

Cheer Club

The holiday season is here and so is the Plymouth-Canton Observer Cheer Club. Opening the Cheer Club to new and returning "members" is one of our favorite holiday traditions. Please join us by bringing donations of new toys and canned or boxed food to our office at 794 S. Main Street in Plymouth during business hours. The items will be collected until Friday, Dec. 15 when we turn them over to the good folks at Salvation Army. They'll distribute the items to needy people in Plymouth, Canton and Northville.

The idea is to make the holidays special for everybody, not just the lucky families where people have plenty to spend.

So if you're out doing your Christmas shopping and have a few minutes to look for another toy - or maybe a gift of warm clothing - your thoughtfulness will be appreciated.

When you bring your donations by our office, we'll ask you to leave your name and city/township of residence. That's because we like to print donor's names in the paper, while the Cheer Club drive is on. But you can be anonymous donor if you prefer.

Each year, we've recorded around 200 donors to the Cheer Club from Plymouth and Canton. Happy Holidays! Please keep our Cheer Club in mind.

Letters to Santa

There's a growing sense of anticipation and good boys and girls know that can mean only one thing - it won't be long before Santa Claus will be making his annual Christmas visit.

We know many youngsters will make a personal visit to the Jolly Old Elf with their gift wish list. But it never hurts to put your requests in writing. The Plymouth Observer is asking that local youngsters share their letters to Santa with us and our readers in the Dec. 24 edition. Make sure to send along your school picture so it can appear with your letter.

Send your letters to
Letters to Santa
Plymouth Observer
794 South Main
Plymouth, MI 48170

by Friday, Dec. 15. That way we'll have plenty of time to forward the letters to the North Pole before Christmas. Merry Christmas!

LOOKING AHEAD

Christmas and Hanukkah:
In Taste Sunday, read about Polish pierogi made at a Garden City business for meatless Christmas Eve meals and how latkes, often served at Hanukkah, are prepared by the director of culinary arts at Schoolcraft College in Livonia.

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Winter wonderland?



Snow covered: Mike Horgan of Canton, 15, wears his Santa cap and a face full of snow proudly after sledding down the hill at Plymouth Township Park Monday after several inches of snow brought out dozens of kids and their sleds to the area sledding hill.

Plymouth digs out from under season's first blast

■ Most parts of the Plymouth area got buried in six to nine inches of snow Monday, then spent the next couple of days digging out from under it.

BY TONY BRUSCATO AND SUE BUCK
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Plymouth city crews worked 36 straight hours as Old Man Winter dumped more than 11 inches of snow Monday and Tuesday.

The first attack was with the salt trucks, but by noon we were retreating, plowing the major streets in an attempt to keep up," said Acting City Manager Paul Sincok. "As the day progressed we started plowing the residential streets during the overnight hours."

From the beginning, it was evident city crews would have a tough time keeping up with Mother Nature.

"For example, the whole area south of Ann Arbor Trail and east of Main looked great Monday night," said Sincok. "But, by 4 a.m. Tuesday, it looked like we never plowed because the wind kicked up and blew snow over everything we plowed. So, we had to double-back and do it again."

It didn't take long for city officials to realize the intensity of the storm, declaring a snow plow emergency at 2:30 Monday afternoon. At that point, the city had already recorded 3.5 inches of snow.

A salt crew was assigned to the central core downtown streets, with other snow plow crews assigned to outer perimeter major streets.

By 4:30 p.m., adult recreation classes and activities were canceled and some of the Monday trash collection had to be rescheduled.

By 6:30 Tuesday morning, major city streets were clear and passable. But residential streets, which had been plowed at least once, were once again snow-covered due to the wind.

Late Tuesday afternoon, the Municipal Services



Blowing snow: Jim Falcusan, owner of the Box Bar, uses his snow-thruster to clear the sidewalk of the white stuff Monday afternoon.

Department reported all major streets in the city were clear and wet after being plowed and salted. The residential streets were plowed, clear and receiving some salting in critical areas.

Wednesday morning, crews reported to work at 4 a.m. to remove stockpiles of snow from the downtown and Old Village commercial districts, Ann Arbor Trail and the central parking deck.

Please see WINTER, A3

Board sets salary for personnel director

BY SUE BUCK
STAFF WRITER
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One of the first things new Plymouth Township Supervisor Steve Mann said he wanted to do upon taking office was hire a new human resource director.

Mann, along with the rest of the township board, took the first step in that process Tuesday, approving a salary range of \$60,707 to \$64,941 for a position Mann wants to upgrade from human resource analyst. The position has been vacant since April.

"The median salary for this position in the private sector, according to the Wall Street Journal Careers information is \$64,000 as of 1999," Mann said.

He presented minimum and maximum salaries for seven communities:

Auburn Hills, \$ 6 2 , 3 2 8 - \$81,023; Canton Township, \$ 5 4 , 2 0 0 - \$78,900; Livonia, \$68,822- \$88,640; Novi, \$ 5 0 , 9 8 5 - \$59,483; City of Plymouth, \$ 4 5 , 5 9 1 - \$58,305; West Bloomfield, \$ 5 4 , 8 7 4 - \$71,283.67 and Ypsilanti, \$ 4 6 , 8 3 5 - \$60,894.	■ 'On the surface I have no problem with what appears to be a comparable salary.'
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"All figures are salary only and do not include fringe," Mann said.

The new director's responsibilities will involve the development of a recruiting program. He will implement the personnel policies established by the township board, working directly under the supervision of the township supervisor.

"On the surface I have no problem with what appears to be a comparable salary," said Trustee Ron Griffith. "I do have a question on how we arrived at the comparable communities. I notice Northville is not in here, which is half of the original Plymouth Township, which is probably as comparable as you could get. West Bloomfield doesn't seem to be comparable."

Mann said these were the comparables from which he was able to obtain information by deadline.

It was his understanding West Bloomfield had been used a lot in the past, he said.

Treasurer Ron Edwards said most of Plymouth Township's employee salaries fit in quite close to those of West Bloomfield's employees. "That's how we did some pay increases last May," Edwards said, referring to the previous board's considerations.

Griffith wants the board to establish what communities are comparable and use these consistently rather than picking and choosing.

Township adopts rules for running meetings

BY SUE BUCK
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Plymouth Township board members unanimously adopted a format Tuesday for Board of Trustees meetings and their order of business.

Parliamentary Law at a Glance by E.C. Utter, which is based on a revised Robert's Rules of Order, is the board's chosen publication.

The issue came under fire recently when both Trustee Ron Griffith and Kay Arnold complained following a heated Nov. 14 board meeting which eliminated the township's administrative services department and the position of Rosemary Harvey, director of administrative services.

This was the last meeting of the township board which included Supervisor Kathleen Keen McCarthy, who wasn't re-elected to a third term, and K.C. Mueller, who didn't seek re-election to a third term.

The rules issue was discussed without resolution at a special meeting Nov. 21.

Since that time new Supervisor Steve Mann reviewed different versions of Robert's Rules and was most impressed with one given him by a resident. "This was the easiest and simplest," he said.

Griffith said he had no problem adopting the version offered by Mann, but reminded the board that he presented a version at the Nov. 21 meeting but the board said it needed to review it and therefore couldn't vote.

"Tonight we are presented with another version and I haven't seen it," Griffith said. "I'm going to support it because I don't think I need to read it. But, I'm going to remind this board if you are going to have a principle, it should be in place from one meeting to the next. It shouldn't be changed."

Trustee Abe Munfakh especially urged the board to follow Robert's rules.

Memorial



Paying tribute: Barb Kilgore reads a poem to her husband Tim bows his head. The Kilgores are the organizers of the Plymouth memorial. They lost their son Michael, a high school swimmer, two and a half years ago. For more on the memorial, please turn to Page A3.

Police offer tips for keeping holiday season safe

BY GUY BRICK
STAFF WRITER
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Whether through community relations or community policing, holiday crime prevention tips can be shared.

"During the year-end holidays, people are often busy, excited and sometimes a little bit careless," said Jamie Senkbeil, Plymouth Township community resource officer.

Police offer these tips:

Home

Lock doors and windows when you leave your house or

apartment, even for a few minutes.

Don't display holiday gifts where they can be seen from a window or doorway. Store gifts before you go away on a holiday trip.

When out for the evening, turn on lights and a radio or television so your home appears to be occupied.

Leave interior lights activated by an automatic timer if away on vacation. Have a neighbor or family member watch your house, shovel new snow, pick up the mail and newspapers and park one of his or her motor

vehicles in your driveway from time to time.

Participate in Operation Identification and mark your valuables with a unique identification number. Immediately after the holidays, mark new gifts with a unique identification number.

Be wary of strangers soliciting for charitable donations. They may attempt to take advantage of other people's generosity during the holidays. Ask for identification, how donated funds are used, if contributions are tax deductible, etc. If you aren't satisfied with the answers, don't give.

Test your smoke detectors. Use only fire resistant ornaments on a holiday tree and make sure electric lights are in good working order. Don't leave the lights on overnight or when you are away from home.

If you have house guests, advise them of your security precautions and make sure they follow them.

Shopping

Shop before dark if possible. Coordinate shopping trips with a friend. Never park in an unlit lot or area, no matter how convenient it is.

Lock your packages and

gifts in your trunk. Keep your vehicle doors locked and windows closed. Avoid carrying large amounts of cash. Pay for purchases with a check, credit card or debit card when possible.

To discourage purse-snatchers, don't overburden yourself with packages. Have your purchases delivered whenever practical. Pickpockets like to take advantage of crowds in stores, on the street and on public transportation. Many work in teams with one distracting the victim while the other does the actual pickpocketing.

Be extra careful with purses and wallets. Carry a purse under your arm. Keep a wallet in an inside jacket, not a back trouser pocket.

Teach children to go to a store clerk or security guard and ask for help if you become separated. They should never go into a parking lot alone.

Party Safety

Have non-alcoholic beverages available for party guests.

Serve something to eat before serving alcoholic beverages. High protein foods stay in the stomach longer and slow absorption of alcohol into the system. Don't let guests drink and drive.

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Notice is hereby given that on JANUARY 18, 2000, LeRoy Elfrank Auctioneers, Executive Administrator for Storage USA, will be offering for sale under the Judicial Lien process, by public auction, the following storage units:

Unit B39, Sharon Zitznik - Office Items, Generator.
Unit C88, St. Lawrence, Inc. - Office Furniture, Cabinets, Book Cases.
Unit C89, St. Lawrence, Inc. - Cabinets, Approx. 90 Boxes, Office Furniture.
Unit D111, Dianne M. Crookley - 1994 Red Grand Am - Damaged.
Unit F205, Susan Short - 2 Bikes, Treadmill, Misc. Boxes, Chairs, Household Items.
Unit 1329, Allan-John Cook - Household Items.
Unit J359, Kathleen Fouget - Household Items, Some Furniture.
Unit K405, James Cisek - Industrial Supplies, Furniture, Boxes, Misc. Items.

The terms of the sale will be cash only. Storage USA reserves the right to refuse any and all bids. The sale will be held at the following location, 6729 Canton Center Rd. Canton, MI 48187 and will begin at 12:00 p.m. and continue until all units are sold.
Publish: December 7 and 14, 2000

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PLYMOUTH PIPELINE

Museum celebration
Dr. Frank Marvin of Asheville, N.C. will be the featured speaker at the Family Christmas Celebration hosted by the Plymouth Historical Museum Sunday, Dec. 17. Marvin will recite a special narrative, "A Christmas Carol," by Charles Dickens as part of the evening's festivities.

The celebration features strolling carolers, wassail, Christmas shopping and special tours of the museum. It starts at 6 p.m., the program at 7 p.m.. There is no additional charge beyond the normal museum admission of \$3 for adults, \$1 for children and \$7 for families.

For more information, call (734) 455-8940.

Youth soccer
The City of Plymouth Recreation Department will take spring youth soccer registration the entire month of January at the recreation office, during business hours Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The office is located in the Plymouth Cultural Center, 525 Farmer St. All registrations require a birth certificate.

The fee for 6-under, 7-under and 8-under is \$45 for city residents, \$65 for non-residents. For 9-under and older groups, the fee is \$50 for residents, \$80 for non-residents.

For more information, call 455-6620. You can get more information and download registration forms at www.ci.plymouth.mi.us.

Symphony subscriptions
Still looking for a Christmas present for someone? The Plymouth Symphony thinks it has the perfect thing.

The symphony is offering a mini-series subscription package to its remaining season subscription concerts, scheduled for Jan. 27, Feb. 17 and March 24. Trio packages are available for only \$35 for adults, \$30 for seniors or college students. That marks a minimum 16 percent discount — individual tickets for these concerts are \$14 for adults, \$12 for seniors/college students.

In addition to the chance to see the concerts, subscribers are eligible for season subscriber rewards, which include, but are not limited to, discounts and priority seating for special events, priority notification for all PSO events, ticket exchange privileges and acknowledgement in PSO programs.

Tickets for Cabaret Cafe, this year's annual concert/auction, are on sale. The event takes place April 6 at Laurel Manor in Livonia. Tickets are \$50 for adult general admission and \$25 for children.

For tickets, season subscriptions or more information, contact the symphony office, (734) 451-2112, E-mail plymouthsymphony@aol.com, or visit the symphony's website at www.plymouth-symphony.org.

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SPRAIN OR STRAIN?

The extension of joint beyond its normal range of function (hyperextension) may damage the soft tissues that surround the joint, resulting in muscle strain of ligament sprain. Because they display similar symptoms and swelling, sprains and strains are often confused by the average person. Strains result from stretching and tearing of muscle fibers. Sprains result when ligaments or other non-muscle tissues around joints are torn. Although minor sprains and strains will heal on their own, immediate medical attention should be sought if there is acute swelling at a joint and/or persistent pain and tenderness to the touch. In the meantime, follow the RICE prescription (Rest, Ice Compression, Elevation) to help reduce pain, inflammation, and swelling.

If you have been injured, or are experiencing pain, stiffness, or limited range of motion, ask your physician for a referral to the HANDS ON CENTER FOR PHYSICAL THERAPY. We've been helping individuals achieve swift recoveries and improved performance levels for over ten years, and offer all the latest treatment options in spacious, pleasant, well-equipped facilities. For more information, please call our center, located at 470 Forest Avenue, Suite 20, in Plymouth, at 455-8378. Day and evening appointments available.

P.S. Sprains and fractures share similar symptoms.

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Outsmarting nature

Schools stay on top of weather

BY TONY BRUSCATO
STAFF WRITER
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Marv Bartal, the transportation director for Plymouth-Canton Schools, sat at his desk Wednesday morning watching The Weather Channel.

The early forecast was for 3-6 inches of snow, on top of the 11 or so inches already dumped earlier this week which forced the cancellation of classes Tuesday.

"I keep it on all the time during the winter," said Bartal. "We also look at the local television updates, use the computer to click on Doppler radar, and talk with transportation directors in nearby districts."

With the nearly foot of snow Monday night and Tuesday morning, it was an easy decision to call off school.

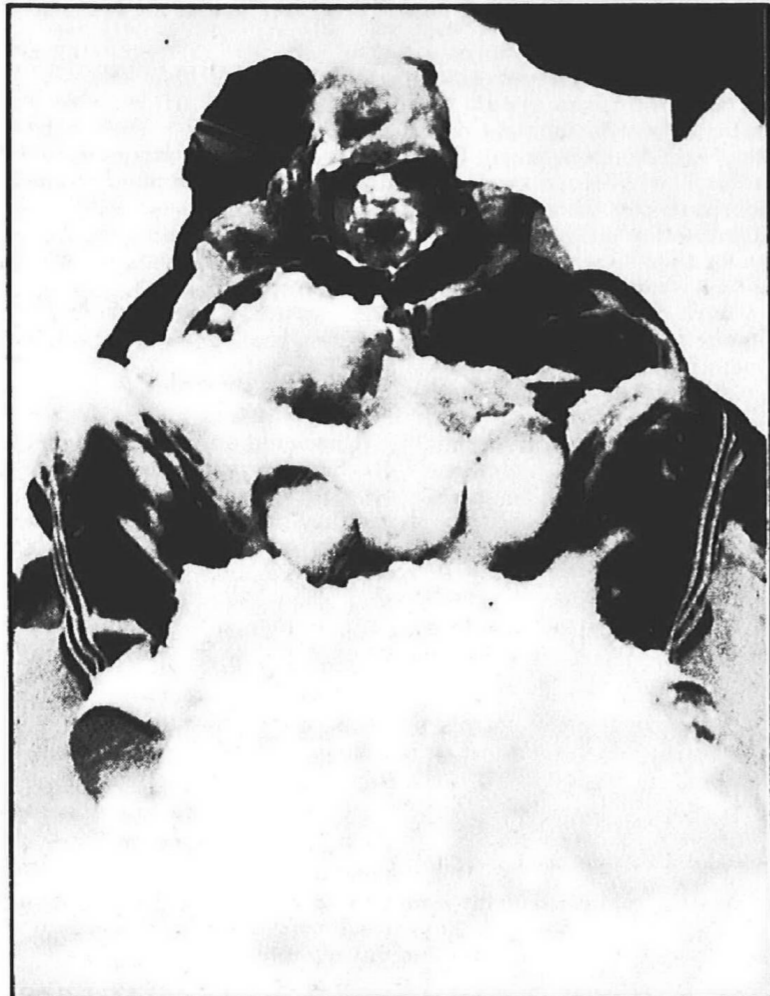
"Calling off school on Tuesday was an easy call," said Bartal. "I was out Monday night looking at the roads and communicating with the administration to make the call."

However, most times, predicting what Mother Nature will do looks easier than it is. Ask the weather forecasters. And, most of the time calling off school is not an easy decision for Bartal and administrators.

"Consider Monday's storm. You have to keep an eye on the weather, and decide how long before it gets here, and if it really will get here," said Bartal. "We were on the border. To the north they received six more inches than we did. To the south, not much snow at all."

Bartal said it can be a damned if you do, damned if you don't situation when making decisions based on weather reports.

"Monday we had two buses scheduled to go on field trips to Toledo," he said. "There wasn't a storm in Toledo at the time, but it was our decision not to send the buses in anticipation of the storm. If it doesn't snow, we could be the bad guys for canceling the trip."



Piled up: Ryan Haydon of Plymouth, 17, sits in a pile of snow after plowing down the hill on a toboggan.

Bartal said there's also the consideration of parents and those who work in the district.

"Sometimes it's a tough call, because parents work and have young kids to think about," he said. "If we call off school, they have to get babysitters or stay home from work."

"Some people ask why we don't send kids home early when the weather looks bad," added Bartal. "Put yourself in the parent's position. They're at work and they're kids are home alone."

"Plus, we have many employees like food service, maintenance and bus dispatch that need to be to work by 5 a.m., so the decision needs to be made early enough before they are headed to work."

Bartal said during most winter storms, he and Assistant Director Dave Rocker, are out at 3 a.m. to check the roads.

"I have to make a decision if the buses can travel safely on the roads," added Bartal. "I have to decide if I'm putting a bus in jeopardy by sending it into a subdivision or rural route, knowing that it may get stuck."

And, just like the weatherman, sometimes it's a guessing game. "I've been in situations where we've anticipated a huge storm, made arrangements for early dismissal, and then the storm never comes," said Bartal. "So, you get it both ways."

'You have to keep an eye on the weather, and decide how long before it gets here, and if it really will get here.'

Marv Bartal
—Transportation director

Students, businesses among those to benefit from first winter storm

BY HEATHER NEEDHAM
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Children staying home for a snow day and local business owners raking in profits from storm-panicked customers were among the happiest people during Monday's storm and its aftermath.

The season's first winter storm blitzed through southeast Michigan Monday, dumping up to 12 inches in some places and about 6 to 9 inches in Canton and Plymouth. The storm, which came in from Chicago, closed down schools in both the Plymouth-Canton and Van Buren districts Tuesday, as well as dozens of other districts throughout metro Detroit.

Other people dealing with the storm — such as commuters — weren't so happy. An I-275/Michigan ramp in Canton was shut down Monday afternoon when two semi trucks got stuck in the snow, said Lt. Rob Cripe of the Canton Police Department.

The National Weather Service reported that Monday's storm originated in Texas and swept up through Missouri and Chicago before hitting Michigan.

It wasn't your average storm, said Bill Keyes, meteorologist with the National Weather Service's White Lake Township office.

"We got a whole variety of snow," Keyes said. The storm also brought freezing rain, sleet and "thunder snow," which means thunder and lightning.

But while the weather outside was frightful, sales on winter-related items such as salt, salt alternative ice melters, shovels and window scrapers were delightful for local retailers, who saw more green than white.

Hardware and home improvement businesses in Canton and Plymouth reported brisk sales on items geared toward getting the white stuff off roads, sidewalks and vehicles.

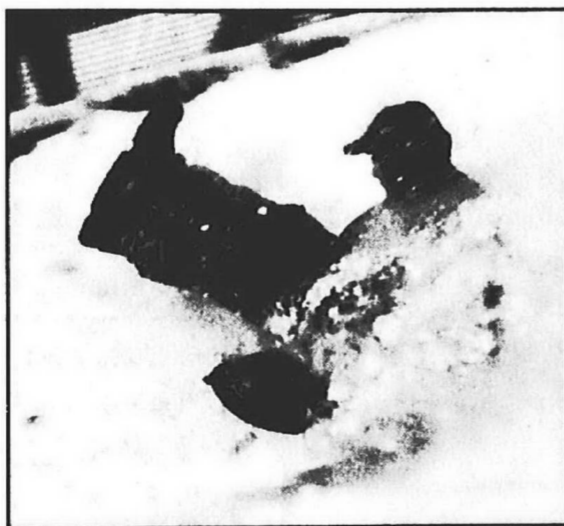
At N.A. Mans, 41900 Ford, snow shovels, ice scrapers and salt were hot sellers Monday, said cashier Dottie Kelly.

"We've also sold lots of tube sand for the backs of trucks," she said, referring to long, plastic bags of sand used for weighing down truck rears to improve traction.

In Plymouth, sales of winter items were steady all day Monday at S & W Pro Hardware, 875 W. Ann Arbor, said Fred Smith, co-owner.

"We were busy pretty much up to closing (at 7 p.m.)," Smith said. "Sales were great — I pray for days like these."

Big sellers Monday were snow shovels and salt-alternative ice melters made of potassium chloride, which is safer for pets, carpets and grass, according to Smith.



Snow day: Scott Stukel of Plymouth, 15, hits a pile of snow as he plummets down the hill after the weather cancelled school this week.

Snow shovel technology has come a long way. There are models with bent ergonomic handles, and models with either metal scrapers for chipping at ice or all-plastic models, ideal for pushing snow off of wooden decks. Ideally, homeowners should have more than one shovel. Metal-edged shovels can damage wooden decks but are good for chipping away at stubborn ice on driveways and sidewalks.

Smith said he not only sells the ergonomic shovels, but uses one, too. They have been on the market about three years.

"I got one for myself," he said, adding that the bent handle makes shoveling easier on the back because it doesn't force users to bend over. "I was very dubious about them when they came out."

Food retailers also reported brisk sales Monday. Holiday Market, 520 S. Lilley at Cherry Hill was busy all day, said owner John Pardington.

"If every day were like (Monday) I could retire in a year," he said. "Everybody was stocking up."

Staple items such as canned goods, milk, butter, bread and meats were the most common ones cropping up on cashiers' stands.

But some customers wanted something with a little more kick to wait out the storm. Potent potables like liquor, wine and beer also sold well.

"Some people like to have a little Schnapps or brandy after they come in from shoveling snow," Pardington said.

Winter

from page A1

"This storm was very significant, but we were fortunate to keep up with it," said Sinecock. "In comparison, in January a couple of years ago, during that storm we had two major water main breaks that took half our snow plow crew. During this storm, we had no water main breaks and the equipment held up pretty well, allowing us to concentrate on the storm."

Plymouth Township

When the snow started falling, Wayne County set priorities which determined which roadway was cleaned first, according to John Roach, spokesman for the Wayne County Department of Public Services. The county has responsibility for plowing the township's main thoroughfares.

Some wondered this week why Ann Arbor Road was unplowed hours after this week's major snowfall.

"Ann Arbor Road was one of the first roads plowed in the storm," Roach said. "We had to set certain priorities. We needed to consolidate the crews for team plowing. The crew working on Ann Arbor Road was pulled off to work on I-96 where there are higher speeds and more traffic."

Plymouth and Ann Arbor Roads fell lower on the priority list, Roach said.

Plymouth area residents and businesses travel I-96, I-275 and M14, he said. Freeways rank first followed by the next most heavily traveled roads.

"Snow blowing across the road was more of a problem," Roach



Snow spill: These three girls sprawled out at the bottom of the hill in Plymouth Township Park after riding their toboggan down the snowy slope.

said. "Eight or 10 inches of snow can behave more like a foot. Crews worked for 30 hours straight through. From 4 p.m. to midnight Tuesday we gave them a break."

Without additional snow this week, the county hoped to begin clearing subdivision streets, he said.

Wayne County crews battled drifting and blowing snow, said Jim Anulewicz, Plymouth Township director of public services.

They weren't alone. Trash haulers were stuck on township streets. "They went out this morning and three trucks got stuck," he said Tuesday.

The end result means trash pickups are one day later this week, he said.

Plymouth Community Fire Chief Larry Groth said the usual

number of rescue runs occurred during the storm, 10 on Dec. 11 and nine on Dec. 12. These included three slip-and-fall incidents, two minor accidents, one heart attack and one stroke, he said. There were no fire runs.

"They weren't snow related," Groth said. "We weren't over-taxed."

Three extra firefighters were called in, he said. As typical during heavy snow storms, Groth sent the pumper truck down the street first making a path for the rescue trucks to get through.

Plymouth Township Police Chief Larry Carey said police officers used his department Jeep and another department-owned Jeep to get down the streets.

"We handled it professionally," Carey said.

Cops: planning key to winter survival

BY SUE BUCK
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Driving on snow-covered, slippery roads requires survival skills, according to Chuck VanVleck, Plymouth Township emergency management coordinator.

"No one drives during bad weather unless they must," VanVleck said. "However, business or holiday plans often make winter traveling necessary. Tips on traveling in winter weather may make your trip safer."

He suggests:
■ Plan your trip carefully by listening to weather reports and travelers' advisories and keeping an alternate route in mind. Let someone know where you are going and what time you plan to arrive. Travel by daylight and use major highways if possible. Try not to travel alone.

■ Keep your gas tank as full as possible, especially if you are unfamiliar with the route you are traveling, are entering open country, and also to prevent gas line freeze-up.

■ Don't overdress when driving. Even on short

trips, clothing should be loose-fitting and comfortable. Heavy clothing should be removed after the car warms up. Pull over to the side of the road instead of struggling out of heavy clothing while driving.

■ If stranded on the road during a winter snow storm, keep calm. Give some indication you are in trouble. Turn on your four-way flashing lights, raise the hood, or tie a cloth from an antenna or door handle. Don't stop under an overpass. Stay in the car. Don't try to walk from the car unless you can see a shelter within a reasonable distance.

"Disorientation comes quickly during a blowing snowstorm," VanVleck said.

Turn on the car engine for brief periods. To avoid deadly carbon monoxide poisoning, always leave a downwind window open slightly. Make sure the exhaust pipe is clear of snow when the engine is running.

■ Don't drive while tired. Always use your seat belt and make sure everyone else does. Never warm up a vehicle in an enclosed area. All vehicle windows and mirrors should be clear before attempting to drive.

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POLICE BLOTTER

Plymouth Township Police are asking parents to be more alert regarding inhalant-related items following a traffic stop they executed at southbound Beck at Powell Road about 10 p.m. Dec. 9.

"Parents should be advised that if they find CO2 cartridges and balloons these are items which are used for inhalant purposes," said Jamie Senkbeil, Plymouth Township community resource officer. "Kids use them to become euphoric and become high for 15 to 20 minutes."

Police stopped an 18-year-old Dearborn driver and his three 17-year-old passengers from Livonia in a Chevrolet Cavalier. In addition to 38 CO2 cartridges, both new and used, they found balloons and 35 beer cans. Some cans were open and inside the car which was stopped for speeding.

Attempt breaking and entering

A Schoolcraft Road resident told Plymouth Township Police

Dec. 4 that when she walked into her bedroom, she saw a man looking into her window.

The man then walked northbound and she lost sight of him. She described the man as in his mid-20's with short dark hair, about six feet tall, wearing a brown jacket and blue jeans.

When police officers were checking outside her house, they discovered the screen removed from the bedroom window on the east side of the house.

The Canton K9 unit tracked north of her house, up the embankment of the expressway and over the guardrail where the K9 could track no further, police said.

Road Rage

A husband and wife traveling on Shadywood near Wilcox reported a van driven by someone they knew tried to run them off the road Dec. 1. The driver tried to get into their van but they sped off and came to the police station. The husband was transported to St. Mary Mercy

hospital after he experienced chest pains at the police station.

Thefts

A student at East West Martial Arts on Ann Arbor Road said someone stole her \$7,500 diamond ring and \$400 watch after she left the items in her jacket pocket in a back room Dec. 6.

Someone stole 11 empty propane tanks valued at \$100 each from behind Advantage Technologies Dec. 4. The tanks were unsecured.

The owner of a trailer stored at Travel Trailer Storage reported his 1993 Fleetwood camper trailer stolen Dec. 3. The trailer was valued at \$10,800.

Retail fraud

Police arrested a Kmart employee at the Ann Arbor Road store after security cameras captured her placing her friend's items in a shopping cart without running them up or paying for them Dec. 3, police said.

—Sue Buck

Argument results in shooting

BY HEATHER NEEDHAM
STAFF WRITER
hneedham@oc.homecomm.net

A heated argument about jewelry and money reportedly ended up with a 23-year-old Ypsilanti woman getting shot in the arm Tuesday night.

Canton Police Sgt. Charles Raycraft said the incident occurred at about 10:25 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 12, outside a mobile home in the 51000 block of Mott. A 21-year-old Ypsilanti man was being held in custody and could face criminal charges.

Raycraft said the man could face a charge as serious as attempted murder, which carries a maximum sentence of life in prison, or a lesser charge, such as assault with attempt to commit murder, a 10-15 year felony.

The woman drove herself to St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in Ann Arbor, where she was treated and released.

At the time of the incident, she was accompanied by a 41-year-old woman and 19-year-old man, both from Ypsilanti. Raycraft said the 19-year-old con-

CANTON TOWNSHIP

fronted a female mobile home park resident about the whereabouts of jewelry and money and an argument ensued.

"(He) got into basically a heated discussion with the male companion of the victim," Raycraft said, referring to the 21-year-old being held in custody. "Then the suspect intervened on the (female mobile home resident's) behalf."

The Ypsilanti woman and her two companions attempted to leave the mobile home park in her 1999 Ford Escort. A single shot, most likely from a 9-mm handgun, was fired at the vehicle, entering through the vehicle's door and hitting the 23-year-old woman's arm. Canton Police later recovered the slug from the vehicle.

Raycraft said police believe the shot was not intended for the woman.

"We believe the shot as intended toward the 19-year-old male," he said.

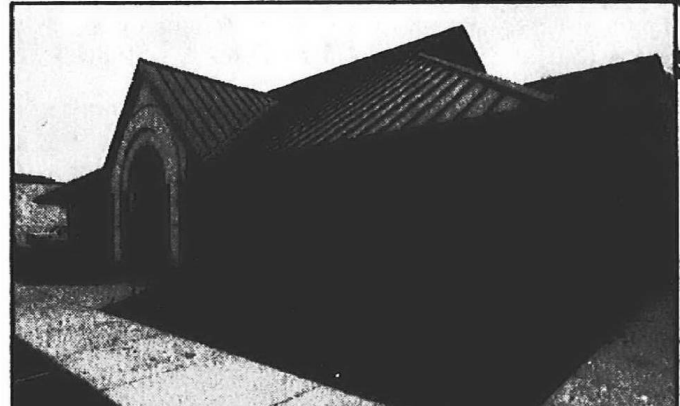


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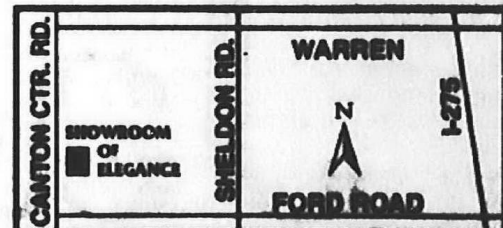
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OBITUARIES

DONALD ROBERT GALAZIN

Services for Donald Robert Galazin, 71, of Canton, were held Dec. 14 at The McCabe Funeral Home Canton Chapel with Rev. Roy G. Forsyth officiating. Burial was at Knollwood Memorial Park.

Mr. Galazin was born on May 15, 1929 in Detroit and died Dec. 9 in Dearborn. He was an engine mechanic for GM Cadillac Motor Car Division.

Survivors include his wife, Margaret Galazin; brother, Francis Galazin; cousin, Ben Rybicki; and dear friends Sally, Steve, Miles, Austin and Evan Meibers.

Memorial contributions may be made to Leader Dogs for the Blind or Michigan Humane Society.

Arrangements made by McCabe Funeral Home Canton Chapel.

JAMES J. SULLIVAN

Services for James J. Sullivan, 85, of West Bloomfield, were held Dec. 11 at Our Lady of Good Counsel with Rev. John Sullivan officiating. Burial was at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in Southfield.

Mr. Sullivan was born Sept. 5, 1915 in Detroit and died Dec. 7 in Southfield. He was a tool and die maker.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Norma Sullivan.

Survivors include two sons, the Rev. John Sullivan, of Our Lady of Good Counsel, David (Pat) Sullivan; three daughters, Betty (Mark) Fox, Mau-

reen (David) Sebring, Colleen Sullivan; grandchildren, Dan, Sean, Jim, Hanley, Kevin, Ken, Erin, Austyn and Martyn.

Memorials may be made to Capuchin Soup Kitchen.

Arrangements made by John N. Santeiu and Son Funeral Home.

MAUREEN PATRICIA GARVEY

Services for Maureen Patricia Garvey, 85, of Plymouth were scheduled for 7:30 p.m. Wednesday at St. John Neumann Catholic Church in Canton with the Rev. Edward Baldwin officiating.

Mrs. Garvey was born March 10, 1915 in Dundas, Ontario and died Dec. 7 in Pittsfield Township.

She worked as a sales clerk and was a member of St. John Neumann.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Frank R. Garvey, her father, William Cullen and her mother, Emily Cullen.


She is survived by a son, John R. Garvey of Canton; three daughters, Carol L. Shaffner of Brighton, Mary L. (Ronald) Berglund of Canton; and Patrucus A. DeCelle of Brighton; nine grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Memorials may be made in the form of Mass offerings to Arbor Hospice, 2386 Oak Valley Drive, Ann Arbor, MI 48103.

Local arrangements were handled by Vermeulen Funeral Home.

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Society warns about pets left in cold

The Michigan Humane Society (MHS) implores pet owners to bring their animals inside during severe cold weather.

"Every winter it's the same thing," says Michele Mitchell, MHS Community Relations Director. "As soon as the temperature drops like this, we begin getting calls about pets left outside with no shelter."

"Unfortunately, some of them are too late to save the animal. Many people think that a dog or even a cat can be outside in any weather, but not even a large, long-haired dog can be exposed to this kind of cold for extended periods of time."

"And, because the national weather service is predicting this winter will be colder and much snowier than last year, we really need to get the message out."

The MHS advises owners to keep pets inside. If the pet must be out for short periods of time, be certain he or she has secure, dry shelter protected from the wind.

It's also important to remember to check drinking water frequently to make sure it does not freeze.

An owner whose pet dies as a result of being left outside in inclement weather can be charged with a felony under Michigan law.

To report an animal left unprotected outdoors or suffering from any type of neglect or abuse, you may call the Michigan Humane Society at (313) 873-3401.

Your name will be kept confidential upon request.

Corporations join police in effort to clean up the Internet

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER
loconnor@oe.homecomm.net

■ 'Just about any con game that can be committed on the street can be done on the Internet.'

Robert Ficano
—Wayne County sheriff

Criminals who commit misdeeds on the Internet not only have to contend with law enforcement, they'll have to deal with corporate giants as well.

Through a partnership with Wayne County Sheriff Department, 13 companies will assist authorities on preventing Internet crimes.

Sheriff Robert Ficano introduced the panel during a press conference at Taylor Elementary Thursday. Three or four other companies are expected to join.

"With this partnership, we're dramatically raising our collective IQ," Ficano said.

The county's Internet crime task force has arrested more than 30 people for fraud and other computer-related criminal offenses.

A Westland man, Jeffery Lacey, 25, goes on trial Dec. 13 in Wayne County Circuit Court on charges he sexually assaulted a 14-year-old Livonia boy he met through the Internet.

In November 1999, a man inadvertently contacted the boy's father on the computer to set up another meeting. Wayne County Sheriff deputies asked the father to arrange an encounter at his Livonia home where the man was arrested.

Through the partnership, Ficano wants to develop a national database similar to what's used in drug enforcement circles. The sheriff also wants to add an interactive Web site where parents, teachers and

authorities could exchange information.

While Internet crime prevention has largely focused on protecting children from cyber predators, a greater number of ruses are being pulled through banking and commerce Web sites. Credit card fraud and identity theft are major problems, Ficano said.

"Just about any con game that can be committed on the street can be done on the Internet," Ficano said. "We're going into new areas."

Often victims don't have redress, said an attorney who specializes in Internet law.

"We have laws, but most police departments and sheriff departments don't have expertise or the budget to follow up on these cases," said Anthony DeGidio, whose Toledo, Ohio-based firm is part of the partnership. "I think Detroit is lucky to have this now."

The county Internet crime task force is staffed by five sheriff deputies. High-tech companies will complement their efforts, providing such things as network administrators, information security experts and technical support.

The roster includes heavy hitters in the corporate world: General Dynamics, EDS, Michigan Heritage Bank, Ameritech, Big Net, Xerox, John Oram Industries, Anthony DeGidio Law Firm, Novell, SilverCube, BankOne, Comerica and Flagstar Bank.

"What we're going to do is make sure they have the resources and the skills to fight this," said Eddie Bugg, an EDS client specialist.

Children are vulnerable, since they make up 25 percent of all Internet users.

Livonia school officials worried about the potential for abuse when the district installed computers 10 years ago, said Superintendent Ken Watson, who attended the press conference.

Ficano credited the school chief for helping his department set up a partnership with Wayne Regional Educational Service Agency, which resulted in safety programs.

"To have this kind of support ... is something we thoroughly endorse in our school district," Watson said.

Corporate leaders didn't have to look far to see who benefits from their support. A group of small children typed away on a bank of computers as the press conference took place in the Taylor school media center.

Pupils are not allowed to search the net without supervision. The school also has filtering software on its computers to block out Web sites by hate groups or those that are sexually explicit.



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PROOF OF LIFE (PG-13)
1:35, 4:20, 7:00, 9:40
MEN OF HONOR (R)
1:40, 4:10, 6:40, 9:15
HOW THE GRINCH STOLE CHRISTMAS (PG-13)
12:10, 2:25, 4:40, 7:10, 9:35
102 DALMATIANS (G)
12:00, 2:40, 5:00, 7:15, 9:30
RUGRATS IN PARIS (G)
12:20, 2:30, 4:50, 7:20
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Lawmakers promise to reject proposed raises

BY MIKE MALOTT
HOMETOWN NEWS SERVICE
mmalott@hometownnews.net

Two state lawmakers have already promised action early next year to reject the salary hikes awarded them by the State Officers Compensation Commission Dec. 7. The increases ranged from 13 to 36 percent.

Sen. Gary Peters, D-Bloomfield Hills, announced plans to introduce the resolution needed to reject the raises early next month. Under the state constitution, lawmakers have until Feb.

1 to reject the increases of the SOCC, and a two-thirds majority is required.

"The argument that this increase is necessary to attract qualified people to public service is ludicrous," he said. "At a time when state employees, and most workers in general, are receiving adjustments only slightly above the cost of living, it is unconscionable to award double-digit percentage pay increases to elected officials."

Rep. Clark Bisbee, R-Jackson, not only wants to reject the increases, he wants to change

the constitution to reform the way legislative salaries are set.

"Currently, legislative members can only vote to reject a pay raise. This resolution would require an affirmative vote to accept a pay raise. Plus, it would not take effect until after the next general election, thereby making everyone accountable," he said.

"We need to take responsibility for our actions as lawmakers. With this resolution, there will be no more back door pay raises. The way it is currently set up, incoming legislators can give

themselves pay raises. It only make sense to change the system."

Sen. Thaddeus McCotter, R-Livonia, has joined Bisbee in support of amending the state Constitution.

"Government must be more accountable," said McCotter. "As chair of the Government Operations Committee, I look forward to working with Rep. Bisbee and my colleagues to push this and other governmental reforms next year."

In Michigan, the SOCC - a seven-member panel appointed

by the governor - sets the pay rates for lawmakers every two years. Once the rates are set, they take effect unless lawmakers vote by a two-thirds majority to reject them.

The governor's salary will go from \$151,245 presently to \$172,000 next year and to \$177,000 in 2002.

The lieutenant governor's salary will go from \$100,671 presently to \$120,400 next year and to \$123,900 in 2002.

Supreme Court justices' salaries will go from \$140,816 presently to \$159,960 next year

and to \$164,810 in 2002.

Legislators' salaries will go from \$ 54,961 presently to \$77,400 next year and to \$79,650 in 2002.

Expense accounts were also increased. The governor's expense account went from \$50,000 to \$60,000. The lieutenant governor's expenses went from \$15,000 to \$20,000. And the accounts for lawmakers were each increased from \$10,000 to \$12,000.

Justices do not get expense accounts.

Legislature OKs video at crossings

BY MIKE MALOTT
HOMETOWN NEWS SERVICE
mmalott@hometownnews.net

Smile, you're on crossing camera.

Lansing lawmakers approved a bill allowing for the placement of video monitors at railroad crossings. If signed by Gov. John Engler, and he is expected to, cameras would record any drivers who violate the law by crossing railroad tracks while warning lights are on and guardrails are down. The pictures, recorded either on film or digitally, would then be the basis of a ticket sent to the car owner's home by mail.

"I understand there are some who are concerned about privacy," Sen. Art Miller, D-Warren, said. "But the only ones who have to be concerned about being photographed are those people who risk their lives and the lives of occupants in the car by going around those guardrails."

The bill would allow local units of government to place these cameras at crossings, allowing cities to pick which crossings to target. The bill would require that signs be posted explaining that the crossing is being monitored by cameras. It would have to have lights and guardrails. Although the tickets would be issued to the owner of the car, the owner could contest it if the lights were malfunctioning at the time or if someone else was driving at the time.

Sponsored by Sen. Shirley Johnson, R-Royal Oak, Senate Bill 859, was approved last week in the House by a vote of 67-37. In the Senate, it was approved 33-0, with all local senators supporting the measure.

In the House of Representatives Reps. Bob Brown, D-DeARBorn Heights; Tom Kelly, D-Wayne; and Bruce Patterson, R-Canton, voted yes. Reps. Eileen DeHart, D-Westland; Andrew Raskowski, R-Farmington Hills; and Laura Toy, R-Livonia, voted no.

Rep. Gerald Law, R-Plymouth, did not vote.

Where to call

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For information on road conditions, residents are asked to call (800) 361-8477. For cellular phone users, call 911 for emergencies.

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Senate submerges plan to revise state drain code

BY JAMES MALOTT
SOUTHFIELD NEWS SERVICE
malott@homecomm.net

Michigan senators submerged a plan to revise the state drain code, saying it did not go far enough to protect the environment.

But the current law, written in 1964, has no environmental protections in it, said proponent Sen. Bill Bullard, R-Highland.

"The point of the drain code was not to protect the environment but to move water from point A to point B. I think the environmentalists would like to make the drain commissioners the czar of water quality, and I don't think that is realistic," Bullard said. "I think they'd be happier if no new

drains were built at all. They don't like the drain code now, but it is very complicated, and if you can't explain to them what is wrong with the code, it is difficult to explain what needs to happen to fix it."

Dead for the year, the revised drain code might not come back before the Legislature over, Bullard said. The main proponents of a revision to the law — Rep. Mike Green, R-Mayville, and Sen. George McManus, R-Traverse City — are in their final terms before being term limited out of office. Green leaves the House when the Legislature wraps up work for the session this month.

Revising the drain code will take a great deal of work on the part of some legislators, Bullard said. He doubts that in the new session there will be many lawmakers willing to put the time into that area of law.

The senate voted 13-22 on the adoption of House Bill 4803, which Green had sponsored. The purpose of the bill was to streamline and consolidate laws governing the construction and maintenance of drains.

McManus argued that the bill did add some environmental protections, as well as protections for taxpayers regarding how they are to be assessed for inclusion in a

drainage project.

But other senators were not convinced.

"When this code was first put into effect a number of years ago, that was the issue, how do you drain water from land that may have use in an agricultural purpose, or a commercial purpose, or a residential purpose," Sen. John Cherry, D-Clio, said. "But as time has marched forward, we have begun to realize that water is not simply to be drained, that in fact, there are purposes for preserving water in its location. There are purposes to manage water, not just drain it. We have before us a missed opportunity. This could be a win-win situation if you begin to

look at the issue in a broad perspective."

On HB 4803, Sen. Bill Bullard, R-Highland, voted yes.

Sens. Loren Bennett, R-Canton, John D. Cherry Jr., D-Clio, Mat

Dunaskie, R-Lake Orion, George Z. Hart, D-Dearborn, Shirley Johnson, R-Royal Oak, Thaddeus McCotter, R-Livonia, and Gary Peters, D-Bloomfield, voted no.

Hearing on area code overlay postponed

BY RICHARD PEARL
STAFF WRITER
rpearl@ea.homecomm.net

A public hearing on the proposed 947 overlay in the 248 area code — which includes northern Livonia — has been rescheduled due to Monday's snowstorm.

The hearing, originally scheduled by the Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) for Monday afternoon in the Pontiac City Council chambers, was reset for 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 19, at the same site, 47450

Woodward in Pontiac.

The hearing will give residents and businesses the chance to ask questions and express their opinions about the proposed 947 overlay, which would be the area code issued for any new telecommunications services — telephone, fax or computer/Internet lines — ordered within the 248 area.

A hearing on similar overlay plan — which would institute a 278 area code overlay in the 734 area in western Wayne County and eastern Washtenaw County

— is scheduled for 1 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 9, in the Ann Arbor City Hall council chambers, 100 N. 5th Ave.

Under the proposed overlay plans, new service lines would be assigned a new area code (947 in the 248 AC, 278 in the 734 AC). Callers within the 248 or 734 ACs would have to dial 10 or 11 digits to reach the new numbers — even if they were calling from within the same office or across the street.

In a related development, the

MPSC on Monday approved a geographic split of the 810 area code and rejecting an area-code overlay plan in doing so. The new 586 AC for Macomb County begins next September.

Meanwhile, Flint in Genesee County and other areas of northern and western Oakland County will retain the 810 code.

The MPSC said the 810 overlay plan "is not in the public interest and should not be approved."

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memoriam:
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and family
members
lit candles
and sang
songs in
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loved ones
passed on.



Vigil helps family, friends light the way

Though the general mood is somber, the sound rises above the din of people gathering - gathering to mourn the loss of a child or sibling or friend. It seems out of place, this sound of laughter.

"I know she's here," said a woman, arriving with her spouse and surviving children. "I know that laugh anywhere!"

She is referring to the sounds emanating from the heartbeat of this gathering, organizer Barb Kilgore of Canton Township. Kilgore, along with husband Ken and surviving children Sherrill, 17, and Kevin, 15, is also one of the grieving parents who have lost a child to an early and untimely death.

The laugh is boisterous with a tinge of nervousness. It helps Barb through those uncomfortable pauses which, were it not for the laughter, might lead to tears.

"It's how I get through," she explains. "Laughing helps me cope." Her son Michael died from a rare heart disorder, known as Long QT Syndrome on March 4, 1998. He was just 16.

The U.S. Senate, in conjunction with the rest of the world calls upon everyone to observe the second Sunday of December, as the day to remember all children that have died. So reads the introduction on the program for the International Children's Memorial Day being handed out as folks arrive in Kellogg Park Sunday evening, Dec. 10.

It's a cold night but Kellogg Park sparkles in downtown Plymouth with Holiday trees hosted by the Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce. One tree, in particular, has a crowd gathered around it. The crowd continues to grow throughout the evening.

There are many tears among those gathered around this tree, which is sponsored by the Livonia/Wayne County chapter of The Compassionate Friends, a national nonprofit, self-help support organization which offers friendship and understanding to families who are grieving the death of a child of any age, from any cause.

"There is no greater tragedy for a parent than the death of a child" says a message from President Bill Clinton posted on the Friends Web site (www.compassionatefriends.com)

Although there were many tears and still much grief among the more than 500 gathered in Kellogg Park Sunday night, there was also a celebration. Poems, songs and a few words from event organizer Barb Kilgore spoke of how the lives of those who have died are celebrated every day.

A candle was lit at 7 p.m. and burned throughout program. Similar candles at similar gatherings were lit at 7 p.m. in each time zone, creating a 24-hour Lights of Love memorial which encircles the world so "...that their light may always shine." - the catch-phrase of the event.

"The night was very successful," said Kilgore. "People are grateful and appreciative that their child was remembered."

"I got one e-mail from a woman who said, 'I didn't lose a child, but received a kidney from a child.' She said she could feel what she could only describe as a spiritual glow (during the event)."

For someone who doesn't even have any children, it was difficult to approach this event. It's difficult enough photographing events surrounding the death of

a family member. But on this night, here were hundreds of families all grieving the loss of a child. I have the utmost respect for these people, and I admire their courage. And their support for one another.

I heard several folks come up and thank Barb Kilgore for all she had done. She told me that she didn't know what else to do. This was something she had to do. She explained that all of these people, through fate, have become connected to one another and that the annual candlelight

vigil was now a part of their lives.

"I'm lucky to live in this community where," she concluded. "There is so much support from the community, the schools and the students."

Paul Hurechmann is a staff photographer for the Observer Newspapers. To learn more about The Compassionate Friends visit www.teffivonia.org or www.compassionatefriends.org.



Paul Hurechmann



Small photo by Paul Hurechmann
Paying respects: Madison Bonet, 3½, and her guardian Mimi Becigneul of Southfield hold candles during the International Children's Memorial at Kellogg Park in Plymouth Sunday night. The second Sunday of December has been designated as a day to remember all children who have died.



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'Intelligent transportation' plan gets bipartisan support

BY RICHARD PEARL
STAFF WRITER
rpearl@oe.homecomm.net

Your car and the road might one day "talk" to each other, thanks to a region-wide "intelligent transportation" initiative unveiled Monday at Wayne County's Detroit Metropolitan Airport.

Such communication could include a beeping sound when your vehicle strays across a traffic lane, or an announcement over your stereo that emergency vehicles are approaching.

It could also include overhead freeway message boards not only warning of an accident ahead and telling you alternate routes to take - but also coordinating traffic signals along that route to assure you a timely and smooth commute.

Known as "the Great Lakes Intelligent Transportation Systems (GLITS) initiative to enhance the Great Lakes International Economic Corridor," the effort marks "an almost unprecedented level" of cooperation between the public and private

sectors - and between the governments, too, said Craig Bryson, spokesman for the Oakland County Road Commission.

"It's historic," said Bryson of the effort to improve traffic flow in the corridor, which stretches from Toledo, Ohio, to Port Huron and Flint.

It even crossed political boundaries, with two Democrats, Wayne County Executive Edward H. McNamara and U.S. Rep. Carolyn Cheeks Kilpatrick, and a Republican, U.S. Rep. Joe Knollenberg, praising each other for successfully securing \$7 million in federal funding for the first phase of the initiative.

McNamara called Knollenberg "a tremendous asset" and Kilpatrick, through spokesman Greg Roberts, lauded him for putting "all politics aside" on behalf of the state.

Knollenberg said McNamara and others kept the Michigan delegation aware of airport needs and praised Kilpatrick, a Congressional transportation subcommittee member, for helping make the initiative happen.

'Time, lives, money'

"This will save time, lives and money," predicted James C. Barbaresso, president of the Intelligent Transportation Society of Michigan, the consortium of private- and public-sector organizations that sought the money for a variety of regional "intelligent transportation system" projects.

Barbaresso also said the project - described as "the region's largest-ever intelligent transportation project" - could make Michigan "a world leader in the development and application" of such technology - even to the point of reducing the area's "dependence on manufacturing."

Barbaresso is both a former Oakland County road commissioner and a regional vice president for Iteris, a national firm that develops such technologies. Iteris' local office is in Madison Heights.

The focal point of the press conference in the L.C. Smith Terminal at Metro - attended by leaders from both sectors - was the planned installation of high-

It's family day at county commission

BY RICHARD PEARL
STAFF WRITER
rpearl@oe.homecomm.net

It was a unique sort of "family day" at the Wayne County Commission on Dec. 7.

First, Philip Cavanagh, the new commissioner from the 9th District and brother of 1st District Commissioner Christopher Cavanagh, was presented with his certificate of election by County Clerk Teola Hunter, who also administered the oath of office.

Then, after the commission meeting, 13th District Commissioner Susan Hubbard, D-Dearborn, who is expecting her first child next month, was given a surprise baby shower by fellow commissioners and staffers.

The shower was believed to

have made history as the first ever for a commissioner in the 16-year history of the legislative body.

"Finally, it's official!" exclaimed Cavanagh as he left the Wayne County Building. The Democrat from Dearborn Heights, an attorney and a son of Jerome Cavanagh, the late Detroit mayor, defeated incumbent Commissioner Kathleen Husk, R-Redford Township, in the November general election.

Asked whether he was happy to have his brother on the commission, Chris Cavanagh responded, "You kidding? It's great!"

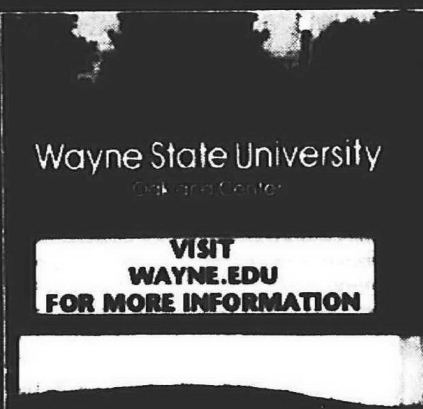

Then Cavanagh, who represents the Grosse Pointes and is chairman of the commission's

committee on economic development, proceeded to lobby Commission Chairman Ricardo Solomon to name Phil to the committee. But Solomon would not commit himself.

Hubbard, who was accompanied to the shower by husband Daniel Mercier, said the baby is due in mid-January but that they don't know its sex because her husband didn't want to find out.

