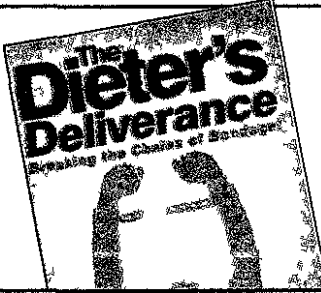


Christmas in the country

OBSERVER LIFE - SECTION C



Book breaks bondage of weight gain Health, C8



Personalized gift ideas PINK PAGE C12



SUNDAY December 11, 2005

PLYMOUTH Observer

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Ice fest fights for funding

Annual sculpting spectacular could be scaled back

BY BRAD KADRICH STAFF WRITER

The generosity of local donors has stretched thin with the relief efforts for Hurricanes Katrina and Rita and ongoing support of the war in Iraq

Now the economic realities of life these days have hit hard in Plymouth, where the Plymouth International Ice Sculpture Spectacular board of directors this week gave the go-ahead for the 2006 festival in downtown Plymouth despite a budget that will almost certainly dip below \$100,000 for the first time in years

Though the festival has no major sponsor this year and fund raising from items such as individual sculpture sales is lagging, the festival is scheduled to go on - though likely on a much smaller scale - Jan 20-22

NOT A GOOD YEAR

"We're not having a very good year fund raising at all," said Mike Watts of Watts-Up, Inc., who organizes the annual festival. "The economy is dragging, and people have been hit with so many things - Katrina, Rita, the war, heating costs rising"

"The economy in Michigan is not representative of the rest of the country, Watts said "It's really soft here"

The festival, which until three years ago operated on a budget of nearly \$150,000, could see that number slashed below \$80,000 this year unless fund-raising picks up. After Farmer Jack dropped out as the major sponsor three years ago, other businesses had to step up to save one of the event's more popular items - Fantasyland. Neither of last year's saviors, Rock Financial and Sanden International of Plymouth Township, is able to

contribute this year, so Fantasyland has been eliminated from the festival

Compounding the problem is the lagging sale of individual sculptures, bought by business owners to display outside their businesses. The prices range from \$400 for a generic carving to \$600 for one carved during the actual festival

"From a retail standpoint, sales of carvings are down," Watts said. "We can't put them around town if someone doesn't pay for them. We just don't have the money"

Not all the news is bad, however. The popular Japanese ice carvers return to give the festival its international flavor. The festival board approved spending some \$5,000 it takes to fly the Japanese over, those tickets were bought some time ago to take advantage of lower fares

PLEASE SEE FEST, A6



The annual Plymouth International Ice Sculpture Spectacular, which draws thousands to Plymouth every year, could be scaled down this year in the face of budget constraints

Transplant crowns dentist's new life

New liver gets doctor talking about benefits of organ donation

BY BRAD KADRICH STAFF WRITER

For the first 71 years of his life, Dr. John Cameron had it pretty good - college at Indiana University and the University of Michigan, four years in the U.S. Air Force and a 35-year dental practice in Connecticut before returning to his home state

Three years ago, he began noticing his energy levels wane, and he started having small memory lapses - signs he has since learned are symptoms of liver disease

A year later, the folks at Henry Ford Hospital, where he was being treated, listed him on the organ donor registry and the long wait began for a new liver

"When the liver kicked in, everything seemed to be moving



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Dr. John Cameron of Plymouth, who had a liver transplant eight months ago, said he doesn't have "the foggiest idea" what caused the problem

in slow motion," said Cameron, 74, a Plymouth resident. "I'd been practicing 40 years, and I think the Good Lord was trying to get my attention."

Though doctors still don't

know what happened to his liver - Cameron calls it "cryptogenic cirrhosis," which "just means we don't know" - but he knew he was sick. When doctors started talking transplant, Cameron wavered

After all, he could still drive, he could still walk and be active, could even manage the occasional flight of stairs. Still, there was the looming specter of a major operation, one that lasts eight-10 hours

"I had mixed feelings, because it's a biggie," Cameron said. "I thought maybe I'm better off riding this thing out"

He got into a transplant support group at Henry Ford Hospital, and that experience wound up changing his life - forever. Talking to people who'd been there, who'd walked that road, changed his mind about the surgery

"There's nothing like talking the talk with people who have been there," Cameron said. "I went from a maybe to a 'let's go for it if the opportunity comes'"

It was a big decision for a kid from small-town Michigan. Cameron grew up in Tecumseh, where his graduating class numbered 45 students. Unlike many of them, he had the opportunity to go to college, and his parents convinced him dentistry would be "a good profession for me"

Off he went to Indiana University, where he did his undergraduate work, and U-M, where he did his dental training. After giving Uncle Sam four years in the Air Force, Cameron wound up in his own practice in Connecticut, where he stayed 35 years

PLEASE SEE TRANSPLANT, A7

Islam won't get new trial in death

BY TONY BRUSCATO STAFF WRITER

A Plymouth man who is serving life in prison for the December 1999 murder and dismemberment of his estranged wife will not get a new trial

The Michigan Court of Appeals on Tuesday overturned a ruling by Wayne County Circuit Court Judge Patricia Fresard, who ordered a new trial for Azzul Islam, convicted Oct. 3, 2000, of killing his wife, Tracy, in their Roe Street home

During the trial, police testified Islam mutilated her body, dumped her limbs in a restaurant Dumpster in Dearborn and placed her torso in a field in northeast Ohio, near Toledo

Islam's attorney, Michael Schwartz, sought the new trial for Islam, claiming a three-inch hacksaw blade with dried bloodstains on it found in the basement of Islam's home was planted by dog handler Sandra Anderson of Midland, Mich. Anderson, along with her cadaver dog, Eagle, helped Plymouth police find bloodstains belonging to Tracy Islam on the basement floor of the home

Those bloodstains were used to help convict Islam of the killing of his wife. While the blade wasn't



Attorney Michael Schwartz (left) hoped for a new trial for his client, convicted killer Azzul Islam of Plymouth

introduced as evidence in the trial, Fresard ruled the fact Anderson was an expert witness for the prosecution and the saw blade was mentioned was cause enough to throw out the conviction

In reversing Fresard's order, Judge Hilda Gage stated "the substantial circumstantial evidence implicating defendant, and the defendant's own admission of his involvement in the victim's murder, we conclude that an unprejudiced person, considering the facts on which the trial court relied, would find no justification or excuse for granting defendant a new trial"

Plymouth Police Chief Wayne Carroll said he was certain the conviction would be upheld

PLEASE SEE TRIAL, A7

Masonic Temple faces date with wrecking ball

BY TONY BRUSCATO STAFF WRITER

As a group of preservationists attempts to raise \$1.2 million to save the Penn Theatre from demolition, its next-door neighbor - a fixture in downtown Plymouth since 1924 - will soon have a date with the wrecking ball

The Plymouth Historic Commission Wednesday night gave the go-ahead to a

Macomb County developer to tear down the Masonic Temple and replace it with a 40,000-square-foot, three-story structure that will include a ground-level restaurant and second- and third-story loft-style condominiums. The deal hinges on a certificate of appropriateness after Fabian Ciavaglia of Mendian Development makes some exterior changes to his design

After a discussion lasting several hours, the Historic Commission voted 4-2 to let

Ciavaglia proceed with the property he bought from Plymouth Rock Lodge #47 for about \$1 million

"It offers very limited amount of usage, and offers very little architectural," said Mark Oppat before voting in favor of demolition. "I like the idea of downtown residential and a restaurant. That's a real plus"

Historic Commission member Joe

PLEASE SEE WRECKING BALL, A6

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Volume 120 Number 32



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Coming Thursday in Filter

DSO Holiday Festival



Rabbit rescue

Midwest Rabbit Rescue & Rehoming hosts its grand opening and open house holiday celebration 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 17, at its new Plymouth location at 882 Holbrook.

More than 60 bunnies are available for adoption, and the event will also feature holiday crafts, jewelry and miscellaneous gift items for sale. A hand-made crazy quilt and zig-zag afghan will be raffled off. All proceeds benefit rescued rabbits.

Refreshments will be provided, and a \$5 donation is suggested at the door. Visit Midwest Rabbits Web site at www.rabbitrr.org. Call (734) 717-8545 or (734) 542-3160 for more information.

Station giveaways

WSDP 88.1-FM, the student-run radio station at the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park, will host two weeks of giveaways aimed at adding holiday cheer for many listeners, including CDs selected from 88.1-FM's playlist for the

past year, tickets to Emagine Theater and Jones Soda.

From Dec. 12-22, each daily winner will be put in a drawing for a chance to win the grand prize Santa's Sack of CDs, featuring more than 50 CDs from 88.1-FM's playlist in 2005. The grand prize winner will be drawn Thursday, Dec. 22, during Backstage Pass, which airs at 5:40 p.m. Backstage Pass is hosted by Emily Hulscher and features the latest music news, concert and CD updates and music reviews.

Youth artist deadline

The application deadline for this year's Plymouth Symphony's Youth Artist Competition is Friday, Jan. 30, with the competition itself scheduled for Sunday, Feb. 12 at Evola Music, 7170 N. Haggerty in Canton.

Through the generosity of the Michigan Council for Arts & Cultural Affairs, local service organizations and other sponsors, the Plymouth Symphony recognizes young orchestral talent from the greater Plymouth-Canton and surrounding communities through this competition and



Adams Fellow

Carrie F. Blamer (center), a Walsh College student, has been named an Adams Entrepreneurial Fellow for 2005-2006. Blamer, a former Plymouth-Canton Board of Education Trustee, Rotary Club of Plymouth member and a graduate of the Leadership Plymouth class, is a CPA candidate and a 2004 Walsh College cum laude accounting graduate. Blamer will spend a year under the mentorship of Kay Linville (left), CPA and owner of Linville Accounting & Tax Services in Plymouth. She is also pursuing a master's degree in taxation at Walsh. She posed with Walsh College President Keith Pretty.

offered music scholarships to area youth since 1978.

The competition is composed of three divisions: Senior Instrumental (grades 10-12), Senior Piano (grades

10-12), and Junior Division (combined instrumental & piano grades 7-9). Applicants must be piano, band or orchestra students in the school districts of Livonia, Northville, Novi, Plymouth-Canton, Van Buren (Belleville), Clarenceville, or Wayne-Westland. Celebration Youth Orchestra members and students at Evola Music are also eligible.

The first-prize winner in each senior division shall receive \$500 and the first-prize winner in the junior division shall receive \$250. If applicable, honorable mentions will also be acknowledged.

Applications, available through the Plymouth Symphony, are due Jan. 30. Past participants are encouraged to re-apply, however, musicians are eligible to win only one first-prize award in

each division. Winners may have the opportunity to perform with the PSO or Orchestra Canton. Applicants must be available to perform at the competition.

For an application and/or further information, contact Ellen Elliott by e-mail at info@plymouthsymphony.org or by calling (734) 451-2112. Applications are also available on the Plymouth Symphony Web site at www.plymouthsymphony.org.

MARSP luncheon

All retired school employees are invited to join the Northwest Wayne County Chapter of Michigan Association of Retired School Personnel (MARSP) at the next luncheon meeting Wednesday, Dec. 14. MARSP meets at 11:30 a.m. at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 19801 Farmington Road in Livonia.

At the December luncheon, a Barbershop Chorus of 16 will present a holiday program. Reservations can be made by calling (248) 477-9764. The cost is \$9.

Open mic night

The Plymouth Coffee Bean presents "Monday Nights in the Orange Room," a "super-fine acoustic music and spoken word open-mic time hosted by Sean FitzGerald."

Open mic night runs Mondays 8-11 a.m., sign-up can be done via e-mail at Beanopenmic@hotmail.com or in person. The Plymouth Coffee Bean is open until midnight. It's located at 884 Penniman in downtown Plymouth.

For more information, call (734) 454-0178.

Toys for Tots

Walker-Buzenberg Furniture in Plymouth is teaming with

the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve for its annual Toys for Tots Drive.

Donors of new, unwrapped toys get the opportunity to enter a drawing for a \$500 Walker-Buzenberg gift certificate. The offer is made in conjunction with the store's holiday bonus sale, which runs through Dec. 18.

"We hope to be able to collect many toys and gifts from our loyal customers," co-owner Eric Buzenberg said. "This effort will leave a lasting impression on deserving children."

Donations can be dropped off at the store through Dec. 18. The store is located at 240 N. Main in Plymouth. For more information, call (734) 459-1300.

Toy drive

Mel's Golden Razor sponsors its 26th annual toy collection for needy families and First Step.

Owner Mel Bobcan will accept toys and cash donations, which he then turns into food and clothing for needy families. The drive runs through Dec. 20.

Mel's Golden Razor is located at 595 Forest in downtown Plymouth. For information, call (734) 455-9057.

DAR meeting

The Daughters of the American Revolution meet 11 a.m. Monday, Dec. 19, at Greenmead Hill House in Livonia.

Sue Daniels will talk about the Christmas tea. For more information, call (734) 459-4764.

Art exhibit

The Plymouth Community Arts Council presents the work of Walled Lake artist Rodney Lloyd through Dec. 23.

Oil paintings and pottery will be featured in the exhibit entitled, "Nature Redesigns Old and New Life Forms of the Earth, Air and Sea." Lloyd worked as a car designer for Ford and Chrysler for many years. He was involved with the original designs for the Mustang and the Chrysler minivans.

The Plymouth Community Arts Council is located at 774 N. Sheldon in Plymouth.

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12:30 2:45 5:00 7:15 9:30
FRI/SAT LS 11:45

YOURS, MINE, AND OURS (PG)
11:10 1:30 3:10 5:10 7:10 7:45 9:10
9:45
FRI/SAT LS 11:45

IN THE MIX (PG-13)
1:35 9:25
FRI/SAT LS 11:30

PRIDE AND PREJUDICE (PG)
11:00 1:40 4:20 7:00 9:40

JUST FRIENDS (PG-13)
12:35 2:50 5:05 7:20 9:35
FRI/SAT LS 11:50

CHICKEN LITTLE (G)
11:15 11:50 1:15 1:50 3:50 3:15 5:50
7:50 9:50
FRI/SAT LS 11:50

LEGEND OF ZORRO (PG)
11:05 3:45 6:55
FRI/SAT LS 11:15

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FAIRLY TRADED HANDICRAFTS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

City audit shows improvement

BY TONY BRUSCATO
STAFF WRITER

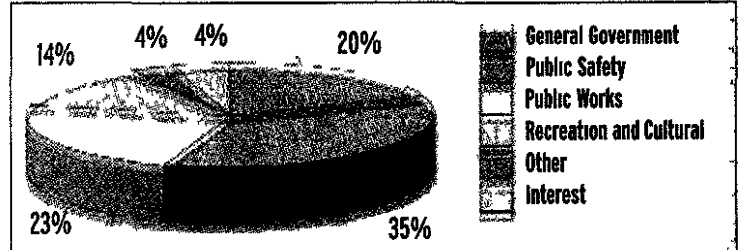
Cost-cutting measures have resulted in a positive financial outlook for the City of Plymouth

Both the general fund and water and sewer fund at the end of fiscal 2005 recorded improvements, according to an audit report completed by Post, Smythe, Lutz & Ziel of Plymouth

Your expenditures were down significantly, about \$140,000 in the general fund, said David Williamson, C.P.A. and partner "With a net increase in the fund balance, there's about a \$617,000 difference between revenues and expenditures"

The net result, according to Williamson, is \$377,000 in equity added to the general fund

"When we look at that, plus your budget stabilization fund (\$550,000), it's about 19 percent of your budget (\$6.3 million)," Williamson said "And,



Where taxpayer money goes

that's where you really need to be That's a very healthy operating reserve"

The water and sewer fund ended fiscal 2005 with net current assets of \$1.7 million

"Which seems like a lot of money, but water and sewer funds are very capital intensive," said Williamson "It was a good fiscal year for the fund, mainly because you increased rates, but your costs didn't go up accordingly Your rates were up about 10 percent and revenue went up to about \$3.6 million"

City Finance Director, Mark Christiansen, said the water

and sewer fund showed improvements, even with new street construction

"For the second consecutive year, the water and sewer operating and maintenance fund has shown a significant gain over the prior year, despite maintaining an active capital improvement program related to new street construction," he said

Christiansen noted the special revenue funds — street, recreation, waste/recycling, building and parking — have also shown improvements

tbruscato@hometownlife.com



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Fran Toney (left) and staffers Cheryl Summers, Charlie Lundquist and Melissa Paczas are making themselves at home in the chamber's new digs

Chamber moves into new home

Fran Toney and her Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce staffers have all kinds of Plymouth Gift Certificates — good at more than 40 shops and 25 restaurants — for sale to shoppers hoping to keep their shopping dollars in Plymouth

Trouble is, a lot of people don't know how to find them since the chamber moved into its own building on Ann Arbor Trail a couple of weeks ago

The chamber moved from its long-time location on Main Street to its new spot at 850 Ann Arbor Trail after buying 1,900 square feet of space from Richard Reid, who leases storefronts along Ann Arbor Trail currently occupied by Angelo's Card & Gift, Breads & More, Milano Fine Apparel and the recently opened Book Cellar

The chamber bought half

Angelo's owner Ernie Gaggos said he decided to streamline his business, rather than close the card and gift shop.

the space occupied by Angelo's Card & Gift and moved in last month

"There long-term benefits to owning our own building," said Toney, the chamber's executive director "The location is just so ideal, especially to parking with both front and back entrances Our main goal was to have everything on one floor so it can be handicap accessible It's an investment in the future for us"

Angelo's owner Ernie Gaggos said he decided to streamline his business, rather than close the card

and gift shop

I think everybody has been hurting to some degree as the economy has been off, Gaggos said "We had the option of closing the store, but we love Plymouth We'll be smaller, but still carry the most popular lines of cards and gifts"

Reid, who operates Richard Reid Corp in Southfield, said it's unusual to sell space in the middle of a strip However, he felt it was important to keep the Chamber of Commerce downtown

The chamber is important, the key to functioning downtown business, and they need to remain downtown, Reid said "We want downtown to remain a vital retail area"

For information on the gift certificates, or any other chamber program, call (734) 453-1540

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O.E. 12-11

FOR THE RECORD

B
Geraldine E. "Gerry" Bradley
 Bradley 65 of Oxford formerly of Alpena died Dec 7

C
Jack H Carr
 Carr 98 died Nov 29

Frances Corbell
 Corbell 72 died Dec 8

E
Vivian Marcella Erwin
 Erwin 93 of Canton died Dec 6

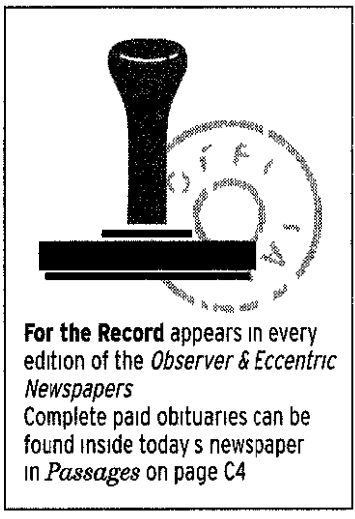
G
Florence C. Griggs
 Griggs 92 died Nov 28

L
Albert J Luibrand
 Luibrand 87 formerly of Plymouth died Dec 4

M
Donald E McLain
 McLain of Clarkston died Dec 6

Austin J. Miller
 Miller 82 of Boulder Colo formerly of Bloomfield Hills died Dec 3

Frances C Muenchinger
 Muenchinger 99 of Birmingham died Oct 22



For the Record appears in every edition of the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. Complete paid obituaries can be found inside today's newspaper in Passages on page C4.

R
Anthony "George" Retsel Jr
 Retsel of Waterford died Dec 2

S
Thomas Dexter Strong
 Strong 73 formerly of Plymouth died Dec 4

W
Elsie K. Watson died

Iraqi-Americans to cast votes next week

BY STACY JENKINS
 STAFF WRITER

Farmington Hills is one of two voting sites in Michigan for Iraqi-Americans to cast their ballots for a new government in Iraq.

Voting will take place 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec 13, Wednesday, Dec 14, and Thursday, Dec 15, at the Farmington Hills Manor, 23666 Orchard Lake Road, south of 10 Mile.

About 20,000 voters are expected to cast their ballots at the Farmington Hills and Dearborn voting sites, said Nabil Roumayah, of Southfield, who is organizing the Farmington Hills polls.

Roumayah, a native of Baghdad, said it's important for Iraqis to vote in this historic election, which will seat a parliament for the next four years.

"It's extremely important," said Roumayah. "We're going through a very difficult time in Iraq. People are trying to derail the political process."

Approximately 135,000 Iraqi-Americans live in Michigan, mostly in Oakland County, Macomb County and Dearborn.

"Don't waste your vote," Roumayah says to fellow Iraqis living in southeast Michigan. "Use your vote. Every vote sends a message to the insurgency in Iraq. We have to see this through."

The election for an interim government held in January drew about 10,000 Iraqi voters to Michigan's only polling place in Southgate, said

Roumayah Now, the locations in Dearborn and Farmington Hills are more accommodating, he added.

"This time, the locations are in the middle of the Iraqi community," he said, adding it was inconvenient for people to travel to Southgate to register to vote, then return the following week to cast their ballots.

"We are confident a lot of Iraqis will come out and vote," said Roumayah.

Roumayah has been living in the United States for 25 years. "A lot of us left the country not by choice," he said.

The Iraqi-American community here has organized itself and has played a role in politics in their homeland. In July, a group of about 150 Iraqi-American leaders from around the U.S. gathered in Southfield

to draft recommendations for their homeland's new constitution. Roumayah, who helped coordinate the effort, said at that time the group focused on a brighter future for Iraq.

Called by the Network of Iraqi American Organizations an umbrella organization for more than 15 individual groups, the daylong conference was designed to bring together representatives from Iraq's many ethnic, cultural and religious communities.

Roumayah said next week's vote crosses all ethnicities. "Today, we are all Iraqis," he said.

To be eligible to vote outside of Iraq, voters must be at least 18 years old, born in Iraq or be the son or daughter of an Iraqi-born male.

sjenkins@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2131

Groups sell Entertainment Books to assist in work

Several Plymouth organizations are selling the 2006 Entertainment Books as fundraisers.

The Plymouth Optimists are selling the 2006 Entertainment Books, with all proceeds helping children throughout southeastern Michigan. Price is \$25. Books are available at Saxton's Garden Center in Plymouth, or

home delivery is available. Call (734) 453-8253 for details.

The Plymouth Community Chorus is selling the 2006 Entertainment Books to support its charitable and educational activities. The book offers 2-for-1 and 50-percent discounts on restaurants, travel, recreation, hotel stays, entertainment and sporting events. The book is being

offered at a special fund-raising price of \$25, and can be delivered, if the purchaser desires. Order books by calling Stan Kovacheff at (734) 459-6829.

Members of the Plymouth Symphony League are selling the 2006 entertainment book, offering 50 percent discount coupons at hundreds of restaurants and discounts for many

other services and events. The books are priced at \$25, with all proceeds to support the Plymouth Symphony. Books can be picked up at the symphony office, next to the Cozy Cafe in downtown Plymouth, or ordered by calling Mary Thomas, (734) 453-3016. For more information, call the symphony office, (734) 453-2112.

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WRECKING BALL

FROM PAGE A1
 Philips, a Plymouth architect, concurred with Oppat
 "The building is so small to generate the income to make it work," he said. There's a lot you can do to dress it up, but there's not enough room. A mixture of business and residential is a big plus."
 Ciavaglia had earlier indicated he would refurbish the current structure, but said environmental issues prevented him from proceeding with that option.
 "There is black mold and asbestos in the building," Ciavaglia said. "The cleanup of asbestos isn't an issue, but the black mold is, especially if you're going to put residents above to live."
 The first floor is slated to become an 8,000-square-foot restaurant. Ciavaglia is pursuing Andiamo, which at one time was rumored to be interested in a renovated Penn Theatre. Andiamo CEO Joe Vicari said he continues to be interested in Plymouth -

if the deal is right.
 "My biggest concern is ample parking, followed by the budget, to see if we can generate enough volume to retire the debt," said Vicari. "Our talks, right now, are in the preliminary stages."
 Vicari said the restaurant would be much smaller than his newest ventures, which are more than twice the size. The restaurant, he said, would cost about \$2.5 million.
 Ciavaglia said the second and third floors will house 18 condos. The one- and two-bedroom lofts will be between 900-1,000-square-feet and priced from the upper \$200,000 to low \$300,000 range, he said.
 "There will be an elevator going to an underground garage, where each resident will have their own parking spot," he said.
 Ciavaglia said his conception will cost nearly \$4 million to complete.
 "If everything goes well, residents could move in by January 2007, and the restaurant could open by May or June," Ciavaglia said.

Historic Commission member Catherine Marin, who voted against demolishing the Mason's building, didn't like the conceptual plans, which have the new structure abutting the sidewalk.
 "Perhaps the Masonic Temple, in its current form, has outlived its use," Marin said. "But, it's a gathering place, and provides greenspace before the building. It doesn't receive people the way the Masonic Temple does in its outdated function today."
 The Masons sold the building because dwindling membership made it impossible to maintain the property.
 "I'm not happy they're destroying the building, but I realize they can't put millions of dollars into something old," said Bob Johns of Plymouth, secretary of the Temple board.
 Ciavaglia suggested his amended renderings could include a plaque to honor the Masons.
 "I wish they would," said Johns. "We would work with them on whatever they need."

FEST

FROM PAGE A1
 "We feel it's an important aspect of the festival," Watts said. "They have a different perspective on ice carving, and they come as a sign of respect for Plymouth."
 Professional carvers Ted Wakar of Canton and Tajana Raukar of Plymouth are also back on the schedule, as is the student-carving competition, one of the primary parts of the festival, according to Watts.
 "One of our goals is to get the young people some experience carving with professionals," Watts said.

RESTAURANTS STEP IN

To help combat the financing problem, Watts has worked with local restaurants to develop a deal that involves restaurant suppliers. If a supplier donates - \$2,500 and \$5,000 sponsor levels are available - his or her product will be featured at all of the participating restaurants.
 At press time, Watts had gotten eight local restaurants - E.G. Nicks, Compari's, Fama, 336 Main, Sean O'Callaghan's, the Box Bar, La Bistecca and Station 885 - to commit.
 "The makeup of Plymouth has changed dramatically the last few years, from retail to a lot of restaurants," Watts said. "If we get enough support (from restaurants), we'll list Restaurants of Plymouth as a sponsor of the event, and we'll try to direct business to those restaurants through links to our Web site and our advertising."

Speaking of advertising, the festival will again partner with the *Observer & Eccentric Newspapers* for the official ice festival guide, a partnership Watts calls "vital to the success of the event."

While the festival will likely be shorter, there will still be loads of carving. The Plymouth Whalers are slated to return, barring scheduling conflicts, and will conduct interactive shootouts and sign autographs.

Watts understand, and would like to do more, to freshen the festival. Years ago, he pointed out, the festival offered things like fireworks and laser light shows. Some have suggested incorporating an ice rink, but liability issues make that difficult.

"There are a lot of things we'd like to do," Watts admitted. "All of that costs money. We're trying to keep the core of what the festival is about alive."

Despite the smaller scope, Watts is confident the festival will still be the biggest and best in the area.

"It's still going to be worth coming down to," Watts said. "We'd like to keep it at the level it was last year, but to do that we're going to need help. We can't spend money we don't have, but we're going to do the best we can."

Anyone wishing to buy an individual carving can reach Watts at (734) 459-6969. The ice festival Web site is www.plymouthice.com

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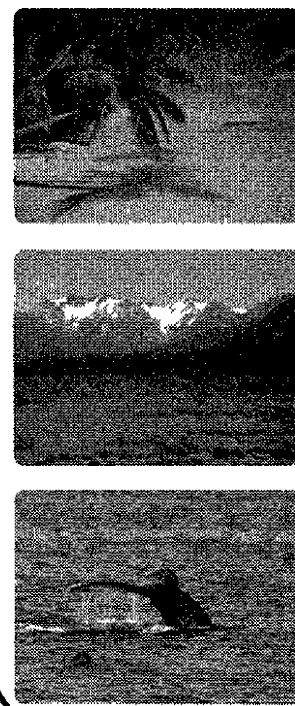
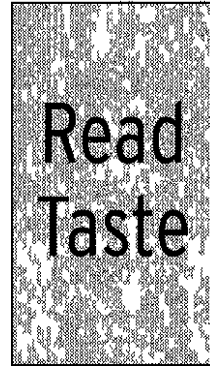
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TRANSPLANT

FROM PAGE A1

He came back to Michigan in 1995, working as an independent contractor. Life was good until three years ago, when he discovered he was sick and faced the question of surgery.

"I was doing fairly well, but I was slipping," Cameron admitted.

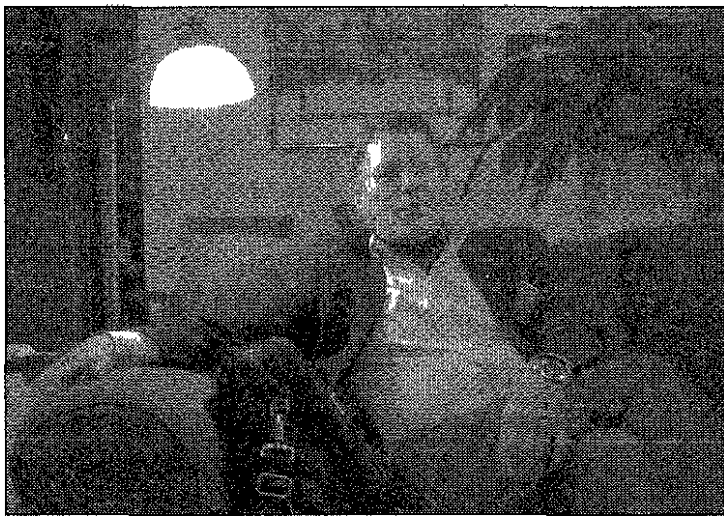
He spent two years on the list, during which he had time to study the statistics, which didn't necessarily tilt in his favor. Last year, just 9 percent of liver transplants in Michigan went to patients 65 or older.

However, waiting was an unattractive option. As of Nov. 1, more than 2,800 people were on the waiting list for an organ transplant, nearly 400 of them waiting for livers. In that same time, 77 people died while waiting, according to statistics compiled by Gift of Life-Michigan, the state's organ and tissue donation program.

"That's really the crux of our job," said Amy Olszewski, Gift of Life-Michigan's government liaison. "There shouldn't be anyone dying waiting for an organ transplant."

That didn't turn out to be a problem for Cameron. A 19-year-old man in the Flint area sustained massive head injuries — Cameron doesn't know any more than that — and hospital staffers convinced his mother to take part in the organ donation program.

Hours later, Cameron was being prepped for surgery. As he went through the process, he said, two things became



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Dr. John Cameron, a dentist from Plymouth, was on the waiting list for two years before getting his liver transplant in April.

apparent to him. First, he was sure the transplant would work. Second, he knew for certain he would become a spokesman for Gift of Life-Michigan.

Since his surgery, Cameron has been just that, including taking the initiative to set up a Gift of Life table during the Art in the Park festival in Plymouth this summer. He met Gift of Life volunteer coordinator Kim Zasa just a couple of weeks after his surgery, and she came away impressed with his ability to rebound.

"It is amazing in itself for him to have gone through major surgery and bounced back so quickly," Zasa said. "He told me, 'Give me anything you need me to do.' He's very energetic, and he's got a very strong desire to talk about his story, knowing that is what might be the emotional trigger to get people thinking about transplant and donations."

Cameron has no idea what

caused his liver disease, whether it could have been the result of a "needle stick" while treating a patient or the result of a blood transfusion, and he no longer spends much time wondering "why."

He also spends little time dealing with feelings of guilt anymore, feelings he admitted were fairly prevalent early on. At first I tried to resolve that, "why me?" question, Cameron admitted. There's really nowhere I can go with that. I trust there's a higher purpose, and I don't deal with the guilt.

"They say 85 percent of the energy around us is negative," Cameron added. "I've tried to focus on that other 15 percent, and it seems to be working."

For more information on organ donation visit the Gift of Life Michigan Web site at www.giftoflifemichigan.org or call (800) 482-4881.

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School district seeks Talented and Gifted kids

TRIAL

FROM PAGE A1

"We were confident, all along, we had done things right and the evidence would stand as presented," said Carroll. "It would have been very expensive and time-consuming to reconstruct a trial, but we were prepared to do it if the judges had come to that decision."

Schwartz said if the jury had known about Anderson's actions, they would have come up with a different verdict.

"They could have come up with another verdict," said Schwartz. "Dr. Islam should have been able to have another trial where the jury knew the truth."

Islam is currently serving a mandatory life sentence at the Ryan Correctional Facility in Detroit. He has 60 days to appeal his case to the Michigan Supreme Court.

Plymouth-Canton Community Schools officials are screening students for admission to the district's Talented and Gifted program for the 2006-07 school year.

Nomination forms are available in all P-CCS elementary and middle schools. Completed nomination forms need to be back to school principals or counselors by Dec. 23.

To apply for admission, a student must reside within the P-CCS district boundaries and be in grades 2-7. Nomination forms are available in all P-CCS elementary and middle schools. Completed nomination forms need to be back to school principals or counselors by Dec. 23.

Forms also are available online at www.pccs.k12.mi.us. Nominations for non-public school students should be

returned to the TAG Office at Miller Elementary School, 43721 Hanford Road, Canton, MI 48187.

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Center has given me the opportunity to do just that.

Diet Center, a national franchise, provides programs based on good nutrition and healthy eating. They follow the guidelines of the American Diabetic Association and the American Heart Association. Diet Center offers personalized weight-loss programs, body composition analysis and one-on-one counseling to give clients constant guidance and support.

The program is successful, in no small part, due to the dedicated staff.

“Linda and her counselors obviously care tremendously about ensuring my success,” said Diet Center client Kay Swenders, who’s lost 26 pounds. “They have so many great ideas to help me stay on track, and they are obviously

devoted to helping clients lose their weight.”

Clients see results because programs are specific to them.

“We start each client with a body composition analysis to measure their percentage of body fat and lean body mass. This helps guide us as far as how many calories the individual needs to lose unwanted pounds and inches,” said Aubuchon. “We also provide one-on-one counseling to give clients clear motivation,

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Diet Cent is located at the northwest corner of North Lilley and Warren in Canton.

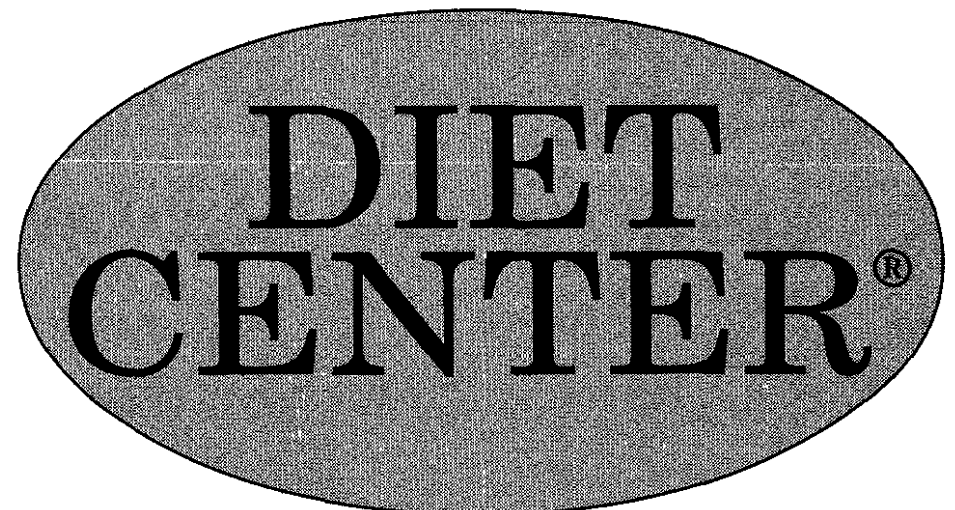
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U.S. policy in the Middle East inconsistent with our ideals

Why do they hate us? This question has been posed by many, including the president of the United States, who seem as perplexed about the attitude of the Middle East toward the United States as the people who live here. We, in the U.S., have failed to grasp why other people from so far away would want to harm us.

The easy answer is to characterize the Middle East population as one homogenous, dangerous and ignorant group of people who envy our free society. This simplistic answer is based on stereotype, ignorance or lack of honesty instead of the obvious one that has yet to be uttered.

The tension between our two societies does not stem from their envy of our free society, nor is it because of our democracy. In fact, many surveys conducted in the Middle East clearly state that Middle Eastern people would like to replicate our democratic system into their society. The contention between us and the

people of the Middle East is how we conduct our foreign policies in their region. When in the Middle East, we either assume the role of bully or support the tormenters of the local population.

Having been born and reared in the Middle East until the age of 15, I can assure you that what we hold dear in the U.S. is different from what is practiced in the Middle East. We try to live by maintaining our constitutional idea of established justice, domestic tranquility, general welfare and the blessing of our liberty.

However, when it comes to the Middle East, our country has directly and indirectly abandoned our principles to support tyranny and the disfranchising of the Middle East population. As a nation, we have backed unelected rulers who exploit and brutalize their citizens. We invaded Iraq and supported the occupation of Palestine. Our tactics have suspended the peoples rights and due process. When dealing with the Middle East, we act as authoritarians. Our foreign policies seem to align themselves with brutality.

Even with our perplexing foreign policies, most people in the Middle East still value the American people and their generosity. They look at us as an ideal society that has accomplished tremendous successes in our brief history as a nation. A recent survey of public opinion in the Middle East found most have the same value system as we do in the United States.

To shed some light on the United States destructive policy in the region, just take a minute and walk in the same shoes of the people who live under the American occupation in

Iraq and the Israeli occupation in Palestine. Suppose the tables were turned and we in Michigan had a foreign power exert authority and occupy our state.

Then this foreign power decided that the people of the state of Michigan had to stay within their cities. They are forbidden from traveling anywhere and only when curfews are not imposed at will and frequently prevented from going to work or to visit other members of your family. Let's say that this foreign power was now issuing policies that revoke our Rotary, Lions, other civic and religious clubs, proclaiming them outlawed and illegal.

Now as the occupation progresses, we are subject to daily humiliation by (fearful, jittery teenage) soldiers who are pointing a gun at us at all times. To root out trouble, they are now entering our houses at all hours, sometimes forcing us to kneel in front of our houses for hours at the time regardless of the weather.

When we think things cannot get any worse, the new occupation begins launching security raids to weed out insurgents (anyone who disagrees with the occupation), rendering us prisoners of our own homes. You cannot leave the city for any reason, even sickness that may result in death.

There is no school because someone claimed our children's teachers were part of the resistance and now they are imprisoned. These samples are but some of the conditions that the U.S. has either directly imposed or supported in the Middle East in the name of democracy and western enlightenment.

Whether occupation or authoritarian regime, our U.S. foreign policy seems to have the knack for supporting oppressive and destructive regimes. Even the newly celebrated constitutional vote has left many Iraqis disfranchised and unrepresented in their own government.

For years, the people under these regimes have taken their punishment in stride and submitted to a life of misery without much of a fight. Right or wrong, some people in the Middle East, with the help of some of their exploiters, are striking back with vengeance at targets that will devastate us.

I wonder what we would do under the same circumstances? Although we think we are not like them, I predict that some of us would resort to random violence that would devastate our persecutors and their supporters.

Knowing the routes of our conflict in the Middle East, we should now ask an alternative question as to why are we abandoning our democratic and human rights values when dealing with the Middle East. Only when we truthfully examine and reverse some of our policies can we achieve harmonious relations between the east and the west.

Terry Ahwal lives in Canton

Soapy Williams saw Christianity as a call for government service

He was a fixture at every childhood parade. Long and lanky, he stood a head above everyone else. His large, square head flashed a goofy grin and underneath his prominent Adam's apple was a green and white polka-dot bowtie, his signature. To children he was the governor, but to adults he was known by the undignified nickname Soapy.

Thomas J. Noer's *Soapy: A Biography of G. Mennen Williams* (University of Michigan Press, \$35) is a reminder that the more things change, the more they stay the same. Williams' protean battles with a stridently conservative Republican Legislature are echoed in the current gamesmanship in present day Lansing. But Williams was an unusual figure in Michigan politics and in the changing Democratic Party of his time.



Hugh Gallagher

Noer, a professor of humanities at Carthage College, writes that Williams and his kind of liberalism have been forgotten in favor of more pragmatic figures like John Kennedy and Bill Clinton. His new biography is a reminder of an often too unyielding idealism.

On his mother's side, Williams was a scion of the wealthy Mennen cosmetics company, the source of his cheerfully informal sobriquet. His father's family had made a somewhat smaller fortune in pickles and real estate. His parents, especially his mother, were staunch conservative Republicans, but the Great Depression made Williams a lifelong New Deal Democrat.

And something else motivated Williams: strong sense of duty and concern for those less fortunate. From his earliest years Williams was a devout Christian. He was a regular attendee at Episcopalian services and he saw public service as doing God's work and fulfilling the gospel of Jesus.

As Noer writes, this strikes an odd note in today's politics. Williams' fusion of Christianity and politics, the core of his ideology, is also largely absent in contemporary America. Politicians still invoke the name of God, but only the conservative Christian Right still links religion and policy. Few to the left of center dare to claim Jesus as their political model or advocate that the government's goal should be the creation of God's kingdom on earth.

Soapy Williams seemed to emerge from nowhere in the late 1940s to recreate Michigan's stolid Democratic Party as a true liberal party aligning unions, emerging civil rights groups and other New Deal progressives.

The Princeton rich kid joined forces with Hicks and Martha Griffiths and Neil Staebler to win an upset victory in 1948, mirroring the upset win of Harry Truman for president. Williams would go on to win an unprecedented six two-year terms, but his governorship would be a constant battle.

Noer's book shows the absurdity of having a gubernatorial contest every two years. Williams was campaigning at least a quarter of the time he was in office, when his time might have been better served working through compromises that the GOP was never willing to give him as long they thought they could beat him in the next election. But one thing that Williams was especially good at was campaigning. He and his wife Nancy covered the state. He shook everybody's hand, kissed every baby, ate and danced at every ethnic hall — everyone felt like Soapy was his friend. In his first elections, he had to fight through recounts to win the day, but as time went on he won by wider and wider margins.

These were the Cold War years, and Williams' political views and his support from Walter Reuther and other unions (with the notable exception of Jimmy Hoffa's Teamsters) made him a target for the red barbers. In fact, Williams was vigorously anti-communist. But he was one of the first and the most outspoken Democrat for civil rights. He led his party in the state and nationally toward support for the civil rights movement, often kicking and screaming. In those days, state legislators had no qualms about using racial epithets when discussing the race issue and constantly blocked every civil rights initiative Williams introduced.

