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The Observer & Eccentric  
Newspapers

Volume 36  
Number 71

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# CANTON OBSERVER

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**Michigan Authors  
event proceeds  
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COMMUNITY LIFE, B5

## CONNECTION Looking Glass

The Village Theater at Cherry Hill welcomes '70s rock group Looking Glass, in concert 8 p.m. Saturday, March 26. The band will entertain audience members of all ages as they belt out such hits as "Brandy (You're a Fine Girl)" and "Jimmy Loves Mary-Anne."

"Looking Glass is the type of act that audiences spanning



Looking Glass comes to the Village Theater at Cherry Hill March 26.

several generations really love," said Jennifer Tobin, Canton Arts Coordinator. "The moment you hear the words 'you're a fine girl' — what a good wife you will be," your mind instantly recalls a fond memory that will put you in a good mood no matter what your age."

Tickets can be purchased online at [Cantonvillagetheater.org](http://Cantonvillagetheater.org) or by calling (734) 394-5460. Reserved seating tickets are \$15 for adults, seniors and students.

## Multiples sale

The Plymouth Canton Mothers of Multiples host their semiannual Mom-to-Mom Sale 8:30 a.m. to noon Saturday, March 19, at West Middle School, 44101 Ann Arbor Trail (at Sheldon) in Plymouth.

The event features department store style shopping (grouped by boy or girl, then by size) spring and summer boys and girls clothing (newborn to size 10+), sets for twins triplets and multiples items, clothes, toys, baby gear, strollers, maternity clothes and a bake sale.

Admission is \$1, cash only, all sales are final (no strollers before 10 a.m.). For more information, e-mail [pcmom@hotmail.com](mailto:pcmom@hotmail.com).

## Your news, now!

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# Dick's leads rash of business growth

BY DARRELL CLEM  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

In what signals a \$3 million investment along Canton's Michigan Road corridor, Dick's Sporting Goods plans to build a 50,200-square-foot store that local officials say could open by September.

The project gained momentum after Dick's and local officials this month met for productive talks for a large store the company plans to build on Michigan Avenue west of Canton Center, on a vacant piece of

land between Home Depot and Office Depot.

"They're ready to go," township Supervisor Phil LaJoy said. "They hope to open by September."

Dick's — one of several new businesses coming to town — plans to build its store along a Michigan Avenue corridor where retail giant Walmart in October opened its second facility in Canton.

"It's great for the community," LaJoy said. "It's just adding to the progress we're seeing on Michigan Avenue. We're starting to see new growth there."

## GROWTH SPURT

Dick's potentially could capitalize by selling sports-related items near facilities such as the Arctic Edge Ice Arena and the High Velocity Sports facility, which offers activities such as basketball, soccer, volleyball, dodgeball and flag football.

The company plans to build its new store west of a Kroger store that, according to local officials, also expects to expand with an auto fueling station.

To that end, the Canton Township

Board of Trustees voted Tuesday to approve changes to the local zoning code to allow gas stations as a special land use in C-3 zoning districts, such as the area by Kroger. The change, however, only allows fueling stations as an accessory use to a primary retail store that has over 50,000 square feet of space.

Meanwhile, Angela Wolosiewicz, township planner, said Dick's intends to open its 50,203-square-foot store and build an additional 8,500 square feet

Please see **GROWTH, A2**

# Crowds fill Summit for consumer expo

BY DARRELL CLEM  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

It seemed like strolling along a busy main street adorned with gift shops, art galleries, travel agents, insurance offices, charitable agencies, banks and lodging accommodations.

Yet, it all took place in one large room inside Canton's Summit on the Park.

Canton resident Ted James was among hundreds of people who attended the latest Consumer Expo — a business-promoting event intended to give people a peek at nearly 50 local merchants.

"It's interesting to see all the things they have to offer," James said.

Canton resident Jackie Foust stopped by the Office Depot booth and learned she could take her aging computer to the local store and have it checked out.

"It runs slow," she said, munching on popcorn as she made the Consumer Expo rounds.

The Canton Chamber of Commerce and the Canton Downtown Development Authority hosted the event, sponsored by Atchinson Ford and Molly Maid.

Canton businesswoman Jeanie Deraniyagala, accompanied by husband Prasad, brought a birdhouse, a miniature fire truck, crystal figurines and ceramic gifts she buys from suppliers as far away as Europe and Asia — and right here in America — to sell online at [www.giftshopjeanie.com](http://www.giftshopjeanie.com).

Please see **EXPO, A5**



Jeanie and Prasad Deraniyagala of Gift Shop Jeanie Derani took advantage of Canton's Consumer Expo at the Summit Thursday.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

# Officers escape injury in crash

BY DARRELL CLEM  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Two Canton police officers, including one standing outside a patrol car, escaped what officials say could have been a tragedy early Thursday when a driver apparently lost control of her car and hit a police vehicle that was stopped on the shoulder of southbound I-275 south of Ford Road.

"It could have been an absolute tragedy," Deputy Police Chief Robert Kerr said.

One police officer had pulled off the interstate during a traffic stop about 12:30 a.m., and a second officer parked behind him, got out and walked up to the passenger side of the first patrol car.

Although both police cars had their emergency lights activated, a 2005 Pontiac Vibe driven by a 24-year-old Dearborn Heights woman veered off the interstate and struck the first police car, Kerr said.

## BOUNCING UP

The force of the crash pushed the police officer standing outside the patrol car some 15 feet down a slope next to the interstate.

"He was thrown down the slope, and he just missed

Please see **CRASH, A6**

# Tickets a consequence on snow days

BY DARRELL CLEM  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Amid an unrelenting winter season that has tested metro Detroit's collective patience, Canton police and ordinance officers have been forced to step up their enforcement efforts to try to ensure the public's safety.

Lt. Todd Mutchler said 34 tickets have been issued this winter to motorists who didn't remove their vehicles from local streets after Canton declared snow emergencies.

"We do ticket people if their cars are left on the road, and we have ticketed them," Mutchler said.

Canton has declared several snow emergencies this snowy winter so local streets can be

plowed and made more passable not only for residents, but also for police and fire vehicles.

"We don't want to ticket people, but we have to keep the roads cleared," Mutchler said. "It's a public safety issue."

Property owners also may be ticketed if they push snow back onto plowed streets — a pet peeve of some motorists — but Mutchler wasn't aware of any tickets issued for that infraction.

However, that doesn't mean authorities won't issue tickets if they catch an offender or receive complaints they can verify, police said.

Canton ordinance officer Joe Urbanek said another problem caused by heavy snowfall stems from property

owners — both residential and business — who have refused to obey local rules for clearing snow from sidewalks.

Urbanek said hundreds of warnings have been issued to property owners — both residential and commercial — in an effort to keep sidewalks cleared of snow this season.

Heavy snowfall left on sidewalks can force pedestrians to walk along streets — a move that can threaten their safety, especially as motorists try to maneuver roads and streets that are slick.

The bottom line, Urbanek said, is property owners should follow the rules in an effort to make the winter as painless — and safe — as possible.

[dclem@hometownlife.com](mailto:dclem@hometownlife.com) | (313) 222-2238



Arlington Street residents Paula and Eric Johnson worked as a team to clear snow from a recent storm.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



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# Trustees open to Heise's water plan

BY DARRELL CLEM  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Upset by soaring water rates in his 20th District and beyond, state Rep. Kurt Heise is continuing to push for a regional authority to give suburban communities more control over the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department.

Heise, R-Plymouth Township, made his latest pitch in an address Tuesday to a receptive Canton Township Board of Trustees.

Heise, a freshman state legislator, has proposed a bill to create a nine-member authority composed of one Detroit member; one each for Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties; and five chosen by representatives of the 126 communities served by the scandal-ridden department.

"We're not giving up on this bill," Heise said, "and I certainly intend to move forward on it."

He has indicated that an alternate plan for a seven-member authority, signed by U.S. District Judge Sean Cox,



Heise

was a positive step but didn't go far enough toward giving suburban communities the representation they deserve.

Heise told Canton officials he remains concerned that the Wayne County representative named to the seven-member board could be politically aligned with four Detroit members, leaving Oakland and Macomb powerless to foster needed changes inside the beleaguered water department.

Heise called Detroit Mayor Dave Bing "a great guy" but said the court-approved plan doesn't usher in enough changes to offset a power grab that future Detroit mayors might make in the department.

Heise's plan to create a nine-member authority — one that would hire an executive director to oversee the water department — drew a warm response

from Canton officials who say they've had little control over double-digit water rate hikes imposed year after year.

Detroit this year has socked Heise's Plymouth Township with a proposed 40 percent water rate hike.

"It's terrible," Treasurer Melissa McLaughlin said Tuesday. "Folks are really struggling under the cost of providing water in their homes."

On Friday, Trustee Todd Caccamo said he had included concerns about the water issue in his campaign literature as far back as 2004. He called Heise's plan "a good idea."

"I think the suburbs need to have more of a say in how things are run," Caccamo said. "Otherwise you're just a captive customer. I think it's a good idea overall."

Unless significant changes are made, Caccamo said, the situation will continue to amount to what he called "water taxation without representation."

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

## Band boosters host annual craft show

The Plymouth-Canton Music Boosters host its annual Spring Arts and Crafts Ensemble on Saturday, March 12. The fundraising event, to be held at Plymouth High School in Canton, is a juried art show produced twice each year by the PCMB to help support the band and color guard programs at the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park.

More than 100 exhibitors with handcrafted items will be on display at this artistic event. Visitors can expect

a high quality show with jewelry, handmade clothing, soaps, artwork, sculptures, floral arrangements, and many spring related items.

Plymouth High School is located at 8400 Beck Road in Canton. The Spring Arts & Craft Ensemble will be held from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. In addition to over 100 exhibits, there will be food, door prizes, a raffle, and entertainment by marching and concert band musicians throughout the day. Admission is \$2. Strollers

are welcome.

"The Arts & Craft Ensembles are two of the most successful fundraisers we host each year," said Erin Babcock, president of the 2011 Plymouth-Canton Music Boosters. "The money raised at this event will help send the 200-member Marching Band to the 2011 Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York City. We're hopeful the community will come out and support our kids by visiting our craft show."

## GROWTH

FROM PAGE A1

of retail lease space between its store and Office Depot.

It isn't yet known what will occupy the smaller retail spot.

In all, Wolosiewicz said the project is expected to amount to a \$3,250,000 investment on the site.

Already, Dick's officials have met with the township's plan-

ning staff to review the company's proposal. Ultimately, the Canton Planning Commission will consider a site plan and, barring any unexpected hurdles, send it for final approval to the township board.

### MORE COMING

Dick's then would apply for building permits. Wolosiewicz said the parking lot and utilities already are in place.

Among other new business developments cited by Kristen Thomas, Canton's economic development and marketing analyst:

- Five Guys Burgers and Fries is expected to open its latest restaurant March 14 in a shopping center on the southwest corner of Ford and Lilley roads.

- DSW, a designer shoe warehouse, is expected to open the doors of its 18,903-square-foot location soon near Kohl's in the New Towne Center on Ford Road.

- Real Barbecue, which also has a popular eatery in Lincoln Park, plans to open sometime this spring on the northwest corner of Ford and Lilley.

- Two Wheel Tango, a bike shop, also is expected to open this spring on Canton Center Road north of Ford.

- Big Apple Bagels is expected to open in coming months on Canton Center north of Cherry Hill.

- Roy's Squeeze Inn, a place that offers burgers and other food, already has opened at 5758 N. Canton Center, north of Ford.

To be sure, all of Canton's economic news hasn't been rosy. Commercial property values have fallen another 14 percent for this year, one year after they declined 15 percent. Industrial property values plunged 18 percent for 2011, after remaining steady the previous year.

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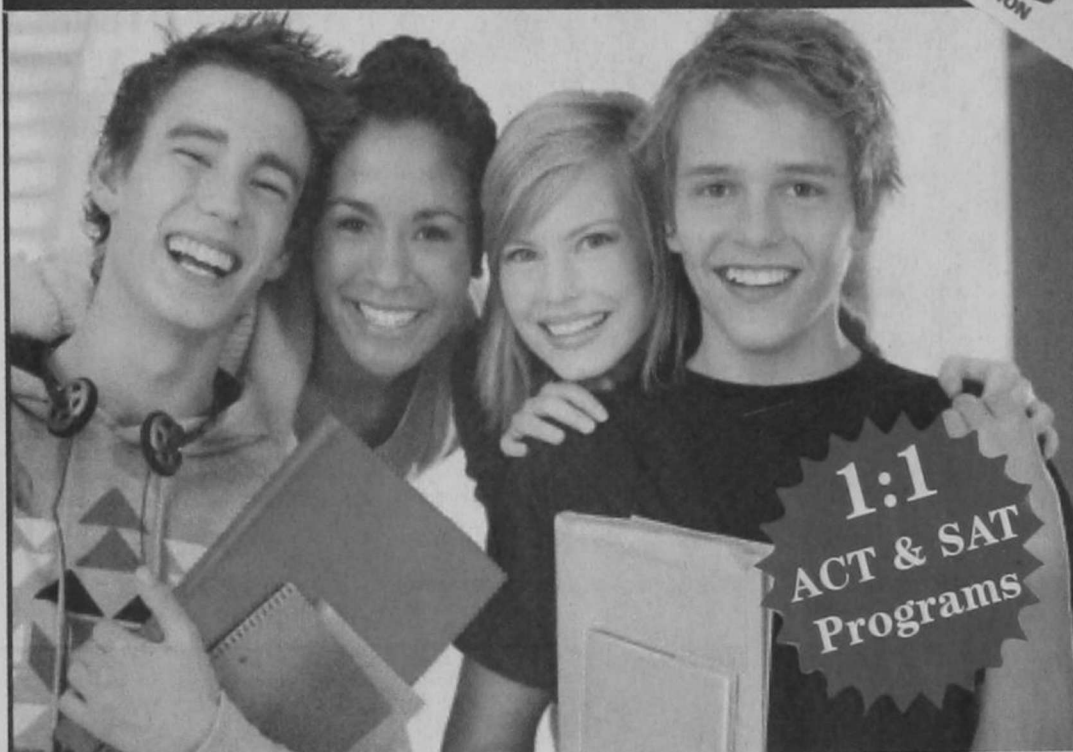
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# Residents get help from AARP tax preparers

BY LEANNE ROGERS  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The AARP tax preparation program doesn't have income guidelines but Bob Crews, coordinator of the Westland and Canton sites, has turned a couple of people away from the free service over their income.

"They were making \$200,000 or \$300,000, they were taking advantage. I just didn't want to do them," said Crews. "There are no income guidelines. Basically, we look at the complexity of the return."

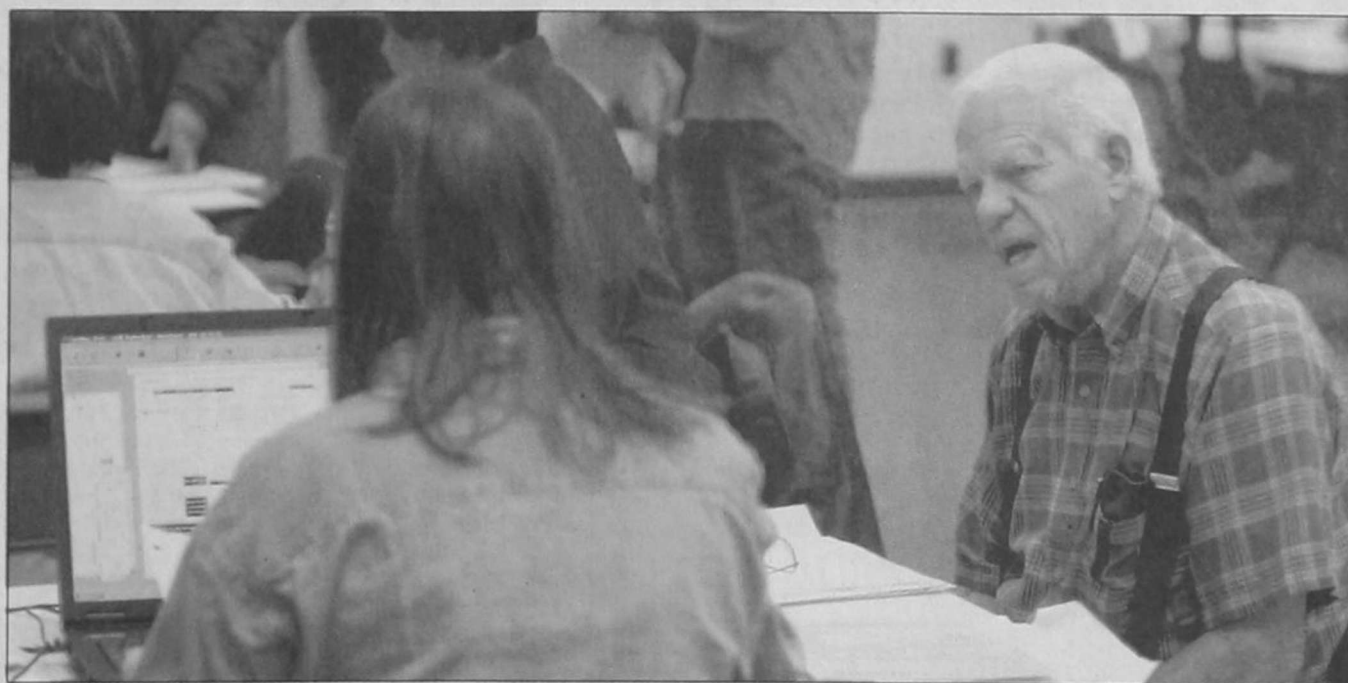
Last year, volunteers at the Westland and Canton sites completed 1,794 income tax returns. Most of the people using the service, offered in partnership with the Internal Revenue Service, are senior citizens but there are also no age restrictions.

"We're seeing more and more clients who don't want to pay to have their taxes done, we're a free service," said Crews, whose volunteers at Westland's Friendship Center three days a week and the Canton Summit one day each week during tax season.

## SLOWER RETURNS

On a recent day, the volunteers had a full house with preparers working with clients and a couple of people waiting for their appointment. Down three volunteers from last year, Crews said the program might not be able to meet the number of returns completed last year.

"Every return here is reviewed by someone else. Each piece of paper that is looked at by the preparer is looked at by someone else," said Crews. "A pri-



Volunteer Vicki White works to prepare an income tax return for Jerry Rowley at the AARP tax preparation program at Westland's Friendship Center. The volunteers also work one day weekly at the Canton Summit.

vate preparer doesn't have that. When you see 1,800 people, that's a lot of key-strokes. If you think you're not going to make a mistake, you're nuts."

The volunteers undergo tax preparation training and can consult with Crews, who has been supervising the Westland and Canton program for number of years. Some people have not filed returns due to their income levels — something that isn't necessarily a good idea.

"A lot of people listen to their neighbors or someone they talk to in a store who say because of their age that

they don't have to file," said Crews. "It was like the year with the stimulus payment. You had to file a return to get it. There are property tax credits and other credits. Just because you don't have to file doesn't mean you shouldn't."

## FILED ELECTRONICALLY

All tax returns are filed electronically as they have been for the past six years. Due to a change in the connection, wireless vs. a cabled network, those who have their tax returns completed at Westland or

Canton must go back to the same site this year.

"It's safer, faster and better for the taxpayers. A few people don't feel comfortable with it but most people have adapted real well. They appreciate it," said Crews.

For more information, call the Friendship Center at (734) 722-7632 or the Summit at (734) 394-5485. There are also AARP tax preparation sites in Garden City, Plymouth and Livonia. There are no residency requirements.

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

## Fundraiser plays 'Music for Maggie'

St. Kenneth Catholic Church in Plymouth hosts "Coffee House Concert" 7-9 p.m. Saturday, March 26, with proceeds to benefit the Central Middle School band and the Maggie Kathleen Furlong Memorial Fund of the Educational Excellence Foundation, supporting Plymouth-Canton Community Schools.

The EEF supports Plymouth-Canton schools. Donations to the Maggie Kathleen Furlong Memorial Fund will be used in accordance with the Furlong family wishes — either for scholarships or classroom grants.

The event will feature beverages and desserts, the concert, a bake sale, handmade pins and items for sale. St. Kenneth's is located at 14951 N. Haggerty in Plymouth Township.

To donate, go to [pccs.k12.mi.us/eeef](http://pccs.k12.mi.us/eeef) and follow links to scholarship funds. Donations for Music for Maggie accepted at the door.



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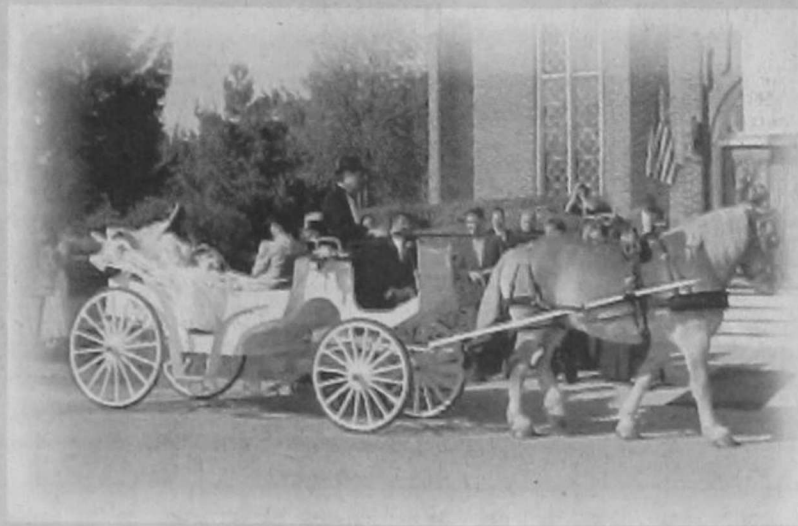
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## Teacher going strong after 37 years

Some people struggle all their lives to find their true calling.

In the case of Marlene Lloyd, a passion for teaching was clear very early in her career. Named an "Everyday Hero" by the Canton Observer in 1999, Lloyd is celebrating her 37th year of teaching at Plymouth Children's Nursery Cooperative Preschool.

A passionate educator, mother and grandmother to 13, Lloyd, who earned bachelor's and master's degrees in education from Eastern Michigan University, said she was "born to be a teacher." Prior to joining PCN she also taught kindergarten and second grade in Ypsilanti Public Schools and preschool in the Wayne-Westland School District.

Now, for many reasons, Lloyd is an advocate of the cooperative education model.

"I get to know the parents as well as I know the child. That's why I still recognize and remember children and parents I had 30 years ago," said Lloyd. "The advantage of a cooperative preschool is that you become a team — parent/teacher/child — working in cooperation. What an advantage I have to see each parent every day and provide anecdotal feedback. This way when we get to parent-teacher conferences there are no surprises."

Preschool co-ops were developed during World War II, when women had to go to work but still wanted to participate in their child's education. Lloyd said she understands the struggles many families face today with working outside the home and still wanting to be involved in their child's education.



Plymouth Children's Nursery teacher Marlene Lloyd has no interest in retiring at this point in her 37-year-career.

### SAME INTERESTS

"In many cases both parents will take turns assisting in the classroom," Lloyd said. "We also have grandparents and other family members that contribute time."

The school attracts people of like interests and becomes a supportive community. Parents will often assist one another with transportation, play dates and watching younger siblings during school events. Lloyd's own children attended PCN. "The friendships I made as a co-op parent endured through elementary, middle school and high school," Lloyd said. "My co-op colleagues were the same people I saw volunteering throughout their children's tenure in school."

Lloyd likes the environment at PCN, which has rooms dedicated to providing myriad sensory opportunities for children to learn.

"Preschool is a time when children learn to interact socially, physically, experiment, and make their own decisions regarding what they want to do," Lloyd said.

### TECHNOLOGY LAG

What students won't find at PCN are computers or televisions.

"Children need to become self-aware and sitting at a computer doesn't give them the experiences they need to support that development," said Lloyd. "Parents may introduce technology at home but it doesn't belong in preschool."

Lloyd said some of the most powerful learning takes place during school field trips because, she said, they "stimulate the senses and deepen the permanence of what children have learned." Lloyd takes her class on field trips once or twice a month.

"Field trips are getting eliminated from public school programs," Lloyd said. "This is such a shame as they are so important."

Lloyd shows no signs of retiring anytime soon.

"Every year I think this might be my last," Lloyd said. "If I find something I love more than teaching, then I may retire. But as of now, I just haven't found it yet."



## Pom prowess

The Canton High School Varsity Chiefettes and Junior Varsity Chiefettes pompon teams attended the Mid-American Pompon State Competition held at the Eastern Michigan University Convocation Center. The Varsity Chiefettes competed in the Varsity Class A, Division I and earned fourth place. The Junior Varsity Chiefettes competed in the Junior Varsity Class A, Division I and earned fourth place. Pictured are (back row, from left) Coach: Jen Kesler, Nikki Webster, Emily Underwood, Samantha Juback, Rylie Miller, Abby Rice, Amanda Rogers, Melissa Webster, Allie Stephens, Jessica Goodbred, Rachel Partain, Sarah Dean, Alyson Darmofal, Lindsey Mason, Mikayla Schnettler, Kristen Hollingsworth. In the front row are Maggie Kokoszka, Renee Janisse, Sarah Mabie, Megan Young, Tori Parrelly, Ashley Polydoros, Sarah Lindbauer, Rachael Martin, Ashley Garvin, Julia Beydoun.

### ON CAMPUS

#### Northwood University

Five students from Canton and three more from Plymouth have been named to the Dean's List for fall semester at Northwood University.

To achieve Dean's List recognition, students must earn a 3.25 grade point on a 4.0 scale.

Students from Canton included freshmen **Joseph Bellino**, **Stacey Klonowski**, **Lindsey Lipa** and **Amanda McManus** and sophomore **Christopher Leib**.

Students from Plymouth included seniors **Matthew Czajkowski** and **Blaine Paden** and junior **Shannon Corby**.

#### Ashland University

**Emily Hoernschemeyer** of Plymouth is on the Dean's List for the fall semester of 2010 at Ashland University. She is the daughter of Robert and Catherine Hoernschemeyer and is majoring in creative writing.

#### GLIAC All-Academic

The following students have been named to the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference All-Academic Team.

**Matthew Skubik** of Plymouth is on the football team. He is the son of Julie and William Skubik and is majoring in exercise science.

**Alexandra Ware** of Plymouth is on the women's tennis team. She is the daughter of Michael and Linda Ware and is majoring in intervention specialist moderate to intensive education.

