

Aerosmith:
Back in Detroit's
saddle again

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Bake up
holiday fun

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THURSDAY
December 8, 2005

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Canton officials reject Sheldon Place plans

BY CAROL MARSHALL
STAFF WRITER

The plans for Sheldon Place will be going back to the drawing board, since the Canton Township Planning Commission came to consensus to reject a developer's proposed renovations to the six-story building at Ford and Sheldon.

"The proposed fix for the building will not be appropriate," said Planning Director Jeff Goulet.

The Planning Commission discussed the plans Monday evening. The plans include wrapping the building in steel tubing in order to shore up its exterior walls, according to Frank Dabaja, president of Canton Properties & Development, which in July purchased the building, for \$995,000.

In his Westland office, Dabaja sketched on a blue pad of notebook paper, trying to explain the idea to repair the building.

"Basically what this idea does is to bear-hug the building in steel," Dabaja said.

Sheldon Place was evacuated in August 2001, when structural deficiencies were discovered. It has since been vacant, and it's been sold twice - first in March 2005, but when the initial

sale fell through, the building went back out for bid.

"We have to have this building repaired by the end of September," said Dabaja. That's the date that was given by HUD (U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development) as one of the conditions of the sale.

The fix "gives it an industrial flavor for a residential building," Goulet said. "They need to come up with a more appropriate repair."

While Planning Commissioner Melissa McLaughlin is sympathetic to the challenges involved in addressing the structural issues, she agreed that the repair will need to be creative.

"It looked prison-like," she said of the rendering

submitted to the commission. "I don't know what to do. But this looked like an unfinished building. Hopefully some very smart people will be able to salvage the building."

She added some people have speculated that tearing down the building and starting over may be the only option available, but she has not heard what the financial implications of such a move would be. The commission referred the plan

PLEASE SEE **SHELDON, A5**



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The giving tree

Andrew Ewing, 10, looks over the Christmas tree that volunteers delivered to his Canton home on Tuesday. The tree was decorated by the hospital's professional decorators as part of a program sponsored by Children's Hospital in Detroit, where Andrew is a patient. The tree's nautical theme was created to reflect his interests, which include sharks, killer whales, dolphins and seashells.

Ford Road accidents leave man dead, teen in coma

BY CAROL MARSHALL
STAFF WRITER

Snow-covered roads are the suspected cause for a Saturday night traffic crash that sent two Canton teenagers to the hospital, where one remained Wednesday in critical condition.

A second traffic crash Sunday killed a pedestrian as he crossed Ford Road. Both accidents remain

under investigation.

The first crash occurred Dec. 3 at approximately 11:50 p.m.

According to police, two 17-year-old Canton girls were in a Ford Focus, on their way home after visiting with friends for the evening. They were heading east on Ford Road, when the driver of the car lost control and crossed over the center line.

"At that point the car was sliding

perpendicular to oncoming traffic," said Canton Police Sgt. Rick Pomorski.

The Focus was struck by a Ford F-150 pickup truck, and both cars went sliding off the roadway. The truck was driven by a Canton resident who lived near the intersection of Ford and Canton Center, the site of the crash. He was uninjured, and was released at the scene.

The girls, however, were taken to

St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, where the passenger was listed in critical condition and in a coma as of Wednesday, according to Pomorski.

"The family is praying for a miracle," Pomorski said.

He said he believes the accident was weather related, and alcohol did not play a part in the accident.

The next evening, a crash at the

PLEASE SEE **ACCIDENTS, A9**

Bond impact minimized

BY TONY BRUSCATO
STAFF WRITER

If voters approve two Plymouth-Canton Schools bond proposals totaling \$118.1 million in May, the average homeowner will see an annual tax increase totaling less than \$10 a month.

Patricia Brand, assistant superintendent for business services, said while the ballot language will indicate a higher millage increase, actual numbers will lower the annual millage hike.

"The ballot language will show an increase of 1.04 mills, which is how much millage we would

need to levy for this combined issue only," said Brand. "However, when we look at our debt, which is decreasing, and our taxable value, which is increasing, the actual millage being levied will be .83 mills."

"If we look at what the ballot language says, it would be \$143 a year on the median home value of \$275,000," she said. "But, the realized amount their tax would go up is \$114."

The first bond issue will ask voters to approve \$95.7 million for a \$24.3 million career and technical education center at

PLEASE SEE **BOND, A5**

Packer out-rings Lions' Pollard in head-to-head battle

BY BRAD KADRICH
STAFF WRITER



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Detroit Lions tight end Marcus Pollard rings a bell for the Salvation Army at Wal-Mart in Canton. Pollard hoped to raise more money than Green Bay Packer Bubba Franks, who was bell-ringing in the Green Bay area at the same time.

Before the Detroit Lions travel to Green Bay to play the Packers in a Sunday night NFL matchup, the Packers are already a win up on the Lions, thanks to Bubba Franks.

Franks, the Packers' veteran tight end, faced off in a bell-ringing competition to benefit the Salvation Army's Red Kettle Campaign Tuesday against the Detroit Lions' Marcus Pollard, the tight end they signed as a free agent before this season.

A confident Pollard talked with Franks during the competition.

"I told him to move over," Pollard said, laughing. "There's a new Shaft in town."

The confidence didn't translate into victory, though. Ringing at the same time in different time zones, Franks out-duelled Pollard, raising more than \$5,100 in his one-hour stint at Bay Park Square Mall in Ashwaubenon, Wis. Pollard, meanwhile, raised more than \$1,800 at the Wal-Mart on Ford Road in Canton.

And while Pollard, a first-time bell ringer, lost out to Franks, the Lions said the effort

was more important than the winning.

"We certainly see the benefit to being involved in the community, and we were glad to help the Salvation Army," Lions representative Kim Doverspike said. "We thought Marcus did great, and he certainly had fun doing it."

The event was a shot in the arm to the Salvation Army's Red Kettle campaign, the corps' biggest annual fund-raiser. According to officials at the Plymouth Salvation Army, the campaign lagged behind last year's by about 20 percent a week ago.

Though business has picked up in recent days, with more volunteers calling to give their time, every little bit helps.

"It was very generous of the Lions to help," said Kelly Boelter, Red Kettle Campaign coordinator for the Plymouth Salvation Army. "(Pollard) was great about it, and the people loved him."

It's not the first kettle victory for Franks. In a similar 2002 contest, Franks "out rang" the Minnesota Vikings' Byron Chamberlain while raising nearly \$2,000 during his one hour of ringing.

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Saving a piece of history

Officials hope a historic barn dating back to Civil War can be spared from the wrecking ball

BY KURT KUBAN
STAFF WRITER

The Canton Historic District Commission and Canton Historical Society have begun a fund-raising drive they hope will save a historic barn currently owned by the Plymouth-Canton School District. They hope to raise enough money to move the barn to Cherry Hill Village, where it would be part of the historic Bartlett-Travis House that is located off of Ridge Road, just north of Cherry Hill.

The barn, currently located at the corner of McClumpha and Joy roads on the grounds of the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park, was constructed on the site in the early 1900s, but contains some timbers from a barn that was built years earlier. "The barn was partially built from another barn that dates back to the pre-Civil War era," said Canton Township Clerk Terry Bennett, who is also a member of the historic district commission.

The barn is all that is left of the Rotary School Farm, named in 1970 after the Plymouth Rotary raised \$20,000 to operate a school farm and rural life center. Thousands of Plymouth-Canton students took bus trips to the farm until it closed in 1981 because of economic cutbacks.

According to the historical society, the barn was constructed by farmer Aruna Cady, who died in 1911. Several barn experts have inspected the barn and determined it is a "raised basement" barn with a "gambrel" roof, which has four sides, and is quite rare.

The school district bought the property and barn in 1967, according to district



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

spokesman Frank Ruggirello. He said the district has maintained the structure, and uses it for storage of lawn equipment and road salt. However, in recent years it has become obvious that the building wasn't large enough for the district's needs, and officials decided to build a larger facility on the campus.

"The problem is that it's not adequate to hold the amount of salt we need. We have enough salt in there to handle one snow storm. If it snows for more than one day, we run out of salt," Ruggirello said.

Also, the district plans to build tennis courts for the new Plymouth High School where the barn now sits, Ruggirello said. In fact, the district had planned to already have the barn demolished, but decided to hold off to give Canton officials enough time to come up with an alternative plan.

According to Bennett, the estimated cost to move the barn is \$200,000. She said they have been told they need to get the barn moved by April, which doesn't give them much time to save what she calls a historic treasure

"What we're trying to do is determine what the sense of the community is. It's a lot of money that has to be raised in a short period of time," Bennett said. "We've lost a lot of historic resources in this community. There are only about four or five barns left in Canton."

Dick Waldecker, who will become president of the historical society next month, has led the efforts to move the barn. In fact, he says it was an idea he came up with last year after jogging by the barn on a number of occasions. He approached the district, and found out it was slated for the wrecking ball. Ever since, he has been calling as many people as possible, including Canton officials to see how it might be saved.

He said the barn experts that have examined the barn have determined it's in excellent condition, and he thinks it could be an excellent tool to teach children about the community's agricultural past. It is his goal to use the barn for plowing and harvesting demonstrations for school children. He said several people have already committed to

donating farm equipment, which could be stored in the barn once it is moved.

"Up until 1970, Canton was the sweet corn capital of Michigan. Back then, every ear of sweet corn grown in Canton was bought by Kroger," Waldecker said. "Unfortunately, kids today think the only things we grow here in Canton are four-bedroom colonial homes. I really think we have to preserve our heritage and teach them what Canton used to represent."

Bennett said Canton officials would also like to renovate the barn so it could be used for all kinds of events, from square dances and picnics to a venue for music acts and art exhibits.

"We always kind of hoped we could move a barn to the site," she said. "If everyone in Canton would donate three or four bucks, we would have more than enough money. I just blew three bucks on a cup of cappuccino."

For more information on the "Help MOOOVE the barn" project, please call (734) 394-5190.

kkuban@hometownlife.com

Alcohol, tobacco stings starting to pay dividends

BY CAROL MARSHALL
STAFF WRITER

It was good news when the Canton Police Department came up empty handed. That's because they were investigating local stores as part of a special enforcement unit that periodically conducts alcohol and tobacco sales stings.

The most recent sting brought officers and youth volunteers to Canton businesses, and out of 10 that were surveyed, none sold tobacco to the teenagers.

"What that tells us is our business owners are doing their job. And it also tells us that the effectiveness of the officers is working," said Canton Police Deputy Chief Laura Golles.

This year, the police department has checked 69 stores for tobacco sales violations and 24 for alcohol. The department has written out 14 tickets for tobacco sale to a minor and seven for sale of alcohol to a minor, according to Lt. Robert Kerr.

The fine for selling tobacco to a minor is \$50, and is paid by the clerk, not the owner of the store. The fine for selling alcohol to a minor is up to \$100 and is a civil infraction if the sale occurs during a sting operation, Kerr said. If it happens as part of doing business, but is not part of a police investigation, the fine is up to \$500.

or 90 days in jail and is a misdemeanor. The store or restaurant is also cited by the state Liquor Control Commission.

According to Kerr, the teen volunteers that assist with the sting operations are usually under the age of 17, and those who volunteer for alcohol sales checks just need to be under the age of 21, he said.

"We sometimes have kids referred by the school resource officers, and we have a connection to the vocational criminal justice program in the high schools," Kerr said.

Officers either accompany the teens into the location, or wait outside, depending on the nature of the business.

The sting operations have been effective because the police department has been conducting them long enough to get the message out to business owners and employees.

"It sends a message to retailers that the laws that are in place are important in order to protect underage people," Kerr said.

The stores that were checked in the most recent investigation were: CVS stores on Sheldon and Haggerty, Maria's Bakery, Oakview Party Store, Citgo Gas Station, Shell Gas Station, BP Gas Station, Marathon Gas Station, Clark Gas Station, and 7-11 on Michigan Avenue.

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SENIOR EVENT

The Wayne Ford Civic League will be hosting a Senior Dinner & Dance for Christmas at 1645 N. Wayne Road in Westland on Dec. 18, beginning at noon. There will be a full buffet dinner, beer, wine, coffee, and pop with dancing to the music from Solitaire. Tickets for this

event are \$8 for members and \$10 for non-members of the league.

Memberships are on sale year round and are only \$5 for seniors. Tickets are available at the door. You can call (734) 728-5010 for more information. You must be 60 or older to attend.

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Out to sea

Dancers thrilled after performing on cruise ship

BY CAROL MARSHALL
STAFF WRITER

Some 44 young dancers left Canton to put on their dance shoes and get their sea legs, after winning the opportunity to perform on a Royal Caribbean cruise ship last month.

"It was really the chance of a lifetime," said Tim Smola, who, with his wife Tamara Nastev-Smola, owns Central City Dance in Canton.

The Smolas paved the way to the voyage when they sent a video of the dancers, who are age 10-18, to Stars at Sea, a company that helps line up young talent with cruise lines.

A few months later, the Smolas and their students heard the news - they were selected to put on a 30-minute show during a five-day cruise

The Smolas paved the way to the voyage when they sent a video of the dancers, who are age 10-18, to Stars at Sea, a company that helps line up young talent with cruise lines.

along Key West and Costa Maya.

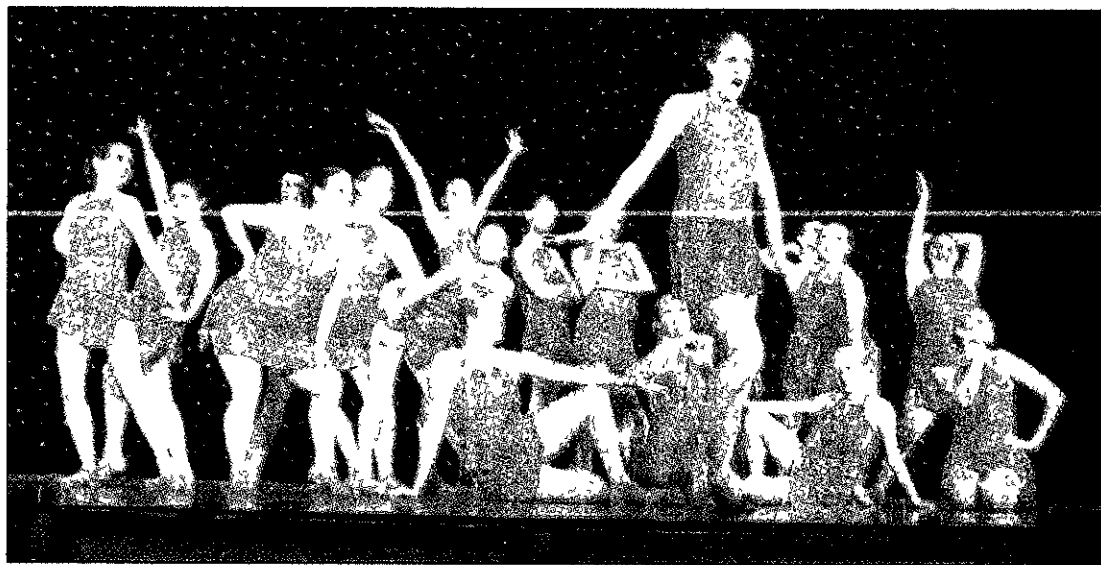
"We found out a year in advance of the trip, and they worked their tails off to get the show together," Smola said.

The show was an opportunity for the young dancers to get a taste of what it's like to perform in the cruise ship environment, and possibly steer them in that direction as they consider careers in dance, said



Mia Topalian of Central City Dance sang vocals during a performance on the cruise ship.

Nastev-Smola. The dancers kept the trip



Dancers from Central City Dance in Canton performed on a Royal Caribbean cruise in November.

affordable - about \$500 per person - by holding fund raisers for the year before the trip.

"One of the most fun events was a golf outing at Fellows Creek in Canton," said dancer Ashley Amann.

The production showcased members of the dance center performing Broadway-style tap, jazz, hip hop, clogging and even vocal performances.

"It was absolutely amazing to see my daughter performing on the cruise ship during our recent Royal Caribbean performance. One night we were watching a comedian who had been on Jay Leno and the next night, our daughters and sons were entertaining us on stage," said Cindy Hopmann, a Canton resident and mother who accompanied her 15-

year-old daughter Katie on the cruise.

After the performance, the dancers were treated like stars by fellow passengers, who approached them to tell them how impressed they were, Smola said.

"They felt like stars for a week," he said.

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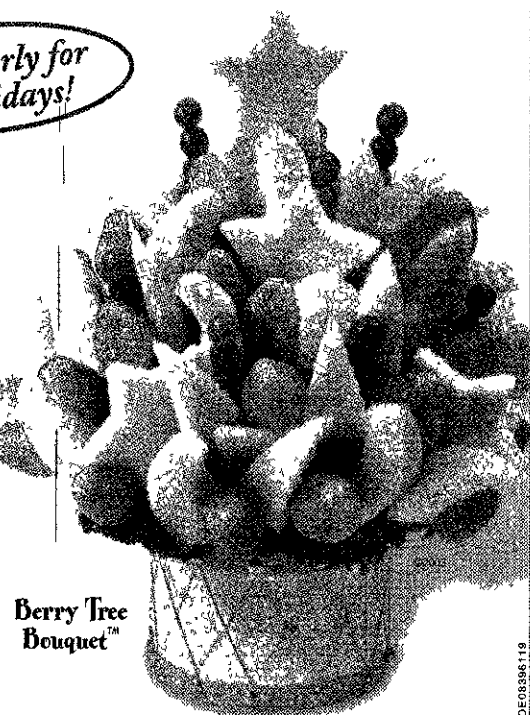
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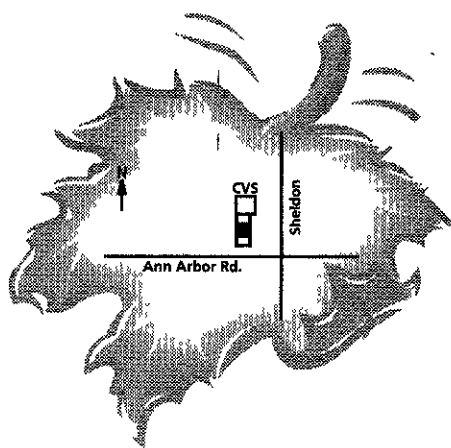
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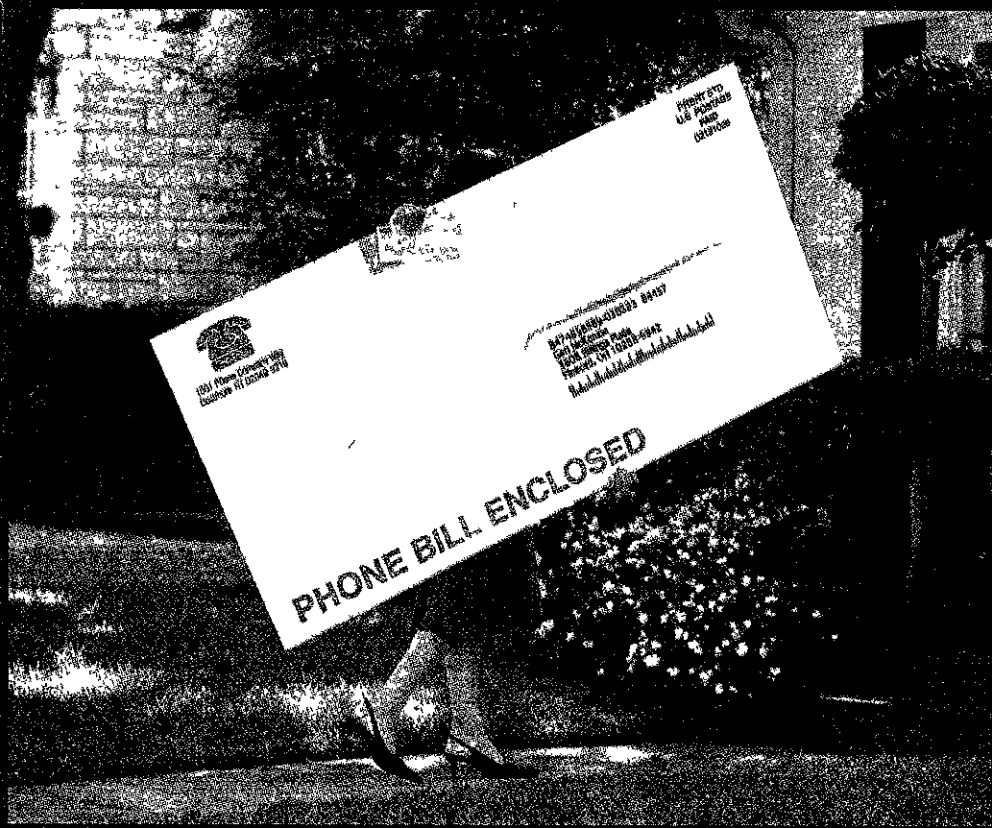
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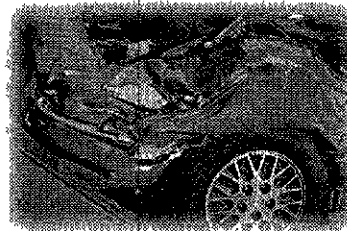
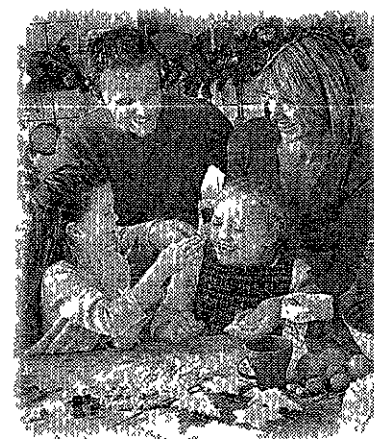
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Meals make Christmas bright for seniors

Volunteers needed to handle deliveries on holiday

BY SUE MASON
STAFF WRITER

Lori Vail is looking for a few good people willing to commit two hours to helping make Christmas Day brighter for homebound senior citizens in southern and western Wayne County.

The holiday meals coordinator for Senior Alliance, Vail needs at least 80 volunteers, and more realistically 90, to help deliver hot meals to some 800 seniors, continuing at a tradition that started in the late 1980s.

"It's really great for the seniors," said Vail. "Many are confined to their homes, have no family around here or live to far away from family or can't afford to get on the bus to go."

The holiday meal is just one program offered by Senior Alliance, the Area Agency on Aging I-C. It also provides Meals on Wheels, a chore service, family caregiver support and information on medical programs for seniors living in its

service area which includes Livonia, Redford, Westland, Garden City, Canton, Plymouth and Plymouth Township.

Volunteers are asked to commit to spending about two hours on Christmas Day delivering the meals, generally around lunchtime. Each volunteer will have five-10 meals to deliver, depending on their assigned route.

The routes are broken down by zip code and major roads. If a volunteer is going to an apartment complex that has many seniors, he or she may deliver nine-10 meals. Someone with several stops could have less meals to deliver because of the distance.

"We try to keep volunteers in their own community, but we have areas like Taylor, Southgate, Lincoln Park and Allen Park with higher numbers of seniors," Vail said. "Cities like Plymouth and Northville have few seniors."

Senior Alliance volunteers delivered 700 meals on Thanksgiving Day, and Vail is

confident the Christmas number will hit 800. The deadline for seniors to sign up was Tuesday, however, Vail said the agency is still accepting names. No senior in need of a meal will be turned away.

"A lot of seniors are proud, it's hard to get them to raise their hand and say they want the meal," she said. "If anyone knows a relative who would benefit get them to that point, see if you can get them to raise their hand and say yes."

The meals cost Senior Alliance \$5 each and the nonprofit is conducting its annual Bank Day fund-raiser beginning next week. Employees will be in several area banks selling holiday cards for \$5 each.

When a person buys the card, they will be asked to sign it and include a holiday greeting. The card will be delivered with the meal to a senior.

Banks participating Bank Day on Dec. 16 include the Community Bank of Dearborn on Canton Center in Canton,

First Catholic Credit Union in Dearborn Heights, Melvindale and Taylor, Advantage One Credit Union in Southgate, Riverview and Brownstown Township.

National City Bank on Michigan Avenue in Wayne will have Bank Day on Dec. 15 and 19.

The card sale will be 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day, and the sale continues through Dec. 20. Banks interested in hosting a Bank Day can call Bill Campbell at Senior Alliance at (734) 727-2050.

And the cards won't be the only thing delivered to seniors. Students at Taft-Galloway Elementary School in Wayne, Kettering Elementary in Westland and Bentley Elementary in Plymouth are making placemats and holidays cards. Taft-Galloway and Kettering are repeating, having done cards and placemats for Thanksgiving.

"The seniors really enjoy the extras. It's really nice and it's

really great for seniors to get mail other than bills," said Vail.

Senior Alliance has three "kitchens" preparing the meals - St. Mary Mercy Hospital in Livonia, Oakwood Hospital in Dearborn and the Park Restaurant in Lincoln Park. The kitchens provided turkey dinners for Thanksgiving and will provide honey glazed ham, chicken and mostaccioli for Christmas.

"We leave the menu up to them, but ask that they provide at least one-third of the RDA (regular daily allowance)," Vail said.

The Park will cook a vast majority of the meals that will be delivered on Christmas Day because the area it will serve - the Downriver communities - has the heaviest concentration of seniors.

St. Mary Mercy is preparing meals for seniors living in Livonia, Redford, Westland, Plymouth and Plymouth Township, Canton and neighboring communities while Oakwood Hospital is cooking for seniors in Garden City, Dearborn Heights and Dearborn, to name a few.

Volunteers will pick up the meals at the kitchens between 10:30 and 11 a.m. at the Park

Restaurant and Oakwood Hospital and 1-3 p.m. at St. Mary Mercy. There will be coordinators will be at each site to help with check-in and providing the meals.

"We give them about two hours to deliver them," Vail said. "We try to get them enough deliveries, but not too many to run over two hours."

Some volunteers make the deliveries a family affair, bringing along spouses and children. Others bring some small token they buy from places like the Dollar Store. Such extras aren't required, but are welcomed by the seniors, Vail said.

"Most people who have done this seem to enjoy it," she said, adding, "I love this program, I love the volunteers. It's a good cause that's helps people. It's a win-win for everybody concerned."

People interested in volunteering to deliver meals on Christmas Day can call Lori Vail at Senior Alliance at (734) 727-2017. The deadline for signing up is Dec. 14. Seniors interested in requesting a meal should also call Vail. Senior Alliance is at 3850 Second St. Suite 201, Wayne. For more information about it services, call (734) 722-2830.

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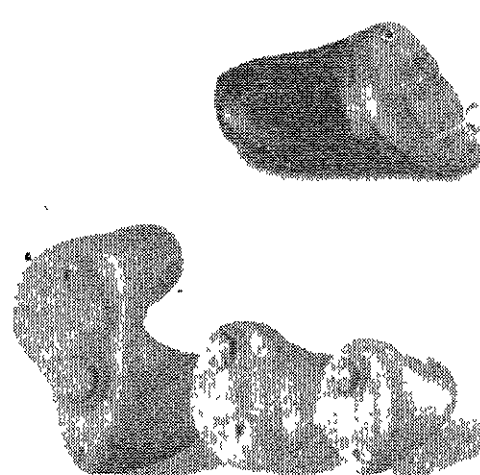
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Diet Center of Canton opened in August and has seen tremendous growth.

"I think people in our community were ready for a new approach to weight-loss," says Diet Center owner Linda Aubuchon. "Furthermore, when people visit our center, they learn about my own personal weight loss journey and appreciate the opportunity to work on their weight-loss goals with the support of someone who can relate. I lost 70 pounds two and a half years ago, and I have such a strong desire to help people become healthier and feel better about themselves, and opening Diet

Center has given me the opportunity to do just that.

Diet Center, a national franchise, provides programs based on good nutrition and healthy eating. They follow the guidelines of the American Diabetic Association and the American Heart Association. Diet Center offers personalized weight-loss programs, body composition analysis and one-on-one counseling to give clients constant guidance and support.

The program is successful, in no small part, due to the dedicated staff.

"Linda and her counselors obviously care tremendously about ensuring my success," said Diet Center client Kay Swenders, who's lost 26 pounds. "They have so many great ideas to help me stay on track, and they are obviously

devoted to helping clients lose their weight."

Clients see results because programs are specific to them.

"We start each client with a body composition analysis to measure their percentage of body fat and lean body mass. This helps guide us as far as how many calories the individual needs to lose unwanted pounds and inches," said Aubuchon. "We also provide one-on-one counseling to give clients clear motivation,

accountability, constant support and guidance. We have several programs, including our 21 Day Thermogenics Diet, that are designed and personalized to fit any lifestyle."

Diet Cent is located at the northwest corner of North Lilley and Warren in Canton.

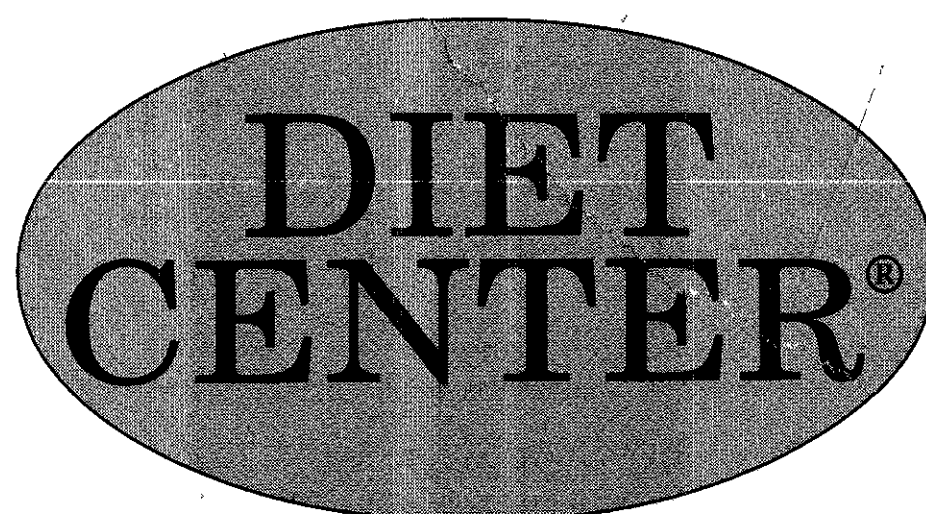
Anyone interested in learning more about Diet Center programs can call Diet Center at (734) 414-9200 to set up a complimentary consultation.



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ACCIDENTS

FROM PAGE A1

other end of Ford Road, near Haggerty Road, resulted in the death of a man who was working for a construction company at the Baymont Hotel in Canton.

"We don't really know what happened. He was at a bar earlier in the day and left, and at some point later is when the accident happened," Pomorski said. "It just happened that one of our officers was making a traffic stop at the time of the accident and heard the accident when it happened."

According to police records, at about 11:40 p.m., a 30-year-old Canton woman, who is a nurse, was on her way to work, and struck the 49-year-old pedestrian as he was trying to cross Ford Road.

The officer went immediately to the site of the crash, on Ford Road near Haggerty, in front of

the White Castle restaurant. He rendered first aid as much as he could until the ambulance arrived.

The man was transported to St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, where he later died.

"We don't know if he was trying to cross outside of the crosswalk to get a coffee or doughnut," Pomorski said of the pedestrian.

Police, who have not released the man's name, have had difficulty tracking down his next of kin, since he is a resident alien from Mexico. His last known address was in Houston, Texas, but he apparently has no family there, Pomorski said.

The case is being reviewed by Canton Police and will, as a matter of procedure, be forwarded to the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office, though Pomorski said he doesn't know if any charges will be filed.

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Louise G. Baughman

Baughman, 88, of Green Lake, died Nov. 18.

Harold E. Brear

Brear, 90, died Nov. 30.

Jack H. Carr

Carr, 98, died Nov. 29.

Rene J. Colton

Colton, 43, died Dec. 4.

Rev. Dr. Steven M. Eggers

Eggers, 50, died Dec. 2.

Sister Mary Coralita Ellerbrock, RSM

Ellerbrock, 90, died December 3.

Peter Kokenakes

Kokenakes, 85, died Nov. 30.

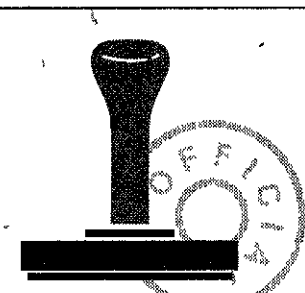
George Remick Libby Jr.

Libby, 90, died Dec. 3.

Eileen Frances Little

Little, 89, of Westland, died Dec. 4.

Tobin Morbach



For the Record appears in every edition of the *Observer & Eccentric Newspapers*. Complete paid obituaries can be found inside today's newspaper in *Passages* on page C10.

Morbach, 50, formerly of West Bloomfield, died Nov. 29.

Harriet Haynes Robison Weaver
Weaver, 80, of Harbor Springs, formerly of Detroit and Birmingham, died Nov. 23.

Madison wins board's Lighthouse School Award

BY SUE MASON
STAFF WRITER

Principal Susan Kelty is a realist. With student test scores already exceeding state averages there was no way her school would ever receive a Golden Apple for improving academics.

There just wasn't enough points available to show the kind of dramatic improvement in test scores that the award recognizes.

But the work of her teachers, staff, students and parents didn't go unnoticed.

Recently, flanked by many of her teachers, Kelty accepted the school board's inaugural Lighthouse School Award, recognizing Madison Elementary School for its academic achievement.

"I was very surprised because we're in such hard economic times, but I'm also very grateful because the board recognized our sustained excellence over a period of time," Kelty said. "I'm thrilled, all of us are thrilled."

This is the third time in two years that the school board has instituted awards recognizing school achievement. In 2003, it revived a state program of awarding Golden Apples for schools that achieve a 60-point improvement on state tests over a three-year period and took it one step further this fall with an Encore Award for schools that



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Madison Elementary Principal Susan Kelty is joined by members of the teaching and support staffs in showing off the Lighthouse School Award the school received from Wayne-Westland school board in recognition of its academic excellence.

repeated the 60-point gain.

According to Superintendent Greg Baracy, this award addresses the successes of schools in the top 10 percent in the district.

"I'm extremely pleased, very excited and very proud to introduce the Lighthouse School Award recipient," he said.

"Madison is one of the top performing schools in the state. It has sustained three years of MEAP scores above state averages in reading, writing, mathematics and science, and not many schools can make that claim. It also has met all the criteria of No Child Left Behind and Adequate Yearly Progress."

Those are two of the three cri-

teria developed for the Lighthouse School Award. The third is that it cannot overlap a Golden Apple Award.

"It's a great award, but an awesome responsibility to lead the way," said board President Frederick Weaver in presenting the award.

Kelty credits the entire Madison community for its academic success. Referring to the saying about it taking a whole village, she said in Madison's case it encompasses everyone.

"This wouldn't have happened without the hard work of the teachers and their dedication to the students," she said. "We have great kids, but what makes it a

good school is the parents. A day doesn't go by that we don't have a parent volunteer in school, and we have a very active PTA."

Like the other school board awards, the Lighthouse School Award comes with a check for \$10,000 as well as a banner that will be delivered to the school by week's end.

The money will come in handy. Madison is not a Title I school and has to write grants for many of the extras for staff and students. Kelty has an idea of how she would like to spend the money, but in actuality it will be determined by group consensus.

"The way we do things at Madison is by shared leadership," she said. "We will come to a consensus on how to spend the money. I really firmly believe it is because of shared leadership and shared decisions that we have maintained our excellence."

"We come to a consensus, then the teachers own it and the parents own it."

And now the Madison community owns the district's first ever Lighthouse School Award.

"You deserve it," said trustee Steve Beecher, who taught at the school for more than 23 years. "You guys, year after year, you do it and we appreciate it. Madison is our best kept secret."

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OUR VIEWS

Costco's arrival worth cheering

There are so many new developments in Canton, it's sometimes hard to keep track of them. It seems almost on a monthly basis, new stores or businesses open. Many of these new developments — IKEA comes to mind — have stirred a lot of excitement in the community.

Another development on the horizon is also generating some buzz. After months of speculation, Costco, the warehouse retailer, has begun the process of locating a store on Michigan Avenue at Canton Center. Township officials have been working to pave the way for the new store by rezoning the property and approving a planned development district for the Costco project. The planning commission has already approved both, and the board will soon vote on the measures.

Much still has to be done before the store opens, such as completing the land acquisition from Best Block, but this is definitely a development Canton should be proud of: It will continue the transformation of Michigan Avenue from a dusty highway into a destination retail corridor. Costco has proven to be a big draw for young, somewhat wealthy families, which seems a perfect fit for Canton.

But there is another reason to cheer the coming of Costco, especially for those who might be looking for a job. Costco, which was founded with a single store in 1983 in Seattle, is known by many as the anti-Wal-Mart.

Wal-Mart has been in the press a great deal lately, largely because of its poor record of compensating its employees, both in salary and benefits. Costco, on the other hand, is known as an excellent employer.

Unlike Wal-Mart, Costco is not hostile toward employees who want to unionize. In fact, about 13 percent of Costco's approximate 100,000 employees are in a union, which is in stark contrast to Wal-Mart, which actually closed a store in Canada when its employees voted to unionize.

So it comes as no surprise that Costco pays a decent wage. According to the company, a new employee starts at an hourly wage of at least \$10 an hour, and cashiers earn roughly \$44,000 after being on the job for four years.

Beyond the salaries, Costco also provides an array of benefits to most employees, including health care, life insurance and a 401(k) program. Its health insurance plan is particularly attractive, especially in this day and age of skyrocketing health care costs. The company covers about 92 percent of health care costs, which is quite good when compared to its competitors.

For all these reasons, Costco will be a welcome addition to the community.

State must back up plans with funding

The young girl packing groceries picked up the newspaper being purchased by the shopper.

"Great," she said. "Just what I need — more science classes."

The high school student was referring to a story about new graduation requirements that were recently proposed by the state superintendent of education. And, yes, they are great news.

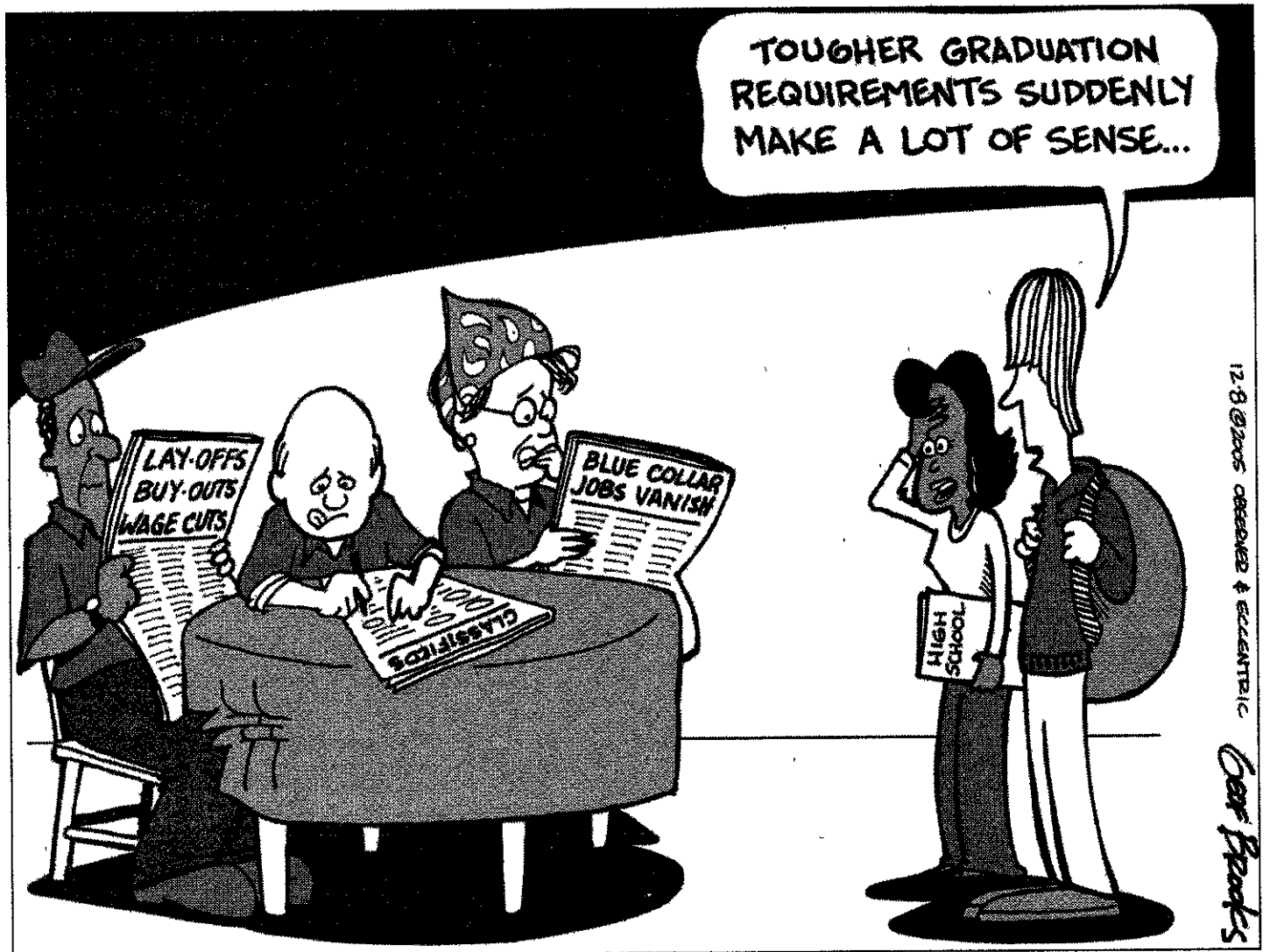
While that student wasn't enthused about the prospect, more science classes — and English and math, among others — are just what today's young men and women need. It's no longer enough just to try to keep kids in school. We have to give them a reason to stay there, one that replaces what, in some cases, has amounted to little more than baby-sitting.

Students need the knowledge and skills to become productive adults, a goal that can only benefit the state's economy, as well.

The proposed requirements include 3½ years in English; three years in social studies; two in science and math; one semester in health; one year in physical education; and two years in a combination of foreign language, fine arts and career and technical education.

While many local districts come close to these standards already, the proposals, which will be discussed by the state board of education Dec. 13, set the bar higher for all districts. As such, they deserve a favorable review by the school board and approval in some fashion by the state Legislature to amend the school code.

The state can change the core curriculum all it wants, but if parents don't embrace the changes and if funds aren't available to implement them, it's doubtful that their children will succeed in their educational careers.



LETTERS

Great coverage

Thank you so much for the wonderful coverage you gave to the Canton High School football team during the football season, playoffs and state finals. It was OUTSTANDING and a great service to our community to show such support for our athletes.

I can't tell you how impressed I was with the *Observer* these past weeks. You helped "fire us up" and give the Canton Chiefs the attention they deserved. Thank you also for reaching out to the merchants and citizens and encouraging all to wear their red and go to Ford Field for the big game. We were a mighty bunch as, you reported.

These students will never forget this experience. Thanks for making it the momentous event it was.

Monica McCluskey
Canton

Hunting should be allowed

As a long-time Canton resident and bow hunter, I believe strongly that hunting should still be allowed in the township. Although I don't have the privilege of hunting in the township, hunters who own their own land and are hunting legally should not be hassled by irate neighbors.

Patricia Pellerito said in her interview "a bunch of yahoos that are too lazy to go up north to hunt." That is the mindset that lawful hunters have to put up with. I wonder if Patricia has ever seen all the car/deer accidents that have occurred on Ford Road, from Beck to Gotfredson. I hunt on state land in Dexter with my oldest son and have had many narrow misses driving west on Ford Road, from deer crossing in the morning and night. Canton has a large deer herd and hunting is the best tool to control the size of the population. If anything, they should open more places up to bow hunt, but I know that would not happen.

Walt Marek
Canton

Don't interfere with hunters

It is a crime in Michigan to interfere with a hunter. It appears that the Canton Police Department was the tool of someone who apparently changed their story about a bullet hole in her home. At first, hunters just did it. Now it could have been done anytime. I believe a written apology for interfering with his hunt is in order. Anyone who interferes with a hunter has violated Michigan state law and should be punished, including the Canton Police Department. The first visit by the police was understandable, but the second visit was out of order.

Don't move out to the country and complain about what happens in the country, like farming or hunting. Both activities are protected by the laws of the state of Michigan. It is up to the Michigan DNR to close hunting, not the Canton Police Department.

Roy A. Muir
Canton

Too crowded for hunting

I think hunting should be banned in Canton. It is getting too crowded with

subdivisions and people to allow hunting. Someone will get hurt.

We have a small woods in our backyard and also three little kids. It is scary to think someone hunting back there could send a bullet into my backyard by mistake and hurt or kill my kids. I just think it is getting too crowded with people and houses around here and hunting needs to be done away from where there are lots of houses and people. I'm not against it as long as it is done safely.

Tammy Farley
Canton

Fix sewage rates

I would like to see the math behind a 7.75-percent per year water rate increase and a 9.5-percent sewer rate increase. If they need to make a change this big, it is time to re-balance the whole water/sewage pricing structure. I was told at the time of the last increase that I could not have a separate meter for my sprinklers in order to avoid the sewage charge. The reason? Because Canton returns so much more sewage than it buys water due to the pre-1980 homes dumping their storm water directly into the sewers.

So for me and others like me, to allow this meter would upset the "balance." When I use 1,000 gallons to water my lawn, I pay \$3.15 per day in unnecessary sewage charges — \$31.50 per month with 10 waterings. In six years, I will be paying \$51.19 per month. The pre-1980 homes are being asked to pay a mere \$2.18 per month to cover this sewage overage?

Yes, sure, watering my lawn is my choice. But it's time to fix what is broken and have everyone pay their fair share.

Peter Kuechler
Canton

Congrats, Chiefs!

It was a proud time for me these past few weeks as a Canton resident and a football fan to watch the young men of the Canton High School football team excel and make it to the finals of the state Division 1 championships. That cannot be an easy feat with so many teams competing.

I was as eager to watch their final game on Fox Sports Network television last Saturday as I have for any University of Michigan or Detroit Lions football contest. Thank you coach Baechler, the assistants and, of course, the players for an exciting time.

Greg Greene
Canton

Wasteful projects

Hooray for Thomas Gamache. His letter (Nov. 24) explains how many Canton voters feel about the school district funds being used to partially restore Central Middle School and the preservation of Miller Woods.

The interested parties should pay for their historical and environmental projects, not the Plymouth-Canton School District. Maybe the school district could just sign over the old high school property to Plymouth and let them restore the

building for its historical value and convert it for local residents' usage.

I'm a Canton retiree and support our school system 100 percent, but not with wasteful projects that cater to special-interest groups that endeavor to have the school district pay for their emotional projects. With the Central Middle School and Miller Woods issues tied into the bond requests, I can only vote no.

Cheers to the *Observer* for having the fortitude to print Mr. Gamache's letter.

Richard A. Giles
Canton

Stop the invasion

Last week, President Bush took a tour of the disaster we call our southern border. He has had five years to tighten that border and has done nothing to do so. My belief, along with millions of other American citizens, is that Bush wants an open border and wants as many foreign workers as possible (legal or illegal) brought into this country.

He has openly ignored his oath of office by not securing the border to protect the American people from this invasion. Our military is supposed to protect us (novel idea, isn't it?). And when these people (law breakers) arrive, our tax dollars support them.

The welfare and rights of American citizens have been put on the back burner for many years. The apparent name of the game is to increase the pool of workers in this country.

We have millions of underemployed, unemployed citizens who simply cannot find a good job in their field. All protections for citizens have been ignored.

Congress just upped the number of technical foreign workers that will permanently come here.

Instead of foreigners learning English, we are being forced to deal with "the Spanish" selection wherever we go. This just isn't right.

So Mr. Bush, I say NO to your guest worker plan. I say NO to any form of amnesty. I say YES to a stringent program to fine (or incarcerate) employers of illegals to fund their trip back to their home country. And finally, I say YES to your finally doing your job of protecting American citizens.

