

ALL AGLOW FOR THE HOLIDAYS

SEE PAGE A11



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SPECIAL SECTION INSIDE

THURSDAY
December 16, 2010

The Observer & Eccentric
Newspapers

Volume 36
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CANTON OBSERVER

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CONNECTION Facebook winner

Reader Judy Postma of Plymouth won a pair of tickets to Imagine Theatres and a free Buddy's pizza just for "lik-ing" our Facebook page for HometownLife.com. The online home for the Observer and Eccentric Newspapers and Hometown Newspapers now has over 1,000 Facebook friends. To check it out, go to HometownLife.com and click on the Facebook icon.

Newsletter news

The Canton Township Board of Trustees Tuesday approved a \$2,762 contract with Dearborn Lithograph of Livonia to continue to produce and mail the township's newsletter, Focus. The contract is a 12-month deal, with a mutual option for a second year. It also carries a cost of \$68 per 1,000 copies of the newsletter produced. Township officials said some 36,000 copies of the newsletter are produced each month.

Holiday ornaments

The Plymouth Symphony has commissioned Detroit artist and Christmas ornament designer Curtis Posuniak to design a commemorative ornament to celebrate the 65th Season of the Plymouth Symphony.

Posuniak has created Christmas ornaments for orchestras around the country in addition to Michigan designs for the Detroit Opera House, Mackinac Island, The Grand Hotel, Bronners and Greenfield Village.

The ornaments are designed by Posuniak and then a clay mold is created and sent to designers in Poland where the glass blubs are hand-blown, lined with silver and hand-painted.

Ornaments are available from the Symphony by calling (734) 451-2112.

Holiday photos

Send us your favorite holiday photos for a chance to win a prize.

Go to hometownlife.com (Get Published) and post your favorite holiday photo (or photos) with a short caption, then encourage friends and family to vote by clicking recommend under the photo. The top vote-getter will receive tickets for two to Imagine Theater (Canton or Novi). The second- and third-place winners will receive a coupon for a free four-square cheese and one-topping Buddy's pizza.

Contest ends midnight Dec. 31. Share your holiday spirit with others! Go to hometownlife.com.

Holiday show

Central City Dance presents its annual "Christmas Spectacular," a Broadway-Style Christmas Show for the entire family.

Shows are scheduled Dec. 16-18 at 6 p.m., and Dec. 18-19 at 2 p.m., at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill in Canton. All seats are \$20.

Tickets may be purchased at Central City Dance Center, 8004 Sheldon Center in Canton. All tickets are reserved seating and are sold on a first-come, first-serve basis. For more information, visit www.centralcitydance.com.

Boy agrees to remove religious dagger

BY BRAD KADRICH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A Bentley Elementary School fourth-grader and his family have agreed to remove a religious item normally required to be worn by their Sikh religion until Plymouth-Canton Community Schools officials can figure out the best way — legally and otherwise — to handle it.

The boy was found last week wearing a Kirpan, a dagger-like instrument meant to prevent violence and defend the defenseless, while playing with

classmates during recess last week. The presence of the dagger was reported to school officials, and Bentley principal Jerry Meier examined the Kirpan. He determined the boy could continue wearing it after his examination revealed no sharp edges.

At least one classmate reported the incident to his parents, who raised the issue with school officials. After lengthy discussions between district officials and the family, the boy agreed not to wear the Kirpan until the issue was settled.

The boys' family told Meier that

when someone is baptized into the Sikh religion, they're ordered to wear the Kirpan at all times as a showing of faith, not as a weapon. The boy was wearing it on a long chain around his neck, covered completely by his clothing, according to Frank Ruggirello, the district's director of community relations.

According to the Sikh religion, the Kirpan is symbolic, and its meaning is to prevent violence and defend the defenseless.

"(Meier) examined it closely, and it has nothing sharp," said Frank

Ruggirello, the district's director of community relations. "We're reaching out to religious experts and talking to our attorneys and determine the best way to handle the situation to satisfy everyone."

Canton resident Tina Barbee, whose son reported the presence of the Kirpan, was distressed the district was originally going to let the student continue wearing the Kirpan, which she considers a weapon.

"What if someone takes this away

Please see **DAGGER, A3**



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Monday's frigid temperature didn't seem to bother 4-year-old Orrin Bauer and his dad, Dave Bauer. They were sliding down a snow-covered hill next to the Canton Summit.

WEATHER NO WORRY

Storm causes no real problems in Canton

BY BRAD KADRICH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

While Mother Nature did her best to disrupt things over the weekend, folks in Canton Township apparently weathered the first winter storm of the season pretty well.

According to Canton officials, the storm did little actual damage, other than the normal things several inches of snow and ice cause.

According to Fire Chief Timothy Dunn, while runs made by Canton firefighters may have increased a little, their biggest run was an out-of-towner, when they provided mutual aid to an apartment fire at the Wayne Woods apartment complex on Wayne Road south of Warren.

"There was probably a slight increase in the number of accidents," Dunn said. "But it wasn't anything in the extreme."

Meanwhile, a portion of Canton Township at the southeast corner of Ridge and Warren, notably the Royal Point West subdivision, was without power for about 24 hours starting Sunday evening due to a downed wire, according to Canton Township Engineer Tom Casari.

Two other incidents happened Wednesday, though Casari said neither was attributable to the weather. Sometime late Tuesday night or early Wednesday morning, someone turned on a fire hydrant on Napier Road north of Warren. Casari said the resultant water spillage washed out part of the road.

And the township had one water main break Wednesday morning.

"That one had nothing to do with the weather," Casari said.

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It's a wild and cold ride down the hill for Orrin Bauer, who took advantage of the wintry weather to catch some outdoor fun Monday.



The only problem with sliding down the hill is that you must walk back up. Dave Bauer and 4-year-old Orrin Bauer were up and down this hill many times.

Vigil honors children gone too soon

BY BRAD KADRICH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Some 100 people braved the first real winter storm of the season Sunday and showed up in downtown Plymouth's Kellogg Park for the 14th annual candlelight vigil to commemorate Children's Memorial Day.

Sponsored by The Compassionate Friends-Livonia chapter, the vigil is a way for parents, friends, family and loved ones to remember children who've died too soon.

Please see **VIGIL, A5**



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Christmas trees held the names of deceased children.

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INDEX

APARTMENTS ... C2
AUTOMOTIVE ... C4
CAREER BUILDER ... C3
CROSSWORD PUZZLE ... C2
HOME & SERVICE ... C2
OBITUARIES ... B5
REAL ESTATE ... C2
SPORTS ... B1
STRICTLY BUSINESS ... A9

Township board approves municipal fee hikes

BY BRAD KADRICH AND DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITERS

Not long removed from passing a two-year budget that includes a 1.75-mill tax increase for police and fire, the Canton Township Board of Trustees Tuesday passed a series of fee increases designed to bring Canton Township's fees more in line with comparable communities.

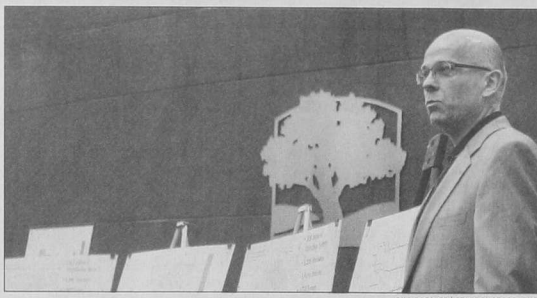
The board approved the fee schedule on a unanimous vote. It marks the first adjustment to the township's fee schedule since 2006, according to Municipal Services Director Tim Faas. Canton residents will now pay slightly higher fees for adding decks, fences, furnaces, solar pan-

els and other amenities to their homes. Officials said the increases are necessary "to narrow or close the gap between what the township charges and what it actually costs to provide services."

"Our auditors tell us we should do this every three years," Faas said Tuesday. "We haven't done it in five. It was time."

Some fees are seeing a large hike — permit costs for a new three-bedroom, \$180,000 home would climb \$283, from \$2,940 to \$3,223, for instance — while others are small, like the \$3 hike in the cost of a deck permit.

Even so, some fees still would lag behind the actual costs, according to Faas. While permit fees for a new



Tim Faas, Canton's municipal services director, said the township is trying to keep its fee structure close to what the township's actual costs are.

deck would increase from \$105 to \$108, he pointed out, the township's labor costs including an inspection actually amount to nearly \$150.

"We're trying to charge as close to what our actual cost is as possible," Faas said. "We think we're being pretty responsible with the taxpayers' dollars."

During talks earlier this year, township Trustee Pat Williams said he views the fee increases essentially as a tax

increase because residents face higher out-of-pocket expenses. On record saying he sees no alternative to approving the schedule amid Canton's declining financial position, caused by falling property tax revenues, Williams supported it Tuesday.

"We are looking at every opportunity to maintain a balanced budget, and this is one component of how we're going to get there," he said earlier. "We're under the gun. We have to look at everything."

Township administration officials have said the municipal service fee increases shouldn't be viewed as a tax increase because they're intended to cover costs rather than turn a profit.

Here's a snapshot of some of the municipal fee changes:

- A permit and application fee for a new fence would climb from \$55 to \$58, though the township's cost actually remains higher at \$70.
- A new charge pertaining to solar fees would be \$30 for one to three panels — and another \$10 for each additional panel.
- Building and inspection administrative fees would increase from \$25 to \$28.
- A temporary certificate of occupancy for a commercial, industrial, office or multi-family dwelling would jump from \$150 to \$250.
- The grave-site costs for burial in the two township-owned cemeteries would jump from \$325 to \$1,200 on weekdays, with even higher increases for weekends and holidays. However, Faas said the fee hike only applies to two to four people a year.
- The cost of cutting noxious weeds near residences — weeds that are on property either under construction or waiting for development — would jump from \$119 to \$212 for a one-acre lot.

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AROUND CANTON

"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

Financial advice

The public is invited to start the new year right by joining a discussion on "Becoming Financially Savvy in 2011" at the Canton Newcomers' Wednesday, Jan. 5, general meeting.

Expect an evening of socializing, interest group signups, delicious refreshments from Canton's new restaurant Hayden's Grill and Bar, a raffle where proceeds benefit The Heat and Warmth fund (THAW), and an informative discussion by Jennifer Garofalo, CPA, CVA of Post, Symth, Lutz and Ziel of Plymouth LLP on tax tips for 2011, Health Savings accounts, 529 plans for college savings and how to take advantage of new and existing tax credits.

The Newcomers meet at the Sunflower Clubhouse at 45800 Hanford Road at 7:15 p.m. For more information on the club or to RSVP for this meeting, call Noreen at (734) 981-0486 or email nrybar@yahoo.com.

Events for kids

El Fuego Fresh Mexican Grill in Canton hosts a weekend of events aimed at youngsters in the community.

• On Friday, Dec. 17, at 9:30 p.m., the restaurant hosts "Navidad De Baile" teen dance party, featuring a live disc jockey, dancing, snack bar and refreshments. Advanced tickets are \$6, tickets the night of the event are \$7.50.

• From 8 a.m. to noon on Saturday, Dec. 18, the restaurant hosts "Breakfast with Santa." Kids who bring an unwrapped gift for a needy family get a free 4x6 photo with Santa.

El Fuego is located at 45380 Hanford in Canton (off Canton Center, one block north of Ford Road).

Dress request

The Plymouth/Canton branch of American Association of University Women is requesting donations of gently used prom and party dresses.

AAUW officials note, "The prom is a very important event in high school and many girls are finding it difficult to afford that special dress in our current economic climate." AAUW will be having a special sale in April where suitable dresses can be purchased for minimal or no cost. Any profit will go to the group's scholarship fund.

AAUW volunteers will pick up contributions, or donors can bring it to any



Musical moment

On Sunday, Dec. 12, the senior residents at Hope Nursing Center in Westland enjoyed a special Christmas concert performed by a group of young musicians from The Little Stars Foundation, including (from left) Alan Sun, Anna Sun, Daniel Li, Paul Shen and Austin Liu. It's the fifth consecutive year TLSF has toured nursing homes and senior centers, playing Christmas carols on their violins and passing out Christmas presents to residents. They have brought holiday joy to hundreds of seniors. TLSF will be performing holiday music at the Four Season Nursing Center in Westland on Saturday, Dec. 18, and Waltonwood at Cherry Hill in Canton on Sunday, Dec. 19.

meeting. To arrange for pickup, contact S. Zaetta at (734) 455-6366 or szaetta@wowway.com; K. Bellows at (734) 421-8807 or KiggityKate83@aol.com; or E. Nelson at (734) 981-4938 or enelson1c@att.net.

Living nativity

Officials at Friendship Church in Canton invite visitors to "take a walk back in time and experience the wonder of the first Christmas night" with their Living Nativity display Dec. 19.

It features a costumed cast of 50+ with live animals, an outdoor, 10-minute guided walking tour and warm refreshments, all at no admission cost.

Friendship Church is located at 1240 N. Beck (at Saltz) in Canton. For more information, call (734) 710-9370 or visit www.friendshipchurchinfo.com

Art days

There are new Drop-Off Art Days at D & M Art Studios in Canton Dec. 20-21 from noon until 5 p.m. and Dec. 22 from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m.

There are tons of projects on the hour. Call for reservations.

The studio also hosts Christmas Kids Only Workshops Dec. 18 and Dec. 23.

There are also two-hour workshops Dec. 28-30.

For more information, visit www.dmart-studio.com or call (734) 453-3710.

Listen to Mitch

Fans of Mitch Ryder and the Detroit Wheels can catch the iconic '60s rock band in a performance at the Token Lounge, 28949 Joy, east of Middlebelt, in Westland Saturday, Dec. 18.

Doors will open at 8 p.m., and there's an at-the-door charge of \$20 per person. For more information, call (734) 513-5030.

Band auditions

Has it been a while since you dusted-off that musical instrument of yours? Anyone getting that urge to perhaps start playing that clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, trombone or any other musical instrument has their chance.

The New Horizons Band of Canton is looking for new members. Musicians 18 years of age or older who would like to become a part of this unique music ensemble are invited to attend a "free" one-time rehearsal on Tuesday evenings.

For more information, call Evola Music at (743) 455-4677.

Revenue up, spending down for W-W schools

BY SUE MASON
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A higher than expected student count in September and larger number of staff retirements is helping the Wayne-Westland Community Schools spend less and bring in more money for fiscal 2010-11.

But that good news is tempered by the fact that there's "still a lot of uncertainties" related to state school aid and local tax revenue.

"There's quite a bit of changes going on this year," said Gary Martin, deputy superintendent for administrative and business services. "The good news is we're spending \$1.7 million less, but we're still running a \$2.2 million deficit in the budget. This is the eighth year in a row we've done that."

Martin went before the school board Monday evening to seek approval of budget amendment which aligned the district's spending plan with actual revenue and expenditures.

Major items on the revenue side is receipt of \$1.5 million more than the district had budgeted for in June, due in large part to a higher student count. According to Martin, the district had anticipated losing 300 students, but instead the number came in 120 students better than expected, bringing in an additional \$2.8 million.

"We're encouraged that those numbers were at the lower end in the elementary," Martin said. "We hope they stay. We hope that's a trend, but it's hard to call it a trend when it's only one year."

The district also will receive an extra \$100,000 in federal ARRA money and a one-time \$750,000 in revenue from the sale of Patchin Elementary as well as the sale of obsolete equipment at the William D. Ford Career Technical Center.

However, the state's continuing economic woes and a Tax Tribunal decision in favor of the Ford Motor Co. related to its

assembly plants in Wayne will trim local property taxes by \$1.9 million.

The end result is an increase in revenue of more than \$1.4 million.

The district fared well on the expenditure side due "to a much more favorable savings in salaries and benefits" as a result of the state-offered early retirement.

The district also closed schools and realigned its elementary program to save \$5 million and had hoped for an additional \$5 million in employee wage freezes and concession. The superintendent, his cabinet the administrative unions and several employee groups agreed, but the district has yet to reach an agreement on concessions in health care and a wage freeze with three unions, including its largest, the Wayne-Westland Education Association.

As a result, expenditures overall are down only \$262,000 for the year. The combination of more revenue and less expenditures means the district's fund equity, its savings account, will be at \$5.5 million as opposed to the \$2.4 million projected when the budget was approved in June.

"I think you addressed this at the end, but this gives us a little relief, this makes it look a little like we're off the hook," said Trustee William Gabriel. "With this budget, can we take a little breath?"

"It's a little bit of relief, but we can't let our guard down," said Martin. "We're getting at the end of the road. There's 30-40 school districts in deficit, and if they don't fill the hole in school aid that number could double and we could be on the cusp."

When questioned by board Secretary Cindy Schofield about the possibility of prorations in state school aid, Superintendent Greg Baracy pointed out that "the challenges are great and (the state's) new administration plans to meet them head on."

DAGGER

FROM PAGE A1

from this child and decides to hurt someone?" Barbee told WDIV Friday. "Who's to say that all Sikh children are stable? If there were just one style of kirpan, and it was small and blunt, and it was the only one that's available, I'd say let's

consider making an exception to the rule.

"But when I went online and see the variety of Kirpans available, and I have a kid starting high school next year, and it scares me."

Ruggirello acknowledged the district has a zero-tolerance policy on bringing weapons to school. However, he said, officials don't recognize the Kirpan

as a weapon and so the boy will be allowed to return to class wearing the Kirpan.

Ruggirello said that, while Barbee was the only parent to complain formally as of Saturday morning, the district would reach out to all parents in the district to apprise them of the situation.

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Livonia Public Schools Opens Renowned Academically Talented Program to Out-of-District Students

Three seats are open to students entering 7th grade in winter 2011
Three seats are open to students entering 8th grade in winter 2011

Limited Registration window: Dec. 6, 2010 – Jan. 6, 2011

Livonia Public Schools is opening its Middle School Alternative Classrooms for the Academically Talented (MACAT) program to Limited Schools of Choice for the 2010-11 school year, second semester.

This program is geared toward academically talented students looking for a specialized learning experience.

Registration will open from Dec. 6, 2010 – Jan. 6, 2011 at Churchill High School,

8900 Newburgh Rd., Livonia 48150 from 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday-Friday

All candidates MUST meet the MACAT selection testing criteria.

For complete information on the application process,

Contact Doug Coates at Churchill High School at 734-744-2650 ext. 46132

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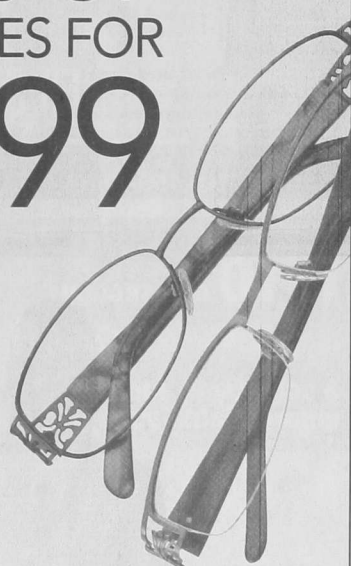
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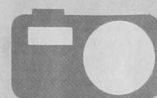
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Thursday, December 16, 2010

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CRIME WATCH

Harassing calls

1 Police were contacted by a woman on Sherwood Circle who complained that her boyfriend's ex-girlfriend was making unwanted telephone calls to her. The victim told police she changed her cell phone to stop the calls, but the woman then began calling her parents' house.

Police advised the suspect any further contact over the phone or via the Internet or through her parents' phone number could result in prosecution.

The ex-girlfriend told police she wasn't very happy with the decision, but she understood.

Trespass complaint

2 Staffers at the White Castle on Ford Road called police for help removing a man who had come into the restaurant, possibly to escape the cold.

The manager told police the man, whom the manager believed to be homeless, had asked if he could come into the restaurant "for a little bit." He was told he could stay five minutes. When the man didn't leave, police were called.

The manager of the store told police she believed the man is homeless and has been coming into the restaurant "a lot for the last two weeks." She also told police the man falls asleep and sometimes punches the walls of the restaurant.

Police removed the man without incident.

Retail fraud

3 Police were called to the Walmart on Ford Road because store security had taken someone into custody for suspected retail fraud.

The security officer told police he'd observed the suspect in the store's electronics department "due to his nervous behavior." He saw the suspect pick up a cell phone charger, then proceed to the sporting goods department, where he removed the cell phone from its packaging and put it in his front coat pocket.

He then watched the suspect pick up a Marine Fog Horn and put it in his pocket, as well. The suspect then went to the men's wear department, where he concealed a knit hat in his pocket.

The suspect then proceeded to the front of

the store, where he bypassed the registers and failed to pay for the items. Security apprehended the suspect, who then asked if he was going to be placed in custody. When informed he was, he produced a pair of black work pants he'd concealed in his waist band.

Gas guzzler

4 A victim told police an unknown person had siphoned gas from a 2000 Mercury Montego parked in the facility's parking area on Lotz.

When the victim saw the car around 7 a.m., there was a five-foot length of hose near the car, and the gas cap was unscrewed. The victim told police he doubted the thief got much gas, but was worried the thief had put an unknown substance in the tank.

