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THURSDAY

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# PLYMOUTH Observer



**Special Art Exhibit** spotlights abilities at all levels **B1**

## Pipetting

### Parent meeting

Meetings of the Special Education Parent Advisory Committee are open to all residents of the Plymouth Canton community as well as school staff and administrators

SEPAAC meets from 7-9 p.m. every second Monday of the month at Discovery Middle School in Canton. The topic for the Jan. 13 meeting will be F.A.T. (Frustration Anxiety Tension) presented by Lori Parks, Plymouth Canton Teacher Consultant for Inclusion.

For additional information contact Rich Ham Kucharski at (734) 844-1714.

### PCAC tickets

The Plymouth Community Arts Council will hold its annual dinner dance auction Friday, March 14, at St. John's Golf and Conference Center. Tickets are \$75 each.

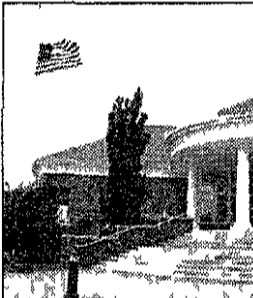
Passions of the Past: A 70s Bash is the theme of the 2003 benefit which supports PCAC educational and community arts programming. The group promises a psychedelic evening of fun with dancing to classics by the Rolling Stones, Elton John, Jimmy Buffet, Pink Floyd and others.

To buy tickets, donate an auction item or help the planning committee, call the PCAC at (734) 416-4278.

### Radio relay

The Plymouth Historical Museum plays host to American Radio Relay League Kids Day from 1-4 p.m. Saturday.

The Plymouth Historical Museum Radio Club sponsors



an afternoon of fun linking up kids from all over the USA through the technology of amateur radio. The event takes place in conjunction with the American Radio Relay League, a national organization of amateur radio operators who designate two days per year as Kids Day.

During these events, kids will be able to talk with kids all over the United States with the help of amateur radio operators.

For more information, contact the museum at (734) 455-8940 or via e-mail at plymouthhistoricalmuseum@netzero.net

### Library Web site

Patrons trying to access the Web site of the Plymouth District Library can now only do so through the library's new Web address: plymouthlibrary.org. The change became effective Wednesday.

For more information, access the Web site or call (734) 453-0750.

# Local man will direct state cops

BY BRAD KADRICH  
STAFF WRITER

When Tadarial Sturdivant finished his bachelor's degree in criminal justice at Wayne State University and joined the Michigan State Police as a trooper in 1978, he knew what he wanted to do for a career.

He couldn't have known back then how far that chosen career would take him. Last week, he found out. New Gov. Jennifer Granholm last week announced her choice of Sturdivant, a lieutenant colonel who'd been serving as deputy director of the Uniform Services Bureau, as the new director of the Michigan

State Police. "I'm a career Michigan State Police trooper, and this is a culmination of a life's work," Sturdivant said. "It's a career work, I was very proud (when Granholm made the announcement) and I was very pleased." The state Senate still has to confirm the appointment. If confirmed,

Sturdivant will become the department's first black director. "Michigan is blessed with a state police department full of outstanding public servants," Granholm said. "It gives me great pleasure to promote from within the ranks of the men and



PLEASE SEE TOP COP, A6 Sturdivant



Brad Eichkorn, left, Jake Bugeja and Ryan Allowag broadcast from a Salem-Canton basketball game over WSDP 88.1, the student-run radio station that observed its 30th anniversary in 2002.

## WSDP anniversary popular reader pick

BY BRAD KADRICH  
STAFF WRITER

Either readers are suckers for a feel-good story, or WSDP, the student-run radio station serving the Plymouth-Canton schools, has a lot of fans.

The Observer has readers for several weeks to let us know what they felt were the top stories of 2002, and fully 90 percent of those who responded included the 30th anniversary of WSDP, many of them naming it their top story of the year.

Interestingly, one of the respondents was Bill Keith, the station's general manager, who included his own station's anniversary, but as his No. 3 choice. Others were more glowing about the story.

Rob Milford counts himself among the originals at WSDP, a Salem High School graduate of 1973.

"They've provided a service to the community training kids for real work in the real world," Milford said. "And they do it with a minuscule budget. In 30 years, no dirt, no tabloid headlines from the station. It's a good investment in education."

The station started at a 10-watt capacity that could barely be heard in the school parking lot. Thirty years later, Internet listeners from around the world can hear music to suit nearly any taste and find out what's happening at "the Park."

The station spawned careers for its students throughout the metro Detroit area. For instance, 1984 Canton graduate Julie Maxwell is the marketing director for WMGC-FM 105.1. Curtis Paul, who worked at WSDP from 1985-87, holds a similar position at CIDR-FM 93.9.

It's a relevance Keith doesn't see fading any.

**The station spawned careers for its students throughout the metro Detroit area.**

PLEASE SEE TOP STORY, A6



Salem goalkeeper Tom Huls, right, consoles teammate Steve Shull after the Rocks lost to Rochester, 1-0, in the state championship game.

PAUL HURSCHEMANN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

## Church opens doors to mourners

BY HEATHER NEEDHAM  
STAFF WRITER

Plymouth Township's NorthRidge Church once again opened its doors to a large gathering of mourners Monday for the funeral of a family shot to death in a Livonia home.

Funeral services for Livonia jeweler Marco Pesce, 38, his mother, Maria Vergati, 68, and his children, Carlo, 12, Sabrina, 9, and Melissa, 6, drew scores of mourners to the church.

Large-scale funerals are nothing new for the nondenominational church, located at North Territorial and Ridge, according to the Rev. Wayne Kurtycz, assistant pastor. The church sanctuary seats 2,400 people,

The two suspects arrested by Livonia police in connection with these murders face a hearing Friday. Full story, Page A2.

and the parking lot has 1,300 spaces.

NorthRidge also opened its doors for funeral services for Detroit police Officer Shawn Bandy three years ago and for Salem student Mark Bolger in February 2000.

Bandy's funeral drew more than 3,000 mourners, and had a funeral procession with police vehicles and motorcycles from three states and Canada.

Planning for large-scale funerals at NorthRidge involves teamwork, Kurtycz said.

"We have several teams that come together," he said. "One handles creative arts, and another handles guest services - which also involves helping direct traffic outside the church."

But the details of planning are not what is really important in this case.

"We're talking about snuffing out a family for money - forget about the size of the funeral and all that stuff," Kurtycz said. "As a community, we should be outraged by what happened."

Even tough, seasoned cops may have difficulty coming to grips with the murder of children, according to Wayne

PLEASE SEE NORTHRIDGE, A6

## O&E seeks top local teachers

Beginning in January, the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers will honor two teachers monthly from throughout our circulation area for their excellence in the classroom. We are looking for readers to help in identifying these outstanding teachers.

Nominations can be e-mailed to cyoung@oehomecomm.net, faxed to (734) 953-2232 or mailed to Cathy Young at the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150. Nominations must be received by 5 p.m. of the third Monday of each month.

Deadlines for 2003 are Jan. 20, Feb. 17, March 17, April 21, May 19, June 16, Sept. 15, Oct. 20, Nov. 17 and Dec. 15.

Two teachers will be honored January through June and September through December. The teachers will be photographed in their classroom and receive four tickets to any Star Theater and a dozen

PLEASE SEE TEACHER A6

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E1 Trimbach is known for its reason ably-priced fruity wines



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# Cops worry about security as murder suspects face hearing

BY JEFF COUNTS  
STAFF WRITER

Security will be tight on Friday when John Wolfenbarger and Dennis Lincoln face a preliminary hearing on charges they murdered five members of the Pesce family in their Livonia home four days before Christmas.

"We've put on extra security for the hearing," said Livonia Police Chief Peter Kunst.

The hearing is scheduled for 9 a.m. before Livonia's 16th District Judge Robert Brzezinska. He arraigned the pair on Thursday, and they are being held without bond in the Wayne County Jail.

The hearing will give the public the first real glimpse into what happened in the Pesce home that Saturday. Prosecutors will present evidence to the judge who will determine if there is enough of it to sustain the charges. The judge will then determine if the men will face trial.

Wayne County prosecutors and Livonia police were tight-lipped about what evidence will

be presented at the hearing.

"Our detectives are working with the prosecutors on the case," said Kunst.

He refused to comment on who would be testifying at the hearing. There are three or four other persons being held in connection with the case on material witness warrants. He would not say if they would be testifying in court.

He said the others may face charges, but they wouldn't be charged with murder. The Observer on Sunday quoted Kunst as saying the others could be charged in the slayings. That was incorrect.

Wolfenbarger, 31, of Detroit, and Lincoln, 27, of Flint, are each charged with five counts of first degree murder in the slayings. They also face numerous other charges, including weapons charges, and breaking-in charges. The first degree murder charges carry mandatory life sentences.

Both have long criminal histories, and have been in and out of prison for most of the 1990s. They were cell mates at the Boyer Road Correctional

Facility until this year. Lincoln was paroled in February after serving nine years for armed robbery and Wolfenbarger in August after serving eight years for a series of burglaries.

The pair was arrested on Christmas Eve, Wolfenbarger in Livonia and Lincoln near Flint. The arrests took place about 48 hours after Livonia police were called to the Pesce home and found the victims dead.

They are Marco Pesce, 38, his mother, Maria Vergati, 68, and his three children - Carlo, 12, Sabrina, 9, and Melissa, 6.

Kunst said the short time between the discovery of the bodies and the arrests shows the hard work and dedication put in by Livonia officers. Most officers had their Christmas week vacations canceled and worked around the clock on the investigation, many with pictures of the Pesce children on the dash boards of their patrol cars or on their desks.

Kunst alleges the pair targeted jewelry stores in Livonia and Dearborn and were watching Pesce for several days prior to the robbery. He said the crime

wasn't a random act.

According to police and Wayne County Prosecutor Mike Duggan, here's an account of what happened.

## VISIT TO MOTHER

On the day of the slayings Marco Pesce drove his children to Ann Arbor where they visited their mother at a drug rehabilitation center. Pesce has been divorced from his wife, Diane Jameel, for about a year.

At about 6 p.m. they returned to his home on St. Martins Street. The children went into the home, where they thought they would be met by their grandmother. Pesce returned to his business, Italia Jewelry on Seven Mile near Farmington.

While the father and children were gone, authorities suspect that two men, possibly using a delivery truck and using the ruse of delivering a package, were able to gain entry into the home.

Pesce had a 3,000 pound safe in the home, and the alleged killers didn't have the combination. Carlo Pesce was asked to

call his father to lure him home in an attempt to obtain the combination.

After that point, the details are sketchy. Police said the five Pesce family members were shot 'execution style' that evening. "They were shot in the back," Duggan said.

Police were called to check on the family on Sunday after relatives were unable to contact them by telephone.

## THE INVESTIGATION

The Livonia police started to investigate the slayings on Sunday and held the first in a series of press conferences.

Much speculation centered on Pesce's former wife because of alleged drug problems, but Duggan went to great lengths to say that she was not a suspect.

Livonia police announced the arrests of the two men at a Christmas Eve press conference and the pair was arraigned on Thursday in Livonia.

Police wouldn't comment on the information that led to the arrests, but they confirmed that more than \$65,000 in a reward

fund prompted people to come forward with information.

Authorities would say little more than who the suspects are and where they were arrested.

There are also three or four more persons in custody who haven't been charged with any crimes in connection with the murders or robbery. Authorities wouldn't say if they would testify at the hearing on Friday.

## THE LOOT

Authorities did say that more cash and stolen items were being recovered as late as last Friday. Police said jewelry from the Pesce home was recovered at a Detroit home.

The items included watches, diamonds and melted gold. Police alleged that Wolfenbarger was in possession of metal snips used to remove jewels from settings and a jeweler's gas torch used to melt gold.

However, so far authorities have not put an overall monetary value on the jewelry or cash.

## TWO WEDNESDAYS AT WARD Provocative Art • Cosmic Science

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Wednesday, January 15, 7:00 p.m.



"What do the latest discoveries in physics and astronomy tell us about the necessity for a Creator?"

### Finding God In Deep Space:

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Presented by Dr. Hugh Ross

Hugh was the youngest person ever, at age 17, to serve as director of observations for Vancouver's Royal Astronomical Society. He holds an undergraduate degree in physics (University of British Columbia) and graduate degrees in Astronomy (University of Toronto).

Wednesday, January 22, 7:00 p.m.

Both programs are free and open to the public.



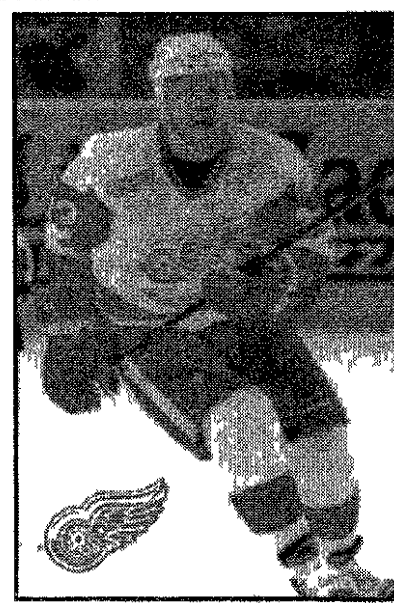
Ward Presbyterian Church is located at 40000 W Six Mile Road at Haggerty in Northville (Just west of the Barnes & Noble Shopping Center) (248) 374 5937

## AROUND TOWN

### HIDDEN HISTORY

Plymouth's Hidden History series continues with the program, "Plymouth's Wildcat Banks," at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 9 at the Plymouth Historical

Museum. Guest speaker will be Dr. Martin Brosnan, who will talk about how, before 1836 a state government was the only authorized source of printed money. Plymouth's Hidden History Series is a year-long program focusing on the little-known and unusual history of the Plymouth community.



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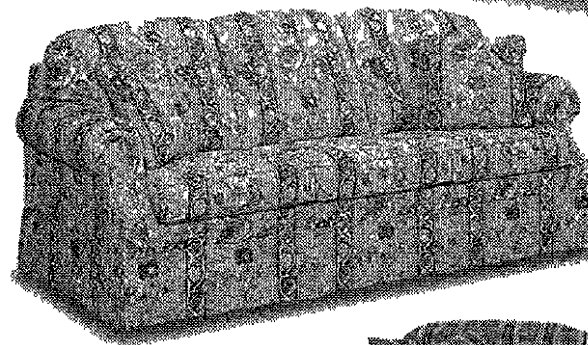
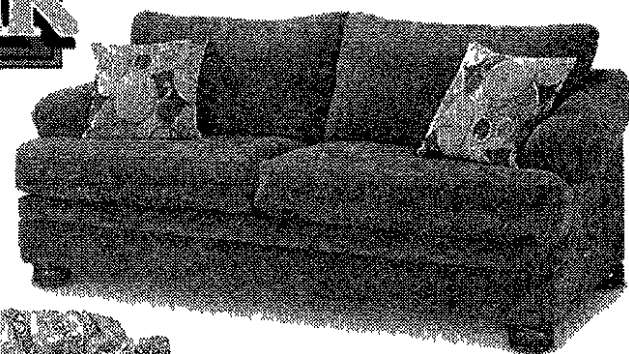
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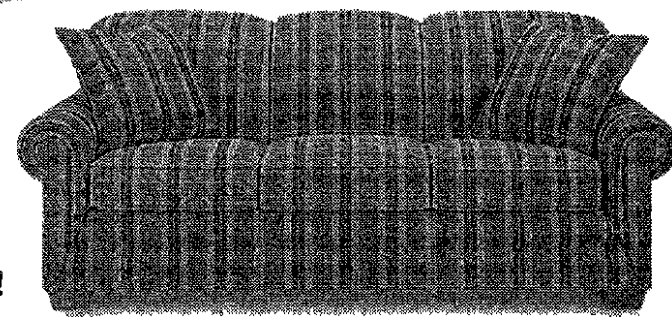
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# Elections, 3rd judgeship, school superintendent among top Plymouth stories

Here is a review of the year's top stories culled from file copies of the Plymouth Observer

## JANUARY

The Plymouth Township Police Department begins issuing home drug test kits to parents worried about their children getting involved with drugs. The kit is anonymous, and parents ship it to the same labs doing the work for actual police investigations.

The state of Michigan approves the city's plans for renovations at the Cultural Center, allowing the city to move forward with the refurbishing project. The state's approval was necessary because the plan is being paid for with a state grant.

Gov. John Engler signs a bill adding a third judgeship at the 35th District Court, which covers the Plymouths, the Northvilles and Canton. State Rep. Bruce Patterson, R-Canton, was the driving force behind the bill.

Auto dealer Don Massey, in the car business for 60 years, decided to get out of it, selling nearly all of his automotive holdings, including 16 car dealerships, to Sonic Automotive Inc. of Charlotte, N.C.

Plymouth Township officials complete the language in a new Downtown Development Authority ordinance, establishing a township DDA. The township had hoped the city would be partners, but city commissioners declined.

## FEBRUARY

The plan to build an underpass beneath the railroad crossing on Sheldon was delayed yet again. The long-awaited project is delayed because of problems with maintaining water supply to residents in the area.

The Plymouth Historical Museum opens its Abraham Lincoln display in a \$1.3 million expansion. The display features 900 pieces of Lincoln exhibit material.

Property assessments went up in the city by 13.3 percent, the only double digit increase in Wayne County. Township assessments were up nearly 8 percent.

Panera Bread and Starbucks become the first two tenants of the Mayflower Centre.

## MARCH

The Plymouth Salvation Army acknowledges a budget deficit of \$120,000, brought on by slowed donations in the wake of the 9/11 attacks. The Salvation Army would later make budget cuts and, with help from the Plymouth United Way, would eliminate nearly all of the deficit.

Plymouth Township officials and former finance director Rosemary Harvey settled her wrongful termination lawsuit. The amount, while not revealed by either side, is believed to be \$140,000 to \$160,000.

Kmart announces the closing of 300 stores, but the Ann Arbor Road location in

Plymouth Township avoids the ax.

Downtown Development Authority chairman Tim McKercher and board member Jon Gary resigned from the DDA board in a dispute with the city over the hiring of a DDA director to replace Melanie Purcell. Mayor Bill Graham refused to accept their resignations, and two men rejoined the board.

## APRIL

Eleven candidates are registered to run for three vacancies on the Plymouth-Canton school board. Nine seek two four-year seats, while the other two seek to fill the final year of the unexpired term of former trustee Steve Guile.

Cornwell Pool & Patio celebrates 40 years of business.

Budget considerations force Plymouth-Canton schools to lay off 19 teachers. All 19 are eventually brought back, many through attrition.

## MAY

Stop 'N Go, known to many as McAllister's on Northville Road, burns to the ground. Fire officials initially rule the fire an arson, although they later back down from that a bit.

Plymouth Township gets a \$560,000 grant in federal money controlled by the state of Michigan. With a \$460,000 match, more than \$1 million will be available to make improvements along Ann Arbor Road.

Fellow Plymouth Township board members accuse trustee Abe Munfakh of violating the township's ethics policy by helping Salem Township get connected to the Detroit water system. The township later hired attorney Michael Schwartz to investigate the matter, and Schwartz report indeed accused Munfakh of the ethics violation. A January public hearing was scheduled on the matter.

City officials remove Old Village Development Authority board members Peter Bunting and Matt Cardwell, apparently after raising the possibility of annexation of Old Village by Plymouth Township. Township Supervisor Steve Mann said the township had no interest in annexation.

## JUNE

Both the township and city raise water rates, 20 percent in the township and 15 percent in the city. Both governments claim increases by the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department are responsible for the local increases.

After announcing she was leaving and then withdrawing the announcement, school superintendent Kathleen Booher left to take a job with the state. The school board hired assistant superintendent Jim Ryan with an interim tag, a distinction they removed Dec. 10.

Joann Lamar and Carol Saunders, both of Plymouth Township, land the two four-year seats on the Plymouth-



Mike Gerou of Plymouth gets a big hug from his 10-year-old son, Miles, and warm wishes from his supporters after winning the new judgeship in the 35th District Court in November.

Canton school board Marcy Staley retains the seat to which she was appointed in a close win over Debra Madonna.

## JULY

Efforts to build a public restroom in downtown Plymouth stall because of a rift between city planners and the businessmen who were helping bankroll the project. By year's end, the restrooms still hadn't been built.

Gov. John Engler slashes \$852 million in state revenue-sharing money, meaning a loss of \$450,000 for the city and \$700,000 in the township. The state legislature later overrode the cuts.

## AUGUST

Johnson Controls seeks rezoning of property in Salem Township, a move that could take a large chunk of tax money out of Plymouth and would embroil a township trustee in an ethics investigation.

Bob Anderson is hired as the city's Downtown Development director replacing Melanie Purcell.

Plymouth attorney Mike Gerou and former Northville Township Supervisor Karen Woodside claim the top two spots in the primary for the new seat on the 35th District Court.

Plymouth Township police, with the aid of an eyewitness, capture a woman suspected in the robbery of the Comerica Bank branch on Ann Arbor Road. The woman would eventually help take down a man suspected of masterminding robberies in Novi, Livonia and Farmington Hills, as well as the Plymouth robbery.

Protesters angered over the pro-choice stance of gubernatorial candidate Jennifer Granholm picket her home parish, Our Lady of Good Counsel. The protest results in a lawsuit when Plymouth Township police confiscate

signs being brandished by the pickets.

## SEPTEMBER

The Garden City attorney rules there will be no charges against state Rep. Bruce Patterson, R-Canton, despite a claim by fellow Rep. John Stewart, R-Plymouth Township that Patterson assaulted him after a meeting earlier in the year.

City and township officials resolve tentative details of a recreation program that would be administered by the city. However, the pact is derailed when Plymouth Township balances its budget by slicing \$300,000 in recreation money.

Plymouth Township officials agree to settle Karen Akans' wrongful termination lawsuit for \$100,000.

A tract of land in Plymouth Township rises to the No. 1 spot in Wayne County in terms of median income at nearly \$124,000.

## OCTOBER

Interim superintendent Jim

Ryan says the school district's talented and gifted program and Central Middle School are safe.

Enrollment figures for Plymouth-Canton Schools indicate the district will record its highest-ever enrollment more than 17,000 students.

Plymouth Symphony Executive Director Darlene Dreyer resigns so she can spend more time near her family in New Jersey.

Plymouth's Youth Commission, an initiative engineered primarily by City Commissioner Michele Potter, conducts its first meeting.

The city tickets the so-called 'Broe homes' in Old Village, citing them for operating a business in a residential neighborhood after residents complain for weeks of the behavior of residents of the homes. The city, fearing the tickets wouldn't hold up in court, decides later to retract them.

## NOVEMBER

Plymouth attorney Mike

Gerou captures the new seat on the 35th District Court by upending former Northville Township Supervisor Karen Woodside in the general election. Incumbent state Rep. John Stewart easily defeats Democrat challenger Mark Blackwell to retain his 20th District seat. State Rep. Bruce Patterson wins his bid for the newly created 7th State Senate district by beating George Mans of Trenton.

Salem High School's boys soccer team reaches the state championship game before being thwarted by Rochester High School, 1-0.

The Plymouth-Canton Marching Band marches to its ninth straight state championship at the Pontiac Silverdome, then finishes ninth at the national championships in Indianapolis.

The Penn Theatre, one of the last remaining single-screen theaters in the state, begins showing first-run movies for the first time, with "Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets" taking the screen.

After four years of planning, a new Rite Aid opens at the former site of Daly's Drive-in at Ann Arbor Road and Main.

## DECEMBER

The city of Plymouth drops tickets it issued to Broe Rehabilitation Services for fear they wouldn't hold up in court.

Plymouth Mayor Pro-Tem Colleen Pobur threatens to sue Your Community Crier for a story that said the FBI raided her home in connection with the investigation into Wayne County Executive Ed McNamara. Pobur labeled the story "libelous."

Both the city and township take minor cuts in state revenue sharing ordered by lame-duck Gov. John Engler, but financial experts in both municipalities said they expected more cuts when Gov.-elect Jennifer Granholm has to balance the next fiscal budget.

The Plymouth-Canton school removes the 'interim' tag from Superintendent Jim Ryan's title. The sides are looking at a four-year deal for Ryan.

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## OUR VIEWS

### Hard work by police eases area's fears

We all recognize the hard work and determination displayed by Livonia police department employees in bringing some healing to a deep wound in the community caused by the mass killing of a family.

The vacations and leave time of detectives, officers and office staff were canceled after the discovery of five members of the Marco Pesce family Saturday, Dec. 21. Police officers planning to spend time with their families on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day suddenly found themselves in patrol cars on surveillance, or tracking down telephone tips that came flooding into the police station.

Officers worked around the clock and quickly arrested two people early in the week, bringing a quick end to the agony Livonia and other western suburban residents felt after hearing news of the slayings.

It was a nightmare. A father, a well-known businessman, his three small children and his mother visiting from Italy for the holidays, slain in their home four days before Christmas, that holy Christian holiday that celebrates peace, love, forgiving and generosity.

But those thoughts weren't in the minds of the persons who broke into the house, walked past the Christmas tree and presents waiting for the three Pesce children and killed the family. Greed was in their minds. They were thinking about loot, not the spirit of giving.

All were shot with handguns, and put up no resistance, even the children. And it was the thoughts of those children that helped Livonia police officers work past the bounds of physical exhaustion.

Pictures of the children were everywhere in the Livonia police station. Chief Peter Kunst told the media this past week, "They were on desks and in patrol cars," he said. The faces of the three children helped motivate officers to keep going. Officers would sometimes sleep briefly in their cars, stare at the photos and get back to work, he said.

Monetary contributions from the public to a reward fund should also be recognized. The reward was a factor in the arrests, police said. The money came from many sources, much of it from just plain folks who wanted to stay anonymous.

When there's such a crime as this just before the holidays, it makes us wonder if the spirit of Christmas is still alive. But when we look at the actions of the Livonia police and the people who donated to the reward fund, we know it's still alive.

### New governor should keep an open mind

As we begin a new year, the prospects are looking a little bleak. As former President Bill Clinton constantly reminded himself, it's the economy, stupid.

Unemployment is staying stubbornly over 5 percent. The stock market continues to be shaky. Business trends aren't completely dismal but they aren't robust, either. Some area corporations are struggling to survive, notably Kmart, which seems to be stuck in another retailing era.

Local, state and federal budgets are at the breaking point.

It is hard to imagine why anyone would want to be the governor of a state, because so many of them are facing desperate budget problems because of reduced tax revenue.

For Jennifer Granholm, the prospect for the 2004 budget year, which begins in October, is a \$1.8 billion deficit. During her campaign and in recent remarks, the new governor has said she doesn't favor slowing scheduled tax cuts or implementing any tax increases.

The alternative is cuts in programs. Where would those cuts be made — in health care (Medicaid is already in dire financial straits), in education where K-12 programs and higher education are already feeling the pinch and colleges are passing the cost along in tuition increases that penalize the middle class, in welfare where the poor have already been cut to the bone by Gov. John Engler, in community revenue sharing grants when communities are already stressed to provide for police, fire and other services?

We don't have any easy answers for area businesses or for the new governor. But we believe that no reasonable alternative, including tax increases, should be ruled out. There is a lot of waste in government, but most people benefit from government programs and they should not be penalized to avoid taxing those who can afford to pay.

The issue isn't about increasing or not increasing taxes. It's about how to implement a reasonable tax policy that provides for needed programs while not stalling an economic recovery.

We encourage the new governor and legislature to have courage and work on a solution.



PAUL HURSCHMANN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

A group of students from Fiegl Elementary cared enough about others to gather presents purchased through donations at the school for a local family adopted through the Goodfellows. The students collected more than \$500, and will provide some of the excess to other families in need through the Goodfellows.

## LETTERS

### Lucky to have Goodfellows

In response to the letter written by the woman about the Goodfellows soliciting donations on the streets, I, for one, feel blessed to live in a town like Plymouth where people think not only of themselves enough so to stand out in the street and often brave the elements, to raise money so that no child will be without a Christmas.

Ours is a community with a long and rich history of caring. That feeling of commitment to one's community is one of the many things that makes Plymouth unique and so very special.

I am grateful that so many give of their time for the good of this community through the Goodfellows and the many other civic groups that make a difference all year long. I hope they never stop.

It is a privilege to live here and I am pleased to say that Yes, Virginia, there really is a Santa Claus and, thankfully, he and his many generous helpers are alive and well and living in Plymouth.

