

# CANTON OBSERVER

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## Residents paying new tax increase

New fee for trash disposal, coupled with increase in property values, leaves clerk answering questions

By Darrell Clem  
Staff Writer

Canton residents receiving their winter tax bills are paying a new trash disposal fee and a 1.5-mill tax increase for police and fire services.

Treasurer Melissa McLaughlin said some residents have called her office or stopped by the customer



McLaughlin

counter. Canton sends out nearly 32,000 tax bills.

"We are getting some calls," she said.

"They've noticed their tax bill is up a few hundred dollars.

Some residents are more OK with it than others."

The changes follow decisions made in August by the Canton Township Board of Trustees, coupled with a slight increase on tax bills due to property values that have begun a slow rebound.

The board imposed a \$140-a-year trash disposal fee on Canton households, but officials say it was mostly offset by a 1-mill reduction in the township's general fund tax.

Canton, much like its neighbors, chose to remove trash disposal costs from the general

fund and create a separate line-item charge for it.

"The people who benefit from the service pay for it and those who do not benefit from it don't pay it," McLaughlin said.

Those not paying it include businesses who hire their own garbage-collection companies.

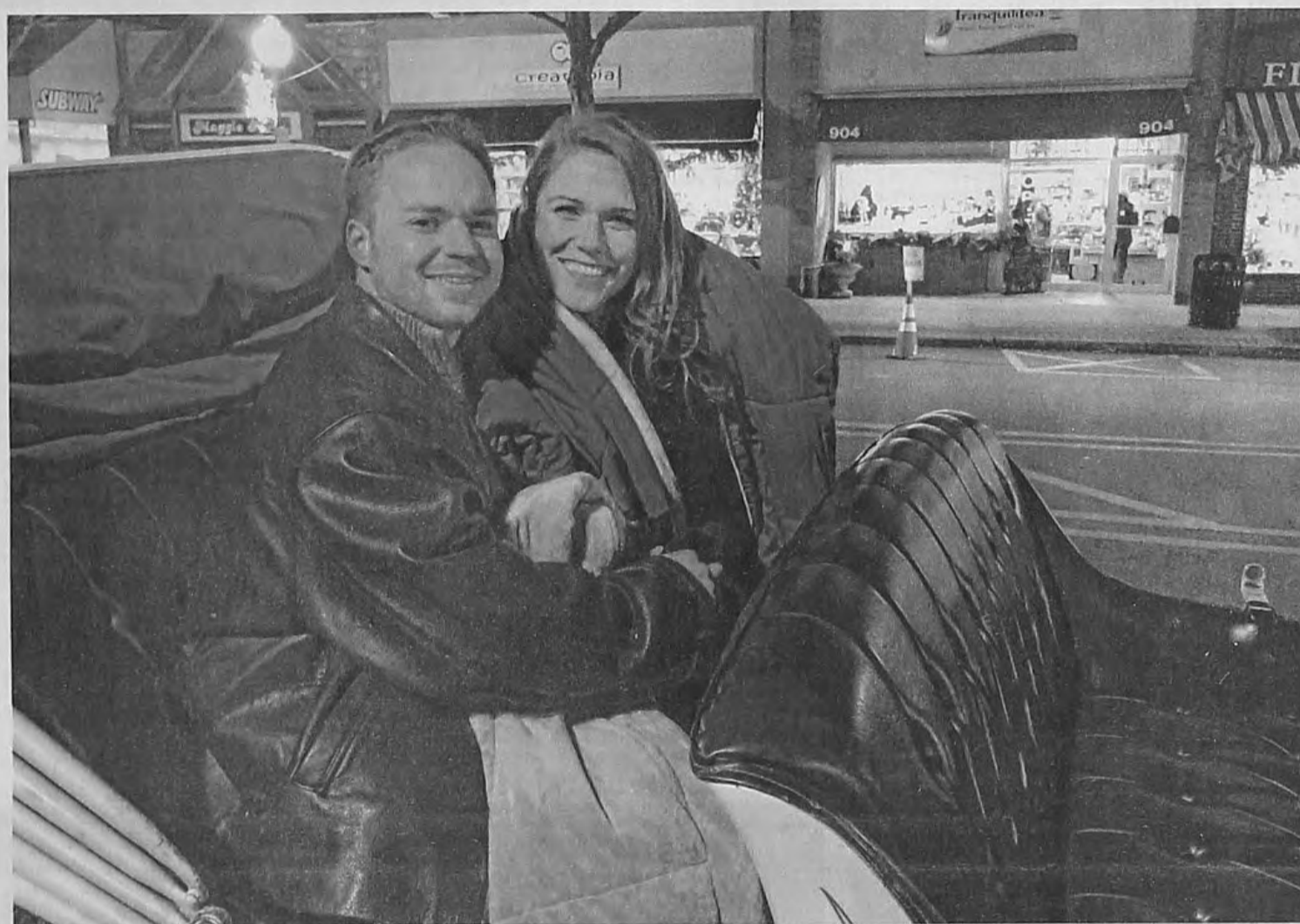
Canton officials say many taxpayers noticing the new trash disposal fee may not realize they got a 1-mill reduction on their general fund taxes.

"So far, when we explain everything to people, the vast majority of them are OK with everything," McLaughlin said.

Township Trustee Steven Sneiderman has said he is likely to suggest revisiting the issue at some point because he believes the flat \$140 trash disposal fee is unfair to residents with lower property values who paid less under the old system.

"It's a cost increase for the

See INCREASE, Page A2



BRAD KADRICH

David Morpew used the horse-and-carriage ride at Thursday's Christmas in Plymouth event to propose to his girlfriend, Renae Danko.

## LOVE GETS A RIDE

Plymouth Christmas event provides proposal backdrop

By Brad Kadrach  
Staff Writer

Christmas chimes weren't the only bells ringing Thursday through downtown Plymouth for David Morpew and Renae Danko.

For the couple who'd met online and had been dating some nine months, there were also wedding bells.

While enjoying a horse-and-carriage ride he had arranged in advance for the couple, Morpew finally worked through his jangling nerves and asked Danko the most important question of their lives.

"I told her I'd been waiting for her since I was 17 years old. ... Will you marry me?" said Morpew, an Ann Arbor

resident originally from Texas.

For Danko, a Canton resident, the answer was easy.

"Obviously, yes!" she said. "The whole atmosphere downtown was so romantic."

Morpew planned the whole thing as part of the first-ever Christmas in Plymouth event set up by retailers and restaurant owners to provide a holiday-style shopping venue for downtown shoppers. It's the first of two such events; the other is a Ladies Night set for Thursday, Dec. 18.

Christmas in Plymouth featured horse-and-carriage rides provided by Camelot Farms in Flushing. When Morpew read about the rides being offered, he knew it was the right moment.

"I know she loves downtown Plymouth," Morpew said of his new fiancée. "I found out about (the event) online and

*"I know she loves downtown Plymouth. I found out about (the event) online and saw the pictures of the lights and the carriages. I just knew it was what I wanted to do."*

**DAVID MORPHEW**

Ann Arbor man who proposed during carriage ride in downtown Plymouth

*"I started getting a little idea. He started getting a little nervous. It was cute."*

**RENAE DANKO**

Canton woman who said 'yes'

See PROPOSAL, Page A3

## Library set for second phase of renovation

Beginning in January, the Canton Public Library will embark on phase two of a planned renovation to update the library facilities. Continuing a project of maintenance and upgrades started in 2014, the library will renovate the lobby public restrooms, replace carpeting and shelving and add study carrels and seating.

The work, being performed by Library Design Associates of Plymouth, will take approximately eight weeks to complete.

The project cost of \$514,611 will be paid for with a one-time fund balance transfer and money from community donations and the 2015 operating fund.

"After years of heavy use, our building is showing its age," library director Eva Davis said. "This renovation will make the library accessible for all users and help us stay relevant to Canton residents so that we may continue our mission of connecting our community."

While no closure is expected, access to certain areas of the library will be restricted to patrons during the renovation. Patrons should expect to encounter noise and dust as workers move throughout the library.

Signage at the library, as well as postings on the library's website, [www.canton-pl.org](http://www.canton-pl.org), and social media will track the project.

"The community identified the library as Canton's most important facility in a recent survey," library trustee Nancy Eggenberger said. "We are investing the resources to maintain and improve our facility for generations of Canton residents."

A renovation in February 2014 improved the patron experience with a redesigned traffic flow configuration, single access point for all services and centrally located printer/copier work area and additional seating areas.

## Festive mood surrounds annual chamber holiday gathering

By Darrell Clem  
Staff Writer

A holiday concert, a Canton Goodfellows toy drive and a Kentucky Derby party preview welcomed a crowd of 100 people Thursday as the Canton Chamber of Commerce hosted a year-end luncheon at Summit on the Park.

"It's been a great year for us," chamber President Thom-

as Paden said, "and we have high expectations for 2015."

The Plymouth-Canton Educational Park Festival Singers, drawing applause and a standing ovation, entertained the chamber audience with a holiday concert featuring songs ranging from *Let It Snow* to *Ave Maria*.

"I'm very proud of them," director Jennifer Neumann said after the Festival Singers

concluded one of 20 holiday concerts they are performing around the community. "They do a collegiate-level repertoire. They enjoy singing and they have fun. They are truly ambassadors for the schools."

Before the luncheon started, Paden reflected on this year and said he was proud the chamber helped welcome a



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

See CHAMBER, Page A2

Dianne Cojei organizes gifts donated to the Goodfellows.



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# CANTON OBSERVER

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Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
hometownlife.com

Editor: Brad Kadrich  
734-624-3379  
Email: bkadrich@hometownlife.com

Sports: Tim Smith  
734-469-4128  
Email: tsmith@hometownlife.com

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## CHAMBER

Continued from Page A1

flurry of new businesses to town while rolling out inaugural community events such as Girls Night Out.

Even before the year ends, chamber officials began to pivot toward 2015. To that end, Dianne Cojei, the chamber's events coordinator, wore a black-and-red hat Thursday as she promoted a Kentucky Derby-themed party for the chamber's annual auction and major fundraiser, already set for April 18.

"We're promoting it now," Cojei said, adding anyone who is interested in attending or sponsoring the event may call the chamber office at 734-453-4040.

As luncheon attendees filed into the Summit, they brought children's games, stuffed animals, toy cars and other gifts to help the Canton Goodfellows fulfill wish lists of 442 local children



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The P-CEP Festival Singers entertain chamber members and guests.

from 172 families in need this holiday season.

"As a community organization," Paden said, "it's very important for us to partner to help our nonprofits in the area."

The toy drive came just two days before the Goodfellows planned to distribute gifts to local families at township hall.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

County Commissioner Shannon Price and Plymouth-Canton school Superintendent Dr. Michael Meissen speak before the event begins.

dclm@hometownlife.com  
Twitter: @CantonObserver  
734-072-0919

## INCREASE

Continued from Page A1

owner of a \$50,000 house and a decrease for the owner of a \$500,000 house," Sneedman said.

However, McLaughlin has said the flat fee is fair because all homeowners have their trash picked up.

Much of the increase on Canton tax bills is tied to a 1.5-mill public safety tax, evenly split between the police and fire funds to avert a \$15.8 million deficit and help return the departments to pre-recession staffing levels.

The township board imposed the tax just four years after approving a 1.75-mill public safety

tax increase.

Fire Chief Joshua Meier has set a goal to hire three new firefighters to allow the department to staff a fourth ambulance 24 hours a day to better handle medical emergencies and reduce calls for mutual aid from neighboring communities.

Police officials also hope to fill as many as five vacant police officer positions, to restore a community relations post and launch initiatives to reduce escalating crimes such as retail fraud.

"The true increase (on the latest tax bills) comes from the police and fire millage," McLaughlin said.

Officials have said the

efforts are needed to address emerging trends. Among those, McLaughlin said, is an aging local population that will need more medical attention in coming years.

dclm@hometownlife.com  
Twitter: @CantonObserver  
734-972-0919

## CORRECTION

A story in the Thursday, Dec. 11, edition of the *Canton Observer* should have said the Michigan Humane Society has a 100-percent adoption rate for healthy cats and a 68-percent adoption rate for treatable cats.

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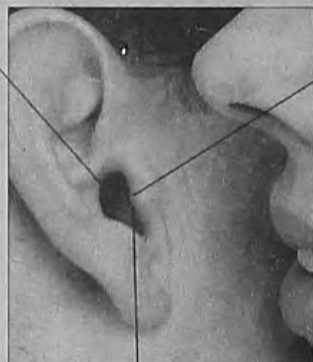
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# Boundary plan moves closer to final vote

By Brad Kadrich  
Staff Writer

After several postponements, adjustments and reconsiderations, the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools Board of Education finally appears poised to vote on middle school recommendations made by its boundary steering committee.

Board members voted 5-1 Wednesday to accept the first reading of the latest recommendation, put together by the committee after months of delays while the board tried to appease disgruntled residents. Trustee Mark Horvath was the only "no" vote; Trustee Mike Maloney was absent.

The board is scheduled to vote on the second and final reading of the recommendation in a meeting at 7 p.m. Tuesday at the E.J. McClen- don Education Center, 454 S. Harvey, in Plymouth.

Horvath voted against accepting the first reading, saying the information was too recent.

"I haven't had enough time to go through it," Horvath said of the proposal, which was final-



New Plymouth-Canton Board of Education members Kim Crouch (from left), Kate Borninski and Michael Siegrist were sworn in Wednesday by Wayne County Judge Mark Slavens, a former school board member. Crouch is on the current board; Borninski and Siegrist join her next month.

ized Monday. "There are a lot of moving parts here."

The latest delays had been caused by several factors, among them keeping the students in the Sunflower subdivision together and safe and perhaps dividing students from Allen Elementary School to only two middle schools, rather than the three middle

schools currently being recommended.

In fact, under the newest recommendation, no elementary school family will be divided into more than two schools.

Ten of the district's remaining 14 elementary schools (after Allen and Gallimore elementaries are closed or re-purposed next year) will

migrate to a single middle school.

Students from Far- rand, Isbister, Miller and Smith elementaries will be split between two middle schools.

The new recommendation also addresses what had popped up as a safety concern for students in Canton's Sunflower subdivision. Surrounding Tonda Elementary School, the subdivision is bordered by Canton Center, Beck, Ford Road and Joy.

Under the last version of the plan, Sunflower kids would have been divided between Discovery Middle School, at Hanford and Canton Center, and Pioneer Middle School, on Ann Arbor Road in Plymouth Township.

Under the version accepted for first reading Wednesday, Sunflower students will all be bused to Pioneer.

It's the latest in a

growing number of options that have been considered.

That had some parents wondering why the rush to get to this one when there are other options that have been considered.

Nicole Der-Stepanian, whose daughter thought she was going to go to middle school at Pioneer, has now been shifted to the new middle school opening on Cherry Hill near Canton Center.

"I'm asking you to take a moment," Der-Stepanian told board members Wednesday. "There were so many great proposals. I'm not sure why all of a sudden, at the 11th hour, this brand-new proposal is being put on the table when there are so many great options out there."

bkadrich@hometownlife.com  
Twitter: @bkadrich

## PROPOSAL

Continued from Page A1

saw the pictures of the lights and the carriages. I just knew it was what I wanted to do."

Morphew and Danko met through an online dating service, though they had mutual friends who could have set them up much sooner.

"I guess they were letting us down" by not introducing them sooner, Danko said with a laugh.

While Morphew and Danko were the only ones who used the Christmas in Plymouth car-

riages to get engaged, Camelot Farms owner Warren Atwell said his carriages are often used to give romance a little nudge.

"It happens once in a while," he said. "We try to make it as special as we can for them."

Morphew worked it out with Carol Uber, owner of Home Sweet Home and one of the major organizers of Christmas in Plymouth. They picked up the carriage on Ann Arbor Trail and, when it hit Main Street, he popped the question.

"All the trees are lit up right there and it's the

prettiest spot," Morphew said.

Once the carriage ride started, Danko started thinking something might be coming. The couple had the carriage to themselves, even though it was a sold-out event and most carriages carried six riders. And as the ride progressed, she said, she noticed Morphew getting fidgety.

"I started getting a little idea," Danko said afterward, still all smiles. "He started getting a little nervous. It was cute."

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## Blue-ribbon panel aims to market district

Group is cross-section of community members

By Brad Kadrich  
Staff Writer

Don Soenen believes that, as solid a reputation as the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools district enjoys, not everyone is aware of the kinds of programs the district offers.

So Soenen, who has already stepped up to help the Michigan Philharmonic and save downtown Plymouth's Penn Theatre, agreed to chair the district's Blue Ribbon Advisory Panel, a group composed of community stakeholders designed to help market the district.

And if the district is to withstand challenges from private, charter and online educational opportunities – district officials have said they're losing 400-500 students a year – he believes the district has to have a better connection to the community.

"If we can sell the district to the community more successfully, it will lessen the pressure we feel from charters and others," said Soenen, president, CEO and chairman of Sensors, Inc., in Saline. "(Parents) will think twice before they jump ship."

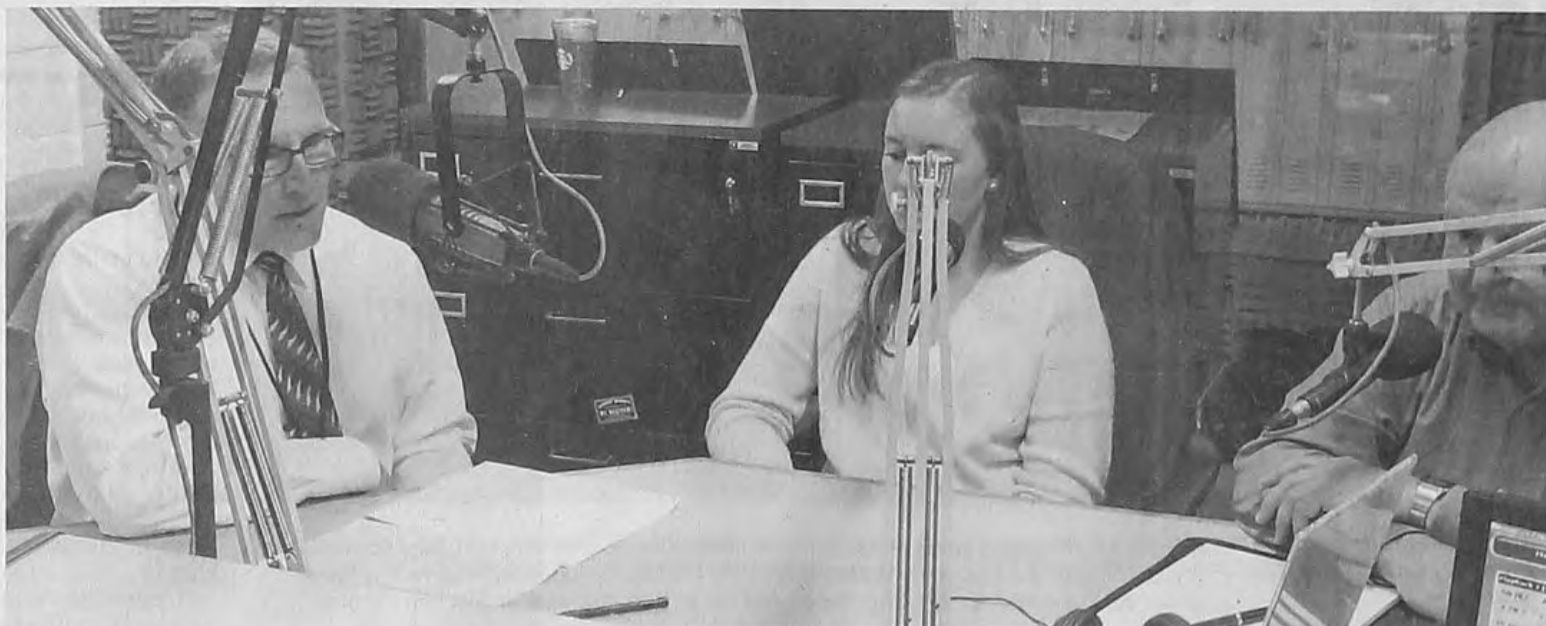
The group consists of a variety of stakeholders – municipal entities, nonprofit, alumni, the arts, higher education, community organizers, parents, students, and business leaders – from across the region.

