning Commission reviewed the site plan and made a recommendation to

APPROVE the site plan, conditioned upon revision of the plans to include a light at the Saltz Road entrance, as summarized in the attached written analysis and recommendation. NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Canton, Michigan does hereby approve the request of the petitioner, Mr. Kevin Chen, to approve the site plan for the proposed Mystic Forest Court Private Drive, subject to any and all state and local development regulations and further subject to any conditions recommended by the Planning Commission and staff, as described in the analysis and recommendation attached hereto and made a part hereof. Item 5. CONSIDER APPROVAL FOR GIS MAPPING SPECIALIST (DAVE MAURICE) TO ATTEND THE ESRI INTERNATIONAL USERS CONFERENCE IN SAN DIEGO, CA., JULY 24-30, 2005. (MSD) Motion by Bennett, supported by LaJoy to approve the request for the GIS Mapping Specialist to travel to San Diego, CA to attend the 25th Annual ESRI International Users Conference, July 24-30, 2005 to be paid from Planning Services 2005 Conference & Seminars line item (101-853-951-0000) in an amount not to exceed \$2,500.00. Motion carried by all members present. Item 6. TRANSFER OF SALTZ ROAD PAVING PROJECT FUNDING. (FBD) Motion by Bennett, supported by McLaughlin to approve the transfer of \$184,358 from Capital Projects Road Paving Fund #403 to Special Assessment Road Paving Construction Fund #803, and the following budget amendments for this transfer: Capital Projects Road Paving Fund Increase Revenues' Appropriation from fund balance #403-000-699-0000 \$184,358, Increase Appropriations: Transfers to Special Assessment Funds #403-959-965-8000 \$184,358. This budget amendment increases the Capital Projects Road Paving Fund budget from \$1,619,860 to \$1,804,218. Special Assessment Road Paving Construction Fund Increase Revenues. Transfers from Capital Projects Funds #803-000-676-4000 \$184,358, Appropriation from fund balance #803-000-699-0000 (184,358) Total \$ -0-. This budget amendment does not change the Capital Projects Road Paving Fund budget amount of \$423,343. Motion carried by all members present. Item 7. RESOLUTION APPROVING MERIT AWARDS FOR CHRISTINE HAAS, JOE KOCINSKI, AND ROSANNA CACCIOLA. (FBD) Motion by Bennett, supported by LaJoy to approve the merit awards for Christine Haas, Joe Kocinski, and Rosanna Cacciola in the amount of \$2475 each. Motion carried by all members present. Item 8. AWARD RENTAL OF TENTS, TABLE AND CHAIRS FOR 2005 SPECIAL EVENTS. (LSD) Motion by Bennett, supported by McLaughlin to award the bid for the tents, tables and chairs for the 2005 Liberty East to American Rentals, Inc., 4901 W. Grand River Ave., Lansing, MI 48906, in an amount not to exceed \$12,449.00 to award the bid for tents, tables and chairs for 2005 Special Events to Canton Canopies, 8559 Ronda Drive, Canton, MI 48187 in an amount not to exceed \$5,479.00 from account number Recreation Division Equipment Rental account #101-691-940-0000. Motion carried by all members present. Item 9. APPROVE PURCHASE OF SKID STEER LOADER AND ATTACHMENTS. (LSD) Motion by Bennett, supported by McLaughlin to award the bid for the purchase of a Skid Steer Loader and Attachments to Bobcat of Motorcity, 44756 N. Gratiot, Clinton Twp., MI 48036 in the amount of \$34,769.83 to be paid from account #101-270-977-0000 Parks Division, Capital Outlay-Equipment. Motion carried by all members present. Item 10. AWARD BID FOR LEISURE SERVICES APPAREL. (LSD) Motion by Bennett, supported by McLaughlin to award the 2005 Leisure Services staff program apparel bid to the lowest, qualified bidder, Sportswear Specialties, Inc., 8201 Rhonda Drive, Canton, MI 48187, in the following per unit cost in an amount not to exceed \$23,500, utilizing the following account numbers: 101-755-740-0000 (CSC) uniform 101-691-742-3000 (Rec.)-Teen Programs 101-755-740-0000 (CSC) league awards 101-691-742-4000 (Rec.)-Special Events 101-755-742-0000 (CSC) tourney awards 101-691-742-7000 (Rec.)-Aquatic Fitness 101-270-722-0000 (Parks) 101-760-740-0000 (Performing Arts) 101-672-742-0000 (SRS) - senior play participants 208-757-722-1000 (Rec.) - Aquatics 101-672-722-0000 (SRS.) - uniforms 208-757-722-2000 (Summit) 101-691-741-0000 (Rec.) - Playgrounds 584-756-722-0000 (Pheasant Run) 101-691-742-1000 (Rec.)-TR 101-691-742-2000 (Rec.) -Enrichment Motion carried by all members present. Motion by Bennett, supported by Zarbo to retain Sportswear Specialties, Inc. to provide staff apparel in 2006 with a 3% increase after the service and quality of apparel for 2005 is reviewed and approved by Leisure Services Staff. Motion carried by all members present. Item 11. CANTON BOARD OF TRUSTEES BY-LAW REVISIONS (TABLED ITEM FROM MARCH 22, 2005). (SUPERVISOR) Motion by Bennett, supported by Zarbo to remove from the table the Canton Board of Trustees By-Law Revisions for consideration. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Bennett, LaJoy, McLaughlin, Yack, Zarbo Nays: Caccamo Motion carried. Motion by Bennett, supported by Zarbo to approve Rule 1 as amended. Motion carried by all members present. Motion by Bennett, supported by McLaughlin to approve Rule 2 as amended. Motion carried. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Bennett, LaJoy, McLaughlin, Yack, Zarbo Nays: Caccamo Motion by Bennett, supported by Zarbo to approve Rule 3, Public Notice of Meetings as amended. Motion carried by all members present. Motion by Zarbo, supported by McLaughlin to approve Rule 9. Motion carried by all members present. Motion by McLaughlin, supported by LaJoy to approve Rule 5. Agendas and Meeting Materials as amended with the exclusion of 5.6.2 for further wordsmithing and distributed to all Board Members for further discussion. Motion carried by all members present. Motion by McLaughlin, supported by Zarbo to approve Rule 6. Conduct of Meetings as amended. Motion carried by all members present. Motion by McLaughlin, supported by Zarbo to approve Rule 7. Record of Meetings as amended. Motion carried by all members present. Rule 8 was combined with Rule 2. Motion by Zarbo, supported by McLaughlin to approve Rule 9. Motion carried by all members present. Motion by McLaughlin, supported by LaJoy to approve Rule 10. Motion carried by all members present. Motion by McLaughlin, supported by LaJoy to approve Rule 11 as amended. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Bennett, LaJoy, McLaughlin, Yack, Zarbo Nays: Caccamo Motion carried. Motion by McLaughlin, supported by LaJoy to approve Rule 12. Secretary to the Board as amended. Motion carried by all members present. Motion by McLaughlin, supported by LaJoy to approve Rule 13. Motion carried by all members present. A complete copy of the revised By-laws is available through the Clerk's office (734-394-5100) OTHER: Supervisor Yack stated that on May 3, 2005 there will be a study session for two (2) committees from Municipal Services and four (4) Leisure Services Departments at 7:00 p.m. at 1150 Canton Center S. Administration Building, First Floor, Board Room. ADJOURN: Motion by Bennett, supported by McLaughlin to adjourn at 10:15 p.m. - Thomas J. Yack, Supervisor - Terry G. Bennett, Clerk

Copies of the complete text of the Board Minutes are available at the office of the Charter Township of Canton, 1150 S. Canton Center Road, Canton, Michigan 48188; during regular business hours and can also be accessed through our web site www.canton-mi.org after Board Approval

Publiah May 5, 2005

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Tuition assistance for nursing education at both the Associate and Bachelor Degree levels are generous and ongoing. St. Mary Mercy has recently invested in its current nursing staff and is proud to announce the hospital's graduating class of its first on-site 40-month Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) Completion Program who were honored at a special breakfast in February. Congratulations to St. Mary Mercy's graduating nurses: Linda MacDonald, RN, Cecelia Coffey, RN, Joan Davis, RN, Diane Gale, RN, Maria Bacero-Buison, RN, Joan Kulp, RN, Jackie Ravid, RN, Denise Baker, RN, Danielle Bessesen, RN, Kathryn King, RN, Marilyn Merlo, RN, Margo Ford, RN, Renee Barharian, RN, and Paula Wingett, RN.

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Nursing Staff and nursing leaders are involved in planning the future of patient care. Some of the targets for achievement are Clinical Ladders and Magnet Status, a coveted award indicating that a hospital has met stringent requirements for nursing practice. All advancement will be interdisciplinary and interdepartmental because nurses are looking to all disciplines and departments to be part of the journey together to maintain excellence in patient care.

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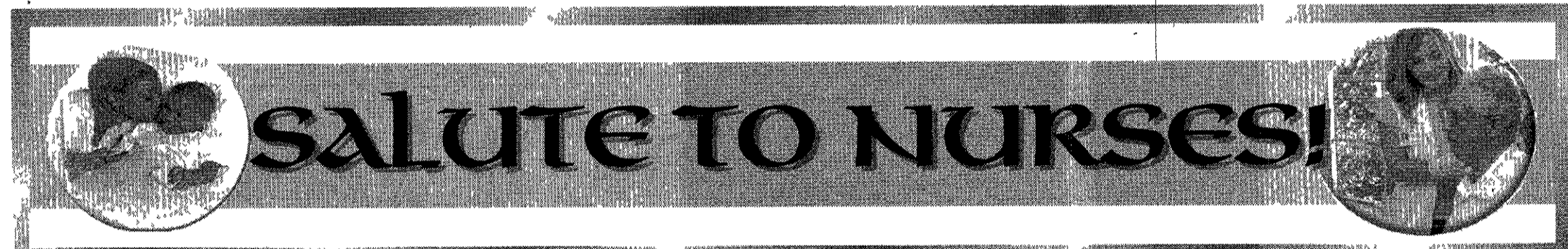
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Accessible to All Rev. Mary Jean Bird
Associate Minister

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(734) 422-0494
www.rosedalegardens.org
Contemporary Service
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Traditional Service
10:30 am
Nursery Care Provided
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Full Program Church
Rev. Richard Peters, Pastor
Rev. Kellie Bohman Associate Pastor

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25350 West Six Mile Rd.
Redford (313) 534-7730
Sunday Worship Service - 10:00 A.M.
Sunday School - 11:15 A.M.
Thursday Dinners - 6:00 P.M.
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Rev. Paul S. Bousquette

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Saturday 5:00 P.M.
Sunday 7:45 & 10:00 A.M.
Sun (Sept-May) 10:00 A.M.
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Jill Hegdal, Pastor
9:00 a.m. Sunday School (all ages)
10:00 a.m. Family Worship (Nursery Avail.)
http://www.timothyivonia.com

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8:20 & 11 a.m.
Sunday School 9:30 am.
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LIVONIA • (734) 261-1360
SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES
8:30 A.M. & 11:00 A.M.
PASTOR JAMES HOFF
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ALL ARE WELCOME!
Where adults and children explore
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Unitarian Universalism: The religion that puts its faith in you
The Reverend
Kimi Riegel, Minister
Sermon for Sunday
"Can Unitarian Universalists
Receive Grace?"

