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## League panel

The League of Women Voters of Northwest Wayne County is presenting a panel of elected officials and administrators to discuss privatization of government services 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 18, at the Livonia Civic Center Library. The panel will include state Sen. Glenn Anderson, Livonia Councilman Tom Robinson, former Wayne Councilwoman Susan Rowe, and Kristen Hennessey, the director of Food Services for Plymouth-Canton Schools. The public is invited to attend at no charge. For more information, contact Paula Bowman at (734) 455-4726.

## Tax town hall

State Rep. Dian Slavens, D-Canton, hosts an informative town hall 6-7:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 20, at the Canton Township Administration Building to answer residents' questions on the recent changes to the state tax structure. Community members can find out more about the changes, connect with resources that might be helpful as they prepare for the new tax system, and share their thoughts on the new tax burden imposed on Michigan families. Slavens will be joined by Lois Beerbaum of H&R Block and Kay Diggs of AARP of Michigan.

## Exam prep

The Huntington Learning Center of Canton and the Plymouth Coffee Bean are partnering to offer a free exam prep workshop event, taking place at the oldest independently owned coffee shop in Michigan, the Plymouth Coffee Bean. The event, called "Bean Studying?" takes place 5-6 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 28. Plymouth Coffee Bean is located at 884 Penniman in Plymouth. For more information, call (734) 207-7930.

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# District misses AYP despite improved scores

By Brad Kadrich  
Observer Staff Writer

Two years ago, every school in the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools, with the exception of Starkweather Alternative high school, achieved Adequate Yearly Progress. Two years later — despite either higher or level scores in the majority of the testing areas of the MEAP test — none of the district's 25 buildings achieved AYP success.

While MEAP scores released Wednesday morning show Plymouth-Canton schools raising their scores over last year in 11 of 18 areas, and keeping them level in two others, a state increase in "cut" scores — the score the state uses to separate proficient and nonproficient grades — kept district schools out of AYP achievement.

"Many of our schools raised their scores, but just didn't make it enough to make AYP," said Dana Jones, the district's director of academic and assessment services. "The state raised the cut scores significantly. We can't worry about that; this is the new standard, and we've got to get there."

According to Jones, the state's Board of Education became one of only three states in the country to lift their cut scores into the top tier of AYP scoring. She said the district's ongoing move to match the state's more rigorous common-core curriculum should right the ship once adjustments are made.

"Our curriculum will be more rigorous," Jones said. "The common-core state curriculum is more rigorous, and we're working on ours to bring it to that level." Matched against the previous cut scores, Plymouth-Canton continued to improve in most areas, Jones noted. Only five scores — third-grade reading and math, fourth-grade writing,

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Please see SCORES, A4



PHOTOS BY SUE BURKE

More than 300 people crowded into the Village Theater at Cherry Hill Friday for a fundraiser for the Canton Partnership for the Arts & Humanities.

## Concert rocks arts fundraiser

By Brad Kadrich  
Observer Staff Writer

With an open date at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill and a strong desire to raise awareness of the arts in Canton and surrounding communities, Jill Engel took a chance that a second fundraiser for the Canton Partnership for the Arts & Humanities might work.

She was right. More than 300 people crowded into the Village Theater Friday for "Rock-n-Roll Valentine's," a holiday concert that featured local favorite Steve King and the Ditties, a Livonia-based act and a huge draw at local events such as the Friday night concert series in downtown Plymouth.

The event raised nearly \$8,700 for the Partnership. And it might have done better if Mother Nature hadn't sent a snowstorm through the area.

"I truly think (Friday's) fundraiser would have been closer to a sellout," said Engel, executive director of the Partnership. "We normally sell about 50 tickets at the door, but I think people who saw the weather coming kind of went in another direction."

The 324 who did show up, Engel said, saw a "wonderful performance" from the Ditties. Engel said people came not only from Plymouth, Canton, Livonia and surrounding western Wayne County communities, but



Chef Cheryl Hanewich of The Chop House-Ann Arbor doled out La Dolce Vita desserts to more than 300 guests at Friday's fundraiser.

Please see CONCERT, A3

## Canton ponders bonds for public safety upgrade

By Darrell Clem  
Observer Staff Writer

As a price tag looms for new radio communication and 9-1-1 emergency equipment for police and fire services, Canton officials are considering paying the cost by issuing and selling up to \$2 million in bonds.

Local officials also could decide to dip into a \$2 million emergency 9-1-1 fund balance, though some worry about depleting the account.

"If you spend the cash now, there is no safety net," Finance Director Rick Eva said.

Supervisor Phil LaJoy indicated the Canton Township Board of Trustees will decide within weeks how it prefers to pay for the switch to a new 800-MHz system designed to improve radio communications for police and firefighters while linking to a statewide network and adhering to federal government changes mandated by Jan. 1, 2013.

"That will be determined by the board in March," LaJoy said Wednesday.

His remarks came one day after the township board adopted a resolution authorizing Clerk Terry Bennett to publish a notice of intent to issue and sell what are known as limited tax general obligation funds.

Eva said the funding method, if pursued, would not increase the local tax rate paid by Canton taxpayers. Rather, it would allow the township to sell bonds, get the money it needs for the 800-MHz improvements and repay the debt, likely over a 10-year period.

The new system follows new federal guidelines and also comes as Canton needs to upgrade its communications equipment due to a possible consolidation of central dispatch services with at least one other community, Livonia.

Police and fire officials uncorked plans for the 800 MHz last November during a study session with Can-

Please see BONDS, A3



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# House holds hearings on Skype legislation

By LeAnne Rogers  
Observer Staff Writer



LeBlanc

A bill requiring officials to be physically present to participate in public meetings received support at a Michigan House committee hearing last week.

The bill, aimed at clarifying the Open Meetings Act when it comes to Skype and other electronic communications, was the subject of a hearing by the House Oversight, Ethics and Reform Committee, which is expected to vote on moving the bill out of committee on Tuesday.

"The committee appeared generally supportive, some enthusiastically so," said state Rep. Richard LeBlanc, D-Westland, who introduced the bill. "My expectation is that it could be a unanimous vote to send the

bill to the House floor."

The bill is aimed at giving an answer on whether it is legal

under the Open Meetings Act for officials to cast votes and participate in public meetings via electronic methods, such as Skype.

One dissenting voice at the hearing was from a representative of the Michigan Township Association.

"Basically, they said to get with the 21st century and gave some examples," said LeBlanc, adding electronic participation is fine for private companies but not for conducting public business.

MTA Legislative Liaison

Tom Frazier spoke at the hearing on behalf of the organization which he said opposes the bill as written since it doesn't allow exceptions for extenuating circumstances.

"It's not that we're opposed to what he is trying to do. A lot of government officials are part-time and their full-time jobs may take them out of the area," said Frazier. "There are some circumstances it (Skype) could be used as long as the public has full access to what the person is saying."

This issue arose for LeBlanc after Wayne-Westland Board of Education member John Goci used Skype to participate in at least one board meeting while he was out of the country for an extended period.

Once he introduced the measure to require physical presence at meetings, LeBlanc said he was surprised to hear how often officials around the state were using electronic means to not only participate in meetings but to have a quorum present.

"There can be three officials physically present and three or four more online, that is so wrong," said LeBlanc, who also wants language to say officials must be physically present to be part of a quorum at a public meeting.

LeBlanc worked with Michigan Attorney General Bill Schuette and his staff in preparing the bill which was co-sponsored by several other state representatives.

irogers@hometownlife.com  
(313) 222-5428

## 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

### SPOTLIGHT AUDITIONS

**Dates/Times:** Feb. 20-21, 7-10 p.m.

**Location:** Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill in Canton

**Details:** Spotlight Players presents "Into the Woods" in April at the Village Theater, and the group is holding auditions. The audition will consist of singing selections from the show, cold readings, and a short dance may be taught. Bring a headshot or photograph of yourself. The play, to be directed by former Second Stage director Shannon McNutt, is James Lapine and Stephen Sondheim's fractured fairy tale. What begins a lively irreverent fantasy becomes a moving lesson about community responsibility and the stories we tell our children, learning there are consequences to our choices.

**Contact:** For more information and an audition form go to: [www.spotlightplayersmi.org](http://www.spotlightplayersmi.org)

### FOOD DRIVE

**Date/Time:** Through Feb. 24

**Location:** Muslim Community of Western Suburbs Building Entrance, 40440 Palmer in Canton

**Details:** The "Feed Detroit" food drive will benefit needy neighbors in Detroit, where organizers say more than 50 percent of children under age 18 live in poverty. Collection boxes can be found at the Muslim Community of Western Suburbs Building Entrance (non-perishable foods only, please).

### MOM2MOM SALE

**Date/Time:** Saturday, April 21, 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

**Location:** Summit on the Park, 46000 Summit Parkway, Canton

**Details:** Children's clothes, toys, books, videos, maternity clothes, and more will be sold at 30+ tables when the Canton Newcomers and Neighbors Club hosts its public Mom2Mom sale. A "large item" area, the group's motto of "where neighbors become friends", sales that benefit Vista Maria, committed to ending the debilitating cycle of poverty in Southeastern Michigan creates an extra special sale atmosphere. Admission is \$1.

**Contact:** For more information Jessica at (734) 331-3201 or e-mail [themirolands@yahoo.com](mailto:themirolands@yahoo.com).

### BLOOD DRIVE

**Date/Time:** Friday, Feb. 17, 10 a.m. to 3:45 p.m.

**Location:** Canton Public Library, 1200 S. Canton Center, Canton

**Details:** The Canton Public Library will host



## Mittens matter

Comerica Cares volunteers Deborah Hardison-Hill of Detroit and Mary Kosinski of Canton pose with the mittens collected by Comerica colleagues for Mittens for Detroit. More than 900 pairs of mittens were presented during the Detroit Tigers Caravan stop at Comerica's Auburn Hills Operations Center.

the American Red Cross for a blood drive. Reservations are being accepted now; walk-ins also welcome.

**Contact:** (734) 397-0999, Ext. 1071, or by e-mail to [gladdenk@cantonpl.org](mailto:gladdenk@cantonpl.org).

### HEISE HOURS

**Date/Time:** Monday, Feb. 13

**Location:** 10-11 a.m., Northville District Library, 212 W. Cady; 1-2 p.m., Wayne Community Center, 4635 Howe; 3-4 p.m., Plymouth District Library, 223 S. Main.

**Details:** State Rep. Kurt Heise invites residents to meet with him locally during district office hours. Heise is also available to meet with constituents by appointment either in the district or at his Lansing office. Contact: Residents are invited to call toll free 1-855-REP-KURT or e-mail [kurtheise@house.mi.gov](mailto:kurtheise@house.mi.gov) to schedule an appointment.

### PLAYWRITING WORKSHOP

**Date/Time:** Monday, Feb. 13, 6:30-9:30 p.m.

**Location:** Cherry Hill Schoolhouse, 50440 Cherry Hill in Canton.

**Details:** Aspiring playwrights are encouraged to attend TLC Productions upcoming Playwriting Workshop, where participants will learn the necessary skills needed to take a play from page to the stage. Workshop attendees will also see how to develop ideas into a detailed and evolved plot; create a fine-tuned script; and find out what it takes to submit a script for production and festival consideration, in addition to available theatrical resources and how to advance their efforts. Pre-registration by e-mail is required by Jan. 31.

**Contact:** For more information about TLC Productions' Playwriting Workshop, visit <http://tlcprod.wordpress.com>.

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# District shifts graduation requirements

By Brad Kadrich  
Observer Staff Writer

Plymouth-Canton students beginning with the class of 2016 will now only need a half-credit of physical education — and no computer applications classes — in order to graduate after the district's Board of Education Tuesday approved new graduation standards. The board's decision followed a recommendation by administrators trying to align Plymouth-Canton's graduation requirements with those of the Michigan Merit Curriculum.

The MMC adds a requirement for two full credits of world language to its requirements beginning with the incoming freshman class.

Jeanne Farina, the district's assistant superintendent for instructional services, said the requirement for the two world language credits affects students' ability to take advantage of the district's full slate of electives.

Eliminating the half-credit of PE and the half-credit of computer applications, Farina said, gives students more flexibility in choosing electives. She said

PE and computer courses could be moved down into middle and elementary schools.

"We do value physical education, it's a very important part of the curriculum," Farina said. "We want to emphasize that in the early years so students are starting as early as kindergarten to develop those habits. Providing those classes in earlier years frees up schedules when students get to high school."

That was no consolation to the district's physical education teachers, some of whom left Tuesday's board meeting in

anger following the vote.

"They're upset they weren't really consulted on the change, which they say affects a 'small number of students.' They also pointed out the Park Council voted 14-2 against the proposed changes."

Mostly, though, they said they're upset because the changes "don't take into account the best interests of the students."

"We need to use some common sense, and think about what's best for the students," teacher Roxane McCormick said. "We don't even know if

there is a problem. Why put the cart before the horse?"

Teacher Amy Tortora, as others had done at previous meetings, pointed to the results of numerous surveys that extol the virtues of a strong physical education program.

"Research shows physical activity increases student achievement," Tortora said. "Research shows effective health education helps students stay in school and better achieve in their classes."

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



SUE BURKE

Steve King and the Dittilies rocked the stage at Friday's fundraiser for the Partnership for the Arts & Humanities.

## BONDS

Continued from page A1

ton's elected leaders. The effort pushes Canton away from aging VHF radio equipment to a far-superior system that has seamless, statewide coverage via the Michigan Public Safety Communications System.

Fire Chief Tim Dunn has called it "the largest system of its kind in North America."

The new system would enhance the ability of police officers and fire-fighters to effectively communicate during emergencies, including those that spill over to other communities. Public Safety Director Patrick Nemecek has said that, on occasion, radio communication has been lost during such situations — a glitch that can hamper crime-fighting efforts.

LaJoy said the possibility of selling bonds comes as township officials weigh options to pay for the transition, though no final decision has been made.

"The question is how

*The new system follows new federal guidelines and also comes as Canton needs to upgrade its communications equipment due to a possible consolidation of central dispatch services ...*

we're going to do it," he said.

The decision Tuesday night to authorize Bennett to publish a notice of intent to issue bonds does not lock in that particular funding mechanism.

Meanwhile, local officials have said Canton residents aren't expected to notice any disruption of service during the transition to the 800-MHz system.

"It should not affect the residents at all," Nemecek said during last November's talks.

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## CONCERT

Continued from page A1

also from places such as New Boston and Royal Oak.

Many of them, she said, came to see King. "Their draw was Steve King," Engel said. "They'd heard about him, and they came to see him. It was amazing."

Friday's event, sponsored by Engel and her husband, Frank, along with Glenn and Patty Shaw and Don and Colleen Soenen, featured a pre-concert reception.

Appetizers came from Station 885 in Plymouth and PF Chang's in Northville, along with desserts from The Chop House in Ann Arbor.

Once inside, the crowd enjoyed the rock music from the 1930s through the current era the Dittilies have become known for playing. The set list also included songs that show the depth of the band and "showy stuff" that brings horns front and center.

Before the concert, King talked about preparing for a show with a wide audience.

"This gig is more challenging than most," King said. "The majority of the people will be sitting in the audience, listening. So, not only are we doing a show with people sitting there, we have to try to hit all eras because that will be the demographics."

Turns out he was right, according to Engel.

"There was a great mix of people, from their middle 20s to their 80s," she said. "It was phenomenal."

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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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# SCORES

Continued from page A1

fifth-grade science and ninth-grade social studies — dropped, while scores in eighth-grade science and seventh-grade writing remained the same.

As has been the case in past years, Plymouth-Canton scores were significantly higher than the averages in both Wayne County RESA and across the state.

Still, while proud of the results, Jones said district officials realize they can't just rest on their laurels. With a new standard comes new responsibility.

"Our schools experienced a similar level of success (compared to last year), but the stakes are higher," Jones said. "We have work to do, definitely. If we were looking at last year's (cut) scores, we'd be celebrating. But there is a new standard, and we have to move for-

ward."

Jones noted the state — knowing many districts are going to miss out on AYP — is asking the federal government for a one-year waiver of AYP progress.

"We're waiting to see what happens (with the waiver)," Jones said. "We want to give ourselves time to make these adjustments."

While they're making the adjustments, Jones said, administrators will examine MEAP performance to determine what the scores mean from an academic standpoint and where to go from here.

"We'll look at the data from all angles so we can pinpoint what areas need attention," Jones said. "We need to find what areas we need to spend more time on, what areas we need to bolster to support our teachers and our kids."

