

CANTON OBSERVER

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2015 • hometownlife.com

Approval sought for medical marijuana operation on Joy Road

Matt Jachman
Staff Writer

An Ann Arbor woman's bid to open a medical marijuana dispensary and growth operation is forcing Plymouth Township officials to address how the township should regulate such a business.

Michigan voters opened the door to medical marijuana for specific conditions, including cancer, AIDS, glaucoma, chronic pain and severe nausea, with the passage of the Michigan Medical Marihuana Act in 2008. But township officials say the law has many gray areas and is open to abus-

es. "We need the Legislature to step up and give us some clear direction," Supervisor Shannon Price said. Stephanie Fischer of Ann Arbor, who provides medical marijuana to three patients out of her home, applied in July for an occupancy permit for a

site on Joy Road. Fischer wants to expand her business there and offer space for other caregivers to grow pot, plus provide a resource for education about medical marijuana. "I've seen the variety of people that it helps, the variety of people in different walks of life who medicate for vari-

ous reasons," said Fischer, who once worked in a medical marijuana dispensary in California and is herself a medical marijuana patient. Fischer said her plans are being stalled by the township.

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Students look for worthy cause



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Sanjana Sathrasala (from left), Neha Ray and Harshita Jallun are members of the P-CEP STEM Academy Council.

Canton police urge vigilance after home invasions

Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

Canton police are urging residents to remain vigilant after a rash of area home invasions.

Detective Sgt. Dan Traylor said it's unknown whether a couple of Canton home invasions in recent weeks are related to three break-ins Saturday in Plymouth Township and an earlier burglary in Northville Township.

Traylor said the two home invasions in Canton occurred in the northwest corner of the township, while the residents were away. He said the intruders took items such as jewelry.

Canton police Tuesday issued an alert for residents to remain vigilant amid the rash of home burglaries.

"We just want people to be in the know," Traylor said. "This time of year, those things tend to increase."

With the holiday season in full swing, he said, intruders may prey on homes to take jewelry, electronics and other items they can quickly seize and flee.

During the home invasions in Plymouth Township, intruders took cash, jewelry and electronic devices like laptops and iPads in the Rolling Oaks subdivision, near North Territorial and Beck, police Lt. Robert Antal said.

No one was at home in any of the houses at the time they were broken into, he said. The front door had been forced open at each house, Antal said.

Traylor urged residents to make sure their doors and windows are locked and to keep valuables locked away.

Canton's alert said residents should remain aware of their surroundings and report anything that appears suspicious. Police also encourage communication among neighbors.

Canton police recommended the following:

- » Prune shrubs so they don't provide a place to conceal potential intruders.
- » Don't advertise new purchases; be wary of displaying

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Community can make suggestions to STEM Academy

Joanne Maliszewski
Staff Writer

A good idea is what the students in the P-CEP STEM Academy are seeking as they prepare for their annual fundraising effort for the community.

"We are already passionate about helping the community," said Sanjana Sathrasala, a junior who serves on the STEM Academy Council. "It is good because you see people who are just as excited about a cause as you are."

Sathrasala with her classmates Neha Ray and Harshita Jallun are among about 20 STEM students who

as members of the council are planning to repeat the success the group has had in drawing attention to a particular cause or effort and the ensuing fundraising.

"We rely on the community. I wanted to teach the kids that we need to give back," said Danielle Ramos, STEM Academy coordinator.

To that end, the STEM students, led by the council, kicked off their community efforts in 2012-13 with a bottle return campaign. Students raised \$1,500 to provide GoldieBlox - engi-

See CAUSE, Page A5

STEM CAREER FAIR

The STEM Academy will host a career fair 2:30-5:15 p.m. March 9 at P-CEP to showcase the various careers available to students in technical and STEM studies.

While it is mandatory for STEM students, others are welcome. Approximately 50 guests - professionals in various fields - will speak to provide students an idea of what these particular professionals do for a living.

Some of the career areas that will be explored include engineering, biomedical, technology graphics, business, automotive and robotics. Some 800 students are expected to attend, said Danielle Ramos, STEM Academy coordinator.

"This is about exposing students to careers in these fields," Ramos said. "We tell the speakers to be ready to answer questions about what these careers will be like when our students are ready for them."

Goodfellows gear up for holiday food, gifts

Joanne Maliszewski
Staff Writer

Despite a money crunch this year, the Canton Goodfellows are moving forward and planning to provide gifts and food to 125 families - including 321 children - to continue to fulfill their motto of No Child Without a Christ-

mas.

Every year, the group collects gifts and donations to help struggling families at Christmastime - an effort that brings together a small core of volunteers each year.

"Adoptions and sponsorships have been going well," Goodfellows president John Spencer said. "Last year, we

spent a lot with gift cards for families, so this year we didn't have enough (money)."

But the Goodfellows kicked off a summer campaign with a mass mailing requesting donations and money. Other fundraisers have also helped. And this Saturday, Goodfellows and other volunteers will be out near stores in the com-

munity selling the Goodfellows newspaper - the first in a number of years.

"We are bringing it back this year," said paper drive co-chair Pat Williams, a Canton Township trustee. "At one time, the Goodfellows had \$100,000 in the bank. But it's

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Volume 41 • Number 48

Home Delivery: (866) 887-2737 | Return Address: 29725 Hudson Dr., Novi MI 48377

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Hearing delayed in Wayne ax killing

LeAnne Rogers
Staff Writer

A competency hearing for a man charged with killing a Wayne man with an ax has been delayed until Dec. 8.

Jesse Wayne Gunderson, 26, is charged with first-degree murder in the death of Danny Dart, 58. The compe-

tency hearing, along with a probable cause hearing, had been scheduled for Dec. 1 before 29th District Court Judge Laura Mack.



Gunderson

Gunderson is charged

with using an ax to kill Dart, his step-grandfather, Sept. 28 at Dart's home in Wayne.

Arrested shortly after Dart was killed, Gunderson was remanded to jail following his arraignment. A not guilty plea was entered for Gunderson.

A retired Ford Motor Co. employee, Dart was

killed by a blow to the head with an ax while in the backyard of his home in the 4500 block of Chamberlain.

Gunderson was reported to have been staying at Dart's home for several weeks before Dart was killed. Dart and his wife, Gunderson's grandmother, had taken in Gunderson when he

showed up unannounced at their home.

Prior to turning up at the Wayne home, Gunderson was reported to have been living in Fresno, Calif., and working at a medical facility. Dart, a retired Ford employee, had taken Gunderson along on outings and to a Tigers game before Saturday's incident.

Gunderson later reported being unable to recall the attack on Dart. If found competent to stand trial, Gunderson would next be scheduled for a preliminary examination.

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INVASIONS

Continued from Page A1

them on social media.

- » Install motion sensors for lights.
- » Set timers for indoor lights.
- » Ensure that "strike plates" on doors are reinforced with at least three-inch screws.
- » Shield windows

near doors.

- » Install deadbolts.
- » Lock all doors and windows.
- » Install and always set an audible home alarm.

Staff writer Matt Jachman contributed to this story.

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Canton Goodfellows president John Spencer says volunteers will soon distribute food and gifts to families in need.

FILE PHOTO

CANTON OBSERVER

Published Sunday and Thursday by Observer & Eccentric Media

Community Office:

29725 Hudson Drive • Novi, MI 48377 • 866-887-2737
Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
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Subscription Rates:

Newsstand price: \$1.00 Thursday and \$1.50 Sunday
\$8.25 EZ pay per month
\$52.00 six months
\$104.00 per year
\$91.00 six months mail delivery
\$182.00 per year mail delivery

Home Delivery:

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HOLIDAY

Continued from Page A1

been nibbled at and we decided to bring this (paper sales) back."

Goodfellows are seeking additional volunteers to sell the more than 2,000 newspapers that contain information about the organization, as well as local advertising. "We are looking for warm bodies," Williams said.

The paper sales will run from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 5. Because the Goodfellows are not allowed to stand in the streets to sell the papers, shoppers this

weekend will find them near stores, such as Richardson's and Holiday Market.

To accommodate potential volunteers, two shifts have been created: 9-11:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. "If people just want to come at those times, we will find them a spot," Spencer said.

The Goodfellows will operate Saturday from township hall, which is where volunteers may gather.

Because the Goodfellows have far less money to work with than last year, they were forced to reduce the number of families and kids they can help this holiday. Last year, the

organization served 174 families with 447 children. It had to turn away about 15 families, Spencer said.

"We had to budget the money we had," Spencer said.

In addition to the group's fundraisers, the Goodfellows received donations from families and individuals, as well as grants, including \$1,000 from Eagles for Children and \$1,000 from American Yazaki in Canton.

Meanwhile, the Goodfellows are still accepting cash or check donations, which may be mailed to the Canton Goodfellows, P.O. Box 87532, Canton, MI 48187-

0532. Food and donations - only new toys and clothing - may be dropped off at Canton Township Hall, 1150 S. Canton Center Road.

Next week, sponsors are expected to deliver bags of donations to the Goodfellows. Organizing and packing boxes of food and toys will follow. The designated families may pick up their gifts and food from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Dec. 12 at township hall.

"They should have all gotten postcards by now," Spencer said, referring to the families.

