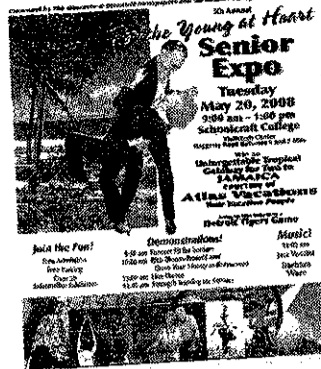




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# CANTON Observer

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## Oakwood gets nod to proceed with hospital campus

BY TIFFANY L. PARKS  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Just before the Canton Township Board cleared the way for Oakwood to move forward with its efforts to build

a medical campus in Canton, staunch critics of its previous proposal to build in the township welcomed the health care system to the community. "We do welcome you, Oakwood," said Canton

resident Kiki Gleski, one of many who led the push last year against the Dearborn-based company building at Beck and Geddes. Gleski, along with Planning Commissioner Greg

Greene, told Oakwood officials they were pleased to see the company's plans to construct a campus on the west side of Beck Road, just north of Michigan Avenue, get the green light.

In approving the Dearborn-based health care provider's preliminary planned development district (PDD) request, the board agreed to modify some conditions that were placed on the pro-

posal by the Canton Planning Commission.

While Oakwood agreed to establish an advisory council that will include township

Please see **OAKWOOD, A3**



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

### Basking in the sun

Is there a nicer time of year than spring? Justin Hajduk took advantage of the mild weather last week and wet a line in one of the lakes at Heritage Park. He said he fishes in Heritage Park a couple times a week. We should all be so lucky.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Jean Pierre Orlewicz enters the courtroom for his sentencing. He was sentenced to life without parole on the first-degree and felony murder charges, plus 50 months to 10 years for mutilating a body.

## Judge: Convicted teen 'would kill again'

BY BRAD KADRICH  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Calling his actions "evil" and expressing gratitude for the jury that convicted him, Wayne Circuit Court Judge Annette Berry did the only thing she could do under Michigan law following Jean Pierre Orlewicz's conviction last month.

She sent him to prison for the rest of his life. Berry on Monday sentenced Orlewicz, the 18-year-old from Plymouth Township, to life sentences without possibility of parole on the first-degree and felony murder counts on which a jury last month convicted Orlewicz in the stabbing, beheading and dismemberment of 26-year-old Daniel Sorensen of River Rouge.

And, while Orlewicz stood silently before her, speaking only to answer questions, Berry had plenty to say.

"It's still hard for the court to fathom why someone would do something as heinous and evil as what you have done," Berry told Orlewicz. "There is a difference between mental illness and evil ... your actions are tantamount to evil."

Please see **JUDGE, A5**

## No big surprises: Candidates set for Canton board race

BY KURT KUBAN  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

There were no last minute surprises Wednesday at the Canton clerk's office. According to Clerk Terri Bennett, no big names waited until the last minute to file before the 4 p.m. deadline to run for a seat on the Canton Board of Trustees. The slate is now set for the Aug. 5 primary election.

Bennett, a Republican seeking reelection, is the only member of the board running unopposed.

State Rep. Phil LaJoy, a Republican who is term limited, is running for township supervisor. Political newcomer David Marsh, a Democrat, will be LaJoy's opponent.

There are six Republicans and

one Democrat who have filed to run for the four trustees positions, including two incumbents -- Republicans Karl Zarbo and Todd Caccamo. The other Republicans running are Michael Andro, John Anthony, Fred Bolden, who organized the first Liberty Fest parade, Pat Williams, and Jaldhar Prasad. Fyed Taj is the only Democrat to get his name on the ballot for trustee.

The Aug. 5 primary election will determine which four Republicans will be on the November general election ballot.

The race for township treasurer may be the most interesting. Current Treasurer Elaine Kirchgatter has decided not to run for re-election. Current Trustee Melissa McLaughlin and

Canton Community Foundation President Joan Noricks, who are both Republicans, are vying for the office. Both women are well known and have deep ties in the community. The Aug. 5 primary will determine which one will be on the November ballot and likely be unopposed because there isn't a Democrat in the race.

Todd LaJoy, the other current trustee, is running for the 21st State House seat currently held by his father, Phil LaJoy. He is being opposed by Canton resident Dian Slavens, the wife of current Wayne County Circuit Court judge and former Plymouth-Canton school board member Mark Slavens. Dian Slavens is running as a Democrat.

And speaking of Mark Slavens, he is running as an incumbent for a

three-year term on the 3rd Circuit Court bench, along with Muriel Diane Hughes.

Since there are two seats open, he is running virtually unopposed. Two Plymouth Republicans, Abe Munfakh and Jerry Vorva, who is a former state representative, have filed to run against Northville Democrat Marc Corriveau for his 20th State House seat, which he won two years ago. Munfakh, a former Plymouth Township trustee, also filed to run for township supervisor in Plymouth, and will have to withdraw his name from one of the races by Friday. Canton Democrat Kevin McNamara, who is the Wayne County Commissioner for District 11, will have a Republican opponent in Canton resident Steve Johnson.

## Hometownlife.com has new look, new mission



Our Web site -- [www.hometownlife.com](http://www.hometownlife.com) -- has a new look. But the real change is in the approach. While we've redesigned the site, we've also expanded the mission. Our goal is to connect with readers who will contribute to [hometownlife.com](http://hometownlife.com).

The navigation bar at the top of the page guides readers to most places on the site. [Hometownlife.com](http://Hometownlife.com) is

powered by the staff of the *Observer*, *Eccentric*, *Mirror* and *Hometown Weeklies* and you!

With the new features we've introduced, readers will have the ability to:

- See how readers are reacting to stories.
- Recommend stories and comments to other readers.
- Comment directly on stories.

- Create a blog.
- Participate in discussion forums.
- Write reviews (movies, music and more).
- Contribute photos.
- Better communicate with staff members.

We've made other improvements. We've cleaned up the layout, simplified the navigation, and made [hometownlife.com](http://hometownlife.com)

more interactive and we hope more fun. The best part of [hometownlife.com](http://hometownlife.com) is you. It's a site for your stories, videos, pictures and opinions. Registration is quick and easy.

[Hometownlife.com](http://Hometownlife.com) gives you the power to create your own forums, galleries and persona page. And you can comment on just about everything. When we say [hometownlife.com](http://hometownlife.com) is a

community site, we mean it. It's a site open to all! We hope you enjoy the new [hometownlife.com](http://hometownlife.com). We're not done with improvements. They will continue. Tell us what you think.

I welcome your comments at [srosiek@hometownlife.com](mailto:srosiek@hometownlife.com) or join the discussion group on the new site online at [www.hometownlife.com](http://www.hometownlife.com).

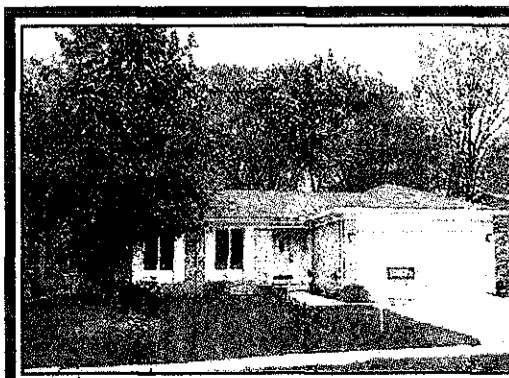
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### Coming Sunday in Health



Good nutrition essential when in sports

**Positive parenting seminar**

The Canton Police Department and Canton Leisure Services are partnering together to present another Positive Parenting Seminar on Monday, May 19, from 6:30-8 p.m., at Canton's Summit on the Park.

Parents are encouraged to attend this informative parenting seminar together with their kids age 9 and older. Community Relations Sgt. Deb Newsome will present safety information geared specifically toward kids on Web sites, messaging and chat rooms. MySpace and Facebook will be discussed as well.

Parents attending the presentation are welcome to bring their younger children to enjoy activities and Summit facilities free of charge. Child care will be provided in the following manner: Ages 3 and under will be supervised in the Kids Corner; ages 4-6 may swim as long as an older sibling is present (otherwise, an alternative activity will be provided) and ages 7 and older are welcome to swim. Ages and activity intentions will be asked upon registration. After the seminar, parents are invited to join their kids for some fun.

The seminar is free of charge, but seating is limited. Plymouth-Canton residents interested in attending should stop by or call the Summit front desk at (734) 394-5460, by May 15 for reservations.

Canton Lions anniversary Come and celebrate Canton Lions Club's 40th Anniversary at a dinner dance on Friday, June 6, at 6 p.m. It will be held at the Cady/Boyer barn behind the Bartlett Travis house at 500 N. Ridge Road.

The anniversary party will include a catered dinner, pop/ coffee, raffles and '50s and '60s music by Canton's own Fairview featuring Ron and Albert Muniz on guitar and lead vocals, Chat Atwell on bass and Karl Zarbo on drums.

The Canton Lions Club is involved in many note-worthy local and world-wide community service projects such as: Liberty Fest and Relay for Life Pancake Breakfasts, August's Corn Roast, White Cane sale and collecting glasses for Third World Countries. All donations will be given back to the community and/or to the blind and hearing impaired.

To secure your reservation, please make checks payable to the Canton Lions for \$25 per person and mail to Nancy at 42764 Woodbridge Road, Canton, MI 48188 by May 15. For more information, please call (734) 981-0486 or e-mail nrybar@yahoo.com.

**Veteran's car wash**

On Sunday, May 18, the Main Street Car Wash in Plymouth will be donating all the proceeds for that day to Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 528, which represents Plymouth and Canton. The Veterans will be wetting down

and drying off cars. Owner Phil Pursell has been doing this for years. All the money donated this day will go to help all veterans.

**Chamber computer course**

The Canton Chamber of Commerce is offering an "Intro to MS Publisher" course presented by Canton Computers on Wednesday, May 21, 2008, from 6-9 p.m. at the Canton Chamber of Commerce office located at 45525 Hanford Road in Canton. This is one of many computer training courses that have been scheduled throughout 2008. These classes are open to Chamber members and to the public.

Cost for the seminar is \$25 for chamber members and \$40 for non-members. Class size is limited; registration will be accepted on a first come, first serve basis.

To register, contact the chamber at (734) 453-4040. Registration deadline is Friday, May 16. All 2008 seminars and computer training courses are proudly sponsored by Telcom Credit Union.

For more information on the Canton Chamber of Commerce, log onto www.cantonchamber.com.

**Rotary raffle**

The Canton Rotary Club will host a fund-raising dinner from 6:30-9:30 p.m., June 2 at



**Serving his country**

U.S. Marine Dennis Speck, a former Canton resident who graduated from Canton High School, is currently serving in Afghanistan. As part of the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit, Speck, 24, is a platoon commander for 1st Battalion 6th Marine Regiment Bravo Company 3rd Platoon. According to his parents, Howard and Rosemary Speck, they are presently outside the wire (not in a guarded compound) and are engaging the Taliban. Before heading to Afghanistan in March, Speck graduated from the United States Naval Academy, but he opted to be a Marine officer and his homeland base is Camp Lejeune in North Carolina. According to his father, Speck enjoyed his time in high school, especially Mrs. Hilfinger's American history class. He would love for students to write his son. Letters can be sent to: Lt. Dennis J. Speck, B Co, 3rd Plt, BLT 1/6, unit 73135, FPO AE 09510-3135.

Summit on the Park. The event will feature a raffle with prizes, a full dinner, entertainment, silent and live auctions, cash bar, and a chance to network

with fellow business people and community citizens. Top prize in the raffle is a \$4,500 vacation plus \$1,500 in taxes paid on your behalf; 2nd Prize is a weekend getaway to Las Vegas; and 3rd Prize is a weekend getaway to Toronto. In addition there will be at least 17 runner up prizes with a minimum value of \$200.

Cost for the event is \$150 for a ticket entitling you to all events of the evening. There will be a minimum of 20 winners, and a maximum of 120 tickets sold. For more information, contact Canton Rotary Club Directors Michelle Burger at (734) 812-

2517 or Larry Oldford at (734) 905-7700.

**Kiddie Kampus**

Plymouth-Canton Community Schools' Early Childhood Department is offering, for the first time, Kiddie Kampus Summer Preschool.

Classes will be taught by certified teachers at Hoben Elementary School. Two three-week sessions will be offered with morning and afternoon class options.

For more information, call (734) 416-6190 or visit the Web site at web.pccs.k12.mi.us/earlychildhood.

**Symphony fund-raiser**

The Plymouth Symphony League launches its 2009 Greater Detroit Area Entertainment Book Sale.

For \$20.00, buyers get coupons that save money on a variety of entertainment activities like Plymouth Symphony Orchestra concerts, attractions like the Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village, specialty stores, and fine and casual restaurants all over the area.

For a limited time only, with each purchase of a 2009 Entertainment book, customers will receive a 2008 book free (while supplies last). The 2009 edition of the Entertainment Book also includes a Platinum section, featuring special discount certificates for the "best of the best" restaurants in Metro Detroit, including Plymouth's own Ernesto's and the Whitney restaurant in Detroit.

Help the arts thrive in the community and place an order at the Plymouth Symphony Office by calling (734) 451-2112, Tuesday-Friday, 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information or the Plymouth Canton Symphony Society, visit the PSO Web site at www.plymouthsymphony.org.

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**Oakwood Women's Health Event**  
in partnership with GE Healthcare

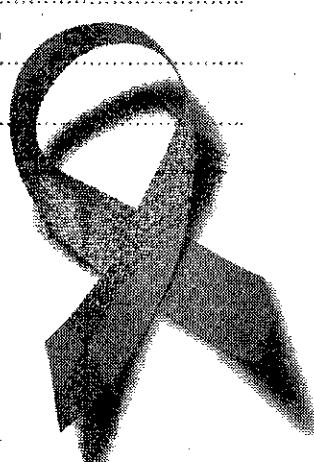
Oakwood is a leader in health care for women of all ages. Join us on Thursday, May 22 at the Oakwood Dearborn Medical Park to participate in FREE health screenings and receive valuable information about women's health topics.

Oakwood will be giving away a complimentary pair of custom-made crystal pink ribbon earrings to the first 500 women who take a tour of the Breast Care Center and participate in at least two additional activities.