Having a Vacation Bible School?

Let us help you with your attendance! Place an ad in our Vacation Bible School Church Directory that runs every Thursday May through August. For more information, please contact: Susan Massolia 734-953-2091 • Fax: 734-953-2232 Email: smassolia@oe.homecomm.net



For Church Directory changes and information regarding advertising in this directory, please call
Donna Hart (734) 953-2153 the Friday before publication.

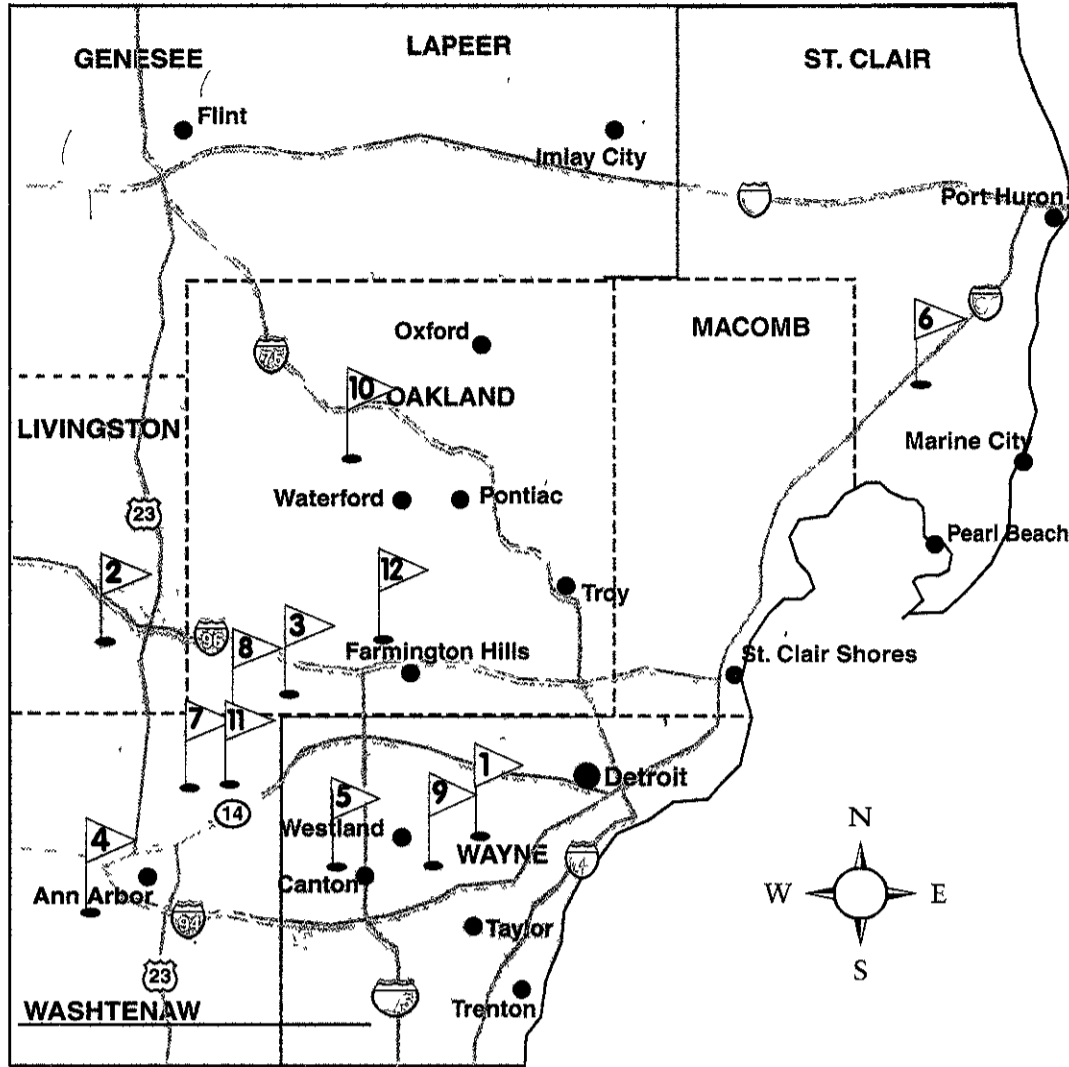
To mail copy: The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150 or Fax to (734) 953-2121

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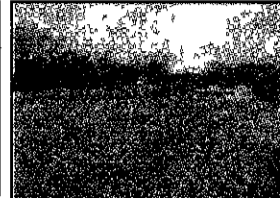
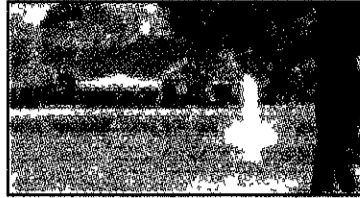
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Course Profile

DEARBORN HILLS GOLF COURSE
1300 S. Telegraph • Dearborn, MI 48124 • 313.563.4653



This is a rolling, challenging par four and beautiful par threes. There are 16 ponds scattered throughout as part of the designers effort to preserve the natural wetlands. The clubhouse was added in 1995 and includes a grill, bar, banquet facilities, pro shop with snack bar and an outdoor patio with table & chairs- perfect for relaxing after a round of golf! Woman friendly course with roaming beverage carts. And it's close to home!

Signature Hole: #7, par 4, 410 yards, long elevated tee box, slight dog leg right, hitting over water.

Pro Tip #1: In order to swing correctly you must go through the necessary pre-shot routine (Grip - Stance - Ball Position - Alignment)

Pro Tip #2: The stance (posture) of setting up to the golf ball dictates the initial path, plane & balance of your golf swing. Stance should be comfortable, yet athletic.

For more information check out the Directory below and visit www.cityofdearborn.org/departments/recreation/golf



Look here in the upcoming weeks for a list of Golfer's in the area who have hit a Hole in One... Maybe it will be you!

Directory

- 1 DEARBORN HILLS GOLF COURSE**
1300 S. Telegraph Rd.
Dearborn, MI 48124
313.563.4653
A unique, challenging & beautiful par 3 and par 4 course!
No. of Holes: 18 Par: 60 Yards: 4495
Directions: North of Michigan Ave. entrance on west side of Telegraph
- 2 THE JACKAL GOLF CLUB**
4141 Bauer Rd
Brighton, MI 48116
810 229 9581
www.jackalgolfclub.com
No. of Holes 18 Par 71 Yards 6700
Manager Rob Bruhn
Directions I-96 to Exit 145 Go east on Grand River to Challis Rd (right)
- 3 LINKS OF NOVI**
50395 W. 10 Mile Rd
Novi, MI 48374
248.380.9595
"The Golf Outing Professionals"
A 27 Hole Jerry Matthews Design located on Ten Mile Road, a 1/4 mile west of Wixom Rd.
- 4 HICKORY STICKS GOLF COURSE**
8753 Pleasant Lake Rd
Ann Arbor, MI 48103
734.913.8140
15 minutes SW of downtown Ann Arbor
Looks like Up North - feels like vacation
Visit our website for more info & directions at www.hickorysticks.org
- 5 PHEASANT RUN**
46500 Summit Pkwy
Canton, MI 48188
734.397.6460
No. of Holes: 27 Par: 72 Yards: 7050
Manager: Sean Fletcher
Scenic & challenging course designed by Arthur Hills
Directions: I-275 W. on Ford to Canton Center (south) to Summit Pkwy (west)
- 6 RATTLE RUN GOLF COURSE**
7163 Saint Clair Hwy
East China, MI 48054
810 329 2070
www.rattlerun.com
No. of Holes 18 Par 72 Yards 6865
Manager: Gerry Behayio
Directions I-94 exit 157 south to Palms Rd., left to St. Clair Hwy, left 2 mi
- 7 ROLLING MEADOWS**
6484 Sutton Rd.
Whitmore Lake, MI 48189
734.662.5144
Sr. / Weekday / Family Specials Outings & Fund Raisers League Openings
No. of Holes: 18 Par: 71 Yards: 6476
Directions: Sutton near North Territorial Rd., 2 Miles east of US 23, 2 miles west of Pontiac Trail.
- 8 TANGLEWOOD GOLF COURSE**
53503 W 10 Mile
South Lyon, MI 48178
248 486 3355
www.tanglewoodthelion.com
No. of Holes 27 Par 36 Yards 3636
Manager Ann Lewis
Directions 10 Mile Road between Wixom and Milford
- 9 INKSTER VALLEY GOLF COURSE**
2150 Middlebelt
Inkster, MI 48141
734.722.8020
No. of Holes: 18 Par: 72 Yards: 6709
"Up north" setting without the long drive!
Directions: 1/4 mile north of Michigan Ave. west side of Middlebelt.
- 10 SPRINGFIELD OAKS GOLF COURSE**
12450 Andersonville Rd
Davisburg, MI 48350
248 625 2540
www.golfokland.us
No. of Holes: 18 Par: 71 Yards: 6033
Front nine is open & hilly, back nine is tighter with more trees and water
Dir Andersonville Rd near Hall Rd
- 11 CATTAILS GOLF CLUB**
57737 9 Mile Rd.
South Lyon, MI 48178
248.486.8777
www.cattailsgolfclub.com
No. of Holes: 18 Par: 72 Yards: 6436
Course sculpted through woods, wetlands and rolling hills
Directions: 1/2 Mile E of Griswold
- 12 INDEPENDENCE GREEN GOLF COURSE**
24360 Washington Court
Farmington Hills, MI 48335
248 477 7092
No. of Holes 18 Par 56 Yards 5200
Manager Jim Magurk
Daily Senior Specials
Directions Grand River & Halstead in Farmington Hills

This Weeks Values

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Ann Arbor, MI 48103
734-913-8140
www.hickorysticks.org
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Call (810) 329-2070 For Tee Times & Weekend Specials
7163 St. Clair Highway • St. Clair, MI 48079
www.RattleRun.com • info@rattlerun.com

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Daily Monday-Friday **\$10.00**
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248-477-7092

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\$100.00 18 Holes with Cart 4 Players
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Tanglewood GOLF COMMUNITY
53481 Ten Mile Road • South Lyon
248-486-3355

The Links of Novi Spring Senior Special
18 Holes with Cart Mon - Fri
\$20.00 per person
Must be 50 years old. Monday - Friday. Call for tee times
248-380-9595

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Real Estate Inquires

Robert M. Meisner

Deck alteration a likely violation

We have a member of our Association who has made a modification to his deck and thinks it is no big deal. He did not get written approval and is moving forward with the modification saying it is a very small change. What are your thoughts?

Michigan courts have held that an Association is entitled to equitable relief, that is an injunction and attorney fees, where a resident failed to obtain prior written approval in accordance with a covenants for construction of a deck on a resident's property. In a recent case, the court dismissed the argument made by the homeowner that the breach was "de minimis" and held that any breach of the condominium association documents constitutes breach for which relief can be granted. You are best advised to actively and consistently pursue the violation of this restriction.

