

2009

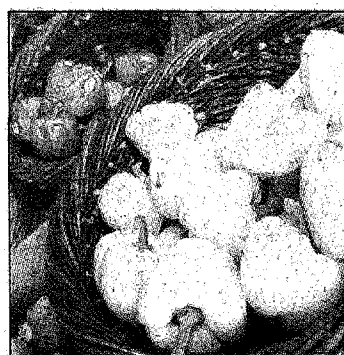
The Observer & Eccentric
Newspapers

Volume 35
Number 11

75 CENTS

CANTON OBSERVER

online at hometownlife.com



**Suburban
Harvest offers
healthy, local
food choices, A6**

CONNECTION

Auction needs

The Canton Chamber of Commerce is looking for chamber members to serve on the 2010 Auction Committee, the first meeting of which takes place Aug. 14.

Organizers are looking for help with decorations, soliciting sponsorship and prize donations and much more. The committee will decide on the auction theme at the Aug. 14 meeting. Among themes being considered are Michigan vs. Michigan State; baseball; South of the Board Mexican theme; Kentucky Derby; and a 1950s Rock Around the Clock Theme.

The auction will take place on Saturday, April 17 at Burton Manor in Livonia. For more information, call Jana Porter at the chamber, (734) 453-4040.

CPA academy

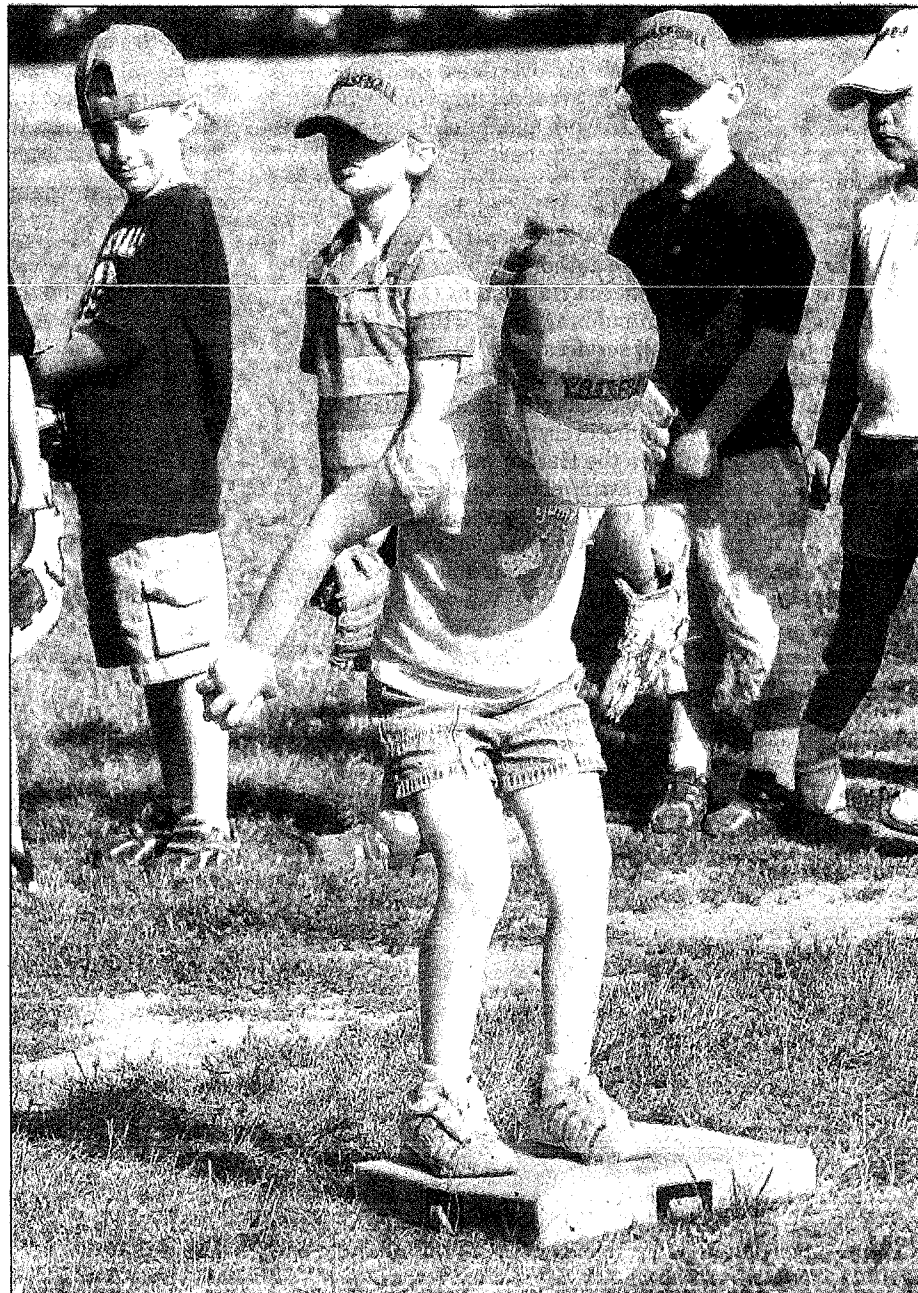
Michigan Association of Certified Public Accountants Professional Ethics Task Force member Lauren Foster, a CPA from Canton, is one of 28 certified public accountants around the country participating in the first annual Leadership Academy of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA). The academy chose CPAs under

the age of 35 to participate. Foster is the Assistant Controller with the Wayne County Airport Authority. She has more than five years experience and has demonstrated progressive advancement in positions in the public accounting and government market sectors.

Canton Idol

Canton Idol is searching for the best middle school and high school singers in Southeastern Lower Michigan. The competition runs for four consecutive evenings, Sept. 2-5, and features preliminary and final rounds in both divisions. Winners in each division will receive \$500 while runners-up each receive \$300 for second place and \$200 for third place. Finalists and winners will be determined each night of the competition with the audience and judges sharing an equal voice in the outcomes.

Auditions take place on 6-9 p.m. Aug. 17-18 at the Village Theater in Canton. For more information go to BeckRidge Chorale website - www.beckridgechorale.org



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

No doubter

Bailey Wixon, age 4 from Canton, stomps on first base after catching a ground ball to make sure she gets the runner out during a recent Plymouth YMCA T-Ball class. For more, turn to Sports, page B1.

Listening to a good book

Digital bookmobile pushes electronic library

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

An 18-wheel, high-tech bookmobile on a U.S. and Canada tour dazzled Canton Public Library patrons Wednesday during a one-day visit — one of only two stops in Michigan — aimed at boosting interest in downloadable electronic books and audiobooks.

The 74-foot Digital Bookmobile drew 243 visitors who learned they can download thousands of the library's electronic materials to their home computers and transfer them to portable devices such as MP3 players, iPods, eBook readers and smart phones.

Employees of the traveling bookmobile, a project started last August by Cleveland-based OverDrive Inc., had

Please see **BOOKMOBILE, A2**

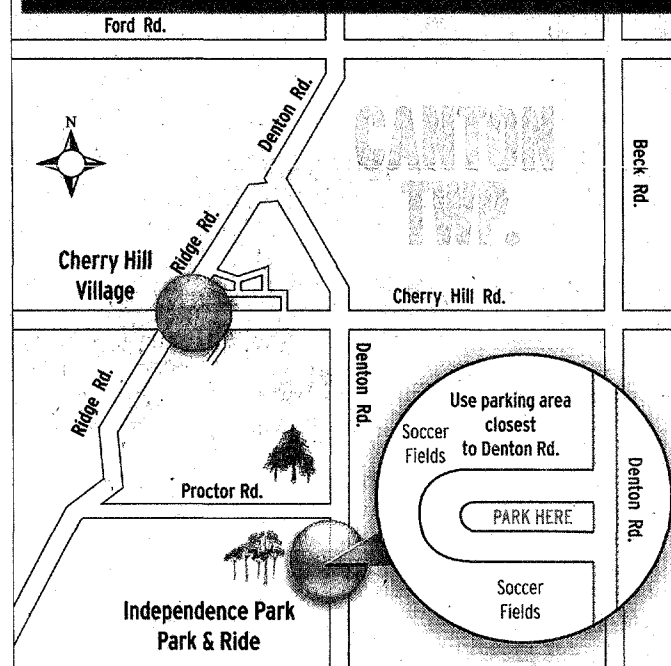


CANTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

Librarians Jilleen McCommons and Anna Slaughter found nothing but electronic books and other materials when they visited the Digital Bookmobile which made a pit stop at the Canton Public Library Wednesday.

TICKET TO RIDE

Canton Express provides easy, comfortable commuter service from Canton to Ann Arbor on weekdays.



Transit service ready to roll

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A commuter bus service between Canton and Ann Arbor starts Monday, Aug. 24, transit officials confirmed Thursday, after resolving issues that delayed earlier start-up projections by one month.

Buses will depart Canton on weekday mornings and return on afternoon and evening routes — all designed to help people who work in Ann Arbor, shop there or who need a ride for appointments at places like the University of Michigan Hospital. This also could include passengers coming from surrounding communities such as Plymouth.

Township officials have supported the plan, sought by the Ann Arbor Transportation Authority, but they predict ridership could increase slowly rather than starting off strong.

"I think it's a good idea, but the reality is it takes time for services like this to catch on," Tim Faas, Canton municipal services director, said. "I think the proof will be in how long (AATA officials) are prepared to try it at a usage level that's below their expectations. We're not used to mass transit because we haven't had the benefit of it."

AATA officials said they proposed the so-called

Canton Express amid demand from township residents who work in Ann Arbor and who indicated support for a service similar to what the university town already has with Chelsea.

Neil Greenberg, an AATA representative, also said "we're already seeing interest from people who live in communities surrounding Canton. They are welcome to drive to Canton and ride the bus from there."

Township Treasurer Melissa McLaughlin welcomed the bus route, saying it could slightly reduce traffic between the two communities, provide an appealing commuter option — particularly during winter months — and help Canton and Ann Arbor form closer bonds.

"Ann Arbor certainly is a successful community with the university and hospitals and modern businesses," McLaughlin said. "It's to the benefit of Canton to become closely tied with Ann Arbor. This may be our first connection, and I look forward to building that bridge in the future so we can become communities that mutually benefit from each other."

The 55-seat buses will serve two locations in the township: Independence Park, where local officials have agreed to provide 100

Please see **TRANSIT, A2**

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Police nab Comerica theft suspect

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A bank robbery suspect has been captured after Canton police said he initially escaped during a Wednesday afternoon incident inside the Comerica branch on Michigan Avenue east of Canton Center Road.

The suspect, described by police as a 46-year-old homeless man who had been living out of his car, was in custody awaiting charges after he was arrested in Washtenaw County by Michigan State Police.

The robbery unfolded about 1:10 p.m. Wednesday when the lone bandit walked inside the Comerica branch, implied he had a gun tucked in his pants and demanded money from a female teller, police Sgt. Mark Gajeski said.

"The suspect made a gesture toward the front of his waistband," Gajeski said. "The female said she feared he did have a weapon."

The suspect didn't have a note but verbally demanded money before fleeing the bank with an undisclosed amount of cash, police said.

'The suspect made a gesture toward the front of his waistband. The female said she feared he did have a weapon.'

SGT. MARK GAJESKI, Canton police

No shots were fired and no one was injured. Police said the incident was captured on a video surveillance camera.

The suspect was interviewed by a Canton detective on Thursday while he was in custody. His identity is expected to be released after he is arraigned on criminal charges.

It wasn't yet known when his arraignment would occur.

Bank robbery charges can carry penalties ranging up to life in prison.

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TRANSIT

FROM PAGE A1

free parking spaces for park-and-ride commuters, and Cherry Hill Village, where riders can board near Cherry Hill and Ridge roads.

Estimated times for buses departing Canton will be 6:05 a.m. and 7:17 a.m. from Independence Park, stopping about four minutes later at Cherry Hill Village. The routes will continue to locations in Ann Arbor including Plymouth and Nixon roads; the University of Michigan Health System Cancer Center; U-M Health System's main entrance; U-M Mott Children's Hospital; the cardiovascular center; U-M's central campus; and two downtown Ann Arbor locations ending with last-stop Washington and Ashley around 6:41 a.m. and 7:58 a.m.

Buses returning to Canton will leave Washington and Ashley at 3:35 p.m. and 5:08 p.m., making the same stops and arriving at Cherry Hill Village around 4:13 p.m. and 5:46 p.m., and Independence Park around 4:16 p.m. and 5:49 p.m.

Passengers can ride the Canton Express for free through Sept. 4. Afterward, the following rates will apply:

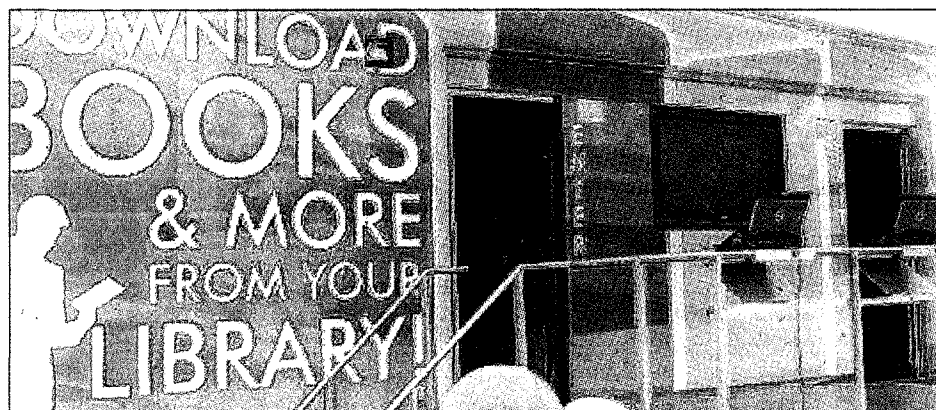
- A commuter pass for \$125 for unlimited access during any 30-day period, and AATA's Greenberg said some employers, such as U-M, have agreed to split the tab with workers. The commuter passes may be bought from places such as the U-M parking sales office and U-M Hospital's cashier office.

- A ten-ride ticket for \$40 for riders who want to use the service occasionally. Tickets are available at the AATA main office, 2700 S. Industrial Highway.

- A one-way cash fare of \$5 for those making a rare trip.

For more information about Canton Express, go online to www.a2express.org.

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PHOTOS COURTESY CANTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Digital Bookmobile made a pit stop in Canton Wednesday, one of only two stops it made in Michigan.

BOOKMOBILE

FROM PAGE A1

expected 180 visitors during a seven-hour visit to the Canton library, before stopping the next day in Dearborn.

"We exceeded our expectations," said Laurie Golden, the Canton library's marketing and communications manager.

Canton mom Sachi Olson brought son Sven, 10, and daughter Lina, 7, to the big-rig bookmobile equipped with interactive learning stations, onboard Internet connections, high-definition monitors, an impressive sound system and a "gadget gallery" of portable media players.

"I think it's cool because it has computers in it," Lina said.

Sven used a computer station to browse the Canton library's free electronic selections, and he offered practical reasons for the service. "It's easy for you to learn about a story, and it's good because some people are blind."

One of many facts displayed on the Digital Bookmobile's walls indicated that 25 percent of Americans listened to an audiobook during the last year, a growing trend as people live busier, mobile lives.

Jamie Kelly, a marketing and events associate for OverDrive Inc., said the materials are ideal for people who commute to work and for children who can become easily bored traveling in the family car on vacations and other outings. Many titles can be burned to CDs. Moreover, library patrons can access their favorite authors without leaving home.

Rebecca Havenstein-Coughlin, the Canton library's department head for adult services, said the library has 2,300 downloadable audiobooks and 4,500 electronic books. To access a collection that includes everything from Dr. Seuss' "The Cat in the Hat" to James Patterson novels, go to <http://ebooks.cantonpl.org>.

Patrons only need an Internet-connected computer, a valid library card and free software that's available on the library's "virtual branch" Web site. Helpful brochures also are available at the library, 1200 S. Canton Center Road.

Local library officials expect to measure an uptick in usage in the months following the Digital Bookmobile's visit.

"It's an exciting venture for us," Havenstein-Coughlin said.

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Deal for wheels

Boy Scout helps developing countries with donated bikes

BY MATT JACHMAN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

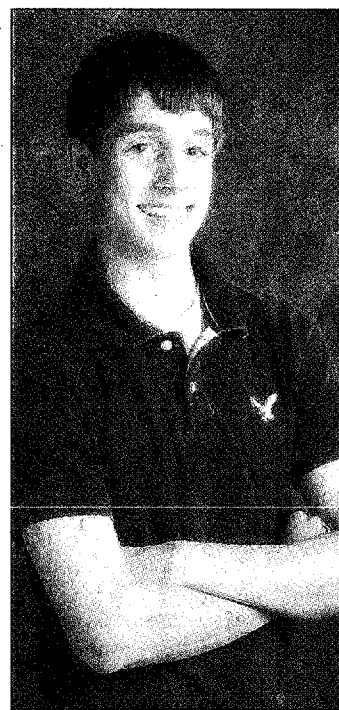
A Plymouth Township Boy Scout is earning his Eagle Scout rank by finding new uses for old bicycles.

Matt Montgomery, 17, is collecting bikes and helping ship them to countries in Central America, where people with limited means of transportation can use them to get to work, school and medical facilities and meet other needs. He's working with Pedals for Progress, a New Jersey-based charity that has sent more than 120,000 bikes to developing nations, which also, the group's Web site notes, keeps them out of landfills.

"I liked the idea of making a difference on a bigger scale and helping out other countries," said Matt, who is entering his senior year at Catholic Central High School in Novi. "When I saw this opportunity to give bikes, it seemed like a really good idea."

Matt is planning a bike donation event for 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday in the parking lot at Plymouth Township Hall, 9955 North Haggerty, just north of Ann Arbor Road. Any intact bike, in any size and in repairable condition, will be accepted, along with donations (a suggested \$10 per bike) to help defray the cost of shipping and distribution, which is about \$35 per bike. The donations — the bicycles and the money — are tax-deductible, and Matt will be handing out receipts.

Matt said the bikes he collects are destined for people in Nicaragua and Guatemala. His goal for Saturday is 35 bikes, but he said he'll be able to accommodate as many as donors can bring in. Matt and his father, Tom Montgomery, will be driving a trailer of donated bikes to Pedals for Progress in High Bridge, N.J.



Matt Montgomery is collecting old bicycles to send to Nicaragua and Guatemala.

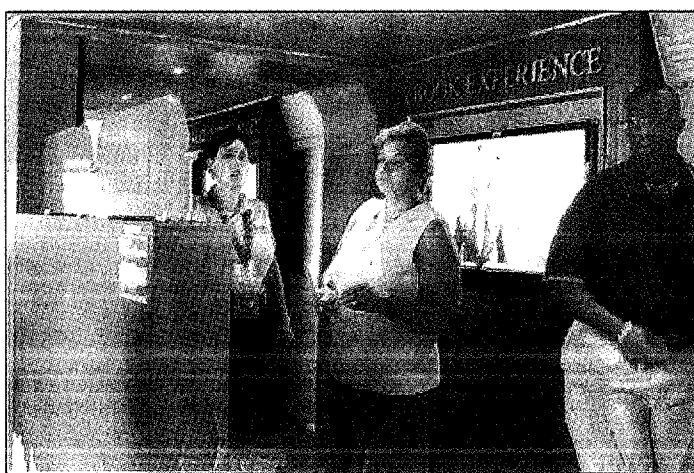
Matt was inspired by a trip two years ago to the area of Copan, Honduras, on the country's western side, where he helped a grandfather with a Rotary-sponsored project, installing sand filters for cleaner drinking water. The extreme poverty of the area made an impression on him, he said.

"Just something as simple as water, they couldn't get as easily as everyone else," Matt said.

Matt said he's been a Scout "almost as long as I can remember." He added, "I was a Cub Scout since the earliest days." He is a member of Boy Scout Troop 743.

Matt Montgomery's bicycle donation event will take place rain or shine. For more about Pedals for Progress, visit the Web site www.p4p.org.

