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The Observer & Eccentric  
Newspapers

Volume 36  
Number 76

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# CANTON OBSERVER

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## CONNECTION Coffee time

Canton residents are invited to share a cup of coffee – and their thoughts about the community and its hometown newspaper – with



**Kadrich**  
Canton Observer Editor Brad Kadrich during a “coffee with the editor” event Monday at the Canton Public Library.

Kadrich will be on hand from 10-11 a.m. to talk about the issues facing Canton Township, about the newspaper industry as a whole and about the Canton Observer specifically.

Coffee will be provided courtesy the Observer and the Jungle Java Cafe. The Canton Public Library is located at 1200 S. Canton Center.

## ‘Our Stories’ told

On Thursday, March 24, the Canton Mosque hosts an event called, “Our Stories: Living as Muslim Women in Canton.” 7-8:30 p.m. Thursday, March 24, in the community room at the Canton Public Library.

The event will include a panel of Muslim women who will share their public and private experiences of living as Muslim women in Canton. The event is open and free to all. Refreshments will be provided. The event is sponsored by the Muslim Community of Western Suburbs.

For more information, visit [www.mcws.org](http://www.mcws.org) or e-mail [mcwsoutreach@gmail.com](mailto:mcwsoutreach@gmail.com).

## Raking in volunteers

The Plymouth Community United Way is seeking volunteers for the spring “Rake-N-Go” event scheduled for April 30.

Volunteers are invited to help clean yards and provide light labor for senior citizens in the Plymouth, Plymouth Township and Canton communities. The day of the event, volunteers will meet at The Salvation Army Plymouth Corps at 9451 S. Main Street at 8 a.m. to check in. The PCUW will supply a continental breakfast and yard waste bags, but volunteers are asked to bring rakes, garden tools, hedge trimmers and gloves.

To help out the day of the event, respond by April 16 to Krista at [kstrobel@ameritech.net](mailto:kstrobel@ameritech.net) or call (734) 453-6879, Ext. 6.

## Mother knows best

Local women and girls are invited to send us (in 50 words or less) the best advice you received from your mom.

Include a photo of your mom or, better yet, you and your mom. E-mail your best submission and photo (jpg format only) to [bkadrich@hometownlife.com](mailto:bkadrich@hometownlife.com).

Include your first and last name and hometown and identify your mother (first and last name, please). Include a daytime phone number or cell phone where you can be reached during business hours. The photos and advice will appear in the Thursday, May 5, Salute To Women edition of Hometown Life Woman. Deadline to submit advice and photo is 5 p.m. Friday, April 15.

# Hundreds appeal property assessments

BY DARRELL CLEM  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Canton resident and retired business owner John Faris shook his head in frustration as he said his property taxes have inched up in recent years while the value of his home has declined sharply.

Though he said his taxes finally showed a one-year decline of \$126, Faris said the relief he got wasn't enough to keep him from challenging his property assessment Monday afternoon as the Canton Township Board of Review began hearing appeals.

“I feel that the value of my home has gone down so much, but not my property taxes,” he said, standing outside the Board of Review meeting room at township hall.

Faris, 66, said he has lived in his

Canton home for 34 years, and he said significant tax relief has eluded him even though the value of his house has fallen.

Local officials say that, for many longtime residents, tax relief has proved frustrating because, under a 16-year-old state law, taxable values in recent years have increased slowly and hadn't yet closed the gap with assessed values.

“That's not the norm now,” Canton Assessor Doug Shaw said Monday afternoon.

Rather, the gap has closed for a majority of local homes, and Shaw said most residents have seen some tax relief.

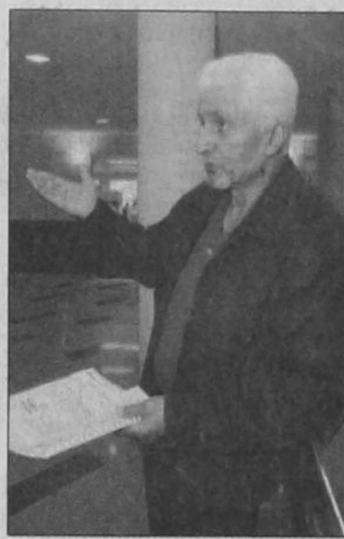
However, he said appeals should be filed if residents believe their property isn't fairly assessed, based on factors such as home sales in the neighborhood, and not simply because they are seeking a reduction in their taxes.

“It shouldn't be about the taxes. It should be about the value of the property,” Shaw said.

Property owners also should consider that their tax relief has been partly offset by a 1.75-mill tax increase approved late last year by the Canton Township Board of Trustees. The tax hike for police and fire services costs the owner of a home with an \$89,100 taxable value about \$156 a year.

The tax increase became part of a three-pronged measure, along with employee concessions and spending cuts, to stave off a township budget deficit that otherwise could have mushroomed to \$15 million by next year, threatening services.

As of Wednesday morning, Shaw said



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

John Faris talks about his appeal.

Please see **APPEAL, A3**



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

## Union issue

Foreman Sid Serokin (Phill Schultz) argues with union grievance official Babe Williams (Kelly Childs) over his abuse of a worker (Jeremy Muse) in the Park Players' production of 'The Pajama Game,' which opens Thursday at the Gloria Logan Auditorium in Salem High School. For the story and more photos, please turn to page A5.

# Plymouth-Canton reaches contract with teachers

BY BRAD KADRICH  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

After nearly a year of negotiating, and more than six months after their last deal expired, Plymouth-Canton Community Schools officials have reached a new contract agreement with the district's 1,100 teachers.

The deal, the effect date of which is Aug. 31, 2010, is a one-year deal that expires Aug. 30. The PCCS Board of Education voted 6-0 Tuesday (Secretary Adrienne Davis was absent) to accept the deal.

Ray Bihun, the district's chief of human resources, said the sides spent more than 20 sessions negotiating the deal. Some 80 percent of the members of the Plymouth-Canton Education Association reportedly approved the deal in a ratification vote.

“Both sides worked really hard to get an agreement,”

Bihun said.

PCEA President Nancy Wojtowicz agreed.

“We spent a lot of time on total compensation (salary and benefits),” Wojtowicz said. “Both sides had to give and take a little bit. We felt like we came up with a fair agreement considering the economic times we're dealing with.”

The one-year deal contains no increase to the basic salary structure, but leaves in place the step increases teachers get for years of service. The teachers also agreed to increased health benefit contributions, increased co-pays to prescriptions, office visits and trips to the emergency room, along with the in-network deductible.

The district is giving teachers \$300 each for a flexible medical spending account, and another \$100 for a classroom benefit.

According to Bihun, those

concessions will cost the district some \$400,000, and the increased contributions from teachers to their health plan will save the district about \$1 million, meaning the district nets some \$600,000 in savings from the deal.

The negotiations were a drawn-out process stretched over some 11 months. It got contentious at times, with teachers taking to shows of solidarity at board meetings, crowding the meeting room with dozens of teachers and taking to the podium to demand a new deal.

But Bihun said there “weren't any real sticking points.”

“We spent a lot of time on language,” he said. “They had needs, and we had parameters, and we had to work with facilitators.”

Part of that language had to do with a new state man-

Please see **TEACHERS, A2**

# School closing among board budget options

BY BRAD KADRICH  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Plymouth-Canton Community Schools officials will likely close one elementary school and move the Starkweather Education Center as they deal with a projected \$17 million hole in the 2011-12 budget.

The closing of an elementary school was among many political “third rail” items discussed Tuesday as the district's Board of Education began considering recommendations made by its finance committee to deal with the looming budget deficit. Other recommendations, which have been politically touchy for board members in the past, include changing or even eliminating the Talented and Gifted program, privatizing services, extending class sizes and cutting teachers.

The difference this time? They're pretty sure some — or all — of those cuts might have to be made.

“I know we're going to have to make some decisions we don't want to make,” board President John Jackson said. “We should do it with our eyes open.”

The eye-opening process took another step Tuesday, when board members began considering some 34 recommendations — made with varying levels of importance — made by the finance committee. Some 19 of them were items that could be accomplished for the 2011-12 school year; the rest would need some study and some time and were projected for the 2012-13 school year or beyond.

Taken as a whole, the recommendations total far less than \$17 million in cuts. District officials said the difference would likely be made up by using the fund balance, projected at some \$11.6 million at the end of this year, and potential staffing cuts.

Former board Presidents Mark Horvath and Mike Maloney urged the board to approach the problem with a greater degree of urgency than they've shown so far. Horvath pointed out that, with a \$17 million deficit, the board would have to consider 170 options averaging \$100,000 apiece in order to get to the magic number. He said if the board meets twice

Please see **BUDGET, A3**

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# Hindu Temple hosts April health fair

The Hindu Temple of Canton on Cherry Hill Road east of Canton Center will open its doors for a major health fair on Sunday, April 3.

The health fair, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., will feature more than a dozen doctors from the Oakwood Healthcare System who will provide a wide range of services and free screenings and consultations, said Teresa Jackson, patient services coordinator for Oakwood Annapolis Hospital (OAH) in Wayne.

"It's the most comprehensive one I've seen yet," she said.

The health fair is the ninth such annual event, and it is open to the community. It is being put on by Oakwood Annapolis Hospital and the Michigan Association of Physicians of Indian Origin (MAPI) and the Hindu Temple.

There will be blood pressure checks, hearing tests and blood screenings provided — all free of cost. There will also be information booths on health topics such as breast cancer, mammograms, nutri-

tion, lifestyle enhancements, hormone enhancement therapy and more.

Medical specialists on hand include cardiologists, urologists, endocrinologists, internists, ophthalmologists and dentists, among others.

Dr. Sarju Shah, an Oakwood doctor with a practice on Haggerty near Ford Road, said he has been involved in the event since 1995.

"The value to the community is immeasurable, especially in this economy," said Shah. "The people who attend get good care."

Pre-registration is recommended prior to March 31. Anyone interested can register by calling (734) 981-8730.

Those who want their blood tested should fast overnight, avoiding food after midnight the night before. The minimum age for those who want their blood tested is 25. Other than that, the health fair is open to anyone.

"We want people to come," said Jackson. "It's a great opportunity for the community."

## TEACHERS

FROM PAGE A1

date that every teacher be evaluated every year. Bihun said it used to be that tenured teachers only got evaluated every three years. The sides, he said, had to negotiate how that process would work.

The stickiest points, he said, were obviously compensation and benefits. Raises were "always on the table," Bihun said, as was the elimination of the step increases, which Bihun said would have saved the district \$2.4 million.

"Sometimes we were millions of dollars apart," Bihun acknowledged.

The district still has agree-

ments to reach with their paraprofessionals, cafeteria workers and licensed techs and, with the teachers' deal expiring in August, the sides will likely be back at the table within a month.

"We're glad to have a deal," Wojtowicz said. "We would have liked to have seen a longer-term contract."

Bihun said financial uncertainty made that nearly impossible.

"I guess we could have talked about a two-year deal, but we don't know what the money is going to look like," Bihun said, referring to the district's budget and the state foundation grant. "It's not very pleasant to have to turn around and do it again."

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

### Economic luncheon

Lt. Gov. Brian Calley will be the keynote speaker at the Canton Economic Club luncheon set for 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday, April 11, at the Summit on the Park Community Center, 46000 Summit Parkway in Canton.

Cost is \$20, and RSVPs are requested by Thursday, April 7.

To RSVP or for more information, call (734) 394-5185.

Preschool Book Land

The staff of Plymouth-Canton Community Schools Early Childhood Programs will host "Book Land 2011," a special preschool literacy night. The event will take place on Thursday, April 7, from 6-8 p.m. at Hulsing Elementary School, 8055 Fleet Street, in Canton.

Many fun activities have been planned based on our favorite storybooks. All games and prizes are for children ages two, three and four. Tickets are \$1 per child, and parents are free!

Call the Early Childhood Office at 734-416-6190 for more information.

### Safe seniors

Canton Public Safety, in conjunction with The Canton Senior Safety Coalition and Canton Leisure Services, hosts its annual Seniors: Safe, Sound & Secure seminar on Wednesday, March 30, from noon to 3 p.m.

This year's free seminar for senior citizens includes guest speakers covering topics such as driver and travel safety, and identity theft. Also included will be trivia by "My Trivia Live" and Zumba.

Lunch and dessert are provided. Space is limited; contact the Canton Senior Desk at (734) 394-5485 for reservations by March 28.

### Grief support

Compassionate Care

### AROUND CANTON



### Duchess on stage

Barbara Scanlon (The Grand Duchess) and David Troiano (General Fritz) in a duet from Comic Opera Guild's "The Grand Duchess of Gerolstein," being presented by the Comic Opera Guild at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill April 2-3. Performances are 8 p.m. Saturday, April 2, and 2 p.m. Sunday, April 3. Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$17 for seniors and \$15 for students, and can be purchased by credit card at (734) 394-5460 or online at [www.canton-mi.org/villagetheater](http://www.canton-mi.org/villagetheater) or at Summit on the Park, 46000 Summit Parkway in Canton.

Hospice is conducting a grief education series for anyone grieving the loss of a loved one.

The goal of the program is to provide support and education on the grief process. The third program of the series, "Moving from Pain into Power," will be held Thursday, March 24, at the Compassionate Care Hospice office located at 5730 Lilley Rd., Ste. A, in Canton, from 6-7:30 p.m. There is no charge.

For information or to register, contact Ann Christensen, Compassionate Care Hospice Bereavement Coordinator at (888) 983-9050.

### Black and Blue Classic

The 2011 Boys "Black and Blue" Lacrosse Tournament is scheduled for Saturday, March 19, at the Canton High School Football Field at Plymouth Canton Educational Park.

Lacrosse teams from across Michigan will compete from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Admission is free for spectators and food and beverages will be available for purchase. The event is co-sponsored by the Plymouth and Salem High School Boys Lacrosse teams.

### Table sellers invited

In anticipation of their April 9 Mom2Mom sale benefiting the Autism Collaborative Center, the Canton Newcomers, a social, civic and charitable organization, invites table renters to sell new and gently used maternity, baby and child items including furniture and larger play equipment.

This sale will be held at the Summit on the Park from

8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. With the groups' motto of "where neighbors become friends," enjoy an extra special sale atmosphere.

For more information, call Jessica at (734) 446-4019 or e-mail [themirolands@yahoo.com](mailto:themirolands@yahoo.com).

### Have compassion

Compassionate Care Hospice seeks caring, compassionate volunteers with big hearts to serve as friendly visitors for its patients. Volunteers set their own schedules and typically donate one or two hours of their time per week.

Compassionate Care Hospice is a community-based hospice organization committed to the highest quality of hospice care for patients, their families and other loved ones. Volunteers receive training and ongoing coaching, and social opportunities are available as well.

The next new volunteer training is fast approaching, and will take place at the office in Canton. Contact Justine Galat, volunteer coordinator, to apply for an interview at [jgalat@cch.net](mailto:jgalat@cch.net) or (888) 983-9050.

### All Saints fundraiser

Crafters (scrappers, knitters, beadars, paper crafters) who are slightly behind can pack up your projects and craft tools and join the second annual Crop & Craft Day at All Saints Catholic School 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday April 2. Full-day (\$35), half-day (\$25) and share-a-table (\$50) options are available.

All Saints Catholic School is a preschool through grade

eight Detroit Archdiocesan coeducational Catholic School. Gospel values are the basis of the formation of our students in faith, ethics, academics and community. All Saints Catholic School is fully accredited by the Michigan Nonpublic Schools Accrediting Association.

All Saints Catholic School is located at 48375 Warren in Canton. To request a registration form or any questions you can contact Hope at [ascscropandcraft@gmail.com](mailto:ascscropandcraft@gmail.com).

### Prom dresses

The Plymouth Canton AAUW Prom Dress Sale takes place noon to 4 p.m. Sunday, April 10, and 6-8 p.m. Monday, April 11, at Memorial Elementary School, 3001 Marquette, Garden City (between Henry Ruff and Middlebelt).

The sale is to provide prom dresses for girls who are not able to afford them in this economic climate. Accessories such as purses, and jewelry are also welcome. Donations taken through March 31.

To arrange for pick up, e-mail or call S. Zaetta at [szaetta@wowway.com](mailto:szaetta@wowway.com) (734-455-6366), K. Bellows at [KiggityKate83@aol.com](mailto:KiggityKate83@aol.com) (734-421-8807) or E. Nelson at [genelson1c@att.net](mailto:genelson1c@att.net) (734-981-4938).

### Bipolar support

The nonprofit 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>

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Tim Faas, Canton's municipal services director, will talk water rates at forums March 28-29 in the Canton Township Board of Trustees meeting room.

# Township sets water rate forums

BY DARRELL CLEM  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Canton officials still are tabulating new water-sewer rates that local consumers will face, amid unrelenting concerns by suburban leaders who say their communities deserve a stronger role in rate hikes imposed by Detroit.

As township administration officials continued to hammer out water-sewer rates, Municipal Services Director Tim Faas said Tuesday new information still was emerging that may be factored into costs for Canton consumers.

Local officials intend to fine-tune Canton's rates prior to a pair of community forums on water-sewer rates set for 5-8 p.m. Monday, March 28, and 5-8 p.m. Tuesday, March 29. The sessions are scheduled in the Canton Township Board of Trustees meeting room at township hall, on Canton Center between Cherry Hill and Palmer.

As in past years, Faas and Finance Director Rick Eva are expected to explain the new rates and answer any questions residents might have.

Local consumers last year absorbed a 16.9-percent water-sewer rate increase that

cost an average household an additional \$47.41 every three months, putting the quarterly bill at \$328.18.

Earlier this year, the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department had indicated it would impose a 10.3 percent water rate hike on Canton, but it wasn't known Tuesday the exact rates township officials will propose for local consumers.

Rate hikes, typically linked to Detroit's plans and to Canton's cost of providing service and maintaining its water-sewer system, face approval by the township board before they would go into effect.

Upset by skyrocketing water rates in his 20th District and beyond, state Rep. Kurt Heise is pushing a bill for a regional authority to give suburban communities more say in how DWSD sets rates and how the department is managed.

Heise, R-Plymouth Township, 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 communities served by the embattled DWSD.

Heise has indicated that a plan for a seven-member authority, signed by U.S. District Judge Sean Cox, marks an improvement over the way DWSD has been run, but he has said it isn't far-reaching enough. The plan approved by Cox creates a seven-member board with four Detroit members and one appointee each from Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties.

Canton Township Trustee John Anthony has been a vocal critic of DWSD, though he credited Detroit Mayor Dave Bing for trying to make some changes. Anthony said he supports letting Detroit continue to own the department, but with suburbs having a stronger role.

"My position has not changed at all," Anthony said Tuesday. "I'm encouraged by Mayor Bing ... and I think he's trying to do the right thing. The problem is management of that vast (water department) network. I'm not sure they have ever had the right management team in there."

Anthony said he gives "100 percent" support to Heise's bill. "I think it's the right bill," Anthony said.

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## BUDGET

FROM PAGE A1

a week for two hours at a time, it gives trustees "about 17 minutes" to discuss each option.

"The clock is ticking, and it's down to about 16 minutes," Horvath said.

At the top of the list of recommendations is the closing of an elementary school — officials wouldn't say publicly which one — and moving Starkweather, the district's alternative education center, from its current building, which most observers feel is no longer suitable as an education center. The move, officials said, could save the district some \$700,000.

"(Starkweather) is just a very inefficient building," said James Larson-Shidler, the district's assistant superintendent for business services. "(Closing that building) is where we'd get the greatest impact."

Trustees said they understood the need to consider every option, while acknowledging it isn't going to be easy.

"I realize we have to take some bigger steps," Vice President Dianne Gonzalez said. "But this (closing a school) is going to be an emotional decision."

The biggest financial impact, by a wide margin, would be cutting teachers. Larson-Shidler walked trustees through an illustrative example of how eliminating teachers would impact the budget, while making it clear the numbers were not being recommended. For example, eliminating 61 full-time teachers at the elementary level would save the district \$4.75 million; cutting 35 middle school teachers would save \$2.625 million; and cutting 28.7 high school teachers would save \$2.1 million.

"We obviously feel it would have an impact on student achievement," Larson-Shidler told the board. "(But) it would have significant impact on the budget."

Among the longer-term recommendations the committee made were boundary realignment, which is likely for

the 2012-13 school year; relocating the preschool program from the Tanger Center; and eliminating the TAG program, which would save the district an estimated \$123,800.

The recommendations were made by a committee made up of various school officials, core team leaders, principals and department heads. Missing this year, as opposed to how the budget was arrived at last year, was input from members of the public.

Trustee Steven Sneiderman said he hoped that would change as the district moves through the budget process (the board has to approve its budget by June 30).

"I have a concern about the public not being involved so far," Sneiderman said. "Maybe over the next couple of months we can get them more involved. Last year, dealing with a \$7 million problem, we got them involved. This year, it's a \$20 million problem and they should be involved. These are their schools."

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## APPEAL

FROM PAGE A1

nearly 400 Canton property owners had indicated they planned to appeal their property assessments during weeklong hearings by the Board of Review.

"That's down from over 600 last year," he said.

Shaw anticipated fewer appeals this season after Canton residential property values fell only 1.9 percent on average during the last year, following earlier double-digit declines.

"The market has bottomed out and in some areas is bouncing back," he said.

That comes as welcome news to local elected leaders who have struggled to continue providing services while trying to absorb an \$8.6 million drop in revenues since 2007. Supervisor Phil LaJoy cited the loss, due to declining revenues from property taxes and state-shared revenue, during his State of the Township address March 2.

Meanwhile, Canton residents Abdu Elhage and Ebtissam Elhage — brother and sister — went to township hall Monday to appeal their property assessments before the Board of Review, which considers appeals before issuing decisions in coming weeks.

"I think they listened and are trying to be fair," Ebtissam Elhage said.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Brother and sister Abdu Elhage and Ebtissam Elhage speak to the Board of Review about their properties. Board members are Norman Makay, Gordon Johnson, and James Malinowski.

Abdu Elhage said he sought to ensure his taxes are fair because he is on the verge of retiring and is concerned about his living expenses.

Said his sister, "We don't want him to lose his house."

In another tax-related development this Board of Review season, the township board approved a measure allowing local residents for the first time to file a hardship appeal if their out-of-pocket expenses for health care and prescription drugs push them below federal guidelines for poverty levels.

Treasurer Melissa McLaughlin had proposed the measure, saying residents shouldn't have to choose between paying their taxes and buying prescription drugs they need to live.

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# PUBLIC SAFETY

Thursday, March 17, 2011

hometownlife.com

## HAVE A STORY IDEA?

Contact Editor, Brad Kadrich

Voice Mail: (313) 222-8899

E-mail: bkadrich@hometownlife.com

Comment online at hometownlife.com

## Delmas relative cuts deal on gun charges

BY DARRELL CLEM  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A relative of Detroit Lions safety Louis Delmas is facing sentencing in April after he pleaded guilty to three counts of assault with a dangerous weapon, following accusations he pointed a handgun at three teens — one wearing a Michael Myers-style Halloween mask — as they drove by him in Canton.

