



**MONKEYS  
LEND A  
HELPFUL  
HAND**  
USA WEEKEND

## Canton loses 11 firefighters to retirement

By Darrell Clem  
Staff Writer

In a startling mass exodus, the Canton Fire Department has lost 11 command officers within the last month as a huge chunk of the township's 61 veteran firefighters opted to retire – a move that locks in their benefits. The fire officers took with them nearly 300 years of combined service.

Fire Chief Joshua



Arble



Sprys-Tellner



Caruso



Glenn

Meier said residents and visitors shouldn't worry over levels of service they have come to expect, because officials had anticipated the departures that reach as high in rank as Deputy Fire Chief

Gregory Sprys-Tellner. "The residents of Canton and our customers will not see a reduction in service as a result of these retirements," Meier said. Meier, saying "we've

had some time to prepare" for the retirements, said internal promotional vacancies already have been filled. Moreover, Canton is expected to finish hiring a new round of lower-ranking firefighters within six to eight weeks.

Battalion Chief Michael Caruso, vice president of Canton Professional Firefighters Local 2289 and president of the Canton Firefighters Charity Foundation, said he

and other command officers had little recourse other than retiring, due to state-level changes he said would force them to pay more for retiree health care while reducing their pensions.

"That's pretty much the case with everyone. Nobody wanted to leave," Caruso, 50, said.

The departures also come as the firefighters union and Canton Township have been involved in lengthy negotiations

over a contract that expired June 30.

Caruso said he believes the Canton Fire Department has had effective training for those replacing the retirees. He agreed with Meier that service levels aren't expected to be a problem.

"I don't think that's going to be an issue," he said.

Despite their retirement, Caruso and other

See RETIREMENT, Page A3



Kiwanis Club member Michael Siegrist, the youngest member of the club, volunteered to help serve at Sunday's Plymouth Township Good Ol' Fashioned picnic.

## Computer expert warns of scam

By Darrell Clem  
Staff Writer

A computer-savvy Canton resident has issued a warning to consumers after he received repeated telephone calls he attributed to a bogus technical support scam.

The resident, a consultant who has spent decades in the computer industry, didn't want his name used because he was afraid it might trigger more scams directed at him.

But he said he knew better when a caller, without disclosing a company name, called him and advised him that his home computer wasn't receiving the updates it needed from a server.

He was well aware that sophisticated criminals use such tactics hoping to obtain personal information they can use to hack into a computer or gain remote access to it.

"I've heard about this scam before and I wasn't about to bite," he said. "I always do updates on my computer by hand, so I know what's going into my machine. I just hung up."

After receiving repeated phone calls, the man has issued a warning for others who may be vulnerable to criminals who initiate phone calls and pose as technical support employees.

His advice: "Hang up." If calls persist, he said, ask which company the caller is representing and try to get as much information as possible in case bank accounts and other personal information are compromised.

"Hackers are always looking for ways to get your information," he said, adding later, "Don't provide them with information. Don't begin to follow their directions."

According to a Microsoft website, cyber criminals don't

See SCAM, Page A3

## YOUTH MOVEMENT

Service clubs looking to attract younger members

By Brad Kadrich  
Staff Writer

Art Butler tells a pretty good story that demonstrates some of the challenges facing service clubs with aging memberships and a need to get younger to survive.

Butler, president of the Plymouth Noon Rotary Club, said he knew of one club that fined its members if their cell phones went off during a meeting. Such a rule, Butler contends, could keep younger people, connected like no previous generation to technology, out of the ranks of the club.

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The annual Rotary Chicken Barbecue during the Plymouth Fall Festival is the Rotary Club's most visible project. BILL BRESLER / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Projects for the factory cleanup included painting, along with trimming and cutting down trees and bushes, trash pickup, fence removal and other labor-intensive jobs.

## Volunteers scrub old Ford factory

By Brad Kadrich  
Staff Writer

Anyone out Friday walking past the old Henry Ford factory in Canton's Cherry Hill Village may not have recognized it if they made the same walk Sunday.

Some 100 volunteers, partnering with local businesses and the Canton Partnership for the Arts & Humanities, spent nearly four hours Saturday cleaning up the factory, pur-

chased last year by the Partnership to create an arts complex.

Workers scrubbed the factory, located on a 14-acre property that includes a residential dormitory and the 50,000-square-foot factory built over a portion of the Lower Rouge River.

"The event was a huge success," said Jill Engel, director of the Partnership. "The difference in 3½ hours was night and day."

Staffers from Mans Lumber and Millwork came out to the property the previous Thursday evening to "prep the big stuff," Engel said, and volunteers showed up Saturday morning.

Projects included trimming and cutting down trees and bushes, then moving all of it into piles, painting, trash pickup and fence removal – much more labor-intensive jobs.

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# Heise wants crackdown on unsafe fuel-hauling

By Matt Joachim  
Staff Writer

A state lawmaker from Plymouth Township wants to crack down on dangerous gas-line-hauling practices following reports of large quantities of gas being pumped into makeshift containers aboard non-commercial vehicles.

Republican state Rep. Kurt Heise, whose district also includes part of

Canton, said the problem was brought to his attention by news of three charges against three men who were linked by township police to the pumping of about 900 gallons of gas into home-made tanks, one in a pickup truck and one in a van, and by at least one report of the attempted theft of a large amount of gas from a larger area station.

The Plymouth Township board meeting occurred May 10 at the Speedway station at Ann Arbor Road and Sheldon. The men were charged with multiple counts of conspiracy to possess a fraudulent financial transaction device after police found the credit cards used had been altered with stolen credit card numbers. The case is pending in Wayne County Circuit Court.

Heise said he was alarmed to hear that the pickup and van in that case each held approximately 450 gallons of the flammable liquid in crude containers.

"You are creating a tremendous public health and safety hazard" by carrying that much gasoline in an unapproved container, Heise said.

Police, during a 35th District Court preliminary hearing for the trio in June, also expressed concern about the danger of letting the two men with the vehicles drive off in them.

"Whether it is direct theft from a tank or conspiracy using credit cards or some other type of fraud, people should not be carrying large amounts of gasoline in a haphazard manner, Heise said.

Heise said he's asked the state's Legislative Services Bureau to draft proposed legislation that would make the unreg-

ulated hauling of large amounts of gasoline a felony. Heise said he suggested an amount of more than 100 gallons, but could lower that to 50 gallons.

"Fifty gallons is a lot of gas to be carrying around, even in an approved container," he said.

Heise said he's not focused on the regulated shipping of gasoline to gas stations or on the transport of gasoline in approved containers, for construction or agricultural uses, but on the use of homemade storage and shipping tanks. He

said prosecutors need a law that's more "on point" with which to go after people who create such a hazard.

In the Plymouth Township case, the gasoline was seized by police with the vehicles and taken to a facility for re-refining, but not before some of it leaked and had to be cleaned up at the township's Division of Public Services yard.

Each of the 10 charges brought against each defendant carries a maximum penalty of up to four years in prison.

mjoachim@hometownlife.com



Team Forza members made it through the Tough Mudder to claim their coveted orange headbands.

## Team braves 'Mudder' to earn headbands

By Brad Kadrich  
Staff Writer

That's a lot to go through.

Canton's Christa Bekker and the rest of her Team Forza, including a couple of guys who joined the team that morning, braved an ice bath, a fire trench and a muddy pit of water. They walked the plank and slogged through miles of mud to earn what Bekker called "our coveted orange Tough Mudder headbands" at the Tough Mudder Michigan last week at Michigan International Speedway in Brooklyn.

The team - Bekker, Karen Bruby, Dr. Rebecca Himm, Marc Sullivan,

Jackie Montalvo, Heather Graham, Alyssa Prokos and Christie Donahue - made it through the 12 miles of mud and some 20 obstacles to complete the course.

"We came together in the mud as business owners, college students and professionals," Bekker said. "Tough Mudder is a team endurance event and we helped each other through the obstacles and kept each other going along the long miles of mud."

Teammates ranged in age from 22 to 50 years old and, according to Bekker, came from differing backgrounds. Sullivan and Montalvo came from a martial arts background, while Himm has previous running and

cross-training experience. Bekker did six months of strength training to get ready and added in her background in running and sprint triathlons.

Bekker said team members had their own reasons for competing. Hers - she turned 50 this year.

"I wanted to do something big," Bekker said. "My husband and kids were there to support me, even though my doctor husband thought I was crazy doing these risky obstacles."

Those obstacles included: » The Arctic Enema, an ice bath competitors jump into and, according to Bekker, "come out with a splitting headache that lasts about a minute."

» The Firewalker, which requires runners to jump over a trench of fire and land in a pit of muddy water.

» Walk the Plank, which requires jumping off a 15-foot wall into a pit of muddy water.

There was also the Electric Eel, the Funky Monkey and Boa Constrictor. In the end, Bekker said, it was all worth it.

"The Tough Mudder event is all about strength, endurance, overcoming fear and helping each other out," she said. "The scrapes and bruises will fade, but the memories, friendships and orange headbands will always be a part of our lives."

## Mom's advice inspires author's sudoku book

By Julie Brown  
Staff Writer

Divyang (Dave) Pandit of Plymouth Township used to find sudoku puzzles difficult. That changed a few years ago with a trip to Houston, Texas, to see his mother, new 91.

The retired General Motors engineer took a family trip in the summer of 2008 and began to unravel the sudoku solution code. His mother, Sushilaben Pandit, showed him what sudoku and east Indian folk dance have in common.

In a popular circle dance called "Garba" in the western state of Gujarat, dancers go around and around, with different steps, until the song or music is done. Pandit was surprised to see on that trip that his mom, without English skills and a seventh-grade education, could finish sudoku puzzles.

"It's simple," she told him, comparing the puzzles to the dance steps. "She said, 'I'll show you how. You take the steps and go around and around.'"

The author of *Sudoku Puzzles 'Guru'*, which was self-published this year, compared the dance to a stone in India in the center of a circle used for grinding wheat.

Pandit retired from GM in 2008 after nearly 40 years there. He had begun to do sudoku puzzles a couple of years earlier.

"Sudoku starting showing up in quite a few newspapers," said *The Detroit News* reader, who doesn't do crosswords. "I said, 'Let me try it.'"

With an engineering background, he tried a mathematical approach. "After a couple tries, I couldn't get anywhere," he said. "I said maybe I'm doing something wrong."

That 2008 Houston

"It's simple. 'She said, 'I'll show you how. You take the steps and go around and around.'"

DIVYANG PANDIT  
Plymouth author

trip was for his brother's health problems, with the brother now doing well. Pandit was also in London, England, for a family wedding and was in newspapers there and worldwide.

His book's first part has "Guru Methods" of how to steps. Part 2 has 52 examples of varying difficulty. The cover notes sudoku is the "Rubik's Cube of the 21st Century."

He talked to a Pittsburgh, Pa., publisher about the book, but went the self-publishing route. Pandit, a U.S. citizen who came here in 1968, said, "I'm learning what the e-book is all about." *Sudoku Puzzles 'Guru'* will soon be an e-book.

He noted the word "sudoku" is Japanese for "single digit." He's talked to people in India, the U.S. and England who've all said they have five to seven methods to solve the puzzles. He hadn't heard of anyone with one solution.

Pandit will later split his book into two parts to help keep the cost down. He's looking to recruit what he's invested. Half the sudoku market is age 45 and up, suitable for print. "The e-book would be for the younger generation," he said.

He's grateful for his mother's help, but so far her present has been a box of about 50 books. "Not yet," he said of a special gift. "I just came back from there (Houston)."

Pandit, 68, is married with two sons, two grandchildren and an orphaned grandchild due soon. His wife is a University of Detroit journalism graduate working

in public relations and was a help in publishing the book.

He was born in Visnagar, Gujarat, India, and earned his bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering at Gujarat University. After working at a large chemical plastics manufacturing company in Mumbai, he came to the U.S. for graduate work.

Pandit earned a master's degree in mechanical engineering from Michigan Technological University, along with an M.B.A. from the University of Detroit. His GM career included management roles in engineering, financial and information technology functions. He's lived in Plymouth Township since 1998 and in the Plymouth-Canton community since 1974.

In the six years since his mother shared her insight, Pandit has been working on continuously improving his methods.

In the process of learning and writing the book, he has learned much about himself. It reminded him of other activities of the past that took him out of his comfort zone.

"I am reminded of my past reluctance to read comics from the daily newspapers," he said. "For so many years, the first thing I would discard from a daily newspaper was its funnies section. One day, my son Adarsh, when in his high school years, introduced me to some of the comics he was fond of. Since then, not only do I regularly read many of those comic strips with enjoyment, but I have also introduced some of them to my grandchildren."

Pandit's hope is that his book will have a similar effect on many who are not yet touched by the sudoku puzzle craze. The book is \$19.95 plus shipping and handling and is available through the website *Sudoku PuzzlesGuru.com* and also on Amazon.com.

jbrown@hometownlife.com

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## Jaycees grow with youthful leadership

By Brad Kadrich  
Staff Writer

One's been around six decades, the other barely a year.

But in the face of other service clubs struggling to get young-er, both the Redford Junior Chamber and the Plymouth-Canton Junior Chamber are showing high signs of life with a vigorous, youthful membership eager to tackle challenges in which they believe.

The Redford Jaycees are in their 59th presidency, while the Plymouth-Canton Jaycees – the latest of many incarnations of the group – celebrate their first anniversary this month. But both groups continue to grow.

In Plymouth-Canton, it's a reboot of an old club. While they are happy to be called "Jaycees" on an individual basis, leadership wants to make sure the group is known as the Plymouth-Canton Junior Chamber for specific reasons.

"It was very intentional when we rebooted," said Erin Williams, chairman of the Plymouth-Canton Junior Chamber board. "We wanted to re-brand the group because it has been up and down so many times. No one quite knows what the 'Jaycees' are. When I joined, I had a friend ask me if it's a religious thing."

"People can at least guess what 'Junior Chamber' is," she added. "It sounds a little more professional."

In Redford, people know what the Jaycees are. The club has been around 59 years and currently counts more than 60 members up from only about 30 three



Plymouth-Canton Junior Chamber President Jasmine Millwood (left), Jaycee Garrett Collins and board chair Erin Williams volunteer at the Mirale League of Plymouth baseball field.

years ago). The club has drawn from a varying number of backgrounds. Among the members are cops, firefighters, township officials and even a parks commissioner.

And they have one goal.

"It's a lot of young people very engaged in the community looking to make Redford a better place," said Jay Johnson, a 31-year-old past president and himself a Redford Township trustee. "A big part of (the club's growth) is that Redford has worked very hard to show members the benefit of being a Jaycee."

Growth has been strong for the Plymouth-Canton group, as well. The group started last year when child advocate Jasmine Millwood, who strives to fight child abuse and raise awareness on the issue, was looking to hold a 5K fundraiser. Williams approached Millwood with the idea that forming the Plymouth-Canton Junior Chamber would give her some organizational backing. While she was at it, Williams convinced Millwood to serve as the group's first president.