Police have no suspects.

Physical threats

5 Two men working out at Lifetime Fitness on Haggerty reported an unknown male "staring" at them during their workout. After the workout, the two men were leaving when the subject approached them and used an ethnic epithet, and subsequently threatened to hit them.

When the men stood up to him, he pulled out a cell phone and told them he was calling 911. The men declined to prosecute, because they didn't know who the man was, though they identified him as a regular at the center.

Management agreed to help them identify the man the next time he comes in.

More fraud

6 Store associates at the new Walmart on Michigan Ave. noticed two women moving throughout the store with large amounts of items, which they told police the women were storing in their bags. Canton police arrived and stationed themselves at either end of the store to catch the women leaving.

When they did, the women were escorted back inside, where associates were recovering a number of stolen items, all still with price tags attached. Items included pajamas, underwear, T-shirts, jeans and other clothing.

A family member had to be called to take care of the suspects' children, who were present throughout the incident.



Unattended child

7 Police were dispatched to a beauty supply store on Ford Road when a witness reported seeing a child had been left unattended in a car.

When they got there, officers found a 9-month-old child in the rear passenger seat of a GEO Prism parked some 30 yards from the store. The suspects told police they'd gone into the store to use the rest room. One suspect told police she thought the other had returned to the car.

The child was left unattended in the car for some 10 minutes, with the rear window cracked and the car not running. The temperature at the time was 27 degrees, with 23 mph winds and dusting snow.

Compiled by staff writer Brad Kadrich from reports of the Canton Police Department.

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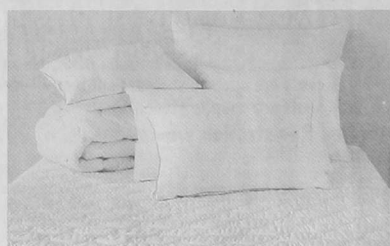
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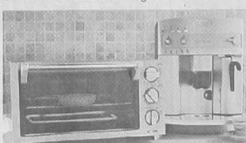


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W-W board OKs three administrative appointments

BY SUE MASON
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The Wayne-Westland Community Schools has filled three of four administrative positions with the school board's approval of appointments of assistant principals at John Glenn and Wayne Memorial High Schools and principal at Stevenson Middle School.

The board approved Superintendent Greg Baracy's recommendations that Denise Bateson and Jessica Schulz fill the positions at Glenn and Wayne Memorial, respectively, and that Christopher Johnson be hired to head up the Stevenson staff as of Jan. 3.

Bateson has been with the district since 1992 and has taught mathematics at both high schools as well as in the Tinkham alternative program. She started her teaching career in 1989 as a substitute teacher in the Willow Run Community Schools.

A Dearborn resident, she has a bachelor of arts degree in international relations from Michigan State University, a master of arts degree in mathematics from Eastern Michigan University and an educational specialist degree in educational leadership from Oakland University.

She was the Wayne-Westland Family YMCA Teacher of the Year in 1999,

'I've been with this district for 18 years and I plan to spend the rest of my work life here. I plan to work very hard.'

DENISE BATESON, newly appointed assistant principal John Glenn High School

named Heartbeat of Wayne High in 1997 and nominated for EMU's Exceptional Educator award in 2005 and 2006.

"I've been with this district for 18 years and I plan to spend the rest of my work life here," Bateson said. "I plan to work very hard."

Also a Dearborn resident, Schulz was a teaching assistant at Michigan State University and a substitute teacher in the Ferndale Public Schools before joining Wayne-Westland in 2004. She also has taught at both high schools and Tinkham as well as Adams Middle School.

She has a bachelor of arts degree in English from Michigan State University, a master of science degree in educational technology from Nova Southeastern University and an educational specialist

degree in educational leadership from OU.

"Thank you for this tremendous opportunity," Schulz told the school board. "It's very nice, thank you very much."

Johnson, a Canton resident, is a newcomer to the district. He has worked as a teacher in the Walled Lake Consolidated Schools and as an assistant principal in the Dearborn Heights District 7 and the Ann Arbor Public Schools.

He has a bachelor of science degree in social science from Central Michigan University, a master of arts degree in teaching from Marygrove College and a master of arts degree in educational administration from Grand Canyon University.

"You can't believe how excited I am to start in this position. I only wish I didn't have to wait until Jan. 3," Johnson said. "I'm looking forward to working with the students, the staff and the parents."

The board extended welcomes and congratulations to the new administrators, with Trustee Carol Middel telling them, "I see you doing wonderful things in your new positions."

"Mr. Johnson, welcome to our family," added board Vice President Shawna Walker.

smason@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-6751

VIGIL

FROM PAGE A1

The storm, which dropped several inches of snow, made driving difficult and included frigid temperatures, may have discouraged many (the vigil routinely draws more than 400 people), but those who came out found the ceremony helpful.

"I can't tell you how many times my phone rang (Sunday) with people asking if it was still on," said Kathy Rambo of Canton, one of three co-leaders of The Compassionate Friends, who chuckled before adding, "If I wasn't the leader, I'm not sure I would have made it. But it went very well."

The ceremony included readings, music and the dedication of two Christmas trees filled with ornaments dedicated to children who've died too soon. The ceremony also included the reading of some 600 names

FINDING COMPASSION

What: The Compassionate Friends-Livonia Chapter (dedicated to remembering children who died too soon)

Where: The group meets at St. Timothy's Church on Newburgh (south of Six Mile) in Livonia

When: Meetings are the first Thursday of every month, 7-9 p.m.

Who: Co-leaders are Kathy Rambo of Canton, Brenda Hernandez of Flat Rock and Rhonda Temple of Dearborn

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of children to be honored. Ornaments honoring the children also adorned a pair of Christmas trees in Kellogg Park.

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BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Gail Lafferty of Livonia reads the names of children lost to their families during The Compassionate Friends candlelight vigil Sunday in Plymouth's Kellogg Park.

Candles in the snow

Crowd braves winter to pay tribute to their children

BY BRAD KADRICH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Kathy Rambo figured her phone might not stop ringing Sunday.

The harder it snowed, the more the phone seemed to ring, with people wanting to ask the Compassionate Friends-Livonia chapter co-leader if the group's annual candlelight vigil, honoring children who died too young, was a go.

Rambo assured anyone willing to brave the snow, the cold, the ice and the wintry road conditions the show would go on, no matter what Mother Nature threw their way.

Rambo, who lost her son, Jason, in a traffic accident 10 years ago, knows by the ache in her own heart how important the annual vigil has become.

"I think people feel it's something they do for their children," Rambo, a Canton resident who lived in Plymouth for 25 years, said of the 100 or so people who braved the elements. "It's our Christmas now. Christmas will never be the same for us. We're like a family. We've all gone through the same pain. Nobody knows what it's like unless they've been through it."

Sponsored annually in conjunction with Children's Memorial Day, the vigil is held in time zones throughout the world, the idea being that, as candles burn down in one time zone, they're lit in another, creating a 24-hour memorial.

The Plymouth ceremony included readings, music and the dedication of two Christmas trees filled with ornaments dedicated to children who've died too soon.

The most touching part of the ceremony is the reading of the names, either called in or e-mailed to The Compassionate Friends. Rambo said some 600 names were read Sunday.

Many of the people in the crowd have taken part in the ceremony before. One such woman, who'd lost a child a few years ago, recommended the ceremony to Willa Butler of Redford, who lost her daughter to complications of Lupus and diabetes in October. The friend told Butler the ceremony would help.

She was right.

"It's been very hard for me to deal with, and it's part of a healing process for me," said Butler, whose daughter was just 39 when she died. "It was a beautiful ceremony. It gave me something to focus on. It's hard to deal with the loss of your child. You think, 'She's lost to the world.'"

"It meant the world to me," Butler added. "I will participate in the future, because it gave meaning to my having my daughter. The most important thing is, she's not forgotten."

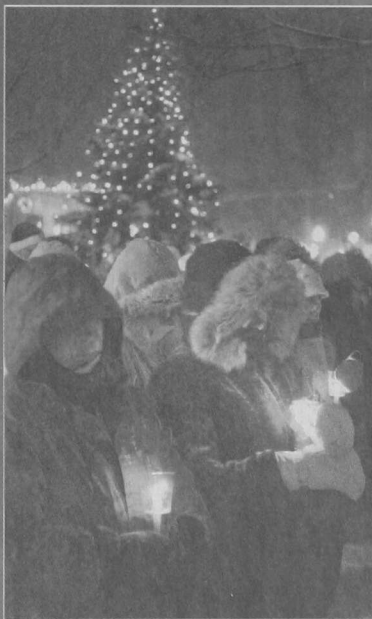
Rambo knows how she feels. When Jason died, Rambo said she used his clothing to make teddy bears for friends and family members as a way to keep Jason's spirit alive. She said it took her a few months to find out about The Compassionate Friends. And she might not have, had it not been for her mother.

"My mom came across it, because I was in no condition to think about things like this," said Rambo, now the co-leader of the group to which she turned in her grief. "It helped get me through the worst time of my life. Now, it's my turn to give back to others. (The Compassionate Friends) is my life now."

Not surprisingly, the 100 or so people who turned out turned Mother Nature's fury into a positive.

"It was smaller than usual," Rambo said of the ceremony, which usually draws some 400 people. "(But) it was beautiful, with the snow coming down and everything."

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Marion Rozum of Canton holds a candle in memory of Ryan Owen at The Compassionate Friends candlelight vigil Sunday in Kellogg Park in Plymouth. Jan Jacobs of Plymouth and Kathy Wiacek of Northville were there to remember David Jacobs.



Robert and Leslie Cisco remember their son Brad. They are from Brownstown Township.



Hope Gross of Westland remembers her son, Howie.



Three-year-old Najazma Mitchell holds a candle for LaVeda Ayers. She attended the ceremony with family Tobias Mitchell, Willa Butler, Orlando Ayers, Carthell Williams and Leshon Terrance. They are residents of Redford Township.

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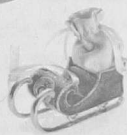
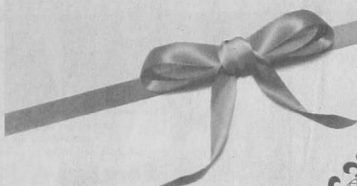
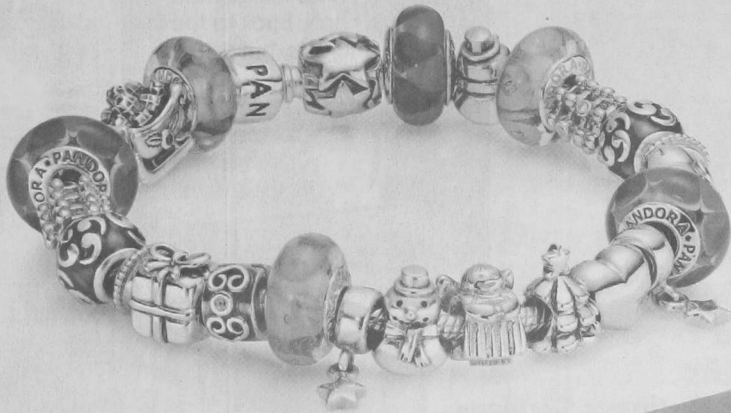


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Michigan Snowsports Industries Association Ski card is great value

The Michigan Snowsports Industries Association has produced a card that allows the holder to ski at 29 different Michigan ski areas this winter for just \$189. Called the MSIA White Gold Card, purchasers are entitled to ski one time at each of the participating ski areas during the 2010-11 ski season. Also included is one free ski tuneup (edge sharpen and wax) at participating MSIA ski retailers.

"The White Gold Card is an exceptional value," said Steve Kershner, chairman of the MSIA and director of skiing for Shanty Creek Resorts in Bellaire.

"If you paid for a lift ticket at each of these ski areas and brought your skis in for a tune-up, you would be spending over \$960," said Kershner.

The card looks like a credit card, divided into squares.

Each ski area is assigned to a square and one square is designated for the ski tuneup.

White Gold Card skiers are allowed to ski one time at each ski area, midweek or weekend. The card is valid for the entire ski season, except for Dec. 24, through Jan. 2, 2011. The cards are nonrefundable and nontransferable. To get the tuneup, White Gold Card purchasers take their skis or boards to one of the over 40 participating ski shops.

MSIA developed the White Gold Card as a fund-raising endeavor and limits its production to 400 cards.

"We've found from past years' sales that they go quickly," said Kershner.

To add a little excitement, MSIA has also created a challenge for White Gold Card participants.

"The first person to use



The Michigan Snowsports Industries Association has produced a card that allows the holder to ski at 29 different Michigan ski areas this winter for just \$189. Photo courtesy goskimichigan

the White Gold Card at all 29 Michigan ski areas will win a card for the 2011-12 ski season," Kershner said. He added that MSIA is hosting the challenge to encourage skiers to try all the great slopes in Michigan. To win, White

Gold Card holders must ski at all the ski areas and then send MSIA their punched-out White Gold Card accompanied by a used lift ticket from each of the ski areas.

Participating ski areas include: Alpine Valley in

White Lake; Apple Mountain in Freeland; Big Powderhorn Mountain of Bessemer; Bittersweet in Otsego; Blackjack Resort in Bessemer; Boyne Highlands in Harbor Springs; Boyne Mountain in Boyne Falls; Caberfae Peaks in Cadillac; Cannonsburg Ski Area in Cannonsburg; Cross-Country Ski Headquarters in Roscommon; Crystal Mountain in Thompsonville; Hanson Hills in Grayling; Indianhead Mountain in Wakefield; Marquette Mountain in Marquette; Mont Ripley in Houghton; Mt. Bohemia in the Keweenaw Peninsula; Mt. Brighton in Brighton; Mt. Holly in Holly; Mt. Zion in Ironwood; Norway Mountain in Norway; Nubs Nob in Harbor Springs; Pine Knob in Clarkston; Pine Mountain in Iron Mountain; Shanty Creek in Bellaire;

Snow Snake in Harrison; Swiss Valley Ski Area in Jones; The Homestead in Glen Arbor; Timber Ridge Ski Area in Gables and Treetops Resort in Gaylord.

White Gold Cards will be sold at participating MSIA ski shops throughout the state through December, while supplies last. MSIA local shops offering the cards and the ski/snowboard tuneups are: Boyne Country Sports in Bloomfield Hills, Novi and Traverse City; Don Thomas Sporthaus in Birmingham; Nichol's Ski & Patio in Dearborn and Waterford; Sun & Snow Sports in Plymouth and Ann Arbor.

The White Gold Cards can also be purchased online at www.goskimichigan.com. For more information, visit www.goskimichigan.com or call MSIA at (248) 620-4448.

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IT'S YOUR BUSINESS Q&A



Dynamic Athlete Performance offers Sports Performance Training for athletes of all ages and skill levels, including classes in three performance levels/age groups.

Sports training fits all age, skill levels

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

Dynamic Athlete: We offer Sports Performance Training for athletes of all ages and skill levels. We offer classes Monday-Saturday in 3 Performance levels/age groups. We have a 12,000 sqft high performance training center. 3 lane 55yd Mondo Track, 30yd turf field, weight room and cardio area. We offer Deca-Fit Boot Camps for people looking to tone up, lose weight and get in shape. Our power circuits are a 1hr intense training program that will leave you tired but satisfied. Nutrition guidance and supplement sales. NFL Combine Training.

Observer: How did you first decide to open your business?

Dynamic Athlete: As a former athlete I think it is important that student-athletes are offered the proper training. Education of training mechanics and learning about your body is just as important as playing the game. Our young student athletes are getting more injured year after year because they are not properly developing their

DYNAMIC ATHLETE PERFORMANCE

Business name: Dynamic Athlete Performance

Business address: 46615 Michigan Ave., Canton

Your name and title: Chad Smith, owner/sports performance coach

Your hometown: Canton

Business opened: Nov. 1 in Canton; originally opened in San Diego, Calif., 2004

Number of employees: 3

Your business specialty: Sports performance training, weight loss/fitness training/personal training and nutrition

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physical fitness skills.

Observer: Why did you choose Canton?

Dynamic Athlete: I grew up in the area and still have all my family in the area. I wanted to come back home to be close to my family and provide a great service for my community.

Observer: What makes your

business unique?

Dynamic Athlete: I think a lot has to do with our ability to offer science based programs that have been proven to work on all ages and populations. My past experiences as an elite level athlete and the past jobs I have had help me design programs that will maximize an athlete's potential and help them achieve all their athletic goals. We help build character and life skills on the field that will help young athletes off the field in life.

Observer: How has the recent economy affected your business?

Dynamic Athlete: It's been a little slow but I understand the current economic situation and have adjusted my pricing to reflect this tough time.

Observer: Any advice for other business owners?

Dynamic Athlete: Believe in yourself and if you have an idea, set your short term and long term goals and go for it. Whatever the outcome whether positive or negative you learn from it and use it while moving forward.

Observer: What's in store for the future of your business?

Dynamic Athlete: Adding Educational Seminars for parents and coaches add a 2nd location, increase the adult fitness program, add a skating treadmill.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Feet and ankles

Wayne State University Physician Group Department of Orthopaedic Surgery is proud to announce the welcoming of foot and ankle specialist Dr. Richard Needleman of Plymouth.

Needleman is an orthopaedic surgeon who specializes in foot and ankle problems in adult and pediatrics. His primary areas of expertise include bunions, flat feet disorders, fractures, heel pain, reconstruction and sports medicine.



Needleman

Office locations include 5958 N. Canton Center, Suite 700 in Canton, and 18100 Oakwood Blvd., Suite 300 in Dearborn.

Needleman received his medical degree from University of Vermont College of Medicine in Burlington, Vt. He served his residency training at George Washington University in Washington, D.C. His fellowship was completed at Medical College of Wisconsin in Milwaukee, Wisc.

Needleman is board-certified by the American Board of Orthopaedic Surgery. In addition, he is a reviewer for Foot and Ankle International, the journal of the American Orthopaedic Foot and Ankle Society. His research interests

include flat feet and ankle fractures.

To schedule an appointment or for more information, call the Dearborn office location at (313) 429-7977 or the Canton office location: 734-254-9500.

Recipe winner

From more than 350 recipes received from across the United States, Spicy Gorgonzola Black Bean Sausage over Seared Skillet Polenta was the overall top-scoring recipe in Renfro Foods' 70th anniversary recipe contest. Submitted by Candy McMenamin of Lexington, SC, it won in the Entrée category.

Other Top 3 recipes include: Roasted Garlic Layered Border Dip from Kellie Foglio of Salem, Wisc., and Divine Vegetarian Breakfast Burritos from Lindsay Gollihar of San Francisco, Calif. They won in the Appetizer and Healthy categories, respectively.

Canton resident Jason Osburn was not only a Grand Prize winner but also Judge's Choice finalist in the Appetizer category for his Jalapeno Watermelon Gazpacho.

Original recipes were received through Renfro's company website and by mail.

Pizza giveaway

Lou Toarmina, founder of Toarmina's Pizza, home of the "24-inch Pizza," will give away free pizzas from his stores for 12 days in honor of The Salvation Army's 2010 Red Kettle Campaign. Calls are

being made to the public at random across metro Detroit.

"With this giveaway, Toarmina's Pizza is spreading much-needed generosity to the community," said Major John Turner, general secretary for The Salvation Army of Metro Detroit. "As residents pick up their pizzas, they are welcome to make a donation to The Salvation Army to carry on the kindness."

"We are dedicated to this worthy cause, and encourage those receiving free pizzas to consider making a donation to The Salvation Army as a gesture of continued generosity," said Lou Toarmina, founder of Toarmina's Pizza.

In 2009, The Salvation Army of Metro Detroit was involved in providing 3,181,865 million meals and 724,134 nights of shelter for the homeless. The Salvation Army uses 85 cents of every dollar raised to provide direct services to people in need each and every day of the year.

New lease

LaKritz-Weber & Company, the retail real estate experts, announce a 1,302 square foot lease in the Canton Gateway Shopping Center at 4041 S. Canton Center Road in Canton.

Gabe Schuchman and Adam Goodman of LaKritz-Weber & Company represented the landlord, Canton Gateway, LLC in this transaction. The new tenant is Lovely Nails, Inc.

CHAMBER CHAT

January luncheon

The Canton Chamber of Commerce hosts its January luncheon, themed "Who's Who and What Can I Do?" at 11 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 12, at the Summit on the Park.

The chamber will have booths set up before the luncheon with information about our committees and events. You will have an opportunity to meet, ask questions and talk to committee members, board and staff. You can see first-hand what these committees do and you will have the opportunity to sign up for one or more of these committees/events: Auction, Grub Crawl, Golf, Relay for Life, Membership, Speakers/Networking, Education Committee and much more.

Cost is \$20 for member pre-registration, \$30 for non-members. Sponsors are Molly Maid and PNC Bank.

Reservations are required; call the chamber office, (734) 453-4040.

Franchising seminar

Hear four franchise experts discuss "Franchising is More Than Burgers, Shakes and Fries" during a seminar at the Canton Chamber of Commerce office 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, Jan. 15.

