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Newspapers

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75 CENTS

Local leaders wish for the best in 2010 - A6

CANTON OBSERVER

online at hometownlife.com



All-Area Swim Team - B2

IN BRIEF

Board meets

The Plymouth-Canton Board of Education gets together at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 6, for its 2010 organizational meeting, which will include the election of officers. The meeting will be followed by a closed session for contract negotiations. The meeting takes place at the E.J. McClendon Center, 454 S. Harvey, in Plymouth.

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 Monday. The exhibit contains many of the different specialty toys and artifacts that have been included in the Happy Meal since its introduction. The Canton Public Library is at 1200 S. Canton Center in Canton.

Widowed persons

Widowed Friends, a peer group offering social and spiritual support, is inviting widowed men and women to celebrate Mass at 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 17, at St. Thomas a Beckett Parish, 555 S. Lilley Road. Mass will be followed by fellowship, refreshments, information about upcoming activities and an opportunity to meet new friends.

For more information, call Pat at (734) 895-6246.

Volunteers

Compassionate Care Hospice is a community-based organization committed to providing hospice care for patients and their families. The group is seeking caring and dedicated people to provide support by being a friendly visitor to patients in the western Wayne County area. Training is provided.

For more information, contact Ann Christensen, volunteer coordinator, toll-free at (888) 983-9050 or e-mail her at achristensen@cchnet.net.

Chamber lunch

The Canton Chamber of Commerce luncheon "Who's Who and What Can I Do?" takes place at 11 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 6, at Summit on the Park in Canton.

Participants will learn how to get more involved in the chamber, with booths set up before the luncheon with information about committees and upcoming events. There will be opportunities to sign up or volunteer for events such as the auction, Grub Crawl, golf, Relay for Life, speakers and networking.

Cost is \$20 for member preregistration, \$25 for member walk-ins; and \$30 for non-members. Reservations are required; call the chamber office at (734) 453-4040.

Cities to study Ford Road traffic, safety

BY LEANNE ROGERS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

On the heels of an earlier traffic study of Ford Road in Canton, officials elsewhere have joined another effort to examine traffic flow and safety beginning early this year.

Westland, Garden City and other neighboring communities will participate in the Ford Road Access Management Study along with the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments and the Michigan Department of Transportation.

The latest study comes as Canton officials await word on whether MDOT will receive a \$20.3 million federal TIGER (Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery) grant to reshape the

Ford/I-275 interchange.

The proposed TIGER project involves allowing motorists using the southbound I-275 exit to access Haggerty via new ramps, without having to get on to Ford. It also calls for a new northbound service drive along the east side of I-275, starting at Cherry Hill and merging on to I-275 north of Ford Road. Officials say the plan would help motorists in Canton, Plymouth Township and other communities.

The newer study involving Westland and other communities will follow the earlier study that cited problems along the heavily traveled thoroughfare, particularly in Canton.

"We received requests from various communities in the corridor for an access management study," said Carmine Palombo, SEMCOG director of transpor-

tation planning. "We look at the traffic situation on the corridor and low-cost solutions for better traffic flow and safety."

The committee will begin meeting in January and Palombo said he expects it will take several months for the study to be completed. Part of the process is ensuring the study doesn't end up sitting on someone's desk gathering dust.

"There is a lot to be looked at. It is up to the communities to a large extent. One of the requirements is that each community had to sign an agreement that they will try and implement the results," Palombo said. "They might need changes in their zoning ordinances or a brand-new ordinance."

Please see **TRAFFIC, A11**



Ford Road and Haggerty is Canton Township's most dangerous intersection.

New year, new you: Get fit on a budget



Events at Summit on the Park include Hoop Shoot competitions.

BY DIANE GALE ANDREASSI
CORRESPONDENT

Getting healthy and fit on a budget means flexing brain muscle and finding alternatives in these lean economic days.

If you think you have no time to exercise, Monica Pagels, exercise physiologist at the Botsford Center for Health Improvement in Novi, will prove you wrong. She makes every minute count, with ideas like alternating standing on one leg, then the other, while cooking dinner.

"If you're waiting for the microwave to ding, you can do one-minute squats or 30 seconds of leg kicks on each leg," she said.

She even has "couch potatoes" moving. Pagels recommends getting up during commercials and walking around the room, going up and down steps or lying on the floor and doing abdominal curls.

"Think of any way to stay on your feet and keep moving while you're doing everyday activities," she said.

A lot of little things, like parking far away from the door at the mall and taking the steps instead of the elevator, add up.

"In the winter months we are minimizing our activities because we don't want to be cold," Pagels said.

Walking is her No. 1 pick for exercising on the cheap.

"It's a total body exercise that builds endurance, lowers blood pressure and



Swimmers at Canton's Summit on the Park enjoy the pool.

cholesterol and minimizes joint pain," she said. "If you're dressed appropriately, you can walk outdoors year (round). Walking is virtually free if you already have the shoes and right clothing."

Nicole Vivoda, Garden City Hospital exercise physiologist, says pick something you enjoy doing because you are more likely to keep it up.

It's just a matter of finding the programs. Check out an exercise program at the local library.

Warm up before you start any exercise — even walking. It raises your heart rate, warms up muscles, increases blood pressure and reduces the chance of muscle injury. Make sure you drink plenty of water to maintain hydration.

While exercise is key, proper food intake is just as important.

Avoid convenience foods, says Linda Main, Garden City Hospital coordi-

nator of patient services, registered dietitian and food and nutrition manager.

"They're quick and usually higher priced, higher in sodium and fat and sometimes higher in sugar," Main said. "We recommend using fresh fruits and leaner cuts of beef. Look for items you can prepare yourself, like pasta, rice, potatoes as opposed to picking up box mixes."

Try to buy fruits and vegetables when they're in season and, when they aren't, buy them in cans. Make sure the fruits aren't in marinades.

Main recommends using a crock pot, which tenderizes tougher cuts of meat that are usually lower in fat, healthier and cheaper.

Annie House, registered dietitian and certified diabetes educator at Botsford Hospital Diabetes and Nutrition Services, says planning menus and making a shopping list are essential. Look for coupons and make

sure you get the store's reward cards, she added.

Think twice before purchasing food in bulk because if you throw it away, you lose money. Having a lot of food in the pantry means there's something to pop in your mouth when you aren't hungry. Buying bulk food can lead to bigger portion sizes, too.

"Get in the habit of buying what you know you will eat," said House, who also recommends diligently reading food labels. "Being informed will go a long way for general health."

When you're buying staples, like milk and cereal, ask yourself, "Could I be making a better choice?" Choosing skimmed milk instead of 2 percent and picking Cheerios instead of Frosted Flakes are small healthy changes that make big differences in your blood sugar and cholesterol levels.

Please see **FITNESS, A10**

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'One Community, One Voice' to honor MLK

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Nearly 41 years after he was shot dead outside a Memphis, Tenn., motel, civil rights pioneer the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. — and his lingering message of racial equality — will be remembered and celebrated in Canton.

A free event dubbed "One Community, One Voice" will return Jan. 18 for a fifth year to the Village Theater at Cherry Hill — the third Monday in January that marks the day the nation observes King's birthday.

King, slain at age 39, would have celebrated his 80th birthday this year if he were still alive. A Nobel Peace Prize winner who made his famous "I Have a Dream" speech during the 1963 March on Washington,

he will be honored during a program starting at 6 p.m. Doors will open at 5:30 p.m. The Village Theater is at 50400 Cherry Hill between Denton and Ridge roads.

"It's a great evening to celebrate the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. as a family," said Jennifer Tobin, Canton arts coordinator.

This year's event comes as one local group, Plymouth-Canton Citizens for Diversity and Inclusion, has stepped up efforts to push for better recruiting efforts by local government officials to make the local workforce, including the Canton Public Safety Department, more reflective of the increasingly diverse community it serves. The group's president, Anne Marie Graham-Hudak, said the inclusion group

will join the Jan. 18 celebration.

"We are really encouraging people of all faiths and cultures to show up for this event and celebrate it together," she said. "I think this is very good for the community. It promotes what the Plymouth-Canton area is all about. We should all recognize the importance of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and his leadership in becoming one community."

The event will include performances by Kevin Collins, who Tobin said specializes in African drums and dance, and Robert B. Jones and Matt Watroba, who sing and play instruments during what local officials describe as an award-winning, family friendly program.

Please see **MLK, A11**

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Pinocchio on stage

Enjoy a musical adaptation of "Pinocchio" at the Historic Marquis Theatre in downtown Northville through Jan. 24.

"Pinocchio" is the story of how a wooden puppet, lovingly hand-carved by Gepetto the toymaker, becomes a real boy.

Performances are Saturdays, Jan. 9, Jan. 16 and Jan. 23 and Sundays Jan. 3, Jan. 10, Jan. 17, Jan. 24. All performances are at 2:30 p.m.

Tickets for all performances are \$8.50 each (no children under the age of 3). Group rates and reserved seating for 20 or more. Birthday parties and Scout days available.

For more information, call the Marquis Theatre at (248) 349-8110 or visit www.northvillemarquistheatre.com.

Winter classes

Canton residents can begin registering for Winter 2010 Leisure Services programs and classes online starting Wednesday, Jan. 6, at 6 p.m. Interested individuals can register at www.cantonfun.org, where complete course descriptions are also avail-

able in the Discover brochure. Printed Discover brochures are also available at the Summit on the Park, located at 46000 Summit Parkway and were mailed out earlier in the month to Canton residents.

For online registration, a preset username and password is no longer required. However, if you have registered online in the past, your username and password are still valid and will expedite your registration process at www.active.com, which can be accessed from the Leisure Services' website.

In person registration starts Thursday, Jan. 7, at 9 a.m. at the Summit on the Park. Proof of residency will also be required for in-person registration. Due to the large number of participants utilizing online program registration, registration fast passes will no longer be necessary for in-person registration. Visit the Summit on the Park at a time that is convenient for you to register for the program(s) of your choice, during business hours: Mondays-Fridays 5:30 a.m. to 11 p.m., Saturdays 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Sundays 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. Since online registration

will begin 15 hours prior to in-person registration, some classes may be filled to capacity at the start of in person registration.

For more information on Canton Leisure Services Winter 2010 registration, visit Cantonfun.org and download the Winter 2010 Discover Brochure or call (734) 394-5460.

Melissa Behring

Enjoy a stylish night of mesmerizing music as the Melissa Behring Project performs at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill on Friday, Jan. 8. This popular group delivers a perfect balance between smoky "torch" jazz standards and a fresh approach to many familiar tunes while featuring the sultry songstress Melissa Behring and jazz pianist Neil Donato. This ensemble also draws on Detroit's finest assortment of jazz musicians, presenting a contemporary jazz quartet in a traditional format.

The Melissa Behring Project offers up classic songs by Cole Porter and Johnny Mercer. They also incorporate more mainstream songs by artists

such as Prince and Sade and put their own jazz interpretation into it. Each musician that makes up the components of the Project offers a creative spark of talent that forms one fluid motion of music.

This delightful night of music will start at 8 p.m. and all seats are \$12. This and all First Friday Studio Series performances are general admission and will take place in the Biltmore Studio, an intimate setting for enjoying live music. A cash bar will also be available.

To purchase tickets or to download the entire season schedule, visit www.cantonvillage theater.org. Tickets can also be purchased at Summit on the Park by phone at (734) 394-5460 or in person. The Summit's box office hours are: Monday-Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. To purchase tickets at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill box office (50400 Cherry Hill in Canton), stop by during box office hours: Monday-Friday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The Village Theater ticket office will also be open one hour prior to each performance.



Hope for holidays

Every Holiday season, the employees of United Home Health Services, a local not-for-profit home health care company, combine their resources to help people in need in the community. This year, with the help of Hope Healthcare Center's social work and activities department, they chose nine residents there who needed some holiday cheer. United's elves got busy shopping, wrapping, and sorting and were able to provide clothes, toiletries, gift cards, movie videos, snack food, and hats according to each resident's wish list. They also made a \$100 donation to the activities department in order to purchase needed equipment.

Estate Professional Education Group, LLC is located at 44025 Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth.

Total class cost is \$50 and it includes all materials. For more information, a reservation or to schedule a private interview, call Chris or Judy, (734) 459-6222, or e-mail info@remericahometown.com

100 Days to Health

Canton's 100 Days to Health, a community-wide wellness education and awareness campaign designed to encourage healthy lifestyles, is set to kick off Saturday, Jan. 16. Get the support and education you need and find your fitness fit during this community program which commences between 9-11 a.m. in the Grand Ballroom and in various classrooms of the Summit on the Park, located at 46000 Summit Parkway.

Participants can meet some of the Summit's instructors and test out a few of the great fitness classes offered. All ages can enjoy special aerobics classes at 8:30 a.m.; 9:30 a.m.; and 10:30 a.m. Join us for a light breakfast and have

all your 100 Days to Health questions answered in the ballroom.

Canton Leisure Services and Oakwood Healthcare System have partnered together to promote healthy living and community wellness in this special program. Staff from Oakwood Healthcare System will be on hand during the kickoff providing health screenings, including: blood pressure, cholesterol and blood sugar levels.

Register now for Canton's 100 Days to Health 2010 at the Summit front desk or at the 100 Days Kickoff Event Jan. 16. Registration fees for Canton residents are: \$15 for adults 16 and up and \$5 for youth ages 4 and up. Non-resident fees are \$25 for adults 16 and up and \$5 for youth ages 4 and above. There is no charge for children under 3 years of age. Once registered, you'll have access to all classes and events on the 100 Days to Health calendar for free.

To learn more about 100 Days to Health program, visit www.canton-mi.org or call (734) 394-5460.

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Adolescent depression

The Plymouth District Library welcomes Melvin G. McInnis, M.D., of the U-M Depression Center as he presents vital information about the causes and symptoms of adolescent depression and bipolar disorder in a program set for 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 12.

Program highlights will include how to recognize the difference between typical adolescent behavior and a depressive illness, along with a question and answer period. Registration is required for this free program.

Call (734) 453-0750, ext. 4 or visit plymouthlibrary.org. The library is located at 223 S. Main St. in downtown Plymouth.

Real estate training

Out of a job? Changing careers? Become a real estate agent and be ready for the upcoming real estate boom.

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Flying Latini Brothers to perform on Jan. 9

John Latini and The Flying Latini Brothers will appear in concert at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill at 8 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 9.

This high-energy concert, presented by Smokin' Sladdog Records, features regional favorite John Latini, whose songwriting, musical versatility and personality have won him numerous music awards and nominations.

With The Flying Latini Brothers, he performs what organizers describe as a powerful and captivating show that demonstrates a wide variety of music including blues, rock, folk and jazz standards.

The Flying Latini Brothers consist of Latini's real-life brother Jim Latini on drums, John Sperendi on bass and Neil Donato playing keys.

Most recently John Latini was named the Detroit Blues Challenge winner in the solo/duo division for the second year in a row, for 2008 and 2009. He will travel to



John Latini and The Flying Latini Brothers will perform a high-energy concert at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill Jan. 9.

Memphis, Tenn., to represent The Detroit Blues Society and compete in The International Blues Challenge on Jan. 23.

Latini also has been the recipient of several songwriting awards in Michigan, Texas and North Carolina. Shortly after returning from a tour to Colorado at the end of October, he was named one of seven finalists in the "A Winter's Tune" contest. He also has been nominated in more than 10 categories in the Detroit Music Awards.

Tickets for the show in the Village Theater's Biltmore Studio are \$15 and are on sale now at www.cantonvillage-theater.org or by calling (734) 394-5460. The Village

Theater is at 50400 Cherry Hill Road, between Denton and Ridge.

For more information, log onto www.cantonvillage-theater.org.

Specialty sports retailer heading downtown

BY MATT JACHMAN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A longtime Ann Arbor retailer of specialty sporting goods is expanding into downtown Plymouth early this year.

Sun & Snow Sports, which sells downhill and cross country skis, snowshoes and snowboards, cold-weather clothing and gear, plus swimwear and equipment for kayaking and canoeing, is planning to open a second location on the corner of Main Street and Ann Arbor Trail.