Liz Johnson  
Plymouth

### Chorus appreciation

I just wanted to thank the Plymouth Community Chorus for another wonderful holiday show! Bravo! I can't wait until next year!

Congratulations, Sandra!

Rich Ham-Kucharski  
Canton

### Act effective

President George Bush's No Child Left Behind Act is a dominant issue in improving education. I highly believe that this will be very effective in the United States because every child is worth the effort, simply because every child can learn, and we know what it takes to teach them. The issue is that not every child gets the equal opportunity to be educated, which creates a problem. No society has ever tried this solution before and succeeded, however when there is a will, there is a way.

The basis of this act is simplified by four pillars:

Accountability — Strong standards in each state for what every child should know and learn in reading and math grades three-eight.

Provide Bureaucracy and Increase Flexibility — Provide new flexibility for all 50 states and every local school district in America in the use of federal funds.

Focusing Resources on Proven Educational Methods — Focus educational dollars on proven research-based approach that will best help children to learn.

Expanded Choices for Parents — Enhance options for parents with children in chronically failing schools.

Of course, even with these key points, this plan of action will not work. Without teachers who truly believe their students have potential to learn, this act doesn't stand a chance. This makes sense because when teachers believe this, and they discover that their students aren't learning,

they are going to stop what they're doing, get to the root of the problem and find out why this is happening before it is too late.

I personally think that most of these cases of not learning are coming from parents that are not involved in their child's education. In these cases I believe the teachers need to step in and be that child's guide and really get through to them, because they have a limited amount of time to spend with each child.

This act needs to be focused on public schools, because eventually the majority of schools will be private schools. The government needs to take advantage of citizen's tax dollars and put a certain amount of them towards a helpless child's education, because without education one is lost in this country. I hope that one day a child can be at the doorstep of a school and be given an education, no questions asked.

People need to stop living in the past and start thinking about the future, because these children that aren't getting educated now are most likely going to end up in jail or helping increase our nation's unemployment rate. This act is beneficial no matter what way one looks at it.

Holly McGuffin  
Livonia

### Media assault

Trent Lott is not racist, he is a politician that tries to please audiences and avoid controversy. He was Senate majority leader earlier and voluntarily "shared" power with liberal Democrats to "get along." Lott is criticized for trying to butter up a centenarian who was a Dixiecrat 54 years ago.

Bob Dole never adjusted to using power as majority leader, either, he compromised legislation rather than fight. Newt Gingrich passed "Contract with America" bills in the House of Representatives that stalled in Dole's Senate. The media assaulted Gingrich around the clock, even as his programs brought prosperity to the nation.

Clinton claimed many as his own, Dole ran for president, and Gingrich is generally perceived as dishonest.

Bill Frist is one of many elected because of Gingrich's success in 1994. Hopefully, a "leader" will now have the title and "followers" will do what their personalities permit. How long before the media assaults begin?

Hank Borgman  
Farmington

### Affirmative action unworthy

The Supreme Court's time to find affirmative action racist and unworthy of American fairness, American heritage, American culture, America's constant and consistent attention to the worth of all of its citizens, is nigh.

The court's members who suffer from earlier classroom instruction approving class warfare and the understanding that the federal government is primary may not overcome the misdirection of "teachers" who espouse the all-encompassing big-daddy ideology, leading to the stunt-

ed and unknowing life.

There are constitutionalists on the court who will interpret the law and not design and manufacture law anew. The liberals on the court who pretend they can walk and chew gum at the same time may "win" the day and keep our people in ideological chains, forcing discrimination in less-than-subtle doses, demanding quotas, set-asides, and color and ethnic preferences.

But we can always hope the "swing" judges will understand and accept what the middle-headed thinkers proclaim as necessary and worthy diversity assures the most unfair and blatant discrimination.

Ikeita Cantu Hinojosa, Women's Law and Public Policy Fellow at the Women's Law Center in Washington, D.C., boasts and brags that affirmative action selection and status guaranteeing her educational advantage was proper and responsible for her subsequent successes. Evidently, she believes no one will ever wonder if some in the audience might think she achieved because, and only because, she was afforded the boat ride to class enrollment, that merit might not have played a part in her job placement today.

She still doesn't get it, that affirmative action is blatantly racist, that it really should be declared unconstitutional. As with other affirmative action sponsors, she does not explain why minorities who do not gain acceptance at one college, then matriculate at a second choice for schooling, graduate, get the good jobs, are disadvantaged in life. All students are guaranteed that they may attend college. Again, someone explain why a student who gets his degree from Michigan State loses in life because he didn't get a diploma from the University of Michigan. No one will. No one can.

In addition to the unfairness of affirmative action, it makes no sense. According to the law, a student can accomplish enrollment on the college level in any of the 50 states. Where's the problem?

Neil Goodbred  
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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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.

## QUOTABLE

"I was very proud. I'm a career Michigan State trooper, (so) it's a culmination of a life's work."

— Tadarial Sturdivant, new director, Michigan State Police

# Wall Street shenanigans made for a sorry story

During the holiday break, I've had the time to mull over the events of the past year or two. Upon reflection, it seems clear the most broadly consequential were the corporate, accounting, banking, brokerage and insider trading scandals that led to the collapse of the stock market and the sharp drop in the net worth of countless millions of households.



Phil Power

The total loss to investors since 2000 has been something like \$7 trillion, which is a number so large and so abstract as to lose meaning for me.

More telling are the countless personal stories of financial loss and confidence in the future, stories that literally every reader of this column can recite in sad detail. People who had retired with the (false) security of a fat investment portfolio who discovered

they had to go back to work just to maintain their standard of living. Workers who saw their 401(k) account drop to a "201(k)" or worse. Young families who had made a down payment on their first house who discovered they had lost the asset base to qualify for their loan.

And so, you might reasonably ask, what has happened to the perpetrators of this scandal?

Not much. Sure, Ken Lay and Andrew Fastow at Enron are facing well-publicized criminal charges, as are a few high-profile folks at Global Crossing, Tyco, WorldCom, ImClone, Adelphia and so forth.

But what has happened to the big shots on Wall Street — the brokers, the bankers, the lawyers, the analysts — the ones who were so complicit in laying the foundation and abetting the biggest financial scandal since the 1920s?

For example, it's now been conclusively proven the big Wall Street firms leaned on their "independent" research analysts to produce optimistic reports on the self-same firms whose stock they were underwriting. We've even seen the texts of confidential e-mails from analysts describing as "rubbish" the very stock they were touting to the public. Enron's lawyers were up to their well-scrubbed armpits in penning (lucrative) opinion letters that said the shenanigans with off-balance sheet partnerships were OK, while brokers were executing big sell orders from executives who saw their companies going down the tubes and wanted out before the public caught on.

What about those guys? Anybody going to the slammer? Nope. A couple of analysts, now retired with their multi-million dollar profits have been banned from dealing with the stock market. How sad. Anybody getting fined per-

**The total loss to investors since 2000 has been something like \$7 trillion, which is a number so large and so abstract as to lose meaning for me.**

sonally? Not that I've heard. Any firm paying restitution to the stockholders who trusted their analysts' advice and wound up with nothing? Perish the thought.

Last week, to the mixed sounds of trumpets of publicity and sighs of relief, the regulators announced a "final settlement" with the folks on Wall Street. The firms involved, without admitting or denying any wrongdoing, would collectively pay about \$1 billion in fines to finish inquiries into their conflicts of interest in research. They would also pony up \$500 million to finance independent stock research operations that would be given to their clients along with their own stock reports.

According to the *New York Times*, settlement negotiations had been going on since October. They were complicated, involved were New York Attorney General Eliot Spitzer, the SEC, the New York Stock Exchange, the National Association of Securities Dealers and the big Wall Street firms. Evidently, the big sticking point was just how to divvy up the \$1 billion fine between the firms involved — proof positive that avarice remains the primary driver on Wall Street.

You don't hear of that \$1 billion going to the folks who got bilked by the Street over the past couple of years, do you? And please note that the key phrase in the deal with the regulators was "final settlement," which effectively prevents class-action lawsuits by the countless investors who got the shaft.

The great thing about Wall Street — the banks, the brokerage houses, the lawyers, the analysts, the CPAs — is that they're all in it incestuously together. We first has been the Wall Street slogan for many years, and if the public gets screwed, that's just too bad. The Wall Street insiders will always win against the ordinary Main Street rubes. And what we just saw in the final settlement is nothing more than the latest proof point.

Phil Power is the chairman of the board of the company that owns this newspaper. He would be pleased to get your reactions to this column either at (734) 953-2047 or at [ppower@homecomm.net](mailto:ppower@homecomm.net).



Sen Carl Levin

# Steps must be taken to prevent Enron debacles

Just over a year ago, Enron Corp., then the seventh-largest company in the United States, declared bankruptcy. The follow-up to this financial disaster revealed a litany of Enron corporate abuses from accounting fraud to price manipulation, insider dealing, tax shenanigans, and unfair dealing with employees, creditors and investors. Yet it is still the case today, as it was a year ago, that most top Enron officials have walked away from the scandal they created with tens of millions of dollars in their pockets, while Enron employees, creditors and shareholders have suffered substantial losses.

In addition to Enron's misconduct, there is growing evidence that leading U.S. financial institutions not only took part in Enron's deceptive practices, but at times designed, advanced and profited from them.

As a result of the work by the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations (PSI), which I have chaired for the past year and a half, we have learned that some of our largest financial institutions, including Citigroup, J.P. Morgan Chase, and Merrill Lynch, engaged in deceptive financial transactions with Enron that allowed Enron to make its books look better and increase the value of its stock price.

In one instance, the subcommittee looked in detail at a sham asset sale of Nigerian barges from Enron to Merrill Lynch for \$28 million just before the end of the year 2000, so that Enron could book the fake sale revenue and boost both its year-end earnings and cash flow from operations. This transaction didn't qualify as a true sale under accounting rules because Enron had eliminated all risk from the deal by secretly promising Merrill Lynch to arrange a resale of the barges within six months while guaranteeing a 15-percent profit.

The PSI investigation has provided substantial evidence that the financial institutions involved in the Enron deals knew exactly what was going on. They structured the transactions, signed the paperwork, and supplied the money, knowing that Enron was using the deals to deceptively inflate its financial results and present the company as in better financial condition than it really was.

In the most recent investigation, the PSI staff looked at transactions that took place over a six-month period from December 2000 to June 2001, involving Enron ventures in the pulp-and-paper business. The evidence shows that Citigroup and Chase actively aided

Enron in these transactions, despite knowing they employed deceptive accounting or tax strategies and were being used by Enron to misstate its financial results or deceptively reduce its tax obligations. Citigroup and Chase did it in return for substantial fees and favorable consideration in other business dealings.

As a result of these revelations, the financial institutions involved have announced new programs designed to prevent their employees from participating in deals that produce deceptive accounting. Questions remain whether those programs are working. But, more important, the federal agencies that regulate these financial institutions have to be on the job, patrolling these companies to make sure they follow the rules.

There is a gap right now. The SEC does not generally regulate banks, and bank regulators don't regulate accounting practices or ensure accurate financial statements. Two steps need to be taken that, together, could close the gap. First, the SEC needs to issue a policy that states clearly that the SEC will take enforcement action against financial institutions that aid or abet a client's dishonest accounting, by selling deceptively structured finance or tax products or by knowingly or recklessly participating in deceptively structured transactions.

Second, the bank regulators — including the Federal Reserve that oversees our financial holding companies — need to state that violation of that SEC policy would constitute an unsafe and unsound banking practice, thereby enabling bank examiners to take regulatory action during bank examinations.

The SEC and bank regulators also need to conduct a comprehensive, joint review of the structured finance products being sold by or participated in by our financial institutions so they can root out the ones that corrupt financial statements. One year after Enron's collapse, we need our regulators to tell our banks and securities firms that the deceptions and the era of self-regulation are over.

Enron was an eye-opener about the extent and nature of corporate misconduct going on in the United States today and the role being played by our financial institutions. Now we need to take on the tougher task of building an effective deterrence program to prevent future Enrons.

Carl Levin is the senior U.S. Senator from Michigan.

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**TOP STORY**

FROM PAGE A1

time soon "You've still got kids who get that first (paying radio) job in Houghton or some small market," Keith said "Where else but a place like ours are they going to learn how to work the reel-to-reel tape deck that station will probably still have"

Some also think the station has been a huge benefit not just to the students who have passed through it, but also for the community as a whole

"There are few things in life that endure," said former Plymouth-Canton teacher Bonnie Dore "WSDP is a pioneer and its 30th Anniversary is a very important story, not just for the students who have enjoyed learning and working at the station but for the community it serves"

While the radio station anniversary dominated the responses, other stories earned mention, as well

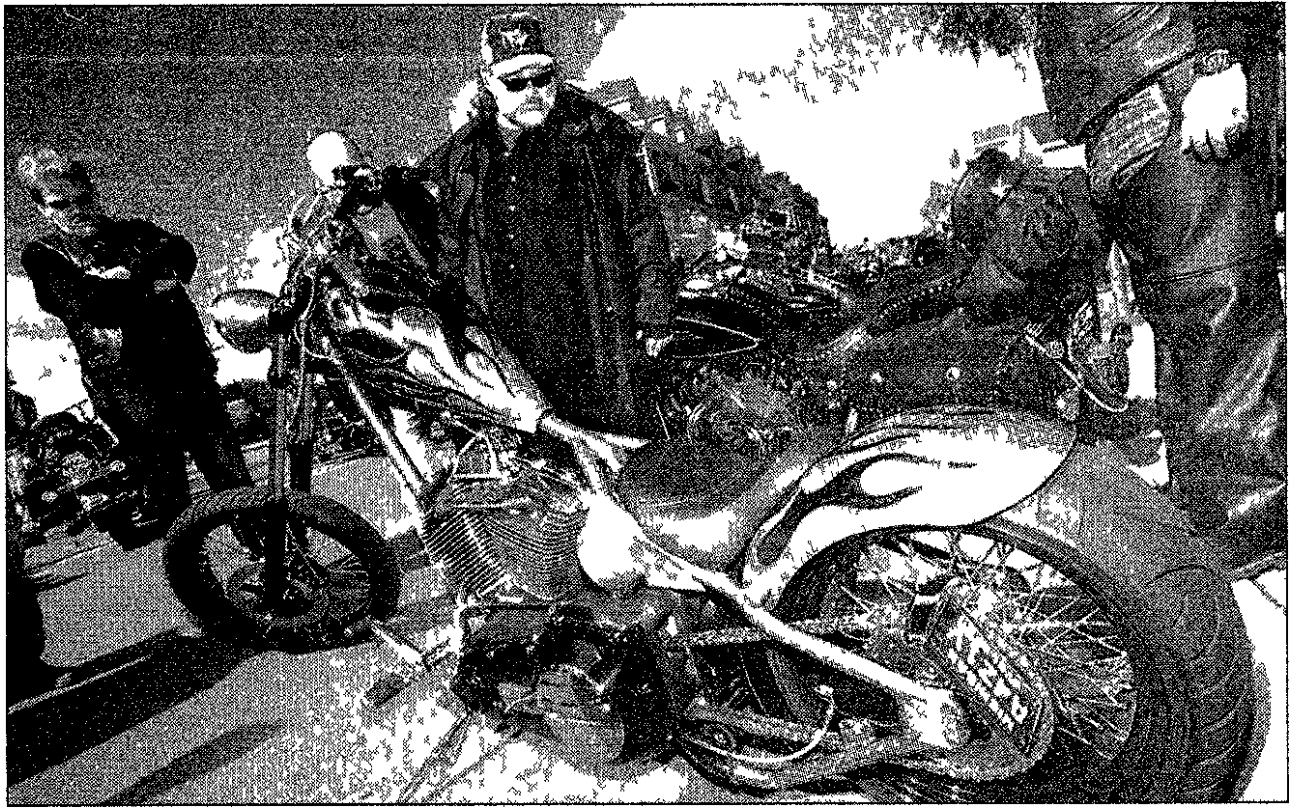
Most frequently listed was the departure of former school superintendent Kathleen Booher, who left the district for a job with the state and was replaced on an interim basis by deputy superin-

tendent Jim Ryan Ryan had the interim tag removed from his title last month by the Plymouth-Canton Board of Education

**OTHER TOP PICKS**

Other stories to make the list included the Plymouth Kmart avoiding the chopping block when the struggling retail giant closed some 300 stores, auto magnate Don Massey selling off nearly all of his auto holdings, including his Plymouth dealership, the establishment of a Plymouth Township Downtown Development Authority, and the potential move by Johnson Controls out of Plymouth Township

"The announcement that Johnson Controls is leaving Plymouth Township for relocation across the border in Salem Township and taking with them the substantial taxes they had been paying our township is surely a huge story," said township resident Joe Yurasek. "Not only are we losing the revenue base from JCI, there is huge potential for residual detrimental impact on our community, especially if Plymouth Township is unable to block JCI's plans to have access and egress to their property from Napier Road"



PAUL HURSCHMANN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The annual chili cook-off not only drew chili chefs from all over the state but was also a popular stop for motorcycle enthusiasts

**NORTHRIDGE**

FROM PAGE A1

Byrum, 17-year chaplain with the Canton Police Department

As chaplain, he has knocked on the doors of families to tell them of tragic car accidents, counseled families of suicide victims and helped out with domestic violence cases

Police officers are typi-

cally the first ones to see crime scenes, as was the case in Livonia Dec 21 There, they opened the doors to the Pesce residence and found five dead bodies

"(Police officers) are the ones who see the gory details," Byrum said "If they're normal, they're traumatized"

Getting them to talk can be difficult

"Police officers, as you know, keep things inside,"

Byrum said "This situation in Livonia, it had to be a horrible scene"

In one recent Canton case, Byrum helped counsel an officer who had seen someone commit suicide by shotgun

"I got with him and he just started talking right away," he said

In instances where a large number of officers are involved in the same case, group debriefings - rather than one-on-one counseling

- usually work best, according to Byrum, who works as a psychotherapist at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Ann Arbor

"For me, it would involve going over the situation, walking the officers through what happened and getting them to talk," Byrum said

hneedham@oe.homecomm.net | (734) 459 2700

**TEACHER**

FROM PAGE A1

roses courtesy of Wesley Berry Florists and the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

Nominations can come from students, parents, school administrators or community residents who have contact or knowledge of a teacher's classroom activities To nominate a

teacher, please send the teacher's name, school address and the school's telephone number along with a statement of no more than 200 words telling us why this teacher deserves to be our Outstanding Teacher of the Month

A panel of editors will make each selection The winning teachers will be featured in all editions in the last week of each month

Please help us in honoring the many dedicated teachers who do outstanding work

**TOP COP**

FROM PAGE A1

women who protect our families every day

"Tad Sturdivant has dedicated 25 years to the state police, and I look forward to working with him as he continues his career as a proven leader"

Sturdivant has the criminal justice degree from Wayne State He is a graduate of Leadership Detroit and also a graduate of the Northwestern University Police Staff and Command school

He started his MSP career as a trooper in Ypsilanti and

advanced through the ranks Hes a former 2nd District command in Northville and in April advanced to his current job with the Uniform Services Bureau, the MSP's largest bureau covering troopers, the motor carrier division and special operations

The new gig comes with a promotion to colonel and is effective in February Sturdivant, who lives in Plymouth with his wife and two daughters, wouldn't speculate on possible changes or goals

"We haven't gotten to that point yet," he said of his talks with the new governor "The position doesn't take effect until

February, so it wouldn't be appropriate to talk about that yet

Granholtm noted that among his many responsibilities, Sturdivant will play a critical role in advising her on the safe community initiatives outlined in her "Securing Michigan's Future" plan

"Lt. Col Sturdivant's historic appointment reflects our commitment to protecting and securing Michigan's future," Granholtm said, "and to building a government that is both excellent and inclusive"

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 LORD OF THE RINGS THE TWO TOWERS (PG 3) 1:25 2:55 6:25 9:55  
 TWO WEEKS NOTICE (PG 13) 11:55 2:10 4:30 7:00 9:15  
 FRI SAT LS 1:30  
 THE WILD THORNBERRYS (PG) 11:00 1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00  
 FRI SAT LS 12:05  
 MAID IN MANHATTAN (PG 13) 12:00 2:30 4:45 7:20 9:35  
 FRI/SAT LS 11:50  
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**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**  
**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH**  
**PLANNING COMMISSION**

**PROPOSED ACTION:** Requested approval of a Use Subject to Special Conditions

**DATE OF HEARING:** Wednesday, January 15, 2003

**TIME OF HEARING:** 7:00 PM

**PLACE OF HEARING:** Plymouth Township Hall 42350 Ann Arbor Road

**NOTICE IS HEARBY GIVEN** that the Planning Commission of Plymouth Charter Township has received an application requesting the approval of a "Use Subject to Special Conditions" on parcel R-78 053 99 0009 000

**NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN** that the request for a Use Subject to Special Conditions is pursuant to the Zoning Ordinance No. 83, Section 6.2. The Applicant, Risen Christ Lutheran Church is requesting to add Parcel 053-99-0009 000 to an existing church on a Parcel identified as Tax ID No. R 78-053 99 0011-701. The parcel is located on the north side of Ann Arbor Road east of McClumpha Road and west of Tennyson Drive (Application No. 1759/1102). The application may be examined in the Community Development Department located in the Plymouth Township Division of Public Services Building, at 46555 Fort Street, Plymouth, MI, during regular business hours from 8:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. Written comments will be received prior to the meeting and may be mailed to 46555 Fort Street, Plymouth, MI 48170, or call 734 453 8131 ext. 37. The meeting will be held in the Meeting Room at Township Hall which is located at 42350 Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth, MI 48170

**JOE BRIDGMAN** Secretary  
 Planning Commission

**PLEASE TAKE NOTE** The Charter Township of Plymouth will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services such as signers for the hearing impaired audio tapes and printed materials being considered at all Township meetings to individuals with disabilities at the meetings/hearings upon one week notice to the Charter Township of Plymouth by writing or calling the Supervisor's Office

Publish January 2 2003  
 LOE08067283

**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:

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 (734) 394 5260

Publish December 26 2002 and January 2 2003  
 OE08057376

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON**  
**ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS AGENDA**  
**JANUARY 09, 2003**

Notice is hereby given that there will be a meeting of the Zoning Board of Appeals **THURSDAY, JANUARY 09, 2003 AT 7:30 P.M.** The meeting will be held in the Chestnut room at the Summit located at 46000 SUMMIT PARKWAY. The following Agenda will be discussed:

Pledge of Allegiance to the flag  
 Roll Call Randy Blaylock, Jim Cisek, Cathy Johnson, Phyllis Redfern and Steven Johnson

Acceptance of Agenda

1. Dan Havener of Bob Evans Restaurant 3776 S High St Columbus Oh 43207 is representing Bob Evans Restaurant at 46080 Michigan Avenue Canton MI 48188. They are requesting a variance to the Sign Ordinance # 29 002 Section 2 8 Wall Sign for attachment to the outside of the building. Parcel 129 99-0001 704A (Building)
2. Lilley Industrial Center, LLC of Lilley Industrial 43000 W Nine Mile Road Suite 100 Novi MI 48375 is representing Lilley Industrial at 7910 & 7950 Lilley Road Canton MI 48187. They are requesting a variance to the Sign Ordinance # 29 008 Section 8 1A Ground Sign for the outside of the buildings. Parcel 008 99 0001 708 (Building)
3. John Morrison of Intercity Neon PO Box 3762 Centerline MI 48015 is representing Charter One Bank at 285 Canton Center Road Canton MI 48187. They are requesting a variance to the Sign Ordinance # 29 002 Section 2 8 Wall Sign above roof line of the building. Parcel 064-99 0013 702 (Building)

(Approval of December 12th 2002 Minutes)  
 Publish January 2 2003  
 OE0805828

**STORAGE USA**  
**LEGAL NOTICE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on (JANUARY 13 2003), Tate & Co Auctioneers Executive Administrator for Storage USA will be offering for sale under the judicial lien process by public auction the following storage units. The goods to be sold are generally described as household goods. The terms of the sale will be cash only. Storage USA reserves the right to refuse any and all bids. The sale will be at the following location: Storage USA 6729 CANTON CENTER ROAD CANTON MI 48187 AT 12:30 P.M.

F 250 Christopher L Crawford Household  
 J 350 Storage USA Misc Items

Publish December 26 2002 and January 2 2003  
 LOE08067838

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON**  
**REQUEST FOR BID**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Charter Township of Canton 1150 Canton Center S Canton Michigan will accept sealed bids at the Office of the Clerk up to 3:00 p.m. Thursday January 16th 2003 for the following:

**GAS/DIESEL FUEL FOR ON SITE USAGE AT PARKS & PHEASANT RUN GOLF COURSE**

Bid forms may be picked up at the Finance and Budget Department counter or you may contact Mike Sheppard at (734) 394 5225. All bids must be submitted in a sealed envelope clearly marked with the proposal name company name address and telephone number and date and time of bid opening. The Township reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals. The Township does not discriminate on the basis of race color national origin sex religion age or disability in employment or the provision of services.

TFRRY J G BENNETT Clerk  
 Publish January 2 2003  
 LOE08068907

**ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS**  
**CITY OF PLYMOUTH**

Notice is hereby given that the City of Plymouth will accept sealed bids until 2:00 p.m. EDT on Monday January 20 2003 at 201 South Main Street at which time all proposals received shall be publicly opened and read aloud for:

**KELLOGG PARK SOUND SYSTEM**

Specifications, bid documents and proposal forms may be obtained from office of the Purchasing Agent during regular office hours. The City Commission reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids in whole or in part and to waive any irregularities.

**LINDA J LANGMESSER CMC/AEE**  
 Plymouth City Clerk  
 201 South Main Street  
 Plymouth MI 48170

In a sealed envelope bearing the inscription Kellogg Park Sound System For opening Monday January 20 2003. If you have any questions please contact Scott Baker Assistant Director Municipal Services Department CITY OF PLYMOUTH (734) 453 7737

Publish January 2 2003  
 OE08068157

Save During January  
**DISNEY MONTH...**  
**only at AAA Travel!**

If you've been thinking about a Disney vacation now's the time to book and AAA Travel is the place! Whether it's Walt Disney World Disney Cruise Line or Disneyland there's more magic than ever. And throughout January, more savings and benefits. For example:

- Walt Disney World packages fr \$325 per person with resort accommodations Ultimate Park Hopper ticket gift certificate and more
- Disney Cruise Line onboard credit of \$100
- Disneyland package savings up to \$75

AAA Travel sells more Disney packages than any other Michigan travel agency and your friendly professional AAA Travel agent will help you choose the Disney vacation that's just right for you. Call today and take off for magic at magical savings.

**AAA Travel/Canton**  
 2017 N. Canton Center Rd  
 734 844 0146  
**Weekdays**  
 8:30 am - 5:30 pm  
**Thursdays until 7:00 pm**

Check for more Disney savings and benefits at www.aaa.com!

AAA Travel  
 Travel With Someone You Trust.