**Oakwood Women's Health Event**  
Thursday, May 22, 2008  
2 to 7 p.m.  
at the Oakwood Dearborn Medical Park  
(18100 Oakwood Blvd, across from Oakwood Hospital & Medical Center)

For additional event information, please visit [www.oakwood.org](http://www.oakwood.org)

- Activities Include:**
- Tour of the Oakwood Breast Care Center
  - Tour of the Oakwood Imaging Center
  - Interactive displays provided by GE Healthcare
  - Orthopedic flexibility evaluations
  - Bone density screenings
  - Heart Health Screenings (blood pressure, glucose and cholesterol - no fasting required)
  - Body fat analysis (BMI)
  - Self breast exam education
  - Healthy Refreshments



**Oakwood**  
The Center for Women's Health

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# OAKWOOD

FROM PAGE A1

residents, it took issue with the commission's mandate of a 120-foot buffer surrounding the property. At the company's request, the board agreed to allow variance with the setbacks from 50 feet to 120 feet.

"We felt the 120-feet was excessive," said Douglas D. Welday, Oakwood executive vice president and chief financial officer. "Nothing has been finalized so the (buffer) could be bigger than 50 feet but we wanted to establish a minimum."

Township Supervisor Tom Yack said the next step in the process involves a more-detailed proposal being bounced back to the Planning Commission.

Oakwood, which has proposed having some housing and commercial use on the site, is promoting the multi-year, multi-phase project as an economic engine and said the investment could reach \$400 million.

While he praised Oakwood's plans as an asset to the community, Trustee Todd Caccamo questioned whether the advisory council would be pointless talk or if resident concerns would be taken into consideration.

"I don't want to destroy even one homeowner's perception of Canton," he said, adding that the board must balance the good of the community with the good of individual residents.

Welday said the health care provider's plans will be flexible and that Oakwood intends to work with homeowners.

Arlene Ladell, Chatterton Square resident, said she

## WHAT DO YOU THINK?

What is your opinion of Oakwood's plan to build a medical campus on Beck Road just north of Michigan Avenue? Either e-mail editor Kurt Kuban at [kkuban@hometownlife.com](mailto:kkuban@hometownlife.com) or post a comment on our Web site at [www.hometownlife.com](http://www.hometownlife.com).

was leery of the modification to the 120-foot buffer requirement.

"This will be in my backyard. That 120 feet means everything to me," she said. "To say it's inappropriate, that's because you don't live there."

Ladell, who is the homeowner association president of Chatterton Square, said she would like to be included in the advisory council.

Canton resident Carolyn Summers is a nurse recruiter for Oakwood and said while she understands the homeowner fears associated with the project, she believes the final project will flow with neighboring homes.

"This is the best possible use of the area," she said, referencing the warehouses that were previously slated for the parcel.

Summers said she was raised across the street from Oakwood Annapolis Hospital in Wayne and that the facility was embraced by the neighborhood.

Trustee Todd LaJoy applauded Oakwood's dedication to Canton and urged cooperation with residents.

"Don't underestimate their voices," he said. "You have already demonstrated you are willing to listen."

[tliparks@hometownlife.com](mailto:tliparks@hometownlife.com)  
(734) 459-2700

# Stroller Strides works new moms back into shape

BY TIFFANY L. PARKS  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

On Sunday, mothers were praised for the sacrifice of allowing their abdomens, as well as everything else, to swell in order to bring forth new life.

On Monday, Jennifer Garrow of Stroller Strides was back to whipping some of those same women into pre-baby shape.

"We were back at it," the Canton woman chuckled. "Everyone had cheesecake and spoiled themselves on Sunday."

Garrow, a mother of two young sons, Carson, 4, and Brendan, 2, created a franchise of the national exercise company two years ago.

"Women get a lot of attention when they are pregnant," she said. "But as soon as the baby comes, the mom falls back and that's the start of her not putting herself first. A lot of new moms feel guilty about taking time away from their babies to exercise."

That's where Stroller Strides hopes to come in.

Founded in 2001 by a San Diego woman, the program incorporates children in the effort to drop pounds and tone.

Garrow offers classes in Canton and Ann Arbor and

infuses lunges, squats, jogging and bicep curls with walking. To keep the kids happy, the group sings songs and the children can blow bubbles.

"When I went to my first class, I thought we were just going to walk around the mall and chat," she smirked.

"After it was over, I vowed I would never go back because I thought they were trying to kill me. This is a real workout."

Even so, Garrow said the classes are appropriate for women of all fitness levels.

"We can make modifications," she said. "We have people come that don't exercise to those that run marathons."

Garrow, who started out with four women and now has a group of 40, admits that some pregnancy weight can be stubborn but said she's baffled by introduction of "mommy packages" offered by cosmetic surgeons.

"It's a quick fix," she said. "Moms need energy and stamina and moving around will help give it to them. Women are being conditioned to believe that going under the knife is the only way to tighten, tone and lose weight following pregnancy and this simply isn't true."

Garrow has classes six days

## STROLLER STRIDES

**Owner:** Jennifer Garrow  
**Where, when:** Canton classes are offered Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday at 9 a.m. in Heritage Park. Ann Arbor classes are offered Tuesday and Thursday at 9 a.m. at Briarwood Mall.  
**Phone:** (888) 669-4994  
**Web address:** [www.strollerstrides.net/canton](http://www.strollerstrides.net/canton)



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Stroller Strides owner Jennifer Garrow takes sons Brendan, 2, and Carson, 4, for a spin around the neighborhood.

a week and the township sessions take place in Heritage Park or Summit on the Park. Individual classes start at \$15 and packages are available.

"The coolest thing is when people tell me that they heard their kids playing Stroller Strides with their friends instead of playing school," she said.

For more information, log

on to [www.strollerstrides.net/canton](http://www.strollerstrides.net/canton)

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**COUPON**  
**4.95** 5 Quart Bottle  
**Mobil Conventional Motor Oil 10W30**  
A Great Value at 99¢ per Quart While supplies last.  
With coupon only. One Coupon per customer. Cannot be combined with any other offer or coupon. Good through May 31, 2008.

# Special Olympics 'the most fun' in sports



Brendon Jones, 12, raises his hands to the crowd as he takes the podium to receive his first-place ribbon from the 50-yard dash during Special Olympics held Friday at Livonia Franklin High School.

BY REBECCA JONES  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Eddie Roulo had his own cheering section, and he didn't let fans down, easily winning the 400-meter dash with a time of 1:15 in Friday's local Special Olympics, held at Franklin High School.

The 19-year-old from Jo Brighton School in Wyandotte is training for the 1,500-meter run in the state Special Olympics in three weeks.

Friday's games included 326 athletes from Area 23, which includes all of Wayne County except for the City of Detroit, said event coordinator Terry Jobbitt. Events included bocce, long jump, wheelchair games, swimming and track and field.

The Special Olympics have been taking place at Franklin for the past 22 years, with the help of Student Congress and 180 student volunteers helping to keep scores and hand out ribbons.

Kamille Smith, 28, took



TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Michael Pilotto, 30, of Canton lets a throw fly as he takes part in the javelin throw during Special Olympics events held Friday at Franklin High School in Livonia.

third in her group in bocce. She practices every Tuesday at her old school, Stevenson Junior High in Westland. She celebrated with her mom afterward.

In the pool, 87 athletes swam in a number of heats.

Laura Casey, 22, of Grosse Pointe Park took first in the

25-meter breaststroke and 4x25 relay. A swimmer for 15 years, she works out every Tuesday and Thursday at her local community center.

"My mom is my coach, so it works out very well," she said, adding that her team has grown from 15 to 30 members in the past year.

"It's awesome. The volunteers are very, very nice. Hopefully, more people will join," she said.

Steven Kujawski, 19, also of Grosse Pointe, came in first in his freestyle event. He calls himself a tri-athlete in swimming, basketball and bowling.

He earned a gold in the state games in basketball earlier this year.

Kujawski said he loves Special Olympics. "It's the most fun I've ever had in sports."

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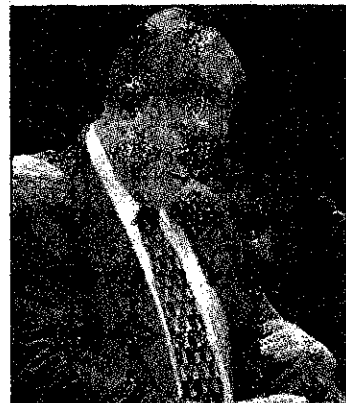
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James Sorensen of Westland, with wife Kimberley, fights back tears during his statement at the sentencing of Jean Pierre Orlewicz, convicted of killing their son, Daniel.

## JUDGE

FROM PAGE A1

"I'm grateful the jury convicted you," she added. "I'm grateful you are going away for the rest of your life. I believe you would have killed again."

Orlewicz repeatedly stabbed Sorensen in his grandfather's Canton garage Nov. 7, then burned his fingertips with a blow-torch in an effort to hide the identity. He then beheaded Sorensen and dumped his body in a Northville Township field, setting it on fire. He then dumped Sorensen's head in the Rouge River.

Orlewicz claimed self-defense, but a jury didn't buy it and, after some 12 hours of deliberation, found him guilty on all counts April 16.

Orlewicz's attorney, James Thomas, said he'll appeal. "We have issues (to appeal)," Thomas said. "We had a position in this case it was self-defense. We still think that."

Sorensen's parents, James and Kimberly Sorensen of Westland, never believed that defense, and nothing has happened to change their mind. Orlewicz's former co-defendant, Alexander Letkemann of Westland, described the crime in horrific detail during

the trial, after having pleaded guilty to second-degree murder in the case.

Letkemann is serving a sentence of 20-30 years. The Sorensens have forgiven him his role and, at his sentencing last month, praised Letkemann's decision to "accept responsibility" for his actions. They had no such kind words Monday for Orlewicz.

"Even a person who takes a life in self-defense will express horror and remorse," James Sorensen said. "There has been

no remorse, no sorrow ... only the arrogance of not wanting to be punished for his actions. When he was caught (Orlewicz) took the ultimate act of cowardice and refused to take accountability."

James Sorensen said he'd heard "the pundits" on television saying 18 years old is too young an age to send someone away for the rest of their lives.

"I disagree," Sorensen said. "The heinous nature of this crime shows Mr. Orlewicz should never be allowed to live

among us again."

Still, Kimberly Sorensen admitted she can't conjure up any hatred for Orlewicz.

"(Orlewicz) threw everything away when he decided my son's life was not of any value," she said. "The lives he has affected, the pain and terror he brought upon my son ... I look at this young man and I can't bring myself to hate him."

"I hate what he did," she added. "This has altered our lives for the remainder of our days."

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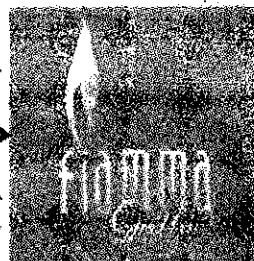
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# MESP represents a smart and flexible gift for graduates

High school seniors will be graduating soon and taking the first step into adulthood. Many will continue to pursue their education. Whether it is through a trade school or a university, one thing is for sure — the cost of an education continues to rise. So instead of a gift card or cash, an alternative gift may be a contribution into a 529 Plan on behalf of the graduate.



**Money Matters**  
Rick Bloom

expenses. A qualified education expense is basically defined as room, board, tuition, books and fees.

**FLEXIBILITY**

Although, most people believe that a 529 Plan can only be used for college, that is not the case. Many business trade, technical and vocational schools also qualify for 529 money.

Unfortunately, not all 529 Plans are the same and there-

fore it is important to contribute to the right plan. I recommend the Michigan Education Savings Plan (MESP, www.misaves.com). One of the main reasons is MESP's flexibility. A student can use money within the MESP for basically any public or private institution in the country. In fact, there are numerous foreign institutions that also qualify. In addition, monies can also be used for grad school and for continuing education. Some 529 Plans are limited in their scope, but not the MESP.

**AFFORDABLE GIFT**

One of the great things about MESP is it takes only

a \$25 minimum to establish a plan. Therefore, it's a gift that's affordable to all. I recommend a group of families and friends get together and pool their money and contribute into one MESP plan for the graduate.

In all 529 Plans, there are established portfolios for you to choose from. There is a very conservative option (guaranteed option), a more aggressive option (the 100 percent equity option) and also a variety of other investment selections.

One of the beauties of the MESP is it is a very low cost investment (one of the lowest cost plans in the country) and

has no commissions. My philosophy has always been that you should not pay fees when you don't have to.

We all know how important it is for someone to continue their education past high school. We are in a global economy and we are competing for jobs all around the world. The only way for individuals to be able to compete in this global economy is with a good post-high school education and that is exactly what you can help contribute to by considering the gift of an education this graduation season.

Another subtle benefit to a

529 Plan is it shows the graduate how important an education is and the priority you are placing on it.

I cannot think of a better investment for the high school graduate than in continuing to pursue their education. The Michigan Education Savings Plan is an investment vehicle that definitely deserves your consideration.

**Rick Bloom** is a fee-only financial adviser. Observer & Eccentric readers can submit questions at [moneymatters@hometownlife.com](mailto:moneymatters@hometownlife.com). For more information, visit Rick's Web site at [www.bloomassetmanagement.com](http://www.bloomassetmanagement.com). You can hear Rick noon to 3 p.m. Sundays on WDTK 1400 AM.

# Bowling benefit to raise money for scholarships

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Trish Geick and her husband Paul are looking forward to Bowling for Brian, their annual benefit in honor of their 18-year-old son who died July 3, 2005, eight days after a heart transplant. So far the Canton couple has been able to help four students pursue their dream of going to college with proceeds raised at the event. The third annual day of

fun takes place Sunday, May 18, at Oaklane Bowling Alley in Westland.

Last year the Geicks raised \$4,000 for scholarships that went to Megan Luther (Eastern Michigan University) and Kelsie Michalsen (Western Michigan University) through the Educational Excellence Foundation, a nonprofit organization that supports educational programs in Plymouth-Canton Community Schools including spe-

cial education.

Proceeds from the first Bowling for Brian in May 2006 went to Sorin Oprican (Schoolcraft College).

"It's a nice way to remember our son," said Trish Geick. "Our son was born in the spring. We do it in May because he would be in college right now and all the college kids are home and can come. "Each year the response gets better."

In addition to bowling three games, participants have a chance to win door prizes, take part in a raffle or bid on silent auction items, each valued at over \$100.

Brian liked bowling.

"Brian had strokes when he was little and had a right side deficit but could bowl. He took an independent study right before he died, bowling," said Geick.