Sun & Snow will go into the spaces formerly occupied by Michigan Made & More and the Parkside Gallery, both of which closed last month. The two spaces are connected by an interior door.

Heidi Parent, who manages the Ann Arbor store with her husband, Rob, said they live in the Plymouth area, and that expanding Sun & Snow

in town seemed like a good fit.

"We've always been considering a second location," Parent said. "We love the downtown area and this spot opened up and it became a great opportunity."

Parent said some interior work needs to be done, but that Sun & Snow should be open in Plymouth by March 1 at the latest.

Although Sun & Snow offers equipment for swimming, kayaking and canoeing, it's the cold-weather sports, like downhill skiing and snowboarding, that bring its busiest season, Parent said.

"We're in the middle of it right now," she said.

Sun & Snow has twice-a-year ski swaps, which give customers the chance to buy second-hand gear, and also has an equipment rental service.

mjachman@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-2405

Grief seminar

Harry J. Will Funeral Home sponsors a one day grief seminar, From Grief to New Hope, 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Jan. 9. This workshop will be conducted by John O'Shaughnessy from New Hope Center for Grief Support.

All adults who are learning to cope after the death of a loved one are encouraged to attend.

There is no charge for the seminar which is open to the public and refreshments will be served. Harry J. Will Funeral Home is located at 37000 Six Mile Road in Livonia.

For registration information call New Hope Center for Grief Support at (248) 348-0115 or view our Web site www.newhopecenter.net

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Humane Society needs volunteers

BY SUE BUCK
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The Michigan Humane Society has room for all types of volunteers.

From taking a dog for a walk, socializing and exercising a cat who has been pent up all day, to other ways,

Jennifer Robertson, an MHS spokeswoman, has some suggestions.

MHS is in need of volunteers to assist with many positions, including caring for animals at the adoption centers, assisting at special events and providing foster care for animals.

Those who enjoy technology can also take photos of animals and create online Petfinder profiles.

Others can do adoption counseling for the off-site adoption program.

"Two of the key volunteer programs that are most in need of assistance are the 'In-Home Heroes' foster program, and the off-site adoption program," Robertson said.

The "In-Home Heroes" foster program is a program through which foster volunteers provide short-term, in-home care to animals who may need a little extra time and TLC before being placed for adoption.

"The average span of an animal's stay is two to three weeks, and animals may need to be fostered for a variety of reasons, such as illness, recovery from surgery, weight gain or socialization in a home environment," Robertson said. "Volunteers are able to greatly impact the lives of the animals they care for, as well as help create additional space for other animals at MHS adoption centers."

The centers are in Westland, Detroit and Rochester Hills.

The MHS has off-site adoption partnerships with PetSmart locations in Roseville, Taylor and Rochester Hills. Each of the stores has a specific area where MHS cats are available for adoption. Volunteers assist at each of the locations

as adoption counselors. They meet with potential adopters, familiarizing themselves with the adoptable cats so as to best match them with a family's home and lifestyle. In addition to counseling prospective adopters, volunteers interact with the cats, providing them with playtime, petting, grooming and socialization.

She called the off-site adoption program "a fantastic way" to reach out to adopters in new communities, and help them meet the "wonderful" MHS animals looking for a loving home.

"Volunteers play an integral role in the success, and anticipated future growth, of the program," Robertson said.

At the Berman Center for Animal Care in Westland, in a month's time, there are about 80 volunteers donating their time to help MHS provide high-quality animal care and ensure mental and social enrichment for the animals.

Depending on the volunteer position chosen, the schedule

can be flexible. "We do typically ask for a four-month commitment with a two-hour shift donated weekly," Robertson said. "Children between the ages of 14 and 17 must be accompanied by a parent, guardian or parent-approved mentor if they choose to volunteer in one of the three MHS adoption centers. All potential volunteers are required to attend a Volunteer Welcome Meeting."

Those meeting schedules are available online at www.michiganhumane.org in the volunteer section of the Web site.

"Volunteering with animals can be an incredible rewarding and enriching experience," Robertson said. "It feels good to give back, and to know that you are positively impacting the life of a homeless animal while he or she waits to meet their forever family."

For more information, call the administrative office at (248) 283-1000.

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What's better than a handful of kittens? Sunny Osborn, a volunteer foster parent for the animals at the Westland shelter, happily shows off two cute kittens available for adoption.

Behold the cold: Area offers great winter outdoor fun

BY AILEEN WINGBLAD
STAFF WRITER

Baby, it's cold outside! But that doesn't mean you have to hole up indoors until the spring thaw.

Take a tip from snowboarders and skiing enthusiasts who eagerly anticipate wintertime: Celebrate the white stuff. Don't shun the snow, embrace it — or at least use it to have some fun.

And you don't have to travel far to do it.

HITTING THE SLOPES

"I pretty much think about snowboarding all year. I can't wait for the snow to fall," said Rachel Anderson, 16, of White Lake with a grin.

Rachel strapped on her first pair of downhill skis at age 4, but

switched over to snowboarding when she was in seventh grade. She counts the slopes in Colorado and Northern Michigan among her favorites, but said Alpine Valley Resort in White Lake offers a great local alternative.

During the winter months, she's there almost every day.

"It just gives me that feeling in my gut — racing, free and fun," Rachel said. "They have pretty good jumps, and it's the place my friends always go."

Alpine Valley, located off M-59 at Bogie Lake Road, offers 25 tree-lined slopes for various skill levels, nine chair lifts, four rope tows, four terrain parks — with boxes, rails, half-pipes and more to challenge skiers and snowboarders — and a "magic carpet" conveyor belt to transport beginner skiers to the

top of the bunny hill.

Lessons and equipment rentals are available at Alpine Valley, as well. For rates, snow base levels and other information, call (248) 887-4183 or visit www.skialpine.com.

CROSS COUNTRY EXPERIENCE

Despite the popularity of Alpine Valley Resort, soaring down White Lake's version of a snow and ice mountain isn't for everybody.

For a tamer outdoor winter experience close to home, consider cross country skiing. Local spots with varied terrain include Maybury State Park in Northville and Proud Lake State Recreation Area in Commerce, as well as Kensington and Indian Springs Metroparks.

"We get a lot of cross country

skiers, especially on the weekends," said Tom Bissett, Maybury's park supervisor. "We have a very loyal and dedicated following of cross country skiers — people who come back here year after year, and lots of families."

Bissett said Maybury is the only state park in Michigan that sells more motor vehicle permits in the winter months than in the summer months. People enjoy Maybury's convenient location on Beck Road south of Eight Mile, and the park's 10 miles of groomed and tracked cross country ski trails that travel throughout the hills, wooded areas and open fields. Tracked trails are grooved for skis.

"Part of the attraction of cross country skiing is you can get out and do some exercise in the winter, rather than sitting around

indoors," Bissett said. "Compared to running, it has less impact on the joints, and you can do it when conditions out there aren't the best for running. When there's snow and ice, you worry about slipping and sliding. But with cross country skiing, you are sliding along on purpose."

Maybury's park hours are 8 a.m. to dusk.

There's no fee to use the trails at Maybury, Proud Lake, Kensington or Indian Springs, but a state park or Metropark motor vehicle permit — whichever applies — is required for entry.


Cross country ski equipment rental is available at the REI store in Northville and Kensington Metropark.

EASY DOES IT

Of course, if you're looking to

keep it really simple, nothing beats the time-honored winter diversion — sledding. Bundle up, grab the saucer, inflatable or wooden classic, and then head to one of the area's top sledding sites.

Kensington Metropark offers a terrific sledding spot at the Orchard picnic area, where visitors will find beginning, intermediate and advanced hills, as well as a special bunny hill for the youngest sledgers. Snowboards are prohibited, though, and saucers and inflatables aren't allowed on the advanced hills. Hours are 11 a.m. to dusk on weekdays, and 10 a.m. to dusk on weekends, weather permitting. Contact the park office at (800) 477-3189 for hill conditions and additional information.



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100 years apart, panoramas depict changes, and stability, in Plymouth

BY MATT JACHMAN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A photograph of downtown Plymouth that reaches back 100 years, to the city's 1909 Fourth of July festivities, began life as a picture postcard.

From a vantage point on Penniman east of Main Street, photographer C.J. Draper's panorama captures hundreds of people in Kellogg Park, on Penniman and on Main, where the main attraction is a "water battle" between the Plymouth and Northville fire departments.

There are people milling about in the street, gathered on the front porches of businesses on Penniman, and watching from second-floor windows of buildings on Main.

While parts of the scene are recognizable — some of the buildings are standing today — many details are from a bygone era: horses and buggies, streetcar tracks, ladies in large hats, boys in knickers.

Ninety-nine-year-old Margaret Dunning can recall the era.

Born the following year, Dunning has a vivid childhood memory of seeing a water battle — each team tried to push the other back with blasts from fire hoses — like the one depicted.

"It was a big amusement to start out the Fourth of July that way," Dunning said at her home Tuesday. "It was a big amusement for me. I was just wild about it."

Even then, Dunning said, people in Plymouth found diverse ways to celebrate and have a good time.

"I remember back at about that time that we had a lot of fun and activities in town," she said, recalling concerts, plays, dances and baseball games. "I think people enjoy getting together."

Dunning can name two people in the foreground of the photograph — George



Downtown Plymouth on July 4, 1909, in a panoramic photograph by C.J. Draper, who would have been positioned on Penniman east of Main Street. The crowd is gathered to watch the Independence Day entertainment of the time — a water battle between the Plymouth and Northville fire departments, which is centered around the intersection of Main and Penniman. According to 99-year-old Margaret Dunning, this was one of four panoramas of Plymouth that Draper sold as picture postcards for 4 cents each.



Another panoramic shot taken from the same vantage point 100 years later — July 4, 2009. The crowd is gathered for the Kiwanis Good Morning U.S.A. Fourth of July Parade, part of which can be seen at the far right on Main Street. Photographer Bill Bresler took seven digital images and stitched them together with Photoshop. Note the 1898 Conner Building (with the turret and the red awning), one of the buildings shown in the 1909 original.

Wilcox, of one of the city's most prominent families, and a man named Hubbell, who, she said, ran the Detroit Edison office in town.

A giant version of the panorama is displayed on a wall in the basement of the Plymouth Historical Museum.

The photo was obtained by the museum from Clarence Moore, a local industrialist, who got it from a Frank Henderson, who had purchased it as a picture postcard for four cents when he was a boy, saving up money from his job delivering newspapers, Dunning said.

The photograph, she said, was one of four panoramas

of Plymouth taken by Draper and turned into extra-wide postcards. She doesn't know what happened to the other three shots.

"I always heard them talked about, but I've never seen them," Dunning said.

And what would the people in the panorama say about the Plymouth of today?

"I'm afraid they wouldn't even recognize Plymouth," Dunning said. From the downtown area a century ago, she added, open land could be seen, but that land has all been developed. "So many buildings have come in since."

Observer photographer

Bill Bresler, who has been covering Plymouth for more than 30 years, says the idea of reshooting the same scene 100 years later came to him while he was studying the panorama in the early 1990s.

Digital photography was in its infancy then, Bresler said, so he assumed he'd use film, which would mean a painstaking splicing process. Or, he said, he could use a specialty camera made for panoramas,



Margaret Dunning, 99, a benefactor of the Plymouth Historical Museum, remembers Fourth of July water battles like the one in the 1909 picture postcard.

maybe even one owned by the museum. That, he said, would mean a lot of darkroom work.

In recent years, however, Bresler realized the evolution of digital photography had made it a good alternative.

"Perhaps using a film panoramic camera would be a way of honoring the original photographer's work, but the more I thought about it, the more I realized that a digital image would be best," Bresler said. "The original photographer used state-of-the-art equipment back in 1910. I should, too."

Bresler says he had nearly forgotten about the project, but remembered it while photographing the Kiwanis Good Morning U.S.A. Fourth of July Parade last summer.

He jumped on a planter, he said, and shot seven overlapping shots, without using a tripod.

"I downloaded the photos and stitched them together using Photoshop. Pretty simple," Bresler said.

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Local leaders wish for the best in 2010

The dismal state of the economy is at the forefront of some hopeful, perhaps wishful thinking by public officials in western Wayne County.

As 2009 draws to a close and the new year dawns on metro Detroit, officials are cautiously optimistic that better days are ahead. But, they realize the new year will bring a new set of challenges and hard work to achieve the goals they're resolving for 2010.

Here's a recap of some of the New Year's resolutions offered by various public officials in the area.

CANTON TOWNSHIP

Canton Township Supervisor Phil LaJoy said local New Year's resolutions include efforts to "implement a multi-year budget process, thus increasing transparency; attract new companies and business to the community,



FILE PHOTO

Canton Township Supervisor Phil LaJoy's New Year's resolutions include efforts to attract new companies and business to the community.

thereby creating jobs and a larger tax base; work with business and community leaders to join resources to deal with the community's hardships in these difficult economic times; keep our community one of the safest in the entire nation; work on finding ways to ease traffic congestion on Ford Road; continue to look for efficiencies and be

proactive in our approach; and continue to provide a high quality of life for Canton residents."

PLYMOUTH

Plymouth Mayor Dan Dwyer says he resolves to "find ways to balance our budget with minimal impact to the residents."

Some partnerships with other communities will help the city move toward that goal, such as a recent agreement with Northville to share the cost of software. Further regionalization of transportation services for senior citizens, for which the city now partners with Plymouth Township, is also being studied for possible savings, Dwyer said.

Dwyer and other Plymouth



Dan Dwyer

City Commission members will also be looking for ways to save money in the way public safety services — police, firefighting and emergency medical services — are delivered, after a consultant's study on those services is completed in 2010.

Any personal resolutions?

"I'm not a big New Year's resolution guy. ... I wish I had a cool one," said Dwyer.

Such as?

"Get in a rock band."

LIVONIA

Mayor Jack Kirksey said his New Year's resolution is:

"To keep working with everybody and get through this economic crisis and look for better days ahead."

Livonia City Council President-elect Jim McCann shared his thoughts on New Year's resolutions:

"I have not made resolutions for the New Year. The habit of making resolutions, of criticizing and molding my life, is too much of a daily event for me. I promise to get back to reporters quicker."

Bill Joyner, former county commissioner and founder of Livonia 1835 Hall of Fame, offered the following New Year's resolutions:

"1. Say goodbye forever to that which is closest to me — 40 pounds I have had for too many years.

2. Say hello daily to those who are closest to me — mom and dad who have been with me for 60 of their 90 years, my son Paul who has been with me for 32 years and my bodyguard who keeps me out of trouble daily.

3. Say good morning twice a week to my hometown paper — the *Livonia Observer* who has been my community connection for 50 years.

4. Say good bye to any candidate having outside groups run negative campaigns.

5. Say Happy 175th Birthday Livonia every day by setting out to explore the town I call home."

Brian Wilson, superintendent of Public Service for the city of Livonia also offered a personal resolution for the new year: "Try

to not lose the sense of wonder and curiosity about our world and all that goes on in it."

State Rep. John Walsh, R-Livonia, offered resolutions on two levels:

"On a personal basis, I'm resolving to reconnect with old friends. On a professional level, one of the first things I will work on is the Michigan Business Tax surcharge and find a way to get rid of it. I will work on long-term solutions with people like state Senator Glenn Anderson for long-term solutions for the state."

LIVONIA SCHOOLS

Livonia school board president Lynda Scheel has a resolution for 2010:

"I have a wish. The wish would be for funding for public school districts to be improved. The resolution would be to work toward that and continue working with all of our employees, parents and community members to help keep Livonia Public Schools the best they can be."

REDFORD

South Redford Schools Superintendent Linda Hicks has a resolution for the new year:

"South Redford School District students will be prepared to compete globally, be continuous learners and healthy, productive, responsible citizens. Throughout our many challenges, we will keep our mission our focus."

WESTLAND

Westland Council President James Godbout cited some things he'd like to see happen in Westland during 2010:

- The re-opening of Central City Park
- Redevelopment/reuse of the old Sam's Club, Best Buy and Quo Vadis sites.
- Continue to attract new business development.
- Have the State of Michigan restore the city's funding to its proper level.
- Balance the 2010-2011 budget without significant layoffs or reduction in services.