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JENNY JOHNSON | WAYNE-WESTLAND COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

Construction Technology instructors Mark Valchine (left) and Mike Koelzer tell school officials that their support has allowed the career technical program thrive.

# W-W construction program honored with state award

By Sue Mason  
Observer Staff Writer

A collaboration between the Wayne-Westland Community Schools and the City of Westland has been received an Excellence in Practice Award from the Michigan Department of Education.

Construction Technology at the William D. Ford Career Technical Center was one of two programs to be recognized for "a successful exemplary program for its outstanding outcomes and documented success," said School Supt. Greg Baracy.

"It's phenomenal work the students are doing in the career technical center," he said. "Their hard work has paid off."

For many years, construction technology stu-

dents built single-homes from the ground up, but with the decline in new home construction and a slow housing market, the program found ways to provide hands-on experience by working with Habitat for Humanity and Life Remodeled.

### Good partnership

The program also partnered with the Westland to provide the manpower to rehabilitate or build new homes on property city acquired through the Neighborhood Stabilization Program. The city uses NSP funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to acquire foreclosed and vacant properties and provide for renovation or new construction and sale to

first time home buyers.

"This partnership is an outstanding example of a school/community collaboration to provide the opportunity for students to develop construction trades skills while providing service to the community," said Westland Mayor William Wild.

The students are responsible for every detail in the construction of the home, are trained as estimators and work in every trade used to build or remodel a home. Each project culminates in an open house that showcases the student work, and the keys are turned over to the city to help someone own their own home for the first time.

### Thankful

Instructors Mark Valchine and Michael Koel-

zer thanked school officials for their support of the program.

"We couldn't do this without," said Valchine.

"I look around this room and I see people come in the room that I know we wouldn't be able to do this work," added Koelzer.

Center Principal Steven Kay said the program has "really hustled" to provide opportunities for the program.

"They recently received a grant from Lowe's to pay for students to become OSHA certified," he said.

Kay added that it appears the city already has a buyer for the house the students are currently building.

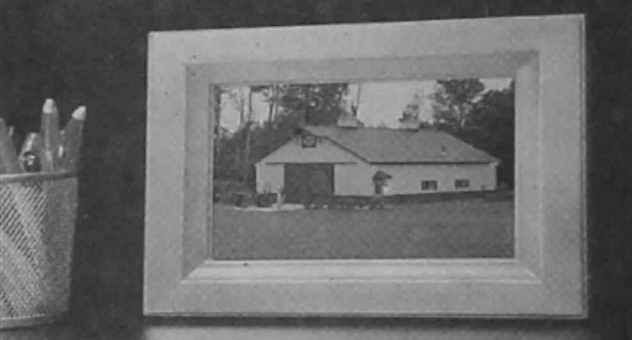
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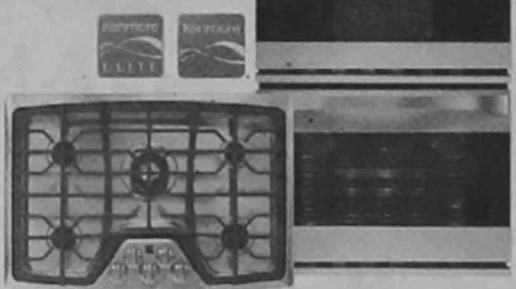
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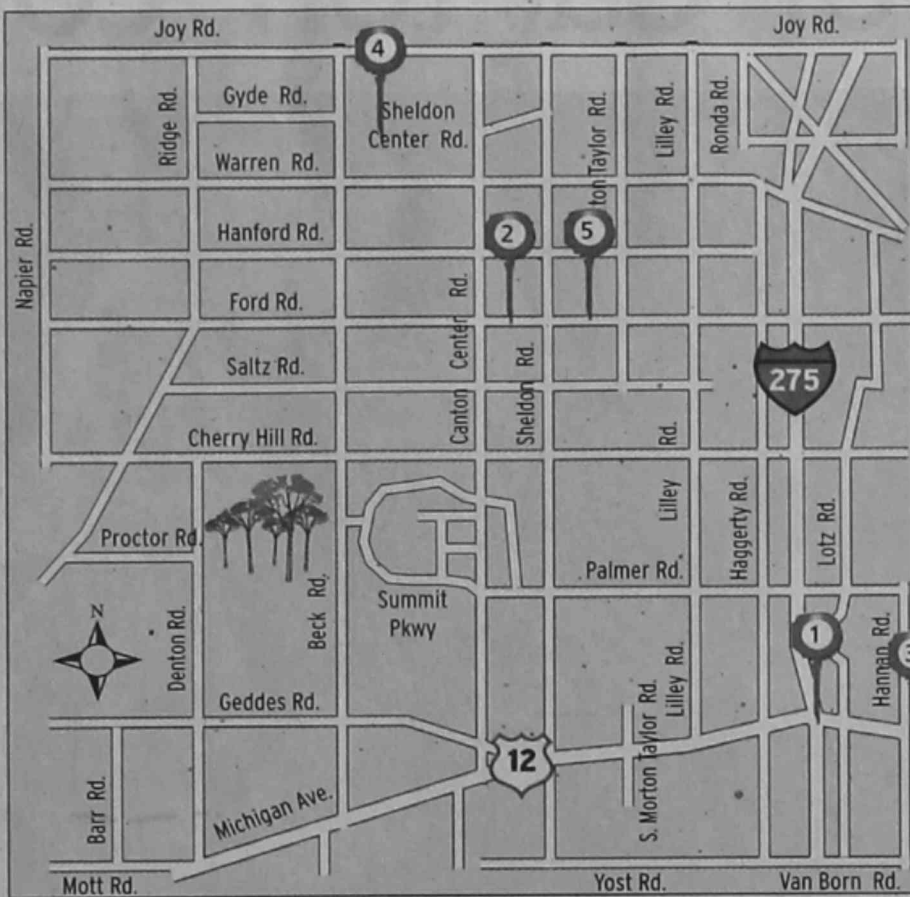
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CRIME WATCH



Fatal accident

**1** A 58-year-old Belleville woman died Saturday after the car she was driving spun out on the slippery overpass of southbound I-275 over Michigan Ave., and was struck by another car.

The accident happened shortly after 11 a.m. According to Canton Police, the car being driven by the Belleville woman spun out and was struck in the driver's side door by another vehicle. The woman was taken by Canton Fire Department to St. Joseph Hospital in Ypsilanti, where she succumbed to her injuries.

The driver of the other vehicle, a 50-year-old West Bloomfield man, was taken to Annapolis Hospital in Wayne, where he was treated and released.

The Canton Police Department's Accident Investigation Team was called in to investigate. Canton Police said weather and road conditions may have been a factor in the crash, which remains under investigation. Anyone who may have witnessed the crash is being asked to contact the Canton Police Department.

Retail fraud

**2** Officials at the Canton Meijer store on Ford Road notified police Monday a woman had attempted to use a credit card to buy groceries and, when the card was denied, she grabbed it and ran out of the store.

The woman was eventually stopped by Canton Police in the area of Sheldon and Fair Oaks. During the stop, her passenger was asked to step out of the car. He gave police permission to search him, during which they found "large bulges" in the inside pockets of his jacket, according to police reports. When they emptied the pockets, police found numerous Meijer gift cards, Target American Express cards and numerous other American express cards.

When officers asked him why he had so many cards, the suspect said they were for his two college-age children.

The department's K-9 also alerted

on the front end of the woman's car. The driver was arrested on drug charges and for credit card fraud.

Suspicious person

**3** The county's Critical Response Team notified Canton Police they had apprehended a man who was a possible suspect in a Canton bank robbery.

Canton officers met the CRT representatives near Michigan Ave., and Middlebelt in Inkster to take custody of the suspect. CRT officials told Canton police when the suspect was arrested, he had taken a Glock handgun from his waistband and tried to dispose of it by throwing it under a standing vehicle.

While being escorted back to Canton, the suspect asked officers if he could use the cell phone in his pocket. During subsequent phone conversations, the suspect was heard telling people, "They caught me. They caught me with my gun."

Drug tools

**4** A 17-year-old Plymouth High School student was found with a pack of Marlboro cigarettes and

what police reports said was a two-inch marijuana pipe.

The school's security guard told police while searching the student's backpack he found a gray drawstring pouch commonly used to hold sunglasses. Inside the pouch he found rolling papers, a lighter and a red metal pipe, with what was suspected as burnt marijuana residue.

Larceny from vehicle

**5** Canton Police were called to the J.C. Penney store on Ford Road in Canton after two car owners reported having windows smashed out on their cars.

According to police reports, the cars were parked next to each other, and police found a large rock lying on the ground between them, which they suspect was used to smash both windows. The owners of both cars performed an inspection and reported nothing missing.

However, one owner came back later that day to tell police a bag she hadn't noticed missing earlier was gone. The bag contained makeup, clothing, a hair dryer and various other items.

Charter school planned for Plymouth area

By Matt Jachman  
Observer Staff Writer

A charter school management firm and an Upper Peninsula community college are planning to open the Plymouth area's first charter school late this summer.

Organizers of the Plymouth Scholars Charter Academy say they are looking at several locations in Plymouth and Plymouth Township and hope to soon pick one. One possible site for the school is a nine-acre parcel on North Territorial west of Beck, which was discussed at a township Board of Trustees meeting last week.

Plans call for the Plymouth Scholars Charter Academy to open as a school for pre-kindergarten through the sixth grade, and an enrollment of 500 students, for the 2012-2013 school year, said company spokesman Joe DiBenedetto. A seventh grade would be added in 2013 and an eighth grade in 2014, and the school's total capacity would be 725 students, DiBenedetto said.

The Plymouth Scholars Charter Academy is chartered, or sponsored, by Bay Mills Community College, an Upper Peninsula college formed by the Bay Mills Indian Community. The PSCA's application was approved in January.

Michigan base

National Heritage Academies, a for-profit company based in Grand Rapids, was founded in 1995 and currently manages 71 schools in nine states; more than half its schools are in Michigan.

"Our belief is simple: Set high standards and

clear expectations, provide meaningful instruction, and watch children excel," DiBenedetto wrote in an e-mail. "We will work to ensure that every student receives the tools and support needed to succeed — in and out of the classroom."

DiBenedetto said NHA is looking to purchase, rather than lease, its local site, and that its purchase and construction investment would range from about \$7 million to \$9 million.

Rocco Bellino, a PSCA board member, said organizers were responding to local demand for a charter, as measured by waiting lists at other NHA-run schools, such as Canton Charter Academy and South Canton Scholars Charter Academy.

The possibility of locating the school on the north side of North Territorial, west of Beck, just west of the Rolling Oaks subdivision, was raised at the Feb. 7 township Board of Trustees meeting, when the board was asked to amend a 2005 conditional rezoning agreement with the parcel owner, Leo Soave Development of Livonia.

No local plan review

The original agreement called for a residential development; the amended agreement will allow for a school on about nine acres and an eight-lot residential development on the remaining six acres. The zoning will remain residential, which allows for school facilities.

DiBenedetto said he could not disclose the other locations NHA is considering.

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# Ball a hit for Canton 'couples'



More than 700 daddies/daughters celebrated Canton Leisure Services' annual Butterfly Ball at the Summit in Canton.

Canton's annual Butterfly Ball is so successful, organizers have to run it for two nights.

That was the case again this year, as the Canton Leisure Services department presented the annual daddy-daughter dance at the Summit on the Park in Canton.

The event, spread over two nights in a couple of rooms at the Summit, drew more than 700 daddies and daughters, according

to Peg Stevens, communications specialist with the Canton Leisure Services Department.

"It really is a big hit," Stevens said. "A great time was had by all!"

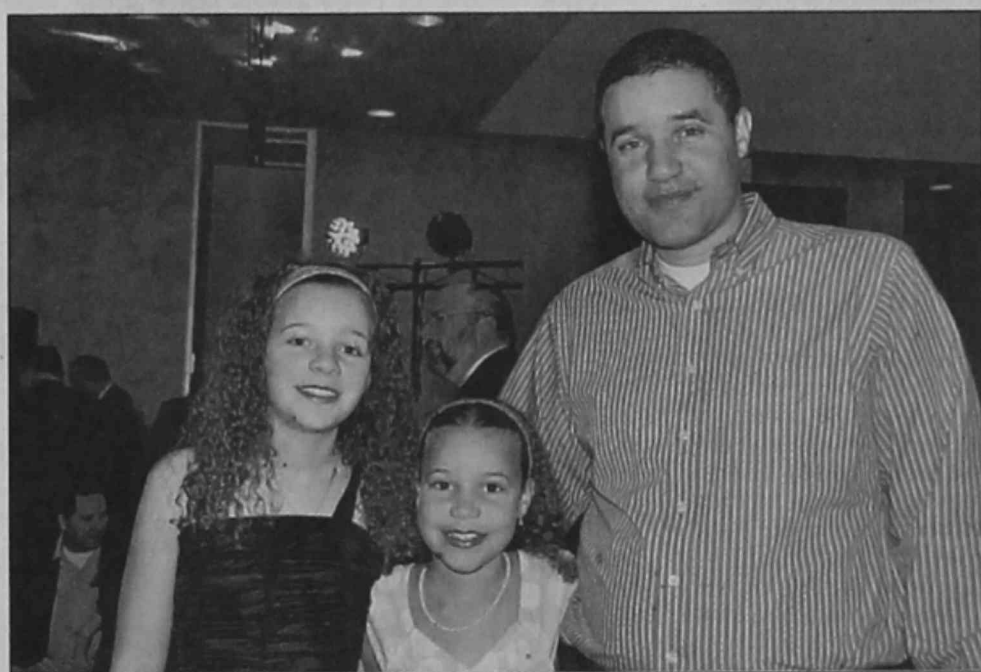
Silver Sounds DJ's provided the music for the event, while TSS Photography was on hand to provide pictures of each couple.

In addition, Stevens said, the "highly anticipated balloon drop at each of the three dances" was a huge hit.



PHOTOS BY DICK SWISHER

The large crowd that turned out for the annual Butterfly Ball enjoyed music, dancing, photo ops and the annual balloon drop.



Canton residents Rachel Watson, Renee Watson and Pat Watson enjoyed Friday's Butterfly Ball festivities.



Wes Anderson and his daughter, Isabel (left), along with Frank Smith and his daughter, Carly, were among the dads and daughters who attended the Butterfly Ball Friday. All are from Canton.

## Museum hosts genealogy workshop

The Plymouth Historical Museum will hold the third in a series of genealogical workshops to help family historians of all levels research their 19th-century American ancestors Saturday, Feb. 25. This workshop features Liz Kelley Kerstens and Jana Sloan Broglin.

Kerstens is the executive director of the Plymouth Historical Museum, has been speaking on genealogical topics for about 15 years, and has been doing family history research for nearly 40 years. She is a certified Genealogist through the Board for Certification of Genealogists and will be speaking on:

- Effective Internet Searching: Learn how to use the Internet and genealogy software effectively to increase your research success. Examples will include Google, WorldCat, other search engines and some useful strategies.

- Demystifying Ancestor Origins: Learn the basics of determining the place of origin of your immigrant ancestor, using records available at major repositories in the United States. A case study will be used to show how some Irish immigrants' origins were determined.

Broglin, a native of northwest Ohio, is a professional genealogist with more than 30 years of experience. She has spoken at local, state, regional, and national conferences. She is a lecturer and freelance writer. Over 30 publications on Kentucky resulted in being

named a "Kentucky Colonel." Broglin currently serves as vice president of membership for the Federation of Genealogical Societies and is a past trustee of the Ohio Genealogical Society. She is a certified genealogist through the Board for Certification of Genealogists and will be speaking on:

- When Johnny Comes Marching Home: A case study of the four Barton sons of Fulton County, Ohio. Learn the types of records found for this military family in the Civil War.

- Land Records of the Old Northwest Territory: Learn the migration, county formation, land offices, military districts, and survey systems of the Old Northwest Territory.

The workshop begins at 9:30 a.m. and will end at 3:30 p.m. There will be limited seating and the event is filling up rapidly. The fee for the day, \$40, includes the four lectures, lunch, and the option of touring the Museum's special exhibit, "Ration Stamps & Bombers: WWII at Home," during lunch and the afternoon break. Tickets are available at the Plymouth Historical Museum or on its website at <http://plymouth-history.us2.list-manage.com/track/click?u=fe0521ffc0a5788d628eaa160&id=7b41c4d644&e=9fa7e1796a>.

