

THURSDAY
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2009

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Naughty or nice: Holiday gifts for pets – Malls & Mainstreets, A9

CANTON OBSERVER

online at hometownlife.com



Check out
the special
last-minute
shopping
guide inside

CANTON CONNECTION

Comedy night

The Village Theater at Cherry Hill and Kickers All-Star Grill are teaming up to ring in the New Year with a special evening of comedy. Three talented comedians will take the stage for a special New Year's Eve show: "Putting on the Glitz." The show will feature seasoned performer Kevin Meaney, along with Sal Demilio and emcee Keith Ruff.

The evening will also feature strolling appetizers and entrees, party favors, strolling desserts and a champagne toast at Midnight. The dinner package costs \$65 per person, with doors opening at 6 p.m. and the show starting at 9:30 p.m. For those just interested in the comedy show, tickets are \$30 and guests may arrive at 9 p.m.

For more information and to purchase tickets for this show and upcoming performances at the Village Theater, visit www.cantonvillagetheater.org or call (734) 394-5300.

Faith grants

The Plymouth Salvation Army announced that Faith Stimulus Grants will be in effect through June 30, and that funds for the newly unemployed are still available.

Criteria for the funding is:

Proof of unemployment (letter of separation, documentation from state, bank statement showing automatic deposit of unemployment funds), and applicants must reside in the Plymouth Salvation Army's service area (Northville, Plymouth, Canton and Belleville).

For more information, call the Plymouth Salvation Army, (734) 453-5464.

Santa letters

Santa Claus has started to make his list, although sources tell the *Observer* that, while he's far from check it twice, he is waiting by his mailbox for youngsters' gift lists and letters.

The *Observer* wants to make sure Santa Claus knows what children would like this Christmas and is asking youngsters to send us letters to him. We will publish the letters in the newspaper during December before sending them on to the North Pole.

The letters should be sent by e-mail and include a snapshot of the child writing the letter. They can be a list of toys, a holiday greeting for the Jolly Ol' Elf or whatever information youngsters want Santa to have.

Send Santa correspondence to bkadrich@hometownlife.com and be sure to put "Letter to Santa" in the subject line. Letters can also be sent the old-fashioned way, via postal service, to Letter to Santa, c/o Brad Kadrich, 615 W. Lafayette, Second Level, Detroit, MI 48226.

Pushing for a plan Leaders travel to D.C. to push I-275 project

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Canton officials, facing fierce competition to secure a \$20.3 million federal grant to reshape the traffic-snarled I-275/Ford Road interchange, took their battle to Washington, D.C., last week amid hopes of garnering support.

Township Supervisor Phil LaJoy and Municipal Services Director Tim Faas caught a Thursday morning flight to Washington and returned the same day after waging a lobbying blitz during talks with Michigan lawmakers and their staff members.

LaJoy and Faas sought bipartisan support for a massive economic-recovery project that, if approved, could create hundreds of jobs and ease traffic congestion along a stretch of Ford Road that ranks among the state's most accident-prone areas.

The proposal, submitted in September through the Michigan Department of Transportation, hinges on a \$20.3 million federal TIGER, or Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery, grant.

"I think we've got a shot at it," LaJoy said, though he conceded the battle for limited federal dollars is being hard-fought.

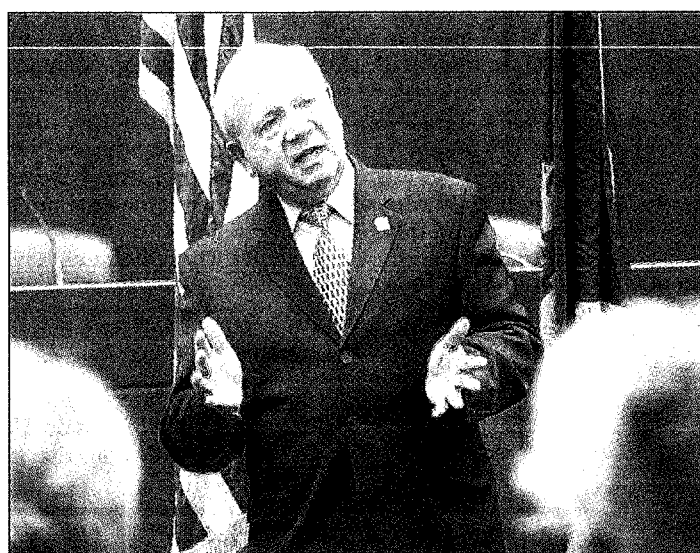
Local officials expect to learn by mid-February whether the money will be approved by the U.S. Department of Transportation.

On a whirlwind day in Washington, LaJoy cited face-to-face meetings with U.S. Reps. Thaddeus McCotter and Candice Miller, both Republicans, and U.S. Rep. Mark Schauer, a Democrat.

LaJoy and Faas also met with office representatives for Miller, Republican U.S. Rep. Vernon Ehlers and three Democrats — U.S. Sens. Debbie Stabenow and Carl Levin and U.S. Rep. Gary Peters.

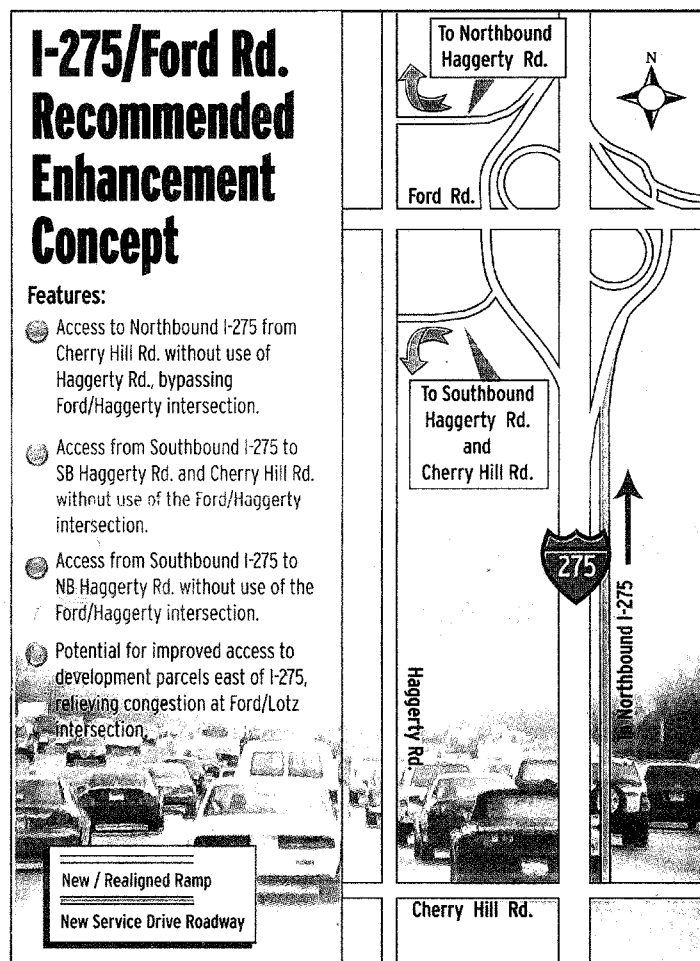
Some of the legislators have key ties to certain committees that local officials hope could boost their chances of securing the TIGER grant. Ehlers, for example, sits on the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.

The grant proposal follows a years-old, regional transportation study by the township, MDOT and a consulting firm, Parsons-Brinckerhoff, that found a pressing need for improvements to the I-275 interchange. Ford Road alone



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Canton Township Supervisor Phil LaJoy traveled to Washington, D.C., last week to fight for funding for an improvement plan for the I-275/Ford Road/Haggerty area, one of the most dangerous traffic areas in the state.



was found to have 50,000 motorists a day, and traffic congestion has only worsened amid new development such as Michigan's only IKEA store, which LaJoy said draws some 2 million customers a year, including shoppers from other states and Canada.

"It's a state problem," LaJoy said.

Moreover, Canton experienced a population explosion in recent decades, climbing from just 5,300 residents in 1961 to nearly 90,000 people.

LaJoy, who raised the issue of I-275/Ford Road improvements as a former state

legislator, said the TIGER grant would not only improve traffic for Canton, but also for neighboring communities such as Westland, Plymouth, Plymouth Township and Van Buren Township.

As earlier reported in the *Observer*, here's how:

- Drivers exiting southbound I-275 could use a new access ramp, or slip, to get to northbound Haggerty without getting onto Ford Road.
- Motorists exiting southbound I-275 also could access southbound Haggerty by

Please see **PLAN, A2**

School board shifts election schedule again

BY BRAD KADRICH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Barely a year after switching the election cycle for school board elections to every November, the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools Board of Education changed course again.

After considering a presentation from its election subcommittee, the board voted 5-2 Tuesday to shift its election dates to odd-year Novembers, beginning in November 2011. Trustees Dianne Gonzalez, who favors even-year November elections, and the outgoing Tom Wysocki, who favors annual elections, voted against the measure.

The action extends the terms of board members Gonzalez, Steven Sneiderman and Nancy Eggenberger, whose seats were scheduled to be up for grabs next year. Trustee John Jackson, who won a two-year term last month, will also be up for re-election in November 2011.

COSTS, 'FATIGUE'

Board members in favor of the shift cited reasons having to do with election turnout, cost of running a campaign and ballot "fatigue" in years when there's a national election as factors in the decision.

One factor that drew debate — particularly in a financially strapped district — was the cost. While the district budgets some \$80,000 per election, supporters of the move point out that, in years like this one where there was a Wayne County millage renewal question on the ballot, the election cost the district nothing.

"I think there will be other millage requests on future ballots that will keep our costs at zero," said board Treasurer Judy Mardigian, who chairs the district's election committee. "I think we're taking the fiscally responsible approach."

Detractors pointed out moving to an even-year November approach — when gubernatorial, state Legislature and presidential elections are on the ballot — would guarantee a no-cost election for the district.

"We're running into a really fiscally difficult time and we're supposed to be a model for others," said Trustee Dianne Gonzalez, who favored an even-year November schedule. "If the economy tanks, we're really going to be in a tight spot. For us to say, 'Everyone needs to watch every penny except us' is not right."

Canton resident Mike Andro agreed.

"If you have the chance to save \$80,000, it's a no-brainer," said Andro, one of only two residents to speak during the public hearing Tuesday. "If you have a chance to have a guaranteed free election, why don't you take it? Let's be reasonable and save the money."

TURNOUT

The cost to the district wasn't the only expense that concerned board members. Citing voter turnout, several people mentioned the expense of reaching voters in an even-year November election.

Mardigian pointed out the 2008 election, which included the presidential election, drew 51,000 voters, while the November 2009 election drew some 9,900. The cost of reaching so many voters, several people said, could force potential candidates to reconsider running.

Board President Steven Sneiderman said he talked to a Northville woman who won that district's

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Museum exhibit honors soldiers old and new

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Local soldiers who fought in wars as far back as the Civil War are being honored in a special display inside the Canton Historical Museum, a former one-room schoolhouse on Canton Center between Cherry Hill and Palmer.

The display also features pictures of men and women currently serving in the military — pictures earlier seen during a rousing Veterans Day tribute that drew a packed crowd to The Village Theater at Cherry Hill.

Canton Historical Society members said it's important to recognize the contributions township residents have made to defend this country's freedom.

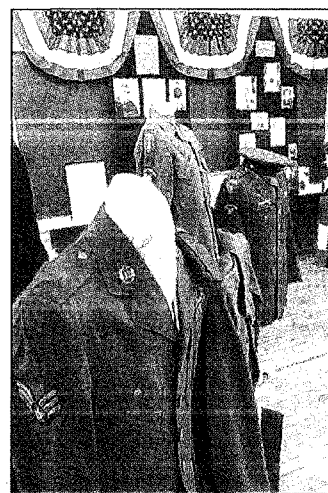
"I think it's important they be remembered and not forgotten," said Dave Curtis, the historical society's vice president. "If not for

our veterans, we wouldn't have the free nation we have today."

The display includes pictures of veterans and current military personnel, and uniforms worn by soldiers in World Wars I and II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War, alongside a reproduction of a Civil War uniform.

Curtis' wife Ronni, a historical society trustee, pointed out other items currently housed in the museum, including a World War I helmet, a World War II First Aid kit and ration cards; a Japanese phrase book; a red wagon filled with wartime recyclables for armaments; and a Vietnam-era prisoner-of-war bracelet, among other items.

The display is expected to remain in the museum through mid-January. Museum hours are 1-4 p.m. Tuesday, 2-5 p.m. Thursday and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, or by appointment by calling (734) 397-0088.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Military uniforms from bygone days and pictures of Canton veterans are housed in the Canton Historical Museum, which is featuring a temporary display honoring township soldiers who served their country.

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ELECTION

FROM PAGE A1

election in 2008. The woman, Sneideman said, spent some \$5,000 to get elected in a district about a quarter of the size of Plymouth-Canton.

"I'm looking for an even playing field for all candidates," Sneideman said. "This is a nonpaid position. We shouldn't be requiring people to have to raise \$5,000 or \$10,000 or more. Those numbers will prohibit candidates from running."

Another concern for those

who wanted the odd-year November elections was the size of ballots in the even-year races. With presidential, gubernatorial, state Legislator races on the ballot, in addition to the local races and any other ballot proposals, the concern is two-fold: It'll be tougher for candidates to get their message heard, and voters suffering from "ballot fatigue" might not make it to the end of the ballot where local races reside.

But Larry Martin, a Plymouth Township resident who lost in the November 2009 school board election

and the only other speaker in the public hearing, said voters are smarter than that.

The idea of having "less informed voters is insulting to the voters," Martin said. "The people who are concerned will hang around until the end of the ballot. I was stunned this came up again. To consider eliminating even-year elections is mind-boggling. To take the 51,000 who show up for a general election and reduce it to a 'manageable' 7,500 is unconscionable."

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PLAN

FROM PAGE A1

using another new ramp south of Ford Road.

- Drivers from the area of Cherry Hill Road could access north I-275 by using a northbound service drive along the interstate, bypassing Ford Road.

Faas has said the \$20.3 million plan would be far less costly — and less disruptive — than installing a completely new interchange.

To be sure, the changes

would bring their share of construction-related traffic woes, but officials say existing traffic problems are only expected to worsen unless changes are made.

LaJoy said the project already has gained widespread support from neighboring communities, the regional Southeast Michigan Council of Governments and MDOT.

During a five-year period ending in 2008, the Ford-Haggerty intersection near the I-275 interchange had 345 crashes, making it one of Michigan's worst areas for

accidents.

"It's a safety issue," LaJoy said. "It's also an economic development issue. This is about creating jobs, too."

LaJoy, Faas and others who support the project only hope last Thursday's lobbying efforts, coupled with earlier political support, will help convince federal officials to award the grant.

"It's a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity," LaJoy said. "This is a more than \$20 million opportunity, and it's worth making every effort."

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W-W board eyes school-closing vote

BY SUE MASON
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A decision to close six Wayne-Westland elementary schools and go to a new grade configuration could come as soon as Monday, Dec. 14.

School board President Skip Monit's request for the meeting came after the board received a revamped proposal from its 21st Century Schools Committee which recommended that six, not seven schools be closed and that the district stick with its current boundaries for its two high schools.

"The No. 1 thing is that this decision we are making is all about what's best for the children," Monit said. The changes came in response to parents' complaints about the redistricting at the elementary and secondary levels. Many complained that they had bought in neighborhoods to have their children attend one or the other of the district's two high schools.

The committee is now rec-

ommending that Patchin, Madison, Kettering, Jefferson-Barns and Lincoln Elementaries in Westland and Vandenberg in Wayne be closed and that Hamilton be kept open, as well as new attendance boundaries for Edison, Elliott, Hamilton, Hicks, Hoover, Schweitzer, Taft-Galloway and Wildwood.

Initially, the committee had recommend that just one elementary — Walker-Winter in Canton — have its students divided between the 5/6 schools — Marshall and Adams. However, with the changes, there would be four elementaries — Hamilton, Hicks in Inkster, Walker-Winter and Schweitzer in Westland — that would feed students into the two 5/6 schools.

It also recommended that sixth-seventh-graders currently attending Stevenson Middle School who reside in the Wayne Memorial High School attendance area be allowed to stay through eighth grade rather than being sent

to Franklin Middle School in Wayne.

While the school district was aiming for an 85 percent capacity in the schools, that figure would slip to 78 percent, under the new recommendation. Likewise, the hoped for \$5.5-\$6 million savings would be more like \$5 million.

"Wayne-Westland isn't alone in facing this challenge," said consultant Jeff Rahmberg in presenting the new recommendations. "Every school district around the state has been dealt this same hand and is either closing schools, getting concessions or laying off employees. This community has always risen to the challenge and this is a big one."

The board members told the audience that they are committed to make the best decision for the students.

"It's not about the money for me," said Trustee Carol Middel. "It's about the students, it's always been that."

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CORRECTION

Elle Dare, owner with her husband of Genuine Toy Co. in Plymouth, adds that toys made

in China are now much safer than was true in the past. The comments were in a Sunday,

Dec. 6, *Observer* article. She said regulations now make China-made toys much safer.

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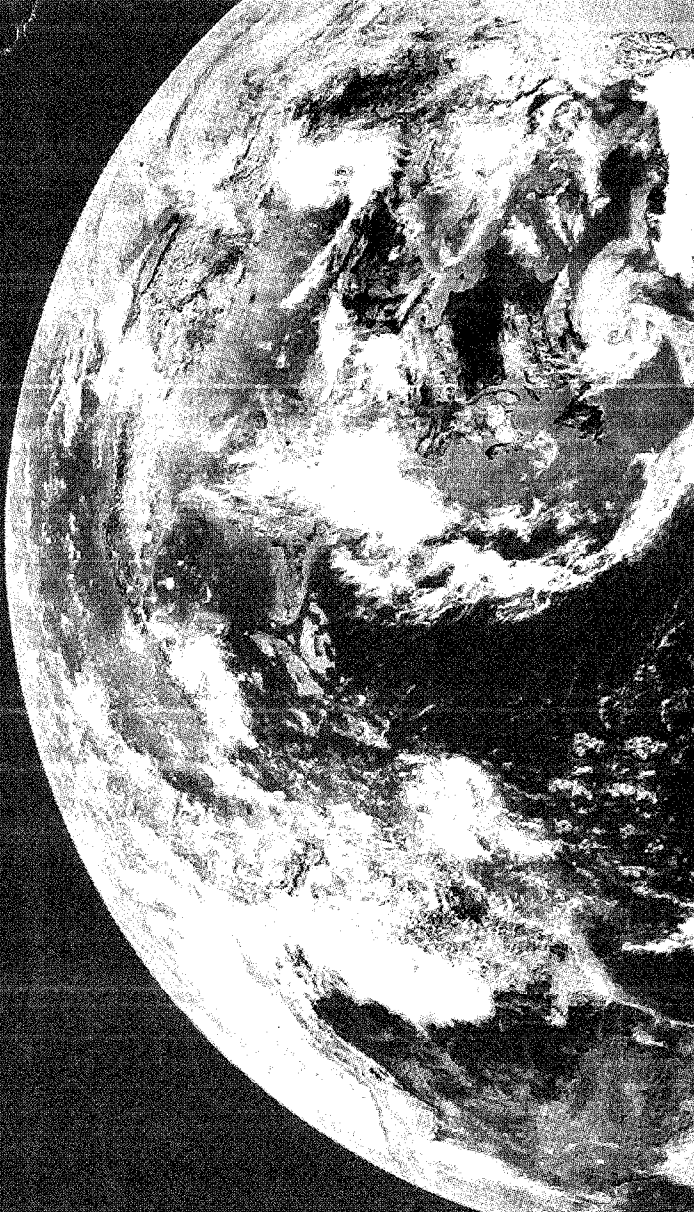
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"Around Canton" is designed to announce upcoming events taking place in the community. Items will run on a space-available basis. Send details to bkadrich@hometownlife.com

Pizza with Santa

The Canton Rotary Club sponsors its yearly Lunch with Santa 1-4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 12, at the Roman Forum Restaurant, 41601 Ford Road in Canton.

Santa's elves will be serving pizza while children and parents enjoy a visit with Santa. Children will be able to participate in cookie decorating, and each child will receive a photo with Santa.

Cost is \$8 per person; children under 3 are free.

Patterson staff hours

The district representative for state Sen. Bruce Patterson, (R-Canton), will conduct office hours Friday in Plymouth.

Sue Trussell will meet with Patterson's constituents at the Plymouth District Library, 223 S. Main, from 10:30 a.m. to noon.

Happy meals

Since 1979, McDonald's Happy Meals have changed the way families enjoy lunch and dinner out together. To celebrate the 30th birthday of the Happy Meal, the Southeast Michigan McDonald's Operators Association brings its traveling exhibit to the Canton Public Library through Jan. 4.

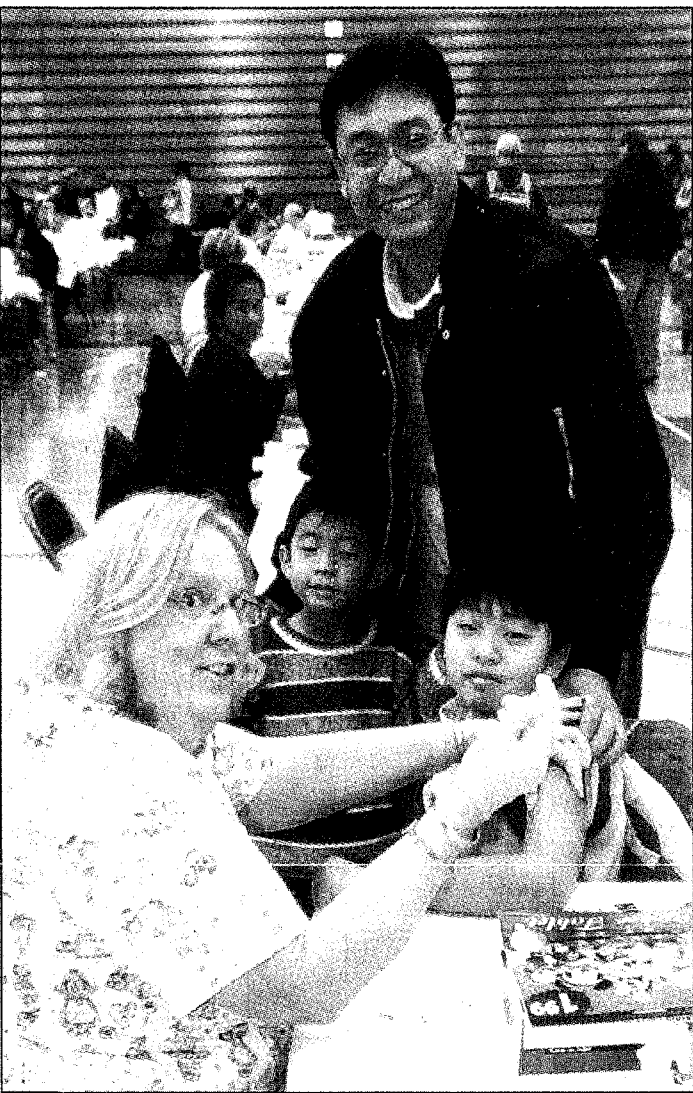
The exhibit contains many of the different specialty toys and artifacts that have been included in the Happy Meal since its introduction.

"The response to this exhibit has been tremendous," said Willie Blue, marketing supervisor for McDonald's Michigan Region. "People from all over metro Detroit have enjoyed reliving their Happy Meal memories with their children."

The Canton Public Library is located at 1200 S. Canton Center. In addition, Ronald McDonald, McDonald's Chief Happiness Officer, will make a special appearance 1 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 23, for a special children's show.

Business women meet

The Canton Business & Professional Women meet 6-8:30 p.m. Monday, Dec. 13,



DAVID L. MALHALAB

Shot time

Barbara Kamper, a nurse from Canton who works for Criticore Health Care Services, gives Jung Hahn Seok, 9 of Novi, an H1N1 flu shot, Sunday at Schoolcraft Community College, after younger brother, Ehahn Seok, 5, got his, while dad JC Seok was happy his boys are now protected from swine flu. The free flu shots were sponsored by the Wayne County Health Department.

at Rose's Restaurant, 201 N. Canton Center Road.

Guest speaker is Judy Ellis, executive director of First Step.

RSVP for this meeting by Friday, Dec. 11.

Historical Hold 'em

The Canton Historical Society hosts a "Texas Hold 'Em" event at Rose's Restaurant, 201 N. Canton Center Road, Dec. 10-12, from 8 p.m. to 2 a.m.

The event will feature sit-and-go tournaments, cash games, Omaha, a smoke-free environment, professional dealers, full-service bar, a late-night menu and a midnight pizza buffet.

For more information, call Rose's at (734) 981-9904.

Toys for Tots

The Goddard School began collecting new, unwrapped Toys for Tots on Monday, Nov. 23. The U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots program distributes the donated toys as holiday gifts to needy children in the community.

The goal of the Toys for Tots program is to not only deliver a new toy during the holidays, but also a message of hope to less fortunate youngsters throughout the United States. The Goddard School uses cause-related opportunities like Toys for Tots to teach their little students the importance of helping others.

A Toys for Tots collection box will be located in the lobby of the school through Dec. 16

for donations. The Goddard School is located at 6697 N Canton Center Road. For more information, call (734) 454-4737.

Art exhibit

The Village Theater at Cherry Hill will showcase the art works of Robert Throne through Jan. 3 in the Gallery@VT. Thorne's latest exhibit features recent print and pastel works.

Thorne's artwork is a mix of process and theme. As noted in his artist statement, Thorne states that his work is a comment on the passage of time and the elements of nature, which affect our technological environment. "Process is an important component of my work; it is never hidden, but is part of the experience of looking."

This multi-media art exhibit at the Gallery@VT is free and open to the public: Monday - Friday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and during public performances at the theater.

For more information about this latest exhibition, call (734) 394-5300 or visit cantonvillage theater.org.

Luminaria sale

The Plymouth Symphony Orchestras will be selling Luminaria kits for the holiday season. Each kit will consist of 10 white paper bags as well as 10 candles. The kits can be purchased for \$5 in Plymouth at Gabriela's, Saxton's, Sideways, and The Plymouth Canton Symphony office located at 774 N. Sheldon Road.

The Luminaria kits will also be for sale in between the 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. Plymouth Symphony "Home for the Holidays" POPS concert that will be taking place in the historic Penn Theatre located downtown Plymouth on Thursday, Dec. 17.

The Luminaria kits are available through Dec. 24. For further information contact the Plymouth Canton Symphony Society at (734)-451-2112.

Holiday Cabaret

For one night only, Spotlight Players in partnership with Canton Leisure Services and the Village Theater is taking The Biltmore Studio at The Village Theater and transforming it into an intimate nightclub/winter wonderland

featuring guest vocalists from the prestigious Michigan Opera Theater.

