

THURSDAY

April 8, 2010

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Food, B10



CANTON CONNECTION

Mothers, daughters: Send us your photos

Hometown Life Woman, a monthly special section inside your *Canton Observer*, will celebrate "Mothers and Daughters" in the May edition.

E-mail a favorite photo of you and your mom, you and your daughter or the aunt, grandma, stepmom or woman who was/is that special mom-like person in your life. Remember — favorite means old or new! E-mail your photo (jpg format please) to woman@hometownlife.com and make sure you identify everyone in the photo. Tell us about the photo in a sentence or two and be sure to include a phone number or e-mail address where we can contact you for more information. Then look for your photo in the Thursday, May 6, edition of Hometown Life Woman.

Waste pickup

Curbside pickup of residential yard waste started Monday and will continue until Dec. 2. All yard waste should be placed with your recyclables separate from your trash on your regular trash collection day.

Acceptable yard waste items include; grass clippings, leaves, yard and garden waste, pruning debris, wood debris and brush. Unacceptable yard waste items include food scraps, animal waste, batteries, chemicals and sod.

All containers must be marked "YARD WASTE" and containers weighing more than 50 pounds or that are more than 32 gallons will not be accepted. All of the yard waste collected in Canton is delivered to the Veolia Regional Yard Waste Compost Site located on Six Mile Road in Salem Township.

For questions or more information on yard waste collection, please refer to your Canton Resource Guide or call Canton Waste Recycling at (734) 397-5801.

Burn notice

The Canton Parks Division is conducting prescribed burns in designated areas through April 15 in selected areas, including Flodin Park Nature Trail, located in Flodin Park between Morton Taylor and Sheldon roads on Saltz Road; and Sheldon and Warren Road Nature Preserve, located north of Warren Road. The scheduled burns will take place when optimal weather conditions are met. For more information or to find out the schedule of Canton's Spring prescribed burns, visit cantonfun.org or call (734) 394-5310.

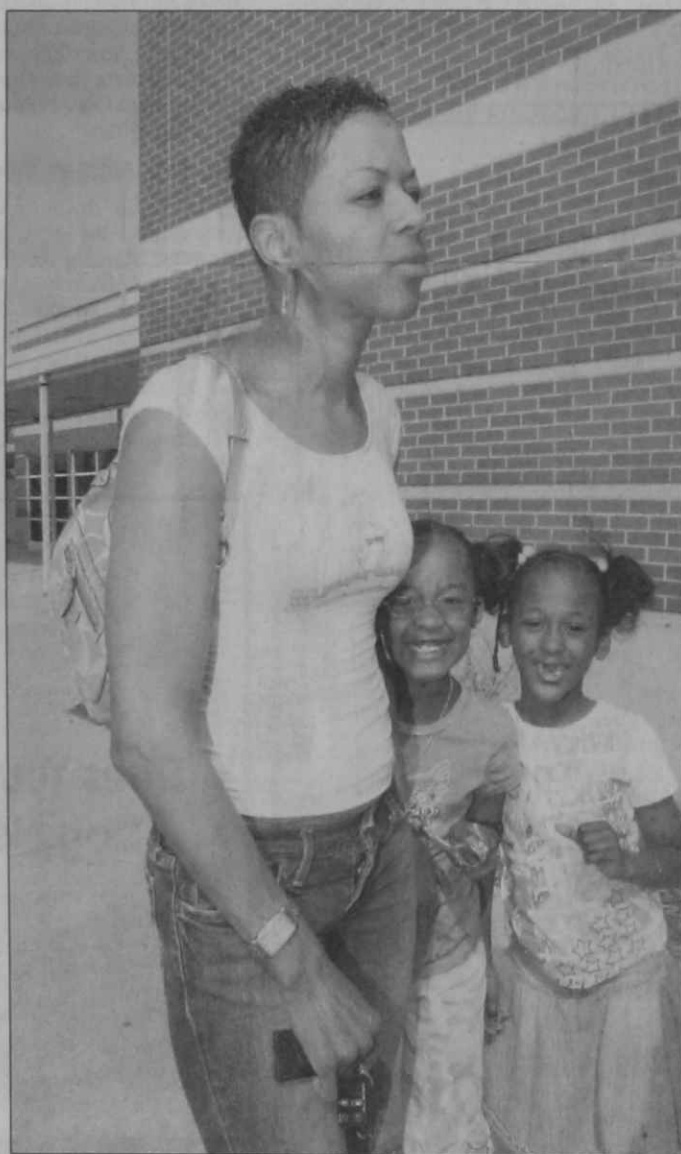


PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Alana Carmichael opposes ending Saturday mail delivery, saying it will result in job losses.

Postal users divided on Saturday delivery

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER



Sabrina Boykin, with daughters Taylor and Lauryn, says she would be "sad" not to get mail on Saturday. "I just love getting mail," she says.

Canton residents are sharply divided over the U.S. Postal Service's proposal to end Saturday mail delivery to homes and businesses by early next year to combat a deficit projected to swell to \$238 billion by 2020, barring cost-cutting measures.

Some patrons outside the post office on Canton Center north of Cherry Hill indicated support for ending Saturday delivery if it will help stem the flow of red ink, but others criticized the proposal as a way to slash jobs and deepen economic troubles for postal employees.

Local resident Patricia Krinock said customers may need to adapt to mail delivery five days a week if it will rescue the U.S. Postal Service, which has cited rising expenses and declining revenues as many former patrons increasingly use the Internet to pay bills and conduct business.

"That would be fine with me — anything we can do to keep the U.S. Postal Service in business," Krinock said. Moreover, she said post offices such as the one on Canton Center have become more customer friendly over the years by adopting later evening hours to serve busy patrons.

But Canton resident Alana Carmichael said she worries because she has a sister and a friend who work for the U.S. Postal Service, and her grandfather is a post office retiree.

"It's going to cut a lot of jobs," Carmichael said, adding that the postal service wants to save money at the expense of its dedicated employees. "I don't think it's fair."

Local resident Surendra Singh called the proposal to end Saturday delivery

Please see **DELIVERY, A5**

Road work ready to test drivers

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Canton motorists should brace for a long road construction season that finally brings the much-anticipated widening of Canton Center Road between Cherry Hill and Palmer — a project certain to cause traffic snarls near township government and library facilities.

"It's going to be a difficult summer," township staff engineer Bill Serchak said, citing a series of projects on heavily traveled roads across the community.

Yet, Serchak and other local officials hope motorists will keep their eyes on the prize — better roads and intersections — as the summer orange-barrel season tests their patience.

Already workers have begun relocating water mains and other utilities as road crews prepare in mid-April to start the largest project — a \$4.3 million effort to widen Canton Center from two lanes to five along the one-mile stretch between Cherry Hill and Palmer.

The work by Madison Heights-based Site Development Inc. marks Canton's first road project paid with federal stimulus dollars, Township Engineer Tom Casari said, though the county will oversee it.

"It's a full summer job," Casari said, and completion isn't expected until possibly late November.

The widening is expected to vastly improve traffic flow along a heavily traveled stretch of Canton Center used by motorists to access local subdivisions, township hall, the Canton Public Library, Heritage Park, Summit on the Park and St. Joseph Mercy Health System of Canton.

The project also involves installing new storm sewers alongside and beneath Canton Center; installing mast arm traffic signals at Heritage Park Drive and Palmer; and reworking Civic Center Boulevard, which runs between township hall and the library, to better align it with a subdivision entrance across the road.

Road crews are expected to maintain north and south lanes for traffic during the project, partly by installing some temporary lanes on the east side of Canton Center.

Still, Casari predicted, "there will be some backing up of traffic."

And there's another potential traffic-clogging problem: It's possible — though not certain, Serchak said — that workers could be forced to shut down the Canton Center-Palmer intersection for a few days.

If that happens — and local officials are hoping it won't — motorists going to places such as Summit on the Park and

Please see **ROADS, A6**

Index

APARTMENTS ... C2
AUTOMOTIVE ... C4
CAREER BUILDER ... C3
CROSSWORD PUZZLE ... C2
ENTERTAINMENT ... B5
OBITUARIES ... B9
PUBLIC SAFETY ... A4
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Red Cross: Blood drive turnout 'amazing'

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Good Friday's blood drive organized by two Canton churches has been hailed by the American Red Cross as the biggest one-day turnout of donors in recent years in southeast Michigan.

"It was pretty amazing," Diane Risko, a Red Cross representative, said.

Here's why:

- A total of 442 pints of blood was donated that could potentially help threefold as many people — or 1,326 patients — who need platelets, plasma or red blood cells, Risko said.
- Of those who gave, 41 people were first-time donors. "That was phenomenal," she said.
- An estimated 440 people

registered to become potential life-saving bone marrow donors.

• In all, 195 people signed up to become organ and tissue donors through the Gift of Life Michigan program.

"What an amazing testament to the generous nature of people," Gift of Life coordinator Jennifer Tislerics said.

Risko said many people gave blood, registered as bone marrow donors and signed up to become organ and tissue donors.

St. Thomas a'Becket Catholic Church of Canton hosted the event with help from another local church, St. John Neumann.

The two churches organize blood drives every year,

Please see **BLOOD, A3**



KIRSTE MOLINE

American Red Cross officials said the Good Friday blood drive at St. Thomas a'Becket Church in Canton had one of the largest turnouts in recent years in southeast Michigan.

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

Double the pleasure

The Canton Public Library wants your tired, your poor, your worn-out magazines, newspapers, and catalogs; your huddled masses of school and office papers; the wretched refuse of your teeming junk mail yearning to be recycled.

For the entire month of April, when you place your recyclable papers in the library's yellow and green bins in the southwest corner of the parking lot, the Canton Public Library will receive double earnings from Paper Retriever Recycling.

Library officials call April "the perfect month for spring cleaning and clearing out your unwanted papers. Plus, you'll be making a difference by recycling during the month when people across the globe celebrate the 40th anniversary of Earth Day!"

For more information, call the library, (734) 397-0999.

Tax help

State Sen. Bruce Patterson, R-Canton, is offering free tax guides to assist constituents with tax questions.

The guide gives the latest information in simple-to-understand terms, all in one publication. It includes information for the 2009 tax year on property taxes, homestead property tax credits, farmland and open space tax relief, the home heating credit program, the Michigan Income Tax, the Single Business Tax, and other tax related subjects.

The guides are available at a variety of locations in the 7th Senate District, including Canton Township Hall, the Canton Public Library and senior center.

An online version of the 2010 Tax Guide is available by

visiting Patterson's Web site at www.senatorbrucepatterson.com/.

Newcomers Mom 2 Mom

Canton Newcomers Club hosts its Mom2Mom sale on April 10, 2010 from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Summit, 46000 Summit Parkway, Canton.

Roll Over fund-raiser

A "Roll Over Cancer Fund Raiser," sponsored by "Inspired from Heaven" for the Canton Relay for Life, takes place 7-10 p.m. Saturday, April 10, at Skateland West, 37550 Cherry Hill in Westland.

Skates will be available to rent or skaters can bring their own. The event will feature a 50/50 raffle (prize: Birthday party for 8 at Skateland) and door prizes; luminaries will be available for \$10.

Proceeds go to the American Cancer Society Canton Relay for Life. For more information, contact Mary at inspiredfromheaven@yahoo.com

Rose party

The Canton Lions Club hosts a "Millionaire's Party" April 15-17 at Rose's Restaurant.

All proceeds will benefit the Canton Lions Club and fund programs for sight- and hearing-impaired folks in Canton Township. The party runs 7 p.m. to 2 a.m. each night.

Rose's Restaurant is located at 201 N. Canton Center Road in Canton.

Damaris scholars

The Plymouth Community Arts Council will recognize a Plymouth-Canton School district senior who has displayed outstanding abilities in visual arts and plans to continue his/her education in this field with the \$1,000 Damaris Fine Arts Award.

Students' artwork will be judged on its originality, creativity, and use of material. Artwork will be professionally

juried.

Applications will be accepted April 27-30, the work will be juried April 30-May 3, and the Damaris Fine Arts Award will be announced May 4.

Applications can be downloaded at: www.storytellerdesign.com/DamarisAward.pdf

Contact Tamara Trudelle at the PCAC, (734) 416-4278 to make an appointment to submit application and portfolio.

For more information, contact Debra Madonna, (734) 377-0914, clarion@storytellerdesign.com.

Clothing bank

The Plymouth/Canton Clothing Bank located in Salem High School is now fully stocked with gently used clothing from infants to adults. People who need clothing and live in the Plymouth/Canton school district can call (734) 416-6179 for information and an appointment.

The Plymouth/Canton Clothing Bank is open Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. when school is in session.

Bible study workshop

Precept Ministries International will be holding Training Workshops at Calvary Baptist Church on June 18-19 to teach students and potential or current Bible study leaders how to study the Bible inductively, improve their Bible study skills or be equipped to lead a Bible study discussion group.

Experienced instructors lead sessions that teach the Inductive Bible Study Method, using the skills of observation, interpretation, and application to help students understand the Bible for themselves. Courses will also be offered to train people to lead small group bible study discussions. Experienced trainers use tried and true methods to help students develop more effective



Rotary honor

The Canton Rotary Club and Carrabba's Italian Grill presented the third annual 'Sharing in the Community Award' to retired Canton Public Safety Director John Santomauro, who was honored for his dedication and service to the Canton community. Rotary officials said Santomauro "truly represents Rotary's motto, 'Service Above Self,' and has exemplified Rotary's Four Way Test during his years of service to the Canton community." Pictured are Club President Bill Tesen, who presented the award, Canton Supervisor Phil LaJoy, who shared some highlights of Santomauro's career, honoree John Santomauro, and Carrabba's owner Scott Osborne, who presented Santomauro with a wine and dine gift certificate to Carrabba's Italian Grill for a seven-course dinner for six.

Bible study or leading skills.

For more information or to register for workshops go to www.precept.org. For questions or an informational brochure call Lee Anne Young, (734) 455-0022, Ext. 2144, or e-mail leeanne@cbcjoy.org.

Slavens coffee

State Rep. Dian Slavens, D-Canton, invites residents to join her for a cup of coffee and conversation at one of her upcoming coffee hours.

Slavens will host her April coffee hours 9-10 a.m. Monday, April 12, at the Canton Big Boy, 45250 Ford Road in Canton, and 11 a.m. to noon Monday, April 19, at Mike's Red Apple Restaurant, 60 Main, in Belleville.

Slavens hosts regular coffee hours and town hall meetings throughout Canton Township, Belleville and Van Buren

Township. If your business or organization is interested in hosting an event with Slavens, call her office toll-free at (888) 347-8021 or send e-mail to DianSlavens@house.mi.gov. Residents also can sign up for Slavens' e-newsletter and take her brief community survey by visiting her Web site at www.house.mi.gov/dslavens.

Hospice support

Compassionate Care Hospice is offering a seven-week grief support series, "Understanding Your Grief," beginning Thursday, April 15.

The group is for any adult who has experienced the death of a loved one and will provide support and education on the grieving process. The group will be conducted at the Compassionate Care Hospice office located at 5820 N. Lilley Rd., Ste. 1, Canton, from 7-8:30 p.m. There is no charge.

For information or to register, contact Ann Christensen, Compassionate Care Hospice Bereavement Coordinator, at (734) 983-9050.

Business women meet

The Canton Business & Professional Women meet 6-8:30 p.m. Monday, April 12, at Palermo's Restaurant, 44938 Ford Road in Canton.

Guest speaker Kathy Henning will talk about being less stressed by showing how important it is to stay present in the moment because the

mind can get carried away, in particular worrying about the future.

For more information and to RSVP, contact June Nicholas at junenicholas@comcast.net or by calling (313) 610-2561.

Captain meetings

Canton Relay for Life hosts team captain meetings 7 p.m. April 13 at the Canton Public Library, and 7 p.m. April 27 at the Summit.

Teams currently registered for the local Relay For Life event or anyone interested in learning more about participating in the event should attend. Team Captain meetings will be held periodically as the community ramps up for the annual Relay For Life of Canton on May 15-16 at Heritage Park.

Community members can join the movement for a world with less cancer and more birthdays by starting a new team or joining an existing team by following the links at www.relayforlife.org/canton-mi. Donations can be made to this local Relay For Life event by visiting www.relayforlife.org/cantonmi as well.

Field fund-raiser

Field Elementary's seventh annual Fun Fair takes place 5:30-9 p.m. on May 7 at 1000 S. Haggerty in Canton. The public is welcome, and food and concessions will be available.

Raffle tickets will sell for \$5, and prizes include \$1,000 Visa Gift Card, Small Flat Screen TV, Lap Top, Xbox and game bundle and a Digital Camera. Raffle tickets will be available to purchase the evening of the event; the drawing takes place at 8:45 p.m. (need not be present to win).

A Silent Auction will be held from 6-8:30 p.m. If you have a business and would like to donate to the Silent Auction, contact Sheila Smith at (734) 637-7891. Ticket drops for opportunities to win themed baskets donated and assembled by each classroom. Tickets are \$1 each or 12 for \$10.


Family events will include a cake walk, pop ring toss, face painting, cash cube, carnival-type games, hospital room, fortune-telling and more. Each child who plays games will win a prize. Wristbands are \$10 at the door or tickets 4 for \$1.

All proceeds to benefit Field Elementary's students, including educational needs (books, classroom equipment, subscriptions, etc) and new playground equipment.

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American Red Cross volunteers tag the bags at the Good Friday blood/bone marrow donor drive at St. Thomas a'Becket Catholic Church in Canton.

BLOOD

FROM PAGE A1

but this year's bone marrow registration took on special significance because one of St. Thomas a'Becket's own — Canton mother of two Kerry Brooks — needs a matching donor. She is battling acute lymphoblastic leukemia, specifically the rarer Philadelphia chromosome positive form.

Her husband, Dave Brooks, said the family remains hopeful that a match will be found. "I'm very pleased that we got 440 people on the (national) bone marrow registry," Dave Brooks said. "The church did a great job with the volunteers and all the people who gave their time and effort. It warms your heart to see so many people help out. There are a whole bunch of unsung heroes." Dave Brooks said anyone who couldn't make the event

but who wants to register for the national Be The Match registry may log on to www.marow.org and click on the "Join the Registry" tab. Meanwhile, blood drive coordinators Cathy Hulett, Peggy Greene, Patti Bihn and Sandy Szbisty counted more than 80 on-site volunteers for the event, and they said the turnout of donors exceeded expectations. Organizers also commended volunteers who dropped off food for nurses and volun-

teers. They singled out Rose's Restaurant for donating pizza. Another event already is planned for 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Sunday, July 18, at St. John Neumann, 44800 Warren Road. Hulett said blood donors may start signing up by going to www.redcross-blood.org and typing in "ccu" as a sponsor code.

Officials: Assessment appeals on decline

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Only 697 Canton property owners appealed their assessments this year to the township's Board of Review — a sharp decline from the 1,292 appeals filed a year ago, Assessor Doug Shaw said. The final tally includes both those property owners who appeared before the Board of Review and others who either dropped off or mailed in their appeals, he said.

Shaw attributed the decline in appeals to tax relief that virtually every Canton homeowner received this year due to falling property values and a decline in the Consumer Price Index, or rate of inflation.

Statistics weren't yet available showing the number of Canton property owners who received additional tax relief by appealing to the Board of Review.

Moreover, property owners who aren't satisfied by the Board of Review process may file appeals with the Michigan Tax Tribunal.

Citing another downward trend in the market value and taxable value of homes for 2010, Shaw said the Board of Review had expected fewer appeals this year as more property owners saw tax relief.

Residential property values for 2010 fell nearly 10 percent, Shaw said, while commercial property values fell even more sharply by 15 percent. Industrial property values remained flat.

While that means tax relief for property owners, township Supervisor Phil LaJoy said Canton expects to lose another \$2.3 million in tax revenues this year due to the declining values.

As a result, LaJoy said the township will continue to trim costs by trying not to fill jobs that become vacant. He also said local officials will have to find "creative ways" to tighten the purse strings and rein in spending while attempting to provide services that residents have come to expect.

"We'll just have to continue to do what we've been doing," he said.

LaJoy and other township officials also have indicated they may have to dip into the township's general fund balance which, during the last audit, had topped the \$7 million mark.

Meanwhile, Shaw said some property owners who appealed their assessments this year based some of their documentation on the sale of foreclosed homes in their neighborhoods.

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CRIME WATCH

Man reports drug dealer stole his cash

1 A Canton man contacted police to report he had given his alleged drug dealer \$900 for some "good Colombian marijuana" — but he said he hadn't received the marijuana or his money back.