The Plymouth Historical Museum is located at 155 S. Main Street, one block north of downtown Plymouth. For more information, call the Museum at 734-455-8940.



The Spotlight Players, with a cast that features several actors from Canton and Plymouth, brings "Cheaper by the Dozen" to the Village Theater stage Feb. 17-19 and Feb. 24-26.

## 'Cheaper by the Dozen' takes Spotlight on stage

The Spotlight Players bring what organizers call a "story with great heart and good cheer" to the stage at the Village Theater of Cherry Hill Feb. 17-19 and Feb. 24-26.

Director Theresa Spencer said the story, which takes place in the early 1920s, is about a real family. The mother and father (Frank and Lillian Gilbreth) ran a business which promoted industrial and workplace efficiency through motion study and psychology.

The couple also had

12 children and used the same methods to run the family. The play, Spencer said, is about the ups and downs, often very funny, of a large, loving, unusual family. Much of the story revolves around the oldest daughter, Anne, who loves her odd family but longs to be a normal, and hopefully popular, high school girl.

The story was first written as a book, authored by two of the children. It was made into the play, and then a movie in 1950, featuring Myrna Loy and

Clifton Webb.

"Both the play and movie correspond closely to events in the book," Spencer said. "The 2003 movie only uses the same name. The stories are different. So when folks see our play, they won't see the Steve Martin story, but they will enjoy an equally funny and warm family tale — which happens to be true."

The cast includes Drex Morton, Thomas Strock, Tatum Cho of Canton; and Jim Broderick, Miki Somers, Alex Smith, Donovan

Sutton, Roman Bonacorsi, Jenessa Hubbard, Denise Staffeld.

The play runs 8 p.m. Friday, 2 and 8 p.m. Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday, and will follow the same schedule Feb. 24-26.

The Village Theater at Cherry Hill is located at 50400 Cherry Hill in Canton. Tickets are available at the Village Theater box office at (734) 394-5460 or online at [www.spotlightplayersmi.org](http://www.spotlightplayersmi.org); tickets are \$18 for adults and \$17 for seniors and students under 19.

# Local Scots ship 72 boxes to troops in Afghanistan

Members of the St. Andrew's Society of Detroit mailed 72 boxes of personal products and other requested items Saturday to U.S. Marines at Camp Leatherneck in Afghanistan.

The boxes were mailed from the Greenmead Station of the Livonia Post Office, with postal employees arriving two hours early to accommodate this special annual mailing.

This is the seventh year the St. Andrew's Society of Detroit has organized this special delivery for troops deployed abroad. It uses the Greenmead post office because it's next door to Greenmead Historical Park where it holds its annual Highland Games each August, said trustee and past president Bob Giles of Huntington Woods.

The Post Office weighed the packages, which averaged 10.5 pounds each for an estimated total shipment weight of one-third of a ton.

As postal employees processed the shipment, Detroit St. Andrew's Pipe Band Pipe Sgt. Don Ross "piped" the packages off to Camp Leatherneck.

Micki McFarlane, social activities chair, said in the Scottish tradition, bagpipers played as soldiers went off to battle so it was appropriate that a bagpiper played



PHOTOS BY BOB GILES

St. Andrew's Society of Detroit members Scott David of Plymouth (left) and Micki McFarlane of Eastpointe help U.S. Postal Service employee Joe Smith of Livonia get the boxes ready for shipment.

as the packages were shipped.

The boxes included donations of the "little things from home" that the men and women often don't have access to in combat. Also included were notes from children and personal notes from Society members indicating just how much St. Andrew's members appreciate these service men and women. The contents were donated by

members of the Society. Members also donated money to mail each box.

The boxes were packed Feb. 6 at the Kilgour Scottish Centre in Troy.

The St. Andrew's Society of Detroit is Michigan's oldest non-religious benevolent organization celebrating Scottish culture and history in America through education and charity. This year's Highland Games will be held Aug. 3-4.

# Credit union marks record year

Community Financial Credit Union announced this week 2011 was a record year for growth in member satisfaction ratings and number of members.

The credit union, with branches in Plymouth, Canton, Northville, Novi, Gaylord, Hillman and Lewiston, saw a record near 10-percent increase in membership in 2011. It also saw its highest all-time member satisfaction rating. Among the credit union members surveyed by Raddon Financial Group, Community Financial ranked in the 97th percentile for members who said they were "very satisfied." Overall, over 96-percent

of Community Financial members indicated they are either satisfied or very satisfied, the highest ranking available on the survey.

"We are constantly striving to better serve our members and better serve the communities in which we operate," said Community Financial Chief Financial Officer Meg Pankow. "We are thrilled so many of our members view Community Financial as a great place to bank."

According to the 2011 American Customer Satisfaction Index (ACSI), released by the University of Michigan, credit unions set an all-time record of 87 (out of 100), the highest score

ever achieved by the 47 industries ranked. Credit Unions also increased their lead over banks, which had a score of 75.

Community Financial is a cooperative credit union offering a full range of financial services to members, specializing in auto and home loans and small business support. It also supports non-profit organizations throughout the year and financial education through several student-run credit union programs at local schools.

"Our members and our communities are our backbone," Pankow said. "We will continue to work each and every day to support them."

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## Pinterest offers quicker social sharing

By Jon Gunnells  
Guest Columnist

In the past decade, social media has evolved from long form blogging to shorter Facebook posts to even shorter 140 character tweets. And if you've been paying attention, you've noticed social sharing becoming even shorter and quicker thanks to new sites like Pinterest.

Pinterest is a self-described online pin-board where users can share the things they love with just one click of their mouse. When users sign up, they can select categories they are interested in such as movies, or music.

These interests help the folks over at Pinterest decide what type of content to show you. So a fan who has movies listed as an interest will log in to Pinterest and see content relating to movies. When that fan stumbles across something they like, they can "pin it" to their virtual tack board or share it among their friends.

Despite being an invite-only website, Pinterest has already been making waves by becoming a very powerful e-commerce tool for retailers. Many retailers have already used Pinterest to successfully share pictures of clothing or accessories for their new collections.

When fans that have listed clothing or accessories as one of their inter-



Tech Savvy

Jon Gunnells

ests are exposed to the new content, they often times make the content spread rapidly. But Pinterest's success extends far beyond the virality of retailers' new clothing lines. Pinterest is also becoming a favorite website of women of all ages to share recipes, crafts, artwork and more.

Because Pinterest's membership is about 70 percent women, the bulk of the shared content appeals to women. And if most of your friends on Pinterest are women (as is my case) you will be exposed to said content in your streams when you log in.

Of course, as more men join the site, the content will begin to even out. One of the reasons Pinterest is female-dominated is because the early adopters were mostly all women, who in turn invited their women friends to join the site.

But men shouldn't be fooled, there's plenty of chest-pounding, manly content on Pinterest — you just have to refine your settings first. When I logged into my Pinterest account today the first two pictures in my stream were a picture of fried onion rings and a picture of Eli Manning.

Still, for those men

who need even more chest-pounding, manliness there's a male-dominated sharing site similar to Pinterest. The site is called Gentlemint and works just like Pinterest.

Content can be shared with one click of a button — much easier than writing a Facebook update, sending a tweet, or creating a blog post.

And the results are much more fun. If you haven't had the opportunity to join Pinterest or even Gentlemint, get in contact with your nearest Millennial.

If you can pry them away from their compulsive "Pinning" and "Minting" long enough, they might be able to teach you how to set up and use the next big social network.

### Pinterest on the go

You can also "pin" from your smartphone or tablet by downloading the Pinterest app from the Apple iTunes store. Sorry, Droid, Blackberry and Windows Phone users, Pinterest doesn't have a compatible app for your device yet, but stay tuned.

Jon Gunnells, a Northville Township resident, is a social media planner at a Detroit-based advertising agency. A 2007 graduate of Michigan State University, he holds a B.A. in journalism. When he's not working, Gunnells enjoys college sports, social media and playing basketball. He can be reached at jonathan.gunnells@gmail.com. Follow him on Twitter @GunnSh0w.



Bridal Magic Boutique recently held its grand opening at its new location at 44730 Ford Road in the New Towne Plaza in Canton.

## Boutique finds right fit in Canton

Bridal Magic Boutique held its grand opening last week at 44730 Ford Road, Canton, in the purple block.

Owner Zeinab Salami felt the need to improve the bridal shopping experience. She recently helped a family member choose her dress and was surprised by the quality of service.

Convinced she could do a better job with her own shop, she started researching the possibility. Thanks to help and encouragement from husband and business partner Samer, her dream became a reality just a few short months later. The new bridal store is

excited to be part of the growing business market in Canton.

"We feel with its diverse and supportive community, Canton is a great fit for our new business," said Samer Salami.

Bridal Magic Boutique offers a special selection of dresses by exclusive designers. A full staff is available to help choose a dress and accessories, as well as choose dresses for the bridal party and mother of the bride. Alterations and make up services are also available to make things easier for your big day.

When a bride purchases her gown from Bridal Magic, the entire wed-

ding party can receive a 10-percent discount on dresses, accessories, and tuxedo rentals.

The store also carries an exceptional variety of prom and homecoming dresses. They will also offer a 10-percent discount to high school girls in Canton and the surrounding areas for their prom dresses.

Bridal Magic Boutique is in the New Towne Plaza. Store hours are 10:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Monday and Tuesday and 10:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday, and Sunday by appointment. More information is available on the boutique's website at [www.bridal-magicboutique.com](http://www.bridal-magicboutique.com).

## CANTON CHAMBER CHAT

### February luncheon

The Canton Chamber of Commerce hosts its February luncheon Wednesday, Feb. 29, at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill.

A buffet lunch will be served beginning at 11:30 a.m., followed by Phil LaJoy's "State of the Township" presentation in the main theater. The cost for the luncheon is \$25 (advance registration), \$30 (at the door) \$30 (non-members) and includes a full buffet lunch, beverages and dessert. This luncheon is open to the public.

"The Chamber is happy to host the 'State of the Township' luncheon with guest speaker Phil LaJoy, our township supervisor," said Dianne Cojei, President, Canton Chamber of Commerce. "Mr. LaJoy will discuss Canton's goals for 2012 as well as what's happening in the Township."

February's luncheon is hosted by the Canton Chamber of Commerce and is sponsored by Xuereb Snow PC and Oakwood Healthcare Systems. Seating is limited and reservations are required.

To make a reservation, contact the Canton Chamber of Commerce at (734) 453-4040. Deadline for reservations is Friday, Feb. 24.



LaJoy

### Dinner auction

The Canton Chamber Annual Dinner Auction takes place 7 p.m. Saturday, April 28, at Burton Manor in Livonia. This year's theme is "Made in Michigan." The décor will include Detroit's sports teams, Motown, Casinos and everything in-between.

Chamber officials called the auction a "fun night for socializing and networking with key businesses and community leaders in a social setting."

Tickets for the Auction are \$75 per person, which includes entrance to the event, dinner, premium bar, raffles, live & silent Auction, DJ and entertainment.

Sponsorship opportunities are available at various levels and include event tickets and sponsorship recognition, along with a prize purchased in the business name (sponsorship form is available on the chamber website; go to forms & flyers).

The prize committee is looking for donations such as gift certificates, appliances, electronics, patio furnishings, jewelry, video equipment, gift baskets, travel vouchers, restaurant certificates, event tickets and sports equipment, for raffles and the live auction.

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

## CANTON BUSINESS BRIEFS

### Chase expansion

Chase announced that it is expanding Chase Private Client to Canton and Plymouth, providing the best of Chase banking and J.P. Morgan investments to affluent families and individuals in the region. The three new locations — in Canton at 45345 W. Ford Road and in Plymouth at 235 N. Sheldon Road and 980 Ann Arbor Road — are among 17 to open in southeast Michigan this month.

"Our tailored products and services, together with our commitment to our clients and Southeast Michigan, allow us to offer the complete banking and investments experience to new and existing affluent clients," said Matthew Davis, who manages 128 tri-county area branches for Chase.

Chase Private Client's unique offering provides the convenience and banking expertise of Chase with the thought leadership and investment products of J.P. Morgan. Clients enjoy a high level of personal service and attention, delivered through a dedicated team — the Private Client banker and the J.P. Morgan private client advisor.

The J.P. Morgan Private Client Advisor provides clients with tailored investment solutions to meet their specific

needs. Private Clients also receive timely information through J.P. Morgan's leading research and market commentaries, as well as access to investment advice, insights, and technology.

### Conference speaker

Dan Saban, CTO of Danotek Motion Technologies, will be in the lineup of speakers at "Magnetics 2012," a forum on magnetic applications, technologies and materials set for March 13-14 in Orlando, Fla. This two-day conference is a leading global event focused on the latest economic developments and technical advancements in magnetics markets and technologies bringing together worldwide magnetics experts.

Danotek is a developer and manufacturer of highly efficient and reliable permanent magnet rotating equipment for the global wind energy, distributed generation, and electric vehicle markets.

Saban will be giving a presentation titled, "Cost Effective Drivetrains for Multi-Megawatt Wind Turbines with Medium-Speed Permanent Magnet Generators," offering attendees an understanding of the drive-train system design trade-offs for a lowest cost of energy wind power generation system.

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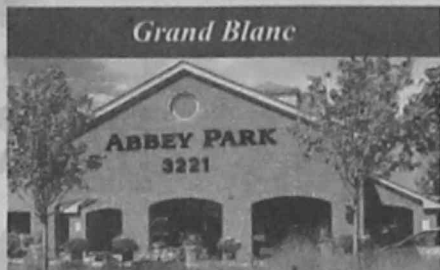
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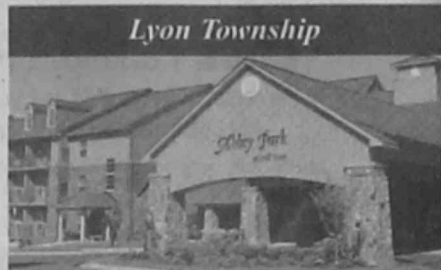
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Full cleaning service	We vacuum, mop, dust and change linens every week
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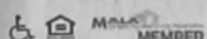
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# What a difference a year makes

By Patrick Colbeck  
Guest Columnist

In November 2010, I was elected to work with the governor and my fellow legislators to fix Michigan. In 2011 we fixed quite a bit, reflecting one of the most productive legislative sessions in decades.



Patrick Colbeck

As we begin 2012, we are already seeing some of the results of our work and the work of our fellow Michiganders to restore our state to prominence. We started 2011 with an unemployment rate of 10.7 percent; we start 2012 with an unemployment rate of 9.8 percent. We started 2011 with a structural deficit of \$1.5 billion. We

start 2012 with a projected budget surplus of up to \$1 billion.

Let's review some of the policies and legislation from 2011 that helped to start off 2012 on the right track. We started the year off focusing on fiscal responsibility. We passed a balanced budget four months early that fixed our structural budget deficit and cut over \$700 million in total spending.

Not only did we restore responsible spending practices, but we also eliminated the job-killing Michigan Business Tax and replaced it with a simple, flat 6% corporate income tax. Over 95,000 small businesses in Michigan are no longer subject to double taxation and no longer have to file a state income tax form.

I worked to support our local communities with a bill to sell the Scott

Correctional Facility in Northville Township. I'm working with both the House and members of both parties to relieve congestion at the Ford/I-275 interchange and I am working on ways to put the Detroit Steel Company land in Trenton back to productive use.

In order to provide better visibility into how we are spending your money, I have introduced game-changing transparency legislation. I led the way with metrics-based accountability as the Senate appropriations subcommittee chairman for last year's Michigan State Police and Department of Military and Veterans Affairs budget. Our transparency reforms in the legislature set the stage for more timely and accurate measures in the governor's dashboards that will help our government make better, more

informed decisions about the appropriation of your hard-earned tax dollars.

Once we had our fiscal house in order, we proceeded to work on other reforms. As a member of the Senate Education Policy Committee, I have worked with my fellow legislators in a relentless pursuit of educational excellence. Our first major accomplishment was a transformation of teacher tenure. Tenure is now tied to performance not longevity so that we have the best teachers in our kids' classrooms.

We followed tenure reform with a profound shift in the delivery of public education that encourages educational excellence through competition. The removal of the cap on the number of charter schools in the state not only provides parents with more options for the education of their children, it also

incentivizes all schools to provide excellent education services or risk the loss of per pupil funding from the students that choose to be educated elsewhere.