Since then, other energetic young people, such as former Plymouth Township Deputy Clerk Eric Bacynski and Abby Stonerock, a community representative for the American Cancer Society, have joined the fold.

"People want to be with like-minded people," Williams said. "Jasmine and Abby are so magnetic and they're passionate. It's easy for people to sign on to what they're selling."

"You have to be positive and excited about it," she added. "And you also have to ask, 'What's the key thing. Service organizations don't grow just because they exist; you have to ask.'"

The Jaycees benefit from the flexibility to take on a variety of projects. "We really try to help people explore what their passions are," Johnson said – and draw from members' causes. In Redford, the community garden is a big project and the club also has a softball team that engages a lot of people.

In Plymouth, members sponsored the 5K to benefit Millwood's child abuse awareness cause and they've also adopted the section of Joy Road from Canton Center to Beck.

The Plymouth-Canton Junior Chamber meets the fourth Wednesday of each month at the Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce, 850 W. Ann Arbor Trail. Find them at Facebook.com/juniorchamberinternationallymouthcanton.

The Redford Junior Chamber meets the third Monday of each month at Redford Jaycee Hall, 15585 Beech Daly.



Volunteers Mike Theisen, Jim McLaughlin and Nancy Williams, all from Canton, sorted donations for last year's annual Canton Goodfellows Christmas distribution.

## CLUBS

Continued from Page A1

"Someone said, 'My boss said I could come, but I had to have my cell in case he needed to get hold of me,'" Butler said. "That makes sense. Seventy-five years ago, obviously, we need to adjust to the times."

Those adjustments are starting to be made by members of many service clubs, some formed nearly a century ago, in times that weren't so fast-paced, when service to the community wasn't trumped by high-tech lifestyles.

With the membership of these service organizations aging, finding more youthful leaders could become a challenge.

Case in point: Farmington Goodfellows President Dave Kenson would love to hand over his presidency to a new, younger leader, but he's got a major – and familiar – problem.

"It's the same problem service groups like the Goodfellows – and Rotary and Lions and Kiwanis and others – have. That never, younger leader simply isn't there."

### A generational thing

According to Kenson, the Farmington Goodfellows have some 50 members and, at age 60, he's one of the youngest.

"It's a very big concern," Kenson said. "I joined Farmington Area Goodfellows in my late 30s and became a board member in my mid-40s. Two other gentlemen of my same age joined the board at the same time. We're now in our late 50s and 60s and we are still some of the youngest on our board."

Butler recognizes the same issues and he believes it's a generational thing. Butler said his 100-member organization is made up mostly of older members, many of whom have been around a long time.

The group's parent organization, Rotary International, was formed in Chicago in 1905 as a way to bring together business and professional leaders to provide humanitarian services, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations and help build goodwill and peace in the world, according to the group's website.

Butler said older members are part of a generation of Rotarians who required 100-percent attendance, who owned or operated their own business and could manage to get the time off every week. Nowadays, he said, that's getting harder and harder.

"The way the economy is now, it's not reasonable to expect the business people to get the time off every week," said Butler, whose club meets at noon each Friday at the Plymouth Cultural Center. "We've gotten away from (some of those rules) because we've had to keep business people attending."

Some clubs, Butler pointed out, are trying new ways to attract younger members. Meetings have been shifted to early morning or evening, others offer some sort of child care during meetings. He said young people want to serve, but adjustments need to be made to accommodate their busier schedules and the needs of young families.

"We have some excellent young people, but we need more of them," Butler said. "Some of the clubs that are hitting better with younger people are the ones that meet in the afternoon, so the young executives can stop on their way home, have their meeting and still be home in time to put the kids to bed."

### New members crucial

Livonia Lions Club President Matt Collins said his club is tackling the youth issue, as well. Collins, who also serves as membership chairman of Lions Club District 11A-1, said his Livonia club has increased its membership "quite dramatically," more than doubling its membership from just 25 members five years ago to nearly 60 today.

The club was helped by an influx of members from the disbanded Redford Township club, which had trouble sustaining its membership and folded in 2008. Collins said the Redford club suffered the same fate – declining membership – that has befallen a lot of service clubs the last few years.

"Whether it's Knights of Columbus, Kiwanis, Jaycees, Lions," Collins said, "you name it, membership has been declining."

Collins said the Livonia club initiated a "Meet the Lions" dinner several years ago, an event to which club leadership invited local citizens to help serve their community. He said part of that influx has been young people.

"We invited younger guests to come in and learn about Lions and see if they'd like to participate," Collins said. "It worked. It's been effective enough that other clubs have taken the same approach to reach out with similar results."

"New members are the future. They bring ideas, they bring energy, they bring energy and they're tomorrow's leaders," he added. "If you don't have new members today, you don't have leaders tomorrow."

It's the same thought they had in the Plymouth Kiwanis Club, where leaders have started reaching out to newer, younger members. And they're starting to attract them.

Michael Siegrist has sort of grown up with the Kiwanis Club (his father Dave is a member and respected leader). His dad, Siegrist said, showed that Kiwanis was "more a way of life than an organization."

He has seen first-hand some of the club's biggest projects – the Kids Against Hunger food program that has become the club's flagship

service project, as well as highway cleanups, bell-ringing for the Salvation Army's Red Kettle campaign and fishing derbies.

"Being apart of a service club is more than just doing a project or going to meetings; it permeates every aspect of your daily life," Siegrist said. "I was witness to the fulfillment he received in taking responsibility for the welfare and integrity of the community."

### Targeting students

Many of the clubs have developed youth groups in an effort to attract younger members. The Kiwanis Club has its "Key Club" for high school students, while Rotary has "Interact," the high school equivalent of a Rotary Club. The hope, according to Westland Rotary Club President Antoinette Martin, is that those youngsters will stick with Rotary as they age.

"It's high school kids trying to do good for their communities with fundraisers, book giveaways, bell-ringing for the Salvation Army," Martin said. "As people get older, what we want them to do is join Rotaract (for members in their 20s and 30s)."

It hasn't been easy, but the Westland club, Martin said, is getting contributions from younger members now. She said growing membership is challenged by young peoples' focus on their own families and "trying to build their own future." Plus, many young people, she said, do similar service work through their church now.

It's when they grow up a little and start building a business, that they "come upon us," Martin said.

Maria Mitter works for Eastern Michigan University developing after-school programs and made a presentation to the Westland Rotary about potential funding for a project her group was developing. Rotary members were enthusiastic about the project and Mitter, in turn, got excited about the Westland Rotary.

"I loved the fact the majority of the money raised by Rotary stays in the community," said Mitter, a Livonia native who has done work in the Wayne-Westland area for a dozen years. "I wanted to be part of a group that contributed to the Westland area and to Wayne-Westland schools. They saw opportunities and made decisions to use their funding to better the community."

Rotary International has 12 million members for a project like this worldwide, but local officials are still worried about growth, particularly among younger people.

"We're always looking for new membership," Westland's Martin said. "It's like anything – you have to be growing or you're dying."

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# Gift supports DREAM program

AT&T recently made a contribution for \$20,000 to Vista Maria in Dearborn Heights in support of the organization's DREAM Program (Dreams Realized through Education and Academic Mentoring), assisting at-risk teens in metro Detroit.

DREAM is a mentoring program that helps at-risk youth make the most out of their future plans.

At DREAM, it is the belief of the Vista Maria team and mentors that at-risk youth have the potential to excel in high school and succeed in college, despite life and academic challenges.

The DREAM students are encouraged to reach their greatest potential academically by matching them with mentors who are committed to their success.

"Many teens come to us feeling incapable and unworthy. Through our

DREAM program, we encourage kids to dream big and learn that all things are possible with planning and determination," Vista Maria President and CEO Angela Aufenberge said. "Our AT&T partnership is immeasurable due to their generous contributions that enable us to serve dozens more teens and equally as important are the AT&T mentors who work one on one with our teens. Working together, we are able to help at-risk teens to succeed in school and in life."

State Rep. Phil Cavanaugh, D-Redford, and a board adviser for Vista Maria, said: "Our local communities have no greater resource than our young people and the partnership between Vista Maria and AT&T is making a real difference in many of their lives." DREAM offers students mentoring, train-



Cantor resident and former AT&T Executive Candie Bucks and Women of AT&T President Nancy Givens present a \$20,000 contribution to Vista Maria's DREAM Program. Standing with them are Vista Maria DREAM participants Terry Warrick, Jayelo Harvey, Cristal Lewis and Guy Warrick.

ing, support and advocacy, in a safe non-judgmental environment. Biweekly workshops take place in youth-focused settings on the campus of Vista Maria. Mentors work with local high school students in the core areas of critical thinking; reading com-

prehension; written communication; public speaking; goal setting and attainment; self-advocacy; career planning; college preparation; and studying.

DREAM has been instrumental in assisting a number of local teens to successfully complete



Women of AT&T, including Cantor resident Candie Bucks, celebrate a recent gift of \$20,000 from AT&T to Vista Maria's DREAM program. Standing with them are Vista Maria DREAM participants Terry Warrick, Jayelo Harvey, Cristal Lewis and Guy Warrick.

high school and go on to college.

The Women of AT&T, a staff employee resource group, volunteer extensively with the DREAM Program as part of the AT&T Aspire Mentoring Academy.

"The DREAM Program is something every-

one at Vista Maria, at AT&T and across the region can be proud of," said state Rep. David Knevez, D-Deaen Heights.

"The work they are doing together is changing lives and preparing our kids for a successful future."

## ON CAMPUS

### Albion College

Several local students were named to Albion College's Dean's list for the spring 2013 semester. Students named to the Dean's List must achieve a grade-point average of 3.5 or above at the completion of the semester.

**Brett de Bear** is majoring in English education and minoring in history education, with a concentration in the Fritz Shurmur Center for Teacher Development secondary certification program. She is the daughter of Robert and Jane de Bear of Plymouth and a graduate of Salem High School.

**Cara Delaney** is majoring in mathematics education and minoring in physics education and art, with a concentration in the Fritz Shurmur Center for Teacher Development secondary certification program. He is the son of Paul and Kathleen LeFevre of Canton and a graduate of Detroit Catholic Central High School.

development secondary certification program. She is the daughter of Stuart and Beth Delaney of Plymouth and a graduate of Canton High School.

**Grace Dougherty** is majoring in biochemistry and anthropology and minoring in cell and molecular biology and is a member of the Prentiss M. Brown Honors Program. She is the daughter of David and Lucy Dougherty of Canton and a graduate of Sutton High School.

**Matthew LeFevre** is majoring in social studies education, with a concentration in the Fritz Shurmur Center for Teacher Development secondary certification program. He is the son of Paul and Kathleen LeFevre of Canton and a graduate of Detroit Catholic Central High School.



Big Family founder Jeanne Fowler (left) with Javon Coppins.

School.

**Jennifer Polinski** is majoring in biology and mathematics and is a member of the Prentiss M. Brown Honors Program. She is the daughter of Craig J. Polinski and Peggy A. Cummins of Plymouth and a graduate of Ladywood High School.

**Joseph Thomas** is majoring in chemistry

and philosophy and is a member of the Prentiss M. Brown Honors Program. He is the son of Patrick Thomas of Plymouth and Nina Thomas of Belleville and a graduate of Canton High School.

### Big Family

Big Family of Michigan, a nonprofit organization committed to sup-

porting children waiting to be adopted or in at-risk situations, recently handed out nine scholarships to help students continue their education.

One of those went to **Javon Coppins** of Canton, who will study to be an aviation technician at Michigan Institute of Aviation Technology. Eligible students were in foster care at some point prior to their 18th birthday; are enrolled in, or accepted to, an accredited post-secondary program at the undergraduate level, apprenticeship program or technical school; were under the age of 22 before March; and were in foster care or orphaned while living in Michigan.

### Northern Michigan

Northern Michigan University announces its graduates and several

students from the Plymouth-Canton area satisfied their degree requirements in May.

**Megan Meddaugh** of Canton earned a bachelor's degree in communications studies, while Plymouth residents **Emily Patton** (integrated science/secondary education), **Rachel Pawlowski** (nursing, cum laude) and **Kelly Waite** (physical education/coaching) also earned their degrees.

Northern Michigan also announced its Dean's List for the Winter 2013 semester. Students qualified with a grade-point average of 3.25-3.99.

» Canton — **Erica Bingham**, **James Hodgson**, **Leanna Miller**. » Plymouth — **Bethany Grysko**, **Anna Lang**, **Kaitlyn Salo**, **Kelly Waite**.

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## Income guidelines change for emergency food program

Income guidelines have been adjusted to allow more individuals and families to be served by TEFAP, the Emergency Food Assistance Program that provides low-income Plymouth and Northville residents with canned, non-perishable and perishable items.

The guidelines changed in March. The next distribution is scheduled for Thursday, July 18, at St. Kenneth Catholic Church, located on Haggerty north of Schoolcraft in Plymouth Township.

All recipients must preregister at the Plymouth Community United Way office, 960 W. Ann Arbor Trail, Ste. 2, in Plymouth.

This is a supplemental food program, so it may be used in addition to other assistance programs. Bridge Card holders automatically qualify, but need to register. Recipients not currently on governmental assistance (food stamps, ADC and general) need to provide documentation, including proof of income and residency, before receiving food.

Distributions continue 9:30-11 a.m. the third Thursday of each month at St. Kenneth Catholic Church.

For information, call Plymouth Community United Way at 734-453-6879, ext. 7, or email randi.williams@pcwu.org.

## Kiwanis set for annual golf outing

Kiwanis Club of Colonial Plymouth members are preparing for the club's largest annual fundraiser, the 31st annual Charity Golf Outing, set for Thursday, Aug. 1, on the Fox Classic course at Fox Hills Golf & Banquet Center.

Organizers point out the outing "is not your 'everyday' golf outing." It features golf, food, contests, surprises between the holes and an after-golf dinner program. The outing is open to the general public and the public is encouraged to participate. The event will include a return to its past by celebrating with a Hawaiian luau dinner. Hawaiian attire is encouraged.

The event is "a great way to have local businesses get their names in front of more than 250 volunteers and golfers," organizers said, with signs on the course, men-



Linda Siegrist and the rest of her team strike a pose for the 2012 Kiwanis Golf Outing. This year's event is set for Aug. 1 at Fox Hills.

tion in the Keepsake Program and mention on the club's website.

Most importantly, they said, 100 percent of the proceeds go to help fund the ongoing community service projects the club supports, such as the Plymouth Salvation Army, Mott Children's Hospital, Growth Works,

First Step, YMCA of Plymouth, Plymouth's Tonguish Manor, Plymouth Council on Aging, Habitat for Humanity, United Way of Plymouth, Special Olympics, Plymouth-Canton Clothing Bank, Plymouth-Canton Schools and many more. Cost for the outing is \$155 per golfer or \$620

for a foursome. Kiwanis Club of Colonial Plymouth also offers many sponsorship opportunities. New this year is a "Competitive A Fight" for an extra \$100 per foursome, which offers cash prizes for first, second and third place. A special handicapping system will be used to make it fun for all levels. Participants do not have to have an established handicap to participate in the "A Fight." Even competitive "duffers" will enjoy this "fight."