"Come and join the Michigan Opera Theater sponsored by Spotlight Players with special guests - Spotlight on Youth singing your favorite holiday songs in a delightful evening of cabaret - a wonderful way to celebrate the holidays and fun for the whole family," said Barbara Bloom, Spotlight Players board president.

"Come to the Holiday Cabaret" takes place 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 12. Cabaret-style seats are limited. Come

hum along to holiday tunes while enjoying a beverage from the cash bar and finger food from the concession stand.

The Village Theater at Cherry Hill is at 50400 Cherry Hill in Canton. The theater has free parking is handicap accessible. Tickets are available by phone at the Village Theater Box Office at (734) 394-5300 or (734) 394-5460 or online at www.cantonmi.org/village theater or in person at The Summit on the Park or at the door. Box office opens 1 hour prior to showtime. Tickets are \$15.

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PUBLIC SAFETY

CRIME WATCH

Canton woman reports 'suspicious' man on deck

1 A Canton woman told police a suspicious man was seen on the deck of her home on West Thetford Court, northwest of Warren and Ridge, about 11:45 p.m. Nov. 30.

The woman said she was sleeping when one of her neighbors phoned her to say he had seen a suspicious man who appeared to be a white male wearing dark pants and a light-colored shirt.

Police spoke with the neighbor, who said he had gone onto his deck to bring in bird feeders when he turned on his outdoor lights and saw the suspicious man. The neighbor didn't see the man trying to enter the home.

The neighbor told police the suspicious man left the deck, went to the front of the house and is believed to have driven off in a light-colored SUV. The neighbor drove around the area but didn't see the vehicle.

Avoiding a scam

2 A woman who lives on Ashley Court, northeast of Warren and Beck, told police that she was almost the victim of a money scam.

The woman said she had been talking for a couple months with a man who lives elsewhere and had asked her to send him \$800 for an airplane ticket.

When she went to a local grocery store on Dec. 1 to send the money by Western Union, she was told the man was on a fraud list and that she could not send the money.

Fortunately, the woman learned of the man's reputation before she lost any money, a police report indicated.

B & E

3 A residential break-in was reported to have occurred between 11:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. Dec. 1 on Tamarack, northwest of Lotz and Michigan Avenue. A resident told police that several items had been taken including electronics and food. The incident was under investigation.

Visitor assault

4 A woman who lives on Honeycomb Circle, southeast of Joy and I-275, told police she was assaulted when she had visitors over around 4:30 a.m. Saturday.



The woman told police that she and her visitors had been watching television and drinking when she noticed money was missing from her bedroom. She told police she locked her front door and told her visitors that no one was leaving until the money was recovered.

The woman told police one man became defensive and left, then came back for his cell phone and shoved her into a wall, injuring her face. Another

witness said the woman was injured when the door was opened and hit her.

The investigation was continuing, and police learned that the suspect was wanted for several bench warrants elsewhere, for incidents such as assault and failing to appear in court.

Wallet stolen

5 A woman shopping at the Walmart on Ford Road reported

that her wallet was missing from her purse while she was in the store between 8:10-9 p.m. Saturday.

She told police she was almost certain she had her wallet in her purse. It contained cash, credit cards, her driver's license and gift cards.

- Compiled by Staff Writer Darrell Clem from Canton Police Department reports.

Canton police join drunk driving crackdown effort

The Canton Police Department is joining law enforcement agencies across the state for a holiday Over the Limit. Under Arrest, crackdown this holiday season.

Extra police officers will be assigned to patrol Canton's roads Dec. 23 through Jan. 3. In Michigan, a motorist can be arrested for impaired driving with a .08 blood alcohol content or higher.

An impaired driving conviction comes with assorted penalties including fines, legal fees, driver responsibility fees, court costs and higher insurance rates. But even more costly is the chance of death or serious injury to people traveling on our roadways.

"We want people to be responsible by making the decision not to drink and drive," said Special Services Lieutenant Scott Hilden. "For those who choose to do so, we will be stepping up enforcement during the holiday season. Our priority is to keep motorists safe by removing drunk drivers from the roads."

Extra patrols are funded by federal grants from the Office of Highway Safety Planning.

No one hurt as firefighters douse garage blaze

Canton firefighters responded to a garage fire after a 911 call was made about 8:40 p.m. Saturday from a house on Longfellow, near Saltz and Canton Center.

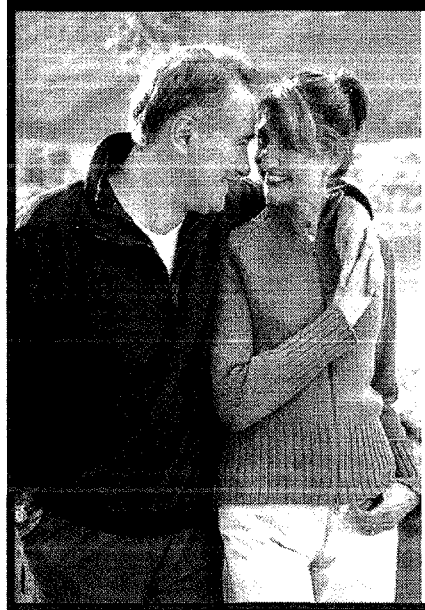
Flames could be seen as firefighters arrived, but the occupants already had gotten out of the house.

Firefighters doused the fire after entering the attached garage from a house door, while simultaneously opening an overhead garage door. These moves allowed them to isolate the home from damage as much as possible, according to reports.

Initial damage estimates were \$60,000 to the structure and \$15,000 to the contents. There were no reported injuries.

The cause of the fire was ruled accidental. Fire officials determined that a fireplace had recently been cleaned and the ashes had been disposed in a container near where the fire started.

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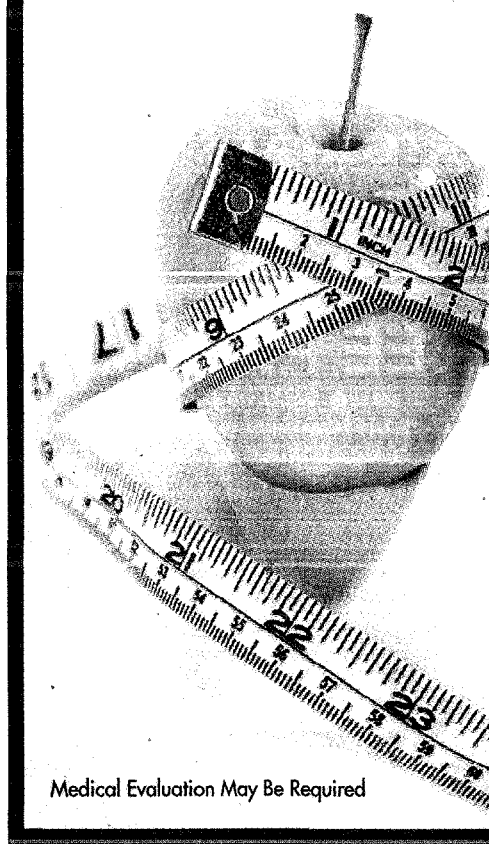

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Light blocks: Canton women build memories one block at a time

Necessity is the mother of invention. Just ask two Canton women whose creative efforts spurred them to meet a decorating challenge for a hockey banquet.

The result: Light Blocks, a budding home-based business. Marlene Ciuffoletti and Diane Sgambati of Canton Township were part of the decorations committee for the 2008 Catholic Central High School Hockey banquet. Their sons - Michael Ciuffoletti and Sandro Sgambati - were on the team and they wanted something special. The women designed and made a lighted glass block for each player with their number and the Shamrock logo.

"Diane and I have been friends for nearly 10 years, meeting when our sons played hockey together," said Ciuffoletti. "It only makes sense that hockey would end up being the very thing that would bring us together to do this."

The decorations were a hit. "When it came time to decorate for our sons' graduation parties a few months later, we were stumped on what to use for table centerpieces - we wanted something that was masculine," said Ciuffoletti.

"Left over glass blocks from the banquet that still had the school logo on them were in our garages - we decided to put them to good use - our centerpiece dilemma was solved," added Sgambati.

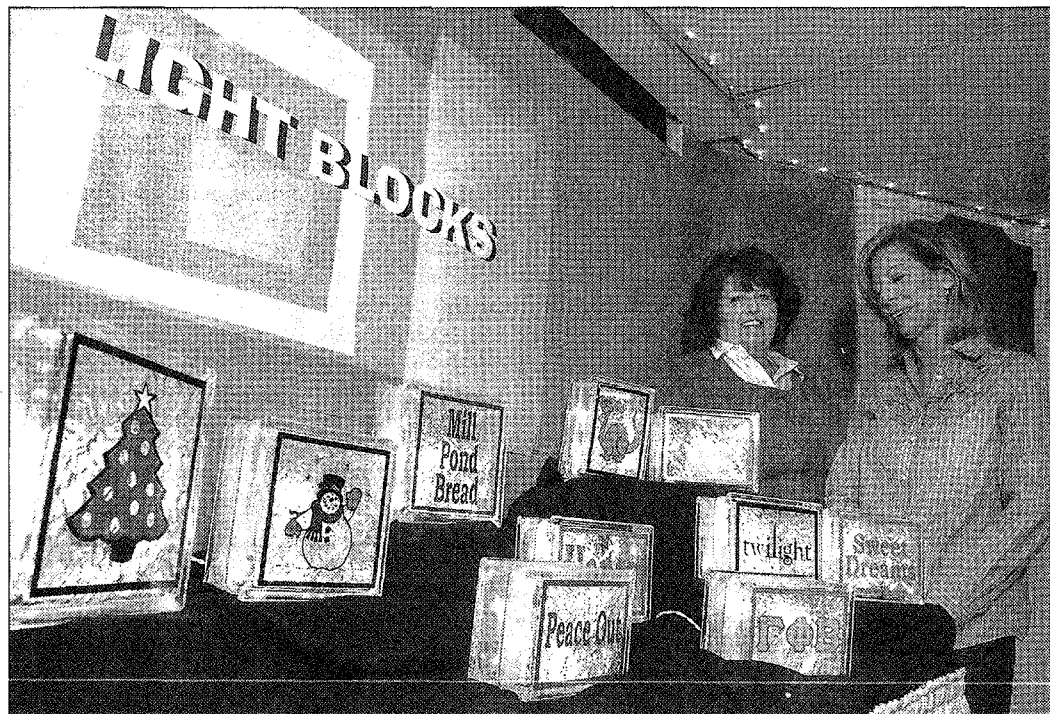
"We were surprised how many people commented on them, asked us where we got them, can we make them one, can they borrow ours," said Ciuffoletti.

Light Blocks, the business, was born - or at least the idea. Getting started was a very deliberate process for the two women.

"We spent way too much time just talking about selling them but never moving on our idea," said Sgambati.

Both said that Catholic Central was the best place to start because the "school spirit is second to none."

"We were not sure if the inter-



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Diane Sgambati and Marlene Ciuffoletti of Canton formed Light Blocks.

est was there. It was the urging of Mary Ann Formica, former board member at CC and graduation party guest, that changed everything," explained Ciuffoletti.

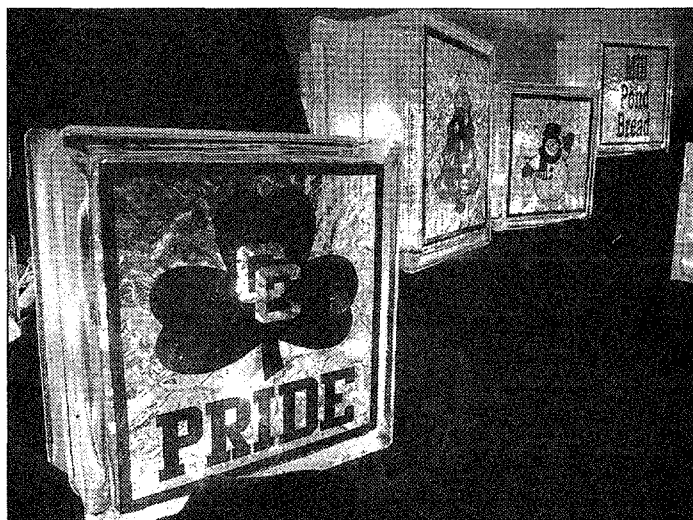
"Without Mary Ann telling us all the reasons why we can do this, we would not have been as motivated," Ciuffoletti said. "She truly was our cheerleader. We owe her a lot."

Formica took two of the CC Pride light blocks to a CC Mother's Club fashion show last year. It was an event where guests deposit raffle tickets in containers of items they would like to win. The containers were overflowing with tickets.

"It was the confirmation we needed," said Ciuffoletti.

Things moved quickly after that - the Shamrocks won the state hockey title and the team wanted a light block that said STATE CHAMPS. Once again Ciuffoletti and Sgambati were asked to make light blocks for every player for the 2009 hockey banquet. Shortly after, the CC baseball team ordered up light blocks for the baseball banquet.

"Word of mouth and the sup-



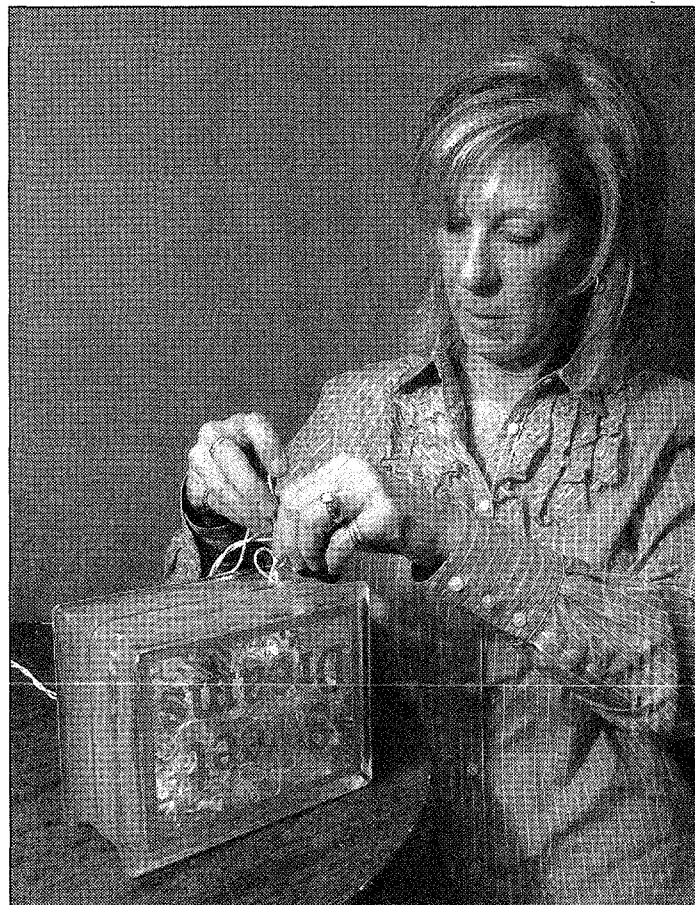
The decorative glass blocks glow from within.

port of the school as well as CC's Mothers' Club has been a blessing," said Ciuffoletti. "The Mothers' Club gave us an opportunity to showcase our college dorm room light blocks at a meeting which really went over well with people looking for high school graduation gifts."

"Many of our customers can be traced back from CC. Whether their son is a current student or alumni of CC, parents remember us and refer

their friends and families from other schools and we are excited," said Sgambati.

The pair admit that putting light inside a glass block is nothing new but "putting a new twist" on the idea is. They created a variety of designs, used lots of new colors (from power purple to bubble gum pink, metallic silver to lime green) and suggested different ways to use the light blocks - college dorm room lights, teacher gifts,



Marlene Ciuffoletti feeds the light into the block.

baby's room, table and holiday decorations, company logos, basement bar, school teams, night lights for kids and more.

"We can put anything on a light block - all they have to do is ask. If they can think it, we can do it," said Sgambati.

"The Canton Crush hockey team contacted us after the team won the state championship earlier this year and we have done lights for two sororities at Michigan State University," said Ciuffoletti.

To date, the women have made 200 blocks and are busy filling more orders. All supplies are purchased locally.

Filling the large orders has been a family affair. Their husbands - Dave Ciuffoletti and Frank Sgambati - help with the drilling. The kids - Michael and Randi Ciuffoletti and Sandro Sgambati - also help out when their home. Michael attends Western Michigan University while Randi is getting ready

to graduate this month from Michigan State University. Sandro is a sophomore at Grand Valley State University.

Stephanie Sgambati, a junior at Plymouth High School, is usually pressed into service on a weekly basis.

The Light Blocks range in price from \$25 for a 4x8x6 block or \$35 for an 8x8x6 block. All lights are UL approved. The women went to the Canton Fire Department to test the products.

Friends and family say the women are both perfectionists so no block is ever released unless it is perfect. Designs are available in 20 colors, "so we can match the décor in any room" the women say. Most orders are done within a week.

To find out more about Light Blocks call Marlene Ciuffoletti at (734) 844-1839 or Diane Sgambati at (734) 223-3371 or e-mail ntmar8@yahoo.com.

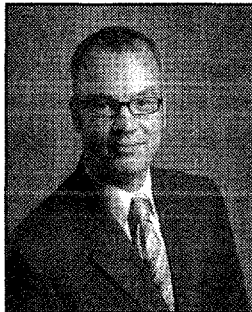
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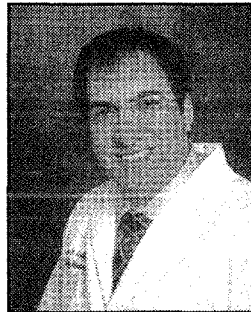


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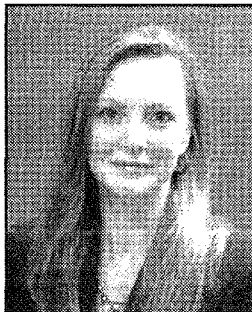


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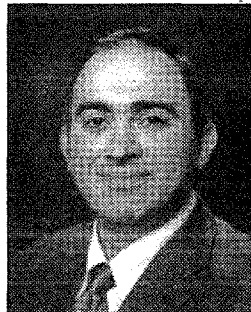


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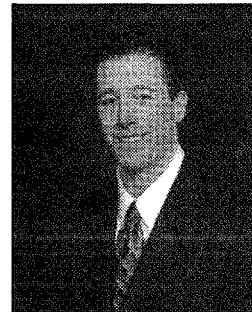


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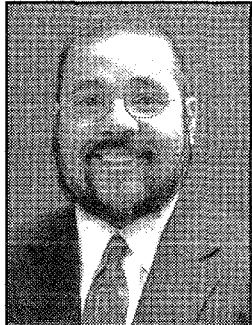


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PROVIDENCE

Understand estate taxes, Roth IRA conversions

Recently I have been asked a number of questions regarding changes in the tax laws for 2010. The questions have dealt with two issues — changes in rules with regards to estate taxes and changes with regards to Roth IRA conversions.

It is a good idea to briefly explain the changes. However, there is one caveat and that is with tax laws anything and everything can change. It used to be that when you talked about long-term tax planning you were talking in terms of



Money Matters

Rick Bloom

years. That is no longer the case. Fortunately, or unfortunately, depending upon your view, our tax laws are ever changing and that's what makes long-term tax planning difficult. As I write this column there are heated discussions in Washington regarding tax law changes, in

particular, estate taxes. Estate laws tax an individual upon their death. The tax is determined by the fair market value of someone's net worth at the time of their death. Currently, the majority of Americans are not subject to an estate tax. Under the law that is set to end on Dec. 31, the first \$3.5 million of your estate is not subject to estate taxes. However, in 2010 there is no estate tax. In other words, if someone with substantial wealth passes away next year their estate would

not be subject to estate taxes. The downside is that same law states that in 2011 estate taxes will return. In addition, there would not be a \$3.5 million exemption. That number would be reduced to \$1 million. Obviously, if the exemption went to \$1 million many more Americans would be subject to estate taxes.

The other change in tax law which is much more beneficial to many Americans deals with rules regarding converting traditional IRAs into Roth IRAs. Under current tax law,

adjusted gross income must be less than \$100,000 to be eligible for a conversion. The \$100,000 figure applies whether you are single or married. That provision in the law terminates at the end of this year. In 2010, anyone will be eligible to convert an existing IRA into a Roth IRA.

There is another change in the law with regards to Roth conversions that is beneficial to taxpayers. Under today's rules, taxes owed must be paid in the year of conversion. For 2010 only, if you do a conver-

sion you will not be required to pay the entire tax in 2010. Half the tax can be paid in 2010, the other half in 2011. This option is only available for 2010.

In regard to estate tax changes, I'm not sure there's much of anything to do at the present time. I will not be surprised if it happens sooner than later. Congress will amend the law to provide for an estate tax in 2010 and a higher threshold moving forward. Therefore, there's not much that anyone should do at this point in time. However, for individuals who have large estates, the same strategy that I have recommended for years still applies and this is to consider a living trust. In today's world with the \$3.5 million exemption, husbands and wives, through the effective use of a living trust, can shield upwards of \$7 million from estate taxes. Even if the law does not change and the exemption drops back to \$1 million in 2011, a trust could shield \$2 million of assets from estate taxes.

As to the Roth IRA, the one thing that taxpayers can do in preparation for the 2010 conversion is to put aside some money to pay the taxes. It does not make sense to use the money that you are converting to pay the taxes. Therefore, if you plan to do a Roth IRA conversion in 2010, do set some money aside for taxes.

I believe you never let the tax tail wag the dog. In other words, you don't want to do anything for tax reasons alone. That being said, I also believe it is not more patriotic to pay more taxes than required.

The key is to be smart with taxes and make sure than any tax moves ultimately increase your net worth because that is the number we all should be focused on.

Good luck!

Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial adviser. Observer & Eccentric readers can submit questions at moneymatters@hometownlife.com. For more information, visit Rick's Web site at www.bloomassetmanagement.com.

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C-SPAN looks for film entries from students

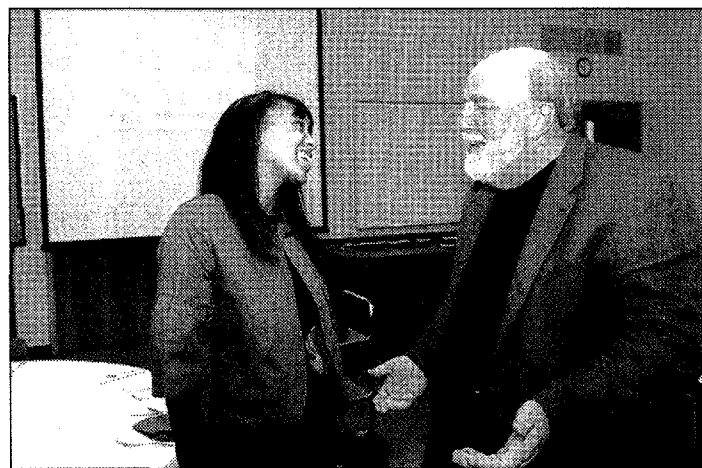
BY LEANNE ROGERS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Local students have a chance to put in their two cents about a national issue and earn scholarship money through a short film competition sponsored by C-SPAN.

The Westland Rotary Club recently hosted Rebecca Stewart, C-SPAN marketing representative, who made a presentation on the 2010 StudentCam annual documentary film competition. A total of \$50,000 in cash prizes will be awarded to 75 students and 11 teachers in the contest, open to middle and high school students. The grand prize is \$5,000.

"Last year, we had just under 1,000 entries, so there is as good chance of winning," Stewart said, adding there hasn't yet been a grand prize winner from Michigan. "StudentCam is an opportunity for students to have a voice, and to explore issues in their community that they care deeply about."

StudentCam encourages students to create a short film about issues affecting their communities and the nation. This year's theme asks middle and high school students to address "One of our country's greatest strengths" or "A chal-



Westland City Council President James Godbout talks with Rebecca Stewart, C-SPAN marketing representative, following her presentation to the Westland Rotary Club Thursday.

lenge the country is facing." Stewart showed clips from 2009 competition winners, with the theme of a message to President Barack Obama about the most urgent issue facing the country. The first-place high school entry asked questions about why bees, which are crucial to the human food supply, are dying. A winning middle school entry asked questions about whether private corporations should receive taxpayer-funded bailouts.

"We would really like you to spread the word about StudentCam," Stewart said.

C-SPAN likes to work with service organizations, such as

Rotary, Stewart said, which goes along with the public service philosophy of C-SPAN's public affairs coverage.

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The deadline for this year's competition is Jan. 20. Additional details can be found online at www.studentcam.org.

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RSVP: St. Dunstan's serves Christmas dinner

BY LEANNE ROGERS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

People often have holiday traditions and Christmas Day dinner at St. Dunstan Church is an annual event for many guests and volunteers.

"I've been working on it for 10 years and the church had for many years before that. It's definitely a tradition," said Judy Larry, a member of the Garden City parish who chairs the dinner. "It's a great community thing. We get volunteers from all over the parish and people from the community who aren't part of the parish. They know we do it and volunteer food or their services."

St. Dunstan is the only church in the area that hosts a dinner on Christmas Day. The dinner is free to people who would otherwise be alone on the holiday — the only other requirement is reservations. About 110 people came to dinner last year, many senior citizens.

"It's a wonderful sit-down dinner with turkey and mashed potatoes. I will call people for cookies. I like to have a lot of desserts — I don't buy those," said Larry. "The main course is all cooked, so I just ask people for a dozen cookies. Everyone is baking around the holidays."

People also make cash donations to help offset the costs for the dinner which is funded through St. Dunstan's Christian Service money. That money also feeds hundreds of people during the year through the church's food pantry program.

Like last year, guests at the dinner each received a Christmas ornament as a gift — something Larry said will happen again this year with the help of the Cracker Barrel Restaurant.

"Last year, I happened to be in the Crack Barrel on the day after Christmas. The ornaments were 50 percent off. I thought it would be nice to give everyone a pres-

ent," said Larry. "I talked to the manager. I told her what we did and that I wanted to buy 110 ornaments. She was so nice and told me to come back the next day — the ornaments would be 70 percent off."

It ended up that the restaurant and the church split the cost for the ornaments, Larry said, with Cracker Barrel throwing in boxes and bows for wrapping the ornaments.

To make a reservation for the Christmas dinner, call Larry at (734) 595-3049. Anyone wishing to donate baked goods for the dinner can drop items off at the parish office.

"I'll be there on Wednesday (Dec. 23) making centerpieces. I have a couple of ladies helping me," said Larry.

St. Dunstan is located on Belton, one block west of Inkster Road just north of Marquette.

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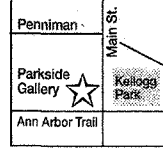


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December 10,
2009

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LOCAL OPINION

online at hometownlife.com



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

OUR VIEWS

Election switch ignored voters

The Plymouth-Canton Board of Education Tuesday voted to move its election schedule — again — with little notice and less fanfare.

It's the second time in a year the board has voted to change the date on which its members are elected. Just last year at this time, they voted to switch to an every-November slate of elections.

Now, after a 5-2 vote Tuesday (Trustees Dianne Gonzalez and Tom Wysocki voted against it), elections will be held in odd-year Novembers.