I believe there are many ways to lead that have nothing to do with passing a bill. Some of my most rewarding moments have come about because of events we have coordinated outside of Lansing. The new Freedom Center at Detroit's Metro Airport is a case in point. I put together a team of veterans, community volunteers, corporations and the Wayne County Airport Authority to open up a new, permanent hospitality center for our troops, veterans and their families.

In addition to the Freedom Center, we have worked with the Attorney General's office to advise seniors of scams

that should be avoided, conducted several business roundtables, hosted community forums on key issues and even leveraged my Aerospace Industry experience to pursue partnerships between local businesses and NASA in conjunction with the Detroit Regional Chamber.

These are just a few examples of the ways our elected officials can have positive impact on our state without adding new wings to Michigan law libraries.

We already have much to be thankful for, but we are just beginning to turn our state around. It truly is Morning in Michigan.

Patrick Colbeck is the state Senator from the 7th District, which represents Plymouth and Canton, among other communities. He can be reached at www.morninginmichigan.com or calling (866) 262-7307.

# Check credentials, fees for preparer, adviser

By Rick Bloom  
Guest Columnist

I was talking to a client the other day and he told me that for the first time



Money Matters  
Rick Bloom

he was going to hire a professional to do his tax return. He was somewhat distraught that he could no longer do his return himself. It was almost like it was a personal failure on his part that he could no longer prepare his own return. I told him there was no way he should feel distraught or disappointed and went on to explain that everything in life, particularly personal finances, is more difficult.

Take tax law. We have seen literally hundreds of tax law changes over the last few years. It's not just federal tax law changes that consumers need to be concerned with, but also state of Michigan tax laws.

The bottom line, taxes

have become much more complex and the penalties and consequences for making a mistake are more severe. Because of this no one should feel inadequate by having to hire a professional.

Many people also may need to hire a professional to help with their investments. This is an area that is constantly changing and more people are recognizing that they cannot do it themselves.

I always ask people when was the last time they've rebalanced their portfolio. Rebalancing a portfolio is the general maintenance need to keep a portfolio balanced and diversified. If they don't remember the last time you rebalanced, then it means they need the assistance of a professional.

Another sign that the assistance of a professional is needed is if you are afraid to make

a move in your portfolio without causing great anxiety. I know many people that literally cannot make a move in their portfolio because they get paralyzed by analysis. It seems that they want to look at every piece of information before they make a move. If this sounds like you, once again, you need the assistance of a professional.

I recognize that when it comes to investing, many people are reluctant to use a professional. That same person wouldn't hesitate about using a doctor to resolve a medical situation. Why should they be leery about using a professional financial person to assist with their finances?

I suggest one reason — particularly in the investment world — is because of the horror stories that they have heard. The bottom line is just because it may

be a little more difficult to find the right person, don't avoid looking.

When it comes to hiring someone to assist with your investments, there are questions to ask. One of the most important areas to discuss with a professional adviser is fees. I have always preferred financial advisers who charge a fee for their service as opposed to those who work for commission. I've always found that the more you can take conflict of interest out of the equation, the better it is for the customer. That doesn't mean that all commission salespeople are only concerned about their commis-

sion, because the best commission salespeople I know never worry about commissions, they just worry about taking care of their clients. However, unfortunately, there are too many commissioned people in the financial world who are incompetent.

Whether you deal with a tax person or a professional financial adviser, one of the keys to a successful business relationship is communication. If you feel intimidated or you don't feel comfortable asking questions, it's a sure sign that you're dealing with the wrong person.

Life in general — and particularly person-

al financial planning — has become more difficult and more complex. The fact that you have decided you need professional advice and assistance is a sign of maturity. Remember that hiring the right professional will not only put your affairs in better order, but it also can give you peace of mind, something we all should strive for.

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

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH PUBLIC NOTICE**

To all residents and other interested parties: Agenda's and Minutes for the Charter Township of Plymouth Board of Trustees Meetings are available for review under the Reference Desk Page of the Township Website: www.plymouthtwp.org. They are also posted in the Clerk's Office at Plymouth Township Hall, 9955 N Haggerty Road Plymouth, Michigan for public perusal.

Meeting dates: January 10, February 7, March 6 & 20, April 17, May 8 & 22, June 12

The public is invited and encouraged to attend the Board of Trustees Meetings.

Joe Bridgman, MMC  
Township Clerk

Publish: February 12 and 16, 2012

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH NOTICE OF HEARING ASSESSMENT BOARD OF REVIEW**

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

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

Tuesday, March 6	9 am - Noon	Organizational Meeting
Monday, March 12	2 pm - 5 pm 6 pm - 9 pm	Hearings by Appointment Hearings by Appointment
Wednesday, March 14	9 am - Noon 2 pm - 5 pm	Hearings by Appointment Hearings by Appointment
Thursday, March 15	9 am - Noon	Hearings by Appointment
Saturday, March 17	9 am - 11 am	First Come - First Served

Other hearing dates and times may be scheduled as needed.

All persons protesting their assessment must complete petitions prior to appearing before the Board. A personal appearance is not required. Written protests to the Board of Review must be received by mail or delivered in person to the Assessing office by the close of business on Friday, March 23, 2012 at 4:30 pm.

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

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

Publish: February 16, 19 and 23, 2012

**VOICES & VIEWS: COMMENT ONLINE**

hometownlife.com

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Pursuant to federal guidelines, the Charter Township of Plymouth decided on February 7, 2012 to submit the following projects for funding from the 2012 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program:

LOCATION	2012 PROJECTS	ESTIMATED ALLOCATION
201 South Main 1160 Sheridan 46640 Ann Arbor Tr	SENIOR SERVICES	\$ 3,960
	TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM	\$ 7,644
	ADA Accessibility Improvements to Township Park	
	Two (2) Year Multi-Year Pre-Commitment	
	<b>TOTAL PROJECT COST ESTIMATE \$156,200</b>	\$ 57,192
9955 N. Haggerty Rd	ADMINISTRATION	\$ 7,644
	<b>TOTAL</b>	\$ 76,440

If Wayne County determines after all applications are received that additional funds are available for public service projects the proposed allocations submitted are:

LOCATION	2012 PROJECTS	ESTIMATED ALLOCATION
201 South Main 1160 Sheridan 46640 Ann Arbor Tr	SENIOR SERVICES	\$ 9,937
	TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM	\$ 26,754
	ADA Accessibility Improvements to Township Park	
	Four (4) Year Multi-Year Pre-Commitment	
	<b>TOTAL PROJECT COST ESTIMATE \$156,200</b>	\$ 31,340
9955 N. Haggerty Rd	ADMINISTRATION	\$ 7,644
	<b>TOTAL</b>	\$ 76,440

Plymouth Township Hall, 9955 N. Haggerty Road  
Friendship Station Senior Center, 42375 Schoolcraft Road

Publish: February 16, 2012

**CITY OF PLYMOUTH 2012 MARCH BOARD OF REVIEW**

The City of Plymouth Board of Review will be conducting the 2012 March Board of Review and will convene in the City Commission Conference Room, 201 S Main Street, Plymouth, MI 48170.

The regular Board of Review schedule is as follows:

Tuesday, March 6, 2012 ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING 3:00 p.m.  
Wednesday, March 7, 2012 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
Thursday, March 8, 2012 from 3:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.  
Tuesday, March 13, 2012 from 3:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.  
Monday, March 19, 2012 from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Other hearing dates and times may be scheduled as needed. Hearings are by appointments only. COMPLETED 2012 BOARD OF REVIEW PETITIONS ARE NECESSARY, and must be submitted to the Front Office located on the First Floor of City Hall prior to your appointment. The "Deadline" for submitting petitions for all persons wishing to appeal in person before the Board of Review is Monday, March 19, 2012.

A resident or non-resident taxpayer may file a petition with the Board of Review without the requirement of a personal appearance by the taxpayer or a representative. An agent must have written authority to represent the owner. Written petitions must be received by Monday, March 19, 2012 by 3:00 p.m. Postmarks are not accepted.

Copies of the notices stating the dates and times of the meetings will be posted and published in the local newspaper.

All Board of Review Meetings are open meetings in compliance with the "Open Meetings Act".

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Assessor's Office at (734) 453-1234, ext 253.

Linda J. Langmesser, CMC  
City Clerk

Publish: February 16, 19 & 23, 2012

## OUR VIEWS

# Good call

## Dropping recalls the right move to make

Recall efforts against both state Sen. Patrick Colbeck, R-Canton, and state Rep. Dian Slavens, D-Canton, have been dropped. To that, we say: Thank goodness.

In an odd juxtaposition, both legislators were being targeted on the same issue. Colbeck's removal was being sought because he supported Michigan's emergency manager legislation. Slavens, on the other hand, was being criticized for her lack of support for the same legislation.

The group challenging Colbeck basically didn't realize how much work it was, amassing the money and the daunting number of signatures (27,300) it would take and the short window to get them (90 days).

Essentially, that's why the group targeting Slavens dropped its effort, as well. GOP strategist Stu Sandler was leading the charge against Slavens, said his group abandoned the effort after looking at it "from a tactical perspective and financial perspective."

While it's certainly anyone's right to take issue with the stances taken by their elected officials, recall efforts almost always seem more about winning politically than doing the right thing. It seems more about personalities — and political affiliation — than about the actual issues.

That aside, recall efforts rarely work, and more often than not turn into efforts of futility that take up time, money and effort better spent finding other solutions.

To their credit, both Colbeck and Slavens brushed off the recall efforts and vowed to continue fighting for issues. Neither legislator was particularly affected by the recall efforts, which never really got off the ground anyway.

That doesn't mean they're going away. In what seems an empty threat, the group dogging Colbeck vowed to return if his stance on other "hot-button" issues — his support of Michigan becoming a "right to work" state among them — disturbed them.

For now, though, Sandler said Republican strategists, rather than wage a recall campaign, plan to take up the fight in November elections. And that's where these fights should be fought — in the voting booth.

# 'New' station deserves a listen

An old friend has a new look and, if you haven't yet noticed, it's time you did.

WSDP 88.1, the student-run radio station that serves Plymouth-Canton Community Schools and the surrounding area, got a facelift as the new year dawned, and "The New 88.1," Plymouth and Canton's Hit Music was born.

And, while the musical format has changed — now you can hear everything from Adele and Maroon 5 to Kelly Clarkson, Bruno Mars and Bon Jovi — you're still getting other programming, such as hourly news from our community, live broadcasts from throughout Plymouth and Canton, and live high school sports from Canton, Plymouth and Salem. They've also debuted a new Community Focus 2.0 video webcast and cable show (featuring former *Observer* reporter Tony Bruscatto).

There's one thing, though, that hasn't changed: The dedication of the students entrusted with the station's success. They work hard, and it's tough to argue with their success, with many alumni going on to do great things in broadcasting and other fields.

There are a number of ways you can help keep that quality going — fundraisers like the recent can-and-bottle drive and the annual Record/CD/Music Memorabilia Show Saturday, Feb. 25 at the Salem Cafeteria. And, while money is always a great way to help, there's another way equally important. Listen.

The radio station is something Plymouth-Canton has that other districts can't offer, a valuable asset not to be taken for granted. The new format appeals to a variety of audiences, the students work incredibly hard, and they're good at what they do.

If you haven't tried the new 88.1, show your support and tune in.

## COMMUNITY VOICE

# What do you think of preliminary discussions by state lawmakers to possibly raise gas taxes and vehicle registration fees to generate money to repair roads and bridges?

We asked this question at the Canton Public Library.



"Yes, I would support it. I used to live in Houston, and I think raising gas prices reduces our consumption and helps (with road repairs)."

Ann Smiley  
Canton



"I do disagree with it. The registration fees already are high, and gas prices are bad enough as it is. Something has to give."

Jenise Pewitt  
Westland



"Nobody likes taxes."

Rick Hakala  
Canton



"No more taxes. They're high enough as they are."

Pat Rausch  
Canton

## LETTERS

### Blame game

Tony Lollo ("Concerned parents face double standard," Feb. 9) bemoans politics entering recent school board meetings and discussions about the AP English curriculum. He blames journalists and bloggers, not the Dames or Sharon Lollo, for politicizing the situation.

On Oct. 10, the Wayne 11th Congressional Republican Committee hosted a fundraiser to support the candidacy of Mark Horvath, Mike Maloney, Mike Andro and, yes, Matt Dame, all candidates for the PCCS Board of Education in the November 2011 election. Special guests listed on the invitations were state Sen. Patrick Colbeck and state Rep. Kurt Heise. The Host Committee included none other than Sharon Lollo.

School Board elections in our community are nonpartisan. "The M & M Guys," as they described themselves in campaign literature, flaunted their political affiliations. Those political affiliations have agendas. Now they want us to believe they're victims of a situation they created.

Maryanne Nasiatka  
Canton

### Bible study

In his Feb. 9, guest column, Tony Lollo states that in our schools, the Bible "is off the table as a teaching tool." He has been misinformed. Just this past December 2011, my daughter was assigned several New Testament passages in her PCEP English class.

Janelle Hansen  
Canton

### Real victims

In response to Mr. Lollo's guest column on Feb. 9, suggesting that the Dame's daughter was a victim of a double standard, I disagree.

The "real" victims of this book removal controversy are the other 80 or so students in the current AP English class. These students have been deprived of what is widely regarded as one of the best performing AP English classes available anywhere. One family selfishly violated their responsibilities to the PCCS, which include "respect for the rights of others," and "compliance with the procedures and rules of the District." One family bypassed the teachers altogether and went directly to the superintendent with their concerns insisting on removal of these materials. That superintendent bypassed district policies and administrative guidelines and removed "Waterland" from the curriculum without even discussing the matter with the teachers.

That superintendent would have similarly removed Beloved if not for the public outcry against these blatant violations

### WHAT DO YOU THINK?

We welcome your Letter to the Editor. Please include your name, address and phone number for verification. We may edit for clarity, space and content. Submit letters by the following formats:

Web: www.hometownlife.com

Mail: Letters to the Editor, Canton Observer, 615 W. Lafayette, Second Level, Detroit, MI 48226

Fax: (313) 223-3318

E-mail: bkadrich@hometownlife.com

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

Deadline: Letters should be received by 9 a.m. Monday to be published in the Thursday edition.

of policies and guidelines.

In May, these 80 or so students will take the College Board Test to determine if they will receive college credit for this course. With all of these inappropriate disruptions, can anyone be sure they will be properly prepared?

Further, on an artistic level, these students will never have the opportunity to experience the AP English class that so many past students speak so glowingly and eloquently about. Why? Because of the selfish acts of one family! So let's identify the "real" victims from this fiasco — the other 80 students. And let's remember, if there is a double standard, it's that the rules apply to everyone but the Dames.

Paulette Longe  
Plymouth

### Renew sinking fund

On this Feb. 28, there is an important issue on the ballot I believe every voter should be aware of. There is a renewal of the sinking fund for the Wayne-Westland schools.

The Sinking Fund was originally voted in in 2003 and is used by the Wayne-Westland school district for school building repairs and replacement of equipment. The Sinking Fund is about to expire and Wayne-Westland school district is asking its voters once again to renew it. This is a RENEWAL, it will not result in new taxes. This is a tax you already pay.

It is basically less than a mill per \$1,000 your house is assessed for. This money can only go for what it says building repairs and replacement of equipment. It does not pay a SINGLE SALARY or BENEFIT package for any individual or group of people.

The Wayne-Westland school district was hit harder than any other school district in the state by the state funding cuts to schools. Please do not let them take another unfair hit by not voting for the Sinking Fund

Renewal. Please I am asking everyone to go to the polls on Feb. 28 and vote yes to renew the Wayne-Westland Schools Sinking Fund.

Julie Briese  
Westland

### Results: Fail

AP students may be intellectually more advanced than their peers, by no means emotionally or maturity-wise. See weekend article in the Wall Street Journal, I think the title is "What's Wrong with Teenagers."

More than rough language is contained in the books objected to, bestiality, killing an infant, and more. The objectionable books were not properly screened.

The books are FICTION. Don't tell me they represent actions of any of my ancestors.

The parents (and all of us) who pay EVERYONE in this lovely U.S. education system have the right to tell them what to do. THEY WORK FOR US!!! Get it?

Your bias is showing by your negative reference to Republicans. Shall I swing from a tree for you? Swill a six pack of beer? Wear a NASCAR shirt? Don't for a moment think I buy into the elitist, candy-ass views of the progressives and liberals in the media and poisoning our school system. I judge by results. Those are FAIL, FAIL, and FAIL. How do you explain that, a Republican plot?

