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See Classified Section C



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Be friends with Scoop the Newshound, mascot for the Home-town and Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, on Facebook by Sept. 4 and you will be entered to win a package for up to 10 guests to the Novi Putting Edge, featuring Glow-in-the-Dark Mini Golf and arcades. No purchase required. See Scoop's page for all of the details.

**Remembering 9/11**

With the 10-year anniversary of the terrorist attacks of 9/11 approaching, the Canton Observer is looking for remembrances of that day among its readers. Do you remember where you were or what you were doing that day? Did you have a connection to someone lost in the attacks? Do you have a story to share?

We'd like to hear it. E-mail editor Brad Kadrich at [bkadrich@hometownlife.com](mailto:bkadrich@hometownlife.com), and please include a contact phone number.

**Flying Pilgrims**

The Flying Pilgrim Radio Control Club announced the "Fall Phase Out for Fun" air show from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sept. 10-11, at the northwest corner of Geddes and Ridge roads.

The 28th annual show is designed to demonstrate the radio-controlled airplane hobby to the general public. The Flying Pilgrims are part of the Academy of Model Aeronautics, with a membership of about 200 members from surrounding communities. The airplanes to be displayed and flown are "giant scale" war birds and turbine jets. The models will fly all day during the show, and perform many aerobatic maneuvers during their flights.

A \$5 vehicle parking donation is requested. For more information, call (734) 207-3626.

**Crafters wanted**

St. Thomas a'Becket Church is accepting applications for crafters for their Christmas Craft Show to take place from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 3

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BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Open Door Ministry Director Steve Darr stands near a sign made by a local youngster earning his Eagle Scout rank. In the background is a new cooler bought by the Canton Community Foundation and anonymous donors.

**Open Door hits fourth straight million mark**

By Darrell Clem  
Observer Staff Writer

Open Door Ministry, a Canton-based food bank that feeds nearly 1,300 people every week, reached a milestone Wednesday when it received a delivery that pushed its food threshold past the one-million-pound mark for the year.

It's the fourth consecutive year Open Door has surpassed that mark, and Director Steve Darr predicted the food bank will distribute a record-breaking 1.6 million pounds of food by year's end as thousands of area families continue to struggle for basic necessities amid a bruising economy.

The latest delivery Wednesday by Gleaners Community Food Bank truck driver Tom Wilson came one day before recipients lined up in cars outside Open Door's warehouse on Lilley south of Michigan Avenue — just as they do every Thursday — to receive food.

**Fighting hunger**

Wilson brought potatoes, carrots, eggs, cantaloupe, tomatoes and peppers — items Open Door volunteers boxed up with meat and canned goods to fight hunger among residents from Canton, Westland, Plymouth, Inkster, Wayne, Garden City, Ypsilanti, Belleville and a few families from Livonia and Redford.

"I think this organization is tops," Wilson said. "They just love everybody."

Open Door, marking its 11th year, is an offshoot of Canton-based Connection Church, though Darr said its volunteers come from other churches, civic orga-



*"If somebody donates a dollar, that can buy a lot of food. ... It's everybody working together to help their neighbors."*

STEVE DARR  
Open Door Director

nizations, youth groups and other sources. It receives food from places such as Gleaners, Forgotten Harvest and Romulus-based S&F Foods.

As Darr, wife Jackie and other unpaid volunteers celebrated the one-million-pound mark Wednesday, they also paused to thank the Canton Community Foundation and anonymous donors for a new \$9,000, 10-by-14-foot, walk-in cooler that added to Open Door's arsenal of much-needed storage space.

Foundation President Joan Noricks joined Open Door volunteers for their celebration and said it's important for organizations such as the foundation to support the food pantry.

"It's important because there are so many hungry people in the community, and Open Door Ministry has the capabil-

Please see **OPEN DOOR, A5**

**Prosecutor wants charges reinstated**

By Brad Kadrich  
Observer Staff Writer

Wayne County prosecutors will try to get three charges, dismissed at the lower court level, reinstated against Plymouth-Canton history teacher Raymond Schepansky.

But they're going to have to wait to do it. A motion hearing on the prosecution's request set for Friday was delayed because witness testimony will need to be taken, and neither side was prepared to do that Friday. The hearing will now take place 9 a.m. Wednesday, Sept. 28, before Wayne County Circuit Judge David Allen.

Schepansky faces a lone charge of carrying a concealed weapon stemming from an incident in April on the driveway leading to Plymouth High School.



Schepansky

Three other charges — carrying a weapon with unlawful intent, carrying a weapon in a school zone and possessing a firearm when committing or attempting to commit a felony — were dismissed earlier this year by 35th District Court Judge Mike Gerou.

Maria Miller, director of communications for the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office, said the reason they're asking Allen to reinstate the charges is simple: They believe Gerou was wrong.

"We believe the lower court made an error," Miller said. "The law allows us to go before the court to ask we be allowed to reinstate the charges based upon the facts and evidence produced at the preliminary hearing."

So, what errors do prosecutors believe Gerou committed?

"We'll argue that in court," Miller said. Schepansky and his attorney, Richard Convertino, left court without comment Friday.

Schepansky was arrested April 14 after he was found to have an unloaded 9mm Beretta handgun in his Kia. He had pulled over on the driveway leading into Plymouth High School off of Beck Road, a couple of hundred feet away from Beck. Canton police made the arrest after finding the gun beneath the driver's seat.

Gerou dismissed the carrying a weapon with unlawful intent because it was brought based on statements colleagues allegedly heard Schepansky make, but which Gerou felt "no one took seriously" because they were never reported to any authorities. He dismissed the charge of carrying a weapon in a school zone because the spot where Schepansky was stopped, some 200 feet into the drive off Beck, was too far removed from Plymouth High School to meet the state's definition of school property.

And he dismissed the fourth count, possessing a firearm while committing or attempting to commit a felony, because no underlying felony charge in the case could sustain this count.

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**Experts recommend taking practice ACT/SAT tests**



By Linda Ann Chomin  
Correspondent

Students will soon be sitting anxiously, No. 2 pencil in hand, to take the ACT. While Michigan requires all high school juniors to take the standardized test, it's especially important if students plan to attend college. Seniors can retake the test to increase their score. The higher the score, the better chance they will be admitted to the university of their choice.

There are actually several tests and strategies college admission officers shared as high school students head back to the classroom. Along with the ACT, students may take the SAT, an aptitude test, and the Preliminary SAT (PSAT) that qualifies them for National Merit Scholarships.

Colleges accept both ACT and SAT scores. Anxiety is common during the timed tests, but can be avoided by heeding counselors' advice and taking a prep course, if necessary. ACT test dates for the 2011-12 school year are Sept. 10, Oct. 22, Dec. 10, Feb. 11, April 14 and June 9.

Audrey Telfer, 17, of Plymouth won't be taking the ACT this year. She will be hard at work in her freshman year at Northwestern University in Illinois. The Salem High School graduate increased her score by taking a seven-week ACT prep course in Ann Arbor after a cousin successfully completed the same sessions that consisted of two-hour classes and six hours of practice tests every Saturday and Sunday. Telfer's goal is to go to

law school. "I thought the practice session was cool to know what to expect," she said. "It highlighted my strengths and weaknesses and directed my studying. We went over math that I had forgotten. It was a good refresher. The tests were just perfect."

**ACT or SAT?**

The ACT (American College Testing) assesses knowledge of math, science, reading and English and writing (optional). Some colleges place weight on the writing section. Others test this skill after admission.

The SAT (Scholastic Aptitude Test) focuses on mathematics, critical reading and writing skills.

Please see **PRACTICE TEST, A6**

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# Appeal aims at expanding arts understanding

By Brad Kadrich  
Observer Staff Writer

Jill Engel believes there are still a great number of people in the south-eastern Michigan area who don't even know the Village Theater at Cherry Hill exists.

As the executive director of Canton's Partnership for the Arts and Humanities, Engel hopes to change that, and the partnership will soon be asking for help funding the kinds of programs that keep the theater on the map.

Letters to some 7,000 people in Canton and surrounding areas — statistics show the theater draws patrons from Canton, Plymouth, Westland, Livonia, Farmington and other western Wayne and southeast Michigan communities — will be asking for donations in the partnership's 2011-2012 appeal.

"It's not just for Canton," Engel said. "We say 'greater Canton community,' but the arts draw people from all over southeast Michigan."

The appeal will, in large part, help the partnership continue to hand out annual grants to artistic groups, most of them resident groups at the Village Theater, to make sure the arts are nurtured in the area.

In 2010-2011, according to Engel, the partnership handed out some

\$59,000 in grants. For 2011-2012, Engel said, groups requested nearly \$121,000 in grants. The partnership approved some \$50,000 in grants.

A \$12,000 grant went to Forever After Productions, the theater group that features young children like Amanda and Geoffrey Grimm, who first auditioned for *Wizard of Oz* six years ago. Nearly seven years later, the siblings figure the performing arts have helped them with self-confidence, public speaking and memorization skills.

"Performing has given us so much," the Grimms wrote in a testimonial. "We have had an amazing opportunity to be mentored by older performers and, as we grew older, to mentor younger kids as they learn about theater."

It's not just the youth group that inhabits the theater, though. Other grant recipients include the Michigan Philharmonic, the Canton Concert Band, Spotlight Players, the Beck-Ridge Chorale and Cherry Hill Singers.

"Arts aren't just for one age group, they're for all ages," Engel said.

"You've got people buying Mozart CDs for their newborns. And you've got older patrons who see the Canton Concert Band and it brings tears to their eyes, because (the music) brings back so many wonderful memories."

The appeal offers everyone a chance to sponsor the arts, because there are a wide range of donation options available, ranging from \$25 for a "Rising Star" sponsorship to \$5,000 for "Advocate" level sponsorship.

Rob Bovitz, an actor with the Spotlight Players who last year was also Canton's Business Person of the Year, said having a home stage like the one at the Village Theater is a huge benefit to performing groups.

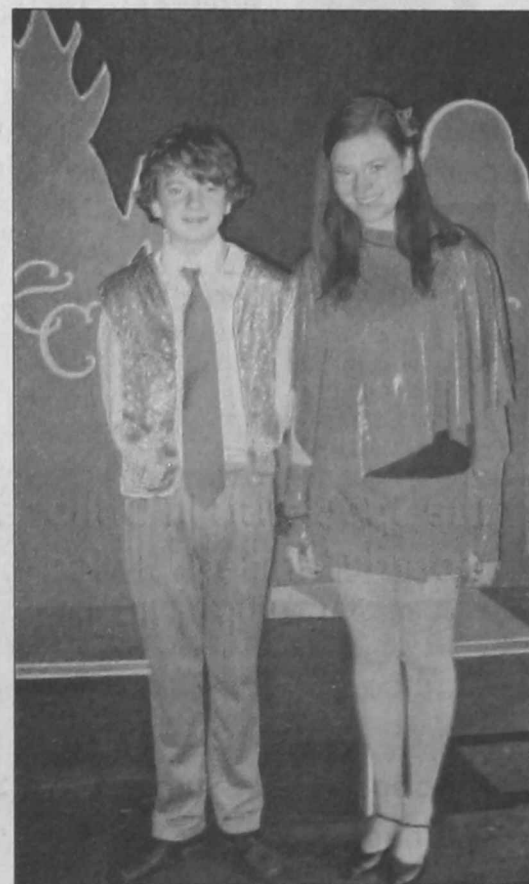
Bovitz said he likes the idea of sharing the arts with his 6- and 8-year-old daughters.