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Generosity, hard work from local clubs yield Rotary school in Ghana village

Julie Brown
Staff Writer



JULIE BROWN

Children ages 4-6 in Guo, a village in Ghana, are going to school now indoors, thanks to the generosity and hard work of local Rotarians and their supporters.

The Rotary Clubs of Plymouth, Michigan, U.S.A., Guo Kindergarten School Block recently opened. It was in the works about three years, said organizer Jeanne Knopf DeRoche, a Plymouth Township resident and treasurer of the Rotary Club of Plymouth A.M.

"They were going to school under a tree before that," Knopf DeRoche said of the Guo children. "They had a school, but no building."

She and 10 Windsor, Ontario, area Rotarians traveled to the Guo region Nov. 12-24 to see the school and work on other nearby projects. The Guo school idea started with the A.M. club in Plymouth, which sought help from the Rotary Club of Plymouth and its foundation.

"So the Noon Club paid for half the building," Knopf DeRoche said. Her club had three Celebrity Wait Night fundraisers and contributed \$12,500 for the school, with the Rotary Club of Plymouth supplying an additional \$12,500.

Ghana, in west Africa, also is benefiting from a Rotary District 6400 grant, which includes this area. The district grant of \$4,000, matched by the A.M. club, paid for desks, uniforms and supplies.

Knopf DeRoche also left money for paint at the Guo school "so it's not going to fall apart on us." The lead teacher requested playground equipment, including a merry-go-round and swing set.

"There's a guy in their little village that makes them," she said of the playground items, which were purchased there with district funds. Money is kept in a Ghanaian bank in a neighboring town monitored by a trusted Catholic priest.

Canadian assistance

The Rotary Club of Windsor 1918, one of several in that city, mentored the Plymouth A.M. Rotarians on their African project. The Canadians had international connections that made banking aspects easier, Knopf DeRoche explained.

The district grant also provided a computer, textbooks and supplemental Montessori textbooks "as requested by the lead teacher. It was fun going shopping in the capital," she said of Accra, Ghana's capital city.

Accra was hot, humid and subject to rolling electricity blackouts. Guo is northwest of Accra. "It took us three days to get home," Knopf DeRoche said of travel logistics.

The team of Rotarians and volunteers included spouses, with two from the 1918 Club, one from the Windsor Roseland Club, Knopf DeRoche and 11 people total. They stayed in a guest house in the next village, Jirapa.

"We didn't all do everything together," she said.

The school in Guo is built and a source of great pride to locals and

"It was a great experience," Rotarian Jeanne Knopf DeRoche said of building the school and her recent trip to Ghana to see it. The school is built.



This marker is at the school in Ghana.

the Rotarians. Knopf DeRoche noted she saw another group of children in school under a tree on this trip.

"They have no junior highs," she said of a great need in Ghana, with the government under pressure to build junior highs, the highest level of free education in that country. High school requires payment.

"Now all these kids are headed to junior high. There's just not enough room," said Knopf DeRoche, who's concerned about ongoing need for preschool and early elementary education.

The Guo school took about a year and a half to build. "The villagers did as much work as they could before we brought in contractors," she said. The locals made mud bricks of good quality, as well as a thatched roof well-suited to local weather.

'Centuries of local knowledge'

"They're building on centuries of local knowledge," she said of that African knowledge and effort.

Dr. Godfrey Bachevie, a Windsor pediatrician who's originally from Ghana, is a Rotarian from the 1918 Club. "We come in with his family's trust behind us," Knopf DeRoche said.

Bachevie told the Rotarians to emphasize their hard work to raise the money; Westerners have a higher living standard and Bachevie wanted the Africans to understand the work the project entailed.

"The people are so generous and grateful," he said. "The older people in particular understand how far you've come to be with them."

The Guo school will serve about 70 children, in three classrooms. The day Knopf DeRoche visited, some 30 extra children showed up who aren't enrolled. Dresses and shorts were provided for all children there that day.

"Guo has some other schools, but not for that age," she said. There's an elementary and even a junior high, which is unusual for that size

community.

Knopf DeRoche was the only group member focused on the Guo school, with members working on five or six villages in the region.

She agreed it's difficult to see overwhelming need and, with others, asked, "What can I do that's going to stay?" Their focus was on local and not Western ideas.

At the orphanage, for example, feeding babies nutritious meals means more than diapering.

"It's not part of their culture to wear diapers," she said.

She saw AIDS prevention and awareness signs, her favorite, "A friend with AIDS is still a friend." She wondered about passing of babies at the orphanage and of their parents, but saw less HIV evidence than in South Africa, "where I saw whole villages where there are no parents."

The Guo lead teacher is also an administrator and was teaching for a colleague on maternity leave recently. "Nice young man. I don't think I've ever been hugged so tight when I told him I could get him a computer," Knopf DeRoche said.

For the future, "I'm ready to keep going." Rotarians will enjoy family time over the holidays and Knopf DeRoche will meet with Traci Sincok of the Northville Rotary to discuss future efforts internationally. Sincok is an assistant district governor for District 6400.

Knopf DeRoche is also talking to Canton Rotary about international work and noted the great benefits of working together. She visited A.M. Rotarian Tim Higgins at his local print shop on her return and said, "We just do good work. They're thanking me, but they're thanking all of us."

The group will return to Ghana in 2018 and Knopf DeRoche hopes more Americans can join in then. "It was a great experience," she said.

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Rotarian Jeanne Knopf DeRoche (center) of Plymouth Township is happy to meet local Ghanaian children during the Nov. 12-24 visit.



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Schrader-Howell hosts candle lighting ceremony

Schrader-Howell Funeral Home, located in downtown Plymouth, will host its 25th annual Holiday Candle Lighting Ceremony at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 9, at the funeral home, 280 S. Main.

The program will include a holiday reflection given by the Rev. Thomas

Belczak and a message of encouragement by the funeral home's grief counselor, Brigid G. Lynch. Each family will have the opportunity to light a candle in honor of their loved one. Refreshments and fellowship to follow. The public is invited.

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AAA offers tips on winter driving safety

As Michiganders face winter and have already handled their first heavy snowfall, AAA is sending out a statewide alert reminding motorists that when it comes to driving in winter conditions, the most important is safety.

A forecast for snow, sleet and ice can produce conditions that will likely challenge even the most seasoned driver. AAA recommends:

» Restrict driving privileges for teen or new drivers who have never driven in snowy conditions.

» Provide new drivers with an adult-supervised opportunity to test their driving skills in an empty, snow packed/icy parking lot or low-traffic volume road.

» Help new drivers understand how vehicles operate differently in snowy conditions along with building their driving confidence and skills.

» Take extra care with seniors who may face other driving challenges.

» Access AAA roadside assistance with the free AAA app for iPhone, iPad and An-

droid at AAA.com/mobile.

» Submit road service requests at www.aaa.com.

AAA's top 10 tips

1. Before starting out, remove snow from the *entire* car so it doesn't blow onto your windshield or the windshields of other drivers. Make sure your mirrors and lights are clean as well.

2. Don't use cruise control in precipitation and freezing temperatures.

3. Remember that four-wheel drive helps you to get going quicker, but it won't help you stop any faster.

4. Familiarize yourself with your vehicle's braking system. Drivers with anti-lock brakes should apply firm, constant pressure while those without may need to pump the pedal in order to avoid loss of traction while stopping.

5. Always drive at a speed that matches the prevailing visibility, traffic and road conditions – even if that means driving below the posted speed limit.

6. Compensate for reduced traction by increasing your

following distances (normally three to four seconds) to eight to 10 seconds.

7. Allow sufficient room for maintenance vehicles and plows, stay at least 15 car lengths (200 feet) back and, if you need to pass, go to the other vehicle's left.

8. Watch for icy surfaces on bridges and intersections, even if the rest of the road seems to be in good condition.

9. If you get stuck in snow, straighten the wheel and accelerate slowly. Add sand or cat litter under the drive wheels to help avoid spinning the tires.

10. If your tires lose traction, continue to look and steer in the direction you want to go. If the drive wheels start to spin or slide while going up a hill, ease off the accelerator slightly and then gently resume speed.

Additional winter weather driving tips are available in AAA's *How To Go on Ice and Snow* booklet, which can be downloaded at: <http://exchange.aaa.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/09/How-To-Go-On-Ice-and-Snow.pdf>.

Farmington cops have first OD save with Narcan

Aileen Wingblad
Staff Writer

Farmington Public Safety officers saved the life of a 57-year-old woman early Sunday morning with the use of Narcan after she overdosed on morphine and was barely breathing when they arrived.

This was the first time Farmington officers utilized Narcan – which can rapidly reverse the effects of opioid overdose – since being required to carry it about a month ago, said Ted Wartham, deputy director of the Farmington Public Safety Department.

"The officers on the scene did an excellent job, both in their investigation to detect a possible opioid overdose and their success in administering not one, but two doses, of Naloxone, also known as Narcan," he said.

Wartham said the woman was unresponsive and her pupils were fixed and dilated

when officers arrived shortly before 1:30 a.m. Family members had called police after finding her unconscious in a back bedroom. Police learned that someone else in the household had prescription morphine and that it was suspected the woman had overdosed on it, either intentionally or accidentally.

After Narcan was sprayed into her nostrils, she regained consciousness right away and was alert by the time Community EMS arrived, Wartham said.

"The results once it's given are incredible," he said. "It's very helpful and fast-acting."