His governorship had its successes. The most visible and beautiful is the elegant Mackinac Bridge. But his battles with the Republican Legislature proved overwhelming. The more he suggested social programs (Christian obligations in his view), the more the GOP pushed for business tax cuts and screamed about "socialism." Noer's recounting of these battles shows how they are being played out again in Lansing, though the pragmatic current governor is far removed from Williams' liberal idealism.

At one point, Williams was a leading contender for the presidency, but Michigan's financial problems sank the state into bankruptcy and "payless paydays" that closed out Williams era with a thud. In 1961, Kennedy gave him a position as an assistant secretary for African affairs, regarded as a lesser appointment. But Williams took his charge seriously and advocated strongly for African self-determination with a controversial "Africa for Africans" statement that set diplomats on edge.

Williams continued to serve — as an ambassador to the Philippines and, for 16 years, as a state supreme court justice. But his finest contribution was as the conscience of the Democratic Party.

That bowtie symbolized an unswerving dedication to public service and doing "God's work."

Hugh Gallagher is the managing editor of the *Observer Newspapers*. He can be reached by phone at (734) 953-2149 by e-mail at hgallagher@hometownlife.com or by fax at (734) 591-7279.

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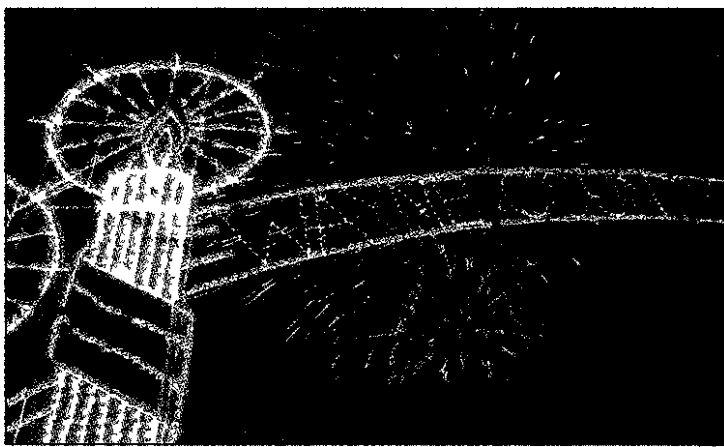
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Ficano officially opens Lightfest 2005



Joshua Barr, 3, enjoys a treat while waiting for Santa. He was at the Lightfest with his mom and dad, Kelly and Tim Barr, sister Ashley, 8, and brother Jordan, 6.



The official opening of the light festival was originally scheduled for two weeks ago, but heavy rains flooded Hines Park. Monday's opening was dry enough for fireworks, but bitterly cold.

Though it's been open since Nov. 17, the Wayne County Lightfest had its official opening Tuesday. The opening was postponed from Nov. 24 when flooding closed Hines Park.

The annual Lightfest features 4 1/2 miles of animated holiday light displays along Hines Drive.

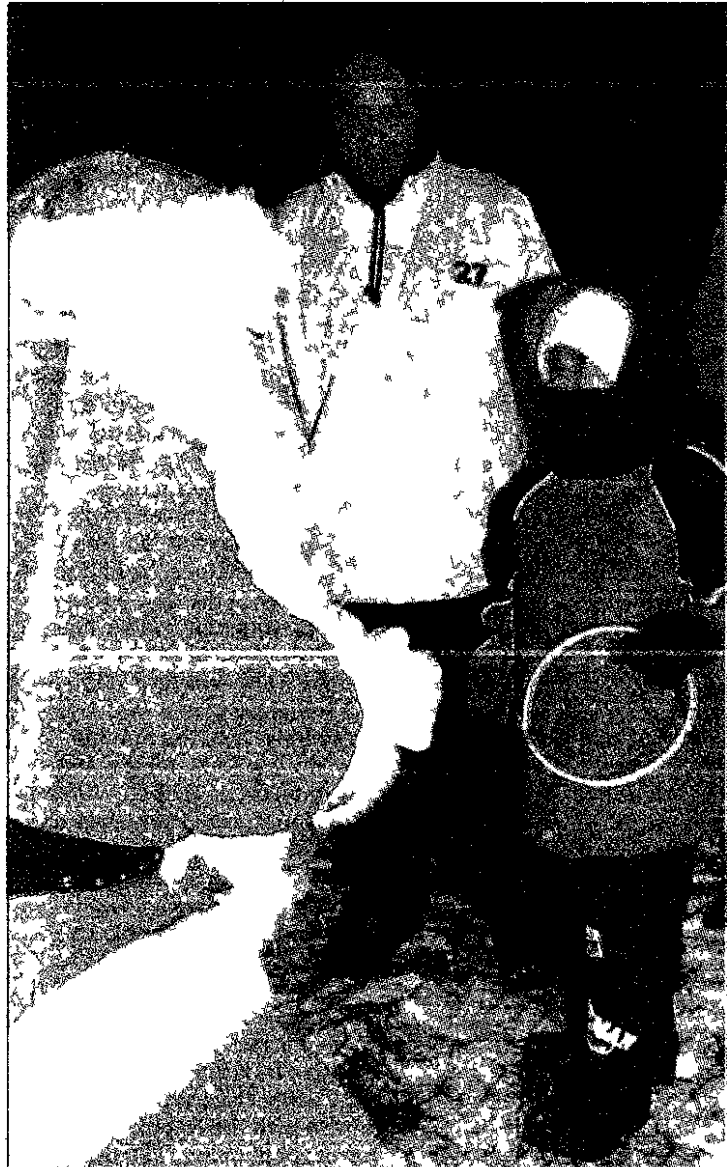
County Executive Robert Ficano had help from New Orleans residents displaced by Hurricane Katrina. Santa Claus was present Tuesday.

The Lightfest runs 7:10 p.m. daily through Jan. 1, except for Christmas Day. Entry is at Hines Drive and Merriman. A minimum \$5 a car donation is

requested.

Dec. 13 and 20 will be Toy Nights. The community is invited to bring a new, unwrapped toy in lieu of the \$5 donation. Although Lightfest

begins at 7 p.m., Hines Drive will be closed to traffic beginning at 5:45 p.m. nightly and will reopen at 5:45 a.m. For information, call (734) 261-1990.



Five-year-old McKinley Lowery and his Aunt Deliah Tumpkin greet Santa Claus.

PHOTOS BY B. L. BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

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Seminar looks at auto future

Four scholars and experts will discuss "The Future of the Automobile" in a seminar at the University of Michigan Dearborn on Tuesday, Dec. 13. The forum, which is free and open to the public, will be held 4-6 p.m. in the auditorium of the UM Dearborn Social Sciences Building.

Featured speaker will be Daniel Sperling, an international expert on transportation policy and director of the Institute of Transportation Studies at the University of California, Davis. Sperling's talk will be followed by a roundtable of scholars and industry leaders including automotive historian and Fulbright Scholar Gys Mom, retired DaimlerChrysler executive Gordon L. Ranschler, and Rudi Volti, professor of sociology at Pitzer College.

These speakers have very distinct and valuable insights in automotive technology and will be able to provide a valuable look at the future directions of the industry, said Jonathan Smith, director of the Science and Technology Studies program and professor of English at UM Dearborn.

The seminar is one of the products of a new consortium of UM Dearborn, the Henry Ford, the University of Detroit Mercy and an international scholarly group, the Society for the History of Technology, to work together on programs to examine the history of technology and its impact on society and culture.

Sperling is professor of civil and environmental engineering and of environmental science and policy at UC-Davis.

Mom, Visiting European Union Scholar in Residence at UM Dearborn's Center for the Study of the Automotive Heritage, is associate professor in the history of technology at the Technical University of Eindhoven, in the Netherlands. Ranschler, now principal of a private consulting practice, has more than 35 years of experience in the automotive industry. Before his retirement from DaimlerChrysler in 2002, he was responsible for conventional powertrains as well as alternatives such as Chrysler's EPIC (Electric Powered Interurban Commuter) electric minivan.

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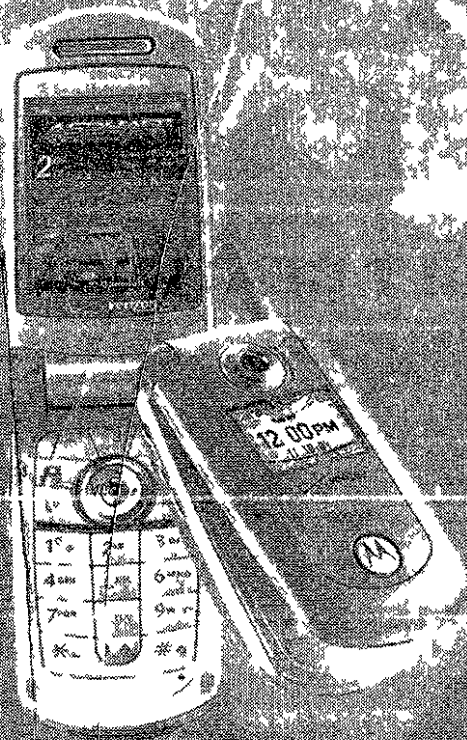
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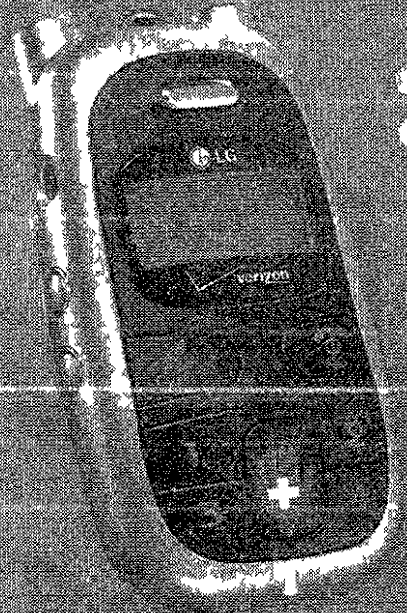
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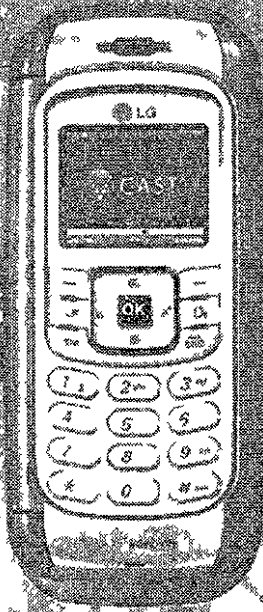
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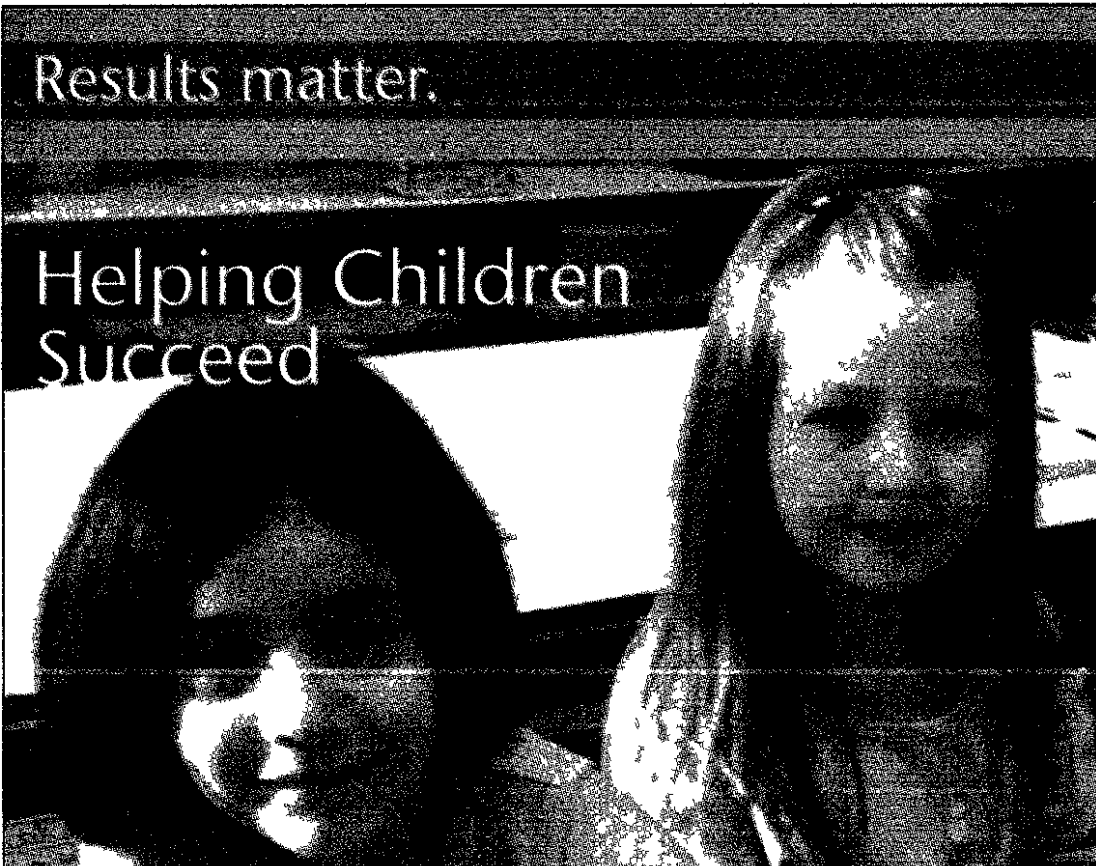
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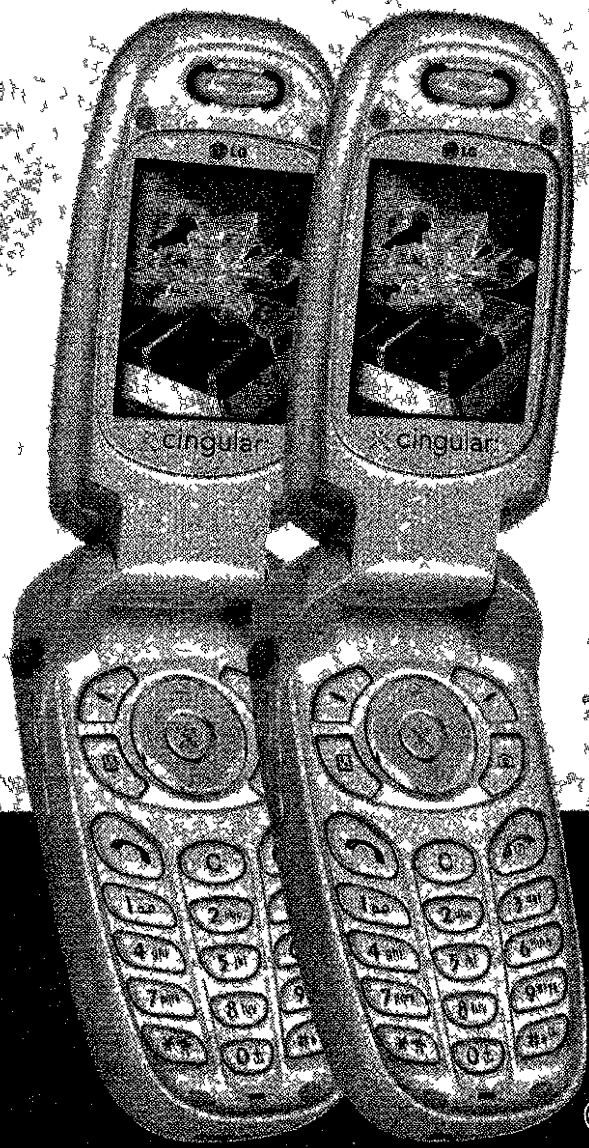
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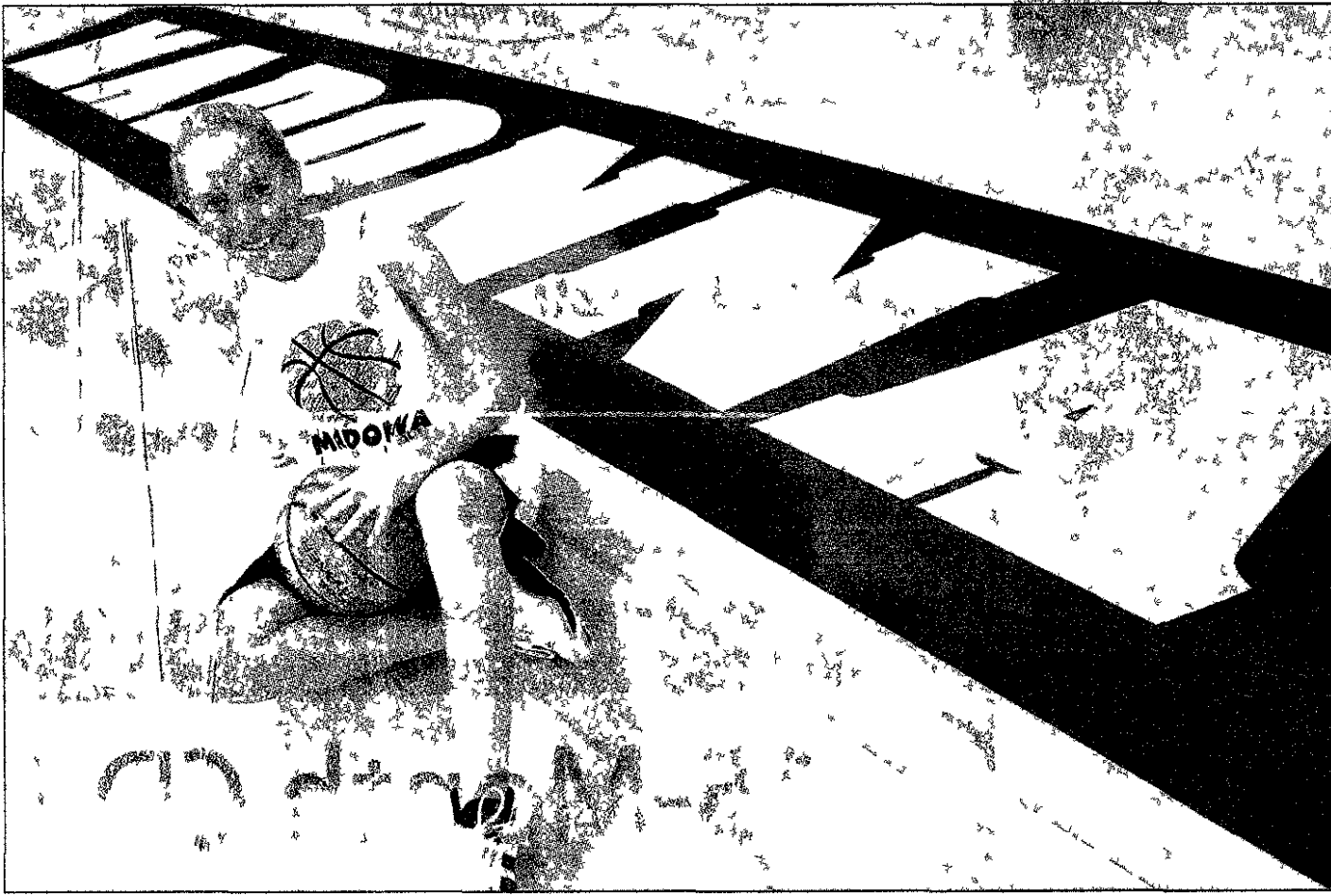
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TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

After five years away from competitive basketball, former Salem standout Lindsay Klemmer is now a go-to player for Madonna University

All the way back

Ex-Salem player completes amazing journey to fulfill hoop dreams

BY ED WRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

One part of Madonna University guard Lindsay Klemmer's left elbow went east and another part went west under the weight of a Spring Arbor opponent as both players crashed to the floor while chasing a loose ball Nov. 8.

As a result, it appeared as if Klemmer's inspiring, against-the-odds journey back to competitive basketball was about to go south.

"Lindsay's a pretty tough kid, so when she didn't get up right away, I knew it was serious," remembered Madonna coach Mary Lou Jansen. "When I went out on the court to check on her, she said, 'I dislocated my elbow'."

When I asked her how she knew, Lindsay told me she had done it before. "Lindsay was in a tremendous amount of pain, but she looked at me and said, 'It's not that big of a deal. I'll be back in two weeks.'"

Compared to the obstacles the former Salem hoop star had hurdled over the previous five years just to reach that point on the Spring Arbor gymnasium floor, a little more pain, a little more patience and a little more perseverance proved to be — like the 23-year-old told her coach — no big deal.

SOLID AS A ROCK

Klemmer, a 2000 graduate of Salem, was one of the area's steadiest, hardest-working high school point guards dur-

ing the late-90s. She didn't score a ton, but the way she ran the floor, guided the Rocks' offense and played tenacious defense caught the attention of some Division II and III collegiate basketball coaches.

There was only one catch — Klemmer wasn't interested in playing college basketball.

"I decided to attend Western Michigan University with a couple of friends from high school," Klemmer said. "I was just going to focus on school and not play basketball."

"But after I was there a while, I missed it, so I joined an intramural league. I enjoyed playing, but I didn't

PLEASE SEE DREAMS, B7

Snow job

Weather doesn't postpone PCA's impressive win

See PCA basketball preview on Page B2

BY ED WRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

In one of the few high school basketball games Friday night that didn't get wiped out by winter's fury, Novi Franklin Road proved to have "snow" chance against Plymouth Christian Academy.

The Eagles buried the out-manned Warriors, 61-27, in the PCA gym. Both teams are now 1-1.

"I thought we played really well tonight," said PCA coach Doug Taylor. "We came out with intensity on defense and we shot the ball well."

The Eagles recorded a hat-trick when it came to meeting Taylor's three pre-game goals.

PREP HOOP

one to rebound their position well, and we accomplished that," Taylor said. "Secondly, we wanted them to explode down the court from offense to defense and vice versa. Our first three steps up and down the court were explosive tonight, so we did that well. Finally, we didn't let them score much from the lane, so we accomplished all three of our goals."

Junior forward Matt Saagman had his second straight outstanding game for the Eagles, netting a game-high 19 points. Sophomore Trevor Zinn also had a stellar offensive game, contributing 15 points and four assists.

"Matt scored from the post, from three-point range and with his mid-range jump shot," Taylor said. "He was a good leader for us tonight, too."

Franklin Road couldn't contain PCA's Govan brothers — Justin and Devyn — on the boards as they combined for 25 rebounds. Caleb James also turned in a solid performance for the winners.

Sidelines

The Top 50 Junior Golf Tour has expanded to include 27 events throughout Michigan for the 2006 season.

The tour offers free golf and scholarship opportunities for its member players.

Registration is now open for local boys and girls between the ages of 12 and 18.

For more information, interested students and parents should visit the tour's Web site — Top50jrTour.com — or call (248) 321-9900.

Players compete in the following divisions: girls 15-and-under, girls 16-and-over, boys 15-and-under, and boys 16-and-over. Members may play in as many — or as few — events as they wish.

Tour highlights for 2006 include:

■ Up to 1,350 rounds of free golf, based on participation.

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■ Each event is comprised of an 18-hole qualifier and an 18-hole tournament.

The top forty players at each Qualifier play in the tournament for free. The top 10 finishers at each tournament are exempt into the following tournament and play for free.

Baseball sign-up

The Canton Little League will be holding a pair of upcoming registration sessions for the 2006 season.

The sessions will be held from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 21, and Saturday, Feb. 18, at the Four Seasons Internet Cafe, located at 3500 Lilley Plaza in Canton.

Players from Canton, Plymouth and Plymouth Township are eligible to play in the Canton Little League.

Teams will play a 20-game schedule and compete in a Father's Day tournament and a tournament against teams from Belleville.

For more information, contact Ray Waack at (734) 397-0147.

Euro Stars shine

Euro Stars Gymnastics held its 3rd Annual Jingle Bell Rock Invitational and Fun meet Dec. 3-4 at Plymouth High School. The event was sponsored by the Plymouth, Canton and Salem Gymnastic teams with the support of Plymouth Athletic Director Terry Sawchuck and Plymouth-Canton Schools Superintendent Dr. Jim Ryan.

The Euro Stars fared very well as their Level 5 and 6 teams took first place.

This was the first meet of the year for the Stars, Level 7 and 8 teams, and they both placed second.

The meet attracted over 300 gymnasts from Michigan, Ohio and Indiana.

LOCAL HONOREES

The following P-CEP football players were named to the 2005 All-Observer first- and second-team squads.

■ **CANTON** — (first team) RB Deshon McClendon, OL Ryan Jonik, DL Andy Rossow, LB Jeff Piper and DB Matt Sweda; (second team) QB Shawn Little and OL Fred Keena.

■ **PLYMOUTH** — (first team) OL Shaun Bailey, QB Brent Jones and DL Taylor Fox; (second team) OL Nate McManus, TE Josh Le Duc and DB La'Broderick Caldwell.

■ **SALEM** — (first team) OL Joe Sander and QB/DB Kevin Bradley; (second team) OL Mark Skotak.

For the complete teams and write-ups on all 26 first-team players, please see page B5.

Franklin's Kelbert named top grid coach

See All Observer football team on page B5

BY BRAD EMONS
STAFF WRITER

In his fifth year as varsity coach, Chris Kelbert helped put Livonia Franklin's football season back on the radar screen. After four straight losing seasons, Kelbert helped orchestrate the Patriots' turnaround in a big way, guiding Franklin to its first undefeated regular season since 1974 and its first postseason playoff berth since 1975 (the school's Class A state championship year).

Franklin finished as both Western Division and Western Lakes Activities Association champions for the first time in school history and reached the second round of the Division II state playoffs.

The Patriots' lone blemish came against eventual state champion Birmingham Brother Rice, 35-21, in the district finals.

"We did it as a team," said Kelbert, who earned both Observerland and state Associated Press Coach of the Year honors. "Outside of D.J. Tracy, we did not have a huge star."

Everybody played a role and somebody different did it each time out.

"This group of kids bought into the program and realized they had to prepare better in the off-season to be successful."

The 30-year-old Kelbert doesn't take all the credit for the Patriots' success in 2005, pointing to his staff of capable assistants which include Kevin Biga, George Lovich, Armand Vigna, Nic Houstoulakis, Josh Jacobson, John DiPomo, Dusty Hall, Don Boka and Archie Leib.

Kelbert is a 1994 graduate of Walled Lake Western where he played linebacker and receiver under coach Chuck Apap. Kelbert played for the Warriors in the 1992 Class A state final at the Pontiac Silverdome against Muskegon Reeths-Puffer in a heartbreaking, 21-18 loss.

He went on to play tight end at Adrian College where he graduated in 1998 before taking his first prep coaching assignment for one season at Onsted High School.

Kelbert spent two years as an assistant under Rick Lee before taking over the Patriots' head coaching position in 2001. Chris and his wife Jennifer, a court reporter, have two sons — Jake, 3, and Drew, just born on Dec. 1.

So what can fans expect next season from the Pats?

"We have nine starters back, including four offensive linemen and two good running backs," Kelbert said. "We have a good core of kids coming back, a lot of guys were a part of this and an undefeated JV team. The seniors have shown what you have to do to be successful and we have a good group going in the weight room already. The talk now is not just making the playoffs, but going further into the playoffs."

Longtime Whalers Nie and Vigilante leave Plymouth

Two popular members of the Plymouth Whalers departed the team this past week when Ryan Nie was traded to the Toronto St. Michael's Majors and John Vigilante signed a professional contract with Nashville.

Nie, 20, was dealt to Toronto along with Steve Spade for 19-year-old goalie Justin Peters. The Whalers acquired Spade last week from the Belleville Bulls in exchange for two draft choices.

Peters, a second-round pick of the National Hockey League's Carolina Hurricanes in 2002, was expected to be in the Whalers starting line-up Saturday night when they hosted

Owen Sound (results will appear in Thursday's Observer).

"Ryan Nie has been a quality goaltender for us and his statistics speak for himself," said Plymouth President, General Manager and Head Coach Mike Vellucci. "But with this move, we free up an overage spot and get a quality goaltender who could come back to play next season for us. Being a Carolina Hurricanes draft pick, we're very familiar with Justin. His playoffs statistics are outstanding."

Nie, selected by the Whalers in the ninth round of the 2001 OHL draft, has played his entire career in Plymouth, playing in

his 100th career game for the Whalers Dec. 8 in a 6-3 victory over Sarnia. Nie has compiled a 3.24 goals-against average and 91.5 save percentage in 21 games. In his career with the Whalers, Nie posted a 2.75 goals-against average.

As Vellucci said, the trade alleviates Plymouth's overage situation. OHL teams can play just three overage players (players who were born in 1985). "We're very happy for John," Vellucci said, referring to Vigilante's pro contract. "He's been an excellent Whaler for a long time and has worked very hard for this opportunity."



PLYMOUTH WHALERS PHOTO

Plymouth Whaler goal-tender Ryan Nie, pictured in a game earlier this season, was traded to the Toronto St. Michael's Majors for 19-year-old Justin Peters. In 100 career games for the Whalers, Nie posted a 2.92 goals-against average.

Anleitner hot in Wolves' win

Junior point guard Jack Anleitner pumped in 21 points to lead Canton Agape Christian to a 58-41 victory over Taylor Light & Life Friday night.

Sophomore guard Tyler Majeski also had a strong game, netting 20 points for the winners, who improved to 2-0.

Aaron Lane had a big night for Light & Life, compiling 23 points and 21 rebounds.

"We out-quicked them and our man-to-man pressure was too much for them," said Agape coach Keith Anleitner. "They were bigger than us, but we did a good job of penetrating against their zone defense."

The Wolverines raced to a 13-8 first-quarter lead before building a 33-19 cushion at the half.

Anleitner was red-hot at the free-throw line, draining 14-of-18 attempts. As a team, Agape hit 21-of-31 shots from the stripe.

LUTHERAN WESTLAND 54, PCA 36. On Tuesday, senior forward Paul Rosin scored a team-high 18 points and 6-foot-6 junior center Alex Edwards chipped in with 14 points and 11 rebounds as Lutheran High Westland (1-0) opened its season Tuesday with a convincing win over Plymouth Christian Academy (0-1).

The Warriors jumped out to a 10-0 advantage to start the game and led by as many as 18 in the second half. Senior forward Matt

Saagman paced the Eagles with 18 points while sophomore guard Trevor Zinn added 9. Junior center Devyn Govan chipped in with six points for the Eagles.

"I thought we played well enough to win," said PCA coach Doug Taylor. "We just couldn't put the ball in the basket. Our shots just weren't falling tonight."

PCA trailed just 25-20 at the break before the more-experienced Warriors pulled away over the final 16 minutes.

Lutheran Westland was 6-of-10 from the foul line, while PCA made 12-of-21.

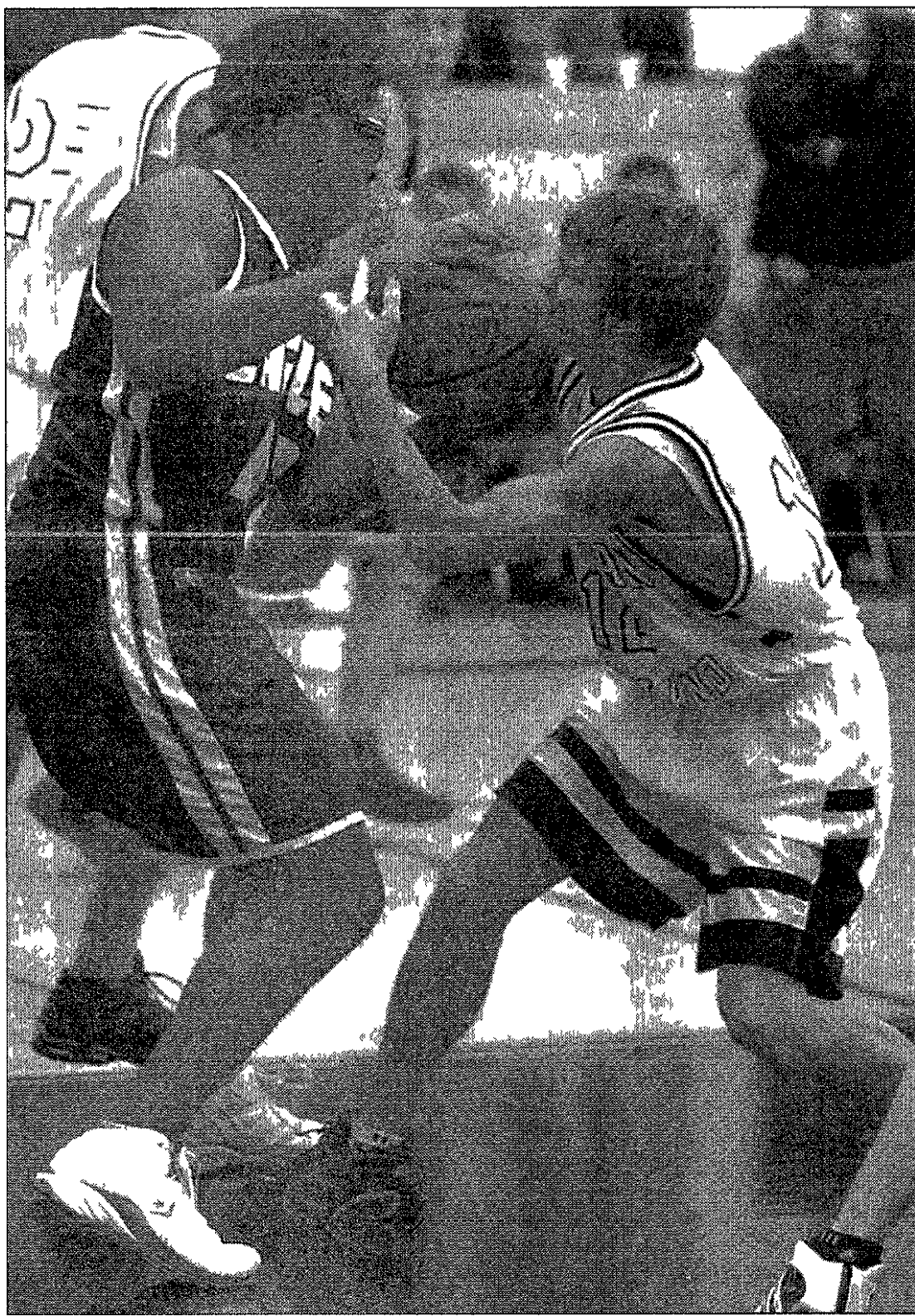
CANTON AGAPE 66, YPSI CALVARY CHRISTIAN 29.

On Tuesday, the Wolverines opened the 2005-06 season on a positive note with an overwhelming victory over Calvary Junior guard Jack Anleitner paced the winners with 17 points and seven assists. Senior forward Derek Leathers (10 points, 12 rebounds) and Mark Mullet (10 and 10) dominated inside for the Wolverines while Tyler Majeski twined 10 points.

"The kids really worked hard and pressured them from the opening tip," said Agape coach Keith Anleitner. "We got off to a great start with 23 points in the first quarter."

The Wolverines led, 42-15, at the intermission.

Every player on the Agape roster scored at least four points. The game was played at the Wolverines' new home court, Garden City United Christian.



Plymouth Christian Academy's Devyn Govan battles for the ball with Lutheran Westland's Sean VandenBrink during Tuesday night's season-opener for both teams. The Warriors prevailed 54-36.

TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

PCA looks to future

BY ED WRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

Gone from last season's 12-10 Plymouth Christian Academy basketball team are seven seniors, including the school's all-time leading rebounder, Aaron Ciborowski, and smooth and talented point guard Stephen Sumner.

Returning are several hungry and determined players who are ready to etch their own mark on the PCA hoop landscape.

"It's going to be an interesting year for us," said PCA coach Doug Taylor. "The jury is out on how well we'll do. It's always tough to lose as many seniors as we lost. We have a whole new team, which is exciting in a lot of ways."

The Eagles' top returner is senior forward Matt Saagman (6-foot-1), who averaged 6.1 points per game during the 2004-05 campaign.

He was the team's third-leading scorer, shooting an impressive 51 percent from the floor.

"Matt is a very good player," Taylor said. "He's quick and he has really good court vision. He understands the game and, most importantly, he's a leader."

Other seniors on the PCA roster are 6-1 forward Ryan Barber, a transfer student from Canton Agape, Caleb James (5-10), who is expected to handle some of the team's point-guard responsibilities, Ben Welton (5-10), the fastest player on the team, and Scott Brandt, a 6-3 center who owns the school's high-jump record.

The Eagles' junior class consists of Dave Koscielniak, a 5-11 guard who can shoot and rebound, 6-2 center Devyn Govan, "a strong, up-and-coming" player, according to Taylor, and Ryan Govan, a 6-1 forward who is noted for his ability to drive to the basket.

Sophomore Trevor Zinn, a 5-10 guard, and freshman Justin Govan, a 6-2 forward, are also expected to make solid contributions for the Eagles.

"Trevor is a good shooter and he handles the ball really well," Taylor said. "Justin has a lot of raw talent. He jumps and shoots well."

Taylor predicted the Michigan Independent Athletic Conference will be as strong as ever.

"Inter-City will be the favorite again this year," Taylor said. "Roeper should be good, with a lot of seniors back, and I've heard Zoe has a good team this year."

Agape cagers shoot for 2nd 'Red' title

BY ED WRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

Canton Agape boys basketball coach Keith Anleitner was hoping his team would get promoted from the Michigan Independent Athletic Conference's Red Division to the Blue after the Wolverines went 10-0 in the conference and 14-6 overall last season.

Based on Agape's strong cast of returning players, there are probably a few other Red Division teams who wish the Wolverines would have been promoted to the Blue.

"We would have liked to have been moved up, but the athletic directors voted for us to stay in the Red, which is fine," Anleitner said. "We're pretty new to the league, so we can live with where-

'We would have liked to have been moved up, but the athletic directors voted for us to stay in the Red, which is fine. We're pretty new to the league, so we can live with wherever they put us.'

Keith Anleitner
Canton Agape boys basketball coach

ever they put us.

The 2005-06 Wolverines will be led by the strong inside/outside combination of senior post player Derek Leathers (6-foot-3) and point guard Jack Anleitner (6-1), Keith's son.

Leathers averaged nine points and 10 boards last season while Anleitner netted 13 points per contest and four assists.

Both players were voted to the MIAC's first team.

"In my opinion, both Derek and Jack could play on any team in the area," Anleitner said. "They're both solid players and seasoned veterans."

Also earning starting berths for the Wolverines are sophomore guard Tyler Majeski (6-0) who is a good shooter and very athletic according to Anleitner, and Devon Bottiaux (6-1), a strong and physical post player.

Others contending for the fifth starting spot are senior Matt Holmes (5-9), sophomore Mark Mullet (5-9), junior Terrell Pierce (5-11) and junior Will

Pientowski (5-10).

"We only have eight players, but when you consider our school only has 35 boys in it that's pretty good," Anleitner said. "Plus, we have nine players on the junior-varsity team, so almost half the boys in the school play basketball."

Anleitner didn't hesitate when asked what his No. 1 goal was heading into the 2005-06 campaign.

"We'd like to repeat as the MIAC Red champions," he said. "In fact, I'll be disappointed if we don't repeat. Baptist Park will be good again, they have the returning MVP (Halston Hodges)."

"Our other goals include beating PCA and winning the district."

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	DODGE BALL High School and Adult Leagues Jan 2-Mar 2 (Reg Deadline Dec 15) Team Fee \$400 6 Games + End-of-Season Tournament
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Soaring Eagles

The Plymouth Christian Academy eighth-grade girls basketball team enjoyed an outstanding 2005 season, finishing 13-0. Pictured (back row from left) are Head Coach Gary Wheeler, Rachel Kronig, LeeAnne Carr, Katherine Swan, Michaela Wheeler, Assistant Coach Duane Stothers, (front row from left) Anna Moriarity, Chelsie Myers, Elizabeth Atken, Jessica Soblesky, Amy Paladino.

Elite Jiu-Jitsu competitors drawn to Canton

Canton-based East West Martial Arts hosted the Great Lakes Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu Championships Nov. 20 in the Discovery Middle School gymnasium. The event drew 124 competitors and 183 spectators from Michigan, Ohio and Indiana.

Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu was developed by the Gracie family in the early 20th century, said Ryan Fiorenza, the owner of East West Martial Arts and the only black belt in Michigan in the art of Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu. It is designed for a smaller person to defeat a larger, stronger attacker with leverage and strategy.



PHOTO BY GILLIAN MARCEAU

Canton resident Suzanne Vedder (right) placed second in the white belt Class C division and third in the no gi division at the Great Lakes Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu Championships held Nov. 20 at Discovery Middle School in Canton.

Canton icers prevail, 8-2

Canton's hockey team evened its record at 2-2 Wednesday evening with a convincing 8-2 victory over Dearborn Heights Crestwood in a game played at the Arctic Edge Ice Arena in Canton.

Sophomore C.J. Wies paced the Chiefs' potent offensive attack by recording his first career hat-trick. C.J. has been coming on every game for us, said Canton coach Mike Behen. He's a very smart player and you can tell he's been well coached in the past.

Also playing well for Canton

were Brett Giacomino (one goal, two assists), Jesse Pletsch (one goal, one assist) and single goal scorers Ryan Lash, Kyle Kowalski and Brad Barath.

Canton led 2-1 after one period and 4-1 with 15 minutes left to play.

"We were a little disorganized in the first period and

Crestwood played very well early on," Behen said. "We went over some things in the locker room in between the first and second periods and came out and played a lot better."

Nick Basil earned the victory in goal for the Chiefs, knocking away 21 Charger shots.

Canton fired 27 shots at the Crestwood goalie.