"After years of performing in middle school auditoriums, it was a breath of fresh air to move to Spotlight Players," Bovitz said. "Being a performer on stage gives me an additional sense of ownership in the theater."

While those kinds of testimonials from people involved in the arts are all well and good, Engel believes there are still plenty of people left for whom the arts have no meaning ... yet.

"I think the arts are important for so many aspects of people's lives, and we want to inspire them," Engel said. "There are still many people out there who the arts haven't touched, and we want to touch them."

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Amanda and Geoffrey Grimm first auditioned for *Wizard of Oz* six years ago at the Village Theater, and recently appeared in a revival of their first roles.

Danny D brings his Rod Stewart tribute show to the Village Theater Oct. 15, headlining a fundraiser for the Canton Partnership for the Arts and Humanities.



## Stewart tribute raises cash for arts

By Brad Kadrich  
Observer Staff Writer

The next big fundraiser for Canton's Partnership for the Arts and Humanities will be a tribute to Rod Stewart and — if all goes according to organizers' plans — collect a tribute to the arts.

Danny D & the Vagabonds, a Rod Stewart tribute band, will play the Village Theater at Cherry Hill 7 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 15, in an effort to raise money that would help the partnership promote the arts in Canton and all its surrounding southeast Michigan communities.

Combined with a second planned fundraiser in February (that one will feature popular local entertainer Steve King and the Dittlies), the partnership hopes to raise some \$20,000.

"It's Sweetest Day, and (Stewart's music) is perfect for that," said Jill Engel, executive director of the partnership. "If we can sell the two events out, that puts about \$20,000 extra that we can use toward community arts. That's huge."

A Hamtramck native, Danny D has played private shows, nightclubs and the Michigan State Fair. He has opened for

Mitch Ryder, David Lee Roth, Bad Company, Air Supply and The Romantics.

The event will feature a one-hour, pre-show reception with appetizers and treats from Main Street Catering, Fat Chef in a Little Coat, Sweet and Savory Caterers, Mary Denning's Cake Shoppe, Showroom of Elegance, Ribar Florist and Indigo Salon & Day Spa.

The event is sponsored by Western Wayne Urgent Care. Tickets are \$30.

For more information, call (734) 765-7061.

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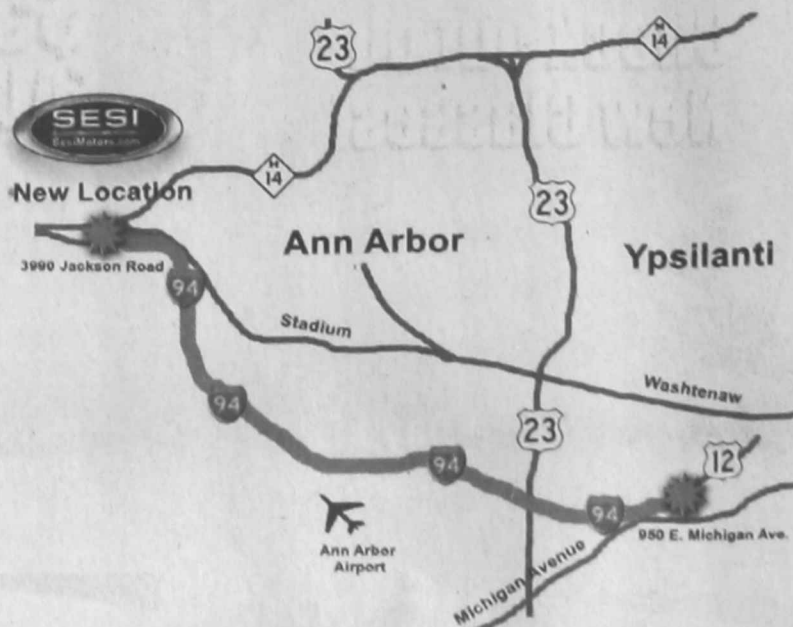


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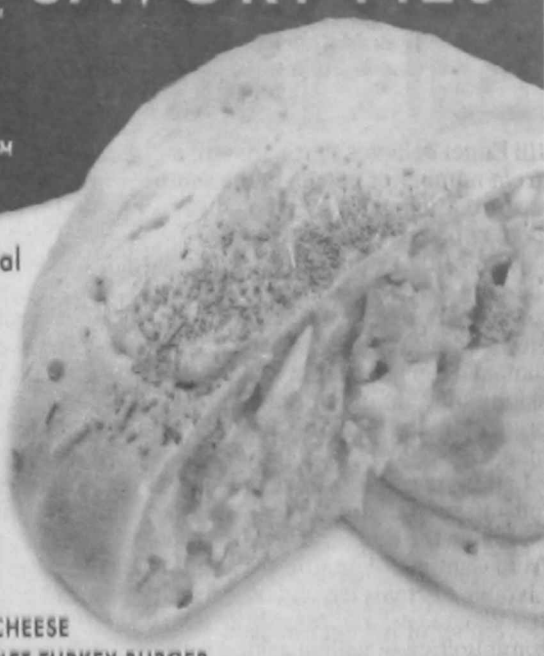
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## Bills would move school elections

By Brad Kadrich  
Observer Staff Writer

Judy Mardigian and two of her colleagues on the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools Board of Education are due to end their terms in 2013.

But all three of them could be forced to serve an additional year, whether they want to or not.

Legislation approved by the state House this week moves school board elections to November of even-numbered years, a move legislators claim saves taxpayer dollars and increases voter turnout. If the legislation becomes law — it's on its way to the Senate next — incumbent trustees in Plymouth-Canton would have their terms involuntarily extended until 2014.

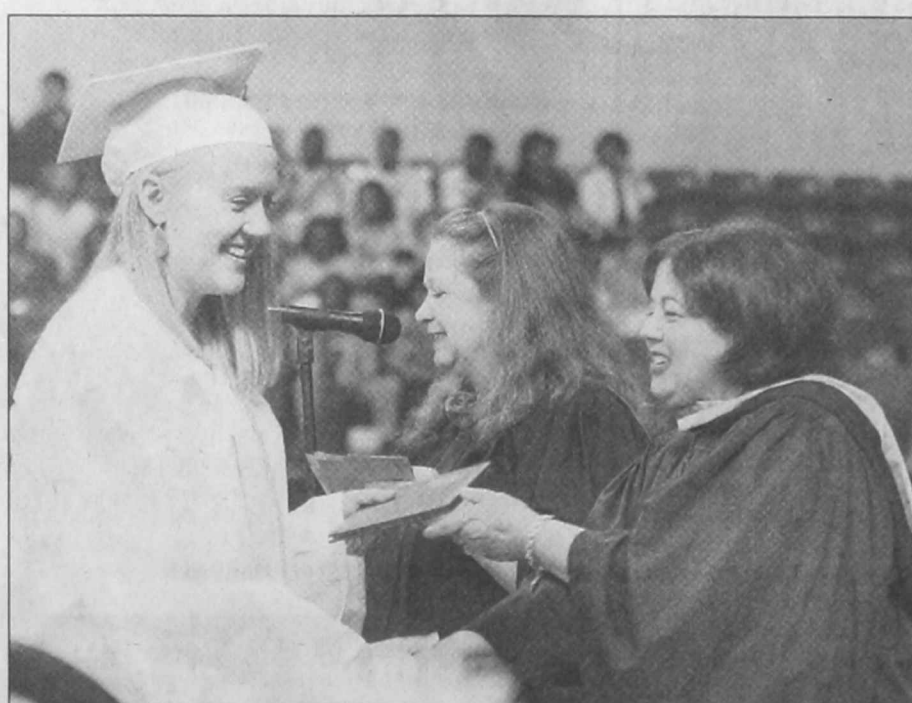
Currently, Plymouth-Canton school board elections are done in November of odd-numbered years, one of five dates in the two-year election cycle.

But House Bills 4005 and 4006, sponsored by state Rep. Kurt Heise, R-Plymouth, require school board and intermediate school district elections to be held at the same time as the general November elections, which is usually the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November in even-numbered years. That would extend the terms of Mardigian, Adrienne Davis and Barry Simescu an extra year.

### Wide margin

Both bills passed 72-36, with two voters absent.

"This common-sense change puts more money back into the classroom by reducing the costs to school districts and local governments associated with stand-



Plymouth-Canton Board of Education Treasurer Judy Mardigian (right) said the state's move to shift school elections to even-year Novembers is "about local control."

alone elections," Heise said. "Taxpayers, school students and local government all benefit from this."

In Plymouth-Canton, it doesn't mean much money back in the classrooms. According to James Larson-Shidler, the district's assistant superintendent for business services, the 2009 election cost the district \$1,845 in payments to Washtenaw County and Salem Township, where other election issues were not on the ballot.

This year, the city of Plymouth has a city commission election, which means the election would be of little cost to Plymouth-Canton schools.

Mardigian, the district's longest-serving board member, thinks it's more about Lansing taking local issues out of local hands.

"It's about local control. ... The legislature has shown us they can do whatever they want," Mardigian said. "We're accustomed to hav-

ing them dictate to us. It will change the dynamics of board elections. Time will tell what effect it will have."

### Local control issue

State Rep. Dian Slavens, D-Canton, agreed with Mardigian. She voted against both bills because she fears the state is intruding too much into local issues.

"My concern is we're taking so much local control away," Slavens said. "If the schools want to do it, that's fine. But I have a problem with the state mandating they do that."

Heise disagreed, and said many of the changes being enacted or proposed by the Legislature will save districts such as Plymouth-Canton "millions of dollars in the long run."

"The governance of local elections is well within the purview of state law," Heise said. "This has been done a couple times in the past already. Frequently what I

find are many of the changes that are coming from Lansing right now are being encouraged by districts.

"Our current system is confusing and costly," he added. "This reform gives us the rare opportunity to save money, increase efficiency and improve voter turnout."

The House bills now go to the Senate, where state Sen. Patrick Colbeck, R-Canton, introduced similar legislation earlier this year.

At the time, Colbeck called it a "matter of fiscal responsibility."

"By moving school board elections to the same time as general elections, locals will save \$20,000 to \$40,000 — that's \$2,000 per precinct, per election," Colbeck said. "As state and local governments struggle to make do with less, it is only common sense to consolidate these elections."

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## Band boosters seek crafters for show

The Plymouth-Canton Music Boosters hosts its annual Holiday Arts and Crafts Ensemble 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 19. Exhibitors who handcraft their own items are invited to submit an application to exhibit at the fundraising event to be held at Plymouth High School in Canton.

The juried art event is produced twice each year by the PCMB to help support the band and color guard programs at the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park.