#### Wagner College

Wagner College announced its Deans List for the Fall 2010 semester, which requires a 3.50 grade point average for the semester.

Included on the list is **Tyler Seling** of Plymouth, majoring in International Affairs & Spanish.

## Montessori Open Houses



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## SOCIAL SECURITY

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

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

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

Attorney J.B. Bieske has represented only Social Security Disability clients for over 20 years. That is the only type of law he practices. And, he personally meets with all clients and appears himself at all court hearings. Many large firms assign clients to young associate attorneys with much less experience.



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

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

Attorney Bieske welcomes you to call him to determine if you may be

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

In a recent radio interview attorney Bieske explained that many people are not even aware that they are eligible for Social Security Disability benefits. These are not the same as Workers' Compensation benefits. It is possible to receive both benefits at the same time. If you have an illness or injury (whether or not related to your work), are under 65 and unable to work full-time you may be eligible. Social Security Disability benefits are based on your work record or your deceased spouse's work record (Widow's/Widower's benefits).

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

www.ssdfighter.com



EXPO

FROM PAGE A1

"I have a lot of customers," she said. "I also go to events such as Liberty Fest." Charitable organizations such as the Plymouth Community United Way and The Salvation Army attended Consumer Expo to explain how they help people and to inspire potential donors.

"Every exposure we can get is critical," said Salvation Army Maj. John Aren, who oversees family stores in Canton, Livonia, Garden City, Dearborn Heights, Lincoln Park, Romulus and Wayne. "Donations have been tapering off, but I know a lot of people are hurting in this economy."

Aren said the Canton-based store at Joy and Morton Taylor roads has helped offset losses at other locations since it opened in early November.

Across the room, Canton DDA Coordinator Kathleen Salla stood in front of a Shop Canton display intended to encourage local residents to



Monica Leamy offers red velvet cupcakes from Sam's Club.

spend their dollars here.

"We're here to support the Canton businesses," Salla said, citing a partnership between the chamber, the DDA and the township, particularly Canton Leisure Services.

"Our shops in Canton seem to be doing well," she said, "and we're encouraged by that."

Canton businesswoman Ruth Fuchs brought travel

brochures to boost her home-based company, Admiral Cruise & Tour Center.

"My business is definitely



Clarice Killian of the Canton Newcomers speaks with Diane Labazio, who is a new Canton resident.

picking up again," she said. "It was tough for a year or two."

Fuchs cited Cancun, Mexico and Hawaii as popular destinations where travelers can find good package deals.

"And I'm getting a lot of people who are going to Costa Rica, too," she said. "People

are loving it."

Chamber President Tracey Rettig has said Consumer Expo — a twice-a-year event — is "a great opportunity to learn firsthand about the businesses in our community."

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Linda Robin of Showroom of Elegance displays jewelry, timepieces and gift items.

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**METROPOLITAN OPERA**  
**NIXON IN CHINA**  
**ENCORE WED. 3/2 6:30 PM**

**HALL PASS (R)** 12:10, 2:30, 4:55, 7:20, 9:45 **FRI/SAT LS 12:00**  
**3D DRIVE ANGRY (R)**  
**\$2.50 PREMIUM PER 3D TICKET**  
**FRI/SUN-TUE/TH 11:50, 2:15, 4:40, 7:05, 9:30**  
**FRI/SAT LS 11:50 SAT 4:40, 7:05, 9:30**  
**WED 11:50, 2:15**

**1 AM NUMBER FOUR (PG-13)**  
**11:15, 1:45, 4:15, 6:55, 9:25**  
**FRI/SAT LS 11:55**

**UNKNOWN (PG-13)** 11:00, 1:30, 4:20, 7:00, 9:35 **FRI/SAT LS 12:00**

**BIG MOMMAS LIKE FATHER, LIKE SON (PG-13)** 12:00, 2:25, 4:45, 7:10, 9:40 **FRI/SAT LS 12:00**

**GNOMEO AND JULIET (G)** 11:10, 1:15, 3:15, 5:15, 7:15, 9:15 **FRI/SAT LS 11:15**

**3D JUSTIN BIEBER: NEVER SAY NEVER (G)**  
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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](mailto:bkadrich@hometownlife.com)

## Coffee with Heise

State Rep. Kurt Heise is sponsoring coffee hours to give residents a convenient opportunity to meet with him locally.

Heise will talk with residents on Friday, March 18, at the Parthenon Coney Island and Restaurant, located at 39910 Ford Road, in Canton, from 7:30 to 9 a.m. No appointment is necessary.

In addition, Rep. Heise is also available to meet with constituents by appointment either in the district or at his Lansing office. Residents are invited to call toll free 1-855-REPKURT or e-mail [kurt-heise@house.mi.gov](mailto:kurt-heise@house.mi.gov) to schedule an appointment.

## Preschool parents

Plymouth-Canton Community Schools Early Childhood Programs will host a Preschool Parent Information Meeting on Wednesday, March 2, at 7 p.m. at Discovery Middle School, 45083 Hanford Road, Canton. Learn about our 2011-12 preschool class options, meet the staff, and pick up enrollment materials.

For more information, please call the Early Childhood Office at 734-416-6190 or visit our website at: [web.pccs.k12.mi.us/earlychildhood](http://web.pccs.k12.mi.us/earlychildhood).

## Montessori open house

Plymouth-Canton Montessori School hosts an open house on Thursday, March 3, for families interested in enrolling children in preschool or kindergarten programs. Teachers and staff will be on hand from 5:30-7 p.m., to provide classroom tours of the school which is located at 45245 Joy Road in Canton.

As an independent non-



## Sharing award

The Rotary Club of Canton presented Marybeth Levine with its 'Sharing in the Community Award' for the Canton woman's tireless work with the Detroit Diaper Bank, which has collected some 350,000 diapers to more than 40 organizations. Levine was also presented a dinner certificate to Carrabba's Italian Grill. It's the fourth year Rotarians have handed out the award. With Levine are Rotarians Joan Noricks and Ansel Dooley.

profit educational community, PCMS provides an individualized learning environment for preschool and kindergarten. The school's programs are based on the Montessori philosophy which includes respect for children, a strong commitment to non-violence, and a deep belief in the value of education.

For additional information about the Open House on March 3 and programs available at PCMS, call 734-459-1550 or visit [www.pcmontessori.org](http://www.pcmontessori.org).

## Scholarships available

Community Financial Credit Union, in collaboration with the Community Foundation of Plymouth (CFP) and the Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation (AAACF), will be awarding 11 scholarships worth \$1,000 each in April.

Applications can only be made online by going to <http://scholarships.egrant.org>, creating an account and logging in. Follow the instructions care-

fully and read the guidelines for the "Community Financial Margaret Dunning and George Lawton Scholarships." Those who qualify can complete just one application to be considered for both scholarships.

One of the eligibility requirements is that the scholarship applicant must have had an account at Community Financial for at least six months. An application, transcripts and two letters of recommendation must be submitted online, and four copies of this information must be mailed to Community Financial, attention: Debbie Dunbar, 500 S. Harvey, Plymouth, MI 48170 and received by March 4.

## Bingo night

Back by popular demand, Bingo Night with prizes donated by local businesses, pizza from ZZ's, a treat from Carvel, a raffle to benefit a local charity, and an opportunity to sign up for activities for the entire family is on the agenda

at the Canton Newcomers' Wednesday, March 2, adult general meeting.

The club's own "March Madness" starts at 7:15 p.m. at the Sunflower Clubhouse, at 45800 Hanford, west of Canton Center, and visitors are welcome.

Request a complimentary newsletter at [www.cantonnewcomers.org](http://www.cantonnewcomers.org) of this social, civic and charitable organization. To RSVP your attendance, to donate a small prize, or with any questions, call Noreen at (734) 981-0486 or e-mail [nrybar@yahoo.com](mailto:nrybar@yahoo.com).

## Bipolar support

The non-profit Depression Bipolar Support Alliance of Metro Detroit is offering support group meetings by trained leaders twice a month.

The meetings take place the second and fourth Wednesday of each month from 6:30-8 p.m. in the Lincoln Behavioral Services Office, 14500 Sheldon Road, Suite 160B, located off Plymouth Executive Park Dr. north of M-14. The DBSA is a self-help group of those diagnosed with bipolar disorder or depression whose mission is to provide support, hope and education to individuals diagnosed with depression and bipolar disorders, their families and friends.

More information is available on the group's website at [www.dbsa-metrodetroit.org](http://www.dbsa-metrodetroit.org) or you can call Bob, (248) 689-6110, or Nancy, (734) 536-3457.

## Damaris scholarship

The Plymouth Community Arts Council will recognize a Plymouth-Canton School district senior who has displayed outstanding abilities in visual arts and plans to continue his/her education in this field with its annual awarding of the Damaris Fine Arts Scholarship.

To download an application, go to: <http://www.storytellerdesign.com/Portals/4/2011Damarisaward.pdf>

## Commission to vote on transparency

The Wayne County Commission's Committee on Government Operations Tuesday agreed to pass a Campaign Finance Ordinance out of committee and forward it to the full board for final approval.

In an ordinance proposed by Commissioner Laura Cox, R-Livonia, the measure will establish an Electronic Filing Internet Disclosure System for campaign finance reports and statements filed with the Wayne County Clerk. In addition to requiring certain political candidate committees to electronically file reports and statements, it will enhance transparency in campaign finance reporting.

The Wayne County Clerk will be required to provide online access to campaign reports, statements and committee information located on the Wayne County website.

"This ordinance will allow the citizens of Wayne County to readily access campaign finance reports for elected officials and candidates for office throughout the County," Cox said. "It is important today for elected officials to be transparent, and that includes being transparent with their political donations and expenditures."

The full board is expected to vote on the measure at the March 3 meeting that will be held at 10 a.m. at the VFW Hall in Lincoln Park.

## CRASH

FROM PAGE A1

hitting a steel sign post," Kerr said. "It could have been tragic. It's amazing, but he bounced right up on his feet and went to check on the other people."

No one was seriously injured during the incident, but Detective Sgt. Dave Schreiner said the accident should serve as a reminder for motorists to slow down and move safely over when they see police cars alongside the road.

The police officer sitting in the patrol car that was hit was taken by ambulance to a hospital where he was treated and released.

"He had cuts on his head," Kerr said.

The officer who was thrown down the slope also received cuts and abrasions, and a few hours later he sought medical treatment after he felt slightly

dizzy, Kerr said.

## NO INJURIES

Neither the driver of the Pontiac Vibe nor her 26-year-old male passenger received any visible injuries.

The incident is being investigated by Michigan State Police, who will decide if charges should be sought. Kerr said it didn't appear alcohol was a factor.

"The driver said she tried to move over a lane after she saw the emergency lights flashing, and she said she got cut off by another car," Kerr said. "She said she lost control of her car."

Even though the police officer who was thrown down the slope had minor injuries, he went to the Pontiac Vibe and attempted to calm the people inside that car, Kerr said.

"He didn't miss a beat," Kerr said. Police officials didn't release the officers' names.

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Advertisement

## Why a Senior Citizen should NEVER go to a Chiropractor!

Dear Friend,

Mrs. Jones was suffering from years of pain in her back, neck and across the shoulders. Through her youth to adult years, Mrs. Jones was always active. She spent most of her life as an elementary teacher. She even played soft ball and loved to bowl.

In the beginning, her back would ache here and there. Nothing she couldn't handle, but over the years she started to have more and more problems with her back pain. Initially it began in the low back, but it would travel to her shoulders creating carpal tunnel syndrome like symptoms of numbness and tingling, eventually working its way up to her neck giving her the worse headaches she ever had.

Through the years she was told everything from... "just take these pain pills", "don't do certain activities", "try working out", "you're no spring chicken" and the best one was "maybe you're just going through the change of life."

Yep, that's right Mrs. Jones heard it all. She even endured a battery of tests; x-rays, MRI, EMG, L-M-N-O-P, you get the idea. She did all the recommended therapies and sometimes the result was great, just not long lasting.

So as fate would have it, she met yet another doctor. This time she was referred by one of the women on her bowling league... I told you she loved to bowl! This doctor was a *different* kind of doctor.

This doctor was the kind of doctor she was told to "NEVER" go to. Since Mrs. Jones was now a senior, she was told that this *kind* of doctor wouldn't be for her.

Did I mention *this* doctor is a chiropractor?

Luckily for Mrs. Jones, her bowling friend told her about the gentle, state-of-the-art techniques this chiropractor uses. Her friend also mentioned that this doctor sees many other senior patients and is getting great results herself.

Here's what some of the other patients had to say:

"I can't believe I suffered so long with neck and low back pain, when help was just up the street." - Sue F.

"I was told I would just have to live with the pain, I was getting older and that was it." - Bonnie G.

"After a few adjustments at Dr. Tina's office, I felt relief and I could actually turn my head without using my whole body to move!" - Bob H.

So Mrs. Jones decided to give the chiropractor a try and much to her amazement, she felt better. A whole lot better! The only regret she had was...why the heck did she wait so long?

Good question. Why would YOU wait so long to try something that may actually help you feel better? The truth is, a senior citizen should *never* go to a chiropractor...unless they want to feel better.

You should know that the chiropractor is me, Dr. Tina Maruszewski and I don't heal anyone of anything. What I do is perform specific and gentle spinal adjustments to remove nerve pressure and the body responds by healing itself. We get tremendous results. It's simple as that!

Our promise to any patient is if we cannot help you we will not accept you as a patient. I am very realistic in my recommendations and have been in this community long enough to have built a solid reputation. I have seen thousands of patients...yes I look young, but I've been in practice eleven plus years and have had the pleasure of treating many "young" and "vibrant" elderly patients.

Let's be honest, when you feel good, you look good! These ARE and SHOULD be the golden years. Life is short and now is the time to enjoy it!

My assistant is Linda and she is a really great person. Our office is both friendly and warm and we try our best to make you feel at home. We offer a wonderful service. Our office is called **Lakepointe Family Chiropractic** and it is at 42875 Five Mile Rd. (next to the BP gas station). Our phone number is **734-420-1004**. Call Linda or me today for an appointment. We can help you. Thank You!

- Tina Maruszewski, D.C.

P.S. Can you imagine not having to wait at a doctor's office? Well, your time is as valuable as mine. That's why we have a **no-wait** policy. You will be seen within minutes of your appointment.

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Tina Maruszewski, D.C.

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# Lack of W-2 no excuse for not reporting income

**Q:** Dear Rick: Because of the lousy economy last year, I had a number of different jobs. I received W-2s from two of my employers, but did not get one from the third company. I tried to contact the company, but it is no longer in business. Their phone has been disconnected and there is no forwarding address. A friend of mine also worked for the company and he did not receive a W-2 either. I contacted the company's accountants and they were not helpful. They told me the company went out of business and they have no more information. I also contacted the state and they cannot help me. What should I do? When I've mentioned my problem to friends, they said don't worry because since I didn't receive a W-2, I don't have to report the income. Do you have any thoughts?

**A:** Contrary to what your friends think, you have an obligation to report your total income on your tax return. Even if you did not receive a W-2, you are still obligated to report the income. In addition, don't forget that more likely than not, you had state and federal taxes withheld. You are entitled to have that money properly accounted for. Since you don't have a W-2 from the employer, you will have to recreate your earnings and withholdings.

The best way to do so is to look at your last pay stub from 2010. Typically, a pay stub shows



Money Matters

Rick Bloom

you the current period and year-to-date. Those year-to-date numbers could assist you in recreating your W-2.

Since you have tried to contact the company to no avail, you should complete Form 4852 on your tax return. This substitute W-2 form should be attached to your tax return when it is filed. I recognize that if you don't have your last pay stub for 2010, it could be very difficult to recreate the numbers needed to complete an accurate W-2, however, there is no alternative. As taxpayers, it is our responsibility to make sure that our tax returns are filed correctly. The fact that you did not get a W-2 when you were supposed to may help in alleviating some penalties, but that's it.

By now we all employees should have received W-2 forms. If not, contact your employer. Any W-2 not properly accounted for on a tax return will definitely lead to IRS scrutiny. That said, everyone should check W-2s for accuracy. Make sure your Social Security number is correct. After all, you're paying into the system so you might as well receive the bene-

fits you deserve down the road. If your employer inaccurately reports your information, you may not be getting the proper credit. In addition, make sure to review wages, federal, state and city withholdings. These numbers should match the numbers on your last pay stub.

If you discover an error on your W-2, contact your employer and have them correct the mistake as soon as possible. Your employer can issue a corrected W-2, which is a relatively easy procedure.

A good place to go, not only for tax forms but also good information regarding taxes, is the IRS website at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov). The website is informational and user friendly. In addition, the IRS website allows user to connect to a variety of sites to file a federal return electronically at no charge. It's not a gimmick, and these sites are not IRS programs, but rather tax preparation programs, from many of the large, well-known companies.

My philosophy is, if by taking advantage of it you save money, why not?

Good luck!

**Rick Bloom** is a fee-only financial adviser. Observer & Eccentric readers can submit questions at [money matters@hometownlife.com](mailto:money matters@hometownlife.com). For more information, visit Rick's Web site at [www.bloomassetmanagement.com](http://www.bloomassetmanagement.com).

## Heise seeks locals for advisory committees

Rep. Kurt Heise, R-Plymouth, is looking for community members to share their opinions, comments and concerns as part of four new Constituent Advisory Committees focusing on local government, education, senior, and small business issues.

The committees will meet at least twice a year and members will serve as informal,

volunteer advisors to Rep. Heise.

"I am excited to create another opportunity to receive feedback from residents," Heise said. "These committees will give community members the chance to discuss how the state's policies are affecting them, and what changes they would like to see made."

"I look forward to hearing about what is and isn't working in these areas for my constituents, and bringing these ideas back to Lansing."

Residents interested in learning more about the Constituent Advisory Committees are invited to call toll free 1-855-REP-KURT or e-mail [kurtheise@house.mi.gov](mailto:kurtheise@house.mi.gov).



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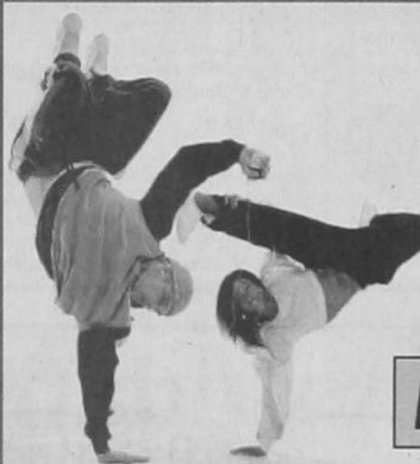
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# Film supporters fight to stop final cut on incentives

BY KEN ABRAMCZYK  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

More than 1,000 film industry supporters gathered at a standing-room-only town meeting at Laurel Manor in Livonia Thursday night with hopes of saving the film incentives that have provided work and jobs for them.

Workers employed in the industry, ranging from actors and producers to truck drivers and construction workers, attended the gathering to send a message of "work it out, don't throw it out" to Gov. Rick Snyder and state lawmakers.

Snyder proposed a cap of \$25 million to the film industry in each year. Previously the incentives totaled \$150 million a year, and filmmakers could receive up to a 42-percent rebate on production expenses.

## LOCAL IMPACT MEANS JOB LOSSES

The impact of the loss of the tax incentives would be felt locally, as Philippe Martinez, owner of Maxsar Studios in Livonia, told the crowd. Martinez has already invested \$1.6 million to start his company here.

Martinez said the governor talked about "shared sacrifice."

"He took the film business as the little lamb to be sacrificed," Martinez said.

"I'm not here to fight for the building. I'm here for the 50 employees that I've hired and I want to hire more."

Many of the attendees will be working to save the tax incentives as they have a personal stake in them.



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Chuck Derry, director of broadcast and cinema arts at Madonna University, attends with students from the Madonna program.

## 'SHUTTING DOWN A PLANT'

David Dalton of Redford has worked as a stagehand in lighting and in rigging theaters and sets.

"This is equivalent to an auto company shutting down an entire plant," Dalton said. "Instead of a paycheck, the people here will be collecting an unemployment check."

Dalton noticed an immediate impact with the tax incentive.

"I've seen more movies shot here (since the tax incentives began) than I have in my last 30 years," Dalton

said. "They've increased my income."

Dalton, who worked on the set for *Detroit 1-8-7*, also worked on *Salvation Boulevard* with Pierce Brosnan, *The Irishman* and *Game of Death*, among others.

"We'd have slow seasons," Dalton said about his work before the incentives. "With the movies in town, it hasn't been slow since."

Dalton spoke with David Jackson of Grosse Pointe, who is a Teamster who sets up movie sets and builds displays



Danny Rooney and Eddie Rubin started Deep Blue Pictures, a motion picture production company. One of their recent films is 'Mooz-lum.'

for shows, about what they planned to do to let state lawmakers know that they support the incentives.

Jackson said the display set-up business is dead without the film industry. Jackson also builds Auto Show displays.

Jackson has worked on Clint Eastwood's *Gran Torino*, *The Double* and *Home Run Derby*.

"It's been a good run in business," Jackson said. His wife, Elizabeth, also created a craft service industry, and has worked with *Detroit 1-8-7*.

## 'GOOD FOR MICHIGAN'

Carol Schober of Plymouth attended because she supports the incentives.

She thinks about the young college students and recent

graduates involved in the film industry.

Her granddaughter moved to Los Angeles to pursue an acting career and attend the American Music and Dramatic Academy. "It's really great to hear the young people talk," Schober said. Several college students from the University of Michigan, Michigan State University and Wayne State University talked about how they have found work or their hopes in landing a job in the film industry here.

Schober believes state lawmakers need to sit down and figure out how to keep the incentives. "It's good for Michigan," she said.

"The people who are not involved with the arts have no idea how many fields are affected by it," Schober said.

'The movies came to town, and it changed my life. I've got money in the bank, I'm paying my bills on time, and I even bought a car. I'm totally solvent, and it's all because of the movies.'

ED GORDON, Teamster from Local 337

some of those careers including construction, painters and even those sewing costumes.

"They are our lifeline to full employment in Michigan," Barnett said. "You guys are working."

Barnett said lawmakers need to avoid "legislative schizophrenia," referring to the bipartisan support of the tax incentives three years ago, and the Snyder proposal of last week. "We need to have more consistency and firmness in taxation," Barnett said.

Courtney Hermon-Taylor of Detroit moved from Portland, Ore., when she heard about the film incentives in Michigan.

She landed a role on *Family Weekend* and another in *World of Art* to be shown at the Detroit Film Festival.

"I'm very impressed with the way that they are creating these films in Detroit," she said. "The people are nice here; the architecture is beautiful. I'd like to stay here as long as I can find work."

## PAYING THE BILLS

Ed Gordon, a Teamster from Local 337, works as a driver helping setting up base camp, which is where the actors stay in between shoots. He was laid off from Lionel in June 2006 and out of work for 18 months. Gordon couldn't pay his bills and lost his house.

"The movies came to town, and it changed my life," Gordon said. "I've got money in the bank, I'm paying my bills on time, and I even bought a car. I'm totally solvent, and it's all because of the movies."

"It's a beautiful thing for the state of Michigan. It's the best job I've ever had by far."

Francis Sampeier, a producer and owner of Morrow Road Products, drove from Algonac to Livonia for the meeting.

"I thought about locating to other states, but with Michigan, it was a no-brainer," Sampeier said. Sampeier said his company would leave because the incentives "are part of our sales pitch."

Sampeier said the company would relocate to the best incentives, but expected to handle the current debate professionally in letting state lawmakers know the impact on their business.

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## PEOPLE ARE WORKING

State Rep. Vicki Barnett, D-Farmington Hills, spoke about

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Varicocele is the widening of the veins in the scrotum. A varicocele forms when valves inside the veins prevent blood from flowing properly. This causes the blood to back up, leading to swelling and widening of veins. They develop slowly and are more common in men ages 15-25. Varicoceles are often the cause of infertility in men.

Symptoms of varicoceles; enlarged, twisted veins in the scrotum, infertility, painless testicle lump, scrotal swelling. Sometimes there may not be symptoms.

Your doctor can examine the groin area and may be able to detect a varicocele. However, it may not be felt or seen if the patient is lying down.

Surgery to correct varicocele is called varicocelectomy. It is performed as an outpatient procedure under general anesthesia. You may experience a moderate amount of pain at the surgical site, some people experience pain and swelling in the testes lasting a few weeks.

For more information on Varicocele or to schedule an appointment call...

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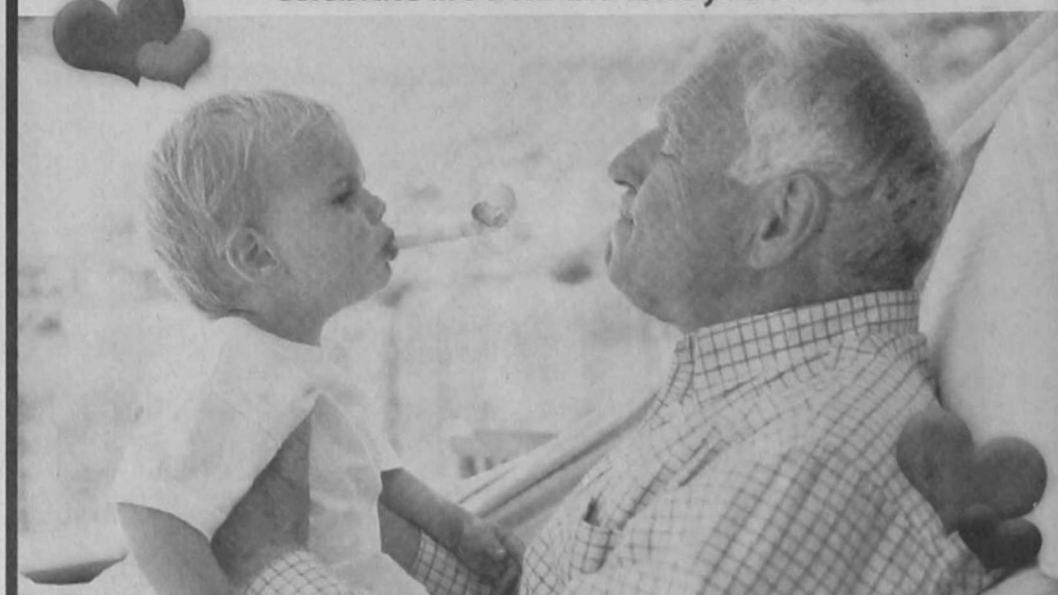
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# Town hall draws celebrities, film incentive supporters

BY KEN ABRAMCZYK  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The town hall meeting Thursday drew hundreds of film industry supporters and celebrities who are strong advocates for the tax incentives for the film industry.