## Hot tickets

### Oil paintings

Bev Walker's recent oil paintings depicting her view of thick forests and lonely windbeaten pines at the ocean's edge of Maine are on exhibit through Jan 29 at



Washington Street Gallery  
215 E. Washington Ann Arbor  
Opening reception and meet  
the artist will be from 7-9  
p.m. Friday Jan 10 at the  
gallery (734) 761 2287

### Count those birds

The nature center at  
Kensington Metropark near  
Milford holds its 27th annual  
New Year's Bird Count at 8  
a.m. Saturday Jan 4. Dress  
warmly wear boots bring  
binoculars and spend the  
morning helping to census  
the bird population at  
Kensington. Pre registration is  
required. Call (800) 477 3178

### Epiphany concert

The Troy Community  
Chorus and the St. Elizabeth  
Ann Seton Adult Choir under  
the direction of M.M. Gass  
and E. Talbot Lord Jr. will  
sing together in celebration  
of Epiphany at 4 p.m. Sunday  
Jan 5 in St. Elizabeth Ann  
Seton Parish 280 E. Square  
Lake Road just east of  
Livernois. Troy Admission is  
free although a free will  
donation will be accepted  
(248) 879 1310

### Season of light

The planetarium show at  
the University of Michigan's  
Exhibit Museum of Natural  
History looks at ancient and  
more recent winter solstice  
celebrations including  
Christmas and Hanukkah at  
2:30 p.m. Thursday Friday  
Jan 2-3 12:30 p.m. and 2:30  
p.m. Saturday Jan 4 and  
2:30 p.m. Sunday Jan 5. The  
show includes striking visu-  
als accompanied by a sound  
track. Admission to the  
museum at 1109 Geddes Ann  
Arbor is free (734) 764 0478

### Play time

Kids bored? Let them  
expend a little energy at  
recently opened Fun Festival  
play area in Summit Place  
mall 315 N. Telegraph  
Pontiac. The Fun Festival fea-  
tures a three story play area  
with more than 47 interac-  
tive games and activities.  
The play area is located in  
the Marshall Field's wing of  
the mall (248) 628 0123

### In concert

Guitarist Jimmy Thackery  
plays at 8 p.m. Saturday Jan  
4 at The Magic Bag 22920  
Woodward just north of Nine  
Mile. Ferndale tickets are  
\$20 and available at The  
Magic Bag box office or  
through Ticketmaster. On his  
new CD *We Got It* Thackery  
recalls the rhythm and blues  
style of Muscle Shoals veter-  
an Eddie Hinton (248) 544  
3030

# Very Special Art

Exhibit  
spotlights  
abilities  
of all levels

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN  
STAFF WRITER

Oh, my That's lovely, said Farmington Hills Mayor Nancy Bates as she took a moment to view an exhibit of art by children and adults with disabilities in city hall. The sensitivity found in Kimberly Lashuay's pastel drawing of a fawn stopped many of the city employees and visitors there on business in their tracks.

Nancy Coumoundouros had the same reaction when she saw the exhibit in the past at the Michigan Council for Arts & Cultural Affairs in Lansing. The cultural arts coordinator for Farmington Hills and Farmington is a strong believer in the ability of the arts to enrich the lives of all people so she wanted to share the exhibit presented by VSA arts of Michigan (formerly Very Special Arts) and the Michigan Department of Education's Office of Special Education and Early Intervention Services with the community.

Founded in 1974 by Jean Kennedy Smith as an affiliate of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C., VSA coordinates arts programs for children and adults with physical and mental disabilities throughout the world. In Michigan, the nonprofit provides therapeutic classes in everything from clay and painting to singing, dancing, drama, and chime playing. Annual festivals like one held annually at the Livonia Mall the first weekend in May showcase the talents of participants. Ongoing artsJAM workshops with professional artists help teens and adults express their creativity at the state offices in Detroit's University Cultural Center.

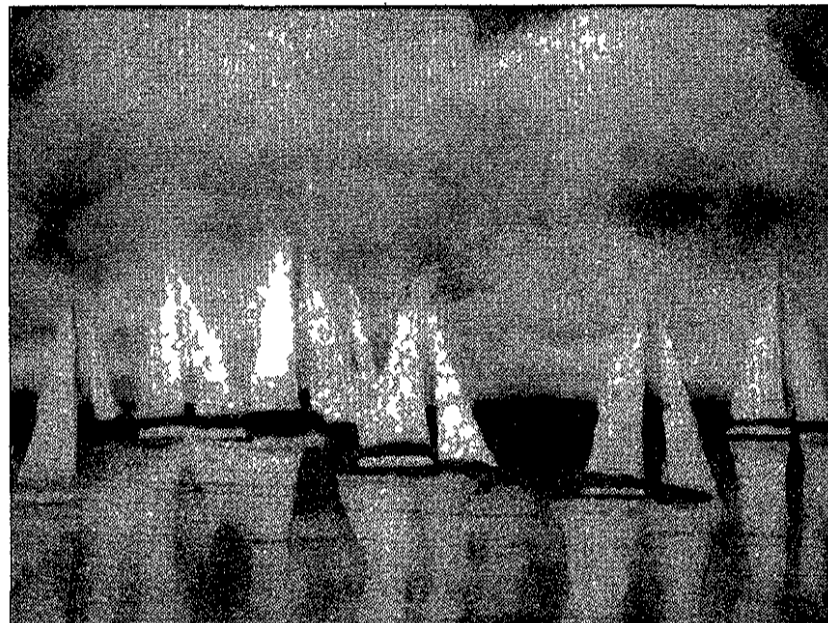
Throughout the year, the works in ArtSplash toured schools, libraries, arts and community centers, malls, and arts, education and disability conferences and festivals. And the talent came from all over the state - Southfield, Troy, Birmingham, Owosso, Traverse City, Rochester Hills, Pontiac and Farmington Hills. Lashuay is from Midland.



Ginny Lundquist (foreground) installs one of the works in ArtSplash! 2002 as Leigh Sneed admires another she's just hung down the corridor in Farmington Hills City Hall. The exhibit spotlights the talents of children and adults with disabilities.



Dana Ciaramitaro painted this acrylic titled *The Dancer*. She is a student at the Kennedy Center in Pontiac.



Doug Meyer, an adult from Traverse City, used watercolor to create the tranquil scene in *Sailing Reflections*.

It's such a wonderful opportunity to show what the arts can do for people with special needs, said Coumoundouros. Sometimes people can't express themselves so well with words. Visual arts give them a whole new venue of expression.

### SELECTING THE ART

Wading through all that creativity wasn't so easy for Coumoundouros and her staff. There was only room for about 45 of the 69 pieces in the exhibit. Myosha Ivory's colorful abstract *Juggling* was one of the first chosen by Coumoundouros, cultural arts program assistant Leigh Sneed, and staff member Ginny Lundquist. A student at the Kennedy Center in Pontiac, Ivory used oil pastels in red, orange, yellow and blue to create a swirl of geometric shapes.

"I think the show's great," said Sneed. "There's a variety of different media, different ages and it's nice that they're being represented together."

Lundquist's favorite captured the tranquility of sailing on a summer day.

A member of the Farmington Community Chorus, and PRIME, a vocal jazz group, Lundquist already has an appreciation for the vocal arts. "The exhibit's really fantastic," said Lundquist of Orchard Lake. "There are really beautiful pieces of artwork. I'm impressed. The sailboats look like they're dancing on the water."

Katie Serewicz was pleased to hear that another of Lundquist's favorites was by Michael Howard, a student of hers at the Kennedy Center in Pontiac. As artist-in-residence at the center, Serewicz has entered her students in the competition for the touring exhibit the last five years.

In addition to working with children and adults (ages 14-26) at the Kennedy Center, Serewicz co-founded The Art Experience in Pontiac as a meeting ground for all people to just explore their talents whether they have disabili-

PLEASE SEE ARTSPASHI, B2

### ARTSPASHI! 2002

**What:** An exhibit of drawings, paintings, clay, bronze, mixed media, and photography by children and adults with disabilities.

**When:** Through Friday, Jan 31

**Where:** Farmington Hills City Hall on 11 Mile at Orchard Lake Road, and Farmington City Hall on Liberty at Grand River

For more information, call Farmington Hills' Cultural Arts Division at (248) 473-1856

## Zoo staff celebrates new arrival



Artistic Expressions

Linda Chomin

Step by step, the little polar bear slowly inches across the tundra of her new home at the Detroit Zoo. Exploring the 4.2 acres of the Arctic Ring of Life is going to take some time, but Barle has the rest of her life, now that she's been rescued from the scorching heat and cruel conditions at the Suarez Brothers Circus in Puerto Rico.

This is a day zoo director Ron Kagan and Scott Carter, acting director of conservation and animal welfare, thought would never come. They'd experienced more than 18 months of setbacks and court decisions that had gone against the six bears struggling to survive in cramped, steel-barred cages.

The Detroit Zoo was the first to offer sanctuary to the bears when PETA (People for the

### DETROIT ZOOLOGICAL PARK

**When:** 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily. Wild Winter activities continue week-ends through end of February.

**Where:** 8450 W. 10 Mile Road at Woodward and I-696, Royal Oak

**Tickets:** \$8. \$6 seniors age 62 and up and children ages 2-12. Under age 2 free. \$4 for parking. Call (248) 398-0900 or visit the Web site at [www.detroitzoo.org](http://www.detroitzoo.org)

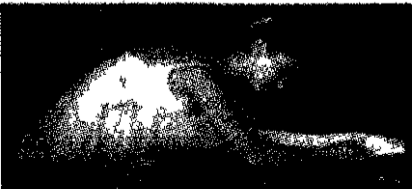
PLEASE SEE ZOO, B2



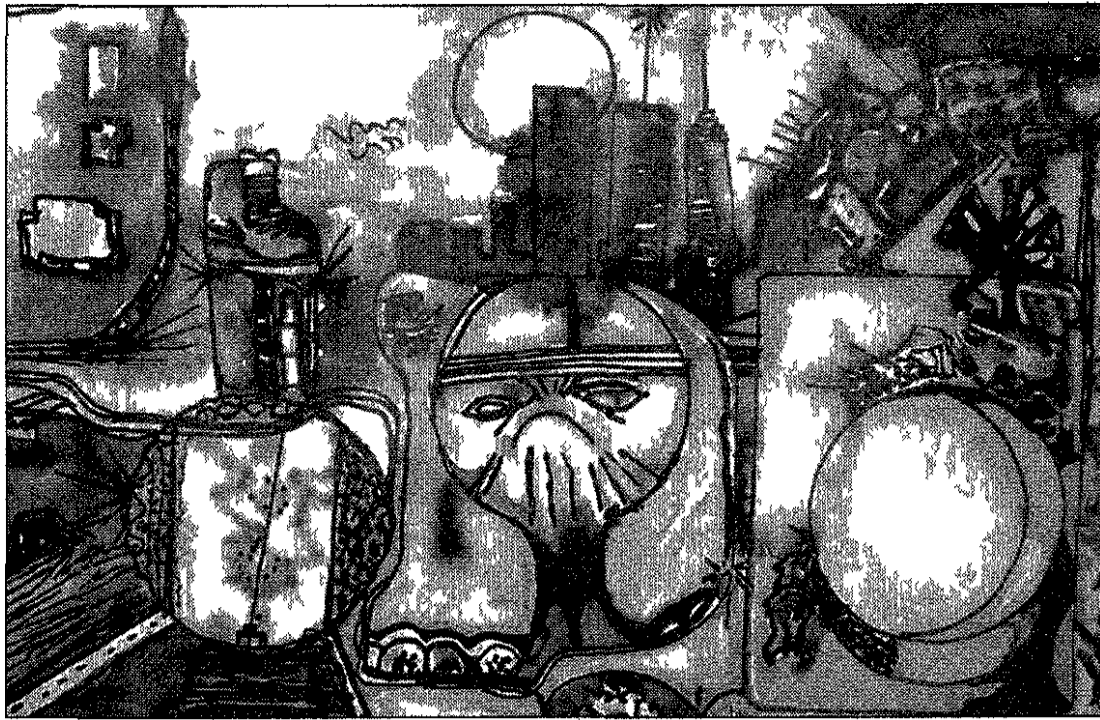
COURTESY OF THE DETROIT ZOO

Barle checks out her new home in the Arctic Ring of Life at the Detroit Zoo. Until Nov. 5, the little bear lived most of her 16 years under cruel conditions as one of six performing polar bears in a traveling circus. Many of the rescued bears had developed sores from lying on the concrete and steel bottoms of cramped cages.

## Ballet Shoes or Wing Tips?



Makes no difference as long as you take time to put your feet up, get comfortable and spend some time with us.



Kennedy Center student Sam Taylor created 'City Stories' with marker pens

ARTSPLASH!

FROM PAGE B1

ities or just want to create Open studios and classes allow everyone to explore their talent

FESTIVAL EXPERIENCE

"The emerging artist's exhibit is a wonderful opportunity," said Serewicz. "For students to enter into a statewide art show is unique. That kind of exposure opens other doors as well like the chance to participate in the Michigan Youth Arts Festival in May at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo. For the last four years I've taken six students, including two in wheelchairs to the festival that includes workshops on paper making. "For many involved with VSA, this is the only college experience they'll ever have. They're grabbing their lenses and hanging out. They get to eat in the cafeteria. Kids get excited about that. There's a gala with opening activities and performances and they get to attend a college dance and dance with other kids. VSA gives them the opportunity to be eligible to go to that." Providing children and disabilities with the same oppor-

'It's a good cause, but sometimes we feel like we're spinning our wheels because we still don't have the recognition.

People still don't know who we are and what we do.'

Robert W Curtis volunteer VSA Arts of Michigan

tunities as everyone else is the reason Robert W Curtis volunteers so much of his time to VSA arts of Michigan. He began jurying the show seven years ago after teaching art in Wayne-Westland Community Schools for 35 years. He's served on the state board of directors six years. "It's a good cause, but sometimes we feel like we're spinning our wheels because we still don't have the recognition. People still don't know who we are and what we do," said Curtis. "I didn't know that much about VSA arts when I was teaching. "The exhibit is a chance for this segment of society to get what they've done out to the public. Just because they have a disability doesn't mean they're not productive. It gives them a feeling of worth, the fact someone else recognizes what they can do."

Harmon who juried the show the last two years and returns

Jan 22 to sort through this year's entries. The deadline is Friday, Jan 10. For more information, call the VSA arts of Michigan office at (313) 832-3303.

Harmon used to serve on the state board but even before then he knew about VSA arts from entering his students' work in the competition. The Northville resident taught art at Harrison High School in Farmington Hills from 1971 to 1999.

"Being in the show helps build self-esteem," said Harmon. "Anytime you can enter and get some recognition. We try to make them feel they're not different."

"As a juror, I'm looking at things on different levels - intellectual to emotional. I look at the composition, the meaning it conveys. Sometimes a piece just says something to a juror that touches on a past experience."

lchomin@oehomecomm.net | (734) 953 2145

OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC GUIDE TO THE MOVIES

National Amusements Showcase Cinema 1-8... 315-581-3449... 12:05, 2:30, 4:55, 7:10, 9:35

NP PNOCCIO (G) 11:25, 1:50, 4:40, 7:15, 9:50... NP TWO WEEKS NOTICE (PG-13) 11:25, 1:50, 4:40, 7:15, 9:50

United Artists Theatre 2330 Smoky Hill... 248-990-5001... NP PNOCCIO (G) 11:25, 1:50, 4:40, 7:15, 9:50

MIR Waterford Cinema 16 215 N. Waterford... 248-646-7900... NP PNOCCIO (G) 11:25, 1:50, 4:40, 7:15, 9:50

Madison-Am Arbor 402 Starwood Circle... 734-984-1000... LORD OF THE RINGS: THE TWO TOWERS (PG-13) 12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00

Showcase Pontiac 2405 Wagon Rd... 248-354-6777... NP PNOCCIO (G) 11:25, 1:50, 4:40, 7:15, 9:50

NP CATCH ME IF YOU CAN (PG-13) 12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00... NP LORD OF THE RINGS: THE TWO TOWERS (PG-13) 12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00

Birmingham 8 Downtown Birmingham 8... 248-444-6611... NP PNOCCIO (G) 11:25, 1:50, 4:40, 7:15, 9:50

MIR Theatres 215 N. Waterford... 248-646-7900... NP PNOCCIO (G) 11:25, 1:50, 4:40, 7:15, 9:50

Main Art Theatre III 18 Main St... 248-242-0100... NP PNOCCIO (G) 11:25, 1:50, 4:40, 7:15, 9:50

Showcase Westland 1-8 5800 W. 15th... 313-779-1100... NP PNOCCIO (G) 11:25, 1:50, 4:40, 7:15, 9:50

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Birmingham Palladium 12 250 North Old Woodward Ave... 248-644-6611... NP PNOCCIO (G) 11:25, 1:50, 4:40, 7:15, 9:50

Maple Art Theatre III 433 W. Maple... 248-242-0100... NP PNOCCIO (G) 11:25, 1:50, 4:40, 7:15, 9:50

On Guard (U) SUN 5:20, 7:50, 10:00... NP PNOCCIO (G) 11:25, 1:50, 4:40, 7:15, 9:50

Star Theatres 2405 Wagon Rd... 248-354-6777... NP PNOCCIO (G) 11:25, 1:50, 4:40, 7:15, 9:50

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Star Lakeshore 3220 Lakeshore Center... 248-454-6558... NP PNOCCIO (G) 11:25, 1:50, 4:40, 7:15, 9:50

NP CATCH ME IF YOU CAN (PG-13) 12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00... NP LORD OF THE RINGS: THE TWO TOWERS (PG-13) 12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00

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Star 14 Mile 32200 Star 14 Mile Road... 248-585-2070... NP PNOCCIO (G) 11:25, 1:50, 4:40, 7:15, 9:50

NP CATCH ME IF YOU CAN (PG-13) 12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00... NP LORD OF THE RINGS: THE TWO TOWERS (PG-13) 12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00

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ZOO

FROM PAGE B1

Ethical Treatment of Animals learned about them. That came as no surprise to any of us who regularly cover and visit the park. During the Sunset at the Zoo benefit in June, Carter looked particularly gloomy after the bears lost a round in court. Finally on Nov 5 the US government confiscated the six polar bears after investigations revealed violations of the Marine Mammal Protection Act.

So this was a day for celebration. Of course, every time an animal is given a chance to escape an unnatural existence, it calls for applause. In the last three years, the Detroit Zoo's rescued more than 30 tigers, bears, cougars, monkeys and lions, including two from drug houses in Detroit. Next time you're there, read about the Hamm's bear. Signs tell of some animals' plight before they reached the sanctuary in Royal Oak.

HOW SHE FARED

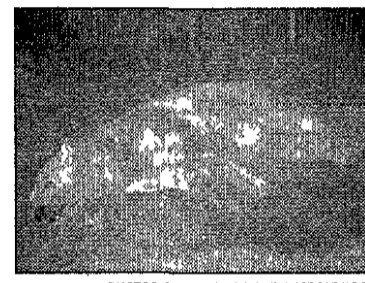
"She's very stiff. It's not surprising," said Kagan an hour after Barle was released into her new home on Friday, Dec 20. "If you'd lived all your life in a cage, you'd be stiff, too."

It didn't take much to get Kagan talking about the frail bear with skin and fur hanging from her bones. He'd been to Washington, D.C., and back to help influence legislation banning polar bears in U.S. circuses so that, in the future, those animals wouldn't suffer from sores developed while lying on the concrete and steel bottoms of cages.

Barle's fur seemed unnaturally white. The seven other bears in the Arctic Ring of Life usually look yellowish to downright dirty. That's from rolling in the dirt, jumping into one of three pools, and then back out again and into the dirt. It's what makes a bear's life fun. Bears live into their 40s in captivity, so Barle has plenty of years left to enjoy this particular activity. "She weighs 350 pounds. Female polar bears usually weigh between 400 to 500 pounds, so she's a little on the small size. She's going to put on some muscle."

"We're just thrilled the U.S. government did the right thing through the Department of Fish and Wildlife Game. Sometimes these rescues take years. We estimate she was with the circus 12-13 years. She was taken out of the wild when very young and sent to a trainer. She was trained to be a clown. That's not a great destiny to live a life of ridicule."

No, it's not for anyone especially bears, who have no say in the matter. Seven polar bears were rescued from the circus, one in March 2002. Alaska is now doing well at the Baltimore zoo. Sadly, one of the remaining six died shortly after being rescued on Nov 5. The rest went to good homes in zoos in Tacoma, Wash., and Charlotte, N.C., thanks to the efforts of PETA, the Humane

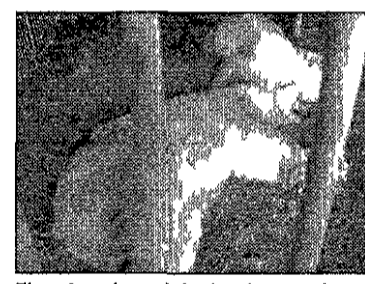


PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE DETROIT ZOO

Bears don't pant but the heat of Puerto Rico left them with no other way to cool themselves



The cramped conditions are difficult for the bears



There's not much to do when you're hot and miserable but lay around and wait for time to pass

WILD WINTER

Society of the United States, the U.S. Congress, and the Detroit Zoo

IN A NEW HOME

Barle was kept in quarantine for a month at the Detroit Zoo before release into the tundra portion of the Arctic Ring of Life. She'll be kept separate from the other bears for the next couple of weeks until she learns all the nooks and crannies of her new home. One of the first crevices she conquered was a cave near the entrance of the Arctic Ring of Life. She inspected the interior then went outside and climbed to the top where she proceeded to sniff the air, first in one direction then another.

"She's smelling to learn her environment," Carter said. "Bears love to smell. She's very placid, very mellow. She's going to take her time. From the very beginning when she first arrived on a FedEx flight (Nov 19), she surprised us with her mellowness. Then, on the ride coming from the airport, she was alert and interested. We didn't know what to expect. Now she's doing what bears do. She's climbed up to the highest point to be bombarded by smell."

"Animals in a circus spend the majority of their time in a cage. It's going to take a while to develop muscle. Eventually we'll introduce her to the other bears one by one, first to Sissy. They're a lot alike. She's also small."

Carter seemed quite pleased with the addition of the eighth polar bear. "Eight was our goal when we designed the Arctic Ring of Life (which opened in October 2001). We're now entirely up

and running. The ice machine is making 300-pound blocks filled with carrots and other treats for the bears to play with."

It's no wonder she's been smiling all morning long, bear keeper Else Poulsen said.

"She's not being particularly active. She needs to learn the environment," Poulsen said. "She's learning how to step on different terrain. She's not used to rocks and pebbles. When she goes into the water is up to her. Their mothers teach them to swim. We don't know what level she's at because she was taken away from her mother so young. She can work into it slowly."

And visitors can watch her take those first steps and swim. Winter is a wonderful time to go to the zoo. North American animals become more active as temperatures drop. A few of my co-workers, my sister Gwen and I spent several hours there last February. Just dress in layers and don't forget the hat, scarf, boots and gloves. As my mom used to say, this is no time to be beautiful. You're here to have fun. Walk through the Polar Passage, a 70-foot acrylic tunnel, and marvel at the bears as they swim within nose length. On Dec 20, the seals were playing and poking each other with their noses.

"Most people don't know the zoo is open in winter," said Rana Kozouf, zoo publicity person. "It's an opportunity to see animal behaviors that are different. Arctic fox change colors from grayish-brown to white. Arctic animals are more active like polar bears, Arctic fox and Siberian tigers and they do interesting things. "Wolverines have been known to make snow angels. There are snow monkeys in the hot tubs which are kept at 103 degrees in winter. They jump in and out and look so cute. It's like the hot springs in their native Japan. The red pandas' coats are beautiful. "Elephants, zebras, giraffes like to stay indoor where it's an up-close look. You're just 10 feet away. There are 14 indoor buildings so if they get cold they can warm up inside. "We tell people bundle up. There's hot chocolate for purchase or duck indoors to see the reptiles, river otter, amphibian, Wildlife Interpretive Gallery, Penguinium, Butterfly Garden and exotic birds where it's 80 degrees with lush tropical gardens. And every weekend we have Wild Winter activities like arts and crafts or ice carving. On Saturday, Jan 4 (10 a.m. to 2 p.m.), we'll have students from Henry Ford Community College carving sculptures at the front of the zoo."

For more on Wild Winter, visit the Web site at www.detroitzoo.org or call (248) 541-5717.

See you at the zoo

Have an interesting idea for a story? Call Observer & Eccentric arts reporter Linda Ann Chomin at (734) 953 2145 or send e-mail to lchomin@oehomecomm.net

Have an interesting idea for a story? Call Observer & Eccentric arts reporter Linda Ann Chomin at (734) 953 2145 or send e-mail to lchomin@oehomecomm.net



Historic church tour kicks off

The Detroit Historical Society, which has led visits to historic churches since 1972, kicks off its annual Historic Houses of Worship tours on Monday, Jan 6, with stops at St. Mary's Roman Catholic, the Cathedral Church of St. Paul Episcopal, First Congregational Church and St. Aloysius Roman Catholic.

importance of maintaining and preserving these buildings as visible history. Tours are co-sponsored by the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America in the State of Michigan and the Detroit Historical Society.

Ferndale sings the blues this weekend

The holidays are over, the tree goes to the curb and the bills start pouring in. What better time to hold a blues festival? The city of ferndale will hold its second annual blues festival Friday-Sunday, Jan 3-5, in a dozen venues throughout the community, including churches, bars, nightclubs and restaurants.

event The Acoustic Ave Coffeehouse, based next door at the United Methodist Church, will hold a Saturday evening concert that is both alcohol and smoke free. Blue piggy banks are located at more than two dozen shops, bars and other locations across Ferndale now, collecting money from patrons to support the festival and Ferndale Youth Assistance.

- Friday, Jan 3 Luther Badman Keith 9 30 p m , Rosie O Grady's Albert Young & the Straight Eights, Tony's Sports Bar, Andre Frappier Quartet, 9 p m , Dmo's Back Door Blues Band 8 p m , Comos Live Blues, \$5 cover charge, 9 30 p m , New Way Bar Blues food and music, Howe's Bayou Even Exchange, 10 p m , Club Bart

- Live blues music, 8 p m , Acoustic Ave Coffee House at Ferndale First United Methodist Church Admission \$8 youth and senior citizens, \$10 adults Bobby Murray, guitarist for Etta James, Woodward Ave Brewers Jody Raffoul Live Blues, 7-9 p m , The Post Bar Albert Young & the Straight Eights, Tony's Sports Bar Blues food and recorded blues, Howe's Bayou Live blues, \$5 cover charge, 9 30 p m , New Way Bar Sunday, Jan 5 Tampa Ted & the Blue Knights, 8 30 p m , Rosie O Grady's D J Reggie Harold, Dino's Blues Brunch, Comos Blues food and recorded blues music, Howe's Bayou Live Blues, 8 p m , Danny's Irish Pub

Musical movie tribute features Polish acrobats

Known for redefining film music and creating legions of new film music fans, John Williams is considered by many to be the most popular film composer of the modern era.

\$80, call (313) 576-5111 or visit www.detroitssymphony.com Performing with the DSO for the first time is Duo Design, a strength and hand-balancing act from Warsaw, Poland.

Star Wars to the magical soundtracks for both Harry Potter films He wrote the scores for Steven Spielberg's Jaws, Close Encounters of the Third Kind, Raiders of the Lost Ark, Schindler's List and Saving Private Ryan.

Williams was the conductor of the Boston Pops from 1980 to 1993 and still conducts concerts with various orchestras around the world. Kunzel has conducted Williams' work with symphony orchestras throughout the United States.

DSO concert takes kids on a musical journey

With the holidays behind them and the long winter ahead, children might be in the mood for a little change of scenery and the Detroit Symphony Orchestra has just the thing.

From the Musical Storybook. It's designed to demonstrate In "Once Upon a Place," the third in a series of six concerts, the focus is on how music can bring a place vividly to life.

third in a series of six concerts, the focus is on how music can bring a place vividly to life. Among the lands that will be visited on this musical journey are 19th century Russia as captured by Tchaikovsky in the Polonaise from his opera Eugene Onegin.

Wilkins is resident conductor of the DSO and led this year's New Year's Eve Gala concert. Last summer he conducted the orchestra's "Salute to America Concerts" at Greenfield Village and several Meadow Brook Music Festival concerts.

Advertisement for 'The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers' featuring 2 Golden Globe nominations (Best Picture, Best Director). Includes showtimes and theater listings for AMC Forum 30, AMC LaBrel Park, etc.

Advertisement for 'About Schmidt' featuring 5 Golden Globe nominations. Cast includes Jack Nicholson, Kathy Bates, Hope Davis, Dermot Mulroney. Includes showtimes and theater listings for AMC Forum 30, etc.

The Lion King Returns advertisement featuring the IMAX Theatre at the Henry Ford Museum. Includes showtimes and ticket information.

'Star Trek Nemesis' advertisement featuring the IMAX Theatre at the Henry Ford Museum. Includes showtimes and ticket information.

'Wild Thornberys' advertisement featuring the Golden Globe nomination for Best Original Song by Paul Simon. Includes showtimes and theater listings for AMC Forum 30, etc.



**SCHEDULED TO OPEN  
FRIDAY, JAN. 3**

**THE PIANIST**  
Wladyslaw Szpilman, a brilliant Polish Pianist and a Jew, escapes deportation. Forced to live in the heart of the Warsaw ghetto, he shares the suffering, the humiliation and the struggles. He manages to escape and hides in the ruins of the capital. A German officer comes to his aid and helps him to survive. Featured players include Adrien (Harrison's Flowers) Brody as Wladyslaw and Thomas (Blade 2) Kretschmann as the German officer. Roman (Tess) Polanski directed the drama, marking his first since completing *The Ninth Gate* in 1999. (Focus Features) Not yet rated.