Peggy Robichaud
Michigan Citizens for Immigration Reform
Canton

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.

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Canton Observer
794 South Main
Plymouth, MI 48170

Fax:
(734) 459-4224

E-mail:
kkuban@hometownlife.com

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Hugh Gallagher
Managing Editor

Susan Rosiek
Executive Editor

Marty Carry
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Peter Neill
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Richard Aginian
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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

"These are our kids. No child should be without a Christmas. We've got to take care of our own."

— Canton Goodfellows President Nancy Spencer, on the group's efforts to provide Christmas to 500 Canton children and 175 families; to help the cause or donate, please call the Goodfellows at (734) 397-8975.

Cutting taxes won't solve all that ails Michigan's economy

Amid the harsh squabbling and political posturing pouring forth from Lansing's capitol dome, one persistent theme has been sounding loud and clear: cut business taxes.

They've been talking ad nauseam about the subject since Gov. Jennifer Granholm proposed a couple of years ago a far-reaching overhaul of the Single Business Tax (SBT), the state's main levy on businesses. It raises about \$2 billion a year for the state.

Talk reached a crescendo last month when it looked as though the governor and Republican legislative leaders had agreed on a tax-cut-and-jobs-growth package.



Phil Power

That fell apart in a spasm of partisan finger pointing. Granholm now has her "21st Century Jobs Fund" under way, funded by something like another \$2 billion in tobacco settlement money.

Legislative Republicans are now in a year-end frenzy pushing a new interim tax plan. It would give manufacturers a credit to the SBT equal to 15 percent of the property taxes they pay on plant and equipment. That would cost the state treasury around \$500 million.

Naturally, nobody is talking about how they would plug this particular hole in an already precarious state budget.

When it comes to the long haul, however, the change can't hurt much and might even help a little. After all, with General Motors planning to close a bunch of plants and Delphi in bankruptcy, a little marginal tax relief from the state might make a difference to some business trying to decide whether or not to close plants in Michigan.

But tinkering around the edges of the state's tax structure isn't going to do much to help us overcome the worst economic crisis since, well, the Great Depression.

The restructuring now sweeping through the auto industry and the very, very high-stakes negotiations now going on between General Motors, Delphi Corp. and the United Auto Workers union are going to proceed largely unaffected by anything our political masters in Lansing might do or say. That's how top business experts see it.

For example, consider the cuts in the SBT. The Big Three automakers and their Tier One suppliers — like Delphi — pay the bulk of the it. But what nobody seems to remember is that over the past five years, SBT taxes have been cut by a total of \$1.5 billion.

The auto industry's share of this big tax break doesn't seem to have done much to stave off what's now taking place. Delphi is in bankruptcy; GM and the Ford Motor Co. are losing billions.

The saddest part of what's going on in Lansing: The lemming-like kowtowing to the new dogma that any solution to our economic ills must include tax cuts. A hard look at the evidence shows just how silly this shibboleth really is.

Here's some data from a soon-to-be released report compiled by Michigan Future, Inc., a highly regarded economic think tank. By the way, it uses the same tools as does the Michigan State Chamber of Commerce — taxes per capita, taxes per employed resident and taxes as a percentage of personal income:

■ Michigan is not a high-tax state. In fact, Michigan today is slightly below the national average. That's a switch from 1993, when the state embarked on its tax cutting program. Back then, Michigan's tax burden ranked a bit above the national average.

■ Has cutting taxes since 1993 improved Michigan's economic performance? Nope. Our per-capita personal income has dropped by 2.3 percent, while employment declined by 7.6 percent.

■ Are other high-performance states suffering because they are high-tax states? Again, no. Growth in per-capita personal income for high-tax states (except for California and Colorado) has outstripped that for low-tax states.

■ Conversely, the five states with the lowest per-capita tax burden — Tennessee, Alabama, South Dakota, Oregon and South Carolina — are all below the national average in per-capita personal income growth since 1993.

Data recently released by the U.S. Census show the states with the highest median household income are Connecticut, New Jersey, Maryland, Massachusetts and New Hampshire.

What is common to all these states is the country's best-educated populations, good universities, knowledge-based economies and easy access to amenities like recreation and culture.

Insightful readers will realize at once that cutting taxes bleeds money from exactly these essential components for a successful economy in a globalized 21st century. Or put another way: We could save money in the short run if we didn't insist on clean drinking water.

Anyone want to try that?

Lou Glazer, president of Michigan Future, puts it succinctly: "When you actually look at the data comparing tax levels to a state's relative prosperity, there is no evidence that low taxes lead to high economic performance. Indeed, it may well be that the opposite is true."

Here's the first thing we all need to do: Stop. Squint. Think. Substituting economic idiocy driven by knee-jerk ideology for a hard look at the facts is no way to get us out of the jam we're in.

Phil Power is a longtime observer of politics, economics and education issues in Michigan. He would be pleased to hear from readers at ppower@hcnnet.com.

School bond issue important to future district development

I read with great interest Nancy Conzelman's guest editorial, "Bond plan too expensive when Powell property is an option," in the Dec. 1 *Observer*.

I agree with Ms. Conzelman that we are trying to deal with overcrowding situations in some of our schools. If we were not, our Board of Education would not be finalizing plans for a May 2006 bond issue. What I take great offense to are the inaccuracies and innuendos in her article, and her comments that our plan is ill-conceived.

As a member of the Board of Education's 2005-06 Housing Committee, Ms.



Jim Ryan

Conzelman has had an opportunity to review the district's enrollment projections. I am at a loss to explain why she believes it would be prudent to build an elementary school on the Powell/Ridge property.

The future enrollment projections indicate that the growth will be realized in the southwest section of Canton Township. In 2006, we will open a new elementary school at Cherry Hill and Denton roads to accommodate the projected enrollment.

In reviewing our 2006 proposed bond application, the Department of Treasury will consider enrollment projections provided by outside entities. After the new school opens (capacity 750 students), future enrollment projections do not support the addition of any new elementary buildings.

As for the Powell and Ridge property, the board has directed administration to file the deed restriction developed by the Board of Education and supported by the Plymouth Township board in 1991.

After we resolve some legal and survey problems, we will file the deed as directed. The Board of Education has stated all along that it did not intend to pursue the sale of this property at this time. I am not sure where Ms. Conzelman developed her idea that we are in the process of selling this property.

It is true that our past growth has caused

It is true that our past growth has caused us to lose many of our dedicated art and music rooms. The construction of the new elementary school and the proposed additions in the May 2006 Bond Issue, if passed, will remedy this situation.

us to lose many of our dedicated art and music rooms. The construction of the new elementary school and the proposed additions in the May 2006 Bond Issue, if passed, will remedy this situation.

Yes, we have added portable classrooms at some schools, but that is part of our effort to operate with the funding we receive. I resent Ms. Conzelman's comment that I couch my rationale and hide behind the terms "equity" and "growth." We are simply trying to give the very best education we can with the operational dollars we receive.

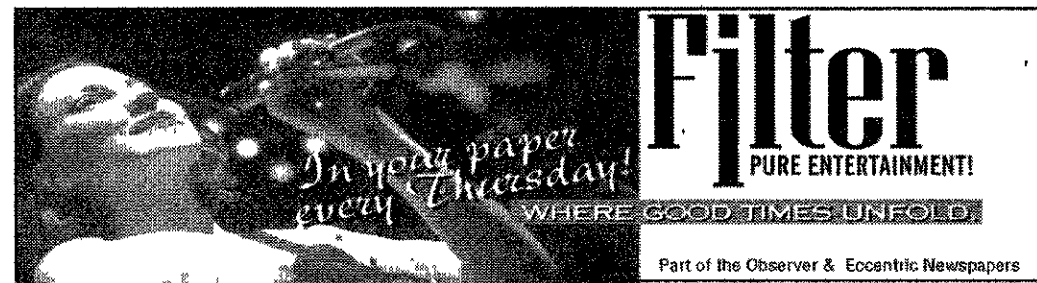
Finally, it is important to note that I have not "convinced" the board of anything. I work for it; it does not work for me. The board has met every Tuesday since Labor Day to reach its decision on the contents of the 2006 Bond Issue. To infer that members do not make their own decisions is insulting to them.

I am not sure of Ms. Conzelman's motivation in writing that column. This bond issue is important to the future of our school district if we are to remain competitive and attract and retain students.

Knowing the state's Department of Treasury will not approve a new elementary school based on enrollment projections in spite of her insistence that it will, seems to me to be an idea that is ill-conceived.

As your superintendent, I will always try to make thoughtful, collaborative decisions. As always, I am proud to be the superintendent of the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools.

Jim Ryan is superintendent of the Plymouth-Canton school district.



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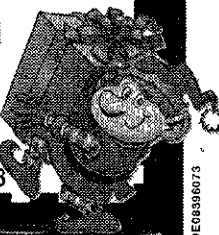
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Tom Hawley named journalist of year

Photographer Tom Hawley was named the *Observer & Eccentric's* Journalist of the Year for 2005.

Hawley's selection was announced Dec. 1 at the *O&E's* annual Journalist of the Year breakfast at the Townsend Hotel in Birmingham. Detroit Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick was the guest speaker.

Hawley has worked at the *Observer & Eccentric* for 10 years. He previously worked at the *Monroe Evening News* and Monroe County Community College. His primary coverage area has been for the *Westland* and *Garden City Observers*, but he has covered assignments throughout the *Observer & Eccentric* circulation area.

He was nominated by Sue Mason, editor of the *Westland* and *Garden City Observers*; Dave Varga, editor of the *Livonia* and *Redford Observers*; Dan O'Meara, sports editor of the *Farmington Observer*; and Tim Smith, sports editor of the *Redford* and *Garden City Observers*.

"He has a keen eye and a creative mind and makes a sow's ear of an assignment look like a silk purse," Mason wrote in her nominating letter.

Dave Varga wrote, "Tom's true value as a journalist must include his ability to organize, plan and find the significance of things going on in our communities."

"I'm honored to receive this



Photographer Tom Hawley thanks Observer & Eccentric editorial staff after receiving the O&E's Journalist of the Year Award. Behind him are his nominators, Sue Mason, Westland and Garden City Observer editor; Dave Varga, Livonia and Redford Observer editor; Tim Smith, Redford and Garden City sports editor; and Dan O'Meara, Farmington sports editor.

award," Hawley said. "But the rewards I get from our community are just as important to me, the comments in the letters I receive."

When he received his award, he said he was especially moved by a letter he received from Bill Rothley of Livonia for a photo essay on Rothley's grandchildren participating in a Junior Olympics.

Varga cites this response in his nominating letter: "He found this great story on his own while shooting the event, then shared it with the editor so the complete story could be presented with the wonderful photo package. A letter from the grandpa said, 'I have attempted to write before, but my eyes filled with tears - I am sure you understand.'"



Tom Hawley shot this photo of Bill Rothley of Livonia and his granddaughter, Melissa Rothley, 4, of Livonia after she won her first race in the 35 meter race at the Redford Township Junior Olympics. Hawley said the response he received from the family when this and other photos of the event ran were the kind of everyday rewards of being a photojournalist.

Hawley said he appreciates the importance community newspapers have in the lives of our readers.

Hawley has been the recipient of numerous awards from the annual Michigan Press Association and Suburban Newspapers of America editorial excellence contests.

Gleaners holiday drive to fight hunger, raise issue awareness

Gleaners Community Food Bank kicks off It's Time To Give campaign this week to raise money and awareness to help feed hungry families this holiday season.

The message is being delivered via print and broadcast mediums now through the end of the tax year, to encourage area residents to put Gleaners on the gift giving list.

"During this time of giving, we want to encourage everyone to reflect on the meaning of giving and what a difference it makes in the lives of struggling families who consume more than 2 million meals each month in the six county area,"

says Gleaners president Agostinho Fernandes, Jr.

Gleaners is making it easy and timely to give. Donation envelopes are being inserted into community newspapers throughout the region (including today's editions of the *Observer & Eccentric Newspapers*) to make it simple for potential donors to respond to the need for more resources to feed hungry families. The message It's Time to Give can also be heard on radio and television ads and public service announcements that remind everyone that the spirit of giving is alive and well and needed more than

ever.

For the company that has everything, Gleaners Community Food Bank also accepts donations from companies that want to forgo a Christmas Party but still celebrate the spirit of giving.

Additionally, Gleaners Community Food Bank is taking orders for holiday cards available for \$10 dollars for 10 cards. Charity Card selections can be made on the Web site at www.gcfb.org - Gleaners store. The proceeds go to help the food bank. Each dollar donated

can provide up to 16 meals.

Since 1977, Gleaners Community Food Bank has been serving the hungry of our region. In 1984, the Food Bank of Oakland County began serving the hungry in Oakland County. July, 2005 brought the merger of these two food banks joining together as Gleaners Community Food Bank of Southeastern Michigan.

Gleaners secures, stores, and distributes donated food from farmers, grocery stores, supermarkets, food distributors and food processors to local non-

profit agencies and charities that directly feed the poor and hungry.

Who are the hungry? People of all ages, races and socioeconomic levels have needed Gleaners' assistance. Fifty-nine percent of the hungry are children and seniors.

For more information or programs and services or to donate on line visit the Web site at www.gcfb.org. Gleaners Community Food Bank of Southeastern Michigan is located at 2131 Beaufait, Detroit, MI 48207.

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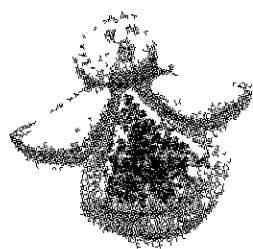
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**Bake up
some fun.**
TASTE B5

Beware 'new' uses for appliances
APPLIANCE DOCTOR B2

Stick to theme with mantel decor
DESIGN SOLUTIONS B3

Ken Abramczyk, editor
(734) 953-2107
Fax (734) 591-7279
kabramczyk@hometownlife.com
www.hometownlife.com

Accents

Green gifts

Writing for yardcare.com, a Web site created by the Toro Company that is dedicated to providing information and answers to lawn and garden questions, Kathleen Hennessy offers the following suggestions for the perfect holiday gift for the green thumb on your list.

■ "If you're looking to mark your path in your own way, check out GardenMolds at www.gardenmolds.com," she writes. "Artist Catherine Failor has created beautiful, unique stepping stone mold designs that are perfect for creating a custom look in your yard or garden."

"The molds are made of thick, durable polystyrene so you're sure to get a number of uses out of each one . . ."

"Check out the Web site for stepping stone designs, fun planter feet molds, color additives and great project instructions. Most molds sell for around \$25."

■ "Need a last-minute hostess gift? Pass up the poinsettias and take a more creative approach by choosing a cyclamen. These delicate-looking flowers sit high atop beautiful frosted green leaves."

"Choose Sierra with its huge bouquet of blooms in colors like scarlet, wine and purple flame. Or the new Sterling silver-leaf cyclamen with its unique foliage and beautiful scent."

"Cyclamen prefer cooler temps and bright, indirect light. They'll be a gorgeous addition to any holiday decor and when spring arrives you can plant them outside. Visit your local garden center to find a hearty, high-quality plant."

■ "The Toro Ultra Blower/Vac is not only a blower, but also a powerful vacuum and mulcher."

"The magnesium impeller crunches 16 bags of leaves down to one . . . The air speed can be set anywhere between 90 and 225 miles per hour to provide the right amount of power for the task at hand."

"Not only can the tool handle leaves and other yard debris, it works great as a power sweeper for your garage, deck or patio. (Cost is) \$75 at home centers or your local Toro dealer."

■ "If you have a bulb fanatic on your list, pick up a Bulb Hound Garden Planter. This easy-to-use tool cuts a planting hole; then the coring tube opens to release the soil to refill the hole. You'll get consistent depth when planting those hundred or so tulip bulbs next fall. And you can use the tool for easy transplanting this spring."

"You'll find it at local hardware or Home Depot stores for less than \$30. You can also buy it at www.hound-dog.com."

■ "Unlike low-cut garden shoes or clogs, Mud Buddies boots have a soft, ankle-high neoprene cuff that keeps water and dirt out . . ."

"The boots are tough, comfortable and affordable at around \$40 at select garden centers."

Styles of the Season



This traditional arrangement features anthurium, an exotic flower.

How you decorate often reflects where you live

BY KEN ABRAMCZYK AND MARY KLEMIC
STAFF WRITERS

How you decorate your home might all depend on where you live. Bruce Boland, owner of Boland Florist in Garden City, believes decorators in older, more traditional homes found in older communities like Garden City, Livonia and Westland tend to use traditional arrangements for the holidays. Newer homes that you might find in West Bloomfield lean toward more contemporary looks.

Boland has taught a floral design class for 28 years at Schoolcraft College and also taught a class at The Community House in Birmingham.

"Traditional arrangements tend to have traditional flowers you might find in the garden, such as daisies and sunflowers," Boland said. "You might try to incorporate statice which give it a wispy, dried, all-seasons feel."

Oranges, browns and yellows remain the main color schemes in traditional arrangements with purples used as accents.

"Contemporary tends to be more simplistic in nature with not as much depth and it does not have the density of garden-type flowers. It's a little more unique. You'll see an Oriental lily or an anthurium or bird of paradise. To make (the arrangement) unique,

you use unusual flowers." When it comes to specific themes, Jon Gerych, owner of Gerych's-Graziella Ltd. in



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Bruce Boland created a freestyle permanent design with amaryllis.

PLEASE SEE STYLES, B4

New iPod blazes another trail - this time portable video

Personal video players are cool. Imagine an iPod-like device that plays not only music, but movies and TV shows as well.

Actually, you don't have to imagine it any more. Apple now offers just such an iPod, and the company's iTunes store now sells episodes of *Lost*, *Desperate Housewives* and other shows (movies are sure to follow).

The video-capable iPod isn't the first device of its kind, but it's the first one to get it right.

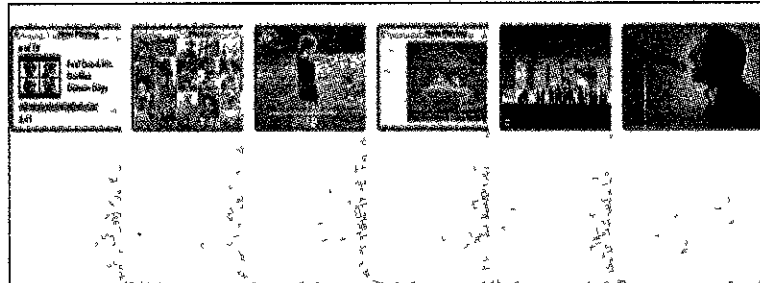
Witness the Creative Zen Vision (creative.com), which debuted a few months before the new iPod. Its 30GB hard drive holds music, video, photos and more, and displays everything on a dazzling 3.7-inch screen.

So why didn't it create more of a stir? Simple: There's no easy way to fill it with the videos you want to watch.

This has been the problem with personal video players (PVPs) for years. Only the truly tech-savvy could perform the necessary hoop-jumps to copy a movie or TV show, and even then it was an annoyingly time-consuming process.

Ideally, you should be able to buy and download video content with the same ease and affordability you can songs.

It took Apple to legitimize music downloads, and it took



Kudos to Apple for making buying TV shows as point-and-click simple as buying music. It is hoped that the company will offer a larger selection in the near future.

Apple to prove that the same could - and should - be done for video. Now watch while Microsoft, Yahoo and other companies scramble to play catch-up, just as they did after iTunes bowed.

So where does all this leave you, the video-hungry traveler?

For now, the video iPod is hard to beat. It's incredibly slim and sexy, and surprisingly

affordable: \$299 for the 30GB model.

Unfortunately, the current video library remains small; Apple needs to offer a lot more shows (and add movies to the mix) before the iPod can fully realize its portable-video potential.

In fact, if you want to watch a movie on the device, you have to jump through the same old

hoops: Install third-party software, rip a DVD, convert the video to the proper format, and be extremely patient while it's all happening.

Indeed, movies still haven't "arrived" on PVPs in any meaningful way, though I'm confident this is just around the corner. Soon enough, you'll be able to pay a few bucks for *The Incredibles* and download it directly to your device, easy as you please.

In the meantime, the best bet is to own a Media Center PC. You can pretty easily copy recorded shows and movies to a growing number of non-iPod PVPs, including the Zen Vision.

I'm extremely fond of that particular model, which, although it costs \$100 more than the iPod, includes a signif-

PLEASE SEE IPOD, B4

**Tech
Savvy**

Rick
Broida

Use them properly: Beware of 'new' uses for appliances

I have spent more than 40 years going into the homes of people who have problems with major home appliances, and to say the least, it has been most interesting.

Even these later years where my entrance has been done with this newspaper and radio shows, the education or instructions I give come right from the heart.

It always disturbs me when I see or read things that contradict the rules of common sense when operating appliances.



Appliance Doctor

Joe Gagnon

Take a television show that shows home improvement projects and how to do things, and I see a plastic vent line hooked up to the back of a clothes dryer. I ask myself, "Where have these people been? Don't they know any better?"

Recently I read an article about some of the things the writer said you can use a microwave oven for. Three of the items weren't even food.

One was a bowling ball, of all things. The article said you could nuke the ball and remove the lane oil out of it. Why not just wipe it clean with a damp cloth soaked in a cleanser of some sort?

The next item was a pair of women's underwear, which the writer called skivvies, a term used in the navy for men's undershorts. The article said

A major home appliance has its purpose in the home and I've enjoyed telling and showing consumers how to use them properly. I've made friends with thousands of people by giving instructions that added years of life to their products.

the reason to nuke these was an assurance that pesky yeast fungus would be killed.

This isn't a subject to clown around with, but I'm sure that the medical profession has ways to handle this problem other than cooking underpants

in a microwave oven. What about the picture of tennis shoes sitting inside a microwave oven and the caption saying the plastic will melt if you nuke them? What person in his right mind would put a pair of stinky tennis shoes in the very place he puts his baked potato? Just doesn't make sense to me.

Pay attention, folks, especially those of you who read that article (not in this paper) and perceived new uses for your microwave: **YOU WILL RUIN THE MICROWAVE.**

The magnetron tube in a microwave is designed to emit a signal that needs to be absorbed by something. If it isn't properly absorbed, the signal will come back or reflect back to the magnetron tube. This is guaranteed to destroy the tube, which costs a few

hundred dollars for repairs. You can't use metal in a microwave for that reason, nor can you operate it in an empty condition.

It is as simple as that: The signal or wave must be absorbed by something. Not bowling balls, tennis shoes or women's underpants. Were in blazes do they get these writers from?

I have reported in the past that Americans suffer food poisoning the average of seven times per year and think they have a touch of the flu or something.

Most of this effect comes from within our own homes and touches on how we preserve food and how clean our dishes, etc., are.

I hear about the homeowner who puts his air filters from his furnace inside his dishwasher

to clean them. A major home appliance has its purpose in the home and I've enjoyed telling and showing consumers how to use them properly. I've made friends with thousands of people by giving instructions that added years of life to their products.

But now we live in a world with all sorts of experts - people who know just a little bit and think they know it all. Somebody said it: "Don't believe everything you read." Stay tuned.

Joe Gagnon can now be heard on WWJ-950 and WXYT-1270. He is a member and past president of the Society of Consumer Affairs Professionals. His phone number is (248) 455-7281. Do you have a question about an appliance or a problem you have with an appliance? E-mail your question to kabramczyk@hometownlife.com and it will be forwarded to Joe Gagnon.

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- Select discontinued patio & garden merchandise
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- Shrek 2 party goods
- NCR glossy photo paper
- Select Maybelline cosmetics
- Select Max Factor, L'Oreal or Revlon cosmetics

<div>Special Buy</div> <div>30% off*</div> <div>Harvest flatweaves</div> <div>Juvenile floor rugs</div> <div>Promotional remnants</div>	<div>\$1</div> <div>* Select DVDs</div>	<div>\$159⁹⁵</div> <div>Fuji E500 digital camera</div>	<div>10% off</div> <div>Motorola cordless phones</div>	<div>50% off</div> <div>GE 24-hour appliance timer #2017</div>
	<div>40% off</div> <div>Martha Stewart Everyday™ and Tim A Home® holiday kitchen textiles</div>	<div>9⁹⁹</div> <div>Poker rug with BONUS playing cards and poker chips</div>	<div>49⁹⁹</div> <div>Gloria Vanderbilt pink, blue or tapestry 3-pc. luggage set</div>	<div>25% off</div> <div>All Stanley tools</div>
<div>40% off</div> <div>Nottingham Fair animation</div>	<div>40% off</div> <div>Outdoor lighted stick trees</div>	<div>BUY ONE GET ONE FREE*</div> <div>United States Postal Service bubble mailers</div> <div>*Buy one at the reg. price and get the second one of equal or lesser value, FREE.</div>	<div>1⁹⁹</div> <div>Pentel 2-pack gel or roller pens</div>	<div>2⁹⁹</div> <div>Pentel Ergo or Client ballpoint pens or 3-pack gel/scribble pens</div>
<div>50% off</div> <div>Kotex 18-ct. tampons, 40-64-ct. liners, 14-24-ct. pads or 24-26-ct. Poise liners</div>	<div>BUY ONE GET ONE FREE</div> <div>Crest toothpaste, 8.2 oz. or Crest SpinBrush</div> <div>*Buy one at the reg. price and get the second one of equal or lesser value, FREE.</div>	<div>25% off</div> <div>50% off</div> <div>All Disney camping</div>	<div>3⁹⁹</div> <div>Pentel tatra 4-pack gel roller pens</div>	<div>buy one, get one</div> <div>50% off**</div> <div>Essential Home™ white bedding and accessories</div> <div>*Buy one at the reg. price and get the second one of equal or lesser value, at 50% off the reg. price.</div>

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GARDEN CALENDAR

Cactus and Succulent Society

The Michigan Cactus and Succulent Society will have a Christmas Party at 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 11, at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 814 N. Campbell in Royal Oak. Guests are welcome. Admission is free. Call (248) 524-0227 for more information.

Send calendar items at least two weeks ahead of the event to Ken Abramczyk, At Home Editor, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150, e-mail kabramczyk@hometownlife.com, fax (734) 591-7279 or (248) 644-1314.

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Cheer for the hometeam, read today's SPORTS section

pink FASHIONed for your Sundays

Stick to theme when decorating mantel

Kristin of Canton asks: "You have previously written about decorating fireplace mantels for everyday use. I would really like to make a beautiful statement this Christmas with a festive mantel. There is so much to choose from and it is very confusing. What do you suggest?"

On a recent trip to the new Jo-Ann Fabrics store in Canton, I was also overwhelmed by the myriad of choices for holiday decorating.

Design Solutions

Terri Guastella

before you leave the house and try to remain focused on that goal in the store.

To discover the goal you are

working toward, begin by looking through magazines that are highlighting holiday decor, watching some of the HGTV programming that focuses on this area, and attending local home tours and events in the fall. This exercise will pique your interest and help you decide the direction for your own home.

You asked specifically about mantel decor. I attended an annual function at Cranbrook last month that showcases holiday table settings. Many of the rooms also included fireplace mantels that were incorporated into the overall decorating scheme of each table vignette. They were quite beautiful and very inspiring.

I noticed a trend toward natural materials. Many types of mixed evergreen branches, feathers (lots of feathers!), pine cones, etc., were on display.

When using these greens, don't be stingy! Pile them on thick. Have some hanging down over the edges of the mantel. You can buy fresh

branches or artificial ones. If you use artificial, please buy good-quality branches for the best look.

I also noticed that each vignette stayed in theme. This is very important when decorating your own home.

If your mantel has a Nativity theme with a beautiful crèche, leave Santa and his elves elsewhere. If you like to display your collection of snowmen, then stick to snowmen. The same goes with any collection you have.

If your mantel is large or sits higher up on the wall, avoid small collectibles that are difficult to see when seated in the room. These items might be better viewed on a coffee table, on an end table, or in another area.

Resist the temptation to fill every spot on the mantel with a figurine or candle. Many of the mantels I saw at Cranbrook were lush and beautiful and overflowing with pine boughs, lemon leaves, cedar branches, sugared fruit and maybe some tall candle-

sticks or a thin buffet lamp, but devoid of figurines.

Tiny white lights are very nice in this evergreen type of display, but not absolutely necessary. If you decide on lights, use them sparingly and set them into the greenery for a subtle effect. Make sure all electrical cords used in the mantel display are out of sight.

If you have a mirror hanging over your fireplace mantel, a simple wreath made out of the same of greenery used on the mantel looks great hanging right on the mirror. This will complement that beautiful statement you are trying to make with your mantel decor.

COLOR

Along with the idea of staying in theme, is staying in the right color family.

Christmas decorations no longer come only in red and green. If you choose blue and silver, then try to remain constant to that color family. Burgundy and hunter green are another option.

Staying within a color family



TERRI GUASTELLA

Stick to your theme, bring in natural materials, and your mantel will be the jewel of your holiday decorating.

for your holiday decorations will help you avoid a chaotic look.

We all have special holiday decorations that we use year after year. Over time these items age, fade and wear out. Take an honest and objective look at each item before you place it in your home for display. It may be time to freshen up some of the old standbys. Start out with inspiration

and create a goal for your own home before you head out to the store. Stick to your theme, bring in natural materials, and your mantel will be the jewel of your holiday decorating. Terri Guastella, an interior designer and a Canton resident, specializes in space planning, design and color consultation. Do you have a question about interior design or decorating your home? Contact Terri Guastella at terri@exclusiveinteriordes.com.

HOME CALENDAR

Sculpture for home

HMFRNSHNGS: Utilitarian Sculpture for the Home, an exhibit of work by students, alumni and instructors of the College for Creative Studies, will continue to Feb. 9 at the Janice Charach Epstein Gallery, in the Jewish Community Center of Metropolitan Detroit, 6600 W. Maple in West Bloomfield. Call (248) 661-1000.

Opening reception 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 8.

The show will push the boundaries of functionality for furniture and other items in the home. The furnishings will be available for purchase.

Holly Walk

The 14th annual Holly Walk will take place noon to 5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 11, sponsored by the Friends of the Rochester Hills Public Library. The tour of six homes in Rochester, Rochester Hills and Oakland Township benefits the library. Bring a pair of slippers on the tour.

Bags will be provided for shoes. Tickets are \$20. Buy early, as they are limited. Tickets are available at Bordine Nursery, Dillman & Upton, the Friends Library Store at the Rochester Hills Public Library, Sharon's Hallmark in the Rochester Hills Plaza and in University Square, Trader Joe's of Rochester Hills, and Werner's Hallmark at Adams and Silverbell and at 25 Mile and Dequindre. Ticket holders may stop at the Van Hoosen Dairy Farm anytime during the tour. Refreshments will be served there until 5 p.m. Visitors to the farm may register for a chance to win one of the door prizes offered by area restaurants, merchants and organizations and Holly Walk committee members.

For more information, visit www.rhpl.org/Friends.html or call the Friends at (248) 650-7176.

Kwanzaa celebration

The Storytellers will share stories about the African-American tradition

of Kwanzaa, and demonstrate ethnic musical instruments, 2-4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 10, at Art Van Furniture, 22555 Greenfield in Southfield (phone (248) 569-3770).

The Storytellers will be at Art Van Furniture, 13855 E. Eight Mile in Warren, 2-4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 17. Phone (586) 779-9530. This enthusiastic duo performs lively presentations and encourages the participation of the children in attendance.

Meadow Brook Hall

The 2005 Holiday Walk, featuring tours of professionally decorated Meadow Brook Hall, continues to Sunday, Dec. 18. Tours are available 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday-Sunday, with last admittance at 4 p.m. Reservations aren't required for any of the tours. Admission is \$20 for adults, \$5 for ages 17 and under, free for under age 2, \$12 for OU affiliates with ID, \$5 for OU students. A special

group rate of \$12 per person is available for groups of 20 or more. The museum holiday shop features holiday and gift-giving treasures. Hours are 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Sunday.

Meadow Brook Hall is on the Oakland University campus in Rochester. Call (248) 364-6200 or visit www.meadowbrookhall.org for information.

Breakfast with Santa will take place 9-11 a.m. Saturdays, Dec. 10 and 17, in the ballroom, including visiting with Santa and making ornaments. Cost is \$25 for children, \$30 for adults. For reservations and information, call (248) 364-6263.

It's a Wonderful Life at the Grand Manor will take place 7-11 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 15, offering 1940s holiday treats, traditions and entertainment; guests are invited to dress in the style of the period or business casual. The festivities will include candlelight tours, live music, a strolling dinner, jitterbug lessons, a "Martini's

Bar" and a showing of the classic film *It's a Wonderful Life*. Reservations are required. Cost is \$65. For reservations and information, call (248) 364-6206. Meadow Brook Hall, a 100-room mansion, was built by Matilda Dodge Wilson, widow of auto magnate John Dodge.

Holiday Shop

The Holiday Shop at the Birmingham Bloomfield Art Center, 1516 Cranbrook Road in Birmingham, offers eclectic and extraordinary holiday gifts now to Saturday, Dec. 17. Hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday-Saturday, noon to 4 p.m. Sunday. This year, more than 100 renowned artists from across the country are selling all types of wares, including pottery and textiles. Purchases include complimentary wrapping. For more information, call (248) 644-0866 or visit www.bbartcenter.org.

Gift gallery

The Holiday Gift Gallery at the Paint Creek Center for the Arts in Rochester

offers original gifts handcrafted by Michigan artists. The PCCA is at 407 Pine. The gallery is open now to Jan. 7. Hours are 9:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday-Friday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday; 9 a.m. to noon Friday, Dec. 23 and 30; closed Dec. 24, 26 and 31. Call (248) 651-4110 or visit www.pccart.org.

Auction

An auction will take place Friday-Sunday, Dec. 9-11, at DuMouchelles, 409 E. Jefferson in Detroit. The auction will begin at 6:30 p.m. Friday, 11 a.m. Saturday and noon Sunday. Exhibition hours are 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Thursday. Call (313) 963-6255 or visit www.dumouchelles.com.

Caroling

Stop by any Art Van Furniture store 1:30-3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 11, to enjoy holiday carols performed by a local high school choir.

MARKETPLACE

Made with the shade

Brimz Clip and Flip Eyewear is a new type of sports sunglasses, with a patented nylon frame designed to clip to the brim of a cap or visor. The shatter- and scratch-resistant lens surpasses ANSI Z87 safety glass standards and offers 100 percent UV protection. When not in use, Brimz easily flips up and out of the line of vision. The eyewear comes in many colors and retails between \$19.99 and \$29.99. Styles with a college team logo are also offered. Brimz is available at www.brimz.com.

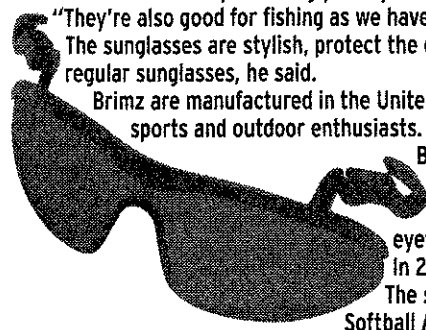
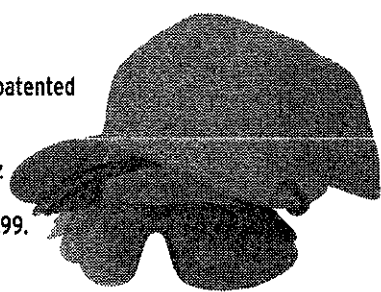
Jeff Morton of West Bloomfield, a businessman and former professional racecar driver, developed Brimz in 2001. "Brimz are excellent for protecting your eyes while playing sports, especially baseball and golf," Morton said.

"They're also good for fishing as we have a polarized lens available, and just general outdoor use." The sunglasses are stylish, protect the eyes and are very convenient, as nothing touches the nose or ears like regular sunglasses, he said.

Brimz are manufactured in the United States and worn around the world by professional athletes as well as sports and outdoor enthusiasts. Nearly 400,000 have been sold in more than seven countries.

Brimz were recently seen in the 2005 remake of *The Bad News Bears* starring Billy Bob Thornton. The versatile sunglasses are the authentic licensed flip-up eyewear of Little League Baseball and the exclusive eyewear of the Professional Caddies Association.

In 2002, Brimz was named Product of the Year by *Softball Today Magazine*. The sunglasses are worn by players, coaches and umpires in the American Softball Association and the U.S. Senior Softball Association.



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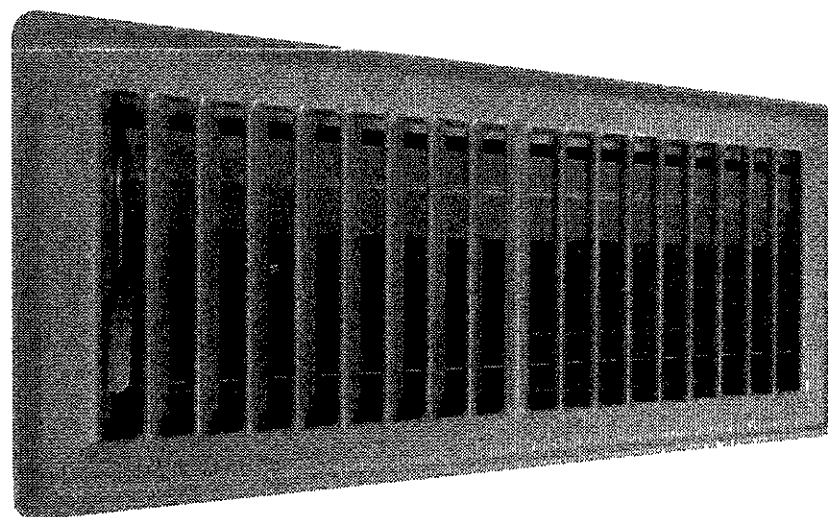


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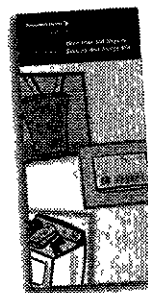
ENERGY answers



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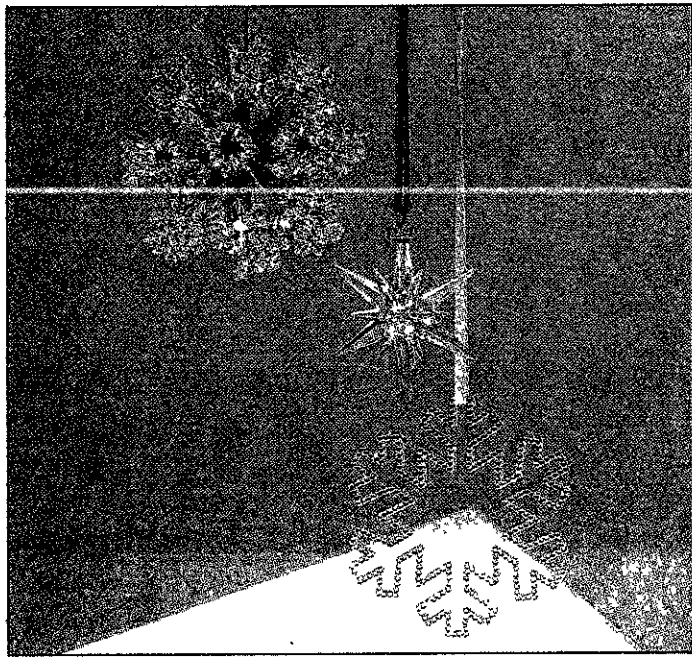
The cost of natural gas to heat your home will be higher this winter. So there's no better time to begin conserving energy than now. For tips on how to reduce natural gas consumption and for information on financial assistance for low-income families, visit consumersenergy.com/energyanswers. Or call 800-477-5050. A customer service representative is ready to help.



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Sparkling for the season

Holiday gift ideas from Marshall Field's include presents that sparkle. Examples are shown here: Waterford 12 Days of Christmas champagne flutes (\$75 each), and Swarovski holiday assorted ornaments (\$39.50 to \$295).



IPOD

FROM PAGE B1

icantly larger, sharper screen, an FM tuner/recorder, and even a CompactFlash slot for copying photos from your digital camera's memory card.

It's also compatible with multiple online music stores, whereas the iPod is limited to tunes bought from iTunes.

You may also want to investigate the Archos AV500 (www.archos.com), which can record video directly from your cable/satellite box or DVD player. It's pricey (\$500) and a bit more complicated than the Zen Vision, but the included manual is quite good.

I'm excited that we're finally on the cusp of viable video-to-go solutions.

My advice is to wait a few months before buying a device and see which content provider offers the best selection.

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.



Bruce Boland, owner of Boland Florist in Garden City, creates a traditional Christmas arrangement featuring fresh pine, fir, silks and a ceramic angel.

STYLES

FROM PAGE B1

Birmingham and Gerych's Flowers and Gifts in Fenton, said musical instruments are popular this year.

Families may use a Candyland or Dr. Seuss theme if they have young children.

"Colors include pinks, lime greens, purples and oranges, non-traditional, but funky, colors in (Dr. Seuss) characters and ornamentation," Gerych said.

"The lodge look is very popular with the log cabin looks with the birch branches, berries and fresh holly," he said.

Cutting edge looks in contemporary styles consist of silvers, coppers, platinum and zinc. Tinsel trees also are popular again. Of course, the old favorites of golds, reds, burgundys and hunter greens remain strong.

And while they've been out for a while, upside-down trees will surely turn heads and are conversation ice breakers.

"These are used in areas where there isn't enough room for the tree to 'spread around,' in a commercial or office setting," Gerych said. "The tree can hang from a chandelier or a ceiling."

In terms of trends, Boland has seen arrangements go from Victorian, to traditional to Victorian Old World.

"It's freshness with an old look," he said. "It's freshness to follow what is reported in magazines."

"What's setting the trend is what Martha Stewart sets as a trend in style and ideas," Boland said. "And these styles and ideas are set in the magazines."

Boland "tends to like a more natural look," he said. He'll make wreaths with pine cones or an arrangement with holiday greens. If he uses silk flowers, it will be at a minimum.

Boland likes gold, too.

"I find gold is a little more complementing to the deeper, richer colors. Gold is a popular choice, while silver is kind of colder, but if someone is creative, they might incorporate silver and purple in an arrangement."

"There's really so much available to be creative, it's a matter of who can bring it together and make it special."

HOLIDAY SETTINGS

Two recent displays of decorated tables, both called Holiday Tables – one presented by

the Farmington Garden Club and one presented by Cranbrook House & Gardens Auxiliary – provided inspiration for holiday decor.

Judy Galperin of the Pomegranate Guild of Southeast Michigan featured dreidel-shaped salt and pepper shakers. Pam Carona of Marshall Field's used lime green and aqua in her setting. On the table by Salon Kray Chic, a tree topper was placed in a floral arrangement.

A room where refreshments were served showed creative settings on card tables. A large square sheet of wrapping paper was placed on the tablecloth at each table, angled so it formed triangles at the corners. Ribbons and bows were on the back of each chair.

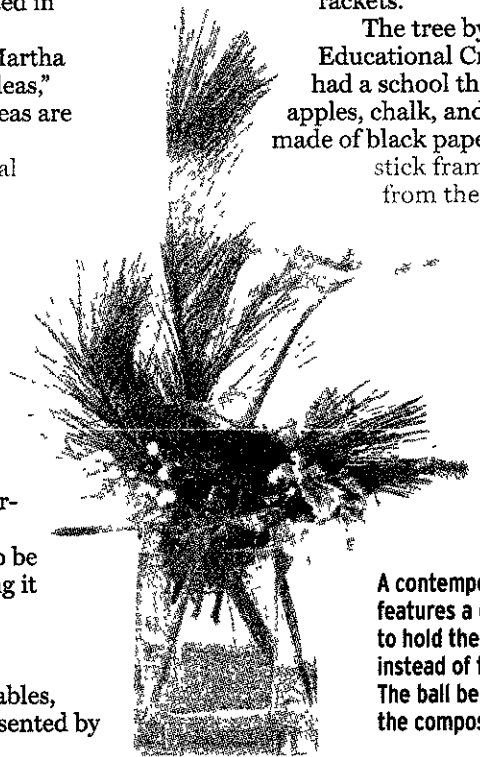
The Cranbrook tables included a display with English black tea pieces by Cathy Rosenthal, a Diwali New Year celebration by Neena Mehta, and a setting by Lily Lembree featuring French quimper pieces on a delicate quilt used as a tablecloth.

Also inspiring is the Kellogg Park Walk of Christmas Trees in Plymouth, sponsored by the Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce.

Decorations on the tree by the Women's Garden Club included tiny pots and garden tools. Upstairs Downstairs Remodeling fashioned a tree with brightly colored, plastic tools such as hammers and screwdrivers.

Members of Salem Girls Tennis adorned a tree with tennis balls and small homemade "rackets."

The tree by Michigan Educational Credit Union had a school theme, with apples, chalk, and "chalkboards" made of black paper and popsicle stick frames hanging from the branches.



A contemporary design features a grapevine ball to hold the stems instead of florist's foam. The ball becomes part of the composition.

Clearing ice, snow could damage trees

Salt is great for clearing roads, driveways and sidewalks of ice and snow; however, a good thing for streets and walkways can be downright rotten for your trees, according to the tree experts at the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA).

"Excessive exposure to salt can cause widespread damage to your trees, leading to permanent decline and sometimes death," said Jim Skiera, executive director of the ISA.

"The problem with salt damage is that it might not show up on your trees until summer, when deicing salt is the last culprit you would suspect."

To minimize the damage done to trees by deicing salts, certified arborists at the ISA offer the following tips:

1. Use less salt. Mix deicing salt with abrasives such as sand,

cinders and ash, or use alternatives such as calcium magnesium acetate and calcium chloride.

2. Protect your trees from salt trucks on the street. If possible, set up barriers between the street and your trees to keep salt spray from hitting tree trunks.

3. Plant salt-resistant trees. Trees such as the sycamore, maple, white spruce, willow and birch tend to be more salt-resistant than other species. How well they fare varies from climate to climate across the country.

4. Improve soil drainage. Add organic matter to your soil to help filter salt deposits.

You can also keep your trees healthy by taking care of their basic needs. Other tips that will help combat the damage done

by deicing salt include:

■ Irrigate to flush the salts from the soils in spring.

■ Mulch sufficiently to reduce water loss.

■ Control pest infestations and destructive tree diseases.

If in doubt, contact an ISA certified arborist in your area.

The ISA, headquartered in Champaign, Ill., is a nonprofit organization supporting tree care research and education around the world.

As part of its dedication to the care and preservation of shade and ornamental trees, the ISA offers the only internationally recognized certification program in the industry.

For more information, and to find a local ISA certified arborist, call (217) 355-9411, visit www.treesaregood.com or e-mail isa@isa-arbor.com.