### First meeting

The group met for the first time last week to outline the district's strengths/challenges and brainstorm ways to improve.

The panel has been well-received by both the Board of Education and district leadership.

"We've recognized we can't do it alone," Dr. Michael Meissen, the district's superintendent, said during the taping of



Plymouth-Canton Superintendent Dr. Michael Meissen (left) talks with senior Alyce Krumm and Don Soenen, who is chairing the district's Blue Ribbon Advisory Panel.



Senior Alyce Krumm joined Blue Ribbon Advisory Panel chairman Don Soenen on Dr. Michael Meissen's radio show.

his radio show Wednesday. "Having this Blue Ribbon Panel is a good thing."

The advisory panel will provide periodic and ongoing communications about the work of the group. It's expected to meet five times per year and operate as part of the Superintendent's Strategic Priorities.

Soenen said the panel's mission is to find ways to battle the challenges faced by public schools in this day of tight budgeting and increasing opportunities such as charter schools.

### 'Perfect storm'

Districts point to challenges with issues of equity and funding, "particularly out of Lansing," Soenen said, and falling enrollment due to lower birth rates and the explosion of charter schools, particularly in the Plymouth-Canton area. For instance, the area's first charter high school opened in September.

"The combination of this perfect storm is presenting challenges to public schools," Soenen said. "It's critical we maintain a strong public education system."

Soenen said the district needs to become more connected with the community, saying too many people "don't know enough" about the programs the district offers.

There are professionals in the community, he said, who can be brought into the conversation to help the district get the word out.

"There is talent, resources and expertise that could help us address these issues," Soenen said. "If we have an opportunity to help our community, we have a responsibility to do so. There are wonderful offerings in the district that no one knows about. They can help get that message out."

The first meeting was well-attended, an indication, according to Soenen, the work of the panel will be welcomed by the community.

"Based on the reaction we got from our initial meeting, the community is excited," Soenen said. "I don't know anything more exciting than taking on some of these challenges."

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The Kiwanis Club of Canton made its annual delivery of dictionaries to third-graders at Plymouth-Canton schools and at Walker-Winter Elementary in the Wayne-Westland school district.

# Kiwanis Club makes annual dictionary delivery

Kiwanis Club of Canton once again has completed its annual donation of dictionaries all across the Plymouth-Canton school district.

All of the elementary schools from Allen to Workman were recipients of this year's book distribution. Walker-Winter Elementary in the Wayne-Westland School District was also included, since it has a large Canton population enrolled.

"Students get to discover all of the fun facts in their new dictionaries," Kiwanis spokesman Mark Ott said. "In fact, all of the third-graders were using their dictionaries to look up words like 'service' and 'volunteer.'"

The books include biographies of the presidents, statistics on the states and other countries, so it is a source of information beyond words.

Joanna Uhl's and Vanessa Guastella's classes at Eriksson School were just two of many in the elementary schools to receive complimentary dictionaries from the Canton Kiwanis Club.

"This is my favorite time of the year," Guastella said.

More than 1,200 books were personally distributed to each of the students in their respective classrooms by members of the club. Since the inception of the project, more than 10,000 books have been presented. Evidence suggests that students use the books through middle and high school years.

The distribution is done with books purchased through the Dictionary Project. This is a national organization supporting literacy by providing access to affordable books for students.

The Kiwanis Club of Canton received a grant from the Kiwanis International Foundation to partially fund the project this year. This grant represents a strong show of support for the validity of the program. The Kiwanis International Foundation supports project all over the world and the grant was awarded through an application process after meeting certain criteria.

For information on the Dictionary Project or other Kiwanis service projects in the Plymouth and Canton communities, contact Ott at 734-748-9159.

Photos are available for viewing on the club's website ([www.cantonkiwanis.com](http://www.cantonkiwanis.com)) as well as on its Facebook page.

The club meets at 6 p.m. the first and third Tuesday of each month at the Summit on the Park.

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# United Way seeks help from local residents

In recent weeks, four homeless individuals have walked into the Plymouth Community United Way office in search of help.

As the holidays approach, many people's thoughts turn to shopping for holiday gifts, while others wonder where they will find shelter.

As the year draws to a close, PCUW staff is asking the community to give, volunteer and care. Help is only available when individuals, church groups, service clubs and businesses contribute.

PCUW counts on donations from the community to provide human services in Plymouth,

Canton and western Wayne County. For the last several years, the local United Way has been busy providing emergency food, rent and utility assistance due to the recession.

In addition to basic needs, this year's contributions help pursue its Community Impact Initiative.

In an effort to address issues and create lasting change, grants were awarded to organizations attempting to create change.

These included Plymouth-Canton Community Schools (bridge program to prepare ninth-grade students for success in high school and an after-school pilot

program to tutor elementary students) and Southeast Michigan Stand Down to assist homeless veterans. Funding also went to food pantries, bus transportation for seniors, housing for adults with developmental disabilities, shelter for domestic violence victims and their children, hospice

and substance abuse assessment and treatment for youth and many more programs.

Donations can be made online at [www.plymouthunitedway.org](http://www.plymouthunitedway.org) or to Plymouth Community United Way, 960 W. Ann Arbor Trail, Suite 2, Plymouth, MI 48170. For information, call 734-453-6879.

## PLYMOUTH-CANTON COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### NO RECORDS

**Date/Time:** Friday, Dec. 19, noon to 2 p.m.

**Location:** Canton Police Department, Canton Township Hall

**Details:** Canton Public Safety's Records Bureau will be closed.

### LIBRARY BAG SALES

**Dates:** Jan. 23-26; Feb. 20-23; March 27-30

**Location:** Canton Public Library, 1200 N. Canton Center Road, Canton

**Details:** The Canton Public Library hosts several Bag Sales to benefit Secondhand Prose, the Friends of the Canton Public Library bookstore. Visitors can shop during the monthly sale and fill a bag with books for just \$5.

### HOSPICE SUPPORT

**Dates/Times:** First and third Thursday of each month, 10-11:30 a.m.

**Location:** Plymouth Coffee Bean, 884 Penniman.

**Details:** Compassionate Coffee Club is an open and ongoing grief support group offering support and socialization for widows and widowers moving beyond the first year of loss. The program is sponsored by Compassionate Care Hospice and is free of charge, although a drink purchase is required for use of the space.

**Contact:** For more information, contact Ann Christensen, Compassionate Care Hospice Bereavement Coordinator at



KIWANIS CLUB OF CANTON

### Kiwanis grant

Kiwanis Club of Canton Secretary Janet Ott (left) and club President Sherrie Chrysler accepted a recent grant from the Kiwanis International Foundation to assist in the funding of the club's Dictionary Project. The Dictionary Project is a program designed to provide personal dictionaries to third-grade students. The book also includes other information such as biographies of presidents, statistical information on the United States, other continents and countries. The grant is recognition of the value and impact the program has on third-grade students in their development of reading and writing skills. Kiwanis Club of Canton meets at 6 p.m. the first and third Tuesdays of each month at Summit on the Park.

888-983-9050, or email [achristensen@cchnet.net](mailto:achristensen@cchnet.net).

### BRAIN NEUROBICS

**Date/Time:** Second and third

Thursday, January through May 2015, 11 a.m.

**Location:** Plymouth Township Hall, 9955 N. Haggerty

**Details:** Wayne State University Institute of Gerontology designed the 10 free courses. Keep your brain alert and active with such topics as Memory Tricks, Food for Thought and Magic of Music. Courses taught by Wal-tonwood Cherry Hill.

**Contact:** To sign up, call the Plymouth Community Council on Aging at 734-453-1234, ext. 236.

### GIFT CERTIFICATES

**Dates:** Through Dec. 19

**Location:** Plymouth Community Arts Council

**Details:** The Plymouth Community Arts Council is offering gift certificates for sale. They are available in any denomination and good for all PCAC classes, workshops, camps and programs. PCAC gift certificates can be purchased at the PCAC office from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Thursday.

**Contact:** For more information, call 734-416-4278.

### BASELINE FOLK BENEFIT

**Date/Time:** Saturday, Dec. 20, 7-9:30 p.m.

**Location:** Plymouth Community Arts Council, 774 N. Sheldon, Plymouth

**Details:** The Baseline Folk Society's benefit concert for the Plymouth Goodfellows features

The Sorenson Family. The band features Stephanie and Chris Sorenson, with Chris' father Wayne on bass. The host will be Rick Pitts, who will sing a couple of tunes and introduce the performers (there are 10 open mic slots).

**Contact:** For more information, contact Scott Ludwig, president of Baseline Folk Society, by email at [scludwig@aol.com](mailto:scludwig@aol.com) or call 734-453-0869.

### LIBRARY CONCERT

**Date/Time:** Sunday, Dec. 14, 3 p.m.

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

**Details:** The Friends of the Plymouth District Library present Lee Murdock and The Christmas Tree Ship Concert: Great Lakes Maritime History. Murdock combines music and stories of the inland seas, Great Lakes and port cities of the early 1900s. Murdock will also share his favorite holiday songs as part of the magical season. His song about the Rouse Simmons is the centerpiece to this concert, a story and song of hope and tragedy, of loss and renewal, as the famous ship struggled into a raging winter storm in November 1912.

**Contact:** Register for this free concert in advance by contacting the library at 734-453-0750, ext. 4, or online at [plymouthlibrary.org](http://plymouthlibrary.org)

### FOOD/WINTER WEAR

**Dates:** Through Dec. 18

**Locations:** Nico & Vali, The Sardine Room, Fiamma Grille, Compari's, the Post Local Bistro, Sean O'Callaghan's, Penn Grill, E.G. Nick's and the Ironwood Grill in downtown Plymouth

**Details:** Diners at any of the participating restaurants who donate either non-perishable food or winter wear can receive 5 percent off their bills (up to \$50) in a drive to help the Plymouth Salvation Army in a drive being sponsored by the Metro Times.

**Contact:** For more information, call The Salvation Army at 734-453-5464.

### BAREFOOT PRODUCTION

**Dates/Times:** Sunday, Dec. 14, 2 p.m.

**Location:** Barefoot Productions Theater, 240 N. Main, Plymouth

**Details:** Barefoot Productions presents *The Desk Set*, a comedy by William Marchant which inspired the movie starring Katherine Hepburn and Spencer Tracy. All seats are \$15.

**Contact:** For tickets, call 734-560-1493 or go to [www.just-gobarefoot.com](http://www.just-gobarefoot.com).

### JAZZ @ THE ELKS

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

**Location:** Plymouth Ann Arbor Elks Lodge, 41700 Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth

**Details:** This event features Judie Cochill with the Ron Kischuk Trio. The group features Judie Cochill on vocals, Ron Kischuk on trombone, Tad Weed on piano and Jeff Halsey on bass. There is a \$10 donation at the door, which includes hors d'oeuvres.

**Contact:** For more information, call 734-453-1780, go to [www.plymouthannarborelks325.com](http://www.plymouthannarborelks325.com) or email [jazzat-theelks@gmail.com](mailto:jazzat-theelks@gmail.com).

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**MON. 12/15 7:00 PM**

**THE ROYAL BALLET: ALICE'S ADVENTURES IN WONDERLAND**

**TUE. 12/16 7:00 PM**

**THE HOBBIT: THE BATTLE OF THE FIVE ARMIES**

**STARTS TUE. 12/16 7:00 PM**

**EXODUS: GODS AND KINGS**

(PG-13) 11:40, 12:05, 2:55, 6:05,

6:25, 9:15 FRI/SAT LS 11:10

**3D EXODUS: GODS AND KINGS**

(PG-13) \$2.50 PREMIUM PER 3D TICKET

3:15, 9:35

**HORRIBLE BOSSES 2 (R)**

11:10, 1:40, 4:25, 7:10, 9:40

FRI/SAT LS 12:00

**PENGUINS OF MADAGASCAR (PG)**

11:20, 1:50, 4:05, 6:35, 9:00

**HUNGER GAMES: MOCKINGJAY PART 1 (PG-13)**

12:30, 4:00, 7:00, 9:45

FRI/SAT LS 11:30

**DUMB AND DUMBER TO (PG-13)**

FRI 11:30, 2:20, 4:50, 7:20, 9:50

SAT 7:20, 9:50 SUN 11:30, 9:50

MON 11:30, 2:20, 9:50

**BIG HERO 6 (PG)**

11:00, 1:30, 4:15, 6:40, 9:05

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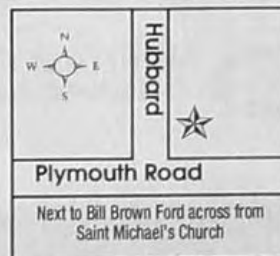
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Kettering Elementary School is among four vacant Wayne-Westland schools that will be torn down next year. FACEBOOK

# W-W board OKs demolition of four vacant schools

By Sue Mason  
Staff Writer

Four Wayne-Westland schools that have sat vacant since 2010 will be torn down and the properties re-purposed as part of group bid put together by Wayne County RESA.

The school board approved the demolitions of Madison, Lincoln and Kettering schools in Westland and Vandenberg School in Wayne and use of sinking fund money to pay the \$897,066 price tag.

"We had Plante Moran CRESA review our options," Deputy Superintendent Jim Larson-Shidler said. "We can re-open them up to three years after they closed, but ours have been closed four years and we would need to bring them up to code. We looked at the cost of re-opening them for schools, but our current enrollment doesn't support that."

The district will use a combination of \$470,025 in its sinking fund and a loan of \$417,041 from the general fund. The latter amount will be paid back when the district re-

ceives sinking fund tax revenue after July 1, 2015.

According to Larson-Shidler, maintenance is on unoccupied mode, but the district pays \$159,000 a year for utilities and building and grounds for the four schools. Of the four, Kettering costs the most, with \$82,432 spent annually for utilities and maintenance/vandalism.

## Cutting costs

Eliminating those expenses means the district will recoup the \$225,634 spent to demolish the school in 2.7 years. Plante Moran CRESA estimated that it would cost \$4.3 million to re-open it.

"The recommendation from Plante Moran CRESA was that the land is more valuable without the buildings," he said. "We could sell or lease the property, but it's worth more as vacant parcels than having vacant schools on them. We could solicit bids for development, but it's not something we could do immediately. It's something we could look at."

Trustee Sally Madison

questioned the costs, pointing out that as a parents in 2010, she and her husband Ron brought up the fact that the "numbers didn't add up."

"We were told it was affordable, but our fears have come true," she said. "I'm concerned about making a decision when we have no structure. We were told everything was fine when they closed the schools, now we're moving forward without any structure."

"We have to look at the liabilities," district superintendent Michele Harmala said. "We're concerned about those buildings sitting and eating up money. We see the decline in enrollment continuing. We need a strategic plan for that and we need to reduce the costs for those buildings."

Harmala added that there have been "conversations" with Westland Mayor William Wild and Community Development Director Joanne Campbell. The city also is looking at a grant to build affordable housing for families to buy instead of

See SCHOOLS, Page A16



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## Welcome Dr. Irby-Johnson

The St. Mary Mercy Medical Group would like to extend a warm welcome to NiJuanna Irby-Johnson, MD. She joins our medical group of over 25 primary care and specialty physicians as an internal medicine physician. She has more than 10 years of experience in adult primary care, preventative care and management of chronic disease.

Dr. Irby-Johnson received her medical degree from Wayne State University School of Medicine and is board certified by the American Board of Internal Medicine.

[stmarymercy.org/smmmng](http://stmarymercy.org/smmmng)

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# Families find fun outdoors, inside in winter

By Julie Brown  
Staff Writer

When winter comes, Beth and Josh Haynes of Plymouth Township don't necessarily stay inside.

The couple, parents to Andrew, 6, Caleb, 3, and Joanna, 1, find fun stuff to do outdoors in winter. They go geocaching.

"Geocaching is just all over the place. There are geocaches in Miller Woods down the street," she said, as well as Plymouth Township Park and in downtown Plymouth. "We bundled up our kids over Thanksgiving and went out. We didn't do a lot last winter."

In geocaching, a hidden container/box with contents is usually in a park, with GPS coordinates guiding geocachers. Beth Haynes has an app on her smart phone for that, which helps with number of feet away and what direction.

She comes by her love of the outdoors naturally, having grown up the daughter of Graham and Mary Martin of Plymouth Township. The Martins for years ran the Upper Peninsula Bible Camp, so a little snow and cold doesn't bother them.

"One thing we do is we go snowshoeing up in the Upper Peninsula," Graham Martin said. They enjoy seeing frozen waterfalls there and he often photographs them.

"When the snow's on the ground, you can put on your snowshoes and go just about anywhere," he said. They also enjoy dogsled races in the U.P., which cover great distances.

## Retreat center

"There's downhill skiing, of course," he said. "The kids love to make snow forts." The Martins have four married children and 12 grandchildren ranging from 9 months to 9 years



Frozen waterfalls up north are a winter highlight for Graham and Mary Martin of Plymouth Township and their family.

GRAHAM MARTIN

## FUN CLOSE TO HOME

Maybury State Park, 20145 Beck Road, at Eight Mile, Northville, MI 48167, 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, Jan. 3, 2015

Start off 2015 on the right foot with a healthy hike! Participants should meet at the Concession Building. Tom Griebel will lead a three-mile hike in two loops. This casual, fun, easy to moderate hike lasts about one hour. Hike will be on cleared paved trail through the central areas of the park. Light refreshments and fire in the Concession Building after the hike. Dress for the weather, Concession Building is only heated by a fireplace. Participants can get more information and register at [www.friendsofmaybury.org](http://www.friendsofmaybury.org). A Recreation Passport is required for entry into all Michigan state parks and recreation areas. Check "YES" when you renew your license plate.

of age.

There's now also a Woodlands of Upper Peninsula Bible Camp, which the family will sometimes rent the cabin on site. There had been another camp nearby UPBC which a man donated, complete with 60 acres with a dining hall and winterized lodge, as well as a 100-year-old church.

There's a retreat center that sleeps 38, too, and fundraising's underway to add on a sleeping wing.

Visitors can do tubing in the snow, including church youth groups that come up to visit. "That's a lot of fun," he said. "They play broom hockey on the ice. A lot of fun for kids to get involved with."

Martin is a retired teacher from the Plymouth-Canton district who taught 38 years, including art. He does winter photography "around here, too, but up north as well. You can get into some areas because

the lakes are frozen over."

In addition to art, he taught Earth science, physical science, computers, physical education and a junior high careers class.

The family hikes around Hogback Mountain and Sugarloaf Mountain in the Marquette area. "You can look out over Lake Superior," he said.

## Sometimes indoors

They enjoy ice caves in the Leelanau Peninsula and seeing the ice balls formed and washed up on the beach. "And pulling the grandkids on sleds," he added.

The family's outdoorsy, but also enjoys time together inside, with Mary Martin saying, "I'd stay inside and read a book." Her husband agreed: "Sitting in front of a wood stove with a book is a good activity."

"It didn't slow us down much," he said of last winter and the infamous

"polar vortex." "I snow-blown a lot of snow."

Their extended family likes to play the Rook card games together, as well as board games, with the younger children going to bed and the older kids joining in the board game fun. "It's kind of a family tradition to play games," he said.

Daughter Beth agreed: "One indoor thing we like to do in the winter is play board games. Andrew is getting old enough."

The Haynes family – Josh is pastor of student ministries at Lake Pointe Bible Church – also has several bird feeders outside the kitchen window. "We see several different species of birds in one day," she said. "It really helped me enjoy the outdoors even when it was too cold to go outdoors."

Last winter was their first with suet feeders and they saw nuthatches and woodpeckers. In fact, little Joanna's first word

was "bird."

Andrew, a first-grade home schooler, was able to do a science project on the birds, too.