We think that's a mistake on a couple of different levels.

The biggest gripe with this decision is the potential cost. In even-year Novembers, the school election would have cost the district nothing, because of the state and national elections on the ballot.

In odd-year Novembers, the elections could bring a potential \$80,000 cost to the district (that's what they'll budget; most members expect it to cost \$20,000 or less). To be fair, the odd-year November cost has frequently been reduced because other municipalities — this year it was a Wayne County millage renewal and a Plymouth City Commission election — have had questions on the ballot.

But that's not always going to be the case, and the district still has to pay in places like Plymouth Township and Canton Township, which didn't have anything on the ballot. In a district where they're worried whether they'll be able to afford chalk by this time next year, even \$20,000 seems like an awfully high figure when you consider it could be zero.

The decision also doesn't take the voters into account much. Turnouts will be down (they always are in off-year elections). In some recent elections, turnout has been in single digits in terms of registered voters. Had they switched to even-year Novembers, as Gonzalez would have preferred, they'd have been on the same ballots as state Legislature, gubernatorial and presidential elections, which typically draw a much larger percentage of voters.

Another concern is that holding school elections in even-year Novembers would put the Plymouth-Canton election at the bottom of a crowded ballot, making it difficult to find and, among all the other election hoopla, more difficult to understand.

We think voters are much smarter than that. They're going to find the local school election on the ballot.

The other fear is the one with which we have the biggest objection: The fear that political parties will take an avid interest — if not actual control — of what is supposed to be a non-partisan election. The fear is that such involvement would drive up the cost of getting elected to what is a volunteer position. According to board President Steven Sneiderman, the winner in the most recent Northville school election spent some \$5,000.

Sneiderman feels it would cost much more than that in Plymouth-Canton, which is a much larger district. He says it's "unacceptable" to ask candidates to spend \$15,000 to \$20,000 to win a volunteer seat on the board. We agree with the sentiment; we just don't believe it'll ever cost that much. Many candidates have proven they can win on far less money and a lot of hard work.

One argument made at Tuesday's meeting was that the majority of districts around the state stuck with their May elections, despite the cost, because it makes more sense to seat a new board before the school year begins, rather than in the middle of a school year.

While that's a valid point, the "everyone else is doing it" part of the argument recalls when your mother would ask you, after doing something she thought was silly because your friend did it, "If Jimmy jumped off the roof, would you do it?"

In odd-year November elections, history shows a vastly smaller percentage of the voters are going to be making the decisions about who will represent their school district. The school board considered a number of things in making their decision.

We just wish the voters would have been one of them.

COMMUNITY VOICE

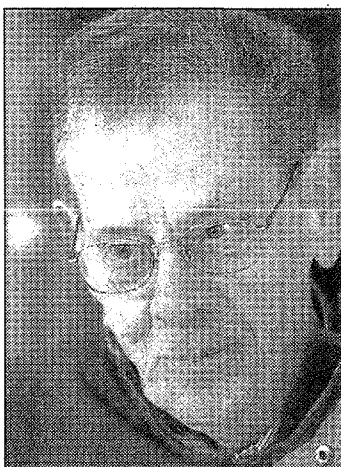
With 2009 coming to an end, what is the best thing that happened to you this year?

We asked this question at the Canton Public Library.



"I just got cataract surgery, so I can see better, and I've learned I'm going to have a new grandchild in May."

Barbara Smyth
Canton



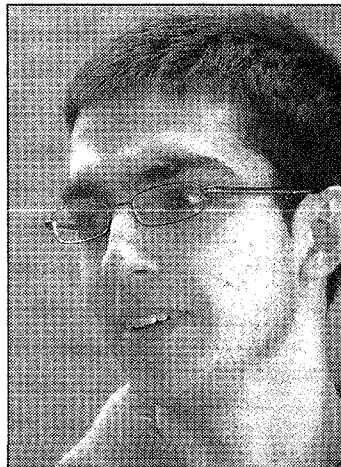
"Something simple like visiting Traverse City."

Ken Hinks
Canton



"All the good people who joined us for the Goodfellows (holiday campaign to help the less fortunate) this year. It blew me away."

Nancy Spencer
Canton



"Going to school at Schoolcraft (College) and continuing my education."

Arturo Holt
Canton

LETTERS

Diversity thank you

The Plymouth Canton Citizens for Diversity and Inclusion would like to extend our sincere thanks to our fellow citizens of the Plymouth-Canton community, who came out in support of our first meeting Oct. 29, as we unveiled our strategic plan.

We would especially like to thank the elected and township officials, and other community leaders who attended, as we were encouraged by your presence. A special thank you goes out to the *Observer* for their continued coverage.

We have received many positive comments about the meeting. As we move forward to implement the goals of the strategic plan we will keep you informed of our progress and of future events.

We appreciate your continued support and encourage you to join us in getting fellow citizens involved as we strive to make Plymouth Canton an inclusive community for all.

Strategic Planning Committee
Plymouth Canton Citizens for
Diversity and Inclusion

Wal-Mart wrong on wall

I went into the Wal-Mart store today to see my son's Marine picture on the wall only to find out a new manager named Bernie didn't like the Wall of Honor showing the men and women who are serving our country!

First let me say, it was like someone reached into my chest and pulled my heart out! I am ashamed that anyone in this country would turn their backs on our men and women who are dying for us and to do this to a mother is beyond words.

I just want you to know this is going to be my first battle and I will fight for my son (and his fellow soldiers). I thought Wal-Mart was the most wonderful store, showing such pride and standing by our troops, only to feel the total opposite now.

I am truly a hurting mom who didn't have her own son for Thanksgiving and won't have him for Christmas but will say this — he's out there fighting for YOU and YOUR family! He's one of the bravest young men I know who chose on his own to put his life on the line, and you were blessed to have his picture along with all the other men and women on your wall!

Shame on you, shame on Wal-Mart! I pray for your own souls and I pray I really make an impact by sharing this story — I want to see all those wonderful pictures on that wall again! You realize that other Wal-Mart stores still have their honor walls up! This new manager at Canton's store needs to lose his job and I also believe he needs to see the changes these kids go through when they return, and if that's not enough, he needs to see the limbs lost and last — he needs to see the coffins that get shipped home!

If Wal-Mart started something good, do the right thing and put our men and women's pictures back up in HONOR of what they do — serving all your families!

Yana Sache
Plymouth

Talking points

A short time ago, I read a letter to the editor from a conservative gentleman opposed to substantive health care reform. He rebutted a prior letter from a practicing pediatrician who supported robust reform.

On the eve of the beginning of debate on

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the Senate reform bill, I think it is necessary to provide some push-back on some of the issues raised by the conservative responder as he recited verbatim a list of oft-mentioned conservative talking points that may "sound" good but make little sense when scrutinized more closely.

In his letter, the conservative responder quickly infused the erroneous notion that the Senate bill would represent a "socialist government takeover" of health care and was unacceptable in its current form as a result. Since when does the contracting of private parties, companies and agencies to perform prescribed services to 3 to 5 percent of the populace constitute a "takeover"?

I would expect that a takeover would require something approaching 50 percent of something else. And if this is socialism (but it is not, look it up), so is Medicare. Please, give me a slice of that.

Rationing of care was also a well-worn talking point mentioned by the responder as a criticism of the Senate bill. Excuse me but isn't care already rationed based on income and insurance coverage? Terms that are insurance industry jargon for rationing like cherry picking, rescission and pre-existing condition, have grown all too familiar to victims.

It would appear to me that providing any modicum of care to any of the 45 million previously uninsured citizens would represent a dramatic improvement on the rationing front.

Tort reform, a predictable conservative talking point and a conservative "must" for the Senate bill, has been categorized as a "red herring" by liberals and enlightened conservatives alike. Limiting awards in malpractice settlements in states like Texas have resulted in little change in insurance malpractice premiums or so-called "defensive" medical practices that allegedly result in excessive testing and commensurate cost increases. Often, added testing has more to do with enhancing physician compensation and/or improving hospital profit than it does with preventing lawsuits.

Medical malpractice costs represent only 2 percent of total medical costs, according to the CBO, and have little impact upon forcing doctors out of practice or adding significantly to the health care tab. Demands for tort reform in medicine represent a small part of a larger, ongoing campaign by corporate-types and wealthy conservatives to demonize trial lawyers who fight to guarantee the civil liberties of common folk by assisting them in holding individuals and companies responsible for life-changing mistakes or negligence that would go unnoticed or unpunished without their presence. It is part of the "class war" thing and conservatives are seeking to kill two birds with one stone with this thrust.

The last "straw man" talking point in need of debunking involves that government bureaucrat getting between you and your doctor that this bill will allegedly permit. Is that any different than my insurance company bureaucrat, duty-bound to earn a profit for his employer or at the very least mitigate costs, who says I do not need a colonoscopy if I am not in pain or bleeding, even if I am 60 years old and therefore, his company will not pay for one?

I would rather have a government bureaucrat making \$50,000 and accumulating a pension who answers to an elected official making the call as opposed to an insurance company bureaucrat, who answers to a CEO and a board of directors, trying to cut costs to increase the bottom line. How about you?

Mitch Smith
Canton

Politics vs. solutions

In recent weeks we have been forced to listen to the usual suspects, plastering the media with "politics-as-usual."

We all watched and listened to the spin-doctors and pundits whining about ending the Single Business Tax. The result was (at least for a short time) one of the most ridiculous final legislative products we have ever seen. In 2009, state budget battles rage on.

In a nation that's been screaming "no-new-taxes!" for the last several decades, changes in the way we tax real property (Headlee Amendment-1978), and changes in the way our schools are funded (Proposal A-1994) have resulted in a disaster that even Howdy-Doody could have predicted!

Voters limited the way property taxes are calculated, and later all but eliminated the matter of local control over our school districts. Along with appraised values diving to the bottom, and reduced shared revenues every year, schools are running out of ways to keep the heat and lights on.

I have had the privilege to have known Gov. Jennifer Granholm as an intelligent and hard-working person having only great expectations and intentions for us all being "hammered" by the most small minded of politicians one can imagine, both then and now.

The "tea-baggers" of the times are perfectly willing to sacrifice the greater good in anything, for the desired political outcomes. That song remains the same.

While we really need to look at another way to fund schools in Michigan, Gov. Granholm proposed three new initiatives to create enough new revenue to make up for cuts made in schools this year. Michigan Senate Leader Mike Bishop stood steadfastly against supporting those initiatives, shouting at us all his rhetorical justification, "no-new-taxes!"

Our governor continues to seek resolution (looking at the powers of office and legal options) to the matter of solving our problems. The ones responsible for the problems sit, and wait, and listen for the next opportunity to create another one of their messes for her to clean up.

Term-limited politicians do not remain in office long enough to really learn the job, and too often simply rely on others (like the speaker or whip) when making decisions. The matter often not revealed, will be the one that shows us they are not in office long enough to be held accountable for their actions when they were there.

R. Burnett
Livonia

CANTON
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Gifts for four-legged friends

BY WENDSY VON BUSKIRK
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

There's no doubt Santa is an animal lover, as evidenced by the way he reveres his reindeer. Take a cue from Old St. Nick and spoil your favorite four-legged friend with some holiday cheer this year.

Here are some fun gift ideas for the dogs and cats in your life:

Fashion



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Fun

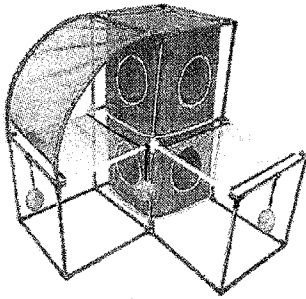
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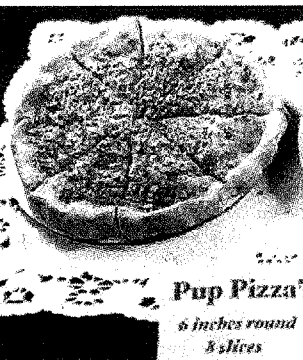
Keep active cats busy with the Multi Cat Jungle Gym, featuring jumping platforms, obstacles, vertical and horizontal tunnels and fuzzy hanging toys. \$25.79 at select Target locations and www.target.com.

Food

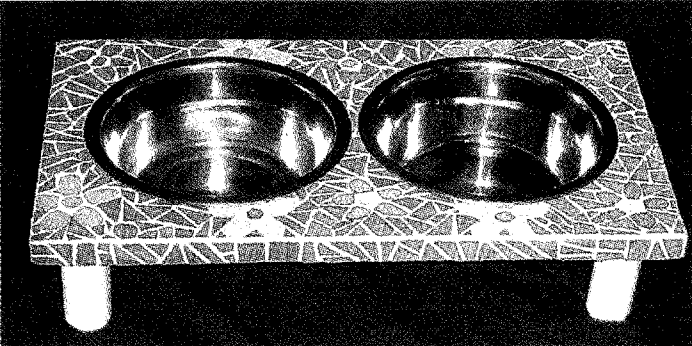
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app uses the iPhone or iPod as a measuring device to ensure use of the proper amount of paper. It also provides step-by-step instructions on making looped bows. Visit www.lisagiftwrappers.com.

SANTA PAWS PET PHOTOS

Guests are invited to bring their dog or cat to Twelve Oaks Mall in Novi from 9-10:45 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 13 to have their photo taken with Santa. The same photo packages available to families are available for pets. Reservations are a must. Call (248) 348-9438.

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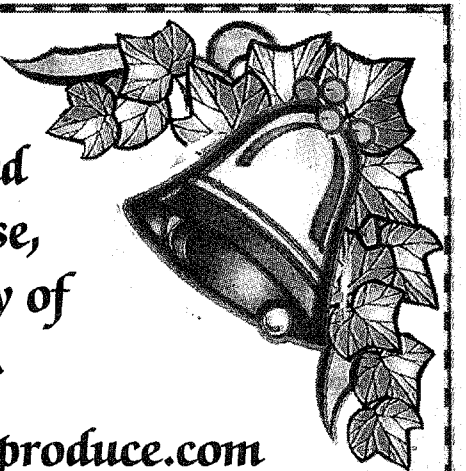
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SECTION B
(CP)

Tim Smith, editor, (313) 222-2637
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Family-run café innovates, maintains following — Food, B9

SPORTS, FILTER, FOOD & WINE

HOMETOWN LIFE



2009-10 BOYS BASKETBALL PREVIEW PT. II

Kids have big chance

BY TIM SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

There is no denying who the dean of boys basketball coaches is at Plymouth-Canton Educational Park this winter.

Hands down it's Salem's Bob Brodie, embarking on his 26th season as head coach of the Rocks — and 31st as a coach at the high school.

Elsewhere in "The Park," Canton's Jimmy Reddy and Plymouth's Mike Soukup

start their first season with their team.

But Brodie also will deal with newness of sorts in 2009-10 as the Rocks begin play in the Kensington Lakes Activities Association's Central Division.

"We lost all of our five starters to graduation," Brodie said, citing guards Anthony Mullins, Heath Parling, post player Courtney Frazier and forwards Joe Posler and Jim Dexter.

The lone returnees with varsity experience are guard Blake Hayes and post player Jake Peterson.

As a result, a bevy of varsity rookies has the chance to impress

'We will be young, with little varsity experience. We have a big team though and should be competitive in the division.'

BOB BRODIE, Salem coach

and move up the depth chart as Salem eyes improvement over last year's 10-11 mark (4-4 in the Central).

"We will be young, with little varsity experience," Brodie said. "We have a big team though and should be competitive in the division."

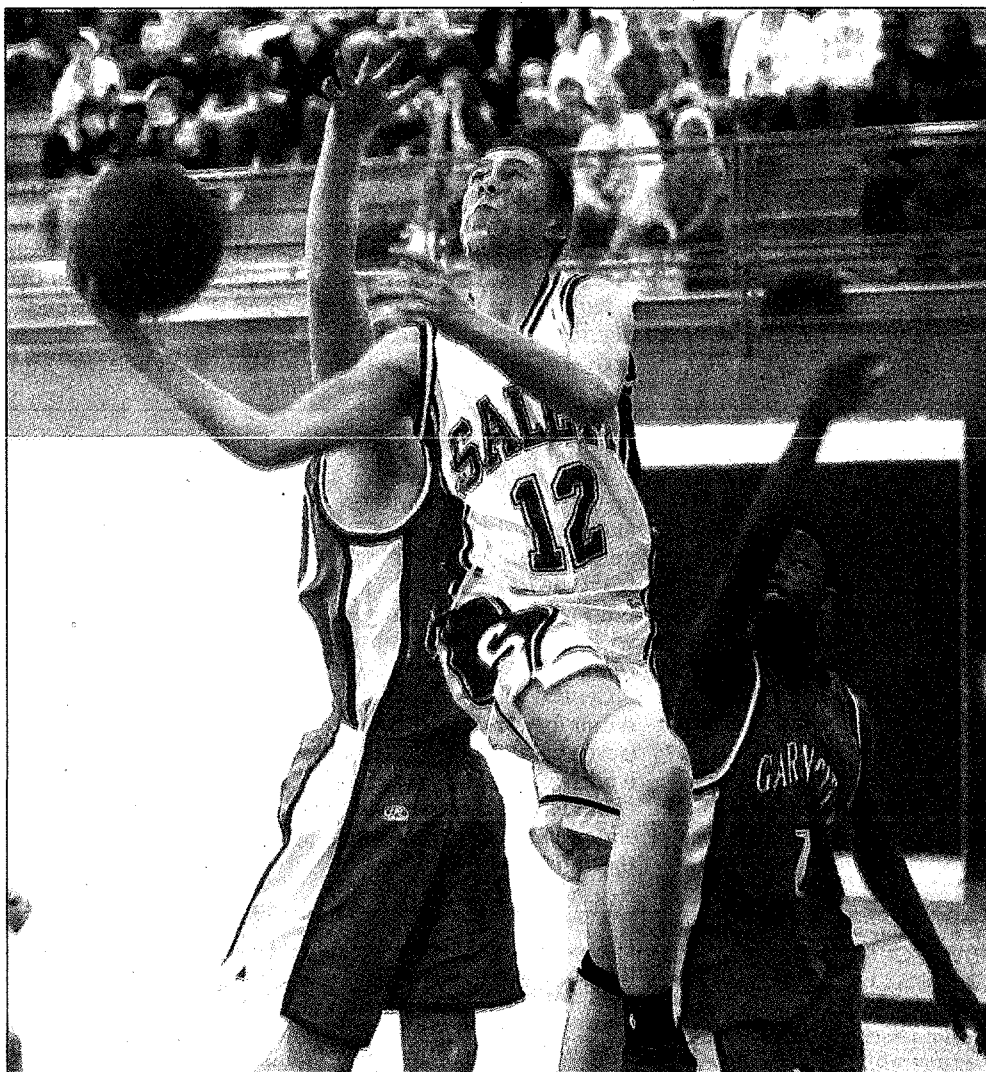
Other than Hayes, the Rocks will have juniors Josh Perrin, Devonta Riley and Jeff Cantin ready to play in the backcourt.

Joining Peterson up front will be junior power forwards Ethan Walsh and Paul Classen, along with promising freshman Terez Smith.

Small forwards include juniors Rodney Polk, Zinovi Pelekh and Scott Devine and sophomore Tyler Stewart.

The Rocks open the season Dec. 15 at Redford Union in a non-conference tilt.

tsmith@hometownlife.com



There are only two Salem varsity boys basketball players back from last season, and one of them is Blake Hayes (No. 12), shown in a 2008-09 game against Garden City.

GAME WRAPS

Boys basketball

CANTON 53, CRESTWOOD 40: Call the Chiefs "Road Warriors," as they started the season with an impressive non-conference victory Tuesday night at Dearborn Heights Crestwood.

A 20-12 edge in the third quarter blew open a close ballgame.

"We went into halftime up one (23-22) and then our kids showed a lot of resiliency," said Canton head coach Jimmy Reddy, "especially playing without one of our starters."

Senior forward Brandon Duffey missed the game due to a sprained ankle.

But that provided an opportunity for sophomore guard Kyle Adams, who scored nine points — all on treys — and collected five rebounds.

Leading the Chiefs with 24 points, along with seven assists, was junior point guard Dietrich Lever. Contributing eight points was senior forward Kevin Weisz.

For the Chargers, guard Claude Glenn scored 19 points.

Girls basketball

CANTON 47, MARIAN 41: The visiting Chiefs improved to 2-0 on the season Tuesday night, with what head coach Brian Samulski described as "a solid win against a great program on the road."

Canton trailed 39-37 entering the fourth frame, but stifling defense by senior guard-forward Alyssa Cottrell against Marian's Rachel Melcher sparked the Chiefs. Melcher scored 16 points, but only two in the fourth as Canton outscored the Mustangs, 10-2.

"We defended really well the first three quarters, but we did a great job in the fourth to close out the game," Samulski said.

Sophomore guard Robyn Mack led Canton with 13 points, while junior forwards Kari Schmitt (nine points, 10 rebounds), Sara Schmitt (seven points, five rebounds) and Kayla Bridges (six points) all were big contributors.

Marian dropped to 2-1 with the loss.

SALEM 39, MERCY 35: After two subpar outings in the offensive department, the host Rocks shot the ball much better Tuesday night and earned their first win of the season.

The teams were deadlocked 24-all going into the fourth, and that's when senior forward Brett deBear stepped up with six of her 10 points. Scoring all five of her points for the night during the final frame was Heidi Schmidt.

Senior forward Sara Stone had another strong game, scoring 18 points and grabbing eight rebounds. Chipping in with four points was Rachel Norman.

For Farmington Hills Mercy (1-1), Janelle McQueen scored 10 points.

"It's good, we've played hard the first two games but we came up short," said Salem head coach Fred Thomann. "It felt good to come up with a win."

Thomann said his team played improved defense, particularly down the stretch. But he emphasized

Please see **WRAPS, B2**

Buzzer beater caps dramatic Plymouth opener

BY TIM SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Mike Nadratowski didn't want to play overtime to decide Tuesday night's boys basketball season opener.

The Plymouth junior forward wanted the ball for a last-second bid to break a 39-39 tie and said as much to head coach Mike Soukup during a timeout with two seconds to go in the fourth.

"He (Nadratowski) said 'Run it to me, I want the shot,'" said Soukup following the KLAA crossover against Walled Lake Central, his first game as Plymouth coach. "That's what he said in the huddle. True to his word he hit it."

Nadratowski's rainbow jumper from

the right wing swished through the cords as the buzzer sounded — giving the Wildcats a stirring 41-39 win over the visiting Vikings.

"We'll take the finish," Soukup said. "These guys showed a lot of heart tonight. They fought back from deficits of 10, 11, 12 (points)."

"... It's a big character win for our ballclub and we'll take it, especially starting a new era here at Plymouth. The first one is the hardest to get, so we'll take that monkey off our back."

The bucket touched off a mob scene on the floor, with the 6-0, 175-pounder the central figure.

"It was just a great feeling," Nadratowski said. "It was my first time hitting a buzzer-beater."

Nadratowski (11 points) added that he had confidence to make the winning shot, and was ready to be the team leader he didn't have the chance to be as a sophomore.

"I just wanted to take the leadership role," he said, smiling. "I knew I could hit it, so I just wanted that last shot."

On the play, junior forward Pat Salo dished the ball out from the baseline to Nadratowski, who did all the rest.

But it took a concerted defensive effort during the second half to even have a chance, following a poor-shooting opening 16 minutes.

Central rolled out to a 13-3 lead after one quarter and still enjoyed a 19-12 edge at the intermission — undoubtedly helped by Plymouth missing nine

layups.

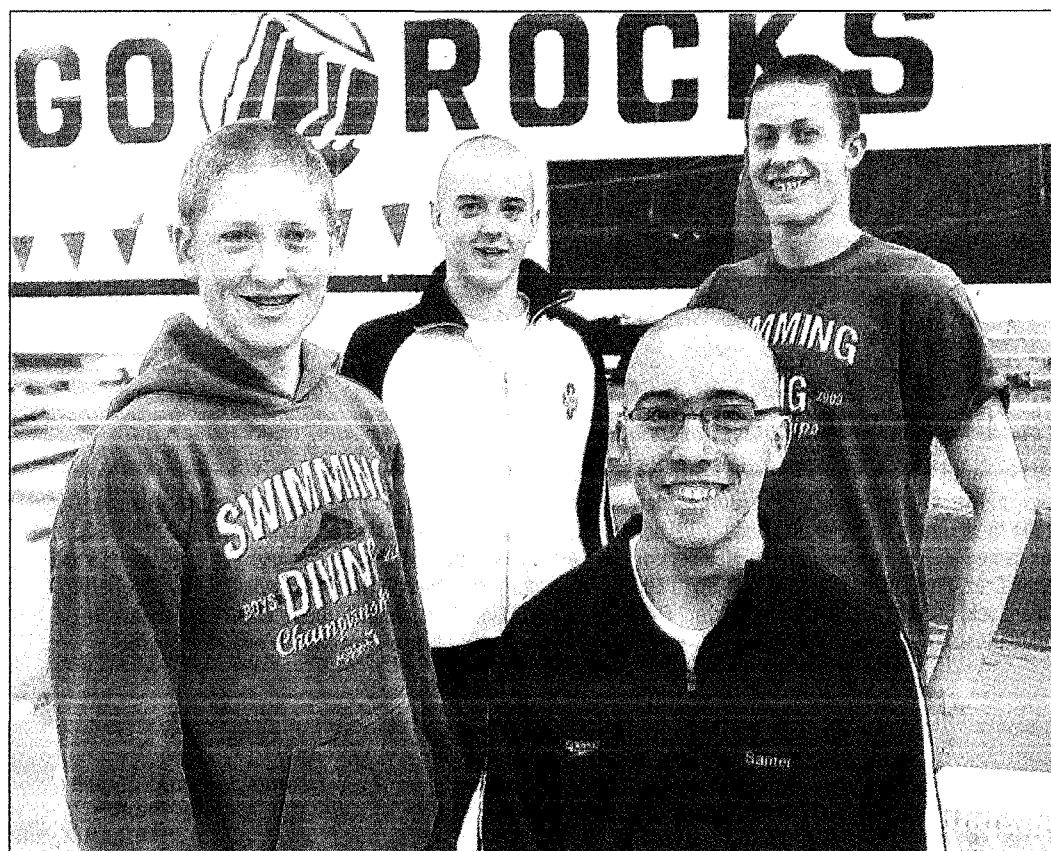
It actually was 19-5 Vikes midway through the second, following a jumper by senior forward Joe Kubrickas (11 points) before the Wildcats began to rally.

The 7-0 run featured Nadratowski's triple and a finger roll through the lane. A power layup by 6-5 junior forward Brennen Beyer (six points, 15 rebounds) cut the deficit to seven.

The teams went back and forth during the third, which ended with Central still up 29-25.

Plymouth ended the frame with a 7-1 surge, sparked by Beyer's outlet to senior Aaron Thompson — who canned

Please see **PLYMOUTH, B2**



One reason for optimism entering the year for Salem is the return of 2008-09 state qualifiers (from left) Max Mills, Matt Collingwood, Noah Santer and Adam Seroka.