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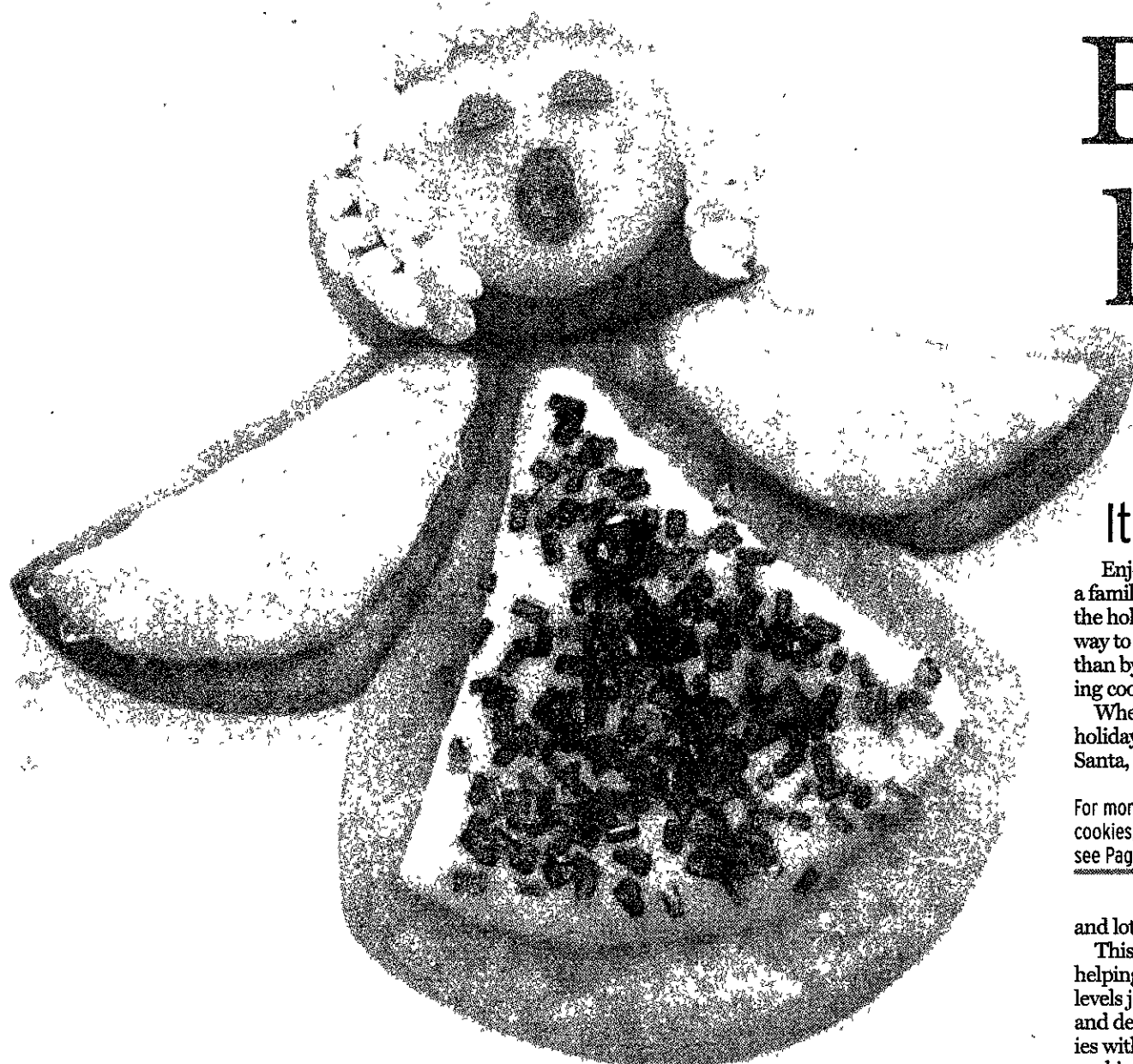
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Bake up holiday fun

It's time for some cookies

Enjoying time together as a family is a priority during the holidays, and what better way to celebrate the season than by baking and decorating cookies?

Whether you're making holiday treats for lunch boxes, Santa, cookie exchanges or

parties, cookie baking as a family creates wonderful holiday memories

and lots of fun.

This season Pillsbury is helping bakers of various skill levels join the fun of baking and decorating holiday cookies with a collection of holiday

cookie recipes made with pre-made cookie dough.

"The Pillsbury soft dough rolls are available in flavors especially popular for the holidays, like sugar, gingerbread, peanut butter and chocolate chip," said Ann Stuart, Pillsbury spokeswoman. "You can make more traditional gingerbread or sugar cookie cut-outs or use the dough in simple cookie recipes to create delicious and impressive treats. Your family will enjoy the fun of baking and decorating cookies together without the mess of making everything from scratch."

Here are four family-pleasing cookie recipe ideas that will help bake up holiday fun at

your house:

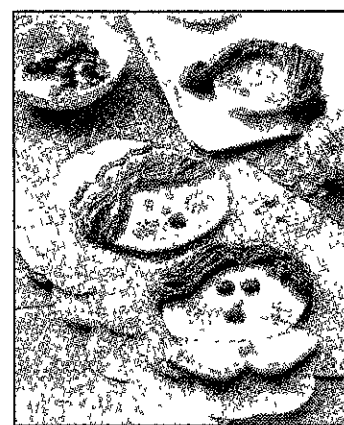
Add an elegant touch to holiday gatherings with butterscotch-pecan cookie wedges. Sugar cookie dough is mixed with butterscotch instant pudding to create a rich, sweet flavor. The dough is baked in a large circle and cut into wedges. The edges are coated with chocolate sauce and chopped pecans for a pretty presentation. Even the kids may want to help with the dipping. These decadent treats also make a beautiful gift, especially when placed in a pretty holiday box or decorative bag.

Chocolate-pistachio wedges are made by mixing pistachio pudding into refrigerated chocolate chip cookie dough. A vanilla glaze and pistachio topping on the wedges adds an inviting touch and an adult flavor for the holiday cookie tray.

For another fun shape and great flavor, try a batch of snow-capped cocoa crinkles. Mixing refrigerated sugar cookie dough with baking cocoa gives the cookies a light, chocolaty flavor. Little hands can roll them in colored sugar to add a little cookie sparkle.

Bears for Santa are sure to be a favorite among youngsters or the young at heart. A charming bear face is made from peanut butter cookie dough sprinkled with cocoa powder. Kids can design the faces using an assortment of candies. These cute treats will appeal to the kid in everyone.

For more holiday cookie baking and decorating ideas, visit www.pillsbury.com.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF GENERAL MILLS

These Caroling Kids can be created with purchased premade cookie dough.

SLICE-AND-BAKE ANGEL COOKIES

1 roll (18 ounce) refrigerated sugar cookies, such as Pillsbury
1-1/4 cups whipped fluffy white frosting (from 12-ounce container)
Blue and white sugars, if desired
Red decorating gel, if desired
Yellow decorating icing (or other colors as desired)
Small candy decorations, if desired

Heat oven to 350° F. Cut chilled dough into 30 (about 1/4-inch) slices. Use 1 1/4 slices of dough for each angel.

For 24 of the slices, cut two narrow strips from sides of slice, leaving a triangle for the body. Place two strips on each side of top point of triangle, curved edges down, for wings. Cut 6 slices into quarters. Roll one of the quarter slices into a ball; flatten slightly and place at top of triangle for head. Place shaped cookies on ungreased cookie sheet.

Bake 7-11 minutes or until light golden brown. Cool one minute; carefully remove from cookie sheet to wire rack. Cool completely, about 20 minutes. Spread frosting on cooled cookies. Decorate as desired with remaining ingredients. Makes 24 cookies.

Recipes courtesy of General Mills.

Whether you're making holiday treats for lunch boxes, Santa, cookie exchanges or parties, cookie baking as a family creates wonderful holiday memories and lots of fun.

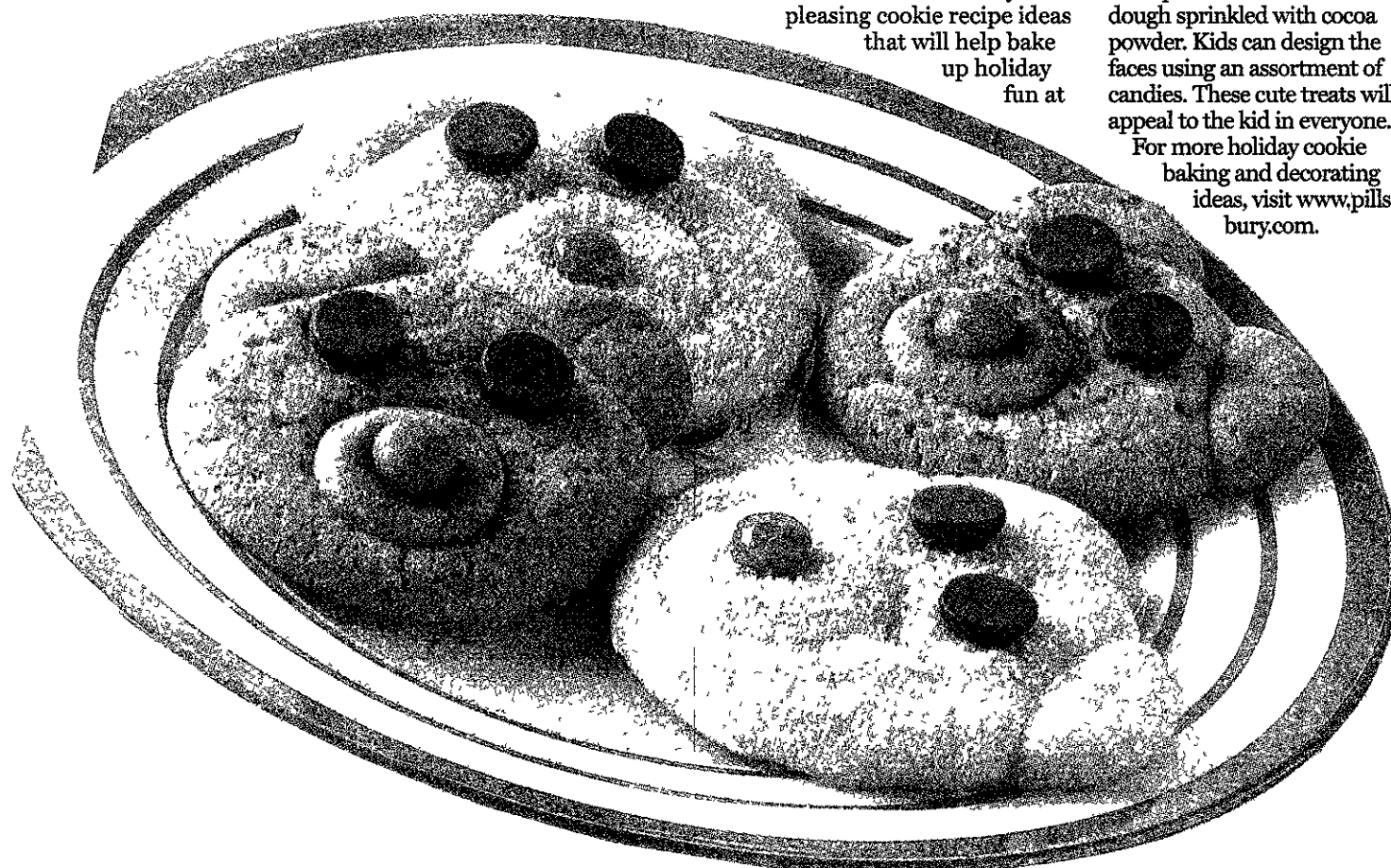
BEARS FOR SANTA

3 tablespoons all-purpose flour
1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
1 roll (18 ounce) Pillsbury refrigerated peanut butter or sugar cookies
baking cocoa or powdered sugar
48 semisweet chocolate chips
24 red cinnamon candies

Heat oven to 350°F. In small bowl, mix flour and cinnamon. In large bowl, break up cookie dough. Stir or knead in flour mixture until well blended.

For each cookie, shape dough into 1-inch ball; place 2 inches apart on ungreased cookie sheets. Flatten slightly. Form three 1/2-inch balls of dough. Place two of the balls above and touching larger ball for ears and one ball on top to look like snout. Flatten slightly.

Bake 10-15 minutes or until light golden brown. Lightly sprinkle cookies with cocoa. Press two chocolate chips into each cookie for eyes and one cinnamon candy for nose. Remove from cookie sheets to wire rack. Cool completely. Makes 24 cookies.



Consider Italian bubbliies this holiday season

Before the holidays for many years now, we've singled out a French Champagne house for you to consider as adding sparkle to your celebrations.

After being blown away by the excellence of Ca'del Bosco Franciacorta Brut (\$42) and sampling a number of Proseccos on a recent writing trip to Italy, we're suggesting Italian bubbliies this year.

CA' DEL BOSCO

Located in the province of Lombardy, Ca'del Bosco is widely recognized as one



Focus on Wine

Ray and Eleanor Heald

of Italy's great wine estates. When wine-maker Maurizio Zanella was young and living in his parents' home (a real ca'del bosco, translated as house in the woods), he became enamored with champagne after a trip to the Champagne region of

France. He wondered why Italy did not produce higher quality sparkling wines.

So he decided to elevate the quality and convinced his parents to invest in his dreams by founding in 1968, Ca'del Bosco and planting 230 acres of chardonnay, pinot bianco (pinot blanc) and pinot nero (pinot noir), the traditional varieties of Franciacorta. After years of significant capital investment, technological improvements and experience, Ca'del Bosco has won a reputation as one of the world's most prominent producers of not only fine sparkling wines but still wines.

In 1998, the publication *Gambero Rosso*, a leading authority on Italian wines, began referring to the estate as one of the few "Stars" in Italy, having won so many coveted "Three Glasses" awards. In 2002, the winery was named "Winery of the Year" by the same publication.

CA'DEL BOSCO FRANCIACORTA BRUT

Carefully selected 75 percent chardonnay, 15 percent pinot blanc and 10 per-

PLEASE SEE ITALIAN, B7

Volunteers sought

Are you looking to volunteer this holiday season? How about helping deliver meals to homebound seniors on Christmas Day in western Wayne County?

Each year the holiday meals program at the Senior Alliance, Area Agency on Aging, serves nearly 2,500 homebound seniors hot, festive meals on the holidays.

The Senior Alliance needs volunteers to deliver meals for about two hours Christmas Day, according to Lori Vall, holiday meals coordinator for the Senior Alliance.

Since TSA is a non-profit organization, the group is selling \$5 holiday cards to raise funds to pay for the meals delivered. The contributor is asked to sign the card and return it to TSA so that the cards can be delivered to the seniors alongside their meals on Christmas Day.

Anyone interested in volunteering can contact Lori Vall at (734) 727-2017 or Vall@tsalink.org. Those who want to purchase holiday cards or volunteer to sell them within their neighborhoods, churches or organizations can contact Bill Campbell at (734) 727-2050 and Billcamp@tsalink.org.

Donations can be made to The Senior Alliance and mailed to Senior Alliance, 3850 Second Street, Suite 201, Wayne, MI 48184.

Gift drive begins

Morton's, The Steakhouse, of Southfield will host a holiday gift drive for Children's Hospital of Michigan's annual Snowpile program.

Through Monday, Dec. 19, Morton's will be offering a complimentary dessert for every couple that contributes a new toy, game or gift certificate for the children and adolescents being treated at Children's Hospital of Michigan.

To participate, simply bring in a new, unwrapped gift to Morton's, The Steakhouse. These donations will be placed into one big "Snowpile" at the hospital. On Dec. 22, parents of patients will have the opportunity to select one gift for their sick child and their siblings. Volunteers will wrap these presents and they will be distributed hospital-wide.

"We want to encourage all of our customers to help make this holiday season a little brighter for the kids at Children's Hospital of Michigan," said Brian Panariello, general manager of Morton's in Southfield.

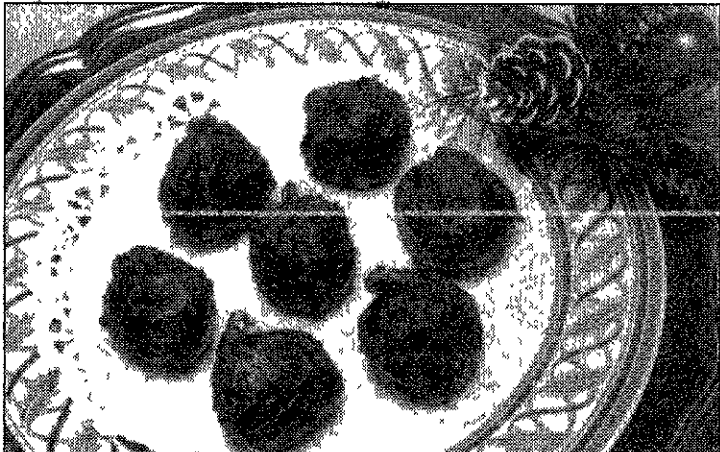
Serving Metro Detroit since 1992, Morton's, The Steakhouse, is located at 1 Towne Square in Southfield. Dinner is served Monday through Saturday, 5:30 p.m. - 11 p.m. and Sunday from 5 p.m. - 10 p.m.

For more information, contact Morton's (248) 354-6006 or visit the Web at www.mortons.com.

Celebrate with chocolate-dipped figs

BY DANA JACOBI
AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR CANCER RESEARCH

Figs are in fashion. That means chefs are featuring them in dishes and they appear often in recipes in magazines. They are the focus of an entire cookbook. Reading *Fig Heaven*, by Marie Simmons, has reminded me that dried figs are a great holiday sweet. Dried figs make an ideal healthful treat for children. Thanks to an abundance of natural sugar, they satisfy even the most persistent sweet tooth. Stuffing figs with a filling that provides a contrasting flavor and texture is an old-fashioned idea going back many decades. The "sugarplums" children dreamed about in the 19th century poem, *The Night Before Christmas*, may have been stuffed fruit, but originally were fruit, possibly plums or prunes, poached in a sugary liquid. Today, many different versions of sugarplums can be bought or made. There is something comfortingly old-fashioned about eating them at this time of year, when long-honored customs are observed. Dried figs have many positive attributes to recommend them. They provide plenty of soluble and insoluble fiber. Three to four of them, both the lighter Calimyrna or dark black mission figs, contain as much as a bowl of



AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR CANCER RESEARCH

Chocolate and dried figs are a delicious combination.

oatmeal, and more than any other fruit, plus beneficial amounts of calcium and vitamin A. Chocolate and dried figs are a delicious combination. Chefs and caterers often pipe ganache (melted chocolate mixed with cream) through a hole in the bottom of a fig. This treatment creates a delightful surprise when you bite into what looks like a piece of simple, dried fruit. To keep the chocolate and the surprise while cutting down on calories, you can slip a piece of nut and a chunk of candied orange peel or preserved ginger inside the fig, then dip it into melted chocolate. You can use either Calimyrna or black mission figs, although the former creates a nice contrasting beige against the dark brown chocolate. If the figs are hard, zapping them briefly in a covered bowl in the microwave helps soften them.

HOLIDAY STUFFED FIGS

- 8 large or 16 medium-sized dried figs, preferably, pale Calimyrna
- 16 walnut halves or skinless, toasted almonds, in small pieces
- 16 1/2-inch pieces candied orange peel or preserved ginger
- 2 ounces dark chocolate.

chopped

To stuff each fig, make a 1/8-inch slit in the center of the bottom, using the tip of a small knife. Using the tip of your finger, work inside the slit to make a more rounded shape with space inside to hold a stuffing. Depending on the size of the fig, push 1 or 2 pieces of nut and orange peel or ginger inside the fig. With your fingers, work the opening to close it as much as possible.

When all the figs are stuffed, place the chocolate in a small, heat-proof bowl. Melt it in the microwave on low power, stirring several times, until the chocolate is creamy and soft. Let it cool five minutes. Set a baking rack over a plate.

Holding the stem of a stuffed fig between your fingers, dip and tilt it in the chocolate so that the bottom half of the fig is covered in melted chocolate. Set the fig on the baking rack. Repeat with remaining figs. Refrigerate, covered lightly with foil, until ready to serve, or up to 24 hours. Before serving, bring chilled figs to room temperature, about 20 minutes.

Makes 8 stuffed figs.

Per serving: 115 calories, 5 g. total fat (2 g. saturated fat), 17 g. carbohydrate, 2 g. protein, 3 g. dietary fiber, 2 mg. sodium.

Dana Jacobi writes for the American Institute for Cancer Research.

Prep for your next party

BY J.M. HIRSCH
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

CONCORD, N.H. (AP) — Forget pairing foods and wine. I need help matching up appetizers and cookies.

This will be our second year hosting a holiday cookie-swap party, a festive, if fattening, way to get together with friends while enjoying good food and drink without having to do all the heavy lifting in the kitchen.

The concept is pretty simple: Invite a dozen or so friends or couples, asking each to bring two to three dozen of their favorite holiday cookies (depending on the number of intended guests).

It's simple, but it still benefits from a bit of planning. For example, be sure to ask guests to include in their R.S.V.P. the type of cookie they will bring. This will make it easier to avoid a dozen batches of chocolate chip cookies.

Also, we learned that left to their own devices, guests sometimes are too polite to assemble their own cookie assortments at the end of the evening. Thus were we left with dozens and dozens of cookies after last year's gathering.

Our solution this year relies on pastry boxes we bought from a candy and baking supply shop. Now as guests arrive, we plan to set aside half their cookies right away and divide them among the boxes. As guests leave, we will hand them variety boxes ready-to-go.

So that's the party plan. But back to my original problem — what to serve with all those cookies.

Coming up with complementary foods can be tough since you don't have control over a good chunk of the menu (and some guests likely won't tell you until the last minute what they are bringing).

Start with drinks. Soda and wine are our party staples, but for this gathering we also like to offer guests a choice between two mixed cocktails. Last year our invitation offered a choice between a cranberry

we served the two most popular.

This year we're being less democratic. To go well with everything, and help cut through the sugar rush, cocktails should be mildly sweet and acidic. Cranberry juice-based drinks are a nice choice, and have the benefit of being festively colored.

This year we've opted for a cranberry, tangerine and pomegranate Champagne punch and a cherry martini, the idea being that only the martini will require actual bartending once guests arrive.

For food, I wanted to keep it simple. The day of the party there will be little time for complex preparations, as we'll likely be cleaning and baking last-minute additions (to round out the party, my wife and I usually each make several varieties of cookies).

CHERRY MARTINI

- 1/2 teaspoon cherry-flavored syrup
- 1 maraschino cherry
- 2 teaspoons chopped papaya or mango
- 1 ounce vodka
- Small ice cubes or crushed ice

Pour the cherry-flavored syrup in a martini glass and place the cherry on top. Top with papaya or mango. Carefully pour the vodka over the fruit. Top with a bit of ice. Makes 1 serving.

Recipe from *Better Homes and Gardens* magazine, December 1999.

CRANBERRY, TANGERINE AND POMEGRANATE CHAMPAGNE PUNCH WITH FRESH CRANBERRY SWIZZLE STICKS

- 12-ounce package fresh cranberries
- 1 bunch fresh mint leaves
- 2 cups pomegranate juice
- 3 cups tangerine juice (about 7 tangerines)
- 5 cups cranberry juice cocktail
- 2 bottles chilled Champagne (or other sparkling wine)

To make swizzle sticks, spear three cranberries alternately with two mint leaves on wooden skewers. Prepare 15 to 20 skewers.

ers. Place skewers on a baking sheet. Cover with damp paper towels and refrigerate up to one hour.

In a large punch bowl or pitcher, stir together the fruit juices. Fill glasses with ice and ladle about 1/2 cup punch into each glass. Top with Champagne. Garnish each glass with a swizzle stick.

Makes 20 servings.

Recipe from *Martha Stewart Living* magazine, January 2005

TOMATO-BASIL SKEWERS

- 5 cherry tomatoes
- 5 small mozzarella balls
- 5 fresh basil leaves
- Extra-virgin olive oil
- Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper

Slice each tomato in half. Thread one half several inches down a bamboo skewer, cut side facing up. Next thread a basil leaf, followed by one mozzarella ball. Finish with the second half of the tomato, cut side down.

Arrange the completed skewers on a serving plate. Drizzle with olive oil and sprinkle with salt and pepper.

Makes 5 skewers.

Recipe from *EatingWell* magazine, January 2006.

CHEESE 'N' HERB MINI SWEET PEPPERS

- 30 mini sweet peppers (about 12 ounces), mixed red, yellow and orange
- 18 ounces semisoft goat cheese
- 1/4 cup finely chopped fresh chives, tarragon, basil or thyme

Leaving the stem intact, cut a slit from the stem to the bottom tip of each pepper. Squeeze gently to open and remove and discard seeds. Set aside.

In a bowl, combine the goat cheese and herbs and mix well. Gently squeezing the peppers to open, carefully spoon in the cheese mixture, allowing some to show outside the pepper. Arrange stuffed peppers on a platter and garnish with fresh herbs. Makes 30 peppers.

Recipe from *Better Homes and Gardens* magazine, December 2001

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AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR CANCER RESEARCH

Tuscans cook their beans very slowly, using gentle heat to produce the most creamy, tender result.

Discover creamy Tuscan-style beans

BY DANA JACOBI
AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR CANCER RESEARCH

Tuscan cooking is famous for its simplicity. Like the best cooking in the rest of Italy, it is a feast of regional dishes using locally produced ingredients. But in Tuscany, these dishes are often minimal in terms of the number of ingredients used. Tuscan bread, for example, is made solely of flour, yeast and water – no salt.

Even when they splurge, Tuscans keep their food simple. Nothing is more elegant to them than a porterhouse or T-bone steak, and Tuscans are famous for their bistecca alla fiorentina. Using what is arguably the best meat in Italy, from local Chianina cattle, this grilled steak is served with just a splash of pungent extra virgin olive oil and a spritz of lemon juice.

Most of the time, despite the wealth brought to their region by a never-ending torrent of tourists and costly real estate, Tuscans frequently skip eating meat in favor of dishes featuring their crusty bread, like *papa alla pomodoro*, a soup simmered with fresh tomato sauce. And nearly every day, Tuscans eat beans.

Tuscans love beans so much they are known throughout Italy as *mangefagioli*, the bean eaters. They have elevated cooking their beans to an art. Traditionally, this meant using a vessel called a *fiasco*, a tall clay container that some people say resembles a Chianti bottle because its narrow neck curves out into a bulbous bottom. Tuscans often start the cooking process with unsoaked dried beans, most often white cannellini, a kind of kidney bean, or speckled borlotti beans. They cook their beans very slowly, using gentle heat to produce the most creamy, tender result. Their clay pots are traditionally nestled in the coals of a wood-fired brick

oven but, in our real world, you can use canned cannellini, simmered slowly with sage, garlic and a splash of extra virgin olive oil – a pungent Tuscan oil, if possible.

TUSCAN-STYLE BEANS

- 2 cans (15 ounces each) cannellini beans, rinsed and drained
- 6 large fresh sage leaves, coarsely chopped, or 2 teaspoons dried
- 3 garlic cloves, smashed and peeled
- 1 onion, quartered
- 2 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil, divided
- 1 small carrot, finely chopped
- 1 small rib celery, finely chopped
- 1 small onion, finely chopped
- 1 plum tomato, seeded and chopped
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper
- 1/4 cup chopped flat-leaf parsley, for garnish (optional)

Place the beans in a deep saucepan. Add the sage, garlic, onion and 1 tablespoon oil. Pour in 1 cup water. Simmer uncovered 15 to 30 minutes, or until much of the liquid has evaporated and the beans are soft but not mushy. Remove the onion and, if desired, the garlic.

Meanwhile, heat the remaining oil in a medium skillet over medium-high heat. Sauté the carrot, celery and onion until the onion is translucent, 5 minutes. Add the tomato and cook 5 minutes longer. Stir the mixture into the beans. Season to taste with salt and pepper. Serve warm, garnished with parsley, if desired.

Makes 6 servings.

Per serving: 174 calories, 5 g. total fat (less than 1 g. saturated fat), 25 g. carbohydrate, 6 g. protein, 7 g. dietary fiber, 309 mg. sodium.

Dana Jacobi writes for the American Institute for Cancer Research.

ITALIAN

FROM PAGE B5

cent pinot noir were blended to produce Ca' del Bosco Franciacorta Brut, a fresh, fragrant bubbly with apple, white peach and lime aromas. Although delicate on the palate, it has sufficient structure to marry with scallops and a creamy *buerre blanc* sauce or cheese selection with *chevre*, *Parmigiano Reggiano* and *brie*.

PROSECCO

Prosecco is a white grape variety grown in the Veneto region of northeast Italy and is also the name of the sparkling wine made from that grape.

Until recently, Prosecco was a very ordinary bubbly but state-of-the-art wine production has improved it. Its advantage is lower alcohol than most sparklers, 10.5 percent compared to at least 12 and because of lower pressure in the bottle, avoids the aggressive bubbles of inexpensive champagnes.

SANTA MARGHERITA PROSECCO

Santa Margherita Pinot Grigio

After being blown away by the excellence of Ca' del Bosco Franciacorta Brut (\$42) and sampling a number of Proseccos on a recent writing trip to Italy, we're suggesting Italian bubbly this year.

is well-known to wine consumers, but the newest story from this producer is Prosecco.

The naturally fermented Santa Margherita Prosecco NV (\$20) with its bright fruit profile is a superb choice for an aperitif or to pair with lighter seafood dishes. It's also a good match with fruit desserts to end a meal on a lighter note.

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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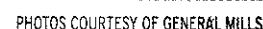
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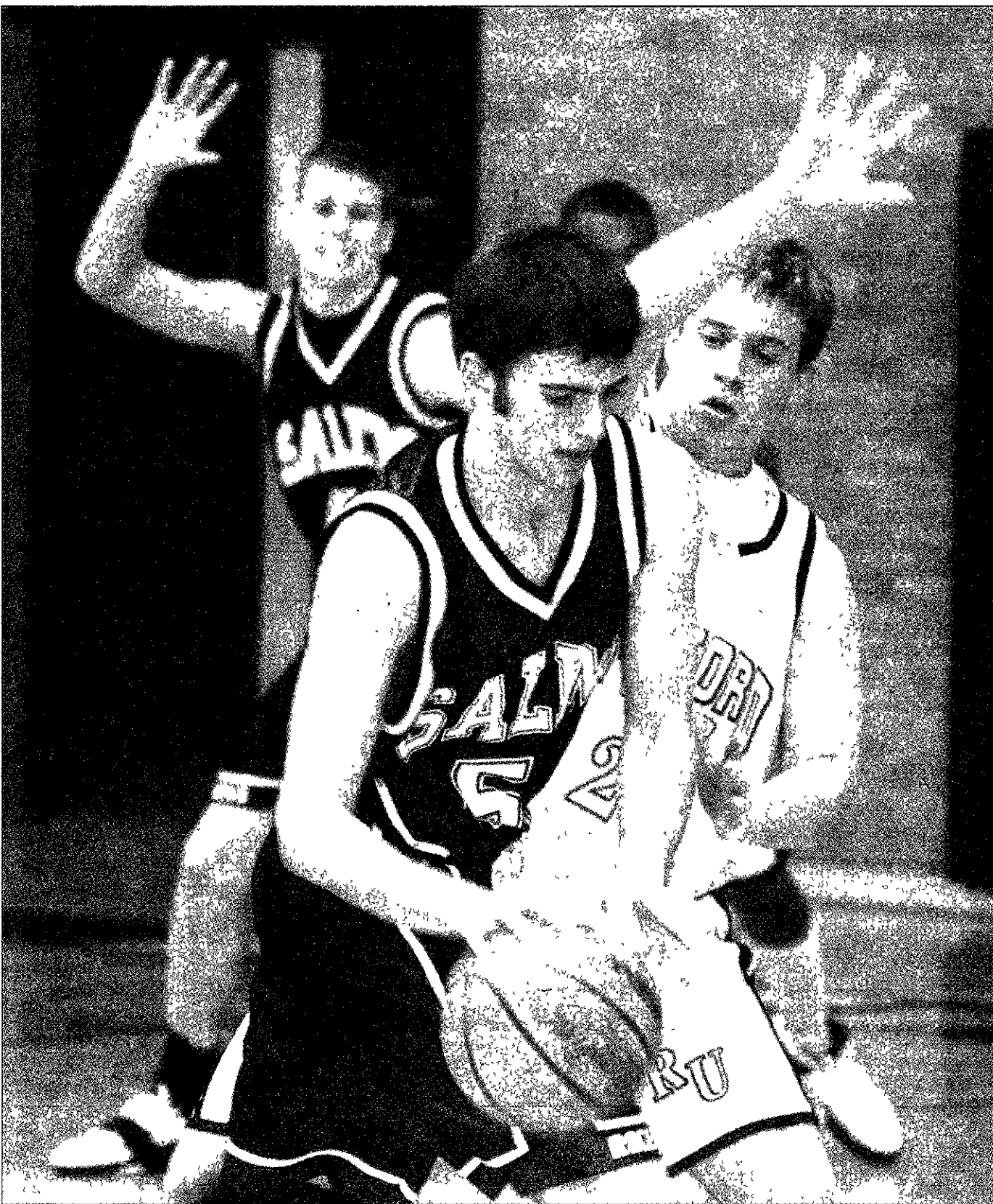


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Salem's J.P. Truesdale's press, and by Redford Union's Ryan Newers during Tuesday night's 36-35 RU victory

TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

RU downs visiting Salem, 36-35

BY TIM SMITH
STAFF WRITER

On a night filled with clankers and slip-ups, something went right for Redford Union in the nick of time Tuesday night.

Panthers' senior guard Chris Brown — making the most out of a broken play — floated through the key and hit a jumper as the final seconds ticked off the clock to give RU a 36-35 win over visiting Salem in the season opener for both boys basketball teams.

Salem had just tied the game on a jump shot by sophomore forward Grant Stone (10 points, four rebounds, three steals) and subsequently went up 35-34 with 30 seconds left when Stone split a pair of foul shots.

But the Rocks had a glorious chance to finish off the Panthers even after the missed free throw, rebounding the ball and calling a time-out to set up a play with 26.7 seconds remaining. Unfortunately for Salem, junior guard Jierah Dixon (six points) slipped and was called for traveling, which enabled RU to get the ball right back.

After the ensuing play resulted in the basketball going out of bounds under the Rocks basket, the Panthers were awarded possession and made good — eventually — on the opportunity.

Brown in-bounded to sophomore point guard Terrell Beard, who passed it back.

"I knew I had to take the last shot," said Brown. "I just got it and took the best shot I could."

Salem head coach Bob Brodie, who

praised his young team for battling back after losing senior forward Billy Leddy to injury in the first quarter, said the winning shot "could have easily rolled out as (much as) it rolled in."

DON'T GIVE UP

Redford Union head coach Brett Steele wasn't generally happy with how his team performed, but gave kudos to Brown (17 points) for hitting a clutch shot on a night where he missed a number of open shots.

"We wanted to run a set for him, but we didn't execute it very well," Steele said. "We hung around, he got the ball and made the play. That's a sign of maturity. Last year, there's no way he would have even taken that shot even if the situation (arose)."

PLEASE SEE SALEM, C2

Tough start Robichaud knocks off 'Cats, 63-53

BY ED WRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

Some high school basketball teams like to open their season with a cupcake opponent.

Plymouth chose to start off with filet mignon Tuesday night.

Powerful Dearborn Heights Robichaud, whose roster is stocked with at least three collegiate prospects, knocked off the Wildcats, 63-53, in the Plymouth gymnasium.

"I think Robichaud will be one of the top teams in Class B this season," said Plymouth coach Tom Van Wagoner. "We wanted to play a tough schedule

'I like the way we went at them tonight. They knew they were in a game. We were only down 36-32 after three quarters, but we couldn't quite get over the hump in the fourth.'

Plymouth coach Tom Van Wagoner

early on to get us ready for the conference. That's what John Glenn and Wayne did last year. They didn't have great records heading into conference play, but everybody knew they were going to be there in the end.

"I like the way we went at them tonight. They knew they were in a game. We were only down 36-32 after three quarters, but we couldn't quite get over the hump in the fourth."

D.J. Coleman had a promising debut to his 2005-06 senior campaign, leading the Wildcats with 15 points. Senior forward Josh Le Duc also played well, contributing 14 points, 15 points and seven blocked shots.

"Josh really started dominating inside in the second half," Van Wagoner said. "Whenever they'd try to drive inside, he'd get a block."

Senior point guard Brent Jones added seven for the Wildcats.

The Bulldogs were led by Venzell Russell, who twined 22. Tim Hunt added 10 and Aaron Crump chipped in with nine.

Robichaud led 17-9 after one quarter and 32-19 at the half.

"We were forcing them to miss their first shots in the first half, but they were getting a lot of put-backs," Van Wagoner said. "We have to do a better job of boxing out every time down the court."

The Wildcats were hampered by shaky shooting from the line. Plymouth canned just 11-of-22 free throws.

Plymouth returns to action Friday when it travels to Lincoln Park.

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Sidelines

Baseball sign-up

The Canton Little League will be holding a pair of upcoming registration sessions for the 2006 season. The sessions will be held from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 21, and Saturday, Feb. 18, at the Four Seasons Internet Cafe, located at 3500 Lilley Plaza in Canton.

Players from Canton, Plymouth and Plymouth Township are eligible to play in the Canton Little League. Teams will play a 20-game schedule and compete in a Father's Day tournament and a tournament against teams from Belleville.

For more information, contact Ray Waack at (734) 397-0147.

HVS break camps

High Velocity Sports in Canton will be offering its popular school-break camps again this winter. Camps offered include all-sports, crafts, basketball and soccer.

The all-sport camp includes a variety of sports, including soccer, flag football, floor hockey, basketball, kickball, volleyball and an array of backyard games like capture-the-flag and hide-and-seek. The camp is offered in full-day (9 a.m. to 4 p.m.) increments for 8- to 12-year-olds or half-day (9 a.m. to noon or 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.) increments for 5- to 8-year-olds.

The cost is \$45 per day or \$189 per week for the full-day sessions and \$25 per day and \$99 per week for the half-day camps.

The dates for the all-sports camps are Dec. 27-29, Jan. 2-6, Jan. 16, Feb. 27-March 3, April 14 and April 17-21.

For more information on the other HVS school-break camps, call (734) HV-SPORT or visit www.hvssports.com.

MU softball camps

Madonna University head softball coach Al White and his staff is hosting a three-hour softball hitting camp 9 a.m. to 12 noon on Sunday, Dec. 11, followed by two sessions of a fundamentals camp in January through March.

The Dec. 11 session is \$30 per girl, ages 7-18.

Meanwhile, the two sessions of MU's fundamentals camp — also for girls' ages 7-18 — are slated as follows: Session I: 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Saturdays, Jan. 7, 14, 21, 28; Session II: 12 noon to 2:30 p.m. Sundays, Feb. 12, 19, 26, March 12.

The price to participate in one of the four-week fundamentals camps is \$150.

Checks should be made payable to Madonna Softball, 36600 Schoolcraft Road, Livonia, MI, 48150.

Madonna coaches and players will work with the girls, who should bring a glove, bat and gym shoes.

For more information about the camps or clinic, please call (734) 432-5783; (734) 495-3719; or (734) 771-7322.

Trojans hang on to push past Chiefs in opener

BY ED WRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

BASKETBALL

Strong defense wins championships, but it wasn't enough to lift Canton past Monroe in Tuesday's season-opener for both teams.

The Trojans withstood a strong fourth-quarter push by the Chiefs to hold on for a 43-38 victory in Canton's Phase III gymnasium.

"Defensively, we held them to 43 points, which will win a lot of games this year," said Canton coach Charlie Paye. "But we turned the ball over 22 times, which really hurt us, especially late in the game. We'd get a steal on defense, then come down, make a mistake and give the ball right back to them."

"Monroe outworked us on the boards, too. Size-wise, we were about even with them, but they went after it more than we did."

Junior post player Ryan Waidmann had a strong opener,

netting 11 points and eight rebounds. Senior guard Andre Bridges added eight while Steve Paye and Rob Eppler both contributed seven.

The Trojans were paced by Josh Crooks and Jay Thompson, both of whom netted 11.

Monroe raced to an 8-4 first-quarter lead and 19-17 halftime advantage.

The Trojans led 30-27 after three before the Chiefs grabbed a short-lived two-point lead mid-way through the fourth quarter.

Both teams struggled from the charity stripe.

Canton connected on just 3-of-7 free throws while the Trojans drained just 7-of-14 foul shots.

Canton returns to action Tuesday when it hosts Rochester. Tip-off is set for 7 p.m.

Brampton Battalion's late rally upends Whalers, 4-3

The Brampton Battalion came from behind twice and then withstood a late Plymouth rally to upend the Whalers, 4-3, in an Ontario Hockey League game played Sunday afternoon before 2,379 at the Powerade Centre in Brampton.

The Plymouth loss — coupled with Saginaw's 7-4 victory over Sault Ste. Marie Sunday afternoon — moves the Spirit into sole possession of first place in the OHL's West Division with a record of 17-9-0-0. Plymouth (14-10-1-3) is now in second place, two points behind Saginaw.

Brampton captain Wojtek Wolski, who started the season in the National Hockey League with the Colorado Avalanche, led the Battalion comeback with a pair of goals. Michael Vernace and Luke Lynes also scored for the Battalion (15-12-0-1).

Plymouth defenseman Steve Ward figured in on all three Whaler goals with his fifth lamp-lighter and a pair of assists. Evan Brophey scored his first goal as a Whaler since coming over in a trade with Belleville Nov. 23. John Vigilante scored the other Plymouth goal, his 14th of the year.

Brophey gave the Whalers a 1-0 lead at

18:46 of the first period when he tapped in Ward's pass from the left hashmark in the Brampton zone at the right wing. Brampton evened the game at 1-1 on a disputed goal by Vernace at the end of the first period. The goal was originally waved off because it came after the blue light went on, but referee Sean McQuigge reversed the call during the intermission.

Vigilante gave Plymouth a 2-1 advantage with a power-play goal at 9:38 of the second period. Wolski tallied a pair of power-play goals later in the period to give the Battalion a lead they would never relinquish.

Luke Lynes scored what proved to be the game-winning goal at 7:06 of the third period when he intercepted a clearing pass and snapped a back-handed shot past Plymouth goalie Ryan Nie. Ward cut the Whalers' deficit to 4-3 with 2:01 left when he scored after a scramble in front of the net.

Brampton outshot Plymouth, 33-26.

Plymouth returns to action tonight in Sarnia. The Whalers' next home game is Saturday when they host Owen Sound at 7:30 p.m. at the Compuware Sports Arena.

SALEM

FROM PAGE C1

Steele said he kept after Brown all night to not give up on his jumpers.

"We got him a lot of good looks and I told him during and after the game that I'll take 16 or 17 shots like that every night," Steele continued. "He's going to shoot the ball much better than that. But it was a credit to him to be able to make the big shot when it was needed."

Such buckets were few and far between the entire night.

It was 8-6 Salem after one frame, a period where Leddy had to leave following a collision with Brown, which knocked him hard to the floor. Brodie said he didn't think the injury was serious, but Leddy was taken to a hospital for observation.

In the second period, neither team had much more success, with the score tied 17-17 at halftime. Brown did start to get untracked, however, nailing a triple from beyond the top of the arc to put RU up 15-12 with about four minutes to go.

And Dixon knotted the score with a minute remaining when he drained a trey.

Redford Union started strong in the third quarter. A 10-4 run gave the Panthers a 27-21 advantage, with Brown again connecting on a three-ball.

The RU lead entering the fourth was 29-24 and Brown made it 31-24 in the opening moments when he fielded a long in-bounds pass from senior forward-guard Ryan Meyers (seven points, four rebounds) and made a lay-up.

"He (Meyers) brings a tremendous amount of toughness to our team, and he's a great emotional leader for us," said Steele about Meyers, who turned in a tenacious effort all over the floor. "He didn't have a spectacular game, but he never stops battling."

Meyers hit a free throw with 4:10 to play, upping RU's lead to 32-24.

But Brodie inserted 6-7 junior center Brian Baumgart into the game and the Panthers had no defensive answer.

But the Rocks had a glorious chance to finish off the Panthers even after the missed free throw, rebounding the ball and calling a time-out to set up a play with 26.7 seconds remaining. Unfortunately for Salem, junior guard Jierah Dixon (six points) slipped and was called for traveling, which enabled RU to get the ball right back.

Baumgart, finding himself all alone under the RU basket, scored three buckets within a minute to tie the game at 32-32.

Bard (eight points) made two free throws to give the Panthers a 34-32 lead with just over one minute left, but the Rocks forced RU's fifth turnover of the quarter and tied it at 34-34 on Stone's jumper.

SILVER LINING

That set the stage for Brown's last-ditch heroics.

"They all count as wins, or losses," said Steele. "And hopefully, it won't mean a lot to us unless we improve through it. And I think we will."

"Our kids are anxious to learn. It's certainly helpful to learn off a win than it is off a devastating loss, and that's what it would have been and I'm sure that's what it was for Salem."

Brodie, however, said he would take something positive out of the near-victory.

"We know we can hang with anybody now," Brodie said. "RU's a great basketball program, we know we can play for as young as we are, and even when we lose a key player like Billy in a game we still have somebody else that can step in. We have some depth."

Leddy fell to the floor after a collision with Chris Brown and was taken to an area hospital for observation, Brodie said.

tsmith@oe.hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2106

Shamrocks set to defend Division 1 hockey crown

BY TIM SMITH
STAFF WRITER

It's never easy to defend a state championship.

But the Shamrocks of Catholic Central – formerly based out of Redford Township but now in Novi – also have the task of returning without four all-state players who graduated from the 24-3-3 hockey juggernaut that went on to win the 2005 Division 1 crown.

Head coach Todd Johnson is going to battle this season without All-State forwards Harrison Niemann, Jason Lewarne, Mychael Evans and All-State blueliner Kevin Horal. And don't forget the loss of sophomore goalie Bryan Hogan, who left CC to play junior hockey with the Lincoln (Neb.) Stars.

"We obviously graduated a lot of very good players," said Johnson, whose team opened the season with an 8-7 win over Orchard Lake St. Mary's on Nov. 19. "Those are all big losses."

That doesn't mean teams in the Michigan Interscholastic Hockey League can breathe easier. The Shamrocks still have quite a roster, led by senior defenseman/captain Tim Buttery and three senior forwards who also serve as assis-

tant captains – Dan Naurato and Dan Barczuk, both of Livonia, along with Wade LaFever.

"Tim Buttery is as good a defenseman as we've ever had in our program," Johnson said. "He has a big shot, and he is an awesome quarterback on our power play."

Buttery opted against multiple offers to play in the same league Hogan is playing (United States Hockey League) to finish his prep career.

And Barczuk also decided it would be better to experience a senior season with friends and classmates rather than move on to other hockey opportunities, the coach said.

"Certainly as coach of a program we benefit from players making decisions like that," emphasized Johnson about Buttery and Barczuk staying with the Shamrocks.

Up front, the Shamrocks will be speedy and able to score thanks to two top lines. LaFever and third-year senior Nick Kroll will be centered by junior Doug Raymond (Livonia).

In the opener against St. Mary's, Kroll scored two goals and added two assists.

"He's a two-way left winger," Johnson said. "It's good to see guys who play both ends of the

ice get rewarded" with goals.

Farmington Hills senior center Steve Jankowski will be flanked by two wingers with "a ton of speed" in Naurato and Barczuk.

Those fleet lines will need to keep the burners going in order for Catholic Central to do well this winter.

"We better play uptempo because we're not very big," Johnson said. "There's a lot of teams that are bigger and stronger than us. But we're significantly faster."

Other Observerland forwards include sophomore Alex Kolpacke (Livonia), junior Chad Wilhelm (Canton), junior Jeff Scherrer (Livonia) and junior Adam Haydon (Canton).

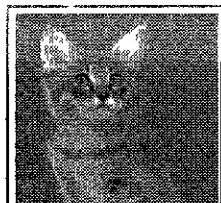
In addition to Buttery, the CC defense will feature third-year seniors Adam McGee, Mike Maviglia (Canton), second-year junior Dominic Scala and second-year sophomore Greg Merrill.

The Shamrocks should still be in good shape between the pipes with senior Ross Tashjian (Farmington Hills), who split time last season with Hogan. Backing him up will be junior Greg Holland of Farmington.

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THE WEEK AHEAD

PREP BASKETBALL
Friday, Dec. 9
Plymouth at Lincoln Park, 7 p.m.
Salem at Monroe, 7 p.m.
WRESTLING
Saturday, Dec. 10
Canton at Davison Invitational, 9 a.m.
Plymouth at Armada Invitational, 9 a.m.
Salem "10 Team" Invitational, 9 a.m.
HOCKEY
Friday, Dec. 9

Livonia Franklin at Salem, 8:30 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 10
Pinckney at Plymouth
at Compuware Sports Arena, 2:40 p.m.
VOLLEYBALL
Saturday, Dec. 10
Canton at South Lyon
Invitational, 9 a.m.
Plymouth at Madonna Invitational
at Plymouth H.S. gym, 8:30 a.m.
MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Friday, Dec. 9
(Holland Sentinel Tourney at Hope)
Marygrove vs. Aquinas, 6 p.m.
Madonna vs. Hope College, 8 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 10
Hope College Tourney, 1 & 3 p.m.
Lorain (Ohio) at Schoolcraft, 3 p.m.
WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
Friday, Dec. 9
(Kalamazoo Valley Holiday Classic)
Schoolcraft vs. Edison State (Ohio), 1 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 10
Taylor (Ind.) at Madonna, 3 p.m.
(Kalamazoo Valley Holiday Classic)
Schoolcraft vs. Kalamazoo Valley, 7:30 p.m.
ONTARIO HOCKEY LEAGUE
Thursday, Dec. 8
Whalers at Sarnia, 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 10
Whalers vs. Oshawa (Compuware), 7:30 p.m.