Delmas, a passenger, was never charged in the incident that Canton police say happened about 2:15 a.m. Dec. 21 while Ravelle Sadler, 20, was driving west on Ford Road.

Sadler, a Cincinnati resident described by Delmas to Canton police as his brother, faces sentencing April 7 in Wayne County Circuit Court, a court clerk said.

Sadler agreed to plead guilty to three counts of assault with a dangerous weapon last week in return for authorities dismissing a felony firearm charge and one count of carrying a concealed weapon.

Sadler could face penalties ranging from probation to four years in prison. However, he would have faced a mandatory two-year prison term if he had been convicted of the felony firearm charge.

Delmas was never charged though the .40-caliber semi-automatic handgun pointed by Sadler belonged to him.

Early on, Canton police Sgt. Mark Gajeski had described Delmas as a witness in the case and said "the gun was registered to him, but he has a concealed pistol license out of Florida."



Sadler

Delmas lists his address as Miami, Fla., but he lives in Canton during the football season.

Sadler's plea came before he was to stand trial in Wayne County Circuit Judge Bruce Morrow's courtroom.

He was accused of pointing the handgun at three teens — ages 16, 17 and 18 — from Garden City and Canton while he was driving a silver Nissan Titan pickup truck.

According to Canton police reports, the teens drove alongside the Nissan on westbound Ford near Lilley as one of them wore the mask.

One of the teens told police the mask was worn as "a joke." Gajeski has said there was no indication Delmas gave the gun to Sadler.

Canton Detective Sgt. Dave Schreiner has said local police investigated the case and turned their findings over to the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office to decide charges.

Some people, including some readers of the *Observer* online edition, had said the teens shouldn't have been involved in donning a mask as a prank after 2 a.m. Still others said the prank didn't warrant having a gun pointed at them.

According to a police report, the teens feared Sadler was going to fire the gun, yet they trailed the Nissan and called 9-1-1, prompting police to stop the truck near Ford and Ridge roads on Canton's far west side.

### High-speed chase

A male driver who led Canton police on a high-speed chase that spilled into Plymouth Township and Livonia was facing charges for fleeing and eluding and driving with a suspended license, according to a police report.

The incident started around 1:15 p.m. Sunday when Canton police noticed a 1991 Plymouth Voyager that had an expired license plate on northbound Haggerty just south of Ford Road.

Police trailed the driver east on Ford toward I-275 and tried to stop him, but he refused to pull over and entered the northbound ramp to I-275, the police report said.

The man drove 75-80 mph along the interstate, passed Ann Arbor Road and I-96 and, with Plymouth Township officers joining the pursuit, continued until he turned onto Eight Mile Road, the report said.

Police said the driver went east on Eight Mile at 80 mph in a 45 mph zone until he reached Newburgh, where officers pulled back as Livonia had an undercover patrol car that began trailing the van.

Canton police learned within 10 minutes that Livonia police had the driver in custody. The man had turned into a gas station at Eight Mile and Farmington before driving south on Farmington to the Kmart store at Farmington and Seven Mile Road in Livonia.

He then continued driving on northbound Farmington to Brookside Court, where he turned into a driveway and was arrested. Inside the vehicle police found a Florida license plate.

The man told police he had



bought the van in Florida for \$600 but didn't have a title. Police also learned he had license suspensions.

The vehicle was impounded as the man was facing charges.

### Marijuana arrest

Canton police making a traffic stop for a routine violation arrested a driver who was wanted by Michigan State Police in the Bad Axe area for a felony warrant involving marijuana, according to a

police report.

Police made the stop about 10:45 p.m. Sunday on northbound Haggerty just south of Ford.

Police handcuffed the suspect, took him into custody and arranged to turn him over to other authorities.

### More pot

Canton police arrested a man and a woman, accompanied by a 19-year-old child, after finding marijuana during a traffic stop on northbound Haggerty north of Ford. The incident happened Saturday, moments after midnight.

Police noticed a white Ford Explorer with no proper license plate light as the driver made a wide turn onto Haggerty from Ford, near the Canton IKEA store.

Police trailed the vehicle, which pulled into the IKEA parking lot. Police noticed a 19-month-old baby that belonged to a female passenger; the child was in a car seat in the back seat.

A police report indicated the male driver had bloodshot eyes, and police saw a can of Steel Reserve, unopened, in a paper bag.

Police did a background check and learned that the man had a conditional release from jail in Big Rapids for felonious driving. The man also had a curfew from 5:30 p.m. to 6 a.m.

The vehicle belonged to the female passenger. Police found two small bags of marijuana in the vehicle and a partially smoked marijuana "blunt," or cigarette, in the back seat near the child.

Police arrested the man for possession of marijuana, for violation of a restricted license and for violating his conditional bond. The woman was arrested for possession of marijuana.

A friend of the woman came

to the Canton police station to pick up the baby, with the mother's permission, a police report said.

### Lumina lifted

Police went to the \$7600 block of Gyde, southwest of Beck and Joy, after a man said someone stole his 1997 Chevy Lumina sometime between 11 p.m. Saturday and 9:30 a.m. Sunday.

The car was stolen while it was parked behind his house. According to police reports, the man's son had been sitting in the car smoking a cigarette, and he left the car unlocked with the keys in it. The son also reported he had left his wallet and his cell phone in the car.

### Car keyed

A woman contacted police after she said it appeared someone used a key and made a scratch all the way around her 2009 Nissan while it was parked outside the Arctic Edge, an arena on Michigan Avenue west of Canton Center.

The incident happened shortly before 9 p.m. Saturday. The woman told police she had gone to the arena for an open skate night.

### Broken ignition

A man who lives on Princess, southwest of Cherry Hill and Lilley, contacted police to report that someone had broken the ignition out of his 1987 Ford Crown Victoria while it was parked on the street.

The incident happened between 4 p.m. last Thursday and 10 a.m. Friday.

The man told police the car had quite running a couple days earlier, so he believes that's why the would-be thief wasn't able to steal it.

— Compiled by Darrell Clem from Canton Police Department reports.

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— Compiled by Darrell Clem from Canton Police Department reports.

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PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The Park Players present "The Pajama Game."

# Jammie time

## Players tackle love, strife in spring musical

BY BRAD KADRICH  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

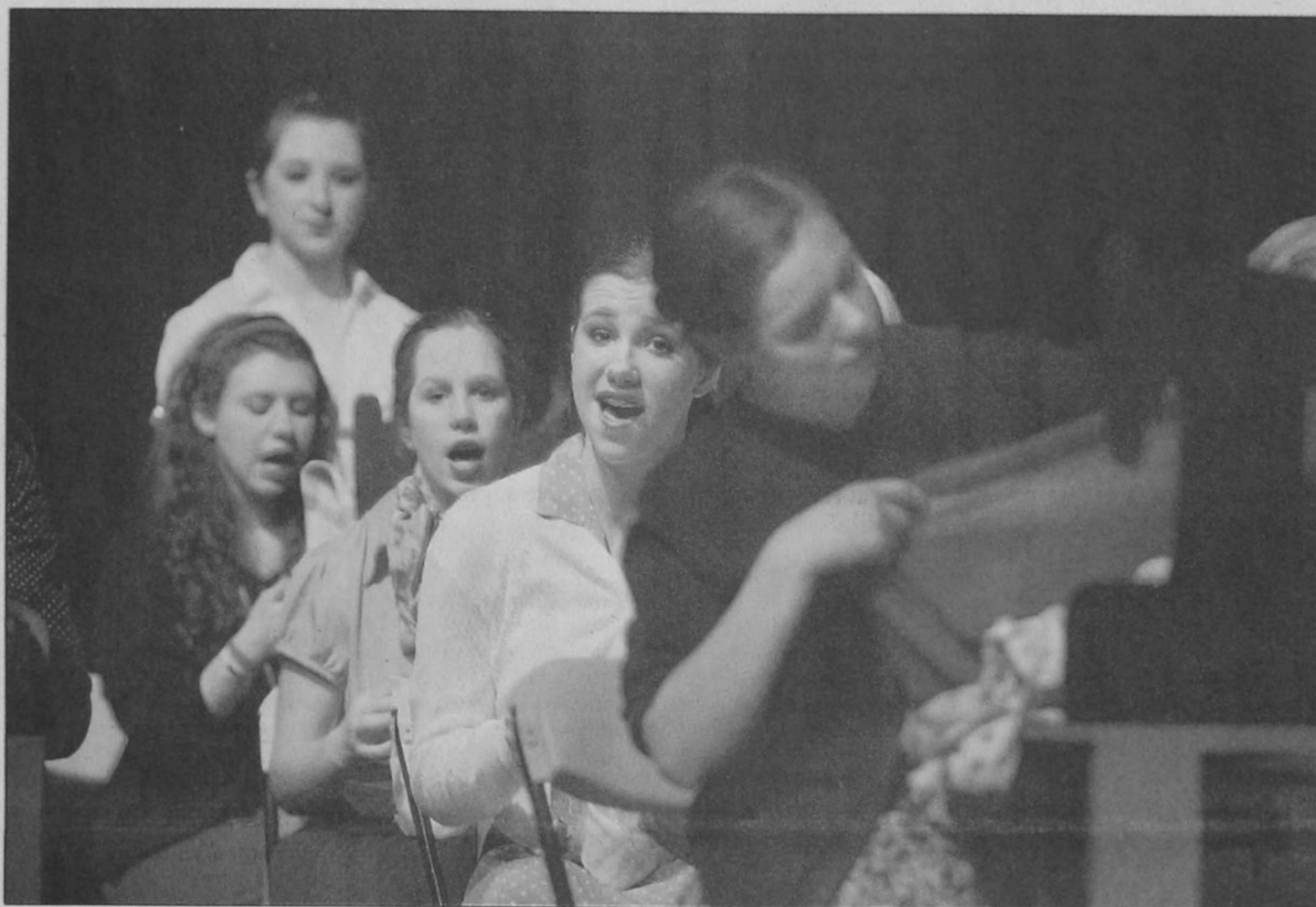
Kelly Childs has had to overcome one major obstacle as she prepares to play Babe Williams in the Park Players' production of *The Pajama Game*.

The obstacle? Kelly Childs. Childs, a bubbly, Canton High School senior acting in just her second show with Park Players, has to play Babe, the stern head of the grievance committee at the pajama factory that provides the backdrop for the spring musical. Childs' problem has been that Babe is such a polar opposite to her own personality.

"It's hard to be so stern sometimes because I'm upbeat and fun," Childs said. "I just get it in my mind, I think, 'What would Babe do?'"

Childs and Plymouth High School senior Phill Schultz lead a 70-member cast as the Park Players put on *The Pajama Game* starting this weekend at the Gloria Logan Auditorium in Salem High School. The story deals with labor troubles in a pajama factory, where worker demands for a seven-and-a-half-cent raise are going unheeded. In the midst of this ordeal, love blossoms between Babe, the grievance committee head played by Childs, and Sid, the new factory superintendent played by Schultz.

Schultz, doing his third musical, was also part of the



The pajama factory workers sew and sing.

Plymouth High School football team that reached the state championship game last fall. That football player mentality contributes to the "manly man" image Schultz said the director told him helped with the decision to cast him.

"I was cast in a 'manly man'

role, so it fits my personality," Schultz said. "I've been singing since I was little, so the singing aspect (of the role) attracted me to it."

The challenge for Schultz is reaching the higher notes required for the tenor role.

"It's a really high singing part for me," he said. "I've had

to work on my range, but it's coming together."

One of the biggest challenges with this musical, according to choreographer Marisa Kowalski, is the sheer size of the cast and the bevy of musical numbers in the play. Of the 70-plus cast members, Kowalski said, maybe

a couple of dozen have had dance experience. The rest are learning.

"It's hard because there are so many numbers and the cast is so large," said Kowalski, a 17-year-old Salem High School senior from Plymouth. "But everyone is working hard and they're eager to do it. They're

### PARK PLAYERS ON STAGE

**What:** Park Players presentation of the Broadway musical 'The Pajama Game.'

**When:** 7 p.m. March 17-19 and March 25-26 at the Gloria Logan Auditorium inside Salem High School.

**Highlights:** Featuring the songs 'Hey There,' 'Steam Heat' and 'Hernando's Hideaway,' 'The Pajama Game' is a musical based on the novel '7½ Cents' by Richard Bissell featuring a score by Richard Adler and Jerry Ross.

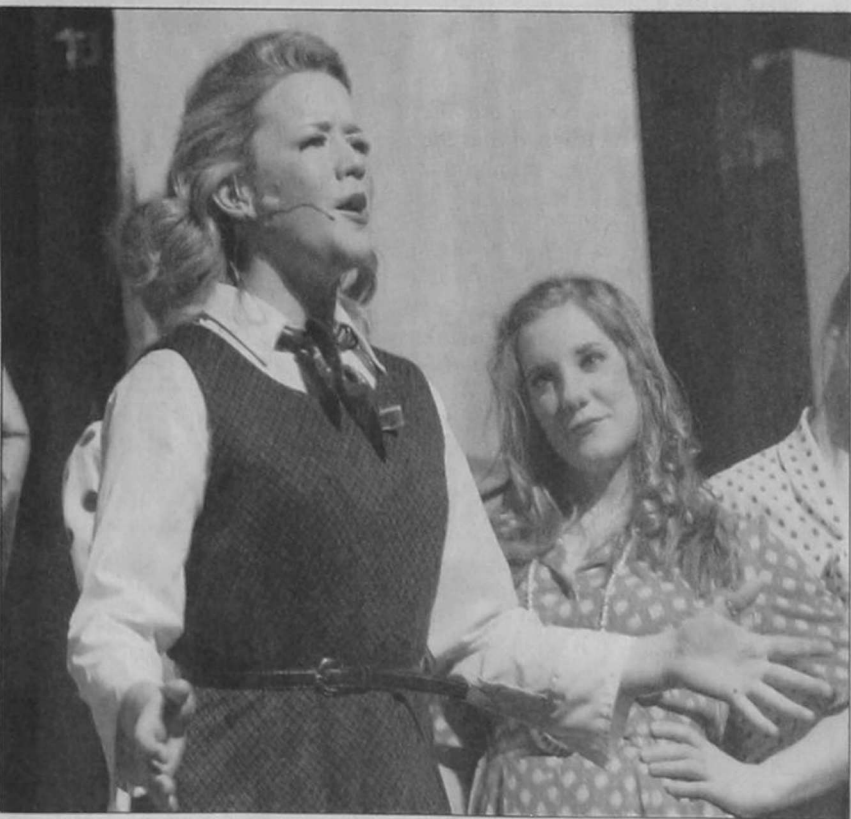
**Tickets:** \$12 in advance or at the door. Salem High School is located at 16181 Joy Road in Canton.

all excited."

It's all been coming together under the direction of first-time Park Players director Rob Leider, a veteran director who guided some 87 shows while teaching at West Bloomfield. Leider, an acquaintance of Tim Schoenherr, Plymouth-Canton's arts coordinator, said one of the biggest challenges was learning the room.

"Directing in a high school when you don't work there is a challenge," Leider said. "You've got to get to know the kids, and the culture of what you're getting into. Fortunately, the adults who've been part of the program have been very welcoming, and the kids have been great."

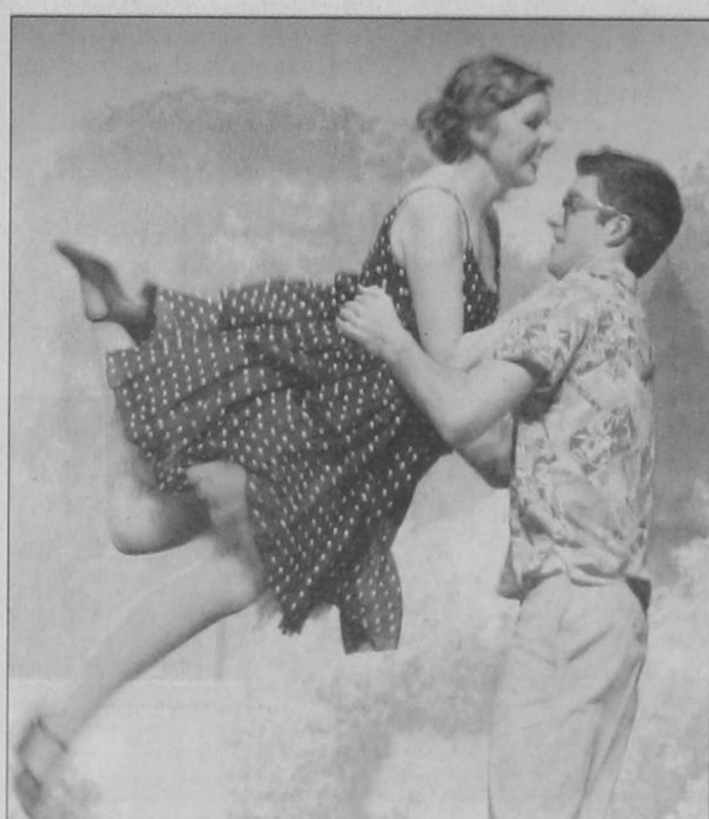
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Babe Williams (Kelly Childs) not that enthralled with Sid. At right, chorus member Emily Farhat.



Mr. Heinz (Michael Albert) and Mabel (Holly Platis) dance away Heinz's jealousy.



Kelsey Allen and Tanner Cottrell rehearse.



Josh Smith, Carolyn Wilts and D'Wann Bevell sing the classic number "Steam Heat."



The ever-efficient Heinz (Michael Albert) sings "Think of All the Time I'll Save."

# Joining in for Jesse

## Community eases burden for 'SuperJess' and his family

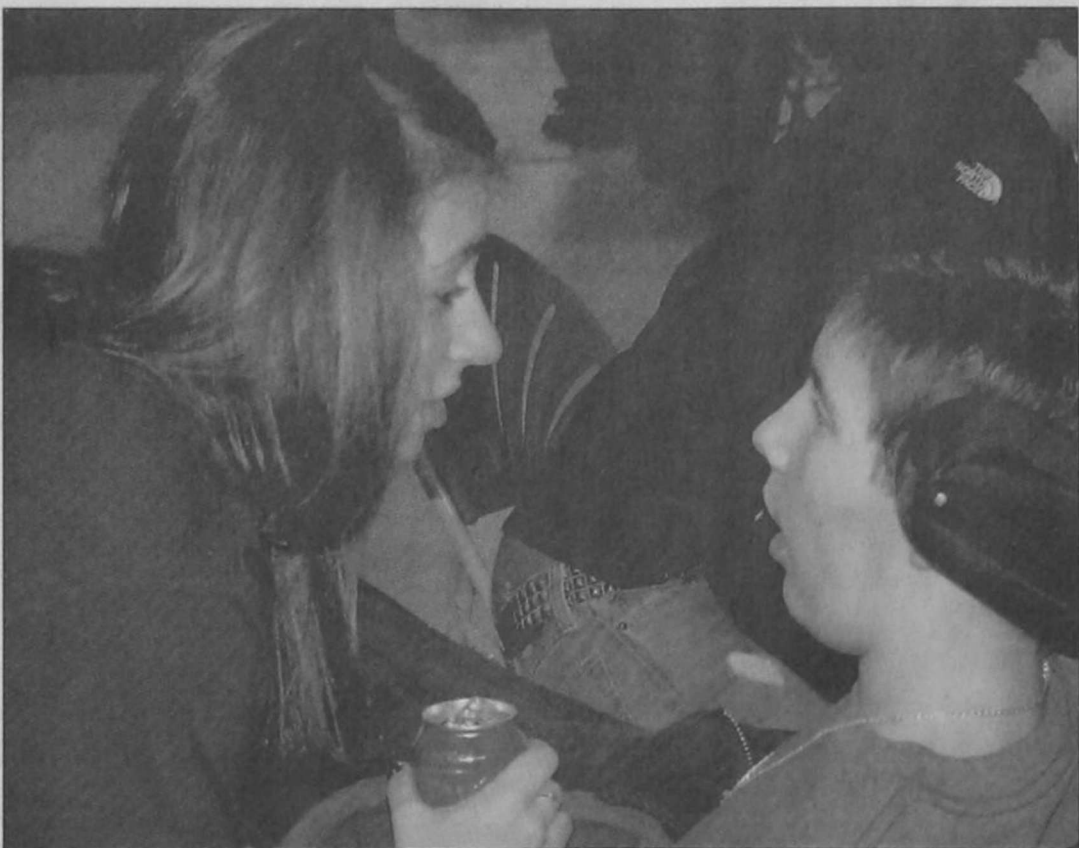
BY MATT JACHMAN  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

It's often during our greatest trials that we find our greatest strengths and the physical and moral support of friends and family that can help us through.

That axiom was certainly at work Sunday at All Saints Catholic School in Canton Township, where hundreds of people gathered to support 16-year-old Jesse Lindlbauer, who is recovering from the trauma and complications caused by an infection that spread to his brain, and his parents, Barb and Dave, and their family. The event was a spaghetti dinner in the school's gymnasium and cafeteria, one of several fundraisers planned for the coming weeks.

Jesse, an athlete and stand-out student at Canton High School, has already beaten long odds — he was given just a 20-percent chance of surviving when he was admitted to Mott Children's Hospital in December — and is back home undergoing intensive outpatient therapy to restore his functioning, plus academic tutoring to help him keep up with school work.

**CARE COVERED**  
The Lindlbauers, of Canton,



Jesse Lindlbauer and his sister, Sarah, share a moment Sunday during a spaghetti-dinner fundraiser at All Saints Catholic School in Canton Township. Jesse, 16, is recovering from the effects of an infection that spread to his brain.

are insured, but insurance doesn't cover many of the things, such as some therapy equipment, or the home nursing care needed for family members to get a break at night, that will be important to Jesse's recovery. The night-time nursing care alone, which the Lindlbauers are receiving at cost from a company familiar with Jesse's situation, is about \$4,000 a month, Barb Lindlbauer said.

So friends, neighbors, people the Lindlbauers know through their children's schools, and even strangers rallied Sunday to an event that's become so familiar in communities around the country: the fundraising dinner for someone with a medical need. Organizers say they sold more

than 600 dinners and raised over \$14,000, including from money raffles of donated gift baskets and the sales of T-shirts and wristbands.

"It's amazing how word has spread and how so many people care," said Barb Lindlbauer, who has been blogging at CarePages.com about her and her family's experiences during Jesse's illness and recovery.

Such fundraisers are wonderful events. In addition to raising money, they bring people together for a cause, give supporters a chance to focus their concern through organizing and attending, and put a human face on a real family's struggle that can't be easily communicated or totally understood.