Their message was about the jobs and impact on Michigan residents who had found work in the film industry.

Actor Jeff Daniels, who lives in Chelsea and owns the Purple Rose Theatre there, spoke about the trickle-down impact of the film industry and the incentives.

Daniels met a truck driver on a set who had lost his job and his house had faced foreclosure, but with the incentives, the driver found work and made enough money to purchase two Ford vehicles.

"Let's ask the Ford salesman what he thinks of the tax incentive," Daniels said. "Based on those two cars, he bought a ring for his wife."

"Now let's ask the jeweler who he bought the ring from what he thinks of the tax incentives."



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

"I thought I was preaching to the choir," says Jeff Daniels, speaking about his meeting with candidate Rick Snyder, who, according to Daniels said that he did not want to kill the film incentives.

**EFFORT WAS BIPARTISAN**

Filmmaker Mike Binder called it a "sad night."

"I can't believe we're pushing this ball back up the hill," Binder said, referring to the discussions with state lawmakers three years ago to develop the tax-incentive package.

Binder pointed out that the original bill was spearheaded by Republicans. "This was not creating a Department of Film; this was to incentivize the business," Binder said.

"Everything that was promised has happened, only better. It breaks my heart to have to fly in here and push this rock up the hill again."

Columnist Mitch Albom mentioned the occupations impacted by the film industry from producers and film crews to caterers and hotel employees.

"This isn't about saving

Hollywood; this is about saving Michigan," Albom said.

Albom pointed out that state film production expenditures went from \$2 million to \$225 million in two years. "This is 100-fold growth," Albom said.

**REPORT SAYS JOBS CREATED**

An Ernst & Young economic report also showed 6,491 full-time equivalent jobs were created in 2009-10, creating more than \$800 million in economic output or an annual salary of \$53,000 each.

No other industry in Michigan experienced that kind of growth, Albom said. "Just as they were setting down the boat, the governor blew it out of the water," Albom said. "This is not about

saving Tom Cruise; it's about saving Tom Farmington Hills, Tom Novi and Tom Detroit."

Not everyone who spoke had worked in Hollywood or with filmmakers.

Oakland County Treasurer Andy Meisner, who worked on the film credit package three



Mike Binder, screenwriter, director and actor, leaves the stage after speaking.

years ago, drew his own take from the recent Eminem ad for Chrysler.

"Gov. Snyder, this is Michigan, and this is what we do," Meisner said. "But in order to keep doing it, we will need some help."

Meisner said the group that pushed for the incentives three years ago studied New Mexico, Connecticut and Louisiana to create Michigan's package. "We saw this was a proven formula," Meisner said.

Meisner believed that Snyder's proposal in changing the tax structure was a "leap of faith."

"Facts are facts," Meisner said. "Our No. 1 goal was to stimulate jobs and investment at a time when it wasn't happening. This economic downturn was one of the worst in

history," he said.

Meisner pointed out that the film industry brought diversification to the state's economy and that the effort to develop the film incentives was bipartisan.

"It is my belief this is a just cause," Meisner said.

Meisner concluded by telling the audience that state lawmakers should be gleaning lessons from the incentives and applying those lessons "across the board" in tax policies.

**WALSH WILL STUDY CAP**

On Friday, state Rep. John Walsh, R-Livonia, said Snyder's cap on the incentives was a "dollars and cents" issue for Snyder.

Walsh will meet with officials in the film industry, then review the budget to see if the

cap could be expanded beyond the \$25 million and less than its current \$150 million.

"I'm going to study the issue, and I've not endorsed the governor's plan," Walsh said.

"This is just the beginning point. What will be adopted in May will have numerous changes. It is the governor's proposal," Walsh said.

Walsh said he will balance the input he receives on the film issue with the calls he receives from senior citizens, schools, indigent care and the environmentalists, groups and individuals who have contacted him about Snyder's budget.

"It's a balancing act for this," Walsh said. "My focus remains on education and sound fiscal management."

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# Harvick's NASCAR ride auction raises \$116,000 for students

Some \$116,000 was raised recently to benefit the special needs students at Northville's Cooke and Old Village schools when a NASCAR race car driven by Daytona 500 champion #29 Kevin Harvick was auctioned to the highest bidder live on the Discovery Channel's popular HD Theater Mecum Auction Show.

The retired 2002 Chevrolet Monte Carlo Shell Pennzoil car — driven by Harvick at Atlanta and tested at Indianapolis, Charlotte and Michigan — was donated in May 2010 to Cooke and Old Village by the car's owner, a Northville resident and race car collector whose daughter has been a student at Old Village and currently attends Cooke.

The race car was purchased for \$80,000 at the auction by Tom and Michael Morrissey of Leonard, Michigan, and an additional \$36,000 was donated during the auction by Dealer Auction, Inc., Denver, N.C.; Ray Claridge, Cinema Vehicles, Inc., North Hollywood, Calif.; Mecum Auction, Inc., Marengo, Ill.; car collector Lee Lasher, of Fort Myers, Fla.; and by passing the hat during the auction, bringing the total raised for



Northville's Cooke School Supervisor Mary Meldrum (right) with Tom Morrissey who, along with Michael Morrissey, purchased the #29 Kevin Harvick NASCAR race car that was auctioned recently to benefit the students at Cooke and Old Village schools.

**THE FOUNDATION**

Established in 2000, the Northville Educational Foundation is a Michigan nonprofit organization committed to providing support for programs that enhance educational excellence and strengthen learning experiences for students in Northville Public Schools. The Foundation raises, professionally manages and, in partnership with Northville Public Schools, distributes donated funds to supplement and enrich educational programming. All money donated to the Foundation stays in Northville and benefits the children of Northville Public Schools from preschool through high school, including the district's special education center programs.

Cooke and Old Village schools to \$116,000.

Along with the race car, as the highest bidder Tom and Michael Morrissey also received entrance to any NASCAR race and a ride in a pace car donated by Hendrick Motorsports, of North Carolina, and transport of the vehicle donated by Reliable Carriers, Inc. of Canton, Mich.

**RACE CAR TOUR**

In preparation for the auction, the donor took the race car on a tour this past summer and fall of the most popular car shows (many of them televised nationally) across the country to build excitement about the car and raise awareness about the students and programs at Cooke and Old Village schools. At each stop along the way, the donor and his crew shared photo boards and stories about the incredible students and staff at the two schools.

"This has been an amazing experience," said Cooke Supervisor Mary Meldrum, who attended the Jan. 28 auction at the Mecum Auction in Kissimmee, Fla. "It is heartwarming to see the kindness and generosity of so many people. We are so thankful to Mecum Auction for allowing us the opportunity to not only auction this car with them, but also provide awareness to the public about our very special students. I couldn't believe the amount of support we received from everyone involved at the auction. We feel very lucky to

have received such a generous gift from a wonderful school family."

For the students, staff and families at Cooke and Old Village schools, this much-needed gift comes at a time when funding for schools, including special education center programs, are experiencing severe budget shortfalls as a result of funding cuts from the state.

**A GREAT HELP**

"There are so many things that we are not able to fund for our two programs," said Old Village Supervisor Art Fischer. "This will be a great help. We are taken aback and deeply touched by this support."

A large portion of the \$116,000 gift has been designated to help fund the building of an inclusive playground area at Cooke School for the 200 Cooke and Old Village students currently attending Cooke School. Estimated to cost \$300,000, the multi-phase plan would create a playground to serve students of varying abilities with features including wheelchair accessibility and sensory play.

Those funds not designated for the playground will be split between the two schools to help with needed equipment and services, such as music therapy, and to meet other student needs.

"Our school community is excited about the possibilities for an adaptive outdoor play area for our students,"

Meldrum said. "We have a committee of Cooke and Old Village staff and parents working to provide opportunities for all of our students regardless of age or ability level. We have many factors that need to be addressed to make the play area accessible, safe, and interactive for our students. We plan to have a separate area for our preschool-aged students, as well as age-appropriate activities for our older students. We can't wait to see the results, and are now working hard to secure the rest of the funding for this major undertaking."

The funds raised through the race car auction have been donated as a restricted gift through the Northville Educational Foundation and designated for use by Cooke and Old Village schools. Other donors wishing to contribute to the Cooke and Old Village restricted fund to support construction of the new playground may contact the Northville Educational Foundation at (248) 344-8458 or NEF@NorthvilleEdFoundation.org.

**ABOUT THE SCHOOLS**

The special education center programs at Cooke and Old Village schools are operated and staffed by Northville Public Schools educators. They provide individualized programming for more than 300 students with special education needs who live in school districts throughout northwestern Wayne County. The Wayne County Regional Educational Service Agency, the State of Michigan and the federal government fund the programs.

Students at Cooke and Old Village include children and young adults who are severely cognitively impaired and who also may have motor, communication, physical, sensory and emotional impairments that make it difficult for them to learn in a general education environment.

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Where do adult singles over 40 go to meet and socialize with people their age? Whether divorced, widowed, or never married, most of us want to share activities and experiences with others. A movie, dinner, play, concert or any other activity, is a more pleasant experience when done with other people. That is the thought behind Single Place, an organization hosted by the Presbyterian Church of Northville.

Single Place is a non-denominational organization open to all people regardless of their faith. At the center of its activities is a meeting held every Thursday at the church where people socialize, get information on and sign up for a variety of activities throughout the month. The Thursday meetings, which begin at 7:30 p.m. generally have a speaker on a variety of topics.

In the past these have included topics involving travel, tax issues for singles, why men and women think and act differently, and cooking for singles. Speakers have also

included local celebrities such as Channel 4 weatherman Chuck Gaidica. In some cases musical entertainment and food is provided instead of a speaker.

Beyond the Thursday general meeting, a variety of activities are offered to bring people together for fun, entertainment, and good conversation.

A monthly dining out is planned for area restaurants and events are scheduled to attend a variety of plays, concerts, and sporting events. Other activities have included Detroit River cruises, a visit to Detroit Institute of Arts, cider mill visit with a walk through a corn maze and "glow in the dark" miniature golf. Many house parties are also planned around holidays, sporting events (Super Bowl, Michigan vs. Ohio State, etc.), or any excuse the group can think of.

For those recovering from a divorce or loss of a partner, the Northville Presbyterian Church also provides divorce recovery workshops and grief counseling support.

## Monkeemobile motoring to Autorama

BY PAM FLEMING  
STAFF WRITER

There are a few cars out there that are just legendary, and the Monkeemobile is certain one of them.

The mode of transportation for the zany rock group of the 1960s, the Monkees, it was featured in their television show.

There are actually two of the automobiles, with one belonging to Mel Guthrie of Northville.

He will have the Monkeemobile on display through today (Sunday) at Autorama at Cobo Hall in Detroit as part of the Legends of Hollywood display.

There will be a "Starsky and Hutch" car, a "Ghostbusters" ambulance, a "Knight Rider" car, a sheriff's car from "The Andy Griffith Show", and the Black Beauty car from "The Green Hornet."

The Monkeemobile is a red 1966 Pontiac GTO convertible with a white removable top.



GARY DELISLE

The unforgettable Monkeemobile could be seen in episodes of the TV show 'The Monkees' that began airing in 1966.

### HOW THE STORY BEGAN

"Living in Northville and going to the Fourth of July Parade every year, they had a Batmobile in the parade one year, and that inspired me to go looking for the Monkeemobile, which was my favorite car from TV shows," Guthrie said.

"I looked, and realized there were only two, so I gave up."

### AS FATE WOULD HAVE IT ...

Then, a few years later he was at a Christmas party and someone who knew I liked cars said he had two catalogs for the Barrett-Jackson auto-

mobile auction, and asked me if I'd like to have one.

This is one of the larger auctions. It's in January in Scottsdale, Ariz., and it's even televised.

"He said, 'They've got some neat cars in this auction — a Batmobile, the Beverly Hills jolopy and the Monkeemobile,'" Guthrie recalled.

About this time, Guthrie is planning a trip to Scottsdale in his mind.

"I was like, 'Oh, my gosh,'" Guthrie said.

It took him a couple of weeks to decide if he was really

serious about it, however.

"The people who go to this car auction are big spenders," Guthrie said. "It's not unusual for a car to go for \$1 million." He purchased the car from George Barris of Hollywood, Calif., who created the Batmobile.

He loves the Monkeemobile. "I'm so proud to drive it," Guthrie said. "It attracts so much attention. It's amazing." It will probably seat seven. The other Monkeemobile supposedly belongs to a collector in New York.

He's put about 4,000 miles on the car since he bought it in January 2008.

Guthrie owns Guthrie Lumber company in Livonia and has a few other cars as well. They include a 1967 GTO convertible, a 1968 Dodge Charger, a 1972 Mustang convertible.

Guthrie says when he drives the Monkeemobile, people sing the theme song to the show "The Monkees."

"It's like a wave of arms pointing and cameras flashing," he said.

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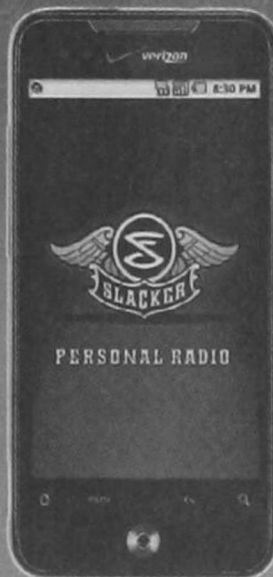


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MDR00



# **Our Job is to Help You... But Now The Plymouth Community Firefighters Need Your Help!**



The Plymouth Community Firefighters Local 1496 would like to thank the City of Plymouth citizens and business owners for letting us serve you and also for your support of the fire department all these years.

Since the merger between the Plymouth Township and the City of Plymouth fire departments began almost 16 years ago, you may have had contact with our firefighter/paramedics. This contact may have been at your children's school safety talk, a block party, a station tour, a building inspection or a more personal matter such as a fire or medical emergency for you or a loved one.

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve the great people who live and work in this community.

The Plymouth Community Firefighters are on duty 24 hours a day, 365 days a year at three stations to serve the community. About ten years ago, significant investments were made to train all the firefighters as paramedics and equip the department with all the resources to become an Advanced Life Support (ALS) department. This allowed us to serve the community at an even higher level than previously. It gave us the ability to provide the highest level of pre-hospital care to the citizens of this community and transport patients of all circumstances to the appropriate hospital when needed.

Unfortunately, the Plymouth Community Firefighters have recently learned the fire department merger between the two communities will most likely be ending after this year. It has been proposed that the City of Northville paid-on-call fire department will take over fire calls as well as responding as medical first responders to medical emergencies within the City of Plymouth.

**The Plymouth City Commission will be having a  
Special Meeting to discuss fire and emergency  
medical service contracts, if you can,  
please attend.**

**Monday, February 28th, 2011 at 7:00 PM  
Plymouth City Hall  
201 S. Main Street, Plymouth  
734-354-1234**

*A message from your Plymouth Professional Fire Fighters Local 1496*



# Home away from home



Three Plymouth Whalers show they are right at home with their Canton billet family, the Bushes. From left are Whalers forward James Livingston (with 5-year-old Evan Atkinson), Patricia Bush, Dennis Bush, Whalers defenseman Dario Trutmann (with 6-year-old Lilly Atkinson on his shoulders) and Whalers blueliner Beau Schmitz. The Atkinson kids are grandchildren of Patricia and Dennis.

## Whalers always welcome to stay with Canton billet family

BY TIM SMITH  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The snow continued to pile up outside the Canton colonial of Patricia and Dennis Bush when the three Plymouth Whalers who live with them during the hockey season returned after a recent Sunday afternoon game in Saginaw.

Fast forward to the following morning. Two of those players — Beau Schmitz and Switzerland import Dario Trutmann — already had left to do a community event at Compuware Arena.

Sleeping in was 20-year-old overage player James Livingston, as Patricia went to work shoveling the hefty snow-fall.

### ROLL CALL

Canton's Patricia and Dennis Bush have hosted 15 Plymouth Whalers players dating back to the 2001-02 season.

Here's a look at who their hockey guests were, listed in chronological order: Andre Robichaud, Nathan Tenant, Jimmy Gagnon, Ryan McGinnis, Jordan Grant, Mike Knight, Kyle Jendra, Jorden O'Neil, Patrick Lee, Beau Schmitz\*, Scott Fletcher, Tyler Seguin, James Marsten, James Livingston\*, Dario Trutmann\*.

Schmitz is in his third season with the billet family, matching McGinnis for longevity. Players on board for two years include Grant, O'Neil, Lee and Livingston.

\* - currently being hosted by the Bushes.

Livingston then provided her with an unexpected surprise, something one wouldn't think an Ontario Hockey League player would need to deal with. "The two (younger) boys were out

doing some kind of appearance and James jumps out of bed 10:30 in the morning because he heard me go out,"

Please see **BILLET FAMILY, B3**



JOHN KEMSKI

Canton junior Robyn Mack (No. 4) shadows Grand Blanc's Destiny Stephens during Thursday's KLAA championship game.

## Chiefs again cream of the crop in KLAA

BY TIM SMITH  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Canton pulled off the KLAA tri-ecta for the second season in a row with Thursday's 47-31 win over Grand Blanc in the association championship game.

That followed winning the KLAA South Division and Kensington Conference, the latter on Tuesday against Westland John Glenn.

"We take it one at a time," said Brian Samulski, Canton head girls basketball coach. "But according to that, we're the best of 24 teams."

Samulski pointed at a wall inside the Canton gymnasium, where names of all KLAA teams are listed.

"That's a credit to the kids, they put in all the work and they took care of it," Samulski said. "They did what they had to do to get it done."

They won't have much time to savor the triumph because the Class A districts begin Monday with the Chiefs (18-2) squaring off against district-host Northville (9-9 as of Thursday) at 7 p.m.

Samulski doesn't figure on any letdown as the post-season begins.

"I think we'll be OK, we've got a senior-led group with a lot of experience," he said. "So they understand now that if you're not focused and ready, you could lose and your season's done. They'll be ready to roll."

Several of the players who were on last year's Final Four team made life miserable for the Bobcats (17-3) from the outset of the KLAA final.

Senior forwards Sara Schmitt (nine points, four rebounds) and Kayla Bridges

Please see **CHIEFS, B2**

## Salem can't close out upset win over Spartans

BY BRAD EMONS  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Grant Bettner's three-pointer with 5:26 to go in the game put Salem in position to pull off the upset against host Livonia Stevenson in Wednesday's Kensington Conference boys basketball semifinal.

It gave the Rocks a 50-47 advantage, but that was the last point Salem would score as Spartans closed out the game 15-0 run en route to a 62-50 victory.

Stevenson, which improved to 17-1 overall, got 27 points and 19 rebounds from 6-foot-9 senior center Jalen Reynolds to earn a spot in Friday's conference championship game to face KLAA Central Division nemesis Novi (16-3).

"Down the stretch I thought we buckled down as a team and found a way to come away with the victory," Stevenson coach Mike Allie said. "It's a great win for our program, and it's a great win for the community."

"To be able to play for the conference championship Friday night in front of our own fans is very exciting, something Stevenson hasn't done in a long time."

Beating Salem (12-6) for a third time this season wasn't easy.

The Spartans didn't regain the lead for good until 4:21 remained when junior guard Jonathan Campbell, who added 15 points on the night, nailed a critical three-pointer to make it 52-50.

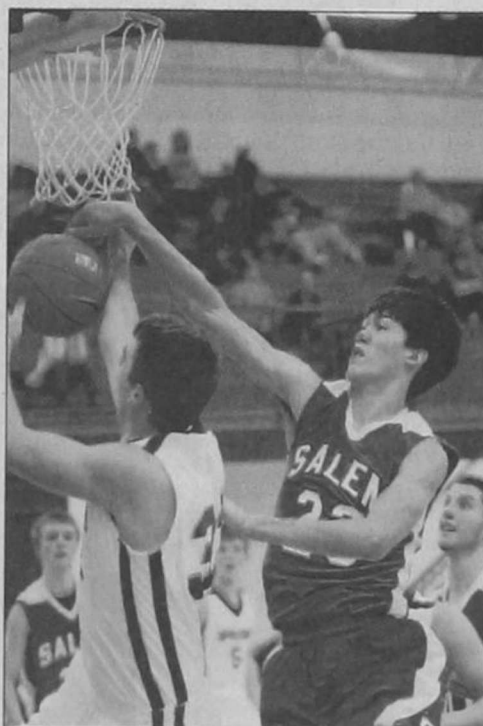
Reynolds, the Xavier University signee, then threw down his seventh dunk of the night to make it 54-50 and two free throws apiece by Charlie Swingle, C.J. Mwila (10 points) and Reynolds sealed the victory.

Salem made its first four shots to start the final period, but then missed its final 10 attempts. The Rocks also committed five of their 13 total turnovers during the last eight-minute stretch.

"We missed a couple of puppies," Salem coach Bob Brodie said. "We had good opportunities right there, and they (Stevenson) came down on their end and converted all the sudden. Instead of us staying in the game and staying with the lead, they got the momentum and we came down and panicked a little bit and shot the ball quick."

Salem had seven players score six

Please see **SALEM, B2**



JOHN KEMSKI

Salem's Chris Dierker (right) gets a piece of the ball as Stevenson's Austin Bumpus goes in for the shot during Wednesday's Kensington Conference semifinal.



### KAREN WINDLE



**Who:** Karen Windle, sophomore co-captain of Plymouth Christian Academy's varsity girls basketball team.

**Miscellany:** The 15-year-old is vice president for the Class of 2013 and carries a 3.8 grade-point average. Her parents are Rod and Leanne Windle. Athletic accomplishments include being an all-state qualifier for track in 2010 and All-Observers honorable mention for girls basketball, also in her freshman year.

**Captain's job:** "The captain is the one who has to keep the team motivated during the game and communicate to the team what plays we're running or which defense to use. The

captain is the leader, the one the rest of the team turns to for encouragement and guidance on the court."

**Leadership style:** "I definitely try to be an encourager. If I can keep each player's head in the game, and not on a mistake they just made or a bad call, then that's what I am going to do."

**Why her?** "Well I know I was chosen for my love of the game and my capability to always encourage my teammates."

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## CHIEFS

FROM PAGE B1

(13 points) each scored six points in the first quarter, which ended with Canton up 16-3.

Chipping in with six points was senior forward Kari Schmitt (10 points) and junior point guard Robyn Mack (eight points) also made an impact.

She made two steals near mid-court that led to buckets in the first half, including one she scored herself on a break-away layup.

### EVERYONE CAN PLAY

The Chiefs took a 25-16 halftime lead, and the main reason for Grand Blanc to be that close was the low-post work of 6-0 senior forward Shareta Brown (15 points, 10 rebounds).

"She's a load," Samulski said. "You got to switch your whole mindset of what we do. We're usually one-on-one on the block and take care of business. But we had to help out a little bit with her."

All hands were on deck for Canton in the 10-2 third quarter that salted away the victory.

Mack drained a trey from the right flank to kick it off and Bridges converted a layup-and-one to open up a 33-16 edge with 4:12 remaining in the third.

Then, in the final seconds of



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

After taking care of Westland John Glenn Tuesday to win the KLAA Kensington Conference tournament title, the Canton varsity girls basketball team happily posed with their prize. The Chiefs followed that up Thursday night with a win over Grand Blanc to capture the overall association championship.

the quarter, freshman guard Paige Aresco grabbed a defensive board and sent the ball up the floor to freshman guard Rachel Winters — who went in for an uncontested layup, making it 35-18.

According to Mack, the Aresco-to-Winters play is a prime example of why the

Chiefs are back-to-back KLAA champions.

"I think it means all 10, 11 people on this team are good," Mack said. "Everyone we have can come in and play the game, and that's what's making the team good."

tsmith@hometownlife.com

## SALEM

FROM PAGE B1

points or better led by 6-6 sophomore Chris Dierker, who had 10, and 6-5 junior Josh Peterson, who added eight (all coming in the second period as Salem led 32-30).

"Coach (Bob) Brodie has been around longer than any coach in this league," Allie said. "He understands the KLAA better than anyone. And he always does a great job of scheming and preparing his kids for big games. And he did a great job tonight, too."

"Thankfully, I thought Jalen Reynolds was the X-factor tonight down the stretch — cleaning up rebounds and getting put-backs. He was playing as hard as I've seen him all season."

Reynolds collected 13 of his game-high 27 in the opening quarter, including four dunks, along with three-pointer and two free throws.

He went scoreless in the second period, but added eight in

the third and six more in the fourth.

"Basically it was defense," Reynolds said. "We had to apply pressure from getting the ball shot. We had to ball-up and go hard."

"My coach said, 'Jalen, you better play your butt off,' so I had to take over. He said, 'Look at the crowd, Jalen.' I looked. He said, 'Put on a show,' and I performed."

Salem shot 21-of-53 from the floor (39.6 percent), while Stevenson hit 23-of-55 (41.8 percent).

Stevenson's three-headed monster of Reynolds, Campbell and Mwila combined for 52 of the 62 points. Austin Bumpus, a 6-6 junior, added eight.

"We weathered the storm and just kept our composure, but that four- or five-minute segment where we couldn't convert hurt," Brodie said. "And they (Stevenson) came down and we couldn't get a stop. From a lead it went to a six- or seven-point deficit, then we started panicking a little bit. We still had some pretty

good looks from the perimeter, but they (Stevenson) were knocking them down."

Allie, meanwhile, used a fourth-quarter timeout to get regrouped.

"I really just thought we needed to get a stop," he said. "We kept trading baskets and we weren't defending very well."

Stevenson will play for its first-ever Kensington Conference crown against and all-too familiar foe in Novi. The Spartans have won both meetings this season. (Game time is 7 p.m.)

"To play Novi for a third time will be a great opportunity for our kids," Allie said. "Novi will be very tough. With (Rob) Laney back — they're at full-strength. For our seniors, to be home on a Friday night in a conference championship, there's no motivational speech needed. I expect them to come out and I expect us to play well. It's going to be a war Friday night."

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# PCA boys cagers win, 70-64

Plymouth Christian Academy's varsity boys basketball team got past visiting Rochester Hills Lutheran Northwest 70-64 Friday night in a Michigan Independent Athletic Conference tilt.

Eagles head coach Keith Anleitner said the catalyst for his team was guard Daniel Mullett, who scored 18 points and tallied eight assists along with six steals.

"Daniel had a breakout game, he did a lot of great things for us," Anleitner said.

Eric Jipping also had a big night, scoring 22 points and registering 10 rebounds for PCA (4-12, 4-8). Mick Noel scored 14 points and Alex Huber seven, along with strong defense, Anleitner said.