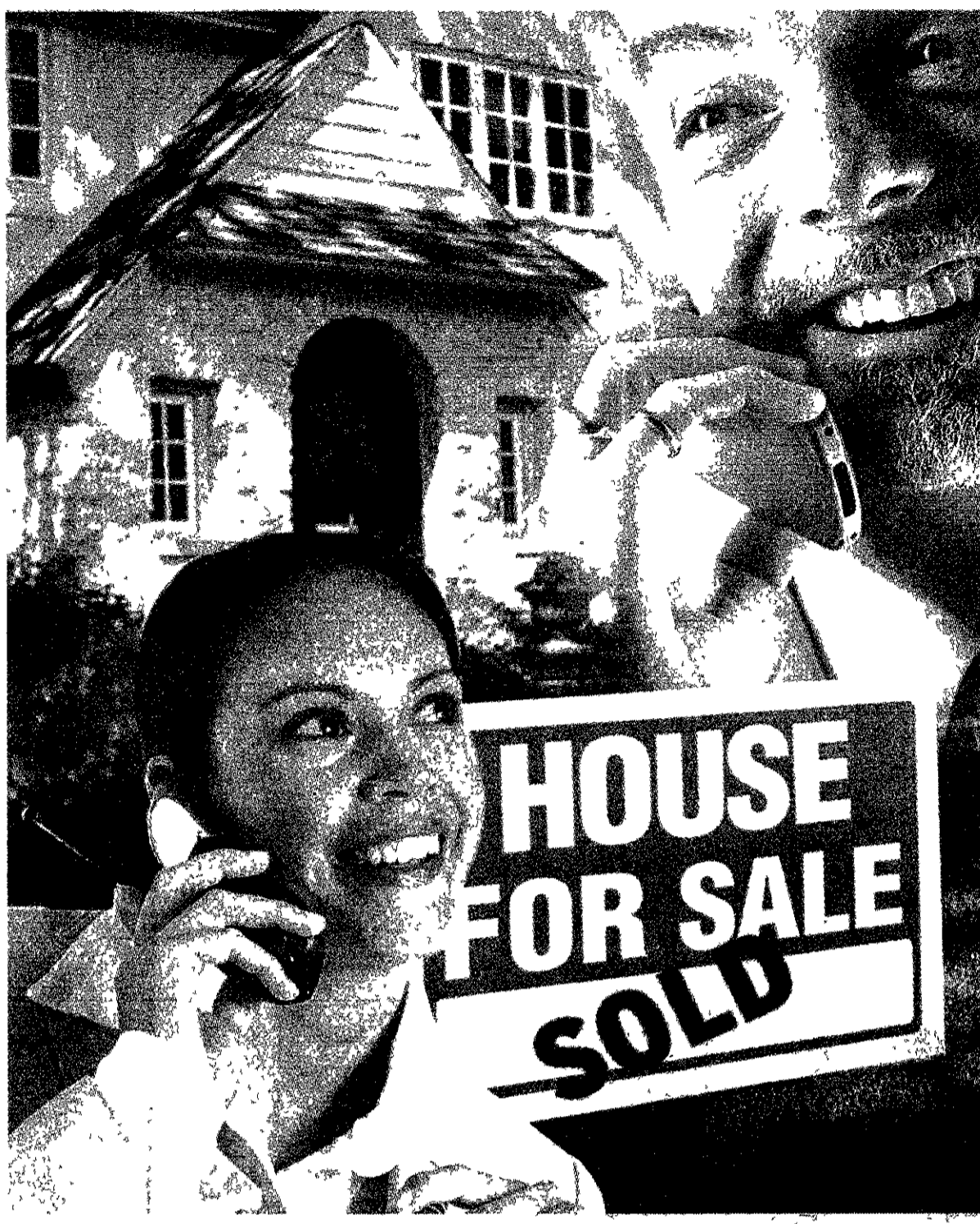
Our Association in Florida promises that it will provide security at the condominium. The developer has touted its security features in its marketing materials and part of our dues goes toward security. Someone was recently assaulted at the condominium and I am wondering, as a member of the board, if we have any liability?

More than likely you do based upon a recent decision of a Florida court which ruled that the Association could be held liable for, in that case, a guest's death regardless of whether other similar crimes had occurred in the past at the community. The court explained that proof of other similar crimes at the community would only be relevant if the Association had not undertaken the duty to provide security. But since it undertook that duty, it could be held liable for the guest's death if the member could prove that there was not adequate security.

Robert M. Meisner is a lawyer and the author of *Condominium Operation: Getting Started & Staying on the Right Track*, second edition. It is available for \$9.95 plus \$2 shipping and handling. For more information, call (248) 644-4433 or visit rmeisner@meisner-associates.com. This column shouldn't be construed as legal advice.

View the Observer & Eccentric Real Estate Classifieds on the Web:

www.hometownlife.com



Technology helps Realtors and homebuyers go

WIRELESS

(NUI) - Today, people are more connected to each other than ever before — without wires. More than 100 million Americans have mobile phones, and personal data assistants are becoming increasingly popular.

Many of these devices have the ability to browse the Web. People are doing everything from paying bills to buying cars to looking for love online with their PDAs and cell phones.

And now, many are looking to the Web to help them buy their next home.

According to the National Association of Realtors, nearly three out of four homebuyers use the Internet as a tool when searching for a home. Real estate Web sites allow users to search homes by location, size and price and research neighborhoods' schools, amenities and other key features.

Trends also indicate that more real estate agents are using the Web and wireless

HIGH-TECH

Buyers can use their Web-configured cell phone or PDA to access tools on ERA.com that will help them choose a home or agent. Listing pages provide property details and can include multiple photos and a virtual tour. Agent profile pages - highlighting agents' awards, designations and languages spoken - enable people to look for the agent that best fits their needs.

devices to help them sell homes. According to a survey by the National Association of Realtors, more than 60 percent of Realtors have a personal Web site.

The survey also showed that the use of wireless Internet increased by 6 percent and wireless e-mail increased by 4 percent among

realtors in 2003. ERA Real Estate says it was among the first to reach out to cell phone and PDA Web surfers by making its site completely accessible on the Web.

ERA.com Mobile helps agents and buyers alike. With a wireless device, agents can have a "virtual office" while on

the road. While on appointments with potential buyers, agents can use their wireless device to display home listings and features.

Agents also can cut down on the paperwork they need to carry. If someone likes a property, vital information and a link to a virtual tour of the home can be e-mailed with ease.

Buyers can use their Web-configured cell phone or PDA to access tools on ERA.com that will help them choose a home or agent. Listing pages provide property details and can include multiple photos and a virtual tour. Agent profile pages — highlighting agents' awards, designations and languages spoken — enable people to look for the agent that best fits their needs.

To learn more about finding your next home with the help of your wireless device, visit www.ERA.com.

Mortgage Bits

Timothy Phillips



Bridge loans are an option for buyer

"Houston, we've got a problem."

That was the understatement of the century when Apollo 13's command module pilot, Jack Swigert, calmly gave the first intimation of serious trouble 200,000 miles above Earth.

Yes, this does have everything to do with your home, with your family, and with financing your home. You see, I always like to keep things in perspective as I get "emergency" calls from desperate borrowers scrapping for solutions. (My family always hears it as, "there are no emergencies.")

Lately, borrower questions have been related to how they can purchase a home prior to selling the one in which they currently live. Some mortgage brokers and real estate agents make this solution more complex than need be. The answer lies in your lender's ability to create a "bridge" for you to get from your current property to your new one.

Frankly, I find formal bridge loans typically awkward to use and more expensive than other alternatives. Like most great solutions, the best ones are cheap, simple, and effective. (The astronauts proved this when they masterminded their own life-saving game plan using household items on their spacecraft.)

Bridge loan alternatives may include negotiating with sellers for a better closing date, using a home equity line to create the bridge in lieu of a bridge loan, writing a contingency into the sales agreement, or even opting for a short-term "stated income" loan for your new purchase.

Other solutions may involve a little creativity with your new home's sellers, your current home's buyers, or both. If you don't ask, you will never know if your seller can allow you to purchase their home on a short-term land contract, or if your buyer can sign a short "lease" with an option to purchase. And there are still other possibilities, if you can find a flexible lender.

Today's TIMBIT! If you seek, you will find. Don't miss out on your next dream home by assuming you must first sell your current home. You can get there from here.

Timothy Phillips is a mortgage banker and newspaper columnist. Visit USWealthAcademy.com for free information online or call him toll-free at (866) 369-4516. Homebuyers should always consult a professional for guidance specific to their situation.

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HOME of The WEEK

NEWER BUILT IN BIRMINGHAM


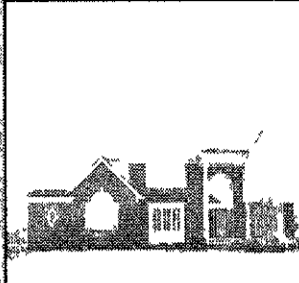


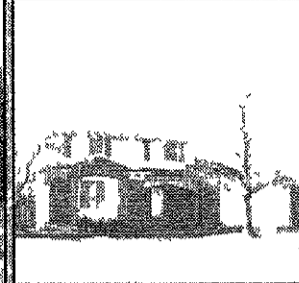
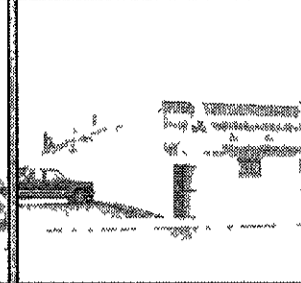
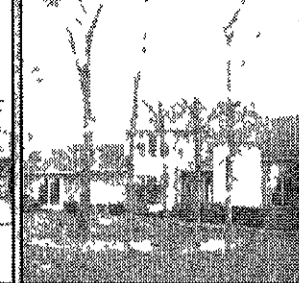



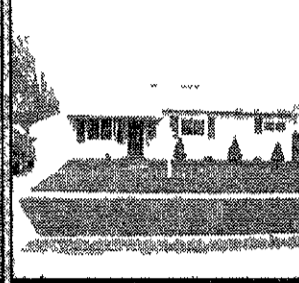
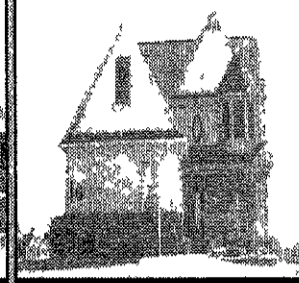



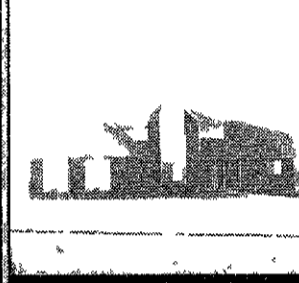



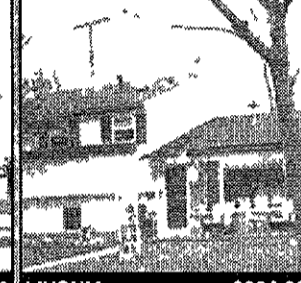



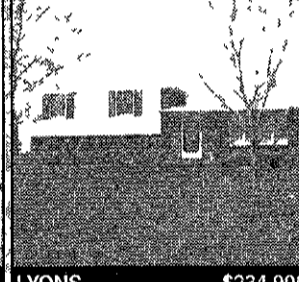

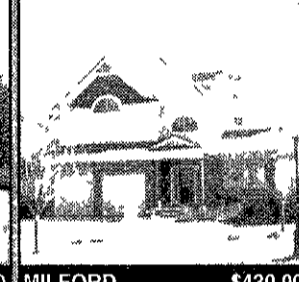
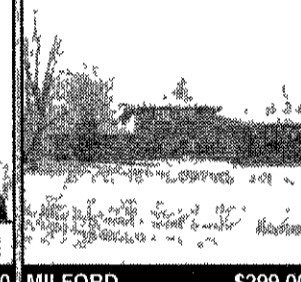
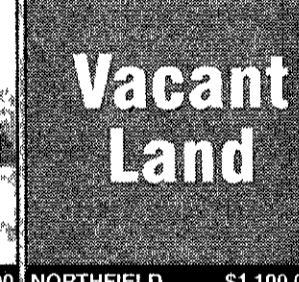