First-time entrepreneurs who are considering business ownership through franchising should attend with their spouse or business partners. You will hear about financing a franchise, the laws of franchising, how to work with a consultant to identify the right franchise fit and exactly what it's like to own a franchise.

Cost is \$5 per person. Reservations are requested and can be made by calling Jana at the chamber, (734) 453-4040. The Canton Chamber of Commerce is located at 45525 Hanford in Canton.



Exquisite antiques

Materials Unlimited has partnered with a select group of American artisans to complement their exquisite inventory of antiques and architectural salvage. Materials Unlimited offers cast stone product lines from two American manufacturers: Unique Stone and Campanian International. Both manufacturers create their own original designs and authorized reproductions in American manufacturing facilities. Using crushed minerals instead of gravel, cast stone ensures greater detail and enduring beauty. From statuary to planters and fountains to plaques, there are styles and finishes to suit every taste. Materials Unlimited's annual holiday sale runs through Jan. 2; save 25 percent store-wide. Materials Unlimited is located at 2 W. Michigan Ave., in downtown Ypsilanti. Store hours are Tuesday-Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sundays noon to 5 p.m., closed Mondays.

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OUR VIEWS

Budget plan Higher taxes can't be sole solution

There are a lot of clichés that can be thrown out when decrying the Canton Township Board of Trustees' decision to include a 1.75-mill tax increase for police and fire services in the two-year budget they recently passed.

Greedy government. Politicians feeding the fattened calf instead of cutting it. Government officials balancing the budget on the backs of the residents rather than making the tough decisions.

There are others — Don't cry over spilled milk, that's water under the bridge, do better next time — that are probably more useful in this situation.

Dealing with a \$15 million deficit, township board members were always going to have to raise the millage rate, no matter how much they cut or what concessions they got from employees. Trustees cut spending by \$1.8 million and got another \$1.8 million in concessions from employees, and it didn't touch the deficit.

The general fund of \$26.6 million in 2009 dipped to \$25.4 million in 2010 and has been projected at \$23.9 million for 2011 and \$24.4 million for 2012. During the same four-year period, the fund balance has been projected to fall from \$6 million to \$927,000, though officials think it will improve as other cost-cutting measures are sought.

Budget cuts amounting to \$1.8 million were made across the various township departments. A decision was made that any new full-time positions cannot be created without the township board's prior approval. Already, officials have declined to fill some positions as they became vacant. For instance, Canton now has one deputy police chief rather than two, after Patrick Nemecsek left that job to become the new public safety director.

Employees pitched in with \$1.8 million in concessions. Early estimates were the concessions essentially amounted to a 5-percent pay cut and higher health-care costs, though officials have since said specific details among employee groups could differ slightly while reaching similar cost-cutting goals. "We've tried to be fair in that everybody is participating in the reductions on a fair basis," Finance Director Rick Eva said.

That wasn't good enough for Trustee Todd Caccamo, who pointed out he didn't think enough cuts had been made — renewing his view that Leisure Services, in particular, hasn't seen enough of the ax — and prompting fellow Trustee John Anthony to accuse Caccamo of "political posturing."

And while it may have been, that doesn't make Caccamo's overall point any less valid — all possible avenues of budget trimming should be exhausted before raising taxes on the residents.

Canton Township Supervisor Phil LaJoy, who's responsible for the budget, is understandably adamant the board did what it could without gutting the kinds of services and programs Canton residents have come to expect, programs and services that, frankly, have been a draw for both residents and businesses. "We could have eliminated Leisure Services completely and it wouldn't have solved the problem," he said recently.

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Economic Development Manager Debra Bilbrey-Honsowetz has cited several new businesses that, despite receiving certain tax abatements, already have moved to Canton or plan to relocate here in coming months. She said they can only help to boost the local economy, though officials concede more growth is needed to spur more revenues.

The board-approved, 1.75-mill tax increase for police and fire services will cost an average Canton homeowner with an \$89,100 taxable value nearly \$156 a year. The combined millage rate for the general fund and police and fire services has climbed from 8.65 mills to 10.4 mills.

And it's not like this problem is going away. Auditors have warned it could take nearly a decade for tax revenues — pummeled by declining property values — to rebound.

That's a lot of budget balancing, and while taxpayers don't seem to be in open revolt about this millage hike, they aren't going to take kindly — nor should they — to being taxed more and more as the economy continues to struggle.

Canton Township board members must make every conceivable effort to make sure that doesn't happen.

COMMUNITY VOICE

What do you like or dislike about winter?

We asked this question at the Canton Public Library.



"I don't like the wind; it's too bitter. I do like the white fluffy snow."

Diana Galante
Canton



"I love the weather. I work in the collision industry so it means dollars and cents, and I like snowboarding, shoveling the snow and playing in the snow with the kids."

Todd Wilhelm
Green Oak Township



"My husband (Ryan) and I like the snow. We like to ski."

Toni Hernalsteen
Canton



"I love the beauty and the snow, but I dislike the cold, cold wind."

Madeline Daly
Canton

LETTERS

Surrogate?

It appears Mr. Anthony would rather deflect my comments by labeling me a surrogate in order to demean me vs. referring to me as a taxpayer. In fact, he felt it was more important to take a few more shots at Mr. Caccamo versus responding to his own behavior.

Apparently Mr. Anthony doesn't pay attention either since Mr. Caccamo made it perfectly clear the Leisure Services portion of the budget needed more work to get additional cost reduction. That would be LEISURE SERVICES BUDGET, Mr. Anthony. There really were no other solutions for Mr. Caccamo to offer because the entire board was not willing to discuss this issue any further.

We can monitor the Canton Township budget going forward to judge the performance of Mr. Anthony and that will be the ground truth. It will be interesting to see how he deals with it, if it is a negative outcome.

Gerry Wright
Canton

Canceling paper

In your Dec. 9 Observer, Mr. Mitch Smith wrote a letter under the title "Deficit hawk."

I fully agree with Mitch and his remarks about McCotter and the Republican Party. It's all for the most wealthy Americans at a time when we have hungry and homeless Americans. I wrote the Observer about my disappointment that your paper supported McCotter during the last election. I stated the issues that Mitch mentioned, but you ignored my letter. I also wrote McCotter but he did not get back with me because we know each other. I coached him in baseball when he was a kid.

I just wanted you to know that many of your subscribers are very unhappy about your support of the wealthy and lack of concern for the unemployed in this country. If you support McCotter then you are supporting his views and the views of the Republican Party.

Myself, and some others, will be canceling our subscriptions to the Canton Observer. This will not put you out of business but I will feel better not supporting your views.

Dean Underwood
Canton

Not a cheap shot

John Anthony's statement was NOT a cheap shot as stated by writer Gerry Wright in his Dec. 2 letter.

Todd Caccamo's canned answer seems to be "cut the Leisure Services Department to the bone to solve the township's budget concerns." If Todd Caccamo spent a little more time attending trustee board meetings possibly he would understand the total positive impact departments like the award-winning Leisure Services Department has on our fellow residents.

When you are late eight times and absent 19 times in 35 meetings this year it seems the other board members can question your judgment.

Mr. Caccamo needs to live up to the duties of his elected office, which would include attending on-time regularly scheduled township board meetings. Perhaps Todd Caccamo needs to apologize to his fellow board members and to his fellow Canton residents for his terrible attendance or it may be time to replace him!

Gerard J. Tofli
Canton

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

We welcome your Letter to the Editor. Please include your name, address and phone number for verification. We ask your letters be 400 words or less. We may edit for clarity, space and content. Submit letters via the following formats.

E-mail: bkadrich@hometownlife.com.

Read or comment online:
www.hometownlife.com

Deadline: Letters must be received by 10 a.m. Monday to be published in the Thursday edition.

Blog: You may also let your opinions be heard with your own blog at www.hometownlife.com.

No Kirpan

I have two children who attend the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools. Last Wednesday (Dec. 8), my 10-year-old son informed his father and me of a child at school with a knife. When questioned further, my son explained this child had been sent to the principal's office but came back to class with this knife. I was perplexed to say the least (and) thought I would give the school some time to notify the parents if there had been an incident. This administration has always been very prompt at sending home notifications, i.e., illness in class or "stranger danger." So I waited.

The next day, my son informed us that the child continues to bring the knife to school. No word.

On Friday morning I contact the principal, Jerry Meier, who at that time explained to me the child in question is of the Sikh religion and the knife he is carrying is called a "Kirpan." It is a dagger that is symbolic for the Sikh religion. The principal went on to explain that when a person of Sikh faith is baptized into the Sikh religion they are required to carry the Kirpan at all times.

Mr. Meier explained that because this Kirpan was not sharp he didn't feel it was an immediate danger to the students and he was seeking further consultation from the school board regarding this issue. Let me just add at this point, a Kirpan is not allowed on an aircraft. This item must be checked in luggage. I took the liberty of educating myself on the Kirpan by doing an image search on Google. I was in disbelief!

I contacted my local news station, which reported the story on the 11 o'clock news Friday evening. On Sunday, I discovered through an article in our local paper (the Canton Observer) the following:

"A Bentley Elementary School fourth-grader will be allowed to continue wearing a religious emblem, despite its resemblance to a weapon, while Plymouth-Canton Community Schools administrators determine an appropriate course of action, probably later this week."

This is not a Catholic school, this is not a Lutheran or Baptist school. This is also not a Sikh school. This school enforces very strict zero tolerance rules prohibiting weapons of any kind. I do not understand how these rules can be disregarded for the sake of one's religion. I find it irresponsible and discriminating that Plymouth-Canton Community Schools would make an exception to the zero tolerance rule and allow this weapon (that just happens to be a religious symbol) into my child's classroom.

It is not my intention to diminish the impor-

tance of any religion, in this case specifically the Sikh religious beliefs. I value my freedom of religion. But, I will not stand for an exception to American laws and values for the sake of anyone's religion including my own. As an American, I have a right to demand a safe and secure learning environment for my children. There are religions that allow the occasional beating of one's wife... do we turn our heads when watching them practice this?

Tina Barbee
Canton

Upset about dagger

I am the father of a student who attends Bentley Elementary School. My son is one of the students who brought the Kirpan to your attention per your own policy. In fact per your policy my son may have been subject to discipline for failing to report this incident.

When my son returned home from school he told me his friend brought a knife to school. He did not say he brought a religious symbol of the Sikh heritage. By every definition of a Kirpan, it is a defensive weapon to protect. Symbolic or not, it is defined as a weapon even by the Sikh community.

My 10-year-old son recognized it as a weapon, the Transportation Safety Administration recognizes it as a weapon, the District Court Security recognizes it as a weapon, but you do not?

Your decision to allow the child to possess this item while you consult attorneys clearly states your motive is driven by litigation vs. best interest of the entire student body's safety. Why would you not err on the side of caution by not accommodating the child in question instead of violating your very own STRICT zero tolerance weapons policy?

Questions that I feel this board will need to address to the other 98 percent of the Plymouth-Canton student body parents:

- Since Kirpans are concealed by the student, how many other students are you allowing possess these weapons?

- Who will be responsible for inspecting the weapons daily to ensure they have not been sharpened?

- Are you going to forbid a Sikh child from participating in any/all sports? Or can Kirpans be removed at the student's convenience?

- Is the district providing a secure lock box to secure the weapon during physical education?

- Will every student that has been disciplined on a weapons violation, now have a right to challenge the zero tolerance policy?

- Will the district be held liable for any injuries sustained by a Kirpan since this board is condoning the student body to possess Kirpans? Are all students allowed to conceal a Kirpan or only those who profess the Sikh religion? Who will verify this?

I was impressed with your press release to the Canton Observer on this very controversial topic. You stated that only one parent showed concern. However, you did not notify the district parents of the incident nor your decision to allow the contraband item in your schools. I have received many automated announcements lately for surveys and fund-raisers, why did you not utilize this method to inform the community and solicit their opinion?

For the record you may take this as a second concerned parent. I am looking forward to your reply.

Alan Berezansky
Canton

All aglow for the holidays

This house on Covington north of North Territorial in Plymouth Township got into the holiday spirit.



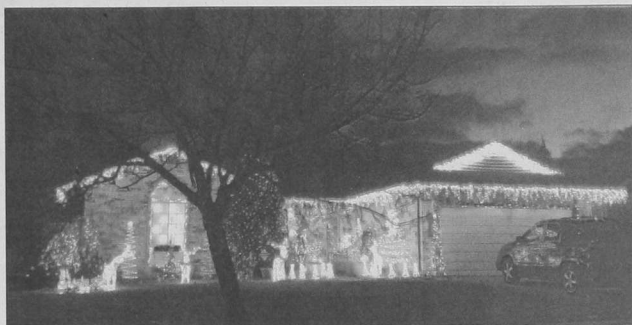
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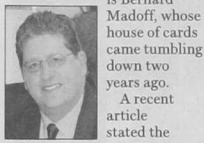
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Be wary of scam artists, guard your finances

Ever since the financial crisis began, more and more financial Ponzi schemes have come to light. Ponzi schemes are a type of investment scam where existing investors are paid with money from new investors. The most famous Ponzi culprit



Money Matters
Rick Bloom

is Bernard Madoff, whose house of cards came tumbling down two years ago. A recent article stated the U.S. Justice Department brought criminal and civil cases against more than 500 people for fraud. These cases involve more than \$10 billion in investor losses.

To keep a Ponzi scheme going new money is constantly needed to pay off existing investors. When new money can't be raised (as in the Madoff situation), the fraud blows up.

Investors seem to think that only the rich are subject to Ponzi schemes, but that is not the case. Every type of investor has suffered from these types of frauds and that is why all investors need to keep their guard up.

I wish I could reveal the one thing to look for to avoid these frauds. I can't. However, there are things that all investors need to consider.

It seems that many Ponzi schemes and frauds these days are committed by family and friends. These types of frauds have grown so much they are now referred to as affinity frauds. Scam artists like Madoff prey on people

they know or who have similar interests. Madoff, being Jewish, scammed a disproportionate amount of investors who were Jewish. We have also witnessed a scam artist who was a pilot taking advantage of other pilots. It happens in every religion and every type of social or professional setting. The bottom line for

investors: Don't let your guard down.

The key is to do your homework before getting involved. The fact that someone belongs to the same church as you or your children play on the same sporting team is meaningless. Due diligence is crucial. Check out the investment independently. If you can't,

don't be afraid to walk away. Also, check out the person who wants you to invest. Do a Google search and check with state regulators. You would be surprised how a little bit of homework can save you from being involved with scam artists and crooks.

Scam artists like Madoff know that people will let their

guard down when they are dealing with someone with a shared interest. Don't let that be you.

On a personal note I want to wish my dad, Mitch Bloom, a happy birthday. My dad celebrates his 90th birthday this week! It is my dad who taught me that when all is said and done, anyone who measures

wealth in dollars and cents is a loser. True wealth is measured in family and friends.

Happy Birthday, Dad!

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.

Public invited to audition for Madonna musical

The public is invited to audition for Madonna University's spring musical, *Children of Eden*, a frank, heartfelt and often humorous examination of the age-old conflict between parents and children based loosely on the Bible story of Genesis.

There are many roles available for men and women, and the public and students are encouraged to try out for a part.

The auditions are 5:30 to 8 p.m. Friday at Madonna University's Kresge Hall, 36600 Schoolcraft Road, Livonia.

Audition materials and requirements are available online at www.mytinyurl.com/eden or email bwiltstie@madonna.edu to have information emailed to you.

The production dates of *Children of Eden* are April 2-3.

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Divine Child 'D' stymies Salem

BY TIM SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The scoreboard doesn't reveal how much early season non-conference games such as Tuesday against Dearborn Divine Child are helping Salem's relatively inexperienced girls basketball team.

Oh sure, the senior-laden Falcons (4-0) pretty much led wire-to-wire in their 41-27 victory over the host Rocks.

But Salem head coach Fred Thomann complimented his team (1-3) for how it competed despite the L in the win-loss ledger.

"I told our girls we played very well tonight," Thomann said. "They were bigger, they had really good players (but) we competed every step of the way."

Salem senior guard and captain Heidi Schmidt was outstanding, especially in the first half. She tallied 14 points for the night (10 before halftime) and collected seven rebounds.

"Heidi is our senior leader," Thomann said. "She's been a three-year varsity player and she's a solid, solid player that makes shots, plays defense and figures stuff out."

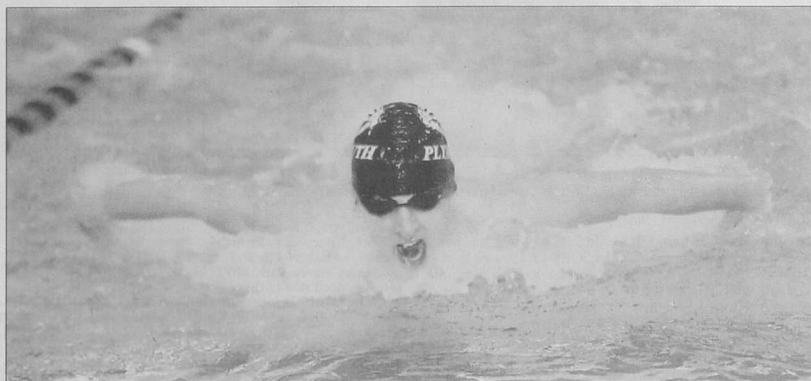
Please see **HOOPS, B3**



JOHN KEMSKI

Watching for a rebound Tuesday are Dearborn Divine Child's Rachel Kerry (No. 31), Morgan Blair (No. 21) and Salem's Katelyn Krause (No. 5).

BOYS SWIMMING & DIVING PREVIEW



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

One of the swimmers looking to again make an impact for Plymouth is senior Ethan Christenson, shown competing in the 100 butterfly during a dual meet last season.

Relays good early test for 'Cats

BY TIM SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Doug Schade is still trying to figure out who can do what for his 2010-11 Plymouth varsity boys swimming and diving team.

But the coach will get more of an idea Friday evening at the annual Wildcat Holiday Relays. The event is set for 6:30 p.m. at Salem's natatorium.

"I think it's a good chance just to see what you have because you really don't know until you put it (the team) in the water," Schade said. "It's definitely more exciting than practice. And really, it's just kind of a fun meet and I think kids get really excited about it."

The annual Wildcat Holiday Relays event is set for 6:30 p.m. Friday at Salem's natatorium.

Plymouth, Canton, Redford Union and six other schools will compete. Varsity and junior varsity swimmers will participate in up to 10 scheduled relays.

"We've been doing this for three or four years and every year we're adding teams," said Schade, about what is building into one of the biggest relay events in southeastern Michigan. "I'd like to get as many teams as we can get in there and make it a really big deal."

Friday will be a departure from the

norm.

CHANCE FOR EVERYBODY

There will be some events that teams do not swim in during regular dual meets, such as relays for the 200 fly, 200 back, 200 breast and 400-meter IM. Add to that a 500-meter crescendo relay.

"We're definitely going to swim all our kids, as will everybody else," Schade said. "Everybody for each event will have a varsity relay that's scoring points and everybody will be allowed to have a JV to swim for fun. So you get all your kids in the meet that way."

According to Schade, most of the

Please see **SWIM, B3**

Chiefs' veterans to lead the way

BY TIM SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Last year, the Canton varsity boys swimming and diving team grabbed half of the KLAA South Division crown with Plymouth.

The 2010-11 version will be somewhat experienced. But, Chiefs head coach Dave Le has an outstanding nucleus in place.

"Two thirds of our team this year are freshmen and sophomores," Le explained. "We have three seniors on the team and all three are captains."

"Chris Krebs, Jacob Dillon and Evan Champine are all very good leaders and I am excited to watch them lead this team."

Three more reasons for optimism: Canton also has Victor Zhang, Jay Jin and Mike Carlson returning from last



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Senior returnee Jacob Dillon is one of Canton's leaders entering the new season.

year's Division 1 state qualifying team.

According to Le, what could make this a particularly worthwhile season is seeing the kind of progress others are able

"Two thirds of our team this year are freshmen and sophomores. We have three seniors on the team and all three are captains."

DAVE LE, Canton swim coach

to make.

"We have had a few of the guys working in the off-season with some of the local club teams," said Le, then citing the names of Adrian Simion, Michael Wilyard, Sovik Roy and Drew Wade.

Other Canton contributors will include divers Ryan Kilgore, Wayne Roberts and Alex Sogge.

"All of them got some good experience last year," Le said. "It will be interesting to see how far they can go."

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SIDELINES

Big win for PCA girls

In a Tuesday night matchup of MIAC girls basketball teams, visiting Plymouth Christian Academy parlayed slick defense into a big halftime lead (28-10) and never looked back.

PCA (4-0, 1-0) pressed Lutheran Westland all over the floor, especially in the first half, said Eagles head coach Carol Gerulis.

That led to 25 Lutheran Westland turnovers – and plenty of buckets for the Eagles.

Leading Plymouth Christian was senior Brianna Harris with 12 points, five assists and four steals.

Jenna Abraham (eight points, four steals), Jennifer Malcolm (seven points, seven rebounds) and Emily Gerulis (four points, five boards) all made significant contributions to the victory.