**DAUNTING ROAD**  
Though the road Jesse and the Lindlbauers are on is daunting, there were more smiles than somberness at All Saints on Sunday, which boosted the sense of optimism Barb Lindlbauer has expressed about the outlook for her son's recovery. Many wore their "SuperJess Support System" T-shirts, a tribute both to Jesse's fighting spirit and the community safety net that has been created to lift him up.

"It makes us feel really special, for sure," Barb Lindlbauer said of the outpouring. They had long thought of Jesse as special — that's part of being a parent, after all — but "now we see, through so many other people, that they all think he's special, too," she added.

Jesse's close friends also appreciated the support. "It shows, like, how many people he's touched in the community," said one friend, Mark Montante.

Barb Lindlbauer and Linda Bonell of Plymouth Township, one of the chief organizers, especially wanted to thank Nancy O'Connor, Jen Deprez, Liz Dziadzio, Mary Halewicz and Cathy Lutkenhoff for their help in bringing Sunday's dinner together. All Saints offered its facilities free of charge, and the food was provided by Rose's of Canton restaurant and Mama LaRosa Foods Inc.

Jesse, who was the center of attention on Sunday, is impressing his therapists with his progress so far.

"They thought he wouldn't be able to do three days a week (of therapy) and he's doing four and five," his mother said. "He's doing good. He's very determined."

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

## Concert, fun run planned to support 'SuperJess'

BY MATT JACHMAN  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

More fundraisers are being planned to support Jesse Lindlbauer, a 16-year-old Canton Township boy who in December suffered brain damage due to an infection.

Jesse, a sophomore at Canton High School, was hospitalized for 11 weeks and returned home late last month. He is undergoing physical, occupational and speech therapy, and tutoring to help him keep up with school work. Parents Dave and Barb have medical insurance, but money is being raised to help pay for extras that aren't covered, such as nighttime home nursing care.

On Saturday, March 26, three local bands will be performing in a fundraiser at The Barn, a Canton concert spot. The concert, featuring The Playlist, Taking Flight and Bloomfield, is 7:30-10 p.m. Admission is \$5 a person.

The Barn is at 43065 Joy Road between Main and Lilley. Those who want more information about the concert or want to volunteer can e-mail Mario Gruszczynski at mario453@gmail.com.

On Sunday, May 1, five-kilometer walk and run and one-mile walk and run fundraisers are scheduled for the area



Jesse Lindlbauer, who suffered an infection that damaged his brain and is undergoing intensive therapy, poses Sunday with friends, from left, Mark Montante, Lucas Dziadzio, Andrew Kelty, Peter O'Connor and Dylan Bonell. Lucas, Peter and Dylan wear their 'SuperJess Support System' T-shirts, while Jesse's T-shirt reads, 'Impossible is Nothing.'

around Salem High School. The SuperJess 5-K is being sponsored by the National Honor Society at Plymouth-Canton Educational Park.

The events will start at 8 a.m. at Salem. The fee is \$20 for those 18 and under, \$25 for adults. Those who register by April 4 can get a free race T-shirt.

For more information about the SuperJess 5-K, or to obtain a registration form, e-mail Tommy Halewicz at thalewicz@aol.com.

A fund has been set up to help pay Jesse's medical-related expenses through Michigan Family Medical Relief, a 501(c) 3 charitable organization. To donate or volunteer for the SuperJess Support System, e-mail Linda Bonell at lindabonell@comcast.net.

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



Jesse Lindlbauer's mother, Barb, right, with friend Mary Halewicz at a spaghetti dinner fundraiser at All Saints Catholic School on Sunday. Halewicz is one of the chief organizers of the fundraisers being held to support the Lindlbauers.



Gift baskets, donated by Plymouth- and Canton-area businesses and organizations, were raffled off Sunday during a fundraiser for Jesse Lindlbauer and his family. Sixteen-year-old Jesse suffered brain trauma in December due to an infection, and is undergoing physical, speech and occupational therapy while staying at home.

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PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Longtime personal trainer Dave Finlay spent many years working at big box gyms before opening Plymouth CrossFit in Canton.

## Center changes how clients train

BY JON GUNNELLS  
CORRESPONDENT

Longtime personal trainer Dave Finlay spent many years working at big box gyms helping clients get in shape for hundreds of dollars each month.

"I found the services were only good for the people who could afford it instead of the people who really needed it," Finlay said.

That's when Finlay decided to open Michigan's elite fitness training facility - Plymouth CrossFit - to help change the way clients trained and to help change the way they paid for fitness coaching.

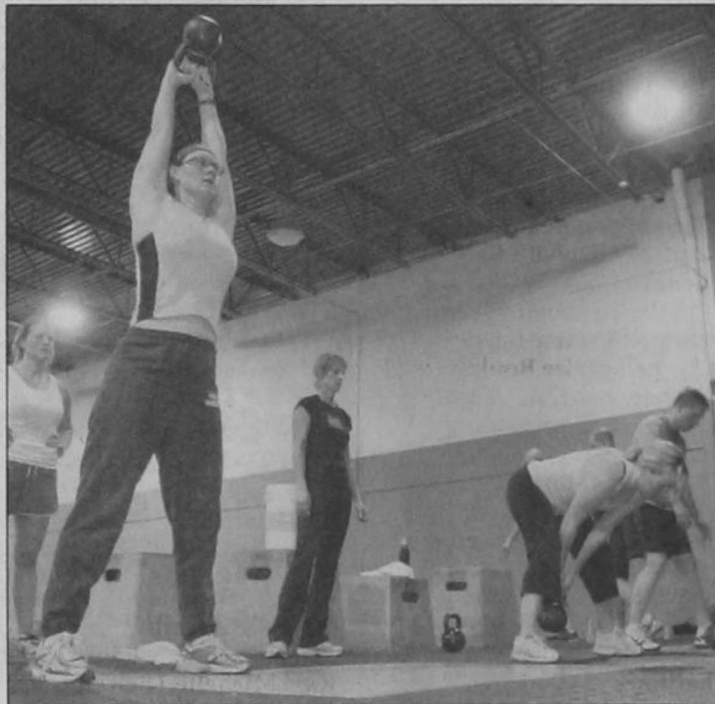
Instead of providing an atmosphere where exercisers do multiple reps with multiple breaks, CrossFit focuses on a variety of functional exercises performed at a high intensity.

The goal of CrossFit is to perform exercises that are used daily like squats, gymnastics, dead lifts and free weight exercises, while eliminating exercises that aren't found in nature such as leg presses.

CrossFit is also different than traditional gyms, or workouts featured on television infomercials because it offers personal coaching.

"The difference is, with P90x you will do it incorrectly," Finlay said. "We bring correct movement under the professional and watchful eye of a coach - and it will still kick your butt."

CrossFit gyms everywhere bring correct movement through unconventional training tools. Take a step into CrossFit Plymouth and you will see a 40-yard football field for sprints, monster truck tires that clients can pull, ropes hanging from the ceiling and



Jill Becker of Livonia, Terri Leib of Canton and Erica Zarzycki of Commerce Township work out at CrossFit.

### PLYMOUTH CROSSFIT

**What:** Plymouth CrossFit

**Where:** 7707 Ronda Drive, Canton

**What:** A high-intensity workout involving functional exercises such as dead lifts, squats, gymnastics, free weight exercises and more to help users become more flexible. CrossFit also focuses on a healthy eating, specifically the Paleo diet which calls for a diet of meat, fruits and vegetables and as little processed food as possible.

**Cost:** \$125-\$200 per month for fitness coaching with a personal trainer.

**More information:** E-mail plymouth.crossfit@gmail.com or call (734) 207-3852

other equipment many people have never seen before.

It may sound intense, but don't let the unknown fool you, CrossFit is a workout that can be endured by any person at any age.

"The need for the movement may differ in degree but not in kind," Finlay said. "An athlete needs it to remain at a high level, and a grandma needs it to stay mobile and perform

activities for daily living."

It's also a lot more affordable than the personal training you can find at box gyms. Instead of paying \$75-\$90 per hour for personal training, Plymouth CrossFit allows users personal fitness coaching for \$125-\$200 per month.

"You will never go back to your globo gym and look at it the same," Finlay said. "We make sport and fun of fitness."

## BUSINESS BRIEFS

### Awesome eats

Tim & Sally's Awesome Eats, an independent restaurant, opened its first location in 2009 at 4171 S. Canton Center in Canton. It specializes in house-smoked meats including ribs, pulled pork and brisket. Tim & Sally's is open for lunch and dinner during the week and in addition offers breakfast on weekends. Dinner menu is extensive and is enhanced by a 'daily entrée' posted on the board. Lunch selections feature Angus burgers, fresh salads, deli sandwiches, and New York hot dogs.

'Tim' and 'Sally' (aka Doug and Janice) continuously add new selections to the feature board; customers look at the board upon entering the restaurant to see what's new. Popular selections become permanent items on the menu. The restaurant is described as an upscale diner with housemade soups, chili, sauces and awesome creations. The current most popular item being tested on the feature board is Tim's Mighty Mac - an immense sandwich made with house-smoked pulled pork or brisket and bbq sauce, caramelized onions, baked cheesy mac and mayo combined on grilled sourdough.

The owners, Doug and Janice Hartleib, are community-minded and have hosted numerous fundraisers for charities and local organizations. Weekends at Tim & Sally's start out with Friday's Fish & Shrimp Fry. Tim & Sally's features handbattered cod and shrimp accompanied by steak fries and housemade coleslaw. The restaurant has entertainment on Saturday nights beginning at 8 p.m. - customers enjoy listening to popular music and watching videos on the large viewing screen. Food and drink specials round out the evening.

Weekends end with families gathering for a relaxed Sunday dinner.

Tim & Sally's will be hosting a private event in early April for Yelp.com, the immensely popular social media site. "Awesome Customers" follow Tim & Sally's on its website www.timandsallys.com as well as its Facebook page, www.facebook.com/timandsallys.com.

### Water commission

Oakland County Water Resources Commissioner John P. McCulloch has selected prominent Bloomfield Hills attorney J. Bryan Williams to be Oakland County's representative on the Detroit Board of Water Commissioners.

McCulloch said he selected Williams because of his long history of public service

and superior legal acumen.

"Those qualities will make him a valuable addition to the Water Board," McCulloch said. "I've had the pleasure of working with Bryan for many years and know that he will represent the people of Oakland County with uncompromising excellence."



Williams

According to the terms of a stipulated court order, Oakland, Macomb and Wayne County each nominate an individual for Detroit Mayor Dave Bing to appoint to the seven-member Water Board. The nominees must have at least seven years of experience in a regulated industry, a utility, engineering, law or finance.

### Friends Ball

Providence Health Foundation 2011 Friends' Ball will be held 6 p.m. Saturday, April 2, at the Garden Atrium, Southfield Town Center, Southfield. This year, Sister Xavier Ballance, DC, will receive the prestigious Order of Charity award, and Chandrika M. Joshi, MD, and Robert K. Brateman, MD, will be the recipients of this year's Caduceus Society Physician of the Year award.

Proceeds from the 2011 Friends' Ball will support a new Women's Health Initiative, a coordinated, creative strategy to better meet the health needs of women throughout St. John Providence Health System's West Region. The area to be served includes the surrounding communities of Providence Hospital and Medical Center in Southfield and Providence Park Hospital in Novi. This initiative is part of a system-wide effort of St. John Providence Health System committed to developing programs and services to best support the unique needs of women throughout their lifespan in their quest for optimal health - from prevention and general wellness to specific disease treatment and spiritually based, holistic care of chronic health conditions.

The evening will feature an art gallery, a chance to have photos taken in a photo booth and dancing to the sounds of The Paul Keller Orchestra. Co-chairs for the event are once again Julie Frost and Charlotte Walker. Tickets are \$250 per person; tables of 10 are available for \$2,000.

To become a corporate sponsor for the event, place an ad in the program book or purchase a ticket, please contact Lorraine Owczarek at (313) 343-7582.

## CHAMBER CHAT

### Chamber auction

The Canton Chamber of Commerce's annual dinner auction is scheduled for 7 p.m. to midnight Saturday, April 16. Don't miss out on Canton's biggest event of the year. This year's theme is "ChamberOpoly."

Your ticket price of \$75 includes open bar, food stations, Live and Silent Auction, raffles, entertainment and much more. This year's auction includes items such as a vacation condo, Pandora jewelry, sports tickets, golf, restaurant gift certificates, a police car ride-along and other unique items.

For more information contact the Chamber office at (734) 453-4040.

### Staff appreciation

The Canton Chamber of Commerce hosts its annual Staff Appreciation Luncheon on Wednesday, April 27, 2011 at 11:45 a.m. at Carrabba's Italian Grill, 1900 N. Haggerty Road in Canton. The cost for the luncheon is \$20 for members and \$30 for non-members and includes lunch, beverage, dessert and door prizes. This luncheon is open to the public.

"Every year our Staff Appreciation Luncheon serves as a wonderful opportunity for our members to say thank you to their staff," Chamber President Tracey Rettig said of the luncheon.

The Staff Appreciation Luncheon is sponsored by Huntington Bank and Yazaki North America, Inc. Seating is limited and reservations are required. To make your reservation, contact the Canton Chamber of Commerce at (734) 453-4040. Deadline for reservations is Friday, April 22.

### Home improvement

The Livonia Chamber of Commerce will hold its first-ever Home Improvement Show on Saturday, March 26, at Churchill High School, Livonia.

The daylong event will give homeowners ideas and easy access to experts as they research projects for their home. The chamber is now taking reservations for display space in the show from landscapers, electricians, carpenters, financing consultants, plumbers and other home improvement experts. Prices range from \$100-\$250.

For more details, contact the chamber at (734) 427-2122.

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Suzanne Nash of Livonia was co-host of the 'Defend the Dream' rally Tuesday at the Alfred Noble Library on Plymouth Road in Livonia.

## Demonstrators protest public sector cuts, anti-union legislation

BY KEN ABRAMCZYK  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Mark Schutte stood in a drizzling rain in front of the Alfred Noble Library on Plymouth Road in Livonia.

Schutte and other demonstrators gathered late Tuesday afternoon with members of MoveOn.org and other citizens at a "Defend the Dream" rally to show support for public education, public services and labor unions.

Like many others at the rally, Schutte of Livonia carried a sign that read "We Are Wisconsin."

"I feel the middle class is being taken apart piece by piece," said Schutte, a technician and member of Communications Workers of America, Local 4009. "I'm against tax breaks for the rich when people are barely able to feed themselves."

Schutte also worries about the attempts by state governments to break up public sector unions, pointing to the Wisconsin's governor's efforts to terminate public employee contracts and the legislation allowing for a financial manager in Michigan to terminate collective bargaining agreements in the public sector. "I'm here for state workers and all workers. There's a drive to break up the public sector workers and their unions," Schutte said.

In a related development, state Democratic legislative leaders called for an amendment Wednesday to the state constitution to protect collective bargaining rights.

### A CALL TO REJECT CUTS

Organizer Kathy Murphy expected more than 200 at the demonstration. She said sup-

porters were rallying to stop the attacks on the middle class. "We're against the privatization, deregulation and slashing of public services," Murphy said. Murphy urged elected representatives, namely U.S. Sens. Carl Levin and Debbie Stabenow, U.S. Rep. Thaddeus McCotter, state Sen. Glenn Anderson and state Reps. Phil Cavanagh and John Walsh to reject privatization, deregulation and public service cuts.

Murphy said Gov. Rick Snyder proposed to increase taxes on individuals by more than \$1.6 billion and will transfer that money dollar-for-dollar in tax breaks to corporations. In addition, the Republicans have proposed legislation mandating that public school districts privatize all non-instructional services, Murphy said. The Republicans in the U.S. House recently proposed more than \$100 billion in cuts to the federal budget, including Pell grants, vocational and adult ed, job training and employment funds, clean and safe water and community development block grants, Murphy said.

"Instead of punishing working Americans, we need to stop these attacks and invest in America by making corporations and millionaires pay their fair share," Murphy said.

A request for a comment from McCotter's office on the rally drew a short response. "I hope they took the opportunity at the library to borrow an economics primer," McCotter said. Walsh could not be reached in Lansing Wednesday for comment on the rally.

Signs reading "Unions Make U.S. Strong" and "We Are Wisconsin" dotted the landscape in front of the library.

Stu Butterfield, a retired firefighter from Dearborn, was protesting legislation that curbs workers' rights to collectively bargain and changes in state Act 312, the law that allows for police and fire unions to go to binding arbitration.

"My concern is the idea that we have to sacrifice has been drilled into people, while we're giving tax breaks to big business," Butterfield said. "The rich continue to get tax breaks, while the middle class bears the brunt of it. We cut our services, and we give up what we earned."

"We're told that the state is broke and the country is broke, and I see record corporate profits and a small percentage of people controls the wealth in this country. That's not good for our economy, and it's not good for our security. You can't sustain a democracy with that condition."

### EXPRESSING FRUSTRATION

Kathy Ventittelli of Southfield felt like she had to "do something to express her frustration."

"To undo the unions is to undo the progress in this country," Ventittelli said. "What are we doing? We have to take a stand."

Jim Inglis, director of the Livonia Housing Commission, told the Livonia City Council that the 2011 Community Development Block Grant budget was cut 7 percent, the same that was proposed by President Barack Obama.

Inglis has proposed \$372,000 for 2011, down \$30,091 from the program total of \$401,211 in 2010. A 62.5-percent reduction would reduce spending by \$250,757, Inglis said.

### Alma College

Alma College has named over 400 students to the Dean's List for outstanding academic performance during the 2010 Fall Term, including three from Canton and three from Plymouth.

Students who achieve a 3.5 or better grade point average during a term, while carrying a minimum of 13 credits, at least eight of which are evaluative grades, are named to the Dean's List.

Canton students who made the list include senior **Maricatharine Eggenberger**, a 2007 graduate of Plymouth High School; freshman **Chelsie Myers**, a 2010 graduate of Plymouth Christian Academy; and freshman **Lindsey Schmidt**, a 2010 graduate of Canton High School.

Plymouth students named to the list include freshman **LeeAnne Carr**, a 2010 graduate of Plymouth Christian Academy; freshman **Katherine Greenough**, a 2010 graduate of Ladywood High School; and sophomore **Erin Rodes**, a 2009 graduate of Plymouth High School.

### Madonna University

Named to Madonna University's Dean's List in recognition for superior academic achievement during the Fall 2010 term were the following residents from Canton:

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**Dena Ahmad**  
**Zaneh Abdul-ezaz Allie**  
**Shelby Elizabeth Anthony**  
**Angela Marie Arpi**  
**Alice Yusef Batayeh**  
**Lisa Leann Beam**  
**Ashley Elizabeth Benton**  
**Jennifer Gracia Binkerd**  
**Keith Christopher Booms**  
**Danielle Marie Born**  
**Rachelle Elise Boulet**  
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**Kirsten Marie**  
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**Jessica Christine Cicirelli**  
**Matthew Daniel Cole**  
**Bethany Grace Constance**  
**Renata Bachi DaCosta**  
**Roberto D'Amico**  
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**Jenna Lynn Gambino**  
**Angela Marie Gasparotto**  
**Pierre Andre Genereux**  
**Kathleen Nicole Grenfell**  
**Christine Sue Hadjinian**  
**Nickie Ann Hampsher**  
**Janet Hedrick**  
**Elaine Catherine Howard**  
**Andrew Huang**  
**Janine Marie Jagodzinski**  
**Deanna Rose Janisse**  
**Vincent Jigbeh Jaryan**  
**Matthew Joseph Kay**  
**Julie Nicole Kayganich**  
**Rebecca Ann Keeling**  
**Gina Michelle Kilgore**  
**Cajetan Bah Kimfon**  
**Parker Andrew Laabs**  
**Andrea Jean Ladzinski**  
**William Leddy**  
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**Taylor Justine Lewis**  
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**Jennifer Lynn May**  
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**Joe Christopher Mullally**  
**Amy Margaret Neville**  
**Helen Thanh Nguyen-Tran**  
**Stephanie Leann Obleness**  
**Becky R Pakos**  
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**Allison Jeannine Peak**  
**Carolyn S Perakes**  
**Virginia Carroll Perry**  
**Nicole Christina Petrik**  
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**Catherine M Romzek**  
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**Carly Elizabeth Scanlon**  
**Brittney Lynn Scero**  
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**Courtney Adams Weld**  
**Jeanne Marie Winn**

**Ashley Amanda Winslow**  
**Joshua Craig Wolfe**  
**Ashley Erin Worthington**  
**Erik Alan Wright**  
**Melissa Maxine Wroblewski**  
**Phillip Zhang**  
Named from Plymouth were:  
**Kyle Clinton Allen**  
**Whitney Mountain Allmond**  
**Brigid Eileen Behmer**  
**Andrea Rose Burdette**  
**Jeffery Peyton Casper**  
**Rachel Choate**  
**Kathryn Ann Collins**  
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**Katelyn A Rzetelny**  
**Kristen Renee Sabatini**  
**Kristina Paula Sangalang**  
**Sarah Elizabeth Sherwood**  
**Sophie Marie Stevenson**  
**Daniel Matthew Stoney**  
**Matthew Michael Szmytko**  
**Jessica Lynn Teper**  
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## OUR VIEWS

# The key role Parents play big part in stopping bullies

Experts agree bullying is on the rise in schools, and they also agree on at least one other thing: The Internet is playing a huge role in the spike in incidents.

In the Plymouth-Canton school district, they're doing what they can not only to raise awareness of the problem, but to give parents some help in dealing with it in the wake of a couple of recent incidents of cyber threats, one of which could have turned into something deadly.

Plymouth-Canton administrators have disseminated information, talked to kids and brought in experts to help parents, because they know the same thing all the experts know:

This can't be done without parents.

There's a reason for that: Much of the bullying, much of the threatening, is being done at home, on the computer. It starts as a minor tiff during school hours, but escalates in the relative safety of cyberspace, where kids being bullied can respond without, as one high school administrator put it, "without the immediate threat of a punch in the nose."

It escalates because friends of both the bully and the bullied get involved, on Facebook pages and MySpace accounts, on sites like Formspring that appear to offer more anonymity. Kids feel safer, thus braver, when all they have to do is type. They often don't realize they might have to back up that tough talk the next day at school.

For others, pressure builds up, in life and in school, for which a key release is the Internet. Cyberspace provides a convenient soapbox from which to launch diatribes, to make threats, to issue warnings. That's what one recent incident seemed to be, when a student threatened to shoot up one of the three Plymouth-Canton high schools. Two vigilant students reported the threat to a — wait for it — parent, who reported it to police, who had the "anonymous" threatener's IP address in seconds and showed up on his doorstep to stop what could have been a horrific incident.

If you think we're dramatizing to make a point, you're wrong. The incident was self-dramatizing; no exaggeration necessary.

Parents play a key role here, not just in keeping track of what their children are doing on the Internet, although every expert ever quoted on the subject calls that a critical necessity. But bullying situations are also teaching moments, not just for teachers, but for parents.