Art Godfrey  
Ypsilanti

### Support standards

From the threat of more extreme weather fueled by global warming, to the billions of dollars we spend at the gas pump each year, our addiction to oil has real consequences for our environment and our economy.

Fortunately, the Obama administration is working to tackle this problem by proposing strong new pollution and fuel efficiency standards for cars and trucks sold in 2017 through 2025. The standards, also supported by UAW and 13 major auto manufacturers, would cut gasoline use by as much as 23 billion gallons per year nationally. These standards will be the largest step the U.S. has ever taken to get off oil — and tackle global warming.

The Obama administration wants to know what citizens think about the new standards, and they're holding a public comment period through Feb. 13 to find out. I urge citizens to make their voices heard by submitting a public comment to a-and-r-Docket@epa.gov (include "Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2010-0799" in the subject line) in support of strong clean car standards.

Sheelagh McCarthy  
Environment Michigan

# Public's input sought on I-96 project

By Ken Abramczyk  
Observer Staff Writer

Livonia residents and commuters who travel on I-96 can expect to see a reconstruction of the freeway start next year between Telegraph Road in Redford and Newburgh Road in Livonia.

The two-year project is estimated to cost approximately \$150 million and will reconstruct the freeway and bridges spanning the freeway.

The Michigan Department of Transportation has scheduled an open house for 5:30-7:30 p.m. Thursday, March 1, in the Gallery Room on the fifth floor of Livonia City Hall. Businesses and residents impacted by the I-96 construction are invited to speak with MDOT officials about their concerns and ask questions about the construction.

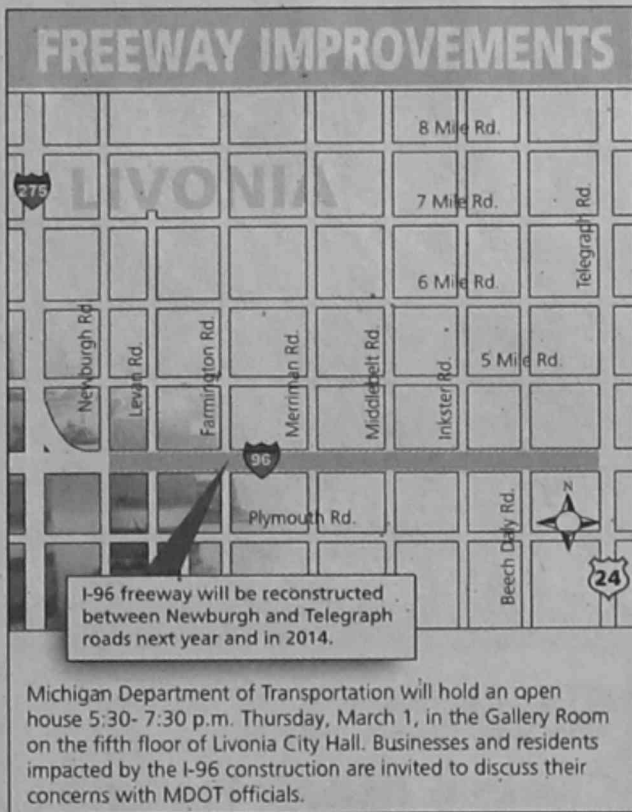
A preliminary schedule discussed with the city indicates that Phase I would begin in 2013 and

encompass Newburgh Road to Melvin, just west of Middlebelt. Phase II, Melvin east to Telegraph in Redford Township, would be completed in 2014.

"We are in the very early stages of the planning and design of the project," said Gorette Yung, project development engineer with MDOT. "We want to talk with the public and hear what their major concerns are and work with them in the planning stage."

Yung said public comments will assist MDOT in deciding how many lanes will be closed at once or whether to close all lanes of the freeway, and which entrance and exit ramps will be closed or left open on the freeway and when they will be closed. According to MDOT's traffic survey on its website, an average of 128,900 vehicles travel I-96 in Livonia per day.

Construction will move quicker if more lanes



Michigan Department of Transportation will hold an open house 5:30-7:30 p.m. Thursday, March 1, in the Gallery Room on the fifth floor of Livonia City Hall. Businesses and residents impacted by the I-96 construction are invited to discuss their concerns with MDOT officials.

are closed simultaneously, but MDOT wants public input first before making a final decision, Yung said. "We know that

there are a lot of businesses that need deliveries in that area that use the freeway," Yung said. "In this day and age, we

try to be mindful of businesses and the economy, too."

Asked if the freeway might be entirely closed like the Lodge was during its reconstruction a couple of years ago, Yung said each community is unique. "The Lodge has a lot of residential homes near it, but this area has more businesses on the south side."

"We want to know what everybody is thinking," City Engineer Todd Zilincik said residents will have a chance to tell MDOT what impact it will have on them. "MDOT will know whether eastbound or westbound should be closed or whether to split (the freeway) up, and what impact that will have on residents," Zilincik said.

An owner of Wine Palace, 13971 Middlebelt, said his business was hurt four or five years ago when roadwork was done on I-96. "It's like you're closing a

valve and the blood can't get through," said Cliff Denha.

Denha said he plans to attend the open house. "That's going to impact us," Denha said. "We get a lot of our business from customers who drive off the freeway. We depend on that, and it will certainly hurt us."

Customers drive from Redford and Detroit from the east, and Northville and Plymouth from the west, Denha said. Denha likes the fact that MDOT is looking for public comment, but wants to know why MDOT is reconstructing the freeway when roadwork was done recently on it.

"It looks like it was in pretty good shape," Denha said. "I don't see why they need to do it. They just went through this about four years ago."

kabramcz@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-2591 | Twitter: @KenAbramcz

# Local couple eager to welcome son from Russia into home

By Julie Brown  
Staff Writer

Tiffany and Julian Zendejas of Canton are eager to adopt a son from Russia. The couple began with a Chinese adoption about five years ago.

"Their adoption program is just going slower and slower," said Tiffany Zendejas, who owns Sincerely Yours in downtown Northville, a store featuring stationery and invitations.

In June 2011, the couple decided on a Russian adoption.

"We actually traveled for the first time last month (December)," she said. "We were there



Tiffany and Julian Zendejas of Canton are adopting a young son from Russia.

about a week."

They anticipate their son's adoption to be complete this March, April or May.

The couple can't say too much about the boy or

use social media, but can do so after the adoption is complete. Tiffany Zendejas said they tried to get pregnant starting about eight years ago. She's 38

and he's 40.

"We've both been through the gamut of tests." After a time, she said, they decided it was more important to be parents.

Before they got married in 1997, they'd talked a lot about adoption. "I had always felt like I was called to adopt," she said. "I just have never been able to see the difference, I guess."

The approval process for adoption is extensive, including a home study with a social worker. The couple must be cleared by local and state police, as well as the FBI and Homeland Security. Psychiatric testing

is required and couples must show they have no substance abuse issues and sufficient finances.

Tiffany Zendejas said the book with their adoption papers weighs about six and a half pounds and is growing.

"It's kind of known as a fairly consistent adoption process," she said of Russia. The couple wishes to share their son's culture and heritage as he grows up.

"We're excited," she said. "It's been a very long road for us. We're excited to have the opportunity." The process of starting a family doesn't take most couples as long, she added.

"It really could not be a more perfect fit, I think," she said of the son they plan to adopt and love already. "As far as adoption standards go, he's pretty young."

The process is costly, and the couple held a couple of road rallies with family and friends as fundraisers. Bowling and comedy nights are planned for final costs.

Julian, who works as a quality control manager for Skyway Precision in Plymouth and Livonia, is eager to be a dad.

"He's pretty much over the moon," she said. "He's really excited."

jbrown@hometownlife.com

## House OKs bipartisan measure to downsize judiciary

The Michigan House approved a package of bills Tuesday that will cut the number of trial judges in the state by 36 through attrition.

The original bipartisan legislation passed by the House in December proposed eliminating 41 trial court judgeships. The Senate amended the bills and reduced the number to 36.

"The last time we eliminated judgeships in Michigan was more than a decade ago, and even though the current reduction is not as sweeping as we first envisioned, it is a huge step toward reforming the judiciary, assuring access to justice and saving taxpayer money," said state Rep. John Walsh, R-Livonia, chair of the House Judiciary Committee.

The legislation was recommended in a report compiled by the State Court Administrative Offices. Past reports have urged similar reductions, but the recommendations were not acted upon. The current report received the support of the Michigan Supreme Court and all three state judges' associations.

"This will in no way affect a citizen's right to a speedy trial or full access to justice through the court system," Walsh said. "It is overdue reform that will save taxpayer money in the long run, and will bring our judicial system to the correct size."

The package — House Bills 5071-77, 5093-95 and 5101-08 — now goes to the governor for his signature.

## Class on appealing tax assessments

Schoolcraft College is offering a class on how to appeal property tax assessments 6-8 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 23.

Taught by a former Board of Review member, the class will cover what a property assessment is, how to determine

grounds for appeal, documentation necessary to support your appeal, the hearing process and post hearing relief.

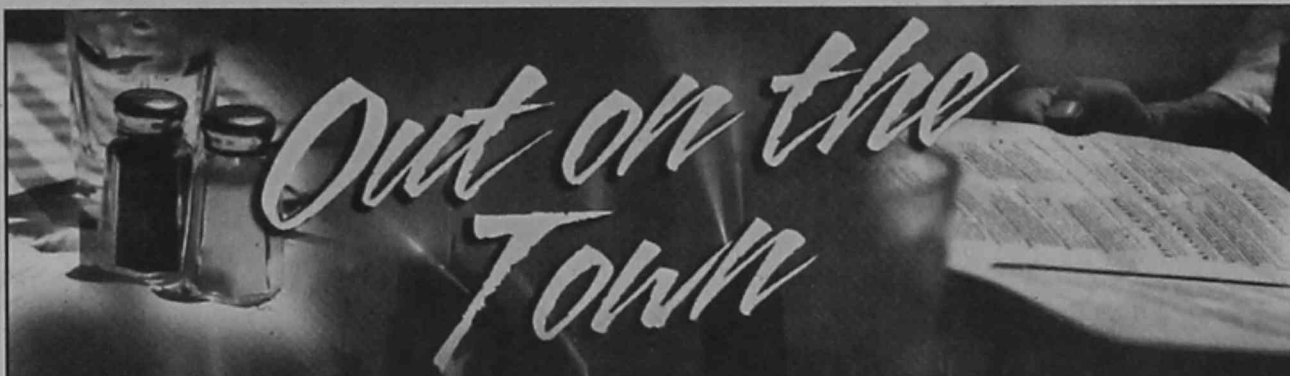
The cost of the class is \$29.

"Schoolcraft College is in a position to give homeowners a leg up in this

cumbersome process," said Jennifer Bodurka, programming coordinator for Schoolcraft's Continuing Education and Professional Development department. "If anything, our class will give people good knowledge on how to proceed

and what courses of action are available."

For more information, call (734) 462-4448 or visit [www.schoolcraft.edu/cepd](http://www.schoolcraft.edu/cepd). Schoolcraft's main campus is on Haggerty Road between Six and Seven Mile roads in Livonia.



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## 'Cats, Chiefs in KLAA semis

By Tim Smith  
Observer Staff Writer

The KLAA girls basketball championship tournament isn't exactly the state playoffs.

But for Plymouth, Tuesday's 34-32 victory in the first round against Livonia Stevenson came pretty close to it.

"Stevenson was one game away from a division title," Plymouth head coach Bob de Bear said. "So this is

**GIRLS BASKETBALL** an outstanding win for our team.

"And for our program, a post-season win is a terrific step in the right direction. I'm incredibly proud of the way the kids worked together tonight."

With the victory, the Wildcats (11-6) advanced to the Kensington Conference semifinals.

Plymouth will face KLAA South Division champion Westland John Glenn (10-0 KLAA South) at 7 p.m. Thursday. The game will be at John Glenn.

The first half was a defensive battle, with the opening stanza ending with Plymouth (third seed in the KLAA South) up 5-4 over the second seed from the KLAA Central.

It was a 13-9 halftime edge for the Wildcats and it wasn't until the fourth quarter for Stevenson (11-5) to reach double digits in any frame.

### Adjustments click

"In the second half, we made some adjustments that gave us more offensive flow and rhythm," de Bear said. "We were able to get the ball inside and keep Stevenson off balance."

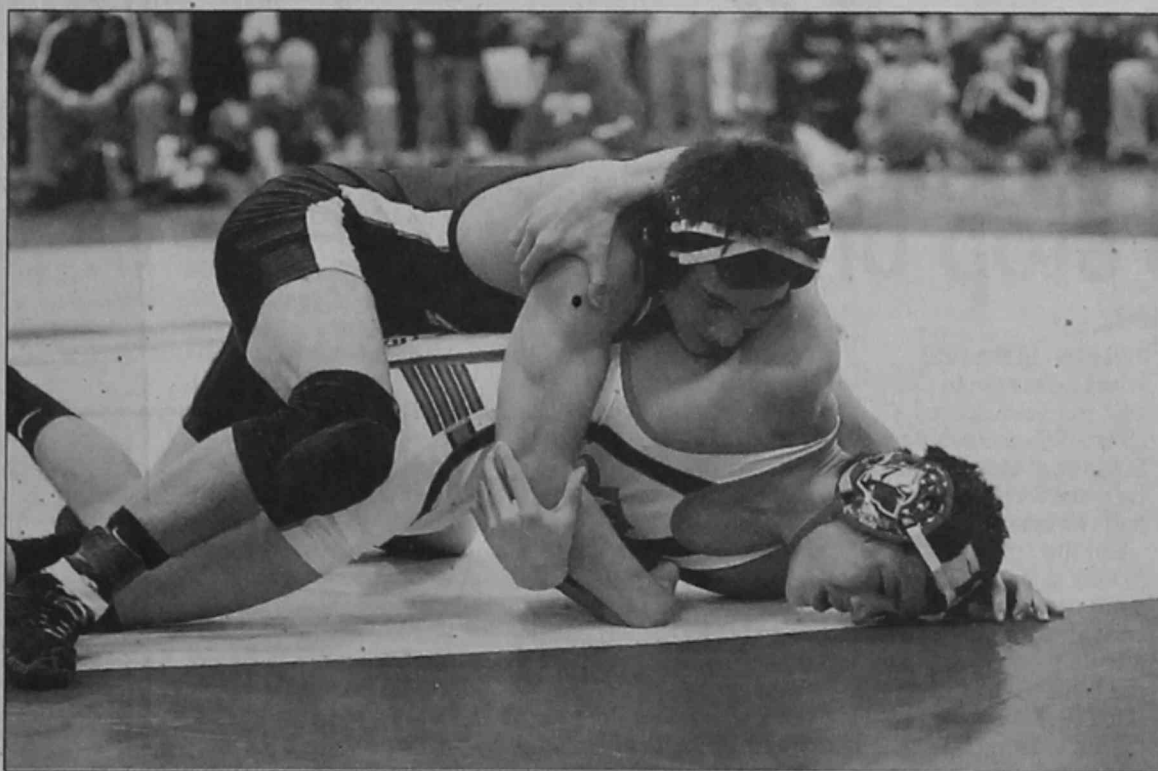
Both teams had trouble shooting from the floor. Plymouth made just 10 of 29 two-point shots (34.5 percent) while the Spartans connected on a paltry 12-48 (25 percent).

It helped the Wildcats that they were better at the free throw line, making 11 of 17 attempts (64.7 percent). Stevenson attempted just 14 foul shots and only made six of them (42.9 percent).

Jada Woody led Plymouth with seven points and nine rebounds, while Alyssa Burris scored six (hitting two clutch treys).

Please see **HOOPS, B2**

## INDIVIDUAL DISTRICTS



Plymouth's Said Youssef (top) puts the clamps on Livonia Franklin's Jordan Atienza during the championship bout at 140 of the Division 1 individual finals.

PHOTOS BY JOHN KEMSKI

# Ready for regionals

Fifteen PCEP wrestlers stay alive in quest for D1 state meet

By Tim Smith  
Observer Staff Writer

There's no denying that Novi-Detroit Catholic Central continues to be a mega-power in wrestling.