The man lives on Iron Gate, north-east of Warren and Sheldon.

It might seem odd for a man to report the theft of money that was to be used to buy drugs. However, it didn't come as a surprise to Canton police, who know the man by his first name because they have had numerous contacts with him in the past.

Pot call

2 Also from the marijuana files, police were dispatched to Magnolia Court, north of Cherry Hill and east of Haggerty, after someone saw what appeared to be a small bag of marijuana on the console of a car.

Police arrived and noticed the bag along with rolling papers on the seat of the car, so they went to the man's residence. The incident happened around 6 p.m. March 31.

He initially told police he didn't know what they were talking about. Then he said he would accompany them outside after he put his dog away upstairs. He was gone for awhile and then asked the police to leave, but he ended up going outside with them.

The man told police he didn't know whose baggie was in the car. He said he had co-signed for the vehicle for another family member who lived elsewhere, but he didn't want to give a name. He said the relative was in Texas and had keys to the vehicle.

Police managed to open the car and retrieve what appeared to be marijuana. The investigation was continuing.

Fence damage

3 A man who lives on Camelot, southwest of Warren and Sheldon, called police after a motorist drove across his front yard and damaged a decorative fence. The man looked outside after he heard a loud crash around 3:45 a.m. Saturday.

The man's fence was in pieces and scattered across the front yard when police arrived. Tire tracks also could be seen on the yard.



Phone home

4 One man's misfortune should send a message to other movie-goers: Careful putting a cell phone in a cup holder.

The man went to Canton Cinema, on Ford Road west of Morton Taylor, placed his BlackBerry in a cup holder, watched a movie and got up to leave without his phone. When he went back to his seat, it was gone.

The man suspected another patron who had sat near him. He approached the other man, who denied taking the BlackBerry.

The incident happened about 11:20 p.m. last Thursday.

Hit and run

5 Police were dispatched to an area where a female driver was reported to have left the scene of a property damage accident about 1:45 p.m. last Friday northwest of Sheldon and Ford roads.

Officers found the woman in the parking lot of Huntington Bank, and

she told them she had tried to pull into a parking spot when she struck another vehicle before driving off. She told police she was scared and didn't know what to do.

Police issued a citation for the woman to appear in 35th District Court.

Floodlight smashed

6 A floodlight at the entrance to Cherry Meadow subdivision, south of Cherry Hill and west of Sheldon, was broken and thrown on a resident's front porch shortly before 2 a.m. Friday, according to police.

A resident had gone to unlock the door for another family member and noticed the broken flood light on his porch, which faces Cherry Hill.

The light was used to illuminate the subdivision entrance sign. Police also found that a mount for the floodlight had been broken.

— Compiled by Darrell Clem from Canton Police Department reports.

Former clerk gets 30 days in jail for embezzlement

BY KEN ABRAMCZYK
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A former civilian clerk who once worked in the records bureau for the Livonia Police Department was sentenced Tuesday to two years probation and 30 days in jail for embezzling more than \$20,000.

Jane Anne Delaney, 63, of Canton will serve the 30-day jail sentence on 15 consecutive weekends. Delaney was sentenced by Wayne County Judge Michael Hathaway after she pleaded guilty March 9 to a charge of embezzlement by a public official over \$50.

Hathaway also ordered her to continue psychiatric treatment and counseling.

Delaney's job as clerk involved processing requests from the public for copies of accident reports, police

reports, gun permits and notary duties, as she was a public notary. After police received a tip, police began an investigation of Delaney.

Police recovered \$20,369 with \$20,270 from her home and the remainder from her purse, according to Detective Tim Larion. That recovered money will remain in the city's possession, Larion said.

Larion believes the amount was close to what Delaney took. She confessed to taking about \$22,000 over a five-month period. Delaney had also kept a ledger with the dates and amounts of the money she stole with a total that was close to the amount recovered, Larion said.

Delaney, who worked for the city for 21 years and for the police department for at least 10, was terminated after her arrest Oct. 2.

Planning is the key to surviving severe weather

To help recognize Severe Weather Awareness Week, which begins Sunday, Canton's Emergency Management Office encourages residents to review thunderstorm, lightning, tornado and flood safety procedures.

Public Safety officials remind Canton residents they should not be complacent when it comes to severe weather. Michigan's history has many significant severe weather events that unfortunately have brought millions of dollars in damages to property,

along with deaths and injuries.

Emergency Management officials said the best time to prepare for severe weather is before it happens. Have a plan in place for your family and your pets. Be sure everyone knows where to go and what to do in case of severe weather no matter where you are.

For more information on severe weather awareness, contact Canton's Emergency Management Office at (734) 394-5357 or visit Canton Public Safety's Web site at www.cantonpublicsafety.org.

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Support group aims to help parents of troubled teens

For mothers of teens who have rejected the values of their upbringing, Calvary Baptist Church in Canton is offering help and encouragement through HeartCry, a Christian support group. The group meets 7 p.m., every other Wednesday at Calvary Baptist Church, 43065 Joy Road, in Canton.

Lee Anne Young, director of Women's Ministries at the church, believes the faith-based support group fulfills a need in the community.

"Mothers can do everything 'right' as a parent, but the child is still free to make destructive life choices," Young said. "When that happens, mothers find themselves in a crisis with nowhere to turn. HeartCry provides a safe, practical support system."

Jacalyn Sanders, herself the mother of a rebellious child, formed the group three years ago to provide support to other mothers in similar circumstances. Group members typically have teens/young adults who are involved in drug or alcohol abuse, gambling, truancy, pornography, promiscuity or criminal behavior.

"When I discovered my son was in trouble, I didn't know where to turn to for help," said Sanders. "It was embarrassing to share the situation with my family, friends and colleagues; besides, most of them simply could not identify with what my family was going through."

At the time, Sanders was a middle school teacher, specifically dealing with at-risk students. Accustomed to offering support and advice to other parents, she nevertheless felt overwhelmed when she learned her own son was drug-involved.

Sanders tried participating in family support groups associated with 12-step programs.

"I discovered those groups often assumed our family was dysfunctional," Sanders said. "But my husband and I had raised our son in a loving home. What I needed was help in dealing with the disappointment and guilt." Eventually, Sanders, with help from group members, wrote a 12-step program specifically for mothers of rebellious teens.

"The first step is to acknowledge that your child has rejected your value system and that your child's behavior is beyond the scope of problems typically experienced by teenagers. Many parents remain in a state of denial," explains Sanders, "minimizing the situation or placing blame for their child's behavior on others."

Membership in the group is always open and no fees are involved. Sanders acknowledged that it can be difficult for someone to take that first step and attend a meeting.

"But inevitably, mothers tell me the group becomes a lifeline - it's the one place they can be completely honest about what's happening with their child and not be judged," Sanders said.

Further details, including contact information and a meeting schedule, can be found on the group's Web site, <http://www.heartcrysupportgroup.org/>

DELIVERY

FROM PAGE A1

to homes and businesses a practical idea amid challenging financial times.

"In this economy, I think it's a good idea," Singh said. "When the economy gets better, they could go back to six days. But if it saves money right now, I don't think it's a problem."

Canton mother Sabrina Boykin, accompanied outside the Canton Center facility by daughters Taylor, 9, and Lauryn, 6, said she looks forward to getting her mail six days a week.

"I'll be so sad if they stop delivering on Saturday," she said. "I just love get-

ting mail. I also come to the post office because I mail a lot of things."

Under the postal plan, Saturday express mail and delivery to post office boxes would continue even though delivery to homes and businesses would stop. Postal officials have estimated first-year savings of as much as \$3.1 billion, potentially increasing to \$5.2 billion a year by 2020.

Saturday was chosen as the day to possibly halt delivery because it typically has the lightest volume of mail. However, the measure would have to be approved by the U.S. Postal Regulatory Commission and Congress before it could become effective.

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



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Patricia Krinock doesn't mind eliminating Saturday mail delivery if it will help the U.S. Postal Service combat financial losses.



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Stabenow: Bill would level playing field

BY BRAD KADRICH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

In 17 years at Atlas Tube, one of the country's largest manufacturers of hollow steel tubing products, plant manager Jeff Cole has seen sales drop and employees laid off because of uneven pricing that allows overseas competitors to sell products and services cheaper.

If legislation being pushed by U.S. Sen. Debbie Stabenow, aimed at the way the Chinese value their currency, can do something about it, Cole is all for it.

Stabenow was at Atlas Tube's Plymouth plant Tuesday, stumping for support for her Currency Exchange Rate and Oversight Reform Act, which would penalize countries like China, she says, which undervalues its currency to artificially discount its foreign products.

Stabenow contends some countries undervalue their currency to give themselves a competitive advantage in the global economy. One of those, Stabenow said, is China, which she says undervalues its currency by as much as 40 percent.

"I have been focused on making sure, in a global economy, the rules are fair," said Stabenow, who is preparing for a trip to Beijing. "It needs to be a level playing field. It's not OK for countries to cheat."

According to Stabenow, China has undervalued its currency since its 2001 admission to the World Trade Organization, which provides a formula for how member countries are to value their money. Stabenow said the Chinese haven't ever followed those rules; consequently, she said, the Chinese "dump their products" into the U.S. at much cheaper rates than companies like Atlas Tube.

Atlas Tube, located on Eckles in Plymouth Township, has a production capacity of some 180,000 tons and employs more than 50



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

U.S. Sen. Debbie Stabenow talks about legislation to force countries to properly value their currency, a bill she said would help companies like Atlas Tube in Plymouth Township.

workers. It's a division of John Maneely Co., which Atlas president Dave Seeger said has lost some 500 jobs because of tactics such as those he says the Chinese use. Stabenow believes the job loss due to such practices numbered more than 2 million between 2001-08.

"When you undervalue your currency, it gives you a huge unfair advantage," Seeger said. "Congress has been reluctant to address it. I'm sure it's complicated politically ... to get tough with China on trade. I think (that reluctance) comes at the cost of thousands of manufacturing jobs across the country."

The legislation would:

- Require the Department of Treasury to act when it sees that a currency is being undervalued as a result of clear government policies that interfere with the currency market.

- Require the Department of Commerce to act when an American company complains that Chinese products get a subsidy or because manipulated currency results in prices that are artificially low.

- Provide the Department of Commerce with formulas

to impose penalties for dumping or subsidies so manufacturers and businesses do not have to wait for action by the Treasury Department.

If it works, it'll cut down on the competitive advantage for overseas countries.

"I don't deal with (jobs), I deal with our volume," said Cole, Atlas' plant manager. "Over the past couple of years, we've seen our volumes drop. Our customers are buying overseas because they can get it cheaper. They've had anti-dumping laws, but with their price manipulation, Chinese get around them. It's time someone did something about it."

Stabenow said the legislation, and the attitude that comes with it, is as important as the bill itself.

"We're going to commit ourselves to American manufacturing and American jobs," she said. "We've had a decade of 'being in a global economy.' But that doesn't work if the other countries aren't following the rules. This isn't about closing borders. It's about making everyone follow the rules."

bkadrich@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-8899



1. Widening of Canton Center to five lanes between Cherry Hill and Palmer.

2. Add turn lanes to Lilley at Cherry Hill.

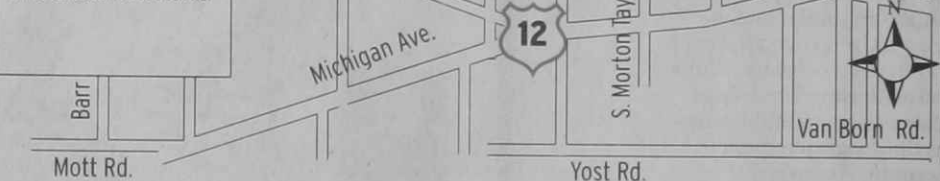
3. Add turn lanes to Cherry Hill at Haggerty.

4. Surface repairs along Palmer between Haggerty and Lilley.

5. Federal stimulus project for five-lane reconstruction at the Warren-Lilley intersection.

6. Microsurfacing project on Ford Road from east of Sheldon to Wayne Road in Westland.

7. Widening of Ford Rd. from three lanes to five at Beck Rd.



Source: Canton Township

ROADS

FROM PAGE A1

the Pheasant Run Golf Club would likely have to take either Heritage Park Drive or Civic Center Boulevard — both near the government complex — over to Veterans Way and then to Summit Parkway. Workers would likely put up detour signs to help drivers.

Meanwhile across town, Serchak said the widening of Sheldon Center Road from Canton Center to Joy isn't expected to begin until next year, though it could be bid out later this year.

Other road projects set for this year — none of which is expected to result in any significant road closings — include:

- Widening and adding turn lanes on Lilley Road at Cherry Hill, and similarly widening Cherry Hill at Haggerty. Serchak said those two local projects are expected to cost about \$800,000 and could begin within a month.

- Though an exact date isn't known, the county this summer will put down an overlay to make surface repairs along a stretch of Palmer between Haggerty and Lilley.

- Another summer federal stimulus project involves a

\$945,577 effort for a five-lane reconstruction at the Warren-Lilley intersection, an area local officials said is in dire need of improvements. The project could begin in coming weeks.

- A microsurfacing project along Ford Road, from just east of Sheldon Road to Wayne Road in Westland, is expected to begin in July. It is far less intrusive than a full-fledged resurfacing project, and the work is mostly expected at night when traffic volume is lower.

- A widening of Ford Road at Beck from three lanes to five is expected to be bid out in June and occur later in the summer, possibly in July, including new traffic signals.

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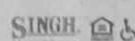
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The Paisley Fogg – including (from left) Dave Birchler, Dawn Dehring, Tommy Anderson, Tom Birchler, Ron Graham and Keith Birchler – will be among the bands performing at 'Jammin' to End Famine' April 23 in Livonia.

Birchler family fights hunger with music

The Birchler family hosts "Jammin' to End Famine 2010," its third annual concert to benefit Kids Against Hunger, at 6:30 p.m. Friday, April 23, at Monaghan's Knights of Columbus Hall in Livonia.

"This year our goal is to double the amount of money we raise. The need here in Michigan, as well as places like Haiti, is just staggering," said Dave Birchler, 60, of Birmingham, one of five brothers involved.

The show will feature four acts, three of which contain members of the Birchler family, said Tom Birchler, 56, of Livonia, concert organizer.

Tickets, which are tax-deductible, are \$20 each, or \$10 for students. A cash bar, free pizza, salad, sweets and face painting Cat's Meow Face Design are included.

Last year, the concert drew 175 people and raised more than \$3,000. This year, the Birchlers hope to attract 350 people and raise more than \$6,000. They reduced the ticket price for students in an

effort to attract more young people and help spread the word about Kids Against Hunger, Tom Birchler said.

Kids Against Hunger is a worldwide hunger relief organization that also assists needy Michigan families. "Haiti has always been the No. 1 country KAH has sent food to, even prior to this year's earthquake," Tom Birchler said.

Tom Birchler said he was very impressed with Kids Against Hunger after participating in a mega packaging event in Okemos, where 800 volunteers assembled 100,000 meals. "I was astounded to see hundreds of grade school and high school kids enjoying themselves while helping to package food for the less fortunate. All the profit from this concert will go directly towards buying more food to take advantage of the tremendous participation Kids Against Hunger inspires."

Kids Against Hunger sets up food packaging satellites in the United States and worldwide

through partnerships with humanitarian organizations, enabling them to deliver its specially formulated rice-soy casserole to starving children and their families in more than 40 countries.

Music at the concert will be geared to all ages, Tom Birchler said. "We try to give them something different each year. I am extremely excited about the talent we'll have on stage."

John Birchler of Plymouth, a past president of the Kiwanis Club of Colonial Plymouth, is the one who suggested the family raise money for Kids Against Hunger.

Monaghan's Knights of Columbus Hall is at 19801 Farmington Road. Tickets are available at the door or in advance by contacting Tom Birchler via email at tbirchler@twmi.rr.com or by calling him at (248) 722-1820. For more information about Kids Against Hunger, go to www.kidsagainsthungercoalition.com. For venue information, go to www.livoniakofc.com.

Spring brings opening of Greenfield Village

The start of the spring season means Greenfield Village is about to reopen.

The historic village reopens April 15, allowing visitors and members to enjoy the sights and sounds of over 300 years of history. Tickets are \$22 adults, \$21 seniors (ages 62 and up), \$16 youth (ages 5-12); children under five and members are free. For more information, call (313) 982-6001 or visit www.thehenryford.org.

It's the first chance of the season to see 300 years of history in Greenfield Village. Stroll down to Firestone Farm to see the barnyard animals and the newest additions to the family – wrinkly Merino lambs. In the fields, lend a hand with springtime chores whether it be planting, clearing the fields of rocks turned up by plowing and more. Also, while at Firestone Farm, check out its new roof, fresh coat of paint, new rag rug made at the weaving shop and new wall paper.

At the Ford Home, visitors can catch costumed presenters hand-shearing grown merinos just as farmers would have

done in the late 19th century. Lend a hand at the Daggett Farmhouse in sorting, picking, washing, carding and spinning wool after the Merino sheep are shorn.

Visitors can also take a Model T ride, a turn on the carousel or a leisurely tour of the village on the horse and carriage. Visit Liberty Craftworks district to see our world-class artisans in the glass, pottery and tinsmith shops working on new creations and techniques.

The first big event weekend starts with Thomas the Tank Engine and his friends as they return for Day Out With Thomas: The Celebration Tour 2010, April 24-25 and May 1-2 and 8-9. All Thomas fans are invited to come spend the day with their favorite No. 1 engine and celebrate his 65th birthday. Children of all ages can watch one of their favorite storybook characters come to life, and take a 20-minute train ride on a real steam engine pulled by Thomas. Additional tickets are required for the train ride.

The Henry Ford, located in Dearborn, is a National Historic Landmark that celebrates American history and innovation. Its mission is to provide unique educational experiences based on authentic objects, stories and lives from America's traditions of ingenuity, resourcefulness and innovation. Its purpose is to inspire people to learn from these traditions to help shape a better future.

Five distinct attractions at The Henry Ford captivate more than 1.6 million visitors annually: Henry Ford Museum, Greenfield Village, The Ford Rouge Factory Tour, The Benson Ford Research Center and The Henry Ford IMAX Theatre. The Henry Ford is also home to Henry Ford Academy, a public charter high school which educates 485 students a year on the institution's campus and was founded in partnership with The Henry Ford, Ford Motor Company and Wayne County Public Schools. For more information please visit www.thehenryford.org.

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SOCIAL SECURITY

Many people are wrongly rejected when they apply for Social Security Disability benefits. Money was taken out of their paychecks for Social Security taxes to ensure that they would receive disability benefits if they could no longer work full-time. Sadly, the government denies approximately 60% of those who apply for disability benefits.

The tragedy is that less than half of those persons who are denied benefits file an appeal. Thus, many thousands of people who deserve benefits never receive them.

Those denied can appeal on their own, but statistics for many years reveal that those represented by attorneys win a much higher percentage of appeals. And attorneys who specialize in Social Security Disability cases win a much higher percentage yet.

Attorney J.B. Bieske has represented only Social Security Disability clients for over 20 years. That is the only type of law he practices. And, he personally meets



with all clients and appears himself at all court hearings. Many large firms assign clients to young associate attorneys with much less experience.

In addition to practicing only Social Security Disability law Bieske has written a book for attorneys about the subject. He also has been interviewed on various radio and television programs and has given speeches to many groups.

Bieske's office staff consists of paralegals and secretaries who are also highly experienced in assisting him with Social Security Disability cases. And they are extremely helpful in answering questions with regard to the status of clients' cases and administrative procedure.

Attorney Bieske welcomes you to call him to determine if you may be eligible for these benefits. He offers free phone or office consultations. If Bieske represents you, there will be no fee charged until after the case is won. The fee is a percentage of retroactive benefits.

In a recent radio interview attorney Bieske explained that many people are not even aware that they are

eligible for Social Security Disability benefits. These are not the same as Workers' Compensation benefits. It is possible to receive both benefits at the same time. If you have an illness or injury (whether or not related to your work), are under 65 and unable to work full-time you may be eligible. Social Security Disability benefits are based on your work record or your deceased spouse's work record (Widow's/Widower's benefits).

Bieske represents clients from all over the state of Michigan. Call him at 1-800-331-3530 for a FREE consultation if you have been denied. Or if you are thinking of possibly applying for Social Security benefits call him for FREE advice. www.ssdfighter.com



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THURSDAY
April 8,
2010

Page A8 (C)

Brad Kadrich, editor
(313) 222-8899
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LOCAL OPINION

online at hometownlife.com



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

OUR VIEWS

Our libraries are more than books to read

A library plays a unique role in our society. It is a reflection of our civic pride — a center for learning, a hub for social interaction and a safety net for those in need.