**SCHEDULED TO OPEN  
FRIDAY, JAN. 10**

**INTACTO**  
There are those among us who are preternaturally lucky. They are the survivors of the plane crash that kills everyone else, the ones who escape being victims of war and terror, the gamblers who win high-stake games and even life itself. Their gift is not only being lucky, however; it includes the power to rob others of their luck and leave them helpless in the face of misfortune. Frederico has been robbed of his luck and believes that Tomas, the survivor of a plane crash, will be the instrument of his vengeance. The two men embark on a voyage of initiation, a series of trials challenging others that will lead them to the summit of chance, but they must avoid the scrutiny of policewoman Sara, herself a survivor, to finally meet Sam, the master of the domain from which only one person will emerge intact. Stars Leonardo Sbaraglia, Eusebio Poncela, Monica Lopez, Antonio Dechent, Max Von Sydow. Directed by Juan Carlos Fresnadillo. (Lions Gate) Rated R. Running time: 108 minutes.

**JUST MARRIED**  
Tom's a traffic reporter with blue collar roots. Sarah's a writer whose family is as wealthy as it is snobbish. Much to her clan's and ex-boyfriend's horror, Sarah and Tom fall in love and marry. Following their wedding, they set off on what they expect to be the perfect vacation, but thanks to her ex- and relentless bad luck, the happy couple experiences the honeymoon from hell. Directed by Shawn Levy. Starring Ashton Kutcher, Brittany Murphy, Christian Kane (20th Century Fox) This film is not yet rated.

**25TH HOUR**  
Montgomery "Monty" Brogan, a young ex-heroin dealer about to serve a seven year stint in prison, is forced to re-examine his life during his last day of freedom. He spends time with his old buddies reminiscing and partying, while trying to figure out who turned him in to the Feds. Featured in the cast are Edward (*The Score*) Norton as Monty, Philip Seymour (*Almost Famous*) Hoffman as Monty's friend, and Rosario (*Men in Black 2*) Dawson as Naturelle, Monty's live-in girlfriend. Spike Lee directed the drama, marking his first since completing *Bamboozled* in 2000. (Touchstone Pictures) Rated R.

**NICHOLAS NICKLEBY**  
Based on the novel by Charles Dickens, the story centers on a boy's struggle to survive and find happiness in a hostile and unfeeling world by building a new and unconventional family. He is helped and hindered on his way by a host of superbly evoked and well known characters: From his ruthless



Adrien Brody stars in Roman Polanski's *The Pianist*, opening in theaters on Friday, Jan. 4.

uncle to the hilarious and theatrical Crummies family and the cruel-hearted Wackford Squeers. Featured among the ensemble are Jamie (*Billy Elliot*) Bell, Jim Broadbent, Tom (*Last Orders Party*) Cumming, Charlie (*Abandon*) Hunnam and Anne (*The Princess Diaries*) Hathaway. (MGM/UA) Not yet rated.

**MARC**  
A story of suspended undercover narcotics officer, Nick Tellis, who is reluctantly drawn back onto the force to find the truth behind the murder of a young police officer killed in the line of duty. He is teamed with Henry Oak, the slain officer's partner, a rogue cop who will stop at nothing to avenge his friends death. As Tellis and Oak unravel the case, the dark underbelly of the narcotics world reveals itself in surprising ways that are more twisted than either officer has seen before. Stars Jason Patric, Ray Liotta, Busta Rhymes, Chi McBride. Directed by Joe Carnahan (Paramount) Rated R. Running time: 107 minutes.

friends throw him a wild bachelor party, he just wants to keep his conscience clean, which is why he's shocked when he wakes up in bed with a beautiful girl named Becky and can't remember the night before. Worse than that, she also happens to be his fiancée's cousin. Desperate to keep his fiancée from finding out, he tells her a teensy lie, which turns into a bigger lie. From the bachelor party to the wedding, soon his lies are spiraling out of control and his entire life is a series of comical misunderstandings. Featured players include Jason Lee, Julia Stiles, Selma Blair and James Brodin. Chris Koch directed the comedy marking his first since completing *Snow Day* in 2000. (MGM/UA)

**NATIONAL SECURITY**  
The story follows a young rookie security guard, Earl Montgomery, who is forced to team up with ex-cop Hand Rafferty as they seek the men who are out to kill them both, and unravel a smuggling operation. Featured players include Martin Lawrence as Earl, Steve Zahn as Hank, Eric Roberts as the leader of the smuggling operation and Colm Feore as a corrupt police officer collaborating with professional criminals. Dennis Dugan directed the action, marking his first since completing *Saving Silverman* in 2001.

(Columbia Pictures)

**SIN EATER**  
A conflicted, rebellious priest travels to Rome to investigate the strange death of his mentor. The young priest, a troubled artist with whom he shares a turbulent past, and his closest friend and colleague to discover the mysterious death may be the work of the Sin Eater, and ancient figure who plays God on Earth by absolving the unorigivable of their sins outside the Church, allowing great evil to go unpunished. The film stars Heath Ledger as Father Bernier, Mark Addy and Shannyn Sossamon. Brian Helgeland directed the thriller, marking his first since completing *A Knight's Tale* in 2001. (20th Century Fox) This film is not yet rated.

**CONFESSIONS OF A DANGEROUS MIND**  
This is a fictitious story about the secret life of Gong Show host Chuck Barris, including the time he spent as CIA assassin "Sunny Sixkiller", making hits while under the guise of chaperoning the game show contestants who

have won vacation prizes. Stars Sam Rockwell, Drew Barrymore, George Clooney, Julia Roberts, Chuck Barris (cameo), Matt Damon (cameo), Rutger Hauer, Brad Pitt (cameo), Fred Savage, Jerry Weintraub (cameo) (Leonard Goldberg), Kristen Wilson. Directed by George Clooney. (Miramax Films) Rating TBD

**THE HOURS**  
The story of three women searching for more potent, meaningful lives. Each is alive at a different time and place; all are linked by their yearnings and their fears. Stars Meryl Streep, Julianne Moore, Nicole Kidman, Ed Harris, Toni Collette, Claire Danes, Jeff Daniels, Stephan Dillane, Allison Janney, John C. Reilly, Miranda Richardson. Directed by Stephen Daldry. (Paramount) Rated PG-13. Running time: 110 minutes.

**KANGAROO JACK**  
Two friends from Brooklyn are forced to deliver mob money to Australia. Their misadventures begin when one of them places his red jacket on a kan-

garoo while attempting to snap a picture. When the kangaroo bounces off, they realize the mob money is in the jacket and they are forced to chase him into the outback. Stars Jerry O'Connell, Anthony Anderson, Estella Warren, Christopher Walken, Dyan Cannon, Michael Shannon, Marton Csokas, David Ngoombujarra. Directed by David Mc Nally. (Warner Brothers) Rated PG. Running time: 84 minutes.

**SCHEDULED TO OPEN  
FRIDAY, JAN. 24**

**DARKNESS FALLS**  
Kyle Walsh (Chaney Kley) must return home to confront his troubled past and save his childhood sweetheart Caitlin (Emma Caulfield) and her younger brother Michael (Lee Cormie) from an unrelenting evil that has plagued the town of Darkness Falls for over one hundred and fifty years. Directed by Jonathan Liebesman. (Columbia Pictures) This film is not yet rated.

**CITY OF GOD**  
Welcome to the world's most notorious slum: Rio de Janeiro's "City of God." A place where combat photographers fear to tread, where Police rarely go, and residents are lucky if they live to the age of 20. This is the true story of a young man who grew up on these streets and whose ambition as a photographer is the world's window in and ultimately may be his only way out. Stars Alexandre Rodrigues, Matheus nachtergaele, Alice Braga, Seu Jorge, Leandro Firmino de Hora. Directed by Fernando Meirelles. (Miramax) Rated R

**SCHEDULED TO OPEN  
FRIDAY, JAN. 31**

**THE GURU**  
A young Indian dance teacher with the best moves in Delhi embarks for New York City in pursuit of fame and fortune - only to wind up working as a waiter in an Indian restaurant. But good fortune can arise from strange places as our hero, Ramu Gupta discovers when a catering gig at a ditzy birthday party catapults him into an extravagant version of the American dream. Mistaken for a spiritual healer, Ramu becomes an overnight celebrity with the city's elite hanging onto his every word - no matter how absurd. The trouble is, he's also falling in love with the one woman who knows the real source of his seemingly profound insights and Ramu must choose between his newfound notoriety and his love for a woman who accepts him as he is. Stars Jimi Mistry, Marisa Tomei, Heather Graham. Directed by Daisy von Scherler Mayer. (Universal) Rated R.

**SCHEDULED TO OPEN  
FRIDAY, JAN. 17**

**A GUY THING**  
Paul Morse is a good guy. When his



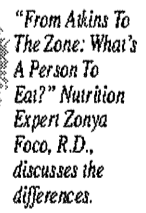
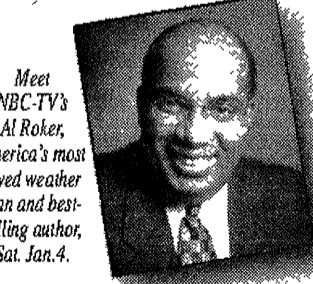
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OE06051414

# Sample authentic Asian cuisine at buffet in Livonia

BY JOANNE MALISZEWSKI  
CORRESPONDENT

Kenny and Sue Yim were certain they knew it all.

"At the time we were young, we thought we could do better. Until you open a restaurant. Then you have to keep coming up with new ideas," said Sue Yim.

If the constant flow of patrons and the filled booths and tables at the Fortune Buffet in Livonia are any indication, the Yims, did know better. On a recent late Saturday afternoon, the hustle and bustle of patrons is testament that the husband-and-wife team have a winning formula.

The Fortune Buffet, 29583 Five Mile in the Mid-Five Center, opened in late May, and according to the Yims, boasts the largest Asian selection and buffet in Michigan — their adopted state.

The eight all-you-can-eat buffets offer a spectrum of Asia cuisine, all the way from a Chinese-American style to authentic Asian delicacies not likely found in most Michigan restaurants. Lunches for adults (ages 11 and older) are \$6.50 Mondays through Fridays, and \$8.95 on Saturdays. Dinner is \$9.95 for adults Mondays through Thursdays, \$10.95 Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, as well as holidays. Children's prices and senior discounts are available, as well as parties and catering.

Originally from Hong Kong and raised in Maryland, the Yims know the collective American tastebud. Salad and dessert bars round out the large restaurant that seats approximately 300 patrons.

"We are so busy here that the food is always fresh," said Sue Yim.

In Maryland, Kenny Yim owned two restaurants. The most recent owned on the east coast was a traditional sit-down eatery, something the couple

now recognize is much easier to run than a large buffet.

## PREPARED FRESH

"With a traditional restaurant, you cook what people order," Sue Yim said. "With a buffet, you have to cook everything all the time."

Fifteen minutes — "That's all you can let it sit in a buffet," said Kenny Yim, Fortune Buffet's premier chef, who added proudly, "in my mind, I have 10,000 recipes." His specialty is traditional Chinese cuisine.

The quality and freshness of the food draws in the patrons. There's plenty to draw them back. When you walk into the restaurant you are greeted by a refreshing waterfall garden of volcanic stone, built by Kenny Yim — with his daughters' help. Stephanie, 6, and Andrea, 4, have personalized the soothing garden with miniature figurines that immediately bring to mind an Asian hilltop village.

"While parents are eating, their children are here," Sue Yim said, of the garden. Patrons often make wishes at the miniature waterfall.

The large restaurant has a definite American design with oak trim and oak booths and tables. The eight large buffets are concentrated away from the dining area. One of the buffets — sushi, Mongolian and Hong Kong noodle bar — is complete with a chef standing by.

"He makes the food in front of you," Kenny Yim said.

And what is Hong Kong style? Basically, it's Cantonese. "Our cold bar is unique in Michigan. We attract a lot of Asian people. They want the real thing," Sue Yim said.

Among the entrees at the cold bar are smoked fish, Hong Kong pork, snail, conch meat, squid and oysters.

"All very traditional (Asian) food," she added.

## FORTUNE BUFFET

**Location:** 29583 Five Mile in the Mid-Five Center, Livonia

**Hours:** 11 a.m. - 10 p.m.  
Mondays through Thursdays; 11 a.m. - 10:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays; 11 a.m. - 10 p.m. Sundays

**Phone:** (734) 524-8383

If the various Asian cuisines are confusing, the Yims can help. "They are based on the area of the country," Sue Yim said.

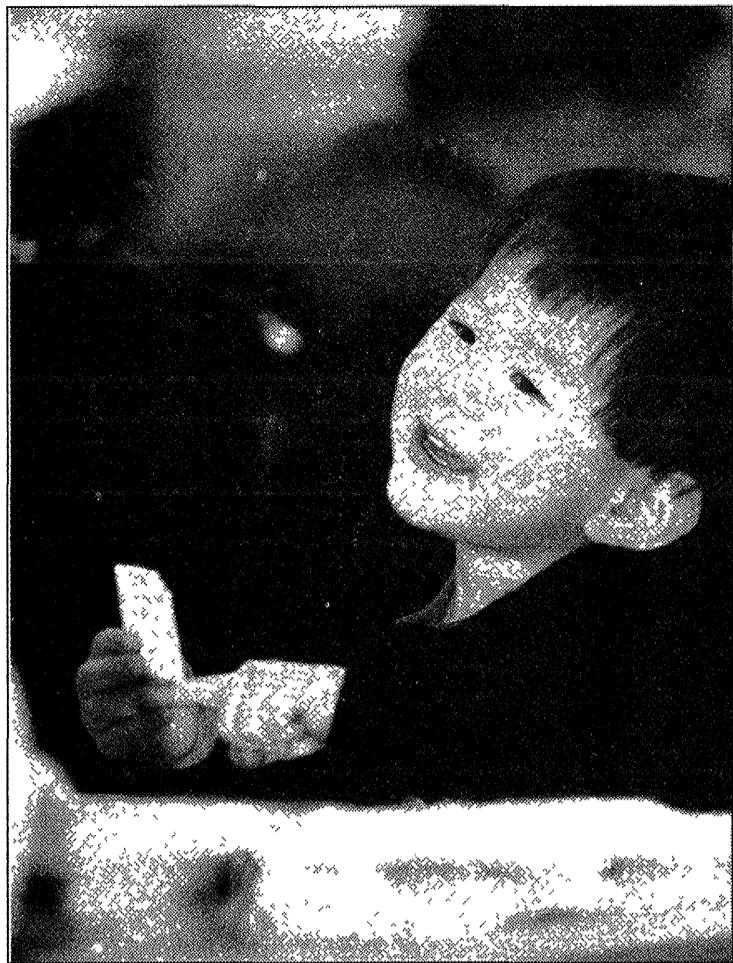
## DIFFERENT STYLES

Peking-style is from the Peking (now Beijing) area, Cantonese from Canton. Cantonese food is lighter and features seafood because it is near the water. Szechuan is spicier and many of the foods are marinated. Peking-style is smaller items, appetizer-type, for example, because Peking's streets are lined with food vendors.

Sushi is Japanese and despite popular notion it is not entirely raw food. What is uncooked is sashimi, which is raw fish.

Before you dive into any one of the eight buffets — and you may try them all for an-all-you-can-eat price — the Yims suggest taking a peek at all of them first and then decide where to start. At the sushi, Mongolian and Hong Kong noodle bar, you'll get a chance to see the chef stretch the noodles, something for which Kenny Yim is famous.

"In Maryland, he was photographed stretching noodles. It was in the paper. The next morning, the line (of patrons) was all the way down (into the



HEATHER SONNITAG | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Kevin Ko, 2 of Canton, enjoys eating his crackers with his family at Fortune Buffet.

parking lot)," Sue Yim beamed. The salad bar offers fresh salads and seasonal fruit. Entrees at the hot bars include baked salmon, steamed flounder, chicken with broccoli, rice noodles lo-mein, fried rice, mussels with black bean sauce, shrimp with lobster sauce, snow crab legs, crawfish, chicken dumplings, duck, pineapple chicken, General Tso's chicken, honey chicken and asparagus with shrimp. And the list goes on.

Back at the Mongolian bar, pick your heart's desire and the chef will prepare it a la teriyaki style, or Mongolian, hot fortune or hot garlic. "These entrees

have lot of vegetables, pork, chicken or beef and, of course, the sauces," Sue Yim said.

At the noodle soup bar you have your choice of beef, shrimp, pork or a combination. A variety also awaits you — and especially the kids — at the appetizer bar that offers bite-sized delicacies of almond chicken, egg rolls, chicken, spare ribs, fried fish and sesame balls.

## AND FOR DESSERT...

The dessert bar undoubtedly caters to the American appetite with a host of cakes, brownies and ice cream, as well as the

popular almond cookies. "Ninety-eight percent of our customers are return customers," Kenny Yim said, adding his most successful advertisement is word-of-mouth.

The Yims believe their loyal patrons come back because the food is fresh, always tasty and their restaurant is clean, including the restrooms, a virtue Sue Yim swears is a key element for a successful restaurant.

Their eatery has an equally loyal following on the take-out venue. "People come in and just get their food from the buffet or they order from the menu," Sue Yim said. "This way they have more choice."

If indeed the Yims knew it all before they started Fortune Buffet, Sue Yim freely admits her source of new ideas.

"I always ask the customers. I listen. Customers are the best people to ask," she said. "They will tell you what they liked and what they didn't."

As young as the Yims appear, both are well-experienced in the restaurant business. Kenny at 40, has 20 years of experience. Both come from a long line of restaurateurs. That's how they met.

The move to Michigan was led by Sue's brother, Kai, who also works at Fortune Buffet. Their adopted state suits the family just fine, more than fine, as a matter of fact.

"I think people in Michigan are much nicer. We feel Michigan is much easier (in which to do business)," Sue Yim said. With one exception: Cold weather.

What the couple has learned about Michigan is that competition abounds here, much more than they expected. "Here we find that we are not just competing against other Chinese restaurants, but all other American restaurants."

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- ♥ Two tickets to the February 13 Red Wing game

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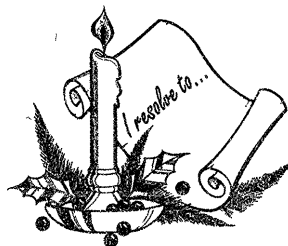
- Entries must be received by Friday, January 24, 2003
- Entrants must be 18 years old
- Entries must be 100 words or less
- Entries must include name, age, address, phone, e-mail
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Winning couples will be announced in your hometown newspaper Thursday, January 30

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## Accents

### Woodland world

The Great Lakes Chapter of the North American Rock Garden Society will host a conference, *Lost in the Woods*, Friday-Sunday, Jan. 24-26, in Ann Arbor.

The conference is designed as a practical program to enable attendees to bring woodland plants into rock gardens. It will feature presentations, workshops, plant and book sales, and tours. Registration fee is \$200 per person.

For more information, contact Susan Reznicek at (734) 996-0692 or [reznicek@umich.edu](mailto:reznicek@umich.edu), or Michael Kaericher at (734) 459-5386 or [mkaericher@alum.mit.edu](mailto:mkaericher@alum.mit.edu).

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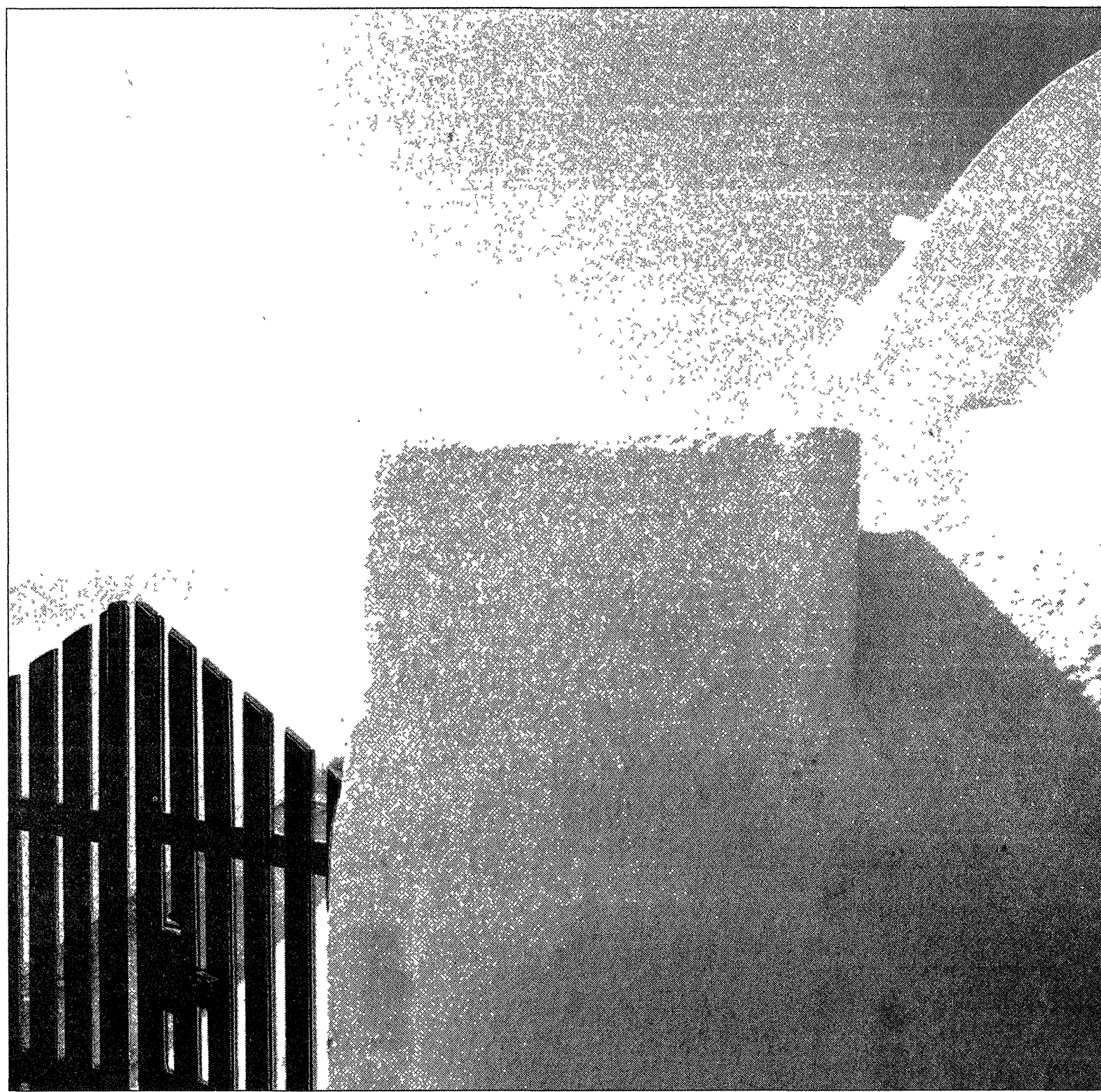
Colorworks has opened the doors on its newly expanded interior design studio and accessories boutique. The larger location is at 7001 Orchard Lake Road, between 14 Mile and Maple in West Bloomfield, just south of The Boardwalk. Call (248) 851-7540.

Accessory items range in price from \$15 to \$200. Vendors exclusive to Colorworks include Gali Glassworks, Blue Star Design and Harlequin Candlesticks. The interior design studio now has a larger conference area and more sample storage space for fabric and furniture resources.

The existing building interior was gutted and designed from the ground up by interior design manager Barbi Krass and senior interior designer Andrea Davis.

"Some people don't realize we do complete construction, from the initial planning to the finishing touches," Krass said. "This studio is a very good example of the full range of work we do."

A grand opening gala is planned in March, featuring special promotions highlighting savings from the boutique and certificates for free consultations and house calls from the design studio. To receive an invitation, fill out the guest book in the boutique or online at [www.colorworksstudio.com](http://www.colorworksstudio.com).



PHOTOS COURTESY OF COLOR MARKETING GROUP

Soothing in nature, blue is widely believed to be the color of the decade. Retailers and homeowners, however, are taking advantage of all the color's hues, from periwinkle to turquoise to ice.

Blue hues, special effects continue; a few new colors

## Color Takes

STORY BY NICOLE STAFFORD  
STAFF WRITER

**C**olor trends linger in the larger picture of design and style. Not forever, of course; those avocado green fridges are long gone.

But our pet shades stick around like ways of thinking and living.

Yes, there are "hot" colors identified by expert forecasters from year to year. And 2003 is no exception.

### PREDICTIONS, CONTINUATIONS

Subtle shades of blue are still on the rise and so are special-effect colors that have metallic, pearlized and satin finishes strong with depth and texture, according to the Color Marketing Group, whose members annually gather to make color trend predictions.

Some of the more unusual hues identified by the Color Marketing Group in the special-effect category include: Lemon Meringue, in which yellow flirts with gold; Gargoyle, a fusion of gold, pewter and silver; and Champagne Bubble, a

marriage of gold, silver and Art Deco glamour.

Blush-like pinks reminiscent of the '80s are making a comeback, said Julie Koepele, a Color Marketing Group member and director of design and trend research at Arden Cos.

The Southfield company consults with Kmart on its Martha Stewart products and Wal-Mart on its Better Homes and Gardens line, among other retailers.

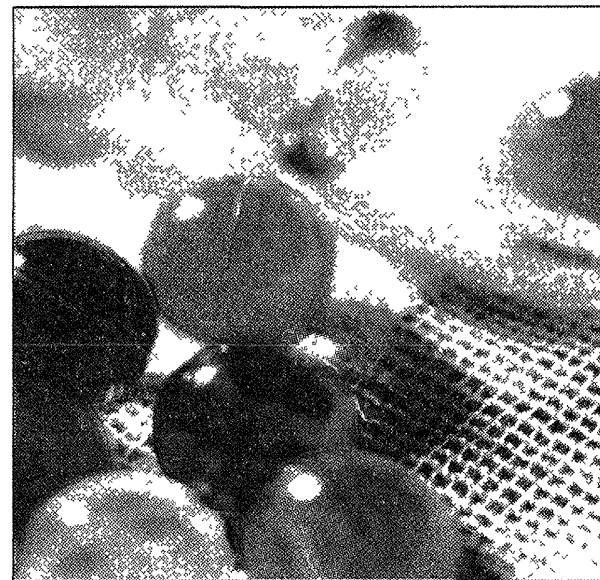
"But red is the big story in the home this year," Koepele said. "There's a big infusion of red in home furnishings."

After its recent popularity in apparel, brown, too, is coming back into play in home decor, she said.

Neutrals, like special-effect colors, which are themselves a New Age sort of neutral, will continue to evolve in sophistication, Koepele said.

"What's happening is that there are a lot of very sophisticated neutrals — warm oak or straw and also a few softer greens — in which there's just

PLEASE SEE COLORS, C2



Red, blush tones and yellow are being touted as popular accent colors for 2003.

## Define concept before tackling organization process

BY NICOLE STAFFORD  
STAFF WRITER

Getting organized around the house has become a classic New Year's resolution.

"I hear it all the time," said Stephanie Denton, a national organization expert and consultant to Organized Living, which has retail locations in West Bloomfield and Troy. "I've heard it said that getting organized is the No. 2 New Year's resolution behind losing weight."

"It's a reflection of the fact that people have more commitments and more possibilities. People feel they're being pulled in too many directions."

Face it. Being organized frees up time, expedites everyday tasks, reduces stress and makes us feel a greater sense of control. "While organization may seem daunting, there are a number of resources available to help you stick with that resolution past the end of January and throughout the year," said Denton.

Among those resources is common sense. While plastic bins, shelving, drawer dividers and other products are key to taming chaos and clutter, defining what "being organized" means to you is a crucial first step, said Denton.

"The first step is not to buy stuff because you don't know

what you need yet, you don't know what you're trying to accomplish."

So step back, take note of your needs and frustrations, determine what is and isn't working, and envision everyday tasks as you'd like them to occur.

For Denton, organization planning hinges on seeing the end result or "figuring out how you'll know when you're done."

For some, managing to procure the crock pot without first having to remove a host of pots and pans is the goal. Another homeowner may aspire to plan out meals two weeks in advance. "It depends on what you want. It depends on who you are," said Denton.