"Of course, if it's a boy, it'll be named Daniel - and if it's a girl, it'll be Danielle," Hubbard joked.

An attorney, Hubbard is the daughter of John Hubbard, a former Dearborn city clerk, and the granddaughter of the late Orville Hubbard, longtime Dearborn mayor.

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Oldsmobile dealer confident that GM will be fair

BY RICHARD FRANK
STAFF WRITER
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Despite his shock at Monday's announcement by General Motors that it was phasing out his division, Livonia's only Oldsmobile dealer was seeking at mid-week to put a positive spin on the situation.

Richard Olson, an Olds dealer for 23 years and owner of the dealership at 33850 Plymouth Road that bears the family name, expressed confidence Wednesday that GM would treat its dealers well and that Olds vehicle owners "have nothing to worry about" regarding service and warranty work.

"I do believe in my heart that they (GM) are not just going to throw us to the wolves," said Olson, predicting that "there is going to be some admirable settlements" by the corporation with its dealers.

He also said once Olds dealerships do close - GM said it would phase them out "over the next few years" - Olds owners will be able to get work done at other GM-brand dealerships: "All GM technicians are highly qualified," said Olson.

In making the announcement, GM President and Chief Executive Officer Rick Wagoner and Executive Vice President Ron Zarrella, who also is GM's presi-



Auto pioneer: The Curved Dash Oldsmobile was the first mass-produced American automobile.

dent for North America, said that despite major investments over the past few years that resulted in critically acclaimed new Oldsmobile products, the division was still unprofitable and its sales volume continued to erode.

Observers say a dramatically changing North American auto-

motive landscape is driving GM to focus even more sharply on growth opportunities and on making its entire brand portfolio more effective in the marketplace. That means a portfolio dominated by innovative products with shorter life-cycles.

GM said a call-center has been established in Detroit to address dealer questions and concerns and promised to work individually with dealers "to facilitate a smooth and orderly transition."

But Olson and at least one other western Wayne County Olds dealer, Gary Stanford of Les Stanford Oldsmobile in Dearborn, were hard hit by GM's phase-out of its oldest division, which is also the oldest automotive brand in America.

"My stomach is upside-down. I can't sleep," said Olson. "I feel as though I've been ex-communicated. I don't know what to do."

Olson Olds moved into the former Action Olds dealership in Livonia seven years ago, after 17 years at Grand River and Lahser in Detroit. Olson has some 70 full- and part-time employees, according to Richard Olson.

His only other business is a used-car-only lot in Detroit oper-

■ 'My relationship with General Motors has always been positive. They are a great company to be affiliated with, and I feel whatever they do (on behalf of the dealers) will be fair.'

Richard Olson
Olson Oldsmobile

dealership "is a stand-alone" with "no other franchise to support" it.

"This is all we've got. That's it," Gary said. The Olds dealership employs 45 people and the

situation "is concerning for me and concerning for my employees."

But, he said, "We'll get through it somehow."

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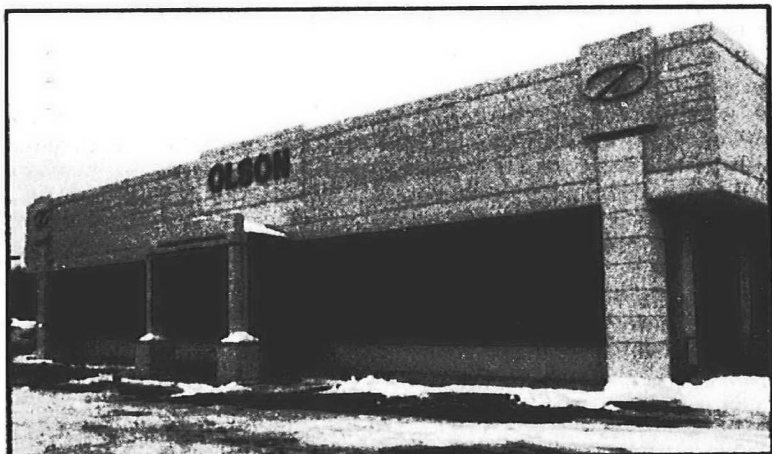
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Our fundamental purposes are to enhance the lives of our readers, nurture the hometowns we serve and contribute to the business success of our customers.

District should consider magnet versus charter

Should a public school district compete with itself for state funding, intellectual resources and innovative programming? When you come down to it, that's the bottom line in a proposal under discussion by the Plymouth-Canton Board of Education.

And we think the answer to that question is an emphatic "No."

There is definite merit in the idea of developing a different kind of school in Plymouth-Canton, one that would incorporate new teaching techniques and be used as a "laboratory" of learning for students, teachers and administrators. But the Observer believes the proposed Menlo Park Academy would work much better as a magnet school within the district than a charter school partnership between the district and the Wayne County Regional Educational Service Agency.

The charter school concept - in a very preliminary stage - was unveiled at last week's school board meeting by Samuel Flam, a proponent of brain-based learning. The board will discuss the idea again on Tuesday.

"The research is very clear, we can best impact the learning of youngsters from the time they're born to puberty," Flam told school trustees last week.

The goal of the non-traditional school would be to boost student intelligence and performance incorporating such techniques as multi-age classrooms (grades K-2 or 3-5 in the same class), longer school days and more direct parental involvement in the classroom, Flam said.

District involvement in the proposed academy would come from representation on its board, possible commitment of staff and other resources. Enrollment of about 300 students would come from both within and outside district boundaries under the plan advocated by Flam. That there is even talk about educa-

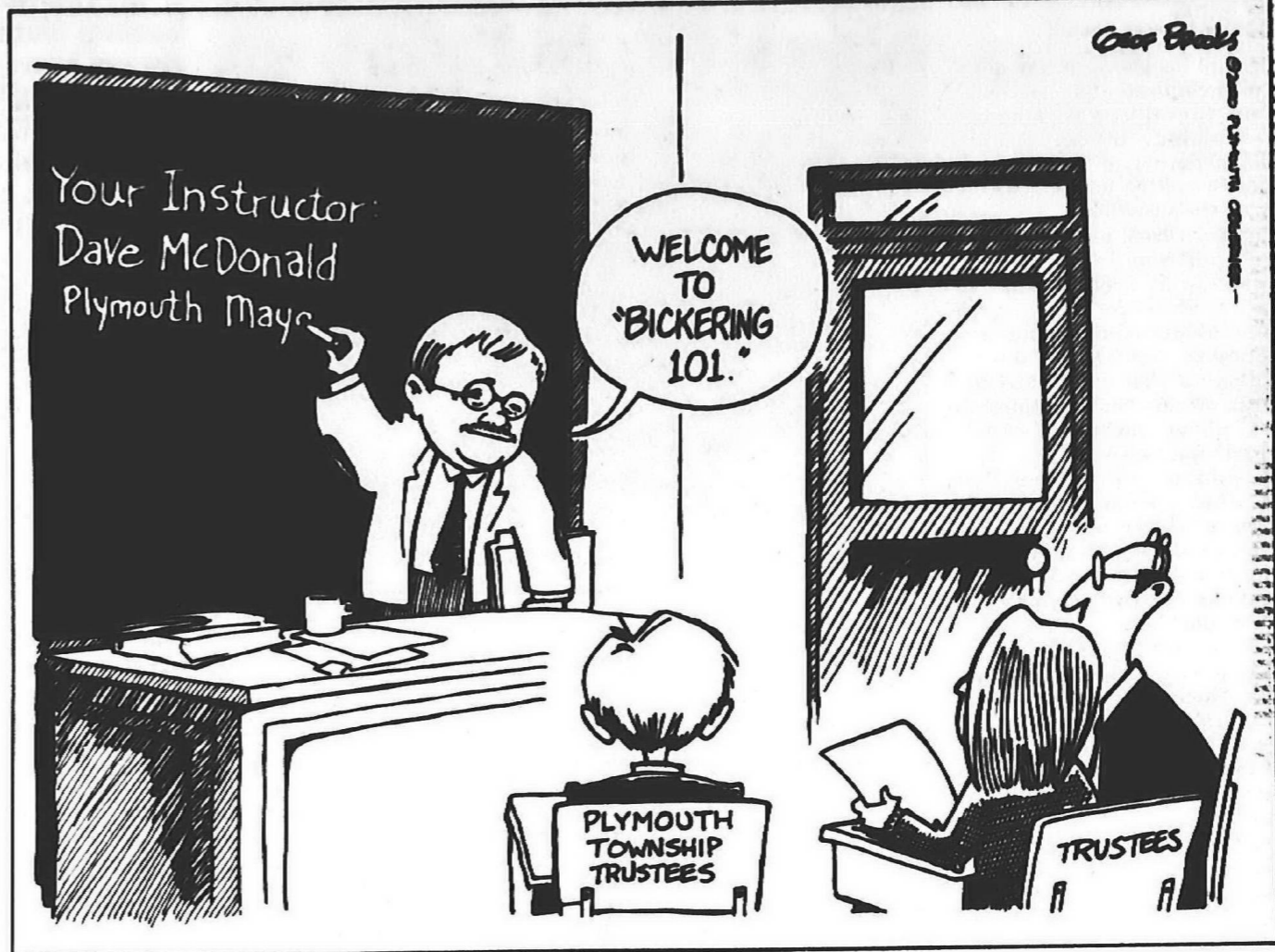
tional alternatives is a credit to the influence of the charters - which are funded by the state and are expanding to fill niches not covered by mainstream public schools. Canton Charter Academy opened its doors in August and there will likely be other charter schools in the area over the next couple of years.

But operating as a charter would drain cash - \$6,525 per student at the current Foundation Grant level - from the district. Do the math. That's a yearly loss of \$1.9 million for a 300-student school. Plymouth-Canton would likely be faced with layoffs and program cuts in other areas to "make up" for the loss of students from traditional schools to a new school within its own boundaries and staffed, as least in part, by its own people.

The Menlo Park idea borrows its name from Thomas Edison's New Jersey workshop, a building that fostered the kind of scientific creativity that gave birth to the phonograph and the incandescent electric lightbulb. We need to apply that kind of creativity to educating our children in a world where the demand for the best and brightest increases exponentially, the thinking goes.

In theory, techniques that advance learning in such an environment might be transferable to the district's traditional schools. But in practice, we see resentment and roadblocks if the school operates as a charter academy. Yes, instituting such an arrangement within the existing framework will be complicated. Hopefully, teachers and other union employees will understand they're better off under this arrangement than operating the school as a charter in partnership with another organization.

In short, there's no reason - except Flam's stated reluctance to go that route - that his concept can't work as a magnet school within the district.



LETTERS

Craft fair success

Our (Delta Kappa Gamma) 14th annual Craft Fair at West Middle School was a huge success.

We wish to take this opportunity to thank you all for all of your support with this project. It was great that so many of you let us put up our signs advertising the craft fair on your property. Thank you!

Because of your generosity we will be able to continue to offer scholarships to Canton or Salem graduates who are pursuing degrees in education.

Terri Michaelis and Lori Parks
Craft Fair co-chairs

Good neighbors?

Everywhere across the nation, planners and citizens alike are questioning old ideas regarding the development, planning and management of the modern city. The nature of space, time, distance and the processes of urban existence all seem to be experiencing a rapid transformation.

Involved in this transformation is giant leaps in the capability and significance of wireless communications. A great deal of modern urban change involves the application of new wireless infrastructure and services. Wireless technology is central to innovation and restructuring of the activities that combine to make a community, including: manufacturing, transportation, consumer services, leisure, media and entertainment, education, urban government, public services, and urban utilities.

Despite this occurrence, infrastructure for this technology remains far from being a central focus in planning or urban policy making. The desire for wireless devices is a growing market driven phenomenon. Many times, however, rather than embracing the infrastructure necessary to deploy the technology, "Just Say No" becomes a rallying cry against development projects and business growth in the market. This "Not In My Back Yard" principle, however well meaning it may be, only delays the inevitable, and rarely makes the need or the desire of the market go away.

This letter is in response to the Plymouth Observer's accurate reporting of misinformation provided to the community by a particular resident. That resident accused Trintel Communications of lying in its application for a new wireless communications facility.

Justifiably, during any public hearing, most people get quite upset when they believe they have been lied to. Nothing is more damaging to a process than having expectations of honesty, clarity and good faith dashed by either lack of concern or outright lies. However, such a betrayal of the public trust is hardest to swallow in cases such as this, since the misguidance was by the neighbor, and not the applicant. Trintel Communications employs an extremely experienced and ethical staff of urban planners. Our integrity in following sound planning principles and adhering to community documented land use regulations is unmatched in the industry.

Generally, residents should understand that Trintel was committed to work with the City of Plymouth to utilize as much municipal property as possible in designing the future sites necessary to construct these facilities. After months of negotiating with the

City, and with no explanation, the item was removed from a Council agenda. Trintel was told the City did not want to participate in the process any longer. Because the City was not interested, Trintel had no choice but to pursue private properties.

By following the adopted zoning regulations of the City, Trintel proceeded directly to parcels zoned specifically by-right (allowed without any conditions) for the facility. The parcel of land proposed for this facility also allows, as a matter of right, the following uses: manufacturing and warehousing, electric and gas service buildings and yards, electrical transformer stations and substations, water supply and municipal sewage disposal plants, railroad transfer and storage tracks, trucking facilities, and sewage treatment plants, among other things. Indeed, a wireless facility is one of the few uses in this designation that does not generate traffic, noise, vibration, smoke, dust, solid waste, sanitary outflow, stormwater runoff, odor, danger of fire or explosion, hazardous materials, etc.

Following is a list of issues raised on flyers distributed regarding the project:

Danger to airplanes

Every single tower constructed by Trintel Communications (and all wireless companies) goes through a regulated Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) procedure. Trintel, as a matter of policy, applies to the FAA at a height higher than the projected construction height. The proposed tower location is situated 6,281 ft. (1.18 statute miles) from the Mettetal Airport Reference Point. It is easy to understand that if an aircraft trying to utilize Mettetal is flying at 115 ft. above the ground in the location of this site, there are obvious additional issues to be concerned with. There is an existing tower taller than the Trintel proposed facility 1.05 miles SE of the Airport Reference Point.

Health Concerns

Federal safety guidelines, under the direction of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), for the wireless industry are based on scientific research from numerous sources that has been performed over a number of years. The actual channel count for a multiple user facility such as this one would realistically be on the order of 100-150 channels, not 8,000 as indicated on the flyer. FCC rules require transmitting facilities to comply with RF exposure guidelines. The limits established in the guidelines are designed to protect the public health with a very large margin of safety. These limits have been endorsed by federal health and safety agencies such as the Environmental Protection Agency and the Food and Drug Administration, and have been upheld by a Federal Court of Appeals. The public can access the Federal Communication Commission website for information regarding safety standards at www.fcc.gov/wtb.

Effect on property values

Countless studies have been conducted to determine the impact on residential property values due to proximity or view of communication towers. A sufficient amount of empirical data exists to develop comparative analysis models and adequately demonstrate the findings of these studies. The conclusions are characteristically similar to the 1999 study performed by the International Right of Way Association

that states "...there was no consistent market evidence suggesting any negative impact upon improved residential properties."

Moving to the Unisys property

The property indicated is approximately one mile east of the proposed site, and would in fact make a good location for an additional facility. This is one of the areas that Trintel proposed to the City during earlier negotiations (park/courthouse). This site would not serve the coverage and capacity needs of the consumers in the location of the proposed facility.

Trintel Communications is committed to building relationships within the communities we serve, and we are eager to continue working with Plymouth representatives and community leaders toward implementation of future sites throughout the community. If anyone desires additional information about our company or our proposals, please feel free to contact us in our Livonia office at (734)522-3776.

David W. Schneider

Trintel Communications, Inc.

Still a crisis in education

Good job on your article about education (Philip Power's column, Nov. 16). The politics of school vouchers and other reform efforts often obscures the underlying crisis. Whether we have a liberal or conservative solution, we need to offer all children a chance for a good education.

It's a shame that political struggle is so important that we can't compromise on such a critical issue. I wish we could leave our children out of our cultural battles.

We are teaching them that getting your own way is more important than being productive and solving problems. Maybe that's the one thing that all American students have learned.

Kim Pilko
Livonia

Share your opinions

We welcome your letters to the editor. Please include your name, address and phone number for verification. We ask that your letters be 400 words or less. We may edit for clarity, space and content.

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GUEST OPINION

School board should oppose discrimination in all its forms

Last month, the leadership body of the Plymouth-Canton Education Association (PCEA) brought forward a resolution to the Board of Education of the Plymouth-Canton Schools. Simply stated, the PCEA was on record as opposing the use of PCCS buildings for groups and organizations that have policies of discrimination. The Boy Scouts of America is such an organization, and the Executive Board of the PCEA overwhelmingly believes that they should be denied use of the district's school buildings until they change their policies of discrimination against gay men and boys.

The rationale is uncomplicated and clear. Policy 5517, adopted in March 1995 by the PCCS Board of Education states that the school district will not tolerate discrimination of any kind on its property. Permitting an organization with such bold discriminatory practices as the BSA to use the district's buildings is in direct conflict with Policy 5517.

When presented with the PCEA's statement of belief, the Board of Education had a number of options ranging from investigating the potential conflict of policy and the current practice to doing nothing. They chose the latter. Actually, they went one step further. Board president, Dar Watts, in a regal display of arrogance, told the PCEA and the packed Board room that he "rejected the PCEA resolution" and was satisfied that current Board policies and practices were satisfactory.

In fact, a number of the evening's speakers seemed to agree with Mr. Watts stating that a teacher's union had no business even raising such a concern and should stay relegated to their classrooms, be visible solely during contract negotiations and speak only when spoken to. After all, these were matters for adults and had nothing to do with children. Unfortunately this argument falls flat on its face for these are most definitely matters involving the students of this school district.

And the students are watching to see how the district will react. The Board dismissed the resolution of the PCEA

and in doing so sent a confused message to its constituency: we say we oppose discrimination but we will look the other way when it comes to the Boy Scouts.

This is the worst possible message to deliver as it gives credence to the belief that it is still acceptable to target gays for discrimination and harassment because they dare challenge the revered and time honored institution of the Boy Scouts.

This is the message that is carried back to the classrooms of our schools where it emboldens the aggressive to seek out and harass both gay and those perceived to be gay. After all, they were given the green light by the very body that instituted policy 5517.

The Plymouth-Canton Board of Education has an obligation to uphold policy 5517 for all members of the school community and not just those comprising the majority.

To summarily dismiss the resolution of the PCEA demonstrates shortsightedness and an unwillingness to discuss issues, even those seen as controversial.

The Board needs to reexamine its position and perhaps see if there is some middle ground. Based on policy 5517 the Board could issue its own resolution condemning BSA policies or perhaps send a letter expressing its opposition to BSA policies of discrimination. Such actions would send a positive message to the community that the Board stands by its own policies of fairness and non-discrimination.

Let's hope that the Plymouth-Canton Board of Education can summon the courage it needs to do what is right and oppose discrimination in all its forms. Let's hope that they will not abdicate their position as leaders in favor of doing nothing.

Mike Chiumento is a teacher at West Middle School in Plymouth-Canton. He is a Westland resident.

Christmas comes a bit early with pay raises for legislators

Ho, ho, ho. Santa Claus came a couple of weeks early for our masters in Lansing.

Last Thursday, the State Officers Compensation Commission recommended salary and expense account increases for legislators, justices of the Michigan Supreme Court, governor and lieutenant governor. The amounts recommended were, well, enormous. (Alert readers will realize that not only are the salary increases colossal, but also they will have a very long "expense tail," as pensions for state office holders are determined by the last salary level.)



Phil Power

percent from \$140,816.

Gov. John Engler's paycheck would go from \$151,245 to \$172,000, an increase of 13.7 percent, while Lt. Gov. Dick Posthumus' salary would increase 19.5 percent, from \$100,671 to \$120,400.

Created to avoid putting office holders in the difficult situation of voting for their own pay increases, the State Officers Compensation Commission periodically recommends pay changes for state officers. The recommendations take effect automatically unless voted down by one of the legislative chambers.

Assuming the SOCC recommendations go into effect, Michigan lawmakers would become the third-highest-paid in the country, behind California (\$99,000) and New York (\$79,500). Gov. Engler's salary would be the second-highest in the country, behind only New York Gov. George Pataki (\$179,000).

Members of the seven-member SOCC argued the extraordinary increases were justified by the skills and experience required of office holders. They also contended that capable legislators would become increasingly hard to recruit in an era of term limits, when they have to sacrifice "prime earning years" for an interlude of public service.

The audacity of this last argument is breathtaking.

In 1992, Michigan voters passed a constitutional amendment limiting service in the House of Representatives to three 2-year terms and governor, secretary of state, attorney general and state senators to two 4-year terms.

The argument back then was that term limits

would do away with careerist politicians and make way for "citizen politicians," who would be ordinary folks who might serve the public for six or eight years before going back to their regular jobs in their home towns.

Of course, what happened was precisely the

Term limits have yet to hit the state Senate, which so far has been a bastion of sanity against the craziness of the House. But experienced and far-sighted senators will be term-limited out in 2002. I expect bicameral legislative chaos beginning in 2003.

reverse. Careerism merely adjusted itself to a shortened time frame, as those newly elected to the House of Representatives promptly started scheming on how to get elected next to the (more prestigious) Senate before they finished their first term.

Term limits produced a massive turnover in the House following the 1998 election, with disastrous results. Members from both parties, lacking institutional memory and experience in legislating, flailed here and there for two years with little noticeable legislative output. The Speaker, Chuck Perricone, R-Kalamazoo, turned out to be incapable of both managing his unruly caucus and in establishing civil relations with Rep. Michael Hanley, D-Saginaw, the minority leader.

Term limits have yet to hit the state Senate, which so far has been a bastion of sanity against the craziness of the House. But experienced and far-sighted senators such as Joe Schwarz, R-Battle Creek, Dan DeGrow, R-Port Huron, and Gary Peters, D-Bloomfield Township, will be term-limited out in 2002. I expect bicameral legislative chaos beginning in 2003.

This will hardly be remedied by the 38-percent salary increase proposed by the SOCC. In my experience, political ambition is immune to market forces; merely increasing salaries will have relatively little effect in increasing the capability of people who decide to run for the legislature.

Michigan is about to get the worst of all worlds. Not only will we have inexperienced legislators demonstrating vastly increased velocity of careerist churn, but the taxpayers will be paying 38 percent more for it.

Phil Power is chairman of HomeTown Communications Network Inc., the company that owns this newspaper. He welcomes your comments, either by voice mail at (734) 953-2047, Ext. 1890, or by e-mail at ppower@hometown.net.



Brad Kadrich

Electoral College should take a lesson from college football

It's too bad the Electoral College doesn't have a football team, because the system by which this country selects its president could take a lesson from college football.

In an effort to breathe life (and more importantly, tons of cash) into its national championship picture, the geniuses who run college football came up with the Bowl Championship Series, or BCS. Most people think you could take that middle letter out of there and it would be more accurate, but that's another story.

Perhaps the Electoral College could do something similar. Take into account strength of schedule, length of campaigning, margin of victory, poll position and whatever other factors some panel of political eggheads can come up with. In case of a tie, Tim Russert gets to vote.

Of course, we'll have to feed all of this information into a computer using a formula absolutely nobody understands. Wait a minute ... how would that be different from the way the current electoral college works?

Perhaps the Electoral College could do something similar. Take into account strength of schedule, length of campaigning.

It's pretty easy to cry out for something to be done the way the 2000 presidential election has played out. Personally, I wonder if this electoral college snafu is a one-cycle aberration; I've never heard such clamoring for the abolition of the electoral college system in the past.

But since the "dump the system" bandwagon is filling up, and in deference to our friend, noted Plymouth attorney John Thomas, here's one idea about how to refine the system.

Strength of schedule — This could take into account the fashion in which campaigns are conducted. For instance, if you campaign in Rhode Island but not in California, you lose points. (Note: If you fail to carry your own home state, as Al Gore did this year, you lose all credibility.)

Length of campaign — If you started your campaign for the 2000 election in 1996, you get more computer points. If you've been campaigning for the presidency since 1976, you can be elected by the Veterans' Committee.

Margin of victory — You get a certain number of computer points for every 10 percentage points by which you win a state. Of course, size of the state matters. If you win California by 25 percentage points, it's worth more than if you win all

of the votes in, say, Rhode Island.

Appearance — If your public persona is one of wooden stiffness, you lose this category. Unless, of course, your opponent has a droll smile on his face barely concealing a smug smirk that constantly lingers just below the surface. Then this category is a draw.

Intangibles — Here's where the computer can confuse everyone. You win points if your opponent doesn't know who the president of Russia is, but you lose points if you claim to have invented electricity.

Cash — This one is tangible. Whomever gets the most money wins this category.

It might not be perfect, but maybe it'll keep both political parties out of the courts. In anticipation of such a change, the Electoral College has put together football teams for each party. Coaching staffs are at this very moment preparing for the inaugural 2004 season.

Let's listen in on the Republican team's locker room:

Coach Knute Rockhead: "OK, men, we've got a lot of work to do and less than four years to get it all done."

Player: "Coach,

couldn't we rest on our laurels for at least a little while?"

Rockhead: "No we can't, Dubya, unless we only want to win one season."

Meanwhile, over in the locker room of the Democrats:

Coach Democrat Dawg: "OK, men, we've got a lot of work to do and less than four years to get it all done."

Player: "But coach, we haven't finished this season yet."

Dawg: "Now, now, Albert, you know they abolished the rule that says you just keep playing until the score goes your way."

OK, so it's not perfect. But that's the good thing about politics.

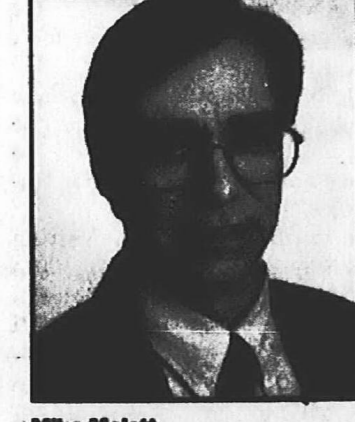
Nothing ever is.

Brad Kadrich is the community editor of the Plymouth Observer. He can be reached by phone at (734) 459-3700 or by email at bkadrich@ca.hometown.net.

New bills should not be allowed in lame-duck session

Lame-duck session is supposed to be about wrapping up loose ends. We all understand that 148 senators and representatives, proposing and amending law, are bound to leave some things undone at election time.

It would be a shame to let someone's work over the course of the last two years go to waste when the session ends Dec. 31.



Mike Malett

But why then have lawmakers introduced no less than 111 new bills since election day. Senators had produced just 11 new bills. For them, it isn't so much lame duck session as it is mid-term.

House members on the other hand produced 100 new bills between the time of the election and the start of this week, which is actually an extension of the legislative session. Even on what had been scheduled to be the last day, new bills were going into the hopper.

The explanation given by many lawmakers is that they don't intend to see action on the bills in these final days of session.

For example, when Reps. Nancy Cassis, R-Novi, and Bruce Patterson, R-Canton, and several other lawmakers introduced a bill intended to speed up the repeal of the Single Business Tax, they made it clear they did not expect action until next year. Now that it is drafted, they will have to reintroduce it in the coming session after they return to work in mid-January.

Rep. John Jallema, R-Grand Haven, made it clear when he introduced a package of anti-growth initiatives that he also didn't intend to see action this year. Proponents of the bills said they were essentially "spinning their wheels." They wanted to get the laws out there so other lawmakers, others in the planning community, and the public could take a look and provide some feedback. When the bills are reintroduced next year, they'll incorporate some of the feedback.

So there are legitimate reasons for the bills that

are introduced in the lame-duck session.

Suddenly, the bills are introduced and rushed through the process in hopes of winning passage before legislators go home for Christmas.

new topic for the 1999-2000 session, mourning dove hunting.

This isn't exactly a new issue in Michigan. Hunters and the Michigan Humane Society have been jousting over it for about 20 years. But it had received no discussion for all the two years of session ending this month.

Suddenly, the bills are introduced and rushed through the process in hopes of winning passage before legislators go home for Christmas.

Where's the emergency? Why do we have to have mourning doves on the state game bird list by Dec. 31? What negative consequence would come from holding the issue over until the next year when it could be fully debated and the public could have some input?

I frankly don't have strong feelings about this one way or another. Hunt mourning doves if you will. But I can tell you this, if it is a good idea to put these doves on the state game bird list, the proposal will hold up under the scrutiny of lawmakers and the public in regular session.

There already are a number of legislative rules in place designed to slow the process down. The point is to keep lawmakers from rushing through bills to assure that the public has time to hear about the bills, debate them and react.

But when bills are rushed through like this in lame duck session, regardless of the merits, lawmakers have to understand that the public sees it as an attempt to sneak one behind their backs.

If it takes a new provision in the House and Senate rules, lawmakers should avoid jamming new proposals through in lame duck session. There may be valid reasons for introducing bills after the election, as we have seen, but the rules should block — and leaders should enforce it — last minute bills from getting a vote on the floor.

Mike Malett reports on the local implications of state and regional events. He can be reached by phone at (248) 894-8210 or by e-mail at mmalett@mlive.com.

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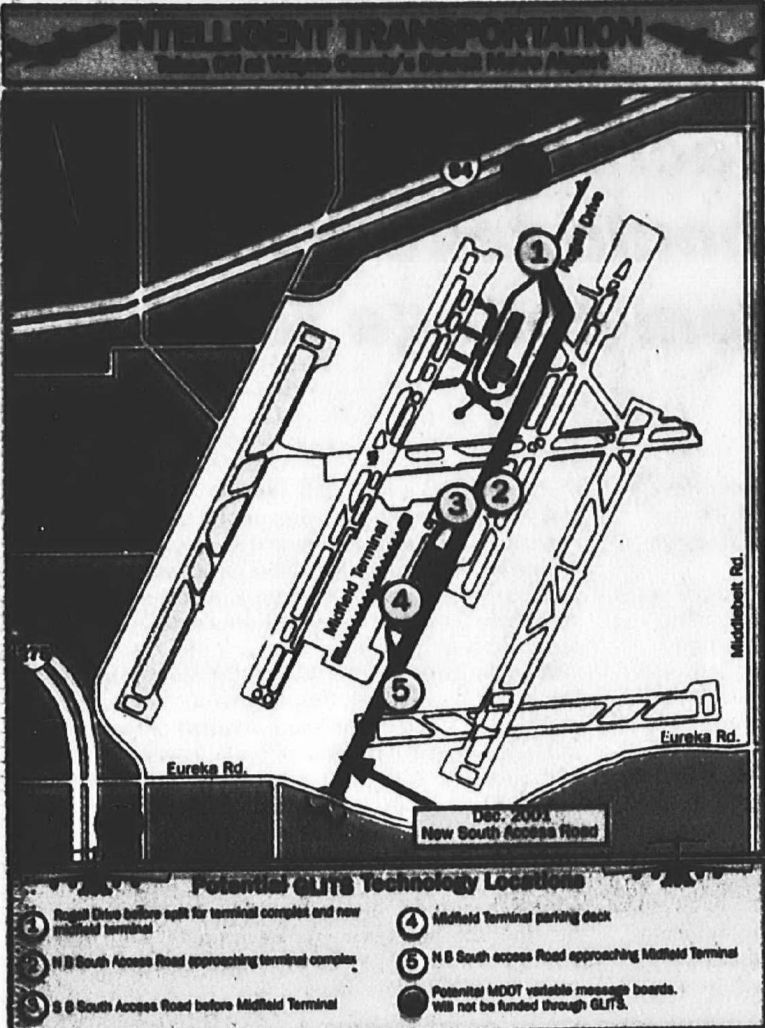
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GLITS from page A10



Road signs: This chart shows proposed locations for electronic information signs around Metro Airport.

tech electronics in the area of the new midfield terminal, to help traffic-flow and improve safety once the new facility opens.

Some \$6 million in federal and state/local matching grants will provide, along the new South Access Road to the new midfield terminal area and on Rogell Drive, electronic variable-message boards similar to the one now at the airport entrance and those on the interstates, plus closed-circuit video cameras.

Wayne County's airport police communications center will monitor traffic and parking lots provide drivers entering the airport with current information.

When they leave, travelers will also get the latest information about traffic flow on the interstates and alternate surface roads, because the Metro system will be linked with regional systems such as the Michigan Department of Transportation's

interstate monitoring systems, said John Roach, Wayne County roads department spokesman.

Brian Lassaline, a county airports department spokesman, said a study will be done and bids let for the airport's Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) in 2001.

'More crucial'

McNamara said that as Metro "continues to grow, and with the upcoming completion of the new Midfield Terminal and 11,500-space parking deck, coordination of traffic in and around the facility becomes more and more crucial."

ITS technology such as the changeable message signs, closed-circuit TV monitors, advanced safety and security systems and parking management systems "will help to ensure that the airport's roadways and infrastructure can sup-

port motorists' traffic safely and efficiently well into the future," the county CEO said.

"It's an exciting time," said McNamara, noting that the Smith and other terminals will be renovated once the Midfield is completed.

Lassaline said that system, plus such high-tech gear as onboard vehicle navigation systems and sensors embedded in roadways to signal straying vehicles are all "a sign of things to come."

Other elements of GLITS Phase I include a regional "ITS architecture"; development of a plan to integrate and expand existing freeway and arterial ITS elements in the I-75 corridor; development of a plan to coordinate traffic and transit in the Woodward/I-75 corridors through ITS technologies; and the establishment of partnerships between the public and

private sectors to create "test beds" in the region for developing new or improved ITS technology.

With Phase I, the region has "really hit just the tip of the iceberg," said Oakland County's Bryson.

Said Barbarese, "GLITS will create the holistic vision for transportation technology for the region that crosses jurisdictional lines and incorporates both the infrastructure and the vehicle."

"It will lay the foundation for many more ITS applications in the future" and "also has the potential to establish our region as a national center for the development" of such technology, "thus reducing our dependence on manufacturing and helping to position southeast Michigan as an economic and technological powerhouse in the 21st century."

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HOME TOWN LIFE

PC



MARILYN SUTTLE

Praise does wonders for children

You have a bright child, but lately she has been underachieving in school. You can't understand it. She's always been so smart. You know she's capable of much more. What do you do? You want to be positive and show confidence in her. So you praise her, "Honey, you're such a smart girl. I know you can do it." Will this type of praise help motivate your child to achieve? Recent scientific studies have shed new light on how praising intelligence can backfire and lead to underachievement.

Dr. Carol Dweck, professor of Psychology at Columbia University, conducted studies with 412 fifth-grade students. These children of different backgrounds, living in various parts of the country, were given a simple math assignment. All the children easily completed the assignment.

What really works

The children were then praised. Half the children were praised for their intelligence, "You're really smart at this. You got a high score!" The other half were praised for their effort, "You worked really hard and got a high score!" The same children were then given the choice to do another similar assignment, or a more challenging one. Those praised for being smart, chose the easy assignment. Why? Perhaps they didn't want to risk losing their title of being "smart." In contrast, the children who were praised for their efforts, chose the more challenging task.

Next, Dweck gave the students a more difficult task. This task was purposely set up so the children would not do well. Interestingly, the

Please see PRAISE, B5

WSDP Radio giving something to everyone

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA
STAFF WRITER
scasola@oe.homecomm.net

With all the words to describe the state of radio today, diversity isn't often one of them. Commercial stations seem to play the same songs over and over, until listeners know every word by heart - love it or hate it.

But WSDP 88.1-FM offers something different. It truly is "The Escape." With a host of talented students running the show, it's anything but ordinary. Between 16 and 25 join the team each year. On the air since Valentine's Day 1972 WSDP was honored as "Station of the Year" by the Michigan Association of Educational Broadcasters last spring. With 200 watts of power, it can be heard from Plymouth and Canton, to Livonia, Northville, Westland and even Ypsilanti.

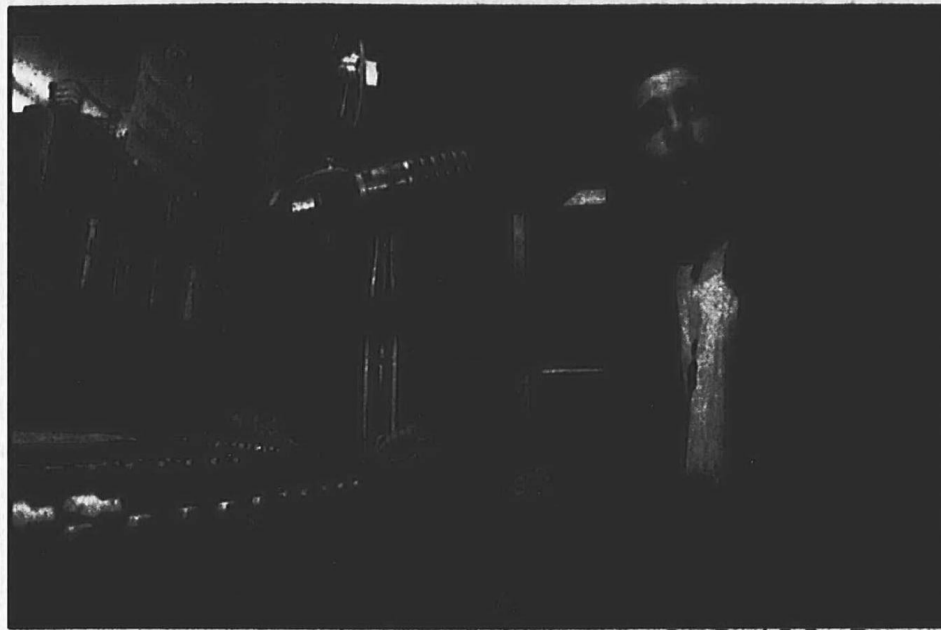
Bill Keith, station manager, has been with WSDP since 1991. He supervises and trains the students on staff, makes sure the station follows Federal Communications Commission guidelines and is responsible for public relations. Programming lies in the hands of the students. "The station provides a real sense of identity for the students on the staff," he said. "There is a very strong family element among our staff members."

Nicole Lynn Mellian admits that the family atmosphere has kept her working at the station since her freshman year. Now a junior, she hosts her own show, *Curtain Call*, from 6 to 8 p.m. Fridays. It's the station's first-ever showtunes music show.

Keith believes that offering programs like *Curtain Call* is just one example of the freedom WSDP enjoys. "I think one of the most exciting things about our station is that we can take risks and try different things that are unconventional as far as radio is concerned," he said. "A few years ago we decided to start a Senior Citizen radio program called *Lemonade*. We worked with the Canton Senior Center and found a wonderful host in Betty Smith. So many stations wouldn't give a thought to that because it doesn't make loads of money for their bottom line."

Tuned in

The station works with students, turning their interests into interesting programming. For Mellian, a penchant for public speaking sparked a curiosity in radio. Working on news and later de-



STAFF PHOTO BY PAUL BURCHSMAN

On air personalities: 16-year-old Jake Bujega, above, is the host of *Jake in the Morning* and Nicole Lynn Mellian (left), a junior, hosts her own show, *Curtain Call*, from 6 to 8 p.m. Fridays.



jaying the station's rock format. Mellian got her first taste of radio life. She makes being "on the air" sound easy.

"I just pretend no one's listening," said Mellian, 16. "I pretend I'm talking to a friend."

It's evident by her show and selections that Mellian's heart lingers in theater. She's often playing a song or two from favorites like *Eye Eye Birdie* and *Fiddler on the Roof*.

This young veteran of community theater has found a way to combine her love of acting, talent for speaking and dedication to music. From singing in her church choir to performing on the stages of the Marquee Theatre, or with the Plymouth Theatre Guild, she's true to her talents.

This fall she was able to do her first pre-show live broadcast from the Gloria

Logan Auditorium, where she interviewed cast and crew of the Park Players production of *The Miser*.

While Mellian may not pursue radio as a career - her aspirations are falling toward psychology - she's one of many voices not to be missed on WSDP.

Avid listeners begin weekday mornings with 16-year-old Jake Bujega. As host of *Jake in the Morning* from 6 to 8:30 a.m. Monday through Friday, Bujega melds top 40, hip hop and rock, while giving traffic and weather updates every 15 minutes. He's got to be quite a morning person to pull it off.

Attraction

Drawn into communications while working for Canton Community Television, Bujega also got started at WSDP in his freshman year. Recruited by Keith

this year, he wavered on whether or not to attempt a morning show, which would be a time-consuming commitment. Bujega didn't make his final decision until one week before it was time to go on the air. Talk about spontaneity.

So, he gets out of bed by 5:15 a.m. just to make the morning drive more pleasant. "It's mostly music in the morning," he said. "No other station has that freedom. That's kind of a selling point."

The most difficult part of doing so lies in regulating the content - you just never know what people will say when they are on the radio, he explained. At WSDP, deejays' pride themselves on "keeping it clean," said Bujega, a junior. It's programming anyone can enjoy.

To help make it through the morning rush, other hosts tend to stop in, musicians might grab a guitar. It's a mix of planning and just winging it. "It's almost a hang out in the morning," said Bujega.

At the helm of the station sits Cara Ciago. The music director and 17-year-old senior handles all of WSDP's format - which is basically indie rock. The high school senior also co-hosts *Oscillator Frequency Sweeps* from 8 to 11 p.m. on Thursdays with Karen Holmes. "I like deejaying as well," she said. "It's interesting. I like the people."

Branching out

Her responsibilities at the station might require the most outside contact. Ciago deals with record industry promoters, listens to piles of new music and determines what sound the station will focus on. She compiles the Top 30 chart each week, based on what the DJ's are playing and what the listeners are requesting. She also puts CDs into format rotation. If you're hearing the sounds of Radiohead's latest album, the critically acclaimed *Kid A*, it's Ciago's influence on the airwaves.

Ciago has taken cues from college radio stations - perhaps the last true frontier supporting independent artists. Ciago tries hard to give airtime to new artists, rather than catering to the top 40 bands barraging commercial radio airwaves.

"We focus on music and artists that mainstream radio is not giving a chance to," added Keith. "Within that framework the student program director and music director have a lot of freedom to create our sound."

And for Ciago, it's training for the

Please see RADIO, B5

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Praise from page B1

children who had originally been praised for intelligence became discouraged and saw their poor performance as a sign of failure. The children who were praised for their effort saw the task as an interesting challenge and enjoyed working on the more difficult problems.

The study continued as students were given their third task to complete. This task was much easier than the last. The children who had originally been praised for being smart and then did poorly on the second task, did worse on the last, easy task. Quite the opposite was true of the children praised for their effort. On the final task, their scores were better than ever.

The different types of praise produced dramatically different results in the way the children

viewed themselves. When praised for being smart, the children felt pressured. They believed that to remain "smart" they must always succeed. If success means your smart then failure means you're not. Mistakes threaten the children's view of themselves. They also came to believe that effort was something to be avoided.

Risk factor

The children believed that if you're really smart, tasks should come easy to you. The process of learning becomes too risky. Upon being interviewed, two-thirds of the children praised for being smart said they would prefer tasks they could "ace" rather than tasks they could learn something new from. The children praised for their efforts

formed a completely different set of beliefs. They believed that mistakes were a sign that more effort was needed. They saw intelligence as something which they could control and improve through more study or effort. Making a mistake for these kids didn't shake their ability to stay with it, practice and persist. Praising the children's effort made them more resilient. Ninety-two percent of the children who were praised for effort said they would choose to take on a task they would learn from, even if it didn't make them look smart.

I contacted Dr. Dweck to ask her the question many of you might be wondering, "What if a parent has been praising their children's intelligence for years?"

Can children who underachieve be redirected? She responded, "Even if parents have been praising their children's intelligence for a long time, children will respond to a change."

Parents and teachers have reported to me that when they start praising for effort, children often reorient quite rapidly. In my studies, it took only a few instances of effort or strategy praise for students to become more interesting in learning and to show a vigorous and effective response to difficulty." Dweck's research can be found in the *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*. (Vol. 75, No. 1, p. 33-52)

To encourage and motivate children, be sure to praise efforts and actions. Avoid the kind of

praise that evaluates. Evaluative words such as: smart, talented, thoughtful, wonderful, are less helpful than words which describe specific efforts or actions that you notice about your child.

Descriptive praise gives the child a clear picture of her positive actions, and allows the child to evaluate herself. When you praise effort, "You studied all week, and got an A," the child thinks, "I'm smart!" When you say, "You practiced very hard and performed your solo flawlessly," the child evaluates herself, "I'm talented!" Instead of saying, "You are such a thoughtful child," describe his efforts, "I noticed you helped grandma wrap all the presents." The child then sees the comment as proof of his thoughtfulness and is inspired to be even more helpful in the future.

What will you say when your child complains that her home-

work is too hard? A comment like, "You're so smart! I'm sure you can get an A on that assignment," implies that the child's "smartness" holds more weight than the child's effort. Replace it with, "A tough assignment like that is going to take time and energy to complete." Here your words convey empathy for the child's situation and highlights the idea that the effort put in will lead to success. After completing the assignment, remember to praise her efforts.

"Wow! You finished that difficult assignment. You worked on it, figured it out, and got it done! That's persistence!"

Marilyn Suttle runs a personal and professional skill building company. She also leads parenting education classes for the Farmington Youth Assistance. Do you have a parenting tip to share? E-mail your tip to: MsSuttle@aol.com or <http://member.aol.com/MSuttle>

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CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON ACCESS TO PUBLIC MEETINGS

The Charter Township of Canton will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting, to individuals with disabilities at the meeting/hearing upon two weeks notice to the Charter Township of Canton. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Charter Township of Canton by writing or calling the following:

David Medley, ADA Coordinator
Charter Township of Canton, 1150 S. Canton Center Road
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Published: December 14, 2000

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In keeping with the Christmas spirit of giving, Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church is pleased to present to the community its CHRISTMAS CONCERT



"Candlelight and Carols"

This inspirational program features the Chancel, Contemporary, Chamber and Teen Choirs, with special guest, harpist Katryna Tan and the full orchestra. Please join us on Saturday, December 16 at 7:00 p.m. or Sunday, December 17 at 5:00 p.m. and be bathed in the glow that is the result of celebrating this important season. Ward is located at 40000 Six Mile Rd. in Northville. You may gain information or have any question answered by calling 248.374.5928



There is no cost for this performance. It is our holiday gift to you.

Radio from page B1

future. She hopes to continue a career in radio. "It's a really, really unique experience. I'm really happy." She's part of a long history in WSDP radio.

Keith said: "We're fortunate that the schools had a vision for this 30 years ago."

Learn more about WSDP radio online at www.wsdpradio.com.

Classic ideas for family fun

1. Rent classic family videos and watch them in sleeping bags.
2. Play classic card games or play a favorite board game.
3. Plan a creative coloring hour using coloring books and crayons.
4. Make homemade jewelry or other crafts using favorite cereals or pasta noodles.
5. Host a musical game night with neighborhood kids. Play classic games such as "Musical Chairs," "Hot Potato" and "Name That Tune" to expose youngsters to different music genres and

6. Bake homemade cookies or other desserts.
7. Hold a series of gift wrapping contests as a fun way to express artistic creativity, and help wrap holiday presents or other family gifts.
8. Introduce family talent night where family members can explore and showcase their various gifts and talents, such as singing, dancing, poetry or comedy. Be sure to have a video camera on hand to capture these classic moments!
9. Read classic nursery rhymes or children's books, or sing campfire songs.
10. Create homemade greeting cards by cutting out pictures from old magazines.



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LEGAL NOTICE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH 2000 WINTER TAXES

Winter taxes are due December 1, 2000 and payable through February 14, 2001 without penalty. Additional information appears on the reverse side of your tax statement. **MAKE ALL CHECKS PAYABLE TO CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH.** Payments can be made at the Township Hall during regular working hours, Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. at the Treasurer's Office. Open Friday, December 8, 15, 22 and 29 until 5:00 p.m. After hours payments can be placed in 24 hr DROP BOX located in parking lot adjacent to Building #1 or DROP BOX adjacent to entryway. Standard Federal Bank, Plymouth Offices, will also accept payment for your convenience through February 14, 2001.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH TREASURER'S OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED during the Christmas Holidays on Monday, December 25th and Tuesday, December 26th. The Treasurer's Office will be open to accept Tax Payments and Other Payments on Wednesday, December 27th through Friday, December 29th, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

RON EDWARDS
Treasurer
Charter Township of Plymouth

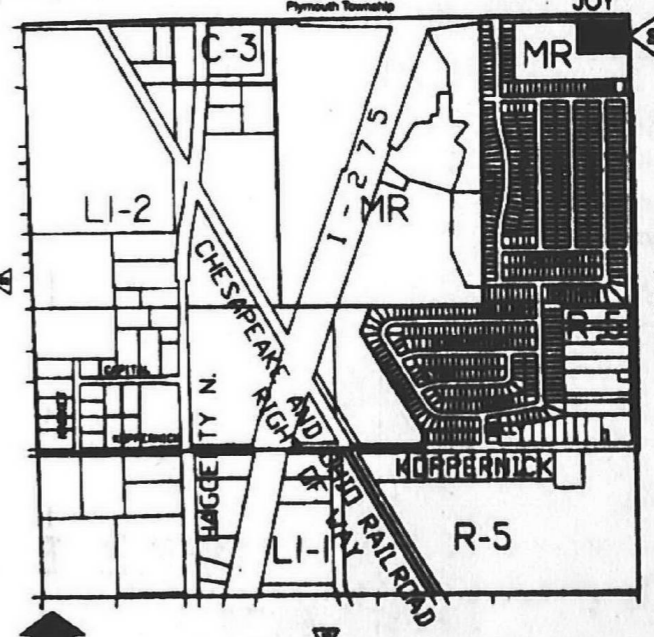
Published: December 10 and 14, 2000

PLANNING COMMISSION CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON, WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Act 184 of the Public Acts of 1943 of the State of Michigan, as amended, and pursuant to the Zoning Ordinance of the Charter Township of Canton that the Planning Commission of the Charter Township of Canton will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, January 8, 2001 in the First Floor Meeting Room of the Canton Township Administration Building, 1150 S. Canton Center Road at 7:00 p.m. on the following proposed amendment to the Zoning Ordinance:

PINE TREE PLAZA REZONING - CONSIDER REQUEST TO REZONE PARCEL NO. 001 99 0001 704 FROM C-1, VILLAGE SHOPPING, TO C-2, COMMUNITY COMMERCIAL. Property is located on the southwest corner of Joy Road and Hannan Road Right-of-Way (Westland boundary).




Written comments addressed to the Planning Commission should be received at the above address prior to Thursday, December 4, 2001 in order to be included in the materials submitted for review.

VIC GUSTAFSON, Chairman

Published: December 14 and 21, 2000

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RELIGION CALENDAR

UPCOMING

A CHRISTMAS MUSICAL
A Christmas musical will be presented by the Celebration Choir and Drama Ministry at Calvary Baptist Church, performance at 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 15 at the Church, 43085 Joy Road, Canton. No admission. Call (734) 455-0022.

LIVING CHRISTMAS TREE
The living Christmas Tree is the central Advent tradition at Plymouth Church of the Nazarene (45801 Ann Arbor Road), Plymouth. The choir will step into the branches of a huge thirty-foot high tree to sing the songs that articulate the reason for the birth of Christ. Admission is free at 7 p.m. Dec. 15 and 6 p.m. Dec. 17. No tickets necessary; seating will be on a first come, first serve basis. Nursery will be provided for children under three.

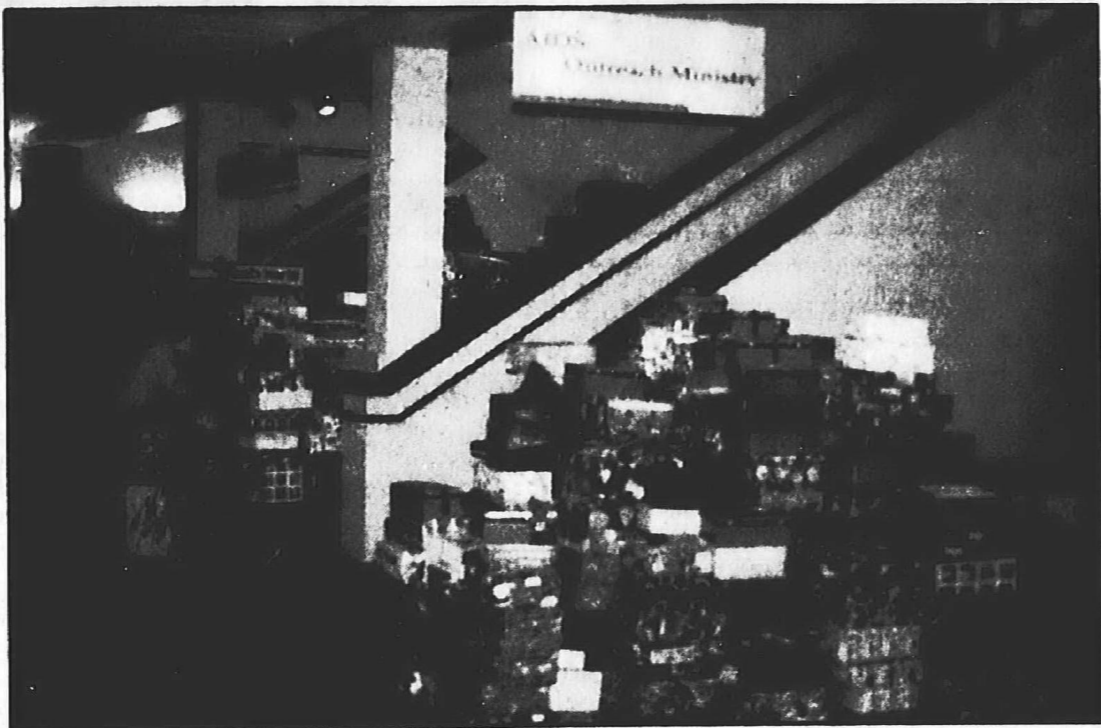
DINNER THEATRE/AUCTION
Friday, Dec. 15 Newburg United Methodist in Livonia will hold an ASP spaghetti dinner theatre/basket auction at the "Bethlehem Inn" for dinner and to discuss taxes with fellow taxpayers. The Newburg Youth Choir will begin this presentation at 6:30 p.m. in Guthrie Hall. The Basket Auction will begin at 7:30 p.m. All proceeds benefit our upcoming Appalachian Service Work project. Fund, food and fellowship await.

LIVE NATIVITY
The live nativity has become a tradition at Plymouth Church of the Nazarene (45801 Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth). There will be actors and live animals in several different scenes depicting the birth of Christ at 6:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 16. Admission is free.