Kimber Bishop-Yanke, who runs a consulting service — Girls Empowered & Boys Empowered & Kids Empowered — that teaches parents, students and school officials how to deal with all of those disturbing behaviors, knows the importance parents play in helping their kids through it all.

One way to prevent it, she said, is to teach kids to stand up to bullies and meanie kids. Rather than ignore it or ask "Why are you doing this to me?" Bishop-Yanke said the best thing kids can be taught to do is to stand up and say, in a clear, strong voice, "Stop."

"The biggest message we're trying to get out there is that we need to stand up for ourselves," she said. "Standing up for themselves is a skill, it takes practice."

It's a skill the school district is trying to help kids acquire. They've brought Bishop-Yanke in to talk to students and parents. They're reaching out now to both the Plymouth and Canton public libraries to host expert panels to help parents deal with the issue.

And that's the key element: The parents. Too often, in these days of economic woe, homes where both parents work or where there's only one parent, the job of parenting gets shoved off onto teachers.

But this problem isn't happening in school; it's largely happening at home, and parents need to step up and police it. When kids get into trouble, the police or the teacher who reported them or friends trying to help get heaped with the blame. But that's killing the messenger.

Parenting is not the job of teachers, it's the job of parents. And parents who aren't sure what to do or feel overwhelmed by the responsibility should know they're not alone. There is plenty of help available to recognize warning signs.

Parents just need to take advantage of it.

## COMMUNITY VOICE

How would you describe the job Wayne County is doing repairing potholes on local roads?

We asked this question at the Canton Public Library.



"Terrible. It's awful. I don't think they're doing anything."

Bertha Phillips  
Canton



"The weather has been bad, so you have to give them the benefit of the doubt. It's a work in progress."

Renita Griffin  
Canton



"There are a lot of potholes out there. They're probably doing the best they can with the budget they've got."

Bob McNeil  
Taylor



"Horrible."

Colleen Brown  
Plymouth Township

## LETTERS

### Raising cultural awareness

As a fellow resident of Canton and supporter of the arts, I encourage those of you who belong to a cultural arts organization, performing arts groups, houses of worship, schools, dance or music studios and/or local business who have an event that is scheduled anytime between Sunday, May 1, through Saturday, May 7, to join the Commission for Culture, Arts & Heritage in celebrating our first-ever "Canton Acts of Culture Week."

We are asking that you advise us of your cultural art event that is scheduled during the "Canton Acts of Culture Week" so that we can publicize your activity and encourage the Canton Community to attend. If you do not have an event scheduled but would like to support the "Canton Acts of Culture Week" in your own way please let us know.

Won't you join us in showcasing Canton's unique cultural offerings? This is a great way to raise awareness to the rich cultural history and diversity in our Canton Community, which exists through the arts.

It is also a way of helping to promote local businesses and attractions in our community. For further information, please contact [mfalzon@canton-mi.org](mailto:mfalzon@canton-mi.org) we hope that you will come out and enjoy the various events and show your support for the arts in our community.

Anthony Davis  
vice chair, Commission for Culture, Arts & Heritage  
Canton

### Hand of poverty

Brought up from the depths of my middle-aged mind, I dusted off an ancient piece of knowledge and decided to put it to use. Although old and not used very frequently, Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs was still in pretty good shape. I dug up this memory in order to make a point in the form of a "Letter to the Editor."

In the March 3 edition of the Canton Observer there was a story printed on the very first page; it was titled, "Thrifty safety department still faces challenge." It has become a sad fact that there has had to be cuts made everywhere. Public safety has, unfortunately, been touched by the hand of poverty as well.

The article commends the Canton Public Safety Department for streamlining staffing levels and reducing overtime costs. It was also mentioned that there has been discussion regarding the possible merger of dispatch services between Canton and Livonia.

It is at this point that I bring the previous two paragraphs together. At the top of the pyramid that depicts the Hierarchy of Needs is Self-Actualization; this is the small, pointed tip that houses such feelings as morality and problem solving. The hand of poverty has chipped away at the top of the pyramid with a knife, causing humanity to be lacking in these abilities and values. It, then, worked its way down to the next layer in the pyramid: esteem.

The hand of poverty threw aside the knife, choosing a stronger weapon: an ax. With the a,

### WHAT DO YOU THINK?

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

E-mail: [bkadrach@hometownlife.com](mailto:bkadrach@hometownlife.com).

Read or comment online:  
[www.hometownlife.com](http://www.hometownlife.com)

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

**Blog:** You may also let your opinions be heard with your own blog at [www.hometownlife.com](http://www.hometownlife.com).

the hand chopped through the "esteem" layer destroying humanity's ability to maintain self-esteem and respect. With that layer reduced to rubble, the hand of poverty then chose a mightier weapon: a gun. The hand took the gun and shot large holes in the next layer: Love and Belonging. With the loss of this layer, came the loss of family values.

The hand of poverty has now chosen its next weapon: a bomb. It has its scope aimed directly at our "Safety," the second to last layer in the pyramid.

The Canton Public Safety Department should greet poverty with a smile on its face, shake its hand, and send it on its way. They have a job to do, and they need to have the means to do it.

Kristin Sullivan  
Canton

### Can't afford generosity

There were many letters to the editor complaining about Gov. Snyder's new budget proposals especially the one taxing pensions.

While it is true that Michigan has never taxed pensions it is also true that many states with a state income tax do. Michigan has been very generous in not taxing pensions but it can no longer afford this generosity. Pensions are, after all, ordinary income as opposed to Social Security retirement benefits which are not taxed.

Public union pensions are financed by taxpayer dollars and for the life of me, I don't remember ever being asked if my tax dollars should or should not be used to fund pensions of public union workers. I do remember voting for Gov. Snyder with the hope he would straighten out our financial mess here in Michigan, attract more business and create more jobs and given the chance I think he will do just that but I am disheartened by all the voices crying for change as long as it does not affect them.

Even my state senator, Patrick Colbeck, who ran on a platform vowing to finally fix our finances cannot seem to disengage himself from politics as usual and do the right thing and support his governor's efforts.

Janusz M. Szyszko  
Canton

### Feeling the pinch

With what's happening in every city across the state it doesn't surprise me Canton is also feeling the pinch.

Losing a part of the Liberty Fest's tradition is hard to swallow to say the least but I can remember when this township was nothing more than farms and a main road with Julian's grocery, a gas station and a new restaurant called Roman Forum.

We have become a little known community of 5,000 to over 90,000 people calling this their home now, so even though it's hard to take losing the parade remember where our roots are and how great this little known township was and what's it's become today.

Robert Denstedt  
Canton

### Do without parade

We can do without a Liberty Day Parade, without fireworks on the Fourth of July, without concerts in Summit Park. All these are frills.

But the township administration should not cut funds for the library or for anything that benefits kids.

Fran Fairfield  
Canton

### Budget no bargain

Picture yourself a few years ago buying a new car. You bought a midsize sedan, complete with air-conditioning, audio system with CD player, and power seats and windows. Five years later, you are shopping for a new car, expecting to pay about a few dollars more for the same size and equipped auto.

This time, that amount of money might get you a compact model, no air-conditioning, no audio system with CD player, manual windows (remember those window cranks in your 1997 model?) and the cheap upholstery.

That's what Michigan taxpayers can expect, if the state legislature supports the basic elements of Gov. Snyder's proposed budget. Individuals will be paying the same level of state taxes but will have a much smaller state system of support for K-12 schools, universities and local revenue sharing which pays a chunk of the cost of your local police and fire departments.

At the same time, retirees are being asked for the first time to pay income taxes on their private and public pensions.

Doesn't sound like buying a stripped-down econobox for about the same price you paid for a midsize sedan just a few years ago or paying more for a new black-and-white TV (do they make them anymore?) than for the color TV set with all the bells and whistles you priced a year?

It is clear that the governor's proposed budget is no bargain — for retirees, for parents of school children, for college students or for local public employees. The bottom line is that we may be paying more for the state budget and getting less — far less.

Leonard Poger  
Westland

## ONLINE VOICES & VIEWS



The following are excerpts from readers participating in our online forum for discussing issues, In Your Voices. Find more comments or join the discussion on the Web at [hometownlife.com](http://hometownlife.com).

• In response to "Sheldon patch job comes before rebuilding project,"

"THANK YOU!!!! We lost a tire there just last weekend. It's a horrible road."

maturelady1

"Expect a whole lot of cold patching before Sheldon Center is improved. Anytime Wayne County says bids will be accepted in the spring, don't expect that date to hold. Based upon past County performance this project will not get underway until late fall (utility work, maybe) and real construction to start the spring of 2012. Canton residents negatively impacted by the condition of the road should sue in 35th District Court. Everyone should call Commissioner McNamara's office so that he can keep the heat on Wayne County Roads."

bcanton

# March 31: Deadline to pay 2008 property taxes

Over my more than 30 years as Wayne County treasurer, I cannot recall a more challenging time for so many property taxpayers. Like the rest of the country, Wayne County is experiencing record numbers of property tax foreclosures.

As county treasurer, I am required by state law to collect property taxes — taxes that pay for government services that we all want, including police and fire protection, schools for our children and much more.

I know many who are having great difficulty paying their bills. Please don't ignore the problem; the time to act is now.

Please note: March 31 is the deadline to pay or make arrangements to pay 2008 delinquent taxes. With this deadline just a few weeks away, I encourage those with delinquent taxes to contact our office right away.

We realize there are many reasons people have not paid their 2008 taxes. Please understand, we do not want your property, we need your



Raymond J. Wojtowicz

payment and we are here to help. If the situation is not addressed, you stand to lose your house to foreclosure.

We recognize these are challenging times for so many and have put in place programs to assist you. Several years ago, I instituted the Taxpayer Assistance Department designed specifically to reach out and inform those with delinquent taxes about payment options they may use to keep their property.

### PAYMENT PLAN

We offer a payment plan that will allow you to budget your payments over the year and avoid foreclosure. If you live in the home and own the home, we can offer a hardship extension to give you additional time to pay. It is essential to act now as time is running out.

Our outreach is simple: "Let's talk." Our goal is to encourage people to contact us

and not panic.

By contacting the Taxpayer Assistance Department, you will speak with a trained member of our staff who will take your information and work with you to explore available options. Please know that your privacy will be fully protected and all personal and property data is shredded to ensure confidentiality.

We cannot guarantee that everyone who contacts us will be able to save their property, however, we will do all that we can to advise you of your options. The 2008 tax year and any taxes prior to that is what needs to be paid or payment arrangements made before March 31.

### READY TO HELP

My office stands ready to help. Through our extensive educational and informational awareness efforts, we are using every resource available to reach delinquent taxpayers to help them resolve their property tax issues. We have partnered with more than 20 community organizations to assist you in this time of need.

# Do your homework; check out charities before opening wallet

The destruction that occurred in Japan last week reminds us of the power of Mother Nature and how, in a matter of minutes, our world can drastically change. The earthquake and tsunami will affect Japan for years and will have consequences here, and around the world.

Obviously, the most important aspect of the disaster is the loss of human life and the pain and grief that so many in Japan will face. There are, however, other consequences of the natural disaster that are important to mention.

Japan is the third largest economy in the world behind the United States and China. At this point, how the tragedy will affect the Japanese economy is unknown.



Money Matters  
Rick Bloom

Not surprisingly, when the Japanese stock market reopened for business, there was a substantial sell-off. Whether this is a one-day event and whether it will affect other markets is hard to say. However, the rebuilding of Japan will have an economic consequence not only to Japan, but to markets around the world.

Another consequence of the tragedy is that once again Americans, who are by far the most generous people on earth, will be opening up their checkbooks to help.

Unfortunately, what that also means — just as we have seen in other disasters — is lowlifes will attempt to take advantage of our good nature.

One problem is that too many Americans do not spend the time to make sure the money they are donating is actually going to the cause they choose.

After the Haitian disaster, hundreds of websites popped up seeking solicitations of money. Unfortunately, many of these websites were bogus and were attempting to steal money and/or confidential information.

Although it is in our DNA to help those less fortunate, always make sure to check out the charity and confirm the money will be going where it will be most beneficial and not in the scam artist's pocket.

One trick used by many scam artists is to make their bogus charity appear very similar to a legitimate one. This, coupled with tear-jerking solicitations and professionally made websites, can cause people to let their guard down. Don't let this happen to you. Before you give, do some homework.

As Americans, it is our nature to help those in need. However, take a few minutes and check out the charity before giving your hard-earned money away.

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 his website at [www.bloomassetmanagement.com](http://www.bloomassetmanagement.com).

### Cut officials' benefits

Why is it the Republican governors and tea partiers talk about cutting "government," yet they are really talking about cutting the workers who really service the people?

They want to cut pay of teachers who educate our children, the police who protect us, the firefighters who protect our property, the EMTs who rescue us and the snow plow drivers who clear our streets.

Why don't they cut the number of school board members? Why not cut the size of city councils or those county commissioners who find more ways to waste money than the federal government. How about cutting *their* salaries by 10 percent or telling them to contribute to *their* pension or pay for *their* health care. Wouldn't it be fiscally responsible if they drove *their* cars to work, like the rest of us.

No, that would be asking them to really turn into a government *by* the people, *of* the people and *for* the people.

Skip Wehrle  
Garden City

### School Aid for colleges, too

I wanted to take the time to clear up a couple of misconceptions that certain individuals may have regarding the School Aid Fund and any allocation of its surplus to "other" areas.

When Proposal A passed, it was clear by the overwhelming support behind it that voters wanted to have a steady source of revenue that could be dedicated to education. There has been nothing that has occurred in the past fiscal year that would be contrary to that desire and the governor's current proposed budget does not appear to contradict that either.

The first misconception that people have is that the School Aid Fund is only limited to K-12. There was no language in the ballot proposal or currently in the State Constitution that would indicate

this to be the case. The language refers to "school districts" and "higher education." Community colleges should be included in the definition of "higher education." For example, if the governor's proposed budget states that he is going to use a certain amount of money from the School Aid Fund to help community colleges, this would not contradict the State Constitution. Any argument that would exclude community colleges would be quite contradictory to the general purpose of any education funding, that being the necessary education of our young people. To exclude community colleges, which tend to serve a different part of the population than do four-year educational institutions, would greatly restrict access to a public benefit of which the community greatly supports.

The second misconception is that money was directed to "other" areas in FY 2010. During that fiscal year, the School Aid Fund had a \$208 million surplus. The Legislature, with support from the governor, approved a measure to direct those funds toward community colleges. To think those funds went anywhere but education is completely false.

As someone who has greatly benefited from a community college, I struggle to understand why certain individuals would express support for all public educational institutions except community colleges. Those institutions are allowed access to the School Aid Fund just like every other public school.

Alexander Steward  
Livonia



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# Performances show cultural variety is valuable

**BY BRAD KADRICH**  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The folks on the Celebration of Diversity planning committee at Workman Elementary School are focused on getting people to value diversity.

They believe that mission was accomplished with Friday's two-hour "Celebration of Diversity" event that featured 10 performances during the show and 11 different countries represented during the World Tour and Food Tasting part of the event.

"Valuing diversity is and always has been critical to harmony and understanding of one another," said organizer Sabrina Boykin. "The ultimate goal of diversity is to value a broad range of people and notions. Diversity helps us to grasp the connections between various aspects of our own individuality."

Some 700 people attended the fifth annual event. After the performances,

Boykin said, each child received a color passport and went to each country for the World Tour and Food Tasting. In each classroom the room was transformed to give the feel of the country.

"When the students answered the passport question in each country they received a stamp," Boykin explained. "When they had at least 5 stamps they selected from a variety of prizes encouraging world peace and unity."

Boykin pointed out parent volunteers, students and teachers spent considerable time preparing for the event, and the turnout and quality performances proved it was worth the effort.

"It was a huge success," Boykin said. "This event is so important because it is an evening for us to embrace and celebrate the many diverse cultures represented at our school."



Students from Noreen Watson's second-grade class (from left) Jon Grenillo, Yensi Goerge, Jeffrey Yang, Bridgette Bowser, Eric Wilhite and Allison Albin sang the Mexican song "To Everyone and the Whole World."

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## SPORTS

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## WHEW!

## Canton hangs on, returns to Final Four

BY TIM SMITH  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Perhaps for the first time all season, adversity hit Canton's varsity girls basketball team in the face Tuesday night.

The Chiefs squandered a 24-8 first-half lead and actually trailed by a point entering the final minute of their Class A state quarterfinal against Midland at Davison High School.

And one of their key players — senior forward Sara Schmitt — sat on the bench after having fouled out.

But senior forward Kari Schmitt drove through the lane for a basket to reclaim the lead at 33-32 with 29 seconds left in regulation.

After a traveling call against the Chemics, Canton junior point guard Robyn Mack hit a couple clutch foul shots with 10 seconds to go and the Chiefs escaped with a 35-32 victory.

"It was really nerve-wracking, you could hear the crowd," Mack said. "So I just tried to focus on the basket, I shot it and it went in."

## BACK TO BRESLIN

The victory punched 24-2 Canton's ticket for a return trip to Breslin Center at Michigan State University.

Canton will face Inkster (23-2) at 2:50 p.m. Friday; Inkster is one of the teams that defeated the Chiefs this season.

"All the credit goes to the kids and I couldn't be happier for them," Canton head coach Brian Samulski said. "They eyeballed getting back

to Breslin since last year, and so I'm thrilled for them. This is something they wanted to do and they got it done."

Last season, the Chiefs lost 50-47 to Detroit Renaissance in a Class A state semifinal.

According to Midland head coach Elaine Mahabir, whose team finished 22-3, her squad "found our guts and dug down deep" to turn a potential rout into a white-knuckle affair.

"The opportunities were there for us," Mahabir said. "I wish we would have connected on a couple more in the third quarter to not put so much on the fourth quarter."

"I'm so proud of my team but I'm so broken-hearted for them, too. Coming down from 13 in a quarterfinal, I don't know how many teams can do that."

## NO WAY TO END IT

Both Mack and Kari Schmitt said there was a bit of extra motivation to lead the Chiefs to a win after Sara Schmitt fouled out with 2:41 left and Canton nursing a 29-26 lead.

"We wanted to win it for her," said Mack, the game's top scorer with 13 points. "We knew she wanted to keep going to the Final Four so we did."

The way the contest started, Canton fans who traveled to Davison might have started thinking about setting their car GPS systems for Breslin.

Please see **BASKETBALL, B2**

JOHN KEMSKI

Not to be denied, Canton senior forward Kari Schmitt (No. 25) drives toward the basket Tuesday night. Defending her is Midland's Maura McAfee (No. 32, left).

## SIDELINES

## Girls lax tryouts

The Canton varsity girls lacrosse team will hold tryouts through Friday at Discovery Middle School.

For registration details, go to [www.eteamz.com/cantonchiefsgirls](http://www.eteamz.com/cantonchiefsgirls) lacrosse or contact coach David Bower at [davidkbower@gmail.com](mailto:davidkbower@gmail.com).

This is the first season that Canton will have its own varsity and junior varsity girls lacrosse teams (as will Plymouth and Salem). Up until the 2010 season, there was a combined varsity team featuring players from all three schools.

## Black and Blue Classic

The 2011 Boys "Black and Blue" Lacrosse Tournament is scheduled for Saturday at the Canton High School football field. Lacrosse teams from across Michigan will compete from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Admission is free for spectators and food and beverages will be available for purchase. The event is co-sponsored by the Plymouth and Salem boys lacrosse teams.

## Berger All-Region

Washington University (Mo.) senior forward Kathryn Berger (Livonia Ladywood) recently earned 2010-11 D3Hoops.com first-team All-Central Region honors in women's basketball.

Berger leads the Lady Bears in scoring and rebounding this season with 13.8 points and 6.5 rebounds per game and has recorded a team-high five double-doubles.

She also leads the team in three-point shooting with 58 three-pointers and a .397 shooting percentage from beyond the arc and is 78-of-92 from the foul line (84.8 percent).

She has been recognized as the University Athletic Association Athlete of the Week five times so far this season.

Earlier this year, Berger became just the 12th Washington U. player in program history to eclipse 1,000-career points and she currently ranks eighth in school history with 1,105 points and sixth in rebounding with 701 boards.

She is one of only three players in school history to score 1,000 points and pull down at least 700 rebounds during a career.

The No. 12-ranked Lady Bears, 24-5 overall, will face No. 7 Illinois Wesleyan in the NCAA Division III Tournament semifinals 7 p.m. Friday at the Shirk Center in Bloomington, Ill.

## MU academic duo

Madonna University's Katie Martin and Tabatha Wydryck were among 219 basketball players named as National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) 2011 Daktronics-NAIA Scholar-Athletes.

To be selected, a student-athlete must be a junior or senior academically and have a cumulative grade point average of 3.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale.

Martin, a junior guard from Woodhaven, appeared in 22 games this season, making one start. The Riverview Gabriel Richard grad was named to the WHAC's Champion of Character Team in 2010 and was the 2010 Blue and Gold Awards Female Champion of Character award winner.

Wydryck, a senior forward from Wyandotte, started all 27 games this season, averaging 11.6 points and 7.4 rebounds per game en route to All-WHAC first-team honors for the second straight season.

The Crusaders ended the 2010-11 season with a 12-15 overall record and an appearance in the WHAC semifinals.

## Rocks, Chiefs boast D1 individual champs

BY TIM SMITH  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Salem's four all-state swimmers proudly stand (at right, blue sweatshirts) following Saturday's Division 1 boys swimming and diving state meet at Oakland University. They include Jason Zhang, Matt Collingwood, Max Mills and Adam Seroka.

Saline owned the Division 1 boys swimming and diving state meet, winning eight out of 12 events Saturday at Oakland University's natatorium.

But swimmers from Plymouth-Canton Educational Park made quite a splash.

Salem senior Adam Seroka and Canton junior Victor Zhang each were state champion after winning an individual event, while the Rocks placed seventh in the team standings with 112 points. Saline topped the field, with 384 points.

Seroka captured the 500 freestyle with a time of 4 minutes, 32.90 seconds, while Zhang's mark of 51.55 nipped Livonia Stevenson's Kellen Schoff (51.65) to win the 100 backstroke.

"What a great way to wind it up, with a state championship," Salem head coach Chuck Olson said about Seroka's prep career.

Salem senior teammate Max Mills also earned all-state honors (which go to the top eight in each event) in the 500 free, finishing sixth in 4:44.27.

"Obviously, the last three weeks they've pretty much been training together," Olson said about his distance swimmers. "So it's always good to have somebody in practice doing the

same thing you're doing."

"It's been pretty specific the last few weeks, so it's worked out real well."

Seroka also was an all-stater in the 200 free, thanks to a third-place finish of 1:40.73.

The third Salem senior to nab all-state honors, Matt Collingwood, showed his versatility. Last year, he was an all-stater in the 500 free, "but we kind of flipped him over to sprints this year," Olson said.