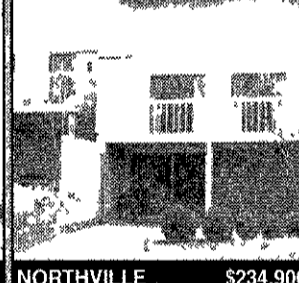
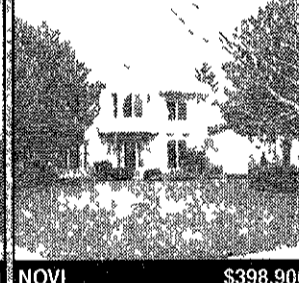
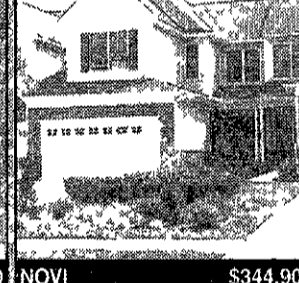
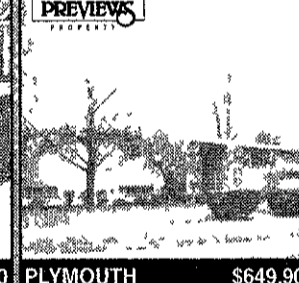
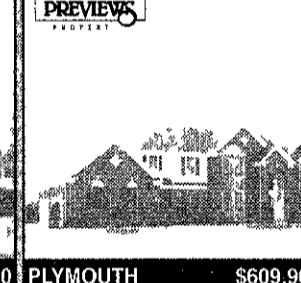
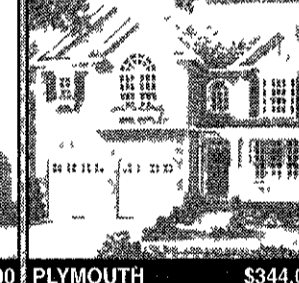
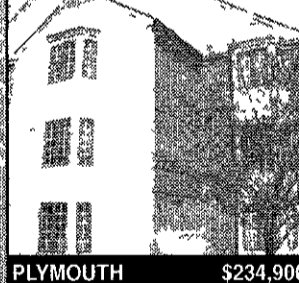

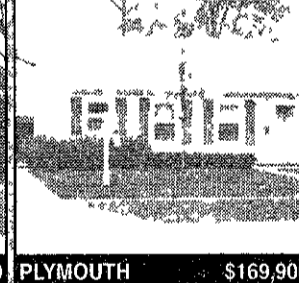


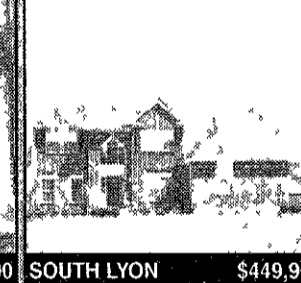
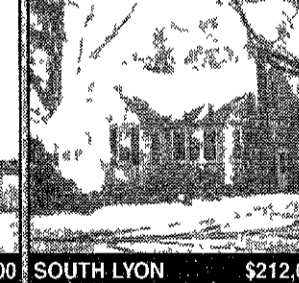
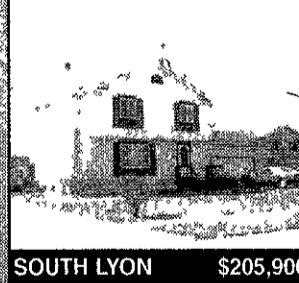

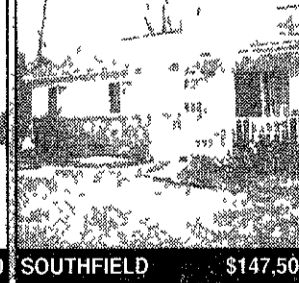

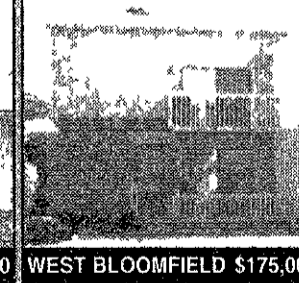
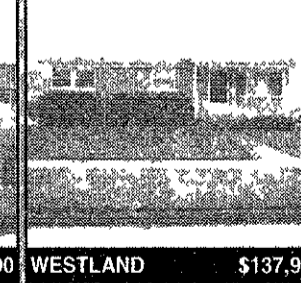
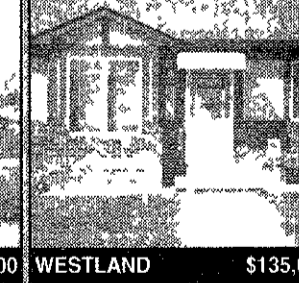
Re-built in 2001 on the original foundation, this beautifully decorated three bedroom, two full and two half bath colonial with a library features over 2100 square feet of luxurious living! Wonderful custom kitchen with high-end SS appliances, granite counters, hardwood floors throughout. The spacious master suite features a sweeping cathedral ceiling and luxurious master bath. The great room is perfect for gatherings with the gas fireplace with granite surround. Enjoy outdoor entertaining on the deck! All this for \$560,000. Offered by John or Bridget Apap for an appointment today. (248) 225-9858 or 248-225-9643

