

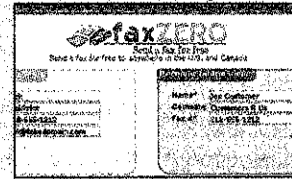
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THURSDAY August 31, 2006

CANTON Observer

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Board bandies bond ideas

Timing, specifics still need to be decided

BY TONY BRUSCATO
STAFF WRITER

As the Plymouth-Canton Board of Education pushes forward with plans to ask voters — most likely in February — for a bond to pay for as-yet-undetermined renovations and possible new buildings, at least one trustee has reservations about presenting another bond issue in less than a year to — in part — recoup \$2.3 million for the general fund budget.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

What do you think about the Plymouth-Canton Board of Education's plans to ask voters — most likely in February — for a bond to pay for as-yet-undetermined renovations and possible new buildings? Let us know by e-mailing a letter to the editor at kkuban@hometownlife.com.

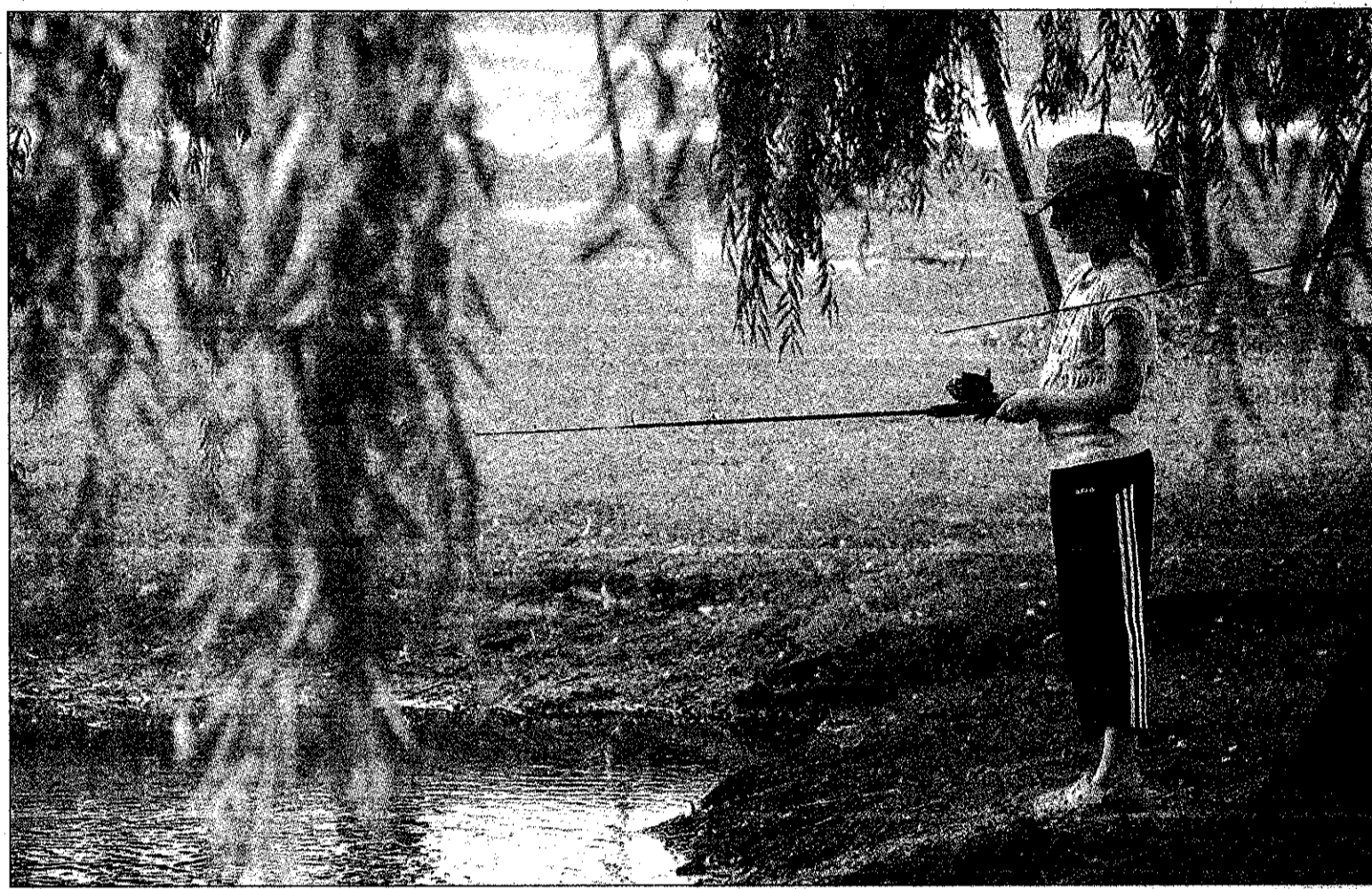
Supt. Jim Ryan and trustees have made it a priority in the next bond to ask voters for the money, which was taken from the general fund to pay for property on Cherry Hill Road, west of Canton Center, in Canton Township to be used for a new middle school.

The effort was derailed in May when voters turned down a two-question bond proposal for \$120 million, which included the \$2.3 million reimbursement. The district has until April 2007 to recoup the money in a bond proposal to repay the general fund, with election dates in November and February the only two remaining before the deadline.

However, Trustee Dianne Gonzalez doesn't want to rush to a bond issue just to reimburse the general fund. "I don't feel comfortable making the decision to defend this property and go for a bond to recoup \$2.3 million simply because we need the money for this property," Gonzalez said. "The \$2.3 million represents a valuable piece of property we own, there's no money lost there. I want to do my own research ... and I want to make the right decision."

Gonzalez said she doesn't want to rely on research done several years ago by the board which resulted in the purchase of the property in Canton, or the recent EPIC/MRA survey on why the May bond issue lost. "I don't feel as comfortable with this piece of property as you do because I don't have the research," she

PLEASE SEE BOND, A5



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Wetting a line

Emily Johnson, 8, of Canton was recently fishing at Friendship Lake in Westland with her grandmother, Jeanne Kashian of Garden City. Emily, who says her favorite colors are sky blue and pink, said a few fish nibbled on the line, but she wasn't catching any.

Stroller strider

Canton woman starts program to help new mothers get back into shape

BY CAROL MARSHALL
STAFF WRITER

When Jennifer Garrow's first son Carson was born, she was determined to walk her way back into her pre-pregnancy figure. And she did just that, thanks to an exercise program for new mothers, Stroller Strides.

Her son was just a toddler when the Garrows moved from Virginia to Michigan, and another baby Brendan, who is now six months old, came along, and Garrow began looking for a Stroller Strides exercise class near her Canton home.

There were none. So Garrow looked into starting a class herself, and this week opened the state's third Stroller Strides location.

"Brendan was only six weeks old when I decided I was going to do this," Garrow said, laughing and shaking her head. "I still wonder what the heck I was thinking."

But she couldn't argue with the results she experienced when she joined the class more than two years ago and lost all her pregnancy weight, plus another 10 pounds, in just five months.

Now Garrow understands why the program works. She

studied for months to prepare for the seven-hour practical exam and one-hour, 100 question written exam required to become certified to be a Stroller Strides instructor.

She learned about anatomy and physiology, muscle groups and pre- and post-natal fitness.

"It was kind of like taking the SATs again," she said.

And now she is qualified to help other moms take advantage of the 60-minute full-body workouts which incorporate baby strollers for resistance during the power



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Jennifer Garrow walks with her son, Carson. She is starting a program, Stroller Strides, designed to help with the physical, emotional and social needs of new mothers.

PLEASE SEE STROLLERS, A5

Income has been stagnant in Canton, while poverty rising

BY CAROL MARSHALL
STAFF WRITER

If Canton families have been feeling a pinch in their household budgets, it's for good reason — Canton's median family income has fallen 6.3 percent in the last five years.

The U.S. Census Bureau on Tuesday released income, employment, industry and poverty statistics for 2005, and according to the data, Canton's household median income is lower now than it was in 1999, when the 2000 Census was

compiled.

In 2005, Canton's household median income was \$79,535. In 1999, it was \$72,495, but when adjusted for inflation, it was \$84,967 in today's dollars. Still, Canton family incomes have remained more steady than the state average, which fell by 12 percent, from \$52,323 in 1999 to \$46,039, when inflation was factored in.

Families are better off than non-family residents, but they also saw the biggest decrease in their budgets. Non-family households' median income

was \$45,979 in 2005. Median family incomes were \$90,095 in 2005, compared to \$97,866 (after adjusting for inflation) in 1999. Families headed by a married couple were the most economically sound last year, reporting median income of \$102,002.

The number of people living in poverty grew by more than 1,000 between 1999 and 2005, according to Census records.

In 1999, 3.7 percent of Canton's population, or 2,841 residents, lived below the federal poverty level. Last year,

3,897 residents, or 4.3 percent of Canton's total population of 90,401, were living in poverty. Five percent of Canton's children live below the poverty level, and 9.2 percent of Canton's citizens over age 65 are below poverty level. In 1999, just 5.5 percent of Canton's residents over the age of 65 were living below the poverty level.

According to the federal Office of Management and Budget, the poverty threshold is based on the number of people in a family. For a family of

four, the poverty threshold is \$19,971. For a single individual it is \$9,973.

It was reported that 62.7 percent of Canton's residents who live below the poverty level are working, but unemployment among the poor is very high, with 36.6 percent unemployed.

Some of the figures are the result of a sluggish economy and job losses. However, some of the drops in income levels are possibly a function of a change in how the Census Bureau collects data, according

to Census Bureau spokesman Ed Welniak.

During the 2000 Census, all data was compiled during 1999.

But the new system of data collection is constant, and spreads out over a period of 23 months, he said.

"Because of this, we are finding that the median income was 4 percent higher in the 2000 survey than it was in the 2005 survey," Welniak said.

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Number 18



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Coming Sunday in Health

New technology reduces time in the dentist's chair.



Blood drive

Contours Express - Plymouth/Canton, which is located at 8014 Sheldon Center in Canton, will be hosting an American Red Cross blood drive on Sept. 14 from 1-7 p.m. Club members along with family and friends will be coming together to donate blood for the American Red Cross. Blood supplies continue to be critically low. To schedule an appointment, please call Contours Express at (734) 416-9350. Anyone who attempts to donate at this event will receive a free two week pass.

Hazardous waste

round-up

Canton's annual Hazardous Waste Round-up will be held Saturday, Sept. 9 from 9 a.m.- 2 p.m. at Canton's Department of Public Works building, located at 4847 Sheldon Road. This event is open to Canton residents only and is an opportunity to make the home and environment safe by properly disposing of waste that is considered toxic, flammable, or corrosive. Examples of acceptable waste being collected on Sept. 9 include, but are not limited to, fluorescent light bulbs, oil-based and latex paint, paint thinner, turpentine, bug sprays, floor-care products, expired medicine,

computers and scanners, dry cleaning solvents, rat poison, household batteries, propane tanks, mercury waste, antifreeze, brake fluid, diesel fuel, kerosene, motor oil, and acids.

Canton will be unable to accept commercial waste, construction debris, explosives or ammunition, fire extinguishers, firewood, radioactive material, smoke detectors, and tires. To obtain a detailed list of what is and is not acceptable please call Canton's Public Works Division at (734) 394-5150.

Mom-to-mom sale

Tri-City Christian MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers) is having a Mom to Mom Sale from 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 9. Moms rent tables where they sell children's gently used clothes, maternity clothes, toys and miscellaneous items that their families have outgrown.

The sale is at Tri-City Christian, located at 3855 Sheldon Road in Canton, just north of Michigan Avenue. Admission is \$1. For more information, please call (734) 397-0819 or e-mail at pamstone@yahoo.com.

Jazz concert finale

Tickets are now on sale for the final concert of the Canton Downtown Development Authority's V98.7 Smooth Jazz Series. The show is at 8 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 8 at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill, and features internationally acclaimed musician Alexander Zonjic and Friends.

Zonjic has performed on stages around the world as a solo performer, with his own group, and as part of jazz great Bob James' band. Audiences in Japan, England, Philippines, Mexico and Dominican



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The feeding hand

Kaydie Otey, 19 months old, feeds the ducks at Heritage Park with a little help from dad, Brian Otey. The family, including mom Brenda, 12-year-old Cory, and 7-year-old Robyn, stopped at the park Wednesday morning to spend some time with the feathered friends.

Republic have enjoyed his music. He has also performed at major classical and jazz festivals throughout North America, including critically acclaimed appearances at Carnegie Hall, the Hollywood Bowl and New York's Apollo Theater.

The show wraps up this summer's V98.7 Smooth Jazz Concert Series, which were held every Friday night in July and August at various venues along Ford Road on a portable stage called "Canton Live." The concert series was sponsored by Canton's Downtown Development Authority and Canton Leisure Services.

To purchase tickets for the September 8 performance, please call (734) 394-5460.

Hospice volunteer training

Heartland Hospice is looking for caring and dedicated people

with an interest in serving terminally ill patients and their families in Washtenaw, western Wayne, Monroe, and Livingston counties. Volunteers provide a variety of services including companionship, light housekeeping, errand running, grief support and clerical services. Fall Training begins Sept. 5. For more information, contact Candice Jones, volunteer coordinator, at (888) 973-1145.

Spotlight Players

The Spotlight Players is presenting the show *Fiddler on the Roof* at 8 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, Sept. 15-16, 22, 23, 29, 30 and at 2 p.m. on Sunday Sept. 17 and 24, at The Village Theater at Cherry Hill. Tickets are \$15-\$18. For tickets or information call (734) 394-5460.

The theater group is also holding auditions for *The Lion in Winter* on Monday, Sept. 18

and Tuesday, Sept. 19 at the Village Theater (use stage door at rear). Registration is at 6:30 p.m.. Bring non-returnable photo and resume. For more specifics visit www.spotlight-players.net or call (734) 480-4945.

Newcomers to start new season

The Canton Newcomers, the community's "social club for the entire family" is kicking off their 2006/2007 season at 7:15 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 6 at the Sunflower Clubhouse, at 45800 Hamford (west of Canton Center). Canton's own Lynn Jarrett, a motivational speaker, coach and author of *Why Bother Looking* will be discussing the challenges of balancing all life offers us.

The Newcomers will also have signups for all of the group's interest group activities including Bunko, playgroups, euchre, couples social, men's poker, game night, scrapbooking and more. For more information, including a complimentary Newcomer newsletter, please visit CantonNewcomers.org. You can also call (734) 981-1715 with any questions.

Recycling program

In an effort to spread awareness about preserving the planet's limited natural resources, Cartridge World, which is located at 5924 N. Sheldon Road in Canton, is running a special recycling program around National Teachers Day. Cartridge World Canton will give all K-12 teachers, faculty and staff members a 33 percent discount on inkjet or laser cartridge refills during the week of Sept. 18-24 and a 10 percent discount on inkjet or laser cartridge refills throughout the year with their school identification card at the time of their purchase.

CORRECTIONS

■ A recent story about a new Canton store called Auction it Today on eBay listed the store phone number as (734) 207-7661. That is the fax number. The business number is (734) 207-7563.

■ A story on the life and passing of Noble Bates, founder of Bates Hamburgers, failed to include mention of his first wife, Ester; their daughter, the late Barbara Ann Bates Garrison; their son, Richard Noble and Nancy Bates of Phoenix, Ariz.; and a combined total of 12 grandchildren, 17 great-grandchildren and four great-great-grandchildren.

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Physical Therapy UPDATE
Hands On Center
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PREDICTING FUTURE HEALTH AND FITNESS

A recent study, which involved nearly 3,000 individuals between the ages of 70 and 79, shows that an elderly person's ability to walk a quarter-mile is an important predictor of his or her future health and lifespan. Researchers found that those who could complete the quarter-mile course in a good time were three times more likely to live longer than those who could not. In addition, walking the quarter-mile in good time was linked to less likelihood of cardiovascular disease and physical disability as a person ages. This easy-to-administer test shows the predictive value of a simple performance task. It also establishes a standard for fitness.

PS. The study mentioned above shows that even simple exercise that involves regular walks could help the elderly maintain fitness.

which is the first step in creating a strategy for maintaining independence among older people.

Your physical therapist is an excellent resource should you require further information about keeping fit in your senior years. If you would like additional information about anything discussed in today's column, please call the **HANDS ON CENTER FOR PHYSICAL THERAPY** at 455-8370 to schedule an appointment. We are located at 650 South Main Street in downtown Plymouth. We have easy access and parking. New patients are gladly accepted.

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Debbie Azizi closed the 4 Seasons Internet Cafe on Aug. 15 after having problems with her neighbors. It will reopen soon as an Indian restaurant.

Restaurant owner closes one eatery so she can open another

BY CAROL MARSHALL
STAFF WRITER

The decision to close the 4 Seasons Internet Cafe was sudden, but once restaurant owner Debbie Azizi made the decision, she knew it was right.

The doors won't stay closed for long, though. Azizi is simply trading her coffee and sandwich menu for one with a global flair. "We're changing the restaurant to Indian cuisine," Azizi said.

The new restaurant should open in about six weeks, she said, and will be renamed: Chille Masala.

Azizi hopes the Indian restaurant - which will be a cafeteria-style buffet menu - will be a good fit for the shopping center where her restaurant has been located for two years.

The coffee shop was doing well, but because it catered to teens and young adults in the evening hours, some of the neighboring business owners had expressed noise and parking concerns to the strip mall owner. The other business owners particularly did not like the noise from the bands that

played nearly every weekend night after 8 p.m., even though Azizi tried to be sensitive, and scheduled the bands to begin after the other businesses closed at 6 p.m.

The property owner and Azizi were in the process of finding a resolution, and had been to the 35th District Court on several occasions, trying to settle a lawsuit, when Azizi was approached by a restaurant manager who proposed a partnership and new theme and menu at her restaurant.

The change in venue type was part of the resolution between Azizi and her landlord. As a result, she closed the cafe on Aug. 15.

"That's always the best way to go, when they can find their own resolution," said Judge Ronald Lowe, whose courtroom was the place where the two parties worked out the agreement.

When the partnership was offered to her, Azizi saw the opportunity as a "win" for everyone involved. Her business partner would enter an opportunity at a location he likes, the neighbors will be pleased that

there are no longer bands playing on weekends, and Azizi will be able to work more reasonable hours than the 60-70 hour work weeks she's been doing. Most importantly, her customers will be able to enjoy fast and tasty Indian cuisine, she said.

Though the menu and some of the decor will have changed, Azizi said she hopes the restaurant will still be a popular gathering place for the diverse business and civic groups which had made 4 Seasons their regular meeting place.

"We had everyone in here at different times," she said. "The teenagers would come in the evenings, but during the day, we had business groups and an Avon group and even a church on Sunday mornings."

Azizi believes the restaurant will be a hit, and is already looking at three more locations for similar restaurants, and has plans to open four locations in the following year.

For more information about Chille Masala, call (734) 981-6065.

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PHOTOS BY MARCUS SINGLETON | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Morgan Humesky (on banjo) and the rest of Picks and Sticks entertained the Village Faire crowd with traditional music.

Village Faire

Event takes crowd back in time to when sweet corn was king

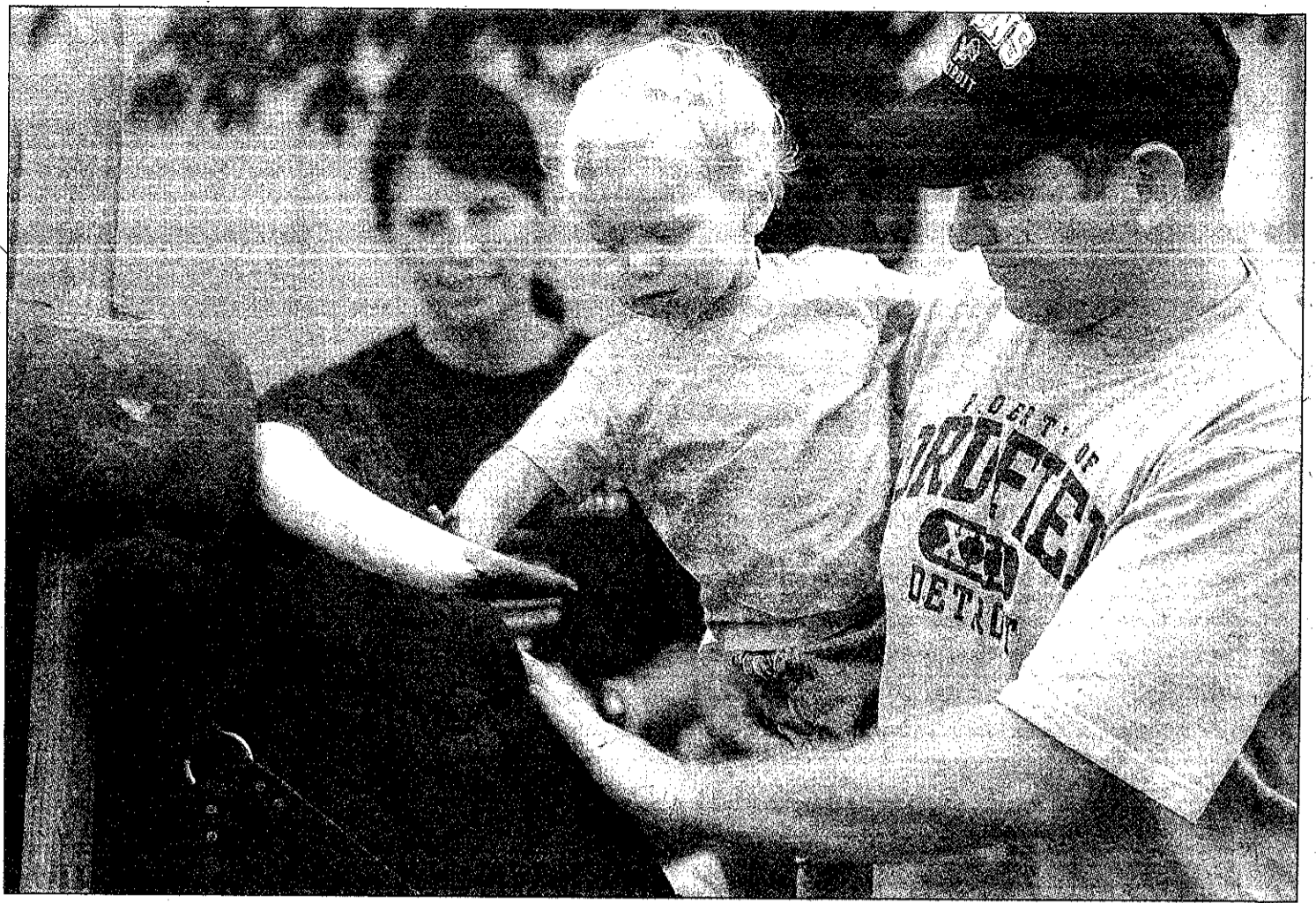
Despite recurring rain showers, a big crowd turned out for the fifth annual Canton Lions Club Village Faire Corn Roast Sunday afternoon at the Bartlett-Travis House in Cherry Hill Village.