The woman was transported by Community EMS to Beaumont Hospital-Farmington Hills and was expected to survive, Wartham said.

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MARIJUANA

Continued from Page A1

'Just delaying'

In response to her application for an occupancy permit, she said, she received a questionnaire from the building department, to which she responded in August. She's had a couple of meetings with Police Chief Tom Tiderington, she said, but no official word on the status of her permit request.

"I can understand their hesitancy," said Fischer, who has hired a lawyer, James Fiselski. "If they were going to tell me no, they should've told me four months ago. Now they are just delaying it."

Fischer has appeared at the last two Board of Trustees

meetings to ask, during public comment, about the status of her request.

Price admits the issue is one he's reluctant to tackle.

"I'm not jumping for joy about this," Price said Tuesday.

Price said he is organizing a "task force" to discuss how the township should approach medical marijuana businesses. The committee, he said, will include trustees, a building department representative and the police chief.

"This isn't about bringing in a new restaurant or a high-tech company, this is about bringing in somebody who wants to grow and sell marijuana," Price said. "We're got to make sure whatever we're doing, we're doing right."

Price said there are gray areas in the law that concern him and that officials need to

decide if they should restrict medical marijuana businesses to specific zoning classifications.

Plus, Price said, Fischer's plan is different from the typical dispensary in that she intends to rent growing space to other caregivers, thus expanding the number of patients the business could service. Michigan's medical marijuana law allows each registered caregiver to provide marijuana for to up to five patients and to grow up to 12 marijuana plants for each of those patients. Medical marijuana patients must have a doctor's certification and also be registered with the state.

"This task force is going to look at every option and try to come up with what we're going to do," Price said. Township attorney Kevin Bennett has already been consulted, as

has an attorney with the Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority, an insurance provider, who has experience in medical marijuana issues, Price said.

Seeking clarity

Tiderington said the type of business Fischer wants to open would be illegal. "I don't think that the medical marijuana act provides for that type of facility," he said.

Tiderington said a marijuana dispensary in the township was raided about two years ago and charges filed against the operators.

At the same time, Tiderington said, the vagueness of the law is unfair to law enforcement and to people like Fischer who want to operate within the law.

"Law enforcement agencies statewide are looking for clar-

ification in terms of what is legal and what is not legal," he said.

Meanwhile, Fischer is stuck paying rent on her site, about 1,400 square feet, while she waits for an occupancy permit.

"I haven't even been able to put carpet on the floor, paint the walls, do anything, because I don't have that occupancy permit," she said.

Fischer added: "I want to be part of the community. I look forward to being able to help and educate those in the area."

The Michigan House of Representatives earlier this year approved legislation intended to clarify the medical marijuana law, but the proposal has yet to be voted on by the state Senate.

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P-C schools named to AP District Honor Roll

The Plymouth-Canton Community Schools district is one of 425 school districts in the U.S. and Canada honored by the College Board with placement on the sixth annual AP District Honor Roll.

The recognition is for increasing access to Advanced Placement course work, while simultaneously maintaining or increasing the percentage of students earning scores of 3 or higher on AP exams. Reaching these goals indicates that a district is successfully identifying motivated, academically prepared students who are ready for the opportunity of AP.

To be included on the honor roll, P-CCS had to, since 2013, increase the number of students participating in AP while also increasing or maintaining the number of

students earning AP exam scores of 3 or higher

"Recognition by the College Board validates the efforts of our educational team to increase academic rigor, access and opportunities for all of our students," district Superintendent Michael Meissen said. "We are proud of the accomplishments of our students, the faculty and staff, administration and families."

National data from 2015 show that among black/African-American, Hispanic and Native American students with a high degree of readiness for AP, only about half of students are participating. The first step to deli-



Meissen

"Recognition by the College Board validates the efforts of our educational team to increase academic rigor, access and opportunities for all of our students."

MICHAEL MEISSEN, P-CCS superintendent

vering the opportunity of AP to students is providing access by ensuring courses are available, that gate-keeping stops and that the doors are equitably opened so these students can participate.

"The Board (of Education) is focused upon high academic results for all students and eliminating achievement gaps. This recognition is an indicator the strategies and best practices taken by our exceptional faculty is producing strong educational outcomes for our kids," Meissen said.

P-CCS remains committed to expanding the availability of AP courses among prepared and motivated students of all backgrounds, Meissen added.

"That the committed teachers and administrators in this district have both expanded AP access and also helped their students achieve high levels of performance on AP exams shows they're delivering opportunity in their schools and classrooms and it is a real testament to their belief that a more diverse population of young people is ready

for the challenge of college," said Trevor Packler, the College Board's senior vice president of AP and instruction.

In 2015, more than 3,800 colleges and universities around the world received AP scores for college credit, advanced placement and/or consideration in the admission process, with many colleges and universities in the United States offering credit in one or more subjects for qualifying AP scores.

Inclusion on the honor roll is based on the examination of three

years of AP data, from 2013-15, looking across 34 AP exams, including world language and culture. Districts must:

» Increase participation/access to AP by at least 4 percent in large districts, at least 6 percent in medium districts and at least 11 percent in small districts.

» Increase or maintain the percentage of exams taken by black/African-American, Hispanic/Latino and American Indian/Alaska Native students.

» Improve or maintain performance levels when comparing the 2015 percentage of students scoring a 3 or higher to the 2013 percentage, unless the district has already attained a performance level at which more than 70 percent of its AP students are scoring a 3 or higher.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Danielle Ramos is the STEM Academy coordinator.

CAUSE

Continued from Page A1

neering toys – for kindergarten classes in the Plymouth-Canton school district.

In 2013-14, STEM students raised money for childhood cancer research. A mom and a her daughter took the time to speak to the students about their experience with cancer. In the end, the STEM Academy students donated \$4,500 to Mott Children's Hospital.

Last year, when the STEM students needed an idea, they opened it up to the public. "I started getting floods of emails," Ramos said.

Finally, the STEM council decided on the Gift of Life. A former STEM English teacher who became ill and required and received a lung transplant was the root of the idea for Gift of Life. "I had students who said, 'We are the last group who had him (as a teacher at P-CEP),'"

Ramos said. So as the STEM council begins its planning for this year's effort, it is opening it up again to the public. "We want something that will directly help the community," Jallun said.

Anyone who may have an idea for the STEM students is asked to email Ramos at danielle.ramos@pccsk12.com or call her at 734-416-7922. Community members are asked to get their ideas in no later than Jan. 4.

Ray and Sathrasala have two caveats – they want to raise funds and they want to be passionate about the cause. But the students want a fundraiser in which they can be active. At last year's fundraiser and auction for the Gift of Life, students sold paper body organs as a means of drawing attention to organ donation. And, of course, if the students have to shop for anything for the effort, well, they are more than happy to do that.

"It really brings us together," Ray said. And being together is important for the 700-some students in the STEM Academy, which offers classes in all three of the high schools at the Park. Students in the STEM program choose either a biomedical pathway or an engineering pathway, Ramos said.

Through the academy, students not only complete their required courses, but have a chance to take classes that introduce them to potential careers in, for

example, biomedical. "We can explore careers, which gives us a heads up," Jallun said.

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\$1185.00	2003	FORD	ESCORT	BLUE	3FAFP11373R109179
\$1185.00	2007	PONTIAC	G6	BLACK	1G2ZF58B574195125
\$1005.00	2002	MITSUBISHI	ECLIPSE	SILVER	4A3AC44G72E044462
\$2135.00	1997	BUICK	RIVIERA	BURGANDY	1G4GD221XV4717215
\$1375.00	2004	CADILLAC	DEVILLE		1G6KD54Y04U101969
\$1135.00	2000	TOYOTA	4 RUNNER	BLACK	JT3HN86R8Y0281070
\$935.00	2000	PONTIAC	BONNEVILLE	GOLD	1G2HX54K524194368
\$1005.00	2004	PONTIAC	GRAND PRIX	WHITE	2G2WP522241374786
\$955.00	2004	DODGE	STRATUS	GRAY	1B3EL46X64N226661
\$975.00	2005	CHEVROLET	MALIBU	SILVER	1G1ZS52F35F227437
\$1215.00	2002	CHEVROLET	BLAZER	TAN	1GNDDT13W42K189460
\$825.00	2001	CHEVROLET	MALIBU	BLACK	1G1NE52J916119764
\$735.00	1997	AUDI	A8	WHITE	WAUBG84DXVN013409
\$685.00	2005	SATURN	ION	BLACK	1G8AJ52F05Z179248
\$665.00	2007	CHEVROLET	UPLANDER	BLUE	1GNDDV33167D131582
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Children greet Santa in downtown Plymouth

With a choir from Plymouth-Canton Educational Park and magician/comedian Joel Tacey as the warmup acts, Santa Claus arrived Friday in downtown Plymouth.

Driven up to Kellogg Park in a fire truck, as is customary, Santa was greeted by enthusiastic children who had gathered in the park.

Santa's arrival was the culmination of the city's annual Christmas tree-lighting ceremony, which typically occurs the day after Thanksgiving.

The Plymouth Corps of the Salvation Army provided hot chocolate, free of charge, for the event.

Santa will be making return appearances at the Santa House in Kellogg Park to hear the Christmas wish lists of young visitors. For a schedule of Santa House hours, go to the Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce website.