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Canton grapplers look to build on last year's success

BY ED WRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

Canton's wrestling team earned more than just a taste of success last season.

The Chiefs paid a visit to the victory buffet, winning the school's first district title, finishing second in the Western Lakes Activities Association's Western Division and third in the conference.

"We broke a bunch of school records last season and set a new precedence for this program," said coach Casey Randolph. "Now, we have to fall in line with the football program here and develop some consistency. We have to prove we're not a one-hit wonder."

Canton returns a strong nucleus of performers from last year's history-making team that should help give Randolph the consistency he desires. Leading the way are captains Konrad Konsitzke (145-pound senior), Marwan Faraj (160-pound senior), Tom Bonnell (215-pound senior) and Corey Phillips (135-pound junior). Phillips is a two-time state-qualifying grappler and Konsitzke barely missed earning a berth in last year's state meet.

"Corey just got his 100th win, which is a big milestone for a junior," Randolph said. "He's a phenomenal wrestler and he's right on track to set the school record for wins. He's very, very tough. Corey's is a quiet leader who sets a great example for the young guys on the team with his work ethic and tenacity."

"Konrad barely missed making the state meet last year, but he beat several state-qualifiers during the season. I'm looking for him to have a very solid year. He is the epitome of hard work. He's a very emotional leader with a lot of heart."

Bonnell is a three-year performer who has overcome some serious medical issues.

"Tom came in at about 256 pounds his sophomore season, but he has worked extremely hard to get his weight down to where he's at now," Randolph said. "He blew his knee out his sophomore year, but he's made a great comeback."

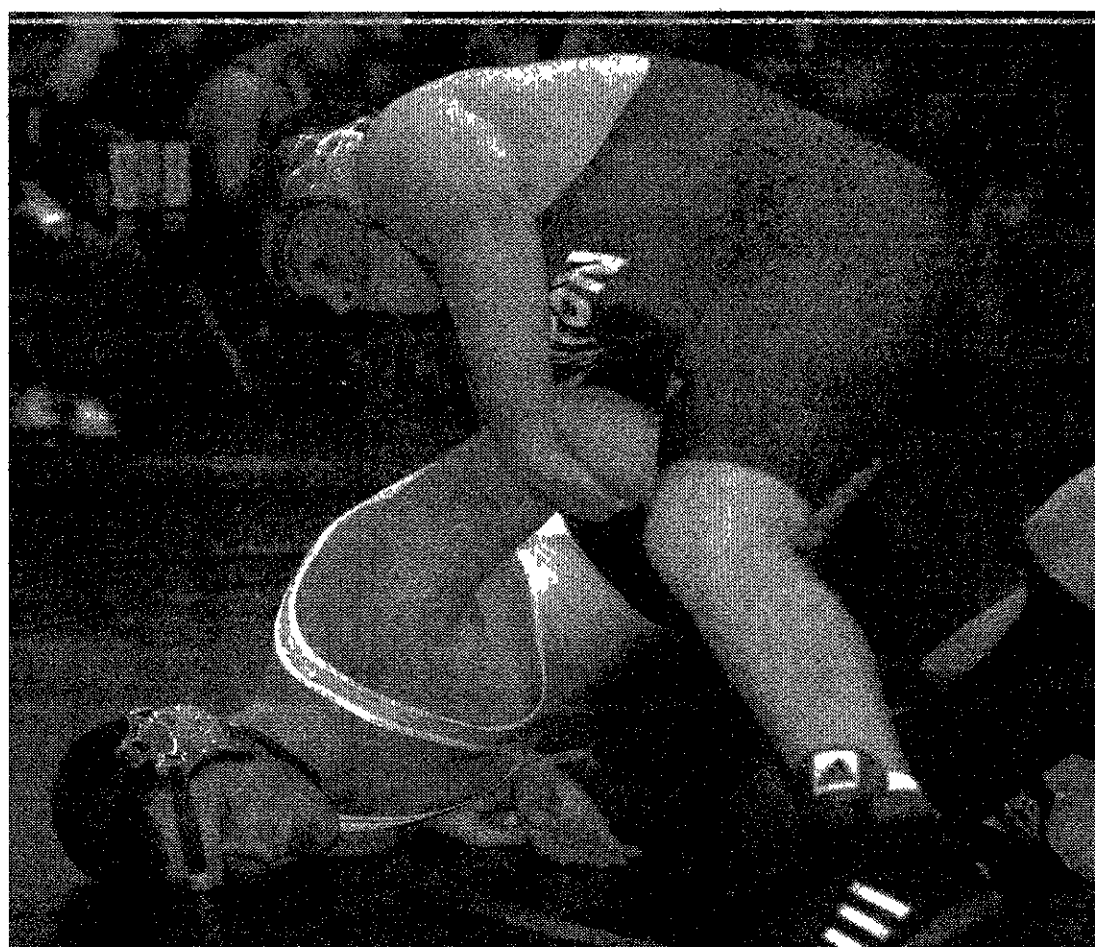
"As far as Marwan goes, no one outworks him. He is one of the best-conditioned athletes I've ever coached. He's a man of few words, but when he does say something to the team, everyone listens."

All four captains and 112-pound competitor Ryan Schnettler compiled 4-0 records at the Chiefs' season-opening first-place finish in Saturday's Hudson Dual Meet Invitational.

Wardell Fuqua (junior heavy-weight), Carl Lucke (103-pound freshman), Sam Santilli (119-pound senior), Steve Cox (125-pound senior), Joe Sanders (140-pound junior) and Keil Price (171-pound junior) all went 3-1 for the Chiefs.

"It was a good starting tournament for us," Randolph said. "Both Hudson and Napoleon are ranked in the top 10 in their divisions, so we beat some good teams."

"We have 36 kids (out of 52) who just got done with football, so we've only had about a week of practice. We're not in wrestling conditioned quite yet, but we will be."



Canton 215-pounder Tom Bonnell (top) will serve as one of the Chiefs' top upper-weight performers as well as one of the team's four captains during his senior season.

SALEM

The Rocks are coming off a success-filled 2004-05 campaign that saw them finish second in the district tournament while qualifying eight wrestlers to the regional meet and two to the Division 1 state meet.

"We're going to miss guys like Ryan Stump and Matt Keffler, who graduated, but we should be as strong, if not better than last year," said Salem coach Greg Woochuk. "We have a lot of strong leadership from our captains that we can rely on."

Salem's top returner is 189-pound senior Jeremy Henderson, who finished seventh at the Division 1 state meet last season. Henderson was voted the most valuable wrestler in the upper weights at Saturday's Lake Orion Invitational. He pinned all five of his opponents, all within the first period of the match.

"I have high expectations for Jeremy this year," Woochuk said. "He's a proven wrestler and he has good leadership qualities."

Other key leaders for the Rocks will be 215-pound Alex Smith and 125-pound Cory Mervyn, both of whom compiled impressive 4-1 records in Lake Orion. Overall, Salem finished

third at the event behind state-ranked Holt and the host Dragons.

Joining Henderson and Mervyn as returning regional qualifiers for Salem are Jeremy Stankewitz (112-pound junior) and 145-pound senior Jake Bennett, who missed qualifying for the state meet by a few points.

Filling out the Rocks' starting line-up in the early going will be: Kevin Bennett (103), Nick Steiger (119), Jerald Bonkowski (130), Matt Stott (135), Val Gui (140), Jeremy Epley (152), Greg Taylor (160), Andrew Ross (171) and Hussein Ajami (heavy-weight).

"Last year we had eight regional qualifiers, and I think we're capable of having just as many this year," Woochuk said. "I know Jeremy Henderson has aspirations of making it to the state finals."

Salem will host a 10-team round-robin tournament on Saturday. The Rocks will be joined by Adrian, Belleville, Novi, Wyandotte, Roseville, Walled Lake, Western, New Boston, Huron, Sterling Heights and Dearborn Heights Crestwood.

The finals are slated to begin at 6:30 p.m.

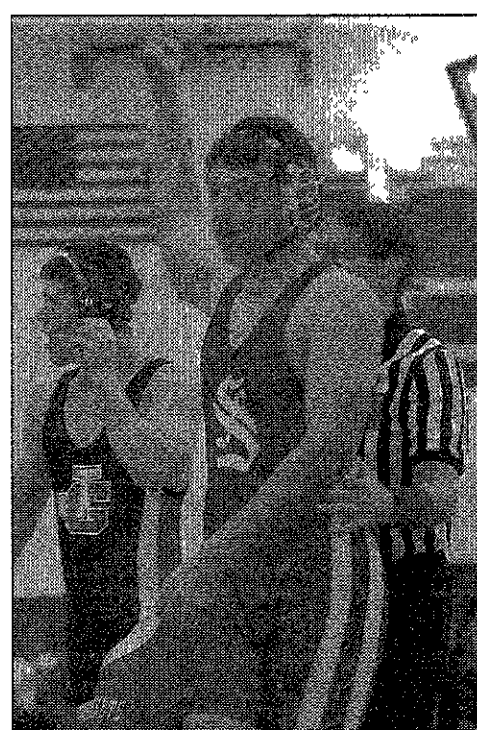
PLYMOUTH

With everybody back from last season's district championship squad, the future is bright for the Wildcats.

"So far, we're off to a pretty good start," said coach Sam Amine. "We're not quite where I would like us to be yet, but we're still making a lot of adjustments."

"I'm not going to ask our kids to drop weight this year, so a lot of them are wrestling up a weight. I'd rather have them at full strength this year rather than losing strength because they're watching their weight."

Senior Danny Jammoul will serve as the Wildcats' lone captain this season. The 189-pounder, who won 70 percent of his matches last year, has made great strides since joining the Plymouth program four years ago.



Senior Jeremy Henderson, pictured above after winning a match last season, is off to a torrid start after going 5-0 with five pins in Saturday's Lake Orion Invitational. Henderson was a state-qualifier last year.

"The thing that helped me make my decision to name Danny captain was how hard he worked during the off-season," Amine said. "He was a little overweight when he came in as a freshman, but he has worked so hard the past two years. He's very motivated and he's paid his dues in the weight room."

"Danny played football for the first time this year and the coach told me he wishes he would have come out a few years ago."

Amine said his pre-season goals are clear-cut.

"Number one, we want to do well in the league," the four-year coach said. "We're in a very strong conference, though, with Livonia Franklin and Canton returning a lot of wrestlers from last year. If the kids keep working hard, I think we can do well."

The Wildcats will be paced this year by senior Steven Korpus, a senior who started the season at 140 but will eventually drop to 130, Amine said. Korpus, who was one victory away from qualifying for the state meet last year, is off to a tremendous start, having racked up a 7-0 record.

"Steven has kind of an unorthodox style of wrestling,

but he gives kids fits," Amine said. "He has great balance and he's a tough-nosed kid."

Other pace-setters for Plymouth will be 140-pound senior Ali Youseff, who is 6-1 already, and 215-pound senior Taylor Fox, who was a regional qualifier last March.

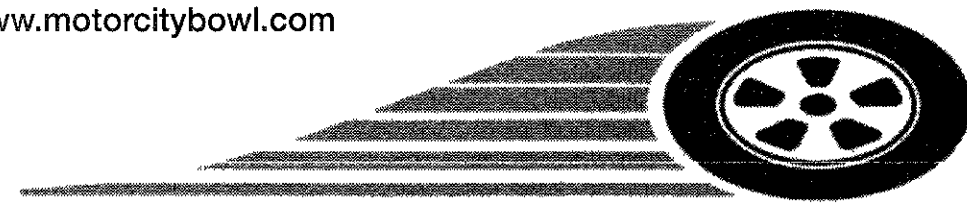
Filling out the Wildcats' starting line-up will be: Santino Besco (103), Stephen D'Annunzio (112), Ben Kosmalski (119), Amir Pakray (125), Timone Crawford (130), Andrew Saunders (135), Jon Hagar (145), Jeff Schwartz (152), Vincent Darolfi (171) and Shaun Bailey (heavyweight).

Anthony Favot (103), Ben Gibson (112), Chris Favot (130), Ryan Flaherty (152) and Ramin Pakray (171) should see a lot of varsity mat action as well, Amine said.

On Saturday, the Wildcats placed third in the eight-team L'Anse Creuse Team Tournament. New Boston Huron won the event and the hosts were second. Plymouth ousted Birmingham Brother Rice, 54-19, Dearborn Divine Child, 46-28, and Orchard Lake St. Mary's, 56-16. The Wildcats dropped decisions to L'Anse Creuse, 47-24, and New Boston Huron, 40-32.

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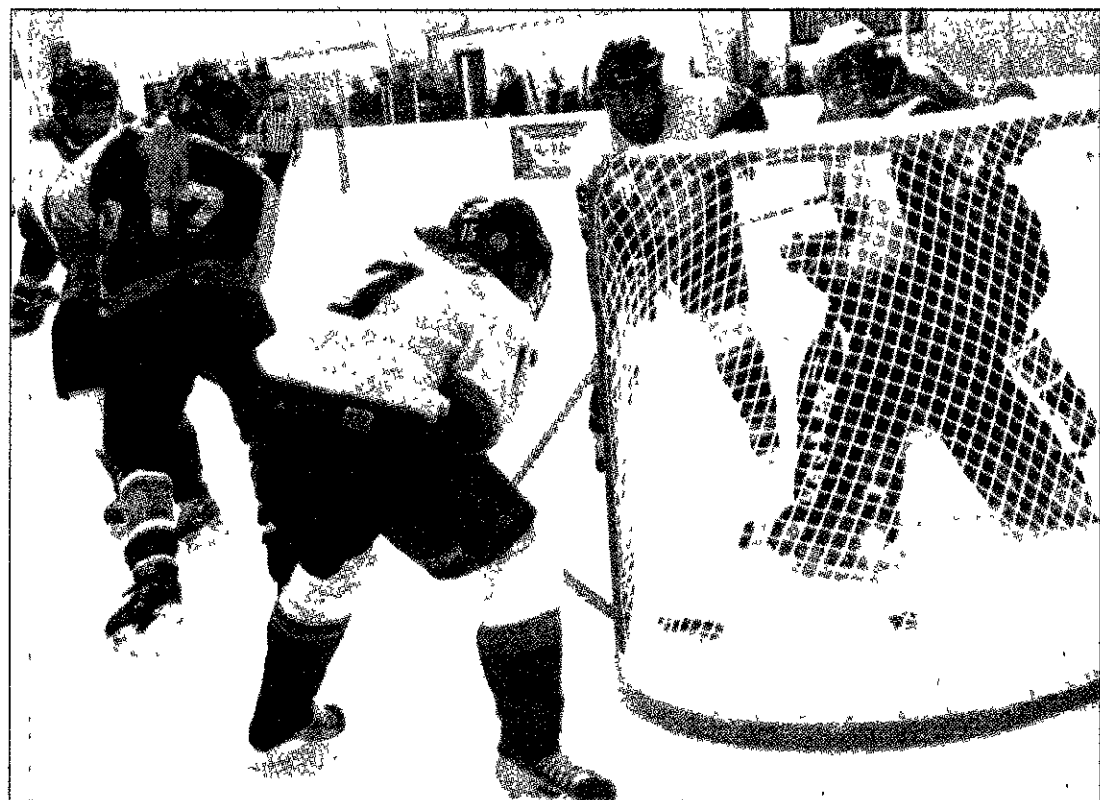
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March of the Penguins

PCS girls hockey team routs fourth-straight opponent



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Plymouth-Canton-Salem's Katie Zimmerman slips the puck past Walled Lake Unified goalie Lauren Hutchinson during Tuesday night's 9-0 Penguin triumph. PCS improved to 4-0 while the Wild dropped to 2-2.

BY ED WRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

Slow start. Strong finish. Lopsided win. That has been the method of operations for this year's Plymouth-Canton-Salem girls hockey team, which boosted its record to 4-0 Tuesday night with a 9-0 romp over Walled Lake Unified, which fell to 2-2.

The Penguins have now outscored their opponents, 30-0, despite often struggling during the game's opening moments.

PCS senior forward Kristin Schwan ignited the rout over the Wild when she tallied her first of three goals just over 10 minutes into the game to break a scoreless tie. Schwan, who was assisted by Stephanie Murray, is tied with the team lead in goals (six) with Adrienne Cercone.

"I think we may have come out a little over-confident tonight in the first period and Walled Lake came out ready to play," said PCS coach Lori Callahan. "We weren't skating



Plymouth-Canton-Salem's Kelli Bargowski skates past Walled Lake Unified's Shelby Dodd during Tuesday night's 9-0 Penguin victory.

like we meant it early on, but everyone stepped up after the first period and really pitched in. The girls did a nice job passing and on break-outs tonight.

"I thought our defense really stepped up in the third period as we only allowed three shots on goal."

Freshman forward Katie Zimmerman padded the Penguins' lead to 2-0 two minutes after Schwan's goal off an assist from Emily Patton.

PCS distanced itself from the Wild with three second-period goals that came off the sticks of Nicole Sensoli (12:55), Kelli Bargowski (5:26) and Keely Kowalski (1:33). Sensoli's goal was assisted by Sarah Skonieseny and Annie McTurner; Bargowski was assisted by McTurner; and

Murray and Edra Burris were credited with helpers on Kowalski's goal.

The scoring floodgates opened up in the final period for the Penguins thanks to a pair of goals from Schwan and singles by Ashley LaBlanc (8:35) and Zimmerman (7:28).

Murray, Skonieseny and McTurner all tallied three assists each for the winners.

Sophomore goal-tender Kristie Kowalski — the twin sister of Keely — turned back 14 shots to notch her fourth consecutive shutout. The Penguins made life difficult for the Wild goalie, peppering 42 shots on goal.

The red-hot Penguins will be idle until Friday, Dec. 16, when they travel to Livonia's Eddie Edgar Arena to square off with Farmington Hills Mercy.

Desilets' strong play leads to tie

Senior goal-tender Justin Desilets stopped 26 shots to help Plymouth preserve a 2-2 tie with Dexter Saturday afternoon at the Computware Sports Center. The draw left the Wildcats with a 1-1-1 record heading into Saturday's home game against Pinckney.

"Justin was outstanding again," said Plymouth coach Chuck Dubois. "He's played

PREP HOCKEY

very well in all three of our games. Overall, we're playing better as a team as well. We've cut down the number of penalties; now, we just need to skate a little harder."

Al DeMetriou gave the Dreadnaughts a 1-0 lead at the 9:04 mark of the first

period. Joe Perkovich beat Dexter goalie Cole McNabb with 25 seconds left in the opening stanza on a power-play to make it 1-1. Perkovich was assisted by Jason O'Guinn and Mike Barile.

After Dexter's J.T. Ledwidge put the Dreadnaughts ahead 2-1 four minutes into the second period, Plymouth's Charles Webb tallied the game's final goal at the 5:52 mark of the second period. Webb's goal was unassisted.

Plymouth outshot the Dreadnaughts, 40-28.

CANTON 4, W.L. WESTERN 3: Senior Brett Giacomino scored the game-winner late in the second period off an assist from Kyle Kowalski.

The victory was the Western Lakes Activities Association opener for the Chiefs, who improved to 1-2 overall.

"I thought we played well in spurts," said Canton coach Mike Behen. "The boys played hard throughout the game and our defense is coming together well thanks to Donnie Barlow and Kevin Tollison."

Sophomore net-minder Kevan Swanberg earned his first varsity victory, stopping 18 Western shots.

Pat Gallagher opened the scoring five minutes into the contest when he took a pass from Barlow and deposited the puck into the back of the net.

Two minutes later, Western's Nick Kenney knotted the score at 1-1 on his first of two goals.

Giacomino, Cory Hames and Gallagher accounted for the Chiefs' three second-period goals.

Justin Ward, and Giacomino picked up assists. Jason Norville and Kenney added third-period goals for the Warriors, who pulled their goalie with two minutes to play but couldn't put one past Swanberg.

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Senior-led Wildcat spikers carry high hopes into season

BY ED WRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

Expectations for Plymouth's volleyball team are as high as Jeanine Moise's kills are hard.

That would be "very" for both of the above — with a capital "V"

The Wildcats return all of their key players from last season's impressive 48-12 team that was void of seniors.

The most prominent returner is Moise, a 5-11 outside hitter whose thundering hits last year earned her honorable mention All-State accolades.

This year, coach Kelly McCausland has eight upperclassmen and six juniors, which gives her ample reason for optimism.

"With all of the experience players we have coming back, we definitely have high expectations," McCausland said. "But our conference is still very strong, with Livonia Churchill, Livonia Stevenson and Salem all returning a lot of strong players."

McCausland said her team's unique situation of having played all four years in tact is advantageous, for the most part.

"The benefits are that we've been able to coach this same group throughout the past four years, so they know what we expect from them," she said. "The only negative is that they've been hearing the same thing for four years, so you hope they keep listening. The positives far outweigh the negative, though."

Over the past four years, McCausland has been able to watch Moise develop into one of the state's top players — and it's not just Moise's hitting ability that make her stand out, McCausland said.

"She's a great all-around player," the coach said. "She's very good with all of her shots plus she's one of the most dominant middle-hitters around."

Moise will have plenty of help around her as the Wildcats possess one of the Western Lakes Activities Association's deepest and most talented rosters.

Coaching assistant setting will be senior Sarah Taskins (5-8), who has been the team's top setter for the past four years.

"Sarah's game has improved every year," McCausland said. "We'll be looking for her to lead the team as our quarterback."

Other key seniors include Brandi Swyhart (5-4 defensive specialist), Janet Hanchett (5-9 outside hitter), Jackie Dorre (5-9 outside hitter), Lauren Stemberger (5-6 defensive specialist) and Katie Hughes (5-7 outside hitter).

"Brandi is a tremendous passer and she can play all of the defensive positions," McCausland said.

Adding depth to the Wildcats' attack will be juniors Brittany Hengesh (5-11 middle hitter), Chelsey Quinlan (5-9 middle hitter), Kim Klonowski (5-8 outside hitter), Clare Baptist (5-7 outside hitter), Courtney Buttermore (5-7 outside hitter) and Danielle Giudici (5-4 defensive specialist).

The Wildcats open their season Saturday at the 15-team Madonna Invitational, which they will host in the Plymouth gymnasium. Saturday's tournament will be the first of seven the team will compete in this season.

SALEM

Amanda Suder is back home again — and she couldn't be happier.

Suder was named the Rocks' new volleyball coach in mid-October. She succeeds Jennifer Peterson, who resigned due to work conflicts.

Suder, a 2000 graduate of Salem, was a standout player for the Rocks before taking her skills to Madonna University, where she played for her uncle, Jerry Abraham. Despite her young age, Suder has already compiled an impressive resume, having coached the Salem freshmen team for three years before moving over to Plymouth to coach its junior-varsity unit for the 2004-05 campaign.

"It's nice being back at Salem and seeing a lot of familiar faces," Suder said. "We have a lot of returning players, which is exciting. We have a tall team,

so our strength will be our hitting. So far, our biggest weakness is our defense, but we're working on it every day.

"I like my teams to play with a lot of intensity and I stress togetherness. I tell them, when they're out on the court, they're like a family. I'm also big into defense. That's where everything starts."

Leading the Rocks' returners are senior Lauren Price (6-0 outside hitter), junior Teresa Coppiellie (6-0 outside hitter), Ashley Hayes (5-5 defensive specialist/setter) and junior middle-hitter Lauren Kurtz (5-1).

"Lauren is a very, very talented player and a strong hitter," Suder said. "I'm expecting a lot out of her this season. Her and Teresa give us a great combination up front."

"Ashley is a great leader, a great team player. She will be our back-up setter and one of our most versatile players. I'll move her around a lot."

Other front-line contributors for the Rocks will be senior middle hitter Shannon Rusin (5-9), junior middle hitter Katrina Cope (5-11), junior outside hitter Courtney Seiler (5-10) and junior outside hitter Nikki Mersch.

Salem's key back-row players include junior Kristen Kozub (5-4 defensive specialist), junior Chelsea McPhail (5-9 defensive specialist), junior Kelly Behr (5-3 defensive specialist), senior Danielle DiPietro (middle defender) and freshman Jansan Falcusan (5-7 setter).

"Jordan has excellent ball control," Suder said of her starting freshman setter. "She does everything well. She has a great serve and is an excellent hitter as well."

Suder cited three squads as teams to look out for in the WLAA race.

"Our conference is tough from top to bottom, but I'd say Livonia Churchill, Plymouth and Walled Lake Northern will be up there because they all have a lot of talented returning players," she said.

Salem opens its 2005-06 schedule Saturday, Dec. 17 at Plymouth.

CANTON

The Chiefs will be led by first-year coach Kristie Drinkhahn, a former star player at Canton in the mid-90s, who was hired in early October to succeed Alex Perrin, who held the post for just one year.

Drinkhahn coached the Chiefs' freshmen squad from 1996 through 1998. She has also honed her coaching skills for the Madonna Crusaders' 14-and-under AAU squad.

"I'm very excited because this is such a great group of kids," Drinkhahn said. "This is a very motivated group. They've all been working extremely hard."

Drinkhahn said her team's strength lies in its depth.

"We have a lot of all-around great players — we're not just strong up front or in the back," she said.

The Chiefs return six seniors from last year's squad: outside hitter/defensive specialist Kelsey Bailey, setter Rachael Beaudoin, defensive specialist Krista Holcomb, outside and middle hitter Lisa Western, defensive specialist Sarah



Plymouth's Jeanine Moise gives the Wildcats one of the most dominant front-row players in high school volleyball this season.

Alexander and middle hitter Izabela Paszkowska.

"Kelsey has an amazing attitude and drive and is a strong outside hitter," Drinkhahn said. "Rachael has great hands and quick feet, and Lisa is a passionate player who supports her teammates."

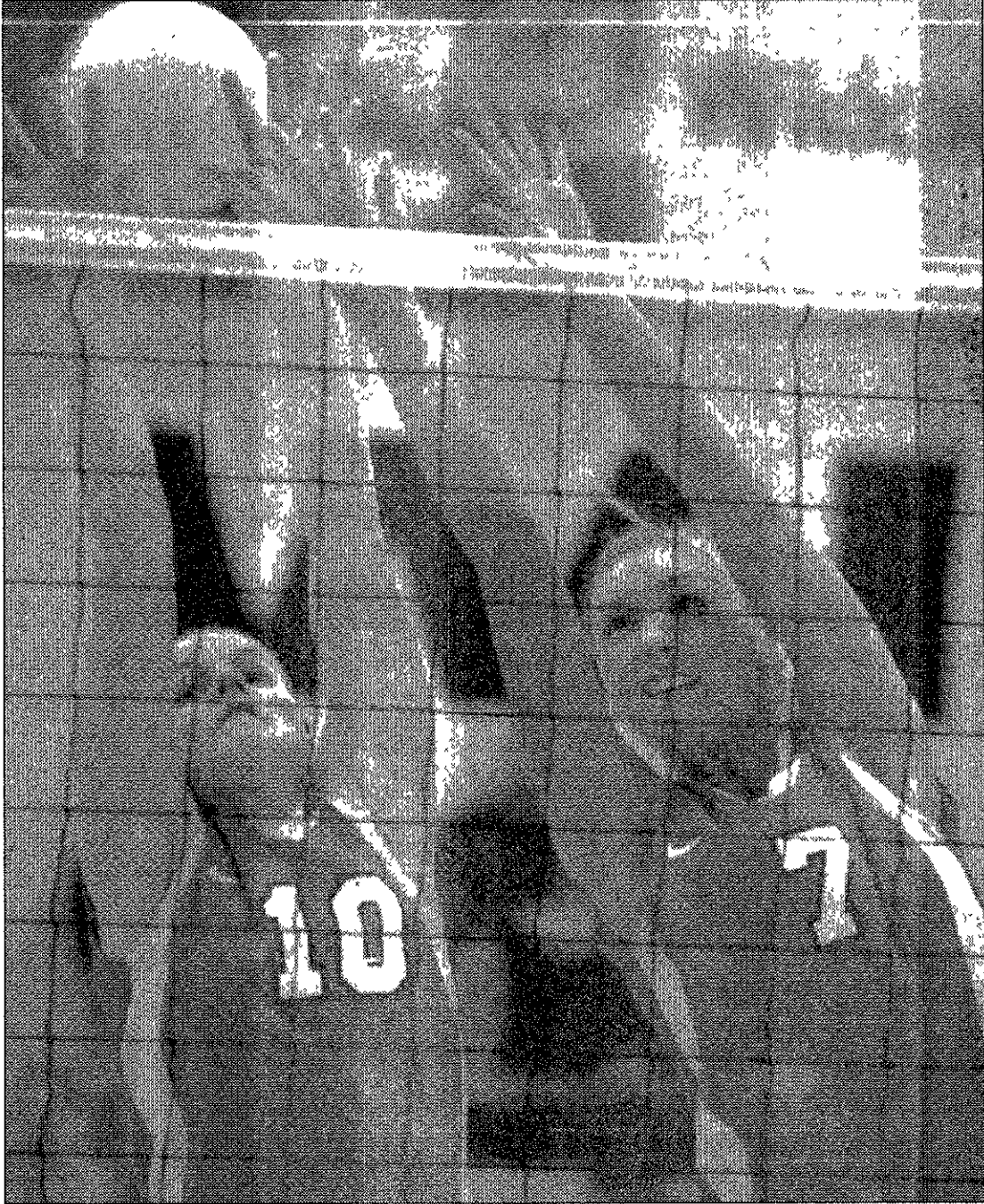
Due to a knee injury, Alexander will be out of action for up to two months, but she's still contributing.

"Sarah is a great organizer who always has a positive attitude," Drinkhahn said. "She's always there and ready."

Canton's roster includes a pair of juniors — outside hitters Joellen Heldt and Emily Hoernschemeyer — and four sophomores: defensive specialist Hannah Mills, setter Heidi Herendeen, outside hitter Lauren McPartlin and middle hitter Marie Martin.

Defensive specialist/outside hitter Gina Waite is the lone freshman on the Chiefs' varsity roster. Canton opens its season Saturday at the South Lyon Invitational.

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Canton senior Lisa Western, right, will one of the key players in new coach Kristi Drinkhahn's inaugural season. Pictured to Western's right is Stephanie Price, who graduated.



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Detroit Lions: Dysfunctional team

When I decided to write a monthly column for the *Observer & Eccentric Newspapers* this season, I did so in the hope of writing about a fun, young, competitive team on its way to a division title. Even with the history of this franchise I never dreamed it would be this bad. The Lions have always been, shall we say dysfunctional, but this season takes the cake. The past week was the typical Lion circus only this time there were more than three rings.

Allegedly, Matt Millen wanted to fire Steve Mariucci on Friday after the Thanksgiving game debacle. That did not happen. So Monday the deed was done and Dick Jauron took over on an interim basis. Millen believed, and rightfully so, that the young players were not being developed. So what happens two days later Jauron announces that 35-year-old Jeff Garcia will be the starting quarterback. Yes, that's the way to develop youngsters, isn't it?



Michael Stone

A CHANCE TO WIN?

Jauron's rationale is that Garcia gives the Lions the best chance to win. Excuse me, the Lions have won four games. They are going nowhere. Why start a 35-year-old weak-armed quarterback who is still suffering the effects of a broken leg? Not to mention the guy rips management and his teammates on a semi-regular basis. Oh yes, maybe it's because his teammates hate Joey Harrington.

Earlier last week, Dre Bly blasted Harrington on the NFL network, basically blaming him for Mariucci losing his job. Of course the offensive line, wide receivers, coaching and a defense that gives up big plays in the clutch have nothing to do with the futility.

So the Lions went into last Sunday's game with

the Vikings the way the players and coaches wanted them to - Garcia leading the team to one touchdown drive (in which he never passed the ball) and some of the worst passes seen here since Andre Ware.

The fans obviously started chanting for Joey and then the fun started. The game became secondary as "Fire Millen" signs and chants rained on Ford Field. The rest has been documented. Overzealous security people tackling a fan with a handmade "Fire Millen" sign. Yes, the fourth ring of the circus was now in effect.

A NATIONAL STORY

Many around these parts have laughed lovingly at the Lions for years, but now they are becoming a national story. As Super Bowl XL heads into Motown, the futility of the Lions will finally get its national due.

What should happen next? Obviously, Millen should be let go. His record of 20 wins and 56

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Wah Wong Firearm Exchange	5-7 89-67	Green Bay Pittsburgh Cincinnati Indianapolis New England Oakland Minnesota Carolina NY Giants Denver Dallas San Diego
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gets new coach, same results

losses speak for itself. Three of his first round picks did not see the field Sunday and there is a chance that his first three picks – Jeff Backus, Harrington and Charles Rogers – will be gone after the season ends.

I don't think William Clay Ford Sr. will pull the trigger. He likes Matt Millen. Many of us like Millen. Unfortunately, liking someone does not make him the right person to run an NFL franchise. The only salvation for Millen is in this question. Who do you trust will make the right hire? Mr. Ford in selecting Millen's successor or Millen in selecting the next coach. Unfortunately, there is no good answer but if I had to pick one I would trust Millen more.

ODDS AND ENDS

■ One final thought on Steve Mariucci. I wish him well. He is a nice guy and a good person. I just felt his lack of urgency, stubbornness and nice guy attitude did not fit with this football

team. It just did not work here. I think he will be a head coach again and will succeed. Unfortunately, it was never going to happen in Detroit.

■ Sunday, the Lions will try to defeat the Green Bay Packers at Lambeau Field for the first time since 1991. Hmmm 1991, I remember the season well ...12-4 and a playoff win. This was a young team on the rise that would be good for a long time. Oh, well, we know the rest. I digress, the Lions beat Green Bay on opening day at Ford Field which was a barometer for the rest of Green Bay's season. It will be cold Sunday night and both teams will try not to suffer any further embarrassment. Call me crazy but somehow Brett Favre will be a little better than Jeff Garcia and the Packers will escape with their third win of the season.

■ I wonder where all those supporters of Mike McMahon are now. The former Lion has been brutal in Philadelphia. Monday night, he was

pulled in the second quarter after two interception returns for touchdowns. A friend of mine from Philly thinks the Eagles would be better off with Ed McMahon and wondered how anyone in Detroit thought he was good.

■ If you are trying to figure out how to protest the Lions' futility, WDFN has the perfect way. You can participate in the Angry Man March on Ford Field before the Lions home finale against the Bengals. Sean Baligian will be leading the troops with signage galore. If you have any tickets that you are not using, feel free to send them to WDFN c/o Stoney 27675 Halsted, Farmington Hills 48331. The tickets will either be burned at the march or given to Bengal fans. Also you can be creative and come up with a slogan or picture for a billboard by Ford Field. Go to WDFN.com for details.

Listen to Mike Stone weekdays 3-6 p.m. on the "Stoney and Wojo" show on Sports Radio 1130 AM WDFN.

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1-800-668-MATS

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1-800-579-MATS

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(Next to Dalton Direct, Dixie At Walton)
1-800-929-MATS

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Player	Team	Record	Points
Tim Flanagan	North Bros. Ford	9-3	93-63
Ramona Mugerichian	Papa Joes	8-6	84-72
Gripen	Saab of Troy	8-4	93-63
Keith Lang	Tennyson Chevrolet	9-3	96-60
Stoney	WDFN Radio	9-3	107-49
Greg	WDFN Radio	7-5	93-63
Jamie	WDFN Radio	8-4	103-53
Sean	WDFN Radio	8-4	102-54

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SPORTS ROUNDUP

ARBO BASEBALL SCHOOL

The Bernie Carbo Pro Premier Baseball Academy will be conducting small group, team and individual summer skill sessions in velocity improvement, power hitting, and pitching, along with unique sidearm pitching instruction for ages 15-20.

Former minor league all-star and Eastern Michigan University standout Mark Rutherford will be the featured instructor.

For more information, call (734) 421-4928.

BULLPEN HOLIDAY CAMP

The Bullpen Baseball/Softball Academy, 33085 W. Nine Mile Road, will stage a holiday camp for ages 7-18 from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Tuesday-Wednesday, Dec. 27-28. Sessions include instruction in hitting, fielding and pitching.

The fee is \$125 per person (includes lunch and T-shirt). For more information, call (248) 427-1819; or visit www.bullpenbaseball.com.

U-M BASEBALL CAMPS

Rich Maloney's Michigan Baseball Camp will be Tuesday through Friday, Dec. 30.

For more information, call (734) 647-4550; or E-mail hjn@umich.edu; or visit mgoblue.com/baseball.

BASEBALL TRAINING

From Jan. 21 through March 4, Berkley High School will host a six-week spring training 2006 baseball program for grades 1-12.

Berkley varsity coach Frank Stutcher will direct the program in conjunction with Midwest Baseball Academy.

Sessions are offered in advance dhitting and pitching at a cost of \$98 for six weeks. Space is limited. Registration is underway.

For more information, call (866) MBA-HITS or visit www.baseballacademy.net.

TOTAL BASEBALL LESSONS

Total Baseball, 30990 Wixom Road, Wixom, will offer pitching, hitting, and fielding lessons for ages 6-18.

Lessons are by appointment only.

The cost is \$40 per half-hour or \$180 for five private lessons.

Call 248-668-0166 or e-mail totalbballwixom@aol.com or visit www.total-baseball.com for more information.

LIVONIA ONLINE SIGNUP

The Livonia Community Recreation Center now offers online registration for its classes and programs in the L Magazine by visiting www.active.com/browse/livonia-parksrec. For more information, call (734) 466-2900.

MU spikers' national title hopes fall short

BY TIM SMITH
STAFF WRITER

"California Dreaming" was nice while it lasted for the Crusaders volleyball team.

Madonna University's hopes of winning the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics national championship were ruined by a dramatic, five-game loss to eventual champion California Baptist in Saturday's semifinal.

The Crusaders - who finished their spectacular season with a record of 48-2 - were defeated 3-2 at Point Loma Nazarene University in San Diego.

"It hurts real bad," said MU head coach Jerry Abraham following the crushing defeat. "But I told the kids they played their best match of the year and that's what I asked them to do.

"I'm just so very proud of them. It was an awesome, awesome season and they deserved to play for the national championship. But they played a great team and this was like a national championship game right here."

After Madonna won the opening game 30-26, the Lancers bounced back with 30-26 and 30-28 victories before the Crusaders evened things up in the fourth game, 30-23.

That set the stage for the final game, a 15-8 triumph for Cal Baptist (34-5), which went on to defeat Columbia University (Mo.) for the NAIA title.

As was the case all season, Madonna's top seniors were inspirational against the Lancers.

Outside hitter Natalja Tinina led the offense with 25 kills and helped out on defense with 17 digs.

'I'm just so very proud of them. It was an awesome, awesome season and they deserved to play for the national championship. But they played a great team and this was like a national championship game right here.'

Setter Ashley Frost collected 65 assists, Libero Stefanie DeNardin contributed 16 digs and middle hitter Laura Lesko came through with 16 kills.

"They're great leaders and great people," said Abraham about the MU quartet. "I never had to worry about them in any way, shape or form . . . We're going to really miss them, you don't get four better seniors than that."

For Cal Baptist, the trio of Yajaira Prado, Yudelka Bonilla and Verania Willis combined for 65 kills and 27 digs while Kayla Van Duyen totaled 68 assists.

According to Abraham, whose team made it to the Final Four for the second time in school history, he and other coaches "didn't have to say too much" to inspire the Crusaders to battle back when facing deficit situations against the Lancers.

"This team is focused and very, very spirited," he continued. "They were just so gung ho to win a national championship and they really believed that. There was no quit in them, never was and never will be."

Both Frost (317 assists) and Lesko (107 kills) were named to the All-Tournament team.

All-American duo

Madonna's triumphant season had a spinoff bonus when Tinina and Frost were named to the NAIA/AVCA All-America First Team. The last time MU players made the All-America first team was 2002.

Tinina, an import from Latvia who starred at Madonna all four years of college, this season surpassed the college career mark for kills (2,851) during last week's pool play at the NAIA National Championships. She also posted 886 kills (seven shy of the MU school record for a season), 481 digs, 91 blocks and 43 service aces while being named Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference and NAIA Region VIII Player-of-the-Year.

Frost, WHAC and NAIA Region VIII Setter-of-the-Year, finished her senior season with 2,222 assists - the third highest total in school history. She also shattered the Madonna career assist record when she tallied her 5,146th assist in September. She finished with 6,885 helpers.

Meanwhile, coach Jerry Abraham will find out Dec. 14 whether he will be named National Coach of the Year. The selection will be announced at the AVCA National Convention in San Antonio, Texas.

The Crusaders reeled off 47 victories in a row before finally losing, in the final game of pool play at the NAIA National Championships.

After knocking off Texas Wesleyan in Friday's quarterfinal, MU's season ended Saturday with a loss in the semifinals to eventual national champion California Baptist.

CITY OF LIVONIA
PUBLIC NOTICE
VEHICLE AUCTION

Under Provisions of Sections 2.32.070 and 3.05.1006 of the Livonia Code of Ordinances, The Police Department will be conducting an Auction of Forfeited vehicles.

Friday, December 9, 2005
Inspections begin at 9:30 a.m.
Auction begins at 10:00 a.m.

Midwest Auto Auction & Services, Inc.
14666 Telegraph
Redford, MI 48239

ALL VEHICLES TO BE AUCTIONED MAY BE VIEWED BETWEEN 9:30 A.M. AND 10:00 A.M., ON THE MORNING OF THE AUCTION. VEHICLES ARE SOLD 'AS IS' AND ALL SALES ARE FINAL.

ALL SALES MUST BE IN CASH AND ARE DUE IN FULL THE MOMENT THE BID IS ACCEPTED.

VAL VANDERSLOOT, City Clerk

Publish: December 14 & 8, 2005

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON
REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Charter Township of Canton, 1150 Canton Center S, Canton, Michigan will accept sealed qualifications at the Department of Public Works until 5:00 p.m., Thursday December 29th, 2005 for the following:

CROSS CONNECTION CONTROL
MANAGEMENT SERVICES

The specifications are available at the Public Works Department located on the 2nd floor of the Administration building. All qualifications must be submitted in a sealed envelope clearly marked with the project name, company name, address and telephone number and date and time of proposal opening. The Township reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals. The Township does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age or disability in employment or the provision of services.

TERRY G. BENNETT, CLERK

Publish: December 8 & 15, 2005

OE08086501

NOTICE

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
FURNISHINGS FOR
NEW PLYMOUTH TOWNSHIP HALL &
POLICE FACILITY AND FIRE STATION

Notice is hereby given that sealed bids will be received by the Charter Township of Plymouth, 42350 Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth, MI 48170 for: FURNISHINGS for the new Plymouth Township Hall and Police Facility and Fire Station. Proposals are to be submitted in accordance with contract documents prepared by A3C, 210 East Huron Street, Ann Arbor, MI 48104 dated December 8, 2005. Bid documents will be available for examination and distribution on or after December 8, 2005 at Plymouth Township Hall, Clerk's Office, 42350 Ann Arbor Road, Bldg. #3, Plymouth Township. Bid proposals must be received in the Clerk's Office by Thursday, December 22, 2005 at 2:00 p.m.

Marilyn Massengill, Clerk
Charter Township of Plymouth

Publish: December 4 & 8, 2005

OE08086333

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SPORTS ROUNDUP

LACROSSE COACH WANTED

Livonia Ladywood High School is seeking girls lacrosse varsity and JV coaches for the 2006 spring season.

Those interested should fax a resume to Ladywood athletic director Sal Malek at (734) 591-2386.

FRANKLIN TENNIS MIXERS

The Franklin Athletic Club will host tennis mixers every first, third and fifth Saturday of the month from 7-10 p.m.

All levels are welcome. The cost is \$20 for members and \$26 for non-members. The mixers will continue through the end of April.

The club is located at 29350 Northwestern Highway in Southfield.

For more information call (248) 352-8000, Ext. 250, or send an E-mail to www.franklinclub@ffrc.com.

NORTHVILLE ROAD RUNNERS

Runners are invited to join the Northville (Redford) Road Runners running organization.

All levels are welcome.

The club meets at 6:30 p.m. each Tuesday and Thursday at Hillside Middle School located at Eight Mile and Center Street, in Northville.

The club also meets 9 a.m. Saturdays by the horse stables at Maybury State Park.

Varying distances are run, ranging from 4-6 miles.

For more information, send an e-mail to Bo@sprauer.com or call Gary Haf at (248) 231-6114.

LEARN TO SKATE

Session III of the eight-week Learn to Skate program, sponsored by the City of Livonia Department of Parks and Recreation, begins the week of Jan. 8 through the week of Feb. 26, 2006.

Among the sessions offered include: ages 4 and up - 4:40 p.m., 5:20 p.m. or 5:50 p.m. Mondays; 4:40 p.m., 5:50 p.m. or 6:20 p.m., Thursdays; boys hockey skills - 6:20 p.m. Mondays and 5:20 p.m. Thursdays; tots (3-year olds) - 4:10 p.m. Thursdays - all at

Eddie Edgar Arena, 33841 Lyndon (one-half mile south of Five Mile and just west of Farmington Road).

Registration will be 5-8 p.m. (residents) and 7-8 p.m. (non-residents), Wednesday, Jan. 4 at the Livonia Community Recreation Center, located at Hubber and Five Mile roads.

The cost is \$58 for residents; \$72 for non-residents.

For more information, call (734) 466-2412.

AAU GIRLS HOOPS

Tryouts for the Michigan Pacers, a 16-and-under AAU basketball team, will be from 2:30-5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 4 at Anderson Middle School, 3205 Catalpa Road (at 11 Mile) in Berkley.

Registration starts at 2 p.m. Tryout fee is \$25 (includes AAU card).

For more information, call Derrick Lockridge at (586) 536-7322; or E-mail mipacers@hotmail.com.

EDGAR OPEN SKATING

Eddie Edgar Arena in Livonia recently announced its open skating schedule through May, 2006.

Adults only can skate 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday-Friday; parent-child skates are 1-3 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays; general open skating is 3-4:30 p.m. Wednesday, 7-8:20 p.m. Friday, 2-3:20 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

Resident fees are \$2 for senior citizens, \$3.50 for adults and \$3 for children. Non-resident fees are \$2 for seniors, \$5.15 for adults and \$4.10 for children.

For more information, visit www.livoniahockey.org or call (734) 427-1280.

TOTAL BASEBALL CAMPS

Total Baseball and Softball will have holiday camps in both sports for ages 7-17 Dec. 27, 28 and 29 at Total Sports Complex, 30990 Wixom Rd., Wixom. The time is 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. each day.

The fee is \$145 per player. There is a \$10 discount for a second child.

To register call (248) 668-0166, email baseball@total-sportscomplex.com or see the Web site at www.total-baseball.com.

CC BASEBALL CAMP

The Championship CC Baseball Camp will be 6-8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 16, and 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 17, at Catholic Central High School, 27225 Wixom Road, Novi.

The camp is for boys in grades 5-8. Campers should bring a glove, bat, gym shoes and comfortable workout attire. The fee is \$75. Checks should be payable to Catholic Central Baseball.

To register contact CC varsity baseball coach Kevin Walters at (248) 596-3886, kwalters@catholiccentral.net or www.catholiccentral.net.

BALLPLAYERS WANTED

The under-13 Royals, a travel baseball team, needs three players for the 2006 season.

Those interested should call coach Mark Rutherford at (248) 910-6889.

A new under-13 travel baseball team in Livonia is seeking players to fill a limited number of position on its roster.

For more information, call (734) 238-1580. (If you receive a voice mail, leave your name, player's name, positions played, and a return call will be made about the date of the tryouts.)

The Michigan Wolves, a 14-and-under travel baseball team based out of Livonia, is seeking one player for the 2006 season.