"The hard part for me was that it was so cold," Beth Haynes said of last winter. She normally likes winter and the outdoors. "You just even didn't want to do those winter sports type of things."

What helped her last year was the Mothers of Preschoolers group at the Plymouth Township church, as well as Bible Study Fellowship.

## Ready for winter

"We put our snow stakes (for plow measuring) in our driveway this week," she said Dec. 2. "I guess so," she added, when asked if she's ready for another winter.

Bevis and Ralph Richardson of Canton are both retired, she as an Oakwood registered nurse, he from a Ford Motor subsidiary. "We used to cross country

ski," Bevis Richardson said. "Since I got a new hip I'm afraid of falling."

They do snowblowing for themselves as a team as well as for a 93-year-old widow neighbor. "We sort of look out for her," Bevis Richardson said. "He plays volleyball with Canton Seniors. We both swim at the Summit in the winter. We do a six-month membership."

The Richardsons have four grown children and five grandkids. Bevis is ready for another winter: "We made sure the snowblower's in working condition," she said.

As a nurse, she knows the importance of year-round fitness. "I would say it's important to keep moving. The younger ones seem to know it," but some seniors struggle with health.

"It's easier to sit than move," Richardson said. "You have to keep moving."

[jcbrown@hometownlife.com](mailto:jcbrown@hometownlife.com)

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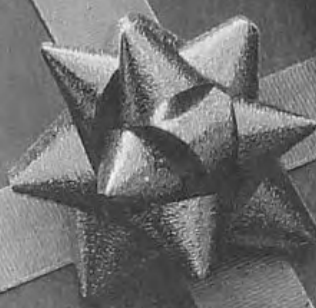
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The Rev. Joseph Marquis, pastor of Sacred Heart Byzantine Catholic Church in Livonia, founded the St. Nicholas Institute three years ago to teach those who portray Santa Claus about the original St. Nicholas, whom he calls "the first true philanthropist."

## St. Nicholas Institute founder: 'Everyone needs a Santa'

By Jill Halpin  
Correspondent

Forget about the North Pole: Santa – or St. Nick, that is – may be closer than you think.

In what may be the area's best-kept holiday secret, a local priest has opened a school aimed at educating Santas – and those who love them – on the truth about the man behind the myth: St. Nicholas of Myra, the model for modern-day Santa.

The Rev. Joseph Marquis is a Catholic priest serving as pastor of Sacred Heart Byzantine Catholic Church in Livonia. He is also founder and executive director of the St. Nicholas Institute, which he began three years ago with the purpose of spreading the message of St. Nicholas, whom he calls "the first true philanthropist."

"Everyone needs a Santa," Marquis said. "Santa is based on St. Nicholas, who is known for spreading peace, joy and love – the fruits of the Holy Spirit – and for selfless giving."

Drawing people from across the country and even Canada, the St. Nicholas Institute conducts a four-day seminar each year at St. Paul of the Cross Retreat and Conference Center in Redford Township for would-be Santa Clauses – even Mrs. Clauses have been known to attend.

Designed to give would-be Santas the tools needed to convincingly portray both St. Nicholas and/or Santa Claus in a wide variety of venues – either religious or secular – the seminar covers topics such as active listening, responding to common children's questions with ease and poise

and the appropriate use of makeup and beard care.

"Voice, stage presence and much more – it is all taught in the context of the traditions and spirituality of Christmas," Marquis said. "These are all important if you want to play the part accurately."

He should know: A 2011 inductee into the Santa Claus Hall of Fame in Santa Claus, Ind., Marquis has more than 40 years of professional Santa Claus and St. Nicholas experience. If you are from the area and attended Detroit's Thanksgiving Day parade as a child, you may recognize him. From 1977-89, Marquis was the official Santa for the parade, waving to children along Woodward Avenue from atop his sleigh.

See SANTA, Page A10



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## SANTA

Continued from Page A9

### The original St. Nick

Marquis said that many people don't realize that our modern-day Santa Claus – and even his red suit and cap trimmed in snowy-white fur – has roots in history dating back to the third century.

"St. Nicholas was born to wealthy parents in what is present-day Turkey. His father was in textiles and he was educated, something that was rare in those days," Marquis said.

St. Nicholas had a strong desire to follow Christ, giving away his inheritance to focus on helping others and giving to those in need anonymously, Marquis added.

He became a bishop at age 19 and, after suffering persecution for his faith for seven years, his life was spared and he made his way to Holland, continuing his focus on self-effacing philanthropy, tossing money into the windows of those in need under the cover of darkness in order to remain an anonymous donor.

"The actual person was a committed Christian, a person of integrity sharing unconditional love and focusing on the dignity of the human person," Marquis said.

Not only has our modern-day Santa Claus appropriated some of those same characteristics, he has also been inspired by St. Nicholas' style of dress. Note the red cap resembling a bishop's tri-cornered hat; the richly colored fur-trimmed robe (similar to you-know-who's suit coat) and the bishop's staff, now a simple striped candy cane.

"I think it is important for people to realize that Santa Claus is based on a real-life person that anyone can imitate," Marquis said.

olas  
T E



The Rev. Joseph Marquis (right) is shown with Michael Jones, vice president and general manager of Ave Maria, who accepted the St. Nicholas Institute's Lifetime Achievement Award in October on behalf of philanthropist and Domino's Pizza founder Tom Monaghan. An annual awards dinner is part of the graduation ceremony of the St. Nicholas Institute, a four-day course for would-be professional Santas and Mrs. Claus.

### Christmas Eve miracle

It is Marquis' personal experience that led to a lifelong devotion to St. Nicholas, known the world over as the patron saint of children.

Growing up in metro Detroit more than 65 years ago, he and his twin brother were struck with adversity. His father was losing a battle with tuberculosis in an area sanitarium, leaving his mother, pregnant with a third child, struggling to find money to feed her young boys.

"We were very poor – we couldn't even afford a pumpkin for Halloween, let alone a Christmas tree," he said. "My mother took us to see Santa – not the one downtown at Hudson's because it was too expensive to get there, but another Santa in a hut on a sidewalk somewhere. When he asked my brother and I what we wanted for Christmas, we told him that we wanted our father home."

"I saw tears in his eyes and his expression changed. He looked at us and said, 'Santa will pray for your father,'" he added.

The situation grew even more desperate Christmas Eve, when his mother went into labor early and ended up in the hospital, near death.

Marquis still tears up at the memory.

"It was Christmas Eve and both of our parents were very, very sick," he said. "We didn't know if my mother would make it through the night. Some of my father's co-workers knew our situation and brought us a tree, but we were so poor we didn't even have any decorations. I remember an aunt came to stay with us and took us down the street to the dime store to buy a cardboard Nativity so we could say a prayer for our mother and father."

"As we said our prayer in front of the Nativity, I felt a little chill. My brother did, too. He looked at me – we were only 5 – and said, 'Did you feel that?' My aunt said it was the Holy Ghost letting us know that God was with us."

Upon waking the next morning, he learned that not only had his mother survived the night, he also had a new brother. Soon after that, his father was healed – one of only a few who escaped the fate of other TB patients – and made it home.

His devotion to St. Nick, he explained, is his way of expressing his gratitude – and to show others the importance of trusting God.

"It is the child in each of us that brings him to life," he said.

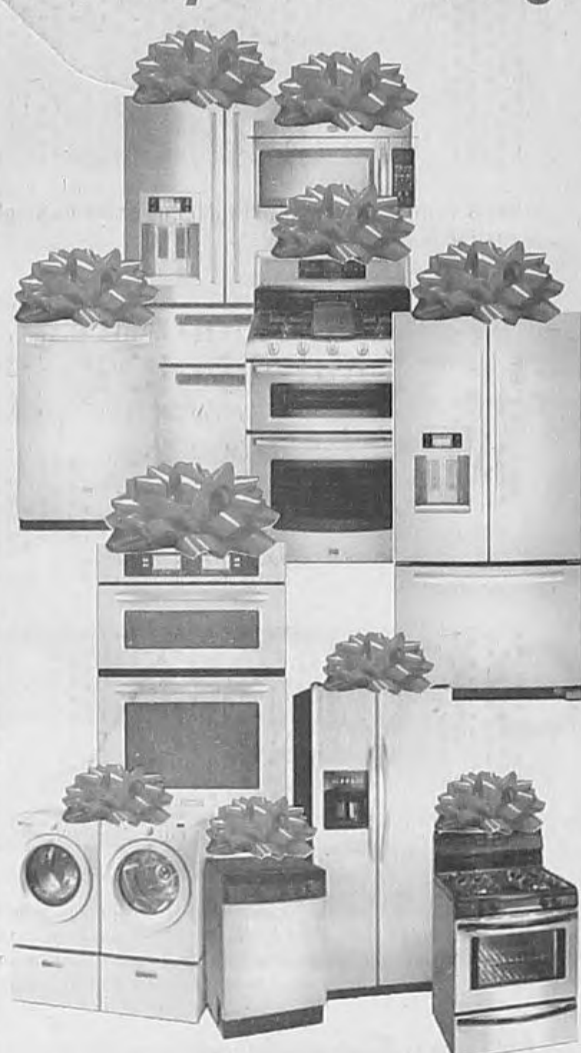
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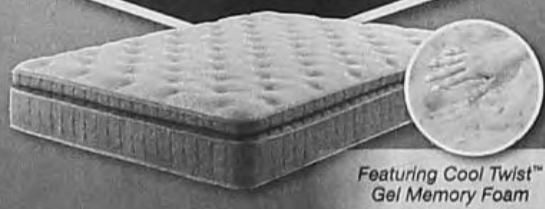
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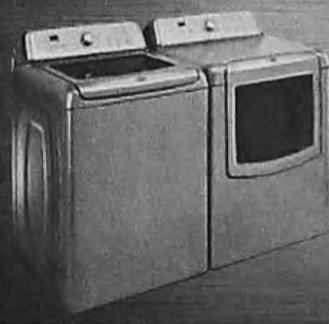


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# Cell study tastes good in kids' workshop

**By Julie Brown**  
Staff Writer

Cells are curious things, as kids in grades 4-8 found out Thursday at the Plymouth District Library.

Some 20 kids explored the world of cells, courtesy of Plymouth-Canton Educational Park's STEM Academy. The STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) teens meet regularly with younger students at the Plymouth library to explore science subjects. "Basically we thought, 'What better way to get kids' attention than candy?'" said Sena Al-Ado, 17, a Canton High School senior. She and other STEM teens were setting out cookies and decorations to be used in the afternoon lesson.

"Then we'll have some fun and play a little game," Al-Ado said, and indeed the youngsters were eager to play the game, in which parts of cells and their roles were explored. Al-Ado wants to major in biochemistry, possibly with an art minor.

"We'll figure that out," she said with a smile, noting she's waiting on college acceptance letters.

Vatsala Singh, 16, a Plymouth High junior, also assisted. Singh plans to study computer engineering/science at the University of Michigan.

"I think it's a good opportunity for them to learn at a young age," Singh said. "They're getting a head start on this. They're learning it through food, so they'll probably remember it more."

She noted her science classes were more basic, even in middle school.

Karly Patterson, 14, is a Canton High freshman who plans to become a pediatrician and may attend school in New York. "Michigan's such a good medical school," she said of U-M.

"If you get the right base of information, it's much easier. I wish when I was their age I had somebody to do it for me," she said of science instruction by teens for younger kids. "And this is so cute," Patterson added of the cookies and decorations, which ranged from marshmallows to green frosting and candy "Nerds."

Librarian Barb Dinan and the teens had snacks on hand for the after-school program. "You can eat your project today, but you don't want



Evan Adamski, 11, (front) chows down on his "cell cookie" as others watch.

JULIE BROWN

to eat it until it's finished," Dinan said.

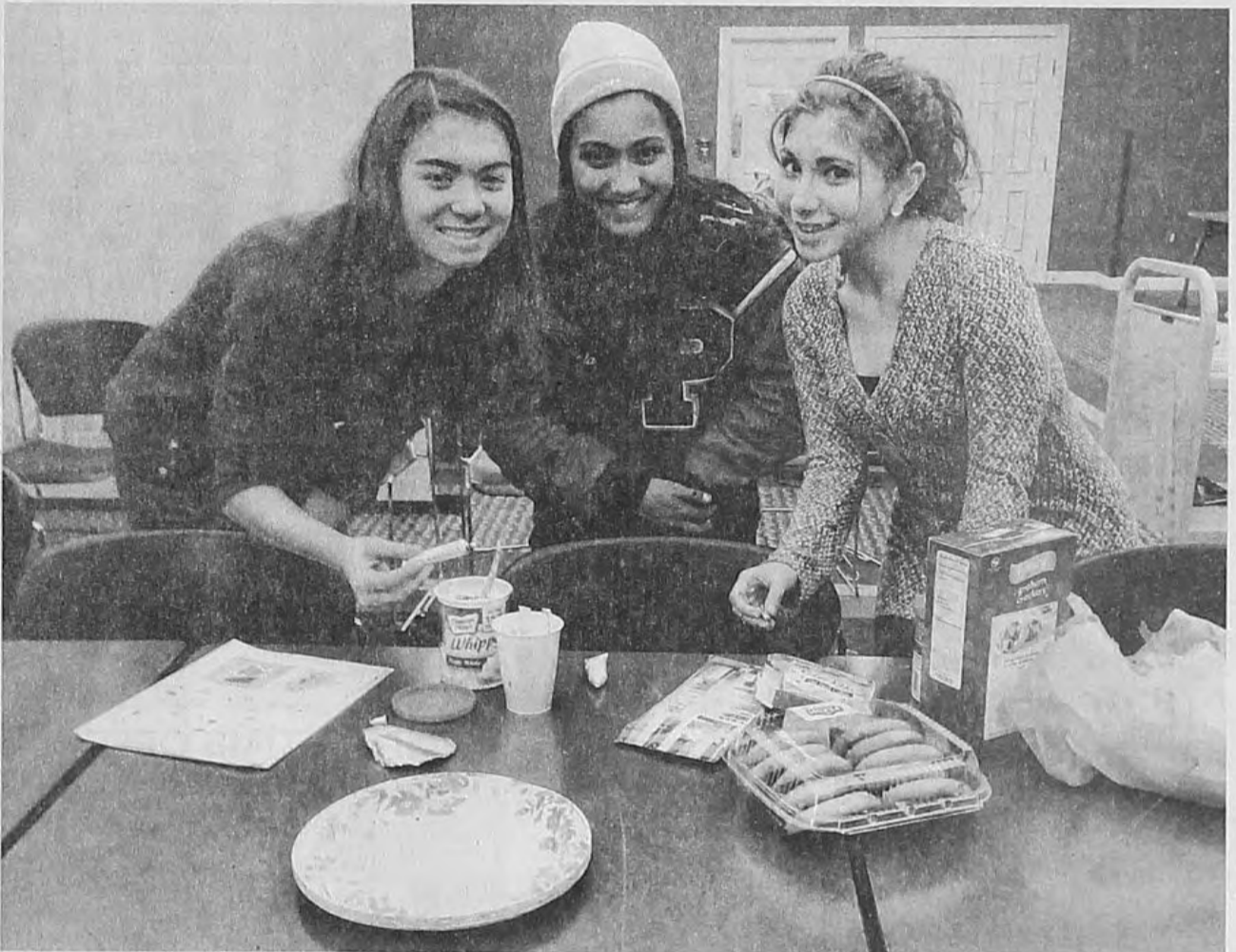
Al-Ado led the session, describing how cells in the hair, eye and liver are all different, but have similarities. The nucleus is usually the biggest, she said.

"It's kind of like the brain of the cell. It's going to tell the cells what to do and what to make," Al-Ado said.

She covered the cell membrane, which controls what enters and exits cells, as well as other cell parts and their functions. The kids had fun with the game time and with creating their "cell cookies."

They began with the cell membrane "border" in frosting and continued from there. A marshmallow formed the nucleus and, as the session ended, some kids chowed down on their science projects, while others were carefully carried out of the room to show parents.

jcbrown@hometownlife.com



JULIE BROWN

STEM teens working on the cell project Dec. 11 included (from left) Bailey Brown, 17, a Plymouth High junior; Vatsala Singh, 16, a Plymouth High junior; and Sena Al-Ado, 17, a Canton High senior and session leader.



JULIE BROWN

The "cells" were entirely edible and tasty.



JULIE BROWN

STEM students prepare for the session, with Vatsala Singh (left) and Bailey Brown pitching in.

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**FIBROMYALGIA-MYTH AND MISCONCEPTION**

The belief remains that Fibromyalgia is a diagnosis of exclusion, that is, if a person experiences pain, and physicians come up with no explanation, then the person receives the diagnosis of Fibromyalgia. In short, Fibromyalgia is a waste basket diagnosis, used by physicians when nothing else fits.

That isn't so.

The features of Fibromyalgia are characteristic and distinct allowing a doctor to make to make a definite diagnosis, even though the condition lacks blood tests to confirm the condition is present. These features include:

- daily pain, occurring for years
- shifting and migrating pain that changes daily
- fatigue and exhaustion combined with inability to sleep
- pain present above and below the waist, being at times in the arms but other times in the legs and feet
- associated migraine like headaches, TM jaw pain and irritable bowel
- tingling in the arms and legs but shifting from left side to right side

Other symptoms include panic attacks, difficulty concentrating, episodes of dropping cups or dishes for no known reason, spells of sudden shortness of breath. Flares of pain may come on suddenly, repeatedly, and remain for prolonged duration.

As already noted, laboratory testing and/or imaging by x-rays, MRIs or ultrasound do not reveal findings to explain the pain or diagnosis that Fibromyalgia is present. But special studies are not required, the physician only needs to let the patient tell his or her story.

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# Area Kwanzaa program celebrates 10th year

By Aileen Wingblad  
Staff Writer

For Kay Green and her two kids, Maki and Caleb Johnson, attending Farmington Hills' Kwanzaa program has become an annual event.

"I'm here to learn more and embrace the idea of Kwanzaa and the meaning behind it. Last year, I was impressed with the principles and ideas, so we're making it a tradition (to attend the program)," she said.

The trio was among the 100 or so who turned out for the 10th annual event, "Celebrating and Living Kwanzaa — Unity in the Family and Community," held Dec. 6 at the Farmington Public Library's 12 Mile branch. Presented by Douglas

and Dyrene Ouley Saulsberry, the program included a presentation of Kwanzaa's seven principles, a performance by the Harrison High School Dance Troupe, storytelling and refreshments.

Farmington Hills City Councilman Mike Bridges was one of several officials who offered greetings during the program. The community, he said, is "blessed with diversity."

"I believe diversity brings value to our community, I believe it is an asset to our community and I know others feel the same way," Bridges said.

Former Farmington Public Schools Superintendent Sue Zurvalet was also on hand, noting she's participated in the

Farmington-area Kwanzaa program every year since its inception. "The principles of Kwanzaa affirm and strengthen our families and community and truly are universal for all people," she said.

The principles are unity, self-determination, collective work and responsibility, cooperative economics, purpose, creativity and faith.

Kwanzaa runs Dec. 26 through Jan. 1. Black activist and California State University professor Maulana Karenga — born Ronald Everett McKinley — is credited with establishing the seven-day holiday in 1966.

According to his website, Karenga has had "a far-reaching effect on



TOM BEAUDOIN

Douglas Saulsberry pours libations as those who have died are remembered during the Kwanzaa celebration.

Black intellectual and political culture since the 1960s ... (and) has played a vanguard role in shaping the Black Arts Movement, Black Studies, the Black Power Movement, the Black Student Union Movement, Afrocentricity" and other ideas. Additional sources reference him serving several years in prison for assault in the 1970s and describe him as a separatist.

The Farmington Hills Kwanzaa event was held weeks before the holiday's official start to allow time for preparation by those interested in celebrating it, Dyrene Ouley Saulsberry explained. "We want to get you focused, we want to get you thinking about the Kwanzaa principals and be ready by the time it comes, Dec. 26," he said.