Individuals and local businesses can still be sponsors of this event and assist the Kiwanis Club in continuing the club's mission. Contact Frank Sinagra, Golf Outing chair, by calling 734-516-3438 or by email at frank@sinagra.net for more information. Fox Hills is located at 8768 N. Territorial west of Plymouth.

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## W-W offers free summer lunches at seven sites

By Sue Mason  
Staff Writer

Students in the Wayne-Westland Community Schools are invited to lunch as part of Wayne County's annual Free Summer Lunch Program.

Now through mid-August, lunches will be served free of charge to students up to age 18 and eligible young adults at sites in Wayne, Westland, Canton and Inkster. Several of the locations also are offering free breakfasts.

"We've been doing it for several years. We try to locate the lunch service where there are programs going on," said Joann Gross, director of the district's food service program. "We have it at Marshall, where the SMART Program is, credit recovery programs at the high

schools. Even students at band and football camps can take advantage of the lunches."

The service is available to students who receive free or reduced-price lunches during the regular school year. Those children will be able to continue to receive what they might not otherwise get during the summer. The lunches include a hot entree, fruit and vegetables, juice and milk.

The program is funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and administered by the Wayne County Department of Public Health. Wayne-Westland receives a flat reimbursement rate for those 18 and under who eat lunch and Gross is looking to make the lunches a break-even program.

Free lunches for resi-

dents through age 26 who are considered mentally or physically challenged by a state or local educational agency or who participate in public or private nonprofit school programs for the handicapped also are eligible to receive the free lunch.

In Wayne County, more 71,000 free lunches are served, and Gross hopes "reach 750,000 kids during the summer" in Wayne-Westland. The lunch programs are available Monday through Thursday at:

• Hicks Elementary School, 100 Helen, Inkster, Aug. 1-15. Breakfast is served 8-8:45 a.m. and lunch from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

• Taft Galloway Elementary School, 4035 Gloria, Wayne, through Aug. 8. Lunch is served from 11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.

• Westpoint Manor Clubhouse, 41021 Michigan Ave., Canton, through Aug. 8. Lunch is served from noon to 1 p.m.

• Wildwood Elementary School, 500 N. Wildwood, Westland, through Aug. 8. Breakfast is served 8:30-9:30 a.m. and lunch from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

• Marshall Upper Elementary School, 35100 Bayview, Westland, through Aug. 1. Breakfast is served 8:30-9 a.m. and lunch from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

• John Glenn High School, 36105 Marquette, Westland, through Aug. 8. Lunch is served from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

• Wayne Memorial High School, 3001 Fourth St., Wayne, through Aug. 15. Lunch is served from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

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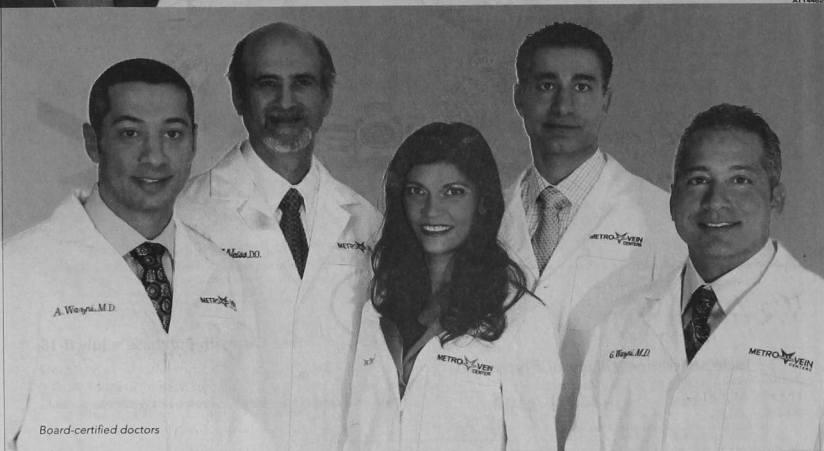
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# Oakwood renovates Canton medical facility

Oakwood executives, physicians and staff recently unveiled a \$250,000 renovation of the family medicine suite at Oakwood Healthcare Center-Canton.

The renovation was designed to create a more comfortable experience for patients, according to Richard Grucz, M.D., medical director of the center. The project included the expansion of 18 exam rooms, along with the addition of private HIPAA-compliant check-in and check-out areas. Also, the project increased the privacy in the physician and nurse workspaces.

"I couldn't be happier with the transformation we've had, both physically and in terms of service," Grucz said. "This is just one part of a series of improvements that started months ago with same day and Saturday appointments."

Oakwood Healthcare Center-Canton is located at 7330 N. Canton Center Road, just north of Warren, just north of the health care center was constructed shortly afterward. Along with the medical practices, it houses the only 24-hour emergency department in Canton Township.

Oakwood President & CEO Brian Connolly said the facility has come a long way since he first made the recommendation to purchase the Canton property nearly 35 years ago, when he was part of Oakwood's strategic planning team. "It's funny how things go full circle," Connolly said. "It was so dramatic coming in here and seeing the incredible difference."

Grucz said the changes would not have been possible without



Lisa Kelly, Michael Geheb, M.D., Jennifer Schrettnir, Melissa Gould, R.N., Richard Grucz, M.D., Brian Connolly, Andrea Szuper, M.D., and Rick Hillbom prepare to cut the ribbon, celebrating the \$250,000 renovation of the family medicine suite at Oakwood Healthcare Center-Canton.

the staff, who helped keep patient flow steady during the construction. "This is a celebration of all the progress this

practice has made, not just the renovation," said Robert Sharon, M.D., chief medical officer for Oakwood Physicians.

"What has been done here is a model that we'd like to adopt at all of our Healthcare Centers." To schedule an ap-

pointment at Oakwood Healthcare Center-Canton, call 734-454-8001.

## Chorale hosts youth choir camp

The BeckRidge Chorale and Cherry Hill Singers host a week-long youth choir camp beginning Monday for students in third through sixth grades.

The Chorale has enlisted Keri Mueller, vocal music teacher at Workman Elementary School in the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools, to lead the camp.

"Getting kids fired up about singing is something I am very passionate about," Mueller said. "There's nothing more rewarding than helping kids fulfill their own passion for music. We live in a community filled with children that are passionate about singing and performing, but might need to expand their skill set and increase their confidence. That's where I come in."



Workman Elementary School teacher Keri Mueller will lead the BeckRidge Chorale's youth choir camp this week.

Throughout the week-long camp, students will practice and learn vocal techniques that build upon a foundation for solid, healthy singing. Students will do this through games, vocal exercises, movement and a wide variety of repertoire. Participants will

also spend some time on audition strategies and tips.

"Auditioning can be unsettling and stressful," Mueller said. "I believe the process should build confidence, not deplete it. I want all kids to have a fair chance at an audition and be given the opportunity to grow as a performer."

The Youth Choir Camp runs from 9 a.m. to noon July 8-12 at the BeckRidge Productions Rehearsal and Performance Studio in Canton. Tuition for the five-day camp is \$100 per student. Enrollment is limited to 50 students.

Parents can register their students online at [www.beckridgechorale.org](http://www.beckridgechorale.org) - Youth Choir. For additional information, contact the BeckRidge Chorale at 734-667-3127.

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Samara Carter and Cassandra Hess are cotton candy fans. They're from Dearborn Heights.



Spree rides draw big crowds. ALL PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

## Rainy weather cuts into Spree attendance; planning starts for 2014

By Karen Smith  
Staff Writer

Planning for Spree 64, next year's event, has already begun. Spree board President Dan Spurling said Monday, the day after the city of Livonia's week-long birthday celebration concluded.

"It started at lunch today," he said, after board members and committee members spent the morning cleaning up debris at Ford Field. "You start looking at what we did, how we can tweak



Robert Lee Revue includes Robert Lee Balderrama on lead guitar, Amy Lynn Balderrama on percussion and Jack Nash on bass. Their smooth jazz sound was heard Wednesday evening.

it." Spurling said each year, Spree organizers look for ways to improve

the event. "What attracts people one year might not attract people the next year," he said.

One thing that can never be tweaked, however, is the weather. It rained four of the six days of this year's Spree, held June 25-30.

"It was quite a challenge; it took the crowds away," Spurling said. "That's the only thing you can't control is the weather. It would be nice to be able to put a big bubble over it."

This year, Spree featured more entertainment than ever before, but some of the bands that typically draw large crowds in other communities did not draw them at Livonia Spree. It's possible Spree offered too much entertainment, especially Tuesday night, Spurling said. "It's hard to find that perfect little mix."

Other bands were blockbusters at Spree. Mega '80s, for example, drew so many people Saturday night to the Main Stage, the tent was "just bursting the seams. You couldn't fit another person in there."

Perennial Spree favorites, however, include the petting zoo and pig races. "One year, we got rid of the pig races and we got tons of phone calls," Spurling said.

This year, surveillance cameras became a regular part of Spree security after being piloted in 2012. More police officers than in previous years were on duty as well, Spurling said. There were no incidents reported, even Sunday night with the thousands who came to watch the grand finale fireworks show.

Even the weather cooperated that night. The 25-minute fireworks show "went phenomenal, without a hint, right on time," Spurling said. And "the weather was perfect. You can't ask for anything more than that."

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# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

## PRICE HOURS

**Date/Time:** Monday, July 8, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

**Location:** Plymouth District Library, 223 S. Main, in Plymouth

**Details:** Wayne County Commissioner Shannon Price, R-District 10, conducts district office hours to give constituents the opportunity to discuss matters of concern within the community. "This is a wonderful opportunity to meet with constituents from my district and listen closely to their concerns," Price said. "I look forward to these sessions, because as we continue to move Wayne County forward, we must explore new ways and ideas in which to achieve those goals. The participation by my constituents is always greatly appreciated."

**Contact:** For more information, contact Price staff aide Mike Mitchell, 313-224-0882.

## MEET WITH HEISE

**Date/Time:** Monday, July 8, 10-11 a.m. (Canton); noon to 1 p.m. (Northville); 3-4 p.m. (Plymouth)

**Locations:** Parthenon Cony Island, 39910 Ford Road, Canton; Northville District Library, 212 W. Gady, Northville; Plymouth District Library, 223 S. Main, Plymouth.

**Details:** State Rep. Kurt Heise invites local residents to meet with him to share their perspectives and ask questions. 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-REPUKURT or email kurt.heise@house.mi.gov to schedule an appointment.

## SENIOR OLYMPICS

**Date/Time:** Aug. 12-16, 8 a.m. (opening ceremony Aug. 12)

**Location:** Opening ceremony, Nankin Mills Field

**Details:** Plymouth seniors age 50 and older should get ready for the ninth annual Western Wayne County Senior Olympics. Opening Day Expo will be held at the Nankin Mills Field (Hines Drive south of Ann Arbor Trail). The \$6 registration fee will include Olympic T-shirt, healthy breakfast sponsored by Heartland Canton, Heartland Plymouth County, Heartland Livonia and Heartland Livonia North East. The Torch Light Ceremony will begin at 9:30 a.m. and all programs, activities and events will officially begin and will continue the entire week, concluding with an awards banquet. Registration forms and

brochures are available at the PCA Office, 201 S. Main, in Plymouth.

## APIA DINNER

**Date/Time:** Saturday, July 27, 6-10 p.m.

**Location:** East Lake Chinese Restaurant, 5087 Rochester Road, in Troy

**Details:** Asian-Pacific Islander American Vote-All hosts its third annual dinner to honor and recognize outstanding APIAs in the community. The keynote speaker will be Tuiyit Lo, executive director of the Asian American Institute, a Midwest Pan-Asian organization committed to empowering Asian Americans through advocacy by utilizing research, education and coalition building. Tickets are \$65 (general admission and one-year membership), \$50 (general admission and \$40 for members).

**Contact:** Sally Kim, 313-438-8862 or email sallykim@apiavoteall.org

## BIPOLAR SUPPORT

**Date/Time:** Second and fourth Tuesday of the month, 6-7:30 p.m.

**Location:** Lincoln Behavioral Services Center, 14500 Sheldon, Suite 1608, in Plymouth

**Details:** The Depression Bipolar Support Alliance is a self-help group for people suffering from depression and bipolar disorders. Meetings are open also to family members. All DBSA leaders are professionally trained and attend two trainings for every year to update their skills in leading the group.

**Contact:** Call Nancy at 734-536-3457 for directions.

## DIABETES SUPPORT

**Date/Time:** Second Thursday of the month, 2-3:30 p.m.

**Location:** Plymouth District Library, 223 S. Main

**Details:** The Plymouth Lions Club is sponsoring a new Adult Diabetes Support Group. Fern Vining, a registered nurse, certified diabetes educator and Plymouth Lion, will be the group facilitator. There is no charge to attend. Topics for discussion will focus on understanding diabetes and self management strategies.

**Contact:** Call Fern Vining at 734-454-0859.

## SUPPORT GROUP

**Date/Time:** Second Monday of the month, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

**Location:** Kirk of Our Savior Presbyterian Church, 16660 Cherry Hill, Westland

**Details:** Do you have a loved one in jail or prison? If you

heart broken because of it? Then contact Bonnie at Hope 4 Healing Hearts, who will provide a safe place to talk and share with others, a place where you can learn how to cope with all of the new and frightening experiences. Learn from others as they share ideas, resources and support. Donations appreciated.

**Contact:** For questions or more information, contact Bonnie at 734-646-2237 or by email at prettymanarch@comcast.net.

## CALLING ALL CRAFTERS

**Date/Time:** Saturday, Oct. 19, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**Location:** West Middle School, Ann Arbor Trail and Sheldon, Plymouth

**Details:** Crafters wanted for Delta Kappa Gamma's 29th annual Craft Show. Proceeds from the show will be used to support college scholarships for local students focusing on careers in education.

**Contact:** Call or email Judy at 734-347-1001 or jbotone716@comcast.net or Alice at 248-348-9610 or dachrenko@hotmail.com

## CRAFTERS WANTED

**Date/Time:** Sept. 6-8, during Fall Festival hours

**Location:** Plymouth

**Details:** Organizers say it's not too early to send in an application for a booth in the Plymouth Fall Festival Craft Show. Spaces are limited and filling up quickly. Applications are available on the Craft Show website at [www.plymouthfallfestival.com](http://www.plymouthfallfestival.com).