Artists and crafters who are interested in applying for consideration to exhibit should visit [www.pcmcb.net/artcraft](http://www.pcmcb.net/artcraft) to download an application and submit with photos as soon as possible. A limited number of openings are available. Jewelers need not apply; the maximum number of jewelers permitted is set for the Holiday show.

For more details, contact exhibitor coordinator Carol Rosati at (734) 455-0714. Approximately 100-plus exhibitors will be permitted to exhibit at this artistic event. Over the last four years, more than 12,000 attendees have visited the PCMB Arts & Craft Ensembles.

"Our arts and craft ensembles are two of the most successful fundraisers we host each year," said Erin Babcock, president of the 2011 Plymouth-Canton Music Boosters. "The money raised at this event is helping to send the 175-member marching band to the 2011 Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York. It's a very exciting time for our non-profit group."

Plymouth High School is located at 8400 Beck in Canton. In addition to more than 100 exhibits, there will be food, door prizes, a raffle and entertainment by marching and concert band musicians throughout the day. Admission is \$2.

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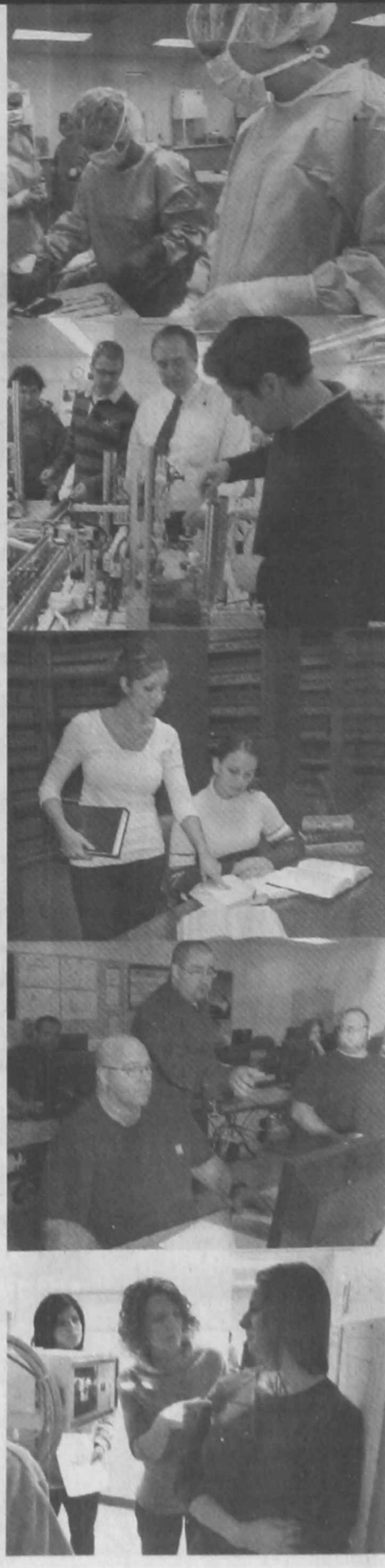
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## Henry Ford Community College

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Tom Wilson, truck driver for Gleaners Community Food Bank, unloads a pallet that pushes Open Door Ministry's food pantry past the 1-million-pound mark for 2011. He is speaking with Jackie Darr, who operates the pantry with husband Steve.

## OPEN DOOR

Continue from page A1

ity to feed these people and help them with jobs," Noricks said. "They're such good people here."

### It's about jobs

She was referring to a jobs program Open Door sponsors. It goes beyond helping the unemployed look for work. It also provides one-on-one counseling and helps them brush up on their reading and writing skills, develop resumes and work toward goals, such as getting a chauffeur's license, that can bridge the gap from joblessness to employment.

Already this year, Open Door has fed 39,639 people — many of them return recipients. Last year it fed 69,535 people. And while the organization saw a 30-percent spike in pleas for help in 2010 compared to 2009, Darr said demand has leveled off this year.

"We hope it's because people are getting jobs," he said. Every week, Open Door has 60-70 volunteers who help out. Some who can't give their time donate money, which helps because the food pantry does buy some of its food at hugely discounted prices offered by other organizations. On average, Open Door spends 2 cents for each pound of food it distributes.

"If somebody donates a dollar, that can buy a lot of food," Darr said.

Open Door volunteer Ralph Puckett credits the Darrs with making the organization a success, but Darr deflects the praise. "It's everybody working together to help their neighbors," he said.

To help or for more information, go to [www.opendoorfoodministry.org](http://www.opendoorfoodministry.org) or call (734) 397-1777, Ext. 201.

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

## Firefighters to help Canton mom's family

By Darrell Clem  
Observer Staff Writer

Canton firefighters, honoring a local mother of four who used to bring her children and cookies to fire station No. 1 before she was struck by a Jeep and killed, have announced a fundraiser to help her family.

The Canton Firefighters Local 2289 Charity Foundation has organized a bowling event 6-8 p.m. Friday, Sept. 16, at Super Bowl, on Ford Road east of Canton Center.

Battalion Chief Mike Caruso said firefighters wanted to help Maupin's family in the aftermath of a tragic accident that occurred July 21, when she was struck and killed while walking her bike across Haggerty Road on the north side of Michigan Avenue.

On the day she was killed, Maupin had gone to fire station No. 1, off Canton Center south of Cherry Hill, to take cookies she had baked for firefighters. "She used to frequently visit the fire station with her kids," Caruso said, adding that some of Maupin's family members have visited the station since her death.

The bowling fundraiser costs \$20 per person and includes two games of "cosmic bowling" along with shoe rental, pizza, pop and door prizes. A 50/50 raffle also will be held.

Caruso said anyone who wants to make additional donations may do so during the fundraiser. Tickets may be purchased in advance or at the door, and all proceeds will benefit Maupin's family. For further information or to buy tickets, call fire station No. 1 at (734) 398-5262.

Maupin left behind her husband, Brent, and four children who, at the time of her death, ranged in age from 4 months to four years. Caruso said firefighters are hoping the community will show support for a local family that has been dealt a painful blow.

"I'm hoping people really turn out" for the fundraiser, he said.

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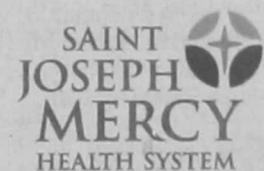
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## Police look into rash of wheel thefts

By Darrell Clem  
Observer Staff Writer

Canton police are investigating a rash of incidents involving the theft of wheels and rims, Deputy Chief Robert Kerr said Friday.

At least five incidents occurred Tuesday through Thursday involving thefts that ended with vehicles being left on landscaping blocks, he said.

The thieves targeted three Cadillacs, one Lincoln and one Ford Flex. The culprits typically

seek the kind of expensive rims that make a car stand out.

The latest incidents mostly occurred in condominium developments in the Palmer-Sheldon and Denton-Geddes areas, Kerr said.

"People may want to be aware this is happening and take some extra precautions," he said. "If they have a garage, they may want to park their car in the garage."

Local police also are asking for the public's help in identifying and

locating potential suspects.

Anyone who has information is urged to call the Canton Police Department at (734) 394-5400.

Anyone who prefers to make an anonymous tip for a possible cash reward may contact Crime Stoppers of Michigan by calling (800) SPEAK-UP, going to [www.1800speakup.org](http://www.1800speakup.org) or texting CSM and the tip to 274637, or CRIMES.

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### AROUND CANTON

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

#### CHIEFETTES FUND-RAISER

**Date/Time:** Aug. 30-Sept. 1, 4-10 p.m.

**Location:** Jimmy John's, 770 Penniman, Plymouth

**Details:** The Canton Chiefettes are having a fundraiser at Jimmy John's, which is donating a percentage of all sales to Canton Pom Pon.

#### CHEER CLINIC

**Date/Time:** Saturday, Sept. 10, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**Location:** Plymouth High School, Beck Road south of Joy

**Details:** The Plymouth High School cheer teams host a kids cheer clinic for first-through eighth-graders. The cost is \$30 per student and includes a PHS cheer T-Shirt, drinks and snacks. All kid clinic participants are invited to cheer in the Friday, Sept. 16 Plymouth vs. Livonia Churchill 7 p.m. varsity football game. The deadline to register is Aug. 30.

**Contact:** The registration form can be found on the Plymouth cheer website or by contacting Julie Jones at [jonesing05@gmail.com](mailto:jonesing05@gmail.com)



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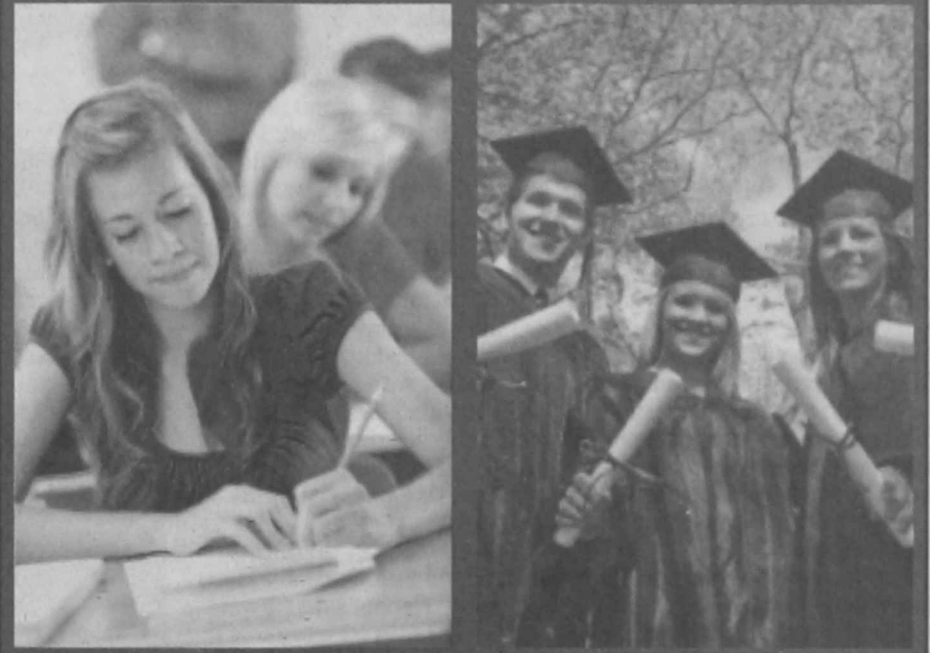
... Although no one knows where you would have slept. Courtesy Louise Brekke, 14 Canton and Plymouth families just returned from "a wonderful vacation" on Spider Lake near Traverse City. The group stayed in one huge house for four days and "had a blast!" Pictured are (front, from left) Adam Liakos, Kara Applegate and Alyssa Liakos; (second row, from left) Sophie Mekled, Olivia Benintende, Ashley Liakos, Devin Lamoureux and Mikey Collins; (third row, from left) Grace Brekke, Jack McCormack, Mary-Liz Benintende and Hallie Ott; (fourth row, from left) Chelsea D'Agostino, Jeff Simpson, Devin Slominski, William Benintende, David Russell, Tanis Lamoureux and Sam Ott; (fifth row, from left) Adam Liakos, Jake Brekke, Kirsten Holland, Alex Brekke, Lexie McDiarmid, Courtney Simpson, Emily Bouse, Shelby D'Agostino and Dom Ciantar; (back, from left) Zach D'Agostino, Ryan Huffman, Paige Slominski and Amber Mekled. Not pictured is Jack Applegate.