The Eagles are idle until Jan. 10 due to the holiday break.

But Gerulis said the break comes at a good time, especially for Harris, Malcolm and Mary Anleitner. All three played for PCA's Class D state finalist volleyball team.

"They never really got any down time," Gerulis said. "It gives them a chance to kind of rejuvenate a little bit and we have a lot of work to do. So there's a lot of teaching time."

Conscientious Cards

Over the past five years the 14-Under Canton Cardinals travel baseball team has always worked hard in the off-season.

This season they are working a little harder not only to get ready for their last campaign before entering high school, but to help the community by teaming with the Salvation Army Red Kettle Campaign to help those in need during this holiday season.

"Since we began this team back at the 9-U level we have always had, as part of our philosophy, a commitment to represent the community of Canton on and off the field in a positive way," Cards coach Jim Ragwan said. "It is gratifying to see both current players and parents along with the Cardinals alumni that we've coached over the past five years come together for a good cause."

The team in previous years made donations to needy

Please see **SIDELINES, B3**

Whalers' unusual tally: one penalty, two points

BY TIM SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A late goal by Stefan Noesen enabled the Plymouth Whalers to defeat Kingston 4-3 Saturday night in one of the strangest OHL games seen recently at Compuware Arena.

For starters, there was only one penalty all night — by the Whalers for having too many men on the ice. If not for that, the crowd

of 1,915 would have witnessed the first penalty-free game by the Whalers since February 2003 in a game at Brampton.

"It was kind of a weird game, not too much emotion," Plymouth head coach Mike Vellucci said. "There was only one penalty. But I'm just happy we got our two points."

Asked what could have led to the lack of emotion, Vellucci emphasized that the Frontenacs were shorthanded and playing with just four defensemen.

"There was no yapping back and forth and they're in the other conference," he said. "We're done playing them for this year."

On the winning goal, with just 2:55 left in the third period, Noesen one-timed a centering pass from Garrett Meurs under the crossbar for his 14th goal of the season.



WALT OMOCH

Plymouth forward James Livingston sparked the Whalers Saturday night with his all-out hustle.

"Garrett was in the corner and picked that defenseman pretty well and I just happened to get it right off the stick and roofed one," Noesen said.

Kingston then tried to even the contest up again in the final minute, pulling goalie Franky Palazzese (39 saves), but the Whalers controlled the play to close out the victory.

Balanced scoring helped the Whalers

(17-10-1-1) notch their second win in two nights.

In the first period, winger Jamie Devane finished a nifty, three-way passing play by burying a shot into the wide open Kingston net.

Defenseman Dario Trutmann sent the disc to hard-working right wing James Livingston who threaded it over to Devane.

Kingston tied the game before the end of the period, but the Whalers went back up 2-1 at 4:51 of the second period on center Robbie Czarnik's 12th goal of the year (from Farmington Hills native Alex Aleardi).

Just three minutes into the third, right wing Rickard Rakell netted his 13th. It was another well-executed, odd-man rush with wingers Meurs and Noesen assisting.

"The balance is the key to our team," Vellucci said. "Everybody looks at all the other teams and they have top leading scorers."

"But any one of our guys can score, any of our top three lines, even our fourth line has been chipping in with goals too. It's been a nice little roll."

ALL OVER THE ICE

One of the peskiest Plymouth lines fea-

Please see **WHALERS, B2**

TYLER LAZORKA

Captain's CORNER

Who: Tyler Lazorka, senior captain of Plymouth varsity boys hockey team.

Miscellany: The 17-year-old Lazorka has played in 79 games so far in his high school career and is working toward being career leader in that category among Park hockey players.

His parents are Tom and Laurie, who have instilled his work ethic and value system.

Captain's job: "Only half of our team is returning this year and the other half is new and we have to help them to develop into a well-oiled machine."

The other two captains (Tyler Sanders and Justin Bauer) and myself will be frequently seeking the advice of the other key players on our team. It is our motto this year to lead by example."



Tyler Lazorka

Leadership style: "You do not get respect by demanding it, you earn it by being an example. This year I plan to be that type of captain. I will work hard to support and assist our team to have a great season."

Why him? "When asked why my teammates chose me as a captain of the Plymouth Wildcats varsity hockey team, I think the answer might be as simple as that I am a role model for them."

WHALERS
FROM PAGE B1

tured center Mitchell Heard between wingers Devane and Livingston.

"They shut down their top line, that was their role tonight and they did a great job," Vellucci said. "They've done that the last couple games."

But the Whalers could not put away the Frontenacs (16-10-2-2), partly because of bad luck. Winger Tom Wilson and defenseman Beau Schmitz each clanked shots off the goal post.

Kingston then cut the deficit to 3-2 with just 1.3 seconds to go in the second period when Ryan Spooner redirected a sharp-angle shot from the right circle by Sean Jones past Plymouth goalie Scott Wedgewood (29 saves).

On Kingston's tying goal midway through the third, the puck eluded a Plymouth defenseman at the Frontenacs' blue line and triggered a rush the other way.

Center Michael Fine fed a pass to winger Mitch Lebar whose first try was denied by Wedgewood. But Lebar followed up his own shot and tucked in the rebound.

Kingston had a glorious chance to take the lead three minutes later, following a Plymouth turnover. Nathan



Finishing his check against a Kingston player Saturday night is Plymouth Whalers' defenseman Beau Schmitz.

WALT DMOCH

Moon broke in only to have his shot stuck aside by Wedgewood.

Plymouth winger Tyler Brown said going down to the wire for a victory is nothing new this season.

"Every win doesn't come easy," Brown said. "So we got a young team and we know we got to grind it out and we'll take whatever we can get."

Although the Whalers veered from the game plan

enough to let Kingston back into it, Brown stressed that they got back on track in time for the victory.

"We just tried to get pucks in deep," Brown said. "We knew they only had four defensemen tonight, so we tried to get them really tired and we just keep forechecking."

SAGINAW 4, PLYMOUTH 2: On Sunday afternoon in Saginaw, the Whalers kicked off a four-game

road trip with this defeat.

The Spirit scored twice in the second to break a 1-1 tie and goaltender Mavrio Parks (30 saves) stopped 11 of 12 shots in the third period, enough to keep Plymouth from netting the equalizer.

Scoring for Plymouth (17-11-1) were Robbie Czarnik and Beau Schmitz. Victimized for four goals on 23 shots was goalie Scott Wedgewood.

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PREP WRESTLING RESULTS

46th annual GARDEN CITY INVITATIONAL WRESTLING TOURNAMENT
Dec. 11 at Garden City
TEAM STANDINGS: 1. Canton, 280.5 points; 2. North Farmington, 156.5; 3. Riverview, 149.5; 4. Fordson, 120.5; (tie) Allen Park and Dearborn Heights, 115.5 each; 7. Grosse Ile, 114.5; 8. Redford Union, 110.9; Gibraltar, Carlson, 66.5; 10. Garden City, 63.1; Livonia Churchhill (B), 52.12; Livonia Clarenceville, 49.13; Berkley, 45; 14. Woodhaven (B), 38; 15. Lutheran High-Westland, 33; 16. Inkster, 20.
CHAMPIONSHIP RESULTS
103 pounds: Ben Griffin (Canton) won by major decision over Mike Farkas (AP), 17-3; **3rd:** Brandon Washington (Carlson) dec. Jared Redmer (NF), 5-3; **5th:** Zach Bohm (Churchill) pinned Devin McClain (W), 5-0.
112: Richard DeMarois (Canton) p. Jake Polenkiewicz (AP), 3-54; **3rd:** Aaron Par-Besemer (Berkley) dec. El Caballero (GI), 7-2; **5th:** Zach Francis (LW) dec. Dain Runyan (Riv.), 5-2.
119: Alec Fantaleo (Canton) dec. Brandon Hernandez (Riv.), 3-2; **3rd:** Jordan Russell (NF) dec. Alex Karrar (GI), 6-4; **5th:** Mike Weiss (Cville) won by major dec. over Rami Merhi (DF), 10-0.
125: Keshav Patel (Canton) dec. Chris Carroll (Riv.), 7-4; **3rd:** Steve Knox (RU) dec. Mike Williams (NF), 8-3; **5th:** Imad Soucar (DF) dec. Nick Doan (GC), 7-6.
130: Alex Elmer's (Canton) won technical fall over Adel Yaffai (Churchill), 16-0; **3rd:** Danny Okun (Berkley) dec. Britton Borlace (GO), 5-4; **5th:** Joe Benjamin (NF) dec. Chuck Wright (GI), 9-3.
135: Keegan Cummins (OHA) p. Brad Ferguson (AP), 1-30; **3rd:** Danny Filippelli (Canton) p. Kyle Karrar (GI), 4-05; **5th:** Brian Spehar (GO) dec. R.J. Amine (Woodhaven), 6-0.
140: Zach Marsh (Canton) dec. Jeff Czajka (Riv.), 4-1; **3rd:** Josh Hall (RU) dec. Jake Mydlowski (Carlson), 4-05; **5th:** Yeyia Taleb (DF) dec. Sean Ellison (GI), 8-2.
145: Adnan Berisha (OHA) p. Mathew Ross (Riv.), 2-23; **3rd:** Vic Lindsey (DF) dec. Chris Tromley (GI), 8-4; **5th:** Julia Salata (Canton) won by major dec. over Coy Sillanpaa (Cville), 15-6.
152: Mike Carnavon (Riv.) dec. William Snider (GI), 10-6; **3rd:** Aaron Bibik (Cville) dec. Patrick Murphy (Canton), 4-2; **5th:** Tony Dunlap (AP) p. Sheehab Natour (DF), 4-57.
160: Ali Harp (DF) won by major dec. John Davis (NF), 10-2; **3rd:** Nate Labonte (Carlson) won by major dec. Roderick Howard (RU), 11-1; **5th:** Mike Church (GI) p. Brendan Groves (Cville), 4-44.
171: Kevin Miller (NF) won by major dec. over Collin Rankin (RU), 14-5; **3rd:** Zack Kephart (Carlson) dec. Martin Kemp (LW), 6-1; **5th:** Hunter McCoy (OHA) dec. Trauau Reeves (Berkley), 7-0.
189: Anthony Abro (Canton) won by major dec. over Courtney Drew (NF), 23-9; **3rd:** Jake Martin (Riv.) p. Desmond Livingston (Ink.), 3-47; **5th:** Mo Soukar (DF) dec. Dylan Brown (OHA), 5-2.
215: Robby Lincoln (Canton) dec. Houston Garcia (OHA), 2-1; **3rd:** Adam Druez (GO) p. Ali Bazzi (DF), 1-25; Justin Shelton (NF) dec. Daven Gardner (RU), 14-13.
285: Ben Poirier (Canton) pinned Christian Colon (RU), 0-12; **3rd:** Moid Mokbel (NF) p. Joe Lennix-Saunders (OHA), 3-38; **5th:** Rupert Miller (AP) p. Quintin Ruddell (Woodhaven), 1-20.

PREP BOWLING

PLYMOUTH (BOYS) 24 W.L. NORTHERN 6
Dec. 10 at Wonderland Bowl
Plymouth scorers: Evan Grimmer, 272-194-466; Eric Thompson, 190-217-407; Rob Korstjens, 199-183-382; Brandon Congdon, 188-192-380; Justin Thompson, 171; Joe Langell, 154.
Team totals: Plymouth, 1,020-940-1,940 (18 points); Walled Lake Northern, 810-897-1,707 (2 points).
Baker games: Plymouth, 175-224-399 (6 points); Northern, 181-152-333 (4 points).
PLYMOUTH (GIRLS) 16 W.L. NORTHERN 14
Dec. 10 at Wonderland Bowl
Plymouth scorers: Mackenzie Carlson, 144-115-319; Tiffani Patterson, 131-161-300; Caitlyn Webb, 149-146-295; Emily Fraser,

162-132-294; Allyson Gibbs, 141.
Team totals: Plymouth, 676-763-1,439 (6 points); Northern, 689-785-1,474 (14 points).
Baker games: Plymouth, 157-142-299 (10 points); Northern, 107-115-222 (0 points).
W.L. NORTHERN (JV BOYS) 23 PLYMOUTH 7
Dec. 10 at Wonderland Bowl
Plymouth scorers: Sean Silagy, 154-169-323; Tyler Lattigo, 158-144-302; Burhan Yaish, 166; Matt Bracey, 160; Zack Behr, 148.
Team totals: Plymouth, 757-808-1,565 (3 points); Northern, 846-935-1,681 (17 points).
Baker games: Plymouth, 150-141-291 (4 points); Northern, 175-135-310 (6 points).

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DEC. 16-22

Breakfast and Santa

Time/Date: 8:30 am-noon, Sunday, Dec. 19
Location: St. Theodore Social Hall, 8200 N. Wayne Road, Westland
Details: All you can eat pancakes, French toast, applesauce, ham, sausage, scrambled eggs, tea, coffee, milk and juice. Cost is \$3 for adults and \$150 children, ages 2-10. Includes a visit from Santa Claus
Contact: (734) 425-4421

Concert

Time/Date: 11 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 19
Location: Mount Vernon Baptist Church, 8828 Reform, Redford
Details: A Christmas cantata, "Silent, Holy Night"
Contact: (313) 537-7480

Concert

Time/Date: 6:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 18
Location: The Antiochian Orthodox Basilica of St. Mary, 18200 Merriman, between Six and Seven Mile Roads, Livonia
Details: Holy Land Christmas Concert features Diana Al Barchini with Arabic carols, Rassem El Massih with seminary chanter, St. Mary's Choir with hymns of the Nativity, a violin trio and

quest vocalists singing classical and traditional songs. A free-will offering will be accepted and will benefit the International Orthodox Christian Charities
Contact: (734) 422-0010; www.saint-marylivonia.com

Longest night

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Dec. 21
Location: First United Methodist Church, 1589 W. Maple, Birmingham
Details: This worship service is a place to bring the grief, anxiety, and pain that often surfaces during the holidays. Worship is held on the longest night of the year in recognition that sometimes the holidays bring sadness in the midst of celebration because of missed loved ones, struggles with financial stress, and the thought of happier days. Child care will be available for children up to age 4
Contact: Call (248) 646-6407 Ext. 3141 by Dec. 18 to reserve child care; for more information about the service call (248) 646-1200

DEC. 23-29

Christmas Eve

Time/Date: Friday, Dec. 24

Location: Orchard United Methodist Church, 30450 Farmington Road, Farmington Hills
Details: 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. family services; 10 p.m. traditional candlelight service
Contact: (248) 626-3620

Christmas Eve
Time/Date: 7 p.m. and 11 p.m. Dec. 24
Location: Christ the King Evangelical Lutheran Church, 9300 Farmington Road, Livonia
Details: Worship service
Contact: (734) 421-0749

Christmas Eve/Day
Time/Date: 7 p.m. Dec. 24 and 10 a.m. Dec. 25
Location: Lola Park Lutheran Church, 14750 Kinloch, Redford
Details: Worship services
Contact: (313) 532-8655 or (734) 986-3523

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-fifth grade
Contact: (248) 426-0096

Classes/study
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 – rid the body of toxic pathogens and painful emotions
Contact: (810) 813-4073 or gary@energeticarts.org

Men's Bible study
Time/Date: Breakfast at 7 a.m. and study at 8 a.m.
Location: Kirby's Coney Island, 21200 Haaggerty, Northville Township
Contact: John Shulenberger at (734) 464-9491

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 for information

Nicole's Revival
Time/Date: 10:30 a.m., Monday-Friday
Location: WCA Northwest Branch, 25940 Grand River, west of Beech Daly, Redford
Details: KJV Scripture Reading, Communion and Prayer
Contact: (313) 531-1234

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

Ward Presbyterian
Time/Date: 7 p.m., Mondays
Location: Room A101, 40000 W. Six Mile, Northville
Details: Learner's Bible study is held
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: (313) 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: 144815 Cherry Hill, 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, MOPS; 7-8:30 p.m., first and third Tuesday, MOPNext. Both programs run through May
Location: 14175 Farmington Road, Livonia
Details: Mothers of Preschoolers is aimed at mothers of infants through kindergartners; MOPNext supports mothers of school-aged children. The

theme will be "Momology – The Art & Science of Mothering" for MOPS and "Boundaries" for MOPNext
Contact: Rebekah Creeden at (734) 524-0283 for MOPS and Susan Wagner at (248) 478-3643 for MOPS

Dunning Park Bible 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

Pet-friendly service
Time/Date: 1 p.m., Sunday
Location: Dunk N Dogs, 27911 Five Mile, Livonia
Details: All Creatures ULC sponsors the service which is conducted in an informal setting. Pet blessings are available after the service. All Creatures ULC describes the gathering as non-denominational and Christian. Water is available for dogs
Contact: (313) 563-0162

Prayer

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
Details: Enter through the back of the church
Details: Music, singing, prayer
Contact: Grace at (734) 464-1896, Shirley at (734) 464-3656, or Geni 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. (734) 261-1455

Senior citizens

Riverside Park Church of God
Time/Date: 11:30 a.m., third Thursdays
Location: 11771 Newburgh, Livonia
Details: Senior adults, age 50 and over, enjoy social interaction and food
Contact: (734) 464-0990

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

Steve's Family Restaurant
Time/Date: 9 a.m. second and fourth Thursday
Location: 15800 Middlebelt, 1/4 mile north of Five Mile, Livonia
Details: Widowed men of all ages may attend the Widowed Friends Men's breakfast. This is an informal "peer" group where men have an opportunity to meet with others who are ready to help cope or become involved in the other social activities offered by Widowed Friends.
Contact: (313) 534-0399

Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church
Time/Date: 11:30 a.m., Sunday
Location: 40000 Six Mile, Northville
Details: Single Point Ministries, for 30 and up, offers fellowship. 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 transliteration as well as the original Hebrew.
Contact: (734) 373-1931 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

Please see CALENDAR, B5



38th Annual Old Moravian Love Feast

Metropolitan United Methodist Church invites you to an Old Moravian Love Feast. Bring the whole family to celebrate the birth of Christ through scripture, beautiful music, candlelight and a traditional simple meal of a Moravian bun and water.

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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
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Traditional Service
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GREEK ORTHODOX

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39851 West Five Mile, Plymouth Twp., MI
Sunday Services
Matins 8:30 am, Divine Liturgy 10:00 am
Rev. Fr. Demetrios Sean Savvides,
Parish Office 734-420-0131
Office Hours M-F 10:00 am - 2:00 pm
www.nativitygocchurch.org

CE08712209

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

CE08712206

EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN

WARD CHURCH

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Northville, MI 48168
248.374.7400
www.wardchurch.org

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Contemporary Worship
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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.stpaulsilivonia.org

CE08712202

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

CE08712203

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

CE08712201

Churches offer services for those feeling blue

BY SHARON DARGAY
O&E STAFF WRITER

If you feel sad or troubled this Christmas season, you might find relief at a church service meant to ease the pain of loss.

St. Genevieve Catholic Church will hold a "Longest Night" worship service at 7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 20, at 29015 Jamison, off Middlebelt between Five Mile and Schoolcraft in Livonia. The quiet, meditative gathering is an alternative for those who don't feel comfortable celebrating the holiday in a traditional Christmas Eve or morning service.

"The mood we're shooting for is relaxing, comforting, quiet. It will be dim, with candles. We want people to be able to rest and lay their burdens down and be comforted," said Diane Montes, youth minister coordinator. "We're going to gear it down. Instead of speaking from the altar, we'll bring a lectern down to make it feel more intimate."

"We do invite the whole community. You don't have to be Catholic to be blessed by this."

Montes based the service on one she had attended four years ago at a church in Birmingham. At the time she was grieving the loss of her 22-year-old son, who had died in June that year.

STORIES OF LOSS

She'll be among the speakers at the special service who will talk briefly about their personal experiences. She'll reflect on the loss of a loved one. Others will focus on job loss, illness and hope. A short prayer, reflection time and lighting of an advent candle will follow each speaker.

"Grief is a physical manifestation that knocks you off your feet. It's so hard to recover, especially at Christmas," she said. "That first Christmas I couldn't put up decorations. I couldn't imagine celebrating. It does get better. Every day it's a little easier."

"But there are so many other kinds of loss. There may be people who can't continue the traditions their family is used to. They aren't bringing in the same income. They see others shopping and buying and they are just trying to pay the bills. Or they aren't sure what will happen to their job the first of the year or they are ill."

EMPATHY

She said her own loss made her more aware of the burdens that other individuals carry.

"When people are aware of what you've suffered, they feel free to share about their own suffering."

The service will wrap up with a blessing and opportunity for each individual to light a candle.

Longest Night services are held on or near the first day of winter when sunset comes early, days are short and spirits may sink in the growing darkness.



Here's a sampling of other alternative Christmas services:

• St. John's Episcopal Church, 4:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 19, 574 S. Sheldon, Plymouth. The "Blue Christmas Service" is designed to help people who are hurting because of loss or crisis, find peace and solace. The service includes read-

ings from poetry and scripture, prayer, and a special candle lighting litany. Holy Communion is offered, and music will include not only quiet Christmas carols, but also songs from the Taizé tradition. (734) 453-0190

• First United Methodist Church, 7 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 21, in the sanctuary, 1589 W.