**Contact:** For more information, contact Colleen Brown, craftshow@plymouthfallfestival.com or 734-455-1614.

## HOSPICE SUPPORT

**Date/Time:** Third Saturday of the month, 10-11:30 a.m.

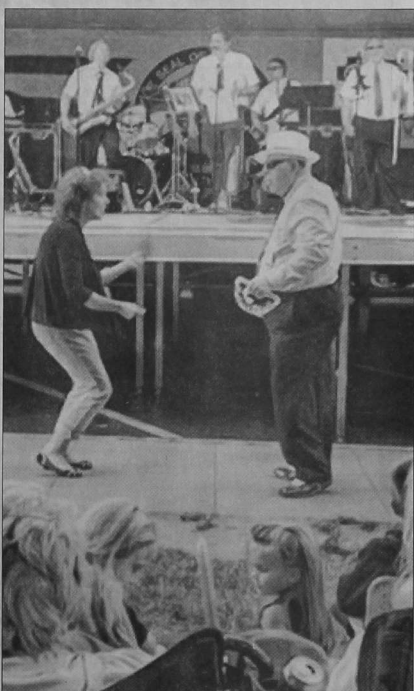
**Location:** Compassionate Care Hospice, 5730 Lilley, Canton

**Details:** Compassionate Care Hospice conducts a grief support group, "Compassionate Words," providing emotional support to any adult grieving the loss of a loved one. The group focuses on the various stages of grief, and incorporates basic journaling as a way to express feelings. The program is free of charge.

**Contact:** To register, contact Ann Christensen, Compassionate Care Hospice bereavement coordinator, at 888-983-9050 or email [achristensen@cchonet.net](mailto:achristensen@cchonet.net).

## MOPS METINGS

**Date/Time:** First and third Fridays of the month, 9:15-11:30



Dancers enjoyed themselves earlier this month at during the Friday night concert series at Kellogg Park in downtown Plymouth.


a.m.

**Location:** St. Kenneth Catholic Church, 14951 Haggerty, Plymouth Township

**Details:** The St. Edith/St. Kenneth Catholic Parishes' Mothers

of Preschoolers group invites all mothers with children aged newborn through kindergarten to join. The group provides encouragement, nurturing and support and features a schedule

of activities that includes speakers, crafts and group discussions. **Contact:** Heather at 734-437-9517 or email [stetk-mops@gmail.com](mailto:stetk-mops@gmail.com), or visit [www.stekmops.org](http://www.stekmops.org).



**NOTICE**

**CITY OF PLYMOUTH, MICHIGAN**

**2013 SUMMER TAXES**

Summer taxes are due **July 1, 2013** and payable through **August 10, 2013** without penalty. Additional information appears on the reverse side of your tax statement. **MAKE ALL CHECKS PAYABLE TO: CITY OF PLYMOUTH.**

Payments can be made at City Hall during regular business hours, Monday – Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. at the Treasurer's office. After hours, payments can be placed in the DROP BOX located in the Church Street lobby of City Hall or use the DROP BOX located next to the book return behind the Library. For additional payment options, please check the City website @ [ci.plymouth.mi.us](http://ci.plymouth.mi.us).

Teresa Cischke, MICPT/CFFPA  
City Treasurer

47144002 - 0413

Publish: July 4 and 7, 2013

**PLYMOUTH TOWNSHIP SENDS OUT WATER QUALITY REPORT**

The Plymouth Township Water and Sewer Department has sent out its annual drinking water quality report to consumers.

Among other things, the report discloses the amount of various materials in the water, including microbial and inorganic contaminants, and pesticides and herbicides.

The annual report has been required by law since the U.S. Congress passed the 1996 Safe Drinking Act Amendments.

Most of the Detroit metro area, including Plymouth Township, gets its drinking water from the Detroit River. The Detroit Water and Sewerage Department operates the water treatment facilities and pumping stations that supply water to the township, which operates the pipeline infrastructure and acts as the retailer to area businesses and residents.

Residents or business owners who have not received the report or have further questions can contact the Plymouth Township Water and Sewer Department at (734) 354-3270.

Publish: July 7, 2013

47144003 - 0413

**PLANNING COMMISSION NOTICE**

**CITY OF PLYMOUTH, MICHIGAN**

**CITY HALL, 201 S. MAIN**

**WEDNESDAY, JULY 24, 2013**

**7:00 PM**

**(734) 453-1234**

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In accordance with the Americans with disabilities Act, the City of Plymouth will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audiotapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting/hearing, to individuals with disabilities. Requests for auxiliary aids or services may be made by writing or calling the following:

Maureen Brodie, ADA Coordinator  
201 S. Main Street  
Plymouth, Michigan 48170  
(734) 453-1234, Ext. 206

Publish: July 7, 2013

47143200 344.5

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- **Runner-up:** 4 Toledo Zoo admission passes and a year's membership to the Toledo Zoo
- **Third Prize:** 4 Toledo Zoo admission passes

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**WILD Summer Day Trip contest**

Entries must be submitted by July 16, 2013 at [toledozoo.org/daytrip](http://toledozoo.org/daytrip), [hometownlife.com](http://hometownlife.com). Don't Miss mobile or by completing this form and sending to Observer & Eccentric Media, 615 W. Lafayette Blvd, Detroit, MI 48226.

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Day Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Evening Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_  
One entry per person

Official rules at [hometownlife.com](http://hometownlife.com)

Sponsored by the Observer & Eccentric Media and the Toledo Zoo.

# Gebhardt to lead SEMCOG for 2013-14

A trustee of Schoolcraft College has been elected 2013-14 chair of the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments. Joan Gebhardt, the college board's treasurer,

was elected to lead the organization at SEMCOG's annual General Assembly meeting June 20. She is the first chair representing community colleges in the 45-year

history of the organization.

In accepting the position, Gebhardt said she is honored to be first chair of SEMCOG from a community college and "proud of the ground I am breaking."

"I'm honored to be elected SEMCOG chairperson," Gebhardt said. "I love to learn and I am committed to life-long learning. I look at my participation in SEMCOG from this perspective."

Gebhardt added that she feels "very fortunate" that educational institutions – community colleges, intermediate school districts, universities – are a part of the membership of SEMCOG.

"I commend the SEMCOG founders who had the foresight to recog-



Gebhardt



Lajoie

nize the importance of the education community and include educational units in our organization," she said. "It was important when SEMCOG was founded in 1968 ... it's even more relevant today."

"Creating a work force that is ready to succeed in the 21st century is the most important role of education today," she added. "A workforce educated and trained for today's and tomorrow's jobs is a part of SEMCOG's economic development strategy. The

role of community colleges – developing specific training for the new jobs in the new economy – has elevated the importance of education even more."

Gebhardt was appointed to the Schoolcraft College Board of Trustees to fill a vacancy in January 2007. She went on to win the seat in her own right the following May.

Since 2007, she has been an active and supportive member of SEMCOG and was elected vice chair in 2009. She has served on the Education Bloc, Transportation Improvement Program Development Committee and Membership and Legislative Task Forces. Gebhardt also served two terms on the Wayne County Board of Com-

missioners representing Westland, Inkster and south Livonia in District 12. Her core career was that of a public school teacher and administrator.

Also elected SEMCOG officers were:

» Kathy D. Vosburg, a Macomb County commissioner, as first vice chair. She will become the chair in 2014-15.

» Robert Clark, mayor of Monroe, vice chair. » Rodrick Green, Superior Township trustee, vice chair.

» Jeffrey Jenks, Huntington Wood commissioner, vice chair. » Phil LaJoy, Canton Township supervisor, vice chair.

» Michael Sedlak, Green Oak Township clerk, immediate past chair.

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Q: Dear Rick: I just had a meeting with my life insurance agent to discuss coverage. During the discussion, he recommended that I consider buying life insurance for my two children, ages 15 and 13. He said that when you get a policy at a young age, if something ever happened in the future where they became uninsurable, they would at least have this policy. He also pointed out that the policy could operate as a savings account and that the premiums at their age would be rather inexpensive. What are your thoughts are buying life insurance for a teenager?

A: I believe that insurance is a means of covering risk, not an investment. Whenever someone is thinking about buying any type of insurance, whether it is auto insurance, boat insurance, the question is: If a loss occurs, will there be a financial loss? If so, is it a material loss that needs to be insured?

We don't insure all our losses – only those that



Rick Bloom  
MONEY MATTERS

will have a material effect.

For example, I don't have golf ball insurance, not because I won't lose golf balls when I play (because I do every time). However, there's no material financial loss. I can afford the buck a ball if I lose one.

With regard to children, the first issue is will there be a financial loss if, unfortunately, something happens to one of your children. The answer for the great majority of families is no. There certainly would be pain and suffering, as I can't think of anything worse than losing a child. However, it would not necessarily be a financial loss.

If you had a child who for some reason was a major bread-winner for the family, then the need for life insurance may be

greater; however, in most situations, that is not the case. From an "is it needed standpoint?" I would say no.

With regard to life insurance, a good investment, the answer is no. Life insurance is not an investment, even though sometimes it is sold as such. I never think it is a good investment if I have to die to collect.

Of course, there are other ways to collect on a life insurance policy, such as borrowing against your own policy or canceling it and taking the cash surrender value. However, both those ways are expensive and the costs are high.

The high fees alone make it an inappropriate investment. If you wanted to make an investment for the kids, buying a mutual fund will reap more benefits than buying a life insurance policy.

Lastly, the idea that by purchasing life insurance your kids will have some life insurance in the fu-

ture may be true. However, it's sort of like purchasing a car for your newborn child today because you know they'll need it in the future; that just doesn't make sense. The same thing can be said with life insurance.

In addition, if you projected how much life insurance they would need in the future, purchasing that today would be cost-prohibitive. Therefore, save your money.

My advice if you have a few extra dollars is to put money aside for their education. A contribution to something like the Michigan Education Savings Plan would be much more effective and beneficial to your children than putting money into a life insurance policy.

Good luck.

Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial adviser. His website is [www.bloomassetmanagement.com](http://www.bloomassetmanagement.com). If you would like to respond to your question, email [rick@bloomassetmanagement.com](mailto:rick@bloomassetmanagement.com).

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## Pair of local residents answer call to service in FEMA Corps

Michelle Friedow of Plymouth and Katelyn Kovalik of Canton are among 331 young people currently serving in the nation's first class of FEMA Corps, a new unit of the AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps solely devoted to disaster preparedness and response.

During their 10-month term of service, Friedow, 19, is providing important support to disaster survivors and gaining significant training and professional experience in emergency management. Serving on teams of 10 to 12 people, FEMA Corps members travel to disaster-affected communities and support longer-term recovery operations across the country. Projects range from working directly with disaster survivors to administrative disaster management tasks to sharing disaster preparedness and mitigation information with the public.

"Friedow is part of a historic new chapter in the history of national service that will enhance our nation's disaster capabilities and give thousands of young people the opportunity to serve their country and gain valuable skills and experience for their future careers," said Wendy Spencer, CEO of the Corporation for National and Community Service.

"I commend Michelle for answering the call to serve and making a difference for people and communities affected by disasters."

"FEMA Corps will strengthen the nation's disaster response by providing a dedicated, trained and reliable workforce to support disaster survivors and impacted communities during their greatest time of need," FEMA



Katelyn Kovalik works at the Queens, N.Y., Joint Field Office. She served as the external affairs liaison to the FDRC.

Deputy Administrator Richard Serino said. Friedow arrived in February at the AmeriCorps NCCC Southwest Region campus in Denver and completed six weeks of specialized training in the area of public assistance. Friedow is nearing the end of her first project round, during which she traveled to Lincroft, N.J., to research and inspect hurricane-damaged properties before moving to St. Paul, Minn.

Kovalik arrived in February at the AmeriCorps NCCC Pacific Region campus in Sacramento, Calif., and completed six weeks of specialized training in the area of community relations. Kovalik traveled to Queens, N.Y., to provide support, guidance and strategies to integrate and coordinate emergency management and FEMA application processes before being called to Chicago, Ill. Friedow and Kovalik will serve on several more projects before graduating from FEMA Corps in November.

FEMA Corps, a new unit within AmeriCorps NCCC that launched in fall 2012, is an innovative partnership between the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Corporation for National and Community Service.

People ages 18-24 from around the nation provide 10 months of full-time service on emergency management projects. The program will engage 1,600 members annually when fully operational next year.

Prior to joining FEMA Corps, Friedow graduated from Plymouth High School in 2011 and attended Schoolcraft College. She chose to do a term of national service in order to help those in need and get a feeling of what it would be like to work for a nonprofit organization," said Friedow, the daughter of Thomas and Christel Friedow.

Prior to joining FEMA Corps, Kovalik graduated from Salem High School in 2008 and Grand Valley State University in 2012 with a degree in advertising/public relations.

"I chose to do a term of national service for a chance to dedicate the majority of my time and energy into helping others, something I had not had as much of an opportunity to do in the past," said Kovalik, the daughter of Charles and Diane Kovalik. "I also liked that members could do this while traveling the country."

After completing 1,700 hours of service, FEMA Corps members will receive a \$5,550 Segal AmeriCorps Education Award to pay for tuition or student loans. FEMA Corps operates out of five regional NCCC campuses: Sacramento, Calif.; Denver, Colo.; Vinton, Iowa; Perry Point, Md.; and Vicksburg, Miss., but deploys teams nationally wherever the disaster-related need is the greatest.

For more information about FEMA Corps or AmeriCorps NCCC, or to apply online, visit [www.nationalservice.gov](http://www.nationalservice.gov).

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  - 4th Place:** Emagine Theatre Movie Pass for 2 (up to 10 winners)
- Holiday Icon**
- All entries must be received by midnight, July 31, 2013

Mail: Attn: Christmas in July/Hometown Life Inspire, 41304 Concept Drive, Plymouth, MI 48170 or  
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# She aims to put respect back in the 'r-word'

Remember the old adage, "Sticks and stones may break my bones, but names will never hurt me?" Sounds great in theory, but names and words do hurt and Livonia resident Roxanne Riggio knows that all too well.

"People in my past used to bring me down with words, especially the 'r-word,'" Riggio said. "But not anymore. I have accomplished almost everything people said I wouldn't be able to because of my disability. I've gotten my driver's license, my own credit card, participated in sports and taken college classes."

"I don't want my peers to be hurt by unkind words, so I'm going to advocate for them and turn the 'r-word' into RESPECT," she added.

The concept to start her movement to ban the



Roxanne Riggio has created a Facebook page called "Help Me Ban the R-Word" and a "Rockin' Respect" website. [www.rockinrespect.weebly.com](http://www.rockinrespect.weebly.com).

"r-word" came to her while sitting in class at Schoolcraft College. The teacher was describing a horrible story about a boy with Down syndrome who was being verbally bullied.

Needless to say, it upset Riggio and tugged at her heart. The teacher talked with Riggio later and mentioned she



Ron Riggio (from left), his daughter Roxanne, wife Patty and Community Living Services staff person Emily Graf show off Roxanne's "R-Word" poster.

ideal advocate to start a campaign educating the public about why not to use such negative and hurtful words.

With the help of her parents and support staff, she created a Facebook page called "Help Me Ban the R-Word," built a website called "Rockin' Respect"

([www.rockinrespect.weebly.com](http://www.rockinrespect.weebly.com)) and organized several small fundraisers.