"It went terrific," said Bob Boyer, the Lions Club member and Canton resident who has paid for the annual event since its inception. "We had

some rain, but that didn't stop anybody from having a great time. The event keeps getting bigger every year."

The event featured hay rides, farm animals, traditional music, snow cones, hot dogs, and corn, of course. In fact, Boyer said they went through 225 dozen ears of corn, which were roasted on a grill.

People paid a \$5 admission



Jason Leonard of Canton shows his son 1-year-old son, Calvin, that its safe to pet Marco the 2,000-pound ox at the Village Faire.

fee, and the proceeds will go towards programs sponsored by the Lions Club, including its vision and eyeglasses program. Boyer said \$5,000 was raised Sunday.

However, the real point of the event, according to Boyer, is to give people an opportunity to see what life was like in Canton when corn was king. That is why the event

takes place near the historic Bartlett-Travis House.

"This was our fifth year doing this. The reason I started it was because Canton used to be the sweet

corn capital of Michigan, and I wanted to make sure people remembered that," Boyer said.

By Kurt Kban

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Just in time for the start of school, the Canton Public Library introduces a new Subject Page on the Internet Branch: Education (<http://www.cantonpl.org/subjects/education/>). Make it your first stop on the Internet for answers on everything school-related. It's got quick links to homework and project databases, schools, colleges and universities, tips for parents, tips for teachers, special needs children and more. You can find everything from hints on how to pack a healthy lunch to how to apply for financial aid.

As school starts, so does nightly homework. Make it easier on everyone by using the Canton Public Library's free online homework help. Just log on to www.cantonpl.org and look for the Homework Help

link in the left column. Now you're just a click away from free online tutoring for grades 4 through college in any subject, from 3 p.m. until midnight.

The Canton Public Library is closed Sept. 3 and 4 in observance of the Labor Day holiday.

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■ **Have A Grand Time at the Library:** Sept. 7, various times. Celebrate Grandparents Day with a special storytime for kids, ages 3 to 5, and grandparents. Registration required.

STROLLERS

FROM PAGE A1

walking and running. The workout includes a stretching and warm-up period, walking and running, breaks for strength training using exercise bands, and a cool-down afterward.

"The program is for anyone who cares for children, but it's really designed around new mothers, and their physical, emotional and social needs," Garrow said, adding that one of the things she liked most about the classes were that they got her out of the house, with other new mothers and their babies.

"It was a social thing as much as a physical workout," she said. "We were all in the same boat. No one had slept through the night and we all had to change clothes five times before leaving the house."

It's also good for the babies and toddlers, she said. "This is so much nicer than

dropping your child at a gym day care," she said, adding that Stroller Strides is doing a study of 5 year olds whose mothers took them to their exercise classes, compared to those who were dropped off at day care during mom's workouts.

"I think what they're going to find is that those kids who went with their mothers are going to be more fit. It would just make sense," she said.

The classes will be held at Heritage Park, and then inside the Summit on the Park once the weather turns cold.

"Canton is just great that way. We have so many parks that are just beautiful, and then we also have the Summit for exercise in the winter," Garrow said.

The first Stroller Strides class is free, and single classes are \$15. Ten-class blocks, three-month passes and unlimited memberships are available.

For more information, call Jennifer Garrow at (888) 669-4994, or visit online at www.strollerstrides.com.

BOND

FROM PAGE A1

said. "If you want me to go along with the bond, if administration wants me to go along with the bond, they're going to have to prove to me that we need the bond."

"I just wonder what other property is available," Gonzalez added. "We're building a new middle school a mile from Discovery (Middle School). To me, it seems like we're making the same historical mistake that was made before, when all (the middle schools) were built too close together. I would like to put together a bond steering committee and do some in-depth research on what our district needs."

According to a survey completed by EPIC/MRA and pollster Ed Sarpolus, voters turned down the proposals, in part, because they thought the district was seeking too much money and that athletic and extracurricular improvements in the proposals weren't necessary.

Topping the list of priorities voters would support, according to the survey, were 10 new

buses at a cost of \$1 million (71 percent approval); spending \$13 million for adding classrooms, gyms and other improvements to the existing elementary schools (68 percent); adding classrooms, cafeterias and band rooms at the middle schools for \$11.1 million (69 percent); improving the existing Career and Technical Education facilities (64 percent); and construction of a \$28.3 million school in Canton (63 percent).

Vice President Judy Mardigan said she's prepared to move forward with a bond, but not just to recoup money for the general fund budget.

"It's to provide additional space for overcrowding," Mardigan said. "But if we don't go for February, we lose our window of opportunity, so \$2.3 million in cuts are almost a certain reality. There's almost no way around it."

"If we seriously go down a road where we're not sure if we want to go in February, we need to take a hard look at what kind of reductions we're willing to stomach, what kind of class sizes we're willing to accept, because I don't see how we avoid that," she added. "It's not a scare tactic, it's a reality. It's not the reason to go for a

bond, but it's certainly a factor."

Trustee Steven Sneiderman said while he supports collecting updated data, he's almost certain a new middle school on the purchased property is a good idea.

"If we're going to decide on elementary school additions, whether it's a new school or additions to existing schools, we need to understand it ourselves and be able to explain it," Sneiderman said. "The same for the middle schools."

"We still bus hundreds of kids from Canton to Plymouth every day, and I think that says a lot," he added. "I would like to get more specific on that to understand where the kids are who are traveling miles to get to school to verify it's the right property. I think logically it is, but I still want to verify it."

Sarpolus told trustees they aren't far off from passing a bond, considering the first question garnered 49 percent of the vote.

He noted confusing ballot language on how much taxpayers would pay in additional millage made it difficult for voters to say yes.

"If your ballot language is confusing, or what you say to them is different than what

they read on the ballot, they're more inclined to vote no," Sarpolus said. "Not because it's necessarily no against the proposal, but because they're confused."

Sarpolus said trustees and the bond steering committee need to start immediately educating residents on the issues, as time is running short to reach the 78 percent of people who don't have children in the school district before a February ballot proposal.

Nancy Eggenberger, the co-chair of the bond steering committee, said Sarpolus had some good points in the survey.

"I don't think we did a good enough job of helping people understand the issues," Eggenberger said. "We understood the needs, but we didn't do a good enough job of helping people understand them."

"I liked the idea of getting senior citizens more involved in the schools," she added.

"There are so many ways that can help that would be great, like reading to elementary school kids. The more we get the community involved, the better off we are."

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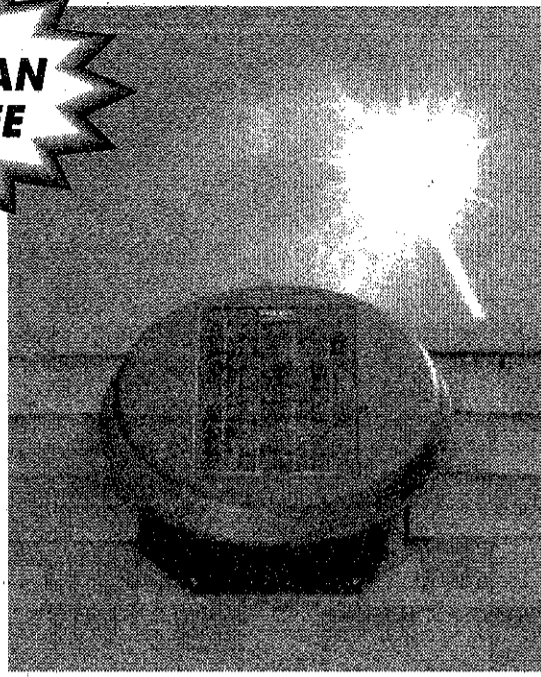
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Cyclist dies after being hit

Canton police are investigating an accident that claimed the life of a 69-year-old retired teacher from Albania.

According to Canton police, the man was riding his bicycle at about 6:30 p.m. Aug. 29, near Michigan Avenue and Beck, just about a mile from his residence.

"He was known to do that from time to time for exercise," according to Sgt. Rick Pomorski. "His son said he rode his bicycle and walked to

stay active."

While he was out on his bike, and was riding southbound across both lanes of eastbound traffic. He was struck by a car driven by a 29-year-old Ypsilanti man, who was also traveling eastbound on Michigan Avenue.

Canton firefighters transported the victim to St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, where he died as a result of injuries sustained in the crash.

The driver of the car was

questioned at the scene of the accident and was released.

There is no indication that drugs or alcohol played a part in this crash, according to police. Canton's accident investigation team will continue to investigate this accident and upon completion the case will be presented to the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office for review, Pomorski said.

By Carol Marshall

Canton close to naming a new finance director

BY CAROL MARSHALL
STAFF WRITER

Canton Township is preparing to identify one of its next top administrators, as interviews for the vacant finance director position are nearly complete.

"I suspect by the end of the week we can get down to naming the individual we choose as the new director," said Canton Township Supervisor Tom Yack.

Tony Minghine, the township's former finance director, left his position at the end of June to take a job as the Michigan Municipal League's chief financial officer. The township accepted applications until late-June, and some 60 people responded, Yack said.

Of those, three were identified to go on to the next step, which was to be evaluated by Ann Arbor based consultants Career Directions.

Career Directions evaluated each applicant and gave their findings to township officials. The next step is an extensive

interview, which includes a two-hour tour of the township, as well as a verbal interview.

Two of the three applicants have completed this step, and the third will do so this week, Yack said.

Yack would not give any names, but said all three applicants are all from southeast Michigan - within a 30 mile radius of Canton, and all are men. Each of the three is a veteran in the business world. They all have municipal finance backgrounds (though some of the 60 applicants had private sector experience) and each has more than 15 years of experience and excellent credentials, Yack added.

"We have three candidates who can all clearly do the job from a technical aspect," Yack said. "The final call will come down to trying to align their skill set with what we need. They all have the financial skills. It would come down to a matter of personality and skills that go beyond finance ability."

Minghine was also very active at the state level, and cultivated relationships to help

Canton's finances. Yack said his successor will be expected to do the same.

The next finance director will have a large task ahead of him, soon after he is hired.

"We need a new finance and budget software package," Yack said. "We have limped along as long as we can. This is the most antiquated system we have, and everyone uses it."

But it's going to be costly. "Financial software packages could be \$500,000 - \$1 million," Yack said.

Every department uses it - from human resources to accounts receivable and payable, and things such as bond payments and time sheets are integrated into the software, Yack said.

It's one of the most important jobs in the township, Yack said of the position.

"Not only will he do budget and finance functions, but he is an advisor to the other directors in the township," Yack said.

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Wake up! Time to rise Tuesday for Wayne-Westland students

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

Set the alarm clock. In a sure sign that summer is winding down, Wayne-Westland students will return to school Tuesday. Students will start with a full day of classes, and educators are ready, Supt. Greg Baracy said. "We're ready for a smooth start," he said. "There may be a few hiccups with the bus schedule, but we'll get them worked out within the first couple of weeks." Officials expect a slight dip in enrollment from last school year.

"We're hoping for a total enrollment of around 13,400 students," Baracy said. "That would be down 150 to 200 students." Students will face a few changes this year. Eleventh-graders will have to take either the Michigan Educational Assessment Program test or ACT college entrance exam — officials aren't yet sure which — before they can graduate. Officials are expected to learn this fall which test will be required for graduation. Moreover, eighth-graders will face new state-mandated standards that will apply to their graduation class of 2011,

Baracy said. He invited parents and students to learn more about graduation requirements, bus schedules and other issues by visiting the district's Web site at www.wwcsd.net. District officials have had a busy summer overseeing construction projects and ordering classroom supplies, as schools gear up for the 2006-2007 year. "We think we're in really good shape," Baracy said. "It's been a pretty smooth summer despite a very busy schedule. We're ready to open."

dclem@hometownlife.com
(734) 953-2110

Canton man involved in accident

BY LEANNE ROGERS
STAFF WRITER

A Westland man is hospitalized after being hit by an out-of-control truck driven by a Canton man in a Garden City alley Saturday afternoon. The incident began, police said, when an off-duty Garden City police officer was driving east on Ford approaching Henry Ruff and saw a pickup truck hit another vehicle, then leave at a high rate of speed through a nearby business parking lot. Assuming he'd witnessed a hit-and-run accident, the officer said he turned south onto Henry Ruff to get the license plate number. Instead, the officer reported finding that Frank

Grabowski, 69, of Westland had been struck by the truck which had come to a stop after hitting a tree. The officer found that Grabowski, who had been in the alley fixing a fence that borders an apartment building he owns, wasn't breathing and administered mouth-to-mouth resuscitation. Fire rescue was called and continued treating Grabowski at the scene before he was transported to Garden City Hospital where he was hospitalized with multiple injuries. It turned out that the driver, a 26-year-old Canton man, wasn't attempting to flee the scene of an accident, police said. The man told police he knew the truck had brake

problems and was attempting to take it to a repair shop. The van which the man struck belonged to him and was being driven by his brother, an 18-year old Detroit resident, as part of their efforts to get to the repair shop. The Canton man was cited for driving an unsafe motor vehicle while the brother was cited for not having a driver's license. "It was certainly an unwise decision to wake up and realize you had no brakes, then make a conscious decision to drive to the mechanic," Garden City Police Deputy Chief Robert Muery said.

rogers@hometownlife.com
(734) 953-2103



Church continues Katrina work

With Katrina "anniversary" news in the headlines, church-goers at NorthRidge Church in Plymouth have continued to volunteer on construction teams nearly one year after the disaster. "The devastation still exists in many areas," said Beth Harris, Outreach Coordinator for NorthRidge. "Even though we're approaching the one-year anniversary there is still much work to do and people still need help." Between October 2005 and April 2006, NorthRidge sent 16 teams (more than 300 people) to partner with Samaritan's Purse and the relief effort. Just the past two months NorthRidge launched an additional five teams to continue the work. Many of these volunteers are going for their second time with seven people making their third trip.

"Reaching out to those who cannot reach back is what we are called to do in living out our faith," said NorthRidge senior pastor Brad Powell. "Reflecting Christ's love through our actions is an honor and a privilege." NorthRidge has plans to start another recruitment campaign in September for another 300 volunteers to carry through to May of 2007. NorthRidge Church, located on a 79-acre campus is a non-denominational church serving Southeast Michigan with an active weekly attendance of 12,500. NorthRidge Church is one of the country's largest churches and has been recognized as one of the "Top 50 Most Influential Churches" by The Church Report for a second consecutive year. For more information go to NorthRidgeChurch.com

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WICKER MAN (PG-13) 12:05, 2:25, 4:45, 7:05, 9:25
FRISAT LS 11:45

GRANK (R) 11:45, 1:45, 3:45, 5:45, 7:45, 9:45 **FRISAT LS 11:45**

MATERIAL GIRLS (PG) 12:35, 2:45, 4:55
BEERFEST (R) 11:25, 1:50, 4:15, 6:40, 9:05
FRISAT LS 11:30

INVINCIBLE (PG) 12:30, 2:45, 5:00, 7:15, 9:30
FRISAT LS 11:45

ACCEPTED (PG-13) 7:35, 9:35
FRISAT LS 11:35

TALLADega NIGHTS: THE BALLAD OF RICKY BOBBY (PG-13) 12:00, 2:30, 4:40, 7:00, 9:20
FRISAT LS 11:40

BARNYARD: THE ORIGINAL PARTY ANIMALS (PG) 11:10, 1:10, 3:10, 5:10, 7:10, 9:10
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MENS Monday 6:45 pm Tuesday 6:45 pm Thursday 6:30 pm Friday 6:30 pm	MIXED Sunday 4:00 pm Sunday 7:00 pm Wednesday 7:00 pm	MIXED Every Other Week Saturday 5:30 pm Saturday 8:30 pm Sunday 4:00 pm

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Trendy style meets thrifty budget at new H&M

AFFORDABLE, CHIC FASHIONS

On Sunday, Aug. 31, Twelve Oaks mall in Novi will welcome the addition of Swedish fashion retailer H&M, Hennes & Mauritz. The opening marks the third Michigan location for H&M. Stores at Briarwood Mall in Ann Arbor and Lakeside Mall in Sterling Heights opened last spring. While the store may be new to the area, the H&M brand has been an established source for affordable, trendy clothing and

accessories for more than 50 years. "The city of Detroit has strong roots in the music and automotive industries and these influences are woven into the fashion scene," said Sanna Lindberg, H&M's U.S. country manager. "We are thrilled to bring fashion and quality at the best price to the Twelve Oaks Mall, and offer our Novi customers a means to express their personality with H&M." The single-story location measures approximately 6,000 square feet and

will focus on women's fashions. It also offers H&M's first lingerie department in Michigan. Customers are expected to run out on opening day to purchase the track-suit H&M designed for Madonna this year. It will be available in black, white and purple - with separates starting at \$24.90. The retailer is also known for its collaborations with style icons like Stella McCartney and Karl Lagerfeld. Twelve Oaks Mall marks the 105th

H&M to open in the U.S. To celebrate the opening, the retailer will offer the first 100 customers a complimentary shirt and a 20 percent discount.

Shopping hours are 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday at Twelve Oaks Mall. H&M will open at 27474 Novi Road. For more information, call (248) 449-7053.



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

Drivers need to be cautious, heed kids

As nearly 1.8 million Michigan students (pre-K-12) prepare to head back to school, AAA Michigan reminds motorists to slow down and watch out for pedestrians.

"Children get caught up in the excitement of the season and forget to look out for cars," said Jack Peet, AAA Michigan community safety services manager. "Many youngsters have trouble making accurate judgments about traffic speed and distance, so drivers have to particularly aware."

One-fifth of all children 14 years or age and younger who die in motor vehicle crashes are pedestrians, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. These pedestrian fatalities are more likely to happen in the afternoon hours, when school is letting out.

Drivers should look out for children who may dart out into the street near school zones, playgrounds, bus stops and in neighborhoods.

AAA's School Open - Drive Carefully campaign encourages motorists to stay alert in areas where children are present, paying special attention during the morning and afternoon hours while children are coming to and from school.

Drivers should look out for children who may dart out into the street near school zones, playgrounds, bus stops and in neighborhoods. School-age children can be especially vulnerable in areas with heavy traffic volume, parked vehicles on the street, higher posted speed limits and few pedestrian-control devices.

As part of the School's Open - Drive Carefully campaign, AAA Michigan offers drivers tips to keep school children safe:

- Studies show that more than one-third of motorists in school zones or neighborhoods just "roll through" intersections with a stop sign. Slow down in or near school and residential areas, and be sure to come to a complete stop in all intersections.

- Drive with your headlights on - even during the day - so children and other drivers can see you.

- Look for clues such as AAA School Safety Patrol members, crossing guards, bicycles and playgrounds which indicates children could be in the area.

- Scan between parked cars and other objects for signs that children could dart into the road.

- Practice extra caution in adverse weather conditions.

- Pay particular attention near school during the morning and afternoon hours.

- Always stop for school buses that are loading and unloading students.

"Drivers should always be aware of their surroundings, but especially around children," said Peet. "Remember: school's open - drive carefully."

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OUR VIEWS

Unions still matter during hard times

On Monday we celebrate Labor Day, a time to reflect on the important contributions of workers in the growth and prosperity of the United States and on the special place of organized labor in the country's political and economic history.

But these are hard times for America's unions. In 2005, only 12.5 percent of wage and salary workers were union members. According to the U.S. Department of Labor, that marked a decline from a high of 20.1 percent in 1983, the first year for which comparable union data was available. But figures from the Labor Research Association report union membership in 1954 at 32.3 percent of the workforce.

Locally, the decline in the auto industry is creating new concerns for the United Auto Workers. A proposal by Ford Motor Co. to offer buyouts to its 82,000 hourly workers in the U.S. could mark a sharp reduction in UAW membership, which was already reeling from similar buyouts by General Motors earlier this year.

Corporations have been quick to move operations to the union-resistant South and to undeveloped countries where unions have been unable to gain a foothold.

Unions have been forced to accept major concessions on wages, health care and pensions which many members see as a retreat from past victories against corporate unwillingness to share profits.

The ascendancy of a conservative Republican Congress and president have also cost key government support for union causes. It is a changing economic world and some would argue that America's unions have been slow to understand the changes and adapt.

Young workers have no memory of what conditions were like before unions and often regard union membership and union dues as an imposition.

These are hard times, indeed, for organized labor. But it is important to remember that, especially in southeast Michigan, unions lifted the majority of workers and their families into the middle class. They fought for and won the eight-hour day, affordable medical coverage, good wages, safer work conditions, a voice in company operations for workers, day care programs, wider acceptance of women and minorities in the workforce and much more.

Perhaps they have peaked, but unions will continue to be a voice in this region and nationally, even as they struggle to define what their role will be.

Later start won't alter education

All over the state, as summer begins its decline into autumn, children are starting to get antsy, just as their parents are growing ever more excited. Most schools in the state will begin classes Tuesday, meaning it's just about time for the kids to put down the video games and soccer balls and once again pick up the books.

Actually in years past, most children would already be in class, but a new state law is taking effect this year in more and more school districts across the state that prevents school from starting before the Labor Day holiday weekend. Gov. Jennifer Granholm signed the law, Public Act 144 of 2005, into law Sept. 29, 2005.

The only exceptions to the rule are districts that already had teacher contracts in place before the law was signed that specify the days teachers will work.