CHRISTMAS WITH CANTATA
Enjoy an acapella singing tradition of Christmas songs and carols with Cantata! The 16-voice chamber ensemble will be holding its annual concert at 8 p.m. Dec. 16 and 4 p.m. Dec. 17 at the Episcopal Church of the Advent in Orchard Lake (3325 Middlebelt Road). Seasonal desserts and coffee will be served as you enjoy the concert. Tickets are \$10. Call (248) 553-8418. Cantata! is a non-profit organization.

JESUS BIRTHDAY PARTY
St. Matthew's United Methodist Church (30900 Six Mile, Livonia) Education Department is sponsoring "Jesus Birthday Party," for four-year-olds to sixth graders from 10:30 a.m. to noon Dec. 16. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Join us for crafts, games, birthday cake, and receive a holiday treat

All wrapped up



Blessing: More than 2,500 shoeboxes were collected thanks to donations made by residents, businesses and members of NorthRidge Church. The Plymouth church served as a collection site for the second year in a row. The boxes are packed with candy, toys, games, school supplies and other necessities for children in underprivileged countries worldwide as part of Operation Christmas Child (a Good Samaritan program). NorthRidge would like to thank all of those individuals and families who donated shoeboxes filled with gifts as well as the volunteers who sorted, packed and loaded the boxes onto a semi-truck to be transported to Brighton before being sent overseas.

bag. Call (734) 422-6038.
CHRISTMAS CANTATA
At 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 16 and 6 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 17 the adult choir at Merriman Road Baptist Church (2055 Merriman Road, Garden City) will present a Christmas Cantata — "How Do You Welcome a King?" After the musical, please plan to stay for a reception. Call (734) 421-0472.

CHRISTMAS CANTATA
St. Paul's Lutheran Church (20805 Middlebelt Road, Farmington Hills) will host a Christmas Cantata "I Have Seen the Light: The Search for Christmas" at 6 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 16 followed by a reception and at 9:15 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 17 followed by a Christmas potluck. Call (248) 474-0875.

TLC STORY TIME
Story time at Timothy Lutheran Church of Livonia, 8820 Wayne Road (between Joy and Ann Arbor Trail) will begin from 3-4 p.m. Dec. 16. Join us for crafts, songs, Christian stories, and snacks (similar to a mini-VBS program each month). Kids are

invited to bring their friends, parents or grandparents. Books are chosen with kids 3-10 in mind, but kids of all ages are welcome. RSVPs not necessary but helpful. Call (734) 427-2290 or visit www.timothyLivonia.com

CANDLELIGHT CONCERT
St. Peter's Lutheran Church (1343 Penniman Avenue, at the corner of Penniman and Evergreen) of Plymouth, will present their annual Christmas Candlelight Concert at 7 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 17. Featured will be choral music by J.S. Bach, Dale Warland, and Egil Hovland. The Senior Choir, led by Music Director Kurt A. Heyer, is to be joined by a brass quartet for Giovanni Gabrieli's "Lift Up Your Heads." A special arrangement of "Tomorrow Will Be My Dancing Day" by John Gardner promises to be a highlight of the evening. A children's handbell choir, adult handbell choir, Junior Choir, Christian Contemporary Choir, and various instrumentalists will join the Senior Choir in this special program. Call (734) 453-3393.

JOY TO THE WORLD
Airing Sunday, Dec. 17, the "Woman to Woman" special "Joy to the World," welcomes actor Bruce Marchiano to the microphone to share how his role as Jesus in the video production of "Matthew: the Retelling of the Gospel" dramatically transformed his life. Nationally syndicated on more than 400 radio stations throughout North America and available via RealAudio at (w2w.lhm.org). The Lutheran Hour is broadcast on more than 1,100 radio stations throughout North America and via RealAudio at (www.lhm.org)

CHRISTMAS CANTATA
The Living Praise Adult Choir will perform a Christmas cantata

entitled, "A Christmas to Remember," at 9:30 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 17 and 10:45 a.m. worship services. Call Memorial Church of Christ (35475 Five Mile Road, just east of Levan Road) in Livonia. (734) 464-6722 or e-mail memorialchurchofchrist@juno.com

CHRISTMAS CANTATA
The Chancel Choir of Clarenceville United Methodist Church (20300 Middlebelt Road, Livonia) will present a Christmas Cantata at 6 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 17. The musical presentation is entitled "All Is Calm, All is Bright," written by Randy Veder, Jay Rouse and Camp Kirkland. A festive holiday reception will follow the performance.

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT
On Sunday, Dec. 17 at 6:30 p.m., the Praisemakers Choir for children ages 4-5, will be re-enacting the Christmas story at their program, "A Christmas Pageant." Memorial's Nursery Department will also be featured in a short performance. Call Memorial Church of Christ (35475 Five Mile Road, just east of Levan Road, in Livonia. (734) 464-6722 or e-mail memorialchurchofchrist@juno.com

CHOIR PERFORMS
The Youth and Adult choirs, as well as the Bell Choir will perform at both the 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. services, Sunday Dec. 17. Julie Fletcher is our director. Newburg United Methodist Church (36500 Ann Arbor Trail, Livonia).

CHRISTMAS CANTATA
Timothy Lutheran Church's Choir Sunday, Dec. 17 at presents their Christmas Cantata during their 10 a.m. service. Come to hear the Christmas story told in readings and song. 8820 Wayne Road. Call (734) 427-2290.

SHELTER VISIT
Wednesday, Dec. 20 Timothy Lutheran Church will gather together to take cookies, carols and cheer to the Wayne County Family Center in Westland. Meet at the church at 7 p.m. to carpool (8820 Wayne Road, Livonia.)

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE
Newburg United Methodist Church (36500 Ann Arbor Trail,

Livonia) will hold Christmas Eve Services (Dec. 24) at 10 a.m., 6:30 p.m., 8 p.m., and 11 p.m. Christmas Eve and New Years Eve Sunday services will not be held at our usual 9 a.m. time. There is only one morning service these two Sundays at 10 a.m.

BEHOLD THE GLORY
Scheduled for broadcast on Sunday, Dec. 24, on WOMC (104.3) at 8:05 a.m. or WMUZ (560) at 10:00 a.m. "The Lutheran Hour" special "Behold the Glory," will delight listeners with a musical celebration and a message from its speaker, Dr. Dale Meyer. Through music and messages, the program will behold the Child who is the glory of Christmas and invites listeners to join the angels in rapturous song, "Glory to God in the Highest."

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE
An annual Christmas Eve Service will be held on Sunday, Dec. 24 at 6:30 p.m. The service will feature singing, music, reflection, and fellowship. Call Memorial Church of Christ (35475 Five Mile Road, just east of Levan Road, in Livonia. (734) 464-6722 or e-mail memorialchurchofchrist@juno.com

THE CHRISTMAS CHRONICLES
The morning service at Aldersgate United Methodist Church begins at 10 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 24 with a birthday party for Jesus following the service. Evening services at 6 p.m. featuring the Family Musical, "The Christmas Chronicles," with lights, drama and lively music. Closing service with individual candles (nursery provided). Beginning at 9:30 p.m. a traditional service. Featuring the choirs and handbell choir, communion and candle lighting service. Aldersgate United Methodist Church (10000 Beech Daly Road, Redford). Call (313) 937-3170.

CHRISTMAS EVE FESTIVAL
Timothy Lutheran Church (8820 Wayne Road, Livonia) will hold their Festival Christmas Eve at 7 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 24. The service will include candlelight, carols, choir music, communion and a special children's message. Call (734) 427-2290.

LESSONS AND CAROLS
Please see BELLEVILLE, 87

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Christmas Tree Guide 2000

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For information about advertising in this unique section please call Rich at 734-953-2069

CALENDAR

WEEKEND

LUMINARIA KITS

The Plymouth Symphony League in conjunction with the Trailwood Garden Club will offer luminaria kits for sale 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 16 at the Westchester Mall, Plymouth Marketplace and the Kroger at Sheldon and Ann Arbor Road. The cost of the kits is \$4 per set of 10 candles with white bags. For information call (734) 455-1305 or (734) 459-7146.

SOUNDS OF CHRISTMAS

Madonna University Chorale presents the *Magnificat* by Johann Sebastian Bach 3 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 17 at 3 p.m. in the Felician Sisters' Motherhouse Chapel. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$15 for students and seniors, children until 12 enter free of charge when accompanied by an adult. For further information call Dr. David Wagner at (734) 432-5708.

HOLIDAY WORKSHOPS

D&M Studio is now taking registration for its Annual Holiday - Fine Arts, Ceramic and Adult Workshops, running through Dec. 23. Children age 3 and up will be creating fine art gifts using watercolors, plastercraft, ornament making, felt designs, woodcrafts, ceramics and more. For adults there are two-day workshops to create watercolor Christmas cards. Classes available at three locations: D&M Studio, 8691 N. Lilley, Canton, Plymouth Cultural Center, 425 Farmer, Plymouth, and The Summit, 46000 Summit Parkway, Canton. Call D&M Studio at (734) 453-3710.

AROUND TOWN

PLYMOUTH COMMUNITY ARTS COUNCIL

Every second Tuesday at noon you're invited to bring your lunch and learn about art with the speakers from the DIA. The cost is \$5 for members and \$8 for others. Thanks to a grant from Ford Motor Co., these lectures are now free to senior citizens.

HOSPICE'S 13TH TREE OF LIFE

The Angela Hospice annual "Tree of Life" will be on display at Laurel Park Place in Livonia through Dec. 31. The 13th annual tree extends its branches to those who wish to give a gift of remembrance by adorning the tree with an "angel wing" ornament bearing the names of loved ones, living or deceased. Call (734) 464-7810.

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

The Canton Rotary Club is sponsoring "Breakfast With Santa" 8-11 a.m., Saturday, Dec. 16. All children will sit on Santa's lap and have their pictures taken. A representative from the Canton Police Department will be providing all children with a free ID kit (picture and fingerprints). Proceeds will benefit the International Service Projects for children in third world countries. The cost is \$5 for children and \$8 for adults. To make reservations, contact Laura Whichello at (734) 207-8517 or (734) 546-0164.

ADOPT-A-FAMILY

The Plymouth Corps of the Salvation Army is asking for community support in the Adopt-a-Family Christmas program. Individuals or groups are needed to act as sponsors for low-income families in the Plymouth/Canton area. Sponsors are asked to anonymously provide Christmas gifts and dinner for an average-sized family. The sponsor does the shopping.

distribution is the responsibility of the Salvation Army. Call Bill Moritz (734) 453-5464, Ext. 29 to be matched with a family.

ROLLER SKATING CLASSES

Learn to skate at Skatin Station II in Canton for children or adults 7-8 p.m. every Sunday. Call (734) 459-6407.

NEW MORNING SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

New Morning School in Plymouth is hosting two opportunities for interested families to tour the school, meet the staff and have your questions answered. The dates are: 7-8:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 23; and there will also be a Student Museum/Open House 2-4:30 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 11. New family discussions will occur at 3:30 p.m. that day. New Morning is a state licensed and certified parent cooperative school covering pre-school through grade eight. Interested people can call the school at (734) 420-3331 or e-mail to newmorning@mediaone.net.

KINDERMUSIK CLASSES AT EVOLA MUSIC

Registrations are now being taken for the winter/spring semester of Kindermusik for children from birth through 5 years of age. Classes begin the week of Feb. 4. HOLIDAY SPECIAL: Register by Dec. 23 and receive a special gift for holiday giving. Call Evola Music Center at (734) 455-4677 to register for classes or for a free brochure.

EVOLA MUSIC

Registrations are now being taken for Kindermusik Village Classes at Evola Music in Canton for children from birth to 18 months and their parents. Meet with other parents with babies birth to 18 months. Kindermusik at Evola Music offers a complete music program where both children and parents learn through music and movement. Call Evola Music Center at (734) 455-4677 to register for classes or for a free brochure. You may also visit the web site at www.ismi.net/kindermusikatevola.

NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY

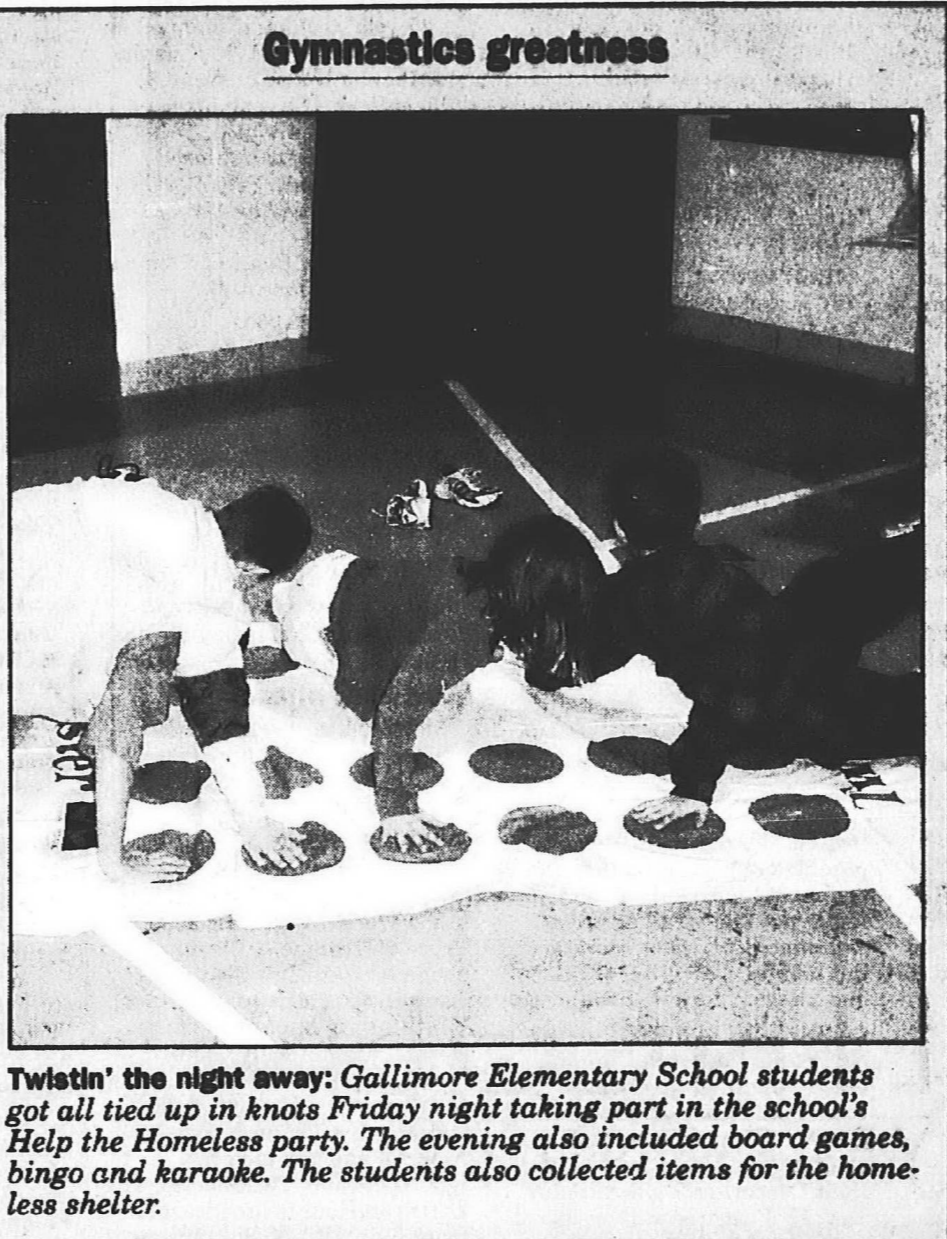
Summit on the Park's Banquet and Conference Center staff invites you to join them for a New Year's Eve Party on Sunday, Dec. 31. The party begins at 7 p.m. with hors d'oeuvres, dinner, deluxe bar, a midnight snack and music by Silver Sounds DJ. At midnight there will be a champagne toast with the party continuing until 2 a.m. Tickets are on sale 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday through Friday. Tickets cost \$95 per person. There are no refunds and you must be 21 years of age to attend. You can purchase tickets in person at Summit on the Park's Banquet and Conference Center, 46000 Summit Parkway in Canton, or call (734) 397-6800 to charge by phone.

MADONNA UNIVERSITY REGISTRATION

Madonna University's registration for the winter 2001 term is taking place now through Friday, Jan. 5, for new and returning students. Office hours are 8 a.m.-5 p.m. on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays; and until 7 p.m. on Mondays and Thursdays, with the exception of Dec. 18 and 21 when the office will close at 5 p.m. All offices will be closed Dec. 22-Jan. 1. Classes begin the week of Jan. 8. Call the Admissions Office at (734) 432-5339.

ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS

The Plymouth Optimist Club is selling Entertainment 2001 Books. Proceeds will be used for children's



Gymnastics greatness
Twistin' the night away: Gallimore Elementary School students got all tied up in knots Friday night taking part in the school's Help the Homeless party. The evening also included board games, bingo and karaoke. The students also collected items for the homeless shelter.

causes throughout Southeastern Michigan. Books are \$40 and will be home delivered. Call Bill Von Glahn at (734) 453-8253.

KINDERMUSIK

Village Music, a professional music facility in Plymouth's Old Village at 130 E. Liberty, has on-going registration for its Kindermusik classes. Classes are available for newborns through 7-year-olds. Call Norma Atwood at (734) 354-9825.

CREATIVE MUSIC CENTER

The Creative Music Center of Plymouth/Canton has on-going registration for its Kindermusik classes. Classes are prorated. Classes are at the First Baptist Church of Plymouth, 45000 N. Territorial (just west of Sheldon). For information, call Lori Nelson at (734) 354-9109.

NEW MORNING SCHOOL

New Morning School in Plymouth has openings for the upcoming school year (2000-01) in the following programs: Half-day kindergarten (afternoons); the whole-day kindergarten; and the middle school (grades six through eight). New Morning is a state-licensed and certified parent cooperative. Interested people can call the school at (734) 420-3331 or e-mail to newmorning@mediaone.net. Visit the Web site at people.mw.mediaone.net/newmorning.

KIWANIS BREAKFAST CLUB

The Plymouth-Canton Kiwanis Breakfast Club meets 7 a.m. every Tuesday at the Plymouth Cultural Center, 525 Farmer,

K OF C BREAKFAST BUFFET

The Knights of Columbus holds a breakfast buffet every Sunday, from 8:30 a.m. to noon at the K of C, 150 Fair St., Plymouth. All-you-can-eat buffet. Newly remodeled breakfast room. Call (734) 453-9833.

TAI CHI

Ongoing Tao Chi classes are offered in Livonia and Bloomfield under the sponsorship of the Taoist Tai Chi Society. Day classes for seniors available at the Livonia location. Observers welcome. Visit its web site at www.ttc.org. Call (248) 332-1281.

CLUBS

ASTRONOMY SPACE DISCUSSION GROUP

This group meets 7 p.m. the third Monday of the month at the Plymouth Library, 223 S. Main, Plymouth. Ages 6-11 are welcome with an adult accompanying. Door prizes, handouts, videos, slides, lecture, questions and discussion. Call astronomer Mike Best at (734) 459-2378.

BUSINESS NETWORK INTERNATIONAL

Business Network International (BNI) holds their regular meetings from 7-8:30 a.m. The Canton II Chapter meets every Wednesday at Millennium Security Services, 42010 Koppernick, Suite 117, Canton; the Plymouth Chapter meets every Thursday at the Plymouth Cultural Center, 525

Farmer, Plymouth; the Livonia Chapter meets every Friday at Senate Coney Island on Plymouth Road at Stark, Livonia. Call the BNI regional office at (810) 323-3800.

ASTRONOMY DISCUSSION GROUP

The Astronomy Discussion Group meets every third Monday of the month 7-8 p.m. in the Plymouth Dunning-Hough Library, 223 S. Main. Astronomy novices and enthusiasts (age 6 and older) may attend. Adults must accompany those younger than 12. Door prizes, handouts, videos, slides, lecture, and open discussion are a part of the meetings. Call Mike Best at (734) 459-2378.

MOPS

The Plymouth Baptist Church holds the MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers) meetings on the first and third Tuesdays of each month from 9-11:30 a.m. These meetings provide a time for moms to develop new friendships with other moms. Childcare is provided. The church is located at 42021 Ann Arbor Trail in Plymouth, between Lilley and Haggerty. Call (734) 453-5534. Space is limited.

CIVITAN CLUB

The Plymouth-Canton Civitan Club meets the first and third Thursdays of the month: Business/Salvation Army; Dinner/Damon's. Call either (734) 453-7569 or (734) 981-7259.

GOURMET DINING GROUP

The Plymouth/Northville/Canton Gourmet Dining Group

meets the second Saturday, October-June. Planned menu and recipes for each meal. If interested in joining, call Dottie Brower at (734) 455-1206 or Pat Stokes at (734) 455-7446.

MOTHERS OF MULTIPLES

The Plymouth-Canton Mothers of Multiples Club meets 7 p.m. the third week of each month on alternating Mondays and Tuesdays. Play group meets twice a month on alternating Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Call Pam Heestand at (734) 981-3341.

M.O.M.

Meet Other Mothers (M.O.M.) presents guest speakers and discussions from 9:30-11:30 a.m. the second and fourth Friday of each month. Baby-sitting is provided. Call Chere at (734) 416-8214 or Laura at (313) 538-7622.

M.I.T.L.

Moms In Touch International is for mothers to meet weekly, for one hour, to pray for their children and schools. The goal is to form a group for each school in Plymouth-Canton. Call Karen at (734) 397-2771.

MOMS CLUB

MOMS Club welcomes all western Wayne County stay-at-home mothers to meet at 10 a.m. the third Tuesday of each month. Play group meets every Wednesday. Call Lisa at (734) 844-3685.

HUMAN RIGHTS GROUP

The Human Rights Group meets at 7 p.m. the first Sunday of the month at the Plymouth Coffee Studio, 600 W. Ann Arbor Trail, Plymouth. Call Paulette at (734) 416-9288 or Charlene at (734) 963-0649.

COUNTY CONNECTION

County Connection Chorus of Sweet Adelines International, a women's chorus singing four-part harmony barbershop style, is looking for members. Rehearsals begin at 7 p.m. every Tuesday in Ypsilanti. Call (734) 480-8843.

PLYMOUTH NEWCOMERS

Plymouth Newcomers is a social organization dedicated to helping people meet others in the community through its monthly meetings and variety of special interest groups. Call Christine at (734) 416-0300.

WESTSIDE SINGLES

Westside Singles dances are every Friday night at the following locations: Dec 15 at New Hawthorne Valley Country Club in Westland; and Dec. 22nd Christmas Dance; and Dec. 29 at Burton Manor in Livonia. Admission is \$4 before 8:30 p.m. and \$6 from 8:30 p.m. to 1 a.m. Dressy attire, no jeans, D.J., 21 and older, budget bar, hors d'oeuvres.

YOGA CLASSES

Yoga classes beginning in January in downtown Plymouth, Wednesday evenings and Sunday afternoons. Six classes per session. The cost is \$50 per session. Call Cynthia for further information (734) 420-2418.

VOLUNTEERS

AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY

The American Cancer Society Discovery Shops are looking for volunteers to fill a variety of positions at all metro-Detroit Discovery Shops. Various days and times are available. Call (800) 925-2271.

ARBOR HOSPICE

Arbor Hospice & Home Care is expanding its services and looking for volunteers to help in many areas. Volunteers are needed to assist at their newly expanded office at 331 Center Street in Northville.

The organization is also seeking volunteers to assist with special events, mailings and fundraising activities. To volunteer or for more information, contact Debbie Skotak at (248) 348-4980.

ADOPTIVE PARENTS NEEDED

Oakland Family Services in Pontiac is looking for foster and adoptive families in this area. There are many school-age children who need temporary or permanent families. Foster parents provide a temporary family for children until they can be reunited with their families. If you have an interest in helping to provide for children in our community, please call Vicki Landsman Peterson, at Oakland Family Services (248) 858-7215, Ext. 236.

WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTER

The Women's Resource Center at Schoolcraft College is seeking volunteers. Call (734) 462-4400, Ext. 5524.

FIRST STEP

First Step project on domestic violence and sexual assault is seeking volunteers. First Step has been active in the effort to end violence in western Wayne County and Downriver communities for more than 20 years. Volunteers are needed in several communities for a variety of services. Training is provided. Call (734) 416-1111 Ext. 202.

ST. MARY MERCY HOSPITAL

St. Mary Mercy Hospital in Livonia is looking for adults who want to use their skills in a health-care setting. Specific roles include clerical, greeters, staff support and other non-patient care-related duties, as well as patient-comfort roles. Call St. Mary Mercy Hospital Volunteer Services Department at (734) 655-2912, or www.stmaryhospital.org.

SUPPORT GROUPS

GRIEF SUPPORT

New Hope Center for Grief Support, a Christian-based bereavement outreach center, offers grief support groups and resources to the community free of charge. Groups for widows and widowers of all ages are offered in Wayne, Oakland, Livingston and Macomb counties. Groups will be provided for parents who have lost a child, parental loss, widows and widowers, suicide loss, and other losses due to death. Call (248) 348-0115.

DOWN SYNDROME

The Down Syndrome Support Group of Western Wayne County meets the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the Plymouth District Library, 223 S. Main St. in downtown Plymouth. This group hosts speakers and provides support, physician referrals, and the latest information for families with children/adults with Down syndrome. The focus is on the up-side of Down syndrome and members look for ways to help children and their development in a positive environment. Call Michelle Gonzales at (734) 516-0746.

FAMILIES ANONYMOUS

Families Anonymous meets monthly at 8 p.m. Thursdays at St. John Neumann Church, 44800 Warren Road, Canton. This group provides support for families and friends concerned about the use of mind-altering substances such as alcohol, drugs or behavior problems of a loved one. Call (734) 416-0815.

CALENDAR FORM

The Plymouth Observer welcomes Calendar items. Items should be from non-profit community groups or individuals announcing a community program or event. Please type or print the information below and mail your item to The Calendar, Plymouth Observer, 794 South Main Street, Plymouth, MI 48170, or by fax to 734-459-4224. Deadline for Calendar items is noon Friday for the following Thursday's paper. Call 459-2700 if you have any questions.

Event: _____

Date and Time: _____

Location: _____

Telephone: _____

Additional Info.: _____

Use additional sheet if necessary

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CLASS REUNIONS

As space permits, the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers print, without charge, announcements of class reunions. Send the information to Reunions, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150. Please include the date of the reunion and the first and last name of at least one contact person, and a telephone number.

ANDOVER
 ■ Class of 1971
 A reunion is planned for July 21, 2001 at the Park Place Hotel in Traverse City. Information about the reunion can be found at www.andoverclassof1971.org or call Pete Bowers (248) 332-3846.

BELLEVILLE
 ■ Class of 1990
 A reunion is being planned for March 24 at the Marriott Hotel in Romulus. Call Reunions Made Easy (248) 592-9565.

CLARKSTON
 ■ Class of 1966
 A 35-year reunion will be held June 30, 2001 at the Oakland County Sportsmen's Club. If you have not been contacted call Elaine Keeley Schultz (248) 673-6542.

CLAWSON
 ■ Class of 1976
 A 25-year reunion is planned for July 7, 2001 at the K of C Hall in Clawson. Call Cheryl (Strate) Brunette (248) 528-2652; Cathy (Grimes) MacKillop (248) 280-

2764 or e-mail clawson1976@aol.com
SACRED HEART/DEARBORN
 ■ Class of 1961
 A reunion is planned for June 23, 2001 at the Marriott Hotel near Metropolitan Airport. Call Bob Fredericks at (248) 426-8373 or e-mail MOM@Mich.com

EDWARD MACDOWELL
 ■ Seeking those who attended Edward MacDowell Elementary (4201 W. Outer Dr., Detroit). To register with the Alumni Association that is being organized contact Greater Grace Temple (313) 342-2300.

FARMINGTON HIGH
 ■ Class of 1971
 A 30-year reunion is planned for Saturday, July 21 at Baker's of Milford. Call Mary Goodhue (810) 735-5296; Susan (Moses) Walker (248) 628-4295 or visit www.geocities.com/re71union

FERRISDALE
 ■ Class of 1971
 A reunion is being planned for Sept. 29, 2001 at the Fox and Hounds in Bloomfield Hills. Call Reunions Made Easy (248) 592-9565.

FITZGERALD HIGH
 ■ Class of 1961
 The Fitzgerald High School (Warren) class of 1961 has planned a reunion for fall of 2001. Call Jeanie (Evans) (810) 758-6535 or e-mail jeaniecski@aol.com

FORDSON - DEARBORN

■ Class of 1961
 A 20-year reunion is planned for Aug. 3, 2001 at the Hellenic Cultural Center in Westland. Tickets will be available starting Jan. 2001. Call Janine (734) 632-8478 or e-mail jgurks@todaylink.com

GARDEN CITY EAST
 ■ Class of 1971
 A 30-year reunion is being planned for Aug. 11, 2001. Call (248) 542-8919 or (313) 541-6834. You can also write: Alumni Committee, P.O. Box 375, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304.

LIVONIA BENTLEY
 ■ Class of 1976
 A reunion is being planned for Sept. 1, 2001 at the Doubletree Suites Hotel in Novi. Call Reunions Made Easy (248) 592-9565.

MERCY HIGH
 ■ Class of 1985. TBA. Contact Jennifer Ewald Wenson (248) 473-8397.

NATIVITY HIGH
 ■ Class of 1951
 Alumni are being sought who graduated with the class of 1951 from Nativity High School in Detroit. A reunion is planned for Oct. 21, 2001. Contact Doris Kraft Fisher (810) 263-6133; or Margaret Carings Leroy (248) 276-9730.

NORTH FARMINGTON
 ■ Class of 1970
 A reunion is being planned for Saturday, April 28 at the Novi Hilton. Call Reunions Made

Easy (248) 592-9565.
 ■ Class of 1981
 A reunion is being planned for Saturday, August 11 at the Doubletree Guest Suites in Southfield. Call Reunions Made Easy (248) 592-9565.
 ■ Class of 1991
 A 10-year reunion is in the planning stages. We are looking for classmates. Call Reunions Made Easy (248) 592-9565.

OAK PARK
 ■ Class of 1975
 A 25-year reunion is planned for Saturday, April 28, 2001 at the Parthenon House in West Bloomfield. The committee is looking for classmates. To get on the mailing list call: Marcie Ziskind Aguas, (248) 624-0516; Marc Feldman (248) 865-9886; shell Milstein Tuhel (248) 661-5587 or e-mail CynthiaBrady@cbrody@mediaone.net

PLYMOUTH CANTON
 ■ Class of 1981
 A 20-year reunion is planned for Saturday, Aug. 4, 2001 at the Northville Manor in Northville. Call Reunions Made Easy (248) 592-9565.

ROYAL OAK KIMBALL
 ■ Class of 1971
 A 30-year reunion is planned for Saturday, Oct. 20, 2001 at the Somerset Inn in Troy. Call Reunions Made Easy (248) 592-9565.

SOUTHFIELD LATHRUP
 ■ Class of 1991
 A reunion is being planned for

Nov. 23, 2001 at the Somerset Inn, Troy. Call Reunions Made Easy (248) 592-9565.

ST. AGNES
 ■ Class of 1940
 A reunion is being planned for the spring of 2001. Call Rita Schmidt Herpel (248) 644-4120.

ST. ANDREW-DETROIT
 ■ Class of 1961
 "Flyer" alumni of the 1961 class are being sought for a 40th reunion. Send name, maiden name if applicable, address, city, state, zip and phone number to Reunion, 23890 Joey Drive, Brownstown Twp., MI 48134 or call (734) 676-1934.

ST. STANISLAUS, DETROIT
 ■ Class of 1951
 Seeking graduates for Sept. 2001 50th reunion. Please contact Rosemary, (810) 792-0136.

WAYNE MEMORIAL
 ■ Class of 1961
 A reunion is being planned for Oct. 6, 2001 at the Holiday Inn, Livonia. Call Reunions Made Easy (248) 592-9565.

WILBUR WRIGHT
 ■ Class of 1962
 Classmates are being sought for a 40-year reunion. If you are a classmate or know of a classmate call us. Don Simms, (248) 814-9425 or Jacqueline Bartley (248) 442-8851.

■ Classes 1961-67
 A reunion is being planned for Aug. 18, 2001. Call Norma Wright (313) 934-9373, Joe Newland (248) 563-0304.

SINGLES MINGLE

WESTSIDE SINGLES DANCE
 Every Friday WestSide Singles hosts a dance at Burton Manor in Livonia (Schoolcraft west of Inkster Road) from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. Upcoming dances are: Dec. 15, New Hawthorne Valley Country Club (Merriman Road, north of Warren), Dec. 22, Christmas dance and Dec. 29 at Burton Manor (Schoolcraft west of Inkster Road). Must be over 21, and dressy attire (no jeans). Open to the public. A deejay will be playing Top 40 music and current hits. Appetizers will be served (hot/cold). Early admission special \$4 before 8:30 p.m. and \$6 after. Call (734) 981-0909.

NEW YEAR'S EVE
 A group of singles with celebrate "2001: A Spiritual Odyssey" with a deejay and comedian on New Year's Eve in the Tanglewood Country Club in South Lyon sponsored by Single Spirit, a group of single Christians in their 20s-30s attending Ward Presbyterian Church. Call as soon as possible as space is limited. (248) 374-5934.

SINGLES WELCOME
 Bethany Suburban West is a Catholic organization which provides spiritual, social and educational assistance to divorced or separated Christians. ■ Gospel Choir, Dec. 16 at St. Kenneth's (14951 Haggerty Road, south of Five Mile). Dinner at 7 p.m. Choir, 8 p.m. in the church. Diane (734) 981-4553.

THE
LINCOLN
 YEAR-END EVENT

LEASE YOUR CHOICE FOR JUST \$499 A MONTH.
 WE'LL EVEN WAIVE YOUR FIRST MONTH'S PAYMENT.



JUST ANNOUNCED!

FIRST MONTH'S LEASE PAYMENT WAIVED.

YOUR CHOICE FOR RETURNING LESSEES
\$499
 PER MONTH/24-MONTH LEASE*

2001 LINCOLN TOWN CAR EXECUTIVE SERIES

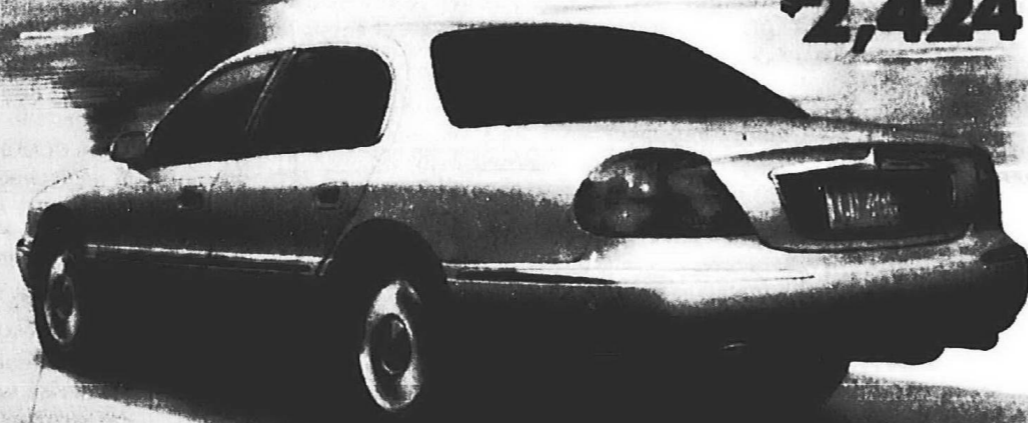
INCLUDES REFUNDABLE SECURITY DEPOSIT. EXCLUDES TAX, TITLE AND LICENSE FEES. CASH DUE AT SIGNING AFTER \$4,500 CASH BACK

\$3,224

2001 LINCOLN CONTINENTAL

INCLUDES REFUNDABLE SECURITY DEPOSIT. EXCLUDES TAX, TITLE AND LICENSE FEES. CASH DUE AT SIGNING AFTER \$6,000 CASH BACK

\$2,424



EVENT ENDS JANUARY 2, 2001

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 2100 W. Stadium Blvd. at Liberty
 (734) 668-6100
apolloinc.com

CLINTON TOWNSHIP
Stu Evans Lakeside
 17500 Hall Rd. at Romeo Plant
 (810) 840-2000
stuevanslakeside.com

DEARBORN
Krug
 21531 Michigan Ave. Between Southfield & Telegraph
 (313) 274-8800
kruglm.com

DETROIT
Bob Massey
 16901 Mack Ave. at Cadieux
 (313) 885-4000
bobmasseylm.com

DETROIT
Park Motor
 18100 Woodward Ave. Opposite Palmer Park
 (313) 869-5000
parkmotorlm.com

FARMINGTON
Jack Demmer
 31625 Grand River Ave. 1 Block West of Orchard Lake Rd.
 (248) 474-3170
demmerlm.com

GARDEN CITY
Stu Evans Garden City
 32000 Ford Rd. Just West of Merriman
 (734) 425-4300
stuevansgardencity.com

NOVI
Varsity
 49251 Grand River 1/2 Block South of Washtenaw Exp.
 1-800-850-NOVI (6684)
varsitylm.com

PLYMOUTH
Hines Park
 40601 Ann Arbor Rd. at 275
 1-800-550-MERC
hinesparklm.com

ROCHESTER HILLS
Crissman
 1185 South Rochester Rd. Between Hamlin & Avon Rd.
 (248) 652-4200
crissmanlm.com

ROSEVILLE
Arnold
 29000 Gratiot at 12 Mile Rd.
 (810) 445-6000
arnoldlm.com

SOUTHFIELD
Star
 24350 West 12 Mile Rd. at Telegraph
 (248) 354-4900
starlm.com

SOUTHGATE
Stu Evans Southgate
 16800 Fort Street at Renaissance
 (734) 285-8800
stuevanssouthgate.com

STERLING HEIGHTS
Crest
 36200 Van Dyke at 15 Mile Rd.
 (810) 939-6000
crestinc.com

TROY
Bob Borst
 1950 West Maple Troy Motor Mall
 (248) 643-6600
borstlm.com

WATERFORD
Mel Ferr
 4178 Highland Rd. (M-59) 2 Miles West of Telegraph
 (248) 683-9500
ferrlm.com

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 950 East Michigan 9 Miles West of I-75
 (734) 482-7133
sesilm.com

*Call 1-800-54-LEASE for details. For each lease, take new retail delivery from dealer stock by 1/16/2001. Ford Credit will waive the first month's payment up to \$850 on a 2001 Lincoln Town Car and Continental for approved 24-month Red Carpet Lease contracts purchased between December 8, 2000 and January 2, 2001.



BETHEL BAPTIST TEMPLE
29475 W. Six Mile, Livonia
734-525-3664

Sunday School 10:00 A.M.
Morning Worship 11:00 A.M.
Evening Worship 6:00 P.M.
Wed. Family Hour 7:15 P.M.

INDEPENDENT BAPTIST
YOUTH AWANA CLUBS
MAX A. CLIFTON
PASTOR

"A Church That's Concerned
About People"

NEW HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH
3403 S. Wayne Rd. • Wayne, MI
(Between Michigan Ave. & Van Born Rd.)
(734) 728-2180

Virgil Humes, Pastor

Sunday School 9:30 a.m. • Sunday Worship 8:00 & 10:45 a.m.
Wednesday Praise Service 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday Children, Youth & Adult Bible Study 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.

VICTORY BAPTIST CHURCH
34500 SIX MILE ROAD • LIVONIA
West of Farmington Road, next to Stevenson High School

Sunday School 10 am • Worship 11 am & 6 pm
Wednesday Prayer/Bible Study & KING'S KIDS 7:00pm
Nursery Provided At All Services

Pastor Brian Brewer
Youth Pastor Ryan Guenther

248-473-4483

"not ashamed of the gospel, not ashamed to be baptized"



LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSOURI SYNOD

CHRIST OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH
Rev. Luther A. Werth, Sr. Pastor
Rev. Robert Bayer, Assist. Pastor
— Two locations to serve you —

LIVONIA
14175 Farmington Rd.
(N. of I-96)
Sunday Worship 8:30 am & 11:00 am
Sunday School 9:45 am
(734) 522-6830

CANTON
48001 Warren Road
(West of Canton Center)
Sunday Worship 9:30 am
Sunday School 10:45 am
(734) 414-7422

Visit our Web Site at <http://www.ccaa.edu/~lcmcos>

TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

10101 W. Ann Arbor Rd., Plymouth
5 Miles W. of Sheldon Rd.
From M-14 take Gottfredson Rd. South

734-459-9550
Dr. Wm. C. Moore - Pastor

Worship Services
8:30 a.m., 9:45 a.m. & 11:15 a.m.
Education Program
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Plymouth • 453-5252

Worship Service 8:15 & 10:45 a.m.
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Monday Evening Service 7:00 P.M.

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Kurt E. Lambert, Assistant Pastor
Jeff Burke, Principal/CE

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GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSOURI SYNOD
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17810 Farmington Road • Livonia • (734) 251-1350
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Pastor Eric Steinbrever

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Wednesday, 7:00 P.M.
Chris Cramer, Pastor

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Saturday 5:00 P.M. Holy Eucharist
Sunday 7:45 & 10:00 A.M. Holy Eucharist
Sun (Sept-May) 10:00 A.M. Sunday School
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Sunday - 8:30 & 10:30 a.m.

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313-532-8655

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WLQV 1500 SUNDAY 10:30 A.M.

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8820 Wayne Rd.
(Between Ann Arbor Trail & Joy Road)
Livonia • 427-2290

Rev. Carla Thompson Powell, Pastor
9:00 a.m. Sunday School (all ages)
10:00 a.m. Family Worship (Nursery Avail.)
<http://www.timothylivonia.com>

Clarenceville United Methodist
20100 Middlebelt Rd. • Livonia
474-3444
Rev. Jean Lave

Worship Services 10:15 AM, 6:00 PM
Nursery Provided
Sunday School 9 AM
Office Hrs. 9-5

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Chuck Sonquist, Pastor

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(734) 453-5280

NEWBURG UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Stephen Ministry Congregation

36500 Ann Arbor Trail
between Wayne & Newburgh Rds.
422-0149

Worship Services
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Sunday School
9:20 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

Music Sunday

The Wonder of Christmas
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Julia Fletcher-Director of Music Ministry
Barb Erickson-Handbell Director

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11:00 a.m. Traditional

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Tues. 7:00 p.m. • Sat. 5 p.m.
Sun. 8:30 & 10:00 a.m. & 12:00 noon
734-427-5220

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NEW LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH
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Bob & Diana Goudle, Co-Pastors
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Sunday School for Children at 11:00 a.m.

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Worship 11:00 A.M. AND 5:00 P.M.
Nursery Provided in A.M.
Pastor: Frank Howard • Ch. 453-0123

CHURCH OF THE SAVIOR
Reformed Church of America
Pastor: Thomas M. Daubenspeck

Church Service at 9:30 am
Sunday School at 11:00 am
(Nursery Provided)

38100 Five Mile Road
Livonia, Michigan 48154
Phone: 734-464-1062

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

**December 17
Matthew 1: 18-25**
Angel to Joseph
Rev. Diana Goudle, preaching

LIVING ROCK CHURCH OF PLYMOUTH
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2 Blocks N. of Main • 2 Blocks E. of Mt. St. Anne

SUNDAY Bible Study 10:00 A.M. & 12:00 P.M.
Worship 11:00 A.M. AND 5:00 P.M.
Nursery Provided in A.M.
Pastor: Frank Howard • Ch. 453-0123

God's Love Is Everywhere

Religion from page B3

Sunday, Dec. 31 Timothy Lutheran of Livonia (8820 Wayne Road, Livonia) will offer a service titled "Luzanne and Carols" at 10 a.m. Although Christmas decorations will soon be gone, our celebration of Jesus' birth goes on.

NEW YEAR'S EVE

A group of singles will celebrate "2001: A Spiritual Odyssey" with a play and comedian on New Year's Eve in the Tanglewood Country Club in South Lyon. Entertainment, music, a full buffet dinner and more will be offered in an alcohol/drug/tobacco free environment sponsored by Single Spirit, a group of single Christians in their 20s and 30s attending Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church in Northville. The event begins at 6 p.m. and ends at 1:30 a.m. Attire is semi-formal (dressy). For ticket prices, directions and information call as soon as possible as space is limited. (248) 374-5934.

LET'S TALK WORKSHOPS

A workshop, "Let's Talk" will be held on Wednesday evenings beginning in January. It is designed for pre-marital or married couples or adults in interfaith relationships where one of the partners is Jewish. The five-part workshop includes individual religions; personal identity; helpful communication skills; resolving interfaith issues; and a panel discussion with individual interfaith couples at different stages in life. Dates are Jan. 4, 11, 18; and Feb. 1 and 8. All sessions begin at 7 p.m. at the Max M. Fisher Federation Building, Bloomfield Hills hosted by the Interfaith Connection. Call (800) 397-4876 or e-mail connection@ajedetroit.org

CHRISTIAN MEN MEMORIAL

Ken Medema, Christian singer/songwriter, a Michigan native, will perform Saturday, Jan. 13 at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church in Livonia. The concert will begin at 7:30 p.m. at the church (27475 Five Mile). Blind since birth, Ken Medema has been writing songs and performing for 30 years around the world. Tickets are \$10, adults; and \$5 for children ages 5-12. Call (734) 422-1470.

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

Worldwide Marriage Encounter offers a weekend experience for married couples to improve their communication skills, learn the value of intimacy, and renew their love for each other. The next weekends are Feb. 16-18 and March 16-18 at the St. John's Family Life Center (44011 Five Mile, Plymouth). There is a \$50 registration fee. Call Bill and Carol (248) 528-2512 or Dan and Debbie at (810) 286-5524 or www.rc.net/detroit/www

HEALING SERVICES

The Rev. Gary Seymour offers healing services for the series titled "Rise and Come Forward" the third Wednesday evening of each month at the Church of the Risen Lord, 821 N. Newburgh in Westland. Call (734) 397-7132.

THURSDAY BIBLE STUDY

Thursday Bible studies at Timothy Lutheran Church are available from 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. every week. The morning study is led by members of the congregation, and the evening study is led by Pastor Powell. Timothy Lutheran Church is at 8820 Wayne Road in Livonia. Call (734) 427-2290 or visit www.timothyivonia.com

NEW LIFE LUTHERAN

New Life Lutheran Church worship service is at 10:15 a.m. Sunday at Bird School, 220 N. Sheldon. Sunday school is also offered. Please call (734) 459-8181 or e-mail the church at newlifec@yahoo.com

SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY

Sunday School for children ages 3-13 is offered by Timothy Lutheran Church (8820 Wayne Road, Livonia) every week. Pastor Carla Thompson Powell teaches this class which helps children to learn more about the Bible and grow in faith toward God. Call (734) 427-2290 or visit www.timothyivonia.com

NEW BIBLE STUDY

Adults interested in a complete overview of the scriptures may attend a Bible study at 9:15 a.m. Sundays at New Life Lutheran Church at Bird School, 220 N. Sheldon. Call (734) 459-8181 or e-mail newlifec@yahoo.com

HEALING SERVICE

The Church of the Risen Lord presents a healing service at 7:30 p.m. the third Wednesday of the month at the church, 821 N. Newburgh, south of Ford, Westland. The service, led by the Rev. Gary Seymour, is part of the series of healing services, "Rise

and Come Forward." Call the church office at (734) 397-7132.

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP

Garden City Presbyterian Church offers a contemporary worship service at 9:15 a.m. the second and fourth Sundays of the month at the church, 1841 Middlebelt, between Ford and Cherry Hill roads, Garden City. The contemporary service offers uptempo music and an informal atmosphere.

REMARIED GROUP

The Remarried Ministries of

Ward Presbyterian Church in Northville offers an informal, drop-in support group for those struggling with the issues of a blended family. The group is hosted by the Rev. Paul Clough and meets 7-8:30 p.m. the second Tuesday of the month in Room C309 of the church, 40000 Six Mile at Haggerty. There is no cost, and registration isn't necessary. Call Stacy Cole at (248) 374-5912.

THRIFT SHOP

The Thrift Shop, sponsored by

First Presbyterian Church of Plymouth, is located at 494 N. Mill, one block north of Plymouth Road, Plymouth. Hours of operation are 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays, and noon to 4 p.m. Saturdays. Call the store at (734) 459-1250.

RITE OF INITIATION

Adults interested in joining the Catholic church may "inquire" at the ongoing Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults at 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays at St. Theodore of Canterbury Church, 8200 N.

Wayne Road, Westland. The process is open to any interested adult including baptized Catholics who have not completed their initiation with First Communion and/or Confirmation. Call Lorraine Short, pastoral minister, at (734) 459-4421.

EARLY CHILDHOOD

Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church offers an early childhood program, a day-care program for toddlers age 18 months to 3 years. The program is available full or half days Monday through

Friday. Children have organized and spontaneous activities - all hands-on and interactive. The program is state-certified and offered at the church, on Farmington Road. Call (734) 513-8413.

WORSHIP SERVICES

The Episcopal Pentecostal Church holds worship 2 p.m. Sundays. Call (248) 671-8282.

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44011 Ford Rd.
(734) 981-7440

Whalers end Otters' winning streak



It was an ominous beginning to a long weekend for the Whalers, who lost last Thursday at Windsor before embarking on a two-games-in-two-days trip to OHL-leader Erie. But the ending wasn't so bad, after all.

BY NICHOLAS A. GIBMONDI
SPECIAL WRITER

A couple of streaks were on the line when the Plymouth Whalers visited the hottest team in the Ontario Hockey League, the Erie Otters, last weekend. While the Whalers have been playing pretty darn good hockey all season

long, it couldn't match the Otters, who were riding a 22-game unbeaten streak and a 15-game unbeaten string at home.

Despite all that, it's the Whalers who have owned Erie over the past couple of seasons. Plymouth had a 13-game unbeaten streak against the Otters going into last weekend's showdown.

So who would prevail? It didn't look good for the Whalers, who lost Thursday at Windsor before travelling to Erie to complete their three-games-in-three-nights trip.

But the result wasn't bad at all. On Friday, Plymouth battled the Otters to a 5-5 draw, then beat the home team 4-3 on Saturday to end their streak.

The result left the Whalers with a 21-5-3-1 record, good for 46 points in 30 games. Erie is 20-4-7-0 for 47 points in 31 games.

In Saturday's game, the Whalers' Tomas Kurka opened the scoring at

18:37 of the first period, which the Whalers controlled completely. Kurka (assisted by Bryan Thompson) picked the low corner of Erie goalie Adam Munro's net for the 1-0 lead.

Plymouth cushioned its advantage early in the second period, with Stephen Weiss ending a three-game scoring slump at 3:36 with a short-handed goal on a partial breakaway, fed to him by Kurka. George Nistas continued to play well for the Whalers, giving them a 3-0 lead at 7:23 after taking a beating in front of the Otters.

Please see WHALERS, C1

OBSERVER SPORTS SCENE

Ocelots lead league

There's little doubt that Schoolcraft College will be one of the teams to beat this season in the Michigan Community College Athletic Association's Eastern Conference. Going into Wednesday's game against Lansing CC, the Ocelots were 5-1; only Mott, at 7-0, had a better record.

The conference's top two scorers are from SC: Redford Bishop Borgessa product Sam Hoskin, averaging 26.0 points per game, and Derrick Bird, averaging 22.8 (Mott's statistics had not been reported). Also ranked in the top 10 is Nick Evola, tied for seventh with a 12.6 average.

Hoskin also ranked second in rebounding at 10.0 per game. Dwight Windom III is fifth (8.3) and Evola is tied for eighth (6.0).

SC's David McGlown tops the list in assists, averaging 3.3. Colin Wilkinson is fourth (2.5) and Bird is tied for fifth (2.2).

Evola is tied for sixth in blocks (1.0).

McGlown (63.8 percent), Evola (63.2) and Bird (61.5) rank second, third and fourth, respectively, in shooting percentage. Hoskin is ninth (54.6). Bird is third in three-point shooting (44.4 percent) and Colin Wilkinson is fifth (39.2). Bird (87.8) and Hoskin (81.3) are one-two in free-throw percentage; Evola is tied for fifth (70.0) and McGlown is 10th (61.9).

In the team stats, SC leads the conference in scoring (113.44 points per game), point differential (33.33), field-goal shooting (53.5 percent), free-throw shooting (78.6 percent), rebounding (47.6 per game), assists (22.3) and steals (15.5). The Ocelots are second in three-point accuracy (33.3 percent).

Wildcat tryouts

The Western Wayne Wildcats AAU girls basketball teams will have tryouts in February and March in Plymouth.

■ For 13-year-olds (born in 1987), tryouts will be from 6-7 p.m. Monday, Feb. 26 at West Middle School in Plymouth.

■ For 11-year-olds (born in 1989), tryouts will be from 6-7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 28 at West Middle School in Plymouth.

■ For 12-year-olds (born in 1988), tryouts will be from 7:30-9 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 28 at West Middle School in Plymouth.

■ A second tryout for 13-year-olds (born in 1987) will be from 6-7:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 1 at Central Middle School in Plymouth.

Any player unable to attend, but would still like to tryout, please call Fred Thomann at (734) 484-7746 or Bob Blohm at (734) 459-1763 or (734) 414-8156.

Whalers aim to help

The last chance to help the Plymouth Whalers help the needy is quickly approaching.

The Whalers and the local Salvation Army have teamed up on a coat drive this year, which runs through Saturday. Those wishing to donate winter coats that are in good condition (child sizes are preferred) will receive a free ticket to a future Whalers game. Donations can be made from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. — or before Saturday's game against London — at Plymouth's Compuware Arena.

Call (734) 453-8400 for more information.

Also, the Whaler players, front office staff and mascot (Shooter) will help the Canton Goodfellows deliver presents for children whose families can't afford to buy them any on Saturday morning.

If you would like more information on how you could help the Goodfellows, please call the Whalers public relations department at (734) 453-8400.

Soccer registration

The city of Plymouth Recreation Department will take spring youth soccer registrations for the entire month of January from 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. at the recreation office, located in the Plymouth Cultural Center at 525 Farmer.

Cost for 6-and-under, 7-and-under and 8-and-under players is \$45 for city of Plymouth residents and \$65 for non-residents. For 9-and-under and above players the cost is \$50 for residents and \$80 for non-residents.

For further information, call (734) 455-6620.

Salem pursuing another title

BY C.J. RISAK
SPORTS EDITOR
cjrisk@oe.homecomm.net

So, Mr. Olson, don't you think it's time for a change? Can't your Plymouth Salem boys swim team churn through new waters, do something different?

Like maybe, just once, step aside and let another team rule the roost in the Western Lakes Activities Association?

