

BY TONY BRUSCATO STAFF WRITER

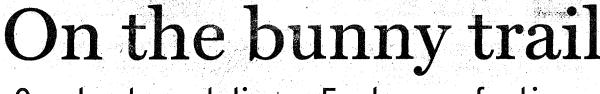
The concept of a regional fire department may have gone up in flames when four communities doused any chance by deciding this week to pull out of discussions.

Plymouth, Livonia and Northville Township representatives decided Monday to spend up to \$15,000 each for a study by consultant Plante Moran on the regionalization of fire and EMS services.

However, Livonia's director of public safety, Pete

At a recent township board meeting, Treasurer Ron Edwards told Wayne County Commissioner Laura Cox it was time to get the trees out. According to Edwards, dead or dying trees are starting to fall along Hines Drive, through the Plymouth Township portion of Hines Park and in the Ann Arbor Road/Beck area.

"Every time there's a major storm that comes through, these trees are falling on the pathways below," Edwards said. "If someone happened to be



Everett Smith sets a tray of freshly-poured chocolate figures to cool. Owners estimate they'd done some 8,000 pieces of candy

out there (when they fell), they could be seriously injured."

Lorenzo Blount, director of roads for Wayne County, said he would have someone look in the Ann Arbor Road/Beck area "to assess the situation."

But Ron Reinke, assistant director of Wayne County Parks, said the county is still waging war against the deadly ash borer, with several thousand affected trees still awaiting removal.

"We take the most serious cases, the ones in the most dangerous areas, and bring them down first," said Reinke, who pointed out the county has some 7,500 acres of parkland to patrol. "You're going to see some of those trees in undeveloped areas staying up there."

Edwards said trees have fallen through Hines Park and along Riverside Drive, where foot traffic has increased in the last couple of years as the township installs sidewalks.

"The trees are dead, and they've been left there, and I'm afraid someone is going to get nailed," Edwards said. "I'm not a tree expert, but someone is going to get hurt."

Reinke said the county is doing the best it can.

"It's going to take a long time to get this situation completely taken care of," Reinke said. "We're reacting as best we can."

bkadrich@hometownlife.com (734) 459-2700

## Candy store delivers Easter confections

**BY TONY BRUSCATO** Staff Writer

Cindy Smith is living every kid's dream, working in a candy store - and has been for 39 years.

The 54-year-old Plymouth Township woman has worked at Kemnitz Fine Candies on Ann Arbor Trail in downtown Plymouth since she was 15 years old. That's when her parents, Merle and Audrey Hamlin of Plymouth Township, bought the candy store from George Kemnitz in 1969. Smith is in the process of becoming a second-generation owner.

Smith, her husband, Everett, and Hamlin have been busy the past two months making 53 designs of Easter bunnies, chicks and eggs – producing nearly 8,000 pieces of homemade chocolate before Easter Sunday.

"This is the only chocolate Mr.

Kemnitz used, and the only chocolate we use today," Cindy Smith said, pointing to a 10-pound bar of chocolate ordered from Peter's Superlative Chocolate Co. in Pennsylvania, that will be melted down and molded into a chocolate treat. "We're pure chocolate.

PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

"A lot of other companies can mass produce, but they also have wax in them to give them a shine," Smith added. "There's no wax in our chocolate. We have a tempering process we paid a lot of money for to get the shine."

With just a week before Easter, Smith said they've already used 3,000 pounds of chocolate for the Easter run.

"We started Easter production in January, and then we had to switch

PLEASE SEE EASTER, AG

Kunst, said while they want the feasibility study to identify potential cost savings, the city's involvement in regional talks ended when Plymouth Township announced it wasn't going to pay for the study, and opted out of further talks.

"If Plymouth Township is out of the conversation, then I don't see any reason to continue the discussion at this time," Kunst said. "If you look at the geography and the different borders, it really doesn't make sense to go in this direction if Plymouth Township isn't part of the discussion.

"It doesn't mean Livonia and Northville Township wouldn't have discussion on areas that might save money," he said. "It makes sense for us to talk to them."

Also opting out of talks were Canton Township and Westland, leaving only the city of Plymouth and Northville Township ready to move forward.

Plymouth Township Treasurer Ron Edwards said the Plymouth Community Fire Department has the lowest cost of any of the communities in the discussions, and he sees no need to spend \$15,000 to tell him that.

"We weren't interested unless it could show a

PLEASE SEE FIRE PLAN, A5

## Transportation, extracurricular options enter budget discussion

#### BY TONY BRUSCATO STAFF WRITER

Charging a fee for all extracurricular activities, eliminating transportation to classes and field trips, as well as full-day kindergarten are among the latest options being bandied about by the Plymouth-Canton Board of Education as it continues discussions on how to eliminate \$5.5 million from the 2007-08 budget.

Trustees will again sharpen their pencils at a workshop budget session Tuesday night, which could also include discussion on how to eliminate a \$7.5 million structural deficit.

"We have several extracurricular

activities, like hockey and band, which fund themselves," said Trustee Tom Wysocki. "I would like to equalize the pain by making it more of a user fee for extracurriculars ... parents and students could pick up some of the costs for that. There are a lot of fund-raising opportunities for them to use."

Consolidating bus stops and eliminating field trips could save the district an estimated \$70,000 a year.

"We're looking at increasing walking distance for elementary schools from one mile to 1.5 miles," said Ken Jacobs, assistant superintendent for administrative services. "We could eliminate 30 elementary runs, which would affect over 2,000 students who would no longer be eligible to ride a bus."

Jacobs said his department is also looking at two full days-and-a-half of kindergarten to save on the midday transportation costs. Kindergartners would go to full-day classes on Monday-Wednesday or Tuesday-Thursday, with a half-day on Friday. A second alternative would have kindergartners alternating weeks with two full days one week, and three the next.

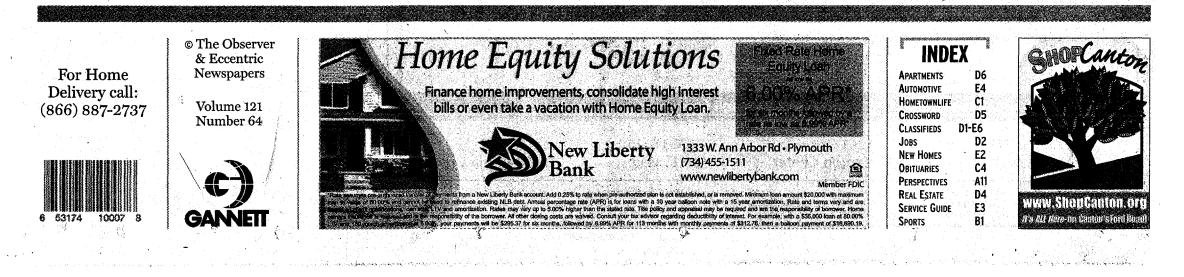
Trustee Richard Ham-Kucharski suggested the elimination of freshmen and junior varsity sports programs at the high schools.

"Translating them into intramural programs, where coaching and activities related to that become volunteerbased," Ham-Kucharski said. "Students would still have an opportunity to participate, with a fee to cover the minor costs related to it."

Board member Judy Mardigian continues to press the administration to deal with the structural deficit, which could climb to \$9.7 million in 2008-09.

"I want the organization to think about what could we do differently next year, even if it's just for one year," Mardigian said. "I know we've made a lot of investments in purchases, but could we hold off on some large-scale purchases for one year to avoid building the structural deficit."

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sets them on a tray to cool.

Day and Christmas are

Kemnitz's busiest times.

Smith said Easter, Valentine's

getting ready for Easter.

## **PLYMOUTH PIPELINE**

#### www.hometownlife.com

## Rummage sale

The Plymouth Salvation Army hosts its annual indoor rummage sale 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, April 21.

For the first time, table space will be rented to individuals who wish to sell their own belongings. The cost is \$25 for an eight-foot table.

Anyone interested in renting a table can contact Cassie at (734) 453-5464 or by e-mailing cassie\_hull@usc.salvationarmy.org. The Salvation Army is located at 9451 S. Main in Plymouth.

## Art exhibit

Established artist Dee Ann Segula brings her unique, colorful and richly textured encaustic paintings to exhibit at the Plymouth Community Arts Council.

The exhibition will be at the Joann Winkleman Hulce Center for the Arts on Sheldon Road April 1-29. The center is open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Special exhibit viewing hours for this exhibit has been scheduled 10 a.m.-noon Saturday, April 14, when visitors can personally meet the artist.

To learn more about Dee Ann Segula's upcoming exhibit, please contact the Plymouth Community Arts Council at (734) 416-4278 or pgangopa@plymoutharts.com. Blood drive

The Plymouth Post Office hosts an American Red Cross blood drive 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 11 at the Beck Road location.

Appointments are available, but walk-ins are also welcome. For more information, call Barb Mitchell, (734) 453-6111.

## Compost collection

**Plymouth Township officials** have announced the start of the township's curbside compost collection, which begins Monday, April 2.

Yard waste including leaves, grass clippings, vegetative pruning, garden waste, wood debris and brush can be set out to the curb by 7 a.m. on regular collection days, and no earlier than 6 p.m. the night before. Brush and branches up to six inches in diameter must be tied with string or twine in bundles no longer than three feet long.

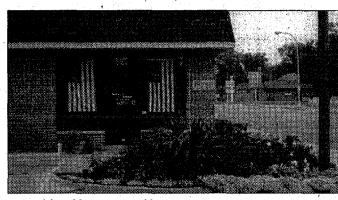
Leaves and grass clippings can be put into paper Yard Waste bags available from various retailers, or in a 35-gallon container identified with a compost sticker or marked clearly with two large "Xs" or 'Cs." Stickers are available at township offices. Filled containers shouldn't exceed 50 pounds.

For more information, call (734) 354-3270, Ext. 4.

## Summer day camp

The Salvation Army of Plymouth is holding a Summer Day Camp program for children ages 6-12 June 18 through Aug. 17.

The camp runs 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday.



## **Aesthetic excellence**

Horton Plumbing, in business for 19 years and at their present location at Main and Byron for 11 years, won first place in the landscaping category of the 2006 Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce **Business Beautification Award competition. Horton Plumbing was** honored with certificates by both Plymouth Township and City of Plymouth officials.

The cost is \$50 per week per child. Before-care is available starting at 8 a.m., and aftercare until 5 p.m., each for an additional \$10 a week. Activities will include indoor & outdoor games, crafts, Christian Education, weekly field trips, and more.

Registration is 6-8 p.m. Monday, April. There is a \$10 non-refundable registration fee per child. Those who wish to apply for a scholarship should bring proof of income at time of registration.

For further information, call (734) 453-5464. The Salvation Army is located at 9451 S. Main Street in Plymouth.

## Strong Kids program

The Plymouth Family YMCA is kicking off its Strong Kids campaign, an annual fundraiser which helps provide services to people who can't afford the program costs. Summer camp and youth

programs for kids of working single parents are just two examples. The Plymouth Family YMCA offers an intensive youth volunteer program during the summer. "Summer in Service" is a free week long program that gives high-school aged young people the opportunity to give back to their community and develop a lifelong ethic of service.

The YMCA is looking for help in funding these programs. To contribute, call the YMCA at (734) 453-2904.

## Top volunteer nominations

The Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce is looking for nominations for the 2007 Volunteers of the Year. Plymouth service clubs can nominate their outstanding volunteer by filling out a nomination form available through the Chamber of Commerce.

The nominees will then be honored at the Showcase Plymouth and Taste of Plymouth Wednesday, May 9, at The Inn at St. John's.

Nominations should be forwarded to the Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce, 850 W. Ann Arbor Trail, (734) 453-1540. Deadline to be included is April 13.

Honorees will be provided with two full admissions to Showcase Plymouth and the Taste of Plymouth. Additional tickets are available \$10 each. Honorees will also receive a framed certificate and be recognized on stage during the event.

## Good Friday breakfast

The 32nd Annual Men's Good Friday Breakfast, will be held at St. Michael Lutheran Church, 7000 N. Sheldon, 8 a.m. Friday, April 6.

Christian singer-songwriter

Chris Kokenos will be the guest speaker. All men and boys are invited. Tickets are \$5 and \$2 for boys 10 and under and includes an All-U-Can-Eat breakfast.

Call the church office, (734)459-3333 for details.

## Easter Egg hunt

The Plymouth Jaycees host their annual Easter Egg Hunt Saturday, April 7, at Plymouth Township Park, located off Ann Arbor Trail at McClumpha.

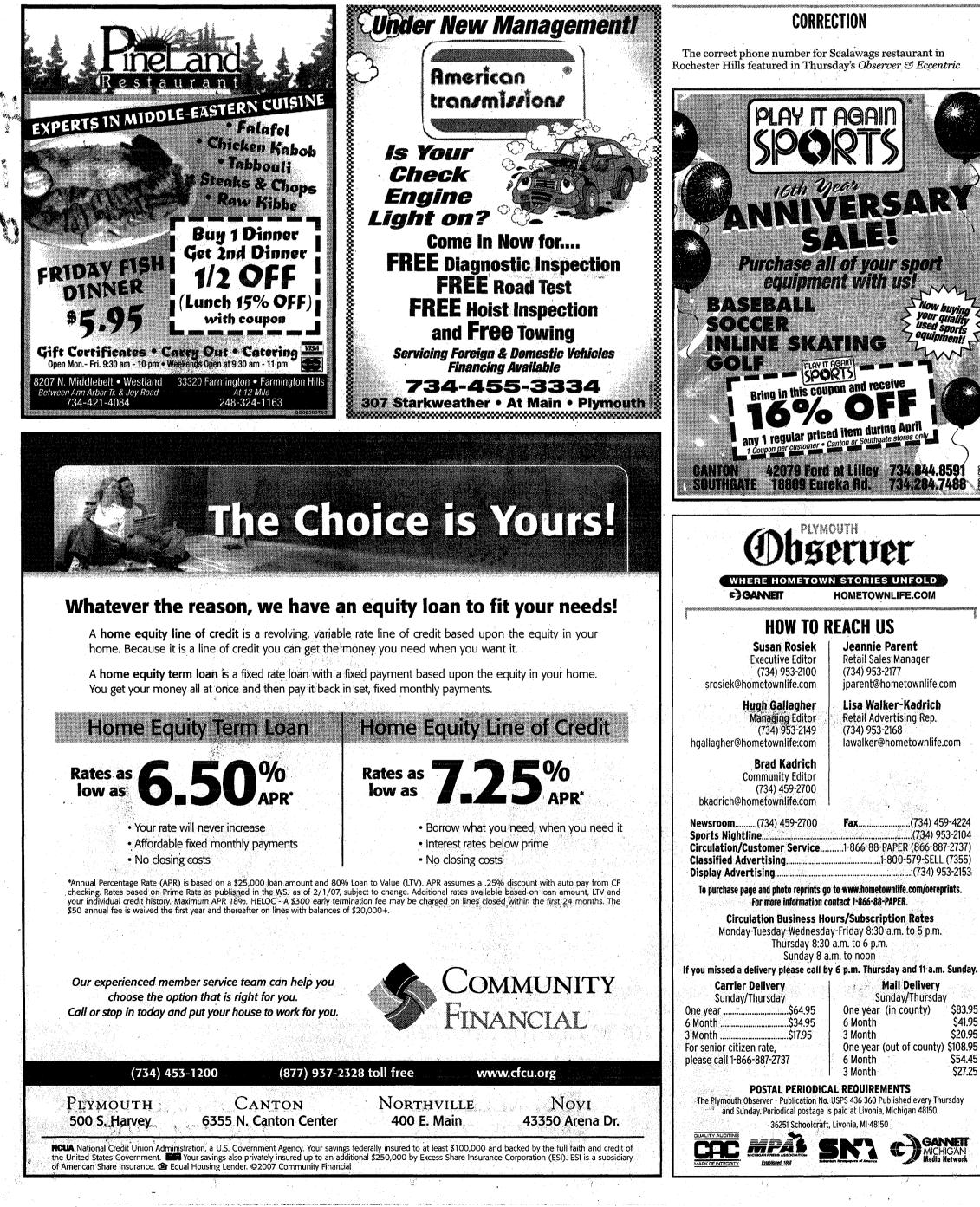
The hunt starts promptly at 10 a.m., and the Easter Bunny will be available for pictures. Other highlights include a police car and fire engine for youngsters to explore. Participants should bring their baskets, bags and cameras.

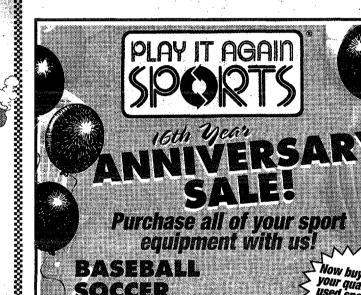
In case of inclement weather or for more information, call the Jaycee hotline, (734) 453-8407.

## Legion meets

The American Legion, Beasley-Zalesny Post 112 and Ladies Auxiliary Unit 112 meet the third Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m. All war-time veterans are welcome. Ladies must be a mother, wife, sister, daughter, granddaughter or greatgranddaughter of a war-time veteran and are also welcome.

Meetings are held at IOOF Hall, 344 Elizabeth (at Ann Arbor Trail) in downtown Plymouth. For information, call (734) 459-7324.

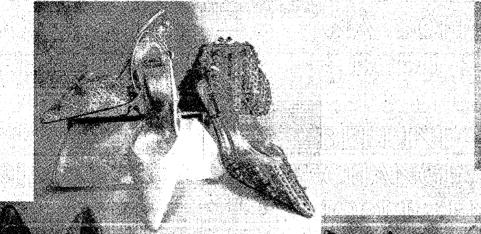


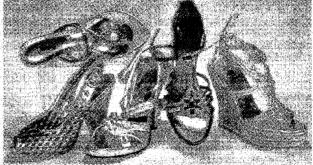


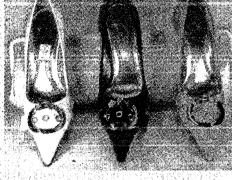
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Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, April 1, 2007 (\*) www.hometownlife.con FOOTWEAR NEWS "The best thing to come out of Michigan in 35 years"

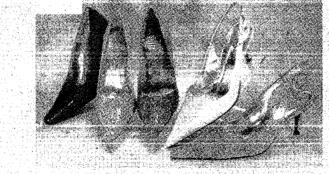
THIS SPRINGS TOP BRANDS AND STYLES THE LARGEST SELECTION OF BRIDAL, CASUAL, HEELS, FLATS, COLORS, PATENTS, SANDALS... **OH... AND AT THE BEST PRICES** 



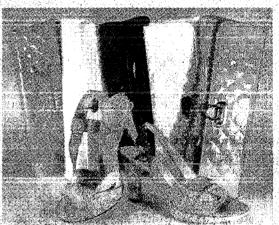












AJ

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OE08515

## LOCAL NEWS

## 'Singh'ing wrong song Realtors: Promoting hospital won't help sales of area homes

#### BY TIFFANY L. PARKS STAFF WRITER

**A4** 

(P)

Although Singh Development is already promoting Oakwood's proposed hospital at Beck and Geddes, some Realtors are saying the facility doesn't come close to being a selling point.

**Renee Reyer of Remerica** Country Place called Singh's recent newspaper advertisement for its Charing Cross subdivision "propaganda."