A library also is the cornerstone of the community. In person and online, it connects people to a whole world of ideas and information.

The Canton Public Library reflects the diversity and character and the needs and expectations of the Canton community. Those needs and expectations are extensive, and the services the library provides are invaluable.

Next week, April 11-17, is National Library Week. Sponsored by the American Library Association, it's a celebration of the contributions of libraries, librarians and library workers. The theme this year is "Communities thrive @ your library," and we believe that describes the Canton Public Library to a 'T.'

Society is changing and the Canton Public Library is keeping pace. It is no longer just a place for people to find a book to read and students to find information for term papers. Sure, it has computers and even Internet access available for visitors, but there's much more.

Storytimes and summer reading programs for youngsters and foreclosure information, displaced worker assistance and training opportunities guidebooks, recession resources and State of Michigan job opportunities for adults.

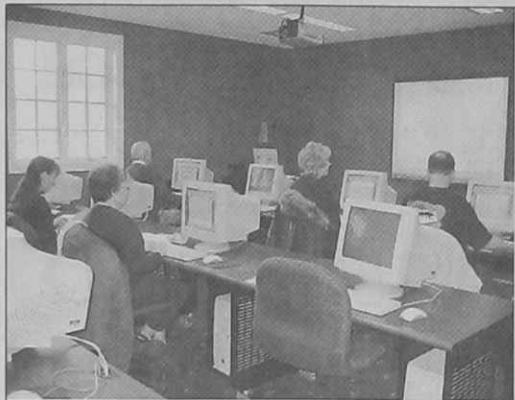
The Canton Public Library has become the heart of the community.

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We offer our heartfelt thanks to library Director Eva Davis, PR whiz Laurie Golden and the rest of the library staff for all they have done to make the library an integral part of the community.

And while we're at it, we'd like to give a shoutout to the librarians and library workers in the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools. April also is School Library Month. They, too, do an awesome job encouraging kindergartners through high schoolers to use the books and services available in the school media centers.

Whether it's the school library or the public library, take some time to stop by and experience what they have to offer. Who knows, you may find a good book, a video or CD and make a few new friends along the way.



Libraries are no longer just a place to find a book, as these computer-users demonstrate. They've become a social outlet and an integral resource to displaced workers plotting their next career move.

COMMUNITY VOICE

How do you think health care reform will affect you?

We asked this question at the Canton Public Library.



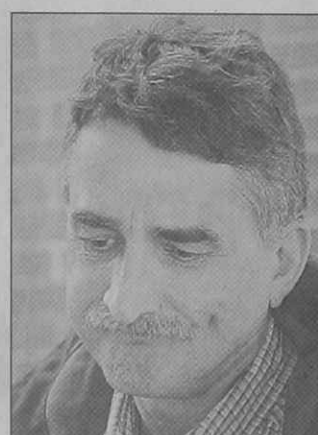
"I get part-time health coverage through (J.C.) Penney, so probably not that much."

Kim Seigle
Canton



"I think it will affect me positively. I have a 21-year-old son who has no health insurance, so he can go on ours until he's age 26. I also think it will benefit the country as a whole."

Richard Lucco
Canton



"I don't think it will have a big effect on me, but it will help the country."

David Olson
Canton



"I don't think it will affect me at all. We've got good coverage now."

Kathy Correa
Canton

LETTERS

Enough already

"Theatrics, GOP, power grab, conservative, Democrats — They." This is some of the blather we wrote about here last week. Enough already!

Neighbors, our problems aren't about Republicans/Democrats, liberals/conservatives, or we/they. The problem in the state of Michigan is that we, WE, are spending too much. When things were good, WE, through our representatives spent too much, now WE have to stop. In our country where an income of \$20,000/year is considered "poverty," we need to remember Haiti, and then get down to the business of fixing things.

We've got an example in this state in Ford. They found a leader and when their revenues went down, they cut costs. Nothing was sacred, and many people felt the pain. Some lost their jobs; some left. They planned for the future, not what they

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

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wanted today. And NO ONE helped them.

We need a leader like Ford found; we need to be as tough as Ford employees were in taking the pain. There can't be anyone

or thing that "has given enough." No sacred cows. No lobbying for "our interests."

We did one thing right in the past in Michigan: we set term limits. We don't have to throw the bums out; they'll be gone soon enough. We can elect new legislators who have, like Mr. Mulally, demonstrated success, not just promised it.

We don't need politicians or parties, we need leaders to fix our state — and we need to do what we can ourselves to bear some of the burdens, to help our neighbors in need. Let's not have church leaders writing to Washington or Lansing for help; let's have them leading their people in getting things done.

It won't be easy. Let's roll!

Tom Salapatek
Canton

Mail delivers details of a place to 'die' for

We all know that piece of property we are just dying to acquire. A place we spend our entire life working and saving for, a place to kick back and make our final resting spot.

But today, many of us are experiencing that sinking feeling with the value of our properties dropping like a trap door being pulled open.

Hard-working people across the state and nation are losing their homes to foreclosures. The implosion of

our economy has resulted in both job and home losses while values continue to plummet. It truly is a sinking feeling whether it is happening to you or to family and friends.

It is just not a good feeling to see home values drop from between 25-30 percent. You might have noticed that people who have lost their homes have that gaunt, dead man walking appearance.

Clearly those with a steady job, a decent income, a substantial sum of cash for a down payment, might be lucky enough to find a lender so now might be a good time to buy. My daddy always told me "buy low, sell high." Now property is as low as 6-feet under.

Foreclosures, bank owned properties, people 'underwater' in their mortgage and walking away from their homes — the sheer number of properties listed today makes it a sad and tragic time for distressed sellers, but also one of the hottest



The writer received a brochure from Knollwood Cemetery in Canton.

the market to buy new property — but this is a heavenly deal, I thought.

As I opened my mailbox recently and pulled out the real estate value of the century, it occurred to me "This is my lucky day!" Right here in my hands is one hell of a deal — a piece of property to die for!

It was an idyllic plot, a real estate price rolled back to 2001! "It sits on 46 acres of unique, pastoral, park like setting... a place that 'protects family heritage ... and 'eternal beauty.' The place sounded heavenly!

The advertisement lured me further by pointing out: "making decisions together about important life events is just plain smart." It went on: "Everyone knows that planning for future health needs, living arrangements and retirement, makes those inevitable transitions easier and more comfortable." "Sign me up!" I screamed.

This was clearly a long term investment, a piece of property that I would not occupy immediately but would always be there for me, located in the diverse, growing community of Canton and being offered at a bargain basement 2001 price.

A lot that offers peace, serenity and solitude, a community with such a peaceful name: Knollwood Memorial Park Cemetery.

Look around your community for one of these everlasting places. Hey, a deal is a deal! An everlasting one at that!

Tom Watkins is a freelance writer and business an educational consultant in the US and China. Read his regular commentary at www.domemagazine.com.

CANTON
OBSERVER



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Editor

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/ Publisher

Grace Perry
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Advertising

buyers' markets in recent history.

LOOKOUT FOR A DEAL
Opportunity is all around us. Although not necessarily in

Save only essential documents, shred rest

After Michigan State's loss Saturday in the Final Four, I decided to do some housekeeping. I sat down next to my shredder and got rid of documents that had accumulated over the last couple of weeks. Lo and behold my shredder died. As opposed to tearing up documents like I did in the old days, I immediately vowed to get a new shredder.

I went online and started the research on what type of shredder to purchase. As I was looking at the different types of shredders, it reminded me how fast things have changed over the last few years with regard to document retention and document destruction.

It wasn't too long ago that most people just threw sensitive financial statements in the garbage. Whether it was financial statements from mutual fund companies, statements from banks or billings from doctors, they were merely tossed away.

We have all learned this type of document destruction is unacceptable and that a shredder is as important to your household as is the microwave, TV and refrigerator. When it comes to document destruction, don't throw documents away, shred them.

Whenever you talk about document destruction is document retention. What documents should you retain and for how long? Because of technology it is not nearly important to save documents like you used to. In fact, the general rule is if you're not sure shred it because more likely than not if you ever need a copy you can always get one. My advice for most people is to save less and shred more.

For most people the most important documents that need to be saved are tax returns and the related documents. The IRS generally can audit you for three years from the time your return was filed. However, in certain situations when



Money Matters

Rick Bloom

they suspect fraud they can audit you for a longer period of time. I recommend saving tax returns and the supporting documentation for at least

seven years.

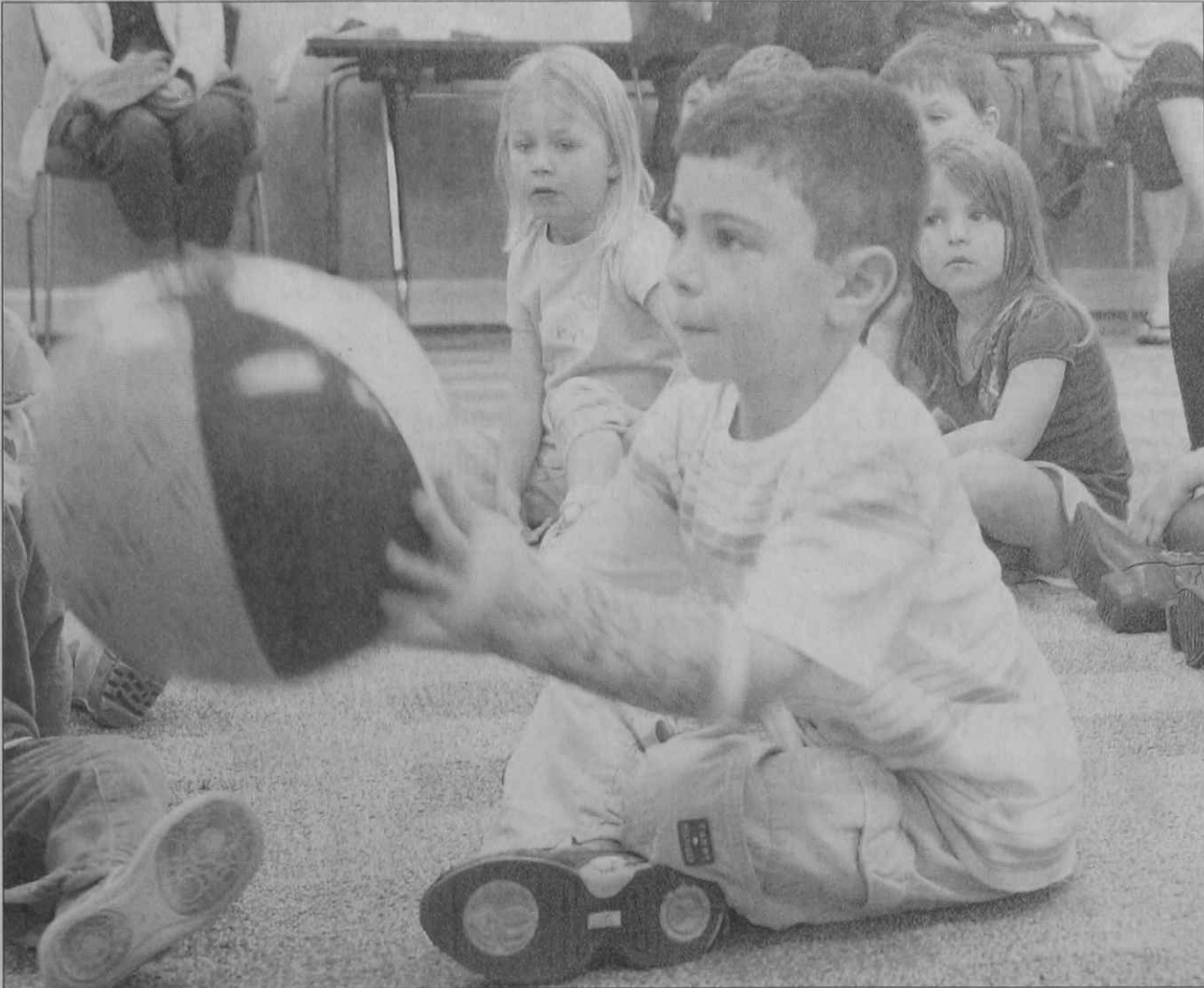
For investments, there is no reason to save monthly or quarterly statements. If you still receive paper statements, verify it for accuracy then shred the old statement. The same applies to bank statements. Once you reconcile your bank statement there is no reason to save the old statement.

It is amazing what information shows up on statements that we regularly receive. Not only do statements include account numbers, but some statements may include Social Security numbers and other sensitive information. Because identity theft is so prevalent, make sure you do not leave sensitive financial information just lying around the house. There have been too many cases where housekeepers and house guests have taken sensitive information and have caused all sorts of problems.

Keep documents safely secured. The same thing applies to items that you are going to shred. Keep them secure until they are actually shredded.

Document protection and document destruction are important in today's technology savvy world. As part of spring cleaning, make sure you spend some time to assure yourself that documents that contain sensitive information are protected at all times. Good luck!

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



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Vinny Lewan identifies the blanco (white) section of the beach ball, and tosses it back to Senora Jennifer.

iHola, amigos! Library hosts Spanish storytime for kids

BY JULIE BROWN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A Bilingual Storytime for children 2-5 has drawn some 15-25 youngsters in the past, "which is pretty nice for a storytime," said Carol Champagne, youth services coordinator at the Plymouth District Library.

Children and their caregivers enjoy Spanish language through music, movement and stories. The storytimes, offered Tuesday twice and Wednesday this week, are done in a partnership with a woman who has a language school.

"It's not necessarily for a

special audience," Champagne said. "It's more of a cultural expansion."

Foreign-born adults who move to Plymouth and Plymouth Township are often from India or other Asian countries, and are very good English speakers, "better than we do," she said.

"We're just trying to broaden what's available and to expose kids to different things."

Down the road, library staffers are thinking of inviting parents who speak other languages to do storytimes.

"That's in the thought stages right now," Champagne said. The library staff would do the

English portion, with the parent translating into the foreign language.

"We've always tried to be open to a lot of cultures," Champagne said. "It's a strength, we feel."

She agreed preschoolers do well in learning and absorbing new things such as language. "The spirit is willing but the mind is unable for us older people."

This week's storytimes featuring Spanish will likely be repeated in the fall, she said. The library also had scheduled other activities this week, to coincide with the Plymouth-Canton school district break.



Jennifer Manriquez and her bilingual story hour at the Plymouth District Library teaches kids Spanish.

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SECTION B
(CP)

Tim Smith, editor (313) 222-2637
tsmith@hometownlife.com

Canton's big year rewarded on All-Observer team, B2

SPORTS, ENTERTAINMENT, FOOD

HOMETOWN LIFE

2010 BASEBALL PREVIEW – PT. 2



SIDELINES

Hot Comet

Olivet College junior Ben Kosmalski, a Canton resident and Plymouth High School graduate, has been named the Comet of the Week.



Kosmalski

Kosmalski led the Comets with .583 batting average (7-for-12) and five RBI last week. His hits included two doubles and one home run for a 1.000 slugging percentage. Kosmalski also did not commit an error in 13 chances at second base for a perfect 1.000 fielding percentage.

For the season, Kosmalski is hitting .345 to go along with a team-leading 15 RBI. He has five doubles and two home runs for a .534 slugging percentage, while scoring eight runs.

Dragons hoops

Parents, it's that time again to register your fifth-, sixth-, seventh- or eighth-grader for the Michigan Dragons summer basketball program. Go to michigan-dragons.com and register. The registration period ends April 16.

Captain's Corner

The *Observer* looks to continue running the Captain's Corner series, which gives senior student-athletes a chance to give their views about leadership.

Please e-mail sports editor Tim Smith (tsmith@hometownlife.com) with any candidates for the weekly spotlight. (Limit nominees to one per team.)

Spring coaches call

The spring season for high school sports is here and, as always, the *Observer* wants to spotlight the efforts and accomplishments of athletes from the Canton and Plymouth communities.

Please call sports editor Tim Smith at (313) 222-2637 with detailed recaps of games, matches or meets. Those also can be e-mailed to him at tsmith@hometownlife.com.

Deadlines are 11 p.m. Tuesday for the Thursday paper and 10 p.m. Friday for the Sunday paper.

Hoop shootout

The boys basketball season around the tri-county area isn't quite over yet as the Palace of Auburn Hills will play host to the Michigan Slam Dunk Championship & 3-Point Shootout Saturday at 7 p.m.

The event, featuring both high school and college participants, begins with the women's 3-Point Shootout and will be followed by the men's 3-Point Shootout. The winners of each contest will then square off against one another to determine the best long-range shooter in Michigan.

In accordance with the Basketball Coaches Association of Michigan, the evening's activities will conclude with the state's top leapers competing in the always-electrifying Slam Dunk Championship to be judged by area celebrities. Tickets are \$20 VIP, \$15 reserved and \$10 general admission and may be purchased at the Palace box office and all TicketMaster locations.

Check-up 5K

The Spring "Check-up" 5-kilometer run-walk will be held 11 a.m. Sunday, April 11, at the Belle Isle Remick Music Shell in Detroit.

Please see **SIDELINES, B2**

PCA should score plenty

BY TIM SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

With an influx of talent from a now-closed school and a conference realignment, the 2010 baseball season promises to be one of change for Plymouth Christian Academy.

But that could be a good thing, said head coach Joe Bottorff.

The Eagles have been shifted from the Blue to Red division of the Michigan Independent Athletic Conference.

"I believe that we will be very competitive in the division as last season we were 4-1 vs. Red Division teams," said Bottorff, whose team opens play on Monday at Lenawee Christian Academy.

Bottorff also has an excellent newcomer in senior Ethan Walker, who played in 2009 at Canton Agape Christian (which is closed). Walker will be a starting pitcher and also play third base and catcher.

"On the mound, Ethan throws hard and mixes in a nice curve," Bottorff said. "At the plate, Ethan will bat third or fifth and has the power to go deep at any time and has the wheels to steal a base whenever he wants."

Also expected to be a strong performer on the mound and in the batter's box is senior David Baum, who will pitch as well as play third and the outfield.

"David's breaking pitch is nasty and he has developed a knuckleball over the winter," Bottorff said. Baum also brings solid power to the opposite field.

Both Walker and Baum usually will throw to sophomore catcher Daniel Slater, who is taking over from All-MIAC first-teamer Brent Zinn (who graduated).

"We started working with Daniel in the summer and he has made outstanding progress," said Bottorff, who expects Slater

Please see **PCA, B3**



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

One of the veterans who will help lead Canton in 2010 is senior Andrew Tidwell, shown playing third base during a 2009 game. He also is a starting pitcher.

Fired up Chiefs ready to go for it

BY TIM SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The memory of losing a heartbreaker to Birmingham Brother Rice in the 2009 regional final hasn't gone away for Canton varsity baseball coach Mark Blomshield or his returning players.

That marked the second consecutive season that the Chiefs' postseason march ended thanks to the Warriors. But Blomshield, whose KLA South Division team finished 25-12 last year and won the district title, knows he has a bevy of seniors who are ready for payback.

"The team is highly motivated and has high expectations to meet this year," said last year's *Observer* Coach of the Year Blomshield on the eve of Canton's road trip to the Cincinnati, Ohio, area later this week.

The Chiefs will face teams from Oak Hills, Colerain and Milford (Ohio) on April 9-10.

Please see **CANTON, B3**



Canton pitcher Kevin Delapaz, shown trying to pick off a baserunner in this file photo, is a top-flight starting pitcher for the Chiefs.

Spits put series clamps on Whalers

BY TIM SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Hockey fans from both sides of the Detroit River jammed Compuware Arena Saturday night to catch the top two prizes in the upcoming NHL Entry Draft.

But in Game 2 of the Ontario Hockey League second round series between host Plymouth and Windsor, fans of Spitfires sensation Taylor Hall had plenty more to cheer for than those of Plymouth's Tyler Seguin.

Hall scored the tie-breaking goal on the power play at 6:28 of the second period and assisted on Dale Mitchell's game-winner in the third to lift Windsor to a 5-3 victory before 3,922 at Compuware and go up 2-0 in the best-of-seven series.

"It's two games now (where) I can't get a goal or can't get an assist," lamented Seguin following the game. "Now, our whole team's got to regroup for the next game. Game 3's the biggest and we're going to come out ready."

(Monday night, however, Windsor took a commanding 3-0 series lead thanks to a 5-0 victory at HFCU Centre and can sweep the Whalers Wednesday night at Compuware. Go to www.hometownlife.com for Game 4 results.)