[lchomin@hometownlife.com](mailto:lchomin@hometownlife.com) | (734) 953-2145

**BOWLING FOR BRIAN**

**What:** An afternoon of bowling to raise money for scholarships

**When:** 1-4 p.m. Sunday, May 18

**Where:** Oaklane Bowling Alley, 8450 Middlebelt, Westland

**Cost:** \$25 adults, \$15 students, \$5 children age 10 and under, includes three games of bowling, bowling shoes.

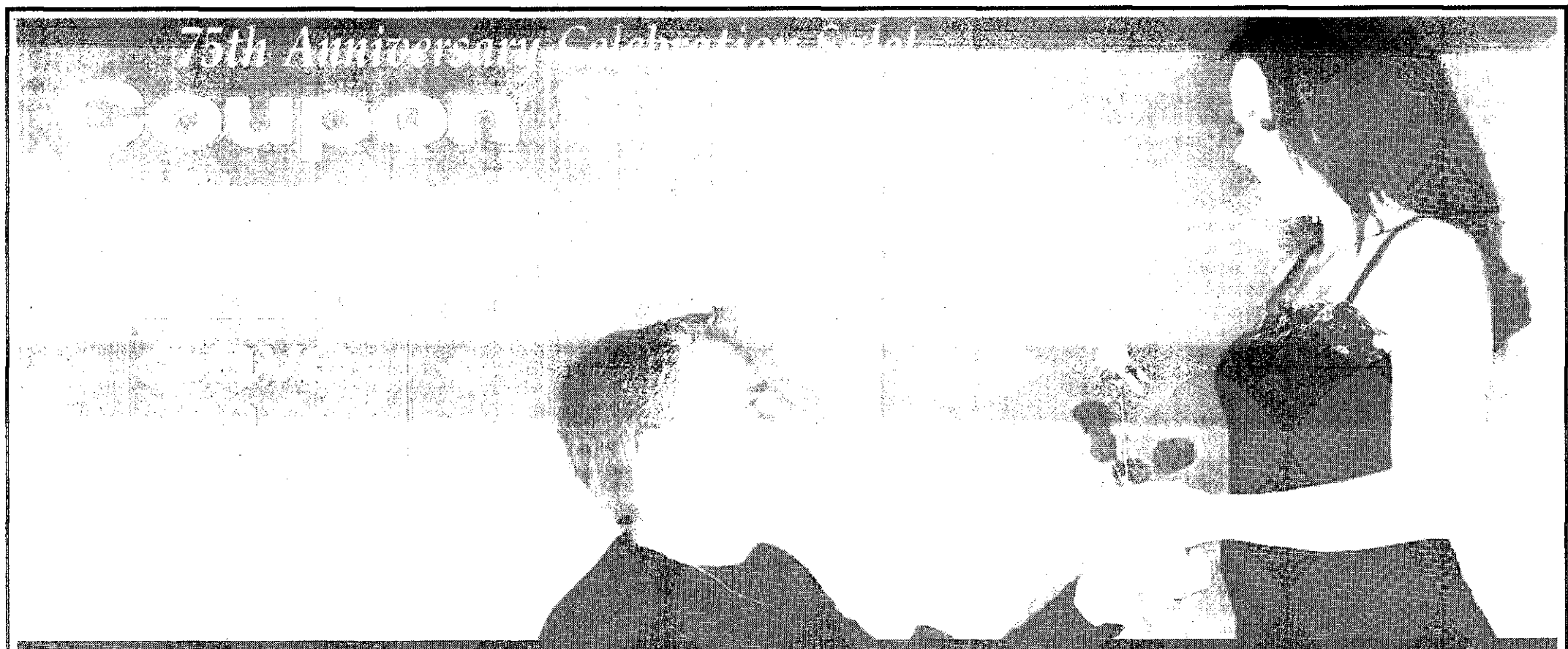
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OUR VIEWS

## Police officers deserve thanks

Any given day or week of the year is set aside to recognize a person, place or thing. Some observances are little known, like National Revise Your Work Schedule Month and National Fairy Godmother Week. Others are more recognizable, such as National Hamburger Month and Teacher Appreciation Week.

Hidden in these many observances is one that's important, but doesn't get the recognition it rightly deserves — National Police Week. This is the week and today (May 15) is the day that was set aside by President John F. Kennedy in 1962 to honor police officers who serve and those who have lost their lives in the line of duty.

Police officers play an essential role in safeguarding our rights and freedoms by protecting us against violence and disorder, deception and oppression. There are plenty of hazards. In fact, a police officer dies in the line of duty every 57 hours in this country.

Thankfully, Canton Township didn't lose an officer in 2007. That cannot be said for other communities. According to preliminary statistics from the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund and Concerns of Police Survivors, 186 officers were killed nationwide in 2007. Outside of 2001, when 239 officers died — 72 in the 9/11 terrorist attacks — 2007 is the deadliest year for American law enforcement since 1989.

The number of officers killed by gunfire and in traffic-related incidents reached a record high of 81. Sixty-nine officers were shot and killed, including a shooting that killed three Odessa, Texas, police officers.

Police work isn't a glamorous job, and it takes a special kind of person to be able to deal with the good, the bad and the ugly in a community. The job is fraught with hazards and sacrifices the police officers encounter on a daily basis.

We may not always agree with what our police officers do — we doubt there is anyone who is in agreement with they ticket they've gotten — but we need to acknowledge that they do provide a vital public service. We can walk down our streets, live in our houses and shop at our neighborhood stores in relative peace and tranquility because of them. And if that peace and tranquility is disrupted, they are there to set things right.

We ask residents to join us in applauding the work of our Canton Township police officers and to pray they will continue to be safe from harm. It is not an easy job, someone has to do it, and we think we have the best people doing that job here in the Canton community.

## Big effort needed to keep spring rites safe

Thousands of area teens in the coming weeks will participate in the traditional rites of passage of prom and graduation.

Spring is a time of celebration, and our young people have every right to enjoy themselves at prom and graduation parties. These events mark the last time many of them will be together, before they head off into the scary world of adulthood.

As parents, the best gift we can give our graduates and their friends is a safe and healthy environment for the celebrations. All too often, parents either look the other way when alcohol is present at these parties or, in the worst-case scenario, actually furnish booze for the bash.

These graduates may look like full-grown adults on the outside, but many times they have not reached a level of maturity to deal with alcohol use. It is not enough to simply remind our teens that underage drinking is against the law and send them on their way.

Parents need to have frank discussions about the consequences of using alcohol and, worse, drinking and driving. For underclassmen, being caught in possession can bring school suspension and a quick end to a high school sports career. It can also lead to problems when applying for college.

Parents need to ask questions when their son or daughter heads off to prom or a graduation party. Will the party have adult supervision? Is drinking permitted in the home? Is there an after-party scheduled and, if so, where?

Most important, parents can help their teens avoid potentially dangerous situations by assuring them that if they find themselves in trouble, they can call for a ride home with no questions asked and no attached lecture.

If a teen feels they will be punished for drinking, or being at a party where alcohol is being served, they are less likely to reach out to a parent for help. Knowing ahead of time they will be supported will go a long way toward ensuring your teen makes the right decision and makes that critical phone call.

Spring is a time for new beginnings. Teens and their parents need to work together to guard against a tragic ending.



### LETTERS

#### What is there to fear?

I feel compelled to once again address the May 1 letter by Robert Denstedt. I seriously object to the underlying xenophobia that informs Denstedt's opinions. This fear of foreigners has reared its small-minded head too often during the deliberations over Canton's new Hindu temple. But what is there to fear?

This temple is a house of worship and a cultural center, not a disco or a bar! The surrounding subdivision also looks out on a Methodist church, yet Denstedt didn't suggest, as he did for the temple, that it be moved to the edge of town "in one spot of the township for all who want to live here." I know that Methodist church is a modest building, but there would not be this order of outcry even if it were a towering cathedral, complete with bell towers and chanting monks.

Let's face it, the outcry is over the "otherness" of a temple. Denstedt says it "saddens" him to see people "from another land ... purchase land on American soil and build a temple." Unless he is a Native American, then Mr. Denstedt, along with most of us Americans, also came from another land at some point. Should not his forefathers have been able to purchase land and build a house or church? Should only certain of us have that same right? Who, then? Only whites? Only Christians? I don't think I want to hear him answer that. Well, I am white, Christian, and a natural-born American, and it saddens me when people confuse "American" with haters.

**Terrill Samimy**  
Canton

#### Invest in new energies

Greg Kowalski made a great point in his column ("It's time to end our dependency on oil," May 8) when he called for an Apollo-like effort to develop an alternative to gasoline to power our cars and trucks. The quickest way to do this is to have Congress force the auto companies to revisit the Energy Act and increase the new fuel efficiency standards from 35 to 45 miles per gallon by 2015. With assistance from the U.S. government this can be achieved with existing and developing technologies such as hybrids and electric plug-ins.

If we were able to put a man on the moon within a few short years, if we could develop a nuclear bomb within a few short years, if we were able to rally the industrial forces in our country to defeat fascism within a few short years during World War II, there is nothing preventing us from developing the means to overcome our addiction to fossil fuels within a few short years.

If we end this oil war in Iraq, we can take the hundreds of billions of dollars saved and put it toward the goal of achieving greater energy efficiency and the development of clean, renewable, climate friendly energy sources. Maybe this will happen once our "Petroleum President" leaves office.

The longer we wait, the worse the energy crisis will become. Someday, a few years from now, we may be looking back on \$4 per gallon gas as the good old days.

**Thaddeus J. Hejka**  
Canton

#### Still good kids

This is just a note to let you know there are still good — really good — teenagers around.

Yesterday, while I was very busy taking care of my 91-year-old mother, who has dementia, I received a phone call from my grandson, Tyler Randazzo, saying he forgot to take his medication that a.m., and would I please go to his house, find it, and bring it to him. I did and, joking, said, "You owe me a grass cutting job."

When I returned home 13 hours later from taking mother shopping, to lunch and a hair appointment, Tyler had taken a special bus to my house and already had fixed my lawn mower (it wouldn't start) and was cutting the grass.

I was surprised, to say the least. Next, there was a "free" bike sitting on my neighbor's yard. He took it, cleaned it up, walked it to the gas station and put air in the tires. I thought he did this so he could have something to ride at my house. No! He did this to give it to a man in his neighborhood who had recently had an accident involving his bike, and he has no money for a new one.

What a thoughtful, unselfish act from a boy 13 years old. Tyler Randazzo is a great kid!

**Sandra Oakley**  
Plymouth

#### Oliver North is hero

This is concerning columnist Kurt Kuban's comparison of Col. Oliver North and you know who ("Rev. Wright and Col. North sure know how to play to an audience," May 1). I could dig up comparisons between Kuban and Michael Moore, but what would that prove. Wouldn't that be divisive? The colonel served in Vietnam honorably and was a leader of men with a very low casualty rate. What the heck, you wouldn't be interested in that or the many times he has gone to Iraq at great risk to himself.

I get tired of picking up a paper and reading all that's wrong. Why can't the press report and let me make my own judgment? The column about this benefit should have been about how these brave men received Col. North, and then tell one of their stories. Just saying I support the troops isn't enough, but it gets Kuban off the hook. About the facts he left out — the British intelligence thought Iraq had weapons of mass destruction. Bill Clinton threatened to bomb Iraq over the imagined weapons and John Kerry and almost every official that voted to go.

This is not about Kuban. It is about the truth that the club he belongs (the press) seems to worry more about circulation. Col. North also belongs to a club — the U.S. Marines. Talk to one sometime. Now that's a story to write about.

**Larry Gossett**  
Redford

#### In their honor

On May 5, 1868, Gen. John Logan, national commander of the Grand Army of the Republic, officially proclaimed Memorial Day a national holiday. It was first observed on May 30, 1868, with the placing of flowers on the graves of Union

and Confederate soldiers at Arlington National Cemetery. "Since the 1950s on the Thursday before Memorial Day, the 1,200 soldiers of the 3rd U.S. Infantry place small American flags at each of the more than 260,000 gravestones at Arlington National Cemetery."

Although there are communities who still have Memorial Day parades, like Dearborn, Plymouth, and Garden City, many more merely give lip service to the holiday. Graves of our soldiers are neglected. This year, let us turn the tide and decorate soldiers' grave sites with flowers and flags. Let us observe the "National Moment of Remembrance," the resolution that was passed in Dec. 2000, and pause whatever we are doing at 3 p.m. local time to voluntarily and informally observe in our own way a moment of remembrance and respect, and quietly listen to the playing of *Taps*.

Although Memorial Day should be a day of deep reflection, it can also be a day of celebration. Celebrating our freedom and honoring those who made that freedom possible is not a contradiction. It is a marriage of sadness and happiness — sadness for those who have died for our country and happiness for the gift they have given us, the gift of freedom.

Throughout our nation's history, our brave men and women have fought valiantly to the death so that we might have life in the "Land of the Free." So before we enjoy those "lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer" and "take time to sit back and unwind," let us remember the ones who lie sleeping in the dust. Let us not leave one soldier's grave undecorated. Like my friend, Leroy Rouster, said, let us all be "patriotic."

Last Memorial Day, May 25, 2007, Gov. Jennifer Granholm praised the bravery of thousands of Michigan citizens serving in the armed forces. In her radio announcement, she honored the families of Michigan soldiers who died in active duty in Iraq and Afghanistan. She said, "The fathers and mothers, husbands and wives, sons and daughters of these heroes have experienced incalculable loss but they are proud of the sacrifice that their loved ones have made ... Memorial Day is our time to salute these fine Michigan citizens — just as we should do every day of the year."

**Erika Martin**  
Dearborn Heights

### 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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CANTON  
**Observer**

GANNETT

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

### QUOTABLE

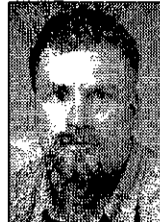
"Cancer is one of those diseases that has touched every family. When you speak with the survivors, you realize that they are what it's all about — the hope and support."

— Canton resident June Waldbauer discussing Relay for Life of Canton, an American Cancer Society fund-raiser that will take place in Heritage Park this weekend



# Blogging just first step as our Web site goes more interactive

I guess the days of the ink-stained wretch are a thing of the past. That is a term that has commonly been associated with newspaper employees for many years. But media companies like the *Observer & Eccentric Newspapers*, and our parent company Gannett, are increasingly turning to the Web to reach our readers.



Kurt Kuban

Let's face it, as much as people like myself love to have an actual newspaper in our hands while eating breakfast or dinner, a new generation is turning to the Web for their news. That's probably a good thing, from both the perspective of the reader and companies like ours because news happens in real time, not on a newspaper's deadline schedule.

In addition to getting important news stories to you more quickly, the Web opens all kinds of new doors for us. We are still committed to our core mission, which is to provide our readers with important local "news you can use." Our new Web site, which premiered late last week, provides us with many new ways of doing just that.