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 CANTON \$499,900 This fabulous home belongs in a magazine! Decorated like a model. Incredible kitchen w/HDWD frs. Spacious nook sitting room w/fireplace. Study w/vaulted ceiling & fireplace. 2 story GR w/fireplace 1st floor mstr (OEP92TOR) 734-453-6800	 CANTON \$444,900 Sharp, clean & neutral 4 BR, 2 1/2 BA colonial on an interior lot. Gigantic kitchen-nook w/double oven island & more. Spacious family room w/gas fireplace 9 ft ceiling on 1st floor 2 story foyer Lux master suite (OEP35PAV) 734-453-6800	 CANTON \$340,000 Detached luxury 3BR cape cod condo w/1st flr study 1st flr mstr w/2 WIC & fashion bath Neutral w/HDWD frs in foyer, kit & brkfst area. Open flr plan w/soaring clngs. Huge fin bsmt w/1/2 BA. Fee inc pool & tennis ct (OEP20VIS) 734-453-6800	 CANTON \$279,900 Immaculate home on prime wooded lot! HDWD frs in foyer, pdr rm, kit & FR. New crpt t/o. Upgraded white bay cbnts. Mstr ste w/vaulted ceilings w/acuzzi tub. Loft opens to 2 story FR w/FP & bay wndw. Part fin bsmt (OEP01AMB) 734-453-6800	 CANTON \$240,000 Totally Updated 4brdm Colonial W/newer kitchen, Appl's, Stay,eat-in Nook W/drwl To Deck. Updates incl: New Carpet, Windows, Roof & Updated Baths, FR W/frpl, Formal LR & DR. Freshly Painted Enormous Fenced Yard (OEL84RAI) 734-591-0333	 DEARBORN \$490,000 Newer Items Incl: Roof, Gutters, Park Lot, Kit, Elec Serv, Furn, A/c Plumb & Sprink Sys. Bar Owns All Machines: 2 Dart Mach, Juice Box, & 2 Poker Machines. Near Rouge Plant. Terms Avail. Includes Liquor License (OEL14SCH) 734-591-0333	 FARMINGTON HILLS \$415,000 Impeccable updated Green Valley colonial on wooded cul-de-sac lot! remodeled kitchen w/corian counters, newer cpt t/o, maint free trim & siding (04), new dimensional roof-tearoff new ceramic tile in foyer, 1/2 bath & laundry (OEN54HAR) 248-347-3050
 FARMINGTON HILLS \$329,900 Beautiful 3 Bed, 2 1/2 Bath Detached Condo W/wooded Setting On Large Lot Cathedral Ceilings, Nat FP Lg Master Suite W/WIC & Jacuzzi Tub Kit w Island Eating Area, HW frs & Doorwall Leading To Deck Minutes To M-5 (OEL67BUR) 734-591-0333	 FARMINGTON HILLS \$149,000 Very nice upper ranch w/an extremely convenient location 2 bedrooms 2 full baths & basement. Newer roof & furnace. Living rm features gas frpl & library 'cubby'. Nice kit w/formal din area. Walk in master closet (OEN90EIG) 248-347-3050	 FARMINGTON HILLS \$1,500 Mint Condition! Home Was Built In 1999 1st Flr Mstr W/Balcony Great Floor Plan, Lots Of Storage. Easy Access To Fwy Across Small Park. All Appliances Stay. Require 15 Monthly Security & First Months Rent (OEL90GLE) 734-591-0333	 GARDEN CITY \$135,000 The cleanest most updated home you will find. This 3 bdrm ranch has great curb appeal. 2 1/2 car garage on a lrg deep lot. Updates incl in last 4 years are, kit w/pergo flooring, carpet, vinyl windows garage & more (OEN29GIL) 248-347-3050	 GENOA \$345,000 Year round fun! Lake access Beautiful home on a premium lot w/lots of upgrades. Hardwood floors in 2 story foyer and kitchen. Florida room and fabulous master bath w/ceramic tile (OESLY33NIC) 248-437-4500	 GENOA \$299,900 Premium location on golf course 3 bedroom 3 1/2 bath in prestigious neighborhood. Marble foyer circular stairway. Professionally finished basement (OESLY66PIN) 248-437-4500	 GREEN OAK \$138,900 Look no longer this is the 55+ co-op you have been waiting for! Great location and spectacular view. Fully finished LL with 2nd kitchen, great for entertainers! Bring all offers (OESLY67CAM) 248-437-4500
 HAMBURG \$329,500 Plenty of room in this 5 bedroom w/wim and boat access to chain of lakes. Finished basement w/bath. Newer kitchen w/island three seasons room, fireplace in family room, much more (OESLY43STR) 248-437-4500	 HARTLAND \$339,900 Awesome newer cape cod w/walkout bsmt on premium corner lot! Gated community, tennis courts and park 3 bdrm, 2 1/2 bath and 3 car garage 2 story great rm w/corner fireplace 1st flr master bdrm w/huge master bath (OESLY67ROT) 248-437-4500	 INKSTER \$160,000 Totally Updated 4 Bdrdm Colonial New Kit W/oak Cab, New Fir, New Sink, Eat-in Nook W/drwl To Deck & Brck Patio, FR W FP, New Bath, New Carpet, Freshly Painted & Neutral T/O, Enormous Fenced yard W/mature Trees (OEL85CHE) 734-591-0333	 LIVONIA \$244,900 3BR, 2BA ranch in move in condition! Beautiful kitchen w/oak cabinets, ceramic floor indirect lighting & all app. Gas fireplace in family room w/cathedral ceilings Andersen wndws & 2 car attached garage. Warranty (OEP87ROY) 734-453-6800	 LIVONIA \$240,000 Impeccable Livonia Colonial Recently Remodeled On Private Cul-de-sac W/sidewalks. New Carpet T/O (04) Interior Freshly Painted (04), New Pergo Floor In Kitchen & Hallway (04), Updated Landscaping (04), 1st Flr Laundry (OEN46SUN) 248-347-3050	 LIVONIA \$224,900 Stop looking! You found it! Almost 2000 sq ft 4 bed and 3 bath Dream kitchen 2 car garage plus shed Oak fls great room addition 3yrs ago, with 13' ceilings (OESLY19GIT) 248-437-4500	 LIVONIA \$159,900 3BR 1 1/2 BA w/ finished bsmt w office. Newer Apps. Roof, windows, updated kitchen & bath. Hot tub. Newer 2 car garage. Newer C/A work area & wet bar in bsmt. Large fenced in yard w/ built in bbq. Florida room (OEL12HAL) 734-591-0333
 LIVONIA \$159,900 Ranch Located In heart Of Livonia Walk To The Park, School, Or Rec Center Vinyl siding, Furnace In 99 Newer Windows 2 Car garage, Laundry Room Is Large Enough To Use As Rec Room Or Sun Room (OEL97ARD) 734-591-0333	 LYONS \$325,000 Better Than New! Formal DR W/butlers Pantry Great Rm W/ Gas Frpl, Open Kit W/SS Appl & Island Eat-in Nook W/drwl To Trex Deck, Mstr Ste Bath W/garden Tub & Dole Sinks, 1st Flr Lndry, Hot Tub Brickpaver Patio (OEL01COB) 734-591-0333	 LYONS \$234,900 Super spacious home! 4 brs, family room w/stone fireplace, finished basement, newer carpet and flooring deck for entertainings breakfast nook w/doorwall. You will be pleased! (OESLY01TON) 248-437-4500	 MILFORD \$479,900 Stunning 2 Story Contemporary Sits On 1.62 Acres Backs To Woods 4 Bed, 3 1/2 Baths, & 1st Flr Mstr Ste W/sky Lights & Plenty Of Privacy. Fin Bsmt Providing An Adot 1,400 Sq Ft. One Showing Is All That's Needed! (OEL67HER) 734-591-0333	 MILFORD \$430,000 Magnificent Beyond Belief! Fabulous End Unit Condo W/ 3255 Sq Ft. Fincel Finished Walkout On The Lake! Dramatic 2 Story Foyer, Gourmet Kit W/hdwd Flr, 42 Maple Cabinets, 2 Story Great Rm W/ladded windows (OEN37COM) 248-347-3050	 MILFORD \$299,000 2 1/2 Acres - A Great Opportunity At A Super Price 2800 Sq Ft With many Updates Including Roof, Furnace, New Hardwood Floors, & Carpet. Updated Kitchen, Master W/private Bath & Private Balcony (OEN20OLD) 248-347-3050	 NORTHFIELD \$1,100,000 Investment opportunity, 100 acres located within the proposed Ann Arbor green belt, development rights intact, well traveled rd. Bring all reasonable offers (OESLY95DIX) 248-437-4500
 NORTHVILLE \$1,400,000 Lakefront Colonial In Stonewater Wm Granite & Coran T/O, braz cherry frs, cherry Cabs In Kitchen & Study, Hearth Rm Off Kit, gr W/2-story Ceiling & 2-story Fp W/granite & Cherry Surround mstr Suite W/fray Ceiling (OEN78STO) 248-347-3050	 NORTHVILLE \$234,900 Perfect location w/priv entry 3BR, 2 BA cond/3 levels w/ WO LL. Spac formal LR w/gas FP & formal DR offers 2 doorwalls to rear decking. Kit is open to added bkfst dining w/wndw. Mstr ste w/BA & lg WIC. Private! (OEP80WAS) 734-453-6800	 NOVI \$398,900 Sharp clean & spacious 4BR 2 1/2 BA colonial on prof landscaped interior lot w/many trees. Refreshing in-ground pool & spa. Kitchen-nook w/snack bar. Family room w/fireplace & wet bar. Full 3 car garage. Much more! (OEP81HUN) 734-453-6800	 NOVI \$344,900 Luxury condo living at Island Lake of Novi. Beautiful 3 bdrm, 2 1/2 bath unit w/greenhouse kitchen, formal dining gorgeous master bedroom suite 2 car garage and full basement. Lake and beach amenities. Novi school (OESLY84SIL) 248-437-4500	 PLYMOUTH \$649,900 Hough Park quad-level! Almost 5000 sq ft Gigantic kitchen-nook. Enormous family room w/fireplace & wet bar. Fieldstone fireplace in study. All rooms spacious. Lots of additional high quality updates. Inground pool! (OEP09ELM) 734-453-6800	 PLYMOUTH \$609,900 Country Club Village executive home on estate size lot 4 1/2 BR & 4 full BA's. Upgraded thru-out w/cherry oak frs in foyer hall kit, hearth rm & 1st flr BR. Walk out LL w/full wndws 4 car gar, pool & club house (OEP11FEL) 734-453-6800	 PLYMOUTH \$344,000 Tremendous New Construction At A Great Price This Quality Custom Home Features Vaulted Master Suite W/ins & Hrs Walk In Closets 2 Story Foyer, Deep Wooded Lot Covered Porch, Fireplace 2 car attached Garage (OEN00GRE) 248-347-3050
 PLYMOUTH \$234,900 Outstanding condo in downtown! Beautiful hardwood frs, solid hardwood doors to Freshly painted, new blinds & window treatments. New stove, rfr, micro washer & dryer all stay. New A/C, kitchen faucet & disposal (OEP89DEE) 734-453-6800	 PLYMOUTH \$199,900 Updated 3BR 1 1/2 story home on nearly 1/2 acre w/2 car gar + 28x19 wrkshp. Lg LR w/16x8 area perfect for study w/HW flr. Kit is spac w/newer cbnts & frs w/DW to deck & paver patio. Ceramic BA newer crpt, roof (OEP45SCH) 734-453-6800	 PLYMOUTH \$169,900 Updated ranch inc plumbing landscaping & newer kitchen. The list goes on! Updated bath w/pedestal sink & new tub. Lots of storage in lg attic & oversz garage w/loft. Neutral t/o. Appl's remain & incl washer & dryer (OEP20JUN) 734-453-6800	 ROYAL OAK \$65,000 Why Rent? Take Advantage Of The Opportunity To Own In Royal Oak At An Affordable Price! Lovely Hdwd Thruout Most Of The Unit, Ceramic In Kit. Good Size Mstr Br. C/a Common Bsmt Offers Storage Area (OEN40BRI) 248-347-3050	 SALEM \$799,900 Incredible Price For This Paradise On 4.42 Secluded Acres & Backing To Salem Farms Golf Course! Dryvtt Exterior W/high-end Quality T/O, 2-story Foyer, gourmet Kitchen W/42' Maple Cabs & New Granite Counters (04) (OEN57BEA) 248-347-3050	 SOUTH LYON \$449,900 Cherry floors and 9 ft ceilings 1st fl, 42 cherry cab island kit maint free deck & patio w/fire pit 26 ft cp 3+car heat gar mbr 2 w/WI, w/57ft hang g & 115ft shelf 2nd flr laundry (OESLY66NAT) 248-437-4500	 SOUTH LYON \$212,000 Home with a warm heart! This yesterday 3 br charmer sits on an acre of land surrounded by trees. Many updates hrwd frs. French doors, crown molding & fireplace. Make it yours by adding your own personal touches (OESLY00TEN) 248-437-4500
 SOUTH LYON \$205,900 This Spacious Colonial Has Been Freshly Painted And Newly Carpeted. A Great Family Home. Ceramic Floors, Neutral Decor. Walking Distance To Schools And Backing To Commons. All Appliances Included. New Furnace (OEL67DEA) 734-591-0333	 SOUTH LYON \$199,900 Mint condition! Updated kit separate eating area w/slides to 20X14 deck overlooking your backyard loaded w/perennials. New A/C, H2O heater and ducts cleaned in 2004. LL has fam rm full bath, workshop & storage area (OESLY79STA) 248-437-4500	 SOUTHFIELD \$147,500 1993 Ranch W/ Brick Paver Walk & Deck To Fenced Yard. Furn - 00, A/C - 99, Newer Hwh Stove, Wash, Dry & Gar Door. Newer Oak Kit. Bath W/ DB Sinks. Hwd Frs In LR, DR & Hall Kit. Appliances Wash In Dry, Staying (OEL94BER) 734-591-0333	 SOUTHFIELD \$95,000 Completely & continuously Renovated Vinyl Sid, Drywall, Wiring & Plumb, Nice Treed Lot. Spacious Rm Sizes. Opportunity For Expansion Roof (tear Off) 4/04, Hwh & Disposal-04. Fresh Paint & Carpet 04. Carpet In Rear (OEL48HIL) 734-591-0333	 WEST BLOOMFIELD \$175,000 Unmatchable Value! Immed occupancy On This Easy To Own 1st Storycondo! Home Features Spacious Kit W/eat-in Area, Pantry, Formal Din Rm, Great Rm W/gas Frpl W/marble Surround, & Doorwall To Deck Overlooking Commons (OEN07ELM) 248-347-3050	 WESTLAND \$137,900 Charming & immaculate! This Cute Ranch Is Move-in Ready, Just Pack Your Bags Now! Shiny hdwd frs fresh interior paint & decor. Mbr accommodates A King Size Bed! Vinyl Windows & Alum Trim Mean Low Maintenance (OEN71STI) 248-347-3050	 WESTLAND \$135,000 WOW! Open floor plan Ranch Condo w/cathedral ceilings & skylight. Full basement, private entry, covered parking & deck. Fresh paint, newer carpet, new fixtures. Private setting & onced to sell now! Hurry! (OEN20WOO) 248-347-3050

Vacant Land

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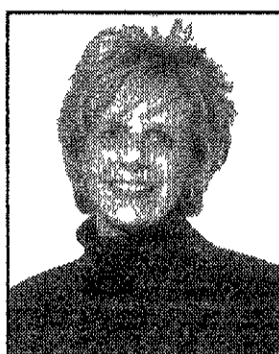
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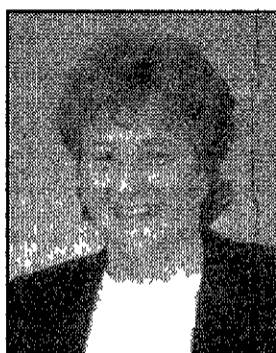
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TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE - Brand new Pulte Braymore floor plan with 3BR/2.5BA & 1st floor laundry. Exceptional lot w/view of the pond & wooded commons in the back. Neighborhood pool & walking trails. Lovely kitchen & hardwood floors. \$274,900 (P-163AV)