Seguin, a forward who tallied 106 points during the regular season to share the OHL scoring title with winger Hall, did have a dangerous scoring chance with about 13 minutes left in the game. But Windsor netminder Philipp Grubauer (23 saves) sprawled to pick off the hard shot.

"I kind of went glove too many times," said Seguin. "Tomorrow (in practice) I'm going to go take 100 shots and they're all going to be low."

Grubauer's counterpart, Whalers goalie Matt Hackett (55 shots, 51 saves), was bombarded from start to finish — particularly during the middle stanza when he faced 25 shots and turned aside all but two of them. Hackett — who recently signed with the Minnesota Wild — put on a clinic for the many NHL scouts in attendance, who obviously were there to see Hall, Seguin and Top-5 draft



WALT DMOCH

Standout Windsor winger Taylor Hall gets a leg up on Plymouth center Joe Gaynor. Hall sparked the Spitfires to a 5-3 playoff victory Saturday.

OHL PLAYOFFS

hopeful Cam Fowler (Windsor's defenseman from Farmington Hills).

QUICK RESPONSE

Plymouth's best line so far in the series scored all three goals, with center AJ Jenks scoring twice and assisting on Ryan Hayes' first period marker. Linemate Phil McRae chipped in with three assists.

The Whalers showed some bounce-back capabilities when Hayes scored just 10 seconds after Mitchell banged home Adam Henrique's centering

pass at 11:45 to open the scoring.

Following the subsequent center-ice faceoff, the McRae-Jenks-Hayes line dashed into the Spits end and Hayes finished the play off to the delight of the home fans in attendance.

Hackett kept the game tied going into the second period, getting a shoulder on center Scott Timmins' powerful blast from the right circle and then thrusting out a pad to stop Mitchell (2 goals).

It was the Whalers goalie who again rose to the occasion about 2:15

Please see **WHALERS, B3**



MAGGIE WALSH

Canton's Matt Rodgers was instrumental in the Chiefs two victories last week, scoring four times in each contest as the varsity boys lacrosse team improved to 3-0 on the young season.

Canton wins, still perfect

Canton senior midfielder Riley Hoernschemeyer's overtime goal April 1 lifted the Chiefs boys lacrosse team to an 12-11 victory over host Clarkston to improve to 3-0 on the season.

It was a clutch victory, as Canton missed the services of three senior defensemen.

With junior varsity defender Ryan Schwinke up for the contest, and with freshman Christian Munch and sophomore Brandon Schlieger given extra minutes and duties, the Chiefs gave ample support to senior and co-captain goalkeeper Sean Walsh (16 saves).

Canton head coach Kevin Riley praised Walsh for playing "out of his mind" against the Wolves and giving the Chiefs the chance to win in OT.

The Chiefs were paced by senior co-captain Jake Underwood, who scored five goals and collected three assists. He had big-time help from Matt Rodgers (four goals, three assists).

Besides scoring the winner, Hoernschemeyer helped the cause with two assists and seven ground balls while Trevor Moore scored twice.

On March 31, Canton earned a 10-5 win at Huron Valley Lakeland with Rodgers leading the offensive charge (four goals, one assist) and Tim Popp scoring two markers.

Underwood and Hoernschemeyer each tallied one goal and three assists while the other Canton goals were collected by Ben Popp and Moore.

Walsh made 14 stops for the victory.



Canton's big year rewarded on All-Observer team

DIVISION 1
Kristen McKelvey, Jr., Farm. United: McKelvey finished third in the D-1 all-around competition with a 37.725 total. She also earned all-state honors in three of the four events, placing second on vault (9.625), fourth on bars (9.4) and fifth on floor (9.425). At the Athens regional, McKelvey was second or third in all events, taking second in the all-around (37.3). She also was All-OAA (36.95).

"Kristen is the nicest girl in the world," coach Jeff Dwyer said. "She's very complimentary toward other competitors, but she wants to win. It's not a deceiving personality, but she has an inner drive."

Though a longtime club gymnast, McKelvey competed for the high school team for the first time and played a key role in Farmington United finishing second in the state. She also was a first-time diver at North Farmington last fall.

"I knew she had a ton of talent and wasn't in shape at the time, gymnastics-wise," Dwyer said. "I told her: 'Kristen, you're going to be one of the top gymnasts in the state! When I got the call she wanted to join the team, I exhaled and said: 'All right, let's go!'"

Alyssa Bresso, Soph., Farm. United: Bresso overcame injuries during the season to have a quality finish. She was seventh in the state in the all-around (37.325) and also is all-state on beam and floor; she was fourth (9.4) and seventh (9.4), respectively. Bresso just missed on vault and bars with ninth- and 11th-place finishes. She was the third in the all-around at the regional (36.275), taking second on floor, fifth on vault and bars and sixth on beam.

"She grew up as a sophomore, because I don't know if she would have been able to do that last year," Dwyer said. "I give her a ton of credit. She's gifted; she's one of the most effortless gymnasts on our team. It'll be hard to match this, but she has the potential to do even better the next two years."

Alex Fideler, Fr., Canton: What a freshman season it was for Fideler, making an immediate impact at Division 1.

Fideler was the all-around champion both at the KLAA conference and state regional meets on the uneven parallel bars.

"Alex Fideler was a gift to walk in as a freshman with so much talent and be a rookie who could make us so successful," said Canton head coach John Cunningham, adding

2009-10 ALL-OBSERVER GIRLS GYMNASTICS TEAMS DIVISION 1
Kristen McKelvey, Jr., Farm. United
Alyssa Bresso, Soph., Farm. United
Alex Fideler, Fr., Canton
Robyn Piwowar, Jr., Canton
Emily Quint, Sr., Livonia Blue
Kyoko Yamamoto, Jr., Farm. United
Katie Kretzschmar, Fr., Livonia Red

DIVISION 2
Samantha Kohl, Sr., Farm. United
Amanda Lumley, Soph., Farm. United
Ayana Lewis, Soph., Canton
Mallory Hudak, Sr., Canton
Brooke Granowicz, Jr., Canton
Alex Kitz, Jr., Livonia Blue
Amy Bell, Sr., Farm. United

CO-COACHES OF THE YEAR
Jeff Dwyer, Farm. United
John Cunningham, Canton

HONORABLE MENTION
Salem: Nicole Jacobs, Ade

Jepperson; Canton: Kali Pierce, Brittany Granowicz; Plymouth: Reagan Engstrom; Livonia Blue: Cassie Morford, Katie Bridges; Livonia Red: Katina St. Pierre; Farmington United: Lena Schneewind; Harrison: Stephanie Sanders.

that Fideler became the school's third all-time state champion when she scored a 9.65 on balance beam at the state meet in Rockford.

Fideler also scored 9s on all four events there to bring home medals as well as All-American honors (in all events and all-around).

"She beat the girl that had the highest all-around score ever in state meet competition," said Cunningham, referring to how Fideler defeated Grand Ledge's Alexis Byington on beam. "... In order to do that at state meet, you have to be totally solid, focused. ... (it was an) absolutely solid routine, it was beautiful."

Robyn Piwowar, Jr., Canton: Another outstanding, versatile gymnast for the Chiefs was Piwowar, the team's co-captain and Most Valuable Gymnast.

"Robyn Piwowar was a true team leader whose captainship and consistent high scores made the team as good as it could be," Cunningham said.

The junior's consistency and performance earned her Elite All-American awards not to mention an armful of medals.

She was second all-around at regionals and won four medals from the D1 state meet including a third-place 9.6 on vault.

Also outstanding was Piwowar's 9.565 average on floor exercise.

Emily Quint, Sr., Livonia Blue: The senior placed 10th in the All-Around at the state finals with a



Alex Kitz
Livonia Blue

score of 36.725, including a seventh on vault (9.45) and ninth on floor exercise (9.2).

Quint was the regional all-around champion (37.00) thanks to firsts on vault (9.425), beam (9.75) and floor exercise (9.575).

"Emily is an outstanding leader and gymnast," Livonia Blue coach Lisa Fierk said. "She was MHSAA Senior Gymnast of the Year. Emily has always shown great drive and sportsmanship throughout her time as a high school gymnast. She was in the gym always trying to improve her skills and her routines. My best memory of this season is when she got a 9.75 on beam at regionals."

Kyoko Yamamoto, Jr., Farm. United: Yamamoto earned all-state recognition on bars, taking eighth place (9.175) in the Division 1 meet. She was a state qualifier in the all-around, finishing in 14th place with a 36.35 total. At the regional, Yamamoto was third overall (36.275). She also was third on beam, fourth on bars, fifth on floor and sixth on vault.

"Bars is her best event," Dwyer said. "She didn't hit her best routine like she did the day before (in the team meet), but she showed in the standings she is all-state."

"I look at how close she was in other events. She's a good all-arounder and has one more year. I think she's going to push herself to get what it takes (into her routines) to get her scores up a little higher in other events."

Dwyer added: "She might look terrible for a week in practice but, when it comes time for a meet, she just turns it up a notch."

Katie Kretzschmar, Fr., Livonia Red: The ninth-grader placed eighth in the all-around at the regional (35.675) including thirds on both vault (9.2) and floor exercise (9.175).

Kretzschmar also was seventh all-around at the Kensington Conference meet including a fourth on floor. The state qualifier also added a sixth in the Canton Invitational on beam (9.225).

"Kate is an extremely hard worker," Livonia Red coach Kelly Grodzicki said. "She possess a very



Amy Bell
Farm. United



Jeff Dwyer
Farmington coach

positive personality, and is friendly to teammates. Coming to the team as a freshman she has stepped up and showed everyone what she was capable of.

"Katie shows grace in her gymnastics as well as discipline. It has been a privilege coaching Katie this season. She continues to master skills and achieve new ones. During practice and meets Katie demonstrates concentration and focus during routines. She balances school and gymnastics very well earning herself exceptional grades."



John Cunningham
Canton coach

DIVISION 2

Samantha Kohl, Sr., Farm. United: Kohl capped her high school career by being crowned state champion on bars (9.3) and beam (9.45). She was the state runner-up in the all-around (37.375) and also was all-state on floor and vault, finishing fifth (9.35) and eighth (9.275), respectively. At the Athens regional, Kohl was second on bars, third on floor, fourth on vault and fifth on beam, earning second place in the all-around (36.7). She was All-OAA in the all-around, too.

Kohl was ill with a fever in the days before the regional, but she willed her way through that meet, according to coach Jeff Dwyer.

"She's pretty tough but I could tell it was getting to her in the warm-ups," he said. "We had a talk; I told her: 'It's probably going to be the hardest day of your life, but you have to do everything you can. You can beat this sickness today, too.' "I was just so impressed with what she did by placing second in the all-around. It was the most impressive meet she's shown me during her career, to do what she did under those conditions."

Amanda Lumley, Soph., Farm. United: Lumley is the Division 2 state champion on floor exercise, winning that event with a 9.6 score. She was fourth in the regional (9.1) and also qualified for state on vault. Lumley was All-OAA in both events and is an all-around gymnast.

"She's a great dancer," coach Jeff Dwyer said. "She doesn't look like she would be as powerful as she is,

but she dominates (on floor). I tell her: 'When you go out there, own the floor, make it happen.' To be a state champion as a sophomore is pretty incredible and a great accomplishment."

Ayana Lewis, Soph., Canton: A wiry, versatile young athlete, Lewis was the Chiefs' rookie of the year.

The sophomore captured championships at the KLAA conference meet and state regionals and took fourth in all-around at the state finals — medaling in all categories.

Lewis earned All-American honors in all events and with two seasons remaining in her prep career, she should become one of the best in school history by the time she's done.

Mallory Hudak, Sr., Canton: The senior co-captain was an important member of the Final Four Canton team.

Hudak won balance beam and took second on floor exercise at the regionals, then went on to medal on the latter event at the state meet.

Her efforts garnered All-American honors on three events and all-around.

Brooke Granowicz, Jr., Canton: The junior came back to gymnastics after an extended absence and "made an amazing rebound" with a fifth place showing at the state regional and ninth place at the state final on balance beam, noted Cunningham.

Granowicz, elected one of Canton's captains for next season, averaged 8.985 on beam to earn All-American status.

Alex Kitz, Jr., Livonia Blue: The junior earned All-State honors on the uneven bars with a fifth (8.95) at the state finals.

She was 15th all-around at the state meet after placing third at the regional (34.975).

Kitz contributed a second at the regional on the uneven bars (8.9) as well as a sixth on vault (8.75).

"Alex is a good gymnast with great ability to be even better next season," Fierk said. "Alex made it to states in the all-around as a sophomore. She shows great pride and drive when doing gymnastics. She is one that wants to improve her skills and make her routines harder and better to get higher scores for her team. She is someone that Livonia Blue is lucky to have for another two years."

Amy Bell, Sr., Farm. United: Bell ended her senior season and prep career by achieving all-state status on the balance beam at the Division

2 state meet, taking 10th place with a 9.0 score. She was another all-around competitor who provide Farmington United with quality depth.

At the state meet, "She got the 9.0 and we were waiting for final places," Dwyer said. "They announced her in 10th place, but she didn't hear it. I said: 'Amy, you just got all-state!'"

"The tears started to flow. It was just an awesome way to end her career. Some girls get overshadowed because we have such a strong team. I'm glad she ended her season getting the recognition she deserves."

CO-COACHES OF THE YEAR

Jeff Dwyer, Farm. United: Dwyer guided Farmington United to a runner-up finish in the state meet. His gymnasts achieved their best score of the season (149.1) to finish a close second behind Grand Ledge (150.225).

Farmington United was third last year and second in 2008. It won the Oakland Activities Association championship again and was undefeated in dual meets.

"That was the highlight of the whole season, when you can take home a trophy," Dwyer said the state meet. "Our goal at the beginning of the season was to be No. 1 or 2."

"It's an honor to take home a state runner-up trophy. There is no third-place trophy. That's why it was tough to place third at the state meet, because you go home with nothing."

"That was an empty feeling last year, but I think that drove a lot of the girls, too."

John Cunningham, Canton: Cunningham presided over Canton's 26th All-American Team, which the veteran coach (his Canton career began in 1979) said was its second Elite team achievement.

Canton won the KLAA conference championship and regional championship for the second time in history and also captured 19 medals at regionals, 15 at states and a state champion in Fideler.

During the regular season, the Chiefs finished 3-1 in division meets but followed up with a 5-0 mark in conference meets to one-up Northville.

"Our season goal was to be a top-three team," Cunningham said. "We didn't realize how satisfying it would be to take fourth in the state and show what an exceptional team effort with focus and consistency could achieve. ... It was a very good year."

Salem salvo

Salem senior attackman Steve Haburne (left) vies for possession of the ball against Howell players during the March 31 contest. Haburne tallied an assist in the Rocks' 12-10 loss to the Highlanders on March 31. Despite the final score, big nights were turned in by Salem junior midfielder Connor Berlin (5 goals, 1 assist), junior attackman Dylan Hatcher (3 goals, 1 assist) and junior attackman Garrett Berg (1 goal, 1 assist). Salem's record dipped to 1-1 with the defeat.



SIDELINES

FROM PAGE B1

The event will raise awareness for Detroit's uninsured and the importance of primary care for all. It will benefit The Robert R. Frank Student Run Free Clinic and the Wayne State University School of Medicine Chapter of the AMA.

Race day registration begins at 10 a.m. Food and music will be provided after the race. The cost is \$20.

For more information, e-mail springcheckup5K@gmail.com; or to download a registration form at www.springcheckup5K.org.

Football combine

A pair of football combines for high school players will be from 4:30-6 p.m. (linemen) and from 6-7:30 p.m. (combine training) for eight sessions beginning Sunday, April 18, at the Auburn Hills Sports Dome.

To register, visit www.coachjacksonspeed.com; or for more information, call Jaime Jackson at (248) 535-7404.

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WALT DMOCH
Spectacular again Saturday night for the Whalers was netminder Matt Hackett, who stopped 51 of 55 Windsor shots.

WHALEERS

FROM PAGE B1

into the second period, blocking a Hall rocket from between the circles.

That fired up Plymouth and Jenks moved into the Windsor end and let a seemingly harmless wrist shot go from the right circle that trickled past Grubauer at the 2:52 mark. Defenseman Leo Jenner and McRae drew assists.

But the Spitfires answered just 55 seconds later to make it 2-2. Wellwood was allowed to circle behind the Plymouth goal and move out into the slot, firing a wrist shot past Hackett.

Hall then broke the tie with 13:32 left. Standing to the right of Hackett, he beautifully redirected a pass from Ryan Ellis into the cage and then turned toward fans behind the goal with his arms raised almost defiantly in triumph.

Windsor took a 4-2 edge with about 15 minutes remaining on Mitchell's one-timer from

the right circle. Setting him up was Hall, who eluded Plymouth's defense in front of Hackett before finding Mitchell.

Soon thereafter, Grubauer's glove save kept Seguin off the scoresheet. But at 9:51 McRae spun around near the right wall and sent a shot toward the Windsor net that Jenks deflected in.

That was all the offense the Whalers could muster, however. A last-minute empty netter by Henrique finished the night's scoring.

According to Jenner, the barrage of shots from the likes of Hall, Mitchell and Timmins provided plenty of challenges for the Whalers defense.

"They definitely have a lot of speed and skill up on their first couple lines there," Jenner said. "As a defenseman you just try to keep your game simple and shut those guys down. But Windsor they've got those guys and they're pretty tough."

Plymouth head coach Mike Vellucci was unavailable for comment following the game.

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Champion Comets

The Comets, of the Plymouth Canton Junior Basketball League 5th/6th grade girls, have won the league championship. After losing a close opening game, the team finished the remainder of the season without a loss. They won all three tournament games, stealing the championship game by a nail-biter score of 32-30 over the previously unbeaten Storm. The team members (listed alphabetically) are: Amelia Brave, Alexa Ebeling, Bridget Furlong, Kristin Maksimovic, Shelby Petersen, Kara Rocheleau, Abby Schmidt, Emily Tanski, and Leah Tardiff. The girls were coached by Dale Ebeling, with assistants Marty Petersen and Bill Brave.

GOLF PREVIEW

Canton wants more

BY TIM SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Last spring, Canton's varsity boys golf team had a very successful regular season. The Chiefs won the KLAA South Division with a 10-0 record, but placed fourth at Class A regionals and did not qualify for the state meet.

While Chiefs' head coach Tom Alles wouldn't mind another winning season, he wants more — namely leading his team to the 2010 state meet at Michigan State University's Forest Akers Golf Course.

According to Alles, fourth-year players and co-captains Zach Conrad and Brendan Muir will likely help steer the team on course toward at least another strong mark in the division.

"Other seniors who should contribute are Travis Hall and Kyle Korte who returns to the team after two years on the baseball team," Alles said. "Junior Frank Parzynski and sophomore Josh Maxam should see more varsity action this season."

Canton will be geared up to get into the swing when the KLAA season opens up next week.

First up, the Chiefs will host Westland John Glenn at 3 p.m. Wednesday. Then Canton visits Wayne Memorial's home course, the Woodlands, for a 3 p.m. Thursday matchup.

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SPORTS ROUNDUP

Canton football camps

It's not too soon to begin planning for Canton Chiefs summer football camps.

- First up is the Skills Camp slated for players entering grades 7-9 in 2010-11. That camp will take place 5-7:30 p.m. Monday, June 14 through Thursday, June 17. The fee to sign up for the camp is \$45, with that money due by May 24. Contact Richard Mui at (248) 229-2738 for more information.
- The following week will be the Wing T 3/4 Camp, for players entering grades 10-12 next year. The camp begins with a session from 2-5 p.m. Monday, June 21. Then there will be sessions 5-8 p.m. from Tuesday, June 22 through Thursday, June 24.
- Camp fee is \$30, also due by May 24. Please contact head football coach Tim Baechler, (734) 455-7691 or via e-mail at tim.baechler@pccsmail.net.
- The third and final offering is the

Fundamental Camp, for kids entering grades 3-6. The program runs from 9 a.m. to 12 noon Monday, June 28 through Thursday, July 1. The fee is \$75 with money due by June 4. Please contact Enza Lanava at (313) 300-1173 or elanava@wow-way.com.

All prospective campers and their families might want to check out www.cantonchiefs-football.com for further information.

Thunderbirds fastpitch

Thunderbirds Fastpitch Softball is looking for a few more enthusiastic and committed young women who love to play softball.

The organization is comprised of travel teams with players ranging in age from 8 to 19 on 10U through 18U teams. For more information, please contact Ray Barnes (Pres.) at 734-417-1421, or Humaira Afzal (V. Pres.) at thunderbirdsfastpitch@comcast.net.