In addition to carrying all the news stories you can find in the *Canton Observer*, our new site features community forums and blogs that will let readers like you interact with the site and get in on the action. Our reporters can't be everywhere, and we realize oftentimes people in the community are a great source of news stories. Our site allows people to post the news that is important to them.

This week, I officially started a blog on our Web site. I would have never believed it myself a couple years ago. I've always been one of those guys that would rather get out and get my hands dirty than be sitting behind a computer communicating in cyberspace.

But I have seen the light — or the future. I have come to realize they are a unique way to communicate with people who have similar ideas and concerns — a way to pass on information. Isn't that what newspapers have always been about? Now we can do it at

nearly lightning speed.

I have decided to use my blog, which I have called "Clearing the air by Kurt Kuban," to write and communicate about environmental issues that impact our great state of Michigan.

In addition to being a journalist, I have been involved with efforts to clean up our environment, including being a volunteer/coordinator for Rouge Rescue, which has allowed me to meet many, many people out there who have begun to educate themselves about issues impacting the environment. And not just so-called tree-huggers. I'm talking about school teachers, religious leaders and their congregations, business owners, and stay-at-home mothers who are concerned about the well-being of their children.

I hope my blog can be a place that we can share information about our environment, including the air that we breathe, the water that we drink, and the natural world around us. I hope people who have similar concerns will post comments and use this as a forum to discuss issues that are important to them. And if you disagree with what I have to write, let me know. I'm a big believer in debating issues. Usually I do it live and in person. Now I get to do it in cyberspace.

Better yet, you can set up your own blog on www.hometownlife.com. Signing up is easy and quick, and when you've done it you'll have a whole new universe for your stories, videos, pictures and opinions. We only ask two things, really: 1) Keep it clean and 2) Use it as often as you'd like.

To check out the blogs, visit the site and click on "Voices & Views" and then on "Blogs." There you will see our staff blogs and community blogs written by people just like you.

Well, hopefully I'll see you in cyberspace sometime soon. And for our readers who aren't quite sure how to turn on a computer, or don't mind getting a little newspaper ink on their hands, we'll still be printing the *Canton Observer* twice a week.

**Kurt Kuban** is community editor of the *Canton Observer*. He can be reached via e-mail at [kkuban@hometownlife.com](mailto:kkuban@hometownlife.com) or by phone at (734) 459-2700. Or, try him at his blog!

# A decades-long dream dashed in a dreary basement

Recently, I experienced something I have waited for my entire adult life: served jury duty.

I know most folks equate jury duty with a trip to the dentist or getting that annual physical, but not me. Maybe it's due to how I make my living, but serving on a jury has been a quest of mine for nearly 30 years.

Having covered dozens of trials over the years — from divorce cases to embezzlement to murder — I've often wondered what it is like being one of the people empowered to decide guilt or innocence. That is a lot of pressure to place on a person who may not have a clue as to how our criminal justice system works.

My big chance came recently, courtesy of 16th District Court in Livonia. Since it was district court, I wasn't going to serve on a big felony case, but hey, after waiting all these years, I was ready for anything.

Told to report at 8:45 a.m., I arrived promptly at 8:30 ready to go. As I pulled into the lot, I noticed a line outside the courthouse entrance that extended quite a ways down the sidewalk. And it had started to rain.

I took my place in line, and began guessing which of the assembled were defendants, attorneys and fellow jurors. I surmised the young man directly in front of me who casually flicked his still-lit cigarette onto the sidewalk no doubt fell into the defendant category, perhaps on a littering charge.

The line came courtesy of a metal detector at the entrance, which was so sensitive that nearly every person I saw had to be further inspected by a wand-wielding court officer. After a 10-minute wait, my excitement grew as I was checked in, handed a badge and a juror's manual, and told to head to the basement, where the jury waiting room was located.

About two dozen people were in the waiting room. It appeared many walks of life and ages were represented by the group, supporting the notion that defendants are judged by a jury of their peers.

After what seemed like an eternity (I ignored the suggestion to bring reading materials), a court officer appeared and immediately pointed out to the group that he was not responsible for us being there so don't take it out on him. Obviously, most of the people he has had to deal with did not share my enthusiasm for jury duty.

The officer gave us a quick rundown of the day, and then had us watch a lengthy video where the court magistrate reviewed in great detail the judicial process and what our responsibilities — indeed, obligations — were as jurors. The magistrate addressed the selection process and why (don't take it personally)

some of us likely would be excused by either the prosecutor or defense attorney. If we actually made it onto a jury, we were given a stern warning about not having any contact with the parties involved in the case, and told we could not discuss the trial with anyone until it was over.

The magistrate then (still via video) had us raise our right hands and take what I guess was the juror's oath. The court officer did not appear to be making sure we all were in fact raising our hands and replying "I do" at the appropriate times.

When the video ended, the court officer explained that serving jury duty is a slow process, and urged us to be patient. We simply needed to stay in the room until our name was called. And then he was gone. I looked around the room, determining which of my fellow jurors I would want (and not want) to serve with, and whether I would be picked to serve as jury foreman.

The room grew quiet as the moments passed, with each juror pretty much keeping to herself or himself. I settled in with a three-year-old outdoors magazine I had plucked from a pile of yellowing periodicals stacked next to the entrance.

I was half through a fascinating article on bow hunting for 1,000-pound moose in northern British Columbia when the officer popped back into the room.

This is it, I thought. I finally get to serve on a jury.

But the officer had something else planned entirely.

"Good news!" he exclaimed through a broad smile. "You are all free to go."

What? Go where? What's he talking about?

Before I could utter a word, the officer explained there would be no trials stemming from the day's cases. "They all settled before going to trial so your obligation for the day is done," he said to growing applause. With that, the officer thanked us for our time and wished us a great rest of the day.

And just like that, it was over. No grilling from attorneys, no instructions from a judge, no time spent in the jury box, no haggling over who would be foreman.

I never even made it out of the basement. And it wasn't even noon.

My hopes dashed and my spirit crushed, I slowly ascended the stairs back up to the front desk to return my juror button. Someone behind the counter urged me to "have a nice day," not realizing my day — indeed, my week — had just been ruined by overly cooperative defendants and super-efficient prosecutors.

Hopefully, I won't have to another 30 years for that next summons to grace my mailbox.

**Joe Bauman** is managing editor of the *Eccentric Newspapers*. He welcomes feedback at [jbauman@hometownlife.com](mailto:jbauman@hometownlife.com).

Cheer for the hometeam, read today's **SPORTS** section

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**FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART**

# Senior EXPO

**TUESDAY, MAY 20, 2008**  
**9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.**

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**DEMONSTRATIONS AND ENTERTAINMENT:**  
 Demonstration provided by Schoolcraft College Continuing Education and Professional Development Staff

9:30 a.m. *Fit for Seniors* taught by Mindy Hopkins  
 10:00 a.m. *Protect and Grow Your Money in Retirement* presented by Rick Bloom  
 11:00 a.m. *Jazz Performance* from jazz vocalist Barbara Ware  
 11:00 a.m. *Line Dancing* lead by Bill Peterson  
 11:45 a.m. *Strength Training for Seniors* taught by American Health and Fitness

**Come and enter a trip for two to Jamaica.** Moderate climate, lush tropical surroundings and a unique culture makes Jamaica a truly unforgettable getaway with the perfect blend of adventure, elegance and practicality compliments of Atlas Vacations, Your Vacations People offering complete vacation packages for airline tickets, hotel and villas accommodations, sightseeing excursions, cruises, spas, golf, weddings and honeymoons.

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 Rick Bloom of Bloom Asset Management in Farmington Hills is a fee only financial advisor. His column *Money Matters* appears every Thursday and Sunday in The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. He can be heard Sundays on WTDK1400 radio. Rick is a licensed attorney and Certified Public Accountant and has been named one of the Top 250 Financial Planners by Worth Magazine.

**VISIT THESE BOOTHS FOR VALUABLE INFORMATION**

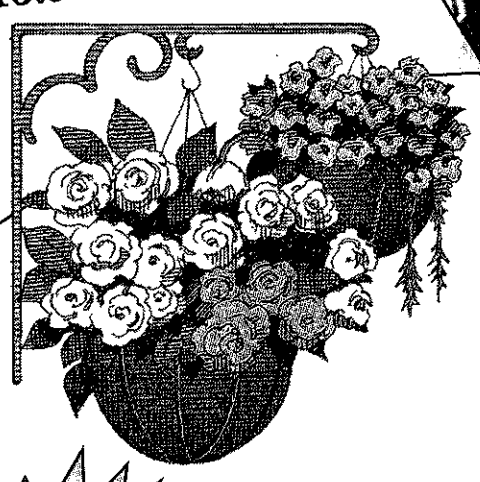
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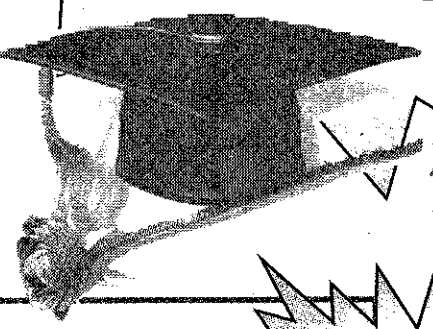


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<p><b>Relax Riesling</b> \$7.99 <i>Wine enthusiast "Best Buy" Slightly drier than traditional German Rieslings, Relax has clean, crisp fruit. No complicated names or labels, just great wine - so Relax!</i></p>	<p><b>Wine by Joe Pinot Gris - Oregon</b> \$16.99 <i>Sweet aromas of fresh cut pears, green apples and hints of vanilla and cream, this Pinot Gris will not disappoint you. The light, clean flavors in the mouth encompass citrus and green apple, well-balanced by refreshing and flinty acidity for a perfect and lively finish with lingering hints of citrus rind.</i></p>	<p><b>Wine by Joe Pinot Blanc - Oregon</b> \$15.99 <i>This wine leaps into your mouth and opens up initially with aromas of stone fruit, vanilla, pears and a hint of smokiness. The medium-bodied mouth feel delivers rich and rewarding flavors of cream, vanilla, spice and peach balanced by refreshingly crisp tale-finity acidity. If you haven't tried a great Oregon Pinot Blanc, now is the time to do it!</i></p>	<p><b>Wine by Joe Pinot Noir - Oregon</b> \$21.99 <i>This wine slips into your mouth with gorgeous, rich blackberry aromas with a touch of leather, too. The flavors mirror the aromas with a soft and velvety mouthful which wraps around your tongue delivering the impression of sweetness from the soft, ripe tannins.</i></p>	<p><b>Oak Knoll Pinot Noir - Oregon</b> \$18.99 <i>This wine exhibits a dark, garnet color and aromas of cherry, clove and leather. On the palate the wine is supple and round with integrated flavors of berry and cinnamon spice, framed by subtle notes of vanilla and smoky oak. The wine possesses mouthwatering acidity with spice and berry in the lingering finish.</i></p>
<p><b>Joe's Redskin Potato Salad</b> \$3.99 lb.</p>	<p><b>Joe's Chicken Kabobs</b> \$3.99 ea.</p>	<p><b>Joe's Molasses Baked Pork &amp; Beans</b> \$1.99 lb.</p>	<p><b>Joe's BBQ Baby Back Ribs</b> \$10.99 lb.</p>	<p><b>Southwest Turkey Burger</b> \$1.99 ea.</p>
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# SPORTS

# B

(CP)

Thursday, May 15, 2008

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

Ed Wright, editor . (734) 953-2108 . [ewright@hometownlife.com](mailto:ewright@hometownlife.com)

[www.hometownlife.com](http://www.hometownlife.com)



Canton's Allison Schmitt (second from left) was presented with the Detroit Athletic Club's 'Female High School Athlete of the Year' award Monday night at a lavish banquet held at the DAC. Also pictured are award winners (from left) Mitch Zajac of Holt High School, who won the 'Male High School Athlete of the Year'; Schmitt; former U-M football coach Lloyd Carr, who was presented with a lifetime achievement award; Michigan State goal-tender Jeff Lerg; and U-M hurdler Tiffany Ofili.

## MICHIGAN'S FINEST

### Canton's Schmitt receives distinguished DAC award

BY ED WRIGHT  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The countless pre-dawn workouts in chlorinated pools, the impeccable work ethic, the numerous sacrifices and the millions of muscle-building strokes she's churned out to reach the pinnacle in the world of amateur swimming are paying off big-time for Canton's Allison Schmitt.

And anyone who knows the talented, yet humble, 18-year-old phenom isn't a bit surprised.

Schmitt, who graduated from Canton High School in January so that she could devote the ensuing months to train for a berth on the 2008 U.S. Olympic swimming team, was named the 2008 Michigan High School Female Athlete of the Year Monday in a lavish ceremony held at the Detroit Athletic

Club in downtown Detroit.

Schmitt was honored along with three other athletes — Holt's Mitch Zajac, Michigan State University hockey player Jeff Lerg and University of Michigan hurdler Tiffany Ofili — and retired University of Michigan football coach Lloyd Carr during the annual Dodge National Athletic Awards banquet, which benefits the March of Dimes.

The winning criteria was based on athletic achievement, academics and involvement in the community.

One of just six female high school athletes to be nominated out of the thousands that competed during the past eight months, Schmitt found out she won the award in an Academy Awards-type announcement in the packed DAC banquet room.

"I was honored just to be nominated

for the award," Schmitt said Tuesday afternoon during a small gap between a pair of two-hour training sessions. "To actually win it, well, I don't really know how to describe how I feel other than privileged.

"I know I've worked very hard the past couple of years, so I guess this is the result of the hard work."

Last year, Schmitt defied the odds and qualified for the 2008 Olympic Trials that are set for late June in Omaha, Neb. In the fall, she was a two-time state champion at the Division 1 state meet, touching first in the 200- and 500-yard freestyle events. She was a two-time state champ as a junior as well.

"If you would have told me when I was a freshman that all this would be

Please see **SCHMITT, B5**

## Lady Warriors dominate on 'Senior Night'

Despite a chill in the air, the Plymouth-Canton-Salem girls lacrosse team turned in a fired-up performance against North Farmington-Harrison Friday night on "Senior Night."

The Lady Warriors cruised to a 12-3 victory to improve their record to 9-3.

"I can't say enough about how happy I was with the team's performance in this game," said PCS coach Dave Medley. "I saw a lot of hard work come together and that's what I've been preaching — to play as a team.

"The underclassmen recognized this was a game where you honor the

### PREP LACROSSE

graduating class, and you make sure your seniors can look back on this game with warm, positive memories."

Fittingly, seniors dominated the scoresheet for the winners as Kate Spangler led the way with four goals. Seniors Morgan Franke, Jessica Murray, Stephanie Matusiak, Laura Hahn, Amy Coleman and Sarah Pursell also found the back of the net.