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Librarian Amy Lee discusses the Digital Bookmobile with Patricia Rossow.

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Golf outing

Each year the Canton Chamber of Commerce hosts an annual Golf Outing. This year the classic will take place on Tuesday, Aug. 18, at Pheasant Run Golf Club of Canton. This event is open to the public, and there are various packages available for purchase.

Golf for Four Package, \$550- Includes golf with cart for four, continental breakfast, lunch at the turn, beverages on the course, Buffet dinner, prizes, gift package and more!

Golf for Four Sponsorship Package, \$650- Includes golf for four with cart and a Tee or Green Sponsorship, continental breakfast, lunch at the turn, beverages on the course, Buffet dinner, prizes, gift package, signage at the course, recognition at the dinner, and a plaque.

Individual Golf, \$150- Includes golf with cart, continental breakfast, lunch at the turn, beverages on the course, Buffet dinner, prizes, gift package, and more!

Dinner Only, \$35. Tee and Green sponsorships are available and affordable. If you are interested in purchasing a sponsorship, contact the Chamber at (734) 453-4040.

Barefoot auditions

Plymouth-based Barefoot Productions conducts auditions for its production of "Mister Roberts," 7-9 p.m. Aug. 3-4.

Auditions take place at the former Walker-Buzenberg furniture store the production company now calls home at 240 N. Main in Plymouth. Roles are available for 19 men and one woman.

For more information, call Craig Hane, (734) 582-9688.

BLOCK open house

The B.L.O.C.K. Youth and Teen Center, part of Canton Leisure Services, hosts an open house 6-8 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 18. The event will showcase all of the upcoming fall programming and after-school options.

Parents and their teens, ages 11-17, are welcome to tour the facilities and enjoy all the activities that The B.L.O.C.K. has to offer. Besides the homework and study area this youth and teen center has many entertainment options including: Rock Band, Guitar Hero, Nintendo Wii, a computer lab with internet, pool tables, air hockey, foosball and a big screen TV.

Information on a variety of The B.L.O.C.K.'s upcoming programs will also be available at the open house. With the After School Program, students are picked up from their school and transported by staff to the BLOCK where they can do their homework and spend free time with their friends.

A B.L.O.C.K. Membership allows teens unlimited access to the facility. Teen Night Out gives students a supervised field trip, away from their parents, while the BLOCK-In allows teens to spend a fun-filled all-nighter with their friends at The B.L.O.C.K.

The B.L.O.C.K. stands for Building Leaders Out Of Canton's Kids and is a place where kids can spend quality time in a safe, secure, and supervised environment. For more informa-



Olympic effort

The Salem Rockettes have been busy this summer. The pom team recently volunteered at the Special Olympics in Canton, where they performed, cheered on the players, handed out awards and made new friends.

tion on all of the teen programs Canton Leisure Services has too offer, visit cantonfun.org or call (734) 398-5570.

Orchestra auditions

The Celebration Youth Orchestras, the youth ensembles supported by the Plymouth Canton Symphony Society, conduct auditions for next season Aug. 14 at Evola Music in Canton.

The four ensembles of the Youth Orchestra include Celebration Youth Symphony for advanced students in winds, brass, percussion and strings; Celebration Flute Choir for intermediate and advanced flute students, which in addition to playing on CYO concerts also performs for a variety of events throughout the community; Celebration Sinfonia for intermediate-level string students who are ready for more challenging repertoire and wish to continue building ensemble skills; and Celebration Strings for younger string players who wish to learn ensemble playing skills such as playing in a section and listening and following a conductor.

More audition information can be found online at www.celebrationyouthorchestras.org

Comedy night

Three local comedians - Gary George, Dave Bell and Mike Malec - will perform at the second annual Plymouth High School Football Boosters Club Comedy Fund-raiser, at the beautiful Cherry Hill Village Theater in Canton.

This evening of laughs takes place Aug. 8. The show begins at 7:30 p.m. with doors opening at 7. This event is general admission and tickets are \$15. Proceeds from this show will help

provide needed funds to the Plymouth Football Program.

Tickets are limited and can be purchased at the Theater Box Office or on-line.

Antique appraisals

The Plymouth Historical Museum hosts an antique appraisal clinic with Ernie DuMouchelle of DuMouchelle Art Galleries in Detroit on Wednesday, Aug. 19, from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Items to be appraised include antique furniture, art, and small objects. No jewelry please. Appraisals are by appointment only and time slots are filling up quickly. Oral evaluations will be provided for \$10 per item; written evaluations will be provided for \$15 per item. There is a maximum of four items to be appraised per 15 minute time slot.

Call now for an appointment, (734) 455-8940. The Plymouth Historical Museum is located at 155 S. Main Street, just north of downtown Plymouth.

Pageant volunteers

The Plymouth-Canton Junior Miss Scholarship Program is in need of volunteers to help out with this year's program.

Organizers' goal is to make the event bigger and better, and say the only way to do that is with volunteers.

Anyone interested should send an e-mail to pcjrmiss@yahoo.com. All volunteers are welcome and appreciated.

Pageant time

Applications are now being accepted for the

2009 Miss Wayne County Scholarship Pageant, an official Miss America preliminary. Young women who live, work full time, or attend school full time in Wayne County and are between the ages 17 and 24 are eligible.

Areas of competition include and interview, lifestyle and fitness in swimsuit, evening gown, talent and on-stage question. The winner will represent Wayne County at the 2010 Miss Michigan pageant in Muskegon as well as receive a cash scholarship.

Call (734) 367-0560 or send an e-mail to sheilamae116@aol.com to request an application. They also can be found on the Miss Wayne County Web site at www.misswayneco.com.

The deadline for entry is Aug. 17. The pageant will be held Saturday, Sept. 12, at Livonia Churchill High School.

Crafters wanted

The Plymouth-Canton Music Boosters (PCMB) is hosting its Annual Holiday Arts and Crafts Ensemble on Saturday, Nov. 21. Exhibitors who hand-craft their own items are invited to submit an application to exhibit at the fund-raising event to be held at Plymouth High School in Canton. The juried art event is produced twice each year by the PCMB to help support the band and color guard programs at the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park.

Artists and crafters who are interested in applying for consideration to exhibit should visit www.pcmb.net/artcraft to download an application and submit with photos by June 26 for the first wave of jurying. For more details, contact exhibit coordinator Carol Rosati at (734) 455-0714. Only 100 exhibitors will be permitted to exhibit at this artistic event. Over the last four years, over 7,000 attendees have visited the PCMB Arts & Craft Ensembles.

Plymouth High School is located at 8400 Beck Road in Canton, Mich. The Holiday Arts & Craft Ensemble will be held from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. on Nov. 21. In addition to over 100 exhibits, there will be food, a raffle, and entertainment by local musicians and artists throughout the day. Admittance is \$2.

Life screening

The Plymouth Community Council on Aging hosts a Life Line Screening health event to scan for risk of abdominal aortic aneurysm. Life Line Screening uses hospital quality ultrasound technology. The screening will be held Aug. 28 at the Township Friendship Station, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Register for the stroke, vascular disease and heart rhythm package for \$149. All five screenings take 60-90 minutes to complete. Call to pre-register (888) 653-6441.

Senior Fest picnic

The annual Senior Fest Picnic will once again be held at Waterford Bend Park on Wednesday, Sept. 9 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tickets can be purchased at the PCCA Office, 201 Main Street, ticket prices are \$7 for PCCA Members and \$9 for guests. Lots of prizes, raffles, chicken lunch and entertainment.

Tables are \$50. Interested vendors should call Bobbie at (734) 453-1234, Ext. 236.

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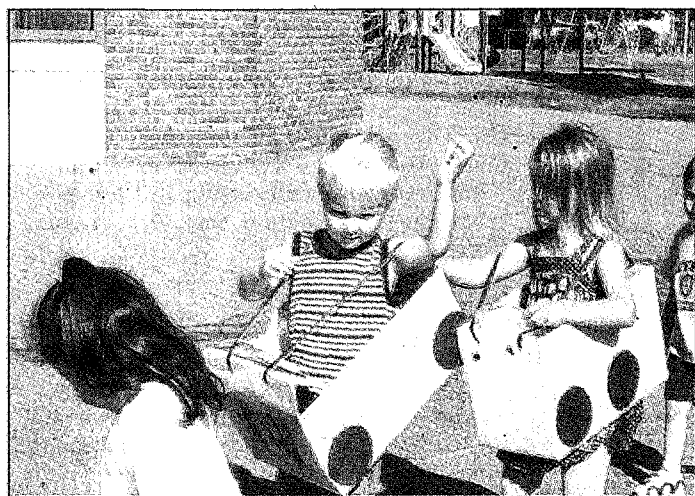
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EDUCATION



Everett Thom and Karli Niehaus cruise around in their craft - a homemade school bus - during the summer program for 4-year-olds.

Battling the budget

Preschool program suffering in lagging economy

BY BRAD KADRICH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A Plymouth-Canton Community Schools preschool program that has room for 620 students is languishing at just more than 400 registrations, a victim largely of the state's lagging economy.

Now Penny Joy, director of the PCCS Early Childhood programs, hopes an increase in publicity and an effort to make parents more aware of the program will help boost those sagging numbers.

"It's absolutely the economy," Joy said. "We heard from parents who in the spring were considering enrolling or re-enrolling their child and they were saying they just couldn't swing it."

The early childhood program, which offers a variety of programs for children through 6 years old, is funded by state and federal dollars, which help subsidize families who meet certain income criteria.

However, Joy said, the state

- trying to patch a huge hole in its budget - has cut funding for programs. That leaves the district trying to fund them through federal money, including stimulus dollars.

Typically, Joy said, the money the state had provided was enough to fund some 50 students. Since that money is gone the program, typically nearly full by this time, has some 420 students enrolled.

"The goal is to have the most at-risk kids ready to start kindergarten," Joy said. "With less money, obviously, that's harder to do."

So Joy and her staff launched a publicity campaign aimed at pumping up the visibility of the program. She asked officials at each of the district's buildings to put an announcement about preschool registration on their marquee. They're doing mass mailings to families with children ages 2-4, they're putting fliers in each building and they've increased the program's presence on the district's Web site (pccs.k12.mi.us/earlychild-



Dylan White, Karli Niehaus, Everett Thom, Charlotte Berg and Foster Garrett work on creating their paper airplanes.

PHOTOS BY MARY HOLATY

hood).

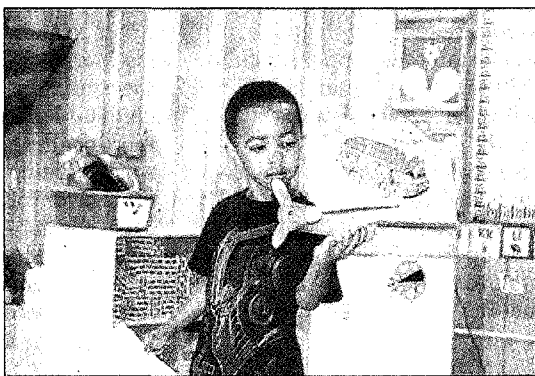
"We're finding that some people who live in the community don't even know the district offers preschool," Joy said. "We're trying to do as much as we can to increase awareness."

Among programs offered:

- Stay & Play for 2-year-olds - Designed for children and their parents to interact with each other and peers; meets at Tanger Center September through May with morning and afternoon sessions. Class size is 8-10 students, with appropriate activities planned (and a nutritional snack) for toddlers.
- Kiddie Kampus for 3-year-olds - Morning and afternoon sessions available; class meets at Canton High School, Dodson, Fiegel, Hoben and Hulsing elementaries. Class size is 16 students to

two staff members. The classes at Canton High School also feature high school students enrolled in a Child Development Course interacting with children on a daily basis.

- Kiddie Kampus for 4-year-olds - Kindergarten readiness option offers preschool and runs September through June and meets for 2.5-3 hours per day, three or four days a week. Class size is 18 students to two staffers. The classes at Canton High School also feature high school students enrolled in a Child Development Course interacting with children on a daily basis.
- PLUS Preschool - Prepares 4-year-olds for successful kindergarten experience; runs September through June, four days a week, three hours a day; available free to qualifying families. The class is held at Hulsing



Foster Garrett takes his paper airplane on a test flight.

Elementary.

Preschool classes, Joy emphasizes, are an important part of getting students ready for kindergarten and beyond.

"Research is very strong that kids who have a good, solid preschool experience do better in school," Joy said. "It's also our first opportunity to identify special needs a child might have. The earlier you can

do that, the better it is for the child."

The district's Web site (pccs.k12.mi.us/earlychildhood) has full details on programs offered, as well as applications that can be downloaded.

For more information, call the Early Childhood Office, (734) 416-6190.

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Distributions from annuities are taxed

Q: Dear Rick: I recently lost my job and I need money to cover my bills. I received a severance package but that is gone. I am trying to find another job (for a year) until I am eligible for Social Security. Once I can collect Social Security, I'll be in pretty good shape. Problem is I cannot find a job. I need about \$25,000 to cover my expenses. Where should I take the money from? I have an IRA and I also have outside of the IRA three fixed annuities. My friends recommend taking money from the annuity because it will be tax free. I am in the low tax bracket and have had the annuities for about 10 years so there are no penalties.



Money Matters

Rick Bloom

A: What your friends told you is incorrect about the tax consequences from the annuities. Contrary to what some people believe, annuities are not tax free. Annuities grow tax deferred, however, when there is a distribution there is a tax.

Whether you have a fixed or a variable annuity, the tax consequences are basically the same. All the earnings that are reinvested back into the annuity are not currently subject to income tax. The money grows on a tax deferred basis until it is withdrawn.

For purposes of this discussion the annuities referred to are not qualified annuities, meaning they were not purchased within an IRA or a retirement savings program. On those annuities, when you begin taking distributions, the first money that you receive is the interest accumulated on the policy. Because this money is interest and not return of principal, it is taxed to you at your ordinary income tax bracket. Once all the interest has been distributed, the next distributions are the returns on your investments. This money, because it is your money coming back to you, is not subject to income tax.

It would be nice if when you did take a distribution from an annuity you could pick and choose whether that distribution was interest or return of principal. Unfortunately, you do not have that alternative. Annuities are taxed under the last-in, first-out principal which states that when money is distributed, the first money distributed is interest income. For example, if 10 years ago you purchased a fixed annuity for \$50,000 and today it's worth \$70,000, the first \$20,000 (\$70,000 - \$50,000 = \$20,000) is subject to income tax. That money is taxed at your ordinary

income tax bracket which, unfortunately, is your highest income tax bracket. Anything above the \$20,000 that is distributed is your return of principal, which is not subject to income tax.

As to the tax consequences of a traditional IRA, whatever is distributed to you is taxed at your ordinary income bracket. It does not matter whether it is income or principal. If you had a non-tax deductible IRA, there are differ-

ent tax consequences.

One of the other major differences between how the annuity is taxed versus how an IRA is taxed is that non-qualified annuities are not subject to minimum required distributions. With an IRA, when you turn 70½ you must begin taking distributions. Most annuities do not require distributions until someone is in his/her 90s.

In this situation, it's not the tax consequences that should

govern, but rather the return on investments. I would look at how the IRAs are invested versus the return you're receiving on your annuity. Make the decision based upon the economics and not the tax consequences. Of course, after you withdraw the money it is important to make sure that your portfolio remains balanced and diversified.

Just as it is important to have a strategy when your portfolio is

in a growth mode, it is equally important to have a strategy for withdrawals. I tell investors that age is immaterial when it comes to establishing a portfolio, it is important when implementing a strategy for withdrawals. The reason being required minimum distributions, which you must factor into the equation when determining where to begin withdrawals.

Most people assume the best strategy is to allow an IRA to

grow tax deferred for as long as possible. I do not subscribe to that rule. After all, that can put someone in the position of unnecessarily paying higher taxes than necessary because of the required minimum distribution. Sometimes, a better strategy, because of the tax brackets, is to begin withdrawing money from an IRA sooner rather than later. It all depends upon your individual situation.

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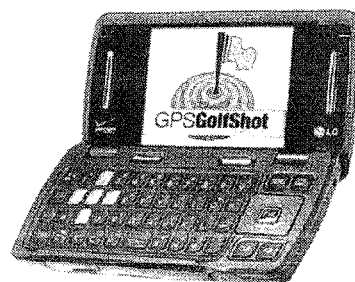
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Focused on Michigan

Suburban Harvest offers healthy, local, food choices

BY MATT JACHMAN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Sustainability is the watchword at Suburban Harvest. The new grocery store in downtown Plymouth emphasizes locally grown fruits and vegetables and Michigan-made foods, features shelving made from replanned wood pallets and colorful chalkboards made of discarded doors, and takes advantage of pedestrian traffic in its walkable downtown neighborhood.

"We don't want you to drive far to come here," said Katie Norris, who owns Suburban Harvest with partner Jason Blazek. "That's hypocritical to what we want."

Suburban Harvest opened early last month in a former Verizon Wireless store at Main and Wing streets. Eighty percent of the food in the store comes from Michigan, Norris said, including Mama



Suburban Harvest carries "at least 80 percent" Michigan-made products, according to its owners.

Mucci's Pasta from Canton Township, baking products from Westwind Milling Co. in Linden, milk from Guernsey Farms Dairy in Northville and produce from growers in Canton, Plymouth Township, Belleville and Romulus.

The building's small size — about 1,000 square feet

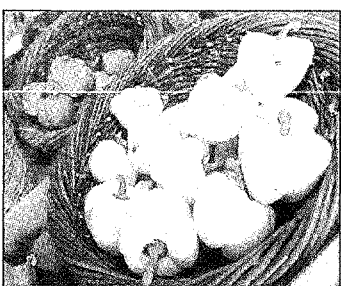
— means faster stock turnover and thus fresher food, Norris said.

Norris, long interested in healthier eating, said shoppers won't find a lot of man-made preservatives or highly processed food at Suburban Harvest.

"Everything's pretty much all natural. We try to stay away from (ingredients) we can't pronounce," she said. (They do sell Faygo soft drinks and Better Made potato chips, on the strength of their local origins. "I can't let go of all



Owners Katie Norris and Jason Blazek opened Suburban Harvest in the former Verizon Wireless store at Main and Wing streets.



Suburban Harvest emphasizes locally grown fruits and vegetables and Michigan-made foods.

of those," said Blazek with a smile.)

The store is a good fit for local, small-batch producers who can't compete with large food companies for space on supermarket shelves, Norris said. "We're really close to the producers," she said.

Norris and Blazek, who live in Plymouth Township with their children, said they had their eyes on the Verizon building for months, and that, with its 1950s feel, large windows and a bay door that opens onto their produce stand, the building fits in with what they're trying to do.

"We saw this building and we started talking about the business," Blazek said. When the building became available in April, they jumped at it and landed a lease despite competition, including, Norris said, from a western Michigan farmer who wanted to sell produce there.

Norris grew up in Plymouth and Blazek in Canton, and both say they're dedicated to

the area.

"We love the community," Blazek said. "We figured if there was a time, now's the time."

Plymouth resident Brittany Broas, an art student, is a regular at Suburban Harvest. She said she likes having a downtown store she can pop into for some quick shopping, a store that's less intimidating to her than big-box supermarkets.

"I love that they have local produce," Broas said. "The big emphasis is on local and sustainable," and the store helps support the local economy, she said.

"I think they're really going to be a huge impact on the community," Broas said.

Suburban Harvest is at 606 South Main, at Wing. The Web site is www.suburban-harvest.com.

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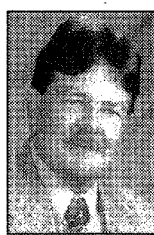
Monit tapped to lead WW board

BY SUE MASON
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Skip Monit has several goals for his one-year stint as president of the Wayne-Westland school board. One of them keeping in close contact with the work of the district's 21st Century Committee.

"While the board doesn't directly involved with the committee, I want to keep close tabs to see what its doing and what the findings are," Monit said.