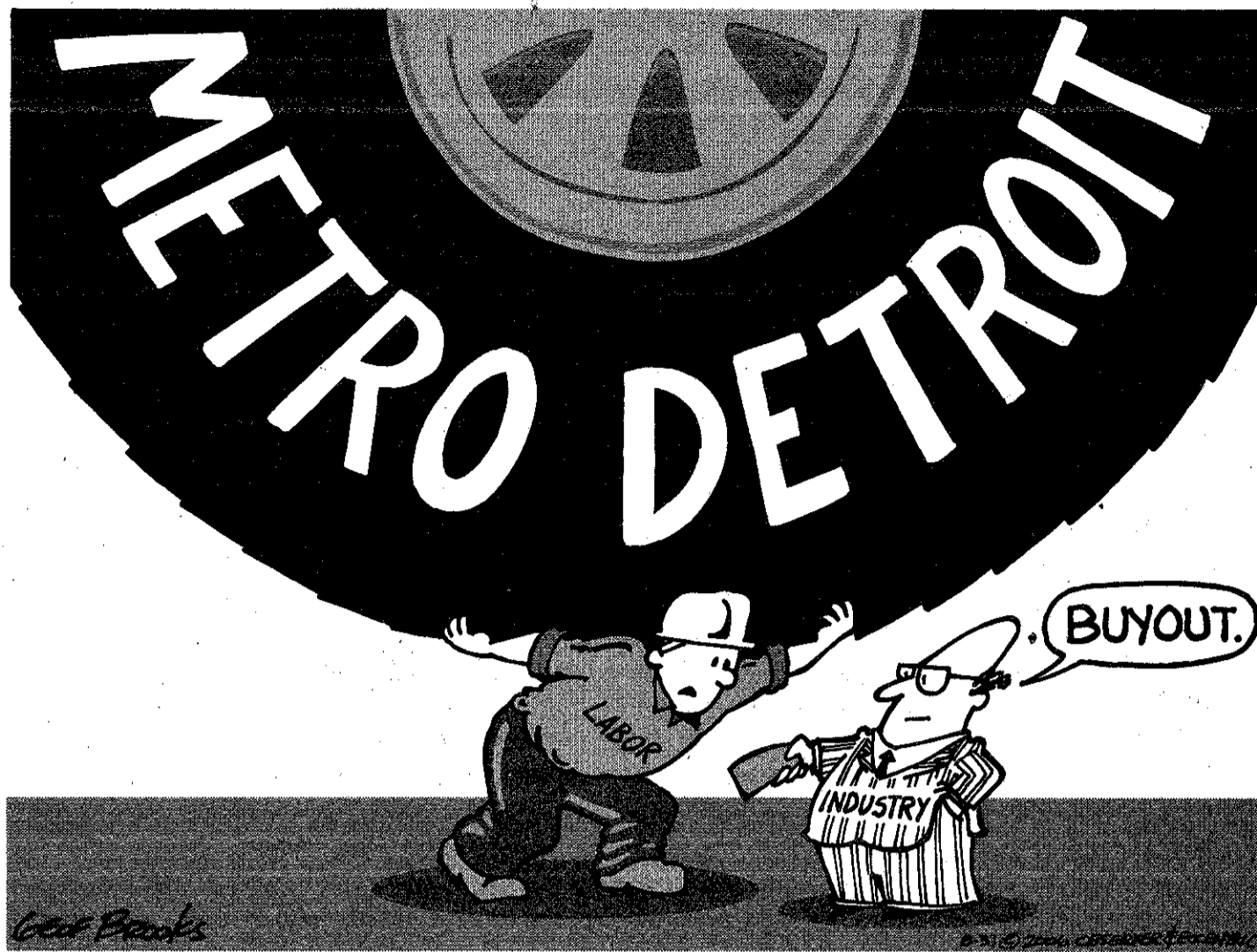
The point of the law is to give a boost to the state's tourism industry by letting families take advantage of the holiday weekend and go on vacations later into the summer. Some critics have said the law means the state is putting the economy ahead of the education of our children.

But the law really doesn't alter the amount of instruction students must have during the course of the school year. Schools are still required to provide nearly 1,100 hours of instruction. Districts just need to figure out how to squeeze those hours of instruction into the course of the school year. Some districts have chosen to end a week later in June, while others have eliminated the number of days they have off during the year.

The Tourism Industry Coalition of Michigan and other pro-business groups have advocated the change for years, believing it could mean an estimated 2,000 new jobs, more than \$100 million in economic activity and another \$10 million in added tourism-related tax revenue for the state that wouldn't have occurred if school started before Labor Day.

Perhaps those numbers are pie in the sky, but for small towns across the state that rely on summer tourism, the change could be significant. It will give them an extra week in which their cash registers will be ringing. That can only be a good thing for a state economy that hasn't exactly been humming along in recent years.

Plus, giving families some extra time to spend together shouldn't be frowned upon, despite the fact that some parents are ready for the school year to start (e.g., get the kids out of their hair). What's one more week?



LETTERS

Simple premise

I have just come from the Plymouth-Canton school board meeting where survey results were presented regarding the recently failed school bonds.

To those of us who perform customer-focused business analyses, the results of the survey were far from surprising. They were simple. Give your customers a product that provides them with a value and they will buy it.

In the case of the schools, this "product" is a viable bond proposal and the results of the survey confirm what many of my fellow community members attempted to tell the school leadership prior to the May bond.

The proposals the district brought forward did not reflect the priorities of the community. In addition, the district could not show us how it would pay to operate the additional facilities it wanted us to pay for.

I think the survey simply validates what many of us were saying ... "wrong bond." All we asked was to show us why your proposal is a value and how you will pay to operate it and we'll buy it. Instead, the superintendent, the bond steering committee, the school board and even some of their family members personally attacked its customers and told us we were "not for the kids" if we didn't vote for a bad bond proposal.

Give your customers a product that provides them with a value and they will buy it. Pretty simple to me and I didn't even need the survey.

Mark Horvath
Canton

No to school bond

I know the (school) board has a tough job to do and that they are not trying to make me move west of U.S. 23, but here are my comments.

I voted both bonds down, and will continue to vote them down, for a number of reasons, the first of which was the tax increase for nonsensical things. We did and do not need additional athletic buildings or facilities. The pool should have been built with the "new" high school.

HVAC upgrades are much more conducive to learning. Teacher salaries could certainly use a boost, too. But apparently they are and have not been as important as future athletic superstars. I am not quite sure why I am responsible for paying for additional extracurriculars.

Too many parents are putting too much emphasis on the "extras" which are now deemed "necessary" for an education. As of this year, I will also fall into the group of residents who no longer have children in the school system. This means the board will have to work *much* harder to convince me to shell out extra dollars in the future.

I am also extremely upset at the language the board uses when trying to convince me that my taxes will only be X amount of dollars for Y number of years. That might be fine if every other tax assessing agency wasn't using the same phrase. Three or four times a year, I hear the same "good news," but my math says they all add up. They don't cancel one another out.

The board was very negligent (with the exception of one very vocal newcomer) to have even tried to pull this bond issue off. They should be held accountable for having to spend another \$18,000 to have someone else tell them what they should have

known. Maybe the next bond should include the survey fees.

Kevin Gault
Plymouth Township

Find a replacement

Todd Caccamo obviously intends to keep his name active in front of Canton voters even though he is far away from Canton. It appears his family and supporters do not mind making fools of themselves by disrupting a township board of trustees meeting with silly requests just to keep Caccamo's name in the local media.

I urge the Canton Township Board of Trustees to amend their rules to mandate a trustee's resignation from the elected post of trustee if the trustee refuses to be physically present to carry out the duties of the post; in this case by re-enlisting in the Marines after being elected to the post of Canton trustee. The board should also mandate to itself the right to appoint a suitable replacement for the recalcitrant trustee.

I don't know of any governmental body that would allow an elected official to simply choose not to carry out the duties of the post they were elected to. To me, it is the height of absurdity.

Janusz M. Szyszko
Canton

Wage hike means fewer jobs

If your high school son or daughter struggled to find a summer job, don't be surprised if he or she finds it nearly impossible to locate part-time work during the school year. The job market for young people - never what you'd call robust - is about to go bust, as many employers, like us, look at eliminating jobs for youth under 18 when the new minimum wage hike begins Oct. 1. That is, unless our lawmakers and Governor Jennifer Granholm pass a reduced minimum wage for employees under age 18.

The increased minimum wage legislation was passed to assure a higher living standard for working families. But it applies to everyone in the workforce, including the young person that bags your groceries, the kid that shags your golf cart and the young ticket-taker at the movie theater. The high schooler who takes your order at the drive-through and the student who helps out at the local nursery school will all now be mandated to receive not less than \$6.95 an hour (and even more over the next couple of years).

The retail, hospitality, tourism and movie theater industries have long been major employers of high school age students, providing youth with an opportunity to earn their own spending money for high school and cash for college. Kids in their first jobs learn skills for their future working careers - everything from the importance of arriving on time to the necessity of dressing appropriately and treating customers with respect.

Employing youth isn't easy. Employers have to follow stricter labor laws that regulate how many hours a young person can work, how late they can work and the types of jobs they can do. In addition, employers face higher training costs and higher turnover, as kids start and stop work due to changing after-school activities.

That's why many employers, like us, will

have little choice but to scale-back the number of high school students employed and reduce the number of hours worked. As an employer of many young persons, we'll instead look at ways to automate jobs, or give the job duties to employees who are older, have more flexibility in the hours they can work, and require less training.

This consequence of the minimum wage hike was unforeseen. For most parents, the implication won't be understood until their son or daughter loses his/her job, and the parents are now shelling out 100 percent of the cost for school supplies, football tickets, gas for the car and those pricey jeans.

Sen. Cameron Brown recently introduced legislation, Senate Bill 1364, that would enable employers to pay workers under age 18 a wage that's less than \$6.95 an hour. If we're going to preserve jobs for high school students, we need lawmakers to act on the plan before Oct. 1. Without some relief, the minimum wage hike is going to turn into a wage cut for every family with high schoolers who can no longer find work.

Paul A. Giantz
manager, Emagine Canton

Looking for answers

A few weeks ago, you ran a column in which I detailed the ways that Thaddeus McCotter and the current Congress are out of touch with the priorities of our 11th Congressional District. While I was disappointed that McCotter didn't even try to defend his abysmal record representing us in Washington, again I wasn't surprised. He continues to act as if he's completely unaccountable to his constituency.

I'm calling you out, Representative McCotter. You purport to represent us, so it's time for you to prove it. Tell us what you think we should do in Iraq. Tell us why the national debt has ballooned on your watch. Tell us why 95 percent of our airline cargo still goes unscreened, five years after 9/11. Tell us why oil companies are making record profits and we're paying \$3.10 per gallon at the pump. In sum, tell us how you could possibly claim that our lives are better, that we're safer, or that there's any reason you should keep your office past this next election.

Stop hiding, make your case and let the voters of the 11th District decide whether you deserve to represent us.

Matthew E. Haran
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. We may edit for clarity, space and content.

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QUOTABLE

"It's specifically based on the performance on the MEAP tests ... Not only the achievement level, but also improvement over time. What's occurring there is we're not achieving at the level to meet the standard ..."

- Mike Bender, Plymouth-Canton director of secondary education on why Starkweather failed to meet AYP requirements

CANTON
Observer

PUBLISHED THURSDAY AND SUNDAY

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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.

Labor Day should be more than parties and parades

W hew, a holiday weekend is about to begin — hooray! Labor Day is here. I can smell the hot dogs cooking, hear splashing in the lake and swimming pools and the know the moans from the kids and cheers from the parents are ahead, realizing that summer is over and it is back to school!

Yet, Labor Day should take on a particular significance this year with Michigan's unemployment rate at 7 percent — nearly twice as high as the national average — and the fear that is caused by the constant drum beat of negative economic news pounding on both white- and blue-collar workers.

It does not seem to matter if you are living in affluent neighborhoods or working-class communities, few do not know the personal human tragedy that the loss of income and hope can cause.

Has a member of your immediate family lost a job recently? Or perhaps it's a neighbor who is out of work. You can see the financial and emotional strain of unemployment. It takes its toll on friends and family alike.

More than a hundred years ago, workers decided they deserved a day of celebration for their labor. The first Labor Day holiday was celebrated Tuesday, Sept. 5, 1882, in accordance with the plans of the Central Labor Union. It was dubbed the "workingman's" holiday! Peter McGuire, an Irish-American cabinet maker and pioneer unionist with the Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners, proposed a day dedicated to all who labor.

McGuire introduced his idea May 18, 1882, at a meeting of the Central Labor Union.

"Let us have a festive day during which a parade through the streets of the city would permit public tribute to American Industry," he said.

The holiday was born in New York City and it spread across the country as the rights of workers were demanded and won.

On June 28, 1894, long-time labor antagonist President Grover Cleveland, under pressure from the voters, signed a bill establishing the Labor Day holiday.

While the idea of a labor holiday originated in New York City, there is no place on earth as identified with the labor movement as Detroit. The United Automobile Workers union not only fought for better wages and working conditions, but has a proud tradition of fighting for social justice for all Americans.

Clearly, this great country of ours was based on extraordinary vision, principles and ideals, but it was built by blood, sweat and tears of working men and women. We built a nation that has the highest standard of living for working people in the history of the world. Our workers are the most productive and have helped define our skylines, build interstate highway systems, connect peninsulas and islands with magnificent bridges, picked up our trash, educated our children and, with Rosie the Riveter, made Detroit the Arsenal of Democracy and helped us win two world wars.

Yet, as my teenagers like to say, "That was then — this is now."

Today, with the shrinkage of the domestic auto market bought about through technology and foreign competition, the "American Dream" is fading for many Michigan

More than a hundred years ago, workers decided they deserved a day of celebration for their labor. The first Labor Day holiday was celebrated Tuesday, Sept. 5, 1882, in accordance with the plans of the Central Labor Union.

autoworkers who are slipping out of the middle class.

The blue-collar middle class in Michigan and America is clearly being eroded and many fear it will become extinct if something is not done soon.

For Michigan and America to remain strong, we cannot mortgage our workers' future, our basic principles of fairness and our way of life. The viability of our society, the strength of our economy, the quality of our lives and the vibrancy of our democracy depend on the strength of working men and women of this country.

We cannot expect to build a better world and spread democracy while we undermine and impoverish the American worker.

Yet sadly, much of the enthusiasm for working men and women to "celebrate" their day is melting away like an ice cream cone on a hot summer day.

So today, every American should get "mad as hell" and in the fine labor movement tradition demand that our government, at every level, do something, or as FDR said, "Do something and if that does not work, do something else, but for God's sake, do something!" to protect our way of life.

Here are some suggestions.

- Demand that President George W. Bush meet with the auto executives and work on policies and laws that benefit our auto industry.

- Protect our intellectual, innovative and creative property from foreign competitors that are stealing us blind.

- Develop a training and retraining program that will rival the Marshall Plan to provide the skills, training and education to every worker in need.

- Invest in education, especially math, science and the arts. Be bold, like President John F. Kennedy was when he called for putting a man on the moon within the decade. Propose big ideas and pledge to make America the creative, innovative brain bank of the world.

- Find ways to provide affordable, decent health insurance to the more than 43 million (and growing) people without it.

- Invest in research and development.

- Support global trade, but assure that it is fair and enforceable.

On this Labor Day, let the American people, with Michigan leading the way, put pressure on today's president and Congress to invest in America's working men and women.

Now that would be something to celebrate.

Tom Watkins is a business and education consultant. He served as state superintendent of schools 2001-05 and as president and CEO of the Economic Council of Palm Beach County, Fla., 1996-2001. Read his internationally recognized report: The New Education (R)evolution at www.nacol.org. He can be reached at tdwatkins@aol.com.

There's a lot going right as district begins new school year

R ecently, I was able to view a videotape titled, "Celebrate What's Right with the World." It featured Dewitt Jones from *National Geographic* magazine talking about his philosophy of life. He said he has learned during this life not to wallow in what was wrong with the world. There are plenty of challenges we face and it can be easy to be negative.

However, Jones was uplifting as he talked about his vision for himself. That vision caused him to have passion and creativity, and allowed him to celebrate what is best in people. It caused me to make some adjustments to my personal attitude and realize there is much to celebrate in what is right with the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools.



Jim Ryan

Our No. 1 goal is improving student achievement, and we have proof that our students are doing just that. We had all 15 elementary schools and all five middle schools earn "A's" on their Educational Report Card. We had every school but our alternative education school make Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). We celebrate the fact that we measure up, and expect all our schools to continue improving.

We will open our 16th elementary school next week when more than 700 students come to Thomas Workman Elementary School. Located at the corner of Cherry Hill and Denton Road, this building was completed on time and under budget. It is how we show respect for and thank our taxpayers for their support.

Remodeling work has also been completed at Farrand, Fiegel, Gallimore and Isbister Elementary Schools, as well as at West Middle School. These renovated buildings join Allen, Bird and Smith Elementary Schools in the lineup of schools that have new ceilings, floors, windows, air conditioning, etc., that will serve our students well for many years to come.

Our enrollment will again grow for the 2006-07 school year. With almost 1,000 new students arriving in the last

Our No. 1 goal is improving student achievement, and we have proof that our students are doing just that. We had all 15 elementary schools and all five middle schools earn "A's" on their Educational Report Card. We had every school but our alternative education school make Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). We celebrate the fact that we measure up, and expect all our schools to continue improving.

two years, we anticipate more than 400 new students will attend the fifth-largest school district in the State of Michigan this year. We are a destination for many parents who want quality schools along with the quality of life provided in the six communities that make up the district.

Finally, our Board of Education continues to work hard on a decision regarding our building needs. Ed Sarpolus from EPIC/MRA has reported the results of a survey ordered by the board, and they continue to meet to discuss their options. This board has taken very seriously the input from the community and this survey, and is working hard to decide this district's biggest needs to be addressed by a future bond issue.

As you can see, there is much to celebrate about what is right in our school district. I have high hopes that the 2006-07 school year will bring us further success and continued student achievement. I hope you will continue to stay informed about the activities and the growth of our school district. We want to be worthy of your trust and support. I am proud to be the superintendent of the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools.

Jim Ryan is superintendent of Plymouth-Canton Community Schools.

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<p>Jashvant C. Dani, M.D. Internal Medicine</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Prairie Clinic 7405 Puritan Detroit - 313-862-8050</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">9433 Joseph Campau Hamtramck - 313-872-0398</p>	<p>Kristen E. West, D.O. Family Medicine</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Livonia Family Physicians 28275 Five Mile Road Livonia - 734-261-1740</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">27513 Grand River Livonia - 248-474-2275</p>
<p>Anthony R. Giordano, D.P.M. Podiatric Medicine & Surgery</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Harvey, Lefkowitz, D.P.M., P.C. 641 W. Nine Mile Road Farmdale - 248-548-7363</p>	<p style="font-size: x-small;"><i>Botsford General Hospital's skilled, board certified medical staff consists of primary care physicians supported by a wide range of specialty physicians.</i></p>

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First year of college critical to success

BY HUGH GALLAGHER
STAFF WRITER

It seems pretty obvious – to succeed at college you have to go to class. But according to a national expert on college students' first year, many students fail to grasp the idea.

"Where do students get the notion that they can choose not to go to school?" said Dr. Betsy Barefoot, co-director of the Policy Center on the First Year of College in North Carolina.

"In public school, we are particular about attendance with truant officers and such. In college, we turn the tables and it's really up to you. We turn control over to the student."

Barefoot is bringing her expertise to Schoolcraft College as part of the school's First Year Initiative. The Policy Center on the First Year of College began 1999 with a grant from the Pew Charitable Trust as an outgrowth of the University of South Carolina's National Center for the First-Year Experience. The non-profit independent center now operates out of Brevard, N.C.

"We work to help colleges and universities improve the first year and the way they bring students into the academic experience," Barefoot said.

Schoolcraft is one of 36 colleges involved in a yearlong analysis and improvement plan. Central Michigan University is the only other Michigan school involved. On Monday, Barefoot met



Barefoot

with Schoolcraft staff and faculty. She will be surveying staff, faculty and students.

"I will be a coach, reactor, critical friend. I will respond to everything they do," she said.

The first year is thought to be critical for the success of a college student.

"The first year is often a time period when students solidify whether to pursue higher education or not pursue higher education," Barefoot said. "It affects attitude – is this important, significant or a waste of time. Students decide to get a major or change a major. They get good grades or they dig a hole they have a hard time getting out of."

She said the A students will get down to business but what were once known as "gentleman C" students will have a hard time making their limited goal unless they adjust to such simple rules as going to class and reading their textbooks.

"As Woody Allen said, '90 percent of success is just showing up,'" she said.

Adjusting to college is even harder for students at a commuter college like Schoolcraft, where students are often trying to balance school, work and family. Barefoot said the college's small class sizes and strong student support system have been helpful.

"We suggest that institutions create a welcoming and friendly environment, where students are brought in as members of the academic community," Barefoot said.

She urges students to meet with faculty on an informal basis and interact with them as mentors and role models. She also suggests that students become involved with other students through campus activities.

"Students need to know what is expected of them, but we also think that colleges need to be explicit about what they expect but also need to know what students expect of them," she said.

Here are some other suggestions for first-year students:

■ Make friends with someone in class whom you don't know. If you already know classmates, this will bring new friends into your life. If you come into the class knowing no one, you now have a friend and that can be helpful if you need to borrow someone's notes or are confused about an assignment.

■ Be sure to attend orientation. Orientation is optional on most campuses, but Barefoot said it is important to learn all you can about the campus. "Not participating in orientation is like buying a car without having the operating manual," she said.

■ Become involved in a campus activity such as a club or as a volunteer. You will begin to feel more a part of the institution and find your niche.

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Charter Township of Canton Board Proceedings- August 22, 2006

A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Canton was held Tuesday, August 22, 2006, at 1150 Canton Center S. Supervisor Yack called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Roll Call Members Present: Bennett, LaJoy, McLaughlin, Yack, Zarbo Members Absent: Caccamo, Kirchgatter Staff Present: Director Durack, Director Santomauro, Director Conklin, Director Faas Adoption of Agenda Motion by Bennett, supported by Zarbo to approve the amended agenda adding G-20. Consider Tentative Preliminary Plat for Sheldon Estates Subdivision. Motion carried by all members present. Approval of Minutes Motion by Bennett, supported by * to approve the Board Joint Study Minutes of July 17, 2006. Roll call vote: Ayes: LaJoy, McLaughlin, Yack, Zarbo Abstain: Bennett (absent) Motion carried. Motion by Bennett, supported by Zarbo to approve the Board Study Minutes of July 18, 2006. Roll call vote: Ayes: LaJoy, McLaughlin, Yack, Zarbo Abstain: Bennett (absent) Motion carried. Motion by Bennett, supported by LaJoy to approve the Board Minutes for July 25, 2006. Motion carried by all members present. Citizens Non Agenda Item Comments: Kay Caccamo, Rosemary Caccamo, Elizabeth Toth-Nowak, Dan McCausland and Charlie Page spoke in favor of presenting the American flag, and yellow ribbon at Todd Caccamo's place on the dais. Payment of Bills Motion by Bennett, supported by McLaughlin to approve payment of the bills as presented. Motion carried by all members present. Expenditure Recap for August 8, 2006

Table with 5 columns: Precinct #, Name, Office, Party Affiliation, Certified Vote Total. Rows include John C. Williams, Patricia H. Murray, Cynthia Johnson Williams, Patrick Slavens, and Robert Bovitz.