(Winter workouts recently started.)

To be eligible, you must be in eighth grade and cannot turn 15 before May 1, 2006.

For more information, call Tim Broughton at (734) 645-9033; or E-mail broughton66@aol.com



Schoolcraft College sophomore guard Mikki Williams drives around Kalamazoo Valley's Jamie Munting during Saturday's tournament title game.

Top-ranked Ocelots survive K'zoo, 85-83

BY TIM SMITH
STAFF WRITER

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

There couldn't have been more of a contrast between the two games the host Lady Ocelots played at last weekend's Schoolcraft College Women's Basketball Invitational.

But it was all good for the No. 1-ranked Lady Ocelots, who edged Kalamazoo Valley Community College 85-83 in Saturday's tournament championship game. The previous day, Schoolcraft torched Myers (Ohio) University, 99-26.

"It was just a great, overall basketball game," said SC assistant coach Marty Simmonds.

The Lady Ocelots nearly relinquished an 84-79 lead in the final 70 seconds of play, but managed to hang on when the Cougars missed a three-point shot in the final seconds.

"We missed a couple free throws and they missed a three-pointer at the buzzer that would have won the ballgame for them," Simmonds said.

Leading the way for Schoolcraft (8-0) was Tomica Hodge, with 19 points.

Also in double figures for the Lady Ocelots were Mikki Williams (14 points), Maricka Seay (13 points), Wayne Memorial's Renita Price (12 points), and Tracey Winkler (10 points).

Seay also dominated with 16 rebounds while Winkler and Williams each tallied four assists.

For KVCC (7-2), Jealyn Foston scored 18 points, while Kortni Matteson and Megan Holland chipped in with 14 and 13 points, respectively.

WILBERFORCE (OHIO) 75, MADONNA 61: The host Crusaders fell behind 33-29 at halftime Saturday afternoon and never could catch up, falling to 3-5 on the season.

Wilberforce University (2-5) hit 16 of 30 field-goal tries in the second half (53 percent) compared to MU's 11-for-33 after intermission, which hurt any chances of the Crusaders mounting a rally.

Pacing the Crusaders with 14 points was Stephanie Childs, with Sarah Thomson and Lydia Prusinowski each registering 11.

Thomson also grabbed 10 rebounds.

Kanisha Coward and Shamarah Thomas each scored 13 points for Wilberforce.

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minutes for the Township of Plymouth Board of Trustee Meetings are available for review under the Reference Desk Page of the Township website www.plymouthtwp.org.

Minutes and agenda's are also posted in the Clerk's Office at Plymouth Township Hall, 42350 Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth, for public perusal.

Marilyn Massengill, CMC
Clerk, Charter Township of Plymouth

Publish: September 8 & 22, October 6 & 20, November 3, December 8, 2005

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON
ACCESS TO PUBLIC MEETINGS

The Charter Township of Canton will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting, to individuals with disabilities at the meeting/hearing upon two weeks notice to the Charter Township of Canton. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Charter Township of Canton by writing or calling the following:

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

Publish: December 8, 2005

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TITLES AND TIMES SUBJECT TO CHANGE

SHOPGIRL (R)
12:30, 2:45, 5:00, 7:15, 9:30
FRI/SAT LS 11:45

YOURS, MINE, AND OURS (PG)
11:10, 1:10, 3:10, 5:10, 7:10, 7:45, 9:10, 9:45
FRI/SAT LS 11:45

IN THE MIX (PG-13)
1:35, 9:25
FRI/SAT LS 11:30

PRIDE AND PREJUDICE (PG)
11:00, 1:40, 4:20, 7:00, 9:40

JUST FRIENDS (PG-13)
12:35, 2:50, 5:05, 7:20, 9:35
FRI/SAT LS 11:50

CHICKEN LITTLE (G)
11:15, 1:15, 1:50, 1:55, 3:50, 3:15, 5:50, 7:50, 9:50
FRI/SAT LS 11:50

LEGEND OF ZORRO (PG)
11:05, 3:45, 6:55
FRI/SAT LS 11:15

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

DECEMBER

Christmas with family

Celebrate the holiday season with music, drama skits, dance numbers, flying angels, big screen video and more at Christmas with the Family 2005, 7 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, Dec. 8-10, at Detroit World Outreach, 23800 West Chicago, Redford. Desserts will be served at end of performances. Tickets \$10. Call (313) 255-2222, ext. 236.

Christmas Dinner Theater

I'll Be Home for Christmas, 6:30 p.m. Friday-Sunday, Dec. 9-11, at Memorial Church of Christ, 35475 Five Mile, Livonia. For reservations, call (734) 464-6722. Nursery and childcare provided.

Christmas concert

All is Calm, All is Bright with the Sanctuary Choir and Orchestra 6 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 9, at First Church of the Nazarene of Detroit, 21260 Haggerty, Northville. Christmas Eve candlelight service 6:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 24. Family Christmas Day Worship 10:50 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 25. Call (248) 348-7600.

Crosstalk

Presented by Single Adult Ministries 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 9, the Rev. Paul Clough discusses an issue in a current news article from a Christian perspective in a secular world, in Knox Hall, at Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church, 40000 Six Mile, Northville. Free Childcare. Call (248) 374-5920.

Journey to Bethlehem

A walk through Christmas play 6:30-

8:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 9, and 2-4 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, Dec. 10-11, at Unity of Livonia, 28660 Five Mile, between Middlebelt and Inkster. Walk and sit with the townspeople, shepherds, kings, and angels. Drink at the well and speak with the innkeeper. As you walk through the 30- to 40-minute journey others will follow (about every 20-minutes) and experience the Christmas promise. For more information, call (734) 421-1760.

Concert

Garden City Presbyterian Church and The Fellowship of Men, a recently formed church men's group, invite the community to spend an evening with Mission Grace and special guests, Family Tree, a father and sons trio, 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 10, at the church on Middlebelt, one block south of Ford. No charge but a donation will be welcome for The Fellowship of men to support their various mission programs. Call (734) 421-7620.

Cookie walk

Holy Transfiguration Orthodox Church's 12th Annual Cookie Walk is Saturday, Dec. 10, doors open at 8 a.m., sale starts at 9 a.m. and lasts until sold out. Pierogi, stuffed cabbage, bread, nut and poppyseed rolls, and more than 50 different assortments of ethnic (kiefie, kolachy, rugela, koulourakia, biscotti, linzer) and traditional cookies and candy will be for sale at the church, 36075 W. Seven Mile, east of Newburgh, Livonia.

Holiday cookie walk

9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Dec. 10, featuring cookies and candies (all home made), special orders taken for pumpkin roll (\$12 whole, \$6 half), at First United Methodist Church of Wayne. For orders or information, call (734) 721-4801.

Cookie walk

10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 10, at St. Michael's Orthodox Church, 26355 W. Chicago, between Beech Daly and

Inkster, Redford. Cookies are sold by the pound. Come early for best selection.

Holiday craft fair

11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 10, at Tri-City Christian Center, 3855 Sheldon, north of Michigan Avenue, Canton. Admission \$1. Bake sale and refreshments available. Call (734) 495-3363.

Advent concert

The fifth annual Advent Concert, featuring the Langsford Men's Chorus, will be held 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 10, at Rosedale Gardens Presbyterian Church, 9601 Hubbard at West Chicago, Livonia. Rosedale's own Campanelle Handbell Choir will also be featured. For information, call Dave Conrad at (734) 717-6356, or Ron Muresan at (248) 540-0621. For information about the church, visit www.rosedalegardens.org or call (734) 422-0494.

Lunch with Santa

11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 10, for children ages 1 to Grade 6, at St. Mel Parish gym, 7506 Inkster, Dearborn Heights. \$8 for lunch, a photo with Santa, a gift, and crafts to take home. Call (313) 274-0684.

Hanukkah party

Congregation Beit Kodesh and Congregation Bet Chaverim Sunday Schools are hosting a Hanukkah Party 11:30 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 11, at 31840 West Seven Mile, Livonia. Lunch, arts and crafts, music and games. New students and families welcome. Call (248) 477-8974.

Christmas Cantata

Emmanuel Celebrating Heaven's Child 11 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 11, at Mt. Vernon Baptist Church, 8828 Wormer, Redford. Everyone is welcome. Call (313) 537-7480.

Journey to Bethlehem

Labyrinth Walk 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 11, followed by Christmas concert featuring the Congregational Choir at 7:30

p.m. at First Congregational Church, 2 Towne Square, Wayne. Call (734) 729-7550.

Christmas concert

Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church of Livonia, presents their annual Christmas Concert 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 11, in the sanctuary at 14175 Farmington Road, north of I-96, Livonia. For more information, call (734) 522-6830. Featured will be the Christ Our Savior Festival Choir, the Jubellation Handbell Choir, the Ringers of Joy Youth Handbell Choir, the Laudate Choir (grades 1-6), the Confirmation Choir (grades 7 & 8), a Brass Choir, and various instrumentalists providing uplifting holiday music. The concert is free and open to the public with a freewill offering being taken.

The Messiah

The vocal and instrumental musicians of St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church will be performing selections of Handel's Messiah at their Candlelight Concert 7 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 11, at 1343 Penniman at the corner of Evergreen, Plymouth. They will be joined by the musicians of St. Paul Lutheran Church of Livonia. No charge, but a free-will offering will be taken. Call (734) 453-3393.

Christmas pageant

And Chicken Soup Dinner 10 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 11, at Trinity Episcopal Church, 11575 Belleville Road, Belleville. Call (734) 699-3361. Christmas Eve Services 5 p.m. and 10 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 24; Christmas Day Service 10 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 25, and Holy Eucharist Sunday, 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. Jan. 1. Sunday Services 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. Bible Studies and Worship Center for all ages. Parents with Young Children Bible Study Sundays at 6 p.m. Dinner and childcare provided.

Sunday services

Continue with traditional worship and children's Sunday School at 10 a.m., and adult Bible study at 8:30 a.m., at Garden City Presbyterian Church, 1841 Middlebelt, one block south of Ford Road. Preparations are underway for the Annual Sunday School Christmas Program, "Good News," which will be presented at the mustard Seed Contemporary Service 6 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 11. Refreshments served after every service. Handicap accessible. Call (734) 421-7620.

Wednesdays in Advent

Continue with 6 p.m. Taize Prayer and song followed by 6:30 p.m. program with meal, service project and prayer, Nov. 14 and 21, at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 39020 Five Mile Livonia

Caroling

Presented by Single Adult Ministries sing at Sunshine Assisted Living on Haggerty Road, bus leaves parking lot at Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church, 40000 Six Mile, Northville at 6:45 p.m. Friday, Dec. 16. Call (248) 374-5920.

Christmas cantata

7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 16, at Christus Victor Lutheran Church, 25535 Ford, east of Beech Daly, Dearborn Heights. Admission is a donation of a toy for Toys for Tots.

St. Nicholas breakfast

9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Dec. 17, hosted by senior high youth in the Fellowship Hall at St. Matthew's United Methodist Church, 30900 Six Mile, between Middlebelt and Merriman, Livonia. Tickets \$4 (includes pancakes, sausage and beverages), free for children age 7 and under. Proceeds go toward the cost of the Spring Hill Winter Retreat for youth. For more information, call (734) 422-6038.

Fine arts festival

An afternoon of Christian youth entertainment and holiday shopping 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 17, at Westside Christian Academy, 9540 Bramell, one mile east of Telegraph, between Plymouth and Chicago. Call (313) 533-1956 or (313) 226-8109 for information or to obtain crafters table space.

Christmas opera

The Children's Ministry of New Hope Baptist Church will perform a free Christmas opera titled "FA LA LA MOOI" 6 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 17, at 33630 Michigan Avenue. Wayne. It is the story of Jesus' birth told from the animals' perspective. For more information, call Allyn Verbal at (734) 728-2180.

Children's choir

Present Leon (Noel spelled backwards) 6 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 18, at Bethel Baptist Temple, 29475 West Six Mile. Call (734) 525-3664.

Hanukkah party

12:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 20, held by Congregation Beit Kodesh Sisterhood. Lunch will be served, followed by a brief meeting. There will be games, prizes, music, Donations of toiletries requested for the needy. No charge for members. If interested in becoming a member of to RSVP, call (248) 477-8974. RSVP required by Dec. 14.

Coffeehouse

7-10 p.m. Friday, Dec. 23, an evening of relaxation and fun for singles, at Knox Hall, at Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church, 40000 Six Mile, Northville. Cost is \$5, includes snack, games, fellowship and specialty coffees Free Childcare. Call (248) 374-5920.

Christmas Eve service

Festive Holy Eucharist 6 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 24, at Episcopal Church of the Holy Spirit, 9083 Newburgh, Livonia. Guest organist Joan Haggard. Christmas Day Holy Eucharist at 10 a.m.

Family Hanukkah party

5 p.m. Monday, Dec. 26, at Congregation Beit Kodesh, 31840 West Seven Mile, Livonia. Dinner, music, games and prizes. Bring your family Menorah, candles will be provided. Cost is \$6 adults age 13 and up, \$3 ages 5-12, free for age 4 and under. Reservations required by Dec. 19. Call (248) 477-8974 or visit www.beitkodesh.org.

Friends in fellowship

Evening includes holiday dinner, Single Adult Ministries 2005 in Review show, entertainment by Keith Longbotham, punch reception at 6:30 p.m. followed by dinner at 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 30, in Knox Hall, at Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church, 40000 Six Mile, Northville. Cost is \$26 per person. Free Childcare. Call (248) 374-5920.

Series on Spiritual Principals

Continues 7 p.m. Wednesday to Jan. 4, at Unity of Livonia, 28660 Five Mile, between Middlebelt and Inkster. For more information, call (734) 421-1760.

ONGOING

Worship services

All are welcome to attend worship service at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, Five Mile and Inkster roads, Livonia. Service is held at 10 a.m. every Sunday with an education hour all for ages at 9 a.m. Call (734) 422-1470.

Fall Sunday services

8:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist, 9:30 a.m. Bible study, and 10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist and Sunday school, at Episcopal Church of the Holy Spirit, 9083 Newburgh, Livonia.

Unity of Livonia

Services 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. Sundays, at 28660 Five Mile, between Middlebelt and Inkster roads. Call (734) 421-1760.

Shabbat services

The doors of Congregation Beit Kodesh, a Conservative synagogue located at 31840 W. Seven Mile, between Farmington and Merriman, Livonia, are open to the Jewish community of southeastern Michigan. Call (248) 477-8974.

Bet Chaverim

Services are open to all living in the western counties including Canton, Plymouth, Livonia, and Northville. The congregation follows traditions of Reform Judaism. Interfaith families welcome to attend services at 321 S. Ridge, south of Cherry Hill, Canton. Call (734) 646-3864 for information or visit www.betchaverim.com.

Detroit World Outreach

A non-denominational church with cutting edge drama productions, energized contemporary music, high-tech video and lighting, programs for kids and teens, a great place for college students, singles, married adults and seniors. Services are 8 a.m. and 11 a.m. Sunday (6:30 p.m. the first Sunday of the month), Sunday school for all ages at 10 a.m. and Wednesdays at 9 a.m. and 7 p.m. Call (313) 255-2222

Trinity Episcopal Church

Sunday Services 8 a.m. and 10 a.m., Wednesday service 6:15 p.m. - Bible Studies and Worship Center for all ages, at 11575 Belleville Road, (four miles south of Michigan Avenue), Belleville. Parents with Young Children Bible Study 6 p.m. Sundays, includes dinner and child care. Call (734) 699-3361.

Shabbat Rocks

A musical celebration precedes traditional Shabbat service once a month at Adat Shalom Synagogue, 29901 Middlebelt in Farmington Hills. For more information, call (248) 851-5100 or visit the Web site at www.adat-shalom.org.

English classes

Conversational English as a Second Language classes are being offered for adults of all ages and backgrounds 7 p.m. Monday and Tuesday, at Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church, 14175 Farmington Road, Livonia. Tutors will work on a one-to-one ratio to help students better understand and speak the English language. No charge. To register, call (734) 525-0191 or (734) 522-6830.

Scripture from scratch

If you've always wanted to learn about the Bible from square one, here's square one 7-8:30 p.m. Thursdays in the Activity Center at St. Aidan Catholic Church, 17500 Farmington Road, Livonia. Call (734) 425-5950 to register.

Sunday school

Congregation Beit Kodesh (31840 Seven Mile, between Farmington and Merriman, Livonia) is registering children, age 4 and up, for Sunday school. Financial assistance available. Special discounts for new members. For more information, call (248) 477-8974.

Services

St. John Lutheran Church (23225 Gill Road, Farmington Hills) invites the community to a new worship service 5:30 p.m. Saturdays. Also, Sunday traditional worship services are 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m.; contemporary service is at 9:50 a.m.; and Sunday School hour for

all ages is at 9:45 a.m. Call (248) 474-0584 for more information.

Single Point Ministries

For ages 30 and older, join more than 350 single adults 11:30 a.m. Sundays for fellowship and related topics in Knox Hall at Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church, 40000 Six Mile, Northville. Coffee, doughnuts; conversations are present. Call (248) 374-5920. Tennis continues 1 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays, and 4 p.m. Tuesdays at Rotary Park, Six Mile and Hubbard, Livonia.

Bible talks

4 p.m. Sundays, at the Friendship Center, 1119 Newburgh, Westland. Call (734) 728-9157.

Worship services

All are welcome to attend worship services 10 a.m. Sundays at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, Five Mile and Inkster roads, Livonia. For more information, call (734) 422-1470.

The Gap

A new youth Sunday School (God Always Present) at Garden City Presbyterian Church, 1841 Middlebelt, south of Ford Road. Lessons are taught using various media, computers, story telling, games, cooking, music and art, and a small theater complete with popcorn making machine. Adult Bible study at 8:30 a.m. with a traditional service and The Gap at 10 a.m. Child care available. Mustard Seed contemporary service at 6 p.m. with refreshments served afterward. Call (734) 421-7620.

Qigong

The ancient form of Chinese energetic medicine. A safe and effective way to rid body of toxic pathogens and years of painful emotions. Learn the art of natural movement and breath to cultivate vital life energy. Classes at Livonia Unity, 28660 Five Mile. Monday - movement Qigong, 7-8:30 p.m.; Thursday - Qigong meditation 10-11:15 a.m., and Friday - Therapeutic Qigong, 7-8:30 p.m. Call (810) 813-4073 for more information or send e-mail to gary@energeticarts.org.

Worship services

8 a.m. and 11 a.m. Sundays with an education hour 9:30-10:40 a.m., at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 37775 Palmer, Westland. Social hour follows each service. Call (734) 722-1735.

Detroit World Outreach

Nondenominational church with cutting edge drama productions, contemporary-energized music, high-tech video and lighting, relevant life-changing messages, ministries for all ages; services times are 8 a.m., 10:45 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. Sunday (Sunday school for all ages at 9:30 a.m., junior high serves for grades six-eight at 10:45 a.m.), Wednesday services 8:45 a.m. and 7 p.m. (Family Night), and service for ages 18-28 at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday at 23800 W. Chicago, Redford. Call (313) 255-2222 or visit www.way-ofvictory.com.

Worship services

All are welcome to attend worship services 10 a.m. Sunday at Church of Our Saviour, Presbyterian, 6655 Middlebelt, West Bloomfield. For more information, call (248) 626-7606.

Aerobic class

Trinity Church of the Brethren, 27350 W. Chicago at Inkster, is offering a Women's Low Impact Aerobic Class to the community every Monday and Wednesday at 7 p.m. in the church basement. To participate in this cost-free, 30-minute class, wear comfortable exercise attire (floor mats optional). For more information, call the church office, (313) 937-1199.

Bible studies

Led by C. Jack Brinkman 8-9 p.m. Thursdays, at the Birmingham YMCA, 400 E. Lincoln. Brinkman wrote the book *The Word of God: Jesus Christ*. Part of the proceeds from book sales go to the YMCA.

Community Bible study

Studying the Book of Proverbs, breakfast 7 a.m. or Bible study 8-9 a.m. at the American Table, Eight Mile, Farmington. Come when you can, leave when you must. For more information, call (248) 924-2779.

Contemporary service

New informal service in a casual environment 6 p.m. Sunday, at Garden City Presbyterian Church, 1841 Middlebelt, south of Ford. Fellowship hour after services including 10 a.m. traditional. Call (734) 421-7620.

Trinity Episcopal Church

Sunday worship 8 a.m. and 10 a.m., Bible studies Sundays at 8:50 a.m. and Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m., at the church 11575 Belleville Road, four miles south of Michigan Avenue, Belleville. Call (734) 699-3361.

Support group

Provides spiritual, social and educational support for divorced and separated Catholic men and women 7:30-9:30 p.m. the first Wednesday of the month, at St. Andrew's Parish Center, 1400 Englewood, Rochester. For information, call (248) 652-9173 or (248) 652-3860.

New contemporary service

9 a.m. on the last Sunday of the month, at Rosedale Gardens Presbyterian Church, 9601 Hubbard, Livonia. A group of church members present a short drama on a theme relevant to the season, a church event, or current newsworthy situation. For more information, call (734) 422-0494.

Passages

Obituaries, Memorials, Remembrances

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e-mail: OEObits@oe.homecomm.net

GEORGE REMICK LIBBY, JR.

December 3, 2005 Age 90 Husband of the late Maxine Dear father of Robert (Jan). Loving grandfather of Sharon Vlasak (Dean) and Bret (Tessa) Great grandfather of Emily, John and Grace. Also survived by 5 brothers and sisters. Funeral services were held at A.J. Desmond & Sons (Vasu, Rodgers & Connell Chapel), 32515 Woodward Ave. Royal Oak. In lieu of flowers memorials to Alzheimer's Assoc or MI Humane Society. View obituary and share memories at: www.DesmondFuneralHome.com

RENE J. COLTON

Age 43. Suddenly December 4, 2005. Beloved wife of Mark. Loving mother of Kandice, Benjamin, Travis and Dale. Dearest daughter of Richard Hale and Ilene Markley. Dear sister of Sherry Bonnell and David Hale. Cousin of Debbie Keller. Rene worked for Godiva Chocolates. Visitation at R.G. & G.R. Harris Funeral Home, 31551 Ford Road, Garden City, Wednesday from 1:00 to 9:00 P.M. and Thursday from 10:00 A.M. until the funeral service at 1:00 P.M. Please sign the online guest book at www.rgrgharris.com.

TOBIN MORBACH

Age 50, passed away on Tuesday, November 29, 2005. Tobin moved to Plant City from West Bloomfield, MI, he worked at James Ranch and was a member of St. Clement Catholic Church. In October of 2005, Tobin was elevated to 4th Degree by the Knights of Columbus. In West Bloomfield, he was employed by Sign of the Beef Carver for almost 10 years. He received many awards and was loved by those who knew him and worked with him. Throughout his life, Tobin had a zest for family, church and sports. Where his brothers and sisters went, Tobin was always with them. Survivors include his parents: Donald and Margaret Morbach, his brothers and sisters: Anthony of Adrian, MI, Terrence and his wife Patricia of Racine, WI, Timothy and his wife Jean of Northville, MI, Thomas and his wife Connie of Troy, MI, Theodore and his wife Nicole of McDonough, GA, Theresa and her husband Thomas Angott II of W. Bloomfield, MI, Tina and her husband Todd Nagaitis of Cumming, GA, Tamara and her husband David White of Royal Oak, MI. Memorial Mass will be on Saturday at St. Colmans Church 10:00 A.M., 32500 Middlebelt Road. Please mail condolences to Don and Mickey Morbach, 378 Grandiflora Drive, McDonough, GA 30253. Donation may be made to LifePath Hospice, Attention: Donations Department, 3725 Upper Creek Drive, Ruskin, FL 33573. Wells Memorial Funeral Home, Lacey McClellan & Staff 813-752-1111. Interment will be in Southfield, MI at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery.

JACK H. CARR

Age 98 Died November 29, 2005 Husband of Ruth H Carr Cousin, Mrs Barbara Livy of Bloomfield Hills Retired from Firestone Tire and Rubber Co; Industrial Products Division. Member of Birmingham Senior Men's Club and active with Intergenerational Program of BASSC. Memorial service, St. Luke's Chapel, Canterbury On The Lake, 5601 Hatchery Rd., Waterford Twp., Saturday, January 14, 2006, at 2:00 p.m. Tributes to Hospice of Michigan, Oakland Team. Arrangements, Wm. R. Hamilton Co. 1-248-644-6000

MARGARET MACIK

Age 56, December 4, 2005. Loving mother of William Jr. and Elizabeth Macik. Former wife of William Macik, Sr. Dear sister of Delphine Christensen, Bernadine Markja, JoAnn Nash, Charlene Sargent, Joseph, Frank, and Charles Sorentino Jr., Cynthia Hill, Claudia Manuszak, and Norita Sullivan. A Memorial Mass will be held at St. Kenneth Catholic Church, 14951 Haggerty, Plymouth, Saturday, December 10, 2005, at 11am, followed by a luncheon with the family. Donations, in lieu of flowers, to Pancreatic Cancer Action Network (www.pancan.org or 877-272-6226). Cremation Society of Michigan, 313-839-4100 in charge of arrangements. Please sign online guestbook at www.cremationmichigan.com

LOUISE G. BAUGHMAN

Age 88, of Green Lake, passed away Friday, Nov. 18, 2005, at Munson Hospice House in Traverse City. Louise was born in Northville on July 17, 1917, the daughter of Charles and Hattie (Timyan) Peck. She married Keith D. Baughman Nov. 5, 1946, in Plymouth. Louise served as a pilot in the WASPS during World War II and co-owned a private plane following her military service. Louise and her husband lived in the Plymouth area for 35 years prior to moving to Interlochen to enjoy their retirement. Before her marriage, Louise was a hairdresser, operating her own salon. She was a member of the First Presbyterian Church of Plymouth. She enjoyed working crossword puzzles, playing computer solitaire and feeding the birds. Her other hobbies included sewing, crafting afghans and hooking rugs. Survivors include her daughter, Linda (Rev. William) Alderman Koch of Rogers City; grandchildren, Marc (Dede) Alderman of Interlochen and Lara (Jeff) Kelley of Vancouver, British Columbia; a great-granddaughter, Sienna Grace Kelley; step grandchildren, Shan (Todd) Bowns of Battle Creek, Maya (Jeff) Kassab of Traverse City and Chay (Holly) Gray of Grawn; step great-grandchildren, Mkenzi Bowns, Carter Kassab and Nadia Gray; and several nieces and nephews. Louise was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Keith; and daughter, Lisa. A celebration of Louise's life will be held in the spring. Interment of her cremated remains will take place in Grant Township Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be directed to Munson Hospice House, 1105 Sixth St., Traverse City, MI 49684. The family was served by The Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home, Traverse City. You may sign Louise's on-line guest book at: www.reynolds-jonkhoff.com.

EILEEN FRANCES LITTLE

Age 89, December 4, 2005 Westland (formerly of Belleville) Arrangements: David C. Brown Funeral Home, Belleville, 734-697-4500



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974-3444
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Sunday Eve. Bible Study 6:00 PM
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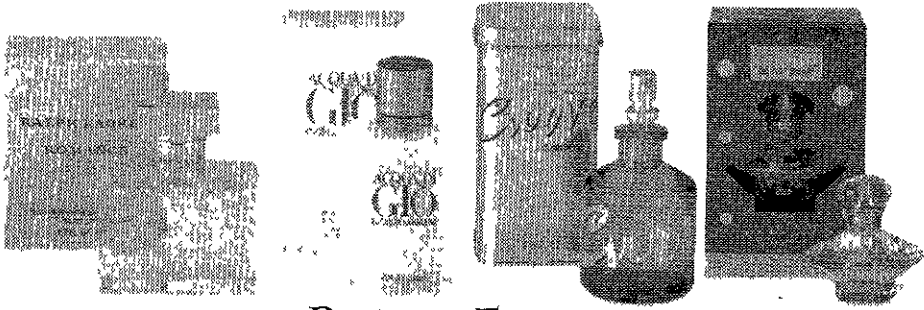
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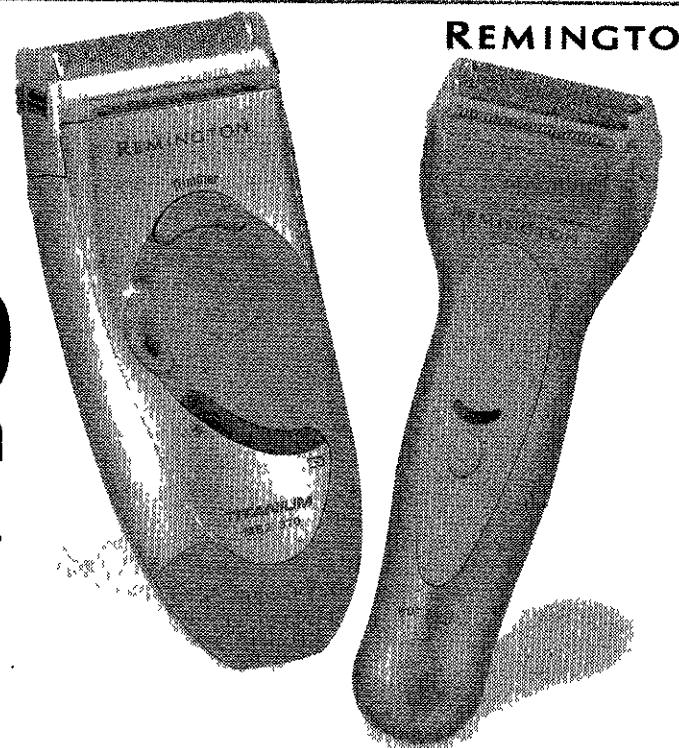
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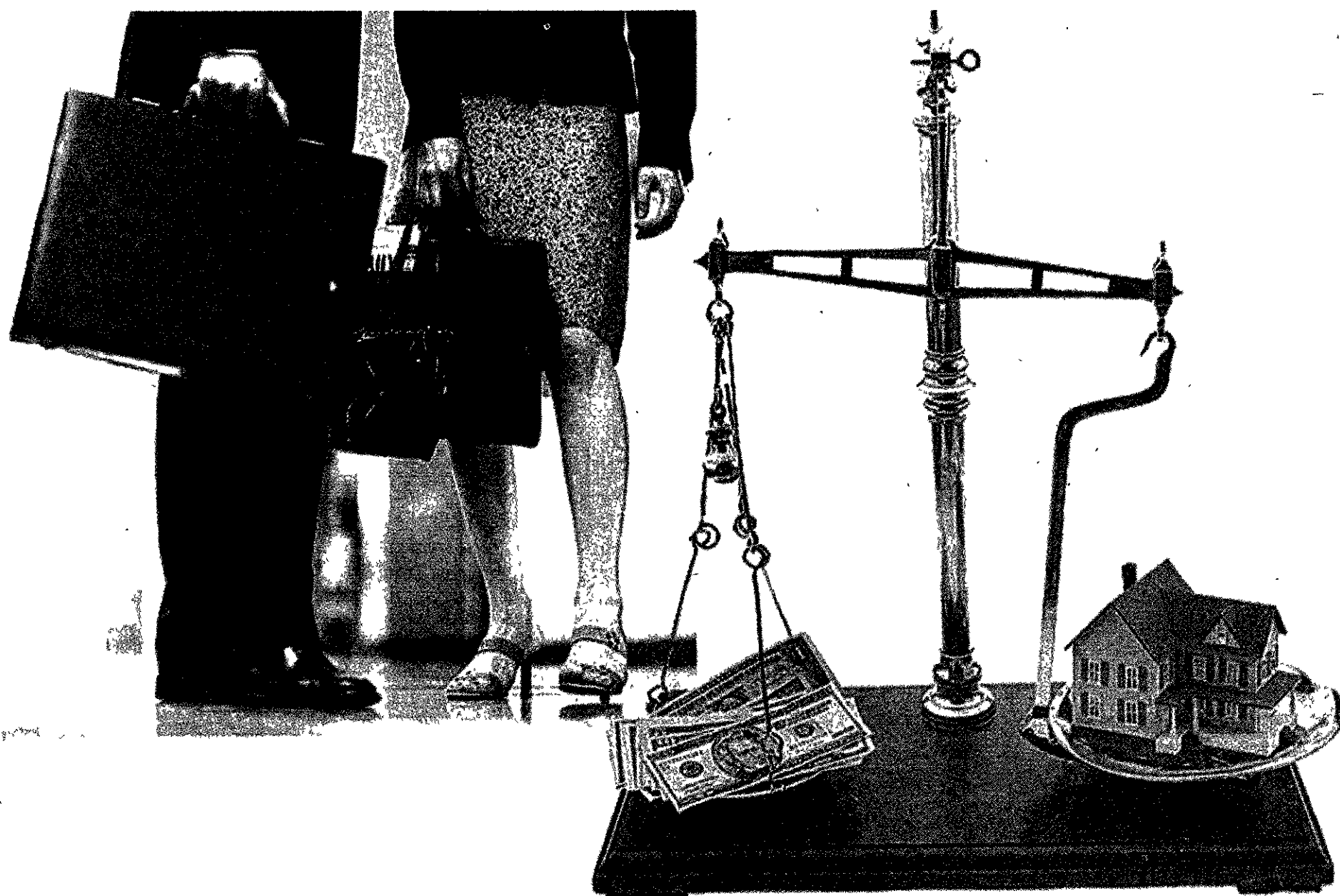
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Equal credit laws: Know your rights

BY JULIE BROWN
STAFF WRITER

There was a time years ago when a married woman, despite a respectable income, couldn't get a department store credit card in her name. These days, laws protect women and others from discrimination in credit decisions ranging from charge cards to mortgages.

The October 1974 Equal Credit Opportunity Act prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, gender, marital status, religion, age, national origin or receipt of public assistance. "Any type of credit," said attorney Mark McConnell of the Westland firm Angelo Plakas and Associates.

He's found people generally assume there are laws protecting them from such discrimination. McConnell doesn't see a lot of such complaints in his practice, but noted those complaints are subject to redress by regulating agencies.

"It's stuff that's regulated by the federal government," he said. "Obviously, it's cheaper that way" than hiring an attorney.

"I would say the majority of people do know they have their rights," said Mary McGaw, assistant vice president for LaSalle Home Lending. She finds women, for example, generally want to establish credit in their own name.

"They definitely want to have credit," McGaw said. "They want to be established as an individual."

Attorney Steve Bernstein, who practices in Farmington Hills, finds most clients know they have certain legal protections when it comes to credit.

"I think that most people are aware that there are laws that prohibit discrimination," he said. "I think they know they're entitled to equal consideration in credit transactions."

People may not know legal specifics, Bernstein said, but do know generalities. He recommends that women have credit established on their own, regardless of their marital situation.

"I think women should have credit in their own name. What if something happens?" Even if it's just being able to get a car fixed or check into a hotel, having your own credit helps.

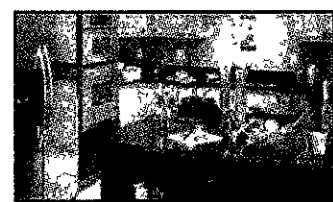
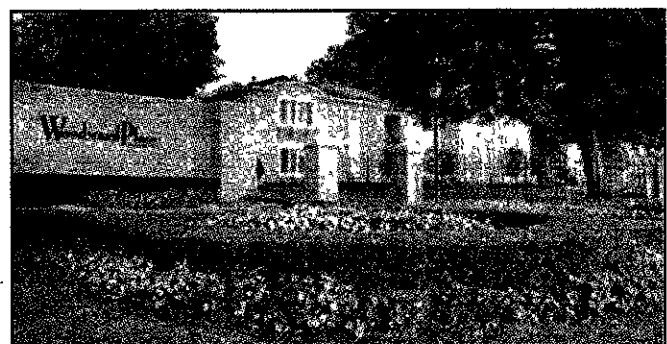
"They know about credit in their own name," he said.

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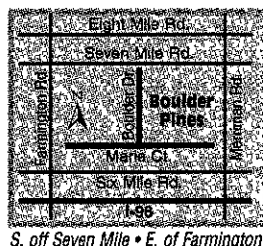
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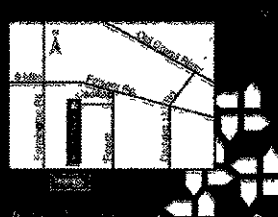
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HOMES SOLD IN OAKLAND COUNTY

These are the Observer & Eccentric area residential real-estate closings recorded the week of Aug.15-19, 2005 at the Oakland County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices:

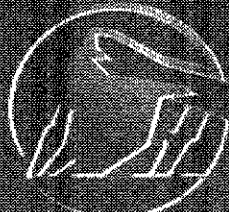
Auburn Hills			Beverly Hills		
4278 Arcadia	\$420,000		16244 Buckingham	\$228,000	
873 Chase Way	\$315,000		16313 Buckingham	\$235,000	
3030 Debra	\$130,000		3100 Downing	\$381,000	
186 Hillfield	\$11,000		16920 Kinross	\$269,000	
3969 Hillsdale	\$335,000		16280 Locherbie	\$300,000	
3366 Nichols	\$149,000		18120 Locherbie	\$265,000	
5335 Rohr	\$160,000		Birmingham		
388 Vista	\$200,000		500 Bloomfield	\$269,000	
158 Vista	\$184,000		1981 Bradford	\$236,000	
2715 Williamsburg	\$163,000		1245 Derby	\$133,000	
			2056 Dorchester	\$252,000	
			2109 Dorchester	\$275,000	
			2616 Dorchester	\$236,000	
			1253 E Lincoln	\$500,000	
			1067 Emmons	\$650,000	
			1645 Hanley	\$291,000	
			1637 Hazel	\$256,000	

37255 Chesapeake	\$350,000	3772 Orion	\$180,000
31166 Country Bluff	\$147,000	3444 Tremonte	\$195,000
38917 Country	\$150,000	Orchard Lake	
24650 De Phillipe	\$248,000	5860 Pontiac	\$12,000
27401 Elsworth	\$240,000	Rochester	
30638 Knighton	\$379,000	503 First	\$318,000
31173 Misty Pines	\$187,000	140 Albertson	\$246,000
23987 Noble	\$259,000	1048 Churchill	\$245,000
30414 Orchard Lake	\$130,000	1964 Dunham	\$338,000
27875 Peppermill	\$200,000	2007 Dunham	\$520,000
22265 Purdue	\$182,000	827 Garnet	\$333,000
21690 River Ridge	\$262,000	1398 Ross	\$435,000
21945 River Ridge	\$210,000	1216 Sycamore	\$214,000
28738 Rockledge	\$300,000	1911 Watson	\$504,000
27991 Rollcrest	\$120,000	1418 Welland	\$432,000
21777 Sheffield	\$415,000	647 Wyngate	\$410,000
22220 Shrewsbury	\$229,000	Southfield	
24894 Todd	\$324,000	27726 Aberdeen	\$205,000
21844 Tulane	\$165,000	20870 Andover	\$200,000
35756 Ticksburg	\$293,000	23280 Brandywyne	\$177,000
28706 W Nine Mile	\$125,000	25802 Briarbank	\$165,000
21230 Waldron	\$118,000	19675 Butternut	\$242,000
27804 Westcott Crescent	\$246,000	29145 Candlewood	\$155,000
27860 Weymouth	\$900,000	24319 Connecticut	\$385,000
21816 Whittington	\$108,000	29117 E Chanticleer	\$245,000
Lathrup Village		27309 Everett	\$195,000
27440 Evergreen	\$99,000	29592 Fairfax	\$110,000
27245 Lathrup	\$260,000	18860 Filmore	\$257,000
Oakland Township		22639 Glastonbury Gate	\$255,000
4073 Calumet	\$426,000	20930 Harvard	\$235,000
1280 Harmon	\$250,000	24535 Lathrup	\$127,000
96 Indianside	\$405,000	24482 Lee Baker	\$175,000
3649 Mountain Laurel	\$685,000	20506 Mada	\$149,000
1641 N Rochester	\$220,000	21340 Mada	\$108,000
4127 Oak Tree	\$577,000	17299 Magnolia	\$189,000
3530 Oakmonte	\$183,000	19362 Melrose	\$155,000

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1st National Bank in Howell	(517) 545-2207	8.25	2	5.75	2	J/A	Golden Rule Mortgage	(800) 991-9922	5.5	2	1.25	5	1.875	J/A/V/F
A Best Financial Corp.	(800) 839-6919	5.5	0	4.675	0	J/A	Guarantor Mortgage	(800) 754-1074	5.675	0	5.675	0	5.675	J/A/V/F
AAXA Discount Mortgage	(877) 728-3569	6	0	5.625	0	J/A	Group One Mortgage	(734) 953-4000	6.375	0	6	0	0	J/A/V/F
AFI Financial	(877) 254-0600	5.875	0	5.375	0	J/A	Norfolk Finance of America	(800) 368-5626	6	0	5.5	0	5.5	J/A
America's Premiere Mortgage	(800) 585-8730	6	0	5.625	0	J/A/V/F	Horizon Financial Group	(866) 538-7887	6	1	5.5	1	J/A	
American Plus Mortgage Corp.	(248) 740-2323	5.95	0	5.625	0	J/A	JMC Mortgage Corp.	(248) 489-4020	5.75	0	5.25	0	J/A	
Bay Pointe Mortgage Corp.	(248) 652-3598	NR	NR	NR	NR	J/A/V	Keystone Mortgage	(866) 539-3733	5.5	2.5	5.25	2	J/A	
Brighthouse Commercial Bank	(810) 226-8344	5	0	5.625	0	J/A	LeSalle Bank Midwest	(800) 496-3600	5	0	5.625	0	J/A/V/F	
Brinks Goldstar Mortgage	(800) 785-4765	5.75	1	5.5	1	J/A/V/F	Lira Financial	(586) 228-0900	6	0	5.5	0	J/A/V/F	
Capital Mortgage Funding	(248) 659-7260	5	2.25	5.625	2	J/A/F	Macomber, Schorrie & Co. C.U. (866) 203-8600	5.75	0	5.25	0	J/A		
Captiva Group Mortgage Co.	(248) 682-8643	6	0	5.625	0	J/A	Mainstreet Mortgage	(800) 900-1313	6.125	0	5.75	0	J/A/V/F	
Centerbrook Mortgage	(248) 851-1130	6	0	5.625	0	J/A	Manufacturers	(586) 777-0000	5.75	1	5.25	0	J/A	
Charter One Bank	(800) 342-5336	6.625	0	6.125	0	J/A/V/F	Mortgages by Golden Rule	(800) 991-9922	5.75	0	5.25	1	J/A/V/F	
Client Services by Golden Rule	(800) 569-5893	5.825	1.5	5.125	1.5	J/A/V/F	National City Bank	(866) 925-0225	6	1	5.5	1	875	J/A
Co-op Services Credit Union	(734) 466-6113	6	2	5.5	2	J	Northlawn Financial	(248) 988-8488	6	0	5.625	0	J/A/V/F	
Continuity Bank of Dearborn	(734) 981-0022	6.25	0	5.675	0	J/A	Pathway Financial LLC	(800) 720-2274	6	0	5.5	0	J/A/V	
Credit Union One	(800) 544-5567	6.375	0	6	0	J/A	Peoples Mortgage	(800) 730-5087	5.875	0	3.75	5.5	0.5	J/A
Dearborn Fed. Savings Bank	(313) 565-3100	6.25	0	5.675	0	J/A	Premiere Mortgage Funding	(248) 656-2630	6	0	5.75	0	J/A	
DFCU Financial	(800) 739-2770	6	2	5.5	2	J/A	Prime Financial Group	(248) 203-7010	6	0	5.5	0	J/A/V/F	
eREDF.com	www.eREDF.com	5.95	0	5.625	0	J/F	Shore Mortgage	(800) 978-6823	5.5	0	5	3	5	J/A/V/F
Fifth Third Bank	(800) 792-8830	6.375	0	6	0	J/V/F	Sterling Bank & Trust	(800) 926-5626	6.25	0	5.875	0	J/F	
First Alliance Mortgage Co.	(800) 262-7367	6.25	0	5.675	0	J/A/V/F	United Mortgage Group	(866) 286-8500	6	0	5.5	0	J/A	
First International Inc.	(248) 259-1584	6	0	5.625	0	J/A	York Financial Inc.	(888) 839-9675	6	0	5.625	0	J/A	

Above information available as of 12/6/05 and subject to change at anytime. Rates are based on \$150,000 loan with 20% down. Jumbo rates, ARM rates, specific payment calculations and most current rates available Fridays after 2:00 P.M. at www.mcreport.com. All participating lenders are Equal Housing Lenders. Key to "Other". Column - J = Jumbo, A = Armis, V = VA, F = FHA, R = Reverse Mtg. and NR = Not Reported. © Copyright 2005 Residential Mortgage Consultants, Inc., All Rights Reserved



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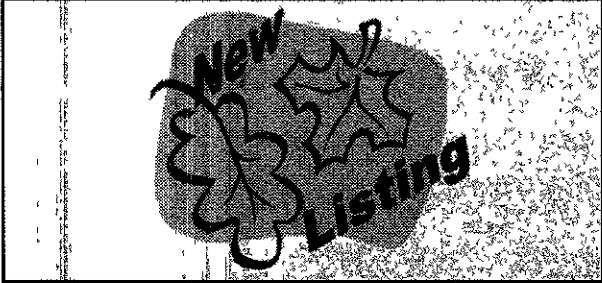
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CANTON RARE OPPORTUNITY! Located deep in sub & backs to commons & nature! Recent updates incl kitchen, baths, windows, carpeting, roof, sprinklers, deck & more! Excellent fin bsmt! Enjoy the all-sports municipal park close by! \$225,900 (25173367REC) 248-324-3800



CANTON Best condo deal in town! 2 bedrooms, 2 full & 1 half baths. Cathedral ceiling in LR. Large kitchen, FP, ceramic tile, Berber carpet, full basement, lots of closet space, 2 car garage, 1st floor laundry. Backs to woods for privacy. Patio & deck! \$199,000 (25140869PRE) 248-324-3800



WESTLAND You will be not disappointed! Newer roof, furnace, HOT WATER HEATER, vinyl siding, windows, neutral carpeting, paint & wonderfully finished basement w/possible 4th bdrm/office. Brick patio w/fire pit in back yard. \$149,900 (25131670HAZ) 248-324-3800



PLYMOUTH Gorgeous Plymouth Township Estate! Beautiful lot w/waterfall backs to acres of commons. Gourmet kitchen with granite & walk-in pantry. High efficiency dual HVAC & C/A. Beautifully finished walkout LOWER LEVEL w/2 natural fireplaces. \$544,000 (25157476HOW) 248-324-3800



WESTLAND Beautiful East facing home on gorgeous 200' wooded lot. Nicely landscaped, vaulted ceiling in great room, open kitchen w/oak cabinets, natural fireplace. Large master bdrm w/full bath. Textured walls throughout. 1 Year Warranty. \$209,900 (25134066MAR) 248-324-3800



LIVONIA Priced for quick sale! 3 bdrm ranch won't last! Immaculate condition. Large kit w/breakfast nook. Hardwood floors. Neutral carpeting. Stone & brick patio overlooking pool. Backyard great for entertaining. \$176,000 (25139397OLS) 248-324-3800



LIVONIA Nestled in the heart of the Laurel Park District! Updated kitchen & baths, all appliances included. Delightful screened porch w/ panoramic view. \$139,900 (25035040UNI) 248-547-2000



PLYMOUTH TWP Magnificent model home in Plymouth commons on premium lot w/nature preserve. Granite island kitchen, custom tile, vaulted ceilings, grand master suite w/private dressing & bathing area 5-star home! \$476,900 (25166819HOW) 248-851-4400



LIVONIA Picture perfect condo! Over \$13,000 in upgrades. Sophisticated, modern, open & airy. Hardwood & ceramic flooring, crown moldings, top quality appliances, surround sound system & more. Highly desired Livonia Schools! \$204,000 (25165254FAR) 248-324-3800



LIVONIA ranch with newer roof and windows features a sunken family room and warm fireplace that opens up onto a terrific 3 season sun porch. Finished basement w/ bar and 1/2 bath, fenced yard, 2 car attached garage. \$169,900 (25162589PAT) 248-324-3800



CANTON LEASE Newer construction ranch condo overlooking Fellows Creek golf course! Great open floor plan, private entry, end unit. Master ste w/huge bath & WIC. 1st floor laundry, attached direct entry 2 car garage. All appliances included! \$1,400/mo (25145074ARC) 248-647-6400

24730 Mulberry	\$243,000
18947 Nadol	\$200,000
22495 Nancy	\$157,000
15629 Pennsylvania	\$212,000
21224 Poinciana	\$56,000
22301 Providence	\$158,000
17281 Revere	\$226,000
23575 Rockingham	\$211,000
20193 Rodeo	\$155,000
28552 San Marino	\$213,000
20854 W Eight Mile	\$175,000
18652 Webster	\$202,000
Sylvan Lake	
2349 Maplewood	\$129,000
Troy	
2219 Academy	\$235,000
2256 Alexander	\$190,000
2260 Atlas	\$244,000
1980 Axtell	\$119,000
1775 Brentwood	\$178,000
3135 Camden	\$283,000
2180 Camelot	\$239,000
5300 Capri	\$470,000
106 Chopin	\$149,000
2791 Continental	\$270,000
850 Hartland	\$177,000
3151 Helena	\$205,000
3322 Jasper	\$214,000
1197 Kinlock	\$352,000
914 Muer	\$228,000
3765 Old Creek	\$166,000
3894 Old Creek	\$153,000
2216 Paris	\$177,000
1042 Prosper	\$359,000
4962 Rivers Edge	\$432,000
2026 Stratford	\$140,000
2069 W Wattles	\$284,000
1760 Westwood	\$152,000
West Bloomfield	
2056 Allendale	\$350,000
6466 Aspen Ridge	\$230,000
5155 Bantry	\$227,000
6670 Buckland	\$184,000
6691 Canby	\$738,000
4995 Cherry Blossom	\$443,000
4900 Fairway Ridge	\$580,000
4154 Fallow	\$170,000
6187 Forest	\$282,000
3794 Green Lake	\$220,000
7493 Kennington	\$530,000
5205 Latimer	\$315,000
5205 Latimer	\$575,000
7993 Linda	\$206,000
6874 Maple Creek	\$728,000
6905 Meadowfield	\$120,000
7147 Michigan	\$116,000
4366 Muirhead	\$185,000
3515 Oakleaf	\$473,000
5120 Old	\$250,000
5518 Perrytown	\$279,000
2571 Pine Ridge	\$246,000
4450 Savoir	\$381,000
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6042 Simsbury	\$450,000
1756 Stauch	\$330,000
3333 Timber Crest	\$550,000
5528 Victoria	\$535,000
5484 Walnut Knoll	\$280,000
6180 Wyndford	\$244,000

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You can rebuild credit

A mortgage client of mine recently complained that credit repositories were unfairly harsh with their credit scoring. She and her husband had 20 years of exceptional credit, then recently some minor financial hiccups. The result: Their credit scores tumbled over 100 points.