2009-10 BOYS SWIMMING PREVIEW

Talent pool

Rocks solid with cast of talented returnees

BY TIM SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

No matter how things play out in the KLAA Central this winter, Salem's boys swim team figures to make a splash.

Veteran Salem coach Chuck Olson knows it's a given that the Central will be highly competitive as always — with excellent programs throughout such as Livonia Stevenson, Novi and Northville.

But the Rocks also should be pretty darn good, with four Division 1 state qualifiers back in the fold along with improving upperclassmen and promising newbies.

"The competition is going

to be stiff again this year, and we'd like to think we can improve our times, move up and get more qualifiers in there," Olson said. "In the division we still have Stevenson, Northville, Novi, South Lyon. It's always interesting with those in the division."

The returning state qualifiers for Salem certainly will form the team's nucleus.

Junior Adam Seroka is an outstanding, versatile performer who earned All-State honors in the 200 IM (he placed third at the state meet, 1:54.97) and 500 freestyle. "Adam was captain last

Please see **ROCKS, B3**

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PCA fortunes could get lift from ex-Wolverines

BY TIM SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

It could be an interesting year for Plymouth Christian's varsity boys basketball team. The Eagles lost 11 seniors off of the 2008-09 team, which finished 12-12 and captured a Class D district championship thanks to Caleb Middleton's buzzer-beater.

But third-year head coach Mike Doyle would rather look at the positive, such as having three returnees and two strong players who came over from now-defunct Canton Agape Christian (Don Mullett and Ethan Walker).

"The two Agape seniors are a big addition after losing 11 seniors, including the starting

five," Doyle said.

But the coach hesitates to say the team is embarking on a rebuilding season.

"Even though we lost 11 seniors, we never consider ourselves rebuilding as the basketball program is growing and gaining consistency," said Doyle, whose Eagles open the season Dec. 15 against visiting Oakland Christian.

Mullett will start at point guard, having done an exceptional job there last season with the Wolverines (20 points-per-game average). "He starts our fast break well and makes good decisions with the ball," Doyle said.

In the backcourt with Mullett is returning junior guard Travis Dekruyter, who

the coach said "helps the team in many ways, but what I like most about him is he is the most vocal guy on the court at all times."

Walker and returnee Jordan Allen are battling it out for the starting power forward spot. "Both guys have a nose for the ball and are great secondary rebounders," Doyle said.

He added that Walker also "brings a rebounding toughness that the team is lacking this year."

Returnee Matt Dodson so far is the leading candidate for the small forward position, bringing a competitive streak and a penchant for draining treys.

Perhaps the most intriguing development with PCA is the arrival of Eric Jipping, a prom-

ising sophomore center who was a JV force in '08-09.

"He (Jipping) brings a great post presence with the ability to hit the mid-range shot and occasional 3-pointer," the coach said. "I look for big things out of this young man this year."

Meanwhile, freshman Mick Noel could step into an important backup role, probably at guard or small forward.

Doyle described Noel as a "quick, pesky defender that can leap out of the gym. We believe that Mick will be an impact player all season."

Rounding out the roster are Josh Johnston, Chad Ibach and Riley Groenewoud.

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WALT DMOCH

Nearly 3,000 hockey fans at Compuware Arena Saturday night had to wait until almost the end of the second period to litter the ice at the Whalers' annual Teddy Bear Toss game. Fans brought the toys in anticipation of throwing them over the glass when Plymouth scored its first goal. The toys will be donated to Plymouth Community United Way's children's charities.

PLYMOUTH

FROM PAGE B1

a triple from beyond the top of the arc to make it 28-23.

GETTING CLOSER

In the fourth, the Wildcats continued to press and chip away, frustrating the Vikes in the process.

A couple of key field goals down low for the Wildcats by senior forward-guard

Dion Johnson (a team-leading 12 points) and a layup by Thompson (seven points) helped put Plymouth on the cusp of going out in front for the first time since the game's opening seconds.

The Wildcats did take a 33-32 lead with 5:47 left when Nadratowski hit a pair of foul shots.

Doing all he could for Central was senior forward Justin Kucera, who drained two triples from the right side along with another basket (he

led the Vikes with 15 points).

Beyer muscled in for a layup to deadlock matters at 37-37 with 2:50 to go and Nadratowski's jumper from the left side of the key put Plymouth up a deuce with less than two minutes remaining.

Central wasn't done, as senior forward Karl Boedecker (seven points) scored to make it a 39-39 contest.

But Nadratowski's ensuing clutch shot finally completed the uphill climb to victory.

"We started playing our tempo and our style which is how we're going to have to play the rest of the year," Soukup said. "That was key for us. Guys really showed good character, even when times were tough in the first half."

"When we got down by a bunch, they continued to fight back. I hope that's the character that will carry us through some inevitable tough times during the season."

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Hounds spoil 'Teddy' night

On Nov. 27, Sault Ste. Marie goaltender Robin Lehner was pulled in the second period as the Plymouth Whalers defeated the Greyhounds, 5-4, at the Essar Centre in Sault Ste. Marie.

Saturday - during the Whalers annual Teddy Bear Toss, played before 2,867 at Compuware Arena - Lehner was the difference in the game in stopping 48-of-49 Plymouth shots as the game's first star in the Soo's 4-1 victory over Plymouth.

Jacob Muzzin's short handed goal (and seventh of the year) at 7:15 of the third period snapped a 1-1 tie and stood as the game-winning goal for Sault Ste. Marie, now 16-13-1-1. Jordan Nolan (sixth) also scored for the Soo, while Brett Thompson (16th) and Brock Beukeboom (third) scored empty net goal three seconds apart in the final minute of play to extend Sault Ste. Marie's lead from 2-1 to 4-1.

Michal Jordan scored the lone Plymouth goal, his fifth of the year, to trigger the rain of Teddy Bears to the ice at 19:32 of the second period.

The Whalers, who defeated Saginaw 3-2 in overtime on Friday (on a goal by Jordan), fell to 17-14-0-0.

Overall, the game was played with good flow and few whistles.

After an evenly played first period that was scoreless, Nolan got the 'Hounds on the board with a power play goal at 15:58 of the second period. Working with a two-man advantage, Nolan scored with a hard shot from the top of the right circle.

Jordan tied the game 1-1 with 0:28 left in the period with a rising shot from the right faceoff dot under the bar.

Plymouth was working on a power play on James Livingston's tripping call at 6:58 of the third period when Muzzin, killing the penalty, picked up the puck in neutral territory, skated over the Plymouth blue line and beat Whalers goaltender Matt Hackett (31 saves) was a hard shot.

The Whalers are off until Thursday when they play in Sarnia and will return home next Friday to host Erie at 7 p.m. at Compuware Arena.

WRAPS

FROM PAGE B1

that a tendency to commit turnovers needs to be corrected as soon as possible.

W.L. CENTRAL 63, PLYMOUTH 36: Krista Hakola (22 points) and Tori Duffey (18 points) proved too much of a 1-2 punch for visiting Plymouth Tuesday night in a KLLA crossover contest.

The Wildcats (1-1) were led by Stacey Klonowski (14 points) and Isis Haywood, who scored eight points.

Contributing four points in a losing effort were Alex Roberts and Rachael Hille.

Boys hockey
PLYMOUTH 4, LAKE ORION 1: By no means is Plymouth a perfect varsity boys hockey team, although they now are 6-0 following Saturday's win over the Lake Orion Dragons at Detroit Skate Club in Bloomfield Township.

That's the take of Wildcats head coach Paul Fassbender, who still wants his team to tighten up in its own zone.

"We need to become a better defensive hockey team," Fassbender said. "There are team that have a lot more firepower and we need to be able to shut people down. Especially in our own end."

But the Wildcats had plenty of defense to take care of the

Dragons, a point Fassbender made sure not to ignore.

"It was a solid defensive effort from everyone," he said. "The shots that Lake Orion did get were perimeter shots, we blocked quite a few shots tonight."

Wildcats goalie Mike Justus earned the victory, stopping 25 of 26 shots and only giving up a power play tally in the third. The shot bounced in off players in front of Justus.

That merely cut Plymouth's lead to 3-1, built on the strength of goals in the first period by Evan Swieczkowski and Ryan Renault, followed by John Deal's goal in the second.

Completing the scoring just two minutes after the Lake

Orion goal was Pat Smiatacz, registering the Wildcats' second power play goal. Smiatacz also collected two assists.

Swieczkowski, Justin Bauer, Taylor Currier and Sean Smiatacz also drew helpers.

Prep bowling
PLYMOUTH OPENERS: Plymouth's varsity bowling team got off to a 1-1 start Monday against Milford. The boys won 23-7, led by Brandon Congdon's 200 game. But Milford's girls earned a 17-13 win over the Wildcats, although Kristyn Sturz bowled a 157 for Plymouth.

In a junior varsity boys tilt, Plymouth won 26-4, led by Zach Behr's outstanding score of 278.

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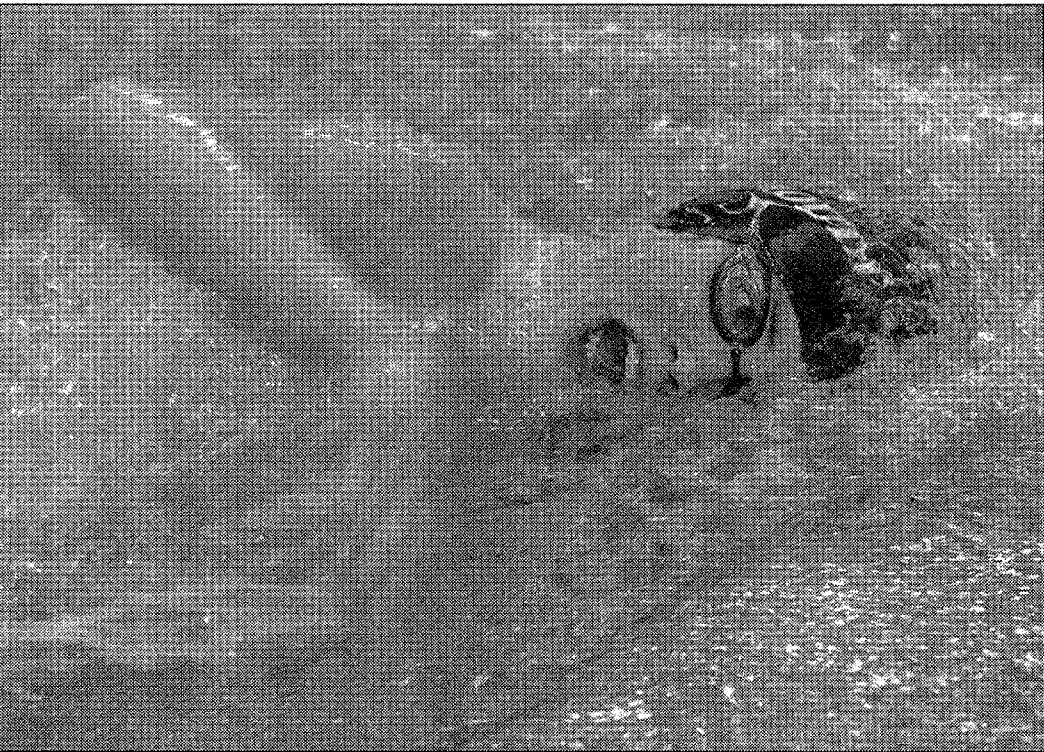
Victory Honda triumphs

The Plymouth Victory Honda 10U girls hockey team recently won the 12th Annual Outlaws Tournament in Chatham, Ontario. The squad went 4-0 in the tourney, defeating St. Clair Storm, North York Storm and Windsor Wildcats to get to the final. Goalie Alex Marcyan and the VH defense then blanked the Wildcats 1-0 to claim the title. Brooke Spiegel was named MVP of the tournament. Members of the team (listed alphabetically) are Paige Butkin, Michelle Cirino, Jenna Cruz, Peri Darmofal, Olivia Drys, Kyra Eddy, Brenna Fairbanks, Ashlely Gorris, Mikayla Hubbard, Steffanie Killingback, Chelsea Kovoch, Alex Marcyan, Emma Ratusznik, Hannah Schulman, Brooke Spiegel and Cathryne VandenBosch. Head coach is Chris Cirino, with assistant coaches Rob Eddy, Larry Kovoch and Dave Spiegel.

THE WEEK AHEAD

BOYS BASKETBALL Friday, Dec. 11 West Bloomfield at Canton, 7 p.m. GIRLS BASKETBALL Thursday, Dec. 10 Det. Renaissance at Canton, 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 11 Det. Community at Salem, 7 p.m. Plymouth at Mercy, 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 12 Ply. Christian vs. Det. Community, 1 p.m. PREP HOCKEY Friday, Dec. 11 Churchill vs. Novi-Detroit CC at Edgar Arena, 6 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 12 Southgate vs. Plymouth at Compuware Arena, 2:30 p.m. Salem at Monroe, 5:30 p.m. Ladywood vs. G.P. South at Arctic Pond, 6:30 p.m. Canton at Harrison, 7 p.m. Stevensen vs. Novi-Detroit CC at Compuware Arena, 7 p.m. PCS Penguins (JV) vs. Northville at Novi Ice Arena, 8:30 p.m.	PREP WRESTLING Saturday, Dec. 12 Salem "10" Tournament, 9 a.m. Avondale Invitational, 9 a.m. Garden City Invitational, 9:30 a.m. Bedford Invitational, 10 a.m. Rochester Invitational, TBA. BOYS SWIMMING & DIVING Thursday, Dec. 10 Monroe at Canton, 6:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 12 Rocket Relays at John Glenn, 1 p.m. EMU Relays, TBA. GIRLS GYMNASTICS Saturday, Dec. 12 Canton at Vassar, 12 p.m. GIRLS COMPETITIVE CHEER Saturday, Dec. 12 Wyandotte Invitational, 9 a.m. CCAM Invitational at Stoney Creek, 1 p.m. GIRLS FIGURE SKATING Sunday, Dec. 13 Ladywood in Team Competition at Hartland Sports Center, 8 a.m.	ONTARIO HOCKEY LEAGUE Thursday, Dec. 10 Plymouth at Sarnia, 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 11 Erie vs. Plymouth at Compuware, 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 12 Saginaw vs. Plymouth at Compuware, 7 p.m. MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL Friday, Dec. 11 (Madonna University Classic) Rochester College vs. UM-Dearborn, 6 p.m. Madonna vs. Notre Dame (Ohio), 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 12 Schoolcraft at Glen Oaks CC, 3 p.m. (Madonna University Classic) Notre Dame (Ohio) at UM-Dearborn, noon. Madonna vs. Rochester College, 2 p.m. WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL Friday, Dec. 11 Madonna at St. Ambrose (Ia.), 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 12 St. Clair CC at Schoolcraft, 1 p.m. Madonna vs. St. Mary-of-the-Woods (Ind.) at St. Ambrose (Ia.) Classic, 4 p.m. TBA - time to be announced.
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One of the top returnees for Plymouth is Chris Wilson, one of the Wildcats who will be counted on to participate in several events.

Plymouth won't back down

BY TIM SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Plymouth's boys swim team dives in for another season Thursday against visiting Monroe, and Wildcats head coach Doug Schade is enthusiastic about what might unfold over the coming months.

"We have a bunch of guys who are hard-working and motivated to get better," said Schade, whose team finished 4-1 last year in the KLAA South Division.

Leading that group are top returnees Chris Wilson, Ethan Weiner, Alex Jouney, Adam Wing, Ethan Christenson, Kyle

Wilkenson and Adam Liakos.

"Most of these swimmers will swim any event on any occasion," Schade said.

That kind of versatility and willingness to compete make any coach smile, including Schade.

"I expect our team to compete night in and night out," Schade said. "And to improve on a meet-by-meet basis. All we can control is how much we improve."

In addition to the nucleus, the Wildcats' roster includes five guys who the coach said "will support our effort this year."

Those are Zack Koch, Peter Burns, Jack Gruzynski, Todd

Maslyk and Brett Jia.

Freshmen Scott Wang and Cameron Earls and senior Tim Castle also show promise. Castle is a transfer from Redford Thurston.

Schade added that "it will be fun for me to see how the season turns out."

Following the Monroe meet, Plymouth will take part in the Wildcat Relay Meet set for 6:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 18 (at Salem's nanatorium).

Then it's the holiday hiatus, with a Jan. 12 home meet against Westland John Glenn next on the schedule.

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ROCKS

FROM PAGE B1

year as a sophomore," the coach said. "You always try to get captains that set a good example in the pool and in the classroom."

"He fulfilled all those things and we're counting on him again."

The Rocks also feature junior Matt Collingwood (who scored in the 200 and 500 free events at the state meet), junior Matt Mills (500 free qualifier) and sophomore Noah Santer (who qualified in the 100 fly and 500 free as a freshman).

Mills could push the Division 1 state envelope in up to four events, including the 200 IM.

"We only graduated three seniors, every one that went

to state and scored they're all coming back," Olson said. "We actually have quite a bit of experience returning and we have 13 freshmen coming in."

THEY WANT MORE

Olson likes the way a number of seniors have stepped it up during preseason workouts, apparently on a mission to improve and chip in to a winning season.

In that group are Ryan Hartwig (100 back, 50 free, 100 free), Troy Kerchen (freestyle events), Jake Misolek (freestyle events), Michael Summers (freestyle events) and co-captains Chad Newton and Alex Suriano (Seroka also is a co-captain).

"He (Newton) will be in just about every event," Olson said. "He's definitely one a lot of younger guys look up to, (who will) do all the right things."

Ditto for Suriano, expected to contribute in the 100 backstroke and 200 IM.

"He's a hard worker, a good student," said Olson about Suriano. "We're looking for strong leadership out of him."

Meanwhile, one of the promising kids on the roster is sophomore Jeremy Wellman, who can compete in a number of freestyle individual events and relays as well as the 100 back and 100 fly.

"He has a lot of potential," Olson said. "He came in late last year."

With a strong blend of experience, leadership and versatility, Olson is optimistic about 2009-10, which begins Saturday at the Eastern Michigan University Relays.

"The boys are looking good at this point," he said.

Goal-happy Penguins romp, 11-1

BY TIM SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Talk about setting the tone. Plymouth-Canton-Salem Penguins senior defenseman Jordyn Moore snapped a shot from inside the blue line inside the right post for a 1-0 lead just 31 seconds into Saturday's girls hockey game.

That quickly grew into a 4-0 advantage — just 2:37 into the game — and a 9-1 lead after one period against the Bloomfield Knighthawks at Royal Oak's Lindell Arena.

The barrage resulted in an 11-1 mercy in the Michigan Metro Girls High School Hockey League matchup, shortened to two periods.

"I think it was pretty much 6-for-6 (goals) at the beginning there," said PCS head coach Mary Beth Johnson. "... Obviously, we weren't out here to embarrass anybody."

"The fun thing about this game is the girls that don't normally get to score were able to get a point."

All in all, 11 players made the scoresheet. But the coach particularly cited the first varsity goal for freshman Beth Johnson, poking her own rebound home with seconds left in the first period to make it 9-1.

"We got the puck for her," the coach said. "We were pret-

GIRLS HOCKEY

ty excited about that."

A substitute goaltender for Bloomfield (playing because the regular was ill) tried her best but to no avail.

Meanwhile, Penguins freshman goalie Cortny McAdoo could have sent text messages to friends for all the action she saw.

Scoring at 12:34 of the first frame was Bloomfield captain Chandler Billes, on a low shot from in front. But by that time it already was 8-0 and the Penguins knew they would improve to 3-2 overall and 3-0 in league play.

SCORING FRENZY

After the first-minute goal by Moore, the Penguins kept the shots and goals coming. Scoring in quick succession were Shauna Siebert, Rhianna Fleisher and Sarah Coleman.

Before the end of the opening 15 minutes, five more pucks entered the Knighthawks' cage. First, Jennifer Fedon buried a rebound, then Marissa Sullivan chipped in a pair (she wound up with 2 goals, 3 assists).

Adding the final two (sandwiched around the Bloomfield marker) were Kara Bongiovanni and Johnson.

During the second period,

the Penguins added goals by Tory Campbell and Rebecca Majszak.

According to Johnson, she pulled back on the reins just a bit during the second, not wanting to further humiliate Bloomfield (comprised of players from Andover, Lahser and International Academy).

FINE TUNING

Instead, it was the perfect time to smooth out some wrinkles.

"We were struggling with our passing (previously) and the girls had a good opportunity to use game situations to work on their passing, working the puck down low, bringing it back to the point," she explained.

"It definitely was a good stepping stone for us to be able to work on those kinds of things."

Other than Sullivan, players with multiple points included Moore (1 goal, 1 assist), Fedon (1 goal, 3 assists), Bongiovanni (1 goal, 1 assist), Fleisher (1 goal, 1 assist) and Siebert (1 goal, 2 assists).

Recording single points were Beth Johnson, Coleman, Campbell, Majszak and Ellexus Montoya.

Bloomfield fell to 0-4 with the loss.

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Wildcats place second at tournament

Plymouth went 3-2 at Saturday's Columbia Central Invitational, taking second place in flight three to improve to 4-3 on the young season.

In the Flight Three Championship match the Wildcats fell just short of winning, falling to Constantine 42-21.

Most matches went back and forth with many Wildcats

PREP WRESTLING

having the opportunity to win.

Plymouth victories were scored by freshman Alec Breckenridge (winning by tech fall over Dustin Meyer), Said Youssef (major decision over Tyler Spencer), Chase Kallil (decision over Matt Fashbaugh), Ryan

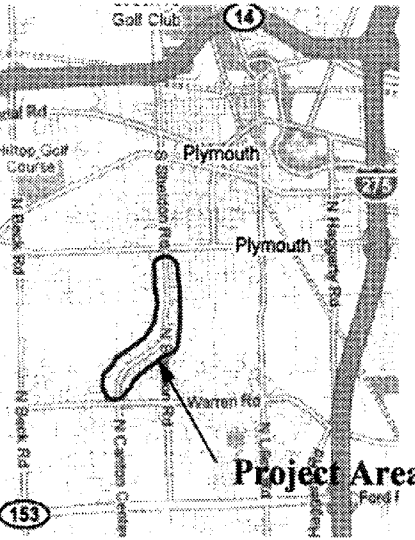
Schultz (decision against Benn Mallo in overtime), Rob Barackman (6-4 over Dominic Rodgers), and Wally Eppler (6-3 over Russell Schenk).

Breckenridge and Youssef both went 5-0 on the day to improve to 7-0 for the season while Wally Eppler's 3-0 showing upped his total mark to 3-1.

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FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT OF THE

SHELDON CENTER ROAD
IMPROVEMENT PROJECT
(FROM SOUTH OF CANTON CENTER ROAD TO JOY ROAD)

CANTON TOWNSHIP
Monday, December 21, 2009
5 p.m. - 7 p.m.
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Township of Canton
Administration Building
Lower Level, Meeting Room E
1150 Canton Center S.
Canton Township, MI 48188



The Environmental Assessment will be available for review during normal business hours beginning December 3, 2009 and ending January 15, 2010 at the following locations:

Township of Canton
Administration Building
1150 Canton Center S.
Canton Township, MI 48188

Canton Public Library
1200 S. Canton Center
Canton, MI 48188

Wayne County
Department of Public Services
Field Engineering
Permit Office
33809 Michigan Ave.
Wayne, MI 48184

The Environmental Assessment is available for viewing on the Wayne County web site at
<http://www.waynecounty.com/mygovt/dps/>. Look for News Releases.

Comments may be made in person at the aforementioned hearing or in writing to
Kenneth M. Kucel at Wayne County Department of Public Services,
Engineering Division, 415 Clifford, Detroit, MI 48226
or by email to SheldonCenterEA@co.wayne.mi.us
Written comments must be submitted no later than January 15, 2010.

Publish: December 3 & 10, 2009

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SPORTS ROUNDUP

Holiday hoops camp

The Plymouth High School Basketball Booster Club announced it will be hosting its Holiday Basketball Camp, 1-3 p.m. Monday, Dec. 28 through Wednesday, Dec. 30 at the PHS gymnasium.

Up to 50 boys in grades 5-8 are eligible to sign up. The cost of the camp is \$50. For more information and to register, contact booster club president John Nadratowski at (734) 844-3212.

Coaches, please call

High school coaches or their assistants are asked to supply recaps of games, meets and matches (win or lose, home or away) to help spotlight the accomplishments of deserving student-athletes at Canton, Plymouth, Salem and Plymouth Christian Academy.

To do so, please e-mail *Observer* sports editor Tim Smith (tsmith@hometownlife.com) or leave him detailed messages at (313) 222-2637. Deadlines are Tuesday nights for the Thursday paper and Friday nights for the Sunday edition.

Precision Baseball clinic

Baseball players take note: Precision Baseball in Canton recently announced an eight-week Progression Clinic on pitching, catching and hitting — to feature members of Eastern Michigan University's coaching staff.

Those coaches include assistant coach Aaron Hepner and assistant coach/recruiting coordinator Andrew Maki.

Areas where pitchers can expect improvement include: increasing velocity and arm strength; changing speeds; improving control and learning proper warm-up techniques. Batters can increase power, hit to all fields, reduce strikeouts, make good contact and recognize a fastball instead of a changeup or curve.

Meanwhile, in the catching department, instructors will focus on blocking, receiving, throwing, calling a game and

being quick behind the dish.

All ages are welcome to sign up for the clinic, which begins Monday, Nov. 16 (4:30 to 6:30 p.m.) Sessions are every Monday and Friday and are \$15 per session, per player and \$225 for all 16 sessions if paid up front.

For more information, send an e-mail to *info@precision-baseballone.com* or call (734) 459-5921. Precision Baseball is located at 7835 Market Street in Canton.

Give 'Pickleball' a try

Plymouth and Canton residents are welcome to sign up for a unique recreational sport being offered by Northville Parks and Recreation — pickleball.

The sport combines ping pong and badminton, with a hard paddle used to send the ball over the net. Open pickleball sessions are held at the Northville Recreation Center based out of Hillside Middle School.

Beginner to intermediate play is 1-3 p.m. Mondays and Tuesdays (\$2 per person) and 10 a.m. to 12 noon Wednesdays and Thursdays (\$2). Three courts are available.

Intermediate to advanced play is 12 noon to 3 p.m. Wednesdays (\$3) and 6-8 p.m. Saturdays (\$4).

Paddles and pickleballs are provided at the center. Call (248) 349-0203 for more information.

Plymouth YMCA eyes grant

Liberty Mutual will soon donate a \$2,500 Responsible Community Grant to 20 youth sports organizations demonstrating their commitment to doing the right things on and off the playing surface.

The Plymouth Family YMCA is hoping to be one of the recipients.

"The Liberty Mutual Responsible Sports program targets many of the issues we see happening at youth sport events by shining a positive light on what it means to be a responsible coach and a

responsible sports-parent," said Greg Gordon, vice president of Consumer Marketing at Liberty Mutual. "Beyond that, Liberty Mutual is making a significant financial contribution to support the efforts of local organizations like Plymouth Family YMCA."