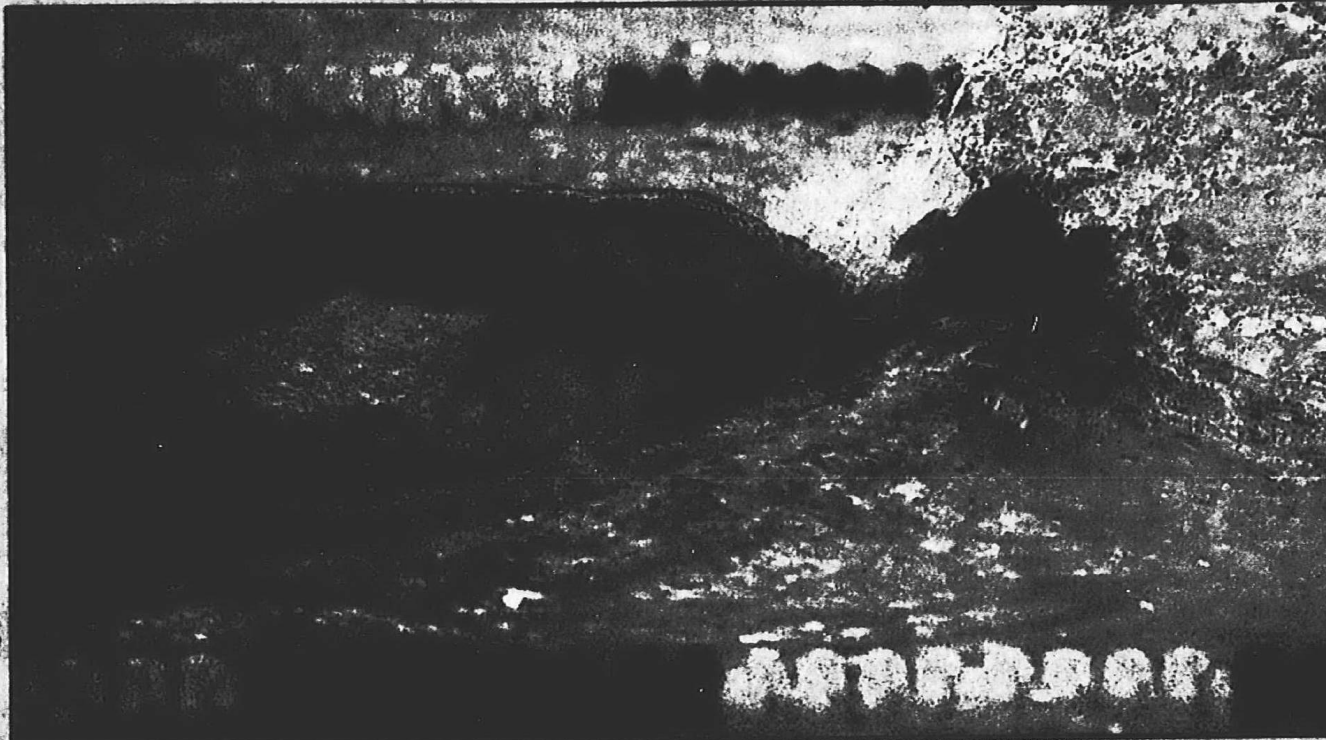
"We're not planning on it," was Chuck Olson's immediate answer. "Sure, it will be a bit of a problem keeping these guys off our back."

That may be a bit of a problem, but not much of one. Few (if any) teams in the WLAA have been as dominant in their sport as the Rocks have been in boys swimming. Last season's title was their eighth-straight.

Unless there's a major influx of talent at another league school, that dominance is unlikely to end. Salem won the league title last season with a roster crammed with freshmen and sophomores.

True, Olson has lost some key contributors. Gone are freestylers Mark Withhoff and Dan Jones and butterflyer-backstroker-Imer Kevin Crabbill, last season's co-captains. All three swam on relays at the state meet.

But the returnees are impressive. Like seniors Brian Mertens, a distance freestyler who was fourth in the 500 (5:01.42) and eighth in the 300 (1:53.81) at the WLAA; Jim Ross, sixth in both the 300 (1:51.98) and 500 (5:06.90) free at the league meet; sprinter Dave Carson (15th at league in the 50); Aaron Shelton, sixth in the 100 back (58.54) and seventh in the 200 individual medley (2:08.43);



Double runner-up: Salem junior Eric Lynn finished second in both the 200 individual medley and the 100 backstroke at last season's WLAA championships. Lynn placed in the top 20 in both at last season's state meet.

Kevin Schopieray (19th at league in the 100 fly); Greg Kubitaki, who was fourth in diving at the WLAA meet (317.35 points); and Hugo Alvarez, sixth in the 100 fly (1:53.99) and 10th in the 200 IM (2:14.14) at the league final and is trying to overcome a knee injury suffered in football.

Equally impressive are the underclassmen. Juniors who are counted on to contribute heavily include Eric

Lynn, who was second in the league in both the 200 IM (2:01.57) and 100 back (55.33) and who finished 16th and 17th, respectively, at state in those events.

Mike Johnson, another junior, took second in the 50 free (32.71) and third in the 100 free (50.00) at league and just missed scoring at state in the 50, finishing 13th (22.40).

The sophomore class has the poten-

tial to be one of the best in school history, and that's saying a lot. One of the best is Ben Dzialo, who qualified for state as a freshman in both the 100 fly and 500 free. Dzialo was first in the WLAA in the 100 fly (55.13) and second in the 500 free (4:59.21).

Other impressive sophomores are Mike Horgan (16th in league in 500), Jeff Nevi (12th 100 back, 14th 100 fly

Please see SWIM SWIM, C1

Chiefs ready to climb in WLAA

BY C.J. RISAK
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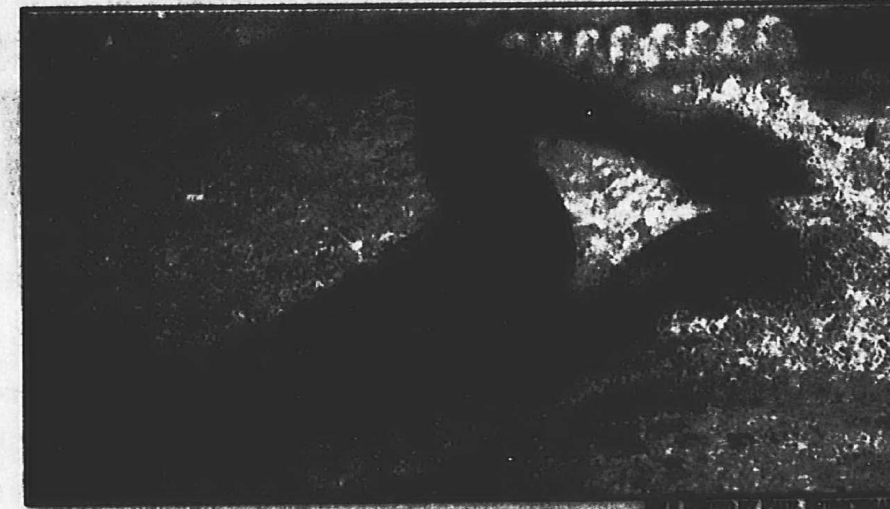
This marks the beginning of Ed Weber's second year as coach of Plymouth Canton's boys swim team. Gone from last season are a few heavyweights, in particular multi-event talent Aaron Reeder, butterflyer and backstroke Matt Schacht, and Andrew Suarez.

So what's left? A lot, actually. "Very much," was Weber's reply when asked if he had a nucleus to build around. "We have 11 freshmen this year and 10 juniors."

All told, there are 30 guys out for this season's team, up six from last year. That alone can make the Chiefs something more potent.

And they weren't so bad a season ago, either. True, there was one goal that escaped them — they were unable to retain their Western Division title in the Western Lakes Activities Association.

Injuries played a key part in that misfortune, in particular to Jon



All-around threat: Canton junior Brad Nilson qualified for state in the 100 back and was a top-six finisher in the 200 IM and 100 free at the WLAA finals.

Heiss, a breaststroker who could have provided important points for the Chiefs. Without Heiss and several

others, Weber was forced to patch together a lineup that couldn't quite keep pace. Northville emerged as the

division champ. Additional swimmers, including a few freshmen who should have an immediate impact, will help solve that problem.

"It's depth that will make us really strong this year," said Weber. "We've brought in two guys who will take (Reeder's) place."

Mind you, Weber was hardly displeased with last year's team. "It wasn't bad," he said of a Canton team that placed fifth at the WLAA finals. Then he added: "I would expect to beat what we achieved last year."

Leading the returnees is junior Brad Nilson, a sixth-place finisher in the 200-yard individual medley (2:07.46) and 100 freestyle (51.99) at the WLAA meet last year. Nilson also qualified for state in the 100 back (season's best: 55.89), in which he placed 20th.

Matt Wisniewski, another junior, is a distance freestyler who has "great talent. He's very strong at the end of

Please see SWIM SWIM, C1

Rockers fall prey to Wave, Crunch

With a roster trimmed to 12 players — normally it's 18 — by injuries and league technicalities, the Detroit Rockers couldn't quite keep pace with the defending NPSL Milwaukee Wave Tuesday, dropping an 18-16 decision in front of a sparse crowd at Plymouth's Compuware Arena.

Milwaukee improved to 4-9 with the victory. Detroit is 1-11.

The Wave built a 16-10 lead midway through the final quarter, but the Rockers battled back to knot it on a pair of two-pointers by Dennis Brose that pulled them to within striking distance and another by Matt Knowles that tied it at 16-all.

But Milwaukee prevailed on a two-point goal by Matt Tirschman with 3:16 left to play.

The Wave's Michael King, who had three 2-point goals and one assist, was voted the game's No. 1 star.

Drew Callahan, named No. 2 star, led the Rockers with six 2-point goals.

The Rockers were without Shawn Boney, the team's second-leading scorer, Joel Shanker and Randy Prescott, all out with injuries. Also the team's three additions from Edmonton — middlefielders Martin Nash, Paul Dally and Martin Dugas — remained out of action by league decree due to immigration problems experienced by other NPSL teams.

Dan Ilie Dac was in goal for Rockers; he faced 45 shots. Ex-Rocker Dan Green, the No. 3 star, was in goal for Milwaukee, fielding 31 shots.

The loss was the 10th-straight for Detroit, but it

marked the first time in five matches that they reached double figures in scoring.

On Saturday against the Cleveland Crunch at the Palace of Auburn Hills, the Rockers had no answer for scoring center Victor Marinero, who had four two-pointers in leading the Crunch to a 13-7 triumph.

Marinero, potentially among the NPSL's scoring leaders, got some solid support from Nikola Vignjevic, who accounted for Cleveland's other two goals and added two assists. Vignjevic's first two-point goal came off a routine pass that fell into the net, but Dan Bowers scored on a shotcut to narrow the Crunch lead to 2-1 just 20 seconds later.

Marinero's first goal and Vignjevic's second goals

Please see ROCKERS, C1

Canton swim from page C1

a race." Wisniewski was fifth in the WLAA in the 200 free (1:51.13) and seventh in the 500 free (8:06.93); he only needs to start his races a bit better to qualify for state.

Seniors who should be a major factor include Heiss, who has added the sprint free events to his repertoire; breaststroker Eddie Lindow, who was fourth in that event at the WLAA meet last year (1:05.45); diver Blake Brunner, another one who could be a state qualifier (ninth in WLAA); and Trey Gerchak, a backstroker (10th in the WLAA)

and sprinter.

"I would expect them to be first or second in any event I want to put them in," said Weber. He also thinks as many as five of the freshmen will have an immediate impact on the team.

Among the most promising are Ron Opdyke and Joe Lee, each with "lots of experience."

New: It's true the swim season is just underway — the annual kick-off event, the WLAA Relays, is Saturday at Plymouth Salem — but the question begs to be

asked.

How far up in the standings can Canton climb? One spot? Two? Can the Chiefs challenge perennial league champ Salem?

"I wish I could brag about that," said Weber. "But I think we need another year."

"Salem is definitely going to be

strong. They have great sophomores who will be major contributors."

The remainder of the WLAA isn't so certain. All three Livonia schools have new head coaches. North Farmington, a school Weber served at as an assistant

coach, will certainly be in the mix. So will Northville.

And Canton. There are a few questions that must be addressed for the Chiefs to move up. "Right now," said Weber, "it might be finding another Imer and butterflyer."

"We need another Brad Nilson,

a guy I can put anywhere. We're going to try out some of these freshmen."

How much they can add will be important. But Canton's fortunes will ultimately rest with how much the upperclassmen have improved.

Salem swim from page C1

at league), Adam Sonnanstine (14th in the IM at league) and Matt Schowalter (13th in 100 breast at league).

So are there any weaknesses in this championship lineup? "Maybe in breast and back we need to be a little better," Olson admitted after some prodding.

"But we have some possibilities. Those events could end up being strengths. If our freestylers come around, we'll be able to do some things."

The Rocks have exceptional depth in the freestyle events, something that's extremely useful to have considering two-thirds of the events in a swim meet feature freestyle in some form.

"That's our biggest strength," Olson said of the free events. "Just the flexibility the guys give me — there's a lot of options."

With all three Livonia schools having new coaches, the rest of the WLAA isn't as stable (Olson

is the only swim coach Salem has ever had).

Plymouth Canton is building that program, but may be a year from its peak. North Farmington and Northville, as well as Livonia Stevenson, should all be tough.

But it will take something special to unseat the Rocks. "We've got to stay healthy," said Olson. "If we stay healthy and work hard, it'll be tough to beat us. "Our depth is pretty good.

We've got some state-caliber guys. I like the way we look."

And as far as relinquishing that league championship that has been Salem's for so long, Olson doesn't foresee his team surrendering it this year.

"We don't mind being up there as the team to beat," he said. "The guys like the challenge."

Salem will host the WLAA Relays, featuring all 12 league schools, starting at noon Saturday.



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Whalers from page C1

net and banging home the rebound.

But the Otters reasserted themselves in the final period, leading scorer Brad Boyes narrowing the gap to 3-1 at the 1:51 mark. Plymouth's Stacey Britstone pushed the lead back to three with a goal at 6:01, assisted by Nistas and Damian Surma.

Brad Yeo, who had a hat trick the previous night, narrowed the gap to 4-2 at 17:09 and, with their goalie pulled, the Otters closed to within 4-3 with 1:18 remaining. But Whaler goalie Rob Zepp would not surrender the game-tying goal.

"Any time that you play two top-10 teams in a week's span and come out as good as we did, you have to be happy," said Surma. "It was a hard loss in Windsor (Thursday). We took it in stride and we feel that we are right up there with the Otters atop the league."

The story was only slightly different Friday night. Yeo opened the scoring for Erie with a power-play goal at 11:58. Nistas equalized it for Plymouth at 14:14, scoring short-handed with an assist from Surma.

Boyes bumped the Otters to a 2-1 lead at 14:43, his 32nd of the year, on the power play. Kurka re-tied for the Whalers, who had the extra man, at 18:37. Thompson assisted.

Back-to-back goals by Yeo pushed Erie's lead to 4-2 with more than 11 minutes left in the second period. A Nistas goal pulled Plymouth to within 4-3 with 4:06 left in the second, assisted by Britstone.

The Whalers' persistence paid off in the third period. Britstone knotted it at 4-all off a picture-perfect pass from Surma, but Erie went ahead again at the 7:33 mark on a goal by Nikita Alexeev.

The game-tying goal came from Kurka, who scored with 10:20 left on assists from Rob McBride and Weiss.

Nothing was resolved in overtime, leaving the game knotted at 5-all.

"These games were a measuring stick for us, just as much as it was for them," said DeBoer. "We really rose to the occasion and were able to come away with three out of four points against a tough Erie team."

Tough, yes. Unbeatable, no.

Rockers from page C1

Cleveland's lead to 6-1 by half-time.

Two more goals by Marinaro — both on restarts, giving the Crunch four like that for the game — increased the Crunch lead to 10-2 entering the fourth quarter.

Bowers, off an assist from Joe

Malachino, knocked in a three-pointer and Brose had a deuce for Detroit in the final period, but it wasn't enough to catch Cleveland, which got another score from Marinaro.

The Rockers have a rematch with Milwaukee at 7:35 p.m. Friday at Compuware.

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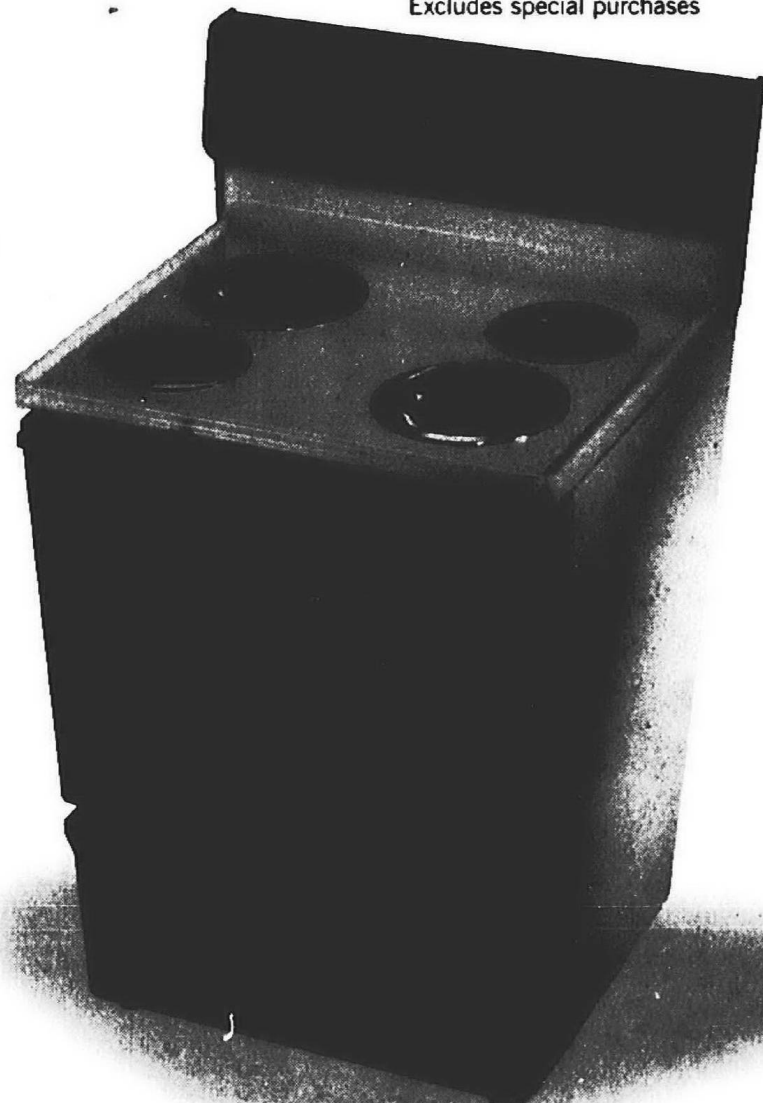
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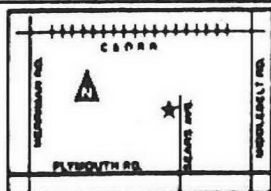
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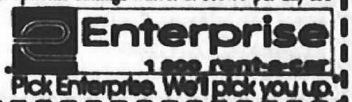
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Madonna's Malewski is All-American

BY BRAD EMONS
SPORTS WRITER
bemons@ee.homedomain.net

Talk to anybody connected with the Madonna University volleyball program the past four years and they'll tell you Brandy Malewski will be sorely missed. Last week, the 5-foot-11 senior from Redford Thurston became the school's fourth player to make first-team All-America honors cited by the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA). She joins select company at MU, earning first-team honors along with Dana Finley (1991-92), Kari Van Deusen (1993) and Kelly McCausland (1995-96). A second-team All-America both as a sophomore and junior, Malewski saved her best for last for the Lady Crusaders when she was able to showcase her skills on an national stage at the NAIA Tournament held earlier this month at Palm Beach Atlantic College (Fla.). And Malewski did not disappoint, ranking second only to senior teammate Erin Cunningham in hitting percentage (.545) with 75 kills in 121 attempts (with just nine errors). She also ranked

third in both kills per game (5.36) and blocks per game (1.5) among the 20 schools vying for the national title. "Brandy plays best in the big games, she's a pressure player," Madonna coach Jerry Abraham said. "She's just a great person, a family person. She's had a remarkable career like our other two seniors (Cunningham and Kelly Arty-movich) have had. She's been a role model, an asset to this university. I never had to worry about her. She's a goal-oriented person who knows what she wants to do after graduation." Malewski swept up just about every award this season as MU finished 40-8 overall and qualified for the NAIA Nationals for the fourth time in school history (the first trip since 1996). She was voted Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference and NAIA Region VIII players-of-the-year as the Crusaders swept both titles. Malewski finished the season leading the Crusaders with 801 total kills, third highest in school history. She also had 67 solo blocks, 172 blocks assists for a total of 239, both team highs. She averaged 5.13 kills per game. "Brandy is a multi-dimensional player

who does everything well," Abraham said. "She came to us as a sound all-around player. She plays an overall game. Defensively she's always been good. She's so solid offensively and defensively, but as a blocker and a passer, too. She's one of the best athletes we've ever had. She's a player who shows up in every category. She's going to be tough to replace." Malewski's three sisters, along with her father and mother, all attended the NAIA Tournament as Madonna finished 2-2 in pool play in West Palm Beach. "My dad made a promise he'd fly the whole family if we qualified for nationals and everyone went down there with the exception of my brother," Malewski said. Her only regret was the team not getting out of pool play. The Crusaders were eliminated by two semifinalists, College of St. Mary (Neb.) and Point Loma Nazarene (Calif.). "I don't think we played our best, some of the girls were kind of sick and physically felt a little worn down," Malewski said. "It became such a short time period (Nov. 29-Dec. 2). We had finals (exams) coming up and it was

kind of rough." But the .500 performance in the nationals pales in comparison to Malewski's four years of great memories at MU. "I'll miss the team, the competitiveness, the trips, and the volleyball in general," Malewski said. "The (three) seniors were tight." "Last year was kind of disappointing, but this year we stepped it up. Jerry brought in some really good players, even the girls who were considered practice players were awesome. Anybody could have played." Malewski competed in both volleyball and basketball at Thurston. Starting in the eighth-grade, she learned to play back row with the Crusader Junior AAU Club and honed her hitting skills at summer volleyball camps. As a senior at Thurston, Malewski made second-team All-State (Class B) and was recruited heavily by both Wayne State and Madonna. She contemplated foregoing volleyball, going to either Michigan State or Western Michigan. But she eventually decided on MU



All-America: Madonna's Brandy Malewski and her awards.

and the decision was a good one. She is scheduled to graduate next December and plans to pursue a career in sports marketing. She would like to do an internship with a pro franchise. Her sister Nicole works for Fox Sports. But one phase of her athletic career is over, sad as it may seem. "I'll still want to play," Malewski said. "Erin and I have talked about going to Joe Dumars' place (fieldhouse) and playing in a league." "But I know next year when August comes around I'll miss it so much."

Lady Crusaders get it together in 2nd half to topple Albion

BY BRAD EMONS
SPORTS WRITER
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Marylou Jansen didn't like her team's style of play during the first half. "The first half is what bothers me. We have to learn to play 40 minutes of basketball instead of playing 25 to 35 minutes." Don't misinterpret Jansen's comments, she had to like the final 20 minutes, especially from 5-foot-11 junior forward Kathy Panganis. The Allen Park native, who missed most of last season because of an early-season knee surgery, had a break-out game with a team-high 25 points. The smooth shooting left-hander hit six of nine shots from three-point range and grabbed six rebounds. Fourteen of her points came in the second half, including a triple to put MU ahead to stay, 46-43, with 16:26 remaining. "Kathy hasn't had a game like this where she's been knocking down the threes," Jansen said. "She's been more of a post player, but she also does a good job of rolling off screens and getting

her shot. She's probably our best three-point shooter, but she's capable of going inside or outside, scoring twos or threes." Albion fell behind by as many as 13 following a basket by MU's Mahogany Fletcher (Farmington Hills Harrison) with 6:56 to go. The layup made it 68-53. Albion (2-7) pulled to within four, 68-64, on a basket by Jocelyn Zappala with 3:22 left, but Lori Enfield split a pair of one-and-ones to push the lead up to six and MU was never headed. Guard Becky Campbell led Albion with 22 points, while Zappala added 12. Two players with local ties, Christine Phillips and Laurel Weisman, both from Plymouth Salem, scored five each coming off the bench for the Britons. Enfield, a 6-3 senior from Williamston, finished with 10 points and 10 rebounds. Senior forward Kristi Fiorezi (Plymouth Canton) also had 10 points. Junior guard Carissa Gizicki dished out 11 assists. "We have different players we can use as offensive weapons," Jansen said. "The key was that

we picked it up defensively, that was the difference in the second half." MADONNA (MEN) 76, PURDUE N-CENTRAL 62: Mike Massey scored 20 points and Narvin Russeau added 18 points and 14 rebounds as the Fighting Crusaders (3-8) snapped a seven-game losing streak against Purdue North-Central in Saturday's consolation final of the Gates Automotive Classic held at Bethel College (Mishawaka, Ind.). Guard Aaron Cox added 10 points and 10 rebounds for MU. John Bennett (Livonia Churchhill) and Joe Greene chipped in with eight points each. Center Jamison Smith led Purdue North Central with a game-high 26

points, while Daniel Kelley came off the bench to score 14. MU led 32-24 at halftime and outscored North Central 44-38 in the second half. Madonna hit 27 of 59 shots from the floor (45.8 percent), but only five of 22 from three-point range as Massey was just two of 13.

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CLINICS**

FLY TYING
Westbank Anglers, located in the Bloomfield Plaza at Telegraph and Maple roads, will conduct a Classic Atlantic Salmon Fly Tying Class. This two-day class will offer the intermediate to advanced angler an opportunity to learn to tie classic Atlantic Salmon flies. The first segment, scheduled for 6 p.m.-9 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 15, consists of explaining the various materials, how and where to obtain them and their preparation. The second segment, slated for Saturday, Dec. 16 from 9 a.m.-7 p.m., involves tying a married wing fly. The materials will be provided, but participants need to bring a vise, scissors, bobbin, hackle pliers and small non-serrated jaw pliers. For costs and additional information, call Westbank Anglers at (248) 538-3474.

FLY TYING
Paint Creek Outfitters in Rochester offers a variety of fly tying classes for beginners and advanced tyers. Call (248) 650-0440 for more information or to make a reservation for an upcoming class.

JUNIOR OLYMPICS
The Oakland County Sportsman Club in Clarkston offers a Junior Olympic Archery Development Program beginning at 1 p.m. on Sundays. Call (248) 623-0444 for more information.

ACTIVITIES

CHARITY 3-D ARCHERY SHOOT
The Linden Sportsman Club will hold a 3-D archery shoot on Sunday, Dec. 3. The club, located off Hogan Road in Linden, opens at 9 a.m. and the registration stops

at 3 p.m. Cost for adults is \$7, but discounts are available for members of sporting organizations and for younger participants. Kids 11 years of age and younger shoot for free, and kids 12-17 shoot for \$5. A \$1 discount will be given to shooters who donate perishable food and/or toys. Proceeds and donations will go to local charities. For more details, call the club at (810) 735-5822.

DETROIT AREA STEELHEADERS
Detroit Area Steelheaders, Inc. membership meetings are held the last Tuesday of each month at Knights of Columbus, St. Pius X, 6177 Chicago Road, in Warren. The public is welcome. More information can be obtained by calling Ed Wilczek at (810) 757-7365 or club President Ray Banbury at (810) 598-0310.

METRO-WEST STEELHEADERS
Metro-West Steelheaders meets at 7:30 p.m. on the first Tuesday of each month in the cafeteria at Garden City High School. Call Dominic Liparoto at (248) 476-5027 for more information.

MICHIGAN FLY FISHING
The Michigan Fly Fishing Club meets at 7:30 p.m. the first and third Wednesdays of each month at Livonia Clarenceville Middle School, located on Middlebelt Road between Seven and Eight Mile roads. Call (248) 478-1494 for more information.

FOUR SEASONS
The Four Seasons Fishing Club meets 7:30-9:30 p.m. the first Wednesday of each month at the Civic Park Senior Center, 15218 Farmington Road, in Livonia. Call Jim Kudej at (734) 591-0843 for information. The organization will conduct its annual Christmas party on Wednesday, Dec. 6 at the Livonia Senior Center beginning at 6 p.m. For additional information, contact Kathie Chambers at (734) 525-5416 or e-mail her at

claircm@aol.com.
FISHING BUDDIES
Fishing Buddies Fishing Club meets the third Tuesday of each month in Rochester Hills. Meetings are open to all anglers (boaters and non-boaters). Call (248) 656-0556 for more information.

HURON VALLEY STEELHEADERS
The Huron Valley Steelheaders meets the third Thursday of each month at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 27600 Hall Road, Flat Rock. Call Carroll White at (734) 285-0843 for more information.

BASS ASSOCIATION
The Downriver Bass Association, a non-tournament bass club, meets at 6:30 p.m. the fourth Tuesday of every month at the Gander Mountain in Taylor. Call (734) 676-2863 for more information.

SOLAR
The School for Outdoor Leadership, Adventure and Recreation (SOLAR), a non-profit organization interested in promoting the appreciation of outdoor activities, meets at 7:30 p.m. on the first Tuesday of each month at the Colony Hall in Southfield. Call (248) 988-6658 for more information.

**SHOOTING
RANGES**

BALD MOUNTAIN
Bald Mountain Recreation Area in Lake Orion has shotgun (skeeet & trap, sporting clays, 5-stand), rifle, pistol, and archery shooting facilities. Hours for archery and clay target shooting are noon to sunset Mondays and Tuesdays; 10 a.m. to sunset Wednesdays; and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays. Rifle range hours are 3 p.m. to sunset Mondays and Tuesdays; 10 a.m. to sunset Wednesdays;

and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays. Bald Mountain is located at 1330 Greenshield Rd., which is three miles north of the Palace of Auburn Hills off M-24. Call (248) 814-9193 for more information.

LIVONIA RANGE
The Livonia Archery Range is open to the public. The range features seven field lanes and one broadhead lane and is open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays. The range is also open Tuesdays and Thursdays by appointment only through the end of November. Cost is \$4 for adults and \$2 for children. Livonia residents shoot free of charge. The range is located on Glendale Ave., east of Farmington Road. Call (734) 466-2410 for more information.

PONTIAC LAKE
Pontiac Lake Recreation Area in Waterford has rifle, pistol, shotgun, and archery ranges. Range hours are 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Fridays through Sundays. Pontiac Lake Recreation Area is located at 7800 Gale Rd. Call (248) 666-1020 for more information.

ORTONVILLE RECREATION
Ortonville Recreation Area in Ortonville has rifle, pistol and shotgun shooting facilities. Range hours are noon-5 p.m. Thursday through Sunday. The Ortonville Recreation Area is located at 5779 Hadley Rd. Call (248) 693-6767 for more information.

**OAKLAND COUNTY
PARKS**

COUNTY PARK REQUIREMENTS
Advanced registration and a motor vehicle permit are required for all nature programs at Oakland County Parks. Call (810) 625-6473 to register or for more information.

PERMITS

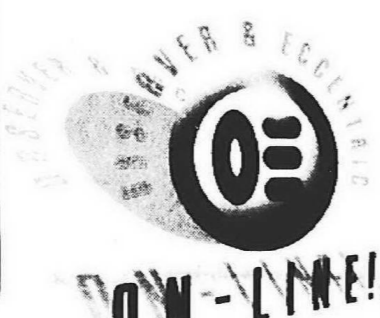
The 2001 Oakland County parks motor vehicle permits are now on sale at all county park offices and many parks and recreation and township offices. Cost is \$20 through April 30, 2001. After May 1, 2001, the permit cost will be \$25. All senior citizens (ages 62 and older) can purchase the permit for \$15 at all times. Call (248) 858-0906 or TTY (248) 858-1684.

STATE PARKS

STATE PARK REQUIREMENTS
Maybury State Park, Proud Lake Recreation Area, Bald Mountain Recreation Area, Highland Recreation Area, and Island Lake Recreation Area offer nature interpretive programs throughout the year. A state park motor vehicle permit is required for entry into all state parks and state recreation areas. For registration and additional information on the programs at Maybury call (248) 349-8390. For programs at Bald Mountain call (810) 693-6767. For programs at Proud Lake and Highland call (810) 685-2187. For programs at Island Lake call (810) 229-7067.

**WAYNE COUNTY
PARKS**

COUNTY PARK REQUIREMENTS
Wayne County Parks offers nature interpretive programs throughout the year. Advanced registration is requested. Call (734) 261-1990 to register and for more information. (To submit items for consideration in the Observer & Eccentric's Outdoor Calendar send information to: Outdoors, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham, MI 48009; fax information to (248) 644-1314.)



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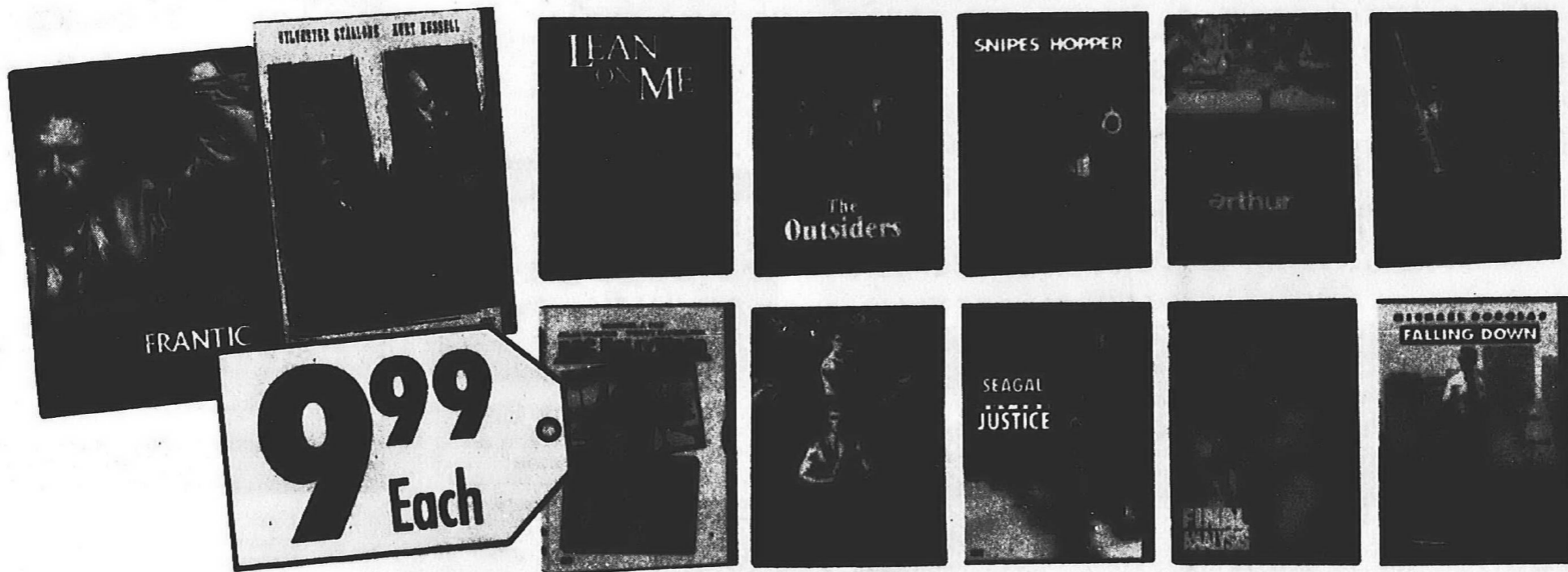
DVDs from Warner Brothers

selection and prices worth singing about



On the **first** day of Christmas...

Warner Brothers gave to me, a great price on all their DVDs.



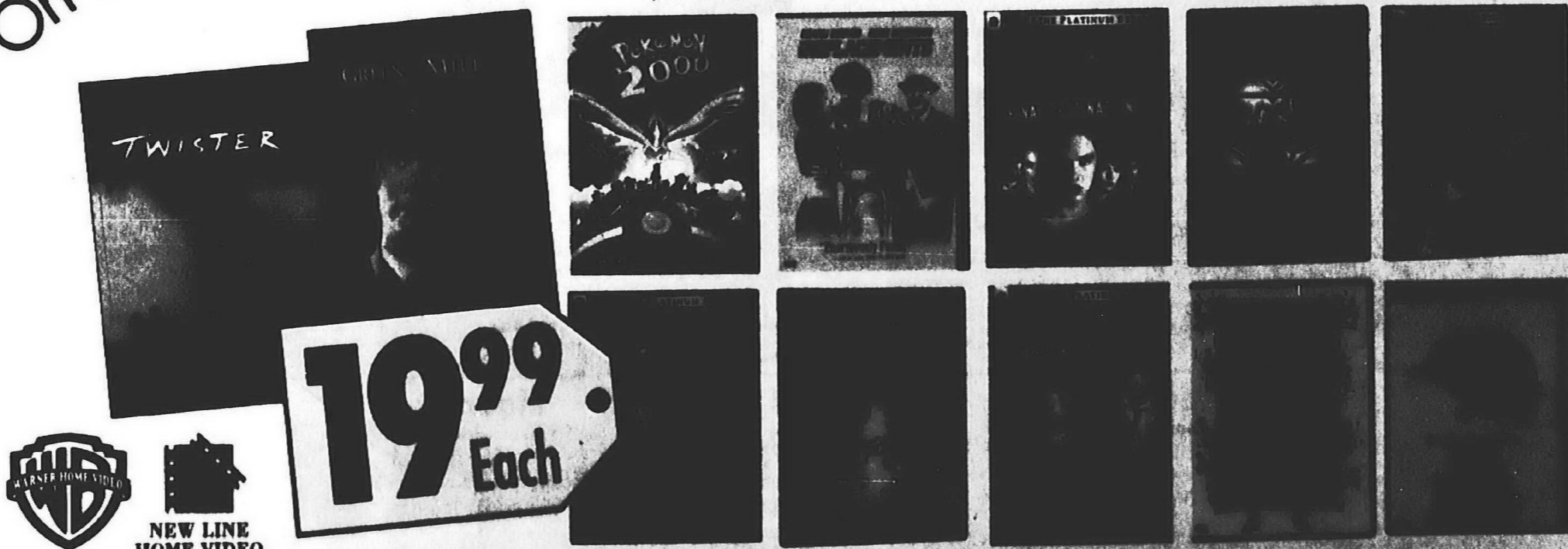
On the **second** day of Christmas...

Best Buy gave to me, a fun place to buy my DVDs.



On the **third** day of Christmas...

I realized Best Buy has enough Warner Brothers DVDs to hammer out this 12 Days of Christmas thing for the next 3 years...and then some.



CANDLELIGHT TOUR

Greenmead promises a glimpse of holiday glow through the ages



Candles burning: Organizers of the Christmas Candlelight tour at the Greenmead Historical Park in Livonia decorated the Shaw house to recreate how it may have looked 150 years ago on Christmas night, lit only by "candles" - actually simulated by lights. Christmas holidays were celebrated with family and friends as many homemade gifts and foods were exchanged in those days. (The picture on the left in the upper photo is John Shaw, who farmed land in the area of what is now Six Mile and I-275.)

BY KEN ABRAMCZYK
STAFF WRITER
kabramczyk@oc.hometown.com

The country hadn't known of the Civil War, Michigan was a relatively new state, and it was nearly 100 years before Livonia would be incorporated as a city.

Ann Shaw lived on a farm in the area of what is now Six Mile Road and I-275 in Livonia. She wrote in a diary, describing Christmas 1856, when she and Shaw family members took a sleigh ride from the Shaw farm to Jackson Welsh's, then to Northville. Welsh owned a farm, now believed to be located where the campus of Schoolcraft College stands.

"As we went through Northville, we saw the Randolphs who had heard we were going and were preparing to go too," Shaw wrote. "We found them all well and their little girl is about 2 year's old. We had a pleasant visit."

"We had never been there before. Ma had never seen Northville so the journey was quite interesting but Oh! how cold."

Greenmead Historical Park officials hope to show visitors a glimpse of the Shaw's farm life during that era during this year's Christmas Candlelight tour Tuesday-Wednesday, Dec. 26-27. The Shaw House and

other historical buildings will be lit up and cast a subtle glow over the historical village at the park.

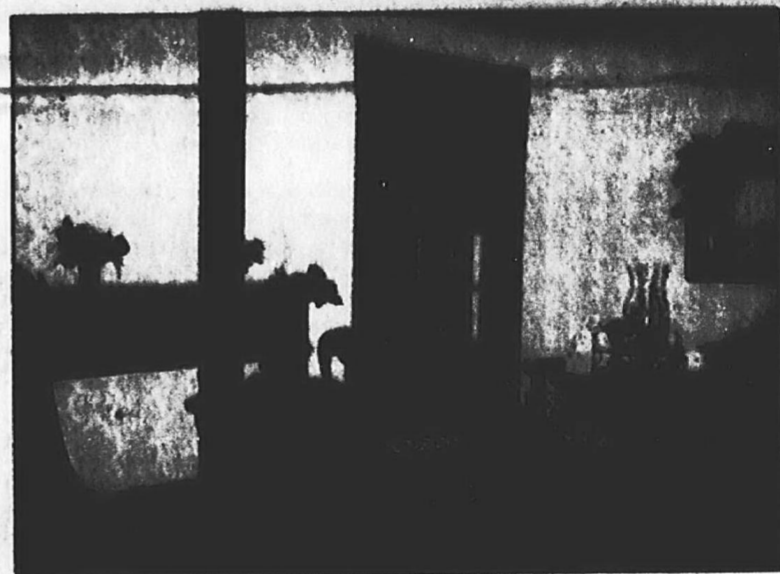
"It's a different experience to see the village after dark," said Marion Renaud, program director for Greenmead. "It shows what Christmas was like for early settlers of Livonia Township and it is a different experience from our usual tours of the village." Money raised from the tour will help with Greenmead's restoration and preservation of the village.

Please see CANDLELIGHT, D1

STAFF PHOTO BY ELIZABETH CAMBER



Shaw furnishings: Early 19th century furniture had many styles including federal and empire styles. Oak, black walnut, rosewood and mahogany were some of the woods used in this style furniture. (Picture at right courtesy of Greenmead Historical Park.)



Gingerbread village takes the cake at Ford Museum

■ **Holiday Walking Tours at Greenfield Village in Dearborn** — Monday-Thursday, through Dec. 21. Visitors will receive a special guided tour through some of the more popular homes and businesses in the village.

■ **"The Twelve Nights of Christmas"** — Thursday-Saturday through Dec. 23. Visitors will see the village in a whole new light with the glow of lanterns lining snow-covered streets under a sky full of winter stars. Reservations are required, call (313) 982-6001.

■ **At Henry Ford Museum** — visitors can see a 25-foot tree with more than 2,000 ornaments and a gingerbread town with 32 gingerbread buildings and six toy trains with 75 cars winding through 500 feet of track, lollipop trees and gumdrop gardens.

Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village are open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, and closed on Christmas Day. Tickets for Greenfield Village are \$13.50 for adults, \$12.50 for seniors 62 and over, \$8.50 for children 5-12 years of age and children under 5 and members are admitted free. Tickets for Henry Ford Museum are \$12.50 (adults), \$11.50 (seniors), \$7.50 (children 5-12) and children under 5 and members, free. Call (313) 271-1620 for information.

BY KEN ABRAMCZYK
STAFF WRITER
kabramczyk@oc.hometown.com

Greenfield Village & Henry

Ford Museum in Dearborn are famous for their holiday appearances and events during the Yuletide season.

Part of that holiday spirit extends to the museum's train display, which features a gingerbread village with 32 buildings made of sugar and plywood or core board.

Betty Bourne of Redford, owner of Cakes by Betty, created the village with help from daughter Bonnie Santoro, grandson John Santoro, both of Redford, and granddaughter Dana McArthur of Southbridge.

"We're a family unit," Bourne said. "Anything we do, we do together."

It truly is a

family effort, what she refers to as "urban renewal."

"Dana came up with five new buildings with completely new designs - the mercantile, the county store and the Swiss chalet."

"John designed a new light-house, which people have a lot of interest in, and he built a light in it. Dana also built a new castle for children to run the train."

Bourne helps Betty set up the display and create buildings.

The display began about 20 years ago. Bourne and Bonnie Santoro were employed at the museum, where they created four buildings out of gingerbread.

But they also encountered a problem in those days with the gingerbread buildings: moosems crawling into the building, then gnawing on the sugar art.

"That ended once the museum installed new windows," Bourne said.

Today these buildings still con-

tain sugar, but they are supported with core board or plywood.

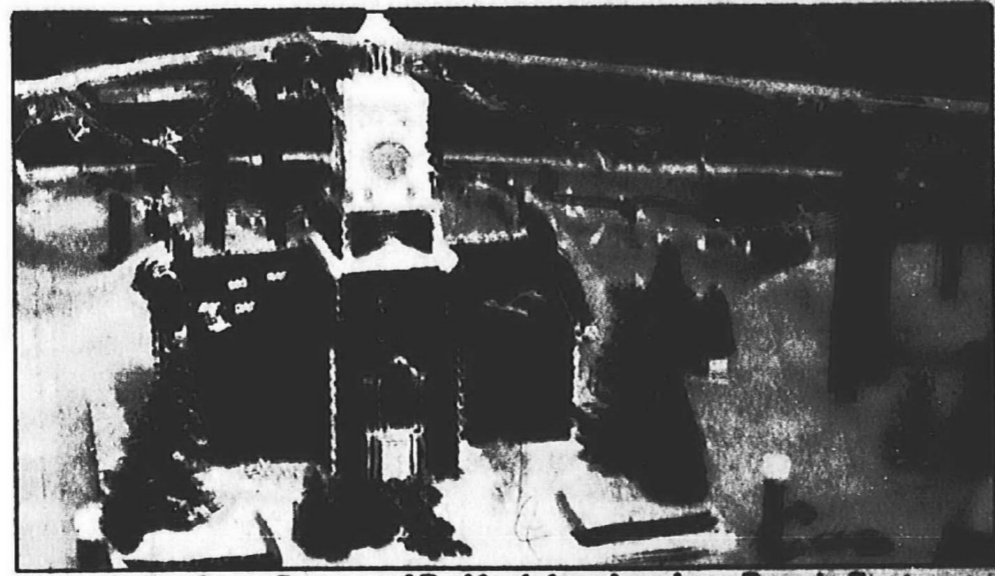
The Independence Hall display was difficult to build, Bourne said. "Many buildings have been reroofed or relandscaped," Bourne said. "We call it 'urban renewal.'"

Bourne thinks the display is popular not only because visitors enjoy gingerbread houses, but they also have a "natural interest in trains."

Bourne believes gingerbread originated in Germany, but it was also baked in England, as a status symbol since spices were expensive. "On those long winter days, you had the stoves going, so they baked gingerbread," Bourne said.

Bourne takes great satisfaction in building the village because she works with her hands. "I really enjoy working with the volunteers who help set up the trains, too," Bourne said.

The display is open through Jan. 1 at Henry Ford Museum.



Ginger halls: Betty Bourne of Redford, her daughter, Bonnie Santoro, grandson John Santoro and granddaughter Dana McArthur helped build this gingerbread village at Henry Ford Museum in Dearborn.

INSIDE



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Figley offers tips to keep the Christmas flower thriving well after the holiday season
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CREATIVE LIVING

This valley is the spot for monumental photos

FOCUS ON PHOTOGRAPHY



MONTE NAGLER

People often ask me where my favorite spot is for photography. Well, I've traveled to many parts of the world and photographed numerous exciting places. But, as far as my favorite, I come right back to the good old U.S.A. and head west to a spot along the Arizona/Utah border about 50 miles west of Four Corners (that's where Arizona, Utah, Colorado and New Mexico all touch).

It's called Monument Valley and in my opinion offers some of the most breathtaking, photogenic scenery anywhere in the world.

Monument Valley contains the most awesome monoliths found anywhere. These are towering, unusually shaped rock forma-

tions that arise majestically from a flat desert floor to dramatic heights.

Named centuries ago by the American Indians who inhabited the area, some monoliths resemble animals, such as the "Elephant Rock," and people, such as the "Five Sisters." The most famous formations are "East Mitten" and "West Mitten," which produce sensational photographs.

You'll get good shots anytime of the year in Monument Valley. It will be hot in the summer and dramatically snow-covered in the winter. There are usually good cloud patterns to enhance your pictures, and sunsets and sunrises are especially impressive.

There is subject material to accommodate all lenses from wide angle to telephoto. And be sure to use a polarizer filter to darken the vivid blue skies often seen in Monument Valley.

You can tour Monument Valley yourself along a rough dirt but passable road (15 miles round trip), or hire one of many guides who will lead you through.

Adjacent to Monument Valley is Mystery Valley, well worth seeing, but you must have an American Indian guide for entry. It's sacred ground and tourists aren't allowed unescorted.

Where to stay when photographing in and around Monument Valley? The best place is Gouldings Lodge, which is right in the valley. From right in your room in the early morning, you can capture dramatic silhouettes of the monoliths as the sun rises in the east.

Other places to stay can be found in Kayenta, Ariz., a 20-mile, scenic drive south of Monument Valley.

So the next time you head west, be sure to include Monument Valley on your itinerary. It's truly a magnificent place that will reward you with extraordinary photographs.

Monte Nagler is a fine art photographer based in Farmington Hills. You can leave him a message by dialing (734) 953-2047 on a touch-tone phone, then 111, then N-A-G-L-E-R. His fax number is (248) 644-1314.



Mighty mittens: This is a picture of Monument Valley's famous East and West Mittens. Notice how the large rocks in the foreground add impact to the picture.

Many holiday items evolved from Christian traditions

BY KEN ABRAMCZYK
STAFF WRITER

kabramczyk@oe.homecomm.net

You admire your Christmas tree because you spent long hours picking one out, then straightening it in its stand.

You've just waited in line at the store to purchase a gift for your special someone, and you've already mailed out this year's greeting cards.

These holiday traditions didn't just pop up on the American landscape — they've enjoyed an evolution into society, our heritage and history.

Jeanine Miller, curator at Greenfield Village, said many holiday traditions celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ originated in Europe and grew in popularity with the rush of

immigrants to this country in the late 1800s to early 1900s.

Much of it began with the Christmas tree.

Christmas trees seem to have a German origin, Miller said. But it was a print of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert and the Royal Family published in 1850 with a Christmas tree that initiated trees in England, then soon after in the United States. "Prince Albert really introduced the tradition in England," Miller said.

But many Americans did not celebrate Christmas prior to that. Puritans in New England colonies did not celebrate holidays, so it wasn't until Anglicans in the southern states and later European immigrants who were Christians came to the U.S. that

traditions began, Miller said.

Trees often were placed in homes in the winter as a pagan tradition to symbolize throughout winter that spring would return. There were festivals that took place in December.

When Christianity arrived, the trees took on a new meaning. "Here the evergreen would represent the everlasting life of Christ and life after death," Miller said.

Others believed that Martin Luther once walked through the woods and saw stars through the trees, and a tradition of putting candles on trees was borne. Americans began a candle tradition, which continued from the late 1800s through the 1920s.

While pine needles and flames are a flammable and deadly com-

bination, Miller said residents took precautions to try and minimize the fire hazards.

"You had trees that were cut just before they were put in the house, so they didn't dry out as quickly, and you always kept a bucket of sand or you put a bucket of water nearby," Miller said. "You also blew the candles out when you left the room."

"When (Americans) first started (decorating trees), they used homemade decorations, candy, cookies and paper decorations," said Miller. "Quite often, they were edible."

Later decorations were made with glass. Before World War II, most of the glass ornaments that adorned American Christmas trees came from Germany.

Max Eckardt, an importer of

German ornaments, saw that the war would end his business. Wartime shortages and bans on using certain materials on consumer goods eventually made it impossible to get either lacquer or silver for decorating, and cardboard caps on ornaments replaced the metal ones.

"He worked together with the Corning Company and figured out how to blow up ornaments on a light bulb machine," Miller said.

Eckardt, who then produced ornaments under the trade name Shiny Brite, decorated the clear glass balls with thin painted stripes in pastel colors.

Shiny Brite became the largest ornament company in the world, selling millions of ornaments decorated with stripes, holiday

images, or greetings of the season.

Greeting cards also emerged in the 19th century, but it wasn't until the 20th that they became popular. Louis Prang's card company held a contest in the 1880s, Miller said. Holiday postcards were sent in the early 1900s.

"By the 1930s you find Christmas cards, but they didn't just suddenly start up," Miller said.

Singing Christmas carols is a 19th Century phenomena, Miller said. "Composers were writing Christmas carols in the 1850s, 1860s and 1870s. People were providing music at home, obviously they were not buying records or CDs. Most of the time you sang at church or later at a community tree, and carols would be sung."

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Candlelight from page D1

While everyday life certainly was a struggle for survival on a farm, Shaw's writing reflects the simpler pleasures of Christmas for the people of that era.

"I think it really gives us a sense of how life has changed," said Renaud. "For many people today, Christmas is so commercial. In those days, Christmas was a holy time, it was a simple time."

Thomas Shaw built the structure in 1843 so he could farm the

largely undeveloped land. He died the following year, so his son, John, took it over at the age of 19, eventually increasing the size of the farm from 80 to 200 acres.

John farmed corn, oats, wheat, potatoes and hay, and had an orchard of 120 apple trees, Renaud said. He raised horse, oxen, sheep, pigs and milk cows.

"All the clothes and quilts were handmade, and all the household chores were done by members of the family," Renaud said.

That simplicity and the closeness of the Shaw family was reflected in the Dec. 25, 1855 journal entry of Ann Shaw when she wrote about her sister, Eliza, and her niece and nephew, the children of brother John.

"When we returned, Eliza came out with a mug and a dog, Christmas presents for Emma and Tommy and to say that they were all well and she would not let Ma come home that cold night," Shaw wrote.

Ann lived in the home in 1855 when she was 36.

Greenmead also has Ann's diary entries 22 years later dated 1877.

"Willie Shaw was here long before daylight to wish us a Merry Christmas and bring the pictures Emily had framed for a Christmas present for me," Ann wrote. "He brought his silver napkin ring, a present from Father and Mother, to show us. Stayed for breakfast and took us to visit Tom and dine at their house on turkey. It is 9 o'clock and Fred has not returned and the cows are out and not milked." (Willie was another nephew of Ann's, Emily was her

adopted daughter, Tom was also a nephew and Fred was the hired hand that worked for the Shaw's for many years.)

Renaud appreciates the Shaw diary. "She wrote about Christmas, and it didn't have the fanfare it has today," Renaud said. "We don't know if the Shaws would have gone to church Christmas Day, but they would have a nice dinner."