The remaining unofficial election results can be found on the Canton website at www.canton-mi.org, voting. Item 4. AUTHORIZATION FOR CLERK TO SIGN EASEMENT AGREEMENT WITH PLYMOUTH CANTON SCHOOL DISTRICT. (LSD) Motion by Bennett, supported by McLaughlin to authorize the Clerk to sign the easement agreement with Plymouth Canton School District for the public square on the corner of Denton and Cherry Hill. Motion carried by all members present. Item 5. SPECIAL COMMUNITY EVENT STATUS AND THE INSTALLATION OF SIGNS FOR DELTA KAPPA GAMMA'S ANNUAL CRAFT FAIR. (MSD) Motion by Bennett, supported by McLaughlin to approve special event status and placement of signs for Delta Kappa Gamma's annual craft fair on Saturday, October 21, 2006 at West Middle School. Motion carried by all members present. Item 6. CAPITAL PROGRAMMING - TO CONSIDER PURCHASE OF TRANSCRIPTION MACHINE. (PSD) Motion by Bennett, supported by McLaughlin to reprogram Police Capital Outlay Account 207 301 977 0000 from Line Item # 1 in the amount of \$672.50 in order to create a new capital line item for the purchase of Dictaphone System, #0003752, Micro Cassette ExpressWriter Plus Transcription Version (with foot control & headset) including a 1-year warranty from DTP Sales & Services, 3984 Pepsi cola Dr., Melbourne, FL 32934. Cost Center P00049 0000 0000. Motion carried by all members present. Item 7. CAPITAL REPROGRAMMING FOR THE PURCHASE OF PORTABLE PROJECTOR. (PSD) Motion by Bennett, supported by McLaughlin to reprogram Police Capital Outlay Account 207 301 977 0000 from Line Item #1 in the amount of \$971 in order to create a new capital line item for the purchase of Sanyo PLC-XU73 2500 lumens portable projector from Sanyo Presentation Technologies, 21605 Plummer St., Chatsworth, CA 91311. Cost Center P00049 0000 0000. Motion carried by all members present. Item 8. SPECIAL COMMUNITY EVENT STATUS AND THE INSTALLATION OF SIGNS FOR TRICITY CHRISTIAN MOPS (MOTHERS OF PRESCHOOLERS) MOM TO MOM SALE. Motion by Bennett, supported by McLaughlin to approve special event status and placement of signs for Tri-City Christian Mops Mom to Mom Sale on Saturday, September 10, 2006, at Tri-City Christian Center at 3855 Sheldon Road. Motion carried by all members present. GENERAL CALENDAR. Item 1. B2 LLC, BOWMAN, KERCHEN and BIESDIADIECKI REZONING. (MSD) Motion by Bennett, supported by McLaughlin to adopt the resolution rezoning request of B2 LLC, Bowman, Kerchen and Biesdiadecki. Motion carried by all members present. RESOLUTION OF BOARD OF TRUSTEES CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON Rezoning Request of B2 LLC, Bowman, Kerchen and Biesdiadecki WHEREAS, the petitioner has requested approximately 24 acres located on the north side of Cherry Hill Road between canton Center and Beck Roads be rezoned from RR, Rural Residential and R-2, Single-Family Residential to R-3, Single-Family Residential District; and, WHEREAS, the requested rezoning WOULD be in conformity with the Future Land Use Map of the Comprehensive Plan; and, WHEREAS, the Canton Township Planning Commission recommended APPROVAL of the request; NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Canton, Michigan does hereby APPROVE the request of the petitioner to rezone tax parcel nos. 063-99-0031-000, 063-99-0032-000, 063-99-0033-000, 063-99-0035-000, from RR, Rural Residential to R-3, Single-Family Residential District; and to rezone the north part of parcel no. 063-99-0036-000 from R-2, Single-Family Residential to R-3, Single-Family Residential District. Item 2. CONSIDER REQUEST TO AMEND THE SPECIAL LAND USE CONDITIONS FOR TACO BELL/KFC RESTAURANTS. (MSD) Motion by Bennett, supported by McLaughlin to adopt the resolution to amend special use for Taco Bell/KFC. Motion carried by all members present. RESOLUTION OF BOARD OF TRUSTEES CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON Amended Special Use for Taco Bell/KFC WHEREAS, the Project Sponsor, Mr. Eric Rauch, has proposed to amend the special land use approval for Taco Bell/KFC, located on Michigan Avenue between Sheldon and Old Canton Center Roads, identified as tax EDP #133-02-0075-306 to adjust the hours of operation from 7:00am through 11:00pm to 10:00am through 2:00am; and, WHEREAS, the Planning Commission found the proposed adjustment of hours to be inconsistent with the surrounding development and recommended closing hours be restricted to 12:00a.m. Sunday through Thursday and 2:00a.m. on Friday and Saturday; and, WHEREAS, the Board has reviewed the proposed special use and determines the proposal to be consistent/inconsistent with the surrounding development and subject to the conditions described in the analysis and recommendation form attached hereto and made a part hereof. NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Canton, Michigan does hereby APPROVE the request of the Project Sponsor, Mr. Eric Rauch, to adjust the hours of operation for the Taco Bell/KFC to 12:00a.m. through 2:00a.m. daily subject to compliance with any conditions contained herein and all other regulations of the Township. Or NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Canton, Michigan does hereby APPROVE adjusted closing hours for the Taco Bell/KFC to 12:00a.m. Sunday through Thursday and 2:00a.m. Friday and Saturday subject to compliance with any conditions contained herein and all other regulations of the Township. Item 3. CONSIDER SPECIAL LAND USE REQUEST FOR T-MOBILE MONOPOLE. (MSD) Motion by Bennett, supported by McLaughlin to adopt the resolution for special use for T-Mobile Monopole. Motion carried by all members present.

Table with 3 columns: Post Employ. Benefits, 736, 49,898.36. Total - All Funds 2,688,266.71. Motion by Bennett, supported by McLaughlin to approve payment of the bills as presented. Motion carried by all members present. Expenditure Recap for August 22, 2006

CONSENT CALENDAR: Item 1. SET PUBLIC HEARING DATE FOR GREENFIELD DIE & MANUFACTURING CORPORATION INDUSTRIAL FACILITIES EXEMPTION CERTIFICATE. (SUPERVISOR) Motion by Bennett, supported by McLaughlin to set the public hearing for September 12, 2006, to consider the Industrial Facilities Exemption application of Greenfield Die & Manufacturing Corporation for new personal property at their facility located at 7295 Haggerty Road. Motion carried by all members present. Item 2. SET PUBLIC HEARING DATE FOR DIVERSIFIED MACHINE, INC. INDUSTRIAL FACILITIES EXEMPTION CERTIFICATE. (SUPERVISOR) Motion by Bennett, supported by McLaughlin to set the public hearing for September 12, 2006, to consider the Industrial Facilities Exemption application of Diversified Machine, Inc. for new personal property at their facility located at 7261 Commerce Blvd. Motion carried by all members present. Item 3. ACCEPTANCE OF BOARD OF CANVASSER'S REPORT OF THE AUGUST 8, 2006 PRIMARY ELECTION RESULTS. (CLERK) Motion by Bennett, supported by McLaughlin to accept the report of the Board of Canvassers meeting of August 10, 2006 and to attach these minutes to the August 22, 2006 meeting minutes of the Board of Trustees. Motion carried by all members present.

Table with 3 columns: General Fund, Fire Fund, Police Fund, Summit Operating, Street Lighting, Cable TV Fund, Twp Improvement, E-911 Utility, Auto Forfeiture(wwa), Federal Grants Fund, Auto Theft Grant, Downtown Dev. Auth., Cap Proj-Road Paving, Golf Fund, Water & Sewer Fund, Trust & Agency Fund, Construction Escrows.

RESOLUTION OF BOARD OF TRUSTEES CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON Special Use for T-Mobile Monopole WHEREAS, the project Sponsor, Mr. Mark Jones, has requested special use approval for T-Mobile Monopole to be located on Michigan Avenue between Belleville and Beck Roads, identified as EDP# 131-99-0016-701; and, WHEREAS, the Planning Commission found the proposed special use to be consistent with the development objectives of the Township and recommended approval; and, WHEREAS, the Board has reviewed the proposed special use and determines the proposal to be consistent with the Zoning Ordinance regulations and development objectives of the Township, subject to the conditions described in the analysis and recommendation form attached hereto and made a part hereof. NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Canton, Michigan does hereby APPROVE the request of the Project Sponsor, Mr. Mark Jones, to conduct the special use for the proposed T-Mobile Monopole subject to compliance with any conditions contained herein and all other regulations of the Township. Item 4. CONSIDER AUTHORIZING THE TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR TO EXECUTE THE AMENDMENT OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH WAYNE COUNTY FOR BECK ROAD FROM MICHIGAN AVENUE TO GEDDES. (MSD) Motion by Bennett, supported by Zarbo to adopt the resolution to amend approve the amendment to the Intergovernmental Agreement between the Charter Township of Canton and the County of Wayne for the asphalt pavement on Beck Road from Michigan Avenue to Geddes Road. Motion carried by all members present. Resolution Whereas, the Charter Township of Canton believes quality roads are a vital part of any community, and Whereas, certain improvements were necessary to Beck Road from Michigan to Geddes to increase traffic safety and to encourage economic development, and Whereas, the Charter Township of Canton had committed to paving Beck Road from Michigan to Geddes Road and County of Wayne and Canton Township entered into an Intergovernmental Agreement on June 15, 1999, and Whereas, the Charter Township of Canton paid its share in the amount \$257,000 on 8/15/2000 and Wayne County has the final project cost is \$662,149.03 of which the County's share is \$529,719.22 and the Township's share is \$132,429.81 that resulted in an overpayment by \$124,570.19 to be reimbursed by Wayne County, and Now, therefore be it resolved, that the Canton Township Board of Trustees does hereby approve the proposed Amendment to the Intergovernmental Agreement between the Charter Township of Canton and County of Wayne for the asphalt pavement on Beck Road from Michigan Avenue to Geddes, and Be it further resolved, that the Supervisor is authorized to execute the Amendment to Intergovernmental Agreement for Beck Road from Michigan Avenue to Geddes Road on behalf of the Charter Township of Canton. Item 5. CONSIDER AUTHORIZING AN INCREASE IN PURCHASE ORDER NO. 60374 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$6,450 TO NATURE'S WAY LANDSCAPING & DESIGN FOR RESTORATION WORK. (MSD) Motion by Bennett, supported by McLaughlin to increase PO 60374 to Nature's Way Landscaping & Design in the amount of \$6,450 for restoration work completed for the 2005 sidewalk program. These \$11,400 in total funds to be taken from the \$12,470 retainage held from Audia concrete's contract for the 2005 sidewalk program. Motion carried by all members present. Item 6. CONSIDER AUTHORIZING AN INCREASE IN PURCHASE ORDER NO. 50234 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$27,063.50 FOR ADDITIONAL SERVICES FOR THE PILGRIM HILLS WATER AND SANITARY SEWER PROJECT. (MSD) Motion by Bennett, supported by Zarbo to decrease PO 50233 by \$27,063.50 and increase PO 50234 in the amount of \$27,063.50 to MLP & Associates for additional work performed for the Pilgrim Hills Water & Sanitary Sewer Project. Motion carried by all members present. Item 7. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF REVISED FEE SCHEDULES FOR MUNICIPAL SERVICES. (MSD) Motion by Bennett, supported by McLaughlin to approve the Municipal Services Department fee schedules dated August 22, 2006 to become effective on September 1, 2006. Motion carried by all members present. Item 8. CONSIDER REIMBURSEMENT OF COSTS TO DDA FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FOR SIGN ORDINANCE REVISIONS. (MSD) Motion by Bennett, supported by LaJoy to authorize the reimbursement of \$19,000 to the DDA for the Township's share for the contracted professional services to revise the Township's Sign Ordinance; and further, that the charges be made against account #101-853-818-0000. Motion carried by all members present. Item 9. CONSIDER AUTHORIZING AN INCREASE IN PURCHASE ORDER NO. 54513 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,337.99 AND PROVIDE PAYMENT TO COOP-ARZ EXCAVATING, LLC IN THE AMOUNT OF \$3,217.50 FOR THE RIDGE ROAD WATER MAIN EXTENSION PROJECT. (MSD) Motion by Bennett, supported by LaJoy to increase PO 54513 to Michael L. Priest & Associates, Inc. in the amount of \$2,337.99 (Construction in Progress Account # 592-000-158-000) for additional work completed on the Ridge Road water main project. Motion carried by all members present. Motion by Bennett, supported by LaJoy to provide final payment to Coop-Arz Excavating, LLC in the amount of \$3,217.50 (Construction in Progress Account # 592-000-158-000) for additional work performed. Motion carried by all members present. Item 10. APPROVE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR POSITION AND EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT. (SUPERVISOR) Motion by Bennett, supported by Zarbo that Canton Board of Trustees establish the position of Executive Director of Public Safety and Operations, name John

Santomauro as the Executive Director and in recognition of John's long and successful service to Canton enter into a five year retirement incentive agreement to retain Director Santomauro's services. In consideration for his continued employment, Canton will purchase one year of service time, up to five, in the MERS retirement system. Motion carried by all members present. Motion by Bennett, supported by Zarbo to adopt the resolution to establish a position of Executive Director for Public Safety and Operations. Motion carried by all members present. Item 11. PURCHASE OF PROPERTY. (SUPERVISOR) Motion by Bennett, supported by McLaughlin that the Canton Board of Trustees accept the assignment of right to purchase tax parcel 71-052-99-0013-000/ commonly known as 930 N. Lotz Road from Dearborn Realty for future road right-of-way. The purchase price and closing costs shall not exceed \$138,000 and will be funded from the Community Improvement Fund. Motion carried by all members present. Item 12. BUDGET AMENDMENT POLICE JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT (JAG) PURCHASES. (PSD) Motion by Bennett, supported by McLaughlin to approve the purchase of the following equipment funded by Justice Assistance Grant funds: Audio equipment for the front desk, Zoom camera for the booking room, Wall mounted television/DVD/VHS for the briefing room, Three DVD/VHS combination players, DVD/VHS combination recorder, Six PDA's, Six memory sticks, Scanner for the Detective Bureau, Display Board, Four monitors for Dispatch Motion carried by all members present. Motion by Bennett, supported by McLaughlin to approve the following budget amendment for these equipment purchases: Increase Revenues: Federal Grant-LLEBG/JAG #207-000-507-0000 \$11,167; Increase Appropriations: Capital Outlay-Equipment #207-301-977-0000 \$11,167 This budget amendment increases the Police Fund budget from \$14,030,371 to \$14,052,258. Motion carried by all members present. Item 13. CONSIDER THE PURCHASE OF TWO RESCUE SQUADS (AMBULANCES). (PSD) Motion by Bennett, supported by LaJoy to award the bid for the purchase of two rescue squads to Rolland Specialty Vehicles & Products, Inc, PO Box 6888, Toledo, OH 43612 in the amount of \$237,880, Fire Capital Outlay Equipment 206 336 977 0000, Cost Center P00055 0000 0000. Motion carried by all members present. Item 14. APPROVAL OF BID TO PRINT THE FOCUS NEWSLETTER. (ACSD) Motion by Bennett, supported by McLaughlin to approve the bid for printing the monthly Focus Newsletter with National Wholesale Printing Corp. for a twelve month period, for \$25,884 (Communications, Printing and Publishing, Account #101-240-900-0000), and further, that pursuant to the bid specifications, the bid may be extended for an additional two year period upon mutual agreement of National Wholesale Printing Corp. and the Township. Motion carried by all members present. Item 15. BUDGET AMENDMENT - TRANSFER OF POSITION FROM COMMUNITY SERVICES DIVISION BUDGET TO LEISURE SERVICES DEPARTMENT BUDGET. (FBD) Motion by Bennett, supported by McLaughlin to approve the following General Fund budget amendment for the transfer of the Volunteer Coordinator position from the Community Services Division to the Leisure Services Department: Increase (Decrease) Appropriations: Community Services Salaries#101-250-705-0000 \$(20,658) Fringe Benefits-Community Services 101-250-720-0000 (8,263) Salaries-Leisure Services Dept 101-750-705-0000 20,658 Fringe Benefits- Leisure Services Dept 101-750-720-0000 \$2,263 Total \$0 This budget amendment decreases the Community Services Division budget from \$338,538 to \$309,617 and increases the Leisure Services Department budget from \$494,696 to \$523,617 and does not change the General Fund budget total. Motion carried by all members present. Item 16. GENERAL FUND BUDGET AMENDMENT - COUNCIL FOR COMMUNITY EXCELLENCE REASSIGNMENT. (FBD) Motion by Bennett, supported by Zarbo to approve the following budget amendment to move the Council for Community Excellence budget from the Township Board Department to the Recreation Services Division: Increase (Decrease) Appropriations: Council for Community Excellence (Rev) #101-101-880-0100 \$ (5,000) Council for Community Excellence 101-101-880-1000 (7,500) Council for Community Excellence (Rev) 101-691-880-0100 7,500 Council for Community Excellence 101-101-880-1000 5,000 This budget amendment decreases the Township Board Department budget from \$451,697 to \$439,197, increases the Recreation Services Division budget from \$2,204,635 to \$2,217,135, and does not change the General Fund budget total. Motion carried by all members present. Item 17. INTERFUND TRANSFER & BUDGET AMENDMENTS - LAND PURCHASES. (FBD) Motion by Bennett, supported by McLaughlin to approve the transfer of \$285,859 from the Public Improvement Fund to the Community Improvement Fund for the purchase of property. I further move to approve the following budget amendments for this transfer: PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT FUND: Increase Revenues: Appropriation from Fund Balance #245-000-699-0000 \$285,859 Increase Appropriations: Transfer to Community Improvement Fund #245-265-965-2460 \$285,859 This budget amendment increases the Public Improvement Fund budget from \$1,449,226 to \$1,735,085. COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT FUND: Increase Revenues: Transfer from Public Improvement Fund #246-000-676-2450 \$285,859 Increase Appropriations: Capital Improvements-Public Works #246-440-970-0000 \$285,859 This budget amendment increases the Community Improvement Fund budget from \$3,609,401 to \$3,895,260. I further move to approve the following General Fund budget amendment for the purchase of property from Wayne County: Increase Revenues: Appropriation from Fund Balance #101-000-699-0000 \$50,776 Increase Appropriations: Capital Outlay-Land & Improvements #101-200-971-0000 \$50,776 This budget amendment increases the General Government Dept budget from \$644,204 to \$694,980 and the General Fund budget from \$28,081,649 to \$28,132,425. Motion carried by all members present. Item 18. AUTHORIZE EMERGENCY PURCHASE FOR PHEASANT RUN GOLF CLUB. (LSD) Motion by Bennett, supported by LaJoy to approve the emergency purchase of chemicals for pythium control at Pheasant Run to Turgriss, Inc., P.O. Box 667, South Lyon, MI 48178, in the amount of \$5,315. Funds for purchase order #60902 are to be taken from Account 584-756-930-0000, Maintenance and Repair of Grounds. Motion carried by all members present. Item 19. APPROVE PAYMENT FOR SALT FOR THE 2005-2006 WINTER SEASON. (LSD) Motion by Bennett, supported by McLaughlin to authorize the payment of bulk salt to Wayne County, Accounts Receivable, 600 Randolph, Detroit, MI 48226 in the amount of \$12,643.19. Funds are available in the 2006 Parks budget account number 101-270-930-0000, Maintenance and Repair. Motion carried by all members present. Item 20. CONSIDER TENTATIVE PRELIMINARY PLAT FOR SHELDON ESTATES SUBDIVISION. (MSD) Motion by Bennett, supported by Zarbo to adopt the resolution for tentative preliminary plat for Sheldon Estates Subdivision. Motion carried by all members present. RESOLUTION OF BOARD OF TRUSTEES CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON Tentative and Final Approval of the Preliminary Plat for Sheldon Estates Whereas, the Project Sponsor, Mr. Don Marhofer, has requested tentative and final approval of the preliminary plat for Sheldon Estates to be located east of Sheldon Road between Palmer and Cherry Hill Roads, identified as EDP# 085-99-0005-701; and, Whereas, the Planning Commission reviewed the Tentative Preliminary Plat and made a recommendation to approve the request to grant tentative approval of the preliminary plat, and whereas the Planning and Engineering Officials have reviewed the plat and made a recommendation to approve the plat as summarized in the attached written analysis and recommendation. Now therefore be it resolved, the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Canton, Michigan does hereby approve the request of the project sponsor, Mr. Don Marhofer, to grant tentative and final approval of the preliminary plat for the proposed Sheldon Estates, subject to compliance with any and all state and local development regulations and further subject to any additional conditions recommended by the Planning Commission and staff, as described in the analysis and recommendation attached hereto and made a part hereof. OTHER: The Board Study meeting for August 29, 2006 is cancelled. ADJOURN: Motion by Bennett, supported by Zarbo to adjourn at 8:40 p.m. Motion carried by all members present. - Thomas J. Yack, Supervisor - Terry G. Bennett, Clerk -

Copies of the complete text of the Board Minutes are available at the office of the Charter Township of Canton, 1150 S. Canton Center Rd, Canton, MI 48188, during regular business hours and can also be accessed through our web site www.canton-mi.org after Board Approval. Publish: August 31, 2006

Schools serve up healthier menu

BY SUE MASON
STAFF WRITER

It'll be the dawn of a new age in the cafeteria when Wayne-Westland students return to school Tuesday.

Fried foods are out and baked food is in. Healthy is the buzz word.

"Our cafeterias will strive to only have healthy items on the menu this year," said Linda Kempton, senior executive director of business and operations. "The Type A, the basic school lunch, will be all baked, nothing will be fried, and we're happy about that."

The school lunch makeover was developed by the district's wellness committee. It comes in response to a 2004 federal law requiring that districts receiving more than \$200,000 in federal aid commit to creating a healthy school environment.

Food normally fried will be baked. Gone are french fries; instead it's baked fries except for the a la carte line in the high schools, which will be cooked in soy oil to avoid trans fat.

Vending machines also will

get a makeover.

At the middle school, there will be no sugary pop available. The machines will be stocked with water, 100 percent juice, sports drinks, dairy-based beverages and low-calorie juice drinks.

At the high schools, no more than 50 percent of the beverages can be soft drinks.

The district will have juices and water available to students in the elementaries. It also will pare down the serving size of a la carte snack food to contain 200 or fewer calories - with zero trans fat, no more than 35 percent of calories from fat, and no more than 10 percent from saturated fat.

Sugar will be 35 percent or less by weight.

"We've never had vending machines in the elementary schools, and we don't want to start," said Kempton. "Candy and sugary pop is out at the middle school. We only want things that meet the 200 calories or less and 31 percent or less sugar content."

Toni Makino, the district's director of food services, said companies providing food are working with the district to

meet the new requirements. The companies knew if they didn't come on board, it would hurt their revenue, she said.

"It's been really exciting meeting with the (company representatives); they're coming in with a long list of healthy items," she said. "They really did their homework."

In addition to changes in what kind of food will be served, the district also will be implementing the swipe card system used in high schools into the elementaries during the first six weeks of classes.

Parents will be able to deposit money in an account for their children to be used to buy the hot lunches. Parents will be able to block purchases of specific foods and flag the accounts for things like food allergies.

"I think it also will be nice for kids who get reduced price lunches," Kempton said. "It won't be embarrassing for them."

The district also will be trying out several pilot programs in the schools.

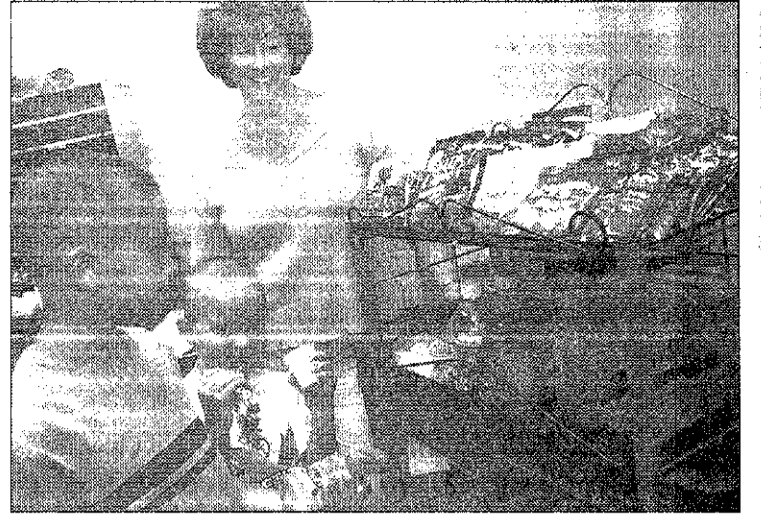
In the elementaries, several schools will send their students

out for recess before sending them to the cafeteria to eat.