The ongoing, community-based program offers meaningful, easy-to-use educational resources for youth sports parents and coaches, including access to on-the-field game and practice preparation tools as well as self-paced online courses filled with learning tools, videos and topics addressing youth sports issues.

The Responsible Sports program, including community grants, comes at a crucial time for communities where youth programs are under pressure from increasing numbers of participants, limited volunteer activity and mounting program-administration costs.

Through the resources provided by the grants, it is hoped that "our organizations thrive even under challenging circumstances."

For more information, contact the YMCA at (734) 453-2904 or go to *www.responsibleports.com*.

YMCA leagues, classes

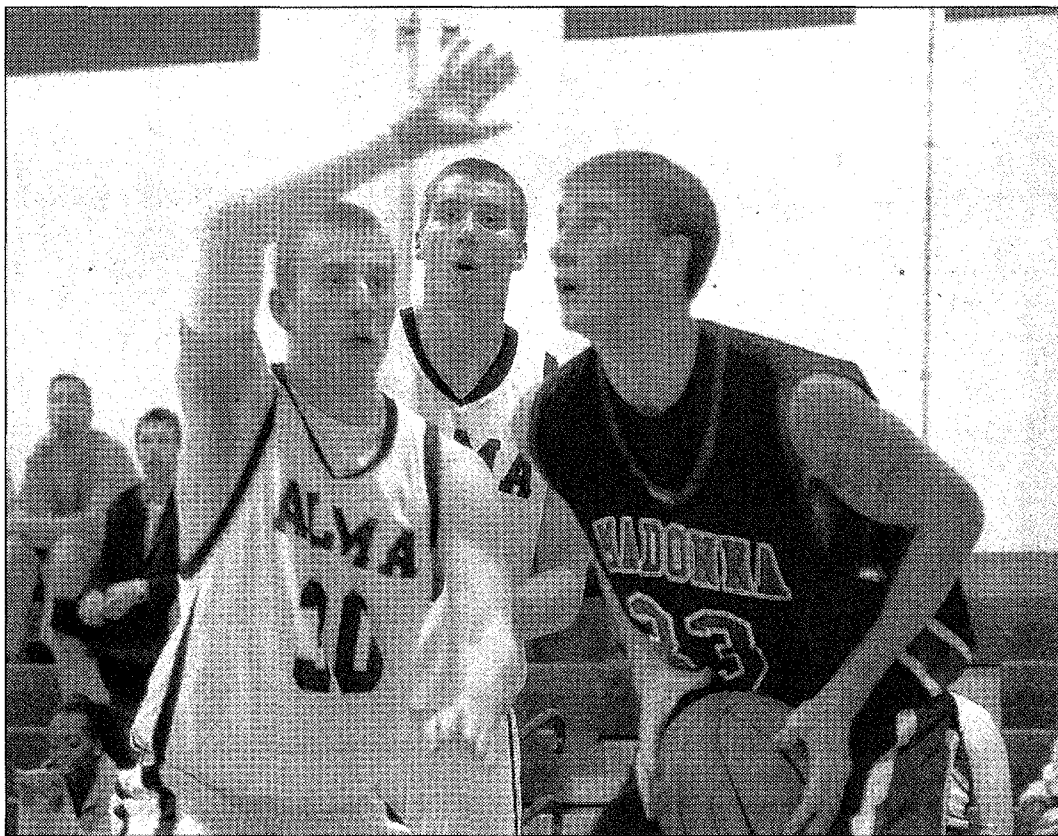
The Plymouth Family YMCA is offering plenty of leagues and instructional classes this fall and winter, as detailed below:

■ **YMCA Fall and Winter Basketball leagues** are forming for children, ages 4-11. The fall session will take place through Dec. 18 with the winter session slated from Jan. 19-to-March 26, 2010.

There will be one practice and one game (Friday nights) per week. All participants need a YMCA Youth Sports Reversible Jersey (\$15).

■ **There is something for everyone this Fall** at the Plymouth YMCA. Registration is ongoing for Girls Volleyball Clinics (for ages 8-10 and 10-12), Basketball Clinics (for ages 6-7 and 8-9), Sports Sampler Class (for ages 3-5) and Little Dragons Martial Arts (for ages 4-7).

For more information on YMCA leagues and programs, check out *www.ymcadetroit.org* or call the office at 734-453-2904.



Madonna's 6-foot-8 junior center Geoff Gaylor (33) had 15 points and 16 rebounds in Saturday's last-second 62-60 setback to Alma College. The Scots' Tim Rodell (30) tries for the block.

Buzzer-beater sinks Crusader cagers

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

It just wasn't in the cards Saturday afternoon for the Madonna University men's basketball team.

The host Crusaders certainly had their chances before falling at the buzzer, 62-60, to Alma College in the WHAC/MIAA Challenge.

Inbounding the ball with only 3.1 seconds left, Tommy Erickson's putback follow-up of Greg Silverthorn's missed three-point attempt from the wing proved to be game-winner.

Alma, which won both games in the Challenge, improved to 2-4 overall.

MU, meanwhile, drops to 1-8 after losing the previous night at home to Olivet College, 79-55.

After Kevin Henry's layup tied the game at 60-all with 1:37 to go, the Crusaders committed two costly turnovers during the final 40 seconds to set up the game-winning play by the Scots.

"We've been in three games where it's been any-

body's game in the last minute," MU first-year coach Noel Emenhiser said. "In the end it looked like a lack of execution. But we played so bad the first half. We lacked discipline and our defense was horrendous."

The Crusaders fell behind 10-0 at the start before pulling within four at intermission, 29-25.

Alma junior guard Jordan Redditt, who led all scorers with 31 points, tallied 19 first-half points.

"We put in a half-court trap and picked up full-court into a 2-1-2 zone press," Emenhiser said of his second-half strategy. "We got moving and got out of the watching them play in the offense-mode."

Redditt, who was 11-of-27 from the floor, added 12 second-half points. He was the only Scot to score in double figures.

"It was better than the 19 that he had in the first half when he ate us up, but he still got 12 points," Emenhiser said of the University of Detroit Jesuit grad.

The Crusaders clawed their way back during the second half led by four, 60-56, with 1:48 to go, when Henry split a pair of free throws.

MU, however, wouldn't score again, missing its last three shots coupled with two turnovers.

Erickson added nine points and 10 rebounds for the Scots, who went 2-0 in the Challenge.

Henry, a 6-foot-4 freshman from Toledo, led MU in scoring with 18 points. Geoff Gaylor, a 6-8 junior, came off the bench to record his first career double-double with 15 points and 16 rebounds.

Slaughter, who hails from Westland, added 13 points.

Both teams shot identical percentages from the field — 22-of-63 (34.9) — and nearly the same from the foul line. MU was 12-of-22, while Alma hit 11-of-22.

MU returns to action again this weekend at home in the Crusader Classic. The Crusaders will face Notre Dame (Ohio), 8 p.m. on Friday, and Rochester College, 2 p.m. on Saturday.

CANTON POLICE AUCTION
THESE VEHICLES HAVE BEEN AND WILL BE SOLD AT PUBLIC AUCTION. THE AUCTION WILL BE ON TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15TH AT 9:00 A.M. THE AUCTION WILL BE HELD AT 6375 HIX, WESTLAND, MI 48185. THE VEHICLES WILL BE SOLD AS IS, THE STARTING BID IS FOR TOWING AND STORAGE.

YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	COLOR	VIN
1996	Pontiac	Grand Am	Black	1G2NE52T8XM712209
1996	Toyota		Black	4T1BG12K6TU745850
1994	Pontiac	Grand Am	Blue	1G2WJ12M2RF208618
1985	Kawasaki	Motorcycle	Black	JKAENGA18RA004172
2001	Glastron	Boat	White/Blue	
1995	Chevrolet	Blazer	Blue	1GNCS13W9S2201746
1993	Chevrolet	Caprice	Green	1G1BN5372PW140325
1996	GMC	Vonchera	White	1GTGG35K0TF506452
1990	Oldsmobile	Cutlass	Red	1G3WH14T1LD311012

Publish: December 10, 2009OE08683298 - 2x2.5

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BID
Notice is hereby given that sealed bids will be received by **Plymouth Canton Community Schools, 454 S Harvey Street, Plymouth, MI, 48170** for:

FURNISHINGS
Proposals are to be submitted in accordance with contract documents prepared by TMP Architecture, Inc. 1191 W. Square Lake Road, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48302-0374 dated **December 9, 2009.**


1. **DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY**
A. Bidding Documents will be available for examination and distribution on or after **December 9, 2009.** Examination may be made at the Office of the Architect, TMP ARCHITECTURE, INC.
B. Qualified Bidders may obtain bidding documents from the Architect's office, consisting of one (1) set of Drawings and Specifications. **The charge for a set of documents is \$50.00 payable in cash, cashier's check, money order or certified check to TMP Architecture, Inc.**
C. Deposits will be refunded upon return of the Bidding Documents to the Architect within ten (10) days after opening receipt of proposals provided the documents are complete, in clean and usable condition and free of marks or other defacement.

2. **MANDATORY PRE-BID MEETING**
A. A mandatory pre-bid meeting will take place at the **EJ McClendon Educational Center 454 S Harvey Street, Plymouth, MI, 48170 on Friday, December 11, 2009 at 2:30 PM.** All requirements of the bid will be reviewed and any questions from potential bidders will be addressed at this time.

3. **DUE DATE**
A. Bid Proposals will be received until the time and the place, as follows, where and when they will be publicly opened and read aloud.
Date and Time: **Tuesday, January 5, 2009 at 2:30 PM**
Place: **EJ McClendon Educational Center, 454 S Harvey Street, Plymouth, MI, 48170**

4. **GENERAL INFORMATION**
A. Bidder shall agree not to withdraw Bid Proposal for a period on ninety (90) days after date for receipt of bids. **A 5% bid bond is required** in accordance with the Section 00100-F - Instructions to Bidders (See Page 00100-F-1, Paragraph 2.G.).
B. Accepted Bidder shall be required to enter into a contract with **Plymouth Canton Community Schools** and furnish satisfactory Performance Bond in accordance with the Section 00100-F - Instructions to Bidders. (See Page 00100-F-2, Paragraph 2.L.).
C. The Owner reserves the right to accept or reject any or all Bids in whole or in part, or to waive any informalities therein. If in the Owner's opinion it is in their best interest, the contract may be awarded to other than the lowest bidder, for reasons of establishing uniformity, delivery time, etc.

Publish: December 6 and 10, 2009OE0868330 - 2x8

**NOTICE**
CITY OF PLYMOUTH, MICHIGAN
WINTER TAXES - 2009


Winter taxes are due December 1, 2009 and payable through February 28, 2010 without penalty. Additional information appears on the reverse side of your tax statement.

MAKE ALL CHECKS PAYABLE TO: CITY OF PLYMOUTH. Payments can be made at City Hall during regular working hours, Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. at the Treasurer's office. Information on credit card payments is on our web page — *www.ci.plymouth.mi.us*. After hours, payments can be placed in the drop box located in the City Hall lobby (Church Street entrance) or in the payment drop box next to the book returns behind the Library.

CITY HALL WILL BE CLOSED from Thursday, December 24, 2009 returning on Monday, January 4, 2010. The Treasurer's office will be **OPEN TO ACCEPT TAX PAYMENTS AND OTHER PAYMENTS on Tuesday, December 29th, and Wednesday, December 30th.**

Teresa Cischke, CPFA
City Treasurer

Publish: December 6 & 10, 2009OE08681578 - 2x3.5

**CITY OF PLYMOUTH**
PUBLIC NOTICE
PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED USES OF 2010-2011 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT FUNDS

Pursuant to Federal guidelines, the City of Plymouth is announcing its objectives and possible uses for developing projects using Year 2010-2011 Federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding.

OBJECTIVES:

1. To provide benefits to senior citizens.

2. To provide benefits directly to persons of low/moderate income and/or areas in which at least 51% of the residents are of low/moderate income.

3. To maintain a high level of performance in the management of all CDBG funded programs

PROPOSED YEAR 2010-2011 PROJECTS:
The City anticipates receiving approximately \$65,000 in CDBG funds for the contract year 2010-11, and has identified the following potential projects and corresponding estimated allocations for use of these funds:

1. ADA Public Facility Improvements	\$46,150
2. Public Services- Senior Transportation	\$12,350
3. Administration/Planning	\$ 6,500
TOTAL	\$65,000

PUBLIC HEARING:
Citizens are invited to comment on the proposed projects listed above, and to suggest other projects. All projects must meet one of the Federal CDBG objectives.

A public hearing for the purpose of receiving comments on the proposed uses of 2010-2011 CDBG funds, and additional suggestions for use of said funds, will be held at the Plymouth City Commission Meeting on Monday, December 21, 2009 at 7:00 pm in the Commission Chambers at Plymouth City Hall, 201 S. Main St.

Linda J. Langmessaer, CMC
City Clerk

Publish: December 10, 2009OE08683443 - 2x6

PUBLIC NOTICE
CURRENT AND FORMER WORKERS OF INTRO CORPORATION, WESTLAND, MICHIGAN

In accordance with section 223 of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended, ("Act"), 19 U.S.C. 8 2273, the Department of Labor issued a Notice of Certification on November 12, 2009 regarding eligibility to apply for transitional adjustment assistance: All workers of Intra Corporation, Westland, Michigan (TA-W-71,125), who became totally or partially separated from employment on or after June 10, 2008 through two years from the date of certification, and all workers in the group threatened with total or partial separation from employment on the date of certification through two years from the date of certification, are eligible to apply for adjustment assistance under Chapter 2 of Title II of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended. Workers wishing to apply for benefits within the designated time limits should report to their local Michigan Works! Agency. Call: **1-800-285-Works** to determine the Michigan Works! Agency nearest to your home.

Equal Opportunity Employer & Programs. Auxiliary Aids and Services are available upon request to Individuals with Disabilities. Teletypewriter — TTY (800) 649-3777. Funded in part by the Michigan Department of Energy Labor and Economic Growth through SEMCA.

Publish: December 10, 2009OE08683295 - 2x3.5

EXTRA SPACE STORAGE

Notice is hereby given that on Monday, December 21, 2009 @ NOON, TATE & CO. Auctioneers, Executive Administrator for Extra Space Storage, will be offering for sale under the judicial lien process, by public auction, the following storage units. The goods to be sold are generally described as household goods. The terms of the sale will be cash only. Extra Space Storage reserves the right to refuse any and all bids. The sale will be at the following location: **Extra Space Storage, 6729 N Canton Center Rd. Canton, MI 48187.**

Owens, Stephon/ Owens Concrete	B40	10x15	Generator, cooler, 4 rims, 4 tires (new), backpack-leafblower, misc. industrial tools and landscaping equipment.
Prpich, Hollyanne/Mark	C90	10x25	TV repair supplies, various electronics, 20+ Televisions.
Yarwood, Anthony (Tony)	C95	10x25	Golf Clubs, electric scooter, brown granite countertops, 2 outdoor chairs, 2 kitchen chairs, misc. tools and household goods.
Milliner, Bewildow	C96	10x4	Twin size mattresses, low-profile box spring & frame. Nightstand, 7+ totes, misc. household goods.
Owens, Stephon/ Owens Concrete	G273	10x30	Bowflex, stationary bike, treadmill, 27" CRT TV, Full size sleigh bed and bedroom suite, Full size pillow top-mattress and bed spring, golf clubs, charcoal, grill, entertainment center, receiver and cd changer, misc. garden and household goods.

Publish: December 3 & 10, 2009OE08682786 - 2x6

Canton Strictly Business

IT'S YOUR BUSINESS Q&A

CHAMBER CHAT

Designer puts art on your face

Observer: Tell us about your business, including the types of service and/or products you feature.

I am the designer of 3-D artwork that people can wear on their faces. You can also be creative and wear them on your ankle, shoulder, chest, clothing, basically, anywhere. The product has some unique value propositions: It is temporary, the adhesive is non-toxic, and the artwork goes on and peels off in one piece. The 3-D artwork can be re-used several times.

Observer: Tell us about yourself?

I was born in Westland, grew up in Canton, I went to St. Raphael School in Garden City and attended Ladywood High School in Livonia. I am the CEO of Face Flair, based out of Westland. My husband, Patrick Torres, my brother, Ken Pomaranski and his wife, Karen Pomaranski are my business partners. I am living my dream. Just don't pinch me; I don't want to wake up!

Observer: What is the goal for your business unique?

My goal is to do my artwork full-time with my new company and to inspire others to follow their dreams. I would like to see my art worn by individuals all around the world one day. How exciting that would be! I have been told by many people that I am crazy for starting a new business in today's economy. I will not let a bad economy or anything else discourage me from my dream.

Observer: How did you decide to open your business?

I have always loved art and have been drawing ever since I can remember. It is so awesome that I've found an outlet for my creativity! I'm currently a manager for four apartments where the developmentally disabled live.



Kim Torres has used her love of art to design reusable 3-D artwork that people can wear on their faces.

FACE FLAIR

Business name: Face Flair

Name and Title: Kimberly Torres, CEO

Business Started: May 2009

Your Business Specialty:

Designer 3-D artwork that people can wear on their faces

Business Phone, Web site: (877) 568-4428, www.faceflair.com

I have been caring for people through this company since I was 18 years old.

I was never able to afford art school, so I continued to do my art on my own. I draw pictures all the time for my friends, family, and co-workers. I draw decorations during holidays for the disabled individuals to color and hang up in their windows. Many of my staff

and friends have told me throughout the years that I really need to start a business showcasing my artwork.

Last year, I was at a fund-raiser for my friend who has Hodgkin's Lymphoma. I took some sticky rhinestones used to decorate cell phones and created a design on my face to go with the whole Guitar Hero-themed fund-raiser we were having. Two guys, who I did not even know, stopped me and asked where they could buy my face art from. It dawned on me right then and there that I needed to find out how to start a business making a one piece art design for people to wear.

Observer: How has it changed since then?

It has been a whirlwind. We went from having totally nothing to having production

quality product in our hands this past August.

I encourage the public to go to our Web site to see our cool products. They make very unique gifts, or they can be bought as a daily accessory or for special occasion wear. Visit us at www.faceflair.com or contact us personally at (877) 568-4428.

Dick Scott for Tots

Through Dec. 14, Dick Scott Automotive Group will be collecting toys for the Toys for Tots organization.

Please do not bring any stuffed animals, as they can no longer be distributed because they can harbor germs. Please note that Toys for Tots is always in need of gifts for 9 to 12 year old boys and girls. Craft or hobby kits, makeup kits, electronics and CD's, are great choices.

Dick Scott has convenient locations in Plymouth, Canton and Fowlerville.

Red Ryder

The Plymouth Historical Museum is showcasing a special exhibit, "A Red Ryder Christmas Story." The exhibit draws its inspiration from the popular 1983 movie, "A Christmas Story," in which the main character, Ralphie, longs for a Red Ryder BB gun for Christmas. Throughout our Main Street there will be vignettes of scenes from the movie and from the original story that the movie is based on, Plymouth Historical Museum style. Red Ryder BB guns were sold by Daisy Manufacturing Company of Plymouth. The exhibit runs through Jan. 24. Call (734) 455-8940 for the museum's schedule.

Photo gallery

The Canton Chamber of Commerce has added a new

and exciting feature to the Chamber Web site at www.cantonchamber.com

"We now have a Photo Gallery, that covers all of our Chamber Events," said Dianne Cojei, president of the Canton Chamber of Commerce. We have photos from all of our 2009 Ribbon Cuttings as well as our Luncheons, After Hours, Networking Coffees, Auction, Consumer Expos and much more.

The Chamber Web site offers a complete Directory listing of our members by category and/or by company name. We also offer easy access to other Web sites including Shop Canton, Canton Township, Canton DDA, Leisure Services, S.C.O.R.E. and much more. The Chamber Web site offers coupons and discounts for members, residents and visitors. Looking for a place to hold a meeting? Looking for a good place to eat? The Canton chamber Web site has it all ... just go to www.cantonchamber.com.

Canton Goodfellows

Canton Goodfellow's "No child without a Christmas" Collection continues through Dec. 9 at Showroom of Elegance, 6018 Canton Center Road. Bring in canned goods, nonperishable items or cash donation for the Canton Goodfellows and receive a gift from our Santa Bag. All gifts are with a retail value of \$20 or more.

BUSINESS MILESTONES



Ribbon cutting

Bob and Naina Patel, along with many friends and customers, celebrated more than 22 years of operation for The UPS Store in Canton with this ribbon-cutting ceremony at the store, located at 42015 Ford Road, next to Chuck E. Cheese's.

Community service

Gov. Jennifer M. Granholm announced James G. Vella of Canton, president, Ford Motor Company Fund and Community Services, was named chair of the Michigan Community Service Commission. He was elected unanimously by the MCSC Board of Commissioners.

"Jim is committed to bringing together the public, private and nonprofit sectors to promote volunteerism as a solution to help address many of our communities' most critical challenges," Granholm said. "Under his leadership the commission will continue to engage Michigan's citizens in efforts to make our neighborhoods and cities even better places to live."

"It's an honor to serve on the commission," said incoming chair Jim Vella. "I look forward to leading the Michigan Community Service Commission in the ongoing revitalization efforts of our state. And I look forward to working with my colleagues on the commission, as well as with the many stakeholders in our communities."

Vella, a Detroit native, joined Ford in 1988. After serving in various leadership roles in Public Affairs and Corporate Communications, he was named to his current position in December 2006. In addition, Vella serves as the Chair of the Ford Motor Company Fund Board of Trustees; Board of Trustees for America's Promise; Executive Committee, United Way for Southeastern Michigan; Executive Committee, New Detroit; Executive Committee, Detroit Renaissance; Board of Advisors, The Ad Council; Board of

Advisors, the Henry Ford Heart and Vascular Institute; Dean's Advisory Council, University of Michigan-Dearborn; Corporate Advisory Board, University Musical Society; and the National Steering Committee, We The People.

Additionally, he also serves as a board member for the National Museum of American History, Smithsonian; and the Hispanic Association of Corporate Responsibility (HACR).

Rockin' for the hungry

Running through Dec. 13, Busch's Fresh Food Markets will help feed the hungry in its Rockin' For the Hungry 2009 winter food drive. A family-owned market chain, the Busch family has held these drives for more than 20 years. Seven of the Busch's locations, including the Sheldon Road location in Plymouth, will be dedicating the donations to Forgotten Harvest.

Customers can purchase pre-made "Ready to Go" bags filled with items to be given to a family in need. Customers are asked to donate \$10 for each bag. Customers can make a contribution at the Busch check-out registers. Dollars go directly to Forgotten Harvest to assist the organization in rescuing more food for the hungry.

Access to "rescued" and donated food makes the difference for friends, families and neighbors struggling to maintain their bills and provide food to their families. Forgotten Harvest is working to enable members of the community to stay in their homes and manage their way through the economic crisis by providing nutritious and wholesome food. It's through these donations Forgotten Harvest is able to carry on its mission.

Mary's FARM MARKET

Michigan Grown Fresh Cut Christmas Trees
5' up to 18' tall
Douglas & Fraser Fir & Other Fir Favorites Plus, Black Hills Spruce
BUY LOCAL...BUY MICHIGAN!

Custom Greens ...all made with a fragrant selection of mixed evergreens and premium bows handmade by Mary:
• White Pine & Cedar Roping (60 foot length)
• Wreaths • Baskets • Centerpieces
• Sprays • Swags • Grave Blankets

In a hurry?
...we also have a nice selection of pre-made items

\$5 off
any purchase of \$25 or more
With this coupon. Expires 12-25-09

734.981.2866
47453 Ford Road in Canton
(at the SW Corner of Beck)
Open Daily 9 am-8 pm

CLOSED for the Season AFTER Christmas.
Get your pickles before we close or at Dario's at 32293 Ford Road in Garden City

Mary's FARM MARKET

Check us out on the Web every day at hometownlife.com

Religion calendar items appear on Thursdays on a space available basis. To submit an item, e-mail sdargay@hometownlife.com or write: Religion Calendar, Observer Newspapers, 615 W. Lafayette-2nd Level, Detroit, MI 48226, Attn: Sharon Dargay. Item must include the venue address and phone number and any admission costs for events. Items must be submitted at least a week in advance of publication. Feel free to send a related photo in jpg form. For a complete listing online, go to hometownlife.com.

DEC. 10-16

Advent celebration

Traditions of Christmas will be presented at Rosedale Gardens Presbyterian Church will present "Traditions of Christmas," 4:30-8 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 13, at the church, 9601 W. Hubbard, Livonia. The evening will be an all ages Advent celebration including family keepsake craft stations, Christmas and Dickens Village displays and formal family pictures by the family Christmas tree. There will be storytelling by members of the Detroit Storytelling League and the Northville High School Singers will perform. A family-style dinner will be served at 6 p.m. An Advent musical, "It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year," will be presented by the RGPC Chancel Choir at 7:15 p.m. Tickets are on sale through Dec. 5. Adult tickets are \$7; children under 12 pay \$5. Advance tickets only. Call the church office at (734) 422-0494.

Advent service

Lola Park Evangelical Lutheran Church, 14750 Kinloch, Redford, will hold midweek Advent services at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 16. The service is 45 minutes long. For information, call (313) 532-8655.

Advent speaker

Sister Mary Finn, faculty member from Sacred Heart Major Seminary, will speak at 7 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 10, at St. Aidan Parish, 17500 Farmington Road, Livonia. Her topic is "So Gifted, So Responsible." RSVP via e-mail or phone to David Conrad at davidjconrad@staidanlivonia.org or (734) 425-5950.

Christmas craft

St. Paul's Presbyterian Church in Livonia will host a Kids Christmas Craft Day 10 a.m.-noon, Saturday, Dec. 12 for grades kindergarten through 6th. Kids will enjoy a morning of creating Christmas crafts to be used as gifts or decorations. The event is free. To sign up, call (734) 422-1470 by Thursday, Dec. 10. St. Paul's is located on Five Mile one block west of Inkster Road.

Christmas musical

"The Name Jesus," a Christmas musical, runs at 7 p.m., Dec. 11; 10:45 a.m., Dec. 13; 7 p.m., Dec. 18 and 6 p.m.,

Dec. 20, at First Baptist Church of Canton, 44500 Cherry Hill, Canton. (734) 981-6460

Christmas open house

2-4 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 13 at St. James Presbyterian Church, 25350 West Six Mile, Redford. See Christmas decorations, enjoy Christmas carols and refreshments. (313) 534-7730

Christmas ornament

The Limited Edition Our Lady of Good Counsel Christmas ornament is now on sale. This ornament was specially crafted in Poland and is hand painted with a mosaic portrait of the O.L.G.C. Mother and Child. This keepsake ornament is available for \$35 after Masses at O.L.G.C. All proceeds benefit Our Lady of Good Counsel. For more details or to arrange delivery, call Mark Coulter at (734) 453-5423 or Mary Vangieson at (734) 737-9442.