The journal also shows how timeless and universal the themes of the holidays are. Ann Shaw wrote an entry on New Year's Day, 1878 that can be described as a 19th century interpretation of "peace on earth":

"The old year is gone with all its joys and sorrows, its anxiety, and care with intervals of relaxation and pleasure!

"Are we prepared to make the pleasures of the New Year more frequent, lasting, its joys more joyous and bright, for the sunshine or shadows in our own heart must never affect our atmosphere and the "bright spots" be of our own making!

"Let duty be our motto with kindly words and kindlier acts."

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AT THE MARKETPLACE

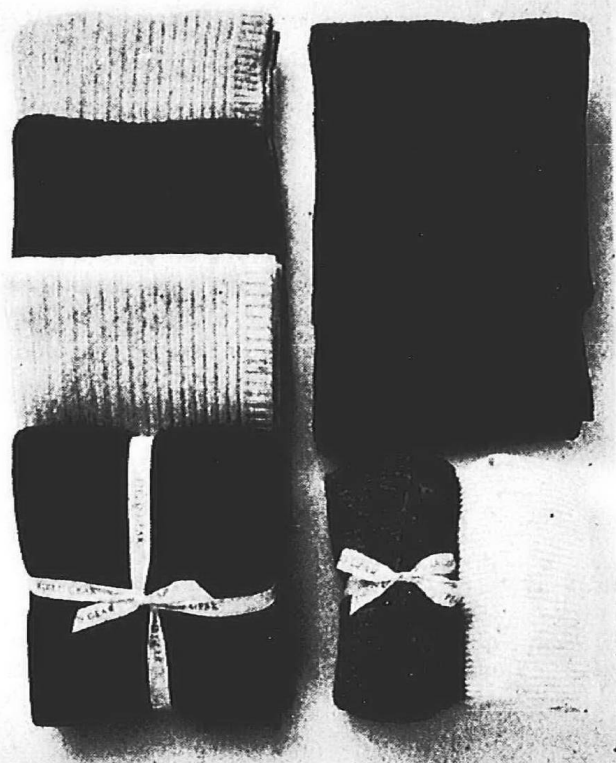
Welcome wagon

Cat's meow: The Village Shopkeeper, 470 Forest, in Plymouth offers this "Cat's Meow" Wagon. Made by Bartholomew, the wagon is hand-painted and hand-assembled. All Bartholomew products are made in Idaho from American hardwoods: oak, alder, ash and poplar. Another wagon - the Teddy wagon - includes over 117 pieces and each piece is handled at least four times before final assembly. The wagons start at \$304.95. Call (734) 455-6060 for information.



Truffles with flourishes

Frosty treats: Celebrate the holidays with Joseph Schmidt's holiday collection of truffles in handmade boxes, carried by Jacobson's. Jacobson's exclusive nutcracker box is filled with 12 large truffles and retails for \$30. Also available are a wrapped box with 12 large truffles for \$24, and a card box with eight mini truffles for \$16.



Throw in the towel

Burgundy for the bathroom: Looking for a holiday idea? Buy Field Gear lambswool throw towels for that special couple or someone in your life. Available at Hudson's stores in grey, spruce, linen, navy, plum, natural, burgundy, black, olive and natural for \$59.99.

AT HOME • Ken Abramczyk, editor (734) 953-2112
We are looking for your ideas for At Home and for the Marketplace roundup of new ideas. Send your comments to:

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GARDENING

Follow these pointers to keep your poinsettia

GARDEN SPOT



MARTY FIGLEY

As we are in a busy time of year, we don't want to neglect the birds.

The seed-heads you left on plants and ornamental grasses, and berries on shrubs and small trees, and your donations will surely keep them healthy during the cold winter.

Along with food, the birds need water. A small heater made to keep the water from freezing will ensure that the water is accessible.

When the temperatures are below 40 degrees Fahrenheit, apply an antidesiccant to broadleaf and other evergreens now and again in mid- and late winter to help reduce winter leaf burn and to keep them from drying out.

These plants, too, need a thorough watering before the ground freezes. Live wreaths that are exposed to the weather will also stay fresher if they are sprayed with the antidesiccant.

When you receive or buy a flowering plant, it will stay in top condition if you know how to care for it. Hang tags will usually help, but if you need more specific instructions, ask the salesperson before you leave the store.

Generally, flowering houseplants need lots of light, bright enough to read by, although they

shouldn't be in direct sun. Check soil moisture as soon as you can. To test, pinch a little of the soil surface with your fingers. It should feel moist, not muddy. Add water when the surface soil begins to feel dry.

Poinsettia pointers

Poinsettias still seem to be the favorite Christmas flower. An exception to the rule of no direct light to flowering houseplants applies here.

Poinsettias like a sunny location, away from drafts and temperature fluctuations. Daytime temperatures of 65 to 70 degrees and night temperatures of 58 to 60 are ideal.

Water only when the soil is dry, but before the plant begins to wilt. Be sure the water drains through the bottom of the pot. Pour out all excess water - don't let the plant set in water. Don't forget to punch a hole in the foil in which the plant was wrapped so the water can drain.

A lot of people like to keep poinsettias over for another year. Here's the scoop: In February, keep watering the plant when the soil is dry. In March, cut it to 6 inches above the soil line. Many laterals will start to emerge.

In June, repot the plant in a larger pot if necessary (1 inch larger than the original pot) in clean, porous soil and plant outside in the pot when the weather is warm and the danger of frost is past. A sunny location is very necessary.

July is generally the time to pinch all lateral shoots to 4 inches. In order to produce a compact and multi-branched plant, it

needs to be pinched every four weeks.

To do this, remove the youngest growth of each new shoot as the plant develops. Each shoot will be 3 to 4 inches long before pinching is required, and two fully expanded leaves should be left on each shoot for new growth to develop.

The last pinch should be done before Aug. 15, so the new shoots can develop height before flower initiation occurs. In late August, take the plant inside.

This is crucial for reblooming: Every day from Sept. 20 until Dec. 1, keep the plant in light only from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and put it in a very dark place (a closet, or put a box over it) from 5 p.m. to 8 a.m.

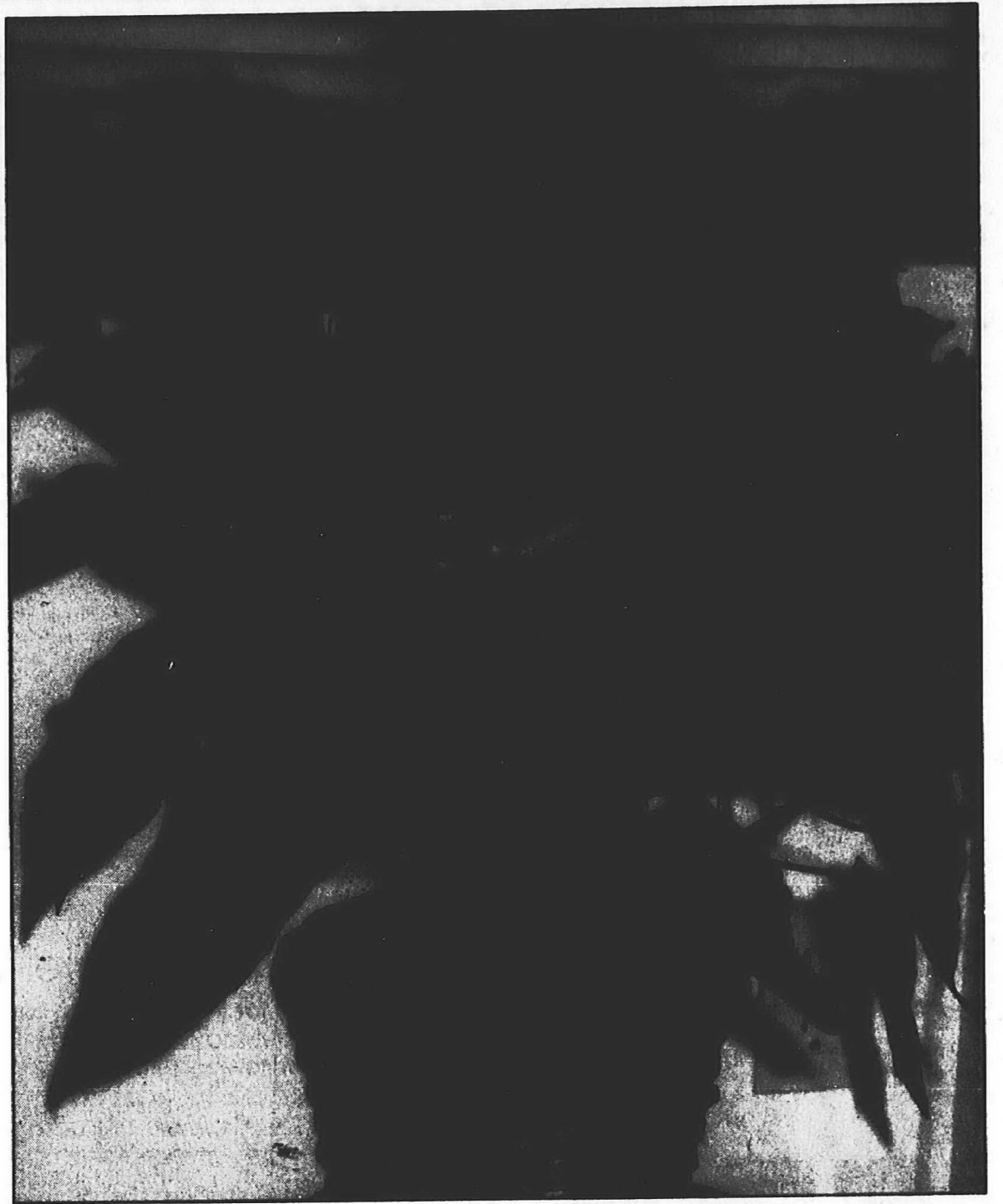
In December, bring it back into the room as above, with temperatures not over 70 degrees, and watch for the beautiful show to begin again.

Use a 20-20-20 water-soluble fertilizer throughout the summer growing season and continue until the Christmas blooming season has ended. Good luck!

Wreaths

When you see the beautiful wreaths adorning many doors and walls, it's nice to know that they have been used as decorations all over the world for centuries.

In ancient Rome, wreaths were symbols of victory and celebration. German Lutherans were the first to design and use advent wreaths, making them out of fir or spruce branches and laying them flat on a table. Candles were lit each Sunday during this time.



MARTY FIGLEY

Holiday favorite: The poinsettia is still a favorite Christmas flower.

The circle, the wreath's shape, is the symbol of continuity and tradition, the symbol of eternity. Evergreen boughs are one of the

oldest symbols of eternal life. Marty Figley is an advanced master gardener based in Birmingham. You can leave her a mes-

sage by dialing (734) 953-2047 on a touch-tone phone, then 111, then 3445. Her fax number is (248) 644-1314.

GARDENING CALENDAR

Does your garden club have an upcoming event or meeting you want publicized? Send items for consideration in Gardening Calendar to Ken Abramczyk, Observer Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150 or e-mail kabramczyk@oe.homecomm.net. To send a fax, call (734) 591-7279.

GARDEN CLUB

LIVONIA
"Feng Shui in the Garden" will be presented at the next Livonia Garden Club meeting scheduled for 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 2 at the Livonia Senior Center on Farmington

Road. The presentation will be made by Debra Christy-Merriman, teacher of the art of Chinese placement at Schoolcraft College. Visitors are welcome.

BACK TO SCHOOL

MORE GARDENING
The Michigan School of Gardening, 29429 Six Mile, in Livonia offers a variety of subjects. Register in advance. Classes are limited in size. Here is a list of some of the classes:
Common Problems and Critter

Control, Mondays, Jan. 8, 15 and 22 at 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. and Saturday, Jan. 14, 9:30 a.m.-noon. Another section is offered those Mondays at 6:30 p.m. and that Saturday at 1 p.m.
Garden Design, five Tuesdays, starting Jan. 9 at 9:30 a.m. or 6:30 p.m. How to select and arrange plants for individual beds or small areas within a landscape. The class requires a Focus on Design course or equivalent experience as a pre-requisite.
Lawn Pest Management, Jan. 29, at 9:30 a.m. or 6:30 p.m. Identify and diagnose common diseases and pests of lawns. Learn man-

agement techniques and control strategies and lawn care without pesticides.
Call (248) 4-GARDEN for information on fall and winter classes, times and costs or click on www.michigangardening.com

MORE SEMINARS

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English Gardens hosts free weekly gardening seminars for the public at its five locations, including 7 p.m. Tuesdays at the Royal Oak/Troy store, 4901 Coolidge Highway, north of 14 Mile, call (248) 280-9500, and 7 p.m.

Thursdays at the West Bloomfield store, 6370 Orchard Lake Road, north of Maple, call (248) 851-7506. Call (800) 335-GROW for the nearest English Gardens, or visit www.englishgardens.com

NURSERY TALKS
Saguaro Nursery and Gardens, 470 W. Five Mile Road in Whitmore Lake, offers a series of free lectures at 1 p.m. Sundays by nursery owner Richard Tuttle. "Great Gifts for Gardeners" will be discussed Dec. 17. The nursery offers a 10-percent discount on any plant discussed in the lectures. For information call (734) 449-4237.

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Versatile blower, vacuums make cleanup easier

Homeowners looking to turn over a new leaf this holiday season may be turning to tools that help keep their lawns free from leaves and debris.
The latest blower/vac products offer plenty of power for heavy-duty cleanup jobs, with shift-on-the-fly technology that lets users readily change from blowing to vacuuming to mulching with the flip of a switch.
For example, Ryobi, a major

producer of hand-held gas- and electric-powered lawn and garden equipment, offers a series of versatile blower/vacs to help make sure the grass is greener instead of covered with yellow and orange leaves. These include:
■ RGBV3100-Weighing in at just 16 pounds, the unit features Ryobi's shift-on-the-fly technology, which allows operators to switch between blowing and vac-

uuming instantly-without using tools or removing tubes or bags. This model has a variable speed throttle control, a high impact impeller for added durability and a bag capacity of 3.4 bushel.
■ RESV1300-A smart choice for smaller clean-up jobs, this electric blower/vac is powered by a 12-amp motor, is well-balanced and features Ryobi's shift-on-the-fly technology. Just the right size for clearing off leaf-covered

driveways, walkways and patios, this model offers vacuum and mulching capability.
■ TrimmerPlus-A base unit that can be outfitted with attachments for most aspects of yardwork. This system operates on electric, 2-cycle or 4-cycle power and features a reliable belt-drive transmission. To learn more about Ryobi's blower/vacs, visit the Web site at www.ryobi.com, or call 1-800-345-8746.

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LIVING WELL

Ho, ho, ho! It's time to make heritage cookies

INVITING IDEAS



RUTH MOSSOK JOHNSTON

Many of our favorite holiday treats come from old family recipes, ancient magazines saved in the attic, or just those old traditional favorites we think of as yummy comfort treats.

With that concept in mind, the Marketplace at Hudson's jumped on the bandwagon and had a series of cooking classes right in the middle of the Marketplace.

The very best part was that they had Evelyn Cairns (an old friend of mine, local writer, foodie and charity diva) working with them. Evelyn called and asked me to come to her cooking class, and I was happy to oblige.

Evelyn isn't the only one promoting those early cookie

recipes. Check out Martha (the queen of terminally tranquil tradition), the huge selection of Christmas cookie and dessert books at any local bookstore and the barrage of Christmas publications in the checkout line at the grocery store. Everyone is on that page this time of year, including me!

Drag out your old cookbooks, family recipes or some written down goodies from friends to make your holiday just a little more special.

To make it a collective effort, invite a group over to make different batches of goodies or have a traditional cookie exchange where everyone brings a huge batch of their favorite recipe to divvy up among the group, giving all guests lots of different treats to take home.

If doing a cookie exchange at your house, make sure to have plastic bags, aluminum wrap and plastic wrap aplenty — along with some mulled cider, hot chocolate, or some double lat-

■ Drag out your old cookbooks, family recipes or some written down goodies from friends to make your holiday just a little more special.

tes piping hot.

I found these recipes handwritten on an old sheet of lined paper in the back of a cookbook bought in an antique shop. Sounds like two winners to me!

OLD TIME ZESTY GINGER SNAPS

Yield: approximately 6 dozen cookies.

- 3/4 pound (3 sticks) unsalted butter
- 1/2 cup dark molasses
- 2 cups sugar plus extra for rolling cookie dough
- 2 large eggs
- 4 cups all-purpose flour
- 4 teaspoons baking soda
- 2 teaspoons ground cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon ground ginger
- 1 teaspoon minced crystallized ginger

1 teaspoon ground cloves

In a medium saucepan over low heat, melt the butter. Pour melted butter into a bowl and add the molasses, sugar and eggs. Beat well with a whisk. In a separate bowl, sift together the flour, spices and baking soda. Add the dry ingredients to the molasses-mixture. Mix well with a spoon. When dough forms, turn out onto a lightly floured board and knead to smooth out dough.

Roll into a log, wrap in plastic wrap and then refrigerate overnight. When ready to bake, preheat oven to 350 degrees Fahrenheit.

Remove chilled dough logs from the fridge, cut off into slices and form into small balls, about the size of a walnut. Roll dough balls

in granulated sugar. Place on a parchment-lined or Silpat-covered cookie sheet about 2 inches apart. Bake for 8-10 minutes — don't overcook.

CREAM CHEESE LEMON COOKIES

Easy to make, with ingredients probably in your own pantry and fridge.

Yield: 2 to 4 dozen, depending on the size of the cookie cutters used

- 1/2 pound (2 sticks) unsalted butter, softened
- 4 ounces (1/2 large package) cream cheese, softened
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 egg yolk, room temperature
- 2 teaspoons fresh lemon zest
- 1 teaspoon freshly squeezed lemon juice
- 1 teaspoon pure vanilla extract
- 2-1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1/2 teaspoon sea salt

Preheat oven to 325 degrees Fahrenheit.

In the bowl of an electric mixer fitted with a paddle attachment, add butter and cream cheese; mix

until smooth. Add sugar and mix until light and fluffy.

Scrape down the sides of the bowl with a rubber spatula. Add egg yolk, lemon zest, lemon juice and vanilla; mix to combine. Add the flour and salt and mix until a dough is formed.

When dough forms, turn out onto a lightly floured board and knead to smooth out dough. Roll into a log, wrap in plastic wrap and then refrigerate overnight.

Roll the dough 1/4-inch thick and cut with a cookie cutter of your choice. Carefully transfer to a parchment- or Silpat-lined baking sheet with a spatula.

Bake until golden brown, about 12 to 15 minutes (to desired doneness). Remove from oven and let cool slightly before removing to a cooling rack.

Cook's Tip: It's best to cool down the cookie sheet between new batches.

Ruth Mossok Johnston is an author and food columnist who lives in Franklin. To leave her a voice mail message from a touch-tone phone, dial (734) 953-2047, then 111, then J-O-H-N-S-T-O-N.

Savor this savory dried plum and sausage omelet

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

This recipe pairs dried plums with sausage, and it's one to consider when you want a special breakfast dish to offer guests. It's quick to make as well as tasty; it can be ready in about 25 minutes.

Dried plums, of course, have a long history of being known as prunes, but earlier this year the FDA approved the name change that does, after all, tell you exactly what these fruits are.

This particular combination of sweet and savory comes in a new recipe worked out by Georgeanne Brennan, prolific and respected food writer.

Once you find it works, you are not obliged to keep it only in your breakfast file; it would taste just as good for a fast, nutritious lunch.

SAVORY DRIED PLUM AND SAUSAGE OMELET

- 1 mild Italian sausage (about 4 ounces), casing removed
- 1/3 cup (2 ounces) chopped dried plums (prunes)
- 2 tablespoons chopped roasted red peppers
- 4 large eggs
- 1 tablespoon snipped fresh chives
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon pepper
- 2 teaspoons butter
- 1 tablespoon chopped flat leaf (Italian) parsley
- 1 ounce (about 1-1/2 tablespoons) soft goat cheese, cut into pieces

In skillet, brown sausage over medium heat 5 to 7 minutes or until no longer pink, breaking up into crumbles; pour off drippings.

Add dried plums and red peppers; set aside. In medium bowl, whisk together eggs, chives, salt and pepper until well blended.

In large skillet, heat butter over medium heat until melted; add egg mixture. As eggs begin to set, life edge with spatula and tilt pan to allow uncooked portion to run underneath. Continue lifting and tilting until top is almost dry and bottom is golden. Spoon dried plum mixture over one half-side of egg; sprinkle with parsley and goat cheese. Loosening edge with spatula, carefully fold omelet in half to enclose filling. Cover pan; cook an additional 1 to 2 minutes or until cheese just begins to melt. Cut omelet in half; serve each half on individual plate.

Makes 2 servings.

Nutrition information per serving: 403 cal., 25 g fat, 469 mg chol., 930 mg sodium, 23 g carbo., 0 g fiber, 22 g pro.

Recipe from the California Dried Plum Advisory Board.

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FAMILY

Package intrigue into your holiday presents

CELEBRATING FAMILY



LISA LUCKOW-HEALY

Search your memory for the number of times since you were a child that you were handed a holiday gift and knew exactly what it was before you opened it. The shape, texture or size was a key indicator. It took the element of surprise out of your celebration, whether it was the minute the giver carried your gift in the front door or you recognized it under the tree.

When it was a gift you were yearning for, you were relieved it would soon be in your hands. The times a relative bought you the

same thing she had bought several years in a row, you cringed and wanted to give it back, as much as you hated to admit it.

Add intrigue to your family gift giving this holiday season. Transform the gifts you have all bought for others into creative wonders.

You don't have to be artists or buy a number of craft books to adopt techniques at the last minute. Simply think of unusual ways to package your gifts.

When your family is out shopping, ask everyone to look around, paying special attention to window displays, craft aisles and hardware store shelves. You might wish to consider some of the following packaging alternatives.

Unusually shaped or sized boxes work well to conceal the toys your children might expect to see in a manufacturer's pack-

age.

Lucite containers or balls that split in half and reseal add a nice flair to homemade treats, gift certificates, and calling cards. Simply package the contents amidst decorative shredded paper to make your recipients wonder what's inside.

Wooden boxes are a nice touch for an ornament or personal items. These boxes tend to give off an heirloom quality feeling. Dress up the box with wired ribbon. Your family may even wish to tie a silver or gold bell to the ribbon for more detail.

Silver dryer vent hose can leave a teenager who asked for a poster or wall art wondering what's inside. The recipient can't squeeze it to confirm his or her suspicions, especially if you make sure to add filler to the inside so the gift doesn't shift around.

A standard mailbox you find

at the hardware store is a wonderful deterrent from those seeking out small jewelry packages. The mailbox can also hide airline tickets to the dream vacation, compact disks or books.

Try a new trash bin for large gifts you are stumped on. Some will hide gifts such as a small microwave oven or television, a video game player or sporting equipment often difficult to properly conceal.

A plastic storage container is a wonderful way to recycle packaging. Families are always looking for containers to store toys, craft supplies, outgrown or seasonal clothing, hobby supplies or tools.

Package a gift of clothing in the container, then ask your children to add curled ribbon or an appropriately sized bow.

Buy an empty paint can from a paint store. It is another

terrific alternative to package jewelry, a watch, CDs or DVDs, or gift certificates, to name a few.

Insert the gift into the can, fill the can with tissue or decorative shredded paper, and secure the lid. Have your family computer whizzes make a decorative label for the can using craft software, a color printer and sticker paper. The paint can packaging is sure to leave your recipient guessing!

Look around your house. Turn corrugated cardboard into a tube you can use to insert gifts. First, wrap the gift in tissue paper. Next, insert it into your tube. Add raffia ribbon around the outside.

Instead of using wrapping paper for a smaller household gift, cover the box with a new kitchen dish towel. Secure the loose ends with raffia.

Cover a shoe box with brown packaging paper and lid with

white or brown packaging paper. Then ask your children to tape (from the underside) or glue family photographs to the outside, trimming the photographs down as necessary. You may even wish to add decorative photo corners, like the kinds you might use in a photo album, to add a more professional looking touch.

Lisa Luckow-Healy is a freelance writer who regularly contributes to parenting publications. She is also an active member of Detroit Women Writers and a contributing author to the organization's latest book, "Century of Voices."

To leave her a message from a touch-tone phone about how you celebrate family, call (734) 953-2047, then 111, then H-E-A-L-Y; or e-mail your suggestions for future family topics to LiHealy@aol.com

Set an elegant table this holiday

Home entertaining trends of the recent past were all about high-maintenance preparation and out-of-this-world decor.

Articles in home magazines and segments on television scoffed at practicality, insisting that a great party, especially during the holidays, required long hours in the kitchen, and extravagant decorating preparations.

Although these lavishly set tables ornamented with elaborate centerpieces were attractive, let's face it, who really had the time?

Thankfully, the pendulum is swinging back toward simple entertaining and "practical" is no longer considered a bad word.

"Too many people lead hectic lives outside the home," says Nathalie Dupree, author of Comfortable Entertaining. "Leave 'complicated' on the doorstep and enjoy a memorable holiday meal or party by showing some initiative and decorating with things you already have."

Dupree also offers these tips to keep holiday entertaining simple: Personalize your setting. Use a picture of each guest from

past holidays at each place setting instead of place cards. Or use a picture of their favorite celebrity and make a game of guessing where everyone should sit.

Make time to enjoy your party! Prepare as much as possible ahead of time, and store in Parkay Designer Series Bowls reusable containers to keep perishables fresh. Remember that the less time you spend in the kitchen the more time you can spend enjoying the holiday with your guests.

Use what you have. Try decorating the dining area with the children's and grandchildren's favorite toys or other items that will spark conversation about fond family memories. Don't be afraid to use the kids' favorite dishware from childhood, too.

Bring the outdoors inside. Garden enthusiasts can use flowers or colorful produce from their own backyard. Keep an eye out for flowering herbs to ornament the table in a unique way.

Find your centerpiece at the supermarket. Fruit, such as a bowl of green and red apples,

makes a beautiful centerpiece.

Have a non-traditional holiday. Everyone's expecting a turkey-so how about serving a roast instead. It's much easier to make and it'll make your party stand out in everyone's memory.

But add a little tradition. Speak to guests ahead of time and find out if there is a dish that is synonymous with the holidays for them and make it. They will appreciate that you have incorporated them into your holiday plans.

Don't let guests leave empty-handed. What better way to thank guests for sharing the holiday with you than to offer them a piece of Grandma's secret-recipe apple pie to take home for later. Make sure their take-away snacks are kept fresh in Parkay Designer Series Bowls reusable bowls.

Keep it clean. Keep a cooler under the sink full of warm soapy water to soak your pots and pans until you have time to clean them properly.

Assign clean-up duties ahead of time to party-goers that want to help.

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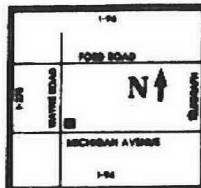


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So, grab your pencil and mail us your entry or stop in one of our offices with your completed puzzle.

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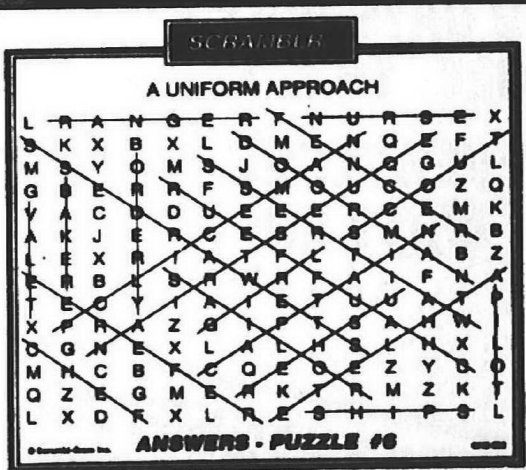
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A L C E E N P E N W L N L E
D A N S M T A R H G A E Y B
S P O R H L L I A C B S B M
E B R O C C L A B N M X H A
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- BLANKET
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- HOOF
- MARE
- MUSTANG
- PALOMINO
- PONY
- PRANCING
- ROAN
- SAWHORSE
- SEAHORSE
- SHETLAND
- SORREL
- STABLE
- WHINNY

PUZZLE #7



Rules:

Each Thursday's SCRAMBLER® contains a number of words reading from left, right, diagonally, up or down. Some words begin with letters you've already used in other words. Words from the list that appear as two words (e.g., New Brunswick) could appear in the puzzle in separate places. AT LEAST 10 WORDS MUST BE CIRCLED TO MAKE AN ENTRY VALID.

- Clip the complete puzzle and include your name, address, and telephone number. Mail your entry to SCRAMBLER® in care of The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150. Entries must be in an envelope marked on the lower left corner with the puzzle number. Envelopes that are not marked will not be accepted.
- You must use the puzzle that appears in this newspaper or a reasonably accurate hand-drawn facsimile. It is not necessary to buy this newspaper in order to enter the contest. Copies of your Observer or Eccentric newspaper may be examined at one of our offices. Machine duplicated entry forms will NOT be accepted.
- Contestants may submit as many entries as they wish but mail each in a separate envelope. Registered mail will not be accepted.
- All entries must be received at our office by noon on Tuesday in the week following publication of SCRAMBLER®.
- Each weekly winner will be determined by a random drawing from valid entries received by the Tuesday deadline above.
- The weekly winner will be announced within 10 days after publication of each puzzle. Names of the winner and photos (when possible) will be appear in your hometown newspaper and prize money will be awarded in person or mailed within 10 days of the Tuesday deadline.
- The decision of the judges will be final.
- Employees of this newspaper and their immediate families are not eligible to win prize in this contest.

★ DON'T FORGET TO PUT THE PUZZLE NUMBER ON YOUR ENVELOPE!

HOME WORK

Don't ignore home maintenance; watch your Christmas lights

APPLIANCE DOCTOR



JOE GAGNON

I don't know about any of you readers, but in my case, I didn't get the last bit of home maintenance done until the last few days of November. It seems that the leaves on the trees hold on a little longer. I didn't drain the garden hoses until the temperature dropped to 14 degrees on Dec. 8, so I had to defrost them in the garage that day.

That day the furnace man came over to check and prepare

my furnace for winter and to make sure it wasn't leaking any carbon monoxide. The plumber came over to fix a u-joint in the copper plumbing, which developed a leak. This u-joint was located in the ceiling in the lower bathroom which had to be cut away for access. It's possible water froze in this little piece of elbow during the 14-degree temperature, because it sits against an outside wall with no insulation behind it. The windchill must have dropped real low to cause this to happen. That repair indicates why it is important to drain your spigots.

The last big job I did involved cleaning the gutters around the house. They were plugged solid. If they were not cleaned, the leaves and frozen debris would contribute greatly to water dam-

age during winter storms, similar to what happened during the weekend storm on Jan. 2, 1999. Of course, I also shut off the water supply downstairs, leading to the outside spigots.

Now comes the beautiful Christmas season when many homeowners decorate with lights outside and inside of windows. Most of us use little thin extension cords - some old, some new - and plug these into adapters. Homeowners must be careful that they don't overload these adapters. Many outside cords lie in the winter snow as homeowners

have little thought about what might happen.

And of course, there's the Christmas tree. Over the next few weeks, we will read stories or hear news casts about a fire starting from the tree. A home will burn, children may perish and in most cases, it didn't have to happen. Stories about smoke detectors with dead batteries or homes with no detectors at all will be in the headlines.

What is the matter with people? Is it too much to do or too much to think about? We change the oil in our cars, we clean gut-

ters, we rake up leaves to prevent grass from dying and shut off water so pipes don't freeze. Now, why is it so hard for some people to use caution when introducing a fire hazard into their homes.

Maybe I sound like the Grinch who stole Christmas, but actually I mean to be the guy who added another holiday to someone's life. Let's face it, you just added all sorts of wires in and around the house and remember, this is quite a bit different than having electrical wires behind the walls, which are protected. You can't see those wires and you hardly ever give them any thought.

Is it too little to ask to be aware of what goes on during the holiday season? Watch the candles, shut off the lights, water

the tree and pay attention to the equipment you use. Let us not have any children die this year.

Joe Gagnon can be heard on *Nowtalk 700, WJR-AM*, every Saturday and Sunday mornings. He is a past president of The Society of Consumer Professionals.

His second book, "The Words and Wisdom of The Appliance Doctor" is available in book stores. His phone number is (313) 873-9789.

Do you have a question for the Appliance Doctor? Contact him, care of Ken Abramczyk, At Home Editor, Observer Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150 or e-mail habramczyk@homecomm.net. Look for Gagnon's suggestions in a future Appliance Doctor column.

Decorate safely by watching your wattage use on trees, in home

ASK DAD



HARRY JACHYM

If you're old enough to remember the 1970s, you'll probably recall how the oil embargo caused almost everyone to cut back on holiday lighting in an effort to reduce fuel consumption. Since then, inexpensive mini-lights that draw little power and a relatively good economy have turned many neighborhoods into illuminated wonderlands. Some even look as if they are trying to compete with Wayne County's Festival of Lights in Hines Park. (Call 734-261-1990 for more information.)

In this column we'll look at a few tips on how to make your outdoor holiday lighting safer. You've probably finished your decorating, but these tips may prove helpful in double checking your lights.

The insulation on these indoor cords is not designed for the normal abrasion of outside use.

Extension cords

You've got to get the power to the light strings so extension cords seem like the logical place to start. Cords, like all outdoor lighting equipment should be UL (Underwriters Laboratories: www.ul.com/welcome.html) approved.

Avoid using indoor extension cords. The insulation on these indoor cords is not designed for the normal abrasion of outside use. Furthermore, plastic used to make this insulation is seldom treated to withstand the normal cold temperatures or ultra-violet rays from the sun. This can cause brittleness and cracking of the insulation.

Most light-string manufacturers state on their packaging how many strings can be put together end-to-end (usually three). Exceeding this number can

cause the wires to overheat, in some cases hot enough to melt the insulation, creating a very unsafe condition. If more than three light strings are desired, attach them directly to the extension cord using a multiple line tap.

Watch the watts

A 15-amp branch circuit is rated to safely deliver 1,320 watts of power. This figure comes from multiplying 15 amps times 110 volts and taking 80 per cent of that (safety factor). Each 50-lamp string of lights draws about 25 watts.

Flood lights use about 100 watts. Add all the decorating power you're drawing from that circuit, as well as anything else in the house on that same circuit. Keep it well under that 1,320 watts figure.

Keep 'em dry

Damp plug connections can trip GFI's, blow fuses or worse, cause a shock. Dampness can come from snow, slush, rain or ground moisture that can migrate into this connection. I've personally found out the hard

way that electric current can travel along the insulation of a wet cord at a rainy construction site.

A simple but efficient way to deal with this is to elevate the connection about an inch or so above the ground.

Secure the plugs to a non-conductive support such as a wood dowel with cable ties or electrical tape. Slip a wide mouth plastic bottle over the connection with the mouth pointed downward. Even when covered with snow, the connection will stay dry inside of the bottle.

One of the popular trends in holiday lighting is illuminating the home with floodlights. All too often interior floodlights are used. The thin glass of interior floods is far more likely to break from impact or rain or snow hitting a hot bulb than the heavier glass of outdoor floodlights.

Timers add convenience and security to your lighting. It's unfortunate, but "bad guys" feel this is the season for taking rather than giving. Buy quality timers. Cheap ones will not stand-up to the heavy electric loads of holiday lighting. Look at

the wattage rating on the package.

Using metal poles to string lights in trees or other high places, unless they're unplugged, has the potential of extreme danger to you. A broken bulb or frayed wire will send the current to you.

Properly set-up and use ladders (see the instruction sticker on the side of the ladder) and be especially careful on them if the ground is wet or snow-covered.

One last tip. If you are using lawn decorations that are staked into the ground, be careful not to stake them where your sprinkler lines are. I'll probably be writing about repairing sprinkler lines this coming spring.

Harry Jachym, a licensed builder, lives in Plymouth and teaches building trades to high school students in a school district in western Wayne County. Send any questions or comments

to Harry Jachym, care of Ken Abramczyk, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150 or habramczyk@homecomm.net

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Stainless steel bowl can hurt

A caller had a question regarding a recent Ask the Vets column about protecting your pet in the winter. The column said a non-stainless-steel bowl works best as an outdoor water bowl in cold weather.

One of the reasons not to use a

stainless steel bowl is that water freezes faster in stainless steel, the columnists explain. Don't place food or water in a stainless steel bowl that is left outdoors in the winter, because the pet's tongue may get stuck to the bowl - like licking a flagpole in the winter.

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Framed: Preserve family treasures, such as a vintage bag or framed art, such as Master Bedroom by Andrew Wyeth, with custom-framed shadowboxes at The Great Frame Up. Framed art may not be the usual holiday gift line-up, but it's one that will stand out for its beauty. To locate the nearest store, call toll-free (877) GET TGFU or visit www.thegreatframeup.com.



Year after year, holiday shoppers are faced with finding unique gifts for friends, family, business associates, teachers, and many more. The most unusual gifts are generally custom-made with the recipient in mind.

Of course, with less and less time to shop, let alone create custom gifts, shoppers need help.

Sharing the moments that make life so memorable only adds to the feeling of warmth they can bring. And framing those memories can make gift giving as unforgettable as the cherished moment itself, offered by The Great Frame Up.

What deserves to be framed? From sports memorabilia to family heirlooms and children's art, the possibilities are endless.

Collectables - coins, school collectables, stuffed animals, sporting and special event memorabilia, special vacation memories, advertising paraphernalia.

Family heirlooms - birth and marriage certificates, old stock certificates, citizenship papers, a family member's personal items.

Children's items - arts and crafts, photos in personalized mats, collectable toys, awards and ribbons.

Anything that holds special memories can be framed to create the perfect gift. It's the kind of original idea that is as limitless as one's imagination.

The Great Frame Up offers these tips for pulling together items for framing:

Themed shadowbox - frame a collection of items with a similar theme, such as a photograph of grandma surrounded by precious objects of hers, such as a pair of gloves, a cameo and a lace handkerchief.

Single Item Shadowbox - frame one significant item, such as a child's handprint, a collectable pin or a pocket watch.

If shoppers are still not sure what to frame, they can peruse and purchase from the gallery of prints and posters on the company's new web site at www.thegreatframeup.com. There is a wide selection of artists and decorative themes from which to choose, all available for shipping within 24 hours. Those who have their print shipped directly to them, will receive a coupon for 20 percent off framing the poster at The Great Frame Up store nearest them.

The Great Frame Up, founded in 1971, is a retail framing chain of 120 franchised stores. Specialists in all styles and methods of custom and do-it-yourself framing, the stores give customers a chance to be an active participant in the framing process. Merchandise varies by location to reflect local tastes in art; however, all stores carry a selection of nationally recognized popular images.

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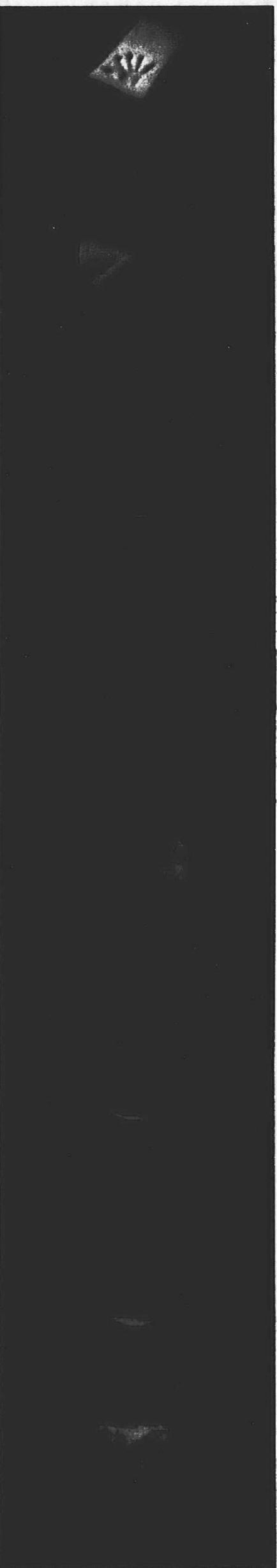
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ENTERTAINMENT

Movie Review **ET**

FRIDAY



Laugh the night away with Willie Barcena 8 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. at Mainstreet Comedy Showcase, 314 E. Liberty, Ann Arbor. Call (734) 996-9080 for tickets.

SATURDAY



University Musical Society presents the Rudy Hawkins Singers in A Gospel Christmas 8 p.m. at Music Hall, 350 Madison Ave., Detroit. Tickets \$28, \$26, \$20 and \$16, call (734) 764-2538.

SUNDAY



"The Very Hungry Caterpillar" and "The Very Quiet Cricket" visit Youtheatre, 15600 J.L. Hudson Dr., Southfield at 2 p.m. Tickets \$8 in advance, \$10 at the door. Snack with Santa offered before and after performance. Tickets an additional \$5. Call (248) 557-7529 for reservations.

HOT TICKET



Betty Bronson as Peter in the 1924 silent film version of "Peter Pan," screening 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 16, and 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 17, at the Baldwin Theatre in downtown Royal Oak. Tickets \$8 adults, \$5 children, all seats reserved. Call (248) 541-6430.



Dancing: "Santa Claus is Coming to Town" features fourteen dancing Santas and twelve dancing elves during the Detroit Symphony Orchestra's "Yuletide Celebration."

Concert showcases local talent

BY KEELY WYGONIK
STAFF WRITER
kwygonik@oe.homecomm.net

Carol of the Bells is one of Ryan Laverty's favorites, and he's looking forward to his piano solo with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra during its Yuletide Celebration Dec. 14-19.

"I'm really excited, and hoping I'll get more chances to play with them in the future," said Laverty, 15, a student at Farmington High School and resident of Farmington Hills. "I'm kind of nervous excited, anxious, and wondering what to expect."

His performance on the piano is just one of the highlights of the concert. Tim O'Hare and The Tim O'Hare Irish Dancers will also step up to the occasion, performing to the classic carol "I Saw Three Ships," with accompaniment on bagpipes and an Irish flute by Christopher Laird, and the DSO.

Yuletide Celebration, under the direction of guest conductor David Bristkin, features the DSO and guest artists in a family-style musical presentation that combines traditional holiday music with the production elements of a Broadway show.

The program includes Joy to the World, Vivaldi's Four Seasons (Winter Movement) and Hanukkah

Light. Fourteen dancing Santas and 12 dancing elves join mezzo-soprano Gwendolyn Jones (Mrs. Claus) in a Santa Top Dance to the tune of Santa Claus is Coming to Town.

Guest pianist

Laverty began playing piano at age 4. "I used to figure stuff out on my own," he said explaining how he got interested in playing the piano by watching his older brother and sister play.

In kindergarten he began private lessons with Catherine Rollin of Bloomfield Hills who also taught

his brother and sister how to play.

"I thought he showed a lot of intensity and musicality," she said. "He has musical ability and flair as a performer. Ryan consistently stands out at recitals. He reaches the audience. He moves people with his playing."

Rollin has been helping Laverty with the piece he'll play at the Yuletide Celebration. "It's very, very beautiful," she said.

He also plays the cello, and belongs to the DSO's two training orchestras — Civic and Sinfonia. Laverty is the official pianist for the Civic Orchestra and principal cello for Sinfonia. A straight-A student, Laverty also finds time to play at weddings and banquets with a string quartet called Fermata.

"Sometimes it does get a little hectic," he said. "You just have to be really organized and dedicated."

Tim O'Hare who started his first Irish dance studio in Farmington and now has studios in Chicago, Westland, and Birmingham is also looking forward to the concert.

A couple of his former students — Paul Cusick and Michael Belvitch of Plymouth — will be coming home

for Christmas and performing in the Yuletide Celebration. Cusick who toured with Riverdance, is attending Notre Dame University. Belvitch is still touring with Riverdance.

Also performing are Christine Roethermel of Livonia, Jim Ward, Michael Hunt and Colleen Burke of Northville, and Christina Ranum of Ann Arbor. "They're all senior dancers at the school," said O'Hare. "Anything we've done with the DSO has been a nice experience. You're dealing with some of the best musicians in the world."

DSO spokeswoman Jill Woodward said the first Yuletide Celebration was created for the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra in 1986 when discussions with local dance and theater companies led to the idea of creating a show that would incorporate symphonic music, drama and dance while keeping the focus on the orchestra.

Introduced to Orchestra Hall in 1999, this year's production will also include singer Nicole Heaston, the Pointe Singers of Grosse Pointe South High School, and dancers Jenifer Ladner and Mark Esposito.



Ryan Laverty
Guest pianist

What: Detroit Symphony Orchestra presents a "Yuletide Celebration" featuring 15-year-old pianist Ryan Laverty of Farmington Hills and the Tim O'Hare Dancers.
When: 8 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, Dec. 14-16, and Monday-Tuesday, Dec. 18-19; 7 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 17, and 2 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, Dec. 16-17.
Where: Orchestra Hall 3711 Woodward Ave., Detroit
Tickets: \$19-\$75 for adults, \$15-\$75 for children under 12. Tickets available at the box office, call (313) 576-5111, or visit the Web site www.detroitso.org

Farmington and Livonia singers share holiday cheer

BY KEELY WYGONIK
STAFF WRITER
kwygonik@oe.homecomm.net

For many people, "It's just not Christmas" until they hear the Farmington Community Chorus perform.

Many people feel the same way about the Livonia Civic Chorus, which recently performed at the city's tree lighting ceremony and Greenmead Historical Park.

You can hear both groups perform this weekend and see why they're among the jolliest people in town.

We Wish You the Merriest is the musical greeting Farmington Community Chorus members will send to their audience Friday-Saturday, Dec. 15-16 at Farmington High School. And there will be plenty of Snowin', Blowin', and Mistletoe-in, in the Louis Schmidt Auditorium at Clarenceville High School Sunday when the Livonia Civic Chorus gets on stage.

Celebrating its 20th anniversary, the Farmington Community Chorus was established under the sponsorship of the Farmington Hills Parks and Recreation Department.

Kathy Hall of Farmington Hills is one of the original members and serves as the group's manager.

"It's an unbelievable feeling when everything comes together," she said. "Being able to do something you love and do it well enough to be proud to ask your friends to come is an emotional experience for a singer."

Hall describes the holiday concert as a sort of variety of show with something for everyone. There will be choral numbers, couples dancing, small acts, some novelty numbers like Boogie Woogie Santa, and even a children's choir made up of children, grandchildren and friends of chorus members.

"We're doing a fabulous Ave Maria," she said. "It's really very luscious. We always do a Hanukkah song too."

This year's choir will consist of about 80 voices. Perfect Blend, a special group within the chorus, will also sing a couple of numbers. "It's the most beautiful blend of voices you've ever heard," said Hall.

Usually a sell-out, the chorus is planning to set up some extra chairs. Most tickets are sold in advance.

"Once you get someone to come, they're sold," said Hall. "We offer something for everyone."

Holiday concerts
■ "We Wish you the Merriest" — Farmington Community Chorus, 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Dec. 15-16, Farmington High School, Shilohessie Road, (just west of Orchard Lake Road), Farmington. Tickets \$10 adults, \$8 senior citizens and students, available at the door, or call (248) 788-5322. Visit the Web site www.farmingtonchorus.com for information about the chorus, CDs and tapes.
■ "Snowin', Blowin', and Mistletoe-in" — Livonia Civic Chorus, 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 17, Clarenceville High School, Louis Schmidt Auditorium, 20155 Middlebelt (between Seven and Eight Mile roads), Livonia. No charge for admission.

MUSIC

Brilliant talks about past, present, future of music in metro area

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA
STAFF WRITER
scasola@oe.homecomm.net

With a new EP — called "Complicated" — and having showcased its blend of pop-electronica at major festivals like Pontiac's Arts Beats and Eats and Detroit's Tastefest, Brilliant is one metro area band ready to bombard local audiences with its aural explosion. Recently guitarist and Livonia resident Joel Cooper took some time out to tell the Observer and Eccentric Newspapers about the band and its genuine dedication to the music. Here's what he had to say:

Observer & Eccentric: Brilliant has essentially been together since 1995. How did the band form and when did you join?

Joel Cooper: "The band was originated by Steve Vilnius and through advertisements in the Metro Times he picked up Steve Cooley and Dan Denton. At that time, I was playing in a band called The Hot Moon. I

met the guys in Brilliant when our drummer Bob Gilbert decided to work with Brilliant full time. Brilliant then asked me to fill in for them on occasion until I joined in the summer of '99."

O&E: Describe Brilliant's signature sound. How has it changed over the past 5 years?

J.C.: "I would categorize Brilliant's sound as Pop/Rock with elements of the techno, electronica sound woven underneath. The band's sound has changed quite a bit over the last 5 years from more of a mellow alternative/pop feel to a more driving in your face sound with better production. The song writing has also progressed with more interesting chord changes and arrangements. I particularly like the heavier loops and guitar sounds."

O&E: Where did the band's name come from?

J.C.: "Steve Vilnius came up with the name. He basically was looking

for something that was simple but stood out. He was reading a British music magazine and kept hearing the word brilliant to describe other music and thought it would be an excellent choice. The name also conveys a little attitude."

O&E: Name four major musical influences.

J.C.: "I think my biggest influence has been the different bands and individuals I have worked with over the years. I have learned a great deal by just listening to other musician's input whether they play the guitar or not."

O&E: How is songwriting accomplished in Brilliant?

J.C.: "Steve Cooley writes the lyrics and brings about half of the song ideas to the group. Steve Vilnius brings the other half and usually pounds out a lot of the arrangements. Dan Denton is



Joel Cooper, Steve Cooley, Dan Denton and Steve Vilnius

Singers from page E1

Director Steven SeGraves of Plymouth agrees the chorus has a pretty loyal following of people who come year after year.

Lots of variety

"We try to mix in traditional Christmas music with something people haven't heard before," said SeGraves. "The 'Night Before Christmas' has a children's part so we saw it as a good opportunity to form a children's chorus. Next year we plan to play with a full orchestra."

Dominic Lucca of Livonia enjoys singing with the Livonia Civic Chorus. He learned about the group from his wife Dolores who saw an announcement in the paper.

"I like the music," he said. "It's just a fun group. We don't just stand there and sing, we put a show together. We're doing a rap song *Santa's the Man*, a spiritual number *Who's That Baby?*, a Spanish carol, and *Carol of the Bells*."

Like the Farmington Commu-

nity Chorus, the Livonia Civic Chorus is sponsored by the city's recreation department. This year's holiday concert is the group's 38th.

"Our primary objective is for people to have fun," said director Jim Whitten of Farmington. "We've been rehearsing since Labor Day. On Dec. 1 we're ready to go out into the community and share our music."

The group will be singing at Livonia Mall 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 15. They've also performed at

Botsford Commons in Farmington and Presbyterian Village in Redford Township.

"We have so much fun with the music and want to share it with folks throughout the community," said Whitten. "We raise funds throughout the year and don't charge for our Christmas concert."

Snowin', Blowin', and Mistletoe-in' will showcase the whole chorus of approximately 67 people, individual singers, and small groups of singers.

"There are lots of things to see and enjoy, and we normally expect a visit from Santa," said Whitten.

Join the chorus

The Farmington Community Chorus meets 7:30-9:30 p.m. Tuesday at the William Costick Activity Center on 11 Mile Road, east of Middlebelt Road, while school is in session. The requirements for membership are simple — a love of singing and ability to pass a simple audition. You

don't have to read music or have had any formal training in voice. If you'd like more information, call Hall (248) 471-4516.

Livonia Civic Chorus rehearsals are 7:30 p.m. Tuesday at Frost Middle School on Stark Road, north of Schoolcraft. Auditions will be held Jan. 16 and 23.

You don't have to read music, but must be able to sing in tune and carry a harmony part. For more information, call Whitten (248) 478-9155.

Brilliant from page E1

in arrangements, chord changes, and production. I usually try to make my part unique sounding and unpredictable. Overall it's a collaborative effort as the final product changes pretty radically from the initial concept."

O&E: What inspires you to write and record music?

J.C.: "I think each of us really loves music and the idea of creating something new and unique. We also have been

inspired from the lack of really good songwriting in the 90's. It seems there are a lot of groups out that just copy another band's sound without coming up with an initial idea. I think Brilliant's sound is unique. Not all of the songs sound the same but there is a common theme underneath."

O&E: Do any of the 6 new songs have a particularly interesting story behind them?

J.C.: "The song *Bang It Around*

was pretty interesting. Steve Cooley picked up the guitar and said 'I have this idea...'

He played the initial riff and after a few minutes we were all really getting into the song and adding to it. It seemed to me that within minutes it was a hit, but in reality we made changes to it over the following week. I think it really captures what I and the others want Brilliant's sound to be like. It's got a pop feel that's

really danceable and goes over great live."

O&E: Describe what Brilliant brings to the metro area music scene? What sets your band apart from the rest?

J.C.: "People say that our live shows are more like seeing a touring band's concert rather than just a bar band. We put a lot into our shows with a fully sequenced performance. We've also had very favorable com-

ments from friends that our music could be heard easily on the radio. I think that we have a real strong album of material rather than a disk with 10 songs and just one hit on it."

Purchase a copy of "Complicated", by sending an e-mail request to svilnius@aol.com. Brilliant's song "Light a Candle" is currently featured on the "Detroit Now" compilation, sponsored by detroit.citysearch.com. The CD

also showcases artists like the *Twistin' Tarantulas* and *death-girl.com*. Web-savvy listeners can hear "Weight of Your Words" and "Light a Candle," by searching for Brilliant at www.garageband.com.

See Brilliant perform with Robb Roy and Rochester's own Prime Ministers, 10 p.m. Friday, Dec. 22, Lili's 21, 2930 Jacob Hamtramck. 21 and over. Call (313) 875-6555.

Concert features Three Men and a Tenor

Three Men and a Tenor bill themselves as the Smothers Brothers, Marx Brothers and Statler Brothers all rolled into one harmonious quartet.

The singers, who met in 1972 while performing with the Michi-

gan State University Men's Glee Club, will bring their high-energy comedy and a capella show Friday to the Southfield Centre for the Arts.