Unfortunately, their situation is not uncommon. However, it does expose an important aspect of credit scoring formulae. Though actual calculations are a closely guarded industry secret, I estimate that a credit user's most recent 12 months of activity are weighted at least twice as heavily in the credit scoring calculations as are the previous 12 months. And that previous 12-month history is weighted about twice as much as the five years prior to it.

The good news: Credit users can aggressively re-establish their credit scores within a year or so, even if they are fresh out of a bankruptcy or a foreclosure. Here are the basic steps.

First, remove old, obsolete or erroneous derogatory information from your credit report either by yourself or with professional help.



Timothy Phillips

Next, bring existing judgments or collections current and try to pay off the balances. (I find it beneficial to have a professional negotiate reduced payoffs for high balances, especially if scores are very low.)

Once you have mitigated the number and severity of negative entries to your credit report, you can then begin to rebuild. If you have any remaining open, active credit lines, treat them like gold. If you need to open new credit lines, you can sign up for secured credit cards online (see below) or at your local bank. Charge only a single \$10-\$20 item on each of three credit cards and then nothing else. Make the minimum payments on those cards on time for at least six months. Do not pay them off and do not run up the balances.

Today's TIMBIT! For better or

for worse, your most recent credit activity has a much stronger impact on your credit scores than does your older credit history. In a year's time, you should be able to improve your credit score by about 100 points. For more detailed information, visit www.USCreditAcademy.com.

Timothy Phillips is a mortgage banker and newspaper columnist. Visit www.PhillipsHQ.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.

Good time of year to add festive touch

Peeking out a window may provide all the inspiration you need this holiday season. Bringing outdoor accents into the home is a simple way to add a sense of calm to what inevitably becomes a very busy time of year. Natural elements can be incorporated into any decorating style whether you prefer a rich, traditional theme or a fun, whimsical look.

It wouldn't be the holidays without a touch of shimmer and shine. Mimic the glisten of sun rays on icicles with a metallic spray paint on bare branches, or a grapevine wreath. Embellish your houseplants by placing traditional glass ball ornaments in or around them. Grouping candles on or near reflective surfaces

evokes a sense of warmth and wonder throughout the home.

Decking the halls with live greenery is always a beautiful choice, but the lack of time often leaves us in store aisles searching for authentic-looking replicas—and, lucky for us, today's offerings are hard to distinguish from the real thing. Artificial berry wreaths and pre-lit trees can be adorned with genuine natural elements like curly willow branches and pine cones for a close-to-authentic experience. Imitation fruit adds a fresh touch to wreaths and mantle displays or can be just the right choice to live up to a centerpiece.

Indulging the senses is the final touch in creating the per-

fect holiday experience. Start with the warm glow of a crackling fire. Dim the lights and use spruce-scented candles or cinnamon potpourri to fill the air with the aroma of nature. Hanging sleigh bells on a door adds a sense of charm with a jingle reminiscent of old. And the pleasing sounds of wind chimes strike the perfect melody to spread holiday joy.

This is the time of year when nostalgia fuses with the creation of new traditions. So whether you gather decor al fresco or shop for authentic reproductions, let Mother Nature's exterior decorating experience be your guide.

For more on holiday decorating ideas, visit www.lowes.com online.

Birmingham 248-644-6300
Plymouth 734-455-6000
Rochester 248-651-5500
West Bloomfield 248-851-5500

WEIR MANUEL REALTORS



NOVI
\$349,900
Excellent location in Chase Farms back to protected woods. Transom windows & 12" ceiling in living room & formal dining room. Gourmet kitchen updated with granite. Built-ins in library. Fun basement. 734-455-6000 LP60W11-25152304



PLYMOUTH
\$239,900
Gorgeous Lake Pointe quad. Immediate occupancy - move in condition for this 4 bedroom 2 bath Plymouth quad. 1 formal living room and dining room, huge family room with fireplace and fin. basement. 734-455-6000 LP46AM-25163688



LIVONIA
\$189,900
Walk to Hines Park! Brick ranch on almost 1/2 acre. Spacious living & dining room. Retro eat-in kitchen. Knotty pine 3rd bedroom or den w/powder room. Sunroom overlooks huge fenced yard. 734-455-6000 LP81S1-25150242



LIVONIA
\$177,900
\$9500 1st closing cost! Livonia Estates low traffic street. 3 bedroom ranch move in condition. Family room in professionally finished basement. 3 season room w/better. Numerous updates. 734-455-6000 LP85L-25160180

OPEN SATURDAY 1-4PM



45516 GLENGARRY
S OF CHERRY HILL, W OF CANTON CENTER
CANTON \$400,000
A great home in a golf course community and 1 year family membership at the Summit Center. Don't wait to preview this 3213 sq.ft. home built in 1999. Enjoy fantastic master bedroom suite. Huge 30 ft kitchen. 734-455-6000 LP16GI-25170255

OPEN SATURDAY 1-4PM



24617 ENCHANTED
S OF 10 MILE, E OF BECK
NOVI \$249,000
Great ranch condo nestled within complex. Good size rooms. Freshly painted throughout. Fireplace in great room. Flat in kitchen. All appliances stay including washer & dryer & microwave. Neutral decor. 734-455-6000 LP171N-25090417

OPEN SATURDAY 1-4PM



9302 LOUISIANA
S OF PLYMOUTH, E OF FARMINGTON
LIVONIA \$179,000
Updated ranch in desirable state street area. Great mix of character and updates. Cove ceiling in living room. Hardwood under carpeting. Updated kitchen & bathroom. 734-455-6000 LP021C-25173154

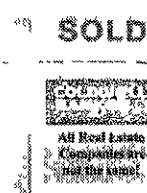


NORTHVILLE
\$164,900
Reduced - great buy! Spacious 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath condo with fireplace in living room, dining room w/wet bar, partially finished basement, large master bedroom with bath and walk in closet. All appliances. 734-455-6000 LP51GL-25130194

For a complete list of open houses and more than 30,000 listings visit www.weirmanuel.com

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PREFERRED, REALTORS

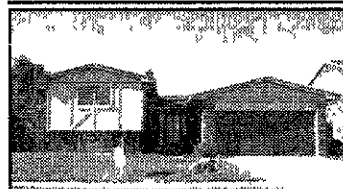


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CANT HOLD A CANDLE Whatever you've seen doesn't compare with this stunning 4 bdrm., 1.5 ba. home. New oak kitchen, new carpet, new windows, new furnace & roof. Updated baths, relaxing fireplace and so much more. \$209,900 or \$1,450 per month (P-205BF)



CAPTIVATING CANTON CONDO Where can you find new construction @ this incredibly low price? Quality built, still time to choose your own colors & other options. Open floor plan w/volume ceilings, master suite w/bath featuring garden tub, all appliances, hardwoods, & easy to finish 9 ft ceiling bsmt. \$209,900 (C-508GL)



SHINED TO PERFECTION Look no further! This fantastic Canton ranch features an open floor plan, spacious Great room w/cath ceiling & gas fp. Formal Dining Room, eat-in Kitchen w/views of backyard, Master suite w/bath, 1st floor laundry w/built in cabinets, fin bsmt w/dance studio, rec area, hobby room, & lots of storage. Perfect for holiday entertaining! \$244,900 (P-656RI)



QUALITY CONDO Moderately priced best describes this covered entry home w/loads of trimmings. 9ft ceilings, autumn maple crowned cabinets in culinary kitchen, engineered floors, 9 ft ceiling bsmt w/egress window, 13x12 raised deck, 1st floor laundry, & all major appliances. \$209,900 (C-484GL)



UNEXPECTED FIND Move in & enjoy 3 bd, 3.5 bath home w/grand entry & soaring ceilings that flow into spacious GR w/fp & built-ins. Gourmet kit w/designer cabs, granite c-tops, cer flrs, built in appl & nook 1st floor mstr suite w/volume ceilings, WIC, & glamour bath w/oversized soaking tub. Meticulously landscaped yard backing to protected woodlands. \$449,900 (P-837ST)



CLEAN CONTEMPORARY Beautifully landscaped & maintained raised ranch w/newer Anderson Windows, oak front door, & C/A. Large Living room w/cath ceiling & fp, spacious kitchen & dining area, master suite w/WIC & dual entry bath, Family room w/walkout to custom Patio. Large attached Garage, appliances inc, & 1 yr home warranty. \$244,800 (P-631TY)



CUSTOM RANCH ON ACREAGE Spectacular 4 bedroom, 3 bath ranch w/3450 sq. ft., a vaulted great room, finished walkout w/8 ft. ceilings, 3 car garage and a huge pole barn with your choice of 2 or 7 acres. Starting price. \$335,000 (C-449RA)



JUST LISTED! 3 bedroom beauty situated on over 2 acres in Van Buren Township! Attached oversized 2 car garage, finished basement, 2 fireplaces and lots more. Call for details. \$299,900 (C-615HU)



DETACHED CONDO! Nestled among the pines is this lovely 3 bdrm, 3 bath condo near downtown Plymouth & Hines. Top of the line upgrades throughout, finished basement and a huge great room floor plan. \$339,000 (C-811PI)



HOUSE BEAUTIFUL IN CANTON Absolutely stunning home offering many upgrades like granite in the kitchen, top of the line carpeting, marble surrounding the fireplace, cherry wood floors. Call to see it today! \$274,900 (C-550SC)



WAY BETTER THAN NEW! 2004 built home with a beautiful open floor plan featuring an upgraded kitchen & extensive hardwood flooring, gorgeous landscaping w/aggregate patio. Howell schools & low taxes. \$279,900 (C-726MO)



COVES OF NORTHVILLE Huge one story condo with 2BR/BA, enjoy the solarium, a great room w/fireplace, skylights, cathedral ceilings, dual doorways to expansive deck overlooking the pond & fountains. Too much to list! \$199,900 (P-036BO)



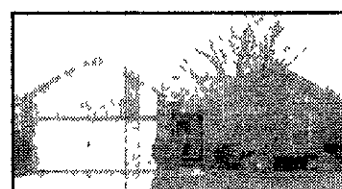
WARM AND INVITING Novi condo offering 3 bedrooms, finished basement w/family room, beautiful deck area, professionally remodeled kitchen & baths, new roof, hwh, ac, windows and carpeting. Close to everything too. \$179,900 (P-447CR)



VERY POPULAR CONDO 2 bedrooms, 2 baths and immediate occupancy. 55 and over community with a pool and clubhouse with many activities. Hardwood floors and new windows make this a winner. Clean move in condition. \$133,000 (P-221NE)



BACKING TO GOLF COURSE Hardwoods and ceramics. Gourmet kitchen w/granite & maple. 2nd master on 2nd level, jack & jill bath adjoins bedroom 3 & 4. 10 ft Ceiling in full basement. Formal dining w/marble flooring. Private study. Butlers pantry. \$674,900 (P-775PO)



FORMER MODEL HOME Pristine clean 3 bedroom ranch with 2 baths and a large great room floor plan. Dining room with doorwall to deck and a private fenced yard. Great location. Better hurry this one won't last. \$199,900 (C-047WE)



VILLAGE OAKS OF NOVI Comfortable 3 bedroom, 2 bath ranch with a finished basement with family room, large lot (fences allowed), hardwoods, nice master and appliances remain. Clubhouse and pool optional. \$209,900 (P-508HE)



RANCH ON 4 ACRES! Located in Canton, offering a large floor plan with over 4 acres (possible split), 3 bedrooms, 1.5 baths and a 40x48 pole barn. Family room fireplace and appliances remain. Call now. \$374,900 (C-331SA)



NEW IN NOVI Brand new colonial with beautiful details like a maple & granite kitchen and a deluxe master with an elegant bath. All the amenities you desire plus Walled Lake schools and a great location. \$519,900 (P-597BU)



UPGRADES GALORE! Newer 11200 square foot condo with a great open kitchen offering oak cabinetry, living room with fireplace, nice master with large bath, finished basement with family room and bath. Nice. \$154,900 (C-799HA)



BRAND SPARKING NEW Bright and spacious new construction condos with 2 Br, 1.5 BA, huge kitchen, large dining area, oversized master, basement and garage. You won't find a better deal anywhere at this price. \$139,900 (P-734BR)



OVERLOOKING THE PARK! Ellington model with almost 1700 sq. ft. and 9' ceilings! Large island kitchen, dual door entry formal dining or den. Luxury master w/cathedral ceilings and Jacuzzi tub. More! \$174,900 (C-306CON)



ELEGANT CAPE COD Nestled in a private wooded setting. Architectural details abound, marble & granite kit, palladium windows, heated floors, finished walkout, recessed lights, enchanting garden room and all the modern conveniences. \$1,199,000 (P-319HI)



PERFECT FOR GROWING FAMILIES! 4 big bedrooms and 3 full baths! Desirable Westland neighborhood close to the elementary and junior high schools. Nice landscaping, formal dining and 2.5 car garage. Call for details. \$182,000 (C-694TU)

NORTHVILLE/NOVI
(248) 305-6090

CANTON
(734) 392-6000

FARMINGTON
(248) 478-6022

WESTLAND/GARDEN CITY
(734) 392-6000

PLYMOUTH
(734) 459-6000

LIVONIA
(734) 425-6060

Good life: Livonia cited for housing affordability

Indianapolis, Ind., has claimed the title of the nation's most affordable housing market among major metros with populations over 500,000, according to the National Association of Home Builders/Wells Fargo Housing Opportunity Index (HOI) for the third quarter of 2005.

Other top-rated major cities for housing affordability include the metro area consisting of Youngstown-Warren and Boardman, Ohio-Pa., as well as Detroit-Livonia-Dearborn, Mich., Buffalo-Niagara Falls, N.Y. and Oklahoma City, Okla., in that order.

Challenged by steadily rising home prices, overall housing affordability across the United States fell for the third consecutive quarter to its lowest level since the HOI was first reported in 1992, dipping 2.7 points to 43.2 on the HOI. This means that just over 43 percent of all new

and existing homes sold in the country during the third quarter were affordable to median-income families. The decline was mostly attributable to a 5 percent gain in the average price of homes sold in the third quarter versus the second quarter.

"Strong house-price performance is the double-edged sword that has simultaneously attracted and discouraged new homebuyers," said Dave Wilson, NAHB president and a custom home builder from Ketchum, Idaho.

Though mortgage interest rates have risen significantly since the HOI was taken, they were likely not a significant factor in the affordability decline for the third quarter. The average weighted interest rate for fixed- and adjustable-rate mortgages, tabulated as an HOI component, held at 5.84 percent in the

July-through-September period. This was barely above the 5.82 percent weighted interest rate used in second-quarter HOI calculations.

In the most affordable major metro area of Indianapolis, Ind., 89.7 percent of new and existing homes sold in the third quarter were affordable to families earning the area's median income of \$64,000. The median price of homes that sold in Indianapolis during that time was \$125,000.

Meanwhile, in the nation's least affordable major housing market of Los Angeles-Long Beach-Glendale, Calif., a mere 2.4 percent of all homes sold were affordable to those earning the median income of \$54,500 when the median sales price was \$495,000.

California once again dominated the HOI

rankings for the least affordable major metropolitan areas. Right behind Los Angeles on this list was Santa Ana-Anaheim-Irvine, Calif., followed by San Diego-Carlsbad-San Marcos, Calif., and Stockton. The metro of New York-White Plains-Wayne, N.Y.-N.J., was the only non-California entry on the list of the five least affordable major housing markets.

The HOI also ranked housing affordability in metro areas with populations fewer than 500,000. At the top of that list was Mansfield, Ohio; Cumberland, Md.; Lima, Ohio; Davenport-Moline-Rock Island, Iowa-Ill.; and Lansing-East Lansing, Mich., respectively. At the bottom of that list were the California cities of Merced, Salinas, Santa Barbara-Santa Maria, Modesto and Santa Cruz-Watsonville, respectively.

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REAL ESTATE BRIEFS

How To Class

Real Estate Investors Association of Oakland will sponsor "Learn How To Qualify a Tenant or a Real Estate Buyer" presented by Angela

Harding from 6:30-9:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 8, at Knights of Columbus Hall, 870 N. Main, Clawson. Seminar free to members, \$20 non-members. Call (800) 747-6742. (www.REIAofOakland.org). For more information, call Don Eichstaedt, (248) 552-8030

Friedman Real Estate

Friedman Real Estate Group Inc. recently negotiated the sale of the Simply Wine Building located at 22635 Woodward in Ferndale. Dan Kartowsky sold the 6,000-square-foot building, a potential bank location, to 9 Mile Investments, LLC. Kevin George, real estate adviser at Friedman, and Rob Hibbert, a vice president of Friedman Real Estate Group, represented the seller in this transaction.

Purchased Property

NAI Farbman, the brokerage division of Southfield, has purchased a one-inch square parcel of property located in Owen County, Ind. The transaction is the smallest recorded for the Michigan real estate group. The announcement was made by company founder and chairman, Burton Farbman.

Located in a wooded ravine, the postage-stamp sized parcel was sectioned by a previous landowner to deed a relative access to Cataract Lake through the property because only landowners could fish or swim in the lake. In 2002, when the owner of the full parcel failed to pay the mortgage

on the property, First National Bank of Cloverdale foreclosed on the property. Because of the unusual deed, the bank separated the square-inch parcel from the 1.12-acre property. The larger property was sold, but taxes kept piling up on the tiny parcel as if it were the larger property. The smaller parcel was put up for auction.

Education Seminars

The Building Association of Southeastern Michigan is sponsoring the following seminars:

■ 8 a.m. to noon Thursday, Dec. 8, "Codes and Quality Control" at BIA Headquarters, 30375 Northwestern Highway, Suite 100, Farmington Hills. Chuck Breidenstein of Builders Professional Services Group will discuss setting performance expectations, a superintendent's responsibilities regarding codes and will provide tips to enforce code compliance on the job site. Registration fee is \$145. (248) 862-1033.

■ 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Monday, Dec. 12, "Managing a Business for the Long Term" seminar at BIA Headquarters, 30375 Northwestern Highway, Suite 100, Farmington Hills. Richard G. William, CPA, of Polk and Associates PLC will discuss strategic planning for the small to medium size business, exit strategies and business valuation. Registration is \$20 for BIA or AAM members and \$40 for guests. (248) 862-1033.

■ 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. Friday, Dec. 16, "Managers Roundtable" discussion at AAM headquarters, 30375 Northwestern Highway, Suite 100, Farmington Hills. The program is free for Property AAM, PMC and BIA members and \$15 for guests. Coffee and bagels will be provided. (248) 862-1033.

HOMES SOLD IN WAYNE COUNTY

These are the Observer & Eccentric-area residential real-estate closings recorded the weeks of July 11-15, 2005, at the Wayne County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

Canton		
7526 Andover	\$555,000	
1245 Dundee	\$333,000	
1508 Emerald Pines	\$85,000	
2187 Preserve	\$294,000	
690 Roosevelt	\$50,000	
4420 Timberline	\$287,000	
Garden City		
33521 Alta	\$103,000	
33138 Alvin	\$155,000	
32357 Donnelly	\$198,000	
30763 Elmwood	\$177,000	
Livonia		
32932 Brookside	\$303,000	
18750 Deering	\$145,000	
33013 Hees	\$145,000	
31478 Merriwood Park	\$165,000	
19050 Middlebelt	\$174,000	
37836 N Laurel Park	\$235,000	
15552 Newburgh	\$195,000	
9057 Newport	\$178,000	
9339 Patton	\$205,000	
18232 Whitby	\$171,000	
Plymouth		
437 Blunk	\$447,000	
10803 Brookwood	\$375,000	
Redford		
9264 Coriane	\$177,000	
44475 Gov Bradford	\$227,000	
111 Pinewood	\$144,000	
9230 Tavistock	\$250,000	
13333 Wendover	\$378,000	
Westland		
11311 Appleton	\$115,000	
13585 Brady	\$144,000	
15948 Denby	\$128,000	
18498 Denby	\$117,000	
9015 Hemingway	\$140,000	
9919 Hemingway	\$120,000	
15401 Leona	\$80,000	
17394 Macarthur	\$160,000	
15577 Pomona	\$86,000	
12951 Salem	\$162,000	
26917 W Chicago	\$144,000	
25947 Westfield	\$140,000	
Westland		
7416 August	\$167,000	
37165 Baker	\$300,000	
2629 Caledonia	\$110,000	
7040 Central City	\$205,000	
7412 Central	\$86,000	
32901 Chapman	\$152,000	
29108 Manchester	\$110,000	
29128 Manchester	\$98,000	
410 Marigold	\$156,000	
32011 Merritt	\$149,000	
38470 Milton	\$185,000	
37150 Riviera	\$270,000	
37170 Riviera	\$271,000	
621 Summerfield	\$170,000	

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S/Warren, W. Sheldon
2 bdrm end unit, living room dining room, updated bath, updated furnace & c/a. 01 all appliances bsmt. \$109,900
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LIVONIA
Check out this recently updated bungalow in Kimberley Oaks. Nestled on a half an acre. Updated tile floor, paint, cove ceilings. Within walking distance of Kennedy Elementary & Livonia rec. ctr. Brand new deck 2005. Hot tub & apps stay.
\$160,000

LIVONIA
Well built, well maintained, well priced and in Livonia. Almost 2,000 square feet, updated 4 bedroom, 2 bath, family room with fireplace, 2 car attached garage, basement, sprinklers, near schools.
\$237,500

LIVONIA
Outstanding updated 3 BR, 1 1/2 BA brick ranch with 1,500 square feet of living space & full finished basement. Updates include energy eff. furnace, humidifier & air cleaner, central air, vinyl windows & wood door wall. 2 car att. garage. Home warranty.
\$200,000

LIVONIA
Spacious 4 bedroom, 1 1/2 bath colonial with neutral decor. Granite kitchen counters, oak hardwood flooring. Mexican ceramic tile foyer and hall, fireplace in family room, new carpet and paint. Walk to schools.
\$269,900

WESTLAND
Just reduced to make this the best buy you can get. Great 2 bdrm condo, in quiet complex. Safe & secure and unit offers open floor plan, large master w/WIC, appliances and more. Close to shopping and restaurants.
\$99,900

LIVONIA
Don't miss this opportunity to own this house in NW Livonia. Almost 1700 sq. ft. Updates include: tear off roof, furnace, new doorwall. Large room sizes, large bath with double sink and linen closet. Nice family room with natural fireplace.
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HIGHLAND
Upper Pettibone Lake

3228 Lakeview
This totally updated Cape Cod has a deeded shared 10x390 lot adjacent from the home. Beautiful original

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COMPLETELY UPDATED 1950'S BUNGALOW
Along Treeline Blvd, 3 bdrms, 1 bath, new kitchen, 3.5 car detached garage w/ electricity, newly landscaped, hardwood floors, all appliances incl. unfinished bsmt. MOVE RIGHT IN! \$229,000, 248-544-2359

Birmingham

ENGLAND REAL ESTATE
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By Owner

BEAUTIFUL COLONIAL
3 bdrm, 1.5 bath 43608 Geri Drive (Canton Schools) Immaculate interior, spacious kitchen, finished bsmt, C/A, lg deck w/ fenced yard. Near shopping field park. Asking \$218,000. Call 616-780-9616 or 800-692-2413 x 301 for more information and \$0 down financing options. Land contract possible.

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CANTON
Smart value. 4 bdrm, 2 bath, 2144 sq ft Family room, living room Dining room. Stazyz diner-style booth in kitchen 9' custom bar w/barstools in family room! Must see at \$219,900
CARLA ROSENBLUM
(248) 790-3837
Keller Williams
1005 Grand River, Brighton

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NATURE LOVER'S - Beautiful views from every room; Glengarry Village 4 bdrm, 3.5 bath, Poutie Baybrook. Brick pavers, finished bsmt, new wood floors in kitchen, \$370,000, 44941 Seabrook Dr. By owner. 734-398-5450

SHARP RANCH 3 bdrm, 2 full baths, Central air, furnace, roof, appliances, windows, 2 car garage. Hardwood, 2 car garage. Walk to downtown Farmington. Home warranty. \$171,000
Century 21 MJC Concrete Transfers Services
248-351-6700

OPEN SUNDAY 1-4 pm
37540 Bloomfield, Livonia
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"ELEGANCE AT IT'S BEST!"
Fabulous colonial w/sophisticated updates inc. Kitchen w/quartz counters, cherry faced cabinetry, stainless steel appl. & Venetian plaster walls. Tastefully decorated in designer colors. Very spacious mstr. suite. Fam rm w/doorwall to private yard w/2 decks, brick paver patio & above grnd pool - immaculate & simply a delight to see! Offered at \$324,987

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NATURAL CEDAR & BRICK BEAUTY
This gorgeous home in White Lake Twp. boasts 2700 sq. ft. with a 27 ft. high vaulted living room. Other features include 3 bedrooms, 2-1/2 baths, a full finished basement, plus a four car garage and workshop. Enjoy a tree-covered back yard with two decks. All for only **\$369,900!**

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Includes \$10,000 Redecorating Allowance
Real Estate, Inc. (248) 887-7500

Year End Closeout!
Everything Must Go!

PLYMOUTH 4 bedrooms, 2-story, in town.....**\$372,500**
DEARBORN HEIGHTS 3 bedroom ranch.....**\$124,900**
WESTLAND 3 bedroom ranch.....**\$119,900**
REDFORD 2,000 sq. ft.....**\$109,900**
REDFORD overlooks park.....**\$97,500**
WESTLAND condo, 3 bedroom, basement.....**\$116,900**
TAYLOR 4 bedroom colonial.....**\$174,900**
WHITMORE LAKE 2 bedroom condo, walk to lake.....**\$188,000**
SOUTHFIELD ranch, one acre - **call for price reduction**

All above prices reflect a minimum of \$1,000 price reduction. Prices good through December 14.
Call Nancy or Karol (734) 645-3791
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ACROSS

1 Major appliance

6 Oddballs

11 Lots and lots

13 Cafe —

14 Doubtful answer

15 Archaic interjection

16 Qt. parts

17 Apiece

18 Some MDs

22 Blue chip giant

23 Not his

25 PC memory unit

26 Creek war god

27 Habitual

28 Kind of gas

31 Santa — winds

38 Id companion

34 In a nonthreatening manner

37 Mimicked

40 Formal dance

41 Tarboosh

43 Saturday morning fare

45 Diamond —

46 Bean or Welles

48 Kind of system

49 And, to an ancient Roman

50 Dazzle

51 Unfamiliar

53 Livy's quartet

54 Boarded up

56 Let out a sigh

58 Radio parts

59 Shower-taker's need

CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE



DOWN

1 Flour mixture

2 Frolicsome one

3 QB gain

4 Brownie

5 Green Hornet's secret identity

6 Squirrel staples

7 Ernie —

8 Nile sun god

9 Slimmed down

10 Box-score info

12 Come across as

13 Farthest point

19 B'way posting

21 Tormé or Gibson

22 Eur. country

24 Play for time

26 Pass a bill

28 Conclusion

30 Turkish potato

32 Lord

33 Tennysn

34 Rum drink (2 wds.)

35 Feverish

36 Thumbs-up vote

38 Help-wanted abbr.

39 Obedient

40 Mixture

42 Territory

44 Whodunit

46 Has bills to pay

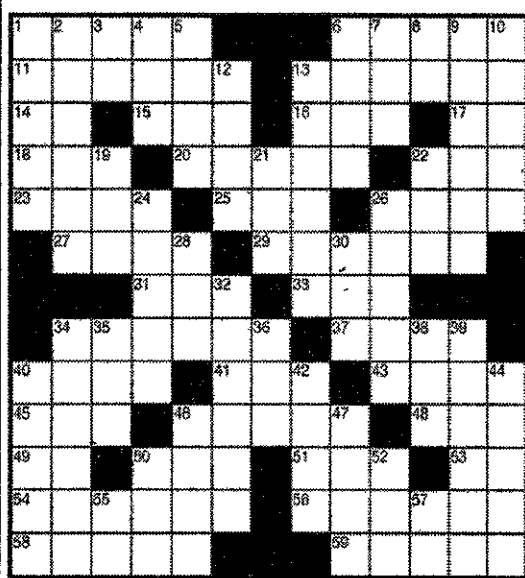
47 Coming up

50 One hundred percent

52 Reporter's query

55 Corn Belt st.

57 "—, shucks!"



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Farmington Hills 3145

EXECUTIVE COLONIAL 4-5 bdrm 3.5 baths Backs to 00's. Professionally landscaped. Main fl. w/walk in closet, separate tub & shower. Large living & family room w/fireplace. Formal dining. Oak floors. \$497,000.

PRESTIGIOUS GATED COMMUNITY Gorgeous 4 season conservatory, w/cathedral ceiling. New carpet, cabinets, appliances, granite, roof, windows, window treatments, and so much more. Finished bsmt. 3 car garage. \$479,900. Century 21 M/J Corporate. Transfer Service. 248-651-6700.

By Owner

GREAT DEAL! 3 bdrm, totally updated ranch, new kitchen \$20,000 off original price. Must see! Great schools. Quiet street. \$184,000. Call Jeff 248-787-8807.

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Farmington Hills 3145

MUST SEE! 3 bdrm, 2.5 bath, 1100 sq ft. \$194,900. (22MA)

JUST LISTED!

First floor 2 bedroom, 2 bath end unit condo! Spacious and plenty of storage! \$124,900 (30TW)

Century 21 Hartford South 734-464-6400

Ferndale 3155

By Owner

CHARMING 1923 BUNGALOW 1300 sq. ft. 3 bdrm, 2 new full baths. New kitchen, roof, windows. Natural fireplace, copper plumb. Walk to downtown Ferndale. \$176k 248-541-4508

Century 21

CASTELLI 734 525-7900

Serving the area for 30 yrs

Garden City 3170

BUILT IN 2000 31495 Cambridge 1350 sq ft. 3 bdrm, 2.5 bath, 1100 sq ft. \$194,900. (22MA)

Owner Financing Available

3 bdrm, full bsmt, large yard large garage, appliances incl Great for 1st time buyers or investors Home warranty avail \$133,900 810-231-3639

PRICED TO SELL!

New construction 1800 sq ft 3 bdrm, 2 1/2 bath, 3 car attached Warren/Merriman \$219,900 734-564-5535

WHAT A BUY

on this ranch style home with a nice open floor plan and a 1 1/2 car garage. Only \$114,900.

SUPER SHARP

3 bedroom ranch Large living room with a nice bay window, full basement, 2 car garage. \$132,900.

LARGE 3 BEDROOM HOME

Family room, spacious kitchen, Florida room, 1 1/2 baths, 2 car garage. \$159,000.

Century 21

CASTELLI 734 525-7900

Serving the area for 30 yrs

Hartland 3200

YOUR CHRISTMAS TREASURE!

Beautiful 3 bedroom, 2 story farm house on gorgeous rolling 9.56 acre parcel. Lovely kitchen with cherry cabinets, formal dining room, living room with gas log wood stove, office could be 1st floor bedroom, hardwood floors, cherry trim, 24x24 deck, basement, 30x50 pole barn, 10x20 lean to, spillable, bring your horses! Hartland Schools \$365,000.

HAVE A HOLLY, JOLLY CHRISTMAS

In this wonderful country home on 1.9 acres. Convenient floor plan and finished walkout lower level are included with this 3 bedroom, 3 bath home. Kitchen with snack bar open to dining area. Natural fireplace in living room, 18x16 patio, 16x24 deck 2 car garage and 32x52 pole barn. Wonderful setting and great location! Hartland Schools. \$305,900.

ENGLAND REAL ESTATE

888-211-9560 or 810-632-7427

Howell 3230

AND TO ALL A GOOD NIGHT!

Serene setting surrounds this wonderful 2400 sq ft ranch on quiet 2+ acre partially wooded setting. Home features 3 bedrooms, family room, living room with natural fireplace, 1 car garage with workshop and large deck to enjoy the peace and quiet. Nicely updated kitchen and master bath. Howell Schools. \$249,900

ENGLAND REAL ESTATE

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IMMEDIATE OCCUPANCY

3200 sq ft, 4 br., 3.5 bath, walkout, 4.5 acres, 64x52x14 heated out building. \$410,000 (517) 548-5229

Lathrup Village 3238

JUST LISTED!

BIG & BEAUTIFUL! 4 bdrm, 3 bath brick Quad Family room w/fireplace Updated kitchen w/breakfast room & appliances. Finished bsmt w/new furnace, C/A & windows. Deck 2 car garage Home warranty. \$224,000 (W1176)

Century 21

CENTURY 21 TODAY (313) 538-2000

www.century21today.com

Livonia 3250

3 BEDROOM BRICK RANCH

fireplace and doorwall leading to patio and yard. Great curb appeal New carpeting, new landscaping \$189,900

Century 21 Hartford North 734-525-9600

ALL THE UPDATES!

3 Bedroom ranch, living room, dining room, updates includes windows, turnace, c/a & roof, all appliances, finished bsmt, 2 car garage \$169,900

CENTURY 21 PREMIER

(734) 453-4300

www.premiersoldit.com

BY OWNER 3 bdrm, 1 1/2 bath, brick ranch, 2 car, Perfect for young family, priced to sell No Realtors (734) 591-8772.

IMMEDIATE OCCUPANCY

on this 1657 sq ft brick ranch offering newer kitchen w/hickory cabinets and ceramic tile floor, newer thermal windows, hardwoods floors, finished basement w/wet bar, first floor laundry, brand new tear off dimensional roof and tons more \$244,900

WHAT A BARGAIN on this 1029 sq ft 3 bdrm 2 bath brick ranch w/finished basement, newer windows, country kitchen w/ceramic tile floor, immediate occupancy, home warranty and tons more \$169,900 or LESS!

CALL KEN GENTILE, Quality GMAC (734) 542-2538 or cell (734) 968-7213.

LAND CONTRACT 3 bdrm ranch, 2 car garage, freshly remodeled Fenced yard \$1000/mo 313-805-5309

JUST LISTED!

LIVONIA Money, stop the car! Over 2300 sq. ft. 4 bdrms., 2 full baths. Updated kitchen w/appliances, hardwood floors. Great location. \$239,900

CATHY ZENI 734-718-5451 Century 21 Row 734-464-7111

JUST LISTED!

LIVONIA Nearly new 4 bedroom colonial w/2 story foyer, bay window, dining room, island kitchen, library, 1st floor laundry, master w/tub & shower, 3 car side garage, on & on! \$449,900 CHARLOTTE JACUNSKI 734-377-3282 Century 21 Row 734-464-7111

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Century 21

CENTURY 21 TODAY (248) 855-2000

www.century21today.com

Livonia 3250

JUST LISTED!

LOVELY

3 bdrm, 1.5 bath Colonial offers eat-in kitchen & beautiful family room w/skylights Updated bath, newer windows, floor, carpet, doors & trim. Bsmt. 2 car garage. Extra deep lot. Home warranty. \$184,900 (D0156)

Century 21

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OPEN SUN. 1-4-00. LOVELY WOODED RAVINE LOT

w/creek and nature beauty at its best on this 2146 sq. ft. 4 bdrm, 2 bath home. CALL KEN GENTILE, Quality GMAC (734) 542-2538 or cell (734) 968-7213. N. off Six, W. Farmington on Polyanna

ROSEDALE GARDENS

3 Bedroom ranch, new windows/carpet '04, living room w/fireplace, partially finished bsmt, lg backyard w/deck, garage. Immediate occupancy. \$173,000

CENTURY 21 PREMIER

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Northville 3280

Move before Christmas!

Newly updated home w/open floor plan, great location close to town, oversized 2 1/2 car garage & more. Only \$214,900

Fantastic

4 Bdrm, 2 1/2 bath colonial centrally located in sub has extras galore & 3-car garage. Now \$549,900.

MARY McLEOD

RE/MAX Alliance 734-462-3600 248-477-2006

www.marymcleod.com

Oak Park 3305

BAD CREDIT?

No Money Down Oak Park Bungalow Great family neighborhood 3 bedrooms, new kitchen, never siding and roof 2 car garage

Close to downtown Ferndale Immediate occupancy

Call Randy 248-709-2244

Plymouth 3347

FOR SALE BY OWNER

Plymouth Twp., Mayflower Sub 4 Bdrm, colonial \$289,900 By appt 734-254-0611

By Owner

Hardwood updated w/hallways Large covered porch Bsmt. 2 car garage Private brick-paver patio \$179,900

Call For appt, 734-306-5791

REDUCED!

This Craftsman Style bungalow has been completely modernized while maintaining the integrity of the era. Double lot close to town Full basement, 2 1/2 car garage Lots of potential for expansion Now \$304,900

MARY McLEOD

RE/MAX Alliance 734-462-3600 248-477-2006

www.marymcleod.com

Redford 3350

JUST LISTED!

LOVELY & UPDATED 3 bdrm, bungalow w/finished bsmt & garage. New windows, newer carpet, kitchen flooring, roof & more. All appliances stay Home warranty. \$124,900 (SU197)

Century 21

CENTURY 21 TODAY (313) 538-2000

www.century21today.com

Rochester 3360

OAKLAND TWP. Gorgeous

3200 sq. ft. 4 bdrm, 3.5 bath colonial 3 fireplaces. 1350 sq ft finished walk-out. Premium wooded lot. Motivated sellers! \$535,000. 586-243-3224

Royal Oak 3370

JUST LISTED!

ROYAL OAK Adorable 3 bdrm., 1.5 bath brick ranch. Oak kitchen w/appliances. Finished bsmt. Garage. Fabulous landscaping. \$209,900 (BR442)

Century 21

CENTURY 21 TODAY (248) 671-8888

www.century21today.com

JUST LISTED!

ROYAL OAK Handsome 3 bdrm, 1.5 bath bungalow w/arched doorways & hardwood floors. Nicely sized dining room. Master bdrm. w/l.g. closet & recessed lights. Bsmt. Newer furnace, drive & more. \$164,900 (ED301)

Century 21

CENTURY 21 TODAY (248) 855-2000

www.century21today.com

JUST LISTED!

COMMERCE ENTERTAINERS DELIGHT Fabulous 2000 built, 3,493 sq. ft., 2 story Contemporary with 3 car garage & inground pool. Living room, great room w/fireplace, formal dining room, library, 4 bedrooms & 2.5 baths. Gourmet island kitchen w/cherry cabinetry & hardwood floors. First floor laundry. Brick paver patio & decking. \$599,999 (AP219)

Century 21

CENTURY 21 TODAY (248) 855-2000

www.century21today.com

Southfield/Lathrup 3390

LATHRUP VILLAGE Spacious 4

bdrm, 2 1/2 bath, fireplace, finished bsmt, garage. \$239,000. ShareNet Realty 248-642-1620

West Bloomfield 3440

(NORTHWEST) 3-4 br., 3 bath.

Flexible layout 1900 sq ft. Big 2 car garage. With deck which views private wooded preserve. Below Market. \$299,900. Agents Protected. Call 248-761-3467 no listings.

ELEGANT & CONVENIENT

LOCATED IN FANTASTIC West Bloomfield colonial is set on 1/3 acre & features numerous updates: roof, driveway, hot water heater, kitchen, windows, bath, furnace, etc. Huge Florida room. \$220,000. Century 21 M/J Corporate. Transfer Service. 248-651-6700

Just Reduced!

Shows like a Model home!

OPEN SUN. 2-5

7082 Brookridge, N. of 14, E. Middlebelt. Totally renovated 4 bdrm., 2.5 bath Colonial in prime sub. Move right in SUPER BUY! \$249,800. JILL BLUM, Agent/owner 248-224-0877

Real Estate One 32961 Middlebelt, Farmington Hills

By Owner

WEST BLOOMFIELD

\$259,900. \$4000 cash back at closing! 2238 sq ft 4 bdrm, 2.5 bath Colonial. All appliances. Large covered deck off family room. Circular driveway. Great location! Many rooms of furniture for sale! Call 248-737-0301

Westland 3445

JUST LISTED!

\$124,900 GETS ALL THIS! 3 spacious bdrms., garage, 1st floor laundry, bsmt., covered patio, C/A, newer roof, windows, carpet, driveway. Fresh & clean! Call DANNY for details. Group Ten Realtors (734) 454-0000

BY OWNER- Meticulously

maintained home is ready for immediate occupancy. Most of the expensive updates are done. 3 bdrm, 1 bath, tin bath, 1020 sq ft \$162,500. Additional info call 734-425-8003

LIVONIA SCHOOLS on this

1332 sq ft brick ranch w/tm w/oak kitchen & granite tops, master bedroom bath, partially finished basement 2 1/2 car garage \$245,000

ENGLAND REAL ESTATE

888-211-9560 or 810-632-7427

Livingston County 3520

Marion Twp

SPACIOUS & SPOTLESS! 4 bedroom, 3 bath ranch on 2 acres living room, family room, dining room finished lower level with wet bar, 3 car garage \$245,000

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of homes online www.livingstonmi.com 810-599-6471

Wayne County 3570

Builder's Closeout!

Bargains

Romulus Brand new 3 bdrm brick ranch, 1.5 bath, APPLIANCES incl Carpet, bsmt, attached garage ZERO DOWN. ROSS REALTY, (734) 326-8300

Farms/Horse Farms 3630

MILFORD/HIGHLAND

Stately 4 bedroom, 3.5 bath, 2 story, family room walk-out basement, garage & barn. 7+ acres \$424,900

Raised ranch w/attached garage, pool, & barn on 5+ acres near horse trails. \$379,900.

Newer Cape Cod with attached garage, walk-out basement & barn on 5+ acres. \$274,900

248-887-6900 FIRST AMERICAN

Real Estate Services 3640

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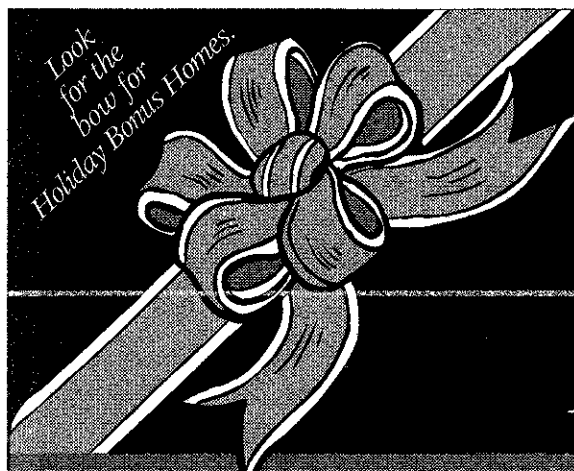
Candor 3720

BIRMINGHAM - Open Sat 10-4pm

436 N. Eton, unit D3. 2 bdrm, newly refinished hardwood floors, pool. \$147,000 586-354-5044

BIRMINGHAM First floor, end unit, 1 bdrm, 1 bath, 790 sq ft.