The Santa House is sponsored by Hines Park Lincoln and the chamber.



Jake Schultz pushes the lever, with help from Santa Claus, Caroline Holmes and Will Holmes, to light the Kellogg Park holiday lights and tree.



The manger scene and a menorah face Main Street.



Sure enough, Santa comes to Plymouth once again.



It's worth the wait in the rain and wind.



Jarrett New and 9-year-old daughter Georgia New watch the evening's entertainment.



At the other corner of the park, three guys on camels follow a star.



Santa and Mrs. Claus left the sled at the North Pole and arrived in a fire engine, with bright lights and siren blaring.



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Dan Carney, president and CEO of the National Kidney Foundation of Michigan, and his wife Linda enjoy the last year's Kidney Ball with Ed Peper, 2015 Kidney Ball honorary co-chair, and his wife Pam.

Northville residents lead fight on kidney disease

Jill Halpin
Correspondent

It was more than 20 years ago that Duane McLean received a call that his father needed a kidney.

He didn't hesitate with an answer.

"It was an easy decision. My father was my hero," McLean said.

McLean's father Gerald had tried dialysis and was in the final stages of kidney disease. Aware of the looming possibilities, McLean, who has lived in Northville with his wife and three children for 12 years, had been tested earlier and was found to be a suitable donor candidate. When the opportunity arose for organ donation, he was prepared to act.

It was this experience — and others — that led McLean to join fellow Northville resident Ed Peper as honorary co-chairs of the National Kidney Foundation of Michigan's Kidney Ball, set for 6 p.m. Dec. 5 at Motor City Casino.

"Once you are touched by something, it tends to matter more and you begin to realize how important the issue is," said McLean, executive vice president of business affairs for the Detroit Tigers.

"Raising awareness of kidney disease and its prevention is very important to me," he added.

Peper — the U.S. vice president for General Motors Fleet and Commercial and resident of the Northville community since 2005 with his wife and two children — agrees.

Many people are not aware of the leading causes of kidney disease, such as obesity, hypertension and diabetes, Peper said. More importantly, some of these factors are preventable, he added.

"Losing weight, eating better and trying to live a healthy lifestyle are all really important," he said.



Duane McLean, 2015 Kidney Ball honorary co-chair (right), gathers with his daughter Kayla and wife Sue at the 2014 Kidney Ball.

More than 26 million people over the age of 20 — including 900,000 people in Michigan — suffer from chronic kidney disease, according to the National Kidney Foundation of Michigan. Chronic kidney disease is permanent kidney damage or decreased level of kidney function that continues for three months or more. When left untreated, CKD can lead to complete kidney failure, with the only options for survival dialysis or a kidney transplant.

"The good news is that, 70 percent of the time, we can prevent kidney disease ending in kidney failure by managing our risk factors," said Dan Carney, president and CEO of the National Kidney Foundation of Michigan.

The foundation was ranked the No. 1 charity in the category of diseases, disorders and disciplines in 2014 by Charity Navigator, the nation's leading charity evaluator. It is committed not only to raising awareness of the disease, but to helping people learn to manage the disease in the early stages, before it becomes life-threatening, he said.

"So much of our health can be determined by our lifestyle — that is why it is so important to help people understand the importance of controlling the factors that that they

are able," Carney said. "It is really important that people talk to their doctors and ask about kidney function during their regular checkups with their physicians."

He said that organizers of the Kidney Ball hope to raise \$550,000 from the event to support the foundation.

Not only does the Kidney Ball raise valuable funds, it also promises to be a fun-filled evening, Carney said.

The event includes a live auction featuring everything from an Italian Villa vacation to a "Detroit Tigers Experience," as well as a silent auction with jewelry, electronics, wine and even a toy-filled "Kid's Room" for those hoping to get in some holiday shopping.

Fifty Amp Fuse, a local band recognized for its energetic live music performances, will be on hand to add even more excitement to the event, Carney said.

McLean said he is hopeful that people recognize the importance of the issue and get behind it.

"It really is a great opportunity to support an important cause," he said.

Tickets for the Kidney Ball fundraiser are \$250. For more information about the event, call 800-482-1455 or go to nkfm.org.

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OUR VIEW

Tech talk: Digital age calls for savvy parenting

As parents head to stores with children's gift wishes, it's worth pausing for a minute to consider electronic gifts and their impact. Technology has changed our world and certainly brings many pluses. It remains key to think through use of technology, especially for children and teens.

In a world where children are "growing up digital," it's important to help them learn healthy concepts of digital use and citizenship. Parents play an important role in teaching these skills. Here are tips from the American Academy of Pediatrics to help parents manage the digital landscape they're exploring with their children.

» **Treat media as you would any other environment in your child's life.** The same parenting guidelines apply in both real and virtual environments. Set limits; kids need and expect them. Know your children's friends, both online and off. Know what platforms, software and apps your children are using, where they are going on the web and what they are doing online.

» **Set limits and encourage playtime.** Tech use, like all other activities, should have reasonable limits. Unstructured and offline play stimulates creativity. Make unplugged playtime a daily priority, especially for very young children. And don't forget to join your children in unplugged play whenever you're able.

» **Families who play together, learn together.** Family participation is also great for media activities — it encourages social interactions, bonding and learning. Play a video game with your kids. It's a good way to demonstrate good sportsmanship and gaming etiquette. And you can introduce and share your own life experiences and perspectives — and guidance — as you play the game.

» **Be a good role model.** Teach and model kindness and good manners online. Because children are great mimics, limit your own media use. In fact, you'll be more available for and connected with your children if you're interacting, hugging and playing with them rather than simply staring at a screen.

» **Know the value of face-to-face communication.** Very young children learn best through two-way communication. Engaging in back-and-forth "talk time" is critical for language development. Conversations can be face-to-face or, if necessary, by video chat, with a traveling parent or faraway grandparent. Research has shown that it's that "back-and-forth conversation" that improves language skills — much more so than "passive" listening or one-way interaction with a screen.

» **Create tech-free zones.** Keep family mealtimes and other family and social gatherings tech-free. Recharge devices overnight — outside your child's bedroom to help children avoid the temptation to use them when they should be sleeping. These changes encourage more family time, healthier eating habits and better sleep, all critical for children's wellness.

» **Don't use technology as an emotional pacifier.** Media can be very effective in keeping kids calm and quiet, but it should not be the only way they learn to calm down. Children need to be taught how to identify and handle strong emotions, come up with activities to manage boredom or calm down through breathing, talking about ways to solve the problem and finding other strategies for channeling emotions.

» **Apps for kids — do your homework.** More than 80,000 apps are labeled as educational, but little research has demonstrated their actual quality, the AAP says. Products pitched as "interactive" should

require more than "pushing and swiping." Look to organizations like Common Sense Media (www.commonsensemedia.org) for reviews about age-appropriate apps, games and programs to guide you in making the best choices for your children.

» **It's OK for your teen to be online.** Online relationships are part of typical adolescent development. Social media can support teens as they explore and discover more about themselves and their place in the grown-up world. Just be sure your teen is behaving appropriately in both the real and online worlds. Many teens need to be reminded that a platform's privacy settings do not make things actually "private" and that images, thoughts and behaviors teens share online will instantly become a part of their digital footprint indefinitely. Keep lines of communication open and let them know you're there if they have questions or concerns.

» **Remember: Kids will be kids.** Kids will make mistakes using media. Try to handle errors with empathy and turn a mistake into a teachable moment. But some indiscretions, such as sexting, bullying or posting self-harm images, may be a red flag that hints at trouble ahead. Parents should take a closer look at their child's behaviors and, if needed, enlist supportive professional help, including from your pediatrician.

Media and digital devices are an integral part of our world today. The benefits of these devices, if used moderately and appropriately, can be great. But research has shown that face-to-face time with family, friends and teachers plays a pivotal and even more important role in promoting children's learning and healthy development. Keep the face-to-face up front and don't let it get lost behind a stream of media and tech, the AAP recommends.

LETTERS

Reflect on concerns

I want to thank the *Plymouth Observer* for asking some hard, well-researched questions on behalf of Plymouth residents and offering some solid opinions regarding the transparency and direct accountability that the residents expect of our leaders in the Nov. 19 opinion piece.

Regardless of the

futility of stating my lack of anger or animosity toward or for our mayor or commission in this charged atmosphere, let me say exactly that: I hold no anger or animosity toward the mayor or anyone on the commission. I do think the questions were fair and based in community concerns.

The job of the press is to ask the hard questions for the community and

many, if not most, local newspapers shirk that responsibility for the sake of avoiding controversy. I want to commend the *Plymouth Observer* for taking that duty seriously. I would like to add that the response of my representative at the city did not reflect my reaction to the piece.

I appreciate that the paper had the integrity and willingness to go to the trouble of consulting with attorneys who are knowledgeable in the area of law concerning the Open Meetings Act. It sounds as though there are gray areas of the law and varying opinions as to the letter of the law. While the letter of the law may be gray, it seems the broad spirit of

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the law is less so.

The mayor and/or the commission could take this opportunity for self-reflection on the issues of transparency and credibility rather than reacting in anger and

assuming the worst of those who question and/or criticize. Criticism is hard to accept graciously. Often times though, criticism is of greater value than ingratiating praise or nervous si-

lence.