Maple, Birmingham. The place "to bring the grief, anxiety and pain that often surfaces during the holidays," the Longest Night worship service will include peaceful music, personal prayer, stories of hope, communion and a candle lighting. Cookies and punch will be served in the fellowship hall after the service; (248) 646-1200.

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE B4

Riverside Park Church of God

Time/Date: 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday-Friday

Location: 11771 Newburgh, Livonia
Details: Riverside Park Adult Day Ministry offers an adult daytime care program with a specialty in dementia care

Contact: (734) 367-4220; www.riversideparkchurch.org

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 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 of the organization to lose weight and keep it off for good

Contact: Margaret at (734) 838-0322

Unity of Livonia

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Thursday

Location: 28660 Five Mile, between Middlebelt and Inkster, Livonia

Details: Overeaters Anonymous

Contact: (313) 387-9797; www.oa.org

Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church

Time/Date: 6 p.m., dinner (optional);

7 p.m., praise/worship; 8 p.m., small group discussion; 9 p.m., Solid Rock Cafe (optional coffee/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: Child care, call (248) 374-7400. Visit www.celebraterecovery.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: 2:30 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

Tree sale

Time/Date: Through 2010

Location: Oakland Baptist Church, on Beck Road just south of 10 Mile in Novi

Details: The church is selling trees for \$200. Trees will be planted on the church property. Purchasers can dedicate what they buy in honor of someone they know, of a member of the church or former member. Dedication plaques are available for each tree

Contact: The Rev. Tim Whyte, after 5 p.m., at (248) 882-4041 or Roxie Sinclair at (248) 437-0832

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

Congregation Bet Chaverim

Time/Date: Services are held 7 p.m., the third Friday of the month

Location: At the shared facilities of Cherry Hill United Methodist Church, 321 S. Ridge, Canton

Details: Reformed Jewish Congregation

Contact: Roberta Malkowski, president/treasurer at (248) 231-6280

Due Season Christian Church

Time/Date: 10 a.m. Sunday, with 7:15 p.m., Tuesday Bible study

Location: Stevenson High School on Six Mile, west of Farmington Road, in Livonia

Details: Nondenominational, multicultural, full gospel church services

Contact: (248) 960-8063 or visit www.DueSeason.org

Faith Lutheran Church

Time/Date: 10 a.m. Sunday; learning hour is at 9 a.m. for all ages

Location: 30000 Five Mile, west of Middlebelt, Livonia

Contact: Visit www.livonfaith.org

Garden City Presbyterian Church

Time/Date: 10 a.m. Sunday worship service with traditional hymns, scripture readings and choral music; 10 a.m., youth Sunday school and nursery care; 8:30 a.m. adult Sunday school; 6 p.m., informal gathering with scriptures and discussion every Sunday

Location: Middlebelt one block south of Ford Road

Contact: (734) 421-7620

Good Hope Lutheran Church

Time/Date: 9:30 a.m. Sunday school followed by 10:30 a.m. worship service with communion each Sunday; Bible study 10 a.m. Wednesdays

Location: 28680 Cherry Hill, Garden City

Contact: (734) 427-3660

Grace Lutheran Church

Time/Date: 8 a.m. traditional Sunday service, and 10:30 a.m., contemporary; Sunday school and adult Bible study at 9:15 a.m.

Location: 46001 Warren, between Canton Center and Beck, Canton Township

Contact: (734) 637-8160

His Church Anglican

Time/Date: 7:45 a.m. at Trinity and 10 a.m., at Madonna

Location: Trinity Church, 34500 Six Mile, Livonia and Kresge Hall on the Madonna University Campus, 36600 Schoolcraft, Livonia

Contact: www.HisChurchAnglican.org; (248) 442-0HCA

Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church

Time/Date: 8 a.m. and 10 a.m., Sunday, 9 a.m., Faith Forum, 10 a.m. Sunday School, 7:30 p.m., Wednesday worship in the chapel

Location: 30650 Six Mile, Livonia

Contact: (734) 427-1414

New Beginnings United Methodist Church

Time/Date: 10:30 a.m., Sunday

Location: 16175 Delaware at Puritan, Redford

Contact: (313) 255-6330

New Life Community Church

Time/Date: 11 a.m., Sunday

Location: 42200 Tyler, Belleville

Contact: (734) 846-4615 or www.newlifecommunitychurch4u.com

Plymouth Baptist Church

Time/Date: 8:30 a.m. and 10:45 a.m., Sunday

Location: 42021 Ann Arbor Trail, west of Haggerty

Details: Both services feature contemporary and traditional worship music

and in-depth Bible teaching. Full nursery and preschool programs available at both services

Contact: (734) 453-5534

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church

Time/Date: 8 a.m. and 11 a.m. Sundays with an education hour from 9:30-10:40 a.m. Social hour follows each service

Location: 37775 Palmer, Westland

Contact: (734) 722-7375

Riverside Park Church of God

Time/Date: 5 p.m., every second and fourth Sunday

Location: 11771 Newburgh, Livonia

Details: "Sunday Night Lights" service designed for younger families; other services are 10 a.m. Sunday and 7 p.m.,

Wednesday

Contact: (734) 464-0990

St. John Lutheran Church

Time/Date: 5:30 p.m. Saturday, Sunday; traditional worship at 9 a.m., Sunday, and contemporary service at 11:15 a.m. Sunday. Beginning Oct. 11, one 10 a.m. service on Sunday

Location: 23225 Gill Road, Farmington Hills

Contact: (248) 474-0584

St. Matthew's United Methodist Church

Time/Date: contemporary service, 11:30 a.m., fourth Sunday of the month

Location: 30900 Six Mile, Livonia

Contact: (734) 422-6038



Passages

Obituaries, Memorials & Remembrances

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ANNETTE BEGLEY
Age 72, December 12, 2010. Loving wife of Earl. Dear mother of Robert Obourn, Keith (Kristie) Obourn, Kevin (Kristy) Obourn and the late Larry Obourn. Step-mother to Dawn (Richard) Yax, Steve (Jennifer) Begley, Lisa (Pete) Baca, Mark Begley and the late Ted Begley. Grandmother of 18. Great-grandmother of 3. Dear sister of Marlene (Julius) Ace. Services were at the Santeu & Son Funeral Home, 734-427-3800. Memorials suggested to Angela Hospice.

RUTH RETKO (GOODMAN)
Age 84, of Farmington Hills, died December 11, 2010 at Henry Ford Hospital, W. Bloomfield. Ruth worked for Troy Schools' business department. She was a Master Gardener and member of gardening clubs. She loved mushrooming and traveling. Ruth is survived by her devoted partner of 25 years, Irvin (Ernie) Goodman; her loving son, Eric (Pia) Retko, granddaughter Belle of North Carolina; Ernie's daughter, Judy (Paul) Lipson; their children Brian (Marie-Christine, and daughter Stella), Rachel, Stacey; numerous friends and family. Ruth is the daughter of the late Marion and Milton Hager. In the final years of her Alzheimers, Ruth was lovingly cared for by Ernie and caregivers April, Laverne, Marquette, Michelle and Florie. Ruth's body is being donated to the Wayne State University Medical School where her legacy for giving and learning continues. Donations are suggested to the Alzheimers Association of Michigan, the Brown Memory Center at the W. Bloomfield JCC, or a charity of your choice. A memorial service for Ruth will be held at a future time.

JOHN R. JONES

Age 90, of Farmington, MI, passed away December 9, 2010. Arrangements by Thayer-Rock Funeral Home, Farmington.



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Welcome Boys and Girls!

This month's contest features celebrations.
Share with us how you celebrate
the holidays!

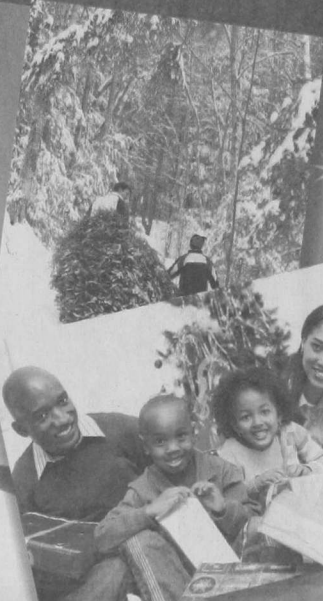
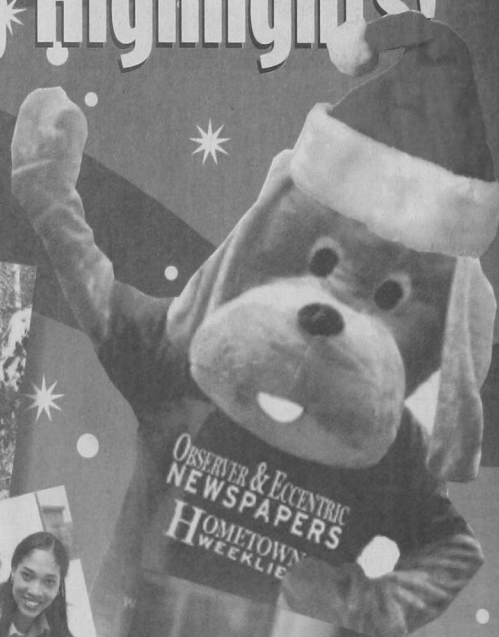
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Send us a picture or a story of
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Hey kids!

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Ages: 7 - 8

Ages: 9 - 10

Ages: 11 - 13

Winners will receive a
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**Share your
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Youth Name: _____

Youth Age: _____

Youth Community: _____

Parent's information to contact winning entry:
(Phone, email, home address)

Entries sent in will be published in the newspaper including your name, age and hometown.

ENTERTAINMENT

Thursday, December 16, 2010

hometownlife.com

HAVE A STORY IDEA?

Contact Editor, Sharon Dargay

Voice Mail: (313) 222-8883

E-mail: sdargay@hometownlife.com

Comment online at hometownlife.com



Dave Bennett and his septet

Local clarinetist pays tribute to Benny Goodman

Dave Bennett, a Michigan native and a leading jazz virtuoso, and his band will play many of the late Benny Goodman's best-loved swing jazz classics at 4 p.m., Sunday, Jan. 9, 2011 at the First Presbyterian Church of Farmington.

The "Remembering Benny" concert is a part of an on-going concert series at the church.

Bennett is a self-taught prodigy who began playing at age 10 on a clarinet given to him by his grandfather. Although now only in his mid-20s, Bennett's performing career goes back to age 12, when trumpet legend Doc Cheatham invited him to the bandstand of New York City's celebrated Sweet Basil Jazz Club. At 14, Bennett began frequent tours on the "traditional jazz" circuit with a Saginaw-based Dixieland band. At 17, he won — over more than 600 entrants — a guest solo spot with the Count Basie Orchestra.

Bennett has created both written and "head" arrangements of many of Benny Goodman's classics, including *Moonglow*, *Stompin' at the Savoy*, *Airmail Special*, *Let's Dance*, and the signature piece from the historic Carnegie Hall concert, *Sing Sing Sing*. Along with the members of his septet, Bennett has meticulously worked out the complicated harmonies, improvised riffs, and tightly woven ensemble parts from the big band and smaller combo recordings that made Goodman the "King of Swing" in the 1930s and



Dave Bennett will play a tribute to Benny Goodman at the First Presbyterian Church, Farmington.

1940s.

Bennett has recorded with three of the Goodman band's most famous musical alumni: pianist Dick Hyman, vibraphonist Peter Appleyard, and guitarist Bucky Pizzarelli. They've called "Remembering Benny" the closest thing to an actual Benny Goodman concert.

First Presbyterian Church is located at 26165 Farmington Road, at 11 Mile, in Farmington Hills. Free parking is available on-site, and the entire facility is barrier-free and handicap accessible. There is no charge for this event, but donations will be collected to fund the musicians. Suggested donation is \$10 per person and \$25 per family. For more information, visit www.farmington-pres.org or call (248) 474-6170, extension 208.

25 Years

Plymouth Oratorio Society performs complex, classical master works

BY SHARON DARGAY
OGE STAFF WRITER

Bob Nelson hasn't missed a Plymouth Oratorio Society concert in 24 years.

"It took some dedication and work," said the Canton resident and one of the choral group's original members. "Last year the concert came on the last day of a show I was in with the Spotlight Players. They knew that when I had signed up. We made a deal."

At intermission Nelson took off his cowboy costume and left the Players' final show of *Oklahoma!* to take his place among the bass singers at the Plymouth Oratorio Society's only show of the season.

That kind of dedication is typical among Society members.

"This is a group that takes music seriously. We have fun, but people are not there to pass the time. People are there to sing works that you can't do any where else," Nelson said.

Those works have included the Easter portion of Handel's *Messiah*, Bach's *Passion According to St. John*, Requiems by Mozart, Brahms and Rutter, and Stravinsky's *Symphony of Psalms*. In celebration of its

25th anniversary, the Society will take a step back in time when it kicks off its four-month schedule of weekly rehearsals on Jan. 3, 2011. Singers, led by director Rick Ingram, will tackle major portions of Mendelssohn's *Elijah*, an oratorio they sang during the group's second season.

CHALLENGING MUSIC

"The first year we sang the Easter portion of *Messiah*. Then we sang part one of *Elijah* the second year," said Don Pratt, Society business manager and a tenor with the group. "*Elijah* is a major work of choral repertoire. It's not as commonly known as the *Messiah*. People don't have as much experience with it. That makes it more of a challenge."

Membership in the Society is open to anyone interested in taking on that challenge. Singers join without auditioning, but must be able to sing complex, demanding classical works.

PAYING TO SING

Rehearsals run from 7:30 to about 9 p.m. every Monday beginning next month and running through April at First United Methodist Church, 45201 N. Territorial, Plymouth. They culminate in one concert, generally held the first Sunday of May. Although the concert is free to the public, Society members pay a \$10 fee for a musical score and \$20 for facilities rental and insurance when they join the group in January. Donations from the Plymouth Rotary Foundation and grants from the Michigan Council for the Arts enable the group to hire the Michigan Sinfonietta to play at the annual spring concert.

"For 30 bucks you're ready to rock and roll if you're an experienced singer and can sing the music," Pratt said. "It's pretty rare that we have to weed someone out. People know this is a group that does music of the masters and we do it with a professional orchestra. It's a self-audition because of the quality of music we do."

CREATIVE OUTLET

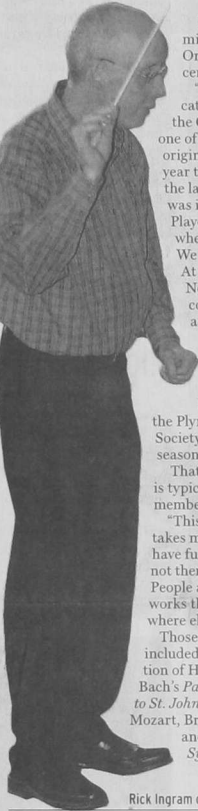
Nelson also says many members have gained experience in church choirs before joining the group. He sings with the choir at St. John Neumann Catholic Church in Canton and his father, the late Robert Pratt, was the founding conductor of the Plymouth Oratorio Society.

Nelson also sings in the choir at his church, First United Methodist Church in Plymouth. A mathematician by training and CFO of Airflow Sciences Corporation in Livonia, Nelson finds a creative outlet in the Plymouth Oratorio Society.

He likes the idea that Society concerts are free to the public, making it affordable for families to expose their children to quality classical music.

"If you look at what is happening to music in our schools, our youth has less exposure to the quality music that makes up a good bit of our heritage," Nelson said. "You don't have to pay \$35 for a ticket. If they get fidgety, you can afford to leave halfway through the concert."

No RSVP is necessary to join the group next month. Pratt said prospective singers simply need to attend the first rehearsal on Jan. 3, 2011. Those with questions can call him at (734) 455-8353.



Rick Ingram directs the Plymouth Oratorio Society.

Motorcycle show rides into Novi

Hundreds of the latest motorcycles will pack the Rock Financial Showplace Friday-Sunday, Jan. 7-9, 2011 at the all-new Progressive International Motorcycle Shows nationwide tour.

The show will include a custom motorcycle builder competition, a stunt show, a virtual open road bike experience, giveaways, speakers on motorcycling, seminars led by industry experts, highlights of famous motorcycle films, and information for new riders. The Women's Motorcycling Foundation also will be on hand with gear and tips for women.

Free parking will be available for those who ride their motorcycles to the show. Riders will be able to check their helmets, jackets and other gear at the show's main entrance.

Show hours are 4-9 p.m. Jan. 7, 2011; 9:30 a.m.-8 p.m. Jan. 8, 2011 and 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Jan. 9, at 46100 Grand River Avenue, in Novi. Admission is \$15 adults and \$6 for children, 6-11. Children 5 and under are admitted free. On Family Day, Sunday, January 9, all children 12 and under are free when accompanied by a paying adult. (800) 331-5706 or visit www.motorcycleshows.com.

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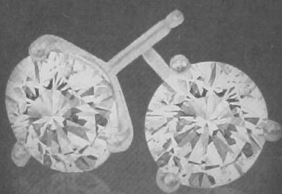
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Mon-Sat: 9:30-8
Sun: Noon-5



CD release

Sweet Crystal plays numerous benefit concerts and is a mainstay at Michigan Vet Fest, held annually in Dearborn. The group will perform at a charity CD release party, 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 17 at the Token Lounge, 28949 Joy, Westland, (734) 513-5030. Admission is \$10, \$3 of which will go to the Detroit Rescue Mission. CD sales also will benefit the charity. First 100 paid admissions get free digital downloads. WCSX's Doug "Doc of Roc" Podell is guest host.

Deadline set in second annual film festival

Get those camcorders ready and head to South Lyon. The 3 Minutes in Lyon Film Festival is accepting entries for next year's screening and awards night in June 2011.

The inaugural festival in May unveiled 16 original and locally produced videos from more than 25 producers. The festival is open to anyone regardless of residence, although films and videos must be shot in South Lyon, Lyon Township, Kensington Metropark or Island Lake recreation Area.

Students, video enthusiasts, non-profit organizations, families and anyone else with a desire to display their visual

and storytelling creativity may participate in the festival by creating their own three-minute video and submitting it on DVD. Entry deadline is Monday, June 13, 2011.

The festival will begin with Free Screening Night, an outdoor viewing of all submitted videos. Audience members will select the Audience Choice Award by voting on the best overall entry.

A new festival activity, the Producer's Roundtable, will invite all producers to discuss their projects, multimedia creation and filming ideas. The festival will end with an awards night at the Lyon theatre in South Lyon, where top

films will be recognized.

"The response to the inaugural festival was better than expected. I was impressed with the range of video concepts and the wide age range of participants. Producers submitting videos ranged in age from 11 to 55," stated founder Richard Perry. "Seeing a wide variety of images from the community and businesses on the big screen was very exciting. But even more impressive was to see the level of creativity in every submission resulting in very entertaining videos."

Festival details entry form, entry rules and instructions are available at www.lyonfilm-festival.org.

Michigan ElvisFest 2011 planning for 12th year

Ticket sales will get underway Jan. 1, 2011 for Michigan ElvisFest, which will take place July 8-9, 2011 at Riverside Park in Ypsilanti.

The family-friendly event draws Elvis Presley fans to watch tribute concerts to the "King of Rock 'n Roll." Last year's program included a car show, gospel music hour and candlelight vigil, along with such children's activities as crafts, a puppet show, face-painting and student performances.

Organizers for the 2011 event are working on the format and the entertainment. They plan to bring Elvis tribute artists, as well as other performers, together from across the country. Expect a few new events next year, too.

The Michigan ElvisFest is looking for sponsors for the 12th annual festival. Potential sponsors can e-mail to michiganelvisfest@gmail.com. Check www.mielvisfest.org for tickets next month.