THE WEEK AHEAD

PREP BASKETBALL
Tuesday, Dec. 13
 Salem at Saline 7 p.m.
 Life Summit at Canton Agape
 at Garden City United Christian 7 p.m.
 Plymouth at Trenton 7 p.m.
 Rochester at Canton 7:30 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 16
 Warren Cousino at Salem 7 p.m.
 South Lyon at Canton 7 p.m.
WRESTLING
Wednesday, Dec. 14
 Plymouth at Livonia Stevenson Quad 5:30 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 15
 Salem at Northville Tri Meet 5:30 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 17
 Canton Varsity Invitational 9 p.m.
HOCKEY
Friday, Dec. 16
 Plymouth at Salem at Plymouth Cultural Center 8:30 p.m.
 PCS Penguins at FH Mercy at Eddie Edgar Arena 8:30 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 10
 Pinckney at Plymouth at Compuware Sports Arena 2:40 p.m.
VOLLEYBALL
Saturday, Dec. 17
 Salem and Plymouth at Madonna Invite at Plymouth High School 8:30 a.m.
 Canton at Stevenson Invitational 8 a.m.
BOYS SWIMMING
Thursday, Dec. 15
 Westland John Glenn at Canton 7 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 17
 WLAA Conference Relays at Salem noon.
GYMNASTICS
Monday, Dec. 12
 Canton at Westland John Glenn 7 p.m.
Wednesday, Dec. 14

Livonia Unified at Plymouth 7 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 15
 Plymouth at John Glenn Quad 7 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 17
 Canton at Vassar noon.
MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
Friday, Dec. 16
 (Crusader Tourney at Madonna)
 St. Francis (Ind.) vs. Marygrove 6 p.m.
 Madonna vs. Savannah Art & Design 8 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 17
 Crusader Tourney noon & 2 p.m.
 Schoolcraft at Lansing CC 3 p.m.
WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Tuesday, Dec. 13
 Urbana (Ohio) at Madonna 7 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 16
 Madonna at Campbellsville (Ky.) 8 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 17
 Madonna at Lindsey Wilson (Ky.) 2 p.m.
ONTARIO HOCKEY LEAGUE
Thursday, Dec. 15
 Whalers at Peterborough 7 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 16
 Whalers at Oshawa 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, Dec. 18
 Whalers at Toronto 2 p.m.
 TBA - time to be announced

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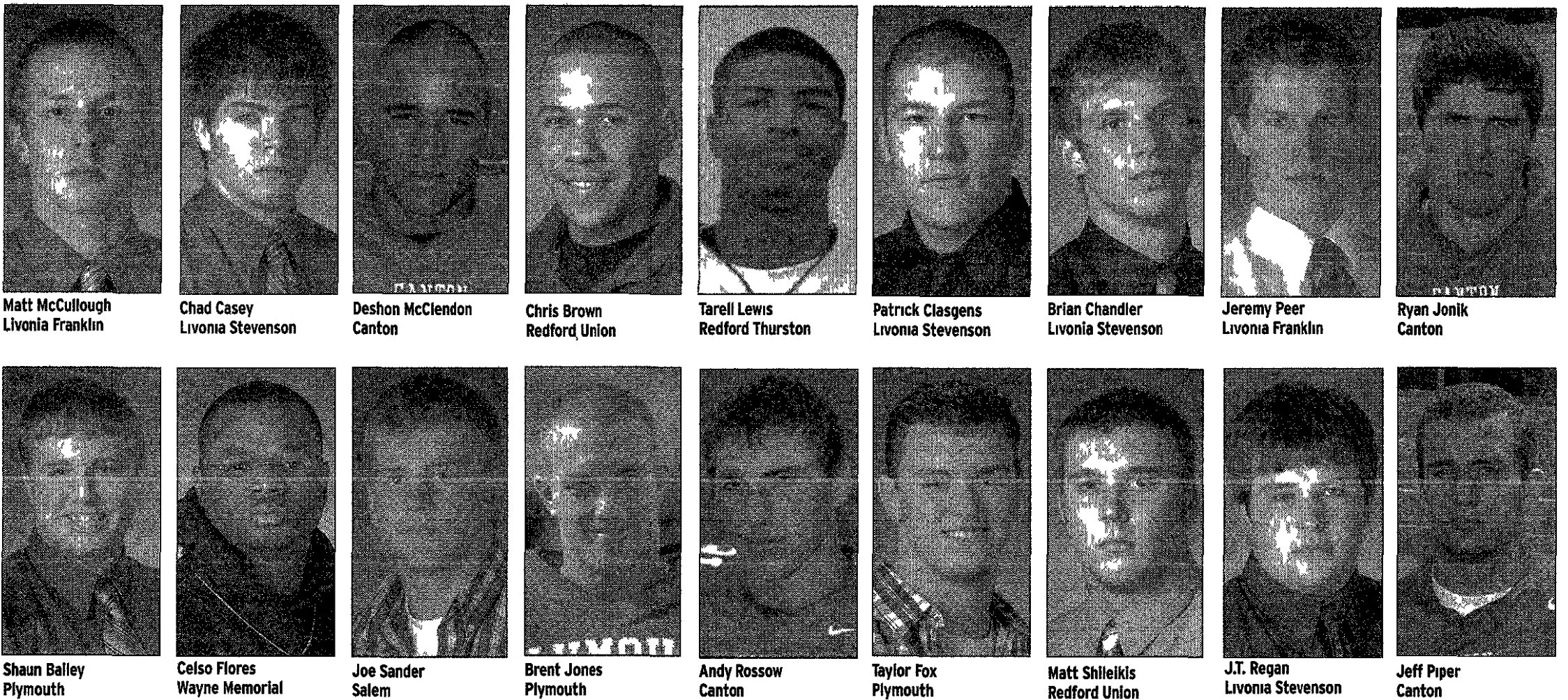
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Chiefs, Patriots pace All-Observer grid squad

2005 ALL-OBSERVER FOOTBALL (selected by the sports staff)

FIRST-TEAM OFFENSE

Quarterbacks
 Matt McCullough 6 2 180 Sr Franklin
 Chad Casey 6 1 188 Sr Stevenson

Running backs
 Deshon McClendon 5 6 170 Jr Canton
 Chris Brown 6 0 175 Sr RU
 Tarell Lewis 5 10 175 Sr Thurston
 Pat Clagsens 5 10 172 Sr Stevenson

Wide receiver
 Brian Chandler 5 11 148 Sr Stevenson

Tight end
 Jeremy Peer 6 3 192 Sr Franklin

Offensive line
 Ryan Jonik 6 4 304 Sr Canton
 Shaun Bailey 6 3 282 Sr Plymouth
 Celso Flores 5 11 185 Sr Wayne
 Joe Sander 5 11 220 Sr Salem

At-Large
 Brent Jones 5 10 178 Sr Plymouth

FIRST-TEAM DEFENSE

Linemen
 Andy Rossow 6 0 175 Sr Canton
 Taylor Fox 6 2 212 Sr Plymouth
 Matt Shileikis 6 3 220 Sr RU
 J.T. Regan 6 2 271 Sr Stevenson

Linebackers
 Jeff Piper 6 3 210 Sr Canton
 D.J. Tracy 6 2 225 Sr Franklin
 Mitch Jelonek 6 3 198 Sr Franklin
 Dustin Mattson 5 8 193 Sr Garden City

Secondary
 Kevin Bradley 5 11 220 Sr Salem
 Steve Brown 6 2 180 Sr RU
 Matt Sweda 5 11 175 Sr Canton
 Ray Gardner 5 9 150 Sr Clarenceville
 Phil Muszynski 5 10 165 Sr Franklin

COACH OF YEAR
 Chris Kelbert Livonia Franklin

SECOND-TEAM OFFENSE

Quarterbacks
 Shawn Little 6 0 175 Sr Canton
 Jon Macek 5 10 180 Sr RU

Running backs
 Mike Schatz 5 10 175 Jr Luth Westlano

Wide receiver
 Davon Brown 5 10 160 Sr Franklin

Tight ends
 Josh LeDuc 6 4 217 Sr Plymouth
 James Reines 6 6 205 Sr Luth Westlano

Offensive line
 Blake Karkoska 5 11 178 Sr Franklin
 Mark Skotak 5 11 230 Sr Salem
 Nate McManus 5 11 189 Sr Plymouth
 Cody Rize 5 9 186 Sr Stevenson
 Fred Keena 6 2 275 Sr Canton

SECOND-TEAM DEFENSE

Linemen
 Ross Valore 5 8 175 Sr Stevenson
 Josh Perusse 6 2 240 Jr Wayne

Ends
 Jerry Smith 6 2 189 Jr John Glenn
 Ryan McMillen 6 1 198 Sr Stevenson

Linebackers
 Ray Preciado 5 9 195 Sr John Glenn
 Ryan Meyers 6 1 205 Sr RU
 Jeff Ryan 5 9 170 Sr Thurston
 Jemere Gainer 6 2 215 Sr Clarenceville
 Yourye Wilson 6 0 180 Soph RU

Secondary
 Brandon Pratt 6 3 184 Sr John Glenn
 Matt Barnier 5 7 150 Sr Garden City
 Brad Whitum 6 2 180 Sr Thurston
 La Broderick Caldwell 5 9 155 Jr Ply Churchhill

HONORABLE MENTION
Churchill: Marcellus Howell Jack Beaver Gerard Grysko David Jeremy John Robinson Ryan Wood Franklin Kevin Wengert Tim Gault Matt Cassel Justin Bending Dan Kozlowski Dan Chynoweth Taylor Hurst Phil Reske Pat Woodard Cole Kelly Stevenson Mike Carrott Alex Spiker T.J. Price Clayton Pack John Glenn Derek Palac Lamar Keith Grego Copeland Shawn Murphy Frank (Zach) Toarmina Wayne John Leverenz Bill Follow Blaine Simmons Clarenceville: J.J. Lohman Brent Robbins Jon Green Lutheran Westland: Paul Rosin Josh Haller Chelston Ross Alex Edwards Canton: Brandon Fender Collin O Shaughnessy Chris Bogdanski Mike Edwards Marwan Faraj Jay Bailey, Konrad Konsitzke Donnie Laramie, Keil Price Joe Zugaj Salem, Tyler Root, Chris Sorensen Ryan Kilgore Dave Hutchinson, Plymouth: Mike McIntosh, Matt Schultz, Nick Rosochacki Jared Panyan Anthony Green, Nathan Gholston Belleville: Carlos Clark Redford Union: Fak Gasi Jared Owens Brad Johnson Thurston: Chris Powers Gregg Giannetti Arron Payne Archie Claxton Garden City: David Hilbert Andrew Pack Matt Kordie Eric Rose Redford Covenant: Antoine Hollifield

FIRST-TEAM OFFENSE

Matt McCullough, QB, Liv. Franklin: The 6-foot-2 180 pound senior had an extraordinary year passing for a school-record 1 627 yards (90 for 145 for 55 percent) with 23 touchdown tosses and just five interceptions.

The All Western Lakes Activities Association QB averaged 21 yards per toss.

"Matt was the difference in our offensive success," Franklin coach Chris Kelbert said. "His throwing ability and mobility did not allow teams to stack the line of scrimmage. He was the second head to a two-headed monster (along with D.J. Tracy)."

McCullough also handled the kick-off and place-kicking duties. He was 4 of 7 on field goals including a long of 40 yards.

Chad Casey, QB, Liv. Stevenson: The 6 1 188 pound senior helped the Spartans to a 7-3 record and a post season berth connecting on 77 of 155 passes for 1 410 yards and 11 touch downs (along with 12 interceptions).

Casey who began as a starter his sophomore year is one of Stevensons all time leading passers with 3 028 yards and 27 TDs.

Chad made the most of his time in the spotlight and did not shy away from the pressure role," Stevenson coach Tim Gabel said of the All Lakes Division pick. "His confidence experience and talent combined to make it a success this year."

"He knew what to do with the ball by far hes the most experienced kid I've had coaching at the quarterback position."

Deshon McClendon, RB, Canton: McClendon was an All State performer for the Chiefs, who advanced to the Division 1 state final for the first time. At 5-6 170 pounds, the hard-running McClendon proved to be tough to bring down for just one defender. He set single-season records for rushing yards all purpose yards and touchdowns. He was also a key member of the Chiefs defense from the free safety position.

"The biggest thing Deshon brought to our team as his big play ability in big games — offensively defensively and in the return game," said Canton coach Tim Baechler. A lot of times his big plays got the momentum going for us. The way he played and worked sent a message to the rest of the team."

Chris Brown, RB, Redford Union: The 6 0 175 pound Redford did it all for the Panthers sparking RU to an 8 2 record and the Mega White championship.

Brown a Mega White all-conference selection, set school records in touchdowns (26 including 17 on the ground) rushing yardage (1 437) average rush (17.3) and longest carry from line of scrimmage. On defense he also contributed 66 tackles and had a hand in six fumbles.

"Chris had an awesome career this year," said RU head coach Miles Tomasaitis. "Chris had the ability to score every time he carried the ball. He left a lot of defenders with their nose in the dirt and grasping for air."

Against Birmingham Brother Rice in the Division 2 state football districts Brown accounted for both of RU's touchdowns — on a 75 yard reception and 69 yard run.

Tarell Lewis, RB, Red. Thurston: The 5 10 175 pound Lewis enjoyed a spectacular season for the 5-4 Eagles.

He gained a school record 1 257 yards rushing (10 2 avg.) and scored 17 times on the ground. In addition Lewis grabbed 13 passes for 181 yards and a touchdown and totaled 458 return yards good for another two TDs.

At defensive back, the Mega Blue all-conference selection contributed 64 tackles broke up eight passes and forced two fumbles.

Thurston head coach Bob Snell described Lewis as a "home run hitter" who can "do the distance at any time" and in fact did so all season.

The highlight of Lewis season came Sept. 30 when he gained 423 all purpose yards and scored three touch downs. Snell said it was the best performance by a Thurston player in his 19 years at the school.

Pat Clagsens, RB, Liv. Stevenson: The 5 10 172 pound senior running back finished the year with 1 126 yards rushing on 110 attempts and 16 TDs.

The All-WLAA pick also caught 14 passes for 350 yards and four TDs. He also returned one punt for a score giving

him a school record 21 touch downs on the year.

Clagsens had 15 scoring plays of 40 yards or more.

Pat was a threat every time he touched the ball," Gabel said of the two-year starter. "He really worked hard in the off season on his lower body and that really made a difference this year because he was able to shift in the open field. Ten or 12 yard gains turned into 40 yard touchdowns."

Brian Chandler, WR, Liv. Stevenson: The speedy 5 11 148 pound senior wide receiver was an All Lakes Division selection who had a knack for the big play all season averaging 22 yards per catch.

Chandler finished the year with 25 catches for 562 yards and four touch downs. He also rushed for one TD a 61 yard reverse in the WLAA championship game against Franklin.

"At the end of the year Brian became our go-to receiver," Gabel said.

Jeremy Peer, TE, Liv. Franklin: The 6 3 192-pound senior earned All Western Lakes accolades as he finished with 19 catches for 349 yards and seven TDs.

Peer also started at free safety for the Patriots and had two interceptions. He finished with 12 first hits (six negative) 23 solo tackles and 44 assists.

"In the off-season Jeremy was one of the guys who never missed a weight lifting workout," Kelbert said. "Hes got a standard way of preparing himself. He just worked so hard in the off season."

"He was one of those guys who would pile six guys in a car to make sure they all got to their off season workouts."

Ryan Jonik, OL, Canton: The 6 4 305 pound tackle had an outstanding senior season, his first as a starter. Joniks bruising blocks often cleared a path for the Chiefs potent running game. He was an All WLAA first team performer.

"Ryan was our most physical blocker," Baechler said. "For a big guy he moved really well. We was able to get to the linebackers and the defensive backs and he had excellent footwork. He had a great year for us."

Shaun Bailey, OL, Plymouth: The senior two-year starter received All State recognition for his dominating play along the Wildcats offensive line. At 6-3 282 pounds Bailey was big for a guard, but he averaged a team high five knock-down blocks per game.

"Most of our big runs at the point of attack, were behind Shaun," said Plymouth coach Jay Blaylock. "He had good mobility for his size and was able to block linebackers and safeties."

Celso Flores, OL, Wayne Memorial: The 5 11 285 pound senior stood out as an offensive guard en route to All-Western Lakes honors.

Flores also filled in on occasion defensively.

"I think hes the best (offensive) lineman in our league, just an unbelievable drive blocker who was also mean and tough," Wayne coach Craig Hnatuk said. "Hes a great trapping guard with great feet and great balance."

"He graded out at 97 percent. Just a very strong powerful offensive player."

Joe Sander, OL, Salem: A senior, Sander was a two year, two way starter for the Rocks.

At 5-11, 225 pounds Sander was t as big as most of the opposing linemen he squared off against, but his size did keep him from making his presence felt on both sides of the line of scrimmage.

Joe is a tremendous lineman," said Salem coach Bob Cummings. "Ever since he moved into the starting lineup as a junior, he has done a great job. He has good knowledge of the game good speed and decent size. He was a very hard worker in the weight room and was probably one of our strongest players."

Brent Jones, At-Large, Plymouth: The senior quarterback was the sparkplug of the Wildcats offense as he racked up over 1 000 yards rushing. Jones had to read the defense at the beginning of each play then decide to either hand off to Plymouths lone running back or keep the ball himself. Judging by the number of times he ended up in the opposing teams secondary it was usually a good read.

"He was the one kid we had on offense that the teams we played loaded up to stop," said Blaylock. "He was the most explosive player on our team. Hes not super fast but hes

great football speed. I think he'll make a great wideout at the next level."

FIRST-TEAM DEFENSE

Andy Rossow, DL, Canton: Rossow's engine never stopped running on the football field. The two way performer earned co MVP honors along with McClendon due to his stellar play on the defensive line and clutch runs and catches from the offensive backfield. He led Cantons defense with 11 sacks and was the teams top receiver.

Andy was a big momentum type guy," Baechler said.

He'd make big plays when we need ed to get the guys going. He was tough to block because he was so quick and he was our best receiver. He had a couple of big catches in our semi-final win against Dakota."

Taylor Fox, DL, Plymouth: Fox played much bigger than his 210 pound frame. His combination of strength toughness and intelligence proved to be a coachs dream for Blaylock and the Wildcats defense.

"Taylor did a great job for us this year," Blaylock said. "When you play defensive end like he did against teams that run the option and Wing T, you have to be disciplined and he was. He has great technique too."

Matt Shileikis, DL, Redford Union: For the third consecutive year the 6 3 220 pounder was a force in the trenches — both on offense and defense.

As center, Shileikis made good on his blocks 93 percent of the time opening holes for stalwart running back Chris Brown and others.

The Mega White all-conference selection also shined at defensive end, with 27 tackles four sacks and three quarterback sacks.

"Matt anchored our defensive line," said Tomasaitis. "Most teams we played against were concerned as to how they were going to handle him."

J.T. Regan, DL, Liv. Stevenson: The 6 2, 271 pound senior earned All Lakes Division honors for the Spartans.

He was a two way starter at both offensive and defensive tackle.

On the defensive side Regan finished with 44 tackles three for loss. Offensively he won the Spartans Outstanding Blocker Award.

"Normally we try to rest our line men but J.T. was just too valuable to come off the field very often," Gabel said. "He was our most consistent blocker on offense and Conrad Newman (defensive coordinator) moved him from side to side and even tackle to end as needed on defense. He was really irreplaceable this season."

Jeff Piper, LB, Canton: Piper was a nightmare for opposing ball-carriers and a leader on Cantons defense. The rangy linebacker carried a jolt with his bone-jarring tackles. His speed aggressiveness allowed him to cover the field sideline-to sideline.

"Jeff was our hardest hitter," Baechler confirmed. "He made a lot of big tackles for this team and he had five sacks. He was a great outside linebacker. Jeff has such great speed and length that he was able to run players down from the other side of the field. He had some incredible hits this year."

D.J. Tracy, LB, Liv. Franklin: The consensus All-Stater and All-WLAA pick did it on both sides of the ball for the 10 1 Patriots.

The 6-2 225 pound inside line backer finished with 23 first hits (13 negative) 29 solo tackles and 27 assists to go along with eight sacks two fumble recoveries and two pass breakups.

Offensively he was just as effective with team leading 1 247 yards on 148 attempts (8.4 per carry) with 15 touch downs.

"It was a breakout season for D.J. because he realized his potential and lived up to it all year long," Kelbert said of the two time first-team All Observer pick.

Tracy also excels as a forward on the hockey team and as catcher on the Patriots baseball team.

Mitch Jelonek, LB, Liv. Franklin: The 6 3 195 pound senior earned All WLAA honors and led the Patriots in total tackles with school record 144 including 30 first hits 31 solo tackles (12 negative hits) and 61 assists.

He also blocked six kicks, knocked down two passes, had one fumble recovery and one interception.

"Mitch brings emotion to the defense and he was a big reason everybody else fed off of that," Kelbert said. Having him around this season was a

big plus for us because he plays with so much intensity."

Dustin Mattson, LB, Garden City: Although the 5 8 193 pounder earned selection to the All Observerland first team defense he also could have easily been named for his excellent season at halfback.

The team captain was Garden City's offensive MVP for the third consecutive year averaging 6.2 yards per carry (with 824 yards and seven rushing touchdowns) along with 420 kick return yards (an average of 22.2 yards per return) and three returns for TDs.

Dustin is a hard runner with great balance and vision," said Cougars head coach Mike Salter. "Most of Dustins longer runs were because of his effort breaking tackles and cutting back across the field."

Mattson earned selection to the Mega Blue all conference squad.

Kevin Bradley, DB, Salem: A senior Bradley started at quarterback and safety for the Rocks this season. He was one of the teams top tacklers from the defensive side but his biggest contributions were made from the QB position, where he rushed for over 1 000 yards. Hes churned out 275 yards rushing against Livonia Churchill which was the fourth-highest single-game total in Salems history. He scored 16 touchdowns and twice scored four TDs in a single game tying the school record.

"Kevin meant a lot to this team offensively and defensively," Cummings said. "Our offense revolved around him and his ability to read the defense. He did a great job of moving from running back to quarterback this season."

Steve Brown, DB, Redford Union: There was another versatile Brown doing excellent things this season for the Panthers and it was this 6 2, 180 pounder yet another Mega White all-conference selection.

In the defensive secondary he wreaked havoc with 75 tackles while breaking up seven passes.

Brown also gained 775 yards and scored 11 times from his running back position and sparkled on special teams with 176 return yards and an additional two touchdowns.

"Steve was one of the best hitters we have had in my 15 years at RU," Tomasaitis said. "He called the cover ages for us at free safety and was our leader in the defensive backfield."

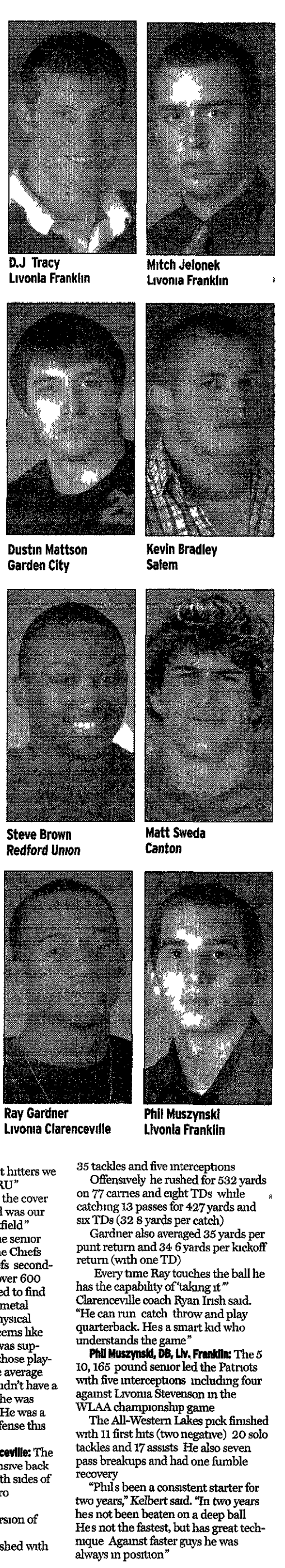
Matt Sweda, DB, Canton: The senior was a two-way starter for the Chiefs. On offense, he was the Chiefs second-leading rusher, picking up over 600 yards. Defensively, he seemed to find the ball like a magnet finds metal.

Matt was a very solid physical tackler," Baechler said. "It seems like Matt was always where he was supposed to be. He was one of those players who made plays that the average fan doesn't always see. He didn't have a lot of big interceptions but he was always around the football. He was a very valuable part of our defense this year."

Ray Gardner, DB, Liv. Clarenceville: The 5 9 150 pound senior defensive back showed his versatility on both sides of the ball en route to All Metro Conference honors.

He was Clarencevilles version of "Slash."

Defensively Gardner finished with



35 tackles and five interceptions. Offensively he rushed for 532 yards on 77 carries and eight TDs while catching 13 passes for 427 yards and six TDs (32.8 yards per catch).

Gardner also averaged 35 yards per punt return and 34.6 yards per kickoff return (with one TD).

Every time Ray touches the ball he has the capability of taking it," Clarenceville coach Ryan Irish said. "He can run catch throw and play quarterback. Hes a smart kid who understands the game."

Phil Muszynski, DB, Liv. Franklin: The 5 10, 165 pound senior led the Patriots with five interceptions including four against Livonia Stevenson in the WLAA championship game.

The All-Western Lakes pick finished with 11 first hits (two negative) 20 solo tackles and 17 assists. He also seven pass breakups and had one fumble recovery.

"Phil's been a consistent starter for two years," Kelbert said. "In two years hes not been beaten on a deep ball. Hes not the fastest, but hes great technique. Against faster guys he was always in position."

DREAMS

FROM PAGE B1

like the fact that it wasn't as serious — not as organized — as I was used to. I wanted to play more than just street ball."

So Klemmer did what anyone with a real passion for basketball would do.

"I talked to Western's coach about possibly walking on to their team," she said. "She was interested and came to a couple of my games. After a while, she knew my name."

Obviously impressed, the Broncos' coach not only knew Klemmer's name, she invited her to tryouts the following summer.

HELLO, ADVERSITY

With a new goal in sight, Klemmer continued to play intramural basketball until one night in February of 2001 when something went very wrong.

"I was sliding on defense when something popped in my knee," she recalled. "The most shocking thing was that I didn't just feel it — I actually heard it pop."

"When I told one of my friends, Bree Pastalanec, what had happened, she told me that's what had happened to her when she tore her ACL (anterior cruciate ligament) in high school. Well, later that night, I called my parents and they picked me up and took me home the next day."

A few days later, Klemmer's worst fears were realized. An MRI revealed that she had torn her ACL.

HOOP: OFF LIMITS

Following surgery, Klemmer endured months of grueling rehabilitation exercises. Doctors advised her to take at least six months off from playing hard-core basketball.

"During the time I was out, Western recruited Maria

Jillian, who was a point guard from Divine Child," Klemmer said. "Maria filled the spot I would have had a shot at."

The unfortunate chain of circumstances took a toll on the once buoyant Klemmer's mental health.

"I was pretty down my sophomore year," she admitted. "I wasn't going to be playing for Western, I couldn't play intramurals, I wasn't doing anything. My academics suffered, too, because I started just going through the motions. I started partying a little too much."

"After a while, I realized Western wasn't for me and I was just wasting my parents' money."

Klemmer finished her sophomore year at Western, but in December of 2002, she decided not to enroll for the second semester of her junior year. Instead, she worked full time at the Finish Line, a sporting goods store in Kalamazoo.

"Around that time, my mom called me and told me that I needed to come home and get my life in order," Klemmer reflected. "I finally realized that she was right and I couldn't keep doing what I was doing. So I moved back home."

ORDER ON THE COURT

By the summer of 2003, Klemmer's life started to regain some normalcy. She was playing pick-up basketball again and was flourishing at her full-time job at Bally's Total Fitness in Plymouth.

"That summer, coach Jansen, who I had first met in high school, asked me to work at her summer basketball camps at Madonna," Klemmer said. "I started playing a lot of basketball at Madonna's open gyms. My parents were trying to talk me into going back to school, but attending Madonna or playing basketball there never crossed my mind. I didn't think I was in good enough shape to play at the collegiate level."

Over the course of the next year, Klemmer turned into an exercise machine.

"I worked out, worked out and worked out until I was in

the best shape of my life," she said. "Then, in the summer of 2004, while I was working at a camp, one of the Madonna players asked me if I ever thought of playing for them. I said I'd definitely be interested."

"A little while later, coach Jansen walked over to me, smiled, and said, 'What are you waiting for? Do you want to play with us?'"

"When Lindsay decided to play, I told her she had a lot to prove," Jansen said. "But she has made the most of it. She had an incredible passion for the game and she wanted to be a part of a team and experience competition again at a high level."

"I really admire Lindsay's persistence. She stuck with it and has come full circle. She also has realized what's most important in her life, namely her family."

ANOTHER BUMP

Klemmer was gung-ho to play, but another obstacle soon popped up.

"Since my grades at Western weren't great, I found out I would have to be on academic probation at Madonna," she said. "I had two years of college basketball eligibility left, but they told me I'd have to red-shirt for one year."

Initially, Klemmer was dismayed about having to sit for

an entire year, but the dismay soon evaporated once official team workouts started. During the 2004-05 season, she attended all of the Crusaders' practices, acting as the opponents' top guard in scrimmages. All of the pick-up games she had toiled in the previous two years had sharpened her offensive skills.

"People who hadn't seen me play since high school told me that, offensively, my game was like night and day," she said. "I didn't shoot much in high school. But during the last couple of years, I had worked a lot on my shooting, so I developed an outside shot I never had before."

More importantly, as Klemmer's game improved, so did her academic life. She developed a passion for a unique sports management major that Madonna offered and her grade point — much like her three-point shooting percentage — sky-rocketed to a 3.7.

NEW NICKNAME

Klemmer's work ethic and natural leadership qualities have made her popular with teammates, some of whom are five years younger.

"Since I'm so much older than most of the players, they call me 'Grandma,'" Klemmer said, laughing.

Klemmer, who is working as

an intern with the Detroit Pistons and Detroit Shock, didn't play like a grandma before suffering the dislocated elbow. In her first official collegiate game against Rochester, she burned 5-of-7 three-point shots and finished with a game-high 20 points. She was also more than solid in the Crusaders' next two games.

"I've learned a lot from this entire experience," she said. "Most of all, I learned that only I have control of my actions. I screwed up, then I got my life back on track."

"I also learned how important my family and friends are to me. Even when I was going through a challenging time, they stuck with me. It's something I'll never forget."

BACK IN ACTION

Klemmer under-estimated the time her latest injury would cost her on the court, but just barely. She was sidelined three weeks — not two — before returning to action Dec. 3.

And, not surprisingly, Klemmer is playing well again for the the Crusaders and her long-delayed collegiate basketball career is back on course.

It's heading north — just like her life.



MADONNA UNIVERSITY PHOTO

Former Salem basketball standout Lindsay Klemmer is making her collegiate debut for Madonna University this season five years after playing in her final game for the Rocks.

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Finally!

Lathrup girls reach pinnacle

BY JIM TOTH
STAFF WRITER

With the game clock ticking down Saturday, one look over the Southfield-Lathrup bench revealed eight seniors sporting ear-to-ear smiles while fist-pumping the Chargers logo across the front of their jerseys.

The reason for their jubilation?

How about the school's first girls basketball state championship of any kind, which came courtesy of a scrappy 48-36 triumph over Detroit Martin Luther King at the Breslin Center in East Lansing.

"This is one of the greatest feelings," expressed one of those joyous seniors, Jareica Hughes, who once again was instrumental in victory. "We've all been waiting for this for four years. We're all happy."

"It's a great feeling," echoed senior Timika Williams, who stood tall in the final win, tossing in a game-high 24 points and hauling down a team-leading nine rebounds. "I knew I was going to have a big game as soon as I stepped on the floor."

It's a good thing, too, because the strategy coming over from

the King side of the floor was to contain the penetration of the Lathrup backcourt, featuring Hughes and senior Britiane Russell. But the experience of the veteran backcourt was evident early on as the Chargers took the extra look, made the extra pass and crashed the boards to produce quality shots.

"They were concentrating a little too much on me and the other guards, so we thought about it and gave the ball to Timika and she came out and did her work," Hughes explained.

The Chargers, who concluded the season 27-1 and champions in Class A, led from wire-to-wire. A quick five from Williams opened up an early 7-0 Lathrup advantage and the Chargers remained on top at the break 23-19.

Timika plays well when she touches the ball early and she got some early looks," explained victorious Chargers head coach Michele Jackson.

"That really neutralized what they were trying to do because Britiane Russell is as good a guard as Jareica, and they were both smart enough to get her the ball."

The Chargers grabbed even



more control in the third period as Russell and Hughes chipped in on the offensive end and Williams, Dhamte Slapay and Briana Whitehead made life difficult for their King counter parts Jasmine Stone and Lequisha Whitfield on the defensive end.

The combination produced a 38-27 lead after three and set the stage for a chess match with the Chargers holding the first move in the fourth quarter. Being patient with every possession the Chargers were able to match their opponents basket for basket and free throw for free throw giving Jackson the luxury of saluting the seniors down the stretch.

It was the last time I'm going to pull them out," Jackson said of the final seconds. "We spend so much time together and I wanted these kids to go out in class and with style."

"It's been a real special ride and real special situation, continued Jackson, completing her ninth season with the Chargers.

It's bitter sweet - great to have a state championship - and that will never be downplayed - but these kids are like daughters so that's a tough one."

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MEN'S HOCKEY

Wayne State University's men's hockey team earned its first victory of the season Dec. 2 at Air Force, defeating the Falcons 4-3.

The Warriors (1-9-2, 1-4-1 in the CHA) jumped out to a 2-0 lead late in the opening period with two goals in a span of 2:36. Redshirt sophomore center Mike Forgie netted his third of the season and sophomore center Stavros Paskaris scored his first of the campaign.

Air Force rallied to tie the game on two occasions, but WSU junior blueliner Dan Hlakos scored the game-winner on a power play with 5:59 left.

On Dec. 3, Air Force held off a four-goal rally by WSU to win the game 7-6.

The Falcons held a 7-2 lead early in the third period before WSU went on a tear, with goals from Derek Panches, Paskaris, Higgins, and Canton native Jason Bloomingsburg.

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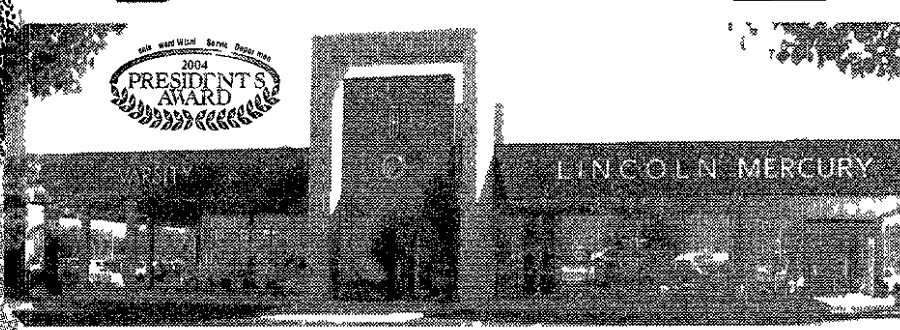
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Paul Melrose

How to cope with holidays

Increasingly it is recognized that with the hype, preparation, joy, excitement and business of the December holidays there is also a sense for many of us of feeling down, depressed, and overly stressed. In extreme cases there are those persons who admit that they do not look forward to the holidays.

The trip "over the river and through the woods to grandmother's house," or to wherever the family celebrations might occur, leads us down the road to unfinished business and times of loss. As we reconnect with families, as we bring out the decorations again, memories stir and old feelings, not old but just asleep, reawaken. What is occurring is the re-emerging of all those times of family relationships that not only bring joy to our lives but sadness and perhaps sorrow.

It seems part of the holiday traditions now to make note of what can be the difficult aspects of holidays. So maybe these few words might be a gift for you that you can use to remind yourself that the return of these feelings is normal, and there are some things which you can do to cope, to help, or even rediscover a joy that maybe was there a long time ago, or to finally find meaning for yourself in these times.

The family celebrations bring back memories both good and bad. You remember family conflicts, sometimes to the exclusion of anything pleasant. The first thing to focus on is that you are in the here and now. You may wish to change the location of the celebration. You may wish to go out rather than eat in. You may treat yourself to some down time in the midst of the hub bub. It may be time to reconnect with a family member with whom there is longstanding conflict, just to offer a simple word. Find someone with whom you can talk about what troubles you.

The holidays recall those who are no longer with us. Honor who they are. Perhaps you are aware of a religious service being offered particularly at the holiday time, to remember the lives of parents, children, friends, who have been meaningful but who have died.

Even remembering those who have died a long time ago, but in a setting just for this purpose, allows you in your mind and heart to be with them, be aware of them, and appreciate who they have been for you. If you have no family you may find ways to be with people by setting up a gathering with friends. A way to move beyond your own disconnection or unhappiness is to be involved with others.

There are many ways to give to others, particularly at this time of year, by making contributions to gift gathering for the needy, serving at a food kitchen. Many folks might travel to the Gulf States through a program to give some time there.

You may need to do something different in your religious life. Houses of worship of the different faiths honor holidays a little differently from one place to another. It may be time to return home to the place that is most familiar, it may be the year to worship at a different hour, hear a particular choir, or attend with someone special. For Christians and Jews, particularly, the December holidays lift times of joy, gift giving and celebration. But if you are struggling at this time maybe the gift you will find for yourself will be a way out of your darkness.

Dr. Paul Melrose is director of Clinical Services at the Samaritan Counseling Center of SE Michigan. He can be reached through www.paulmelrose.com or at (248) 474-4701.

Observer LIFE

Dieter shares success story

HEALTH C8

Charitable gifts great way to go
ALICE MCCARTHY C2

Musicians have Handel on work
FEATURE C2

Section C

Sunday December 11 2005

(CP)

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PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Customer Ken Coles of Pinckney shops for a Fraser fir Christmas tree at Plymouth Nursery, a popular spot for Christmas tree buyers

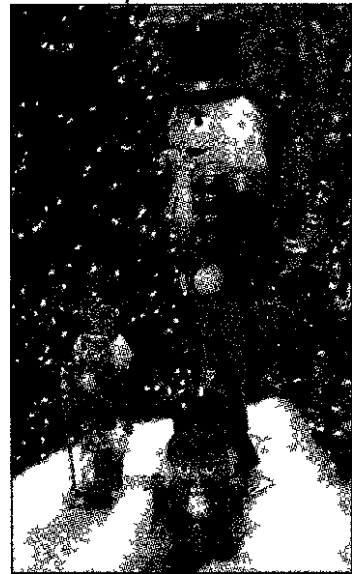
'Christmas in the Country'

Plymouth Nursery draws crowd

BY JULIE BROWN
STAFF WRITER

Tuesday afternoon, Ellen Gregory of Plymouth was shopping at Plymouth Nursery and Garden Center.

"A birthday gift for my mom," Gregory said of her visit to the store at 9900 Plymouth-Ann Arbor Road. "Her birthday is today." She'd considered a wreath or lighted snowman. "Or that little tree is cute, too," said Gregory, whose mind wasn't quite made up. "I've been coming here a long time,



Nutcrackers are featured in the Christmas display at Plymouth Nursery

probably 15 years." Her family goes up north for Thanksgiving and gets a tree there, but she's still a regular customer.

"I love this store," she said. "That's why I keep coming back." She likes to shop for perennials in the spring.

Nearby was Georgia Schmalzried of Plymouth Township, in search of a prelit Christmas tree with multicolored lights. She likes to support local businesses and had been to Backyard Birds and Saxton's on Tuesday.

"They have beautiful stuff," Schmalzried said of Plymouth Nursery. She's been out in warmer weather for flowers. Some of their garden tools I come out for, the hand tools."

Her allergies mean Schmalzried can't have a live tree, but she likes shopping at the store. "They have nice things. The people are friendly."

FRESH TREES SELL

General manager Tim Parker of Pinckney, who's been at the nursery since 1988, said more fresh trees than artificial are sold. Despite that 3:1 ratio, the trend is to artificial prelit hung trees.

"It's already lit, you plug it in," he said of the trees, which boast a lifelike look and need just a bit of fluffing.

For live trees, the Noble Vintage fir, grown in Oregon, is offered this year. It's from the top 5 percent of the field and is known for needle retention and excellent fragrance.

The store also does custom flocking, sprayed on the live tree. It's fire retardant and no



Ann Hagman and Linnea Garvey assemble a Dickens Village at Plymouth Nursery on Ann Arbor Road past Gottfredson

watering of such trees is needed (they're held in a disposable wire stand).

"People are busy these days," Parker said. Needles drop and there's the daily need to water a live tree. "For a lot of people, it comes down to time."

The business, with 25 core employees and some 75 more seasonal, started the yule business to extend the season and add 10 weeks of employment for staff.

"We like to think of ourselves as a complete garden store," Parker said. "We do grow a lot of our own plants."

They carry patio furniture, premium glazed pottery and more. "We do do design and landscape," he said, ranging from a small garden to a new home. They do brick paver patios, night lighting and added pond installation a few years ago. In 2006, a synthetic putting green for serious golfers to use outside will be available.

The business closes in January for inventory, but is open the rest of the year. Work includes plant design and installation, sprinklers, sod and grading.

Jeff Jones owns the business, which his parents started in 1963. It's been at the current location, in Superior Township with a Plymouth address, since 1973. There are 42 acres.

It was Christiansen's Plymouth Nursery before the Jones family took over, and the business goes back to 1931. Christiansen was a wholesale business and continues in that role for professional landscapers.

"We promote ourselves as 'Christmas in the Country,'" Parker said.

Recent weekends have included Santa visits with a petting farm. Santa will be at the store from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. today, Sunday, before heading back to the North Pole.

(Sunday hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.)

The live animals come from friends at nearby Plymouth Orchards and Sugarbush Farms.

BUSY DAYS

"The competition for us is people's time," said Parker, who's found he and colleagues need to make it worth people's time to drive the short trek from western Wayne County. Families who do make it a tradition to return, and often those who've met Santa there as youngsters are now grown up.

"There is a tradition of people coming out for 20-plus years and getting their tree here," he said.

Some special features this year include handpainted poinsettias in designer colors. Also, there's custom greenery, such as porch pots of boxwood, Fraser fir and other greenery and red berries. There are also boxwood "kissing balls" for the season, similar to a hanging plant for outdoor use.

Yes, they've occasionally had late Christmas tree seekers show up. "We've actually had those last-minute people," he said. Premium firs are usually gone.

"We've never sold out," Parker said with a smile, noting there's not much use for trees Dec. 26. "That's my dream."

For information, call the store at (734) 453-5500. The fax is (734) 453-1171. e-mail: sales@plymouthnursery.net

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Children's books open a world of imagination

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
STAFF WRITER

Children of all ages will be mesmerized by the books written by Michigan authors just in time for Christmas gift giving. From geology to Santa, their themes draw on the imagination and make reading fun.

Charles Barker was never really interested in rocks until he attended Arizona State University and studied the Michigan basin. The Plymouth geologist hopes his book *Under Michigan: The Story of Michigan's Rocks and Fossils* encourages young readers to

become scientists or at the very least, environmentalists. His first book, *The Day the Great Lakes Drained Away*, focused on saving the state's precious resource.

Under Michigan is currently available at Michigan Made & More in Plymouth, Borders and Barnes & Noble Independent bookstores can order it from the publisher, Wayne State University Press.

"*Under Michigan* is a fun book and an interesting book for people to learn a lot of things about Michigan that they didn't know before," said Barker, who grew up in Bloomfield Hills and attended

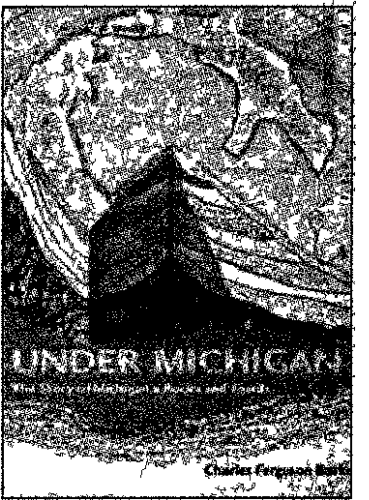
Birmingham schools. Barker teaches geology at Wayne State University part time. By day he works for an environmental consulting firm, Hands & Associates in Detroit.