While no HHS dance



TOM BEAUDOIN

Retired Farmington Public Schools Superintendent Sue Zurvalet and board member Karen Bolsen took part in the Kwanzaa program at the Farmington Community Library in Farmington Hills.

troupe member said they or their families celebrate Kwanzaa, one dancer, Chandra Sahu, said she can sense a connection. "I feel like the values of Kwanzaa can re-

late to us as dancers, especially unity and purpose," she said.

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# Industrial park coming to old spring-bumper plant site

**By Karen Smith**  
Staff Writer

A multi-tenant industrial park is planned for 116 acres of the former GM property near I-96 and I-275 in Livonia.

RACER Trust announced Wednesday it has reached an agreement to sell the former Spring and Bumper Plant (Delco Chassis) property on Eckles Road to Ashley Capital.

Livonia Chamber of Commerce President Dan West said the site is probably the largest single parcel of developable industrial property remaining in the city. "This is good news because it is the next step in a process that will eventually bring significant new investment and jobs to Livonia," he said.

While no potential user for the property has been identified yet, ac-



At least 300,000 cubic yards of clean fill from this summer's I-96 highway project were moved to the Eckles Road property, filling in low-lying parts and improving its redevelopment capacity and marketability.

cording to city officials, West said the property's proximity to two free-ways makes it attractive.

Livonia Mayor Jack Kirksey said in a prepared statement that the Eckles Road project has outstanding potential to be a catalyst for growth.

"Livonia is committed to working with Ashley Capital to see that the development reaches its full potential to maxi-

mize job creation and economic activity for the area and the city," he said.

**Local job creation**

Ashley Capital, which manages approximately 22 million square feet of industrial and office space in the United States and has the largest industrial property portfolio in Michigan, has redeveloped other Livonia properties leading to the creation of more than 2,400 local jobs, according to the company.

Those properties include redevelopment of the former Peregrine plant, now the 1.1 million-square-foot Plymouth Road Technical Center where Roush Industries and FedEx are located; redevelopment of the former Ladbroke/Detroit Race Course, now the 1-million-square-foot

Livonia Corporate Center; and a major renovation of the 130,000-square-foot Laurel Park II office building.

"Redeveloping brown-field sites has inherent challenges, but Livonia is a first-rate city in which to develop, market conditions are steadily improving and Ashley Capital has the experience needed to transform this site into a first-rate industrial park," said Susan Harvey, senior vice president for Ashley Capital.

The sale is the second major transaction for RACER in Livonia in 2014. In March, RACER announced the sale of the former GM Livonia Powertrain Plant to Schostak Brothers & Co. Inc., which also said it planned to seek multiple business tenants.

See PLANT, Page A15

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# 'Maire's Journey' coming to an end

Filmmaker Famie nearing completion of movie about a dying woman's last wish

By Lonnie Huhman  
Staff Writer

Local filmmaker Keith Famie's journey to capture the real life story of one young woman's battle with a terminal cancer diagnosis is nearing its end and he hopes the final results will positively impact many lives — just like Maire Kent did.

Famie, whose film-making company Vision-artist Entertainment Productions is based in Wixom, along with award-

winning producer/director John Feist and their crew will complete production in the next few months on *Maire's Journey* and release it this spring.

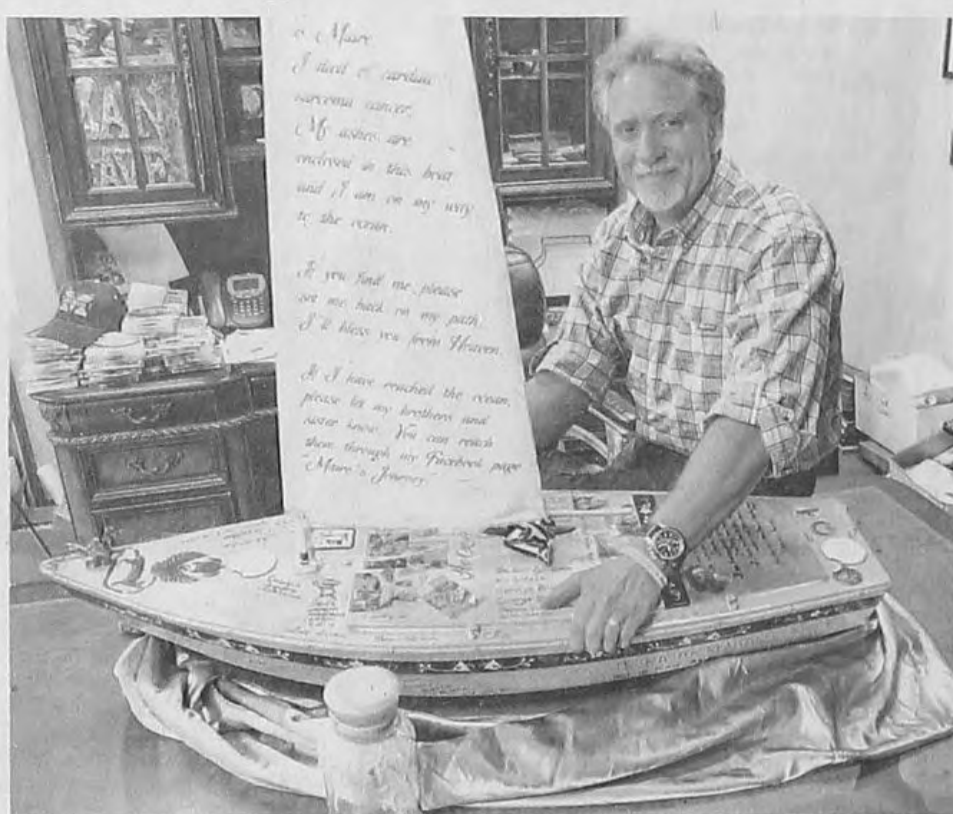
The movie captures the last months of a young woman's life, the journey she would undertake following her death and the impact it had on others. It's Famie's hope that anyone who sees the film gains a clear understanding of what a cancer patient goes through, both phys-

ically as well as emotionally.

"I also hope that this will open the door for end-of-life discussions for families. We are all going to die someday," he said. "Some of us will have the ability to plan our exit and what we would like to see happen afterward in memory of our existence. For those of us who will leave our earthly world abruptly, I hope that we understand just how precious life is and every day is a gift."

## Meeting Maire

Famie met 24-year-old Maire (pronounced Mary) Kent after she had been diagnosed with



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

In his Wixom office, documentary filmmaker Keith Famie shows the small sailboat that carried the ashes of Maire Kent from the Great Lakes to the Atlantic Ocean.

cardiac sarcoma. They quickly became friends. He realized as he spent more time with her that she was special and her will to live — while eventually facing the reality that she would lose the battle with this rare cancer — told a unique story.

Famie said as her story unfolds, "we witness how Maire is forced to think about her end of life after a short nine months. She reflects on a book she learned to read from that would inspire her after-life journey to the ocean of her ashes in a small three-foot sailboat built by a blind carpenter."

This journey, Famie noted, would bring together random strangers who felt a deep desire to help Maire get to the sea.

"In the end, we learn that cancer is everyone's story at some point in our

lives," he said in reflection.

## A dying wish

Maire's dying wish was to be cremated and have her ashes placed in a small, wooden sailboat set in Lake Michigan, in the hope it would ultimately find its way to the Atlantic Ocean. It did, getting help along the way by people with their own stories.

"Maire's journey was viewed by so many as impossible," Famie said. "I heard so often before we set out on this production this past summer that no one would help this vessel containing Maire's ashes get to the ocean. I am sure many who I told Maire's story to thought I lost it. I just believed that humanity is good and, if given the chance, they would be there for Maire."

He said so many things could have gone wrong during the weeks while Maire's ashes made their way some 1,400 miles to New York City, but they didn't.

"We experienced some very moving moments that brought our crew of six to say to ourselves more than once, 'Maire is guiding this journey.' So quite possibly when we are gone, just maybe we are not really ever gone," Famie said.

## What's next?

They are now finishing the movie and preparing for a two-month edit session. During this time, Famie will film a few follow-up interviews with Maire's doctors, singer-songwriter Jill Jack, blind carpenter George Wurtzel

See JOURNEY, Page A15



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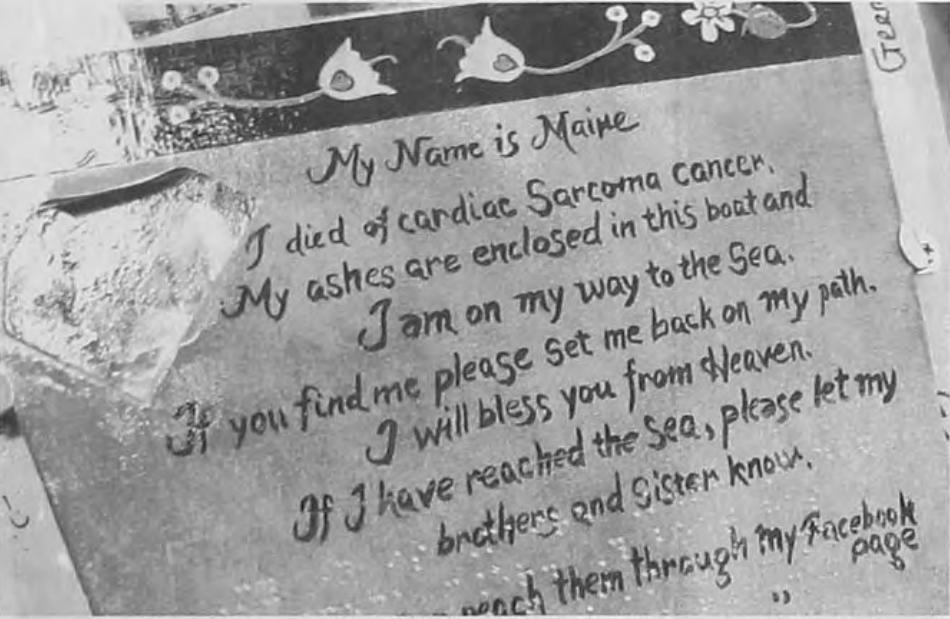
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Maire Kent asked that these words be written on her sailboat.

JOURNEY

Continued from Page A14

and friends. These interviews will help them narrate Maire's long battle with cancer, as well as the journey she took in her afterlife. The interviews will also allow for these people to reflect on Maire as a person.

It's Famie's plan to host a large premiere in Michigan before taking the movie to New York. The premiere will benefit Gilda's Club of Metro Detroit (named after Gilda Radner, former *Saturday Night Live* television show cast member and native Detroiter) as

well as the Maire Kent Memorial Fund for Sarcoma and Cardiac Tumor Research at the University of Michigan. Famie is hoping to attract one of the original cast members of *Saturday Night Live*, such as Bill Murray, Dan Aykroyd or Jane Curtin, who were close to Radner.

In addition to Gilda's Club, the film's other primary support has been through executive producers Tom Rau, who has been supporting this story from day one, and Anthony Schimizzi, recently added to the team. Both are businessmen who have been successful.

"I am certain there will be so many lessons that will come from this wonderful spirited lady's story, more than can be written at this point in time," Famie said. "We are all very fortunate to have had Maire Kent in our lives. And come spring, we hope her story and the others who helped her along her way will touch possibly hundreds of thousands the same way."

To learn more, go to <https://www.facebook.com/mairesjourneytothesea> or <http://mairesjourney.com>.

[lhuhman@hometownlife.com](mailto:lhuhman@hometownlife.com)  
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PLANT

Continued from Page A13

The project benefited this summer from the reconstruction of I-96, as Dan's Excavating agreed to transport, deposit and level at least 300,000 cubic yards of clean fill from the highway project on the Eckles Road project, filling in low-lying parts and improving the property's redevelopment capacity and marketability at no cost to RACER.

RACER (Revitalizing Auto Communities Environmental Response)

Trust was created to clean up and position for redevelopment properties and other facilities owned by the former General Motors Co. before its 2009 bankruptcy.

Plant history

The site of the former Spring and Bumper Plant, at 13000 Eckles, on the northeast corner of Amrhein, once housed 14 buildings comprising 2.1 million square feet. Between 1954 and 1998, this site was operated by various divisions of GM.

The buildings were removed in 2001.

At the plant, GM manufactured vehicle bump-

ers, leaf springs, coil springs and struts. Other operations included bumper plating, metal forming, heat treating, metal plating and finishing and assembly. According to an article in the *Observer* in September 1970, more than 2,600 employees worked there.

In 1993, GM ceased its bumper operations and, in 1998, sold the coil spring business to an independent company, which leased a portion of the facility through the year 2000.

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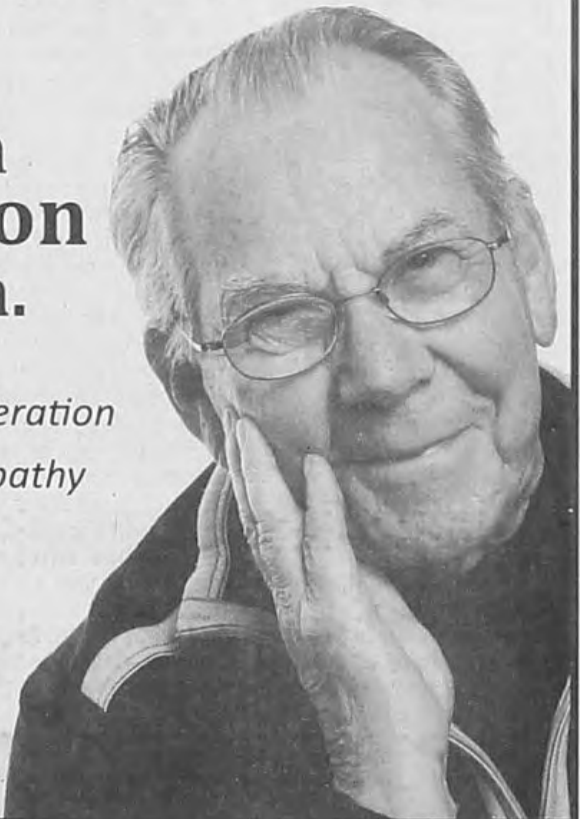
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**Q: Dear Rick:** A few years ago, I loaned a friend \$10,000. Because he was a friend, we didn't have anything in writing, but we had a handshake agreement. He was supposed to pay me back when he sold his home. He recently sold his home and, when I asked for the money, he told me that he thought it was a gift, not a loan. Needless to say, I'm not happy about this. My first inclination is to sue him, but when I talked to an attorney, he said that since nothing was in writing, I would have a tough case. Do you agree? And if I don't sue him, is there any way I can write this off my taxes? A friend of mine said I can treat it as a bad debt.

**A:** I hate to be the bearer of bad news, but I agree with your attorney. As a plaintiff in a legal action, you would have to



**Rick Bloom**  
MONEY MATTERS

prove that this was not a gift, but a loan. You would also have to prove what the terms of the loan were. Absent anything being in writing, it becomes a he said/she said and those are very difficult cases to prove.

One thing you may have going for you is if you gave your friend a check for the money and on the memo line of the check you wrote that it was a loan. However, absent any sort of documentation, you have a difficult case.

Decide whether it is worth putting good money after bad. After all, not only would you have to prove that it was a loan and what the terms were, but you also have to hope that your friend is col-

lectible. If he's not, then hiring an attorney and going through all the aggravation and expense probably doesn't make sense.

You will also have difficulty in writing the loan off as a bad debt. Bad debts are tax-deductible, however, the taxpayer would have the burden of proof. If the IRS questioned the write-off, you would have to prove that there was a loan.

In addition, there is another IRS requirement when it comes to deducting bad debt. You would have to show that you made efforts to collect the loan. That doesn't necessarily mean that you have to file a lawsuit, but it does mean that you have to show an attempt to collect the debt.

If you take the deduction and the IRS questions it, the burden is upon you. If you don't have the necessary documentation, the IRS could

deny the deduction.

I suggest a hybrid approach. Have the attorney write a letter to your friend saying that you will pursue legal action unless there is a resolution. Many people, when they receive a letter from an attorney, know that you are serious and, as a result, they may be more willing to reach a settlement.

Loans to family and friends create all sorts of issues. My advice is if you're loaning money to a family or friend, put it in writing. Then both parties understand that it is loan, not a gift. Loans are meant to be repaid.

Good luck

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

## SCHOOLS

Continued from Page A7

rent.

The district piggy-backed on bids Wayne County RESA sought for several former Inkster Public Schools buildings, including Blanchette Middle School, which was turned over to Wayne-Westland as part of the dissolution of the Inkster district.

### 2010 closings

The four schools were among six the district closed in 2010, when it reconfigured its elementary program due to declining enrollment. It was able to sell Patchin School in 2011 to the Harvest Bible Chapel and earlier this year inked an agreement with the city of Westland for a 50-year lease of Jefferson-Barns Elementary, which will become a new community center in Norwayne. It appeared the dis-

trict had Kettering Elementary sold in 2012 to the Crescent Academy, when a title search turned up deed restrictions on two parcels – under the school building and parking lot – that limited use to public entities. Crescent Academy is a private, college preparatory Islamic school.

In response to a question from board Treasurer Frederick Weaver about redeeming the two restricted parcels, Larson-Shidler said there is a process with the state that the district will begin following the demolition.

Wayne County also appeared interested in Vandenberg School to move in programs from the Kay Beard Building on Michigan Avenue; however, it "didn't gain financial support and the deal fell through," Larson-Shidler said.

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## GIRLS BASKETBALL



Salem senior guard Shara Long (left) tries to elude defensive pressure from a Dearborn Divine Child player Friday night.

JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

## BOYS BASKETBALL PREVIEW – PART 3



PCA ATHLETICS

Plymouth Christian Academy's new coach, Dino Mattei, is ready to guide the Eagles to new heights.

## Mattei pumped to lead PCA

Student of game to stress fundamentals in first varsity coaching gig

By Tim Smith  
Staff Writer

Dino Mattei played basketball at a high level throughout his life, starting in high school at Allen Park Inter-City Baptist and then at the college level in South Carolina.

But it wasn't until several years after college that Mattei — the new varsity boys basketball coach at Plymouth Christian Academy — discovered what his true calling was as far as the sport is concerned.

He started coaching his son's and daughter's teams in community leagues before moving up to coach in the Amateur Athletic Union, where he "fell in love" with basketball all over again.

After eight years coaching in the AAU, Mattei is primed to lead a varsity boys team for the first time with the Plymouth Christian job.

"This is my first high school head coaching job and I am truly excited to take on this challenge at Plymouth Christian Academy," Mattei said. "I am honored to say that PCA has charged me with the task of building their boys varsity basketball program and bringing it back to prominence where it once was."

Helping Mattei will be assistant coach Monte Dennard, who has worked with Mattei in recent seasons in the AAU. Dennard brings coaching experience from Inkster and Robichaud high schools and Madonna University.

Mattei takes over from Dominique Washington, the former Salem basketball star who continues to coach at

See PCA, Page B4

## WIN SLIPS AWAY

Rocks unable to stop late surge by Divine Child

By Tim Smith  
Staff Writer

For three quarters Friday night, Salem's varsity girls basketball team looked poised and ready to defeat Dearborn Divine Child and notch that first victory of the season.

The host Rocks carried a 30-28 lead into the fourth quarter. Players were making key buckets and going into scrums and coming away with rebounds.

But the Falcons rallied with a 16-7 final quarter to earn a 44-37 non-conference win, to the chagrin of Salem

head coach Lindsay Klemmer.

"They picked up their intensity and this has been the story of our season right now," Klemmer said. "We can't finish a game, we can't play a full 32 minutes. Teams go on runs and we shut down."

"We stopped attacking. I think we got soft. I can't tell you how many we missed around the rim. We missed at least 15-20 bunnies around the basket and that's a problem; it's been a problem all year. We have to learn how to finish."

One player who did finish down the stretch was Hailey Case of the Falcons. She led all scorers with 19 points, including nine in the fourth.