The same principles can be used by homeowners who can't decide where to start. "If somebody feels the entire house needs to be organized, ask yourself 'What rooms do I come into contact with everyday? Which rooms do I spend a lot of time in?'"

Another approach: Determine which room or space most troubles you. "Start in the places that are going to make the biggest difference in your life," Denton said.

Once you've clearly defined your priorities and goals — what Denton calls the review part of getting organized — move on to the second step.

Denton divides the organization process into four R's: review,

reduce, reorganize and replace.

Reducing means discarding broken, unused and unwanted items. When you reorganize, you create a system of organization that fits your goals. Replacing is simply the act of maintaining the system you've implemented.

"It's hard to do the fourth step. But some people say that's what organizing is."

Sure, maintaining any system requires discipline and action.

"But it shouldn't require a lot of thought," said Denton. "If it's not easy to do, that tells you need to step back again."

You want to keep your resolution, don't you?

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[www.observerandeccentric.com](http://www.observerandeccentric.com)







Erin  
O'Dowd

## Down path to minivans and love

My husband and I recently acquired the item that sews up our total submission to suburban living. We thought we could avoid this item and promised that we would indeed avoid it.

Yes, I'm talking about the dreaded minivan. It has become a necessity in our lives.

I shouldn't be surprised, really. Most of what we've done since we've been married has led us down the path of suburban living. Still, back when we were dating, I saw us as anything but the typical suburban couple. Those couples appeared so average. Their lives were wrapped up in their children, and their marriages seemed to be less than passionate, if not outright boring. They drove average cars, lived in average houses and wore average clothes.

When my husband and I fell in mad, passionate love, we were certain that we would be madly passionate on a daily basis. Even though we grew up in Livonia, pursued typical careers and planned to have a typical amount of children, we were certain we had a special quality that others didn't have.

Now - nine years, three children and a dog later - it appears we, too, are destined to totally submit to the suburban Livonia lifestyle.

Whatever stereotype you attach to Midwestern suburban living, we fit.

Our children have lived through day care. Our second-grader is getting involved in sports. We force ourselves to go to church every Sunday because it is the right thing for our family to do.

We frequent restaurants that have both a liquor license and pass out crayons.

We drive on field trips, and we volunteer to water the plants at the elementary school over the summer.

We spend an amazing amount of time repeating instructions to our children. We do those things every day just to make the household run. And we talk at length with other parents about kids.

Yet recently, in the midst of the chaos, something significant happened.

As my sweet daughter was screaming at me about brushing her hair too hard and my precious young sons were fighting over a Superball, my husband walked behind me, kissed me on the neck and squeezed my waist. That small, ordinary gesture reminded me of something I couldn't have understood when I was only 22 and dating him.

I know now that we are still in mad, passionate love, in spite of the minivan.

And I know now why the American Dream was built around a suburban lifestyle.

My days may be difficult at times, and I may get embarrassed at the grocery store when my kids get in a fistfight over cookies I haven't purchased yet. But this is my American Dream.

It may be boring to others, but it couldn't be more exciting to me.

Erin O'Dowd is a Livonia resident and the mother of three children. She's employed as the controller at the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers.



PHOTOS BY PAUL HURSCHMANN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Lee McCarthy of Farmington Hills has promised to quit smoking.

## New Year's Resolutions

From the profound to the prosaic, area residents reflect on how they'll do better

Louise Cadlaon, 72, of Redford Township knows where she's been in life and knows where she wants to go. Her New Year's resolutions no longer include such promises as losing weight, joining a walking club or even wearing more purple. Instead, her one resolution for this year is all about heart and soul.

"I would say I want to separate the wheat from the



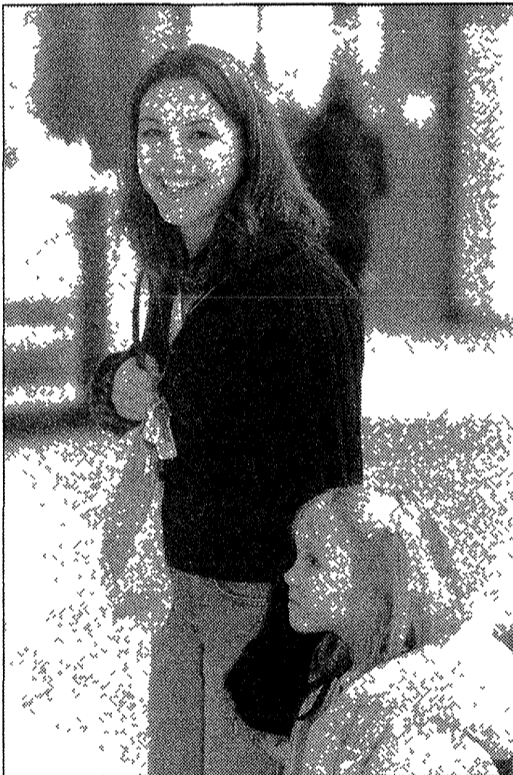
chaff. There are things that are less important to me now. I want to have more of a relationship with the church," she said.

Cadlaon talked about her experience attending mass at St. Valentine Catholic Church on Christmas Eve. There was a family with a baby girl sitting across the aisle to her right and a family with a baby boy to her left. The babies stared at

her, she said, perhaps seeing their reflections in her glasses. And because mass was so crowded, people were standing. When it came time for the sign of peace, Cadlaon found herself in a sea of extended hands.

"That was so heartwarming," she said. "St. Valentine is the warmest, most wonderful parish. As our families move away and leave us, the church is our family. I'm thinking of volunteering at church or at a shelter. I have to be part of a group. I have to belong."

A captive audience was found at Westland Mall the day after Christmas. When a co-worker at the Venture Communications wireless phone kiosk hesitated about sharing his New Year's resolutions, Mohammad Mathieu, 23, manager, volunteered.



Lisa Barker of Livonia, 23, shopping with daughter Kaitlyn, 5, wants to schedule fewer activities and spend more time with Kaitlyn.

"I plan to improve on my job. Since I'm a district manager, I plan to offer more incentives to my staff. On a personal level, I plan to quit smoking. That's a big one for me. I'm also going to work on having a baby ...

and work on getting married to my fiancé, Meagan."

Larry Bee, 56, of Garden City was sitting on a bench across from Marshall Field's waiting for his wife.

"Matter of fact, I just told my wife I was going to make a New Year's resolution to be more tolerant," he said. "To be more tolerant to everybody, people in traffic, young people with the loud music. It's just life. I was young once. That's about it."

### BETTER HEALTH

Farmington Hills resident Lee McCarthy, 65, was shopping with her daughter Diane Respondek and granddaughter Crystal Matchett.

"I will try to quit smoking. I haven't tried before. I've been smoking for 40 years. This is a huge resolution. I'm just going to do it. Cold turkey," she said. "I'm

tired of my house smelling. What I'm going to die from is hairspray. I keep spraying my house because of the smell. Besides, it's the money."

Respondek, 44, of Garden City offered the same resolution. "I'm going to quit smoking because my other daughter, Ashley, 14, told me every cigarette takes seven minutes off your life. She learned that in health."

Respondek then nudged her daughter, Crystal, 19, who is pregnant with her second child. "And she's going to ease up on the baby-making," she said.

Matchett accepted her mother's chiding good-naturedly. Her own resolution was simple, but significant: "I'm just going to be a good parent for my children, just set a good example in life."

Lisa Barker, 23, of Livonia was walking through the mall with daughter Kaitlyn, 5, in tow and packages in hand.

"I think resolutions are a good thing, but I think people don't always keep them," she said. "I'm going to try not to be so busy all the

PLEASE SEE RESOLUTIONS, C5

BY RENEE SKOGLUND STAFF WRITER

## Woman chooses pet-sitting over corporate life

BY JACK GLADDEN  
STAFF WRITER

Janet Conner's career is going to the dogs, and she couldn't be happier about it.

For the past 21½ years, the Canton resident has been doing insurance and financial sales for Prudential Finance out of Dearborn. But next month she's giving that up to become a professional pet-sitter.

"I thought about going to Chicago one time with one of my friends," she said. "All of a sudden, I thought of all my pets. What am I going

to do with all my pets?"

Conner has two dogs - a golden retriever and a yellow Labrador/Chow mix, both rescue dogs. She's also raising a black Lab named Samson for Paws for a Cause, her third Paws dog. She has four cats, four ferrets and a fish.

"I was at the vet's one day and I saw a pet-sitting sign and it clicked," she said.

About a year and a half ago, she started pet-sitting on a part-time basis. She's been working her corporate job out of her house, and uses her lunch hour to go to people's houses and tend to the pets.

That's for people who work during the day. She typically has about six to 10 customers during the lunch hour, usually between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.

### LOVES ANIMALS

She loves the animals and the animals apparently love her.

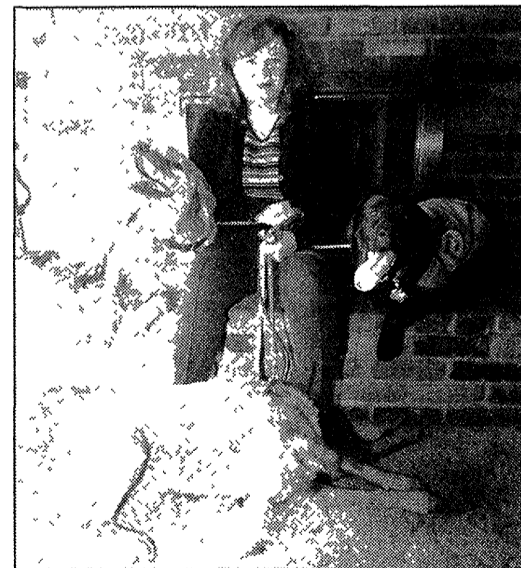
"I've got dogs on the weekends looking out the window for me," she said.

For vacationers, she makes three visits per day. "I come to their house," she said. "The animals are less stressed because they're eating out of their own

dishes in their own house."

She stays about 15 or 20 minutes, lets the dog or dogs out to exercise, will play Frisbee with them if they want, brings in the newspapers. Sometimes she'll take a digital camera along and take pictures of the pets.

"A couple of people told me that their dogs in kennels just barked continuously while they were gone," she said. "People who hire me really love their animals. I've got a bulletin board full of keys, door openers, garage door



PAUL HURSCHMANN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Janet Conner is about to give up more than 20 years doing insurance and financial sales to become a professional pet-sitter.

PLEASE SEE PETS, C5



## RESOLUTIONS

FROM PAGE C4

time. I will try not to schedule so many things, be more at home and hang out with Kaitlyn more."

### YES, DEAR

"My wife hasn't come up with them for me yet," said Mike Ohtonen, 36, of Canton, when asked about his New Year's resolutions. The father of 3 1/2-year-old Alex and 2-year-old Christopher was home with the kids while his wife was shopping.

"Oh, my goodness, if I could, I'd live life a little slower," he added. "Things are hectic around here. It's like get home from work, feed the kids, bathe the kids, put them to bed. And it starts all over the next day."

Ohtonen's wife, Becky, 31, a special education teacher in the



Larry Bee of Garden City has resolved to be more tolerant of others in 2003.

Garden City school district, agreed with her husband that their life was hectic. However, she took a more philosophical view when it came to New Year's resolutions.

"It's just to cherish and appreciate every ounce of life in my kids ... not to let life pass you by without enjoying the

kids, because you don't know when it won't be there," she said.

Still, she is not completely selfless when it comes to resolutions. "For me personally, it's to work out because that's the only time I get to myself."

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Crystal Matchett of Garden City, 19, will continue to be a good role model to her children. Her mom, Diane Respondek of Garden City, 44, plans to quit smoking ... like her own mom, Lee McCarthy.

PHOTOS BY PAUL HURSCHMANN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

# Signs can indicate a serious problem with alcohol

With our major holidays just over, we have recent memories of office and family parties, entertaining or seeing guests at social outings, and participating in or observing others having a "toast of good cheer" to celebrate festivities.



### Chat Room

L.J. McCulloch

We may have seen some who are "teetotalers" and don't use alcohol, some who uncharacteristically have overindulged and gotten "tipsy," and seen others who are predictably "under the influence" when it comes to the consumption of alcoholic beverages. This time of year can be a good opportunity to examine our own attitudes and the habits of loved ones as they relate to the use of and relationship with alcohol.

### ALCOHOL USE

A person who drinks alcohol in a nonproblematic way would be characterized by drinking in moderation, not very frequently, and with common sense.

One or two drinks on occasion now and then does not result in impairment or distress. There is not a pattern of recurrent drinking that results in drunkenness. There is not a maladaptive pattern of failure to fulfill obligations at work, school, or home as a result of drinking. There is not a recurrent use of alcohol in situations that are physically hazardous, for example, driving an automobile.

Some researchers have even said that a regular or near daily consumption of small amounts not greater than one ounce of alcohol can have favorable results, mainly in cardiovascular and gastrointestinal functioning. This could be characterized by a small glass of wine or beer with a meal or one cocktail not containing more

than one ounce of alcohol.

An ounce of 80 proof alcohol and an 8 ounce glass of wine or a 10 ounce glass of beer are chemically equal in terms of the alcohol content and physical effect on the body. The liver is the main organ that processes the alcohol, at a rate of about one-ounce per hour for an average weight person.

When alcohol consumption increases in frequency and amount, a pattern of substance abuse will lead to significant impairment or distress. There will be failures to fulfill major obligations at work or school or home as a result of drinking. Usually, continuation of physically hazardous activities such as driving is seen. Drinking will continue despite recurrent social or interpersonal problems caused by or worsened by the effects of alcohol.

### ALCOHOL DEPENDENCE

In this phase, there is an escalation of frequency and amount of alcohol consumed and a persistence of a pattern of drinking that leads to significant impairments and distress. The same problems in the alcohol abuser are seen more frequently and to a more drastic degree in the drinker who has now become dependent.

In addition, tissue tolerance for the chemical ethanol increases and markedly more amounts of the substance are needed to achieve the effects of previously smaller amounts.

The old myth of "I can drink everyone else under the table, therefore I don't have a problem with drinking" is in reality a sign of increased physical tolerance for alcohol and a dangerous sign of a growing dependence.

As addiction progresses, symptoms of withdrawal may be seen when the substance is not used or not available.

Sometimes a closely related substance (a tranquilizer for example or marijuana or other drugs of abuse) is taken to relieve withdrawal symptoms.

Diagnostic signs of an alcohol withdrawal process are seen in the presence of hand tremors, insomnia, rapid pulse rate, nausea or vomiting, anxiety, and, in the extreme cases (about 5 percent), alcoholic withdrawal hallucinations and even grand mal seizures.

By this time in the drinking pattern, there is a persistent desire with unsuccessful attempts to cut down or control drinking. A great deal of time is spent in activities related to drinking. Important social or occupational activities are given up because of the substance use. The drinker continues in a compulsive way to consume alcohol despite knowledge of having recurrent physical or psychological problems that have been caused or are worsened by more drinking.

### THE CAGE TEST

Questions that can be asked to see where a drinker is on the continuum of use, abuse or addiction include the following:

- Are attempts being made at cutting down?
- Is the drinker annoyed by what people say about their drinking?
- Are guilty feelings occurring about drinking?
- Does the drinking now include eye openers (morning drinks to decrease the shakes after a night of heavy drinking)?

A YES answer to any of these can be indicative of a serious drinking problem.

Alcohol has been around for a long time and it wasn't until 1950 that the World Health Organization classified alcoholism as a disease. Some of the effects of later stage alcoholism include severe memory impairment (Korsokov Syndrome - brain damage secondary to drinking that has caused severe vitamin deficiency), liver cirrhosis, and a generalized atrophy (cell death) throughout the brain, measurable upon autopsy.

Another unusual characteristic of alcoholism is that its chief symptom often is denial.

It has been described as the only disease that convinces you that it's not a problem. Some research has shown that from the time a medical concern has been given about one's drinking until one really gets desired help with the problem takes 9 years in males and 7 years in females on an average. Who would ever let such time elapse to tend to a diagnosed cancer or diabetes?

### TREATMENT IS AVAILABLE

More than ever before, therapeutic help is available for those with alcohol abuse or alcohol addiction problems. Many mental health professionals now have specific and advanced certified training in the treatment of alcoholism. Individual and group substance abuse therapy clinics are numerous in all the tricity areas around Detroit.

When addiction is physical and severe, a brief medically supervised detoxification process can be lifesaving. This usually occurs in a hospital over 4 to 8 days. Trying to detox without medical supervision can be lethal, especially in the first 24 - 72 hours.

Many years ago a man named Bill W. founded an organization called Alcoholics Anonymous (AA). There are now more AA meetings than one can imagine.

They can be found at all hours of the day and night, are free of charge, and have been scientifically shown to be the most effective treatment for alcoholism.

The process involves talking and requires only 2 or more individuals with the desire to stay sober together for another hour.

This is a structured, self-help, 12-Step program and is open to all.

When an individual presents himself, or is presented by life circumstances (such as a court order for drunk driving) for alcohol use problems, a trained substance abuse professional will conduct an assessment to determine the nature and extent of the problem.

This will then lead to recommendations for a treatment program suitable for the patient's needs.

The outcome could be individual therapy, inpatient residential treatment, group therapy, prescribing of Antabuse (a medication which blocks the metabolism of alcohol and renders the drinker violently ill as a deterrent to drinking) and will invariably include involvement with AA and the acquiring of a sponsor. A sponsor is like a coach who has demonstrated success in his/her own treatment and can now assist newcomers in learning and living the 12-Step program.

### RESOURCES

1. Anyone can call general information and ask for the phone number of the nearest AA meeting in their community or look under Substances Abuse Clinics in the Yellow Pages.

2. Talk to your family doctor or primary health care provider. More physicians now that ever are trained, at least, in triage as regards problem drinking detection and referral to specialist.

3. From the bookstore: Alcoholics Anonymous; "The Big Book" by Bill W. Know that, by law, a police officer is required to transport an individual to the nearest hospital emergency room (not jail) if he/she is experiencing serious withdrawal symptoms which typically begin when blood concentrations of alcohol declines sharply, within 4-12 hours after heavy, chronic alcohol use had been stopped or reduced, in the more advanced addictive cases.

L.J. McCulloch is a Certified Addictions Counselor - I and is a Diplomat of the American psychotherapy Association. He is Board Certified in Trauma and is a Certified Brain Injury Specialist. His column "Our Mental Health" appears in the Observer the first Thursday of each month. He can be reached at (248) 474-2763, Broe Rehabilitation Services, Inc. of Farmington Hills where he is the Director of Psychological Services.

## SINGLES CALENDAR

Send items for consideration in singles calendar to Hometown Life, Observer Newspapers, 794 S. Main Street, Plymouth, MI 48170, fax (734) 459-4224.

### EVENTS

#### Single Point Ministries

Single Point Ministries of Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church, invites singles to join more than 500 single adults 11:30 a.m. every Sunday in Knox Hall, for fellowship and encouragement. The Rev. Paul Clough delivers messages to help equip you to maximize your singleness and relationship with God. Coffee, doughnuts, conversation and Christ are present. SPM has a program and activity for every age group and life situation. For more information or to have a newsletter sent, call the SPM office at (248) 374-5920.

#### Walking Club

Single Point Ministries of Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church offers a walking club. It meets in the hospitality area in the Grand Mall 6 pm. Tuesdays and Wednesdays and walks are outside, rain or shine. Open to all fitness levels.

## PETS

FROM PAGE C4

openers. If a storm hits, I'll go out for free and make sure the animals are secure."

For now, she limits her customers to people within a five-mile radius of her house, but she's planning to expand that area.

She's insured, bonded and now incorporated as Pet-Nanny Inc.

"I just put magnetic signs on my car door," she said.

### UNUSUAL PETS

The most unusual animals she's sat for? "A pet skunk," she said. "This past summer, I sat for a person's daughter who is going to vet school. Somebody rescues raccoons, groundhogs, etc. She raises the babies and she has her own pet skunk. It's brown and white. She also has ferrets and dogs."

Then there was the couch-potato parrot she sat for.

"He watches Scooby-Doo for an hour and a half every day," she said.

In addition to her regular pet-sitting jobs, Conner said she is branching out and taking pets to groomers or to vets for their well shots.

"Everybody's pushing that 'rush-rush' button," she said, "because they just don't have time for everything. This is something less they have to worry about."

She said when she began thinking about making working with animals a full-time job, she thought of working at the Humane Society.

"But I knew I'd take all those animals home with me," she said.

Anyone wanting more information can contact Conner at (866) 738-6575, or visit her Web site (still under construction) at www.pet-nanny.com.

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The Observer & Eccentric Newspaper

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## Sidelines

### CC earns win

Redford Catholic Central's coaching staff wanted to give its hockey players a chance to step up a level in competition.

The Shamrocks responded with an 8-3 win over the London (Ont.) Nationals Junior B team on Saturday night.

"They did call up five players and a goalie from their affiliate team, so we did get to play all of their best players," said CC co-coach Todd Johnson. "It gives our top players a real chance for exposure at the junior level. They are one level higher than us and we're real fortunate that they scheduled us. We're not five goals better than they are. It would have been closer had they played their No. 1 goalie."

CC (7-2) took a 2-0 lead on goals from Drew Kahle (from Kevin Horal and Jason Lewarne) and Brandon Naurato (from Eric Giosa and Andrew Eggert), before the Nationals tied it at 2-all. Nathan Perkovich and Naurato then each scored power-play goals late in the period (both assisted from Giosa and Andrew Eggert) for a 4-2 lead.

CC made it 5-2 in the second on a goal by Hamway (from Burns), then 6-2 just into the third on Naurato's third goal of the game (from Giosa and Eggert).

After a London goal, Pat Coldren scored a pair of goals, with Horal assisting on his first goal and Bryan Genrich on the second, to close out the scoring.

Jim Blanchard made 23 saves for the Shamrocks in goal, while CC had 34 shots on London's net.

### Eagles take 3rd

Redford Thurston's basketball team got back to basics Monday night and wound up with a 71-62 win over Gibraltar Carlson in the consolation finals of the Trenton Tourney.

"The kids came out and had fun," said Thurston coach Brian Bates. "I told them at practice that we hadn't been having any fun. We came out and trapped all over the court, shot the ball well early, rebounded pretty well and played the game like we were supposed to play it. We went back to basics tonight and got after it."

Tommie Rush led the Eagles (2-4) with 20 points, while Chaz Bryant had 12, Remy Cofield had 10, Brandon Paige and Gene Carr had nine each. Drew Doran led Carlson (3-3) with 14 points, while Paul Collins had 10.

Ben Pew scored 21 points and Clay Welton added 12 more as Plymouth Christian Academy evened its record at 2-2 with a 48-42 victory over Adrian Madison Saturday.

Tom Rancon scored 15 points for Madison (0-4).

### Wisniewski stars

The U.S. team at the World Junior Hockey Championships followed its 3-1 win over Switzerland Saturday with an 8-2 victory over Belarus Monday.

James Wisniewski, a Canton native and a defenseman with the Plymouth Whalers, had three assists in the win over Belarus.

# Ocelots roll to title at own tourney

Digesting a holiday fruitcake was tougher than anyone getting close to the dominant Schoolcraft men's basketball team during last weekend's holiday tournament.

The Ocelots rebounded from their first regular-season loss in 50 games with a pair of huge wins, capturing its own tournament championship. Schoolcraft rout-

### COLLEGE BASKETBALL

ed Lakeland (Ohio) Community College 101-60 Sunday in the title game. Saturday, the Ocelots eased past Georgian (Ontario) College 109-55. Schoolcraft is now 13-1 on the season.

In each game, the Ocelots burst out to a

huge halftime lead and cruised from there. The team plays Saturday at Oakland Community College's Highland Lakes campus, which is different from the listed location on the schedule.

Against Lakeland, the Ocelots led 50-26 at intermission and were never threatened from there.

Marcus Bennett paced a balanced

Schoolcraft offense with 20 points. Torvaris Baker followed with 19, while Ronald Dorsey and Marcus Johnson each chipped in 13. James Holmes added 12 and Wayne Memorial graduate Gary Johnson scored 10.

Lakeland's Ernie Cobbin led all players

PLEASE SEE OCELOTS, D3

## Young Whalers stop Kitchener

BY C.J. RISAK  
STAFF WRITER

Mike Vellucci is tired. He's worn out. He doesn't get a lot of rest these days, not with a two-week-old baby at home and a Plymouth Whalers' team of virtual Ontario Hockey League "babies", a team with the youngest average age (18 years) in the conference.

But like most parents — or coaches — caught in similar circumstances, Vellucci is a happy guy.

He should be. On Monday afternoon at Plymouth's Compuware Arena, he saw David Liffiton's shot from the top of the circle to the right of Kitchener Rangers' goalie Scott Dickie deflect off a defenseman and past Dickie for the Whalers' third goal late in the second period.

And that proved to be the game-winner, with Plymouth goalie Paul Drew shutting down the Rangers after the first period in a 4-2 Whaler triumph.

That makes it 18-straight games without a loss for Plymouth, taking its record to 24-6-5-1 (54 points) — best in the OHL's West Division. The loss was Kitchener's second-straight, leaving the Midwest Division leaders with a 25-8-3-1 mark (54 points).

The last time the Whalers suffered a defeat was Nov. 9, by a 4-2

PLEASE SEE WHALERS, D2



Ryan Ramsay (21) is mobbed by a teammate after scoring one of his two first-period goals in the Whalers' 4-2 win over Kitchener, Ramsay's former team.

PAUL HURSCHMANN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

## Whalers vs. Rangers: just another game

It's no big deal. So what if the guy who coaches the visiting team, the Kitchener Rangers — that would be Pete DeBoer — coached the home team, the



C.J. Risak

Plymouth Whalers, until 18 months ago? That's all in the past.

It's no big deal.

So what if the guy who now coaches the Whalers — that would be Mike Vellucci — used to work closely with that other guy who now coaches the Rangers? That's all in the past.

It's no big deal.

And so what if a dozen or so of the current Whalers were drafted when DeBoer was coach? That's all in the past.

It's no big deal.

Then there's a few other things tying these two franchises together. Like Jimmy Gagnon and John Mitchell, current Whalers who grew up in Kitchener, Ontario.

And let's not forget Ryan Ramsay, Plymouth's second-leading scorer and fifth overall in the Ontario Hockey League with 21 goals and 58 points in 35 games (before Monday's game). Ramsay came to the Whalers in a trade before the season.

PLEASE SEE RISAK, D2

## Chargers take 2nd at Salem Invite

BY BRAD MONASTIERE  
STAFF WRITER

Close might not count in high school wrestling the way it does in horseshoes, but in the case of Livonia Churchill's squad, close was just fine.

The Chargers took just 11 wrestlers to Saturday's Plymouth Salem Invitational and ended up with five champions and a second place overall finish.

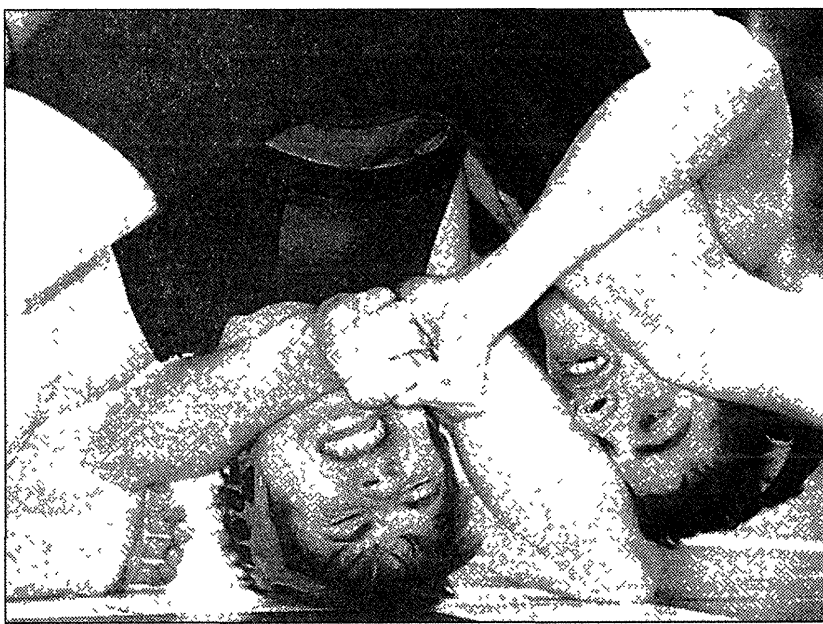
Belleville won the tournament with 167 points, followed by Churchill's 150. The host Rocks were third overall at 144. The rest of the teams participating included Greenville, Petoskey, Brighton, Fraser, Dearborn, Redford Union, Garden City, Livonia Franklin, East Detroit and Macomb Dakota.