The committee, made up of parents, school employees and administrators, has the job of



Monit

looking at the district from building usage to finances to find ways to maintain the educational program while cutting expenses. It began meeting in late June with

the goal of having a plan in place by the 2010-2011 school year.

Monit also wants to make sure new members John Goci and Carol Middel are assimilated into the board.

"It's important that we're all

on the same page and are able to work together," he said.

Monit was tapped for the board's top position at its organizational meeting earlier this month. Also elected officers were Cindy Schofield as vice-president, Martha Pitsenbarger as secretary and Shawna Walker as treasurer.

Monit is confident in taking on the job as president. This is the fourth time in his 11 years on the board he has held the post and the second time since 2007-2008.

"I feel pretty good about it," he said. "I work well with Superintendent Greg Baracy and he works well with me. This is

not something I have to learn, I'm revisiting a position I've already held."

As a school board member, he has earned several certifications through the Michigan Association of School Boards, including its basic, advocacy and master board member honors. His experience and knowledge, he said, will be a valuable tool during these tough economic times.

"I'm in the enviable positions of being able to use my knowledge and experience to be beneficial to the students and the school district," he added.

Charity poker run benefits injured toddler

A charity poker run to benefit a Westland girl seriously injured in a lawn mower accident is scheduled for Sunday, Aug. 9.

The event to benefit Allie Osenroth, 3, is being sponsored by the American Legion Riders from Post 32 in Livonia. The 120-mile poker run begins at

American Legion Post 396, 6860 Middlebelt in Garden City. Sign-in starts at 10:30 a.m. with the last bike out at noon. The event will be held rain or shine.

The poker run will end at American Legion Post 32, 9318 Newburgh in Livonia. The last bike must be in by 5 p.m.

The cost is \$15 per rider/driver and \$5 per passenger. Prizes will be awarded for the three best poker hands - two extra cards are available for a donation after the run is completed. There also will be a silent auction and 50-50 raffles.

There will be a spaghetti dinner beginning at 3 p.m. Non-

riders are invited to the dinner at \$7 per person.

Allie lost one third of her knee, her big toe and her entire heel after she was accidentally backed over with a riding lawn mower at her family home. Her father recently lost his job and the family needs financial assistance.

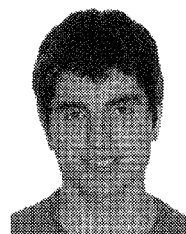
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Frank Patrick and Amy Parker, from the Livonia office of Ameriprise Financial, are among the volunteers caring for a special DTE Energy Garden in Farmington Hills. The produce will go to Gleaner's Community Food Bank.

Fallen soldier's parents getting retreat ready

BY JULIE BROWN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Blum's Landing in northern Michigan will serve as a short-term retreat for wounded servicemen and women. It also honors the memory of Sgt. Trevor Blumberg of Canton, who died in Fallujah, Iraq.

The idea for Blum's Landing, based on their son's nickname, came to parents Jan and Terry Blumberg of Canton. They're coming up on the sixth anniversary of Trevor's death. The sergeant in the Army 504 Airborne Rangers had also served in Korea and Afghanistan.

Trevor had asked his parents to care for his dog if he died, "and take care of his guys," mom Jan said. "That's what we intend to do."

Terry's been spending much time at their property north of Rogers City and south of Mackinac Island in the northern Lower Peninsula. Trevor's dad is doing much of the interior work himself, getting help from such diverse sources as Wal-Mart staffers, Coast Guard and military recruiting personnel, and Vietnam veterans groups.

The Vietnam veterans want to be sure the current veterans are treated well, said Jan Blumberg, and don't go through the treatment they got on their return to the U.S.

"It's been quite a summer," she said of progress on Blum's Landing. She's the principal at Henry Ruff Elementary School in the Garden City district, and work duties have kept her in metro Detroit more this summer.

The couple plans to move to the northern Michigan site when work is done. The retreat center won't offer counseling but will be a bed and breakfast for wounded vets and their families "that just need to know there's somebody there."

Many have been on three-four tours of duty, she said, and face stress-related traumas.

"It takes a toll on their trust and faith in humanity."

Details are still being worked out; but the military families will have chances to enjoy such outdoor activities as hiking and fishing. Currently, there's space for two families and if support is sufficient there will be room for two more.

"It's a very peaceful place," Jan Blumberg said. You can learn more at www.blums-landing.org.

Donations to the nonprofit are welcome, payable to Blum's Landing at P.O. Box 871292, Canton, MI 48187. You can call the organization at (734) 812-1500.

jcbrown@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-6755

Plymouth garden helps energize Gleaners food bank

BY STACY JENKINS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

It's a community partnership that will yield goodness for the less fortunate.

Volunteers from the Livonia office of Ameriprise Financial converged on a 1,500-square-foot plot of buffer property owned by DTE Energy on 10 Mile, between Halsted and Haggerty in Farmington Hills July 23. About a dozen volunteers came equipped with shovels, ready to turn the earth into a growing field they hope will flourish with vegetables come fall.

The Ameriprise volunteers tied up the tomato plants for protection; pulled weeds; aerated the ground to help the tomato plants, beets and carrots absorb the soil's nutrients; and spread compost and fertilizer to promote growth.

"It was such a great opportunity for our Ameriprise branch to be able to team with Gleaners to help

fight hunger," said Amy Parker, of Ameriprise. "The project was important to me because these gardens provide fresh vegetables to people that reside in areas where their local stores just don't carry them."

It's all part of the DTE Energy Garden project to benefit Gleaners Community Food Bank. The Farmington Hills site was recently added to the list of other garden sites throughout metro Detroit, including those in Plymouth Township, South Lyon, Allen Park, Southfield, Birmingham and Detroit.

DTE Energy and Gleaners started the program last year at substations in Auburn Hills and Plymouth Township, where more than 5,300 pounds of produce was grown with the help of volunteers from schools, community groups and religious organizations. The produce is donated to Gleaners. Fresh produce fills a need at the food bank.

"We had an incredible response

to the program last year and there is even more need for our harvests than ever before," said Vince Dow, DTE Energy vice president, Distribution Operations.

Volunteer help is always welcome.

"This is an opportunity for people to not only help their hungry neighbors, but to learn more about horticulture and the food cycle," said DeWayne Wells, Gleaners president. "There's lots to be done, from tilling to spreading compost, creating planting beds, planting seeds and seedlings, weeding, watering and hoeing, helping to harvest and deliver the produce, and preparing the garden for the next growing season."

To get involved with the DTE Energy Garden project, call Marc Zupmore at (313) 235-3579 or email him zupmorem@dteenergy.com. Volunteers meet each Thursday from 4-7 p.m. at the 10 Mile garden.

"We always welcome more volunteers at all of our gardens," said Zupmore.



Jim Parker, from Ameriprise, enjoys helping out at the DTE Energy Garden in Farmington Hills.

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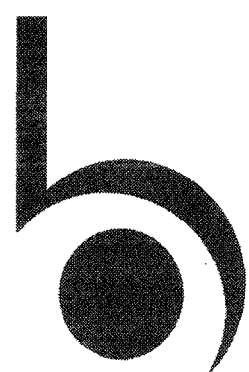
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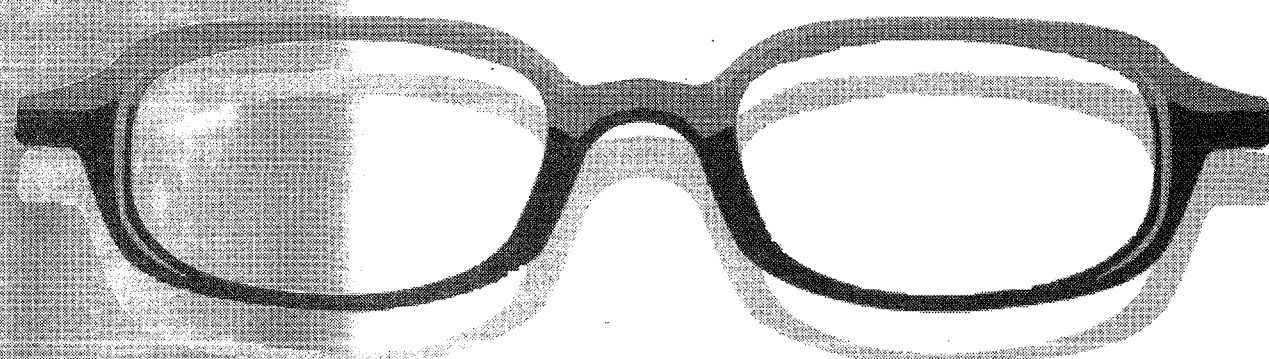
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McLaren races to the future

BY KEN ABRAMCZYK
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Racing legend Johnny Rutherford remembers when he started his association with McLaren Racing in the early 1970s.

He rattled off his Indy 500 finishes: a first-place win in 1974, a second-place finish in 1975 and another win in 1976, all with McLaren.

"For me it was perfect," Rutherford said. "In about seven years, it was a great experience and great relationships. It's the key to success in anything in business and in life. Tyler Alexander and I just really hit it off. It took us a year to get comfortable in 1974, but then it was 'High Ho Silver.'"

On Thursday, Rutherford, Alexander, racing legend Bobby Rahal and other racing officials gathered at McLaren Performance Technologies to celebrate the company's racing heritage and history, and catch a glimpse of the company's future in researching and developing powertrain and driveline engineering.

Owners of the historic McLaren Cam-Am cars attended, and some of the vehicles were expected to be displayed at the Meadowbrook Concours d'Elegance on Sunday in Rochester Hills.

McLaren recently received tax breaks from the city of Livonia and the state to add a \$8.5 million 10,000-square-foot expansion for driveline development.

McLaren Performance Technologies was founded as McLaren Engines by Bruce McLaren, and partners Alexander H. William (Bill) Smith and Teddy Mayer to build racing engines for Team McLaren's Can Am and Indy Cars. After Bruce McLaren Motor Racing left the U.S. racing scene in 1980 to concentrate on Formula 1, McLaren Engines reinvented itself as an automotive powertrain engineering company and serving Detroit-based OEMs (original equipment manufacturers).

Today McLaren Performance Technologies is a subsidiary of Linamar Corp, a Canadian supplier of powertrain components.

Thursday's event celebrated the "Canadian-American spirit of cooperation, embodied by the original Can-Am Racing Services," said Wiley McCoy, former McLaren CEO and organizer of the event.

McCoy highlighted several milestones for the company: the Can-Am racing series in 1969-72, the Cosworth turbo DFX engine for Indy in 1976, the BMW IMSA racing program in 1977, and the Cadillac LeMans in 1999.

"Not many companies can claim this (work) in a lot of different areas," McCoy said.

The company will focus its future on transmission development and energy, particularly with the company's expansion. The expansion will help the company set up a dynamometer development lab for gear train systems, according to Phil Guys, vice president, engineering for McLaren.

Two state-of-the-art driveline test cells measure accuracy of the gear transmission and durability, Guys said. "It's extremely important for us to have tools to give us precise information to create the next generation of product," Guys said.

The company will test and develop power train units (which takes the torque from the front to the back) and rear differential units (distributes the torque to the two rear wheels).

McLaren will embark on a solar energy project as well for its parent company.

Guys calls Livonia "a great central location to attract top-notch talent."

"We're in a position to compete with investments we've made and talent that we're able to recruit," Guys said. "We're in a great position with the other companies."



Wiley McCoy, former McLaren CEO and organizer of the 40th anniversary celebration of McLaren Performance Technologies, greets racing legend Johnny Rutherford at McLaren's facility on Eight Mile Road.

In 2008 the company won a development contract with Sterling Energy Systems for a power conversion unit. Guys said the company has won two major driveline contracts with

one American company and one European company, but he would not discuss details of those contracts.

kabramcz@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-2591

Madonna offers training for health care jobs

Popular medical certificate programs are being offered again this fall through Madonna University's Office of Continuing Education & Professional Studies. Students can earn an EKG Technician, Pharmacy Technician or Medical Billing and Coding certificate in 13 weeks or less and qualify for immediate employment in Michigan's growing health care industry.

Walk-in and online registration for all three programs takes place at 9 a.m. Monday, Aug. 10, at Madonna's main campus in Livonia, located at 36600 Schoolcraft Road, at Levan Road off I-96. Registration runs until 3 p.m. or until classes are filled.

"In the past, these certificate programs have been very successful, drawing community members from throughout Metro Detroit," said Joan Stephens, direc-

tor of Madonna's Continuing Education program. "The majority of those enrolling are laid-off workers, stay-at-home mothers returning to the workforce, and people looking to switch careers."

The fall schedule for Madonna University's medical certificate programs is as follows:

- EKG Technician – Tuesdays and Thursdays, Oct. 13 – Dec. 3, 6-9:30 p.m.
- Pharmacy Technician – Mondays and Wednesdays, Oct. 12 – Dec. 2, 6-9:30 p.m.
- Medical Billing and Coding – Mondays and Wednesdays, Sept. 21 – Dec. 14, 6-9:30 p.m.

All courses prepare students to take national board exams and apply for entry-level positions. According to Stephens, approximately 90 percent of students immediately pass their board exams

after completing the programs.

As part of these certificate programs, students can attend free workshops at Madonna University for resumé writing and job interviewing tips. Upon graduation, Stephens and the course instructors continue to work with students, assisting with their employment search. "We do everything we can to ensure that they put their training to good use and are employed as soon as possible," Stephens said.

All classes are offered at Madonna's Livonia campus. A detailed course schedule and online registration are available at www.madonna.edu by clicking on Future Students, then Continuing Education & Professional Studies. For more information about Continuing Education courses, call (734) 432-5804.

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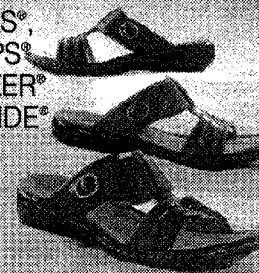
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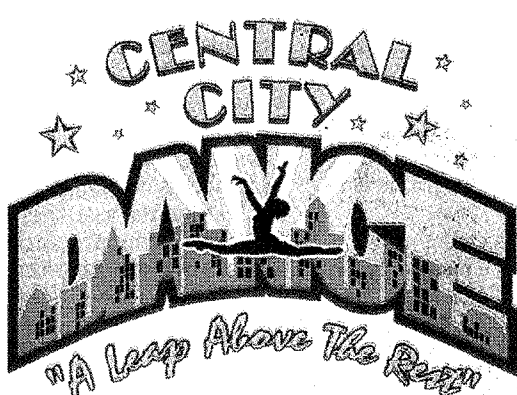
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ON STAGE

Music in the Park

Here's the remaining schedule for the weekly Music in the Park concert schedule, hosted by the Plymouth Community Arts Council:

- Aug. 5, Barbara Bailey Hutchison
- Aug. 12, Guy Louis and his Chautauqua Express
- Aug. 19, The Cats & the Fiddler

All concerts start at noon in Kellogg Park in downtown Plymouth. Sponsors include the Carl and Isabelle Schultz Family, The Wilcox Foundation, Huron Valley Ambulance, Monroe Bank & Trust, Rotary Club of Plymouth A.M., Dr. Brian Brackney, Bacinski's Best Friends of Learning Institute and Lodging by the Month.

Music in the Air

Here's the remaining schedule for the Friday night "Music in the Air" concert series, hosted by the Plymouth Downtown Development Authority and sponsored by Blue Cross/Blue



Barbara Bailey Hutchison takes to the stage for Wednesday's Music in the Air Concert series performance, hosted by the Plymouth Community Arts Council.

Shield:

- Aug. 7, The Bluescasters
- Aug. 14, The Kris K Band
- Aug. 21, The Randy Brock Group

• Aug. 28, Mass Transit
• Sept. 4, Lady Sunshine and the X Band
The concerts take place in

downtown Plymouth's Kellogg Park and start at 7 p.m.

Community Band

The Plymouth Community Band, headed by longtime leader Carl Battishill, plays Kellogg Park every Thursday at 8 p.m.

Canton sailor helps Epic finish 5th in Mackinac race

It's a snail's pace when you consider you can drive and then ferry over to Mackinac Island in around seven hours, but the Epic sailed into port shortly after 8 p.m. last Monday, completing the 85th sailing of the Pure Michigan Bayview Port Huron to Mackinac Race in a corrected time of 51:36:51.

The crew, including veteran crew member Mike Doumanian of Canton, set sail from Port Huron last Saturday morning on the 259-nautical mile race that took them to Cove Island near Georgian Bay in Ontario en route to Mackinac Island.

"We corrected to fifth in our class (ORR-C)," wrote Winnie Adams, a retired Garden City

school teacher who owns the boat with husband Ray. "We had a little bit of every kind of weather you should expect on Lake Huron — zero wind to 28 knots. It was fun again and, of course, you end up at Mackinac Island."

The 42-foot Epic placed 39th overall in Division 1 of the Cove Island ORR.

The Epic's return trip included stops in Presque Isle, East Tawas and Port Huron before docking at the Bayview Yacht Club.

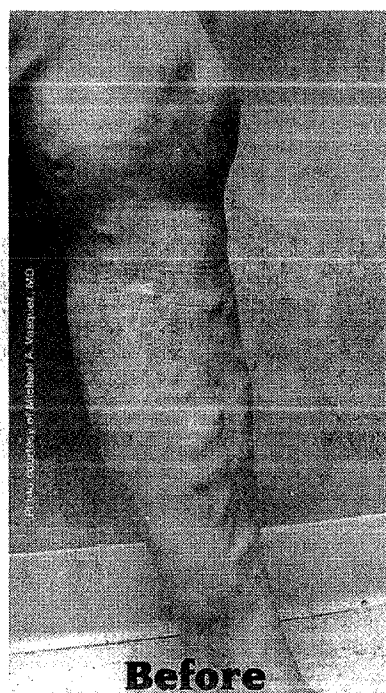
The Adamses have been competing in the Port Huron to Mackinac race for more than 25 years. They won the Bayview Mackinac Races in 2001 and 2002.



Members of the crew of the Epic include Canton resident Mike Doumanian of Canton (front row, from left), Joel Craig, Dean Waldrup, Dean Kuhn, Beth Craig, Winnie Adams, Jeff Kaloustian (back row, from left), Skipper Ray Adams, Diann Papp, Gloria Koster, Phil Zyskowski and Bill Doyle. Not pictured is Tom Dalloo.

KNOW THE SCORE: Check out the numbers in today's Sports section

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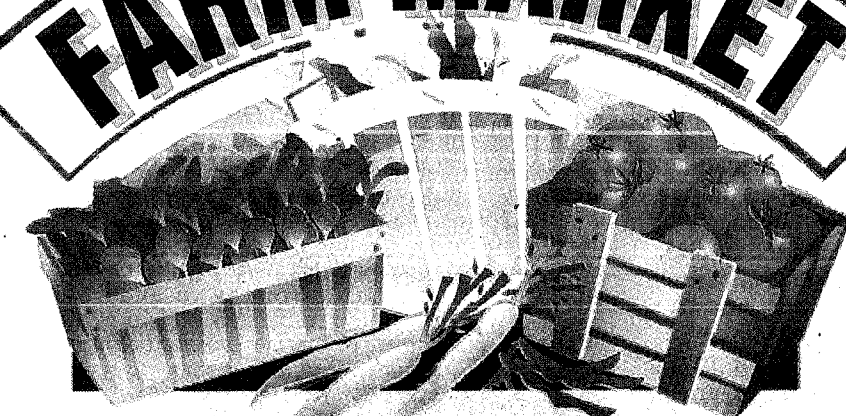
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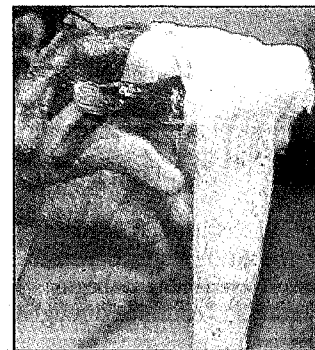
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HOMETOWN LIFE



Livonians lead field at tourney

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Jimmy Johnson proved Wednesday that getting around a golf course takes more than a driver.