Concert

■ The St. Aidan Adult Choir, directed by Mr. Ray Schmidt, will present its 28th Annual Christmas Concert, 4 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 13 at the church, 17500 Farmington Road, north of Six Mile, in Livonia. Admission cost is \$5 and two non-perishable food items. This event is held annually to assist the St Aidan Christian Service Commission in its efforts to aid those in need during the Holiday Season. (734) 425-5950.

■ Christmas Cantata, "Only Love," 7 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 12 and 3 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 13, at Milford Presbyterian Church, 238 N. Main, Milford. (248) 684-2805.

■ The Detroit Handbell Ensemble performs Christmas music 4 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 13, at First United Methodist Church of Garden City, 6443 Merriman, Garden City. Directed by Susan Berry. Donations accepted. For more information call Susan Berry at (313) 278-7387 or visit www.detroitandbellensemble.org.

■ Friday Morning Men's Bible Study at Kirby Coney Island presents a concert by the Gospelmen Southern Gospel Quartet, 7:30 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 10, at Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church, in the chapel, 40000 W. Six Mile, Northville. Free admission. For more information call Tim Reno at (734) 266-0607

■ Annual Christmas Concert with the Festival Choir, Jubilation Hand Bell Choir, Children's Choir and Brass Ensemble, 4 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 13, at Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church, 14175 Farmington Road, Livonia. www.christoursavior.org; (734) 522-6830

■ Hear the St. James Presbyterian Church handbell choir perform during the 10 a.m. worship service at the church, 25350 West Six Mile, Redford. (313) 534-7730

■ The St. Aidan Choir, Children's Choir and Contemporary Ensemble, directed by Ray Schmidt, will perform 4 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 13 at the church, 17500 Farmington Road, north of Six Mile, in Livonia. Admission is \$5 and

two non-perishable food items. (734) 425-5950

■ "Elery," the husband-wife duo of Tasha and Justin Golden will perform a holiday concert at 8 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 12, at Universalist Unitarian Church, 25301 Halstead, Farmington Hills. Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$12 at the door; students pay \$7. Buy advance tickets from 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Monday through Friday at the church. (248) 478-7272

Cookie walk

■ 10 a.m. until sold out, Saturday, Dec. 12, at Timothy Lutheran Church, 8820 Wayne Road, south of Ann Arbor Trail, in Livonia. Christmas cookies of all varieties will be available for sale by the pound, along with various baked goods. (734) 427-2290

■ Doors open at 8 a.m., sale starts at 9 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 12, at Holy Transfiguration Orthodox Church, 36075 Seven Mile, Livonia. Includes European cookies, nut and poppyseed rolls, pierogis, sweet bread and stuffed cabbage. (248) 476-3432

Readings and carols

Kneeling in Bethlehem - A Festival of Readings and Carols will be presented at 7 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 13, at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 39020 Five Mile, Livonia. The combined Adult, Children's and Handbell Choirs of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church and Holy Cross Lutheran church along with strings, flutes, percussion, organ and narration will tell the Christmas story through the music of composer Michael Burkhardt and the poetry of Ann Weems. Christmas cookie reception will follow the concert. For information call Holy Trinity Lutheran Church at (734) 464-0211.

DEC. 17-23

Breakfast

St. Theodore Men's Club presents a Pancake and French Toast Breakfast, 8:30 a.m.-noon, Sunday, Dec. 20, at St. Theodore Catholic Church social hall, 8200 N. Wayne Road, Westland. Cost is \$3 adults; \$1.50 children ages 2 - 10. Menu includes pancakes, French toast, ham, sausage, scrambled eggs, applesauce, tea, coffee, milk, and juice. For more information call (734) 425-4421.

Concert

Hear the Chancel Choir of St. James Presbyterian Church sing "A Carol Fantasia" at the 10 a.m. worship service, Dec. 20, at the church, 25350 West Six Mile, Redford. (313) 534-7730

DEC. 24-30

Concert

Hear "Quiet Noels and Carols for Organ," at 6:45 p.m., Dec. 24 at St. James Presbyterian Church, 25350 West Six Mile, Redford. (313) 534-7730

ONGOING

AWANA

Faith Bible Church offers an AWANA

program for children from kindergarten through fifth grade 6:30-8 p.m., Wednesdays, at the church, 23414 Orchard Lake Road, Farmington Hills. For information, call (248) 426-0096.

Classes/study

■ Antioch Preschool, an academic program complemented by Christian education, is enrolling 3- and 4-year-old children for the 2009-2010 school year. A new toddler class is offered Thursdays from 1-3 p.m. Extended stay enrichment for 3's and 4's is offered Wednesdays - children bring their lunch and enjoy literacy activities until 3 p.m. Antioch Lutheran Church is at 13 Mile and Farmington Road in Farmington Hills. For information contact Sharon Dettler, preschool director, at (248) 626-7906, Ext. 28, or e-mail to antiochpreschool@sbcglobal.net.

■ New Life Community Church, 42200 Tyler, Belleville, offers a jobs seminar, 8-9 a.m., Fridays, a reading program for students in grades K-12 and martial arts instruction, both at 10 a.m., Sundays. (734) 846-4615

■ Orchard United Methodist Church, 30450 Farmington Road, Farmington Hills, is hosting a Tai Chi Class by Sam Purdy, Wu Style Tai Chi. This meditative form of Martial Arts is designed to reduce stress and is great for overall health memory and balance. Everyone is welcome from beginning to experienced participants at any time. Classes continue every Monday. Cost per class depends on number of participants. For information or to reserve space, call (248) 701-1587 or (248) 626-3620. Visit www.orchardumc.org for updates.

■ Adult and English as a Second Language literacy classes are available for those who want to improve reading, writing and English conversational skills. Open to age 18 and over. Trained tutors available for day or evening.

For information, call Merriman Road Baptist Church in Garden City at (734) 421-0472.

Leave your name and phone number and someone will contact you.

■ Scripture studies, from 6:30-7:30 p.m. Mondays in the lower level of Our Lady of Loretto Church, Six Mile and Beech Daly, Redford. Call (313) 534-9000.

■ Learner's Bible study, 7 p.m., Mondays, in Room A101, at Ward Presbyterian Church, 40000 W. Six Mile, Northville. Call (248) 374-5920.

■ Learn Qigong, the ancient form of Chinese energetic medicine - a safe and effective way to rid the body of toxic pathogens and years of painful emotions - at Livonia Unity, 28660 Five Mile. Classes include: Monday movement Qigong, 7-8:30 p.m.; Thursday Qigong meditation, 10-11:15 a.m.; and Friday Therapeutic Qigong, 7-8:30 p.m. Call (810) 813-4073 for more information or send e-mail to gary@energeticarts.org.

■ Men's Bible study, breakfast at 7 a.m. and study at 8 p.m., at Kirby's Coney Island, 21200 Haggerty, Northville Township. Call John Shulenberger at (734) 464-9491 for more information.

■ Bible talks, 4 p.m. Sundays at the Friendship Center, 1119 Newburgh, Westland. Call (734) 728-9157.

■ Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Livonia invites adults with developmental disabilities and special needs to attend a new Open Arms Bible class the second Monday of the month at the church, 34567 Seven Mile, between Farmington and Newburgh roads, Livonia. The class, which runs from 7-8 p.m., will include songs, Bible lessons, crafts and activities, prayer, snacks and fun. Contact Judy Cook at Emmanuel, (248) 442-8822 or e-mail to jcook59@att.net.

■ Tuesday Ladies Bible Study from 9:30-11:15 a.m. Tuesdays, at Detroit First Church of the Nazarene, 21260 Haggerty, north of Eight Mile. \$15 registration fee includes interdenominational study materials. Child care available for children through age 5. Call (248) 348-7600.

■ A study/discussion group focuses on relationship with God and that of other religious groups and philosophical and scientific issues that might impact faith, at 10:30 a.m., Wednesday, at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, 26701 Joy. A group at 10:30 a.m., Thursday examines early writings not included in the Bible as well as other versions, extensions and controversies concerning Christianity. Led by interim pastor Larry Hoxey. (313) 274-3820.

■ Bible study, 7 p.m., every Friday at Seeds of Mercy Mission Home, 21819 Middlebelt, Farmington Hills. Call ct: Nicole Christ at (313) 531-1234 for more information.

■ Celebrate Recovery Bible Study, noon and 7 p.m., Wednesday, at United Methodist Church of Wayne, at 3 Townsquare, Wayne. Celebrate Recovery is a Christ-centered and Bible-based 12 Step Recovery Program. (734) 721-4801

Clothing bank

The Clothing Bank has moved to a new location west of Canton Christian Fellowship. Free clothing (men, women and children) for those in need is available 10 a.m. to noon the fourth Saturday of each month, at 41711 Joy Rd. Call (734) 404-2480, visit www.CantonCF.org or send e-mail to info@cantoncf.org for information.

Concerts

■ Rush Hour concert series continues every Tuesday with gathering and refreshments at 5 p.m., concert 5:30-6 p.m., featuring performances by local and national jazz artists at Metropolitan United Methodist Church, 8000 Woodward, Detroit. Free. Visit www.metroumc.org.

Fellowship dinner

Dinners are at 6 p.m., the first Thursday of the month at St. James Presbyterian Church, 25350 W. Six Mile, Redford. Cost is \$8 and includes dinner, beverage and dessert. The Cookie Lady, Susan Navarro, provides the meals. Questions? Call (313) 268-7780. The church phone number is (313) 534-7730.

Films

10 a.m. Wednesday Kids Matinees and 4 p.m., Saturday family movie, at Kenwood Church of Christ, 20200 Merriman, Livonia. Guitar Praise game precedes the film on Saturday. Children in second grade or younger can play prior to the film; those in third grade and up can play after the movie. Pizza will also be served following the movie. All events are free. (248) 476-8222

Hall rental

■ Volkmar Hall located in Good Hope Lutheran Church, 28600 Cherry Hill, between Inkster and Middlebelt roads, Garden City, is available for rent. For information, call (734) 427-3660.

■ St. James Presbyterian, 25350 W. Six Mile, Redford. For information call the church at (313) 534-7730

Moms

■ Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS) meets 9:30-11:30 a.m., second Tuesday and 7-9 p.m., fourth Tuesday, at Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church, 14175 Farmington Road, Livonia. Aimed at mothers of infants through kindergartners. For more information call Angie at (248) 427-1020.

■ MOPS, 9:30-11:30 a.m., first and third Tuesdays, Dunning Park Bible Chapel, 24800 West Chicago Road, Redford. MOPS is a place where moms can build friendships, receive mothering support, practical help and spiritual hope. For information call Amy at (313) 937-3084 or Kristen at (734) 542-0767.

Prayer

■ Music, singing, prayer at 7 p.m. Thursdays at St. Edith Church, 15089 Newburgh, Livonia. Enter through entrance #2, at the back of the church. For more information, call Grace at (734) 464-1896, Shirley at (734) 464-3656, or Geri at (734) 464-8906.

■ 7 p.m. Wednesday, at Nardin Park United Methodist Church, 29887 W. 11 Mile, Farmington Hills. Participate in an open time of praying silently and aloud together as well as responding to personal requests. Call (248) 476-8860.

■ Parish prayer and Eucharistic Adoration, third Wednesday of each month at St. Michael's Church of Livonia, corner of Plymouth and Hubbard roads. The church will be open for worship from 10 a.m. until 7 p.m. followed by Benediction service. For information, call (734) 261-1455.

■ 7-9 p.m. the first and third Tuesdays of the month for prayer, spiritual healing and outreach at Good Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church, 28680 Cherry Hill, Garden City. Call (734) 427-3660.

Singles

■ Single Point Ministries, for ages 30 and older, offers fellowship and related topics at 11:30 a.m., Sundays, in Knox Hall at Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church, 40000 Six Mile, Northville. Coffee, doughnuts, conversation. Call (248) 374-5920. Tennis continues from 1-5 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays, and 4-7 p.m. weekdays any time the weather is above 45 degrees, at Rotary Park, Six Mile and Hubbard, Livonia. Walking club meets at 6 p.m., Tuesday and Thursday in the Single Point office. All fitness levels welcome.

■ Single Place Ministry continues to meet Thursdays 7:30-7:45 p.m. for social time, 7:45-8 p.m. opening, 8-9 p.m. program, at First Presbyterian Church, 200 E. Main St., Northville. Call (248) 349-0911 or visit www.singleplace.org. Cost is \$5.

Soup kitchen

Learn about the Capuchin Soup Kitchen and the Solanus Casey Center in Detroit by participating in its "Day of Service" program. Dine with guests at the soup kitchen, tour the Earth Works urban garden, and take a self-guided tour of the Solanus Casey Center, a spiritually center dedicated to the Capuchin friar who is credited with miraculous cures and valued for his wise and compassionate counsel. The minimum age is seventh grade and the maximum size of the group is 30. The day starts at 8:30 a.m. and ends at 2:30 p.m. There is no cost. Lunch included. For information, send e-mail to crcrane@thecapuchins.org. To learn more about the Capuchin Soup Kitchen, visit www.cskdetroit.org.

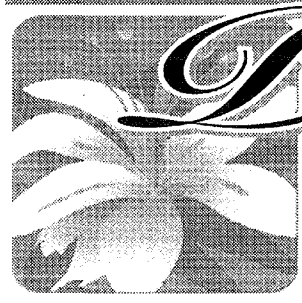
Support

■ Metro Fibro-Myalgia support group meets 1-3 p.m., second and fourth Thursday of the month at Merriman Road Baptist Church, 2055 Merriman, Garden City. No dues, but donations are accepted. www.metrofibrogroup.com; Call Lucy with questions at (734) 462-1768

■ A weekly drop-in Food Cupboard (nonperishable items) is available 10 a.m. to noon Saturday mornings at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 16360 Hubbard, Livonia. There are no requirements, this a service the church wants the community to be aware of and utilize if needed. Donations of nonperishable items also accepted for the cupboard.

■ Are you or someone you know struggling with depression, divorce, grief, addiction, relationship difficulties, or job loss? Real Life Church through its volunteers and partnerships with area ministries and professionals provides classes, seminars, care, support & recovery groups, counseling, and prayer to help you get through life challenges. Visit the Web site for details on current classes and groups offered as well as location, days and times www.realifelymouth.com.

■ Overeaters Anonymous meets 7 p.m. Thursdays in the Courtyard Room at Unity of Livonia Church, 28660 Five Mile, between Middlebelt and Inkster roads, Livonia, and 7 p.m. Sundays, in Classroom 1 at the Marion Professional Building at St. Mary's Hospital, 14555 Levan at Five Mile, Livonia. (313) 387-9797. www.oa.org




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Obituaries, Memorials & Remembrances

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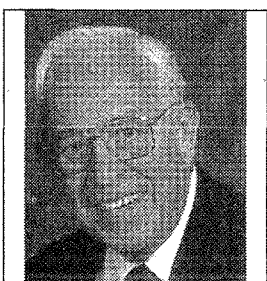
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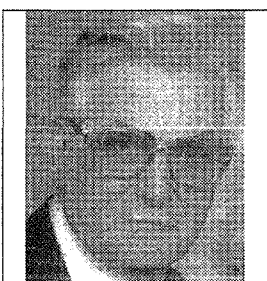
DEL MARIE BURNS

Passed away at home December 5, 2009, at the age of 102. She was the beloved wife of the late Warren. Dearest sister of Elise Emrick. Dear aunt of J.P. DesCamp, Lynn DesCamp, Geraldine Robinson and Janice Robinson. Predeceased by her parents, Peter and Elise DesCamp; her siblings, Mary Milligan (wife of Hugh and John), Celia Drake (wife of Harold), Peter DesCamp (husband of June) and Andrew DesCamp (husband of Angelina). Del Marie retired from Michigan Bell Telephone as a telephone operator after 47 years of service; she loved her work. She was a resident of Melvindale since 1958. She did beautiful work crocheting and doing needlepoint. Funeral services were held Wednesday, December 9, 2009, at St. Mary Magdalene Catholic Church, Melvindale, MI. Burial was in White Chapel Cemetery, Troy. Arrangements entrusted to Schrader-Howell Funeral Home, Plymouth. Memorials may be made to the charity of donor's choice. To share a special thought or memory, visit www.schrader-howell.com



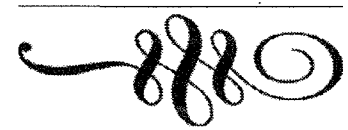
WILLIAM R. UPTON

Age 84, of Plymouth, passed away December 7, 2009. He was born in Plymouth, and lived here his entire life. He graduated from Plymouth High School in 1943. While in the ninth grade, a young lady named Jean Crandell wearing a yellow flared skirt with a yellow polka-dotted blouse caught his eye. They were married on May 22, 1948. Bill retired from Ford Motor Company after 40 years as an engineer. He was an elder at First Presbyterian Church of Plymouth, where he was also a long-time member of the choir. He was a founding member of the Plymouth Community Band, and a member of both the Plymouth Historical Society and the Plymouth Oratorio Society. A University of Michigan graduate, he was also a member of the Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity. While at U of M, he marched in the 1948 Rose Bowl Parade with the marching band. He later became a founding member and longtime board member of the U of M Alumni Band Association. A devoted family man, he is survived by his wife of 61 years, Jean; his children, Karen (Clark) Chapin, Laura Upton, Carla (Greg) Gonthier, and John (Alicia) Upton; his grandchildren, Bill Chapin and John Gonthier; his brother, Lester (Delores) Upton; and many nieces and nephews. A Memorial Service will take place Saturday, December 12, 2pm, at Schrader-Howell Funeral Home, 280 S. Main St., Plymouth. Friends may visit beginning at 1pm. Memorials may be made to the Plymouth Community Band or the Plymouth Oratorio Society.

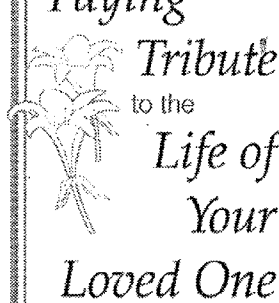


RICHARD WOOD

November 26, 2009 at the age of 94. A 55 year resident of Redford Twp. Passed on Thanksgiving to be with his wife Ruth and many others he deeply missed. Dear father of Richard (Joyce), Robert (Mona) and Dolly. Dear Grams to seven grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren. He was retired from Ford Motor Company for 38 years, he had also worked for Ford Rouge (Local 600) for 38 years. Services were held on Nov. 30th. Please visit and sign a tribute at: www.griffinfuneralhome.com. The family would also like to thank all who came by to visit Dad with coffee, donuts, a talk, a hug and a kiss.



Paying Tribute to the Life of Your Loved One



OBITUARY POLICY

The first five "billed" lines of an obituary are published at no cost. All additional lines will be charged at \$4 per line. You may place a picture of your loved one for an additional cost of only \$6. Symbolic emblems may be included at no cost (example: American Flags, religious symbols, etc.)

Deadlines:
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OE08658429

In Loving Memory

...at the Holidays

Remember the loved ones you've lost by placing a special holiday remembrance tribute.

The Observer and Eccentric/Hometown Weekly newspapers will be publishing a special "In Remembrance" page for the holidays. Here's the perfect opportunity to honor the memory and celebrate the life of loved ones who hold a special place in your heart.

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Publication: Sunday, Dec. 20th
...in the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers
Thursday, Dec. 24th
...in the Hometown Weekly Newspapers

Deadline for both issues...Monday, Dec. 14th



CALL: 800-579-7355
Fax: 313-496-4968
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Cookie walk grows in its third year at Livonia church



Highly decorated cookies, like the Santa Nutter Butters, and holiday favorites, including gingerbread men, fill serving plates at Timothy Lutheran Church's cookie walk.

BY SHARON DARGAY
O&E STAFF WRITER

Lori Barch of Livonia built two dozen houses last weekend.

She suspects the scrumptious, tiny abodes made of Rice Krispie treats will sell fast when Timothy Lutheran Church opens its doors on Saturday, Dec. 12 for its third annual cookie walk.

"It's the second year for the houses," said Barch, adding that "ladies of the church" snatched up the \$2.50 creations as fast as customers did last year.

"We don't do a lot of the ethnic cookies," Barch noted. "We do have one parishioner from England who makes shortbread."

What they lack in European-style treats they make up for in highly decorated holiday favorites.

"We make peanut butter mice, reindeer head cookies. I make Nutter Butter Santas. I'm making numerous things. I make a lot of cookies. I enjoy baking," said Barch, a Dearborn firefighter who spent four days off work last week baking and decorating her share of the church's cookie inventory.

"Just about everyone" in the small congregation volunteers to make at least a few batches of cookies for the annual sale that Barch started two years ago.

The first annual walk, designed to help pay for a new church roof and windows, was underway for just two hours when a snowstorm swept through southeastern Michigan.



Members of Timothy Lutheran Church in Livonia finish organizing cookie tables during the second annual sale last year in the church activities center. The event will move to the more spacious church basement this year.

ORTHODOX CHURCH SELLS COOKIES

Holy Transfiguration Orthodox Church in Livonia plans its annual cookie walk the same day - Saturday, Dec. 12 - as the Timothy Lutheran Church sale.

Members of the Orthodox church have been baking and selling holiday treats for 16 years. The emphasis is on European-style treats, nut and poppyseed rolls, pierogis, sweet bread and stuffed cabbage.

Members suggest that shoppers come early for coffee and company when the doors open at 8 a.m. The sale starts at 9 a.m. and continues until items are sold out.

Call (248) 476-3432 for more information.

AN ANNUAL TRADITION

"The first year was fantastic except for the snowstorm," said Nancy Bingham of Redford, Barch's co-coordinator and her sister. "It didn't deter us. We looked at it in a positive way."

They closed the sale in just two hours to make sure volunteers and customers traveled home safely, but sold enough cookies in that time to make the sale an annual tradition.

"The ladies of the church have fun making these cookies," Bingham noted. "I think

the outside world into our church."

"It's a small church but we try to get out there and do what we can."

BETTER FLOW

This year's walk, which will raise funds for the church's general fund, will move from the fellowship hall to the more spacious basement.

"Hopefully there will be more room to move around," Barch said. "We're trying to improve the flow of the cookie walk."

Cookies will be arranged on platters that fill multiple tables throughout the room. Customers choose the cookies they want.

"We give them pie boxes and plastic gloves. They walk from table to table," Barch explained.

Wax paper liners keep the cookies from sticking. Gift boxes also are available.

The cookie walk will start at 10 a.m. and close when the goodies are sold out.

For more information call (734) 427-2290.

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248-626-3620

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www.nativitygocchurch.org OE08656119

PRESBYTERIAN

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www.risenchrist.info OE08655955

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For Information regarding this Directory,
please call Donna Hart at 248-437-2011, Ext. 247 or e-mail: dhart@dnps.com

Plymouth Symphony expands holiday pops offering

BY SHARON DARGAY
O&E STAFF WRITER

Plymouth Symphony always sells out its annual holiday pops concert at the Penn Theatre. But Beth Stewart, executive director, says there should be plenty of additional seats to accommodate last-minute arrivals at the concert this year.

"This year we're offering two performances," she explained. "The Penn seats 400 and our goal is to sell 300 each show and between two shows, it may be a little over that."

The 6 p.m. show is billed as the "family" holiday pops concert and the 8 p.m., the "traditional" pops show.

"They're fairly similar," Stewart noted.

The Symphony's Celebration Youth Orchestra, with members ranging in age from 10-13, will play side by side on *Christmas Troika* with professional players at the early show.

"It's a real symphony orchestra piece. It gives them a little more meat to work with."

The Celebration Flute Choir, mostly high school students, will perform a variety of Christmas songs during the 8 p.m. show.

"It's a nice opportunity for young people who want more than what they can get at school," Stewart said, describing the Symphony's youth music programs. "All of the groups are under (director) Nan Washburn. We have two levels of strings, a beginning and middle group, and the full (youth) orchestra. Nan rescues everything so everyone gets to play."

The Symphony will play popular Christmas music including tunes from both Canadian Brass, the Charlie Brown animated Christmas show, *Polar Express*, *Christmas on Broadway*, as well as traditional holiday songs. The audience will get a chance to sing along during a Christmas carol portion of the show. Santa also will be on hand to greet the audience at both shows.

DOWNTOWN VENUE

"We have been doing it every year since they re-did the Penn and that's been five or six years



Brass musicians perform during a Plymouth Symphony concert.



Young musicians play with the Plymouth Symphony's youth orchestra.

now. It's one of our traditional things to do at the holiday."

Stewart said the theater doesn't offer the best acoustics for live symphony, but the group does its best to improve the sound.

"The theater was made for

movies. Movie houses built after vaudeville were built to be quiet places. Everything came through the sound system. It was not built for acoustics at all. That's why we bring in additional speakers. It turns out to be a pretty complicated place to play."



Nan Washburn conducts the Plymouth Symphony Orchestra.

But in spite of its big theatre curtains "soaking up sound," the audience loves the venue, which is decorated with Christmas trees and situated in a perfect location to shop or dine before the show.

"People seem to love to come downtown. It's a great venue for

that."

Tickets for Home for the Holidays POPS are \$25 for adults, \$20 for seniors and \$10 for students of all ages. Under 5 is admitted free. Call (734) 451-2112 for advance tickets.

The Penn Theatre is located at 760 Penniman, Plymouth.

Local theater troupe earns matching grant

BY SHARON DARGAY
O&E STAFF WRITER

Ticket sales are a bit slow for its upcoming holiday fund-raiser show, but Barefoot Productions can't be happier about a matching grant it received recently from the Wilcox Foundation.

"It's a wonderful opportunity because it's dollar for dollar match. Everyone's dollar goes that much further," said Kristin Heitmeier, marketing director.

Anyone who buys a ticket to the holiday performance on Friday, Dec. 11, can earmark the money for the grant program. Wilcox Foundation will match the \$50 advance ticket sale or \$65 at the door admission, doubling the revenue Barefoot Productions will take in.

The matching grant was awarded retroactively on Oct. 15, and is valid through June 30, 2010.

Heitmeier said the theater has contacted patrons who bought their tickets before the troupe knew they had won the grant. They're asking them to earmark their donations for the "Barefoot/Wilcox Partnership Campaign," so the theatre can receive the matching money for each seat sold.

The Holiday Celebration Fundraiser, starts at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 11, at the Walker-Buzenberg Building, 240 N. Main Street, Plymouth. Desserts, teas and wines start the evening at 7:30, followed by a narrative reading of *A Christmas Carol*.

"We were just notified of this grant and are still awaiting this paperwork. The Wilcox Foundation earmarked the grant for marketing purposes. That's our single largest expense," Heitmeier noted. "Marketing encompasses so many aspects of bringing a production to stage. We're thrilled."

Marketing includes programs, posters, brochures, photography, advertising and other public relations efforts.

"Now we can earmark some of the money that might have been spent for marketing, for costumes, props and royalties."

7th Annual

Senior Expo

Tuesday, May 18, 2010 • 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Schoolcraft College Livonia Campus in the VisTaTech Center
Haggerty Road between 6 and 7 Mile Roads

If your business or organization serves seniors, you'll want to be a part of this exciting event!