"The industry shows that students will eat more and there will be less plate waste if students exercise before they eat," Makino said.

While it can't require it, the wellness committee also is promoting the idea of school parties that incorporate physical activities with healthy foods and healthy school fund-raisers.

Instead of selling candy and the like, the committee has a list of 56 different fund-raising ideas that include healthier foods and activities.



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Kettering Elementary student fifth-grader David Crumme, 10, and his first-grade brother Derrick, 6, check out some of the healthier foods that Wayne-Westland schools will be serving this year. Looking on is Beth Sholler, assistant food service director for the school district.

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HEAD START ENROLLMENT

Wayne County is enrolling 3-to-5-year-olds from income-eligible families and children with certified or suspected disabilities in the program through the fall. Head Start provides a variety of educational activities and health services at no cost. Wayne County Head Start programs are located all around the county, excluding Detroit, which operates its own program. Children participate in educational activities and receive medical, dental and nutrition services at no cost. For information, call (866) 534-5437. Parents can also directly contact the Head Start programs in their areas:

- Downriver and Southwestern Wayne County - The Guidance Center at (734) 785-7702
- Dearborn, Dearborn Heights, Redford and Garden City - YWCA of Western Wayne County at (313) 581-0222
- Canton, Inkster, Livonia, and Plymouth (including Crestwood School District) - Starfish Family Services at (888) 887-9980
- Harper Woods, Highland Park and Hamtramck - Wayne Metro CAA at (313) 957-3043
- Wayne and Westland - Stottlemeyer Early Childhood Center at (734) 419-2630

ERA supporters boost women's rights

BY JULIE BROWN
STAFF WRITER

Jane Strand of Detroit tells her children and grandchildren of the importance of passing the Equal Rights Amendment. "The Equal Rights Amendment needs to be ratified. Equity is still an issue," said Strand, who represented the state American Association of University Women at a Saturday tea celebrating Women's Equality Day. "Young women probably feel they don't need it. They haven't come through what we've come through." Strand was also at the Livonia Civic Center Library Aug. 26 to represent One United Michigan, working for "no" votes on this November's civil rights initiative on the Michigan ballot. She noted that women in Michigan earn only 67 cents to a man's dollar, in 49th place among the states. Laura Callow of Livonia was among speakers. She's chair of the sponsoring Michigan Coalition for Equal Rights Studies, the education

To date, 35 of the 38 states needed have ratified, including Michigan. There is no longer a time limit on ratification, Callow told the approximately 50 supporters.

arm of Michigan ERAmerica. "We are celebrating the 86th anniversary of women getting the right to vote," Callow said. "We still need a second constitutional amendment to guarantee all our rights." She gave a legislative update on the ERA, which was introduced in 1923 by Alice Paul just a few years after women won the vote. The ERA passed both houses of Congress and became an amendment in 1972, going to states for ratification. To date, 35 of the 38 states needed have ratified, including Michigan. There is no longer a time limit on ratifi-

cation, Callow told the approximately 50 supporters. She cited Illinois, Missouri, Florida and Arkansas as states where legislative action will be under way in 2007. "You have to keep reminding people," Callow said. "There's a whole new generation that needs to be educated." She cited attacks against Title IX, which includes guarantees of equity for women and girls in school sports. Callow urged the women and men present to push for equity in sports scheduling. "I'm happy to tell you the ERA has not gone away," Callow said, adding that women's rights have been threatened recently by the Bush administration. Strand spoke briefly on the November ballot issue on affirmative action, noting it continues to give women and minorities a level playing field and opportunities they otherwise wouldn't have. Mickey Edell of Canton, state AAUW president, was among those present. She noted that women have

power, and should observe "the importance of celebrating Women's Equality Day." Three women who recently died - Betty Friedan, Coretta Scott King and Detroit Councilwoman Maryann Mahaffey - were remembered Saturday, with Faith Robinson reading a poem in their honor. Lynette Brown of Bloomfield Township re-enacted the story of 19th century suffragist Ernestine Rose, who was born in Poland, moved to America and worked for women's property rights. "Keep on working because good can happen," she told them in representing Rose. Co-sponsors for the day were AAUW, the League of Women Voters of Michigan, Michigan Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs, and the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom of Metropolitan Detroit. Michigan ERAmerica can be contacted at MichERAmerica@cs.com, the ERA Campaign Network at www.ERACampaign.net.

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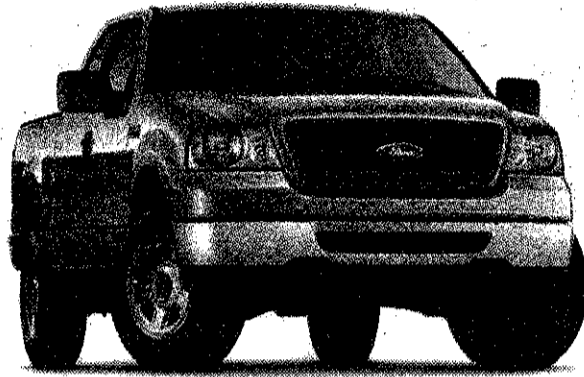
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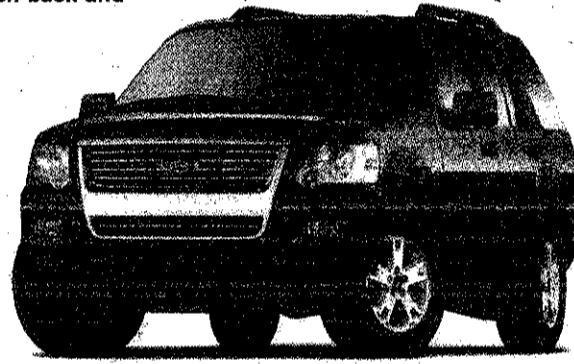


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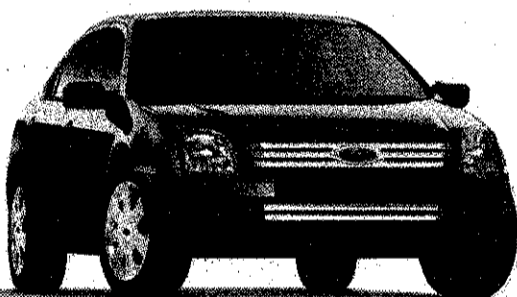


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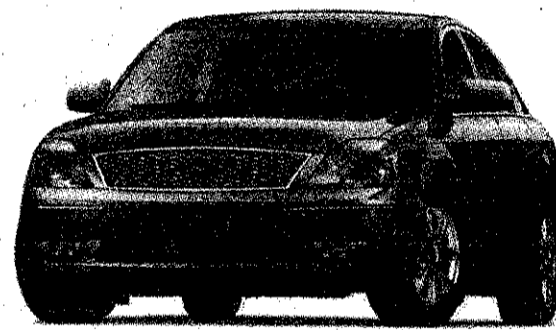


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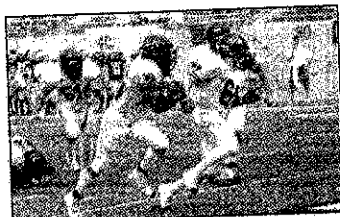
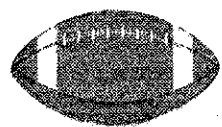
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Thursday, August 31, 2006

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

Ed Wright, editor . (734) 953-2108 . ewright@hometownlife.com

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Belhart leads Rocks to 1st at Balconi

BY ED WRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

There's no better way for a high school soccer team to kick-start its season than by winning the talent-laden Gary Balconi Invitational.

Consider Salem's season kick-started. Led by the sizzling right foot of senior Brooks Belhart, the Rocks (4-1) captured their first Balconi title since 2003 by going 3-0 in Saturday's eight-team event, which was played on the three Plymouth-Canton Educational Park soccer fields.

Of the four goals Belhart tallied during the day, none was more significant than the penalty kick he deposited into the back of the net in the second half of Salem's 1-0 victory over Royal Oak in the championship contest. The winning goal was set up when Salem's Tom Bennett was hauled down by a Royal Oak player while on a break-away.

"Brooks had a very good day," said Salem coach Ed McCarthy. "He's a very strong finisher. When he gets the ball in front of the net, his scoring percentage is high."

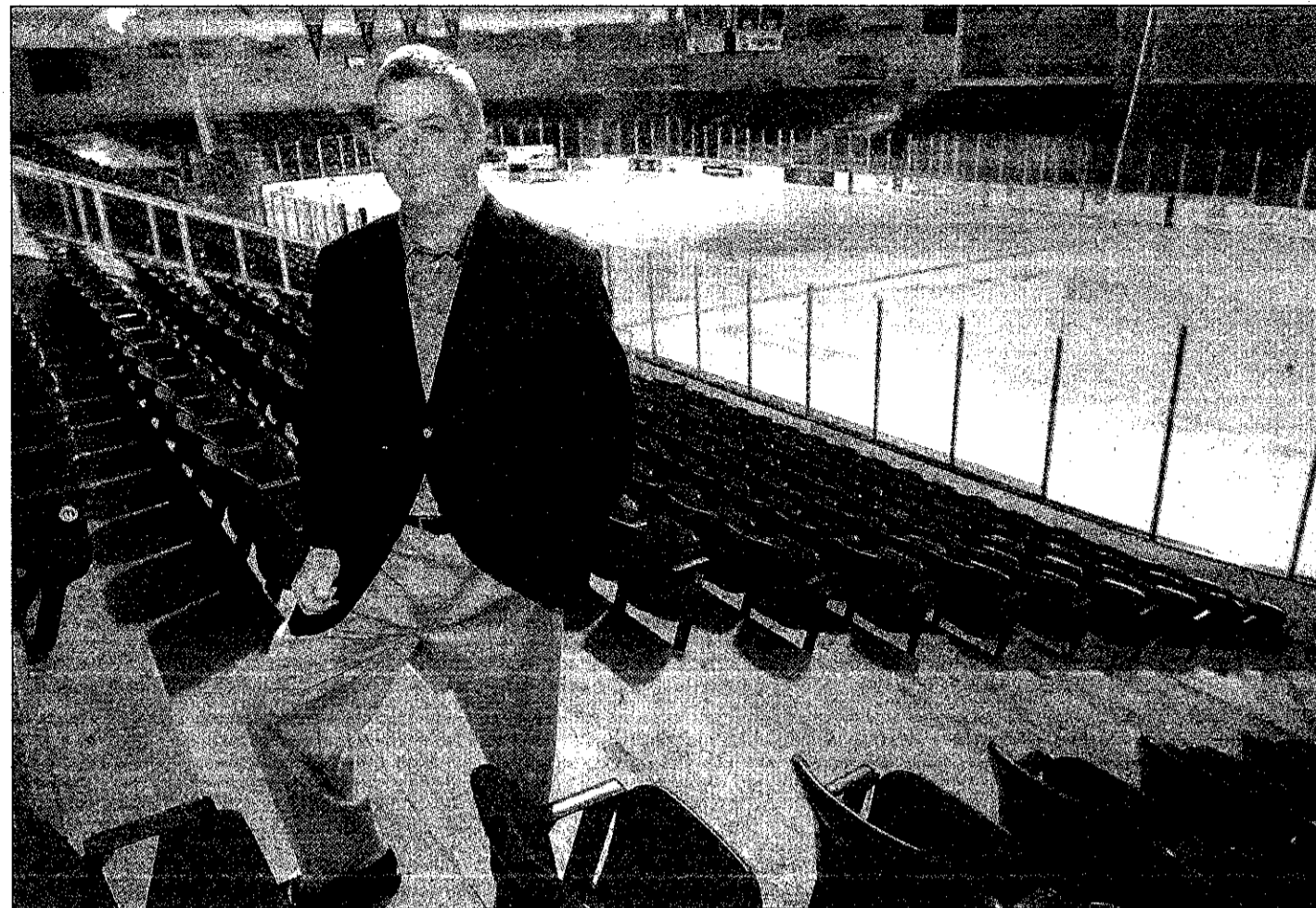
Salem opened the tournament with a convincing 5-2 victory over the University of Detroit Jesuit. Belhart and Bennett both scored a pair of goals and sophomore Jace Bearden added one. The Rocks relied on a strong defensive effort to upend P-CEP rival Canton, 2-0, in the semifinal matchup. Sophomore Kevin Cope opened the scoring in the first half before Belhart added an insurance goal on a penalty kick in the second stanza.

Senior Brian Field was stellar in net for the Rocks throughout the tournament, notching a pair of shutouts. Field played all but the second half against U-D Jesuit when fellow senior Matt Smokovitz relieved him.

"Obviously, we wanted to win, but it was important to get off to a good start," said McCarthy. "It sends a message to the kids that if they play well, the opportunity will be there to have a successful season."

On Monday, the Rocks dropped a 2-1 decision to Northville in a Western Lakes Activities Association cross-over match played on the P-CEP varsity soccer field. Jon Gibson scored the lone Salem goal, which was assisted by Cope.

"We couldn't have played much better," said McCarthy, referring to the match that was played in a drenching rain. "We got a lot of quality shots; we just couldn't finish."



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Plymouth Whalers President, General Manager and head coach Mike Vellucci is pictured in what would be considered his second office - the main ice rink at the Compuware Sports Arena in Plymouth Township. Vellucci has compiled close to a .600 winning percentage during his four-year coaching career with the Whalers.

Career hat trick

Whalers' Vellucci finds success in multi-dimensional job

BY ED WRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

Welcome to a typical, adrenaline-filled, no-time-to-waste Monday morning in the life of Mike Vellucci.

By 9 a.m., the president, general manager and head coach of the Plymouth Whalers is seated at his desk in his Compuware Sports Arena office, which, fittingly, overlooks an Olympic-sized hockey rink.

Before he downs his first cup of coffee, the 40-year-old Vellucci may:

- Discuss a trade with a fellow Ontario Hockey League general manager;

- Meet with associate coach Todd Watson to tweak the Whalers' penalty-killing strategy;

- Call one of the team's season-ticket holders to ensure that he or she is happy with

their accommodations; or

- All of the above.

Considering he successfully devours daily to-do lists that are longer than a hockey rink's blue line, Vellucci would be the perfect candidate to deliver a speech to a group of aspiring young businessmen on how to multi-task effectively.

That is, if he had the time.

NEVER A DULL MOMENT

Holding down the three most-important jobs of an ultra-successful OHL franchise can be non-stop hectic, but Vellucci wouldn't have it any other way.

"I love what I do because I'm working on something different every day I come to work," he said. "No two days are alike. One minute I could be working on our power play. A half-hour later I could be calling season-

PLEASE SEE VELLUCCI, B2

THE VELLUCCI FILE

- Name: Mike Vellucci;
- Age: 40;
- Born and raised in: Farmington;
- Family: wife, Sue; daughter, Allison, 9; son, Ryan, 3;
- Occupation: President of Compuware Hockey General Manager and Head Coach of the Ontario Hockey League's Plymouth Whalers. His four-year head-coaching record is 144-82-36-10 (.596 winning percentage);
- Playing days: Was a member of the first-ever Compuware youth hockey team in the late-70s; went on to play for the OHL's Belleville Bulls before being drafted by the NHL's Hartford Whalers in 1984; made his NHL debut with Hartford in the second half of the 1987-88 season; finished pro career in Lusteau, Austria.
- Other interests: spending time with family, golf (7 handicap), fixing up houses;
- Non-hockey sports highlight: fired a 1-under 71 at Western Country Club.

Sidelines

GCYBSA news

The Greater Canton Youth Baseball & Softball Association is seeking candidates for its board of directors. Two, three-year positions on the board are available.

Volunteers are also being sought for other positions in the organization, which serves 2,400 young players in Canton and Plymouth.

Nomination forms are due Sept. 12. Elections will be held Sept. 19-23 from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the Canton Softball Center. For more information, contact csc.cantonmi.org (GCYBSA) or call (734) 394-5489.

Wisniewski lauded

Canton High School graduate Matt Wisniewski was one of five members of the Michigan State University swim team

who earned honorable mention honors on the College Swim Coaches of America's Academic All-American team.

Wisniewski, a senior at MSU, compiled a 3.81 grade-point average during the 2005-06 season. The former Chief also excelled in the pool, as he was part of the Spartans' school record-setting 200-meter freestyle, 400 freestyle and 200 medley relay teams.

Hole-in-one

Canton resident Charles Wolfe III registered a hole-in-one on Saturday while playing a round of golf with his father, Charles Wolfe Jr., on the Lakes of Taylor Golf Course in Taylor. Using a five wood, Wolfe drained his tee shot on the 205-yard third hole for his first-ever ace. Wolfe finished with an 18-hole score of 86.

Baseball tryouts

The 11U Plymouth-Canton Patriots travel baseball team will be holding tryouts for the 2007 season on Saturday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Plymouth Township (McClumpha) Park. For more information, contact coach Matt Adams at (248) 943-1232.

Fans full of optimism as Lions play out the hazy, crazy days of summer

A long cold winter has once again turned into an optimistic summer. We've all seen it around here for years. It's like clockwork. Another bad Detroit Lions season, fans saying they will never return, and a few months later, voila! They are back to ride the bandwagon yet again. It's a rite of passage for anyone who follows the NFL in our community.

Just eight months ago, they were marching in the streets outside Ford Field. Lions President Matt Millen was the subject of



Mark Wilson

most of the ire. "Fire Millen" signs were all over downtown that final home game in December. It was a week before Christmas and very few were in a holly jolly

mood. Lions "fans" were dressed in orange, rooting on the Cincinnati Bengals. It was a miserable day.

Since then, the Lions have changed coaches again and Millen has been saying how he finally has the right guy in Rod Marinelli. He has even joked about last year.

"My kids had a 'Fire Millen' sign on the Christmas tree. I certainly understand the frustration, but I am bound and determined to get this thing right," said Millen, whose five-year record stands at a dismal 21-59.

Marinelli got some street cred immediately for hiring former St. Louis Rams coach Mike

Martz as offensive coordinator. Martz has a Super Bowl ring and a second Super Bowl appearance on his resume. Super Bowl is the operative phrase there, because in Lions history their only connection is being the host city to two of those contests.

Martz is considered an offensive whiz. He is the mastermind behind Kurt Warner, Marshall Faulk, Isaac Bruce and Torry Holt in St. Louis. When you have an offense with the moniker

PLEASE SEE WILSON, B3



PICK THE PROS

Mark Wilson joins three other metro-area radio jocks for this season's O&E Football Contest "Pick the Pros." Go to www.hometownlife.com for more information and to sign up for the pro football contest and look for Mark Wilson's weekly column on the Detroit Lions in Thursday's O&E sports sections.

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VELLUCCI

FROM PAGE B1

ticket holders or working on a plan to raise more advertising revenue. An hour later, I could be working on a trade with another GM. It's something different all the time.

"It can get pretty busy at times, but, hey, I've been doing this for a while, so I'm used to it."

He's also good at it. Since taking the coaching reins from former Whalers coach Pete DeBoer in the summer of 2001, Vellucci has compiled a stellar 144-82-36-10 mark. His general manager skills have also proven to be exemplary judging by the fact that several of his players have been drafted by National Hockey League teams.

"Mike is absolutely a top-notch sports executive who understands the dollars-and-cents end of sports management as well as the competitive part of it," said Whalers owner Peter Karmanos. "Mike is a real student of the game. He's an astute strategist and he works harder than anybody else at what he does."

"It wouldn't surprise me at all if someday Mike was the general manager of a top-notch NHL team."

LONGTIME FRIENDS

The Karmanos-Vellucci relationship dates back to the late-70s when the slick-skating defenseman played for Karmanos's first Compuware youth hockey team.

"Mike was a very, very talented and skilled athlete on that team and at each level he played at after that," remembered Karmanos. "I think he would have had a successful NHL career if he wouldn't have blown out his knee."

At the age of 17, Vellucci left his home in Farmington to play for the OHL's Belleville Bulls, where he racked up 13 goals, 52 assists and 237 penalty minutes in two seasons.

His advanced blue-line skills caught the eye of the Hartford Whalers, who drafted him in

the seventh round of the 1984 NHL Entry Draft.

Following three years in the minors, Vellucci made his NHL debut with Hartford late in the 1988 season.

"Some of the players on that team were Mike Liut, Ron Francis and Ulf Samuelson," Vellucci said. "My first game was in the Boston Garden. I suited up for four games, but in the NHL you don't get credit for a game played if you're not on the ice for at least one shift, so, officially, I played in two games."

SWITCHING GEARS

Following the brief NHL stint, Vellucci logged four more seasons in the minors before wrapping up his professional hockey career in Lusteau, Austria.

"In May of 1992, Jim Rutherford and Mr. Karmanos told me at my wedding that when I was ready to hang up my skates to look them up and they'd get me a job in hockey," Vellucci recalled.

"That summer, I decided that, since I was married, I didn't want to be traveling all over, not knowing where I'd be living every summer. I wanted to get on with my life. I gave it my best shot, but I felt it was time to do something else, so I called Mr. Karmanos and he offered me the job of general manager and coach of the Compuware Tier II team. I also ran the Oak Park Ice Arena."

The three-jobs-at-once experience proved to be an apprenticeship of sorts for Vellucci, who would be promoted by Karmanos to his current duties in 2001.

"During the season, I put in a lot of 12- to 15-hour days," Vellucci said. "On game days, I'm here from 9 in the morning until midnight or 1 a.m. the following morning."

"We're a weekend-league team, so there are some Monday mornings when we don't get back from, let's say, Sault Ste. Marie until 5 a.m., but I still have to be here at 9 a.m. to talk about how we're going to sell tickets for the next

weekend and to meet with Todd to talk about our next opponent.

"There are times when you get the 'February blues,' but I recharge my batteries in the summer. To be honest, I love every minute of this job. I wouldn't trade it for anything."

TEAM EFFORT

Vellucci said he wouldn't be able to fulfill his many obligations without the help of the Whalers' entire staff, especially Watson.

"Todd puts a lot of the practices together, breaks down the game video," Vellucci said.

"There's no way I'd be able to do all the stuff I do without him and the rest of the people here."

Vellucci had a hard time picking the one aspect of his job he likes best.

"I'm a very competitive person, so I love being behind the bench during games," he said. "I also like calling other GMs and talking about possible trades."

"But I'd have to say the best part of it all is the day-to-day interactions I get to have with the players. I like helping them get through their school work, helping them work through their off-the-ice problems and issues."