Not to worry, because Collingwood still made all-state after finishing fifth in the 50 free with a time of 21.81 seconds.

Another all-state winner was Salem's 400-free relay team of Collingwood, sophomore Jason Zhang, Mills and Seroka. The quartet placed seventh with a time of 3:14.24.

"I was real pleased" with the seventh-place performance, Olson said. "The guys really swam well on Friday (at prelims) and we swam faster on Saturday."

Olson said the Rocks narrowly missed reaching Saturday's team finals in the 200 free relay. Collingwood, freshman Eric Li, Mills and Seroka placed ninth at prelims with a time of 1:28.79 — just edged out by Byron Center's 1:28.76.

Please see **SWIMMING, B2**

## BOYS SWIMMING AND DIVING

## Lofty honor awaits Plymouth senior

BY TIM SMITH  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Taylor Birman's career with the Plymouth High School varsity girls basketball team ended in defeat recently.

But the senior captain kept her head high and wore a smile as she congratulated the opposing team and proceeded to the locker room.

For her, that glimpse of character and sportsmanship is par for the course.

In fact, at halftime of the March 26 Class C boys basketball final at Breslin Center in East Lansing, Birman will be one of 32 students (13 from Class A schools) to receive the Michigan High School Athletic Association Scholar-Athlete Award.

With the award comes a \$1,000 college scholarship from Farm Bureau Insurance, in its 22nd year of sponsoring the award.

"It's really cool, because I've worked so hard for these past four years," Birman said. "And to know that's paid off and I've actually worked toward something is really cool."

Please see **BIRMAN, B3**

During the final game of her prep girls basketball career, Plymouth senior Taylor Birman (No. 32) dribbles around a Novi defender.

## Canton gymnasts second at finals

BY TIM SMITH  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Before Friday's girls gymnastics state finals began at Kenowa Hills High School in Grand Rapids, Canton head coach John Cunningham gathered his team and delivered a message.

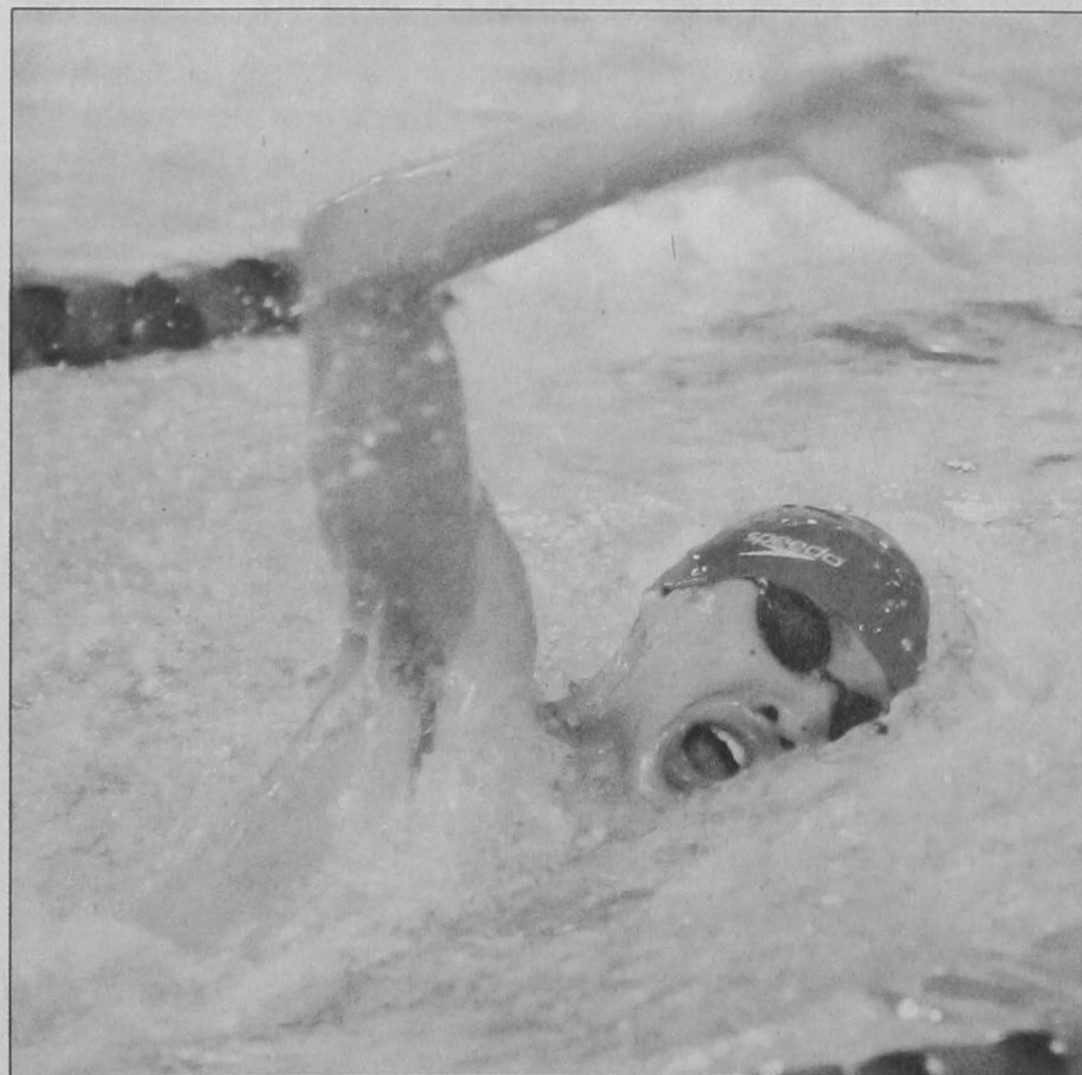
"I told the girls 'There are only two trophies and Grand Ledge already owns one, we want the other one,'" Cunningham said.

Led by top-level performances and ultimate teamwork, the Chiefs reached that goal with a second-place finish of 146.5 (second to Grand Ledge's 149.675). Closely trailing the Chiefs were Troy Athens (146.475) and Farmington (146.15).

The last time Canton placed second at the team finals was in the mid-1990s, Cunningham said.

"It (taking second) was such a great feeling," Cunningham said. "Grand Ledge, yeah their champions, yeah it's the fourth time in a row that they've been state champs."

Please see **GYMNASTICS, B3**



Canton junior Victor Zhang, shown from earlier this season, won the 100 backstroke at the Division I state meet.

## SWIMMING

FROM PAGE B1

The coach added that junior diver Nick Griwicki had an excellent showing (11th, 340.85 points).

According to Olson, Salem's senior trio of Seroka, Mills and Collingwood (all co-captains) is leaving quite a legacy.

"They've gotten better every year. I can't say enough good things," Olson said. "They were captains this year and did a great job with that as well."

"I think they set a good standard for the Salem boys and hopefully the underclassmen were paying close attention so they can pick up where these three left off."

### GOOD DAY FOR CHIEFS

Canton head coach Dave Le

said the Chiefs (16th place, 149 points) enjoyed their highest finish at the state meet since placing 12th in 2002.

"This was the first time in Canton school history that we had two relays come back and swim in the finals," Le said. "And Victor is the first swimming state champion for Canton since 1979."

Zhang stayed strong despite swimming in several events Saturday. He also was all-state in the 200 IM, with a fourth-place time of 1:52.56.

"Victor swam very well," Le said. "He dropped time in the IM (1:53.10 at prelims), he finished fourth and got out of the pool."

"He was able to get his focus back for the 100 backstroke and really got after it."

Le said coaches from the Kensington Lakes Activities Association were enthralled with the race-to-the-wire

between Le and Schoff in the 100 back.

"It was fun to watch him and Kellen Schoff from Stevenson both go head-to-head," Le added. "Being from the same area and the same conference, it was very exciting for all of us that coach in the conference to watch."

"Victor was victorious, and he deserved it."

The Chiefs also had two relay teams finish 14th Saturday. Those included: Zhang, junior Adrian Simion, junior Jay Jin and sophomore Mike Carlson in the 400 free relay (3:16.49); and Jin, senior Jacob Dillon, Zhang and senior Evan Champine in the 200 medley relay (1:40.75).

The third Plymouth-Canton Educational Park team, Plymouth, placed 39th overall.

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# Crusaders nearly stun Chippewas

## COLLEGE BASEBALL

Lineberry (Plymouth) drove in Adamiec from third for a 1-0 lead after half an inning.

The Crusaders looked to add on another run in the third when senior Jeff Bultinck opened the inning by reaching on a CMU error and was at third following a sacrifice bunt from Adamiec.

Central's Jake Sabol was able to get the next two MU hitters to ground out and strikeout to end the threat and keep the count 1-0.

MU sophomore starter Jeremy Gooding (Livonia/Dearborn Divine Child Catholic) worked himself into and out of a jam in the third after a lead off single by Sam Russell.

Gooding overthrew first on a pick off attempt and that allowed Russell to get into scoring position at second, but then retired the next two Chips on strikes before getting a pop out to center to end the inning.

MU had another potential scoring situation erased in the top of the sixth when senior Mike Gansser popped up a squeeze bunt and junior Dan Harder — who led the inning off with a single and stole second — was doubled off of third for the double play to end the

inning. CMU then took the lead in the bottom of the sixth when Tyler Hall reached on a one-out walk off of junior lefty Tom Hansen.

Hall's walk was followed by a single from Emmett and both runners moved up on a passed ball to put runners at second and third with one out.

A wild pitch from Hansen allowed Hall to score to tie the game and a Crusader error brought Emmett home to give the Chippewas the lead for keeps, 2-1.

Central also got in RBI single by William Arnold to increase its lead to 3-1 after six innings.

MU could not advance a runner past second base the remaining three innings, falling by the 3-1 final.

Hansen (2-2) was saddled with the loss as he was charged with all three runs that scored in the sixth and walked two in his two-thirds of an inning of work.

Gooding threw the first five, allowing just two hits while striking out eight in taking the no decision.

Reliever Jon Weaver earned the win for CMU, throwing two innings while giving up a pair of hits. Matt Faiman came in and worked around a walk in the ninth for the save.

## BASKETBALL

FROM PAGE B1

Mack — who also played great defense and collected four steals — buried two treys in the first two minutes and Sara Schmitt followed with a jumper to make it a quick 8-0 edge for the Chiefs.

Canton kept coming, with the lead growing to 16-6 after one and 24-8 with a minute left in the half.

But the Chemics were far from done for the night. Midland senior Amy Lane connected on a last-minute triple to shave that lead to 24-11 at the break.

The third quarter was nightmarish for the Chiefs, who only managed a field goal from freshman guard Rachel Winters and a Mack free throw during the frame.

There were uncontested layups and free throws that didn't drop. Canton made just eight of 19 foul shots in the game.

### JUST ENOUGH

Midland pulled to within 27-20 after three and the Chemics kept rolling into the fourth, frustrating Canton at every turn.

A jumper by junior Maura McAfee made it 27-24 and freshman Jessica Walter's layup closed the gap to 27-26 midway through the fourth.

Kari Schmitt (seven points, six rebounds, four steals) and Mack each tallied field goals to briefly hold off the Chemics, but junior Tierra Carter con-



JOHN KEMSKI

Canton junior sparkplug Robyn Mack (No. 4) launches a shot over the outstretched arms of Midland's Danielle Blake during Tuesday's Class A quarterfinal in Davison.

verted a layup with 1:45 to go and Blake drained her lead-changing bucket.

With a chance to return to Breslin hanging in the balance, the Chiefs grabbed that lead right back and never let go again.

"If you look at the third quarter," Samulski said.

"You look at the layups we missed and the free throws we missed, you got to make those in championship games."

"But to end the game I thought we stepped up and made them."

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# Crusaders' 14-1 start bodes well

Almost perfect.

That was the final ledger on the Arizona spring trip last week for the Madonna University women's softball team.

The Crusaders closed their trip to Tucson Invitational Games with a 3-1 victory over the University of Great Falls (Mont.) as part of a triple-header Friday at the Reitan Complex.

Garden City's Hallie Minch earned the win, throwing five innings and allowing just one run, while Jess Irwin picked up her second save of the year as MU raised its season record to 14-1 overall.

Sophomore Arielle Cox led MU at the plate with a pair of

hits.

MU got on the board in the bottom of the third, plating a single run as Cox led off with a double to right center and came home three batters later on a single through the right side by Minch for a 1-0 advantage.

The Madonna lead grew to 3-0 in the fourth when Erica Landess connected on her third homer of the season, a 2-run blast to left center to extend the MU cushion.

The Argos scored in the fifth when Lindsay Cline belted a homer of her own to trim the deficit to 3-1.

Irwin then came in for the sixth and seventh, slamming the door and walking just one.

Earlier in the day, MU fell to Robert Morris (Ill.), 4-3, for its first setback of the season as Irwin suffered her first loss when the Eagles rallied for two

runs in the top of the seventh.

Ashley Shay (Garden City/Dearborn Divine Child) led the MU offense with three hits, while Landess and Jackie Barley added two each.

Jennifer Burns scattered 10 hits, walked two and struck out seven in going the distance for the Eagles (9-7).

In a battle of nationally-ranked NAIA teams, Madonna bounced back with a 2-1 victory in eight innings over Olivet Nazarene (Ill.) in Game Two, as Irwin (7-1) struck out 12, walked two and allowed just six hits.

Shay went 3-for-3 in the win, while Landess knocked in both runs.

The loss dropped the Tigers to 14-3 overall.

MU returns to action Thursday when it travels to Indiana University-Southeast for a double-header.

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# Whalers hit rough patch

The Plymouth Whalers will try to right the ship before the Ontario Hockey League playoffs start next week.

After dropping road games March 6 at Sault Ste. Marie (4-1) and March 11 at Erie (5-1), the Whalers were defeated 4-2 in a Sunday matinee against the Greyhounds.

Mitchell Heard and James Livingston scored the Plymouth goals Sunday.

With the losses, Plymouth's record dipped to 35-25-1-4 and sank the Whalers into sixth

## OHL HOCKEY

place in the OHL Western Conference. The Whalers have 65 points, three behind fifth-place Erie, with just three games to play.

Plymouth visited Owen Sound Wednesday and will travel to Kitchener for a game set for 7:30 p.m. Friday before closing out the regular season 7 p.m. Saturday against Guelph at Compuware Arena.

## SPORTS ROUNDUP

### Plymouth softball clinic

The Plymouth High School Varsity Softball team is hosting a softball clinic on March 26 at the Plymouth softball stadium.

Times are 9-11:30 a.m. for advanced players and 12 noon to 2:30 p.m. for beginners and fees are \$40 per person (which includes lunch and a T-shirt).

The deadline to register is March 21. Call (734) 397-2733 or go to plymouthsoftball@gmail.com or http://softball.plymouthwildcats.com/ for more information.

### Salem baseball clinic

The Salem High School Varsity Baseball team is having their 20th annual baseball clinic on March 26 and April 2 for ages 7 to 15.

Coach Dale Rumberger and the varsity players run a three-hour session of skill drills and techniques.

The cost to participate is only \$25, which includes a T-shirt, the clinic and a snack.

For more information, send an e-mail to salemrocksbaserball@gmail.com or visit the Web site, www.rocksbaserball.com.

### Girls on the Run

Local girls in grades 3-8 are invited to participate in the Girls on the Run after-school program, via the Plymouth Family YMCA.

Girls on the Run is a program that combines training for a 5k event with uplifting, self-esteem enhancing, curriculum-based lessons. Registration for the 10-week spring season begins March 14 and continues through May 25.

Small teams of eight-to-15 girls meet twice a week after school for 75-minute sessions. Trained coaches guide and mentor girls through a fun and inspiring curriculum that includes specific life lessons such as dealing with body image and the media, resisting peer pressure, making healthy decisions and contributing to their community.

At the end of the season, teams design and implement a community service project and complete a non-competitive 5k (3.1 miles) run/walk event with participants, families and friends. This year's New Balance Girls on the Run 5k is set for Saturday, May 21.

For more information, go to www.getdetroit.org or call director Ashleigh Shiffler at (734) 453-2904.

### Father's Day Run

The Plymouth YMCA Fathers Day Run has again been recognized as a quality physical activity by the Governor's Council on Physical Fitness.

This year's run, by the way, is set to begin at 7:30 a.m. Sunday, June 19 in downtown Plymouth.

The Governor's Council endorses local, regional and state events to acknowledge an organization's ability to plan and carry out a quality event that significantly contributes to the health and well-being of Michigan residents. The Fathers Day Run exemplifies this core value and is endorsed by the Governor's Council.

"By endorsing local events all across the state, we hope to bring attention to the importance of physical activity and encourage our citizens to take responsibility for their health," said Marilyn Lieber, president and CEO of the council. "These local events can have a tremendous impact on health care costs that present a significant challenge for our state's economy."

For more information about the Governor's Council endorsement program, go to www.michiganfitness.org. For more info on the Fathers Day Run, contact cmorency@ymcamedetroit.org.

### YMCA spring leagues

The YMCA spring soccer and girls volleyball leagues are now forming.

The soccer leagues are for children ages 4-10 and will run from April 11 through June 11. There will be one practice and one game per week, on Saturdays.

Volleyball is for girls ages 9-10 and 11-12, also to run from April 11 through June 11. There will be one practice and one game per week, on Friday evenings.

Both the soccer and volleyball leagues are filled on a first-come, first-served basis and the registration deadline is April 1. For more information about these leagues, or other YMCA programs, go to www.ymca-detroit.org or call the office at (734) 453-2904.

### Steelheaders meeting

The Metro-West Steelheaders monthly meeting will be at 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 5 at the Livonia Senior Center, located at the southeast corner of Farmington and Five Mile roads.

Meetings are free and open to the public. No reservations needed.

Captain Jerry Lee will be one of two featured speakers. He has over 30 years of fishing and guiding experience on the Great Lakes.

Among the topics include use of lead-core, rotators, cut bait, in-line boards and the latest downrigger savvy. His presentation also includes tips and tactics to consistently boat limits of fish for his customers on a daily basis.

Captain Chip Cartwright will also unveil the latest from Wolverine Tackle, which produces the world famous Silver Streak lures.

For more information, call Jim Robertson at (734) 383-2790.

### For girls only

Canton Arctic Edge Arena, at 46615 Michigan near Canton Center Drive, welcomes girls for some informal sticks and pucks, between 8-8:50 a.m. Saturdays.

The program carries the point-blank slogan "No Cuts! Boys!" and is just \$5 per participant.

Girls must bring their own equipment or use rental equipment available at Arctic Edge on a first-come, first-served basis.

For more information, call (734) 487-7777 or go to www.arcticarenas.com.

### CAP Hall of Fame

The Livonia Churchill athletic patrons will stage their ninth annual Hall of Fame induction dinner at 6 p.m. Thursday, March 24, at the Italian American Club, located at 39200 Five Mile Road, Livonia.

Among the inductees will be former football and track coach Bob Armstrong, baseball and hockey player Ron Griffin (1976) and the 2005 and 2006 varsity gymnastics teams coached by Christa Hinderliter and Kelly Grodzicki.

Tickets are \$35 each (if purchased by March 1) or \$40 (after March 1).

For more information, call Neal Houghan at (734) 634-5524; or e-mail nhoughan@seasons.org.

### Combine training

Combine training for high school football to prepare for the 2011 season takes place on Sundays at the Auburn Hills Sports Dome.

Players will be taught drills and techniques used to prepare college seniors for the NFL Combine and use SPARQ, Michigan Preps and NUC testing protocols.

To register, visit www.coach-jacksonspeed.com; or call coach Jaime Jackson at (248) 535-7404.



Celebrating their second-place finish at Friday's state meet in Grand Rapids is Canton's varsity girls gymnastics team, coached by John Cunningham (front, with trophy). In the back row (from left) are Erica Lucas, Brooke Granowicz, Kali Pierce, Robyn Piowar and Nicole Lasecki. In the front row (from left) are Ayana Lewis, Marina Milad, Melissa Green and Alex Fideler.

JUDY FOSTER

## GYMNASTICS

FROM PAGE B1

"But ... a cross-section of coaches and judges all came up and congratulated my team. It was a cloud nine experience and a lot of people shared in it."

Still, the finals were so close that the Chiefs couldn't relax knowing they finished with the runner-up trophy until third-place Athens was announced.

"So when they announced the third-place team (Athens) ... I knew we had second," the veteran coach said. "And that was the instant I knew."

Keys to the finish were 9-point-plus performances by Alex Fideler, Brooke Granowicz, Melissa Green, Ayana Lewis, Erica Lewis and Robyn Piowar.

"You know what, this is one of those things where you have

to step back and say everybody on the team contributed," Cunningham said. "Everybody had a good meet."

### MANY WINNERS

Everybody had a great weekend, too, as it turned out.

At Saturday's individual finals, six Chiefs earned medals — highlighted by Lewis earning a Division 2 state championship on vault with a 9.45 score.

"This is only Ayana's second year in high school gymnastics," Cunningham said. "She didn't compete as a freshman. She has evolved into just a terrific gymnast."

"People comment and compliment her about her resiliency, bounce, attitude, she truly is a state champ."

Lewis also medaled on uneven bars (second, 9.5), balance beam (seventh, 9.1) and all-around (second, 37.275).

Other D2 medalists were won by Lucas (third on vault, 9.35)

and senior Kali Pierce (seventh on floor exercise, 9.275).

In D1 competition, Piowar capped off a stellar Canton career. She medaled in every event but bars.

Piowar scored sixth-place finishes on vault (9.3) and floor (9.4) while taking seventh all-around (36.875) and ninth on beam (9.225).

Fideler (a 2010 state champion) medaled on beam (third, 9.45) and floor (sixth, 9.4). Another D1 medalist, Melissa Green, took eighth on vault with a tally of 9.15.

Those in D1 were slotted there due to competing at Level 9 in club competition; D2 gymnasts are at Level 8 or lower.

Meanwhile, Piowar was named the Senior Gymnast of the Year by the Michigan High School Gymnastics Coaches and Judges Association.

The award goes to "who they consider to be the most impressive gymnast of the year, sort of the ambassador,"

Cunningham said.

When it came time to present the award, however, he became choked up with emotion. "It was just terrific, she deserved it so much."

### Salem, Plymouth recap

As for Salem and Plymouth gymnasts who took part in D2 individual finals, there were no all-staters.

But Salem's Nicole Jacobs narrowly missed the cut on floor exercise with a 10th-place tally of 9.250 (missing eighth by .025 points).

Jacobs came in 15th in all-around scoring with 35.350 points and took 14th on vault with a 9.0 tally.

In the uneven bars event, Jacobs placed 21st with an 8.6, just ahead of Salem teammate Ade Jepperson (22nd, 8.5).

For Plymouth, Reagan Engstrom's 8.750 on beam earned her a tie for 19th place.

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## BIRMAN

FROM PAGE B1

"And I made my parents really proud, so I'm happy about that."