The 17-year-old left-hander, who will be a senior this fall at Livonia Franklin High School, successfully defended his Boys 16-17 age group title with a 75, the top round on the day in the Motor City Junior Championship hosted by Livonia's Whispering Willows Golf Course.

Johnson captured his division by a four-stroke margin over Canton's Kyle Korte and Livonian Adam Yarber, both of whom carded 79s.

"I'd been hitting the driver good, but I was a little off today," said Johnson, who shot 37 on the front nine and 38 on the back side. "I played it safe. I hit a lot of irons off the tees. I didn't want to do anything stupid."

Despite a triple bogey, a double and a pair of bogeys, Johnson was able to recover with three birdies on the front nine including the par-5, 478-yard No. 1; and a pair of 390-yard par-4s, No. 6 and No. 9. He also birdied the par-4, 379-yard No. 14.

His 75 was four strokes better than his summer best of 80 shot recently at adjoining Fox Creek Golf Course. During the summer season, Johnson is employed and hones on his game at Livonia's other public course, Idyl Wyld.

"I've worked a lot on my putting," he said.

But during his spring season at Franklin, Johnson admitted "I was a little under average."

Please see **GOLF, B3**



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Plymouth YMCA coach Rory McCosky, of Livonia, works with young baseball players on the importance of crouching down to be in the "ready position." McCosky teaches fundamentals of the sport to kids between ages 3-7 in his back-to-back classes.

'Y' NOT BASEBALL?

Plymouth YMCA baseball program helps teach youngsters basics of sport

BY TIM SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Farrand Elementary School's dusty playground diamond is a long way from Comerica Park in more ways than one.

But that doesn't matter to the youngsters — such as those in the Avila family — who are learning all about baseball this summer thanks to a six-week Plymouth YMCA program.

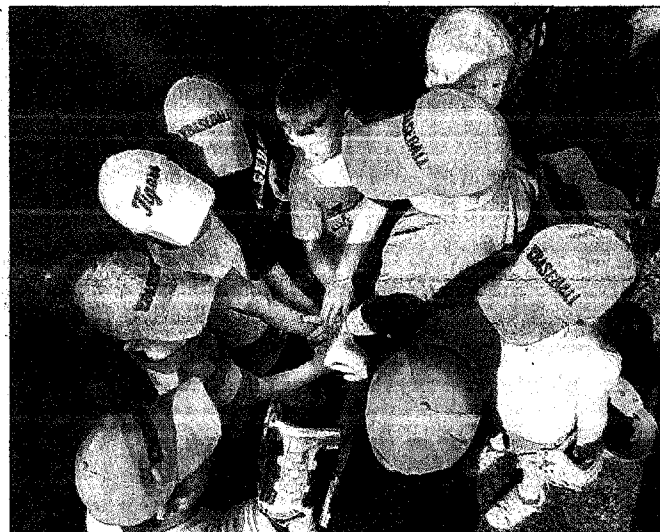
That program includes Monday T-ball sessions for kids ages 3-to-5 immediately followed by youth baseball classes for kids who are just 6 and 7 years old. There are practices and games the rest of the week on the fields behind the Plymouth school.

"I think a lot of parents enjoy the philosophy that the Y has," said Plymouth YMCA program director Jennifer Paffi. "We focus on athletes first, winning second."

"... I think a lot of people like the atmosphere of the Y, and definitely our focus on keeping it fun so that kids want to continue to play sports."

Paffi didn't have to look too far around the Farrand backstop to see examples of happy moms and dads watching their kids soak in the basics of an outdoor sport sometimes overlooked in this era of Guitar Hero and skateboarding.

Please see **BASEBALL, B2**



Youngsters enjoy building that good-old team spirit during the Plymouth YMCA T-Ball class at Farrand Elementary School.

SIDELINES

O&E golf tourney nears

Registration is continuing for the annual Women's Observer & Eccentric Open to be held Saturday, Aug. 8, at Livonia's Whispering Willows Golf Course. Entry fee is \$50 (does not include cart) for the event in which all entrants must have a current USGA index to participate.

Susan Mackinowicz, a special education teacher from Woodhaven and resident of Chesterfield Township, is the two-time defending champion in the event.

For more information, along with pairings and starting times, call (248) 476-4493 (after noon Wednesday, Aug. 5).

MU adds Lucko

Madonna University men's golf coach Steve Mato announced last month that he has signed a pair of transfers out of Oakland Community College including Livonia Churchill grad Tommy Lucko along with James Uelmen of Royal Oak Dondero.

Lucko and Uelmen join Ronnie Pollack, Jr. (Southgate), Kevin Robinson (Churchill), Tyler Skiba (Ossineke) and Erik Taurence (Wyandotte) as 2009-10 MU recruits.

Lucko, a two-time MVP during his days at Churchill, is a two-time Michigan Community College Athletic Association medalist along with being named to the NJCAA Division II Ping All-Region, All-MCCA and All-Eastern Conference teams.

He posted the 20th lowest average in the NJCAA in 2009, carding a 72.9 average per round. He played in the NJCAA Division II Nationals and was also invited to participate in the prestigious

Please see **SIDELINES, A3**

Lakers capture Metro title; Suburban Ice to take over reins

BY TIM SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

From beginning to end, the 2009 Metro Summer Hockey League at Suburban Ice Farmington Hills featured very competitive action from all seven teams. But the Lakers finished what they started, as the regular season winners also spanked the Wolverines, 9-3, in the playoff championship tilt July 26.

"They (the Lakers) were the first place team most of the year," said league president Keith Pietila, who is stepping down after 16 seasons at the helm. "And it's probably been a few years since the best regular season team won the playoffs, too."

Pietila, a Brighton resident, said he is relinquishing league

METRO SUMMER HOCKEY

controls to Suburban (located near Halsted-10 Mile) and is confident the quality of the circuit will be maintained in 2010 and beyond.

"Suburban's going to run it," Pietila emphasized. "It's taking up too much time for me. But the league's going to be exactly the same as it's been through the years."

High-quality players from all over Wayne and Oakland counties lace them up for the summer league, including Wolverine Lake's A.J. Jenks, who plays for the Plymouth Whalers.

In the championship game, the Lakers broke out to a 4-0 lead after one period and built up a 6-

0 cushion, more than enough to withstand a second-period surge by the Wolverines.

For the victors, Livonia's John Mays had the hot hand. He scored three goals and set up another. Tallying two goals each were Novi's Ryan Timar (who also collected a helper) and Brighton's Thor Skalski. Other Lakers to score included James Dragescu (Dearborn Heights) and Brandon Contratto (West Bloomfield), who each drew assists as well.

Tallying a goal and an assist for the Wolverines was Farmington Hills' Adam Phillips.

In net for the championship victory was Josh Block, of Northville.

tsmith@hometownlife.com



The Metro Summer Hockey League champion Lakers celebrate July 26 at Suburban Ice Farmington Hills. In the front row, from left are: James Dragescu, John May (Livonia), Josh Block (Northville) and Alfonso Kolis (Howell). In the back row, from left are: Brandon Fritz (West Bloomfield), Drew Sennhenn (Wixom), Houston Staub (Ann Arbor), Paul Arnott (Holly), Thor Skalski (Brighton), Brandon Contratto (West Bloomfield), Andrew Kruczynski (Westland) and Ryan Timar (Novi).



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TEAM TRYOUTS

• Here's the pitch. Tryouts for the 2010 Canton Cardinals travel baseball teams begin Sunday and continue throughout August.

Two tryout sessions for each group are on tap. First up Sunday at Canton Sports Center are 11U tryouts, from 9-to-11 a.m., followed by 13U (Noon-to-2 p.m.), 14U (2-to-4 p.m.), 9U (4-to-6 p.m.), 10U (6-to-8 p.m.) and 12U (also 6-to-8 p.m.). Tryouts also are set for Aug. 11 and 12 (at Heritage Park) and Aug. 30 (at CSC).

The Greater Canton Youth Baseball & Softball Association's travel baseball program seeks competitive and serious athletes willing to commit to weekend tournaments and games outside the community.

Pre-registration for the tryouts is required. To do so, e-mail or call the following coaches and provide name, birth date, phone number and address (for residency requirements): 9U, Alan Zidsik, lzidzik@sbcglobal.net, (734) 397-5739; 10U, Jim Good, goodjames@comcast.net, (810) 397-6272; 11U, Rob Hirshman, hirshmal@yahoo.com, (734) 981-1402; 12U, Dan Hejka, cantoncardinalscoach@yahoo.com, (734) 776-3918; 13U, Jim Hejka, jhejkacardinals@yahoo.com, (734) 658-2446; 14U, Mike Driscoll, miked.amfinancial@tds.net, (734) 968-8700.

• The Farmington Hills Expos U14 Travel Baseball Team will be holding tryouts for the 2009-10 season Aug. 8-9 from 9-11 a.m. at Founders Sports Park Field #6, located on 8 Mile Road between Halsted and

Farmington.

This second-year team is based in Farmington Hills and managed by a former professional player and coach with 10 years of experience, including Major League Baseball. The manager also has experience with pitching and catching instruction at the professional level.

The coaching staff places an emphasis on instruction with the goal to prepare players to have the skills needed to play at the high school level. The Expos will play in the Kensington Valley League and participate in approximately six tournaments.

Players are asked to arrive 30 minutes early to register. For more information, contact Jeff Tomski at (248) 613-8469 or fouryoslet@aol.com.

• Redford Union's boys soccer program will be holding tryouts for its varsity and junior varsity squads Aug. 12-14 from 3-5 p.m. at MacGowan School, 18255 Kinloch, in Redford. For more

information, call (313) 995-4234.

• Warrior baseball, a USSSA Major 14-year-old travel team, will conduct open tryouts Aug. 5-6 at 6 p.m. at Founders Sports Park (Field 5) in Farmington Hills. Players must pre-register by e-mailing warriorhq@aol.com or by calling (248) 842-7044 and be present on both dates. Individual tryouts can be arranged for players with schedule conflicts.

The team has been formed with the goal of preparing players to play high school baseball at the varsity level and specific objectives of earning a berth in

the USSSA Elite World Series in Florida.

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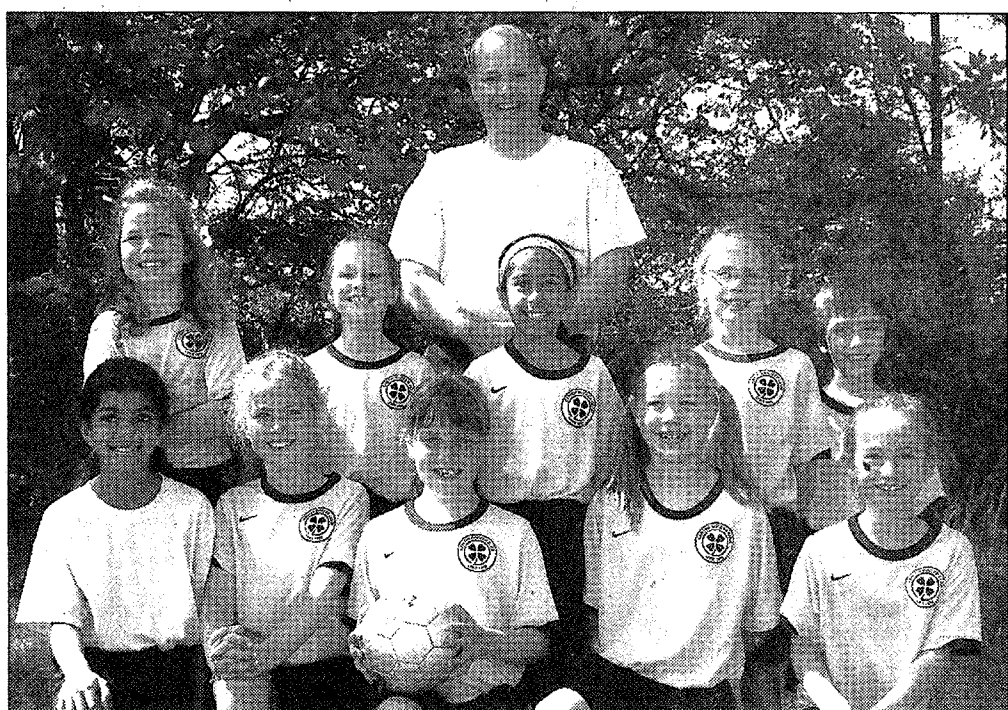
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Tryouts for the 12-and-under Motor City Bulldogs will be from noon-2 p.m., Saturday-Sunday, July 31-Aug. 2, at Wayne Ford Civic League, 1645 S. Wayne Road.

• Baseball travel tryouts for the Livonia Baseball-Softball Association will be available for the following age groups at Bicentennial Park (Field No. 8):

9-and-under - 9-11 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 22; 11-and-under (Titans) - 2-4 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 22; 10-and-under - noon-2 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 23; and 12-and-under (Tarheels) - 2-4 p.m.. Report a half-hour early prior to the tryout time to register. Age is determined as of May 1, 2010.

Manager are also wanted for the 9- and 10-and-under teams. For more information, call director Bruce Rosen at (313) 531-0721; or visit www.livoniaabsa.com. You can also e-mail Rosen at MBLR1218@aol.com.



Back-to-back

The Canton Soccer Club's U8 girls team won the Division A championship again this spring, for the second year in a row. The team, nicknamed the Sunshines, is coached by Mike Ross. Kneeling (from left) are Aisha Patel, Sarah Hammond, Katie Clark, Nicole Emhke and Brenyel Ison. In the second row (from left) are Eve Davis, Lucy Ross, Sahana Prabhu, Natalie Tyszkiewicz and Emily Thibodeau. Standing in the back row is coach Ross.

Rams tune up for tourney play

With the 20-and-under All-American Amateur Baseball Association Tournament in Johnstown, Pa. upcoming, the Michigan Rams tried to stay sharp with exhibition games Thursday against Jet Box and Tuesday versus the Ohio Monarchs.

Facing Jet Box in play at Wayne State University, the Rams could muster just five hits against a variety of Jet Box hurlers in dropping a 3-0 decision. Adam Kaminski drilled a two-run home run to highlight a three-run fifth inning as Jet Box moved its season mark to 31-11.

The Rams, Livonia

Collegiate Baseball League runner-up, had single hits from Nick Plinka, Joe Barnes, Brett Mazmanian, Justin Forster and Jake Rhodes.

The two teams are scheduled to square off once again Sunday afternoon in a double-header that will end pre-tourney exhibition play for both squads.

In the first of two games with the Monarchs at Adrian College, D.J. Henderson knocked in a pair of runs as the Monarchs, headed to the AAABA Regional in Zanesville, Ohio, came away with a 4-2 win over the Rams. Rhodes, Aaron Cieslak and

Steve Anderson each collected two hits for the Rams, who again used a variety of pitchers in the twinbill to stay sharp.

Forster and Anderson each had an RBI, while Cieslak scored both runs.

In the nightcap, the Rams 23-13 overall, salvaged a split with a 6-3 triumph.

Rhodes went 2-for-3 with an RBI and two runs scored, while Madonna University's Plinka (Livonia Stevenson) knocked in three runs. Cieslak also had two RBI. Anderson also scored twice.

Mike Joseph, Matt Frigo and Ponte knocked in runs for the Monarchs.

BASEBALL

FROM PAGE B1

QUALITY TIME

In fact, Plymouth's Steve and Bernice Avila watched with smiles on their faces as sons Cormac and Ian "Qian Qian" (ages 7 and 6, respectively) along with their 5-year-old daughter Marian collected serious baseball knowledge from instructor Rory McCosky.

"This is the second class (out of six)," Steve Avila said. "She (Marian) just told me today that she learned how to catch and she learned how to run the bases.

"Her and my son Qian Qian are having a really good time. It's all fundamentals. The staff's been quality."

Cormac is in his second year with the youth baseball program and showed he is learning a thing or two. The lefthanded batter ripped a line drive into center field and dashed around the bases; every player gets three swings per at bat.

"He's been looking forward to it (the program)," Steve continued. "He had a real good experience last year."

Farrand is proving to be an oasis of baseball learning, with class instructors such as Livonia resident McCosky teaching the kids with drills, encouragement and all-important repetition.

"We're on our feet, guys, we're on our feet," said McCosky to the youngsters, feeding the ball to mitt-pounding kids who are standing in a semi-circle in front of him.

BIG ON BASICS

He spends time working with them on things like the ready position (knees bent, hands in front) and moving their feet to catch a rubber-coated ball when it is not coming directly at them.

And when the youngsters are standing in the infield, there are miniature orange cones to approximate where they should stand (third base, shortstop, etc.).

"Oh yeah, you try to teach them the fundamentals," said McCosky following the classes. "That's where you start, you got to start throwing and catching and teaching them the other positions and try to keep it fun."

For example, kids who are trying to figure out how to throw a baseball are taught about the "Nose, toes, throw" formula, Paffi said.

"They have to point their nose at the target so they know where to throw," she stressed.

But McCosky said he doesn't back off from telling kids about their mistakes, either.

"You let them know or else they're not going to learn," he explained. "We learn from our mistakes and that's something they have to learn, too."

Keeping the YMCA mission statement in mind, he'll take the edge off when doing so.

"Sometimes it's the tone of voice, but mostly I just like to point it out with them on a one-on-one basis and correct what they're doing wrong," McCosky said. "And, just keep reminding them — especially with the little kids, you got to be repetitive."

With the YMCA core val-

ues of respect, responsibility, honesty and caring front and center during the classes, a chalk circle drawn around the batter's boxes provides kids with a visual reminder.

According to Paffi, players must make sure to drop their bats within the circle after they get their swings in (whether off the tee or, later this summer, from a machine or coach).

"It (the circle) is a Plymouth YMCA thing," Paffi noted. "That's both for good sportsmanship and safety."

OLD SCHOOL FEELING

The program also gets a thumbs up from Avila for helping return the spotlight on baseball, a sport he enjoyed as a kid when he and his friends played off-the-cuff neighborhood matches. "It brings back good memories."

Meanwhile, McCosky sees some positives to having young kids be so enthusiastic about becoming baseball players.

"Getting kids involved this young helps them find something that they're going to love in the future," McCosky said. "And it's just to get them away from the video games, keep them outside and active."

"Just show them they're other things to do that can be fun. They see that, they come out here and enjoy it and it makes them want to keep coming back."

For more information about Plymouth YMCA programs, call (734) 453-2904 or go to www.ymcadeloit.org.

tsmith@hometownlife.com

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Ace of the day

Former Livonia Franklin boys basketball coach Larry Jackson (center) recorded his second ace at the Patriot Club Golf Outing held May 17 at South Lyon's Tanglewood Golf Course. Jackson used an 8-iron on the 130-yard, No. 5 hole on Tanglewood's South Course and won a set a Taylor Made drivers donated by Rogin Buick of Livonia. Jackson was accompanied by playing partner Williams Emons (right) and awarded the driver set by Brian Leggett (left) of Rogin Buick.



Livonia Franklin's Jimmy Johnson birdied the par-3, No. 14 hole en route to the Boys 16-17 age group title following a round of 75 during Wednesday's Motor City Junior Golf Championship held at Whispering Willows.

GOLF

FROM PAGE B1

"I want my senior year to be my breakout year," he added. In the Boys 14-15 divisions, Livonia's Chris Theille shot an 81 to edge Alex Watson of Commerce Township by a stroke for the title. One of the most impressive rounds on the day was turned in by Livonia's Brian Sexton, who carded 40-39-79 to seize the Boys 14-15 crown. Sexton, who will be a freshman this fall at Churchill, was playing in only his first tournament of the summer.