She sank a jumper from the left wing in the opening moments of the fourth to tie the game at 30-30 and

later drained a 3-pointer from the left wing with 2:40 remaining to put Divine Child ahead to stay at 37-34.

"We had some high-intensity players," Klemmer said. "I thought our defense was great, honestly, until the fourth quarter. That's what we worked on the last week is our defense and, again, we have a lapse and kind of shut down."

Salem senior guard Jamyra Wilson led the Rocks (0-3) with 10 points, while senior forwards Shara Long and Hayley Rogers tallied nine and eight points, respectively.

Also in double figures for the Falcons (3-0) was Riley Blair with 11 points, while Kelsee Kinder chipped in nine.

See ROCKS, Page B4

## BOYS WRESTLING PREVIEW – PART 2

## READY TO WORK

Canton's youth and inexperience won't keep team from getting after it in 2014-15

By Tim Smith  
Staff Writer

It's a new era for Canton wrestling, with the graduation of standouts Ben Griffin and Alec Pantaleo, who nearly gave Canton two individual state championships last season.

The 2014-15 roster is relatively young, but veteran head coach Cory Mancuso still sees plenty of reason to be optimistic.

"We are a young and inexperienced team overall," Mancuso said. "We are a small group this year, but we are a hard-working group. We will continue to get better each day."

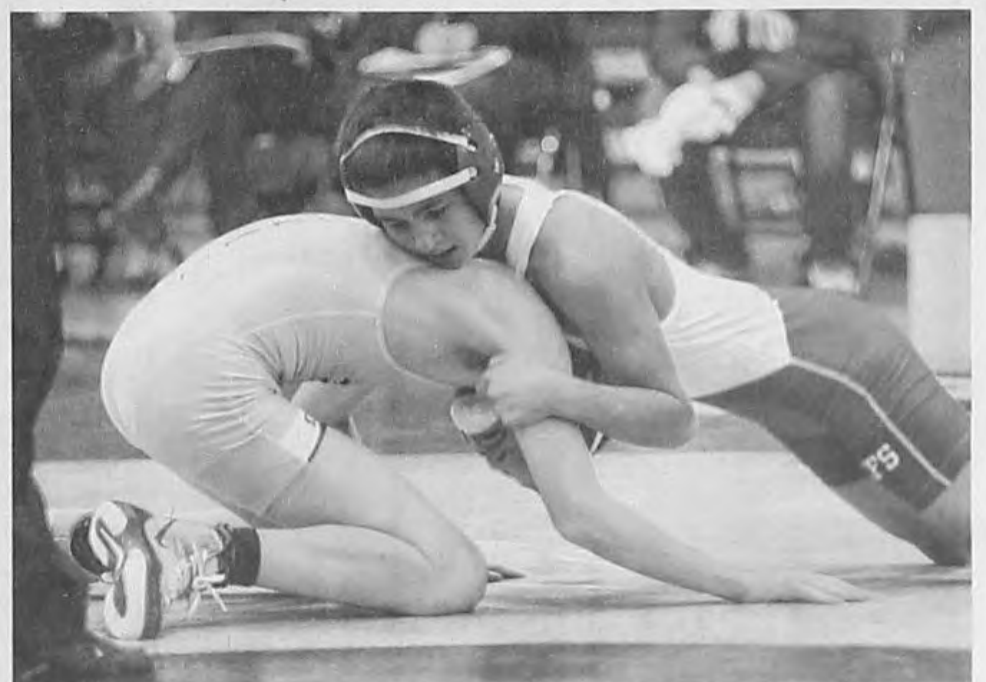
Leading the Chiefs is senior Ty Jassman, a returning state qualifier who will compete in the 145-pound weight class. He also is ranked No. 4 at 140 by Michigan Grappler.

"Our young guys will look to him for leadership throughout the season," Mancuso said.

Another plus for Canton is getting senior heavyweight Adam Arnesto back after a season's absence. Last winter, Arnesto opted not to wrestle in order to focus on his senior season of football.

"It is great to have him back on the

See CANTON, Page B2



CHRISTOPHER GUDDECK

Canton's Harrison Samoy (right), shown from last season, will start in the 125-pound weight class.

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PREP GYMNASTICS

Canton tops Farmington to extend win streak to 46

By Tim Smith  
Staff Writer

Defending gymnastics state champion Canton defeated Farmington on Tuesday, 145.55 to 138.55, extending the team's winning streak to 46.

Chiefs head coach John Cunningham credited "generally well-balanced scoring, with everyone contributing."

"Without Maddie Toal, home sick, the team really stepped up and nearly matched last year's state championship score," Cunningham added.

Canton tallied three firsts, by Hailey Hodgson (vault, 9.2), Allison Kunz (uneven parallel bars, 9.575) and Jocelyn



JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO  
Canton's Hailey Hodgson, shown from last season, continued to excel on the balance beam against Farmington.

Moraw (balance beam, 9.6).  
Farmington's Carina

Wright scored 9.55 on floor exercise to win that event.

Winning the all-around was Kunz, with 36.975, followed by Moraw (second, 36.725), Hodgson (third, 36.35), Jana Hilditch (fourth, 34.85) and Stephanie Cox (fifth, 34.6).

Canton scorers, by event, were as follows:

**VAULT:** 1. Hodgson, 9.2; 2. Kunz, 9.15; 3. Moraw, 8.95; 4. Hilditch, 8.3.

**BEAMS:** 1. Kunz, 9.575; 2. Moraw, 8.8; 4. Cox, 8.7; 4. Dickinson, 8.65.

**BEAM:** 1. Moraw, 9.6; 2. Hodgson, 9.4; 3. Hilditch, 9.15; 4. Kunz, 8.85; 5. (tie) Cox, 8.75.

**FLOOR:** 1. (tie) Kunz, Hodgson, 9.4; 3. Moraw, 9.375; 4. Cox, 9.05.

PREP WRESTLING

Good start for Salem grapplers

Rocks defeat Lakeland, Garden City on opening night

Salem's wrestling team started off its season Wednesday on a winning note, winning both ends of a double dual meet at Milford.

The Rocks opened the night defeating Lakeland, 45-27, and followed up with a 48-30 victory over Garden City.

Against Lakeland, Salem took the early lead with Nate Gaubatz and Akasheed Rai both getting wins in the 103 and 112 weight classes. They also got wins at 130 and 135 with pins by freshman Tyler Knopp and junior Andrew Lindsay.

After dropping a match at 140, Seth Dunn quickly got the Rocks back on track with a fall at 145. Lakeland then got

some momentum, winning 152 and 160 before voiding 171 and then winning 189. Senior Mitchell Gross and junior Tyler Moore sealed the victory for Salem, recording pins at 215 and heavyweight, respectively.

The Rocks continued the momentum against the Cougars, with Rai opening with a win by void at 112.

Garden City rallied off a pair of wins before Knopp (125) stopped the bleeding with a win. Salem dropped the bouts at 130, 135 and 140, but the Rocks responded with wins at 152, 160 and 171.

Roy Foster sealed the match with a victory at 189, while Gross and Moore accepted voids to increase the margin. Garden City ended the match with a hard-fought win against Salem freshmen Nate Gaubatz.

"It was nice to see the Rocks start off with a couple wins tonight, but there is a long way to go as wrestlers get healthy and down to weight," co-coach Jeremy Henderson said. "We have a lot more hard work to do in order to achieve the goals we set."

Henderson said Gross, Knopp, Rai and Moore all had strong starts to their season, each going 2-0.

"Roy Foster had a tough match with a very talented kid from Lakeland," Henderson said. "If Roy keeps working, I believe we will see him on the top of podiums this year. Nate Gaubatz and Daniel McGhee also wrestled very tough tonight for the Rocks and have bright futures ahead."

Salem was scheduled to compete at Saturday's Waterford Mott invitational.

CANTON

Continued from Page B1

team," Mancuso said. "Once we knock off the rust, he could be a contender in March. He is a big strong, athletic kid."

"Hopefully, he will pave the way for more football players to come out for wrestling. There is such a misconception out there that you have to focus on one particular sport to earn a scholarship, when the research proves otherwise."

Armesto isn't Canton's only 285-pounder, as junior Terrelle Crutchfield also is ready to compete.

**Young lineup**

Canton's lineup is sprinkled with a few seniors and juniors, but composed mainly of freshmen and sophomores.

Senior Nicholas Durocher is slated to wrestle at 171, while the



FILE PHOTO  
One of the few seniors on Canton's roster is 171-pounder Nicholas Durocher (right), shown competing last season.

Chiefs also have seniors Paras Gill (160) and Ryan Morelli (215).

Gill and Morelli will be challenged in their weight classes by sophomore Clayton Declue and freshman Kyle Hensley, respectively.

Starters from the junior class include Harrison Samoy (125), Sam Orr (140) and Armando Chacon (189).

Canton will open the season with freshmen starters in the light weights.

Konlan Berean is set to wrestle at 103, with Robbie Laird and Ben Samoy penciled in for 112

and 119, respectively.

Sophomore Grant Trotman is the starter at 152.

There will be competition at 130 and 135, as Mancuso finds out what he has on the mat as the early season unfolds.

In the running at 130 will be sophomore Justin Winnie, junior Walter Beavers and freshman Zackary Dehnke.

Meanwhile, sophomores Abdelhadi Shuaib and Jeremy Van Berkel will divide duties in the 135-pound weight class.

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# All-area soccer players equipped with pitch-perfect skills

## FIRST TEAM

**David Tetaj, Harrison:** Tetaj had a wildly successful season for the Hawks, scoring 25 goals and being named to the Division 2 all-state first team.



David Tetaj  
Harrison

In addition to having excellent speed and acceleration on the attack, Tetaj is very adept at dribbling and maneuvering with the ball in traffic. He also was named team MVP and led the Hawks to the city championship.

"David was the best forward I have ever had at Harrison," coach Tim Russell said. "Unfortunately, we only had him for one year. He is attempting to play college soccer locally and the team that gets him will be lucky to have him."

**Lucas Albrecht, Ply. Christian:** The senior forward capped off a sensational career with a record-busting 48 goals for Plymouth Christian, good for selection to the Division 4 all-state first team.



Lucas Albrecht  
Ply. Christian

To further show how much he was a thorn in the side of Athletic Conference opponents, Albrecht collected 15 assists.

The senior captain, who wants to play at the collegiate level next year, also was the recipient of selection to the all-conference, all-district and all-region squads.

"He is not only a good finisher, but the majority of the goals he scored, he created the opportunity with exceptional dribbling and speed," coach Kris Warnemuende said. "His character and leadership made him even more valuable to our team."

"His love of playing soccer energized the whole team and spurred them to play better."

**Carter Schenk, Canton:** Whenever Canton's championship team needed some offense, more often than not it was the three-year letter winner to provide it — although as a senior he dealt with a series of nagging injuries.



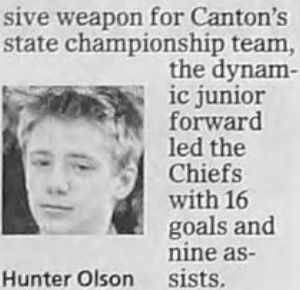
Hunter Schenk  
Canton

The co-captain still managed to come up big with 14 goals and seven assists. None of his markers was more important than one he scored against Northville in the D1 regional final with just a second remaining.

Schenk's strong season was duly noted as he earned selection to the all-conference, all-district and all-region teams. To cap it all off, he was named by the Michigan High School Soccer Coaches Association as a third team all-stater.

"He was able to constantly break down the other team with his speed, strength and determination," coach Mark Zemanski said. "Carter was an exceptional leader on this team, leading by example on and off the field."

**Hunter Olson, Canton:** Yet another offensive weapon for Canton's state championship team, the dynamic junior forward led the Chiefs with 16 goals and nine assists.



Hunter Olson  
Canton

Olson earned selection to the all-conference, all-district and all-region teams, as well as being named an honorable mention all-stater.

"Whenever we needed a big goal or assist, Hunter was there to get it," Zemanski said. "His great two-way work rate, ability to beat defenders 1 v 1 and his never-say-die attitude helped him become our leading scorer."

Indeed, Olson came up with some clutch goals, including the tying goal in the regional final with less than seven minutes to play.

And during the post-season, he continued his torrid scoring with four goals, one of which won the state semifinal match against Saline.

**Dominic Payne, Farmington:** Payne earned a place on the Division 2 all-state third team after a standout junior season in which he scored 17 goals and assisted on eight others.



Dom Payne  
Farmington

A very skilled player with extensive club experience, Payne was outstanding in the midfield as a playmaker and offensive catalyst for the Falcons.

"Dom is an exciting player to watch play," coach Matt Gasparotto said. "He is creative with the ball, quick in small spaces and can outrun most defenders."

"He is a threat to score every time he has the ball in the attacking end of the field."

**Nick Massey, Salem:** The talented junior forward was an offensive dynamo for the Rocks, scoring 13 goals to lead the team.



Nick Massey  
Salem

Massey earned numerous honors for his fine season, including Division 1 all-state honorable mention, all-KLAA, all-district and all-region.

"Nick is very dynamic on the ball," coach Scott Duhl said. "He is able to beat players off the dribble and create scoring chances for himself and teammates."

**Sam Zapata, N. Farmington:** Zapata was a three-year starter for the Raiders and is a repeat member of the all-area first team.



Sam Zapata  
N. Farmington

He was North's leading scorer this year with five goals and four assists. During his varsity career, Zapata had 19 goals and 10 assists.

In addition to being an OAA scholar-athlete, all-state academic player and team captain, Zapata was named to the all-district team. That was no small feat, considering the district included perennial powers Northville, Novi, Livonia Stevenson and Catholic Central.

tral. "Sam has excellent ball-handling skills and quick feet," coach Mike Horner said. "This enables him to force separation from his defender and get off a shot in close quarters."

"Although good with both feet, Sam is particularly devastating with his left. One of his most spectacular goals was a 30-yard, direct free kick in the district tournament. He put the ball in the far upper corner and hit it so hard the keeper never had a chance to move."

"Sam has been a wonderful athlete to work with and he always put the interests of his teammates first. Several colleges are actively recruiting him, but he has not decided where to go as yet."

**Jack Zemanski, Canton:** The senior co-captain and four-year letter winner was instrumental in the Chiefs ending his career the way it started — as part of a Division 1 state championship team.



Jack Zemanski  
Canton

He led the team with 18 assists and contributed six goals.

During Canton's championship run, Zemanski was outstanding with a goal and five assists, setting up the title-winning goal against Rochester Adams.

For his efforts, Zemanski was named by the MHSSCA as a first team all-stater and part of the prestigious Dream Team.

He also was named to the all-KLAA, all-district and all-region teams.

"Jack was the catalyst of our attack," coach Zemanski said. "He used his speed, strength, 1 v 1 skills and great offensive runs to break down our opponent's defense."

**Daniel Jones, Churchill:** The senior midfielder racked up eight goals and 11 assists while earning all-state honorable mention accolades in addition to all-conference, all-district and all-region honors.



Daniel Jones  
Churchill

"Daniel had a great year and was our best player," Churchill coach Matt Grodzicki said. "I really thought he did a great job playing with confidence and organizing us on the field this year. He was very dangerous on the attack and found the net in some big games for us. We will definitely miss him next year."

**Dominic Rea, Stevenson:** An all-state honorable mention choice, the senior center-mid was a fiercely competitive game-changer for the state-ranked Spartans this season. He also earned all-KLAA, all-district and all-region awards.



Dominic Rea  
Stevenson

"Dom led our team in assists this season," Stevenson coach Ken Shingledecker said. "He proved to be a great leader for this group. He wanted nothing more than to win and proved it with his tireless work rate on the field."

**Mike Blake, Plymouth:** The senior provided the Wildcats with plenty of offense, leading the team in goals with 14 while contributing eight assists.



Michael Blake  
Plymouth

Blake was a D1 all-state honorable mention selection, along with earning all-conference honors.

"Mike played with great intensity and pace," coach Jeff Neschich said. "He was the spark to our attack this year."

**Calvin McCracken, Plymouth:** The senior captain provided the Wildcats with all-around excellence, wherever he was placed in the lineup.



Calvin McCracken  
Plymouth

McCracken, who scored four goals and tacked on three assists, earned D1 all-state honorable mention selection, along with earning all-conference honors.

"Kevin played center defense or holding mid for us past three years," Neschich said. "He's a smart tough player that help control the center."

**Austin Rynicki, Stevenson:** The senior center-back capped his stellar prep career earning second team all-state honors, along with being named the Spartans' MVP. His three goals were all timely, coming in big wins over Salem, Northville and South Lyon East.



Austin Rynicki  
Stevenson

Rynicki was awarded with all-KLAA, all-district and all-region accolades.

"Austin was a three year varsity starter for us," Shingledecker said. "He played fantastic in the back with a group that had three new starters around him. Austin helped lead a defense that yielded goals in only two KLAA Central games. He was very dangerous off of restarts and corners."

**Sam Belcher, Canton:** The senior co-captain proved instrumental to Canton's championship run, anchoring a defense that gave up 0.48 goals per game (including shutouts in the state semifinal and final).



Sam Belcher  
Canton

"He used his strength, determination and incredible effort game in and game out to shut down some of the best forwards in the state," Zemanski said. "I don't remember him ever losing a 1 v 1 battle. Sam's ability to read the play and deny the ball was uncanny."

"Canton has had some great defenders and Sam ranks right up there with them."

Belcher was named to the all-conference, all-district and all-region teams, as well as to the all-state second team.

**Cameron Fyffe, Clarenceville:** Fyffe was a four-year starter on defense for the Trojans and he also served as team captain the last two seasons. He was tenacious in his assigned role and a formidable foe for any opposing forward.

Fyffe, who is a straight-A student, did have three goals and eight assists this year — many of them off "huge" throw-ins, according to coach Trevor Johnson.



Cam Fyffe  
Clarenceville

"Cam plays sweeper, which is a thankless position, so he doesn't have the statistics that fly off the page," he said, "but he was an absolute beast for me for four years."

"He's a lock-down defender. I would have zero issue putting him up against the best scorers in Oakland County and I have no doubt he would shut them down."

"He has an incredible work ethic. He is a great motivator and is loved and respected by his teammates. He's also a very accomplished wrestler and track athlete."

"Simply put, he's one of the hardest working and finest young men I have ever had the privilege of coaching."

**Austin Kaczmarek, Stevenson:** The junior goalkeeper registered 10 shutouts, eight of which came in the ultra-competitive KLAA Central Division. Along with being voted the top goalkeeper in his region, Kaczmarek was a second team all-state honoree and was voted the Spartans' "Unsung Hero."



Austin Kaczmarek  
Stevenson

"Austin made a ton of monster saves down the stretch to help lead us to the division championship," Shingledecker said. "He's an extremely hard worker in training and is fantastic in the classroom. I'm really looking forward to having him lead our team as a senior."

**COACH OF THE YEAR Mark Zemanski, Canton:** Even though Mark Zemanski was named *Observer* boys soccer coach of the year, he would rather consider it a team award in the truest sense.



Mark Zemanski  
Canton coach

"I would prefer to talk about the team I coached," Zemanski said. "This was a really special year for a really special team."

Canton finished 24-0-3 and won the Division 1 state championship, compiling the best record in program history and becoming the only team in D1 to go undefeated and win 24 games in a season.

The state title was the second for the Chiefs in four seasons. Canton rolled through the postseason — with a multi-faceted attack on offense backed by stellar defense and goalkeeping — ultimately winning 1-0 over Rochester Adams in the title match-up at Brighton.

"These boys really were extraordinary," Zemanski said. "Their support for each other, team play and ability to put the team ahead of their own individual goals was unsurpassed."