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ART

Art & Ideas

Time/Date: Saturdays, 1-7 p.m., through Jan. 29, 2011
Location: 15095 Northville Road, Plymouth Township, between eastbound and westbound 5 Mile intersections
Details: "Time Tells All" holiday-season art exhibition, a multi-artist retrospective of 2010 exhibitions. Artwork on display through Jan. 29, 2011; free
Lecture: Creativity coach Shae Kalaj leads a discussion for adults and teens considering career decisions, 4-5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 19. She'll reference the book "A Whole New Mind" by Daniel Pink and will explain how society is moving from the "information age" to the "conceptual age." She'll talk about six specific actions that will help the next generation of "creative doers" succeed. RSVP to the gallery
Contact: (734) 420-0775 or visit www.artandideasgallery.com

Detroit Artist Market

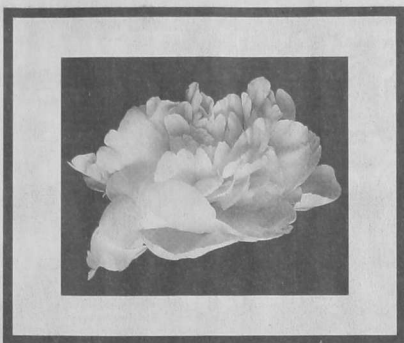
Time/Date: 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday, through Dec. 23
Location: 4719 Woodward Ave., Detroit
Details: Annual Art for the Holiday Show includes jewelry, glass, metal, ceramic, photography, accessories, paintings, drawings, sculpture, books, cards, framed prints and more for sale. Admission to the preview party are \$10 for Detroit Artist Market members and \$20 for non-members
Contact: (313) 832-8540

Northville Art House

Time/Date: Jan. 7-29, 2011; artist reception 6-9 p.m. Jan. 7
Location: 215 W. Cadz in downtown Northville
Details: Erik Olson shows oil portraits of homes and structures in various stages of repair in a show called "An Outside View"
Contact: (248) 344-0497

The Gallery@VT

Time/Date: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday-Friday, through Jan. 2, 2011
Location: 50400 Cherry Hill, Canton
Details: Photos, including black and white still life and flower images, by Jason Nichols
Contact: (734) 394-5300



"Peony" and other works by Jason Nichols are on display through Jan. 2, 2011 at the Village Theatre at Cherry Hill in Canton.

COMEDY

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: Roz G., through Dec. 18; Billy Ray Bauer, Dec. 22-23; Steve Bills, Dec. 29-30 and Jan. 1; Tom Segura, Dec. 31; Steve Bills, Jan. 1, 2011; Dan Cummings, Jan. 5-8, 2011; Steve White, Jan. 12-15, 2011; Kurt Metzger, Jan. 19-22, 2011; John Roy, Jan. 26-29, 2011
Contact: (734) 261-0555, www.kickerscomplex.com
Mark Ridley's Comedy Castle

Time/Date: David Dyer, Dec. 16-18; Dan Grueter, Dec. 30-31; Jay Black, Jan. 6-8, 2011; Tom Simmons, Jan. 13-15, 2011; Tom Segura, Jan. 20-22, 2011; Ken Rogerson, Jan. 27-29, 2011; Louis Ramey, Feb. 3-5, 2011
Location: 269 E. Fourth, Royal Oak
Contact: (248) 542-9900, www.comedycastle.com

CONCERTS

The Ark

Time/Date: Trinidad Tripoli Steel Band, Dec. 16; Crossroads Ceili, Dec. 17-18; Riders in the Sky, Dec. 19; Fred Eaglesmith, Dec. 31
Location: 316 South Main, Ann Arbor
Contact: (734) 763-8587; www.theark.org

Baseline Folk Society

Time/Date: Third Saturday of the month
Location: The JWH Center for the Arts, Plymouth Community Arts Council, 774 N. Sheldon, Plymouth
Details: Eight "Open-Mic" performances plus a featured group perform. This month's featured performers are "Alex and Maggie Zakem" with seasonal sounds. Kathy Nieman hosts the show. Sign up for open mic from 6:15-6:45 p.m.; show starts at 7 p.m. Individual membership is \$25 and includes monthly concerts from September through May. Otherwise, admission to each concert is \$5 at the door. Family memberships are \$50 and include monthly concerts
Contact: (248) 719-3464 or [mullen@yahoo.com](http://mjim-</p>
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Jazz @ The Elks

Time/Date: 7-10:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 28
Location: Plymouth Elks Lodge #1780 at 41700 Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth
Details: Just Jazz Trio with Jerry McKenzie on drums, Matt Michaels on piano and Dan Jordan on bass; no cover, but donations accepted
Contact: (734) 453-1780 www.PlymouthElks1780.com

Jazz Cafe

Time/Date: 8 p.m. Dec. 17-18
Location: Music Hall, 350 Madison, Detroit
Details: Freddy Cole Christmas, tickets \$27
Contact: www.ticketmaster.com; (313) 887-8500

Mama's Coffeehouse

Time/Date: 7 p.m. doors open, 7:15 p.m. open mic, 8 p.m. show begins
Location: Birmingham Unitarian Church, 38651 North Woodward at Lone Pine, Birmingham
Details: Grand Rapids-based singer-songwriter, Drew Nelson is

the featured performer; Jen Cass opens the show. General admission is \$12, seniors, 62 and over and teens, 13-18, pay \$10. Children, 12 and under are admitted for free
Contact: www.mamascOFFEE-house.org or call (248) 569-0965

Penn Theatre

Time/Date: 6 p.m. family concert and 8 p.m. traditional concert Thursday, Dec. 16
Location: 760 Penniman Ave., Plymouth
Details: The Plymouth Symphony presents "Home for the Holidays" Christmas concert. At the Family concert, members of the Celebration Youth Orchestra will join the symphony for a musical number and the orchestra's trumpet section will be featured at the 8 p.m. performance for "Bugler's Holiday" and a spectacular Vivaldi Concerto
Contact: (734) 451-2112

Seligman Performing Arts Center

Time/Date: 8 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 8
Location: On the campus of Detroit Country Day School,

22305 W. 13 Mile, Beverly Hills
Details: Chamber Music Society of Detroit presents The Emerson String Quartet. Tickets cost \$43-\$75; students pay \$25
Contact: (248) 855-6070 or visit www.ComeHearCMSO.org

Trinity House Theatre

Time/Date: Chris Trapper, Jan. 7, 2011; Ruth and Max Bloomquist, Jan. 8, 2011; Dave Boutette and the Folk Brothers, Jan. 14, 2011; Jay Stielstra Trio, Jan. 15, 2011; Sheila Landis featuring Rick Matile and Blues in the Night, Jan. 21, 2011; Billy Bynum and Company with Billy Brandt and Sarana Verlin, Jan. 22, 2011
Location: 38840 W. Six Mile, Livonia
Contact: (734) 464-6302, www.trinityhouse.org

FAMILY

Bakers Keyboard Lounge

Time/Dates: 2-5 p.m. Sundays
Details: Jazz for Kids Program
Location: 20510 Livernois Ave., Detroit
Contact: (313) 345-6300, www.bakerskeyboardlounge.com

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A GIFT FROM A DIVINE LAND

THERE WAS A TIME long, long ago when China was known as *Shen Zhou*—The Land of the Divine. The arts and the culture there were considered so exquisite and so vibrant that they could only have been bestowed by the heavens. And thus the people of the land strove to hold themselves to a higher standard so as to be worthy of such gifts. Today, Shen Yun brings these gifts to you.

Perhaps it is the quiet gentleness of the heavenly maidens that reminds us of a better time and a better world. Perhaps it is the conviction of warriors dashing across the plains that tells us that good always defeats evil in the end. Or maybe it's just the timeless stories of courage and compassion, kindness and kinship.

Whatever it is, Shen Yun has touched the hearts of millions. "I cried a few times," one audience member confessed. "What I saw was power, honesty, and integrity—I am grateful for that." The show has graced some of the most prestigious stages in the world, from the Royal Fes-

tival Hall in London to the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. Shen Yun is more than just the world's premier classical Chinese performing arts company. It is an experience you won't want to miss.

A PERFORMANCE 5,000 YEARS IN THE MAKING

A performance by Shen Yun is traditional Chinese culture as it was meant to be: a study in grace, wisdom, and all the virtues distilled from millennia of Chinese civilization. The classically trained dancers, musicians, and singers of Shen Yun Performing Arts share a vision: to revive and restore Chinese culture to its former, glorious state.

Based in New York, Shen Yun Performing Arts is distinguished by its conscious effort to remain independent of China's communist regime, which has abused and impoverished the arts for decades. In fact, a show like Shen Yun's can no longer be found in China today. As one well-traveled New Yorker noted: "I've seen China before with my eyes, but this show had me experience China with my soul."

For those who find all things Chinese a little foreign, never fear. The show is based on Chinese culture, but the values it portrays belong to all of humanity.

ONE OF THE MOST DEMANDING ART FORMS IN THE WORLD

No other art form in the world boasts such strong expressive qualities and diversity of technique as classical Chinese dance. It takes years of rigorous training to master the many leaps, flips, and delicate gestures. Dancers must also be versed in Chinese culture to achieve the bearing needed to bring ancient legends and heroic figures to life.

In addition to the classical forms, Shen Yun features the distinctive colors and styles of ethnic and folk dance. Choreographers draw upon over 20 dynasties and 50 ethnic groups to create pieces that range from the northern steppes of Mongolia to the lush forests of Yunnan. Among the most impressive elements of any Shen Yun show are the large-scale ensemble pieces in which dozens of dancers appear to move as one body across the stage.

Shen Yun has also created its very own brand of story-based dance, which often deals with universal, thought-provoking themes. As one distinguished ballet dancer noted, "There's a lot of depth and meaning. It's a new realm of dance."

TWO GREAT CLASSICAL MUSIC TRADITIONS ONE FRESH, UNEXPECTED SOUND

Some remarkable instruments such as the *pipa* or *erhu* date back more than 3,500 years, but the reality is very few Chinese instruments have made it to the world stage. To remedy this, the composers of Shen Yun bathe the distinctly Chinese sounds in a rich sea

of Western strings, percussion, woodwinds, and brass. The result? A new and mesmerizing sound.

Each season, the composers create over 20 original scores. They work closely with the choreographers to ensure a seamless blending of the music with each and every dance.

EXTRAORDINARY ARTISTS

"There's just something about them," audience members often remark.

At a time when the influence of Taoism, Buddhism, and Confucianism was strong in the Middle Kingdom, art was a means to explore the connection between mankind and the higher universe. Poets and artists cultivated virtue and engaged in study and meditation because they believed that to create true art worthy of the heavens, there must first be inner beauty and purity.

Today, the artists of Shen Yun follow in that noble tradition. Their training regimen requires focus and a mindful lifestyle. Many draw inspiration from traditional cultivation practices such as Falun Dafa, which teaches truthfulness, compassion, and forbearance.

Among the company's artists are many winners of international competitions in dance, music, and singing, as well as accomplished choreographers and composers. No other Chinese performing arts group in the world can boast such a remarkable body of talent.

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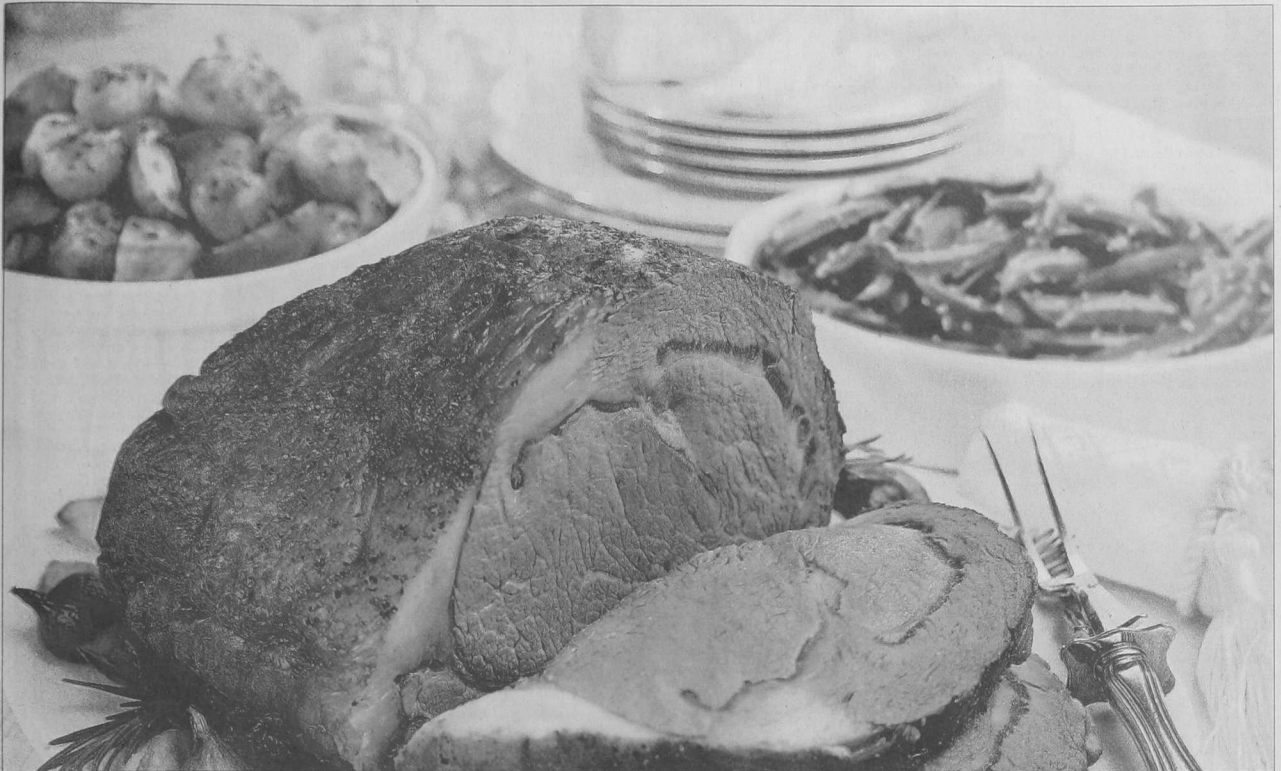
HAVE A STORY IDEA?

Contact Editor, Sharon Dargay

Voice Mail: (313) 222-8883

E-mail: sdargay@hometownlife.com

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Rib Roast

A TOAST TO THE Holiday Roast

When it comes to holiday entertaining, there is nothing more elegant — or easy — than serving a beautiful roast. The elegance factor we can all understand, but easy? It's true. There is no need to be intimidated by a roast ever again.

Tender roasts are always cooked uncovered using dry heat methods, which results in producing the flavorful, deep brown crusty exterior. It's also important to allow the roast to rest before carving to ensure that the juices in the center have time to redistribute for maximum flavor and tenderness.

By following a few simple guidelines, you can easily prepare and serve a holiday roast that will receive rave reviews from all your guests.

For a free "Great Gathering Guide and Cookbook" filled with delicious recipes from Omaha Steaks, call 1-800-228-9055, or visit www.OmahaSteaks.com.

ROAST BUYER'S GUIDE

Use this rule of thumb to determine how much meat you need to purchase per serving:

- Boneless Roast: ½ pound, uncooked
- Bone-In Roast: 1 pound, uncooked
- Standing Rib Roast, also known as a Prime Rib Roast: allow 2 servings per rib

ROASTED BABY RED POTATOES

Serves 4 to 6

2 pounds baby red potatoes
2 tablespoons olive oil
1 tablespoon garlic, chopped
1 teaspoon rosemary, chopped
1 teaspoon oregano, chopped
½ cup Romano cheese, grated
2 teaspoons kosher salt
½ teaspoon black pepper, ground

Preheat oven to 250°F.
Wash and quarter potatoes. Add potatoes to a bowl and mix with remaining ingredients.
Place potatoes on a foil lined sheet pan.
Bake for 45 minutes. Stir potatoes well, being sure to flip them all over.
Increase oven temperature to 400°F.
Bake potatoes an additional 30 minutes or until brown.

BLUE CHEESE AND CABERNET SAUVIGNON DEMI GLACE

Serves 4 to 6

½ teaspoon olive oil
2 tablespoons shallots, finely chopped
1 teaspoon garlic, finely chopped
½ cup Cabernet Sauvignon
1 cup Demi Glace*
2 ounces Maytag Blue Cheese, crumbled

In a sauce pan heat olive oil. Sauté shallots and garlic until transparent. Add Cabernet Sauvignon to pan and reduce by half. Add Demi Glace to pan and slowly bring to a boil. Stir in blue cheese.
Serve with Beef Roast or Steak.
*Demi Glace can be made from scratch or purchased from a specialty food store such as Omaha Steaks.

HOLIDAY GREEN BEANS

Serves 4 to 6

1 pound green beans, trimmed
1 lemon, cut in half
1 cup croutons, coarsely ground
6 slices bacon, cooked and coarsely chopped
2 tablespoons butter, thinly sliced
½ teaspoon kosher salt

Preheat oven to 350°F.
Blanch green beans in boiling water or steamer for 6 to 8 minutes until al dente. Cool in an ice bath and drain well.
Spread cooled green beans in a 9 x 13-inch casserole dish. Squeeze lemon juice evenly over green beans. Sprinkle top of green beans with ground croutons and bacon bits.
Place butter slices evenly throughout the dish. Sprinkle salt over the top.
Bake for 15 to 20 minutes.
Prepare the casserole a day ahead of time and place in the refrigerator overnight. Bake as directed.

— Courtesy of Family Features

Roast Cooking Chart

The cooking times below are for fully thawed roasts.

Sear and Slow Roast Method - Preheat the oven to 250°F. Lightly oil and season roast. Sear roasts in an oven proof pan, with small amount of oil, or on the grill for 2-3 minutes on each side or until well browned. Place the roast on an elevated rack in a roasting pan. Refer to approximate cooking times below. Allow 15-20 minutes resting time before slicing and serving.

	Weight	Rare 120°-130°F	Med Rare 130°-140°F	Medium 140°-150°F	Well 160°-170°F
Tenderloin Roast	3 lb	1-1 hr 10 min	1 hr 10 min-1 hr 20 min	1 hr 20 min-1 hr 30 min	1 hr 45 min-1 hr 55 min
Rib Roast	4 lb	1 hr 10 min-1 hr 20 min	2 hrs 25 min-2 hrs 35 min	2 hrs 45 min-3 hrs	3 hrs 30 min-4 hrs
Rib Roast, Bone In	6 lb	2 hrs 45 min-3 hrs	3 hrs 30 min-4 hrs	4 hrs-4 hrs 30 min	5 hrs-5 hrs 30 min
Sirloin Tri-Tip Roast	1.5 lb	40-50 min	55-60 min	1 hr 10 min-1 hr 15 min	1 hr 35 min-1 hr 45 min

Quick Roast Method* Preheat oven to 400°F. Lightly oil and season roast. Place on an elevated rack in a roasting pan. Roast uncovered, using times below. Allow 20-40 minutes resting time before slicing.

	Weight	Rare 120°-130°F	Med Rare 130°-140°F	Medium 140°-150°F	Well 160°-170°F
Tenderloin Roast	3 lb	45-50 min	55-60 min	1 hr 5 min-1 hr 10 min	1 hr 15 min-1 hr 30 min
Rib Roast	4 lb	1 hr 20 min-1 hr 30 min	1 hr 30 min-1 hr 40 min	1 hr 45 min-2 hrs	2 hrs 15 min-2 hrs 30 min
Rib Roast, Bone In	6 lb	2 hrs-2 hrs 15 min	2 hrs 15 min-2 hrs 30 min	2 hrs 30 min-2 hrs 45 min	3 hrs-3 hrs 15 min
Sirloin Tri-Tip Roast	1.5 lb	30-35 min	35-40 min	45-50 min	1 hr-1 hr 15 min

*Verify degrees of doneness by using a kitchen thermometer. Above times are approximate.

Recommendations courtesy Omaha Steaks



Standing Rib Roast

Party responsibly with these alcohol-free cocktails

AAA Michigan is encouraging motorists to remain drug and alcohol-free when they drive during the holidays.

Visitors to TakeThePledge.AAA.com can sign a pledge to support a culture of "zero tolerance" for impaired driving and spread the word to family and friends via Facebook and Take the Pledge e-cards.

Nearly 9 of 10 drivers say that motorists who drive after drinking are a very serious threat to their personal safety, according to the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety. And 98 percent say they consider it unacceptable for a driver to get behind the wheel when they think they may have had too much to drink.

Each year, more than 11,000 individuals are killed in alcohol-related crashes, representing 32 percent of all motor vehicle accidents. More than a million individuals are arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol each year.

AAA Michigan offers these party tips to stay safe on the roads:

- Plan ahead and designate a non-drinking driver before any holiday party or celebration begins.
- Never get behind the wheel of a car when you've been drinking – even after just one drink.
- Do not hesitate to take the keys from friends or family members who may be impaired.
- Be a real friend: Call a taxi for those in need.
- Be a responsible host in reminding guests to stay safe and offer alcohol-free beverages.

Here are a few recipes for nonalcoholic cocktails from AAA Michigan's newest edition of its annual Great Pretenders Party Guide. For more recipes, visit a AAA Michigan office or go online at www.aaa.com/Pretenders.



Homemade Kiwi Lemonade gets its fizz from a 7UP, Sprite or Sierra Mist soda.

HOMEMADE KIWI LEMONADE

Submitted by *Iridescence*
Motor City Casino & Hotel
Detroit

Ingredients:
4 ounces sweet and sour mix
1 ounce simple syrup
1 ounce Monik kiwi syrup
4 ounces 7UP, Sierra Mist or Sprite

Directions:
Build in mixer/shaker with ice. Combine all ingredients and shake to a light froth. Strain and pour over ice. May garnish with lemon wedge and kiwi slice.



Green tea and watermelon combine to create Creamelone.

SPARKLING PINEAPPLE SUNSET

Submitted by *The Grand Hotel*
Mackinac Island

Ingredients:
1 cup pineapple juice
1 cup Perrier
Splash grenadine
Cherry for garnish

Directions:
In a large glass filled halfway with ice, add equal parts pineapple juice and Perrier (or any sparkling water). Shake well. Add a splash of grenadine. Garnish with maraschino cherry.