"There are many other items that need to be addressed such as city hall, roads, water, sewer and technology infrastructure that are longer range projects and needs, but we should begin the dialogue on them in 2010," he said.

GARDEN CITY

Garden City sets goals based on its fiscal year which begins July 1 rather than on a calendar year, said City Manager David Harvey, adding the first goal-setting session for 2010-11 is slated for Jan. 4.

"Last year's goals for the budget were to seek out opportunities with other entities for shared services including the schools. We have several operating agreements already so I have not made any additional agreements this year but it is a continuing goal," he said. "We have been actively talking to the schools about many areas such as gasoline purchases and office product purchases. That will continue into the next year."

A goal in the current fiscal year was not utilize to the \$488,000 fund balance transfer planned for the budget. "The early retirements were one way to accomplish that, however, the \$500,000 reduction in state shared revenue was not expected, so I don't know if I will reach that," said Harvey.

"With the declining revenues based on property tax assessments continuing to drop, especially with a negative Consumer Price Index number, we will continue to reduce our size to meet the revenue and continually examine services for cost savings," he said.

"It is a little hard to make resolutions and even goals with the volatile environment, especially with the uncertainty of the state shared revenue," Harvey said. "Lastly, with the employees that remain, we resolve to offer excellent service to our customers, the citizens. Customer service is a priority meaning they will be treated with kindness, respect and dignity."

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State waits turn to charge man in theft of cemetery funds

State officials will be watching to see what happens in a Memphis, Tenn., courtroom where an Oklahoma businessman is scheduled to go on trial Jan. 4 for plundering millions of dollars in cemetery trust funds.

A total of 28 Michigan cemeteries were affected in the case, including Cadillac Memorial Gardens in Westland, Mt. Hope Memorial Gardens in Livonia and United Memorial Gardens near Plymouth.

Clayton Ray Smart, an Oklahoma oilman, is charged with theft, conspiracy and money laundering in connection with the loss of \$20 million from Forest Hill's Cemetery in Tennessee. He's also awaiting extradition to Michigan, where he faces a 39-count felony complaint for racketeering and embezzlement of cemetery trust funds.

Michigan Attorney General Mike Cox has said that Smart and his partners allegedly took up to \$70 million to invest in Oklahoma-based Quest Minerals and Exploration Inc. in the form of unsecured promissory notes and a loan backed by highly speculative Quest oil and gas leases. He also is accused of investing \$25 million in high-risk mutual funds.

"Stealing from the dead is a betrayal of the highest order," said Cox. "Families who have

laid their loved ones to rest have a rightful expectation that this sacred ground will forever be protected."

The state assumed control of the cemeteries in December 2006 and they were managed by a court-appointed conservator until December 2007 when they were sold to a New Jersey cemetery operator.

Since then, two of Smart's cohorts have either been found

guilty or entered a plea to charges stemming from the thefts. The latest conviction came in September when Robert Earl Nelms, 41, pleaded guilty to embezzling \$4.2 million in cemetery trust funds from Chapel Hill Memorial Gardens in Grand Rapids, and failing to properly administer numerous funeral contracts over a three-year period.

Nelms pleaded guilty to one

count of embezzlement and one count of failing to trust funeral contracts. He will serve a prison term of 20-120 months for the embezzlement charge and 20-60 months for the failure to trust count. Under Michigan law, the terms of incarceration are served concurrently.

The Indiana resident also must pay restitution of more than \$4,256,000, which will be returned to the cemetery's trust

accounts. Failure to do so will mean even longer prison sentences, according to a statement released by Cox's office.

Carter Green of Nevada was convicted in Wayne County Circuit Court in 2007 for his role in aiding Smart in embezzling cemetery trust funds in Michigan.

Green was found guilty of one count of racketeering, a 20-year felony, and three counts of utter-

ing and publishing, a 14-year felony. Cox charged Green after he determined that a series of written statements Green made to state auditors that either he or his companies were holding up to \$25 million in trust money on behalf of Smart or businesses associated with him were false.

As for Smart, "We look forward to prosecuting the remaining defendant in this case," Cox has said.

Schoolcraft offers culinary program

Schoolcraft College will hold an open house Monday, Jan. 11, for its Innovative Culinary Technology Certificate program designed to give professional chefs a leg-up in the restaurant and hospitality industries.

Interested candidates can tour the most advanced instructional kitchens in the Midwest and meet the instructors who will be able to answer questions and give an overview of the program.

The program is in response to the U.S. Department of Labor's projection that by 2016, there will be an additional 1.9 million jobs available in U.S. restaurants.

Many of these jobs will be in the commercial kitchens and will provide growth opportunities for cooks and professional chefs.

The Innovative Culinary Technology Certificate program is a three-course curriculum with an optional internship. The three courses are geared to progress a student quickly through the program while focusing on equipment and topics like combination ovens, rapid cook ovens, impingement, induction, holding, blast chilling/freezing, Sous Vide, "green" use of energy, kitchen design for various business channels, quality control, food cost savings and more.

The open house will be held in the Culinary Arts Demonstration Lab in the VisTaTech Center on the main campus in Livonia, Haggerty Road between Six and Seven Mile roads.

Registration for winter semester is currently underway. Class sizes are limited. For more information, contact the Continuing Education and Professional Development Department at (734) 462-4448 or visit <http://www.schoolcraft.edu/cepd/culinarytechnology> or email CEPD@schoolcraft.edu.

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**METROPOLITAN OPERA
LES CONTES D'HOFFMANN
ENCORE WED. 1/6 6:30 PM**

○ **SHERLOCK HOLMES** (PG-13)
11:15, 1:55, 4:35, 7:15, 9:55
○ **IT'S COMPLICATED** (R)
11:10, 1:40, 4:15, 6:50, 9:20
FRISAT LS 11:55
○ **UP IN THE AIR** (R) 11:40, 2:15, 4:40, 7:10,
9:40 FRISAT LS 12:00
○ **ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: THE
SQUEAKQUEL** (PG) 11:00, 1:10, 3:15, 5:20,
7:25, 9:30 FRISAT LS 11:40
○ **\$2.50 AVATAR** (PG-13)
\$2.50 PREMIUM PER 3D TICKET
11:20, 2:50, 6:15, 9:35
THE PRINCESS AND THE FROG (G)
FRI-TUE/TH 11:50, 2:10, 4:30, 6:45, 9:05
FRISAT LS 11:25 WED 11:50, 2:10, 4:30
THE BLIND SIDE (PG-13)
11:05, 1:45, 4:25, 7:05, 9:50

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Being an independent contractor can be tricky

Q: Dear Rick: In 2008, I was laid off from my job. In 2009, I got a part-time job and have been working on and off all year. A co-worker told me we are not considered employees, but rather independent contractors and there has been no withholding for Social Security and other types of payroll taxes. He told me I could be in trouble with the IRS. I don't make a lot of money, can you help?

A: It is important to understand what an independent contractor is vs. an employee. Under the law, an independent contractor is someone who is considered self-employed. When someone is self-employed, they are responsible for payroll taxes and any state and federal taxes.

An employee is not self-employed, but rather works for an entity and that entity



Money Matters

Rick Bloom

is responsible to withhold Social Security taxes and state and federal income taxes. Typically, someone who is an independent contractor and is considered self-employed will receive a 1099 at the end of the year, while an employee receives a W-2. It appears from your letter that you will be receiving a 1099 vs. a W-2.

I'm frequently asked if it is better to be an independent contractor or an employee. There is no right answer. It depends upon the individual situation. One of the benefits of being self-employed is that certain deductions would be available to you that are

The way the IRS and courts have determined whether someone is an employee or an independent contractor comes down to a few main issues. One of those is control. If the company controls your hours and how you do your job, then you look more like an employee rather than an independent contractor. On the other hand, if a company doesn't have that much control, you look more like an independent contractor.

not available to you as an employee. For example, costs associated with going to work are deducted easier when someone is self-employed. On the other hand, when you are an employee, your employer matches your Social Security contributions. When you are self-employed, you have to pay that match. In addition, someone who is self-employed has more options available to them in setting up and maintaining health care and retirement plans.

In this situation, the first issue is whether you are an employee or an independent contractor. Typically, the person who is paying you will generally make that determination. However, that determination is not final. If the company treats you as an independent contractor but, in fact, you are an employee, you potentially have recourse against the company. Of course, if you begin an action, the company that can cause you problems.

The way the IRS and courts have determined whether someone is an employee or an independent contractor comes down to a few main issues. One of those is control. If the company controls your hours and how you do your job, then you look more like an employee rather than an independent contractor. On the other hand, if a company doesn't have that much control, you look more like an independent contractor.

In your situation, my advice would be to wait until you receive tax documents from the company. At that point, sit down with a tax professional to complete your return. You may find that being an independent contractor may work in your best interest. If you do owe money to the IRS, a payment plan could be established. On the other hand, if after

completing your return it is severely detrimental to you to be treated as an independent contractor, then you can begin to pursue your options. These options could include contacting the IRS or even working with the state of Michigan Labor Department.

Employee vs. independent contractor is a very contentious issue that has been going on for years. There isn't one that is better than the other. The key is to make sure you understand the relationship before you get involved. If you know the type of relationship at the beginning, it makes planning much easier.

Good luck!

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

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FITNESS OPTIONS

There are a lot of ways to get and stay healthy on a budget. Consider the following classes, program to get and stay healthy on a budget.

Plymouth City Recreation
•Hip Hop Circuit Training (Adult): Warm-ups, stretching, circuit training, abs, and a cool down. Fees: \$70. city of Plymouth resident, \$55. (734) 455-6620.

•Indoor Stability Ball Boot Camp: Work at your own pace challenge yourself to your next fitness level, but no matter what — keep moving. Fees: \$95 city of Plymouth resident, \$80. (734) 455-6620.

•Z-Box Fitness: (The Z is short for Zen) blends the hippest dance moves from yesterday and today with a host of resistance training techniques and basic boxing moves. Fees: \$79 for city of Plymouth resident, \$64. (734) 455-6620.

•Zumba: (Ages 15 and older) Latin and World music moves makes you feel like you are doing anything but a workout. Fees: \$79 for city of Plymouth residents, \$64. (734) 455-6620.

Canton Summit
•100 Days to Health (Jan. 16 to April 24): The program, for all

ages, includes health lectures, fitness classes, cooking demonstrations and family fun. The fee covers all the activities on the calendar during the 100 Days. Fees for an adult (ages 16 and older) are \$15 Canton resident/\$25 non-resident; youth: 4-15 is \$5. (734) 394-5460.

•Drop in Yoga: Try out the Beginner Yoga, Gentle Yoga, and Advanced Yoga to see which one is right for you. Ages: 16 and older. Fees: \$5, Canton residents; \$7, nonresidents. (734) 394-5460.

•Silver Fox Walking Club: Canton Leisure Services offers a walking club to individuals 55 and older looking to stay active, socialize, and improve overall fitness. For \$1 per day you can walk on the indoor track or water walk in the lazy river at the Summit on the Park. Call (734) 394-5485.

•Line Dancing: Learn the latest "hot dances" to music such as pop, country, and rock. The cost is \$7.50. (734) 394-5460.

Botsford Hospital
•Diabetes Saturday Sizzler: Receive encouragement and information with a highlight on cardiovascular disease and a light breakfast at Botsford Hospital in the Administration



The Western Wayne County Senior Olympics have been hosted by Summit on the Park in Canton.

building, 28050 Grand River Ave., Farmington Hills, Saturday, Feb. 27, 9 a.m. to noon. The cost is \$5. Registration is required. (248) 477-6100.

•Boot Camp: A six-week session; \$50; Wednesdays, 6-6:45 p.m. and Saturdays 10-10:45 a.m. Combines strength training and cardiovascular exercise, utilizes free weights, resistance bands, cardio machines and your own body weight. For more information, call (248) 477-6100.

•Botsford Center for Health

Improvement also offers Massage Therapy; Tai Chi; Yoga; Reiki; Hypnotherapy and Smoking Cessation. (248) 473-3100.

Plymouth-Canton Schools Community Ed

•Bootcamp Fusion: Free weights, self-defense moves, dance moves, balance enhancement, kickboxing, pilates, a knockout calorie blaster and core strengthening for 12 weeks. Cost is \$78. Call (734) 416-2700.

•Hula Hoop Blast: Total body



Plymouth City Recreation offers Zumba classes for ages 15 and older.

workout initially focuses on the basic hooping moves and progresses into a full fledge fitness class. Cost is \$25. Call (734) 416-2700.

•Lean & Mean Kettlebells: Kettlebells resemble cannon ball shaped weights with a handle on top. Gain tighter legs, glutes, back, arms, and abdominals. Six- or eight-week program, for \$39 or \$52, respectively. Call (734) 416-2700.

•Pilates: Improves flexibility as you learn to make your muscles longer and stronger with no props. Cost is \$59 for seven weeks. Call (734) 416-2700.

•Piloga: Blend the benefits of stress-reducing yoga and core-conditioning. Cost is \$60. (734) 416-2700.

Livonia Rec Center

•Lifestyle Resolution: Participate in a community wide event benefiting the whole family for the first 100 days of 2010. Exercise classes, nutrition and wellness seminars, grocery store tours, rock climbing, free Friday workouts, open swim and more. Costs are youth, 4-18, resident, \$15 and nonresident, \$20. Adult (19-61) fees are resident, \$25 and \$40 for nonresident; senior (62 and older), resident, \$20, non-resident, \$30. Family rates for up to six residents, \$50; family nonresident fee is \$90. Call (734) 466-2912 for more information.

St. Mary Mercy Hospital

•Beginning Hatha Yoga: Bring more peace to your body and mind. Increase flexibility, energy level and strength at your own pace in a noncompetitive setting. Meditation, breathing techniques and asana practice at the wall included in the program.

Fee is \$55. Call (734) 655-1145.

•Better Backs Yoga: For more information, call the Marian Women's Center at St. Mary Mercy Hospital at (734) 655-1145. Fee is \$55.

Garden City Hospital

•Get Up and Move: This beginning aerobic exercise and strength training program improves and maintains fitness levels. Fee is \$30 per month or \$5 drop-in. Call (734) 458-3242.

•Strength and Stretch: This non-aerobic exercise class is designed for all fitness levels, and will focus on improving strength and flexibility and help strengthen and define muscles. Fee is \$30 per month. (734) 458-3242.

•Fitness FUN-damentals: A moderate exercise program that includes fitness balls, hand weights, aerobics, Therabands, steps and strength training. The six-week sessions are \$42, or a \$8 drop-in fee. Call (734) 458-3242.

•Yoga: Learn how to relax, stretch and breathe while creating balance, strength and flexibility for both the body and mind. Four-week session is \$32. (734) 458-3242.

Westland Parks and Rec

•Yoga: Must be at least 13. Cost for a four-week session (Thursday or Saturday) is \$20 per Westland resident per session and \$25 per nonresident. Call (734) 722-7620.

•Belly Dancing: Learn the intriguing art of belly dance. Cost: \$30 Westland residents, \$35 nonresidents. (734) 722-7620.

•Cardio-Kickboxing/Aerobics with Mind, Body and Spirit Institute: An ideal way to keep fit, build stamina, increase coordination, and develop balance and speed while practicing basic punches and kicks. The cost is \$5 per class. (734) 722-7620.

•Tai Chi: Gently moving, feeling balanced and relaxed, slowly letting go of the physical and mental tensions that tend to arise in life; this is the practice of Tai Chi. Residents: \$20 per session; nonresidents: \$23 per session. (734) 722-7620.

-Compiled by Diane Gale Andreassi

Canton set to kick off 100 Days to Health campaign

Canton has stepped in to help residents who vow to get healthier in 2010.

Canton's "100 Days to Health" — a community-wide wellness education and awareness campaign designed to encourage healthy lifestyles — is set to kick off on Saturday, Jan. 16.

The campaign will provide support and education, and help those attending find an appropriate fitness routine during a program 9-11 a.m. Jan. 16 in the Grand Ballroom and in various classrooms of the township's Summit on the Park, located at 46000 Summit Parkway, near Canton Center.

Participants can meet some of the Summit's instructors and test a few of the fitness classes offered. All ages can enjoy special aerobics classes at 8:30 a.m., 9:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. A light breakfast will be served, and questions about "100 Days to Health" will be answered in the ballroom.