Non-seniors Chelsea Olson and Lauryn Ebersole also scored for the Lady Warriors.

The game's most memorable play unfolded in the second half when PCS net-minder Nicol Rottell made a save, then carried the ball the length of the field and fired a shot into the High Flyers' net.

"The goal was waved off, though, because in lacrosse you can't use the goalie stick to shoot on goal," explained Medley. "Nicol and I had set the play up where she was supposed to pass it off 15 yards up-field, but I think she just got carried away in the excitement. This was just one example of the energy level on the field Friday night."

## Sidelines

### Wildcat grid camp

The Plymouth Wildcats Football Youth Skills Camp will run June 23-25 from 5-7 p.m. each day at PCEP varsity stadium.

This is a fundamentals-based camp for kids who are in fifth through ninth grades.

For more information on the camp, visit [www.plymouthwildcats.com](http://www.plymouthwildcats.com) to acquire a copy of the camp brochure.

For more information, call coach Mike Sawchuk at (734) 582-5696.

### Coaching opportunities

Plymouth High School has the following coaching positions open: assistant football coach; assistant boys and girls swim coach; boys and girls dive coach; and assistant gymnastics coach.

Applications for these positions can be found at [pccs.k12.mi.us](http://pccs.k12.mi.us).

Completed applications can be faxed to (734) 582-5650 or e-mailed to [davesd@pccs.k12.mi.us](mailto:davesd@pccs.k12.mi.us); attention: Diane Daves.

### Madonna hoop camp

Madonna University men's basketball coach and Canton resident Chuck Henry has announced the 2008 All-Star Basketball Camp, which will take place the weeks of June 16-20 and July 28 to Aug. 1 at Madonna.

Among instructors is legendary coach and camp founder Bernie Holowicki.

Each camper is guaranteed plenty of instruction on fundamentals of the game, with an 8-1 ratio of campers to instructors.

The camp sessions will run from 9 a.m. through 3 p.m. each day, for boys ages 8-15. Cost is \$175 per week, with checks payable to All-Star Basketball Camp, 42183 Woodcreek Lane, Canton, 48188.

For more information, call (734) 398-5975, (734) 432-5591 or e-mail to [nemenhisier@madonna.edu](mailto:nemenhisier@madonna.edu).

## Rock concert

### Salem tunes out Central thanks to Posler's arm, 3 HRs

Chiefs are streaking. See Page B4.

BY ED WRIGHT  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Three words described the Salem baseball team's offensive performance Monday afternoon against visiting Walled Lake Central: **BAM! BAM! BAM!**

It would only take one word, however, to describe the stuff Salem junior pitcher Joe Posler threw at the Vikings: **nasty**.

The Rocks launched three home runs and Posler tossed a two-hitter as Salem cruised to a 6-1 triumph to solidify its place atop the WLAA Lakes Division standings.

With the win, Salem improved to 15-8 overall and 7-2 in the Lakes while the defending champion Vikings dropped to 2-7.

After yielding a home run to the second batter of the game — Central right-fielder Cody Husak — Posler gave up just one more hit — a second-inning single to Jack Kennedy. He struck out

four and walked two to improve to 5-0.

"It was a pretty typical performance by Joe," said Salem coach Dale Rumberger. "He always comes in under 90 pitches and he had 88 today. The only thing uncharacteristic about Joe today was that he had two walks.

"Joe has good command of his pitches and he can locate all of them. He even used his fourth pitch today — a knuckle ball — more than he normally does. It's like having a second off-speed pitch. The batter is usually on his front foot and they either pop it up or beat it into the ground."

The Rocks' power surge was provided by junior home run hitters Drew Grabowski, whose solo shot over the Mans Lumber sign in left center knotted the game at 1-all in the second; Kyle Powell, whose two-run dinger in the third dinged the top of the scoreboard in right center before finding a resting place in the nearby woods; and Sam Ott, whose solo blast in the fifth found the woods beyond the right-field fence on the fly.

Salem added two insurance markers in the sixth on Heath Parling's RBI single and an Ott sacrifice fly that scored Justin Horger.

Although he missed most of the first month of the season with an injury, Grabowski has already rocked two home runs and is third on the team in RBI.

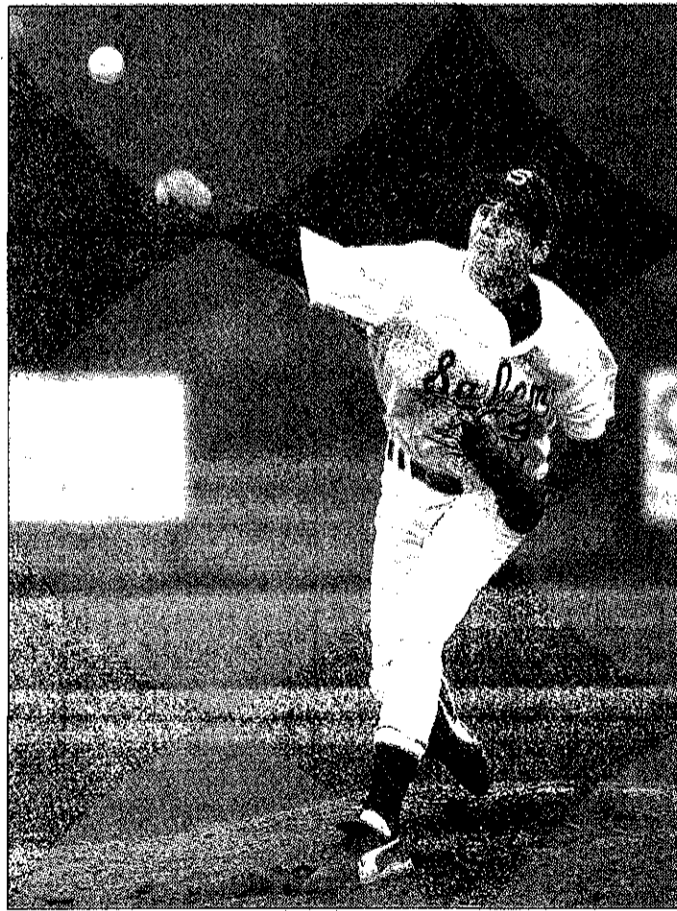
"It's nice to have Drew back," said Rumberger. "He's only been back about 10 days, but he's hitting .500 and giving us a lot of power.

"Kyle's been having some good swings in batting practice lately, so I had a hunch he was going to do something today. And Sam is Sam — he's dangerous every time he steps up to the plate."

Rumberger was equally impressed by his team's defense, which turned three double plays.

In the top of the fourth, the Rocks committed their only two errors of the day, yet Posler still only faced three batters as lead-off hitter Matt Johnson was

Please see **BASEBALL, B4**



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Salem junior pitcher Sam Posler threw a two-hit complete game in the Rocks' 6-1 victory over Walled Lake Central Monday afternoon. The Rocks can clinch first place in the WLAA's Lakes Division with a win over Westland John Glenn this afternoon.

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# Canton LAX team thumps Howell

Canton's boys lacrosse team improved to 10-5 Monday night with a 14-3 triumph over Howell.

"I was very happy with the game," said Canton coach Kevin Riley. "It gave us a good chance to rotate players and tune up for Thursday's game against Plymouth."

Tonight's cross-campus clash between the Chiefs and the Wildcats is set to commence at 7 p.m. at the PCEP junior varsity stadium.

Matt Rodgers paced the win over the Highlanders with four goals.

Scott Wisniewski and Joey Underwood both registered a hat-trick, Jason Avedesian added two goals while Dakota Dark-Bird and Mark Barath both netted single

## PREP LACROSSE

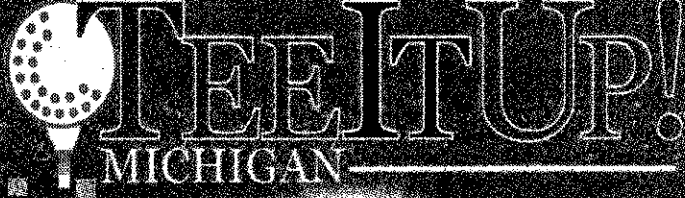
goals. Canton led 10-2 at the half.

Senior Justin Scott started and earned the win between the pipes.

Back-up net-minder Sean Walsh was solid in the second half, yielding just one goal.

On Saturday, the Chiefs dropped a 12-5 decision to state-ranked Saline. Five different players lit up the scoreboard for Canton: Wisniewski, Trevor Moore, who converted a nifty backhand, Rodgers, Avedesian and Kyle Dunleavy.

"Four games in one week took a toll on our conditioning," said Riley, referring to the loss to the Hornets.





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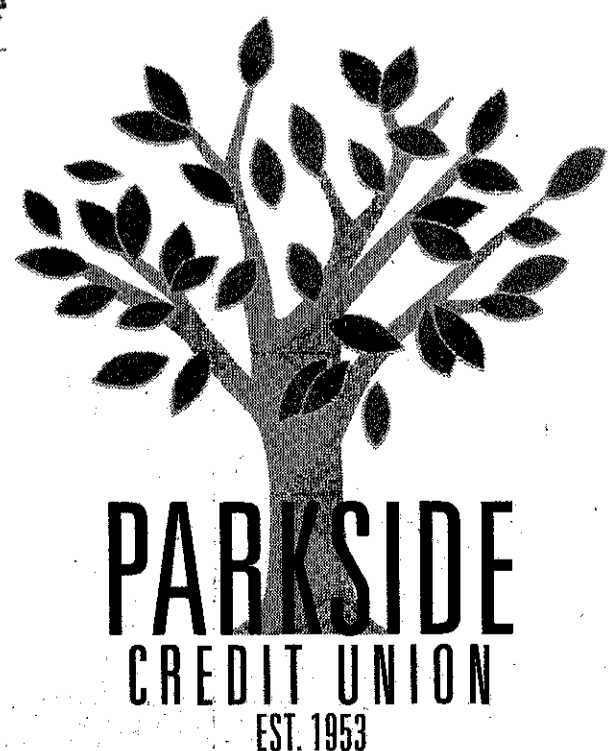


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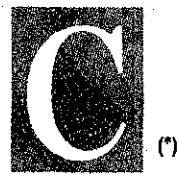
<sup>1</sup>Special ends 6/30/08

Money Market, CD and IRA-CD rates are good through May 31, 2008.





# Real Estate



Thursday, May 15, 2008

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

Julie Brown, editor (734) 953-2111. jcbrown@hometownlife.com

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## Short commute, carpools appeal as gas prices rise

BY JULIE BROWN  
O&E STAFF WRITER

As gas prices climb, people are grateful for short commutes.

"I'm within 10 minutes of work," said Phyllis Redfern of Canton, a clerk in the Canton Township clerk's office. "It's wonderful not to have to drive some of the distances I have before. I'm very fortunate with my commute."

Redfern sympathizes with those who have longer commutes.

"You know it's got to be eating into their budget," she said.

Ron Loiselle of Plymouth's also grateful for his short commute. "Oh, yeah, I should walk. It's 1.1 miles," said Loiselle, an accountant/stockbroker who's also mayor pro tem for the city of Plymouth.

"I made the choice to try to live close to work," said Loiselle, who's less sympathetic when it comes to long-distance commuters. He's lived close to work some 30 years and finds it hard to believe "people would waste that much time in a car."

In fact, he has a 15-year-old car with 104,000 miles on it. "I get stressed when I have to drive to Canton anymore," he said with a laugh. "I'm spoiled by living in Plymouth."

The Southeast Michigan Council of Governments is seeing the impact of commuting and rising gas prices, too. It has a RideShare program, information on which is available at [semcog.org/RideShare.aspx](http://semcog.org/RideShare.aspx).

"That's where they can fill out an application," said Iris Steinberg, senior communications specialist for SEMCOG. "They will be matched up with other individuals who live near them and work near them."

RideShare is a free carpool and vanpool matching service that links commuters traveling into or within Southeast Michigan for work. RideShare has assisted more than 100,000 Detroit carpools and vanpools with their requests. There are currently more than 3,000 in the database, Steinberg said.

"We have had a small increase, nothing too significant yet. We have seen increased numbers," as gas prices climb, Steinberg said.

Recent census data shows that more than 200,000



people in metro Detroit currently share the ride to and from work on a regular basis. According to SEMCOG, carpools and vanpools:

- Save money on fuel and other vehicle operating costs

- Experience less stress associated with traffic

- Have a more predictable and productive commute

- Help reduce traffic congestion

- Improve air quality

- Enjoy the social and safety aspects of commuting with others.

"It is nice to have that additional option," Steinberg said of Ride Share, offered since 1980. She noted not all have access to SMART or Detroit Department of Transportation buses.

Steinberg, a Grosse Pointe Park resident, takes the bus to work daily at SEMCOG offices in downtown Detroit.

"That was part of what we were looking for when we were choosing a home," Steinberg said. "It makes it very nice."

She and colleagues have noted increased ridership of SMART and DDOT buses recently. "I had to wait for the next one," Steinberg said of a recent trip. "I know people are changing their behavior because of the high gas prices. People definitely are concerned and looking for options."

She takes a book for her commutes, and also catches up on work and phone calls. Steinberg's taken the bus for seven years "and never had a problem, feel very comfortable." It takes about 20 minutes to get downtown; there's a small vehicle fleet at work if she needs to attend a meeting, and the People Mover helps Steinberg get around downtown Detroit.

Steinberg points with pride to SEMCOG's Guaranteed Ride Home, which reimburses taxi fare for RideShare participants who get sick while at work and need to leave or must put in longer hours. You can use that up to six times a year after completing the RideShare arrangements on the SEMCOG Web site.

"We just need the receipt from the taxi," Steinberg said. "It's a very nice program."

Colleague Delores Muller, a developer in the information technology department at SEMCOG, said the average commute in Southeast Michigan was 26 minutes in 2000. It had gone up three minutes from 1990, which could be caused by increased traffic.

"I take the bus," Livonia resident Muller said. "I've been taking the SMART bus for six years now." She drives to a park and ride site in Redford. Buses arrive every 25-30 minutes, less frequently than when Livonia was a part of

SMART.

"People can save a lot of money by taking the bus," Muller said, noting she saves at least \$4,000 a year on parking, wear and tear on the car and gas. She puts gas in her car's tank once a month.

"I wish I knew about it earlier," Muller said of the bus service. "The closer you live to work, the less you're going to be spending on your commute. It's more common sense than anything."

She looked at Livonia as a place to settle and start a family. "I can't really think of a better place. I can commute to Ann Arbor or Detroit in 25 minutes."