"We played our best game and we're starting to come together as a team," Anleitner said.

**CANTON 48, W.L. CENTRAL 32:** Overcoming a slow start with strong team defense and 17 points from Dietrich Lever II, the Chiefs earned this KLAA crossover victory Friday night.

"Our last three quarters might have been the best we've guarded all year," said Chiefs head coach Jimmy Reddy.

Canton got back in the game with an 18-3 second quarter to go up 26-15 at halftime.

In addition to Lever, sparking Canton (14-5) was Paul Baumgart, with 16 points and six rebounds.

**SALEM 91, W.L. Northern 83:** In a wild KLAA crossover, the Rocks scored at least 20 points in each quarter for the victory.

Salem's Tyler Stewart hit all eight of his free throws in the fourth quarter to help the Rocks prevail. "Our composure was pretty good," Salem head coach Bob Brodie said.

Stewart and Ethan Walsh led the Rocks with 17 points, with Grant Bettner and Zinovi Pelekh contributing 16 each. Also in double figures was Josh Perrin, with 10.

Stewart, Walsh and Chris Dierker each grabbed nine rebounds for Salem (12-7).

**CANTON 37, LAKELAND 30:** The Chiefs outscored Lakeland 16-7 in the third quarter Wednesday and that pretty much was the difference in this KLAA crossover.

Dietrich Lever II led Canton (13-5) with 16 points, five assists and four steals. Contributing 10 points, seven rebounds and five blocks was Paul Baumgart while Ben Spreitzer scored six points in the fourth.

Lakeland's record dropped to 9-9 overall.

### Girls hoops

**NORTHVILLE 42, PLYMOUTH 40:** Plymouth fell behind early and just couldn't get over the hump with a late rally Friday night in this KLAA Central matchup.

Kylie Robb, Alex Roberts and Kate Watson each scored nine points for the Wildcats (8-12).

**PLYMOUTH 48, MOTT 35:** Three Wildcats reached double figures Thursday night in this KLAA crossover victory over visiting Waterford Mott.

Kylie Robb tallied 12 points while Alyssa Burris and Kate Watson each chipped in with 10 for the Wildcats, who improved to 8-11.

Plymouth built a 24-11 halftime lead, but the Corsairs had a strong third to get back into the game (trailing 32-27 after three). But the Wildcats "withstood that run and made a run of their own to get the lead back up to 10," said head coach Bob deBear.

The first-year coach said he was proud of how the team didn't buckle and cited Robb's performance.

"I thought Kylie Robb had a great game, just taking charge," he noted. "She got to the rim pretty often."

Plymouth will face Salem 5 p.m. Monday in the opener of the Northville district.

**SALEM 24, PINCKNEY 18:** Heidi Schmidt scored 13 points Thursday to spark the host Rocks to this KLAA crossover win over Pinckney in the regular season finale.

Brianna Berberet added four points while top rebounders for Salem were Breanne Beaver and Katelyn Krause with seven and six, respectively.

The Rocks led 11-9 at halftime and upped that advantage to 20-15 after three.

Next up for Salem (9-11) is Monday's district opener against Plymouth, set for 5 p.m. at Northville.

## COLLEGE SOFTBALL PREVIEW

# Al White: MU's softball team could be best ever

BY BRAD EMONS  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

It's not out an Abbott & Costello routine, but who's on first base may be the biggest question mark as the Madonna University women's softball team embarks on the 2011 season.

The Crusaders, who begin their quest Friday, March 5 in the Tucson (Ariz.) Invitational, return a quality cast from last year's 43-12 squad which reached the NAIA Nationals for the second straight year.

"The talent is head and shoulders above anything we've put together," said MU coach Al White, who has amassed 409 wins since he began in 1999. "As a coach, you have a good problem, and as a coach, I'm not scared to put these kids in any position."

The team's leading hitter from a year ago — Livonia Churchill's Cat Sidor — has graduated. The All-Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference pick batted .374 with six homers and 36 RBI.

First base will more than likely be manned by four freshmen — Carlee Meek, who helped White Lake Lakeland to the Division 1 state finals; Erin Mays, an All-Stater from Ida who hits with left-handed power; Caitlyn Keuvelaar, coming off shoulder surgery from Essexville-Garber; and Kristen Drabek of Monroe St. Mary Catholic Central.

"We've had only two first basemen over the last eight years, so you can say we're spoiled," White said. "We have four first basemen working out who will get an opportunity, and whoever produces, will get the most playing time."

"It's scary, but we're excited, too."

Drabek and Keuvelaar will also provide depth at catcher behind the duo of senior Ashley Shay (Garden City/Dearborn Divine Child), who led MU with 37 RBI, along with sophomore Amber Rafko, who hit .318 in 25 games.

Senior pitcher Jess Irwin, who posted an impressive 29-6 record with a 1.66 ERA and 370 strikeouts in 236.1 innings, returns as a three-time WHAC Pitcher of the Year.

She will once again be backed up by junior Hallie Minch (Garden City), who finished 14-6 with a 2.47 ERA.

When she's not on the mound, Minch will also start in left field after hitting .344 with a team-leading 15 doubles.

"Jess is throwing well," White said. "She's a winner. And Minch is throw well and



PHOTOS BY PATRICK MOORE | MU SPORTS INFORMATION

Garden City High grad Hallie Minch batted .344 last season and was the Crusaders' back-up pitcher with a 14-6 record. She will play left field this season.

getting stronger. Both Meeks and Krista Messer (Taylor Kennedy) can also throw."

Senior starter Kelly Lesko (Trenton), an All-WHAC selection, moves to the shortstop position after hitting .338.

Newcomer Jackie Barley, a mid-term transfer from Jackson Community College via Tecumseh, moves into the second base spot for lead-off hitter Brittney Scero (Canton), who graduated.

Meanwhile, sophomore third baseman Erica Landess (Carleton Airport) comes off a banner first season where she hit .352 with 36 RBI.

Also vying for infield time will be freshman Gina Sykes (Livonia Ladywood), sophomore Katelyn Hamman (Westland/Divine Child) and junior Dana Wawrzyniec (Airport).

"Gina is one of the hardest working girls we have and has a 4.0 GPA to boot," White said.

The outfield remains a strength led by Minch in left, senior Tara LaMilza (.293) of Warren Regina in right and sophomore Arielle Cox of Monroe Jefferson (.293) in center.

Also in the outfield mix is junior Kiley Thornton (.286) of Ida, sophomore Ali Robinson of Farmington and freshman Rachel Walker of Fremont.

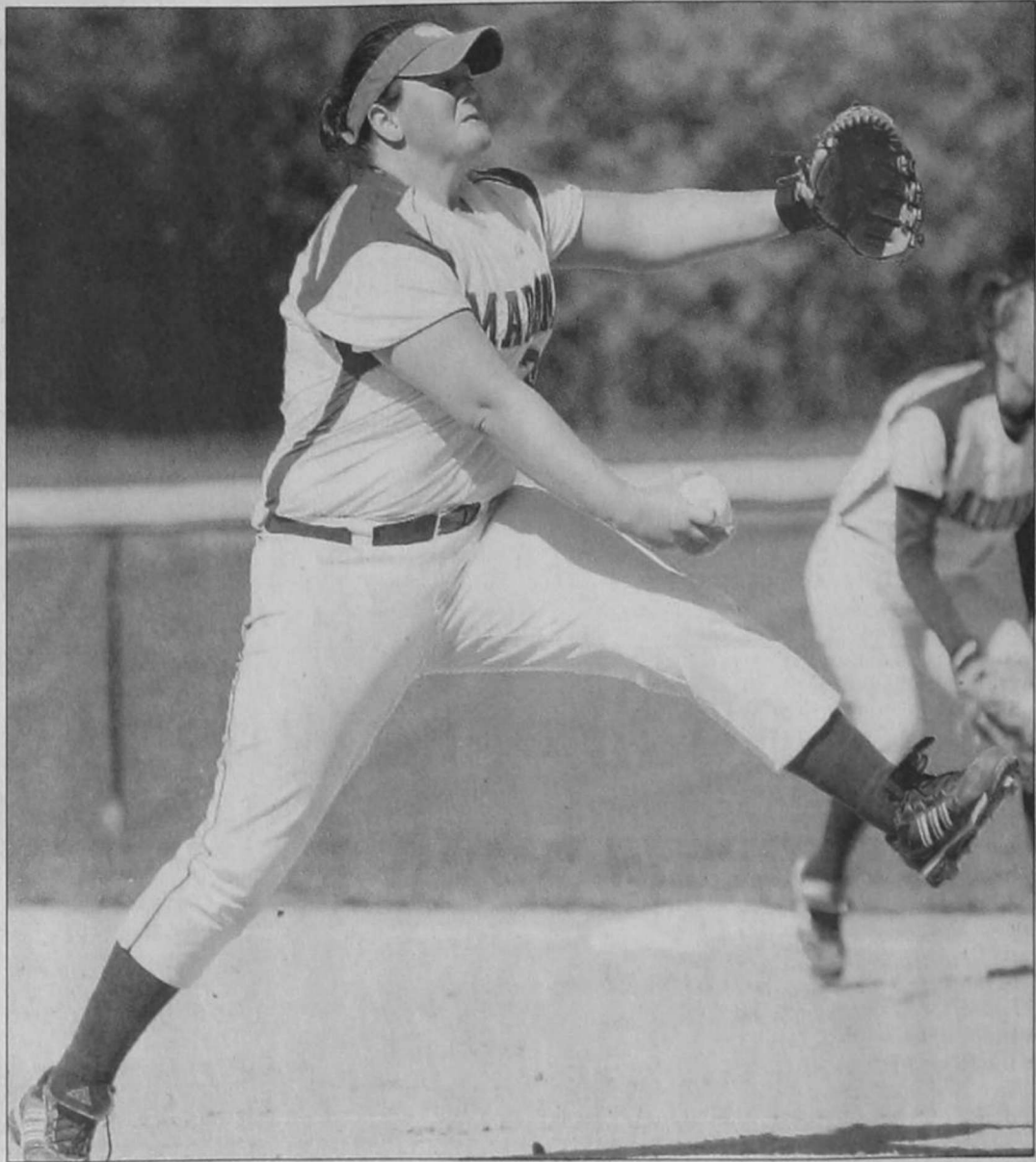
MU will be defending its WHAC regular season and playoff titles after going 23-5.

"Since we've been in the top 25 (NAIA rankings) the last two-and-a-half years it makes a big difference," White said. "We have a target on our backs and everybody want to beat Madonna now."

So what is the three-time WHAC Coach of the Year looking for going into the Arizona trip?

"Just be more consistent," White said. "Last year we got a little more lackadaisical after coming back from Arizona. I don't see it this year. The girls are working hard."

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Madonna University senior pitcher Jess Irwin went 29-6 last year with 370 strikeouts in 236.1 innings.



BILLET FAMILY

FROM PAGE B1

Patricia said. "And he's out there shoveling snow with me. "I said 'Oh, honey, don't hurt yourself, the playoffs are coming up.' And he's like, 'Yeah, right, I'm from Canada, I'm not going to hurt myself. I'm used to this.'"

PERFECT FIT

And the Bushes are used to having Whalers around from late August until the spring. They have hosted 15 players — more than anybody else — over a decade. One of those players, Tyler Seguin, has reached the National Hockey League while many others have turned pro. The experience has been a win-win, for the Bushes, the players they've welcomed into their home and the team. As an indication of how much the Whalers appreciate the billet families, all were recognized for their efforts before Saturday's Whalers game against London. For Patricia and Dennis, their interest in becoming billets began in 2001 after seeing a newspaper article detailing how the Whalers were looking for billet families to provide in-season residences for the players, who mostly are in their late teens.

The empty nesters contacted the team. Following the customary background check and interview, they were quickly approved for the job. "They said a player would be at the door tomorrow," she said. "I said, 'Wow, that was easy.' But we really do enjoy it." The first player to step into the Bush home was defenseman Andre Robichaud. "Andre was kind of a quiet guy, a nice guy," Patricia recalled. "He was an over-ager (20 years old) and that was going to be his last year. He came to the front door, I opened it and he looked at me and said 'Are you Mrs. Bush?' I said yes and he goes 'Man, I thought you were going to be really old.'" With her bubbly laugh, she said Robichaud "melted my heart with that statement

— but then they traded him." Next came Nathan Tenant and Jimmy Gagnon, followed by Ryan McGinnis — the first of six players the Bushes hosted for two or more complete seasons. The latest long-term is Schmitz, 19, now in his third season with the family. It is Livingston's second season with the Bushes and 18-year-old Trutmann came on board for 2010-11.

EASY GOING

Three Whalers haven't been a crowd, either. The hockey team wanted a Plymouth or Canton family to host Trutmann when he came over from Switzerland and the Bushes didn't hesitate to volunteer. "We have found that by hosting more than one player at a time they are able to form bonds both on and off the ice," Patricia noted. "My husband, a former hockey coach, connects with the players through the sport."

And she is a retired elementary school teacher who takes pride in making an impact on the players by giving them a home away from home. That means crock pots of pasta always at the ready to "carb up" the guys before games and regular Xbox tournaments in the rec room. "These guys love it, that's the universal language," Patricia said. "It seemed like the day (Trutmann) got here they were playing." Patricia and Dennis also are available for Beau, James and Dario to vent at or lean on the same way any high school or college student would. "I think they need people who are — and I think most billets are — not rigid, just able to go with the flow," she said. "Sometimes they'll come home from a game and they're really hard on themselves. "They feel bad for whatever reason and they need someone who can say 'OK, that was today, tomorrow's tomorrow.'"

A PLACE TO CHILL

Also consider that the players also have to take care of business other than hockey. The players who are high

school age attend Plymouth High School while graduated players (such as Schmitz and Trutmann) often go to Schoolcraft College. It adds up to a lot of expectations to live up to for such young men. "When they're in school they have to keep their grades up," Patricia said. "And obviously, they (Whalers) want them to play good hockey. So I feel like in the home they need to be relaxed." Another plus is having good rapport with the players' parents. "We really get close with all the parents," she said. "We really make an effort. "Beau's from Howell (and) his mom and I see other all the time, we're good friends. But even my Canadian parents, they know they can call anytime." So do the Whalers. Patricia said assistant coach Joe Stefan often calls to make sure players are in before curfew strikes. "They need to know where they are at all times and the billets, we need to know where they are," she said. Meanwhile, don't expect the Bushes to turn in their billet key anytime soon. Patricia said she would like to at least match the billet with the longest tenure, Bev Moore, who retired last year after 14 seasons. Yet Whalers hockey would still rule in the Bush household — whether talented players with aspirations of reaching the NHL lived under their roof or not. That's because the Bushes are passionate about hockey, having already passed a love of the game down to their grandchildren. Two grandsons (Tommy Vincent, 16; Evan Atkinson, 5) play hockey and 6-year-old Lilly Atkinson can't get enough of the sport. "We're a hockey family," Patricia added. "We bring them to the Whalers games all the time." For the Bushes, it's the ultimate extended family, too, one that grows with each hockey season.

tsmith@hometownlife.com



Canton goaltender Spencer Craig, shown from earlier this season stopping Salem's Ryan Quigley (No. 7), registered his fifth shutout last week to set a new club record.

Rocks, Chiefs wrap up winning regular seasons

BY TIM SMITH  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The state playoffs loom for Salem's varsity boys hockey team. But Rocks head coach Ryan Ossenmacher made sure to give a tip of the cap to his squad for an excellent regular season, following Tuesday's 5-1 win over Rochester Stoney Creek at Plymouth Cultural Center. Salem led 1-0 after the first period before breaking it open with a three-goal second stanza. "A solid team effort from every player, a nice way to end the regular season," noted Ossenmacher about the victory, which upped Salem's record to 17-5-2 overall and 7-1-1 at home. Austin Sartorius scored two goals, with single tallies by Alek Zultowski, Jake Fedel and Connor Berlin. Nick Hayes and Kyle Eggenberger each picked up

two assists, with single helpers coming from Berlin, Sartorius, Kyle Downey and Garrett Paquette. "It was one of the best regular seasons in school history against the most challenging schedule we have ever played," Ossenmacher said. The Rocks will begin post-season play 6:25 p.m. Tuesday at Novi Ice Arena in a Division 1 pre-regional game against Plymouth. Whoever wins that matchup will play 6:30 p.m. Thursday against the winner of the Canton-Northville game (8:25 p.m. Tuesday). Chiefs blank Hartland Canton goalie Spencer Craig stopped all 28 Hartland shots Tuesday as the Chiefs whitewashed the Indians 6-0 at Hartland Sports Arena. It was Craig's fifth shutout of the season, setting a new school record. The KLAA South Division

champions (15-6-2 entering Saturday's finale at Allen Park) were sparked by five different goal scorers in the victory. Jordan Smith scored two goals with single markers from AJ Rosales, Jordan Smith, Martin Sisolak, Jon Rizzo and Jimmy Lafontaine (one goal, two assists). Brandon Grillo, Matt Rodgers, Trevor Moore and Brad Ceci each tallied one assist. If the Chiefs won Saturday, they would match the team record for regular season victories (16). Penguins iced On "Senior Night," Tuesday at Arctic Edge, the Plymouth-Canton-Salem Penguins lost 2-1 to Regina in a varsity girls hockey game. "We were up 1-0 going into the third period but had two penalties and they capitalized on both power plays," Penguins coach Mary Beth Johnson said.

Whalers power way to victory

BY TIM SMITH  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The Plymouth Whalers Friday night showed they are capable of overcoming adversity in a pressure-packed game against one of the Ontario Hockey League's top teams. After escaping a seemingly never-ending penalty parade in the third period without giving up the lead, Whalers forward Stefan Noesen scored a power play goal with 3:47 remaining for a thrilling 4-3 victory. Noesen one-timed a perfect set-up from forward Robbie Czarnik high to the short side past Ottawa netminder Shayne Campbell for his 29th of the season. "We practice that all the time," said Noesen, who also assisted on Plymouth's first two goals. "Luckily, I got a hold of this one and put it in the corner." The winner came on a two-man advantage for Plymouth, who scored three power play goals in five tries for the night. But first, the Whalers had to withstand a handful of successive penalties called against them earlier in the frame. Although Ottawa defenseman

Cody Ceci tied the game at the eight-minute mark on a blast from above the circles, the Plymouth defense — and goalie Matt Mahalak — stiffened to keep the game 3-3. GETTING IT BACK Then, when the penalty worm turned, the Whalers took advantage. "We're a big adversity team," Noesen emphasized. "And when it comes right down to it, when we give up a goal we want to get it right back." According to Plymouth head coach Mike Vellucci, whose team (32-21-1-4) remains two points behind Windsor for fourth place in the Western Conference, the win is something to build on heading toward the playoffs. "It's definitely a big builder for the kids," Vellucci said. "We kept talking about just kill it, just kill it and we'll get the next one (penalty call)." Getting a win against a tough Ottawa team (37-19-1-2) also should boost team confidence. "We're young and we're playing hard," Vellucci added. "All I can do

is ask these guys to play hard and they're doing it. "It doesn't matter who we're going to play against (in the playoffs). If we play hard and get good goaltending we'll be all right." The Whalers got off to a 1-0 lead before the crowd of 3,002 at Compuware Arena when forward Tyler Brown scored his 24th goal of the season on the power play. Brown, a couple strides inside the blue line in the middle of the rink, took a feed from Czarnik (two assists) and drove a shot high over Campbell's blocker. Defenseman and team captain Beau Schmitz made it 2-0 with just four seconds left in the period when he batted in a rebound on the doorstep. But the 67's came out energized to start the second and tied the game on the first two shots they took in the period. Thomas Nesbitt snapped home his 29th goal of the season just 36 seconds into the frame. Just 34 seconds later, on the power play, Tyler Toffoli tipped in a blueline



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

After scoring Friday night, Plymouth's Beau Schmitz (No. 17) and teammates are all smiles. Schmitz is one of three players who live in Canton with the Bush family.

blast from Ceci. It was Toffoli's 50th goal of the season, which leads the OHL. Mahalak stood his ground over the next several minutes as Ottawa stormed his goal crease in hopes of taking the lead and Plymouth managed to finish the period tied 2-2. With 14:16 to go in the third, Whalers defenseman and Farmington Hills product Austin Levi's drive from the left point beat

Campbell to give Plymouth its second power-play marker of the night. But less than a minute later, the 67's went on the power play and Ceci connected to trigger a chorus of boos from the Compuware crowd — unhappy with the officiating. They soon would be cheering, however, thanks to Noesen's game-winning blast.

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MU women win playoff opener

It was a total team effort Wednesday night as the Madonna University women's basketball team kept its season alive with an 89-80 overtime victory over host Indiana Tech in the opening round of the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference playoffs at the Schaefer Center in Fort Wayne. Sophomore center Kaylee McGrath led the victorious Crusaders, who improved to 12-14 overall, with 24 points and 12 rebounds. Sophomore guard Heather Pratt added a career-high 22 points, while senior forward Tabatha Wydryck contributed a double-double with 15 points, including five in OT, to go along with 10 rebounds. McGrath's layup sent the game into OT at 75-all. Rachel Melcher, a freshman guard, added 13 points, while sophomore Shantelle Herring posted nine points and a career-best tying eight assists. MU has now won seven straight WHAC playoff openers dating back to the 2003-04 season. Indiana Tech (16-15) got a game-high 25 points from Brittney Jones. Yasmine Coleman and Ylissia Richmond added 20 and 13 for the Warriors.

MU moves into the WHAC semifinals to face No. 1-ranked (NAIA Division II) Davenport University (31-0) beginning at 1 p.m. Saturday in Grand Rapids. SCHOOLCRAFT 73, FLINT MOTT 57: Sophomore center Kimberly Bee recorded her second triple-double of the season and Cameo Kendrick contributed a career-high 17 points Wednesday as MCCA Eastern Conference champion Schoolcraft College (26-3, 16-0) downed Flint Mott Community College (4-21, 3-12). Bee finished with 14 points, 14 rebounds and 10 blocks, while Shawnicka Thomas added 14 points and seven assists as the fifth-ranked Lady Ocelots (NJCAA Division II) won its 18th straight game. Mott's Adrienne Weaver led all scorers with a game-high 36 points. She was 14-of-32 from the floor, including 5-of-7 from three-point range. Teammate Beth Kozar added 11 points for the Bears, who were outscored 46-36 in the second half. Schoolcraft will face Western Conference champion Muskegon CC (22-7) for the state championship 3 p.m. at home.

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JUDY FOSTER

## Vaulting to the top

Celebrating their KLA championship Saturday, Feb. 19 is the Canton girls gymnastics team. The Chiefs, coached by John Cunningham (back row, right), topped a 13-team field at Walled Lake Central.

# Plymouth boys make state finals

BY BRAD EMONS  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Four area bowling teams — including Plymouth's boys squad — are state finals-bound after earning top three finishes in the MHSAA Division 1 Region 5 team event held Friday at Westland Bowl.

Headed to M-66 Bowl next Friday in Battle Creek is Wayne Memorial which captured the girls team title with a total of 3,563 pins. Belleville and Brighton were second and third with 3,367 and 3,283, respectively, to also earn team qualifying berths.

Plymouth captured the boys regional with a total of 4,160 pins to edge Westland John Glenn (4,159) for the title by one pin.

Wayne Memorial also made the state finals cut with a total of 4,033 on a six-game Baker of 189-214-131-157-182-192, followed by a three-game match play set of 1,073-932-963.

The Wayne girls posted a six-game Baker set of 156-186-224-157-150-191 followed by a three-game match set of 864-893-742.

Belleville's Daniella Perez led all individuals with a 581 series on games of 213-176-192.

Stephani O'Harris was Wayne's top individual in seventh with a 542 series on games of 202-167-173.

Other Wayne individual finishers included Tiffany Markham, ninth (198-158-218-533); Brianna Everett, tied for 13th (161-205-147-513); Chelsea Morneau, 45th (161-196-357); and Brianna Winn, 167-127-294).

Westland John Glenn placed eighth with a 3,193

Rachel Miller was 11th for the Rockets with a 520 series on games of 186-182-152-520, while Khiry Sparks took 12th with a 514 series on games of 192-157-165.

The Glenn girls posted a six-game Baker set of 178-192-210-207-227-210, while adding a three-game match set of 966-1,048-921.

Glenn's Jordan Hornes and John Cleavenger finished one-two individually in the boys regional.

Hornes rolled a 703 series on games of 279-189-235, while Cleavenger posted a 696 series on games of 193-276-227.

Brian Monty added a 190-22-412, while Steven White contributed a 194 single game. The Rockets also had split scores of 159-146 and 180.



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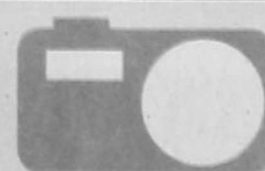
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## COMMUNITY LIFE

Sunday, February 27, 2011

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## Meet authors, support art classes at events in Livonia, Novi

BY SHARON DARGAY  
O&E STAFF WRITER

Linda McLean will combine two passions — art and reading — at a fundraiser Saturday, March 5, at the Art-is-in-Market stores at 12 Oaks Mall, Novi and Laurel Park Place Mall, Livonia.

The author, artist and former school media specialist will gather nearly 20 Michigan authors and illustrators to sign their books from 1-7 p.m. at the stores in celebration of Reading Month. In turn, they'll donate a portion of book sales to The Art Road, a non profit group that brings art lessons to children in Detroit who have no access to art classes.

"It's a nice fit," said McLean, a Northville resident and author of *The Heidelberg Project-A Street of Dreams*, a book that combines poetry with photos of Tyree Guyton's Detroit street art. The title is one of two books sold at Art-is-in-Market, a store that sells mostly art works made exclusively by Michigan artists.

McLean, a mural painter, had coordinated an author signing and fundraiser at a store in Clawson last year and suggested a similar idea to Art-is-in-Market owner Debbie La Pratt.

"I said, I know a bunch of authors who would love to come," McLean said. "I feel people are turning back to supporting local authors and artists ... local anything Michigan."

"We're supporting children's books and we are supporting children as artists."

## CREATIVE ENGINEERING

Patty O'Brien Novak, a Livonia mom, former engineer for Ford Motor Company and author of *Engineering the*



Colleen Fisher, a second-grade teacher in Livonia, illustrated this book for Kalli Reid of Canton. Both will be on hand for the booking signing event March 5 at Art-is-in-Market in Laurel Park Place.

*ABC's*, is happy to participate in the event because it will give her a chance to talk about one of her favorite topics.