The advertisement, which angered some current homeowners in the upscale subdivision, promoted Charing Cross as being "adjacent to proposed new state-of-the-art Oakwood Medical Facility."

Oakwood Healthcare Systems has faced a mountain of backlash for its plans to buy 88 acres of land from Singh and build a 650,000-square-

-24 Hour Professional Staffing

-3 Home Cooked Meals A Day

-On Call Nurse Practitioner

-Planned Activities

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foot hospital on the northwest corner of the intersection.

Reyer lives in the vicinity of the proposed medical campus and has real estate listings in the subdivision that sits directly west of the vacant parcel.

"People do not want a hospital in their backyards," she said.

Singh Vice President G. Michael Kahm has said the company mentioned Oakwood in its advertisement because research has shown that homebuyers are attracted to properties near medical facilities.

Rever said that hasn't been her experience.

"I've been a Realtor for many years and I have never ever been asked, 'Where's the nearest hospital?" she said with a strained laugh, adding that, if approved, Oakwood's coming could lower property values near the intersection.

8121 Lilley, Located between Joy & Warren Roads

Carmela Surowiec of Century 21 Today also has a listing in the subdivision west of the site and hasn't touted Oakwood's plans.

"Every community can benefit from a hospital, but no one wants one in their backyard," she said. "It's the same thing with police departments and schools."

As someone aware of today's financial climate, Surowiec said she can see why Singh is trying to sell the land, but also understands the anger of current homeowners.

"Before you know it, doctor's offices may want to (build near the intersection)," she said.

Like Singh, another large developer is hoping Oakwood gets the green light.

In a letter to the Canton Planning Commission, Pulte Land Company Vice President Clark Doughty expressed support of the project. The Observer obtained the letter from Kahm.

Pulte has plans to build a subdivision a mile west of the intersection.

"We believe the Oakwood medical campus would enhance the attraction and marketability of our proposed project," Doughty wrote, adding that the facility could become an "economic engine" that may attract hospital employees and customers.

Oakwood will present a revision of its plans to the planning commission at 7 p.m. Monday at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill. The meeting has been moved to accommodate an anticipated larger audience.

Signs promoting attendance at the meeting are sprinkled throughout several developments near Beck and Geddes.

An orange and black handwritten-sign at the entrance of Meadow Villages near the southeast corner reads "Say NO to Oakwood" while computer-printed, blue and white signs that read "Neighborhoods not Hospitals" have been placed in other sub-

divisions. In order for Oakwood to move forward, township officials must alter a planned development district agreement for the land, which is

zoned residential. Residents showed up in droves to oppose the plans at a commission meeting in October and have continued to speak out against the proposal and any possible zoning change.

"These people spent \$400,000 for their homes and now they could be living near a hospital," Rever said.

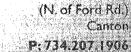
Singh's initial plans were to expand Charing Cross in three phases and build nearly 300 homes and apartments at the site. The second and third phase are "victims" of a slumping economy, Kahm has said.

The first phase includes only about 55 homes and just more than 30 have been built and sold.

Oakwood is looking to build its medical campus in stages, beginning with a 130,000square-foot office. A 130-foot wide berm is designed to shield the building from neighboring properties and landscaping is planned for the outer edges. Access to the Oakwood property could only be granted from Beck and Geddes roads and a decorative pond would sit at the edge of the intersection.

tlparks@hometownlife.com | (734) 459-2700







## LOCAL NEWS

## Dispatch talks still disconnected

#### BY TONY BRUSCATO STAFF WRITER

www.hometownlife.com

It appears the talk of a regional fire department spearheaded by Plymouth Mayor Dan Dwyer has drawn the ire of some Plymouth Township elected officials, who say they don't want to discuss a new police dispatch contract if the city won't negotiate a new fire agreement.

"The city promised us that when the dispatch contract was done, they would go to the fire agreement," said Plymouth Township Treasurer Ron Edwards. "I've told my board not to negotiate them separately."

Edwards and some township trustees believe that since both the police dispatch and fire service con'The city promised us that when the dispatch contract was done, they would go to the fire agreement. I've told my board not to negotiate them separately.'

#### Ron Edwards Plymouth Township treasurer

tracts were signed in 1999, they should be negotiated in tandem once again.

Dwyer has been public in announcing his intentions to negotiate the two separately, considering city officials are discussing fire department options. If regionalized fire doesn't work, Dwyer is confident a public safety department — where police are cross-trained as firefighters — will serve the city's needs at a reduced cost. The city currently pays more than \$1 million for fire services from the township.

"We're ready to sign it," said Dwyer of the police dispatch contract, which expired at the end of last year. "We passed it twice. We're just looking for the township to pass it."

The two communities have had to iron out differences on the police dispatch contract, but appear to have come to agreement on the four-year pact, which includes a penalty clause if the city opts out beforehand. "We don't like the fact they want us to pay a penalty if we want out, but we plan on being there the entire four years," Dwyer said.

Township Trustee Bob Doroshewitz said it was his understanding the city would negotiate a new fire agreement after the dispatch contract was signed.

"At this point, (Dwyer) is telling me they're committed (to contracting fire services) through 2009, and all bets are off after that because then it's off to regionalization or public safety," Doroshewitz said. "That's OK, if that's their position. But, we need to know because after 2009 we'll either be looking at reducing the department or planning a new model." As for the police dispatch contract, Doroshewitz said he's disappointed the two sides have come close, but have yet to sign it.

"I see it as a collective bargaining failure," Doroshewitz said. "I'm pretty much out of ideas what to do now."

Trustee Chuck Curmi believes both issues have become confusing.

"It leads me to believe that not all the cards are on the table," Curmi said. "Residents want synergy from cooperative, leveraged contracts. We need to get this settled."

Township trustees will meet Wednesday to discuss both the police dispatch and fire service contracts.

tbruscato@hometownlife.com | (734) 459-2700

## DEATHS

(P)

## Linda Ellen Burrell Burrell, 67, of Traverse City, died March 18.

Pamela Gay Galor (nee Butsky)

Galor, of Redford Township, died March 16. H

Katherine Ann (Jackson) Hall Hall, 60, of Canton, died March 28. Virginia M. Hemenway

Hemenway, 81, of Rochester Hills, died March 24,

### Milton P. Lilley Lilley, 80, of Farmington, died March 16.

Bill Lloyd Jr. Lloyd, 53, of White Lake Township, died March 24. Earl H. Long Long, 82, of Canton Township, died

March 25.

#### Alfred Vidrio

Vidrio, 73, of Bloomfield Township, died March 22.

Complete paid obituaries can be found inside today's newspaper in Passages on page C4.

## FIRE PLAN

### FROM PAGE A1

benefit in improved service without additional cost," Edwards said. "The other departments are operating at a higher cost than we are, so we would have to raise our costs to meet theirs.

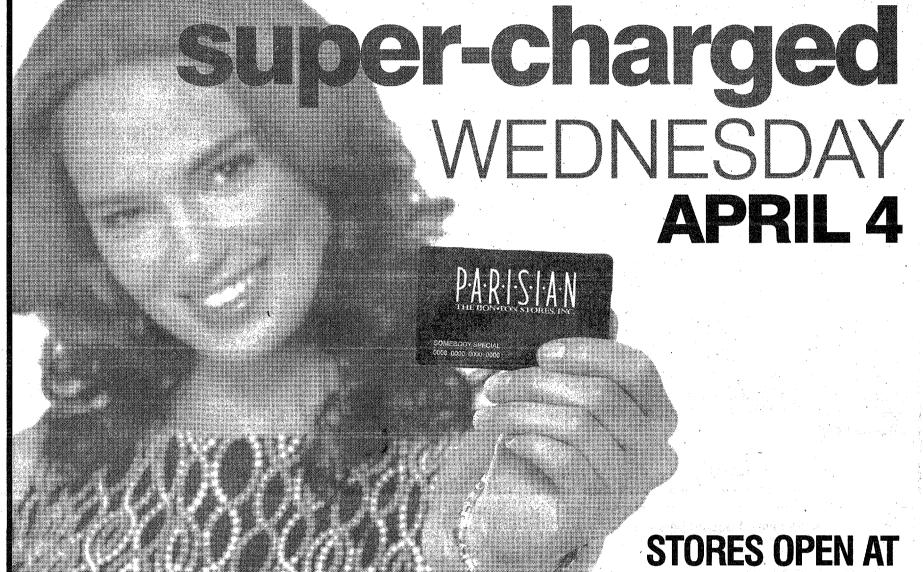
"If they're not talking personnel reduction, then it's not worth talking about," he said. "There would have to be a combined cut of \$6 million among all the departments to come down to our current rate per-resident. The idea is flawed all the way around."

Township Trustee Chuck Curmi didn't agree.

"How do you know it's not possible if you don't investigate it?" Curmi said. "You don't know until you do the analysis. You can't make a decision without the data."

The news was disappointing to Plymouth Mayor Dan Dwyer, who has pushed ahead with fire department regionalization efforts ever since the City Commission made it the No. 1 goal for 2007.

"Regionalization is dead, I'd have to say," Dwyer said. "I still think it's the right thing, and down the road I think we will see it everywhere. But, at least I now know what option



is out.

"Then we're going to look hard at public safety," said Dwyer of a plan to cross-train police to also be firefighters. "If it's a cheaper price and a better product, we'll do it. If not, the next option will be to continue with the fire agreement with Plymouth Township."

The city of Plymouth has already negotiated a provision in the police contract that addresses the public safety concept.

Dwyer lamented it's the second time Plymouth Township has blocked the city's efforts to regionalize services.

"They blocked us when we tried to regionalize dispatch," said Dwyer. "It's frustrating, to say the least."

Westland Fire Chief Mike Reddy said he's taken a look at a similar feasibility study conducted for Downriver communities and said it answers some questions, but leaves others unanswered.

"We know the study doesn't get in-depth on how really to consolidate," Reddy said, "like how to deal with personnel and unions, and how four different communities would deal with contracts, pensions and insurance. The study doesn't address the real hurdles.

"I can't ask my residents to pay for a study that I've already done research on myself and know the issues," he said.

Canton Township Supervisor Tom Yack made it known earlier that when it was time to "ask for the check" his community would opt out.

"We're hard-pressed to see any benefit for Canton residents," Yack said of regionalization. "We have the best of the best, and Canton residents have gotten used to it. What we've tried to do is be as efficient as we can, spreading our three fire stations in a way to create maximum coverage in the community. Our response times are real strong."

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\$6\_00 Adults Evening

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SHOWTIMES VALID 3/30 - 4/3 \*( ) = SAT/SUN

**OPEN SEASON** (PG)

FRI/SAT LS 11:30 **O HILLS HAVE EYES 2** (R) (11:45) 1:45, 3:45, 5:45, 7:45, 9:45 FRI/SAT LS 11:45 **O REIGN OVER ME** (R)

11:20) 1:55, 4:30, 7:05, 9:50

11:00) 1:40, 4:20, 7:00, 9:40 **NILD HOGS** (PG-13) 12:50, 3:00, 5:10, 7:20, 9:30 FRI/SAT LS 11:35

COUPON

3) (11:15) 1:15, 3:15, 5:15, 7:15, 9:1

BLADES OF GLORY (PG-13)

MEET THE ROBINSONS (PG)

15. 2:30, 4:45, 7:00, 9:15

SHOOTER (R)

ALL STADIUM SEATING

**OWER PRICES** 

## **CONTINUED FROM A1**

## **EASTER** FROM PAGE A1

gears for Valentine's Day," Smith said. "Then, we switched back to bunnies again.

back to bunnies again. Christmas, Valentine's and Easter are our biggest seasons, and they all come right in a row."

Customers will find a wide range of hollow chocolate, ranging from two-ounce bunnies for about \$2.25 to a nearly eight-pound bunny which cashes out at more than \$100.

Hamlin, 79, who still works in the kitchen — tucked away in an unmarked building in Old Village — said it's "time to cut loose" from the business. However, he's still working long hours to get chocolates to candy-craved customers for Easter.

"George started this in the basement of his house in Westland, and we moved it to Plymouth six months after we bought it," Hamlin said. "It's been our home ever since."

Everett Smith said despite the fact he's around chocolate all day, he "doesn't eat that much, maybe a little dark chocolate." After retiring from his job as a machinist, there's one observation that stands out the past three years he's worked at Kemnitz.

"One of the biggest things

### Canton Police Department Public Auction

	Towing, 8 :30 AM.	376 Railroad Street, Ypsilanti, Ml	48197, April 12,
1990	Ford	1FACP52U1LG121241	
1997	Ford	1FALP13PXVW158704	1 e
1997	Geo	1Y1SK5262VZ415708	

Publish: April 1, 2007

Publish: April 1, 2007

### CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON ACCESS TO PUBLIC MEETINGS

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

David Medley, ADA Coordinator Charter Township of Canton, 1150 S. Canton Center Road Canton, MI 48188 (734) 394-5260 about the candy business is putting smiles on people's faces," Everett Smith said. "Most people, when they come into the store, already have a smile on their face in anticipation."

JoAnn Wilson of Livonia remembers growing up in Plymouth, only a block and a half from Kemnitz.

"Back then, that was the closest candy store and that's where we always went," said Wilson, 48. "I always got the chocolate-covered peanuts, and they're still my favorite.

"Cindy really makes that place," she added. "The people are friendly, and they really make a person feel welcome when you walk in."

Cindy Smith said she still gets orders from former Plymouth residents who live all over the country, wanting to ship Easter bunnies to friends and relatives.

Sue Stridiron of Plymouth Township says she doesn't visit Kemnitz often, but always goes at Easter.

"My kids like the coconut nests with jelly beans in the middle," Stridiron said. "I have a son who is 37 who will be devastated if he doesn't get one."

The three candy makers work long hours in a kitchen cooled to 54 degrees.

"We always have the air conditioning running," Cindy Smith said. "I feel ridiculous going to work in turtlenecks during the summer."

Despite her 39 years in the candy business, Cindy Smith said she always has a taste for chocolate.

"I eat chocolate every day, I

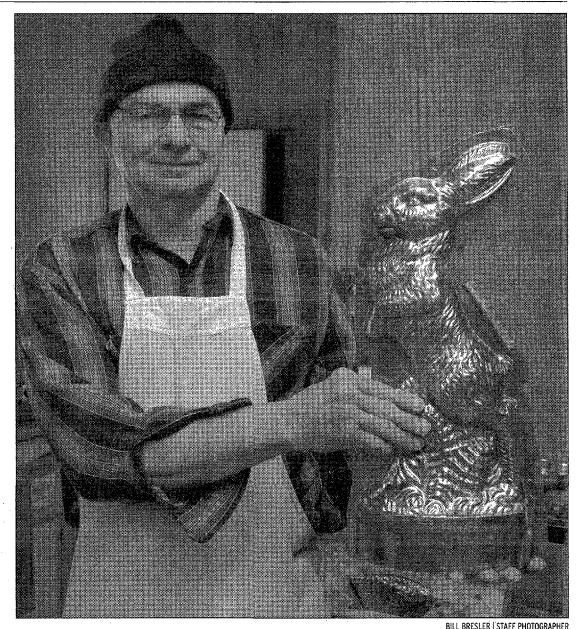
never get sick of it," she said. "My favorite is raspberry creme. When I was a kid, I used to pick off all the choco-

OF0851873

#### PLYMOUTH TWP. POLICE DEPT. 734-354-3232 NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

Notice is hereby given that on 04/06/07, at 10:00 a.m., at Mayflower Auto Transport, 1179 Starkweather, Plymouth, MI 48170, a public auction of the following:

1989	FORD	ESCORT	1FAPP93J4KT187446			
1981	FRUCHAVE	TRAILER	1H4P04225BF043736			
1982	FORD	THUNDERBIRD	1FABP4204CH138096			
1997	GMC	SIERRA	1GTEC19R3VE550338			
At Chandler Car Carriers, 8801 Haggerty Rd., Canton, MI 48187, at 9:30 a.m.						
1997	CADILLAC	DEVILLE	1G6KD52Y4VU227594			
1978	CADILLAC	EL DORADO	6L47S8Q245095			
At All American Towing, 20735 Sunnydace, Farmington Hills, MI, at 9:00 a.m.						
1981	GMC	CUBE	1GCJP32M3B3301705			
Publish: A	April 1, 2007					



Everett Smith displays the largest bunny they make at Kemnitz. It's about five pounds of chocolate goodness.

late and eat it, then eat the creme. Now I'm grown up and eat it all together."

However, Smith said the most pleasure she derives from chocolate is from watching her customers enjoy it.

"It's awesome seeing a child for the first time in the candy store," Smith said. "It's helping customers get what they want, smiling when they go out carrying their little bag of candy. Sometimes they don't even get out of the candy store, nibbling before they get out, and then they'll stop and say, 'That's good.'

www.hometownlife.com

"That's when I think, 'Oh, yeah, we did it."

tbruscato@hometownlife.com | (734) 459-2700







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## LOCAL NEWS

A7

(P)

## New yoga studio helps people unlock their true inner self

#### **BY TIFFANY L. PARKS STAFF WRITER**

Lois Gannon and Carrie Honore say they knew they were on the right path when opening their own yoga studio went so smoothly.

The mother and daughter team launched the evolve yoga studio, 7986 Lilley, last November. The studio, its name spelled with a lowercase "e," already has a stream of regular customers and a handful of yoga instructors.

"There's something about yoga that grabs you and lets you know your path in life," said Honore, whose husband, Mitchel, also owns a slice of evolve. "I don't know how it happens, but you almost have no choice but to unfold into your true self."

Since moving into the location, which previously housed slabs of granite, the two have transformed the space with candles, plants, dim lighting and cube seats.

"Business has been very good," Gannon said. "People love the serenity and peace here. There's no judgment and we are all about honoring and listening to your body."

Gannon, who lives outside of Ann Arbor, and her daughter began doing yoga together years ago at a fitness club.

"I would dread going to the gym, but I really loved the yoga," said Honore, who lives in Ferndale. "I just remember feeling so light. I wasn't sleepy but I was very relaxed."

They chose to open the business in Canton because of its central location to their homes and its booming



Soft lighting and candles greet students of yoga at evolve.

community.

"The Ann Arbor and Ferndale areas are saturated with yoga studios, but there's nothing like what we're doing in this area," Honore said.

The studio welcomes people who've never tried yoga as well as those with years of experience. Classes include gentle yoga, toddler and me sessions, heart-centered yoga, basic yoga and lunch break yoga.

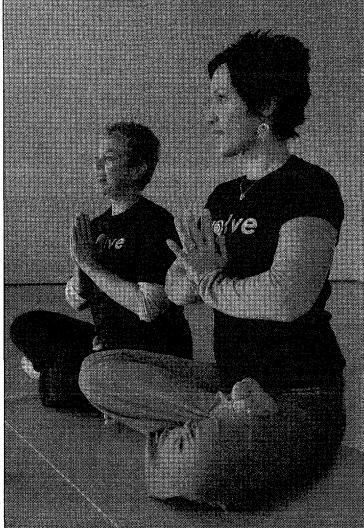
Honore said the age range of customers spans from 18 months to 84 years old.

"I love seeing people who've never done yoga become excited about the changes they feel in their body," Honore said. "This is not a competition sport. We do not care about what you're wearing or what you look like. As a matter of fact, most of the (movements) are done with your eyes closed."