"I want the book to help Michiganders get a better sense of place in the vertical direction. We're familiar with the Great Lakes and shape of the state, but not other facts. The thickness of the sedimentary rocks goes down several thousand feet and was deposited by ancient tropical seas."

Barker spent about a year writing the book but more than 20 years researching it.

He takes the reader from the formation of the planet around 4.5 billion years ago to the icy-cold glaciers that sculpted the Great Lakes. He touches on underwater mountains, caves and the rock salt beds under the city of Detroit.

Michigan's interesting because it doesn't have bed rock that shows," said Barker. "You might think it's a ho-hum geology, but beneath the surface there's some incredible features. It's written for middle upper elementary but I also hope adults might pick it up and learn about the geology of



Plymouth geologist Charles Barker teaches readers about the fascinating mountains, caves and salt rock beds under Michigan

PLEASE SEE BOOKS, C3

Instead of gifts, think about giving to charity

"Tis the season to be jolly" In this wretched economy, particularly in Michigan, we need to look for "good cheer" Perhaps we also need to rethink our values Read on

The Detroit News on Dec 4, 2005, notes, "Another school has canceled its junior and senior proms because the culture has become so toxic, it can't be reformed," said the Rev. James C. Williams, president of the Catholic school "It's all about who has the biggest house Who has the most over-the-top evening planned Can anyone really claim any of this is compatible with maturity let alone the Gospel?"

In my mind, the best example we parents can model is setting a holiday giving budget and holding firm on useless gift purchasing Your family may also wish to spend time planning for gifts that help those whose holidays may be filled with illness, grief, injustice, or devastating poverty My mailman, Tom, is burdened not only with glossy catalogs, but solicitation letters filling



Teens in 2005

Alice McCarthy

every corner of my mailbox

How do you handle 20 charity requests a day? One way might be to stack these up and go over them as a family - assigning children and teens to read the imploring letters and pick favorites for the family as a whole to consider "Takes time," you say - yes, but what thoughtful, meaningful lessons you are teaching!

Perhaps family members could give up one wished for item and pool that money to give to a family-chosen charity

There follows some notes from charities that are special to me

Southern Poverty Law Center (400 Washington Ave., P.O. Box 548, Montgomery, AL 36101-0548) The work of this

organization includes investigation and legal work to reduce hate and racism in America Their newsletter reveals, for example "A fast-growing neo-Nazi group we're tracking called White Revolution advertised a 'Cartridges for Katrina' program For every black looter you shoot, White Revolution will provide reimbursement of all expended ammunition" Check their Web site at www.splcenter.org

In their Teaching Tolerance program, teachers receive an array of teaching tools including One Survivor Remembers, which features an Academy Award film about Holocaust survivor Gerda Klein I wrote in detail about the film You can read that column on my Web site at www.bridge-comm.com

Catalogs, catalogs, their glossy covers entice me, but it was better to buy several hand-made gifts from the hundreds made by high school teen volunteers at Rush Presbyterian, St. Luke's Medical Center "We will raise \$6,000 for the hospital," said my granddaughter, who is the chair of the 122-member group They also collected videos for children and adults that they observed in their hospital visiting that the videos used were old and worn!

One catalog you need to know about is billed as "THE MOST IMPORTANT CATALOG IN THE WORLD" And indeed it is! The catalog allows you and your teen to choose heifers, llamas, goats, sheep, pigs, rabbits, honeybees and ducks to help alleviate hunger and poverty worldwide It's their first 60 years, Heifer assisted

seven million families or the equivalent of 38 million women, men, girls and boys In areas where hunger and despair once prevailed, Heifer programs have reinvigorated communities through livestock and training

Check out www.heifer.org, write for a catalog at Heifer International, P.O. Box 1692, Merrifield, VA 22116-1692, or call (800) 422-0755 I have extra catalogs - send me a request at bridgecomm@aol.com I will send it

Happy sharing at this holiday season!

If you missed previous columns, you can access them at www.hometownlife.com/Livonia/News.asp Type "Alice R. McCarthy" under "Keyword Search" for a list of her most recent columns Columns, written weekly, remain only a short time on this site All of her columns for the *Observer & Eccentric Newspapers* are on www.bridge-comm.com

Alice R. McCarthy Ph.D. the mother of five professionals is a national consultant in the areas of parent involvement in schools curriculum writing in health and health publications Listed in several Who's Who she is the recent author of lessons in food safety (grades one 12) for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) the author of a national health curriculum Health n Me used nationally a publisher of health newsletters and the author of a widely used text and parenting book *Healthy Teens Facing the Challenges of Young Lives* Write to her in care of the *Observer & Eccentric Newspapers* 36251 Schoolcraft Livonia MI 48150 or at brigecomm@aol.com

Local singers jazz up Handel's masterpiece

Maureen and Philip Abele, Connie Randall, Joseph Druzniowski and Jeff Krueger of Livonia, and Maya Shwayder and Dean Unick of Farmington Hills are among the local singers presenting Too Hot to Handel with the Rackham Symphony Choir 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec 17, and 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec 18, at the Detroit Opera House

Tickets range in price from \$18 to \$58 Call (313) 237-SING (7464) Group tickets can be purchased at a discount by calling (313) 272-0334

With rhythms and sounds that bridge the traditions of classical and popular music, the hand-clapping jazz-gospel take on George Frideric Handel's masterpiece, Messiah returns for the two performances co-produced with the Detroit Opera House

Joining the Rackham Symphony Choir and a host of local musicians for this jazz, gospel, blues Messiah are globetrotting tenors Rodrick Dixon and Victor Trent Cook formerly of the Three Mo' Tenors, as well as soprano Alfreda Burke

Owing to the popularity of the show, Rackham Symphony Choir has been invited to export their hit later this season They will perform Too Hot To Handel at the Auditorium Theatre in Chicago on Jan. 14-15, with guest soloists Cook, Dixon and Burke

The production is a musical extravaganza The choir numbers nearly a hundred with Rackham Symphony Choir and members of the Marygrove College Chorale The Too Hot To Handel Orchestra is highlighted by local classical, gospel and jazz dignitaries such as Alvin Waddles on piano, Marion Hayden on bass, and saxophonist George Benson The entire performance comes together under the baton of Suzanne Mallare Acton, RSC music director, who creatively fuses the distinct musical elements

Burke has made solo debuts with the Chicago Symphony at Ravinia under Erich Kunzel, Chicago

Opera Theatre, Symphony Orchestra, Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra, MSU Symphony Orchestra, Grant Park Music Festival, and Detroit Symphony Orchestra/Michigan Opera Theatre among others She is guest lecturer in voice at Wheaton College Conservatory

Cook is most notably known for his 1995 Tony Award nomination in Smokey Joe's Café As a soloist, he has performed at The White House, John F. Kennedy Center, Avery Fisher Hall and Boston Symphony Hall with conductors including Zubin Mehta, Leonard Bernstein and Seiji Ozawa He is presently touring with tenors Rodrick Dixon and Thomas Young in the show entitled Cook, Dixon & Young

Dixon has appeared on stage and in concert in a variety of dramatic roles in opera, contemporary opera, oratorio, concert/recital, musical theater, and television Television credits include PBS specials Three Mo' Tenors, My Favorite Love Songs, the Mark Twain Awards honoring Whoopi Goldberg and the newest Cook, Dixon & Young concert He made his Michigan Opera Theatre debut in the Daughter of the Regiment under the baton of Suzanne Mallare Acton

Since its founding in 1949, Rackham Symphony Choir has entertained concertgoers by creating artistic experiences through sight and sound Detroit's oldest and largest choral organization, Rackham's focus is to enhance the cultural richness of the community through the performance of traditional and modern choral works with visual and orchestral accompaniment

Upcoming performances this season include Voices of Light by Richard Einhorn accompanied by the 1928 Carl Dreyer film classic *The Passion of Joan of Arc* 3 p.m. Sunday, March 26, at Detroit's Redford Theatre For more, visit www.rackhamchoir.org

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- 2 The Teacher Man Frank McCourt
- 3 Team of Rivals Doris Kearns Goodwin
- 4 The World is Flat Thomas Friedman
- 5 The Year of Magical Thinking Joan Didion

FICTION

- 1 Mary Mary James Patterson
- 2 At First Sight Nicholas Sparks
- 3 Light from Heaven Jan Karon
- 4 Predator Patricia Cornwell
- 5 The Lighthouse PD James

PARENTS' CHOICE

NEW CHILDREN'S PICTURE BOOKS

- 1 The Bake Shop Ghost Jacqueline Ogburn
- 2 My Red Balloon Eve Bunting
- 3 Sophie's Window Holly Keller
- 4 Big Sister Little Sister Leuyen Pham
- 5 Bunny School Rick Walton

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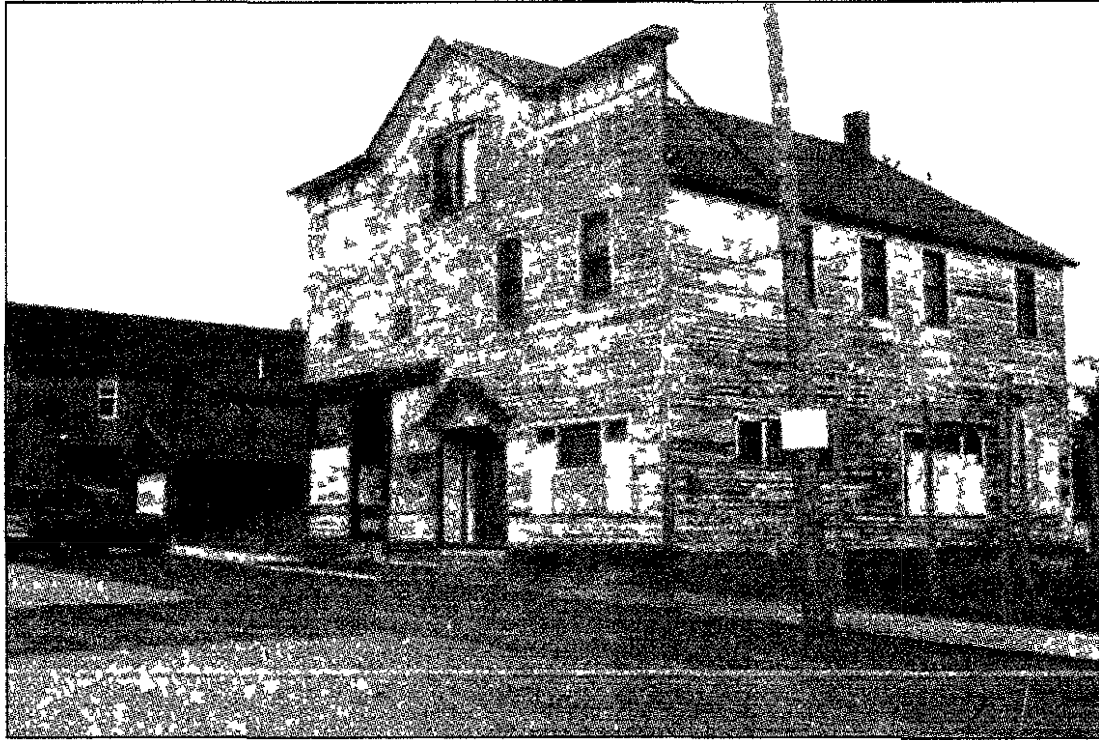
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PHOTOS BY GENE SCOTT

This 1898 hotel in Amasa in Iron County once housed miners and salesmen from six mines. It awaits local restoration efforts.

Shadow towns

Author studies vanishing Michigan villages

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
STAFF WRITER

Gene Scott learned early on never to insult residents by referring to their small clusters of homes and businesses as ghost towns. The villages may be only shadows of the once bustling mining, lumbering, fishing and farming centers, but are still very much alive.

During three years of researching the communities across the state of Michigan, Scott built relationships with many of the residents. When it came time to title his book, the Livonia author chose to call it *Michigan Shadow Towns: A Study of Vanishing and Vibrant Villages*. The book compiles the histories of 128 small communities in 64 counties. It was sponsored by the Livonia Historical Society and Redford Township Historical and Genealogical Society. Through a Michigan Humanities Council grant Scott was able to mail copies to more than 400 libraries in the state. "Ghost towns means deserted," said Scott. "I use the term vanishing because they're just hanging on."

'SO MUCH ROMANCE'

"There is so much romance connected with them. Grand Marais in the Upper Peninsula had four or five lives, fishing, lumber, resort. It's been back and forth many times since the mid-1800s."

It was in Grand Marais that Scott wrote by candlelight after a storm left him in the dark. Scott regularly took notes while his wife, Barb, drove the 14,000 miles they traveled throughout the state. The road trips led to some 200 impromptu interviews in general stores, restaurants and barns.

Initially, Scott sent questionnaires to local and county historical societies, township clerks or offices. He spent many more hours doing research in major libraries between Detroit and Houghton. Scott began his study with more than 700 towns before redefining the parameters and narrowing it down. Most of the towns have only

around 100 to 500 residents, but years ago had two to five times as many.

"At one time Grand Marais had 2,500 residents in the town, now only about 200 to 300," said Scott. "I find it intriguing, charming, and uncanny how many people fixed up or restored these places, homes to churches, churches to homes, schools to township offices."

"The other part of the romance is the people we met. Some people even followed us out of town telling us about their town and then later e-mailed notes to us."

A number of historians in Michigan have sent notes thanking him for the book that brought the 19th century towns to life. Scott will be a presenter at the Michigan History Conference at Wayne State University in April. Scott says, he's "not a historian" but his 31 years of public relations work at Detroit City Hall prepared him to research and write the book. Since retiring 14 years ago, Scott has authored *Detroit Beginnings: Early Villages and Old Neighborhoods and Towns at the Turn: A Study of Michigan Turn of the Century Centennial Towns*. The Detroit villages book led to an exhibit downtown three years ago. It was about that time he began writing *Shadow Towns*.

History buffs find information in the book fascinating. At a signing in late September at Greenmead Historical Park in Livonia, there was standing room only.

"People like the idea that places they've never heard of before are still part of the Michigan landscape," said Scott. "The book goes back to the first towns outside of Detroit, even before the Erie Canal was built in 1825. Closer to Detroit didn't get settled till the mid-1800s and there were ghost towns inside of Detroit."

LONG HISTORY

"My favorite town in the lower peninsula is St. James on Beaver Island. The history goes back before the Civil War. Indians, Mormons, Irishmen, each took



Gene and Barb Scott traveled 14,000 miles in search of shadow towns.

their turn forming the town which was originally in the county known as Mamontou that consisted of 23 islands. It was a fishing town but the eels ate the fish. It's now a vacation town."

Scott could talk all afternoon about the mining town in the UP that once thrived with up to 5,000 people. One of the old hotels in Amasa in Iron County has been vacant since before 1950. At one time, six iron mines were headquartered in the town. Moran, 12 miles from St. Ignace in Mackinac County, used to be three times as large. Today half of the town has vacant buildings but 100 people still live there.

There was the 1881 fire that left large parts of four counties in the Thumb destroyed, and the town of Meredith in Clare County where booze and wild women provided entertainment for the lumberjacks.

"You never realize how far the towns go back, the antiques they have," said Barb Scott. "One grandson had every tractor the grandfather had. The grandson was 80 years old."

"We met very interesting people. It was amazing how many of the homes were in the family for 100 years."

All over the state historic homes are being restored in towns that continue to survive as copper and iron mining, and the lumber industry died. Scott will share selected stories of the history in audio visual presentations Jan. 11 for the Redford Historical Society and last Monday in February for the Livonia Historical Society.

For more information about the book or presentations, call Scott at (734) 523-7844. To order a copy of the book send a check for \$18 (includes \$3 for shipping and handling) to Gene Scott, 8861 Utah, Livonia MI 48150.

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BOOKS

FROM PAGE C1

the state." At the back of the book, Barker lists museums, universities and centers such as Cranbrook Institute of Science where people can go to learn more about Michigan's rocks and fossils. He also makes presentations in schools. For more information, call (313) 506-5643.

HAS ANYONE SEEN CHRISTMAS?

Christmas is missing and author Anne Margaret Lewis sends an elf searching through all of the other holidays to find it in her new book *Has Anyone Seen Christmas?* "The idea for the book started with Emt, time spelled backward, the elf. He was created out of my frustration for not having enough time for what I needed to do," said Lewis who grew up in Southfield.

"Time is the best gift you can give, spending time with your families and friends instead of rushing through the holidays. We need to get back to the Christmas spirit."

Lewis' two youngest children Patrick, 8 and Cameron, 3 love finding the different characters created by illustrator Wendy Popko in watercolor, acrylic, pen and ink, and chalk.

"Patrick thinks it should be a movie," said Lewis who wrote her first book about Cinnamon the Bear in sixth grade at Brace Elementary in Southfield.

In 2003, Mackinac Island Press published her *Tears of Mother Bear*, a book which takes the legend of Sleeping Bear Dunes and intertwines it with Petoskey stones. This year's Christmas book is Lewis' fifth. It's selling very well. Lewis recently returned from a two-week book tour on the East Coast only to leave again for return engagements.

Illustrator Wendy Popko is making the rounds of Midwest bookstores. On Dec. 10, she will be at Barnes & Noble in Livonia from 11 a.m. to noon, in Royal Oak, 1-2:30 p.m., and Rochester Hills 3-5 p.m. On Dec. 11 she signs books 3:30-5 p.m. at Waldenbooks at Somerset Mall in Troy. One of her final stops is 7-8:30 p.m. Dec. 22 at Borders in Birmingham. For more information, visit www.mackinacislandpress.com or call (231) 946-7737.

It's a very unique Christmas book with a given character who has to go from holiday to holiday, celebrating our holidays the way we do in our American tradition, said Lewis.

FIRST PAGE PUBLICATIONS

Joe Aller is recommending several children's books from First Page Publications in Livonia this season. His top pick last year, *The Winter Spirit* (by Gina Joseph, illustrator Maxwell Heiderer), remains a favorite in 2005 for its story about a child who questions the existence of Santa Claus. New this year is *Myrtle the Hurdler*, a children's book about a turtle that teaches children to eat nutritiously and exercise. It was written by Marybeth Dillon-Butler with illustrations by David Messing, both Livonia residents.

Curious Kids Activity Guide to Michigan by Emily Eisbruch is sure to keep children occu-



This book was voted No. 1 by Carly Aller, daughter of Joe Aller, president of First Page Publications in Livonia.



'The Winter Spirit' remains a favorite in 2005 for its story about a child who questions the existence of Santa Claus.

ried during travel with fun facts and figures about the state.

Carly Aller, Joe's 9-year-old daughter, can't seem to put down *Never Lore*, a fantasy adventure by Henry Ramsby.

"She's getting into chapter books now," said Joe Aller, president of First Page Publications. "She can really relate to the characters. One is in a wheelchair but doesn't need it when in the fantasy world. There are talking animals, wizards and fauns. It's similar to the Harry Potter books which put a growing focus on reading. Anytime people are interested in reading, as a publisher it excites me. The whole Harry Potter thing is getting kids reading more."

For more information, visit www.firstpagepublications.com or call (734) 525-1900.

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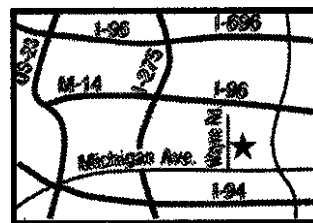
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Bethany Suburban West
Monthly Breakfast Meeting - Saturday Dec 17 9:30 a.m. at Leon's Ford Road across from Kmart Call Kathy for details (734) 513-9479
New Years Eve Party Saturday Dec 31 Hors d'oeuvres catered dinner beer wine and other refreshments Music dancing and champagne toast at midnight Advance tickets \$45 Call Michele for details (313) 996-8644

METROPOLITAN SINGLE PROFESSIONALS

Join the e-mail list at www.mspsc.com for special events information (248) 544-6445 Office (248) 851-9919 Monday-Friday 9 a.m. to noon

Euchre
Every Monday 6:30-9:30 p.m. Meets at the Main Lounge at Drakeshire Lanes 35000 Grand River Ave just east of Drake Road in Farmington Hills Cash bar and reasonable priced dinner is also available off the menu \$5/members \$6/non members

Dances
MSP dances from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. Top 40 DJ cash bar hors d'oeuvres (8:30-9:30 p.m.) and door prizes Admission \$5/members \$9/non

members unless otherwise noted. Attire is dressy casual (no jeans or tennis shoes) unless otherwise noted.

SINGLE POINT MINISTRIES

Single Point Ministries of Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church is at 40000 Six Mile Road the corner of Six Mile and Haggerty in Northville

Sunday Fellowship
Meet at 11:30 a.m. every Sunday in Knox Hall for fellowship and encouragement. Coffee, doughnuts, conversation and Christ are always present. For more information call the SPM office at (248) 374-5920

Walking Club
Meet in the Single Point office of Ward Presbyterian Church at 6 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Open to all fitness levels. (248) 374-5920

Volleyball
Meet at 8:30 p.m. Wednesdays in Knox Hall. For further details regarding any sport, contact the SPM Office at (248) 374-5920

Bible Studies-Prayer Nights
Men's Bible Study 7 p.m. Mondays in Room A101
P.A.C.S. 7 p.m. 2nd and 4th Mondays in Room C309
Praying Together 7 p.m. Tuesdays in the Sanctuary at Ward Church
Learner's 7:30 p.m. Thursdays in Room A101

Single Parents Wednesdays
Single parents meet at 7 p.m. in S.A.M. Office on Wednesdays. 1st Wed: Just Breathe Parenting. 2nd Wed: Simplify My Life. Please! 3rd Wed: What Money? 4th Wed: I Have an Issue with That. 5th Wed: Family Feud game night.

Caroling
Caroling will be Friday Dec 16 at Sunshine Assisted Living on Haggerty Road. Bus leaves the church parking lot at 6:45 p.m.

Coffeehouse
Lighthouse Café will be 7:10 p.m. on Friday Dec 23 in Knox Hall. An evening of relaxation and fun. Games, fellowship, music, snacks and specialty coffees. \$5 Free childcare.

Convivial
Friday Dec 30 at 6:30 p.m. at Ward Church. Enjoy a holiday dinner. SPM 2005 in Review show and entertainment by Keith Longbotham, singer-songwriter, humorist. A punch reception at 6:30 p.m. with dinner at 7 p.m. Cost is \$26/person.

Football Open House
Paul's Football Open House will begin at noon on Monday Jan 2, 2006 in Parlor C317. There will be big screen TVs and snacks. It ends after the Fiesta Bowl (usually around 8 p.m.). Bring desserts, appetizers, beverages and/or snacks if you can. Sub sandwiches are provided.

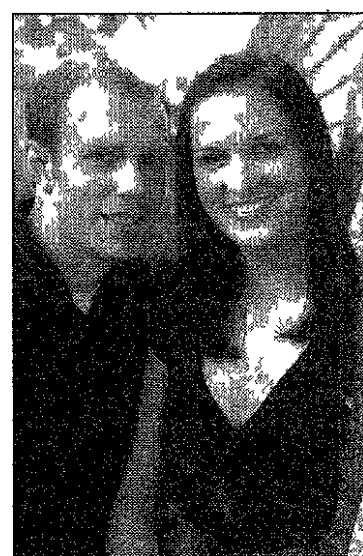
WARD CLASSIC SENIOR SINGLES
Senior Singles Bible Study: Meet at 10 a.m. Thursdays in Room C317/319.
Mission Project: Helps On the Way is a local mission endeavor that primarily ministers to single women and children and is located at Beech Daly and VanBorn. In need of food (packaged/canned) furniture, women's and children's clothing and money. Bring your contributions to our monthly meetings or to Single Point Office.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Nowacki-Drake
John and Carol Nowacki of Livonia announce the engagement of their daughter, Lisa Ann, to Michael John Drake of Grand Rapids.

Lisa is a graduate of Kendall College of Art and Design in Grand Rapids. She is a photographer at Studio 630 in Sparta. Her fiancé, Michael, is the son of Terry and Sandy Drake of Northville. He is a graduate of Calvin College. He is the campaign manager for Rep Kevin Green.

Michael and Lisa are planning a January 2006 wedding at Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church in Northville. A reception will be at The Dearborn Inn. After a honeymoon in Oahu, Hawaii,



they will make their new home in the Grand Rapids area.

Beardsley-Gehringer

Ken and Mary Beardsley of Canton announce the engagement of their daughter, Kathleen Lynn, to Rusty Allen Gehringer.

Kathleen is a 1990 graduate of Canton High School. She is currently attending school majoring in photography. Her fiancé, Rusty, is the son of Dale and Sandra Gehringer of Belleville. He is a 1987 graduate of Huron High School. He is a product engineer for Aztec Manufacturing.

Rusty and Kathleen are planning an April 2006 wedding at St. Thomas A' Becket Catholic Church in Canton.



NEW VOICES

Addison Susan Osborne

Andrew and Amanda Osborne of Livonia announce the birth of their daughter, Addison Susan, on Nov 17, 2005, at Providence Hospital in Southfield.

Addison's grandparents are David and Linda Regelm of Monroe, and Keith and Kathy Osborne of Coloma. Her great-grandparents are Helen Regelm of Monroe and Esther Osborne of Grass Lake Rivera, Mexico.

REUNIONS

As space permits, the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers print without charge announcements of class reunions. Send the information to Reunions, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48170. Please include the date of the reunion, one contact person, and a telephone number.

REUNIONS

Central High
Class of 1946
A 60 year reunion is planned for June 4, 2006 at Glen Oaks Country Club. Both January and June classmates will celebrate over dinner and dancing. January grads contact Al Weiss (248) 737-9313 or Esther Bornstein (248) 851-6625. June grads contact Barbara Keidan (248) 646-7199 or Saul Saulson (248) 932-5177.

Churchill High School
Class of 1995
A 10 year reunion is planned for 6:30 p.m. on Thursday Dec 22 at 5th Avenue in Novi. For more information contact Fran Yee at fye@sussman.com.

Denby High School
Class of 1956
A 50 year reunion is planned for Sept 16, 2006 at the Club Venetian in Madison Heights. Contact Doreen (McClennan) Weber at dajweb@juno.com or Jerry Love at (586) 739-3840.

Detroit Mackenzie
Classes Jan, June and Summer 1956
A 50 year reunion is planned for Sept 16, 2006 at the Novi Sheraton. For more information call Harold Kappen at (734) 261-0325 or okappen@earthlink.net.

Edsel Ford High School
A 50th anniversary will be held over the next year with a series of special events. Final activity will be a Black and White Ball on Saturday May 20, 2006. About the activities: www.geocities.com/edsel50th. To contact the committee e-mail edsel50@gmail.com.

Elphiny Grade School
Class of 1966
A 40 year reunion is in the planning stages for the summer of 2006. Contact Dorothy at (248) 477-9478 or dzsnyder@hotmail.com.

Franklin High School
Class of 1969
Is planning a reunion for 2007. Please contact Kathy Nisun (248) 363-5679 or e-mail Kaynirul@aol.com or Kathy Shoebridge @ Klivingston@nu.com.

Garden City West
Class of 1970
A 35 year reunion is planned for April 1, 2006 at Mama Mia Restaurant on Plymouth Road in Livonia. Contact Gordon Adams at (586) 949-7462 for information and reservations.

Grosse Pointe North
Class of 1991
Call (800) 677-7800 visit www.taylorreunions.com or e-mail info@taylorreunions.com.

St. Mary of Redford
High School class of 1956
Grade School class of 1952
Looking for graduates. Contact (734) 525-5888 or Email kheenan@glis.net

Utica High School
Class of 1981
A 25th reunion is being planned for the fall of 2006. Please send updated address information and inquire to Todd Richter (trichter26@comcast.net).

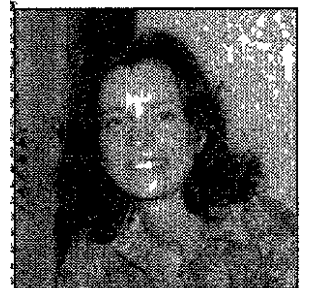


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GERALDINE E. "Gerry" BRADLEY

Age 65, December 7, 2005 of Oxford (formerly of Alpena). Beloved wife of Bob for 46 years. Loving mother of Robbie (Brian) Haworth, Gail (Tim) Shattuck, Vernon (Karen) and Geri. Grandmother of nine. Step daughter of Tony Zbytowski. Also survived by six sisters and four brothers. Preceded in death by her grandson, Vern Lock II. Mrs. Bradley was formerly employed at Kelsey-Hayes/MC Aerospace. Funeral service was held Friday, December 9, at the Lake Orion Chapel of The Sparks Griffin Funeral Home. Interment Mount Pleasant Cemetery. Online guest book at www.legacy.com.



FRANCES CORBELL

Beloved mother of Craig and Kathleen passed away on December 8, 2005 at the age of 72 after a long and courageous battle with ovarian cancer. Fran is also survived by her loving daughter in law Nancy and son-in-law David, also by her adored grandchildren Christopher and Jack Corbell, Brett and Cody Kubat, and sisters Margaret, Mary, Caroline, brother Matthew and many nieces and nephews. Funeral Service Monday at 1 PM at Harry J. Will Funeral Home, 37000 Six Mile Road, Livonia. Visitation Saturday 6-9 PM and Sunday 12-7 PM. Memorials may be given to Lawrence Tech University Fran Corbell Scholarship Fund. Interment Holy Sepulchre Cemetery.

FLORENCE C. GRIGGS

Age 92, passed away November 28, 2005. She was born on May 3, 1913 in Detroit to the late Arthur E. and Chistena (Buchanan) Haines. She graduated from Southwestern High School in Detroit in 1931. She grew up on Wilshire Dr. in Detroit, prior to moving to Plymouth for 47 years, and then residing in South Lyon for the past 15 years. She was a member of the First United Methodist Church, Order of the Eastern Star, United Methodist Women, and the Plymouth Historical Society. Mrs. Griggs was always active in the church and the community. Florence is survived by her daughter, Janet (Patrick Foy) Ackerman of Birmingham, granddaughter Dannielle (Sara) Provenzala of Farmington, three great grandsons, niece Christina (Wayne) Christopherson of Alpena, three nephews, Arthur (Dottie) Haines of Galveston, TX, Evan (Dolores) Hedmer of Waterford, and Frank Haines of FL. She was preceded in death by her husband George B. Griggs. A Memorial Service was held on December 2 at Phillips Funeral Home. Memorial contributions may be made to Beaumont Hospice Fund, 3601 W 13 Mile Rd, Royal Oak, MI 48073-9952. Arrangements were made by Phillips Funeral Home, South Lyon.

ALBERT J. LUIBRAND

Age 87 of Montana formerly of Plymouth MI. December 4, 2005. Beloved husband of Claribel (Chamberlain) and the late Alice (Postiff). Loving father of Caleb (Phyllis) Jonathan (Marilyn) and Nathan (Grace). Also survived by 11 grandchildren, six great grandchildren, and one sister Helen Parker of Wayne MI. Predeceased by two brothers and one sister. Funeral service Monday, December 12 at 11:00 AM at Vermeulen Funeral Home, 46401 W Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth (btwn Sheldon and Beck). Visitation Sunday 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM and Monday 9:30 AM to 11:00 AM. Interment Glen Eden Memorial Park. To leave a message of condolence for the family log on to www.vermeulenfuneralhome.com.

VIVIAN MARCELLA ERWIN

Age 93 of Canton formerly of Howell died Tuesday, December 6, 2005 at Waltonwoods of Cherry Hill in Canton. Born July 22, 1912 in Cohoctah Township, Livingston County, the daughter of Roy B. and Mabel (McQueen) Smith. She was a member of the DAR (St. Clair Society), Historical Society of Howell, member of First Presbyterian Church, Howell, and a former member of Lansing Towne Hall. She married Wilfred Bud H. Erwin. He preceded her in death on January 21, 2001. Surviving are her daughters Joan (Archie) Moore of Plymouth and Janet Watson of Redlands, CA, six grandchildren and 12 great grandchildren. Also preceding her in death was her daughter, Julie Ann Megee on April 4, 2001. A memorial service will be held at a later date. Arrangements by MacDonald's Funeral Home, 315 N. Michigan Ave., Howell (517) 546-2800.

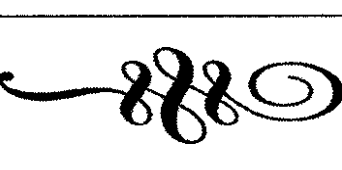
AUSTIN J. MILLER

Age 82, died of natural causes December 3, 2005 at Fraser Meadows Health Care Center. Born June 10, 1923 in Philadelphia, PA. He was the son of Austin J. Miller and Helen E. Virgin. He was married to Margaret L. White on August 12, 1944 in Buffalo, New York. Mr. Miller was a resident of Boulder CO for 3 years, moving there from Bloomfield Hills, Michigan. He received a Bachelor's Degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Detroit in 1949 and an MBA from Oakland University in Michigan in 1987. Mr. Miller was the President of A. J. Miller Inc., in Royal Oak, Michigan. Membership/Military History: Served in the US Army 7th Armored Division in the European Theater in WWII. Royal Oak, Michigan Rotary Club, Irrigation Association of Michigan, American Society of Agricultural Engineers, American Society of Civil Engineers, National Society of Professional Engineers. Mr. Miller is survived by his wife Margaret W. Miller of Boulder, Colorado, two daughters, Sandi Miller of Vail, Colorado, and Barbara Miller of Seattle, Washington, and one sister Janet Parks of Tucson, Arizona. Private family services were held. M.P. Murphy & Associates funeral directors were in charge of arrangements. Contributions may be made to the Royal Oak Rotary Foundation Scholarship Fund, P.O. Box 745, Royal Oak, MI 48068-0745.



FRANCES C. MUENCHINGER

Long time resident of Birmingham, Michigan died October 22, 2005 in Baton Rouge, Louisiana at age 99. Born in 1906 in Ann Arbor, Michigan, a graduate of Eastern Michigan University. She was an executive for The Campfire Girls, Detroit, Michigan, prior to her marriage to Harry W. Muenchinger, a title attorney for Lawyers Title Insurance Corp. Moving to Birmingham in 1944, Frances was a member and Deaconess at The First Presbyterian Church, and was instrumental in seeing the church move from its Woodward Ave. location to the present Maple Road location. After retirement in 1967, Frances and Harry moved to Fairhope, Alabama. Following the passing of Harry in 1982, Frances moved to Baton Rouge, Louisiana. She leaves two sons, William Otto and Pierre Part, Louisiana, and Fredrick Sanford of Tampa, Florida. She also leaves six grandchildren and seven great grandchildren. Burial has been in Forest Lawn Cemetery in Detroit, Michigan.



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The first five "billed" lines of an obituary are published at no cost. All additional lines will be charged at \$4 per line. You may place a picture of your loved one for an additional cost of only \$6. Symbols, emblems may be included at no cost (example: American flag, religious symbols, etc.).

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Friday 5 PM for Sunday
Wednesday Noon for Thursday

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734-953-2232

For more information call
Charlotte Wilson
734-953-2070
or **Liz Kelsner**
734-953-2867

or call 1-800-579-7355
888-816-7853

Young artists wanted for music competition

The application deadline for this year's Plymouth Symphony's Youth Artist Competition is Friday, Jan 30. The competition itself is scheduled for Sunday, Feb 12, at Evola Music, 7170 N. Haggerty, Canton. Through the generosity of the Michigan Council for Arts & Cultural Affairs, local service organizations and other sponsors, the Plymouth Symphony recognizes young orchestral talent from the greater Plymouth-Canton and surrounding communities through this competition and offered music scholarships to area youth since 1978. The competition is composed of three divisions:

Senior Instrumental (grades 10-12), Senior Piano (grades 10-12) and Junior Division (combined instrumental & piano grades 7-9). Applicants must be piano, band or orchestra students in the school districts of Livonia, Northville, Novi, Plymouth-Canton, Van Buren (Belleville), Clarenceville, or Wayne-Westland. Celebration Youth Orchestra members and students at Evola Music are also eligible. The First Prize Winner in each Senior Division shall receive \$500 and the First Prize Winner in the Junior Division shall receive \$250. If applicable, honorable mentions will also be awarded. Applications, available

The First Prize Winner in each Senior Division shall receive \$500 and the First Prize Winner in the Junior Division shall receive \$250.

through the Plymouth Symphony, are due Jan 30. Past participants are encouraged to reapply, however, musicians are eligible to win only one First Prize in each division. Winners may have the opportunity to perform with the PSO or Orchestra Canton. Applicants must be available to perform at the competition. For an application and/or further information, contact Ellen Elliott at (734) 451-2112 or by e-mail at info@plymouthsymphony.org. Applications are also available at www.plymouthsymphony.org.



AROUND TOWN

Entertainment books

Several Plymouth organizations are selling the 2006 Entertainment Books as fund raisers

- The Plymouth Optimists are selling the 2006 Entertainment Books with all proceeds helping children throughout southeastern Michigan. Price is \$25. Books are available at Saxton's Garden Center in Plymouth or home delivery is available. Call (734) 453-8253 for details.
- The Plymouth Community Chorus is selling the 2006 Entertainment Books to support its charitable and educational activities. The book offers 2 for 1 and 50 percent discounts on restaurants, travel, recreation, hotel stays, entertainment and sporting events. The book is being offered at a special fund raising price of \$25 and can be delivered if the purchaser desires. Order books by calling Stan Kovacheff at (734) 459-6829.
- Members of the Plymouth Symphony League are selling the 2006 entertainment book offering 50 percent discount coupons at hundreds of restaurants and discounts for many other services and events. The books are priced at \$25 with all proceeds to support the Plymouth Symphony. Books can be picked up at the symphony office next to the Cozy Cafe in downtown Plymouth or ordered by calling Mary Thomas (734) 453-3016. For more

information call the symphony office (734) 453-2112

Senior Dinner and Dancing
The Wayne Ford Civic League will be hosting a Senior Dinner & Dance decorated for Christmas at 1645 N. Wayne Rd. in Westland at noon Dec. 18. There will be a full buffet dinner, beer, wine, coffee and pop with dancing to the music from Solitaire. Tickets for this event are \$8 for members and \$10 for non members of the league. Memberships are on sale year round and are only \$5 for seniors. Tickets are available at the door. You can call (734) 728-5010 for more information, you must be 60 years or older to attend.

Genealogical society
The Livingston County Genealogical Society meets 7 p.m. Jan. 5 with guest speaker Linda Wright talking about Scandinavian Research. There's a 6 p.m. help session. The meeting takes place at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, 1041 Grand River in Howell. For details call (810) 227-7745.

St. Mary's classes
■ St. Mary Mercy Hospital offers a refresher parenting class "Parenting with Love and Logic" 7-9 p.m. Wednesday Dec. 14. The class is for parents who have taken a previous Love and Logic class. It takes a common sense approach teaching parents skills that cultivate confidence and good decision making in children by offering them choices, empathy and

respect while adults avoid anger, threats, warnings and lectures. There is a \$10 fee and registration is required. Call (734) 655-1100 for more information.

■ St. Mary Mercy offers a six week Childbirth Education session "Let's Get Ready to Have a Baby" 7-9 p.m. Mondays from Jan. 2-Feb. 6. Learn what to expect during pregnancy, labor and delivery and make the entire experience more rewarding. Classes are based on the Lamaze method. There is a fee and registration is required. For more information call the Marian Women's Center (734) 655-1162.

Princess & the Pea
Northville Youth Theater in partnership with Northville Parks and Recreation and Ever After Productions presents "The Princess and the Pea" Dec. 16 (7 p.m.) and Dec. 17 (2:30 and 7 p.m.) at the Northville Senior Community Center at 303 W. Main in Northville. Tickets are \$5 and can be purchased at the Recreation Center at Hillside (700 W. Baseline Northville). For more information call (248) 349-0203.

Christmas opera
The Children's Ministry of New Hope Baptist Church will perform a free Christmas opera titled "FA LA LA MOO!" 6 p.m. Saturday Dec. 17. It is the story of Jesus' birth told from the animals' perspective. The church pastored by Rev. Dr. Virgil Humes is located at

33630 Michigan Avenue in Wayne. For more information please contact Children's Ministry Director Allyn Verbal at (734) 728-2180.

Master gardener
The Michigan Master Gardener Program is a horticulture education and volunteer training program offered by Michigan State University Extension. An interest in plants, a personal commitment to volunteerism and an enthusiasm for sharing knowledge with others are the only prerequisites. To become certified as a Master Gardener, participants must pass weekly quizzes, the final examination, and volunteer 40 hours within one year of completing the class to help MSU Extension educate the public in the horticulture field. Wayne County MSU Extension offers the Master Gardener class at Wayne County MSU Extension Office, 640 Temple, 6th Floor in Detroit, starting 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 14. All classes will be taught for 13 consecutive weeks. Applications can be picked up at the Wayne County MSU Extension office 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m., or to have an application mailed to your home, please call (313) 833-3417 during the same hours.

Wayne County MSU Extension must receive your completed application and a check for the entire course fee made payable to MSU Extension by Wednesday, Dec. 21. Acceptance into the class is based on the application. Those not accepted will have their checks returned.

Literacy Council tutors
The Community Literacy Council (CLC) is looking for volunteer tutors in Western Wayne County to help adults improve their reading, writing and communication skills. The CLC will provide training to interested volunteers. Previous experience or a bachelor's degree is not required. The council will provide free training and materials and then match you with an adult student in your area. The next CLC training sessions are from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Jan. 14 and Jan. 21 at the Canton Public Library. Call (734) 416-4906 for more information.

Diabetes support
The Diabetes Support Group at St. Mary Mercy Hospital in Livonia hosts a presentation "Staying on Target with Healthy Eating" 7-8:30 p.m. Wednesday Dec. 14 in the hospital's auditorium. Guest speaker is Katie Dooley, RD, CDE. The Diabetes Support Group presents a new topic on the second Wednesday of each month for adults with diabetes and family mem-

bers. There is no charge, pre-registration is not required. St. Mary Mercy Hospital is located at 36475 Five Mile (at Levan). For more information call (734) 655-8961.

Grief support
Arbor Hospice & Home Care and BraveHeart Grief Services announce a winter grief support group for adults in Northville. Support groups are tailored to meet the needs of individuals who have suffered the loss of someone close to them and are open to everyone in the community. Advance registration is required and all support groups are free of charge, although donations are greatly appreciated to defray program expenses. The group starts 7-8:30 p.m. Tuesdays Jan. 17-March 7 at the Northville District Library, 212 W. Cady in Northville. To register or for more information about any of our support groups, contact Sandy VanKovering (248) 348-4980.