"I can talk to people and show them that engineering is a creative process. I feel like whenever I have a chance to share engineering love it's a good thing," Novak said, with a laugh.

She originally wrote *Engineering the ABC's* as outreach material for a professional engineering group. But a publisher told her it would have wide appeal, especially in schools.

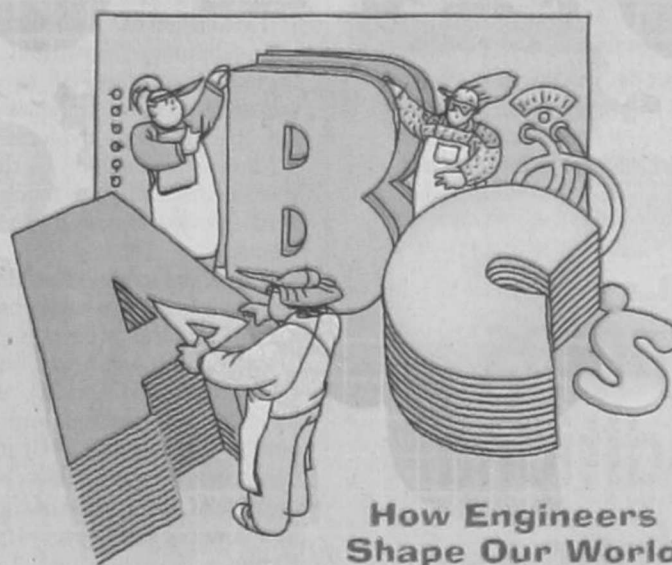
"They don't even hear the word engineering in schools. They hear science, but not engineering. And engineering



Fisher

is an incredible set of critical thinking skills that we use in our daily lives."

## Engineering the



by Patty O'Brien Novak • illustrations by Don McLean

Patty O'Brien Novak helps children understand engineering with her book, "Engineering ABC's." She'll be at the Art-is-in-Market event on March 5.

Her book illustrates the engineering found in "every day life" by highlighting words that start with a different letter of the alphabet.

"I also want to write a princess engineer book with a pink cover, so girls know about engineering. I believe in talking to girls about engineering. That's why I do a lot of Girl Scout workshops."

## THE PROCESS

Colleen Fisher, who teaches second grade in Livonia schools, says the book signing event is the perfect time to ask authors and illustrators about their work.

"People out there say, 'Oh, I have an idea for a book.' We can tell them how we got involved

and how the process went for us," she said. "And it's for a good cause, The Art Road."

Her first book, *The One and Only Bernadette P McMullen*, which she wrote and illustrated, grew out of a graduate school writing class. She also wrote *Miss Martin is a Martian*, due out this summer. The self-taught artist illustrated two other books, including *Oh No! Ah Yes!* by Canton writer Kalli Reid.

"As a teacher I'm inspired by the kids. Without them I don't know if I would have all these ideas."

Other local authors participating at the book signing are:

• Marybeth Dillon Butler of Livonia will have her book, *Myrtle the Hurdler* and her

*Pink and Purple, Polka-Dotted Girdle* on hand at the Laurel Park store. Her book and presentations to elementary school students, promote running and healthy lifestyles

• Laura Becker grew up in Garden City and is author of the children's book, *The Wonder of a Summer Day*. She'll be at the Novi store.

• Kalli Reid, a Canton resident, wrote *Oh No! Ah Yes!*, a book illustrated by Colleen Fisher of Livonia. She'll be at the Novi store.

• Diane Dignan of Farmington Hills, is author of *Bartholomew's Gift* and *The Boys Club*. She'll be at the Novi store.

• Jennifer Greening of Plymouth will sign her book for parents, *Opening Doors - Opening Lives*, at the Novi store.

• Angie Kenrick of Canton wrote *Rugli, Wordy Bird - Adventures in Learning*, and *The Chronicles of Flannery Fiddlesticks*. She'll be at the Livonia store.

Additional authors at the 12 Oaks Store will be Wayne Brillhart, author of *Mystery At The Birdfeeder*; Karen Dabney, author of *The Magic Pencil*; Rachel Longhurst, author of *Where My Story Begins* and *The Enchanted Tree of Crooked Lake*; Raenette Palmer, author of *Eagle Rock*; Linda Sicks, author of *Nick the Wise Old Cat*; Terri Williams, author of *Girllavanting-The Girls Guide to Balance, Bliss and Fun!*; and Paul Adams, author of *Watercolor Memories*.

Also at the Laurel Park location will be Jennifer Charron Ward, author of *Running Home* and *Black of Night*; Veronica Davids, author of *Wrestling the ABC's*; and Sharon Chess, author of *Grandma's Ready*.

# FOUR SEASONS REHABILITATION AND NURSING

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"We always have someone available to take them around," said Taylor. "We encourage them to tour other facilities. Some like smaller facilities. Some like bigger. Four Seasons can hold up to 180 residents."

Labadie says to "look at residents. Are they happy? Is staff happy? Is the facility odor free? An overpowering smell shouldn't hit you in the face when you walk in the door. It could mean residents aren't being taken care of."

Visit at mealtime. Is there enough staff to assist residents? Are residents and their clothing clean? Make allowances if residents have recently eaten a meal. Give staff a chance to care for residents.

Labadie educates families about what to look for and expect from a long-term care facility. "Make sure a facility is Medicaid certified to pay the nursing home and has beds available," said Labadie. "It's very hard on the elderly (to be moved). They're just getting comfortable with the facility, residents and staff. Find a facility you can leave that resident to live the rest of their life."

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White Rose Ball participants are Alex Vickers (left) of Dearborn, Alexis Enyedy of Beverly Hills, Anthony Warren of Port Huron, Veronica Kontosh of Southgate, Shane Danyko of Trenton, Haley Feher of Livonia, Alex Marchelletta of Dearborn, Lillian Mihalak of Lake Orion, John Budjuso of Trenton and Nicole Kovach of Milford.

## Local debutantes perform traditional Hungarian dance

Haley Feher, a Livonia Stevenson High School student, was among the teens who were introduced to Hungarian society at the 53rd annual Hungarian White Rose Debutante Ball earlier this month.

Other debutantes were Alexis Enyedy, a Beverly Hills resident who attends Groves High School in Birmingham; Veronica Kontos of Anderson High School in Southgate; Nicole Kovach from Milford High; and Lillian Mihalak from Lake Orion High School. As a part of their debut, the students and their escorts performed the Palotas, a traditional Hungarian royal court dance.

Linda Enyedy was the honorary chairperson of the ball. She was honored for her lifetime commitment to the advancement of Hungarian culture. Enyedy was one of the co-founders of Dancers Hungaria, and has taught Hungarian dance for many years. She also started the only zither group in North America. She has been instrumental in almost everything Hungarian that happens in Michigan — from cultural displays to providing Hungarian expertise and extras to the film industry.

Two college scholarships also were awarded at the ball. One went to Justin Rito, an accomplished pianist and composer from Mount Pleasant, and the other to Max Geissler, a talented cellist who attends the University of Michigan.

## Mission work in Uganda an eye-opener

BY STACY JENKINS  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Paul and Nancy Berrigan didn't know that a Sunday morning Mass in July 2005 would change their lives.

A missionary spoke that morning — not an unusual occurrence at St. Fabian Catholic Church in Farmington Hills. But, this time something was different.

The words of Monsignor John Kauta, from Uganda, seemed to be directed at the Farmington Hills couple.

"He touched us," said Nancy Berrigan, telling the story of how Kauta talked about Pagan Babies, a fund-raising effort she was involved in when she was just a little girl. "He was such a dynamic speaker."

Kauta explained how far the U.S. dollar goes in Africa and how much would be needed to do something like, say, build a school.

"We talked to him after Mass ... and before we knew it, we were building a school," said Nancy Berrigan.

Two years of sorting out the logistics and getting the contractors in place, the school for ninth grade through junior college, was built in a remote area of Uganda called Chelekura. It's not a village, but an area in the east African nation of Uganda, about four hours east of the country's capital, Kampala.

"It's just a blank space of land — no water, no electricity," said Paul Berrigan.

The first school in Chelekura was the shade from a large tree. The second school was under a hut made from tree limbs and a thatched roof, with no walls. The third location for the school was inside a crumbling old church, after a new one was built.

"The only things there are a church and a school," said Paul Berrigan.

The new school — named the John Paul School, after Paul and Nancy's fathers' first names — has become the center point of the rural community and it seems to be attracting more people to the area. Mud huts have popped up near the school, and there is some trading of goods and other signs that a community or village may be forming.

Hundreds of people attended the dedication in 2007, each bringing gifts for the Berrigans — including turkeys, goats, coins, eggs, fruit and more.

It was an overwhelming experience for the couple.

"They believe you have to give back of your time, talent or treasure. It was so humbling," said Nancy Berrigan.



Paul and Nancy Berrigan of Farmington Hills dig their shovels into the ground in Chelekura, a remote area in Uganda, where a new science and library building will be added to the campus of their John Paul School.

belong to the school, and the Berrigans encourage the students to maintain them, and rent them out to others in the community. Establishing micro-businesses in Chelekura is a goal of the Berrigans.

They are currently in the midst of building a new science and library building on the John Paul School campus. It will have a biology lab, a physics lab and a chemistry lab, a computer lab and a library. An anonymous \$5,000 donation will be used for the science lab equipment. They hope to get solar panels on the building. A Rotary club installed solar

panels on the main school building.

Support is also coming from Nancy's former classmates in Kansas City, and from other friends and parishioners in Michigan.

They hope the new science and library building will be completed by the time they return to Chelekura in June. The Berrigans visit Uganda once a year — most recently in November for the science and library building groundbreaking.

They know their work is far from being finished.

"The next thing we need is staff housing," said Paul Berrigan. "They all come from miles away."

When they talk about all that's happened in the last five years, they cannot believe that they've built a school in Africa.

"You forget how far you've come," said Nancy Berrigan. "It's been a wonderful journey and we've met so many wonderful people."

Paul Berrigan is retired from Chrysler, where he was director of distribution, and Nancy is a retired registered nurse. They know that it's the right time in their lives to do this work — and they're loving it.

"It's our passion," said Nancy Berrigan. "We are connected to these people."

She said people may wonder, "Why Africa? Why not here?"

"I think everybody gets a calling," she said. "It just so happens ours was to go to Africa."

### A SPECIAL BOND

The Berrigans didn't know the bricks and mortar would be just the beginning of an amazing and fulfilling endeavor that's reached well beyond their expectations.

They have formed a special bond with the people of Chelekura.

"We've been adopted into the Eteso Tribe," said Nancy Berrigan, noting her tribal name is Igoo and Paul's name is Odele, the names of Kauta's grandparents.

"He said we've become a part of Uganda's history," she added.

### JUST THE BEGINNING

Since the school was built, there is now a water system, toilet facilities and a girls dormitory, where the female students can live, and not have to walk five to seven miles to school. The Berrigans have also established a scholarship program for the students to be able to afford attending the accredited, private Catholic school. The tuition is \$100 per year or \$200 for girls who are boarding. The students go to school for as long as they can afford it, then they drop out.

The Berrigans see how much is needed in Chelekura.

"That was just the beginning," said Paul Berrigan, of building the school. "Their needs are endless."

Because no one has vehicles in Chelekura, the Berrigans bought the school staff members bicycles to make the trek to work a little easier. The bicycles

## Gilda's Club has bereavement support

Losing a loved one to cancer is devastating. Gilda's Club Metro Detroit offers many different support groups to ensure that help is available and that a sincere, welcoming environment is attainable in someone's time of need.

"Gilda's Club is unique because our bereavement support is ongoing; it's not for only six weeks like some hospice/funeral homes might have," said Kristen Bernat, senior program manager at Gilda's Club Metro Detroit. "Members help each other grieve and cope through very difficult times."

Gilda's Club Metro Detroit has six different bereavement groups dedicated to providing support for anybody who has lost a loved one to cancer.

Spouses Bereavement group meets on the first and third Monday of every month from 7-8:30 p.m. and is for anyone who lost their spouse/partner to cancer.

The Family Bereavement group meets the second Wednesday of every month from 6:30-8 p.m. and is for anyone who has lost someone to cancer.

The LGBT and cancer group meets the third Wednesday of every month from 6:30-8 p.m. and is open to anyone in the LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bi-Sexual & Transgender) Community who has been affected by cancer.

For children and teens, Gilda's Club Metro Detroit offers three separate bereavement groups.

Grief Busters for Kids (ages 5 to 9) is held on the first Monday of every month from 7-8 p.m.

Tween Grief (ages 10 to 12) is held on the second Monday of every month from 7-8 p.m.

Teen Grief (ages 13 to 18) is held on the fourth Monday of every month from 7-8 p.m.

Gilda's Club Metro Detroit provides free social and emotional support for men, women and children living with cancer, their families and friends.

Gilda's Club Metro Detroit is located at 3517 Rochester Road in Royal Oak. Anyone interested in joining Gilda's Club may attend a New Member meeting on Mondays at 1 p.m. or Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m. For more information on Gilda's Club and to make a donation, visit [www.gildasclubdetroit.org](http://www.gildasclubdetroit.org) or call (248) 577-0800.

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**FOOT PAIN**

When a patient notes foot pain, the doctor often will stop the discussion at once and ask: "point to the spot where you are experiencing pain." The reason for the doctor's abrupt question is that the location of the pain often tells the doctor what is the most likely cause of the problem.

If the patient points to the back of the foot by the heel, the cause of the pain is not a "heel spur." X-rays of the foot often will show what appears to be a saber like sliver of bone slashing through the tissue around it. What the x-ray really shows is calcification of the tissue attaching to the heel. The usual cause of heel pain is injury to the bone, the calcaneus, with treatment being cushioning of the site of maximum tenderness.

If the person's pain is in the bottom front of the foot, called the forefoot, then the doctor would consider rheumatoid arthritis as a possible cause. If the patient was experiencing pain in both forefeet, then rheumatoid arthritis would be the likely diagnosis even without x-rays or laboratory studies.

If the pain begins at the base of the great toe, and the pain comes on suddenly with intensity, then the first diagnosis is gout. Another characteristic of gout pain is that it occurs at rest or on the first step after sitting for a long time at a movie or watching television.

In a younger person a red and swollen second or third toe is evidence of psoriatic arthritis, in an older person, the doctor would think of peripheral arterial disease. Finally, pain over the whole foot, like a stocking, is in keeping with neuropathy.

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## RELIGION CALENDAR

Send calendar items to Sharon Dargay at [sdargay@hometownlife.com](mailto:sdargay@hometownlife.com). Feel free to include relevant photos as attached jpgs. Or mail items to Sharon Dargay, The Observer, 615 Lafayette, level 2, Detroit, MI 48226.

## FEB. 27-MARCH 2

## Mass for widowed

**Time/Date:** 2:30 p.m. Feb. 27  
**Location:** St. Columban Church, 1775 Melton, between Woodward and Coolidge, north of 14 Mile, Birmingham

**Details:** Presented by Widowed Friends, a peer group in the Archdiocese of Detroit. The widowed celebrate Mass together and meet and mingle in a safe setting afterward. Refreshments served during the fellowship.

**Contact:** Gerry at (586) 795-0477 or visit [www.widowedfriends.org](http://www.widowedfriends.org)

## Tax preparation

**Time/Date:** 1:30-5:30 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 27

**Location:** Faith Bible Church, 34541 5 Mile, Livonia

**Details:** Free tax preparation service directed by Jeff Conolly, an accounting services professional

**Contact:** (734) 464-7990

## MARCH 3-9

## Ash Wednesday

**Time/Date:** 6-6:45 p.m. soup supper; 7 p.m. service, March 9

**Location:** Lola Park Lutheran Church, 14750 Kinloch, Redford

**Details:** Pastor Gregory Gibbons will preach on the theme "Jesus, Peter and Me." Refreshments follow the service. The church will hold Lenten services and soup suppers every Wednesday through Lent

**Contact:** (313) 532-8655 or (734) 968-3523

## Alzheimer support

**Time/Date:** 10 a.m.-noon, March 4

**Location:** St. John's Episcopal Church, 574 S. Sheldon, Plymouth

**Details:** James P. Lampertius, a specialist in elder law and the principal of the law firm Lampertius & Associates will speak to the St. John's Support Group for the Caregivers of Alzheimer's patients. Lampertius will cover the legal and financial facts that need to be faced when one has to place a loved one in a nursing home

**Contact:** (734) 453-0190

## Clothing Bank

**Time/Date:** 5-6:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 9 and 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Saturday, March 26

**Location:** Canton Christian Fellowship Clothing Bank, 41920 Joy, Canton

**Details:** Free clothing will be given

to anyone in need

**Contact:** (734) 404-2480 or (734) 927-6686

## Concert

**Time/Date:** 9:30-10:45 a.m. Sunday, March 6

**Location:** Clarenceville United Methodist Church, 20300 Middlebelt Road, near Eight Mile, Livonia

**Details:** The Royalheirs, a southern gospel quartet, will sing at morning worship

**Contact:** (248) 474-3444 or e-mail the church at: [clarencevilleumc@att.net](mailto:clarencevilleumc@att.net)

## Concert and dinner

**Time/Date:** 4 p.m. concert; 5-7:30 p.m. dinner, March 6

**Location:** Congregation Bnai Moshe, 6800 Drake, West Bloomfield

**Details:** The Gemini Brothers perform in a free concert; strolling Israeli dinner afterwards. Cost of the dinner, catered by Elite Kosher Catering, is \$25 for adults; \$10 for children, 5-12 and free for children, 4 and under. The fare will be gluten-free and nut-free. There will be a kids' station and a dessert station. Reservations must be received by March 1.

**Contact:** (248) 788-0600

## Guest speaker

**Time/Date:** 7 p.m. March 5

**Location:** Universalist Unitarian Church of Farmington, 25301 Halsted, Farmington Hills

**Details:** Nancy Seubert will talk about "The Earth Charter as an Ethical Framework for Local Action." The Earth Charter was fashioned from the principles of science, international law, the teachings of indigenous peoples, the world's great religions, and numerous traditions and best practices for building sustainable community. This interactive presentation will explore The Earth Charter principles and ways to reconcile social benefits that seem to conflict with each other, such as a sound economy and environmental integrity. \$10 if reserved in advance by phone; \$12 at the door. Reception follows

**Contact:** (248) 478-7272 or [www.uufarmington.org/llc](http://www.uufarmington.org/llc)

## Pancake dinner

**Time/Date:** 5:30-7:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 8

**Location:** Orchard United Methodist Church, 30450 Farmington Road, Farmington Hills

**Details:** Chris Cakes will fling all the pancakes you can catch – and eat. Includes pancakes, sausage, orange drink, milk and coffee. Tickets available in the church Narthex for \$6 per person, \$2 for kids 4 and under. Or pay \$6.50 for adults and \$2.50 for kids at the door. Proceeds benefit the annual Youth Mission Trip

**Contact:** (248) 626-3620

## MARCH 10-16

## Learning Shabbat

**Time/Date:** 6 p.m. service, 7 p.m. congregational Shabbat dinner, Friday, March 11 and 9:30 a.m. service, with lunch and program following, Saturday, March 12

**Location:** Congregation Beth Ahm, 5075 W. Maple, West Bloomfield

**Details:** Dr. Rebecca Schorsch, chair of the Bible Department at the Chicagoland Jewish High School in Deerfield, Ill., will teach about the role of women and gender in Jewish life and imagination. Schorsch will analyze the text Eishet Hayil (Woman of Valor; Proverbs chapter 31) in a study session called "Who is the Woman of Valor? A Study of a Friday Night Tradition." There is no charge for the after-dinner talk, and walk-ins are welcome. Reservations are required for the dinner by 4 p.m. March 9. Cost is \$20 for adults and \$8 for children, 6-12. On Saturday, Schorsch will lead a second study session, "God as Midwife and Women as Saviors: The Feminization of the Exodus." There is no charge for the Shabbat afternoon learning session, and walk-ins are welcome

**Contact:** (248) 851-6880

## Widowed Friends

**Time/Date:** 5 p.m. social, 6 p.m. dinner, Friday, March 11

**Location:** American Polish Cultural Center, 2975 E. Maple, Troy

**Details:** Widowed Friends, a peer group in the Archdiocese of Detroit, invites widowed individuals of all ages to a family-style Lenten dinner. Cost is \$14, payable in cash at the door. Bar drinks and desserts extra. Cards, games and conversation afterward

**Contact:** RSVP by March 9 to Mary Ann at (586) 939-5270 or Sally at (586) 575-9535

## 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:** Pastor Scott Sessler at (734) 673-2485 or e-mail to [pastorscott@emmanuel-livonia.org](mailto:pastorscott@emmanuel-livonia.org)

## Faith Bible Church

**Time/Date:** 9:45-10:45 a.m. Sundays through May 8

**Location:** 34541 5 Mile, Livonia

**Details:** "Four Views of the End Times" adult study

**Also ongoing:** "Life's Healing Choices" Study Group, 6 p.m., fourth Sunday through September is for men and women who want freedom from hurts, hang-ups and habits

**Contact:** (734) 464-7990

## Men's Bible study

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

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

## Nicole's Revival

**Time/Date:** 10:30 a.m., Monday-Friday

**Location:** YWCA 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:** (734) 404-2480, visit [www.CantonCF.org](http://www.CantonCF.org) or send e-mail to [info@cantoncf.org](mailto:info@cantoncf.org)

## Food Bank

## New Hope Church

**Time/Date:** 5-7 p.m., every Friday by appointment only

**Location:** is 44815 Cherry Hill, Canton

**Contact:** Call pastor Ranay Brown to schedule an appointment at (734) 270-2528.

## Get creative with a spring arts class

The VAAL, (Visual Arts Association of Livonia), is accepting registration for its spring classes, which will begin March 9 and run through May.

Classes include Amazing Acrylics taught by Kim Ensich; Creative Painting-All Media with Marj Chellstorp; Portraits with Lin-taught by Lin Baum; The Joy of Watercolor taught by Edee Joppich; Create with Audrey taught by Audrey DiMarco-Terry; and Mono Types and Mono Prints with Laura Host.

Classes are for serious beginners as well as advanced painters. Sessions are held days, evenings, and weekends.

Among the workshops being offered are a two-day pastel class with Jim Markle; Flowers that Bloom in the Spring, a three-day class with Edee Joppich; a three-day Experimental Experience with Edee Joppich; Spatter Painting and Beyond a two-day workshop with Marj Chellstorp; and a two-day class, Painted Brush Lettering, with Linda McVicar.

All classes are held at the VAAL classroom at the New Five Shopping Center, 37653 Five Mile at Newburgh, Livonia. To receive a free schedule of classes call (734) 838-1204 or visit [www.vaalart.org](http://www.vaalart.org).

## Hazardous waste collections planned

Got unwanted chemicals?

Dispose of them, along with other unwanted hazardous household wastes, March 26 at Wayne County Community College District, Western Campus, 9555 Haggerty, Belleville.

Wayne County's Department of Public Services also has scheduled a collection Saturday, June 18, at Henry Ford Community College, 5101 Evergreen, Dearborn.

Hazardous household waste collections run from 8 a.m.-p.m. and are open to Wayne County residents only.

Items that will be accepted

include household paints, stains, floor-care items, furniture polish, bathroom cleaners, lawn and garden chemicals, antifreeze, fluorescent and compact fluorescent light bulbs, old computers and television sets.

Pharmaceutical waste (non-controlled substances only) and medical sharps in puncture-proof containers will also be accepted. All waste must be from residential sources.

For more information, call Wayne County's Resource Recovery Coordinator at (734) 326-3936.

## GARDEN AND NATURE

Send garden information and photos to Sharon Dargay at [sdargay@hometownlife.com](mailto:sdargay@hometownlife.com).

## LIVONIA GARDEN CLUB

Dale Smart, is from the Organization for Bat Conservation and the Bat Zone at Cranbrook Institute of Science and will give a live bat demonstration, 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 1, at the Livonia Senior Center, located at 5 Mile and Farmington Road, in Livonia. Visitors are welcome.

## GARDEN TRIP

Party Animal Travel is accepting registration now for the The Garden Club of Wayne County trip to the North American Flower and Garden Show, Friday, March 4 in Chicago, Ill. Cost is \$88 and includes motor-coach transportation, time for shopping and admission to the show, which will include garden displays, Master Gardeners and more than 100 informational booths.

For more information call (734) 525-9777.

## FARMINGTON GARDEN CLUB

Gloria Minnebo will offer a workshop for making miniature designs. She'll have supplies, including containers, on hand at the next meeting of the

Farmington Garden Club, noon, March 7, in the Spicer House in Heritage Park, located on Farmington Road between 10 Mile and 11 Mile. Guests are welcome. For more information call Joann at (248) 474-0866 or visit [www.farmingtongardenclub.com](http://www.farmingtongardenclub.com).

## AT ENGLISH GARDENS

• The store will provide everything needed, including hands-on instruction, to design a gorgeous fresh flower arrangement to take home, in a workshop at 2:30 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 26. Cost is \$24.99

• Learn the ABC's of growing herbs at 1 p.m. Saturday, March 5. The presentation is free.

• A Make It & Take It workshop features kitchen herbs at 2:30 p.m. Saturday, March 5. Participants select four herbs to grow in a ceramic container. The store provides everything needed to make the garden to take home. Cost is \$19.99.

• Learn the hints for creating an exceptional landscape with tips from the professionals at a free presentation, "The Basics of Landscape Design," 1 p.m. Saturday, March 12.

• "The Grass Can Be Greener," 1 p.m. Saturday, March 19, will offer advice on keeping lawns healthy, growing and green.

## Coast Guard class teaches boating safety

The U. S. Coast Guard Auxiliary will offer a boating safety and seamanship class beginning March 3 at Stevenson High School, 33500 Six Mile, Livonia. The eight-week class runs from 7-9 p.m. Wednesdays in the north cafeteria. Material cost \$45 for the first fam-

ily member and \$15 for each additional member using the same book. There is a \$12 per person classroom charge.

Register at Livonia Schools, 15125 Farmington Road or by calling (734) 744-2602. The class number is 7536-W10A.

For more information call Larry Dunn, Flotilla Staff Officer, at (313) 538-1604 or John Burdick at (313) 538-7227.

The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary's mission is to support the Coast Guard and promote boating safety through education.