The tourney champions from Churchill were: Justin Smith at 112, Brian Clement at 125, Lev Mergian at 152, Robert Freeman at 171 and Alex Murray at 215. Ben Adams took a third at 145, while Pat Draheim was sixth at heavy-weight.

Franklin's Ray Stratos was the team's lone placer, finishing fifth at 119.

Churchill coach Marty Altounian said he was proud of his team taking championships in almost half of the weight classes in which it had participants.

"I was pretty proud of the way



Ben Adams of Livonia Churchill, left, wrestles Robert Hill of Garden City in an early 145-pound class round at Saturday's Salem meet. Adams reversed the hold and won the match with a pin.

BRYAN MITCHELL | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

we wrestled," he said.

Garden City didn't produce a winner, but the Cougars did have a pair of runner-up finishes and a pair of thirds as they finished 10th.

Rich Russell took second at 140 pounds, failing to hold a 10-6 lead with 30 seconds left and losing 12-10 in overtime. Emilio Perez came in second at 160 pounds, falling to Hassan Berri of Dearborn.

"Rich's match was tough and that was the most intense I've seen Emilio wrestle this year," said Garden City coach Aaron Davis. "I hope he can bring that to the mat every time."

After losing to Churchill's Smith in the semifinals, Jacob Davis came back to finish third at 112,

PLEASE SEE CHARGERS, D6

## Area teams battle at UM-D tournaments

BY PAUL BEAUDRY  
STAFF WRITER

The University of Michigan-Dearborn was the place to be for volleyball fans both Saturday and Monday as many area schools competed in tournaments on both days.

On Saturday, Redford Thurston managed to make it out of regular pool play and into the Silver Pool — comprised of the third-place finishers from regular pool play — but lost to Pontiac Notre Dame Prep, 25-8, 26-24.

### VOLLEYBALL

"We hadn't played a team like them all day and we just ran into a buzzsaw," said Thurston coach Scott Gray. "We hadn't played anyone like them all day. They did everything well. Nothing hit the floor."

The Eagles (2-3-1) opened with a 25-17, 25-13 loss to Madison Heights Bishop Foley, then split with South Lyon 19-25 and 25-16. Thurston lost twice to Warren Woods-Tower, 25-22, 25-16, then edged Dearborn Fordson, 25-22 and 25-16 to finish third and advance.

"South Lyon and Fordson had the same record in pool play, but we won the tiebreaker on points," said Gray. "We started slow and started playing well against Woods-Tower."

Meghann Lloyd led Thurston with 27 kills, 17 digs,

PLEASE SEE VOLLEYBALL, D3

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**RISAK**

FROM PAGE D1

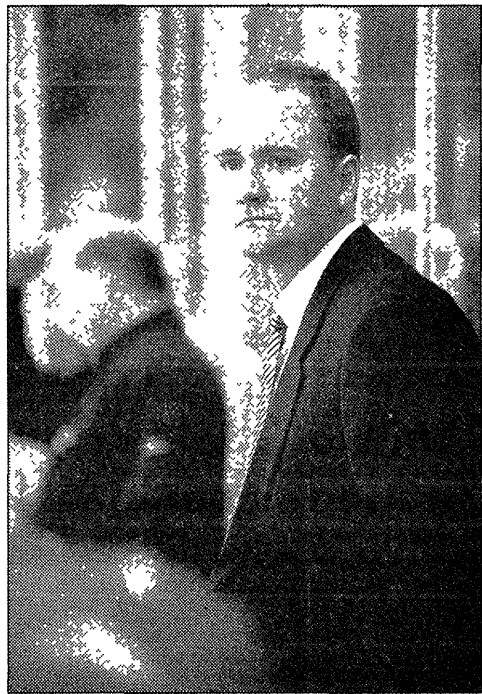
With Kitchener. Plymouth sent winger Greg Campbell to the Rangers, and although his numbers aren't nearly as impressive (16 goals, 33 points in 29 games), Campbell's the one who was selected for the OHL all-star game. And the World Junior Tournament. Even though he's not among the league's top 20 scorers.

Some people think DeBoer may have played a role in Ramsay's snub and Campbell's elevation. C'mon — that's ridiculous. Both teams surrendered quality to obtain quality.

"We needed a winger, so we traded a center," DeBoer said, admitting he gave up a first-rate player in Ramsay but adding "So is the guy we got (first-rate)."

That's all in the past. *It's no big deal.* And never mind that DeBoer abruptly left a Plymouth franchise he had guided to the OHL finals two straight seasons for a Kitchener team that had languished in mediocrity for years. Never mind that he has rebuilt that team and that the Rangers are now leading the OHL's Midwest Division, while Vellucci took the Whalers to the best regular-season record in the OHL last year.

It just doesn't matter. *It's no big deal.*



PAUL HURSCHMANN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Pete DeBoer guided the Whalers to consecutive OHL Finals appearances before leaving to take over the head coaching position at Kitchener.

And it sure as heck doesn't matter that the 2001-02 Whalers, even with the best record in the OHL, couldn't beat DeBoer's Rangers. They went 0-2-2 against them

last season.

That had nothing to do with a near-capacity crowd jamming into Plymouth's Compuware Arena Monday afternoon to watch these two division leaders clash in the first of four meetings this season. More likely all those people were there for the free face-painting.

"That was a playoff-type atmosphere," said Vellucci after his Whaler team finally got a victory against their old boss. "There were so many situations, it would have been hard not to get excited."

Excited? Now? But it's still December. Playoffs don't start for another three months. It's a long season. Players learn to take these games in stride.

Certainly Ramsay was. Yes, he's an emotional-type player, but this game against his former team and the coach who perhaps kept him off the all-star squad didn't mean any more to him than any other game. So what if he scored the Whalers' first two goals, one short-handed and unassisted?

Those goals didn't mean any more to him than any of his other goals.

And this win didn't mean any more than any other win. *It's no big deal.*

Yeah, right.

C.J. Risak is the Plymouth-Canton sports editor for the Observer and can be reached at (734) 953-2108 or by e-mail at cjrisak@oe.homecomm.net.

# Athletes looking to improve for 2003

BY PAUL BEAUDRY  
STAFF WRITER

At least the resolution wasn't to stop arguing.

We asked area prep athletes if they had any resolutions for New Year's. And even though the resolutions very well could be broken by the time you read this today, at least they tried.

Yes, they wanted their grades to improve. Yes, they wanted to be nice. Yes, they wanted to try harder.

But when we asked Leah Woloszyk, a Garden City volleyball, basketball and softball player, what her plans were, she simply said "to drink more water and juice because it's better for me."

No blood, no foul, right?

Minutes later, when we asked the same thing of Cougars' cheerleader and soccer player Caitlyn Stanley, her response of "to stop drinking pop and drink more water and juice because it's better" rang vaguely familiar.

When asked why, she said the same thing that Woloszyk vowed to do, her response was simple and curt: "She stole MY idea. It was originally mine."

So if you see these two students chugging a Coke or pounding a Pepsi, feel free to call both of them out for breaking their resolution.

As for the rest, don't hesitate to let them know you're keeping an eye on them.

**Robert Ficano Jr., Catholic Central track and cross coun-**

**try:** Even though my CC distance career is behind me, I resolve to run my miles and encourage my father to join me to keep in good shape for his new job as Wayne County Executive.

**Martina Franklin, Redford Union girls basketball:** To put forth a better effort in sports this year.

**Michael Knight, St. Agatha football and basketball:** To stop talking back to adults.

**John Mulroy, Catholic Central football and basketball:** Become a better free-throw shooter. I was oh-for-4 the other day and I need to become better.

**Shawn Meyers, Redford Union basketball and baseball:** To help us win 15 games this season.

**Linda Strohmer, St. Agatha volleyball, basketball and softball:** To find a better job.

**Kenn Forbes, Redford Union swimmer:** To break the school 500 freestyle record.

**Adam Krozek, St. Agatha basketball and baseball:** To stop speeding. I got a ticket the first day in my new (1999) Escort GX2. I catch myself speeding all the time, and I need to cut that out.

**Marco DiMichele, Garden City baseball, basketball and football:** A more positive attitude. I do some things that get me in trouble every once in a while, so I need a better outlook on life.

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**WHALERS**

FROM PAGE D1

margin to Sarnia.

"We're playing pretty good," admitted Vellucci. "The kids listen better than the team we had last year. They're younger, but they're listening more to us."

"When you change coaches, the (holdover) players and the new coaches are not always going to see eye-to-eye. The talent's here, that's for sure. I'm very pleased with the way we're playing. I'd be crazy not to be."

Vellucci is in his second season as Whalers' coach, a job he assumed from Pete DeBoer — who now coaches Kitchener. Last season, although he guided Plymouth to the best regular-season record in the OHL, Vellucci could not get a win against DeBoer's Rangers. The Whalers were 0-2-2 against them.

"To tell the truth, that didn't mean all that much to me," Vellucci said of his first win against his predecessor. "I know some people want to

make a big deal out of it, but it just doesn't mean that much to me."

For certain players, it meant a lot. Ryan Ramsay, obtained in a trade with Kitchener prior to the season, proved to be the difference for the Whalers on Monday. After the Rangers took a 1-0 lead with a power-play goal by Petr Kanko 2:31 into the first period, Ramsay knotted it at 1-all just 2:16 later, pilfering a pass in the Kitchener zone while the Whalers were playing a man short. Ramsay swept behind the Ranger goal and stuffed the puck past Dickie.

It stayed that way for nine minutes. That's when Ramsay struck again, taking a pass in stride near the Ranger blue line and splitting the Kitchener defense while Plymouth had the man advantage. He slid his shot between Dickie's pads and the Whalers had a 2-1 lead (from Karl Stewart and Cole Jarrett).

The Rangers knotted it at 2-all with a power-play score from Andre Benoit with a minute left in the first period,

but Kitchener could not generate any more offense.

"We're a little short-handed right now," said DeBoer, noting that his team's top scorer, Derek Roy, and Greg Campbell, another of the team's leading scorers, were at the World Junior Tournament (so was Plymouth's James Wisniewski). "But you don't win any championships in December."

The Whalers kept their unbeaten string alive at 18 games when Liffiton's shot deflected past Dickie with 3:54 left in the second period (Chad LaRose and Stewart assisted). They added the clincher with 6:24 left in the final period, Sean Thompson knocking a loose puck in front of the Kitchener goal in for a fourth score. John Mitchell and Tim Sestito assisted.

Paul Drew and the Whaler defense did the rest, Drew — leading the OHL with a 2.47 goals-against average — making 28 saves. Dickie had 30 stops.

But the Whalers had another win.

**Whalers 6, Spitfires 2:** On Saturday at Compuware Arena, the Windsor Spitfires got two first-period goals and the Whalers got everything else, including a victory.

Josh Gratton and, on the power play, Frank Rediker gave the Spits a 2-0 lead after one period. Plymouth's John Mitchell (from Taylor Raszka) narrowed the gap to 2-1 7:42 into the second period; Karl Stewart's short-handed goal at 16:08 of the second tied it at 2-all.

Four power-play goals in the third period, by Raszka, Nate Kiser, Chad LaRose and Mike Letizia, gave Plymouth the victory. Jonas Fiedler had two assists for the Whalers.

Paul Drew was the game-winning goalie, stopping 18 shots. Ryan Aschaber made 28 saves for Windsor, which through Sunday was second in the West Division to Plymouth with a 23-12-11 record (48 points).

**Whalers 4, Spirit 1:** On Friday in Saginaw, Karl Stewart scored twice for Plymouth and Taylor Raszka got a goal and an assist as the Whalers took command in the second period and maintained it.

Tim Sestito's goal 7:44 into the second period gave Plymouth a 2-1 lead. Stewart's first goal came 13 seconds later, giving the Whalers a two-goal edge.

Chad LaRose picked up three assists in the game and Jimmy Gagnon got two. Paul Drew made 35 saves in goal for the Whalers; Tyson Kellerman had 18 stops for the Spirit, who were 6-22-3-4 (19 points) through the weekend.

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## Baseball camp scheduled

The Wayne State University Baseball Fundamental Camp for grades 5-12 will be Saturdays, Jan. 11, 18, 25; and Feb. 1; at the Matthaei Building, located on the corner of Warren just west of the Lodge Freeway.

Session I is from 8-9:30 a.m. (pitchers); Session II, 9:30-10:30 a.m. (hitting); and Session III, 10:30-11:30 a.m.


(catching, infield and outfield).

Pre-registration cost is \$150 per player (each player can choose any two sessions) or \$200 (all three sessions).

Cost at the door is \$170 (two sessions) or \$220 (three sessions).

Each session is limited to 60.


For more information, call (313) 577-4280.



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And remember, if you are the one moving to an apartment, there are thousands of people looking for the stuff you won't need anymore.

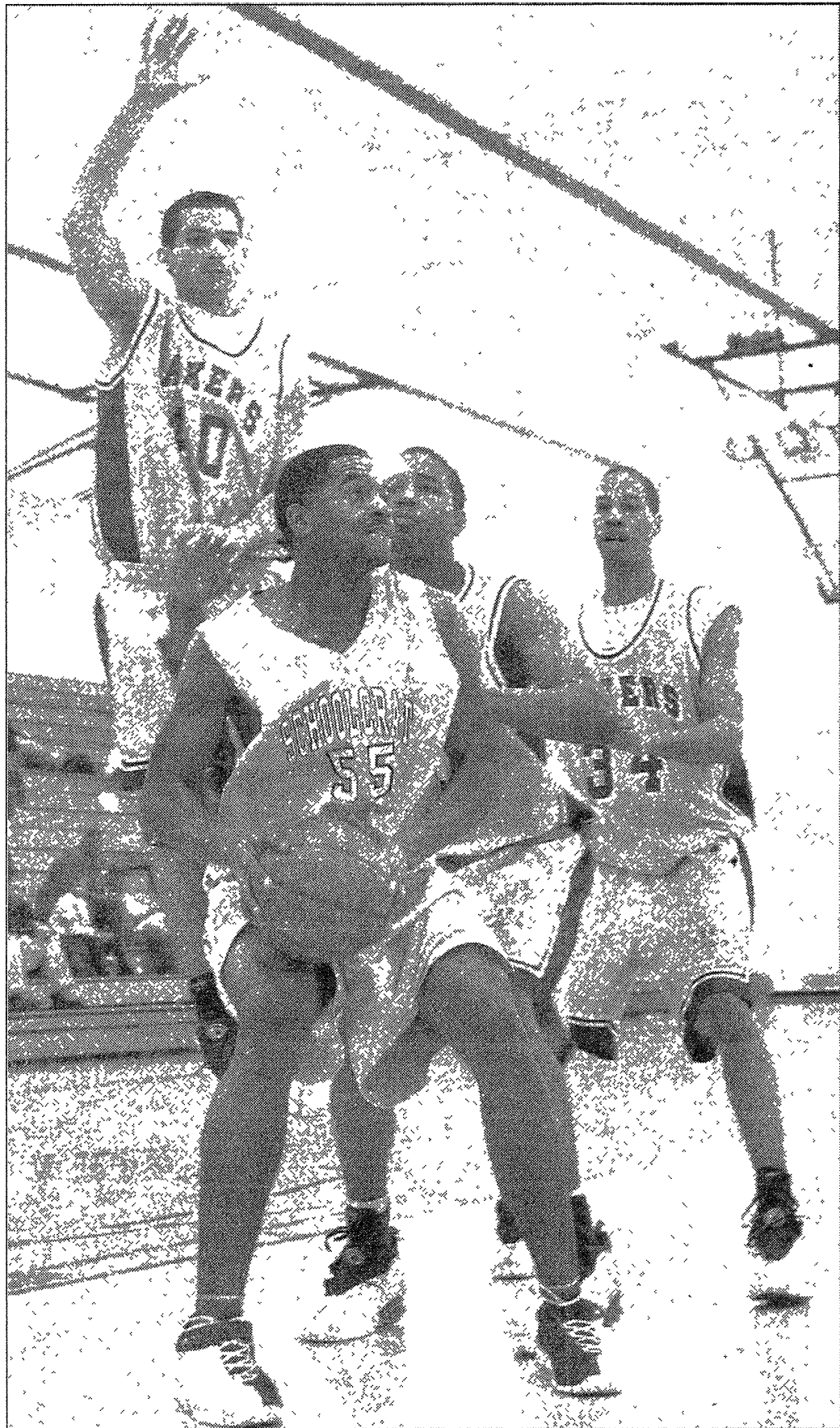


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ERIC BRONSON | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Torvoris Baker (55) tries to get through Lakeland C.C. defenders for a lay-up.

**OCELOTS**

FROM PAGE D1

with 29 points in the game. Schoolcraft coach Carlos Briggs said he was happy with the way the team responded to the last-second loss to Kankakee (Ill.) CC. "Obviously, winning our own Christmas tournament is a nice way to go into league play," Briggs said. "We

rebounded well off our loss, and guys like Bennett, Marcus Johnson and Holmes are really stepping up their play." In the first-round game, the Ocelots engineered another blowout win over Georgian College. In this game, Schoolcraft breezed to a 57-25 halftime edge. Bennett poured in 26 to lead the Ocelots. Baker and Dorsey scored 15 apiece, while Andre Scott contributed 14.

Dave Love led Georgian with 14. Briggs said a key for the team entering league play will be adjusting to life without starting guard Dion Schrell, who is out 8-10 weeks with a broken foot. "This gives us an opportunity to get more experience and depth in the long run," the optimistic Briggs said. In the consolation game, Georgian defeated George Brown (Ont.) College, 81-71.

**VOLLEYBALL**

FROM PAGE D1

11 blocks and four aces, Julie Carrier had 86 assists and four aces, Megan Wafer had 22 digs, Jeanette Joseph had 19 kills and five blocks, Reece Hoskins had 11 kills and 10 digs and Cara Cunningham had eight aces. On Monday, Redford Union finally won its first match of the season but still failed to get out of pool play. "We had a good day as far as learning and playing," said RU

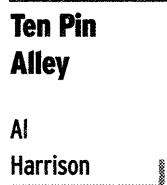
coach Amber Wyatt. "We won one game and went close with Bad Axe. One player decided not to show up and Casey Merriman came in and did a good job filling in. She's young, is learning, but making headway." The Panthers (1-8) lost to Dearborn, 25-16, 25-13, to Bad Axe, 25-20 and 25-21, beat Wyandotte Mt. Carmel, 25-18 and 25-14, but lost to Southfield, 25-12 and 25-13. All games were rally scoring. Meissa Gunnell led the Panthers with 12 kills, while Stephanie Cetnar and Helene

Lloyd had nine kills, and Renate Dike added eight more. Lloyd also had five aces in a seven-point stretch of serving and Casey Merriman had 38 assists.

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**It's crunch time as area bowling stakes and prize money get higher**

The man steps onto the approach, sets his feet in the proper position, gets ready in a perfect stance, knees slightly bent, shoulders square. Holding the ball in front of his chest, he is ready, his eyes fixed at the precise spot on the lane. Trying to relax, hard to do. Little beads of sweat appear on his forehead.



**Ten Pin Alley**  
Al Harrison

He is competing in the Miller Lite Scratch Invitational League at Vision Lanes in Westland. At stake is \$10,000 in prize money for finishing in first place, and that's just for the first half of the season.

This is excitement, the tension mounts as every strike or miss could make the difference between winning or whining. Now he sets everything in motion, the pushaway in perfect harmony with his steps.

The \$10,000 is one of the amounts ever paid in our area for a first-place finish in a half-season. He is into his slide, a perfect release and the ball is rolling, appears to be on line, and there it is a solid pocket hit and the pins are flying every which way, a beautiful strike. That was the pivotal strike ball, his team has passed "GO" and now gets to bowl in the final math for big money.

That's not the end of the story: About four more months and somebody will again take his spot on the lanes with sweat on his forehead for that crucial shot to help his team win another

\$10,000 for the second half championship.

The last three weeks of the half season create lots of perspiration as there is the start of the playoffs where eight of the 16 teams vie for the top positions. In the second round a week later, they roll to decide the final spots, while the rest of the league is maneuvering for the best position and prize money. The last place team gets \$1,000. A \$1,000 bonus goes to the righty and lefty bowlers for the highest averages over the season — the All-star Grille puts that prize up.

The weekly pairings are by a random drawing with no position rounds until the final three weeks of the half. The second round of playoffs produced the most excitement and perspiration as the Sharps N-A team beat the Milwaukee's Best team by just five pins, 3,153 to 3,148. At the same time, in the next pair of lanes, Sky Blue defeated Red Dog 3,195-3,191, a margin of only four pins.

That set up the finals for the following week: Sky Blue vs. Sharps N-A. The Sky Blue team took the championship handily over Sharps N-A 3,180-2,980, exactly 200 pins. The championship team was made up of Eric Tulley (Southfield), Doug Ellison (Wayne), Nunzio Marino, Nick Wissinger, Gary Jones, Dennis Worthington (Redford) and Scott Hayes. The runner-up team of Sharps N-A received \$5,000 for their efforts, which was split among Mike Caldwell (Westland), Mark Beasley (Westland), Rob McDonald, Paul Szumny, and brothers Clint and Dennis Berryman (Canton).

With the success of this brand new league, they plan to expand from the present 16 teams to 20

for next season. Interested parties should call league secretary, Bob Teffault at (734) 692-1517, no sweat.

The Michigan Junior Masters association is the ultimate level of youth competition. From the mind of Dan Ottman, this concept came along about 20 years ago. Now under the sponsor of Alro Steel Co., the masters has allowed many of today's great bowlers to come up through these ranks over the years. This monthly tournament carries a lot of scholarship money to help these kids further their education, and develop their skills at bowling.

In the most recent competition, Evan Relich of Garden City swept away the competition to win the boys division. He started the event with the tournament-high game of 290, but in match play put on a show by going 11-1 and leading the second-place bowler by 478 pins.

When the ladder was completed, Relich won the bauble by winning the final match in triple overtime as Eric Seltzer (Brunswick, Ohio) threw a key strike to tie at 223. Both bowlers struck in the first two sudden death one-ball shots. Relich then left a seven-pin to give Seltzer a chance. Seltzer threw his shot a little wide, leaving the 2-10, giving the title to Relich. Earlier, Seltzer had gotten by 2002 Rookie-of-the-year Ronnie Sparks Jr. of Wayne 226-194, on his way to the final match.

For further information on the MJMA, call executive director Dan Ottman at (248) 6899-8696 or e-mail him at dan.ottman@pba.com

Al Harrison is a resident of Garden City and a director with the Greater Detroit Bowling Association. He can be reached at (734) 422-1609

**THE WEEK AHEAD**

- PREP BOYS BASKETBALL**  
Friday, Jan. 3  
Churchill at WL Western, 7 p m  
Franklin at Redford Union, 7 p m  
John Glenn at Stevenson 7 p m
- PREP WRESTLING**  
Saturday, Jan. 4  
Redford CC at Toledo St. John, 10 a m  
Fordson Invitational, 10 a m  
South Lyon Invitational, 10 a m  
Ply Christian Tourney, 10 a m  
Wyandotte Invitational, 10:30 a m
- PREP GIRLS VOLLEYBALL**  
Saturday, Jan. 4  
Michigan Kickoff Classic, 9 a m  
Flushing Invitational, 9 a m  
WL Central Invitational, 9 a m  
Carlson Invitational, 9 a m  
Saline Invitational, TBA  
Central Michigan Tournament, TBA
- PREP GIRLS GYMNASTICS**  
Saturday, Jan. 4  
Salem Invitational, 9:40 a m
- MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL**  
Saturday, Jan. 4  
Concordia at Madonna, 3 p m

- Schoolcraft at Oakland CC, 3 p m
- WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL**  
Saturday, Jan. 4  
Concordia at Madonna, 1 p m  
Schoolcraft at Oakland CC, 1 p m
- ONTARIO HOCKEY LEAGUE**  
Friday, Jan. 3

- Whalers at Sarnia Sting, 7:30 p m  
Saturday, Jan. 4  
Whalers vs Guelph (Compuware), 7:30 p m  
Sunday, Jan. 5  
Whalers at London Knights 2 p m

TBA - time to be announced

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Fri., Jan. 17 @ 7:30 vs. Kingston  
Sat., Jan. 25 @ 7:30 vs. Windsor  
Fri., Jan. 31 @ 7:30 vs. Toronto

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**CHARGERS**

FROM PAGE D1

while Jeremy Sparks was third at 152 with a 6-5 win over Butch Choreszewski of Redford Union. Mario Perez was also fourth at 135 pounds.

"As a whole we did well," said Davis. "We left a number of kids at home; it's hard to keep them together this time of year. We all wanted to do better, we worked for more, we just came out short."

RU was ninth overall on the strength of John Gourlay's second-place finish at 135. Gourlay lost to Plymouth Salem's Mike Goethe, 13-6, in the finals.

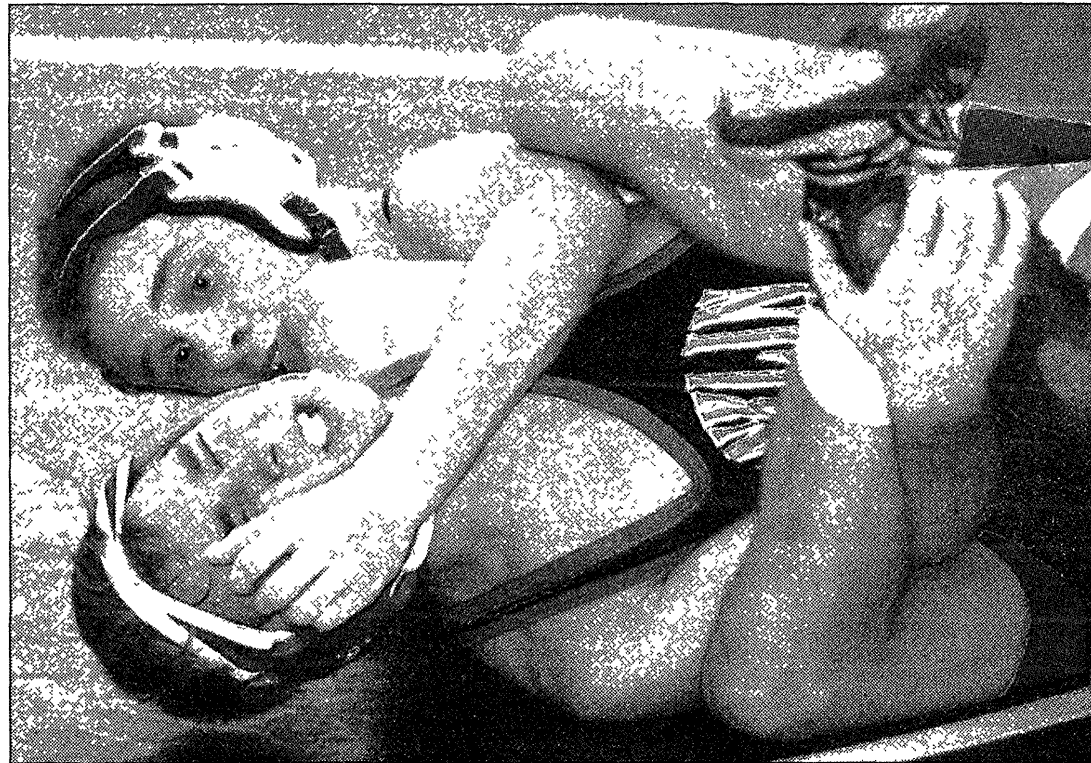
"Goethe was an all-stater last year," said RU assistant coach Jim Gourlay. "John lost to an all-stater in a pretty good match. A lot of our younger guys also wrestled well."

After being upset in the semifinals by Jeremy Walker of Salem, heavyweight Jason Leduc pinned Charles Cannon of East Detroit in 2:13 to take third. Jim Moore also finished fourth at 130 pounds, while Aaron Landry was fifth at 103.