She decided to donate the proceeds of those sales to Special Olympics and the Best Buddies program at Eastern Michigan University. She also created a poster that has hundreds of names on it, supporting her campaign and taking the pledge to ban the "r-word."

"We're extremely proud that our daughter is such a strong advocate for people," her mother Patty said. "People with or without disabilities can relate to what she's saying—you can rise

above what people say and not let them be an obstacle to achieving your dreams. We're here to help her spread her message any way we can."

Riggio is 25 years old, just graduated from the Livonia Transition Program at the Western Wayne Skills Center and has taken classes at Schoolcraft College. She has a part-time job at Community Living Services through a grant from Detroit-Wayne County Community Mental Health Board as a Spirit of Support Advocate and trainer. She trains direct care staff about treating people with disabilities with respect and dignity and she encourages people to use "People First" language.

Riggio volunteered at two Livonia schools, Jackson Early Childhood Center in the day care program and also at Perinville Center, helping with special-needs chil-

dren.

Her future plans include going to college to become an elementary school teacher for special-needs students and to buy a Shelby GT 500 blue Mustang.

CLS has provided support coordination and budget services through the self-determination process for Riggio since 2006.

CLS is a nonprofit organization providing support and services to seniors, veterans and people with developmental, physical and intellectual disabilities living in Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties.

CLS is funded through the Detroit-Wayne County Community Mental Health Agency, Oakland County Community Mental Health Agency, Macomb County Community Mental Health Agency and United Way.

For more information, contact CLS at 734-467-7600 or visit its website at [www.comilivserv.com](http://www.comilivserv.com).

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## SECTION B (CP)

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OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC MEDIA  
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## SPORTS

TIM SMITH, EDITOR

TSMITH@HOMETOWNLIFE.COM  
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## YOUTH BASEBALL

## LEAGUE OF HER OWN

Canton Little Leaguer Hines proves she belongs

By Brad Emmons  
Staff Writer

While Ypsilanti's Carolyn King was the pioneer for girls in Little League Baseball, 40 years later Canton's Rachel Hines has certainly left quite an imprint. Hines, a left-handed pitcher and second baseman for the 12-and-under Major League Pirates of the Plymouth Canton Little League, has turned more than few heads because of her talent level.

She'll play Monday night in Tecumseh representing the PC Little League All-Stars. She was

an obvious choice after hitting .667 with an earned-run average of 2.76 with four victories this summer.

Hines has also been chosen to play for the Sparks, an elite all-girls team that will compete for the 11th consecutive year against a field of 103 boys teams, Aug. 2-9 in Cooperstown, N.Y., in the shadow of the Baseball Hall of Fame at Dreams Park.

Hines, who will be an eighth-grader at Discovery Middle School in the fall, remains modest about her accomplishments.

"It went pretty good," said Hines, who also plays the clari-

net and maintains a 3.78 grade-point average. "We went undefeated. I think I won four or five games and I think I struck out 11 batters in one game."

So what has she proven and why does she play in virtually an all-boys league?

"To maybe show that girls can play, too, and not just boys," she said. "I think that it's more competitive and it's just more fun."

The 5-foot Hines, who throws in the low 50s mph, will more than likely toe the rubber Monday night for the PC All-Stars.

See HINES, Page B2



Canton's Rachel Hines is hitting .667 and throwing in the low 50s mph for the Major Pirates of the Plymouth Canton Little League.

## Murphy 2nd in Girls Am

Two Brighton golfers, Hannah Pietila and Julia Dean, were champions at the 35th Michigan Girls State Junior Amateur held June 27 at Michigan State University's Forest Akers Golf Course in East Lansing.

Pietila captured the 16 & over division defeating Kelsey Murphy (Plymouth High) 3-up, while Dean topped Jami Laude (Ann Arbor) 7-5, for the 15 & under title.

The Pietila-Murphy match was tight until after the turn, when Pietila started building on her 1-up lead. After 12 holes, Pietila was 3-up and held that lead throughout the match.

Murphy was the MHSAA Division 1 medalist who led the Wildcats to the 2012 team championship last fall, while Pietila took fourth at Forest Akers (East Course).

## MU pitcher 2-hits Rams

Former Madonna University ace Jeremy Gooding (Livonia/Dearborn Divine Child) allowed just two hits over six innings Wednesday to lead the Michigan Bulls to an 8-0 Livonia Collegiate Baseball League win over the Michigan Rams at Ford Field.

Gooding struck out eight and walked two, while Rams starter Jeff Sorenson (Livonia/Stevenson/Wayne State) took the loss giving up six earned runs in 2 1/3 innings of work.

Jeremy Robinson belted a three-run homer for the Bulls (16-4), while Alex Borgline and Theo Piccirilli each had two hits and an RBI.

Trent Drumheller and Matt Avromov had the lone hits for the Rams (9-10-2).

## Bucks play to 0-0 draw

The Michigan Bucks ran their season unbeaten streak to eight games with a hard fought 0-0 draw Tuesday against the host Chicago Inferno at Wheaton (Ill.) College.

The point keeps the Bucks in first place (7-1-2, 23 points) over idle FC London (6-2-1, 19 points) in the PDL's Great Lakes Division.

Michigan has four regular-season games left to play, including a showdown at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, July 10, with FC London for first place at Ultimate Soccer Arenas in Pontiac.

For more information, visit [www.bucksoccer.com](http://www.bucksoccer.com) or call (248) 334-7463.

## PREP FOOTBALL

## Micallef takes Stevenson football job

Fielder steps down after two seasons

By Brad Emmons  
Staff Writer

In a sudden turn of events, Matt Fielder's stint as Livonia Stevenson varsity football coach has ended after two seasons.

It's curious timing, to say the least.

Fielder resigned two weeks ago because of "personal reasons," according to athletic director Lori Hyman.

His replacement is former Stevenson quarterback Randy Micallef, who most recently served as both offensive and defensive coordinator the past seven seasons under Bob Meyer at Walled Lake Central.

The announcement came Wednesday in a press release by Hyman, who said she "had an inkling" that Fielder might step down.

Fielder, who went 8-11 in his two seasons as the Spartans head coach, could not be reached for comment.

After the job posting ended July 1, Hyman, along with Stevenson Assistant Principal Pete Mazzoni, interviewed five outside candidates for the vacant position during the first round of interviews. Three other selection committee members were added for the second round of interviews, including two student-athletes and a sub-varsity coach already on the staff.

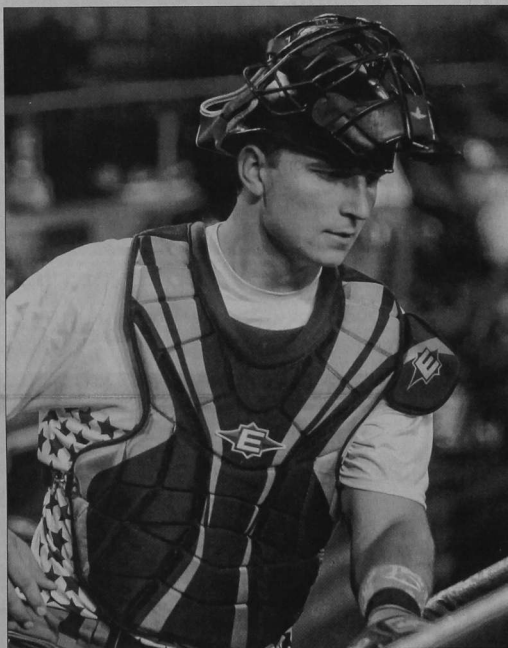
Micallef, a 1991 Stevenson grad, emerged as the front-runner and accepted the position.

"Randy has 19 years of coaching experience," Hyman said.

"He's a Stevenson graduate, a long-time community member. He grew up in the house that he currently lives in, so he has a very good pulse on the community. He is a teacher. He's been an offensive and defensive coordinator. He's ready to be head coach and this is the job that he's always wanted, so his pride and passion is with Stevenson football."

The 40-year-old Micallef, a graduate of Western Michigan University, is math department chair at Banks Middle School in Walled Lake. He served as Walled Lake Western's defense

## EAST-WEST ALL-STAR GAME



Harrison Wenson of Farmington Hills was the starting catcher for the East all-star team at Comerica Park. JOHN STORMANO / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

## All-star game is 'hit' for catcher Wenson

Farmington Hills players on winning team at Comerica Park

By Dan O'Meara  
Staff Writer

In his first two times at bat Monday night, Harrison Wenson's all-star experience was a lot like his senior season at University of Detroit Jesuit High School.

The Farmington Hills catcher was hit by the first pitch each time in the 32nd annual Michigan High School Baseball

Coaches Association East-West All-Star Game at Comerica Park.

On the second occasion, Wenson, who was drafted last month in the 38th round by the Detroit Tigers, loaded the bases before scoring a run in the East's 9-4 victory.

"The first pitch was right at my back; the second nipped my jersey, but I tried to get out of the way," Wenson said. "I don't

think I crowd the plate, but people like hitting me for some reason. It happens, though; it's part of the game. But I was used to it this year."

The 6-foot-3, 220-pound Wenson estimates he was plunked by a pitch 15-20 times during the recent high school season.

"It probably the least that it was unbelievable," he said. "I'm

See ALL-STAR, Page B2

See MICALLEF, Page B2

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## ALL-STAR

Continued from Page B1

the last seven games in my high school career, I was hit by a pitch and sometimes multiple times in a game.

"I don't believe most people hit me on purpose, but I do believe they were trying to pitch me inside. I don't know why, because I love inside pitches. If I turn on it, it's going to go."

In his third plate appearance Monday, Wenson was determined to put the ball on the ball, if at all possible.

"I was swinging out of my shoes, because I wanted to make contact," he said. "I popped it up high in the air (for an out). I was 0-for-1 and got hit twice, but I was happy to be on base to help the team."

Wenson also started behind the plate, played four innings and caught two pitchers — Nick Deeg of Lake Orion and Connor Fannon of Grosse Pointe Liggett.

"It was a great experience and I was happy I was able to do it," he said. "We were there for two days, spent a night in a hotel and got to hang out with the guys. I was really honored to be part of it."

"I've been able to play at Comerica Park and work out there, so it wasn't new. But whenever you go and play on that field, it's an unbelievable experience and I'm really blessed to be able to do it."

Wenson, who has a scholarship to Michigan, played in the 2012 Catholic League championship game at Comerica Park, and he participated in a pre-draft Tigers workout there this spring.

"I wasn't expected to get drafted, because I didn't go to a lot of the showcases down South like a lot of guys did," Wenson said. "To get drafted was a dream come true. It was the 38th round, but not many high school players can say they were drafted by a major league team; so it was quite an honor."

"(The Tigers) haven't told me what the signing bonus is yet. I know and they pretty much know I will not be signing. I'll be going to college and playing for the University of Michigan. But it's still awesome to say I was drafted by the Detroit Tigers."

Wenson didn't have any putouts or assists in the all-star game, but he nearly threw out a runner stealing second base from his knees.

"Hector Gutierrez (Detroit Western, U-M) said he was out, but the ump called him safe," Wenson said. "It was a good throw and right on the money, but the ump called it right away."

## Mohr sidelined

Wenson's good friend and former teammate in summer baseball, Connor Mohr of Farmington High School, also was a member of the East all-star team.

Mohr was unable to play, however, due to a broken right hand. The injury occurred a couple of days beforehand when the left-handed Mohr was hit by a pitch while catching for his College Connecticut team.

"Connor and I talked the whole game," Wenson said. "It was a bummer he was not able to play for the last time he and I might have been on the field together."

"We'll be playing against each other the next four years. I'm excited about that, but our friendship definitely won't change."

Mohr, a speedy center fielder who can hit for power and average like Wenson, will continue his playing career at Michigan State.

## Still a fun time

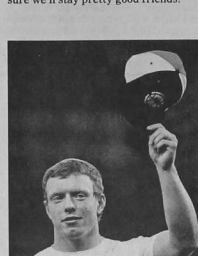
"I wish I would have been on the field," Mohr said. "I still had a good time, being in the dugout and participating in everything that was going on. It was hard (not being in the game), but I enjoyed talking with everyone who was on the team and listening to stories about where they're going to school and stuff like that."

Mohr will have surgery later this week to put two metal plates in his hand. Incredibly, his recovery is expected to be quick, as well as complete.

"Actually, I should be ready to go when fall ball starts (Sept. 1)," he said. "It wasn't the best time for the injury. It's not a big deal. I'll just work as hard as I can to get back and be ready for the fall. I'm pretty excited. I look forward to competing for a starting job for next year."

Until this year, Mohr and Wenson had been teammates for the past eight summers.

"I'll be a lot different, being on opposite sides of the field, but it'll be a lot of fun to face him," Mohr said. "I'm sure we'll stay pretty good friends."



Farmington's Connor Mohr tips his hat during the pregame introductions. JOHN STORMZANO | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

## PREP BASEBALL

## Berrymann credits wife for baseball accolades

By Brad Emmons

Staff Writer

Going back 20 years, Rick Berrymann can't remember the first varsity baseball game he ever coached at Redford Union High School.

"Don't have a clue, don't have a clue," Berrymann said.

But it's a safe bet his wife June was right by his side.

The Livonia Stevenson coach, who was among seven inductees Sunday night into the Michigan High School Baseball Coaches Hall of Fame, knew immediately who to thank during his five-minute speech at Zuccaro's Country House in Chesterfield Township.

That's because behind every good man, there's a good woman.

"When I got up there, I said, 'It's nice that my name is on here, but it's unfortunate that I can't include June's name on the plaque, because in the 652 high school games I've coached, June and I have done that together,'" Berrymann said. "The whole speech was thanking her. Some guys thank their wives, but June's contribution is more than just a wife who shows up and is supportive."

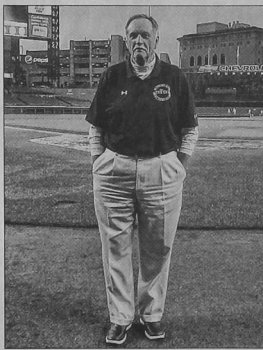
"She'd been in the dugout 10 years at Redford Union, she'd literally show up at practice and run stations. She keeps scores. When I come home, my stats are totaled. She keeps pitch counts. She keeps where the ball is hit at what count. I'm sold."

In 20 seasons of coaching high school baseball, Berrymann is 391-261, including a 176-126 mark at Stevenson in nine seasons and a 215-135 record in 11 years at RU.

Berrymann, who lives in Canton, has captured two district, one regional, one conference and two division titles at Stevenson. He also earned five Mega White crowns and two district championships at RU.

"I was touched and flattered," Berrymann said. "Like I tell people, you go into it for the love of the game and never realize of getting to this pinnacle. It's truly a nice honor. It's truly nice to be recognized, but that's not why I went into it."