"It was my putting and my drives," said Sexton, a hockey player who stands 5 feet, 3 inches and weighs only 105 pounds. "Today I was straight and long. My driving was on." On the 165-yard, par-3 No. 17, Sexton won closest to the pin honors by placing his tee shot within 4 feet, 5 inches. "I'm surprised I played that well because I did not play that well on the practice round (Monday), I shot an 87," he said. "I started out shaky. I had a double-bogey and bogey, then a bunch of pars and a birdie." Meanwhile, the top round among the girls field was posted by Livonia's Jordyn Shepler, who will be a sophomore this

fall at Churchill. She posted a 47-46-93 to win the 14-15 age division, four strokes better than West Bloomfield's Madeline Asta. But Shepler was not completely pleased with her game. "I putted horribly - both short and long putts - I had 40 putts," said Shepler, who has been a regular this summer on the Meijer Junior Tour. "I missed a one-footer, and that's just not right. It was hard adjusting to the greens. I just have to practice more. Putting is killing me." Shepler, who took up golf after doing jazz, ballet and tap dancing, made up for her short-game deficiencies by booming drives an average of

265 yards. "I use a TaylorMade men's shaft where you can adjust the head - and I love it," Shepler said. "One time I hit it 300 yards (on the Meijer tour) and drove the green - but then I three-putted." Livonia Ladywood High's Val DeMilia, who resides in Salem Township, took the Girls 16-17 crown with a 98 to edge Westland's Sarah Linder, a 2009 Churchill graduate who is headed to Rochester College. Livonia's Jaclyn Burdette, also headed to Churchill as a ninth-grader, took the Girls 13-and-under title.

PAUL WORLEY

GOLF RESULTS

2009 MOTOR CITY JUNIOR GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP RESULTS
July 29 at Whispering Willows
BOYS 16-17: 1. Jimmy Johnson (Livonia), 75; 2. (tie) Kyle Korte (Canton) and Adam Yarbber (Livonia), 79 each; 4. (tie) Cooper Christis and Drake Hermann, 80 each; 6. (tie) Trevor Birdwell and Dylan Orr, 81 each; 8. Thomas Firavich, 84; 9. Brandon Kozyn, 85; 10. (tie) Travis Hall and Josh Perrin, 86 each; 12. Aaron Nicholas, 90; 13. John Selinski, 91; 14. Cody Nalez, 93; 15. Jared Cusmano, 97; 16. Matt Wilson, 100; 17. Matthew DeFore, 106.
Closest to the pin (No. 7): Cody Nalez (Livonia), 6 feet, 2 inches.

GIRLS 16-17: 1. Valerie DiMilia (Salem Township), 98; 2. Sarah Linder (Westland), 99; 3. Stephanie Panaretos, 104; 4. Erin Lixie, 105; 5. Carmella Hawkins, 107; 6. Georgia Patrick, 108.
Closest to the pin (No. 7): Erin Lixie (Plymouth), 23 ft.

BOYS 14-15: 1. Chris Theille (Livonia), 81; 2. Alex Watson (Commerce Township), 82; 3. Cory Dare (Westland), 83; 4. (tie) Curtis Coscarelli, Dominic DiLisi, Andrew Newman, Nick Proben and Craig Whitley, 86 each; 9. Ben Proben, 87; 10. David Nietzke, 88; 11. (tie) Eric Hill and Andrew Ioanou, 90 each; 13. Jim Patterson, 92; 14. (tie), Alec Lasley and Ryan Linn, 93 each; 16. Brian Roulier, 94; 17. Ryan Zahm, 95; 18. Josh Maxam, 96; 19. (tie) Alec Clevenger, Avery Harris and Steven White, 98 each; 22. Vishal Amin, 101; 23. Marco Yaquinto, 102; 24. Max Mills, 109; 25. Nick Nelson, 113; 26. Dominic Isopi, 120.
Closest to the pin (No. 17): Cory Dare (Westland), 1 ft.

GIRLS 14-15: 1. Jordyn Shepler (Livonia), 93; 2. Madeline Asta (West Bloomfield), 97; 3. Christian Briden, 110; Kathleen Karczewski, 120; Katie Gubachy, 130; Nicolette Nasar, 133.
Closest to the pin (No. 7): Nicolette Nasar (West Bloomfield), 12 ft.

Family Fun Contest

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All entries will be judged based on fun and creativity. Email pictures to: cbjordan@hometownlife.com with the subject line "Family Fun" or mail to Choya Jordan, Observer & Eccentric Newspaper, 615 W. Lafayette Blvd, 2nd Level, Detroit, MI 48226.

Contest runs July 26 - Aug 23, 2009. Winners will be notified. Pictures may be selected for publication. Pictures will not be returned. Pictures size must not exceed 10 MB.

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Mary Angela Run set

The Mary Angela Run committee is preparing for its seventh annual event to honor and remember Mary Angela DiGiovanni. For the second year, this year's event will benefit Angels' Place, a non-profit which provides housing and services for people with developmental disabilities.

The run will take place Sunday, Aug. 16, at 9 a.m. at the Oakland Community College Orchard Ridge Campus in Farmington Hills. The event offers a chip timed 5K and 10K run, and 1-mile fitness walk and children run.

"Mary Angela was a caring and dedicated person who wanted to help many different people and we believe that Angels' Place has the same ideals," said race coordinator Sue Vincent, who is also Mary Angela's aunt. "We have had a great turn out every year with nearly 1,000 people attending, and we're hoping to have another great event this year."

The event, which has raised approximately \$40,000 yearly, is a way to honor the memory of 23-year-old Mary Angela DiGiovanni, who was involved in a fatal car accident in January of 2003. Mary Angela was a University of Michigan Public Health student with a desire to improve health care and help people in need, and Mary Angela's family has pledged that her life will continue to reach out and help others.

"We're grateful to the DiGiovanni family and all of their relatives who have put so much time and effort into making this a wonderful event to benefit Angels' Place," said Cheryl Loveday, Angels' Place executive director. "This event has always proved to be a wonderful tribute to Mary Angela and everything that she believed in, and it will be a blessing to all of the people who benefit from Angels' Place." Registration is continuing

with a standard entry fee of \$25, or \$50 for a Mary's Angel sponsorship, which includes a special Mary's Angel t-shirt and recognition on event signage. Participants may register in advance or on the day of the event beginning at 7:30 a.m.

For more information on the Mary Angela Run, or to register for the event, please visit www.angelsplace.com.

Junior golf tourney

For the fifth year in a row, the Livonia-based Wolverine Sports and Conservation Club is spearheading a junior golf tournament with the goal of helping youngsters perhaps discover the game.

This year's event is set to begin at noon Sunday, Aug. 9, at Idyl Wyld Municipal Golf Course, located on Five Mile between Newburgh and Farmington roads in Livonia.

Those who register by the Sunday, Aug. 2, deadline will have the chance to compete in boys or girls divisions for the following age brackets: ages 15-17, 13-14 and 10-12. There will be two prizes awarded to the top golfers in all six brackets (three divisions each for boys and girls). Call (734) 751-4466 to register.

Bowling benefit

The Bowl-4-Animal Rescue Benefit Event will take place 7 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 8, at Country Lanes, 30250 Nine Mile, west of Middlebelt in Farmington Hills.

All proceeds will benefit the Friends For the Dearborn Animal Shelter and the Michigan Animal Adoption Network.

Professional bowling champions Aleta Sill and Michelle Mullen, who co-own Aleta Sill's Bowling World and have adopted seven animals, will host the fourth annual event.

Sill is a Detroit Dream Team member and bowling's first female \$1 million player. Mullen is a USA Bowling GOLD coach and author of Bowling

Fundamentals.

Tickets are \$25 and include three games, food and fun. There will be auctions, raffles, door prizes and karaoke. Bowlers can even have one of the professional bowlers throw a strike for them.

Tickets may be purchased by calling Aleta Sill's Bowling World at (248) 615-9060 or via e-mail at: michellemullen@att.net.

Punt, Pass & Kick

The City of Livonia Department of Parks and Recreation's 2009 NFL Punt, Pass & Kick competition for ages 8-15 will be Wednesday, Aug. 26 at the Livonia Community Recreation Center's soccer fields, located at 15100 Hubbard (between Farmington and Merriman roads).

Registration, which is free, starts at 5:30 p.m. Competition begins at 6 p.m.

Age classification is as of Dec. 31 of the current year. No football shoes, cleats or turf shoes are allowed. Only gym shoes will be permitted.

The top finishers from each of eight age groups at the local competition will advance to a sectional competition. Sectional scores will be compared with other sectional champions with the top five scorers from the pool of sectional champions advancing to the team championship.

For more information, call (734) 466-2410.

Elks Soccer Shoot

The City of Livonia Department of Parks and Recreation's annual Elks Soccer Shoot will be at 5 p.m. Monday, Aug. 17 at the Livonia Community Center soccer fields, located at 15100 Hubbard (at Five Mile Road). Registration, which is free, starts at 4:30 p.m.

Boys and girls separate age groups, determined as of Aug. 1, 2009, include 7-and-under, 8-9, 10-11 and 12-13. Age-group winners advance to the state

contest in October.

For more information, call (734) 466-2410.

Churchill fall sports

The fall 2009 athletic team tryout information at Livonia Churchill high school is as follows:

Football - 6-8 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 6 for workouts and condition at the football field (call 734-744-2650; or e-mail coach John Filiatrut at jfiliatr2@livoniapublicschools.org);

Boys soccer - 9:15 a.m. Monday, Aug. 12 at the Churchill track (call 734-744-2650; or e-mail coach Reid Friedrichs at rfriedri@livoniapublicschools.org);

Girls swimming and diving - 8-10 a.m. Monday through Friday, Aug. 12-16, at the Churchill pool (call 734-744-2650; or e-mail coach Aaron Rieder at arieder@livoniapublicschools.org);

Boys cross country - 11 a.m. Monday, Aug. 12 at Cass Benton Park (e-mail coach John McGreevy at jmcgreev@livoniapublicschools.org);

Girls cross country - 11 a.m. Monday, Aug. 12 at Cass Benton Park (e-mail coach Sue Tatro at statigia2@livoniapublicschools.org);

Boys tennis - 10 a.m.-noon, Monday, Aug. 12 at the Churchill courts. Bring water and be prepared for conditioning. Call coach Dave Farmer at (734) 709-8574; or e-mail daf222@msn.com;

Girls volleyball - 8-11 a.m. and 1:30-4 p.m. Friday, Aug. 21 at the competitive gym (call 734-744-2650; or e-mail coach Mark Grenier at mgrenier@livoniapublicschools.org);

Girls golf - 11 a.m. Monday through Wednesday, Aug. 12-14, at Whispering Willows. Bring golf equipment and pay an \$8 daily green fee. For more information, call coach Paul Worley at (248) 476-4493; or e-mail paulworley@pga.com.

Learn to Skate

The City of Livonia

Department of Parks and Recreation will be offering its seven-week fall learn to skate program (Session 1) from Sept. 14 through Oct. 29 at Edgar Arena, located at 33341 Lyndon (one-half mile south of Five Mile and just west of Farmington Road).

Classes are grouped by age and ability. Openings for each time slot for the following are subject to availability for the following:

Youth classes (ages 4 and up) - 5 p.m., 5:25 p.m., 6 p.m. or 6:25 p.m. Mondays or Thursdays;

Hockey skills classes - 6:25 p.m. Mondays or 5 p.m. Thursdays;

Tots (3-year-olds only) - 5 p.m. Mondays or Thursdays.

Walk-in registration only will be from 6:30-8 p.m. (residents) and 7-8 p.m. (non-residents) Wednesday, Sept. 9 at the Livonia Community Recreation Center, located at 15100 Hubbard (at Five Mile Road).

Make-up classes are not available. All instructors are I.S.I. certified. Private lessons are available for all ages and you must be registered in a group lesson or two hours of private lessons.

Three synchronized skating teams are also available (must be Badge 6 or higher and must be at least 6 years old). Skate rentals are also offered through the Livonia Hockey Association.

For more information, call Kerri Ahmet or Tina Probst at (734) 466-2412.

Nite Lite Golf

Nine holes of Nite Lite Golf will be offered beginning at 9 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 15, at the Fox Classic Course at Fox Hills Golf Course in Plymouth Township.

Included in the \$35 cost is dinner (served at 7:30 p.m.). Glow Ball-Glow necklaces will also be available.

For reservations, call (734) 453-7272; or visit www.foxhills.com.

Girls basketball league

The City of Livonia Department of Parks and Recreation's fall girls basketball league for ages 10-13 will start the week of Sept. 21 at the Livonia Community Recreation Center, located at 15100 Hubbard (at Five Mile Road).

Team placement tryouts will be from 6-7 p.m. Friday, Sept. 11. Practices will be held Friday, Sept. 25 and Oct. 2 followed by games on Oct. 9, 16, 23, 30; Nov. 6 and 13.

Registration for LCRC pass holders will begin Monday, Aug. 17 (fee \$49); Livonia residents, Tuesday, Aug. 18 (fee \$58); and non-residents, Thursday, Aug. 20 (fee \$65). All fees include T-shirt. The deadline to register is Tuesday, Sept. 8.

For more information, call (734) 466-2900.

Boys basketball league

The City of Livonia Department of Parks and Recreation will stage a pair of fall boys basketball leagues including Division I (ages 9-11) and Division II (ages 12-14) the week of Sept. 21 at the Livonia Community Recreation Center, located at 15100 Hubbard (at Five Mile Road).

Team placement tryouts will be from 6-7 p.m. (Division I) and 7-8 p.m. (Division II) on Tuesday, Sept. 8 at the LCRC. Division I practice dates are Tuesday, Sept. 22 and 29; followed by games Oct. 6, 13, 20, 27; Nov. 3-10. Division II practices will be Thursday, Sept. 24 and Oct. 1 followed by games on Oct. 8, 15, 22, 29; Nov. 5 and 12.

Registration for LCRC pass holders will begin Monday, Aug. 17 (fee \$49); Livonia residents, Tuesday, Aug. 18 (fee \$58); and non-residents, Thursday, Aug. 20 (fee \$65). All fees include T-shirt. The deadline to register is Tuesday, Sept. 8.

For more information, call (734) 466-2900.

Guide to Employment

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5000-5999

Help Wanted-General 5000

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Auto

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Five day work week with standard benefits. Tuesday through Friday from 4pm to midnight and Saturdays from 9am to 5pm. Premium pay for the right candidate. Service Writing and/or management experience required. Exemplary customer service skills a must. Apply to Joe Prokes at jprokes@uniteddev.com Or call: 248-427-8935

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Help Wanted-General 5000

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CLASSIFIEDS WORK! 1-800-579-7355

Engineer

Sales Engineer Manager

Neapco Drivelines - a world leader in driveshaft and driveline technology for the automotive OEM market is currently looking for a Sales Engineering Manager to help develop new product customer accounts. The ideal candidate will possess a combination of Sales Management and Product Engineering experience (8-10 years preferred) within the Driveshaft and/or Driveline sector preferably at a Tier 1 or OEM company. Salary commensurate with experience. The position is located in Southeast Michigan.

Interested qualified candidates should forward their resume to: Neapco Drivelines 6735 Haggerty Road Belleville, MI 48111 Attn: HR - JP - Sales Engineering Manager or email to: jkte@neapcodrivelines.com

Help Wanted-General 5000

General

Due to our on-going growth and expansion we are seeking:

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Delaware North provides travelers a break from the rigors of air travel with our innovative concessions. We are looking for honest and reliable individuals who enjoy providing exceptional customer service. If this sounds like you... Visit us at: Detroit Metro Airport, Bldg 513, W. Service Rd., Romulus, MI You can also call us at 734-247-6887 or fax 734-942-1550

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Wayne City. Neighborhood Network Activities Center. Fax resume: 248-356-3509

GROUND KEEPER Part-Time

Apartment community in Farmington Hills. Fax resume: (248) 474-1783

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Help Wanted-General 5000

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Call: (734) 844-8166 luckyhairco@aol.com

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Lab Supervisor

Large, private medical group with automated, moderate complexity lab located in Farm. Hills seeking Lab Supervisor. Strong organizational & computer skills needed for highly integrated LIS & EMR. Motivated individual w/excellent interpersonal & communication skills a must. Formal training will be provided. Resume & salary history to labservice@live.com

LEASING AGENT

For property management company with complex in Northville/Novi area. Previous Sales or Leasing experience helpful. Fax resume: 248-356-3509

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LEASING Full-Time

Apt. Community in West Bloomfield. Individual to answer phones & show apartments. Incl weekends. Great hrs & compensation. E.O.E. Fax resume: 248-661-2170

Call to place your ad at 1-800-579-SELL(7355)

Help Wanted-General 5000

MANAGER for dry cleaners

Must have full knowledge of plant operations and possess excellent customer service skills. Willing to train candidate with some dry cleaning experience. Call 734-591-6166

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Individuals must have the ability to motivate/influence their employees w/strong interpersonal & communication skills; ability to work in a high pressure/fast paced environ. & prioritize multiple demands each & every day. Typical duties incl. supervising hrlly employees, develop the work team concept, & achievement of daily production & quality goals. Req: Req'd 5-10 yrs exp. in a supervisor role in a mfg environ. Exp. & degree preferred. 1st shift hrs 7am-4:30pm M-F / 2nd shift hrs 4:45 pm-2:15 am M-F. Extensive lean mfg exp. req'd. Fax/email your resume, salary requirements and references to: Fax: 734-677-0051 rtose@extang.com ONLY RESUMES WITH SALARY EXPECTATIONS WILL BE CONSIDERED.

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SEWER FOR POOL COVERS

Part-Time. Prior sewing experience. New Hudson. (248) 446-0766

Help Wanted-Office Clerical 5020

Receptionist/Back-Up Cashier

Do you naturally smile and enjoy working with people? We have a full time position open immediately; with benefits. Exp. preferred. Send resume to: Saturn of Farmington Hills Attn: Donna 9301 Massey Dr. Plymouth MI 48170 SATURN OF PLYMOUTH

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WORD PROCESSOR Part-Time

Farmington Hills firm. 20-30 hrs/wk. Must have dictation transcription exp. Requires outstanding typing skills (min. 75 wpm) & excellent grammar skills. Position also entails clerical duties and switchboard relief. \$13 - \$15 per hour depending on experience. Please fax resume: (248) 851-4243

Help Wanted-Dental 5040

DENTAL ASSISTANT

12 Mile btwn. Evergreen/Southfield. 32-36 hrs. At least 3 yrs. exp. X-ray certified; enthusiastic; caring; dependable and organized. Float to front. Join our newly remodeled, patient centered practice. Call Toni: (248) 353-4747

DENTAL FRONT DESK INSURANCE

Part-Time. Exp. preferred. (734) 453-9413

Help Wanted-Medical 5060

MEDICAL ASSISTANT

Part-Time. 22 hrs. OB/GYN exp. preferred. Novi. Fax resume: (248) 471-1763

PHLEBOTOMY TRAINING

Classes begin Aug & Sept. Garden City, Wyandotte & Southgate. \$925 incl book. State Licensed school since 2000. (313) 382-3857

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For Livonia/Brighton allergy practice. 1+ yrs. exp. only. Call Debbie: 734-591-6660 Fax resume: 734-591-3420 dharrison@arounddetroit.biz

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Exp. req. Apply at: RAIN'S HORN 32435 Grand River, Farmington.