**Stevenson wins in Trenton**

Livonia Stevenson's wrestling team encountered little resistance in winning the Trenton Dual Meet Tournament championship Saturday.

The Spartans dispatched



BRYAN MITCHELL | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Plymouth Salem's Mike Dendrinis (back) defeated Livonia Franklin's Ray Stratos in an early round, 119-pound match at Salem on Saturday.

Dearborn Heights Annapolis (45-29), Ypsilanti Lincoln (65-9), Ypsilanti (81-0) and Trenton (50-26) in the preliminary rounds.

In the finals, Stevenson came back to defeat Annapolis 40-26 to take home the biggest trophy available.

Stevenson coach Bob Moreau said he's happy with the progress his 15-2 team has made so far this season.

"We've been wrestling really well," Moreau said. "A lot of the same guys have been stepping up for us."

Several Spartans had perfect days helping the team to the trophy.

Dan Rabe went 4-1 at 103, while seven wrestlers went 5-0 on the day.

Those included: Charlie Rabaut at 119, Dan Leith at 140, Sean O'Hallern at 145,

Jason Fischer at 152, Dario Mainella at 160, Joel Bargerstock at 215 and Paul Bargerstock at heavyweight.

Rabaut is undefeated this season, improving his record to 23-0 overall. Paul Bargerstock and O'Hallern are also off to excellent starts, carrying records of 21-2 apiece.

Staff Writer Paul Beaudry contributed to this story.

**SPORTS ROUNDUP**

**BASKETBALL TOURNEY**

Best of the Best Basketball will hold a tournament Jan. 4-5 in Saginaw for boys and girls ages 9-14.

Teams are guaranteed three games. Awards will include team recognition for first and second place teams, all-tournament team and tourney MVP. The tournament is also a Nike National Tournament Qualifier event. The registration fee is \$195 per team.

For more information, call 1-866-831-2002, or visit www.midwestbestsports.com.

**YMCA HOOPS**

The Livonia Family YMCA is accepting registration for its winter youth basketball leagues for ages 6-11 (instructional, non-competitive) and 12-14 (competitive).

The season runs Jan. 6 through March 15.

For more information, call (734) 261-2161.

**HOOP TRYOUTS**

The Plymouth/Canton Crossfire AAU girls basketball organization will have tryouts for the upcoming season Jan. 9 at Tonda Elementary School, located on Warren between Canton Center and Beck.

The tryout, for girls 11-and-

under, will be from 6:30-8 p.m. Tryout fee is \$15 unless you are a current AAU member. If you are a current AAU member, you must bring your membership card in order to tryout.

Please arrive 15 minutes early to register. For more information, call Gary Wheeler at (734) 459-7574.

**BASEBALL TRYOUTS**

The Michigan Indians 10-year-old travel baseball team is conducting tryouts the first two weeks of January.

Players must be born after July 31, 1992, to be eligible. There is no residency requirement.

The team will play in the Little Caesars Baseball League (considered the best in the area). The league schedule will be approximately 20-25 games.

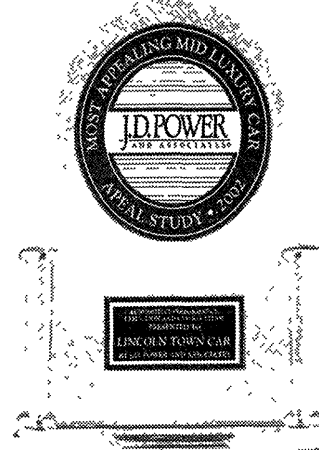
The team will also play in several weekend tournaments.

For specific tryout times and locations, contact Gegatic Williams at (313) 690-1104 or Dan Trublowksi at (734) 459-5289.

**COACH SOUGHT**

Mercy High School is currently looking for a varsity lacrosse coach. Anyone interested in the position should contact the athletic department at (248) 476-2836.

JUST ANNOUNCED **\$1,500** HOLIDAY CUSTOMER CASH ON THE 2003 LINCOLN TOWN CAR. REDESIGNED, RE-ENGINEERED, REBORN.



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**JUST ANNOUNCED:** ZERO DOWN, ZERO CASH DUE AT SIGNING AND ZERO FIRST MONTH PAYMENT.

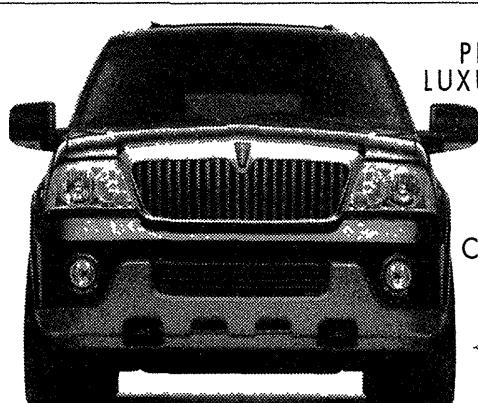


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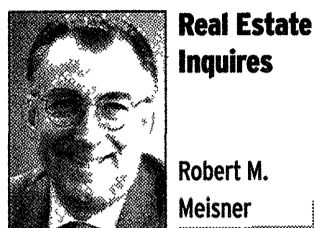


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<b>PLYMOUTH</b> Hines Park 40601 Ann Arbor Rd at I-275 (734) 453-2424 hinesparkilm.com	<b>ROCHESTER HILLS</b> Crissman 1185 South Rochester Rd. Between Hamlin & Avon Rd (248) 652-4200 crissmanilm.com	<b>ROSEVILLE</b> Bob Maxey 29000 Gratiot at 12 Mile Rd (586) 552-6000 bobmaxeyilm.com	<b>SOUTHFIELD</b> Star 24350 West 12 Mile Rd. at Telegraph (248) 354-4900 starilm.com	<b>SOUTHGATE</b> Southgate 16800 Fort Street at Pennsylvania (734) 285-8800 southgateilcolinmercury.com	<b>STERLING HEIGHTS</b> Crest 36200 Van Dyke at 15 1/2 Mile Rd (586) 939-6000 crestlinmerc.com	<b>TROY</b> Bob Borst 1950 West Maple Troy Motor Mall (248) 643-6600 borstilm.com	<b>YPSILANTI</b> Sesi 950 East Michigan 9 Miles West of I-275 (734) 482-7133 sesilm.com

\*J.D. Power and Associates 2002 Automotive Performance, Execution and Layout (APEAL) Study. \*\*Study based on 117,838 consumer responses. www.jdpower.com \*Call 1-888-56-LEASE for details on leases for A/Z/D plan employees and eligible family members. Customers eligible for the \$1,000 lease renewal incentive on LS and Navigator must terminate their new or used Lincoln or Mercury vehicle lease by 1/2/2003. \*\*Not all buyers will qualify for lowest Ford Credit APR. APR varies by term. Take delivery from dealer stock by 1/2/2003. Ford Credit will waive the first months' payment up to \$750 on 2002 Lincoln LS 24-month-36-month contracts purchased through 1/2/2003.





**Real Estate Inquires**

Robert M. Meisner

## Employee vs. a contractor

Our condominium association is thinking about hiring an independent contractor as opposed to an employee. I'm concerned about the differences. Do you have any comments?

There are a number of criteria which are established, both in the law and by the IRS, in determining whether a worker is an independent contractor or employee.

Employees must follow specific instructions about where, when and how to perform work. Employees are required to work set hours, where contractors retain the right to complete their work any time.

Employees receive wages on a schedule, whereas contractors are paid "by the project" or on commission.

Employees generally only work for one firm at a time, while contractors may work for several clients.

Requiring that work be performed on the business premises, even if the work could be done elsewhere, tends to suggest an employee/employer relationship.

You should check with your association attorney for a more complete explanation.

Robert M. Meisner, a lawyer, concentrates his practice in the areas of condominiums, real estate, corporate law and litigation. He can be reached at [rbmeisner@mich.com](mailto:rbmeisner@mich.com). This column shouldn't be construed as legal advice.



JERRY ZOLYNSKY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Steve Perlman heads one of the largest, most enduring building associations in the country.

# New president of building association assesses issues

BY DOUG FUNKE  
STAFF WRITER

Steve Perlman, the 68th president of the Building Industry Association of Southeastern Michigan, figures that he's constructed thousands of homes during his 22 years in the business.

Currently a partner with Ivanhoe-Huntley in West Bloomfield, Perlman says he loves the creative process of developing and building.

Perlman, 43, has been selected Builder of the Year and Young Builder of the Year for BIA. He will serve as president of the association this year.

Perlman lives in Bloomfield Hills and is married to Nicki and dad to Blake, Chase and Reed.

Following are edited excerpts from a recent interview.

**What's the purpose of BIA and why is it important that builders, contractors and suppliers are active in the association?**

Perlman: In addition to various services and group buys - insurance, cell phones and other benefits - we try to counter or create legislation favorable to our industry.

There's strength in numbers, greater influence in numbers. We're close to 3,000.

We try to keep our seminars, presentations, as current as we can. We provide members trade shows where they can see or present products.

**Builders come with varying degrees of talent and training, like all lines of work. In your opinion, what qualities make for an outstanding developer or builder?**

Perlman: It's truly, in my mind, a hands-on business. Most everybody now is

learning from the ground up. Dealing with customers, you have to know all aspects.

The difference between good and bad are those with talent are able to do something with their experience. In business now, you have to have the ability to take it to the next level ... and not just consider it a family business.

**A new home is one of the largest financial investments people can make. How should purchasers go about checking out a developer or builder before committing to buy?**

Perlman: There's a couple ways to do it. You can check any complaints with the state on a builder's record. You can check with the Better Business Bureau. You can go to the local municipality. They usually will tell you if they have problems.

My favorite way is go knock on any door. That's the best reference - a previous homeowner.

I understand I'm not going to make everyone happy. We may not always agree on an issue, but not because I was deceptive. That's what you want to find in a builder - someone who stands behind everything they do.

**What's hot in new homes today? What specifically are buyers looking for, asking for?**

Perlman: Needs haven't changed that much. After Sept. 11, people seem to spend more time at home. You're very aware of creating family areas, entertaining areas, offices. You're almost looking at every room for computer compatibility. Not large space, but greater use of space. You need stronger curb appeal. More thought has gone into elevation.

**Is the price of a new home getting to the point where fewer folks are able to buy?**

Perlman: I think the affordability factor is still there. It's not a function of materials. What's happening more is it's a function of available land, cost of land, zoning of land rather than the product, itself.

**The BIA has started to address the concept of Smart Growth in recent years. What is that and what's the difference between Smart Growth and sprawl?**

Perlman: Sprawl is a very unfair term. Development is primarily the result of demand. We don't create it. Smart Growth is coordination of municipalities, interest groups and builders ... to create infrastructure so people can live where they want to live. That's mostly a function of density. When we get restrictive ordinances in certain communities, we have to find other areas to provide housing.

**What are key issues facing your industry here?**

Perlman: Our belief is every individual has the right to home ownership. Smart Growth. Affordable homes. We're looking at legislation about impact fees and other barriers to supplying homes. Fair representation in the press. Not favorable, but fair.

**What's your role and goals as BIA president?**

Perlman: Keep the association moving forward in numbers and therefore in strength. Have an active role in creation of legislation that affects the industry. Do my best at balancing time with family, running my own business and leadership of the association.

[dfunke@oe.homecomm.net](mailto:dfunke@oe.homecomm.net) | (734) 953-2137

**Mortgage Bits**



Tim 'Timbo' Phillips

## Credit repair offers hope

As a mortgage loan officer, I deal with borrower credit issues daily. Credit history and scores enter virtually every dialogue, and patching up bruised credit is nearly as common in my life as actually writing loans.

It is odd, however, that after hundreds of hours of working to improve my borrowers' buying positions, and interacting with dozens of credit companies and agencies, very few people discuss the monetary costs of bad credit.

Even fewer talk about the small relative cost of repairing bad credit.

Many people think that damaged credit is not repairable. This is false, especially if you have documented proof that information has been wrongfully posted. In such cases, your mortgage loan officer can usually help permanently remove each item from your credit report within a few days, usually for less than \$25 per repair.

There are hundreds of consumer credit laws and regulations in effect for your benefit and protection. In fact, many of your creditors are not even aware of many of the rules and guidelines which they must comply, or be fined. In short, if a creditor cannot prove that the negative information they have posted to your credit report is correct, they must remove it.

Surprise! If a creditor does not follow proper reporting procedures, he may have to remove his negative information from your report, even if it's true. This repair process is often more involved and usually requires the help of a credit repair company or a credit-savvy attorney. Either of these choices may cost a few hundred dollars, but the benefits of your renewed credit report can repay those costs many times over.

Today, with perfect credit your \$150,000 mortgage might cost you \$900 per month. Meanwhile, the same money might cost \$1,150 monthly with damaged credit, and \$1,450 per month with bad credit. Normally, you can recoup your repair costs within a few months, and profit from the effort thereafter.

Credit problems or not, your mortgage loan officer should be able to assess your situation and initiate any required repairs. In most cases, it is fiscally well worth the effort.

Tim Phillips is a mortgage loan officer serving all of Michigan. You may reach him at (734) 797-5522, or via e-mail at [PhillipsHQ@com-cast.net](mailto:PhillipsHQ@com-cast.net). Homebuyers should always consult a professional for guidance specific to their situation.

## SUMMER REVIEW

Total residential units - houses, condos and apartments - permitted July - Sept. 2002 for selected states

State	Units	% Change
Virginia	15,000	+30%
California	49,400	+22
Texas	39,300	+16
Indiana	10,700	+3
Arizona	16,900	+9
Illinois	15,600	+9
Florida	46,300	+7
N. Carolina	20,000	+7
Ohio	13,500	+4
Georgia	23,900	+3
Nevada	8,700	+1
Michigan	13,400	-4

Source: U.S. Housing Markets

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Sunday

5:30 p.m. Friday

Sunday Real Estate

5:30 p.m. Thursday

Thursday

6 p.m. Tuesday

Thursday Real Estate Display

3 p.m. Monday

## Realtor Full Page Ad Index

Realtor	Page#
Century 21 Town & Country	8E
Coldwell Banker Preferred	3E
Coldwell Banker Schweitzer	4E

For the Best Home Buys in your Hometown Check the Sunday and Thursday Real Estate Section.

# HOME Of The WEEK

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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 dfunke@oe.homecomm.net

and Bloomfield Hills Community Education conduct a 16-hour seminar, "Home Building: Protecting You & Your Money," 6-10 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays, Jan. 6-15, at Andover High School, 4200 Andover Road. Topics include buying property, codes and permits, financing and the building process. Cost is \$180, plus \$30 for textbooks. To register, call (248) 433-0885.

Commercial Real Estate Women-Detroit, CoreNet, Building Owners & Managers Association, and International Facility Management Association host a joint economic forecast luncheon 11 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 9, at Dearborn Inn, 20301 Oakwood, Dearborn. Cost varies per organization. CREW members should contact Joanne Sisson at (248) 458-7203, or Anne Hiemstra, (248) 816-3834; IFMA members, (248) 988-0606.

Tuesday, Jan. 14, at Hunter Community Center, 509 Fisher Court, off Main Street two blocks north of 14 Mile, Clawson. To register, call Mathley at (248) 851-2975.

GVA Strategis, a Southfield-based commercial brokerage, and the Society of Industrial and Office Realtors co-host the 12th annual Commercial Real Estate Trends & Forecasts Seminar noon Friday, Jan. 17, at the Centerpoint Marriott Hotel, Pontiac. Cost, which includes lunch, is \$45 in advance or \$50 at the door. To register, call Sandi Melki at (248) 262-8000.

Michael Gott, a Realtor, and Wendy Patton, a broker/builder, present a real estate investors conference Friday-Sunday, Jan. 17-19, at the Northfield Hilton, Crooks at I-75, Troy. Topics include negotiations, tax issues, and rental cash flows. Packages \$59-\$149. To register, call Gott at (248) 394-0150.

Hundreds of exhibitors are expected. Hours are noon to 9 p.m. Friday, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday and 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday. Cost is \$7, \$6 for senior citizens. Children under 12 are free. On-site parking is available for an additional charge. For additional information, call (248) 862-1019.

The Building Industry Association of Southeastern Michigan sponsors its 11th annual Novi Home Improvement Show Friday-Sunday, Jan. 31-Feb. 2, at Novi Expo Center, I-96 and Novi Road.

The western Wayne affiliate of Habitat for Humanity seeks volunteers to help with building homes, office duties and fund-raising. No experience needed. Training will be provided. For details, call (734) 459-7744.

UNDERSTAND PROCESS Oakland Builders Institute

COLDWELL BANKER SCHWEITZER REAL ESTATE. Vacant Land. Ann Arbor \$299,900. South Lyon \$234,900. Livonia \$224,900. Wolverine Lake \$149,900. Pam Danaher. Thinking of changing careers or offices? Why not join the Number One Coldwell Banker Schweitzer team in Michigan and the Midwest Region. Call Pam Danaher for an outstanding career opportunity (248) 437-4500.

SELL HOME CLASS Alma Mathley of Professional Real Estate Title sponsors a free, no-obligation class, "For Sale by Owner," 6:30 p.m.

HOMES SOLD IN WAYNE COUNTY

Table listing home sales in Wayne County with columns for location, address, price, and date. Includes categories like Canton, Garden City, Livonia, Novi, Plymouth, Redford, and Westland.

COLDWELL BANKER SCHWEITZER REAL ESTATE

Grid of real estate listings with photos and descriptions. Listings include: CANTON \$524,800, CANTON \$224,900, COMMERCETOWNSHIP \$259,800, GARDEN CITY \$139,900, NOVI \$169,900, REDFORD \$124,900, WARREN \$192,000, ALLEN PARK \$144,900, CANTON \$219,900, DETROIT \$200,000, LIVONIA \$254,900, PLYMOUTH \$369,900, REDFORD \$99,900, WESTLAND \$179,900, CANTON \$339,900, CANTON \$189,900, DETROIT \$189,900, LIVONIA \$182,900, REDFORD \$155,000, SOUTH LYON \$399,000, WESTLAND \$116,500.

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Ann Arbor • Birmingham • Clarkston • Bloomfield Hills • Farmington Hills/W. Bloomfield • Grosse Pointe Hill • Grosse Pointe Woods • Lakes • Livonia • The Macomb Center • Northville • Plymouth • South Lyon • Troy

# Save energy, money on home improvement

(NAPSI) - Each year, homeowners spend more than a hundred billion dollars on home improvement and home repair projects. To make sure that home improvement investments pay back, the Environmental Protection Agency has developed an interactive Web site. The Home Improvement Toolbox provides practical advice and resources for homeowners, whether they are undergoing extensive renovations, looking for energy-efficiency improvements or searching for new products for their homes.

The Home Improvement Toolbox can be found online at [www.energystar.gov/homeimprovement](http://www.energystar.gov/homeimprovement).

The Toolbox encourages homeowners to:

- Put their homes to the test. Find out how your energy use at home compares to that of other U.S. households with the Home Improvement Toolbox. Just enter simple information about your home to determine if it rates high or low on efficiency. If your home receives a score of five or less, it may be time to consider making some

improvements.

Optimize home improvement decisions. Determine the most effective improvements for your home online. The Toolbox provides answers to 15 questions resulting in a customized, printable report of potential home improvements, ranked by their ability to improve energy efficiency and affect energy bill savings.

Enhance remodeling projects with energy-efficient features. From a kitchen overhaul to a bathroom quick fix, the Toolbox offers energy-saving solutions for many popular remodeling or renovation projects. Select projects of interest to you and find hints on where to include energy-efficient features and products in your home improvement plans.

Find solutions to common household problems. Problems like uncomfortably hot, cold or drafty rooms, high energy bills and the growth of mold and mildew are often the result of energy inefficiencies. The Toolbox offers solutions that help you save energy, save money and increase your family's comfort.

# Kitchen menu desk is new home staple

FOR AP WEEKLY FEATURES

If you're like many folks, you put thought into your daily meals and plan ahead for trips to the grocery store to make sure you don't run out of required ingredients during the week.

If you're an organizer and a planner, your new home should have a menu desk. It's located in the kitchen, so you can jot down items on a grocery list whenever you think of them.

You can even keep a meal calendar here and organize your coupons in the same place.

A computer can come in very handy also, especially if you wish to take advantage of a grocery delivery service. That way, once a week, you can order groceries online and simply wait for front-step delivery.

A menu desk is a staple of many newly designed homes. It's certainly a useful space, one that will keep your kitchen better organized.

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.

**Jim Rieth** joins Rock Financial in Auburn Hills as a mortgage banker. He brings 20 years experience as a hotel executive to his new profession.



Rieth

Rieth lives in Lake Orion.

**The Detroit Chapter of Commercial Real Estate Women** announces 2003 officers and directors.

**Jennifer Tallman-McLean**, Etkin Equities, Southfield, is president and national delegate; **Sue Mero**, Electronic Data Systems, Troy, president-elect and national delegate.

**Jennette Smith**, Crain's Detroit Business, Detroit, secretary and communications liaison; **Janet Howard**, Grant Thornton, Southfield, treasurer and sponsorship liaison.

Directors are **Teresa Welsh**, Maplehurst Group, Ann Arbor, real estate excellence award liaison; **Marilyn Nix**, General Motors

**Worldwide Real Estate**, Detroit, programs liaison; and **Joan Cleland**, Acquest Realty Advisors, Bloomfield Hills, membership and member services liaison.

Other directors are **J.B. Bernard**, Schostak Brothers, Southfield, community outreach liaison; and **Monica Labe**, Dickinson Wright, Detroit, golf outing liaison.

**Meg Van Meter**, Honigman Miller Schwartz and Cohn, Detroit, is past president and nominating chairwoman.

**Colliers International**, with offices in Bingham Farms and Detroit, recently closed several commercial real estate transactions of at least \$1 million each.

**Dave Courtney and Tom**

**Lasky of Colliers** were involved in the purchase by Baker College of a 63,000-square-foot industrial building in Allen Park from APM Associates after APM had purchased from ADP.

**Gary Grotzhober** was involved in leasing a research and development building of nearly 28,400 square feet in Plymouth to Lear Corp.

**Mike Yamada, Rourke Smith and Len Tosto** were involved in the sale of a 164,000-square-foot industrial building in Sidney, Ohio, to Lab Telemetric.

**Greg Kloiber** participated in the sale of a 290,000-square-foot industrial building to KSR International in Stratford, Ontario.

### Cassady Place Plymouth



30 Luxury Condominiums conveniently located in the city of Plymouth. Cassady Place is situated on the site of the historic Cassady House, and is just moments from downtown Plymouth. Stop by and see our model, beautifully decorated by Gabriela's Park View Gallery.

**For information call 734-416-9118**

**Features:**

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- Two full bathrooms
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- Basement

*Our model will be open daily from 12-6 -pm*  
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**NORTHVILLE.** This 4 bedroom Curtis built estate is situated on one of Stonewaters lakes. Completely landscaped including beach front. Upgraded features thru-out including ceramic tops in Jack & Jill bath, guest bath with granite counters and master suite with spacious bay and fireplace. Kitchen features, oversized island, chestnut cherry cab, granite counters and hardwood floor. \$843,900 (D30MAN)

**NORTHVILLE.** Appealing 4 bedrooms and 2.5 bath colonial with updates within the last 5 years including kitchen, hardwood floors, carpeting, finished basement, furnace (12/99), dishwasher (Kenmore 5/01), garage door opener (00), interior painting (most rooms '01 & '02). Extra wide and deep backyard-playspace to remain. Finished lower level with berber carpet. \$339,900 (D05BRA)

**NORTHVILLE.** This stately colonial features double staircases 3 full baths + 2 half baths, 2 furnaces and 2 central air. Upgrades include: cabinets, granite countertops in kitchen and powder room, trim, crown moldings, tile, carpet, and humidifier. Front completely landscaped with sprinklers! Built in 2001. \$599,900 (L73WIL)

**NOVI.** Ranch end unit walkout with finished lower level included in the 3400 total sq ft. Freshly painted thru-out lower level and 1st floor 26 x 10 fitness room, French doors from great room to family room and 1st floor den to deck. Cathedral ceilings in living room, kitchen, master suite. Custom kitchen, hardwood in dining room, kitchen, hall and 1st floor laundry. Skylight \$349,900 (L12HAM)

**NOVI.** Stunning 2 bedroom ranch end unit condo with no one above! Updates include roof, siding, windows, all hardwood floors, complete kitchen, bath, electrical, exterior door, light fixtures and central air. All appliances stay including washer and dryer. Clubhouse with tennis courts and pool \$132,800 (L10GLE)

**NOVI.** Excuse 4 bedroom, 3 full bath and 2 half bath colonial situated on 3770 sq. ft. Quality thru-out from 2 story entry with dual stairway to private step-up master with elegant master bath, Jack & Jill bath for kids & private bath in guest room. Finished basement with fireplace, pool room and gym. A fantastic in-ground pool completes the masterpiece. \$629,000 (L07SUN)

**NOVI.** Enjoy the "at home" feeling of this spacious ranch with historical wood barn beams, roomy country kitchen with cozy wood burning stove and convenient island counter. Large private master bedroom with walk-in closet and bath plus 3 other bedrooms, a full bath and 1st floor laundry. Finished basement with home office space. \$259,900 (L16CUL)

**HIGHLAND.** Beautifully maintained contemporary home rests on 1.7 acres of forest like land. One of a kind floor plan offers 4 large bedrooms, 2nd floor laundry, master with dressing room and central air. All appliances stay including washer and dryer. Clubhouse with tennis courts and pool \$132,800 (L10GLE)

**HIGHLAND.** Beautifully maintained contemporary home rests on 1.7 acres of forest like land. One of a kind floor plan offers 4 large bedrooms, 2nd floor laundry, master with dressing room and central air. All appliances stay including washer and dryer. Clubhouse with tennis courts and pool \$132,800 (L10GLE)

**Quality Real Estate**

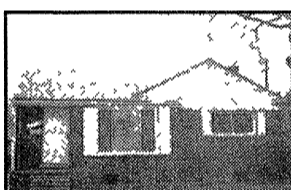
37699 Six Mile (Suite 200), Livonia

**(734) 462-3000**





# COLDWELL BANKER


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**GOLF COURSE VIEW** - Golf course view from this 3 bedroom brick ranch. All bedrooms have finished hardwood floors. Remodeled kitchen Florida room. Six ceiling fans. Central air - 2002. Glass block windows. All appliances stay. \$135,000 (571GL)




**GORGEOUS 4 BEDROOM, 2 1/2 BATH COLONIAL** - Much desired Fellows Creek Estates, gourmet kitchen w/island and built-ins. Formal living room and dining room, 1st floor library, luxurious master suite, premium wooded lot, 3 car side entry garage and more! \$389,000 (169VA)




**VACANT LAND**




**LUXURY CONDO - END UNIT** - Entire first floor is hardwood. Kitchen is furniture quality mid-tone maple. The library is 17 x 14. There's a tray ceiling and opulent bath in the master suite. This end unit backs to woods. Two bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths and an unfinished walkout. \$399,900 (430T1)



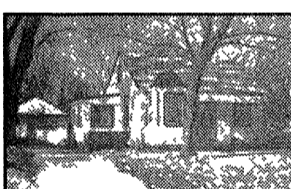
**CUTE & COZY** - Cute as can be - 3 bedroom brick ranch. This home has newer furnace, kitchen, bath, carpet and landscaping. Come take a look and make us an offer! \$129,900 (825ME)



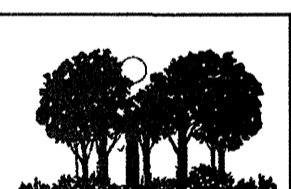
**TOTALLY UPDATED & IMPECCABLY MAINTAINED** - The updates in this Redford ranch include: kitchen w/oak cabinets, windows w/warranty, vinyl siding, roof on home and garage, furnace w/A/C and garage and entry doors. Squeaky clean! \$105,000 (341BR)




**MAIN STREET OFFICE** - Prominent Main Street location offers 2 office and large reception area on first level, 2 additional offices up and a nicely finished basement. Large garage/storage building at rear of property. \$235,000 (158MA)




**BEST BUY IN WESTLAND** - Charming 3 bedroom bungalow in Westland. Too many updates to list. Relax and enjoy the built-in hot tub on the back deck-close to shopping. Great starter home. \$110,000 (733KA)



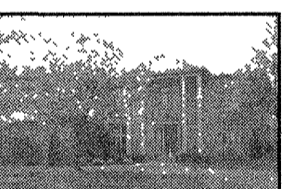
**SPECTACULAR LOTS IN SALEM TOWNSHIP** - One of the most prestigious developments in Salem Township. Premium 2 acre + build sites to choose from. Close to shopping and schools. Easy freeway access to M-14 & I-275. Private asphalt road. Bring the plan of your dream home. Deed restrictions apply. \$160,000 and up (000HI)




**CHOICE CONDO LIVING** - Carefree, convenient, clean, cost-effective. Two bedroom, 1 1/2 baths, bay window in dining area, skylights. A great opportunity. \$134,500 (538AR)




**9.3 ACRES** - 9.3 acres on Ann Arbor Trail between Sheldon and Beck. 450 front feet. Currently home to 2 older ranch homes. \$875,000 (107AN)




**PLYMOUTH'S RIDGEWOOD HILLS** - Updated colonial with immediate occupancy. Four bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths, updated kitchen & 1/2 bath, finished basement with rec room & extra bedrooms, 3-tier deck w/built-in seating & sunken hot tub, attached garage. \$379,900 (885NO)




**SHAKE, RATTLE & ROLL** - This seller is ready to go! Sub clubhouse, pool and tennis courts included with this 3 bedroom, 1 1/2 bath brick ranch in Canton with many big \$ updates! Living room, family room, new white kitchen, 1st floor laundry closet, C/A, full basement, deck, 2 car attached garage and more! \$221,900 (443BR)




**FOUR BEDROOM COLONIAL** - Desirable Thimbark Sub in Wayne, close to elementary school, expressways and shopping. Home offers 4 bedrooms colonial, family room, updated kitchen, basement, 2 car garage and 18x10 Florida room. \$175,900 (297TH)




**COUNTRY IN THE CITY** - Unique estate-like home located on 1.64 acres. Large master bedroom has dressing room and fireplace. Separate 2 bedroom apartment and 2 huge out buildings for storage. Home features 4 bedrooms, 2 baths, and glassed in dining room. \$270,000 (147NE)




**ALL THE UPDATES** - This beautiful Canton quad level has been completely updated. Roof, windows, furnace, air conditioning, and kitchen w/oak cabinets \$214,900 (645WA)




**SPEND THE NEW YEAR HERE** - In this 3 bedrooms brick ranch, all appliances, hardwood floors, C/A, new furnace, vinyl windows, finished basement w/possible 4th bedrooms, 2-car garage, new driveway, and 1 year home warranty. Be in for the holidays \$104,900 (398GR)



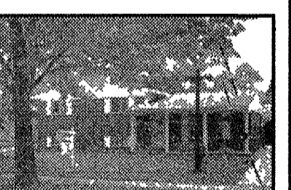
**UNSURPASSED BEAUTY** - Traditional & contemporary styles intertwine in this elegant 4 bedroom home offering exceptional amenities throughout. Built in 1999, it provides 2 1/2 baths, family room, gourmet kitchen w/breakfast area, study, living & dining rooms, and a 3 car garage. The home has a premium setting and is beautifully landscaped \$448,000 (004PO)




**LOCATION, LOCATION** - Plymouth Twp. 4 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath with newer furnace and C/A, newer windows, light & bright updated kitchen, newer carpet, flooring and freshly painted. Master bedroom has 2 walk-in closets and full bath. Short stroll to schools, banking, restaurants! \$223,900 (740OR)



**LAKEFRONT** - One gorgeous lake view! Ranch style Belleville lakefront home. Large spacious rooms, 3 bedrooms, 2 baths. Newer Berber carpet, Wallside windows, 2 car attached garage. Location supports an arena of constantly changing foliage, wildlife and waterfowl. \$322,900 (166LA)



**NO DOWN PAYMENT** - Stunning Westland tri-level located in a great neighborhood. What a great place to raise a family. Seller will contribute 3% towards down payment. Why wait till the rates go up?? \$179,900 (823WI)




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HOLIDAY SAVINGS! NEW MODEL BLOWOUT! Compare! Lowest Prices on New Skyline Homes!