Canton Leisure Services and Oakwood Healthcare System are partnering to promote the special program. Oakwood

staff will be on hand during the kickoff to provide health screenings including blood pressure, cholesterol and blood sugar levels.

Organizers say the program offers everything needed to build a healthier lifestyle. Register for "100 Days to Health" at the Summit front desk or at the event itself.

Registration fees are \$15 for adults 16 and older, and \$5 for youth ages 4 and up. Non-resident fees are \$25 for adults 16 and older, and \$5 for youth ages 4 and up.

Once registered, participants will have free access to all classes and events on the "100 Days to Health" calendar.

Participants also will have free access to the Summit on the Park each Friday during the program; classes and events offered at a variety of convenient times to accommodate busy schedules; and a return to the winter wonderland hike.

The program ends April 24. For more information, log on to www.canton-mi.org or call (734) 394-5460.

FITNESS

FROM PAGE A1

"A common misconception is that eating healthier is more expensive," House said. "Store brands are really nutritionally equivalent and they are generally less expensive."

She also recommends using brown rice, oats and barley, which are cheap and help to stretch meals. Preparing meatless meals will save money and likely make you healthier. House recommends designating one or two days weekly as meatless.

"That would bring down cholesterol levels for a lot of people," she added.

Look at the size of portions, especially proteins, on your plate.

"We eat a lot more protein as a society than is needed," House said.

Make a mental image of your plate, she said, and split it down the middle. Half of the plate should be filled with a non-starchy vegetable, like a salad. Split the other half again. One quarter should be lean protein and the other quarter should be a starch.

"Whole wheat pasta is a very healthy way to go and can be a budget friendly plate, too," House said. "Look at whole grain choices."

Ask yourself what has the most fiber and the least amount of fats. She also recommends shopping the perimeter of grocery stores first because that's where you'll find the healthiest food. Processed and packaged foods are generally in the middle aisles.

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Forgotten Harvest gets chickens from Kroger

Kroger has donated 8,000 pounds of frozen chicken to Forgotten Harvest as part of the grocer's Bringing Hope to the Table campaign to help feed the hungry.

The contribution was made possible due to a donation by Orland, Ind.-based Miller Amish Country Poultry, a distributor of chicken to Kroger's Michigan stores.

A partner since 2000, 76 Kroger stores in the Detroit tri-county area help support Forgotten Harvest through food and monetary donations. Kroger estimates it will donate 3.4 million pounds of food to Forgotten Harvest in 2009.

"Thanks to Miller Amish Country Poultry's generosity, Kroger's chicken donation to Forgotten Harvest will provide 8,000 meals to those in need," said Rick Going, president of Kroger's Michigan Division. "As food assistance continues to grow in Michigan, contributions from organizations, such as Miller Amish Country Poultry and Kroger are so essential."

"We are honored to have the opportunity to make this food donation to Kroger to help those in need this winter season," added Len Neeb, manager at Miller Amish Country Poultry. "Our company has a deep-rooted tradition of giving back to those less fortunate and we are grateful for this opportunity."

Forgotten Harvest is appreciative of the support from both businesses.

"We're pleased to see Kroger and Miller Amish Country Poultry working together to come to the aid of families who face real hunger because of their economic hardships," said Susan Goodell, president and CEO of Forgotten Harvest. "This help will make a difference in people's lives this winter."

TRAFFIC

FROM PAGE A1

The access management study will look at the Ford Road corridor from Detroit heading west through Dearborn, Dearborn Heights, Garden City and Westland. Canton had an access management study completed several years ago and has engaged in efforts to implement the recommendations.

"The committee will bring conformity on regulating driveways. No one will force a business owner to close a drive," said City Manager David Harvey, Garden City's committee member. "But if someone were to do extensive work, you might limit the number of driveways. I know from my law enforcement background, if there are less driveways, there are less accidents."

The number and location of driveways along Ford Road will be one of the issues the committee will be reviewing, Palombo said, but by no means the only issue.

Other possible solutions can include acceleration/

deceleration lanes and right turn only lanes, Palombo said. "We can't prejudice how it will come out. There will be different solutions based on the character of the community," he said, adding there will be issues with setbacks and property ownership.

"They'll run their ideas past us to get a handle on the traffic flow and safety. It could be kind of fluid. I think they are looking at access roads," said Westland Department of Public Services Director Kevin Buford, another committee member. "We've only had telephone conversations. We're supposed to put together an action plan. Then we'll develop a plan to implement it. I think they want us to agree in concept first."

SEMCOG will help local communities look for ways to fund recommended improvements, Palombo said, adding there isn't a lot of money for such projects available currently.

Staff Writer Darrell Clem contributed to this story.

lrgrs@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-5428

MLK

FROM PAGE A1

The program by Collins, Jones and Watroba has become known by Plymouth-Canton fifth-graders during field trips to the Village Theater, and it features interactive educational offerings and breakout sessions focusing on special topics such as drawings and music. The program examines history from slavery through the civil rights movement.

Titled "The African-American History Through Artist Eyes," the program won an innovation award from the Michigan Recreation and Parks Association.

"Teachers and students who have attended in the past

claim this to be the best field trip ever," Tobin said. "Our Dr. King committee felt the same way and wanted the community to have a chance to participate. Thanks to the generosity of the Partnership for the Arts and Humanities Inc., this program is available to the schools and now to anyone that wants to attend on Jan. 18."

The King celebration also will feature a display of the Pioneer Middle School Peace Project, coordinated by teacher Carman Johnson.

Canton's celebration of King continues an effort that includes the Partnership for the Arts and Humanities Inc., Canton Township, the Canton Public Library and the Friends of the Canton Public Library.

dclem@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-2238

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SUNDAY
January 3,
2010

SECTION B
(CP)

Tim Smith, editor (313) 222-2637
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SPORTS, HEALTH, NEIGHBORS & CLASSIFIED

HOMETOWN LIFE



Oh, rats! Ladywood denied in tournament final

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Ann Arbor Huron played spoiler in Wednesday's championship final of the Livonia Ladywood Basketball Christmas Classic.

The River Rats broke open a tight game by outscoring the Blazers 15-9 in

the decisive fourth quarter to pull out a 47-39 victory.

All-Tournament pick DeVonyea Johnson, who finished with 13 points, scored five points within a span of three seconds to start the final quarter to propel Huron to its fourth win in six starts.

"That 30-second run was the determination of the game," said Ladywood

coach Pat Cannon, whose team was tied 19-19 at halftime and trailed by only two, 32-30, after three quarters. "Then they (Huron) did a great job of pulling us out of our defense and spreading the court for drives. I was very impressed. They're very disciplined, they play well, they're fast and they play hard."

Senior guard Charlise Slater, who

led the River Rats with a game-high 16 points, was named tournament MVP.

Sophomore guard Devin Talley added 11. "That really changed the momentum at that point," Huron coach Steve Vinson said of Johnson's rebound basket, steal and converted three-

Please see **LADYWOOD, B2**

SIDELINES

MU women lose

Amy Achesinski recorded 17 points and 12 rebounds to power Mercyhurst (Pa.) College to a 64-68 non-conference women's basketball win Wednesday afternoon over host Madonna University.

Samantha Loadman and Jackie Artise added 13 and 11 points, respectively, for the Lakers (5-3), who won their fourth straight.

Tabatha Wydryk and Kim Olech (Plymouth) each tallied 11, while Heather Goodwin added 10 for the Crusaders (4-8).

Crusaders routed

Allen Durham's 17 points and 12 rebounds propelled Grace Bible College to a convincing 76-51 men's basketball win Wednesday over Madonna University in the consolation game of the Russ DeVette Tournament hosted by Hope College.

Ryan Krombeen and Ryan Dame chipped in with 12 and 11 points, respectively, for the 13-9 Tigers.

Leroy Allen scored 12 for the Crusaders, who slipped to 2-12 overall.

Novi freezes Pats

Taylor Howell notched a hat trick and Ryan McCullough chipped in with four assists Wednesday as Novi defeated host Livonia Franklin, 8-0, in a boys hockey game at Edgar Arena.

Zach Mohr added two goals, while Nolan Valteau, Matt Stemkos and Alex Cova added one apiece as the state-ranked Wildcats improved to 10-1-1 overall and 5-0-1 in the KLA's Central Division.

Franklin, outshot 45-12, falls to 0-8 overall and 0-4 in the KLA's South.

Brown lifts Whalers

Westland native and Livonia Churchill High grad Tyler J. Brown scored a pair of goals, his fifth and sixth of the season, while Josh Brittain also added a pair as the Plymouth Whalers skated to a 5-2 Ontario Hockey League victory Tuesday over the host Sarnia Sting at the RBC Centre.

Stefan Noesen also scored for the Whalers, who won despite being outshot 35-31.

The second-place Whalers improved to 22-16-0-1 in the OHL's Western Division.

Joe Gaynor and Robbie Czarnik each contributed two assists as Plymouth led 2-1 after one period and 3-2 after 40 minutes before putting it away with a pair of third-period goals.

Brandon Francisco and Kale Kerbashian scored goals for Sarnia, which slipped to 13-23-1-1.

Whalers goaltender Matt Hackett made a total of 33 saves, while Adam Courchaine of the Sting made 30 stops.

Rocks solid, win holiday tournament

Jake Peterson, a 6-foot-6 senior center, poured in a game-high 24 points Tuesday night as the Salem boys basketball team earned some holiday cheer by capturing the Woodhaven Invitational with a 60-50 victory over Carleton Airport.

Salem, now 3-1 overall, jumped out to a 27-14 halftime lead and was able to hold off a second-half surge by the Jets, who fell to 3-2.

"Our kids maintained a solid lead through and did a good job of taking care of the basketball," Salem coach Bob Brodie. "Our kids did what they were asked to do considering the short preparation time."

"We took away their slashing, penetrating and inside game. They (Airport) don't have a lot of size, but they have good athletes. They did not shoot particularly well from outside."

Sophomore swingman Tyler Stewart and junior forward Ethan Walsh chipped in with 10 and nine points, respectively, for the victorious Rocks.

Tyler Baker and Dan Jones tallied 16 and 12, respectively, for Airport.

Salem was 15-of-24 from the foul line, while Airport made 17-of-25.

"There were only 10 free throws shot in the first half," Brodie said. "Most of them came in the second half. That's what enabled them (Airport) to come at us with couple of runs."

Salem returns to action at 7 p.m. Wednesday at Garden City before hosting South Lyon East at 7 p.m. Friday in a KLA's Central Division matchup.



Berkley's Alana Wolf (45) and John Glenn's Michelle Vanover (10) go up for the rebound in Tuesday's first Wayne Memorial Holiday Shootout.

Rockets discover winning formula

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Westland John Glenn rookie girls basketball coach Mark Anderson got what he was desperately searching for in Tuesday's first ever Wayne Memorial Holiday Shootout — a victory.

After dropping their first four games of the season, the Rockets' full-court pressure proved to be effective as they broke into the win column with a convincing 35-21 triumph over Berkley.

"It feels good, but I'll take a couple more," said Anderson, who is in his first season after moving over from the Glenn JV boys job. "We were trying to create turnovers, but in the process we picked up a lot of fouls, too."

"I like the way the girls shared the ball early, but we got away from that a little bit in the second half. We're getting better and we're working hard at practice every day."

Glenn led 7-2 after one quarter and 19-13 at halftime before going on a 10-0 third-quarter run to build a comfortable lead.

Senior Michelle Vanover had a team-high 11 points and seven steals, while junior guard Aubrie Scott contributed nine points, seven boards and three steals for the Rockets, now 1-4 overall.

Tyja Carson-Callaway

added seven points as Glenn shot 14-for-52 from the floor (26.9 percent) and overcame 25 turnovers.

Anderson was pleased that the team's top returnee from a year ago, junior guard Andrea Gordon-McClain, was back in the lineup.

"It was her first game," Anderson said. "It's a process. She's had only two practices and today's game. She stretched her ACL (anterior cruciate ligament) right before the season started in an open gym. Ever since, she's been watching and observing."

"She brings experience and get us where we need to be. She understands the game. If she's healthy, she can be unstoppable."

Berkley, which slipped to 2-5 overall, shot only 7-of-45 from the floor (15.5 percent).

Senior guard Natalie Zimmerman had a team-high 11 points.

"We were not very good and we did not come to play," Berkley coach James Ellis said. "We played like we were still on vacation. We did not have focus and that's on me. We were missing a starter, but that's no excuse."

The Bears went 0-of-9 in the third quarter and 2-for-15 in the fourth.

"The first half, the effort was not there," Ellis added. "We're a better team than this and it's unfortunate today because we just did not have it."

Wayne notches first victory

Host Wayne Memorial overcame a game-high 34 points Tuesday by Willow Run's Kierra Rolax to post its first girls basketball victory of the season in the first annual Holiday Shootout, 66-52.

Senior guard Allie Coleman paced a balanced Zebras' scoring attack with 18 points, while sophomore Jane Thayer chipped in with a double-double scoring 17 points and grabbing 17 rebounds. Sophomore Holland Boertje also chipped in with 14 points.

Wayne, now 1-3 overall, outscored the Flyers in every quarter including a 19-13 edge in the decisive fourth.

The Zebras made 13-of-18 foul shots, while Willow Run made only 11-of-27.

THURSTON 51, FERNDALE 30: On Wednesday, senior guard Ashley Wheeler scored a game-high 16

points as Redford Thurston (3-2) made it two-for-two in the Wayne Holiday Shootout with a victory over Ferndale (2-5).

Wheeler connected on four 3-pointers, while Chelsea Carradine and Dayjanae Head chipped in with 12 and 11 points, respectively.

Thurston led 30-13 at intermission.

Janecia Jenkins and Amanda Estine scored 12 and 10, respectively, for Ferndale.

FRANKLIN 50, BERKLEY 31: Brittany Milican and Nicole Emery combined for 13 steals Wednesday as Livonia Franklin (3-2) rolled past the Bears (2-6) in the second day of the Wayne Holiday Shootout.

Milican had seven steals, while Emery added six.

Junior guard Chelsea Williams paced Franklin's scoring attack with 12 points as the Patriots roared out to a 17-4 first-quarter lead.

Junior forward Amanda Borio added 11, while Seneca Scott tallied eight.

The Patriots made 14-of-22 free

throws.

Sam Olander led Berkley with eight points.

FARMINGTON 54, WILLOW RUN 32: On Wednesday, Aaron Howell scored 17 points and Melanie Lockhart added 16 to propel the Falcons (3-4) past the Flyers (2-7) in the Wayne Holiday Shootout.

Chelsea Moore chipped in with seven.

Kierra Rolax paced Willow Run with a game-high 20 points.

REDFORD UNION 46, FERNDALE 32: Kim D'Arcangelo tallied 15 points and Jenn Litchman added 13 as the Panthers (2-4) pulled away in the final period to win their second straight against the Eagles (2-4) in the Wayne Holiday Shootout.

Ferndale led 4-0 after one quarter before RU went on a 19-9 second-quarter run. The Eagles regained the lead 28-23 after three quarters before the Panthers regained control with a 21-4 fourth-period run.

Please see **WAYNE, B2**



Thurston's Chelsea Carradine (20) controls the dribble against Farmington's Susan Roggenkamp (25) in Tuesday's first Wayne Memorial Holiday Shootout.

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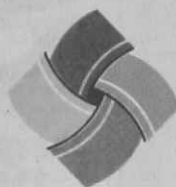


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Hope tops MU, 72-68

The Madonna University men's basketball team put up quite a struggle Tuesday night before succumbing to host Hope College, 72-68, in the Russ DeVette Holiday Tournament held at DeVoss Fieldhouse.

Coming out of the 30-all halftime break, Hope built its lead out to as many 13 over the first 12 minutes of the second half to go on top 59-46.

MU answered with 16-4 surge, keyed by 10 points from Westland's Bryant Slaughter and a three from senior Jordan Hoke to pull to within one, 63-62, with 3:38 remaining.

Chris Nelis, who led Hope with 16 points and 10 rebounds, knocked down a jumper to put the Flying Dutchmen back up by three before another layup pushed the home side's lead back up to five.