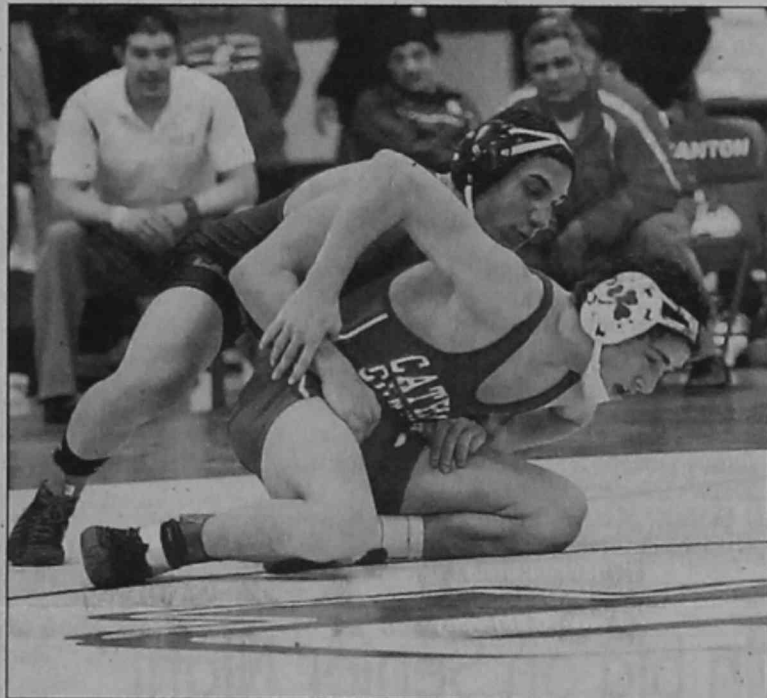
The Shamrocks racked up first-place finishes in nine of 14 weight classes at Saturday's Canton-hosted Division 1 individual wrestling district finals. But Livonia Franklin will send eight to the D1 individual regionals at Saline and the three Plymouth-Canton Educational Park teams are combining to send 15 — seven from Plymouth.

Wrestlers in the top four per weight class earned district medals and qualified for the regionals.

"We got seven which is the most Plymouth's ever had advance to regionals in one year," Plymouth head coach Quinn Guernsey said. "... I'm very happy with our showing, I was real happy with the way our guys wrestled."

"The seven guys who got out (to go to regionals) wrestled great, but we had a couple other guys make the blood round (top eight) and wrestled hard."

There were four wrestlers each from Canton and Salem to



Canton's Alec Pantaleo (left) takes on Novi-Detroit Catholic Central's Malik Amine in the championship bout at 135 during Saturday's Division 1 individual district finals.

qualify for regionals.

### The time to peak

Individual champions from the Park included Plymouth's Said Youssef and Canton's Alec Pantaleo.

Youssef battled Franklin's

Jordan Atienza to the wire, finally prevailing 8-6 at 140.

"Had to get up as fast as I can (and) get back on my feet because that's where I'm strongest at," Youssef said. "The key

Please see **WRESTLING, B3**

## 'Cats girls lax meeting

Anyone interested in playing Plymouth High School girls lacrosse in the spring should circle Thursday, March 1, on their calendars. At 7 p.m., there will be a mandatory parent and player meeting in room 401 at Plymouth High School.

## Rockettes pom clinic

The Salem Rockettes Kids Clinic is just around the corner, slated from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, March 10.

Participants will learn various routines, receive a T-shirt and pom poms and be invited to perform at the annual Rockette Show.

To download the clinic flier, go to [www.pompon.salemrocks.com](http://www.pompon.salemrocks.com) and click on documents.

## Eagles clipped

Despite a 22-point night by Mick Noel, Plymouth Christian Academy's boys basketball team lost 64-38 Tuesday night to Oakland Christian.

The Eagles (5-11) played without senior center Eric Jipping, who was deemed lost for the rest of the season with a knee injury sustained on Feb. 4 against Lenawee Christian.

Jipping finished his prep career 15 points shy of the 1,000 mark.

## Play ball

Registrations are now under way for the Greater Canton Youth Baseball Softball Association's baseball and softball programs.

The GCYBSA offers progressively developmental recreational baseball and softball programs for players age 4-18 from Plymouth and Canton. GCYBSA is also home to a competitive league and travel programs (Boys Cardinals, Girls Pride Fast Pitch).

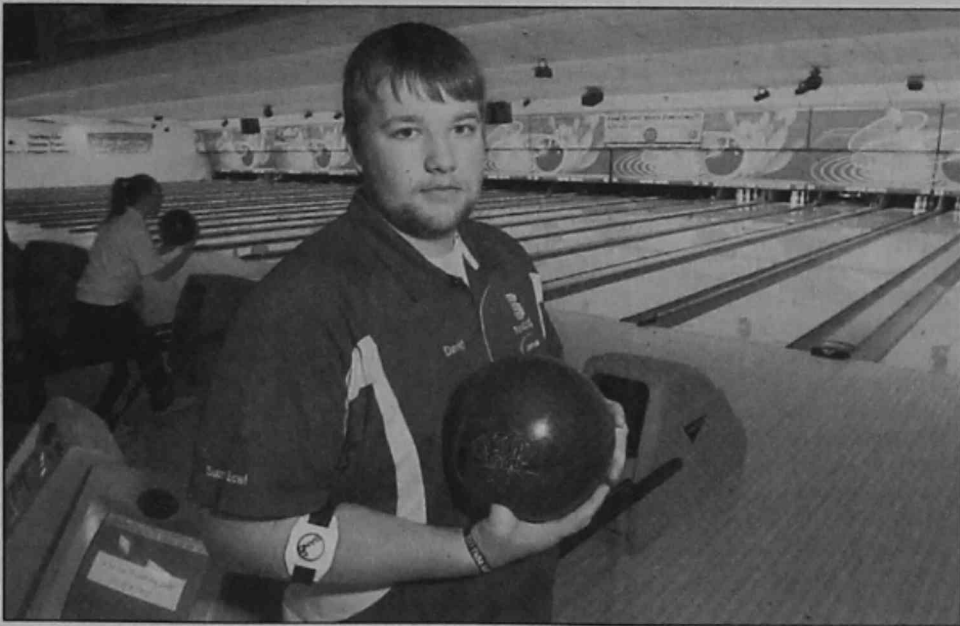
For more information, go to [www.gcybsa.com](http://www.gcybsa.com) or contact Coralee Ott at (734) 394-5358, via e-mail at [cott@canton-mi.org](mailto:cott@canton-mi.org).

## YMCA spring leagues

The Plymouth Family YMCA is accepting registrations for spring co-ed soccer and girls volleyball leagues.

Both leagues run from April 16 through June 9. There will be one practice and one game each week. The cost is \$84 for program members or \$115 for community members. The registration deadline is March 30.

If you are interested in participating or coaching your child's team, please contact the YMCA at (734) 453-2904 or visit [www.ymcadetroit.org](http://www.ymcadetroit.org).



Salem senior captain David Nikkila's bowling skills and leadership have been key elements of the Rocks' strong season.

# Nikkila powers upstart Rocks

By Tim Smith  
Observer Staff Writer

Not everybody knows there is a varsity bowling program at the Park.

But people are starting to notice thanks to the efforts of bowlers such as Salem senior and team captain David Nikkila.

"This year has been great. We're doing the best we've ever done at Salem," Nikkila said during a recent interview at Super Bowl in Canton, home base for all three

high schools from Plymouth-Canton Educational Park. "We just beat (Westland) John Glenn, which is very intense. It's great to beat a team that's winning."

The Rocks have put the lone blemish on the Rockets' record this season, with their 18-12 victory Feb. 1. John Glenn won the KLAA South Division with a record of 11-1; Salem's within the division is 9-3, good for second place.

One reason for the

Rocks' solid season is Nikkila's power bowling. He rolled an impressive 248-249-597 earlier this season at Town and Country Lanes and has averaged 206. Ironically, he wasn't at his best when Salem defeated John Glenn, throwing a 182-199-381 series.

### Team-first attitude

But even though it wasn't Nikkila's top showing of the season, he was

Please see **BOWLING, B2**

# Canton keeps raising the bar

By Tim Smith  
Observer Staff Writer

On the heels of a record-breaking night last Thursday against Livonia Blue, the Canton gymnastics team Monday improved to 12-0 in the KLAA Kensington Division.

The Chiefs defeated Plymouth 145.875-to-134.375, on a night where Canton's five gymnasts set a new school mark for floor exercise with a 38.175 cumulative score.

"We had five nines on floor, which is phenomenal," Canton head coach John Cunningham said. "I know of only one other team that can catch us on floor with scores like that."

He undoubtedly was making a reference to defending state champion Grand Ledge.

Leading that floor quintet was Ayana Lewis, who registered a 9.725 — just shy of the 9.775 school record.

Also surpassing the nine-point mark on floor were Melissa Green (9.525), freshman Jocelyn Moraw

## GIRLS GYMNASTICS

(9.475), Nicole Lasecki (9.45) and Marina Milad (9.125).

Plymouth's Jane McCurry was fifth on floor with a 9.375. The Wildcats also took sixth place with Kennedi Lewis, who scored a 9.25.

The Chiefs finished 1-2-3 on vault, led by Erica Lucas and Green, tying with a mark of 9.1. They were trailed by Lasecki (8.85) and Plymouth's Reagan Engstrom (8.8).

Moraw took first both on balance beam (8.35) and uneven parallel bars (9.625).

"I talked to you about worrying about the people we lost (after 2010-11), like Robyn Piwowar and Kali Pierce, the Granowiczes (Brittany and Brooke)," Cunningham said. "And I had no thought there would be any one person who could pick up most of that slack. And Jocelyn has done that."

Taking second on beam for Canton was Green (9.15), with Plym-

Please see **GYMNASTS, B3**





# Church members create centennial banners

By Sharon Dargay  
O&E Staff Writer

Colorful, handmade banners will enhance the worship service this Sunday as St. John's Episcopal Church in Plymouth wraps up a yearlong cen-

ennial celebration. It's not the first time St. John's has integrated fabric art into its services or used it to decorate the church, but the new pair of 10-foot-tall banners are the first designed and

made by members. "We had a woman from the Chicago area — for a number of years she made banners professionally for churches — and we invited her to come and do a workshop last

February," said Betsy Sole, chairwoman of the church banner committee. "She showed us how to do this."

Church members brainstormed designs, shopped for fabric, crafted letters, cut, sewed and constructed the final product, working for nearly a year to ready the banners for Sunday's Centennial Festival Eucharist service.

"A lot of people helped. People did all sorts of things," Sole noted. "I've never done anything like this and everything we did was like a new problem we had to figure. It has been interesting. A couple of people said why not just buy them? But it needed to come from us, what's important to us."

One banner references the centennial, with letters arranged on an iridescent blue-green fabric. The other piece incorporates a cross and streamers in the colors of the church seasons — blue for Advent, purple for Lent, white for Easter, red for Pentecost and green for the rest of the year — on satin fabric.

Working on the slippery satin and slightly stiffer iridescent fabric "wasn't too bad," Sole said.

"The thing that was difficult was sewing on something so big. That was a challenge, getting all that fabric under the sewing machine."



Betsy Sole (left) and Mary Alice Brunner work on a banner at St. John's Episcopal Church, Plymouth. They'll use the new banners, marking the church's centennial, in a worship service Sunday.

### Banner procession

Sole said the group proceeded carefully and slowly, avoiding most mistakes.

"We didn't really have to rip anything out. The cross wasn't the right proportion and we had to fix it," she said. "Our next challenge is to get them into the church and have the kids walk with them."

Youngsters will hold the streamers as the banners are carried into the church on Sunday. Sole said the streamers, when unfurled from the cross-adorned banner, seem to represent the roofline of the church. The cross on the banner is prominent, like its counterpart stationed in front of St. John's.

Sole suspects that the new banners will be used periodically for church events.

St. John's centennial celebration continues this weekend with the gala dinner at 6 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 18 at the Summit in Canton. The event will include dinner, a video on church history, music gift drawings and a ticket for a chance to win a centennial quilt. Tickets are \$40 per person.

The Centennial Festival Eucharist starts at 10 a.m. Sunday, Feb. 19. Bishop Wendell Gibbs will participate in the service that will include special music and a procession with the new centennial banners. A celebration reception will follow the service.

## Passages

Obituaries, Memories & Remembrances

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Deadlines: Friday 4:15 p.m. for Sunday • Wednesday 9:45 a.m. for Thursday

### BUSCHLEITER, FRED "Harley"

Passed away Monday, February 13, 2012, of Westland, Ypsilanti and Canada. He was a good friend, former employee of Northwest Airlines, and served in the U.S. Army. Per his request no funeral/burial services will be held.



### PERRY, GEORGE ROBERT

Formerly of Westland, passed away Feb. 9, 2012, reuniting with his beloved wife Mary Lou (Owens) and eldest David (Jamie). Born Sept. 8, 1927, to John Henry and Claire (Reilly) Perry. George had a brother, John "Jack" Perry and sister Miriam Bailey. He will be missed by his survivors: Douglas John (m. MaryCarole) Perry and daughters Meaghan and Erin; daughter Denise Perry (m. Paul) Donavin and sons, Daniel and Craig; and David's son Robert (m. Brittany) and their children: Jack, Brock, and June. George joined the Army in 1945, served as the Chief Clerk of the Military Government of post-WW II Japan. A U. of Detroit law school graduate and a judge for 10 years, he was honored in 2004 as a Bar Association Golden Member. A Master Tax Planner in Tucson, where he relocated 20 years ago. He was an avid traveler, golfer, bowler, bridge player, and Gold Medal Senior Olympian. Visitation will be Mon., 2/13 at Adair Funeral Home, Dodge Chapel from 5-8 p.m.



### TUCKER, MADELINE E.

Age 87, February 13, 2012. Loving wife of over 70 years to Edward "Tom" Tucker. Beloved mother of Fran (Jim) Griffith, Nancy Clarke, Thomas, Timothy, Stephen, James (Jeanette), Barbara (Jeff) Baker and Mary Tucker. Grandmother of 15 and great-grandmother of five. Sister of Robert, Richard (Eileen) and William (Marcy) Haney and the late Raymond Haney and Mary Haney-Roach. Loving aunt of numerous nieces and nephews. She was a long time resident of Livonia, Michigan and retired with her husband to Roscommon, in 1985. Madeline will be laid to rest at Richardson Cemetery in Roscommon, Michigan on Saturday, February 18, 2012 at 1:30 pm. Memorials may be made in her honor to the Fr. Solanus Guild of the Capuchins or the charity of your choice. Please visit www.harryjwillfuneralhome.com



### GELINAS, KATHERINE DANA (GROM)

After a short, but courageous battle against Pancreatic Cancer. Katherine, peacefully passed with her loving family by her side on February 12, 2012 at 46 years of age. Loving wife of Ken Gelin. Cherished mother of Amber and Trevor Gelin. Loving stepmother of Michael and wife Mel Gelin and Ryan and wife Joany Gelin. Beloved daughter of Joseph and Mary Grom. Dear daughter-in-law of the late Helen and Alvin Gelin. Dear sister of Michael, Marilea and husband Patrick Rogers, Steven and wife Erin. Many loving aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews and cousins survive. Will be sadly missed by her companion pets Chloe, Copper and Mace. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to LaSalle Minor Hockey Association and or the LaSalle Turtle Club Soft Ball League. Visiting Tuesday 7-9pm and Wednesday 3-5 & 7-9pm. Prayers Wednesday 8pm at Families First 3260 Dougall Ave. South Windsor, Canada 519-969-5841. On Thursday family and friends are invited to meet at Sacred Heart Church LaSalle Canada (219 Sacred Heart Dr) after 9:30am followed by Funeral Mass at 10:30am. Interment Greenlawn Memorial Gardens. A memorial luncheon will take place on Friday February, 17th from 12:30pm-2:30pm at Mama Mia's on Plymouth road in Livonia.

**May you find comfort in Family and Friends**

## RELIGION CALENDAR

Send items for the religion calendar to Sharon Dargay at sdargay@hometownlife.com. Photos must be in jpg format, attached to the e-mail.