I believe that the mayor and commission might benefit from reflection on the concern in the community, even if after reflection they do not believe they can improve on their adherence to the spirit of the Open Meetings Act or enacting the wishes of the community. The mayor and commission might consider the opinion piece in the paper to be a gift of insight into community concerns.

Tim Roraback
Plymouth

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2015-16 SEASON TIPS OFF

Opening victory costly for Salem

Rocks nip Plymouth, 29-23, but lose Talley to serious leg injury

Tim Smith
Staff Writer

After racing out to a 12-2 lead in the first quarter Tuesday, everything looked pretty rosy for the host Salem Rocks.

Things did not come so easy the rest of the night against Plymouth in the opening game of the 2015-16 varsity girls basketball season for both teams, although the Rocks hung on for a 29-23 non-division victory.

Salem likely lost senior wing guard Zoe Talley for an extended period, possibly the remainder of the season.

Talley, who grabbed eight rebounds, suffered an appar-

ent Achilles' tendon injury late in the third quarter.

"It's pretty big; she's a senior leader for us," Rocks head coach Lindsay Klemmer said. "This really, really hurts us. The girls were all pretty much in tears on the bench when I came back over and told them."

"She's a big loss. ... This is one of those things that I just told the girls, we now need to dedicate our season to her."

Just a minute or two before the injury, Talley had knocked down a short jumper from the paint to pad Salem's lead to 22-13. The field goal was her only one of the night.

With Talley out of action, the Rocks needed a lift in order to

hold off the pesky Wildcats — who hung tough despite having a rough night shooting, particularly from beyond the 3-point line.

Spark-plug

That boost came from Salem freshman LYNIAH WILSON, who wouldn't be denied in the offensive zone. She scored five points and pulled down four rebounds off the bench.

"Yeah, absolutely, we did everything for Zoe," Wilson said about her efforts to spark the Rocks. "Especially since I really look up to her, I had to get back at it for her."



Salem's Jala Petree (left) tries to close in on Plymouth's Hannah Badger during Tuesday's game.

MICHAEL VASILNEK

See SALEM, Page B3

GIRLS BASKETBALL PREVIEW



Leading the Canton Chiefs on and off the basketball court will be captains (from left) Erin Hult, Natalie Winters and Madison Archibald.

CANTON ATHLETICS

NEXT CHAPTER BEGINS

Canton's new coach ready to continue program's winning tradition

Tim Smith
Staff Writer

As far as Rob Heitmeyer is concerned, all he's doing is continuing the tried and true established in previous years by Canton coaching legends Bob Blohm and Brian Samulski.

Heitmeyer — who Tuesday started his first season at the helm of Canton's varsity girls basketball program with a game against Bloomfield Hills Marian — plans on continuing staples from past regimes such as tough defense,

communication and a crop of tough December opponents to help the Chiefs gear up for the start of KLAA play in January.

"The program has always valued the opportunity to play outstanding programs early in the year," Heitmeyer said, "because it gives us a good read on the things we need to improve on with our team throughout the year."

"Wins and losses in December are not nearly as painful they are in March."

Heitmeyer also is a coaching veteran at Plymouth-Canton Edu-

cational Park, with a number of years working on the Salem staff led by the late Fred Thomann.

Blohm is back

Yet he is almost beside himself to have Blohm sitting next to him on the Canton bench, after Blohm took a year off following Samulski's 2014 decision to leave the Chiefs and take Salem's athletic director position.

"Having coached basketball at both Salem and Canton, I have a

See CANTON, Page B4

GIRLS BASKETBALL PREVIEW

Eagles look to soar high

Plymouth Christian coach sees promise in 2015-16 squad

Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Last season didn't go well for Plymouth Christian Academy's varsity girls basketball team, with the Eagles managing just a 4-17 record.

That is viewed as a mere bump in the road by PCA veteran head coach Rod Windle, entering his 11th season with the squad.

Windle — whose son Matt is taking over the PCA varsity boys team, by the way — is optimistic that the returning players are much stronger thanks to experience gained during 2014-15, followed by a strong off-season.

"Our team is very athletic and should make it hard on opponents to score," Windle said. "All of our returners have starting experience, which should translate into aggressive and confident play at both ends of the floor."

"We did lose (guard) Raina Postma to graduation and will miss her floor presence and her assists. Our guards Paige Perkey, Kennedy Horne, Rachel Witkowski and Robin Albert had a great summer and really gained confidence by competing against teams from bigger schools."

See EAGLES, Page B4



One of PCA's returning players is Lydia Chapel.

JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

BOYS HOCKEY PREVIEW

Chiefs ready to go to work

Grittier 'mindset' taking hold on Canton roster

Tim Smith
Staff Writer

After a couple of down seasons, Canton's varsity boys hockey team could be primed for a bounce-back year.

And as far as Chiefs head coach Brad Barath is concerned, it's because of attitude and work ethic. Both were on

display during a recent contest against campus rival Plymouth, as the gritty Chiefs gave it their all to block 22 shots.

"Blocking shots is something you do with hard work," Barath said. "And it shows exactly what the identity of this team is."

"Once they start doing the small things, they start putting a few pucks in the net and get a win, it's only going to build from there. They've got the

right mindset for it."

Senior leaders who could hasten that jump to relevance in the KLAA South Division include forward and captain Brian Oldani, assistant captains Spencer Rochowiak and Erik Wafer (both defensemen) and forwards James Tucker, Marcus Cook and Nick Harwell.

"They're all going to play a big role on the team," Barath

See HOCKEY, Page B3



Canton junior Matthew Eastman's offensive skills could help propel the Chiefs to success this season.

MICHAEL VASILNEK

GIRLS HOCKEY PREVIEW

PENGUINS UP FOR THE CHALLENGE IN 2015-16

Mix of players could make PCS a dangerous squad

Tim Smith
Staff Writer

With a nifty infusion of talent from AAA programs, the Plymouth-Canton-Salem Penguins are poised to attack opponents this winter in the Michigan Metro Girls High School Hockey League.

Second-year head coach Jenna Donnelly is enthused about the 2015-16 season, which got off to a great start Nov. 18 with an 8-1 rout of Ann Arbor Pioneer.

In that contest, senior forward Megan Brace scored a hat trick, while junior forward Catherine VandenBosch and sophomore winger Michelle Cirino both had two goals.

The Penguins returned to action Tuesday at Canton Arctic Edge Arena against Livonia Ladywood.

"Our entire squad of new players are key for us," Donnelly wrote in a recent email to the *Observer*. "Cathryn VandenBosch and Savina Osann are fresh from AAA and are expected to make huge impacts for us this year."

"Grace Balch, Marnie Waggoner, Rachel Lanzilotti, Brooke Gauthier and Piper Keranen all are strong players who will add some much-needed depth to our roster."

The Penguins, with players from all three high schools at Plymouth-Canton Educational Park, do have a handful of important returning players — particularly senior forward and team captain Brace.

"She's the heart of the team," Donnelly said. "And we'll look for a strong season from her, both on and off the ice."

Assistant captains Brianna Waggoner (junior forward) and Natalie Nowicki (senior goalie) also will be instrumental as the Penguins intend to become championship contenders.

Donnelly said Waggoner and Nowicki have strong leadership qualities that will be a "huge asset for our young team."

The Penguins' top blue liner is senior returnee Gabrielle Godre, who will be leaned on "heavily for high minutes and defensive leadership for



Brianna Waggoner, shown from a 2014-15 game, is one of several key returning players for the PCS Penguins girls hockey team.

JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

our young group of defensemen."

Another returnee is sophomore forward Cirino, who "thrived last year as a freshman" and is expected to keep up the offensive pressure this winter. Judging by her two-goal output against Pioneer, she is ready for the challenge.

With 11 returnees, the Penguins' roster is a deep one.

Also on the blue line will be juniors Bryanna Lanzilotti and Alexis Pheene and sophomores Paige Sweet and Morgan Gagnon.

Junior forwards Serina Eadeh and Jessica Marek are capable of provid-

ing timely offense.

Meanwhile, VandenBosch and Osann spearhead the new wave of AAA players that will help carry the Penguins.

But Donnelly also has high hopes for the other newcomers. Those include freshman forwards Waggoner, Rachel Lanzilotti, Gauthier and Keranen and freshman defenseman Balch.

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BOYS HOCKEY

Salem rallies to defeat Canton, 7-3

Four-point night by Zach Goleniak, two goals by Driscoll and Newel, pace Rocks to easy victory

Tim Smith
Staff Writer

The feast continued after Thanksgiving for Salem's varsity boys hockey team, scoring seven goals Saturday night en route to a 7-3 victory over Canton at Plymouth Cultural Center.

Scoring two goals each for the Rocks (1-1) were Joey Driscoll and Evan Newel, while Zach Goleniak helped the offense with one goal and three assists.

Other Salem goals were scored by Austin Marthaler and Matt Schaumburger (who also had an assist). Colin Goleniak had two assists for the Rocks.

For the Chiefs (0-2), Marcus Cook registered one goal and an assist, with Brian Oldani and Nick Harwell also scoring. Chipping in an assist each were James Tucker and Matt Eastman.

Making 14 saves in net for the victory was Salem goalie Austin Goleniak. Canton goaltender Isaac Salinas stopped 29 of the 36 shots he faced.