A pair of charity tosses

from Allen and one from Hoke brought MU back to within two, 67-65, but the Crusaders could not get any closer.

Slaughter, a junior guard, led all scorers with 21 points to go along with six rebounds and two assists.

Fellow junior Ryan Waidmann (Canton), back after missing the last three games because of personal reasons, added 10 points and six rebounds.

Allen contributed nine points, grabbed eight rebounds, handed out four assists and had a career-high four blocked shots.

The loss drops MU to 2-11 overall, while Hope improved to 6-4 and advanced into Wednesday's championship game to face Davenport University.

Meanwhile, the Crusaders take on Grace Bible in Wednesday's consolation final.

Knoph sparkles in Spartans' win

The Knoph household had plenty to smile about Wednesday as Livonia Stevenson notched its first girls basketball win of the season with a 50-35 triumph over host Pontiac Notre Dame Prep in the consolation game of the Fighting Irish's invitational.

Sophomore guard Molly Knoph scored a game-high 22 points, including four 3-pointers to go along with 10 steals giving her mother, rookie

GIRLS BASKETBALL

coach Jen Knoph, her first win in five starts.

"We did not let up the entire game," said Jen Knoph, whose team jumped out to a 17-6 first-quarter lead. "We played four consistent quarters today and played really great defense. They were bigger than us, but we boxed out well on the glass."

Kristen Balhorn added seven points for the 1-4 Spartans, who struggled at the foul line (5-of-15).

Brooke Borowski tallied 15 points for Notre Dame Prep.

REGINA 53, STEVENSON 44: Cory DeLamielleure's 17 points propelled Warren Regina (4-0) to a victory Tuesday over Livonia Stevenson (0-4) in the Pontiac Notre Dame Prep Tournament.

Katy Jakubek added 15 points for the victorious Saddlelites, who led 7-4 after one quarter before blowing

it wide open with a 28-6 second-quarter run.

Sophomore guard Jorden York led Stevenson and all scorers with 19 points. Sophomore guard Molly Knoph added 11.

Regina was 18-of-30 from the foul line, while the Spartans made 5-of-7.

"We had breakdowns defensively," Stevenson coach Jen Knoph said. "We were not talking and not seeing cuts. Most of their shots (in the second quarter) were 'bunnies.' We also gave them extra opportunities with three 'and ones.'"

THE WEEK AHEAD

BOYS BASKETBALL

Tuesday, Jan. 5
Annapolis at Luth. Westland, 5:30 p.m.
Ypsi Calvary at Huron Valley, 7 p.m.
Clarenceville at W.L. Central, 7 p.m.
Churchill at W.L. Western, 7 p.m.
Wal. Kettering at Franklin, 7 p.m.
Stevenson at Edsel Ford, 7 p.m.
John Glenn at Belleville, 7 p.m.
Wednesday, Jan. 6
Wayne at Riverview, 7 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 8
Churchill at John Glenn, 7 p.m.
Franklin at Plymouth, 7 p.m.
Northville at Stevenson, 7 p.m.
Wayne at Canton, 7 p.m.
Huron Valley at Macomb Christian, 7:30 p.m.
Luth. Westland at A.P. Inter-City, 7:30 p.m.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Tuesday, Jan. 5
Ypsi Calvary at Huron Valley, 5:30 p.m.
Annapolis at Luth. Westland, 7 p.m.
W.L. Western at Churchill, 7 p.m.
Ladywood at Divine Child, 7:30 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 8
Huron Valley at Macomb Christian, 6 p.m.
A.A. Greenhills at Luth. Westland, 7 p.m.
Cranbrook at Clarenceville, 7 p.m.
John Glenn at Churchill, 7 p.m.
Plymouth at Franklin, 7 p.m.
Stevenson at Northville, 7 p.m.
Canton at Wayne, 7 p.m.
Marian at Ladywood, 7:30 p.m.
PREP HOCKEY
Tuesday, Jan. 6
Stevenson vs. South Lyon at Kensington Ice House, 6 p.m.
Wednesday, Jan. 6
Franklin at Lincoln Park, 6 p.m.
Churchill vs. Canton at Edgar Arena, 6 p.m.
Thursday, Jan. 7
Ladywood vs. G.P. South at City Arena (Detroit), 7:30 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 8
Churchill vs. Stevenson at Edgar Arena, 6 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 9
Franklin vs. Plymouth at Computware Arena, 2:30 p.m.
Churchill at Clarkston, 6 p.m.
Ladywood vs. Warren Regina at Plymouth's Arctic Pond, 6:30 p.m.

PREP WRESTLING

Wednesday, Jan. 6
Wayne, South Lyon, S.L. East at John Glenn, 5:30 p.m.
Churchill, Stevenson, Northville at Franklin, 6 p.m.
Clarenceville, Berkley, Inkster at Lutheran Westland, 6 p.m.

BOYS SWIMMING & DIVING

Tuesday, Jan. 5
Churchill at Wayne, 6:30 p.m.
Thursday, Jan. 7
Churchill at Franklin, 6:30 p.m.
Stevenson at Northville, 6:30 p.m.
Canton at John Glenn, 6:30 p.m.
Plymouth at Wayne, 6:30 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 9
Rock-Hillgrove Inv. at Salem, noon.
W. Bloomfield Invitational, 1 p.m.

PREP BOWLING

Tuesday, Jan. 5
Clarenceville vs. Salem at Super Bowl (Canton), 3:30 p.m.
John Glenn vs. Plymouth, Wayne vs. Novi at Novi Bowl, 3:30 p.m.
Thursday, Jan. 7
Clarenceville vs. Novi, John Glenn vs. Canton, Wayne vs. Plymouth at Novi Bowl, 3:30 p.m.
Thursday, Jan. 7
Ladywood vs. Mercy at Astro Lanes, 3:30 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 8
Ladywood vs. Bishop Foley at Sterling Lanes, 3:30 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 9
Ladywood Inv. at Super Bowl, 12:30 p.m.

GIRLS GYMNASICS

Tuesday, Jan. 5
Livonia Red vs. W.L. Gold-Maroon at Churchill H.S., 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Jan. 6
Livonia Blue vs. Plymouth at Churchill H.S., 6:30 p.m.

GIRLS COMPETITIVE CHEER

Saturday, Jan. 9
Novi Invitational, 8 a.m.

MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Monday, Jan. 4
Kirtland CC at Schoolcraft, 7:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Jan. 6
Siena Heights at Madonna, 7:30 p.m.

WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Monday, Jan. 4
Kirtland CC at Schoolcraft, 5:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Jan. 6
Madonna at Siena Heights, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 9

Aquinas College at Madonna, 1 p.m.

WSU routs Madonna women

Frigid outdoor weather Tuesday carried over inside at the Matthei Building for the Madonna University women's basketball team resulting in a 70-44 setback to host Wayne State.

Madonna shot only 28.8 percent from the field (17-of-59), including a meager 3-of-21 from three points range (14.3 percent).

Freshman Kaylee McGrath (Livonia Stevenson) led MU, which slipped to 4-7 overall, with her second double-double of the season scoring a game-high 17 points to go along with a game-high 13 rebounds.

Fellow rookie Shantelle Herring added nine points

on 4-of-8 shooting from the floor.

Deanna Crumpton posted a double-double of 11 points and 11 boards to lead Wayne State (2-8).

Three other Warriors scored in double figures led by Brooke Bowers and Chelsea Davis (Salem) with 14 points apiece.

Davis was 7-of-12 from the floor and added seven rebounds.

Felicia Thomas added 10 points, while Latosha Beasley pulled down 10 rebounds. WSU outrebounded the Crusaders, 56-38.

Wayne State ended the first half on a 23-7 run to lead 43-25 at intermission.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

Pursuant to State Law a sale will be held at: Secured Self Storage, 2460 Gully Rd., Dearborn Hts., MI, January 16, 2010 at 1:05 p.m.

#431: April C. Assemany, #709: Gergorio Martinez, Jr., #740: Brittney A. McPherson, #939: Rosy M. Hutchison, #1025: Lechia Richberg, #1034: Zapata Zanitorial Inc., #1039: Zapata Zanitorial Inc., #1047: Dohn C. Davis Jr., #1111: Alicia M. Parker

Units contain misc. household items.

Publish: December 27, 2009 and January 3, 2010

OE0868261, 2x2

CITY OF FARMINGTON 2010 DOG & CAT LICENSES

2010 Dog & Cat Licenses are available at Farmington City Hall, 23600 Liberty Street, Farmington, Michigan, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Licenses are issued through Wednesday, March 31, 2010, at a fee of \$7.00 for each dog or cat six months or older. Beginning Thursday, April 1, 2010, delinquent licenses are \$10.00. License fees are reduced \$3.00 for neutered dogs and cats.

A current, original Certification of Vaccination for rabies signed by an accredited veterinarian must be presented when applying for a License.

Licenses may be obtained by MAIL by calling 248-474-5500.

SUSAN K. HALBERSTADT
City Clerk

Publish: January 3 & March 25, 2010

OE08683625 2x3

CITY OF LIVONIA

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

In accordance with the provisions of Section 19.08 of Ordinance No. 543, as amended, the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Livonia, and having received an appeal from a determination made on **November 24, 2009 by the City Planning Commission** in its resolution **#11-67-2009**, the Council has determined that a Public Hearing will take place before the City Council of the City of Livonia on **Wednesday, January 20, 2010, at 7:00 P.M.** in the auditorium at City Hall, 33000 Civic Center Drive, Livonia, Michigan, with respect to the following item:

Petition 2009-10-02-15 submitted by 6 Mile Properties, L.L.C. requesting waiver over approval to utilize an SDM license (sale of packaged beer and wine) and an SDD license (sale of packaged spirits over 21% alcohol) in connection with a retail facility located on the northeast corner of Farmington and Six Mile Roads (17108 Farmington Road), in the Southwest ¼ of Section 10.

LINDA GRIMSBY, CITY CLERK

Publish: January 3, 2010

OE0868490 2x4.5

SIMPLY SELF STORAGE

Notice is hereby given that on January 14, 2010 on or after 9:30 a.m. that Simply Self Storage will be offering for sale under the judicial lien Process by Public Auction the following units. The goods to be sold are generally described as household goods. Terms of the sale are preferred cash only but will except debit/credit. Simply Self Storage reserves the right to refuse any and all bids. The sale will be at the following location: 34333 E. Michigan Ave. Wayne MI 48184 (734)728-8204.

B126 Linda Cygan 3 Totes, 5 Boxes, Couch
C116 Annette Ward BBQ Grill, Lawnmower, 20 Boxes

Publish: December 27, 2009 and January 3, 2010

OE08685008, 2x2

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

A public sale is to be held to satisfy a landlord's lien under Act 148 of 1985 State of Michigan Code Law. Property will be sold to the highest bidder for cash. Seller reserves the right to withdraw property from the sale. Spaces/Units may contain household items, toys, auto parts, appliances, clothing, etc. unless otherwise noted.

Units: 095 Alan Raymond, 139 Terence Barnes, 141 Krystyn Washington, 161 Tiffney Weathersby, 163 Marthlene Knoll-Keith, 218 James Isbell, 243 Evelyn Hicks, 277 Bagaziniski & Associates, 315 Robert Brown, 330 William Piekarski, 333 William Piekarski.

This sale shall take place on Friday, January 8th, 2010 at 10:00 a.m. Located at: Maximus Self Storage - Livonia, 13635 Merriman Rd., Livonia, MI 48180. This is a cash only auction.

Publish: December 27, 2009 and January 3, 2010

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Nikki Barczak
MercyAnna Schena
MercyTaylor Steffl
MercyCarla McNamara
StevensonKayla Douglas
FranklinOlivia Samoray
MercySavannah Hatt
StevensonMaria Bargardi
MercyMarina Borri
HarrisonLauren Seroka
SalemAshley Gordon
StevensonSandra Johnson
HarrisonDesiree Clenney
John GlennAnnie Valentine
MercyNoel Huffman
MercyKaylee Dolinski
StevensonEmily Nelson
SalemKate Johnson
MercySato Kakiyara
MercyEmily Reamer
MercyOlivia Rath
HarrisonMiranda Doecker
HarrisonSarah Cauzillo
Stevenson2009
All-Area
girls swim
team

State finals competitors earn high grades

FIRST-TEAM

200-yard medley relay, Mercy: The team of Maria Bargardi, Anna Schena, Sato Kakiyara, and Taylor Steffl was second in the Division 2 state meet with an automatic All-America time of 1:47.77.

"It's a relay that took most of the year to find its stride," coach Shannon Dunworth said. "We changed it up quite a bit from previous years and made some position changes. I think we finally got it right in the last swim of the year. We moved up from fifth (in the prelims) to second. That really set the tone for an outstanding Saturday at the state meet."

Nikki Barczak, 200 freestyle, Mercy: Barczak finished third in the Division 2 state meet with an area-best time of 1:53.19. She also was third in the 100 freestyle.

"Nikki is one of our go-to people," Dunworth said. "There are a lot of high expectations the team puts on her, not only in meets but at practice every day. Nikki takes that role very seriously, and she's probably harder on herself than anybody else. She's very talented and works extremely hard. She truly is the individual on the team that everybody will count on and never let against."

Anna Schena, 200 IM, Mercy: Schena placed sixth in the IM at the Division 2 state meet with a 2:09.30 time. She also was fifth in the butterfly.

"The best talent is the ability to train at your very best every day and that's Anna," Dunworth said. "The hardest races are where she excels, because she trains so hard. The IM is one of the most difficult races there is, and the more difficult it is the better she is. She was one of our captains, which adds a little pressure to season, and she handled it as well as anybody."

Taylor Steffl, 50 freestyle, Mercy: Steffl placed fourth in the Division 2 state meet with a 24.11 time that was second only to teammate Maria Bargardi among area swimmers. She also was 12th in the 100 freestyle.

"Taylor is the hardest-working 50 freestyler I know," Dunworth said. "She made an event change and was in the fly and 100 more, but the 50 is still her specialty. She likes to sprint and be in there in close races. She's kind of the sparkplug on our team, and that's why she fits so well in that role as a freestyler. Sprint freestyle is more about energy, aggression and technique than it is about grinding our yards."

Carla McNamara, diving, Stevenson: The senior earned a third-place finish at the Division 1 state finals (399.70) after posting a meet record 418.35 en route to a first-place finish at the Kensington Conference meet.

McNamara is a two-time high school All-American and three-time MVP diver for the Spartans. "Carla was a captain who broke two pool records and unfortunately is going to be irreplaceable," Stevenson coach Greg Phill said.

Kayla Douglas, 100 butterfly, Franklin: The junior was a state runner-up in the Division 1 state finals in the 100 backstroke (57.69) and added a 15th in the 100 butterfly (going 59.73 in the prelims).

She was also runner-up in the 100 backstroke and fifth in the

2009 ALL-OBSERVER

GIRLS SWIMMING & DIVING TEAMS

200-yard medley relay: 1. Farmington Hills Mercy (Maria Bargardi, Jr.; Anna Schena, Sr.; Sato Kakiyara, Soph.; Taylor Steffl, Jr., 2. Farmington Hills Harrison (Sandra Johnson, Soph.; Marina Borri, Soph.; Olivia Rath, Soph.; Miranda Doecker, Soph.).

200 freestyle: 1. Nikki Barczak, Jr., Mercy; 2. Lauren Seroka, Soph., Salem. **200 individual medley:** 1. Anna Schena, Sr., Mercy; 2. Ashley Gordon, Sr., Livonia Stevenson.

50 freestyle: 1. Taylor Steffl, Jr., Mercy; 2. Sandra Johnson, Soph., Harrison. **1-meter diving:** 1. Carla McNamara, Sr., Stevenson; 2. Desiree Clenney, Jr., Westland John Glenn.

100 butterfly: 1. Kayla Douglas, Jr., Livonia Franklin; 2. Annie Valentine, Fr., Mercy.

100 freestyle: 1. Olivia Samoray, Soph., Mercy; 2. Noel Huffman, Fr., Mercy. **500 freestyle:** 1. Savannah Hatt, Jr., Stevenson; 2. Kaylee Dolinski, Jr., Stevenson.