NONALCOHOLIC BELLINI

Submitted by *The Saint Paul Hotel*
St. Paul, Minn.

Ingredients:
1 ounce fresh peach nectar
4 ounces nonalcoholic brut champagne

Directions:
Pour nectar into glass. Slowly add champagne. Stir gently. May garnish with peach slice.

BORA BORA

Submitted by *Iridescence*
Motor City Casino & Hotel
Detroit

Ingredients:
3 ounces pineapple juice
2 ounces passion fruit juice
1/3 ounce lemon juice
1/3 ounce grenadine

Directions:
Shake ingredients with ice. Pour into glass. Garnish with lemon wedge and cherry.

CREAMELON

Submitted by *Sixteen*
Trump International Hotel & Tower
Chicago, Ill.

Ingredients:
3 cups chopped seedless watermelon
1 cup chilled green tea
1 cup chilled cream soda
1/8 teaspoon ground cinnamon
1 teaspoon light brown sugar
Ice cubes

Directions:
Blend everything on a low speed and serve in a tall glass. Garnish with big watermelon slice.

1913 ROOM INDULGENCE

Submitted by *The 1913 Room*
Amway Grand Plaza Hotel
Grand Rapids

Ingredients:
1 cup pomegranate juice
1 1/2 cups alcohol-free red wine
1/2 cup orange juice
1/4 cup freshly squeezed lemon juice
1/2 cup club soda
4 dashes Tabasco

Directions:
In a cocktail shaker, mix all ingredients with crushed ice, shaking vigorously. Serve in martini glass and garnish with orange twist.

1 UNDER

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Complimentary
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7⁹⁹



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REAL ESTATE

SECTION C (*) Thursday, December 16, 2010

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SUNDAY EDITION, 4:30 P.M. FRIDAY
THURSDAY EDITION, 4:30 P.M. TUESDAYJulie Brown, editor (313) 222-4755
jcbrown@hometownlife.com

FTC works to rein in mortgage relief service scams

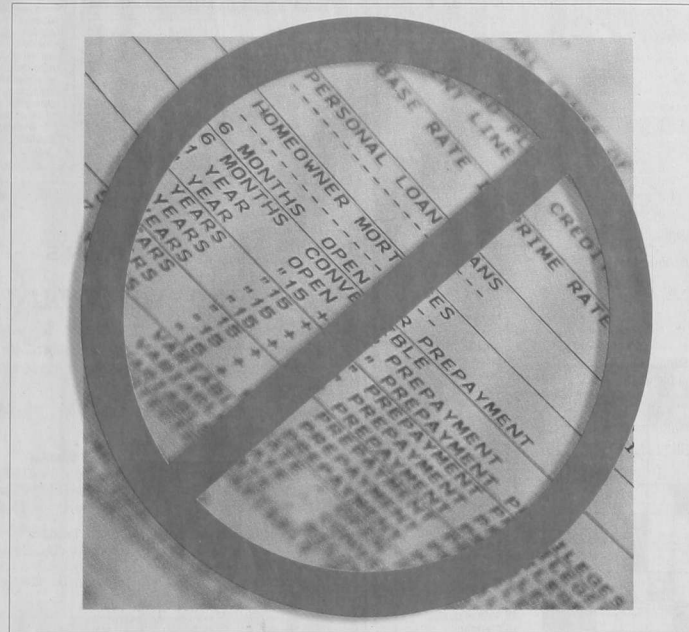
As the U.S. mortgage crisis continues to affect thousands of American homeowners, the Federal Trade Commission is working to cease numerous mortgage relief service scams that prey on consumers behind in their mortgage payments or facing foreclosure. Bogus operations falsely claim that, for a fee, they will negotiate with the consumer's mortgage lender or servicer to obtain a loan modification, a short sale or other relief from foreclosure. The Better Business Bureau Serving Eastern Michigan warns consumers who are struggling with the financial responsibilities of owning a home to take careful precautions with regards to mortgage relief services in order to avoid becoming a victim of the prevalent deceptive practices.

To illustrate the high demand for mortgage relief services, BBB reports that thousands of homeowners in distress from across the country have contacted BBB for information on a Maryland-based mortgage relief business called Residential Relief Foundation. However, BBB processed a total of 62 complaints about Residential Relief Foundation in the last year. The FTC announced Nov. 26 that a federal court has shut down the company's operations and seized its assets, ending what it alleges were deceptive practices designed to mock government mortgage assistance programs. A copy of the federal court order against the company can be found online through the BBB.

To further protect distressed homeowners from the rising number of mortgage relief scams, the FTC also announced recently that it is issuing a new rule titled the Mortgage Assistance Relief Services (MARS) Rule. The new rule bans providers of mortgage foreclosure rescue and loan modification services from collecting fees until homeowners have a written offer from their lender or servicer that they decide is acceptable. The rule will go into effect on Dec. 29, 2010.

BBB offers the following tips for homeowners seeking mortgage relief service:

- Consider up-front fees as a red flag. The new FTC rule will ban up-front fees effective Dec. 29, 2010.
- Do not be fooled by clever marketing ploys or sales designed to make the company or its services



look like it is part of a government program.

• Try to work out a foreclosure rescue scenario yourself by talking directly with your lender. Explain your situation and ask for a revised repayment schedule.

• Do not sign away the title of your home and make

sure you have your own attorney review a contract before you sign.

• Before you endorse a contract to a mortgage rescue company, visit www.bbb.org for an indication about the company's history, record of performance and business practices.

Don't dismiss FHA standard

Q. I am retired and I live in a condominium project comprised mostly of senior citizens. I have been hearing people talk lately about how important it is for condominium projects to obtain FHA certification. Why would a project such as mine need to obtain FHA certification when most of the units are mortgage free?

A. The Fair Housing Administration is the only



Robert Meisner

entity insuring reverse mortgages, which are mortgages wherein a qualified senior may exchange equity in their home

for income. Consequently, you may not be able to obtain a reverse mortgage or your options in that regard may be severely limited if the project is not FHA certified. An attorney knowledgeable in condominium law should be able to assist your condominium association's board of directors in determining whether your project is eligible to seek FHA certification.

Q. What are the requirements for a condominium project to obtain certification from the Fair Housing Administration, which I understand may make the units more marketable?

A. There are several requirements a condominium project must meet in order to obtain FHA certification. For example, no more than 50 percent of the units can be rented at one time. No more than 15 percent of the units can be more than 30 days delinquent in payment of assessments. The overall number of condominium units with FHA-insured mortgages cannot exceed 30 percent. The association's budget must meet FHA adequacy standards. The association must have adequate insurance to cover certain risks. The condominium documents must be in compliance with HUD regulations and all other laws. No more than 25 percent of overall floor space of the project may be delineated for commercial use and the commercial use must be homogenous with residential use. The number of units owned by one person or entity may not exceed 10 percent of the total number of units. You should consult with a knowledgeable condominium attorney with regard to your condominium project.

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

HOMES SOLD-WAYNE

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of Aug. 30 to Sept. 3, 2010, at the Wayne County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of Aug. 30 to Sept. 3, 2010, at the Wayne County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.									
Canton	2232 Arcadia Dr	\$83,000	35041 Elmira St	\$125,000	113 High St	\$100,000	9052 Lenore	\$85,000	
	1972 Ashbourne Dr	\$350,000	16308 Fairway St	\$160,000	43949 Medinah Ct	\$100,000	15995 Lexington	\$58,000	
	2406 Brookfield St	\$125,000	14076 Hix St	\$141,000	16064 Morningside	\$110,000	12705 Lyndon	\$103,000	
	740 Buchanan St	\$241,000	14383 Houghton St	\$125,000	49421 N Glacier	\$193,000	18503 Poinciana	\$28,000	
	2029 E Franklin Dr	\$32,000	15081 Houghton St	\$101,000	19520 Springridge Dr	\$51,000	14148 Winston	\$105,000	
	45509 Glenarry Blvd	\$263,000	20436 Louisa St	\$83,000	41685 Pon Meadow Ct	\$425,000	15810 Woodworth	\$38,000	
	2208 Hogan Way	\$170,000	18332 Melvin St	\$110,000	41837 Rayburn Dr	\$184,000	541 Bedford Dr	\$129,000	
	7345 Irongate Rd	\$120,000	16591 Middlebelt Rd	\$16,000	49046 Running Trout Ln	\$138,000	31037 Birchwood St	\$105,000	
	4592 Larchmont Dr	\$212,000	16597 Middlebelt Rd	\$23,000	41625 S Glacier	\$120,000	32320 Creston St	\$80,000	
	1022 Longfellow Dr	\$319,000	34718 Munger St	\$127,000	39641 Springwater Blvd	\$180,000	30018 Gladys Ave	\$170,000	
Livonia	48497 Mandellian Cir	\$220,000	36876 Munger St	\$188,000	18850 Stonewater Blvd	\$300,000	32720 Glen St	\$77,000	
	46401 Mornington Rd	\$150,000	28014 N Clements Cir	\$75,000	17228 Summit Dr	\$100,000	30523 Grandview Ave	\$68,000	
	4057 Palace Ave	\$99,000	15159 Norman St	\$139,000			33674 Mellon St	\$25,000	
	7408 Provincial Rd	\$148,000	15509 Upton St	\$100,000			35241 Mellon St	\$45,000	
	41442 Strawberry Ct	\$148,000	34454 Pimtree St	\$80,000	1450 Ann Arbor Rd W	\$20,000	823 N Wayne Rd	\$34,000	
	48010 Vistas Ct	\$234,000	36536 Rayburn St	\$184,000	9445 Brookline Ave	\$120,000	30608 Rustic Ln	\$44,000	
			31153 Richard St	\$130,000	9264 Corrine St	\$59,000	549 S Hubbard Dr	\$104,000	
			20074 Southampton Dr	\$175,000	49277 Fox Dr S	\$135,000	1164 Shoemaker Dr	\$40,000	
			15969 Stamford St	\$135,000	13381 Latherton Dr	\$138,000	7590 Woodview St	\$16,000	
			18669 Stamford St	\$189,000	9252 Mayflower Dr	\$188,000			
Garden City	31536 Cambridge St	\$79,000	17523 Stamwich St	\$101,000	40137 Newport Dr	\$69,000			
	652 Cardwell St	\$73,000	29600 Trancrest St	\$125,000	40518 Newport Dr	\$57,000			
	31640 Donnelly St	\$73,000							
Northville	18547 Westbrook Dr	\$160,000	101 S Union St	\$120,000	665 Simpson St	\$185,000	9950 Tennyson Dr	\$282,000	
	18918 Bella Vista Ct	\$200,000	17062 Birchwood Dr	\$350,000	15509 Centralia	\$65,000	15530 Centralia	\$24,000	
	17062 Birchwood Dr	\$350,000	18160 Blue Heron Pointe Dr	\$325,000	19554 Cardene Way	\$140,000	12770 Columbia	\$35,000	
	18160 Blue Heron Pointe Dr	\$325,000	19554 Cardene Way	\$140,000	16758 Dunwood Rd	\$245,000	14301 Dine	\$50,000	
	19554 Cardene Way	\$140,000	16301 Forest Lake Dr	\$192,000	11370 Hazelton	\$25,000			
	16758 Dunwood Rd	\$245,000	113 High St	\$100,000	9052 Lenore	\$85,000			
	14301 Dine	\$50,000	43949 Medinah Ct	\$100,000	15995 Lexington	\$58,000			
			16064 Morningside	\$110,000	12705 Lyndon	\$103,000			
			49421 N Glacier	\$193,000	18503 Poinciana	\$28,000			
			19520 Springridge Dr	\$51,000	14148 Winston	\$105,000			
Westland	41685 Pon Meadow Ct	\$425,000	41837 Rayburn Dr	\$184,000	541 Bedford Dr	\$129,000	31037 Birchwood St	\$105,000	
	41837 Rayburn Dr	\$184,000	49046 Running Trout Ln	\$138,000	32320 Creston St	\$80,000	30018 Gladys Ave	\$170,000	
	49046 Running Trout Ln	\$138,000	41625 S Glacier	\$120,000	30523 Grandview Ave	\$68,000	33674 Mellon St	\$25,000	
	41625 S Glacier	\$120,000	39641 Springwater Blvd	\$180,000	32720 Glen St	\$77,000	35241 Mellon St	\$45,000	
Plymouth	39641 Springwater Blvd	\$180,000	18850 Stonewater Blvd	\$300,000	30018 Gladys Ave	\$170,000	32720 Glen St	\$77,000	
	18850 Stonewater Blvd	\$300,000	17228 Summit Dr	\$100,000	30523 Grandview Ave	\$68,000	33674 Mellon St	\$25,000	
	17228 Summit Dr	\$100,000			33674 Mellon St	\$25,000	35241 Mellon St	\$45,000	
					35241 Mellon St	\$45,000	823 N Wayne Rd	\$34,000	

HOMES SOLD-OAKLAND

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of Aug. 30 to Sept. 3, 2010, at the Oakland County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

Beverly Hills	18961 Devonshire St	\$368,000	30886 Devon Brook Dr	\$16,000	28741 Aranel St	\$166,000	22480 Alton Ct	\$238,000
	23770 Overlook Cir	\$260,000	1745 Heron Ridge Dr	\$3,900,000	21433 Archwood Cir	\$125,000	30691 Ardmore Ct	\$63,000
	376 Baldwin Rd	\$365,000	305 Madenough Dr	\$75,000	37880 Aspen Dr	\$298,000	24571 Bashian Dr	\$60,000
	644 Bird Ave	\$455,000	4134 Meadowlark Dr	\$165,000	34625 Bridgeman St	\$70,000	24532 Bramblewood Dr	\$272,000
Birmingham	1641 Birmingham Blvd	\$265,000	1578 N Cranbrook Rd	\$950,000	32223 Farmersville Rd	\$175,000	23895 E Le Best	\$80,000
	588 Brookside Ave	\$485,000	4126 Nearbrook Rd	\$419,000	29728 Laurelgrove Rd	\$210,000	45475 Irvine Dr	\$315,000
	2370 Buckingham Ave	\$570,000	39175 Oakland Dr	\$1,200,000	24801 Haines Ave	\$2,000	45581 Irvine Ln	\$395,000
	1683 Cole St	\$243,000	1345 Oxford Rd	\$645,000	29435 Laurel Dr	\$96,000	22864 Mondavi Dr	\$382,000
Bloomfield Hills	1027 Emmons Ave	\$135,000	2945 Rambling Way	\$218,000	21665 Mayfield St	\$93,000	47181 Northumberland St	\$575,000
	1404 Humphrey Ave	\$188,000	174 S Hill Blvd	\$103,000	27471 Monterey Cir	\$185,000	24752 Olive Orchard St	\$34,000
	1898 Latham St	\$448,000	1820 S Hill Blvd	\$95,000	21803 Oak Point Dr	\$270,000	24827 Brexits Pointe Dr	\$195,000
	1187 Northlawn Blvd	\$208,000	668 Sedgfield Dr	\$178,000	30414 Orchard Lake Rd	\$142,000	24560 Thatcher Dr	\$80,000
Bloomfield Township	110 Denbar Rd	\$460,000	5770 Snowshoe Dr	\$960,000	31613 Russell St	\$142,000	49609 Timber Trl	\$265,000
	1060 Stratford Pl	\$196,000	4297 Sunningdale Dr	\$440,000	21779 Sierra Point Cir	\$115,000	41040 W 10 Mile Rd	\$104,000
	1975 Tiverton Rd	\$438,000	2152 Telleham Rd	\$170,000	55995 Spring Hill Rd	\$220,000	28316 Wolcott Dr	\$89,000
	4897 Old Post Ct	\$260,000			37803 Turnberry Ct	\$31,000	23502 Woodshire Ct	\$51,000
Farmington Hills	2165 Ayleshire Dr	\$1,050,000	2125 Canal St	\$210,000	30535 W 14 Mile Rd	\$165,000	52420 Woodworth Dr	\$336,000
			1622 Commerce Shrs	\$190,000	24780 W Loop Mile Rd	\$190,000	54200 Birchwood Dr	\$130,000
			5493 Leafwood Dr	\$275,000	31355 W Stonewood Ct	\$120,000	762 Challenging Trl	\$378,000
			2155 Winston Dr	\$79,000	31918 Wayburn St	\$190,000	54405 Indianwood	\$61,000
Farmington			33988 Glenview Dr	\$79,000	26992 Woodbrook St	\$45,000	24008 Prescott Ct	\$25,000
			32718 Grand River Ave	\$38,000			23766 Spys Glass Hl N	\$27,000
			36630 Heatherton Dr	\$169,000	18825 Rainbow Dr	\$125,000	21996 Eight And Half Mile	\$34,000
			22906 Lakeway St	\$48,000	1015 Canal St	\$125,000	29330 Southgate Dr	\$44,000
Farmington Hills			31918 Lamar Dr	\$120,000	1995 Charles Ct	\$20,000	520 Woodstone Ct	\$28,000
			22620 Power Rd	\$130,000	920 Hill Hollow Ln	\$425,000		
			35973 Smithfield Rd	\$148,000	971 Panorama Dr	\$116,000		
			23016 Warner St	\$107,000	777 Sweetbriar	\$121,000		
Novi				\$57,000	645 Woodside Dr	\$188,000		

REAL ESTATE BRIEFS

New agents

Coldwell Banker Weir Manuel has recently welcomed a number of new agents to the company. They are: Richard Carter, Robert Gay, Michael Jones, Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti; Mark Cobb, Northville/Novi; Ronald Yurgo, Rochester.

"We are very pleased to welcome these agents to our team," said Kelly Sweeney, CBWM CEO. "They bring with them diverse business skills and experience, and will make great additions to our company."

Founded in 1950, Coldwell Banker Weir Manuel is a Birmingham, Michigan-based real estate broker with 11 offices

and more than 400 real estate agents in southeastern Michigan. For more information, visit www.cbweirmanuel.com.

Career Seminar

A Real Estate Career Seminar will be held 6:30-7:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 16, at Keller Williams Realty, 40600 Ann Arbor Road, Suite 100, Plymouth. To reserve a seat or for more information, call Lesley Aiello at (734) 459-4700 or laiello@kw.com.

Home photos

Visible Homes, a real estate brokerage, announced that all of their listings will be marketed with free professional

photos.

The goal of including professional photos is to improve the first impression amongst buyers and increase the number of showings and overall interest in the property.

Recent data shows that homes listed with professional photos sell for a much higher price than homes listed without. "Visible Homes constantly researches buyer characteristics, so it was no surprise to learn that homes marketed with professional photos sold for a higher price," said Wes McCaig, owner/broker of Visible Homes. "Over 90 percent of buyers search for homes online and 97 percent of these buyers rate photos amongst the most useful

features. We acknowledge that visibility and first impressions are the key ingredients to selling real estate in today's technology driven world."

Visible Homes listings are visible on many real estate websites. Sellers looking to begin the home selling process can go to <http://www.visiblehomes.com/sell>.

Visible Homes, LLC is a full service real estate brokerage which combines traditional real estate services along with today's most innovative technologies. Visible Homes is part of the National Association of Realtors, the Michigan Association of Realtors, and the Western Wayne Oakland County Association of Realtors.

Challenging fun for ALL ages

Thursday

PUZZLE CORNER

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

ACROSS

- 1 Babysitter's bane
- 4 — noire
- 8 Dinner checks
- 12 Garcon's yes
- 13 Bakery must
- 14 He directed Marlon
- 15 — de plume
- 16 Weather factor
- 18 Whimper
- 20 Prefer charges
- 21 Maize unit
- 22 Get through to
- 26 Bits of fiber
- 28 Thick head of hair
- 31 College maj.
- 32 Take in nourishment
- 33 Religious branches
- 34 Dapper fellow?
- 35 Historian's word
- 36 Office-taker's promise

DOWN

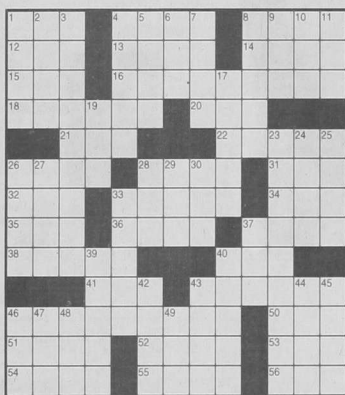
- 37 Flake
- 38 Violinist's aid
- 40 Shadowy
- 41 Funny
- 42 Charlotte
- 43 Go to bed
- 46 Auto problem (2 wds.)
- 50 Badger
- 51 Little chirper
- 52 Sherbet flavor
- 53 Wanted-poster abbr.
- 54 Lodge
- 55 Brenner Pass locale
- 56 Pioneer
- 1 Charged particles
- 2 Subatomic particle
- 3 Olive stuffers
- 4 Arbox
- 5 Fiendish
- 6 Decade
- 7 Concludes

Answer to Previous Puzzle

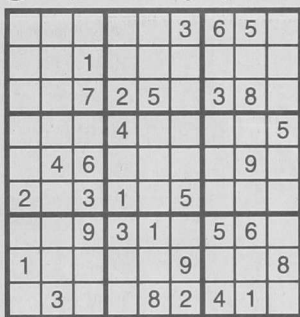


12-14 © 2010 United Feature Syndicate, Inc.