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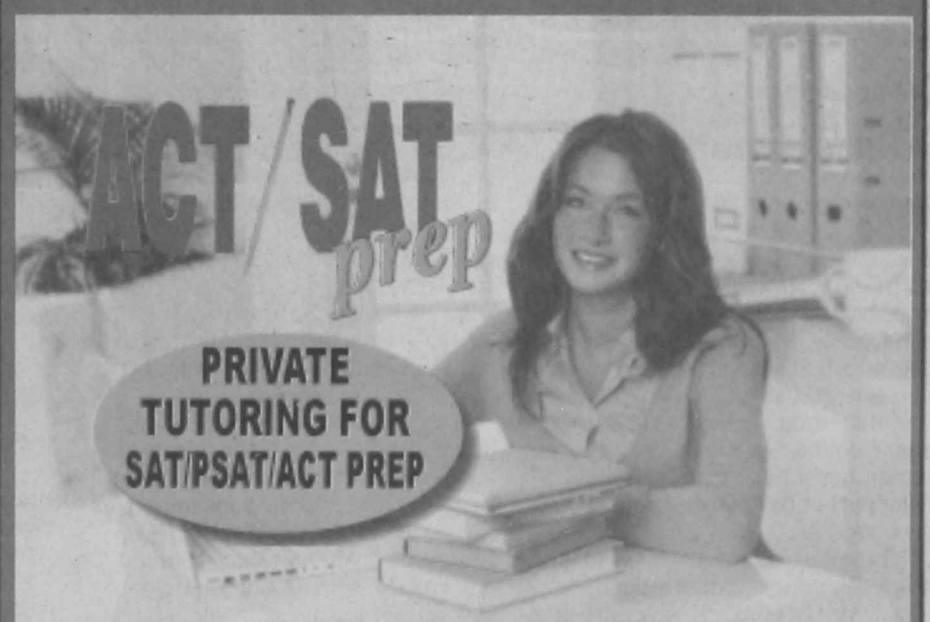
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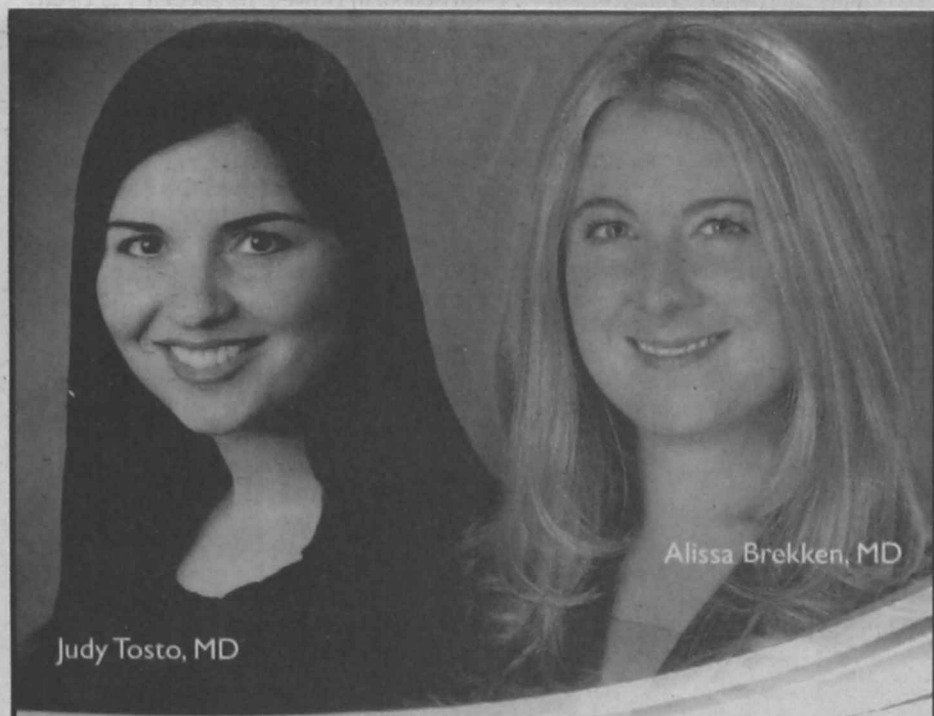
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# Program spins 'WEB' of help

## Mentors help sixth-graders make the move up

By Brad Kadrich  
Observer Staff Writer

Like most kids, Alaina James is nervous about changing schools.

The 11-year-old from Plymouth is making the upward move from Bird Elementary to the sixth-grade confines of West Middle School, along with some 300 other fifth-graders from five different elementary schools in the Plymouth-Canton district.

Understanding their nervousness, and buoyed by the success of last year's Link Crew mentoring program for incoming freshmen at the high school park, district administrators went about finding ways to make the transition easier for the new middle schoolers.

To accomplish it, they turned to the WEB (Where Everybody Belongs) program, a national idea that puts eighth-grade mentors in leadership positions with small groups of sixth-graders to help them ease into their new surroundings. The program is being used at all five of the district's middle schools.

And the new sixth-graders, like Alaina, appreciate it. "My biggest (concern) is not knowing where the classrooms are," Alaina said. "(WEB) is making me feel a lot more comfortable at West."

Administrators know those are the kinds of fears kids harbor as they move to a new school. Students don't know who their teachers are going to be, where their classrooms are, how the lockers work (an especially big fear for students).

The idea of WEB, according to West Middle School Principal Clint Smiley, is to ease those concerns. The mentors

— all of them members of the National Junior Honor Society — work with small groups of sixth-graders, playing games to introduce them to each other and teaching them what life is like at the new level.

Teachers were trained in the program, then came back and trained more than 50 eighth-graders (at West alone) who signed up to be mentors. The mentors help the new kids on the block learn their schedules, show them where classrooms are and how to work their lockers.

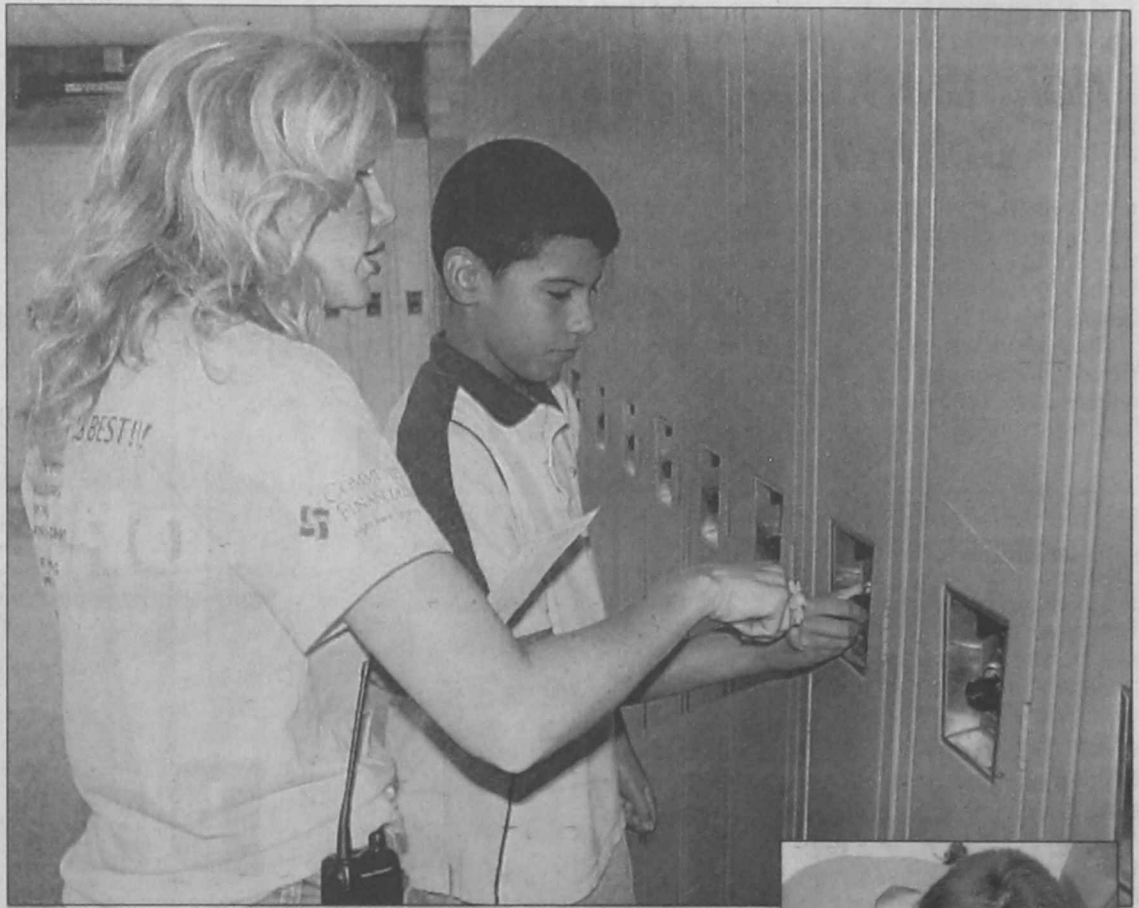
"Starting a new school is very stressful, and the biggest stressor is the unknown," Smiley said. "They don't know about their lockers, they don't know where their classrooms are. (WEB) gets them into the school, and when they leave ... they're much more relieved."

That's what eighth-grader Rachel Dunlavy of Canton hopes. She knows what it's like coming into a new school, and she didn't even come from within the district, having done her elementary school years at All Saints Catholic School.

"I came from a Catholic school, and I didn't really know anybody," Rachel said. "I wanted to help the sixth-graders, because I know it was really rough when I came in here."

The program took a school-wide (and district-wide) effort. West Middle School Counselor Valerie Swift said their teachers took the program and molded it to fit West's needs. For instance, West administrators grouped the incoming students by homeroom, something the WEB model doesn't call for.

"We wanted them to get to know the other students in their homerooms, because they're going to be with them



West Middle School counselor Valerie Swift helps incoming sixth-grader Coby Horden of Plymouth work the combination to his locker.



New sixth-grader Alaina James checks out her new school ID after getting her picture taken as part of WEB training.



Darren Krumm, an incoming sixth-grader, takes part in the WEB program at West Middle School, where eighth-graders are mentoring the new sixth-graders.

in homeroom and the first hour of the day, at least," Swift said. "It's working out pretty well, I think."


Emily Chepynoha, and 11-

year-old sixth-grader from Plymouth, felt more comfortable by day's end.

"Going from an elementary school to a middle school

is a big change," Emily said. "They're teaching us how sixth grade works."