PCA

FROM PAGE B1

to make solid contact in the No. 2 slot in the order as well as chip in as a relief pitcher.

JUNIOR JOLTERS

Senior Josh Johnston undoubtedly will be integral to any team success, batting lead-off and playing the all-important center field.

"Josh has great range in the outfield," said the coach, adding that Johnston "is the team's best bunter and is a terror on the basepaths."

The Eagles also have several juniors who will regularly be penciled into the lineup.

Jon Slater, who led PCA in homers last year, will play first base and bat cleanup and also contribute at pitcher. Slater brings much more than the ability to clear fences, however.

"No matter how bad of a throw comes to first, it doesn't get by him," Bottorff said. "His fast ball is touching 80 (mph) and he's developing a nice cutter."

Juniors Matt Dodson and Matt Hagelin will be PCA's double-play combo with Dodson at shortstop and Hagelin at second base.

Dodson, who can pitch, brings plenty of power and will bat in the middle of the lineup.

"The thing I really like about Matt (Dodson) is that when he leaves the batters box on a hit, he is always thinking extra bases," Bottorff said.

Hagelin "has sneaky power and has greatly improved his bunting."

FIRST BASE FILL-IN

Yet another junior starter is outfielder Austin Smith, who can fill in at first base (his original position) when Slater

pitches.

"Austin has an explosive swing," said the coach, noting that he shifted Smith to the outfield in order to get his bat into the mix.

Sophomore Nate Bortz and freshman Matt Read will see plenty of action in the outfield, while reserves include junior Blake Ringger and freshmen Earl Carr, Drew Cobb and Trevor Gogola.

Despite fitting in nicely in the MIAC Red, Bottorff said the Eagles "have a very challenging schedule" ahead of them.

PCA will play in tournaments at Lutheran Westland, Grosse Pointe University-Liggett and Xenia (Ohio) Christian along with facing Cass Tech and traditional rivals Lake Orion Baptist and Allen Park Inter-City Baptist.

tsmith@hometownlife.com

CANTON

FROM PAGE B1

After that, Canton will square off against Plymouth-Canton Educational Park rival Salem on Monday, April 12.

Leading the charge is senior left-handed starter Kevin Delapaz, who was 10-0 with a 1.29 earned run average last season. Bowling Green-bound Delapaz rightfully earned all-conference and all-region honors last season. When not pitching, he will play outfield.

Delapaz also chipped in with

the bat last season (.315 average) and should continue doing so.

Another senior pitcher who will start on the bump is Andrew Tidwell, a sidearm who was Canton's closer last year. Tidwell also plays third base.

Delapaz and Tidwell aren't the only key returnees. The Chiefs' attack will feature senior infielder and all-KLAA selection Cody Blakita (4-40), senior first baseman Joe Galanty and junior catcher Seth Tschetter, starting his third season as the top varsity backstop.

According to Blomshield, the Canton coaching staff is "looking for a breakout senior season" from

the heavy-hitting Galanty.

Two up-and-comers include junior shortstop Chris Perkovich and sophomore Ryan Bazner, who can pitch or play the infield.

Among other seniors looking to help the Chiefs keep winning will be Alex Dixon (P), Ben Staley (OF-P) and outfielder Carter Staffeld.

Rounding out the roster include juniors Garrett Bryden (OF), Angelo Lanava (OF), Bernable Salinas (2B), Art Chavez (DH-P), Sean Harte (P), Jason Lynch (OF-C), Mark Main (OF-P), Rocky Willette (IF-OF) and freshman outfielder-pitcher Mike Stafford.

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Canton Strictly Business

New Hope celebrates 10 years of helping

BY PAM FLEMING
NORTHVILLE RECORD STAFF WRITER

When someone suffers a loss, it's often helpful to have someone from outside the family supply a kind word or shoulder to cry on.

That's when the New Hope Center for Grief Support comes into play.

What started as a small venture in Cathy Clough's home in Plymouth in 2000 is now a thriving nonprofit organization that has helped people deal with personal loss for a decade.

The center will celebrate its 10th anniversary with an April 16 gala benefit at St. Mary's Cultural Center, 18100 Merriman Road in Livonia.

The event will begin with appetizers at 6 p.m., with dinner served at 7 p.m. Cost is \$50 per person, with a portion of the cost tax-deductible.

Local celebrity Chuck Gaidica of Northville, WDIV Channel 4 weathercaster, will serve as the master of ceremonies.

ENTERTAINMENT, RAFFLE SET

Entertainment will include a slide show of New Hope's past 10 years of activities, live and silent auctions, a raffle for a cruise, and live music by the Shawn Riley Band for dancing or just listening.

Tickets must be purchased in advance by 4 p.m. Friday, April 9. Area residents are encouraged to purchase a table for 10. Register online at www.newhopecenter.net or call (248) 348-0115.

All proceeds from the benefit will be used to continue the free grief support services. The main sponsor for the event is Thompson Platte P.C., Attorneys and Counselors at Law in Northville.

HISTORY OF CENTER

New Hope is a 501(c)3 bereavement outreach organization. Clough is the executive director of New Hope and along with John and Betty Baird started New Hope. By April 2000 she moved New Hope from her house to 113 Dunlap Street in Northville.

In April 2009, New Hope moved again to its current location at 315 Griswold in Mill Race Village.

New Hope offers free-to-the-public grief support. Programs include the eight-week "From Grief to New Hope" workshops at various churches throughout Southeast Michigan, including Ward Presbyterian Church in Northville.

New Hope also offers many



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

New Hope Center for Grief Support Executive Director Cathy Clough is joined in front of their Griswold office by Director of Fund-raising Development John O'Shaughnessy and KidzGroup coordinator Elaine Dzwonkowski. New Hope Center is planning a gala benefit dinner April 16 in Livonia.

ongoing support groups for both adults and children, many here in Northville at Ward Church. The Circles of Hope and New Hope for KIDZ and Teens group meets at the First Church of the Nazarene in Northville.

Visit New Hope's Web site for more details and information about monthly tours or volunteer opportunities.

THE UPCOMING GALA

"We're very excited, because a lot of people will be coming to the gala that we helped early on," Clough said. "They're coming back to celebrate with us."

"This is a wonderful way for the community to celebrate 10 years of New Hope and all the work that Cathy and the volunteers have done to help bring hope to thousands of grieving individuals," said John O'Shaughnessy, fund development director. Patti Bingham serves as special events and outreach coordinator, and Arlene Kurcawa, administrative assistant, has been with

Clough since the beginning.

"Grief support is something people don't want to think about until it (death) happens, and then they're glad we're here," Clough said. "Because we provide age- and loss-specific support, we can help people even more because they can be with people who have had a similar loss."

"They realize they're not alone," O'Shaughnessy said.

KIDZ GROUP EVENTS SLATED

Elaine Dzwonkowski is a volunteer and the center's KIDZ group coordinator. Some grant money from Hitachi will help provide a children's camp this summer, according to Clough. The camp will tentatively take place at the New Hope center on Griswold Street and Mill Race Village.

"It will be a two-day, day camp," Clough said. The Bee's Knees ceramic shop on E. Main Street in downtown Northville also wants to sponsor a children's event for the center where children can

make items.

ENJOYING NEW LOCATION

After being at the tiny office on E. Dunlap Street for so many years, the staff is enjoying its new Victorian-style house on Griswold Street. Many improvements have been done on the new office, and the center welcomes area residents who would like to volunteer to weed or plant items in the area around the home.

"We actually have a landscape designer, Dana Mulder, who drew up a plan for us," Clough said. "We have a gardening crew of volunteers that has come together and will get started in a couple of weeks. We'd also love to have some plants donated."

Clough said if anyone wants to plant a certain area in memory of a loved one that the center is planning to accommodate that around the center.

"We're trying to get the outside in shape," she said.

FUTURE GROUP PLANNED

Clough said the center is considering starting a group for those who have lost a baby due to miscarriage, stillbirth or other cause. "There's a real need for this," she said. "We've had a lot of calls requesting this. This type of loss may not fit into our group that deals with the loss of a child because this other group doesn't have the memories of the child to share. A lot of what they're dealing with is the hopes, plans and dreams they had for that child. It's a disenfranchised experience because people don't recognize it."

CHAMBER CHAT

After hours

High Velocity Sports Group hosts the Canton Chamber of Commerce's April Networking Coffee with Showroom of Excellence being presenting sponsor.

The coffee takes place Thursday, April 15, from 7:30-9 a.m. Come and join the Chamber for this great networking event and meet many local business people. High Velocity Sports Group is located at 46245 Michigan Ave. The coffee is free to chamber members and only \$10 for non-members.

Reservations are required, please contact the Canton Chamber of Commerce at (734) 453-4040.

Annual auction

The Canton Chamber of Commerce announces its annual Dinner Auction, to be held 7 p.m.-midnight Saturday, April 17, at Burton Manor in Livonia. The annual event is the largest fund-raiser for the Canton Chamber of Commerce.

"This is always such a fun event. We have Silent, Live, and Raffle auction items, entertainment and lots of activities planned throughout the evening," said Dianne Cojei, president, Canton Chamber of Commerce. "'Take Me out to the Ball Game' is this year's theme, which offers a lot of possibilities for all of our Baseball Fans."

Last year's event drew a crowd of over 400 attendees and featured over 250 prizes from categories such as Home-style, Travel & Entertainment, Sports & Leisure, Electronics, and many more. This year's auction is expected to draw a

similar crowd and has already collected many great prizes that will be up for bid. New in 2010, a "Detroit Tiger Suite" comes with 18 tickets and 3 parking passes. Also up for auction is 2 airline tickets to anywhere in the continental United States American Airlines flies.

Tickets are \$75 per person and are available to the public; admission includes full buffet dinner, open bar, entertainment, and the opportunity to participate in the Live, Silent, and Raffle auctions. For more information, please contact the chamber at (734) 453-4040.

This year's auction is sponsored by Jack Demmer Ford, Inc. and other local businesses.

Appreciation luncheon

The Canton Chamber of Commerce hosts its annual Staff Appreciation Luncheon on Wednesday, April 21, at 11:45 a.m. at Carrabba's Italian Grill, 1900 N. Haggerty Road in Canton.

The cost for the luncheon is \$20 for members and \$30 for non-members and includes lunch, beverage, dessert and door prizes. This luncheon is open to the public.

"Every year our Staff Appreciation Luncheon serves as a wonderful opportunity for our members to say thank you to their staff," Dianne Cojei, President, Canton Chamber of Commerce, said about the annual luncheon.

The Staff Appreciation Luncheon is sponsored by Huntington Bank. Seating is limited and reservations are required. To make a reservation, contact the Canton Chamber of Commerce at (734) 453-4040. Deadline for reservations is Friday, April 16.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Focus on China

Olivia Deng, manager of Wayne County's economic development China Program from 2005-2009, has joined the law firm of Miller Canfield as a manager of global business, focusing on the China market. She has more than 10 years of international business and economic development

experience, particularly with companies seeking to establish operations in automotive, engineering and R&D centers including in Southeast Michigan.

Lawyers in Miller Canfield's China practice help Chinese companies expand to North America and Europe. In addition, the firm assists clients with their business expansion plans in Asia.

Deng will be an integral part of the firm's China team promoting trade and investment. In February, lawyer Shusheng Wang joined Miller Canfield as

co-director of global business, focusing his practice on global corporate transactions, mergers and acquisitions, dispute resolution, China business counseling, and U.S. taxation of international operations.

Deng is fluent in English and Mandarin, as well as the U.S. and Chinese business cultures. As manager of Wayne County's China program, she helped attract over \$200 million investments in Southeast Michigan, build business partnerships with seven Chinese cities and organized five trade missions to China.

Deng is a member of the Detroit Chinese Business Association. She received a B.S. in electrical engineering from Oakland University. She currently resides in Canton.

New medical campus

Ross Medical Education Center, with locations in Michigan, Ohio and Indiana, has leased its 19th campus in Canton at 44958 Ford Road in the Canton Office Center. The school is scheduled to open in late summer 2010.

Angela Arcori and Sam Munaco, Signature Associates

in Southfield, represented Ross to secure the 9,650-square-foot space. The landlord was Ford Road Associates.

The Canton campus will offer three certificate programs: Medical Assistant, Dental Assistant and Medical Insurance Billing and Office Administration. All coursework involves hands-on learning, using state-of-the-art equipment beginning on the very first day of class. Practical instruction from experts in the field prepares each student for their required externship. A high school diploma or GED is required for admission for all programs.

"Ross is pleased to be a part of Canton," said Paul Mitchell, CEO, Ross Medical Education Center. "There is a growing need here for graduates of quality allied health programs to serve the community and its medical institutions."

Individuals seeking employment at the Canton location should submit their resumes to employment.canton@ross-learning.com or visit www.CareerBuilder.com.

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ENTERTAINMENT



Anna Bonde in 42nd Street.

Interactive show benefits scholarship, honors former student

BY SHARON DARGAY
OSE STAFF WRITER

Anna Bonde would have loved playing to a full house with former Livonia Churchill High School classmates at the 1st Annual Murder Mystery Dinner, Friday, April 16 at their alma mater.

"Anna was the best of us," said Scott Cramton, a graduate of Churchill's Creative and Performing Arts (CAPA) program with Anna and founder of the Murder Mystery Company. "She was first off far and away the most talented person I've ever met. She was a dear friend to so many people."

Cramton's theater company, along with other CAPA graduates, will stage the murder mystery dinner show to raise funds for the scholarship that was established in Anna's memory after she was killed by a drunken driver in 2001.

The show, which combines improvisation, costumed murder mystery characters and audience interaction, will start at 7:30 p.m. in the cafeteria at Churchill High School, 8900 Newburgh, Livonia. Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$15 for senior

citizens and college students, and \$10 for high school and middle school students and include dinner, the show and a silent auction. Reservations can be made at www.starringcapa.com or by calling Anna's mother, Debra Bonde, at (734) 765-5105. The deadline is Friday, April 9.

CAPA GRAD

Anna, who graduated in 1999, had been a member of CAPA and performed in numerous musicals and plays while at Churchill. She was a friend of Cramton, who runs the Murder Mystery Company in Grand Rapids, and of Justin Issa and Adam Mack, who work with its Chicago, Ill., troupe.

"They wanted to bring one of the shows here and do it in her honor," said Bonde, who met Issa and Mack for lunch a few months ago to talk about the concept. "They told me about their idea and I was thrilled and touched that they would do that. I didn't think they were still so touched by her death."

"One of the biggest fears parents have is that their child will be forgotten. They never got a chance to make their mark. It would be easy for

these kids to go on with their lives. The fact they remember her and loved her so much just blows me away."

Bonde said many volunteers, including parents of current students, have donated food for the event or solicited businesses for food and auction items.

More than 200 tickets have been sold, with approximately 400 individuals expected to attend the event.

BIG PRODUCTION

Cramton, whose Murder Mystery Company troupes dot the map from California to Ohio, says the Churchill event will be his "most lavish show."

Typically, the performances use one to five actors, depending on the size of the audience. The show at Churchill will include about 30 actors.

"So many actors will make it an extravagant and amazing piece this time," Cramton noted. "Not all of them will be on stage in a traditional manner. Some will be interacting with the audience."



Murder Mystery Company will perform a benefit show at Churchill High School in Livonia for the Anna Bonde Memorial Scholarship Fund.

"Our claim to fame is that we interact more with the audience than most shows do," Cramton said.

Every show is customized and audience members feel like a part of the show. Some are given a costume and invited to play a character. Everyone works together to solve the murder mystery.

Cramton extends an "open invitation" to CAPA grads to work with his company.

"All of the CAPA kids are just fantastic. The training you get in CAPA is heads and tails above any other training I've ever received," he said.

Bonde said the Murder Mystery Company also plans to involve some current students in the Churchill show.

"They've already done some workshops with them. I thought that was a nice way to give back," she said.

The Anna Bonde Memorial Scholarship has given \$20,000 to CAPA seniors since it was established in 2002.

To learn more about the Murder Mystery Company, visit www.grimprov.com

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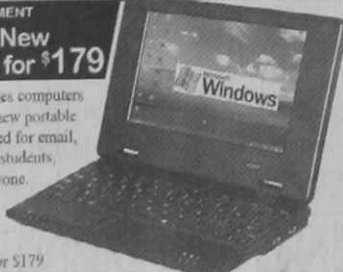
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40%

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ART

Costic Center
Time/Date: Thursday-Saturday, April 22-24
Location: 28600 West 11 Mile, Farmington Hills
Details: The Annual Festival of the Arts celebrates "Hats Off to the Arts" with displays, events, and activities for all ages. The celebration incorporates a special exhibit featuring the unique, artistic hats of Mr. Song Millinery, in Southfield. Luke Song designed Aretha Franklin's famous presidential inauguration hat. The special exhibit runs April 15-beginning on April 15-May 9, with a meet-the-artist reception 6-8 p.m., April 16. Admission is free
Contact: (248) 473-1870

Lotus Arts Gallery
Time/Date: Through April
Location: 995 West Ann Arbor Trail, downtown Plymouth
Details: Colored Pencil Society of Detroit exhibit; 6-8 p.m., April 10, meet the artists; light hors d'oeuvres and beverages will be served
Contact: (888) 889-4ART (toll free) or (734)453-5400

Northville Art House
Time/Date: Through April 24
Location: 215 W. Cady, Northville
Details: "Mudville USA," an installation by Eric Mesko
Coming up: Doll making class taught by Charlie Patricolo, 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., April 24-25. The two-day class costs \$100, along with a \$10 kit fee. Registration is available now
Contact: (248) 344-0497 or visit www.northvillearts.org

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Go Comedy!
Time/Date: Various show times Wednesdays thru Sundays
Location: 261 E. Nine Mile, Ferndale
Details: Improv most nights. Open mic/jam session show for improvisers is 10 p.m. Wednesdays
Contact: (248) 327-0575; www.gocomedy.net

JD's House of Comedy
Time/Date: Various show times Wednesday-Saturday evenings
Location: 25333 W. 12 Mile, inside Star Theatre complex, Southfield
Details: Stand-up shows, 8 p.m. Thursday and 8 p.m., 10:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday; Apollo amateur night, 8 p.m. Wednesday
Contact: (248) 348-2420 or www.ticketmaster.com

Joey's Comedy Club of Livonia
Time/Date: 8 p.m. Mondays, Open Mic; 8 p.m. Tuesdays, Local Legends; 8 p.m. shows Wednesdays, Thursdays; 8 p.m. & 10:30 p.m. Fridays, Saturdays
Location: 36071 Plymouth Road, Livonia
Details: Rodney Laney, through April 10, Mark Sweeney, April 14-17; Andres Fernandez, April 21-24
Contact: (734) 261-0555, www.kickerscomplex.com

Mark Ridley's Comedy Castle
Time/Date: Steve McGrew, April 8-10
Location: 269 E. Fourth, Royal Oak
Contact: (248) 542-9900, www.comedycastle.com

CONCERTS

The Ark
Time/Date: Patty Larkin, April 8; Mason Jennings, April 9; Mr. B's Piano Celebration with Bob Seeley, April 11; Chic Gamine, April 13; King Sunny

Ade & His African Beats, April 14; Brian Vander Ark, April 15; The Hot Club of Cowtown, April 16; Hoots and Hellmouth, April 17; The Belleville Outfit, April 18; E.C. Scott, April 20; Martin Sexton, April 21; BeauSoleil avec Michael Doucet, April 23; Nervous But Excited & Joshua Davis, April 24; The Infamous Stringdusters, April 25; Chris Pureka, April 26; Matt Jones, April 27; Eliza Gilkyson, April 28; Jonatha Brooke, April 29; Down the Line, April 30
Location: 316 South Main, Ann Arbor
Contact: (734) 763-8587; www.theark.org

Detroit Institute of Arts
Time/Date: Friday Night Live concerts, 7 and 8:30 p.m.
Location: 5200 Woodward Ave
Contact: (313) 833-7900, www.dia.org

Henry Ford Estate
Time/Date: 7:30 p.m., April 14
Location: On the campus of University of Michigan-Dearborn, 4901 Evergreen, Dearborn
Details: Violinist Gabriel Bolkosky and pianist Michele Cooker perform at Fair Lane Music Guild's final concert of the season. Enjoy desert while listening to Bolcom's "Third Sonata" as well as works by Beethoven and Franck. Tickets are \$15 per person, \$14 for senior citizens and \$9 for students
Contact: (313) 593-5330, or www.umd.umich.edu/fair_lane_music_guild

JWH Center for the Arts
Time/Date: 6:15-6:45 p.m., open mic sign up; performances, 7 p.m.
Location: 774 N. Sheldon, Plymouth
Details: BaseLine Folk Society open mic is for acoustic, folk and traditional musicians. Admission is \$5. BaseLine Folk Society open mic runs every third Saturday of the month through May
Contact: Mike Mullen, founder, mjmmullen@yahoo.com

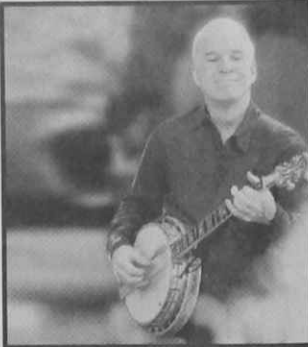
Magic Bag
Time/Dates: Mackinac Island's Last Waltz, April 10; Deadstring Brothers CD release, April 16; The Mega 80's, April 17 and 24; The 30th Anniversary Tour, An Evening with The Church, April 18; The Hard Lessons, April 23; Greensky Bluegrass, April 30
Location: 22920 Woodward, Ferndale
Contact: (248) 544-3030, www.themagicbag.com

Oakland Community College
Time/Date: 8 p.m., April 9
Location: Smith Theatre at the Orchard Ridge campus, located just south of I-696 on Orchard Lake Road, Farmington Hills
Details: Ginka Gerova-Ortega presents "Flute Spectrums," a program of jazz, world music, narration, and classics, with Jint Zhant, Zhichen Zhao dancers, pianists Raffaella Medoro and Scott Gwinell, Miles Brown on bass, Sean Dobbins on percussion, Mark Stone on vibes and steel drums and The Oakland Jazz Quartet; admission is \$14
Contact: (248) 522-3666


Orchestra Hall
Time/Date: 8 p.m., April 19
Location: At Max M. Fisher Music Center, 3711 Woodward Ave., Detroit
Details: Comedian Steve Martin plays banjo with the Steep Canyon Rangers; tickets \$25-90
Contact: (313) 576-5111

Seligman Performing Arts Center
Time/Date: 8 p.m., April 10
Location: 22305 West 13 Mile, on the campus of Detroit Country Day School, Beverly Hills
Details: Richard Goode on piano; repertoire includes Bach, Haydn and Schumann. Tickets range from \$43-75; students pay \$25
Contact: (248) 855-6070

Trinity House Theater
Time/Date: Kitty Donohoe, April 9; Great Lakes Songwriting Contest Show, April 10; Trinity House Theatre Benefit Concert with Josh White, Jr., Jan Krist, Dave Boutette, April 16; Empty Chair Night with Joel Palmer, Annie and Rod Capps, Allison Downey and John Latini, April 23; Tracy Kash Thomas with Luke Sayers, April 24; Keri Noble, April 28; Bill Isles, April 30
Location: 38840 West Six Mile, Livonia
Contact: (734) 464-6302, www.trinityhouse.org



Steve Martin performs bluegrass music, April 19 at Orchestra Hall in Detroit.