### DOING IT ALL

She accomplished that long ago. Her resume includes membership in the National Honor Society, a grade point average north of 4.1 (tops of her graduating class), tutoring other students and dishing out meals to the less fortunate with Trinity Church's food bank.

And she won five varsity letters in girls basketball and girls lacrosse, demonstrating her leadership capabilities as captain of both teams.

"I'm not the most vocal (captain)," Taylor said. "But I like to kind of lead by example and show them what hard work looks like. And just to support

### TAYLOR-MADE

**Who:** Taylor Birman, co-captain of Plymouth's varsity girls basketball and girls lacrosse teams.

**What:** The 17-year-old will be presented with a Michigan High School Athletic Association Scholar-Athlete Award.

**When:** Birman and 31 other student-athletes from across Michigan will be honored at halftime of the Class C boys basketball final set for Saturday, March 26 at Breslin Center in East Lansing.

**Other:** Her parents are Lori and Dave Birman of Canton. She carries a grade-point average of 4.14 and is a member of the National Honor Society, among other achievements both in academics and athletics.

them (teammates) and care about them as people more than teammates."

Helping others is something Birman won't stop trying to do when she starts attending Michigan State University's Honors College (where she will study psychology or human medicine) in the fall.

"I want to make a difference in the world and just help people out," Taylor emphasized. "I don't want to work behind a desk my whole life, I want to

be doing something interesting with my life."

According to Birman, teachers and coaches recommended her for the MHSAA Scholar-Athlete Award. But the main thing was writing two essays.

### BACKING IT UP

"One was about something I've overcome, an obstacle," she said. "And the second one was a story of me displaying sportsmanship, talking about that."

**'It's really cool, because I've worked so hard for these past four years.'**



TAYLOR BIRMAN, MHSAA scholar-athlete

Birman wrote that sportsmanship is "the character that you demonstrate at all times, no matter what the scoreboard says. What will matter is how you represented yourself out there, how you treated other players, and how you developed your character along the way."

Those aren't merely words to Taylor Birman, either. She backs those up with her actions, evident to anybody watching how she handled that last district basketball defeat.

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Members of Mt. Hope Congregational Church in Livonia are wearing these bracelets as a reminder to stop complaining during Lent.



# Pastor urges positive attitude for Lent season

BY SHARON DARGAY  
O&E STAFF WRITER

The Rev. Steven Schafer doesn't want to complain about it, but for Lent he wishes everyone would stop whining.

"Anything that makes us more positive people is a good thing for us. I told my wife on Sunday, this may have been the most important sermon I've given in years because it has the power to transform lives."

During his sermon March 13, the first Sunday of Lent, Schafer instructed ushers at Mt. Hope Congregational Church in Livonia to distribute purple bracelets inscribed with the words "A Complaint Free World," while urging worshippers to "give up gossiping" and "give up criticizing" for Lent.

"Change your words and your thoughts and you will change your life," he told the congregation.

The bracelets, which came from an organization called "A Complaint Free World," created by minister and author Will Bowen, are meant to remind church members of their Lenten challenge. When they complain, they move the bracelet from one wrist to the other. Anyone who points out another person's complaining is urged to move their bracelet, too. The goal is to keep it on one wrist as long as possible.

"It was quite well received," Schafer described the congregation's reaction. "People were joking about it after the service. One lady said 'I had to switch it twice during the service.'"



Noreen Panizzoli, office administrator at Mt. Hope Congregational Church, tries on her Lenten "Complaint Free World" bracelet.

A lawyer jokingly told Schafer the challenge could make "filing a complaint" for a client a difficult task.

But Schafer distinguishes between "legitimate" complaints — such as social injustice, grief, pain, and the legal process — and trivial whining.

"Our conversations are peppered with complaints about the weather, bad drivers. If you're in great pain, of course, you should be able to cry out to God and say 'this isn't fair.' But those complaints are fairly rare. It's the tiny complaints that dominate our lives. If you're conscious of not complaining some positive things could happen."

Schafer usually prepares a series of Lenten sermons each year, but said he hasn't done anything as "outlandish" as this year's complaint-free theme or last year's "Plastic Fast," when

he urged congregants to give up credit card use for 40 days.

"I've had people say long after last Lent their buying habits changed. They don't use credit cards as frequently or freely as they used to."

He hopes this year's complaint-free observance will be equally as effective.

To find out more about A Complaint Free World bracelets and books by Will Bowen, visit [www.complaintfreeworld.biz](http://www.complaintfreeworld.biz).

Mt. Hope Congregational Church holds Sunday school at 9:30 a.m., morning worship at 10:30 a.m., fellowship hour at 11:30 a.m. and senior high school youth gatherings at 6 p.m., every Sunday.

The church is located at 30330 Schoolcraft; call (734) 425-7280 for additional information.

## Passages

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**DEBRA AHRENDT**  
Age 45, daughter of Robert and Marilyn Prodehl, passed away March 14, 2011 in Toledo, OH. She is survived by the family and friends she loved so much. A memorial service will be held on March 18, 2011 from 2-5pm at Fisher Funeral Home, Redford, MI



**RICHARD S. ANGERILLI**

Age 74 of Howell, formerly of Farmington Hills, passed away Friday, March 11, 2011. He was born July 29, 1936 in Detroit, the son of Louis and Loretta (Lemon) Angerilli. Beloved husband of Clara (Kecskes) Angerilli whom he married June 4, 1960 in Detroit. Dear father of Lisa (Kevin) Hansen of Howell, Lori (Thomas) Cometto of Idaho and Dawn (Craig) Bright of Howell. Also survived by twelve grandchildren, two great-grandchildren and brother, Louis of Walled Lake. Richard was a veteran of the U.S. Air Force. Mass of Christian Burial was Wednesday, March 16 at 10 a.m. (in-state 9 a.m.) at St. John Catholic Church, 2099 Hacker Road, (at M-59), Howell. Visitation Tuesday 2-4 & 6-8 p.m. at MacDonald's Funeral Home, Howell (517-546-2800). Burial in Oakland Hills Memorial Gardens, Novi. Memorial contributions may be made to the American Heart Association or American Cancer Society. Please visit the family's online guestbook at [www.macdonaldsfuneralhome.com](http://www.macdonaldsfuneralhome.com)

**JACQUELINE S. JOHNSON**  
Age 87, of Redford, MI passed away March 13, 2011. Arrangements by Thayer-Rock Funeral Home, Farmington.

**WILLIAM E. KLEPSCH, Sr.**  
Age 82, of Livonia, MI, passed away March 10, 2011. Arrangements by Thayer-Rock Funeral Home, Farmington.

### OBITUARY POLICY

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

**Deadlines:**  
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Obituaries received after these deadlines will be placed in the next available issue.

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

# ENTERTAINMENT

Thursday, March 17, 2011

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SWEETEN BREAKFAST,  
LUNCH AND DINNER  
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The HarmonyTown Chorus rehearses "Jamaica Farewell," a song made popular by Harry Belafonte.

## Barbershop chorus tackles folk, rock music

BY SHARON DARGAY  
O&E STAFF WRITER

The HarmonyTown Chorus draws the line at singing rap, but relishes the challenge of turning an Elvis or John Denver tune into four-part harmony.

"We always joke around about that — as barbershop harmony gets older, we just can't see singing rap, and even disco," said Jim Farkus, member. "We typically sing barbershop music, but we're moving up in the decades now and starting to include more recognizable music."

The group's annual show on March 27 at the Village Theater in Canton will take the audience back to the '50s and '60s, with songs such as Elvis' *Are You Lonesome Tonight* and *Under the Boardwalk* by the Drifters.

The first half of the concert will pay tribute to the early days of rock and folk music and the second half will offer a mixed bag of tunes, from John Denver's *Country Roads to the Battle Hymn of the Republic*.

The 27-member chorus also will dress the part, wearing 1950s-style clothing and donning flowered shirts and hats with built-in dreadlocks for a barbershop rendition of *Jamaica Farewell*, a song made famous by Harry Belafonte.

Transforming a rock song into barbershop music is easier if a quartet rather than a soloist originally sang the tune.

"In four-part harmony the first tenor is the lead singer and there is baritone, tenor and bass. Typically if the songs were sung by a group, they

may have had four-part harmony. Some were three- or five-part. It isn't a far stretch to go from the original to barbershop," Farkus explained.

"We have very talented musicians in our organization and a lot of them take a song and rearrange it," he added. "The Barbershop Harmony Society's main headquarters is in Nashville (Tenn.) and they provide a list of hundreds of songs we can choose."

The Chorus' upcoming show will include a guest quartet, Moxxy, and appearances by an Elvis and Buddy Holly impersonator.

HarmonyTown Chorus rehearses at 7:30 p.m. every Tuesday at Kirk of Our Savior Church, 36660 Cherry Hill, between Wayne Road and Newburgh, in Westland. Potential new members may drop or call (734) 743-1764. No

auditions are necessary.

"Typically these are guys who sing in the shower or were in the high school chorus. They enjoy singing and they like the camaraderie," Farkus said. "We have a couple of members who don't participate in the shows. We practice every Tuesday and they just enjoy singing there."

Those who want to perform in front of an audience can deliver musical valentines every February and sing at community events as well as the spring show.

"We go out to senior homes, birthday parties, anniversaries. We put on close to 30 shows a year at various places."

Farkus said the group planned to entertain senior citizens today, March 17 in Novi.

### A BARBERSHOP SALUTE TO THE 50'S & 60'S

**What:** HarmonyTown Chorus sings songs from the 1950s and 1960s in four-party harmony. Special guest quartet is Moxxy, the 2010 Pioneer District Silver Medalist

**When:** 3 p.m. Sunday, March 27

**Where:** The Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill, Canton

**Admission:** \$13 before March 23; \$15 after

**Contact:** (734) 394-5300 or (734) 394-5460; www.canton-mi.org/village-theater

## Hear humorous opera in English at Village Theater

The Comic Opera Guild will present Offenbach's *The Grand Duchess Of Gerolstein* in English at 8 p.m. Saturday, April 2 and 2 p.m. Sunday, April 3, at The Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill, Canton.

The French satire has charmed audiences worldwide for over a century, poking fun at all things military. The production is a Michigan premiere with Barbara Scanlon, as the Grand Duchess, leading a cast of professional soloists, accompanied by full orchestra and chorus.

The plot involves a lovelorn monarch who promotes a handsome but inept soldier to commander-in-chief, with disastrous, but hilarious consequences. Offenbach, known as the "Mozart of the Champs Elysee" created the operetta form, and his music is still heard everywhere, from the can-can to *The Marine Hymn*. He inspired Gilbert and Sullivan and gave birth to the musical comedy.

Tickets for the Comic Opera Guild's production are \$20 for adults, \$17 for seniors and \$15 for students. Buy them online at [www.canton-mi.org/village-theater](http://www.canton-mi.org/village-theater), in person at Summit on the Park, 46000 Summit Parkway, Canton, or with a credit card by phone at (734) 394-5460.



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CASTING BY NIRA PARK COSTUME DESIGNER TIM DEYAN EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS ERIC FELLNER PRODUCED BY SIMON PEGG & NICK FROST  
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## Catching up with Danielle Car

You're likely to find Danielle Car, country music singer and Canton resident, in the classroom these days reading to children. Since the Observer & Eccentric wrote about Car and her Christmas CD last fall, she has taken a keen interest in promoting National March is Reading Month by volunteering throughout metro Detroit. "Having developed a love of books at a young age, it's a cause near and dear to my heart," Car said in an e-mail. "I've also enlisted the help of some of my friends and local celebrities to help spread the word. I was so pleased at how many folks jumped at the chance to take part in my special 'Reading Blog' on my personality page at Fresh100.com, including Denise Iltch, Devin Scillian, Mitch Ryder and former Tiger Curtis Granderson." Car also now has her own weekend shift on Fresh 100.3. Listen to her from noon to 5 p.m. Saturdays and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sundays. "On the music front, I've just been nominated for the People's Choice Award at the 2011 Detroit Music Awards this year," she said. More info is to come on the nomination at [www.daniellecarmusic.com](http://www.daniellecarmusic.com).

## ART

### City Gallery

**Time/Date:** Through April 8; gallery hours are 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday

**Location:** In the Costick Center at 28600 W. 11 Mile, Farmington Hills

**Details:** Work by Stephen Deeb, head of the art department at North Farmington High School

**Coming up:** Farmington Art Foundation holds its Spring Exhibit and Sale, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Thursday, April 14, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Friday, April 15 and 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, April 16 at the Costick Center. Opening reception, 6 p.m., followed by awards at 6:30 p.m., April 14

**Contact:** (248) 473-1856

### Northville Art House

**Time/Date:** Through March 26. Hours are 1-5 p.m. Wednesday-Saturday

**Location:** 215 W. Cady in downtown Northville

**Details:** Beyond The Blueprint: Architects' Other Art, showcases the works of Metro Detroit artist-architects, including Dennis Michael Jones, a visual artist and educator in Plymouth who continues to balance his architectural work with his art

**Contact:** (248) 344-0497

### Village Theater at Cherry Hill

**Time/Date:** Through March 29; gallery hours are 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday-Friday

**Location:** 50400 Cherry Hill, Canton

**Details:** Pressed flower artwork of Shelley Xie, a self-taught artist and resident of Canton

**Contact:** (734) 394-5300

## COMEDY

### Go Comedy!

**Time/Date:** Various show times Wednesday thru Sundays

**Location:** 261 E. Nine Mile, Ferndale

**Details:** Improv most nights. Open mic/jam session show for improvisers is 10 p.m. Wednesdays

**Contact:** (248) 327-0575; [www.gocomedy.net](http://www.gocomedy.net)



Dick Siegel will perform with the Brandos Friday, March 19 at Trinity House Theatre in Livonia.



Zuill Bailey will perform in the Chamber Music Society of Detroit series on March 26.

[gocomedy.net](http://gocomedy.net)

### Henry Ford Community College

**Time/Date:** 7 p.m. and 9:15 p.m.

Sunday, March 20

**Location:** At the college auditorium, 5101 Evergreen, Dearborn

**Details:** "Arabs Gone Wild Comedy Show," features Dean Obeidallah and Aron Kader, both from Comedy Central's "Axis of Evil" comedy tour, and Maysoon Zayid, female Arab-American comedian who has appeared on MTV, PBS and MSNBC. Special guest is Mike Mosallam;

**tickets \$25**

**Contact:** Call the college at (313) 845-9600; get tickets at [www.arabsgonewild.com](http://www.arabsgonewild.com)

### JD's House of Comedy

**Time/Date:** Various show times Wednesday-Saturday evenings

**Location:** 25333 W. 12 Mile, inside Star Theatre complex, Southfield

**Details:** Stand-up shows, 8 p.m. Thursday and 8 p.m., 10:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday; Apollo amateur night, 8 p.m. Wednesday

**Contact:** (248) 348-2420 or [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com)

### Joey's Comedy Club of Livonia

**Time/Date:** 8 p.m. Mondays, open Mic; 8 p.m. Tuesdays, Local Legends; 8 p.m. shows Wednesdays, Thursdays; 8 p.m. & 10:30 p.m. Fridays, Saturdays

**Location:** 36071 Plymouth Road, Livonia

**Details:** Mo Mandel, through March 19; Mark Sweeney, March 23-26; Chili Challis, March 30-April 2

**Contact:** (734) 261-0555, [www.kickerscomplex.com](http://www.kickerscomplex.com)

### Mark Ridley's Comedy Castle

## GET OUT!

**Time/Date:**

Lowell Sanders, March 17-19; Erik Griffin, March 24-26; Lynne Koplitz, March 31-April 2

**Location:** 269 E. Fourth, Royal Oak

**Contact:** (248) 542-9900, [www.comedycastle.com](http://www.comedycastle.com)

## CONCERTS

### The Ark

**Time/Date:** Sonya Kitchell, March 17; Scythian, March 18; The Victor Wooten Band & The Clarke Band, March 19; The California Guitar Trio & Fareen Haque, March 20; The Juliets, March 22; Po' Girl & Peter Mulvey, March 23; May Erlewine & Seth Bernard, March 24; The Spring Standards, March 25; NewFound Road, March 26; Madcat, Kane & Maxwell Street, March 27; Steve Poltz, March 28; Dala, March 30; Matt Wertz, March 31

**Location:** 316 South Main, Ann Arbor

**Contact:** (734) 763-8587; [www.theark.org](http://www.theark.org)

### Baseline Folk Society

**Time/Date:** Third Saturday of the month

**Location:** The JWH Center for the Arts, Plymouth Community Arts Council, 774 N. Sheldon, Plymouth

**Details:** Eight "open-mic" performances plus a featured group. Sign up for open mic from 6:15-6:45 p.m.; show starts at 7 p.m. Open mic performers may sing two songs. If more than eight performers sign up, a lottery will be held for the eight spots. The next performance on March 19 will feature Jeff Karoub & Friend, who recently were seen on Channel 2's morning show. Host

is Kenny Lang. Individual membership is \$25 and includes monthly concerts from September through May. Otherwise, admission to each concert is \$5 at the door. Family memberships are \$50 and include monthly concerts

**Contact:** (248) 719-3464 or [mjmmullen@yahoo.com](mailto:mjmmullen@yahoo.com)

### Chamber Music Society of Detroit

**Time/Date:** Pre-concert talk, 6:45 p.m., concert at 8 p.m. Saturday, March 26

**Location:** Seligman Performing Arts Center, located on the campus of Detroit Country Day School, 22305 W. 13 Mile, Beverly Hills

**Details:** This concert marks the debuts of both cellist Zuill Bailey and pianist Piers Lane in metro Detroit and on the Chamber Music Society of Detroit series. They'll play music by Mendelssohn, Schumann, Rachmaninoff and Roberto Sierra. Single tickets range from \$43-75; \$25 for students

**Contact:** (248) 855-6070

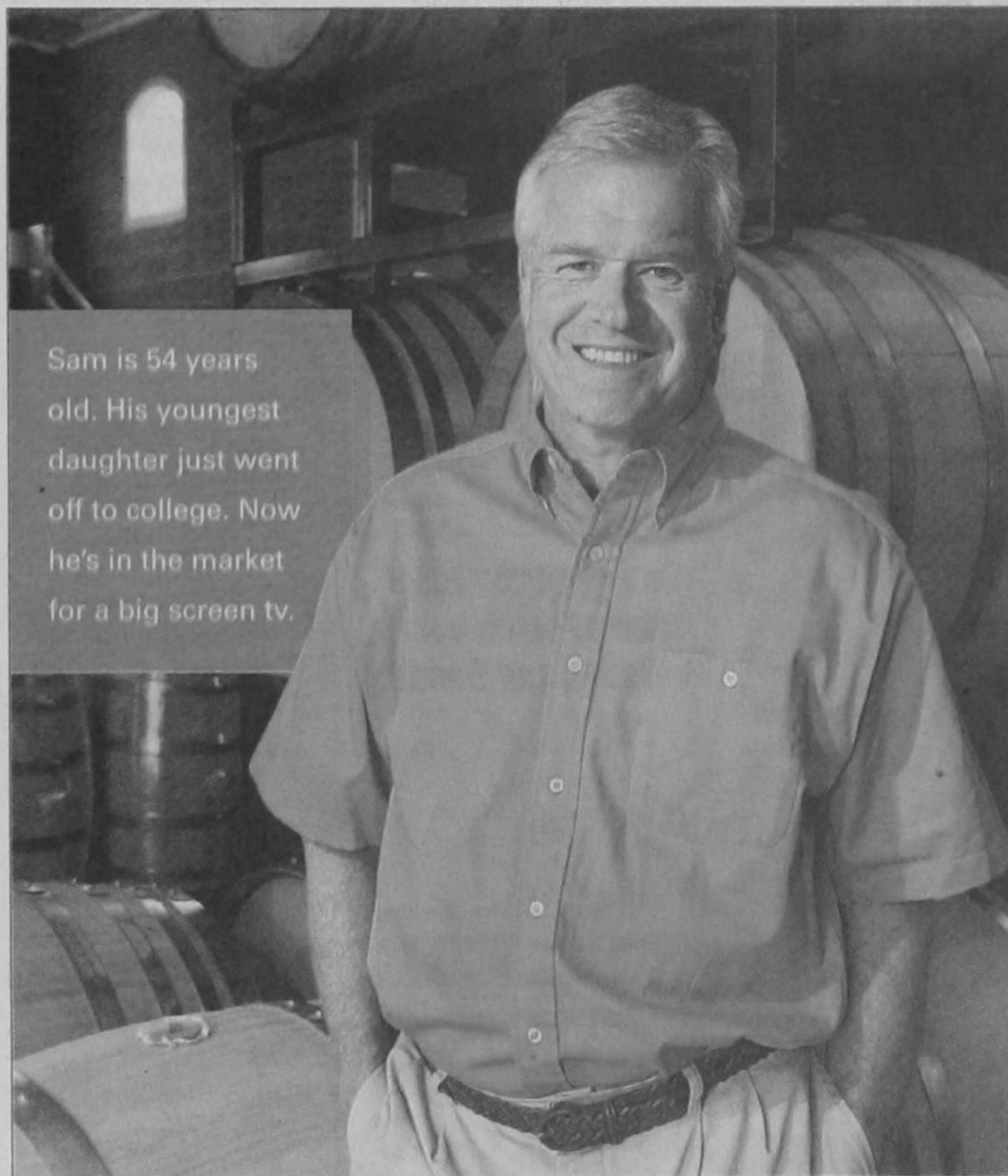
### Jazz @ The Elks

**Time/Date:** 7-10:30 p.m., every fourth Tuesday

**Location:** Plymouth Elks Lodge #1780 at 41700 Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth

**Details:** Jazz musicians perform; no cover, but donations accepted. Complimentary hors d'oeuvres. John Trudell Jazz Quartet with Trudell on trumpet and flugelhorn, Ray Tini on bass, Bill Cairo on drums, and Chuck Shermatero on keyboard at next show, March 22

**Contact:** (734) 453-1780 [www.PlymouthElks1780.com](http://www.PlymouthElks1780.com)



Sam is 54 years old. His youngest daughter just went off to college. Now he's in the market for a big screen tv.

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## Exhibit combines live plants with glass art

Works of glass art by the Furnace Design Studio of Dearborn will be displayed with collections of exotic and unusual plants 10 a.m.-5 p.m. March 25-29 at Planterra Conservatory Extraordinary in West Bloomfield.

The exhibition, jointly produced by Planterra and Furnace Design Studio, will offer a breathtaking display of color, living foliage and light.

The artwork presented within a garden setting also is designed to demonstrate the healing benefits of color and horticultural therapy. A private opening reception, with cocktails and strolling dinner on March 24 will benefit the Henry Ford West Bloomfield Healing Arts Program. Tickets are \$100 available by calling (248) 661-1515. A special roundtable discussion on art and color therapy is free open to the public and runs 7-8 p.m. March 29.