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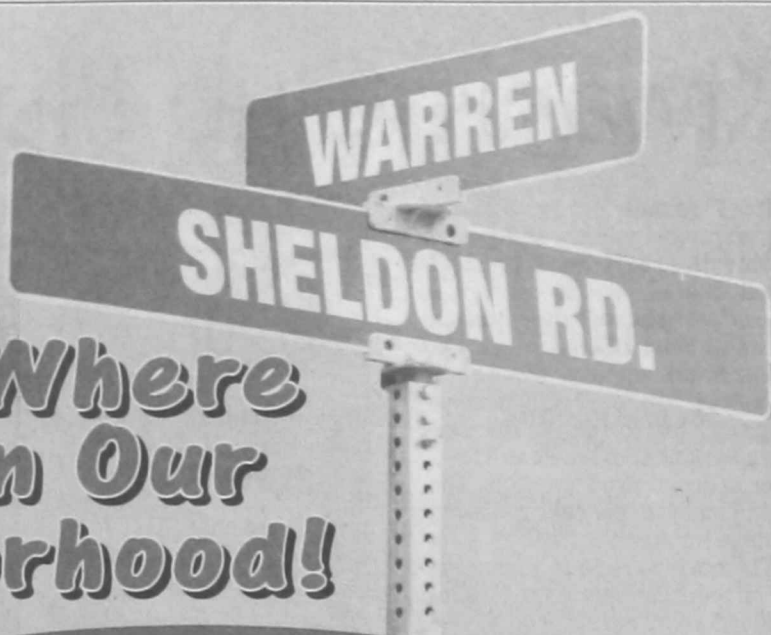
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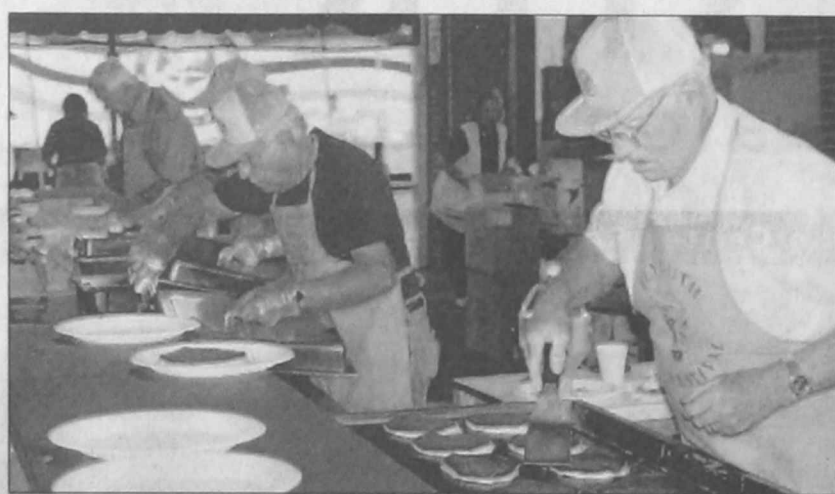
# Kiwanis Club flips for kids

It is Plymouth Fall Festival time which means only one thing to the Plymouth Area Kiwanis Clubs: The traditional all-you-can-eat pancake breakfast to benefit the Plymouth Kiwanis Foundation.

The breakfast takes place Saturday, Sept. 10, from 7 a.m. to noon at The Gathering across from Kellogg Park next to the Penn Theater in downtown Plymouth. The menu includes pancakes, sausages, orange juice and coffee.

The tickets are \$6 in advance and \$7 on Saturday morning. Children under 5 years old eat free. Pre-sale tickets can be purchased from any Plymouth Kiwanis member, the Kiwanis Popcorn Wagon in Kellogg Park on Friday evenings, the Charities Ticket Booth on Friday evening during the Fall Festival, Vanessa's Flowers on Ann Arbor Road and the Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce office.

This event has as much tradition as does the Plymouth Fall Festival. It draws around 4,000 people each year. Jim Grutza of the Kiwanis Club of Colonial Plymouth is the organizer of this annual fundraiser and wants to make the breakfast fun for both the volunteers and the



The pancake breakfast, which draws about 4,000 diners a year, helps fund college scholarships and Kids Against Hunger, among other programs.

families that come out for breakfast. Kiwanis smoothly gets thousands served quickly, but Kiwanis members look forward to helping out each year.

It is all in good fun, members say, with the true focus being raising funds to support Mott Children's Hospital, college scholarships, Kids Against Hunger and many other community causes.

"It is one of our major fundraising efforts each year which assist us in supporting many civic causes in our community," Grutza said. "The needs of the various charities we support have increased in recent years. It would be fantastic if even more folks came out for our great, hot breakfast. We are more than ready to serve everyone that wants to come out."

# Consider all options when donating to charities

By Rick Bloom  
Guest Columnist



Money Matters

Rick Bloom

tax break. The donation of appreciated securities is a good strategy, but not as good as using your minimum required

**Q: Dear Rick: I hope you can help me with a tax issue in relation to charitable contributions. My wife and I are retired and our main source of income is my pension and Social Security. I have an IRA, from which I take minimum required distributions. In addition to my IRA, my wife and I have a joint account. Every year — generally in September — I make charitable contributions. Last year I was going to have my minimum required distribution used as my contribution, but I ran out of time. I was going to do it this year, but a friend told me that since I have stock that has gone up in value, it would be better to donate the stock to the charity as opposed to writing a check or using my minimum required distribution. I don't itemize and I'm in the 15-percent bracket. What would be to my advantage?**

**A:** The proper course of action is to use your minimum required distribution for your contribution. This will be the most tax-sufficient way for you to make your contribution.

From the charity's standpoint, whether you use your minimum required distribution, donate appreciated securities or write them a check, it is all the same. Therefore, in this case the interest of the charity does not enter into the decision-making process.

In reviewing the three options, the least beneficial to you is writing a check because you receive no tax advantage. Since you're not itemizing your deductions, there is no tax benefit. You can't deduct your contribution, and your IRA distribution is taxed to you at your highest bracket. Of course, the reason you are giving to charity has nothing to do with the tax benefits. You give because it makes you feel good and ensures that your hard-earned money will go to a cause that you support. However, it makes you feel even better when you give to a charity and then get some sort of

distribution. When you donate appreciated securities, you can deduct the full value of the security. In addition, you avoid any unrecognized tax. For example, if you bought a stock for \$10 a share and it is now selling for \$50 a share, if you donate the stock to a charitable organization, you can deduct \$50 a share. The real benefit is the gain (\$50 - \$10 = \$40) is not subject to tax. Therefore, when they donate appreciated securities, many people will receive a double tax benefit. However, since you are not itemizing your deductions, you lose some of your tax benefits. In addition, since the tax you are avoiding is capital gains tax and your bracket is only 5 percent, the saving is minimal at best.

Using your minimum required distribution gives you the best of both worlds. The main advantage is that by donating your minimum required distribution, you are not paying taxes on that amount. The IRA distribution is taxed at your ordinary tax bracket of 15 percent, thus, you have a significant tax savings. In the other alternative, you would have had to include your minimum required distribution as income. Now, by donating it directly to a charity, you're avoiding that tax liability.

Donating minimum required distributions is not for everyone. However, if you are charitable in nature and you are over age 70½, it is a strategy that deserves consideration. Good luck!

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



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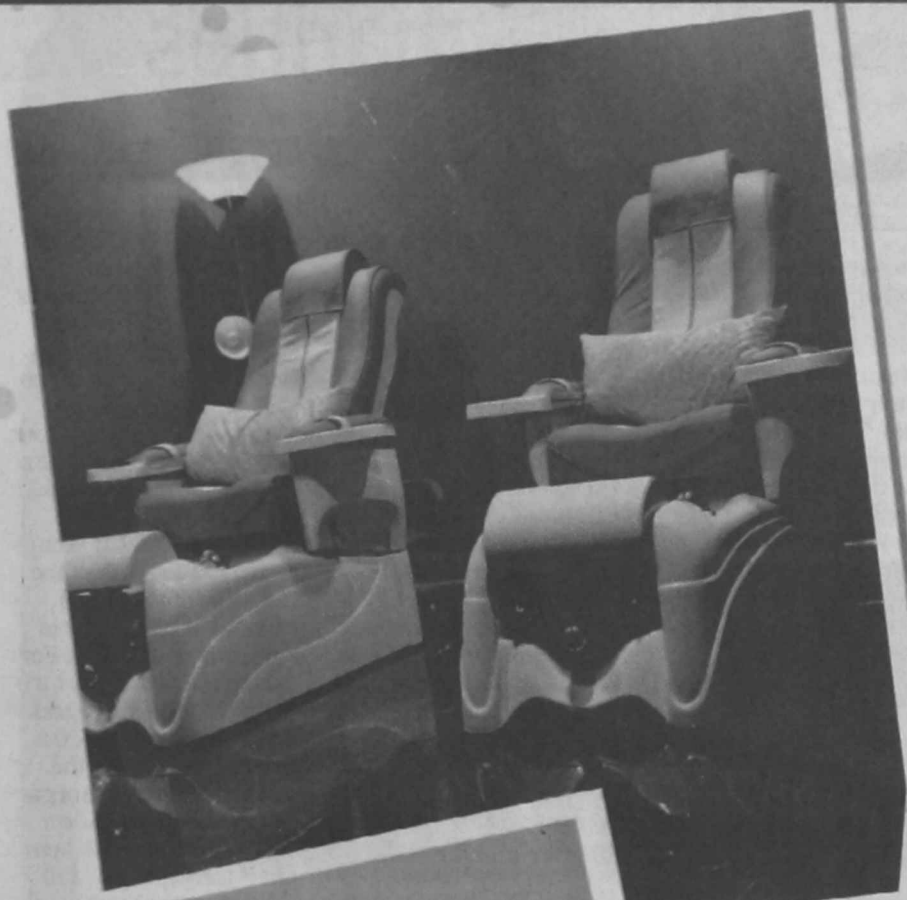
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## Culinary event marks anniversaries

The Schoolcraft College Foundation presents its annual Culinary Extravaganza, a premier food and wine event that highlights the culinary talent of metro area restaurants, pastry shops and beverage vendors.

This year's event, 2-5 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 25, marks two special anniversaries — the 20th year of the food and wine event and the college's 50th.

The extravaganza allows guests to sample a variety of fine food, wine, beverages and desserts in one afternoon, while at the same time support student scholarships. Proceeds from the event provide scholarships and grants for students. Individual tickets are \$50 each and available at the college or online.

This year's event will

feature more than 50 food, wine and dessert stations, a silent auction and raffle, along with a wine-tasting seminar led by vintner Lee Hershey and a wholesome healthy foods demonstration by master chef Jeff Gabriel.

### Featured

Food and beverage vendors include Sive Restaurant at St. John's Inn in Plymouth Township, Toasted Oak Grill and Market in Novi, Old World Olive Press in Plymouth, McCormick Distilling Co. and many more.

In addition to food, attendees can bid on a variety of gifts cards and baskets, including a VIP wine-tasting at Chateau Chantal, a weekend stay at the Townsend Hotel in downtown Birmingham or sports and entertain-

ment packages.