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The Wayne Housing Commission has completed revisions to its 2010 Admissions and Continued Occupancy Plan (ACOP) and its Lease Agreement. The ACOP and Lease Agreement are available for review at the Wayne Housing Commission office located at 4001 S Wayne Rd., Wayne, MI 48184. The Commission's hours of operation are 8:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. Monday through Friday. In addition a public hearing will be held, to give interested parties the opportunity to comment on the revisions of the ACOP and Lease Agreement on Wednesday, May 19, 2010 at 6:00 P.M. at the Wayne Housing Commission office.

Publish: April 4 and 8, 2010

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Mission at Redford parish aims to spark faith renewal

BY SHARON DARGAY
O&E STAFF WRITER

The parishioners at Our Lady of Loretto in Redford hope to "spark the holy spirit within" and "set their faith on fire" with a renewal mission beginning Sunday, April 18.

They'll listen to a message from former Pentecostal minister, now a Roman Catholic deacon, Alex Jones.

And they're extending an invitation to the public to join them for any or all of the three-day revival.

"It's going to be different for us, but different can be good," said Jim Feldt, a member of the church's evangelization committee. "Let's be honest, the Catholic Church has a somewhat stale reputation. It's not a Bible-thumping

The mission is free and open to the public. It runs Sunday-Tuesday, April 18-20, at the church, located at 17116 Olympia, Redford. The church's contemporary ensemble will perform each night. Food and fellowship will follow the presentations. Call (313) 534-9000.

church. To get someone with this man's fire ... I want to see something through his eyes."

Jones, of Farmington Hills, a former teacher in Detroit Public Schools, led Zion Congregational Church of God in Christ, the state's second oldest Pentecostal church, from 1975-1982. He was senior minister at an Evangelical/Charismatic church for the next 18 years. While preparing for a Bible study one day, he began reading about church history, including writings by

the Apostolic Fathers, disciples and martyrs of the 1st and 2nd century Christian church. His discoveries drew him and his wife, Donna, to the Catholic Church. They and 54 members of his Evangelical congregation began the conversion process two years later and were confirmed at an Easter Vigil service in 2001.

Jones subsequently was ordained a deacon, became the evangelization coordinator for the Archdiocese of Detroit — a position from which he has

retired — and earned a master's degree in pastoral studies. The author of *No Price Too High: A Pentecostal Preacher Becomes Catholic*, Jones serves St. Suzanne parish in Detroit and speaks on a variety of topics at missions, conferences and workshops throughout the country.

LIGHTING A FIRE

"He's a man with a story and that draws you in. What's nice about this talk is that it's not just about that," said Feldt, adding that Jones will touch briefly on his own life before moving on to a broader topic.

"His talk appeals to all denominations. It's not a recruitment to the Catholic Church. It's about renewing your faith, setting your faith on fire."

It's just what Our Lady of Loretto's evangelization committee, formed less than a year ago, needs before it can begin its work.

"If you believe in something, you want to share that with someone else. If you believe in Jesus you want to tell someone else. With that simple concept we formed the evangelization committee," Feldt explained. "There's no book that tells you here's how to do it. We're feeling our way around. Before we evangelize our faith needs to be on fire. We thought this would be a great way to start."

The mission is free and open to the public. It runs Sunday-Tuesday, April 18-20, at the church, located at 17116 Olympia, Redford. The church's contemporary ensemble will perform each



Jones

night. Food and fellowship will follow the presentations. Call (313) 534-9000.

Speaker shares conversion story at Livonia church

St. Michael the Archangel Church's new series, "Why Be Catholic," which opened to a standing-room-only crowd of more than 300 individuals in January, continues Wednesday, April 14 with Paco Gavrilides, author, speaker and retreat master.

Gavrilides, who serves as the archdiocesan coordinator of Evangelization and Catholic Men's Ministry, will speak at 7 p.m., in the school cafeteria, 11441 Hubbard, just south of Plymouth Road, in Livonia.

The orthodox Episcopalian convert will share the story of his conversion to Catholicism. He describes his conversion as "discovering I wasn't standing on solid ground anymore and realizing a whole new world was opening up to me."

Gavrilides served as an international missionary for more than 20 years, is director of the annual Archdiocese of Detroit Men's Conferences, and gives regular marriage retreats with his wife, Inez. He also edited a series of faith-based workbooks and has made many guest appearances on Catholic



Gavrilides

radio.

There is no charge for his presentation and no reservations are required. A children's ministry is available through prior arrangement with www.childrensministry@livoniastmichael.org.

For more information call (734) 261-1455, Ext. 207, or visit the parish Web site at www.livoniastmichael.org.

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

APRIL 8-14

Congregation Beth Ahm

Time/Date: 1:30 p.m., Sunday, April 11

Location: 5075 West Maple, West Bloomfield

Details: Dr. Amy Brode will talk about the over-active bladder and incontinence, at a program sponsored by the congregation's Sisterhood; free admission and open to the public

Coming up: The Sisterhood starts a weekly Mah Jongg group, 12:30-3 p.m., Tuesday, April 13. Cost is \$1 per person; participants should bring current Mah Jongg card. Also a free weekly DVD series continues at 1 p.m. Wednesday; topics for April 14 are "Rome Arrives in Jerusalem" and "Parting with the Temple," drop-ins welcome and no reservations needed

Contact: (248) 851-6880 or www.cbahm.org for Brode's program; Gail Ellenbogen at (248) 626-4123 or e-mail gellenbo@yahoo.com for Mah Jongg; Nancy Kaplan at (248) 737-1931 for DVD series

The Corners

Time/Date: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Friday, April 9

Location: 2075 Walnut Lake Road, just west of Inkster Road, West Bloomfield

Details: Rabbi Howard Addison, an assistant pro-

fessor in the Intellectual Heritage Department at Temple University, leads a workshop about the interface between Kabbalah and the Enneagram. He'll explain how to use it for personal growth and working with clients in the helping professions. Cost is \$100

Contact: RSVP to Michael Abramsky at (248) 644-7398

Rosedale Gardens Presbyterian Church

Time/Date: 6-7 p.m., April 11, 18, 25

Location: 9601 Hubbard, Livonia

Details: Ballroom dancing lessons, followed by a practice session, with music. A dance party will be held 7-9:30 p.m., April 25. Light refreshments will be served. Cost is \$6 for each lesson and \$6 for the dance. Attend the class and dance for \$10. Pay at the door in Fellowship Hall. The proceeds from the March classes will go to the Cancer Relay for Life; April's proceeds will go to the Capital Improvement Fund

Contact: (734) 751-1957 or (734) 422-0494

APRIL 15-21

Birmingham Temple

Time/Date: 8 p.m., Saturday, April 17

Location: 28611 West 12 Mile, Farmington Hills

Details: Vivace Music Series features pianist Ralph Votapek performing works by Copland, Schubert, Ravel and Albeniz. Afterglow and refreshments follow the concert; tickets are \$20 for members and seniors, \$23 non-members. Student and group rates available

Contact: Joyce Cheresch at (248) 788-0338 or Ann Sipher at (248) 661-1348

Congregation Beth Ahm

Time/Date: 10:30-11:30 a.m., April 17

RELIGION CALENDAR

Location: 5075 West Maple, West Bloomfield
Details: Shabbat Club for kids provides a morning of parasha play, games, interactive learning and Shabbat fun

Contact: RSVP to Amy Newman at relscool@cbahm.org or (248) 851-8820

The Corners

Time/Date: 5 p.m., Saturday, April 17

Location: 2075 Walnut Lake Road, just west of Inkster, in West Bloomfield

Details: Enjoy a "Moment of Shabbat" with your 2- through 6-year-olds and celebrate Shabbat with songs, stories, arts and crafts and a special Havdalah service, sponsored by Temple Shir Shalom; no charge

Contact: (248) 406-4255

Emmanuel Lutheran Church

Time/Date: 6:30-8 p.m., Saturday, April 17

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

Details: "Spring Fling" dance designed for adults with developmental disabilities, special needs, and their caretakers includes music, fun, and friendship. Snacks and beverages will be served

Contact: RSVP no later than April 9 to Judy Cook at (248) 442-8822 or e-mail to judy@emmanuel-livonia.org

Leon's

Time/Date: 9:30 a.m., April 17

Location: 30149 Ford Road, south side (next to Tim Horton's) in Garden City

Details: Bethany Suburban West monthly breakfast meeting; all separated, divorced and singles may attend

Contact: Kathy at (734) 513-9479

Please see **CALENDAR, NEXT PG.**

Your Invitation to Worship

CATHOLIC

ST. ANNE'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Tridentine Latin Mass
St. Anne's Academy • Grades K-8

38100 Five Mile Road
Livonia, MI 48154 • (734) 462-3200

Mass Schedule:
Fri. 7:00 p.m.
Sat. 11:00 a.m.
Sun. Masses 7:30 & 10:00 a.m.

Confessions Heard Prior to Each Mass
Mother of Perpetual Help Devotions
Tuesdays at 7:00 P.M. CE06082250

St Genevieve Roman Catholic Church

St. Genevieve School - PreK-8
29015 Jamison • Livonia • 734-427-5220
(East of Middlebelt, between 5 Mile & Jeffries)

MASS: Tues. 7 p. Wed., Thurs. 9 a.
Sat. 4 p., Sun 11a

St. Maurice Roman Catholic Church
32765 Lyndon • Livonia • 734-522-1616
(between Merriman & Farmington Roads)

MASS: Mon. 8:30 a, Fri. 8:30 a,
Sat. 6 p., Sun 9a CE06082250

CHURCHES OF THE NAZARENE

PLYMOUTH CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

45601 W. Ann Arbor Road • (734) 453-1925

Sunday School - 9:45 A.M.
Sunday Worship - 11:00 A.M.
Sunday Evening - 6:00 P.M.

Family Night - Wed. 7:00 P.M.
NEW HORIZONS FOR CHILDREN LEARNING CENTER
(734) 455-3196 CE06082720

LUTHERAN-ELCA

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN, ELCA

Farmington Hills 25225 Gull Rd. 248-474-0584

SATURDAY WORSHIP • 5:30 PM

Sunday Worship & Sunday School

9:00 AM TRADITIONAL/CHORAL SERVICE
10:15 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL - ALL AGES
11:15 AM CONTEMPORARY SERVICE

NURSERY AVAILABLE
BILL & LAUREN KIRSH-CARR, PASTORS CE06082721

UNITED METHODIST

Redford Aldersgate United Methodist

10000 Beech Daly 313-937-3170
9:30 - Trad. Worship & Sunday School
11:00 - Contemp Family Worship
www.redfordaldersgate.org CE06082711

ORCHARD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

30450 Farmington Road • Farmington Hills
www.orchardumc.org
248-626-3620

Worship:
9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.
10:00 a.m. Christian Education for all ages

Pastors: Carol J. Johns,
Jim Braid, Margo Dexter CE06082746

PRESBYTERIAN

Fellowship Presbyterian Church

Adult Sunday School: 9:30 - 10:15 a.m. • Worship: 10:30 a.m.
Childrens Sunday School: 10:30 a.m.

Pastor: Dr. Jimmy McGuire
Services held at: Saint Andrews Episcopal Church
16360 Hubbard Road in Livonia • South of Six Mile Road

Nursery provided • www.fellowship-presbyterian.org CE060827610

PRESBYTERIAN (U.S.A.)

ROSEDALE GARDENS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)

9601 Hubbard at W. Chicago, Livonia, MI
(between Merriman & Farmington Rds.)

(734) 422-0494

Friends in Faith Service
9:00 am
Traditional Service
10:30 am

Visit www.rosedalegardens.org
For information about our many programs CE06081133

GREEK ORTHODOX

NATIVITY OF THE VIRGIN MARY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

39851 West Five Mile, Plymouth Twp., MI

Sunday Services
Matins 8:30 am, Divine Liturgy 10:00 am

Rev. Fr. George Vapouris
Parish Office 734-420-0131

Office Hours M-F 10:00 am - 2:00 pm
www.nativitygochurch.org CE06080811

LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSOURI SYNOD

Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church

14175 Farmington Road, Livonia Just north of I-96

734-522-6830

Sunday Worship
8:30 & 11:00 am - Traditional

Staffed Nursery Available

Making disciples who share the love of Jesus Christ

Senior Pastor: Rev. Dean Davenport
Pastors: Robert F. Bayer and Anthony M. Creeden CE06082713

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSOURI SYNOD

25630 GRAND RIVER at BEECH DALY
313-532-2266 REDFORD TWP

Worship Service
9:15 & 11:00 A.M.

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

Nursery Provided

The Rev. Timothy P. Halboth, Senior Pastor

The Rev. Dr. Victor F. Halboth, Assistant Pastor CE06082735

EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN

WARD Evangelical Presbyterian Church

40000 Six Mile Road

"just west of I-275"

Northville, MI

248-374-7400

Traditional Worship

8:00, 9:30 & 11:00 A.M.

Contemporary Worship

9:30 & 11:00 A.M.

Nursery & Sunday School During the 9:30 & 11:00 Hours

Evening Service • 7:00 p.m.

Service Broadcast

11:00 A.M. Sunday WRDT-AM 560

The WMUZ Word Station

For additional information visit www.wardchurch.org CE0608274

LUTHERAN CHURCH WISCONSIN SYNOD

ST. PAUL'S EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

17810 FARMINGTON ROAD, LIVONIA (734) 261-1360

WORSHIP SERVICES

SUNDAY: 8:30 A.M. & 11:00 A.M.

THURSDAY: 6:30 P.M.

website: www.stpaulslivonia.org CE06082735

CONGREGATIONAL

North Congregational Church

36520 12 Mile Rd. Farmington Hills

(bet. Drake & Halsted)

(248) 848-1750

10:30 a.m. Worship & Church School

Faith - Freedom-Fellowship

Ministers

Dr. Mark P. Jensen Rev. Mary E. Biedron CE06082727

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

CALENDAR

FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

St. Aidan
Time/Date: 7-9 p.m., Thursday, April 15
Location: 17500 Farmington Road, Livonia
Details: David J. Conrad, M.A., Theology is the presenter at a program called "The Church: Its Essential Qualities and Purpose"
Contact: RSVP by noon the day of the event to (734) 425-5950
St. Theodore Catholic Church
Time/Date: 8:30 a.m. to noon, Sunday, April 18
Location: 8200 N. Wayne Road, Westland
Details: All you can eat pancake and French toast breakfast also includes ham, sausage, scrambled eggs, applesauce, tea, coffee, milk and juice. It's sponsored by St. Theodore Men's Club. Cost is \$3 for adults and \$1.50 for children, age 2-10
Contact: (734) 425-4421

APRIL 22-28

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church
Time/Date: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Friday, April 23 and 9 a.m.-noon, Saturday, April 24
Location: 28000 New Market, just north of 12 Mile, east of Farmington Road in Farmington Hills
Details: The Woman's League of the church sponsors a rummage and bake sale. In addition to clothing and homemade baked goods, the sale will feature small appliances, furniture, books, bedding, linens, toys, jewelry and much more. \$3 and \$5 bag sale on Saturday
Contact: Lucille Ehlers at (248) 553-2889
April 29-May 5
Antioch Lutheran Church
Time/Date: Rummage sale 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., Friday, April 30, and 10 a.m. to noon, Saturday, May 1
Location: 33360 West 13 Mile, Farmington Hills
Details: The church also is collecting items for the sale from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and 5-9 p.m. Monday-Wednesday, April 26-28
Contact: Judy Glass at (248) 476-9074

Congregation B'nai Moshe
Time/Date: 7:30 p.m., May 2
Location: 6800 Drake, West Bloomfield
Details: "Torah, Technology and the Future of Israel," will explore the relationship of Torah values to the applications of modern technology. There will be a panel presentation with Steven Bekhor, on "Israel's Nuclear Horizon," Ellen P. Rosenberg, on "Water Resources and Conservation in Israel," and Steven H. Schwartz with "Torah Values and the Environment. The B'nai Moshe Choir will perform and there will be a question and answer period followed by a social hour with refreshments. Admission is free
Contact: RSVP to (248) 788-0600
St. Aidan
Time/Date: 6-9 p.m., Thursday, April 29
Location: 17500 Farmington Road, Livonia
Details: The Rev. Norm Dickson and Dr. Mary Healy will be the guest speakers at the Endow groups at the church. The session, a reflection on Women of Peace and Love, is aimed at women and girls, age 16 and over. A light dinner will be included. A free will offering will be accepted
Contact: RSVP to the parish office by April 25 at (734) 425-5950

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
Breakfast
St. Michael the Archangel
Time/Date: 8:30 a.m.-noon, third Sunday each month, October through May
Location: 11441 Hubbard, south of Plymouth, in Livonia
Details: The Ushers' Club presents an "all-you-can-eat" pancake breakfast served in the school cafeteria and featuring pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausage, bacon, hash browns, and assorted breakfast beverages.