As Gannon's only child, Honore said she works well with her mother although they tease each other about their work styles.

"She says I'm messy because she likes everything so neat," Gannon chuckled.

The two previously owned a sandwich shop together. Both of them say they meditate everyday and practice yoga about five times a week.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Lois Gannon (left) and Carrie Honore are the mother and daughter owners of the evolve yoga studio.

The studio's earliest classes begin at 8 a.m., but Gannon said they'll soon offer a 5:30 a.m. class at the request of customers.

The evolve studio also sells various items including Tshirts, yoga mats, books,

music, skin care products, incense and soaps. Those interested in taking a

class, can call (734) 454-YOGA or log on to www.evolveyoga.net.

tlparks@hometownlife.com | (734) 459-2700

## **EVOLVE YOGA STUDIO**

**Owners:** Lois Gannon and Carrie Honore Location: 7986 Lilley Road Phone: (734) 454-Y0GA Web site: www.evolve-yoga.net evolve offers one free class to newcomers. Through June 30, new students can pay \$40 for five classes. The classes must be taken within 60 days of purchase.



## Final sale: Clyde Smith auction draws large crowd

#### **BY DARRELL CLEM** STAFF WRITER

A roadside produce stand that became the sprawling Clyde Smith and Sons Farm Market & Greenhouses drew its last customers Saturday during a public auction.

The event will come as developers begin to fine-tune plans for the site.

After 173 years, Michigan's oldest business of its kind will sell off greenhouses, tractors,

As the 9 a.m. auction looms Saturday, Westland historian Jo Johnson recalled an era when Clyde Smith and Sons became a front-runner for local produce and flowers.

"That was the only produce market we had around here," she said.

After starting its business in 1834, the Smith family used to sell produce at the old Western Market in Detroit. The property also was home to farm animals.

on Wayne Road south of Marquette.

'We're very thankful," said Johnson, president of the Westland Historical Commission.

As the past and future collide, the Smith property has been sold to D'Orazio Contracting Corp., which plans to build roughly 120 singlefamily homes on the 36-acre site.

Company president Paul D'Orazio estimated that the

said.

Developers found the area appealing as a way to provide affordable housing for average families who want access to such amenities as good schools and shopping areas, D'Orazio said.

D'Orazio's company already has bought the Smith property.

During a recent Westland City Council meeting, D'Orazio won support to rezone the property from

commercial/business to single-

farm equipment, clay pots, an antique saw – even a stainless steel sink.

The six-generation family business folded after last Christmas season. It had lost its competitive edge, and developers wanted the prime land on Newburgh south of Joy.

Johnson and others predicted Saturday's auction will draw a huge crowd of people, including some who want to buy a piece of history.

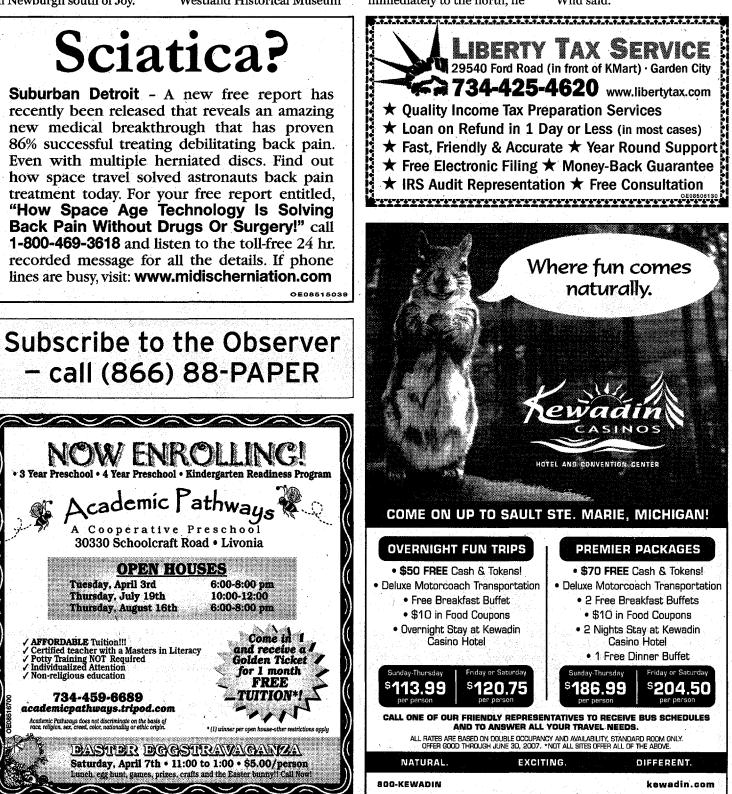
Not everything will be sold. The Smith family donated several antique farm tools to the Westland Historical Museum

groundbreaking will be mid- to late-2008 on the site. He also plans to build a couple of commercial buildings fronting Newburgh Road.

The project will complement another D'Orazio development, North Creek Estates, immediately to the north, he

family residential. Mayor William Wild complimented D'Orazio for having confidence in an economic turnaround that will make the

project viable. "I think this is the perfect use for this piece of property," Wild said.



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Thursday, July 19th Thursday, August 16th

The Plymouth District Library offers the following programs during April:

CAREGIVERS SUPPORT GROUP, Monday, April 9, 7 p.m. - Due to the holiday schedule, this meeting will be held on the second Monday of April. Social worker Chris Goldberg of Adult Well-Being Services will answer a wide variety of concerns for individuals caring for ill or aging family members. No registration is required.

GREAT BOOKS, Monday, April 2, 16 and 30, 7 p.m. -This discussion group is open to anyone who is curious and willing to work with others in developing an understanding and appreciation of great literature. For further information, contact group facilitator Karen Berrie at (734) 453-2454. To learn more about The Great Books Foundation, see the Internet website:

http://www.greatbooks.org/ WRITING MY LIFE STORY: A SENIOR WRIT-ING GROUP, Tuesday, April 3, 1 p.m. and Tuesday, April 17, 4 p.m. – Seniors can share and preserve their life stories with the guidance of Plymouth author, Jane Saylor. No previous writing experience nor advance registration is required. Attend either meeting or both.

■ \$\$\$ and SENSE, Wednesday, April 4, 1 p.m. -Join others who are interested in learning and sharing information on personal finance and investing at this discussion group at the Library. The group provides a forum to study and share personal investment information, learn investment terminology, review different investment tools, and study individual stocks, mutual funds, annuities, etc. Each month, mem-

#### bers follow and report on a mock portfolio they set up on the Internet. This is not a stock club, no monies are involved: members plan, moderate, and participate in each meeting. New members are welcome at any meeting. Meetings are usually held on the first Wednesday of the month in a Library meeting room. For more information on current discussion topics, please contact Linda Pride,

(734) 453-0750, Ext. 206 or lpride@plymouthlibrary.org LOW VISION SUPPORT GROUP, Thursday, April 5, 1-3 p.m. - This group is for individuals for whom glasses are no longer sufficient. It is facilitated by a professional and is intended to be social as well as informative. Guest speakers cover a variety of topics - caregivers or friends are invited to attend. No advance registration is required - for more information contact Ellen Stross at

(734) 453-0750, Ext. 232. **YOUR POETRY GROUP** – There will be no meeting this month due to the holiday. Mark your calendar for the next meeting on May 13, 1-3 p.m. Round table readings of poems, your own or by others, are held on the second Sunday of the month. Reader's discretion of language is asked in the works read. For more information, contact Don Hewlett, (313) 272-3548, or don-

hewlett@aol.com ■ STARS, MOONS & PLANETS, Monday, April 16, 7 p.m. – Want to know more about the spring sky? Plan now to attend this lively

## **@ THE LIBRARY**

exchange of thoughts with local astronomy expert, Mike Best. All are welcome - ages 6 to 106. For more information contact (734) 459-BEST or starmikebest@comcast.net

CONTEMPORARY BOOKS DISCUSSION, Wednesday, April 18, 7:30 p.m. Members of this book discussion group are invited to read Love and Other Impossible Pursuits by Ayelet Waldman. Copies of this book are available at the circulation desk. New members are welcome at any time. For further information, please call Sue Patterson at the Library, (734) 453-0750, or email spatterson@plymouthlibrary.org

LIBRARY GARDEN GROUP, Thursday, April 19, 7 p.m. – Join other gardeners in this informal gathering exchange ideas, share tips, discuss gardening concerns. No registration required. ■ NEEDLECRAFTERS

MEETING, Monday, April 23, 7 p.m. - Kick off a new projector keep after your current one. Knitters, quilters, needlepointers are all invited to attend this informal group gathering. Lessons are not provided, but ideas exchanged among attendees. No registration required.

WORLD WAR II PER-SPECTIVES, Monday, April 23, 6:30 p.m., FROM STAL-INGRAD TO BERLIN: THE END OF THE THIRD REICH (1942-45) – Professor Robert Citino of Eastern Michigan University will continue his examination of the later years of the Third Reich. Professor Citino is a noted World War

## PLYMOUTH-CANTON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS NOTICE TO BIDDERS

The Board of Education of the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools invites all interested and qualified companies to submit Bids for Moving Eriksson, Field, Hoben, and Hulsing Elementary Schools as well as Pioneer Middle School.

Bidding documents may be picked up at the office of the Construction Manager, McCarthy & Smith, Inc., 24317 Indoplex Circle, Farmington Hills, MI 48335 on April 5, 2007. Bids will be received until 10:00 a.m., local time on Wednesday, April 18, 2007 at which time they will be opened and read publicly at the Plymouth Canton Community School, E.J. McClendon Educational Center, 454 S. Harvey, Plymouth, Michigan, 48170. Bids received after this time and date will be returned. Faxed proposals will not be accepted.

Bids are to be submitted in a sealed envelope supplied by McCarthy & Smith, Inc. There will be a **Pre-Bid Meeting and Site Walk**-Through on Wednesday, April 11, 2007 @ 10:00 a.m. at Pioneer Middle School located at 46081 Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth, MI 48170. Questions regarding the scope of the project may be addressed to Mr. Doug Underwood of McCarthy & Smith, Inc. at (248) 427,8400. Plymouth Canton Community Schools reserves the right to reject any or all bids received and to waive any informalities and irregularities in the bidding documents. This project is to be bid at the prevailing wage rate.

#### bidder shall disclose any familial relationship as

District Library. BROWN BAG BOOK DISCUSSION, Wednesday, April 25, noon – This month's discussion invites members to read The Memory Keeper's Daughter by Kim Edwards. Copies of this book are available at the circulation desk. Bring a lunch; beverages are provided. For more information about Brown Bag Books, ask at the Reader's Advisory Desk, call Linda Pride at the Library, (734) 453-0750, or email: lpride@plymouthlibrary.org

GREAT LAKES LIGHT-HOUSES, Thursday, April 26, 7 p.m. – Join lighthouse historian, Wayne S. Sapulski, as he shares "Recent Success Stories in Great Lakes Lighthouse Preservation". Mr. Sapulski is the author and photographer of the guidebooks, Great Lakes Lighthouses, American and Canadian and Lighthouses of Lake Michigan, Past and Present. Both books are in the Library's collection and available for check out. This series is made possible through the generous support of the Friends of the Plymouth

District Library. ■ DETROIT INSTITUTE OF ARTS/PLYMOUTH COM-MUNITY ARTS COUNCIL, Monday, April 30, 7 p.m. -For nearly ten years, the Arts Council has offered exceptional presentations about the DIA's permanent collections and special exhibits. Register by

calling the Library's Reader's Advisory Desk at (734) 453-0750, Ext. 4.

HOMEBOUND BOOK DELIVERY — Joining the **Plymouth Community Council** on Aging, the Plymouth District Library will deliver library books and audio books to homebound residents of the City of Plymouth and Plymouth Township. Call (734) 453-0750, ext 240 to enroll or go to plymouthlibrary.org and complete the homebound delivery service registration.

### Youth programs

■ LAP SIT STORYTIME, Mondays, April 9, 10 & 11 a.m. and Saturday, April 14, 10 a.m. - This 15-minute program is designed for the very young babies ages 6-24 months and their caregivers. No older siblings please. Registration is required - call Reader's Advisory Desk at (734) 453-0750, ext. 5.

ZOO TO YOU, Tuesday, April 10, 2 p.m. – Carousel Acres brings their new baby animals to us in an educational, hands-on program. Children ages 5-12 and their families are invited to attend. Register for this free program by calling (734) 453-0750, Ext. 5 after March 27.

GREEK MYTHS AND FABLES FOR HOME SCHOOLING FAMILIES, Thursday, April 19, 1 p.m. -The Kelsey Museum of Archeology will bring us an afternoon filled with Greek myths, fables, art and artifacts. This free program is intended for children ages 5-12. Register by calling (734) 453-0750, ext. 5 beginning on April 5.

#### PLANNING COMMISSION **CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON** NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

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

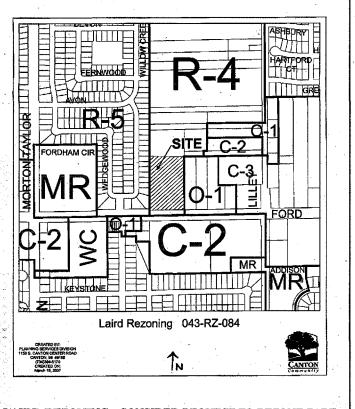
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Michigan Public Act 110 of 2006, of the State of Michigan, as amended, and pursuant to the Zoning Ordinance of the Charter Township of Canton that the Planning Commission of the Charter Township of Canton will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, April 16, 2007, in the First Floor Meeting Room of the Canton Township Administration Building, 1150 S. Canton Center Road at 7:00 p.m. on the following proposed amendment to the Zoning Ordinance:

FRANKEL/CANTON TOWNSHIP ZONING ORDINANCE TEXT AMENDMENT - CONSIDER REQUEST TO AMEND THE CANTON TOWNSHIP ZONING ORDINANCE, SPECIFICALLY AMENDING SECTION 21A.02B TO ADD MEDICAL AND DENTAL CLINICS/LABORATORIES IN THE LIGHT INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH DISTRICT AS A SPECIAL LAND USE, AMENDING SECTION 6.10E6 RELATIVE TO ARCHITECTURAL LIGHTING FOR THE CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT OVERLAY AND AMEND SECTION 7.02 TO ADD LANGUAGE REGULATING DELIVERY, LOADING, TRASH COLLECTION DEBATIO

### PLANNING COMMISSION **CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON** NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

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

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to the Michigan Public Act 110 of 2006, of the State of Michigan, as amended, and pursuant to the Zoning Ordinance of the Charter Township of Canton that the Planning Commission of the Charter Township of Canton will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, April 16, 2007 in the First Floor Meeting Room of the Canton Township Administration Building, 1150 S. Canton Center Road at 7:00 p.m. on the following proposed amendment to the Zoning Ordinance:



LAIRD REZONING - CONSIDER REQUEST TO REZONE PART OF PARCEL NO. 043 99 0005 001 (42752 FORD) FROM R-4, SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL TO C-2, COMMUNITY COMMERCIAL. Property is located north of Ford Road and west of

Lillev Koad

Publish: April 1, 2007

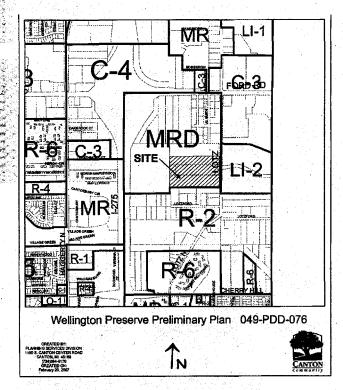
Written comments addressed to the Planning Commission should be received at the Canton Township Administration Building, 1150 Canton Center S. prior to Thursday, April 12, 2007 in order to be included in the materials submitted for review.

> Vic Gustafson, Chairman OE08516253

### PLANNING COMMISSION **CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

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

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Michigan Public Act 110 of 2006, of the State of Michigan, as amended, and pursuant to the Zoning Ordinance of the Charter Township of Canton, that the Planning Commission of the Charter Township of Canton will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, April 16, 2007, in the First Floor Meeting Room of the Canton Township Administration Building, 1150 S. Canton Center Road at 7:00 p.m. on the following proposed amendment to the Zoning Ordinance:



WELLINGTON PRESERVE PLANNED DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT (PDD) - PRELIMINARY PLAN - CONSIDER **REQUEST TO ESTABLISH A PDD AS PERMITTED IN SECTION** 27.04 OF THE ZONING ORDINANCE INCLUSIVE OF PARCEL NOS(S). 049 99 0004 000 (1225 LOTZ N.), 049 99 0007 000 (1345 LOTZ N.), 049 99 0008 000 AND 049 99 0009 000 (1365 LOTZ N.). Property is located west of Lotz and south of Ford Road. (First **Public Hearing.**)

Written comments addressed to the Planning Commission should be received at the Canton Township Administration Building, 1150 Canton Center S. prior to Thursday, April 12, 2007 in order to be included in the materials submitted for review.

Vic Gustafson, Chairman

OE08516256

required by the State of Michigan on the proposal pricing form. This form must also be signed and notarized in order for the bid to be accepted.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH** 

PLANNING COMMISSION

Land Use

7:00 P.M.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Planning Commission of

Plymouth Charter Township has received an application requesting

Special Land Use Approval for outdoor display and/or storage

outside Kmart Store #4481 in the Ann Arbor Road Corridor District

(ARC), on Tax ID R-78-065-99-0012-000, (property address is 40855

Ann Arbor Road) pursuant to Zoning Ordinance No. 99, Section

**Request Approval of a Special** 

**Applicant, Fred Keywell** 

Wednesday, April 18, 2007

Plymouth Township Hall,

9955 N. Haggerty Road

**PROPOSED ACTION:** 

DATE OF HEARING:

TIME OF HEARING:

14.2.3(t)

**Application 1966** 

PLACE OF HEARING:

Board of Education Plymouth-Canton Community Schools JUDY MARDIGIAN, Secretary Publish: April 1 & 8, 2007 OE0851626

Written comments addressed to the Planning Commission should be received at the Canton Township Administration Building, 1150 Canton Center S., prior to Thursday, April 12, 2007 in order to be included in the materials submitted for review. Vic Gustafson, Chairman

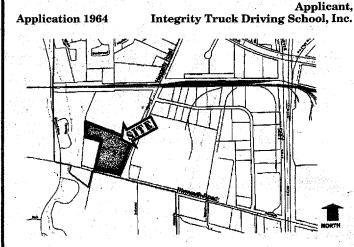
Publish: April 1, 2007

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH PLANNING COMMISSION

**PROPOSED ACTION:** 

DATE OF HEARING: TIME OF HEARING: PLACE OF HEARING: **Request Approval of a Special** Land Use Wednesday, April 18, 2007 7:00 P.M. Plymouth Township Hall, 9955 N. Haggerty Road

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Planning Commission of Plymouth Charter Township has received an application from Integrity Truck Driving School, Inc. requesting Special Land Use Approval for a truck Driving School in a General Commercial District (C-2), on Tax ID R-78-026-99-0003-702, (property address is 13101 Haggerty Road) pursuant to Zoning Ordinance No. 99, Section 13.2.24.