St. Mary's class
St. Mary Mercy sponsors a presentation "Surviving the Season: Coping With Holiday Stress" from 10:30-11:30 a.m. Monday Dec. 19 at the Northville Senior Center located at 303 W. Main St. in Northville. Speaker will be St. Mary Mercy Hospital's Darlene Doute, advanced practice nurse in psychiatric mental health nursing. Registration is required. Call the Northville Senior Center (248) 349-4140.

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For trip information, call Amerpol Travel at (248) 743-2660 or email amerpol@usa.com.

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DECEMBER

Baby Signs workshops

Learn how you and your baby can communicate with each other before words develop by using simple and functional signs. The Parent Workshop is designed for parents to be and parents of babies from birth to 24 months. The workshop is offered 2 4 p.m. on one Sunday each month at the Kaufman Children's Center in West Bloomfield. The next sessions take place Dec. 11 and Jan. 22. The Sign Say & Play class is a six week theme program for parents and babies ages 6-24 months to learn and practice simple signs in a fun, musical and play environment. The series begins Friday, Jan. 20. Both programs are appropriate for special needs children and their parents. Pre-registration required. There is a materials and instructional fee. Call (248) 737-3430 or send e-mail to rhh4962@aol.com for information.

Flu shots

The University of Michigan Health System's Michigan Visiting Nurses offer a few more opportunities to receive your shot at public flu clinics between Dec. 12 and 17. The clinics are open to the public, ages 18 and older. Cost is \$29. Medicare Part B and the other types of insurance cover the entire cost of the flu shot. UMHS continues to encourage high-risk patients, such as the elderly or people with chronic health conditions to receive a flu shot. The clinics are 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday, Dec. 12, at the U-M Health System's East Ann Arbor Health Center, 4260 Plymouth Road, Ann Arbor. NOTE: Shots at this clinic are available by appointment only. Call (734) 647-5650 or (734) 647-5680. 3-7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 15, at Busch's 24445 Drake Road, Farmington Hills, and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 17, at Busch's 37083 Six Mile, Livonia.

Patients who cannot receive a flu shot from MVN include those who have a fever of 101 degrees Fahrenheit or more, an allergy to eggs/egg products, a latex allergy, a Thimerosal allergy, a diagnosis of Guillain Barre syndrome or an allergy to Benadryl or Epinephrine. Call (734) 477-7299 for more information.

Divorce support

Group discussion 7-9 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 13, attorney Patricia Kasody Coyle will also be available to answer questions in a private setting on a first come first served basis at the Women's Resource Center in Room 225 of the McDowell Center at Schoolcraft College, 18600 Haggerty between Six Mile and Seven Mile, Livonia. Call (734) 462-4443.

Parenting class

St. Mary Mercy Hospital is offering a refresher class called Parenting with Love and Logic, 7-9 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 14, at 36475 Five Mile at Levon, Livonia. Please use Five Mile entrance. For directions or additional information please visit the Web site www.stmarymercy.org. This refresher class is for parents who have taken a previous Love and Logic Class. \$10 fee and registration is required. Call (734) 655-1100 for more information or to register.

Parenting with Love and Logic is a common sense approach teaching parents skills that cultivate confidence and good decision making in children by offering them choices, empathy and respect while adults avoid anger, threats, warnings or lectures. Love and Logic is easy to learn and can be put to use right away. It changes lives and raises responsible children.

Arthritis alternatives

People with arthritis thought they were being helped by the drugs Vioxx, Celebrex and Naproxin. Since 2004, the different manufacturers have reported that the side effects of

the medications actually double the risk of heart attack. These revelations leave arthritis sufferers with two problems. No medication for the relief of arthritis pain and a decreased confidence in medications in general due to their side effects. The Doctor's Speakers Bureau is sponsoring a free workshop on Alternatives to Vioxx/Celebrex and Naproxin Treating Arthritis with Natural Medicine for the New Millennium, 7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 14, at the Civic Center Public Library on Five Mile between Merriman and Farmington roads, Livonia. No charge. Seating limited. Call (734) 425-8588. Guest speaker is Dr. William H. Karl, DC, a nutrition expert with more than 25 years experience.

GEMS

Group Exercise for Multiple Sclerosis meets 6-7 p.m. Dec. 16 and every Friday evening at the Livonia YMCA on Stark Road. It is a water exercise class for MS patients and their families. Support group meeting from 7:15-8:15 p.m. For information call Karolyn Davis (734) 459-9715 or Mike Hickey (734) 522-0036.

Recovery Inc.

The group meets Dec. 16 and every Friday in the Southfield Parks & Recreation Building on Evergreen at 10 1/2 Mile. For more information call (734) 464-0027.

Depression lecture

Darlene Doule, an adult psychiatric mental health nursing and clinical nurse specialist at St. Mary Mercy Hospital, gives tips on coping with holiday stress 10-30-11 30 a.m. Monday, Dec. 19, at the Northville Semor Center. Registration required. Call (248) 349-4140.

Eating disorders support

Groups meet 7-8:30 p.m. Mondays at William Beaumont Hospital, 3601 W. 13 Mile west of Woodward, use east

entrance and take central elevators to 10th floor classroom A & B, 7-8:30 p.m. Wednesdays at Garden City Hospital, 6245 Inkster between Ford and Warren, use main entrance, take elevators after the gift shop down to the auditorium on the right. Family and friends support is on the second Wednesday of each month; parents only on fourth Wednesday of each month at the same time and place as the Monday night closed group. For more information call (734) 324-3089.

JANUARY

Parenting with love and logic

Classes 7-9 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 11, for parents who have children in the toddler and preschooler age range at St. Mary Mercy Hospital, 36475 Five Mile at Levon, Livonia. Please use Five Mile entrance. Registration required. Fee for single is \$15, \$20 for a couple. Call (734) 655-1100.

Parenting with Love and Logic is a common sense approach teaching parents skills that cultivate confidence and good decision making in children by offering them choices, empathy and respect while adults avoid anger, threats, warnings or lectures. Love and Logic is easy to learn and can be put to use right away. It changes lives and raises responsible children.

Classes

Techniques in Stress Reduction demonstration of Emotional Freedom Technique, a method to help you manage daily stress, 7-9 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 12, at Seaholm High School, 2436 West Lincoln, Room F107, Birmingham. Fee is \$25. To register call (248) 203-3800 or visit www.communitynet.net.

Caregiver support group

Meets Jan. 12 and regularly the second Thursday of the month at The Village of Redford, 17383 Garfield. Respite services provided for free during the session. For more information call Linda Peak at (313) 843-2550 or the Redford Senior Department at (313) 387-2788.

Grief support group

For any adult who has experienced a loss 7-8:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 17 to March 7, at the Northville District Library, 212 W. Cady. Presented by Arbor Hospice & Home Care and BraveHeart Grief. The support groups are tailored to meet the needs of individuals who have suffered the loss of someone close to them and are open to everyone in the community. No charge, but donations are appreciated to defray program expenses. Advance registration required. To register or for more information about any of the support groups call (248) 348-4980.

ONGOING

Group fitness classes

The Center Fitness Club at the Jewish Community Center in West Bloomfield offers senior fitness, water exercise, yoga, Pilates, step spinning and back care classes at convenient times year round. For more information call Marni Stone at (248) 432-5427 or the membership office at (248) 432-5404.

Lite fitness classes

Senior Fitness Specialist Marni Stone and the Sports Club of West Bloomfield are starting a fitness program for beginners, mature adults and people struggling with illness or injury 11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday at 6343 Farmington Road. Call (248) 626-9880 Ext. 4050.

Arthritis classes

Began in September in Canton, Garden City, Livonia, Westland and other locations throughout Michigan. For more information about locations, schedules and fees call the Arthritis Foundation, Michigan Chapter at (800) 968-3030 or visit www.arthritis.org. Classes include a warm water exercise program, a land-based exercise program formerly known as P.A.C.E. (People with Arthritis CAN Exercise), a graceful flowing sequence of movements from Sun style tai chi, and a six week series that provides participants with the keys to successful arthritis self-management. Arthritis Foundation programs are suitable for adults of all ages with arthritis in its more than 100 different forms. The exercise programs also present a wonderful option for people who are seeking a gentle exercise alternative and people who are new to exercise.

Therapy choir

Of Broe Rehabilitation Services Inc. located in Farmington Hills is opening membership to volunteers from the community. The choir is comprised of men and women recovering from traumatic brain injuries. Volunteers with or without disabilities are welcome as singers or helpers. Good singing ability not required. Call (248) 474-BROE for details.

Meningitis vaccinations

University of Michigan Health System's Michigan Visiting Nurses are offering meningitis vaccinations by appointment at the Ann Arbor office. Appointments can be scheduled by calling (734) 677-0020. Meningitis (Menactra) immunizations cost \$115, payable by cash, check or charge (Visa or MasterCard). A proof of vaccination record and receipt of payment are provided at time of immunization. Students younger than 18 must attend the clinic with a parent or guardian and all patients must be older than 12. For more disease and vaccination information visit www.umvn.org.

Meningitis shots

Visiting Nurse Association of Southeast Michigan is administering the life-saving meningitis vaccine.

The shot costs \$105 and is available by appointment 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday-Friday at VNA of Southeast Michigan, 600 Oak Park. To learn about bacterial meningitis or schedule an appointment visit www.vna.org or call (248) 967-8755.

Parkinson's support

A new group has formed at Crittenton Hospital in Rochester and meets 7 p.m. Wednesday. Call (248) 433-1011 or (800) 852-9781. The Waterford/West Bloomfield group is moving to Canterbury on the Lake, 5601 Hatchery Road (between Airport and Crescent Lake roads), Waterford, 48239. They meet Monday at 7 p.m. Contact person is Warren Oberlee, (248) 887-8840.

Qigong

The ancient form of Chinese energetic medicine. A safe and effective way to rid body of toxic pathogens and years of painful emotions. Classes at Livonia Unity, 28660 Five Mile, Monday - 7:30 a.m. and Thursday Qigong meditation 10:15 a.m. and Friday Therapeutic Qigong 7:30 p.m. Call (810) 813-4073 for information or send e-mail to gary@energeticarts.org. Donations.

Arthritis Foundation Class

The Jewish Community Center in West Bloomfield offers Arthritis Foundation exercise classes Tuesdays and Thursdays at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. with two four week sessions during the summer months. Exercises aim to increase flexibility, ease aches and pains, and promote blood flow. For information call (248) 432-5502.

Eating disorder support

Meetings for those with anorexia, bulimia, compulsive and binge eaters, male and female 7-8:30 p.m. Mondays at William Beaumont Hospital, 3601 W. 13 Mile west of Woodward, use East entrance, take central elevators to 10th floor classrooms A & B and 7-8:30 p.m. Wednesdays at Garden City Hospital, 6245 Inkster between Ford and Warren, use main entrance, take elevators down to the auditorium on the right. Family and friends support is on second Wednesday of each month; parent only support is on the fourth Wednesday, same time and place as the Monday night closed group listed above. Call (734) 324-3089.

Self-help mental health

Weekly meetings in Livonia 2:30 p.m. Sundays at Rosedale Gardens Presbyterian Church, 7:30 p.m. Mondays at St. Matthew's United Methodist Church, and 11:15 p.m. Tuesdays at Mt. Hope Congregational Church. Recovery Inc. teaches a self-help method of mental health that parallels principles found in cognitive/behavioral therapy. Recovery helps people who suffer from depression, tension, anger, low self-esteem and feelings that interfere with effectively meeting the challenges of daily living. No charge. Call (313) 561-2521.

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The Perfected Praise Choir, under the direction of Pastor Marvin L. Winans of Perfecting Church, will perform during the DSO's first-ever holiday Gospel concert.

DSO presents first-ever gospel Christmas concert

Two of Detroit's great musical institutions will join forces at 8 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 22 to present a history-making concert at Detroit's Orchestra Hall.

The Detroit Symphony Orchestra and the Perfected Praise Choir of Perfecting Church, under the direction of Pastor Marvin L. Winans, will present the DSO's first-ever holiday Gospel concert, *Joy: A Gospel Christmas*, led by guest conductor Charles Floyd, the concert is part of the DSO's UBS Holiday Festival at the Max M. Fisher Music Center.

Joy: A Holiday Christmas celebrates the season with inspirational music and holiday praise. The program will include a wide selection of joyous hymns, carols and spirituals, many featuring arrangements by the award-winning Gospel stars Kurt Carr, Kirk Franklin and Detroit native Fred Hammond. Selections will include *Procession of the Levites and Anthem of Praise, For Every Mountain, Perfect Peace* and traditional holiday favorites leavened by Gospel energy, such as *Joy to the World, Silent Night* and *The First Noel*.

The Perfected Praise Choir was founded in 1989, the same year that Perfecting Church was established by Pastor Marvin L. Winans with eight members in the basement of his home.

Since that very humble beginning it has grown into a Detroit ministry campus of over 165,000 square feet with more than 3,000 members.

Winans previously was a member of the Winans -- not just the well-known "First Family" of contemporary black gospel, but the actual quartet of that name that laid the foundation for the family's veritable gospel empire beginning in the early 1980s. As a

member of the quartet, Winans won several Grammy awards. Auditions for the choir began in the summer of 1990, at Peoples United Methodist Church, when Perfecting Church was still a "church-on-wheels." Everyone had to audition to join the choir, there were no exceptions. From the onset, Winans held to his conviction that it "would not be an ordinary choir." Winans was determined to create a choir of superior singers. Along with Elder Donnie McClurkin and evangelist Iona Locke, he instilled in the members that the ensemble was not just a choir, but also a ministry.

The choir's first singing engagement coincided with the 1991 holidays when they went caroling through Detroit neighborhoods. Soon after that, the choir began performing for the Perfecting Church congregation at weekly services. Perfecting Church now has four choirs. They minister on different Sundays and have made several recordings.

Conductor, pianist and composer Charles Floyd has received numerous awards and grants. As a conductor, Floyd has been heard in concert with more than 500 orchestras since 1991 and is an annual guest conductor of the Boston Pops Orchestra. Floyd's 11-year partnership with singer Natalie Cole includes the multiple Grammy Award-winning tribute to Nat King Cole, *Unforgettable, With Love*, as well as the Emmy Award-winning PBS *Great Performances* concert video of the same title.

Tickets for *Joy: A Gospel Christmas* range from \$18 to \$55. Box seats are \$85.

Tickets can be purchased at the Max M. Fisher Music Center box office (3711 Woodward Ave., Detroit), by calling (313)576-5111, or www.detroitssymphony.com.

The cat's meow: Keep your pets safe during the holidays

Holiday parties, visiting relatives, hanging decorations, putting up the tree -- these wonderful traditions help make this time of year so special, but they can also pose serious risks for companion animals. The Michigan Humane Society offers the following tips to help keep animals safe during the busy holiday season.

■ **Holiday plants can be harmful or toxic, including mistletoe, holly, poinsettias, Japanese yew, Jerusalem cherry, lilies and the bulb of the amaryllis plant.** Contact your veterinarian immediately if your companion animal is vomiting, lethargic or foaming at the mouth.

■ **Keep animals away from holiday decorations and never leave them unsupervised around the Christmas tree.** Tinsel, ribbon, bows and angel hair -- which most cats find fascinating -- are choking hazards and can cause intestinal blockages if swallowed. Glass balls may be "fetched" off the tree and break. Also, ingested pine needles can puncture the intestines, so vacuum around the tree frequently.

■ **Preservatives, aspirin or sugar commonly used to prolong a Christmas tree's life may prove harmful if the water is ingested.** Aspirin is especially deadly for cats.

■ **Keep lights and electrical cords out of reach.** Besides the risk of electrocution, the whole tree may topple over.

■ **Make sure four-legged family members are secure while you are entertaining**

The Michigan Humane Society (MHS) is a private, nonprofit organization which cares for over 100,000 animals each year at its three metro Detroit adoption and veterinary medical centers in Detroit, Rochester Hills and at its new, state-of-the-art Berman Center for Animal Care in Westland.

More guests mean more chances for the cat, dog or other animal to slip out unnoticed, as always, be sure he is wearing a collar and ID tag in case of escape.

■ **Animals who are social butterflies may enjoy all the extra activity of the holidays, but others may prefer some peace and quiet.** Provide a safe place away from all the commotion with favorite toys, food and water, a litter box for cats, mellow background music and a comfy bed.

■ **Resist giving fatty foods as treats.** Gravy, poultry skin and other rich foods can cause severe gastrointestinal upset. Likewise, do not give animals poultry or steak bones, which can splinter or lodge in the throat, stomach or intestinal tract.

■ **Chocolate is poisonous to dogs and can prove fatal depending on the dog's size and the amount and type of**

chocolate ingested. The safest rule is to keep all chocolate out of a dog's reach.

■ **Lighted candles should never be left unattended, especially with animals around.**

■ **Alcohol and companion animals do not mix.** Keep alcoholic drinks where animals can not reach them. If ingested, the animal could become very sick and weak, possibly resulting in respiratory failure.

The Michigan Humane Society also recommends not giving companion animals as surprise gifts. Involving the individual recipient or whole family in the adoption decision is a much better approach for everyone, especially for the animal who will rely on his or her guardian for a lifetime of care.

The Michigan Humane Society (MHS) is a private, nonprofit organization which cares for over 100,000 animals each year at its three metro Detroit adoption and veterinary medical centers in Detroit, Rochester Hills and at its new, state-of-the-art Berman Center for Animal Care in Westland. Established in 1877, the MHS is one of the oldest and largest animal welfare organizations in the country. Primarily serving companion animals, the MHS' programs include animal sheltering and adoption, behavior and training, veterinary care, reuniting lost animals with their guardians, cruelty investigation, emergency rescue, education and legislative advocacy.

For more information, call (866) MHUMANE or visit www.michiganhumane.org.

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Peter's Principles

Peter Nielsen

Back pain can be eased

Henry from Detroit e-mails asking what causes so many people back pain.

At the root of the problem are almost always the L4 and L5 vertebrae. They are two of the five largest vertebrae and carry most of the body's load. They also serve as attachments for many back muscles. Because the L4 and L5 join the flexible spine and the rigid pelvis, the stress focused there is much higher than elsewhere along the spine. This can cause the disc between the vertebrae to bulge out or become "herniated," which ultimately causes pain.

To prevent disc pain or injury, you need to strengthen your core muscles, your abs and back. You can do this by doing crunches, back extensions and bridges. Flexibility of the lower back is also key to less back pain. A simple exercise that everyone can do is to sit in a chair and slowly reach forward down to your feet, and arch the back upward. Next you can lie on a mat and draw your legs to your chest, then deepen the stretch by using your hands to pull your legs in closer.

Carol from Rochester e-mails asking how much sunlight is needed to boost her body's production of Vitamin D.

Research now shows that just 15 to 30 minutes a day will trigger an increase in the body's level of Vitamin D. A 30-minute walk in the sun is ideal for increasing Vitamin D production. Vitamin D is critical for bone health and walking is the perfect way to boost cardio health. You can also add calcium to your diet or take supplements as well. If you have a health or fitness question you would like answered in the *Observer & Eccentric Newspapers* e-mail Peter at www.peternielsen.com

Dieter's deliverance

Book breaks bondage of unhealthy eating habits

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
STAFF WRITER

Jimi Varner plans to enjoy eating the food at his mother's traditional Italian table this Christmas just as he always does. The only difference is he's limiting the portions. It's one of seven principles the Livonia author talks about in his new book from Trafford Publishing, *The Dieter's Deliverance: Breaking the Chains of Bondage*.

Although Varner illustrates his points with scripture from the Bible, the book could benefit anyone interested in losing weight or eating healthier. Varner at one time weighed more than 215 pounds until slimming down to 165 over a nine-month period.

"There will be plenty of food, plenty of temptation," said Varner. "I choose whatever I desire. I get a little bit of everything."

"We're culturally conditioned to focus on food during the holidays, but we should be spending time with family. There's so much in life we can enjoy. We can enjoy ourselves without overindulging."

Varner teaches his clients at The Sports Club in Novi to practice self-control. A certified personal trainer and life



Jimi Varner, a certified personal trainer gives eating advice in his new book

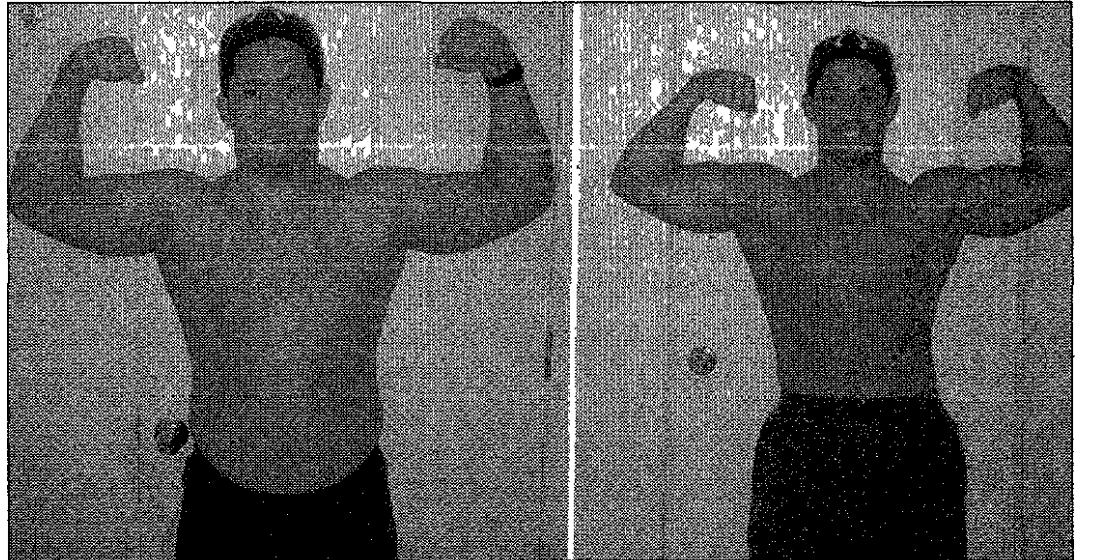
and weight management consultant, Varner frequently gives advice on eating healthfully as well as on exercise.

"People look for a low-cal or low-carb version instead of trying to alter behavior," said Varner. "After a few bites of a certain food, your taste buds are satisfied so start by putting small portions of foods, diversifying your plate."

"During the holidays the majority of foods are going to be calorie-rich. We can enjoy a portion in the moment. If it's a trigger food that causes us to over consume it's best to cut yourself off from that unless you can control yourself."

SETTING LIMITS

Varner first learned about eating disorders while judging professional bodybuilding competitions. Earlier in his life, he developed poor eating habits as a professional wrestler who was always on



Jimi Varner went from weighing more than 215 pounds to 165

the road between local and regional shows in the U.S. and Canada. At age 32, he's taken control of his life instead of bingeing and purging.

"Self-discipline is usually an answer nobody wants to hear," said Varner. "We set ourselves on a strict diet and abstain. We create lust for it even more so. If we could simply limit ourselves to a little work, a little play, a little food, time spent talking to grandma and playing games with the kids, and enjoy each component of the holiday."

HEALTH MINISTRY

Varner begins his celebration of the birth of Jesus with Christmas Eve and Day services at Detroit World Outreach, a nondenominational church in Redford where he is involved in the

health and fitness ministry. A born again Christian, Varner's religion plays a major role in how he lives his life including taking care of his body.

"You have to remember each day is a gift," said Varner. "We live in an uncertain world. The most important thing is that we're with the ones we love and we can start over tomorrow. Being overweight is something I struggled with. There are good days and bad, but there is hope."

It was at one New Year's Eve gathering of friends and family that Varner decided to undertake his mission of writing the book. Over the last several years in fitness, he became frustrated about clients not following his eating advice.

Diets never work. Even

those of us with the best intentions fail," said Varner. "I knew that the Bible in my life was a source of truth."

"It's a daily process. There's always self-doubt that will creep back in. You're never going to be perfect. You can't be stuck in a rigid set of patterns."

Varner does follow a few simple rules when it comes to eating. This morning, he began the day with a bowl of oatmeal, fresh blueberries, a slice of whole grain toast spread with natural peanut butter, and a banana. Three hours later he ate half of a peanut butter and jelly sandwich and an apple to sustain his energy. For dinner, he'll eat salmon or chicken,

PLEASE SEE DIETER, C9

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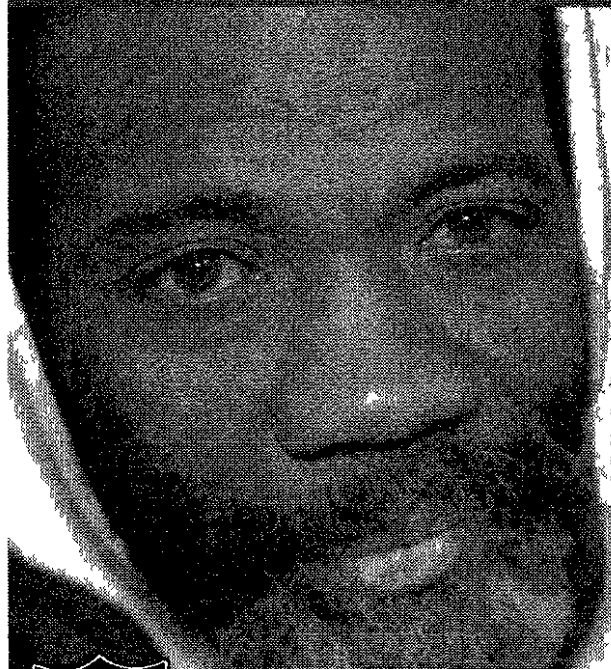
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DIETER
FROM PAGE C8

steamed vegetables and a baked potato Varner eats seven to eight small meals a day

"If you eat and you're not hungry in three to four hours, you probably overate," said Varner. "This is the anti-diet book. We learn principals and integrate it into our life."

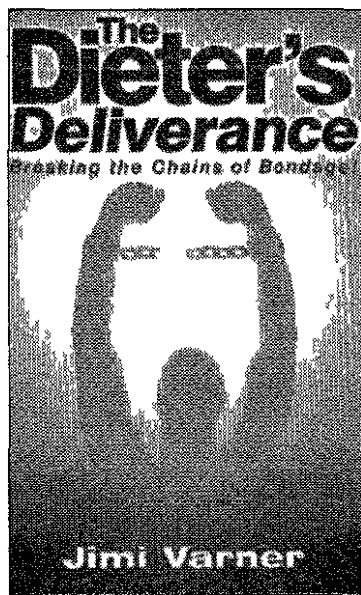
And don't forget activity. Instead of taking the elevator, Varner recommends using the stairs and body weight as resistance. Weight training is good for those with osteoporosis or anyone wanting to maintain strong bones. Varner passes on much of his advice in presentations for all faiths. Past appearances have included St. John Lutheran in Farmington Hills, Detroit World Outreach, and Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church in Northville Township.

"I was looking for a deeper purpose," said Varner. "I hope to reach the individual who's still of the mindset that there's a perfect diet out there. What helped me the most is the revelation that all food is OK. There's not a bad or good food. If we abstain from chocolate or ice cream, we develop a lust for it. The book comes from the revelation that you don't have to be in bondage to a certain eating pattern."

FOLLOWING ADVICE

Allan Tushman uses his own system to maintain weight. The retired West Bloomfield attorney counts calories. Although Tushman bought the book, he hasn't had a chance to read it but talks about food and weight with Varner frequently. At least three days a week, Tushman works out at The Sports Club in Novi.

"I joined a club six years ago because I had some health issues and decided working out



Jimi Varner explores what the Bible says about food, social eating and bingeing in his new book.

Varner's book is available at www.trafford.com, <http://trimwithjim.com>, The Sports Club of Novi, and Detroit World Outreach.

was the best way to stay alive," said Tushman. "In the old days weight was an issue. I'm 30 pounds lighter today. I write down the number of calories I eat every day. Alarms go off when I hit 3,000 calories. I try not to eat as much as when I work out."

"I always enjoy the holidays. If I'm going to eat a ton of potato latkes one day, I cut down the next and work out. The two work together for a healthier lifestyle."

Varner's book is available at www.trafford.com, <http://trimwithjim.com>, The Sports Club of Novi, and Detroit World Outreach.

lchomin@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2145

Helping hands

American Cancer Society in need of volunteers

According to the American Cancer Society, over 22,000 people will be diagnosed with cancer this year in Metro Detroit. One of them could be a family member, friend, or neighbor in your own backyard who needs help during this critical time. Unfortunately, many cancer patients have to postpone or even cancel their treatment due to lack of transportation to medical centers. To help eliminate this problem, the American Cancer Society is

currently recruiting volunteers to help those in need.

Today, as people are forced to deal with the burden of cancer treatment, the need for transportation assistance has grown. The American Cancer Society has established Road to Recovery, a volunteer-based driving program that provides transportation to and from medical centers in your area for cancer patients undergoing treatment. Volunteers are able to select the region or area in

which they choose, and can donate anywhere from a few hours to a few days of driving time each month. The program runs 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday.

"Businesses and organizations are also encouraged to participate as a group," said Katy Munns, quality of life director, American Cancer Society. "No matter who they are, we are in great need of volunteers to assist with this local

program and help save a life."

The American Cancer Society is the nationwide, community-based, voluntary health organization dedicated to eliminating cancer, saving lives, and diminishing suffering from cancer, through research, education, advocacy and service.

To learn more about Road to Recovery or to volunteer, call (248) 557-5353.

Volunteers are sought for grief support work

Sandcastles, a grief support program for children and teens, is seeking volunteers for its sites in Rochester, Southfield, Livonia and other communities. The program is sponsored by Hospices of Henry Ford Health System. Meetings are held bi-weekly. To register for training or for

more information, call (313) 874-6881.

Hospices of Henry Ford is seeking volunteers who want to make a positive contribution to people in need. Volunteers will offer companionship and family support for loved ones who are terminally ill in the patient's home, nursing home

facilities or in the hospital. Opportunities available throughout southeast Michigan to help with adult and pediatric hospice programs as well as Sandcastles, a

grief support program for children and their families. Flexible schedules provided. For information, call (800) 492-9909.


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Car Accident injuries are often misunderstood. The pain from automobile accident injuries can last weeks, months, even years down. After an accident, many feel frustrated because they don't know how they should feel, how long it should take to get better and what they should do. A free report has recently been available to accident victims that reveals

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Neurosurgical Spine Surgery fellowship at New England Baptist Hospital in Boston. He received his medical degree, with honors, from the Northeastern Ohio Universities College of Medicine. Dr. Patel's affiliations include an active membership in the North American Spine Society.


Dr. Patel also has a practice in Dearborn located in the Waterworks Building at 21031 Michigan Ave., and has privileges at all Oakwood hospitals.

Dr. Patel - who grew up in Canton - completed a combined Orthopedic and

To make an appointment, please visit www.oakwood.org or call 800-543-WELL.

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WHEN CONDITIONS OVERLAP

There is a good reason why your doctor at times cannot provide you with a precise diagnosis of your arthritis. Fibromyalgia best illustrates this problem. If you have fibromyalgia, you will experience days when you hurt in your elbows, shoulders, neck, back and thighs in just the pressure points that are the hallmarks of this condition. However, there are other days when you are so fatigued all you do is sleep day and night but at no time awake refreshed. This response is typical of chronic fatigue syndrome. Excessive sleeping is the opposite of what you would expect in fibromyalgia in which you are fatigued during the day but unable to sleep through the night. At other times, your fibromyalgia may present as tenderness and tension along the back of the neck or in one arm. These features are not representative of fibromyalgia but in keeping with myofascial pain syndrome. Yet your diagnosis will remain fibromyalgia. This variability is another aspect of the condition. Fibromyalgia, chronic fatigue syndrome and myofascial pain syndrome move and merge into each other. On any day, fibromyalgia can look like the other conditions. This variability presents a difficulty for your doctor when you ask, "What is my diagnosis?" The same variability holds in inflammatory conditions like rheumatoid arthritis. On a single visit, rheumatoid arthritis can look like lupus, arthritis or other inflammatory conditions such as psoriatic arthritis. Your doctor may hesitate to give you a precise diagnosis as he determined the overall pattern that will define your arthritis.

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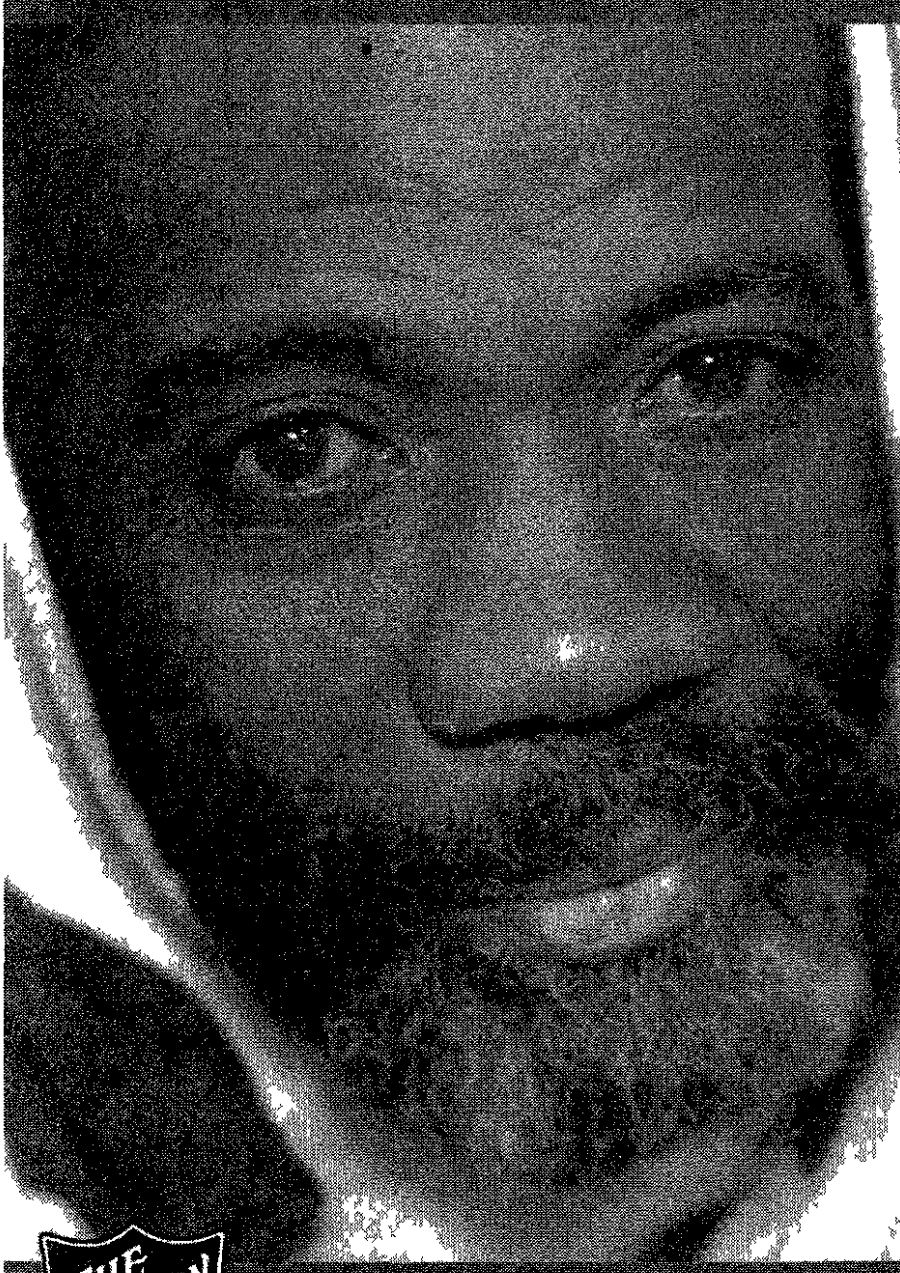
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Volunteers are needed to deliver Christmas day meals

The Senior Alliance, Area Agency on Aging is looking for volunteers to deliver meals to homebound seniors on Christmas day

The agency serves homebound seniors in need in all of Wayne County, except for the city of Detroit which has its own Area Agency on Aging

Meals on Wheels is probably the best known service provided by The Senior Alliance

On Christmas day, the time commitment for volunteers is about two hours. The Senior Alliance provides volunteers

If you're interested in volunteering or purchasing cards, call Lori Vail at (734) 727-2017 or send e-mail to Vail@tsalink.org.

with meals, maps and all pertinent information that they will need to deliver the meals

A nonprofit agency, The Senior Alliance is selling holiday cards to raise funds to pay for the meals delivered. The cost of a

card is \$5, the same cost as the holiday meal delivered to each senior. The contributor is asked to sign the card and return it to The Senior Alliance so it can be delivered to the seniors with their meals on Christmas day

"If anyone is interested in selling the cards in their schools and organizations, we would appreciate it," said Lori Vail, holiday meals coordinator. "Our major concern is to raise the funds for the meals." Vail estimates close to 800 meals will be served on Christmas, 700 were delivered on Thanksgiving Day



DON NICHOLSON

Joyful noise

The Livonia Civic Chorus performs 'A Christmas from the Heart' concert 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 18, at Churchill High School Auditorium. Tickets are \$10. Proceeds help fund vocal music scholarships for local students. For information, visit the Web site www.livoniacivicchorus.org or call (734) 591-0978. The chorus also sings at Greenfield Village 6 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 21 and Greenmead Historical Park 6 p.m. Monday, Dec. 26

Red Cross Chapter needs blanket donations

The Southeastern Michigan Chapter of the American Red Cross is currently looking for donations for its Blanket Days for the Homeless campaign. There are more than 20 collection sites across the area including the City of Westland, Madonna University in Livonia, St. Mary's of Redford Church in Detroit, Westland Shopping Mall and Our Lady

of Victory Church in Northville. The goal this year is 7,000 new twin-size blankets to benefit 105 homeless shelters and the Red Cross disaster relief program in Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties. The campaign will help thousands of people in southeast Michigan stay warm this winter.

Individuals and organiza-

tions can support the campaign by contributing new twin-size blankets, financial donations, or by hosting a blanket drive which helps provide vital assistance to local disaster victims and people in homeless shelters in the tri-county area.

For more information, call (313) 494-2740 or visit www.semredcross.org/blanket-days

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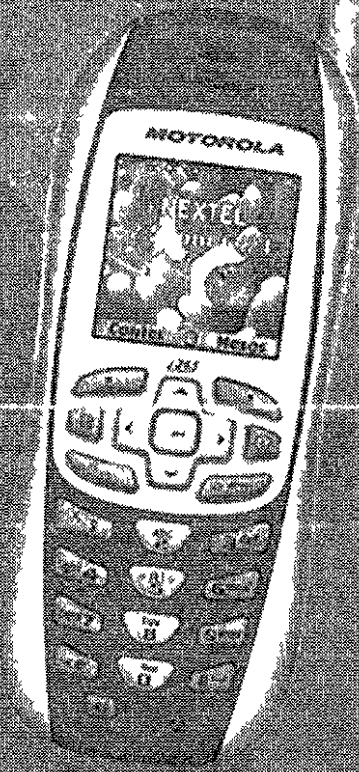
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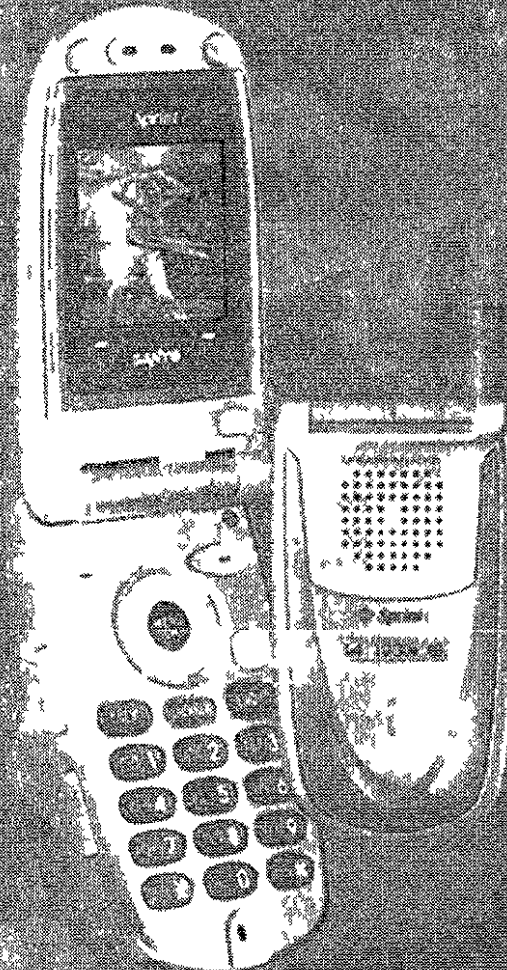


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Don't miss your pullout issue of PINK next week!

WENDY WHITE EDITOR (734) 953 2019 WWWHITE@HOMECOMM.NET

Make it personal

Customized holiday gifts show you care

Gift cards are fine for co-workers and clients, but for those close to you, plastic just won't do. This holiday season, put a little effort into ordering a gift tailor-made for your loved one. Here are some quick suggestions from PINK.

Style an iPod Sheath

If you've bought an oh-so-hot iPod nano - engraved of course - for that special someone, throw in a stylish case. A B Sutton offers lovely little sheaths to pamper and protect your iPod in silk and leather. You get to personalize each handmade case by selecting the leather, trim and lining. There are dozens of fun colors and silk patterns to choose from, so you can be sure your gift is one-of-a-kind. Cases also can be monogrammed. \$70-\$85 at www.absutton.com

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Let 'Em Belt it Out

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Create a Knit Kit

Know a knitter? She's sure to love a customized Knit Kit from Hampton Mills in Birmingham. Right up to the last shopping second, Hampton Mills will create an individualized gift bag complete with a personalized pattern card and hand-selected yarns. If you prefer to give a gift certificate, Hampton Mills will print one with your desired phrasing on French cardstock, finished with a velvet flower and ribbon. (248) 593-8559

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For the wine-lover on your list, what better gift than to let them play vintner and create their own batch of wine? At Wine2Wine in Northville, customers select the wine they want to make (after extensive sampling, of course!), then start the fermentation process. After six weeks, they return to bottle and cork the vino, and add custom labels. At the end of the process, they have 30 bottles from their very own "vineyard." \$130-\$285. Call (248) 465-WINE or visit www.northvillewine.com

Share a Good Fortune

For the foodie in your life, a Gigantic Fortune Cookie from Good Fortunes might be in her future. These elaborately dipped and decorated foot-ball-sized treats come stuffed with your personal 12-foot long message, making them a gift and greeting card in one. Gigantic Christmas Dark Chocolate Cookie, \$28.50 www.goodfortunes.com

Celebrity! pink picks

By Maureen McGovern

Kick it!