Highlight of this year's raffle is a Hearts on Fire Diamond necklace from Orin Jewelers in Garden City and Northville valued at \$3,400. Other raffle prizes include \$500 cash, \$250 cash (two winners) and dinner for two at the American Harvest Restaurant at Schoolcraft (three winners).

Raffle tickets are \$5 each or three for \$10. In addition, each ticket has value even if you don't win a prize. Patrons can redeem the ticket for discounts at the American Harvest, Steve & Rocky's in Novi and the Ironwood Grill in Plymouth. Raffle tickets are available at the college.

For more information or to purchase event tickets, sponsorship packages or raffle tickets go to [www.schoolcraft.edu](http://www.schoolcraft.edu).

## Crowd protests McCotter's jobs stance

By Brad Kadrich  
Observer Staff Writer

Some 100 people gathered in front of U.S. Rep. Thaddeus McCotter's Plymouth office Friday morning to let McCotter, a candidate for president, know they don't think he's doing enough to bring jobs to his state.

The protesters tooted whistles, chanted and waved American flags, even going so far as to pound on the windows of McCotter's Main Street office. They represented a group called "We Are The People," which organizes people from all around the metro area to ask the question, "Where are the jobs?"

"The protest was about good jobs now ... We had a great turnout," said Natalie Mosher, a Canton resident who lost to McCotter in the 2010 election and attended Friday's protest. "It's unfortunate the staff inside his office didn't even want to come out and acknowledge there were a lot of constituents out there. This guy is running for president, you'd think he'd want to have a conversation with the people he represents."

The group was protesting McCotter's support of a plan to cut 10 percent of the federal workforce, cuts they believe would cost 2,000 jobs in his 11th district, resulting in the loss of \$80 million in revenues. They carried signs with sayings such as "Don't Destroy My Pension and the American Dream" and "You Vote for War and Cut Jobs."

McCotter, on the campaign trail, shrugged off the protest as a union group wanting to protect "Big Government."

"This public union protest to prop up Big Government at taxpayers' expense is the failed policy of the 1970s," McCotter said. "As



KRISTEN FARMER

Protesters picketed outside U.S. Rep. Thaddeus McCotter's Plymouth office Friday to complain about his support for a plan to cut the federal workforce 10 percent.

president, I will lead the fundamental restructuring of the federal government for the 21st Century so the economy can grow and generate jobs, opportunity and prosperity."

Martin Van Valkenburg, who manages McCotter's Plymouth office, also downplayed the protest. "The congressman wants

to reduce the size of federal spending and big government," Van Valkenburg said. "He wants to send control back to the states. America knows that prosperity lies with the private sector, not the public sector."

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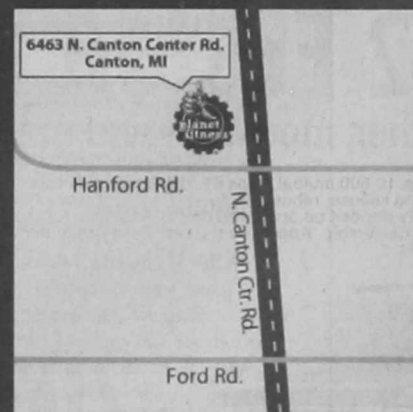
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# Regional Marketplace

ADVERTISING FEATURE

## Student efforts are recognized as encouragement abounds throughout the studio

Metro Dance Company in Plymouth expands adult, teen and children's dance programs

By DENNIS ZELAZNY  
ADVERTORIAL WRITER

Dance is an art form that generally refers to movement of the body, usually rhythmic and it can be used as a form of expression and social interaction. Metro Dance Company has been teaching dance and encouraging students since 1997. They have classes for everyone and right now a good time to go into the studio and watch, listen and become inspired.

Metro Dance in Plymouth has expanded its list of offerings this fall with more adult and teen classes and a wider range of times and dates for preschool classes.

"We've added more Ballet, Tap

and Hip Hop for both teens and adults," said Kristie Wyler, owner of Metro Dance Company. "We've really increased the choices of times and dates for preschool age dancers with more morning times." They now offer evening Zumba classes with certified teachers for students 16 years and older.

"We really try to offer something for everyone," Wyler said. "We've had a lot of adults say they can't find classes anywhere else around town." Wyler explains that she wants the studio to be a place that you can be comfortable at any skill level. "Our students are encouraged to interact and help each other. We are building a

community that is in a very competitive network, and we would like to be known as a welcoming group that genuinely cares for one another while still being dedicated to our craft."

Registration is now open for fall, with classes running Sept. 10 through June 2012. The studio offers classes in Ballet, Cecchetti, Pointe, Jazz, Tap, Lyrical, Modern, Hip Hop, Breaking, Pom, Ballroom, Pilates and Yoga as well as competitive classes for dancers age 6 and older.

Children ages 2.5-5 are offered a fun introduction to the basics of dance, called Preschool Combo, which combines Ballet, Jazz, Tap and Acro. Combo classes foster creativity, freedom and expression in movement and a love for dance.

"A beginning teen level class is available, so even if a 12- or 13-year-old has never danced before, they won't be put in with the 6-year-olds," Wyler said.

Each year, experienced dancers are welcome to audition for the Metro Dance Company Competition Team. Members meet September through June, compete at 3-4 regional dance competitions and travel out-of-state for a national competition each summer. Competition classes are available in Jazz, Lyrical, Modern, Tap, Hip Hop, Pom and Ballroom. Solo, duo and trios are also available



in discipline of choice. At this year's Karahari National Dance Competition in Ohio, Metro Dance Company positioned themselves with the title of —2nd over all.

In addition to all regular excitement in the studio, they offer a Wedding Program that concentrates on a couples "First Dance". The bride and groom will work on a choreographed showpiece that will make the night even more memorable. Many times the parents like to come in for a refresher course too. It's fun to rehearse the traditional Daddy Daughter and Mother and son dances. It's all about having fun together.

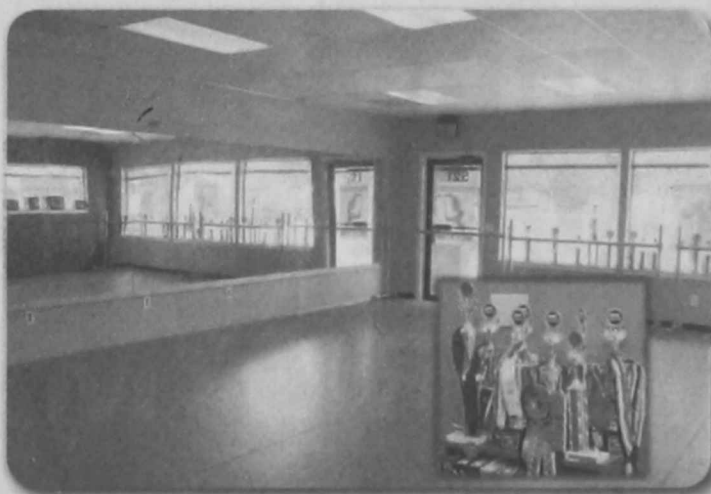


PHOTO BY DENNIS ZELAZNY

Three specially equipped studio's are the perfect place to work out routines that could bring home the trophy.

### Four things every parent should know before choosing a dance studio

#### 1. What type of dance floor is used?

Dance is a very physical activity that requires a lot of jumping that can put a lot of stress on bones and joints, and most dance footwear does not provide any cushioning or support. Metro Dance Company uses a "floating" hardwood sprung floor in each of its three dance rooms that absorbs the shock of jumping, helping to prevent injuries.

#### 2. What is the size of the class?

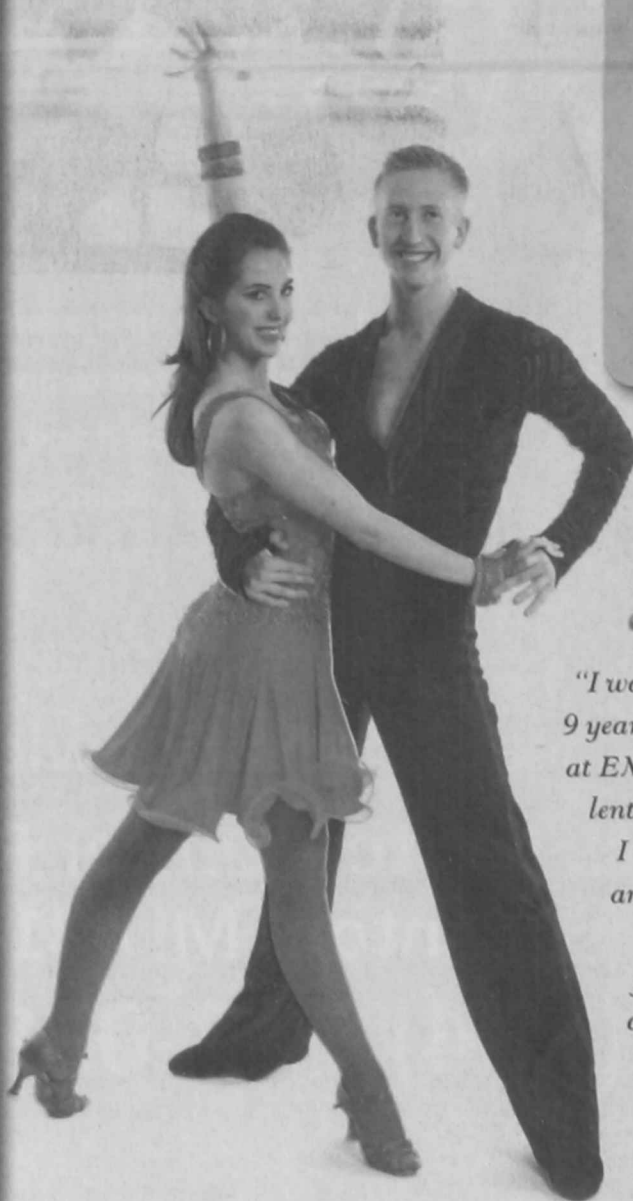
If the dance class has fewer students, each child will receive more personalized attention, learn more and have more fun. Metro Dance Company classes have smaller sizes to make sure no fundamental concepts are missed and to allow teachers to ensure students are not developing bad habits or improper technique.

#### 3. Can I get immediate assistance and customer service?

In many studios, the teacher or studio owner conducts classes and does the administration. Metro Dance Company has an office staff on hand during all regular class times, so students and parents get immediate assistance.

#### 4. What is the studio environment?

Metro Dance Company is committed to providing safe and quality instruction to children and adults of all ages and skill levels. The studio has a relaxed, friendly atmosphere and offers students a choice of technique, recital and/or competitive dance classes. Students are taught about teamwork, having a positive attitude, healthy eating and setting goals.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

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"I was a student at Metro Dance for 9 years. Now that I am a dance minor at EMU, I truly appreciate the excellent dance technique and discipline I learned at Metro. I have many amazing memories from my years at the studio and I will never forget the lessons I learned and all of the inspiring people I met. I still love coming back to take class whenever I can!"