Planterra Conservatory is located at 7315 Drake, in West Bloomfield. Visit [www.botanicalglass.org](http://www.botanicalglass.org) for more information about the exhibit. The Conservatory is open to the public. Hours are 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday-Friday; [www.planterra.com](http://www.planterra.com), (248) 661-1515.

Furnace Design Studio is the collaboration of internationally-acclaimed glass artists, and is known for custom commissions and site-specific installations for homes, commercial spaces and hospitality interiors. They share a 14,000-square-foot working studio with the Glass Academy in Dearborn. The studio is open for tours by appointment from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Monday-Friday. Visit [www.FurnaceDesignStudio.com](http://www.FurnaceDesignStudio.com) or call (313) 561-4527.



Glass meets green at the Botanical Glass Exhibition.

## Art organization seeks short films

The Northville Art House is accepting short films for its annual "Reel Michigan" Film Festival on Saturday, June 25.

The organization and its charity partner, Forgotten Harvest, will present a festival of Michigan-made or Michigan-themed short films as a part of the City's popular Arts & Acts event held June 24-26.

Arts and Acts is a vibrant, annual celebration of the arts in southeast Michigan featuring art, music, film, plays and more. The film festival will include short documentaries, comedies, dramas and animation.

Filmmakers interested in participating can find details at <http://ci.northville.mi.us/>

Community/ArtsCommission/ArtsAndActsCallForEntries-ReelMichigan2011.pdf. Or e-mail to [ReelMichigan@gmail.com](mailto:ReelMichigan@gmail.com). Entry submission is \$10 (students \$5) and films can include any project filmed with any kind of camera.

Entry deadline is April 1. For more information call the Northville Art House at (248) 344-0497.

# FOOD

Thursday, March 17, 2011

hometownlife.com

## HAVE A STORY IDEA?

Contact Editor Sharon Dargay

Voice Mail: (313) 222-8883

E-mail: sdargay@hometownlife.com

Comment online at hometownlife.com



Learn about maple sugaring this month at programs in Northville and Milford.

# Beyond pancakes

## Maple syrup sweetens breakfast, lunch, dinner fare

It's nearly spring and the maple sap is flowing. It's time to bundle up and watch the maple sugaring process and then whip up a menu of foods sweetened with the golden brown liquid.

Learn how Native Americans taught early settlers how to collect and boil maple sap at a presentation at 10 a.m., 11 a.m. and noon Saturday, March 19, at Cass Benton Park, located off Northville Road between Six Mile and Seven Mile in Northville. During the Wayne County Parks program, participants will hike into the woods for a hands-on demonstration of tree tapping, sap collection and boiling.

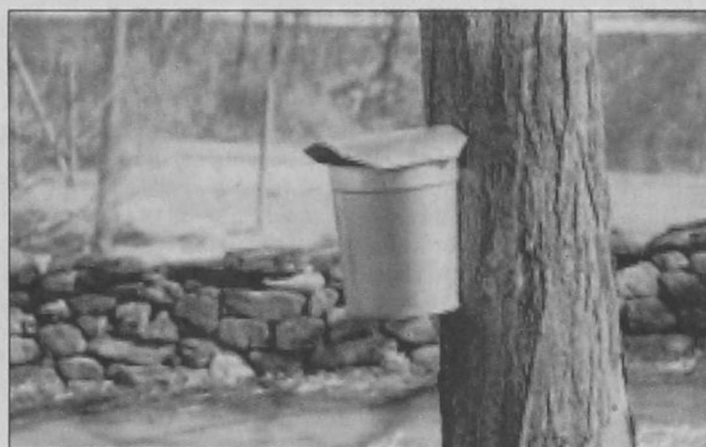
Advance registration and pre-payment are required. Cost is \$5 per person. Call (734) 261-1990 or visit [www.waynecountyparks.org](http://www.waynecountyparks.org).

Kensington Metropark Farm Learning Center in Milford offers "Maple's Sweet Story," noon to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday this month. Stop in for a hot breakfast from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Farmhouse Grille, and then take a guided tour to the sugar bush to see the maple sugaring process, including tapping trees and boiling sap. Guided tours begin at noon; the last guided tour leaves at 2:30 p.m. After 4 p.m., the sugar bush remains open for self-guided visits.

The fee for the weekend program is \$3 for adults, \$1 for seniors and kids 3-12. The pancake breakfast at the Farmhouse Grille is \$5. (800) 477-3178 or (248) 685-1561.

The Maple Syrup Association of Michigan explains how to turn maple sap into maple syrup from black maple and sugar maple trees in your own backyard. Visit its Web site at [www.mi-maplesyrup.com](http://www.mi-maplesyrup.com) for an equipment list and instructions you can use next February, the month when most tapping is completed in the lower peninsula.

Now, crack open a bottle of Michigan-made maple syrup and start cooking!



COURTESY THE MICHIGAN MAPLE SYRUP ASSOCIATION

Buckets collect sap that will be processed into maple syrup.

### MAPLE CORN MUFFINS

1½ cups flour  
2 eggs  
¾ cup cornmeal  
¾ cup milk  
3 teaspoons baking powder  
½ teaspoon salt  
½ cup Maple Syrup  
½ cup melted shortening

Sift dry ingredients together. Beat eggs in bowl; add milk, maple syrup and shortening. Blend dry ingredients in quickly to just moisten flour. Pour into 12 muffin tins and bake 425 degrees for about 20 minutes.

### MAPLE RHUBARB PIE

3 cups rhubarb, cut up  
½ cup Maple Syrup  
1 egg  
¾ cup sugar  
2 tablespoons flour (rounding)  
Pinch of salt

Beat egg; add sugar, syrup, and flour. Mix well and add rhubarb. Put into two-crust pie. Bake at 425 degrees for 15 minutes. Reduce heat to 350 degrees until it bubbles, approximately 30 minutes.

### MAPLE SPRING CHICKEN

1 chicken, 2½-3 pound cut-up  
1 teaspoon salt  
¼ cup melted butter  
Dash of pepper  
¼ cup maple syrup  
¼ cup chopped almonds  
½ teaspoon grated lemon rind  
2 teaspoons lemon juice

Place chicken pieces in a shallow, buttered baking dish. Mix remaining ingredients and pour evenly over chicken. Bake uncovered, 50-60 minutes, at 325 degrees. Baste occasionally. This baked chicken is especially good served with rice.

### MAPLE BARS

½ cup sugar  
½ cup soft shortening  
1 egg  
½ cup pure maple syrup  
½ cup flour  
1 cup chopped nuts  
1 cup rolled oats  
½ teaspoon baking powder  
1 teaspoon vanilla  
½ cup coconut

Mix all of the ingredients thoroughly. Spread in 8-by-8-inch square greased pan. Bake 350 degrees for 30-35 minutes. While warm, cut in squares.

### MAPLE COTTAGE PUDDING

1 cup maple syrup  
1 cup flour  
1 tablespoon butter  
2 teaspoons baking powder  
3 tablespoons sugar  
½ teaspoon salt  
½ cup sweet milk  
Nuts

Sift together flour, baking powder and salt. Heat syrup to boiling point. Put in baking dish. Mix other ingredients in order. Pour batter into syrup. Bake until brown. Turn upside down and sprinkle with nuts. Serve with whipped cream. Bake 350 degrees for 25-30 minutes. Serves 6.

### MAPLE APPLE CRUNCH

8 to 10 graham crackers, crushed  
4 apples  
½ cup butter or margarine  
½ cup maple syrup

Mix cracker crumbs and butter thoroughly. Slice apples. Butter a 1 quart baking dish and place apples in bottom of dish. Pour maple syrup over apples and add cracker and butter mixture. Bake at 325 degrees for 25 minutes. Top with whipped cream or ice cream. Serves 6

Recipes courtesy of the Maple Syrup Association of Michigan

# New Weight Watchers chef, Isabella Nicoletti, to visit local meetings

Weight Watchers' new chef, Isabella Nicoletti, will introduce an Italian menu to Weight Watchers groups in April.

She's focusing on greens in demonstrations this month.

A classically-trained Italian chef whose cooking roots extend back to her native Italy, chef Isabella spent 24 years working her way up the ranks of the culinary hierarchy while also working her way across the Atlantic Ocean from Vicenza, Italy to metro-Detroit in 1995.

She served as executive chef and oversaw menu development at Jimmy Schmidt's Chianti Tuscan Grill & Stelline, before joining the staff in 1998 Paesano Restaurant and Wine Bar in Ann Arbor and took on additional projects including the publication of a cookbook, *Perbacco Isabella!*, instruction for aspiring chefs.

Now she is facing new challenges as a chef at Weight Watchers, which has its headquarters in Farmington Hills.

"I want to show how great tasting Italian cuisine can be integrated into

the Weight Watchers lifestyle," she said.

Her recipes reflect her love of garlic, fresh herbs and vinegars as well as seasonal products.

"I really like to go to the farmers' markets and get the freshest produce, meat and fish."

In the meantime, she's learning the PointPlus Program and demonstrating healthy cooking techniques to Weight Watcher members in meeting room demonstrations throughout southeastern Michigan. At demonstrations she also answers questions and gives out recipe sheets. The meetings are free and open to the public. Her scheduled is posted on askflorine.com each month.

Attend a demonstration this month at:

• 9 a.m. and 10 a.m., March 18, Burlington Square, 22285 Eureka, Taylor

• 12:15 p.m. March 23, Charrington Square, 9912 E. Grand River Ave., Brighton

• 7:30 a.m., 8:30 a.m., 9:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m., March 26, Northwood

Shopping Center, 30935 N.

Woodward Ave., Royal Oak

• 10 a.m. March 29, Oak Valley Village Center, 2809 Oak Valley, Ann Arbor

• 6 p.m. March 30, North Park Plaza, 17117 W. 9 Mile, Southfield

At each meeting she cooks a recipe and offers samples to the audience. Recipes this month support March's "Go Green" theme.

Here are a couple of chef Isabella's creations:

### GREEN KALE AND AVOCADO SALAD

PointsPlus Value: 6  
Servings: 4  
½ cup orange juice  
3 tablespoons lemon juice  
2 teaspoons soy sauce  
1 clove garlic, minced  
1 medium avocado  
3 cups kale  
1 teaspoon kosher salt  
1 teaspoon black pepper  
2 tablespoons olive oil  
4 teaspoons flax seed or hemp seed



Weight Watchers' chef Isabella Nicoletti is demonstrating recipes using greens this month throughout southeast Michigan.

Whisk together juices, soy sauce and garlic. Slowly add oil and set aside. Peel avocado and cut into ½-inch cubes; mix with kale and dressing. Season with salt and pepper. Divide onto 4 plates and sprinkle each with 1 teaspoon of seeds.

### TUSCAN KALE WITH SHALLOTS AND TURKEY BACON

PointsPlus Value: 3

Serves: 4

2 teaspoons honey  
1 teaspoon Sherry vinegar  
2 teaspoons olive oil  
3 medium shallots, minced  
1 teaspoon kosher salt  
2 pounds kale, leaves only  
2 ounces uncooked turkey bacon, cut into small pieces

In a small bowl whisk together honey and vinegar. Set aside. Rip each kale leaf into 5 or 6 pieces. Wash it, then boil in salted water until kale is tender, about 4 to 7 minutes. Drain, cool and squeeze out excess water. Heat oil in a large (12-inch) skillet. Add shallots and turkey bacon and cook, stirring, until lightly browned, about 5 minutes. Set aside. Add kale until it is just heated through (do not overcook or it will begin to weep moisture). Off the heat, add the honey mixture and toss well. Add the shallots and bacon and toss well. Season with salt. Serve immediately. It's great over soft polenta.

## REAL ESTATE

PAGE B8 (\*) Thursday, March 17, 2011

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Julie Brown, editor, (313) 222-6755  
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## Building pros offer tips on working with contractor

Canton Home Expo  
the place to be for  
expert adviceBY JULIE BROWN  
O&E STAFF WRITER

Tom Adamusik of Canton has been in business with his Regal Construction Inc. of Canton over 20 years. He agreed homeowners are staying put in this housing market, often looking to upgrade their homes.

"Bathrooms are still going strong," said Adamusik, among vendors at the 10th annual Canton Home Expo March 5-6 at the Summit on the Park. He sees less roofing and siding work right now.

"People are afraid to spend it," he said, noting, however, that auto company bonus checks and tax refunds will bring him business.

"I would certainly get references," Adamusik said of working with a contractor on a project. "That's the No. 1 issue." A contractor should be licensed and insured.

"If you don't have a good rapport in the onset, you won't have it throughout the project," said Adamusik, who was assisted at his booth by daughter Jennifer Bux of Westland, a mom of two who helps out at shows.

Adamusik was on the committee that got the home expo started years ago, and was involved with the Canton Chamber of Commerce. The annual event is sponsored by Canton's Building and Inspection Services, the *Observer & Eccentric Newspapers* and the Canton chamber.

At the show that Saturday was Ralph Richardson of Canton, shopping not for his home but for his church, Geneva Presbyterian in Canton. There are two benches to replace in the memorial garden.

"I've got at least three contractors here that are going to come out," said Richardson, who also enjoyed coffee, Danish and popcorn at the free event. "This sounds promising."

"I enjoy this show," the retiree added. "It's fascinating, all the vendors. It's definitely a good introduction to all the possibilities."

Chris Cleveland of Monroe was staffing the booth for Mans Lumber on Michigan Avenue in Canton. The business is owned by the fourth Mans generation.

"We're doing a lot of flooring renovations and cabinets," Cleveland said. "Also a lot of decking." Mans customers seek energy-efficient windows as well.

He's been with the company six



years, and noted Mans does well at the expo.

Cleveland recommends shopping around for a qualified contractor, noting some unemployed workers have set up shop and aren't necessarily qualified.

"We handle everything for the homeowner," he said. "We do a lot of work for builders as well. The company's been around for so long that customers feel safe."

Mans outgrew its Ford Road location and moved to Michigan Avenue where there's a showroom and warehouse.

Nearby was David Henry, president of Town 'N' Country Hardware, affiliated with True Value and located on Ford Road in Garden City. "Just 56 years," Plymouth Township resident Henry said of the store's tenure.

"Oh, I think that's true," he said of people staying put more now. "We do very well with fireplace." He has a good contractor for those installations.

Town 'N' Country customers also upgrade their barbecues, the store being the largest one-outlet location for Weber sales in Michigan.

"We are a full-service hardware store as well," Henry said, noting big box stores don't necessarily save customers money, especially with current

gasoline prices.

He said it's good to start thinking about snowblower needs for next year: "Snowblowers are probably the biggest gamble of everything we buy. It's worse than going to the Detroit casinos,"

Alfonso Hysko, a Belleville resident who grew up in Canton, was manning his AGH Construction Inc. of Belleville booth. He's been in business since February 2002.

He's seen residents staying put the last three-four years, and back then doing minor work like painting and countertops.

That evolved into kitchens and baths. "Now it's more major projects," said Hysko, citing basement remodeling and others. He's already seeing auto bonus checks benefit him.

"I know that some of those monies are going to go into my pocket," Hysko said.

"Definitely shop around," he said of looking for a contractor. "I try not to strong-arm them." In comparing bids, you need to be sure you're comparing apples to apples, he said.

The key is a contractor doing what he/she said within the set amount of time, Hysko said.

"Just go out and spend," he added. "Go out and remodel, especially if you're staying put."

He's seen Lowe's and Home Depot stock go up recently, a good sign: "The real estate market is starting to move forward."

Novi resident Tony Silvestri has been in business with his Northville Interiors since 1987. He does kitchens, baths and entertainment centers.

Silvestri used to have a storefront in downtown Northville, and showed pictures and news clippings of his contributions to putting MacKinnon's restaurant back together after it was struck by a vehicle.

December through March are slower in his business, "It's about eight months out of the year," said Silvestri, in his first Canton Home Expo.

He does his installations with several other staffers, including drywall, tile work and hardwood floors. "If I can push a Michigan product, I do," he said.

Silvestri's also encouraged by auto company bonus checks and tax refunds coming in. "You don't have to spend \$20,000 on a kitchen," he said. "It all depends on their needs."

He showed on his laptop floor plans he can show customers. There are also 3-D images with the ability to change elements like flooring and cabinets, and even to introduce lighting.

"Most of the time this is what sells the job," Silvestri said.

Bedbug  
issue  
could be  
threat

**Q: I understand that the New York State Legislature just passed a law requiring city landlords to disclose any history of bedbug infiltration before leasing an apartment. Do you think that would apply to condominiums and co-ops?**

**A:** Apparently, the law requires landlords to give renters written notice before

a lease is signed indicating whether the apartment being considered, or any other apartment in the building, has been infested

within the past year. Of course, anyone renting out an apartment in a co-op or condominium would also have to comply with the law.

However, it appears that co-ops and condominium buyers may be entitled to know whether there has been a bedbug problem and should certainly make that a part of any contract negotiations. I would expect that in New York as well as other jurisdictions, a separate disclosure law for co-ops and condominiums regarding bed bugs may well be introduced, but people in Michigan should be aware of this potential issue.

**Q: It is my understanding that there are number of properties under water in the Naples/Fort Myers area which have not gone to market. What effect do you think that will have on the real estate environment in that area?**

**A:** In speaking with a number of investors, as well as real estate persons, it appears that the breadth of the decline has not been reached yet and that there is still at least a 10 to 15 percent potential decline in real estate values in the Naples/Fort Myers area. A number of the condominium units are underwater even if some of them were bought in the early 2000s as they were grossly overpriced during the boom times, appreciating at approximately 20 percent a year. While no one knows for sure when the bottom will come, there are a number of opportunities for real estate investment and/or a first or second home purchase in the Naples/Fort Myers corridor at this time. As always, you should confer with a real estate professional to assist you in looking for the right property.

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

Check out the  
numbers in  
Sports

## HOMES SOLD-WAYNE

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of Nov. 29 to Dec. 3, 2010, at the Wayne County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

| Canton                   |           |  | Northville               |           |  | Plymouth              |           |  | Westland           |           |  |
|--------------------------|-----------|--|--------------------------|-----------|--|-----------------------|-----------|--|--------------------|-----------|--|
| 2146 Cameo Ct.           | \$330,000 |  | 16845 Pollyanna St.      | \$157,000 |  | 16975 Warwick Ct.     | \$375,000 |  | 26830 W Davison    | \$33,000  |  |
| 4261 Forest Bridge Dr.   | \$200,000 |  | 7919 N Ridge Rd.         | \$252,000 |  | 317 Yerkes St.        | \$105,000 |  | 2151 Alanson St.   | \$10,000  |  |
| 48235 Greenwich Ln.      | \$180,000 |  | 43432 Proctor Rd.        | \$117,000 |  | 48704 E Hillcrest Ct. | \$315,000 |  | 1950 Alexander Dr. | \$111,000 |  |
| 39994 Hillary Dr.        | \$117,000 |  | 46240 Spinning Wheel Dr. | \$176,000 |  | 1200 Maple St.        | \$285,000 |  | 32048 Anita Dr.    | \$71,000  |  |
| 4676 Hunters Cir W.      | \$75,000  |  |                          |           |  | 49451 Plymouth Way    | \$90,000  |  | 7600 August Ave.   | \$75,000  |  |
| Garden City              |           |  | Redford                  |           |  |                       |           |  |                    |           |  |
| 29019 Barton St.         | \$16,000  |  | 13501 Crosley St.        | \$65,000  |  |                       |           |  | 36205 Farragut St. | \$11,000  |  |
| 32530 Donnelly St.       | \$31,000  |  | 17611 Gaylord            | \$48,000  |  |                       |           |  | 7445 Gilman St.    | \$62,000  |  |
| 31205 Marquette St.      | \$66,000  |  | 9425 Hazelton            | \$45,000  |  |                       |           |  | 7392 Kubis St.     | \$9,000   |  |
| 33630 Rosslyn Ave.       | \$83,000  |  | 9606 Hemingway           | \$61,000  |  |                       |           |  | 451 N Harvey St.   | \$52,000  |  |
| Livonia                  |           |  | 46482 Pinehurst Cir.     | \$598,000 |  | 10000 Hemingway       | \$75,000  |  | 6541 N Hix Rd.     | \$44,000  |  |
| 33033 Brookside Ct.      | \$255,000 |  | 46632 Pinehurst Cir.     | \$529,000 |  | 13565 Marion          | \$59,000  |  | 37085 Vincent St.  | \$65,000  |  |
| 15962 Deering St.        | \$96,000  |  | 46640 Pinehurst Cir.     | \$537,000 |  | 9589 Mercedes         | \$74,000  |  | 27530 Warren Rd.   | \$75,000  |  |
| 37517 Grantland St.      | \$149,000 |  | 48905 Rainbow Ln S.      | \$296,000 |  | 18699 Olympia         | \$53,000  |  |                    |           |  |
| 11834 Haller St.         | \$83,000  |  | 655 Randolph St.         | \$50,000  |  | 18704 Seminole        | \$31,000  |  |                    |           |  |
| 18133 Lathers St.        | \$159,000 |  | 17660 Rolling Woods Cir. | \$427,000 |  | 12730 Tecumseh        | \$70,000  |  |                    |           |  |
| 27426 Lyndon St.         | \$85,000  |  | 39669 Southwind Ln.      | \$210,000 |  |                       |           |  |                    |           |  |
| 31581 Merriwood Park Dr. | \$67,000  |  | 15831 Spyglass Dr.       | \$515,000 |  |                       |           |  |                    |           |  |
|                          |           |  | 19285 Surrey Ln.         | \$53,000  |  |                       |           |  |                    |           |  |