Your smoking habit - for your sake and ours

See it!

Good Night and Good Luck

Read it!



A Man Without A Country by Kurt Vonnegut and *The Truth (with jokes)* by Al Franken

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Real Time with Bill Maher, The Medium, Monk & Commander in Chief

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Possibilities by Herbie Hancock

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Renowned singer and actress Maureen McGovern is known as The Stradivarius Voice for her perfect pitch. McGovern has brought her talents to town straight from Broadway to star as Marmie in the tour of Little Women the Musical at the Fisher Theatre through Jan 1. PINK asked the New Yorker to take a quick break from the stage to give us her fave Pinks!



McGovern

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644 4449 or visit www.roastfortykes.org

Ernst Benz Watches Universal Watch and Jewelry Co. in Birmingham has acquired the Ernst Benz Watch Company. To celebrate they are hosting cocktails and hors d'oeuvres 6-10 p.m. Thursday Dec 15 555 S. Old Woodward Birmingham, RSVP (248) 213 2323

pink list

Toast for Tykes

Support Leukemia Research at Children's Hospital of Michigan by attending the 7th Annual Toast for Tykes holiday gala. The enchanted evening begins at 8 p.m. Saturday Dec 17 at the Townsend Hotel in Birmingham. Tickets are \$125-\$150. Call (248)

Happy Holidays to all our friends!
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A Choose a doctor that

- Has at least 5 years experience with vision correction
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- Meets personally with you at your initial consultation and performs their own measurements before the procedure
- Provides all-inclusive pricing for his patients, and does not try to confuse patients with "bargain" fees, only to disclose the real bottom line, after you have invested the time in a consultation. That's not a good basis for trust. At the Laser Eye Institute, patients benefit from Dr. Daniel Haddad's 15 years of vision correction excellence. He takes pride in having the latest technology and does not cut corners. He takes his patients' trust very seriously, and is involved in all phases of care, from the first consultation through two years of follow-up.

Daniel S. Haddad, M.D.
248-689-2020
www.LaserEyeInstitute.com

THE INFO ZONE

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Q Where can I lease a gorgeous custom Medical Suite at the best price?

A Northland Tower Office and Medical Center!

LAST CALL FOR 2005 RENTAL RATES!

This full-service office complex is located at the hub of Southfield's medical community and in home to over 72,000 square feet of Medical Tenants!

Northland Towers offers amenities such as a RADIOLOGY CLINIC, PATHOLOGY LAB and PHARMACY for your convenience.

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Northland Towers Office and Medical Center
15565 Northland Drive
Southfield, Michigan 48075
(248) 569-3180
Judy Cunningham
Leasing Coordinator

EMPLOYMENT

Observer & Eccentric
NEWSPAPERS

Section D

Sunday December 11 2005

(D7)

Joe Bauman editor
(248) 901-2563
Fax (248) 644-1314
jbaumap@homecomm.net
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'Excellence' program assists people with disabilities

(NewsUSA) — People with disabilities remain an untapped resource in the nation's work force, facing an unemployment rate of 70 percent.

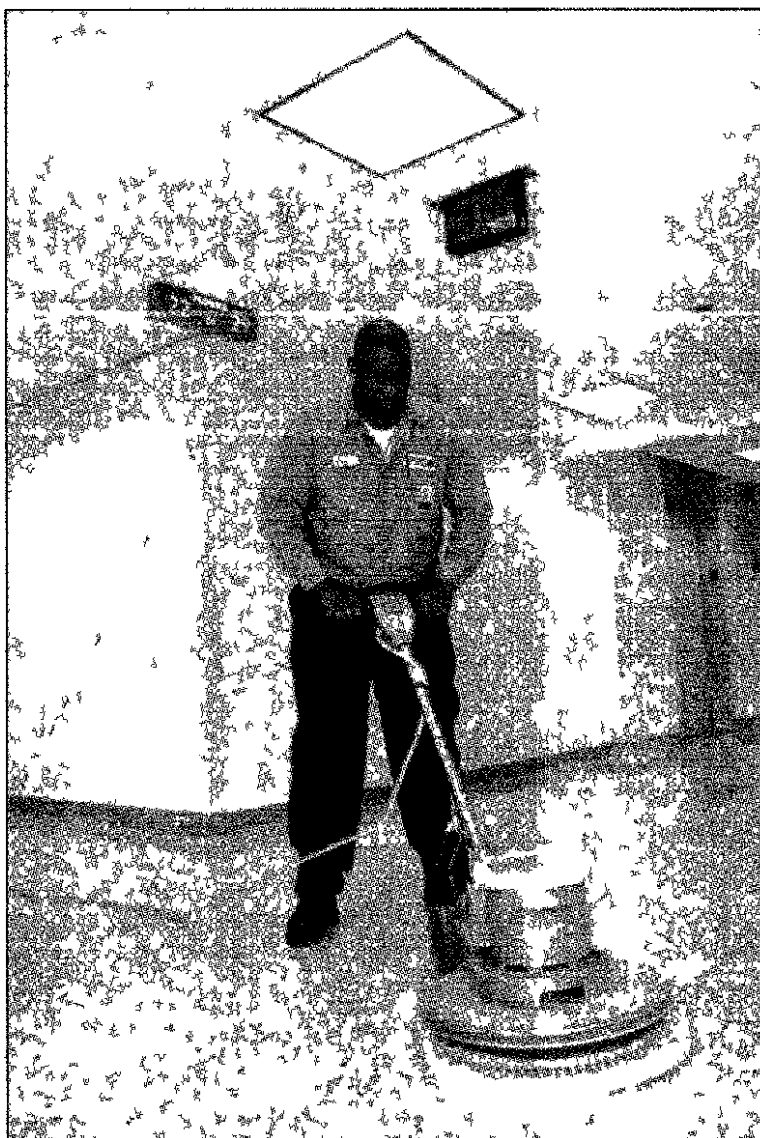
NISH, a nonprofit organization that helps secure federal contracts for agencies that employ people with disabilities through the Javits-Wagner-O'Day Program, is working to change the status quo. The organization has introduced a new program whereby agencies designated as "Centers of Excellence" serve as mentors to other agencies to help them improve the quality of the service and products they provide to the federal government.

The Javits-Wagner-O'Day Program is the largest single source of jobs in the U.S. for people with disabilities. Often referred to as the JWOD program, it provides employment opportunities for more than 45,000 people who are blind or have other severe disabilities. Through the JWOD program, NISH works with a network of more than 600 nonprofit agencies that employ and train people with disabilities.

The program stems from the Wagner-O'Day Act, passed in 1938, which provided employment opportunities for the blind by allowing them to manufacture mops and brooms to sell to the federal government. In 1971, Congress amended the act to include people with severe disabilities and to allow the agencies to provide services as well as products.

According to a recent Harris Interactive survey, two out of three people with disabilities who are not working want to work, but the lack of opportunities and accessibility issues prevent them from finding employment.

The goal of NISH's "Centers of Excellence" program is to bring about more government contracts and ultimately provide more job opportunities for people with disabilities. To learn more, visit www.jwod.gov or www.nish.org.



The Javits-Wagner-O'Day Program is the largest single source of jobs in the U.S. for people with disabilities.

Drive your future

(NAPSI) — According to the U.S. Census Bureau, graduates with a bachelor's degree earn over 62 percent more on average than those with only a high school diploma. And while the increased earning potential of obtaining a postsecondary education is evident, how to pay for that education remains a challenge for millions of students each year.

Although financial aid packages are available to many students, supplemental funds are often needed to offset tuition and school expenses. For students seeking financial aid, Scholarship America, the nation's largest nonprofit, private sector scholarship and educational support organization suggests looking to the private sector.

Several corporations offer scholarship programs, some with specific criteria for which students just might be a good fit. For instance, Mercedes-Benz USA offers the annual Drive Your Future Scholarship Program, awarding \$1 million in scholarship funding to students who will be the first generation in their families to attend college. From Jan. 4 through Feb. 10, 2006, students can submit an online application at www.mbusa.com/drivefuture.

To search open scholarships and identify other scholarship resources, students may also visit www.scholarshipamerica.org and click "For Students."

Scholarship America has distributed more than \$1 billion to more than one million students by helping communities and corporations establish scholarship programs. Mercedes-Benz USA's Drive Your Future Scholarship Program aims to provide educational opportunities to college-bound students.

CAREER MARKETPLACE

ASSISTANT STORE MANAGER

COME JOIN OUR PARTY!

Party America, the country's fastest growing retail superstore chain, is seeking an individual with retail experience and managerial skills to assist in the leadership of our Westland store.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

- assist in leading the day-to-day operation of the store
 - supporting the achievement of our sales and customer satisfaction goals
 - helping to create a FUN place to shop and work in exchange for your great talents, we offer a competitive salary and benefits package.
- If you are interested in joining our team, please apply in person at 35585 Warren Road, Westland (ask for Deanna) or fax your resume to 734-725-9930. Learn more about Party America at www.partyamerica.com



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- Be able to pass DOT Physical
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Will be accepting applications
Dec 12-19th daily 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Job Seminar and Interviews scheduled on site December 19th
Starts at 6:00 p.m. sharp 28685 Smith Road, Romulus
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Company in Plymouth is currently recruiting for an A/R Specialist. Responsibilities will include analyzing customer accounts for discrepancies and daily interaction with customers to resolve delinquent accounts and billing disputes. Previous A/R or collection experience required. Supervisory background a plus.

Submit your resume with salary requirements to
Attn: A/R
PO Box 701248 • Plymouth, MI 48170
or Fax
734-416-3810
or e-mail
hr_manufacturing@hotmail.com

ROUTE SALES AND SERVICE/ROUTE DELIVERY

Full service Beverage/Refreshment Company in Plymouth is looking for talented individuals to manage established routes. Requirements for this position include excellent customer service skills, sales skills, a good driving record and the desire to grow within our company. Previous leadership experience a plus! CDL a plus! This is an entry-level position with advancement opportunities available.

Please mail your resume to:
Attn: Route Delivery #11
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Plymouth, MI 48170
or Fax:
734-416-3810
or e-mail:
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When Joe's Produce in Livonia needed a cashier, Donna Kuhn called us to place a help wanted ad.

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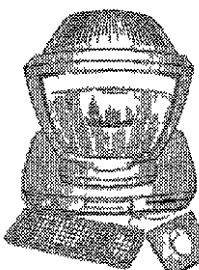
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5000's Jobs and Careers. Help Wanted-General 5000. 5000... Help Wanted-General. 5010... Help Wanted-Computer/Info Systems. 5020... Help Wanted-Office Clerical. 5030... Help Wanted-Engineering. 5040... Help Wanted-Dental. 5050... Help Wanted-Medical. 5060... Help Wanted-Food/Beverage. 5070... Help Wanted-Health & Fitness. 5080... Help Wanted-Professional. 5090... Help Wanted-Sales. 5100... Help Wanted-Part Time. 5110... Help Wanted-Domestic. 5120... Help Wanted-Couples.

Help Wanted-General 5000 POLICY. All advertising published in the Observer and Eccentric Newspapers is subject to the conditions stated in the applicable rate card.

Help Wanted-General 5000 ACCOUNTING MANAGER. Accounting Manager with 3 to 5 years accounting experience. Successful candidate will have a degree in accounting.

Help Wanted-General 5000 HOLIDAY HELP. \$17.25 Base-Appt. College Students/Others. 1 1/2 week work program. May continue Part Time.

Help Wanted-General 5000 Beverage Technician. Service equipment co seeks person with mechanical/technician ability.

Help Wanted-General 5000 CHILD CARE TRANSITIONAL PRE SCHOOL ASSISTANT TEACHER & INFANT ASSISTANT TEACHER.

Help Wanted-General 5000 Customer Service Rep/Sales Offices. Located in Wayne Oakland and Washtenaw counties.

Help Wanted-General 5000 \$1,000 Sign On (For Experienced OTR Drivers). USA TRUCK PAY INCREASE!

5000-5980 Employment Instruction Services. Help Wanted-General 5000. Child Care. Christian Center needs Teacher for 2 yr old class.

Help Wanted-General 5000 Security Officers & Armed Guards NOW HIRING. GSI. For Concerts Festivals Special Events.

INCOME TAX PREPARER. Excellent position for tax season & beyond. Excellent benefits & work environment.

SERVICE TECH. Livonia vending firm seeks mechanically minded person for an entry level position.

CLASSIFIEDS THAT WORK FOR YOU! 1-800-579-SELL. ACCOUNTANT. Ann Arbor Property Manager is looking for an Accountant with at least 3 yrs of exp.

ACCOUNTANT FULL TIME. Excellent position. Excellent benefits & work environment. Must have tax preparation accounting & computer exp.

Bundle Haulers. needed to drop off newspapers to youth carrier homes, twice a week in the Farmington & Redford areas on Thursday and Saturday. Please call ReNisha 734-805-3623

APPOINTMENT SETTER. Ideal for anyone who can not get out to work. Work part time from your home.

ASSISTANT CREDIT MANAGER. Virginia Title Company in Livonia has an open position for an assistant credit manager.

AUTO PORTER. Needed for Gordon Chevrolet New Car Department. Good driving record a must.

CAMPAIGN COORDINATOR. Leading non profit seeks candidate for campaign coordinator position based in Madison Heights.

COMMUNITY MANAGER / ON-SITE. Part Time position available at the Woodbury Green Club house office in Belleville.

CONSTRUCTION & SERVICE TECHNICIAN. With experience for Michigan's largest factory built home service company.

EXP'D CARPENTER. With painting exp 3 1/2 years experience. Please call 248 930 4367.

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Executive Director. Growing Oakland County Chamber of Commerce seeks Executive Director to continue positive membership and event growth.

ASSISTANT MANAGER. Needed 2 days a week for self storage facility in Canton. Computer experience & flexibility a must.

AUTO MECHANICS. Immediate position available for a busy company in Redford. Must have 2 years exp and own tools.

CARPET CLEANER Night Shift. Part or Full time. Must have experience with Truck Mount. 734 525 3123

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DRIVERS. Trucking company looking for Semi and Train Drivers w/ dump experience only.

FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT HEAD. Full time financial degree and excellent computer skills req. Send Resume to Older Person's Commission.

Observer & Eccentric



Employment

HOMETOWNlife.com

Help Wanted-General 5000

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Trainee program Limited openings Excellent pay/benefits Paid training/relocation expenses Call 1 800 922 1703 Mon-Fri Between 8AM-4PM

FLOOR MAINTENANCE
Weekends & evenings available Couples welcome Reliable transportation Tri-County area Ron 313 673 4971 or Jackie 313 478 1200

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For Country Inn & Suites in Novi Apply within 21625 Haggerty Rd (248) 596 9800

Front Desk Staff/Assistant Manager
Hilton Inn Southfield Located center of American Dr and Franklin Rd Apply in person

GENERAL LABOR/WAREHOUSE WORKER
ETNA Supply Company a plumbing and waterworks distributor is looking for energetic and loyal warehouse workers Duties may include shipping receiving loading and unloading trucks in and out doors as well as picking orders Teamwork and commitment to accuracy is mandatory Competitive pay and benefits Please apply in person with resume at 29948 Beck Road Wixom MI 48393

Leasing Agent
Full Time for Westland Apts Full Benefits Included Leasing / Customer Service exp Preferred May work Saturdays 734 455 7200

Leasing Consultant
Part time for large Dearborn Heights area apt community- Experience req'd Great opportunity for right person Please fax resume to (313) 274 1927

Leasing Consultant
For retirement community in Westland Enthusiastic pleasant hardworking organized energetic and a real go getter Full time with Saturdays Fax resume to (734) 729 9840 Equal Opportunity Employer

Leasing Consultant
If you like working with the public and are results oriented please fax your resume and cover letter to Leasing Consultant Berger Realty Group Inc (248) 905 5511 or email to humresnew2@hotmail.com Leasing team is responsible for leasing marketing tenant retention and other administrative functions Requires a minimum of a high school diploma 2.4 years experience good sales techniques and knowledge in Fair Housing Candidates must be resilient like people and know how to close the deal

Leasing Position
For Apt community in Westland Full time benefits available 401K Experience preferred Call 734-459 6600 Ask for Martha

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Experienced for solo practitioner in W Bloomfield Legal exp req Part of Full Time Pleasant work environment Please fax resume w/cover letter to 248 682 2258

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Loan Originators 100% COMMISSION
Unlimited Leads Signing Bonus Send resume to mbilas@aavantagetrust us or fax 313 537 3118 Phillip/Mike

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Busy Credit Union has full time position for organized self starter Must have credit union or banking experience Able to process transactions cross sell products and services possess above average communication computer and solution oriented skills some knowledge of loans and reliable transportation and dependability will be required for this multi task position Email resumes only to Resume@priorityccu.com No phone calls please EOE

ORGANIST
Needed for small Protestant church in Westland Call Beverly 734 722 4102

Help Wanted-General 5000

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• Excellent communication and computer skills
• Prior experience in pharmaceutical sales is a plus
We offer:
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For consideration fax your resume to our Recruiting Department at 734 743 7015 or Email to sdoonson@hbdg.com THDG is an EOE

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\$8.00/Hour P/T M/F 5:00pm-9:00pm PLYMOUTH 734 283 9934

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Designer Sales Foreman Must be fully qualified Please send resumes to: Cambio Nursery Inc 50145 Ford Rd Canton MI 48187 (734)495 1700 Fax (734)495 1131

LAW ENFORCEMENT
Full time no exper Req'd We train M/F age 17-34 Good pay excellent benefits educational and travel opportunities Call (734) 729 0450 AN ARMY OF ONE U S Army

MAINTENANCE
Needed for Plymouth apt community Must have minimum of 2 years experience in carpentry plumbing electrical & HVAC Must have strong leadership capabilities a valid driver's license and ability to pass a background check Apt available after 30 days included benefits and advancement opportunity Fax resume to Denise at (248) 569 1508

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Needed for Plymouth apt community Must have minimum of 2 years experience in carpentry plumbing electrical & HVAC Must have strong leadership capabilities a valid driver's license and ability to pass a background check Apt available after 30 days included benefits and advancement opportunity Fax resume to Denise at (248) 569 1508

MAINTENANCE & CLEANING
Apartment complex in Wayne looking for a couple to do maintenance and cleaning Good pay Apartment included Cal (734) 326 2770

MAINTENANCE
Farmington apt community seeking exp maintenance person Must have exp and be knowledgeable of plumbing electrical appliance HVAC repair and apartment prep Permanent full time position Competitive compensation on package Fax resume to 248 474 1372

MAINTENANCE PERSON
needed for 1 ght maintenance duties 4-6 hrs week Would consider rent credit for work Call 248 676 2815

MAINTENANCE/RESIDENT MANAGER
Resident Manager needed for Farmington Hills Apartment Community Position requires excellent organization and leadership skills Manager is hands on responsible for maintenance grounds and turnover Must live on site to share on call Mail resume to DJR PO Box 9154 Farmington Hills MI 48333 9154 fax to 248 539 2135

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Growing home care agency looking for full time Marketing Director for Metropolitan Detroit area Experience in home care and knowledge of Medicare required Please mail resume to Superior Home Care Inc 17330 Northline Park Court Suite 201 Southfield MI 48075 or fax to (248) 559 1604

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Help Wanted-General 5000

Machinist
E A F INC is a company that fabricates out of extruded aluminum shapes production component parts and aluminum plates currently looking to fill permanent full or part time position
MACHINIST
Working knowledge of Bridgeport reading of machine drawing GD & T and quality process control Please send resume to E A F INC 41166 Capital Ave Canton MI 48187 Fax 734 414 9830 Email pgleam@engineeredaluminumfab.com or fill out application @ above address

MACHINISTS
ALL AROUND LATHE MILL Fulltime Must have exp Benefits Apply at 613 Manufacturers Dr Westland 734 729 5700

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World's leading provider of facilities services has an immediate need for a 1st class Refrigeration Eng in Detroit Will work in a large commercial building maintenance exp Must be willing to work any shift Apply Now! Fax to 714 513 9082 or email resumes@emcorgroup.com

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PLUMBERS / DRAIN CLEANERS
Minimum 2 yrs exp Call Nick @ 1 888 655 6700

PLUMBERS / DRAIN CLEANERS
Minimum 2 yrs exp Call Nick @ 1 888 655 6700

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT TEAM NEEDED!
On site resident management team needed for Westland area self storage facility Hotel retail or sales experience required along with strong customer service computer janitorial and maintenance skills Must be enthusiastic outgoing reliable self starters and have strong work ethics Residence provided (must live on site) Benefits included Fax resume to 248 855 0170 Attn Westland Manager

RECRUITER ADMINISTRATIVE ASST RECEPTIONIST
FT opportunity at busy expanding home care agency in Rochester Hills call 248 293 2435 or fax 248 293 2401

RECRUITER/RESEARCHER
Boydett Detroit Part Time Michigan's largest retained executive search firm is looking to expand our staff We are seeking a Recruiter/Researcher to be located in our Birmingham MI office Candidates must be able to work a flexible schedule (16 to 30 hours/week) College degree preferred Qualified applicants should have a minimum of five yrs business experience excellent verbal and written communication skills and the ability to work on a variety of projects simultaneously If you feel you meet these qualifications please send your resume and salary requirements to Barbara A Swan Research Director Boydett Detroit 344 N Old Woodward Suite 304 Birmingham MI 48009 bswan@boydett.com

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Boydett Detroit Part Time Michigan's largest retained executive search firm is looking to expand our staff We are seeking a Recruiter/Researcher to be located in our Birmingham MI office Candidates must be able to work a flexible schedule (16 to 30 hours/week) College degree preferred Qualified applicants should have a minimum of five yrs business experience excellent verbal and written communication skills and the ability to work on a variety of projects simultaneously If you feel you meet these qualifications please send your resume and salary requirements to Barbara A Swan Research Director Boydett Detroit 344 N Old Woodward Suite 304 Birmingham MI 48009 bswan@boydett.com

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Help Wanted-General 5000

PARALEGAL/LEGAL ASSISTANT
Part time for real estate related practice including mortgage foreclosures land contracts & evictions Must prefer at least a paralegal graduate or paralegal exp Email resume to shawner@stoblaw.com or fax 248 642 9001

PARISH ADMINISTRATOR / BOOKKEEPER
Part Time Please send resume to 3325 Middlebelt Rd West Bloomfield MI 48323 1940 Or Email kwagner@advntdnt church.com

Payroll Specialist
Growing Human Resources Management firm is seeking a Payroll Specialist Strong customer service and payroll processing skills are required Experience with a PEO and PayPlus software preferred but not necessary Interested candidates should send or fax resumes to AccessPoint P/R 29200 Northwestern Hwy Suite 300 Southfield MI 48034 Fax 248 763 1410

PHOTOGRAPHERS
Experienced wedding photographers to photograph weddings for studio that has been in business for 103 yrs Please contact Lisa or Cleon at 248 948 9500 on Mon Tues or Thur 3-9pm

PLUMBERS / DRAIN CLEANERS
Minimum 2 yrs exp Call Nick @ 1 888 655 6700

PLUMBERS / DRAIN CLEANERS
Minimum 2 yrs exp Call Nick @ 1 888 655 6700

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT TEAM NEEDED!
On site resident management team needed for Westland area self storage facility Hotel retail or sales experience required along with strong customer service computer janitorial and maintenance skills Must be enthusiastic outgoing reliable self starters and have strong work ethics Residence provided (must live on site) Benefits included Fax resume to 248 855 0170 Attn Westland Manager

RECRUITER ADMINISTRATIVE ASST RECEPTIONIST
FT opportunity at busy expanding home care agency in Rochester Hills call 248 293 2435 or fax 248 293 2401

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Observer & Eccentric



Employment

HOMETOWNlife.com

Help Wanted-Dental 5040

DENTAL / BUSINESS OFFICE
Need someone with Dentech computer experience insurance knowledge and financial arrangements Full time Southfield area Please Call Marie 248 352 7722

DENTAL ASSISTANT
Westland office needs part or full time experienced assistant Call 734 425 9130

DENTAL ASSISTANT
Canton family practice 25 30 hours per week No evenings or weekends Exp d only Fax resume to 734 455 1281

DENTAL ASSISTANT Part time Mon Wed Fri Exp preferred but not necessary Located in Redford Call 313 534 3313

Dental Assistant/Receptionist
Tues & Thurs NW suburb Prefer cross trained individuals front office & back Fax resume to (248) 354 8883

DENTAL HYGIENIST
Dependable outgoing person needed for Wed & Fridays Troy (248) 649 2868

DENTAL RECEPTIONIST
Need someone with easy dental computer exp insurance knowledge & financial arrangements Full time Southfield Fax 248 557 5622 or call 248 284 0140

FRONT OFFICE
Friendly busy pediatric dental office in Novi seeking full time individual with dental or accounts receivable experience Must be detail oriented Computer experience a must Dentech experience helpful No evenings Benefits (248) 478 3232

Your search ends here in the Classifieds 800-579-SELL (7355)



www.hometownlife.com

OFFICE MANAGER
Quality conscious two doctor practice in Westland seeking experienced dental manager Fax resume to 734 425 7675

Help Wanted-Medical 5060

ASSISTED LIVING NURSE
A licensed luxury senior assisted living community in Oakland County seeks an RN for full time Nurse Manager position Must have experience in a long term senior facility Flexible days with on call Competitive wages and benefits EOE Fax resumes to 248 865 1630 attn LM

ATTENTION ALL RN'S LPN'S
Health Partners Inc needs you Seeking caring and compassionate highly skilled staff to fill private duty cases located in W Bloomfield Must have 1 year current vent exp Good pay some benefits Please call Mon Fri 1 800 969 7723

CARDIOLOGIST
Henry Ford Health System is currently looking for a cardiologist Strong knowledge of patient care diagnosis and treatment of individuals with respect to cardiac disorders and diseases is required Must be board certified/board eligible in cardiology and able to be licensed in the state of MI Email to rfields1@hfs.org

CHECK OUT Careerbuilder.com FOR MORE Observer & Eccentric JOB LISTINGS!

FRONT DESK
Doctor's office Answering phones filing & making appointments Part time Fax resume to 248 661 0300 or call 248 661 0800

Help Wanted-Medical 5060

Health Center Manager

Planned Parenthood of Southeast MI (PPSM) has openings for Managers at their metro Detroit sites (Wayne Oakland and Macomb Counties) The candidate should be highly motivated goal oriented with management leadership skills to move forward the Health Center operation Knowledge of electronic billing systems quality assurance programs & customer service management is important Persons with documented retail management and/or health care center management should apply The organization offers a liberal fringe benefit package for employees Health Care Center operations include evenings and Saturday hours
Fax resume along with cover letter to 313 822 7419

Home Health RN's Come join our growing TEAM!

Current openings include full and part time positions for Medicare Referral/Intake QA Medicare Admits and Private Duty Appropriate experience and skills required Competitive compensation package Continental available special needs for North Oakland and Macomb Contact Administrator Melanie Steele
Phone (248) 358-2260 or FAX (248) 358 2264 or email msteele@medteam.com
The Medical Team 24931 Northwestern Hwy Southfield MI 48075
THE MEDICAL TEAM

HOME THERAPIES RN
CONNECT WITH A GLOBAL LEADER IN DIALYSIS
At Fresenius Medical Care North America you make a difference through the relationships you build with your patients and by providing UltraCare® our team approach to care giving We are currently seeking a part time Home Therapies RN in the Monroe and Adrian MI area

Home Therapies RN
This individual will evaluate patients for the FMS Home Therapies Program assess the home environment train patient and family on safe use of equipment and monitor ability to perform treatments and educate patient/family about ESRD and the FMS Kidney Options Program You will also oversee the patient's response to treatment and document all patient events related to home treatment Requires a state RN license demonstrated teaching skills completion of a training course in dialysis therapies CPR certification and ICD 9 Coding training One year of med/surg nursing peritoneal dialysis experience and ICU experience are preferred
Bring your talent dedication and ambition to Fresenius the world leader in dialysis care To apply please email your resume to Lisa MacLellan at lsamaclellan@fmc na.com EOE

LPN
Busy medical office in Southfield seeks LPN Must be caring and sensitive to patients needs Excellent organizational skills and research experience a definite plus Exec benefit package includes medical dental 401K & more For immediate consideration send resume to
Practice Administrator 28080 Grand River Ave Suite 300 W Farmington Hills MI 48336
LPN FOR ASSISTED LIVING
Midnights shifts 2 3 evenings Plymouth Inn Assisted Living 205 Haggerty Rd Plymouth 734 451 0700

Help Wanted-Medical 5060

Medical Receptionist

For busy Westland practice Seeking mature detail oriented team player Must be able to work independently and multi task Medical insurance background computer and phone skills required Full time/benefits Fax resume and cover letter to 734 525 3876

MEDICAL BILLING & CODING TRAINEES
Needed for training program which features internships and job placement assistance Program starts Jan 20th 1 866 865 6379

MEDICAL ASSISTANT
Experience necessary in Bingham Farms benefits call Sharon at (248) 646 5985

MEDICAL ASSISTANT
Part/Full time in Dermatology office in Farmington Hills Exp a must (248) 553 2900

MEDICAL ASSISTANT
Part Time with potential for Full Time busy medical practice in Farmington Please Email resume to Medexcel@scglobal.net

MEDICAL ASSISTANT
Full time busy West Bloomfield office Derm exp a plus Great benefits Fax resume 248 855 6213 248 855 3366

MEDICAL ASSISTANT
EXP A MUST Two Dr family practices Apr 26 hrs/week Westland area 734 729 1150

NURSE MANAGER
Faith based nursing home seeks experienced RN Great pay & benefits Fulltime Lutheran Home Livonia 28910 Plymouth Road or fax resume 734 425 6024 or call 734 425-4514

DIRECTOR OF PATIENT CARE
A community based Hospice has immediate opening for a dynamic nurse leader to manage our clinical operations Work with people who share and support your dedication to the patient Receive BSN MSN preferred valid Michigan nursing license and 3+ years management and clinical experience in hospice homecare or oncology with demonstrated communication & computer skills Fax resume 734 522 2099 or E mail Community @communityhospiceinc.com

PART TIME CAREGIVERS
Waltonwood at Twelve Oaks is seeking experienced helpful caregivers to provide services to our adults in our luxury Senior Assisted Living Community EOE Apply in person at Waltonwood at Twelve Oaks 27495 Huron Circle Novi Michigan (behind 12 Oaks Mall off 12 Mile Rd) or call (248) 735 1030 for more information

RECEPTIONIST
Growing private optometry practice in Novi seeking Part time person Strong customer service & multi tasking skills Exp a plus Fax resume 248 347 7801 or email drcrisman@tcyecare.com

REGIONAL NURSE MANAGER
An Assisted Living Community seeks an RN for full time Regional Nurse Manager position Candidates must have experience in gerontology be licensed in the State of Michigan and would preferably have a BSN Will work closely with staff residents and families Will train and monitor compliance with all resident care policies and procedures Will travel extensively within the Metro Detroit Area Communication skills a must Must be 21 years of age EOE Email resumes to resume@singham.com attn LM

Help Wanted-Medical 5060

REGISTERED DIETITIAN

to coordinate WIC program at teen health center Full time w/benefits Email Barb Sullivan at bsullivan@cornerhealth.org or send resume to The Corner Health Center 47 N Huron Ypsilanti MI 48197 EOE

RN / LPN
Pediatric office in Canton is seeking a full or part time RN / LPN Duties include serving as a liaison between patients and provider staff quality improvement initiatives assisting in direct patient care performing comprehensive telephone triage and patient education Some computer experience preferred Must be licensed by State of Michigan Competitive salary with excellent benefits package offered Interested applicants may submit their resume to the
Practice Manager 49650 Cherry Hill Road Suite 210 Canton MI 48187 or Fax 734 398 7895

RNs—Medical Offices
3 full time RN positions in Farmington physician offices for IV Infusion Nurses 7:30 4:30 9 5 and 11am 7pm \$24 \$26/hr *LPN for OB/GYN Dearborn \$18 \$19/hr Resume to tara@harperjobs.com Fax 248 932 1214 Phone 248 932 1202 Harper Associates www.harperjobs.com

STILL SEARCHING?
Look For Career MarketPlace on the front cover of the Employment section for more careers! Observer & Eccentric

X RAY TECH
Part time flexible hours for busy Orthopedic office in Farmington Hills 248 474 5081

ALL POSITIONS
New Restaurant opening January 9th Great daytime hours Farmington Hills 248 921 3144
BAR TENDER/COOK
full time evenings apply at Starting Gate Saloon 135 N Center Street Northville
BARTENDER
Experienced full time 6 mo post on for bowling alley 248 255 3254
CANDY MAKER
Ryba's Fudge Shop seeking person to make fudge on Mackinac Island in the summer and Metro Detroit area in the winter Will train no experience necessary Must be willing to relocate Salary benefits housing on Mackinac provided Call Ryan 1 800 626 6304 www.theislandhouse.com
CONCESSION WORKERS
Weekends and nights Flexible hours Please call 248 662 0114 for an appt

Help Wanted-Food/Beverage 5080

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Help Wanted-Food/Beverage 5080

SERVER POSITIONS

The Detroit Airport Marriott is looking for guest oriented individuals to fill Server positions in our newly renovated Ha Penny Pub
Other positions available are
• Room Service Server
• Night Auditor
• Building Eng near
On the spot interviews will be granted when applying
Detroit Airport Marriott 30559 Flynn Road Romulus Michigan
The Detroit Airport Marriott is operated by Merritt Hospitality & intends to provide a drug free work environment for a complete list of open management positions nationwide please visit our web site at www.merrithospitality.com

SERVERS & FRONT DESK ASSOCIATE
Fax resumes to 734 729 9163

We always find the best stuff in the Observer & Eccentric!

WAITSTAFF SHORT ORDER COOK DISHWASHER
Apply in person KONEY ISLAND INN Livonia Mall 7 Mile & Middlebelt

Help Wanted-Sales 5120

A Career in Real Estate
Free Training Location Location S E Corner of Six/Haggerty Ask for Larry Fry or Tricia Spasee
Century 21 Hartford South Inc 734 464 6400 www.cent21.biz

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REAL ESTATE IS BOOMING! Excellent Commissions Great Training TIM COURTNEY Oakland/Livington area (248) 437 2600 DOUG COURTNEY W Wayne (734) 459 6222

REMERICA
HOMETOWN
A BOOMING real estate offices in Northville and Livonia have openings for outgoing Sales people! Training available 734 525 4200 248 912 9990 REMERICA INTEGRITY www.remerica integrity.com

AMERICA'S #1
Producing CENTURY 21 firm in the nation has immediate openings for new and experienced full time real estate professionals! Our proven and successful training program allows for above average earnings! An unbeatable marketing program internet exposure personal website and a support staff will help you meet your goals Contact Chris Patrick at the CENTURY Town & Country Plymouth office for a confidential interview 734 455 5600

NEW HOME SALES SPECIALIST
Home Builders Advantage Michigan's largest new home sales company is seeking smart friendly motivated candidates to manage sales for new home communities We provide the best training in the industry Benefits income potential 80K+ ability to work weekends
Learn more at HBAdvantage.com Email resume to dconteras@hbadvantage.com

OUTSIDE SALES
Opportunity with Effective Mailers a Coupon Direct Mail Advertising Company for motivated aggressive and experienced outside sales person Excellent earnings potential E mail jaigupta@couponvalue.com fax 586 777-4141 28510 Hayes Roseville MI 48066 2314 Call Jai Gupta at 586 777 3223 Ext 201

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Help Wanted-Sales 5120

Business Professionals and College Graduates

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Discover the difference! For details Call Lillian Sanderson COLDWELL BANKER PREFERRED REALTORS 734-392-6000

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seeks highly motivated w/exec communication skills industry exp a plus Fax resume w/compensation history to 800 208 5109

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Self motivated & Branch opportunities Start at min 65% commission & as high as 100% Office space available if desired First Alliance Mortgage Call David Blatt for info 248 594 0115

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Exciting fast paced environment looking for part time and full time sales assistants with strong computer skills Office hours 11 5 weekdays and weekends available \$10 per hour Fax resume to 734 464 7232

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Help Wanted-Sales 5120

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If you are serious about entering the business and profession of Real Estate Sales you owe it to yourself to investigate why we are #1 in the market place and best suited to insure your success
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• Group Health Coverage
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• Latest Technical Computer Programs
• Enable You To Have The Competitive Advantage
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Fully Ins Lifetime warranty
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Admire Your Fire
Well seasoned
Hard Birch & Fruit
Pickup and delivery
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Repair Old floors a specialty
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We also complete bsmts &
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Any small job 248 231 1125

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Trusted National Brand
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Move scrap metal clean
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Quick service Free est
Wayne/Oakland Central loca
tion 547 2764 or 559 8138

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Roofing/Siding/Gutters/Trim
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Lic & Ins 734 414 9160

Home Restoration Services
Remodeling Basements
Kitchens Baths Additions
Garages and Siding Over 40
yrs exp Licensed & Insured
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EXECU MAID
Goos The Extra Mile!
Weekly appointments only 6
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Painting Papering
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Affordable prices Neat
Int/Ext Insured Free Est
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INTERIORS R Us Int & Ext
painting wallpaper removal
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734 306 3624 586 872 9832

PETERSON PAINTING
Custom colors are our
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Drywall Repair 30+ yrs exp
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Specializing in kitchen & bath
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Quality work completed with
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For honesty & integrity
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Announcements 6000

LOOK HERE

Personals 6000

PAULINE P.
Were you in the Dunkin Donuts
on Ford Rd in Garden Ct by
Sept 30 am? An old friend
may have seen you I have no
answer as to why I didn't say
anything other than to answer
your question! When I turned
around I couldn't believe my
eyes I was truly speechless
it was like the last time I saw
you unexpectedly at an auto
auction 30 years ago! I've
been upset with myself for not
saying hello Anxious to speak
to you Call me collect or write
me a note Call 808 965 7603
PO Box 1464 Pahoa Hawaii
96778

Home Based Business 6430

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You won't believe it
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31319 888 230 751

Merchandise 7000-7740

Absolutely Free 7000

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CHRISTMAS TREE
9.5 ft High quality tree
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12x30 inches 3/8 inches thick
thick rounded and polished
edges Free! Call 248 477
2729 or 586 612 8255

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12x30 inches 3/8 inches thick
thick rounded and polished
edges Call 248 477 2729 or
586 612 8255

KITTENS Looking for a good
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AMERICAN FLYER S GAUGE
12 trains 32+ accessories
8x16 layout must see! \$5500
248 851 0679

ANTIQUE
ORIENTAL RUG
Circa 1910 excellent
condition genuis size
12 3 x 22 7 Country of origin
Iran Malayer Binkabad Large
floral cartouches in blue rust
salmon & tan on ivory seal
with navy floral border
Appraised at \$34 500/open to
offers 313 268 0742

Antiques/Collectibles 7020

DEPT 66 VILLAGES
\$25 each Accessories \$5
\$10 248 931 2294

DINER PINBALL exc cond
tior \$1400/best offer
ZAXXON \$600/best offer CD
Jukebox \$2500 Firm
734 844 0532

Auction Sales 7090

AUCTION
Delinquent Store
Rooms
Undercover
Self Storage
Fri Dec 16th 10am
13995 N Haggerty Rd
Plymouth MI
734 451 7444
JCGavelTravel@aol.com

PUBLIC AUCTION
Undercover Self Storage
13995 North Haggerty Rd
Plymouth MI
Fr Dec 16 2005 10:00am
Units D 06 D 35 E 25
E 58 F 29 F 66 H 55

7100 Estate Sales 7100

ESTATE SALE Sat Sun Dec
17 18 10 5pm 21335
Hickorywood Court Dearborn
Hts (N of Ford Road off
Cottlevue Drive) Dining room
set household goods wood
folding chairs misc

CANTON One day only
Saturday December 17
9 00 AM 4 00 PM 2867
Woodmont Drive Cross
streets Sheldon and Palmer

ROCHESTER HILLS Thrus
Thurs (12 8 12 13) 9am
8pm Furniture appliances
ridng mower & snow blow
er 1999 E 150 Conversion
van Golf cart ski golf &
other equip Treadmill bridal
gown designer Men s &
Ladies wear Too many
households to mention (734)
674 7612 or 248 650 7925

MOVING SALES 7130

COATS Lady's size 10 full
length raccoon coat
\$750/offer Lady's size 10
dyed fox jacket \$1000/offer
Other designer cloth ng
also 248 347 1608

MINI COAT
3/4 Length size 16 Good
condition
(248) 478 6940

VINTAGE CLOTHING from the
30s/40s thru 70s Including
fur stole w/ tails some
shoes 248 542 9264

WEDDING DRESS Stunning
satin laced & beaded w/
train & plast c cover for small
frame worth \$2000 asking
\$500 248-417 1458

Household Goods 7160

- FURNITURE -
LEAVING STATE
Must sell! Will sacrifice beauti
ful near new furniture items
include elegant Italian leather
sofa & loveseat (cost over
\$3 000) will sell both pieces for
\$1 550) also have beautiful 13
piece formal Chippendale cher
ry dining room suite 2 king
sized cherry 11 piece bedroom
suits 2 cherry queen sized
bedroom suites cherry five
piece game set 3 piece cherry
pub table set all wood 9 piece
cherry kitchen set cherry &
mahogany grandfather clocks
two 3 piece cherry coffee table
sets gorgeous 24 percent lead
crystal and solid brass lamps
pictures silk trees etc All less
than 3 mos old & in excellent
condition Must be sold as
soon as possible Private party
Please call 248 853 8124

A NEW KING PILLOW TOP
MATTRESS SET
New in bag only \$250
Del verable 734 891 8481

ANTIQUE OAK CHEST Acorn
pulls blue/white check sofa &
loveseat buffet w/ hutch 2
dressers w/ mirrors tw n beds
(complete) small tables
Noriitake L smore china
antique frames Laura Ashley
coverlets Pack N Play exten
sion ladder All good to perfect
Reasonable 248 642 7134

BED BRAND New super
low top mattress set in plas
tic with warranty Must sell!
Can deliver 734 231 6622

BED SLEIGH BED
Queen size cherry Brand new
in box can deliver \$300
734 326 2744

BED SPLIT KING SIZE BED
9 dresser w/ mirror 5 drawer
bureau chest 1 end table mat
tress hardly used Like new
cond 734 285 0774

BED A QUEEN PILLOW
TOP MATTRESS SET
New in plastic sell \$150
734 891 8481 Can Deliver

BEDDING SET 2 piece queen
size pillow top mattress set
New in plastic with warranty
\$160 734 326 2744

BEDROOM FURNITURE
1940/50 s 2 dressers
nightstand and mirror \$200
248 546 6563

BEDROOM SET
7 piece girls honey color
wood good condition \$250
248 553 0906

BOOKS Christmas Decor
ations oak finish storage
cabinet office supplies
734 728 2061

BUNK BEDS Stanley Solid
oak Honey Excellent cond
tion Pull out Captain's draw
ers \$600 248 477 8686

COUCH 82 1 Chair dining
room table w/2 leaves & 4
chairs Chest dresser & night
stand lounge chair & ottoman
Moving (248) 477 9937

DINING ROOM SET-
Exc cond China lic table and
6 chairs \$900 248 449 4569

Entire Kitchen Renovation
House Beautiful European
style cabinets Corian counter
tops & sink many extras All
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248 302 2883

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Stove wood or coal burning
used only 4 seasons
Complete w/owners manual
\$500/best (248) 442 4943

FULL SIZE MATTRESS SET
New still wrapped w/
warranty Sacrifice \$135
(734) 891 8481

FURNITURE Newer black
leather sofa loveseat 40
ottoman glass dining room
table & chrs coffee tab es
complete brn corner cur o
248 737 2952

FURNITURE Little Tikes red
twin race car bed \$175
Couch loveseat chair &
ottoman neutral color \$200
734 397 9718

FURNITURE Christmas spe
cial! Girl's 12 piece yellow/
white brdm set \$600 Coffee
table \$25 Sofas \$50 End
tables & lamps 248 349 3117

FURNITURE Lane dining
table 6 chairs china cabinet
\$1000/best Wood twin plat
form bed w/drawers \$75 &
desk \$50 248 788 1100

FURNITURE Toshiba big
screen TV desk set end
tables leather furniture etc
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FURNITURE MOVING SALE
White bunk beds oak crib &
changing table & oak enter
tainment center (5 x6) Exc
condition 248 882 6377

FURNITURE MOVING SALE
Must go now! New entertain
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more Laura (248) 225 7717

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ity hand woven for sale by pri
vate owner Wool silk & com
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ors Liquidating below cost
Good Investment Please Call
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Dishwasher KitchenAid
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almost 5 years old best offer
MUST GO! 734 414 1726

FRIDGE WHITE
SIDE BY SIDE
Exec cond \$350
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MAYTAG Washer & electric
dryer only used 3 months
paid \$900 Selling for \$400
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RANGE "Brand New" Daor
Dual Fuel Range 30
Preference stainless steel
convert on self clean 4
burner never used still on
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SEARS KENMORE GAS
DRYER Recently refurbished
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cond \$100 734 397 1808

WASHER & DRYER
WHIRLPOOL used only 6
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for \$500 Originally \$1000
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WASHER & GAS DRYER GE
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used 21/2 yrs Moving must
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HOT TUB 2005 New many
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Brand new in 2005 Great
Christmas gift Use in bar or
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Contact Liz at 248 506 5623

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HO Train layout 7 x10
Three main lines lots of
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248 689 1927

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HOUSE 21 X47 X40 electrical
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Around Handicap Scooter
1 yr old \$6000 new asking
\$950/best 586 795 3538

Lawn, Garden & Snow
Equipment 7480

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CHRISTMAS GREENS
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LINDEN MICH
MON SUN 9 5
810 735 5750

Miscellaneous For
Sale 7500

CAR RACK & CARRIER
Thule good condition larger
size fits most autos \$150
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4 brdm log cabin furnished
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DRUM SET
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- 3 Follow the instructions to listen to the advertiser's voicemail greeting
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Free Ads: Free ads placed in this section are not guaranteed to run every week. Be sure to renew your ad frequently to keep it fresh.