— Emily Swanson

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## Cosmetologist enlists peers to aid at-risk girls overseas

By Sharon Dargay  
 O&E staff writer

Kayla McCormack spent the last six months travelling from coast to coast, learning the ins and outs of the cosmetology industry.

The 21-year-old Livonia resident took the lessons she learned to heart.

Since returning home Aug. 14 from her tour with the "Spread the Love" program sponsored by Matrix hair products, McCormack has been busy organizing her first benefit, Fashion for Freedom, which will raise money for Rapha House, a Missouri-based nonprofit that rescues children and teens from slavery and sexual exploitation in Southeast Asia. Proceeds from the fashion show and auction on Sept. 9 at the Village Theater in Canton will benefit Rapha House's prevention program for at-risk girls.

"I really wanted to put together an event that would compile the industry — cosmetologists, make up artists, musicians, photographers, fashion designers -- something that would connect all of us, highlight new talent and, of course, benefit the prevention center."

"When we were travelling we had so many opportunities to be involved in (charitable) events. I loved doing



Kayla McCormack is interviewed during the Spread the Love contest sponsored by Matrix.

fashion shows. It was so cool to see how much the beauty industry — the external stuff, makeup, hair, nails and skin care — really does change people's lives. I really believe if we can touch people on the outside we'll be able to touch them on the inside. That's always been my personal experience with the industry."

The 2008 Churchill High School graduate earned a spot on the Spread the Love team after applying for the program online, garnering support from fellow students at L' esprit Academy, and edging out 16 other candidates from across the country in a round of formal interviews in New York. She was one of six recent beau-



Kayla McCormack is organizing a fashion show and silent auction to benefit Rapha House, an organization based in Joplin, Mo., that rescues children and teens from slavery and sexual exploitation in Southeast Asia.



Kayla McCormack's photo is shown on stage at Matrix.

ty school graduates accepted into the program.

"We were in 30 states in six months. I worked with some of the leading artists in the industry. Matrix gave us the opportunity of a lifetime to travel and be

hands-on in our careers as cosmetologists."

### Personal interest

After learning about Rapha House from a stylist she met during her travels, McCormack contacted the organization and


inquired about internships in Cambodia. "I've always had a heart for girls who have been human trafficked. I became interested in Rapha House because their main goal is to rescue children and rehabilitate and train them in a career. One of the career paths is cosmetology, which I thought was pretty cool."

After months on the road, she decided to finish requirements for an associate's degree at Schoolcraft College this fall and began organizing the charity event in lieu of an internship.


"Anyone in attendance will be blessed because they will be a blessing to others. All of the models are awesome and the show will be fun."

McCormack personally

Please see **GIRLS, B8**



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# Rescue groups appeal for donations, foster help

Zena, a mastiff/boxer mix, has had a tough year.

When the Wayne County Sheriff's Department found Zena in January at a house they raided for drugs, she was chained to a fence, emaciated — next to her dead canine companion — in the snow.

Livonia-based Tail Wag-ger's 1990 assisted with her rescue and Debbie Groves of Redford stepped up to foster Zena. Groves, a vet tech, decided to make the arrangement permanent and adopted her.

When Groves recently noticed a lump on the dog's ear, she took her to the vet for a diagnosis and "the results came back confirming it was a mass-cell tumor."

"After everything Zena had been through and survived I couldn't believe she had to conquer something else as traumatic."

Zena's ear was amputated and her veterinarian is waiting for lab results to determine the best course of treatment. She will require additional surgeries if more cancerous "bumps and lumps" develop.

Tail Wag-ger's 1990 runs an emergency assistance program for pet owners who need help paying for veterinary care in an unexpected medical crisis. The organization is accepting donations to help pay for Zena's medical care through Paypal at [www.tailwaggers1990.org](http://www.tailwaggers1990.org). Contributions also can be mailed to Sheehy Animal Hospital, 18790 Middlebelt, Livonia, MI 48154.

Tail Wag-ger's 1990 is a nonprofit organization committed to helping individuals help animals. For more information call Laura Zain, Tail



Zena may need more surgery to stay cancer-free in the future.



Emma Frost, a three-year-old Husky enjoys a belly rub.

Wag-ger's 1990 founder at (734) 560-4660 or e-mail her at [tailwaggers.1990@yahoo.com](mailto:tailwaggers.1990@yahoo.com).

### Foster needed

Emma Frost beat the odds. The small, blue-eyed, white Siberian Husky had been left at the door of a veterinarian's office with instructions from her former owners to euthanize her. They no longer wanted their three-year-old pet. But a member of Guardian Angels Animal Rescue (GAAR) happened to be there on the day the



dog was scheduled to die and intervened. The rescued pup is safe, but the Livonia-based organization is looking for a foster home. Emma Frost gets along with children and other animals, according to Sandy Mezza, GAAR founder.

Anyone interested in fostering Emma Frost can e-mail to [guardian\\_angel\\_rescue@hotmail.com](mailto:guardian_angel_rescue@hotmail.com). GAAR offers dogs and cats for adoption from 1-4 p.m. every Saturday at PetSmart, 385 Haggerty, in Commerce Township. For more information visit its Web site at [www.gaarmichigan.org](http://www.gaarmichigan.org) or call its hotline at (734) 516-2171.

— By Sharon Dargay

# Detroit Zoo welcomes educators this week

The Detroit Zoological Society will present its fourth annual open house for school teachers, administrators and superintendents 4-7 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 1 at the Detroit Zoo's Ford Education Center. Zoolastic Achievement 2011 will offer educators and youth group leaders the opportunity to enjoy food, fun, fellowship and live entertainment as they learn about science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics offerings at the Detroit Zoo and Belle Isle Nature Zoo.

The free event will give insight into programs that teach important concepts about animals, habitats and ecosystems in alignment with the Michigan curriculum framework, grade level content expectations and high school content expectations. The event will also offer tips on planning and optimizing school group visits with guided tours, self-led tours, scavenger hunts, interactive education presentations and backpack pro-

grams. Tram tours of the zoo will highlight animal habitats and exhibits that feature interactive learning options.

Attendees will learn about the Detroit Zoological Society's newest educational opportunities — including Science On a Sphere, the Wild Adventure 3-D/4-D Theater and the Berman Academy for Humane Education as well as the Ford Education Center's Interpretive Studios, DTE Energy Foundation Humane Science Lab and Handelman Discovery Studio. Guests will meet David Gakure, a Kenyan conservationist and Detroit Zoological Society education specialist, who engages students at the zoo and in the classroom with stories of people and wildlife in the African Grasslands.

Online registration for Zoolastic Achievement 2011 is available until Aug. 30, at [www.detroitzoo.org/zoolastic/](http://www.detroitzoo.org/zoolastic/). Walk-ins are also welcome.

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Attorneys J.B. Bieske and Jennifer Alfonsi have 42 years combined experience representing only Social Security disability clients. And they personally meet with all clients and appear themselves at all court hearings. Many large firms assign inexperienced attorneys to your case. And some of these firms are located thousands of miles away and only fly the attorney in the day of the court hearing. Attorneys Bieske and Alfonsi have vast experience before local Michigan judges.



Attorneys Bieske and Alfonsi can often make a winning difference at the application stage. And, if an appeal is necessary they have won several hundred cases before a court date is even set.

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

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

Attorneys Bieske and Alfonsi offer free phone or office consultation. If they represent you, there will be no fee charged until after the case is won. The fee is a percentage of retroactive benefits.

Bieske and Alfonsi represent clients from all over the state of Michigan. Their Livonia office is on Six Mile Road just west of I-275. Their Novi office is located on Haggerty Road just north of 12 Mile Road. Call them at 1-800-331-3530 for a free consultation if you have been denied, or if you are thinking of possibly applying for Social Security benefits.

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REUNIONS

Send class reunion information to Sharon Dargay at sdargay@hometownlife.com

BELLEVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

CLASS OF 1971 Planning 40th reunion in 2011. Seeking classmates and contact information. E-mail BHS.1971@yahoo.com...

DEARBORN FORDSON

CLASS OF 1954 A 57-year reunion Luncheon is planned for Oct. 6 at the Stitt American Legion Hall...

CLASSES OF 1943-45

11 a.m.-3 p.m. Sept. 16, at Park Place, 23400 Park, Dearborn. Luncheon will be served. Cost is \$20 per person...

DEARBORN HEIGHTS ROBICHAUD

CLASS OF 1961 50th class reunion Sept. 24 at the Dearborn Hills Golf Course. All classes are welcome...

DEARBORN HEIGHTS CRESTWOOD

CLASS OF 1981 30-year reunion, 6 p.m. to midnight, Sept. 17 at Crystal Gardens, 5768 Grand River, Howell...

DETROIT MACKENZIE

CLASSES OF 1950-69 Noon to 6 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 11, the Plymouth-Riverside Recreation Area, just west of Haggerty, in Edward Hines Park...

JUNE CLASS OF 1961

50th reunion will be Saturday, Oct. 29. For more information e-mail vannerian@msn.com or phone Joanne (Poloway) Glance at (734) 878-6543.

CLASS OF 1962

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

FERNDALE HIGH SCHOOL

CLASS OF 1961 4:10-4:25 p.m., Friday, Sept. 9, gathering time at the high school, followed by dinner at 6 p.m. at Rosie O'Grady's...

GARDEN CITY EAST & WEST

CLASSES OF 1966-67 A casual, joint reunion is planned for Oct. 8. The organizing committee needs addresses of class members. Call Dale Bowes (Whiting) '66W at (734) 427-7148...

GARDEN CITY HIGH SCHOOL

CLASS OF 1986 25-year reunion, Saturday, Oct. 15. E-mail Trish First (Patty Buggy) for more information at pm2b2005@yahoo.com...

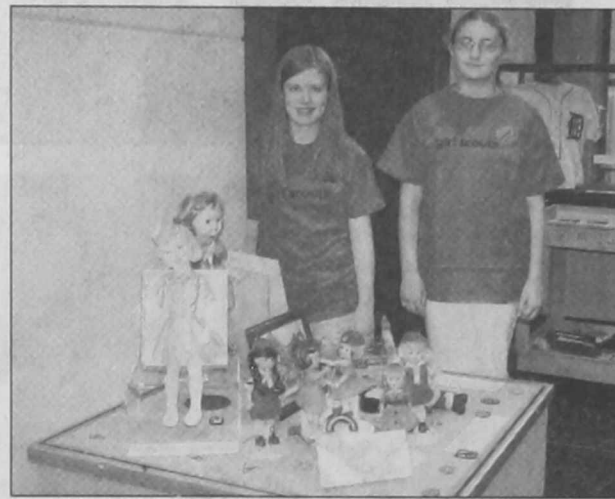
GARDEN CITY EAST

CLASS OF 1981 30-year reunion, 7 p.m.-5 a.m. Friday, Sept. 16, at the Sheraton of Novi. \$75/person and discount on rooms. Includes entree, beer, wine, soft drinks and many extras...