## HOMES SOLD-OAKLAND

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of Nov. 29 to Dec. 3, 2010, at the Oakland County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

| Beverly Hills                |             |  | Farmington             |           |  | Farmington Hills           |           |  | Franklin               |           |  |
|------------------------------|-------------|--|------------------------|-----------|--|----------------------------|-----------|--|------------------------|-----------|--|
| 18365 Bedford St.            | \$242,000   |  | 2812 Ivy Hill Dr.      | \$210,000 |  | 37071 Aldgate Ct.          | \$312,000 |  | 25958 Hersheyvale Dr.  | \$286,000 |  |
| 31800 Eastlady Dr.           | \$222,000   |  | 4901 Juniper Dr.       | \$245,000 |  | 28861 Balmoral Way         | \$120,000 |  | 30621 N Greenbriar Dr. | \$253,000 |  |
| 20326 Ronssdale Dr.          | \$360,000   |  | 6162 Majestic Oaks Dr. | \$274,000 |  | 23341 Barfield St.         | \$118,000 |  |                        |           |  |
| 18397 Warwick St.            | \$150,000   |  | 4970 Parkgate Dr.      | \$50,000  |  | 28257 Bayberry Rd.         | \$130,000 |  |                        |           |  |
| 18873 Warwick Hill Ct.       | \$298,000   |  |                        |           |  | 23107 Baypoint Dr.         | \$208,000 |  |                        |           |  |
| Birmingham                   |             |  | 22753 Floral St.       | \$20,000  |  | 32826 Cadillac St.         | \$265,000 |  |                        |           |  |
| 1810 Fairview St.            | \$630,000   |  | 23086 Floral St.       | \$41,000  |  | 25290 Chapelweigh Dr.      | \$135,000 |  |                        |           |  |
| 1670 Holland St.             | \$75,000    |  |                        |           |  | 33621 Collax Dr.           | \$27,000  |  |                        |           |  |
| 451 N Eton St. # E2          | \$40,000    |  |                        |           |  | 34543 Fendit St.           | \$115,000 |  |                        |           |  |
| 1480 Old Salem Ct.           | \$975,000   |  |                        |           |  | 31915 14 Mile W 102        | \$55,000  |  |                        |           |  |
| 752 Randall Ct.              | \$456,000   |  |                        |           |  | 21827 Hamilton Dr.         | \$35,000  |  |                        |           |  |
| 1092 Ridgedale Ave.          | \$390,000   |  |                        |           |  | 38265 Lancaster Dr.        | \$190,000 |  |                        |           |  |
| 5325 Wing Lake Rd. \$125,000 |             |  |                        |           |  | 23600 Middlebelt Rd.       | \$125,000 |  |                        |           |  |
| Bloomfield Hills             |             |  | 22753 Floral St.       | \$20,000  |  | 30231 N Meadowridge        | \$170,000 |  |                        |           |  |
| 233 Barden Rd.               | \$135,000   |  | 23086 Floral St.       | \$41,000  |  | 25679 Pebble Ct.           | \$183,000 |  |                        |           |  |
| 168 Hillboro Dr.             | \$75,000    |  |                        |           |  | 39201 Polo Club Dr. # 105  | \$250,000 |  |                        |           |  |
| 2292 Sudbury Way             | \$240,000   |  |                        |           |  | 29992 Richmond Hl          | \$108,000 |  |                        |           |  |
| 2071 Wabek Hill Ct.          | \$335,000   |  |                        |           |  | 21524 Roosevelt Ave.       | \$45,000  |  |                        |           |  |
| Bloomfield Township          |             |  |                        |           |  | 30727 Shilawsee Rd. # 56   | \$29,000  |  |                        |           |  |
| 7077 Cathedral Dr.           | \$287,000   |  |                        |           |  | 25407 Springbrook Dr.      | \$174,000 |  |                        |           |  |
| 467 Fox Hills Dr. N          | \$45,000    |  |                        |           |  | 32013 W 12 Mile Rd.        | \$17,000  |  |                        |           |  |
| 3889 Lincoln Rd.             | \$175,000   |  |                        |           |  | 30060 W 12 Mile Rd Unit 95 | \$41,000  |  |                        |           |  |
| 2751 Mackintosh Ln.          | \$300,000   |  |                        |           |  | 35948 W 13 Mile Rd.        | \$450,000 |  |                        |           |  |
| 2251 Park Ridge Dr.          | \$240,000   |  |                        |           |  |                            |           |  |                        |           |  |
| 4420 Squirrel Rd.            | \$99,000    |  |                        |           |  |                            |           |  |                        |           |  |
| 799 Upper Scotsborough Way   | \$268,000   |  |                        |           |  |                            |           |  |                        |           |  |
| 875 W Glengarry Cir.         | \$1,135,000 |  |                        |           |  |                            |           |  |                        |           |  |
| 6825 Whysall Rd.             | \$321,000   |  |                        |           |  |                            |           |  |                        |           |  |
| 42522 Woodward Ave.          | \$50,000    |  |                        |           |  |                            |           |  |                        |           |  |
| Commerce Township            |             |  |                        |           |  |                            |           |  |                        |           |  |
| 8575 Edgewood Park Dr.       | \$1,000,000 |  |                        |           |  |                            |           |  |                        |           |  |

## REAL ESTATE BRIEFS

## BIA

• Building Industry Association of Southeastern Michigan (BIA) will sponsor a three-hour Continuing Competency course, required for license renewal for both Builders and Maintenance and Alterations Contractors licenses, on Tuesday, April 12, from 9 a.m. to noon at Association Offices, 2075 Walnut Lake Road, West Bloomfield.

For those with licenses issued prior to Jan. 1, 2009, three hours of continuing competency are required each licensing cycle. The instructor, Don Pratt, CGB, CGR, CGP, CAPS, of CECS of Michigan, LLC, will present one hour for each of the required subjects: legal issues, codes, and safety issues. Registration fees are \$55 for members or guests. For registration information, call (248) 862-1002 or register online at [www.builders.org/events.php](http://www.builders.org/events.php).

[www.builders.org/events.php](http://www.builders.org/events.php).

## Investors

The Real Estate Investor Association of Wayne County holds monthly meetings the first Tuesday of each month at the Holiday Inn, 17201 Northline Road, Southgate. Entrance fee is \$20 for non-members to be applied to annual membership. For information, call (313) 819-0919 or visit [www.reiawayne-county.org](http://www.reiawayne-county.org).

## Career Seminar

Keller Williams Realty will offer a Real Estate Career Seminar 6:30-7:30 p.m. Thursday, March 17, at 40600 Ann Arbor Road, Suite 100, Plymouth. Those attending will learn about the \$50,000 income guarantee and the free pre-licensing course.

For information, contact Lesley Aiello at (734) 459-4700 or [laiello@kw.com](mailto:laiello@kw.com).

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

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

**Manufactured Homes 3740**

**Q&E**  
Classifieds  
**1-800-579-SELL**  
[www.hometownlife.com](http://www.hometownlife.com)

**Manufactured Homes 3740**

**WESTLAND**  
Let Franklin Homes MATCH your GM, Ford and Chrysler Bonuses  
**DOUBLE** your tax refund! Bring us proof of your tax refund, we will double it for the use of a down payment! Added bonus **NO** security deposit and **NO** first month's rent! Maximum incentive is \$3000.00, must be used towards the purchase of a Franklin Owned home.  
No Cash Value  
**Greg Potter a call at: 734-513-4108**  
Or stop by and visit: 28495 Joy Rd.  
Westland MI 48185

**Manufactured Homes 3740**

**CANTON MANUFACTURED HOME FOR SALE \$3,900**  
2 bedroom • 1 bath

**SUN HOMES**  
Academy/Westpoint  
**academywestpoint.com**  
**1-888-658-5659**  
\*Some restrictions apply.  
Expires 3/31/11 EHO  
0608733124

**Local Jobs Online**  
**HOMETOWNlife.com**  
**JOBS AND CAREERS**

# HOME & SERVICE

HOMETOWNlife.com

**0001-2450**  
**Home & Service Guide**



**Brick, Block & Cement 0290**

**RELIABLE CONCRETE SVCS.**  
Best prices! All types of cement work/repairs. Free est, Lic/Ins, Referrals.  
Ron: (734) 776-1456

**Building Remodeling 0310**

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Lic/Ins, 30 yrs exp.  
Call: (313) 590-9474

**Chimney Cleaning/Building & Repair 0480**

**BEST CHIMNEY & ROOFING CO.** - New & repairs  
St. Citizen Discount. Lic & Ins.  
248-557-5595, 313-292-7722

**Drywall 0690**

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

**Electrical 0700**

**FAMILY ELECTRICAL**  
City cert. Violations corrected. Service changes or any small job. Free est. 734-422-8080

**Handyman M/F 1020**

**Complete Service Handyman**  
Any Size Job.  
Licensed. Free Estimates.  
734-259-9326

**Hauling/Clean Up 1030**

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

**Hauling/Clean Up 1030**

**Clean-up/Hauling Srv.**  
Cheap Rates! Garages, bsmts, attics. Free Est.  
248-521-8818, 248-489-5955

**Painting/Decorating Paperhangers 1420**

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

**PAINTING**  
Int/Ext. 33 yrs of quality work.  
Wallpaper removal. Ref. Ins.  
Call: (734) 664-1034

**Roofing 1640**

**BEST CHIMNEY CO.**  
Free Est. Lic & Ins.  
248-557-5595, 313-292-7722

**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.  
248-521-8818, 248-489-5955

**0001-2450**  
**Home & Service Guide**



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**RELIABLE CONCRETE SVCS.**  
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Call: (313) 590-9474


**Chimney Cleaning/Building & Repair 0480**

**BEST CHIMNEY & ROOFING CO.** - New & repairs  
St. Citizen Discount. Lic & Ins.  
248-557-5595, 313-292-7722

# 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 starting February 27th, 2011 and ending March 28, 2011, thru the Third Circuit Court of Wayne County, Detroit, Michigan 48226

**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. M


**Transportation/Travel 6400**

**Travel To The Memphis In May International Festival.**  
Incl. 4 days/3nights, Wed May 11 - Sun May 15, 2011, \$339/person, pay pal avail. For info call Keith or Lucille Hawkins: 313-341-1716  
[hawkeyeproductionsinc.us](http://hawkeyeproductionsinc.us)

**Health, Nutrition, Weight Loss 6420**

**AirF8 E-CIGARETTES**  
Try it at Briarwood Mall.  
[www.AirF8.com](http://www.AirF8.com)  
Order now 651-636-3204

**7000-7780**  
**Merchandise**



**Antiques/Collectibles 7020**

**GAS PUMP** Restored Bennett mfg'd Sunoco gas pump. From the 50s-60s era. Lighted. Great for rec rm/garage.  
\$2000. 248-310-7602

**JACOBEIN Dining Set**  
Butter Churn, Victrola, Heartland Stove.  
Best Offer. 248-423-7814

**JIM BEAM DECANTERS**  
Auto's (4)-57 Chevy, 28 Ford, 29 Ford, 70 Challenger, 68 Vet. \$75/ea. 248-310-7602

**Auction Sales 7060**

**ESTATE AUCTION**  
Sat., March 19th, 7PM  
Cultural Center  
525 Farmer  
Plymouth MI  
Furniture/Accessories  
Collectibles & Antiques  
Police Collectibles  
Sports Collectibles  
Beer Signs  
Cash/MC/Visa  
Bank Debit Cards  
No Checks  
Doors Open 6pm  
**JCC Auction Service**  
734.451.7444  
[www.jcauctions.com](http://www.jcauctions.com)

**WAYNE ESTATE SALE BY NANCY**  
Fri-Sun, 10-4, 4807 Venoy Rd, bwn Michigan Ave & Vanborn Rd. Antique furniture, dining room set, mirrors, light fixtures, oil paintings & prints, collectibles, cups & saucers, sculptures, glassware & clocks, sport's equip, fishing boat, sailboat, mounted fish & game, lots of lawn decor incl. cement fountain. Too much to list!  
(734) 525-4603

**Rummage Sale/ Flea Market 7080**

**HUGE 2ND HAND SALE**  
First Church of the Nazarene. March 25, 9-4, March 26, 9-2.  
21260 Haggerty Rd.  
Northville, MI 48167

**7100 Estate Sales 7100**

**ANOTHER BERNARD DAVIS ESTATE SALE**  
313-837-1993  
March 18-20, 10am-4pm  
Historic District of Sherwood Forest  
19675 Stratford, Detroit at the corner of Pembroke & Stratford, bwn.  
7 Mile W. & 8 Mile W  
GO TO [estatesales.net](http://estatesales.net) for more info.  
SEE YOU THERE!!!

**Estate Sale Filming for HGTV's Cash & Cari**  
**GREAT FINDS!**  
9388 Westwind Dr  
Livonia, MI  
March 18-19, 10-5pm  
<http://repurposeestate.com>  
**248.719.8332**

**MOVING SALES 7130**

**WESTLAND MOVING SALE**  
8039 Fremont (Ann Arbor Tr/Middlebelt). Contents of home. Mar. 18 & 19, 9-4.

**Household Goods 7160**

**BDRM SET - GIRL'S 3 PIECE**  
Includes twin sleigh bed, nightstand, dresser w/mirror.  
\$375/best offer. 734-495-3555

**CHINA CABINET**  
Henredon. Fruitwood. Excellent condition. \$250.  
**248-437-6414**

**DINING SET & HUTCH** 5 pc. light oak. Like new. Both for \$500. South Lyon area.  
Days: **248-755-5160**  
After 4PM: **248-446-9924**  
Won't Last Long!

**FORMAL CHINA HUTCH & SERVER** - Cherrywood. Exc. cond. \$500/best offer.  
(248) 462-2782

**FURNITURE** - Living rm set: couch loveseat, chair & table light yellow with black finishing \$2500. Family rm: round-ed couch w/pillows, beige/peachy, original \$9000, asking \$3500. Dining rm set: lacquer w/ 2-leaves, 6 leather chairs w/arms, china cabinet, buffet, originally \$18,000 asking \$5,000. Everything is from Italy and is 2 yrs old. Call Natalie 248-840-3704

**FURNITURE**, small appls, wheelchair ramp, bedding, linens, pictures, misc. Moving, must sell.  
734-414-1579

**SLEEPER SOFA**, full size. Entertainment Center. Two 26" Color TV. Sets. Recliner. Padded Rocker with foot stool. 2 end tables. 2 lamps. Corner curio cabinet. Microwave Hutch. \$500 for all.  
**734-261-10294**

**Lawn, Garden & Snow Equipment 7480**

**TILER:** Kohler tiler, BCS electric start. 24" tile, 42" sickle bar, 8 hp. Like new! \$1195, 586-822-6839, 734-404-5524

**Tools 7525**

**RETIRING- TOOLS FOR SALE**  
Hand & precision tools. All kinds. Sockets, wrenches & indicators 248-514-1120

**Wanted to Buy 7540**

**WANTED: Old Fishing Tackle** & related items. Also old boat motors. Call Bill: (734) 728-7313

**Dogs 7840**

**BICHON/SHIHU PUPS** - 10 wks., w/first shots. 1 boy black w/white & 1 girl all black. \$550. 248-275-6019

**Labrador Puppies AKC**, Just in time for spring! Rare, beautiful, choc. & yellow. English pedigree. 313-421-7806

**YORKIE** Tiny bred pups 9 weeks, 3 males, 1 female, guar small pups healthy, happy, home raised, vet checked, shots, reduced medical emergency.  
(517) 486-4493

Challenging fun for ALL ages

## Thursday PUZZLE CORNER

### CROSSWORD PUZZLER

**ACROSS**

1 Biol. or astron.  
4 ER personnel  
7 Stack  
11 Pharaoh's god  
12 Grain morsel  
13 Sudden impulse  
14 Train  
16 Jungle warning  
17 Raw fish dish  
18 Tool handles  
20 Riviera summer  
21 Comical  
23 Lightning by-product  
26 Opal and topaz  
27 Actor's quest  
28 Gauge  
31 Came down hard  
33 In — parentis  
34 Quick reminder  
35 Tissue layer  
36 Finish a pie crust  
38 Building site  
41 Tire necessity  
43 Strongholds

**DOWN**

45 Radar blip  
47 Crisp bread  
49 Mimicked  
50 Hard wood  
51 Lingerie buys  
52 Antarctic sea  
53 Pastrami partner  
54 Dangerous curve

1 Pompous gait  
2 Halt  
3 Unit of length  
4 Pierre's monarch  
5 Cheesy snacks  
6 Amazing bargain  
7 Offended  
8 Shoreline problem  
9 Ottoman title  
10 — annum  
11 Church alcove  
15 Ocean's motions

**Answer to Previous Puzzle**

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

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## SUDOKU

Fun By The Numbers

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

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3 |   |   | 4 |   |   | 6 | 5 |   |
| 6 | 5 |   |   |   | 8 | 1 | 7 |   |
|   | 4 |   | 5 |   |   |   | 3 |   |
| 1 |   |   |   | 3 |   | 5 |   | 6 |
| 8 |   | 5 |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 4 | 9 |   |   |   | 5 | 2 |   |   |
| 9 | 1 |   |   |   |   |   | 2 |   |
|   | 8 |   |   | 7 |   |   | 1 |   |
|   | 3 |   |   | 5 | 4 |   |   | 8 |

Level: Beginner

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

## Word Search — Breakfast Time

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

|           |              |        |          |          |
|-----------|--------------|--------|----------|----------|
| bagel     | cereal       | fruit  | omelet   | scramble |
| biscuits  | eggs         | grits  | pancakes | waffles  |
| breakfast | french toast | muffin | sausage  | yogurt   |

## Local news.

You don't have to fish for it. It's right here, from the front to the back of your



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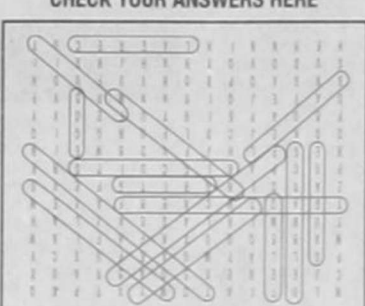
To subscribe call 866-88-PAPER

CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 8 | 9 | 6 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 7 | 3 | 2 |
| 3 | 1 | 7 | 2 | 6 | 9 | 8 | 5 | 4 |
| 5 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 8 | 9 | 4 | 1 | 6 |
| 1 | 8 | 2 | 5 | 9 | 7 | 3 | 6 | 4 |
| 4 | 6 | 3 | 1 | 7 | 2 | 9 | 8 | 5 |
| 9 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 8 | 2 | 7 | 1 | 3 |
| 2 | 3 | 8 | 9 | 6 | 5 | 1 | 7 | 4 |
| 7 | 2 | 1 | 8 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 9 | 5 |
| 6 | 5 | 9 | 4 | 1 | 7 | 8 | 2 | 3 |

Sudoku

Word Search



Word Search

# APARTMENTS

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Take advantage of one of these great specials today!

**Village Apts.** HUGE Bathrooms Bordering Westland  
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**734-451-5210**  
[www.ssleasing.com](http://www.ssleasing.com)

OE06024712

**4000-4980**  
**Real Estate For Lease**

**Apartments/Unfurnished** 4000

**FARMINGTON HILLS ANNIE APTS.**  
NO APPLICATION FEE  
FREE HEAT! 1 bedroom  
\$505. 9 Mile/ Middlebelt  
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2 Bdrm - 1/2 Month FREE  
For Qualified Applicants.  
Laundry in unit. Water incl.  
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**FARMINGTON HILLS Maple Ridge**  
23078 Middlebelt Rd.  
Spacious 1 bdrms, C/A.  
\$300 sec. 50% off 1st 3 mo. w/ approved credit.  
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**FARMINGTON MANOR APTS.**  
1 bedroom, carport.  
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**  
Lg 1 bdrm \$560 + sec. 2 bdrm, \$600 + sec. Heat & water incl. 734-464-3847. 734-513-4965

**PLYMOUTH:** Prime location. 2 bdrm. available. \$680/mo. Near downtown. Incl. heat. No dogs. 734-455-2635

**Apartments/Unfurnished** 4000

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

**Westland Estates "WOW"**  
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2 Bdrms, \$635

No fine print in this ad!  
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-\$200 Deposit w/ Credit

**New Resident's Only**  
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Sat.-Sun. 10am-4pm

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**WESTLAND Hickory Woods Apts.**  
\$224 MOVE IN!  
1st Month Rent Free (for qualified applicants)  
1 Bdrm-\$550  
2 Bdrm-\$625  
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**Apartments/Unfurnished** 4000

**Westland Park Apts.**  
**LOOK**  
**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  
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Very Clean Apartments  
Excellent Maintenance  
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Spacious 1 bedroom Private entry  
\* Wooded community  
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\$300\* Moves You In!  
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\*call for details

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2 Bdrms/2 bath ranch, 2.5 car gar, full bsmt, \$1300/mo. + security. Call: (734) 716-7771

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**Duplexes** 4030

**LIVONIA** - 9925 Roseland, 2 BR, garage, private. Please call: 248-348-1958

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3 bdrm, 2 car gar w/ storage, lg fenced yard. \$700/mo  
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**Homes For Rent** 4050

**NEW!**  
Two Beautiful 3 bedroom, 2 bath homes, black appliances, washer & dryer included, over 1000 sq. ft.  
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\$299.00 Moves You In\*  
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\*some restrictions apply call for details.

**Dearborn Heights/Dearborn**  
Nice 3 bdrms, very clean. Rent to own. Sect. 8 okay.  
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2 Bdrms, large fenced in yard, Immediate Occupancy, \$550/mo, also for sale. Call for apt. 734-782-3930

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Updated ranch, 3 bdrm, 1.5 bath, LR, DR, FR, C/A, garage, appli. \$1220, 248-231-0074

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**SUN HOMES**  
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\*some restrictions apply

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Hurry won't last!  
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\*Some restrictions apply call for details. All applicants subject to credit & criminal check  
Exp. 3/31/2011 EHO (04/03/11) 4

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**\$575/mo Or Less**  
\*3 BDRM + 2 BATHS  
\*ALL APPLS + WE FINANCE  
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**Help Wanted-General** 5000

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Needed PT for home based daycare in Canton. Call: 734-674-8027

**Help Wanted-General** 5000

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A Human Service Agency serving homeless & at-risk youth in Detroit seeks:

**Development Officer-Direct Mail/Database**  
FT responsible for planning, developing, implementing & evaluating the direct mail solicitation program to strengthen/support the fund-raising goals and objectives of CHM. Responsible for maintaining Raiser's Edge database of donors. Bachelor degree, 2+years exp. MS Office & Raiser's Edge proficiency required. \$28-38K + excellent benefits. EOE

Please send resume to: Attn: HR, CHM 2959 Martin Luther King Detroit, MI 48208 Fax: 313-463-2222 Email: [dherndon@covenanthouse.org](mailto:dherndon@covenanthouse.org) No phone calls please.

**Help Wanted-General** 5000

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Part-Time, for Westland insurance office. Flexible hours. Some computer & phone skills needed. Will train. Email resume to: [mbsjobin@aol.com](mailto:mbsjobin@aol.com)

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**SERTA MATTRESS**  
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Min. 4 yrs remodeling/design exp. Must be Proficient with Microsoft Office & 20/20 Design Software. Please submit your cover letter/resume to us via EMAIL to: [along@longmechanical.com](mailto:along@longmechanical.com) or FAX to: 248-349-3869

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OE06049612

**Help Wanted-General** 5000

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**www.hometownlife.com**

**6000-6980**

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**Help Wanted-Medical** 5060

**Certified Nursing Assistant**  
Needed for 29 bed nursing home. Full-time afternoon position. Part-time hours available on other shifts. Experience in long term care preferred.

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**Help Wanted-Dental** 5040

**DENTAL FRONT DESK NEW POSITION**  
Must have at least 2 yrs. exp. with dental Dextrix a plus. Please fax resume to: (734) 844-5072

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Gas savers. Starting at \$11,995. Certified.  
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**Jaguar** **8530**

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**Lincoln** **8560**

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White, 59K. \$10,995  
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Certified warranty, heated leather, full power, park assist. \$21,251  
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**Mercury** **8600**

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