Canton got off to a fast 2-0 start over the first 12:09, when Harwell (from Cook and Eastman) and Cook (unassisted) found the back of the Salem net.

Getting one back on the power play with 1:42 to go in the opening period was Newel, with assists going to Zach Goleniak and Nick Callegari.

Just 3:39 into the middle period, Driscoll scored a power-play goal from Colin Goleniak to lift the Rocks into a 2-2 tie.

Salem then went up to stay at 8:49, when Driscoll scored again, this time on a feed from Zach Goleniak.

Just 16 seconds later, the Rocks took a 4-2 edge thanks to an unassisted goal by Marthaler, although the Chiefs closed the gap to 4-3 in the final minute. Oldani scored, with Tucker setting up the goal.

The Rocks then put the game away with a three-goal surge early in the third. Schaumburger's power-play goal at 2:49 (from Zach Goleniak and Marty Mills) made it 5-3 and Driscoll made it a three-point night when he assisted on Zach Goleniak's goal at 4:06.

Closing out the scoring just 15 seconds later was Newel, with assists going to Schaumburger and Colin Goleniak.

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GANNETT COMPANY

Realtor association reaches out to help veterans, service personnel

The Greater Metropolitan Association of Realtors (GMAR), based in Southfield, held its first "Gives Thanks" party on Nov. 6 at the Hard Rock Cafe in Detroit.

Over 220 attended the "Rock and Roll" themed party, complete with a red carpet photo shoot, guitar pick-styled drink tokens, and memorabilia stuffed gift bags.

The VET Program/Suits for Soldiers was created and started by Army veteran Scott Fader while he was still boots on ground in Afghanistan.

After their careers, military personnel and their families need that assistance to help them get back into the civilian life to find jobs, get their benefits, find a home or just get reacquainted with life out of the military.

The VET Program/Suits for Soldiers strives to end the days of unemployed service men and women. To date, it



Through this event and the Golf Outing held in September, GMAR donated \$6,000 to their 2015 charity, Suits for Soldiers, The Vet Program.

has helped over 1,000 obtain employment, written over 5,000 resumes and given away over 10,000 pieces of business attire.

The Greater Metropolitan Association of Realtors provides services and support to the real estate profession and the communities they serve.

Visit www.GMARonline.com to learn more.



Honoring veterans as well as service men and women was the focus of the Nov. 6 Greater Metropolitan Association of Veterans benefit.

Salt Lake City's on the grow, street cars a factor

Q: Do you have any information concerning the availability of high-rise living in the central city of Salt Lake City, and what it would cost, particularly, being near the University of Utah?

A: Salt Lake City is growing at a rapid pace which is being assisted by the electric street cars that crisscross the city, including on the way to the University of Utah.



Robert Meisner

Q: We are thinking of buying a houseboat to be kept on Lake Powell. Where would we start to get information about that and what are the potential restrictions?

A: There are many agencies and/or dealers that sell and/or lease houseboats for utilization on Lake Powell among other things.

There are number of high-end resorts on Lake Powell that cater to houseboats, generally on a seasonal basis, but the more you investigate the situation, the better prepared you will be to deal with that eventually.

Robert M. Meisner is a lawyer and the author of "Condo Living 2: An Authoritative Guide to Buying, Selling and Operating a Condominium."

HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS-OAKLAND COUNTY

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of July 13-17, 2015, at the Oakland County Register of Deeds office.

Table listing city and sales prices for various areas including Beverly Hills, Birmingham, Farmington, Bloomfield Hills, and Bloomfield Township.

Table listing specific addresses and sales prices for areas like Brookview Cir, Cedar Bend Dr, Crabtree Rd, etc.

Table listing specific addresses and sales prices for areas like Orchard Lake Rd, Pipers Ln, Ravenscroft St, etc.

Table listing specific addresses and sales prices for areas like Emerson Way, Franklin Mill St, Glades Ct, etc.

HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS-WAYNE COUNTY

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of Aug. 3-7, 2015, at the Wayne County Register of Deeds office.

Table listing city and sales prices for areas like Canton, Garden City, and Livonia.

Table listing specific addresses and sales prices for areas like 33063 6 Mile Rd, 33535 7 Mile Rd, etc.

Table listing specific addresses and sales prices for areas like N Valley Dr, Northridge Dr, Orchard Dr, etc.

Table listing specific addresses and sales prices for areas like Olympia, Ryland, San Jose, etc.

REAL ESTATE BRIEFS

Short sales

If you owe more than what your house is worth, you may be interested in a free informational seminar on short sale procedures.

Bonnie David, broker/owner of Quantum Real Estate, is the presenter. It will be 6-7 p.m. each Thursday at 129 N. Lafayette, downtown South Lyon.

Call the office at 248-782-7130 or email june.quantum@gmail.com.

Investors

The Real Estate Investors Association of Wayne will have an open forum. Investors will answer questions and offer a market update.

Members are free, guests \$20, which will be applied to their membership. The Red Lobster is next to 7-Eleven, near Trenton Road.

Tour six private homes during Livonia Christmas Walk



A holiday town is set up on a window sill.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Get decorating ideas while exploring decked-out homes

Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

Every Santa Claus tells a story. Every ornament sparks a memory. And every Christmas village house and caroling figurine honors family ties.

Sharon and Giovanni Molinaro's home is decked out for Christmas with decorations that not only celebrate the season but continue family traditions.

"When you get your decorations out you think of the person you received them from," said Sharon Molinaro, showing off a collection of Byers' caroling figures on her fireplace mantel. "This particular grouping was given to my mother and father. They were on her mantel for a couple of decades and now they are here. That's even her greenery and lights. I tried to replicate what she did the best I can remember."

The Molinaro home is one of seven locations open for public tours during the 27th Annual Livonia Christmas Walk that benefits Greenmead, the community's historical village. The walk runs 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 5. Tickets are \$9 in advance and are available at Livonia Civic Center Library and city hall, both located at Five Mile and Farmington Road; Greenmead, at Newburgh and Eight Mile; and from Friends of Greenmead members. Cost is \$10 on Dec. 5.

Ticket holders can tour six private homes and the Simmons/Hill house at Greenmead. Members of local Quester chapters — the organization dedicated to historic preservation — decked out the Simmons/Hill house in a silver theme. Friends of Greenmead members took on one of the private homes as a Livonia Christmas Walk project.

"That's why we have six houses on the Walk this time," said Sue Poster, Friends president. "We had booked five and then someone at the last minute said, oh yes, I'll be on it. We said, how about next year and they said the house would be going up for sale. It's a historic home and we didn't know if we'd be able to get it again. We're going to go in and decorate. We have a team."

Poster said local florists decorated the homes for the event 27 years ago. Now homeowners work with a designated florist to create an arrangement that suits their decorating scheme.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The fireplace behind Sharon Molinaro is decorated with a collection of figurines — all carolers — that previously was owned by her late mother, Dorothy Hull.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

One of many Santa figures stands in the entry way of the Livonia home.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

A lamp lighter is one of Sharon Molinaro's favorite pieces on the fireplace mantel.

"We've had people take in mom's candlesticks and had them build an arrangement around them or in a basket."

Variety of themes

Gingerbread, trains, Christmas villages, Santa Claus figures, Disney characters, silver bells and nature decorate shelves, tabletops and entire rooms in some of the homes on the walk.

Rich and Carol Leonard decorated an outdoor shed and their remodeled kitchen in a gingerbread motif. A train circles overhead in the family room and four chipmunks placed throughout the home pay homage to the wildlife that visits a backyard feeder.

At the Casey household, a collection of silver bells welcome guests to the family room and a Department 56 village decorates the fireplace mantel. The dining room incorporates a passion for Disney and family needlepoint pieces. Santa Claus figures are gathered over sliding glass doors.

Santa Clauses of all sizes and shapes also figure into Molinaro's decorating scheme. They stand among greenery atop cabinets, share shelf space, and greet visitors near the front door.

"There are Santas everywhere. I continue to collect them," Molinaro said.

From mom

A near life-sized Santa holds his own lighted Christmas tree in the den, near the Department 56 snow village that belonged to her late mother, Dorothy Hull.

A spare bedroom is outfitted with her mother's furniture. A holiday picture hangs on the wall and a photo of John and Dorothy Hull sits on a dresser. Molinaro topped the windows with garland, decorated a small tree for the room and wrapped packages to display on the bed.

"I've got an ornament for each in their memory. They've got their names and the year they were born and the year they died," Molinaro said.

The Molinaros moved into their Livonia home after marrying last May. She is director of public relations for Glen Eden cemetery and he works in concrete construction. Each has grown children from previous marriages.

"My birthday is in December. I'm a December birthday girl," Molinaro said. "I love having my birthday in December. I love celebrating, and I've always loved decorating for Christmas."

sdargay@hometownlife.com

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More than 130 artists show their work at Potters Market

Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

Katherine Eaton of Farmington Hills sewed Barbie doll clothes as a teenager and took up basket making and weaving as an adult.

But it wasn't until she began pottery classes 10 years ago at Oakland Community College with the late Charles Blosser, that she found her true artistic calling.

"I always wanted to do pottery. There's something about passing a potters booth — you just can't pass it by," she said. She began selling clay pieces almost as soon as she learned how to make them, showing at festivals including Plymouth's Art in the Park, and Arts, Beats and Eats.