**2014 ALL-AREA BOYS SOCCER FIRST TEAM**  
David Tetaj, Sr., F. Harrison  
Lucas Albrecht, Sr., F. Ply. Christian  
Carter Schenk, Sr., F. Canton  
Hunter Olson, Jr., F. Canton  
Dominic Payne, Jr., F. Farmington  
Nick Massey, Jr., F. Salem  
Sam Zapata, Sr., F. N. Farmington  
Jack Zemanski, Sr., M. Canton  
Daniel Jones, Sr., M. Churchill  
Dominic Rea, Sr., M. Stevenson  
Mike Blake, Jr., M. Plymouth  
Calvin McCracken, Sr., M. Plymouth  
Austin Rynicki, Sr., D. Stevenson  
Sam Belcher, Sr., D. Canton  
Cameron Fyffe, Sr., D. Clarenceville  
Austin Kaczmarek, Jr., G. Stevenson

**SECOND TEAM**  
Jordan Whitt, Jr., F. Franklin  
Matthew Causley, Jr., F. Canton  
Hunter Mullett, Sr., F. Stevenson  
Jayden Huxtable, Jr., F. Plymouth  
Erin Guri, Jr., F. Churchill  
Kyle Mettlich, Sr., M. Canton  
Alex George, Sr., M. N. Farmington  
Max Kummer, Jr., M. Salem  
Gerardo Arzate, Soph., M. Clarenceville  
Ari Hollander, Jr., M/D, Harrison  
Joseph Iacopelli, Sr., D. Ply. Christian  
Brett Chasnick, Sr., D. Harrison  
Chris Dooley, Sr., D. Canton  
Andrew Loehnis, Sr., G. Canton  
Nick Schroeder, Sr., G. Garden City

**COACH OF THE YEAR**  
Mark Zemanski, Canton  
**HONORABLE MENTIONS**  
Canton: Jimmy Walkinslaw, Andrew Murphy, Jason Ren, Sam Dely, Jay Krebs, Dylan DaSilva, Ammar Chisht; Plymouth: Jason Liguori, Van Nguyen, James Gibbs, Nathan Harris, Brandon Burger, Nick Freda, Bennett Brooks, Dillon Dwyer, Salem: Hunter Gibbons, Daniel Branch, Jay Lee, Doug Hallitt, Ryan Morley, Jacob Kunnath; PCA: Torre Crown, Joseph Fanelli, Isaac Middleton, Luke Yakuber; Clarenceville: Jake Devos-Roy, Armin Andelja; Stevenson: Alex DeFlorio, Sam Landefeld, Brady Brown, Max Hoover; Churchill: Riles Dobar, Nathan Guzowski; Franklin: Robert Jiga, Kyle Hayes, Bobby Mandrink; Wayne: David Lakatos, James Herdon; Lutheran Westland: Mitchell Meyer, Kyle Downey; Farmington: Chase Walkowiak, Marc Lowenfeld, Sean Greene; N. Farmington: Frank Zak, Nate Elby, Chase Shoberg, David Castelveter; Harrison: Mushreq George, Randy Perkins, Evan Boardway, Carl Hanpeter, Jacob Honer, Justin Honer, Connor Kindred, Noah Zaatari.

The season began at the annual Balconi Invitational, as the Chiefs won for the second consecutive season.

From there, the Chiefs kept rolling over opponents, scoring 92 goals (with 17 different players finding the mark) and allowing only 13. Along the way, Canton won the KLAA South Division for a fifth season in a row and then bagged conference, association, district and regional crowns.

Sharing goalkeeping duties were seniors Andrew Loehnis (who carried the team in goal during the tourney), Jay Krebs (who battled injuries late in the season) and Dylan DaSilva.

One particular hot streak featured seven shutouts in a row, with Zemanski often using one goalie per half with no drop-off.

"Midfielders and forwards Ammar Chisht and Bailey Riegel helped provide some offensive spark," he said. "And defenders Chris Dooley, Andrew Murphy and Nick Wendel were a big reason for our (0.48) goals-against average."

Zemanski, whose coaching staff includes assistants Alex Walton and Kevin Zemanski, also pointed to strong senior leadership from captains Sam Belcher, Kyle Mettlich, Carter Schenk and his son Jack Zemanski.

"Their hard work and dedication helped keep the team focused on our ultimate goal," he said. And Zemanski is confident that the 2015 Chiefs again will be a team to be reckoned with, despite graduation about to take a big bite out of the roster.

"These players were special," Zemanski said. "Even though we are graduating 12 talented seniors, we have 12 returning lettermen for next year."

## SCHOOLCRAFT BASKETBALL

# Schoolcraft men edge Jackson College in overtime

Five players in double digits as Ocelots prevail; Schoolcraft women cagers victorious

By Tim Smith  
Staff Writer

Schoolcraft College needed to work overtime to secure a 80-76 men's basketball victory Wednesday night against Jackson College.

The Ocelots (8-2) were deadlocked 68-68 after the fourth quarter of the non-conference tilt and then took charge with a 12-8 extra frame.

Five Schoolcraft players registered double digits in scoring, led by

forward Anthony War-tley-Fritz, who tallied 16 points (along with seven rebounds).

Scoring 13 points each were guards Lito Booth and Tyler Johnson, while guards Ja'Christian Biles and Dre Black (Westland John Glenn) each chipped in 12 points.

Tre'Vion Crews poured in 33 points for

Jackson (4-5).

Schoolcraft's strong OT rescued the team after letting a 37-29 half-time edge get away.

**SCHOOLCRAFT (WOMEN) 69, JACKSON 44:** Also Wednesday night at Jackson, the Schoolcraft women's basketball team improved to 7-4 with this non-conference victory.

T'era Nesbitt and Ashley Bland (Wayne Memorial) carried the offensive load for the Lady Ocelots, scoring 23 and 18 points, respectively.

Rikki Sherdt had a solid all-around game, scoring nine points and leading Schoolcraft with 16 rebounds.

Jackson (0-8) was led

by Darci Mariott, with 11 points.

Both Schoolcraft's men's and women's teams were scheduled to host Edison State. The women's game starts at 1 p.m., followed by the men at 3 p.m.

tsmith@hometownlife.com  
Twitter: @TimSmith\_Sports

ONTARIO HOCKEY LEAGUE

# Whalers battle to the wire but lose, 6-4

Knights able to squeak to win

By Tim Smith  
Staff Writer

The first part of the 2014-15 season has been rough for the Plymouth Whalers, but the OHL team always shows up to give rivals such as London a tussle.

Such was the case Friday, when the Whalers bothered the host Knights throughout — but could not seal the deal, falling 6-4.

London (19-10-1-1) never really salted away

the Whalers (10-18-1-1) until tallying an empty-netter by Julius Bergman with 22 seconds remaining.

Christian Dvorak got the Knights going with a power-play goal at 6:55 of the first period, slipping the puck past Plymouth goalie Alex Nedeljkovic (44 saves).

But the pesky Whalers, as they did all night, wouldn't go away. Mathew Campagna tallied a goal on the power play at 16:05, from Sonny Milano and Victor Crus Rydberg (finally back from injury).

The Whalers then

went up 2-1 less than two minutes later, when Milano tallied his seventh of the season.

London made it 2-2 after one period when Mitchell Marnier scored at 18:30.

The second period went London's way, with the Knights up 5-3 after 40 minutes.

Netting the Whalers' third goal was Connor Sills, with Campagna and Wesley earning assists.

Plymouth's Matt Mistelet then made it 5-4 when he scored at 4:09 of the third, from Milano and Crus Rydberg. It was Mistelet's 22nd goal of the

season.

The Whalers made a gallant effort for the equalizer, outshooting the Knights 16-12 in the period to undoubtedly make fans squeamish at Budweiser Gardens.

Unfortunately for Plymouth, London goalie Tyler Parsons (37 saves) was able to hold off long enough until Bergman could score the empty-netter to finally close out the victory.

**SAULT STE. MARIE 5, PLYMOUTH 1:** On Wednesday at Sault Ste. Marie, the Whalers scored in the first minute on an unassisted goal by Matt Mistelet, only to give up five unanswered.

Plymouth goalie Alex Nedeljkovic stopped 39 of 44 shots before being relieved during the third period by Zack Bowman.



RENA LAVERTY | PLYMOUTH WHALERS  
Plymouth Whalers forward and Los Angeles Kings prospect Matt Mistelet (right, shown from last season) got the Whalers off to a quick 1-0 lead Wednesday night against the Greyhounds.

PREP BOYS HOCKEY

## Plymouth offense pours it on, 8-0

A five-goal outburst in the second period Wednesday powered the Plymouth varsity boys hockey team to an 8-0 win over South Lyon Unified at the Arctic Edge Arena.

The Wildcats opened the scoring 52 seconds into the game on a goal by senior forward Josh Smith, but there was no further scoring in the opening period.

That changed in the second period as the Wildcats dominated play and scored five times on goals by Smith, junior defenseman Kyle Kozler, junior forwards Alex Bump and Jake Silvester and senior forward Mitchell Lope-trone. Plymouth outshot South Lyon 17-6 in the second period.

The Wildcats closed the scoring on third-period goals by defensemen Derek Szczepanik and Jake Zaborowski.

Forwards James Baldwin and Andrew Jossey each chipped in three assists. Smith and Zaborowski each added two assists. The team collected 36 shots on goal.

Senior goalie Jared Maddock made 19 saves to earn his first shutout and third win of the season.

"It was nice to get going offensively, but even better that we didn't sacrifice the defensive side of our game in doing that," head coach Gerry Vento said. "We had a balanced attack with 12 players registering a point. It wasn't a one-line or one-man show that got it done."

The win improved the Wildcats' record to 4-2 overall, 4-0 in the Kensington Lakes Activities Association.

Plymouth's next game is at 7:30 p.m. Monday against Northville at the Novi Ice Arena.



JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO  
Pushing the ball up the floor Friday night is Salem senior Hayley Rogers.

## ROCKS

Continued from Page B1

It was a see-saw battle throughout the first half. Salem led 9-8 after the opening quarter, thanks to a running bank-shot through the lane by Wilson at the buzzer.

**Halftime lead**

Salem then built a 20-17 halftime advantage, with Rogers coming up big.

With about 2:30 to play in the half, Rogers connected on a trey from the left flank to put the Rocks in front 18-16.

She then scored a nifty layup through the paint to make it 20-17 with 1:05 left.

A triple try by Kinder went in and out to enable the Rocks to stay in front at the intermission.

After Divine Child

took a 21-20 lead early in the third, Salem went on an 8-1 run to go up 28-22 midway through the quarter.

Senior forward Maranda Armstead (six points) converted a lay-up and freshman guard Lasha Petree dished the ball outside to Rogers for yet another trey, making it 26-21.

Salem enjoyed a six-point lead until Case started to heat up, sinking back-to-back triples to even things at 28-28 with 2:12 to play in the third.

A put-back by Armstead put Salem back in front and hard-nosed defense by junior guard Marisa Martin and Wilson helped the Rocks come away with loose balls and rebounds to keep the Falcons from tying it up before the quarter ended.

Then came the tell-tale fourth, which opened with Case hitting a jumper from the left wing and Kinder scoring on a layup, putting Divine Child up 32-30.

Long kept the Rocks afloat with game-tying buckets to make it 32-32 and 34-34, the latter with 3:25 remaining.

Then came yet another hot shot by Case, again finding the range from beyond the 3-point arc, giving the Falcons a 37-34 edge they would not relinquish.

Divine Child closed out with a 7-3 run, including layups by Hannah Brefeld and Kinder.

Despite the disappointing finish, Klemmer said her team is learning and hopefully will figure out how to change gears when opponents do the same.

"We got to learn how to fight through adversity right now," Klemmer said. "And that's what we talked about, is not mentally getting ourselves out of games when people go on runs or people's intensity picks up. We need to be able to match that."

tsmith@hometownlife.com  
Twitter: @TimSmith\_Sports

BOYS BASKETBALL OPENER

## Chiefs bounce back, win in double OT

Williams, Ryan help lead Canton past Ann Arbor Pioneer

By Tim Smith  
Staff Writer

When Canton boys basketball coach Jimmy Reddy mapped out his team's early season schedule, it was with the idea of finding out how the Chiefs measured up against tough, non-conference opponents.

Reddy got the answer he was looking for as Canton needed two overtime sessions to get past visiting Ann Arbor Pioneer 71-63 in Wednesday's season opener.

"I'm proud of our effort and they way we competed, especially after Pioneer hit a three at the buzzer to send it into overtime," Reddy said.

The Pioneer trey made it 51-51 after four quarters.

The teams were deadlocked at 58-58 entering the second OT thanks to two clutch free throws by Jalen Cochran with 11 seconds remaining.

Scoring 26 points on just 10 shots was senior guard Greg Williams, who Reddy said "played one of the most efficient games we have seen here in the last few years. He was outstanding, along with Logan Ryan."

Williams connected on 8-of-10 from the floor, including 2-of-3 from beyond the 3-point line. Meanwhile, Ryan tallied 25 points, burying three triples in four attempts.

Chipping in eight points and 10 rebounds was Cochran, while Nick Wendel (nine points) and Ryan (six boards) also helped the Canton cause.

**PLYMOUTH 66, S' GATE ANDERSON 62:** Josh Reynolds scored 22 points Thursday to pace the Wildcats (2-0).

Adding 15 points was Randall Aikins, while Deji Adebisi tallied 10 points and eight rebounds.

Southgate Anderson (0-2) tried to rally in the fourth, cutting a double-digit deficit to three points with about a minute to play. But Plymouth made sure their opponent didn't get any closer than that.

"I'm happy that when we faced a little bit of adversity we were able to overcome that," coach Mike Soukup said.

Plymouth will host South Lyon East at 7 p.m. Tuesday. All Park students (with valid ID) will be admitted free into the game.

**SKYLINE 62, SALEM 56 (OT):** The Rocks dropped their season opener Tuesday in overtime against Ann Arbor Skyline, despite 25 points by Jakob Lenders and 15 points by Allante Wheeler. Tyler Brooks scored eight.

## THE WEEK AHEAD

**BOYS HOCKEY**  
**Monday, Dec. 15**  
8' ton vs. Canton  
at Arctic Edge, 8:30 p.m.  
Plymouth at Northville, 7:30 p.m.  
**Wednesday, Dec. 17**  
Romeo vs. Canton  
at Arctic Edge, 8:30 p.m.  
**Friday, Dec. 19**  
Plymouth vs. Salem at PCC, 8:30 p.m.  
**GIRLS BASKETBALL**  
**Tuesday, Dec. 16**  
Plymouth at S.L. East, 7 p.m.  
Canton at Novi, 7 p.m.  
Wayne at Salem, 7 p.m.  
N. Farmington at Ladywood, 7 p.m.  
**Thursday, Dec. 18**  
South Lyon at Plymouth, 7 p.m.  
Stevenson at Canton, 7 p.m.

Salem at John Glenn, 7 p.m.  
**BOYS BASKETBALL**  
**Tuesday, Dec. 16**  
S.L. East at Plymouth, 7 p.m.  
Novi at Canton, 7 p.m.  
Salem at Wayne, 7 p.m.  
**Thursday, Dec. 18**  
Plymouth at South Lyon, 7 p.m.  
Canton at Stevenson, 7 p.m.  
John Glenn at Salem, 7 p.m.  
**WRESTLING**  
**Wednesday, Dec. 17**  
Harrison at S.C.S. Lake Shore, 6 p.m.  
**ONTARIO HOCKEY LEAGUE**  
**Wednesday, Dec. 17**  
Ply. Whalers at Owen Sound, 7 p.m.  
**Thursday, Dec. 18**  
Ply. Whalers at Barrie, 7:30 p.m.

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## PCA

Continued from Page B1

Discovery Middle School.

"They hired a great coach in Mattei," Washington said. "I've known coach Mattei for six or seven years. I coached his son in middle school.

"That was a great hire for them. But at the end of the day, it worked out for both parties."

According to Mattei, he and Dennard will bring to PCA "a proven winning system and are committed to developing it into one of the most successful, premier basketball programs in Michigan for a long time.

"I told the players and their parents that these young men are going to learn more about the game of basketball this season than they have in their entire life," Mattei added, "and that they are going to be pleasantly surprised at how much they will accomplish as a team."

## Roster has promise

The Eagles opened the 2014-15 season Saturday and have a promising roster that could make some noise in the Michigan Independent Athletic Conference.

Starting at point guard will be senior Evan Horne, who Mattei said "is our floor general. Evan is a competitor and has good court awareness."

Also starting in the back court will be junior guard Luke Yakuber. "He is a tenacious on-the-ball defender and will get steals and easy buckets using his quickness," Mattei said.

Coming off the bench to back up Horne and Yakuber is senior point guard Lucas Albrecht, described by Mattei as a "smart, scrappy, tough player."

Starting up front will be senior forward/center Michael Slater and senior forward Isaac Middleton.

"We look to (Slater) to control the lane on defense and he is a threat to

score inside or outside," Mattei said. "(Middleton) did not play last year, but he will help on both ends of the floor, especially on defense with his athleticism."

**Plenty of depth**

The Eagles have a lot of reserve forwards upon whom Mattei can call for duty.

At the top of the list is senior Joey Fanelli, who "is a smart, hard-working competitor that can run forever."

Senior center Tanner Hay "gives us a bigger body to help control the middle and the boards on both ends of the floor."

Another senior center who might be able to help the cause is Jake Shook.

Juniors Ian Hay and Josh Slater and freshman Matt Malcolm are others in the mix.

Hay "is a pleasant surprise bringing a nice outside shot to help spread the defense," the coach said.

Josh Slater will "add toughness to the middle and give us interior de-

fense and rebounding," while Malcolm, for a ninth-grader, is "smooth, talented and — best of all — he is committed."

"As Matt gains confidence and experience over the next couple years, he is a good bet to become the entire package."

Further depth will be provided by junior forward Will Crecelius, senior forward Jordan Talbott and senior guard/forward Mark Wrozek (back in January after recovering from a foot injury).

"These young men are a tight-knit group," Mattei said. "I appreciate that they encourage and push each other to excel, learn, work hard and compete."

"They are beginning to believe that the tough, smart player is the best player. I think we are going to surprise a lot of teams who recently haven't paid much attention to PCA."

tsmith@hometownlife.com  
Twitter: @TimSmith\_Sports

## Time for reflection: Winter solstice event marks longest night, sun's return

By Sharon Dargay  
Staff Writer

The Rev. Leonetta Bugleisi and her Farmington Hills congregation will celebrate the season on Dec. 20 — and you're invited to the festivities.

Just one word of advice if you plan to attend: Leave the green and red trappings, the Santa Claus decorations, the Hanukkah dreidels at home.

The "A Celtic Solstice" event at Universalist Unitarian Church of Farmington will focus on nature's reason for the season in a "noncommercial" observance.

"It's a seasonal approach to Earth's changes. We keep it reflective. This is different than a Sunday service. It's more participatory. The guests are part of the service. They're not coming to be preached to, or given a message," Bugleisi said.

"We're symbolically going through what is happening in nature ... that this is the longest night of the year and the days start getting longer after the 21st."

The celebration will begin at 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 20, at the church, 25301 Halsted, Farmington Hills. Guests are invited to wear gold, silver or black to symbolize the sun, stars and night sky.

"If people want to show up in blue jeans and a sweat shirt, that is fine, too," Bugleisi noted. "We do responsive readings, meditation. This year, we'll have messages of peace and there will be a memento of the day."

Musical soloists, stories, drumming, chanting and guitar music will round out the celebration that recognizes the change of season on Dec. 21.

### Music, dancing

Although Bugleisi is fairly new to the congregation — she became its minister in April — she has led the winter solstice at churches locally in Roches-



ter, as well as Missouri, Illinois and Minnesota over the past 24 years.

Her husband, Michael Murphy, has attended all of the solstice services since they married 20 years ago.

"Sometimes I'll play music. I play tin whistle and guitar. If she does theater, I'll do various roles. Over the last several years I've done readings and such," Murphy said. "It's a nice celebration of traditions from around the world. It's con-

templative and often at the end of the service we have people up and dancing which is cool.

"I think people walk away feeling good. It's spiritually uplifting."

The changing season compels some celebrants to review the past year and set goals for the next. The folk tales, myths, and science that are woven together in the ritual help participants meditate on the cycles of death and rebirth, shadow and light, joy and sorrow.