Your Exhibitor Package Includes:

Print Advertising
One-quarter page black and white ad or one full page ad (color option available) for your business will appear in the accompanying special section publishing Sunday, May 9, 2010, in the South Oakland and Birmingham Eccentric and Thursday, May 13, 2010, in the Observer & Hometown Newspapers.

Web Presence
The Senior Fall Expo special section will be featured on Hometownlife.com, which receives upwards of 1 million page views per month!

Exhibitor Listing
You'll be featured on the center spread of our special section plus newspaper promotion during April and May.

Expo table plus two chairs
Use your space for giveaways, food demonstrations and promotional materials. Electricity available on a first come, first served basis for an additional charge.

Food
Two complimentary boxed lunches for exhibitors.

Special Section Promotion
The Senior Expo will be promoted in all of our trusted, local newspapers:

Birmingham Eccentric
Canton Observer
Farmington Observer
Garden City Observer
Livonia Observer
Milford Times
Northville Record
Novi News
Plymouth Observer
Redford Observer
South Lyon Herald
South Oakland Eccentric
Berkley, Clawson, Ferndale, Huntington Woods, Royal Oak, Pleasant Ridge, Southfield
Westland Observer

Act fast to take advantage of our early bird special!

For more information about this and to reserve your space, please contact:
Choya Jordan at 313-222-2414
fax 313-496-5305 • cbjordan@hometownlife.com

Find an 'arty' gift at a gallery holiday shop

Santa may have elves hammering toys and gifts together by hand — but they're also mass producing their Christmas inventory.

If you're looking for a one-of-a-kind holiday gift, something that exudes individuality,

search local art gallery holiday shops. You'll find unique items made by Michigan artists. Here's a sampling:

ART-IS-IN-MARKET
Michigan artists show and sell their works, including

functional pieces, like Jan Bostwick's ceramic serving plates, and decorative items, such as James Ritchie's photos and Patti Monroe-Mohrenweiger's calligraphy, at this store in Laurel Park Place, 37700 Six Mile, Livonia. No mass produced works allowed. Find handmade pottery, glass, sculpture, jewelry, paintings and more. (734) 432-9177

NORTHVILLE ART HOUSE
The fifth annual Holiday Art Market continues 1-5 p.m., through Saturday, Dec. 12, at 215 W. Cady, two blocks west of Center and one block south of Main, in downtown Northville. Hand-crafted work in pottery, fiber, jewelry and painting is priced for holiday gift giving by local artists, including Jan Sadowski, Marilyn Grinnell, Katherine Wickersham, Shadia Zayed, Beth Jones and Jan Robb. (248) 344-0497.

VILLAGE POTTERS GUILD
The Guild holds its annual holiday show in November, but members' works are sold year-round in the studio gallery at 340 N. Main, Plymouth. Call ahead at (734) 207-8807 to make sure someone is on hand and available to show you the functional and decorative items on display.

BIRMINGHAM BLOOMFIELD ART CENTER

Every gift at the Holiday Shop is made by hand. More than 130 juried artists have created gifts for every taste and budget — from \$1 to \$400. Gifts include fiber, jewelry, ceramics, wood, home décor, children's wear, ornaments, glass and paintings. The Ornament Gallery features hundreds of hand-made ornaments. There are gifts for celebrating all holidays including Judaica items. Hours are 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Monday-Saturday and noon-4 p.m., Sunday through Dec. 18 at the BBAC, 1516 S. Cranbrook, (Evergreen), Birmingham. (248) 644-0866

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BETSY SHARKEY, LOS ANGELES TIMES

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LISA SCHWARZBAUM, ENTERTAINMENT WEEKLY

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At 33, family-run café innovates, maintains following

BY DIANE GALE ANDREASSI
CORRESPONDENT

More than three decades ago, Adriano and Rina Tonon bought an apple orchard on three acres of land on West 10 Mile and Orchard Lake Road with a dream to serve the freshest Northern Italian, Venetian-style dishes, in an elegant, yet comfortable setting.

After three additions to the building and creating a reputation for authentic Italian food, the Tonon family is celebrating 33 years on Dec. 21.

The history of Ristorante Café Cortina is interwoven with the story of the lives of Adriano and Rina. They met after he came from Italy and worked as a gardener and baker at her parent's restaurant, Rina's Pizzeria, in Detroit.

When they married, she was 18 and he was 20, and not long after they bought the land in Farmington Hills. Adriano died in 1993 and their son, Adrian, came into the family business.

Over the years the seating capacity grew, from 85 to 175. The fireside dining in three intimate rooms makes you feel like you might be sitting in someone's home in Italy.

"Through word of mouth, it took off, because of our food and our service," Rina Tonon said. "We always want to bring new things to the table. We have people from all over the world who appreciate this as an artisan restaurant."

The intimate setting has become a destination place for small weddings, showers, business meetings and other celebrations. In fact, the restaurant hosts an average of two weddings weekly.

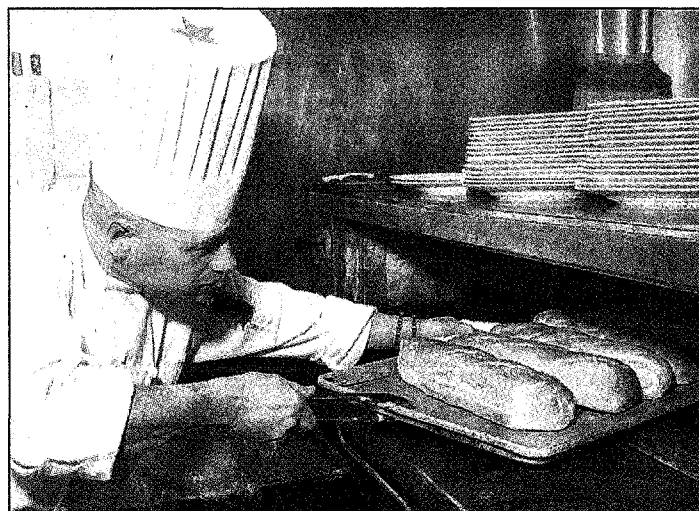
PEACEFUL SETTING

Outside the dining area are two private enclaves with brick walls, seating, vines and flowers that make visitors feel like they left the city and entered another country in another time when dinners lasted a few hours and things didn't move quite so fast.

Aside from the fresh herbs and vegetables, all the pastas and bread are handmade every morning in the restaurant kitchen. Tonon applauds chef, Jeffrey (Hoffa) Hoffman, for maintaining the highest standards.



Oleta Chavez, Chef Hoffa, Rina Tonon, Adrian Tonon, and Timoria Bailey welcome you to Cafe Cortina.



Chef Hoffa removes hot bread from the oven. Even bread sticks are made fresh.

"He's very passionate, as we all are here," she said.

"A restaurant is not just about the owners. We have a team. In fact, two staff members, Tammy Chavez and Timothy Bailey, have been with me for more than 25 years. The people we have working here (18 employees) have brought it to where we are today. We don't rest on our laurels. We consistently strive for excellence and care for people," she added.

HONORS

Three years ago, Ristorante Café Cortina, was invited to plan a dinner at the James Beard House in New York.

Considered the "Oscars of the food world" by *Time* magazine, the James Beard Foundation Awards are a coveted honor for food industry professionals. In 2003 Ristorante Café Cortina was also named Restaurant of the Year by *Hour Magazine*.

Referring to the way her son trains staff, she added: "If they're not a seasoned professional when they come here, they go out seasoned professionals."

Before Adrian began working at the restaurant he went to Italy and apprenticed at Hotel Cipriani in Venice.

"I told him he couldn't go into the business unless he

had a passion for it," said Rina. Adrian said "something clicked there and getting into the family business seemed right."

"It's always been instilled in us to never rest and to strive and innovate and that's what we'll do for the next 30 years," Adrian said. "It's souls serving souls. We're very fortunate to create moments of happiness. People come here to get away. They come to play. Every night is a party here. We celebrate every day."

Adrian, 37, is warm and articulate, all the characteristics that any young actor would want. He is working on a local television show mixing food with charitable works, especially those focused on children's causes. Pieces of it can be seen at www.culturecafe.com.

Café Cortina is weathering the economic storm. Business is good but Adrian said people are ordering simpler, less expensive dishes, like pasta, but since pasta is their specialty he said "that's fine, too."

Rina added: "We're seeing that people are ordering more moderately priced wines, or sometimes sharing appetizers or desserts."

"I didn't think 33 years would come as fast as it did," Rina said. "I still want to go another 33. I never want to lose my enthusiasm."

Restaurant goes 'green' with garden

An Italian home wouldn't be complete without a garden in back for the cook in the family to have ready access to fresh herbs, vegetables and most importantly tomatoes.

The vegetables and herbs growing behind Ristorante Café Cortina provide the same fresh, home cooked meals to customers.

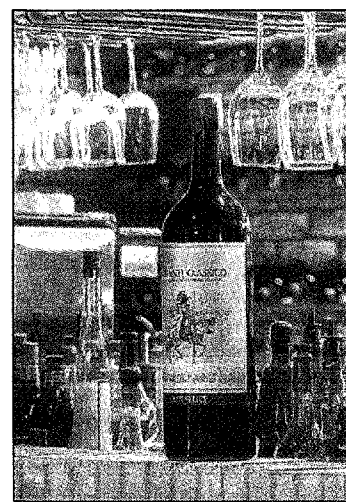
A long, narrow stretch of dirt has been cultivated, planted and harvested ever since the restaurant opened. It was a tradition started first by owners, Rina and Adriano Tonon, and carried on by their son, Adrian.

"My dad planted a theory 33 years ago and it's here today," Adrian said.

Before the term "green" became popular, the Tonon's relied on their all-natural garden, free of pesticides, to adorn their dishes.

While the garden is done for the year, the rows of greenery during season are robust with rapini, arugula, radicchio, Swiss chard, basil, rosemary, sage, pumpkins, peppers, zucchini, eggplant and more. The tomatoes burst forth from 75-year-old heirloom seeds given to the Tonons by family in Italy.

Their tomato sauce is distributed throughout the country and can be found at their Web site, www.cafecortina.com.



Pair a glass of chianti or other wine with your entree at Cafe Cortina.

CITY BITES

Julbord buffet

Canton – Shoppers can enjoy a Swedish "Julbord" buffet extravaganza, 5:30-8:30 p.m., Friday, Dec. 11, at the store, 41640 Ford Road.

Adults pay \$15.99 and kids 12 and under eat for \$2.49.

The Julbord buffet includes Swedish holiday ham, smoked salmon and poached salmon, assorted herring, roast beef, potato casserole, Swedish potato salad, Swedish style meatballs with ligonberries, assorted cheeses, crisp bread, gravid lax with mustard, Swedish cucumber salad, red beet salad, red cabbage, boiled potatoes, hard-boiled eggs with shrimp or lumpfish roe, sautéed sausage, liverwurst pate, lussekatt, assorted desserts, and beverages, including glogg.

Julbord is a special smorgasbord eaten at Christmas in Scandinavian countries.

Can't make it to the Julbord buffet? Ikea's Swedish Food Market has everything you need — from the Svartvinbarrsill (marinated herring with black current) to Pepparkakshjarn (ginger hearts) — to prepare your own at home. (734) 981-6300

Pasta class

Farmington Hills – Learn how to make homemade pasta to go with all of your favorites sauces from 7-8:30 p.m., Dec. 11, Jan. 15 and 29, 2010 and Feb. 19, 2010 at Longacre house, 24705 Farmington Road north of 10 Mile. Class members will mix, knead, roll, and cut their own pasta to take home with them.

Evening classes cost \$30 per person and include a glass of wine.

Morning classes are planned from 10-11:30 a.m., Jan. 16 and 30, 2010 and Feb. 20, 2010. Cost is \$25.

Each class is limited to 15 participants. Register in person at the Costick Center at 28600 W. Eleven Mile, register online at www.fhgov.com or fax your registration form to (248) 473-1801. For more information, call (248) 473-1800.

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Omelet Station	Scrambled Eggs	Pot Roast
Hash Browns	Mini Corn Dogs	Baked Spaghetti
Bacon & Sausage	Chicken Fingers	California Medley
Pancakes	French Fries	Fresh Fruit
Banana Pancakes	Chicken Parmesan	Assorted Pastries

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Cold Bar with Shrimp Cocktail, Smoked Salmon & Oysters

Assorted Salads
Fruits, Vegetables and Cheeses
Lobster Ravioli
Chicken Piccata
Parmesan Encrusted White Fish
Carved Prime Rib
Herb Encrusted Lamb Chops
Asparagus & Squash Bunches
Vegetable Medley
Roasted Garlic Red Skin
Mashed Potatoes
Twiced Bakes
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Bowtie Pasta w/Pesto Cream sauce

Assorted Desserts

\$44.95 per person
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2 drink tickets & Champagne Toast
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Reserved seating for groups of eight or more.
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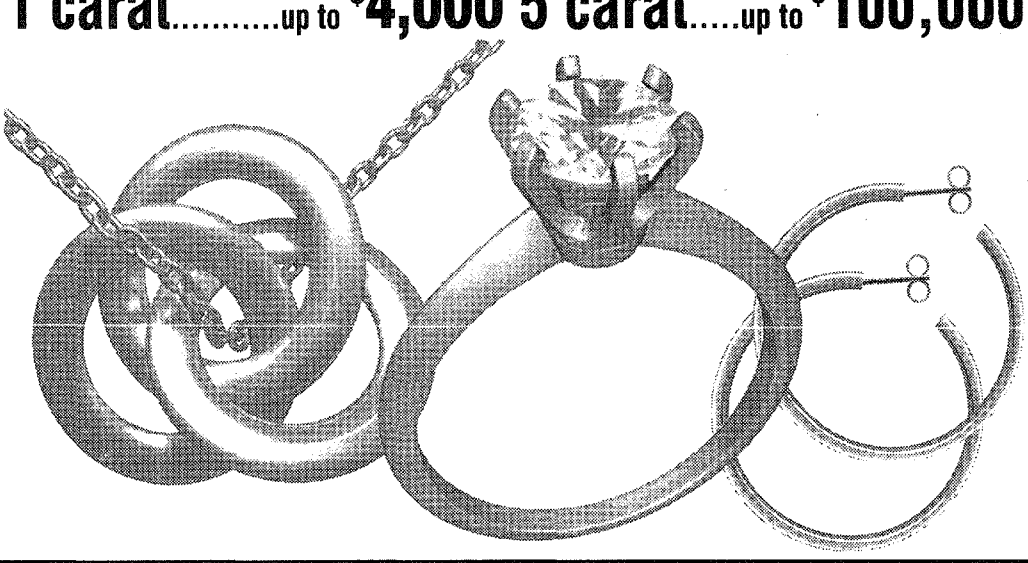
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<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">GOLD COINS</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 0.8em;">Pay up to for the following rare gold:</p> <table style="width: 100%; font-size: 0.7em;"> <tr> <th>United States</th> <th>Used</th> <th>New</th> </tr> <tr> <td>\$1.00 1842 to 1889.....up to.....</td> <td>\$1,000.....</td> <td>\$10,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>\$2.50 1798 to 1834.....up to.....</td> <td>\$5,500.....</td> <td>\$17,500</td> </tr> <tr> <td>\$2.50 1840 to 1929.....up to.....</td> <td>\$1,000.....</td> <td>\$5,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>\$3.00 1854 to 1888.....up to.....</td> <td>\$3,000.....</td> <td>\$10,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>\$5.00 1795 to 1833.....up to.....</td> <td>\$10,000.....</td> <td>\$50,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>\$5.00 1834 to 1838.....up to.....</td> <td>\$1,000.....</td> <td>\$10,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>\$5.00 1839 to 1908.....up to.....</td> <td>\$1,500.....</td> <td>\$6,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>\$5.00 1908 to 1929.....up to.....</td> <td>\$1,500.....</td> <td>\$6,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>\$10.00 1795 to 1804.....up to.....</td> <td>\$9,000.....</td> <td>\$29,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>\$10.00 1839 to 1932.....up to.....</td> <td>\$1,000.....</td> <td>\$7,500</td> </tr> <tr> <td>\$20.00 1850 to 1933.....up to.....</td> <td>\$1,500.....</td> <td>\$10,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>\$50.00 1851 to 1852.....up to.....</td> <td>\$5,000.....</td> <td>\$15,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>\$50.00 1915 Pan-Pec.....up to.....</td> <td>\$7,500.....</td> <td>\$25,000</td> </tr> </table>	United States	Used	New	\$1.00 1842 to 1889.....up to.....	\$1,000.....	\$10,000	\$2.50 1798 to 1834.....up to.....	\$5,500.....	\$17,500	\$2.50 1840 to 1929.....up to.....	\$1,000.....	\$5,000	\$3.00 1854 to 1888.....up to.....	\$3,000.....	\$10,000	\$5.00 1795 to 1833.....up to.....	\$10,000.....	\$50,000	\$5.00 1834 to 1838.....up to.....	\$1,000.....	\$10,000	\$5.00 1839 to 1908.....up to.....	\$1,500.....	\$6,000	\$5.00 1908 to 1929.....up to.....	\$1,500.....	\$6,000	\$10.00 1795 to 1804.....up to.....	\$9,000.....	\$29,000	\$10.00 1839 to 1932.....up to.....	\$1,000.....	\$7,500	\$20.00 1850 to 1933.....up to.....	\$1,500.....	\$10,000	\$50.00 1851 to 1852.....up to.....	\$5,000.....	\$15,000	\$50.00 1915 Pan-Pec.....up to.....	\$7,500.....	\$25,000	<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">SILVER DOLLARS</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 0.8em;">Pay up to for the following rare dollars:</p> <table style="width: 100%; font-size: 0.7em;"> <tr> <th>United States</th> <th>Used</th> <th>New</th> </tr> <tr> <td>1794 to 1803.....up to.....</td> <td>\$2,000.....</td> <td>\$50,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1836 to 1838.....up to.....</td> <td>\$1,000.....</td> <td>\$5,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1840 to 1873.....up to.....</td> <td>\$500.....</td> <td>\$5,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Trade Dollars.....up to.....</td> <td>\$100.....</td> <td>\$2,500</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1878 to 1904.....up to.....</td> <td>\$1,500.....</td> <td>\$12,500</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1921 to 1935.....up to.....</td> <td>\$50.....</td> <td>\$5,000</td> </tr> </table> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 0.7em;">All prices in ad based on rarity and condition.</p>	United States	Used	New	1794 to 1803.....up to.....	\$2,000.....	\$50,000	1836 to 1838.....up to.....	\$1,000.....	\$5,000	1840 to 1873.....up to.....	\$500.....	\$5,000	Trade Dollars.....up to.....	\$100.....	\$2,500	1878 to 1904.....up to.....	\$1,500.....	\$12,500	1921 to 1935.....up to.....	\$50.....	\$5,000	<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">SILVER COINS</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 0.8em;">Will Pay Up To</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">950%</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 0.8em;">On</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">Silver Coins</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 0.8em;">Up to 950% of face value on silver coins 1964 & older</p>
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1921 to 1935.....up to.....	\$50.....	\$5,000																																																															
<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">CONSIDER BRINING EVERYTHING</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">We have surprised many people who thought their items were not valuable enough to consider. The expert evaluators we have gathered together offer you a wealth of knowledge and experience. We are accustomed to paying thousands of dollars for valuable items. Don't miss this opportunity. Perhaps we'll help you find a real treasure in those hidden away pieces. There's never a charge for our consultation or services.</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">YOU MAY HAVE THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS WORTH OF ITEMS GATHERING DUST</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Almost everyone has something of value they no longer need or want: Inherited items, jewelry that doesn't fit your style, watches that are old or even broken, silver pieces. Several items that might be useless to YOU.. may be considered treasures by the collectors from our vast international network.</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">REASONS TO SELL</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Midwest Gold Buyers specializes in evaluation and buying New and Antique jewelry. Our generations of experience qualify us to evaluate everything from small pieces to the finest and most valuable estate jewelry. 2. Midwest Gold Buyers has an undisputed reputation. We work in compliance with your Local and State Government. 3. This is an ideal opportunity to have your valuables evaluated (especially if you inherited them) by experts right here in this area. Come in for a free appraisal and cash offer - NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY. 4. If you are not wearing or enjoying the items that you have, then this is a great chance for you to convert them to CASH. This is much better than just holding hard to sell diamonds, jewelry & coins. 																																																															

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SECTION C
(*)

Julie Brown, editor, (313) 222-6755
jcbrown@hometownlife.com

Deck the halls: Interiors, exteriors get festive touches

BY JULIE BROWN
O&E STAFF WRITER

Customers at Plymouth Nursery are eager to decorate for the holidays.

"Probably the hottest thing we've got going now are the evergreen porch pots," said Tim Parker, general manager at the nursery and garden center. Juniper, Fraser fir, boxwood and white spruce tips in the center combine for an attractive outdoor look at holiday time.

Customers like Michigan holly with red berries: "People are going crazy for those," said Parker, a Pinckney resident.

You can also keep things colorful in winter by putting evergreen branches in your hanging baskets, using materials to make the branches stand up. The LED lights are popular as they use a lot less electricity and burn more brightly.

"Because there's no filament they're cool to the touch," he said. "It's really a good value" due to lower energy costs.

Wreaths and green roping are still standbys for holiday decorating at Plymouth Nursery. There's a product, Wilt Proof, that dries out water and prevents it from escaping. Parker noted people can leave some decorations up throughout winter after using Wilt Proof.

"Some people are creative," he said of December decorating. "Some just want it done for them."

"It's still very strong," he said of December decorating. People like fresh greens, including for centerpieces: "Everybody wants the smell."

At Plymouth Nursery, grapevine birdhouses filled with greens do well, adding fragrance to a home.

Nicki Wilson, who has the Decorating Den Interiors Canton franchise, sees a lot of interest in holiday decor. "The smell of it and the whole connotation of Christmas and holidays, I think," she said of the appeal.

She agreed centerpieces with evergreen boughs are great for December, some with candles. Colors vary.

"It can be whatever you want," Wilson said. "You can add gold or silver to make it more festive." Green, red, gold and silver are the traditional Christmas colors but not obligatory by any means.

You can also keep things colorful in winter by putting evergreen branches in your hanging baskets, using materials to make the branches stand up. The LED lights are popular as they use a lot less electricity and burn more brightly.

"We've evolved. It doesn't have to be," she said.

Wilson sees more artificial than live Christmas trees in homes. People often like ornaments children made or others with sentimental value.

"I think everyone has certain holiday traditions that are always there," she said. Some go all out and some on budgets keep it simpler: "I think mostly people just do what's comfortable."

She has a couple Christmas trees at her home, a family tree and the "pretty tree that does with the decor of the house." Wilson likes something Christmas-related in each room at the family home.

"I think that people will still decorate," she said, with more making do with what they have. She sees people borrow decorating ideas from parks and stores, but more for exteriors.

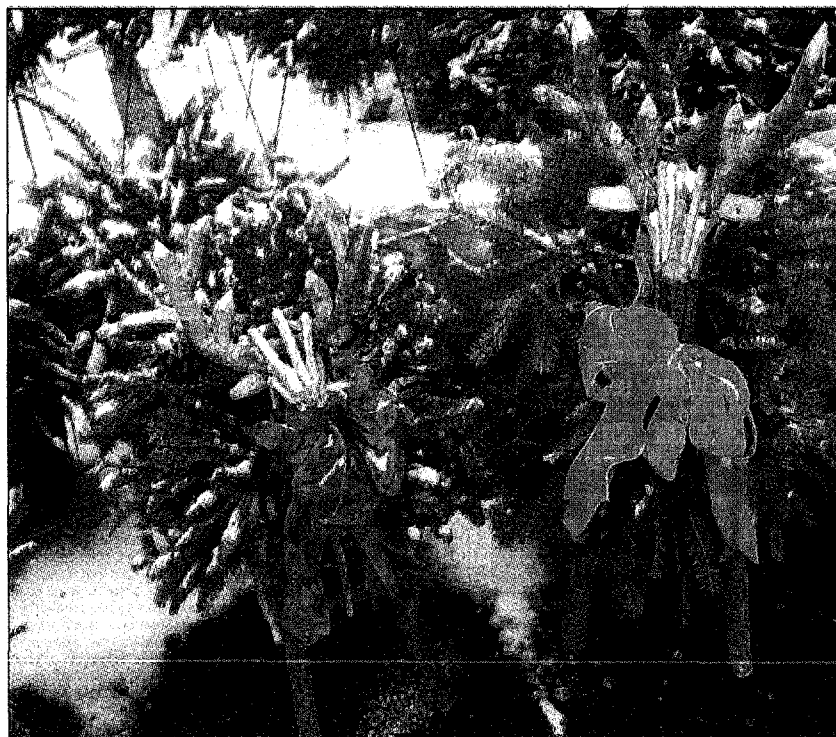
"If you put it up you have to take it down or find someone to do it for you," she added of holiday decorations, which sometimes stay up well into the New Year.