"Charlie said he liked my color combinations. They had a different look than everyone

else," she said. "I always wanted to do the Potters Market but there was no room."

Eaton got her chance to sell at Potters Market, a show that her former teacher started, when it moved from Madison Heights to Southfield last year. She and more than 130 potters will return for the 40th annual show, 9:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 4, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 5, and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 6 at the Southfield Pavilion, 26000 Evergreen. Admission is free. No strollers are allowed. Admission is \$10 for preview night, 6-9 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 3.

Shoppers will see thousands of pieces of pottery, including raku, stoneware, porcelain, and smoke-fired functional and decorative pieces, including tiles, tea pots, mugs, vases, tables, mirrors, picture frames, jewelry, Christmas

ornaments, sculptures, cooking and serving containers, and lawn decorations such as bird baths and bird houses. The event will include demonstrations, a cafe, and free parking. Each artist's works will be grouped together.

"We're able to put our whole selection on a shelving unit, so you can see the whole body of our work," said Eaton, who also shows her pottery at galleries in Berkley, Rochester Hills and Northville.

For the birds

One of her biggest sellers is a simple platter with an attachment to hold condiments. She also will sell wall pockets, bird baths, bird houses and other functional items.

Barbara Gibson of Livonia also will be back for her second



Ceramic birds by Susan Fisher of Canton



Pottery by Barbara Gibson of Livonia

Katherine Eaton of Farmington Hills will show everything from bird houses to wall pockets, along with serving pieces and decorative items.

See POTTERY, Page B7

GET OUT! CALENDAR

ANIMALS

DETROIT ZOO

Time/Date: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. through March 1
Location: I-696 service drive and Woodward, Royal Oak
Details: Admission is \$14 for adults 15-61, \$10 for senior citizens 62 and older, and for children ages 2-14; children under 2 are free. Parking for cars and vans is \$5. Detroit Zoological Society members get free admission and parking
Contact: 248-541-5717

ARTS AND CRAFTS

NORTHVILLE ART HOUSE

Time/Date: Exhibit hours are noon to 5 p.m. Tuesday-Friday and noon to 4 p.m. Saturday, through Dec. 12
Location: 215 W. Cady, Northville
Details: "Small Works," an all-media juried art exhibit consists of 120 pieces that are no larger than 12-by-12 inches. A Northville Camera Club exhibit is located in the lower gallery.
Contact: 248-344-0497 or www.NorthvilleArtHouse.org

FILM

PENN THEATRE

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 3, 7 p.m. and 9:25 p.m. Friday, Dec. 4, and 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, Dec. 5-6
Location: 760 Penniman, Plymouth
Details: *It's a Wonderful Life*, \$3
Contact: 734-453-0870; www.penntheatre.com

REDFORD THEATRE

Time/Date: 8 p.m. Dec. 4 and 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Dec. 5
Location: 17360 Lahser, just north of Grand River Avenue in Detroit
Details: *White Christmas*, \$5
Contact: 313-898-1481; redfordtheatre.com

HISTORY

PLYMOUTH HISTORICAL MUSEUM

Time/Date: 1-4 p.m. Wednesday, Friday-Sunday
Location: 155 S. Main, Plymouth
Details: Admission is \$5 for adults, \$2 for ages 6-17
Current exhibit: A Red Ryder Christmas Story draws its inspiration from the popular 1980s movie, *A Christmas Story*, in which the main character, Ralphie, longs for a Red Ryder BB gun for Christmas. Red Ryder BB guns were sold by Daisy Manufacturing Company of Plymouth
Contact: 734-455-8940

LIGHTS

WAYNE COUNTY LIGHTFEST

Time/Date: 7-10 p.m. Monday-Thurs-

day and 6-10 p.m. Friday-Sunday, through Dec. 31. Closed Dec. 25
Location: Enter at Hines Drive and Merriman in Westland and exit near Telegraph in Dearborn Heights
Details: Drive-through light show features nearly 50 lighted displays. Fee is \$5 per vehicle
Contact: parks.waynecounty.com; 734-261-1990

WILD LIGHTS

Time/Date: 5:30-9 p.m. Dec. 4-6, 11-13, 18-23 and 26-31
Location: I-696 service drive and Woodward Ave., Royal Oak
Details: Admission is \$9 in advance and \$11 at the gate for ages 2 and older. Parking is \$6 per car. Features illuminated sculptures, holiday entertainment and activities, ice carving and arts and crafts. Buy tickets online at detroitzoo.org/events/wild-lights
Contact: 248-541-5717



Kenny Parker and his band wrap up the 2015 Blues@The Elks series, Dec. 8, in Plymouth.

MUSIC

BLUES@THE ELKS

Time/Date: 7-10 p.m. the second Tuesday of the month
Location: Plymouth Ann Arbor Elks Lodge 325, 41700 Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth
Details: The Kenny Parker Band performs on Dec. 8. Bring your dancing shoes. \$5 donation
Contact: 734-453-1780

CHAMBER MUSIC SOCIETY

Time/Date: 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Dec. 11-12
Location: Friday concert at Wayne State University's Schaver Recital Hall, 480 W. Hancock, Detroit; Saturday concert at Seligman Performing Arts Center, 22305 W. 13 Mile, Beverly Hills
Details: The Julliard String Quartet performs; tickets are \$30 for adults and \$15 for students at the Detroit concert and \$32-\$64 for adults and \$16-\$32 for students in Beverly Hills
Contact: 248-855-6070 or CMSDetroit.org



The Julliard String Quartet performs Dec. 12 in Beverly Hills.

CHRISTMAS POPS CONCERT/CANTATA

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Dec. 12
Location: St. Timothy Presbyterian Church, 16700 Newburgh, Livonia
Details: Features popular Christmas songs sung by soloists and small groups, and *One Silent Night* by Pepper Choplin, sung by the combined choirs of St. Timothy and Kirk of Our Savior of Westland; Free, but donations will be accepted
Contact: 734 464-8844, sttimothy@sttimothypcusa.org

ITALIAN AMERICAN CHORALE

Time/Date: 7:30 p.m. Dec. 4
Location: American Club of Livonia, 39200 Five Mile, Livonia
Details: Viviana Garabello directs the group in its first Christmas concert; free admission for concert only. An optional potluck dinner at 6:30 p.m. costs \$2 per person. Participants should bring a favorite dish and dessert to share. RSVP by Dec. 2 to Ann at 734-437-9067 or Maria at 734-591-0263 for potluck
Contact: Viviana Garabello at 313-690-1093; gvivi81@gmail.com

JAZZ@THE ELKS

Time/Date: 7-10 p.m. the last Tuesday of the month
Location: Plymouth Ann Arbor Elks Lodge 325, 41700 Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth
Details: \$10 donation at the door includes hors d'oeuvres
Contact: 734-453-1780 or email plymouthelks1780@yahoo.com

MICHIGAN PHILHARMONIC

Time/Date: 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 10
Location: Penn Theatre, 760 Penniman, Plymouth

Details: Holiday Pops with the Phil features a variety of seasonal tunes, including the *Hallelujah Chorus* at the 8 p.m. performance, and a sing-along of Christmas carols. Tickets are \$30 general admission, \$25 for seniors, age 25 and up, and \$10 for students with ID
Contact: michiganphil.org

SIMPLY DICKENS

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Dec. 9
Location: Plymouth Historical Museum, 155 S. Main, Plymouth
Details: The group sings old world Christmas carols. Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$15 at the door. Doors will open at 6 p.m. giving visitors time to see the Museum's special exhibit, A Red Ryder Christmas Story, which runs through Jan. 17, 2016
Contact: plymouthhistory.org

TRINITY AND FRIENDS CHOIR

Time/Date: 8 p.m. Dec. 3-5
Location: Trinity Episcopal Church, 26880 LaMueira, Farmington Hills
Details: Rejoice! A Holiday Concert features music of Beethoven, Handel and more; tickets are \$10
Contact: trinityinthewoods.org

TRINITY HOUSE THEATRE

Time/Date: Most shows start at 8 p.m., doors open at 7:30 p.m.
Location: 38840 W. Six Mile, Livonia
Details: Kitty Donohoe, Dec. 4, Thunderwude, Dec. 5, Danny Kroha, Dec. 11, Harper and the Midwest Kind, Dec. 12, Empty Chair Christmas Show, Dec. 13, Michigan Caroling Company, Dec. 18. Most tickets \$15, and \$12 for subscribers. Only cash and checks accepted
Contact: 734-464-6302 for additional information

POTTERY

Continued from Page B6

year at Potters Market. She holds a master of fine arts degree from the University of Michigan and has made ceramics for 50 years.

"I quit the festivals about 10 years ago. I started getting tired of driving and setting it up," she said, adding that she "loved every minute" of the art festival circuit in earlier years.

Two years ago she attended the Potters Market in Madison Heights and was "blown away" by what she saw.

"I said, wow, I would love to do this show. I sent my stuff in and they said, sure. That was the first year at Southfield and it ran like clockwork."

Gibson, who enjoys drumming and making biscotti when she's not in her pottery studio at home, will sell a variety of functional and decorative items at the show.

"I've got outside stuff like bird feeders and big pots for plants and serving dishes," she said. "I love the little stuff and the big stuff. I have a passion for all of it."