The ultimate thrill for Vellucci unfolded this past June when he watched two of his former players — Justin Williams and Chad LaRose — help the Carolina Hurricanes win the 2006 Stanley Cup.

"My wife would tell you that I get more nervous watching my former players play in the NHL than anything else," he said, smiling. "When I was watching Chad LaRose out there during a penalty kill in the Stanley Cup finals, I was saying to myself, 'Come on, Rosie, let's see how well we taught you.'"

"My No. 1 goal with this job is to help these kids get to the next level — not just in hockey, but in life. There's not a better feeling than seeing them make it big."

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Prep football prognosticators struggle through Week 1 games

I can't call myself a Monday Morning Quarterback because I'm not usually up that early.

I'd rather make that a Monday Afternoon QB.

Things got a bit blurry in the wee hours last Friday night after I finished writing up my seventh high school football game. And it took me until Monday afternoon to digest what exactly happened over the weekend.

The prognosticators didn't exactly get off to a roaring start as defending champion Ed Wright, the Plymouth-Canton sports editor, started out at 7-6, one game behind myself and Redford-Garden City sports editor Tim Smith, both at 8-5.

But you know the high school football season is in full swing when the phone calls return and e-mails start coming.

Thankfully, no one chided me or took it personally about my first-week selections.

But a few parents wanted to make sure I got a few things straight.

There was an e-mail from a father who wanted me to take note that his son, just coming off thumb surgery the previous week, was wearing a cast and was an effective tackler both on kickoffs and in the backfield.

Yes, you've got to admire that kind of toughness. Another father called to say that his son actually had one more carry and 11 more yards for his first night stats, contrary to what the team statistician reported. He wanted this newspaper to get it straight "because two or three colleges are recruiting him."

Yet another mother from the same school had trouble finding the story on her son's football team in our online edition. (I do know for a fact that it appeared in the print edition along with a photo.)

She also inquired whether it was the coach's responsibility to report information, or is it the newspaper's? Since I can't be at seven games at once, I told her that it's the coach or team statistician's job to report the game if I'm not in attendance.

She seemed to understand. Then there was the father

Things got a bit blurry in the wee hours last Friday night after I finished writing up my seventh high school football game.

that left a message on my voice mail who wanted to make sure I spelled his son's first name correctly.

"It's Kris with a K," he said. "It's happened a couple of times already."

Yes, it's important to get it right because you can also spell it Kris with a C (like Kris Carter of the Vikings), or Chris with a Ch.

I should know, people have called me Bradley (when it's Bradford) and pronounced it Emmons (when it's E-mons) many times.

Hopefully I can work the first-week kinks out myself and do a little better than 8-5 prognosticating.

And remember, don't take it personally.

Here's a look at this weekend's games.

THURSDAY'S GAMES (all at 7 p.m. unless noted)

Liv. Clarenceville (1-0, 1-0) at Luth. Westland (0-1, 0-1), 4:30 p.m.: Lutheran Westland went into Clarenceville's house last year and came away with a surprise 24-20 victory. This time the Trojans are flying high after a 39-20 Metro Conference triumph over Rochester Hills Lutheran Northwest.

Meanwhile, Lutheran Westland is coming off a heartbreaking 28-26 overtime setback to Harper Woods. PICKS: Emons (Clarenceville); Wright (Clarenceville); Smith (Lutheran Westland).

Liv. Franklin (1-0) at Liv. Stevenson (1-0): This promises to be a good one in a rematch of last year's Western Lakes Activities Association championship game. The Patriots, 2-0 last year against the Spartans, appear to have another high-powered offense after racking up 513 total yards in a 41-0 win over Garden City. Stevenson's interior defensive front, meanwhile appears to be more formidable than a year ago after holding Lincoln Park to just 136 total yards in a 29-6 win over the Railsplitters. PICKS: Emons (Franklin); Wright (Franklin); Smith (Stevenson).

Northville (0-1) at Liv. Churchill (0-1): Churchill's 20-13 overtime setback last week to Lansing Eastern certainly hurt, but the Chargers can make amends with a WLAAs crossover victory this week at home over the Mustangs (coached by Ryan Hockman), who fell to very good South Lyon team, 47-21. PICKS: Emons (Northville); Wright (Churchill); Smith (Churchill).

Canton (1-0) at Westland Glenn (1-0): The last time these two teams met was during the 2003 season — coach Chuck Gordon's last at Glenn — when Canton won both meetings, 20-7 and 24-6 (in the playoffs). Glenn's defense appears to be much improved, but the Rockets, coming off a 27-6 win over Belleville, will face the ultimate test against Canton's explosive attack. The Chiefs cruised last week against Ann Arbor Pioneer, 35-0. PICKS: Emons (Canton); Wright (Canton); Smith (Canton).

Wayne (1-0) at W.L. Central (0-1): The Zebras pulled off a major surprise last week with an 18-13 triumph on the road against University of Detroit-Jesuit thanks to a last-minute touchdown by fullback Brad Leverenz. Central, the favorite to win the WLAAs Lakes Division this season, opened against state-ranked Milford before falling by only eight, 20-13. PICKS: Emons (Central); Wright (Central); Smith (Central).

Salem (0-1) vs. Plymouth (0-1) at CEP: It wasn't the kind of start Parker Salowicz envisioned in his debut as Salem coach, losing to Pinckney at home, 42-13. The Wildcats, meanwhile, ventured last Saturday to Eastern Michigan University's Rynearson Stadium and lost to Division II state runner-up Hudsonville, 28-13, as turnovers proved costly. PICKS: Emons (Plymouth); Wright (Plymouth); Smith (Plymouth).

Red. Thurston (0-1) at Romulus (1-0): This game takes on added meaning because it's the start of the Mega-Blue season for both teams. Thurston unveiled its new field by losing to White Lake Lakeland of the Kensington Valley Conference, 27-6, while Romulus blanked Dearborn Heights Robichaud of the Mega-Gold, 20-0. PICKS: Emons (Thurston); Wright (Thurston); Smith (Thurston).

Garden City (0-1) at River Rouge (0-1), 7 p.m.: The Cougars, stinging from a 41-0 setback last week to Livonia Franklin, travel to Rouge for a Mega-Blue Division matchup. Rouge is guided by former Detroit East Catholic coach Leonard Holmes, is coming off a 28-6 loss to Pontiac Notre Dame Prep. PICKS: Emons (Garden City); Wright (River Rouge); Smith (Garden City).

FRIDAY'S GAME

Redford Union (1-0) at Taylor Truman (0-1): The Panthers won in a shootout last Friday against Dearborn Heights Crestwood, 37-32, in a battle of state playoff qualifiers last year. Truman, meanwhile, opened with a 35-23 loss to Ypsilanti of the Mega-Gold. In this Mega-White matchup, can RU's line-backing corps slow down Truman's Wing-T attack. PICKS: Emons (Truman); Wright (Truman); Smith (Redford Union).

Romulus Summit (0-1) at Red. Covenant (1-0), 1 p.m.: Covenant escaped last week with an 18-13 win last Saturday over Northfield Christian, which played its first-ever varsity football game. Summit Academy, which boasts 450 students, lost to Petersburg-Summerfield on Friday, 39-2. Covenant is the second smallest school in enrollment (103) among the MHSAA's 619 football schools. PICKS: Emons (Summit); Wright (Summit); Smith (Covenant).



Grid Picks

Brad Emons

CONGRATULATIONS Suburban Hockey — and — Observer & Eccentric TEAM of the MONTH TEAM MISSION DETROIT GIRLS TEAM. Congratulations to the Team Mission Detroit Girls Team, Girl's Platinum Division Champions!

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 3 SPECIAL GAME TIME — 8:05PM TIGERS VS ANGELS. Friday, September 1, 7:05pm. Saturday, September 2, 7:05pm. Sunday, September 3, 8:05pm — SPECIAL GAME TIME. FREE Tigers Backpack to the first 7,500 children (14 and under) compliments of the Detroit Medical Center.

Robinson's 21 leads Wildcats to victory

BY ED WRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

Plymouth sophomore guard Kelsi Robinson left a lasting first impression on visiting Adrian Tuesday night in the season-opening basketball game for both teams.

Led by Robinson's 21 points and seven rebounds, the Wildcats cut down the Maples

48-40.

"Kelsi is a very capable scorer, as she showed tonight," said Plymouth coach Richelle Reilly. "She's athletic, highly skilled and she's very coachable."

Twelve of Robinson's points were the result of four triples.

Other key contributors for Plymouth were senior guard Val Klemmer (eight points), sophomore center Shaakira Haywood

(eight points, seven rebounds), senior forward Chrystien Guyton (seven boards) and sophomore guard Jalesa Moise, who finished with five points and two steals.

"Jalesa had a couple of big steals and lay-ups in the middle of the fourth quarter that helped us gain momentum down the stretch," said Reilly.

Jolyn Timms led the Maples

with 11 points.

Plymouth led 11-10 after one quarter and 19-17 at the half. The Wildcats extended their advantage to 35-31 after three quarters.

"We were down four or five points in the first half, but the girls kept their composure, they kept playing defense and they chipped away at Adrian's lead," said Reilly. "Like a lot of young

teams, we were a little inconsistent in the first half. We'd make a mistake, but then we'd come back and make a great play."

The Wildcats will try to double their win total tonight when they host Farmington Hills Mercy at 7 p.m. The game was originally scheduled to be played at Mercy, however, it was moved due to problems with the Marlins' gym.

PCA 43, Baptist Park 22: The Eagles opened their season with a one-sided victory over host Baptist Park, which managed to score just eight points in the second half.

Peggy Abraham paced the victory with a team-high 10 points, eight of which came in the momentum-seizing third quarter. Lauren Beckett, Jessica Murphy and Megan Greve all contributed six points a piece to the Eagles' balanced scoring attack.

Tara Pyles led Baptist Park with 10 points.

"We started a little slowly in the first half, but we pressed them in the second half, which



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Plymouth sophomore guard Kelsi Robinson, pictured above during one of the Wildcats' pre-season practices, registered 21 points and seven rebounds in Plymouth's 48-40 victory over Adrian Tuesday night.

allowed us to get a lot of steals and easy baskets," said PCA coach Carol Gerulis. "I think we had some opening-night jitters in the first half. In the second half, the girls came out ready to play. Overall, I was very pleased with the girls' performance."

The Eagles return to action tonight in a non-conference battle at Huron Valley Lutheran.

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PREP SWIMMING

Wildcat Challenge
Saturday, Aug. 20 at
Canton High School

(Note: No team scores were kept.)

400-yard medley relay: 1. Monroe (Kirsten Smith, Julia Horenstein, Bobbi Balogh, Brooke Balogh), 4:27.79; 2. Plymouth (Sijia Hao, Alyssa Liakos, Lauren Maslyk, Sarah Palczynski), 4:42.13; 3. W.L. Central, 4:46.05; 4. Woodhaven (Lindsey Marshall, Shelby Rose, Rachel Leonard, Merissa Strawsine), 4:58.37; 5. W.L. Northern (Andrea Wozniak, Chloe Reuter, Kayla Knight, Lauren Bell), 5:05.03.

100 freestyle relay: 1. Plymouth (Nicole Ambrose, Maricat Eggenberger, Molly McKinstry, Emily Clanton), 53.84; 2. Monroe (Brooke Ody, Alana Servis, Chelsey Perry, Tessa Tekieli), 54.31; 3. Woodhaven (Emily Gorkiewicz, Amy Akers, Lindsey Marshall, Rachael Sanders), 55.74; 4. W.L. Northern (Hailey Mottershead, Stephanie Hathaway, Janelle Young, Kathryn Wachtel), 59.89.

100 butterfly relay: 1. Monroe (Melinda Dewald, Candace Savonen, Haley Misiak, Julia Horenstein), 1:00.40; 2. Plymouth (Chelsea Frid, Michalle Chang, Beth McReynolds, Stephanie Goulet), 1:01.97; 3. Woodhaven (Merissa Strawsine, Jordan Greene, Brittney Connochie, Lindsey Marshall), 1:04.67; 4. W.L. Central (Brittany Buchanan, Emily Head, Dianna Taylor, Abby Pevello), 1:04.95; 5. W.L. Northern (Hailey Mottershead, Kayla Knight, Chloe Reuter, Heather Mengel), 1:09.19.

400 freestyle relay: 1. Monroe (Amanda Thompson, Morgan White, Bobbi Balogh, Brooke Balogh), 3:49.23; 2. W.L. Northern (Lauren Cockles, Lauren Bell, Katie Rinkevich, Dana Halse), 4:05.96; 3. Plymouth (Sijia Hao, Lauren Maslyk, Nicole Ambrose, Alyssa Liakos), 4:07.22; 4. W.L. Central (Rachael Dalian, Jordan Daykin, Amanda Peterman, Madi Sewell), 4:16.95; 5. Woodhaven (Amy Akers, Briana Rosinski, Shelby Sims, Rachael Sanders), 4:28.68.

100 breaststroke relay: 1. Monroe (Tessa Tekieli, Andrea Apetroaei, Haley Misiak, Stephanie Staelgraeve), 1:11.02; 2. Plymouth (Stephanie Goulet, Sarah Palczynski, Chelsea Frid, Emily Clanton), 1:13.54; 3. Woodhaven (Allison Daniels, Heather Mengel, Hailey Mottershead, Chloe Reuter), 1:20.48; 5. Plymouth (Ashley Liakos, Hailey Appie, Chantel Cote, Megan Dunbar), 1:23.76.

100 backstroke relay: 1. Plymouth (Nicole Ambrose, Melissa McKinstry, Maricat Eggenberger, Molly McKinstry), 1:03.40; 2. Monroe (Brooke Ody, Alana Servis, Chelsey Perry, Julia Horenstein), 1:03.53; 3. W.L. Central (Rachael Dalian, Jordan Daykin, Kelly McCarthy, Madeline Verbeke), 1:05.05; 4. Woodhaven (Brianna Rosinski, Brittney Connochie, Jordan Greene, Shelby Sims), 1:07.22; 5. W.L. Northern (Claire Swainson,

Josy Goodwin, Janelle Young, Danielle Saigon), 1:08.46.

400 medley relay: 1. Monroe (Morgan White, Kirsten Smith, Amanda Thompson, Brooke Balogh), 4:18.90; 2. Plymouth (Lauren Maslyk, Sarah Palczynski, Sijia Hao, Alyssa Liakos), 4:39.73; 3. Woodhaven (Briana Rosinski, Angie Buttigieg, Rachel Leonard, Amy Akers), 4:54.79; 4. W.L. Central (Abby Pevello, Rebecca Lee, Marissa Wilson, Michelle Gaunt), 5:16.24.

200 freestyle relay: 1. Monroe (Kirsten Smith, Bobbi Balogh, Chelsey Perry, Amanda Thompson), 1:46.67; 2. W.L. Northern (Katie Rinkevich, Dana Halse, Lauren Bell, Lauren Cockles), 1:52.15; 3. W.L. Central (Madi Sewell, Brittany Buchanan, Michelle Gaunt, Rachael Dalian), 1:57.68; 4. Woodhaven (Shelby Rose, Emily Gorkiewicz, Rachael Sanders, Lauren Burns), 2:01.03.

200 backstroke relay: 1. Monroe (Morgan White, Julia Horenstein, Candace Savonen, Brooke Ody), 2:08.60; 2. Plymouth (Nicole Ambrose, Molly McKinstry, Stephanie Goulet, Chantel Cote), 2:15.53; 3. Woodhaven (Briana Rosinski, Brittney Connochie, Merissa Strawsine, Jordan Greene), 2:20.38; 4. W.L. Northern (Danielle Saigon, Josy Goodwin, Janelle Young, Kathryn Wachtel), 2:33.22; 5. W.L. Central (Rachel Ritzenthaler, Sarah Oliver, Dianna Taylor, Abby Pevello), 2:36.20.

500 freestyle relay: 1. Monroe (Chelsey Perry, Morgan White, Bobbi Balogh, Candace Savonen), 5:09.23; 2. W.L. Central (Madi Sewell, Michelle Gaunt, Jordan Daykin, Marissa Wilson), 5:24.57; 3. Plymouth (Tiffany Hsieh, Melissa McKinstry, Maricat Eggenberger, Alyssa Liakos), 5:36.05; 4. Woodhaven (Emily Gorkiewicz, Amy Akers, Shelby Rose, Rachel Leonard), 5:39.54; 5. W.L. Northern (Andrea Wozniak, Lauren Cockles, Kayla Knight, Josy Goodwin), 5:43.79.

200 breaststroke relay: 1. Plymouth (Sijia Hao, Lauren Maslyk, Emily Clanton, Sarah Palczynski), 2:28.32; 2. Monroe (Tessa Tekieli, Andrea Apetroaei, Stephanie Staelgraeve, Kirsten Smith), 2:28.67; 3. W.L. Northern (Allison Daniels, Heather Mengel, Stephanie Hathaway, Katie Rinkevich), 2:39.40; 4. Woodhaven (Angie Buttigieg, Lauren Burns, Tressa Bielak, Candice Bresnahan), 2:43.52; 5. W.L. Central (Kaitlyn Barry, Brittany Buchanan, Rebecca Lee, Madi Sewell), 2:45.50.

200 butterfly relay: 1. Monroe (Brooke Balogh, Candace Savonen, Melinda Dewald, Amanda Thompson), 2:01.49; 2. W.L. Northern (Lauren Bell, Kayla Knight, Andrea Wozniak, Dana Halse), 2:08.49; 3. Woodhaven (Emily Gorkiewicz, Tressa Bielak, Merissa Strawsine, Jordan Greene), 2:10.99; 4. W.L. Central (Kaitlyn Barry, Brittany Buchanan, Rebecca Lee, Madi Sewell), 2:15.22; 5. Plymouth (Chelsea Frid, Stephanie Goulet, Melissa McKinstry, Beth McReynolds).



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Dugan's goal ignites Chiefs in 3-1 triumph

BY ED WRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

Canton's boys soccer team passed its first early-season test with flying colors Monday night when it overwhelmed perennially strong Livonia Stevenson, 3-1, in a Western Lakes Activities Association cross-over match played in a steady rain on the Spartans' home turf.

The convincing victory improved the Chiefs' record to 3-1-1 overall and 2-0 in the WLAA.

Senior Ryan Dugan lit the fuse for the pivotal victory over Stevenson when he headed a direct kick off the foot of Keith Campbell into the back of the net with 17:29 left in the opening half.

Canton senior Andy Huang doubled the Chiefs' advantage to 2-0 with just 1:20 left before halftime when he scored off a pass from Patrick Nolan.

The Chiefs took total command of the contest 14 minutes into the second stanza when Campbell drilled a direct kick

PREP SOCCER

past Stevenson keeper Giovanni Enea to make it 3-0.

Stevenson avoided the shutout when Alex Wozniak scored with 13:25 left.

Junior goalie Matt Revers was solid in front of the net for the winners, recording eight saves.

"It looked like it was going to rain for days," said Stevenson coach Lars Richters, whose team dropped to 1-1. "The field was slick, but it held up great. If it was grass, the field would have been ruined for the rest of the year. We hope to learn from tonight's experience."

BALCONI INVITATIONAL

On Saturday, the Chiefs went 1-1-1 in the annual Gary Balconi Invitational, which was played at the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park complex.

Canton opened the tourney with a scintillating 3-0 triumph over Midland Dow thanks to a pair of goals from

junior forward Eric Piwowar and one from senior Austin Poirier. Huang, Matt Epelman, Kyle Biega and Sherif Hassanien notched assists for the Chiefs.

Senior keeper Parker Laabs recorded the shutout for the Chiefs.

After falling to eventual champion Salem, 2-0, the Chiefs dropped down to the consolation bracket, where they tied Novi Catholic Central, 0-0. Revers notched the shutout against the Shamrocks.

WOLVERINES FALL

The Canton Agape Christian soccer team dropped a 5-2 decision to host Washtenaw Christian Academy Tuesday afternoon.

The setback dropped the Wolverines to 0-2.

Tyler Majeski and Donald Mullet scored Agape's goals. Mark Mullet picked up an assist on Majeski's net-finder.

Junior goal-keeper Jared Miller recorded eight saves for the Wolverines.

Canton harriers fourth at invitational

The Canton's boys cross-country squad opened the 2006 season on Saturday with a fourth-place showing at the six-team South Lyon Invitational.

Bedford won the event with 44 points followed by Livonia Churchill (55), South Lyon (58), Canton (75), Livonia Stevenson (100) and Sterling Heights Stevenson (164).

Leading the Chiefs were medal-winners Duncan Spitz (seventh place in 17:49), Kyle

PREP BOYS CROSS COUNTRY

Clinton (11th place in 17:58), Zack Spreitzer (15th place in 18:11), Greg Reed (18th place in 18:23) and Derek Hoerman (24th place in 18:38).

Also competing for Canton were Aaron McClellan (26th place in 18:43) and Dave Catalan (33rd place in 19:22).

CROSS COUNTRY RESULTS
SOUTH LYON INVITATIONAL
Aug. 26 at Island Lake

BOYS TEAM STANDINGS: 1. Temperance Bedford, 44 points; 2. Livonia Churchill, 55; 3. South Lyon, 58; 4. Canton, 75; 5. Livonia Stevenson, 100; 6. Sterling Heights Stevenson, 164.
Individual winner: Alex Folk (Bedford), 16 minutes, 58 seconds (5,000 meters).
Churchill finishers: 5. Joe Varlone, 17:34; 8. Mark Waterbury, 17:54; 9. Brandon Grysko, 17:56; 13. Brian Robertson, 18:08; 21. Mark Pilat, 18:29; 29. Matt Hecksel, 19:00; 31. Paul Folk, 19:13.
Canton finishers: 7. Duncan Spitz, 17:49; 11. Kyle Clinton, 17:58; 15. Zack Spreitzer, 18:11; 18. Greg Reed, 18:23; 24. Derek Hoerman, 18:38.
Stevenson finishers: 6. Mike Gibbons, 17:46; 19. Dave Antishin, 18:24; 20. Kevin Reschke, 18:29; 27. Shawn Howse, 18:46; 28. Blake Morgan, 18:51; 34. Graham Liddell, 19:23; 37. Justin Lipsky, 19:37.

Canton lady harriers fifth at South Lyon

The Canton girls cross country team placed fifth in Saturday's seven-team, season-opening South Lyon Invitational.

Northville won the event and Livonia Stevenson finished second. The Chiefs compiled 131

PREP GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY

points. Sophomore Sarah Thomas led the Chiefs with a seventh-place showing in 21:08. Canton's Paula Schubatis also

medaled thanks to her 25th-place effort in 22:48.

Canton's three other point-earners were Melanie Kulczycki (30th in 23:15), Katelin David (34th in 23:55) and Katie Rymond (35th in 24:25).