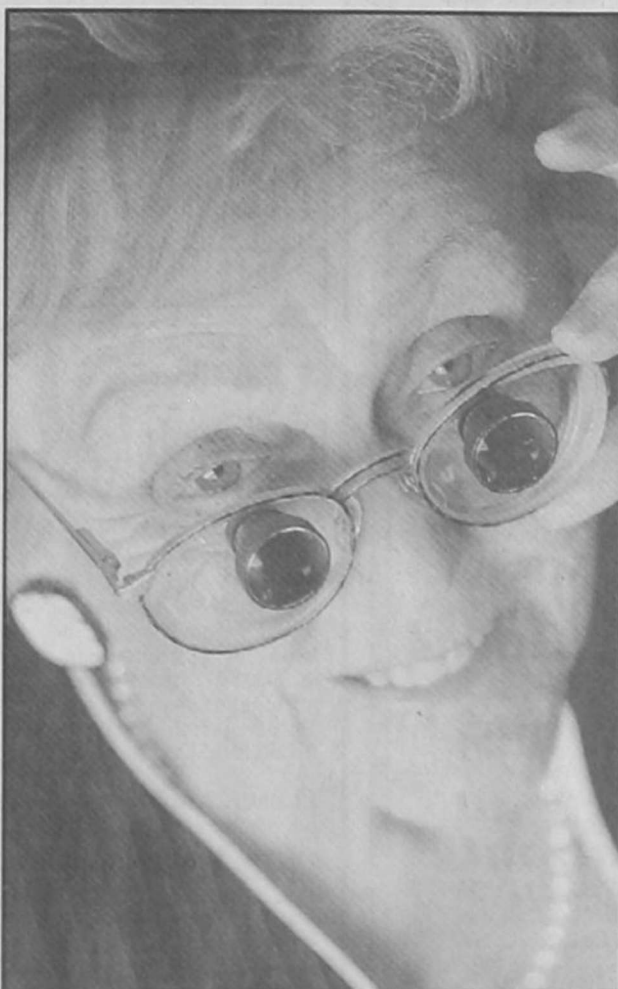
## New address for tickets to event

Making reservations for the Livonia Community Prayer Breakfast? Take note — the address for ticket purchases has changed.

Organizers request that checks be sent to Livonia Community Prayer Breakfast, 18858 Mayfield, Livonia, MI 48152. The cost is \$15 for adults and \$10 for students, K-12.

The 37th annual breakfast is May 12, at St. Mary's Cultural Center, 18100 Merriman, Livonia.

Guest speaker, WDIV-TV meteorologist, Chuck Gaidica, will talk about "Weathering the Storms of Life."



## Local Doctor Helps Legally Blind to See Again!

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Do you have macular degeneration, diabetic retinopathy, inoperable cataracts, or other eye problems that rob you of the better eyesight you used to enjoy?

Do you want the freedom to read smaller print, drive and see street signs, or watch your grandchildren and friends across the room?

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If your answer is "yes," to any of these questions, then this is the most life-changing information you'll ever learn about.

Using the same state-of-the-art telescope technology used by heart surgeons, Dr. Smith designs custom low vision glasses that allow things to look larger, closer, and easier to see.

With interest free payment options this technology is now more affordable than ever.

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### PLYMOUTH TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPT.

734-354-3232

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

Notice is hereby given that on 3/4/2011, at 10:00 a.m., Mayflower Auto Transport, 1179 Starkweather, Plymouth, MI 48170, a public auction of the following:

2003	Dodge	Durango	1D4HS38N93F617030
2004	Ford	Taurus	1FAFP53U54G139450
1995	Ford	Bronco	1FMEU15N4SLB03374
1993	Honda	Civic	JHM3G8648PS051012
1995	Nissan		1ND6SD11Y8SC400992

Dated: 2/24/2011

Publish: February 27, 2011

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

### CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH

### PLANNING COMMISSION

**PROPOSED ACTION:** Request Approval of a Special Land Use

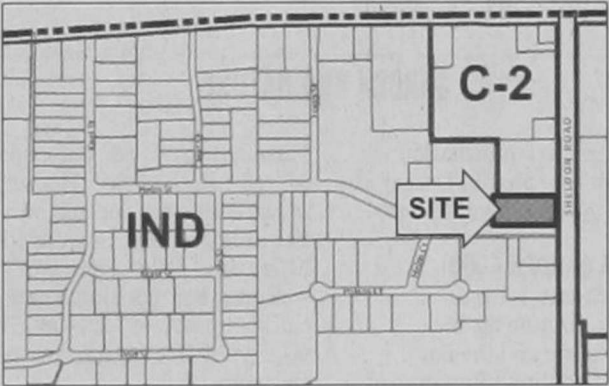
**DATE OF HEARING:** Wednesday, March 16, 2011

**TIME OF HEARING:** 7:00 pm

**PLACE OF HEARING:** Plymouth Township Hall, 9955 N. Haggerty Road

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the Planning Commission of Plymouth Charter Township has received an application requesting **SPECIAL LAND USE APPROVAL** for temporary outdoor flower sales, in the General Commercial District (C-2), on Tax ID R-78-014-99-0002-721, pursuant to Zoning Ordinance No. 99, Section 13.2. The property is located North of Helm St, South of Five Mile, East of Fogg St, West of Sheldon Road.

Application: 2044/0211      Applicant: English Gardens



LEGAL DESCRIPTION: for parcel descriptions, see tax records based on Tax ID No.(s): R-78-014-99-0002-721

The application may be examined at the Plymouth Township Division of Public Services, Community Development Department, during regular business hours from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM. Written comments will be received prior to the meeting and may be mailed to 9955 N. Haggerty Road, Plymouth, MI 48170 or call 734-354-3270, extension 6. The meeting will be held in the meeting room at Township Hall which is located at 9955 N. Haggerty Road, Plymouth MI 48170.

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

**KENDRA BARBERENA, SECRETARY**  
**PLANNING COMMISSION**

Publish: February 27, 2011

### CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED USE OF THE

### 2011 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT FUNDS

### MARCH 8, 2011

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT A PUBLIC HEARING CONCERNING THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM WILL BE HELD AT 7:00 P.M. IN THE BOARD MEETING ROOM OF THE TOWNSHIP HALL WHICH IS LOCATED AT 9955 N. HAGGERTY RD. ON MARCH 8, 2011.

THE PURPOSE OF THE PUBLIC HEARING WILL BE TO AFFORD THE PUBLIC THE OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE IN ANY PROPOSED USE OF THE 2011 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT FUNDS.

PRELIMINARY INDICATIONS FROM THE WAYNE COUNTY OFFICE OF BLOCK GRANT, WAYNE COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM, ARE THAT THE ESTIMATED 2011 FUNDING ALLOCATION FOR THE TOWNSHIP WILL BE APPROXIMATELY \$110,000.00. WAYNE COUNTY REQUIRES FOR 2011 THAT OUR REQUEST FOR PUBLIC SERVICE PROJECTS NOT EXCEED 19 % OF THE TOTAL ALLOCATION. BASED ON THAT SPECIAL REQUIREMENT THE PROJECTS ARE PROPOSED AS FOLLOWS:

ESTIMATED ALLOCATION BASED ON 19%		
		Allocation
PUBLIC SERVICES	19%	\$20,900.00
Senior Services		\$5,698.00
	Council on Aging	\$3,474.00
	Senior Alliance	\$2,224.00
Senior Transportation		\$15,202.00
	Senior Transportation	\$15,202.00
	10%	\$11,000.00
	Administration	\$11,000.00
	Planning	\$0.00
BRICK & MORTAR	71%	\$78,100.00
	ADA Accessibility Improvements to Township Park	
	Two (2) Year Multi-Year Pre-Commitment	
	TOTAL PROJECT COST ESTIMATE \$85,000	\$78,100.00
	TOTAL ALLOCATION	\$110,000.00

ANY WRITTEN COMMENTS REGARDING THE PROPOSED USE OF THE 2011 FUNDS SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO SUSAN VIGNOE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT COORDINATOR, CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH 9955 N. HAGGERTY RD, PLYMOUTH, MI, 48170 AND MUST BE RECEIVED BY 4:00 PM MONDAY, MARCH 7, 2011.

JOE BRIDGMAN, MMC  
CLERK, CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH

Publish: February 27, 2011

# Tune in to Farmington Community Band's March concerts



The Farmington Community Band will perform at 7:30 p.m. March 12 at Harrison High School; and again at 3 p.m. on March 13 at the Dearborn Performing Arts Center.

The Farmington Community Band Music Organization will present "Best of the Band" featuring its premier 90-piece FCB Concert Band under the direction of Maestro Damien Crutcher on Saturday, March 12 at its home venue, the Harrison High School Auditorium.

To celebrate its 45th anniversary season, the FCB will perform several signature "favorites" from past concerts along with some exciting new additions to the FCB music library.

Harrison High School is located on 12 Mile Road east of Middlebelt. The concert begins at 7:30 p.m. and admission is free.

The following day, the FCB will once again perform at the second annual "Motor City Festival of Bands" presented by the prestigious Motor City Brass Band.

The event, featuring five music ensembles from Southeast Michigan, begins at 3 p.m. on Sunday, March 13, at the Ford Community and Performing Arts Center in Dearborn.

Also appearing will be the Washtenaw Community Concert Band, Oakland University Brass Band, Plymouth Community Band and the Motor City Brass Band. Each ensemble will perform individually and then combine on stage for a thrilling mass band finale conducted by Charles Greenwell of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for the FCB to perform on the same stage with some of the finest wind ensembles in Michigan," said FCB conductor Damien Crutcher. "We are all looking forward to an exciting weekend of great music."

Festival tickets are \$15 for adults, \$12 for students and seniors and children under 10 get in free. Call the Ford Community and Performing Arts Center at (313) 943-2354 or visit [www.mccb.org](http://www.mccb.org) for tickets. Some discounted tickets are available through the FCB by calling (734) 261-2202. Stay tuned to WRCJ 90.9 FM for upcoming information about both events. For more information about the FCB and a complete season schedule, visit [www.fcbmusic.org](http://www.fcbmusic.org).

### CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH

### NOTICE OF PROPOSED REALLOCATION OF THE

### 2010 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK

### GRANT FUNDS

### MARCH 8, 2011

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT A PUBLIC HEARING CONCERNING THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM WILL BE HELD BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH AT 7:00 P.M. IN THE BOARD MEETING ROOM OF THE TOWNSHIP HALL WHICH IS LOCATED AT 9955 N. HAGGERTY RD. ON MARCH 8, 2011.

THE PURPOSE OF THE PUBLIC HEARING WILL BE TO AFFORD THE PUBLIC THE OPPORTUNITY TO PLACE BEFORE THE BOARD ANY PROPOSED USE FOR THE TRANSFER/REALLOCATION OF A PORTION OF THE 2010 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT FUNDS FROM THEIR CURRENT MULTI-YEAR ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROJECT.

CURRENT PROJECT	TOTAL PROJECT FUNDS
Multi-Year Road Improvements	\$78,100
PROPOSED PROJECT	
Handicap Sidewalk Ramp Improvements	\$78,100

THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH, UPON COMPLETION OF THE PUBLIC HEARING, WILL DETERMINE THE USE OF THIS PORTION OF THE 2010 FUNDS.

ANY WRITTEN COMMENTS REGARDING THE PROPOSED USE OF THIS PORTION OF THE 2010 FUNDS SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO SUSAN VIGNOE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT COORDINATOR, CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH 9955 N. HAGGERTY RD, PLYMOUTH, MI, 48170 AND MUST BE RECEIVED BY 4:00 PM MONDAY, MARCH 7, 2011.

JOE BRIDGMAN, MMC  
CLERK, CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH

Publish: February 27, 2011

### CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH

### NOTICE OF HEARING

### ASSESSMENT BOARD OF REVIEW

NOTICE OF HEARING given that the Plymouth Township Board of Review will meet on the following dates and times:

Hearings are by appointment, please call 354-3269, between 8 am and 4:30 pm for an appointment.

**Tuesday, March 8 9 am - Noon Organizational Meeting**

**Monday, March 14 2 pm - 5 pm Hearings by Appointment**  
**6 pm - 9 pm Hearings by Appointment**

**Wednesday, March 16 9 am - Noon Hearings by Appointment**  
**2 pm - 5 pm Hearings by Appointment**

**Thursday, March 17 9 am - Noon Hearings by Appointment**

**Saturday, March 19 9 am - 11 am First Come - First Served**

Other hearing dates and times may be scheduled as needed.

All persons protesting their assessment must complete petitions prior to appearing before the Board. A personal appearance is not required. Written protests to the Board of Review must be received by mail or delivered in person to the Assessing office by the close of business on Friday, March 25, 2011 at 4:30 pm.

The Board of Review will be held in the Board Meeting Room of Plymouth Township Hall, 9955 N. Haggerty Road, Plymouth, MI 48170.

Please come prepared as a ten (10) minute time limit before the Board of Review will be strictly adhered to.

Publish: February 20, 24, and 27, 2011

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

### CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH

### PLANNING COMMISSION

**PROPOSED ACTION:** Request Approval of a Special Land Use


**DATE OF HEARING:** Wednesday, March 16, 2011

**TIME OF HEARING:** 7:00 pm

**PLACE OF HEARING:** Plymouth Township Hall, 9955 N. Haggerty Road

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the Planning Commission of Plymouth Charter Township has received an application requesting **SPECIAL LAND USE APPROVAL** for temporary outdoor flower sales, in the Ann Arbor Road Corridor District (ARC), on Tax ID R-78-064-99-0010-701, pursuant to Zoning Ordinance No. 99, Section 14.2.3. The property is located North of Ann Arbor Rd, South of Greystone Blvd, East of Mill St, West of Haggerty Rd.

Application: 2043/0211      Applicant: English Gardens



LEGAL DESCRIPTION: for parcel descriptions, see tax records based on Tax ID No.(s): R-78-064-99-0010-701

The application may be examined at the Plymouth Township Division of Public Services, Community Development Department, during regular business hours from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM. Written comments will be received prior to the meeting and may be mailed to 9955 N. Haggerty Road, Plymouth, MI 48170 or call 734-354-3270, extension 6. The meeting will be held in the meeting room at Township Hall which is located at 9955 N. Haggerty Road, Plymouth MI 48170.

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**KENDRA BARBERENA, SECRETARY**  
**PLANNING COMMISSION**

Publish: February 27, 2011

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REUNION CALENDAR

**Belleville High School**  
**Class of 1971**  
Planning 40th reunion in 2011. Seeking classmates and contact information. E-mail BHS.1971@yahoo.com. If on Facebook join the group by searching BHS reunion 1971 40th sign up site; also on CLASSMATES/REUNIONS.

**Dearborn Fordson**  
**Class of 1971**  
The 40th reunion is planned for Saturday, Aug. 6, 2011 at Laurel Manor in Livonia. Tickets are on sale now for \$52 per person for dinner and open bar. Send a check payable to Fordson '71 Reunion to 16124 Golfview, Livonia, MI 48154. For more information go to Facebook, Classmates.com or the Web page at Fordson71Reunion.com.

**Dearborn Heights Robichaud**  
**Class of 1961**  
50th class reunion Sept. 24, 2011 at the Dearborn Hills Golf Course. All classes are welcome as Robichaud High School also celebrates its 50th anniversary. Contact Bill Haskin at billsmus-tangs@msn.com; (734)595-4927 or Nancy at woloni@aol.com; (248) 529-6461.

**Detroit Cody**  
**Class of 1961**  
50th reunion Aug. 27, 2011, at Hellenic Banquet Center, Westland. Seeking classmates and contact information. E-mail codycomet61@gmail.com. Or call Connie Callear Majeske at (734) 425-7094 or Bernie Lekki Grudzien at (734) 522-3167.

**Detroit Mackenzie**  
**June Class of 1961**  
50th reunion will be Saturday, Oct. 29, 2011. For more information e-mail lvanerian@msn.com or phone Joanne (Poloway) Glance at (734) 878-6543.

**Class of 1962**  
Planning class reunion in 2012. Seeking classmates and contact information. E-mail the committee at mackenzie1962@gmail.com.

**Ladywood High School**  
**Class of 1961**  
Planning a 50th reunion in 2011. Seeking classmates and contact information. E-mail sandymac@aol.com or call Sandy Phillips O'Leary (734) 453-0783 and leave a message if voice mail picks up.

**Livonia Bentley**  
**Class of 1961**  
Holding a 50th class reunion Sept. 16-17. To register, call Donald Bruner, (734) 524-0979 or e-mail dbruner@twmi.rr.com.

**Livonia Franklin**  
**Class of 1966**  
45th high school reunion, Oct. 7-9. Contact Larry Ruzsas at lruzsas-187264mi@comcast.net or Diane Kujath-Pishalski at dianepishalski@bex.net.

**Rosary High School**  
**Class of 1966**  
Planning 45th reunion in July of 2011. Seeking classmates and contact information. E-mail Pam at Taffttoo@aol.com

**DETROIT ZOO NEEDS VOLUNTEERS**

The Detroit Zoological Society is seeking volunteers to guide visitors back to the Mesozoic era when Dinosauria — the country's largest outdoor exhibit of its kind with more than 30 animatronic prehistoric creatures — returns to the Detroit Zoo this summer. Volunteer "Dino Guides" will assist and educate visitors as they explore a re-creation of prehistoric life on a lush three-acre Dino Trail.

Recruitment and training of volunteers will begin in the spring to prepare early for the peak summer season. In addition to Dinosauria, volunteers are needed in the Detroit Zoo's Arctic Ring of Life, Australian Outback Adventure and Wildlife Interpretive Gallery as well as at the Belle Isle Nature Zoo. Visit [www.detroitzoo.org](http://www.detroitzoo.org) and click on the "Volunteers" link for detailed descriptions of volunteer positions.

The first volunteer orientation session is scheduled for April 2, 9-11:30 a.m., in the Detroit Zoo's Ford Education Center. Advance registration is required. For information and an application, call (248) 541-5717, Ext. 3802, or e-mail [volunteer@detroitzoo.org](mailto:volunteer@detroitzoo.org).

No experience is necessary to become a Detroit Zoological Society volunteer — training is provided — and volunteers do not handle or feed animals. Both seasonal and year-round opportunities are available for candidates 18 years of age or older. Volunteers enjoy a variety of benefits in exchange for their valuable time, including discounts and an annual volunteer appreciation party.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH

PLANNING COMMISSION

PROPOSED TEXT AMENDMENT 009

PROPOSED ACTION: AMEND THE TEXT OF THE PLYMOUTH CHARTER TOWNSHIP ZONING ORDINANCE NO. 99 BY ADDING THE FOLLOWING NEW SECTION: **Section 28.61**

DATE OF HEARING: Wednesday, March 16, 2011

TIME OF HEARING: 7:00 P.M.

PLACE OF HEARING: Plymouth Township Hall, 9955 N. Haggerty Road

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the Planning Commission of Plymouth Charter Township on its own motion proposes to amend the text of the Plymouth Township Zoning Ordinance No. 99 by adding Section 28.61, Wind Energy, of Article XXVIII Special Provision as follows:

Sec. 28.61 WIND ENERGY.

It is the purpose of this Section to promote the safe, effective, and efficient use of wind energy systems to reduce or replace on-site consumption of utility supplied electricity. It is further the purpose of this Section to standardize and streamline the review and permitting process for small wind energy systems.

The Township has found that wind energy is an abundant, renewable, and nonpolluting energy resource and that its conversion to electricity will reduce dependence on non-renewable energy resources and decrease air and water pollution that results from the use of conventional fossil-fuel inputs. Wind energy systems will also enhance the reliability and power quality of the power grid, reduce peak power demands, and help diversify the Township's energy supply portfolio.

1. Definitions.

The terms used in this section have the following meanings:

**ANEMOMETER:** A temporary instrument for measuring and recording the speed of wind for the purpose of analyzing the potential for utilizing a wind energy system at the given site.

**HEIGHT:** The vertical distance from grade level adjacent to the base of the structure to the center of the hub for a horizontal axis wind turbine or the highest point of a vertical-axis wind turbine.

**ROOF-MOUNTED ENERGY SYSTEM:** A type of small wind energy conversion system that is mounted on a roof with a height not greater than 15 feet above the ridgeline of a pitched roof or parapet of a flat roof.

**SHADOW FLICKER:** Alternating changes in light intensity caused by the moving blade of a Wind Energy System casting shadows on the ground and stationary objects.

**SMALL WIND ENERGY SYSTEM:** A wind energy conversion system consisting of a wind turbine, tower or axis, blades or blade system, and associated control or conversion electronics primarily intended to reduce on-site consumption of utility power.

**TOWER MOUNTED WIND ENERGY SYSTEM:** A wind energy conversion system that is mounted on a freestanding or guyed tower attached to the ground, and not attached to any other permanent or temporary structure.

**WIND ENERGY SYSTEM:** Any wind energy conversion device including all associated control or conversion electronics.

2. Where Permitted.

A tower-mounted Small Wind Energy System may be permitted as an accessory use in the PL, TAR and IND districts, subject to special land use approval and the requirements of this Section.

A roof-mounted Small Wind Energy System may be permitted as an accessory use in the PL, TAR, IND, ARC, C-2 and MR districts subject to special land use approval and the requirements of this section.

3. Review Procedures and Standards.

(a) Small Wind Energy Systems. The review process for any Small Wind Energy System shall follow the special land use review process set forth in Section 2.7 SPECIAL LAND USES. One system may be permitted per site.

(b) General Standards. The following requirements are applicable to all wind energy systems.

- Noise. A wind energy system shall not generate a noise level of 55 dB(A), measured at the property line, for more than three minutes in any hour of the day. EXCEPTION: if the constant ambient sound pressure level exceeds 55 dB(A), measured at the base of the wind energy system, a decibel level of the ambient dB(A) plus 5 dB(A) shall not be exceeded for more than three minutes in any hour of the day.
- Shadow Flicker. The application for a wind energy system shall include a shadow flicker analysis demonstrating locations where shadow flicker will occur at sunrise and sunset, along with measures the applicant will take to eliminate or mitigate the effects of shadow flicker on adjacent or nearby affected properties.
- Lighting. No wind energy system shall be artificially lighted unless required by the Federal Aviation Administration.
- Appearance, Color, and Finish. The wind energy system shall be maintained in the color or finish that was originally applied by the manufacturer, unless otherwise approved by the Planning Commission. All wind energy systems shall be finished in a non-reflective matte finished color.
- Signs. All signs other than the manufacturer or installer's identification, appropriate warning signs, or owner identification signs are prohibited. No signs shall be permitted on the blades of a wind turbine.
- Electrical Wires. All electrical wires associated with a wind energy system other than wire necessary to connect the wind generator to the tower wiring, the tower wiring to the disconnect junction box, and grounding wires shall be located underground.
- Compliance with Electrical Code. Building permit applications for wind energy systems shall be accompanied by line drawings of the electrical components in sufficient detail to allow for a determination that the manner of installation conforms to the National Electrical Code.
- System Access. The tower shall be designed and installed such that step bolts, ladders, or other means of access readily accessible to the public are located at least 8 feet above grade level.
- Sufficient Wind Resources. An application for installation shall require documentation that the wind resources at the site are sufficient for the operation of the proposed wind turbine. A one year study of sufficient wind resources shall be included with the application.
- Safety. A wind energy system shall have automatic braking, governing, or a feathering system to prevent uncontrolled rotation or over speeding. All wind towers shall have lightning protection.
- Minimum Ground Clearance. The lowest point of the arc created by rotating wind blades or other exposed moving component of a wind energy system shall be at least 20 feet above ground (the highest point of the natural grade within 30 feet of the base of the tower).
- Type of Tower. Each stand alone small energy wind system shall be a monopole or monopole style of construction and shall not utilize guy lines.
- Building Mounted Wind Energy Systems. Building mounted wind energy systems shall be limited to roof mounting and shall not be mounted on any other building wall or surface.

4. Standards Specific to the Type of Wind Energy System.

(a) Tower-Mounted Small Wind Energy Systems. The following standards are applicable to tower-mounted small wind energy systems:

- No minimum lot area.
- The maximum height is one foot of height for each 2.5 feet of setback from the base of the tower to the nearest residential zoning district, or 125 feet; whichever is lower.
- The minimum setback from any property line shall be the height of the wind energy system plus 5 feet.
- The minimum setback from any road or overhead utility right-of-way or easement shall be equal to 1 1/2 times the height of the wind energy system.
- Tower-mounted wind energy systems may not be located in the front yard of any lot.
- Wind Energy Systems shall not be permitted in the area bounded by Joy Road, Lilley Road, Ann Arbor Road, and Haggerty Road due to the proximity of the Mettetal Airport.

(b) Roof-Mounted Small Wind Energy Systems. The following standards are applicable to roof-mounted small wind energy systems:

- No minimum parcel area.
- The maximum height is 15 feet above the top of roof elevation of the building for any building located within 250 feet of a residentially zoned district, or 150% of the building height, whichever is lower.
- Roof-mounted wind energy systems shall be set back a minimum of 20 feet from the property line, or the height of the system above the top of roof elevation multiplied by 1.25, whichever is greater.
- May not be attached to the front of the building.

5. Site Reclamation.

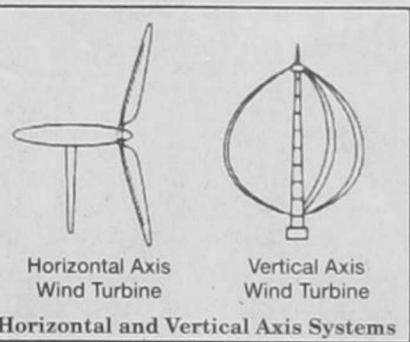
- Inoperable. A wind turbine shall be declared inoperable if it has not generated power for six (6) months and shall be promptly dismantled and removed from the property.
- Unsafe. Any wind turbine that is found to present an imminent physical threat to life or property shall be immediately shut down and repaired or otherwise made safe and certified by a qualified engineer prior to resumption of operation.
- Removal and Site Restoration. The owner/operator shall remove all equipment, above and below ground, and restore the site to its original condition when the wind energy system is considered inoperable or unsafe.

6. Agreement for Removal of Inoperable Wind Energy Systems.

As a condition of Special Land Use approval for a Wind Energy System under the provisions of this section of the Zoning Ordinance, the property owner, prior to approval, shall execute an agreement whereby the Township shall be authorized, on written notice to the property owner of the perceived inoperability of the Wind Energy System, to remove the Wind Energy System and to place the costs incurred by the Township for removal of the inoperable Wind Energy System, as an assessment on the tax roll for the property on or at which the Wind Energy System was installed, and to collect such costs in the same manner as any Township property tax or assessment on the subject property. The agreement required hereunder shall be in a form as approved by the Township attorney.

**NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN** that the proposed amendments may be examined at the Plymouth Township Division of Public Services, Community Development Department, during regular business hours from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Written comments will be received prior to the meeting and may be mailed to 9955 N. Haggerty Rd., Plymouth Township, MI 48170. At the public hearing, the Planning Commission may recommend approval of the text changes as proposed, or as amended.

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



KENDRA BARBERENA, SECRETARY  
PLANNING COMMISSION



## METROPARK CALENDAR

**General:** 2011 annual parking and boat launch permits are available at the park office. Vehicle entry permits are \$25; senior citizen \$15. Boat launching permits are \$30; senior citizen \$15. The HCMA and Oakland County Parks permits, valid within both park systems, are \$48. Daily entry fee is \$5.

## KENSINGTON

**Note:** For more information for registration, call the Kensington

Park office at (248) 685-1561 or (800) 477-3178. The Nature Center office phone number is (248) 685-0603. Pre-registration required for programs and a \$2 fee per person unless stated otherwise. Park hours are 6 a.m.-10 p.m. daily.

**Nature Center**

**Survival Saturday:** Fire Building: Saturday, March 5, 1 p.m. Discover the basics of building a good fire and practice several different campfire starting methods. Fee:

\$3 per person. For ages 10 and older. Preregistration required.

**Webelos:** Scientist: Sunday, March 6, 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. All requirements for this badge will be met during this indoor/outdoor program. Fee: \$5 per Scout. Preregistration required.

**Webelos:** Naturalist: Saturday, March 12, 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. All requirements for this badge will be met during this indoor/outdoor program. Fee: \$5 per Scout. Preregistration required.

**Deer Trailing:** Sunday, March 13, 2 p.m. Explore the park's less-traveled game trails that often lead to surprising discoveries. Fee: \$3 per person. For ages 8 and older. Preregistration required.

**Leave No Trace Camping for Scouts:** Saturday, March 19, 1 p.m. Scouts will learn how to camp without scarring the landscape. Fee: \$5 per Scout. Participants should dress for the weather. Preregistration required.

**Bear Scouts:** Sharing Your World

## MILESTONES

## NICOLOSI-JOHNSTON

Kristina Johnston and Johnathan Nicolosi were married Sept. 10, 2010, in Denver, Colo. The Rev. Daniel McCoy officiated.

The bride, daughter of Charles and Maria Johnston of Livonia, received a bachelor of arts degree from Eastern Michigan University and a master of arts degree from the University of Colorado. She works as a speech pathologist at National Jewish Hospital, in Denver, Colo.

The groom, son of Thurman and Ada Saffell of Pineland, S.C., attended American University and is employed by the U.S. Air Force.

Carolyn Branchick of Novi was the maid of honor. Megan Richards of Chicago, Ill., and Kristen Rimmer of Denver Colo., served as bridesmaids.

The groom's attendants were Christopher Nicolosi, Michael Miller and David Seiller.

A reception was held in



Nicolosi-Johnston

Denver.

The couple took a Mediterranean cruise and have made their home in Aurora, Colo.

## JULY WEDDING

Stephanie Ann Peterson of Farmington Hills and Luke Bostic of Huntington Woods announce their engagement.

The bride-to-be, daughter of Judy and Wally Peterson of Farmington Hills, is a Michigan State University graduate. She teaches in the Troy school district.

Her fiancé, son of Kate Lazuka and Mike Bostic of Ann Arbor, attended Michigan State University and is a senior financial analyst with ArvinMeritor.

A July 2011 wedding is planned in Farmington Hills.



Peterson-Bostic

## AUGUST WEDDING

Christine Korycki of Canton is pleased to announce the engagement of her daughter, Kelly L. Korycki, to Scott M. Cameron, son of Bruce and Judy Cameron of Hillman, formerly of Owosso.

Kelly received a bachelor's degree in the science of nursing from Eastern Michigan University. She is employed as an emergency room nurse by a local hospital.

Scott, a graduate of Michigan State University, received a bachelor's degree in mathematics. He is a commercial loan analyst at a local credit union.

An August 2011 wedding is



Korycki-Cameron

planned at St. John Neumann, in Canton, followed by a reception in Ann Arbor.

## APRIL 2012 WEDDING

Kelly McComb and Steve Stork announce their engagement.

The bride-to-be, daughter of Lynn and Bob McComb of Livonia, attended Michigan State University and is employed in marketing and events at the Michigan Humane Society.

Her fiancé, son of Peggy Stork of Commerce, attended Western Michigan University and is employed as a senior mortgage consultant at Summit Funding, Inc.

An April 2012 wedding is planned at the Inn at St. John's in Plymouth Township.



McComb-Stork

## BRODY ARRIVES

Patrick Rogers and Marilea Grom are proud to announce the birth of Brody William Rogers.

Brody weighed 7 pounds, 6.2 ounces and measured 19.75 inches when he was born Feb. 9, 2011, at Northern Michigan Regional Hospital in Petoskey.

Brody joins his parents and big brother, Sawyer, 2, at home in Vanderbilt.

Brody's grandparents are Joan and Gerald Rogers of Cheboygan and Mary and



Brody William Rogers

Joseph Grom of Livonia. He is the great-great nephew of Sophie and Joseph Wicher of Livonia.

# Passages

Obituaries, Memorials & Remembrances

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OE8659491



REV. MILLY COLLINS

With great sadness and many precious memories, the family of Milly Collins announces her passing on February 23, 2011, in Livonia, Michigan. Milly was a devoted and vivacious wife, mother and grandmother who warmed hearts and enriched lives. She gained international renown for decades of service as a religious teacher, author, composer and minister for the Unity School of Christianity. She wrote over 50 inspirational songs, some of which are included in the Unity hymnal in use around the world. Born in Detroit as Milly Kampas, she graduated from Mackenzie High School as valedictorian of the Class of 1945 and majored in theater at Wayne State University. Milly loved animals, children of all ages, traveling and always enjoyed a fast, bouncy Polish polka. Milly is survived by her loving husband of 63 years, Bob Collins, by her devoted children Dave Collins (Janet Economie), Carol Collins (Kevin Clark), Lori Knight (Denny Knight) and Diane Collins, by her loving grandsons Sasha Knight (Tomoko Tadachi) and Jesse Knight, and by her nephew Jim Huttula (Alisa Huttula) and their children Chris and Nikki. Donations in Milly's memory should be made to Angela Hospice or any humane society. A Memorial Service to celebrate her life will be held at Unity of Livonia Church, 26880 Five Mile Rd., Livonia, Saturday, March 5, 2011 at 11 AM with visitation starting at 10 AM. If inclined to attend, please feel free to dress in the colors of the rainbow that Milly so loved. Please share a memory at [www.rgrgharris.com](http://www.rgrgharris.com)

## TERRY LEE HEWER

February 21, 2011, age 57. Eternal soul mate of Lori. Loving Dad to Terry E. (Kasey) Hewer, Steven (Breanne) Hewer and Alicia (Billy) Groulx. Also leaves 16 grandchildren. Dear brother of Michael (Joann) Hewer and Richard (Denise) Hewer. Dear son of the late Phyllis Hewer, Robert Hewer and Bud and Barbara Boje. Visitation was Thursday and Friday at the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home, Plymouth.



MONICA ANN NISTAL

August 23, 1961- February 14, 2011. Monica was a long term resident of Plymouth before moving to North Carolina where she died at the age of 49. Monica was a beloved daughter, sister, Aunt and friend to many around her. She is survived by her parents, Miguel and Frances Nistal, Her brother Miguel Nistal and his wife Sandy, Her sister Maria Heningsburg and her husband Andrew, her nephews; Miguel, Dominic, Maxwell, Jacob and Joshua and her niece Nicole. She is remembered by many loving family members and friends. The memorial service will be held March 5, 2011 at 11:00 am with visitation beginning at 10:30. Risen Christ Lutheran Church, 46250 Ann Arbor Rd., Plymouth, MI 48170. In lieu of flowers the family has asked that donations be sent in memory of Monica Nistal to: St. Joseph Indian School, PO Box 100, Chamberlain, SD 57325

## GARY LEE PUCKETT

55 yrs of age, passed away on January 24, 2011. He was preceded in his death by his mother Gloria J Kopke. Gary is survived by his father James Puckett, two daughters, Freedom & Mary. Siblings Vicki Puckett, Debbie Daugherty, Tricha Parsons & Ty Kopke, several aunts, uncles, nieces & nephews.



SUZANNE PITLUK

Santa Paula, CA - A Michigan resident for most of her life, passed away on Wednesday, February 9th at UCLA Medical Center in Santa Monica, CA. Suzanne was an active and proud North Farmington High School band, theater, and football mother. She served as the NFHS Marching Band camp nurse for 10 years, hemmed many costumes for the productions, and cheered on the Raiders to numerous victories. Born in 1953 in Detroit, Michigan, Suzanne received a Nursing Certificate from St. Joseph Mercy Hospital. A believer in continuing education and constant learning, she was taking classes at the University of Detroit Mercy, from which she was looking to obtain her Bachelors of Science Degree in Oncology Nursing. Suzanne practiced nursing in the Metro Detroit area since 1976 and worked at various hospitals throughout Southeast Michigan. Her last job in Michigan was as an Oncology Certified Nurse with the University of Michigan Cancer Center. There as a Staff Infusion Nurse, she helped those inflicted with similar diseases as her. Besides calling on science and medicine, she drew from her own personal experiences with cancer to help her patients cope with their difficult times. Before her passing Suzanne had applied for her California Nursing License so she could continue helping others. Suzanne loved her family and they were always put before her own well being. She enjoyed socializing, meeting new people, traveling, and living life to the fullest. Although she dabbled in an array of hobbies, she was an arts and crafts extraordinaire, a talented seamstress and gardener, and was picking up rose gardening after moving to Santa Paula with her husband Jack in May of last year. Her wonderful smile and presence always kept a room cheerful. Her laugh was loud and contagious and her energy and views about life were infectious. One of her many passions included breast cancer awareness and telling her story to help others. An advocate of fighting breast cancer and finding a cure, she participated in numerous walks including the Susan G. Komen 3 Day and the American Cancer Society's Making Strides Against Breast Cancer. Not only a walker, she was usually called upon to be a speaker or participate in the opening/closing ceremonies. She is survived by her husband, Jack, her two children, Gretchen and Nathan; her parents, Vic and Esther Schroeder of Interlochen, MI, her remaining sisters, Johanna DeMeyer and Heidi Good of Royal Oak, MI and South Lyon, MI and many nieces, nephews, and other family and friends, to whom she brought great joy and caring. She is predeceased by her youngest sister Gretchen Little, 2007. Memorial gifts may be made in Suzie's name to one of three organizations:

- The University of Michigan Comprehensive Cancer Center funding Suzie's world class Michigan doctor, Dr. Daniel Hayes ([www.cancer.med.umich.edu](http://www.cancer.med.umich.edu)).
- SU2C - Stand Up to Cancer ([www.standup2cancer.org](http://www.standup2cancer.org)) whose Breast Cancer team was led by Sue's California doctors, Dennis Slamon and Sara Hurvitz.
- The American Cancer Society ([www.cancer.org](http://www.cancer.org)), where Sue was a spokesperson and active participant. A service will be held in Michigan Saturday February, 26 at 11am at Our Shepherd Lutheran Church, 2225 East 14 Mile Road in Birmingham. Sue will be interred in Mount Hope Cemetery in Interlochen, MI this Spring. A memorial service was held on Sunday, February, 20 at St. John's Lutheran Church in Oxnard, CA.



EDWARD K. THORP

Age 40, passed away peacefully Feb. 19, 2011 after a long battle with Leukemia and complications from a Stem Cell Transplant. Beloved husband of 13 years to Kelly (Fitzpatrick). Loving father to his young daughters Regan (10) and Ryan (2). Loving son to Peggy (Jerry Orlovski) Thorp and Don (Judi) Thorp; cherished son-in-law to Tim and Terri (Sullivan) Fitzpatrick. Brother to Kate Thorp; step-brother to Tricia (Joe) Gregart and Damon Pitser. Beloved grandson to Josephine (Thorp) Argylean. He is also survived by many extended family members and friends. He will be remembered by all for his love of family and friends, his self-less and caring spirit, his strength and determination, his gift as a talented musician and his love of life. Visitation Thursday and Friday 2-9pm with a Scripture Service Friday 7pm at Vermeulen Funeral Home at 46401 W. Ann Arbor Rd, Plymouth. Funeral Mass Saturday 6pm at Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church, 47650 N. Territorial Road, Plymouth. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that you consider a donation to the

Ed Thorp Memorial Fund  
c/o Renee Kochanek, 49730 Pine Ridge Drive, Plymouth, MI 48170.  
Read about Ed's struggle for health or leave a comment at <http://thorpfamilychronicles.blogspot.com/>.  
Please also see <http://vermeulenfuneralhome.com/a/obituaries.htm> to leave a condolence message for the family.

## HANNAH WINTER

Feb. 23, 2011, at the age of 90. Beloved wife of the late Arnold. Dear mother of Al (Terri). Grandmother of Cory (Kristin) & Brent (Rebecca). Great-grandmother of Emma, Jordan & Seth. Services were held on Friday, February 25th at the Manns-Ferguson Funeral Home, 17000 Middlebelt (S. of 6 Mile). Share a memory at: [www.mannsfuneralhome.com](http://www.mannsfuneralhome.com)

## OBITUARY POLICY

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

## Deadlines:

Friday 4:15 PM for Sunday  
Wednesday 9:45 AM for Thursday

Obituaries received after these deadlines will be placed in the next available issue.

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

For more information call:  
Char Wilson  
586-826-7082  
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Tuesday, May 17, 2011

9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

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**Fax: 313.496.5305**

email:cbjordan@hometownlife.com



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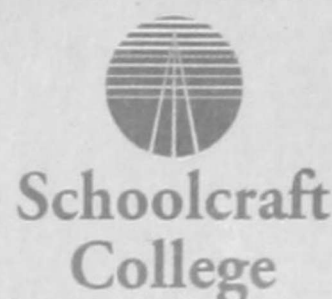
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# HEALTH

Sunday, February 27, 2011

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## HAVE A STORY IDEA?

Contact Editor, Sharon Dargay

Voice Mail: (313) 222-8883

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Comment online at hometownlife.com



### Heart healthy

St. Mary Mercy Hospital staff show their support of American Heart Association's Go Red for Women campaign earlier this month by wearing red. During February, the hospital raises awareness of American Heart Month by offering healthy breakfast and lunch options in the cafeteria, "heart smart" seminars and free blood pressure screenings for staff. Although the American Heart Association's annual Go Red for Women campaign wraps up Monday, Feb. 28, the hospital's Heart & Vascular Center's screening programs continue. They include "StayFit," which consists of bone density, blood pressure, cholesterol, Body Mass Index (BMI), and risk assessment for \$49; ForeverFit, with electrocardiogram (EKG), blood pressure, cholesterol, and cardiovascular risk assessment for \$49; VascularFit, including Carotid artery ultrasound, Ankle-Brachial Index, abdominal ultrasound, and cardiovascular risk assessment for \$49; and HeartFit, with blood pressure, cholesterol, peripheral vascular screening, electrocardiogram (EKG), and cardiovascular risk assessment for \$79. The screening results are provided to patients to share with their physician. For more information or to make an appointment for a wellness screening, call (734) 655-2961.

### MEDICAL DATEBOOK

#### FEBRUARY

##### Having a baby

St. Mary Mercy Hospital offers a childbirth education class called, "Let's Get Ready to Have a Baby." This is a five-week program, 7-9 p.m. Mondays, Feb. 28-April 4, in classrooms 1 and 2. The class is based on the "Lamaze Method" and includes exercise, relaxation, breathing techniques and comfort measures to assist expectant moms through the different stages of labor. Classes also include information on anesthesia options, medication, nutrition, family adjustment and the importance of the support person's role. It enhances confidence and joy of the birthing experience. The class is open to expectant parents, not just those delivering at St. Mary Mercy Hospital. There is a fee of \$75 per couple, and registration is required. Call (734) 655-1162 for more information, or to register.

#### MARCH

##### Bariatric surgery

The Michigan Bariatric Institute presents educational seminars from 6-8 p.m. Thursdays, March 3 and April 7 at St. Mary Mercy Livonia, 36475 Five Mile, Livonia. Dr. Tallal Zeni, director of Minimally Invasive and Bariatric Surgery, and Dr. Jacob Roberts, a bariatric surgeon, will make presentations. For more information, call the Michigan Bariatric Institute at (877) WHY WEIGHT.

##### St. Mary Mercy

St. Mary Mercy Hospital offers these programs in March:

- "Getting to Know Your Newborn and Caring for the Sick Infant" from 6:30-9:30 p.m., Thursday, March 3, in Classroom 1 at the hospital. This one-day class will teach new parents the basic characteristics and needs of a newborn, including diapering, bathing, feeding, growth and development patterns. In addition to baby basics the class also will include how to recognize when a baby is sick. Car seat and home safety will also be covered. Fee is \$55. To register, call (734) 655-1162 or visit stmarymercy.org.
- Annual Prostate Screening and Men's Health Fair runs 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, March 5, for men ages 40-70. The Men's Health Fair consists of a prostate exam by a physician; total cholesterol and HDL check; blood pressure screening; and optional skin cancer checks by a dermatologist; hearing, eye and food exams; and information related to healthy living. Participants can meet the robot used to perform minimally invasive urological, thoracic, and colorectal surgeries. This event and screenings are free, but registration is required; call (734) 655-8940.
- The Marian Women's Center at St. Mary Mercy Hospital will offer a Sibling Tour, 10-11:30 a.m., Saturday, March 19. Good sibling preparation can minimize a child's feelings of anxiety and jealousy with the coming of a new baby. Aimed at children, 1-13. There is a \$10 fee per family. Pre-registration is required. Call (734) 655-1162.
- A prenatal breastfeeding class runs 7-9 p.m. March 24 in Classrooms 1 and 2 at

the hospital. The class is designed for expectant mothers between the seventh and eighth month of pregnancy. The class will focus on the benefits of breastfeeding for infant, mother, and family. Cost is \$25 per couple. Call (734) 655-1162 or register online at stmarymercy.org and click on "classes and events."

- A class in CPR runs 6-9 p.m. March 29 in the Community Outreach Department, Classroom 10. The class is being offered through a partnership with the American Heart Association. Instructors will train participants using the American Heart Association's "Family & Friends CPR" course. They'll learn CPR and choking techniques for infants, children, and adults. There is a fee. Call the Community Outreach Department at (734) 655-8950 to register. The hospital is located at 36475 Five Mile, Livonia.

##### Diabetes Caregiver Class

Grandparents, school personnel, baby sitters, stepparents, and others interested in learning about how to care for a child with diabetes will learn about insulin pens, syringes, calculating insulin doses, nutrition, exercise and other topics in this class, 1:30-4:30 p.m. March 21, at the University of Michigan Medical Center Auditorium, 1500 E. Medical Center Drive, Ann Arbor. The class will be an interactive and educational session with plenty of time to practice and time to ask questions. The cost is \$18 per person and covers the handouts that will be given at class, the cost of parking, and light refreshments. Register by calling (734) 764-5175.

## Arthritis Foundation: Time to move! Exercise classes ease joint pain

The Arthritis Foundation, Michigan Chapter is offering an exercise and self-management program at 200 locations throughout Michigan.

Classes include:

- The Arthritis Foundation Exercise Program that uses gentle activities to increase joint flexibility, range of motion and maintain muscle strength. The program can be done standing or seated.

- The Arthritis Foundation Aquatic Program offers warm-water exercise that helps improve joint flexibility and reduce pain and stiffness while being supported by the water's buoyancy and resistance.

- The Arthritis Foundation Tai Chi Program uses Sun-style tai chi that is particularly supportive of joint health because it includes agile steps, high stances, gentle movements, and relaxed

breathing. The program can be done standing or seated.

- The PATH (Personal Action Toward Health) workshop is a six-week series that provides participants with the keys to successful pain and self-management techniques.

Classes offered by the Arthritis Foundation have helped individuals with joint pain decrease stiffness and

soreness, reduce stress and depression, improve energy and stamina, and increase feelings of self worth.

Programs are suitable for people of all ages with arthritis and related joint pain or stiffness. The exercise programs offer an option to individuals who are new to exercise, recovering from injury, or are interested in a joint-friendly exercise program.

Sites that offer the Arthritis Foundation programs are partners that promote good health through joint-friendly physical activity. All programs are led by instructors who are specially trained and certified by the Arthritis Foundation.

For times, dates and locations of winter/spring classes, call (800) 968-3030 or visit [www.arthritis.org](http://www.arthritis.org).

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Responsible for corporate, legal and accreditation compliance, & creating all applicable corporate policies and procedures. This position will ensure compliance to nationally recognized accreditation standards (i.e. URAC) and any other accreditation body. Further responsibilities include monitoring changes to any laws, regulations or accreditation standards.

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hr\_mls@yahoo.com  
Or Apply & see full details at:

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## Vocational Specialist

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Located in Southfield.

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## DENTAL EMPLOYMENT

### DENTAL ASSISTANT Westland

1-2 years experience required

2 days/week

Fax Loretta:  
(734)  
722-5192

# In Demand: Medical Records and Health Information Technicians

## CareerBuilder.com

"Let me pull your chart." Keeping accurate records is a crucial way physicians' offices and hospitals care for patients. By logging every office visit, complaint, prescription and treatment outcome, physicians can identify recurring patterns and know a patients' medical histories before treating them.

Because doctors simply do not have the time to handle these records on their own, medical records and health information technicians are needed to organize and evaluate these records for completeness and accuracy.

If you are interested in one of the few healthcare careers that do not require much interaction with patients, here is an overview of the occupation from the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).

## Overview

Medical records and health information technicians first review a patient's chart to ensure everything is complete. Then, they assign a code to each diagnosis and procedure, using software to assign the patient to one of several hundred "diagnoses-related groups." These groups determine the amount the hospital will be reimbursed

from Medicare or other insurance programs.

Technicians also use computer programs to



compile and analyze data, helping to improve patient care and control costs.

## Training and Education

Most employers require medical records and health information technicians to have an associate's degree. Most employers also prefer to hire Registered Health Information Technicians, who have passed a written examination. To qualify to take the examination, technicians must graduate from an accredited two-year associate's degree program.

## Opportunities

More than one-third of all technician jobs were in hospitals in 2002. The rest

were in physicians' offices, nursing care facilities, outpatient care centers and home healthcare services.

Medical records and health information technicians' duties vary with the size of the facility. In large or medium-sized facilities, technicians may specialize in one aspect of health information. In small facilities, technicians perform more generalized duties.

## Pros and Cons

Forty-hour workweeks are

standard for medical records and health information technicians. They usually work in pleasant, comfortable offices and have little or no contact with patients. There are plenty of opportunities for advancement; technicians may choose to specialize or become managers.

As with any job that requires long hours in front of a computer screen, technicians may be susceptible to eyestrain and muscle pain.

## Salary

According to the BLS, median annual earnings of medical records and health information technicians were \$23,890 in 2002.

## Job Outlook

Medical records and health information technician jobs are expected to grow much faster than the average for all occupations through 2012. As insurance companies, courts and others increasingly scrutinize medical records, the need for accurate record keeping will spur job growth.

The fastest employment growth is expected in physicians' offices.

Source: BLS October 2004

**Resident Health Services Director-RN**

Seeking an experienced RN in a licensed home for aged located in West Bloomfield. Experience in long term care, geriatrics and/or dementia care preferred. Candidate must possess good organization and leadership. Excellent benefit package.

Contact Barbara Giles  
Fax 248-661-1628 or Email: bgiles@ajmi.org

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**DIRECT CARE STAFF**  
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All advertising published in this Newspaper is subject to the conditions stated in the applicable rate card. (Copies are available from the advertising department, Observer and Eccentric Newspapers, 41304 Concept Drive, Plymouth, MI 48170 866-887-2737. We reserve the right not to accept an advertiser's order. Our sales representatives have no authority to bind this newspaper and only publication of an advertisement shall constitute final acceptance of the advertiser's order. When more than one insertion of the same advertisement is ordered, no credit will be given unless notice of typographical or other errors are given in time for correction before the second insertion. Not responsible for omissions. Publisher's Notice: All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968 which states that it is illegal to advertise "any preference limitation, or discrimination". This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal housing opportunity basis. (FR Doc. 724963 3-31-72) Classified ads may be placed according to the deadlines. Advertisers are responsible for reading their ads the first time it appears and reporting any errors immediately. The Newspaper will not issue credit for errors in ads after THE FIRST INCORRECT INSERTION. Equal Housing Opportunity Statement: We are pledged to the letter and spirit of U.S. policy for the achievement of equal housing opportunity throughout the nation. We encourage and support an affirmative advertising and marketing program in which there are no barriers to obtaining housing because of race, color, religion or national origin. Equal Housing Opportunity slogan: "Equal Housing Opportunity". Table III - Illustration of Publisher's Notice.

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South Lyon area.  
Or: (734) 239-9016  
Ann Arbor area.  
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hr\_mls@yahoo.com  
Apply & see full details at:  
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Outside Parts Salespersons for Dearborn and Warren stores to manage existing accounts and generate new ones. 3 - 5 years sales experience required, medium and heavy duty truck product knowledge and college degree preferred.

**Service Writers**

For Dearborn, Jackson and Ypsilanti stores to give direction and assign work repair orders to mechanics. Only experienced Service Writers need apply. High school diploma and experience as a SW is required. 2 - 3 years experience w/heavy duty trucks is preferred.

Both positions require driver's license, drug screening and security check clearances. EOE  
Please send resume to Fax 313-584-5681  
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If you are interested in participating please call Tom at 734.397.3400 to see if you qualify.

EOE08731244

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**FIREFIGHTER/AEMT**  
The City of Birmingham

The City of Birmingham, MI is seeking qualified candidates for the position of Firefighter/AEMT. Requirements: H.S. diploma or equivalent; MI Firefighter II Certification; MI AEMT or National Registry AEMT certification; vision correctable to 20/20 in both eyes; valid MI Operator's License w/ good driving record, & physical condition appropriate for the position.

Prior to application, must pass both a written exam (valid 3 yrs) & physical ability test (valid 1 yr) through the Conf. of Western Wayne (CWW) Firefighter Testing Program. Written exam offered 3/12/2011 & 4/9/2011. Physical ability test (CPAT) offered 4/16/2011. Info & registration through Schoolcraft College Assessment Center at 734.462.4806.

Salary range \$39,242-\$60,012 + comp. benefit package. Application submittals must include firefighter application, copies of valid CWW test certificates & Firefighter/AEMT credentials.