After compiling a 19-6 record as a pitcher at Stevenson, Berrymann went into teaching special education before becoming an assistant



Stevenson's Rick Berrymann, at Comerica Park, was inducted into the Michigan High School Baseball Coaches Hall of Fame. TONYA SHADE



June Berrymann (left), at a Stevenson game this spring with granddaughter Lexi Shade, has been a fixture keeping score at high school and summer collegiate games. TONYA SHADE

principal for 24 years at RU's Hilbert Middle School then retiring from education three years ago.

Meanwhile, June, his wife of 30 years, started out as a hearing-impaired and fourth-grade teacher before going on to administration as an elementary school principal. She is also retired.

"Youth, college and high school, June and I have been together over 1,700 games — that's a few," Berrymann said. "She's not a supporter, she's involved. She was at the Connie Mack World Series when I went out there in 1995. It was a big to-do out there because we go to a manager's meeting. There's me, Lou Pirronello (his Stevenson assistant coach) and June. They said, 'What's she doing here?' I said, 'She's coaching.' The media went with it and she got interviewed on TV. She

got written up as the first female coach in the history of the Connie Mack World Series in Farmington, N.M."

"I have not just done it. Her and I have done it together."

And the apple doesn't fall far from the family tree, with daughter Tonya (Shade) close by for much of the diamond action as well.

The 66-year-old Berrymann, who also coaches the 22-and-under Michigan Rams of the Livonia Collegiate Baseball League, doesn't plan on leaving the dugout anytime soon.

"I see people wanting the coveted Stevenson job," said Berrymann, a 24-13 record along with KLAAC Central Division and Division I district titles this spring. "I said, 'I'm not dead yet, I'm still coaching.'"

berrons@hometownlife.com

## MCALFEE

Continued from Page B1

sive coordinator under Chuck Apap in 1999, when the Warriors captured the MHSAA Division 1 state championship.

McAlfee also coached from 1999 to 2000 at Western under Mike Zdebski and was reunited with Apap the next year, when he took the Walled Lake Central job serving both as offensive and defensive coordinator.

With the start of preseason football practice scheduled for Aug. 12 and the first game Aug. 30, McAlfee is scrambling to put together a staff.

"I would like to build upon the traditions that have been set and work on the strengths of our athletes," he said. "But with getting a late start on things my No. 1 priority is to meet the young men and to build with them some of the strengths they have. We played them (Stevenson) early in the (2012) season. I have some idea of some of the kids that are returning based on last year's film, but it's still getting to know them a little more personal and building upon what they've already been working on in the off-season."

McAlfee said he has learned from Rich Rodriguez's failed experience at Michigan that he's going to have to incorporate some of the past Stevenson philosophy.

In Fielder's second season, Stevenson finished 6-1 and earned a spot in the Division 1 state playoffs.

"I think we're going to try and be hybrid, at least for the first year," McAlfee said.

McAlfee, who only becomes the fourth Stevenson varsity football coach in school history, said he hopes to keep two members of Stevenson's staff on board, including former 16-year head coach Tim Gabell, who has served the past two seasons as Stevenson's JV coach, along with John Nichols, a varsity staffer.

"We're in a process of figuring all that out," McAlfee said. "The problem is we have a lot of people on vacation right now, so the timing isn't ideal. But we're working on putting all the finishing touches on things and getting things organized this week. A number of the current Stevenson staff members are out of town as well. I'm hoping to meet with everybody this week, settle on a staff and get things organized."

McAlfee's bloodlines run deep at Stevenson. He played for Jack Bear, the school's first head coach who stayed 30 seasons before handing over the reins to Gabell, who guided the Spartans to 2007 MHSAA state championship final. Gabell was also McAlfee's freshman football coach.

McAlfee's wife Michelle, a nurse, is a 1992 Stevenson grad. McAlfee has four children — two girls and two boys (including an incoming ninth-grader).

Stevenson Principal Jim Gibbons had the final say on McAlfee's hiring after receiving a recommendation from Hyman and Mazzoni. Gibbons said he had a brief conversation with Fielder before he resigned.

"He (Fielder) just said 'personal reasons' in our conversation," Gibbons said. "He also mentioned to Lori and I that he had been thinking about it prior to when he did it. You're going to have to talk to him about why he did it."

## HINES

Continued from Page B1

"What makes her stand out the most is she's got all three — she can pitch, she can field and she can hit," Pirates coach Wade Upley said. "To be able to do all three — I can put her anywhere on the infield and she's one of my best pitchers."

"She's got a curve. She's got a changeup. She can hit the ball out of the park with the 200-foot fences. She hit one out as an 11-year-old with my team last year, too."

Figley said Hines was more than deserving of an all-star berth and she's not just merely a token pick.

"They take only 12 players from the whole league," he said. "She made the all-star team the last two years and is one of the starting pitchers. She pitches and bats second. She stays in the game, the whole game. Usually in an all-star game you come in and out with the other three because you can only play nine, but she's one of the five that stays in the whole time."

But Hines has heard some sexist comments from time to time, some in jest.

"We played in Tecumseh last weekend and one kid

said, 'You want to put on some nail polish?'" said Hines, who coaches Justin Verlander and Miguel Cabrera as her favorite major leaguers.

Figley has also heard it, too.

"The funny thing is they'll be some snide comments when she takes the mound and then it's dead silence," he said. "The (opposing) coaches always say what a great job she did after. The other kids will say, 'It's a girl, it's a girl,' then it's cold silence when she goes one-two-three, one-two-three. She sits them down after they're mouting off."

Figley, in fact, can't find enough superlatives for Hines.

"This is my 10th year of coaching and she's in the top five," he said. "There are only four boys that are better than her, including three pitchers who are starting for their high school teams right now."

Hines' nickname has become "Sunshine" around the local diamonds.

"She's an awesome kid," Figley said. "We call her 'Sunshine' because she's always smiling and she's always ready to play."

And Hines has an intense passion for the game, as well. She comes from a baseball family. Her father Jerry

played in high school. She also has a brother Ryan, 10, who plays baseball and a sister Amy, 11, who plays softball.

"That's what nice about her," Figley said. "She absolutely loves the game of baseball. She knows more about baseball than half the kids on the team and half the parents. She follows baseball. We're lucky because we probably only have her for two more years of baseball because when she hits high school, she'll probably play softball. There aren't any girls baseball players in high school and that's the sad thing. She could play freshman and JV, but varsity is a whole different world. But I could see her playing about third grade baseball and giving it up. For any girl to get a scholarship it's going to be softball, which is the sad thing about it."

In two years, Hines will be attending Salem High School.

"They put on clinics every year, a couple a year," her mother Stacie said. "I've had her to those as long as I've known about them. They're aware of who she is. We're hoping that once she gets to high school, there's not going to be any discrimination."

In 1973, King tried out for a spot in the Ypsilanti Amer-

ican Little League despite a rule that Little League had that specifically prohibited girls from trying out. The league president allowed her to try out anyway, and the manager of the Orioles selected King for his team.

When Little League International officials in Williamsport, Pa., found out about her participation, they threatened to pull the Ypsilanti American Little League's charter if she took the field in a game.

Meanwhile, the Ypsilanti City Council threatened to revoke Ypsilanti's charter.

The league's charter and use of the city's fields and King was ultimately allowed to play under the intense scrutiny of the national media.

I save every article I can find on girls playing baseball," Stacie Hines said.

"There are girls that have gotten college scholarships to play. She's just keeping her options open and hoping she doesn't face any kind of discrimination so they can just watch her and seeing what she can do. I'm saying, 'Oh, no, it's just a boys game.' Another girl named Kate went from Canton went to Cooperstown last year. I hope she paved the way to us."

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# Top golfers reach dizzying heights

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# TWENTY YEARS OF CELEBRATING BEAUTY

Six lovely gardens to be featured on annual walk

By Kurt Kuban  
Staff Writer

It was 20 years ago when the members of the Country Garden Club decided to host their very first garden walk in Northville. Kathryn Novak's garden was featured that first year. She wasn't a member at the time, but she was hooked by the event.

Novak joined the group, which has about 40 members mostly from Northville (though there are some from Novi and Livonia), and is now coordinating the event for the club. And this year is a big one, she said.

This is our most exciting event of the year and because this is our 20th year, we really wanted to put together something special to mark the anniversary," Novak said. "We think people will really love what we've got planned."

The 20th Annual Northville Garden Walk takes place from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. July 10. It will feature six gardens, all in the Northville community, including both large and small gardens. The most impressive gardens on the tour are those owned by Mike and Anne Keneuci on Seven Mile Road and Tim and Maggie Otto, who live on Autumn Ridge. The two gardens are side by side, and include an array of features. "They are very impressive," Novak said. "People will just fall in love with them."

In addition to the gardens themselves, members of the Country Garden Club will be headquartered at the historic Mill Race Village where there will be live music from noon to 4 p.m. provided by several graduates of the University of Michigan music program, and nearly a dozen vendors set up selling products and plants specifically aimed at the gardening crowd.

And if that's not enough, club members will be set up in



The well-maintained grounds of Tim and Maggie Otto's beautiful home off of Seven Mile is the highlight of this year's garden walk.

the Cady Inn, where they will be providing refreshments.

"All of our members bake cookies for the event, and we'll be serving iced tea and lemonade," Novak said.

Like in years past, the Cady Inn will also be decorated according to the event's theme, which this year is "Four Seasons."

"We decorate it really nice, all in flowers. People really look forward to what we do. It's always a bit of a surprise," Novak said.

The Country Garden Club — one of three garden clubs based in the Northville community — is part of the Woman's National Farm and Garden Association, which promotes agricultural and horticultural interest through membership in divisions and branches throughout the U.S.

"We take money that we make from the garden walk

and we use it for local and state projects, including organizations that set aside green space," she said. "All the money we earn is donated."

Another way the group spends the money from the garden walk is to fund an annual scholarship for a Northville High School student, who pursues a degree in horticulture or related field.

The group meets monthly, and brings in speakers who give advice on different aspects of gardening or that are of interest to gardeners. They are also very active in the community. In addition to putting together floral arrangements each week for hospice patients, members also care for gardens at the library, Post Office and at the Hunter House in Mill Race Village.

However, Novak said the garden walk is the event everyone looks forward to each



Those attending the garden walk will find plenty of surprises in the Otto garden.

year. She said it's a lot of work to plan, but club members always take great satisfaction in it.

"It's just a lot of fun. We're real proud of our garden walk. We like to think it's one of the best around. It attracts people from a lot of different communities because people enjoy coming to Northville. We have

some beautiful gardens, but it also gives people a chance to see our downtown and enjoy lunch at one of our great restaurants," Novak said. "It's just a great way to spend a day, especially if you love gardening like we do."

For more information, visit [www.cgnv.org](http://www.cgnv.org) or call 248-348-3263. Tickets are \$10.

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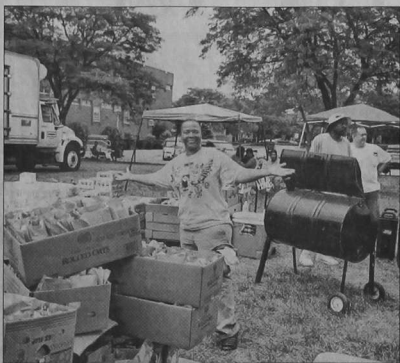
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Church members ready the barbecue at a previous Wow Jam.

## Annual church event offers freebies

Cornerstone City Church in Wayne is planning a party and everyone is invited.

The church's annual "Wow Jam" is set for 4-8 p.m. Friday, July 19, at Goudy Recreational Park, 3355 S. Wayne Road, Wayne.

"Cornerstone City Church has been hosting Wow Jam for three years but our network of cornerstone churches have been hosting for 20 plus years," said Denise Hunt, a church member who is involved with publicity for the event. "We just want to be a blessing to the community."

Hunt said the outreach event drew 2,000 individuals to the church parking lot last year. Organizers hope to more than double the number of participants

this year by moving Wow Jam to Goudy Recreational Park.

According to the Winning Our World (WOW) International website, Wow Jams are an evangelistic outreach designed to "love people in practical ways" by offering free services, goods, entertainment and food.

Stephen and Linda Tavanis created the events with a mission to "bring the church to the streets and the streets back into the church." Through WOW, they've led Wow Jams in more than 40 cities, engaging local churches in the process.

Stephen Tavanis has been involved in music, preaching and urban ministry since childhood. His wife is a singer who was the "Peaches" half of the

recording duo, Peaches and Herb.

The Tavanis will perform at the Wow Jam in Wayne. Along with live music and evangelism, the Cornerstone City Church Wow Jam will give away free groceries, haircuts and manicures, family photo sittings, bike repair, potted plants and hot meals. Children's activities include games and a bounce house. In addition to prize giveaways, the winner of a singing contest will walk away with \$100.

The church welcomes volunteers and donations for the event. For more information email denise-hunt17@gmail.com or info@cornerstonecitychurch.us.

— By Sharon Dargay

## Plymouth museum offers scholarships for history camp

Registration continues for Plymouth Historical Museum's upcoming History Kids' Kamp, but there's a new twist to the program for those who have difficulty paying the fee.

Scholarships are now available, thanks to an anonymous donor. Families that need help with the \$30 per child fee can call 734-455-8940 for more information.

History Kids' Kamp is set for 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday July 27. The camp gives children the opportunity to experience what life was like during the Civil War. They'll dress in period clothing, get their picture taken, race to finish chores and old-fashioned

tasks, and participate in a scavenger hunt. Children will be able to chat with Civil War soldier re-enactors who will answer questions, demonstrate marching, and more. Every child will receive a commemorative T-shirt to wear for the day, and the boys will be given the opportunity to "enlist" in the army.

The backdrop for this fun event is the Plymouth Historical Museum's special exhibit "B4TV," which focuses on leisure activities before technology took control of society. It runs through Nov. 10.

Tickets purchased by July 19 are \$30 per child; after that date, tickets are \$35. Or families may

renew or buy a new Daisy membership to the Plymouth Historical Museum, which will allow two children to attend for free.

The target age for campers is 6-12, although children under 8 must be accompanied by an adult.

Tickets are available at the Plymouth Historical Museum during open hours or can be purchased using PayPal on the Museum's website [www.plymouthhistorical.org](http://www.plymouthhistorical.org). The Plymouth Historical Museum is located at 155 S. Main, Plymouth. For more information, call 734-455-8940 or email [secretary@plymouthhistory.org](mailto:secretary@plymouthhistory.org).

## GARDEN & NATURE CALENDAR

Send material for the Garden & Nature Calendar to Sharon Dargay, Observer & Eccentric, [sdargay@hometownlife.com](mailto:sdargay@hometownlife.com), 615 W. Lafayette-second level, Detroit, MI 48226.

### Pruning workshop

ReLeaf Michigan sponsors a hand-on workshop on proper pruning, 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday, July 13, at Ypsilanti City Hall, 13 S. Huron St., Ypsilanti.

Participants will learn the basics of pruning, including the biology of a tree, proper timing for pruning, and how to make a proper cut. Safety will be stressed as well as debunking some pruning myths.