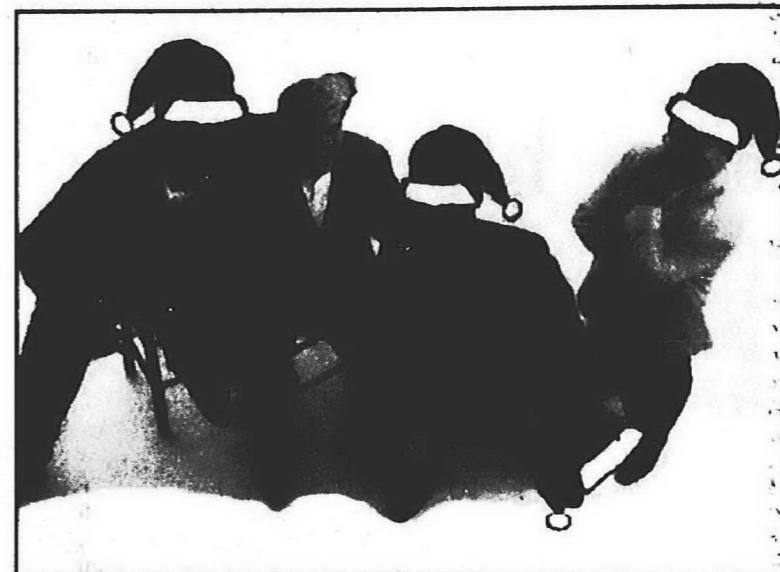
Shirley Altman, art centre special coordinator, describes them

as "fun, wholesome and very good at what they do."

"This is the first time we're doing an evening performance at the centre," she added. "We've scheduled it at 7:30 p.m., rather than later to make it more comfortable for children. It's a family act, and yet adults do come on their own to see the group."

Paul Cooper, founding member and lead singer of The Nylons, directed and choreographed the show.

Tickets are \$13 for adults, \$12 for seniors and \$10 for students. Call (248) 424-9022. The centre is located on Southfield Road, south of Ten Mile in Southfield.



In Concert: Three Men and a Tenor will perform Friday at the Southfield Centre for the Arts.

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Finvarra's Wren presents concert

The Celtic band Finvarra's Wren will present their sixth annual Celtic Solstice Celebration Tuesday, Dec. 19 at the Ark in Ann Arbor.

The group includes Terence McKinney on Uilleann pipes and whistles, Mary Somberg on fiddle, and Jim Perkins and Cheryl Burns of Farmington on guitar, vocals and dulcimer.

The performance will include music from Irish and Scottish tradition, stories, dance, a sprinkling of old English "Wassail" songs and some newly composed pieces by Perkins, Somberg and others.

"When Finvarra's Wren performs we like to see ourselves as part of a living tradition," said Perkins.

The tradition comes alive when the quartet is joined on stage by Alison Ceili Perkins, 12, and Asher Rowan Perkins, 10. The two young members of the

What: Finvarra's Wren sixth annual Celtic Solstice Celebration
When: Doors open 7:30 p.m., show begins 8 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 19
Where: The Ark, 316 S. Main St. (between Williams and Liberty), Ann Arbor
Tickets: \$13.50, call (734) 761-1451 or visit www.perkins.nu for more information about Finvarra's Wren

Perkins-Burns household add lively jigs and reels on whistle and button accordion and perform Irish stepdancing throughout the show.

"We are thrilled that our children are so involved in the music," said their mother Cheryl Burns. "They have won numerous medals at music and dance competitions."

"And Asher gets a lot of atten-



Folk artist: Cheryl Burns of Farmington will play music from the Irish and Scottish tradition at the Celtic Solstice Celebration.



Guest artist: Jim Perkins of Farmington will be featured in the sixth annual Celtic Solstice Celebration at the Ark in Ann Arbor.

tion," said Perkins. "He played at Meadow Brook with the Chieftans in June. Not bad for a 10-year-old."

In past years, Finvarra's Wren has performed similar shows at

the Raven Gallery and at Momma's Coffeehouse in Birmingham.

"The crowds have been very appreciative and we are always delighted to find so many musi-

cians in the audience," said Burns. "I think many of them come especially to see Terence and Marty play together. They have a great knack for blending the pipes and fiddle so that it almost sounds like one voice."

"We are very excited to bring the Solstice Celebration to the Ark," said Perkins. "It's a fantastic venue, truly the best listening room in the state. Everyone in the band is looking forward to it."

'Six Characters in Search of an Author' move audience

Wayne State University graduate Hilberry Theatre Company presents Luigi Pirandello's "Six Characters in Search of an Author" in rotating repertory through Feb. 22. The Hilberry Theatre is located at 4743 Cass near Hancock in Detroit. For tickets or more information call the Hilberry box office at (313) 577-2972.

BY SUE SUCHYTA
SPECIAL WRITER

Love, deception, reality and illusion combine to create a startling drama in Luigi Pirandello's 1921 classic play-within-a-play, *Six Characters in Search of an Author*.

A play rehearsal is interrupted by six "characters" who are anx-

ious to tell their story. Created by an author who left them unfinished, they are desperate to find a theater company to enact the rest of their story for them.

Pirandello, often recognized as the greatest Italian playwright between the World Wars, won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1934. He blends art with life as he confronts social issues still relevant today. He also cast a critical eye on the way we often insulate ourselves from the very real human drama surrounding us.

Standout performances

Standouts in the strong cast include Erik Gratton as The

Director, Cat Shoemaker as the Stepdaughter, and Gavin Lewis as the Father. Those three pull the emotional and sequential strings of the unfolding drama. Gratton, as The Director, moves from annoyance to curiosity to stunned realization as the characters unfold their anguished story. He pulls the strings as the play unravels, trying to make sense out of the chaos of the characters' painful lives.

Gratton manages a careful blend of control, egotism and intelligence.

Cat Shoemaker, the young girl compromised by hardship, is both brilliant and bitter. She has the flirtatious energy of youth blunted by the raging anger of

COLLEGE THEATER

her misuse. She has been manipulated and has learned to manipulate in turn. She is a survivor who has faced many losses. Shoemaker moves boldly on stage, a feral feline with razor-like claws and instincts.

She knows how to mesmerize men and uses it to her advantage. When she lets her character's self-assured mask drop briefly, her grief is that much more potent and frightening.

Gavin Lewis as the Father juggles the precarious balance of the good guy-bad guy role. He is

both rejecter and rescuer. His callous manipulation of lives weighs heavy on his conscience, and he carries many guilty secrets.

Lewis masters the many moods of the character well: groveling remorse, wheedling pleas, and prophetic wise man. He is the peacemaker between the Company and the Characters, smoothing the rifts between them to play out the scene his destiny demands.

Set

The set is simply the theater itself. For once the audience is

not asked to suspend reality. The actors lounge about and chat with casual indifference, as they might during breaks in rehearsal.

The costuming is classic twenties. The actresses are elegantly and flirtatiously adorned, while the male actors are nattily attired as well. The unfinished characters are a marked contrast, garbed primarily in the somber colors of mourning.

Patron should be aware that the special effects employ the brief use of theatrical smoke and a strobe light in the production.

Sue Suchyta is a Dearborn resident and writes about theater for the Observer Newspapers.

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A Guide to entertainment in the Metro Detroit area

THEATER

CENTURY THEATRE: *Late Nite Catechism* through Feb. 11, at the theater, Detroit. \$24.50-\$34.50. (313) 963-9800

DETROIT REPERTORY THEATRE: *This Blood's for You*, Thursday-Sunday to Dec. 31, at the theater, Detroit. \$15. (313) 868-1347/(248) 645-6666

FOX THEATRE: The Radio City Christmas Spectacular continues to Sunday, Dec. 31, performance interpreted for the deaf 4:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 17, at the theater, Detroit. \$10-\$55.50. (248) 433-1515 or visit the Web site at www.ticketmaster.com

GEM THEATRE: *Escanaba in da Moonlight*, a comedy by Jeff Daniels, through Dec. 31, 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Wednesday, 8 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, 3 p.m. Saturday, and 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. Sunday, at the theater in Detroit. \$24.50-\$34.50. (313) 963-9800

JEWISH ENSEMBLE THEATRE: *Twilight of the Gods* continues Dec. 14-17, Dec. 20-24, Dec. 27-31, 7:30 p.m. Wednesday-Thursday and Sunday; 8 p.m. Saturday, 2 p.m. Wednesday and Sunday, at the Aaron DeRoy Theatre, lower level of the Jewish Community Center, 5600 W. Maple Road (corner of Maple & Drake), West Bloomfield. (248) 788-2900

MEADOW BROOK THEATRE: A *Christmas Carol* continues through Sunday, Dec. 24, at the theater on the campus of Oakland University, Rochester. Performances Tuesday-Sunday. \$26.50-\$39.50. (248) 377-3300/(248) 645-6666

SECOND CITY THEATRE: *The Yagina Monologues* opens 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 23 and continues through Feb. 11, at the theater in Detroit. Tickets \$85 for opening night charity gala, includes after glow. Tickets \$45 for the run of the show, with \$15 tickets available for first 25 students to present ID. (248) 645-6666

COMMUNITY THEATER

AVON PLAYERS: *Forever Christmas V, 'Tis the Season*, a holiday musical, 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, 15-16 and Thursday, Dec. 14 at the playhouse in Rochester Hills. \$15, senior/student/group rates available for Thursday and Sunday performances. (248) 608-9077

THEATRE GUILD OF LIVONIA-REDFORD: *The Runner Stumbles* 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, 15-16 and 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 17, 15138 Beech Daly, one block south of Five Mile Road) Redford. \$12, \$10 seniors/students. (313) 531-0554.

COLLEGE THEATER

HILBERRY THEATRE: Luigi Pirandello's *Six Characters in Search of an Author* runs in rotating repertory until Feb. 22, performances 8 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, 2 p.m. Wednesday and Saturday, at the theater on the Wayne State University campus. Detroit. (313) 577-2972

STUDIO THEATRE: *Oleanna* Thursday-Saturday, Dec. 14-16, at the theater on the Wayne State University campus. Detroit. (313) 577-2972

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN THEATRE: *The Tempest* 8 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, Dec. 14-16, at the Power Center, Ann Arbor. \$20 and \$15 reserved. \$7 students. (734) 764-0450

YOUTH PRODUCTIONS

CINDY CINDERELLA: AN AMERICAN FAIRYTALE: Presented by Heartland Theatre Company with Henry Ford Museum & Greenfield Village, 2:30 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, Dec. 16-17, Saturday, Dec. 23; Wednesday-Saturday, Dec. 27-30, Anderson Center Theater inside Henry Ford Museum, Dearborn. \$6, call (313) 982-6001. American Sign Language interpretation will be provided Saturday, Dec. 30. Special services for blind and hearing impaired individuals are also available by calling (313) 982-6100, Ext. 2535

MARQUIS THEATRE: Musical adaptation of *Pinocchio*, 2:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 16, 23, 30 and Jan. 6 and 13; 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 17, 31, and Jan. 7, 14. Weekday performances 2:30 p.m. Tuesday-Friday, Dec. 26-29, at the theater, Northville. \$7.50. No children under age 3. (248) 349-8110



Classic: Anna May Wong stars as Princess Tiger Lily in the 1924 silent film version of "Peter Pan" 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 16 and 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 17 at the Baldwin Theatre, 415 S. Lafayette in downtown Royal Oak. Since the movie is silent, three local actors will read the title cards. Performances will feature live organ accompaniment by Lance Luce. After the film the audience will be asked to join Luce and the actors for a holiday music sing-a-long. Tickets \$8 adults, \$5 children, all seats reserved. Call (248) 541-6430.

PUPPETART: *Cinderella* 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 16 and 23, at the Detroit Puppet Theatre, Detroit. \$7, \$5 children. (313) 961-7777

YOUTH THEATRE: *The Very Hungry Caterpillar and the Very Quiet Cricket* 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 16 and 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 17, at the Millennium Centre, Southfield. \$8 in advance, \$10 at the door. (248) 557-7529

HOLIDAY CONCERTS

BIRMINGHAM MUSICALES: A *Holiday Celebration* 1 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 14, at Christ Cranbrook Church, Bloomfield Hills. Afterglow follows the concert.

CANTATA ACADEMY: *Songs of the Season* 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 16, at Big Beaver United Methodist Church, Troy; 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 17, at Grosse Pointe Memorial Church, Grosse Pointe Farms. \$15, \$12 seniors/students. (248) 358-9868

CENTRAL'S SPIRITUAL ENSEMBLE: Celebrates the Joy of the Advent season 10 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 17, at Central United Methodist Church, Detroit. (313) 965-5422

DETROIT SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA: *Yuletide Celebration* 8 p.m., Thursday-Saturday and Monday-Tuesday, Dec. 14-16 and 18-19, and 7 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 17, and 2 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, Dec. 16-17, at Orchestra Hall, Detroit. \$19-\$75, \$15-\$75 for children under 12. (313) 576-5111 or visit the Web site www.detroit-symphony.com

FARMINGTON COMMUNITY CHORUS: *We Wish You the Merriest* Christmas concert 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Dec. 15-16, at Farmington High School Auditorium. (248) 788-5322 or visit the Web site at www.farmingtonchorus.com

FEAST OF CAROLS: Christmas concert 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 16 at Royal Oak United Methodist Church. \$8, \$5 seniors. (248) 541-4100

FINNISH AMERICAN SINGERS: Present their annual holiday concert featuring Finnish and American Christmas carols 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 17, at the Finnish Cultural Center, Farmington Hills. \$7, includes afterglow with sweet treats, children free. (248) 478-6939

GREENMEAD HISTORICAL PARK: Tours 1-4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 17, and Pix and Stix 3 p.m. Dec. 17 at the Newburgh Church on the grounds of Greenmead, Livonia. \$2, \$1 students. (248) 477-7375

RUDY HAWKINS SINGERS: A *Gospel Christmas Celebration* 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 16, at Music Hall, Detroit. \$16-\$28. (734) 764-2538/(800) 221-1229

LIVONIA CIVIC CHORUS: Presents *Snowin', Blowin', and Mistletoe-In*, an hour-long concert filled with light-hearted musical fun 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 17 in the Clarenceville High School Auditorium, Livonia. No charge. (248) 543-2946

MOTOR CITY BRASS BAND: With guest artists the Brazeal Dennard Chorale 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 17, at the Southfield Centre for the Arts. \$10, \$8 seniors/students, \$25 family. (248) 788-6618/(248) 424-9022

NATALIE COLE CHRISTMAS: Joins the Detroit Symphony Orchestra 8 p.m. Wednesday-Thursday, Dec. 20-21, at Orchestra Hall, Detroit. (313) 576-5111 or visit the Web site www.detroit-symphony.com

THREE MEN AND A TENOR: 7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 15, at the Southfield Centre for the Arts. \$13, \$12 seniors, \$10 students. (248) 424-9041

VANGUARD VOICES: *Festival of Lessons and Carols* 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 17, at Christ Episcopal Cjrcj, Dearborn. \$10, \$7 seniors/students. (313) 317-6566

YULETIDE CONCERT: Oakland University's Community Chorus 38th annual Yuletide Concert 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 15, Varner Recital Hall, on campus. \$10 general, \$8 seniors, \$5 students.

SPECIAL EVENTS

HARPBEAT: Performs 3 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 16, at Beverly Hills Borders. (248) 644-3571

HOLIDAY DINNERS: Five course Christmas dinner, 5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 24 (\$75), and New Year's Eve Sunday, Jan. 31, 5:30-7:30 p.m. open menu and 9:30 p.m. five course pre-fixed menu (\$95), at Ristorante Cafe Cortina, Farmington Hills. (248) 474-3033

OLD ENGLISH HOLIDAY FEAST: 7 p.m. Monday-Wednesday, Dec. 18-20, at The Lark, West Bloomfield. \$100. (248) 661-4466

REDFORD THEATRE: *Guys and Dolls* starring Marion Brando, Jean Simmons and Grank Sinatra 7:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Dec. 15-16 and 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 16, organ overtures begin one-half hour earlier. \$3. (313) 537-2560/(248) 258-5806

BENEFITS

CARE CONCERT: Enjoy yourself and help those less fortunate all at the same time. One-man band Peter Fetters will perform a concert of jazz and blues to benefit the Detroit Rescue Mission 7:30 p.m. Monday, Dec. 18, at the Penn Theatre, Plymouth. Admission is two canned food items.

DETROIT DIVA'S & DON JUAN'S OF SONG/POETRY: A variety show featuring Dee Dee McNeil, Bettya LaVette, Big Daddy Boo Bear and many others 4-6 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 23, in the Paul Robeson Theater in the Northwest Activities Center, 18100 Meyers, Detroit. \$20, proceeds go to the Detroit Links and Linkages Abstinence Coalition which provides abstinence training through the arts for more than 3,000 local youth. (313) 342-1000

DETROIT ORATORIO SOCIETY: With Featured soloists Audrey Brown, Christine Bonner and Therese Oldani perform "Fantasia on a Christmas Carol" 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 17, Andiamo, Warren. Benefit includes dinner, concert, valet parking. \$75 adults, \$25 children under 10. (248) 650-2655

F.U.B.A.R. CONCERT: 8 p.m. to 2 a.m. Friday, Dec. 15, at Sherry's on Vernor, 7631 W. Vernor at Central, Detroit. Admission is a toy for a boy or girl. Toys will be donated to "Toys for Tots." (313) 841-0670

CHORAL

CANTATA ACADEMY: *Songs of the Season* 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 16, at Big Beaver United Methodist Church, Troy; 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 17, at Grosse Pointe Memorial Church, Grosse Pointe Farms. \$15, \$12 seniors/students. (248) 358-9868

FIN VARRA'S WREN SOLTICE SHOW: 8 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 19, t The Ark, Ann Arbor. \$13.50. (734) 763-TKTS

VOICES OF WINTER/HERDMAN, HILLS & MANGSEN: 7 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 17, at The Ark, Ann Arbor. \$13.50. (734) 763-TKTS

AUDITIONS/ OPPORTUNITIES

PLYMOUTH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA: Is looking for qualified, energetic and excited community members to fill volunteer and part-time production, stage management, educational, and music library positions, hourly wages commensurate with experience, there are also a number of volunteer clerical positions available. If you're interested in helping the orchestra, call (734) 451-2112 or visit them at their new office in Forest Place, 470 Forest Avenue, Suite 18, Plymouth

SINGERS WANTED: Learn to sing male four-part harmony, audition not required but the ability to sing "on key," 7:30-9 p.m. Wednesday, in the music department of the Arts Building at Henry Ford Community College, Dearborn. (734) 261-5321/(313) 278-1078

SWING BAND: The OPC Senior Band invites musicians to dust off their instruments and join the band 6-8 p.m. Wednesdays, or just drop by to listen, at the Rochester Older Persons Commission, 312 Woodward Street. (248) 646-2864

NANCY GURWIN PRESENTS: Male actors sought for *Fiddler on the Roof*, which opens Jan. 13 at the Jewish Community Center for a five week run. Call Nancy Gurwin (248) 354-0545 for audition information.

POPS/SWING

BIRD OF PARADISE ORCHESTRA: 9 p.m. Monday, at the Bird of Paradise, Ann Arbor. \$7 cover. (734) 662-8310 (big band, swing, bop)

MICHAEL JAMES/DEBORAH JIMMERSON: Piano bar 7-11 p.m. Wednesday-Thursday, and 8 p.m. to midnight Friday-Saturday, at La Bisteca Italian Grille, Livonia. (734) 254-0400

JIM PARAVANTES & COMPANY: 8:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday through December, at Excalibur, Southfield. (248) 358-3355

JAZZ

MARK ARSHAK: 9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 15, at Edison's, Birmingham. No cover. (248) 645-2150

RON BROOKS TRIO: 9 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday, at the Bird of Paradise, Ann Arbor. \$5 cover. (734) 662-8310

DALE GRISA TRIO: 5-7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 19, at Sweet Lorraine's in the Livonia Marriot. No cover charge. (734) 963-7480

JUMP CATS: 9 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 16, at Edison's, Birmingham. No cover. (248) 645-2150

PAUL KELLER/GARY KOCHER QUARTET: 9 p.m. Tuesday, at the Bird of Paradise, Ann Arbor. \$5 cover. (734) 662-8310

LOS GATOS: 9 p.m. Wednesday, at the Bird of Paradise, Ann Arbor. \$5 cover. (734) 662-8310

MATT MICHAELS TRIO: With the Wayne State University Big Band under the direction of Chris Collins 8 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 20; with vocalist Barbara Ware 8 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 27, at Ron's Fireside Inn, Warren Road, east of Middlebelt. \$5 cover. (734) 762-7756

LARRY NOZERO QUARTET: 8:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Dec. 15-16, 22-23 and 29-30, at Rocky's of Northville. (248) 349-4434

MARK RANDISI: 8:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 14, at Edison's, Birmingham. No cover. (248) 645-2150

SPANKY WILSON: 9:30 p.m. 11 p.m. and 12:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Dec. 15-16; Johnny O'Neal Trio 9:30 p.m. 11 p.m. and 12:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Dec. 22-23, at the Bird of Paradise, Ann Arbor. \$15, one price for all three sets. (734) 662-8310

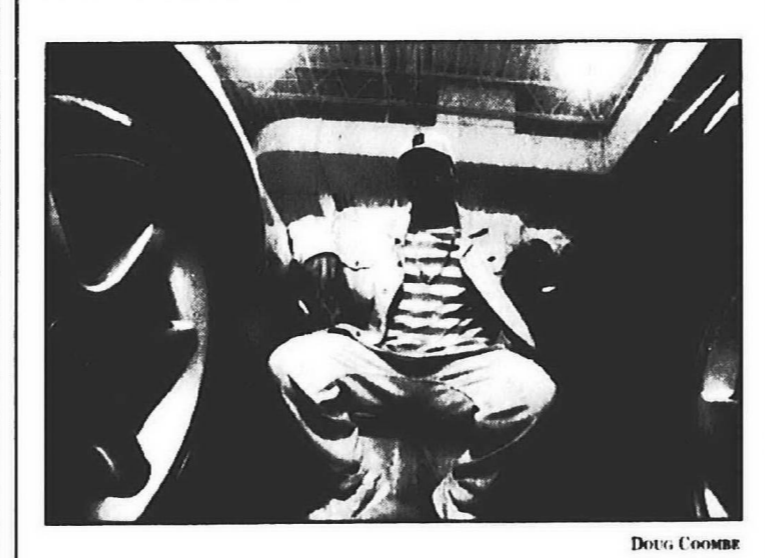
BEN YONAS TRIO: 5:30-8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, at the Bird of Paradise, Ann Arbor. \$5 cover. (734) 662-8310

FOLK/ BLUEGRASS

FIN VARRA'S WREN SOLTICE SHOW: 8 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 19, t The Ark, Ann Arbor. \$13.50. (734) 763-TKTS

VOICES OF WINTER/HERDMAN, HILLS & MANGSEN: 7 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 17, at The Ark, Ann Arbor. \$13.50. (734) 763-TKTS

Off the Chain: Craig Adams, better known to the electronic set as DJ Assault is back in Detroit and behind the decks where he belongs - set to spin his definitive brand of Ghetto-tech Saturday, Dec. 16 at St. Andrews Hall and Wednesday, Dec. 20 at Pontiac's Clutch Cargo. Call (313) 961-MELT for details. Check out his recent release, "Off The Chain for the Y2K" on the Birmingham-based Intuit-Solar label.



DOUG COOMBE

The puppies are back, cuter than ever

BY LINDA ANN CHROMIN
STAFF WRITER
lchromin@ec.homecomm.net

Cruella De Vil acts like a reformed woman but only time will tell if she's changed her spots.

The puppies are back and they're adorable as ever in the Walt Disney sequel *102 Dalmatians*.

If you're looking for a family movie with a touch of romance, the live-action film will leave you smiling and probably still seeing spots long after you've walked out the door of the theater.

True, adults will have to suspend their imagination in a few instances. Computer generated scenes with a puppy and the lead

dog (who's really a macaw played by Eric Idle) perform unbelievable feats.

Animal trainer Gary Gero once again does a fantastic job of nudging the puppies to act smart and look cute all at the same time. In one of the opening scenes at the Second Chance dog shelter the dogs run to retrieve their own bowls for dinner and then line up as Kevin Sheppard (played by British actor Ioan Gruffudd) feeds them.

But their happy days are about to end. They just don't know it yet. On the other side of town Dr. Pavlov is treating the woman who nearly stole Dipstick and his siblings in *101 Dalmatians* to turn them into a coat if not for Pongo and Perdy, their

parents, and a lot of other wonder dogs. Pongo and Perdy, who in real life are Frackles and Maisie, return to play Dipstick and Dottie, the dogs owned by Chloe, Kevin's soon-to-be love interest.

Kevin seems to be the only one who believes that Cruella De Vil (played as evil as ever by Glenn Close) is a changed woman. Once released from prison on parole, De Vil begins asking everyone to "please call me Ella." Cruella sounds so cruel. But only time will tell if "she's from heaven or hell" and the treatments have worked. Close and director Kevin Lima work well together to bring about the transformation. (Close was the voice of Kala in *Tarzan*, the successful animated film

directed by Lima.)

From all outward appearances De Vil is now a giving person who abhors furs. To prove she's changed, De Vil buys the building just as the Second Chance dog shelter is about to be evicted. She also acquires a dog who later turns against her to help Dipstick and his owner Chloe as they attempt to stop Cruella from making the coat. It will take 102 dalmatians this time because Cruella's changed the design to include a hood.

Yes, Cruella reverts back to her old ways. Big Ben is the culprit. Dr. Pavlov isn't sure why his experimental treatments went awry. But it dawns on him when he hears Big Ben ringing and notices that all the animals who've formerly been friends are eating each other. That can only mean one thing.

Cruella is having a breakdown. Before long she's met Jean Pierre Le Pelt (played by Gerard Depardieu, best known for the role of Cyrano de Bergerac in the 1990 film of the same name), an outrageously dressed designer of furs.

In the meantime, Cruella's parole officer Chloe (played by Alice Evans) has her suspicions about Cruella. She doesn't want Cruella anywhere near Dipstick's three puppies, especially Oddball, so named because she was born without spots. (Not to worry. Oddball's spots appear magically at the end of the film. Until then, they can't be seen due to a combination of computer wizardry and a few dabs of paint.)

Among the cleverest scenes in the movie is one which takes place after Chloe meets Kevin, the dog shelter's manager. Before long the two fall in love over din-



New woman: Reformation is short-lived for jailbird Cruella De Vil (played by Glenn Close). Before long the evil, fur-loving De Vil will begin making plans to create a coat from 102 dalmatians.

ner at Tony's Restaurant. Lima cuts in clips from the spaghetti scene in *Lady and the Tramp* to create human and dog versions of a romantic evening. The only difference is that Kevin uses his fork to roll a meatball off his plate instead of using his nose like Tramp.

Throughout the film, writers Kristen Buckley and Brian Regan have interspersed many cute moments like the time when Kevin leaves Chloe's home without taking his dogs because he's dazzled by his feelings for her.

The effect is that viewers start feeling all warm and cozy and then bam, Cruella steals the puppies and they're on their way to Paris via the Orient Express. The chase is on and Dipstick and Kevin's dogs, including a Borzoi named Digger who reminds me of my Irish Wolfhound, aren't far behind them.

Soon they've discovered where

the puppies are hidden. They help them escape one by one to hide in a commercial bakery, an amazing set designed by Assheton Gorton whose work was seen in Disney's first live-action dalmatian movie. That's where the puppies take their revenge on Cruella. She's prodded and pounded with a giant rolling pin after having eggs and flour dumped on her head. The puppies use their noses to push bag after bag of flour onto her head. Then it's into the oven. Cruella survives the ordeal and emerges as a tiered cake which the puppies promptly frost. Hopefully Cruella's survival means there will be a *103 Dalmatians* or *101 Dalmatians, Part III*, in the near future. Until then, hurry to the theater before all those cute little puppies retreat to a snug and safe place awaiting the return of one of the meanest, but well-dressed, villains of all time.

GUIDE TO THE MOVIES

National Amusements Showcase Cinemas	One Yards	Star Rochester Hills	CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES	Maple Art Cinema III
Showtimes Autumn Hills 1-14 2150 N. Opdyke Rd. Between University & Walton Blvd 248-373-2660 Bargain Matinees Daily All Shows until 6 pm Continuous Shows Daily Late Shows Wed. Thurs. Fri. Sat. NP DENOTES NO PASS	Warren & Wayne Rds 313-425-7700 Bargain Matinees Daily All Shows until 6 pm Continuous Shows Daily Late Shows Wed. Thurs. Fri. & Sat.	200 Barclay Circle 853-2260 No one under age 6 admitted for PG13 & R rated films after 6 pm	Birmingham Theatre 211 S. Woodward Downtown Birmingham 248-644-3456 NP Denotes No Pass Engagements Order Movie tickets by phone Call 644-3456 and have your VISA or MasterCard ready! (A \$1.4 surcharge per transaction will apply to all telephone sales)	4135 W. Maple, West of Telegraph Bloomfield Hills 248-855-9090 DISCOUNTED SHOWS!! AN AFFAIR OF LOVE (R) DANCER IN THE DARK (R) BILLY ELLIOTT (R) REQUIEM FOR A DREAM (UNR) CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES
Showtimes Dearborn 1-8 Michigan & Telegraph 313-561-3449 Bargain Matinees Daily All Shows until 6 pm Continuous Shows Daily Late Shows Fri. & Sat. & Sun. NP DENOTES NO PASS	Showtimes Westland 1-8 6800 Wayne Rd. One blk. S. of Warren Rd. 313-729-1060 Bargain Matinees Daily All Shows until 6 pm Continuous Shows Daily Late Shows Wed. Thurs. Fri. & Sat. NP DENOTES NO PASS	Star Southfield 12 Mile between Telegraph and Northwestern, Off I-96 248-353-STAR No one under age 6 admitted for PG13 & R rated films after 6 pm	MJR THEATRES Brighton - Cinemas 9 196 East, Grand River 810-227-4700 Call 77-Film Ext. 548 NP VERTICAL LIMIT (PG13) NP PROOF OF LIFE (R) BOUNCE (PG13) 102 DALMATIANS (G) UNBREAKABLE (PG13) DR. SEUSS' HOW THE GRINCH STOLE CHRISTMAS (PG) RUGRATS IN PARIS: THE MOVIE (G) MEET THE PARENTS (PG13) CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES	Oxford 7 Cinemas, L.L.C. Downtown Oxford Lapeer Rd. (M-24) (248) 628-7100 Fax (248)-628-1300 DETROIT'S LOWEST FIRST RUN PRICES INCLUDING TWILIGHT PRICING \$3.00 4-5 PM. NOW OPEN AMC Livonia 20 Haggerty & 7 Mile 734-542-9909 CALL THEATRE FOR FEATURES AND TIMES
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The Four Tops croon Christmas in the spirit of giving

Abdul "Duke" Fakir got the spirit. "I'm trying to pass it on to other folks, said the founding member of The Four Tops with a laugh. From stringing holiday lights around his house to crooning Christmas tunes, he can't help but be in the giving mood. In celebration of the season and its familiar sounds, Fakir will bring back the magic Christmas past by offering the Four Tops' only Christmas album - *Christmas Here With You, Featuring Aretha Franklin* (1996) - for free.

The previously unreleased works, containing 12 songs, can be downloaded at www.harmoniopark.com. "It was our first endeavor as a Christmas album," said Fakir. "We decided after a while to take it off the market." After five years, Fakir approached Harmonie Park Creative Group and suggested offering the music on the Web site. He works closely with owners Brian and Mark Pastoria and acts as an adviser to other musicians at the studio. "Brian and Mark (Pastoria) are two of the greatest guys I've ever met," he said. "I fell in love with the studio and them." Jimmy Risk, who handles communications for Harmonie Park, also worked on the project. "Duke made it available for us. I

just think it's great music for the Christmas music lover. "How many (unreleased) Four Tops treasures are we privy to?" A gift to Four Tops fans everywhere, the album features such classics as *Away In A Manger*, *Little Drummer Boy*, *Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas* and *'Twas The Night Before Christmas*. "Each one of us did three or four songs," said Fakir. Proud of the result, a mix of traditional and original music, Fakir hopes to give fans a taste of the music and release it next year. Of the title track, *Christmas Here With You*, Fakir said, "If it's heard enough, it could probably be a Christmas standard." Aretha Franklin is featured on the song as well as *White Christ-*

mas and *Silent Night*. According to a press release, the late Lawrence Payton said of the album: "Aretha's spirit permeated through the entire project." Risk said the album is just the first venture for the Harmonie Park Entertainment Group, a sector of Harmonie Park Creative Group. "We're proud of the album," said Fakir. "We used some of the musicians from the DSO. We just want people to know we have a Christmas album." With 26 albums to their credit and a career spanning four decades in popular music, The Four Tops demonstrate something beyond sonic genius, the members proved as devoted to one another as they are the music.

Starting out in 1956, Fakir, Levi Stubbs, Ronaldo "Obie" Benson and Lawrence Payton didn't make The Four Tops a household name until Motown Records snapped them up in 1964. With producers Brian Holland, Lamont Dozier and Eddie Holland at the helm, the band found success in such songs as *Baby, I Need Your Loving* and *I Can't Help Myself (Sugar Pie, Honey Bunch)*. "We worked very hard together for 10 years before we got our first hit," said Fakir. "We always liked each other. We really learned so much about each other. We always still kept the same goal in mind...to do what we want to do for the rest of our lives, which is sing." When Lawrence Payton died of

liver cancer in 1997, The Four Tops were forever changed. No other R&B legends managed to stay together so long without a line up change. Now, the remaining members perform as simply The Tops. Fakir and friends were preparing for a return performance at the White House in honor of out-going President Bill Clinton when he called on Dec. 6. "We'd like to wish everyone a very beautiful holiday," he said. For more about "Christmas Here With You" click on *The Four Tops* at www.harmoniopark.com. Stephanie Angelyn Casola writes about popular music for the *Observer & Eccentric News* papers. She can be reached at (734) 953-2130 or e-mail at scasola@oe.homecomm.net. To send a fax, dial (734) 591-7279.

Ann Arbor's Funktelligence takes music to the next level

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA
STAFF WRITER
scasola@oe.homecomm.net

Observer & Eccentric: How did Funktelligence come together?

■ "Music is supposed to inspire."

T.M.: "That's definitely what we're going for. Our lyrics try to give off a good vibe, a positive vibe."

the TWC World Takeover show with Paradime, MEST, Binary Star and Nipon, 6 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 14, Clutch Cargo, Fortiac \$8. All ages. Call (248) 339-2362.

"It's a barrage, an onslaught of sound." That's how guitarist Topher Mohr describes his band, the Ann Arbor-based septet known as Funktelligence. The name offers a bit of insight - mix funkified beats of a hip hop, rock, soul or jazz nature with the know-how necessary to pull it off on stage time and again. That's the definition of Funktelligence. The band - Jackson Perry and Michael "IX Lives" Demps on vocals, Joseph Abrams on bass, Lance Loisele on keys, Mohr on lead guitar, Quintin Joseph on drums and Jordan Lopez on horns and percussion - easily fills out a stage. Hitting the local music scene hard since their start in 1997, the band has earned two Detroit Music Award nominations, performed with local heavyweights like Kalamazoo's Knee Deep Shag and Livonia's own hip hop master, Paradime, and opened the show for likes of The Roots. Working on a follow-up to *Until Now*, released independently last January, Funktelligence is focused on songwriting. Here's what Mohr had to say:

Topher Mohr: "Most of us went to high school together (Huron High School). Myself, Jackson and Joe, the bass player." O&E: "What was the original musical vision or direction for the band?" T.M.: "When we first put Funktelligence together, we were going for something like The Roots, a kind of organic hip hop, organic rock." O&E: "Where did the band name come from?" T.M.: "Jackson came up with it. In high school we used to say 'funk' to everything. Like how George Clinton had his own language. That's the one that stuck." O&E: "Do you feel it still applies?" T.M.: "Everything we do is funky. Now we're a lot more jazz, jazz rock fusion." O&E: "It seems everyone listens to and is influenced by something different in Funktelligence." T.M.: "That's the fun part about our band. We all appreciate what the band is into. Jackson and Mike are more into hip hop. Joe listens to a lot of pop music. It's cool, everybody respects everybody's tastes."

Topher Mohr
Funktelligence

O&E: Funktelligence has become known for spreading this peaceful, positive sort of vibe through music. How did that come about?

T.M.: "I think it's very important. Music is supposed to inspire. That's what we're out to do."

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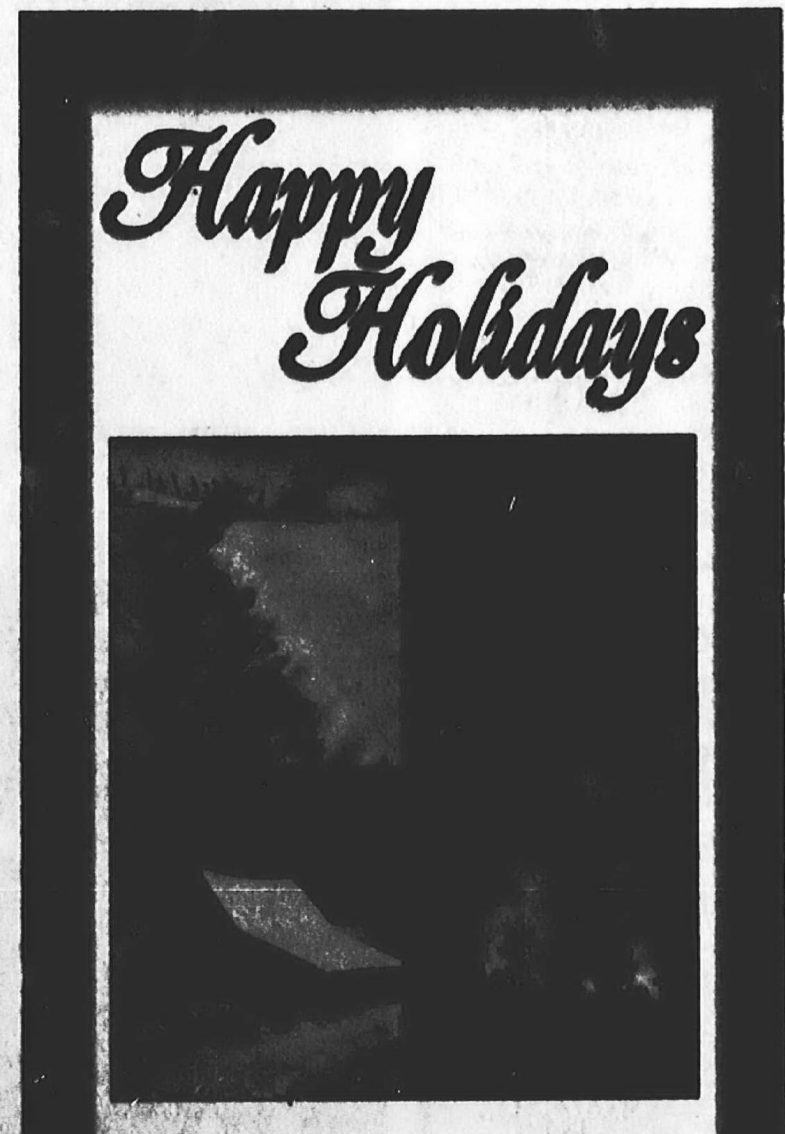
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STAR GRAND	STAR HUNTER	STAR JOHN R
STAR LINCOLN PARK	STAR MICHIGAN	STAR SOUTHFIELD
STAR TAYLOR	WEST RIVER	WOODLAND 8

Shiro offers Oriental cuisine with French flair

By Pam Fleming
Special Writer

A pair of restaurateurs are bringing the taste of three countries together under one roof.

Patrons at Shiro in Novi can enjoy sushi, rack of lamb or any combination of Korean, Japan or French cuisine.

Owners Howard Yang and J.W. Shin were brought together by their mutual attendance at First Korean Baptist Church in Rochester Hills.

An eight-month search for the perfect restaurant location led them to the 1930s home just east of Novi Road. Formerly a farmhouse, renovations were made to the structure before the pair sat their first customer in August. Most notably, a handmade, wooden latticework sushi bar was installed. Korean artwork and china was also imported.

Opening a restaurant was Shin's idea, but it was Yang who heard about the vacant property.

His cousin has a restaurant in Ann Arbor and in Rochester Hills," Yang explained. "A friend of mine in real estate told me about the house."

Unique features

The restaurant houses two traditional tatami rooms on the lower level, where diners remove their shoes and sit on grass mats. A bar and cigar room are available near the sushi bar and another smoking area is available on the second floor.

On the lighter side, patrons can sing along with one of 6,000 music selections, in several different languages, in two different areas of the restaurant. The karaoke system also features video depicting scenes of Korea.

According to Yang, it's been a challenge for the new restaurant with chefs from Japan, Korea and the United States. Tobin Harris hails as Executive Chef. Hirofumi Taira serves as the Chef de Cuisine, Mark Kim as the Chef de Partie and Andrew Lim as Sushi Chef.

"We're really providing three styles of cooking and there have been some language problems," Yang said. "But we've gotten these issues resolved."

Yang and Shin collaborated on the menu, which they call a "fusion" of French and Oriental cuisine.

"We hope that our restaurant will appeal to different types of diners," Yang said.

"We want everything to be special," Shin added. "We want to treat everyone like family."

The food

Seafood is flown in from New York, Boston and Asia based on a personalized selection of sushi and sashimi, specific tastes and the number of anticipated guests on any given day.

"My father's family had a fishing business when I was young, so I learned a lot about different kinds of fish growing up," Shin noted.

Dishes include Salmon Teriyaki; Roasted Boneless Rack of Lamb; Oven Roasted Sea Bass; Kalbi, which is marinated char-

Shiro
Where: 43180 West Nine Mile Road, just east of Novi Road in Novi, (248) 348-1212, Fax (248) 348-3003
Open: For lunch 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Monday-Friday, noon to 2:30 p.m. Saturday. Dinner served 5 to 10 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 5-10:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday.
Menu: Variety of dishes including Sushi, rack of lamb, filet mignon, seafood, chicken, kalbi (marinated short ribs), beef teriyaki, and some vegetarian items such as roasted vegetables with lentils and tomato coulis.
Cost: Dinner entrees \$16.95-\$34.95; lunch entrees, including entrees from sushi bar, \$7.95-\$16.95. Sushi bar items \$1.75 (one piece)-\$13.50 (Maki Combination).
Credit cards accepted: Visa, MasterCard, American Express
Reservations: Recommended. Restaurant seats 256 people

grilled short ribs basted in a special Korean barbecue sauce; and Filet Mignon of Beef topped with Gorgonzola cheese over wild mushrooms with Cabernet demi-glace.

Dinner entrees are served with your choice of Miso, Soup de Jour or house salad. Sorbet is served before all entrees.

Japanese dinner options include Sushi Moriawase — an assortment of fresh seafood served on sushi rice and Tekka Don — fresh sliced Ahi tuna served on a bed of sushi rice.

The lunch menu offers noodle dishes, soups and salads, and entrees such as char-grilled New York Strip Steak basted in Shiro's special teriyaki sauce, Seafood Stuffed White Fish with mushrooms, garlic and parsley, Chef's selection of pasta, Char-grilled Breast of Chicken Teriya-



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BRIDGES

At your service: Standing, (left to right) Aaron Richardson, Jason Bellemore, and Joey Frame. Sitting Howard Yang and J.W. Shin. On the table, a sample of items you'll find on the menu at Shiro, (from left) dessert, a berry sabayon — white chocolate cup with a sponge cake in bottom, filled with wild berries, ginger-cured salmon with a wasabi cream sauce and a cucumber radish salad, and pan crusted sea bass with a tomato-basil buerre blanc sauce and cous-cous with fresh herbs.

ki, and Parisian Sandwich — Pesto, French Brie, Portobello Mushrooms, Roasted bell peppers and caramelized sweet onion marmalade on French Bread. Lunch entrees are served with Miso Soup and Shiro Salad.
Pam Fleming is a resident of Northville and writes about dining for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers.

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I just heard about a seller who had to pay the buyer all of the money that the buyer placed in escrow with the broker, even though the broker absconded with the money, which was in excess of the earnest money deposit.

In a recent decision of the Michigan Court of Appeals, the buyer was entitled to all of the money which he had paid to the seller's broker, even though the broker absconded with the money.

The court indicated that there is nothing unlawful about the act of a licensed broker receiving and holding a purchaser's down payment deposits on a real estate transaction in and of itself.

That the broker used fraud to accomplish this otherwise lawful act doesn't relieve the seller of responsibility where innocent parties (the purchasers) have relied upon the agent's authority.

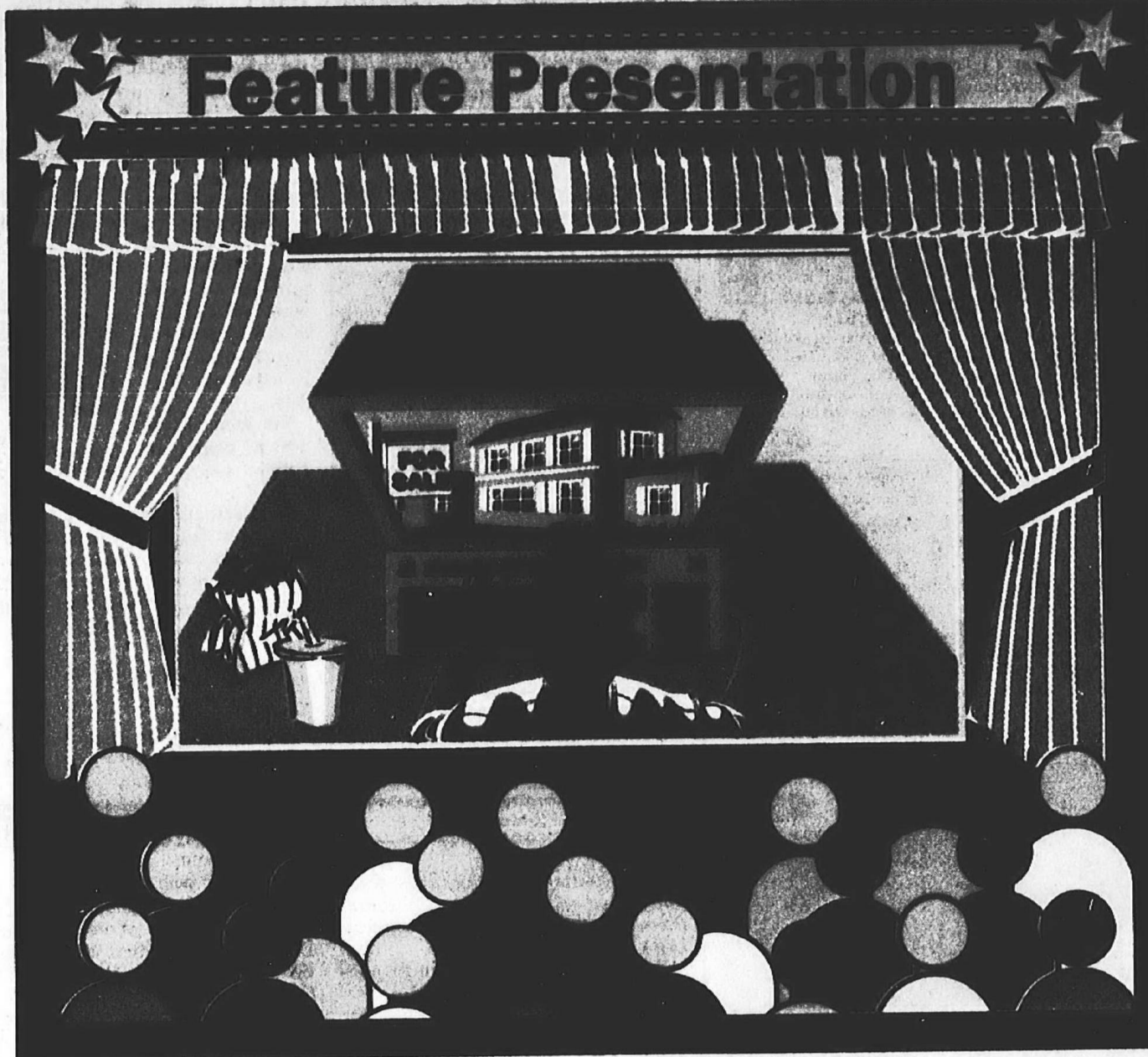
You would be best advised, therefore, to indicate that the broker is only authorized to accept a certain amount as an earnest money deposit without the seller's written consent and knowledge.

But, of course, it's important in the first instance to ensure that you are dealing with an honorable and honest broker.

Robert M. Meisner is an Oakland County area attorney concentrating his practice in the areas of condominiums, real estate, corporate law and litigation. You are invited to submit topics that you would like to see discussed in this column, including questions about condominiums, by writing Robert M. Meisner, 30200 Telegraph, Suite 467, Bingham Farms MI 48025. His e-mail address is rmeisner@mich.com, and his Web site is www.meisner-law.com. This column provides general information and should not be construed as legal opinion.

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New multilist program a hit after preview show

BY DOUG FUNKE
 STAFF WRITER
dfunke@oc.hometown.com

Many Realtors gave rave reviews to a new Web-based multilisting service designed to help them buy and sell homes after a preview of the information system at the Star Theatre.

The "plot" centered around adventures with listings, other data and communications, the lifeblood of the industry.

"I think it's wonderful, absolutely amazing, quick access to information," said Theresa Shrader, a Realtor with RE/MAX on the Trail in Plymouth.

"It will make all our lives easier," she added. "We will be able to e-mail in the middle of the night. It will e-mail for us."

Lloyd E. Edwards, an associate broker with Countryside GMAC Real Estate in Troy, also was enthusiastic.

"It will change our business a whole lot," he said. "It will speed it up, make it easier at work and the home office. I've been waiting for something like this for a long time."

Realtors affiliated with the Birmingham Bloomfield Rochester South Oakland board, the Western Wayne Oakland County association and the North Oakland County board have had access to the new system since mid-November.

Realcomp II developed the service for the 9,800 Realtors in southeast Michigan. The service was a year in the making.

"The goal was to move to platform technology that everything else seems to be moving to," said Karen Kage, CEO at Realcomp II. "It has so much more flexibility, direct communication between buyers and sellers."

"Realtors can access from anywhere in the country they have Internet

"I think it's wonderful, absolutely amazing, quick access to information. It will make all our lives easier. We will be able to e-mail in the middle of the night. It will e-mail for us."

Theresa Shrader
 Realtor
 RE/MAX on the Trail

access," Kage added. "We're hoping it will save money - a lot less faxing and printing costs. Our consumers will have access to information a lot faster. "We have much more control," she said.

Nearly 2,000 Realtors attended informational meetings on Realcomp Online in Southfield before it was activated.

The automatic updating of houses available for sale and the capability of electronically transmitting that information to clients daily especially impressed Realtors.

"I've been looking forward to it," said Patrice Hughes, an associate broker with Century 21 Town & Country in Troy. "I've lost customers when I couldn't e-mail listings."

"I'll be able to e-mail listings to clients a lot easier," said Mark M. Smith, a Realtor with Coldwell Banker Schweitzer in Farmington Hills. "Before, I had to copy pictures, text. Now, you just need an Internet link. I think it will be a big help."

Realtors could e-mail clients with the former multilisting system, but the process was cumbersome, said Fran Green, marketing specialist for Realcomp II.

"The most important thing today is instantness of information," said Nancy A. Harrison, an associate broker with Real Estate One. "It adds to our customer service, and that's our biggest thing."

Better communication announcing the new service and better training should make the transition to this system much smoother than the last upgrading about three years ago, Kage said.

For now, Realcomp II intends to keep the \$33 monthly charge in effect for Realtors for the new service. Only Realtors will have access. They also must have access to an Internet provider.

Mike Montpetit, a Realtor with Century 21 Associates in Novi, said he tested the new system about a month before it debuted.

"I can build online relationships with transferees about area listings and when we finally meet, we'll have a good understanding of what they want," he said.

"I'll have to be sure to sign on (clients) with a buyer's agreement," Montpetit added. "Otherwise, it's free information."

Beverly Weingarden, an associate broker with Century 21 Town & Country in Birmingham, said the only negative comment she's heard is that the new service is still slow.

"It sounds like it will be a big improvement," she added. "Anything to help."

John Gies, a Realtor with Coldwell Banker Schweitzer in Royal Oak, said he anticipated going home and practicing with the new technology.

"They're really making it simple," he said.

Should you refinance your home?



TIM 'TIMBO' PHILLIPS

As interest rates continue to fall, the interest in rates is rising. Homeowners have waited the better part of a year for interest rates to recover from the past year's six rate hikes. It seems the time is right to refinance our homes.

Here are some things to consider: There are two types of residential refinances: "rate and term" and "cash out." With a rate-and-term loan, buyers do not change the principal amount of the loan. This type of refinance affects the interest rate of the duration of the loan, or both. The "cash out" refinance - the more prevalent of the two - allows buyers to borrow additional money against their home, and change the rate and term of their loan.

Homeowners taking cash from their home may use the extra money for almost anything. Borrowers often use the cash to consolidate their consumer debts into one monthly payment. This gives homeowners a tax deduction on previously non-deductible interest. If a person has a marginal tax rate of 28-percent, transferring \$100 of interest charges in this manner results in a \$28 tax benefit per year.

For most conventional mortgages, buyers who plan to live in their home for at least two more years would be well served to refinance their home if they can improve their interest rate by a full percent. For homeowners paying private mortgage insurance (PMI), the target time period and interest rate reduction may be much smaller as the added cost of PMI creates an effectively higher interest rate.

Perhaps the most beneficial refinance is the FHA "streamlined" refinance. This incredible program allows FHA borrowers to get an almost automatic approval for a lower rate on their FHA loan if they have made their mortgage payments on time for a full year, and if they can improve their current rate by at least a half-percent. This program is a "must" for FHA borrowers with mortgage interest rates above 8.5-percent right now.

Tim "Timbo" Phillips is a loan officer for Commonwealth National Mortgage Corp. in Livonia. You may contact him at timbo@tir.com, or at (734) 797-5522 [24 hours]. Get free mortgage updates and news via e-mail by sending a blank message to timbits-subscribe@listbot.com. Homebuyers should always consult a professional for guidance specific to their situation.

Building permit comparison for period January through October

St. Clair	766	661	+13
Macomb	5,139	4,941	+4
Oakland	4,945	5,395	-19
Genesee	1,750	2,205	-22

Source: Building Department, Inc.

Realtor Full Page Ad Index

Realtor	Pages
Century 21 Town & Country	8F
Coldwell Banker Preferred	3F

For the Best Home Buys in your Hometown Check the Sunday and Thursday Real Estate Section.

HOME Of The WEEK

555 Lakeview, Birmingham
 S. off Oak, just west of Old Woodward

Distinctive New Construction in Holy Name Area
 Fabulous Cedar and Stone Victorian offers 5 bedrooms suite, 1st floor master, outstanding great room, formal living and dining rooms, 2nd room, 3 car garage, and full deep basement. Only the finest quality materials throughout. Tringali designed, immediate completion. \$289,000

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This decorative design prevails TO this custom classic 3300 sq. ft. + walk-out! Beautifully landscaped lot w/pond view. Open kitchen w/glass front maple cabinets, island, built-in appliances & bayed breakfast opens to family room. Trayed ceilings in dining room & master suite. Oak flooring!
\$200,500 734-455-6000



PICTURE THIS!