### February

#### BLACK HISTORY

**Time/Date:** 11 a.m., Sunday, Feb. 19 and 26  
**Location:** First Baptist Church of Detroit, 21100 Southfield Road, Southfield  
**Details:** Observe Black History Month at 11 a.m. services. Ardis Cazenov will present "Tuskegee Airmen" Feb. 19 and the church's Praise Dance Group and Children's Church will present dance and music selections. Light refreshments

will be served after the services. United Voices in Christ, a male singing group, also will perform at 3 p.m., Feb. 26  
**Contact:** (248) 569-2972 or firstbaptist@fbc-detroit

#### BOOK SALE

**Time/Date:** 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Feb. 18  
**Location:** Faith Community Wesleyan Church, 14560 Merriman, Livonia  
**Details:** Teen youth group will sponsor a used book sale that includes DVDs, CDs and VHS tapes. Gourmet cookies also will be sold.  
**Contact:** (734) 522-3570

#### BOWLING FUNDRAISER

**Time/Date:** 1 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 26

**Location:** Westland Bowl 5940 Wayne Road, Westland  
**Details:** For Good Hope Lutheran Church in Garden City; tickets are \$20 for adults; \$15 for children and include three games, shoes, pizza, and pop  
**Contact:** (734) 427-3660  
**BREAKFAST**  
**Time/Date:** 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 19  
**Location:** St. Theodore, 8200 N. Wayne Road, Westland  
**Details:** Pancakes, French toast, ham, sausage, scrambled eggs, applesauce, coffee, tea, juice, milk; \$3 for adults and \$1.50 for children, 2-10  
**Contact:** (734) 425-4421

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<p><b>ST. ANNE'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH</b> Tridentine Latin Mass St. Anne's Academy - Grades K-8 38100 Five Mile Road Livonia, MI 48154 • (734) 462-3200</p> <p><b>Mass Schedule:</b> First Friday Mass 7:00 p.m. Saturday Mass 11:00 a.m. Sunday Masses 7:30 &amp; 10:00 a.m. Confessions Heard Prior to Each Mass Mother of Perpetual Help Devotions Tuesdays at 7:00 P.M.</p>	<p><b>ORCHARD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH</b> 30450 Farmington Road • Farmington Hills www.orchardumc.org 248-626-3620</p> <p><b>Worship:</b> 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. Christian Education for all ages Pastors: Carol J. Johns, Jim Braid, Margo Dexter</p>	<p><b>ROSDALE GARDENS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)</b> 9601 Hubbard at W. Chicago, Livonia, MI (between Merriman &amp; Farmington Rds.) (734) 422-0494 Friends in Faith Service 9:00 am Traditional Service 10:30 am Visit www.rosdalegardens.org For information about our many programs</p>	<p><b>Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church</b> 14175 Farmington Road, Livonia Just north of I-96 www.christsaviorsavior.org</p> <p><b>Sunday Worship</b> 8:30 &amp; 11:00 am - Traditional <b>Staffed Nursery Available</b></p> <p><b>Sunday School/Bible Class</b> 9:45 am Early Childhood Center Phone 734-513-8413</p> <p><b>Making disciples who share the love of Jesus Christ</b> Pastors: Davenport, Bayer, &amp; Creedon 734-522-6830</p>	
<p><b>CHURCHES OF THE NAZARENE</b></p> <p><b>PLYMOUTH CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE</b> 45801 W. Ann Arbor Road • (734) 455-1525 Sunday School - 9:45 A.M. Sunday Worship - 11:00 A.M. Sunday Evening - 6:00 P.M. Family Night - Wed. 7:00 P.M. NEW HORIZONS FOR CHILDREN LEARNING CENTER (734) 455-3196</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>PRESBYTERIAN</b></p> <p><b>Fellowship Presbyterian Church</b> Adult Sunday School: 9:30 - 10:15 a.m. • Worship: 10:30 a.m. Childrens Sunday School: 10:30 a.m. Pastor: Dr. Jimmy McGuire Services held at: <b>Saint Andrews Episcopal Church</b> 16360 Hubbard Road in Livonia • South of Six Mile Road nursery provided • www.fellowship-presbyterian.org</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN</b></p> <p><b>WARD CHURCH</b> 40000 Six Mile Road Northville, MI 48168 248.374.7400 www.wardchurch.org</p> <p>Traditional Worship at 8, 9:30 &amp; 11 a.m. Contemporary Worship at 9:30 &amp; 11 a.m. Children's Programs available at 9:30 &amp; 11 a.m. The Traditional Service is broadcast on the radio each week at 11 a.m. on 560 AM</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>LUTHERAN CHURCH WISCONSIN SYNOD</b></p> <p><b>ST. PAUL'S EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH &amp; SCHOOL</b> 17810 FARMINGTON ROAD, LIVONIA (734) 261-1360</p> <p><b>WORSHIP SERVICES</b> SUNDAY: 8:30 A.M. &amp; 11:00 A.M. THURSDAY: 6:30 P.M. website: www.stpaulsilivonia.org</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>ASSEMBLIES OF GOD</b></p> <p><b>OPEN ARMS CHURCH</b> Worship: Sunday 10:30 am Children's Programs Available Kid's Stop Preschool Now Enrolling 248.474.0001 Meet our New Pastor Grady Jensen &amp; Assoc. Pastor Abe Fazzini 33015 W. 7 Mile Rd. • Livonia 48152 Between Farmington &amp; Merriman Across from Joe's Produce 248.471.5282</p>	<p><b>For Information regarding this Directory, please call Karen Marzolf at 313-222-2214 or e-mail: kmarzolf@hometownlife.com</b></p>			<p style="text-align: center;"><b>CONGREGATIONAL</b></p> <p><b>North Congregational Church</b> 36520 12 Mile Rd. Farmington Hills (bet. Drake &amp; Halsted) (248) 848-1750 10:30 a.m. Worship &amp; Church School Faith - Freedom - Fellowship Rev. Mary E. Biedron Senior Minister</p>





The Gentlemen Songsters Chorus will sing songs that are out of this world at its annual concert Feb. 18 in Livonia.

## Chorus takes listeners to the stars and beyond

By Sharon Dargay  
 O&E Staff Writer

This Saturday, The Gentlemen Songsters Chorus will boldly go where no local barbershop singers have gone before. The singers will perform their annual concert looking like crew members of the Starship Enterprise in a *Star Trek*-themed show at Clarenceville High School in Livonia.

"It should be fun," said Stephen Sutherland, a Canton resident and director of the 45-member group. Sutherland suggested the theme after watching a California-based barbershop quartet called Hi-Fidelity, perform a *Star Trek* routine in competition last summer. The quartet, along with a collegiate group called Prestige, will perform during the Songster's upcoming concert.



Captain Kirk and crew a.k.a. Hi-Fidelity, a national a capella champion singing group, will perform songs in four-part harmony at "Barbershop in Space...The Final Frontier," Feb. 18 in Livonia.

They act out Kirk, Spock, Scotty and Dr. McCoy roles. It's really a hoot." Although Hi-Fidelity includes

a few *Star Trek*-related songs in its repertoire, the Songsters will harmonize standards that focus on the stars and the moon.

"We wove a story through it, of our starship heading home and the stuff we run into on the way. Without the script, it sounds like a regular barbershop show. We try to do songs that get some audience recognition."

But it will look a little different from most Gentlemen Songsters shows. Singers will wear red, blue and yellow shirts that fans of the 1960s science fiction television series will recognize as *Star Trek* crew and officer uniforms.

"The joke that has been going around is that if you wear the red shirt, you don't get to come

### BARBERSHOP IN SPACE ... THE FINAL FRONTIER

**What:** The Gentlemen Songsters Chorus annual concert  
**When:** 1:59 p.m. and 7:29 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 18  
**Where:** Schmidt Auditorium at Clarenceville High School, 20155 Middlebelt, Livonia  
**Details:** The concert takes on a "Star Trek" theme with the Chorus singing tunes about the heavens. Special guest quartets are Hi-Fidelity and Prestige  
**Tickets:** \$18, available at the door or with credit card by phone  
**Contact:** (248) 559-7082

Please see CHORUS, B6

## Pottery show benefits food bank

Pewabic Pottery will present its 18th annual Empty Bowls fundraiser from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 25, at 10125 E. Jefferson, Detroit.

Visitors who buy an artist or student bowl, ranging from \$5-\$20, will receive soup and bread donated from local restaurants including Polish Kitchen, Vivios, Russell Street Deli, Sindbad's, St. John's Hospital, Beverly Hills Grill and Lunchtime Detroit. There is a limit of two bowls per person.

"This event is a wonderful way for the community to bring delicious food and art together for a good cause," stated Terese Ireland, executive director of Pewabic Pottery. "The need is still great in metro Detroit and we are proud to do our part to help fill some of those Empty Bowls."

All of the proceeds from the event will go to Gleaners Community Food Bank.



Buy a bowl and benefit Gleaners Community Food Bank at Pewabic Pottery, in Detroit.

ers Community Food Bank. For each dollar raised, Gleaner's can provide three meals to an individual in need. Last year, Pewabic's Empty Bowls event raised \$5,000, which helped provide 15,000 meals.

The concept of Empty Bowls began in 1990 when a Michigan art teacher wanted to come up with a way for his

students to help out with the issue of hunger in local communities. Since then, the Empty Bowls project has grown into an international initiative. Pewabic Pottery has offered its annual Empty Bowls fundraiser since 1994.

For more information call (313) 626-2000 or visit [www.pewabic.org](http://www.pewabic.org).

## Think you know who will win an OSCAR™ this year?

THE OSCARS™

### Choose correctly and YOU could win!

Go to [www.hometownlife.com](http://www.hometownlife.com) to enter. Correctly identify the top 7 Oscars™ categories and you could win one of the following prizes:

- 1st Place:** 12 month movie pass for two to Emagine Theatre
- 2nd Place:** 4 movie passes

### Correctly Identify the Top 7 Categories

The person with the most correct answers wins!

- Best Picture
- Actor in Leading Role
- Actress in a Leading Role
- Animated Feature Film
- Actor in a Supporting Role
- Actress in a Supporting Role
- Director
- Tie Breaker Categories
- Music (original score)
- Documentary Feature



All entries must be received by Saturday, February 25, 2012 11:59 p.m. to be considered.

Sponsored by: OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC HOMETOWN WEEKLIES EMAGINE

## AT THE HISTORIC REDFORD THEATRE

1928 Barton Theatre Organ played 30 minutes before each show!

### The Apartment

Won 5 Oscars

& 3 Golden Globes

Starring Shirley MacLaine, Jack Lemmon & Fred MacMurray

Feb. 17 - 8:00 p.m.  
 Feb. 18 - 2:00 & 8:00 p.m.



- ★ Doors open 1 hour before the show
- ★ Real butter on your popcorn
- ★ Affordable candy and beverages

Tickets: \$4.00

Buy tickets online: [redfordtheatre.com](http://redfordtheatre.com)

Park in one of our FREE supervised parking lots!

Located at 17360 Lahser Road, Detroit, MI 48219. The theatre is on the east side of Lahser, just north of Grand River. 24-hour information phone number: (313) 537-2560



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9 MOVIES  
 Only \$35 for One Day or \$60 for Two Days  
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2-DAY PASS  
 February 10 - 16 and February 17 - 23

1-DAY PASS  
 Select from dates listed above

### Academy Award® Viewing Party

Join us at Emagine Theatre - Rochester Hills February 26, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.

For further information go to: [www.emagine-entertainment.com](http://www.emagine-entertainment.com)

Art

**DETROIT INSTITUTE OF ARTS**

**Time/Dates:** 2 p.m. Sundays  
**Location:** 5200 Woodward, Detroit  
**Details:** Target Family Sundays, storytelling, performances, free with admission  
**Exhibits:** Detroit Revealed: Photographs 2000-2010, an exhibit of 50 photos through April 8; Gift of a Lifetime: The James Pearson Duffy Collection of drawings, paintings, prints, sculptures and photographs through March 18  
**Contact:** (313) 833-7900, www.dia.org

**DIRTY SHOW**

**Time/Date:** 7 p.m.-2 a.m., Feb. 17-18, 18 and over  
**Location:** Bert's Warehouse Theatre, 2739 Russell Street, Detroit  
**Details:** Exotic art exhibit with art by more than 300 artists, priced \$10-\$10,000. The show includes a film screening, burlesque performance, and more. Tickets are \$20 in advance at www.dirtyshow.org and \$25 at the door  
**Contact:** (313) 393-3233

**FARMINGTON HILLS CITY GALLERY**

**Time/Date:** 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday, through Feb. 24  
**Location:** Costick Center, 28600 W. 11 Mile, Farmington Hills  
**Details:** The work of Patrice Erickson, all original oils, is on exhibit. Erickson is inspired by nature and strives for landscapes that are rich in color  
**Contact:** (248) 473-1856

**NORTHVILLE ART HOUSE**  
**Time/Date:** 1-5 p.m. Wednesday-Saturday, through Feb. 18  
**Location:** 215 W. Cady, Northville  
**Details:** "6th Annual Member Exhibition," includes work by more than 70 artists; free admission  
**Coming up:** Sell or donate "used art" for "Art from the Attic," 2-7 p.m. Feb. 21-22 or by appointment. Opening sale and reception is 6-9 p.m. Friday, Feb. 24; public art sale is 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 25 and noon-4 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 26. Opening reception tickets are \$10; public sale is free admission  
**Contact:** (248) 344-0497

**UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN**

**Time/Date:** 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday, noon-5 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 25-May 20  
**Location:** University of Michigan Museum of Art, 525 S. State, Ann Arbor  
**Details:** "Fluxus and the Essential Questions of Life," includes more than 100 works by major artists, such as Yoko Ono, Nam June Paik and George Maciunas; admission is free  
**Contact:** (734) 764-0395



John Boufford of Northville Township and Geoff Wehner of Bloomfield Hills rehearse a scene from "Whose Wives Are They, Anyway?," a comedy that runs through March 3 at the Farmington Players.



Artifacts such as this coffin are on display at Kelsey Museum of Archaeology in Ann Arbor.

**VILLAGE THEATER**

**Time/Date:** 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Monday-Friday through Feb. 24  
**Location:** 50400 Cherry Hill Road, Canton  
**Details:** "Lest We Forget: Legends of Detroit Gospel," celebrates the history of Gospel music in Detroit  
**Contact:** (734) 394-5300 or visit cantonvillagetheater.org

**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:** Basile, through Feb. 11; Mikey Mason, Feb. 15-16; Rich Guzzi, Feb. 17-19; Coco, Feb. 22-25; Glen Wool, Feb. 29-March 3; John DeBoer, March 7-10; Tracy Smith, March 14-17; Horace HB Smith, March 21-24; Dave Landau, March 28-31  
**Contact:** (734) 261-0555, www.kickerscomplex.com

**GO COMEDY!**

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

**JD'S HOUSE OF COMEDY**

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

**MARK RIDLEY'S COMEDY CASTLE**  
**Time/Date:** Rocky Laporte, Feb. 16-18; Ted Alexandro, Feb. 23-25; Juston McKinney, March 1-3; Dave Attell, March 8-10; Michael Malone, March 15-17; Tom

**Comedy**



Carol Lipinski (left), Beth Brooks, Lana Collins, Barbara Bloom and Marian Busa portray "ladies of the night" in the Still Got It Players production, "The Oldest Profession," March 1-4 in Canton.



Kristin Heitmeier of Northville (left), Jenessa Hubbard and Drex Morton, both of Canton, portray members of a large family in the comedy, "Cheaper by the Dozen," starting Feb. 17 at the Village Theater in Canton.

Papa, March 22-24; Gary Valentine, March 29-31; Jay Black, April 5-7  
**Location:** 269 E. Fourth, Royal Oak  
**Contact:** (248) 542-9900, www.comedycastle.com

**Dance**

**DANCE MONTH**

**Time/Date:** Through Feb. 18  
**Location:** Berman Center for the Performing Arts, 6600 W. Maple, West Bloomfield  
**Details:** Ballet Folklorico de Antioquia, 8 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 18. Ticket prices are \$30 for members and \$40 for non-members for all other programs. Call the box office for student and workshop prices  
**Contact:** (248) 661-1900; www.theberman.org

**MOON DUSTERS**

**Time/Date:** 8:30-11:30 p.m. every Saturday; dance lessons 7-8 p.m.  
**Location:** Livonia Civic Center, 15218 Farmington Road, Livonia  
**Details:** Singles and couples dance to music of the '30s, '40s and '50s; free refreshments. Dance lessons cost \$6;

dance and lessons are \$11; dance only is \$7 for guests, \$6.50 for associates and \$6 for Moon Dusters members  
**Contact:** Joe Castrodale, club president, (248) 968-5197

**Film**

**MARQUIS THEATRE**

**Time/Date:** 7:30 p.m. Feb. 18  
**Location:** 135 E. Main, Northville  
**Details:** "It's a Mad, Mad, Mad World," tickets \$3  
**Coming up:** "Bye, Bye, Birdie," Feb. 25  
**Contact:** (248) 349-8110

**PENN THEATRE**

**Time/Date:** 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 16, 7 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Feb. 17-18, and 4:15 p.m. and 7 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 19  
**Location:** 760 Penniman Ave., Plymouth  
**Details:** "Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows," \$3  
**Coming up:** "Hugo," 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 23, 7 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 24; 4:15 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, Feb. 25-26 and 7 p.m. Thursday, March 1

**Pistons seek singers for national anthem**

The Detroit Pistons are looking for talented, devoted, and open-minded performers who would feel comfortable singing the *Star Spangled Banner* at the team's home games.