Novi Meadows South Lyon Schools, quiet country setting, heated pool, beautiful clubhouse, baseball diamond, basketball court

HOLIDAY SAVINGS IN WIXOM! NEW MODEL BLOWOUT! Compare! Lowest Prices on New Skyline Homes!

Commerce Meadows On Wixom Rd. 4 miles north of I-96 Huron Valley Schools, sparkling pool, luxurious clubhouse, basketball & volleyball courts, picnic area.

Mobile Homes 3750

FAIRMONT, 1997 - 16x60, corner lot 2 bedroom, appliances, laundry area, new carpet, \$21,900

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HIGHLAND-WHITE LAKE AREA- 10 acres, parcels from \$100,000-40 acres, heavily wooded, \$450,000-40 acres

INDEPENDENCE TWP. - 3.3 Acre lot Equestrian Lake Village Sub. SE corner of Oak Hill and Perry Lake Rd

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BIRMINGHAM 2 bedroom, 1 bath, \$850/mo. Close to downtown. 248-252-9111

BIRMINGHAM 1 MONTH FREE To Qualified Applicants Studios and 1 & 2 bedrooms available in town Birmingham

BIRMINGHAM 1994 E. 14 Mile - near Pierce. Fully updated 2 bedroom/1 bath ranch townhouse features all white cabinets

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BURLINGTON APTS. 1111 N. Old Woodward, has short term and month to month lease arrangements

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CANTON BEDFORD SQUARE APTS NOW TAKING APPLICATIONS FOR Spacious 1 & 2 Bedroom Apts

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FARMINGTON HILLS Walnut Creek HOLIDAY SPECIAL \$99 move in-w/credit approval 1 Bedroom Apartments

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GARDEN CITY Ford/Middlebelt Area Spacious 1 bedroom Apts Amenities include:

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FARMINGTON HILLS - 9 Mile/Middlebelt. 1 bedroom at \$505. Heat, appliances, carpeting. 248-478-7489

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FARMINGTON HILLS 1 Bedrooms available. Heat & water included. Starting at \$545

FARMINGTON HILLS Maple Ridge Apts - 23078 Middlebelt. Spacious 2 bedroom, C/A, carpet available. \$650-\$665. 248-473-5180

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FIVE, Five, Five. ONE MONTH FREE To Qualified Applicants Studios, 1 & 2 bedrooms available in town Birmingham. 555 S. Old Woodward, Call Libby (248)645-1191

FREE RENT UNTIL FEB. 1st 2003 & \$50 OFF 6 MONTHS RENT with 13 mo. Lease

Newly upgraded 1 & 2 Bedrooms Plymouth Manor Plymouth House

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Apartment

Madison Heights QUIET Almost soundproof 1 & 2 bedroom apts. Across from Oakland Mall at I-75 and 14 Mile

CONCORD TOWERS 32600 Concord Dr. (next to the Micro-Center Store) 1 bedroom from \$555 2 bedroom from \$615

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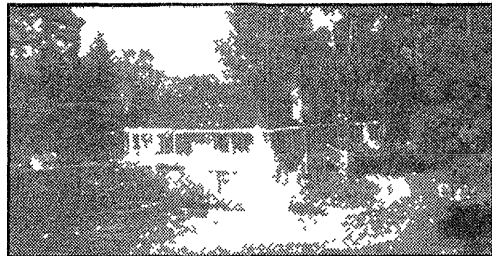


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**UPPER LONG LAKE ESTATE** On 2+ acres w/over 300 ft. of lakefront. 8 bedrooms, 9 full, 3 half baths, heated imported marble & stone floors, Gaggenau & Dacor kitchen. Lower level has a theater, 2nd kitchen & wine cellar. This home is the ultimate in luxury. \$6,899,000 22066228HER 626-8700



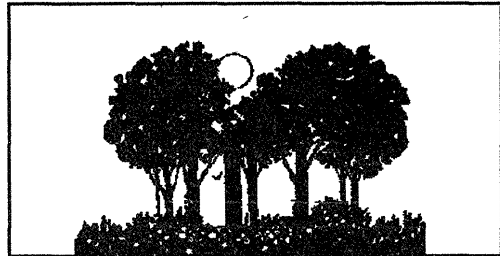
**LAKEFRONT!** Sensational, one of a kind lakefront setting. Custom built ranch with 250 ft. of frontage on Lower Long Lake with water views from almost every window. Elevator, Florida room and inground pool. Expansive views down the length of the lake. EAS 647-0100



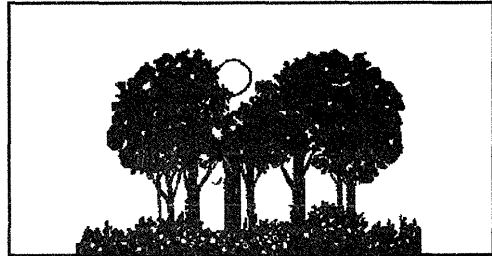
**FRANKLIN NEW CONSTRUCTION** On rolling terrain w/4 BR's, 5 full & 2 half baths, master suite w/2 huge walk-ins, a 16x16 home office/nursery/ex. rm. or 5th BR, custom kitchen cabinets w/granite tops, hardwood floors, stone fir in laundry & much more! \$1,449,000 22072995SCE 626-8700



**SODON LAKEFRONT** Over 2 acres of park-like setting. Live in the current home, expand or build your dream home. 3 BR's, 2 baths, granite master bath w/jetted tub, white kitchen w/Sub-Zero & Gaggenau ovens, WOLL w/FR, FP & 2nd kitchen. \$1,295,000 22092162SOD



**BIRMINGHAM VACANT LAND** One of downtown Birmingham's last parcels. Build a mixed use building w/its lot line to lot line zoning. On a quiet street right behind Green's Art Supply, in the middle of all the action, yet removed from the crowds. Zoned office & residential. \$1,200,000 22037380DAI 626-8700



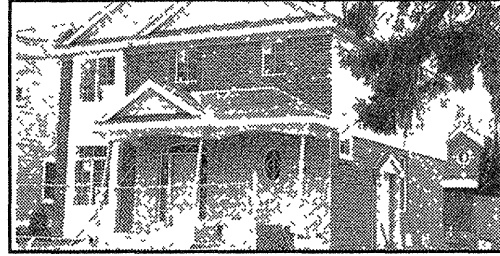
**CITY OF BLOOMFIELD HILLS** This is the unique opportunity to build your dream home on this pristine setting in the City of Bloomfield Hills. Just under an acre with mature trees and within walking distance to the Cranbrook Educational Community. \$1,195,000 22011670YAR 626-8700



**BLOOMFIELD HILLS FAMILY SUB** Builder's own custom house in popular Franklin Ravines w/Bloomfield Hills schools. Large home w/5 BR's, 4 full & 2 half baths. Hrdwd. flrs., travertine, granite & built-ins throughout. Dream kitchen & master suite. \$1,195,000 22098191RAV 626-8700



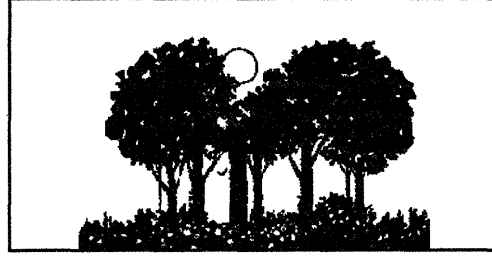
**NEW CONSTRUCTION IN POPPLETON PARK.** Beautifully appointed kitchen with granite countertops and top of the line appliances. Master Suite with Fireplace. Bonus room above Garage. 4 bedrooms, 3 full baths. Potential for fifth bedroom and full bath in lower level. \$999,000 RID 647-0100



**DOWNTOWN BIRMINGHAM NEW CONSTRUCTION** 3-4 BR's, 2.5 baths, hardwood floors, granite tops, finished lower level. Gorgeous stone & brick exterior. Top of the line everything! \$899,000 22106658STA 626-8700



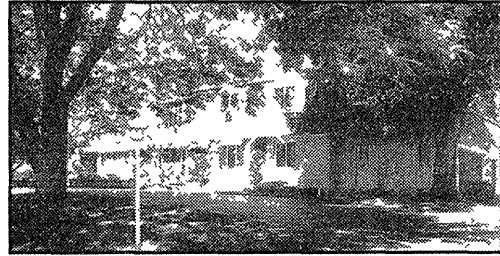
**PINE LAKE DETACHED CONDO** w/gorgeous lake views & wall to windows through entry & lower level. Large master suite w/WIC & bath, 4 BR's, 3.5 baths & 2 decks. The lower level has a 2nd kitchen & FR w/FP. Just steps away from miles of nature paths. \$849,000 2208256PIN 626-8700



**FRANKLIN PROPERTY** Here's your chance to build your dream house in the estate section of Franklin. Gorgeous, flat, treed parcel of over 3 acres w/small pond & horse barn for 2 horses. Current home needs to be removed. New home could be built in a number of different positions. \$790,000. 22021790FRA 626-8700



**WONDERFUL WALLACE FROST TUDOR!** Walking distance to Birmingham. 2 story beamed ceiling, large kitchen w/ample eating space. Master BR w/newer bath, walk-in closet, balcony, LL FR w/daylight windows & full bath. French doors lead to deck from dining rm. 3rd bedroom used as an office. \$765,000 LAK 647-0100



**NESTLED** On one of Franklin's most private courts is the fabulous 4 BR, 4 1/2 bath French Colonial. Tavertine & terrazzo flooring, 2-story foyer, FR, LIB & LR, oversized DR, wonderful master w/stream & whirlpool bath, partially fin. basement + more! \$749,900 22065446WIL 626-8700



**BLOOMFIELD RANCH** On a picturesque lot w/stream. Totally renovated & updated. 3 BR's, 2 full & 2 half baths, white kitchen w/GE appliances, amazing master suite w/newer bath, dressing area, 2 walk in closets + a wall of built-in dressers. Hardwood floors in foyer, DR & LR. \$649,900 22107399OVE 626-8700



**LAKEFRONT!** Vintage 5 bedroom home with hardwood floors, high ceilings. Living room, family room and dining room have large fireplaces. Master bedroom has balcony with great lake view. Nice boat house by the lake. \$569,900 WAT 647-0100



**RARE OPPORTUNITY** to own a contemporary home on nearly two acres of beautiful, wooded property in Eastover Farms. This 4 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath home has a large family room w/wet bar & outstanding views from every room. Close to major highways & malls. Bloomfield Hills schools. \$549,000 GRE 647-0100



**WING LAKE PRIVILEGES** Spacious contemporary on nearly an acre of prime Birmingham Twp. property. Built-ins abound, 1st floor master suite, fireplaces in the living room & great room, 4 BR's & 3.5 baths. Award winning Bloomfield Hills schools make this a great buy! \$489,900 22099179NIA 626-8700



**A TERRIFIC OPPORTUNITY** Build your dream home on this beautiful, wooded lot in Innerwoods of Bloomfield. This is a fabulous established neighborhood with award winning Birmingham schools. A great location for your new home! \$479,000 21091304HID 626-8700



**FARMINGTON CONDO** Stunning & elegant, great location, close to everything. 3 BR's, 2.5 baths, living room w/high ceiling & fireplace, dining room, library, 1st floor master BR & bath, 1st floor laundry, recessed lighting throughout. \$459,000 CHE 626-8700



**WET PLASTER** Construction in this wonderful family home. Approx. 3300 sq. ft. encompass this 4 BR, 3 1/2 bath home in pristine condition. Oversized kitchen, treed lot, pool, pretty circular staircase, 1st floor laundry, full basement, sauna + much more. \$409,900 22063972WOO 626-8700



**POPULAR HICKORY GROVE HILLS SUB!** Within walking distance to both private and public schools. Custom 4 BR colonial. Hardwood floors & wet plaster with loads of updates including Pella windows. GM/Daimler Chrysler & I-75 nearby. \$339,000 WOO 647-0100



**BUILD YOUR DREAM HOME** in Franklin Village on a beautifully treed, 1.25 acre lot, surrounded by million dollar homes. \$299,000 22096956LUC 626-8700



**DEVON HILLS CHARMER** Lovingly maintained home on a beautifully treed acre lot. 3 BR's, 2 baths, family room, library, updates include roof, windows, electrical & landscape decor. In an area of much higher priced homes. \$298,500 22105358PEM 626-8700



**CLOISTER ON THE LAKE TOWNHOUSE** Spacious condo w/courtyard entry, large rooms, 2-story dining room, FR w/FP, huge MBR suite w/WIC & 2nd BR w/private bath, doorwalls in kitchen, LR & FR, neutral carpet & paint throughout. \$275,000 22107007BOR 626-8700



**EXCEPTIONAL!** 3 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath end unit, contemporary ranch condo. First floor laundry, finished lower level. White kitchen, vaulted ceilings, skylights. Includes appliances, pool and tennis courts in desirable West Bloomfield complex. \$205,000 WIL 647-0100



**TERRIFIC TUDOR!** Great curb appeal and within walking distance to downtown Royal Oak. Large, bright rooms and high ceilings. Spacious living room with fireplace. Mostly newer windows and hardwood floors. Newer siding and plumbing. Pretty treed lot. \$209,900 GAR 647-0100



**BUILD YOUR DREAM HOUSE!** In the gated community of The Hills of Lone Pine. Pool, tennis courts, putting green, croquet & jogging paths. This is a gorgeous preserve lot. The site will take 6000-10,000 sq. ft., but you can build as small as 2500 sq. ft. \$199,900 22070843WOB 626-8700



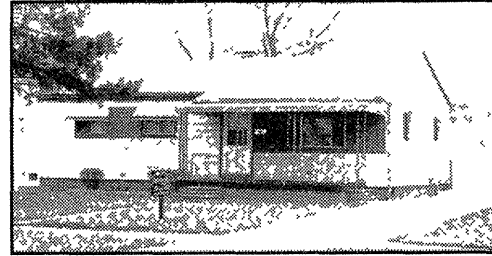
**RARE RANCH STYLE END UNIT!** Full basement and 2 car garage. Immediate occupancy on this 2 bedroom, 2 full bath condominium in Hampton Pines. Freshly painted and neutral throughout, this complex offers a swim club, tennis courts and golf privileges. Move-in condition. \$191,000 LON 647-0100



**ROYAL OAK BUNGALOW** 3 BR's, updated bath, updated kitchen, newer windows, hardwood floors on the main level, full basement & 2 car detached garage. This home is well located near park & schools. \$179,900 22100451KEN 626-8700



**ENTRY LEVEL CONDO!** Two bedroom, 1 1/2 bath spacious condo with tennis court view. Very private. Bloomfield schools. 2 air conditioning units, 2 ceiling fans. Large closets and extra storage in basement. Must see! \$112,900 CON 647-0100



**WARREN RANCH** 3 BR's, 1 bath, LR w/fireplace, hardwood floors under carpet. Many updates including AC, new driveway, new garage door & opener, roof, windows & electrical service. The large fenced yard has a garden w/pond & gas BBQ. \$97,500 WEL 626-8700



**GORGEOUS COLONIAL FOR LEASE** Meticulously maintained home in move-in condition. 4 BR's, 2.5 baths, island kitchen, luxurious master bath w/whirlpool & sep shower, dining room, family room w/fireplace, library & deck. \$3250 /MO. HAL 626-8700

**Lease!**











# Thank You!

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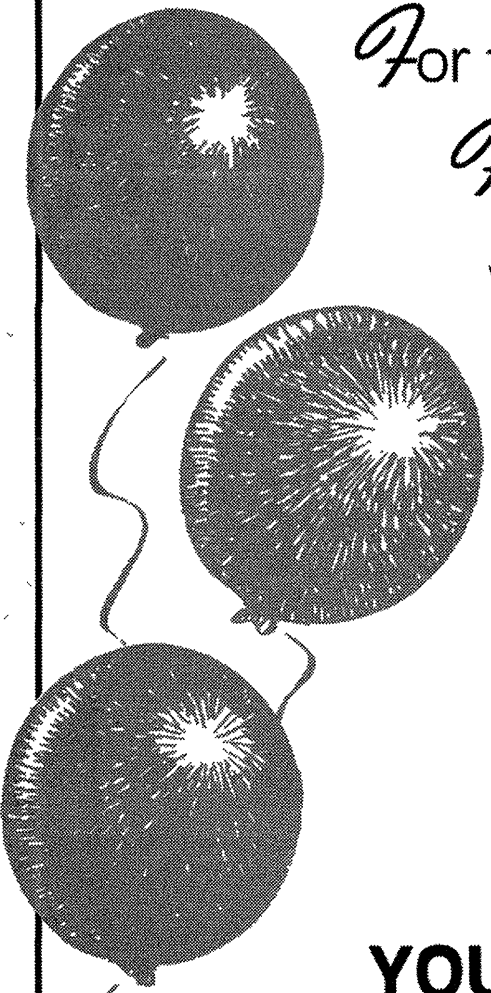
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*For appreciating the value in what we do and what we can do for you...*

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*For making our jobs meaningful and worthwhile...*



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# Saturn® 2003 ION 1

**0% APR** for **36 months** Or **and No Payments for 90 Days\***

for qualified buyers on 2003 ION models. Average finance savings of \$1,908.

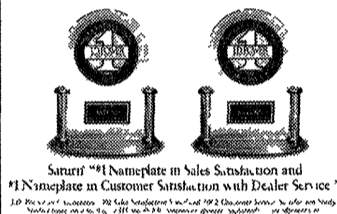
Lease for **\$225<sup>†</sup>**/month for 48 months  
 \$795 due at lease signing  
 (No security deposit required. Tax title and license are extra.)  
 GM employees and qualified family members

Lease for **\$199<sup>†</sup>**/month for 48 months  
 \$795 due at lease signing  
 (No security deposit required. Tax, title and license are extra.)



ION Features Include: Automatic • Air conditioning • AM/FM/CD • And much more!

**Ask About Our Saturn/GM Lease Loyalty Program. Up To \$750 Off A New Saturn.**



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It's different in a Saturn.  
www.saturn.com

\*Monthly payment is \$16.67 for every \$1,000 financed. Example down payment: 14%. Some customers will not qualify. Take delivery by 12/31/02 on ION models. Not available with other offers. Retailer financial participation may affect consumer cost. See retailer for restrictions. Savings compare 0% APR to a Bankrate Inc., national average bank loan rate. Vehicle shown with optional equipment. †Lease payments based on specially designed equipped 2003 Saturn model with M.S.R.P. of \$13,855. Option to purchase at lease end for amount to be determined at lease signing. Primary lending source must approve lease. Take delivery by 12/31/02. Mileage charge of 20¢ per mile over 48,000 miles. Lessee pays for excess wear. Payments may be higher in some states. Not available with other offers. ©2002 Saturn Corporation. For more information go to saturn.com

# 2003 Saturn ION 1

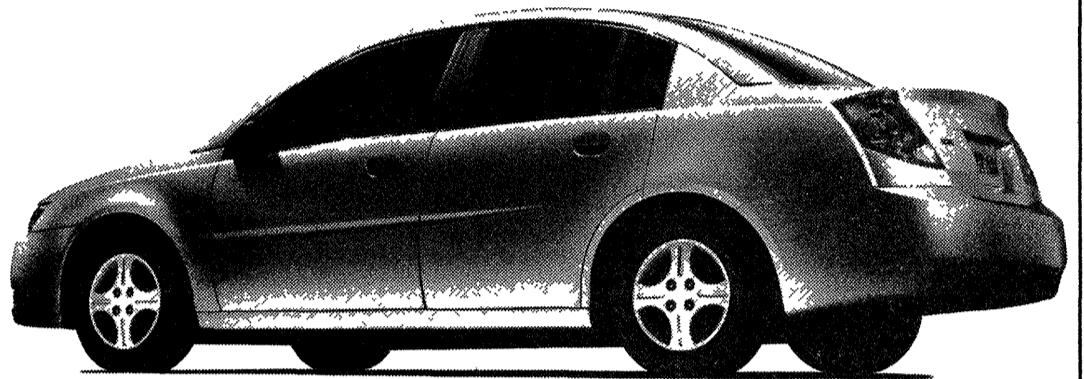
Let the Fun Begin.

**0% APR<sup>†</sup>** for **36 months** and **No Payments for 90 Days\***

for qualified buyers on 2003 ION models. Average finance savings of \$1,908.

Lease for **\$14,145** plus tax, title and plates  
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Lease for **\$13,101** plus tax, title and plates

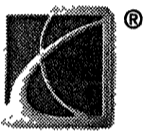


ION features include: Automatic transmission • Air conditioning • AM/FM/CD • And much more.

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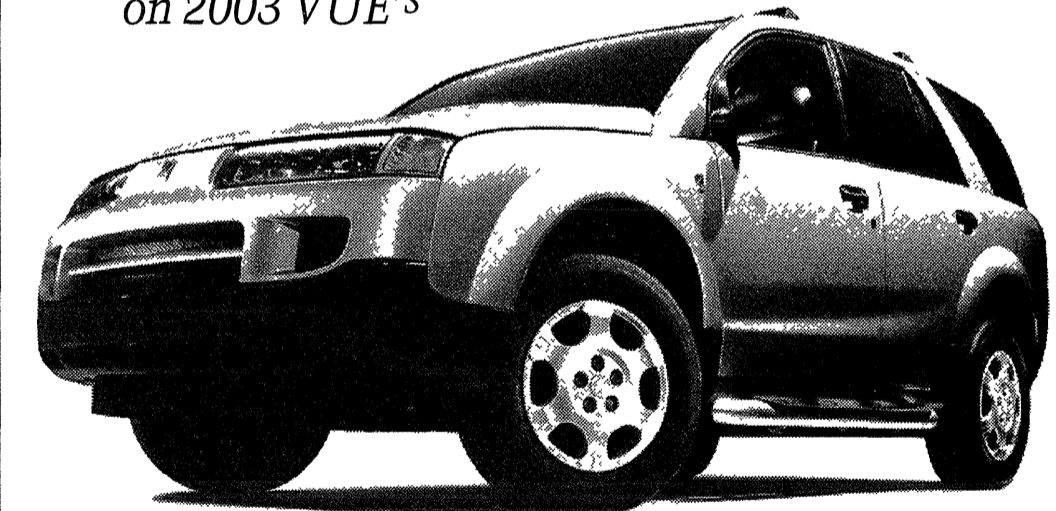
# Saturn® 2003 VUE

**0% APR** for **5 years<sup>†</sup>** and **No Payments for 90 Days\***

for qualified buyers on 2003 VUE's

**\$17,495** plus tax, title and plates  
 GM employees and qualified family members

**\$16,217** plus tax, title and plates



Sport Package includes: 5 speed manual transmission • Air conditioning • Power windows • Power locks • Cruise • Alloys • CD and more.

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# Saturn® 2003 L200

**0% APR** for **5 years\*** and **No Payments for 90 Days\***

for qualified buyers on 2003 L-Series models

Lease for **\$252<sup>†</sup>**/month for 39 months  
 \$252 due at lease signing  
 (No security deposit required. Tax title and license are extra.)  
 GM employees and qualified family members

Or

Lease for **\$209<sup>†</sup>**/month for 39 months  
 \$209 due at lease signing  
 (No security deposit required. Tax, title and license are extra.)



Lease payments on 2003 L200 include: • Optional automatic transmission • Optional Convenience Package • Power windows, door locks and mirrors • 6-speaker CD stereo • Air conditioning

**Ask About Our Saturn/GM Lease Loyalty Program. Up To \$750 Off A New Saturn.**



**Saturn North**  
248-620-8800  
**Saturn of Southfield**  
248-354-6001



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\*Lease payments based on specially equipped 2003 Saturn L200 with M.S.R.P. of \$19,295. Option to purchase at lease end for amount to be determined at lease signing. Primary lending source must approve lease. Take delivery by 12/31/02. Mileage charge of 20¢ per mile over 39,000 miles. Lessee pays for excess wear. Payments may be higher in some states. Not available with other offers. Residency Restrictions Apply. \*Convenience Package includes: heated power exterior mirrors, driver's seat adjustable lumbar, rear seat armrest, floor mats, dual lit visor vanity mirrors, rear seat reading lamps and front seat map lights. Must take delivery by 12/31/02. †Monthly payment is \$16.67 for every \$1,000 financed. Example down payment: 14%. Some customers will not qualify. Not available with other offers. Retailer financial participation may affect consumer cost. ©2002 Saturn Corporation. For more information go to saturn.com