There are many options available for holiday decorating, and your choices will depend on your budget and personal preferences, Wilson said. Here are a few budget — and eco-friendly — ideas:

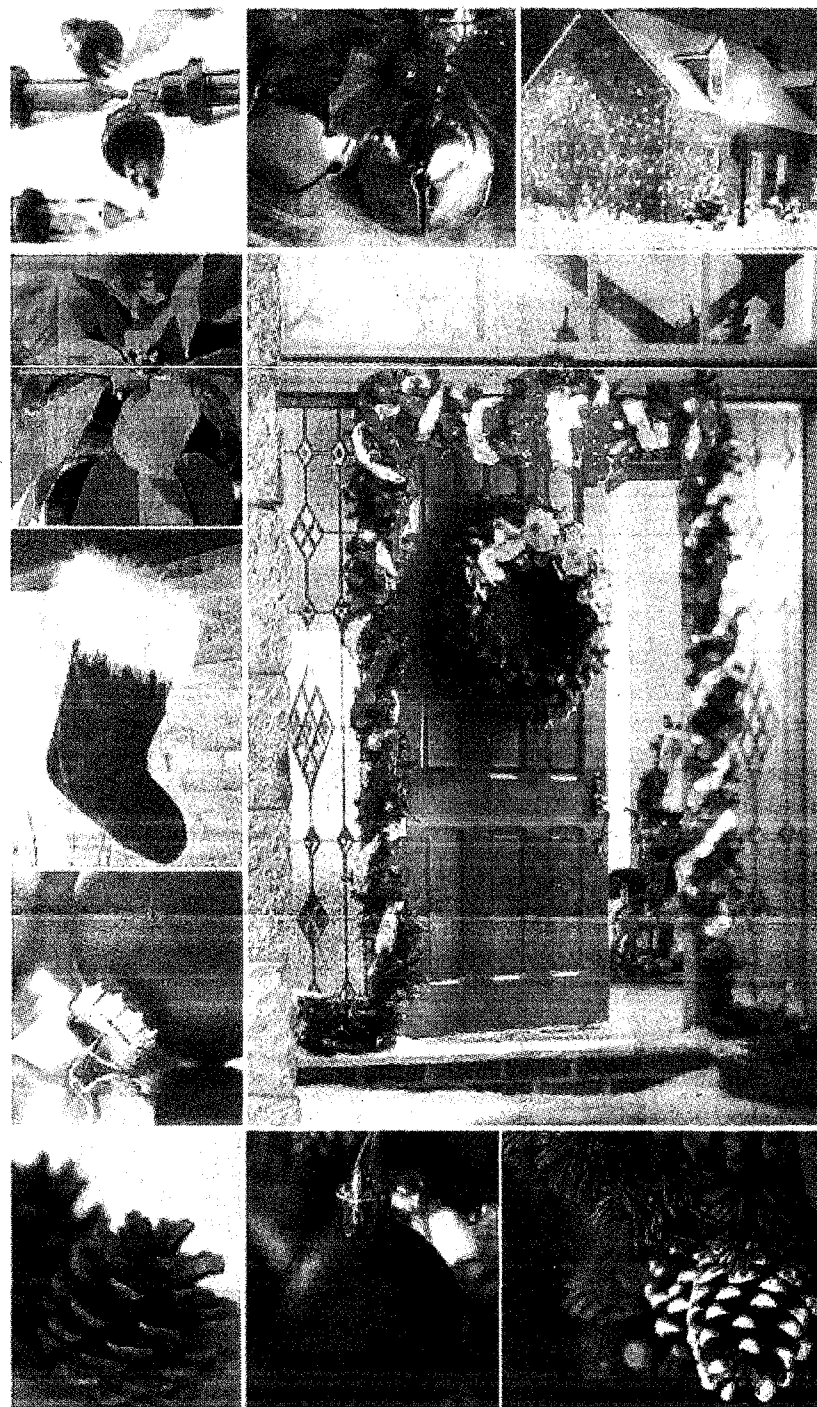
• Old-fashioned garlands of popcorn and cranberries for your tree

• Wreaths, either evergreen or grapevine, decorated or not, hanging on your door or over the fireplace, or lying flat on your dining or cocktail table

• Pine cones, evergreen sprigs, cinnamon sticks, fruits and nuts can be used to create a natural display in clear glass bowls, or artfully arranged on a tabletop or tray, or to decorate a wreath or tree.



Plymouth Nursery's home to many festive outdoor decorations.



Ask real estate lawyer on foreclosure

Q: We are in foreclosure and the bank is taking back the home. I am wondering if they are going to pursue a deficiency if, in fact, the home is not worth what is left on the balance of the mortgage.

A: It, of course, depends upon the facts of your case, including the lending institution involved, the amount of any deficiency, and the ability of the bank to collect the deficiency from you by way of a judgment.

Generally, banks have not been pursuing homeowners for deficiencies, but it is on a case by case basis and, you are best advised to retain a knowledgeable real estate lawyer to negotiate with the bank concerning this issue.

You may be in a position to provide the bank with more available access to your home in consideration for a waiver of any claim for a deficiency and/or on the other hand, the bank may not be interested in foreclosing in the first instance, and, may be willing to work out a modified payment plan or new mortgage with you, given the various government programs depending upon your economic status.

Q: I understand that there is a new type of listing agreement being offered by buyers' agents which became effective in July 2008. Do you have any information on it?

A: I presume you are talking about the Limited Service Agreement which became effective on July 1, 2008. Generally, an agent owes a client all of the minimum services prescribed by law, unless they enter into what they consider to be this Limited Service Agreement. In the agreement, a client may only waive the following three services that must otherwise be provided by a licensee acting as an agent:

1. Acceptance of delivery and presentation of offers and counter-offers;
2. Assistance in developing, communicating, negotiating and presenting offers and counter-offers;
3. Assistance with completion of a transaction after the parties execute a purchase agreement.

This is designed to give sellers and/or buyers, by way of example, access to multi-lists and other similar limited services without having the broker perform the usual services associated with the purchase or sale of a residence at a reduced fee. Be sure you read your listing agreement carefully before you sign it.

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

REAL ESTATE BRIEFS

Career seminar

You can find out about Keller Williams Realty and the real estate business in general at a specialized career seminar. Seminar includes: cost vs. income potential, available training, company profit share, and how to launch a business.

There will be a seminar 6:30-7:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 17, at Keller Williams Realty, 40600 Ann Arbor Road, Suite 100, Plymouth. Please call (734) 459-4700 to reserve your free seat.

HOMES SOLD-OAKLAND

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the weeks of Aug. 31 to Sept. 4, 2009, at the Oakland County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

Auburn Hills	24384 Elmhurst Ave	\$226,000
952 Bloomfield Village Blvd	36026 Hardenburg Rd	\$240,000
3146 Waukegan St	21000 Hugo St	\$140,000
Beverly Hills	29825 Indian Trl	\$100,000
32285 Auburn Dr	22302 Innisbrook Dr	\$246,000
21676 Corsaut Ln	25959 Lynford St	\$150,000
18942 Riverside Dr	21704 Middlebelt Rd	\$9,000
32265 Southfield Rd	29603 N Meadowridge	\$165,000
19710 W 13 Mile Rd	28300 Shadylane Dr	\$155,000
Bingham Farms	21535 Verdun St	\$84,000
30515 Oakview Way	23705 W Newell Cir	\$125,000
Birmingham	21284 Woodhill Dr	\$290,000
659 Ann St	Franklin	
1795 Banbury St	27305 Crestwood Dr	\$685,000
1451 E 14 Mile Rd	32773 Haverford Rd	\$173,000
1533 Holland St	31080 McKinney Dr	\$250,000
441 Vinewood Ave	Keego Harbor	
875 Vinewood Ave	3165 Kenrick St	\$265,000
722 Wallace St	Lake Orion	
1656 Washington Blvd	600 Buena Vis	\$183,000
Bloomfield Township	691 Harry Paul Dr	\$115,000
1161 Copperwood Dr	958 Highland Dr	\$85,000
5535 Crabtree Rd	585 Knollwood Dr	\$160,000
7268 Glenview Dr	2090 Marie Dr	\$214,000
450 Lahser Rd	3208 North Oaks Ct	\$214,000
7445 Paddle Wheel Ct	320 Park Island Dr	\$848,000
6151 Rocky Spring Rd	928 Sherry Dr	\$125,000
6270 Thurber Rd	3959 Spring Hollow Ct	\$220,000
844 Upper Scotsborough Way	3723 W Madison Ave	\$119,000
1863 Wingate Rd	748 Woodside Ct	\$280,000
2858 Woodcreek Way	Milford	
Clarkston	2941 Katie Ln	\$330,000
4724 Alamo Ave	3515 Morrow Ln	\$535,000
9429 English Oak Dr	225 Noble St	\$108,000
4232 Newcastle Dr	Northville	
7040 Northwind Ct	795 Grace St	\$128,000
5670 Sheffield Dr	728 Horton St	\$450,000
6561 Transparent Ave	Novi	
6686 Weston Ct	24663 Bashian Dr	\$50,000
10330 Whipple Tree Ln	22130 Edgewater	\$63,000
Commerce Township	43016 Emerson Way	\$250,000
5015 Fairgrove Ln	27471 Harrington Way	\$240,000
1837 Glen Iris Dr	40329 Iadene Ln	\$165,000
1865 Sileeth Rd	41028 Malott	\$126,000
Davisburg	30219 Viewcrest	\$230,000
7990 Sandbar Ln	1657 West Lake Dr	\$410,000
Farmington	22644 Woolsey	\$35,000
34143 Alta Loma Dr	Oakland Township	
31831 Grand River Ave	4835 Freer St	\$170,000
Farmington Hills	403 Oak Dr	\$44,000
35064 Bunker Hill Dr	3339 Rosemont Ct	\$335,000
22174 Cape Cod Way	Oxford	
37371 Chesapeake Rd	465 Lakes Edge Dr	\$145,000
36465 Edinborough Ct	650 Lakes Edge Dr	\$300,000
	1263 Pondview Ln	\$197,000
	887 W Peninsula Ct	\$250,000
	Rochester	
	1923 Cloverdale Dr	\$305,000
	1855 Flagstone Cir	\$110,000
	669 Romeo Rd	\$90,000
	Rochester Hills	
	3369 Aquinas Dr	\$144,000
	3043 Bathurst Ave	\$32,000
	2529 Brilliance	\$270,000
	3399 Connors Dr	\$50,000

HOMES SOLD-WAYNE

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of Aug. 24-28, 2009, at the Wayne County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

Canton	3155 Fantail Dr	\$251,000
1690 Aberdeen St	1548 Galena	\$55,000
50651 Colchester Ct	1884 Homestead Ct	\$195,000
43902 Cranford Ave	772 Ironstone Dr	\$160,000
41495 Elsa Ct	1775 Jason Cir	\$232,000
44243 Fair Oaks Dr	2649 Long Meadow Ln	\$250,000
51350 Ford Rd	618 Middlebury Ln	\$200,000
46083 Graystone Ln	2711 New England Dr	\$320,000
45269 Horseshoe Cir	3265 Parkwood Dr	\$312,000
50186 Jackson Ln	819 Rambling Dr	\$280,000
50256 Jackson Ln	3427 Talbert Cir	\$50,000
2173 Lone Wolf Ln	2678 Tower Hill Ln	\$230,000
5908 Meadowview Dr	1651 W Avon Rd	\$285,000
41300 Northwind Dr	2476 W Tienken Rd	\$168,000
7484 Pointe Dr	1173 Whispering Knoll Ln	\$199,000
4156 Pond Run	259 Whitney Dr	\$172,000
3316 Riverside Ct	South Lyon	
42285 Trent Dr	1290 Coach House Ln	\$250,000
1630 Walnut Ridge Cir	23678 Lyon Ridge Dr	\$61,000
884 Wildwood Ln	Southfield	
42183 Woodcreek Ln	59433 Brentwood Ave	\$55,000
Garden City	29000 Town Ctr	\$35,000
973 Belton St	20400 Westhaven Ave	\$12,000
29503 Cambridge St	Troy	
5949 Gilman St	1316 Burns Dr	\$180,000
5747 Harrison St	1760 Carpenter Dr	\$452,000
29851 John Hawk St	2521 Cheswick Dr	\$259,000
29467 Meadow Ln	1868 Connolly Dr	\$482,000
31024 Rosslyn Ave	1372 Devon Ln	\$175,000
Livonia	172 Harrington Dr	\$240,000
14051 Alexander St	1165 Provincial Dr	\$575,000
9620 Arden St	2840 Vineyards Dr	\$1,300,000
14211 Berwick St	Walled Lake	
32969 Brookside Cir	442 Boardwalk Dr	\$112,000
12314 Camden St	3075 Brisbane St	\$51,000
17100 Dolores St	385 Cherry Grove Ln	\$215,000
33009 Fargo St	Waterford	
18636 Glengarry Dr	7670 Austere Dr	\$88,000
33146 Grenada St	2679 Desmond	\$36,000
28723 Jacquelyn Dr	1389 Glenview Dr	\$139,000
	3366 Harbours Blvd	\$241,000
	1126 La Salle Ave	\$68,000
	3592 Lakewood Dr	\$139,000
	1403 Laurel Lane	\$33,000
	4042 Louella Dr	\$50,000
	2160 Odette Dr	\$33,000
	7522 Pontiac Lake Rd	\$100,000
	5945 Rowley Dr	\$160,000
	West Bloomfield	
	7084 Autumn Hill Dr	\$505,000
	3146 Bloomfield Shore Dr	\$280,000
	7375 Creek View Ct	\$118,000
	7572 Glascoff Ave	\$48,000
	4521 Green Lake Rd	\$50,000
	2406 Island View Dr	\$125,000
	2920 Oakbrooke Ct	\$302,000
	6157 Orchard Lake Rd	\$76,000
	7162 Pebblecreek Rd	\$110,000
	6748 Woodside Trl	\$140,000
	White Lake	
	9757 Bonnie Briar St	\$135,000
	44 Hulbert	\$100,000

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PUZZLE CORNER

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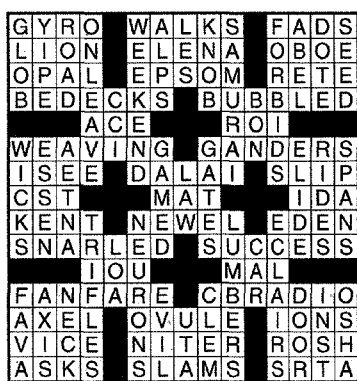
ACROSS

- 1 Gaming mecca
- 5 Pencil point
- 9 Pirates' base
- 13 Tune for a diva
- 14 Color of honey
- 16 German import
- 17 Agreement
- 18 Landscape
- 19 Canasta play
- 20 Flower holder
- 21 Use hair rollers
- 22 Sugarbush trees
- 24 Adams or McClurg
- 26 Rover's pal
- 27 Building exterior
- 30 Devotee's mags
- 34 Man or woman
- 35 Northern Iraqi
- 36 Folk wisdom
- 37 Be recumbent
- 38 Rudders
- 39 Worthless coin
- 40 R2D2's owner
- 42 Morays
- 43 Downhill racers
- 45 Fair
- 47 Soft leathers
- 48 Gear teeth
- 49 Office note
- 50 Discourse
- 53 Golfing peg
- 54 Hiking trail
- 58 Cyrus' realm, today
- 59 Wedding ritual

DOWN

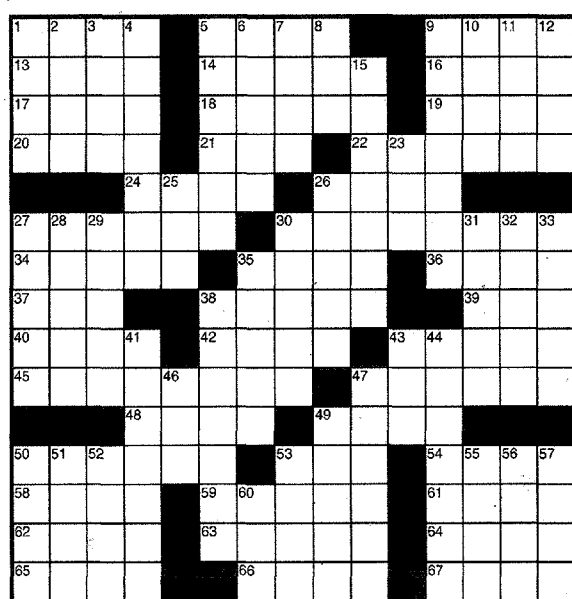
- 1 Talks to a beat
- 2 Latin I verb
- 3 Pleasant
- 4 Hot breakfast
- 5 Dog star
- 6 Sajak or Trebek
- 7 Foster a felon
- 8 Lion's quarters
- 9 Fuel for illumination (2 wds.)
- 10 Ayla's creator
- 11 While away
- 12 Disposes of
- 15 Jogs the memory
- 23 Cutting tool
- 25 Banned bug spray
- 26 Grows wheat
- 27 Niagara and Victoria
- 28 Parting word
- 29 Let know about (2 wds.)
- 30 Totally
- 31 Snooped around
- 32 Carve a gully

PREVIOUS PUZZLE SOLVED

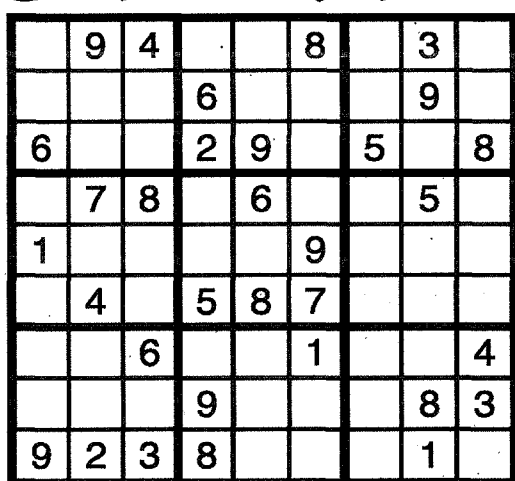


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33. Kiddie-lit author
35. Laments loudly
38. Mountains
41. Rises to a higher point
43. It may be tidy
44. Spotted cat
46. Ad — committee
47. Barely boil
49. Flat-topped hills
50. Prepare flour
51. Major-leaguers



SUDOKU



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FIND THESE WORDS IN THE PUZZLE BELOW.

BELL
CARVER
DIESEL

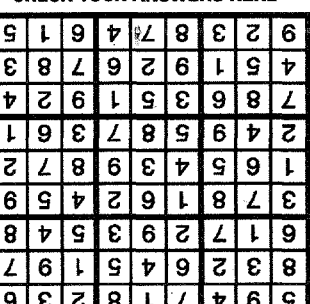
EDISON
FORD
MORSE

PASTEUR
WHITNEY
WRIGHT

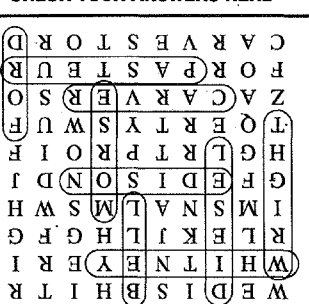
THE WORDS READ UP, DOWN, AND ACROSS.

W E D I S B H I T R
W H I T N E Y E R I
R L E K J L H G F G
I M S N A L M S W H
G F E D I S O N D J
H G L R T P R O I F
T Q E R T Y S W U F
Z A C A R V E R S O
F O R P A S T E U R
C A R V E S T O R D

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Observer office 41304 Concept Drive, Plymouth, MI 48170
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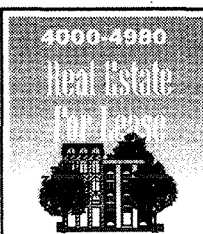
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PLYMOUTH PARK APTS
65 and older. 1 & 2 bdrm apts available starting at \$450/mo. including all util. (313) 350-1270

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Plymouth Rent Starting at \$449 FREE HEAT
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Apartment/Unfurnished

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\$300 security deposit. 50% OFF 1ST 3 MO. RENT with approved credit 1 & 2 bdrm, \$570 - \$705. 734-455-6570

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REDFORD
1st Month Free! Large 1 bdrm. C/A, storage Tons of closet space \$590 per mo. 734-721-6999 EHO www.cormorantco.com

Apartment/Unfurnished

WALLED LAKE-ON THE LAKE
1-3 bdrms starting at \$500. 1st mo free with approved credit. C/A. Close to 12 Oaks, schools & x-ways. (248) 624-5999

Apartment/Unfurnished

WESTLAND
1 bdrm w/appliances, private entrance, off street parking. \$475/mo. 248-892-0262

Apartment/Unfurnished

WESTLAND
2 bdrm, 1.5 bath, laundry hook-up & off street parking. \$600/mo. (248) 892-0262

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WESTLAND Apts From \$499*
Deposit from \$0! 1 & 2 Bdrms • Patio or Balcony • 24 Hr Emergency Maint. • Open 7 Days **WayneWood Apts** 734-326-8270, EHO *Conditions Apply www.wayneWOODapts.com

Westland Estates "WOW"

**1 Bdrms, \$475
2 Bdrms, \$615**

No fine print in this ad! -Heat/Water included -\$100 Application Fee -\$200 Deposit w/ Credit

New Resident's Only

734-722-4700
Mon.-Fri. 9am-7pm
Sat.-Sun. 10am-4pm

WESTLAND

First Month Free! 1 bdrm - \$460/mo. walk-in closet, private entry. Near Ford Plant 734-721-6999 EHO www.cormorantco.com

WESTLAND

Hickory Woods Apts. \$224 MOVE IN! 1st Month Rent Free (for qualified applicants) 1 Bdrm-\$550 2 Bdrm-\$625 FREE GAS AND WATER (734) 729-6520 *Short term leases avail.

Westland Park Apts.

FREE RENT
2 Bdrm, 1.5 Bath, \$565, 936 Sq. Ft. 1 Bdrm, \$490, 728 Sq. Ft. \$200 Security Deposit Heat and Water Incl (New residents only) with approved credit No Pets, C/A, Vertical Blinds, Intercom. Appliances include dishwasher. Very clean Apartments Excellent Maintenance (734) 729-6636

APARTMENTS

HOMETOWNlife.com

4000

Westland
VENOY PINES APTS.
Rent Starting
at \$549
• 1 & 2 bedroom apts.
with fireplace.
(734) 261-7394
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4010

WESTLAND: Private entry, nice
decor, utilities, internet. Non-
smoking. No pets. 1275/Ford.
\$420+ sec. 734-634-0542

4020

DETROIT
1 bdrm condo, 6 Mile/Grand
River area. \$475/mo. plus
deposit. 248-231-9566

4030

FARMINGTON HILLS -
Recently updated 1300 sq. ft.
2 full bed/bath, open floor
plan, \$990/mo. 248-760-1055

4040

TAYLOR: Gorgeous Ranch
Condo. Full bsmt, 2 car
garage, fireplace. Like new off
Pardee Rd. (248) 224-6696

4050

WOODHAVEN: 2 bdrm Condo.
Like new. Attached garage. Bad
Credit Maybe Okay. Available
Now. (248) 224-6696

4060

DUPLEXES

4070

FARMINGTON HILLS
1 bdrm. All appls. no pets.
Middlebelt/9 Mile area.
\$560/mo. + dep. 248-855-1265

4080

PLYMOUTH - Attractive upper
2 bdrm., a/c, carpeted, dish-
washer, \$695 + sec. Avail Jan.
1st. Call: (734) 453-1735

4090

HOMES FOR RENT

4100

CANTON
2550 sq.ft. like new! 4 bdrms,
2.5 baths, family room, living
room & dining room. fin.
bsmt. Sparkling clean! Large
lot. Avail. immediately. \$1650
Dan Mulligan, 734-524-9044;
call 313-300-0462.
REMAX CLASSIC

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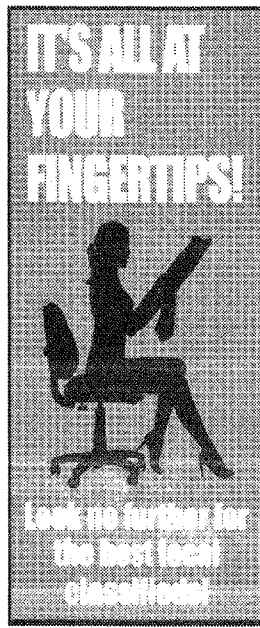
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MERCEDES-BENZ GL350, BOSCH TECHNOLOGY SHOW DIESEL'S FUTURE

Advertising Feature

CAReport



By Dale Buss

I've driven and written a lot about clean-diesel vehicles lately in these pages, because I really believe that the technology could become just as important as hybrid powertrains in the auto industry's accelerating drive toward a more fuel-efficient future.

Many of those miles have been spent in an impressive succession of 2007-through 2009-model vehicles that Robert Bosch LLC, the auto-industry supplier, had outfitted with its own clean-diesel powertrains. More on that later.

But until last week, I hadn't experienced the ultimate diesel-driving experience: a long trip on the open road. We took the family to Grandma's house in Wisconsin over Thanksgiving weekend in the new Mercedes-Benz GL350 BlueTec, the clean-diesel version of this fantastic SUV, and the best attribute of this new type of powertrain came through with flying colors.

The fuel efficiency and range of the GL 350 BlueTec were superb, and so was its acceleration and overall performance in every aspect of the trip. The GL350 is impressive enough in any version. It's a seven-passenger vehicle that offers all of the best of what Mercedes-Benz has come to mean in the luxury segment.

The ride was comfortable without being marshmallow-y. Sunroofs above the

first and third rows of seating welcomed in the (gloomy) November skies. The rain-sensing intermittent windshield wipers came in really handy while driving through Chicago, both coming and going, where there seems to be a permanent raincloud on the horizon.

With four adults in the vehicle, separate second-row climate controls also became something we couldn't get along without. I also can't say enough about the eight-speaker audio system with automatic speed-based volume adjustment; listening to Il Divo's Christmas album while rumbling across Indiana in the GL350 was magical!

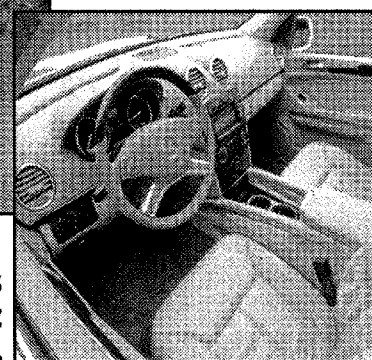
But by far the best part of the experience was not having to stop every few hours for gasoline. Mercedes-Benz and other German luxury makes are touting the range of their clean-diesel vehicles as their most attractive feature, and so I was eager to test out this attribute with the GL350.

I wasn't disappointed. The vehicle has a mammoth 26.4-gallon gasoline tank to begin with. And even with four adults and way too much luggage in the vehicle for the whole time, over the course of a round trip that stretched out to nearly 1,200 miles, I only had to make two meaningful stops for diesel fuel.

All told, I figure I averaged



The Mercedes-Benz GL350 BlueTec boasts clean-diesel technology under its stylish hood.



Inside, the GL350 BlueTec sports classic Mercedes-Benz styling and amenities.

somewhere over 23 mpg on the trip, which is exactly what Mercedes-Benz says that you'll get – within a range of 19 mpg to 27 mpg on the highway for most drivers. That's a remarkable number for a vehicle with a curb weight of 5,423 pounds, further encumbered another 600 pounds of human cargo and a few hundred pounds of gear.

For me, then, the GL350 BlueTec passed the ultimate test of clean-diesel worthiness with flying colors.

Meanwhile, too, the Thanksgiving trip further validated what I had been experiencing in Bosch's diesel-powered vehicles over the previous several weeks in and around metro Detroit. Successively, I drove a Honda CR-V, a Volkswagen Jetta, a Mercedes-Benz ML320, and a BMW X-5, and found each of them providing further confirmation that clean diesel could be a game-changer in the U.S. car market – especially if it can find its way into more and more mainstream-market vehicles like the Jetta.

Obviously, green-oriented observers agree. The 2010 Volkswagen Golf TDI and 2010 Audi A3 TDI – both clean diesel

passenger vehicles – claimed two of the five nominations as finalists for Green Car Journal's 2010 Green Car of the Year award. That means that vehicles using clean diesel technology supplied by Bosch have been named as finalists for this prestigious award for the second year in a row. Winners were to be announced at the Los Angeles Auto Show.

The Volkswagen Golf's and Audi A3's turbocharged direct injection (TDI) engines use the latest generation of Bosch clean diesel common rail system, capable of up to 1800 bar (nearly 30,000 psi) and multiple (up to five) pre- and post-injections through piezo-electric injectors.

"The fact that not just one but two diesels earned nominations this year, after the Jetta TDI won the 2009 Green Car of the Year, speaks volumes to the increased popularity of clean diesel in this country," said Bernd Boisten, regional president, diesel systems North America, Robert Bosch LLC. "More so than ever, Americans have come to recognize the numerous benefits that clean diesel vehicles offer."

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