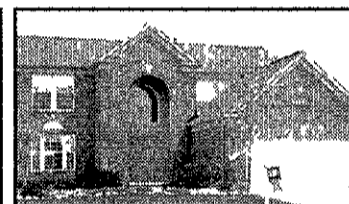
IDEAL LOCATION - Beautiful secluded 1.67 acre setting for this 2002 built colonial. Extra large rooms, full front porch and huge deck overlooking a nice yard. Daylight basement, formal dining & much more. Call today. \$324,900 (P-431Bi)



TERRIFIC TRI-LEVEL - Featuring a new Heil furnace and central air, new water heater, Wallside windows, new dimensional roof shingles, updated siding, trim, gutters & downspouts. Great neighborhood. \$139,900 (C-438BL)



SEEING IS BELEIVING - Newer construction with professional landscaping, a cedar deck & privacy fence, gourmet kitchen, great room w/ fireplace, finished basement and master suite you wont want to leave. \$319,900 (C-588BO)



PULTE PRINCETON - Immaculate 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath home w/formal living & dining, master w/vaulted ceiling and a private bath w/soaking tub. Large family room w/fireplace and a nice deck. Premium interior lot w/nice view. \$315,000 (P-478SH)



SUITE DEAL! Awesome condo w/2 masters - one on each floor! Both w/ ceramic baths & walk in closets. 3rd bdrm w/loft for guests. Great rm. features skylights, cathedral ceiling & a cozy fireplace. Daylight bsmt & side entry garage \$259,900 (C-309CH)



GOLF COURSE COMMUNITY - Canton 2-story with a hardwood foyer, kitchen w/ extended isle, formal areas, French doors to the den, a handsome master, professional landscaping and a partially finished basement. \$429,900 (P-401CO)



NICE EXECUTIVE COLONIAL - Very sharp with 4 bedrooms & 2.5 baths. Built in 2001 with all the amenities you desire. Family room fireplace, 1st floor laundry, formal dining, deck and side entry garage. \$329,900 (C-024F)



CLEAN AND UPDATED - 2 bedroom ranch in popular Floral Park sub in Farmington. Updates include windows, furnace, kitchen, paint and more. Just move in and enjoy! \$158,000 (C-169FL)



SPECTACULAR VALUE - Perfectly situated estate with over 5000 sq. ft. of pure beauty and insightful design. Dual staircases, 3 fireplaces, extensive landscaping and all the luxuries you deserve. Just over an acre on a privately owned wooded park \$912,500 (P-840VA)



GREAT VALUE - Wonderful 3 bedroom ranch on an extra large privacy fenced lot. Great room w/vaulted ceilings, recessed lighting, 3 fireplaces, newer roof & furnace, appliances stay and doorwall leads to a large deck. \$135,000 (P-514GR)



RELAX AND ENJOY - This nearby perfect two story home with 4 bedrooms and 3.5 baths. Finished basement, family room w/fireplace and a nice deck. Formal dining room and a private study too. \$294,900 (C-508GR)



OLD WORLD CHARM - Lovingly cared for by original owner. Coved ceilings, wood doors with glass handles, wood flooring under carpeting, vinyl windows & trim, doors & gutters new, shingles and furnace updated too. Terrific home! \$159,900 (P-701LY)



AWESOME OPPORTUNITY! In this Garden City beauty with 2 bedrooms, new Merillat oak kit, remodeled bath, huge 1st floor master w/WIC & doorwall to deck, vinyl windows, fenced yard, garage, appliances and a finished basement! \$139,900 (P-233MA)



WALK TO THE PARK - From this 3 bedroom bungalow in Redford. Totally updated oak kitchen, vinyl siding and windows. Updated roof, drive, doors, furnace, air and electrical. Partially finished basement w/glass block. Nice! \$109,900 (C-993MI)



LOADED WITH UPDATES - Nice home with 3 bedrooms, 1.5 baths ready to move into. Updates include roof, windows, furnace, ac, water heater, electrical and more. 1 year home warranty. Clean and affordable! \$131,900 (C-693NA)



GREAT BUY! 1600 square foot home with 3 bedrooms and 2 baths. Big master with a private bath and sitting room, beautifully remodeled ceramic bath on electrical and more. \$139,900 (C-433NO)



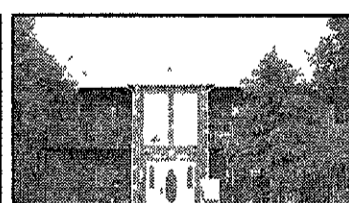
THE PERFECT RANCH - Maintenance free exterior, 2.5 car garage, fenced yard backs to a nature preserve, award winning schools, neutral décor, a finished basement, lots of updates and a fabulous kitchen. Anderson windows too! \$189,900 (P-270PR)



WELCOME HOME! Spacious floor plan offering a formal living room w/bay windows, family room fireplace, finished basement w/bar, Florida room and an oversized 2.5 car garage. Fenced yard on a quiet court location. \$167,000 (P-296RI)



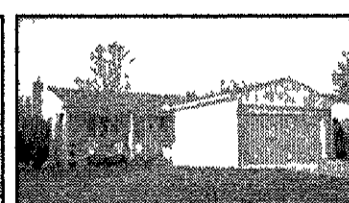
IN THE HEART OF CANTON - Super Cape Cod with a striking great room floor plan offering a fireplace, finished basement, first floor master and a patio for summer enjoyment. Clean and inviting home \$305,000 (P-214 SA)



GREAT WESTLAND CONDO - Secure upper unit with over 1000 sq. ft. 2 nice sized bedrooms, low association fee, spacious open floor plan with vaulted ceilings and skylights. Large covered private deck and in unit laundry room \$110,000 (P-684SH)



PRIDE OF OWNERSHIP - In a great location of Plymouth Twp lies this 4 bedroom beauty with everything you need. Pella windows, corner lot w/ sprinkler system, finished basement and tons of updates. Call for the list! \$228,900 (C-159TA)



BEAUTIFUL BRICK RANCH - In the heart of Tonquish Sub. Built in 1981 with a professionally finished basement featuring a Jacuzzi tub. Nice landscaping including the kitchen & bath. Hardwood floors & many updates incl. roof, windows & furnace. A must see. \$178,900 (P-044TO)



ABSOLUTELY ADORABLE - 3 bedroom bungalow situated on a huge lot. Great for 1st time buyers. Updates galore inside featuring a jacuzzi tub. Nice landscaping including the kitchen & bath. Hardwood floors & newer carpet throughout. Must see. \$149,900 (C-815BO)

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FARMINGTON - See this beautiful bargain! New 3-D roof with tear off, hot water heater & wallside windows.

DEARBORN - 3 BR, 1.5 BA bungalow in a great area of Divine Child. Liv rm w/natural FP, formal DR & bsmt.

GREAT INVSTMT OPPORTUNITY - Located in Olde Town. Hndymn spcl being sold as is. Three BR bungalow Farmington Schools. \$124,900.

LIVONIA - Exec 2600 sq ft colonial in Calburn Manor 4 BR, 2.5 BA, 1st flr in dry & lib, new prem wndws t/o, kit w/oak cabs Master Ste w/WIC & bath.

LIVONIA - Entry-level condo in top condition! Kit updated, all appl's stay, newer wndws, stack washer & dryer in unit, pool & clubhouse. Low assoc fees includes heat & water. \$88,000

LIVONIA - Three bdrm brick ranch in 'Triangle' sub. Updts incl: vinyl wndws, furn, C/A, roof & more. Mat Indcspg, patio & sprink sys w/well! Walk to High & Elm schools - \$186,800

JUST LISTED - Desirable Warrendale Sub 2 bedroom ranch with upstairs 3rd bedroom almost complete. Ready to be lived in. Just bring your furniture \$64,900

REDFORD OPEN 1-4 SATURDAY 17657 Norborne N/Six, W/Beech Dairy Beautiful 3 bedroom brick bungalow, family room, remodeled kitchen, 1 1/2 baths, finished basement, 2 car garage, must see to appreciate.

SOUTH LYON - Open Sat 2-4 13851 Lloyd Dr, B-level on 2.5 acres, 4 bdrm, 2 bath, large family room w/fireplace, \$259,000 313-682-6266

SOUTH LYON Custom Colonial, May 7-9, 1-6pm 908 S. Parkway Dr Oak Creek Sub 4 br, 2.5 bath, 2,400 sq ft c.a., hardwood floors, lg kitchen, family room 2.5 attached garage \$289,000 Call 248-486-0731

Southfield OPEN THURSDAY 11:30-2:30 30706 Everett S of 13, W of Greenfield MOTIVATED SELLER! Birmingham schools. Extra large lot (80 x 120) 3 bed, 3 bath bungalow Bright Florida room and finished lower level \$169,900 Pine Harbor Realty, (248) 240-4976

SUPERIOR TWP. 1931 Savannah Ln 3 bdrm, 2.5 bath colonial, open floor plan, large wooded lot \$319,000 Call (248) 496-3689

PLYMOUTH OPEN SUN. 1-4 49241 COMMONS BLVD. S on N Territorial & W off Ridge MOTHER'S DAY SPECIAL Seller's assistance on exquisite 3800 sq ft expandable Cape Cod w/4 bedrooms, 4 1/2 baths, 3 car garage, finished basement with kitchenette in low property tax Plymouth Township Asking \$379,900 ASK FOR KC MUELLER

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PLYMOUTH MOBILE HOME Open Sundays 12-4, drop-ins welcome anytime 52 x 28, double wide Central Air, 4 bdrm, 2 full baths. New stove, refrigerator, fireplace, ceramic tile in kitchen & hall, light fixtures, Spac Svs \$43,000 negotiable (734) 564-5400 Plymouth

OPEN SATURDAY 9055 Mayflower Dr S of Ann Arbor Rd W of Sheldon Hard to find 4 bdrm, 2.5 bath colonial in Mayflower Village Nicely updated kitchen, windows, furnace & more Great interior w/sunset views! Come visit today! (LD55MAV) Call Lynn DeJohn, (734) 216-2000 (734) 451-5400

PLYMOUTH OPEN SUN. 1-4 3 bdrm ranch 2 baths, large family room & kitchen Finished bsmt may extras \$237,500 8826 Corinne, W of Main, N of Joy 734-231-0313

BEAUTIFULLY UPDATED 4 bdrm colonial 2800 sq ft, Open Sun, 1-4 \$755,000 912 S Glenhurst 248-644-2465

BIRMINGHAM Immaculate Colonial near Downtown. Beautiful hardwood floors thru-out, marble surround fireplace in living room Spacious family room w/windows on all sides, remodeled kitchen & bathroom, newer windows Beautiful sunroom, nice deck This is a turn key, must see home! \$299,900 Call Abby @ 248-433-4372 Real Estate One 248-627-5414

BRIGHTON DUPLEX By owner! Terrific location 5 minutes to US23. Very private setting. 1/2 acre lot, 1800 sq ft for only \$180,000 complete LIBERTY HOMES 810-225-8944

CAPE COD, 10 acres, 2800 sq ft, 4 bdrm, open plan, 1st floor walk-in, unfinished walkout, paved rd., 44K NO AGENTS. (810) 229-4323

GREAT LOCATION across from park & pond Super clear 3 br, 1.5 bath Ranch, full finished bsmt w/ family room, updated kitchen & bath! furnace & c.a new in 2000. \$174,900 The Marge Everhart Co (734) 476-5453