Many of the solstice stories and practices pre-date Christianity. Monuments at both Stonehenge and a cave at Newgrange in Ireland were built so that they aligned with the solstice. At Newgrange, for example, a shaft of sunlight penetrates the cave's central chamber at dawn on the winter solstice.

### Light over darkness

Bugleisi said the winter solstice is universally cele-

brated in all cultures because it signifies the start of gradually lengthening days and the return of the sun.

"The upshot of the songs and reveling is that the more noise we make and happiness we have, the sun will come back."

She said the symbolism of the sunlight emerging after the longest, dark night, helps remind individuals that "we affirm each other by the light carried in each of us."

"It's reflective of the light that Jesus carried to the world. We're taking a meditative pause to see how nature promised that the light will come back. It engages us to choose light over darkness."

"For me, there is power there, especially in these times we live in. The weather almost forces us to come inside and reflect and slow down. It gives you time to pause and you know the hope of the universe is that the world will shift and change and the light will come back."

"It's interesting that one of the songs incorporated into a lot of church services today is the song from *Frozen* — *Let it go*. That is what we're trying to do — let go of negativity and bring in the light."

Bugleisi calls the winter solstice celebration "interfaith and poetic." She stresses that it is not meant to supplant other religious celebrations, such as Hanukkah and Christmas.

"As Unitarian Universalists, we acknowledge Hanukkah and light the menorah. We read the story of Jesus and bring in the nativity scene," she said. "We're not saying the solstice is more important. It's giving us additional time for reflection."

For more about the Universalist Unitarian Church of Farmington, visit [uufarmington.org](http://uufarmington.org).

## Induction cooktops becoming hot sellers, but still pricey

I woke up one night at 2 a.m., picked up my book and turned on the television and this infomercial jumped out of the screen. They were taking orders by having you call a toll-free number and the deal sounded too good to be true. So, in my sleepy mode, I made the call.

I received two NuWave burners and some pans and pots as part of this fabulous offer and for the next three months my darling Valerie kept asking me why she was receiving an invoice from this company. We kept getting these bills because the shipping charges were out of sight. A few weeks after my stupidity subsided I watched a consumer alert on television that called this whole thing a rip-off. Needless to say, I won't be doing this again. We now have two burner assemblies, one for the cottage and one here at home. We have used them only



Joe Gagnon  
APPLIANCE DOCTOR

a few times and it is very different from our electric kitchen range. We have these special pans we must use and the food comes out terrific. A real difference is that the burners do not get hot. All of this reminds me of when the microwave oven first hit the market in the early '70s. It was tough to explain that this product would revolutionize the way we cook food and look at what happened. Is this the course of a new way to cook using magnets?

### Heating cookware

This induction way of cooking is very popular in Europe but has been almost unknown in the U.S. It looks like con-

sumer awareness, ever so slow, may be causing this superior technology to finally catch hold. Induction is different because it uses electromagnetic energy to directly heat pots and pans. Induction uses a series of magnets that excite the iron atoms in a pan to generate heat. Gas converts a mere 38 percent of its energy to the food and electric converts roughly 70 percent. Induction converts from 80 to 90 percent and is proving to be an energy saver when cooking any meal. It can prevent burns from a cooling surface burner and you can place a paper towel between a hot frying pan and the induction burner to keep oil from spattering on the cooktop. The facts are that induction is faster, safer, easier, and more efficient than either gas or electric and it's being sold at some appliance retail stores.

### Easy to clean

I spoke with an appliance dealer the other day who told me these induction cooktops are becoming a hot sales item. He told me that the kitchen chef who really wants perfection is a prime customer. You can melt butter and chocolate and the heat can reach up to 665.5 degrees whereas gas only goes up to 428 degrees. Cleaning the cooktop is an easy task because the burners don't get hot enough to bake in food particles. As for the thought of having to purchase all new pots and pans, it may not be the case with you. If a magnet will stick to the bottom of your cookware, you can use those products with induction cooking.

Today, Sweden leads in sales with a 75 percent market share for induction. I'm sure this is due to the extremely high cost of electricity which someday

may cause all of the U.S. to take a second look at induction cooking. The retail prices for these products have been very high but as the prices continue to climb on the new range you will purchase one day, the gap will not be out of sight. They even make these products with a regular oven and the same size as your current gas or electric range. When I spent all those years with the Amana Company and microwaves were invented for home use, we had cooking schools at no charge for any consumer who purchased an Amana Radar-Range. That's my next suggestion to the manufacturers of these induction cooktops. Start a cooking school. Stay tuned.

Joe Gagnon can be heard at 8 a.m. Saturdays on WAAM 1600. You can email your problems and questions on appliances to [appldr@twml.r.com](mailto:appldr@twml.r.com).

## Shop & Champagne party



JULIE YOLLES, SOCIAL SCENE COLUMNIST

Redford resident Louise Malinowski is a metalsmith artist at the Birmingham Bloomfield Art Center (BBAC) where her hand-etched hair accessories are available for

purchase at the BBAC Holiday Shop through Dec. 20. She was on hand at the center's holiday kick-off, the annual Shop & Champagne event.

## HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

### ART

#### VAAL HOLIDAY SHOPPE

**Time/Date:** 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily, through Dec. 14

**Location:** Visual Arts Association of Livonia (VAAL), 37653 Five Mile, Livonia

**Details:** One-of-a-kind holiday gifts created by area artisans. Items in every price range

**Contact:** 734-838-1204; [vaalart.org](http://vaalart.org)

### DANCE

#### CENTRAL CITY DANCE

**Time/Date:** 6 p.m. Dec. 18-19, 11 a.m., 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. Dec. 20, noon and 4 p.m. Dec. 21

**Location:** Village Theater of Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill Road, Canton

**Details:** Central City Dance's Christmas Spectacular. Tickets are \$23

**Contact:** 734-459-0400; [centralcity-dance.com](http://centralcity-dance.com)

### FILM

#### PENN THEATRE

**Time/Date:** Weekends through De-

cember

**Location:** 760 Penniman, Plymouth

**Details:** *Christmas Vacation*, 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 18, and 7 p.m. and 9:05 p.m. Friday, Dec. 19; *The Polar Express*, 4:45 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, Dec. 20-21. All seats \$3

**Contact:** 734-453-0870; [www.penn-theatre.com](http://www.penn-theatre.com)

### REDFORD THEATRE

**Time/Date:** 8 p.m. Dec. 19 and 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Dec. 20

**Location:** 17360 Lahser, just north of Grand River Ave., in Detroit

**Details:** *White Christmas*, \$5; Santa visits the theater — bring your camera

**Contact:** 313-898-1481

### HISTORY

#### PLYMOUTH HISTORICAL MUSEUM

**Time/Date:** 1-4 p.m. Wednesday, Friday-Sunday

**Location:** 155 S. Main, Plymouth

**Details:** 'Twas the Night Before Christmas exhibit runs through Jan. 11, 2015. Admission is \$5 for adults, \$2 for ages 6-17

**Crafty Elves Workshop:** Children, ages 5-11, can make gifts and decorations at 1 p.m., 2 p.m. and 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14. \$10 per child. Sign up online or by calling the museum

**Contact:** 734-455-8940

### LIGHTS

#### LIGHTFEST

**Time/Date:** 6-10 p.m. Friday-Sunday, through Dec. 31, excluding Dec. 25

**Location:** Along four miles of Hines Drive; enter at 7651 Merriman, between Warren road and Ann Arbor Trail in Westland

**Details:** Drive by 55 holiday light displays; admission is \$5 per car

**Contact:** 734-261-1990; [parks.wayne-county.com](http://parks.wayne-county.com)

### WILD LIGHTS

**Time/Date:** 5:30-9 p.m. Dec. 14, 18-23 and 26-31

**Location:** The Detroit Zoo, located on the I-696 service drive at Woodward Ave., in Royal Oak

**Details:** More than five million lights

## RELIGION CALENDAR

DECEMBER  
ADVENT SERVICES

**Time/Date:** 7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 17

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

**Details:** The meditation theme is "Waiting With The Old Testament Church"

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

## CHRISTMAS WORSHIP

**Time/Date:** 7 p.m. Dec. 24 and 9:30 a.m. Dec. 25

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

**Details:** Family service on Christmas Eve; free gifts for children and visitors

**Contact:** 734-968-3523

## CONCERT

**Time/Date:** 7 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14

**Location:** Northwest Unitarian Universalist Church, 23925 Northwestern Highway, Southfield

**Details:** Northwest Choir and One Voice Chorus present a holiday concert to benefit the Ruth Ellis Center, a residence for LGBT runaway teens. Suggested donation \$10-\$20

**Contact:** 248-354-4488; north-westuu.org

## CONCERT

**Time/Date:** 7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 17

**Location:** St. John's Lutheran Church, 35320 Glenwood, Westland

**Details:** Christian rock band Wise4Salvation

**Contact:** 734-721-5377

Grandparents Steve and Carol Ann Bruce and great-grandmother Genevieve Kramarz, all of Farmington Hills, welcomed three new babies into their family this year.

» Charlotte Olivia Bruce was born July 14, 2014, at North Austin Medical Center, Austin, Texas. She weighed 6 pounds, 9 ounces and measured 18½ inches.

Charlotte's parents are Eric and Ashley (Stansberry) Bruce, of Austin, Texas. Her older sister is Savannah Adrienne, 3.

In addition to the Bruces, grandparents include Linda Stansberry



Betty Eden Boran

of Spring Lake, and Warren Stansberry of Grand Haven. Doris Davis of Orange, Calif., is a great-grandmother, along with Kramarz.



Chloe Elizabeth Lechner

» Betty Eden Boran was born May 17, 2014, at Prentice Women's Hospital-Northwest Memorial Hospital, in Chicago, Ill. She weighed 8 pounds, 1 ounce and measured 21 inches.

Betty's parents are Christopher and Heather (Bruce) Boran of Chicago, Ill. Sawyer Christopher and Lily Mae, both 3, are her older siblings.

Grandparents include the Bruces and Jerry and Colleen Born of Forest City, Iowa. In addition to Kramarz, great-grandparents include Doris Davis of Orange, Calif.,



Charlotte Olivia Bruce

and Peggy Ellis of Blue Earth, Minn.

» Chloe Elizabeth Lechner was born March 29, 2014, at William Beaumont Hospital, Royal Oak. She weighed 7 pounds, 2 ounces and measured 20 inches.

Her parents are Aaron and Holly (Bruce) Lechner of Clawson.

Grandparents are the Bruces and Daryl and Marie Lechner of Chesaning. Great-grandparents are Kramarz, Charles and Lucie Hiner of Lapeer, Martha Cuttita of Lapeer, and Doris Davis of Orange, Calif.

# Passages

Obituaries, Memories & Remembrances

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**Deadlines: Friday, 4:00 p.m. for Sunday papers • Tuesday, 4:00 p.m. for Thursday papers**

**Holiday deadlines are subject to change.**



## AREEDA, HILDA E.

Age 82, passed away December 6, 2014. Loving wife of the late Clyde Areeda for 43 years. Caring mother of Jon (Laura), Martina (Donald) Areeda-Borgerding, and David. Devoted grandmother of Ashley, Autumn, Allison, Austin, and Alexis. [Beloved sister of the late Vivian Olmsted, the late Beatrice Dole, and Phyllis Evans. Hilda will be missed by her family, friends, and her loyal dog, Taffy. A Memorial Service for Hilda will be held at a later date. In honor of Hilda, memorial donations are appreciated to the Michigan Humane Society. Visit www.harryjwillfuneralhome.com

Harry J Will Funeral Homes

## DANIELS, ESTELLE

Age 88, a resident of Detroit, Michigan, departed this life on Tuesday, December 9, 2014. Ms. Daniels was preceded in death by her parents, James and Lela Sellers of Greenville, Alabama as well as five sisters, Lela Sellers of Greenville, Alabama, May Wallace of Diamond Bar California, Lela Pearl Vail of Birmingham, Alabama, Ruth Powell of Niagara Falls, New York and one brother, James Sellers, Jr. of Berkeley, California. Ms. Daniels was a loving sister and aunt to a host of nieces and nephews as well as a friend to many during her long life. Ms. Daniels was a devoted employee at Michigan Catholic until her retirement in 1997. Viewing and funeral services will be held on Monday, December 22, 2014 at 10:00 am at the McFall Brothers Funeral Home, 9419 Dexter St. in Detroit, Michigan. Burial to immediately follow at the Grandlawn Cemetery.

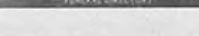


## DARIN, DENNIS A., JR. "NED"

December 5, 2014, age 90. Beloved husband of Judith for 52 years. Dear father of Anna Davidson Cruz (Augustine) and D. Anthony Darin (Sandra). Grandfather of Sebastian Aloysius Cruz and Pia Antonia Cruz. Also survived by his sister, Donna Sullivan and 22 nieces and nephews, and close family members. Services have taken place. In lieu of flowers memorial tributes to Rose Hill Center or www.autismspeaks.org

A.J. Desmond & Sons, 248-362-2500. View obituary and share memories at

DesmondFuneralHome.com



## EDMONDSON, KENNETH HAROLD

Age 77 of West Bloomfield, December 7, 2014.

www.mccabefuneralhome.com

## HOLMAN, SHIRLEY M.

Age 91. December 10, 2014. Beloved wife of the late John. Loving aunt of Eva (Reg) Brown. She leaves behind many dear friends. Visitation Monday from 11 a.m. until the 3 p.m. Memorial Service at the John N. Santeiu & Son Funeral Home, 1139 N. Inkster Rd., Garden City (between Ford Rd. and Cherry Hill).

www.santeiufuneralhome.com

Santeiu Funeral Home



## IRWIN, W. ALEXANDER, D.D.S.

Passed away peacefully on the morning of December 10, 2014 at his home. Alexander was a loving husband, father and grandfather. Beloved husband of the late Shirley (nee Spire). Loving father of Melissa Hurley (John) and the late Alexa Lee Irwin. Grandfather of John Jr., Madeline and Alexander. Brother of Manley R. Irwin, Ph.D. (Doris), Ralph E. Irwin (Judy) and Alice Gordon (Ed). Also survived by many nieces and nephews. Family will receive friends Sunday, December 21st, 3 p.m. until Eulogy Service at 5 p.m. at A.J. Desmond & Sons (Vasu, Rodgers & Connell Chapel), 32515 Woodward, (btwn 13-14 Mile), 248-549-0500. Memorial Tributes to Sisters of Mercy, 29000 West Eleven Mile Rd., Farmington Hills, MI 48336. View obituary and share memories at

DesmondFuneralHome.com



## KEISER, ROGER L.

Age 78, of Levering, passed away at Tendercare of Clare on December 5, 2014. Roger was born on March 17, 1936, in Dearborn, MI, to Leon and Mary (Perron) Keiser. He graduated from Pellston High School in 1955. He worked for Procter & Gamble as a mechanic in Cheboygan until his retirement. He married Thayer Roueche, July 29, 1989, and together they divided their time between their homes in Levering and Florida. He was an active member of the Levering Lions for many years and enjoyed hunting and traveling. He also enjoyed building and flying model airplanes. Roger is survived by his five children: Bambi (James) Perry of Clare; Yvette (Daniel) Majestic of Manchester, TN; Colette (Rodney) Sullins of Lake Orion; Roger C. Keiser and Anita Keiser, both of Parma, OH; Ron (Elizabeth) Keiser of Madison Heights; eleven grandchildren, two great-grandchildren. He is also survived by his sister Deanna Capen of Melvindale and three brothers: Jerald (Ann) Keiser of South Lyon, Charles (Wanda) Keiser of Melvindale, and Dennis (Evelyn) Keiser of Lincoln Park, and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his wife, Thayer, brother, Ronald and his parents. A memorial service for family and friends is scheduled for Saturday, January 17th at 11:00 am at Nordman-Christian Funeral Home in Cheboygan, MI. Memorials may be made to Hospice of Michigan or The American Cancer Society.

May peace be with you in this time of sorrow.



May the memory of your loved one...



...bring you peace.

## NULER, FERN VLAHAKIS

Age 96, passed away peacefully at her apartment in Canton on Sunday November 23, 2014. Preceded in death by her beloved husband George and son Eric. Dearest mother of Leslie (Denis) Toth and Kurt (Karen) Nuler. Loving grandmother of Adrea (Kyle Donnelly), Trevor and Alida Toth, Annika, Katja, Karl and Jenna Nuler. Fern graduated at 16 from Northwestern high school in Detroit and attended Wayne State University. She worked for the US Army Ordinance department in WWII helping to coordinate army logistics for the war effort. She was both president of the PTA and the PTA Council in the Ferndale school district and helped to improve the education in the district. Fern was also a very enthusiastic world traveler, a voracious reader and avid crossword puzzle solver. As was her giving nature, Fern's final gift was to donate her body to Wayne State Medical School. A memorial service has been scheduled at the Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, 1800 W. Maple Road, Birmingham at 11 a.m. on Saturday January 24 in the main sanctuary. In lieu of flowers the family requests that contributions be made to the Redeemer Memorial Fund, the American Heart Association or Leader Dogs for the Blind in Rochester Michigan.



## PARKS, JAMES V.

December 9, 2014, age 90. Beloved husband of the late Elizabeth. Dear father of James W. (Terri) Parks, Sheila M. (Mitchell) Holly, Maureen E. (Keith) Carmickle, Thomas A. (Karen) Parks, John J. (Mary Patricia) Parks and the late Michael T. Parks. Also leaves eight grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren. Brother of Sister Margaret (Peg) Parks and the late Richard and John Parks. Visitation Monday 1-9 p.m. at the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home, 280 South Main Street, Plymouth. Rosary Monday 7 p.m. Visitation will continue on Tuesday from 10 a.m. until the time of the Funeral Mass at 10:30 a.m. at Holy Family Catholic Church, 24505 Meadowbrook Road, Novi.



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A loving tribute

## BIRTH

## WEDDING



Jennifer Maxwell and Jeff Richards on their wedding day

## MAXWELL-RICHARDS

Jennifer Maxwell and Jeff Richards were married June 28, 2014, in the Chapel at The Inn at St. John's, Plymouth Township. A reception followed in the Judea Ballroom at The Inn at St. John's.

Jennifer is the daughter of Mark and Julie Maxwell of Port Huron. Jeff is the son of Bill and Carol Richards of Northville.

Jennifer and Jeff met while they both were attending Michigan State University. Jeff is employed at Plymouth-Canton Community Schools as a teacher and coach.

Jennifer is a third-year law student at the University of Detroit Mercy Law School.

The matron of honor was Alison Myrand and the bridesmaids were Kaitlyn Healey and Veronica Chase. The best man was Greg Goddard and the groomsmen were Brian Maxwell and Craig Myrand. Sophia Myrand was the flower girl.

The newlyweds took a honeymoon trip to San Diego Calif. They make their home in Canton.