200 freestyle relay: 1. Mercy (Taylor Steffl, Jr.; Olivia Samoray, Soph.; Nikki Barczak, Jr.; Sato Kakiyara, Soph.); 2. Stevenson (Savannah Hatt, Jr.; Kaylee Dolinski, Jr.; Sarah Cauzillo, Fr.; Ashley Gordon, Sr.).

100 backstroke: 1. Maria Bargardi, Jr., Mercy; 2. Emily Nelson, Jr., Salem. **100 breaststroke:** 1. Marina Borri, Soph., Harrison; 2. Kate Johnson, Jr., Mercy.

400 freestyle relay: 1. Mercy (Olivia Samoray, Soph.; Maria Bargardi, Jr.; Emily Reamer, Sr.; Nikki Barczak, Jr.); 2. Stevenson (Savannah Hatt, Jr.; Kaylee Dolinski, Jr.; Sarah Cauzillo, Fr.; Ashley Gordon, Sr.).

Coach of the Year: Shannon Dunworth, Mercy.

100 butterfly at the Kensington Conference meet.

"Kayla had a tremendous year," Franklin coach Kevin Hafner said. "She has really matured a lot as a swimmer this year and is learning how to set goals for herself and what it takes to attain them. Kayla is a very talented girl who is able to accomplish whatever goals that she sets her sights on."

Olivia Samoray, 100 freestyle, Mercy: Samoray is another versatile swimmer for the Marlins. Her time of 53.45 was second only to teammate Nikki Barczak. At the state meet, she was eighth in the 200 freestyle and seventh in the 500.

"There's a pecking order in swim practice," Dunworth said. "When a sophomore starts to upset the apple cart because she's training so hard, you begin to notice, and that's definitely Olivia. Our practices are extremely competitive, and they stay competitive because of people like Olivia. She wants to earn her place. That pushes everybody else to a better level as well."

Savannah Hatt, 500 freestyle, Stevenson: The junior earned team MVP honors after placing runner-up in the 500 freestyle (5:00.49) at the Division 1 state finals.

Hatt also took a fifth in the 200 freestyle (1:53.82) at the state meet. She was also Kensington Conference champ in the 200 and 500 freestyle events.

"Savannah is a very good and hard-working swimmer, and was our Rookie of the Year in 2007," Phill said. "Lucky for Stevenson, Savannah has one more year with us."

200 freestyle relay, Mercy: The Marlins repeated as Division 2 state champions with an All-America time of 1:36.99. Taylor Steffl, Nikki Barczak and Sato Kakiyara were returning members of the relay with Olivia Samoray joining the team this year.

"What makes it really special is Olivia and Sato swim the 500 right before it," Dunworth said. "They go from the longest race to the shortest race with very little time between them. It takes a special type of person who can not only handle it physically but mentally. Their hearts are still pounding from the previous race. When you

have two gunners like Taylor and Nikki leading it off and two 500 freestylers anchoring, it makes for an interesting mix."

Maria Bargardi, 100 backstroke, Mercy: The backstroke was a new event for Bargardi, who finished second in the Division 2 state meet with an area-best and automatic All-America time of 57.07. She also placed fifth in the 200 IM.

"Maria is an absolute pleasure to coach," Dunworth said. "She is as eager to please as any person I've ever coached. Even if she was just an average athlete, she'd be great to coach because of her attitude, demeanor and commitment. The success she has in the pool makes it that much better. She started to swim the backstroke because of a need we had. Obviously, it turned out to be good for her and the team."

Marina Borri, 100 breaststroke, Harrison: Borri was a state qualifier in multiple events, but the breaststroke is her best. She swam an area-best time of 1:06.64 in the OAA Red meet and was second. Borri was seeded third (1:06.77) in the Division 2 final and finished fifth (1:08.48).

"She didn't have her best swim in the final," Bandy said, adding Borri's foot slipped off the block. "She showed a lot of maturity; she didn't panic and still finished fifth. She has two more years and a lot of great swims still in her. Marina is a team player; she will swim whatever you ask her to swim. You never get any waver in what her goal is, and her goal is to do the most positive thing for the team. Marina swims every event extremely well."

400 freestyle relay, Mercy: The foursome of Olivia Samoray, Maria Bargardi, Emily Reamer and Nikki Barczak captured second place in the Division 2 state meet. After going 3:37.07 in the prelims, they dropped nearly four seconds in the final the next day with an automatic All-America time of 3:33.12.

"That relay sealed the deal at the state meet," Dunworth said. "They knew going into the final, if we held our own, we'd get second; if we moved up a spot, we'd tie; if we moved up a couple, we would win. They responded by moving up to second place. They exceeded

expectations but did what had to be done to win."

SECOND-TEAM

200-yard medley relay, Harrison: The all-sophomore team of Olivia Rath, Marina Borri, Miranda Doecker and Sandra Johnson swam an automatic All-America time of 1:48.89 in the Division 2 state final, breaking its own school record and finishing in fifth place. The Hawks were second in the OAA Red Division and sixth in Oakland County.

"It was just an outstanding effort," coach Ross Bandy said. "The girls had a dream. They visualized what they were capable of doing. They actually surpassed what they thought they were capable of swimming, so I thought it was an outstanding feat."

Lauren Seroka, 200 freestyle, Salem: Seroka sparkled in her sophomore season, capping it off with a fine showing at the Division 1 state final.

The versatile swimmer finished ninth at the final in the 500 free with a time of 5:06.27 and took 11th in the 200 free (1:56.12). She also was part of the 200 medley relay team that placed 16th in the final with a time of 1:54.83.

Seroka, who carries a 4.0 grade-point average, was named team MVP and provides leadership as co-captain.

Salem head coach Chuck Olson said Seroka showed her mettle by doing her best at the DI final despite fighting an illness.

"I respect that an awful lot, because it was a difficult couple weeks for her," Olson said. "The week before she was sick and she was still sick the week after but she did what she was able to do. Hopefully, she'll use this (experience)."

Ashley Gordon, 200 IM, Stevenson: The senior and four-year standout capped a stellar career with a ninth-place finish in the IM (2:09.4).

At the Kensington Conference meet, Gordon was runner-up in the IM and 100 breaststroke (1:09.77). "Ashley, the only senior on our state (meet) team, will be sorely missed," Phill said. "She was our MVP. She was a state qualifier in five events."

Sandra Johnson, 50 freestyle, Harrison: Johnson takes her swimming seriously and was most focused on helping the medley relay do well, according to Bandy. She also excelled in the 50, swimming 24.94 in the state prelims and missing Donna Schwalm's school record by four tenths of a second. Johnson was 14th in Division 2 with a 24.97 finals time.

"She has improved drastically," Bandy said. "I told the kids we had a couple girls last year who didn't swim fast enough in the prelims. You have to get into the top eight or top 16. She had a solid swim. She trains hard; she listens to what I have to say as far as her training techniques, and she has trust in the program."

Desiree Clenney, diving, John Glenn: The junior earned a 27th-place finish at the Division 1 state finals after qualifying with a 12th at the regional.

Clenney was the KLAA South Division champion with a point total of 354.00 and achieved

a fifth-place showing at the Kensington Conference meet.

Her best six-dive total was 220, while her 11-dive P.R. was 354.90.

"Desiree improved and became more consistent with her dives this year," Glenn coach Randy Ferguson said. "It was good that she got a taste of what state meet is like as a junior because she now knows what it takes to place higher next year."

Annie Valentine, 100 butterfly, Mercy: A freshman in her first state meet, Valentine placed 10th in the butterfly fly with a 59.86 finish. She is one of only four area swimmers to post a sub-minute time.

"Annie is another real diligent kid," Dunworth said. "She's one of those individuals, regardless of what you throw at her, she's going to keep her mouth shut and do her best job. We made a difficult decision to take her off a relay at the state meet, and she handled it with all the character of a veteran and a champion. That alone is a highlight I have of Annie. In the pool, she did a great job."

Noel Huffman, 100 freestyle, Mercy: As a freshman, Huffman was a nice surprise and addition to the Mercy team, according to Dunworth. Her best time of 55.34 in the state prelims put her in the top half of the 100 freestyle rankings with the best swimmers in the area.

"She's following in the footsteps of Taylor (Steffl) by being a sprinter," Dunworth said. "She works incredibly hard; she impressed me from day one with the work she puts in the pool. You never had to tell her to get going; she was always going."

Kaylee Dolinski, 500 freestyle, Stevenson: The junior earned All-State honors in the 500 free with an eighth in the Division 1 finals.

She posted a personal best 5:07.46 in the state prelims and was runner-up at the Kensington Conference meet in both the 200 freestyle and 500 freestyle. Her best time in the 200 freestyle was 1:56.39 (12th overall in Division 1).

"Kaylee, just like Savannah, is a very good and hard-working swimmer," Phill said. "She has done a great job of us the last three years. We're lucky to have her for one more year."

200 freestyle relay, Stevenson: This foursome of Hatt, Dolinski, Sarah Cauzillo and Gordon earned the Kensington Conference title and ranked second in the area with a time of 1:40.76.

They wound up 10th at the Division 1 state finals.

"These four girls were put together right at the end of the season and clicked right away," Phill said. "With only one senior (Gordon) leaving this relay, it should be pretty successful in 2010."

Emily Nelson, 100 backstroke, Salem: The junior co-captain and recipient of Salem's Rock Mauer Award (presented to a student-athlete for outstanding athletic and leadership abilities), finished sixth in the 100 backstroke at the Division 1 state final (59.72), good for All-State honors.

Nelson also contributed to Salem's 16th-place finish in the 200 medley relay (1:54.83) and finished 19th in the DI preliminaries in the 200 IM (2:14.31).

"She swam the 200 free and IM

at the state meet, and backstroke is probably her favorite," Olson said. "She did a lot of freestyle sprinting for us this year so she could probably excel there as well."

Olson said Nelson's determination to work year-round and be receptive to his instruction fine-tuned her performance and paid dividends.

The coach added that he is proud of both Nelson (3.85 GPA) and Seroka for their continuing excellence in and out of the pool.

Kate Johnson, 100 breaststroke, Mercy: Johnson was a state qualifier with a 1:11.35 time and was one of the top breaststroke swimmers in the area.

"Kate really stuck to it," Dunworth said. "She earned a spot on the team and, for the first time, went to the state meet. Being on the all-area team is huge for her, but it didn't come easy and over night. I don't think Kate is a natural breaststroker. It was a spot where we needed somebody. She paid attention and went to work filling it. My hat is off to her. She did all the right things to step into a role we needed, and the all-area team is certainly a just reward."

400 freestyle relay, Stevenson: The quartet of Hatt, Dolinski, Cauzillo and Gordon turned in a team-best 3:38.67 en route to a ninth-place finish at the Division 1 state meet.

They also earned a runner-up finish in the Kensington Conference meet.

"Unlike the 200 freestyle relay, these girls were together most of the year and did a great job every time they swam," Phill said. "Ashley Gordon will be the only loss and the future looks bright."

COACH OF THE YEAR
Shannon Dunworth, Mercy: Dunworth led the Marlins to their third consecutive Division 2 state championship. In six seasons, he has also coached Mercy to back-to-back Division 1 runner-up finishes in 2004 and '05.

"It's really great when kids are willing to work so hard to make you look good. That's it in a nutshell," Dunworth said. "I ask a lot from these kids. I don't get long faces; I don't get a hard time; I don't get manipulated. Girls are good at those things. Not in this group, and it starts with the senior leadership."

Dunworth credits senior captains Emily Reamer, Anna Schena and Kelly Karpus for assisting him and helping to make his job easier. "They're the coaches in the locker room," Dunworth said. "During practice, the girls have their faces under water, and then they go into the girls locker room — two places I'm not. Those girls keep the ship on the straight and narrow for sure."

Dunworth added he's more of a character person than a talent person, and the Mercy girls are about working hard, competing and striving to be better.

"In swimming, you are measured so exactly unlike other games that are difficult to put a measuring stick to," he said. "Because it is so exact, the kids are always expected to be at their best. It's a tremendous amount of scrutiny to be put under. But I'll tell you what; they just don't disappoint you!"

ADOPTABLE GREYHOUNDS

Although Greyheart Greyhound Rescue and Adoption found homes for six dogs in December, Domino and Bailey are still waiting their turns to be placed in a permanent home.

"These guys are young, gentle and would be an incredible addition to most families," said Jackie Bowen of Greyheart.

Domino is 3 1/2 years old, with white fur and black markings. He's an outgoing dog, affectionate and he gets along with everyone.

Bailey is age 3, with a black and shiny coat. He's very friendly and loving. He'd do best in a family that has someone home most of the day and another dog to play with.

If you are interested in Domino or Bailey, call Greyheart Greyhound Rescue and Adoption at (866) 438-4739 and check out its Web site, www.greyheart.org, for more photos.

Learn more about adopting greyhounds at Greyheart's "Meet and Greet," noon to 4 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 3, at PetCo, 43435 Ford Road, Canton.



Domino



Bailey

REUNION CALENDAR

The Reunion Calendar runs Sundays in the paper as space allows, and online in its entirety at www.hometownlife.com. Submit your announcement at least two weeks in advance to Sharon Dargay at sdargay@hometownlife.com.

Detroit Pershing Class of 1960

50th reunion festivities in September will be held at the Doubletree Guest Suites Fort Shelby in downtown Detroit. For more information call Sherry Forbush (Sharon Bailey) at (248) 994-0664 or Joan Harrington (Mazey) at (734) 595-7508.

Detroit St. Brigid Class of 1959

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

Farmington High School Class of 1970

Planning reunion in 2010. Seeking classmates. Join the group on Facebook by searching Farmington High School Class of 1970 Reunion. Or e-mail Carla Campbell Lehn at dblehr@aol.com.

Garden City High School Class of 1960

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

Garden City West Class of 1970

40th reunion on Saturday, Oct. 9 at Hawthorne Valley Country Club in Westland. Dinner and DJ included for \$50 per person. Classmates from the classes of 1968-1972 also invited to attend. For more information, call Larry Conn at (734) 788-5254.

Dearborn Heights Haston High Class of 1965

45-year reunion, 6 p.m. to 1 a.m. July 24; Contact Pat Beadle-Kopczyk, 3334 Kneeland Circle, Howell, MI 48843, at (517) 552-1182 or e-mail to her at patkopczyk@aol.com.

Oak Park High School Class of 1980

30th reunion, July 2-4; for information e-mail to ophigh-school1980@yahoo.com

Warren Fitzgerald Class of 1974

35-year reunion, 6 a.m.-midnight, March 20, at Crank's Enchantment Banquet Center, 46915 Hayes, at 21 Mile, in Shelby Township. Tickets are \$30. Call Louise DeLuca at (248) 496-8916 or Lisa Zientek, (586) 291-7998.

MILESTONES

KOWALSKI-FENNELLY

Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Fennelly along with Mr. and Mrs. Mike Kowalski, all of Novi, are pleased to announce the marriage of their children, Tina Susanne Fennelly to Michael Aaron Kowalski.

The couple wed Nov. 7, 2009, at Our Lake of Victory in Northville. An evening reception was held at the Meeting House Grand Ballroom in Plymouth.

The happy couple resides in Farmington.



Kowalski-Fennelly

WEILAND-SHELTERS

Teri Weiland and Joshua Shelters announce their engagement.

The bride, daughter of Arlene and Dave Weiland of Westland, is a 2003 graduate of Salem High School and a Madonna University Nursing School graduate.

Her fiancé, son of Tanis and Chris Shelters of Hartland, is a graduate of Hartland High School and is employed by CJS Mechanical.

A September 2011 wedding is planned at Dunham Hills Golf Course.



Weiland-Shelters

BIES-WILSON



Bies-Wilson

Amanda Bies and Chad Wilson announce their engagement.

The bride-to-be, daughter of Mark and Terri Bies of Westland, is a graduate of John Glen High School. She is employed at Outback Steakhouse in Canton.

Her fiancé, son of Bob and Mary Wilson of Canton and Carol Symons of northern Michigan, is a graduate of Canton High School. He is the proprietor of Outback Steakhouse in Novi.

A destination wedding is planned for October 2010.

RELIGION CALENDAR

Religion calendar items appear 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.