THE WEEK AHEAD

PREP FOOTBALL
Thursday, Aug. 31
Plymouth at Salem, 7 p.m.
Canton at Westland John Glenn, 7 p.m.
GIRLS BASKETBALL
Thursday, Aug. 31
Salem at Belleville, 7 p.m.
PCA at Huron Valley Lutheran, 7 p.m.
F.H. Mercy at Plymouth, 7 p.m.
Birmingham Marian at Canton, 7 p.m.
BOYS SOCCER
Thursday, Aug. 31
Clarenceville at PCA, 4:30 p.m.
Thursday, Aug. 31
Salem at Plymouth, 7 p.m.
GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY
Thursday, Aug. 31
Salem at Lutheran Westland

Time Trials at Nankin Mills, 4 p.m.
BOYS CROSS COUNTRY
Thursday, Aug. 31
Salem at Lutheran Westland
Time Trials at Nankin Mills, TBA
Canton at Troy Athens, 4:30 p.m.
BOYS GOLF
Thursday, Aug. 31
PCA at Belleville, 3 p.m.
GIRLS SWIMMING
Thursday, Aug. 31
Salem at Trenton Relays at Wayne State, 5 p.m.
Plymouth at Woodhaven, 4:30 p.m.
WOMEN'S COLLEGE VOLLEYBALL
Friday, Sept. 1
Schoolcraft at Owens (Ohio) Tourney, TBA.
(Univ. of Great Falls Montana Classic)

Madonna vs. Montana St. Northern, 11 a.m.
Madonna vs. National American (S.D.), 5 p.m.
Saturday, Sept. 2
Schoolcraft at Owens (Ohio) Tourney, TBA.
(Univ. of Great Falls Montana Classic)
Madonna vs. Minot State (S.D.), 1 p.m.
Madonna vs. Univ. of Great Falls, 9 p.m.
MEN'S COLLEGE SOCCER
Friday, Sept. 1
Madonna at Point Loma (Calif.), 3:15 p.m.
Saturday, Sept. 2
Madonna at Holy Names (Calif.), 1 p.m.
WOMEN'S COLLEGE SOCCER
Friday, Sept. 1
Madonna vs. St. Francis at Livonia's Greenmead Field, 4 p.m.
TBA - time to be announced.

Free soccer shoot

Canton Leisure Services will be hosting a free "Soccer Shoot" Saturday, Sept. 9, at Heritage Park (behind the township hall and library) in

Canton Township. Registration is set for 9 a.m. with the shoot slated to kick off at 9:30 a.m.

The competition, which is sponsored by the Plymouth Elks Lodge #1780, will be

divided into four divisions each for boys and girls: 7-and-under, 8- & 9-year-olds, 10- & 11-year-olds, and 12- & 13-year-olds. Medals will be awarded to the top three finishers in each division.



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LESSON ON GOLF

By Jeff Lesson

A WEEKEND WITH LAR DAN

It's not every day you can play golf with the likes of Larry "Lar Dan" Silver (don't ask), Jeff "Bird" Sternberg and Mark "Happy" Rosen. Nor is it every guy who can claim a cast of characters such as these as his friends. You know, the kind of guys that your significant other would only consent to you spending time with them if it were a golf weekend up north (and significantly up north). What a great idea!

So, off we went, along with Howard Berlin, Martin Tannenbaum, Mitch Rechter and David Radner for comic relief. Folks believe me, the only place this group could ever safely mix is on a golf course. And that is exactly the beauty of this game. It is the only game that affords this kind of camaraderie.

Two foursomes, three automobiles, four arguments about dinner and eight different personalities. Add to that handicaps between 12 and 25.

Our journey began at the Tom Weiskopf gem in Roscommon, Forest Dunes. Mitchell Rechter was the upset medalist there with a score of 84. Were it not for Dave Radner joining him on the 18th tee, he was a lock to break 80.

Golf continued (if that's what you want to call it with our group) at the beautiful Boyne Highlands resort. We played three great tracks there. The Ross Memorial, The Hills and my favorite in the state - The Heather.

The fact that this writer shot a career round of 77 on the Heather has nothing to do with the above ranking. After all, the best club in his bag is the pencil.

Jeff Lesson hosts "Lesson on Golf" weekend mornings on WWJ Newsradio 950 and Saturday mornings 7-8am on 1270 XYT. He also co-hosts "Michigan Golf Weekly Saturdays at 6pm on CBS Detroit TV.

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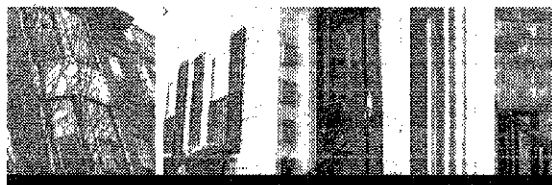
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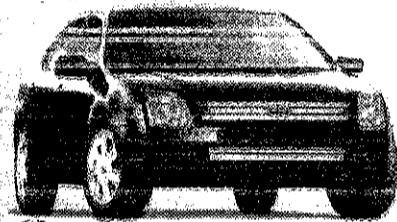
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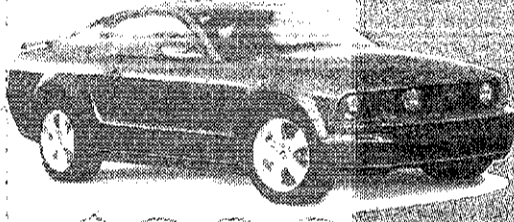
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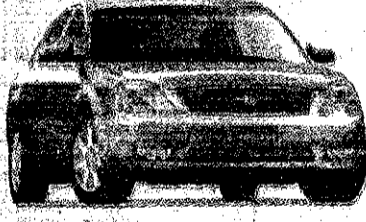


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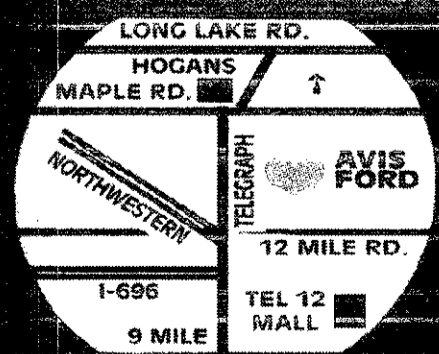
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Thursday, August 31, 2006

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

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Giving back



PHOTOS BY JOHN STORMZAND | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Randy Emert, executive chef at Great Oaks Country Club in Rochester, will prepare smoked pork tenderloin with spaghetti squash salad and sweet pepper for the Schoolcraft Extravaganza on Sept. 24.

Chef remembers how scholarship helped him

BY KEN ABRAMCZYK • STAFF WRITER

When Randy Emert was a teenager in Farmington, he cleaned bathrooms and floors at the old T & M Asphalt building in Farmington, a place where his mother was employed.

One day Mike Ford, one of the owners, asked him why he wasn't going to college.

"Can't afford it," Emert replied. "What would you do if you had a chance to go to college?" Emert was asked. Emert told him he wanted to attend Schoolcraft College's culinary arts program.

T & M paid for Emert's schooling at Schoolcraft. Emert never forgot that scholarship he received from Ford, which put him on a path to his current job as executive chef at Great Oaks Country Club in Rochester.

That's a big reason why he participates every year in the Schoolcraft Extravaganza, held this year on Sept. 24. (See related information.)

All proceeds from the event support student scholarships distributed by the Schoolcraft Foundation. In its 15-year history, the Culinary Extravaganza has raised more than \$1.3 million and funded thousands of scholarships. Scholarship money from the



Emert's smoked pork tenderloin features spaghetti squash salad and sweet pepper.

PLEASE SEE CHEF, D23

SCHOOLCRAFT EXTRAVAGANZA

What: Food and beverages from more than 50 southeastern Michigan restaurants and beverage suppliers.

When: 2-5 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 24

Where: VisTaTech Center, north end of Schoolcraft College campus, 18600 Haggerty (between Six and Seven Mile roads), Livonia

Tickets: \$50 per person. Proceeds support student scholarships.

For more information or to purchase tickets, call the Schoolcraft Development Office at (734) 462-4400, Ext. 5008.

OFF THE AIR WITH DICK PURTAN & PURTAN'S PEOPLE

Baseball puts new spin on football season

Is it me or is everything just starting to blend together? Here it is the last day of August. Before you know it we'll be seeing advertisements for Halloween.

Once that happens you know you'll see Jolly Old St. Nick inviting you in for the pre-pre-pre-holiday sales.

Didn't I just pull the grill out of the garage for our Memorial Day barbecue? And I swear that the Fourth of July was last week.

What spawned this confusion about the time-space continuum was my sudden realization that college football begins this weekend. Not any football, mind you, but Wolverine-as-the-center-of-the-universe football.

The Saturdaze of Maize and Blue return in all their splendor with a noon kickoff versus Vanderbilt. (I know, Michigan isn't the only team playing this weekend, but we have an agenda here.)

On a normal college football Saturday I find myself neatly divided between rooting for Michigan and rooting for Michigan State.

(They call me Mister Politically Correct. I'd rather stand between Hezbollah and Israel than a Wolverine and a Spartan.)

But this year the balance has been tipped in favor of the team from Ann Arbor. (Much to the delight of my Michigan grad daughter Jackie who works with me every morning.)

The reason? Simple. The radio station that pays my salary is now the Flagship radio station for University of Michigan football. (Mr. PC.)

Beginning this week you'll be able to hear every bone-crunching hit, every referee whistle, every playing of the Michigan fight song in crystal-clear, high-definition FM stereo at 104.3.

Still, it does seem a little early for football, doesn't it? There's something about watching or listening to a football game in shorts and a T-shirt that doesn't feel right.

It took me a while but I finally figured out what my mind/body/season confusion is all about.

Baseball. It has been a long time since baseball in September had any real meaning - to us, anyway.

Sure, cities like New York, Boston, St. Louis and Atlanta routinely experience the joys of fall ball. Post-season possibilities are an annual occurrence - there.

Here, it's like we're being visited by a long-lost friend who is also returning our hedge trimmers.

This September (and October) we have two seasons, two teams and two seasons to occupy our minds and time. The Tigers' quest for a ring and the Wolverines' march to the BCS.

It's nice that September is a two-sport month for Detroit. And, if the Lions get off to a good start . . .

And that's when I woke up. (Next week: A rebuttal column from my five daughters who attended Michigan State. Let the fireworks begin.)

Dick Purtan & Purtan's People appear on your radio at The Motor City's 104.3 WOMC every morning from 5 to 10.

Send and receive faxes without a fax machine



Tech Savvy

Rick Broida

Fax machines don't, as a general rule, travel well. I've yet to see a briefcase that could carry one.

So what happens when you're away from the office and need to send or receive an important document?

Heading to the nearest Kinko's is one option, but there are faster and more efficient solutions. These days, you don't need a fax machine - or even a phone line - to fax on the run.

RECEIVING FAXES

If you can get e-mail on the road, you can get faxes, too. Just sign up for one of the many Internet services that will route faxes to your inbox.

Instead of a paper document printed on a fax machine, you receive an e-mail with an attachment containing the document. You can view, store or print the page(s), just as you would any other attachment.

Among the services offering this handy capability are eFax (efax.com), K7 (k7.net) and Send2Fax (send2fax.com).

When you sign up, you're given a new fax number, which you can then distribute to clients and co-workers. To the senders, nothing is different - they just input your new number into their machine and transmit normally.

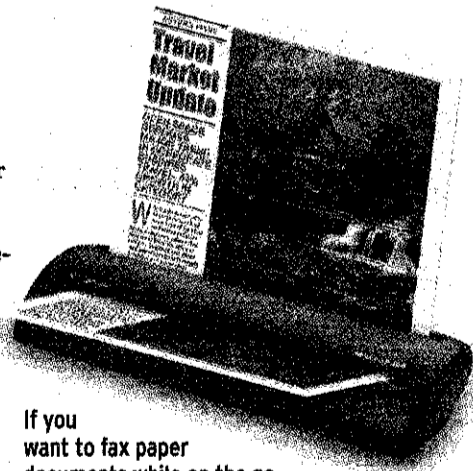
If there's a downside, it's that you may end up juggling two fax

numbers: One for your existing office machine, and one for your new service.

On the other hand, you may decide that the convenience of e-mail-based faxing eliminates the need to keep that traditional fax machine.

In fact, by switching to one of these services, you can ditch the dedicated phone line used by the machine. Assuming

PLEASE SEE BROIDA, D4



If you want to fax paper documents while on the go, you'll need a portable scanner like the Visioneer Strobe XP 100.



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HOME CALENDAR

Champagne Chair Contest Tour

The Design Within Reach 2006 Champagne Chair Contest Tour is at the Design Within Reach Studio, 168 W. Maple in Birmingham, now to Tuesday, Sept. 5 (call (248) 593-9640). The annual contest challenges participants to create a chair no larger than 4-by-4-by-4 inches from nothing more than the wire, cork and foil of two champagne bottles. Glue is the only permitted adhesive. This year's winning entry, The Patrick Chair by Krista Charles of Indianapolis, was made from a single cork, sliced with a jeweler's saw. This year's contest drew more than 600 entries from around the world as well as from 42 states. Winning chairs and many honorable mentions can be viewed at www.dwr.com/champagne.

Sewing 101

Want to tackle home decorating projects but consider yourself sewing machine challenged? Learn the basic operation of a sewing machine in a class offered by Schoolcraft College Continuing Education and Professional Development. The two-week class, Sewing 101: For Home Decorating, will begin Monday, Sept. 18. Cost is \$49 (senior cost, \$39.20); bring your own sewing machine. Stitch settings, threading the machine, winding bobbins, notions, interfacing and machine accessories will be featured. No projects will be assigned. You'll leave class with a review packet of instructions. Call (734) 462-4448 or visit www.schoolcraft.edu.

Northville home tour

The Northville Historical Home Tour, sponsored by the Northville/Novi American Association of University Women, will take place 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 16. The tour will feature four homes in downtown Northville. Tickets are \$15. They are available in Northville at Petite Maison, Pear-Aphanalla, Gardenvues and the Chamber of Commerce; in Plymouth at Cozy Cafe; and by calling (734) 207-1942.

Plantings for pots

Two hands-on workshops offered by Deborah Silver at Detroit Garden Works, 1794 Pontiac Drive in Sylvan Lake, will cover plantings for pots, arrangements and topiaries for the home and garden, and holiday decor. Tuition for each two-part workshop is \$95 and includes boxed lunches at each session. Each workshop is limited to 20 participants, so register now to reserve your space. Registrants will be sent a packet of information regarding home-work that will be due at the first session. For more information and to register, call Sue at (248) 335-8089. The first workshop, Autumn Pots, Decoration and Topiary Design, will meet 10 a.m. to noon Sundays, Sept. 17-24. It will focus on pots and decoration and topiary design and construction using dried and synthetic materials. The second workshop, Winter Pots and Holiday Decorating, will meet 10 a.m. to noon Sundays, Oct. 15-22.

Goldner Walsh designers win award

Cathy Bell Fritz and Jim Slezinski, landscape designers with Goldner Walsh Nursery in Pontiac, have been honored by the Perennial Plant Association (PPA) with a Landscape Design Merit Award.

PPA president Janet Anderson presented the Goldner Walsh designers with a plaque for winning the award. The award was granted by the PPA for excellence in design.

Bell Fritz and Slezinski's design, Symphony Showhouse Garden, was created as a temporary showhouse exhibit.

It featured a large terrace area that offered visitors an opportunity to surround themselves with elements of water and plants even after nightfall.

The duo and 11 other winners were presented with their awards at the 2006 Perennial Plant Symposium in Montreal, Quebec, in July.

The symposium is the only week-long event dedicated solely to the perennial industry. It drew 700 professionals from around

the world. The PPA accepts applications for the Landscape Design Awards every year in 11 different classes of design based on project type and cost.

A judging panel of horticulture, design and perennial professionals identified design submissions worthy of Merit or Honor Award status, with no more than one Honor Award granted per class.

All entrants are encouraged to show effective uses of new cultivars, color combinations, textures and seasonal combinations.

The PPA, based in Ohio, is a professional trade association dedicated to improving the perennial industry by providing education to enhance the production, promotion and use of perennial plants.

Every year it hosts the Perennial Plant Symposium and Trade Show as an avenue for education, networking and professional development, and as a place to honor the best in the industry.

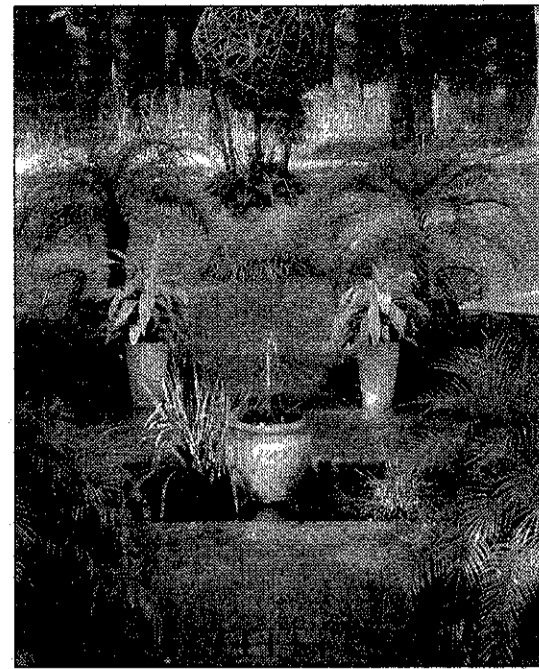


PHOTO COURTESY OF JIM SLEZINSKI AND CATHY BELL FRITZ

The Perennial Plant Association honored Goldner Walsh Nursery landscape designers Cathy Bell Fritz and Jim Slezinski with a Landscape Design Merit Award for their Symphony Showhouse Garden, which they created as a temporary showhouse exhibit.

Panel discusses design influences

BY MARY KLEMIC
STAFF WRITER

From lofty traditions to loft projects, various influences affect contemporary architecture and design in metro Detroit.

Such were comments featured at Influences in Contemporary Architecture and Design in Detroit, a panel discussion at Michigan Design Center (MDC) in Troy last Thursday.

The event, open to the public, was sponsored by MDC and *Dwell* magazine.

"Detroit has a great Arts and Crafts history and Cranbrook is the embodiment of this to me," said panelist Michael Poris of McIntosh Poris Associates. "Every time I go there I see new things."

Poris, a Birmingham resident, talked about the GM Tech Center, which was designed by such greats as Saarinen, Knoll, Eames, Bertola and Calder.

"This was the absolute center of design in the country," he said. "There had never been a complex or campus built like this."

"In the 1950s Detroit was the center of design in the country. Detroit is still one of the only cities that makes things."

"The influence we see in design is technology," said panelist John Gallagher, *Detroit Free Press* architecture critic.

"One thing that I've seen a lot of in Detroit in

the last five years is fountains.

"Fountains were about the base," now they're about the movement of water, Gallagher said. An example is the fountain in the Compuware building in Detroit, of which the water cascades down 14 stories.

Panelist Victor Saroki of Victor Saroki & Associates Architects discussed how the firm considers the surroundings as well as the esthetics of a project.

"The most important aspect . . . is the client. Then we look at the surroundings, the environment. Are we building in a neighborhood or downtown? We always try to understand . . . what makes that community."

Saroki, a graduate of the School of Architecture at Lawrence Technological University, showed slides of a project from more than 12 years ago that involved keeping a modern esthetic. The fireplace was the focal point of the living room.

Saroki also showed images of the firm's District Lofts in the Rail District of Birmingham. Features of the lofts - a model of which is open to the public - include four-story buildings, underground parking, the kitchen as the focal point, and sliding panels that close off rooms.

"Design is about communication," said panelist Clay Dean of General Motors, design director for

small and midsize cars. "It conveys the sense of values of the person who buys that product."

Fashion, furniture, sporting gear and architecture were among the elements considered in designing new Saturn cars, he said.

Nostalgia is a key element in designs of the PT Cruiser and the Village of Rochester Hills shopping center, said Dean, a Rochester resident.

"Cranbrook has this incredible tradition . . . of craft," said panelist William Massie, architect-in-residence and head of Architecture Department at Cranbrook Academy of Art.

"We tend to want to move into service direction. I'm more interested in manufacturing."

Moderator Sam Grave, executive editor of *Dwell*, asked the panelists about the "lofting of America."

"It's another way of saying urban living," Gallagher said. "It gives people a chance to enjoy cities."

"People are busy now, and don't have time to take care of a lawn," Poris said.

"When I think of Detroit, I don't think of the city limits," Saroki said. "I think of metro Detroit."

"Detroit has a lot of good things going. So do suburban downtowns."

mklemic@hometownlife.com | (248) 901-2569



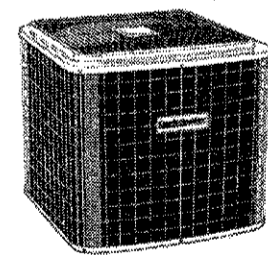
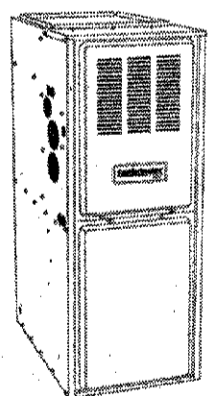
The fireplace is the focal point in this living room, a Saroki project.

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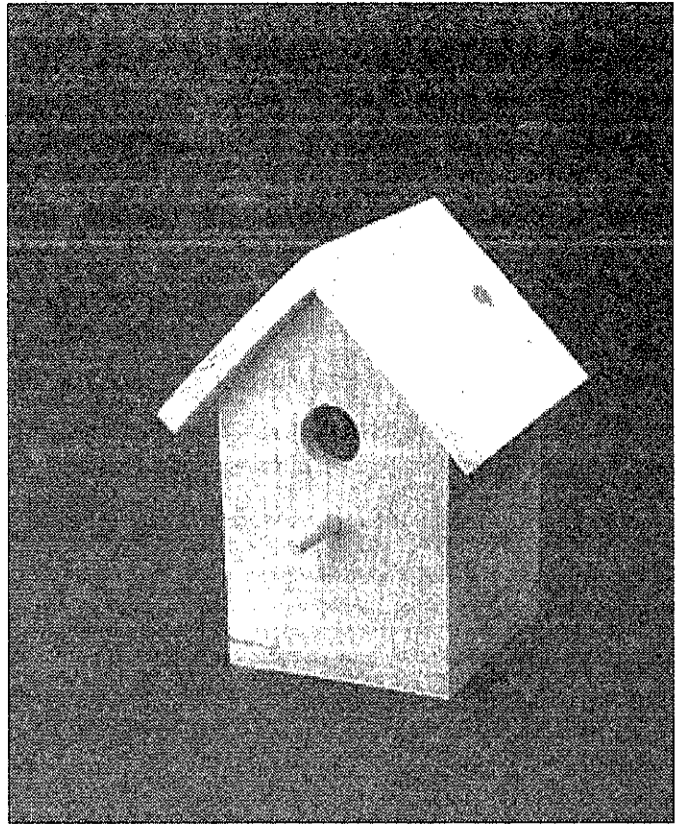
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Birdhouse project

The next Kids Workshop at The Home Depot stores will feature a birdhouse project. The free workshops will take place between 9 a.m. and noon Saturday, Sept. 2, at all Home Depot stores. Youngsters ages 5-12 will build the project with expert advice from knowledgeable Home Depot associates. The Home Depot will provide the complimentary project kits, tools and expertise to build the kits, along with special child-sized orange aprons. Kids Workshops are free, how-to clinics designed for ages 5-12, available monthly at all Home Depot stores. Children, accompanied by an adult, use their skills to create objects that can be used in and around their homes or their communities.