LEGAL DESCRIPTION: For parcel descriptions, see tax records based on Tax ID No. R-78-026-99-0003-702. Property address is 13101 Haggerty Road.

The application may be examined at the Plymouth Township Division of Public Services, Community Development Department, during regular business hours from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM. Written comments will be received prior to the meeting and may be mailed to 9955 N. Haggerty Rd., Plymouth, MI 48170 or call 734-354-3270, ext. 6. The meeting will be held in the Meeting Room at Township Hall which is located at 9955 N. Haggerty Rd., Plymouth Township, MI 48170.

PLEASE TAKE NOTE: The Charter Township of Plymouth will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at all Township meetings to individuals with disabilities at the meetings/ hearings upon one week notice to the Charter Township of Plymouth by writing or calling the Supervisor's Office; 9955 N. Haggerty Rd., Plymouth, MI 48170. Phone 734-354-3201. TDD users: 800-849-3777 (Michigan Relay Service).

> KENDRA BARBERENA, SECRETARY PLANNING COMMISSION

> > OE08516765

Publish: April 1, 2007

Publish: April 1, 2007

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LEGAL DESCRIPTION: For parcel descriptions, see tax records based on Tax ID No. R-78-065-99-0012-000. Property address is 40855 Ann Arbor Road.

The application may be examined at the Plymouth Township Division of Public Services, Community Development Department, during regular business hours from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM. Written comments will be received prior to the meeting and may be mailed to 9955 N. Haggerty Rd., Plymouth, MI 48170 or call 734-354-3270. ext. 6. The meeting will be held in the Meeting Room at Township Hall which is located at 9955 N. Haggerty Rd., Plymouth Township, MI 48170.

PLEASE TAKE NOTE: The Charter Township of Plymouth will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at all Township meetings to individuals with disabilities at the meetings/ hearings upon one week notice to the Charter Township of Plymouth by writing or calling the Supervisor's Office, 9955 N. Haggerty Rd., Plymouth, MI 48170. Phone 734-354-3201. TDD users: 800-849-3777 (Michigan Relay Service).

> **KENDRA BARBERENA, SECRETARY** PLANNING COMMISSION

Publish: April 1, 2007

#### www.hometownlife.com

LOCAL NEWS

Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, April 1, 2007

## Dog's best friend

TV 'research' comes in handy in pooch rescue

#### **BY TIFFANY L. PARKS** STAFF WRITER

Bronson, a 10-year-old, brown-haired "good ol' dog," keeps getting rescued.

The first two times were when he was left, then adopted and then left again and adopted again at a shelter.

The German shorthaired pointer's most recent rescue happened last month when he nearly choked to death on a ball and was saved by a neighbor, Toni Malec.

"I just happened to be at home at that time, which hardly ever happens, and I was watching my daughter, Ally, and our neighbor's son, Mateo, when Ally started screaming about Bronson," said Malec, 39. "I went to put on my shoes but she told me to come now."

Malec, who lives off of Canton Center Road on Indian Creek Drive, says she discovered the near-lifeless dog in her neighbor's garage.

"I'm a physician's assistant – I know people, I don't know dogs," she said with a laugh. "The kids were staring at me and asking me to save him."

Bronson's owners, Chris and Patty Domin, were both working at the time.

An affectionate, 75-pound pooch that loves to bark, Bronson is an obsessive chewer with a thing for lacrosse balls. After he's whittled them down to a certain point, the ball is taken away and he's given a new one.

Chris Domin believes the dog, who is known to bury or hide objects, secretly kept a ball that was supposed to be thrown away and retrieved it the day he choked.

As Bronson collapsed in her arms inside the Domin's garage, Malec said she knew she had to act fast in order for the dog to live. So, she tapped into all of the

inding



**BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER** 

said. "I saw his pupils con-

stricting and I said 'Oh my

ed wagging and I bent over

God, he's going to live.' He took

a couple breaths, his tail start-

and hysterically started crying."

By this time, Chris Domin

"When my son called me, I

had rushed home from work.

thought it was my daughter

like that.'

the veterinarian.

nity is still there."

because his voice was so high,"

he said. "I had never heard him

Domin then took the dog to

"He's just fine now," he said,

adding that he appreciates

Malec stepping in to save one

of his family's pets. "It's great

to see that element of commu-

Toni Malec paid no attention to dog breath when she performed mouth-tomouth resuscitation on Bronson, her neighbor's canine. She's a hero to daughter Ally, 9, and neighbor Mateo Jepperson, 10, who were in the garage with Bronson when he collapsed.

knowledge she's gained from watching many hours of the Animal Planet channel.

"My husband totally makes fun of me for watching it so much but I can't help it," she said. "Little did he know, all that watching would come in handy." Malec said she remembered

a program that featured a choking dog and did similar techniques on Bronson.

"I could feel the top of the ball rolling under my fingers so I was getting frustrated," she said. "I wanted my husband to come home but then I realized his hand would've been too big so I tried it again.

Eventually, Malec, who had nearly half of her arm in the dog's body, was able to remove the ball.

"My daughter was saying 'Mom, he's dying'," she said. "I knew I had to give him mouth to mouth."

Well, make that nose to mouth. Malec closed Bronson's mouth, which had turned white, and breathed into his nose. "It was only for about a

minute but it felt like 10," she

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**RAYNAUD'S PHENOMENON** 

blue, and lastly deep red.

This term refers to a condition of the hands, and at times the feet in

Raynaud's, your hands are unusually sensitive to the cold; that sensitivity shows itself in episodes in which one or more of your fingers (or toes) turns white, then

vessels shut down and blood ceases to flow to the digits affected. This lack of

These changes parallel what is happening in the blood vessels surrounding the fingers. Initially, cold exposure causes spasm of the small blood vessels; the

blood supply causes the finger to look white. Blueness occurs because the blood remaining in the fingers becomes desaturated of oxygen causing the finger to look

Not valid with other offers

### Beatboxer delivers sound 1 )98 .01.6 adat message at his former school

BY REBECCA JONES STAFF WRITER

Steve Ansara makes music with his mouth, but not as a singer.

He plays drums, guitar, even creates a little turntable action, combined with lyrics to make a unique sound on the microphone.

Ansara, a beatboxer known as Stevie Soul, stopped by Jefferson Elementary School in South Redford on Friday to share his talent and a message with students.

Students' jaws dropped as Ansara created a series of bips and bops, carried high and low notes, trilled his tongue and made a suction sound that put a stop to all the others.

It was a special visit for Ansara. He attended Jefferson, and that's where he started perfecting his noisemaking technique, better described as vocal percussion. "He really wasn't just mak-

ing noises and driving his teachers crazy," principal Debbie Higgins said. "When I was at Jefferson,

they taught me to be a robot," Ansara said in a digital and comical voice.

Ansara, 19, performs at schools, delivering a message about core values. But he also



Stevie Soul, aka Steve Ansara, returned to Jefferson Elementary to teach kids something about core values and about beat-box music.

does shows for adults and will tour the Middle East this summer. He has recorded his work, doing some work at a production studio in Livonia. Professional boxer Thomas Hearns is his promoter.

Ansara, who still lives in Redford, talked about respect and friendship. In fact, he has the same three best friends since second grade, and now they are all in business together. He studies advertising and has even made up a few jingles, like one for the Red Robin restaurant in Livonia, where he and his friends hang out.

He told students to respects their teachers and do their 🔬 homework. But, he went offer a the script because visiting Jefferson was especially  $\pi \pi h$ exciting, he said. "I just 31 wanted to see the energy of  $_{iS}$  (or the kids," he said.

SCR

At one point, he even 3596 handed off the microphone bas to an aspiring beatboxer, 73.68 fifth-grader Dazman Hodge

"I think it was good," 178.0 Hodge said about Stevie 16 Soul. "He's a good rapper. He does a new beat."

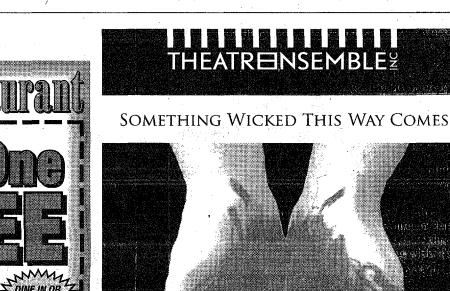
"I didn't know anybody can do that," said fifth-grader Cashmire Malone.

"It looks like your hand is doing all the work," one little girl told Ansara. He explained that moving his hand up and down as he beatboxed helped him control the sound.

Ansara's second-grade teacher Donna Watson remembers him as a fidgety student. "He did make a few nois-

es," she said. But he was happy, positive and funny. She said she found his performance "dynamic." "His face hasn't changed at all."

Ansara will perform Friday, April 13, with Noor Muhanna at Greenfield Manor, 4770 Greenfield Road in Dearborn. Tickets start at \$95. For information call (313) 581-3189.





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## blue. Finally, the spasm ends, the blood vessel opens up and blood flows to the finger at an accelerated rate; this change brings a red color to the finger. Usually, Raynaud's is a nuisance. If spasm of the blood vessel lasts long enough or occurs frequently, it is possible that the affected finger will develop a skin ulcer or even gangrene. As a result of these possibilities; Raynauds needs treatment. That therapy may be as simple as wearing gloves even in mild exposure to cold. If Raynauds worsens, then use of medication to keep blood vessels open is in order. WWW.MBTHEATRE.COM Vessels open is in order. Certain rheumatologic conditions can cause Raynauds. These conditions are scleroderma, systemic lupus erythematosis, and rheumatoid arthritis. Your doctor will screen for them. If present, then treatment for the Raynauds would include therapy for the underlying rheumatic disease space donated by The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers www.drjjweiss.yourmd.com OE08509 **Parents of Preschoolers:** Learn What Your Child Needs to

Know *Before* Kindergarten

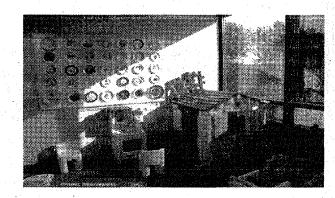
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**COUNTY NEWS** 

Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, April 1, 2007

## No load funds are a better investment

Dear Rick: My adviser told me that if you hold a mutual fund long term, generally over five years, that there is very little difference between a load and no-load fund. Do you agree? Jessica

Dear Jessica:

A10

(\*)

First, let me explain what a load is. The load refers to the commission that you pay to purchase a mutual fund. For example, in a mutual fund that has an 8 percent load, if you invest \$10,000, \$850 right off the top goes to the salesperson while the remaining \$9,150 goes into the investment.

If you go into a true no-load fund, like the funds I recommend, and invest \$10,000, the entire \$10,000 goes to work for you. Therefore, when your salesperson tells you that over the long run there is no difference between load and no-load fund, he/she is not telling you the truth. All things being equal, in a no-



load fund you have more money invested will mean more money ends up in your pocket.

When you look at the independent studies they all reach the same conclusion the average commission-free fund (no load) out performs the average commission fund (load) even if you do not take the commissions into effect. When I've spoken to commission-based financial advisers, who sell commissionbased mutual funds, they generally state that the commission is how they are compensated and that they are entitled to a fair compensation for the services performed. I

have no problem with a professionals being compensated for professional services. My problem is when it comes to mutual funds, commissions and sales incentives are generally undisclosed. A professional should have no problem discussing their fees. I'm always suspicious when fees are undisclosed. On the whole, I do not favor commissions in the financial world. They create a conflict of interest. The best commissioned salespeople I know never worry about commissions, they worry about taking care of their clients. However, there are too many commissioned salespeople that are only concerned with the commissions and the sales incentives, such as free trips. That is why in the great majority of cases, I recommend that investors invest commission-free.

Dear Rick: I have just turned 60 and it has been recommended I purchase a long-term care policy. Do you recommend these types of policies? Barry

Dear Barry: In the past, I had been very much opposed to long-term care policies and the reason had nothing to do with the need for these types of policies but rather that it was very difficult to collect on these types of policies.

The insurance companies made it difficult to file a claim and that is why I generally did not recommend these types of policies.

In today's world, because of government intervention, these policies have gotten better, however, the adage of "let the buyer beware" still applies. In all too many cases it is still very difficult to collect on these policies.

If someone purchases a longterm care policy, the most important thing to examine in a company is how it pays claims. All too often, people will receive competitive bids on long-term care and purchase the cheapest policy. The least expensive policy isn't necessarily the best policy because many companies make it very difficult to collect. Just like with any other type of insurance, I believe long-term care insurance should be needs-based. Unfortunately, long-term care insurance is not purchased, it is sold. Too many seniors purchase a policy when they don't need it. Before purchasing this type of policy, do independent research on long-term care policies in general. One source is AARP which has some very good information regarding longterm care policies on their Web site, www.aarp.org. The first issue is to determine is need. Don't believe what the salespeople tell you that everyone is going to end up in a nursing home and everyone

will lose all their money. This is not the case. If it were, the insurance industry would never offer this type of policy. The great majority of people don't end up in nursing homes and do not lose all their money. The question you should ask yourself before purchasing long-term care is if you are unable to care for yourself, do you have the resources to protect yourself? If not, longterm care is an alternative. However, as I mentioned earlier, take your time, do your homework. Shop around, receive a number of independent bids and then decide what policy fits your situation.

www.hometownlife.com

**Rick Bloom** is a fee-only financial adviser. *Observer & Eccentric* readers can submit questions at moneymatters@hometownlife.com. For more information, visit his Web site at www.bloomassetmanagement.com. You can hear Rick noon to 3 p.m. Sundays on WDTK 1400 AM.

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## Help choose your medicine, or plan to swallow board cuts

hen I was young, I absolutely hated taking castor oil, but my grandmother thought it was the answer to everything that ailed us. She'd ask us if we had a better idea and, since we didn't, down went the castor oil.

The Plymouth-Canton Board of Education finds itself in a similar situation as it tries to figure out how to deal with a projected \$7.5 million deficit: People don't want things cut, then complain when the board cuts them.

www.hometownlife.com

Eliminate one of the three athletic directors? How could you?

Consider cutting the radio station? You're not really gonna do that, are you?

Increase class sizes, even if it's only by one student per classroom? You can't do that.

Brad Kadrich Voters in the district turned down two bond proposals in 10 months, telling the district, in effect, to tighten its belts like the rest of us. The Michigan economy is in the toilet, and it doesn't look like the Tidi-Bowl Man is coming around anytime soon.

The school board and the administration, without getting additional money from the citizenry, are going to have to find a way to deal with the structural problems in its budget. That's fine; they pay Dr. James Ryan, the district superintendent, a lot of money to make recommendations like that. And they understand they were elected to make choices based on those recommendations.

Predictably, residents let the board know when they think they're making the wrong choices. Even more predictably, residents haven't necessarily been all that helpful in making the decisions.

At last week's candidate forum sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Northwest Wayne County, Trustee Mark Slavens pointed out critics of the board's choices were both in the audience and on the dais, yet "we haven't heard a peep" from any of them about budget cuts.

Former board president Mike Maloney was in the audience, and several candidates made mention of how the board has to hunker down and make the proverbial "tough choices." Maloney has penned a number of letters and columns for this newspaper pointing out the board's foibles, but board members wonder where his participation lies in the actual budget process.

It's a fair question, and it actually applies to citizens all over the district who want to complain about the choices, but not participate in any of the choosing. It's like presidential elections; if you don't vote, you forfeit the right to complain about the guy who wins.

There are critics, Maloney and fellow former board president Mark Horvath chief among them, who say board members have shied away from the tough choices. True or not, perhaps that shouldn't be the debate anymore.

Perhaps it's time for citizens, supporters and critics alike, to bond with the board to help make the hard decisions. You get a chance Tuesday, when the board conducts a workshop to continue looking at ways to trim the budget.

The meeting starts at 7 p.m., and there's one thing to remember for those who don't want to help.

There's always the castor oil.

Brad Kadrich is community editor of the *Plymouth Observer*. He can be reached via e-mail at bkadrich@hometownlife.com or by phone at (734) 459-2700.

## Show up at meeting

Although the homeowners at Charing Cross are most directly affected by the proposed Oakwood Hospital's site in a residential zone, many more subdivisions along Geddes west of Canton Center Road would also be adversely affected. Those include Meadow Villages, Woodlands at Chatterton Village, Chatterton Village, Chatterton Square, Woodridge Estates, Hunters Grove, Kimberly Meadows, Hidden River Estates, River Meadows and Holiday Estates. Residents of these subdivisions would also be subjected to the sounds of sirens and helicopters. In addition, the inevitable traffic noise that would result from those traveling to and from Oakwood Hospital should be considered. I encourage residents of the above-mentioned subdivisions to add their voices in support of retaining residential zoning, and attend the upcoming meeting on April 2.

At some point, accommodating this traffic would likely require widening Geddes Road, encroaching the properties on that route at taxpayers' expense. When we purchased our properties west of Canton Center Road, we did so with the understanding that this area would be exclusively residential. Certainly when Singh Development acquired the property at Geddes and Beck it must have been with the same understanding.

Finally, as G.K. Peters noted in letters to the editor March 25, Mr. Kahm of Singh Development said "Things change and it's a part of life." I would say to Mr. Kahm, "Yes, we agree with you, we have seen our property values decrease while the township continues to raise our taxes." Who plans to bail us out of this situation? Will Oakwood or the Planning Commission and Board of Trustees care to do the same for the rest of us?

#### **Connie Phillips**

Canton

### Find another site

Just about a year ago, we moved to Canton off Geddes Road and before moving here we did our homework and investigated the surrounding area. We called the Canton Planning Department a couple of times to ask about the properties at the corner of Beck and Geddes to find out it was and would stay a residential site and Singh would be building \$400,000-plus homes on that site. We took that into account in our decision to move here.

Now Oakwood Hospital wants to purchase the land for a hospital. It is not the fault of all these homeowners that the housing market is failing in Michigan and Singh cannot find buyers to build his homes. It is not our fault that about

## SUNDAY LETTERS

89,000 families have left Michigan and Wayne County is one of the counties severely affected. With so many people leaving this county what is the need for another hospital?

We say "NO" to the proposal and do not want Oakwood in our front yard. We do not want to hear sirens all day and night. We do not want to hear medivac helicopters hovering over our homes and condos. We do not want the traffic and do not want our roads widened to five lanes. We do not want the wildlife destroyed that live in our area. We plan to be at the April 2 Planning Commission meeting to voice our opinion. Oakwood, you are a great institution and help many people. However, find another piece of property for your hospital.

> C. Boulter Canton

Comparing apples and grapefruit

The Tiffany L. Parks article in Sunday's Observer highlights a young woman living near Annapolis Hospital that is satisfied with her close proximity to the medical facility. There are even a couple of photos of the neighborhood showing the large building in the background. It is an attempt to belittle all of the negative sentiment that has developed against the proposed Oakwood Hospital being situated in a residential district. Nice try, but it's like comparing apples and grapefruit.

First of all. Ms. Kraft made a choice to live near Oakwood Annapolis, knowing the hospital was looming in the background, unlike the people at Charing Cross Site Condominiums who made their home purchases with the knowledge that the area is all residential. They too could have found a neighborhood that enabled them to live near a hospital if they had wanted, but they chose to live in a residential district and were given assurance that it would stay that way. The developer, Singh Corporation, told them it would. The Canton Township comprehensive plan confirmed it. Historically, Canton planning commissioners had declared it so. Yet, here we are, on the verge of what could be the township's biggest lie.