- 8 Giggles (hyph.)
- 9 Ms. MacGraw
- 10 Puppeteer
- 11 "Gal" of song
- 12 Remedies
- 13 Winery feature
- 14 Of the stomach
- 15 Breezy greeting
- 16 Goose's call
- 17 Nonsense poet
- 18 "Othello" plotter
- 19 Call — cab
- 20 Drama section
- 21 Utmost degree
- 22 Fish finder
- 23 Set of tools
- 24 Wry humor
- 25 Fakes out, on the rink
- 26 La senorita
- 27 Sgt. Preston's group
- 28 Fall gardening tool
- 29 Mild rejoinder
- 30 German "bugs"
- 31 Easel display
- 32 Friction easier



SUDOKU



Level: Beginner

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Word Search

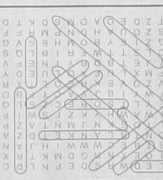


blanket cold mittens shovel snow
blizzard flakes quilt sled snowblower
boots frost scarf sleet wet

CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE



CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE



Sudoku

Word Search

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3000-3890

Real Estate Services 3840

AMAZING BUT TRUE PROPERTY MANAGEMENT Single family or apartments vacant or occupied complete turn a rounds. Broker: 888-669-8333, 313-914-3660

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Manufactured Homes

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SUN HOMES Academy/Westpoint academywestpoint.com 1-888-666-5659 *Some restrictions apply. Expires 12/31/10. EHO These financing terms are for example purposes only and are not an offer to extend credit. For details on available financing terms, please ask for a licensed MLO or contact Sun Homes Services, Inc. 2777 Franklin Rd., Suite 200, Southfield, MI 48034 248-208-2500 x2522 CDE0723391

Manufactured Homes

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LIVE IN PLYMOUTH w/ONLY \$3,000 DOWN!!! 3 Br, 2 bath for less than \$525 a month!!! Steven @ AJR Homes Sales 734-414-9760

TOP \$5 FOR YOUR MOBILE HOME! Call Steve at 734-414-9760

WESTLAND Own Your Own Home \$550 A Month With Zero Move In fee's. Please give community manager Greg Potter a call at: 734-513-4108 Or stop by and visit: 28495 Joy Rd. Westland MI 48185

Resort & Vacation Property

3800

By Owner Home For Sale By Owner In "Lake Country" Near Torch Lake, 3 bdrm, 3 bath, garage, solid maple interior, must see to appreciate. Ready for occupancy! \$134,900 Info: 231-331-4444 or write Paul PO. Box 151, Aiden, MI 49612, pcfoster@hotmail.com

Cemetary Lots 3880

CADILLAC MEMORIAL, Westland - 2 side by side lots in the Garden of Eatin' \$3500/mo. 734-595-8375

CEMETERY LOTS: Parkview Memorial, 2 lots in God Shepherd Plot. 1 - \$1200, 2 - \$2000. Call: (734) 733-3294

Pictures Can Make A Difference! 1-800-579-SELL (7355) hometownlife.com

Business Opportunities 3900

GROWING BUSINESS Small, clean, and quiet party store for sale nestled in historical old Village of Plymouth with numerous repeat customers. Perfect start up or retirement opportunity. Avg weekly sales of \$7500 and history of \$1700. Sales are up 10% in past quarter. Please call 248-684-1460

Observer & Eccentric NEWSPAPERS

CLASSIFIED EARLY DEADLINES

The Classified Department of the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers will be closed Friday, December 24th & Friday, December 31st, so our employees can observe the Holidays.

Below are the deadline times for Classified advertisements.

Edition of Sunday, Dec. 26th
Auto & Real Estate Display Ads
Classified Display Ads
Classified Liners

Edition of Sunday, Jan. 2nd
Auto & Real Estate Display Ads
Classified Display Ads
Classified Liners

Deadline
Wednesday, Dec. 22 @ 5 pm
Thursday, Dec. 23 @ 3 pm
Thursday, Dec. 23 @ 3 pm

Deadline
Wednesday, Dec. 29 @ 5 pm
Thursday, Dec. 30 @ 3 pm
Thursday, Dec. 30 @ 5 pm

Home & Service

0001-2450

Barry's Carpentry 25 yrs. exp. Start to Finish. Lic/Ins. (248) 478-8559 barryscarpentry.com

Carpent Cleaning/Dyeing 6430

JOE'S CARPET CLEANING Rotary, jet, steam extraction 2 Rooms = \$29 or Whole House = \$50. 734-223-5705

Drywall 6690

COMPLETE DRYWALL SRV. Plaster Repair! All jobs welcome! Lic/Ins. Free Est. 28 yrs. exp. Mark. 313-363-6738

Electrical

0700

FAMILY ELECTRICAL City call. All jobs corrected. Service changes or any small job. Free est. 734-422-8080

Hauling/Clean Up 1830

A-1 HAULING Move scrap metal, clean basements, garages, stores, etc. Lowest prices in town. Quick service. Free est. Wayne/Oakland Central location 248-547-2764, 248-559-8138

Joe's Carpet Cleaning Rotary • Jet • Steam Extraction 2 ROOMS = \$29 Whole House = \$50 (734) 223-5705

Hauling/Clean Up

1030

Clean-up/Hauling Srv. Cheap Rates! Garages, basements, attics. Free est. 248-521-8818, 248-489-5955

Moving/Storage 1380

A1 Movers A+ Service Lic. & Insured-Efficient for only \$65/hr. 866-633-7953

Painting/Decorating Paperhangers

1420

PAINT IT! Get the look you've always wanted. Reasonable, experienced, AARP Member. Condos incl. (248) 225-7165

PAINTING BY ROBERT • Wallpaper Removal • Plaster/Drywall Repair • Staining. 25 yrs. exp. Free est. 248-349-7499, 734-464-8147

Roofing 1640

APEX ROOFING - Quality work completed with pride. Family owned. Lic. & Ins. BBB A+ Rating. For honesty/integrity, 248-476-6984, 248-855-7223

WEATHERGUARD ROOFING Over 20 years experience AFFORDABLE PRICES • Tear Offs • Reroofs • Repairs. Free Estimates • Senior Discounts \$200 OFF YOUR NEW ROOF! 734-425-9665 • 248-344-4966 • 1-888-ROOFERS www.weatherguard-roofing.com *Any roof over \$5,000. CDE0723391

Roofing

1640

LEAK SPECIALIST Flashings, Valleys, Chimneys, etc. Warr. Mem. BBB. 30 yrs. exp. Lic/Ins. Call: (248) 346-4321

Snow Removal 1810

RESIDENTIAL SNOW REMOVAL Reasonable Rates. 313-454-9889, 734-331-9297

SNOW PLOWING & SALTING & Emergency Srv. - Comm. & Res. Lic. & Ins. Free Est. 248-521-8818, 248-855-7223

APARTMENTS

Real Estate For Lease

4000-4980

Apartment/Unfurnished 4000

FARMINGTON HILLS ANNGIE APTS. NO APPLICATION FEE FREE HEAT! 1 bedroom \$505. 9 Mile/ Middlebelt 248-478-7489

FARMINGTON HILLS Maple Ridge 23078 Middlebelt Rd. Spacious 1 bdrms, C/A. \$525/mo. \$300 sec. 50% off 1st 3 mo. w/ approved credit. (248) 473-5180

FARMINGTON MANOR APTS. 1 bedroom, carpet. Move-in Special Avail. From \$475. 248-888-0868

FARMINGTON PLAZA APTS. Studio apt. - \$450 with 1 and 2 bdrms avail. Special Dep. 1/2 Months Rent. (248) 478-8722

GARDEN CITY: 1 & 2 bdrms apts, heat & water included, \$550 & \$650/mo. - Deposit Mint cond. (313) 645-0348

GARDEN CITY - 1ST MONTH FREE! \$500 Off Sec. Dep. 2 bdrm lower unit, heat/water incl. Quail. (248) 474-3005

GARDEN CITY - Apts from only \$469! Hurry - Limited supply! New Management Bentley Square (734) 367-1087, EHO

Apartment/Unfurnished

4000

PLYMOUTH 1 Bedroom, \$627 per mo. New carpet, attic storage. Call Steve at 734-459-6440 EHO www.comranetco.com *call for details

PLYMOUTH PARK APTS. Sec. 8 apts. 55 and older. Starting at \$650/mo. Includes all utilities. (734) 756-7446

PLYMOUTH: Prime location. 1 bdrm. available. \$580/mo. Near downtown. Incl. heat. No dogs. 734-455-2635

Plymouth Rent Starting at \$539 FREE HEAT Free Rent until 12/31/10 on 1 bdrms only! 1 & 2 Bedroom Apts. Plymouth Manor Plymouth House 734-455-3880 www.yorkcommunities.com

PLYMOUTH-SHELDON PARK Spacious 1 & 2 bdrms. C/A, pool, carport, from \$525. \$300 sec. dep. 50% off 1st 3 months rent w/ good credit. Call: (734) 455-6570

WESTLAND Hickory Woods Apts. \$224 MOVE IN! 1st Month Rent Free (for qualified applicants) 1 bdrm-\$550 2 bdrm-\$650 FREE GAS AND WATER (734) 729-6520 *Short term leases avail

Apartment/Unfurnished

4000

Westland \$300 MOVES YOU IN* 1 bdrm, private entry Walk-in closet Convenient laundry Very large 734-721-6699 EHO *call for details www.comranetco.com

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

Wayne Area - FURNISHED! All utilities, affordable. Satellite. No lease! Various sizes. (734) 728-0739

Condos/Townhouses

4020

PLYMOUTH: 2 bdrm condo, pool, carport, laundry, storage, heat & water incl. Immed. Occ. \$695. 734-922-8957

REDFORD: 1 bdrm, 1 bath, 2nd floor, courtyard, \$690/mo. - Ideal for single professional. \$595. (734) 716-7771

Duplexes 4030

WESTLAND 2 bdrm, remodeled kitchen, all appl. washer, dryer. \$775/mo. + Security. 734-658-2347

WESTLAND: 2398 Ackerly. 2 bdrm, 1 bath, c/a, bsmt, updated carpet & paint. \$550 sq. ft. \$650/mo. 734-564-8280

Flats 4040

Garden City: Cozy 1-2 bdrm unit in quiet neighborhood. Appl. incl. \$575 + sec. No pets 734-377-2736, 734-255-9899

Homes For Rent 4050

FARMINGTON HILLS: 2 bdrm bungalow, appl. lots of storage. \$690/mo. 248-328-0492, 248-760-8051

FARMINGTON HILLS 2 bdrm, family room, kitchen, laundry, garage. No pets. \$700/mo. 248-684-1764

GARDEN CITY: 3 bdrm brick ranch, dining room, central air, bsmt., 2 car garage. Option \$850. (248) 738-1823

GARDEN CITY: 3 bdrm, bsmt & garage, new kitchen, carpet & paint. \$850 + sec. No pets. Call: (248) 910-3695

LIVONIA: Clean, beautiful 2 bdrm ranch on wooded lot. Hardwood floors, appl. no pets. \$800/mo. 248-349-7482

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www.sleasings.com

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LIVONIA Schools. 3 bdrm. 2 car garage, c/a. Fully renovated. All new. No smoking/pets. \$1050/mo. 248-569-4751

NOVI
Homes from \$729/mo!
Several communities in the area! **888-884-1339**

PLYMOUTH: Small charming studio/apthouse in country setting 1 bdrm w/loft. Appl. \$575/mo. 734-459-5114

REDFORD: 1500 sq. ft. brick ranch, totally updated. 26075 Lyndon. Many extras! \$1120/mo. (313) 278-4560

REDFORD: 3 bdrm 1500 sq. ft. bungalow Plymouth Rd & Inkster. Fin bsmt. 2.5 car gar. \$875/mo. 734-455-6714

REDFORD: 3 bdrm bungalow, huge master bdrm, bsmt, great kitchen, option, \$750. (248) 788-1823

WAYNE: Remodeled 3 bdrm ranch, huge master bdrm, immed occup, sec. 8, option avail. \$650. (248) 788-1823

WESTLAND: 3 bdrm brick ranch, 2 car, Livonia Schools, C/A. \$800. 2 bdrm ranch. \$550. option (248) 788-1823

Homes For Rent 4050

WESTLAND: 3 bdrm duplex w/1.5 bath and 2 bdrm ranch. New carpets, fresh paint, near schools. \$650. 313-416-9991

WESTLAND: Completely remodeled 3 bdrm, 1 bath ranch, sec. 8 okay. \$850/mo. Hurry, won't last! (313) 424-9471

Mobile Home Rentals 4070

LOOK
Manufactured Homes For Rent

\$240 Moves You In Rent starting at \$599 and Free Rent until Feb. 1, 2010 for qualified applicants! Must sign by 12/22/10

College Park Estates
Apply at: 51074 Mott Road in Canton Hurry won't last! (888) 284-9760

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2540 shop with 11x14 office, security system, \$525/mo. + utilities. 1/2 mo. free. 313-304-6697

Living Quarters To Share 4120

Farmington Hills: Professional roommate to share furnished, clean, convenient, safe, \$395 incl. utilities, cable internet, cleaning. **813-205-9926**

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Office/Retail Space For Rent/Lease 4220

Plymouth Downtown
Office suite, 930 sq. ft. Avail. Jan 1st. Newly decorated. Ample parking. 734-306-8673

Commercial/Industrial For Rent/Lease 4230

WESTLAND/LIVONIA
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Trees for higher ceilings (up to 20 ft. tall)
SPECIALS:
Directions: South on I-230 to exit 25. Right on Plank, 7 miles to Day Rd. turn left 3 miles to farm P. Holtz Est. 1947.

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3 carat, yellow gold, below appraised value asking \$1175. Call: (248) 346-7001

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Full time, for senior complex in Livonia. Experienced, self starter. Fax: (248) 449-1422

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Full-time. Experienced. Needed for Southfield dental office. Fax: (248) 304-1387

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Proto & Prod experience a must. Full Time. Min. 10yrs exp. Email resume to: moldjobs@yahoo.com

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PHYSICAL THERAPY ASSISTANT
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Proto & Prod experience a must. Full Time. Min. 10yrs exp. Email resume to: moldjobs@yahoo.com

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Must be a avid poker player! No exp. necessary, will train! Call Ed 734-559-2150

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\$15-20/hr. & Benefits Gen. Warehouse training & must be able to lead a team. Call E1 815 J182 Call (313) 292-9300

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For busy office. Ultrasound experience a plus. Negotiable on hrs & Salary. Resume to: simons66@hotmail.com

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Garage Sales 7110

PLYMOUTH ESTATE/GARAGE SALE
2 beautiful bdrms sets, 2 custom love seats, furniture, new ping pong table, game items, etc. Sat. 10-4pm. 10375 Red Maple Dr. E of Ridge blwn Ann Arbor Rd & Powell.

Clothing 7140

BEAUTIFUL Natural Stone Master full car, length 52", sweep 74", clean & glazed. \$1000. 248-486-5779

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STOVE/REFRIG \$300/BEST OFFER CALL 734-664-3466

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WORKOUT BENCH Weider workout bench w/weights. \$75. 248-685-2510

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CHRISTMAS TREES MIDDLE ROAD TREE FARM 248-891-2135 Come Check Out Our Huge Fraser Fir • Pre-cut to 13 ft. • On the farm to 18 ft. • Concolor • Fraser • Balsam • Douglas • Bruce Spruce Starting at \$20 To Dec. 23rd All U-Cut Trees \$40 Pre-Cut Trees Starting at \$20 Senior Discount 10% Off with ad • Expires 12/23/10 middlesroadtreefarm.com

CHRISTMAS TREES 7420

HOWELL CONFERENCE & NATURE CENTER Christmas Tree Sales and Festivities
Open Daily 9am to 5pm starting November 26th 1005 Triangle Lk Rd. Howell MI 48842 (Pinckney Rd) 5 Miles South of Howell
HUGE SELECTION OF FRESH-CUT FRASER, CONCOLOR, DOUGLAS FIR & VARIETIES OF SPRUCE & PINE Tree Shaking & Wrapping, Roping, Wreaths and Poinsettias. Wildlife display, Hayrides, and Refreshments on the Weekends. Gift Shop Open! BREAKFAST WITH SANTA - Dec. 11 & 12
HAYRIDES WITH SANTA - Dec. 3, 4, 10 & 11
RESERVATIONS REQUIRED FOR SANTA ACTIVITIES! 517-546-0249 www.howellnaturecenter.org

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GRASS FED BEEF: No antibiotics, vaccines or hormones \$2.50 per lb. Hanging weight. 898-288-5204

Christmas Trees 7420

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new front suspension,
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Loaded, one owner, 17,800K.
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CHEVY TAHOE LTZ 2008
Dark Blue, loaded! \$36,995
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Black, 4X4, \$7,495
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Loaded, 4x4, one owner, only
5,828 miles, Ford Certified.
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Limited, \$22,995
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Silver, loaded, Ford certified,
one owner, extra clean.
\$19,788 SIK #1011384A
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Loaded, low miles, one
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FORD EXPLORER
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Silver, extra clean, must see.
\$5,600 miles.
\$18,988 SIK #P21223
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FORD FLEX SEL 2009
Metallic red, extra clean, one
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Loaded, tan, \$31,995
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4X4, burgundy, \$6,495
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Phantom Black, SLE, 4wd &
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Silver, 4X4, \$8,995
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GMC YUKON XL 2002
4X4, Silver, \$8,995
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Black, 4X4, \$7,495
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Loaded, one owner, 28,311
miles. Like new.
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miles, must see.
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Shadow Black, AWD, ABS,
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Winter blizzard ready!
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Leather, sharp! Only \$18,995!
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Platinum, sunroof, heated
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SUV with attitude!
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AWD, black, \$20,995
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Loaded, 4x4, one owner,
extra clean, \$22,788
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GREY WOLF, hybrid, 23K, &
OnStar! Rare find!
Only \$15,987!
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1 owner, runs good,
135,000 miles. Asking \$4000.
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Chrysler-Plymouth **\$420**

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V6, new tires/rear brakes,
LOADED, 70,000 hwy miles,
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Great. Transportation, must
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Victory Red, auto, alloys and
pwr! Budget friendly!
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Sunset Orange, 7K, racing
stripes and remote start!
Beauty in motion!
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COBALT 2009
Racing Red, LT and power
options! Right car, Right
price! Just \$11,981!
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COBALT LT 2007
Warranty, laser blue metallic,
spoiler, CD, auxiliary
\$9,995

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EQUINOX 2005 LT-3.4L, V6,
awd, loaded, moonroof, Non
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Loaded, extra clean, low
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Grey Wolf, hybrid, 23K, &
OnStar! Rare find!
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1 owner, runs good,
135,000 miles. Asking \$4000.
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Dodge **\$440**

AVENGER SXT 2008
Black, one owner, low miles.
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Pacific Blue, 33K, GT and
leather! It's got a HEMI!
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STRATUS 2004- 4 dr, dk
blue, loaded, exc. cond, few
tires & brakes. Well main-
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Ford **\$480**

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Certified warranty, premium
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Silver Storm, leather, sunroof
and chrome! Warranty avail-
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Silver Storm, leather, sunroof
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Silver Storm, leather, sunroof
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and chrome! Warranty avail-
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Silver Storm, leather, sunroof
and chrome! Warranty avail-
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Silver Storm, leather, sunroof
and chrome! Warranty avail-
able! Only \$5,995!
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Ford **\$480**

FUSION SE 2008
One owner, extra clean,
23,590 miles, Ford certified.
\$15,788 SIK #P21128
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Sand beige, extra clean,
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Ruby red convertible, GT and
5-speed! Drop top gorgeous!
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Desert Tan, alloys, SE, and
power options! Budget
friendly! Just \$6,995!
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One owner, certified, extra
clean, must see.
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GMC **\$510**

GMC ENVY XL 2004
Black, Only \$ 9,995
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ACCORD LX 2003, Mint cond,
65,000 miles, 1 owner, leather
interior, heated seats, \$8,200
SOLD

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LS SPORT 2006
Warranty, moonroof, heated
cooled seats, low miles.
\$11,995

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Mazda **\$560**

CK-X NAVI 2008
Warranty, Bose surround
alloys, ambient lighting pack.
\$22,996

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MAZDA 5 2009
Blue, Auto, \$11,995
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MAZDA 6s 2004
Warranty, V6, moonroof,
alloys, fog lamps. \$8879

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(888) 808-9161

Mercury **\$600**

MILAN 2007
Certified warranty, only 15K
miles, alloys \$14,495
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MILAN 2007
Certified warranty, only 15K
miles, alloys \$14,495
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MILAN 2009
Loaded, one owner, extra
clean, beautiful, certified.
\$17,988 SIK #1110104A
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