Other local artists at the show include Leslie Greeneisen of Canton, an active member of the Village Potters Guild in Plymouth; Susan Fisher and Centurium Frost, both of Canton and both new to Potters Market; Carol Fitzpatrick of Farmington Hills, who also serves as the Potters Market co-chair; and David Albrecht of Farmington, who is known for ceramic sculpture.

Visit the Potters Market website at thepottersmarket.com



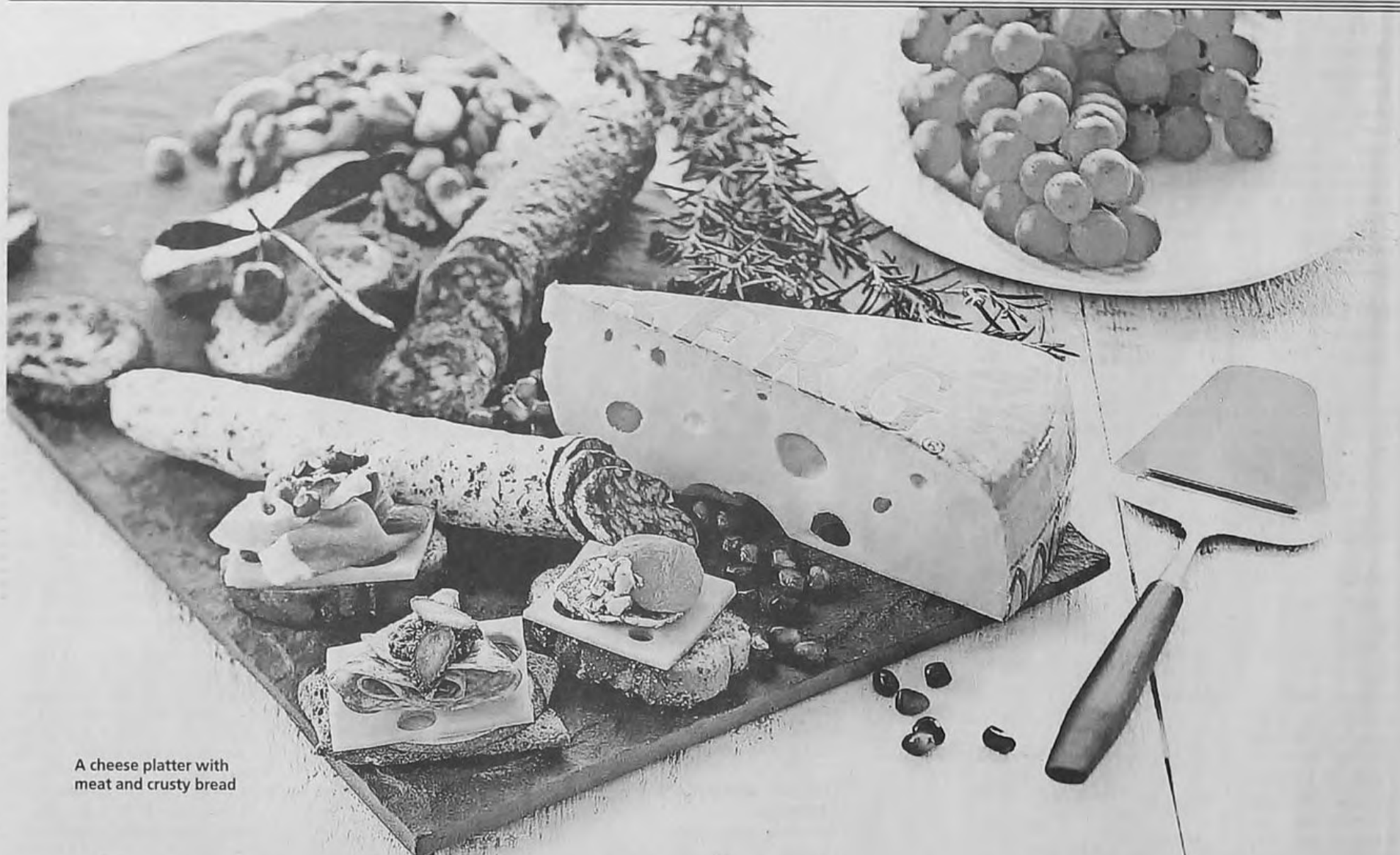
Ceramic sculpture by Dave Albrecht of Farmington

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A cheese platter with meat and crusty bread

This holiday season don't let a main dish hog all the glory. Instead let guests feast on a festive spread of small plates and sides. Snack-size portions of a wide range of delicious dishes are the perfect solution for entertaining.

A large, heavy meal can leave guests feeling lethargic. Keep your party lively with lighter bites that guests can nibble on throughout the night. Another advantage of a small plate menu is that guests will appreciate the chance to sample many flavors without fear of over-indulging.

Get your party planning started with these tips:

» Keep dishes simple and put the focus on quality ingredients, such as naturally lactose and gluten-free Jarlsberg cheese. Best known for the classic wedge available in original and smoked flavors, Jarlsberg cheese offers a mild, mellow, nutty and delicious taste that is perfect for any cheese board and pairing with meats of your choice.

» Give traditional vegetable sides a special boost to make them party perfect. Basic asparagus gets a fresh twist with this Asparagus Tart, which blends savory Jarlsberg brand cheese and a pastry for a pretty presentation you can cut into squares before serving.

» Plan your menu with the clock in mind. Choose foods that will taste great for the duration of your party without drying out or losing flavor, such as this Tomato Gratin.

» Keep cold dishes chilled by setting the serving bowl inside a larger bowl filled with ice. Add some flair by tinting the ice or adding decorative accents.

» Use burners to keep the heat on warm dishes, or simply rotate in fresh batches periodically.

Give your holiday entertaining an extra boost this year with Jarlsberg Cheese's Great Holiday Giveaway, which runs through Dec. 31 and offers prizes for holiday entertaining, including a DSLR camera as the grand prize and weekly charcuterie party kits. Learn more and enter (once per day) at [Facebook.com/Jarlsbergusa](https://www.facebook.com/Jarlsbergusa), and find more holiday entertaining recipes at jarlsberg.com.

Courtesy of Family Features

Jarlsberg cheese gives small plates big flavor



ASPARAGUS TART

1 sheet frozen puff pastry, thawed
2 cups Jarlsberg cheese, shredded
1 pound asparagus
1 tablespoon olive oil
1 tablespoon fresh thyme leaves
salt and pepper

Heat oven to 400 F. Prepare baking sheet with parchment paper. Roll out puff pastry into 16-by-10-inch rectangle, trimming uneven edges. Place on baking sheet. With knife, lightly score pastry dough 1 inch from edges to mark rectangle. Using fork, pierce dough inside markings at ½-inch intervals. Bake until golden, about 15 minutes. Remove pastry shell from oven and sprinkle with shredded cheese. Trim asparagus spears to fit crosswise inside pastry shell. Arrange in single layer over cheese, alternating ends and tips. Brush with oil, sprinkle thyme leaves and season with salt and pepper. Bake until spears are tender, about 20 minutes.



TOMATO GRATIN

8 medium ripe tomatoes
¼ cup balsamic vinegar
½ cup extra-virgin olive oil
4 garlic cloves, sliced
4 sprigs fresh thyme (or 4 basil leaves, chopped)
salt and pepper, to taste
2 ounces toasted pine (pignoli) nuts
½ pound (8 ounces) grated Jarlsberg cheese

Heat oven to 350 F. Cut tomatoes in half. In bowl, whisk together vinegar, olive oil, garlic, thyme, salt and pepper; gently mix in tomatoes. Transfer to ovenproof dish, turning tomatoes cut side up before baking 15 minutes. When tomatoes are cool enough, remove skins before returning to baking dish. Sprinkle tomatoes with nuts and cheese. Return to oven and bake about 10 minutes, or until cheese turns golden and bubbly. Serve as bruschetta on sliced, toasted Italian bread or as a side dish to fish and meat.



GETTY IMAGES

SENSATIONAL PLATTERS

Platters featuring savory finger foods are a flavorful and easy solution for holiday entertaining. Simply assemble ingredients, such as those listed below, on a large wooden or slate board and serve. Get creative by adding fig spreads, fresh fruit or other nibbles you enjoy, and don't forget the toothpicks and napkins. Be sure to take the cheese out of the refrigerator at least an hour before serving to ensure that it is room temperature to bring out the ideal flavor. Never serve cheese cold.

- » Wedge or cubed Jarlsberg cheese
- » Assortment of whole grain crackers and crusty bread slices
- » Italian Genoa salami, coppa or your favorite charcuterie meats
- » Assorted olives, nuts and dried or fresh fruits



CHEESY MASHED POTATOES

4 large baking potatoes, peeled and cut
1 cup Jarlsberg cheese
1 cup milk
1 container sour cream
½ cup butter
1 teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon ground black pepper

Heat oven to 350 F. Place potatoes in large pot of salted water and bring to a boil. Reduce heat to medium-low, cover and simmer until tender. Drain and bring potatoes to food processor. In food processor, add cheese, milk, sour cream, butter, salt and pepper. Process all ingredients with potatoes until smooth. Pour mixture into baking pan and cover with tin foil. Bake 30 minutes. Uncover potatoes during last 10 minutes to allow browning.