4518 GLENGARRY LIKE NEW! 3300 sq ft, 4 bdrm, 2.5 bath Executive style home in a golf course community. Features include hardwood floors, gas fireplace, large kitchen, huge master suite, and brick paver patio A must see for under \$420k CONTACT JOHN CLORE RE/MAX MASTERS 313-806-9130 Or 734-783-0900 For more info

WHY BUY NEW? Flawless 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath ranch with family room, basement and garage. Granite, hardwood, and ceramic floors! \$218,900 248-887-6900 FIRST AMERICAN

DEARBORN MUST SEE! Large 5 bedroom, 1 1/2 baths, new carpeting, fresh paint, new furnace, finished basement, kitchen appliances Immediate occupancy \$0 down \$123,900 248-420-3474

DEARBORN HUNTER'S POINTE Sharp 4 bdrm, 3.5 bath Contemporary w/open floor plan & nearly 2900 sq ft Finished bsmt w/wet-bar. Lg. master suite. \$424,900 (FO298AM) AL MALISOW (248) 569-4903 Century 21 Today (248) 647-8888

WE'RE OPEN 24 HOURS A DAY www.hometownlife.com

FARMINGTON Well-maintained 3+ bedroom, 2 bath ranch, garage. \$210,000 ShareNet Realty 248-642-1620

BY OWNER MUST SEE! 4 bdrm, 3 1/2 bath Colonial, fin bsmt, 3 car garage, 2786 sq ft, move-in condition THIS Won't Last! \$429,500 248-867-6145

Local Jobs Online hometownlife.com JOBS AND CAREERS

REMERICA LIBERTY REAL ESTATE (734) 432-2600 19254 NEWBURGH RD. LIVONIA, MI 48152

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Northern Property 3790 LIME LAKE LELANAU COUNTY ALL SPORTS LAKE 3 bedroom, 3 bath home with 123 ft of waterfront...

Northern Property 3790 JUST LISTED! PETOSKEY-LAKE MICHIGAN New, custom built condos Spectacular Lake Mich setting...

Northern Property 3790 ULTIMATE SPORTSMAN'S RETREAT 227 ACRES, 2 PRIVATE CONNECTED LAKES, AND 1800' ON RIVER...

Northern Property 3790 JUST LISTED! UP NORTH MOTELS 12, 17, 22 & 63 unit Motels/Resorts Great business opportunities...

Lots & Acreage/Vacant 3820 FARMINGTON HILLS 115x126 lot, on paved street, all utilities, \$94,900 Other lot available...

Real Estate Wanted 3870 AVOID FORECLOSURE! Trouble selling your house? We'll buy or lease your house...

Cemetery Lots 3880 CHRISTIAN MEMORIAL CEMETERY, Garden of His Duty Lot 1518, 2 plots \$2000 each...

Business Opportunities 3900 BASKIN ROBBINS 31 FLAVORS -Livonia JOE DURSO, (734) 231-7800 Remax Classic 734-432-1010

Business Opportunities 3900 JUST LISTED! GARDEN CITY GREAT BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY! Fully established full service hair salon...

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4000's Real Estate For Lease 4000 Apartments/Unfurnished 4010 Apartments/Furnished 4020 Condos/Townhouses 4030 Duplexes 4040 Pkts 4050 Homes For Rent 4060 Lakefront/Waterfront Homes Rental 4080 Mobile Homes Rentals 4090 Southern Rentals 4100 Time Share Rentals 4110 Vacation Resort/Rentals 4120 Living Quarters To Share 4140 Rooms For Rent

4200 Halls/Buildings 4210 Residence To Exchange 4230 Commercial/Industrial 4240 Garage/Hm Storage 4400 Wanted To Rent 4410 Wanted To Rent 4500 Rental Agency 4510 Property Management 4520 Lease/Option To Buy 4530 House Sitting Service 4620 Home Health Care 4640 Misc To Rent

Farmington Hills EHO Chatham Hills Reduced Rates! From \$585 *Attached Garages *Indoor Pool (866) 266-9238 www.cmpproperties.net

Farmington Hills WALNUT CREEK SPRING SPECIAL (On Site Manager) 700 + sq ft 1 bdrm only Low Security Deposit STARTING AT \$515/Mo. Call: (248) 961-2763

Livonia's Finest Location MERRIMAN WOODS APTS. Merriman Rd., corner of 7 Mile Near Livonia Mall 'LIMITED TIME SPECIAL' 1 BEDROOM \$725 2 BEDROOM \$800

Novi EHO WESTGATE VI Apartments REDUCED RENTAL RATES! 1 BDRM FROM \$595 2 BDRM FROM \$675 PLUS... 1 MONTH FREE! *On Select Units Carports Included CALL FOR DETAILS! (866) 238-1153 www.cmpproperties.net

Plymouth Hillcrest Club One Month FREE! 1 Bedroom from \$595 FREE HEAT (866) 235-5425 www.cmpproperties.net

Plymouth Hillcrest Club ONE MONTH FREE + \$50 OFF For 6 Months Rent starting at \$575 Selected units only FREE HEAT & WATER Newly Upgraded 1 & 2 Bedrooms Plymouth Manor Plymouth House Close to downtown Plymouth! 734-455-3880 www.yorkcommunities.com Equal Housing Opportunity

ROYAL OAK - Downtown Recently remodeled 2 bdrm, hardwood floors, C/A, laundry, parking \$795/mo 248-635-4043 www.apartmentsroyalok.com SOUTH LYON: 2 bdrm, all appliances, pets negotiable, carport \$685 No credit check Cell:734-787-0899 CLASSIFIEDS WORK! 1-800-579-7355

Westland 1/2 OFF 1ST MONTH! 1 bedroom, near Ford plant, walk in closet, laundry on site *some restrictions apply (734) 721-6699

ABSOLUTELY THE BEST DEAL IN TOWN! \$540 1 Bedroom, limited time only! Call for Specials (877) 262-1496 Village Squire Apartments Mon-Fri 9-6PM Sat 10-5PM Sun 12-5PM

Farmington Hills MAPLE RIDGE APARTMENTS MANAGER'S SPECIAL! 23078 Middlebelt Spacious 1 bedroom Central Air Carport available \$560 248-473-5180

Farmington Hills Whispering Woods Apts Merriman Rd., 1 block South of 8 Mile Rd FREE HEAT & WATER 1 & 2 Bedrooms Residential Living ONE MONTH FREE! 248-477-5755

Madison Heights QUIET Almost soundproof 1 & 2 bedroom apts Across from Oakland Mall at I-75 and 14 Mile CONCORD TOWERS 32600 Concord Dr (next to the Micro-Center Store) 1 bedroom from \$665 2 bedroom from \$625 Carports • Dishwasher Disposal • Central air 248-589-3355

NOVI - MAY SPECIAL \$199 MOVES YOU IN To a spacious, beautifully updated 1 or 2 bedroom apt From \$730 EHO TREE TOP MEADOWS 10 Mile & Meadowbrook (248) 348-9590

PLYMOUTH SQUARE APTS. 50% OFF FIRST 3 MONTHS RENT 1 & 2 bedroom, central air, pool From \$580 734-455-6570

PLYMOUTH - Walk to downtown 1 bdrm, 1 bath upper unit, New Kitchen w/appliances, freshly painted, door-to-door balcony heat & water incl \$575 00/mo, \$900/sec References & credit check Avail May 1 Call Tina Simmons 734-416-3736

Southfield COUNTRY CORNER Huge Apartments & Town Homes 1, 2, & 3 Bedroom From \$800 Ask About Our Specials • Heat, water, carport included • Free Health Club • Night Gatekeeper • Heated Pool • Private Balcony • Short Term Leases Close to Birmingham, Shopping, and Freeways 248-647-6100 Let us fax you our brochure EHO

GREAT APARTMENTS GREAT LOCATIONS Rent Includes Heat and Vertical Blinds 6 months or 1 year lease Well maintained Newly decorated Features: • Air conditioning • Refrigerator and range • Smoke detectors • Laundry facilities • Extra storage • Swimming pool • Cable available 1 & 2 Bedroom Apts. LEXINGTON VILLAGE Small Pet Section From \$560 I-75 and 14 Mile, opposite Oakland Mall 248-585-4010 PRESIDENT MADISON APTS. From \$685 1 block east of John R, just south of Oakland Mall 248-585-0580 HARLO APTS. From \$578 Warren, MI West side of Mound Rd., just north of 13 Mile Composite GM Tech Center 586-939-2340

Canton Franklin Palmer JUMP INTO SPRING! 1 BDRM AS LOW AS \$550 FREE HEAT Included (888) 267-8640 www.cmpproperties.net

Farmington Hills Farmington Hills • 1 & 2 Bedrooms • Locked Foyer Entry • Spacious Walk-in Closets • Dishwasher • Air Conditioning • Close to 196/Grand River (M5) • Minutes to St Marys & Botsford Hospitals • Short Term Leases VILLAGE OAKS APARTMENTS (248) 474-1305 Orchard Lake Rd

Farmington Hills BEST APARTMENT VALUE TIMBERIDGE APARTMENTS. (N on Tuck Rd off 8 Mile between Middlebelt & Orchard Lake Rd, corner of Folsom) DELUXE ONE AND TWO BEDROOM UNITS FROM \$615 LIMITED SPECIAL Includes appliances, vertical blinds, carpeting, pool, optional carports Model Open Daily 9-5 Rental Office 248-478-1487 Home Office 586-775-8206

NOVI EHO Close to Work, Close to Play, Close to Perfect! FOUNTAIN PARK • Washer/Dryer • Private Entry 866-365-9239 On Grand River Next to Main St Fountainparkapartments.com

PLYMOUTH BROUGHAM MANOR 1 & 2 Bedroom Apts ASK ABOUT OUR SPECIALS! From \$590 (734) 455-1215

PLYMOUTH \$99 DEPOSIT! \$300 OFF 1ST MO. RENT *Ranch style 1 bdrm, *Washer/dryer •Private entrance/patio •Tons of storage •Dogs welcome PRINCETON COURT 734-459-6640

PLYMOUTH: 1 bdrm, in town Year lease \$485 mo. No pets Immediate occupancy John, 734-454-0056

REDFORD \$200 OFF FIRST MONTH! Large 2 bedroom, great location, extra storage, laundry on site *some restrictions apply. (313) 937-3319

BIRMINGHAM 1 MONTH FREE To Qualified Applicants Studios and 1 & 2 bedrooms available in town Birmingham at the 555 Building Call Mar 248-645-1191

Canton - Carriage Cove Apts. SPECIAL: 2 months FREE rent 1 bedroom - \$665 2 bedroom - \$735 Security deposit flexible Call for details 734-981-4490

Farmington Hills SUPER LOCATION Grand River/Orchard Lake STONERIDGE MANOR APARTMENTS Enter off Freedom Road, W. of Orchard Lake Road, South of Grand River Deluxe 1 Bedroom sub-level From \$550/Mo. 3rd. month FREE Includes Carpeting, vertical blinds, deluxe appliances Mon - Fri 9-4, Sat./Sun by appointment Rental Office: 248-478-1437 Home Office 586-775-8206