JAN. 3-6

Newburg United Methodist Church

Time/Date: Call in orders from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Monday-Tuesday, Jan. 4-5

Location: 36500 Ann Arbor Trail, Livonia

Details: The church is making and selling Cornish pasties as a fund-raiser. Pasties are \$4 each and can be ordered by calling into the church office. Call in orders only. Any orders left on the church answering machine will be ignored. Pick up times are noon to 6 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 14, 2010 and noon to 5 p.m. Friday, Jan. 15

Contact: (734) 422-0149

JAN. 7-13

Our Lady of Loretto Parish

Time/Date: Starting at 1:30 p.m., Sunday, Jan. 10

Location: 17116 Olympia, Redford

Details: A "Grief Recovery" series runs for six-weeks and deals with the phases of grief, loneliness and other related issues. A \$20 fee covers all materials. Sponsored by Widowed Friends

Contact: Joan at (248) 478-1084

JAN. 14-20

St. Thomas a' Becket Parish

Time/Date: Mass at 2:30 p.m., Sunday, Jan. 17

Location: 555 S. Lilley, Canton

Details: Fellowship and refreshments follow Mass sponsored by Widowed Friends

Contact: Pat at (734) 895-6246

Leon's

Time/Date: 9:30 a.m., Jan. 16

Location: 30149 Ford Road, in Garden City

Details: Monthly breakfast meeting of Bethany Suburban West for divorced individuals and singles

Contact: Kathy M. (734) 513-9479

ONGOING

AWANA

Time/Date: 6:30-8 p.m., Wednesdays

Location: Faith Bible Church, 23414 Orchard Lake Road, Farmington Hills

Details: AWANA program for children from kindergarten through fifth grade

Contact: (248) 426-0096.

Classes/study

Time/Date: 9:30-11:15 a.m. Tuesday

Location: Detroit First Church of the Nazarene, 21260 Haggerty, north of Eight Mile

Details: Tuesday Ladies Bible Study; \$15 registration fee includes interdenominational study materials. Child care available for children through age 5

Contact: (248) 348-7600

Emmanuel Lutheran Church

Time/Date: 7-8 p.m., second Monday of the month

Location: 34567 Seven Mile, between Farmington and Newburgh roads, Livonia

Details: Open Arms Bible class for adults with developmental disabilities and special needs. Includes 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.

Livonia Unity

Time/Date: 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.

Location: 28660 Five Mile, Livonia

Details: Learn Qigong, the ancient form of Chinese energetic medicine - to rid the body of toxic pathogens and painful emotions

Contact: (810) 813-4073 or gary@energeticarts.org.

Men's Bible study

Time/Date: Breakfast at 7 a.m. and study at 8 p.m.

Location: Kirby's Coney Island, 21200 Haggerty, Northville

Contact: John Shulenberger at (734) 464-9491

Merriman Road Baptist Church

Details: 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.

Contact: (734) 421-0472; leave your name and phone number and someone will contact you

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SAMUEL LEE BEAN

Age 38, of Monroe, died Dec. 24, 2009. Visitation 2-8pm Dec. 29 at the David C. Brown Funeral Home, Belleville, funeral Dec. 30, at 1pm. www.davidcbrownfh@aol.com

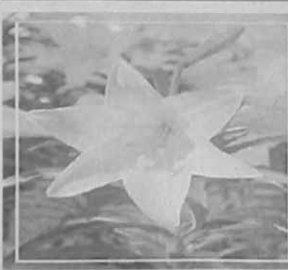
PAUL L. DRAIN

Age 93, December 24, 2009. Beloved husband of the late Eleanore. Dear father of Patricia (John) Hill, Pamela (Richard) King, Michael (Carol Reske) and Robert (Robin Burzan). Grandfather of 11. Great-grandfather of 17. Private Memorial Service will be held Sunday, January 10. Arrangements by Santeiu & Son 734-427-3800



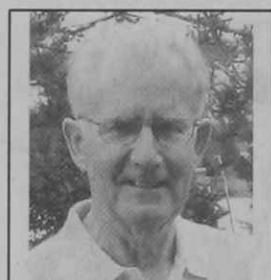
ERNEST T. GASTON

Age 85, longtime resident of Southfield, passed away on December 19, 2009. Born in Pine Bluff, Arkansas July 28, 1924, raised in Eldon, Missouri, he was educated at Northwestern University receiving a Bachelor of Arts and Masters degrees and was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. He was chief underwriter for the American Road Insurance Company (Ford subsidiary) from its inception until his retirement. Ernie loved music and the arts; he supported the Detroit Symphony and the Detroit Institute of Arts, having been recognized as Fellow by the DIA Board of Directors. He sang with the Detroit Lutheran Singers, an original member in 1967 until health issues required his retirement in 1987. A taste for the adventure of travel to other countries and other cultures took him around the world. He is survived by his wife, Doris; children, Marie (Kevin) Duke, Ann Arbor, Peter (Robin) Gaston, Gloucester, MA, and grandchildren Sgt Carl Duke, SPC Rune Duke, Spencer Gaston, Leila Gaston, and his brother, David (Deane) Gaston, Williamsburg, VA. A memorial service was held Dec. 23 at the Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Southfield. To honor his military service in World War II, a memorial will be held at Great Lakes National Cemetery in Holly, Michigan, at a later date.



REID SEBASTIAN GHARAIBEH

Age 13 months, passed away at his home in Garden City, MI on Tuesday, December 22, 2009. He was born October 28, 2008 in Dearborn, MI, son of Namir Derek & Pamela Eileen (Graben) Gharaibeh. He is survived by his parents, two sisters Lessa & Ivy, grandfathers "Pops" Melvin Graben and "Opa" Hashem Gharaibeh, grandmother "Omi" Ria Laub, aunts Becky and Dima, and many other family, friends, therapists, teachers, and doctors. He was preceded in death by his brother Galen on January 18, 2006. Reid was born with Joubert Syndrome and had low vision and was able to attend the Early On Program at Stottlemeyer Elementary School, Westland, MI and was a frequent participant at Oakwood's Center for Exceptional Families in Dearborn, MI. A Visitation was held Saturday, December 26, 2009 from 11-12:30 PM at DAVID C. BROWN FUNERAL HOME, Belleville, MI. Cremation rites will be accorded. Memorial contributions to the Jobert Syndrome Foundation would be appreciated. Please sign his guest book for the family to keep. www.davidcbrownfh.com.



MILLARD J. LETOURNEAU

December 23, 2009. Age 76, of Plymouth. Beloved husband of Kay. Loving father of Greg (Christine), Paul (Barbara), Lisa (Lanny) Lancaster, Tod (Suzin), Darin (Elone), Kirk (Ann), Lee (Bev) Dancy, Mike (Sara) Dancy. Proud grandpa of eighteen. Dear brother of Al, Gloria, Gladys, Sherita and Jean. Mr. Letourneau served his country in the U.S. Army during the Korean War. He also served in the Livonia Fire Departments for 27 years, retiring in 1988 as Battalion Chief. The Memorial Service will be Saturday January 9, 11 AM at Vermeulen Funeral Home 46401 W. Ann Arbor Rd. (Btwn Sheldon and Beck) Plymouth. Visitation Friday 4-8 PM. Memorials may be made to the Alzheimer's Association 20300 Civic Center Dr., Ste 100 Southfield, MI 48076. To share a memory please visit: vermeulenfuneralhome.com

MARIE AGNES MISKOLCI (Sylvestre) "Agnes"

Age 90. Born Nov. 21, 1919 in Maidstone, Ont., Canada, died Dec. 11, 2009. Preceded in death by her beloved husband of 58 years, Anthony, and loving daughter Margaret (Thomas) Renaud. Survived by children: Alan (Linda), Charles, Tina (Jim) Miller. Also survived by nine grandchildren and four great-grandchildren, her sister Mary Laesser, brothers Frank and James Sylvestre, many nieces and nephews. Agnes retired from the Plymouth-Canton Schools as a Special Ed school bus driver. She was very active in volunteering including Plymouth-Canton Civitans, Operation Good Cheer and Special Olympics events. Memorial Mass and luncheon will be celebrated on Sat., Jan. 2, 2010 at 10:30am at St. Robert Bellarmine Church. Family suggests donations to Plymouth-Canton Civitans or Special Olympics.

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:

Friday 4:15 PM for Sunday
Wednesday 9:45 AM for Thursday
Obituaries received after these deadlines will be placed in the next available issue.

e-mail your obit to oeobits@hometownlife.com or fax to:
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Paying
Tribute
to the
Life of
Your
Loved One

NEIGHBORS

Time to move: Get up, out and active in the new year

BY SHARON DARGAY
OSE STAFF WRITER

You've turned the page on 2009.

And you've resolved to make the next 12 months even better than the last ones.

But before you get too comfy, recuperating from celebrations or from savoring the last day of a lazy weekend, it's time to put those resolutions you've plotted into action.

If they include health and happiness in 2010, start finding ways to become active physically, mentally and socially. Here are a few ideas to get you started:

GET CREATIVE

Drop into the Panera on Six Mile in Livonia on a Tuesday night after 6 p.m., and you're likely to find women turning yarn into all manner of knit clothing, decorations or art.

"Our main focus is to encourage each other in our fiber arts addiction, to have lots of fun, inspire our creativity, and make new friends," said Sandy Shou, group organizer.

The Southeast Michigan Knitting Group was founded in October 2006 and is open to fans — both men and women — of fiber arts including knitting, crocheting, spinning, weaving, tatting, and embroidery.

It has members of all ages and skill levels. Shou said beginners are welcome to check out a knit group event and "bring their friends."

Membership isn't required but Shou encourages it because it enables individuals to post photos and patterns, keep abreast of meeting times, locations and group field trips, as well as contact other members.

It also helps organizers plan the size meeting location needed.

"In fact, our membership has

doubled in size the past year and we recently moved our meetings to this current, larger location," Shou noted.

The "meetings" are active sessions with fingers flying and needles clicking.

Members often post project photos on the group's Web site, along with details such as pattern name, fiber used and needle size.

Field trips took members to a spring sheep shearing event last year, to yarn shops in Milford and Detroit and fiber festivals around the state. Events included "Knittflix," which sandwiches a movie matinee between two knitting sessions.

Check out Knit Night at 6 p.m., Tuesday, Jan. 5, 12, 19 and 26 at Panera, 37091 Six Mile or drop in at the Afternoon Knit at 2 p.m., Jan. 7 and 21 at Panera located at 20170 Haggerty, Livonia. The group Web site is at <http://knitting.meetup.com/1011>.

GET CULTURE

Or just have fun by visiting some 30 museums, educational centers, gardens and historic venues through the Museum Adventure Pass program, now in its third year.

"They are popular. I was just commenting yesterday that there are a few slots empty," said Mike Gazzarari, referring to the Adventure Pass display area at Redford Township District Library.

Gazzarari, head circulation supervisor, said four new locations have joined the list of venues that offer free admission to library patrons who borrow the time-limited passes, checking them out with a valid library card.

New for this year are Shalom Street Museum at the Jewish Community Center in West Bloomfield; the Paint Creek Center for the Arts in



Rochester; Troy Museum and Historical Village; and the University of Michigan's Matthaei Botanical Gardens.

The Edsel & Eleanor Ford House, Cranbrook Institute of Science, Pewabic Pottery and the Automotive Hall of Fame are among the myriad venues.

"The Detroit Institute of Arts was the biggest museum draw, but it no longer participates.

People have said they miss it," Gazzarari said. "The Ford Rouge Factory tour is pretty popular, and the Charles H. Wright Museum of African

American History is popular."

Gazzarari said 56 libraries are involved in the program, which is presented by corporate and foundation sponsors, and that Detroit's 24 library branches also distribute the passes.

Visit www.detroitadventure-pass.org and then stop by your local library to obtain a pass.

INVOLVE YOUR DOG

If you've never considered the Plymouth Ice Sculpture Festival as an ideal dog destination, you might want to take another look this year.

"We have 15 people coming so far. It's a big event," said Michael Burkey, Westland-based dog trainer and founder of an activity group for owners and canines.

They'll also bring their dogs to the event, which runs Jan. 22-24 in downtown Plymouth.

Burkey's group of humans and their canine companions will meet at 11 a.m., Jan. 23 near the Starbucks on Ann Arbor Trail, just outside Kellogg Park where all the icy action takes place.

The former police officer

(canine division) teaches group dog obedience classes for the Humane Society of Huron Valley and trains its volunteers. He also has offered both group and one-on-one instruction through his business, MichiganDogTrainer.com, for the past 10 years.

Burkey uses the same name for his dog activity group, which he started on Meetup.com in November 2009. It has 59 members.

"Sometimes we meet at a dog park for off-leash play. We went to Canton's recreation trails and to Mayberry State Park. We'll be at the Plymouth Ice Sculpture Festival. Any dog that's friendly is welcome to join the group."

And owners should be friendly, too.

The group outings are designed for both humans and animals to socialize and have fun together.

"Some people may not be into dock diving or agility, yet they want to have fun with their dogs. It's great socialization for the dogs — they get to go out and see different places, different people and dogs — and it's good for the people. This gives them an opportunity to link up with like-minded folks. They'd love to have more places to take their dogs."

Check out his activity group at www.meetup.com/Michigan-Dog-Trainer.com. His training Web site is at MichiganDogTrainer.com.

VOLUNTEER

There are so many volunteer possibilities — from one-time projects to on-going crisis intervention — at First Step, Wayne County's domestic violence and assault agency, that Associate Director Judith Barr can't name them all.

Please see **ACTIVE, B6**

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH PLANNING COMMISSION

PROPOSED TEXT AMENDMENT 006

ACTION: AMEND THE TEXT OF PLYMOUTH CHARTER TOWNSHIP ZONING ORDINANCE NO. 99 BY AMENDING ARTICLE XX, SCHEDULE OF REGULATIONS, SECTION 20.2, FOOTNOTE 20(bb).

DATE OF HEARING: Wednesday, January 20, 2010

TIME OF HEARING: 7:00 P.M.

PLACE OF HEARING: Plymouth Township Hall, 9955 North Haggerty Road

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Planning Commission of Plymouth Charter Township on its own motion proposes to amend Ordinance No. 99 Article XX, Section 20.2, footnote 20(bb); as follows:

SEC 20.2, Footnote 20(bb) SCHEDULE OF REGULATIONS

(bb) The rear yard in a R-I-E, R-I-H, R-I-S and R-1 Single Family Residential District may be reduced after approval of the Zoning Board of Appeals upon the Zoning Board of Appeals finding that the following specific requirements have been met.

- 1) The single family structure may not extend more than ten (10) feet into the required fifty (50) foot rear yard.
- 2) The rear yard of the residence must back to the rear yard of the adjoining residence and not to a side yard.
- 3) The width of the single family structure extending into the required fifty (50) foot rear yard shall not exceed ~~forty (40)~~ **one hundred (100)** percent of the width of the portion of the single family structure which must comply with the fifty (50) foot setback.
- 4) The proposed penetration into the rear yard setback is the only practical location for the proposed addition.
- 5) The completed structure will be consistent and compatible with the other houses in the immediate area in overall size, construction, quality, finish and aesthetic appearance.
- 6) The proposed extension into the rear yard shall not have a substantial negative impact on the open and expected vistas for adjoining properties.
- 7) The rear yard setback otherwise required is not less than fifty (50) feet, on account of a consent judgment or other special exceptions.
- 8) The proposed structure shall comply with all other requirements of this Ordinance.
- 9) **The proposed addition shall be restricted to one story only and shall not exceed the height of the single family structure.**

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the proposed amendments may be examined at the Plymouth Township Division of Public Services, Community Development Department, during regular business hours from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM. Written comments will be received prior to the meeting and may be mailed to 9955 N. Haggerty Rd., Plymouth, MI 48170 or call 734-354-3270, ext. 6. The meeting will be held in the Meeting Room at Township Hall which is located at 9955 N. Haggerty Rd., Plymouth Township, MI 48170. At the public hearing, the Planning Commission may recommend approval of the text changes as proposed, or as amended.