Newly remodeled \$92,900 248-705-881



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Belleville **734-455-7000**
PERFECTLY INVITING SPACIOUS COLONIAL 4BR, 2.5BA, finished basement, FR w/cathedral ceiling and stone FP. Great deck w/view of commons. (25128903) \$223,000

Brighton **248-348-6430**
GOLFERS DREAM HOME IN OAK POINTE! Fabulous cape cod overlooking 6th green of championship course. Gorgeous views. Lovely 1st flr mstr suite. Fin walk-out LL & more. 349-6200 (25115093) \$489,900

Brighton **734-591-9200**
Waterfront Stylish 3BR ranch w/fin walkout bsmt on 1/2 acre. Everything updated tastefully decorated! Hartland schls. See featured properties (25090515) \$239,900

Brighton **248-348-6430**
7+ SPLITABLE ACRES backing to Shenandoah Sub. Wooded. Hartland Schools. Great for small development, private estate. Convenient to Brighton, Expressways! 349-6200 (24080021) \$169,000

Brighton **248-348-6430**
Prestigious condo for lease-Oak Pointe Lease this 2000 sqft, 4 BR unit w/gourmet kit, full fin daylight LL, 3 car gar & sec system. Great golf course community. 349-6200 (25155584) \$2,000

Canton **734-455-7000**
ONE OF A KIND ENERGY EFFICIENT HOME! New construction. Foyer w/cir staircase, hrdwd fl in foyer, kit, & half BA. Granite tops in kit, isl, and lav. Rear staircase. Mstr ste w/fash BA. Ready to move in. (25159198) \$499,900

Canton **734-455-7000**
HOME SWEET HOME! Mstr Ste w/bonus rm, private balcony w/deck, fashion BA, WIC, LR w/French doors. Lg FR w/FP. Lg deck w/hot tub off Kit. A yard filled w/trees, bushes, & flowers. (25139270) \$459,900

Canton **734-455-7000**
FAIRWAYS WEST BEAUTY! 4BR/2.5BA Canton Colonial. Formal DR, GR, library. Mstr ste w/sitting rm/nursery. 3car gar. Immed. occup. (25159689) \$429,900

Canton **734-455-7000**
JUST THE RANCH YOU'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR! Backs to woods. New deck. Small pond. Prof. landscaped. Mstr Ste w/fashion BA, WIC. High ceilings. Kit w/granite counters. SS appl stay. (25139274) \$414,900

Canton **734-326-2000**
GET BACK TO NATURE This 4 BR- 2.5 Bath Colonial overlooks a nature preserve. Spacious Open Floor Plan w/ loft overlooking a 2 story GR w/fireplace & bay window (25161716) \$294,900

Canton **734-591-9200**
Welcome to this exquisite 2003 built 4 BR, 2.5 bath, 2,448 sq ft, 2 car att garage & basement detached condo w/maple cabs, corian counters & a great view (25057048) \$279,900

Canton **734-455-7000**
CLOSEST THING TO CAREFREE LIVING! Best lot in complex, backing to woods. Hardwood thruout. Mstr on main fl Corian counters. Jetted tub 3BR/2.5BA (25165192) \$264,900

Canton **734-591-9200**
Outstanding ranch! Conveniently Located, 3 BR, 2 1/2 BA, FR, eat in kitchen, & part fin. bsmt-plumb for lav. Ply/Canton School System. Home warranty (25070973) \$211,900

Canton **734-326-2000**
CAPTIVATING CANTON COLONIAL Is this 3 Bedroom 2 1/2 Bath Brick with Family Room, Fireplace, Dining Room, Central Air, Full Basement, & 2 Car Attached Garage. Large Rooms and Master Suite. PC 220452 (25078654) \$205,000

Canton **734-455-7000**
KISS YOUR LANDLORD GOOD-BYE! 3BR, 1 loft (14x10), 2.5BA, 1514 sq ft. Canton condo. 2-car gar. Full fin. bsmt. 1st fl. Indry. 2-story GR w/gas FP. Ply/Canton schools. (25158639) \$198,000

Canton **734-455-7000**
CANTON CONDO BACKS TO POND! Tastefully decorated, beautifully maintained 2BR, 2.5BA Condo. Hardwood in foyer and great room. Gas fireplace. Basement. 2car finished garage. (25118081) \$194,900

Canton **734-591-9200**
Ready to move in! Great Family Sub. Large fenced backyard. This 4BR 1.5 BA home has been freshly painted, some wood flrs, newer doorwall, wndws, furn, C/A, kit fir, part fin bsmt w/lots of storage (25107135) \$179,900

Canton **248-348-6430**
RARE 3 BR W/BASEMENT & GARAGE Rare condo with basement & garage. Updated & freshly painted. Neutral thruout. Lots of room. Great location clubhouse & pool. 349-6200 (25120222) \$149,900

Canton **734-455-7000**
RENT A TRUCK..... and start moving. This well-maintained condo is waiting for new owners. Back of sub loc. Spac. master w/private BA. Appl. stay. Call soon! (25167170) \$124,999

Canton **734-326-2000**
NEED A RANCH? WANT A CONDO? So Much Charm! Fireplace, Private Patio, Dining Area, Eat-In Kitchen, 2 BR, Full Basement, C/A End Unit, Close Parking & Clubhouse. Sellers have loved it here. (25140524) \$124,900

Dearborn **734-591-9200**
What a great place to live! All the conveniences that Dearborn offers & close to all schools. Many updt's, furn, A/C, wndws, roof, kit, etc. 5 BR & 2 full BA, form DR & rec rm in bsmt (25167183) \$139,900

Dearborn **734-326-2000**
GREAT PRICE...GREAT PLACE 3 BR, 2 1/2 BA, Hardwood Floors, Full Bsmt., 2 Car Gar., Fenced Lot, Custom Landscaping, Covered Front Porch, New Furnace, C/A. Great Home! PC 2202 (25155538) \$129,900

Dearborn Heights **734-591-9200**
Spotless 3BR brick ranch with 3 car att gar. Home features FR w/FP, roof 05, vinyl windows, hot water 05, recessed lgting, hrdwd flrs, updated kit, deck, lg lot, & much more. (25151693) \$219,900

Dearborn Heights **734-591-9200**
Great curb appeal on this 3 bedroom brick colonial. Newer vinyl siding, nicely landscaped, main BA recently remod, fin bsmt w/bar & sauna rm w/shower. Close to schools, shopping & pub. golf course. (25076112) \$184,900

Dearborn Heights **734-591-9200**
Huge new eat in kitchen with tons of storage in the new oak cabinets. Great open flr plan perfect for entertaining large groups of family & friends. Newer wndws, roof, furn and more. (25162385) \$144,900

Farmington Hills **248-348-6430**
STATELY COLONIAL ON WOODED CUL-DE-SAC 4 BR, 2.5 BA Colonial on very priv lot. Mstr w/priv BA, cozy FR w/FP, lib, DR, full bsmt w/workshop. Newer furn. & wndws 2.5 car gar. 2600 sqft. Home prot plan. 349-6200 (25147070) \$340,000

Farmington Hills **734-591-9200**
Do some of your own updating and reap the rewards. 3 BR brick ranch in ever popular Kendalwood w/large lots. LR w/FP, fam rm, full bsmt, 2 cat att gar. Good condition & some updates. (25153478) \$219,900

Farmington Hills **734-455-7000**
CRACKLING FIRE AND PUMPKIN PIE! Honey of a home for the holidays, needs a new king and queen. Newer 1999 3BR brick ranch, 2 car garage, close to 1/2 an acre. (25099269) \$192,815

Farmington Hills **734-591-9200**
Mint Condition, 3 BR, 2.5 bath condominium, a newer complex w/pool, club house with exercise rm, loc in Nantucket townhouse complex. End unit freshly painted with new carpet. (25162825) \$145,000

Garden City **734-326-2000**
DESIRABLE AREA Sharp Three Bedroom 1000 sq ft Ranch w/ Open Floor Plan, Finished Basement w/ Fireplace, 2 Car Garage on lovely tree lined street. Home is waiting. (25151826) \$144,900

Garden City **734-326-2000**
BUY TODAY & MOVE TOMORROW Into this 3 Bedroom, 1 Bath Bungalow w/ Full Basement, 23x14 FR/DR addition & 1 1/2 Car Garage. Extras include newer windows, furnace and Central Air. PC 220882 (25161565) \$139,900

Garden City **734-591-9200**
Great move in perfect little starter on large lot with 2+ car garage. Loads of updates & quality features. Call for complete list. (25129285) \$134,900

Genoa Twp **248-348-6430**
YEAR-ROUND FUN ON BEAUTIFUL LAKE CHEMUNG Summer & winter fun in updated 3 BR home. Many updates make this maintenance free home special. New siding, wndws & more. 24x14 deck overlooks lake 349-6200 (25131181) \$259,900

Green Oak **248-348-6430**
NEW CONSTRUCTION RANCH W/LAKE ACCESS Almost 2000 sqft of fabulous 1st flr living, full brick exterior. Awesome island kitchen. Huge master suite. All sports Whitmore Lake privileges. 349-6200 (25129235) \$349,500

Green Oak **248-348-6430**
LIVE IN TRANQUILITY COUNTRY LIVING 5 min from I-96 & I-23. This spotless 3 BR, 2.5 BA has everything you're looking for. Enjoy moving before the snow. Immediate occupancy. 349-6200 (25162405) WELLINGTON \$269,900

Howell **248-348-6430**
WOODED WONDERLAND Serene setting on picturesque lot, spacious brick ranch, huge kit, lg mstr, comfortable GR, full w/o bsmt, priv circular drive, rolling acreage. 349-6200 (25113632) \$449,900

Inkster **734-326-2000**
5 ROOMY BEDROOMS & 2 BATHS 5 Bedrooms for the Growing Family, Many updates including Kitchen & baths. Wayne-Westland Schools PC 220192 (25119511) \$159,900

Inkster **734-326-2000**
INTERESTED IN NEW CONSTRUCTION? Then come check out this 3 BR, 2 full bath W/1st floor laundry. Your home should be exactly what you want it to be. (25091447) \$148,000

Inkster **734-326-2000**
BEAUTY BEYOND COMPARE Is this 3 Bedroom Brick Bungalow with Remodeled Kitchen & Bath, Full Finished Basement, Formal Dining Room, & 2.5 car Garage on a Nicely Landscaped Lot. (25041006) \$119,900

Livonia **248-348-6430**
WONDERFUL LIVONIA HOME Nicely updated & in desirable Nottingham woods sub. New roof, updated kitchen & baths Andersen windows, brick walkway & Livonia Stevenson High School area. 349-6200 (25148476) \$309,900

Livonia **734-591-9200**
New Construction Cape Cod, W/ 3 BR, 2.5 BAs, 2,051 sq ft, 2 car att gar & basement. Comes w/maple cabs, granite cnts & cer tile in the full bas. Liv Schools. (25070898) \$294,900

Livonia **734-591-9200**
Don't miss this one! Updates & renovations like you would see in a magazine. Open flr plan, Maple kit, stainless appls, main bath w/jetted tub, fin bsmt, 2 car att gar. (25118783) \$229,900

Livonia **248-348-6430**
QUALITY BUILT COLONIAL ON A 1/2 ACRE LOT Clean, well maintained, coved ceilings, bay window in DR. Updated kit, roof, windows, all appliances 3 BR, 1.5 BA. Bsmt & garage. Don't miss this one. 349-6200 (25168827) \$224,900

Livonia **734-591-9200**
Affordable brick ranch North of Five Mile. Ever popular Country Homes Sub offers 3BR brick ranch w/fin bsmt, 2 car gar & costly updates T/O. Interior lot (25100660) \$210,900

Livonia **248-348-6430**
CHARMING & COMFORTABLE HOME 3 BR, 1.5 BA, cove ceilings & hrdwd flrs under carpet. Partial finished bsmt. Updates incl: roof, furnace, A/C & windows. Newer washer & dryer remain. 349-6200 (25167969) \$179,900

Livonia **734-591-9200**
All brick bungalow. Livonia with 1467 sq ft. 2 full BA, newer roof, electrical, HWH & more. 2.5 car garage w/220, heat, built in air lines & a second story for finishing or storage (25149222) \$149,900

Livonia **734-326-2000**
LIVONIA CHARMER This Beauty is loaded! 3 BR Ranch w/ gorgeous fin Bsmt & 2 Car Garage. All New Roof, Vinyl Windows, Updtd Electric & More. Open Floor Plan. Clean & Bright.. (R191) (25163678) \$146,500

Livonia **248-348-6430**
GREAT STARTER OR RETIREMENT HOME. Upper end unit w/doorwall to balcony overlooking commons & pool. Mstr w/WIC, lg LR, carport, appliances included. Immediate occupancy. 349-6200 (25166129) \$85,900

Northville **248-348-6430**
END UNIT CONDO ALL ON ONE FLOOR Great 2 BR, 2 bath condo all on one floor. Wallside wndws. Pergo floor in kit. Lg Indry rm. All appl stay. Newer refig & self-cleaning convection oven. 349-6200 (25135214) \$139,900

Novi **248-348-6430**
ISLAND LAKE 4 SEASON LAKE VIEW HOME Wooded lot! 4456 SF of spacious living area plus professionally finished w/o LL w/kit, bath, office & more. Granite kit & luxury master suite. 349-6200 (25159384) \$889,900

Novi **248-349-6200**
CUSTOM BUILT ESTATE HOME ON 3+ ACRES Lovely home in the country. 3500 sf in the LL walkout. Beautiful property, inground pool, and much more. Additional 1.87 acres also available. 349-6200 (25054179) \$829,900

Novi **248-348-6430**
ELEGANT BRICK HOME IN TOLLGATE RAVINES Beaut. hrdwd flrs. Gourmet island kit. Mstr BR has 2 WIC, whirlpool tub. All 3 BR have full baths. Cozy nat FP in lg open GR is perfect for entertaining. 349-6200 (25144750) \$424,900

Novi **248-348-6430**
REMARKABLE BLEND OF DESIGN Outstanding charm, delightful kit & brkfst area, formal DR w/cathedral cly, inviting FR, LR, 3 nice size bdrms + loft, J & J bath, bsmt & 2 car att garage. 349-6200 (25113102) \$313,900

Oceola **248-348-6430**
GOOD AS NEW & GOOD TO GO NO waiting to build on this less-then-1 yr old home. Beautiful 3 BR, 2.5 bath w/ w/o bsmt. Hrdwd flrs, gas frplc, island kit w/maple cab. Sub has pool & sidewalks. (25095225) \$232,000

Plymouth **734-455-7000**
PRESTIGIOUS LIVING! Gorgeous Cape Cod in Country Club. 3BR & loft. Gourmet kitchen w/cntr island, maple cabs, custom counters and hrdwd flrs 2-sided FP. 4-car garage (25165961) \$624,000

Plymouth **734-591-9200**
Built in 2001 3 br 2.5 BA Cape Cod delivers exclusive upgrades, incl maple kit cabs, extensive HDWD flrs 1st flr Mstr w/bath that offer jetted tub & sep shower, volume clngs in GR & FP. (25130836) \$424,900

Plymouth **248-348-6430**
CUSTOM PLYMOUTH HOME ON ALMOST AN ACRE 3 bdrm, 2 baths, 2400 sqft ranch with 2000 sqft LL & 4 frplcs on almost an acrea of private specimen treed setting. 349-6200 (25120918) \$399,900

Plymouth **734-455-7000**
RANCH WITHIN WALKING DISTANCE TO DOWNTOWN Rare Find - Ranch within walking distance to schools and downtown. Flowing open floor plan w/3BRs, 2.5BAs, FR, 1st fl. Indry, side entrance garage. (25151733) \$369,900

Plymouth **734-455-7000**
PREMIUM LOT W/WOODED BACKDROP Walk to downtown from spacious ranch loaded w/updates in the last 5 years. 3BR, 2.5BA, FR, Bonus Rm, wooded lot, etc., etc. (25139439) \$369,900

Plymouth **734-455-7000**
PRIDE IN OWNERSHIP Four Bedroom, 3.5 Bath loaded with updates--roof, furnace, A/C, hot water, countertops, carpet, sod, landscaping, etc. Bonus - Huge three-season sunroom. (25101511) \$349,900

Plymouth **734-455-7000**
WELCOME TO PRIVACY! Almost an acre surrounds this graceful 3 bedroom home. Two fireplaces, updated kitchen, oversized family rm, etc. Handicap friendly. Location, location. (25165781) \$298,900

Plymouth **734-455-7000**
PRIME PLYMOUTH LOCATION! 3 Bedroom Bungalow offering premium downtown Plymouth location & schools. Loaded with updates and available for immediate occupancy. (25142144) \$229,900

Plymouth **734-591-9200**
Beautiful home! In the heart of Plymouth. Huge bckyd w/lrg deck. Updts incl: New wndws, roof, newer furn, HWH, & landscaping. Hrdwd flrs & part fin bsmt, & more (25123021) \$229,900

Plymouth **734-455-7000**
CLEAN AS A WHISTLE! 3BR, 1.5BA. Updates: oak kit cabs, roof, furnace, vinyl windows, C/A. Built-in pool. 2-car gar. Unfin. bsmt. Great Ply Twp location. Walk to Farrand elementary. (25129211) \$190,000

Redford **734-591-9200**
1400 sq ft brick ranch comp. updt's incl: New kit & BA, Furn w/CA, Elect services, roof wndws, cerm fir in kit & foyer. 2 car att gar, sun rm, brick paver patio & fenced yard. (25146630) \$169,900

Redford **734-591-9200**
3 BR, 1.5 bath ranch, finished basement with bar for entertaining family & friends. Bath and a half on the main floor. All appliances stay. (25158479) \$215,847 \$144,900

Redford **734-591-9200**
Not your average Bungalow. Flr plan has been redesigned making it wonderfully unique & functional. New furn, updated kit, wndws, wiring, plumb & crpt & much more. Mstr has nat FP, & more. (25121601) \$136,900

Redford **734-591-9200**
Affordable, updt'd ranch. All new kit w/cer fir, updated BA w/ marble fir & pedestal sink. Refin hrdwd flrs, all new paint & lgt fix. Clarenceville Schls. Appl tool (25157771) \$104,900

Redford **248-348-6430**
VERY CLEAN 1ST FLOOR END UNIT CONDO Payment lower than renting. Incl. heat/water, newer wndws/roof. New berber carpet, hrdwd flrs in mstr bdrmr w/WIC. Appl. stay. 349-6200 (25140702) \$50,900

Romulus **734-326-2000**
3 Bedroom-2.5 Bath Colonial Located in a beautiful neighborhood on an extra large lot. Nicely landscaped. Large Bedrooms. Priced to Sell! PC 220262 (25109458) \$149,900

Salem **248-349-6200**
Victorian 20 splitable acres*4000 sqft country charmer w/ wrap-around veranda*3 BA beaut. updt'd*Gorgeous mstr ste w/10 ft ceilings*Impressive treed site. 349-6200 (25166614) \$1,500,000

Salem **734-455-7000**
GORGEOUS SECLUDED ESTATE! Fabulous Cape Cod on Nature's finest 3.5 acres. High-end custom builder's personal home filled with quality and attention to detail. (25132308) (25151354) \$899,900

Warren **734-591-9200**
Custom built brick ranch in prime area. Neut. decor w/no wall paper, Newer C/A, remod half BA & bsmt BA. Newer kit, part fin. bsmt w/bar & newer crpt provides cozy liv area, full brk gar. (25088887) \$165,000

Westland **734-591-9200**
Why wait to build? Job transfer forces owner to sell, comp. 9/04. Brick, 3 BR, 2.5 BA, 2000 sq ft cape cod, 1st flr Mstr w/sep shower & tub, oak kit. Lg loft (25080744) \$219,900

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What makes a 'senior community'?

Q. I was told the Fair Housing Act prohibits our association from refusing to rent or sell to families with children. My friend lives in a "senior" housing community which does not allow children. She said we could restrict families with children if the condominium qualified as a "senior community." How can we qualify as a "senior community"?

A. The Fair Housing Act prohibits a housing provider from refusing to rent or sell to families with children. The Act also prevents them from imposing any special requirements or conditions on tenants with custody of children or limiting their access to recreational services provided to other tenants. However, housing which meets the Federal Housing



Real Estate Inquires

Robert Meisner

Act definition of "housing for older persons" is exempt from the law's familial status requirements. Briefly stated, but by no means complete, such housing must be occupied solely by persons who are 62 or older, or house at least one person who is 55 or older in at least 80 percent of the occupied units. The association must demonstrate the intent to house only persons who are 55 or older which can be accomplished by amending

the condominium documents.

Q. Our association is considering putting a limitation or prohibition on leasing. Can it be done?

A. That is a relatively complex question but there is case authority around the country supporting a prohibition on leasing if a proper amendment is adopted and properly approved by the co-owners and mortgagees. You should consult with a knowledgeable community association attorney who has up to date information on the ability to prohibit leasing and how far an association can go in that regard.

Robert M. Meisner is a lawyer and the author of *Condominium Operation: Getting Started &*

However, housing which meets the Federal Housing Act definition of 'housing for older persons' is exempt from the law's familial status requirements.

Staying on the Right Track, second edition. It is available for \$9.95 plus \$1 shipping and handling. He also wrote *Condo Living: A Survival Guide to Buying, Owning and Selling a Condominium*, available for \$24.95 plus \$5 shipping and handling. For more information, call (248) 644-4433 or visit bmeisner@meisner-associates.com. This column shouldn't be construed as legal advice.



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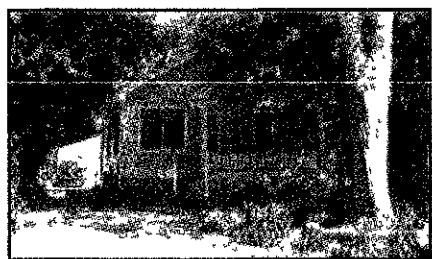
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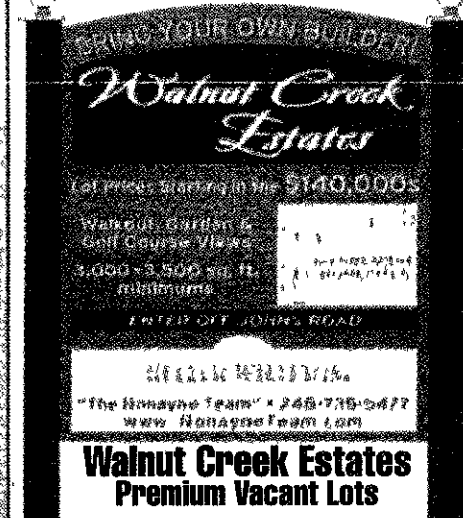
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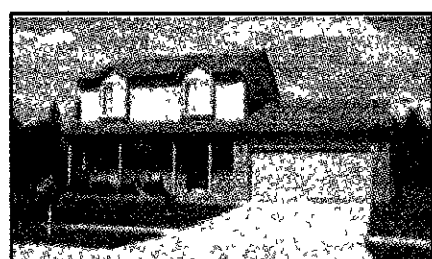
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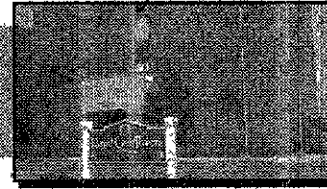
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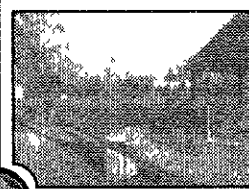
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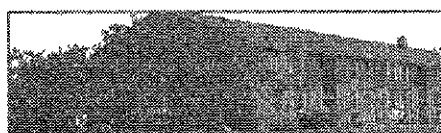
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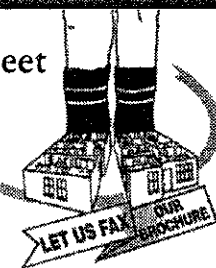


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WHITE LAKE Nice White Lake Ranch
1987 built ranch. Newer roof, freshly painted, master bedroom w/direct access to full bath, 2 car garage, partially finished basement & C/A. Road recently paved. Nice sized yard.
(E64JUL) 734-455-5600 \$195,000



COMMERCE Exceptional Ranch
Outstanding spacious ranch backing to private wooded setting. Move in condition, open floor plan, 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, 2 car attached garage. Large master suite, lg kitchen w/skylights, LR/GR combo. Upgrades.
(E25OAK) 734-455-5600 \$279,900



BLOOMFIELD TWP. Don't Miss This
Wonderful ranch offering 3 bedrooms, 3 full baths, wet plaster, huge living room w/fireplace, updated kitchen, lovely 4 season room overlooking deck, in-ground pool & patio. 2 car attached garage w/attic, all appls & warr.
(E60HIL) 734-455-5600 \$314,900



NOVI Fantastic Colonial
Spacious 4 BR home w/lots of molding. Granite in kit baths. All tile flooring on main level. 3 car gar. Lg master bedroom w/huge WIC & bath. Jack & Jill bedrooms. Guest rm w/private BA. Lndscpd w/sprinklers.
(E25BAN) 248-349-5600 \$639,000



NORTHVILLE Executive Retreat
Wow! Great floor plan - great location. Northville Hills Golf Community. 4 spacious bedrooms, 3.5 baths & granite. Backyard features a private resort in-ground pool - daylight. A must see.
(E05MER) 248-349-5600 \$775,000



DEARBORN Charming Brick Ranch
Popular location close to Ford Motor Co., hospital, freeways & shopping offers 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, finished basement, garage, 2 tiered deck & patio. Newer roof, windows & furnace + all appliances stay.
(E65SNO) 734-455-5600 \$154,900



NORTHVILLE Premium Location
2 BR, 2 full & 2 half BA condo. Fin W/O has patio & view of treed area w/creek. Newer kitchen cabinets, hardwood floor & appls incl. Double doorwall in LR & DR. Neutral crpt, FFL, att gar, newer turn, C/A, roof, 6 panel drs.
(E64WAS) 734-455-5600 \$194,900



PLYMOUTH A Pleasure To Show
Shows like a model! Clean & many updates! 3 BR ranch has Andersen wood windows. Newer roof 2003, open kit w/bt-in desk, pantry, stove & frig incl. FR has drvl to deck & priv landscaped yd, fin LL, 2.5 car gar.
(E83RED) 734-455-5600 \$229,500



BRIGHTON Gorgeous Hilltop Setting
Traditional 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath colonial on approximately 1/2 acre lot. Private yard & patio. Interior Beautiful kit & baths, hndwd floors, master ste w/WIC & luxury BA. FFL Deck & covered porch. Walk to town.
(E75WAS) 248-349-5600 \$265,000



FARMINGTON HILLS Welcome Home!
Is what this house says to you! Cape cod 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath w/vaulted ceilings, great room w/built-ins, deck off dining room. 3 season room off kitchen. Some updates. 2 car side entry garage. Lg treed lot & more.
(E64WIL) 248-349-5600 \$425,000



WESTLAND All Brick Ranch
Updated throughout in this charming 3 bedroom, 1.5 bath home. Offering oversized 2 car garage with brick front, finished basement w/crown molding. Nicely landscaped yard. A real must see.
(E41MAC) 734-455-5600 \$169,999



PLYMOUTH Location! Location!
Just a few blocks to downtown & 2 parks. One of the few English style colonials w/all the character & charm still intact in this 3 bedroom, 1.5 bath home. Fine molding & hndwd floors. English gardens & 2 car gar.
(E44HAR) 734-455-5600 \$274,900



GARDEN CITY Wow! Cape Cod
With 2 baths, detached condo. Great price, super sharp master suite + 2 vaulted ceilings, first floor laundry, brock & vinyl, 2 car attached garage, fireplace, C/A, builder pays trans tax.
(E27BIR) 734-455-5600 \$187,000



PLYMOUTH Off With The Old
On with the new! 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, finished bsmt + 2.5 car gar. Completely redone. Top to bottom! Beautiful kit & baths, hndwd floors, master ste w/WIC & luxury BA. FFL Deck & covered porch. Walk to town.
(E87ADA) 248-349-5600 \$359,900



TROY Gorgeous Colonial
4 BR, 2.5 BA home on deep wooded lot. Neutral decor, bath ceilings & bright ceramic foyer. Lg LR w/bay window. Fireplace in FR. French doors into library/drm. Island kit w/cab space. Mstr ste W/W-I closet. 1 yr. warr.
(E71GAT) 248-349-5600 \$429,900



REDFORD Spic & Span Bungalow
Updated 3 bedroom home w/room to room on an extra large lot. Freshly painted & carpeted, newer bath & updated windows, roof, HW/H electric, interior & exterior doors + 1 year home warranty.
(E51NOR) 734-455-5600 \$105,900



WESTLAND Livonia Schools
3 bedroom, 1.5 bath ranch offers hardwood floors, finished basement, updated Florida room leads to patio & fenced yard. Nicely landscaped, dining L or eat-in kitchen.
(E04HUB) 734-455-5600 \$159,900



PLYMOUTH Move Right In!
Excellent location in Plymouth. This 2 bedroom condo has newer carpet, kitchen cabinets, dining room flooring & windows in living room. Large private basement & more.
(E99SHE) 734-455-5600 \$84,900



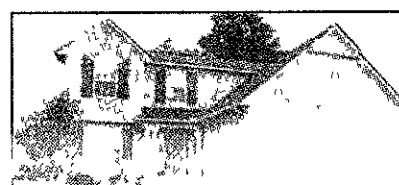
NORTHVILLE Professionally Decorated
All the brand new furniture stays. That's right, condo looks like it's right out of pottery barn! 2 bedrooms, 1 bath, hardwood in LR & DR. Carpet in bedrooms. All appliances stay. Call today! Exceptionally priced.
(E25FAI) 248-349-5600 \$116,000



HIGHLAND Larger Than It Looks
3 bedrooms, 1st flr 4th & 5th bedroom in fin walkout. 2 baths, hndwd flrs T/O. Newer furn, A/C, guest house att to 2 car gar. Huge pole barn, porch, patio, deck, frpics in LR, rec & kit, over 3 acres. Zoned for horses.
(E30HIC) 248-349-5600 \$289,900



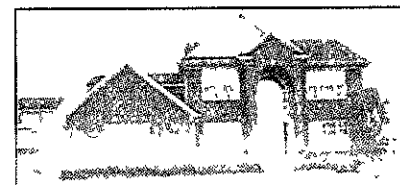
INKS Built in 2004
This charming 3 bed, 2 bath ranch offers master bedroom offers full bath & WIC. Open floor plan & vaulted ceiling. Large wood front porch & garage. You must see this one!
(E45SPR) 734-455-5600 \$116,000



DEXTER Perfection Plus
3 bedroom, 2.5 bath colonial on premium lot with large backyard located on cul-de-sac. Home is tastefully decorated & great floor plan. Family room w/gas fireplace, basement & 2 car attached garage.
(E18BOU) 734-455-5600 \$274,900



PLYMOUTH A Real Charmer
Custom built, all brick contemporary. Big lot in little Plymouth. Very clean & well taken care of. Has built in double ovens, newer roof & HW/H. Unique floor plan in this 2 bedroom, 1.5 bath home. Bring all offers.
(E90ANN) 734-455-5600 \$179,900



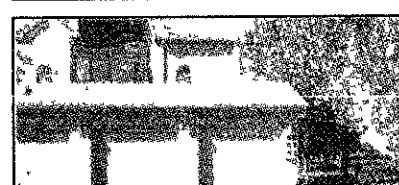
HOWELL All Most New - Move In Ready
2 story colonial w/4 BRs. 2 BAs w/a lot of executive features. Hndwd flrs, 9' base raised stone patio, FR w/custom frpic mantle, 3 car side entry, gar, open staircase, 2 story entry, MBR w/cust shelves & drawers.
(E92FOU) 248-349-5600 \$307,900



TYRON TWP Charming Country Setting
5 bedroom, 2.5 bath nicely updated home on over an acre. Newer roof, windows, siding & more. Oak kitchen w/skylight. Mechanics dream. 2.5 car garage heated w/workshop. Large LR w/frpic w/inset.
(E62MCG) 248-349-5600 \$279,900



GARDEN CITY Buyer Alert
Very nice 2 bedroom home offering newer flooring in kitchen & bath, tile foyer, newer windows & custom blinds, newer entry & interior doors. Hardwood floors under carpet. Private fenced & garage.
(E29ELM) 734-455-5600 \$109,900



BRIGHTON Exceptional 1st Floor Condo
Offers 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, master bedroom has walk-in closet & bath. Large kitchen w/oak cabinets & all appliances. 1st floor laundry, partially finished basement & 1 car garage.
(E10RID) 734-455-5600 \$169,900



REDFORD Nice Size Corner Lot
4 bedrooms, new windows, gutters & glass block in cedar paneled LL, since 2004. Hardwood under carpet on 1st floor. Entire home repainted in 05. Partially finished LL, 2 car garage w/x-storage next to it.
(E02WOR) 248-349-5600 \$135,000



LIVONIA Clean & Cared For Ranch
Castle Gardens sub. Hardwood floors, ceramic tile, Andersen windows & 6 panel doors T/O. Closet organizers in 2 bedroom closets & re-finished bsmt. Enclosed doorwall to paver patio, 2 car att gar.
(E35HIX) 248-349-5600 \$209,500



STERLING HGTS Spotless Brick Ranch
3 BR, 2 full BA, FR w/frpic. Newer kit, roof, furnace & C/A. Finished basement. Tons of storage. Lovely hardwood floors, private yard w/patio. Perennial gardens, sprinkler, sec system, curb appeal. All appls.
(E03DRY) 248-349-5600 \$199,900



SUPERIOR TWP Desirable Interior Lot!
This outstanding 2002, 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath colonial looks like new inside & out offering many upgrades, natural decor & ready to move into. Large master ste w/WIC & spacious bath, + 2 car garage & full bsmt.
(E35WEX) 734-455-5600 \$264,500



GARDEN CITY Spectacular 3 Ranch
Spacious 3 bedroom, 1 bath ranch on double lot. Beautifully landscaped yard. Spacious rooms, LR w/frpic, Florida rm, newer kit w/appls, newer windows, freshly painted, 1.5 car att gar w/add'l space. HPP.
(E09LAT) 734-455-5600 \$169,900



REDFORD Cozy Comfortable Home
Fall in love with this home! Newer kitchen, furnace & AC. Updated kit w/ceramic floors. Large owner suite. Fresh painted T/O. Hardwood floors T/O. Two car gar. Close to schools, shopping & x-ways. Maint free brick exterior.
(E27WIN) 248-349-5600 \$134,900



NOVI Spacious Colonial
4 bedroom, 2.5 bath home. Open kitchen to dinette & family room w/fireplace. MBR w/Jacuzzi tub, library, bonus room for playroom, guests or hobbies. Deck includes hot tub. Homeowners warranty.
(E34MAR) 248-349-5600 \$377,900



FARMINGTON HILLS Great End Unit Ranch
2 bedroom, 2 bath condo with newer kitchen, formal dining room, two doorways to deck. Kitchen has brkfst rm & pantry. Master bedroom with walk-in closet & Jacuzzi tub. Full finished basement, 2 car att gar.
(E54SYL) 248-349-5600 \$249,900



LIVONIA Newburgh Lake Condo
has prime location. Gate access to Hines Park & lake for walking, fishing & sports. Association includes heat, water, pool. Near shopping & highways. Updated kitchen, windows, Carpet, 2 BR, 2 BA, great storage.
(E40ANN) 734-455-5600 \$137,900



ANN ARBOR All You Need Is A Picket Fence
Lovely living space with refinished hardwood floors, updated kitchen & bath, newer windows & furnace all offered in this 2 bedroom, 1.5 bath bungalow.
(E85BEL) 734-455-5600 \$162,900



COMMERCE Builders Model Closeouts
Quality plus, Mystic Forest, 2-story on premium suite w/walk out bsmt. 3 car garage. GR w/soaring ceilings, custom kitchen w/granite counters, crown moldings, recessed lighting. Whirlpool tub, Andersen windows.
(E69PHI) 248-349-5600 \$448,500



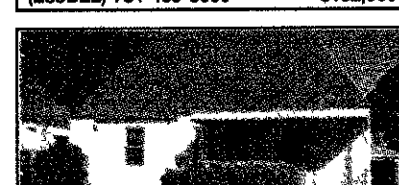
SOUTH LYON Newer Cape
2 bedrooms, 2.5 baths. Beautiful cape cod style home has cathedral ceiling, nice master suite, large maple kitchen, FFL, formal dining room, library, 9' ceilings, attached 2 car garage, huge unfinished lower level.
(E68GRE) 248-349-5600 \$345,900



NOVI Crosswinds Townhouse
2 bedroom, 1.5 bath 2 story condo with newer kitchen, roof, furnace, HW/H, plus all appliances. Two skylights, recessed lighting and fireplace. Finished basement and one car garage.
(E60PON) 248-349-5600 \$156,900



CANTON Great Pride Shows
In this well cared for ranch-condo in great location of complex. Fireplace in living room, formal dining room, lots of cabinets & counter space, newer vinyl windows, furnace & HW/H. You will love this one.
(E78SOU) 734-455-5600 \$124,900



DEARBORN Unique Home
Offers 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, basement, 2 car garage. Unique floor plan. 2 bedrooms converted to FR w/vaulted ceiling. Attic converted to loft style 2nd bedroom. Newer windows, carpet in FR & master.
(E31HOM) 734-455-5600 \$129,900



LIVONIA One Of The Finest
This turn-key colonial shows pride of ownership T/O. From recently updated kitchen w/maple cabinets to the newer landscaping. Front & back, this is it! Great family room w/frpic, fin bsmt, updated baths. A 10.
(E50SUN) 248-349-5600 \$249,900



COMMERCE TWP. Model Home Can Be Yours
Now for sale in Mystic Forest. 2-story foyer, lots of ceramic, hardwoods & 2 fireplaces. Huge daylight basement, oversize 3 car garage, sprinkler, deck, landscaping and much, much more.
(E87PHI) 248-349-5600 \$489,900



WESTLAND Upper Ranch Condo
End unit with attached garage. 2 bedrooms, 1 bath, large open living/dining room area. Spacious master bedroom with WIC. Enjoy maintenance free living. Pool & clubhouse. Immediate occupancy.
(E26CAR) 248-349-5600 \$89,900



WESTLAND Beautiful Brick Ranch
In a low traffic location offers this 3 bedroom home w/updated oak kitchen, ceramic bath, hndwd flrs T/O, updated windows, new tear off roof (04), 2 car powered, insulated garage, some appls & warranty.
(E71CHI) 734-455-5600 \$167,400



REDFORD Super Sharp Brick Ranch
Finished basement in this 3 bedroom, 1.5 bath home w/2 car attached garage, updated kitchen & bath, hardwood floors T/O. Beautiful yard with patio, deck & in-ground pool. A must see and a great buy.
(E14WES) 734-455-5600 \$137,900



ROYAL OAK Nicely Updated Ranch
Great location for this 3 bedroom home w/basement & 2 car garage. Newer kit w/ceramic tile. All appliances stay. Newer roof, windows, furnace & C/A. Newer 50 gal HW/H. Quick occupancy & 1 yr warr. Prof Lndscpd.
(E29AME) 248-349-5600 \$179,900



FENTON Waiting For You
Newer very clean 3 bedroom, 2 bath ranch w/master bedroom w/bath. Two car garage. Large basement, 1st floor laundry. Has never been decorated - waiting for your personal touches. Close to I-75 & US-23.
(E25MLI) 248-349-5600 \$169,900



LIVONIA Updated Ranch
Convenient location 3 bedroom, 1 bath ranch w/lots of updates including, roof, kitchen, crown moldings, hardwood floors living room & family room. 2 car garage, Livonia schools, one year home warranty.
(E05PAD) 248-349-5600 \$159,900

Relocation Services
800-448-5817

CENTANT
Mobility Broker Network



Birmingham
248-642-8100

Chesterfield Twp.
586-949-5600

Clarkston
248-620-7200

Clinton Twp.
586-286-8000

Commerce Twp.
248-363-1200

Fraser
586-294-3655

Grosse Pointe
313-888-5040

Northville
248-349-5600

Plymouth
734-455-5600

Rochester
248-652-8000

Royal Oak
248-280-4777

Shelby Twp.
586-731-6160

St. Clair Shores
586-778-8100

Sterling Heights
586-939-2800

Troy
248-524-1600

West Bloomfield
248-628-8800

Observer & Eccentric



Apartments

HOMETOWNlife.com

This Classification continues from Section F

Condos/Townhouses 4020

DETROIT-6/ Grand River. Section 8 OK, 1 & 2 bdrm condo, like new, gated parking. \$650-\$550. 734-765-5899

FARMINGTON 32718 Grand River Unit C-31, River Glen Condo, Sharp 2 bedroom End Unit 1st floor with Park View, all appliances, common basement area. \$800 a month Heat included. RE/MAX Classic Dave Davidson 734-432-1010

LIVONIA First mo rent free. 2 bdrm, 2 bath, screen porch, appliances. \$1050/mo. D&H Properties 248-737-4002

NORTHVILLE 1609 sqft, 2 bdrm, 2.5 bath, 2 car, built 2003. Stainless, washer/dryer. \$1500. 734-502-4512

NORTHVILLE 2 bdrm, 2 bath, 1200 sq.ft., washer/dryer, new carpet & paint, open floor plan, carport. \$900. 734-420-0791

NORTHVILLE Near downtown. 2 bdrm, 2 bath, 1200 sq. ft., all appliances, vaulted ceiling & pool. \$1000. 248-797-3888

NOVI Lg. 2 bdrm., attached garage, . \$895/mo. Utilities incl. No credit check. 734-722-0808/ 734-787-0899

PLYMOUTH 2 bdrm facing woods, newly renovated, garage, 2.5 bath, deck, no pets. \$980. (734) 354-9613

REDFORD - Plymouth Rd. & Inkster Rd. area. Large 2 bdrm. townhome, newly remodeled. Incl. heat, water, appliances. \$750/mo + security. 248-388-2444

SOUTH LYON New 2 bdrm., bsmt., hardwood floors, close to town. \$785/mo D&H Properties 248-737-4002

SOUTHFIELD TOWNHOUSE/CONDO 2 bdrm., 2.5 baths, full bsmt., 2 car garage, 1600 sq. ft., no pets. 1 1/2 month sec. deposit. 248-955-8110

Earn extra \$\$ advertise with O & E 1-800-579-SELL

SOUTHFIELD - Beautiful & newly decorated 3 bdrm, 2 1/2 bath, c/a, patio. \$1295/mo. ShareNet Realty 248-642-1620

SOUTHFIELD Sharp 2 bdrm, 2 bath, hardwood floors, new appliances, C/A, \$750/mo. ShareNet Realty 248-642-1620

WEST BLOOMFIELD - Nice, upgraded, 2 bdrm, 2 bath condo, bsmt, \$1500/mo. Call Amy 248-217-9898

Duplexes 4030

Belleville 2 bdrm Hwd floors, updated Kitchen w/all appliances, new vinyl windows, new blinds, bsmt w/washer & dryer hookups & possible 3rd bedroom. \$825/mo, \$1000 sec dep. 2 units avail now. pets negotiable Call Tina 734-416-8736

BIRMINGHAM - Lower, 2 bdrm, hardwood floors, bsmt, air, no pets. \$1100/mo. Call (248) 641-1689

CANTON 3 bdrm., 1.5 bath, Appliances No pets. Ford/ Sheldon area. \$865/mo Call 248-514-0585

Dearborn Area EVERGREEN & FORD RD. Newly renovated 2 bdrm duplex w/ bsmt, near Fairlane, HFCO, & U of M Ext. \$525 + sec. Avail now! 248-388-2905

FARMINGTON HILLS 1 bdrm, gas, electric & water included. \$575/mo. plus 1 mo. security deposit. (810) 217-0676

HAZEL PARK - 2 bedroom upper. \$575/month includes heat, water, cable, and garage parking. (248) 398-4935

NORWAYNE 2 bdrm, remodeled kitchen & bath, newer carpet, freshly painted, nice location. \$569/mo. 313-278-0282

PLYMOUTH Sheldon/ Junction area 1 bdrm, utility room, air. Non smoking, no pets. \$510 mo + sec. 734-455-1040

Westland - 2 bedroom, full bsmt, clean & neat. Quiet neighborhood. Immediate occupancy. From \$645/month Call Jamie: 734-721-8111

WESTLAND Norwayne area Duplex. 31561 Alpena, 2 bdrm, \$540 mo + security. 32406 Lapeer, 3 bdrm, \$650 + sec. Call (248) 420-0573

WESTLAND/ NORWAYNE 2 bedroom Clean. Remodeled kitchen! Under \$560/ security 734-416-9799

Berkley - Lower flat. 1207 Dorothea 2 bdrm, 6 rooms Updated Appliances Clean \$850 per mo 2 yr./\$925 one year lease (248) 770-1964

PLYMOUTH - DOWNTOWN Great location, seconds to downtown, 1 bdrm, lower flat. Updated thruout, freshly painted, hardwood floors, neutral decor, full kitchen, full bathroom, full appliances. Bonus room could be office or 2nd bedroom. Bsmt w/extra storage, washer/dryer, Central Air, & vinyl windows. 1 yr lease \$655/mo, \$1000 sec dep. Pets negotiable 641 Forest St. Avail now Call Tina, 734-416-8736

FLATS 4040

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Flats 4040

ROYAL OAK - 1 bdrm flat, hardwood floors, stone fireplace, no pets, \$775 includes utilities 248-423-9334

ROYAL OAK - 3 bdrm flat, 1 1/2 bath, approx 1500 sq ft, stone fireplace, hardwood floors, no pets, \$1300/mo. incl water & gas. 248-423-9334

Homes For Rent 4050

BAD CREDIT? YOU CAN STILL BUY A HOME WITH \$0 DOWN IN ANY AREA! Short term employment OK. Bankruptcy OK. Call Randy Leeson, METRO FINANCE 248-709-2244 metrofinance.net

BIRMINGHAM 2604 Manchester, renovated, 3 bdrm, 2 bath, hardwood floors, all appliances, fireplace, finish bsmt, garage, fenced, deck. \$1595/mo. 248-761-0627

BIRMINGHAM Close to downtown 2 bdrm, 2 bath Completely updated Bsmt, fenced yard, garage \$1050 mo 248-214-4646

BLOOMFIELD HILLS - 15 & Telegraph, Fox Croft Sub. 2000 sq ft. 4 bdrm, 2 full bath, \$1950/mo. (248) 607-8722

BRIGHTON - 4 bdrm, 5000 sq ft. ranch, lower level walk-out. 3 car garage. 3/4 acre. Rent-to-own. Flexible terms. No credit check. \$2999/mo. 734-365-3725

CANTON - 4 bdrm, 2.5 bath, deck, fireplace, appliances. 2 car garage, fenced yard, bsmt, c/a, \$1500/mo 734-716-7827

CANTON - We have new homes for rent. Pets welcome Call Sandy at Sun Homes for details at 888-304-8941 Skyline/Clayton Retailer

CANTON 3 Bdrm. ranch. 2.5 detached garage \$1185/mo Call (734) 416-9799

CANTON 3 Bedrooms, 1 Master Bedroom/private bath Colonial, finished basement, 1 bath \$1550 - 734-678-5188

CANTON TOWNSHIP 3 bdrm Colonial, \$1395/mo (734) 354-9725

DEARBORN HEIGHTS 6198 Maybun 3 bdrm brick ranch 1 car garage, fenced Avail immediately. \$785 SHOWING: Sunday @4pm Wednesday @6PM Call: 248-703-5870. 248-647-9726

DEARBORN HEIGHTS 3 Bdrms, 1 Master Bdrm/private bath, 2 baths, 2 garage Immediate Occupancy Rent 2 Own! 50% rent credit! Newly remodeled. www.MiRent2Own.com \$1850 - 734-944-1703

LATHRUP VILLAGE 3 Bdrms, 1 Master Bdrm/private bath, 2 baths, 2 garage Immediate Occupancy Rent 2 Own! 50% rent credit! Newly remodeled. www.MiRent2Own.com \$1850 - 734-944-1703

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Homes For Rent 4050

DEARBORN HEIGHTS Dearborn schools, 1700sq ft, 3 bdrm, 2 bath brick ranch w/ fireplace, 1st floor laundry, wooded lot. Attached garage, 1350+ security 734-231-9220

DETROIT - Investors Welcome 3 bedroom bungalow, basement, Warrenside, Immediate occupancy Rent to own/buy. 248-931-7840, 248-921-2432

DETROIT 16927 Winston, 6 & Telegraph 3 bdrm, 1000 sq. ft. w/bsmt, \$695/mo, \$1500 move in (313) 492-0311

DETROIT 3 bdrm w/ air, Telegraph & 7 Mile By month for at least 6 months. \$800/mo. (313) 737-9815

FARMINGTON HILLS 1500 sq ft. colonial, 3 bdrm, 1.5 bath, 2 car attached, lg fenced yard \$1350/mo 248-388-7869

FARMINGTON HILLS 8 Mile & Grand River. 2 bdrm ranch. Attached garage, bsmt, new windows, hardwood floors, \$825+ deposit. References. 248-348-0086

FARMINGTON HILLS Exceptional 4 bdrm, 2 1/2 bath Colonial, 3000 sq ft. \$2600. ShareNet Realty 248-642-1620

FERNDALE 2 master bdrm, fireplace, new kitchen w/appliances. Bsmt w/laundry, oak floors \$900 248-350-2499

GARDEN CITY -

Get Ready for the Holidays

THOMPSON & THOMPSON

**We Don't Surface Clean
We Deep Clean!**

Team of 3
Bonded,
Supplies Provided
Owners Operated
References

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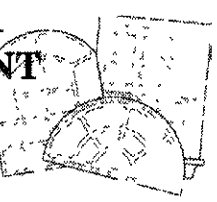


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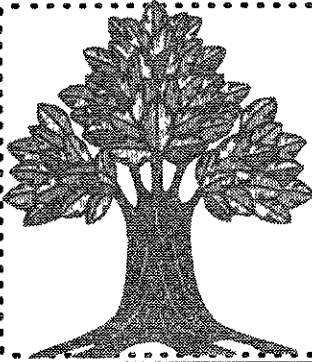


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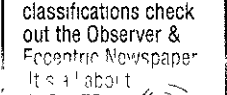
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Sexual Harassment In Nursing Article Breaks New Ground



WORKWISE
by
Mildred L.
Culp

How has our attitude toward sexual harassment changed? How does the nurse-patient relationship

inform that change?