Guidelines: Personals are for adults 18 or over seeking monogamous relationships. To ensure your safety carefully screen all responses and have first meetings occur in a public place. This publication reserves the right to edit, revise or reject any advertisement at any time at its sole discretion and assumes no responsibility for the content of or replies to any ad. Not all ads have corresponding voice messages. To review our complete guidelines call (617) 425-2636.



WOMEN SEEKING MEN

LET'S LAUGH TOGETHER

SWF 49 55 full-figured brown/brown romantic lovable humorous likes entertaining traveling family time Seeking SM 40-56 N/S social drinker ok who puts God first in his life for possible LTR ☎861408

TRY ME!

Attractive SWF 49 I enjoy movies dining skiing and skating Seeking an attractive SWM 45-55, who enjoys most activities ☎869847

RECENTLY DIVORCED MOM

SWF 43 N/S would like to meet an outgoing friendly non smokers man 35-53 who likes outdoors bicycling walking ☎115795

COULD YOU BE MR. RIGHT?

Are you a big tall handsome man? DWF 47 very attractive loving fun seeks SWM to share life together ☎443339

ASIAN MAN WANTED

Pretty blue eyed blonde, 55 plus-sized warm and bright seeks intelligent handsome man for dating Troy area ☎827007

ENJOYS THE SIMPLE THINGS

Attractive DBF early 60s feels much younger N/S loves music and dancing stays physically active would like to hear from friendly honest man 56-68 N/S ☎672174

SEXY REDHEAD/GREAT LEGS

DWF 54 142lbs 5'6 enjoys blues animals gardening homeowner no kids Seeking SM 5'10+ N/S social drinker for LTR ☎548938

LET'S ENJOY LIFE

SWF 57 N/S seeks intelligent kind hearted young at-heart WM 57-68 N/S who enjoys traveling, camping boating (Great Lakes or ocean) music book stores and laughter ☎759907

LONESOME

Senior WF retired 54 active honest healthy Need the attention of a WM 65-75 enjoys everything easy to please SO hurry up and call me! ☎449585

I LISTEN WITH MY HEART

Attractive DWF late 40s Cancer N/S seeks special no games WM 45+ N/S for caring quality committed relationship Let's create sparks and watch them fly ☎639272

ISO GOOD FRIEND?

Possible relationship? Read on SWF 47 N/S enjoys cooking dining out art museums plays, reading and traveling Seeking honest WM 42-57 N/S ☎857253

ARE YOU OUT THERE?

SWF 42 Anes smoker never married looking for companionship Seeking good hearted kind hard working SWM 30-50 ☎819435

ATTRACTIVE, HONEST...

SWF youthful 43 down-to-earth I enjoy camping fishing amusement parks dining blockbuster nights etc Seeking honest WM 35-45 for dating possible LTR Must have good SOH ☎865670

GREAT COMPANION

SF 65 looks 55 5'2 unique bright w/many talents and interests I'm well-traveled very attractive health conscious How about you? Seeking non-smoking counterpart 62-70 ☎633527

SHALL WE DANCE?

I am a SBF 58 5'3" 170lbs attractive intelligent creative articulate seeks SWM 57-73 who is kind-hearted articulate who enjoys dancing walking traveling movies dining out ☎812098

ENERGETIC AND HAPPY

Very attractive blonde refined fit full of life easygoing well dressed professionally employed affectionate romantic kind early very youthful 60s 5'3 green eyes feminine shapely enjoys dining travel music theatre dancing family and friends Seeking an honest handsome some fit educated college graduate gentleman over 55, N/S with a youthful passion for life Serious replies only ☎652360

HI

SBF 48 Aries N/S seeks man 45-60 who loves movies plays and dining out Lets spend some time together ☎853245

SEEKING SECURE MAN

SF 5'3", long red hair semi retired Vietnam vet looking for a real man 35-60 Must be able to communicate and be affectionate ☎860537

MYSTICAL WOMAN

Feminine SBF 37 loving and lovable 5'4 135lbs seeks creative compassionate metaphysical Feminine woman for long talks romantic weekends love? ☎865148

FRIENDSHIP FIRST

SWF 40 brown/brown plus size likes walks most movies reading cuddling time with family and friends more Looking for WM 35-48 for dating ☎859885

STRIKING

blue eyed blonde! Slim sensuous romantic fun caring seeking attractive fit fun-loving male 48-59 Friendship LTR I enjoy movies, walks music hugs laughter quiet times Lets get to know each other! ☎962332

DOWN-TO-EARTH HOMEBOY

SBF 37 5' 160lbs single mom of 2 nice smile hard-working N/S seeks teddy bear type SBM 37-42 N/S kids + for friendship maybe LTR ☎848200

GET TO KNOW ME

SBF 39 5'6" provides care for the elderly, N/S loves action mystery and suspense movies Seeking man 25-45 for friendship possible romance ☎853842

RESCUE ME!

SBF 41 5'5 average build enjoys church family shopping much more Looking for SBM 43-47 professionally employed N/S who knows how to treat a woman ☎408635

FORMER MODEL

SWF 50 5'6 slender intelligence and dancing Seeks partner 38-50 who is attractive and fit to share his interests and more ☎600106

CUTE AND CLASSY

SBF mid 50s seeks attractive gentleman 50+ with similar interests I love jogging walks concerts quiet evenings ☎574342

LIFE'S AN ADVENTURE

Active sociable SWF 44, 5'4 size 10 auburn/green mother home/business owner enjoys horror for eign films, Middle-Eastern cuisine the beach reading dancing cycling Seeking romantic sociable happy man open to life/love ☎746704

WHERE ARE YOU?

Attractive SBF 32 loves comedy clubs movies concerts fishing bowling rollerblading and amusement parks ISO SM 32-39 race open for LTR Serious replies only ☎695115

SINGLE MOM

WF 20 one young son likes watching tv different kinds of music more Looking for WM 20-25 for dating ☎858473

LOVE CAN BUILD A BRIDGE

SWF 55 romantic caring sensitive N/S with zest for life is looking for Mr Right ISO S/DWM 39-60 sincere about togetherness ☎863279

GOOD MAN WANTED

Attractive SBF marriage minded 5'6 average build 40 Capricorn N/S seeks BM 40-51 N/S to enjoy life and more ☎692032

BROWN SUGAR AND SPICE

SF 47 years young 5'5" very outgoing loves family fun life Would like to spend time with someone 40-60 who loves jazz concerts movies dinners weekend get-aways ☎208051

LIKE HAVING FUN?

SF 5' 112lbs blonde/green looking for a romantic guy 20-25 who is tall handsome nice and knows how to treat a lady ☎845044

SOULMATE SEARCH

Slim attractive 57-yr-old JF looking for her soulmate, any sincere successful JM between the ages of 54-64 please respond ☎589875

VERY OLD-FASHIONED

Widowed BF 58 185lbs would like to meet a very nice man to be my good companion ☎837276

SLIM AND PETITE

Easygoing active DWF retired ISO fun male 60+ who likes bridge tennis reading hiking animals kids popcorn willing to don a tuxedo now and then ☎271793

SEEKING COMPANIONSHIP

Loving attractive SWCF 74 trim fun N/D N/S homebody type seeks lasting friendship and happiness with a quality gentleman in his 70s Lets talk! ☎794040

HAPPY & SECURE

DCF 68 5'2 long dark brown/brown, N/S N/D with positive attitude enjoys leisurely drives movies and dining out Seeking man 58-75 for LTR ☎689606

GOOD LOOKER

Positive caring easygoing SBPF 53 (locks younger), N/S not into bars enjoys jazz, old-school music and fun times Seeking special secure man 48-60 N/S for laughter good times and LTR ☎725001

KIND HEART

Full figured SF 55 enjoys dancing and all types of music likes working with animals seeks good natured single man 44-60 ☎742466

LOVING LEO

Widowed WPF 53 5'9 brown/brown N/S nursing home activities coordinator enjoys boating swimming and Michigan State football games Seeking WM 50-62 with similar interests ☎759316

59 YEARS

OLD ENTREPRENEUR

Pretty charming SWF successful kind compassionate lots of fun looking for her knight in shining armor Any sincere caucasian gentlemen 55-80 please respond Hopefully well be each others soul mates ☎592074

WILDFLOWER

SWF 63 5'6" average build Anes N/S enjoys dancing dining out seeks WM 58-75 N/S with a sense of humor, for friendship possible romance ☎720594

A KIND HEART

SBF 56 mother enjoys dining in/out swimming horseback riding camping picnics Seeking sociable honest fun employed man N/S to share happiness friendship and possible LTR ☎780769

GET TO KNOW THIS

petite attractive SBF 57 N/S enjoys music, concerts dining Looking for SBM 57-63 for friendship possible LTR ☎402995

A GREAT CATCH

Slim attractive lady 69 employed full of vim/vigor loves dancing, singing the opera concerts fine dining cooking in walks life in general ISO loving fun man w/good sense of humor ☎860625

CAN U MAKE ME LAUGH?

Spontaneous SWF 61 5'4 average build, happy independent humorous enjoys boating cards music dining walks travel golf Seeking good-humored SM w/similar interests for companionship ☎962703

THICK AND HEALTHY

SBF 30 5'5 240lbs N/S N/D no kids employed Seeking nice-looking SM 20-35 who kids N/S for friendship possibly more ☎534802

HOMEBODY

SBF 63 5'8 155lbs retired (but does work part-time) very honest and caring Scorpio N/S seeks BM 58-65 honest and caring ☎553674

MEN SEEKING WOMEN

OPEN TO ALMOST ANYTHING

Optimistic outgoing SWM 46 enjoys most activities yet open to new ideas and adventures seeks spirited spontaneous SWF age open ☎547524

HAPPY DAD

Single father of three 37 loves family outdoors biking barbecues cooking and more Looking for a lovely WF 30-45 to share happiness and life with ☎715711

LETS TRY THIS OUT

Nice SWM 40s energetic accom modating easy to talk to seeks a great lady for friendship and love ☎258398

I'M A GOOD GUY WHO...

likes to have fun SBM 46 5'4" 200lbs Taurus smoker loves play ing pool and gambling Seeking WF 30-35 smoker who likes to have fun, too ☎858825

ROMANCE AND YOU

over due? If you are a SWF 40-55 decent looking and somewhat romantic than we might connect This gentle optimistic SWM could make you really happy ☎799032

HAPPY GO LUCKY

Dance flirt and have fun with me! SWM 40s seeks friendship with a good natured fun-to-be-with SWF 35-50 ☎283848

ROMANCE AND REALITY

Handsome gent SWM 40s one of a-kind lots of great interests willing to share them Seeking special lady in my life to adore ☎283228

JUST SOMEONE TO

make your day better Meet me with ease and confidence Humorous nice-looking gent 40s seeks nice SWF girlfriend ☎609661

LONELY & READY

SWM 49 Italian heart of gold Virgo N/S seeks WF 45-55 with a nice build ready for LTR Serious replies only ☎860305

KIND, HANDSOME TEACHER

SWPM 53 6' 220lbs light smoker social drinker looking for one good woman Please call Troy area ☎864792

WELL, HELLO

SM very young-looking 50 5'7 180lbs medium build employed self-reliant D/D-free easygoing and easy to get along with enjoys biking and cooking Seeking S/DWF 40 55-20 350lbs ☎597126

NEW DREAM TEAM?

Spend some time with this bright enthusiastic optimistic yet realistic SWM who is looking for a nice gal 40s or 50s ☎550046

GET IN TOUCH

SBM 24 5'8 humble down to earth and looking to meet a SF 18-30 I would like to spend quality time with that special person possibly more ☎871380

COMPLETE ME

African-American male 21 5'7 180lbs father of one I am loving enjoy movies music and reading Seeking a woman 25-41 who is loving w/same interest ☎871795

NO GAMES!

SBM 23 5'10 athletic build Looking for a mature down-to-earth female for a committed mature relationship ☎871888

SWM DESIRES SBF

Call me if you desire a nice shape blue-eyed blonde 50 year old 180lbs Desires one on one for friendship and definitely romance ☎777324

GENTLE AND CUTE

Active and attractive SWM 58 good-natured friendly gent enjoys outdoors dancing casinos estate sales etc Seeking sincere romantic friendly lady ☎341899

A GENTLEMAN

SWM 39 N/S works in the construction business interested in sports art likes to have a lot of laughs seeks SWF 27-37 ☎808365

LOOKING FOR YOU

SBM 45 seeks attractive reliable affectionate SBF not into games who knows how to enjoy life and have fun ☎866435

IRREGULAR JOE!

Literate outdoorsy SWM bespectacled 49 5'10 heavyset refuses to grow up honest kind passion ate into the arts cycling camping playing pool dancing acoustic Guitar Mando Singer/Songwriter Seeking someone equally Cerebral ☎858985

LOOKING FOR ME?

Adventurous SWM 44 brown/blue handsome humorous fit with eclectic interests Looking for attractive sexy some what normal female 30-50 for partnership ☎863740

NICE GUY

SWM 66 5'8 150lbs manufacturers' representative Libra N/S works out, enjoys movies restaur ants and summer festivals Seeking SWF 50-65 N/S ☎708126

A SPECIAL GUY

DWM 56 5'10 handsome and secure, seeks honest S/DWF w/sense of humor who enjoys travel candlelight dinners plays dancing concerts boating and movies Friendship possible LTR ☎269646

LET'S BE FREE TOGETHER

SBM 6' 220lbs physically fit retired well-educated I would like to meet a single female 52-62 who is understanding loving and caring for a LTR ☎869189

MAN WITH PIZZAZZ

Sincere affectionate SWM 40s clear mind fit body enjoys artsy cultural events outdoor activities seeking witty, pretty SWF 35-55 for friendship and possible relationship ☎517123

ROMANTIC BUT REALISTIC

Youthful easygoing SWM 46 likes movies concerts boating Seeking attractive SWF 40s-50s with a lively spirit good sense of humor friendly positive outlook ☎642092

GREET AND MEET

SWM 50 looks young fit active enjoys fishing picnics water sports Seeking easygoing friendly light hearted SWF age open ☎241526

ADVENTUROUS

SWM 41 seek SF to become friends maybe more She must be smart have SOH I love friends family music life If you want to share these please call ☎595394

ARE YOU OUT THERE?

College educated SBM 42 Virgo N/S N/D very outgoing no children likes movies and golfing Seeking WF 25-44 N/S for dating ☎858557

HOPE SHE'S OUT THERE

Loving respectful SM 31 5'9 brown complexion hazel-brown eyes well built nice smile affection ate employed seeks a good-hearted attractive fun woman intelligent and compassionate to share the good times with ☎866168

ONLY THING MISSING IS U

SWM 24 red/hazel medium build employed Would like to meet a good woman to share my accomplishments with I enjoy church movies pool darts and would like to share interest also ☎870463

COULD IT BE YOU?

SWM 40s, 6', 175lbs N/S homeowner auto worker easygoing honest and secure enjoys hunting Harley's and the outdoors Seeking attractive slim/fit woman 30-50 N/S D/D-free comfortable in high heels-tennis shoes ☎798519

HOPE TO HEAR FROM YOU

Independent self-sufficient DWM 45 sturdy build carpenter sociable affectionate likes boating walks drives cycling cooking Seeking a special lady to share the good things in life ☎855207

SEEKS BROWN-EYED GIRL

Good-looking friendly SWM 41 5'11 180lbs no children N/S easy going enjoys movies music travel dining Seeking very attractive pretty SH/A/WF 28-39 friendship possible relationship ☎760359

LET'S TRY IT OUT

Just call this friendly social easy going SWM 40s humorous optimistic seeks kind sociable lady for casual dating Age open ☎513284

LET'S TALK!

SM 47 employed secure easygoing fun-loving homeowner enjoys sorts weightlifting fishing boating keeping active Seeking health conscious energetic with similar qualities and interests ☎818838

MUSCULAR AND ATHLETIC

SWM 46 6'2 209lbs brown/blue degreed outgoing personality enjoys outdoors workout new activities seeks friendly SF age/location open ☎531308

SERIOUS WOMAN WANTED

SBM 46 looking for that special persona for LTR someone who enjoys walks movies sporting events cuddling at home Please be shapely independent and know what you want in life ☎692418

STRAIGHT UP, LOW-KEY

Easygoing cute SWM 40s not into loud noise and big crowds enjoys art wine tastings charity seeks similar minded lady for friendship maybe more ☎548455

GENTLE AND SENTIMENTAL

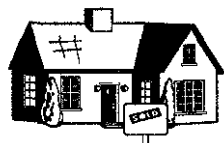
Easygoing agreeable cute SWM 40s eager to please willing to try new things seeks fairly attractive and friendly SWF for dating and relating ☎210772

WEST SIDE GUY

Easygoing SWPM 46 brown/brown tall slim enjoys arts muse ums outdoors more Seeking slim WF 35-47 for summertime fun and LTR ☎749445

SEEKS SPECIAL LADY

SWPM 49 tall dark/dark N/Drugs N/S seeks attractive sensitive kind hearted good natured SF 42-52 N/S N/Drugs who enjoys home-cooked meals nights on the town or home for dating possible LTR ☎765893



3000's Real Estate

- 3000's Real Estate listing grid with various property types and locations like Ann Arbor, Farmington Hills, etc.

3900-3980 Commercial/Industrial

- 3900-3980 Commercial/Industrial listing grid with properties like Business Opportunities, Industrial & Warehouse, etc.



Real Estate For Sale

- Real Estate For Sale listing grid with properties like Auburn Hills, Farmington Hills, etc.



Open House Blitz

- Open House Blitz listing grid with properties like Birmingham Beauty, Farmington Hills, etc.



Just Reduced

- Just Reduced listing grid with properties like Livonia Colonial, Farmington Hills, etc.

Open Houses 3030

- Open Houses 3030 listing grid with properties like Northville Contemporary Tudor, Novi Private Condo, etc.

Woodward Place

Woodward Place advertisement text describing the location and amenities.

Woodward Place

Woodward Place advertisement text describing the location and amenities.

Berkley 3047

Berkley 3047 listing text: COMPLETELY UPDATED 1950'S BUNGALOW

Birmingham 3050

Birmingham 3050 listing text: ONE BLOCK TO PEMBROKE PARK!

Dearborn 3110

Dearborn 3110 listing text: JUST LISTED! CHARMING & UPDATED

Dearborn 3115

Dearborn 3115 listing text: BRICK DELIGHT

Dearborn 3115

Dearborn 3115 listing text: WELCOME FAMILY & FRIENDS

Dearborn 3115

Dearborn 3115 listing text: ENGLAND REAL ESTATE

Dearborn 3110

Dearborn 3110 listing text: MUST SEE! Large 5 bed rooms

Dearborn 3110

Dearborn 3110 listing text: THIS 2 BEDROOM HOME COMES WITH DECK, SHED

Dearborn 3110

Dearborn 3110 listing text: 3 BEDROOM HOME CENTRAL AIR, FIREPLACE, STORAGE

Dearborn 3110

Dearborn 3110 listing text: WESTLAND Open Saturday 12 5

Dearborn 3110

Dearborn 3110 listing text: SOUTH LYON WOODS Homes starting at \$1,000

Dearborn 3110

Dearborn 3110 listing text: RENT-TO-OWN That's right. Rent with the option to purchase in one year!

Dearborn 3110

Dearborn 3110 listing text: JUST LISTED! CHARMING & UPDATED

Dearborn 3110

Dearborn 3110 listing text: CLASSIC DEARBORN BEAUTY

Dearborn 3110

Dearborn 3110 listing text: VERY MOTIVATED

Dearborn 3115

Dearborn 3115 listing text: BRICK DELIGHT

Dearborn 3115

Dearborn 3115 listing text: WELCOME FAMILY & FRIENDS

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Ferndale 3155

Ferndale 3155 listing text: IMMEDIATE OCCUPANCY

Ferndale 3155

Ferndale 3155 listing text: CHARMING 1923 BUNGALOW

Ferndale 3155

Ferndale 3155 listing text: BUILT IN 2000

Ferndale 3155

Ferndale 3155 listing text: GREAT STARTER

Ferndale 3155

Ferndale 3155 listing text: PRICED TO SELL!

Ferndale 3155

Ferndale 3155 listing text: GIVE YOURSELF A PRESENT!

Ferndale 3155

Ferndale 3155 listing text: PEACE and serenity comes with this beautiful hilltop

Ferndale 3155

Ferndale 3155 listing text: ENGLAND REAL ESTATE

Ferndale 3155

Ferndale 3155 listing text: HOWELL 3 bdrm 2 bath

Ferndale 3155

Ferndale 3155 listing text: LAND CONTRACT 3 bdrm ranch

Howell 3230

Howell 3230 listing text: IMMEDIATE OCCUPANCY

Howell 3230

Howell 3230 listing text: For the best auto classifications check out the Observer & Eccentric Newspaper

Howell 3230

Howell 3230 listing text: ROOM FOR REINDEER!

Howell 3230

Howell 3230 listing text: ENGLAND REAL ESTATE

Howell 3230

Howell 3230 listing text: JUST LISTED!

Howell 3230

Howell 3230 listing text: BIG & BEAUTIFUL!

Howell 3230

Howell 3230 listing text: JUST LISTED!

Howell 3230

Howell 3230 listing text: BY OWNER 3 bdrm 1.5 bath

Howell 3230

Howell 3230 listing text: CUL DE SAC RAVINE

Howell 3230

Howell 3230 listing text: LAND CONTRACT 3 bdrm ranch

Livonia 3250

Livonia 3250 listing text: GREAT FLOOR PLAN

Livonia 3250

Livonia 3250 listing text: SHARP UPDATED

Livonia 3250

Livonia 3250 listing text: BURGEOIS

Livonia 3250

Livonia 3250 listing text: CASTELLI 734 525-7900

Livonia 3250

Livonia 3250 listing text: JUST LISTED!

Livonia 3250

Livonia 3250 listing text: LOVELY & UPDATED

Livonia 3250

Livonia 3250 listing text: JUST LISTED!

Livonia 3250

Livonia 3250 listing text: DARLING UPDATED

Livonia 3250

Livonia 3250 listing text: JUST LISTED!

Livonia 3250

Livonia 3250 listing text: ROYAL OAK

Livonia 3250

Livonia 3250 listing text: JUST LISTED!

Northville 3280

Northville 3280 listing text: NORTHVILLE HIDDEN RIDGE AT GRAND VISTA

Northville 3280

Northville 3280 listing text: Coveted and hard to find

Northville 3280

Northville 3280 listing text: JUST LISTED!

Northville 3280

Northville 3280 listing text: LOVELY & UPDATED

Northville 3280

Northville 3280 listing text: RANCH 2 bed air garage

Northville 3280

Northville 3280 listing text: OAKLAND TWP Gorgeous

Northville 3280

Northville 3280 listing text: DARLING UPDATED

Northville 3280

Northville 3280 listing text: JUST LISTED!

Northville 3280

Northville 3280 listing text: ROYAL OAK

Northville 3280

Northville 3280 listing text: JUST LISTED!

248-851-1900

248-851-1900 listing text: Just Reduced! Livonia Colonial \$304,900

248-851-1900

248-851-1900 listing text: OPEN SUNDAYS 2 4 8140 Jack Pine Ypsilanti

248-851-1900

248-851-1900 listing text: SOUTH LYON WOODS Homes starting at \$1,000

248-851-1900

248-851-1900 listing text: RENT-TO-OWN That's right. Rent with the option to purchase in one year!

248-851-1900

248-851-1900 listing text: ENGLAND REAL ESTATE

248-851-1900

248-851-1900 listing text: HOWELL 3 bdrm 2 bath

248-851-1900

248-851-1900 listing text: LAND CONTRACT 3 bdrm ranch

248-851-1900

248-851-1900 listing text: GREAT FLOOR PLAN

248-851-1900

248-851-1900 listing text: SHARP UPDATED

Fair Housing Your Right, Our Business advertisement with logo and contact information.

LINDA PREVOST advertisement with contact information and phone number.

Observer & Eccentric Classified Advertising advertisement with contact information.

Advertising Feature

Golf Ridge Villa Homes Offers Luxury and Convenience



These two designer-decorated model homes at Golf Ridge Villa Homes in Livonia are decorated for the Holiday Home Walk.

An exciting new luxury home community is unfolding in Livonia on Eight Mile Road just east of Newburgh Road. With 118 homesites on 47 acres, Golf Ridge Villa Homes is a neighborhood of well-designed residences surrounded by ponds with fountains and

second floor bedroom space perfect for visiting guests and children. Future residents can also choose roof styles, brick choices and shutter and front door colors, as well as front or courtyard entry garages all from the \$360's.

Golf Ridge was developed

Woods Condominiums in South Lyon, and Hillside Lakes of Brighton.

The Golf Ridge team has gone to extensive lengths to create a home package that offers homeowners an incredible value at Golf Ridge Villa Homes. Weinberg notes, "we have included many amenities that are usually considered upgrades in most communities. Items such as air conditioning, cedar decks, custom designed landscaping, full ceramic tile showers including floors and ceiling, European-style bath vanities, and hardwood flooring in the foyer, powder room, kitchen and nook are included in the base price of the home."

"People enjoy the maintenance-free lifestyle we have at Golf Ridge Villa Homes"

Tony Scappaticci adds, "By starting with a very complete package, our buyers can literally bring a refrigerator, washer and dryer to complete their home." The company's on-site design center makes the selection process convenient and enjoyable.

We understand that making selections for a new home can be an overwhelming experience. So we take each

home project in stages, and have a decorator from Gorman's who offers each buyer a one-hour free design consultation for their home. Very popular upgrades at Golf Ridge have been three season rooms and finished lower levels. The majority of the home sites allow for either a walk-out or daylight basement and every design has an optional finish plan for the lower level that includes a wet bar, bedroom, full bath, media room and storage area."

The Golf Ridge Villa Homes community features a unique site condominium design that combines the benefits of owning the interior and exterior of the home with the community maintenance of lawns, streets and common areas. The home exteriors are virtually maintained

ment in their new home."

The architectural character, inviting atmosphere and care-free lifestyle at Golf Ridge Villa Homes is a unique and welcome find for the new home shopper. The Golf Ridge team brings extensive experience, skill to the design and construction of the community, and an unyielding dedication to making each customer's home building experience a rewarding and satisfying one. Several homes are available for quick occupancy and some even include window treatments.

Golf Ridge Villa Homes is located on Eight Mile Road just east of Newburgh Road. For further information, you may contact Golf Ridge at (248) 615-0300 or visit their web site at www.golfridgehomes.com



All homes have first floor master suites plus additional bedrooms and lofts (shown above).

an abundance of green space. Golf Ridge is adjacent to two golf courses and is close to Laurel Park Place, parks, shops and restaurants in Livonia and Farmington Hills, Northville and Novi.

"It is extremely rare to find such a large community of new homes within the City of Livonia," said DeDe Weinberg, sales manager for Golf Ridge Villa Homes. "We offer four beautiful home designs with many architectural styles that are designed for first floor living. All of our homes have first floor master bedroom suites, additional bedrooms and lofts, and a full bath on the second floor. Each home provides

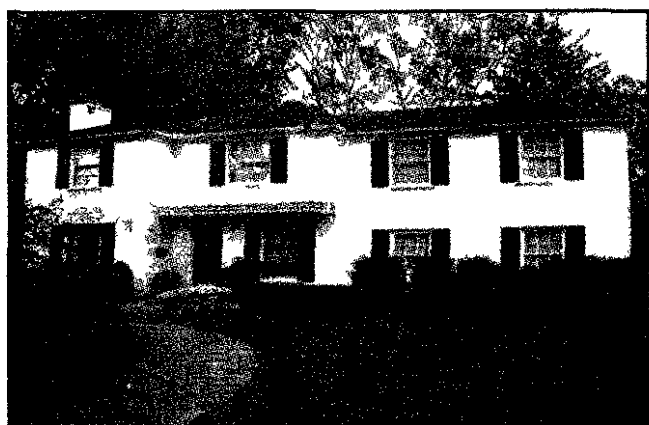
and is being constructed by Golf Ridge Properties, LLC, a team comprised of Ronald Schwartz, James Deutchman, Tony Scappaticci and Robert Schwartz. These four individuals have several decades of experience in planning, development, construction and property management. Collectively and individually, the Golf Ridge Properties team has been responsible for the creation of dozens of the areas leading residential home, condominium, and apartment communities including Pine Bluffs of Milford, Wabek Hollow Condominiums in Bloomfield Township, Strathmoor in Farmington Hills, Lafayette



Granite kitchen countertops are included with homes contracted through December 31, 2005.

Photography by Catherine Productions

SUNDAY FEATURED HOMES



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Classic Bloomfield Village Colonial
OPEN SUNDAY 1 - 4 PM
216 Chewton Road
(N/Maple Rd. & E/Lahser)
Offered at \$724,800
Quick Occupancy Available**

What a wonderful place to call "home"! This outstanding classic all brick colonial is absolutely gorgeous inside and out! It has been totally updated to include all of the "majors" as roof, electrical, kitchen and landscaping. It offers a nicely sized living room with fireplace, formal dining room and cozy den. The kitchen, with breakfast room, is appointed with granite counters, built-in table with bench and comes with all appliances. The home offers four bedrooms including a lovely master suite. Its basement, with glass block windows, is partially

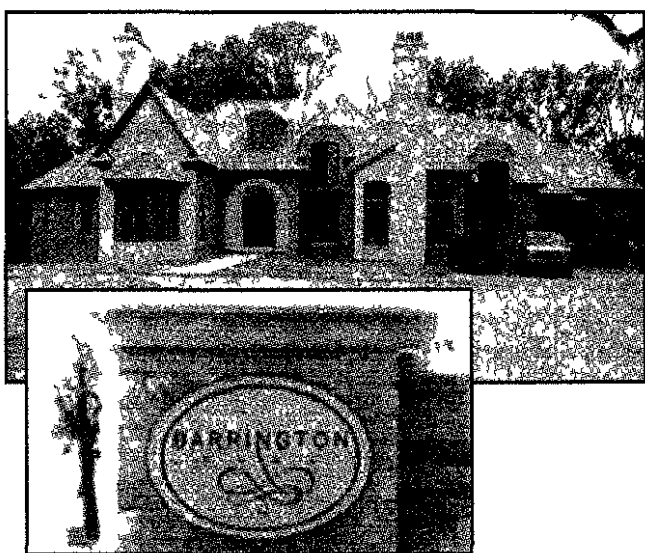
finished. Other features of the home include refinished hardwood flooring through-out, central air, two full and one half baths, screened porch, brick paver patio, two car attached garage and a beautiful large lot with outside lighting and in-ground sprinkler system. The home is located within the Birmingham School District and is conveniently near expressways, shopping and places of worship. Stop in today for a visit or call Jolie Levine Warpool, (248) 212-9080. For additional information or to arrange for a private showing.

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This truly wonderful floor plan has a first floor Master Suite with a private Sitting room and luxurious Master Bath. The fabulous, fully equipped Gourmet kitchen makes entertaining guests a pleasure.

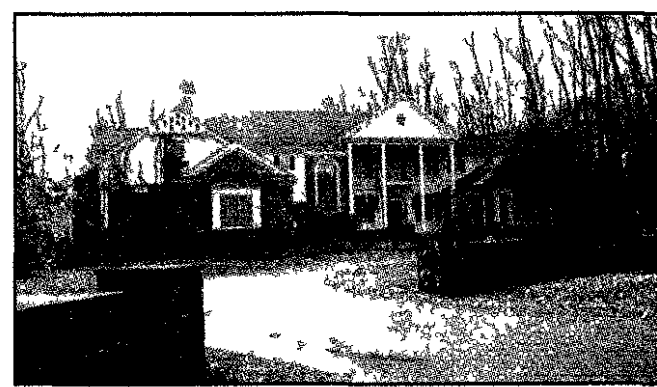
This home also offers a beautifully finished walk-out lower level, three additional private bedroom suites and five full baths. Beautiful, high-end Custom finishes thru-out. \$3,210,000 BAR532.

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Bloomfield Hills
Estate**

This picture-perfect home is tucked away on nearly two acres and offers five bedroom suites and a formal living room with spectacular views of the wonderful treed setting. The Chef's kitchen opens to a warm and inviting family room with a stone fireplace. This exclusive property also provides a very private library, an in-ground pool and tennis court! Meticulous attention to detail throughout! \$2,950,000 CRA300.

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In Canton



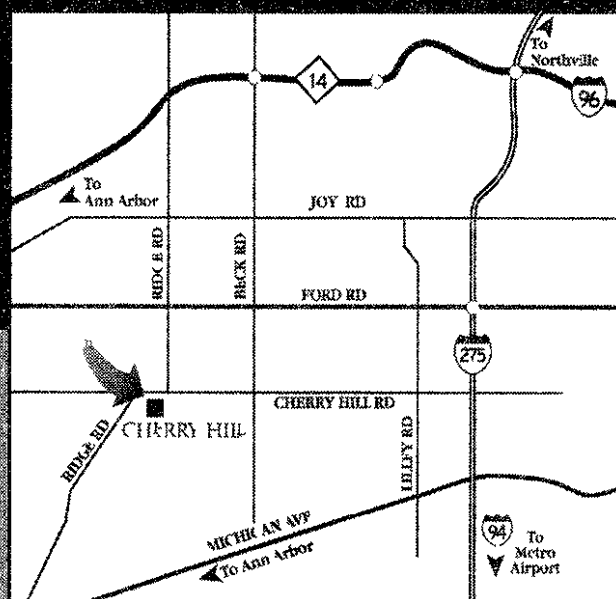
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Selling your house in a slow market: Yes, it can be done

My house is on the market and we are not getting much action, the holidays are coming up and things will probably get slower. Is there anything we can do to help get our home sold?

Things are slower these days and there are things that you can do to help speed up the sale of your house. Here are some areas to consider:

■ **The price:** It's now more important than ever to price your house to sell. Many sellers price their house above market value hoping to have more room to negotiate. This rarely works. Most buyers who use Realtors have access to what the market value really is.

If the house is well above its market value chances are it won't be shown. In fact, what you will end up doing is helping sell your neighbor's house. Why? Because when buyers see two similar houses and one has a significantly lower asking price, chances are that they will not even bother making an offer



Ask the Realtor

Michael Aldouby

on the more expensive one. Remember this as well: The longer your house is on the market the more money it will most likely cost you. You still have to pay property tax, utilities, and the mortgage. If you now own two houses, you are paying it twice.

A house is almost like bread. The longer it's on the market the less value it has. This is because buyers believe that there is something wrong with the house and that you now have more urgency to sell. Because of this they have more incentive to offer you less money than if you priced it correctly to begin with.

What will probably happen is that after several months of

having it well over its market value is that you will finally lower the price to what it should have been in the first place. By that time it will have cost you much more money.

■ **The condition of the house:** Your house needs to be immaculate. Buying a house is an emotional experience. If people

are going through your house and it looks cluttered and unclean, they will not consider making an offer.

■ **Give incentives to purchase your house:** Perhaps consider paying the closing costs for the buyer. It's sometimes a good idea to offer more commission to the buyer's agent, which gives



that agent more incentive to sell your house.

■ **The terms:** Usually most sellers will accept as payment for a house a conventional, VA, or FHA loan, and of course cash. Think about offering a land contract. In a land contract the buyers pays the seller over the course of a period of

time, often five years, for the house.

Michael Aldouby is a columnist and a Realtor with Real Estate One. He has an M.B.A. with a concentration in marketing. He is happy to answer questions or receive comments. Feel free to call him at (734) 748-9621 or e-mail him at michaelaldouby@hotmail.com

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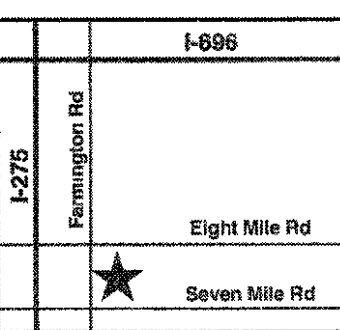
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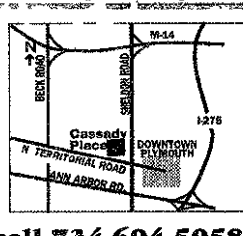
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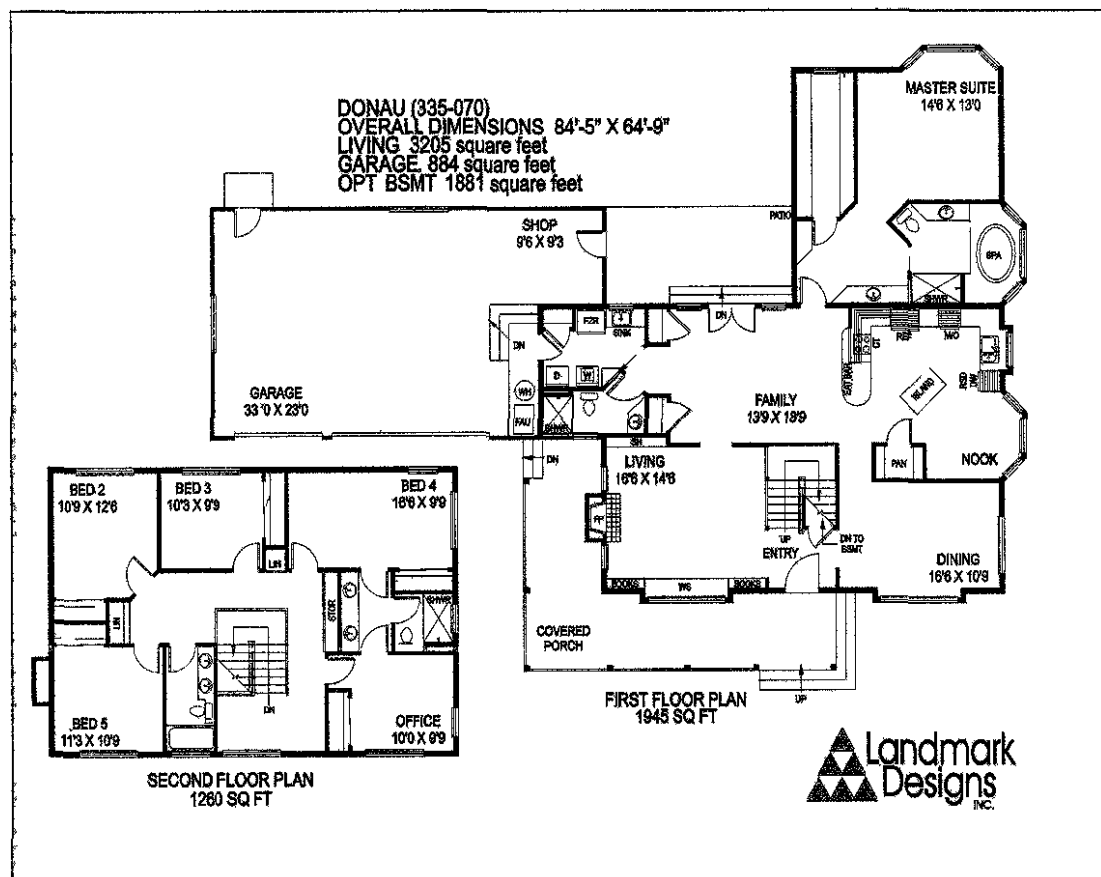
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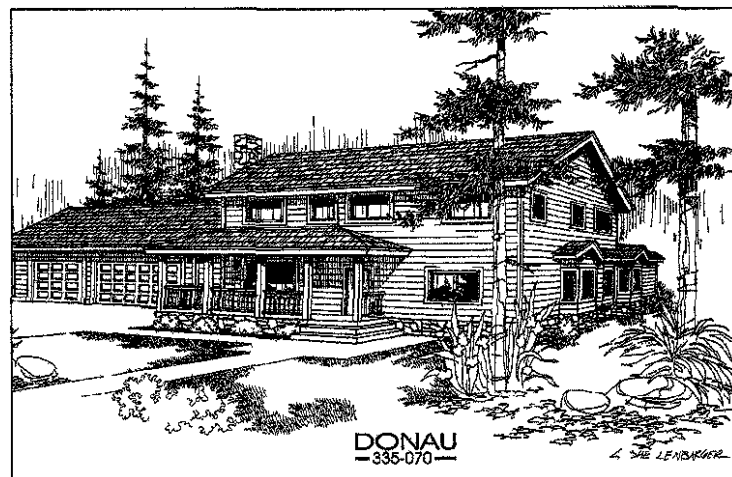


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A handy coat closet is located behind the front door. To the left is a cozy living room. Here is the ideal place for relaxation. A built-in fireplace keeps the cold away while you watch television, choose a book from the built-in bookshelves. Sit in the window seat and enjoy the view.