PLEASE TAKE NOTE: The Charter Township of Plymouth will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at all Township meetings to individuals with disabilities at the meetings/hearings upon one week notice to the Charter Township of Plymouth by writing or calling the Supervisor's Office, 9955 N. Haggerty Rd., Plymouth, MI 48170. Phone 734-354-3201. TDD users: 800-849-3777 (Michigan Relay Service).

**KENDRA BARBERENA, SECRETARY
PLANNING COMMISSION**



Members of the Southeast Michigan Knitting Group work on individual fiber projects.

ACTIVE FROM PAGE B5

"We have 300 volunteers and 50 employees. We wouldn't be able to do what we do without volunteers. Volunteers have unlimited and customized opportunities here," she said. "We use volunteers in every capacity you can imagine — mentoring, clerical, tutoring children, accompanying people to court."

The organization offers a 40-hour comprehensive training program for those interested in crisis intervention with victims of domestic violence and sexual assault victims. Volunteers working in other capacities, such repair projects or on clean-up duties may not require any training. All potential volunteers are encouraged to sign up for First Step's next orientation program, 6-8 p.m., Jan. 4. It will run again 10 a.m.-noon Jan. 26. Both will be held in First Step's Wayne Family Center, 4400 Venoy, Wayne. First Step's main office is located at 44567 Pinetree Drive in Plymouth. It also has a site in Redford at St. Robert Bellarmine, 27150 Westfield. Call Sally Coder at (734) 722-1772 for more information.

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AGING AND ACTIVITY

A fine line exists between aging and activity. With aging, that is reaching age 70 and older, the ability of the body to maintain strength and stamina diminishes. This aspect of aging is inevitable.


On the other hand, the need for activity and exercise becomes important to the point of being imperative. Activity refers to moving out of the house and into the surrounding world for shopping, society and stimulation. This movement keeps the individual alert and in tune with the people around and surroundings of the individual's world.

Exercise refers to the sustained effort the body needs if it is to maintain muscle tone and the ability to maintain equilibrium and balance. The capability to react to prevent a fall from a slight slip or unexpected twist is paramount to well being as the consequences of a fall can be catastrophic to the point of causing death.

Exercise needs to include walking or its equivalent for at least a half hour or to the point of working up a sweat. Cleaning the home, tending the garden, or doing a hobby at a work bench does not qualify as exercise. Exercise is a workout; there will be times when you want to forgo its demands. While it is reasonable to cut down on the workout, do not omit it.

One needs to undertake exercise daily meaning seven days a week. An elderly individual should consider exercise the most important medicine, the key therapy in keeping fit and focused.

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WAYNE HOUSING COMMISSION

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NOTICE OF PROPOSED NEW PARKING GARAGE AND PAVEMENT WORK

THE WAYNE HOUSING COMMISSION IS SOLICITING SEALED BIDS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW THREE VEHICLE GARAGE AND ASPHALT PAVING IN THE CITY OF WAYNE, MICHIGAN. DETAILED INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE COMMISSION'S ENGINEER/ARCHITECTS: SCALES AND ASSOCIATES, INC. AT THE FOLLOWING FTP WEB SITE:

To obtain an electronic copy of the construction documents send an email containing the words Wayne Housing Commission Garage to: rscales@calesassoc.com, with a copy to mjohnson@calesassoc.com. An email containing a link to download the plans will be immediately returned.

Engineers/Architects Address:
Scales and Associates, Inc.
Suite 1100 Grand Park Centre
28 West Adams Street,
Detroit, MI 48226-1617
Phone: 313.962.8830
Fax: 313.962.3776

It's time for pasties at Livonia church

If you missed a chance to taste Newburg United Methodist Church's handmade pasties last year, you'll get another opportunity to buy them this month.

The church is taking orders for Cornish pasties Jan. 4-5, with pick-up scheduled Jan. 14-15 at the church, 36500 Ann Arbor Trail, Livonia. Phone orders from 9 a.m.-noon to (734) 422-0149. No fax orders or voice mail messages will be accepted.

A pasty-making crew turns about 200 pounds of rutabagas, 200 pounds of potatoes and 100 pounds of onions, and 240 pounds of hamburger into a hearty filling and encase it in a shortening-style dough.

Each pasty costs \$4 and weighs about a pound. The fundraiser will benefit a scholarship program and other activities and missions at the church.

Pick up times are noon to 6 p.m. Jan. 14 and noon to 5 p.m. Jan. 15.



Members of Newburg United Methodist Church in Livonia prepare dough for homemade pasties.

CHECK RIVER'S HEALTH BY HUNTING FOR BUGS

You don't need experience to join the Friends of the Rouge Winter Stonefly Search, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Jan. 23, but warm clothing is a must. Registration deadline is Jan. 8.

Families, individuals and children accompanied by a parent, can sign up for the hunt — which helps collect data about the river's health — by calling (313) 792-9621. The group will meet at the University of Michigan Environmental Interpretive Center on the Dearborn campus, 4901 Evergreen.

Team leaders will don waders and walk into the water at various points along the Rouge, scooping up river bed that volunteers on shore will examine for stonefly larvae. The pollution-sensitive bugs live in healthy creeks and rivers, and hatch into adult insects in the winter. The more bugs there are, the better the water quality.

— By Sharon Dargay

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH PLANNING COMMISSION

PROPOSED TEXT AMENDMENT 007

ACTION: AMEND THE TEXT OF PLYMOUTH CHARTER TOWNSHIP ZONING ORDINANCE NO. 99 BY ADDING THE FOLLOWING NEW SECTIONS: SEC 5.2A, SEC 10.2A, SEC 11.2A, SEC 12.2A, SEC 13.2A, SEC 14.3A, SEC 16.2A, SEC 17.2A, SEC 18.2A AND SEC 19.3 PARAGRAPH 8

DATE OF HEARING: January 20, 2010

TIME OF HEARING: 7:00 P.M.

PLACE OF HEARING: Plymouth Township Hall, 9955 North Haggerty Road

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Planning Commission of Plymouth Charter Township proposes, on its own motion, to amend Ordinance No. 99 as follows:

Add the following new sections SEC 5.2A, SEC 10.2A, SEC 11.2A, SEC 12.2A, SEC 13.2A, SEC 14.3A, SEC 16.2A, SEC 17.2A, AND SEC 18.2A .

USES SPECIFICALLY PROHIBITED

No building or land shall be used and no building shall be erected for any use which would be in violation of any State or Federal Law.

Add the following new section SEC 19.3 PARAGRAPH 8

No building or land shall be used and no building shall be erected for any use which would be in violation of any State or Federal Law.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the proposed amendments may be examined at the Plymouth Township Division of Public Services, Community Development Department, during regular business hours from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM. Written comments will be received prior to the meeting and may be mailed to 9955 N. Haggerty Rd., Plymouth, MI 48170 or call 734-354-3270, ext. 6. The meeting will be held in the Meeting Room at Township Hall which is located at 9955 N. Haggerty Rd., Plymouth Township, MI 48170. At the public hearing, the Planning Commission may recommend approval of the text changes as proposed, or as amended.

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**KENDRA BARBERENA, SECRETARY
PLANNING COMMISSION**



Dr. Gary Feucht, DDS

From all of the staff at the dental practice of Dr. Gary Feucht: We Wish You the Very Best in 2010

Beth
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Registered Dental Hygienist
20 years with Dr. FeuchtTrena
Dental Assistant
Starting her second year
with Dr. FeuchtSandie
Dental Assistant
23 years with Dr. FeuchtKara
Office Manager
Starting her second year
with Dr. Feucht

It seems like yesterday that we were all planning Thanksgiving dinner. It is my hope that your year was one that allowed you time to enjoy the wonderful seasonal changes in Michigan. And my hope that you are looking forward to the New Year and the new decade.

As I return from visiting family and friends over the holiday season and was able to do a little fishing at the same time – I am reminded of some of the great conversations I've had with my patients – learning about their families, neighbors and travels.

That is one of the real benefits of being a dentist, meeting so many wonderful people. On behalf of our entire staff we wish you the best the coming year.

Stop by and say hello – find out about our new digital diagnostic imaging system, Dexis, providing our patients with reduced radiation exposure – we would enjoy meeting you and showing you all we have to offer in personalized dental care.

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Cancer center pros offer financial tips

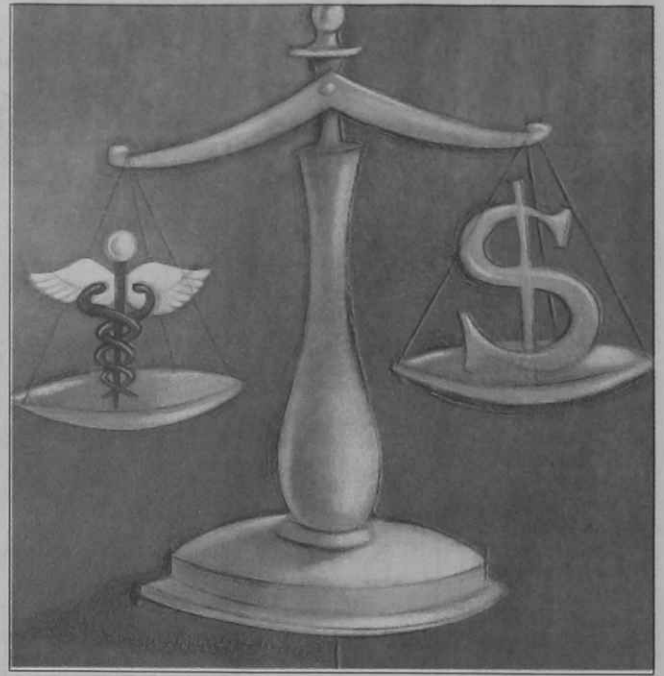
With the New Year under-way, Michigan continues to struggle with a brutal economy, leading to a rise in the number of patients who are unemployed and overwhelmed by medical bills. Experts at the University of Michigan Comprehensive Cancer Center offer these tips for coping:

- If you need a safety net, use it
- The sole purpose of public assistance is to help Americans in crisis. If you need help paying your medical bills, you may qualify for assistance, including Medicaid. For some, it can be difficult to admit they need financial help.
- "What greater justification does someone need to have besides acquiring a health care crisis like cancer?" said U-M social worker Chris Henrickson. "It's not your fault. It doesn't represent a failure on your part. You pay

- for these programs with your taxes, so that they're available when you need them."
- Don't wait to ask for help
- Resources may be available to help you pay your medical bills, but taking advantage of them can be tricky. Most cancer programs or hospitals have financial counselors or social workers who can help you navigate the daunting bureaucracy of public assistance, but it's key that you start the process early. Deadlines are non-negotiable. Also, many other forms of assistance require that you apply for Medicaid first.
- Appoint a financial guru
- Coping with cancer and its treatment is tough, so if you aren't up to handling the financial aspects of your care, seek out a trusted family member or friend to help you. You will need to provide permission to allow this person to act on your behalf.
- Get organized

- Keep records of your medical bills and all correspondence with insurance companies. If you speak with someone by phone, write down the name of the representative you talk to and take notes.
- Read your mail
- It can be easy to let mail pile up if you're not able to pay bills or you're too tired to deal with them. But if Medicaid requests further documentation and you miss the deadline for responding, your case may be closed and you may wind up owing more.
- Go in person
- If your Medicaid caseworker isn't responding to you, go in person or send someone on your behalf. Some caseworkers are better at responding by e-mail; ask if that's an option.
- If you don't understand a bill or letter from your insurance company, bring it with you to your next doctor's appointment. Visit the hospital's

- financial counselor or social worker and ask for help figuring out your next step.
- Be nice
- Never lose your cool with caseworkers or insurance representatives.
- "No matter how frustrated and angry you get, be nice, be patient and be understanding," said Dawnielle Morano, a U-M Cancer Center social worker. "Remember, caseworkers are overwhelmed, too. But they can be key members of your health care team if you work to develop healthy relationships with them."
- Set up a no-interest payment plan
- If you can't pay your medical bills in full, the hospital's financial counselor may be able to set up a payment plan. If you are disputing a bill with an insurance company, do the same thing. When the insurance company pays, you will be refunded what you've paid



and in the meantime, you will avoid having your bill forwarded to a collection agency. "People always say, 'If I pay, I'll never get my money back,'" said Linda Zywicki, financial counselor at the U-M Cancer Center. "That's not true. My job is to help you to get it back in a timely manner. I'm your connection."

Study open for women with hot flashes

Women who are experiencing bothersome hot flashes and who are looking for a non-estrogen based treatment may be eligible to participate in a research study at St. Mary Mercy Hospital's Our Lady of Hope Cancer Center. St. Mary Mercy participates in National Cancer Institute sponsored clinical trials through an affiliation with the Michigan Cancer Research Consortium, which is offering this study. North Central Cancer Treatment Group is sponsoring the study out of the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn. The study will help determine if flaxseed, a dietary supplement, is helpful in lessening or stopping hot flashes in women. Previous studies have shown this alternative to be effective in treating hot flashes. "Hot flashes are experienced by many women, those with a history of cancer and those

concerned about the increased risk for breast cancer. Many of these women do not wish to take estrogen therapy due to concerns about breast cancer," said Philip Stella, M.D., medical director, Saint Joseph Mercy Cancer Care Center. "We hope the research will help us find a better alternative in reducing and eliminating hot flashes." St. Mary Mercy Hospital is a member of Saint Joseph Mercy Health System. St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Ann Arbor, also a member, is the leading research institution of the Michigan Cancer Research Consortium Community Clinical Oncology Program and participates in more than 100 cancer treatment and prevention trials. For more information about the study or other cancer treatment and prevention trials, call Our Lady of Hope Care Center at (734) 655-2792.

Thumb arthritis pain can worsen in winter

With winter in full swing, the cold weather may impact people who have arthritis at the base of the thumb. "The most common symptoms of basal joint arthritis in the thumb is a deep, aching pain at the base of the thumb. Pain is usually worse with activities such as pinching and grasping, opening jars, turning doorknobs or keys, and writing," said Germaine Fritz, a Botsford Hospital hand and microvascular surgeon.

Arthritis at the base of the thumb is a common problem usually starting around age 40, is more common in women, and can be affected by activity. The cause of this arthritis is not always known, but it may be related to past injuries to the joint such as severe sprain or fracture. "As the arthritis disease progresses, the patient may experience pain at rest and at night. This results in loss

of pinch and grip strength, and in severe cases destruction and deformity in the joint occurs and swelling and a prominence or a bump develops at the base of the thumb." Thumb motion can become limited and the space between the thumb and index finger may become narrow making pinching activities more difficult. "Diagnosis is made through physical exam, history and X-rays confirming the diagnosis

and demonstrating the severity of the destruction of the joint," Fritz said. Nonsurgical treatment options are available including ice, pain medication, anti-inflammatory medication, topical anti-inflammatory gel, splinting and Corticosteroid injections. For more information about basal joint arthritis and treatment options available at Botsford, call (877) 477-DOC1.

Free program focuses on teens, substance abuse

"Teens Using Drugs: What To Know and What To Do," a free, ongoing, two-part workshop series, will be presented by Ronald Harrison, SW, Jan. 5 and 12 in the St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Education Center, 5305 Elliott Drive, Ypsilanti. The workshop series is designed to provide helpful, hopeful, practical information for families and others who want to learn how to help when a young person may be experiencing problems related to alcohol or other drug use.

The first part of the series, "What To Know," will run from 7:30-9 p.m., Jan. 5. It will provide information on understanding and recognizing teen substance abuse problems. Part one is repeated every first Tuesday of each month, from October through June each year. Part two, "What To Do," will run from 7:30-9 p.m., Jan. 12. It will provide information on what should and should not be done when a teen substance abuse problem is suspected or identified, and will include a recovery

teen speaker. Part Two is repeated every second Tuesday of each month, from October through June each year. The sessions will include free literature about teens and alcohol/drugs. The "Teens Using Drugs: What To Know and What To Do" program is co-sponsored by Dawn Farm, the Livingston/Washtenaw Safe and Drug Free Schools and Communities Act Consortium, and Saint Joseph Mercy Health System. For more information, call (734) 973-7892.



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WORDS READ UP, DOWN, ACROSS & DIAGONAL

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SEEK AND FIND

WORD SEARCH

THE WORDS TO FIND ARE:

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