Applications available at: [www.bhamgov.org/jobs](http://www.bhamgov.org/jobs) and H.R. Dept., 151 Martin, Birmingham, MI 48009. Apply by 4 P.M. Friday, April 29, 2011.

The City of Birmingham is an equal opportunity employer seeking qualified minority & white applicants, without regard to race or other protected status.

**Help Wanted-Office Clerical 5020**

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**OFFICE MANAGER ASSIST.**  
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back. Only \$115,900.  
Retail or Office  
**Van Esley Real Estate**  
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Make  
your life  
easier...  
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## THE OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC MORTGAGE MONITOR

		30 Yr.	Pts.	15 Yr.	Pts.	Other
1st Choice Mortgage Lending	(734) 459-0782	4.875	0	4.125	0	J/A
Accurate Mortgage Solutions	(800) 593-1912	4.875	0	4.125	0	J/A
Ameriplus Mortgage Corp.	(248) 740-2323	4.875	0	4.25	0	J/A
BRINKS Financial Group	(800) 785-4755	4.75	0.125	4	0.375	J/A/V/F
Client Services by Golden Rule	(800) 991-9922	4.75	0.5	4	0.5	J/A/V/F
Co-op Services Credit Union	(734) 466-6113	5.125	0	4.375	0	J
Dearborn Federal Savings Bank	(313) 565-3100	5	0	4.5	0	A
Fifth Third Bank	(800) 792-8830	5	0	4.375	0.375	J/V/F
First Michigan Bank	(248) 498-2824	4.875	0	4.125	0	J/V/F
First State Bank	(800) 372-2205	4.875	0.75	4.25	0.5	J/F
Flagstar Bank	(313) 410-4428	4.875	0	4.25	0	J/A/V/F
Gold Star Mortgage	(800) 784-1074	4.875	0	4.25	0	J/A/V/F
Golden Rule Mortgage	(800) 991-9922	4.875	0	4.125	0	J/A/V/F
Group One Mortgage	(248) 282-1602	5.125	0	4.375	0	J/A/V/F
Mortgages by Golden Rule	(800) 991-9922	4.625	1.625	3.875	1.5	J/A/V/F

Above Information available as of 2/18/11 and subject to change at anytime. Rates are based on a \$200,000

loan with 20% down & credit score of 740 or above. Jumbo rates, specific payment calculations & most current

rates available Fridays after 2:00 P.M. at [www.rmcreport.com](http://www.rmcreport.com). Key to "Other" Column - J = Jumbo,

A = Arm, V = VA, F = FHA & NR = Not Reported. All Lenders are Equal Opportunity Lenders.

Lenders to participate call (734) 922-3032 / © 2011 Residential Mortgage Consultants, Inc., All Rights Reserved

# HOME & SERVICE

[HOMETOWNlife.com](http://HOMETOWNlife.com)

**0001-2450**  
Home & Service  
Guide



Building Remodeling **0310**

**BARRY'S CARPENTRY**  
25 yrs. exp. Start to Finish.  
Lic/Ins. (248) 478-8559  
[barryscarpentry.com](http://barryscarpentry.com)

**KITCHENS, BATHROOMS,  
BASEMENTS, PAINTING,  
DRYWALL, GARAGES &  
INSURANCE JOBS.**  
Lic/Ins. 30 years exp.  
Call: (313) 590-0474

Building Remodeling **0310**

**Roof Shoveling,  
Roof Snow Removal to  
Prevent Ice  
& Water Damage**  
Interior Repairs for  
Water Damage. Specialists in  
handling insurance claims.  
Lic. & Ins. 30 yrs. exp.  
Steve: 313-590-0474  
Velasco Construction

Drywall **0690**

**COMPLETE DRYWALL SRV.**  
Plaster Repair. All jobs wel-  
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**DRYWALL TAPING, HANG**  
\$50 sq. ft. & up, Patching  
Water Damage from \$75.  
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Electrical **0700**

**FAMILY ELECTRICAL**  
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job. Free est. 734-422-8080

Handyman M/F **1020**

**ABSOLUTELY DU-IT-ALL**  
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Ceramic tile, electrical, plum-  
bing, complete bsmts, bath-  
rooms, kitchens, insurance  
work, etc. Cell #248-891-7072

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**Clean-up/Hauling Srv.**  
Cheap Rates! Garages,  
bsmts, attics. Free Est.  
248-521-8818, 248-489-5955

Hauling/Clean Up **1030**

**A-1 HAULING**  
Move scrap metal, clean base-  
ments, garages, stores, etc.  
Lowest prices in town. Quick  
service. Free est. Wayne/  
Oakland. Central location.  
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**A1 A+ 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, A.A.R.P. Member.  
Condos incl. (248) 225-7165

Painting/Decorating  
Paperhangers **1420**

**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

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

Snow Removal **1810**

**SNOW PLOWING & SALTING**  
& Emergency Srv - Comm. &  
Res. Lic & Ins. Free Est.  
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# APARTMENTS

[HOMETOWNlife.com](http://HOMETOWNlife.com)

**4000-4990**  
Real Estate  
For Lease



Apartments/  
Unfurnished **4000**

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

**FARMINGTON HILLS**  
FREEDOM VILLAGE APTS.  
2 Bdrm Move-in Special For  
Qualified Applicants.  
Laundry in unit. Water incl.  
No Pets. 586-254-9511

**Farmington Hills:** Immediate  
Occupancy. Studio apt. Heat  
included. \$390/mo. Call  
for more info: 248-417-9265

**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  
\$300 Sec. Dep. 50% off 3  
mo's rent w/ approved credit!  
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**GARDEN CITY** -  
Apts from only \$469!  
Hurry - Limited Supply!  
New Management  
Bentley Square  
(734) 367-1087, EHO

Apartments/  
Unfurnished **4000**

**GARDEN CITY**  
Lg 1 bdrm \$560 + sec. 2 bdrm,  
\$600 + sec. Heat & water incl.  
734-464-3847, 734-513-4965

**LIVONIA:** 1 bdrm garden  
level. No pets. Immed occ.  
\$500/mo incl heat & water.  
By appt only. 734-416-9608

**PLYMOUTH**  
**\$400 MOVES YOU IN\***  
Fabulous 1 Bedroom  
Private entry, bookcase  
Full size washer/dryer  
734-459-6640 EHO  
[www.comorantco.com](http://www.comorantco.com)  
\*call for details

**Plymouth**  
**Rent Starting**  
**at \$559**  
**FREE HEAT**  
1 & 2 Bedroom Apt's.  
**Plymouth Manor**  
**Plymouth House**  
**734-455-3880**  
[www.yorkcommunities.com](http://www.yorkcommunities.com)

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Observer & Eccentric  
**1-800-579-SELL**

**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

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

Apartments/  
Unfurnished **4000**

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

**WESTLAND**  
Spacious 1 bedroom  
Private entry  
Wooded community  
On-site maintenance  
**\$300\* Moves You In!**  
**734-721-6699 EHO**  
\*call for details

Homes For Rent **4050**

**TAYLOR:** 2 bedroom.  
Available NOW. Like new.  
Bad credit may be okay.  
(248) 224-6696

**TAYLOR:** 3 bdrm, 2200 sq.ft.  
Townhome at Midtown. Avail  
NOW. Like new. Bad credit  
may be ok. **248-224-6696**

**WESTLAND:** 2 bdrm, 1 bath,  
finished bsmt, new kitchen &  
bath, all appli, A/C, private  
entry. \$750/mo. 734-330-6164

**Homes For Rent 4050**  
**DEARBORN HEIGHTS:**  
2 bdrm ranch, bsmt, A/C,  
\$650; 3 bdrm, bsmt, \$700;  
option on both. **248-788-1823**

**FARMINGTON** - Remodeled 4  
bdrm w/ master suite, appli,  
fenced, gar, sidewalks, \$1375.  
Todd: (248) 374-0465

Condos/Townhouses **4020**

**TAYLOR:** 2 bedroom.  
Available NOW. Like new.  
Bad credit may be okay.  
(248) 224-6696

**TAYLOR:** 3 bdrm, 2200 sq.ft.  
Townhome at Midtown. Avail  
NOW. Like new. Bad credit  
may be ok. **248-224-6696**

**WESTLAND:** 2 bdrm, 1 bath,  
finished bsmt, new kitchen &  
bath, all appli, A/C, private  
entry. \$750/mo. 734-330-6164

Homes For Rent **4050**

**DEARBORN HEIGHTS:**  
2 bdrm ranch, bsmt, A/C,  
\$650; 3 bdrm, bsmt, \$700;  
option on both. **248-788-1823**

**FARMINGTON** - Remodeled 4  
bdrm w/ master suite, appli,  
fenced, gar, sidewalks, \$1375.  
Todd: (248) 374-0465

Homes For Rent **4050**

**Farmington Hills:** 2 bdrm, 1  
bath, appli & a/c, deck, gar.  
Non-smoking. No pets. \$725/  
mo + util & sec. 248-887-3664

**GARDEN CITY/LIVONIA**  
3 bdrm brick ranch, fenced  
yard, bsmt, garage. No Section  
8. \$850/mo. **248-661-9062**

**GARDEN CITY:** Nice & clean  
2 bdrm with garage, no bsmt,  
\$725/mo. \$500 Security  
Deposit. **(734) 449-8630**

**GARDEN CITY:** Sharp 3 bdrm  
ranch, garage, C/A, option  
avail, bad credit okay. \$700.  
**248-788-1823**

**INKSTER:** 2 bdrm ranch, bsmt,  
3 car gar, \$450; 3 bdrm ranch,  
Wayne/Westland Schools,  
\$600, option. 248-788-1823

**LIVONIA** 3 bdrm ranch,  
w/bsmt, 2 baths, shed. All  
newly remodeled. \$900/mo.  
Call: (248) 563-1733

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Challenging fun for ALL ages

## Sunday PUZZLE CORNER

### CROSSWORD PUZZLER

#### ACROSS

- 1 Craft knife (hyph.)
- 6 Meat on a stick
- 11 Think logically
- 13 Milky Way
- 14 Colony member
- 15 Worrier, per-  
haps
- 17 Morse signal
- 18 So far
- 19 Go rancid
- 20 Woodland crea-  
ture
- 21 Fiber from  
cocoons
- 23 Pacino and  
Unser
- 24 Goals
- 25 Precious
- 27 Dissertations
- 29 Ally opposite
- 31 Hgt.
- 32 Greet the day
- 35 Odds and ends,  
briefly
- 38 Brando's "—  
Zapata!"

- 39 Grandee's title
- 41 Stadium noise
- 43 Flight dir.
- 44 Sweet-talked  
author
- 46 — -tzu ("Tao"  
author)
- 47 DDE was one
- 48 Shareholder
- 49 Winner's take
- 50 Ice-fishing tools
- 52 Hogan movie  
role
- 54 Give an  
address
- 55 Roman sculp-  
tures

#### DOWN

- 1 Dental photos  
(hyph.)
- 2 Epic by Virgil
- 3 Steers
- 4 Mark Twain  
hero inits.
- 5 Fumbler's word
- 6 Philosopher  
Marx
- 7 Metro RR

#### Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

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1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9	10
11				12		13				
14				15		16			17	
18				19					20	



# APARTMENTS

**HOMETOWNlife.com**
**Homes For Rent 4050**

**WESTLAND - 1600 SQ. FT.**  
Split ranch, 3 bdrm, 1.5 bath,  
LR, DR, FR, C/A, garage, appli.  
\$1220/mo. (248) 231-0074

**WESTLAND:** 3 bdrm duplex,  
Veno/Palmer area, newer  
windows & kit, fenced, carpet,  
\$600/mo. 248-344-2822

**WESTLAND:** 3 bdrm duplex,  
Refinished floors, New carpet  
and paint. Fenced yard.  
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IT DOESN'T GET  
ANY BETTER THAN  
THIS...

Classifieds  
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**Homes For Rent 4050**

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**FREE RENT**  
**UNTIL 4-1-11**  
**\$448\***  
**Moves You In**

Beautiful 3 bdrm,  
2 bath home.  
Starting as low as  
\$629/month.

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**SUN HOMES**  
EHO Expires 2/28/11  
\*Some restrictions apply

**Mobile Home Rentals 4070**

**Manufactured Homes For Rent**  
**Homes starting at \$599!**  
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**College Park Estates**  
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applicants subject to credit & criminal check  
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A word to the wise,  
when looking for a  
great deal check the  
**Observer & Eccentric**  
**Classifieds!**

**Mobile Home Rentals 4070**

**FARMINGTON HILLS**  
**OWN or LEASE**  
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Site Rent Included

• 3 BDRM • 2 BATHS  
• ALL APPLS • WE FINANCE  
• NEW & PRE OWNED AVAIL.  
**Little Valley**  
Your Weekly People  
248-231-0801  
www.LVHomes.net

**FARMINGTON HILLS:** 1-2  
bdrm \$65/wk & up. Appl.  
Seniors welc'd! No pets. Dep.  
req. 248-473-5535

**Rooms For Rent 4140**

**FARMINGTON HILLS:** Park  
Motel. Furnished rooms, effi-  
ciency & apts from \$160/week.  
No deposit. (248) 474-1324

**Rooms For Rent 4140**

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Spotless, cable, internet.  
Call 313-914-3660 or visit:  
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heated storage area w/11x14  
office, sec. sys, \$425 + utili-  
ties, 1/2 mo free, 313-304-6697

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stuff  
in your  
house  
piling  
up?  
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the front to the  
back of your

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1 Bdrms, \$475  
2 Bdrms, \$635

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-Heat/Water included  
-\$10.00 Application Fee  
-\$200 Deposit w/ Credit

New Resident's Only  
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Mon.-Fri. 9am-7pm  
Sat.-Sun. 10am-4pm

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

## WESTLAND LOOK

**Westland Park Apts.**

**FREE RENT**

2 Bdrm, 1.5 Bath, \$665, 936 Sq. Ft

1 Bdrm, \$590, 728 Sq. Ft.

"Special" \$100 off a month.

\$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**

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**\$99 MOVE IN SPECIAL!**

1 BDRMS START AT \$525

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Quiet, clean, heat/water included & parking.

Laundry facilities & extra storage available.

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between Telegraph and Beech Daly.

**Call: 313-945-0524**

Mon-Sat 11am-5pm

**WAYNE**

**Affordable spacious  
updated 2 bedroom  
cooperative townhomes**  
(includes basement)

Starting from \$523/month

\$3500 + 1st mo moves you in

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Townhouses

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Wayne, MI 48184

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Quality affordable independent living  
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adults 62+. Monthly rent includes all  
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campus.

**Immediate Occupancy**  
**starting at \$523/mo.**

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**(734) 665-0695**

www.lurieterrace.org

**FARMINGTON/LIVONIA**

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• FREE HEAT & WATER • NEW CABINETS

• NEW APPLIANCES • NEW CARPET

• MIRRORED DINING ROOM WALL

**SPECIALS 1 Bedroom ... \$689**

Merriman Rd., S. of 8 Mile

**APPLE RIDGE APTS.**

**248-471-0001**

**NORTHVILLE**

2 bedrooms, 950 sq. ft.

Starting at \$699

- Fitness Center
- Clubhouse
- Swimming Pool
- Covered Parking
- Pet Friendly
- Close to parks
- Close to Twelve Oaks Mall
- Close to I-96 & I-275



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20969 Woodland Glen Drive

Northville, MI 48167

**248-349-6612**

www.haymanapartments.com

**WAYNE**

## TAE KEUK VILLAGE

KOREAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY HOUSING SERVICES, INC.

3712 WILLIAMS ST. WAYNE, MI 48184

Phone: 734-729-7920, 729-3432

Fax: 734-729-0938

TTY: 866-656-9826 TDD: 800-649-3777

- 1 Bedroom available now
- Section 8 apartments for the elderly and disabled
- Applicant must be either at least 62 years of age or disabled
- Emergency Medical Call System
- Rent includes Heat, Water and Trash Removal

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Professionally managed by Unified Property Group

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**HEY SENIORS!**  
**Let Westgate Tower**  
**Warm Your Heart!**

It's easy to warm your heart when we offer  
**FREE HEAT**, activities, group transportation,  
laundry facilities, and much more!

Rents Start

At JUST **\$436**

Located at 34587 Elmwood St. in Westland

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\*Must be 62 or Older; Income Limits Apply. ASK ABOUT OUR AGE WAIVER!!!

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# MARKETPLACE

**HOMETOWNlife.com**
**6000-6980**
**Announcements**

**Personals 6000**
**KATINA LYNNE MARTINEZ**

You are being sued for  
divorce by John McRoy. You  
have 30 days to answer start-  
ing February 27th, 2011 and  
ending March 28, 2011, thru  
the Third Circuit Court of  
Wayne County, Detroit,  
Michigan 48226

**There is something for everyone in our Classifieds!**
**Cards Of Thanks 6300**
**PRAYER:** Pray 9 Hail Marys for 9 days. On the 9th day make 3 wishes & publish this prayer. Your wishes will be granted. L

**7000-7780**
**Merchandise**

**Absolutely Free 7000**
**ANTIQUE GRINNELL**

BROS. PIANO  
Free to good home.  
Call: (810) 923-3681

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Observer & Eccentric  
**1-800-579-SELL**

**Antiques/Collectibles 7020**
**LOOK**

**Brighton Antique Show, Sat.**  
**March 5, 9-4** Old Hartland HS,  
9525 E. Highland (M-59), 586-  
214-3784. Adm. \$3. Spon-  
sored by Brighton F&AM 247

**RECORD SHOW:** March 6, 10-4.

SCash Prizes\$ LPs, 45s,  
CDs. VFW, 25671 Gratiot (N of  
10), Roseville. 586-759-5133

**Southfield Pavilion**

**ANTIQUES EXPO!**

Fri 2-8, Sat 10-6, Sun 11-4

**FEBRUARY 25-26-27**

Southfield Civic Center

Evergreen @ Civic Center

I-696 to Evergreen Exit South

**★Over 75 Merchants!★**

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\$1.00 OFF with adv. (O&E)

**Observer & Eccentric Classifieds**

Just a quick  
call away.....  
**1-800-579-SELL**

**Garage Sales 7110**
**DAVISBURG Mom2Mom Sale**

March 5, 9-1pm. Davisburg  
Elementary. \$1 admission.  
Strollers after 10am.

**LIVONIA: Mom 2 Mom Sale.**

Sat. March 5th, 9am-1pm.  
Franklin High School  
31000 Joy Rd.  
Gently used children's items.

**Household Goods 7160**
**DINING ROOM SET**

Washed oak, 98 inch table,  
6 chairs/lighted china cabinet,  
70 inches wide X 84 high.  
\$1200, 734-664-9534

**FORMAL DINING RM TABLE:**

3 leaves & pads, 4 matching  
chairs, \$100, 4 poster bed,  
cherry, queen/full, \$50. Small  
oak entertainment center, \$75.  
Round oak table & 4 chairs,  
\$50. Call: (734) 404-6099

**HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE**

MOVING!  
248-960-5099

**Household Goods 7160**
**MISC ITEMS:** Kirby vacuum,

Armoire, country oak furni-  
ture, linens, misc. Plymouth,  
734-414-1579

**WALL UNIT:** 8 ft. ivory,

2 lighted curios - fits 37" TV,  
\$100. Call: 734-664-9534

**WALL UNIT:** 8 ft. maple,

3 piece w/ lighted curios, fits  
37" TV, \$100, 734-664-9534

**Hospital/Medical**

**Equipment 7460**

**ADULT Pull-Ups, Diapers**

Sizes M-L-XL. Liners, Bed  
Pads. Hoyer Lift. Glucerna  
shakes. (248) 541-2230

**PIANO - YAMAHA UPRIGHT**

Pearl white, excel cond,  
\$2,195, Livonia area,  
734-464-8830, 313-300-5228

**Call to place your ad at**

**1-800-579-SELL(7355)**

**Wanted to Buy 7540**
**Children's School Desk**

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HOMETOWNlife.com

## DODGE'S SRT8 IS AS COOL AS IT GETS

Advertising Feature

### CAReport



By Dave Menard  
For Avanti NewsFeatures  
Fracassa News Group

The Dodge Charger SRT8 is a fun car to drive, is a great-looking car and has got a "cool factor." But at more than \$47,000 (as the test car was equipped) and with gas mileage poor enough to qualify it for the federal "gas guzzler" tax, it doesn't make a whole lot of financial sense. In its media materials, Dodge actually refers to the Charger as an "excellent family sedan." Uh, OK. Then again, maybe the people (guys, I would assume) that would buy this car will throw all that out the window and concentrate on the "cool factor."

This car has it. It is a sharp-looking ride. Even if I was blind, the comments from the people who saw me drive it were enough to convince me. This is one of the most commented-upon cars I've ever driven. No matter where I went -- gas stations, restaurants, the grocery store, wherever, someone had to comment on how cool they thought the car looked. It's understandable -- the Charger has the look of a classic muscle car. It is a four-door sedan, but it's not your average four-door sedan. The average four-door sedan doesn't have a hood scoop, a rear spoiler, dual chrome-tipped exhaust and 20-inch aluminum wheels (the test car had the optional forged "sparkle" wheels at \$250). This is anything but average.

Inside, the Charger SRT8 looks like a

performance car. The instrument panel features full instrumentation; the speedometer, the tachometer, the fuel gauge and the coolant temperature gauge are augmented by a programmable display that can show you the oil temperature, oil pressure and tire pressure. The controls are well-laid and everything is easy to find.

The power seats (which can be heated) are leather-trimmed and provide very good support. The steering wheel is leather-wrapped. The rear seats are fold-down 60/40 seats.

There's plenty of interior room. Leg, shoulder and head room is fine, even with the optional power sunroof (\$950).

The Charger SRT8 comes with dual-zone automatic climate control, power windows, tilt-steering column, power-adjustable pedals, garage door opener, rear window defroster, keyless entry and remote start. The standard audio system is an AM/FM/CD/DVD/mp3 system that includes a year of satellite radio service. You can option up to a monster system that includes a "Media Center" audio unit. That has a hard drive that allows not only music to be uploaded, but pictures, as well. The system comes with 13 speakers, a 200-watt subwoofer and a 322-watt amplifier. You can connect an iPod directly, as well as connect your phone



The Dodge Charger SRT8 is a fun car to drive, is a great-looking car and has got a "cool factor."

through the system. That package will run you \$1,890; add a navigation system with SIRIUS traffic information included (for a year) and you're looking at an additional \$985. The traffic service is a nice feature. It correctly told me of an accident on the freeway which allowed me to program an alternate route.

If that's still not enough, you can get the optional rear seat video entertainment system for \$1,460.

Driving the Charger SRT8 may be entertainment enough. It's a fun car to drive. It comes with a 6.1-liter HEMI V8 engine that's rated at 425 horsepower and 420 lb.-ft. of torque. You jump of the line and get ahead of the pack quickly (0-60 mph in a little over five seconds).

This engine is mated with a five-speed automatic transmission, and while there is no manual transmission available, this automatic features an "auto-stick" function that allows you to go through the gears manually, if you like. Either way, expect to spend a lot of time (and money) at the gas station -- the Charger SRT8 is rated at 13 miles-per-gallon in the city and 19 on the highway.

The front suspension is an independent SLA system that features

gas-charged shocks, and in the rear it's a five-link system that also has gas-charged shocks. The power-assist rack-and-pinion steering system provides good road feel and the Charger SRT8 is fairly easy to maneuver. Electronic Stability Control and traction control are standard and the brakes are excellent.

The Charger SRT8 starts at a little over \$38,000. Add the upgraded audio system, navigation, rear-seat entertainment system, power sunroof, "sparkle" wheels with high performance tires, high-intensity discharge headlamps and the gas guzzler tax, and you're at a shade over \$47,000. You might have to weigh the "cool factor" against the cost factor.

If you do that and still think the Charger SRT8 is for you, be prepared for lots of conversations with strangers.

Dave Menard can be reached at Avanti1054@aol.com

**Dodge Charger SRT8**  
Vehicle class: Four-door sedan  
Power: 6.1-liter HEMI V8  
Mileage: 13 city / 20 highway  
Where built: Brampton, Ontario, Canada  
Price as tested: \$47,155

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<p><b>New 2011 Ford Fiesta 4 Door S</b></p> <p>WAS \$15,065 <b>ONLY \$103*</b> PER MO. <small>A/Z Plan 24 mo. lease, \$2,807 due at signing.</small></p>	<p><b>New 2011 Ford Focus 4 Door SE</b></p> <p>WAS \$18,810 <b>ONLY \$149*</b> PER MO. <small>A/Z Plan 24 mo. lease, \$1,781 due at signing.</small></p>	<p><b>New 2011 Ford Fusion SE</b></p> <p>WAS \$22,975 <b>ONLY \$159*</b> PER MO. <small>A/Z Plan 24 mo. lease, \$1,644 due at signing.</small></p>	<p><b>New 2011 Ford Taurus SEL</b></p> <p>WAS \$28,195 <b>ONLY \$259*</b> PER MO. <small>A/Z Plan 24 mo. lease, \$2,095 due at signing.</small></p>	<p><b>New 2011 Ford Flex SE FWD</b></p> <p>WAS \$29,850 <b>ONLY \$269*</b> PER MO. <small>A/Z Plan 36 mo. lease, \$3,080 due at signing.</small></p>
<p><b>New 2011 Ford Edge SE FWD</b></p> <p>WAS \$27,995 <b>ONLY \$219*</b> PER MO. <small>A/Z Plan 24 mo. lease, \$2,069 due at signing.</small></p>	<p><b>New 2011 Ford Ranger Pickup</b></p> <p>WAS \$18,755 <b>ONLY \$249*</b> PER MO. <small>A/Z Plan 36 mo. lease, \$3,083 due at signing.</small></p>	<p><b>New 2011 Ford Escape XLT FWD</b></p> <p>WAS \$24,775 <b>ONLY \$179*</b> PER MO. <small>A/Z Plan 24 mo. lease, \$2,009 due at signing.</small></p>	<p><b>New 2011 Ford Explorer "ALL NEW DESIGN"</b></p> <p>WAS \$29,310 <b>ONLY \$274*</b> PER MO. <small>A/Z Plan 36 mo. lease, \$3,194 due at signing.</small></p>	<p><b>New 2011 Ford F-150 Super Cab XLT 4x4</b></p> <p>WAS \$40,470 <b>ONLY \$344*</b> PER MO. <small>Sign &amp; Drive, \$0 due at signing, A/Z Plan 36 mo. lease</small></p>

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