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New Car/Truck experience required. Call John Jeannotte Bob Jeannotte Buick, Pontiac, GMC (734) 453-2500

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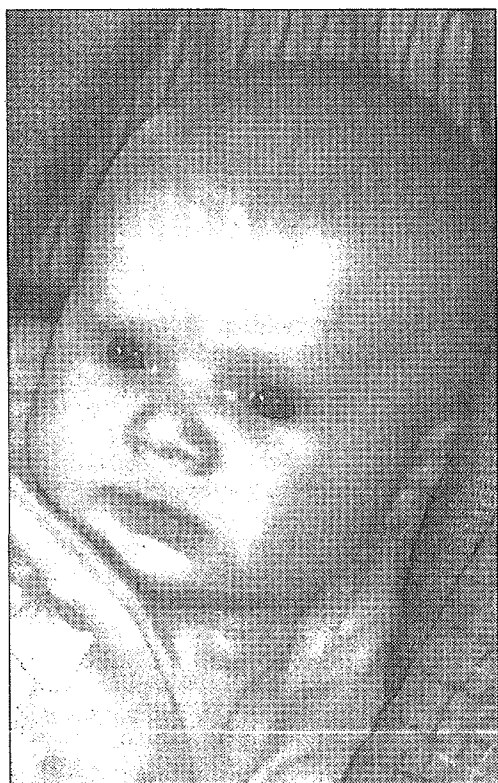
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\$210K first year. No travel. Call 1-888-234-1952

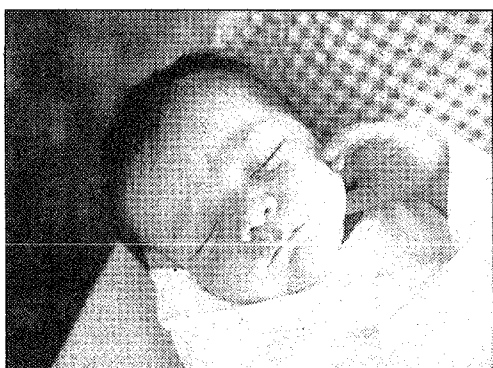
Place your ad on-line 24-7 @ www.hometownlife.com

MILESTONES

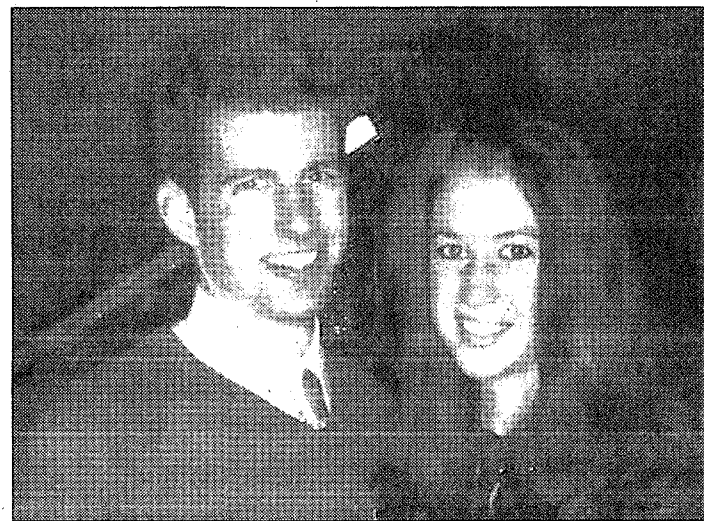


Saum baby
Adam and Erica Saum, of Farmington Hills, announce the birth of their second daughter, Addison Marie Saum, on May 27, 2009 at Henry Ford Hospital in West Bloomfield. She weighed 8 pounds, 5 ounces and measured 20 inches long. She was welcomed into the family by her big sister, Ellie, and her grandparents Carol Szymanski, of Troy and John and Marlene Saum, of Williamston.

Andrae Leonard Krupin
Andrae Leonard Krupin was born June 19, 2009 to Alana Christine Motsinger of Dexter and David Matthew Krupin of Plymouth.
Andrae weighed 8 pounds, 3 ounces and measured 21 inches.
Grandparents are Ron and Loretta Motsinger of Dexter and Mike and Connie Krupin of Westland. Great-grandparents are Leonard and Connie Motsinger of Dexter.



Conor Timothy Carmody
Conor Timothy Carmody was born June 26, 2009 in St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, Ann Arbor.
Proud parents are Tim and Lisa Carmody of Plymouth.
Grandparents are George and Laura Cooper of Plano, Texas and Michael and Camilla Carmody of Jackson.
Great-grandparents are Bess Woodard of Plano, Texas, Edna Cooper of Hammond, Ind., and Donald and Agnes Carmody of Owosso.



Lyon-Adams
Allison Marie Lyon and Brian Thomas Adams announce their engagement.
The bride-to-be, daughter of John and Linda Lyon of Farmington Hills, is a graduate of the University of Michigan.
Her fiancé, son of Richard and Rita Adams of Farmington Hills, is a Michigan State graduate.
A July 2010 wedding is planned in Bay Harbor, Michigan.



Nelson anniversary
Arthur and Margaret Method Nelson of Livonia will celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary on Aug. 27.
The couple married in 1949 in Dearborn.
Their children are Mark and Jay Nelson of Northville, Ron and Margaret Long of Plymouth, Jim and Diana Nelson of Crystal Lake, Ill., Art and Marianne Nelson, Michael and Becky Nelson of Huron, Ohio, Jane Nelson of Livonia and Dan and Krustin Nelson of Olmstead Township, Ohio. They have 22 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.
Arthur has been retired from BEI Associates in Detroit for 10 years. Margaret has been a homemaker.
The Nelsons are active at St. Aidens Parish, where they'll mark their anniversary with a Mass on Sunday, Aug. 30. Other celebration activities will include a Detroit Tiger game on Saturday, Aug. 29 and a luncheon at Walnut Creek Country Club on Sunday, Aug. 30.



GARDEN CALENDAR

If you have an item for the garden calendar, submit it at least two weeks prior to the event to Sharon Dargay at sdargay@hometownlife.com.

At English Gardens
■ Learn how to attract birds and butterflies to your garden, 7 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 5, at all stores.
■ "Adding Fragrance to the Garden," 7 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 12, at all stores.
■ "How to Arrange Garden Flowers," 7 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 19, at all stores.
■ Learn how to treat pests and problems in the garden, 7 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 26, at all stores.
Local stores are at 155 N. Maple, Ann Arbor, (734) 332-7900; 22650 Ford Road in Dearborn Heights, (313) 278-

4433; and 6370 Orchard Lake Road, in West Bloomfield; (248) 851-7506. For information, log onto www.EnglishGardens.com.

Iris plant sales
Stock up on bearded irises Aug. 8 at the Iris Club of Southeast Michigan's annual Iris sale. The organization will sell irises from 7 a.m.-1 p.m. - or until all the irises are gone - both Aug. 8 and Aug. 22, at the market, 316 E. 11 Mile, at Troy Street just east of Main, in downtown Royal Oak.
The group will sell bearded irises in all sizes, including limited selections of reblooming irises, Siberian and Japanese irises.
For more information about the sale, call (248) 280-0848 or visit <http://irisclub.org>.

Class helps mature drivers improve skills

AAA Michigan will offer a four-hour Driver Improvement Program for Mature Operators (anyone over age 55) at local branches throughout the metro area.
"The program delivers tips and techniques to help experienced drivers compensate for changing vision, reflexes and response time," explained Sue Ritter, coordinator of the AAA driver training program.
"It also acts as a quick refresher on driving defensively in a variety of situations. It is designed to keep the senior on the road longer by helping to make them a safer driver," said Ritter, adding AAA will take the program to any location for a group of 10 or more.
The program also includes CarFit, a 16-point checklist (seat belts, mirrors adjusted properly) with the driver in the vehicle.
Cost of the program is \$20 for AAA members, \$30 for non-members.

Programs are scheduled at the following AAA branch locations:
■ AAA Ann Arbor Branch, 1750 Plymouth Road (near the intersection of Plymouth Road and Murfin Ave./Upland Drive) from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday, Aug. 17 and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday, Sept. 14.
■ AAA Birmingham Branch, 34802 Woodward, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Tuesday, Aug. 11 and noon to 4 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 22.
■ AAA Canton Branch, 2017 N. Canton Center Road, noon to 4 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 19 and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday, Sept. 21.
■ AAA Farmington Hills Branch, 38751 W. 12 Mile Road, noon to 4 p.m., Monday, Aug. 24.
■ AAA Livonia Branch, 37383 Six Mile Road, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Wednesday, Sept. 9.
Those interested should contact Ritter at (313) 336-1508 or e-mail to saritter@aaaamichigan.com.

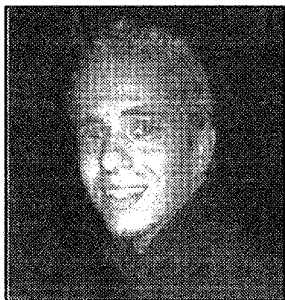
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Obituaries, Memorials & Remembrances
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email: oeobits@hometownlife.com
View Passages Online: www.hometownlife.com

MARY JOU BARKER

Age 79 of Birmingham, passed away July 25, 2009. She was born March 31, 1930 in Louisville Kentucky to the late Elgin and Myrtle Gillespie. Mary Jou was a manager for the Taubman Company in the shopping center business. She was very active in Birmingham politics, running elections, attending political meetings, as V.P. of Pembroke Manor Association, served on the citizens sewer committee and belonged to the B.A.S.K. organization. Survived by her daughter, Patti (Michael Hennes) Barker; granddaughter, Kathryn Limberakis; and her dear childhood friend, Carol Lohr. She was preceded in death by her beloved son, Robert J. Barker Jr. in (1977). Services were Thursday July 30th at Sawyer-Fuller Funeral Home, 2125 W. 12 Mile Rd., Berkley. Burial was at Greenwood Cemetery in Birmingham. Memorials may be made to Disabled American Veterans, P.O. Box 14301, Cincinnati, OH 45250-0301 - www.dav.org . Share a memory at www.sawyerfuller.com.

LAURA T. INGHAM

Born December 21, 1931. Passed away July 31, 2009. Proud mother of seven children. She will be missed dearly. Final resting place, Grand Lawn Cemetery



DAVID E. PETERS

Age 29, of Bloomfield Hills, MI passed away on Tuesday July 21, 2009. He graduated from Birmingham Groves, attended MSU and Wayne State majoring in Psychology. Those who were touched by him understand that life is defined on how we impact others. His genuine smile, intelligence, and charisma influenced many. David loved music, jamming on his guitar. He always lived in the moment. He loved talking about philosophy, psychiatry, and the meaning of life. David and his song will live on through the memories and impact he had upon others. David is survived by his loving parents, Dr. Michael and Jan Peters and his older brother Eric, five nieces & nephews many family and friends. Memorial date is still to be determined. Memorial tributes to Gleaners Food Bank or The Detroit Rescue Mission. A.J. Desmond & Sons 248-549-0500 view obituary and share memories at www.DesmondFuneralHome.com

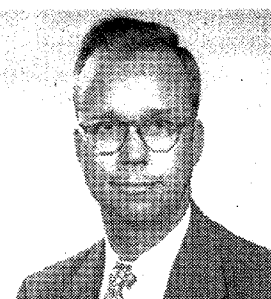
JOHN EUGENE SEARLS

July 26, 2009, age 88. Loving husband for 62 years to the late Helen. Caring father of Kim McGuire, Nicki West (Paul), and the late Pamela L. Seale. Grandfather of John Meier, Katrina Gerace, John Seale, and Jillian McGuire. Great grandfather of Pearl Ann Gerace, Davey and Timmy Meier and John Beck Seale. Funeral services are private. A. J. Desmond & Sons (248) 362-2500. View obituary and share memories at www.DesmondFuneralHome.com



ELIZABETH CHYNOWETH BOERSMA

Also known as Liz, Babe, Chy, Gram, Grammy, Grandma, Grama B, GG and Aunt Liz, age 98, died peacefully on July 24, 2009 after a brief illness. She was born June 22, 1911 in Calumet, MI and lived there in "God's country" until she went to college. She earned both a B.A. and M.A. in English from the University of Michigan. She taught English and was a class advisor at Godwin Heights High School in Grand Rapids, where she met her husband, Bill. They were happily married for 55 years until his death in 1996. She is survived by her daughters, Bethany (Donald) Gordon and Kristin (Raymond) Abraham and son, Nicholas (Ritchie) Boersma, 9 grandchildren: Deborah Grace Gordon, Daniel Gordon, Melissa (Doug) Donselar, Amy (John) Appleberg, Heather (Mark) O'Kelley, Scott (Kristy) Boersma, Will (Anna) Abraham, Genevieve (Robert) Lee, and Megan Abraham, 16 great grandchildren, 6 great, great grandchildren, several nieces and nephews and a brother in law and several sisters in law all of whom were a source of great joy to her. She was preceded in death by her parents, two brothers, and a grandson, Steven. In her younger years, she was a volunteer at Mary Free Bed Hospital where she read to pediatric patients. She was also active in P.T.A., served as a Camp Fire Girl leader and also as a den mother for the Cub Scouts. She played church hymns and songs from the 40s on the piano, enjoyed teaching Sunday school with her husband and for many years helped organize the annual Operation Santa project at Cascade Christian Church. She loved to read. Besides the Bible, her favorite devotional book was John Baillie's, A Diary of Private Prayer. She was a master of the word game "Upwords" and delighted in doing the daily word puzzle, Jumble, in the paper. But her passion was sending frequent notes of encouragement which she called "Hugs through the mail" to family and friends. Her daily letter writing ministry to others also provided her with an ongoing sense of purpose. When you needed someone to pray for you, Liz was who you called as everyone felt and believed she had a direct line to the Lord. The pride in her children, grandchildren, great grandchildren and great great grandchildren was immense and she considered them the biggest blessing she and her husband, Bill, shared. In later years she considered the residents at Raybrook Estates II where she and Bill moved in 1993 to be like family. Going to breakfast each Tuesday, completing board puzzles and shopping on Thursday with her Raybrook "family" were highlights of her week. Her life was a testament to her strong faith in Jesus Christ her Lord and Savior. We were so blessed to have this godly lady in our lives!!! Friends may visit the family at Metcalf & Jonkhoff Funeral Services 4291 Cascade Road S.E. Grand Rapids, MI on Thursday July 30 from 2-4 pm and 7-9 pm. There will be a memorial service to celebrate her life at 1:00 pm on Friday July 31 at Raybrook Chapel in Raybrook Manor 2121 Raybrook St. S.E. Grand Rapids, MI. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations in memory of Elizabeth Boersma may be made to these 3 Grand Rapids facilities: Cascade Christian Church, 2829 Thornapple River Drive, S. E., Eastminster Presbyterian Church, 1700 Woodward S. E. or Raybrook Estates, 2105 Raybrook S.E. The family is being served by Metcalf & Jonkhoff Funeral Service, 4291 Cascade Rd SE at Kenmoor, E of I-96. www.metcalfandjonkhoff.com



MURRAY C. TRIPLETT

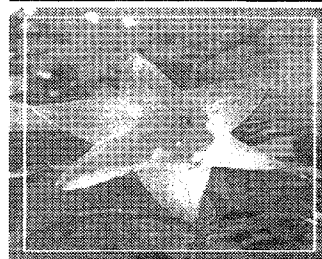
Passed away Saturday July 18, 2009 at Hemet Valley Medical Center in Hemet, CA. Murray Charles Triplett was born November 14, 1919 in St. Joseph, MO. He lived in Wilmette, IL where he graduated from New Trier High School in 1937. Murray graduated from Purdue University in 1941 with a BS degree in Mechanical Engineering. Completing ROTC, he served the US Army's ordnance department through World War II achieving the rank of Captain. After the war he awarded the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (MBE) by Lord Halifax, representing the British Government. Murray graduated from the Chrysler Institute with a Masters in Automotive Engineering. He spent 39 years with the Chrysler Corporation including several as Resident Engineer at the Clairpointe Plant in Detroit and a seven-year assignment in England where he served as Director of Pilot Operations. He lived in Birmingham, MI until retiring in 1980. Murray then worked for the Boeing Commercial Airplane Company in Wichita, KS where he lived until relocating to Green Valley, AZ in 1989. In his younger years, Murray was an avid skier and golfer. He had life long passions for travel, photography, bridge and raising and showing roses. Murray was a member of the First Baptist Church of Birmingham, MI for over twenty years. Murray was preceded in death by his wife Barbara who, after 53 years of marriage, passed away in 1995, his son Layne, mother Hazel, father Hugh, brothers Harlow and Dennis, and sisters Natalie and Joyce. He is survived by wife Jean of Hemet, CA, daughter Linda King (Clyde) of Las Vegas, NV, son Roger of Birmingham, MI, daughters-in-law Jane Triplett of Peoria, AZ and Pamela Triplett of Portage, MI, brother Hugh (Marjorie) of Lake Bluff, IL, sisters-in-law Thelma Triplett of Richland, WA and Pat Triplett of Barrington, IL, grandchildren Kristin Shank (Darrell) of Tustin, MI, Kevin King of Las Vegas, NV, Nathan Triplett (Sarah) of East Lansing, MI, Colin Triplett of Ann Arbor, MI, great grandchildren Derrick, Dillan and Kasey Shank of Tustin, MI. Murray was loved and will be greatly missed by Jean's extended family including brothers Dewitt, Martin and Knox McCloy, children Kerry, Lois, Linda, Janet and Fred McKay. A memorial will be planned at a later date and interment will be at the Green Valley Mortuary and Cemetery in Green Valley, AZ.

In Memory Of



In Memory Of DR. KURUVILLA ZACHARIAS

Passed away August 2006. In my heart I know it's true. I was surely blessed with you!
Miss you so, dear! Mariann



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NEIGHBORS

Adult readers' picks run the gamut in summertime

BY JULIE BROWN
O&E STAFF WRITER

From "beach books" to weightier tomes, area adults like their summertime reading.

Rebecca Havenstein-Coughlin, department head for adult services at the Canton Public Library, reports Janet Evanovich's *Finger Lickin' Fifteen*, a mystery, is popular this summer.

"I know people get hooked on her. She's very funny," said Havenstein-Coughlin, who is hooked on Evanovich's Stephanie Plum private investigator series.

"James Patterson's *Swimsuit* is getting a lot of press," she said of that fiction title involving a murderer. "There's a lot of interest in that."

She agreed summer's a good time for fun reading, with more than 1,000 adults in Canton's summer reading program. "I think a lot of people are taking staycations," Havenstein-Coughlin said.

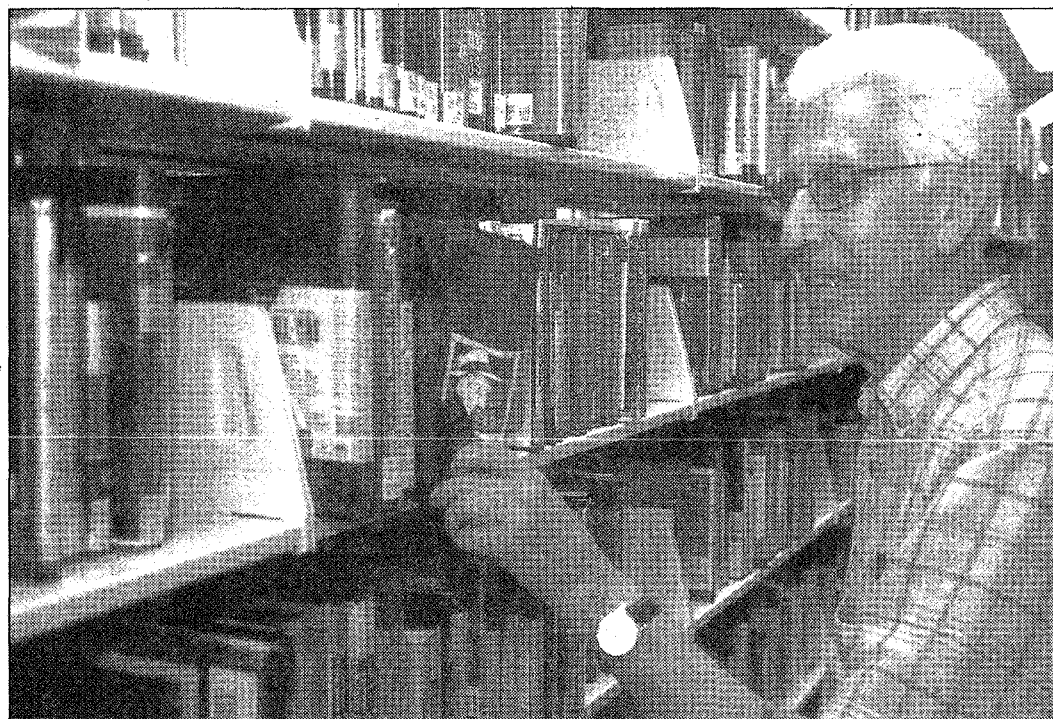
"Sometimes people look at summer as a time to do a little more light-hearted reading."