4 bedroom, 4 full bath colonial with large deck that overlooks wood lot & inground pool. 3564+ sq. ft. Partially finished walk-out. Large gourmet kitchen/hardwood floors & built-in book shelves. Family room with skylights & bar for entertaining.
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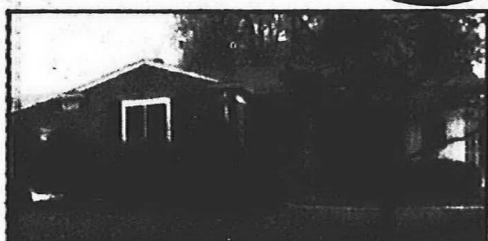
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Dunbarton Pines is the location for this magnificent 2-story Tudor, large 2900 sq. ft. home. 2nd story walk-way overlooks foyer and curved staircase. 1/3-wooded acre lot. Many recent updates! Northville schools. Close to X-way and shopping. \$369,500 734-455-6000



WAITING FOR YOUR "WREATH"?

There's absolutely nothing you have to do to this 1500 sq. ft. home with 4 bedrooms, library and "bonus" room. Refinished light oak flooring, a wonderfully awesome updated kitchen. Great neighborhood! \$220,000 734-455-6000



YOUR HOLIDAY DREAM HOME!

Brick ranch in quiet neighborhood. Warm and inviting family room with gas fireplace. Hardwood floors, new furnace and roof. Finished basement doubles the size of this almost 1,400 sq. ft. home.
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YOURS FOR THE HOLIDAYS!

This 3 bedroom brick ranch with charming large living & family rooms. Doorwall to yard from family room with fireplace. New windows. Walking distance to schools. Offered 1 year Home Warranty and \$1500 carpet allowance. \$119,900 734-455-6000

This column highlights promotions, transfers, hirings, awards won and other news within the real estate, construction, architecture and mortgage communities.

Send a brief summary including town of residency and black and white photo to Real Estate Movers and Shakers, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, 48150.

Our fax number is (734) 591-7279. Our e-mail address is bjensen@oe.homecomm.net

Joe Neussendorfer, director of member services and public relations for the Associated General Contractors, Metro Detroit Chapter, has been elected president of the Exchange Club of Detroit.

The Detroit club, the first in the nation founded in 1911, supports local civic and charitable activities.

Neussendorfer, a Pontiac resident, has been involved in the construction industry for 30 years.

Jeanne Fitzpatrick, an associate broker, joins the real estate office of Century 21 Today in Farmington Hills.

Fitzpatrick, a Southfield resident, has been selling real estate in the northwestern suburbs for 20 years.

Steven G. Schneemann, R.A., an architect with Neumann/Smith & Associates in Southfield, has successfully passed the National Council of Architectural Registration Board examination.

He joined Neumann/Smith in 1998.

Schneemann acquired a master of architecture degree from the University of California at Berkeley and a bachelor of science degree in architecture from Lawrence Technological University in Southfield.

He lives in Farmington.

Bill Zeidler becomes senior vice president - property management

services at Paragon Project Management Services, a new sister company of Paragon Corporate Real Estate Services in Farmington Hills.

Zeidler will provide comprehensive management services for clients involved in planning, designing, constructing and relocating into new office space, or renovating within existing space.

Zeidler, a licensed real estate agent, is a member of the International Facility Management Association and the Project Management Institute. He holds a bachelor's degree from Wayne State University.

Bernard Glibberman, president of Crosswinds Communities of Novi, has been appointed to the newly formed U.S.-Israel Binational Commission on Housing and Community Development, the first-ever formal housing agreement between the two countries.

Goals of the commission include expanding the supply of affordable housing, helping increase home ownership opportunities, revitalizing communities through business and job growth, and making improvements in architecture and construction technology.

REAL ESTATE BRIEFS

Real estate briefs features news and notes on professional associations, office activities, upcoming meetings and seminars, new services/products and consumer publications.

Write: Real estate briefs, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, 48150. Our fax number is (734) 591-7279. Our e-mail address is bjensen@oe.homecomm.net

REAL ESTATE FORECAST

The 10th annual Metro Detroit Commercial Real Estate Trends & Forecasts Seminar runs noon through 1:45 p.m. Friday, Jan. 12, at the Marriott Hotel in Auburn Hills. Speakers include Peter Linneman,

professor of real estate, finance and public policy, Wharton School of Business, University of Pennsylvania; Doug Etkin, president of Etkin Equities; David Andrea, chief economist, CSM Worldwide; and Sean McCourt, president, Ford Motor Land Development.

Cost, which includes lunch, is \$45 in advance, \$50 at the door.

For reservations, call Steve Morris or Theresa Langston at (248) 262-8000.

HAZARD REPORT

VISTAinfo, a publicly owned company based in San Diego, has a Web site that offers a free overview of environmental conditions - contaminated waste sites, hazardous waste

locations and landfills - by ZIP code. The Internet address is www.NearMyHome.com

More specific reports are available for a fee.

PLAYGROUND SAFETY

A book available from the Community Associations Institute can help community association managers and board members ensure that their playgrounds and tot lots are as safe as possible.

Detailed information is provided on safety inspections and implementing an effective maintenance plan.

"Playgrounds for Young Children" is available for \$40 by calling (703) 548-8600, or ordering through www.caionline.org

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<p>PLYMOUTH \$1,299,900 A HOME TO BE ENVIED! Home reflects only the very best. All amenities of elegant living include a sauna in approx. 2000 sq. ft. finished without basement with large wet bar & complete cooking area. (CEP75COV) 734-453-6800</p>	<p>CANTON \$259,900 BETTER THAN NEW. 1997 built four bedroom, 2 1/2 baths, formal living/dining room, library, fireplace, kitchen with center island, 18x14 master suite with garden tub/shower, hardwood floor & more! (BGN86BLU) 248-347-3050</p>	<p>DETROIT \$94,900 STRONG FOUR BEDROOM, 1 1/2 BATH COLONIAL! With newer furnace, roof and hot water heater. Over 2000 square feet, has formal living room with fireplace, formal dining & a balcony off the master bedroom. (BGN75ATK) 248-347-3050</p>	<p>HIGHLAND LAKE PRIVILEGES \$152,000 Sharp three bedroom hi-level on White Lake features open floor plan, large bright kitchen, cozy family room, new windows, neutral decor. Swim association. (BG-L0DLAS) 734-462-1811</p>	<p>MELVINDALE \$79,900 NICELY UPDATED. Ready to move into! Never oak kitchen, vinyl siding, windows, central air, hot water heater. Great floor plan with large utility room. All appliances stay. (BGN05PRO) 248-347-3050</p>	<p>PLYMOUTH BRIGHT & CHEERY \$294,900 Cosy comfortable three bedroom, two bath bungalow. Formal living room with fireplace, formal dining room with built in hutch. All appliances remain. Central air, two car garage. Walk to town! (BGP-01Her) 734-453-6800</p>	<p>WAYNE HOME OR MEDICAL FACILITIES \$169,900 1.18 acres in city. Three bedroom, living, family room, formal dining room, & two fireplaces. Located across from Annapolis Hospital. Possible zoning change for medical. (BG-L-05VEN) 734-462-1811</p>
<p>CANTON EXECUTIVE HOME! \$419,900 Four bedroom, 2 1/2 bath Brick Colonial in Royal Pointe West. Luxurious master suite with fashion bath. Dramatic two story foyer & family room. Gourmet kitchen & rock 9 foot ceilings on first floor. (BGP-04Ken) 734-453-6800</p>	<p>CANTON FABULOUS 4 BEDROOM, 2 1/2 BATH HOME \$209,900 In sought after sub. Great location & private yard. New Oak kitchen. Many updates include vinyl siding, air conditioning, fresh paint & more. Warranty. (BGN11RUK) 248-347-3050</p>	<p>DETROIT STOP THE SEARCH! \$82,000 Don't let this one get away! Brick bungalow in all brick neighborhood. Fireplace, newer windows, roof and furnace. Home warranty with full price offer. (BG-L-03PRE) 734-462-1811</p>	<p>LIVONIA SPACIOUS BRICK RANCH \$112,900 This three bedroom home has a large living room, formal dining room, oversized kitchen. Many recent updates-finished basement with study or possible fourth bedroom, glass block windows, and wet bar. (BG-L-38FAJ) 734-462-1811</p>	<p>PLYMOUTH WHAT A SETTING... \$399,900 Tastefully appointed four bedroom, 3 1/2 bath home on a manicured-private one acre setting. Updated kitchen & roof. Two fireplaces. Gorgeous views from living room windows. Must see! (BGP-41Ant) 734-453-6800</p>	<p>REDFORD GREAT OPPORTUNITY. \$114,900 Value best describes this three bedroom, one bath brick ranch. 19x12 master bedroom, excellent family room with fireplace, full finished basement. One year home warranty. (BG-L-10BEE) 734-462-1811</p>	<p>WEST BLOOMFIELD CUSTOM RANCH. \$574,900 3,000 square foot ranch loaded with custom features on wooded lot, finished basement with sauna, wine cellar, four bedrooms, four baths & five car garage. Two additional lots available. \$399,900 (BGN86ORC) 248-347-3050</p>
<p>CANTON ALMOST NEW COLONIAL! \$284,900 Hardwood & ceramic floors, island kitchen, master bedroom with fashion bath, open foyer, library, brick paver patio, neutral decor. Must see, three bedroom, 2 1/2 bath. Premium lot. (BGN45AIND) 248-347-3050</p>	<p>DETROIT LOVELY 3 BEDROOM BRICK RANCH! \$142,500 Very clean & well maintained. New windows, furnace & tile kitchen floor. Updated half bath. Finished basement with wet bar. Located at end of street. No traffic. (BGN10FAR) 248-347-3050</p>	<p>GARDEN CITY IMMACULATE! \$138,900 Best describes this four bedroom, one bath Cape Cod with two car garage. Updated from top to bottom. Beautiful landscaping & custom walkways. Covered patio along side above ground pool. (BG-L-70BLO) 734-462-1811</p>	<p>LIVONIA PREMIUM BURTON HOLLOW \$299,900 Wooded & backing to Bell Creek. Immediate occupancy on this spectacular four bedroom, 2 1/2 bath. Fresh paint & carpet throughout. Central air, natural fireplace. Truly move in condition. (BGN02ALP) 248-347-3050</p>	<p>PLYMOUTH UPDATED CAPE COD... \$249,900 ...on over an acre. New addition & completely updated. Two outbuildings including new 3 car garage. Brick paver patio & fruit trees. Updates include new windows, siding, both baths & well holding tank. Beautiful landscaping & lots of storage. (BGP-41Her) 734-453-6800</p>	<p>WALLED LAKE LIVE ON THE WATER... \$919,900 Spectacular view on Walled Lake. Great two-story home with almost 1/2 acre, new roof-2000, newer windows, decks & fence. Brother-in-law's garage with private entrance. (CEP48WAL) 734-453-6800</p>	<p>WEST BLOOMFIELD BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY. \$169,900 Newly started business opportunity. Newly started grocery store with beer & wine license. Has kitchen to cook for the take out food. (BGP-05VEN) 734-462-1811</p>

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312 Detroit, 3 bedroom ranch w/ heated driveway to 2 car garage, C.A., remodeled interior, \$129,900. Century 21 Towne Pride. Office: 734-326-2600

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REDFORD - 2040 West Chicago, 3 bedroom brick ranch, basement, C/A. \$129,900. HELP-U-SELL (734) 454-9535

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THREE BEDROOM BRICK HOME! Updated with newer windows, water heater and furnace. Located in Oak Park with Perennial schools. \$121,800. (248) 647-7100
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338 Southfield-Livonia
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 3 bedroom 2 1/2 bath home in San Marino Villa. Master suite with walk in closet & marble floor, w/out basement, 2 1/2 car garage. Great location, large lot. \$284,900.

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340 South Lyon
NEW CONSTRUCTION COLONIAL - 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath in Carriage Club Subdivision. Traditional plan with modern finishes and numerous updates. Mike Wickham. (734) 464-7111

THREE BEDROOM RANCH, 1 1/2 bath, 2 1/2 car heated garage, 2 car detached garage, in ground heated pool on beautiful 1 acre. \$177,500. (248) 437-6907

341 Troy
 \$485,000. 2268 Red Maple 4 bedroom, finished basement, 3 car garage. Exceptionally well built with many upgrades. 3,390 sq. ft. (248) 508-9414

TROY - 4 bedroom, 2 bath colonial, finished basement, new windows, renovated, newer roof, walk to Somerset. \$289,000. ShareNet Realty 248-642-1820

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ORCHARD LAKE
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ACROSS

1 TV personality
 6 Sings
 11 Tina Turner
 12 Fish
 14 Broadway St.
 16 Late actress
 17 Male of scale
 18 Breakfast staple
 20 M. Rostand, et al.
 21 Total
 22 Social outcast
 24 Mail do -
 25 Lala or Candi
 26 Drugs locally
 28 Singer
 30 Born (Fr.)
 31 This ed repeat

DOWN

1 Catnap
 2 Movie rating
 3 Inn (abbr.)
 4 Line a bump
 5 On -
 6 Groups of women

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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325 Livonia
LIVONIA
 Built with distinction, this 3 bedroom, 1.5 bath brick ranch sits on 3.41 acre and backs to 150 acre nature preserve. Major renovations from 1992 to present. 2,800 sq. ft. \$450,000. (S32405)
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LIVONIA
 Classic styling and comfort shows throughout this charming 3 bedroom, 2 bath brick ranch. Upgrades include new kitchen and baths, dimension roof, furnace, carpet, and c.a. \$141,900. (C28115)
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LIVONIA
CUTE 4 BEDROOM HOME in Livonia. Updated kitchen, new carpet, 2 beautiful decks, great family sub with walking distance to schools. \$149,900. (28)FL02
 (248) 348-6430
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LIVONIA
 Hurry! Won't last! 3 bedroom, 1.5 bath Livonia brick ranch features new furnace, c.a., and roof. Fireplace in living room, upstairs family room, finished basement. Over 1,200 sq. ft. \$154,900. (M30287)
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LIVONIA
 Just listed - open, airy 3 bedroom ranch w/ living room or 4th bedroom. Updated throughout including custom kitchen w/ granite, partially finished basement, 2.5 garage, 1.5 baths & great location. \$174,900. (M14731)
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Real Estate One
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LIVONIA
 Just wonderful! 3 bedroom brick ranch in great neighborhood! 2 car garage, partially finished basement w/irc. room. C.a., new windows, furnace, hot water heater, and newer. \$151,900. (M29910)
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325 Livonia
LIVONIA
 Large families welcome to this 6 bedroom colonial w/ 4 car garage w/ workshop. Huge open kitchen to family room w/ brick fireplace. Jacuzzi tub in ceramic bath, partially finished basement in great neighborhood. \$218,900. (R8806)
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LIVONIA - 9900 Fickford, 3 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths, vaulted ceiling, fireplace, 75-300 lot. \$194,999. HELP-U-SELL (734) 454-9535

LIVONIA
 Spacious 4 bedroom colonial, remodeled kitchen, huge family room w/ fireplace, master suite w/ double jacuzzi tub. Newer windows, alarm system & home warranty. \$219,900. (P1851)
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LIVONIA
 1,800 sq. ft. of quality living area, brick 1st level, 3 bedroom, 1.5 bath, family room, 2.5 car garage, fenced yard. Livonia schools. Call Mike Judge. (734) 591-9200 Ext. 155.
 \$159,900. (T2625)
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LIVONIA
 WELL MAINTAINED TRI-LEVEL IN LIVONIA. 3 bedrooms, 2 full baths, recent updates: Andersen windows, carpet, kitchen floor & landscaping. Finished lower level w/ natural fireplace. \$188,900. (28)UC2
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LIVONIA
 Your search is over! Affordable 3 bedroom ranch in a great neighborhood. Lots of trees, neutral decor, partially finished basement, copper plumbing, mechanics suite 2.5 car garage. \$145,900. (C9974)
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326 Milford
MILFORD
GREAT 4 BEDROOM RANCH 3.5 acre! Parklike setting, 2.5 baths, living room w/ fireplace, island kitchen, walk-out lower level w/ fireplace, 2-story barn, great for cars, business, hobbyist & more! \$349,900. (60)HC2
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328 Northville
FANTASTIC CNETER entrance colonial in popular Northville Colony Estates. New hardwood floors highlight kitchen, 1st floor laundry, master suite, vaulted ceilings in Great room. Formal dining, custom patio, great landscaping. Excellent floor plan. Hurry it only \$299,900.
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329 Novi
FAMILY 4 bedroom Colonial C/A & clean, family room, great burning fireplace, 2 car attached garage, backs to orchard with great. Front to a private court. Can accept low down payment if qualified. \$259,900. OneWay Realty
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Map showing location on Newburgh Rd., 5 Mile Rd., and I-75.

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BIRMINGHAM - In-town, 2 bedroom upper flat, new kitchen, hardwood floors, washer/dryer included. \$675. 248-642-3231. No pets. 248-642-3231. Share Listings 248-642-1620

BIRMINGHAM - 4 bedroom, 2 bath, appliances, basement, oak finished. \$1300. 248-642-3230. Share Listings 248-642-1620

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Bloomfield Hills - 4 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath, appliances, fireplace, family room, garage. \$2200. Share Listings 248-642-1620

BRIGHTON - 4 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath, oak, basement, 2 car garage. \$2200. No fee. Share Listings 248-642-1620

BRIGHTON - 3 bedroom, basement, appliances, pet negotiable. RENTAL PROB (248)368-RENT

CANTON - Beautiful 4 bedroom Condo, 2 1/2 baths, 2 car attached garage, master suite w/bath, 2,700 sq. ft. Available 1-1-2001. 248-642-3230, 0711. RICHTER & ASSOC.

CANTON - 3 bedroom, appliances, central air, 2 car garage, basement, no fee. \$1750 mo-security. (248) 701-2870

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Immediate Occupancy On Our Brand New 1 Bedrooms
Living 1, 1 1/2, 2, 2 1/2 & 3 Bedroom Plans
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LAKE PRIVILEGES! 1994 Ranch with over 1800 sq. ft. on spacious corner lot. 2 car attached garage, basement, 1st floor laundry. (02ANA) \$198,500 734-455-5600



EXTRA CLEAN 3 to 4 BEDROOM BRICK! 1 1/2 bath, fireplace in living room, 2nd level w/den/Library-could be 4th bedroom. Newer: Furnace, Roof, Kitchen & ceramic bath. Full basement. Move in at closing. Stove, Refrig., Washer & Dryer all stay. (03FEN) \$93,800 734-455-5600



OPEN FLOOR PLAN! Call. Fieldstone Nat. fireplace w/raised hearth in family room. 4 bedroom, 2 bath ranch w/water vinyl windows & ceramic tile. Doorwall to deck, lower finished basement w/walkout, Merrilite Cabs, Bay window, Storage galore, HPP (51SOM) \$209,999 734-455-5600



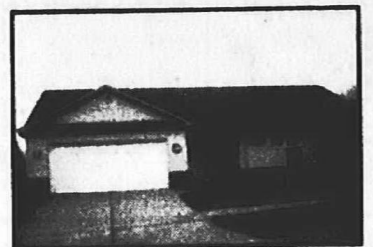
FORGET ABOUT RENTING!! Easily affordable. Good schools, taxes & easy to maintain, yet lots of room. 4 bedrooms & 2 full baths. Basement & 2 car garage w/lot. Nice neighborhood, close to activity center. (A2EL) \$139,900 248-349-5600



LIVONIA RANCH. Beautiful spacious & meticulously maintained brick home in Livonia. Stevenson schools area. Open floor plan. Family room w/fireplace. 2 bath updated. Kitchen with hickory cabinets. Finished basement, oversized garage. (28LOV) \$219,900 248-349-5600



RANCH CONDO. Fresh paint, carpet and more in end unit with attached garage and Florida Room. Enjoy club house and beach on Crooked Lake. (44APL) \$114,900 248-349-5600



SHARP RANCH CONDO W/FULL BASEMENT! 2 bedroom 2 bath, 2 car attached garage. Cathedral ceilings, fireplace, deck over looking nature preserve. Move-in condition. Neutral decor. All appliances stay. (45AND) \$224,900 734-455-5600



ENJOY THE BEAUTIFUL 4 SEASONS! Sprawling Ranch on Parklike lot. Numerous Updates: Kitchen, laundry, family room doors, furnace, carpet, driveway, copper plumbing, crown moldings. Gorgeous wood backyard, walk to downtown Plymouth (05GOV) \$199,900 734-455-5600



OUTSTANDING 4 BEDROOM! Cape Cod floor plan, wonderful neighborhood, Livonia Schools. Only 4 yrs old, 1st floor master suite w/garden tub, enormous kitchen & cabinets, 1st floor laundry, loft overlooking family room, showpiece fireplace (48TIM) \$264,900 734-455-5600



AFFORDABLE ELEGANCE. Warm & inviting brick ranch is ready for its new family. Newer roof, furnace, C/A, windows, large bow windows, beautifully landscaped, remodeled bath & kitchen w/oak cupboards, new carpeting T/O, 2 1/2 garage & large family room. (12MRF) \$129,900 248-349-5600



ENTERTAINERS DELIGHT. Remodeled country kitchen with open floor plan. 3 bedroom brick ranch with finished basement and lovely wooded private fenced yard with deck. Totally updated home. Close to expressway. Pella windows throughout. \$169,900 (55FAI) 248-349-5600



MAJOR UPDATES: Roof, furnace, C/A, hot water heater, large lot, aprinklers, tiered deck & mature trees. Stone fireplace in family room. Walkout lower level. Awaiting finishing/door touches. 3 bedroom, 2 bath, dining room, great room and nook. (85ENG) \$208,000 248-349-5600



VINTAGE COLONIAL! Worth seeing! Well kept home in Boston-Edison features. Newer: furnace, block windows, natural woodwork. Huge finished 3rd level-used at Master bedroom w/WC. Beautiful Oak front door (10ATK) \$169,900 734-455-5600



DOWNTOWN PLYMOUTH-PRIVATE COURT! Very appealing 3 bedroom. New kitchen w/Maple cabs, 1998+windows, electrical, paint, carpet, C/A, 1 1/2 baths. Refinished hardwood floors, Home Warranty. (50HAR) \$189,900 734-455-5600



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QUIET NEIGHBORHOOD! Great location. Easy commute & close to shopping. Many updates: roof, gutters, downspouts, C/A. Doorwall from kitchen to deck-natures private yard. Full bath in basement. Large kitchen, appliances (19BRE) \$135,430 734-455-5600



TONS OF SQUARE FOOTAGE! Lots of storage space in this 5 bedroom Colonial, 2 bath. Huge kitchen, all appliances stay, circuit breakers, newer entry door & roof, lovely yard, covered patio (60HAZ) \$120,000 734-455-5600



WONDERFUL 3 BEDROOM HOME! Remodeled Kitchen, Dining Room, Vinyl Siding & a large backyard for the kids to play in. One half block from Crowley Park. Home Warranty included. \$1,500 Roof Allowance to Purchasers @ closing. (17CHE) \$99,900 734-455-5600



CHARMING FARMHOUSE! Step back in time. 5 bedroom, 1 1/2 bath, hardwood floors & beautiful woodwork. Big country kitchen, living room, library, heated covered porch. Commercial/Residential. Double lot. (00JOY) \$199,900 734-455-5600



FRESH, BRIGHT, IMMENSELY LIVABLE RANCH! 3 bedroom on a country-like 1/2 acre lot! Beautiful kitchen w/hickory cabs. Nice landscaping. Spacious living areas. A great price! Ready to move in. (70WAY) \$149,900 734-455-5600



LIVONIA RANCH. Lots of house for the square footage. Approximately 1/2 acre lot with room to expand. Three bedroom, 2 bath and family room with fireplace. (67WEY) \$122,000 248-349-5600



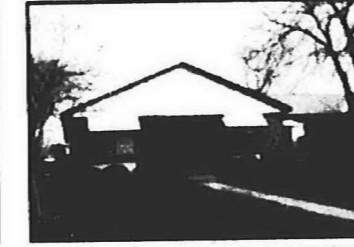
COUNTRY LIVING ON EDGE OF TOWN. Sharp 3 bedroom brick ranch with loads of updates! 3 full baths, 2 1/2 attached garage plus an additional garage. Great buy! \$224,900 (62RUS) 248-349-5600



THEY KEEP UPDATING ME! Stunning 3 bedroom brick ranch w/newer roof, garage & house, furnace & C/A, cement driveway. Freshly painted & carpeting T/O. Updated kitchen & bath w/oak cupboards. Cozy Family room w/wood fireplace. \$144,900 (10BUR) 248-349-5600



HARD TO FIND 3 BEDROOM LAKE FRONT CONDO! Stunning view of lake. Need quick SALE! Master Suite with updated bath and walkin closet. Cozy Living Room w/Fireplace. 2 full baths, deck & much more. Take a Look! (93CLI) \$110,000 734-455-5600



GREAT CONDO LIVING OPPORTUNITY! 55+ community. Updates incl: Freshly painted, furnace, windows & doorwall. Spacious basement. HPP, appliances stay. Master bedroom w/walk-in closet. Patio, community pool & clubhouse. \$2,000 carpet/decor allowance. (67NEW) \$125,900 734-455-5600



ALMOST LIKE NEW-MOVE IN CONDITION! Newer Vinyl Thermo windows w/marble sills. Family room has newer door wall & gas corner fireplace. Kitchen remodeled w/new cupboards. Master bedroom w/his & hers closets. Land Contract Available (16WES) \$119,900 734-455-5600



VERY SPECIAL INSIDE & OUT. Neutral decor T/O. Fresh & bright. Spacious home w/hardwood floors T/O, newer furnace, roof shingles & more. Enjoy the fireplace during cold winter nights. Full finished basement. Plenty of room for the growing family. (02IND) \$157,500. 248-349-5600



EXQUISITE CUSTOM BUILT - 5 bedroom contemporary on a 1.15 acre lot at the end of a cul-de-sac overlooking a park-like setting & pond. Custom marble foyer w/crown moldings T/O. 3 fireplaces, wet bar & 1st floor master. \$1,150,000 (58VAS) 248-349-5600



BEAUTIFUL 4 bedroom, 3 1/2 bath cape cod home in impressive Beacon Meadows. Finished walk-out, in-law quarters, great room w/wet bar, 1st floor master bedroom & car garage. \$549,900 (24CAN) 248-349-5600



THE WORK IS ALL DONE FOR YOU! Newer, carpet, paint, wall paper, window coverings T/O. 3 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath ranch on 1 acre in Saline! Updates: Kitchen, furnace w/cleaned ducts, C/A, HWH, roof. Walkout on lower level, double tier deck, heated pool (46COV) \$249,900 734-455-5600



GREAT 3 BEDROOM, 1 1/2 BATH BRICK RANCH! In Popular Dearborn Heights Sub. 2 1/2 car garage. Partially finished basement, C/A, Vinyl windows, hardwood floor in bedrooms. Great Home for the money! (04NOR) \$134,900 734-455-5600



BEAUTIFULLY WOODED YARD! Deck, Hot Tub, 3 bedroom, 2 bath, fireplace in Family room. Maytag Washer & Dryer stay. Carpet allowance. DSL Internet Ready Office. 2 car garage. You'll want to see this one! (28WOO) \$170,000 734-455-5600



FANTASTIC 1988 COLONIAL. 1988 built home backing to your own personal park. Family room & cathedral ceilings & fireplace. Shows like a model. (71FAI) \$219,900 248-349-5600



PRICE REDUCED on this delightful home in Northville. Come take a look at this cutie pie. Charm oozes from the ever so quaint bungalow situated in the heart of town. Updates: Roof, furnace, A/C & Hot water heater. 2 full baths. \$199,900 (36WES) 248-349-5600



SMILE YOU FOUND IT... Well maintained colonial located walking distance to schools and town of Northville. 3 bedrooms, 1 1/2 baths. Great family neighborhood. Private fenced backyard that is nicely landscaped. \$235,000 (92ELY) 248-349-5600



LARGE LOT & GREAT LOCATION for this 4 bedroom Colonial in Holiday Park Sub. This home has it all! Updates incl windows, roof, kitchen, bath, garage doors, sprinklers. Immediate occupancy. Appliances (26EDM) \$166,900 734-455-5600



BRICK DUPLEX! Two units in this duplex. Spacious living room & 2 bedrooms for each. Hardwood floors in living room and bedrooms, kitchen w/dining area. Home Warranty (40PAR) \$167,900 734-455-5600



PICTURE PERFECT! Pride of ownership T/O. Lovely layout, 3 bedroom, full basement, garage, formal dining room & large rec room. Great neighborhood. All new windows. Just one of the many updates. Don't miss out! (03WOO) \$129,900 734-455-5600



DO IT NOW. Call to see this attractive 2 bedroom, 1 1/2 bath condo w/Novi schools. Full basement, private patio. Neutral decor & home warranty, clubhouse, all year pool, tennis courts & more. (23OLD) \$123,900 248-349-5600



NORTHVILLE COLONIAL - 1/2 ACRE. Five bedroom, 2 1/2 bath home on wooded setting. New hardwood floors in family room, kitchen, dining room & foyer. Andersen windows, Corian kitchen, finished LL & cedar deck. \$324,900 (26CHI) 248-349-5600



WALK TO DOWNTOWN. 3 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath tri-level with basement and enclosed porch. Large family room w/fireplace and 2 car attached garage. \$198,900. (77HOL) 248-349-5600

248-521-1600 248-642-8100 248-652-8000 248-349-5600
248-363-1200 810-731-8180 248-626-8800 248-349-5600



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Grid of apartment listings with columns for location, features, and contact info. Includes listings for Canton, Garden City, Livonia, Plymouth, Royal Oak, Troy, Westland, Farmington Hills, and others.



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EMPLOYMENT

Your HomeTown Classified ad is automatically posted on the internet! Visit us today.

Large employment section with multiple '500 Help Wanted General' ads. Includes positions for Account Manager, Apartment Maintenance, Auto Body Technicians, and various other roles.

City Editor advertisement for Mirror newspaper. Text: 'Self-starting writer/editor needed to write news and feature articles for weekly newspaper. Beat includes city government, schools, business and crime. Must have transportation. Experience necessary. Pleasant work environment and excellent benefits, including 401K. Fax cover letter and resume to (248)398-2353 Mirror'

WE'RE LOOKING FOR YOU! advertisement. Text: 'We need someone who can lift 30-40 lbs. and is interested in working on Saturdays from (estimated time) 3pm till 1am Sunday or Thursday from 6am-2pm. If this sounds like you.... Call (734) 953-2041 and ask for Troy or Michelle Observer & Eccentric'

Community Editor advertisement. Text: 'Are you an excellent journalist with managerial experience and also a team player? We are in search of an enthusiastic leader to be our Farmington Community Editor. We are an award-winning newspaper offering a great work environment, competitive salary with excellent career opportunities, benefits, and generous time off policy. To qualify you need a Bachelor's degree or equivalent, 3-5 years experience in newspaper reporting and/or editing, solid page design and editing skills, with thorough knowledge of Baseview and QuarkXpress. Excellent new judgment and managerial experience are a must, with strong interest in community activities. Superior communication and community relation skills are essential with thorough knowledge of libel, slander, and privacy laws. Observer & Eccentric 36251 Schoolcraft Road • Livonia, MI 48150 Job Code: Comm. Editor E-mail: ebibik@oh.comcast.net Fax: (734) 953-2067'

500's Employment section with various job listings. Includes 'HELP WANTED' ads for students, clerical, and other roles. Also includes a 'Please Check Your Ad' notice.

HIRE PEOPLE FASTER with Ad Mail

5000 Help Wanted General

PERISH TRUCK LEASING
An immediate need for a **PUBLIC WORKER** in the Plymouth-Wiroom area. Duties: fueling, truck washing, & other maintenance. Must be able to work outdoors. Pay range is \$12/hr including excellent benefits. Submit application to: Cass Velez, 13200 State Rd, Plymouth, MI 48170-4202 or call Cass @ 248-240-7185.

PHOTOGRAPHER
Earn extra money photographing if you have the desire to be the best come join our team. We are the nation's oldest and most respected family owned studio. Must be available 4 days a week, transportation and 35mm camera. The best training in the industry provided. Send resume to: Call Lisa at: (248) 948-9500.

PLUMBERS
Are you tired of working just to pay for your health insurance? AD has 100% company paid benefits, a 401K w/50% match, profit sharing, very generous compensation, company vehicle provided to technicians, and much more! Residential service experience required. Apply in person at: A/ Danbata (since 1926), 31015 Grand River, Farmington Hills (248) 477-9626.

ROCHESTER HILLS Co. has position in the accounting Dept. Must have basic understanding of invoicing & monthly statements. 30-40 hours workweek. Send resume to: DUT FOWLER MFG., 3900 N Dixie Rd, Auburn Hills MI 48321

ROUTE SUPERVISOR
Detroit based firm and uniform company seeking individuals for route supervisor position. Salary plus commission, company vehicle, medical insurance, and 401K plan. Call (313) 921-2727, ask for Service Manager or Fax resume to: (313) 921-2426

SALES
If you are interested in a career in sales, we have an excellent opportunity to share with you. State Farm Insurance has an exciting opportunity for you to contribute to the success of our company. We offer low rates & competitive pay in a nurturing and developmentally appropriate environment. If you would like to join us as an Assistant Teacher or a Substitute teacher please call 734-453-7744.

PRINTING PRESS OPERATOR
Walled Lake In-Plant Print Shop seeks experienced press operator for ink & Ad Dick Presses. Benefits package includes health, dental, life and 401K. Hourly wage based on education and experience. Fax resume to 248-600-0078. E.O.E.

AN expanding consumer individual with strong communication and leadership skills. Qualified candidates will have a minimum of 2 years mechanical experience, knowledge of hydraulics/pneumatics preferred. This is a full time position in our manufacturing facility that offers a competitive wage, Medical/Dental/Disability Insurance, 401K/Profit Sharing, and more.

PRODUCTION WORK
Starting at \$8.50 per hour. 7am-3pm. Overtime available. Medical & profit sharing. Wm. area. (248) 885-3063.

PROFESSIONALS ONLY!
Leading Equipment Leasing Co. pays the highest commissions for the qualified candidate. Rep needs to be professional, educated, have proper business attire. Rep works w/business owners, CPAs, Banks, Fax resume to: Signature Financial Group, 248-338-9221.

PROPERTY MANAGER
Property Management company seeking a professional to manage a portfolio of residential properties in Oakland & northern Wayne County. Successful candidates MUST have 4 years of experience overseeing senior apartment communities, and be skilled in the areas of monthly financial reporting, tenant relations and NNIN lease expense reconciliation. Computer experience with Microsoft Word/Excel preferred. EEO.

ONLY EXPERIENCED NEED APPLY
Send resume with SALARY REQUIREMENTS to: Director, PO Box 250219, Franklin, MI 48025.

PROPERTY MANAGER
Full or part-time for Farmington Hills based management company. (734) 728-0710

FINAL INSPECTORS, FLOOR INSPECTORS, ASSEMBLY & TEST TECHNICIANS NEEDED
For Aerospace manufacturing plant under new ownership. Familiar with set-up and use of manual precision gaging. Basic machining experience and/or computer experience a plus. Overtime with excellent benefit package. Apply between 7:00-3:30 in person or send resume to: Ventura Industries, 46301 Port Street, Plymouth, MI 48170. Fax: 734-459-9147.

QUALITY CONTROL ENTRY LEVEL
Livonia plastic recycling company needs entry level QC Tech to work various shifts performing sampling, physical testing and recording. Worker \$9.00/hr. 40 hour week with an increase after 90 days and full benefits including medical & 401K. For more information call: 734-252-2118 x11. Fax resume to: 734-252-4770. Or stop by our plant: Pure Tech Plastics, 11784 Erieview Dr., Livonia, MI 48150. EOE.

5001 Help Wanted General

RECEPTIONIST/ SALES ASSISTANT
Plan & video company seeks full-time receptionist to answer multi-line telephone system as well as coordinate sales activities. Hours are 10am-5pm. Must possess excellent 7 very professional. Please send resume & salary history in confidence to: Box 62949, Observer & Electronic Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft Rd, Livonia, MI 48150

REPORTER
HomeTown Newspapers is currently seeking General Assignment and Sports Reporters to cover our bi-weekly newspapers in Northville and our daily newspaper in Livingston County. Qualified candidates will have a bachelor's degree in journalism or related field and 6 months to 2 years of prior experience. Please send resume to: HomeTown Newspapers, 323 E. Grand River, Howell, MI 48843. Fax: (517) 525-5446. Email: mbratton@homenewsp.com All resumes must include job code: reporter.

ROCHESTER HILLS Co. has position in the accounting Dept. Must have basic understanding of invoicing & monthly statements. 30-40 hours workweek. Send resume to: DUT FOWLER MFG., 3900 N Dixie Rd, Auburn Hills MI 48321

ROUTE SUPERVISOR
Detroit based firm and uniform company seeking individuals for route supervisor position. Salary plus commission, company vehicle, medical insurance, and 401K plan. Call (313) 921-2727, ask for Service Manager or Fax resume to: (313) 921-2426

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FINAL INSPECTORS, FLOOR INSPECTORS, ASSEMBLY & TEST TECHNICIANS NEEDED
For Aerospace manufacturing plant under new ownership. Familiar with set-up and use of manual precision gaging. Basic machining experience and/or computer experience a plus. Overtime with excellent benefit package. Apply between 7:00-3:30 in person or send resume to: Ventura Industries, 46301 Port Street, Plymouth, MI 48170. Fax: 734-459-9147.

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5002 Help Wanted Office Clerk

ADMINISTRATIVE LEASE ASSISTANT
Immediate opening in our lease department for an individual with a good attitude and work habits. Must possess good clerical and communication skills. This is a full time position that offers competitive wages and benefits. Please fax resume to: Deborah Hoffman at: (734) 421-1949 or apply in person at North Brothers Ford, 33300 Ford Rd., Westland.

ADMINISTRATIVE OPPORTUNITIES \$20K to \$35K
Top companies in Novi, Farmington Hills and Plymouth seek individuals with PC experience for permanent administrative positions. Friendly business casual environment. Excellent benefits.

ASSISTANT OFFICE MANAGER
part-time for accounting office. Job includes typing, filing, word processing, answering phones and other office duties. Salary negotiable depending on experience. Must be pleasant and work well with people. Job may lead to full-time employment. Fax resume to: 248-547-3038

BANK TELLER
Due to recent growth, Oakland County is seeking individuals for opening for a Customer Service Representative/Teller. Responsibilities include processing customer transactions, answering customer inquiries, and cross selling bank products. Previous teller experience strongly preferred. Oakland offers help and a very competitive benefits package. Please apply in person or send resume to: Oakland Commerce Bank, 31731 Northwestem Hwy, Farmington Hills, MI 48334. Attention: Human Resources Supervisor. EOE M/F

BOOKKEEPER/ DATA ENTRY
Full-time for Farmington Hills accounting office. Duties include word processing, organizational skills a must. Great place to work. Fax resume & salary requirement to: 248-655-2618

CUSTOMER SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE
Our growing office team ASAP is looking for outgoing sales professionals. We provide great benefits including 100% company paid medical/dental, 401K w/50% match & profit sharing! Fax resume to: (248) 477-7578

CUSTOMER SERVICE SPECIALISTS
Financial - knowledge of insurance and banking. Receptionists - Front office, major manufacturer. Market Research - Full and part time. Evenings available. Call Center - Temp to hire, promotion. Call Corrie or Email: birm@staff.com

BOOKKEEPER
Local CPA firm seeking a permanent part-time bookkeeper. Duties include data entry, general ledger thru trial balance, payroll taxes and tax returns. Experience in Creative Solutions and QuickBooks software helpful but not required. Benefits included. Fax resume to: 734-425-4701 or mail to: Corrie Wendler, 12016 Dearing, Livonia, MI 48150.

BOOKKEEPER
Looking for the right candidate for a full-time position. Part-time, flexible hours. Computer background a must. Great work environment with motivated employees. Response with resume to: DMP/RF 15100 Cassford, Detroit, MI 48227. E-mail: birm@dmprco.com.

BOOKKEEPER
Printwell has an opening for an experienced bookkeeper. Duties include Accounts Payable, Accounts Receivable, Invoicing and Payroll. Must have computer experience. Excellent benefits. Call Tom at 734-941-6300 or fax resume 734-942-0820

BOOKKEEPER
Public accounting experience preferred for Telegraph/12 Mile public accounting office. (248) 238-9220

BOOKKEEPING ASSISTANT
For Farmington Hills construction company. Processes accounts receivables & payables. Need to be willing to learn procedures and be proficient at data entry. Duties include: Accounts Receivable & Payable. Call Observer Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150

Career Opportunities
Plan for a great career move in 2001! Many exciting openings for experienced Administrative Assistants, Executive Secretaries & Receptionists. Flexible schedules, benefits and local! Fax resume (248) 938-1214 to Gloria (248) 938-3591

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
20 hours per week. Send resume to: Front Desk Support, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150.

5011 Computer/Systems

YOUTH SPECIALIST
Full-time all state for direct care staff of 81 children. Degree Preferred. Salary range \$8.52-\$9.50/hr. Valid Driver's License and experience required. Send resume to: St. Vincent & Sarah Fisher Center, Attn: (Y5) 27400 W. 12 Mile Road Farmington Hills, MI 48334 EOE

Spectrum Community Services is now hiring for several open positions to work with the developmentally disabled & medically challenged in the Ann Arbor area. DIRECT CARE STAFF - gashir. PERSONAL AID - 8hr/week. Blue Cross after 90 days of experience. Applicants must be a minimum of 18 years of age, possess a valid unrestricted Michigan driver's license, and meet other hiring qualifications. Apply in person, send resume or call: Stephanie Wiggins, 26203 Joy Road, Westland, MI 48185. Phone: 734-488-8720. ext. 2244; Fax: 734-613-1110.

Spectrum Community Services is an Equal Opportunity, Affirmative Action Employer. All resumes must include job code: reporter.

START THE NEW YEAR OUR RIGHT!
High paying afternoon & mid-night position available. Romulus air freight forwarder provides excellent benefits, 401K. Send resume to: Box #2931, Observer & Electronic Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft Rd, Livonia, MI 48150

PRESCHOOL TEACHER
needed for Northville childcare center. Must have early childhood associates degree. Excellent benefits. (248) 347-9580

PRE-SCHOOL DIRECTOR
Montessori experience required. Competitive salary. 30hr. week. Fax resume to: 313-533-8309

ARE YOU A Creative, enthusiastic person who enjoys working with people? We would love to have you join the Academic Gardens Staff. We offer low rates & competitive pay in a nurturing and developmentally appropriate environment. If you would like to join us as an Assistant Teacher or a Substitute teacher please call 734-453-7744.

TEACHER'S ASSISTANT
needed full-time for kindergarten program in Eastland. Must have organizational skills, references required. 248-557-1740

TEACHERS NEEDED
full-time openers and closers needed. benefits will train. Call between 8:30 a.m. & 6:00 p.m. for info. (313) 441-1482

COMMERCIAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS
Duties will include installation, maintenance and repair of telephones & fax machines. Full time with benefits. For interview call Rob at: (734) 484-4444

TELEMARKETERS NEEDED
\$7/hr. plus bonus. Call (734) 525-6285

TELEMARKETING SUPERVISOR
ADP payroll experience preferred. Excellent career opportunity for administrative assistant & computer literate employee who is detail oriented. Benefits. Call Bob at: 313-565-5744

ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE ASSISTANT
To help with payroll, accounts, collections & other related duties. Full-time. Send resume & salary qualifications to: Observer & Electronic 36251 Schoolcraft Rd, Livonia, MI 48150.

ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE
Corporate Headquarters located in Farmington Hills, seeking dynamic individual who is detailed oriented and will assist with collections. Must have knowledge of Word, Excel and have excellent oral & written communications. Excellent benefits. Call Tom at: (248) 938-5040

5021 Help Wanted Office Clerk

ADMINISTRATIVE LEASE ASSISTANT
Immediate opening in our lease department for an individual with a good attitude and work habits. Must possess good clerical and communication skills. This is a full time position that offers competitive wages and benefits. Please fax resume to: Deborah Hoffman at: (734) 421-1949 or apply in person at North Brothers Ford, 33300 Ford Rd., Westland.

ADMINISTRATIVE OPPORTUNITIES \$20K to \$35K
Top companies in Novi, Farmington Hills and Plymouth seek individuals with PC experience for permanent administrative positions. Friendly business casual environment. Excellent benefits.

ASSISTANT OFFICE MANAGER
part-time for accounting office. Job includes typing, filing, word processing, answering phones and other office duties. Salary negotiable depending on experience. Must be pleasant and work well with people. Job may lead to full-time employment. Fax resume to: 248-547-3038

BANK TELLER
Due to recent growth, Oakland County is seeking individuals for opening for a Customer Service Representative/Teller. Responsibilities include processing customer transactions, answering customer inquiries, and cross selling bank products. Previous teller experience strongly preferred. Oakland offers help and a very competitive benefits package. Please apply in person or send resume to: Oakland Commerce Bank, 31731 Northwestem Hwy, Farmington Hills, MI 48334. Attention: Human Resources Supervisor. EOE M/F

BOOKKEEPER/ DATA ENTRY
Full-time for Farmington Hills accounting office. Duties include word processing, organizational skills a must. Great place to work. Fax resume & salary requirement to: 248-655-2618

CUSTOMER SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE
Our growing office team ASAP is looking for outgoing sales professionals. We provide great benefits including 100% company paid medical/dental, 401K w/50% match & profit sharing! Fax resume to: (248) 477-7578

CUSTOMER SERVICE SPECIALISTS
Financial - knowledge of insurance and banking. Receptionists - Front office, major manufacturer. Market Research - Full and part time. Evenings available. Call Center - Temp to hire, promotion. Call Corrie or Email: birm@staff.com

BOOKKEEPER
Local CPA firm seeking a permanent part-time bookkeeper. Duties include data entry, general ledger thru trial balance, payroll taxes and tax returns. Experience in Creative Solutions and QuickBooks software helpful but not required. Benefits included. Fax resume to: 734-425-4701 or mail to: Corrie Wendler, 12016 Dearing, Livonia, MI 48150.

BOOKKEEPER
Looking for the right candidate for a full-time position. Part-time, flexible hours. Computer background a must. Great work environment with motivated employees. Response with resume to: DMP/RF 15100 Cassford, Detroit, MI 48227. E-mail: birm@dmprco.com.

BOOKKEEPER
Printwell has an opening for an experienced bookkeeper. Duties include Accounts Payable, Accounts Receivable, Invoicing and Payroll. Must have computer experience. Excellent benefits. Call Tom at 734-941-6300 or fax resume 734-942-0820

BOOKKEEPER
Public accounting experience preferred for Telegraph/12 Mile public accounting office. (248) 238-9220

BOOKKEEPING ASSISTANT
For Farmington Hills construction company. Processes accounts receivables & payables. Need to be willing to learn procedures and be proficient at data entry. Duties include: Accounts Receivable & Payable. Call Observer Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150

Career Opportunities
Plan for a great career move in 2001! Many exciting openings for experienced Administrative Assistants, Executive Secretaries & Receptionists. Flexible schedules, benefits and local! Fax resume (248) 938-1214 to Gloria (248) 938-3591

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
20 hours per week. Send resume to: Front Desk Support, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150.

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EMPLOYMENT

Your HomeTown Classified ad is automatically posted on the internet! Visit us today.

HomeTown Classified

detroit.citysearch.com
CareerCenter

502 Help Wanted - Office Central

SECRETARY
Full-time for insurance claims office. Typing 60+ wpm, audio transcription with Word & WordPerfect skills req. Fax resume to: [Address] Box 6822, 36281 Schoolcraft Rd., Livonia, MI 48150.

SECRETARY
Singh Management Co., LLC seeks a secretary for our corporate office in West Bloomfield. Candidates must be good with computers (Microsoft Word and Excel), be organized, detail oriented, and possess excellent communication skills. College degree a plus. Competitive salary and benefits, and a 401K plan. Equal Employment Opportunity.

Send your resume with SALARY REQUIREMENTS to: [Address] FAX: (248) 865-1636 EMAIL ADDRESS: [Address] lshy@SinghMail.com

SECRETARY 40 hrs/wk. Motivated w/ good communication & computer skills. \$13/hr. Call: [Address] 70110, Plymouth, MI 48170.

STAFFING CLERK
Weight Watchers is seeking a Staffing Clerk in Farmington Hills, has an exciting entry-level position in our Corporate Headquarters Office for a Staffing Clerk. Candidates will work with our Sales Reps to coordinate and staff meetings at work sites. Microsoft Word and Excel experience preferred. Competitive wages, great staff to work with & incentives. \$34-42-48-60.

Send your resume with SALARY REQUIREMENTS to: [Address] P.O. Box 3072, Farmington Hills, MI 48333-9072. Fax: (248) 324-1502.

STORE CLERK/ COSMETOLOGIST
preferred. Full time benefits, good work schedule. Apply to: [Address] 29213 Croftwood Lane, Farmington Hills.

WAREHOUSE CLERK
Full-time, 2nd shift. Responsibility includes inventory control and backing customer orders. Good math skills and organization is essential.

Pursue a career with an industry leader, where you can expect a good starting salary and excellent company benefits and 401K.
Apply in person or mail resume to: [Address] United Stationers Supply Co., 22432 Capital Drive, Livonia, MI 48150
An Equal Opportunity Employer

503 Engineering

ASSOCIATE ENGINEER
Canton Township is accepting applications for the position of Associate Engineer. Knowledge of principles and practices of civil engineering as applied to municipal public works projects and environmental standards. Knowledge of construction methods, materials and equipment related to bulkhead construction, street sewers and other public improvements. Degree in Civil Engineering including course work in environmental engineering or equivalent. Must possess a current, valid Michigan Drivers License with a driving history that does not show any major violations. \$37,400-\$43,600/yr. Applications can be picked up at the Canton Township Personnel Division, 1150 S. Canton Center Rd., Canton, MI 48188 or send a self-addressed stamped business-size envelope to above address to request Associate Engineer application form. An application form is also available on the Canton Township website at www.canton-mi.org. Job description will be posted at the township Administration building, including the complete application form. Applications must be received by Canton Township Personnel Services prior to December 22, 2000. Faxed applications will not be accepted. The Charter Township of Canton does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age or disability in employment, or the provision of services. An Equal Opportunity Employer.

DESIGN / ENGINEERING
Autocad or graphics designer needed for conveyor, automation & looping shop.
Call 313-834-0100
or Fax resume: 313-834-3313

ENGINEER
Canton Township is accepting applications for the position of Engineer. Min. of one year municipal civil engineering experience with some supervisory experience. Degree in Civil Engineering including course work in environmental engineering or equivalent. Registration as Professional Engineer in the State of MI. Desired. Must possess a current valid Michigan Drivers License with a driving history that does not show any major violations. \$45,100-\$52,900/yr. Applications can be picked up at the Canton Township Personnel Division, 1150 S. Canton Center Rd., Canton, MI 48188 or send a self-addressed stamped business-size envelope to above address to request Engineer application form. An application form is also available on the Canton Township website at www.canton-mi.org. Job description will be posted at the township Administration building, including the complete application form. Applications must be received by Canton Township Personnel Services prior to December 22, 2000. Faxed applications will not be accepted. The Charter Township of Canton does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age or disability in employment, or the provision of services. An Equal Opportunity Employer.

MANUFACTURING AND/OR DESIGN ENGINEER
Medical equipment and device manufacturer seeks manufacturing and/or design engineer with degree. Minimum 5 years plastics experience. Key skills injection molding tool & fixture design, project management, product design, documentation, and resume to: [Address] PO Box 510554, Livonia, MI 48151.

503 Engineering

MANUFACTURER in the automotive industry seeks experience Roadside Engineer. Must have 3 to 5 years Roadside experience and 5 to 7 years experience in automotive tooling design. Must enjoy the demands of a competitive and fast paced work environment and should be a self-starter. We offer a competitive salary and benefit package. For consideration please forward your salary history and resume to: [Address] 34300 Nine Mile Rd., Farmington, MI 48336 or Fax: 248-478-7114 or email colebent@motorama.com

504 Help Wanted - Dental

ABLE DENTAL ASSISTANT
Experienced & friendly for progressive Bloomfield Hills general dentist. Excellent salary & benefits. Call: [Address] 248-645-9797

EXPERIENCED DENTAL ASSISTANT for our FRIENDLY Garden City family practice. Full-time. If you are looking for a change, give us a try. We offer competitive wages, great staff to work with & incentives. \$34-42-48-60.

ASSISTANT - Start your new year in a positive environment. Comprehensive care. Great Birmingham location. Excellent hours. 401(k). (248) 644-6668

CERAMIST / WAXER Experienced
Ransom Dental Ceramics now hiring a ceramist/waxer. Excellent benefits. Ask for Phil Ransom (248) 442-4848

CLINICAL DENTAL ASSISTANT
exp. preferred exp. benefits, 32 hours/week or extended. Livonia general office.
734 525-2552

CLINICAL-ROVER ASSISTANT
Some dental exp. mandatory. Flexible hours. 5 mile in Livonia.
(734) 425-7010

COLLEGE STUDENT
WORK/STUDY, Part-time. Welcome patients who enter clinic 7:50/yr. (313) 533-1185

PROGRESSIVE DENTAL practice in W. Dearborn searching for an experienced dental receptionist. Great benefits, great doctors, great staff. Call for interview. 313-563-2610.

DENTAL ASSISTANT
Our Livonia practice is looking for an experienced dental assistant. Great benefits. Good pay & hours. If interested, please call Julia at 734-427-2367 or fax your resume to 734-427-1766.

DENTAL ASSISTANT - High School graduate only. No experience necessary. Non-smoker. Westland area. 734-728-2618.

DENTAL ASSISTANT - Reliable, mature & team oriented for Farmington Hills family practice. Experience in cosmetic procedures a plus. (248) 661-8700.

Dental Assistants + Hygienists + Receptionists... being recruited for various Wayne & Oakland county offices.
Performance \$10-967-6380

DENTAL ASSISTANT-EXP
Beautiful Novi office has an incredible full-time opportunity. Great patients and staff to work with in very high tech office w/ laser. Top salary and benefits package commensurate with experience. Don't miss out! Call Denise at: (248) 347-5959

DENTAL ASSISTANT needed for pleasant office near 12 Mile & NW Hwy. experience preferred. Strong organizational skills plus Fr. & benefits.
Call Sharon: 248-354-2244

DENTAL HYGIENIST
Part-time position available in Farmington Hills office. Call (313) 277-0050.