## HOLIDAY

Continued from Page 85

illuminate buildings, trees and animal sculptures through a portion of the zoo. The event includes photos with Santa Paws, carousel rides, The Polar Express 4-D Experience, ice carving, arts and crafts. Admission for ages 2 and older is \$8 in advance and \$10 at the gate; parking is \$6 per car. Buy tickets online at www.detroitzoo.org/events/wild-lights, at Detroit Zoo main admissions, or Kroger stores

**Contact:** 248-541-5717

## MUSIC COMMUNITY SING

**Time/Date:** 4-5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 21

**Location:** Kellogg Park in downtown Plymouth

**Details:** Jerry Smith, director of music ministries at Plymouth's First Presbyterian Church, will lead the singing in this event, sponsored by Heartbeat of Plymouth, a collaboration of churches. Refreshments will be served from 5-6 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church, 701 Church

**Contact:** 734-453-6464

## FARMINGTON COMMUNITY CHORUS

**Time/Date:** 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Dec. 19-20

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

**Details:** Tickets in advance are \$12; at the door, \$15

**Contact:** farmingtonchorus.com

## HARMONYTOWN CHORUS

**Time/Date:** 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14

**Location:** Livonia Civic Center Library Auditorium, 32777 Five Mile, Livonia

**Details:** "Holiday Harmonies" sixth annual Christmas Show will

include The Garden City High School Singers in addition to the HarmonyTown Chorus. Tickets are \$6 for adults, \$3 for students, 12-18, free for youngsters under 12. Order tickets online at WeSingBarbershop.com

**Contact:** 734-743-1764

## LIVONIA CIVIC CHORUS

**Time/Date:** 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14

**Location:** Clarenceville High School, 20155 Middlebelt, Livonia

**Details:** "Extraordinary Merry Christmas" program; advance tickets are \$12 for adults and \$10 for seniors and students, \$15 at the door

**Contact:** 734-542-9071; livonia-civicchorus.org

## SCHOOLCRAFT COLLEGE

**Time/Date:** 7:30 p.m. Monday, Dec. 15

**Location:** VisTaTech Center, on the main campus, located on Haggerty between Six Mile and Seven Mile, Livonia

**Details:** The Jazz Ensemble & Jazz Improvisation Combo present Winter Wonders concert; free

**Contact:** 734-462-4403; schoolcraft.edu/music

## SANTA DETROIT ZOO

**Time/Date:** 6-7:30 p.m. Dec. 19-23

**Location:** 10 Mile and Woodward Ave., off I-696 in Royal Oak

**Details:** Dine with Santa at a buffet-style dinner in the Zoo's Interpretive Gallery. Cost is \$39 for ages 15 and older, and \$34 for children, 14 and younger, and includes photo opportunity and story time with Santa, along with admission to Wild Lights, a holiday light display. Tickets must be purchased for all children regardless of age

**Contact:** 248-541-5717

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## Program at St. Mary Mercy Hospital helps pre-diabetics change their lifestyle

Individuals at risk for type 2 diabetes who are struggling to make lifestyle changes can get back on track to good health through the National Diabetes Prevention Program.

The National Kidney Foundation administers the program, which will return to St. Mary Mercy Hospital in Livonia next month. Participants will meet from 6:30-7:30 p.m. Monday, beginning Jan. 5, 2015, for 16 weeks, at 36475 Five Mile, Livonia.

Samantha L. Fletcher-Garbutt, media relations specialist for the hospital, said previous sessions have resulted in several "success stories" for participants.

The program is free, but participants must qualify. They must be overweight and at a high risk for developing diabetes or overweight and diagnosed by a physician as having pre-diabetes. The program is not for individuals who have been diagnosed with diabetes.

Pre-diabetes is determined by a blood test, which can include:

- » Fasting plasma glucose between 100-125 mg/dl
- » Two-hour plasma glucose between 140 to 199 mg/dl

A combination of risk factors, such as family history, being overweight, gestational diabetes and inactivity also may determine eligibility for the program.

One out of three adults lives with pre-diabetes and most are unaware of their condition. But the disease can be prevented or delayed with a healthy lifestyle.

Weight loss, healthy eating and exercise all are components of the National Diabetes Prevention Program.



GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO  
A blood sugar meter helps diabetics monitor glucose levels. Pre-diabetics can reduce their risk for the disease by maintaining a healthy lifestyle.

Participants track of everything they eat and drink for a lifestyle coach who comments weekly on their progress. They aim for 150 minutes of physical activity per week, which at the start of the program might include brisk walking and housework.

In a classroom setting, the lifestyle coach facilitates a small group of participants in learning about behavior changes over 16 one-hour sessions. Topics include healthier eating, getting started with physical activity, overcoming stress, and staying motivated. Group members help each other stay motivated. After the initial 16 core sessions, participants meet monthly for additional support to help maintain their progress.

To register or learn more about the program, call St. Mary Mercy Community Outreach at 734-655-8947 or register online at [www.stmarymercy.org](http://www.stmarymercy.org) under "Classes and Events."

### ACA learning session

Botsford Hospital presents a learning session on the Affordable Care Act, 5-6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 7, 2015, at the hospital, 28050 Grand River Ave., Farmington Hills. The ACA marketplace open enrollment period closes Feb. 15, 2015. The session, which is free, will help people learn about their options under the ACA; 248-442-1633

### Blood drive

An American Red Cross blood drive will run 7 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. Dec. 18, in the lower level classrooms at the Allan Breakie Medical Office Building, located on the Garden City Hospital campus, 6245 Inkster Road, Garden City. Call 734-458-4259 to schedule an appointment. Walk-ins are welcome.

### Breast cancer support

A free breast cancer support group will be held from 9-11 a.m. Dec. 20 at the Oakwood Breast Care Center - Dearborn, 18100 Oakwood Blvd, Dearborn. For questions, call Nancy Madro, R.N., at 313-438-7749.

### Hearing Loss

Mike Robinette, Au.D., CCC-A, talks about the latest hearing aid features, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 14, 2015, at Garden City Hospital, 6245 Inkster, Garden City. For more information, contact Tony at 734-664-3297; [af-rack@comcast.net](mailto:af-rack@comcast.net).

### Nutrition class

Busch's chef Rebecca Wauldron and a Botsford Hospital dietitian will demonstrate the differences in tastes and benefits of whole grains as well as winter greens and vegetables. 6-7:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 8, at Busch's Fresh Foods Market, 37083 Six Mile, Livonia. Cost: \$10 and includes a \$5 coupon, giveaways, recipes, samples, and more. Registration required. Class is limited to 30. Register at the Guest Services Counter at the store;

## MEDICAL DATEBOOK



SUBMITTED

The American Red Cross will collect blood donations Dec. 18 at Garden City Hospital.

734-779-6100

### Ongoing

#### Anorexics and Bulimics Anonymous

Twelve-step program and weekly group to help those suffering with eating disorders such as anorexia, bulimia, bingeing and purging, and exercise compulsion is held 7-8 p.m. Tuesday, at the Friendship Circle, 6892 W. Maple, West Bloomfield. An AB-ANON meeting group is available for families and loved ones, 7-8 p.m. Wednesday, also at the Friendship Circle. For more information, contact Mindy at 248-672-9776.

#### Aquatic classes

The YMCA of Metropolitan Detroit and the Arthritis Foundation have partnered to offer aquatic classes designed to ease arthritis. Classes are held 11 a.m. to noon Tuesday and Thursday at the Farmington branch and 1-1:45 p.m. Monday and Wednesday at the Livonia branch. Visit [www.ymcadetroit.org](http://www.ymcadetroit.org).

#### Bipolar support

Depression Bipolar Support Alliance meets 6-7:30 p.m. the second and fourth Tuesday at Lincoln Behavioral Services Center, 14500 Sheldon, Suite 160B, Plymouth. It is accessed through the Plymouth Executive Park driveway north of M-14. Meetings

open to families. Call Nancy at 734-536-3457 for directions.

#### Blood pressure

Garden City Hospital offers free blood pressure testing, cholesterol (\$5), and lipid panel (\$10) 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, at Wayne Road in Westland; 10:15 a.m. every other Wednesday at Maplewood Community Center, 31735 Maplewood, Garden City; and every second Tuesday at the Redford Community Center. For more information, call 734-458-4330.

#### Breast cancer support

Meets from 6:30-8 p.m. the second Tuesday of each month in the Atrium of Our Lady of Hope Cancer Center, St. Mary Mercy Hospital, 36475 Five Mile (use south entrance off Levan), Livonia. Call 734-655-1100 or visit [www.stmarymercy.org](http://www.stmarymercy.org).

#### Choir therapy

The Therapy Choirs of Michigan extend an invitation to individuals with any kind of special needs or disabilities and their able-bodied family and friends, to participate in singing. Call Len McCulloch at 248-474-2763, Ext. 22, or visit [www.therapychoirs.org](http://www.therapychoirs.org) for additional information.

#### CPAP/BIPAP

The Sleep Disorders Center of Michigan offers a free CPAP/BIPAP mask fitting clinic, 5-6 p.m. each Wednesday at 35600 Central City Parkway, Suite 103, Westland. Most insurances cover new supplies. No appointment needed. For more information, call 734-458-7251.



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# JOBS

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## The myth of the passive job seeker



By Mary Lorenz  
CareerBuilder Writer

"We need to get rid of the words 'active' versus 'passive,'" says Cassandra Barnes, research and content manager at CareerBuilder. "They just aren't relevant words in the job-search landscape anymore." Barnes is referring to the findings of CareerBuilder's and Inavero's 2012 Candidate Behavior Study, which highlights the behaviors and perceptions of today's job seekers.

One of the survey's major findings was that, employed or unemployed, the vast majority of workers are almost always seeking new opportunities. Of the 1,291 workers nationwide who participated in the survey, 77 percent said they were either actively searching for a new job or open to new opportunities, and 35 percent said they begin preparing for their next job within weeks of starting a new one. When it comes to frequency, 71 percent of workers said that searching for new opportunities is part of their regular routine, whether or not they're employed, with 27 percent searching as frequently as once a week.

These findings weren't unique to any particular demographic segment. Workers of both genders and across various income levels, generations and backgrounds reported similar attitudes and behaviors.

### How employers should treat all job candidates

Given these findings, employers should stop thinking of job seekers in terms like "passive"

and "active," since a majority of workers are constantly on alert for new job opportunities. Instead, employers who want to hire more effectively should focus less on finding passive job seekers, since most workers are casually browsing opportunities and employers at any given time.

### Why employers run into hiring roadblocks

The other danger in using these labels is that it can inadvertently derail the employee search, causing employers to miss out on perfectly qualified workers. "Employers tend to think of active and passive candidates in terms of bad and good," Barnes says. "Yet passive candidates are not necessarily better than active candidates. If anything, they might even be less ambitious or willing to leave their current company." Employers do themselves a disservice by ignoring the active candidates who have shown interest in their companies.

"Think of recruitment in terms of running for political office," Barnes says. "Why would you try to sway a Republican to be a Democrat -- or vice versa -- when you should really focus on re-energizing your base population?" For hiring managers, their base is active job seekers, so it only works against them to ignore or discredit this group.

Mary Lorenz writes for The Hiring Site, CareerBuilder.com's community for hiring professionals and other curious-minded individuals to discuss the attraction, engagement and retention of their #1 asset, their people.



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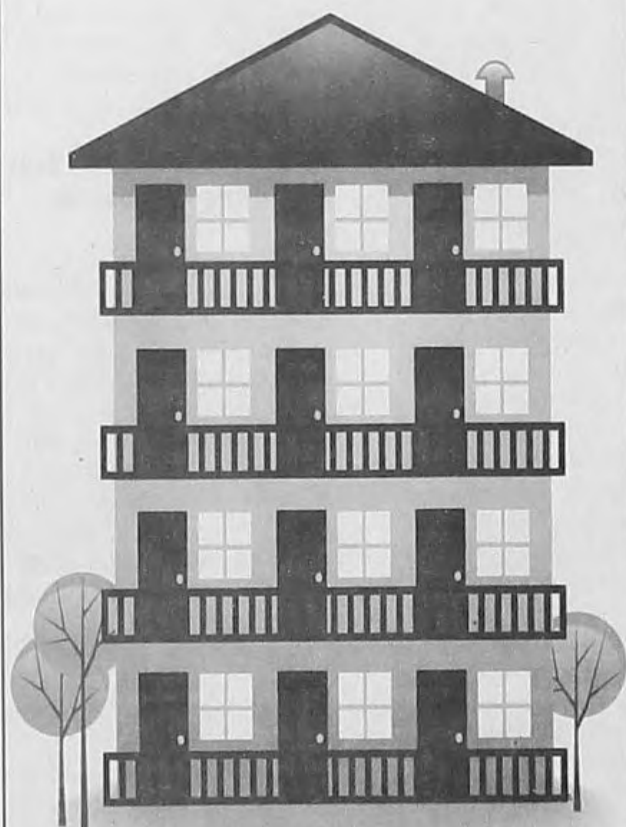


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# Sunday PUZZLE CORNER

## CROSSWORD PUZZLER

**ACROSS**

1 Chiding sound  
 4 Monstrous giant  
 8 Bigger than elite  
 12 Fiddlestick  
 13 Heart of the matter  
 14 Coal scuttles  
 15 From Sputnik on (2 wds.)  
 17 Verdant  
 18 Quaker State city  
 19 Electrical unit  
 21 Goddess of dawn  
 22 Dots on a screen  
 26 Warn  
 29 Midnight banker  
 30 Stooze with bangs  
 31 Wine stopper  
 32 Federal tax org.  
 33 Genial  
 34 Bad, for Yves  
 35 Can. province

36 Burr or Spelling  
 37 Makes corrections  
 39 RN workplaces  
 40 Lyric poem  
 41 Rich, as farmland  
 45 Flu bug  
 48 Social worker's duties  
 50 General vicinity  
 51 Very, to Yvette  
 52 Small guitar  
 53 Remain undecided  
 54 Delta buildup  
 55 Perfect gymnastics score

**DOWN**

1 Cough syrup meas.  
 2 After frosh  
 3 War movie river  
 4 Jaguar cousin

**Answer to Previous Puzzle**



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5 — Anatomy  
 6 Toupee, slangily  
 7 Frees from liability  
 8 Garden flower

9 Unlucky gambler's note  
 10 LP successors  
 11 Powdery residue  
 16 Ring up sales  
 20 That guy  
 23 Qatar ruler  
 24 Crazy, in oaters  
 25 In full view  
 26 Zenith  
 27 Good dirt  
 28 — Stanley Gardner  
 29 Museum contents  
 32 Bugs  
 33 Kind of congestion  
 35 Weird  
 36 Police action  
 38 Bedouin  
 39 Canvas support  
 42 Prize fight  
 43 Summer-camp site  
 44 TV genie portrayer  
 45 Mountain pass  
 46 Prior to  
 47 Toon pooch  
 49 Jackie's tycoon

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11  
 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25  
 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44  
 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55

# SUDOKU

3	4	2	5					
	7							
	5	9	7	4				
							7	2
			6		5			
					8	3	6	
						2		
	9	7	3				1	6
5				9			4	7

Level: Intermediate

**Here's How It Works:**  
 Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

## NATIONAL PARK WORD SEARCH

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally & diagonally throughout the puzzle.

**WORDS**

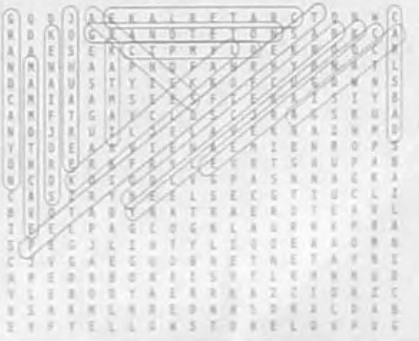
ACADIA  
 ARCHES  
 BADLANDS  
 BISCAYNE  
 BRYCE CANYON  
 CARLSBAD  
 CONGAREE  
 CRATER LAKE  
 CUYAHOGA VALLEY  
 DENALI  
 DRY TORTUGAS  
 EVERGLADES  
 GLACIER BAY  
 GRAND CANYON  
 GRAND TETON  
 GREAT BASIN  
 HALEAKALA  
 HOT SPRINGS  
 ISLE ROYALE  
 JOSHUA TREE  
 KATHAI  
 KENAI FJORDS  
 KINGS CANYON  
 KOBUK VALLEY  
 LAKE CLARK  
 MAMMOTH CAVE  
 MOUNT RAINIER  
 OLYMPIC  
 PETRIFIED FOREST  
 SAGUARO  
 SEQUOIA  
 WRANGELL  
 YELLOWSTONE  
 ZION

**CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE**

**Sudoku**

7	4	8	9	6	2	3	1	5
9	1	5	4	8	7	6	2	3
6	3	2	4	5	1	8	9	7
5	9	3	8	7	4	1	2	6
8	6	1	5	2	9	4	3	7
2	7	4	3	1	6	9	8	5
3	2	9	1	4	7	6	5	8
4	5	6	2	3	8	9	7	1
1	8	7	6	9	5	2	4	3

**Word Search**



# Car Report

## As Fiat Chrysler Hones Brands for the Long Haul, Makeover Process Begins with Chrysler Marque



By Dale Buss

Part 1 of a three-part series.

Fiat Chrysler's continuing sales surge is remarkable partly because its 56 consecutive months of year-over-year gains don't depend in some ways on the overall dynamics of the U.S. auto market. And by continuing to hone and highlight the identities of the individual brands in the company's stable, that's the way CMO Olivier Francois is trying to keep it.

Fortunately for Francois, over the last year or so the company began providing some of the rock-solid new products that were going to become necessary for Fiat Chrysler to succeed over the long term with the corporate reclamation project that began with the 2009 bailout by Fiat and U.S. taxpayers. For the first few years, Francois and his marketing associates managed to

create sales and brand momentum that somehow overrode a paucity of worthy new products.

With competitive new sheet metal including the new Chrysler 200 sedan, the hot-selling Jeep Cherokee, a timely new version of the Ram pickup, and the upcoming Fiat 500 X finally beginning to beef up the product ranks for the company, Francois has been able to pivot toward brand-refinement efforts that will need to work if Fiat Chrysler is going to achieve still-loufter sales goals for the next few years.

"We were very much action and delivery-driven," Francois told me. "But now at the brand and group levels we have been deeply thinking about and working on what each brand stands for. You don't have many moments when you get a blank sheet of paper to do something like this. And yet we had to come up with a vision that is a shared vision; it had to be shared because we have a portfolio of brands, and they have to work together."

"It has been a healthy dialogue. We're trying to shape each brand's DNA and products. But it's not just about words. We have to make a profitable business case for each brand, and as a marketer you're part of the discussion."

Francois and colleagues came up with single words or phrases that define the new mission of each brand, and to some extent the brand itself. The terms don't embody the entirety of any Fiat Chrysler brand or the marketers' challenge by any means — but everything that each brand does should somehow point back to this core mission.

Here's what they settled on for the Chrysler brand. (Come back on Sunday to read about the others.):

### Chrysler: "Pricing power"

By far, Fiat Chrysler's biggest brand accomplishment during the last five years has been keeping the Chrysler marque itself afloat. Credit Francois and his colleagues for the inspired "Imported From Detroit" positioning and campaigns while the product line itself consisted only of aging Town & Country minivan and 200 and 300 sedan platforms.

But Chrysler brand's year-to-date 2-percent sales decline in 2014 shows that this strategy has only been running on fumes lately.

So just in time, Chrysler introduced the all-new 200 sedan earlier this year. And while it took some time for the dramatically overhauled new version of the nameplate to find some traction in the U.S. market, its growth was plainly evident in November, when 200 sales increased by 155 percent over sales of the previous version a year earlier.



Chrysler 200 -- and Sterling Heights assembly plant -- star in brand's marketing.

And so 200 is becoming an exemplar of what Francois must help the Chrysler brand accomplish across the board, as it chases what is by far the most ambitious objective of any of the six Fiat Chrysler marques over the next few years: finally becoming a truly mainstream, broad, general-market brand with credible products that

holds down the important large segments for the company and gobbles up market share from rivals including Ford and Toyota.

In general and going forward, Francois explained, "My main objective as the Chrysler marketing guy is to rebuild the pricing power of the brand." By that he doesn't mean trying to remake Chrysler as a near-luxury brand, as previous regimes attempted, but "to mainstream the brand, with some pricing power embedded. If we do a good job there will be less discounting."

"We're halfway with Chrysler," he observed. "We needed to bring the name back to life, and now we need product ... The marketing cocktail still fits; we found a language and identity for Chrysler. But clearly my personal challenge now is to prove that, with the right products, Chrysler can make it" for the long term.



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**JEEP LIBERTY 2012**  
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### Buick

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Auto, Leather, Certified \$11,988  
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**REGAL CXL 2011**  
CXL R1 Russelsheim, 48K, 3rd row seat, 1 owner. \$13,000  
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**CTS 2011**  
Sedan, 3.0L V6, AWD, 22K Black Raven. \$21,000  
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