Meals are served buffet-style. Admission is \$5 for adults, \$3 for children, 4-11, free for children under 3, and \$15 for a family with two adults and children
Contact: (734) 261-1455

Career workshops
St. Matthew's United Methodist Church
Time/Date: First and third Mondays
Location: 30900 Six Mile, Livonia
Details: Workshops are designed to help people in employment transition build a network and use their resources to find that next good job. Workshop leaders are available to work one-on-one with anyone looking for work.
Contact: (734) 422-6038

Classes/Study
Detroit First Church of the Nazarene
Time/Date: 9:30-11:15 a.m. Tuesday
Location: 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 - a safe and effective way to rid the body of toxic pathogens and years of 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 Township
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. Tutors available for day or evening.
Contact: (734) 421-0472; leave your name and phone number and someone will contact you
New Life Community Church
Time/Date: Jobs seminar, 8-9 a.m., Fridays; reading program for students in grades K-12 and martial arts instruction, both at 10 a.m., Sundays
Location: 42200 Tyler, Belleville
Contact: (734) 846-4615
Our Lady of Loretto
Time/Date: 6:30-7:30 p.m. Monday
Location: Six Mile and Beech Daly, Redford
Details: Scripture study
Contact: (313) 534-9000
St. Andrew's Presbyterian
Time/Date: 10:30 a.m., Wednesday and 10:30 a.m. Thursday
Location: 26701 Joy
Details: Wednesday study/discussion group focuses on relationship with God and that of other religious groups and philosophical and scientific issues that might impact faith. Thursday group examines early writings not included in the Bible as well as other versions, extensions and controversies concerning Christianity. Led by interim pastor Larry Hoxey
Contact: (313) 274-3820
St. Michael the Archangel
Time/Date: 7-9 p.m., second and fourth Thursday of each month
Location: 11441 Hubbard, just south of Plymouth Road, in Livonia
Details: Led by Catholic author and apologist, Gary Michuta. The in-depth study of the Gospel of St. Matthew continues, using the Hahn-Mitch study guide. New students of any faith are welcome
Contact: (734) 261-1455
Seeds of Mercy Mission Home
Time/Date: 7 p.m., every Friday
Location: 21819 Middlebelt, Farmington Hills

Details: Bible study
Contact: Nicole Christ at (313) 531-1234
Ward Presbyterian
Time/Date: 7 p.m., Mondays
Location: Room A101, 40000 W. Six Mile, Northville
Details: Learner's Bible study
Contact: (248) 374-5920

Clothing bank
Canton Christian Fellowship
Time/Date: 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., fourth Saturday and 5-6:30 p.m., second Wednesday
Location: 41711 Joy, between Lilley and Haggerty
Details: Canton Christian Fellowship Clothing Bank offers free clothing (men, women and children) for those in need
Contact: (734) 404-2480, visit www.CantonCF.org or send e-mail to info@cantoncf.org

Fellowship dinner
St. James Presbyterian
Time/Date: 6 p.m., the first Thursday of the month
Location: 25350 W. Six Mile, Redford
Details: Cost is \$8 and includes dinner, beverage and dessert. The Cookie Lady, Susan Navarro, provides the meals
Contact: (313) 268-7780. The church phone number is (313) 534-7730

Food Bank
New Hope Church
Time/Date: 5-7 p.m., every Friday by appointment only
Location: is 44815 Cherry Hill Rd., Canton
Contact: Call pastor Ranay Brown to schedule an appointment at (734) 270-2528

Moms
Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church
Time/Date: 9:30-11:30 a.m., second Tuesday and 7-9 p.m., fourth Tuesday
Location: 14175 Farmington Road, Livonia
Details: Mothers of Preschoolers. Aimed at mothers of infants through kindergartners
Contact: Angie at (248) 427-1020
Dunning Park Baptist Chapel
Time/Date: 9:30-11:30 a.m., first and third Tuesdays
Location: 24800 West Chicago Road, Redford
Details: MOPS is a place where moms can build friendships, receive mothering support, practical help and spiritual hope
Contact: Amy at (313) 937-3084 or Kristen at (734) 542-0767

Prayer
Good Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church
Time/Date: 7-9 p.m. the first and third Tuesday
Location: 28680 Cherry Hill, Garden City
Details: Prayer, spiritual healing
Contact: (734) 427-3660
Nardin Park United Methodist Church
Time/Date: 7 p.m. Wednesday
Location: 29887 W. 11 Mile, Farmington Hills
Details: Participate in an open time of praying silently and aloud together as well as responding to personal requests
Contact: (248) 476-8860
St. Edith Church
Time/Date: 7 p.m. Thursday
Location: 15089 Newburgh, Livonia. Enter through the back of the church
Details: Music, singing, prayer
Contact: Grace at (734) 464-1896, Shirley at (734) 464-3656, or Geri at (734) 464-8906

St. Michael's Church of Livonia
Time/Date: 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. third Wednesday
Location: Corner of Plymouth and Hubbard roads, Livonia
Details: Parish prayer and Eucharistic Adoration. Benediction service follows
Contact: (734) 261-1455
Singles
First Presbyterian Church
Time/Date: Thursdays 7:30-7:45 p.m. for social time, 7:45-8 p.m. opening, 8-9 p.m. program
Location: 200 E. Main St., Northville
Details: Single Place Ministry meets; cost is \$5
Contact: (248) 349-0911 or visit www.singleplace.org
Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church
Time/Date: 11:30 a.m., Sunday
Location: 40000 Six Mile, Northville
Details: Single Point Ministries, for ages 30 and older, offers fellowship and related topics. Coffee, doughnuts, conversation
Contact: (248) 374-5920

Song Circle
Congregation Beth Ahm
Time/Date: Noon to 12:30 p.m., every Shabbat
Location: 5075 W. Maple, West Bloomfield
Details: Sing zemirot (traditional Shabbat songs) and celebrate Kiddush following morning services. Lyrics are provided in translation as well as the original Hebrew.
Contact: (248) 737-1931 or e-mail nancyellen879@att.net.

Support
Detroit World Outreach
Time/Date: 7-8:30 p.m. Tuesday
Location: 23800 W. Chicago, Redford; room 202
Details: Addiction No More offers support for addictive behavior problems, drugs, alcohol, overeating, gambling
Contact: (313) 255-2222, Ext. 244
Farmington Hills Baptist Church
Time/Date: 7-9 p.m., second Tuesday of the month except January, July and August
Location: 28301 Middlebelt, between 12 Mile and 13 Mile
Details: Western Oakland Parkinson Support Group
Contact: (248) 433-1011
Merriman Road Baptist Church
Time/Date: 1-3 p.m., second and fourth Thursday
Location: 2055 Merriman, Garden City
Details: Metro Fibro-Myalgia support group meets; no dues, but donations are accepted
Contact: www.metrofibrogroup.com; or call Lucy with questions at (734) 462-1768
St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

Time/Date: 10 a.m. to noon Saturday morning
Location: 16360 Hubbard, Livonia
Details: A weekly drop-in Food Cupboard (nonperishable items) is available. There are no requirements, this a service the church wants the community to be aware of and use if needed. Donations of nonperishable items also accepted for the cupboard.
Contact: (734) 421-8451.
St. John's Episcopal Church
Time/Date: 10 a.m., the first and third Friday
Location: 574 S. Sheldon, Plymouth
Details: St. John's Support Group for the Caregiver's of Alzheimer's patients or patients with other forms of dementia meets. Respite care is provided. The group is authorized by the Alzheimer's Association
Contact: Connie McNutt at (734) 895-1426
Thomas a' Becket Church
Time/Date: Weigh-in is 6:15-6:55 p.m.; support group meeting starts at 7 p.m., Thursday
Location: 555 S. Lilley, Canton
Details: Take Off Pounds Sensibly encourages members to lose weight and keep it off
Contact: Margaret at (734) 838-0322
Unity of Livonia
Time/Date: 7 p.m. Thursday
Location: 28660 Five Mile, between Middlebelt and Inkster roads, Livonia
Details: Overeaters Anonymous meets
Contact: (313) 387-9797. www.oa.org
Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church
Time/Date: 6 p.m. dinner (optional); 7 p.m., praise and worship; 8 p.m. small group discussion; 9 p.m. Solid

Rock Cafe (optional coffee and desserts)
Location: 40000 Six Mile, Northville
Details: Celebrate Recovery helps men and women find freedom from hurts, habits and hang-ups (addictive and compulsive behaviors); child care is free
Contact: For child care call (248) 374-7400. Visit www.celebrater-recovery.com and www.wardchurch.org/celebrate
Thrift store
St. James Presbyterian
Time/Date: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Saturday
Location: 25350 W. Six Mile, Redford
Contact: (313) 534-7730
Way of Life Christian Church
Time/Date: 2-3:30 p.m., third Saturday from October through May
Location: 9401 General Drive, Lilley Executive Plaza, Suite 100, Plymouth
Details: Women's fellowship is designed for women with a question to know God more in their lives
Contact: (734) 637-7618

WORSHIP

Adat Shalom Synagogue
Time/Date: 6 p.m. Friday, 9 a.m. and 9 p.m., Saturday, 7:30 a.m., 8:30 a.m., Sunday and 6 p.m., week days
Location: 29901 Middlebelt, Farmington Hills
Contact: (248) 851-5100
Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church
Time/Date: 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. services; 9:45 a.m. Sunday school and youth and adult Bible classes
Location: 14175 Farmington Road, just north of I-96, Livonia
Contact: (734) 522-6830

Passages

Obituaries, Memorials & Remembrances

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email: oeobits@hometownlife.com

View Passages Online: www.hometownlife.com

KSENIA BZDEL

Age 91, of Farmington Hills, passed away April 1, 2010. Arrangements by THAYER-ROCK FUNERAL HOME, Farmington, MI

BETTY JEAN MARIE GERICH

Age 78. March 31, 2010. Beloved wife of the late John Gerich. Loving mother of Michael Gerich and Susan (Ray) Rogal. Grandmother of Michael, Heather, Caroline, Lauren, and Rachel. Great-grandmother of Mikayla and Mikenzie. Will also be missed by a long list of loving family members and friends. Visitation was held on Monday at Harry J. Will Funeral Home, Livonia. Funeral Service was Tuesday, at Grace Lutheran Church, Redford. Interment Glen Eden Cemetery, Livonia. Memorial contributions may be made to Grace Lutheran Church in Betty's honor.

DARWIN B. SCHLESING

82, husband of Dorothy Headrick Schlesing, died Friday, April 2, 2010 at Self Regional Medical Center. Born in St. Louis, MO, he was the son of the late George and Louise Schlesing. Surviving is his wife, Dorothy; a daughter, Nancy Stock and her husband, Mark; a son, Bill Schlesing and his wife, Michelle; two sisters, Audrey Johanson and her husband, Sam, and Doris Hartman and her husband, Bill; a brother, Orville Schlesing and his wife, Betty Lou; loving sister-in-law, Marie Headrick; grandchildren, Erin Schlesing, Elyse Schlesing, Janet Stock and Elliot Stock. A memorial service will be held at 11a.m. Friday at Wesley Commons, Asbury Hall, with the Rev. Carol Peppers-Wray officiating. It is respectfully requested that flowers be omitted and memorials be made to the American Cancer Society, PO Box 1741, Greenwood, SC 29648 or to the American Diabetes Association, Greenville-Spartanburg NC-SC Office, 16-A Brozzini Court, Greenville, SC 29615, Harley Funeral Home and Crematory, Greenwood, SC, is in charge of arrangements. Messages may be sent to the family by visiting www.harleyfuneralhome.com

JOHN K. MARIKIS

March 31, 2010 age 82. Beloved husband of the late Eleni. Loving father of Sandy (Curt) Hamilton, Bessie (Kevin) Bone, and Dina (Robert) DeMerell. Dearest grandfather of eight. Survived by his siblings Dimitri, Christoforos, Paraskevi and George. Memorials to church or Alzheimer's Assoc. www.neely-turowski.com.

ELSIE E. OSMAC (HENDRICKSON)

Age 90, passed away April 2, 2010. Survived by husband Anton (Tony), daughter Beverly (Brian) Barna and brother Melvin Hendrickson. Also survived by Pete, Paul, Irene (late Joe) Osmak and many nieces, nephews and cousins. Preceded in death by her parents and brothers Hugo, Elden and Gordon.

TOM E. SCROGGS, JR.

"The Troll"

Age 51, April 4, 2010, of Livonia. Beloved husband of Victoria. Loving father of Joseph and Anthony. Dear son of Wilma. Brother of Virginia (Tom) Chambers, Cheryl (Paul) Wyndendorf, Tammie, Robin (Jim) Roberts, and Fred. Also survived by many nieces and nephews. Visitation Thursday from 2-9pm at the R.G. & G.R. Harris Funeral Home, 15451 Farmington Rd., Livonia. Please sign Tom's online guestbook at www.rgrrharris.com.

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: Attn: Obits c/o Char Wilson 313-496-4968

For more information call: Char Wilson 586-826-7082 or Liz Keiser 586-977-7538 or toll free 800-579-7355 ask for Char or Liz

OE08658428

VegFest

Feed yourself inside and out with fresh ingredients

LUSH cosmetics, known for its skin care products made of fresh fruits and vegetables, will be among more than 60 exhibitors at VegMichigan's "VegFest," an event that teaches about foods and other products that are plant-based and animal-free.

The annual celebration runs 11 a.m.-5 p.m., Sunday, April 18, at Ferndale High School, 881 Pinecrest, south of Nine Mile, west of Woodward, in Ferndale.

Admission is \$10 at the door for adults, \$5 for students and free for children under 6 and VegMichigan members.

VegFest is part of the world-wide Great American Meatout, now in its 26th year. Festivities take place each spring across America and in two dozen other countries, encouraging people to "go meatless" for a day and explore a healthier, environmentally friendly, plant-based diet.

VegFest visitors can taste vegetarian and vegan foods from more than two dozen restaurants and stores, including Four Moore Foods of Westland and Krishna Catering & Restaurant of Garden City, win door prizes, browse exhibits, and hear guest speakers, including Rory Freedman, author of *Skinny Bitch*, and John Salley, former NBA champion and television personality. Other presenters throughout the day will include Dr. Joel Kahn, medical director of cardiac rehabilitation at Beaumont Hospital; diabetes specialist Caroline Trapp; environmentalist Troy Farwell, director of Upland Hills Ecological Awareness Center; raw foods educator and Schoolcraft College graduate Andrea McNinch, founder of Regeneration Raw; and VegMichigan president Harry Pianko.

Exhibitors run the gamut, from an organic farm to health professionals to animal sanctuary and rescue groups. Local representatives include The Treehouse for Earth's Children health food store in Farmington, Puppy Mill Awareness of Northville and LUSH, with stores in Novi, Troy and Sterling Heights.

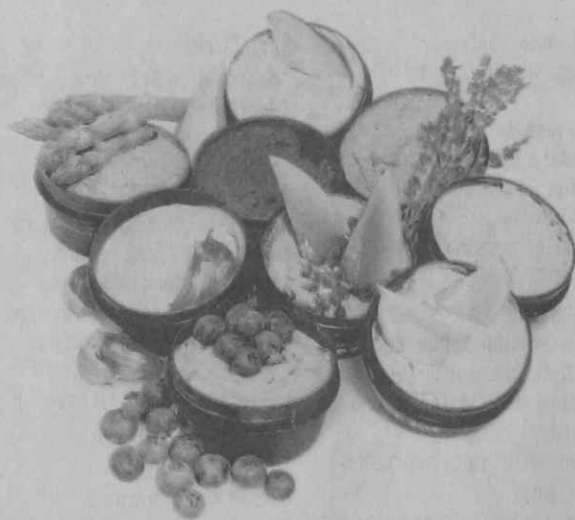
LUSH sells skin care, bath, cosmetics and fragrance products that are 100 percent vegetarian. No animal testing is done on LUSH products or ingredients and 65 percent are preservative-free.

Product creator Helen Ambrosen is responsible for the company's innovative range of products made of fresh organic produce. They're created daily and stored in refrigerators at LUSH shops until sold.

Ambrosen also created a few simple how-to's for whipping up a face mask, hair shine treatment and sea salt body scrub, all with ingredients that are likely to be on hand:



Oatmeal and bananas are just for the breakfast bowl. Combine them with almond, peach and honey to make a face mask.



LUSH cosmetics uses fruits and vegetables in many of its cosmetics.

FACE MASK

- 2 medium, nicely ripe bananas (peeled)
- 2 tablespoons of runny honey
- 1 fairly ripe peach (stoned and skinned)
- 2 generous tablespoons of ground almonds
- Fine ground oatmeal

Blend the bananas, honey, and peach together to make rich mucilage. Bananas are excellent skin softeners and have potent moisturizing properties. Peaches are a good fruit choice for young skins as they cleanse and help remove excess sebum without stripping the skin. Honey is excellent for all skins, especially if you are prone to breakout, as it helps keep spots at bay and reduces redness. (A good tip if you do have spots is to dab honey straight onto it.)

Add the ground almonds and mix together — the almonds are to help polish the skin and remove dead surface cells.

Add enough oatmeal to make a paste that can be spread onto the face and neck. Apply gently to face and neck area, being careful not to drag the skin. Leave for 10-15 minutes and remove gently with warm water.

SEA SALT BODY SCRUB

- 2 tablespoons of fine sea salt
- Olive oil or Brazil nut oil

Take 2 tablespoons of fine sea salt and mix to a paste with a heavy oil such as olive oil or even better, Brazil nut oil. This is deeply nourishing for the skin.

Wet the skin and apply to the backs of arms, legs and anywhere where the skin is rough. Don't use on the décolleté area. Rinse off the skin.

HAIR SHINE TREATMENT

- 1 tablespoon of apple juice
- 2 tablespoons of lemon juice

Take 1 tablespoon of apple juice and mix with two tablespoons of lemon juice for a quick hair shine treatment. After shampooing and conditioning, apply to the ends of the hair, leave for a minute and then rinse. This should give a nice shine.

— Sharon Dargay

— Sharon Dargay

CITY BITES

Shots for Breast Cancer

Livonia — You can be a part of history Sunday, April 18, as Claddagh Irish Pub attempts to break the world record for the most shots of Irish whiskey downed in succession.

Audra Borger, sales manager, likens the process to a line of dominos.

"We're scheduled to start at 8:45 p.m., but we're asking people to get there by 7:30 p.m. and we're lining everyone up at 8 p.m. We'll line people up like a Christmas shopping line."

At the appointed time, the individual at the start of the line will down a shot of Jameson Irish Whiskey, followed by the next person in line until every shot is gone.

"We figure it will take 15 minutes to get through the entire pub," she said. "There will be some coordination involved between pubs as well."

The action will start at 6:30 p.m. at one of Claddagh's 14 other locations in the Midwest, travelling from pub to pub as participants at each site down their drinks in hopefully seamless succession. The Livonia location, followed by the Claddagh pub in Lansing, will bring the "largest shot slam" to a close.

Claddagh hopes to register at least 150 participants in advance at its Livonia location. The cost is \$7 and the first 150 registrants will receive a commemorative shot class.

All proceeds from the Livonia pub will benefit Shades of Pink, a nonprofit organization that funds client programs that financially help women with breast cancer.

"It's something that is touching us close to home," said Borger, noting that the manager of Claddagh in Lansing is undergoing treatment for breast cancer. "And it's a Guinness World Record attempt, too. It's really cool."

To participate, call the Livonia pub at (734) 542-8141. It's located at 17800 Haggerty; www.claddaghirishpubs.com.

Slice for Life

Tri county — All nine Buddy's Pizza locations will participate in the 34th annual "Slice for Life Event" Monday, April 19, with proceeds benefiting the Capuchin Soup Kitchen.

With the purchase of an event ticket patrons may either dine-in and enjoy all-you-can-eat two-topping pizzas and salad or carry-out a four-square two-topping pizza or an Individual sized Antipasto, Greek or House salad.

Tickets cost \$15 for adults, \$10 for seniors and \$6 for children from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. and \$15 for adults and seniors, and \$6 for children from 4-10 p.m. A team from 2clowns.com will visit Buddy's dine-in locations throughout the day and all participants may register to win one eight-square Buddy's pizza every month for a year.

Buy tickets from the Capuchins in advance by calling (313) 579-2100, ext. 170, or at the door on April 19.

Local Buddy's Pizza locations are 33605 Plymouth Road, between Farmington and Stark Roads, in Livonia and 31646 Northwestern Highway, just west of Middlebelt, in Farmington Hills. Buddy's also has restaurants in Auburn Hills, Dearborn, Detroit and Warren, as well as carry-out only sites in Royal Oak and Bloomfield.



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Join us for the 36th Annual Livonia Community Prayer Breakfast

Friday, April 30, 2010

7-9 a.m.

Laurel Manor Special Events Center
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Special Guest Speaker

LeAnn Thieman

Author, Nurse, Motivational/Inspirational Speaker

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Musical performance by the Livonia Youth Choir

Adult Tickets: \$15
Student Tickets: \$10

The Livonia Community Prayer Breakfast Inc. is recognized by the IRS as a Section 501(c) 3 charitable organization.

For ticket information, call Sally Butler at (248) 476-9427 or visit www.livoniaprayerbreakfast.org



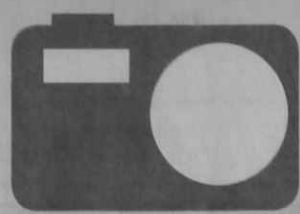


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THURSDAY, April 8, 2010

hometownlife.com



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

Gardeners eager to tackle the great outdoors

BY JULIE BROWN
OSE STAFF WRITER

Cold winds can still blow in April, but thinking about gardens, and doing gardening, can start.