Debi Greene

Canton

## Serve the residents

I too am a homeowner near Beck and Geddes. I am sorry that the housing market has dropped as of late, but I think it is deplorable that Singh is trying to get out of their commitments and trying to recoup a loss. Where is the buyer beware clause for Singh?

Canton cannot assure that this will be

a successful venture for Oakwood. I know I will boycott the facility and I expect the surrounding community will as well. What happens if this facility is not successful and is forced to close its doors in a few years?

We have a medical facility not two miles away on Canton Center that services the neighboring communities. Oakwood is clearly not necessary in this location. Furthermore there is property available on Michigan Avenue from Haggerty to Denton that would be better suited to a facility such as this. There are school bus routes on the streets where this facility is proposed. What plans does Canton have for these children? Canton must think long and hard about succumbing to Singh, and serve their residents who have, unlike Singh, a vested interest in the community.

Bottom line – this is residential property.

#### Christine Verdone Canton

A11

(CP)

## Vote for Gebhardt

On the May 2007 ballot, we will be voting for local nonpartisan issues like school boards and Schoolcraft College Board of Trustees. I support and will vote to retain Joan Gebhardt for Schoolcraft College trustee because of her educational experience, knowledge of educational issues, problem-solving skills and ability to relate to people and their problems. I share with her the importance of the issues that she cares about most: quality education while being fiscally responsible, strong curriculum geared at our changing economy and workforce, and equal representation for all stakeholders.

Joan has made the personal and professional commitment to invest in our Schoolcraft College community. It is crucial that we have qualified, dedicated and passionate people like Joan representing us and working to create policy at exemplary higher education institutions like Schoolcraft College.

Our mission is clear: Joan Gebhardt is the best choice for Schoolcraft Board of Trustees. We need to retain Joan Gebhardt as the trustee who can offer fresh ideas and steadfast direction to continue the important work at Schoolcraft. During this time of econom ic transition, we need programs critical to Michigan's economic future. Joan understands that we must train and retrain our workforce for jobs of today and tomorrow. I have great confidence in her abilities.

Please join me in voting for Joan Gebhardt for Schoolcraft trustee on May 8.

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## **COUNTY NEWS**

## Clerk, sheriff create one-stop office for permits

Wayne County Clerk Cathy M. Garrett and Wayne County Sheriff Warren C. Evans are Collaborating to offer county (St) residents a one-stop office to obtain a permit to carry concealed weapon.

A12 (\*)

Instead of going to downtown Detroit to apply, they will be able to visit the Clerk's "onestop-shop" at the Wayne County Sheriff's Road Patrol office in Westland, 3100 Henry Ruff Road, to apply for a concealed weapons permit.

The new service is part of the Garrett's new satellite office at the Sheriff's western Wayne County headquarters. In addition, a step has been

eliminated for all citizens who visit the Clerk's downtown office to apply for a CCW license. In the past, they had to apply in the downtown office and travel to the Wayne County Sheriff's Road Patrol office in Westland to be fingerprinted. Those citizens now will be able to process their application in a one-stop visit by having their fingerprinting conducted at the downtown location when they initially



Richard and Margi Rothwell of Redford were the first customers at Wayne County's new one-stop satellite office. On the left is County Clerk Cathy Garrett and on the right is Sheriff Warren Evans.

ernment offices are working

together to improve services

Applicants applying for

CCW permits at the Clerk's

downtown location will only

have to make one trip because

their CCW permit, if approved,

will be mailed to them. In the

past, they had to make a sec-

ond trip to personally pick up

for our citizens."

the CCW permit.

apply for the permit.

Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, April 1, 2007

The Clerk's Office has purchased a state-of-the-art fingerprinting machine and the staff will receive specialized training from the Sheriff's Office.

"I'm always assessing ways to more conveniently serve the citizens of Wayne County," stated Clerk Garrett. "I'm pleased that two Wayne County govImprovements in technology have reduced the previous on-average fingerprinting processing time from five weeks to one week. In the very near future, applicants will be able to go online to WayneCountyClerk.com to track the status of their application in real time.

Wayne County issues approximately 4,500 CCW permits each year.

"We have done a great deal in the past two years to reduce the wait for law abiding citizens to receive a CCW permit and this one-stop shop is the final piece of the puzzle," Sheriff Evans said. "Now citizens will be able to apply for and receive their permits in as convenient and expedient a manner as possible."

The Clerk's Western Wayne Satellite Office also will be staffed to provide a number of the most requested Clerk services, including: Assumed Names; Birth/Death Certificates; Marriage Licenses; Passports and Notary Public.

## Rep. McCotter will hold teleconference Town Hall

www.hometownlife.com

U.S. Rep. Thaddeus McCotter (R-Livonia) is inviting constituents to take part in a live teleconference Town Hall 6:30-7:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 3.

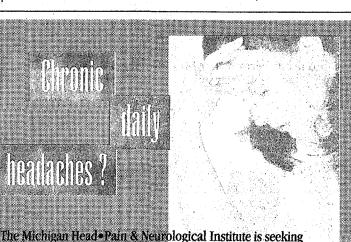
The Town Hall, which will also be webcast live (audio only) on the internet, will cover several topics, including the war in Iraq, Health Care, and the budget.

The Town Hall, which will also be webcast live (audio only) on the internet, will cover several topics, including the war in Iraq, Health Care, and the budget. Participants can register online for web cast access at http://viavid.net/dce.aspx?sid=00003D24 or for tele-

phone access at https://my.confertel.net/confertel/crsRegisterIndividual.js p?program=249703. Those who don't have internet access can register by phone at 734-632-0314. Participants can also submit a question for the Congressman during phone registration or by email at

thaddeus.mccotter@mail.house.gov.

Webcast system requirements: Internet Explorer version 5 or later, Windows Media Player 8 or greater, and an Internet connection of 28.8 Kbps or greater (dial up speed), plus speakers or soundcard with built-in speaker.



The Michigan Head+Pain & Neurological Institute is seeking individuals 18 to 65 years of age to participate in a research trial to evaluate an investigational medication to treat chronic headaches. You may qualify for this study if you:

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Please contact one of our clinical research coordinators for additional information at (734) 677-6000 x 4.

Michigan Head • Pain & Neurological Institute 3120 Professional Drive • Ann Arbor, MI 48104 (734) 677-6000 • www.MHNI.com

## -Marshmallow drop Friday

Wayne County will stage its annual Marshmallow Drop 11 a.m. Friday, April 6, at Nankin Mills Park in Westland.

Thousands of marshmallows will be dropped from a helicopter to be turned in for a prizes. Only one marshmallow is heeded to receive a treat,

322

so each child will receive one! This event is sponsored by Wayne County Parks and is open to ages 4 and up. Nankin Mills Park is located on Hines Drive, just east of Ann Arbor Trail in Westland. For more information, please call (734) 261-1990.





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## JOIN THE Easter Bunny FOR EASTER BRUNCH!

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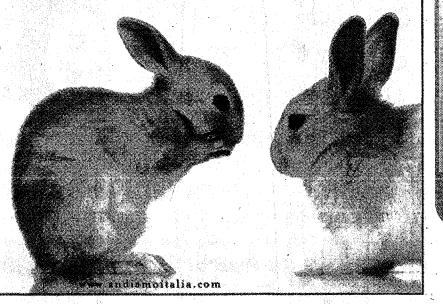
> \$24.95 for adults

\$13.95 for children

A Limited Dinner Menu will be Available From 4 to 8 pm. Please call for reservations.

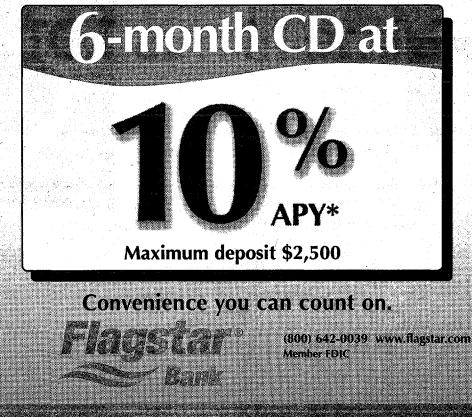
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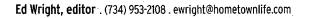
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## Saluting outstanding youth sports coaches

Prep baseball previews, B2

## Above and beyond

## Coaches go extra mile to make sure young athletes' experiences are rewarding

Please see outstanding coaches' profiles on B5.

"We must not, in trying to think about how we can make a big difference, ignore the small daily differences we can make which, over time, add up to big differences that we often cannot foresee.'

- Marian Wright Edelman

"m pretty certain that Marian Wright Edelman wasn't referring to Phil LaVallee when she first said the before-mentioned quote, but she could have been.

During his 17 years of coaching the Plymouth-Canton Steelers junior foot-



ball team, LaVallee has made a huge difference in the lives of a number of his players, but not because of one incredible speech or one amazing game plan. He's inspired his players with the daily, at times monotonous,

things successful coaches do that make

Ed Wright

their players better athletes and - more importantly - better people.

'Coach LaVallee is a true coach in all definitions of the word — whether it's showing kids football techniques, the way a play is supposed to be run or something as simple as looking someone in the eye when you shake their hand," said Brendan Murphy, one of LaVallee's former players.

Murphy was one of several people who responded to a three-paragraph sports brief I ran in last week's **Observer** that asked for names of youth sports coaches who have gone above and beyond the call of duty to positively impact their players' lives.

To be honest, I wasn't sure if I would e three e-mails or 30 in respo to the request. It's not that I didn't think there was an abundance of great coaches out there; I know there are hundreds.



The local coaches above were among those praised by parents and players for the way they've enriched the youth sports experience for those whom they've mentored the past few years. Pictured (front row from left) are Barb Lehmann, Eileen Spicher, Jeff Marcero, (middle row from left) Jim Hejka, Rob Sudz, Phil LaVallee, (back row from left) Jim Radwan, Bruce Price and Kevin Lipp.

pushed to the back burner - even if your son or daughter's coach is the second coming of John Wooden

have as big of an impact on a youngster's life as a parent or a teacher, the role coaches play is very significant.

about winning.

Phil LaVallee, and every other coach ho is profiled on page B5, prot



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The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

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## Ladies golf league

Ladies Golf League, which plays at Hickory Creek Golf Course in Canton, is looking for new members. The course is located at the intersection of Ford and Napier roads.

The nine-hole league plays on Thursday morning at 8:15 a.m. beginning May 3. For more information. contact Susan Morman at (734) 414-9941.

## **Sports career** conterence

Anyone interested in a career in sports is invited to attend Wayne State University's 7th Annual "Careers in Sports" conference, which will be held April 14 at the Wayne State University Student Center.

The conference will have quest speakers from the areas of interscholastic, intercollegiate, professional and commercial sports programs.

"This is a unique opportunity for students and professionals to explore careers in the sports industry," said Katie Bione, the conference organizer. "We have had tremendous success with this conference in the past and we hope to make the 2007 conference the hest one ve For more information on the conference, visit: http://www.wayne.edu; or call (616) 581-9523.

It's just that life is hectic these days and sitting down to type an e-mail to the local sports editor can easily get

When all was said and done, I was blown away by the response. It wasn't necessarily the quantity (closer to 30 than three) that blew me away; rather it was the heartfelt quality of the responses, which only confirmed what I already knew: While they may not

There was one common thread that ran through each of the glowing replies I received: The coaches who are pictured above care as much about making sure their athletes' sports experience is an enriching one as much – or in some cases more - than they do

didn't foresee the differences they've made in their players' lives. But there's no doubt they have made a sizable difference.

And I have the e-mails to prove it.

ewright@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2108

## Is high school football going the flag route?

piece of news I stumbled across on an obscure football-based Web site the other day hit me harder than a blitzing, blind-side linebacker: High school football may be making the earth-shaking jump from tackle to flag in Michigan this coming fall.



You read it right: While everyone's attention has been focused on the status of the almostdecade-old lawsuit that could switch the seasons for several sports

in the state as soon as September, another lawsuit that could take the CRUNCHH !!! out of prep football has been moving through the legal system faster than a

grizzly bear on rollerskates.

### **THE SAD FACTS**

To make a long story short, a group of Michigan parents (I believe they're from the Thumb area), whose high school-aged sons are apparently too squeamish to play tackle football, discovered that there is a school district in Delaware that replaced tackle football with flag football, a non-contact

form of the sport that requires. defensive players to simply pull a velcro, foot-long strip of plastic off the ball-carrier's belt instead of flattening him like a week-old pancake.

Presto! The Michigan parents had an air-tight precedent.

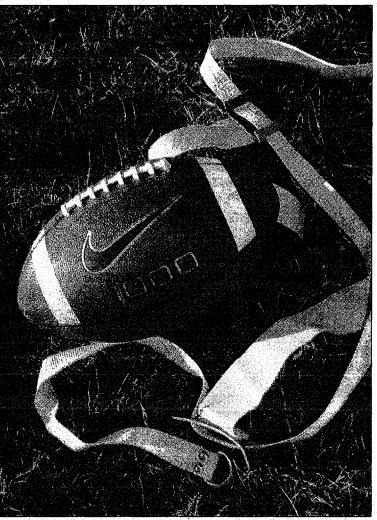
They then filed the necessary paperwork, hired a team of top-notch lawyers and believe it or not - we're only a few official court hearings away from seeing our last fullfledged, bone-crunching high school football tackle.

### **CHANGE FOR THE BETTER?**

"At first, I was very, very upset about the change," admitted one local high school athletic administrator, who asked to remain anonymous. "I mean, tackle football is as American as SUV's and Wendy's triple hamburgers.

"But there are some good things that will come out of the change. For instance, now that football will be less violent, our athletic trainers can focus on more rugged sports like cross country and golf.

"Plus, we won't need the pads any more, so we can sell them to schools in Ohio and use the additional revenue to purchase those new Gatorade ice-water containers we've



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Flags could replace tackles in high school football in the near future if a littlepublicized lawsuit continues to breeze through the legal system.

needed the past several years."

Surprisingly, a number of high school football coaches I talked to offered little resistance to the pending change.

"Don't get me wrong: It will definitely take some getting use to," one head coach told me. "But flag football is a lot tougher than a lot of people make it out to be. When those little things start whipping around in the wind, it's awfully

tough to get a grip on them."

### **BAD IDEA**

There's one word that describes how I feel about the change: outraged.

What are they going to do Oh, and one-more thing: Happy April Fool's Day!

## **Ryder on** the Storm Forward's goal caps Whalers' sweep, 3-2

Bigger, faster, stronger. Although the Guelph Storm led in three of the four games, the Plymouth Whalers found a way to sweep the Storm out of the Western Conference Quarterfinals.

Daniel Ryder's goal with 27 seconds left in regulation snapped a 2-2 tie and the Whalers defeated Guelph, 3-2, to sweep the Storm in four games on Thursday before 3,178 at the Guelph Sports and Entertainment Centre.

James Neal figured in on all three Plymouth goals as the game's first star with two goals and an assist. Plymouth defensemen Ryan McGinnis and Steve Ward added two assists each.

Whalers goaltender Jeremy Smith stopped 20-of-22 Guelph shots to backstop the victory.

Drew Doughty and Luke Pither scored in the first period for Guelph.

If there was a play that typified the series, it was Neal's goal in the third period of Game 4 that tied the game at 2 - 2.

Guelph was killing a penalty and tried three different times to get the puck out of

PLEASE SEE WHALERS. B3

## Summer airls hoop camps

The annual Canton/Salem girls basketball camps will be held in June in the Canton and Salem high school gymnasiums.

A camp for girls who will be starting seventh, eighth and ninth grades in the fall of 2007 will be held June 18-22 from 1-3 p.m. The seventh graders will be at Salem while the eighth and ninth graders will utilize the Canton gym. The cost of the camp is \$70.

A camp for girls who will be starting fourth, fifth and sixth grades in the fall of 2007 will be held June 25-29 from 1-3 p.m. The fourth graders will be at Salem while the fifth and sixth graders will utilize the Canton gym.

Campers will receive instruction from members of the coaching staffs of Canton and Salem high schools as well as from the high school players.

Players can register through Plymouth-Canton **Community Education**, which is located at 40260 Five Mile Rd. in Plymouth. For more information, call (734) 416-2940.

## **Coaches: Please** call in results

Local high school spring sports coaches are encouraged to report all of their team's results to the Observer so that their players' achievements can. be deservedly publicized.

To report results, call **Observer Sports Editor Ed** Wright at (734) 953-2108. You can also e-mail the results to: ewright@hometownlife.com.

next? Make high school baseball players hit off a tee? Turn high school basketball into a game of H-O-R-S-E?

## LOCAL SPORTS

(CP) Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, April 1, 2007

## **PREP BASEBALL PREVIEWS**

Rocks prevail, 4-3 BY ED WRIGHT STAFF WRITER

1

**B2** 

Salem's girls soccer team was battered and bruised, but not beaten Thursday night.

Playing without three key players who will miss significant time this season due to injury, the Rocks prevailed, 4-3, over visiting South Lyon in the season-opener for both teams. The game was played on the P-CEP turf soccer ffeld.

"I was very happy with the win," said Salem coach Joe Nora. "The girls worked very hard. We were a little unorganized at times, but we worked things out in the end."

Senior captain Kelly Adsit sparkled for the Rocks, netting a pair of goals. Junior midfielder Katie Shull also enjoyed a stellar opener as she tallied three assists.

Nora praised the defensive work of sweeper Sara Stanislawski and freshman stopper Lauren Booth.

Speaking of freshmen, ninth-

grader Lindsay Newton ignited the scoring for the Rocks when she deposited a pass from Shull into the back of the net 15 minutes into the first half. Sophomore forward Jourdin Jaaska extended the hosts' lead to 2-0 with seven minutes left in the half off an assist from Shull.

South Lyon cut its deficit in half early in the second half following a defensive breakdown by the Rocks. However, Salem reclaimed its two-goal lead a short time later when Adsit scored off an assist from Jaaska.

The Lions scored off a corner kick mid-way through the second half to make it 3-2, but Adsit answered again with 15 minutes to go off a pass from Shull to pad the advantage to 4-2.

South Lyon tallied the game's final goal with seven minutes to play.

Salem net-minder Jill Slabey recorded three saves for the winners, who will take on Plymouth Monday night at 7 p.m. at the P-CEP turf field.

## Several returning starters give 'Cats reasons to be optimistic

BY ED WRIGHT STAFF WRITER

With a strong nucleus of returning starters, Plymouth's baseball team could be on the verge of its most-successful season in the five-year history of the school.

Led by a quartet of threeyear varsity starters – Ben Kosmalski, Tyler Locklear, Matt Barrera and Ryan Valle - the Wildcats will be looking to improve on last year's 11-18 mark.

"If our young pitching can effectively make teams earn their runs, we should be able to have a very competitive team this year," said Plymouth coach Chuck Adams. "Every

game we play is another

opportunity to prove ourselves and see what we are capable of doing. We look forward to all of our games, but our conference games are always our

focal point." Junior Garret Rebain returns for his second year behind the plate for the 'Cats. "Garret has a strong arm, he's a leader and he has a good bat," said Adams. "He might also see some time on the

mound if we need it.' Three of the four starting infield spots were set as of earlier this week: senior Matt Barrera will play first base after patrolling center field last season; Kosmalski will man second while sophomore

Brad Lineberry will open the year as the starting shortstop.