An "Ask the Arborist" session will be held from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Participants can bring in plant material and ask specific questions about their trees and shrubs. The cost for the pruning workshop is \$15 for ReLeaf Michigan members

and \$20 for non-members.

RSVP by calling 800-642-7353 or email [info@ReLeafMichigan.org](mailto:info@ReLeafMichigan.org).

### English Gardens

English Gardens stores in metro Detroit offer a variety of programs and workshops for gardeners.

» Kids can make leaf and flower prints at a free workshop, 10 a.m. Tuesday, July 9.

» Learn to attract birds and butterflies to your garden at a free presentation, 7 p.m. Wednesday, July 10 and 10 a.m. Saturday, July 13.

» Get tips on selection and care of hydrangeas at a free presentation, 7 p.m. Wednesday, July 17 and 10 a.m. Saturday, July 20.

» Experts offer a list of what should be done in the summer garden to keep it looking great, at a free presentation, 7 p.m. Wednesday, July 24 and 10 a.m. Saturday, July 27.

» The store will supply

everything needed to make a fairy garden to take home at a workshop, 2:30 p.m. Saturday, July 27. Cost is \$49.99. Sign up online at [englishgardens.com](http://englishgardens.com).

Area English Gardens stores are at 155 N. Maple, Ann Arbor; 734-332-7900; 22650 Ford Road in Dearborn Heights, 313-278-4433; 4901 Coolidge Highway, Royal Oak, 248-280-9500; and 6370 Orchard Lake Road, in West Bloomfield; 248-851-7506.

### Kids and nature

Free summer nature programs are designed for kids of all ages through Aug. 23 at Heritage Park, 24915 Farmington Road, in Farmington Hills.

Programs include a nature movie, 2 p.m. Monday; story and a craft, 2 p.m. Tuesday; a scavenger hunt, 2 p.m. Wednesday; nature hike, 2 p.m. Thursday; and family campfire, 7-9 p.m. Friday.

# Summer ENTERTAINMENT EVENTS

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### Detroit Tigers and Summer Concerts

Go to [hometownlife.com](http://hometownlife.com) and look in the **DON'T MISS** section or visit [facebook.com/OEHometown](http://facebook.com/OEHometown) and look for contests.

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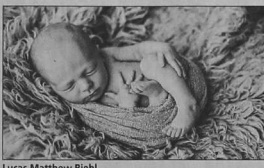
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## BIRTH



Lucas Matthew Biehl

## BIRTH



Keegan Christopher Kuna

life of Waterford.  
Great-grandparents are Helen Snow of Chicago, Ill. and Joyce Graves of Burtchville.

## RELIGION CALENDAR

hunt17@gmail.com or info@cornerstonechurch.us

AUGUST  
CAR SHOW

**Time/Date:** 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 24  
**Location:** Livonia Church of Christ, 1541 Meridian, Livonia

**Details:** 12th annual Charity Car Show will benefit Angela House. All makes of cars, trucks and motorcycles are welcome. There are class trophies plus best of show, a cash participation award, goodie bags for the first 75 entrants, door prizes, a live DJ, and food and drinks available for purchase. The entry fee to show a vehicle is \$15. No charge to view the entries. Organizers also are seeking sponsors for the show.

**Contact:** 734-257-8743  
**CHOIR DIRECTOR WORKSHOP**

**Time/Date:** 6:30-8 p.m. Aug. 12  
**Location:** Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 30650 W. Six Mile, Livonia

**Details:** The three-day workshop at Holy Cross Lutheran Church is designed for choir directors and music educators, led by Michael Burkhardt. **Contact:** www.hearthandsvoices.org; 734-427-1414 for more information.

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

**Time/Date:** 9:30 a.m. to noon Aug. 5-8  
**Location:** Fellowship hall at Rosedale Gardens Presbyterian Church, 9601 Hubbard, Livonia

**Details:** Designed for children, 3 through those entering first grade in the fall. Cost is \$10 per child and \$25 for families with three or more children. Each child will receive a free CD with all of the music from the week. Registration forms are available at the church office.

**Contact:** Pam Gunderson at rgpcchildren@yahoo.com or 734-422-0494, Ext. 14

**WORSHIP & MUSIC CAMP**

**Time/Date:** 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Aug. 12-15  
**Location:** Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 30650 W. Six Mile, Livonia

**Details:** "Hearts, Hands and Voices," is designed to help students in grades 2 through seven grow spiritually and musically.

**Contact:** Register at www.hearthandsvoices.org; 734-427-1414

**ONGOING CLASSES/STUDY**

**Men's Bible study**  
**Time/Date:** Breakfast at 7 a.m. and study at 8 a.m.

**Location:** Kirby's Covey Island, 21200 Haggerty, Northville Township  
**Contact:** John Shulenberger at 734-664-9491

**Our Lady of Loreto**  
**Time/Date:** 6:30-7:30 p.m. Monday

**Location:** Six Mile and Beech Daly, Redford  
**Details:** Scripture study. **Contact:** 313-534-9000

**St. Michael the Archangel**  
**Time/Date:** 7-8:30 p.m. the second and fourth Thursday.

**Location:** 42300 Taylor, Belleville  
**Contact:** 734-464-4615

**Our Lady of Loreto**  
**Time/Date:** 6:30-7:30 p.m. Monday

**Location:** Six Mile and Beech Daly, Redford  
**Details:** Scripture study. **Contact:** 313-534-9000

**St. Michael the Archangel**  
**Time/Date:** 7-8:30 p.m. the second and fourth Thursday.

**Location:** 42300 Taylor, Belleville  
**Contact:** 734-464-4615

**Location:** School library, 1441 Hubbard, just south of Plymouth Road, Livonia

**Details:** Catholic author and bible scholar, Gary Michuta, leads a study of the Gospel of St. Luke. The sessions are open to all, regardless of their faith or parish affiliation.

**Ward Presbyterian**  
**Time/Date:** 7 p.m. Mondays

**Location:** Room A101, 4000 W. Six Mile, Northville  
**Details:** Learner's Bible study is held.

**Contact:** 248-734-5920  
**FAMILY COMMUNITY MEAL**

**Time/Date:** 5-6 p.m. every Thursday  
**Location:** The Salvation Army, 27500 Shawneetree, Farmington Hills

**Details:** Free meal  
**Contact:** 248-477-1153, Ext. 12

**FOOD BANK**  
**New Hope Church**

**Time/Date:** 5-7 p.m., every Friday by appointment only  
**Location:** 44815 Cherry Hill, Canton

**Contact:** Past pastor Nancy Brown to schedule an appointment at 734-270-2528

**MOMS**  
**Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church**

**Time/Date:** 9:30-11:30 a.m. second Tuesday, MOPS; 7-8:30 p.m. first and third Thursday, MOPSnet. Both programs run September-May

**Location:** 14175 Farmington Road, Livonia

**Details:** Mothers of Preschoolers is aimed at mothers of infants through kindergarten.

**Contact:** Rebekah Creeden at 734-522-6820 for MOPS and Susan Wagner at 248-478-3643 for MOPSnet details.

**Dunning Park Bible Chapel**  
**Time/Date:** 9:30-11:30 a.m. first and second Tuesdays

**Location:** 24800 W. Chicago Road, Redford

**Details:** MOPS is a place where moms can build friendships, receive mothering support, practical help and spiritual hope. Meet with other women for companionship and support.

**Contact:** Amy at 313-937-3084 or Kristen at 734-542-0767

**PET-FRIENDLY SERVICE**  
**Time/Date:** 1 p.m. Sunday

**Location:** Dunk N' Dogs, 27911 Five Mile, Livonia

**Details:** All Creatures U.S. sponsors the service, which is conducted in an informal setting. Pet blessings are available after the service. All Creatures U.S. describes the gathering as nondiscriminational and Christian. Water is available for dogs.

**Contact:** 313-563-0162  
**PRAYER**

**Location:** 29887 W. 11 Mile, Dearborn  
**Time/Date:** 7 p.m. Wednesday

**Details:** Participate in an open time of praying silently and aloud together as well as responding to personal requests.

**Contact:** 248-476-8860

## Celebrating 60 years

Victor A. and Clare A. Bianchi of Garden City, celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on June 20. They were married in 1953 at Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Detroit.

They have four children, Robert, Judith, Charles, and Mary Ellen (Edward) Proffitt. Their grandchildren are, Nicole (Ryan) Schmidt, Vanessa Bianchi, Robert Bianchi, Jr. They also have one great-grandson, Logan Schmidt.

The family celebrated their anniversary at a local restaurant.

## ANNIVERSARY



Victor and Clare Bianchi on their wedding day



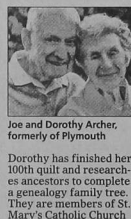
Victor and Clare Bianchi of Garden City

## ANNIVERSARY



Joe and Dorothy Archer on their wedding day

a move back to Plymouth. After several years they moved to Maryland, where two of their children live. The couple spends winter months in the south and makes annual visits to Plymouth. Joe continues to carve walking sticks, enjoys "lure" bowling and occasionally golf.



Joe and Dorothy Archer, formerly of Plymouth

Dorothy has finished her 100th quilt and researches ancestors to complete a genealogy family tree. They are members of St. Mary's Catholic Church in Hagerstown, Md.

Their children are Ken, Jr. (Angelita), and Gail (John) Barrett, all of Maryland. Mary Jo of California, and Kelley (Scott) Gorden-Somers of New York.

Dorothy and Joe had an anniversary dinner with two of their children and their families. They're postponing their 66th celebration until all of their children can be together with them.

## 66th wedding anniversary

Kenneth "Joe" and Dorothy (Smith) Archer, formerly of Plymouth and now living in Maryland, celebrated their 66th wedding anniversary June 14. They were married in 1947 at Our Lady of Good Counsel in Plymouth.

Both were born in Michigan, raised in Plymouth and graduated from Plymouth High School. Dorothy was a 1943 graduate and Joe graduated in 1938. After graduation, Joe served in the U.S. Coast Guard for four years and Dorothy worked at Michigan Bell Telephone Co. After service Joe worked for Burroughs's Corporation in Plymouth until the company transferred him to Carlsbad, Calif., in 1969.

Dorothy and Joe retired in 1987 and spent retirement time traveling to several foreign countries before making

## ANNIVERSARY

The couple settled in 1959 near Warren and Inkster roads in what was then Nankin Township and later moved to the Cherry Hill and Hix area, where they have lived for more than 40

years. They are the proud parents of six children, 12 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. Two more great-grandchildren are expected in October.

Check us out on the Web every day at [hometownlife.com](http://hometownlife.com)

## Messages

Obituaries, Memories & Remembrances

1-800-579-7355 • fax 313-496-4968 • eoebits@hometownlife.com

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

## GOMEZ, VALERIE ANN

Age 61, July 2, 2013. Beloved significant other of Ralph Barber and wife of Danny Gomez. Loving mother of Donna Stohl (Pine Ohio), Leslie Gomez and Amy Gomez. Dear grandmother of Anthony and Amiyah. Brother of Loran Lankford and Leslie Clark. She was preceded in death by her daughter Elaine Gomez and her parents Charles and Joan Lankford. Please share a memory at [www.rgpharris.com](http://www.rgpharris.com).

## CUTTING, MARGARET MAURY

1914-2013  
Somewhere in the universe, our late mother, Maggie Cutting, is teasing off with her husband Bid, for a long delayed and much welcomed game of golf. Maggie passed away on May 26th at the age of 99. She was born Margaret Valentine Maury on November 28, 1914, in Wellesley, Massachusetts. Maggie married William Mass Cutting (Bid), in 1942 and they began 31 extraordinary years together. They remained in Detroit, later moving to Oakland County, Michigan where they raised 5 children. Maggie was preceded in death by her husband Bid (1993), and a daughter Patricia Maloney (1974). She is survived by daughters Janet Neckross, Susan Wischman (Tom), and Margaret Leonard (Bob), and son William Mass Cutting Jr. (Amy), 7 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren. Family and friends will gather for a Resurrection Mass and a celebration of Maggie's life on Friday, July 12, 2013 at 10:00 am at Holy Name Church in Birmingham, with interment along with her husband and daughter Patty, at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery. The family will greet friends beginning at 1:00pm at Carrabba's Restaurant in Novi. A full obituary can be found at [eltonblackandsonhighland.com](http://eltonblackandsonhighland.com)

## REHNER, SARAH MARGUERITE

In loving memory of Sarah Marguerite Rehner (nee Broegman) who passed away peacefully at age 94, July 2, 2013. Born November 24, 1918 in Plymouth, Michigan and lived there most of her life. A loving daughter, wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, aunt and friend. Predeceased by her husband of 60 years Lowell, survived by her son Alan (Kathleen), daughter Kathy (Ron), 2 grandchildren, 2 great grandchildren and 11 nieces and nephews. Marguerite loved cooking, handicrafts and tending her flowers, and brought great joy to others in these favorite endeavors. She will be missed and remembered with the same warm affection that she bestowed on everyone she met. Visitation from 10 am to 1 pm on Monday, July 8, followed by funeral services at 1 pm at the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home, 280 South Main St., Plymouth.

## SWANNEY, PETER LAUGHTON

73, formerly of Bloomfield Hills, MI, passed away Friday, June 28, 2013. Service: 2 P.M. Tuesday, July 9, at Blessing Funeral Home in Mansfield, Texas. Survivors: Wife Jackie; children, Laura, Mary and James; 11 grandchildren, sisters Marion and Rebecca; brother, David.

## SWINNEY, SHANNON RENEE

Age 47, of Northville. Shannon was a life long area resident. She was born in Livonia, the daughter of Donald and Margaret Swinney. She attended Harrison High School in Farmington Hills and then Eastern Michigan University, where she always made the Dean's list. She had a great sense of humor and enjoyed traveling, but her true passion was caring for people with special needs. Shannon is survived by her mother Margaret and Husband Alvis Duncan, her three brothers Donald and wife Joyce, Scott and Eric, three sisters Laura, Brianna and Serena Swinney, four nieces and one nephew. She was preceded in death by her father Donald. Visitation will be held on Sunday, July 7th from Noon until 9 PM at Northrop-Sassaman Funeral Home, 18991 Northville Rd at 41 Mile in Northville, and again on Monday July 8th from 11:00 until the time of the service at 1:00 PM.

## WILBER, LINDA F.

Age 71, of Westland, passed away, July 5, 2013. Beloved wife of the late Gerald Wilber, loving mother of Christine (John) Fredrickson, Sharon (Gary) Catencani and Vincent (Sue) Wilber. Also survived by five grandchildren. A Memorial Mass will be celebrated in her honor at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, July 13, 2013, at Springfield Methodist Church, 1041 Springfield Hwy, Oyster MI 48242. Condolences may be offered to the family online at [www.PurcellFuneralHome.com](http://www.PurcellFuneralHome.com)

May peace be with you in this time of sorrow.