LIVONIA FAIRFIELD ARMS \$99 moves you in! 1 bdrm \$635/mo. Incl. heat & water • HARDWOOD FLOORS • AIR CONDITIONED • Updated Kitchen & Baths • DISHWASHER • Storage locker & coin operated laundry (bsmt) 734-516-0539 *on approved credit

NOVI EHO Waterview Farms \$99 Moves You In! Pay NO Rent Until June 1st! (866) 534-3356 www.cmpproperties.net

PLYMOUTH Park Manor Apts May Special! 1 bdrm \$500 Incl heat, 2 bdrm, no smoking, \$545 incl heat 1 parking space per apt 734-454-9274

PLYMOUTH 1 bedroom apt Near downtown, \$580/mo includes heat (plus security) Call (734) 455-2655

PLYMOUTH: nice one bdrm, close to downtown Available June 1st, \$590 mo No pets John 734-454-0056

ROYAL OAK - Between 12 & 13 Mile, off Coolidge, 1 bedroom apt, newly redecorated, carpet \$540/mo Heat & water included. (248) 488-2251

Dearborn Heights Dearborn Club 1 Bdrm Apartments 2 Bdrm Townhomes Reduced Security Deposit (866) 534-3358 www.cmpproperties.net

Dearborn Heights CAMBRIDGE APARTMENTS \$99 Moves You In ONE MONTH FREE (313)274-4765 www.yorkcommunities.com Equal Housing Opportunity

Farmington Hills Celebrating 50 YRS of Management Excellence! Spacious floorplans, in-home washer/dryer, 24-hr fitness center, sparkling pool/hot tub, pets live FREE! 1 & 2 bedroom specials starting at \$750 DIAMOND FOREST Apts 877-262-7949 or visit www.diamondforest.com

Farmington Hills HAPPINESS IS... Moving into a cozy, 1 bedroom apt. with REDUCED RENT & SECURITY DEPOSIT Carport & water included Starting at \$545 CEDARBROOKE APTS. 248-478-0322

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PLYMOUTH: nice one bdrm, close to downtown Available June 1st, \$590 mo No pets John 734-454-0056

ROYAL OAK - Between 12 & 13 Mile, off Coolidge, 1 bedroom apt, newly redecorated, carpet \$540/mo Heat & water included. (248) 488-2251

IT DOESN'T GET ANY BETTER THAN THIS... Observer & Eccentric Classifieds! CANTON - We have new & pre-owned homes for rent Call Sandy at Sun Homes for details at 734-397-0400

Dearborn Heights Dearborn Club 1 Bdrm Apartments 2 Bdrm Townhomes Reduced Security Deposit (866) 534-3358 www.cmpproperties.net

Farmington Hills Celebrating 50 YRS of Management Excellence! Spacious floorplans, in-home washer/dryer, 24-hr fitness center, sparkling pool/hot tub, pets live FREE! 1 & 2 bedroom specials starting at \$750 DIAMOND FOREST Apts 877-262-7949 or visit www.diamondforest.com

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ROYAL OAK - Between 12 & 13 Mile, off Coolidge, 1 bedroom apt, newly redecorated, carpet \$540/mo Heat & water included. (248) 488-2251

CANTON SPACIOUS 1 & 2 BEDROOM • Washer/Dryer hook-up • Self-cleaning oven • Vertical Blinds • Swimming Pool • New Fitness Center • Pets Welcome • Furnished Apts. Available Ask about our Winter Specials! Autumn Ridge APARTMENTS Cherry Hill at I-275 734-397-1080 Call Today For An Appointment!

THE APARTMENT SPECIALISTS Isn't It About Time You Got Your Own Place? Westland Parkcrest Apts. Designed with ROOMS in MIND! Across from Livonia Schools (734) 522-3013 Plymouth Carriage House Move-In Special! FREE HEAT • Ph 1 CENTRAL AIR • Ph 2 Corner of Haggerty & Joy (734) 425-0930 Garden City Move-In Special! Central Air Near Westland mall (734) 425-0930 Wilderness SPACIOUS!! 2 Bdrms, 1000 sq ft CARPORTS/POOL WASHER & DRYER inside unit (734) 425-5731 Luna Apts. Move-In Special! Central Air Near Westland mall (734) 425-0930 Take advantage of Village Apts. HUGE Bathrooms Bordering Westland (734) 425-0930 734-451-5210 www.sleasing.com

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4000 Apartments/Unfurnished TROY'S NICEST - 1 bdrm apt & large 2 bdrm incl full size washer/dryer, carpet, CA dishwasher, porgo/carpeting vertical blinds, balcony & pool incl heat & water \$735 No pets Specials 248-398-0960

4000 WESTLAND Blue Garden Apartments -WOW- MOVE IN SPECIAL 1 MO. RENT FREE PLUS \$50 OFF 1st 6 MONTHS RENT, REDUCED SEC. DEPOSIT OR \$99 MOVE IN!

4000 WESTLAND RENT STARTING AT \$505 FOR 6 MONTHS Select units only ORCHARDS OF NEWBURGH Larger Apartments 1 & 2 Bedroom plans

4000 CONDOS/TOWNHOUSES CANTON - 2 bedroom ranch, bsmt, appliances, pool No smoking, no pets Cherry Hill & Haggerty area \$975 + dep Immediate occupancy upon approval 734-722-5374

4000 DUPLEXES WESTLAND 3 bdrm duplex, 1 bath, carpeted Fully fenced yard, 2 sheds \$650 + security deposit 734-753-5463

4000 HOMES FOR RENT CANTON 3 bdrm, attached garage, all appliances, dining room, \$800 RENTAL PROS 734-513-RENT

4000 HOMES FOR RENT PLYMOUTH - Lakepointe ranch, 3 bed, 1.5 bath, 2.5 car garage, pets negotiable Call 734-459-4101

4110 VACATION RESORT/RENTALS LAKE MICHIGAN BEACH HOME, S of Charlevoix, great for 1-3 families, \$2000/week, prime avail (248) 539-9008

4200 Commercial/Industrial For Rent/Lease Space For Lease 3 MOS FREE! LIGHT INDUSTRIAL

EHO Westland Hawthorne Club SPRING SAVINGS! 1 Bdrm Uppers. \$525 INCLUDES FREE HEAT & WATER

EHO WESTLAND LETS MAKE A DEAL Choose Your 1st Mo Rent 1 & 2 Bedroom Apts

4010 BIRMINGHAM • NOVI Royal Oak • Troy Furnished Apts. Monthly Leases Immediate Occupancy

4000 CANTON CHERRY HILL VILLAGE Brand New - 2 Bdrms, 2 baths, 2 garages, Bsmt 1800 sq ft \$1500/mo 248-761-1008

4040 FLATS BIRMINGHAM 1 BDRM 1st floor Convenient to town & transportation \$720 incl utilities (248) 646-0784

4050 HOMES FOR RENT DEARBORN HEIGHTS 2 bdrms, garage, Laundry, small pet OK \$850/mo + security, 1 yr Lease Very clean! Ready 5/15 313-231-2142

4120 LIVING QUARTERS TO SHARE BEAUTIFUL 3200 sq ft Contemporary on all sports Crescent Lake West Bloomfield/Waterford area 3-4 bedrooms, choice of 2 masters By appt only (248) 227-5629

4140 ROOMS FOR RENT CANTON AREA All utilities Cable TV \$300/mo (734) 397-3409

4580 Lease/Option To Buy Canton, Detroit, Howell Northville, Redford, Ypsilanti Owner will finance or rent to own

EHO WESTLAND Huntington on the Hill 1 & 2 Bedrooms From \$610 PLUS... 1 MONTH FREE!

EHO WESTLAND 3 MONTHS FREE RENT! FOUNTAIN PARK Washer/Dryer Private Entrance 866-365-9238

4010 BIRMINGHAM • NOVI Royal Oak • Troy Furnished Apts. Monthly Leases Immediate Occupancy

4020 CONDOS/TOWNHOUSES FARMINGTON HILLS - Park Motel Furnished rooms, efficiency & apts from \$150/week No deposit 248-474-1324

4050 HOMES FOR RENT ALL AREAS-YOU PICK YOUR RENT TO OWN DREAM HOME 810-333-3737

4050 FARMINGTON HILLS 3 bdrm, appliances, garage \$950, several other \$650-\$1100 RENTAL PROS 248-356-RENT

4140 ROOMS FOR RENT CANTON AREA All utilities Cable TV \$300/mo (734) 397-3409

4140 ROOMS FOR RENT FARMINGTON HILLS Furnished, washer/dryer No pets \$295 + utilities 248-835-9895

4140 ROOMS FOR RENT REDFORD - Private Entrance Bath, kitchen, laundry, cable, furnished, utilities, driveway \$120/wk, male 313-387-8684

EHO WESTLAND 3 MONTHS FREE RENT! FOUNTAIN PARK Washer/Dryer Private Entrance 866-365-9238

EHO WESTLAND 3 MONTHS FREE RENT! FOUNTAIN PARK Washer/Dryer Private Entrance 866-365-9238

4020 CONDOS/TOWNHOUSES BIRMINGHAM 1 bdrm, hardwood floors, stainless appliances, spacious patio Pets negotiable Water & heat incl \$750/mo 248-321-9445 Jeff

4050 HOMES FOR RENT ALL AREAS-YOU PICK YOUR RENT TO OWN DREAM HOME 810-333-3737

4050 FARMINGTON HILLS 3 bdrm, appliances, garage \$950, several other \$650-\$1100 RENTAL PROS 248-356-RENT

4050 FARMINGTON HILLS 2 bdrms, 1 garage, carport, basement, 1.5 bath, wooded lot Farmington Schools Sec-urity Deposit/Refer Req \$895/mo 248-477-5591

4050 HOMES FOR RENT WEST BLOOMFIELD Allsports Lakelakefront barb todd@lagstar.com 3 bedroom 248-231-7879

4140 ROOMS FOR RENT WESTLAND 2 bdrm Condo Bsmt, all appliances 1892 Stieber \$699 mo + \$300 security (734) 502-3357

4140 ROOMS FOR RENT WESTLAND 2 bdrm duplex, c/a, bsmt, stove, refrigerator, free washer & dryer \$750/mo 734 968-5035

Westland Estates "WOW" \$99 total move-in! No fine print in this ad! Heat/Water included - \$25.00 Application Fee New Resident's Only 734-722-4700

FREE RENT! MOVE IN FOR \$250+ Rent Starting at \$525 Westland Colonial Village 734.261.4830

4020 CONDOS/TOWNHOUSES BIRMINGHAM Not a Condo, Luxury Townhouse Rentals Live in style without the commitment of ownership

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Westland \$99 MOVES YOU IN ONE MONTH FREE + \$50 OFF FOR 6 MONTHS VENOY PINES APARTMENTS

WESTLAND FOREST LANE APTS \$99 moves you in! On Wayne or Ford Rd FREE HEAT! NO APPLICATION FEE!

4020 CONDOS/TOWNHOUSES BIRMINGHAM, DOWNTOWN 3 Bdrms, bath, carport, central air, laundry facilities, basement, Completely finished kitchen and bathroom!

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BIRMINGHAM BLOOMFIELD/TROY 5-STAR LUXURY LIFESTYLE Regents Park is Metro-Detroit's world-class rental community

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