"Ben is a gutsy, gritty player who plays the game with passion," said Adams. "Brad is an outstanding young player who will have a major impact on our team this year and beyond."

Competition for the starting slot at third base was ongoing earlier this week, Adams said. The Wildcats' top four out-

fielders are sophomore Ronnie Goble; seniors Locklear and Valle; and junior David Harvey.

"Ronnie is a hard-working, strong, talented young man,' said Adams. "He's a five-tool player who will provide a heavy stick in the middle of

the lineup.

"Tyler has good speed, a good bat and a good arm. He has the potential to have a very successful senior season."

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Filling out the Wildcats' deep pitching staff will be Lineberry, Goble, Locklear, Harvey, junior Dan Nadratowski, senior Tim Kweicien, senior Steve Lozier, junior Kyle Sanders, junior Kyle Traver, junior Steve Betts and junior Steve Ostrowski.

Plymouth is set to open its 2007 campaign with a double-header on Wednesday at cross-campus rival Salem.

The opening pitch is set for 4 p.m.

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## Houdek returns to lead Chief kickers

## **BY ED WRIGHT**

### STAFF WRITER

Canton's 2007 girls soccer am doesn't have a lot of experience, nor does it have a lot of depth, but it does have Becci Houdek, a returning All-Conference player whose dynamig offensive skills should give the Chiefs at least a chance to win on most nights. After losing last year's leading scorer, Lisa Ealy, to graduation, Chief coach George Tomasso will be relying on Houdek's skills and leadership more than ever this season. """"Becci has very good speed;

good tenacity and she's a great finisher," he said. "She led us in assists last year, so she's a good passer, too.

"Overall, we have a very young team this year. Our strength is probably that we're a very good technical team."

The Chiefs' roster is made up of four seniors, eight juniors, seven sophomores and one fresh-

Section of

IN CONCERT

n Carlo Ve

man.

"We have a strong senior class, even though it's not real big." Tomasso asserted. "Their leadership abilities are fantastic."

Joining Houdek as team leaders this season will be four-year varsity player Maggie Maloney, a defender; forward Karie Oliver; senior captain Emily Baracy, a midfielder/forward; defender Hannah Mills, a three-year varsity player; sophomore defender Leslie Weisz; and sophomore forward Lisa Pierce.

Junior Bryanne Bellovary has earned the starting goalie duties. She will be backed up by junior Kaitlyn Silver.

"Bryanne is solid and very consistent," Tomasso said. "She's a great shot-stopper."

"Northville should be very good again, but after that the league should be wide open," Tomasso said, forecasting the Western Lakes Activities Association title chase. "It should be a crapshoot. Whatever team comes to play night in and night out will win."

## Strong-armed Canton hopes to chase down Mustangs in 2007

#### **BY ED WRIGHT** STAFF WRITER

Heading into the 2007 baseball season, Canton will be looking to build on last year's 19-12 record and second-place showing in the Western Lakes Activities Association Western Division.

With an 8-2 mark, Canton finished behind only Northville last year in the division.

"Hopefully, we can build off of last year's momentum," said Canton coach Scott Dickey, whose team split with the Mustangs during the regular season before dropping an

extra-inning thriller in the Division 1 District tournament. "Our goals are the same as they were last year: win the division, conference and district. "Our strength is probably

our pitching. This is one of the deepest pitching staffs we've had here in quite a while."

Taking the mound for Canton this season will be seniors Kyle Gring (2-2, 2.34 E.R.A. in 2006), transfer student Dan Milus, Brad Barath and Brian Brubaker; juniors Erik Wright (4-1, 1.80 E.R.A. in '06). Will Tidwell and Ben Vaughn; sophomore Dan Stoney and freshman Kevin

Delapaz. Senior Blaine Paden (.270 in '06) will shift from first base to behind the plate. The rest of the infield will consist of Tidwell, Delapaz and junior Cole Motley at first base; Barath, junior Mike Madias and junior Mike Flis at second; junior Ryan Neu at shortstop; and Milus and Stoney at third.

Manning the outfield will be Gring, Vaughn, junior Matt Barylski, junior Alex Jerden, Stoney, Delapaz and Wright.

We're young again — we only had four seniors last year and we only have five this year, but I'm optimistic," Dickey

said. "Northville should be up there again in the division and Plymouth returns six starters, so they should be tough. Walled Lake Western and Wayne both return five starters, too, so you never know.

Weather permitting, the Chiefs were scheduled to open the season Saturday at home against Novi Catholic Central. As usual, their early-season schedule will be challenging with teams like state-ranked Birmingham Brother Rice and Saline on the slate.

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Young Rocks are hungry for wins ior class are Brad Way, Mike Rocks' starting second base-

man.

starting pitching rotation, as will Horger. The lone freshman on the squad is Chris Kordick, who will pitch and play first base. The Rocks open the season Wednesday when they host cross-campus rival Plymouth in a double-header slated to start at 4 p.m.

## BY ED WRIGHT

STAFF WRITER

Myers, Dan Cassidy, Steve

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Salem's baseball team is in the midst of a youth movement, with nearly two-thirds of its roster filled with sophomores (nine) and freshmen (one).

"We're very young," said veteran coach Dale Rumberger. "They're all great kids and they work hard. We're having a lot of fun." Leading the five-player sen-

Ann Arbor

Bay City

Flint\*

Jackson

Pydyn and Manpreet Singh. Way will pitch and play first base; Myers will start at catcher; Cassidy will pitch and play third base; Singh will serve as a reserve outfielder; and Pydyn will also patrol the outfield.

Justin Horger and Dana Lorber are the only two juniors on the squad. Horger will pitch and play the outfield while Lorber is slotted as the

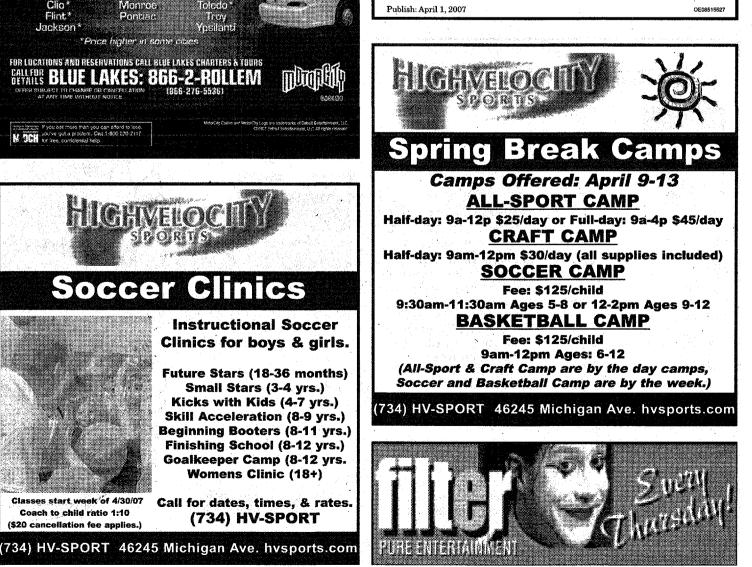
The sophomore class is made up of Kyle Bricker (second base), Jeff Sroka (shortstop), Kyle Powell (shortstop), Andrew Grabowski (catcher), Heath Parling (outfield), Dave Hales (outfield), Matt Wooster (outfield), Sam Ott (outfield) and Joe Posler (third base). Posler and Ott, both of whom earned varsity letters as freshmen, will also play key roles in the Rocks'

On April 9, Salem will travel to Cincinnati for its annual Spring Break trip.

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### Simply Self Storage

Notice is hereby given that on Monday April 16, 2007 on or after 9:30 a.m. that Simply Self Storage will be offering for sale under the judicial lien process by public auction the following units. The goods to be sold are generally described as household goods. Terms of the sale are <u>cash only</u>. Simply Self Storage reserves the right to refuse any and all bids. The sale will be at the following location: 34333 E. Michigan Ave, Wayne, MI 48184 – 734-728-8204. Daniel Breuer - C148, Household items, Sean P Foley -D103. Household items, Terrence Jenkins - A421, Household items, Crystal Scott - A410, Household items, Yolanda Brown - C123, Household Items, Yolanda Brown - C140, Household Items, Elonda Knott - B109, Household items



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## HOCKEY

#### Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, April 1, 2007

## NHALERS

FROM PAGE B1

its own end. Chris Terry and Steve Ward - not the biggest players in the league – along with Evan Brophey battled and were able to keep the puck in the Guelph zone. Neal eventually scored.

Guelph worked hard on the play, but the Whalers worked just a little bit harder and were rewarded.

We worked so hard and we tried everything, but we just didn't get lucky enough, I guess," Guelph veteran Rafael Rotter told the Guelph Mercury.

"They're a very good hockey team and it was going to be a very good challenge to win the series," said Guelph GM-Head Coach Dave Barr.

'We come through in the clutch when it counts. We just keep piling it on and getting shots on net and good things are happening to us."

### **James Neal Plymouth Whaler**

"They play a very aggressive style and have two or three players that can hit very hard. You have to keep your head up when these guys are on the ice. You get tired of getting hit hard after awhile."

One of the guys that Barr was referring to was Neal, who came back from

\$1,000 MINIMUM

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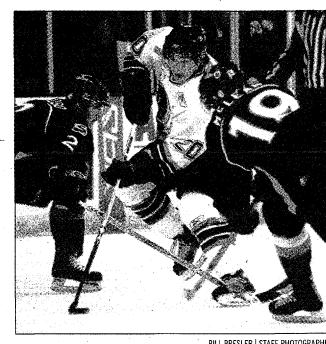
injury at the start of the series and contributed four goals.

"We come through in the clutch when it counts," Neal said. "We just keep piling it on and getting shots on net and good things are happening to us.'

Perhaps overlooked in the sweep is the good play of Plymouth goaltenders Michal Neuvirth and Jeremy Smith, who won two games apiece in their respective Ontario Hockey League playoff debuts.

The Whalers will open their OHL Western Conference semifinal series against Kitchener on Friday at 7:05 p.m. at the Compuware Sports Arena. Game 2 is set for Sunday, April 8, in Kitchener, while the series will return to Plymouth on April 10 for Game 3.

Kitchener swept Sarnia in its opening-round series.



Chris Teriv (middle), 🕺 pictured above during a game last week, and his Plymouth ... Whaler teammates swept the 🕁 Storm 4-0 in the first round of star the Ontario Hockey 🦉 League must playoffs.

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(CP)

**BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER** 



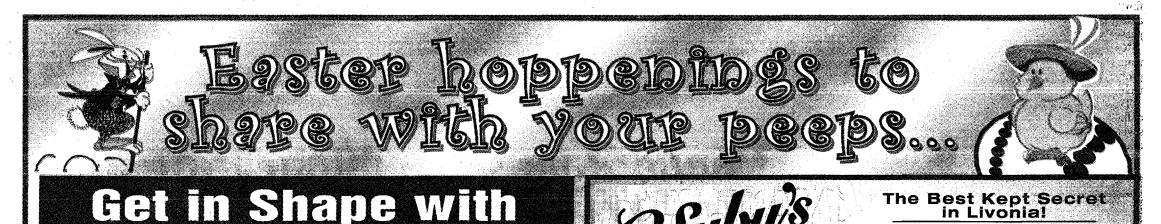
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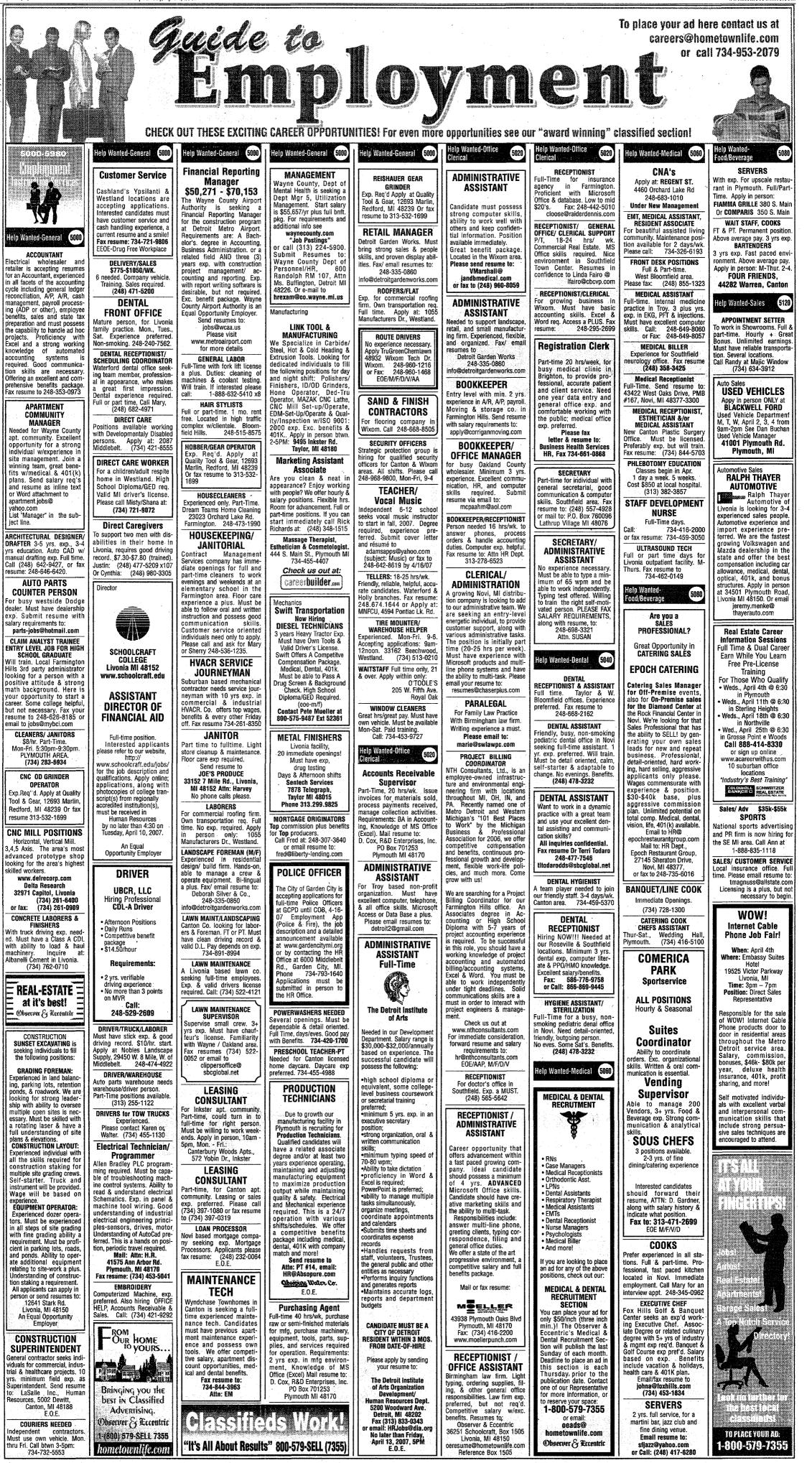




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## **LOCAL SPORTS**

Saluting outstanding youth sports coaches

## Meet 11 youth coaches who have the right stuff

## **ROB SUDZ**

Years coached: 6: Sport: Baseball; Profession: Pipe-fitter;

www.hometownlife.com

## The best part about coaching is ...: "Working

with kids and seeing them put a lot of effort into learning how to do something then seeing the looks on their faces when they put everything together and make that big play or get that big hit."

Advice he'd give to a first-year coach: "Be patient and talk to the kids at their level." It's been a good season when ...: "... all the players want to come back the following year. It's also nice when a parent comes up to you when the season is over and tells you that their son or daughter learned a lot from you." A parent's comment on Sudz: "My boys have played a lot of baseball over the years and Rob is probably one of the best coaches we've had the pleasure to be associated with. He's always encouraging the boys to be the best players and the best people they can be and he's always coaching - no matter if we're winning 10-0 or losing 10-0."

## **EILEEN SPICHER**

Years coached: 20 Sport: Gymnastics; Profession: Owner, Splitz Gymnastics in Canton;

The best part about coaching is ...: "Without a doubt it's the girls that have come through the doors and touched my life. Since club gymnastics is a year-round sport, I spend an incredible amount of time with these girls. I get to know them on different levels and watch them grow up."

### Advice she'd give to a first-year coach: "Be a



simple as looking someone in the eye when you shake their hand.

"Coach Lavallee instilled in me at a young age that football is the greatest blueprint for life for the simple reason that sometimes you must rely on others in order to get the job done correctly, but first you must do your job."

## **JEFF MARCERO**

Years coached: 6;

Sports coached: Soccer, softball and baseball; Profession: Director of Regional Sales for News/Talk 760 WJR;



Jeff Marcero

that leads to a score."

Advice he'd give a first-year coach: "Be very clear up front with the parents about your goals as a coach, be sure to make the sport fun at practice and at the games, have a ton of patience and find an assistant coach to help with practice and at the games you can't make."

How important is winning to you? Winning certainly makes any sport fun, but winning and losing are both important as they both teach the kids something."

I know it's been a good sports season when...: "...all of the kids want to play again as a team the next season."

A parent's comment on Marcero: "Jeff's first priority is for the kids to have fun and learn. He's a great example to the kids because he's always showing patience and good sportsmanship. As the kids have gotten older, we've seen far too many examples of parents and coaches missing the point of youth sports and turning it into a game of tempers and titles. Jeff isn't one of those coaches."

### and cross country;

Full-time profession: Director of Interfaith Programs & Walk2gether Michigan for the Michigan Roundtable for Diversity & Inclusion; The best part about coaching youth sports is: "The privilege of being a part of the authentic and innocent joy kids bring to the sport. This, of course, means I get splashed when the kids can't resist running through puddles."

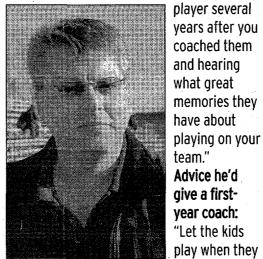
Advice he'd give a first-year coach: "The parents are their first and most-influential coaches. If a parent understands what you are trying to accomplish and is allowed to offer input and welcomed to be a part of practices and meets, they will help you accomplish your objectives with their kids." I know it's been a good sports season when ...: "...both the kids and the parents recognize they have been a part of something special."

## **KEVIN LIPP**

### Years coach: 13:

Sports coached: Basketball and soccer (Lipp is the Director for the Plymouth-Canton Community Education Basketball League); Profession: IT analyst;

The best part about coaching youth sports is: "Running into a



Kevin Lipp

court or field. Your chance to teach them is at practice and when they are on the bench watching the game."

are on the

I know it's been a good season when ...:

great deal about the sport of tennis and she genuinely cares about teaching high school students how to play the sport competitively. Not only is she an excellent coach, she's a a great mentor."

Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, April 1, 2007

B5

(CP)

## **BRUCE PRICE**

## Years coached: 14;

Sports coached: Soccer, baseball and basketball;

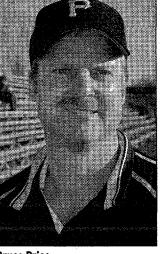
Full-time profession: CPA and co-owner of **Progressive Printing;** 

### Advice he'd give a first-year coach:

"Remember that this time belongs to the kids. As a coach, you are there to facilitate their most-remembered moments as a youth. The games is played by the kids and not the coach."