GARDEN CITY WEST

CLASS OF 1981 30-year reunion, 6 p.m.-midnight, Saturday, Oct. 22, at the Hellenic Cultural Center, Livonia. \$45 per person; \$90 per couple. Payment must be received by Sept. 1. No tickets will be sold at the door...

Girl Scouts lend a hand at state museum Local Scouts to help with milestone



Megan McHugh (left) and Elisabeth Goetz work with Girl Scout dolls.

Megan McHugh of Plymouth spent a week last month working at the Michigan Historical Museum. She helped create a display to promote a major exhibit that will kick off the Girl Scout centennial next year.

Megan and other Girl Scouts who attended the Historical Museum Day Camp discovered just how much work it takes to assemble a 2,000-square-foot exhibit. Sponsored by the Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan, the exhibit will open to the public on March 10, 2012. After two intense days in the classroom, the girls toured the Museum's storage facility, learned how to care for Girl Scout artifacts and created three display cases to promote next year's 100th anniversary exhibit, 'Follow the Girls! 100 Years of Girl Scouting.' Their displays are on view in the museum. Megan said she has

'much more appreciation for museum exhibits, now that I know how hard they are to create.' Sandra Clark, director of the Michigan Historical Center, was a Girl Scout in the 1960s and attended the national 1962 Girl Scout Round-up in Button Bay, Vt. Clark's mementos of her experience became the basis of one of the girls' displays, complete with scrapbook, newspaper clippings, patches and a jacket. Susan Cooper, team leader for the Girl Scout exhibit, JoAnn Arasim, educator, and Scott Peters, collections historian, organized the day camp for the Girl Scouts. 'The girls' interest and enthusiasm were just delightful,' said Cooper. 'It was exciting

for all of us to see them succeed at actual historical research,' she said, explaining that the girls used old Detroit city directories to verify names of early Girl Scouts in vintage photos. Volunteers on the Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan 'history team' are collecting Girl Scout artifacts for possible use in the museum exhibit, which will run through Aug. 31, 2012. The history team also is looking for Girl Scout alumnae to record their stories. Former and current Girl Scouts who are interested in helping with the museum exhibit, can contact the team at HistoryTeam@gshom.org. To learn more about Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan, visit www.gshom.org.

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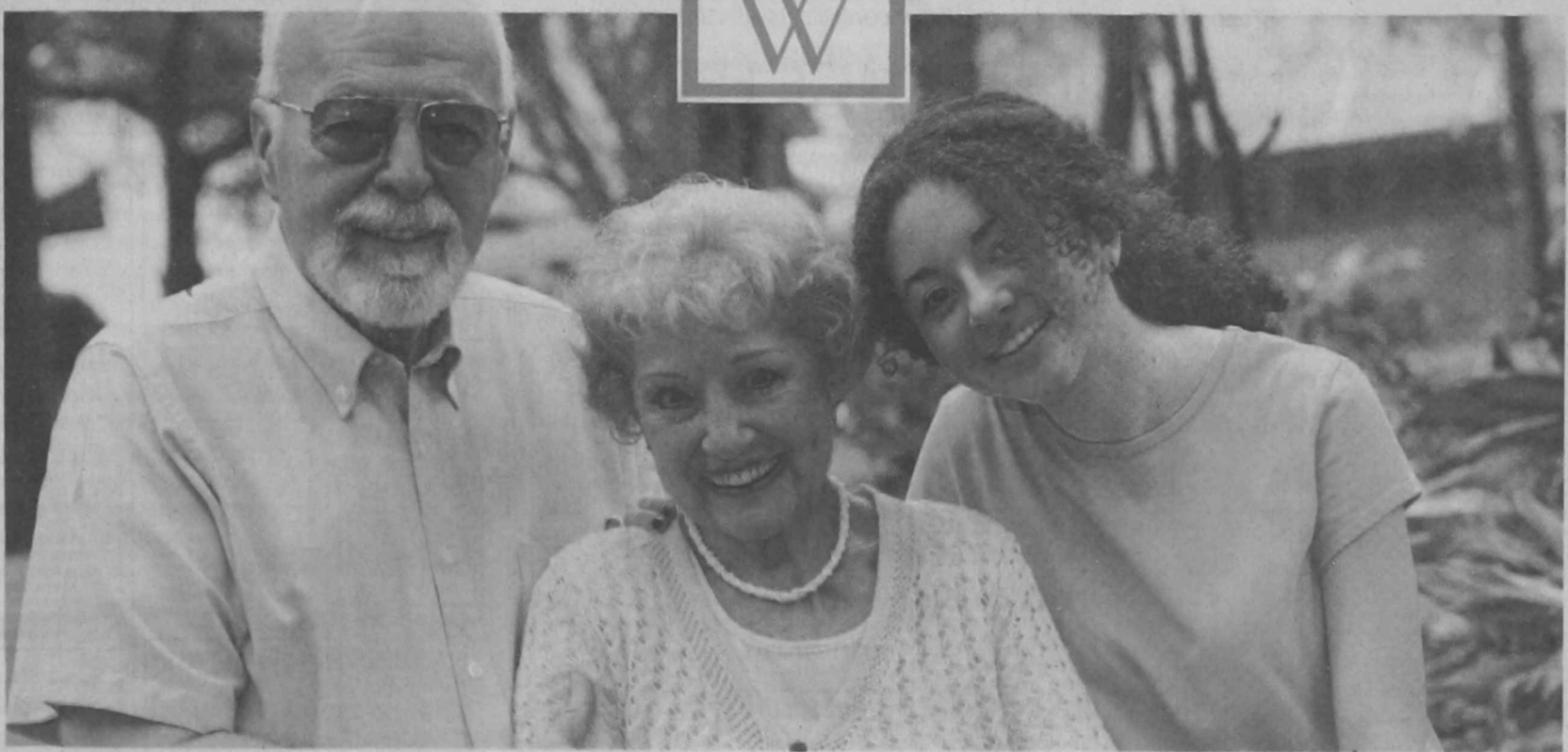


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**RELIGION CALENDAR**

Send calendar items to Sharon Dargay at sdargay@hometownlife.com. Feel free to include relevant photos as attached jpgs. Or mail items to Dargay, Observer, 615 Lafayette, Level 2, Detroit, MI 48226.

**Aug. 28-31**

**CRAFTERS NEEDED**

**Time/Date:** Accepting applications now  
**Location:** Riverside Park Church of God, 11771 Newburgh, Livonia  
**Details:** Crafters sought for fall craft show, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Oct. 15. Space rental is \$25. \$5 per table or bring your own table. Spots are limited to three crafters per category and one vendor per product  
**Contact:** (734) 464-0990 or e-mail rpooffice@around-detroit.biz

**PROGRAMS OFFERED**

**Time/Date:** 11 a.m., Sunday, Aug. 28  
**Location:** St. Hilary Church, 23901 Elmira, Redford  
**Details:** A short meeting will be held to explain the programs offered by the church for both adults and children  
**Contact:** Sr. Marie Miller at (313) 533-1560

**Sept. 1-14**

**BIBLE STUDY**

**Time/Date:** 9:25-11:15 a.m., Tuesdays beginning Sept. 13, through Nov. 15  
**Location:** Detroit First Church of the Nazarene, 21260 Haggerty, Northville  
**Details:** W.O.W. Ladies Bible Study will focus on the Book of Acts. Registration fee is \$15. Free program for children through age 5  
**Contact:** (248) 348-7600

**CLOTHING BANK**

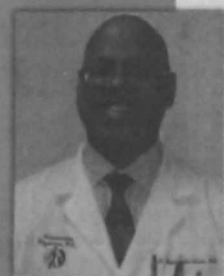
**Time/Date:** 5-6:30 p.m. Sept. 14 and 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 24  
**Location:** Canton Christian Fellowship Clothing Bank, 41920 Joy, between Lilley and Haggerty, in Canton  
**Details:** Free clothing and shoes are given to anyone in need  
**Contact:** (734) 927-6686 or (734) 404-2480

**MARRIAGE PROGRAM**

Please see CALENDAR, B13

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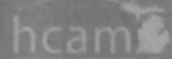


**Medical Director of Therapy, Dr. M. David Jackson, oversees patient care and progress**

Four Seasons orthopaedic and stroke patients are in good hands thanks to Dr. M. David Jackson and his partners at Rehabilitation Physicians. Jackson, a U of M Medical School graduate, is also an assistant clinical professor at Wayne State University's School of Medicine.

"Our team is another set of professionally trained physicians assessing patients and making sure their rehab is headed in the correct direction," said Jackson. "The goal is to get patients back home; some may be long-term patients that we're getting back to their baseline."

Jackson sees patients individually and makes sure nothing interferes with their treatment plan. "We're frequently in facilities more than any other type of physician. We see where patients are making progress or lagging behind and make suggestions to therapists."



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**Flourish in the Fall**  
*Pediatric and Young Adult Therapy Programs*

**Keep the Conversation Going**

**MONDAY-THURSDAY (3:30, 4:30, 5:00 AND 6:00 PM GROUPS)**  
Social Groups for learners 3-23 targeting social skills, conversation fluency, and social cognition. KTCG groups begin September 5th. Enroll now to hold your space and schedule social intake.

**FLOURISH**

**MONDAY-FRIDAY (AM 9 AM-12 PM, AFTERNOON 1 PM-4PM, AFTER SCHOOL 4 PM-7PM)**

Our ABA center based program for learners ages 2-10. Lead by BCBA's, ABA Therapists, and SLPs, this program focuses on 1:1 and small group instruction for the preparation and teaching towards success in a typical peer setting. Flourish has rolling admissions, enroll now to reserve your space for fall 2011.

*~Other Therapy Programs Available~*

**BEEhave**

**MONDAY-THURSDAY 3:30, 4:45, 6:00 PM**  
Behavior Coaching for Early Learners and their Caregivers. Groups are taught by ABA Trainers and BCBA's. Play date style for learners 2-6 and their families.

**Finicky No More**

**TUESDAY-FRIDAY 2:30, 3:45, 5:00, 6:00 PM**  
Feeding therapy for learners who have food sensitivity challenges. Attention will be placed on sensory, oral motor movement and coordination, and food tactical awareness.

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**-Terry J., Roseville, MI**  
Age: 56

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**-Iris S., Northville, MI**  
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9 AM to 6 PM



**ATTENTION: MERCURY LEASE CUSTOMERS WITH LEASES DUE BETWEEN NOW AND MARCH 31, 2012 BUY OR LEASE A NEW FORD BEFORE OCTOBER 3RD AND FORD WILL WAIVE UP TO 6 PAYMENTS**

\*All payments and prices are for qualifying A/Z planners. For qualifying, non A/Z planners an additional \$800 to \$1500 would be required to keep the payments or price the same. 10,500 miles per year. To Buy For Price add tax, title, doc and destination fee. All factory rebates assigned to dealer including owner loyalty or previous lease and may require Ford Credit financing. Not all buyers will qualify for lowest payments. Pictures may not represent actual vehicle. Subject to availability. Payments and prices per program in effect at publication and are subject to change. \*MGP-EPA estimated when equipped as show. All offers expire 8/31/11.