## Dentists help manage sleep disorders

**H**ealthy teeth, healthy gums and now... healthy sleep? For those who have never consulted a dentist about treatments for sleep apnea and snoring, it may be time to make an appointment. Dental sleep medicine is a growing segment of dentistry that manages snoring and sleep apnea with oral appliance therapy — an effective alternative to the standard continuous positive airway pressure machine and mask.

According to the American Academy of Dental Sleep Medicine, up to half of sleep apnea patients don't comply with or tolerate CPAP therapy. It's still considered the gold standard for severe apnea but if patients don't tolerate it they deserve options.



Anjoo Ely

Dental sleep medicine focuses on managing the sleep-disordered breathing like snoring and obstructive sleep apnea using oral appliance therapy, a relatively unknown but very effective treatment option.

Oral appliance therapy uses a mouth guard-like device worn only during sleep to maintain an open, unobstructed airway. OAT devices prevent the airway from collapsing by either holding the tongue or supporting the jaw in a forward position. For many, oral appliance devices are more comfortable to wear than a CPAP mask.

The devices also are quiet, portable and easy to care for. Research suggests that oral appliance therapy often can equal CPAP in effectiveness and offers a higher patient compliance rate than CPAP. There are more than 100 different styles of oral appliance devices that have received FDA clearance.

### Working with a dentist

Dentists trained in dental sleep medicine work in conjunction with a sleep physician and recommend a specific oral appliance device based on a patient's needs. The dentist will assess the need for tongue space, whether the patients sleeps with his/her mouth open, whether the patients grinds the teeth, etc. The

important thing for patients to remember is that effective oral devices are always custom fit by a dentist and may need adjustments over time to ensure maximum effectiveness. It is important to see a dentist trained in dental sleep medicine.

AADSM recommends oral appliance therapy for people with mild to moderate obstructive sleep apnea. Once a patient is diagnosed with primary snoring or obstructive sleep apnea by a board-certified sleep physician, a dentist trained in dental sleep medicine can treat with OAT. Often the patient can be sent home with a portable sleep test, that can be done in the privacy of their own home.

### Obstructive sleep apnea

According to the AADSM, at least 12-18 million adults in the U.S. have obstructive sleep apnea, which causes them to stop breathing hundreds of times a night for anywhere from a few seconds to more than a minute. Sleep apnea is a potentially life-threatening condition that can increase the risk for serious health problems, from congestive heart failure, stroke, high blood pressure and heart disease to diabetes, obesity, depression and impotence, if left untreated.

Oral appliance therapy also is recommended for severe sleep apnea patients if they are unable to tolerate CPAP. The side effects of oral appliance therapy are

generally minor, including excessive salivation, muscle and tooth discomfort and, occasionally, joint discomfort, and most improve within a few weeks. Major adverse effects of OAT are soreness or loosening of sludge tooth movement, permanent changes in a patient's bite, ongoing muscle soreness or loosening of dental restorations. Medical insurance often covers oral appliance therapy. Please feel free to contact our office for more information.

Anjoo Ely, D.D.S., is a member of the American Academy of Dental Sleep Medicine. Her office is located at 24275 Novi Road, Novi; 248-347-3030. Visit her website at [www.sleepapneadental.com](http://www.sleepapneadental.com).

### JULY BARIATRIC SURGERY

The Michigan Bariatric Institute offers free monthly educational seminars about laparoscopic bariatric surgery by Tallal Zeni, M.D., Director of Minimally Invasive and Bariatric Surgery. Presentations will be offered from 6-7:30 p.m. Thursday, July 11, Aug. 1 and Sept. 12 in the North Auditorium at St. Mary Mercy Hospital, Five Mile and Livonia. For more information, call the Institute at 877-949-9344.

### CANCER SURVIVORSHIP

Living With, Through and Beyond Cancer is a free program that offers information from leading oncology experts to help those coping with cancer. Presentations will be followed by a question and answer period with doctors and health care providers. The four-part series will be held July-October at Josephine Ford Cancer Institute sites. The first session, Communicating with Your Health Care Team, is set for 6-7:30 p.m. Wednesday, July 10, at Henry Ford Medical Center-Columbus.

39450 W. 12 Mile, Novi. For more information about the series, call Ted Varkas at 734-479-1007. Mary Revers at 586-263-2237 or Gwen Roediger at 248-344-6656.

### CONTROLLING JOINT PAIN

Henry Ford Health System's Joint Preservation Program offers free classes on ways to slow down the progression of joint pain without surgery. The focus is on the knee and hip joints. Participants learn how the joints work, self-management of pain, medical treatments, physical therapy, how and exercises to strengthen joints. Classes run 10 a.m. to noon July 11 and 1-3 p.m. Aug. 15 at Henry Ford Medical Center-Fairlane, 19401 Hubbard Drive, Dearborn, and 1-3 p.m. Aug. 22 at Henry Ford Medical Center-Columbus, 39450 W. 12 Mile, Novi.

### JOINT REPLACEMENT

Jeffrey Mendelstein, M.D., will answer questions, discuss joint pain, joint replacement procedures and available implant options 6-8 p.m. Wednesday, July 24, in Classroom 10 at St. Mary Mercy Center for Joint

Replacement, located on the hospital campus at Five Mile and Livonia. To register, call 734-655-2345.

### LUPUS SUPPORT

The Michigan Lupus Foundation will hold a support group meeting 1-3 p.m. Tuesday, July 13, at Providence Hospital, Conference Room C, 16001 W. Nine Mile, Southfield. The meeting is for individuals with lupus, their families and friends. For more information, visit [www.milupus.org](http://www.milupus.org) or call 800-705-6677.

### WALK WITH A DOC

Dr. Annette Carron, geriatrics specialist, will talk about understanding and improving memory to sharpen your mind and boost your brainpower, during Botford Hospital's monthly Walk with a Doc, noon Thursday, July 18, at Heritage Park Nature Center, located on the west side of Farmington Road, between 10 Mile and 11 Mile. Farmington Hills. Meets rain or shine. Call 877-477-3621, option 1, to register.

### WOMEN'S HEALTH

Dr. Paul Makela, M.D., director of Gynecological Robotic Sur-

gery, will present a series on women's health topics 6-7 p.m. Wednesday, July 17, Aug. 21 and Sept. 18, in Classroom 10 at St. Mary Mercy Hospital, located at Five Mile and Livonia. Pelvic pain is this month's topic, followed by bladder dysfunction in August and pelvic prolapse in September. Light refreshments will be provided. Presentations are free but registration is required. Call 734-655-1980.

### ONGOING AQUATIC CLASSES

The YMCA of Metropolitan Detroit and the Arthritis Foundation have partnered to offer aquatic classes designed to ease the pain of arthritis. Classes are held 11 a.m. to noon Tuesday and Thursday at the Farmington branch, 1-145 p.m. Monday and Wednesday at the Livonia branch, and 2-3 p.m. Wednesday and Friday at the Birmingham branch. All classes are offered to members and nonmembers of every age and participants do not need to know how to swim

to participate. To join or for more information, interested individuals can contact their local YMCA branch or visit [www.ymcadeloit.org](http://www.ymcadeloit.org).

### BLOOD PRESSURE

Garden City Hospital offers free blood pressure testing, cholesterol (S), and lipid panel (HDL) testing, 10 a.m. to noon the first Tuesday of each month in the main lobby of the hospital, 6245 Inkster Road, Garden City. No registration is required. Senior citizens can have their blood pressure tested monthly, free of charge, at 8:30 a.m. the first and third Tuesday and second and fourth Thursdays of each month at Westland Shopping Center, 35000 Warren Road, Westland; 9 a.m. the second and fourth Mondays at the Berwyn Senior Center, 20155 Richardson, Dearborn Heights; and 10:15 a.m. every other Wednesday at Maplewood Community Center, 31735 Maplewood, Garden City, and every second Tuesday at the Redford Community Center, 12121 Hemmingsway, Redford

Township. For information, call 734-458-4330.

### BREAST CANCER SUPPORT

Meets 6:30 a.m. the second Tuesday of each month in the Atrium of Our Lady of Hope Cancer Center, St. Mary Mercy Hospital, 26475 Five Mile (use south entrance off Levan Road), Livonia. Call 734-655-1100, or visit [www.stmarymercy.org](http://www.stmarymercy.org).

### BIPOLAR SUPPORT

Depression Relief Support Alliance meets 6-7:30 p.m. the second and fourth Tuesday at Lincoln Behavioral Services Center, 14500 Sheldon, Suite 1608, Plymouth. It is accessed through the Plymouth Executive Park driveway north of M-14. It is a self-help group for people suffering from depression and bipolar disorders. Meetings open to families. All leaders are professionally trained and attend two trainings for every year to update their skills in leading the group. Call Nancy at 734-536-3457 for directions.

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## Only Funny in the Movies

A Fall Can Be Serious, So Let's Be Safe Out There.

### Ask A Garden City Hospital Health Expert

Almost a third of the population over 65 years old fall each year, with half of those seniors falling more than once. GCH Health Expert, Dr. Frank Winters, specializes in geriatric medicine and explains the importance of taking fall prevention seriously.

**Q:** I am in my early 70's, active and in good shape. Last week while walking through the park, I took a spill and scraped my leg. I don't exactly know why I fell. Is this common for adults and how I see my doctor?

**A:** As we get older, physical changes, health conditions and sometimes even the medications we're taking make falling more likely. While the fear of falling doesn't need to rule your life, you should make an appointment to see your doctor. He or she can best determine if this was a random occurrence caused by the terrain or if there is a greater likelihood you will fall again. Being physically active can go a long way to preventing falls by keeping your strength, balance and coordination at its peak. I also recommend anyone over the age of 65 begin a fall prevention plan by seeing a physician. Here are a few other tips to prevent a fall:

1. **Wear the right shoes** – High heels, flip flops and shoes with slick soles can make you slip, stumble and fall. So can walking in your socks. Choose lace-up shoes instead of slip-ons. If you have trouble tying laces, select footwear with fabric fasteners. Also, replace old worn out slippers with a proper fitting pair with nonskid soles.
2. **Have regular eye exams** – Age-related vision diseases can increase the risk of falling. Cataracts and glaucoma can alter depth perception, visual acuity, peripheral vision and susceptibility to glare. Young people use visual cues to perceive an imminent fall and take corrective action. Older adults with visual impairments do not have this advantage to the same extent.
3. **Make your home safer** – More than a third of all falls happen at home and involve things like tripping over objects on the floor, loose rugs, poor lighting, and those icy sidewalks we experience every winter. Take whatever steps you can to create a safer home environment, including the addition of handrails if needed.
4. **Stay active** – Failure to exercise regularly results in poor muscle tone, decreased strength, and loss of bone mass and flexibility, which can contribute to falls and intensify the severity of injury.
5. **Regulate your vitamin intake** – Reduce your risk for injuries from a fall by maintaining the appropriate amounts of vitamin D and calcium in your diet. Your physician can help you determine what will work best for you.

Join Garden City Hospital every month at Westland Mall, for our wellness lecture series. At 1 p.m. on the second Saturday of each month, a GCH Health Expert will provide helpful and in depth information on a variety of issues that impact our health every day. The next lecture, "Elderly Care and Fall Prevention", is July 13.

Do you have a health or medical question of one of the GCH Health Experts? Visit GCH.org or call 877.717.WELL.

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# JOBS

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## Uncovering the benefits of a bad job

Robert Half International

A bad job can be the result of a range of issues. Perhaps it's a lack of growth opportunities for a sales coordinator who's held the same role for four years. Or maybe it's a work/life imbalance for an executive assistant who spends late nights at the office and still has to catch up on projects at home.

We've all had a bad job at some point along the way. If your list of cons is longer than your list of pros, don't fret. There are tactics you can employ to tip the scales back in your favor.

Here are five ways to find the upside no matter how bad a job may seem.

### 1. Connect with new people

The biggest asset at your disposal may be the people you work with. Expanding your circle to cross-departmental colleagues can bring about unexpected benefits.

For one, they might become sources of support and friendship, helping to improve your job satisfaction. Further, they may be able to expose you to new projects or areas of the company that could hold some appeal.

So be a part of the office dynamic. This makes it easier to reach out to an extended group of people. Take part in hallway

chats, attend birthday events and bring a casserole to the monthly potluck or the summer picnic. When new people join the company, welcome them and express your interest in learning from each other.

Remember not to mention your discontent. You're not looking for others to gripe with. Simply focus on areas of interest. Any shared experiences or knowledge can open up a useful conversation. Follow up later via email and build a continued dialogue over time.

Bonus tip: In addition to peers, consider connecting with managers and even executives. You can still look upward when networking internally.

### 2. Tap your potential

Ask for projects that allow you to stretch your abilities and develop new skills. You may find that you enjoy whatever it is you begin working on and that your dissatisfaction is not so much with the company but with your current duties. An added benefit: You also can include action verbs, such as "managed," "mentored" or "developed," on your résumé.

Bonus tip: Ask your supervisors how you're doing with a new assignment. If you get words of appreciation, thank them and keep any glowing emails or reviews for your records. You can use these as a résumé addendum or for your



COMPANY PROFITS

cover letter.

### 3. Investigate your industry

One thing a bad job can still help you do: explore your industry in greater depth. Many companies pay for memberships to industry associations and conferences, making it easier—and more affordable—to interact with your peers. By doing so, you can bring added value to your job, expand your professional network and potentially learn about future career paths.

You may even realize you're not as passionate about your profession as you once were. Instead of pinning your discontent on your current job, it may be the business that's not working for you. Sometimes it's hard to tell.

Bonus tip: Consider not just attending but speaking at an industry event. It's easier to get accepted as a speaker while employed, and being a featured presenter can boost your credentials in the eyes of future employers.

### 4. Propose process improvement

Your job dissatisfaction may be the result of barriers to efficiency in your office, such as a complicated approval process that drains your excitement for a project as it drags on. Rather than complain, suggest systems or processes that will alleviate pain points. Chances are you're not the only one who is frustrated.

You'll earn the goodwill of colleagues, and these individuals could serve as future references. Also keep in mind that spearheading these types of improvements is résumé gold.

Bonus tip: Create a proposal for your boss that clearly outlines the benefits of any changes you suggest. For example, "If we remove this review step, we can save a week in producing the financial report. Here's why that step is redundant."

### 5. Examine your career path

It's important to assess what you want—and what you don't want—from your future job to avoid landing in another unsatisfying position. And it's easier to reflect on your career path while employed; for one thing, you won't have the added financial stress.

Focus on targeting employers and roles that can offer you what you're looking for. This research phase can take time, so dig in now.

Bonus tip: Sign up with a staffing firm. A specialized recruiter can do much of the heavy lifting in a job search. These professionals are able to identify opportunities that might interest you and approach companies, confidentially, on your behalf. You don't have to make a move until you're ready.

Use the above tips to remain positive and productive when you're stuck in a bad job. Even if you can't leave at the moment, there are ways to stay motivated and find the right fit eventually.

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