It's been a good sports season when ...: "... no one got seriously injured; no one quit, we were competitive and we won some games." A parent's comment on Price: "Bruce is great

at teaching the



**Bruce Price** 

kids, encouraging them and providing opportunities for everyone to get playing time. He gives direction in a positive and helpful manner, and he has excellent insight into sports. His teams work well together and maximize each individual's strengths."



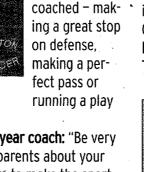
## Years coached: 7:

Sports coached: Baseball and basketball; Full-time profession: Management consultant;

The best part about coaching youth sports is: "Seeing the kids' hard work at practice pay off during games. It's awesome to see something we worked on in practice happen in a game and the kids know how Jim Hejka to handle the

situation."





The best part

youth sports

about coaching

is...: "Seeing the

look on a kid's

face when they

realize they did

something good

from something

that I've



al in vour sport." It's been a good season when...: "Goals are achieved

and smiles are.

sponge. Be

positive. Be

is always.

patient. There

something you

can learn from

another experi-

fied profession-

enced, quali-

on the girls' faces."

A parent's comment on Spicher: "Eileen gives hours and hours of her time and the girls she coaches truly love her. The girls she coaches are at an impressionable age (7-10) and she is a great role model. Her method of coaching is very positive, which helps keep up the airls' self esteem and helps motivate them to keep working and get better."

PHIL LAVALLEE

Years coached: 17; Sport: Football;

Profession: Electrical contractor;

The best part about coaching is...: "The look on a young athlete's face when they succeed and the relationships you build with the athletes and their families. Having athletes return to help in



understand that they got the values you were teaching when you were their coach." Advice he'd give to a first-year coach: "Have patience and remember that coaching is

makes you

**Phil LaVallee** 

Maintain a positive attitude, and never prejudge or exclude a young athlete."

It's been a good season when ...: "... the last day of practice is as enthusiastic as the first, regardless of the record."

A player's comment on LaVallee: "He is a true coach in all definitions of the word. Whether it's showing kids football techniques, the way a play is supposed to be run or something as

**JIM RADWAN** 

Years coached: 6; Sports coached: Baseball;

Profession: Associate District Manager, GMAC Mortgage, LLC;

The best part about coaching youth sports is...: "Seeing

that smile on an

athlete's face

when they suc-

ceed at some-

they've really

been working

hard to accom-

ing them have

fun with their

teammates."

a first-year

plish and watch-

Advice he'd give

coach: "Openly

thing that



the program **Jim Radwan** communicate with your players, parents and

coaches. Be open to suggestions, then analyze your choices an then do what you know is best for your team." It's been a good sports season when ...: "... the season is complete and the boys still want to

keep playing. Then I know we've done a good job." A parent's comment on Radwan: "He does an

excellent job of motivating the boys while also planning fun and instructional practice sessions. He attends coaching clinics on his own time in order to come up with better drills each season. He also encourages the boys to play other sports and he keeps all players and families up to date on Cardinals' accomplishments away from the baseball field."

## **STEVE SPREITZER**

Years coached: 9; **Sports coached:** Track and field, basketball

'...when significant numbers of players and their parents are asking me when the next season's registration will be held while they are still playing this season's games."

A parent's comment on Lipp: "Kevin spent every Saturday this past winter - his cooler packed for the day – hanging out during the youth basketball games to provide support and direction to coaches and referees. His energy, encouragement to the kids, commitment, fairness, responsibility and willingness to go the extra mile make him an exemplary coach and mentor."

## **BARB LEHMANN**

Years coached: 17:

Sports coached: Boys and girls high school tennis;

Full-time profession: Counselor at Canton High School;

The best part of



Barb Lehmann

Advice she'd give a first-year coach: "Stay three steps ahead. Make sure to have an outlook for the week and season, and team and individual goals. When you show interest in the player, they will work harder for you in reaching their goals."

future."

I know it's been a good season when...: "...we have come together as a team, worked hard to reach team and individual goals and can celebrate as a respected and powerful team in our league and around the area."

Player's comment on Lehmann: "She knows a

Advice he's give a first-year coach: "Spend a few minutes before practice planning what you want to do. It is important to break the kids into several small groups to work on skills. It keeps the kids' attention and minimizes time standing around doing nothing." A parent's comment on Hejka: "Jim does a great job of balancing fun with competition and he is always positive with the kids. We couldn't be happier with the effort he puts forth."

## **CHUCK CLOS**

Years coached: 25;

Sports coached: Hockey and baseball; Full-time profession: Attorney;

The best part about coaching youth sports is: "The chance to be a small part of the athletes' lives and to perhaps have some influence on their development and maturation. To teach them through sports."

Advice he'd give a first-year coach: "Coaching is not about you, it's about the kids. A victory is hollow and meaningless if everyone on the team doesn't participate. Children of all ages look up to the coach, so you must set a good example."

I know it's been a good sports season when...: "...everyone on the team – whether or not we were a good team or a bad team – tells me that they can't wait to play again next year." Comment on Clos: "From his first game to his last, Chuck has never intentionally played one kid over another. He says even in tournaments when the score is close: 'We got here as a team and we'll win as a team.' Kids he doesn't even know call him and ask to be on his team."

teaching.

## LOCAL SPORTS

Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, April 1, 2007

### www.hometownlife.com

### WILDCAT BASEBALL CLINIC

**B6** 

(CP)

A one-day Plymouth Wildcat Youth Baseball Clinic will be held Saturday, April 21, at the Plymouth High School baseball complex.

Kids in third through eighth grades are invited to the clinic, which is limited to the first 100 registrants.

For the \$40 registration fee, kids will receive a camp T-shirt, lunch and instruction on the following topics: hitting (stance, balance, swing plane), mental preparation and plate discipline; base running; infield play (corner and middle); fielding/throwing technique; outfield play; and catcher skills.

There will also be controlled scrimmages and each participant will be entitled to a video analysis of their swing.

If it is raining, the camp will be

## **SPORTS BRIEFS**

held in the Plymouth High School gymnasium. Campers will need to bring a baseball glove and wear a baseball hat. Bats are optional. Offering instruction will be offered by 2007 Plymouth players and coaches.

Contact John Nadratowski at (734) 844-3212.

### WRESTLING FUND-RAISER

The Canton High School wrestling program will be hosting its 4th Annual Canton Chiefs Wrestling Money Auction on Saturday, April 21, at the Woodlands of Van Buren. The event will run from 6 p.m. to midnight.

The \$100 tickets include dinner, an open bar and a chance to win \$1,000, \$2,000 or \$3,000. There will be a live auction, money boards, a 50/50 drawing, raffles and giveaways.

For more information, call

## (734) 582-6885.

## YMCA SOCCER

The Plymouth Family YMCA's spring soccer leagues are forming for children between the age of 4 and 11. Practices begin the week of April 9 and games start Saturday, April 21.

There will be eight practices and seven games. The cost is \$68 for program members or \$85 for community members. All participants will be required to purchase a YMCA youth sports reversible jersey for \$15. The registration deadline is

Wednesday, March 28. If you are interested in participating or coaching your child's team, please call (734) 453-2904 for more details. For more information, visit www.mcadetroit.org.

The Plymouth Family YMCA is also accepting registrations for its Fall soccer programs.

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## Smooth Jazz

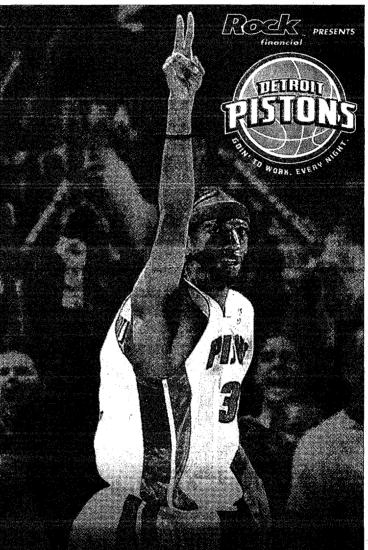
The Jazz captured the title in the Canton Educational Basketball League's 5th-6th Grade B League earlier this year. The Jazz finished the season with an 11-1 record after defeating the Hornets, 41-37, in the championship contest. Pictured (front row from left) are Rashad Talukder, Tyler Fosdick, Brian Desjariais, Nick Haddad, (back row from left) Coach Dave Fosdick, Ben Clark, Drew Klenk, Tyler Gross, Danny Stropes, Patrick Kretschmer, Jacob Doyle and Coach Jeff Klenk.



PREP BASEBALL Monday, April 2 Lutheran Westland at PCA, 4:30 p.m Tuesday, April 3 Lake Orion Baptist at PCA, 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 4 Plymouth at Salem (DH), 3:30 p.m. Canton at John Glenn, 4 p.m. PREP SOFTBALL Wednesday, April 4 Salem at Plymouth, 4 p.m. John Glenn at Canton, 4 p.m. **GIRLS SOCCER** Monday, April 2 Salem at Plymouth, 7 p.m. Oakland Christian at PCA, 4:30 p.m. PCA at Lutheran South, 4:30 p.m.

## THE WEEK AHEAD

W.L. Northern at Canton, 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 3 Calvary Christian at PCA, 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 4 Northville at Salem, 7 p.m. Plymouth at Livonia Churchill, 7 p.m. Canton at Livonia Stevenson, 7 p.m. **BOYS TRACK & FIELD** Tuesday, April 3 Plymouth at Wayne Memorial, 3:45 p.m. Northville at Canton, 3:30 p.m. Thursday, April 5 Salem at Livonia Stevenson **GIRLS TRACK & FIELD** Tuesday, April 3 Plymouth at Wayne Memorial, 3:45 p.m. Northville at Canton, 3:30 n.m.



Thursday, April 5 Salem at Livonia Stevenson, 3:30 p.m. Saturday, April 7 Canton at A.A. Pi neer. 10 a.m BOYS LACROSSE **Tuesday, April 3** Ypsilanti at PCS Warriors, 8 p.m. **BOYS TENNIS** Tuesday, April 3 Canton at A.A. Gabriel Richard, 4 p.m. Wednesday, April 4 Livonia Stevenson at Canton, 4 p.m. **MEN'S COLLEGE BASEBALL** Sunday, April 1 Madonna at Siena Hts. (2), 1 p.m. Wednesday, April 4 Madonna at Aquipas. (2), 1 p.m. Thursday, April 5 Madonna at Indiana- N'west, 2 p.m Friday, April 6 Madonna at St. Xavier (III.), 5 p.m. Saturday, April 7 Madonna at St. Xavier (2), noon. **WOMEN'S COLLEGE SOFTBALL** Sunday, April 1 Madonna at Siena Hts. (2), 1 p.m. Thursday, April 5 Madonna at Aquinas College (2), 3 p.m. Friday, April 6 (St. Francis, III. Tournament) Madonna vs. St. Francis, 4:30 p.m. Madonna vs. Ind. Wesleyan, 6:15 p.m Saturday, April 7 (St. Francis, Ill. Tournament) Madonna vs. Lindenwood (Mo.), 10 a.m. Madonna vs. St. Xavier (III.), 1:30 p.m. adonna vs. Harris-Stowe (Mo.), 3:15 p.m ONTARIO HOCKEY LEAGUE PLAYOFFS WESTERN CONFERENCE SEMIFINALS Friday, April 6 Whalers vs. Kitchener Rangers at Compuware Arena, 7:05 p.m.

**Sunday, April 8** Whalers at Kitchener Rangers, 7 p.m.

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## Wildcat netters win, 6-2

Plymouth's boys tennis team opened its season with a convincing 6-2 victory over Ann Arbor Gabriel Richard on Thursday afternoon in a match played on the Wildcats' courts.

After the two teams split the four singles matches, the Wildcats notched the "W" by sweeping the four doubles contests.

No. 2 singles player Dan Jeong defeated Alex Edwards, 6-3, 6-1; and the 'Cats' No. 4 player, freshman Patrick Onoro, ousted Jeff Tulloch, 7-5, 6-1.

In doubles action, Plymouth received wins from the No. 1 tandem of Steve Schaeffler and Max Korpalski, who beat Steve Myler and John Lee, 6-3, 6-4; the No. 2 team of Anoop Gopal and Ryan Kolesar, who swept their foes, 6-3, 6-4; the No. 3 duo of Robert Matar and Tom Eggleston, who were victorious, 7-6, 6-2; and the No. 4 pairing of Patrick Bailey and Andy Mitchell, who triumphed, 6-3, 6-1.

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## Rescue shelter recommends adopting, not buying bunnies, Page C8

HOMETOWN \_\_\_\_\_.COM

Brad Kadrich, editor . (734) 459-2700 . bkadrich@hometownlife.com

## It's your car, don't get taken for a ride

t's that time of year again. The birds are starting to sing, frigid cold temperatures have reluctantly lent their way to much warmer ones and men and women everywhere will, if they don't already, have a greater pep in their step because they know

this is the season for lovers. And if you are anything like me, you try to put off as many outside chores as possible until the weather outside turns warmer. Now the



warmer weather doesn't just bring out the "get it done crew," it also brings out the unscrupulous and the deceitful con artist. From home repairmen to appliance fix-it shops, the con is on and it's all done in the great attempt to get our hard-earned dollars.

Bobbie Jones

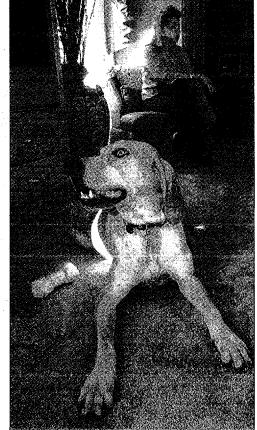
There is one specific repair and maintenance bill we must all face sooner or later and, for most of us women, the pres-

sure is on when it's time to get our cars looked at. That's right, auto repair and the stress it brings can send many of us to the cardiac specialist, but it doesn't have to be that way.

I have a few years under my belt when it comes to dealing with auto mechanics since I have been a car owner for some 20 years now. I want to share some tips I've picked up along the way with my women readers everywhere that can provide just a little peace of mind.

■ First, I normally get my car's oil changed in the spring and then again in the fall, but I only recommend you do that if you are a light driver like I am. Otherwise, make sure oil is changed as noted in your owner's manual. Regular oil changes can save you from unnecessary headaches later on.

Second, before you take your car into any shop for its spring spruce-up, do some checking and eye-balling of your own. Do a walk around your car. Check the tires to make sure the pressure is good. Get down on the ground, look under the car and make sure there are no leaks and, if you spot anything, make sure you note it so you can let your mechanic know.



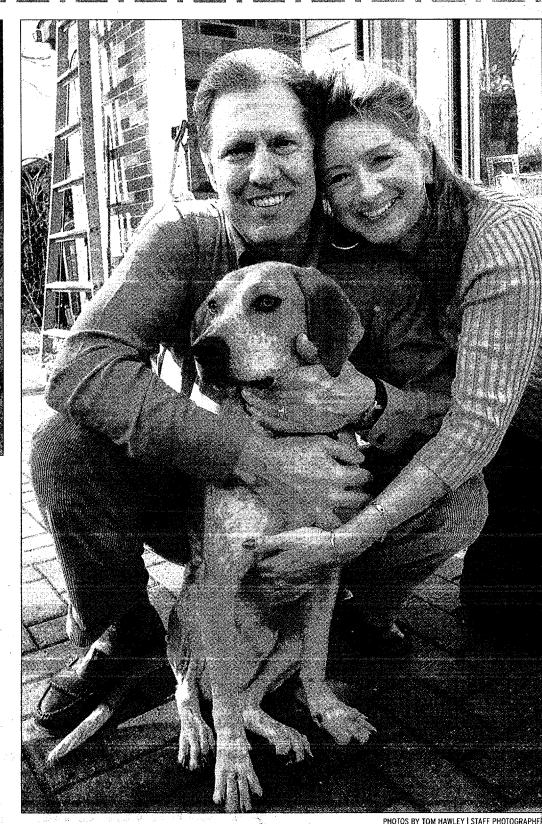
Cody stretches out while Mary Anne Heinrich talks about caring for the dog who's undergone three hip surgeries.



## Livonia couple rescues coonhound and vice versa

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN STAFF WRITER b and Mary Anne Heinrich 1

Bob and Mary Anne Heinrich thought after retiring two years ago they'd be free to take trips on the spur of the moment. The Livonia couple still plans to travel only now they're thinking of purchasing an RV to take Cody along with them.



Sunday, April 1, 2007

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

www.hometownlife.com

Bob and Mary Anne Heinrich take a moment to show their love for Cody, the Red Tick Coonhound they adopted.

fairs to try to adopt him."

Copen the hood, check the hoses for visible cracks and separations and anything that looks out of place.

■ This tip may save you a fortune when it comes to your car. Schedule time to get a free five-point inspection at your dealership and make sure they give you a list of everything they find wrong with your car. If all is good, keep the inspection info in a safe place. For when you go to get an oil change somewhere else, they won't be able to tell you your transmission fluid is leaking or you need a flush or some other high-priced repair they will try to spring on you.

And this point I can't stress enough. When you do take your car into the shop for anything, I strongly suggest you stay with it, whether it's a 30-minute job or a two-hour repair. Don't just drop off the keys and leave it. If you have to just take a car-care day from work, do it. Your presence can detour possible car sabotage. If there is a window that looks into the work area, peek in on your car to see what they are doing.

■ Don't be afraid to ask questions and if the mechanic happens to come to you with some suggested high-price repair, don't just take his word for it. Get a second opinion.

Remember, it's spring and you want to enjoy the warm weather and you want to be out riding in it, not stuck at home stressing about your precious automobile. So do what it takes to take care of your valued possession so you can have many more years to enjoy spring-time driving and peace of mind all year long.

**Bobbie Jones** is a Belleville resident and regular contributor to the *Observer*. She can be reached via e-mail at WORKHARD36@aol.com. The Heinrich's never dreamed of owning a dog let alone him becoming a member of the family. Then Cody was found wandering the back roads of Spring Arbor outside of Jackson.

Bob is allergic to dogs and now takes medication daily to relieve the symptoms he's suffered since the couple adopted Cody. The abandoned Red Tick coonhound definitely changed their lives. The Heinrichs say Cody rescued them as much as they did

him. They can't imagine life without him. "Our daughter, Amy, is a social worker and into animal rescue and was on the Internet one day and checks Petfinder.com regularly. She saw a message from a woman who had found this hound dog, all skin and bones and walking on three legs," said Bob Heinrich. "My daughter picked him up and took him to Last Chance Rescue (a no-kill shelter) in Howell where they realized he had a problem with his leg."

'SWEETEST DOG'

Cody has hip dysplasia and required surgery in January 2006 so Amy asked her parents if they could care for him during the recuperation period. Mary Anne had fractured a hip the year before so she sympa-, thized with Cody.

"He was just the sweetest dog," said Heinrich. "We returned him to the shelter, but they weren't successful in finding him a home so my wife took him every weekend to When Cody needed a second surgery on his hip in August 2006, once again he returned to live with the Heinrichs. Then in October Mary Anne convinced Bob that the dog needed training to make him more adoptable. Bob agreed the three of them should go to obedience school, but first he set some ground rules to follow during the three months Cody would live with them.