"Now's the time to put down crab-grass preventer," said Tim Parker, general manager of Plymouth Nursery. You can rake and then fertilize your lawn with a pre-emergent product that stops weeds from germinating.

Pinckney resident Parker also recommends raking debris. "Generally it's better to do that in the fall," he said, although not all people do and additional debris can accumulate. You can also prune shrubs in April.

He recommends fertilizing then mulching with a bark product. If mulch is 3-4 inches thick, it's not only nice to look at but also limits weed growth.

People are flocking to Plymouth Nursery to buy pansies. "Pansies are hardy even with a frost," he said. Pansies look good in porch pots or window boxes now, and you can add your annuals in May when temperatures rise.

"You've got to have stuff that's tough," he said of pansies and others. There's a Spring Magic trademark



product including plants like pansies, columbine and more that stand up to chilly spring weather.

"Sometimes people do get anxious on sunny days" now, he said, and want to plant annuals too early. "People are so starved for them."

The light pruning now, mulching and fertilizing are a good start, he said: "It definitely gives you a great start to get into Mother's Day."

Nurseries now have a good selection of trees and shrubs, Parker said, and it's a good time of year to plant them.

If you want to do a major landscaping project, you can start drawing designs and getting estimates as early as January or February.

It's tough when landscapers at Plymouth Nursery get a call in late May about an approaching party and landscaping wanted, he said. Things are well booked up by then.

Plymouth Nursery, 9900 Plymouth-Ann Arbor Road, west of Plymouth, will hold an open house Saturday and Sunday, April 24-25, during business hours. At 1 p.m. Saturday, April 24,

Master Gardener Janet Macunovich will speak. Master Gardener Nancy Szerlag will speak 3 p.m. Sunday, April 25. At 1 and 3 p.m. on Saturday, April 24, Monrovia Growers' Nicholas Staddon will participate. For details, call (734) 453-5500.

Mark Baldwin of Baldwin Landscape Group in Plymouth agreed light raking's good for lawns now. "It just helps start it growing, gets some air in it," the Plymouth Township resident said.

It's still too early for annuals, Baldwin said, which can go in in mid-to late May.

"Warm, sunny days, they get cabin fever," he said of those who itch to plant annuals too early. Nurseries are opening now and it's a good time to look to see what you'd like.

"By the time Mother's Day hits it's in full swing," Baldwin said.

He recommends those hiring a landscaper check for insurance coverage and references. He agreed gardening is a great stress-reliever.

"Oh, sure, it's therapeutic," Baldwin said. "They love to get out and work in the soil. It's a time of renewal after the wintertime. It's all starting all over again. You're in a better mood when the weather's nice."

Pick your lawyer with care

Q: Our management company is impressed with a lawyer who gives her free legal advice and is encouraging us to hire that lawyer. I am a practicing attorney and have some questions about it, but I am just wondering what your experience has been in the case of community associations.

A: As I am sure you can appreciate as an experienced attorney, you generally get

what you pay

for from an

attorney in

the form of

legal advice.

Too often,

boards rely

on attorneys

who happen

to be on their

board or who

live in their

community for legal advice and while it may be offered in good spirit, generally it is a bad idea because if the advice is not good or well thought out, the association is left with a potential claim against an attorney who resides in or who is otherwise involved in the operation of the association. As with any other professional, you should retain someone who is not affiliated with the community if you can possibly avoid it and retain an attorney to give you a legal opinion for which he or she is prepared to do the necessary research and analysis as a chargeable event. In the last analysis, it is the board who will be deemed responsible for getting poor or no legal advice and it isn't worth the risk as your insurance adviser will tell you.

Q: Regarding the term "condotels" or "condo-hotels" I have seen. Can you give me what is generally meant by it?

A: The general idea is that the individual hotel rooms are all separate condominium units sold to investors who place them into a rental pool (potentially raising SEC issues) for a significant portion of the year. You own your own condominium unit-hotel room and can occupy it for a limited number of days each year, but for the most part, it is rented out as a hotel room by the hotel operator. Obviously, the economics of the cost and profit sharing will vary from project to project. In one case that I am aware of, the developer leased back each of the rooms at a fixed return and took the occupancy risk. You are best advised to consult with an experienced condominium lawyer before making any type of investment in a hotel condo which, at best, is risky business.

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

HOMES SOLD-OAKLAND

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of Dec. 21-25, 2009, at the Oakland County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

21557 Meadow Ln. Beverly Hills \$260,000	1948 Pine Ridge Ln. 6060 Worlington Rd. Clarkston \$215,000 \$290,000	3777 Hi Dale Dr. 446 Indian Trl. Northville \$119,000 \$283,000	21395 Potomac St. Troy \$82,000
1539 Birmingham Blvd. 155 Catalpa Dr. 328 George St. Birmingham \$167,000 \$426,000 \$209,000	8635 Deerwood Rd. 5100 Drayton Dr. 9370 Lake Ridge Dr. 8747 Thendara Blvd. Clarkston \$260,000 \$130,000 \$385,000 \$150,000	20800 E Chigwidden St. Novi \$145,000	5063 Cardinal Dr. 5243 Collington Dr. 3605 Fernleigh Dr. 2646 Locksley Ct. 399 Starr Dr. 5500 Whitfield Dr. Troy \$345,000 \$375,000 \$181,000 \$230,000 \$117,000 \$320,000
154 E Hickory Grove Rd. 609 Yarboro Dr. Bloomfield Hills \$60,000 \$500,000	8715 Aquaview St. 166 E Beechdale St. 8031 Eldora Blvd. 1530 Sable St. Commerce Township \$99,000 \$115,000 \$219,000 \$60,000	4923 Lexington Ct. Oakland Township \$270,000	1100 Andover Cir. 115 Arvida St. 1890 Big Trail Rd. 22106 Chesapeake Cir. 1436 Crimson Way 2507 Little Trail Rd. 1749 McCoy St. 1627 Nottingham Ct. Walled Lake \$158,000 \$258,000 \$90,000 \$70,000 \$74,000 \$120,000 \$118,000 \$170,000
2750 Bridle Rd. 555 Kendry 2590 Kent Ridge Ct. 4144 Meadow Way Bloomfield Township \$180,000 \$180,000 \$1195,000 \$260,000	9913 Creekwood Trl. Farmington Hills \$365,000	1881 Loch Lomond Ct. Oxford \$250,000	4098 Edmore Rd. 7231 Garvin 4465 Kempf St. 1110 Myrtle Ave. Waterford \$135,000 \$74,000 \$95,000 \$21,000
	21514 Colwell St. 32125 Hearthstone Rd. 30040 Lochmoor St. 21509 Orchard Lake Rd. 26198 Valhalla Dr. 27653 W Echo Vly Farmington Hills \$79,000 \$171,000 \$55,000 \$80,000 \$310,000 \$47,000	1670 Bretton Dr. N. 3440 Vardon Dr. 1925 W Avon Rd. South Lyon \$179,000 \$220,000 \$117,000	
	Lake Orion \$128,000 \$131,000 \$180,000 \$218,000 \$135,000	244 Cuyahoga Ct. Southfield 29592 Fairfax St. 17628 Gateway Cir. South Lyon \$275,000 \$19,000 \$99,000	

HOMES SOLD-WAYNE

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of Dec. 14-18, 2009, at the Wayne County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

46061 Ashton Ct. 46193 Ashton Ct. 968 Ashton Woods Dr. 43109 Barchester Rd. 1252 Brookline St. 1500 Centennial Ct. 8446 Chatham Dr. 1520 Emerald Pines Dr. 8353 Forrest Dr. 48210 Gyde Rd. Canton \$50,000 \$50,000 \$210,000 \$140,000 \$146,000 \$340,000 \$412,000 \$175,000 \$130,000 \$240,000	39605 Peters Dr. 3853 Ravensfield Dr. 1628 Thistle Ct. 47589 Vistas Circle Dr. N. 42238 Wickfield Ct. Garden City \$128,000 \$131,000 \$180,000 \$218,000 \$135,000	9034 Lionel St. 18775 Norwich Rd. 14508 Richfield St. 14285 Stonehouse Ave. 14708 Susanna St. 18208 University Park Dr. Northville \$129,000 \$120,000 \$117,000 \$164,000 \$110,000 \$58,000	15575 Dixie 16880 Kinloch 8914 Mercedes 11353 Rockland 10018 Royal Grand 9592 Sioux 20469 Wakenden 15500 Woodbine Redford \$53,000 \$65,000 \$25,000 \$76,000 \$63,000 \$77,000 \$52,000 \$9,000
	960 Cardwell St. 33542 Florence St. Livonia \$76,000 \$83,000	44628 Broadmoor Cir. N. 44806 Broadmoor Cir. S. 41131 Exeter Ct. 19707 Hayes Ct. 16030 Jupiter Hills Dr. 42508 Lake Success Dr. 384 N Rogers St. 41973 Waterwheel Rd. Plymouth \$353,000 \$270,000 \$268,000 \$50,000 \$590,000 \$55,000 \$283,000 \$282,000	8651 August Ave. 33786 Chief Ln. 2212 Emerson St. 33334 Hunter Ave. 7547 Maple Dr. 7345 Mohawk St. 34436 Nancy St. 35865 Schley St. 31064 Stephen Ave. Westland \$115,000 \$95,000 \$41,000 \$105,000 \$165,000 \$109,000 \$99,000 \$30,000 \$105,000

REAL ESTATE BRIEFS

Housing Market

Century 21 Hartford will host a free workshop on "Today's Housing Market" 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 10, at the Farmington Hills Library Branch on 12 Mile. This is for those thinking of buying or selling a home. The instructor is Debbie Horner, who has 20 years experience in real estate and housing. RSVP to (248) 320-5744. Walk-ins will also be taken.

Investors

"Flipping Is Back in Style" (flipping is buying a house, fixing it up and reselling it in a short time).

Learn about "flipping" from local investors, sponsored by Real Estate Investors Association of Oakland, on Thursday, April 8, 5:30-9:30 p.m. at Club Venetian, 29310 John R, north of 12 Mile, Madison Heights. Seminar free to members. \$20 nonmembers. Call (800) 747-6742. (www.REIAofOakland.com). This is a new location for association meetings.

Real Estate Sales and Appraising

Learn about a career in residential real estate. Attend a free one-hour

seminar, or shadow a top agent to get an inside feel of the business. Seminars are at noon or 6 p.m. Wednesdays. To reserve a spot, contact Steve Leibhan, Keller Williams Realty International, at (248) 893-2500, 27555 Executive Drive, Suite 100, Farmington Hills 48331.

Career Seminar

Keller-Williams will hold a Career Seminar 6:30-7:30 p.m. Thursday, April 15, at 40600 Ann Arbor Road, Suite 100, Plymouth. Call (734) 459-4700 to reserve a free seat.

Seminar includes: cost vs. income potential, available training, company profit share, commission structures.

RE/MAX kudos

RE/MAX of Southeastern Michigan held a celebration at the Detroit Marriott Troy on Feb. 16 to celebrate the achievements of its top 10 individuals and top 10 teams from across the Detroit metro area for 2009.

The top three individual agents were Jeahad "Joe" Kadaf of RE/MAX Leading Edge in Dearborn Heights, Mohamed "Mike" Ayoub from RE/MAX Team 2000 in Dearborn and Paul Endres of RE/MAX Properties in Allen

Park. The top agents completed over 3,000 transactions.

The top performing teams were led by Marshall Mandell of RE/MAX Classic in Farmington Hills, Anthony Raffin of RE/MAX Associates in St Clair Shores and Mary A. Gladchun of RE/MAX On The Trail in Plymouth. Their teams completed over 1,300 transactions in 2009.

Jeanette Schneider, Regional director and VP of RE/MAX Detroit Metro, said: "We could not be more proud of the many accomplishments RE/MAX sales associates achieved in 2009. RE/MAX agents have proven their ability to adapt to any market conditions and continue to produce outstanding results. Our agents experience and knowledge helped provide consumers with valuable service and support throughout the buying or selling process.

"With short sales, foreclosure and other challenges facing consumers today, we are happy to have so many RE/MAX agents pursuing additional training to give them the expertise needed to assist consumers with distressed properties. The strength of our network has always been our sales associates and broker/owners and their

dedication to providing exceptional service is what has allowed RE/MAX to be the leader in the real estate industry. We congratulate all of our agents on their success."

Top 10 individuals are: 1. Jeahad "Joe" Kadaf, RE/MAX Leading Edge; 2. Mohamed "Mike" Ayoub, RE/MAX Team 2000;

3. Paul Endres, RE/MAX Properties; 4. Albert Hakim, RE/MAX Associates; 5. Hussein Farhat, RE/MAX Team 2000; 6. Beata Synowiec, RE/MAX Classic; 7. Marcus Edwards, RE/MAX Alliance; 8. Mark Beydoun, RE/MAX Team 2000; 9. Robert Shaffer, RE/MAX Acclaim; 10. Robert Coburn, RE/MAX Partners.

The top 10 teams are: 1. Marshall Mandell, RE/MAX Classic; 2. Anthony Raffin, RE/MAX Associates; 3. Mary A. Gladchun, RE/MAX On The Trail; 4. Noel Bittinger, RE/MAX Classic; 5. Peter Mirk, RE/MAX In The Hills; 6. Chuck Cacchione, RE/MAX Metropolitan; 7. Lee Wilbanks, RE/MAX Alliance; 8. Cheryl Harris, RE/MAX Leading Edge; 9. Anthony Dabaldo, RE/MAX Eagle Realty; 10. Raymond Zemens, RE/MAX Acclaim.

Challenging fun for ALL ages

Thursday

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CROSSWORD PUZZLER

ACROSS

- 1 Space
4 Pretend to be
8 Burrowing animal
12 The thing's
13 Make — for it
14 Similar
15 Youngster
16 Sought votes
18 Disney site
20 Hubbub (hyph.)
21 Alt.
22 Fork over
23 Teen outcast
27 Textile colorer
29 Chess piece
30 Quibble
31 Three-toed sloth
32 Magna — laude
33 Your choice
34 Vol.
35 Raised the stakes
37 News channel
38 Agent's take

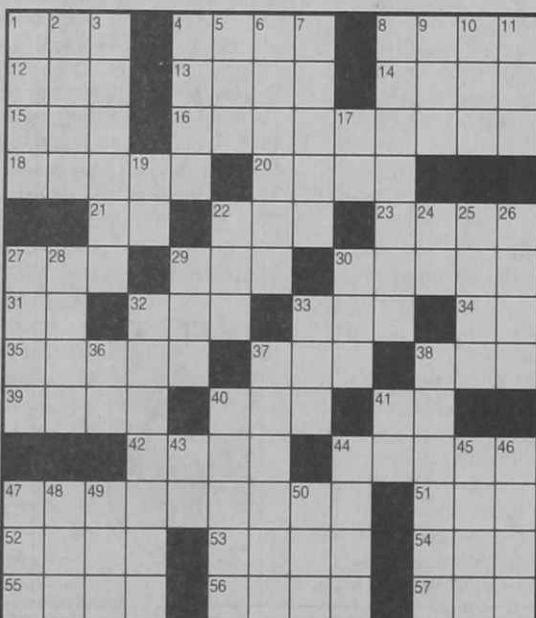
DOWN

- 39 Kind of market
40 Car grill cover
41 Geometry symbol
42 "The Mammoth Hunters" heroine
44 Clean a slate
47 Hoops feats (2 wds.)
51 Starry vista
52 Mesa dweller
53 Zooms on runners
54 High note
55 Mgr.
56 Jekyll's other half
57 Startled cries

Answer to Previous Puzzle

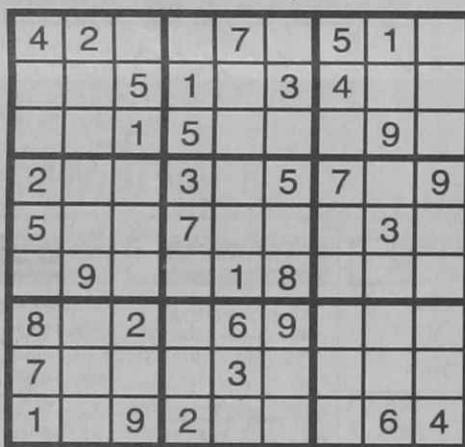
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- 7 Diplomat
8 Concrete work
9 Gives the go-ahead
10 Speak falsely
11 Terminate
17 — hoc committee
19 Extra work, briefly
22 Ms. Shriver
24 Such as, briefly
25 Country yokel
26 Hockey feint
27 Apply a mudpack
28 Egad!
29 Really bad coffee
30 Blyth or Landers
32 Made of clay
33 Santa — winds
36 Mr. Kettle
37 Grouchy
38 Huge flop
40 Turn pink
41 Corp. concern
43 Fabric qty.
44 To be, to Brutus
45 Twist
46 Looks closely
47 Hen or mare
48 Deli salmon
49 Zoo animal
50 Tease

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

CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE

9 8 6 1 5 8 7 9 8
2 5 6 1 5 8 7 9 8
3 7 2 8 1 9 2 6 5
1 5 9 2 6 1 8 7 9
6 8 1 5 7 9 1 2
1 6 5 7 2 5 1 8 9
9 2 7 5 8 1 5 2 6
8 1 9 9 1 6 5 2 7

CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE

H S O O D N I A V S
T O N I T L S E R M
1 9 I X O I S N C O
V W L V I O O N C H
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


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CAReport



By Dale Buss

American consumers returned to showrooms in force during March, driving overall sales to their best levels since last summer's peak around Cash for Clunkers. Automakers sold a total of 1.07 million vehicles in the United States last month, the highest absolute number of sales since the federal government's massive buyback of late-model used cars sent sales skyrocketing last August. Last month's number also was 25 percent ahead of March, 2009.

Even Toyota sales recovered strongly with an attractive incentive program after two long months during which the brand's reputation was badly battered. Sales for General Motors and Ford brands also increased smartly in March compared with a year ago, and so did results for most foreign-owned brands.

Of course, Toyota greased the skids tremendously as March began by offering the most extensive program of sales incentives ever promoted to American consumers by the company. Publicity surrounding its safety recalls in January and February had robbed Toyota's brands of tens of thousands of sales, and company executives launched the aggressive incentive program to attempt to precipitate an immediate

reversal of that trend.

It worked. Toyota's US sales increased by 41 percent compared with a year earlier and by 87 percent over sales in February. "Consumers responded to the industry offers in March and came out in droves," said Don Esmond, senior vice president of Toyota Motor Sales USA. "Our incentives clearly had an impact."

Jessica Caldwell, senior industry analyst for Edmunds.com, agreed. "People were lured by the money thrown out on the hood," she said. "It shows that [incentives] remain a big driver and also that people were waiting for a reason to buy Toyota. They saw the opportunity and thought they might be once-in-a-lifetime kinds of deals, and jumped on them."

And overall, Caldwell said, March results "showed that people were not as unwilling to buy a Toyota now as we'd heard in the media. Some people thought it might be years before Toyota could recover" from the recall mess, "but these sales numbers are encouraging, so maybe it won't be years. Recovery for Toyota may be faster than we had thought."

Yet while Toyota executives clearly were relieved that their big gambit had worked to bring



The RAV4 compact SUV has become a hot seller again for Toyota.

Camry is Toyota's stalwart sedan model, and the new incentive program has helped bring buyers back to it.



customers back into their showrooms in March, the company's ambitious program did little to change the industry's overall level of incentive spending.

"The industry didn't spike wildly" in incentive spending "as many people had thought it would," Caldwell said. The main reason was that, while General Motors, Ford and other automakers did more marketing and advertising around incentives in March in order to keep up with Toyota, the actual levels of incentive spending by Toyota's rivals didn't markedly increase.

"The major incentive programs by GM and Ford already had been in place for months prior" to March, Caldwell explained. "It was interesting what was happening in marketing communications versus what was happening in reality."

In fact, GM discounted any impact that Toyota's incentives

may have had on increasing showroom traffic across the industry. And its executives boasted that GM's average incentive spending dipped below the industry average for the first time on record. Other databases on incentive spending called that conclusion into question, but it was clear that the company has kept as much of a lid as possible on incentive spending.

That in itself was remarkable for the industry leader that more than once over the last several years had managed to jump-start America's automotive market with major new, and expensive, incentive programs.

"We did not give in to market pressure to pile on incentives" that tend to degrade brands, said Susan Docherty, GM's vice president of North American marketing. "It's important to manage our supply-and-demand and to keep improving the overall value for customers."

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