Look back at the late 20(th) century and you can't miss the unalterable fact that although the workplace became increasingly aware of the problem of sexual harassment, it's failed to eradicate it.

Little-known research by the Equal Opportunity Commission (EEOC) paints a disturbing picture of frequency, by industry. Here are six industries with numbers of charges filed in FY2004:

Industry	EEOC Offices	State & Local FEP Agencies*	Total
Retail	1152	871	2023
Health Care	469	36	838
Financial Services	350	190	540
Professional Services	316	205	521
Automotive	294	139	433
Hotel/Hospitality	169	134	303

*State and local equivalents of the EEOC.

These numbers don't tell us:
-- whether sexual harassment is increasing or decreasing over previous years;

-- the relationship between the alleged harasser and the claimant (boss, customer, whatever); or
-- the extent of unreported cases in an industry.

These numbers do tell us, however, that, despite increased awareness of the problem, "If you pick an industry, it's there," in the words of Randy Gold, attorney at Fox & Fox S.C., Monona, Wisc. Another attorney, Edward Buckley of Atlanta's Buckley & Klein L.L.P., comments, "I think employees have the right to assume the workplace will be harassment-free." Is this realistic?

PATIENT HARASSMENT

The complicated nature of the relationship between harasser and victim may be no clearer than that of nurses in relation to patients. Debbie Dougherty, assistant communication professor at the University of Missouri-Columbia, details it at length in "Paradoxing the Dialectic," to be published in the Spring, 2006, Management Communication Quarterly. Her article states that "nurses must negotiate between closeness and distance to fulfill their roles as caregivers. The sexual harassment of nurses by their patients, however, serves to destroy this ability to move between these poles and instead calls for a single response -- distance."

Attorneys are quick to point out that in this relationship the nurse wields the power, making the dynamic different

from traditional harassment. However, the harassment is no less real (and capable of suit, according to Gold), particularly since the nurse has to consider whether quitting is the answer, even in an occupation begging for workers. Dougherty's research uncovers alarming statistics of 60 percent to 87 percent of nurses in studies citing patient-nurse harassment.

Dougherty also writes that most nurses thrive on their ability to develop "connections" or "relationships" with patients, that they require "closeness," both relational and proximate, to do their work. For them, like many others throughout industry, the EEOC statistics reflect that sexual harassment comes with the territory.

DISTANCE

What can a person in any occupation do when confronted with harassment in any field? Some laugh it off. Consultant Patricia Trite of Healthcare Compliance Resources in Augusta, Mich., points out that reporting can lead to "the added humiliation of being ostracized (or) mocked," and, thus, working in an extremely uncomfortable environment. Others may hesitate to sue because of a "smart" harasser. Buckley has represented a number of clients whose harassers have been described this way because of their ability to operate undetected.

Buckley argues that "harassment is not smart and most harassers leave



Randy Gold says that every industry still has some sexual harassment problems.

'footprints' in the form of e-mails, text messages, hotel receipts, voice messages or even greeting cards. Cellphones now double as cameras and videocameras and victims can now record harassment as it occurs." The EEOC allows charges to be filed within 180 days after harassment occurs. For security, Buckley prefers to report multiple incidents.

Clearly, people who are harassed must ask themselves how much trouble they're willing to go to for the distance they seek to create.

(Dr. Mildred L. Culp comments upon the workplace in national media. Copyright 2005 Passage Media.)

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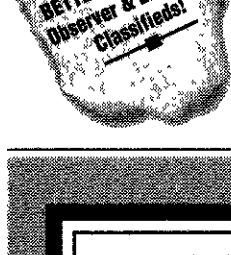
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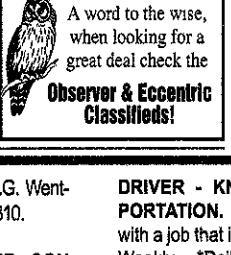
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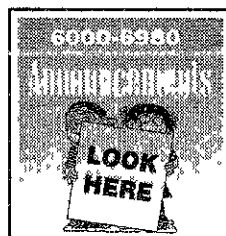
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PERSONALS 6900

PAULINE P.

Were you in the Dunkin Donuts on Ford Rd. in Garden City, Sept. 30, 8am? An old friend may have seen you! I have no answer as to why I didn't say anything other than to answer your question! When I turned around, I couldn't believe my eyes - I was truly speechless! It was like the last time I saw you unexpectedly at an auto auction 30 years ago! I've been upset with myself for not saying hello. Anxious to speak to you. Call me collect, or write me a note. Call 808-965-7603 PO Box 1464, Pahoa, Hawaii 96778

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For Sale, BIRMINGHAM BROTHER RICE WARRIORS Great Christmas gifts! Order online

www.champshirt.com or call 1-888-414-7270

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7180... Household Goods
7200... Appliances
7220... Pools, Spas, Hot Tubs
7240... Bargain Buys
7260... Bicycles
7280... Exercise/Fitness Equipment
7300... Building Materials
7320... Business & Office Equipment
7340... Office Supplies
7360... Cameras & Supplies
7380... Commercial/Industrial Restaurant Equipment
7400... Commercial/Industrial Machinery For Sale
7420... Computers
7440... Electronics/Audio/Video
7460... Video Games, Tapes, Movies
7480... Farm Equipment
7500... Farm Produce-Flowers, Plants
7520... U-Picks
7540... Christmas Trees
7560... Firewood-Merchandise
7580... Hobbies-Coins, Stamps
7600... Hospital/Medical Equipment
7620... Jewelry
7640... Lawn, Garden & Snow Equipment
7660... Lawn, Garden Material
7680... Miscellaneous For Sale
7700... Musical Instruments
7720... Sporting Goods
7740... Tools
7760... Trade Or Sell
7780... Wanted To Buy

7800-7930 Animals/Pets

- 7800... Animal Services
7810... Breeder Directory
7820... Birds & Fish
7830... Cats
7840... Dogs
7850... Farm Animals/Livestock
7860... Horses & Equipment
7870... Horse Boarding-Commercial
7880... Household Pets-Others
7890... Pet Grooming & Boarding
7900... Pet Services
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7920... Pets Wanted
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Antiques/Collectibles 7020

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Nov 10th - Dec. 31st
Town & Country Antiques (Behind East Side Mario's)
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Antiques/Collectibles 7020

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ESTATE SALE: 7910 Hix Rd. btwn Warren & Joy Dec. 9-11, 9am-5pm. Antiques, 1800s pump organ, accordion, Franklin wood burning stove, kitchen, collectibles, misc.

Arts & Crafts 7040

HOLIDAY SALE

Arbonne Botanical Skin Care, Discovery Toys, designer purses & jewelry, gift baskets, etc. Sun., Dec. 11, 1-5, Tues. Dec. 13, 6-9, 2612 Avonhurst Dr., Troy. 248-961-0713.

Auction Sales 7060

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Sat. - Dec 10 - 7pm

Cultural Center

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Antiques/Collectibles Furniture/Glassware Porcelain/China/Pottery

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By: Everything Goes

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Custom kitchen cabinets with Subzero & Gaggenau appliances, crystal chandeliers & sconces. All Pella windows & French doors, columns, brass railings, built-ins, 5 complete marble top baths with Kohler fixtures, 2-90" Heat & AC's, wool carpet, bar, jacuzzi, all high end lighting & hardware, all doors, 2 garage doors & landscape, caved mahogany king 4-post bedroom set, several sofa groups, 3 complete bedroom sets, games table & chairs, formal dining room set, Great accessories & artwork & so much more!

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(313) 837-1993

29560 Breezewood, Farmington Hills off of 13 Mile Rd. btwn Halsted and Haggerty Rd., In Greenpointe at Copper Creek Sub. Fri. & Sat. Dec. 9 & 10, 9am-4pm

1998, Lincoln Continental, Exec. Cond., Upholster Sofa, Lamps, Mirrored Pedestals, Club Chairs, Recliner Chair, Entertainment Units, TV's with VCR, Glass Top Coffee Table and End Table, Hanging Light Fixture, Fur Coats, Leather Coat with Fur, Treadmill, Office Desks and Chairs, Copy & Fax Machine, Refrigerator, Freezer, And MUCH-MUCH MORE!!!

BIG ESTATE SALE BEVERLY HILLS

Fri., Dec. 9, 10-5pm Sat., Dec. 10, 10-5pm

Living room: Traditional breakfast room: matching loveseats, antique chairs, tables & lamps, wing back & club chair.

Family Room: ETHAN ALLEN loveseat Sofa, recliner, & chairs.

Kitchen: 50's formica table & 4 chairs, Frigidaire electric stove, Bedroom: Mahogany twin beds, vanity, chest, dresser, night stand.

Bedroom: Vintage twin beds, dresser/mirror, chest, & night stand.

Den: Sofa, curio cabinet, two wall chests.

Accessories include: Sony 27" TV, VCR/DVD Elephant collection Book collector's paradise Decorative plates Estate jewelry Mug collection Vintage bookcase/cabinet Fine men's clothes Lots & lots of misc

19175 WARWICK W off Southfield just S of 14 Mile turn on S. 14 Mile Rd. 248-411-1458

Sale by LILLY M. & CO.

Farmington Hills - Sale By Americana - Dec 9-10, 4pm. Located at 28474 Wildwood Trail, Woodbine Sub. N off 10 Mile, E of Middlebelt. Entire contents, antique hoocher cabinet, bunk beds, armoire, king bed, no-ding mower, & more 248-739-4197 For details markblondy.com

FARMINGTON HILLS 27520 West 8 Mile, btwn Inkster & Grand River. Fri-Sat., 10-30-4:00. Antique lamps & furniture, costume jewelry, dolls, TV's, radios, household, more!

LIVONIA - Dec. 10, Numbers at 8am, open 8:30am CASH ONLY! Piano, jewelry, collectible bears, much more! 35450 Bristol (Wayne) 6 Mile.

LIVONIA Huge Estate Sale! 35220 Orangelawn, Dec. 8-9-10, 9-4pm Costume jewelry, furniture, antiques, household, much more For more info Go to: www.esalestoppe.com or call 248-420-0053

MULTIPLE ESTATE SALE Metropolitan United Methodist Church, 8000 Woodward Ave., Detroit Dec 10, 9:30am-3:00pm Secured parking

PRESTIGE ESTATE SALE Fri & Sat. Dec 9-10, 10-4 542 WESTCHESTER BIRMINGHAM, MI (S. off Maple Rd, btwn Southfield & Cranbrook) Sofas, dining sets, bdrm sets, desks, large collection of Irish Belleek, Waterford, Bavarian china, Royal Doulton, artwork, huge selection of books, washer, dryer, stove, refrigerator & more. 586-662-7373

7100 Estate Sales 7100

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Fri. & Sat. Dec 9-10 10-4PM

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Living room: Traditional breakfast room: matching loveseats, antique chairs, tables & lamps, wing back & club chair.

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Garage Sales 7110

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Moving Sales 7130

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FURNITURE all rooms. Must sell ASAP. Rochester Hills. Call for more info or appointment, 248-373-0833

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ROYAL OAK Dec. 10th. Hutch, mahogany dining room table, exercise equip., microwave, sofa. 1622 Fairview.

ROYAL OAK Lu Lu's Huge Moving Sale Dec. 9-11, 9am-evening. 215 Hawthorne, S of Catala, E. of Main. Furniture, antiques, ceramics, primitive, etc. No Junk No pre-sales

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Household Goods 7160

FURNITURE - LEAVING STATE

Must sell! Will sacrifice beautiful near new furniture items include elegant Italian leather sofa & loveseat (cost over \$3,000, will sell both pieces for \$1,500), also have beautiful 13 piece formal Chippendale cherry dining room suite, 2 king-sized cherry 11-piece bedroom suites, 2 cherry queen-sized bedroom suites, cherry five piece game set, 3-piece cherry pub table set, all wood 9-piece cherry kitchen set, cherry & mahogany grandfather clocks, two 3-piece cherry coffee table sets, gorgeous 24 percent lead crystal and solid brass lamps, pictures, silk trees, etc. All less than 3 mos old & in excellent condition. Must be sold as soon as possible. Private party. Please call 248-853-6124

A NEW KING PILLLOW TOP MATTRESS SET. New in bag, only \$250. Deliverable, 734-891-8481

ANTIQUE OAK CHEST Acorn pulls, blue/white check sofa & loveseat, buffet w/ hutch, 2 dressers w/ mirrors, twin beds (complete), small tables, Norkate Lismore china, antique frames, Laura Ashley coverlets, Rack-N-Play extension ladder. All good to perfect. Reasonable. 248-642-7134.

BED - Brand New super pillow-top mattress set, in plastic, with warranty. Must sell! Can deliver 734-231-6622

BED - king size, \$300/best offer. 734-427-7184

BED - SLEIGH BED Queen size, cherry. Brand new in box, can deliver, \$300. 734-326-2744

BED - SPLIT KING SIZE BED 9 dresser w/ mirror, 5 drawer bureau chest, 1 end table, mattress's hardly used. Like new cond. \$700. 248-651-0774

BED-A QUEEN PILLLOW TOP MATTRESS SET. New in plastic, sell \$150. 734-891-8481, Can Deliver

Household Goods 7160

BEDDING SET - 2 piece queen size pillow top mattress set. New in plastic with warranty. \$160. 734-326-2744

BEDROOM SET

7 piece, girls, honey color wood, good condition, \$250. 248-553-0906

BUNK BEDS Stanley, Solid oak, Honey, Excellent condition. Pull out Captain's drawers \$600. 248-477-8686

COMFY LOVESEAT, COUCH coffee table, end table. \$195 Mauve & Grey couch, paid \$900, asking \$550, black lounge chairs w/ 2 lg pillows. \$200; kitchen butcher block table, \$50. 734-367-0556.

COUCH 82", 1 Chair, dining room table, w/2 leaves & 4 chairs. Chest, dresser & nightstand, lounge chair & ottoman. Moving. (248) 477-9937

DINING ROOM SET Amish, light oak, mint cond. Buffet & hutch. Table: double pedestal, gorgeous, 3 leafs, self storing, 6 chairs total, 2 arm chairs. Must sacrifice \$2,900, priced to sell 248-890-5505

DINING SET "Bent Bros." maple oval double pedestal table, 6 chairs, 2 leafs, incl. china cabinet w/ hutch & side buffet. Quality furniture, exc cond. Make offer. 734-454-0679

ENTERTAINMENT CENTER House of Denmark. Teak finish. Holds 37" TV. \$500. (734) 394-1630

Entire Kitchen - Renovating House - Beautiful European style cabinets, Corian counter tops & sink, many extras! All appliances, bathrooms. Cash & carry. Photos available 248-302-2883

FIREPLACE INSERT Buck-Stove, wood or coal burning. Used only 2 seasons. Complete w/owners manual. \$500/best. (248) 442-4943

FULL SIZE MATTRESS SET. New still wrapped w/ warranty. Sacrifice, \$135. (734) 891-8481

FURNITURE - Toshiba big screen TV, desk set, end tables, leather furniture, etc. (313)402-5154

FURNITURE - Dark oak king frame, armoire, 2 night stands, dresser, sofa & chair set. Dark oak 6 ft table, 3 leaves, 4 side & 2 arm chairs, server, china cabinet, \$1000 Natuzzi burgundy leather couch, \$700. Glider rocker, White, w/stool \$75 248-651-3893

FURNITURE - Lane dining table, 6 chairs, china cabinet, \$1000/best Wood twin platform bed w/drawers \$75 & desk \$50 248-788-1100

FURNITURE - Large sleeper sectional Baker's rack with shelves sofa & chair set. 734-344-1458

FURNITURE - Little Tikes red twin race car bed \$175 Couch, loveseat, chair & ottoman, neutral color \$200. 734-397-9718

FURNITURE - MOVING SALE White bunk beds, oak crib & changing table & oak entertainment center (5x6) Exc condition 248-882-6377

FURNITURE Christmas special! Girls' 12 piece yellow/white bdrm set, \$600 Coffee table, \$25, Sofas \$50, end tables & lamps. 248-349-3117

FURNITURE Coffee table, Square, 38x38", 2 drawers on each side. Plus a side table (26x26"). Both solid pine with glass tops. \$150 734-459-4731

FURNITURE Moving Sale. White & blue couch, was \$750, now \$350 French blue recliner, was \$350, now \$150, almost new. Shirley: 734-421-0955

FURNITURE Newer black leather sofa, loveseat, 40" ottoman, glass dining room table & chairs, coffee tables, complete bdrm, corner curio 248-737-2952

FURNITURE-MOVING SALE Must go now! New entertainment center, electric range, 3 section couch, papasan chairs. Grandfather clock & more. Laura (248) 225-7717

HAND KNOTTED RUG 8'X10' red w/ blue, made in India, new \$1800, asking \$275. (734) 459-7512

HIGH END CONTEMPORARY FURNITURE Practically brand new from Gormans. Dining room, living room and family room furniture. 586-201-0126

KING SIZE CHERRY WOOD BED Mattress and night stand, great cond. \$400. (734) 765-4677

MOVING SALE- FURNITURE all rooms incl. 3 bdrm sets Baby grand piano. Exercise equip. In Troy, 248-641-7825.

Bob has a new job, but he can never get to work on time.

We have someone who will. Heck, we even have Bob's next job.

Go to CareerBuilder.com or call us at 800-579-7355

to place your next Help Wanted ad.

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Brought to you by Mirror and The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

Ready to meet great new people?



HERE'S HOW IT WORKS:

Answer an ad:

1. Note the ☎ number listed in the ad
2. Call 1-900-950-3785
It's only \$2.19/minute. Must be 18+, or:
Call 1-800-510-4786, and use a major credit or debit card
3. Follow the instructions to listen to the advertiser's voicemail greeting
4. Leave a personal message for the advertiser

Place your own ad:

1. Call 1-800-506-5115
2. Answer some simple questions to create your ad
3. Record a voicemail greeting
4. Learn how to pick up your messages - we'll let you know when new ones have arrived!

Get more:

- ❖ Chat with local singles right now.

Call 248-397-0123 to learn more

- ❖ Need help? Some Tips?

Call 1-617-450-8773

Free Ads: Free ads placed in this section are not guaranteed to run every week. Be sure to renew your ad frequently to keep it fresh.

Guidelines: Personals are for adults 18 or over seeking monogamous relationships. To ensure your safety, carefully screen all responses and have first meetings occur in a public place. This publication reserves the right to edit, revise, or reject any advertisement at any time at its sole discretion and assumes no responsibility for the content of or replies to any ad. Not all ads have corresponding voice messages. To review our complete guidelines, call (617) 425-2636

a service of people2people

WOMEN SEEKING MEN

ISO GOOD FRIEND?

Possible relationship? Read on. SWF, 47, N/S, enjoys cooking, dining out, art museums, plays, reading, and traveling. Seeking honest WM, 42-57, N/S. ☎857253

ARE YOU OUT THERE?

SWF, 42, Aries smoker never married looking for companion. Seeking good-hearted, hard-working SWM, 30-50. ☎819435

ATTRACTIVE, HONEST...

SWF, youthful 43, down-to-earth. I enjoy camping, fishing, amusement parks, dining, blockbuster nights, etc. Seeking honest WM, 35-45, for dating, possible LTR. Must have good SOH. ☎865670

RECENTLY DIVORCED MOM

SWF, 43, N/S, would like to meet an outgoing, friendly, non-smoking man, 35-53, who likes outdoors, bicycling, walking, family. ☎115795

SHALL WE DANCE?

I am a SWF, 58, 5'3", 170lbs, attractive, intelligent, creative, articulate, seeks SWM, 57-73, who is kind-hearted, articulate, who enjoys dancing, walking, traveling, movies, dining out. ☎812098

LET'S ENJOY LIFE

SWF, 57, N/S, seeks intelligent, kind-hearted, young-at-heart WM, 57-68, N/S, who enjoys traveling, camping, boating (Great Lakes or ocean), music book stores, and laughter. ☎759907

A GREAT CATCH

Slim, attractive lady, 69, employed, full of vim/vigor, loves dancing, singing, the opera, concerts, fine dining, cooking in, walks, life in general. ISO loving, fun man w/good sense of humor. ☎860625

HI

SBF, 48, Aries, N/S, seeks man, 45-60, who loves movies, plays, and dining out. Let's spend some time together. ☎853245

MYSTICAL WOMAN

Feminine SBF, 37, loving and lovable, 5'4", 135lbs, seeks creative, compassionate metaphysical, Feminine woman for long talks, romantic weekends, love? ☎865148

FORMER MODEL

SWF, 50, 5'6", slender, intelligence, creativity, passion for music and dancing. Seeks partner 38-50, who is attractive and fit, to share this interests and more. ☎600106

LET'S LAUGH TOGETHER

SWF, 49, 5'5", full-figured, brown/brown, romantic, lovable, humorous, likes entertaining, traveling, family time. Seeking SM, 40-56, N/S, social drinker ok, who puts God first in his life, for possible LTR. ☎861408

SEXY REDHEAD/GREAT LEGS

DWF, 54, 142lbs, 5'6", enjoys blues, animals, gardening, homeowner, no kids. Seeking SM, 5'10"+, N/S, social drinker for LTR. ☎548938

GET TO KNOW ME

SBF, 39, 5'6", provides care for the elderly, N/S, loves action, mystery, and suspense movies. Seeking man, 25-45, for friendship, possible romance. ☎853842

FRIENDSHIP FIRST

SWF, 40, brown/brown, plus-size, likes walks, most movies, reading, cuddling, time with family and friends, more. Looking for WM, 35-48, for dating. ☎859885

SEEKING SECURE MAN

SF, 5'3", long red hair, semi-retired, Vietnam vet, looking for a real man, 35-60. Must be able to communicate and be affectionate. ☎860537

LONESOME

Senior WF, retired, 5'4", active, honest, healthy. Need the attention of a WM, 65-75, enjoys everything, easy to please. So hurry up and call me! ☎449585

DOWN-TO-EARTH HOME BODY

SBF, 37, 5', 160lbs, single mom of 2, nice smile, hard-working, N/S, seeks teddy-bear type SBM, 37-42, N/S, kids at, for friendship, maybe LTR. ☎848200

RESCUE ME!

SBF, 41, 5'5", average build, enjoys church, family, shopping, much more. Looking for SBM, 43-47, professionally employed, N/S, who knows how to treat a woman. ☎408635

ASIAN MAN WANTED

Pretty, blue-eyed blonde, 55, plus-sized, warm and bright, seeks intelligent, handsome man for dating. Troy area. ☎827007

LIKE HAVING FUN?

SF, 5', 112lbs, blonde/green, looking for a romantic guy, 20-25, who is tall, handsome, nice and knows how to treat a lady. ☎845044

SOULMATE SEARCH

Slim, attractive, 57-yr-old JF looking for her soulmate, any sincere, successful JM, between the ages of 54-64, please respond. ☎589875

SINGLE MOM

WF, 28, looking for a handsome guy, 28-35, who likes boating, skiing, cuddling and more. Hope to meet you. ☎858742

CUTE AND CLASSY

SBF, mid-50s, seeks attractive gentleman, 50+, with similar interests. I love jogging, walks, concerts, quiet evenings. ☎574342

LIFE'S AN ADVENTURE

Active, sociable SWF, 44, 5'4", size 10, Auburn/green, mother, home/business owner, enjoys horror, foreign films, Middle-Eastern cuisine, the beach, reading, dancing, cycling. Seeking romantic, sociable, happy man open to life/love. ☎746704

SINGLE MOM

WF, 20, one young son, likes watching tv, different kinds of music, more. Looking for WM, 20-25, for dating. ☎858473

GOOD MAN WANTED

Attractive SBF, marriage-minded, 5'6", average build, 40, Capricorn, N/S, seeks BM, 40-51, N/S, to enjoy life and more. ☎692032

SLIM AND PETITE

Easygoing, active DWF, retired, ISO fun male, 60+, who likes bridge, tennis, reading, hiking, animals, kids, popcorn, willing to don a tuxedo now and then. ☎271793

BEAUTIFUL MIND WANTED

Beautiful, full-figured SBF, 35, enjoys comedy and romance, bowling, walks in the park. Seeking tall, dark, handsome SBM, 33-50. ☎481293

BROWN SUGAR AND SPICE

SF, 47 years young, 5'5", very outgoing, loves family, fun, life. Would like to spend time with someone, 40-60, who loves jazz, concerts, movies, dinners, weekend getaways. ☎208051

VERY OLD-FASHIONED

Widowed BF, 5'8", 185lbs, would like to meet a very nice man to be my good companion. ☎837276

COULD YOU BE MR. RIGHT?

Are you a big, tall, handsome man? DWF, 47, very attractive, loving, fun, seeks SWM to share life together. ☎443339

TALL BRUNETTE

SWF, 51, marriage-minded, N/S, has a great smile, likes romantic comedies, music, plays, outdoors, seeks SWM, 49-60, N/S, for LTR. ☎790785

SEEKING COMPANIONSHIP

Loving, attractive SWCF, 74, trim, fun, N/D, N/S, homebody type, seeks lasting friendship and happiness with a quality gentleman in his 70s. Let's talk! ☎794040

GREAT COMPANION

SF, 65, looks 55, 5'2", unique, bright, w/many talents and interests. I'm well-traveled, very attractive, health-conscious. How about you? Seeking non-smoking counterpart, 62-70. ☎633527

ENJOYS THE SIMPLE THINGS

Attractive DBF, early 60s, feels much younger, N/S, loves music and dancing, stays physically active, would like to hear from friendly, honest man, 58-68, N/S. ☎672174

ENERGETIC AND HAPPY

Very attractive blonde, refined, fit, full of life, easygoing, well-dressed, professionally employed, affectionate, romantic, kind, early very youthful 60s, 5'3", green eyes, feminine, shapely, enjoys dining, travel, music, theatre, dancing, family and friends. Seeking an honest, handsome, fit, educated, college graduate gentleman, over 55, N/S, with a youthful passion for life. Serious replies only. ☎652360

HAPPY & SECURE

DCF, 68, 5'2", long dark brown/brown, N/S, N/D, with positive attitude, enjoys leisurely drives, movies, and dining out. Seeking man, 58-75, for LTR. ☎669606

GOOD LOOKER

Positive, caring, easygoing SBPF, 53 (looks younger), N/S, not into bars, enjoys jazz, old-school music, and fun times. Seeking special, secure man, 48-60, N/S, for laughter, good times and LTR. ☎725001

KIND HEART

Full-figured SF, 55, enjoys dancing and all types of music, likes working with animals, seeks good-natured single man, 44-60, ☎742466

LOVING LEO

Widowed WPF, 53, 5'9", brown/brown, N/S, nursing home activities coordinator, enjoys boating, swimming, and Michigan State football games. Seeking WM, 50-62, with similar interests. ☎759316

59 YEARS

Pretty, charming SWF, successful, kind, compassionate lots of fun, looking for her knight in shining armor. Any sincere, successful gentleman, 55-80, please respond. Hopefully we'll be each others soul mates. ☎592074

WILDFLOWER

SWF, 63, 5'6", average build, Aries, N/S, enjoys dancing, dining out, seeks WM, 58-75, N/S, with a sense of humor, for friendship, possible romance. ☎720594

A KIND HEART

SBF, 56, mother, enjoys dining in/out, swimming, horseback riding, camping, picnics. Seeking sociable, honest, fun, employed man, N/S, to share happiness, friendship and possible LTR. ☎780769

WHERE ARE YOU?

Attractive SBF, 32, loves comedy clubs, movies, concerts, fishing, bowling, rollerblading and amusement parks. ISO SM, 32-39, race open, for LTR. Serious replies only. ☎695115

CAN U MAKE ME LAUGH?

Spontaneous SWF, 61, 5'4", average build, happy, independent, humorous, enjoys boating, cards, music, dining, walks, travel, golf. Seeking good-humored SM, w/similar interests, for companionship. ☎962703

THICK AND HEALTHY

SBF, 30, 5'5", 240lbs, N/S, N/D, no kids, employed. Seeking nice-looking SM, 20-35, w/no kids, N/S, for friendship, possibly more. ☎534802

HOMEBODY

SBF, 63, 5'8", 155lbs, retired (but does work part-time), very honest and caring, Scorpio, N/S, seeks BM, 58-65, honest and caring. ☎553674

I LISTEN WITH MY HEART

Attractive DWF, late 40s, Cancer, N/S, seeks special, no games WM, 45+, N/S, for caring, quality committed relationship. Let's create sparks and watch them fly. ☎639272

MEN SEEKING WOMEN

A GENTLEMAN

SWM, 39, N/S, works in the construction business, interested in sports, art, likes to have a lot of laughs, seeks SWF, 27-37. ☎808365

LOOKING FOR YOU

SBM, 45, seeks attractive, reliable, affectionate, SBF, not into games, who knows how to enjoy life and have fun. ☎866435

MUSCULAR GUY

SWM, 46, 6'2", 209lbs, brown/blue, college grad, enjoys working, reading, travel, dancing, sports. Seeking outgoing SF, with similar interests, for friendship and more. ☎431926

LOOKING FOR ME?

Adventurous SWM, 44, brown/blue, handsome, humorous, fit, with eclectic interests. Looking for attractive, sexy, some what normal female, 30-50, for partnership. ☎863740

NICE GUY

SWM, 66, 5'6", 150lbs, manufacturers' representative, Libra, N/S, works out, enjoys movies, restaurants, and summer festivals. Seeking SWF, 50-65, N/S. ☎708126

A SPECIAL GUY

DWM, 56, 5'10", handsome and secure, seeks honest S/DWF, w/sense of humor, who enjoys travel, candlelight dinners, plays, dancing, concerts, boating, and movies. Friendship, possible LTR. ☎269646

LONELY & READY

SWM, 49, Italian, heart of gold, Virgo, N/S, seeks WF, 45-55, with a nice build, ready for LTR. Serious replies only. ☎860305

KIND, HANDSOME TEACHER

SWPM, 53, 6', 220lbs, light smoker, social drinker, looking for one good woman. Please call. Troy area. ☎864792

WELL, HELLO

SM, very young-looking 50, 5'7", 180lbs, medium build, employed, self-reliant, D/D-free, easygoing and easy to get along with, enjoys biking and cooking. Seeking S/DWF, 40-55, 200-350lbs. ☎597126

HOPE SHE'S OUT THERE

Loving, respectful SM, 31, 5'9", brown complexion, hazel-brown eyes, well-built, nice smile, affectionate, employed, seeks a good-hearted, attractive, fun woman intelligent and compassionate, to share the good times with. ☎866168

HOPELESS ROMANTIC

DWM, would like to meet a single lady, 50-60, who likes affectionate and romance to share the rest of my life with. ☎857839

GENTLE AND CUTE

Active and attractive SWM, 58, good-natured, friendly gent enjoys outdoors, dancing, casinos, estate sales, etc. Seeking sincere, romantic, friendly lady. ☎341899

HAPPY DAD

Single father of three, 37, loves family, outdoors, biking, barbecues, cooking and more. Looking for a lovely WF, 30-45, to share happiness and life with. ☎715711

ADVENTUROUS

SWM, 41, seek SF, to become friends, maybe more. She must be smart, have SOH. I love friends, family, music, life. If you want to share these, please call. ☎595394

COULD IT BE YOU?

SWM, 40s, 6', 175lbs, N/S, homeowner, auto worker, easygoing, honest and secure, enjoys hunting, Harleys and the outdoors. Seeking attractive slim/fit woman, 30-50, N/S, D/D-free, comfortable in high heels-tennis shoes. ☎798519

MAN WITH PIZZAZZ...

Sincere, affectionate SWM, 40s, clear mind, fit body, enjoys artsy, cultural events, outdoor activities, seeking witty, pretty SWF, 35-55, for friendship and possible relationship. ☎517123

ROMANTIC BUT REALISTIC

Youthful easygoing SWM 46, likes movies, concerts boating. Seeking attractive SWF, 40s-50s, with a lively spirit, good sense of humor, friendly, positive outlook. ☎642092

LOOKING FOR SOMEONE

WM, 6'2", 220lbs, loves working out, dining out, sports, more. Looking for an attractive WF, 33-45, for dating, possibly leading to more. ☎853146

ARE YOU OUT THERE?

College-educated SBM, 42, Virgo, N/S, N/D, very outgoing, no children, likes movies and golfing. Seeking WF, 25-44, N/S, for dating. ☎858557

I'M A GOOD GUY WHO...

likes to have fun. SBM, 46, 5'4", 200lbs, Taurus, smoker, loves playing pool and gambling. Seeking WF, 30-35, smoker, who likes to have fun, too. ☎858825

ARE YOU ATHLETIC?

WM, 30, 6', 210lbs, blond/green, athletic build, plays sports, professional, likes snowmobiling, relaxing at home, going out occasionally, more. Seeking easygoing WF, 23-37, to spend time with. ☎861290

PAL, CHUM, COMPANION

Looking for someone to hang with. I am bright, masculine, well put-together, sane, curious. 62, 5'8", 150lbs, like exercise, movies, good food, travel. If you're SM, 45-65, masculine, call me. ☎635544

HOPE TO HEAR FROM YOU

Independent, self-sufficient DWM, 45, sturdy build, carpenter, sociable, affectionate likes boating, walks, drives, cycling, cooking. Seeking a special lady to share the good things in life. ☎855207

OPEN TO ALMOST ANYTHING

Optimistic, outgoing SWM, 46, enjoys most activities, yet open to new ideas and adventures, seeks spirited, spontaneous SWF, age open. ☎547524

GENTLE AND SENTIMENTAL

Easygoing, agreeable, cute SWM, 40s, eager to please, willing to try new things, seeks fairly attractive and friendly SWF, for dating and relating. ☎210772

SEEKS BROWN-EYED GIRL

Good-looking, friendly SWM, 41, 5'11", 180lbs, no children, N/S, easygoing, enjoys movies, music, travel, dining. Seeking very attractive, pretty SH/AWF, 28-39, friendship, possible relationship. ☎760359

LET'S TRY IT OUT

Just call this friendly, social, easygoing SWM, 40s, humorous, optimist, seeks kind, sociable lady for casual dating. Age open. ☎513284

ROMANCE AND YOU...

over due? If you are a SWF, 40-55, decent-looking, and somewhat romantic, then we might connect. This gentle, optimistic SWM could make you really happy. ☎799032

LETS TRY THIS OUT

Nice SWM, 40s, energetic, accommodating, easy to talk to, seeks a great lady for friendship and love. ☎258398

HAPPY GO LUCKY

Dance, flirt and have fun with me! SWM, 40s, seeks friendship with a good-natured, fun-to-be-with SWF, 35-50. ☎283848

SEEKS SPECIAL LADY

SWPM, 49, tall, dark/dark, N/Drugs, N/S, seeks attractive, sensitive, kind-hearted, good-natured SF, 42-52, N/S, N/Drugs, who enjoys home-cooked meals, nights on the town or home, for dating, possible LTR. ☎765893

LET'S TALK!

SM, 47, employed, secure, easygoing, fun-loving, homeowner, enjoys sorts, weightlifting, fishing, boating, keeping active. Seeking health-conscious, energetic with similar qualities and interests. ☎818838

MUSCULAR AND ATHLETIC

SWM, 46, 6'2", 209lbs, brown/blue,

Observer & Eccentric

Market Place

HOMETOWNlife.com

Household Goods (7160)

MUST SELL
BY THURS. DEC 8!!
OAK ROLL TOP DESK, Jasper Industries, authentic reproduction. 55w X 26-3/4 X 46h, \$500; Chipper vac, Troy-Bilt, 8 hp, Used 4x4 Incl. all attachments & repair kit. \$650. 248-766-4214.

OAK ENTERTAINMENT CENTER, 60x72, \$180; 4 ft round kitchen table w/20 12" leaves, 6 chairs, \$80; bedroom set, twin bed w/ headboard & frame, 22 nightstand, 44 desk, 32x75 dresser w/ bookshelves, 44x75 dresser w/ bookshelves, \$180. 248-368-3297

PERSIAN CARPETS Top quality hand-woven, for sale by private owner. Wool, silk & combination. Various sizes & colors. Liquidating below cost. Good Investment. Please Call 313-838-7900, 248-557-3911.

SAFE Century brand new, not used. \$50. Eureka, upright vacuum, new in box. \$15. (248) 628-5593.

SOFA Off White, 2 piece sec. Coffee table, barbell & bench. Artificial Ficus tree, upright vacuum. (734) 728-9648

SOFA-6 FT. w/matching Wing Back chair, very tasteful oriental print. \$450/for both. Excellent cond. 248-420-8200

TREADLE SEWING MACHINE Antique, \$125.00. Zuzuki Touring line Excellent cond. \$80. (734) 981-6236

Appliances (7180)

APPLIANCES Amana refrig. \$300. Frigidaire, Flat top stove, \$250 and Maytag dishwasher \$225. All White & like new Best offer. (734) 667-1306

Dishwasher, KitchenAid. Whirlpool side-by-side GE Spacemaker microwave All around, 5 years old, best offer. MUST GO! 734-414-1726

DRYER Maytag, Gas, less than 1 yr. old, \$300. 6yr. old Frigidaire Gas stove. \$150. Both are White (734) 458-7591

Appliances (7180)

FRIDGE-WHITE, SIDE BY SIDE. Exec. cond. \$400 (734) 254-0277

GE WALL GAS OVEN. GE gas cook-top Remodeling, must sell. \$75 ea. or best offer. (734) 464-1629

WASHER & DRYER WHIRLPOOL, used only 6 months, \$500 each or both for \$900. Originally \$1000. 734-716-7738

WHIRLPOOL WASHER & ELECTRIC DRYER Washer-heavy duty, super capacity & Dryer-heavy duty XL capacity. \$400/both, 248-890-3453

Pools, Spas, Hot Tubs (7190)

HOT TUB 2005, Brand New Still in wrapper, seats 6 w/ longer. Retail for \$5950, sacrifice for \$2950 734-732-9338

HOT TUB 2005- New, many extras. Full warranty. Cost \$6900, moving must sell at \$3800. (248) 930-4646

MASTER SPA HOT TUB Paid \$7000, ask \$3000. 75 jets, 3 pumps, Led lights. 734-679-7229

MASTER SPA HOT TUB Paid \$7000, ask \$3000. 75 jets, 3 pumps, Led lights. 734-679-7229

TANNING BED SunQuest. Large bed, exc cond. Cleaning solutions & goggles included \$850 313-277-6698

Business & Office Equipment (7240)

2002 MINT CANON COPIER With extras \$1200. Hewlett Packard all-in-one fax & printer \$150 Toshiba Strata DK96 complete phone system, handles up to 40 phones, \$500 Chuck, (734) 453-8700 or chuckshomes@sbcglobal.net

Campers/Motor Homes/Trailers (8120)

TERRY LITE 1999 Travel Trailer 25', extras, hitch assembly \$11,400 734-427-6743

Cameras & Supplies (7280)

NIKON Digital SLR's and related Lenses; Excellent Condition and Local; Email for list and very affordable pricing. mw@sjcap.net

Commercial/Industrial Restaurant Equipment (7300)

REFRIGERATOR Commercial, True Solid door, 1 door, 19 cu. ft. Stainless Steel, still under warranty. \$850 (734) 671-5055

Commercial/Industrial Machinery For Sale (7310)

COMMERCIAL CEILING GAS FURNACE - 5 yr. old, very good cond., \$500 or make offer. 313-341-5498

Video Games, Tapes, Movies (7360)

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was \$31,487, is \$20,895.
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Classifieds inside

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Automotive

Imports Challenge The Big Three in 2006

Advertising Feature

Thursday DriveTime



BY DALE BUSS

As if our traditional Big Three auto makers didn't have enough reason to be in bad cheer this holiday season, another couple of indicators lately have come along to underscore the dire straits that the vehicle brands fielded by General Motors, Ford Motor and, to a lesser extent, DaimlerChrysler find themselves in as 2006 nears.

The first development is that, according to a new survey by a reputable concern, U.S. new-vehicle buyers are increasingly accepting of import brands, and those who purchase domestic vehicles are less likely to cite an aversion to imports as a reason for buying a domestic brand.

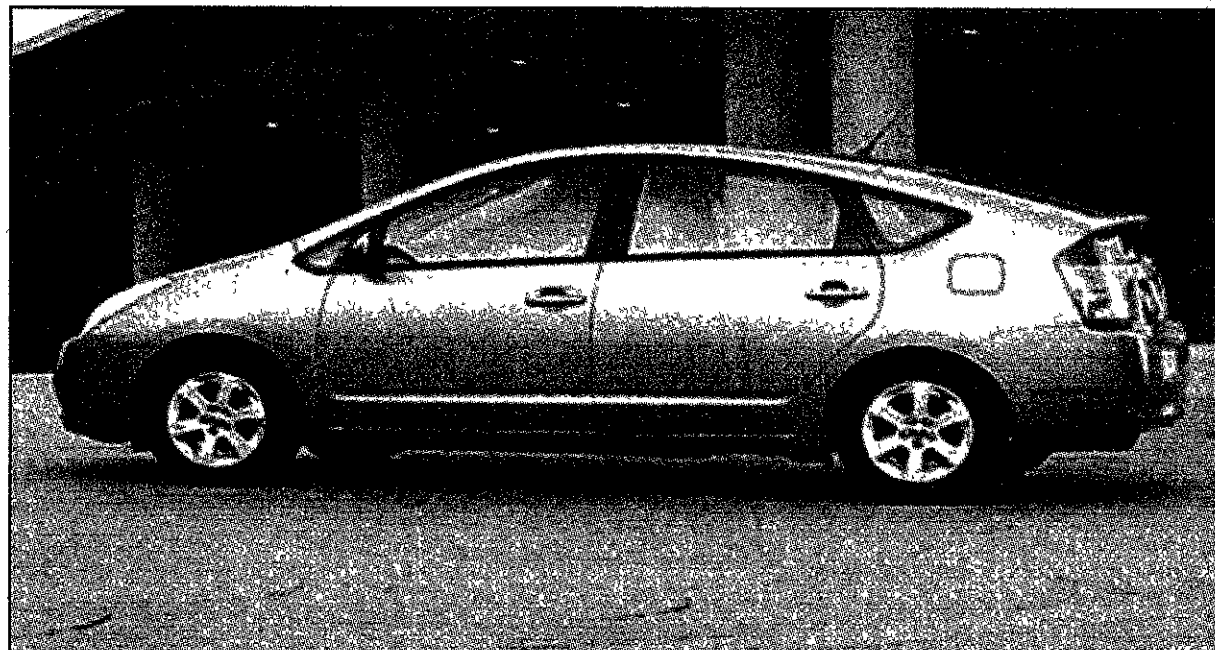
The second development is that the Toyota juggernaut seems to have acquired such momentum that the company and its brands can just barrel through sticky situations like the one that has developed recently in which Consumer Reports found, in a widely publicized report, that Toyota's Hybrid Synergy Drive technology achieved considerably less mileage in Prius and other Toyota vehicles than the sticker rating implies.

J.D. Power & Associates' 2005 Avoird Study found that fewer new-vehicle buyers feel the need to "buy American." The study, which examines the reasons consumers fail to consider particular models when shopping for a new vehicle, found that only 34% of domestic-vehicle buyers in the South said they specifically didn't want a foreign or imported vehicle, down from 40% in the 2004 study. Avoidance of Korean-made vehicles, for example, has declined considerably in the South, from 41% of domestic-vehicle buyers in 2004 to 31% in 2005.

These are the most significant findings in the survey, given that the "red-state" conservatism of the South rivals the conservative purchasing mentality of those of us in the Midwest. "Kia, in particular, has publicized goals of focusing more marketing efforts on the central region of the country, and they are right in doing so, particularly in the South," says Dennis Galbraith, senior director of digital marketing solutions at J.D. Power.

"Although Kia does not build any vehicles in the United States, many vehicles from import brands are now built in the South, and attitudes there are changing rapidly."

The study also found that while full-size pickup



The Toyota Prius gas savings will average only \$580 this year, while the sticker price commands much more.

trucks remain a vital profit center for the Big Three, domestic trucks more frequently are being purchased because of incentive programs rather than perceptions of the reliability of the hard-working sheetmetal produced by Dodge, GMC, Chevrolet and Ford – and rather than any buyer aversion to Japanese-made trucks as somehow not up to domestic standards.

"Domestic trucks often have a negative reputation for reliability among truck buyers, even those who buy domestic trucks," says Galbraith. "The domestic truck market is especially vulnerable to imports. The most common reason domestic truck buyers have for avoiding imports is that they don't want to buy an import, but many buyers are beginning to abandon that reasoning."

The study found that few domestic truck buyers question the quality or reliability of imports anymore. For example, the Honda Ridgeline, a mid-size truck from a company new to the American truck market, benefits from the Honda brand's reputation for reliability, which is reinforced by the company's small engines for lawn mowers and snowblowers as well as by Honda vehicles.

Despite the Ridgeline's innovative styling, in fact, 49% of owners cite either reliability or workmanship as the most influential reason for their purchase of a Ridgeline, while only eight percent say that vehicle styling was the most influential reason.

At the same time, an even more troubling sign for the Big Three might come from the aftermath of the

Consumer Reports story about Toyota's hybrid-powertrain technology. Certainly this development at least has got to be of substantial interest to GM, Ford and Chrysler as they scramble to turn out many thousands more hybrid-powered vehicles over the next few years in order to catch up with the perceived advantage enjoyed by Toyota and, to a lesser extent, Honda in the U.S. market for hybrid vehicles.

It seems that, while Toyota is able to command \$9,500 over the price of any comparable vehicle for the hybrid-powered Prius car, gasoline savings for the owner of a typical Prius will approximate only \$580 this year. And meanwhile, like its rivals, Toyota seems to be using hybrid powertrains as much these days for adding power to its vehicles as for saving gasoline. For example, the new Lexus RX400h hybrid-powered SUV produces 38 more horsepower but gets the same mileage as the conventional RX.

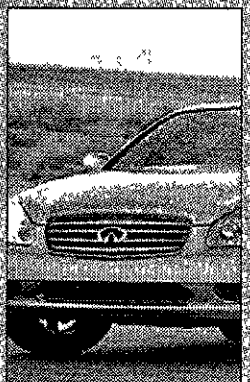
Meanwhile, Toyota is touting its hybrid expertise under the advertising slogan, "Commute with Nature." It intends to double its hybrid output to about a half-million vehicles next years and will be lobbying, along with the rest of the auto industry, for tax breaks and emission-regulation privileges for its hybrids.

The biggest question is: Could any GM or Ford brand these days remain so apparently unaffected in the realm of consumer perceptions, if they replaced Toyota in the story about questions concerning the effectiveness of their hybrid technology? I think you know the answer.

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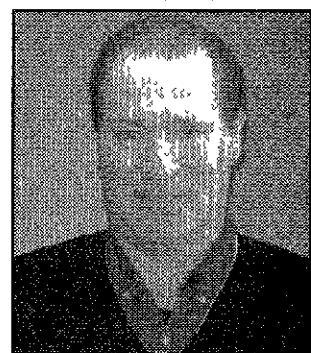
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<p>Chevrolet (8400)</p> <p>CAVALIER 2004, 4 dr. auto, air, CD, low miles, \$8,950. JOHN ROGIN BUICK 734-525-0900</p> <p>CHEVY CAPRICE CLASSIC 1996 Brougham V-8, 4 door. One owner, \$7,175 miles. \$5000. 734-844-8417</p> <p>IMPALA 2005, all power, see the USA, 12K, only \$12,950</p> <p>Only At Lou LaRiche Chevrolet Your Hometown Chevy Dealer 888-372-9836</p> <p>When seeking out the best deal check out the Observer & Eccentric Classifieds! 1-800-579-7355</p> <p>IMPALA LS 2000, dark blue, loaded, \$5,995. COLLINS MOTOR SALES (734) 721-1616</p> <p>IMPALA LS 2001, silver, loaded, ready to go, \$8,495. COLLINS MOTOR SALES (734) 721-1616</p> <p>Local residents Stop & Save at Collins Motor Sales. We have the right deals at the right prices (734) 721-1616</p> <p>Financing available for everyone. 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