On a more serious note, Malcolm Gladwell's *Outliers* is circulating well at Canton. That nonfiction work focuses on what makes a high achiever different.

For fun, Canton readers often pick comedian Chelsea Handler's *Are You There, Vodka? It's Me, Chelsea*.

Local readers tend to follow national trends in picking best sellers, she said, "and probably pick up some paperback best sellers as well."

An author who's an Oak Park native, Michael



Bob Cormendy of Westland picks a book at the William P. Faust Public Library of Westland. Reading's a popular pastime with many adults in the summer.

Zaadoorian, wrote *The Leisure Seeker*, also popular and with a lot of Michigan references.

"It's a delightful little work of fiction," said Havenstein-Coughlin, adding it's not a light-hearted read.

REDFORD READS

Kim Potter, director of the Redford Township District Library, also recently read Evanovich's *Finger Lickin' Fifteen*. "Her books are just so funny," Potter said of the series. "I tend to go to the new book section."

She recently read *Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society* by Mary Ann Shaffer.

That's not a typical choice

for Potter, who likes mysteries, but it was a good story. Mostly told through letters, it takes place in 1946 and tells of life on Guernsey, a British island, during the German occupation.

Redford library staffers have talked about starting an adult summer reading program and hope to do so next year. Potter's colleague Brooke Somerville, a librarian, reports these popular titles at Redford:

For fiction at Redford, it's *Finger Lickin' Fifteen* by Janet Evanovich, as well as *Living Dead in Dallas* by Charlaine Harris (book 2 in the Southern Vampire mys-

tery series, featuring telepath Sookie Stackhouse. This is the book currently being featured in season 2 episodes of the HBO program *True Blood*.)

My Sister's Keeper by Jodi Picoult is regaining popularity because of the current movie version, starring Cameron Diaz and Abigail Breslin. In that story, the Fitzgeralds conceive daughter Anna to be a donor match for their oldest daughter, Kate, who has leukemia. Anna loves her sister but the medical procedures she endures to help Kate have caused her to hire a lawyer to gain medical emancipation and control over her own body.

Redford nonfiction top

picks include: *Act Like a Lady, Think Like a Man: What Men Really Think About Love, Relationships, Intimacy, and Commitment* by Steve Harvey. This funny, self-help guide for women's relationships has been popular since its release in early March, and has a waiting list.

Another nonfiction pick for Redford is *The Unlikely Disciple: A Sinner's Semester at America's Holiest University* by Kevin Roose, popular among some library employees. Instead of taking a semester abroad like his friends at Brown University, Roose opts for a semester at the fundamentalist Liberty University. Somerville reports this is somewhat of a culture shock for him but he is determined to fit in at the evangelical college. The book is entertaining and observant but not mocking.

LIVONIA LIT

Livonia's adult summer reading programs have varied over the years, and are popular although less organized than the children's programs, said City Librarian Kathleen Monroe.

She chose to read Debbie Macomber's fiction, with *Summer on Blossom Street* the most recent.

"Usually, I tend to read more period historical things," Monroe said. Macomber's books are more contemporary and Monroe enjoys them.

There are several book clubs for adults at Livonia, and a key part of that library's mission is encouraging adult use and learning.

"I think it's a little bit of

everything," Monroe said of summer reading. "They revisit things they really like."

Some summer reading takes adults away from daily life, while other books focus on how-to help or coping with issues.

"There are a lot more people using the library right now," said Monroe, noting circulation's up 15 percent from last year at this time. She agreed staycations are popular, with fiction, DVDs and books on CDs circulating.

"We're here and we're still serving the public," Monroe said of the Civic Center Library and three smaller branches.

PLYMOUTH PROSE

Plymouth District Library patrons have been drawn to the adult summer reading program this summer, which, like many libraries, features drawings for prizes. Susan Stoney, public relations specialist at Plymouth, noted there's both a quick form for adult readers to rate and review a book, as well as a challenge of reading a dozen books from different genres.

"We have had good response with it," said Stoney, adding more will come in as August progresses. "People have been chipping away at that list."

Stoney and colleague Sue Patterson, an adult reference librarian, report these popular picks among Plymouth adult readers: *Finger Lickin' Fifteen* by Janet Evanovich; *The Domsday Key* by James Rollins; *Knockout* by Catherine Coulter;

Swimsuit by James

Please see **BOOKS, A7**

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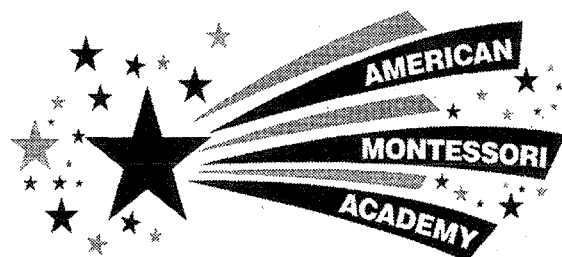
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Graceful greyhounds, pocket pals ready for adoption

If you're intent on adopting a guinea pig, hamster, gerbil rat or rabbit, the Michigan Humane Society's Small Animal Adoption Day is where you'll want to be, 11 a.m.-3 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 8, at its Berman Center for Animal Care, 900 Newburgh, south of Ford Road, in Westland.

MHS adoption counselors and small animal experts will be on hand to create great matches between adopters and their new furry family members.

MHS encourages responsible adoption decisions based on research and commitment, rather than impulsive decisions.

Many small companion animals generally require less of a space, time and financial commitment than cats and dogs. However, the personality traits and care needs are different for each species:

■ Hamsters and gerbils may be too small for young children, but can make nice pets for older kids.

■ Guinea pigs are bigger and can make good pets for just about all ages. The more they are gently handled, the more social they can become.

■ Domestic rats can make wonderful pets for children because they are clean, smart and tend to enjoy being handled.

■ Rabbits are intelligent, fun-loving and affectionate and can make great family pets. They need more exercise and social time with their family than many other small companion animals.

Adoption fees range from \$3 for hamsters to \$15 for guinea pigs. Rabbits may be adopted for \$30, which includes the spaying or neutering of rabbits



Members of Greyheart Greyhound Rescue and Adoption pose with adoptable dog at the 2008 Woodward Dream Cruise.



6 months and older. To "meet" some of the adoptable small animals, visit www.michiganhumane.org and click on "adopt." (866) MHUMANE.

CRUISIN' GREYHOUNDS

If you prefer fast dogs to fast cars, drop by Weir Manuel Snyder Ranke Real Estate's parking lot during the annual Woodward Dream Cruise, Aug. 15.

Greyheart Greyhound Rescue and Adoption will be on hand from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. with adoptable greyhounds. The firm is located at 298 South Old Woodward in Birmingham.

Visit Greyheart on the Web at www.greyheart.org

BARK AT THE MOON

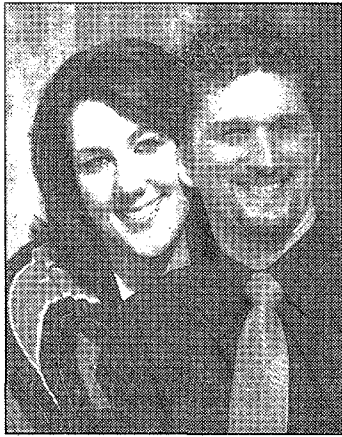
Have fun with your dog and help the Friends of Canton's

Dog Park at its fund-raiser, 6:30-9 p.m., Friday, Aug. 14, in Heritage Park, located west of Canton Center road and south of Cherry Hill Road.

Heritage Park Ball field #2 will be fenced in to simulate an off-leash dog park. Donations will be accepted. For more information, call (734) 394-5310.

The Friends of Canton's Dog Park and Canton Leisure Services have teamed up to raise the \$50,000 needed to create the park. It will be located adjacent to the Bartlett-Travis House at 500 N. Ridge Road.

MILESTONES



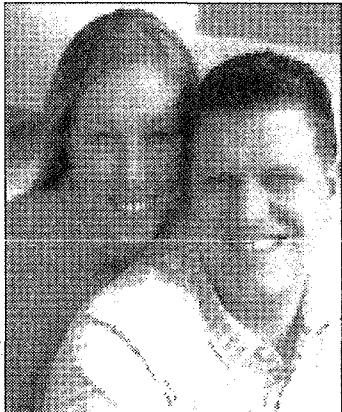
Weessies-Allan

Stephanie Lynne Weessies of Farmington Hills and Ahmad Mikel Allan of Dearborn announce their engagement.

The bride-to-be, daughter of Thomas and Karen Weessies of Farmington Hills, is a 2009 graduate of Wayne State University. She plans to attend graduate school in 2010.

Her fiancé, son of Emaddine and Valerie Allan of Dearborn, also graduated from Wayne State University in 2009 and plans to attend graduate school in 2010.

A July 2010 wedding is planned at Wellers of Saline.



Gruska-Schwochow

Kimberly Anne Gruska and Andrew Schwochow announce their engagement.

The bride-to-be, daughter of Gary and Sally Gruska of Livonia, graduated from Eastern Michigan University with a master's degree in computer information systems.

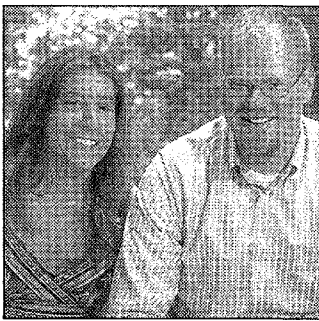
Her fiancé, son of Jerry and Judy Schwochow of Willard, Ohio, graduated from Ohio State University with a degree in psychology.

An August 2009 wedding is planned in Plymouth.

Amanda Mae Ross and Thomas Edward Godward Jr. announce their engagement.

The bride-to-be, of Farmington Hills, is the daughter of Spencer and Donna Ross of Westland. She graduated from John Glenn High School in 2001 and Kettering University in 2005. She is a project engineer for Nissan Technical Center North America.

The groom-elect, of Farmington Hills, is the son of Thomas and Janet Godward of Poland, Ohio. He graduated from Poland Seminary High School in 1998 and Kettering University in 2003. He is a senior engineer for



Ross-Godward

Badenoch LLC.

An October 2009 wedding is planned in Farmington Hills.

BOOKS

FROM PAGE A6

Patterson; *The Physick Book of Deliverance Dane: a novel* by Katherine Howe; *My Sister's Keeper* by Jodi Picoult; *The Help* by Kathryn Stockett; *Dead and Gone* by Charlaine Harris; *The Neighbor* by Lisa Gardner; *Wedding Girl* by Madeleine Wickham; *The Shack* by William P. Young; and *First Family* by David Baldacci.

The release of *The Time Traveler's Wife* film (the author is Audrey Niffenegger) this month will likely lift that book's circulation, Plymouth staffers report, just as the film version of *My Sister's Keeper* did.

WESTLAND WORDS

Marilyn Kwik, department head for adult services at the William P. Faust Public Library of Westland, is enjoying Barbara Nadel's *The Ottoman Cage*, a mystery set in Turkey in modern times. She agreed James Patterson's *Swimsuit* is popular with readers this summer.

Patterson wrote popular books with co-authors, she said, including *Run for Your Life* with Michael Ledwidge and *The 8th Confession*, with Maxine Paetro, the latter a part of the Women's Murder Club Series.

For fiction, Westland readers like *The Help* by Kathryn Stockett. "They're looking for easy readers, something that doesn't take up a lot of their time," said Kwik, noting adults have more time to read in summer. Another popular fiction pick at Westland is *The Shack* by William P. Young.

"It's about life-changing

events," Kwik said, noting it has a religious element.

Westland's summer reading program for adults is also popular, with a Do It Yourself @ Your Library theme. Patrons track what they've read and get tickets for weekly prize drawings.

Programs have ranged from fixing your PC to crafts and floral arranging. Adults have learned about researching family history this summer, as well as indoor painting from a Lowe's staffer and container gardening from Joe Barson of Barson's Greenhouse. Programs run through Aug. 15, Kwik said, so there's still time to participate.

The library Friends and businesses like My Lady's Florist have been a big help, and Kwik points with pride to a program under way at the nearby Friendship Center on memoir writing for seniors. There's also been a library program on stretching food dollars.

GARDEN CITY

Garden City's library director, James Lenze, also reports a busy summer. "Fiction and mysteries are very popular," he said. "Our large print collection has been circulating well."

Finger Lickin' Fifteen is also much-requested at Garden City. That library's board offers a book club, and has read titles from recent years including Sue Monk Kidd's *The Secret Life of Bees* and Barbara Kingsolver's *The Bean Trees*.

Lenze agreed adults look for fun stuff this time of year. "They tend to look for lighter reading in the summer," he

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HAND SURGERY IN RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS

In the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis, hand surgery is salvage surgery. For the most part, hand surgeons undertake operation to repair the damage done by arthritis will do the surgery only under the condition, that if the surgery fails, the patient is no worse than before the surgery.

The first reason for this conservative approach to hand surgery is that in the hand, bone stock is limited. The bones of the hand and wrist are thin and small compared to the bone structure of large joints such as the hip and knee. A second operation is possible in the large joints because the amount of bone is sufficient to permit the placing of another stem to hold the replacement joint in place. In small joints, the bone remaining after the first operation is not enough to anchor another replacement joint.

A second reason hand surgery enjoys limited success is because of the interaction of finger joints with the muscles that activate these joints. Years of arthritis cause these small muscles to lose muscle mass that even hand exercises cannot bring back. The effect is to make it unlikely that replacement joints, even if perfectly placed, will be able to grasp, flex or hold to the extent needed for practical functioning.

What hand surgery can do is relieve pain and improve the appearance of an awkward-looking hand.

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They are ALL ACTION!

Reel Action FX puts the 'bang' in local film industry

BY PAT MURPHY
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Patrick Potochick puts the "action" in action movies filmed in Michigan.

Reel Action FX, a special effects company in Redford Township, owned by Potochick, of Farmington Hills, provides special effects services to the booming Michigan film industry.

"Anybody who wants to film guns — or have a car blown up — comes to us," said Potochick, a 1979 graduate of Livonia Churchill High School who played a background in fire arms and police work into an exploding business.

Using realistic replicas, his company provides automatic pistols, machine guns, rocket propelled grenades, humvees and other armament that excite audiences and boost box office draw. Specifically, the company provides film companies with the hardware, expertise and training to make action scenes exciting — and believable. It's the largest stunt rental company in Michigan.

Reel Action FX started 10 years ago as a side business offering film consulting, weapons rentals and armory services to Michigan film makers. Today, it has an 11,000-square-foot facility and provides police and military consulting, prop weapon rentals, armory services, custom props, stunt choreography, stunt equipment rental, armored assault vehicle rentals and mechanical special effects and pyrotechnics.

Reel Action FX employs the seven top entertainment weapons armorers in the state, and 25 stunt performers, including the only stunt kids in Michigan.

The company is owned and operated by Michigan natives Patrick Potochick, of Farmington Hills; Darcy Leutzinger, a police lieutenant at the Warren Police Department and John Oldham,

an attorney who also lives in Farmington Hills.

Banzai Vitale, who has more than 25 years experience as a stunt actor and stunt coordinator, is the stunt coordinator for Reel Action FX.

Vitale played another role last year when the state legislature was considering tax breaks as an incentive to companies making movies in Michigan.

"I testified on what those tax breaks could mean," Vitale said. "And I'm a good example. I moved to Michigan because movies are being made here. That wouldn't have happened without those tax breaks."

Craig Gubert is another stunt man, is originally from the metro area, graduating from Novi High School in 1993. He returned to the state as the film industry seemed ready to take root in Michigan.

"It's good to be back in Michigan," said Gubert.

DYNAMIC DUO

Potochick's daughter, Frankie, 11, is a stunt actor who is the youngest in the state. She's a seventh grader at East Middle School in Farmington Hills. (See related A-1 story)

Patrick Potochick is a former police officer.

"I grew up shooting firearms," said Potochick, whose late father was a Marine Corps weapons instructor. "And I know how to work with weapons. I got into the movie business after I worked as a consultant to film companies."

Michigan film industry tax breaks prompted Potochick to expand Reel Action FX and turn it into a full time business.

"I knew there would be a steady demand for my expertise," he said. "And business just took off. So in January, I started looking for space."

A friend of a friend — in this case Albert Nagy, owner of Fire Systems of Michigan Inc., in Redford — put him in



Stunt man Banzai Vitale, right, and Patrick Potochick, left, show township Supervisor Tracey Schultz Kobylarz one of the realistic — but fake — rocket launchers they provide to companies making movies in Michigan.

touch with Redford Township Supervisor Tracey Schultz Kobylarz. Things moved rapidly after that. They moved in July 1.

"But if it hadn't been for those tax breaks, none of this would have happened," he said.

His company has, for example, provided four stunt actors — including Patrick and Frankie Potochick and Vitale, who was stunt coordinator — for *Flipped*, a movie being made in Ann Arbor. They've been approached about providing services for *Red Dawn*, a remake to be filmed in Troy

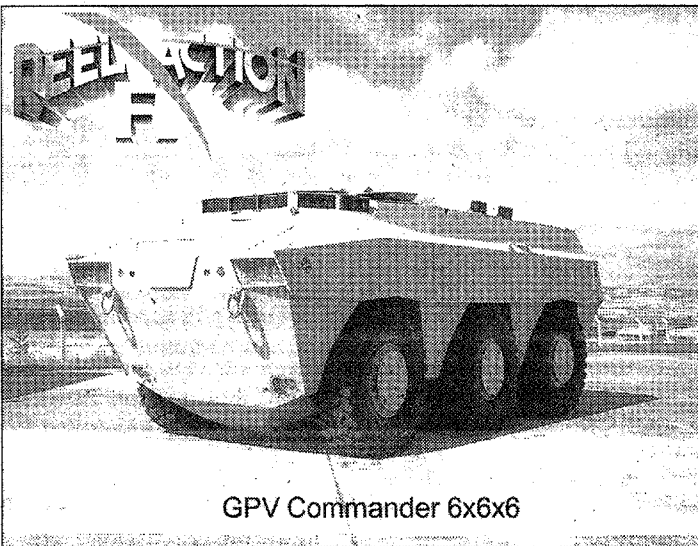


Francesca Potochick, better known as Frankie, is a stunt kid with the new studio in Redford. She is shown here with her mother Karen and father Patrick. The Potochicks live in Farmington Hills.

and Detroit. Potochick said his company has also contracted to provide a submarine sequence for an upcoming episode of *Monster Garage*, a popular television show on the Discovery Channel.

GPV Armored Vehicles of New Haven, signed an exclusive deal with Reel Action FX to represent their vehicles in television and motion pictures.

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The GPV6x6 is an armored amphibious vehicle used on movie sets and is just one of the armory vehicles supplied by Reel Action FX.


tors and operate totally self contained in any biohazard or nuclear contaminated area, to the gigantic 8x8x8 "Colonel" which is amphibious, these vehicles are not only unique, they are quite a sight to see coming down the road, said

Potochick.

Like other segments of the economy, the movie industry is risky, Potochick acknowledges.

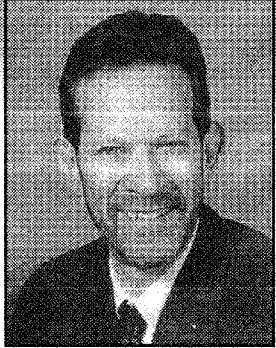
"But I can see a pretty good future in Michigan," he said.

For more information, visit www.ReelActionFX.com.