She uses her time on the bus for work for continuing education classes. "I also network with other IT professionals," Muller said.

A RideShare carpool requires two riders who work similar time schedules. A vanpool requires six or more riders. SEMCOG's free online matching software matches you with commuters who also live near you, and who have similar routes and work schedules.

SEMCOG hasn't really studied if rising gas prices are making more distant real estate in outlying areas less attractive. "We really don't have any local information on that, nothing we have been able to verify," Steinberg said, noting SEMCOG includes

Livingston, Macomb, Oakland, St. Clair, Monroe, Wayne and Washtenaw counties. National reports indicate such a trend in commuting and real estate.

Home prices across distant suburbs continue to fall deeper than city housing values, which sometimes even climb in cities like Los Angeles, San Francisco, San Diego, New York, Miami, Boston, and Washington, D.C., especially near public transit. Drawn by cheap outer land and strong home prices, developers miscalculated and "overreached," but have finally seen faraway projects as "just bad ideas to begin with" and shifted gears, an assessment confirmed by Smart Growth America Communications Director David Goldberg ([www.smartgrowth.org](http://www.smartgrowth.org)).

In the 1990s, his hometown, Atlanta, "was recognized as the fastest-spreading human settlement, probably in the history of the world," he recalled, but over the past two years construction in the countryside dropped by 70 percent, without any slowdown in the city, according to the Smart Growth America Web site.

The same goes for other big cities, including Baltimore and Philadelphia.

The city of Plymouth has made walkability a priority in recent years, said Loiselle, the mayor pro tem. That includes checking on the status of sidewalks in the city, and making sure they're wheelchair accessible and have curb cuts that can also be used by bicyclists.

SEMCOG staffers are excited about expanded options in mass transit, including an Ann Arbor to Detroit rail line using existing train tracks. "I think that's very promising," Steinberg said.

Carmine Palombo, director of transportation planning for SEMCOG, said the train tracks from Ann Arbor to Detroit are owned by three freight railroads. "We've been working with them to identify the additional infrastructure that would be needed," the Livonia resident said. The goal is to have no negative impact on freight use while allowing additional passenger use.

The aim is for the railroads' analysis to done

Please see **COMMUTE, C4**

## Ask lawyer about delinquency statements

**Q.** A member of our association is suing the homeowners association for defamation after it distributed its meeting minutes. At the homeowner association board meeting, the board members discussed the homeowner's failure to pay dues for a period of time. The association attorney had unsuccessfully tried several times to reach the homeowner. The board secretary recorded those facts in the meeting minutes and recorded the board's decision to foreclose on the homeowner's unit because the homeowner was not willing to work out a negotiated settlement for the outstanding dues. The minutes were mailed to all association members. The homeowner's name and unit were not published. Does the association have any liability?



Robert Meisner

**A.** In a recent case similar to those facts, a court held that in order for it to consider the meeting minutes defamatory, the statements must be false and intended to harm the homeowner's reputation and lower him in the community's estimation. In the case involved, because the court decided that the statements were "substantially true," there was no defamation. "Substantially true" means that although the statements were not literally true on every detail, they were true for the most part. I would not, however, rely on this type of decision, given the delicate nature of the law of defamation and you are best to consult with your attorney before publishing any statement concerning delinquencies.

**Q.** There has often been a debate about the value of a condo vs. a co-op for marketability. Do you have any comments on that?

**A.** Generally speaking, condos are deemed to be more valuable than co-ops. There was an interesting study done in New York City for the period of 1984 to 2002. The result, according to the authors, was that "the typical" condo unit is worth about 8.8 percent more than the "typical" cooperative unit, although they admit that one market segment exhibited the opposite effect on value. In cooperatives that prohibited buyers from financing the purchase of units, the condominium premium disappears and turns into a 25.4 percent cooperative premium. One explanation is the greater potential of a cooperative to allow unit owners to engage in forms of social exclusion. Two other explanations, particularly relevant for the buildings occupied by less affluent residents, are (1) relatively high transaction costs associated with converting from a cooperative form to a condominium form can consume a substantial part of the condominium premium; and (2) costs of collective decision making (collective action problems) can be insurmountable, particularly in urban communities with a heterogeneous population. Thus the authors concluded that it may be a long time before condominiums, despite their apparent economic advantages, replace cooperatives as the dominant common interest homeownership form in New York City. This, of course, may not be relevant in other areas.

Robert M. Meisner is a lawyer and the author of *Condominium Operation: Getting Started & Staying on the Right Track*, second edition. It is available for \$9.95 plus \$1 shipping and handling. He also wrote *Condo Living: A Survival Guide to Buying, Owning and Selling a Condominium*, available for \$24.95 plus \$5 shipping and handling. For more information, call (248) 644-4433 or visit [bmeisner@meisner-associates.com](mailto:bmeisner@meisner-associates.com). This column shouldn't be construed as legal advice.

### HOMES SOLD

These are the Observer & Eccentric-area residential real estate closings recorded the week of Jan. 21-25, 2008, at the Wayne County Register of Deeds office, plus some from Oakland County. Listed below are cities, addresses and sales prices.

Canton	
50716 Amberley Blvd	\$599,000
6522 Carlton Rd	\$175,000
1739 Christopher Dr	\$115,000
366 Constitution St	\$150,000
7037 Copper Creek Cir	\$140,000
1492 Glengarry Blvd	\$297,000
46491 Glengarry Blvd	\$345,000
2046 Preserve Cir W	\$167,000
1494 Ranier St	\$200,000
1999 Vanderbilt Rd	\$229,000
42023 Woodbridge Dr	\$160,000

Farmington Hills	
21522 Riverwalk Ct	\$311,000
21538 Riverwalk Ct	\$312,000
21566 Riverwalk Ct	\$484,000
30941 Rockdale Ave	\$110,000
29160 W Nine Mile Rd	\$200,000

Livonia	
15141 Alexander St	\$109,000
33058 Alien St	\$151,000
15036 Cavell St	\$165,000
11040 Denne St	\$135,000
15670 Doris St	\$141,000
15515 Elmira St	\$168,000
11554 Farmington Rd	\$138,000
30050 Joy Rd	\$255,000
20689 Laurel Ct	\$424,000
20007 Maplewood St	\$144,000
29717 Nottingham Cir	\$137,000
33126 Oakley St	\$220,000

Novi	
34091 Orangelawn St	\$195,000
16937 Riverside St	\$220,000
18234 University Park Dr	\$105,000
18266 University Park Dr	\$115,000
31661 Vargo St	\$200,000
16722 Woodside St	\$235,000
14498 Yale St	\$160,000

Plymouth	
364 Ann Arbor Trail Ct	\$128,000
40818 Newport Dr	\$110,000
42533 Posiliff Ave	\$165,000
11761 Sycamore Dr	\$120,000

Redford	
15566 Beech Daly Rd	\$50,000
14043 Fenton	\$115,000
26190 Fordson Hwy	\$145,000
17378 Glenmore	\$103,000
9912 Grayfield	\$90,000
20420 Norborne	\$85,000
9979 Sioux	\$105,000

South Lyon	
739 Norchester St	\$157,000
25216 Stanley Ln	\$70,000

Westland	
35330 Barton St	\$85,000
32314 Ogdenway St	\$30,000
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## Beware of budget-priced GPS navigation systems

**Question:** I'm in the market for a GPS. Any recommendations?

**Answer:** Don't skimp. By that I mean stick with a well-known brand like Garmin or TomTom. I recently tested a new budget-priced model from little-known V7 (v7-world.com), and the results were not good.



**Tech Savvy**  
Rick Broida

Looking at the features alone, there's much to like about the V7 NAV740: the thin design, 4.3-inch widescreen, massive points-of-interest database, text-to-speech capability (meaning it announces actual street and highway names), and MP3/video/photo players.

That's an impressive roster for a \$299.99 GPS, though I wish V7 could have managed a Bluetooth speakerphone and/or real-time traffic updates as well.

Still, I liked the easy-to-navigate onscreen menus and transparent control buttons overlaid onto the maps.

But ultimately, any GPS must be judged by its navigation prowess, and that's where the NAV740 stumbled. It repeatedly messed up when I neared my destination, telling me half a mile too soon that I'd arrived or instructing me to keep going when I'd already passed it.

Furthermore, real-time navigation was always a little off: The NAV740 would tell me to make a turn a few seconds after I'd already passed the street.

Suspecting a bad unit, V7 replaced my NAV740, but unfortunately the replacement exhibited the same problems.

For another \$30 or so, you can pick up a Garmin Nuvi 660 from various online stores. It's been on the market nearly two years, but who cares? It offers hands-free calling, traffic alerts, and an FM transmitter. Plus, it navigates like a champ — I was sad to see my demo unit go.

**Question:** How can I listen to my music collection when I'm at work? The boss frowns on iPods.

**Answer:** As long as your workplace doesn't block or prohibit streaming-media Web sites, you've got several options.

The first is MP3tunes (mp3tunes.com), which stores a copy of your music library online so you can listen to it on any PC.

You get a whopping 25 gigabytes (GB) of storage free of charge; if you need more, a 50GB premium account will run you \$39.95 annually.

MP3tunes' simple LockerSync utility (available for Windows, Mac, and even Linux systems) syncs your song collection with your online "locker," where you can play it via your work PC's Web browser (and even some smartphones).

The only catch is that it can take days, or even weeks, of uploading to copy your library to MP3tunes' servers, depending on the size of the collection.

Once it's done, however, subsequent syncs will go much faster. And as an added bonus, MP3tunes doubles as an online backup of your music—you can easily download it back to your PC if necessary.

Please see **TECH, D3**



Everything in the kitchen, including the cabinets, is painted white and rough-hewn stone work is left in place.

## Consider the ceiling another wall of color

Paul of Livonia asks: "My wife and I would like to paint a good portion of our home. I've been noticing that other people are



**Design Solutions**  
Terri Guastella

using colors other than ceiling white. I thought all ceilings should be painted white."

I'll start off by saying that ceilings do NOT have to be painted white. Many paint purists will argue that by not using white on the ceiling you will make your room look smaller. This just isn't true.

If you think of your ceiling as another wall in the room, your ideas about this will drastically change. I agree that lighter colors reflect light and darker colors absorb light; however, I do not think that we always want our rooms to look cavernous. There are many shades close to white, but will not look as stark next to your wall color.

Keep in mind, that by painting your ceilings white, you are adding another color to the room. If you do not have white elsewhere in the room, that white ceiling will stand out and become an undesirable focal point.

In many newer homes, it is not uncommon to have ceilings soaring 15-20 feet. The challenge is to make these rooms feel homey. The ceilings in these rooms can actually be painted darker than the wall color to add warmth.

Another point for consideration is the crown molding. Many people prefer to have their crown moldings painted white. If you paint your ceilings and your crown molding white, you are making all that architectural detail disappear. A better approach is to paint the ceiling a couple shades lighter than the wall color and then you can keep the moldings white. When you do this, you will be amazed at how your crown moldings will be highlighted.

Do not be afraid to go bolder with ceiling color in certain rooms. For example, when a room has a detail like a tray ceiling, this is the ideal place to experiment with an exciting color. Pick an accent color from the room décor and paint the inside of the tray ceiling with it. Maybe the color is brick red or navy blue, but the interesting architecture is now highlighted with drama and color.

Have some fun with paint color. It is one of the least expensive things we can do to change and update our homes.

**Terri Guastella**, an interior designer and a Canton resident, specializes in space planning, design and color consultation. Do you have a question about interior design or decorating your home? Contact Terri Guastella at [www.exclusiveinteriordesign.com](http://www.exclusiveinteriordesign.com).

## Outside In

Manorwood brings nature home during annual tour

BY WENDY VON BUSKIRK  
O & E STAFF WRITER

When Ronnie Wilner built "Manorwood," he was determined to bring the outdoors in.

The home, one of six featured on Temple Israel Sisterhood's 15th Anniversary House Tour, backs up to Manor Park in Birmingham and revels in its wild surroundings.

Wilner and his wife, Nancy Fishman, used repetitive natural elements — like Brazilian cherry wood and honed limestone — along with skylights, screened porches and handcrafted detail to invite nature into their midst.

Visitors to the new house on Shepherdbrush are greeted by a stone porch adorned with love-seats made from twigs. The custom alder wood front door, which includes a speakeasy window, opens to a limestone garden walkway.

Along one side of the path, an indoor pond filled with plantings features a stone wall rising up to the cathedral ceiling. On the right, a door opens to Wilner's award-



PHOTOS BY LAWRENCE MCKEE | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

This Birmingham home is one of six featured on Temple Israel Sisterhood's 15th Annual Home Tour.

winning two-story library. The path leads guests to the spacious living room, dining room and kitchen, which blend together in an open floor plan with a view of the woods.

"Because this property is on a 12-acre nature preserve we wanted most of the living space in the back of the house," Fishman said.

Please see **TOUR, D2**

## Sipping and sampling helps scholarships

BY KEN ABRAMCZYK  
O & E STAFF WRITER

Nearly 300 lovers of wines and fine foods enjoyed some of the tastes of more than 60 Great Lakes wineries and local restaurants on Thursday at the annual Great Lakes Great Wines Walk Around Wine Tasting, a fund-raiser for student scholarships, at Oakland Community College's Orchard Ridge campus in Farmington Hills.

The annual event raises between \$10,000 and \$15,000 annually for scholarships for students in the school's Culinary Studies Institute and to finance travel for the institute's competition teams.

Darlene Levinson, instructor and one of the event's organizers, called the event, now in its 13th year, "one of the best" in terms of attendance. "We had more wines and more people," Levinson said.

The event helps students

attain scholarships for their studies. "A lot of them could not even go to school if they did not get financial aid," Levinson said. "We have more than an associate's degree (in culinary arts), it's an extended program that requires them to attend school longer."

Wines and foods from some of Detroit's finest restaurants, country clubs and other eateries graced small plates, ranging from Stuffed Tortellini in Porcini Mushroom butter sauce

from chef Joseph Beato at Via Nove to Tribute restaurant's Scalloped Sevice from chef Richard Travis.

The wines were sampled and scored earlier that day by a group of 21 judges. Tony Lawrence of Philadelphia has judged wines for 20 years and enjoys the local flavors of the Great Lakes region. "These events help bring us back to the regional wines," Lawrence said.

Please see **WINE, D3**



BILL BRESLER  
STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Wine judge Tony Lawrence traveled from Philadelphia to judge the selections at the Great Lakes Great Wines Walk Around Wine Tasting at Oakland Community College on Thursday. He's speaking with Tim and Melanie Griffith of Ferndale.