HGTV's *If Walls Could Talk* coming to Michigan

If Walls Could Talk, the weekly series that appears Sundays on HGTV, is coming to Michigan to film homes with intriguing pasts and unusual stories. The series, which premiered in September 1998, has aired more than 200 episodes — each filmed in historic neighborhoods throughout the country. *If Walls Could Talk* is produced for HGTV by High Noon Entertainment in Denver, Colo. Homeowners who would like to be considered for the program should call Keri Grogan at (303) 712-3302 or e-mail kgrogan@highnoonentertainment.com. Now in production on its eighth season, the series will kick off with new homeowners who make surprising historical discoveries about their homes as they explore and restore them. A lucky few will be amazed to learn that the historic artifacts they've discovered are worth a fortune when the *If Walls Could Talk* appraiser drops by for a look.

Each half-hour episode features homeowners from across the country who share their amazing discoveries. Recent stories include:
 ■ A Connecticut family moves into a neglected 1800s Victorian only to find antiques and a mysterious locked cabinet. What they find inside tells the touching story of their home's original owner.
 Then, in the attic they discover original paintings and the *If Walls Could Talk* appraiser pays them a visit. The expert reveals their discoveries are worth thousands of dollars.
 ■ A husband and wife turn a turn-of-the-century bank into their dream home. In the process they find the original bank vault full of safety deposit boxes that are still locked.
 ■ A Colorado couple find books, clothing and jewelry in their new home. The clues add up to the story of a best-selling author who lived in the house until she disappeared.
 ■ A New York bachelor buys a 100-year-old mansion and makes a chilling discovery in the basement: His home sweet

BROIDA

FROM PAGE D1

you're paying \$30 per month for that line (a low estimate), you'll save \$360 annually. OK, but how much will a fax service cost you? It varies, but prices range from free to around \$20 per month. K7, for instance, charges nothing — no setup fee, no monthly subscription, no costs whatsoever. The only catch is the ad that appears on the cover page of each fax you receive — hardly a catch at all, in my book. As an added bonus, K7 also provides you with a voicemail box; messages are delivered via e-mail as audio files you listen to on your PC. There are some limitations, of course: K7 will store only up to 20 voice and/or fax messages at a time (though once you retrieve them via e-mail, you can store an unlimited number on your PC). But for someone just getting started with Internet faxing or trying to save money on phone bills, K7 is an impossible deal to beat.

That said, you may want more features than K7 offers — like the ability to send faxes instead of just receiving them. To see a complete range of fax services, head to FaxPrices.com, where you'll get price comparisons based on your specific needs and fax volume.

SENDING FAXES

You might think that sending a fax without a fax machine is darn near impossible, but it's surprisingly easy — especially if your documents are electronic and stored on your PC. All you need is an Internet connection and a service like FaxZero (www.faxzero.com), which, true to its name, lets you send faxes free of charge. Just type in the recipient's name and fax number and select a Word or PDF document stored on your hard drive.

When that's done, you'll have to check your inbox for a confirmation e-mail and click the link contained therein — but after that, the fax gets sent just as though it had originated from your office machine. The free version of FaxZero limits you to one document and a maximum of three pages, and no more than two faxes per day. What's more, the recipient will see an ad on the cover page — not exactly professional. If you're willing to pay \$1.79, you get to send an ad-free fax of up to 10 pages. Services like eFax and Send2Fax offer a lot more flexibility, like the ability to broadcast faxes and send directly from your e-mail program, but you'll pay a monthly subscription fee and/or per-fax charges. All this presumes that your documents reside on your PC, but what happens if you need to fax old-fashioned paper? That's where a portable scanner comes into play: It will turn your pages into images that can then be faxed using

FEATURES	eFaxPro™	eFaxPlus™	eFaxFree™
(*) Unique fax number	Yes	Yes	Yes
(*) Access faxes anywhere	Yes	Yes	Yes
(*) Receive faxes by email	Yes	Yes	Yes
(*) Send faxes by email	Yes	Yes	No
(*) Local or toll-free number	Yes	Yes	No
(*) Online fax storage	2 years	1 year	30 days
(*) Free incoming fax pages	300 / month	300 / month	30 / month
(*) Customer Support	24/7 Phone or email	24/7 Phone or email	8am-5pm
(*) Fax file formats	PDF, RTF or EPS	PDF, RTF or EPS	EPS
(*) Number of authorized users	5	5	1
(*) Wireless access	Yes	Yes	No
(*) Receive voicemail by email	Yes	Yes	No
(*) Free fax management software	Yes	No	No
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HEADSTART

Seal driveway to prevent cracking

BY JAMES AND MORRIS CAREY FOR AP WEEKLY FEATURES

Daniel asks: "I have a concrete driveway, and this spring I started noticing that the surface of it is getting cracks and flaking in some areas. What do I do about this?"

This is a common problem on unsealed driveways in areas where there can be freezing temperatures. Concrete is porous, and melted snow gets into the pores. When the weather freezes up again, the water still trapped inside expands and can crack and flake the surface of the concrete. To prevent this from happening, you will need to seal your driveway. First, use a pressure washer to clean the surface. Next, use a latex-based or acrylic patching product on any problem areas. Once this is done, apply several coats of a concrete/masonry sealer.

OK, but how much will a fax service cost you? It varies, but prices range from free to around \$20 per month. K7, for instance, charges nothing — no setup fee, no monthly subscription, no costs whatsoever.

regarded ScanSoft PaperPort Deluxe software for organizing scanned documents. While you've got the credit card out, consider picking up a portable printer for creating hard copies of those faxes you receive via e-mail. One option is the new HP Deskjet 460cb (www.hp.com), a compact color printer that comes with a removable battery. It costs \$239. Just because fax machines don't travel well doesn't mean you can't send and receive faxes while traveling. With your notebook PC, an Internet connection and the right services and gear, you'll never miss that bulky, office-bound dinosaur. 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 Your Palm Handheld*, fifth Edition, and *101 Killer Apps for Pocket PC*. He welcomes questions sent to rick.broida@gmail.com.

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Zucchini, carrots, basil and peppers add color as well as nutrients to this whole wheat pasta dish.

Whole grain pasta perfect for veggies

An uncooked pasta sauce is a quick, cool way to deal with the heat of August. Served over whole-wheat pasta, it's not only good and easy, but good for you.

A sauce of vegetables and mushrooms over some whole-wheat fettuccine meets many of the daily requirements for a healthful diet.

Whole grains are chock-full of nutrients and have a wonderful nutty taste. Whole wheat, corn, oats, brown rice and other whole grains contain powerful antioxidants that fight cancer, as do those found in vegetables and fruits.

The key to whole grains' enormous cancer-fighting potential lies in their wholeness. A grain of whole wheat is composed of three parts: endosperm, bran and germ. When wheat or any grain is refined, the bran and germ where most of the protective phytochemicals and fiber are

stored are removed. Studies show that people who eat at least three servings of whole grains a day have a lower risk of heart disease, diabetes and cancer and seem to maintain a healthy weight more easily. Since refined grains, such as white flour, have their germ and bran removed, whole grains are higher in fiber and contain 10 times the amount of vitamin E; four times the potassium, magnesium and zinc; three times the vitamin B-6; and twice the selenium.

A no-cook pasta sauce completes this nutritious grain. Cut some portabella mushrooms into generous chunks to make the sauce meaty and satisfying. The zucchini, carrots, basil and peppers add color as well as nutrients.

WHOLE-WHEAT PASTA WITH ZUCCHINI, MUSHROOMS AND BASIL
1 small yellow bell pepper, seed-

- ed and sliced very thin
- 1/2 medium orange bell pepper, seeded and sliced very thin
- 1 medium zucchini, sliced very thin
- 1 medium carrot, peeled and sliced very thin
- 1/2 cup finely-chopped fresh basil, loosely packed
- 1 garlic clove, minced
- 1 teaspoon orange zest
- 1 tablespoon balsamic vinegar
- 1/2 tablespoons canola oil
- 1/2 teaspoon salt, or to taste
- Pinch of cayenne
- 12 ounces whole-wheat linguine
- 2 large portabella mushrooms, cleaned, with stems removed
- 1/2 cup flat-leaf parsley, loosely packed, for garnish

Put the bell peppers, zucchini and carrot in a medium bowl. Add the basil, garlic, orange zest, vinegar, oil, salt and cayenne. Toss the ingredients well to combine. Set the mixture aside to marinate.

Cook the pasta according to

the package instructions. Meanwhile, prepare the mushrooms. Cut the edges off each mushroom to make squares. Discard edges or save for later use. Halve each square. Slice away the brown undersides, including the gills, and discard.

Then slice the mushrooms into long, thin strips and add them to the bowl with the marinated vegetables. Toss well, until the mushrooms are moist and start to soften. Drain the pasta and divide it among 6 shallow bowls or plates. Top each serving with an equal share of the vegetables. Spoon the marinating liquid over the vegetables. Garnish with the parsley and serve.

Makes 6 servings. Per serving: 252 calories, 4 g. total fat (less than 1 g. saturated fat), 47 g. carbohydrate, 10 g. protein, 9 g. dietary fiber, 208 mg. sodium. Recipe from American Institute for Cancer Research's new cookbook, *The New American Plate: Recipes for a Healthy Weight and a Healthy Life*. AICR's Web address is www.aicr.org.

FARMERS MARKETS

Several communities host farmers markets throughout the summer and fall:

Ann Arbor Farmers Market
7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesday and Saturday, 315 Detroit St., Ann Arbor, (734) 994-3276.

Detroit Eastern Market
7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Saturday, 2934 Russell St., Detroit, (586) 393-8800, www.easternmarket.org.

Farmington Farmers & Artisans Market
9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturdays, the Walter E. Sundquist Pavilion in Riley Park, Farmington Road and Grand River, www.downtownfarmington.org.

Livonia Farmers Market
9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesdays and Saturdays, through October.

Middlebelt and West Chicago, Livonia, (734) 525-8718.

Royal Oak Farmers Market
January-April: 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays; May-October: 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesdays, Fridays and Saturdays; 316 E. 11 Mile Road, two blocks east of Main, (248) 548-8822.

Northville Farmers Market
8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Thursdays, Sheldon and Seven Mile roads, Northville, (248) 349-7640, www.northville.org.

Plymouth Farmers Market
7 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturdays, through October, 386 S. Main, Plymouth, (734) 453-1540.

Ypsilanti City Farmers Market
8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesdays, and 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturdays, 1 S. Huron, Ypsilanti, (734) 439-8676.

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FOOD CALENDAR

If you have an item for the Taste calendar, please submit it at least two weeks prior to your event to Ken Abramczyk, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150, e-mail kabramczk@hometownlife.com, or fax (734) 591-7279.

Cooking classes

The Community House offers the following culinary classes to the public this summer and fall: Make Your Own Take-Out, Asian inspired food, sample food and take home recipes, \$5 material fee payable to instructor, class taught by Katie Renton, owner of Chef Girl Productions in Birmingham, 7:30-9 p.m. Sept. 14, \$30; Parents and Teens Cook Together, learn about yogurt berry parfait, glazed salmon, chicken nuggets and smoothie pops, sample and take home recipes, also taught by Renton, 7:30-9 p.m., three Wednesdays, Sept. 13, 20, and Oct. 11, \$75 and \$15 tasting fee payable to instructor at class. To register for these classes, contact The Community House, 380 S. Bates, Birmingham, call (248) 644-5832, or visit online at www.community-house.com.

Cooking demonstrations

Chris Hessler, Kruse & Muer executive chef, prepares dishes using produce from Rochester Farmers Market, 10 a.m. to noon, Sept. 9, Rochester Farmers Market, Third and Water streets, one block east of Main, market open 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. every Saturday through Oct. 28, (248) 656-0060, www.DowntownRochesterMI.com.

Wine exploration series

The Community House in Birmingham is offering a series of wine classes. Taste six wines representing six regions throughout the world, learn to read wine labels and order from restaurant menus at An Introduction to Wine, Wednesday, Sept. 20, \$28. Other classes include California and the Pacific Northwest, Wednesday, Sept. 27, \$28; French Wines, Wednesday, Oct. 4, \$26; More About French Wines, Wednesday, Oct. 11, \$26; Italian Wines, Oct. 25, \$26; The New Worlds of Wine: Australia, Chile, Argentina, South Africa and New Zealand, Wednesday, Nov. 8, \$26; Champagne and Sparkling Wines, Wednesday, Nov. 15. All classes begin at 7:30 p.m. For information, contact The Community House, 380 S. Bates, Birmingham at (248) 644-5832 or visit www.communityhouse.com

Indian cooking

Suvir Saran, master chef and author of *Indian Home Cooking*, presents four cooking classes highlighting the world of Indian cooking, 6-9 p.m. Oct. 22-25, at the culinary arts instructional kitchens at the VisTaTech Center at Schoolcraft College in Livonia. Each session is \$109, the series is \$399. Two hands-on sessions and two demonstration sessions are available. For more information, call Michele Bialo at (734) 462-4400, Ext. 5223 or email mbialo@schoolcraft.edu.

Grapevine School of Wine

Register online at www.grapevineschoolofwine.com. For additional information, call (248) 990-4613.

Zuppe

Learn about healthy Italian soups from Giovanna Cappi, including pasta e fagioli (bean and pasta soup), minestrone (barley soup) and ribollita (Tuscan twice-cooked bean and bread soup), 6:30-8:30 p.m. Monday Sept. 25, \$24 plus \$6 fee payable to instructor at class. To register, contact The Community House, 380 S. Bates Street, Birmingham, (248) 644-5832, or online at www.communityhouse.com.

Quivira Vineyards goes biodynamic

Quivira (Kee-ve-rah) Estate Vineyards and Winery is located in northern Dry Creek Valley, Sonoma County, Calif. Its motto is "better wine, better world." They live by that statement and here's how.

For three years, the Quivira vineyards have been farmed according to a system of agriculture known as biodynamic. Basically, it means working with the forces of nature that create and maintain life. It is a form of organic farming that takes a holistic view, working toward the health of the environment of the property, not just the grape vines.

In November 2005, Demeter Association certified Quivira as both a biodynamic and organic farm. This means that the farm must be self-sustaining and self-contained. Minimal amendments may be brought onto the property to augment the natural resources. This maximizes unique characteristics of the property, assuring that the wines produced are truly reflective of the soil and environment.

Being self-contained implies self-regulation. Diseases and pests must be controlled using only organic sprays and beneficial insects that are incorporated into the farm to balance predator-prey relations. There is no such thing as a bad bug. Although biodynamic farming emphasizes working with natural forces, the most important factor is that the farmer must pay close personal attention to the vineyard and learn to interpret what it says.

BOTTOM LINE

The ultimate goal of biodynamic farming is to make better wines. It was the belief that a healthy environment yields healthy vines, better fruit and ultimately better wines, that lead Quivira to this new farming practice.

"We want our wines to represent a 'taste of a place,'" said winemaker Grady Wann. "We have come to believe that biodynamic is the purest pathway to the creation of distinctive wines that authentically represent our property and people."

So how have things changed at Quivira since it began biodynamic farming? Wann explained that biodynamics requires intimate participation in the vineyard, observing and understanding the needs of the vineyard and since chemicals are not an option, problems must be avoided. A lot of time is spent on prevention. Cover crops, grown between the vineyard rows, are designed to suit specific soil



Focus on Wine

Ray and Eleanor Heald

requirements. Attention is also paid to crop yield and canopy adjustment to get appropriate sunlight on the grape bunches.

Although biodynamics has a reputation for a bit of vineyard "voodoo," Quivira follows the method to the letter, even though they have to rationalize the use of some preparations. The proof is in the health of the vines and the taste of the wines.

ON THE LABEL

Future bottlings of Quivira wines will be labeled either "Made From Certified Biodynamically Grown Grapes" or "Made From Certified Organically Grown Grapes." They cannot be labeled "organic wines" because small amounts of sulfur dioxide must be added to maintain freshness and longevity of the wines.

IN THE BOTTLE

We judged the following Quivira wines excellent and offer winery-suggested food pairing for 2004 Sauvignon Blanc Fig Tree Vineyard (\$16). A recipe for a Clementine and Endive Salad can be found at www.quivirawine.com. Also try fresh oysters or Asian food. Quivira 2004 Steelhead Red Wine Creek Ranch (\$18) is a blend of grenache, zinfandel, syrah and mourvèdre. Try it with pasta and red sauce, burgers or ribs. The 2004 Quivira Zinfandel (\$20) is fabulous with roast lamb, steak and braised short ribs.

LATEST NEWS

Quivira is undergoing ownership change, probably by October this year. The new owners purchasing Quivira from Henry and Holly Wendt are Pete Kight and his family, who say they are committed to biodynamic grape growing and the highest quality wines. Kight is the founder, chairman and CEO of CheckFree, who entrepreneured online banking in 1981.

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.

WINE PICKS

Labor Day grilled steaks need "killer" Cabernet Sauvignon. The following list offers them from heavyweights to light on the wallet, **OVER \$50 AND OUTSTANDING:**

- 2003 Dominus Napa Valley \$109
- 2002 Beringer Napa Valley, Private Reserve \$116
- 2002 Fisher Vineyards Napa Valley Coach Insignia \$70
- 2003 Chalk Hill \$67
- 2003 Duckhorn Napa Valley \$60
- 2003 Groth Oakville Napa Valley \$55
- 2001 Rodney Strong Symmetry \$55
- 2002 William Hill Napa Valley Reserve \$52
- 2003 Chimney Rock, Stags Leap District \$52

EXCELLENT AT \$50 OR LESS

- 2003 St. Clement Oropas, Napa Valley \$50
- 2003 Marlstone \$50
- 2003 Stags' Leap Napa Valley \$48
- 2002 Trefethen Oak Knoll Napa Valley \$45
- 2003 Hess Collection Mount Veeder Cuvee \$35
- 2003 Flora Springs "Club Selection" \$35. Order through winery Web site www.florasprings.com or by phone (800) 949-5711.
- 2003 Hanna Cabernet Sauvignon \$30
- 2003 Flora Springs \$30
- 2003 William Hill, Napa Valley \$26

UNDER \$20 AND VERY GOOD:

- 2003 Rodney Strong Sonoma County \$19
- 2004 Tintara \$18
- 2004 LedgeWood Creek, Napa Valley \$16
- 2003 Dancing Bull \$12
- 2005 ELSA, Mendoza, \$9

If high gas prices have depleted your wine budget and you'd like to serve a few wines at your Labor Day celebration, try the following at \$5 from Gallo Family Vineyards. Premium packaged with synthetic corks, but not vintaged, the following are good values from Gallo's Twin Valley: Sauvignon Blanc, Chardonnay, Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon.

For tailgating, shop for Happy Camper wines. At \$9 both the 2005 Chardonnay and 2004 Merlot are terrific bargains. From the same producer but labeled PicNique (\$10) is a red Rhone-style blend that's delightful at the picnic.

If a retailer does not stock a specific wine we recommend, ask that it be ordered from the distributor or order it direct from the winery.

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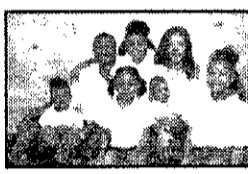
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Macy's takes over Marshall Field's

By Wendy Von Buskirk

As the fashion season turns from cotton eyelet to cashmere, Macy's will celebrate its official transition to a national retailer with a Sept. 9 conversion that expands the brand to more than 800 stores nationwide.

In Michigan, Macy's will take over 22 locations of Marshall Field's.

"This is a truly monumental and historic moment for Macy's," said Frank Guzzetta, Macy's North chairman and CEO. "We hope that our new customers are as excited to have us as we are to be a part of their communities."

Here are some of the events Macy's has in store for Metro Detroit shoppers:

Thanksgiving Parade On Parade

3-8 p.m. Sept. 6, Oakland Mall parking lot
Preview the world-famous Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. Customers will see parade inflatables, learn how to build a float, get pictures taken as parade characters, and learn about the history of the famed annual event.

Roll Out the Red Carpet

9 a.m. Sept. 9, All Macy's Stores
Enjoy a red carpet celebration to introduce Macy's. Be one of the first 500 customers at the

store before 11 a.m. and receive a Macy's gift card valued at \$10. One lucky winner at each store will get a \$1,000 gift card. A special Shopping Party at Somerset from 1-5 p.m. will include entertainment, refreshments, fashion seminars, cooking demos, makeovers and more. Kids can leave their hand print on a new balloon for the Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade.

Fashionista Shopping Party

5-8 p.m. Sept. 13, Macy's Somerset
Grab your girlfriends and get in on the hottest new fall trends from Cynthia Steffe, Milly, Vince, L.A.M.B., I.N.C and others as you sip and sample tasty treats. At 6 p.m. Mariana Keros will offer style tips and expert trend advice. R.S.V.P. at 1-800-634-3537 by Sept. 11.

Shop For A Cause

Sept. 16, All Macy's locations, during store hours
For the first time, all Macy's North stores will participate in Shop For A Cause, a one-day shopping event designed to help support local nonprofits. Participating organizations will sell \$5 shopping passes to the event that provide savings offers on merchandise. The organizations will keep 100 percent of proceeds from the sale of the shopping passes, while shoppers will benefit from special exclusive deals.



COURTESY OF MACY'S

Macy's carries many private brands, including the trendy INC label. This limited edition INC outfit was designed by a contestant on the hit reality show 'Project Runway.'

PINK PICKS

Tricia Taormina, 15, of Livonia, is a runner-up in our 2nd Annual Reader PINK Picks Contest. She won a \$50 gift certificate to Urban Blues, a hip new denim boutique in downtown Northville. Here are Taormina's stylish faves, and stay tuned for more reader picks in upcoming PINKS!

Tote It!

Dooney & Bourke 'Doodle' bag



DVD It!

Just My Luck

Accessorize It!

Long strands of gold necklaces

Wear It!

Sweater dresses over leggings, and anything plaid or jewel-toned

DON'T Wear It!

Floor-sweeping peasant skirts

Drink It!

Tab Energy Drink — 'the fuel to be fabulous'

Kick It!

Patent leather ankle boots

Hear It!

Back to Basics by Christina Aguilera



See It!

Employee of the Month



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pink list

H&M Opens at Twelve Oaks!

Fashion-philes will have to travel no more to shop their beloved H&M. The Swedish retailer Hennes & Mauritz, known for its tres chic and affordable fashions, will open at noon today at Twelve Oaks Mall. Check out the latest for Fall in men's, women's and children's wear, including the much-anticipated track suit designed for Madonna, and Michigan's only H&M lingerie "shop in shop." The first 100 customers will get a free H&M tee, along with 20 percent off all purchases. Twelve Oaks marks H&M's third location in Michigan. Stores at Briarwood and Lakeside malls opened this spring. Call (248) 449-7053.

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