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FUNNY PEOPLE (R) 12:00, 3:15, 6:40, 9:45
ALIENS IN THE ATTIC (PG) 12:10, 2:35, 4:40, 7:00, 9:05
FRIDAY SAT 11:10
ORPHAN (R) 11:10, 1:40, 4:15, 7:05, 9:55
HARRY POTTER AND THE HALF-BLOOD PRINCE (PG) 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 9:30
3D ICE AGE: DAWN OF THE DINOSAURS (PG) 5:00, 7:10, 9:15
FRIDAY SAT 11:30
THE PROPOSAL (PG-13)
FRI-TUE/TH 11:55, 2:20, 4:50, 7:15, 9:35
FRIDAY SAT 11:55 WED 11:55, 2:20, 4:50
THE HANGOVER (R)
FRI-WED 12:55, 3:05, 5:15, 7:35, 9:50
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The Reunion Calendar runs Sundays in the paper as space allows, and online in its entirety at www.hometownlife.com. Submit your announcement at least two weeks in advance to Sharon Dargay at sdargay@hometownlife.com.

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Class of 1949
Call Delores Calcaterra Streicher at (734) 422-8780 for complete information about a reunion on Tuesday, Aug. 25.

Clarenceville High School

All Class Reunion
10 a.m. to park closing, Sunday, Aug. 30, 2009 at Kensington Metropark, 2240 West Buno, Milford at South Martindale, Shelter T. Bring a dish to pass for 1 p.m., potluck lunch. BYOB for adult beverages in non-glass containers. To help cut cost, feel free to bring a package of burgers, hot dogs, and buns. This invitation includes everyone who attended the Livonia Clarenceville School system. Staff and faculty also welcome. For more information, contact Walter Ragland II at wragland2@hotmail.com or (269) 720-5679.

Dearborn High School

Class of 1969
40th Reunion, 6 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 8, 2009, at the Knights of Columbus O'Kelley Hall, 23663 Park Street, Dearborn, 48124. Tickets are \$45 each. For information, call Tom Gillespie at (313) 418-6070 or e-mail Maryann (Taylor) Manduch at mmmanduch@wideopenwest.com.

Dearborn Heights Riverside

Class of 1967
42-year reunion is planned for Sept. 18-19, 2009. Event includes: Friday night graduate-only get-together with pizza and salad (\$10) at DeLuca's, 27424 W. Warren Road, Westland; Saturday night dinner at Joy Manor, 28999 Joy Road, Westland. Tickets for Saturday event are \$35 per person. Contact Gerry Porta for more information at (734) 718-9401 or gwiatr@gmail.com.

Detroit Cody

Classes from 1950-1969
11 a.m.-6 p.m., Sunday, Aug. 23 at Nankin Mills Pavilion, Ann Arbor Trail and Hines Drive. BYO and chairs. Music and memorabilia will be supplied. The "Optomystics" will sing. There will be door prizes, hot dogs, bottled water, T-shirts and sweatshirts, tassels, music CDs and more. Free parking for Classic Cars. No need to register. Just show up. Classmates.com has photos from past picnics. Questions? Call Phil Varilone at (313) 562-3579 or Jerry Marszalek at (313) 532-0134.

Detroit Holy Redeemer

Class of 1969
40-year reunion, 6 p.m.-midnight, Aug. 8, Portofino's, 3455 Biddle, Wyandotte. For more information visit www.holyredeemer69.com or call Mary Ann at (248) 693-9117.

Detroit Redford

Cisses of 1954-1955
5 p.m., Oct. 13, at the Bavarian Inn Lodge,

Frankenmuth; \$45 per person. See www.redfordhighschoolreunion.com for details. Clas of '54 contact Doug King at dking000@ameritechn.net

Class of '55 contact, Mary Morris Hunter at m.morris.rhs55@wowway.com

Detroit St. Brigid

Class of 1959

Planning a reunion and looking for classmates. Contact szonyek@att.net with any information about classmates.

Detroit St. Casimir High School

Class of 1959

Planning a Sept. 13, 2009, class reunion. All upper and lower classmates invited. Contact Judy (Zimski) Coogan at JudyCoo@hotmail.com or (734) 675-0148, or Pete Rakowski at PJcruisin@wowway.com.

Detroit St. Philip Neri

Class of 1937-1970

11 a.m.-6 p.m., Sunday, Aug. 23, at Stony Creek Metropark in Shelby Township, 26 Mile, west of Van Dyke, in the West Branch picnic area. Bring St. Philip's memorabilia for reminiscing. Hot dogs and sausages will be available for \$2 for those who don't want to bring their own food. Adults only. Any money left after expenses are covered will be donated to The Sisters of St. Joseph. All old classic cars welcome. If you have addresses or phone numbers of St. Philip classmates, call Harold Pryor at (734) 462-5996.

Detroit St. Thomas

Reunion for anyone who attended Detroit St. Thomas Apostle, 7 p.m. to midnight Saturday, Oct. 24, 2009, at The American Polish Cultural Center, 2975 E. Maple, Troy. There will be a complete sit-down dinner including all drinks and music. The cost per person is \$45. For information, call Rose Ann Filar-Novik at (248) 770-1271.

Fordson High School

Classes of 1943-45

65th reunion, 11 a.m.-3 p.m., Friday, Sept. 25, at Park Place, 23400 Park Street, one block south of Michigan Avenue, west of Outer Drive, in Dearborn. Cost is \$25 per person and includes luncheon. Send a check payable to "Fordson 65th Reunion" to Tom Novacheff, 50729 Raintree Circle, Chesterfield Township, MI 48047. Canceled check is your receipt. For more information call Delores Dysarz Haush at (313) 278-4707.

Class of 1954

55-year reunion Oct. 1 at the Stitt American Legion Post 232 in Dearborn Heights. For more information, call Nancy Barlow Gaspar at (313) 581-6623.

Garden City High School East

Class of 1959

3 p.m. Friday, Sept. 18, 2009 high school tour; 6:30 p.m. Albert's On The Alley; 11 a.m. Saturday Sept. 19, Garden City Museum tour; 6 p.m. to midnight party at K. of C., 30759 Ford Road and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 20, picnic and old car show at Garden City Park large pavilion. Bring your own

picnic and some to share. For more information, call Lana Clark at (734) 721-2331, Jim McKendrick at (734) 788-5165, Carl Gowan at (517) 548-1523, or Jim Porth at (734) 522-1845.

Garden City High School

Class of 1960

Mini-reunion luncheons held the second Saturday of every month at 1 p.m. in the banquet room in the Plymouth Denny's on Ann Arbor Road, east of I-275. Call Gary Simon at (734) 751-4101 or send e-mail to gchsclassof84@yahoo.com.

Class of 1984

25-year reunion riverboat cruise Saturday, Sept. 19. Boat leaves Rivard Plaza dock at 7:30 p.m. To order tickets, or get more info email gchsclassof84@yahoo.com

Class of 1989

20th reunion 6 p.m. to midnight, Aug. 29, 2009, at Joy Manor. No tickets will be sold at the door. Tickets include dinner, open bar, DJ, door prizes, picture CD and other gifts, and are available for purchase at www.gardencity89.com or contact Paula at gchsl989reunion@hotmail.com.

Garden City West

Class of 1979

Holds a 30-year class reunion on Oct. 24, 2009 at the Hellenic Cultural Center on Joy Road in Westland. Classmates should register on the private Web site, <http://www.classcreator.com/Garden-City-MI-Garden-City-West-1979>, to get all information. Tickets will go on sale in the upcoming months on the Web site. E-mail questions to gcw79reunion@yahoo.com.

Lincoln Park High School

Looking for members of Lincoln Park High School class of 1958 for 50-year reunion. Contact Nancy, (313) 535-8777 or nc6897@sbcglobal.net.

Livonia Bentley High School

Class of 1959

50th Reunion Friday, Aug. 28, 2009; golf at noon at Downing Farms, \$20 followed by 6 p.m. barbecue at Downing Farms, \$10; Saturday, Aug. 29, Bentley High visit at 11 a.m., free, and 50th Reunion Dinner at Walnut Creek Country Club at 6 p.m., \$40, and Sunday, Aug. 30, at Walnut Creek Country Club, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., \$12. Hotels: Crown Plaza, Novi, (800) 227-6963, \$92, or Comfort Suites, Wixom, (248) 504-5070, \$69, mention Bentley High, Class of 1959, 50th Reunion. Call Jim "Cubby" Culbertson at (248) 446-0308 or e-mail jimculbertson@sbcglobal.net.

Classes of 1968-1970

Combined class reunion Friday, Nov. 27, 2009, at the Radisson Hotel Detroit-Livonia, I-275 and Six Mile. For details, visit www.bentley686970.org to e-mail, or call Connie (Scarlett) Flynn class of 1968 at (734) 812-7936, Bev (Valentine) Wilkie class of 1969 at (248) 366-6492 or Colleen Siembor class of 1970 at (734) 455-1395.

Livonia Franklin

Class of 1969

A 40th high school reunion is in the planning stages. The dates are set for Nov. 13-15. For

information, contact Kathy Nisun at (248) 363-5679 or e-mail Kaynini@aol.com or Kathy Shoebridge at klivingstone@nu-core.com.

Class of 1989

20-year Class Reunion, 6 p.m. to midnight, Saturday, Aug. 15, at the Livonia Marriott, 17100 N. Laurel Park Drive. Tickets \$55 (cash bar); checks payable to FHS Class of 1989, mail to: FHS 89 Class Reunion, P.O. Box 6139, Plymouth, MI 48170. Include contact information. For information, e-mail Angie at amiller@fctitle.com or Dennis at denny_dilorenzo@yahoo.com or call Dennis DiLorenzo at (734) 968-0064. Hotel reservations can be made at the Livonia Marriott, (800) 228-9290, or www.marriott.com. Group reservation rates under Livonia Franklin 20-Year Reunion.

Classes 1965-2000

All school reunion, including teachers, 8 p.m.-2 a.m., Friday, Aug. 14, at TC Gator's of Canton, 42775 Ford Road; (734) 981-0906. Cost is \$15 and includes valet parking, food, two DJs, cash bar and memories with old friends. RSVP to Alicia O'Brien (Douglas) Class of '87 at (734) 673-3842 or e-mail to aliciadoug@aol.com.

Milford High School

Class of 1978

Planning a 30th reunion. Class members should contact the reunion committee as soon as possible. E-mail milford78@gmail.com.

Mother Of Our Savior

All class reunion

Aug. 15, 2009 at Monahan's K of C in Livonia. For more information. Call Joe McCauley at (734) 420-2898.

Northville High School

Class of 1979

30-year reunion 7 p.m. Aug. 15, at Genitti's in Northville. Tickets and more information at www.classcreator.com/Northville-MI-1979/index.cfm.

Plymouth High School

Class of 1969

40th class reunion 6 p.m. to midnight, Saturday Sept. 19, at the Plymouth Elks Club. Dinner at 7 p.m. Cost is \$25 per person. Cash bar. For more detail or to RSVP contact phs1969@aol.com. Looking for missing classmates. Contact phs1969@aol.com with your name address telephone number and email address.

Redford Thurston High School

Class of 1969

A 40-year "casual" get together, Saturday, Sept. 5, Labor Day weekend, at G. SUBU's Leather Bottle Restaurant, 20300 Farmington Road, Livonia. \$10 at door. Discounted bar and a band will play. Reserve tickets by calling Ted Enright at (734) 564-1699, or e-mail TedEnright@AOL.com.

Romulus High School

Class of 1979

Reunion ('77-'81 invited) Thursday-Sunday, Aug. 20-23. Activities include a reception at the Best

Western Gateway Hotel, The Princess Riverboat w/dinner (\$60), socializing with music and appetizers at the hotel, and a family picnic. Discount rooms available at the hotel. For information, call Duane Moffat at (248) 426-6501 or e-mail SpectroD@aol.com.

St. Frederick High School

All school

The Annual Pontiac St. Frederick Mass and all class reunion will start with Mass at 11 a.m., on Sept. 13, at St. Vincent De Paul Church in Pontiac, followed by a luncheon at Santia Hall on Cass Lake Road in Keego Harbor. Tickets cost \$22 and are available at the Madonna Shop in Pontiac (248) 681-3964 or contact Jim Russell at (248) 363-4209. E-mail address is: st_freds_alumni@yahoo.com. Ticket deadline is Sept. 11. Anyone who attended St. Fred's is welcome.

St. Mary of Redford

Class of 1969

40-year reunion, Saturday Nov. 14, 2009 at the Monaghan Knights of Columbus in Livonia. If interested in helping to plan the event or contacting classmates call Mark Coulter at (734) 453-5423 or e-mail to mcoulter@gr-lakes.com.

Southfield High School

Class of 1979

30th reunion, Saturday, Sept. 5, at Wonderland Lanes, 8265 Richardson, Commerce. Doors open at 7 p.m. Includes bowling, karaoke, DJ, dancing, coney, pizza, sliders, salads, sundae bar and cash bar. \$55 per person or \$100 per couple by Aug. 21; \$75 per person or \$140 per couple after Aug. 21. To buy tickets or for more information visit <http://shsr79griff.myevent.com>

Visitation High School

Class of 1959

50-year reunion party Sept 12. Call Charleen at (248) 652-6817.

Wayne Memorial

Class of 1983

26th reunion, noon until dark, Sunday, Aug. 29, at Independence Lake Park, in Whitmore Lake. A \$5-\$10 donation per family is suggestion, but participants can contribute any amount to help cover the cost of pavilion rental. Family-friendly event. Potluck. For more information call Mary Gills Orwin at (734) 968-6368.

Westland John Glenn

Class of 1969

40th Reunion Weekend, Friday-Saturday, Oct. 9-10. Friday activities: 6:45 p.m. football game JGHS vs. WMHS; 7:30-11:00 p.m. social mixer at Hilton Garden Inn, near airport. Saturday activities: 10:30 a.m. tour of John Glenn High School, 6 p.m.-midnight reunion dinner at Hilton Garden Inn. For tickets and information, contact jghs69@aol.com; Facebook JGHS Class of 1969 or Sandra Shepherd Legg at (313) 273-7950. Registration deadline, Sept. 5 at JGHS69@aol.com.

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HEALTH & FITNESS

Camp offers hands-on lessons in medicine

BY SHARON DARGAY
O&E STAFF WRITER

Monica McCoskey of Farmington Hills deftly started an IV line last week. She operated and spent time in the emergency room.

She even immobilized a hand and wrist in a plaster cast.

Granted, the IV needle pierced a rubber arm, the surgery was virtual, and the cast went on her own hand — which wasn't even fractured — but Monica said the medical lessons gave her a realistic look into health professions.

"I really want to be a pediatrician when I get older, or something in the medical field. I've been saying that I want to be a doctor since I was little and now I feel like I really want to be," said Monica, 12, who spent last week at Camp Scrubs, a Schoolcraft College summer day camp.

The career exploration camp is part of the college's annual summer Kids on Campus program that offers academic and "just for fun" courses in the arts, computers, science, math, chess, architecture, aerospace and manufacturing for two weeks in July.

"We used to do a class format and now we're doing camps," said Michelle Bialo, program manager. "The classes met for two hours, Monday through Thursday for two weeks. Now, instead, we're doing camps Monday-Friday for one week, but it's 9 a.m.-3 p.m. every day. It's a better opportunity to really learn the subject."

BUSY WEEK

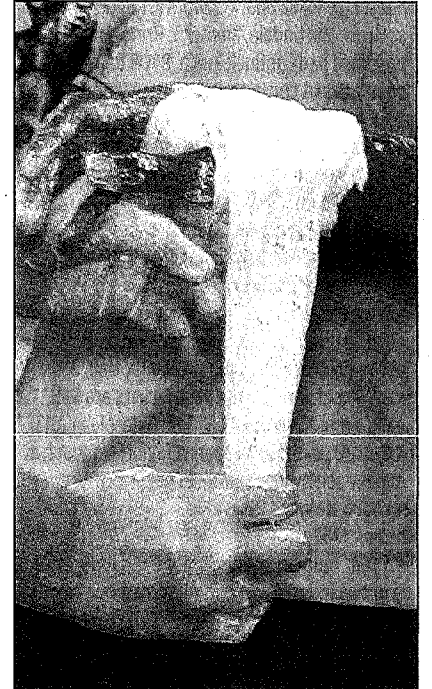
The 7-9th graders in Camp Scrubs needed every minute of the expanded daily schedule to digest all that instructor and nurse Dawn Buerkle taught them. Buerkle started teaching the course four years ago and devised a curriculum that gave campers "a little bit of exposure to multiple things."

"We try to touch on a variety of different medical careers they might come in contact with," said Buerkle, a former nursing student at Schoolcraft who works in oncology at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital.

She helped campers cast their own



Amani Echols, 12, of Farmington Hills (left) does a "high five" with Julia Meireles, 14, of Plymouth while wearing their hand casts created at Camp Scrubs.



Camp Scrubs at Schoolcraft College in Livonia includes a lesson in applying a plaster cast.

wrists and hands Thursday, working outdoors with a bucket of water and yards of dry plaster wrap.

"We went to St. Mary's Hospital yesterday, Huron Valley ambulance came out. They started IVs and this afternoon they're going to do injections. We do lemons. It makes the classroom smell so nice," she said with a laugh, adding "One day this week we tested urine and they were all like 'Oh, that stinks!'"

The group viewed slices of the human brain during a pathology lesson at the hospital; practiced CPR, and tackled simulated knee and hip surgery, among other procedures.

"They got to do laparoscopic surgery. They used real instruments and got to watch the (monitor) screen and pulled out fake tumors. They've gotten quite a variety of activities."

CAREER PLANS

Vikas Venugopal, 14, of Northville, assessed his cast and decided it needed a few more layers to keep the wrist immobilized.

"This is my first time here," he said. "I kind of want to be a doctor when I grow up, a pediatrician. So I thought a medical camp would be useful. It's a really cool field."

Alan Williams, 11, of Plymouth Township, previously took video game and Web design camps at Schoolcraft, but Camp Scrubs fit perfectly with his career aspirations.

"I want to be a pediatrician, so I need to learn how to do casts," he said.

Emil Meireles, 11, of Plymouth, said the trip to the hospital operating room "was cool because that's where the surgeons are" and that's his dream profession.

For Monica McCoskey, getting into the popular summer camp was almost as tough as matriculating at medical school.

"It seems a lot of people like it because I tried to get in for three years."

This year's Camp Scrubs cost \$199. Look for next year's Kids on Campus brochure in early summer or visit www.schoolcraft.edu.



Lauren Easterbrook, 13, of Plymouth applies plaster to Maggie Adzina, 13, of Plymouth.

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Project seeks to curb hospital readmissions

Botsford and Providence Hospitals are among 15 health centers in Michigan that will participate in a three-state collaborative project aimed at reducing hospital readmissions.

The targeted "rehospitalizations," are unplanned and not scheduled, but are clinically

related to the initial admission. The pilot project, named State Action on Avoidable Rehospitalizations (STAAR), seeks to reduce 30-day rehospitalization rates (patients who are hospitalized again within 30 days of discharge) by 30 percent.

It will focus on improving

patient care transitions — moving a patient from hospital to home care or another care setting — through enhanced patient communication and timely follow-ups after hospital discharge.

"Michigan hospitals realize that the recovery process has only just begun when patients leave our facilities and return to their lives," said Spencer Johnson, president of Michigan Health & Hospital Association, (MHA). "How patients transition from hospital care to their home or long-term-care facilities is key to the effectiveness of their treatment. By identifying and working to reduce avoidable rehospitalizations, Michigan hospitals will benefit not only our patients and communities, but other states will be able to learn from this initiative."

The pilot project hospitals have pledged to commit significant staff time, resources and leadership. Each hospital will focus on enhancing assessment of post-discharge needs, teaching and learning for patients by the acute-care team, communication at discharge between the hospital and the provider assuming care for the patient, and timely follow-up after hospital discharge.

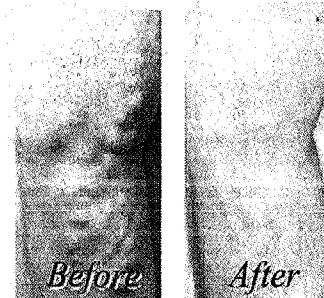
Hospitals in Michigan, Washington and Massachusetts are participating in the STAAR project and Michigan's efforts are being coordinated by Michigan's Quality Improvement Organization, based in Farmington Hills, and MHA, in Lansing.

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