PHOTOS BY LAWRENCE MCKEE | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

"Manorwood," completed in 2006, backs up to Manor Park, a 12-acre nature preserve in Birmingham.

**TOUR**  
FROM PAGE D1

Everywhere you look, customized features evoke the feeling of the great outdoors.

In the dining room, tree limbs snake across beautiful leaded glass cabinets crafted by Wilner, a glass artist with a workshop in the basement. At its center is a table crafted from wood reclaimed from a ship that sunk in Lake Superior more than 100 years ago.

The bright and airy living room is adorned with overstuffed couches and tables made from a slab of granite split in half. There's nothing stodgy about this space. In fact, Fishman designed one of the tables at tea height to encourage snacking, and the other at coffee height — perfect for putting up your feet.

In the kitchen, natural stonework encases the stove, and an island is topped with stainless steel made by U-M artisans. A door to the back porch is surrounded by

**TEMPLE ISRAEL SISTERHOOD 15TH ANNIVERSARY HOUSE TOUR**

**What:** Six unique homes in Royal Oak, Birmingham, West Bloomfield and Franklin are opened to the public

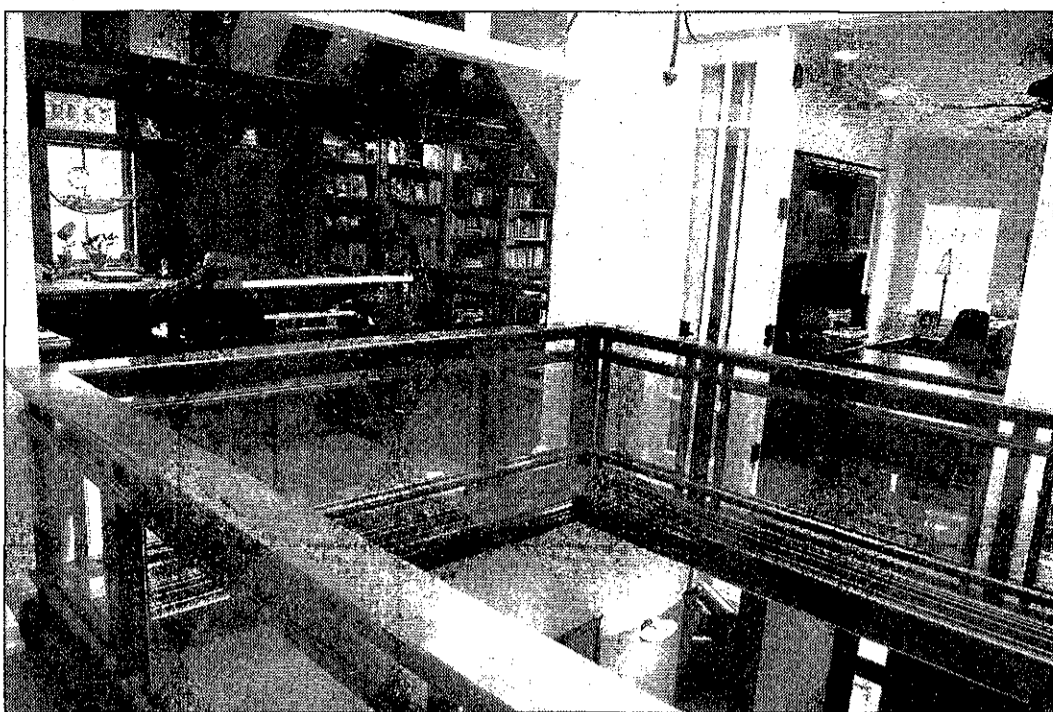
**When:** 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday, May 28

**Tickets:** \$25, advance; \$30 at the door, benefit Temple Israel Sisterhood community service programs.

**Information:** Contact Karen Gilbert at (248) 661-9182 or karengg@comcast.net.

lighted cabinets filled with pottery, cookbooks and other collections from the couple's prior home in Birmingham, as well as their winter residence in St. Maarten.

Upstairs, Milner's architectural studio opens to a light-filled atrium showcasing a branching chandelier. The sound of the bubbling pond floats upstairs, creating a tranquil work environ-



Ronnie Wilner's second-floor home studio opens into a light-filled atrium. Wilner's home is one of six featured on Temple Israel Sisterhood's 15th Annual Home Tour.



Stained glass windows are used as shades in the stairwell.



Homeowner and architect Ronald Wilner

ment. The master suite includes a walk-in closet, and another screened porch where the couple enjoys wine at sunset. Gas fireplaces lend warmth at the foot of the bed, as well as in front of the deluxe tub in the master bath.

"Ronnie thought of absolutely everything, everything," Fishman said.

As owner of Ronald Roy Wilner Architectural Design and Moonlight Homes, Wilner has made his career out of building wondrous living spaces for others. Since he and his wife finished Manorwood in 2006, they have experienced firsthand his company's slogan "Life's

a holiday in a Moonlight Home."

"Your house should feel like you never want to leave," Wilner said.

Wilner and Fishman plan to fill their home with flowers to welcome guests on the tour, and volunteers will be on hand to explain the couple's artwork and design details.

The docents will be trained on the subtleties of all six homes on the tour, which range from a modest three bedroom bungalow in Royal Oak owned by a furniture artist to the eclectic Franklin abode of late designer Brian Killian. According to Beverly

Wolgin, co-chair of the Temple Israel Home Tour, each house has a unique story to tell.

"I just love seeing how other people live. I always get lots of ideas seeing what people do with their art and decor," Wolgin said. "The houses are not chosen by size. They represent a variety of lifestyles and interesting design expressions."

Wensdy Von Buskirk is a staff writer with the Observer & Eccentric and Mirror Newspapers. Reach her at wvonb@hometownlife.com. Find out more about Moonlight Homes at www.ronaldroywilner.com or by calling (248) 214-8010.

**FEATURED HOMES**

Here's a look at the six homes featured on Temple Israel Sisterhood's 15th Anniversary Home Tour:

**25270 Devon, Franklin**  
Classic modern with a French 1940s twist. Interior of soft blues, greens and browns accented with local artwork.  
**Interiors:** The late Brian Killian & Richard Ross, Richard Ross Designs & Owner

**2346 Walnut Lake Road, West Bloomfield**  
Beautiful 6,500-square-foot ranch with stunning view of Walnut Lake, filled with art from Israel.

**Interiors:** Linda Shears Designs, LTD & Owners  
**Builder:** Gerald Brody Homes

**5376 Pembroke Crossing Ct., West Bloomfield**  
"Spring Glory" theme showcases symmetrical furnishings, eclectic decor and interesting collections (including one on Winston Churchill).  
**Interiors:** Amy Miller Weinstein, Jeffrey King Interiors & Owners

**633 Shepherd Bush, Birmingham**  
English stucco and stone home uses ponds, skylights and hints of Arts & Crafts era to create Zen-like atmosphere. (See related story).  
**Interiors:** Owners  
**Building:** Ronald Roy Wilner

**3217 Shenandoah, Royal Oak**  
An art- and antique-filled jewel box full of custom furniture and interesting vignettes.  
**Interiors:** Arturo Sanchez, Art-Harrison Interior Design Studios

**1206 N. Lafayette, Royal Oak**  
Charming updated Mission style with natural palette and fabrics, and clever use of space.  
**Interiors:** Kristin Armstrong, KCID of Birmingham  
**Builder:** Rick Kastler, Kastler Construction

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# Airlines sock it to travelers with fees

**TECH**  
FROM PAGE D1

I feel fortunate and thankful to have the privilege of flying. I don't like to freak out when snags occur.

At my job, I'm not happy when someone yells at me over rules I didn't create.



Lana Mini

When traveling, I extend the same courtesy to airport workers. So, I will vent here. We know airlines are suffering and costs will rise, but the hidden fees make me feel like a chump.

If Northwest Airlines wants to charge me \$410 for a ticket from Detroit to Los Angeles, then just do it. Don't charge \$350 for a ticket and then throw in extra optional fees later for choices that only make flights bearable.

Here's what happened:

Lately, the only nonstop, direct flights from Detroit to Los Angeles is on Spirit and Northwest. Spirit's return flight is a red-eye - too tiring.

A month ago I bought a DTW to LAX ticket for under \$367 on Northwest.

Two weeks before my departure I went to Northwest's Web site to assign my seats. Nothing was available to me. Seven days later, still no available seats to choose from even though I had already paid for a ticket.

Twenty-four hours before departure and suddenly two seats were available - row 42, the very last row on the plane! Seats B and E - the middle seats!

I took seat B. Ugh!

I decided to try for a better seat a few hours before my flight. Suddenly there were more

options.

For an additional \$30, I could have an aisle seat in row 25.

What?!

Thirty dollars more to sit in the second half of the plane?

I bought it. Sucker.

I'm nice when I travel, but my weak spot is when it's time to de-board. I don't say anything, but cringe inside when people mess around unnecessarily in the aisles. I hate waiting, I hate when seemingly intelligent folks don't understand the system.

If I'm in row 26 and you're in row 27, you don't get to take cuts in front of me to get off the plane. I don't take cuts in front of you in-line at the movie theater, flying isn't any different. Just like when we're driving in road construction, there's a system and things flow when we're all courteous. So, being in last row of a plane frustrates this passenger.

Now to my return flight. I tried to assign my seat a few days before my flight. Nothing.

Less than 24 hours, a similar situation: only the last row was available - seat B. How ironic.

But ... for \$30 more, I could have row 24. This time I refused.

Should I have flown Spirit? They have a few flight attendants who tell sarcastic jokes and make flying fun. Even if I'm traveling on business, I'll take fun, please.

Then again, the McNamara terminal in Detroit is so pleasant. Get a massage or even a pedicure or just stroll the airy atmosphere. Have sushi, fresh dark green salads or healthy hummums. Life is good in the Northwest McNamara terminal.

Over in the soon-to-be-defunct old Smith Terminal (the new one opens this fall; *celebrate!*) where Spirit is currently housed, the

## Speaking of meltdowns ...

On my way from back from Mexico recently, I watched (once again) seemingly sane people have meltdowns when they were told that their large bottles of vanilla/tequila/shampoo purchased at airport duty-free shops could not be carried on the plane.

The passengers begged for an explanation on why stores sold them these items without informing them of the restrictions. Where is the communication between airport stores and security?

All these people already went through security. They were returning from other countries and on a layover. They were now dealing with international security for those of us changing planes.

They had to ditch their newly purchased goods or check their items - which meant going to a new line and risk missing their connecting flights.

That's changed a little for

gates are dimly lit and gloomy. The food choices are depressing. The last time I ate there, two pilots gathered around me to try to identify the item of brown goo on my pizza.

"A tomato?" One pilot asked.

"A beetle?" Said another. Some happy men on their way to Vegas joined in on the UPI (unidentified pizza item) discussion. "I'm a gambling man, I bet five dollars it's an old olive," one man joked.

No one knew. Not even a manager.

I bought a ticket to LA for

those who are looking to take liquids out of the country - but not into the United States.

The Transportation Security Administration recently unveiled tamper-evident bags for the transportation of duty-free liquids, purchased post-TSA security, on flights departing the United States for international destinations.

Tamper-evident bags are for passengers departing the United States who have purchased duty-free liquids in the secure area of U.S. airports. Tamper-evident bags will not be accepted in the United States at security checkpoints. So, you can buy a bottle of perfume at duty-free store in U.S. airports, and put it in the tamper free bag for Aunt Rosie in Italy. But you can't buy that perfume in a duty-free shop and bring carry it on the plane for your aunt in Canton. You still have to check it.

-By Lana Mini

Memorial Day weekend. I chose ... Northwest. I figure I would give it one more chance before going back to the red-eyes. I'll let you know what happens with the seats.

Lana Mini is a staff writer at the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. She can be reached at [lmmini@hometownlife.com](mailto:lmmini@hometownlife.com) or at (248) 901-2572.

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Rick Broida writes about computers and technology for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. Broida, of Commerce Township, also writes the Cheapskate blog for CNET ([blogs.cnet.com/cheapskate](http://blogs.cnet.com/cheapskate)). He welcomes questions sent to [rick.broida@gmail.com](mailto:rick.broida@gmail.com).

**WINE**  
FROM PAGE D1

The wines from this region are improving, he said.

"You're seeing a change in style and the quality of wines," Lawrence said. "They aren't made by the seat of the pants. These wineries are doing more research to improve the wines. They go to University of California Davis (known for its enology program) and they're bringing back more expertise and knowledge. The technology is better now and they know what grapes to plant. They've learned through the years that certain varietals work well with different soils."

Anne Buechel of Rochester Hills attended OCC's event for the second consecutive

year. "It gives you a real flavor of the small samplings of regional wines," Buechel said. "It's all local, too, like Steve's & Rocky's restaurant, which has great food and where I bring a lot of clients. OCC's culinary school's food was great, too."

Buechel enjoyed Chef Steve Allen's Chicken Cordon Bleu, while OCC chef instructors Kevin Enright and Doug Ganhs and students served up duck confit and grilled duck breast, Louisiana Voodoo Shrimp and Carolina Pulled Pork Sandwich.

Buechel enjoyed the wines, too. "What I see here I can go to the store and buy, supporting our local vineyards. It's good for the local economy."

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RELIGION

FROM PAGE D4

Worship Service
10:30 a.m. Sunday, Adult Bible Class at 9:30 a.m., Children's Sunday School during worship at 10:30 a.m., at Immanuel Lutheran Church, 27035 Ann Arbor Trail, Dearborn Heights. For more information, call (313) 278-5755.

Worship
Sundays: 10 a.m. Worship Service with nursery, 9 a.m. Sunday School for tots through high school and Adult Faith Forum at Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA), 30650 Six Mile, Livonia. Call (734) 427-1414 or visit www.holycrosslivonia.org. Visitors welcome.

Sunday worship
The early service for the Anglican Church of Livonia is at 7:45 a.m. at Trinity Church, 34500 Six Mile, west of Farmington Road and next to Stevenson High School, Livonia. The 10 a.m. service (with Sunday School) will continue to be at the Livonia YMCA

at 14255 Stark Road, between Lyndon and the I-96 service drive.

Worship service
10:45 a.m. Sundays, Adult Sunday School at 9:30 a.m., Children's Sunday School during worship, Youth Group 5-7 p.m. and Catechism for Grown-ups 5:30-6:30 p.m., at Trinity Church of Livonia, 34500 Six Mile. For information, call (734) 425-2800.

F.I.R.E. ministries
With theme scripture, He shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire (Luke 3:16), is organizing in Livonia at Living Water Church, 11663 Arcola in the Inkster and Plymouth roads area at 7 p.m. Fridays under the leadership of Luke Willis. F.I.R.E. Ministries. For more information, call (734) 425-6360.