DENTAL HYGIENIST NEEDED for quality Nov office. 25-30 hrs. No Fr's or weekends. Call: 248-477-7200/fax 248-477-8501

DENTAL OFFICE MANAGER
Wanted for small, quality-oriented, friendly dental office. Computer & insurance skills a must. Assisting skills and sense of humor a plus. Flexible hours. Call (248) 478-3275; Farmington Hills

DENTAL TECHNICIAN
Crown & bridge, full-time. Ann Arbor. Call Ken 734 971-5120

FRONT DESK PERSON
Downtown Plymouth modern and exciting dental office seeking experienced dynamic personable Front Desk person. Call Sharon: 248-477-9081

REGISTERED DENTAL HYGIENIST
needed for Livonia Dental Office. Are you looking for a position that allows you to utilize your skills and that offers professional and personal growth? Our busy, rapidly growing office needs a Registered Dental Hygienist and you may be the person we are looking for to enhance our team and our family! The position entails periodontal as well as patient education. A friendly upbeat personality and an ability to work well with others a MUST! Evening hours mandatory. Fax resume with cover letter to: [Address] 734-464-2040

HYGIENIST
Experienced for busy established adult practice. Tel-Twelve and exciting dental office. Excellent salary/benefit package.
248-642-5000

Orthodontic Assistant
Needed part time. Experience necessary. Rochester & Beverly Hills area. Beautiful environment & friendly staff. Excellent pay & benefits. Call Dawn: (248) 652-6121 or fax resume: (248) 652-2577

506 Help Wanted - Medical

Medical Opportunities
Join a great career move in 2001! Many excellent openings for experienced Billers, Receptionists, Medical Assistants, Office Manager (part time, scheduler) and Endodontic Tech. All require 1-2 years experience. Fax resume: 248-932-1214 or call Louann: 248-936-1204 or www.harperjoe.com

506 Help Wanted - Medical

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
Medical office seeks experienced Receptionist. Full-time. Excellent pay/benefits. Ann Arbor/Plymouth area. Fax resume to: [Address] 734-966-8767

Attention: CENA's & LPN's
Hope HealthCare Center, a Medicare Post-Acute facility, has positions available for all shifts. New pay scale, based on years of experience, offers the most competitive wages in the area. Please apply in person at 36410 Cherry Hill, Westland. (1/2 mile west of Newburgh)

CARE SPECIALISTS
We need competent, reliable dedicated and experienced people to provide services to older adults in our beautiful Assisted Living Residence, All Shifts, Full Time & Part Time. Full time employees are eligible for medical and dental insurance. EOE. Apply to: [Address] 180 Walton Blvd, Rochester Hills, Michigan (between Adams Rd. & Squirrel Rd.).

CENA's - Afternoons Part Time
Apply in person: [Address] 15475 Middlebelt Livonia, MI 48154

COOK - FULL TIME
DIETARY AIDE FULL TIME
Apply in person: [Address] 15475 Middlebelt Livonia, MI 48154

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Some dental exp. mandatory. Flexible hours. 5 mile in Livonia.
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PROGRESSIVE DENTAL practice in W. Dearborn searching for an experienced dental receptionist. Great benefits, great doctors, great staff. Call for interview. 313-563-2610.

DENTAL ASSISTANT
Our Livonia practice is looking for an experienced dental assistant. Great benefits. Good pay & hours. If interested, please call Julia at 734-427-2367 or fax your resume to 734-427-1766.

DENTAL ASSISTANT - High School graduate only. No experience necessary. Non-smoker. Westland area. 734-728-2618.

DENTAL ASSISTANT - Reliable, mature & team oriented for Farmington Hills family practice. Experience in cosmetic procedures a plus. (248) 661-8700.

Dental Assistants + Hygienists + Receptionists... being recruited for various Wayne & Oakland county offices.
Performance \$10-967-6380

DENTAL ASSISTANT-EXP
Beautiful Novi office has an incredible full-time opportunity. Great patients and staff to work with in very high tech office w/ laser. Top salary and benefits package commensurate with experience. Don't miss out! Call Denise at: (248) 347-5959

DENTAL ASSISTANT needed for pleasant office near 12 Mile & NW Hwy. experience preferred. Strong organizational skills plus Fr. & benefits.
Call Sharon: 248-354-2244

DENTAL HYGIENIST
Part-time position available in Farmington Hills office. Call (313) 277-0050.

DENTAL HYGIENIST NEEDED for quality Nov office. 25-30 hrs. No Fr's or weekends. Call: 248-477-7200/fax 248-477-8501

DENTAL OFFICE MANAGER
Wanted for small, quality-oriented, friendly dental office. Computer & insurance skills a must. Assisting skills and sense of humor a plus. Flexible hours. Call (248) 478-3275; Farmington Hills

DENTAL TECHNICIAN
Crown & bridge, full-time. Ann Arbor. Call Ken 734 971-5120

FRONT DESK PERSON
Downtown Plymouth modern and exciting dental office seeking experienced dynamic personable Front Desk person. Call Sharon: 248-477-9081

REGISTERED DENTAL HYGIENIST
needed for Livonia Dental Office. Are you looking for a position that allows you to utilize your skills and that offers professional and personal growth? Our busy, rapidly growing office needs a Registered Dental Hygienist and you may be the person we are looking for to enhance our team and our family! The position entails periodontal as well as patient education. A friendly upbeat personality and an ability to work well with others a MUST! Evening hours mandatory. Fax resume with cover letter to: [Address] 734-464-2040

HYGIENIST
Experienced for busy established adult practice. Tel-Twelve and exciting dental office. Excellent salary/benefit package.
248-642-5000

Orthodontic Assistant
Needed part time. Experience necessary. Rochester & Beverly Hills area. Beautiful environment & friendly staff. Excellent pay & benefits. Call Dawn: (248) 652-6121 or fax resume: (248) 652-2577

506 Help Wanted - Medical

RN-LPN-MEDICAL ASSISTANT
Full or part-time with excellent benefits. Will offer premium pay for Dermatology experience. Ann Arbor/Plymouth area. Fax resume: (734) 986-6767

RN's & LPN's
Full time, good benefits. Afternoon shift. Join our dedicated nursing staff. Apply at Marygrove Nursing Care Center, 36975 Five Mile, Livonia, MI 48154 or Call 734-464-0800

SHIFT SUPERVISOR
Watsonwood of Royal Oak is seeking home care for seniors in licensed home care for seniors in the area. Please apply to Watsonwood of Royal Oak, 3454 W. Thurfurter Mile Rd., Royal Oak, MI 48073 or FAX resume to: 248-549-8426

GENERAL CAFETERIA
For retirement community in W. Bloomfield area. Benefits. Call Amy: (248) 788-2531

DISHWASHERS & WAIT STAFF
For retirement community in W. Bloomfield area. Benefits. Call Amy: (248) 788-2531

KITCHEN HELP
Apply in person: [Address] 32350 W. Eight Mile Rd., Farmington Hills, MI 48334

NEW BAR & RESTAURANT
Hiring
* KITCHEN STAFF: COOKS Full & part-time.
* BAR STAFF: Days & eves. Apply in person 24555 Novi Rd. Novi, or call 248-349-7038

NOW HIRING: Bussers, Dishwashers, Wait Staff & Cooks
Full & part-time. All 3 shifts. \$9 to start. Benefits available. 20385 Middlebelt, Livonia, 1 blk. S. of 8 Mile.

PIZZA COOK
Experience preferred. \$9/hr. Only reliable people need apply. Call Mike 248-353-1390

SIGN OF THE BEEFCARVER
Part or full time available. Up to \$9 to start. Benefits available including 401(k). Apply within: 27400 Woodward, Royal Oak or call (248) 546-7888

UTILITY PERSON/ WAITSTAFF
for senior community, part-time. Must be flexible and able to work weekends. Seniors, students and homemakers welcome. Equal Employment Opportunity.
APPLY IN PERSON
WALTONWOOD OF CANTON
2000 N. Canton Center Rd., Canton, Michigan
(E. side of Canton Cir. Rd. & S. of Ford Rd.)

WAIT STAFF
For a Friends Bar & Grill. Fun, friendly atmosphere. Competitive wages. Full & part-time. Please call: [Address] 734 416-0880

WAIT STAFF
Senior apartment community seeking compassionate, and caring people to fill part time positions, days and afternoons. Students, homemakers and retirees welcome. EOE.
APPLY IN PERSON
WALTONWOOD
3250 Walton Blvd., Rochester Hills, MI 48309
(between Adams Rd. & Squirrel Rd.)

BE YOUR OWN BOSS
Be a member of our team at the #1 Coldwell Banker office in Michigan (we have 18 offices throughout metro Detroit). Discover why our exclusive "Success Systems" program will help you attain your dreams and goals in Real Estate.
Call Pat Danaher for a confidential interview. (248) 437-4500
COLDWELL BANKER
Schweitzer Real Estate
South Lyon Office

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COLDWELL BANKER
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508 Food/Beverage Restaurant

Deli Help Needed
734-453-3670

DEPALMA'S RESTAURANT IS NOW HIRING:
* EVENING MANAGER
Fax resume to: 313-291-7803
Or call Heather, 313-291-7800.

DIETARY AIDES
For American House Senior Living in Northville. PM shift. Call Fred: 248-448-1480.

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512 Help Wanted - Sales

ROUTE SALES NO NIGHTS, WEEKENDS OR HOLIDAYS

Cintas, a national leader in its industry, seeks career oriented route sales professionals. We will train. Prefer retail, restaurant, or other customer service experience. Chauffeurs license and good driving record required. Drug test. Forward resume or apply in person to:

Cintas-HR-Route Sales
 2204 W. Warren Detroit, MI 48208 Fax: 313-968-2440
 We are an EEO employer

520 Help Wanted - Part-Time

IDEAL FOR RETIREES. STAY AT HOME MOMS AND STUDENTS WITH ACCOUNTING AND COMPUTER SKILLS...

We are offering a way to supplement your income from Jan to April, preparing income taxes. We offer complete training, flexible schedules and good pay. Call today! (248) 473-5566 Fax us (248) 473-5567

574 Business Opts. (See Class 60)

ATTENTION: OWN A COMPUTER? Put it to work. \$1000-\$7000 Part or Full Time. Free information. Full Training. (800) 869-6574

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DENTAL PRACTICE for sale. 1000 active patients. Growing west metro Detroit suburb. Call John 248-612-0068.

PART TIME \$1,500/MO FULL TIME \$4,500-\$7,200 WORK IN HOME. International co. needs supervisors & assistants. Training. Free booklet. www.seekyourdreams.com (800) 588-5274

TIED UP OF THE 9-5?
 No experience necessary. 734-867-3340

702 Antiques/Collectibles

ANTIQUES ON MAIN

Just 11 days to Christmas - the stockings were hung by a large golden chain, filled with all the treasures from Antiques on Main.

115 S. Main Royal Oak
 Mon-Sat 10-6pm Sun 12-5
 248-545-4663

ANTIQUE tiger oak dresser & hignboy, both w/ beveled glass mirrors, very good cond., \$875. (734) 483-4880

BEANIE BABIES & retired Dept. 56 Dickens Village for sale. 313 957-1081

BEANIE BABIES: Retired 95, Bears \$15 & other varieties available. Mary: 734 488-0808

BIANCHI ITALIAN Alabaster Holy Family, 3 pieces, largest piece 14". \$900. 248-299-5077

CHINA CABINET - 1930's mahogany. 24 panels of curved glass. \$8500. (248) 360-1152

704 Arts & Crafts

WEAVING LOOM - 46" LaClerc Counter Balance, excellent condition & ready! 313-963-7084

706 Auction Sales

★ Estate Auction ★
 Saturday, Dec 16th, 7PM
CULTURAL CENTER
525 FARMER
PLYMOUTH MICHIGAN

Antiques; Collectibles; Collectible Toys; Doll House Furniture; Collector Plates; Christmas Items; Glassware; Furniture

• Over 2000 Misc. Items • Cash, MC/VISA, American Express Cards, MI Check w/ID for Equifax Approval
 Doors Open 6PM
J. Auction Services Inc.
 (734) 451-7444

524 Help Wanted - Domestic

ABLE MATURE Lady for older child care & housekeeping in Bloomfield home. Good willing driver. (248) 658-6082

CAREGIVER - Part time including weekends. \$9/hr. Light housekeeping. Call in the morning. Westland area. (248) 427-2088.

HOUSEKEEPER NEEDED Tuesday or Wednesday each week for Southfield home. Must be willing to do laundry. Ref. needed. (248) 366-7553

HOUSEKEEPER - own car, good organizer for professional family. Flexible hrs., experienced w/ references. 313-927-2890

600 Personal

ANNOUNCEMENTS

#600-698

Observer & Eccentric CLASSIFIEDS WORK

623 Adoptions

A GIFT OF LOVE: ADOPTION

We long to share our cozy home, filled with music, friends & family. We are financially secure (child counselor & business owner) & will give your baby warm nurturing & a wonderful future. We'll gladly help you. **JUDY & LARRY**
 1-800-950-0551

READY TO ADOPT?
 Agency approved and willing to provide a loving home for your baby. Gary & Linda. 1-800-331-2994. Call: 00.

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We Make House Calls

You've Seen The ROAD SHOW!

If you have unusual items you feel would appeal to a WORLDWIDE INTERNET audience we will research, photo and sell the items for you through the internet. Please call for information.

WE ARE ALSO LOOKING TO PURCHASE:
 Fine china, Crystal, Silver, Oil Paintings, Furniture, Costumes & Fine Jewelry. **MEMBER OF ISA**

Visit our Gallery located
 515 S. Lalayette
 Royal Oak
 Mon-Sat 11-6
 248-399-2608.

704 Estate Sales

ANNOUNCING 3 Holiday Sales!
 By Everything Goes

61) Friday, Dec. 15, 10-4 Saturday only if necessary 6204 Pepper Hill - Pepper Hill Condom. - W. Bloomfield. W. off Orchard Lake Rd. N. of Maple (15 Mile). Complete Condo (Great!) Sectional + marble top tables + wall unit + sofa bed + sofa + 2 tables + 2 bedroom sets + iron bed + desk + art + dining table + 6 chairs + women's & kids clothes + good household items + tons more!

62) Sat. Only Dec. 16, 10-4 31120 Applewood Lane Rantoulwood Sub. - S. off 14 Mile, between Drake & Halsted, take Tanglewood Dr. to 1st left just past gate. ASK FOR SANTACREW at gatehouse - no signal! Leather sectional sofa + glass dining table + 6 chairs + the table + wall unit + custom twin size bedroom set + 2 room chairs + pedestal + art pictures + 100 cream sets + Christmas + personal + household items + clothes + jewelry + more!

63) Sun. Dec. 17, 11-3 13 South Oldwood Point Plaza - Pontiac. S. off Perry St. 1 mile E. of Wide Track - turn right at Hume City Bank! Huge Estate Liquidation! Wall units + dining room sets + bedroom sets + ORIENTAL RUGS + sofa + sectional + tons of household + gift items + new gift store inventory + clothing + fur coats + TVs + 100's of pictures + computers + electronics + tables + chairs + misc furniture + more!

ALL GOES THIS WEEKEND!
 Sale hours: 248-988-1077
 www.everything-goes.com

SALES ASSOCIATES

Fast growing national florist chain has full or part time positions for highly motivated "happy" people. Great opportunity for advancement! Benefits: medical, vision, prescription, 401k, short & long term disability. Willing to train. Call Eric 313-537-7778

REAL ESTATE ONE, INC

For more information, please contact: Shirley Baker (248)356-7111 Or simply fax a resume to (248)356-4110 e-mail: sbaker@realstateone.com

HELP WANTED

Employment/ Instruction Services

#500-598

636 Lost & Found

FOUND DOBERMAN, 12/10, 13Middletown, 1 year old, needs home! 248-626-2243

FOUND DOG - Male black & brown Doberman mix. On Inquirer bot. 5 & Schoolcraft. 313-937-4028.

FOUND GOLDEN retriever on December 8th please call (248) 980-9340

LOST: 8 week old grey Persian, Redford area. Reward. (313) 536-7769

638 Tickets

BACKSTREET BOYS Feb. 15th at Pontiac Silverdome. Great for Christmas other local tickets available (313) 961-5187

BACKSTREET BOYS Feb. 15, main floor, section B2, 5 tickets. Great gift idea. (248) 349-5378

RED WINGS - 4 seats in section 214; up to 30 games. Great location. 248-342-0168

704 Estate Sales

ANOTHER ESTATE SALE BY IRIS

Friday, Dec. 15th, 10-4 29700 1 Mile Road Between Middlebelt & Orchard Lake Road. "1 DAY SALE-FULL HOME!" Leather tufted sofa & love seat + lovely dining set w/ 6 chairs + mahogany kneehole desk + 2 beautiful encaustic tiles + magnificent guitar with mother-of-pearl decorations + 6 outstanding solid wood bookcases + full bedroom sets + wrought iron outdoor furniture + HGE-bed + wall-hung cabinets + fireplace equipment + screens + TVs + heater + refrigerator + tools + plants + art + lots of misc.

IRIS KAUFMAN
 248-629-7223

534 Job Wanted - Female/Male

DATA ENTRY, Bookkeeping, help with bill paying, taxes, accounts balancing. Have QuickBooks, Microsoft Office & Turbo Tax. Prefer working from home but consider other offers. 734-729-3115 or 734-251-8318

FIN IT

Observer & Eccentric CLASSIFIEDS

HOUSEKEEPER 13 years exp. Excellent references. Own transportation. Ask for Sharon. (734) 587-9434

537 Childcare/Babysitting Services

Babysitter needed for 1 yr old. Hours vary. Need own transportation. Canton. 734-507-1227

GARDEN CITY area, 7 yrs. exp. CPR certified, references. Full time openings for ages 2-5 & up. Call Ginny 734-421-4447

YOUR child deserves more than just a babysitter! Two full-time openings for children ages 1-5 in a small, loving, educational environment with exp. teacher/caregiver. Daily activities/crafts. Meals included. Great rates. Call: (734) 422-4057

538 Childcare Needed

CHILDCARE NEEDED 3 days a week for 21 month old in our Rochester Hills home. Experienced, non-smoker with references. 248-258-0510

CHILD CARE - 8 year old son, before & after school, 3 days/week. Garden City. 734-251-4225

FULL TIME loving, non-smoking nanny for my child in W. Bloomfield. Will consider offers. References. 248-421-9590

LOVING CARE GIVER needed for 3 young boys, 25-30 hrs/week, occasional evenings. Light housekeeping. Reliable auto & references req'd. Bloomfield. 248-952-5231

636 Lost & Found

HEYWOOD WAKEFIELD bedroom set, 1950's, excellent condition. \$450. 1906 Victoria, \$425. 1960's blond bedroom set w/vanity, \$1200. Jacobean dining set, Elyse movie memorabilia. 248-474-4002

HUSON SANTA & Mita Santa bears available. (248) 656-1865

HUSON'S Santa Bears, all years, must also be top hat. Holiday Barbies. 313-538-0115

HUNTBOARD - Irish mahogany, w/doors & drawers. Circa 1910. \$3,950. (248) 648-8444.

OLD ROUND oak table w/very large pedestal base. \$300. 248-476-5528

PORCELAIN STOVE made by Victor, 36" wide, 48" high. Head, foot & sides. Cherry or Mahogany. Good cond., new box springs. \$600. 248-648-9265

PROBABLE 1800's English/ish w/doors & drawers. Circa 1910. \$3,950. (248) 648-8444.

ROYAL DAULTON figurines (10) with mirrored wall shelf. (734) 489-2513

710 Estate Sales

HOUSEHOLD SALES CONDUCTED BY Lilly M. & COMPANY

Call Toll Free in 610 / 313 area 1-800-558-8851

OAK PARK: Saturday, Seneca 5 of 10 Mile/E of Seneca. Baby grand piano \$600. Pool table \$300. Pac-Man \$300 + much more. 248 586-1052

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 By Everything Goes

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ALL GOES THIS WEEKEND!
 Sale hours: 248-988-1077
 www.everything-goes.com

520 Help Wanted - Part-Time

BAKERS HELPER/COUNTER Saturdays, 10am-2pm. Part time or Full Time. Call for info.

THE LOONEY BANK
 15881 Farmington Rd., Livonia

OFFICE CLEANER
 Experienced. Part-time. Call for info. Livonia - 734

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RED WINGS - 4 seats in section 214; up to 30 games. Great location. 248-342-0168

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HEYWOOD WAKEFIELD bedroom set, 1950's, excellent condition. \$450. 1906 Victoria, \$425. 1960's blond bedroom set w/vanity, \$1200. Jacobean dining set, Elyse movie memorabilia. 248-474-4002

HUSON SANTA & Mita Santa bears available. (248) 656-1865

HUSON'S Santa Bears, all years, must also be top hat. Holiday Barbies. 313-538-0115

HUNTBOARD - Irish mahogany, w/doors & drawers. Circa 1910. \$3,950. (248) 648-8444.

OLD ROUND oak table w/very large pedestal base. \$300. 248-476-5528

PORCELAIN STOVE made by Victor, 36" wide, 48" high. Head, foot & sides. Cherry or Mahogany. Good cond., new box springs. \$600. 248-648-9265

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ROYAL DAULTON figurines (10) with mirrored wall shelf. (734) 489-2513

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HUSON SANTA & Mita Santa bears available. (248) 656-1865

HUSON'S Santa Bears, all years, must also be top hat. Holiday Barbies. 313-538-0115

HUNTBOARD - Irish mahogany, w/doors & drawers. Circa 1910. \$3,950. (248) 648-8444.

OLD ROUND oak table w/very large pedestal base. \$300. 248-476-5528

PORCELAIN STOVE made by Victor, 36" wide, 48" high. Head, foot & sides. Cherry or Mahogany. Good cond., new box springs. \$600. 248-648-9265

PROBABLE 1800's English/ish w/doors & drawers. Circa 1910. \$3,950. (248) 648-8444.

ROYAL DAULTON figurines (10) with mirrored wall shelf. (734) 489-2513

638 Tickets

BACKSTREET BOYS Feb. 15th at Pontiac Silverdome. Great for Christmas other local tickets available (313) 961-5187

BACKSTREET BOYS Feb. 15, main floor, section B2, 5 tickets. Great gift idea. (248) 349-5378

RED WINGS - 4 seats in section 214; up to 30 games. Great location. 248-342-0168

710 Estate Sales

ANOTHER ESTATE SALE BY IRIS

Friday, Dec. 15th, 10-4 29700 1 Mile Road Between Middlebelt & Orchard Lake Road. "1 DAY SALE-FULL HOME!" Leather tufted sofa & love seat + lovely dining set w/ 6 chairs + mahogany kneehole desk + 2 beautiful encaustic tiles + magnificent guitar with mother-of-pearl decorations + 6 outstanding solid wood bookcases + full bedroom sets + wrought iron outdoor furniture + HGE-bed + wall-hung cabinets + fireplace equipment + screens + TVs + heater + refrigerator + tools + plants + art + lots of misc.

IRIS KAUFMAN
 248-629-7223

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600's Announcements

608... Personal
 608... Happy Ads
 608... Graduations
 608... Mother's Day
 608... Father's Day
 608... Holiday Postcard
 608... Sweetest Day
 608... Valentine's Day
 608... Special Announcements, Meetings/Seminars
 608... Legal Notices
 608... Adoption
 608... Misc. Notices

608... Political Notices
 608... Car Pools
 608... Cards Of Thanks
 608... Lost & Found
 608... Tickets
 608... Transportation/Travel
 608... Health, Nutrition, Weight Loss
 608... Insurance
 608... Bingo
 608... Wedding Chapel

700's Merchandise For Sale

708... Absolutely Free (1 day)
 708... Antiques/Collectibles
 708... Arts & Crafts
 708... Auction Sales
 708... Rummage Sale/Flea Market
 708... Estate Sales
 708... Garage Sales-Oakland
 708... Garage Sales-Wayne
 708... Moving Sales
 708... Clothing
 708... Household Goods
 708... Appliances
 708... Pools, Spas, Hot Tubs
 708... Bargain Buys
 708... Bicycles
 708... Building Materials
 708... Business & Office Equipment
 708... Office Supplies
 708... Cameras & Supplies

708... Commercial/Industrial
 708... Restaurant Equipment
 708... Computers
 708... Electronic/Audio/Video
 708... Video Games, Tapes, Movies
 708... Farm Equipment
 708... Farm Produce-Flowers, Plants
 708... Farm Produce-Flowers, Plants
 708... U-Pick
 708... Hobbies-Coin, Stamps
 708... Hospital Equipment
 708... Jewelry
 708... Lawn, Garden & Stair Equipment
 708... Miscellaneous For Sale
 708... Musical Instruments
 708... Sporting Goods
 708... Trade Or Sell
 708... Wanted To Buy

710 Estate Sales

ANNOUNCING 3 Holiday Sales!
 By Everything Goes

61) Friday, Dec. 15, 10-4 Saturday only if necessary 6204 Pepper Hill - Pepper Hill Condom. - W. Bloomfield. W. off Orchard Lake Rd. N. of Maple (15 Mile). Complete Condo (Great!) Sectional + marble top tables + wall unit + sofa bed + sofa + 2 tables + 2 bedroom sets + iron bed + desk + art + dining table + 6 chairs + women's & kids clothes + good household items + tons more!

62) Sat. Only Dec. 16, 10-4 31120 Applewood Lane Rantoulwood Sub. - S. off 14 Mile, between Drake & Halsted, take Tanglewood Dr. to 1st left just past gate. ASK FOR SANTACREW at gatehouse - no signal! Leather sectional sofa + glass dining table + 6 chairs + the table + wall unit + custom twin size bedroom set + 2 room chairs + pedestal + art pictures + 100 cream sets + Christmas + personal + household items + clothes + jewelry + more!

63) Sun. Dec. 17, 11-3 13 South Oldwood Point Plaza - Pontiac. S. off Perry St. 1 mile E. of Wide Track - turn right at Hume City Bank! Huge Estate Liquidation! Wall units + dining room sets + bedroom sets + ORIENTAL RUGS + sofa + sectional + tons of household + gift items + new gift store inventory + clothing + fur coats + TVs + 100's of pictures + computers + electronics + tables + chairs + misc furniture + more!

ALL GOES THIS WEEKEND!
 Sale hours: 248-988-1077
 www.everything-goes.com

710 Estate Sales

HOUSEHOLD SALES CONDUCTED BY Lilly M. & COMPANY

Call Toll Free in 610 / 313 area 1-800-558-8851

OAK PARK: Saturday, Seneca 5 of 10 Mile/E of Seneca. Baby grand piano \$600. Pool table \$300. Pac-Man \$300 + much more. 248 586-1052

710 Estate Sales

ANNOUNCING 3 Holiday Sales!
 By Everything Goes

61) Friday, Dec. 15, 10-4 Saturday only if necessary 6204 Pepper Hill - Pepper Hill Condom. - W. Bloomfield. W. off Orchard Lake Rd. N. of Maple (15 Mile). Complete Condo (Great!) Sectional + marble top tables + wall unit + sofa bed + sofa + 2 tables + 2 bedroom sets + iron bed + desk + art + dining table + 6 chairs + women's & kids clothes + good household items + tons more!

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63) Sun. Dec. 17, 11-3 13 South Oldwood Point Plaza - Pontiac. S. off Perry St. 1 mile E. of Wide Track - turn right at Hume City Bank! Huge Estate Liquidation! Wall units + dining room sets + bedroom sets + ORIENTAL RUGS + sofa + sectional + tons of household + gift items + new gift store inventory + clothing + fur coats + TVs + 100's of pictures + computers + electronics + tables + chairs + misc furniture + more!

ALL GOES THIS WEEKEND!
 Sale hours: 248-988-1077
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780-793 Animals/Pets

788... Animal Services/Supplies
 788... Breeder Directory
 788... Birds
 788... Cats
 788... Dogs
 788... Farm Animals/Livestock
 788... Horses & Equipment

787... Horse Boarding
 787... Commercial
 787... Household Pets
 787... Pet Grooming/Boarding
 787... Pet Services
 787... Pet Supplies
 787... Pet Wanted
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 Chester J. Stuss.....Farmington Hills
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716 Household Goods. Custom made wall unit, 3 yrs. old, entertainment center...

716 Household Goods. OAK COFFEE table, lamp table and table and 2 chairs...

722 Building Materials. CABINETRY. Save up to 75%. Wholesale Distributor...

750 Miscellaneous Per Sale. AIR COMPRESSOR, drill press, rivet press, drill...

751 Musical Instruments. PIANO - Charles Walter cherry console. Appraised at approx. \$8000...

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WIN Red Wing Tickets! You could be a lucky winner of four tickets to the Observer & Eccentric SRO Club section...

716 Household Goods. ANNOUNCING THREE HOLIDAY SALES!! See Everything Goes ad Section 710 today's paper...

718 Appliances. GE PROFILE. Refrigerator, 1000, 30 cu. ft. 248-542-4591.

721 Bicycles. CHRISTMAS LAYAWAY. LIVONIA SCHWINN Bicycle & Fitness Center...

746 Hospital Equipment. CHAIR LIFT, electric, goes up the stairs with chain & railing...

751 Musical Instruments. ABBEY Piano Co. 248-541-6116. Used Consoles \$995 to \$1295...

754 Wanted to Buy. WOOD PEDESTAL game table/4 tub chairs. Good condition. After 5: (248) 644-3073...

HomeTown Classified HOME & SERVICE GUIDE

001 Accounting. Home & Service Guide. #001-245.

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Whether you're looking for a job or looking for someone to help you get the job done, your Hometown Classifieds are the place to look.

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YOUNG AT HEART
Divorced, honest, sincere, attractive, white female in my 30's with a great sense of humor. I enjoy slow dancing, movies, and spending time with family and friends. Looking for a single male, 30 to 45, who is honest, attractive, with a big heart.
BOX 15812

OPEN YOUR HEART!
Single white female, 46, petite, honest and sincere, enjoys dancing, sports, travel, working out, and much more. Seeking single white male, with similar interests, for friendship, possibly long term relationship.
BOX 13749

BASIC INFORMATION
43 yr old, 5'11", full figured, blonde hair, single, non-smoker, no drugs, no alcohol, no tattoos. Seeking someone who is tall, who enjoys going to concerts and the redwoods.
BOX 14028

COMPANION WANTED
44 yr old, single white female, 5'6", 125 lbs, non-smoker, with light brown hair and blue eyes. Looking for a single male, 38 to 44, for true companionship.
BOX 34478

YOU SIGHT BE THE ONE
38 yr old, single white female with hazel eyes and brown hair. Looking for a single white male, 25 to 30, for good times, conversation, and maybe more.
BOX 32575

DOCTOR WANTED
Christina Aguilera look alike, master's degree. Seeking a single M.D./Ph.D. 25 to 35, no drugs, healthy, modest, fit, positive attitude, romantic, loves animals. Intellectual, who would make me his world, for quiet times, starting marriage. You will not be disappointed.
BOX 10672

SPIRIT OF LIFE
5'6", 140 lbs, long brown hair, red hair, independent, romantic, who enjoys dancing, shooting pool, bowling, rock cars, outdoors, or a quiet evening at home watching movies. Looking for a man, 35 to 45, who is romantic, honest, and maybe more of the same interests. Down River Area. BOX 33514

GREAT COMPANION
Attractive, slim, optimistic, blue eyed, divorced, professional female, 55, 5'8", affectionate, seeks possible long term relationship with non-smoking, degreed, honest, outgoing white gentleman. 48-52, enjoys travel, golf, romantic times, and the Arts. Oakland County. BOX 25321

LET'S TALK
Divorced, white female, 5, 40 yr mother of three white mom. 48, sweet, funny, attractive, honest, seeking genuine, sincere, white male, single parent, 50 to 56, hard working, non-smoker, for friendly dating. Oakland County area, preferred. BOX 25323

CUTE AS A BUTTON
Single white female, 52, 5'3", medium built, enjoys casino, dancing, fine dining in or out, walking, holding hand and cutting. Seeking a white gentleman, 45 to 60, that knows how to treat a lady. BOX 35484

ALL I WANT AND MORE
Attractive black female, 59, 5'8", old, physically fit, 5'8", 155 lbs, employed, educated, enjoys fishing, movies, museums and more. No dependents. Looking for an honest, monogamous relationship. BOX 13932

IT'S TIME
Not perfect, single white mom. 48, sweet, funny, attractive, honest, seeking genuine, sincere, white male, single parent, 50 to 56, hard working, non-smoker, for friendly dating. Oakland County area, preferred. BOX 25323

READY FOR ROMANCE
Attractive, single black female, 40 plus, light smoker, social drinker. Seriously thinking of leaving on cool nights. Loves movies, dining in or out, and long massages in search of a sweet loving, single white male, 5'10" or over. For friendship and more, age open. BOX 35490

BOUL MATE
Cute, divorced white female, 55, blonde hair, blue eyes, good built, who likes dancing, travel, theaters, long walks and even quiet times. Seeking white male, 50 to 62, financially and emotionally secure with similar interests. Give me a call you won't be sorry. Macomb County. BOX 25327

LIFE IS BEAUTIFUL...
with a friend 35 yr old black, beautiful female, 5'9", 140 lbs, seeking White/Italian professional handsome male, 30 to 35, for friendship and possibly more. BOX 33869

LOOKING FOR A FRIEND
Giving, loving, compassionate, petite, attractive lady, 53, 5'2". Likes to dance, travel and have fun. Looking to enjoy life with a financially secure gentleman 60 to 70. Wayne County. BOX 25331

SOMEONE TO SPILL ME
Seeking someone to have fun with, must love animals. Single white female, mother, 40, 5'5", 150 lbs, blonde, smoker, occasional drinker, no drugs. Enjoys the outdoors, riding motorcycles, quiet times. BOX 33384

NEVER TOO LATE
Falls here, let's go for it! Divorced white female, 68, 5'4", 140 lbs, non-smoker, social drinker, active and outgoing. Enjoys the outdoors, travel, music, dancing and more. Seeking a single gentleman with a good sense of humor and similar interests. BOX 25991

SHOOTING STAR
Divorced, professional female, 5'5", 125 lbs, brown/black hair and eyes, dimples, looks minor 40 and stable. Seeking a divorced, white male, 55 to 63, attractive, 6', stable and a good sense of humor. BOX 31913

PRETTY ENTREPRENEUR
Giving, loving, compassionate, curly, lots of fun, great conversation, interested in the arts, successful Caucasian gentleman, 45-50, to be my soul mate. Float your boat, make your day, answer my joy today. BOX 25322

JUST LET ME LOVE YOU
Single black female, 5'10", 136 lbs., professional, seeks professional gentleman, over 45, non-smoker, no kids, for a romantic relationship. Interested in the arts, travel, theater, dancing and romancing. BOX 25986

INVITATION TO MEET
Single white female, 38, 5'7", fit, beautiful blonde, green eyes, good hearted, ambitious, seeking a successful professional, over 45, who wants to team up and share a great life together. BOX 25979

WANTED: NICE GUY
32 yr old, petite Asian female who enjoys reading, watching movies and traveling looking for financially secure, loving, kind male, 31 to 50, who has a great sense of humor. BOX 25979

NEW TO THE AREA
Single black female, 40, 5'3", brown eyes, reddish brown hair, interested in meeting someone who is honest, not a game player, caring, likes to laugh, knows how to treat a lady. 36 to 52. BOX 25973

NORTH WEST SUBURBS
Christina Aguilera look alike, fit, thin, petite, optimistic, loves laughter, financially secure. Enjoys the good life, boating, water skiing, travel, and dining. Seeking the right one. Call, thin, attractive, honest, affectionate, happy, positive attitude, successful with values. BOX 25775

NICE GIRL
Seeks single white male, 27 to 45, tall, lady bear type, with values and morals, enjoys going to movies, dining out, hanging out in a romantic. For friendship and possible relationship. BOX 25090

HONESTY IS THE KEY
Divorced black female, 59, 185lbs., coffee with cream complexion, non-smoker, loves moving, walking, bowling, cooking, dining out, and quiet times. Seeking a male, 40-50, honest, kind, caring, and dependable for a long term relationship. BOX 35599

MR. RIGHT
Single white female, 29, medium to full figured. Likes movies, bowling, cozy nights at home and possible more. In search of honest, caring white male, for friendship and maybe more. If this sounds like you, call me. BOX 35611

HONEST & TRUE
Petite 5'11", 110 lb, attractive, white professional divorced mom. Enjoys working out daily, good conversation, music, sports, and is an optimistic, fun loving person. Seeking divorced, white male, 40's, physically fit, tall, no beard or moustache, intelligent, good sense of humor, non-smoker. South Oakland County Area. BOX 36068

LOOKING FOR MY MATCH
Single white female, 39, 5'5", brown hair, medium built, independent, good sense of humor, sports oriented, loving, caring, likes a variety of activities and sports. Seeking emotionally secure, honest, well-mannered, confident, 45, 5'10" or taller, between 50 and 60. For conversation, friendship and more. BOX 33652

FOREVER FRIENDS
Let this attractive, fun loving, affectionate, single female, 5'5", height, with a spark in your eyes. Must be a non-smoker, easygoing, tall, handsome, honest, and intelligent. Lets share the simple pleasures of life, explore new things in friendship and love. Let's take care of each other. BOX 25402

COMEDIAN AT HEART
Classy, elegant, - size single white female, 36 yrs. Enjoys movies, walking, all activities, candid, fun loving, intelligent, professional female, 35 to 45, for a compatible, fun enjoyable relationship. BOX 25078

SEEKING COMPANION
Professional single white female, 38, attractive, non-smoker, single, loves animals, significant weight loss, still losing. Seeking a single white male for friendship, companionship, and possible mature relationship. BOX 25314

ADVENTUROUS LADY
Single white female, 38, 5'6", 115 lbs, blonde hair and hazel eyes. Enjoys riding Harley's camping, traveling. Seeking a man, 38 to 48, who knows how to treat a lady. BOX 25989

ROMANTIC AT HEART
47 yr old black Christian professional single female, 145 lbs, 5'6", physically fit. Enjoys outdoor activities, dining in and out, movies, romantic evenings, singing and traveling. Seeking a secure gentleman, 40 to 55, non-smoker, sense of humor. Enjoys the finer things in life, for friendship and possibly more. BOX 36062

CONSIDER THIS
Attractive slender, tall, intelligent lady of 54 is also ladylike, amiable, well educated and a smoker. Is seeking a man, 55 to 65, intelligent, tall, gentlemanly and interested in getting to know each other over dinners, faced with conversation. BOX 36140

WHY ME?
18 yr old white male, 5'5", reddish blonde hair, hazel eyes, medium build, likes bowling, go out with friends and quiet times. Looking for a white female, to spend the holidays with, leading to a relationship. BOX 13785

IS THIS YOU?
Very nice looking African American male, 48, 5'7", 170 lbs, with a medium build, medium brown complexion, easygoing, disarming, fun, no children. Enjoys driving, home and business owner. Enjoys dancing, oldies and classic rock music and the outdoors. Looking for an attractive female for companionship, possibly more. BOX 32588

ONE OF A KIND
Attractive single white male, 41 yr old, 5'10", 180 lbs, smoker, light brown hair, hazel eyes, medium build, likes bowling, go out with friends and quiet times. Looking for a white female, to spend the holidays with, leading to a relationship. BOX 13785

DO YOU BE ALONE?
Pick up the phone, meet single guy now. Good looking, white male, 47, outgoing, enjoys nature, wine and dining, etc. Seeking single white female, 37 to 51, for possible long term relationship. Macomb County. BOX 25316

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Animals
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Livestock

#780-795

780 Animal Services

AQUARIUM 6FT New. Paid \$250 Asking \$175. Not interested for water. (734) 625-4219

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BURMESE KITTENS - Young & retired adults. Sabbe, CFA registered. All shots. (610) 223-7044.

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KITTENS looking for loving home together with no other pets. Adorable black female & male. (248) 584-1890.

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ADORABLE MALE Husky Apsco. 7 mo., all shots. To good home. \$200. (248) 664-9219

AKC PUGS. Vet checked, shots ready now. Call: (734) 481-0264

American Eskimo puppies. AKC, shots, wormed. Pommeranian puppies. (2) males, AKC, shots, wormed. 248-474-4704

BEAGLE 4 yrs old; Shepherd/Sharpei 5 yrs old; Indoor dogs need good home. 313-531-4450

BOXER PUPS - AKC, \$350. 6 wks. on 12-15-00. Will hold till Christmas. 734-655-6295

COCKER, 18 mo old male, looking for a new permanent home. Poodles in need of loving home too. 248-344-0181.

COCKER SPANIEL Puppies for Christmas - AKC, registered. 1 female, \$300. 2 males \$250 each. 734-981-0460, 734-717-8718

785

FIND A FRIEND TODAY **Observer & Eclectic**

JACK RUSSELL Terrier puppies. AKC, 8 weeks. Born Oct. 28th. Ready for Santa. Call (248) 437-1842

MALTESE PUPPIES - about 8 weeks old, will hold till Christmas \$400. 248-987-0553.

PEKINGESE PUPPIES - AKC, shots, wormed. Males/Females \$325 each. 313-271-4058.

POMERANIANS PUPS - AKC, 4 females, 3 males; wormed & vet checked. 810-387-9570.

PORTUGUESE WATER DOG - male, 2 yrs old. Playful/well trained \$1,000. (248) 655-0082

PORTUGUESE WATER DOG Christmas puppies. Champion bloodlines. \$1500 248-620-4514

SCHAUZERS MINI puppies - champion sired, home raised, also champion stud service. 810-573-0987 313-885-6388

SHELTIE - Quality AKC. Little Cuties! Ready for loving home on Dec. 21st. 313-534-2689.

788

OWNER MOVING Seek homes for dogs, cats, kittens, puppies. 313-884-3843, 9-5 Mon-Fri.

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805 Boat/Vehicle Storage

SOUTHFIELD Storage for classic & antique cars. Call Sat. 9-4pm. 313-831-7128.

807 Motorcycles/Motorcycles

HARLEY DAVIDSON 1980 Sportster 1200 custom, black. 3000 miles, mint, almost \$2,000 in accessories, many extras. \$10,000. (248) 284-1090

811 Snowblowers

ARTIC CAT JAG 1988 With trailer. Good condition. Call: (734) 844-7082 \$1500.

MERCURY Trail Tracker 1978 4x4, 1 cover, 800 mi. Best offer \$1200/best. 313-885-1829

4 PLACE steel snow machine trailer. Tandem axle, w/brushes. \$800 734-718-6088

POLARIS (2) 1994 Indy 600's - liquid cooled, 4 stroke, 1 owner, excellent condition. \$4800/best \$4800-5700

SHOOTER 1987 - Fan cooled 4 stroke 600 cc motor, \$2499/best. (734) 488-1071.

812 Snowblowers

LANCE 1988 4x4 snow blower. 1988 Dodge pickup. \$1500/best. 313-885-1829

SURGE 1988 4x4 snow blower. \$1500/best. 313-885-1829

812

TRAILER - Open utility, custom camp & car hauler. Heavy duty 10,000 pound steel star trailer. 70 in. steel. Snowblower trailer. \$9,999. Call: (734) 251-0258. Fax: & 1-888-734-251-0258

811

CONSTRUCTION, Heavy Equipment

QARAVAN 1999 SE - nice shape, V8, air, CD, 114K, \$8999/best. (734) 789-8884.

QARAVAN 1999, V-8, loaded, good condition. 199K, \$2199/best. (313) 834-4557.

CHEVY 1999 Astro LT AWD, fully equipped, low miles. \$12,900/best. John Rogin Buick 734-625-0800.

FORD 2000 F750 XL "Cow Cab" Cab & Chassis "230" WB. Call diesel, air, 6000, air brakes. 9 miles, w/ \$57,912. New \$43,990.

JACK DEMMER (734) 721-2600

816

ASTRO PICKUP cap, model CR1800, the Ranger, exc cond. \$3000. (734) 455-0585

FORD 225 / 50 R16 Blizzak Tires. 2 Months wear. \$300. 248-393-3349.

820

ALL AUTOS-TOPSS Junked, wrecked or running. E & M 248-474-4425. Evenings: 734-776-3404

822

CHEVY 1987 newer tires/brakes, bodier. cap. 79K, \$5300. Ford 1988 P250 4x4 snowplow, new transmission & rearend, needs brakes. \$2200. 734-463-1520, 313-937-0804

CHEVY S10, 2000 - extended cab, 3 dr., like new 17,000 miles, must sell 248-342-0180 or 734-981-1331

CHEVY 1989 S10 Extreme Extended Ground Effects, fiber glass tonneau cover, V-6, auto, \$17,950 or lease \$225 mo. 36 mo. \$1,000 down. John Rogin Buick 734-625-0800.

CHEVY SILVERADO 1998 Pickup - like new, 1 owner, only 44K, \$10,800. 734-454-8622

DAKOTA, 1998 SLT, loaded, custom stereo, black, 42.5K miles, new tires, bedcover. \$14,500. (248) 828-6702

DAKOTA SPORT 1998 - 3.8L V6, 16K, ps, ABS, 10-CD, sunroof, Tonneau cover, bedliner, cruise, air. \$11,900/best. (248) 353-1814

DODGE 1997 Ram 1500 Sport pickup, loaded, 2 wheel drive 5.2L, 8 auto, 220 hp., air, ABS, 53,000 mi, w/100,000 mi warranty. Custom ton boards, fog lights, bedliner w/cover chrome pipes. All electric wcd system. Must see! \$17,900/best offer. 734-388-6129

DODGE 1998 V10 SLT - custom, loaded, new package. \$13,499 248-470-9027.

FORD F350 1998 Cube van, 14ft box, 75,000 miles, \$12,500. Call 248-344-1178

FORD 2001 F250 Pickup - 4x4, XLT, Major snowplow, loaded, V8, bedliner, only 460 miles. \$32,800. evs: 810-751-5881.

FORD F-150 1980 - V-6, auto, full power, w/cap, runs good. \$3800/best. (248) 358-9064

FORD 1994 F150 XLT, ext. cab, customized pick up, high miles. \$8500/or offer. 248-334-7238

FORD F-150 1988, XLT, loaded, black, air, \$129 mo., 36 mo. \$1,000 down. John Rogin Buick 734-625-0800.

FORD 1995 F350 XLT, 4x4, 8ft 1/2 Mayers plow, 28,750 miles, all power, air-6m CD, 480 engine, auto transmission, 3.85 axle, \$14,500. 734-452-0703

FORD GRANMAN 1988 14 ft. step, 65,000 miles on engine, runs great, needs exhaust. \$1750 or best. 248-477-2877

FORD 1989 pick-up - V8, excellent condition, nearly new tires, 142K, rebuilt transmission, \$2700. 734-484-7282

FORD RANGER 1997, XLT, auto, black, low miles, priced to sell \$7,950. John Rogin Buick 734-625-0800.

826

CHEVY 20 Van 1983, conversion, loaded, 74K miles, \$8000. 248-655-0746

CUBE VAN 1984, 16L, HD30, high top, very good condition. \$5200/best offer (248) 486-1972

DODGE Conversion Van 1987, 108 WB, V8. Loaded, TV/VCR. Tow, Warranty, 31K miles. \$15,800. 734-451-8335

DODGE 1994 Ram 2500 - H-top, 318 V-8 auto, black/leat. Pioner wheelchair lift, great cond. 92K. \$11,000. (734) 421-8729

ECONOLINE 1989 Conversion - new engine, needs transmission. \$1000/best. 734-387-3783.

FORD 1988 E150 Chateau chab-wagon, V8, 7 pass, dual air, all power. 44,000 mi. Exc. cond. \$17,900. 734-891-0378

FORD 1989 E440 Cube Van, 16' box, ramp, turbo diesel, 20K, \$8,950.

BILL BROWN FORD 734-622-6898 www.billbrownford.com

JACK DEMMER (734) 721-2600

FORD 1995 F350 XLT, 4x4, 8ft 1/2 Mayers plow, 28,750 miles, all power, air-6m CD, 480 engine, auto transmission, 3.85 axle, \$14,500. 734-452-0703

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FORD 1995 F350 XLT, 4x4, 8ft 1/2 Mayers plow, 28,750 miles, all power, air-6m CD, 480 engine, auto transmission, 3.85 axle, \$14,500. 734-452-0703

FORD GRANMAN 1988 14 ft. step, 65,000 miles on engine, runs great, needs exhaust. \$1750 or best. 248-477-2877

FORD 1989 pick-up - V8, excellent condition, nearly new tires, 142K, rebuilt transmission, \$2700. 734-484-7282

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ASTROSTAR 1993, new engine, 3.0L, 100K miles. A-1 condition. \$2,500. (248) 975-1678

ASTRO, 1987, ex-fm owner, never cleaned, runs great, good tires. \$1,800. (248) 821-8180

QARAVAN, 1993, extremely clean, low miles-only 58,500 owner, 97000. 734-452-0703

QARAVAN 1999 SE - nice shape, V8, air, CD, 114K, \$8999/best. (734) 789-8884.

QARAVAN 1999, V-8, loaded, good condition. 199K, \$2199/best. (313) 834-4557.

CHEVY 1999 Astro LT AWD, fully equipped, low miles. \$12,900/best. John Rogin Buick 734-625-0800.

FORD WINDSTAR 1988 GL 54K, V-6, tan colored, loaded, mint. \$12,800/best. (313) 937-3218

FORD WINDSTAR 1997 loaded, very clean, am/fm cassette, cd, all power. \$9K, \$10,500. (734) 484-6512

GRAND QARAVAN 1999, 1 owner, 100K miles. Super condition. \$4700. 734 881-4019.

GRAND VOYAGER 1988 LE, 2nd owner, loaded, 120,000 miles, rebuilt trans, aluminum wheels, excellent condition. \$4999/best. (248) 288-8482.

PLYMOUTH 1993 Voyager - V8, auto, a.c., 108K, Runs great. \$2500/best. (248) 689-7682

TOWN & Country LXI 1988 - new tires, 43K, mint. \$15,900. 248-444-1340 248-655-1892

VILLAGER 1988 - white, warranty, quiet, dual air. \$9K. \$12,700. (248) 894-8570

WINDSTAR 1988 - rear air, pt-prty glass, good cond. \$6800. (734) 456-7971, after 7pm

821

EXPLODER 1989 Loaded - 68K, gray leather, loaded. \$14,888/best. A: 248-811-2919

EXPLODER 1989 Sport 2 dr. black, loaded, sunroof. \$12,500. John Rogin Buick 734-625-0800.

EXPLODER 1991 4x4 Deluxe Sedan - loaded, 199K, no rust. \$45500/best. 248-477-8419

EXPLODER XLT 1989 - 4 W, V8, power steering/brakes, cassette \$18,500. (734) 484-9488

FORD 1988 Bronco Sport - 4x4, 261, 55K, no rust, new tires. loaded \$14,000. 734-489-2298

FORD 1993 Expeditions (8) 4x4, fully loaded, low miles. Priced to sell from \$19,000 to \$29,900. John Rogin Buick 734-625-0800.

FORD 1998 F250, 4x4, loaded, immaculate condition, 999 down, 20 minute credit approval by phone. Must be visiting. TYME AUTO (734) 455-5568.

GEO 1992 TRACKER 4x4, w/warranty, \$1K, mint. \$4200/best. (248) 477-4735

GMC 1998, Jimmy SLE, 4wd, 4 dr., loaded, dark green, excellent. \$13,500. 734-432-9305.

GMC Suburban 1988 - low pig 3 seats, 4x4, loaded. \$21,000. 248-474-6407, 248-471-2771

PLYMOUTH 1993 Voyager - V8, auto, a.c., 108K, Runs great. \$2500/best. (248) 689-7682

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826

CHEVY 20 Van 1983, conversion, loaded, 74K miles, \$8000. 248-655-0746

CUBE VAN 1984, 16L, HD30, high top, very good condition. \$5200/best offer (248) 486-1972

DODGE Conversion Van 1987, 108 WB, V8. Loaded, TV/VCR. Tow, Warranty, 31K miles. \$15,800. 734-451-8335

DODGE 1994 Ram 2500 - H-top, 318 V-8 auto, black/leat. Pioner wheelchair lift, great cond. 92K. \$11,000. (734) 421-8729

ECONOLINE 1989 Conversion - new engine, needs transmission. \$1000/best. 734-387-3783.

FORD 1988 E150 Chateau chab-wagon, V8, 7 pass, dual air, all power. 44,000 mi. Exc. cond. \$17,900. 734-891-0378

FORD 1989 E440 Cube Van, 16' box, ramp, turbo diesel, 20K, \$8,950.

BILL BROWN FORD 734-622-6898 www.billbrownford.com

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CHEVY 1987 newer tires/brakes, bodier. cap. 79K, \$5300. Ford 1988 P250 4x4 snowplow, new transmission & rearend, needs brakes. \$2200. 734-463-1520, 313-937-0804

CHEVY S10, 2000 - extended cab, 3 dr., like new 17,000 miles, must sell 248-342-0180 or 734-981-1331

CHEVY 1989 S10 Extreme Extended Ground Effects, fiber glass tonneau cover, V-6, auto, \$17,950 or lease \$225 mo. 36 mo. \$1,000 down. John Rogin Buick 734-625-0800.

CHEVY SILVERADO 1998 Pickup - like new, 1 owner, only 44K, \$10,800. 734-454-8622

DAKOTA, 1998 SLT, loaded, custom stereo, black, 42.5K miles, new tires, bedcover. \$14,500. (248) 828-6702

DAKOTA SPORT 1998 - 3.8L V6, 16K, ps, ABS, 10-CD, sunroof, Tonneau cover, bedliner, cruise, air. \$11,900/best. (248) 353-1814

DODGE 1997 Ram 1500 Sport pickup, loaded, 2 wheel drive 5.2L, 8 auto, 220 hp., air, ABS, 53,000 mi, w/100,000 mi warranty. Custom ton boards, fog lights, bedliner w/cover chrome pipes. All electric wcd system. Must see! \$17,900/best offer. 734-388-6129

DODGE 1998 V10 SLT - custom, loaded, new package. \$13,499 248-470-9027.

FORD F350 1998 Cube van, 14ft box, 75,000 miles, \$12,500. Call 248-344-1178

FORD 2001 F250 Pickup - 4x4, XLT, Major snowplow, loaded, V8, bedliner, only 460 miles. \$32,800. evs: 810-751-5881.

FORD F-150 1980 - V-6, auto, full power, w/cap, runs good. \$3800/best. (248) 358-9064

FORD 1994 F150 XLT, ext. cab, customized pick up, high miles. \$8500/or offer. 248-334-7238

FORD F-150 1988, XLT, loaded, black, air, \$129 mo., 36 mo. \$1,000 down. John Rogin Buick 734-625-0800.

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