The kitchen conveniently positions the dining room, to the right of the entry. This is an arrangement that will save steps for the cook in the house when preparing and serving meals. The kitchen is very large and has a nice breakfast spot by a beautiful bay window. In addition to all the built-in appliances, there is an island, walk-in pantry, and eating bar. Adjacent to the main part of

the kitchen is an extended kitchen/family room, a good site for informal meals or an afternoon cup of coffee. When the weather is agreeable, step out onto the back patio and savor in the sunshine.

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For a study plan of the DONAU (335-070), send \$15 to Landmark Designs Inc., 33127 Saginaw Rd. E., Cottage Grove, OR 97424. Compact disks with search functions are free of charge (\$5 shipping and handling). You may search at www.ldplans.com.

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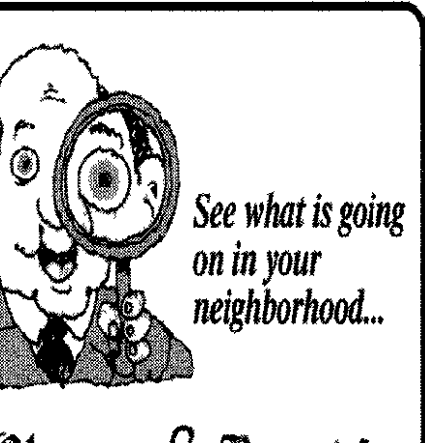
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 <p>WESTLAND - Why wait to build? Job Transfer forces owner to sell this beauty completed 9/04 Brck 3 bedrooms 2.5 baths 2000 sq ft cape cod has 1st floor master w/separate shower and tub oak eat n kitchen 1st floor laundry and fireplace Call Sylv a Florence Albert \$229,900 (L29745) 734 216 4942</p>	 <p>WESTLAND - Perfect for downsizer or 1st time buyer 2 bedroom 1 bath condo Freshly painted with new furnace C/A windows (except front) updated elect c and comes w/newer appliances Updated eat n kitchen 1st floor laundry and fireplace Call Sylv a Florence Albert \$69,900 (S1821) 734 216 4942</p>	 <p>CANTON - Just minutes from Downtown Plymouth New construction on 2 or 3 bedroom condo w/2 car attached garage 2.5 baths large deck for leisure living for as little as \$219,900 Call Cindy Evans \$219,900 (ColombSq) 313 622 8755</p>	 <p>WESTLAND - New Construction Many floor plans to choose from starting at \$235,900 Located East of John Hix & North of Glenwood \$235,900 (S17285) 734 722 7720</p>	 <p>REDFORD - 1400 sq ft brck ranch completed updates include new kitchen & bath furnace w/C/A elect c services roof windows ceramic floor in kitchen & foyer 2 car attached garage sun room brick paver patio & fenced yard Call Mike Judge \$169,900 (M16925) 734 591 9200x155</p>	 <p>FARMINGTON - Mint Condition 3 bedroom 2.5 bath condominium a newer complex w/pool clubhouse with exercise room located in Nantucket townhouse complex End unit freshly painted with new carpet Call Mike Judge \$145,000 (C22150) 734 591 9200x155</p>
 <p>REDFORD - Home overlooking Lola Valley Park 3 bedroom brck ranch w/basement & 2 car heated garage Updates include new roof on house & garage new windows all app ances stay Landscaped & fenced yard Call Mike Judge \$149,900 (P16207) 734 591 9200x155</p>	 <p>LIVONIA - Location quality value & charm Attractive 2400 sq ft brck colonial 4 bedrooms 2.5 baths family room w/fireplace 1st floor laundry basement & 2 car attached garage New roof & doors A1 appliances stay Call Mike Judge \$314,900 (C31658) 734 591 9200x155</p>	 <p>LIVONIA - Well maintained 3 bedroom 2 bath ranch located in Green Brier Estates Sub 5 acre lot w/ mature trees Home also has a Florida room and a 2.5 car garage Call Larry Hatfield (HBH) \$299,900 (M16810) 313 820 9711</p>	 <p>GARDEN CITY - Gorgeous tastefully decorated dream home Living room with natural r/replace dining room w/doorwall to large deck Main floor laundry room master bedroom w/WIC & bath Much more! Call Larry Hatfield \$231,500 (R30058) 313 820 9711</p>	 <p>DETROIT - Unbelievable condition inside & out 3 bedroom 1.5 bath story bungalow w/many attract ve features Finished basement w/gas block windows bar family room laundry & work area & storage 2 car garage & fenced yard Call Larry Hatfield \$90,900 (B15777) 313 820 9711</p>	 <p>LYON TWP - Built 1995 2100+/ finished sq ft 1/3 acre stainless steel appliances wet bar MBR bath fireplace Photos and more under Featured Properties at www.doortodreams.com Call Derek Bauer \$259,900 (G30561) 734 678-4745</p>
 <p>FARMINGTON HILLS - \$3,000 BUYER CREDIT! 2 bedrooms 2.5 baths over 1000 sq ft Hardwood on main level Appliances included neutral and clean Pool and exercise room Call today! Call Derek Bauer \$124,975 (A22045) 734 678 4745</p>	 <p>LIVONIA - UNIQUE 2 homes in 1 Approximately 3200 sq ft on 2 acres 6 bedrooms 2.5 baths 3 fireplaces Visit www.doortodreams.com for photos virtual dimensions and more! \$374,900 (S31180) 734 678 4745</p>	 <p>CANTON - Outstanding ranch! Conveniently Located 3 bedrooms 2.5 baths family room eat n kitchen & partially finished basement plumbed for lav Plymouth/Canton school system Home warranty Call Larry Hatfield \$211,900 (B313) 313 820 9711</p>	 <p>REDFORD - Affordable updated Redford ranch All new kitchen w/ceramic floor updated bath w/marble floor & pedestal sink Refinished hardwood floors all new paint & light fixtures Clarenceville Schools Appliances too! Call Tom Reichard or visit www.althehouses.net \$104,900 (N20048) 734 988 4959</p>	 <p>WAYNE - Why rent when you can buy! Sharp 2 bedroom vinyl sided ranch This home features spacious living room & large bedrooms newer windows & flooring Nice backyard w/privacy fence All appliances Move right in Call Jim Tillman \$97,900 (W33436) 734 751 8732</p>	 <p>LIVONIA - Don't miss this one! Updates & renovations like you would see in a magazine Open floor plan Maple kitchen stainless appliances main bath w/jetted tub, finished basement 2 car attached garage Call Marilyn Handloser \$239,900 (R14550) 248 231 4216</p>
 <p>CANTON - Immediate occupancy Fantastic price This 2 bedroom 2.5 bath condo has many updates 1st floor laundry 2 car attached garage Finished basement Convenient location A must see Call Judy Powell \$173,900 (H45173) 734 646 7541</p>	 <p>SOUTHFIELD - Loads of updates in this 3 bedroom colonial includes roof & siding w/transferable warranty & windows All the big things are done Call for rest of list Floor da room & huge backyard! Just move in relax & enjoy Call Cheryl Krug \$159,900 (W18200) 734 276 3731</p>	 <p>HAZEL PARK - If you want to move into a home & relax this 3 bedroom ranch is for you! Wonderful updates thru out Roof kitchen plumbing electric Beautifully finished basement w/1/2 bath special patio effects in backyard & more Call Mary Marnelli \$119,900 (W304) 313 909 6983</p>	 <p>LIVONIA - Hurry to this beautiful 4 bedroom 2.5 bath colonial in Francavilla Sub! Fabulous curb appeal family room w/fireplace open to kitchen Basement 2 car attached garage Clean great 500 sq ft deck Stevenson HS Call Kim Lindsay or email at kim@kimlindsay.com \$289,900 (M17568) 734 502 4396</p>	 <p>LIVONIA - A neat well kept 8 year old ranch with a 1/4 acre lot Updated flooring in kitchen & carpeting Pergo in hall New bath tub insert C/A deck full basement & home warranty Call Joe Nimmo \$142,500 (11845) 313 268 5171</p>	 <p>WESTLAND - A neat 3 bedroom brck ranch Newer windows furnace air roof 2 car garage 3 yrs neutral decor finished basement Livonia schools Enclosed back porch & gas fireplace in basement Very well kept Call Joe Nimmo \$164,900 (G29830) 313 909 6983</p>
 <p>CANTON - Investor Special! Vacant Formerly rented for \$950/month in area of \$200K homes Call Doug Taylor \$115,000 (25142184) 734 678 4128</p>	 <p>CANTON - 3 bedroom condo with master on the 1st floor Hardwood floor n entryway hallway and kitchen 2.5 baths full basement and loft Ready to go! Call Joe Scaglione \$217,000 (25139481) 734 502 4985</p>	 <p>CANTON - 3 bedroom 1.5 bath Canton Ranch Wonderful finished basement w/bar and lots of cabs Open floor plan Updated kitchen newer windows siding gutters HWH Prced to sell Call Terr Bromley \$199,900 (25168570) 734 223 6251</p>	 <p>CANTON - Golf Course Community! Open and airy floor plan w/neutral decor This Hardly Lved In home has a full unfinished basement From the large 2 car attached garage deck off the back corner unit gas fireplace in the great room large fash on bath in the master suite This is just a fantastic place \$299,900 (25152639) 734 455 7000</p>	 <p>CANTON - A wonderful 2 bedroom 2.5 bath condo with full basement Everything is done One of the best locations in the complex Hurry and check out the view in back Call Joe Scaglioni \$199,000 (25131534) 734 502-4985</p>	 <p>CANTON - Master suite w/bonus room private balcony w/deck fashion bath WIC living room w/French doors Large family room w/fireplace Large deck w/hot tub off kitchen Yard filled w/trees bushes & flowers Call Mark Regal \$459,900 (25139270) 734 718 6176</p>
 <p>PLYMOUTH - Price Reduced! Rare Find Ranch within walking distance to schools and downtown Flowing open floor plan w th 3 bedrooms 2.5 baths family room first floor laundry Side entrance garage Call Cathy Rakozy Reduced (25151733) 313 990 6605</p>	 <p>PLYMOUTH - Spacious 3 bedroom home n affordable Tw n Arbons w th outstanding 12 x 11 sunroom w/Pella windows and doorwall \$219,900 (25134481) 734-455 7000</p>	 <p>PLYMOUTH - You've found your castle! Truly beautiful cape cod on ovely professionally landscaped 1 acre lot Elegantly designed 3 bedroom 3.5 bath w/loft 4 car garage Call Cheryl Wilson \$649,900 (25173088) 734 797 7795</p>	 <p>PLYMOUTH - Price Reduced Walk to downtown from spacious ranch loaded w/updates in the last 5 years 3 bedrooms 2.5 baths family room bonus room Wooded lot etc etc Call Cathy Rakozy Reduced (25139439) 313 990 6605</p>	 <p>PLYMOUTH - PRICED TO SELL FAST! Holiday Bonus of \$2,000 to buyer at closing Walking distance to downtown Plymouth Upper ranch style condo vaulted ceiling skylights new furnace and fresh paint Call Mark Regal \$124,900 (25139282) 734 718 6176</p>	 <p>REDFORD - \$1000 Bonus to buyer at closing! 3 bedroom ranch hardwood floors updated kitchen and bath Partly finished basement w/4th bedroom 2 car garage Call Kim Larkins \$127,900 (25147222) 734 564 7614</p>



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WEST BLOOMFIELD Beautiful 4 BR Home
Open floor plan extra high ceilings double staircase master suite w/tub and shower granite kitchen w/hardwood floor spacious basement w/full bath extra bedroom and office Home backs to protected woodlands

(B20BRA) 248-626-8800 \$598,888




BLOOMFIELD HILLS Updated Home
Very private 3 bedroom 3 bath on approximately 1 acre cul de sac wooded site among multi million dollar homes with Walnut Lake access Open floor plan and move in ready Tear down opportunity or renovation possible

(B30TAH) 248-642-8100 \$559,900




NORTHVILLE Golf Course Community
Best kept secret in the golf club Custom built floor plan Huge kitchen and breakfast room opens to 2 story great room Granite T/O Extensive trim T/O Finished W/O with kitchen BA, rec room 3 fireplaces MBR suite w/ sitting room

(B10MER) 248-349-5600 \$979,000



TROY Sharp Newly Built
Two story w/ four bedrooms 2.5 baths Great room with panoramic windows and fireplace Master suite with large W/O and whirlpool tub Formal DR with bay window Full basement 2 car side entry garage Toy school

(B88WIN) 248-524-1600 \$429,900



OAKLAND Beautiful Italianate Style
Kitchen w/granite suite and hickory floors Master suite w/ fireplace paneled study terrace off library master and great room Walk out w/theatre kitchen wine room 4 car garage

(B80WHI) 248-652-8000 \$1,799,000



FARMINGTON HILLS Executive Site Condo
Unique with all services provided Located in very small Farmington Hills enclave 3 levels total over approximately 4,000 sq. ft. Every amenity huge windows high ceilings Jacuzzi tub Must be seen Owner priced to sell quickly

(B42CRO) 248-626-8800 \$500,000



BIRMINGHAM Fabulously Restored
Five bedroom 2.5 bath Cape Cod w/ 1st fl. master bedroom suite fabulous remodeled kitchen w/ stainless steel appliances and natural fireplace Spacious lot w/ patio & professional landscaping with circular drive

(B81LIN) 248-642-8100 \$538,900




NORTHVILLE Northville Hills Golf Club
Gorgeous custom home features granite island kitchen Formal dining butlers pantry finished basement w/ bar & putting green Master w/plumbed bath & dual shower Great family neighborhood

(B88TRO) 248-349-5600 \$979,000



ROYAL OAK Attention To Details
Custom built 4 BR home Hardwood floor custom moldings upgraded appliances and kitchen cabinets granite counter tops Master BR with panoramic and marble shower heads in master bath Teal accent paint o'er of golf course

(B20DET) 248-524-1600 \$549,900



DRYDEN Majestic Country Estate
Rage 5 bedroom 4.5 bath home on approx 18 rolling acres of gorgeous pines and woods elegant decor dramatic entrance w/ curved staircase soaring ceilings 3 kitchens 3 fireplaces 1 finished walk out lower level 6 car garage

(BOOROC) 248-652-8000 \$1,699,000



WOLVERINE LAKE Vacation At Home
Lake frontage Updated oak kitchen carpet installed in November very open floor plan Wake up looking at Wolverine Lake You will feel like you are on vacation every day of the year

(B73LAD) 248-626-8800 \$499,000



BIRMINGHAM Built In '95 Better Than New
Three bedroom 2.4 bath Cape Cod w/ 1st fl. master bedroom suite granite counters & tiled splash hardwood floors & FR with FP DR with crown moldings & French door to deck Master walk in closet basement w/ wet bar & 2 car garage Warranty

(B31BIR) 248-642-8100 \$514,900



NORTHVILLE Residence Of Dignity
Private home set on approx 2 acres over looks pond Walk to town 4BR 4BA 4 1/2 baths 3+ car garage Master bedroom retreat finished lower level Finest quality

(B05SPR) 248-349-5600 \$1,189,000



HUNTINGTON WOODS Fantastic Home
Charming and updated Hardwood floors custom moldings wood trim two bay windows Updates include Corian counters baths copper plumbing paint custom blinds and more Paver walkways private yard

(B16SAL) 248-524-1600 \$499,000



LAKE ORION Custom Quality
Incredibly designed and materials First floor master suite heated kitchen floors custom granite and solid 6 pane doors Finished lower level w/stone fireplace billiard room built in stone tennis porch pond and 3 car garage

(B50BRO) 248-652-8000 \$1,250,000



WEST BLOOMFIELD Pine Lake Front
Nestled on almost 1 acre deep treed lot with Monet inspired backyard retreat Lush gardens pond Estate size great room with fireplace Formal living room and dining room w/ covered terrace Gourmet's custom kitchen Hardwood floors

(B68ORC) 248-626-8800 \$699,900



BEVERLY HILLS Georgetown Colonial
Spectacular 4 bedrooms 2.1 baths and 2 FRs on first level 1 with FP Updated kitchen with granite master suite with walk in closet hardwood floors on upper level and FR finished basement with rec room Large lot backing to woods

(B15GEO) 248-642-8100 \$497,500



NORTHVILLE TOWNSHIP Elegance At It's Best!
Entire into a gallery foyer to a music conservatory luxurious master suite executive kitchen with volume ceilings custom granite and granite throughout Hardwood floors 5 bedrooms 4.2 baths fabulous custom lower level with walk out

(B04CLA) 734-455-5600 \$1,097,500




ORION TOWNSHIP Picture Perfect Home
On an over 1/2 acre cul de sac off Belmont plan with two story foyer double staircase and gourmet kitchen w/ island oak cabinets granite countertops MBR suite w/ walk in closet

(B81COV) 248-524-1600 \$459,900



COMMERCE Lake Sherwood Lakefront
Gorgeous 2 story colonial has the most beautiful view of Lake Sherwood 2 furnished upstairs laundry Extra garage Lower level w/ great room and 2nd kitchen and full bath Sun room This is a must see home

(B16DRI) 248-363-1200 \$859,900



NORTHVILLE Builders' Own Design
Custom home w/ open floor plan and all the extras Sunroom 1700 sq ft MBR suite w/ fabulous bath gourmet kitchen finished LL w/ custom bar 2 story breakfast room Northville schools Home warranty

(B39ROB) 248-626-8800 \$765,000




HUNTINGTON WOODS Lovely Colonial
Newer master suite addition in 03 3 bedrooms 2.4 baths library computer room & updated kitchen Hardwood floors many windows custom shutters & doorwall to deck Fin shed rec room newer roof central air & heat Two car garage

(B39HUN) 248-642-8100 \$469,500



CANTON Exceptional Colonial
Fabulous 4 bedrooms 3 full and 2 half baths in the 2000 built home Grand 2 story foyer dual staircase family room wall of windows gourmet kitchen has cherry cabinets 2 fireplaces 3 car attached garage basement and large deck

(B76MAN) 734-455-5600 \$509,900



FARMINGTON HILLS 2000 Built
Executive home on one acre off Belmont Entrance w/ oak kitchen w/ slate living room dining room library and finished walk out w/ bath Prof landscaped with deck patio sprinklers 3 cars & de entrance Garage Gorgeous!

(B73BRA) 248-524-1600 \$749,900



MILFORD Magnificent Property Now on Market
Over 3 acres and the perfect house for the most discerning buyer custom home with quality throughout park like setting with brick paver patio and benches for relaxation Entertain in style enjoy this open floor plan

(B96JAC) 248-363-1200 \$847,777



WEST BLOOMFIELD Custom Built Ranch
3 BR 2.5 BA Light & open floor plan Spacious rms Beautiful hardwood floors w/ cherry bit no large oak kitchen Huge kitchen Deck and patio MBR w/ marble fireplace Cul de sac lot Lake priv on Upper Straight

(B50ROL) 248-626-8800 \$520,000



BIRMINGHAM Craftsman Style Bungalow
Beautiful in town Bungalow filled with nooks and crannies Two full baths master bedroom suite with walk in closet and many updates loaded with charm Go geous gardens front and rear yards One of a kind!

(B56VAL) 248-642-8100 \$449,900



CANTON New Construction Home
Elegant Cape Cod 4 bedrooms 3 1/2 baths 4 car garage first floor master with sitting room walk in closet & bath w/ in come garden tub cathedral ceiling foyer & great room kitchen w/ granite tops Time to pick cabinets & grand staircase

(B02ROL) 734-455-5600 \$610,000



BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP Well Cared For
Coastal with popular floor plan 4 bedrooms 3 1/2 baths finished basement deck and private yard Island kitchen w/ granite tops vaulted ceiling MBR w/ dressng area tub and shower Nice location on quiet family sub

(B19HIC) 248-524-1600 \$480,000



HIGHLAND Unbelievable Lakefront
Golf Community Yes You can have it all a fabulous house with approx 5000 sq feet of living space 3 fireplaces all purpose rooms 3 car garage over an acre of land leading to private Dunham Lake-Custom built walkout ranch

(B15ADD) 248-363-1200 \$799,990



WEST BLOOMFIELD Making Memories
is a natural in this stylish home Every amenity you could want Extra high ceilings in grand entry Marble and granite Huge kitchen Deck and patio Backing to acres of peaceful nature preserve A real winner!

(48BRA) 248-626-8800 \$900,000



OXFORD Superb Craftsmanship
Four bedroom 3 1/2 bath ranch on approximately 5 wooded acres Two car attached garage second garage and 2 story barn Oak kitchen with hardwood floors and finished lower level with full kitchen

(B37RAY) 248-642-8100 \$414,000



CANTON Custom Built Cape Cod 2005
New construction on approx 1 ac lot with 4 bedrooms 3 1/2 baths 4 car attached garage 2 story foyer formal DR hearth room off kitchen breakfast nook at bedroom with walk in closet full basement & you can pick your special wishes

(B52ROL) 734-455-5600 \$875,000



OAKLAND Magnificent Estate
Sited on approximately 2.4 acres of beautiful manicured grounds Fully automated smart house technology includes security surveillance camera Seven car garage finished walk-out lower level

(B90STR) 248-652-8000 \$2,799,000



20+ Acres, Log Home, Pole Barn
You chance has come Beautiful setting highlights 20+ acres 3 BA log home built w/ stunning detail Finished walk out level leads to an open area w/ 3 car garage and pole barn Property features a spring fed pond

(B82GOL) 248-363-1200 \$599,000



BLOOMFIELD HILLS Renovated To Perfection
Hampton style Cape Cod on park like setting with 300 ft approx of water frontage Hardwood floors granite walls & marble kitchen with FP adjoining FR MBR suite French door to deck & lower level with FP All pro finishing touches

(B89BEN) 248-642-8100 \$1,190,000



LIVONIA Custom Cape Cod Home
Look no further than this Builders own home Beautiful cherry kitchen w/hardwood floors first floor master w/custom tiled bath Cathedral ceiling in library 2 story 5 gate room Stevenson schools

(B72VAN) 248-394-5600 \$529,900



NORTHVILLE TOWNSHIP Spacious Colonial
Major off in Crestwood Manor Everything from hardwood 2 story foyer with wind up steps to full finished basement Dining room FR with FP den with bay window master suite with walk in closet & jacuzzi attached garage

(B10ROL) 734-455-5600 \$874,000



OAKLAND Township European Country Estate
Old world charm meets modern day conveniences in this beautifully appointed custom built 5 bedroom 4 1/2 bath 4 car garage home w/ go f course views Fabulous amenities and except one detail!

(B77FOR) 248-652-8000 \$2,499,000



MILFORD Magnificent Cape Cod
On approx 14 acres a BR 3 1/2 BA finished entry & breakfast kitchen w/ cherry cabinets Luxe main floor master Hardwood in foyer kitchen breakfast nook & FR Prof fin w/ w/ wet bar triple game area & med a nook 3 car garage

(B49BEA) 248-363-1200 \$575,900



NORTHVILLE Pristine Northville Hills Golf Club
Located on cul de sac wooded lot Custom home with granite kitchen & island Florida room & butler pantry Basement with bar full bath fifth bedroom and putting green Master bedroom suite with glamour bath and dual showers Must see

(B88TRO) 248-642-8100 \$979,000



NORTHVILLE Spectacular Colonial
Huge 4 BR 2 1/2 BA home w/ enormous gourmet kitchen wrapable cabinets and hardwood floors Wind up staircase MBR w/ master BA & WIC 2 fireplaces & 3 car garage W/O basement and dual heating & cooling

(B85HIL) 248-349-5600 \$649,900



COMMERCE Gorgeous Custom Built Home
State of the art features & upgrades Soaring ceilings stone fireplace custom cabinets granite counters hardwood floors ceramic tile 2 story foyer open floor plan 2 1/2 car attached garage large basement in this 3 bedroom 2 1/2 bath on a

(B42SEF) 734-455-5600 \$519,000



OAKLAND Over Three Acres
Stone and cedar shake cape cod nestled in a nature setting First floor master suite gourmet kitchen bonus room 4 bedrooms 4 1/2 baths finished walk out w/ kitchen full bath and 1st bedroom Four car heated garage

(B52PIN) 248-652-8000 \$2,100,000



HIGHLAND Newer Model Custom
South Bay Shores prestigious boat slip on Duck Lake 2004 brick w/ 4 BD 3 1/2 BA 3+ car acre lot the best of everything used in this home A must see Vacant lots available Huron Valley

(B48ANC) 248-363-1200 \$500,000



BLOOMFIELD HILLS Historic Home
Don't miss this You will feel like you are living up north on vacation while still being in the city of Bloomfield Hills Great curb appeal with large apartment above garage with full kitchen bath and 2 bedrooms

(B80HIL) 248-642-8100 \$789,000



WEST BLOOMFIELD Designer Perfect!
House beautiful on a wooded cul de sac Maple cabinets granite and hardwood in this cooks delight kitchen Grand master suite w/ en suite Jack & Jill guest suite private backyard & car garage

(B43CHE) 248-349-5600 \$699,900



TROY Superbly Appointed
Five bedroom three bath two lav home Living room great dining room large kitchen dual stair case Extensive millwork T/O Hardwood floors 3 fireplaces finished W/O lower level beautiful private yard with gazebo

(B76TAL) 248-524-1600 \$779,900



ROCHESTER HILLS Leader
Builder's private residence on approx 2+ acres located on serene cul de sac Unparalleled craftsmanship with attention to detail This exquisite home exudes luxury with beautiful amenities

(B53SCE) 248-652-8000 \$1,899,999



COMMERCE All Sports Lakefront
3-4 bedroom Home sits on large high lot offering panoramic views of Lake Sherwood 1st floor master fin w/ unique architecture sandy beach over 120 ft of frontage Huron Valley Schools

(B21COM) 248-363-1200 \$550,000

Relocation Services 800-448-5817



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By Dave Menard
Avanti NewsFeatures

Back in the day, when you needed more room than a sedan could give you, you bought a wagon (sometimes with that awful wood paneling on the side). The introduction of the minivan and the SUV in the 1980s gave us another option and almost sounded the death knell for the wagon.

Not everybody, however, wants or needs the added bulk of an SUV or a minivan, and fortunately, wagons are back. Some of them combine the best of both worlds -- more room than a sedan, but in a smaller, more nimble package than a van or SUV, yet still with a more car-like ride. The 2006 Subaru Outback 3.0 R VDC Limited Wagon does all that, and has some cool stuff on it, too.

The Outback Wagon looks like a wedge coming toward you, with a larger back end tapering off into a smaller front end. The Outback Wagon, like all the Outbacks features higher ground clearance than standard cars (8.4"). It also comes with a rear gate spoiler, raised black-letter tires, body-color exterior mirrors, roof rack, and a front bumper underguard.

Subaru has given the 3.0 R VDC Limited Wagon (let's shorten that to VDC from now on) a 3.0-liter, DOHC six-cylinder horizontally-opposed (boxer) engine. It's rated at 250 hp and 219 lb.-ft. of torque and includes variable valve timing and the Active Valve Lift System. It's mated with a five-speed automatic transmission, which includes manual shifting control. Each automaker calls their version something different -- with Subaru it's called



2006 Subaru Outback 3.0 R VDC Limited Wagon. Type: Special purpose. Where built: Lafayette, IN. EPA: 19/26. Base price: \$35,695. Price as tested: \$36,320

Sportshift, and it allows you to cycle through the shift points yourself for more control. Most driving situations shouldn't need it, but it's nice to have when necessary.

The VDC, like all Subarus, comes with all-wheel drive, it's the company's trademark. The all-wheel drive system that Subaru gives the VDC is called Vehicle Dynamics Control, hence the VDC in the model name. VDC integrates an electronic four-wheel traction control system, and continually adjusts power distribution to match driving conditions.

The VDC rides and handles very well. The front suspension is made up of MacPherson-type struts, lower L-arms, and stabilizer bar, while the rear system is multi-link. The power-assist rack-and-pinion steering is easy to steer, and the standard ABS braking system is excellent.

Inside, driving position is excellent, thanks to the higher ground clearance. The standard heated, leather-trimmed power seats are comfortable and provide good support. There's plenty of room in the cabin, and the rear seats can be folded down for even more cargo room. There are plenty of standard features on the

VDC Wagon. Dual zone automatic climate control, power doors, locks and mirrors, trip computer, cruise control, garage remote, power moonroof, and rear defroster are all included. Also included is an excellent AM/FM system with six-disc CD changer, and a touchscreen GPS navigation system. The system is pretty easy to use, and can calculate your planned route a number of ways, you can tell it to avoid the freeway, avoid toll roads, or just plan the fastest route.

Front seat side impact air bags and side curtain air bags are also standard.

The 2006 Subaru Outback 3.0 R VDC Limited Wagon starts at about \$36,000. And that's about where it stays, this, and the L.L. Bean version of the Outback, are the top-of-the-line versions and have everything you can have on them (the GPS system is optional on the L.L. Bean version). \$36,000 might be a lot for a wagon, but there's a lot in this wagon. It has room close to an SUV, handling more like a car, and some nice standard features. If you can't decide between a car and an SUV, maybe now you don't have to.

Write Dave Menard at avanti1054@aol.com

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Apartments/Unfurnished (4000)

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Condos/Townhouses (4020)

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Maple Road Townes Maple at Columbia (east of Adams) Close to downtown from these quaint updated 1 bedroom townhouses (\$820) and 1 bedroom apts (\$725) in ivy covered building

Edgewood Court 14 Mile between Pierce and Greenfield Beautiful kitchens highlight these updated 2 bed 1 bath townhouses with covered parking \$995

All have central A/C 1 cat OK w/fee EHO
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125 Columbia (south of Maple between Adams & Eton)
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COMMERCE Brand new 2 bdrm both master suites 2 1/2 bath 2 car attached fireplace private patio & entrance appliances \$1 250/mo Call (248) 212 4555

DETROIT 6/ Grand River Section 8 OK 1 & 2 bdrm condo like new gated parking \$650 \$550 734-765 5859

FARMINGTON 32718 Grand River Unit C 31 River Glens Condo Sharp 2 bedroom End Unit 1st floor with Park View all appliances common base ment area \$800 a month Heat included RE/MAX Classic Dave Reardon 734 432 1010

FARMINGTON HILLS Condo in 65+ community 2 bdrm 2 bath \$975/mo incl water shuttle service 248 736 6649

NORTHVILLE 2 bdrm 2 bath 1200 sq ft washer/dryer new carpet & paint open floor plan carport \$900 734-420 0791

NORTHVILLE Near downtown 2 bdrm 2 bath 1200 sq ft all appliances vaulted ceiling & pool \$1000 248 797 3888

NORTHVILLE CONDO 2 bedrooms 2 1/2 baths hardwood floors large kitchen w/Granite counter tops living room w/fireplace finished bsmt c/a appliances 1 800 sq ft \$1495/mo
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(248) 348 8189 #729
www.richterassoc.com

NORTHVILLE CONDO UPDATED!
2 bedrooms 2 baths living room w/fireplace new carpeting finished bsmt fenced yard 1 car garage c/a appliances 1 300 sq ft \$1095/mo
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(248) 348 8189 #726
www.richterassoc.com

NOVI Lg 2 bdrm attached garage \$895/mo Utilities incl No credit check
734 722-0608/734 787 0899

Condos/Townhouses (4020)

NOVI CONDO
2 bedroom 2 bath living room w/fireplace 2 car garage c/a appliances 1 450 sq ft \$1250/mo
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www.richterassoc.com

ROCHESTER 1st floor new condo 2 bdrm 2 bath 1490 sq ft Appliances Attached garage \$1575 248 608 9830

SOUTHFIELD Luxury 3 bdrm 2 1/2 bath finished bsmt deck \$1500/mo Section 8 OK 248 867 3659

SOUTHFIELD Exclusive 2 bdrm 2 bath condo Newly remodeled Private entrance gated community clubhouse pool \$1250 248 540 3212
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SOUTHFIELD 1 Bedroom bath carport central air laundry facilities clubhouse basement pool Spacious with many updates Lots of storage Great Location
248 802 5884

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Duplexes (4030)

Belleville 2 bdrm Hwd floors updated kitchen wall appliances new vinyl win dows new blinds bsmt w/washer & dryer hookup & possible 3rd bedroom \$615/mo \$900 sec dep 2 units avail now pets nego table Call Tina 734 416 8736

CANTON 3 bdrm 2 bath full bsmt large yard Canton Schools 1500 sq ft \$995/mo Call Jamie 734 721 8111

CANTON 3 bdrm 1 1/2 bath Appliances No pets Ford/ Sheldon area \$665/mo Call 248 514 0935

PLYMOUTH Sheldon/ Junc tion area 1 bdrm utility room air Non smoking no pets \$510 mo + sec 734 455 1040

WESTLAND Norwayne area Duplex \$1561 Alpena 2 bdrm \$640 mo + security 32406 Lapeer 3 bdrm \$650 + sec call (248) 420 0573

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WESTLAND - NORWAYNE
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WESTLAND near WAYNE
2 bdrm duplex w/ full bsmt Section 8 welcome \$750 mo Call 248 819 1100

Berkley Lower flat 1207 Dorothea 2 bdrm 6 rooms Updated Appliances Clean \$850 per mo 2 yr/\$925 one year lease (248) 770 1964

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PLYMOUTH Downtown Small 1 bdrm appliances washer /dryer wood floors all utilities no pets \$535 248 345 2552

Flats (4040)

PLYMOUTH DOWNTOWN
1 bdrm lower flat Hwd floors updated kitchen with all appliances central air full bsmt w/washer & dryer 1 car garage plenty of storage space \$675/mo \$1000 sec dep 1 year lease Pets nego call Tina 734 416 8736

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Homes For Rent (4050)

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BIRMINGHAM Small 2 bdrm 2 car garage C/A washer dryer no bsmt Pets OK \$750/mo 810 397 3803

BIRMINGHAM
2604 Manchester renovated 3 bdrm 2 bath hardwood floors all appliances fire place finish bsmt garage fenced deck \$1595/mo 248 761 0627

BIRMINGHAM Close to down town 2 bdrm 2 bath Completely updated Bsmt fenced yard garage \$1050 mo 248 214 4646

BIRMINGHAM 3 bdrms 2 1/2 bath fireplace hardwoods all appliances 99 renovation 881 Oakland 248 644 3147

BLOOMFIELD HILLS 15 & Telegraph Fox Croft Sub 2000 sq ft 4 bdrm 2 full bath \$1950/mo (248) 807 8722

CANTON 4 bdrm 2 1/2 bath deck fireplace appliances 2 car garage fenced yard bsmt c/a \$1500/mo 734 716 7827

CANTON RANCH
3 bdrm 1 bath bsmt 2 car garage deck large fenced yard c/a appliances 1173 sq ft \$1050/mo
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CANTON TOWNSHIP
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COMMERCE 5 bdrm 2 car garage \$1395/mo Also 3 car garage avail \$1295 Both brick homes on lg wooded lots Option to buy 248 613 3752

DEARBORN HEIGHTS
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DEARBORN HEIGHTS
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Call 248 703 8870
248 647 9726

DETROIT 16927 Winstone 6 & Telegraph 3 bdrm 1000 sq ft w/bsmt \$695/mo \$1500 move in (313) 492 0311

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3 bedroom bungalow base ment Warendale Immediate occupancy Rent to own/buy 248 931 7840 248 921 2432

Homes For Rent (4050)

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FARMINGTON HILLS 1500 sq ft colonial 3 bdrm 1 1/2 bath 2 car attached lg fenced yard \$1350/mo 248 388 7869

FARMINGTON HILLS 3 bdrm ranch 1st floor laundry room Updated kitchen & bath 248 477 0275/248 880 4861

FARMINGTON HILLS 3 bdrm double lot 1 car garage \$900/mo 248 474 9313 248 396 3146

FARMINGTON HILLS TRI LEVEL
3 bedroom 2 bath new carpeting & paint throughout replace kitchen w/new oak floors large fenced yard 2 1/2 car garage c/a appliances 1 580 sq ft \$1450/mo
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FERDALE 2 master bdrm fireplace new kitchen w/appli ances Bsmt w/laundry oak floors \$900 248 350 2499

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FERDALE BUNGALOW
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*on select homes Skyline/Clayton Retailer

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GARDEN CITY
Newly remodeled 2 bdrm home 1 car garage \$850/mo (313) 350 5227

GARDEN CITY Sharp 3 bdrm ranch bsmt dining room family room fireplace 2 baths Option \$850 248 788 1823

GARDEN CITY & LIVONIA
3 bedroom br ck ranches bsmt garage no pets \$900/mo 248 661 9062

GARDEN CITY Ford/Inkster
3 bdrm fenced shed \$775 + security 248 618 8125 313 561 0819 313 600 1122

GARDEN CITY RANCH
3 bedroom 1 updated bath new carpeting 1 car garage fenced yard c/a appliances 1 023 sq ft \$875/mo
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INKSTER Remodeled 3 bdrm brick ranch 2 car garage Avail now option to buy avail \$600 248 788 1828

INKSTER HOMES
3 bdrm bsmt garage Wayne Schools \$850 1000 8am 7pm 734 844 6587

Livonia \$1 275 w/\$500 move in Beautiful ranch w/3 bdrm 1 1/2 baths Attached garage Hix/Joy area Mark Regal Agent Direct 734 718 6176

LIVONIA 3 bdrm ranch 1000 sq ft 2 full bath finished bsmt 2 car garage \$1100/mo 248 752 1777

Homes For Rent (4050)

LIVONIA 3 bdrm 2 bath brick ranch Fireplace wood floors all appliances FL room \$1200 313 999 4719

LIVONIA 2 bdrm carport appliances garage no pets option to buy \$725/mo + security (248) 685 8138

LIVONIA 3 bdrm ranch 2 car garage freshly remodeled Fenced Option to buy on LC \$1000/mo 313 805 5309

LIVONIA 3 bdrm ranch car port C/A fenced garage \$975/mo + security 248 684-4398 248 259 1556

LIVONIA 3 bdrm ranch 1 1/2 bath fireplace a/c 2 car appl snow/lawn care \$1175/mo Avail now 734 464 6304

LIVONIA 3 bdrm brick ranch 2 bath Livonia schools lg garage hardwood \$1085/mo avail Jan 15 810 923 9057

LIVONIA Sharp 3 bdrm br ck Colonial 3 1/2 bath granite kitchen oak floors 2 car D&H Properties 248 737 4002

LIVONIA FREE LIVONIA REC Membership Clean 3 Bdrm 2 1/2 car garage C/A \$1095/mo 586 817 1846

LIVONIA NE OF 7 MILE / MERRIMAN Singl Family Home 2 Bedrooms bath 1 garage laundry facilities Immediate Occupancy! Rent or Rent to Buy Livonia Stevenson High School district \$950/mo 734 648 7509

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www.richterassoc.com

Livonia Plymouth/Farm ngton Rd area Clean 3 bdrm base ment garage and more \$995/mo 734 422 9226

MILFORD 2 STORY
3 bedroom 1 1/2 bath Florida room bsmt 1 1/2 car garage deck shed appliances 1 300 sq ft \$1095/mo
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NOVI Beautifully remodeled 3 bdrm Spacious loft as 4th bdrm 3 1/2 baths finished bsmt deck w/hot tub Great location S of 9 Mile E of Meadowbrook 22209 Cas cade \$2000/mo 248 830 6032

OK PARK Cute & remodeled 2 bdrm ranch immediate occupancy Option to buy avail \$550 248 788 1823

PLYMOUTH
2 Bedrooms Roomy N ce Area 263 W Spring 5700 734 674 3193

PLYMOUTH New 2 bdrm screened porch fireplace air washer/dryer Garage Quiet No pets \$650 248 444 0836

PLYMOUTH 3 bdrm 1 bath garage fenced corner lot new appliances paint carpet & doors \$1050 (734) 459 4822

PLYMOUTH COLONIAL
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Homes For Rent (4050)

PLYMOUTH TWP 3 Bdrm ranch 10ath full bsmt 1/2 finished & 1/2 Laundry & storage 2 1/2 car garage fenced yard \$1195 + uti lies & water 734 455 2690

Redford 19435 Ponciana Sharp 2 Bedroom Basement Garage Large Lot \$995 mo 248 476 6498

REDFORD 2 Bdrm garage Livonia Schools \$700/mo plus utilities and security deposit 313 538 1741

REDFORD 3 bdrm 1 bath & 2 bdrm 1 bath 1 1/2 mo security Btwn 6 & 7 Mile and Beech Daly (248) 661 9523

REDFORD 3 bdrm fresh paint Bsmt garage fenced Clean! Sec 8 OK \$930 mo 1 1/2 mo sec 734 397 8074

REDFORD immediate occup ancy 3 bdrm finished bsmt air fireplace appliances 2 car garage Non smoking no pets \$975 mo + security 313 537 6648

REDFORD 3 Bdrm 1 1/2 bath brick ranch Could be 0 down \$675/mo Call Misth 734 521 0194

REDFORD Sharp 3 bdrm brick ranch 2 bath Livonia schools lg garage hardwood \$1085/mo avail Jan 15 810 923 9057

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FOCUS ZTW 2003 Wagon Zetec motor like new low miles \$12 395
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Civic LX 2003 4 dr auto silver 37K \$13,595
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Kia (8527)

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Jaguar (8530)

Jaguar

Jeep (8535)

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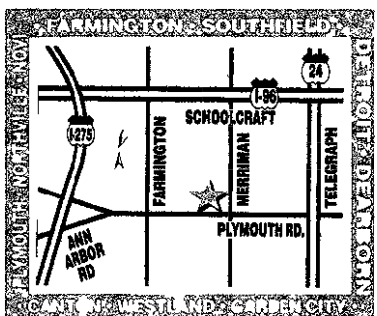
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