New worship schedule
Regular church service 10 a.m. Sundays with Communion and Nursery, 9 a.m. Sunday School for all ages and Faith Forum, at Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA), 30650 Six Mile, Livonia. Call (734) 427-1414. All visitors welcome. Visit www.

holycrosslivonia.org.
Sunday worship
11 a.m. Sunday worship service, 9:30 a.m. Sunday school, 7 p.m. Wednesday Bible Study, at Good Shepherd Reformed Church, 6500 N. Wayne Road at Hunter, Westland. For information, call (734) 721-0800.

Worship services
10 a.m. Sundays Divine Liturgy followed by a fellowship/coffee time, at Holy Transfiguration Orthodox Church, 36075 W. Seven Mile, between Newburgh and Wayne roads, Livonia. Church school for children and adults begins at 9 a.m. Sunday. Vespers are celebrated 5 p.m. Saturdays. Visitors are always welcome. For more information, call (248) 476-3432 (church), (248) 477-4712 (rectory) or Web site at www.orthodoxlivonia.org.

Pancake breakfasts
The Ushers' Club of St. Michael the Archangel Parish in Livonia continue their 30-year tradition of all-you-can-eat pancake breakfasts on the third Sunday of each month from 8:30 a.m. to noon. The breakfasts are served in

the school cafeteria at 11441 Hubbard, south of Plymouth Road. Adults, \$5; children ages 4-11, \$3; children under age 3, free; and family (2 adults and all children), \$15. Everyone is welcome.

Men's breakfast
Ham & eggs, hash browns, pancakes, and more when you come to the Men's Breakfast at 8 a.m. on the first Saturday of every month at The Senate Restaurant, located off Haggerty Road between Five Mile and Six Mile in Northville. All men are invited for fellowship and food. Sponsored by Riverside Park Church of God, 11771 Newburgh, Livonia. Call (734) 464-0990.

MOPS meetings
The Hosanna-Tabor Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS) group began meeting this fall at a new time at the Lutheran church, 9600 Leverne, Redford. Meetings continue the first and third Thursdays of the month at 9:30 a.m. Join in for teaching, discussion, creative projects and presentations. For more information, call (248)

470-5202 or send e-mail to nikki.tiernan@gmail.com.

Bible studies
Regular Bible Study program continues at 7 p.m. on the first and third Thursdays of the month, focus is on St. Paul's Letters to the Romans, at St. Michael's Catholic Church on the corner of Plymouth and Hubbard roads, Livonia. To register, call (734) 261-1445, Ext. 200.

MOPS groups
Mothers of Preschoolers meets on the first and third Friday mornings or first and third Wednesday evenings at Calvary Baptist Church, 43065 Joy Road, Canton. Call (734) 455-0022, Ext. 4, or send e-mail to cbcwomensministries@hotmail.com.

LOGOS Youth Club
Calling all youth grades 4-12 to join the LOGOS Youth Club at Northville First United Methodist Church. Recreation, dinner, Bible study and music Wednesdays, 5:15-8:15 p.m. began Wednesday, Sept. 26. For information or registration, visit www.fumcnorthville.org or call (248)

349-1144.

HeartCry
The support group provides hope and help for mothers of prodigals at 7 p.m. on the second, fourth and fifth Wednesdays of each month, at Calvary Baptist Church, 43065 Joy Road, Canton. The group is using the book, The Hope of a Homecoming, by O'Rourke and Sauer (\$12). To register, call (734) 455-0022, Ext. 4.

Women of the word
Bible study meets 9:15 a.m. and 6:45 p.m. Tuesdays, at Calvary Baptist Church, 43065 Joy Road, Canton. Choose from Covenant, a Precept Upon Precept class, or The Truth Project (new from Focus on the Family). To register, call (734) 455-0022, Ext. 4 or visit www.vchurches.com/cbcwomen.

Bible study
Get a new life, study Scripture 9-10:30 a.m. Saturdays at Blessed Sacrament Monastery on the northwest corner of 13 Mile and Middlebelt in Farmington Hills. Focus of study is Romans. Call (248) 626-8253 for more information.

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Sunday School 9:15 & 11:00 A.M.

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Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m.
Wednesday Evening Service 7 p.m.

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Northville, MI
248-374-7400

Risen Christ Lutheran
David W. Martin, Pastor
46250 Ann Arbor Road • Plymouth
(1 Mile W. of Sheldon)
(734) 453-5252
Worship 8:15 & 10:45 am
Sunday School 9:30 am

CHURCHES OF THE NAZARENE

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE

ST. JAMES PRESBYTERIAN Church, USA

LUTHERAN CHURCH WISCONSIN SYNOD

ST. PAUL'S EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

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Sunday School - 9:45 A.M.
Sunday Worship - 11:00 A.M.
Sunday Evening - 6:00 P.M.
Family Night - Wed. 7:00 P.M.

First Church of Christ, Scientist, Plymouth
1100 W. Ann Arbor Trail, Plymouth, MI
734-453-0970
Sunday Service 10:30 a.m.
Sunday School 10:30 a.m.
Wed. Evening Testimony Meeting 7:30 p.m.

St. James Presbyterian Church, USA
25350 West Six Mile Rd.
Redford (313) 534-7730
Sunday Worship Service - 10:00 A.M., Sunday School - 10:15 A.M., Thursday Dinners - 6:00 P.M., Thrift Store every Sat., 10am-2pm

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(Livonia • 427-2290)
Jill Hegdal, Pastor
10:00 a.m. Family Worship (Nursery Available)

PRESBYTERIAN

Fellowship Presbyterian Church
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m. • Worship: 10:30 a.m.
Pastor: Dr. Jimmy McGuire
Services held at: Madonna University's Kresge Hall
36600 Schoolcraft Road • Livonia

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

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# pink

Wensdy Von Buskirk . Features Editor (734) 953-2019 . wvonb@hometownlife.com

## Stiletto Strategies



Miss Meghan and her mother, Ann Cleary of Farmington, at the Melting Pot in Troy.

### America's Shoe Expert helps ease fear of heights

BY WENSDY VON BUSKIRK  
O & E STAFF WRITER

**TROY** — With the premiere of *Sex and the City: The Movie* hitting theatres May 30, the style spotlight is sure to shine on stilettos. And according to fashion forecasts, heels will rise to ever-towering heights this Fall.

But as much as some gals want to be 'in,' the thought of donning these spiky and sometimes painful shoes is enough to freak them out.

"America's Shoe Expert" Meghan Cleary recently came to the rescue of Metro Detroit stiletto-phobes.

The Farmington native prescribed some of her famous 'shoe therapy' to members of Fashion Group International-Detroit during a recent talk at The Melting Pot in Troy.

Here are some of Miss Meghan's "Stiletto Strategies":

#### SHOP SMART

When purchasing high heels, look beyond color to construction. Take your finger and place it vertically up the heel, noting where it meets the base of the shoe. The closer it hits to the center of your heel, the better.

"You want the heel to support you, not just raise you," she said.

Also note the 'breast' of the shoe — the sweep that connects the heel to the sole. "I hate saying this, but you want more breast," Cleary quipped.

**WHAT'S IN**

Here's a sampler of spring shoe trends courtesy of America's Shoe Expert, Miss Meghan Cleary:

- Bright colors: Use your shoes to add pop to basic black or a splash of contrast to colorful outfits.
- Naturals: On the opposite spectrum, more natural shades, especially chocolate, are now considered essentials. As you can wear them with everything.
- Features: From laces and bows to crinkles and patent leather, shoes are anything but flat this season.
- Less Wedgwoods: Shoes that appear simple from the front, but have a surprise when you walk away with them, such as heels.
- More shoe styles: From classic pumps to the latest trends, visit Meghan Cleary's blog at [www.missmeghan.com](http://www.missmeghan.com).

#### FIND YOUR SWEET SPOT

Today's heels are higher than ever before. Back in grandma's day, heels averaged just two inches tall. Today, three inches and above is the norm.

"Christian Louboutin really pioneered that 5-inch heel that the celebrities wear, and we all want to look like them," Cleary



PHOTOS BY JOHN STORMZAND | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Spring shoe samples, courtesy of Miss Meghan's HSN show "Shoe Therapy," demonstrate why some women need her 'Stiletto Strategies.'

said. "But they're just getting in and out of a limo. We have to walk around like normal people."

Look for shoes that fit, at a height that's comfortable for you, she said.

"I have a pair of Sergio Rossi's that are 45-minute shoes. Beyond that, my toes turn white," she said.

#### BREAK THEM IN

After you buy a pair of stilettos, spend time getting them ready to wear. "Do not get up the next morning and put those shoes on for work. Do not do this," Cleary said. "At five o'clock you'll be in so much pain you'll want to kill someone."

Instead, test the shoes for an hour and monitor your comfort level. Anywhere you feel the slightest pain, apply moleskin foam, Foot Petals or

Dr. Scholl's For Her.

"Think of it like tailoring a suit," she said. "I want you fully padded before you go out into the world in these things."

If the shoes are genuine leather, spritz them with water and wear them until they dry so they can mold to your feet.

#### TAKE A ROAD TEST

Walking in stilettos is a lot like doing Pilates, Cleary said, because it requires balance that comes straight from your core. Take your time, close your eyes and focus on your center of gravity — not your legs and feet — as you move through the room.

"Stiletto girls have flat stomachs," Cleary said. "Think about a different way of being in the shoe. That's part of the beauty of stilettos. It's a whole different mindset."

## pink picks

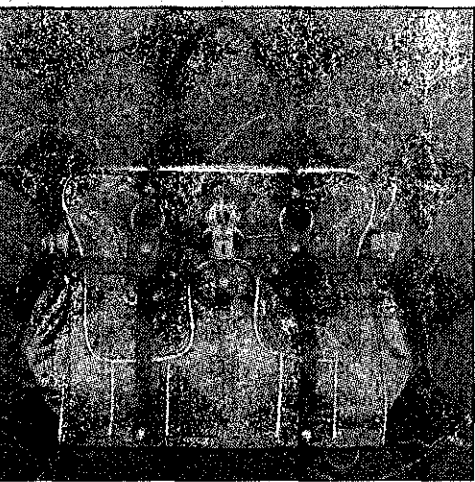
**Wear It!**  
Gold

**DON'T Wear It!**  
Sneakers with suits

**Tote It!**  
George Gina and Lucy handbags at Oliver's Trendz, Birmingham

**Kick It!**  
Navy blue toenail polish

**Smell It!**  
Vera Wang Flower Princess



**Drink It!**  
Miss America Tea at Farmington's Longacre House on Wednesday, May 21

**See It!**  
What Happens in Vegas

**DVD It!**  
27 Dresses

**TIVO It!**  
American Idol finals



**Eat It!**  
Chocolate stilettos from Gayle's Chocolates, Royal Oak

**Hear It!**  
Madonna Hard Candy

## Fashion Show helps women and children

**ROCHESTER** — Despite tough economic times, Pontiac's Grace Centers of Hope raised a record-setting \$175,000 at its 10th Annual "Women Helping Women" Luncheon and Fashion Show, held May 3 at the Royal Park Hotel in Rochester.

The money will help support homeless and abused women and children who currently reside at GCH.

"Women Helping Women" is GCH's largest fund-raising event of the year. Through the generosity of its Presenting Sponsor, The Chrysler Foundation, as well as many other sponsors (English Gardens, Volkswagen, Save on Everything, Compuware, Northwest Airlines and the Ford Motor Company Fund) it was the most successful fashion show ever.

Doris Biscoe, Ruth Spencer and Teresa Tomeo acted as emcees, and one of GCH's graduates, Joy Geiger-Agee, shared her testimony with the sold-out crowd of more than 630 people.

Women and children who have been helped by Grace Centers of Hope modeled clothing from Somerset Collection and Lord and Taylor alongside professionals on the runway.

GCH is the largest homeless shelter in Oakland County.

It not only feeds, clothes and shelters over 150 men, women and children but provides them with the skills necessary to



Women and children helped by Grace Centers of Hope model clothing during the shelter's annual fashion show luncheon.

become productive members of society.

Through the One Year Life Skills Program, women attend addiction and abuse recovery counseling sessions, life skills courses, tutoring for their GED or other educational goals, and parenting classes.

Women graduate the One Year Program after being properly equipped with the knowledge, resources and support they need in order to face life's challenges.

## Malls & Mainstreets

**Polish the Jewel**  
**BIRMINGHAM** — The Belle Isle Women's Committee will host its fourth annual "Polish the Jewel" Legacy Luncheon 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 21, at the Casino on Belle Isle. Don favorite jewels and a chapeau for the event, which includes a champagne reception, silent auction, and lunch by Matt Prentice Restaurant Group. Keynote speaker Sara Cedar Miller, historian and photographer for New York's Central Park Conservancy, will show how Central Park has been transformed over the past 25 years by a similar women's group. During the Afterglow, 1:30-3 p.m., a limo will offer tours of Sunset Point and the Anna Scripps Whitcomb Conservatory. Tickets are \$125-\$1,000. Call (248) 433-3560 or visit [www.biwinc.org](http://www.biwinc.org).

**Charity:Water @ Saks**  
**TROY** — Saks Fifth Avenue and Off 5th are partnering with Charity:Water to bring safe water to impoverished communities. Through June 16, purchase black rubber bracelets for \$5, with 100 percent of proceeds helping to build wells in Africa, India and South America. An individual donation of \$5,000 will sponsor a freshwater well for an entire community. Call 1-800-871-SAKS for more information.

**History of Miss America**  
**FARMINGTON HILLS** — In honor of 2008 Miss America Kirsten Haglund, of Farmington Hills, the popular Traditional Tea Series at the historic Longacre House, 24705 Farmington Road, will feature "The History of Miss America" 1-3 p.m. Wednesday, May 21. Amy Anikewich, a young devotee

of the art of tea and hospitality, will recount the pageant from its first competition to Haglund's crowning. The event also will feature Tea Specialist Linda Pudlik, and a special menu complete with a "Miss America" tea. Tickets are \$20 for residents of Farmington/Farmington Hills, \$25 for non-residents. RSVP at (248) 473-1848.

**Parisian Vera Wang Event**  
**LIVONIA** — Parisian at Laurel Park Place is hosting Michigan's first Vera Wang "Celebrate Falling in Love" event through May 17. Guests to the cosmetics department can sample Vera Wang fragrances, have fragrance purchases engraved, meet with local wedding-related businesses, and see one of the designer's exquisite Spring 2008 bridal gowns on display. Call (734) 953-7500 or visit [www.bonton.com](http://www.bonton.com).

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