Interested applicants must submit their headshot along with a DVD, CD or link of them singing the National Anthem to the attention of Game Operations, National Anthem, at 6 Championship Dr., Auburn Hills, MI 48326 or by e-mail at nationalanthem@palacenet.com.

**Boats & Fun!**  
**February 11-19**  
**Cobo Center**  
**Save \$2 when you purchase tickets at**  
**DetroitBoatShow.net**

RAM Discover BOATING

**CHORUS**

Continued from page B5

back from the away mission," Sutherland said, referring to the series' expendable characters.

Sutherland, a retired Northville teacher, watched the original *Star Trek* series as a high school student and followed all of its subsequent spin-off shows as an adult. He hopes the recognizable television theme will draw a mix of ages, including some barbershop music newcomers, to the Songsters' concert.

"We have attempted to contact some *Star Trek* clubs, but it all depends on the members and who they are trying to sell tickets to."

**Two clubs unite**

The Gentlemen Songsters Chorus is a part of the Detroit-Oakland Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society. The Detroit and Oakland chapters were separate organizations until they merged in 1986. The Detroit group, first chartered in 1938, claims to



Prestige, collegiate quartet champ, will sing Feb. 18 in Livonia.

be the first chapter established east of the Mississippi River. The Oakland chapter was chartered in 1941.

The Gentlemen Songsters rehearses from 7:30-10:30 Mondays, at Starr Presbyterian Church, located at 13 Mile and Crooks in Royal Oak. The group meets all year and participates in spring and fall competitions, in addition to singing throughout southeastern Michigan. Venues have included Nar-

don Park United Methodist Church in Farmington Hills, Greenfield Village and Henry Ford Village, among others.

Three assistant directors give Sutherland a chance to sing at least a few songs when the chorus performs in concert. A vocal coach helps members hone their skills.

"We're always looking for new singers and now is the perfect time to join," Sutherland said, adding that prospective singers should be able

**Contact:** (734) 453-0870; www.penntheatre.com

**REDFORD THEATRE**

**Time/Date:** 8 p.m. Feb. 17 and 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Feb. 18  
**Location:** 17360 Lahser, just north of Grand River Ave., in Detroit  
**Details:** "The Apartment," tickets \$4  
**Coming up:** "Gone With The Wind" 8 p.m. March 2-3 and 2 p.m. March 4, includes an appearance by "the Gone With The Wind answer lady," Kathleen Marcaccio  
**Contact:** (313) 537-2560

**Museums**

**CHARLES H. WRIGHT**

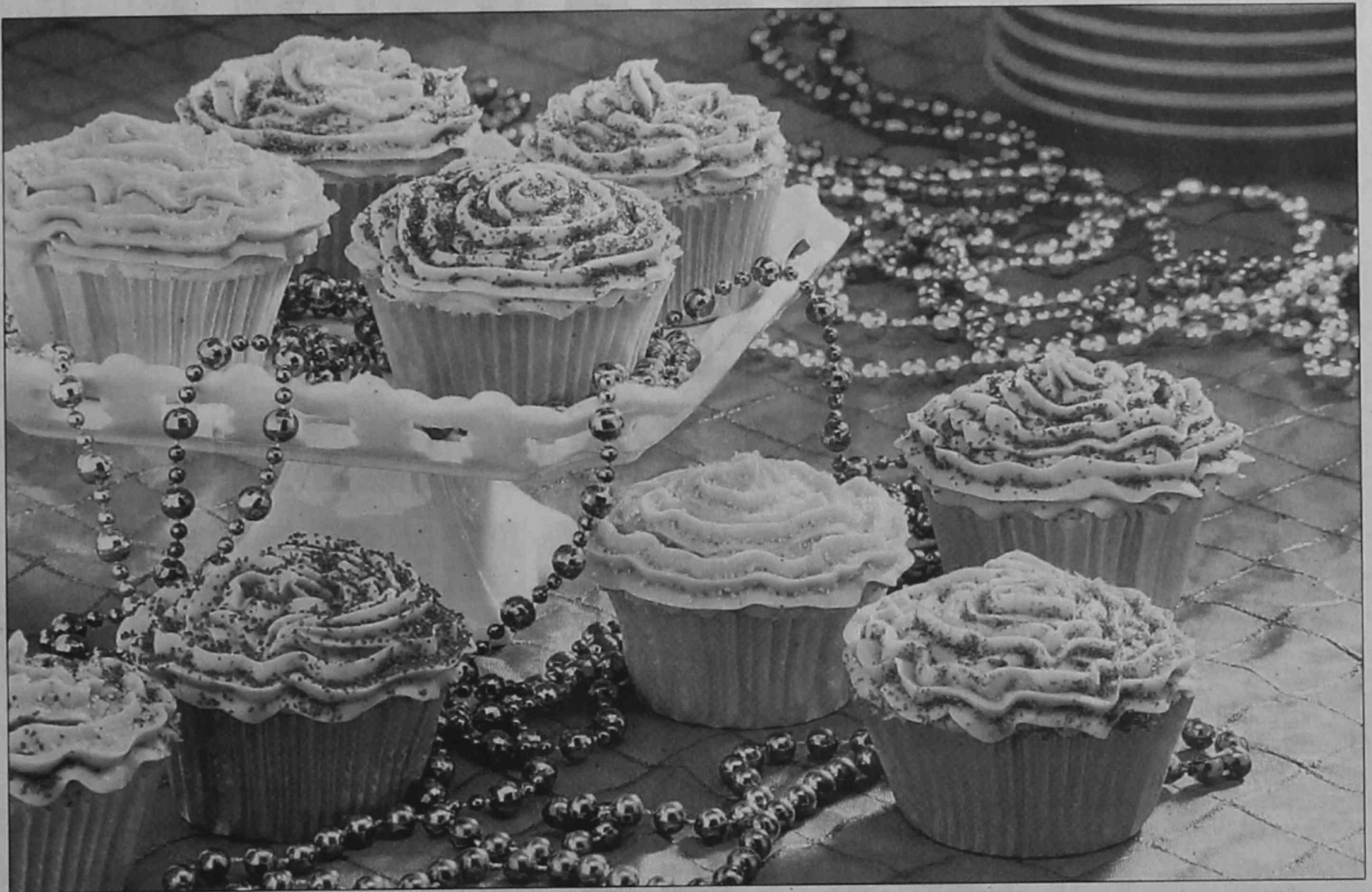
**Time/Date:** 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday and 1-5 p.m. Sunday  
**Location:** 315 E. Warren Road, Detroit  
**Details:** Regular museum admission is \$8 for adults, 13-61; and \$5 for youth, 3-12, and seniors, 62 and over. Members and children 2 and under are admitted free. "Moving to His Own Beat" celebrates the life and music of Fela Anikulapo-Kuti, who fused traditional African high life music with classical jazz and funk, a unique sound he called "Afrobeat" The exhibit runs through April 1  
**Contact:** (313) 494-5800

**PLYMOUTH HISTORICAL MUSEUM**

**Time/Date:** 1-4 p.m. Wednesday and Friday-Sunday; current exhibit runs through June 17  
**Location:** 155 S. Main, Plymouth  
**Details:** "Ration Stamps & Bombers, WWII at Home" is the current exhibit. Admission is \$5 for adults and \$2 for students, 6-17  
**Contact:** (734) 455-8940

**U-M KELSEY MUSEUM OF ARCHAEOLOGY**

**Time/Date:** The museum is open 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Tuesday-Friday, and 1-4 p.m., Saturday and Sunday  
**Location:** 434 S. State, Ann Arbor  
**Details:** Part II of the Kelsey Museum of Archaeology's special exhibition - "Karani's Revealed: Discovering the Past and Present of a Michigan Excavation in Egypt" - will run through Sunday, May 6. This special exhibition explores the story of the site's excavation, which was initiated by the University of Michigan in the 1920s and 1930s.  
**Special event:** Ancient Egypt Family Day runs 1-3 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 18 with hands-on activities such as hieroglyphic writing, mummy wrapping (with a doll filled with candy organs), crown making, jewelry crafting, and flower wreaths, like the one found on King Tut.  
**Contact:** www.lsa.umich.edu/kelsey; (734) 764-9304



King Cake Cupcakes

# Celebrate Mardi Gras with food, family

Bring the spirit of Mardi Gras to your table this season by creating your family's very own "Big Easy" flavorful and festive celebration.

Revel in the true meaning of celebrating Mardi Gras in the comfort of your home, with good music and good friends, as well as a wide-ranging menu, including everything from classic dirty rice to a twist on jambalaya and the traditional King Cake for dessert.

Jazz up your celebration

The Mardi Gras tradition is steeped in family celebrations and food. Bring the party home and focus on spending time together and enjoying flavorful dishes that are easy to prepare. Tap into the traditional way of celebrating with these tips:

- **Lead the Potluck Parade:** Create a potluck-style party and ask everyone to bring their favorite Mardi Gras dishes like Jambalaya Maque Choux, Red Beans & Rice Tortilla Casserole and Mardi Gras Dirty Rice. Make sure to have guests bring copies of their recipes so they can swap secrets with friends and find new favorites.

- **Don't Forget the Kids:** Welcome young Mardi Gras revelers to the celebration by inviting them to create their own bead necklaces or use shoe boxes to craft parade floats by adding construction paper, feathers and glitter. • **Get Your Dancin' Shoes On:** New Orleans jazz isn't just for listening — it's also for dancing. Keep lively music playing throughout the gathering.

- **Satisfy Your Sweet Tooth:** Put a tiny twist on the traditional King Cake dessert by making King Cake Cupcakes. Kids can get in on the decorating fun by adding traditional Mardi Gras colored frosting, sprinkles and candy in purple, green and gold.

For more information on how to jazz up Mardi Gras celebrations, visit [www.facebook.com/zatarains](http://www.facebook.com/zatarains) and follow Zatarain's on Twitter (@MyZatarains) for party tips.

## Mardi Gras Dirty Rice

Flavorful and versatile, serve this dirty rice as a one-skillet main dish or as a filling for tacos or lettuce wraps.

Makes 7 (1-cup) servings

Prep Time: 5 minutes

Cook Time: 35 minutes

1 tablespoon oil  
1 medium red bell pepper, thinly sliced  
1 medium yellow bell pepper, thinly sliced  
1 pound bulk pork sausage  
1 package Zatarain's Dirty Rice Mix, Original

Heat oil in large skillet on medium-high heat. Add bell peppers; cook and stir 3-5 minutes or until tender-crisp. Remove from skillet. Add sausage to skillet; cook and stir 5 minutes or until no longer pink.

Stir in rice mix and water. Bring to boil. Reduce heat to low; cover and simmer 20 minutes. Return bell peppers to skillet. Cover and cook 5 minutes longer or until rice is tender. Remove from heat. Let stand 5 minutes.

Tips:

**Dirty Rice Tacos:** Serve rice mixture in warmed corn or flour tortillas. Top with shredded cheese, lettuce, salsa or sour cream, if desired. For Dirty Rice Taco Salad, serve rice mixture on shredded lettuce with desired toppings.

**Dirty Rice Lettuce Wraps:** Serve rice mixture on Bibb, Boston or iceberg lettuce leaves. Top with shredded carrots, chopped pecans, chow mein noodles or chopped green onions, if desired.

## Jambalaya Maque Choux

### Jambalaya Maque Choux

This recipe offers a fun Cajun twist on New Orleans-style Jambalaya. Corn maque choux is a traditional south Louisiana dish with corn and peppers, usually served as a side or over rice. Add some andouille sausage to kick up the flavor!

Prep Time: 10 minutes  
Cook Time: 30 minutes  
Makes 6 servings

1 tablespoon oil  
½ pound andouille sausage, cut into ¼-inch slices  
½ cup chopped celery  
½ cup chopped green bell pepper  
½ cup chopped red onion  
½ cup water  
1 can (14½ ounces) diced tomatoes, undrained  
1 package Zatarain's Jambalaya Mix  
1 cup frozen corn

Heat oil in large skillet on medium-high heat. Add sausage; cook and stir 2 minutes.

Add celery, bell pepper and onion; cook and stir 3 minutes or until sausage is browned and vegetables begin to soften.

Stir in water, tomatoes and rice mix. Bring to boil. Reduce heat to low; cover and simmer 20 minutes. Stir in corn; cover and cook 5 minutes longer or until rice is tender, stirring occasionally. Remove from heat. Let stand 5 minutes. Fluff with fork before serving.

## Red Beans & Rice Tortilla Casserole

Turn leftover cooked chicken into a Mexican-style casserole by layering with red beans and rice, cheese and tortillas. Or, skip the chicken and make a great Meatless Monday dish.

Prep Time: 10 minutes  
Cook Time: 45 minutes  
Makes 8 servings

1 package Zatarain's Red Beans and Rice Mix  
1 can (8½ ounces) whole kernel corn, drained  
1 can (4½ ounces) chopped green chiles, undrained  
6 flour tortillas (8-inch)  
2 cups shredded cooked chicken  
2 cups shredded Cheddar cheese

Assorted toppings, such as sour cream, salsa and chopped green onions (optional)

Prepare rice mix as directed on package. Add corn and green chiles; mix well.

Spread ½ cup of the rice mixture on bottom of 13- by 9-inch baking dish sprayed with no-stick cooking spray. Top with 3 of the tortillas, overlapping as needed. Layer with ½ each of the remaining rice mixture, chicken and cheese. Repeat layering with remaining tortillas, rice mixture, chicken and cheese.

Bake in preheated 350°F oven 15 minutes or until heated through. Let stand 5 minutes before serving. Serve with assorted toppings, if desired.

## King Cake Cupcakes

Chef John Besh of the Besh Restaurant Group takes the traditional King Cake and turns it into a miniature form with these cupcakes. Makes 12 (1 cupcake) servings

Cupcakes:

1½ cups cake flour  
1½ teaspoons baking powder  
½ teaspoon salt  
½ cup (1 stick) butter, softened  
½ cup granulated sugar  
1 teaspoon vanilla extract

2 eggs

½ cup milk

Creole Cream Cheese and Root Beer Frosting:

8 ounces Creole or regular cream cheese, softened

½ cup (½ stick) butter, softened

½ cup confectioners' sugar

½ teaspoon Zatarain's Root Beer Extract

1. Preheat oven to 350°F. For the cupcakes, mix flour, baking powder and salt in medium bowl. Set aside.

2. Beat butter in large bowl with electric mixer on medium speed 30 seconds or until softened. Add granulated sugar and vanilla; beat until light and fluffy, scraping down sides of bowl frequently. Beat in eggs, 1 at a time. Alternately beat in flour mixture and milk on medium-low speed just until mixed. Spoon batter into 12 lightly greased or paper-lined muffin cups, filling each cup ¾ full.

3. Bake 12 to 14 minutes or until toothpick inserted into cupcake comes out clean. Cool in pans on wire rack 10 minutes. Remove from pans; cool completely.

4. For the frosting, beat cream cheese and butter in large bowl with electric mixer on medium speed until smooth. Add confectioners' sugar and extract; beat until fluffy. Set aside.

5. Make an indentation in the center of each cupcake using the handle of a wooden spoon or a straw, making sure not to break through bottom of cupcake. Spoon frosting into resealable plastic bag or piping bag fitted with star tip. If using plastic bag, cut a small piece off one of the bottom corners of bag. Pipe a small amount of frosting into each cupcake. Pipe remaining frosting onto each cupcake. Sprinkle with colored sugar, if desired.

Tip: Insert a dried fava bean into the indentation of each cupcake before piping in filling. The fava bean is for decoration only and should not be eaten.



Jambalaya Maque Choux

# ATTENTION! SIGN UP NOW!

## If your business or organization serves seniors,

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## 9th Annual Spring SENIOR EXPO

Tuesday, May 22, 2012

9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Schoolcraft College  
Livonia Campus

Vis TaTech Center - Haggerty Rd.  
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#### Important Dates:

- Early Bird Deadline: February 17, 2012
- Feature Vendor Deadline: April 9, 2012
- Registration Deadline: April 23, 2012

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