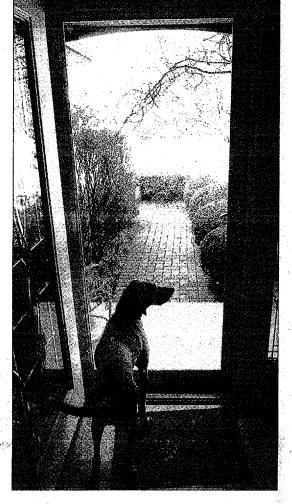
"We had an agreement that he wouldn't sleep in our bedroom," said Heinrich. "He'd already wormed his way into my wife's heart and was getting close to mine."

Before long, Cody was sleeping alongside them in his own bed. By Christmas, Bob knew there was no separating Cody and Mary Anne. He called Last Chance Rescue and had the adoption papers drawn up. On Christmas, Bob tied the papers and a ribbon around Cody's neck.

### **THIRD HIP SURGERY**

But the story doesn't end there. In January, the couple with the big hearts noticed Cody's other leg was giving him problems. On Feb. 7, Dr. Kyle Kerstetter performed surgery on the coonhound at Michigan Veterinary Specialists in Southfield. Kerstetter said he was planning a hip replacement, but there was "very little bone left" for support so instead did a different procedure, a femoral head and neck ostectomy, to relieve the pain. He expects recovery to take up to six months for the dog who's thought to be around 2 years old.





Cody, a rescued Red Tick Coonhound, looks for squirrels in the front yard of his owners, Bob and Mary Anne Heinrich.

## Local fans go all out to attend the Super Bowl of wrestling

#### BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN STAFF WRITER

Ordinarily, Rachael Leck wouldn't go out of her way to watch wrestling, but her first trip to the Super Bowl of the sport has turned into an event.

The Westland mother is not only taking sons Benjamin, 11, Zachary, 9, and their cousin, Larry Allen, 12, to WrestleMania 23, but the four of them will join more than a dozen other friends for the festivities. This the first time in 20 years that WrestleMania has come to Detroit. Today, April 1, more than 70,000 fans will gather at Ford Field. Leck recently called to confirm her reservations at the Holiday Inn downtown and learned there are no vacancies at hotels all over town.

"We made reservations at Christmas," said Rachel Leck, a single mom. "We're making kind of a big deal out of it. We're excited. Santa brought the tickets as presents.

"The kids are excited. It's all they've been talking about. They've posted it on their MySpace page and have an official countdown going."

Benjamin and Zachary know every wrestler by name and each has his favorite. Benjamin set his clock so he could wake up to hear an interview with John Cena on the radio Monday morning.

Zachary's favorite is the Undertaker even though the younger boy finds him frightening. Zachary has asked his mother if he could sit next to her in case the Undertaker decides to stand next to him when the lights go out and come back on again as they usually do. The Undertaker likes to make grand entrances.

"Even though I'm not that crazy about wrestling I'm looking forward to seeing my kids so excited," said Leck. "It's over the top, hitting people with chairs, breaking tables with people. "My sons' goal is to be on TV. They've told

their friends and family to look for them." Last weekend, Leck and her sons spent hours creating posters to carry in with them Sunday evening.

"We arrive at the hotel Saturday morning and stay Saturday and Sunday. We'll let the kids swim and hang out," said Leck. "WrestleMania starts at 7 p.m. on Sunday so we'll go early to see if they can get autographs.

"They're especially looking forward to the Battle of the Billionaires. They're having a showdown between Donald Trump and Vince McMahon, WWE (World Wrestling Entertainment) chairman. One will have their head shaved if their wrestler loses."

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



Larry Allen (left), and Benjamin and Zachary Leck work on posters to take to WrestleMania

PHOTO BY RACHAEL LECK 23.

## **COMMUNITY CALENDAR**

#### **AROUND TOWN**

#### Sciencepalooza

(CP)

The Sciencepalooza science street fair gears up for FUN-tastic Physics at the Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum April 7-8. Sciencepalooza is held the first weekend of every month at the Museum and explores a specific topic in a fun and festive environment with in-depth hands-on experiments, activities, special guests and demonstrations. Twenty different hands-on activities developed and presented by the Society of Physics students will be on display in conjunction with the FOCUS labs, a UM research laboratory. The Blake Lilly prize, a national award that recognizes outstanding community outreach and physics education, was awarded to the UM student group after last year's Sciencepalooza. The Museum will host hands-on activities and interactive projects exploring many different aspects of physics. Unveil the mystery of magnets, explore gravity and simply have fun with simple machines. This event is free with regular Museum admission, and will take place Saturday, April 7, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, April 8, noon-5 p.m. For more information visit www.aahom.org or call (734) 995-5439. Art center workshops

The Ann Arbor Art Center will be offering special workshops as part of the ArtVentures program to coincide with Ann Arbor Public Schools spring break period. Workshops will be offered April 10-12 at the Art Center Liberty Street location. The workshop Tuesday, April 10, will be creating hand-painted paper lanterns. A rainy day umbrella workshop will be offered Wednesday, April 11. On Thursday, April 12, we will offer a paper bead making workshop. All three workshops run 1:30-3 p.m. ArtVentures workshops cost \$16 per creator. Further details can be found either in the Spring/Summer course brochure, or on the center's Web site at www.annarborartcenter.org. Registration for all Ann Arbor Art Center programs is necessary and can be completed on-line or by calling (734) 994-8004, Ext 101.

## Raggedy Ann & Andy

The Marguis Theatre presents "Raggedy Ann and Andy" through April 29. Performance dates and times are 2:30 p.m. Saturdays (April 14, 21, 28) and Sundays (April 1, 15, 22, 29) and Monday-Friday, April 9-13. Tickets are \$8 for all performances. For more information, visit the theater's Web site at www.northvillemarquistheatre.com or call (248) 349-8110.

### **Great Lakes Doll Club**

and the second second

The Great Lakes Doll Club's 18th-annual Grant A Wish Mini Convention, a benefit for the 32 Degrees Detroit Masonic Learning Center for Dyslexic Children, takes place April 13-15 at the Livonia Marriott. The weekend event includes an exclusive Barbie doll, Friday night cock-

tail party and charity auction, Saturday luncheon with guest speaker Bill Greening from Mattel Collectibles, and a Sunday brunch. Tickets are \$180. The salesroom featuring fashion dolls is open to the public 7:30-10 p.m. Saturday, April 14 and noon-2 p.m. Sunday, April 15. For more information, e-mail gawfund@aol.com

#### **Genealogical society**

Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, April 1, 2007

The Livingston County Genealogical Society meets Thursday, May 3, at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, 1041 W. Grand River in Howell. Speaker Cindy Gorstick, corresponding secretary of the Michigan Genealogical Council, will discuss "WWI and WWII Draft Registration Information." The meeting, which starts with a pot-luck dinner at 6:30 p.m. and the business portion at 7:30 p.m., will also serve as the group's annual meeting. The public is invited. For more information, call Margaret Bowland, (810) 227-7745.

#### Art of healing

St. Mary Mercy Hospital offers a Master Reiki III class 2-4 p.m. April 28 and 2-5 p.m. April 29. The classes will help students develop and become skilled at administering this ancient art of healing that creates a powerful experience. Reiki I and II are pre-requisites. To register, call (734) 655-1162. St. Mary Mercy Hospital is located at 36475 Five Mile (at Levan) in Livonia

#### **Democrats** meet

"Iraq for Sale ... The War Profitteers," a documentary on the waste and fraud in military spending on the war in Iraq, will be sponsored by the 11th Congressional District Democrats at 7 p.m. Thursday, April 5, at the Quality Inn, 30375 Plymouth Road, Livonia. Melanie Goldberg, immigration attorney and member of the Coordinating Council of Detroit Area Peace With Justice Network will discuss the topic and lead a guestion-and-answer session following the film. For more information, call (248) 624-4753.

#### Women remembering Women

A "Women Remembering Women" evening tea is set for 7-8:30 p.m. Thursday, May 10, at the Best Western Hotel Laurel Park Suites, 16999 S. Laurel Park Drive, in Livonia. The evening is designed for women who have lost mothers, daughters, grandmothers, granddaughters, aunts, friends or other special women in their lives. The evening includes tea and desserts, a special speaker, educational materials and a special gift. Cost is free. RSVP requested by May 7, but not required. To RSVP or for more information, call (800) 770-9859 and ask for Diana or Sherri. Golf league

The Livonia Women's Golf League is hoping to expand with 18-hole women golfers. The league plays at Whispering Willows Golf Course on Newburgh just

south of 8 Mile Thursday mornings teeing off at 8 a.m. beginning May 3. Cost is \$25 per week, which includes golf and a cart. Non-residents are encouraged to ioin. For more information, call Kathy. (248) 476-3991.

#### **Tables and Tea**

The Ann Arbor Women's Club hosts its 17th-annual "Tables and Tea" event displaying elegant, sometimes whimsical tables settings designed by club members and local retailers. The event is set for 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, April 29, at the City Club, 1830 Washtenaw Ave. in Ann Arbor, Tickets are available at the City Club, John Leidy Shops, Georgetown Gifts, Kitchenport and Quinn's Essentials. For more information, call Winifred Schweiger, (734) 434-8521.

#### Hospice care help sought

Visiting Nurse Association of Southeast Michigan's (VNA) hospice program needs volunteers to comfort and support patients at the end of life. Volunteers can provide companionship, write a memoir, provide respite for family or work as office support. A free 18-hour training program is provided; the next training session is April 14, 21 and 28 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the VNA headquarters, 25900 Greenfield Road, Suite 600. Registration is required. (248) 967-8361 or visit www.vna.org

#### **Register for St. Genevieve School** St. Genevieve Catholic School is accepting applications for the 2007-08 school year. The school, preschool through eighth grade, is accredited by the Michigan Association of Nonpublic Schools It's at 28933 Jamison in Livonia east of Middlebelt, south of Five Mile, and offers full academic curriculum, fulland half-day preschool and kindergarten, extended-day program before and after school, CYO program and more. (734) 425-4420.

#### Crafters/vendors needed

Crafters and vendors are wanted for the springtime craft show/bazaar 1-6 p.m. April 28 at the Inkster Recreational Center, 2025 Middlebelt in Inkster, Cost is \$30 per booth. E-mail Vdotson@twmi.rr.com for application or call (734) 595-1083.

#### Mom-to-Mom Sale

The St. Edith/St. Kenneth Mothers of Preschoolers group will host a Mom-to-Mom Sale from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, April 21, at St. Edith Church, 15089 Newburgh, south of Five Mile. Gently used baby and children's items will be sold. Admission is \$1. Lindsay, (248) 252-4775

#### Lenten fish fry

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St. Sebastian Catholic Church, 20700 Colgate in Dearborn Heights, hosts its features baked and fried fish, macaroni and cheese, spaghetti, cole slaw and

for children under 12. For more information, call (313) 562-5356. **Bocce for bucks** 

Visiting Nurse Association of Southeast Michigan's signature fund-raising event. Bocce for Bucks III, sponsored by Complete Infusion Services, offers patrons an opportunity to receive professional instruction on the sport from World Cup Bocce players. The event takes place 2-6 p.m. Sunday, April 22, at the Palazzo di Bocce in Orion Township. Bocce for Bucks III features an afternoon of indoor bocce ball tournament play, ideal for families and people of all ages, an Italian buffet, silent auction and much more. No prior experience or equipment needed. Dress is casual and prizes will be awarded to the top teams. New this year is a private benefactor reception to be held 6 p.m. Sunday, March 25, at Park West Gallery in Southfield. Funds raised will help provide an innovative, life-saving system - VNA's TeleHomecare program, used by VNA to educate and empower patients by checking their health between home visits. Tickets are available with the following benefits: \$100 Guest ticket - Receives bocce play, Italian buffet dinner, beer,wine, desserts, silent auction and exit gift: \$150 Patron ticket - Receives all of the above plus expert bocce instruction from World Cup Bocce Players onehour prior to event start; and \$200 Benefactor ticket - Receives all of the above plus invitation to Private Benefactor Reception, For sponsorship, advertising or ticket information for Bocce for Bucks III, call (248) 967-8324 or visit vna.org.

#### Waste to Watts

The Ann Arbor Hands-on Museum has extended the Waste to Watts exhibition through summer of 2007 due to popular demand. Waste to Watts shows how new environmentally friendly technology can turn our trash into electricity. Developed by Landfill Energy Systems of Wixom, Michigan, this one-of-a-kind exhibit demonstrates how methane gas recovery from landfills can be used as an alternative energy source, ultimately reducing our dependency on other fuels. Hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Saturday, noon to 5 p.m. Sunday. For information, visit www.aahom.org or call (734) 995-5439.

Masonic Temple hosts a card party/luncheon noon-3 p.m. the second Tuesday of each month. Admission is \$6: event features table prizes and door prizes. The temple is located at 27705 W. Seven Mile in Livonia. For more information, call (734) 459-6063.

**Hospice training** Heartland Hospice is looking for caring and dedicated people with an interest in serving terminally ill patients and their families in Washtenaw, western Wayne, Monroe and Livingston counties. Volunteers provide a variety of s

including companionship, light housekeeping, errand running, grief support and clerical services. For more information, contact volunteer coordinator Candice Jones. (888) 973-1145. **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. Call (734) 416-4906 for more information.

#### **Toastmasters** meet

Do you have a fear of public speaking? Do you need to do presentations at work and don't know where to start? Or are you terrified of the thought of standing in front of a group of people to present that report? If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, then Toastmasters is for you! Canton Communicators Club meets every Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. at the Canton Coney Island on Lilley, just south of Joy, in the Golden Gate Plaza. For additional information, contact Bonnie at (734) 646-2237.

#### **Grief support**

New Hope Center for Grief Support is a Christian-based bereavement outreach and resource center located in Northville. Age appropriate groups for widows and widowers are provided in various locations in southeastern Michigan including groups for young widows and widowers and their children between the ages of 4 through the teen years. Groups for parents who have lost a child, adults who have lost a parent, pet loss, and other specialized groups are offered at various times of the year. All services for adults and children are offered at no cost to the participants. If you are grieving or know someone who is, please call the office at (248) 348-0115 for further information about services provided by New Hope Center for Grief Support, or visit www.newhopecenter.net.

### Rotary A.M.

The Plymouth Rotary Club of Plymouth A.M. meets at 7 a.m. every Tuesday at the Plymouth Cultural Center, 525 Farmer, New members are always welcome. Contact Mark Hammar, president, Rotary Club of Plymouth A.M., by calling (734) 455-6620.

CLUBS

### **Canton Newcomers**

The Canton Newcomers meet the first Wednesday of each month (September-May) for an adult evening of socializing, a speaker or an activity. Additionally, the group hosts more than 20 events during the month including Book Club, Bunko, Playgroups Creative Kids Lad

and Night Out, Scrapbooking, Walking and many more. Request a complimentary newsletter at cantonnewcomers.org or call Jennifer at (734) 981-1715. You don't have to be "new" to be a Newcomer

www.hometownlife.com

#### **Kiwanis Club**

The Plymouth-Canton Kiwanis Club meets every Tuesday at 7:15 a.m. at the Plymouth Cultural Center on Farmer Street. The Club invites you to their morning meetings to discuss community projects and activities. Be part of the solution and not just a spectator. For more information, call (734) 981-0460 or see the Web site (www.pckiwanis.org). Plymouth Newcomers

Plymouth Newcomers & Neighbors playgroups for children ages 0-5 meet several times during the week at member homes and occasional special events. Come meet new parents while your kids meet their own new friends! For details, contact Janet Keller at (734) 451-1840 or robertplusjanet@aol.com

### Fibromyalgia/Chronic Fatigue

The Great Lakes Fibromyalgia and Chronic Fatigue Syndrome Association will meet 1-3 p.m. on the first Thursday of each month at Merriman Road Baptist Church on Merriman south of Ford. There will be a guest speaker at each meeting and a variety of topics will be covered. There is no membership fee but a small donation will be accepted. For information call Lucy Rowley 734-462-1768

#### **MOPS** meet

MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers) meets twice monthly from September-May, for moms and their children, newborn-kindergarten, at Lakepointe Bible Church in Plymouth. For more information, call Crystal Johnson, (734) 459-1861.

#### Mosaic

MOSAIC is a group where Moms come together to be refreshed and equipped for the important task of mothering. It presents speakers on child and family issues, has small-group discussion time, crafts and brunch. Child care is provided. It meets at Plymouth Baptist Church, 42021 Ann Arbor Trail, on the first and third Tuesday mornings of each month, September to May. Contact Resha at (734) 207-0658 or resha@juno.com Moms Club

#### Moms Club of Livonia-S/Plymouth, Canton and Westland offers a variety of activities for stay-at-home moms and their children. For more details, call

Birthe at (734) 458-8143 or Kimberly at (248) 231-6120. DAR The Sarah Ann Cochrane Chapter-Daughters of the American Revolution meets the third Monday of each month except January, July and August, A group with ancesters who fought in American Revolution. Members participate in community work involving veterans' hospitals, schools and community service Call (734) 420-277

## Card party/luncheon Victoria Chaptér #290, OES, Livonia

annual all-vou-can-eat Lenten Fish Fry 4-7 p.m. Fridays through April 6. The event dessert. Cost is \$8.50 for adults, \$4.75





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## Network's new Web site hopes to match pet owners with in-home caretakers

With more and more caring pet owners looking to in-home care when they leave a pet behind to go on vacation or just have to work long hours, the business of pet sitting is growing rapidly in the southeast Michigan area.

Seventeen charter businesses recently joined together in the southeast Michigan area to form the Michigan Pet Sitters and Dog Walkers Association, a network aimed at encompassing the entire state of Michigan.

The network is designed to connect pet owners with local professional pet sitters and dog walkers, with a Web site - www.michiganpetsitters.com - set up to help pet owners to find a local pet sitter. The Web site also offers guidelines and suggestions for choosing the right pet sitter.

"The organization is dedicated to the promotion of professional pet sitting by insured and bonded professionals," said owner Roberta Cubbin of Wayne, who also is co-owner of Comfy Creatures, a pet-sitting and dog-walking company serving primarily the Plymouth-Canton area. "It provides business-related support to all members, builds an awareness of the pet sitting industry to our community and supports local pet-related charities.'

According to Cubbin, in-home pet sitting provides a unique alternative to boarding facilities or relying on family or neighbors to check on pets. Pet sitters come to the home daily and animals are able to keep their regular routines of feeding, walks, medication and one-on-one care and attention.

"Our owners report their pets experience less stress and adjust better to their owner's absence when they can remain in their normal environment," Cubbin said.

Most pet sitters also offer the bonus of home security measures by bringing in mail and newspapers, rotating lighted areas, opening and closing draperies and other touches that make the house appear occupied while the other is away. Many pet sitters also offer daily dog walking service for



John Chapman and Roberta Cubbin, and their dogwalking/pet-sitting business Comfy Creatures, are among 17 charter businesses recently joined together in the southeast Michigan area to form the Michigan Pet Sitters and Dog Walkers Association, a network aimed at encompassing the entire state of Michigan.

busy professionals who have to long work days. "Many dogs need and enjoy the mid-day visit to socialize and exercise," Cubbin said. "The dog-



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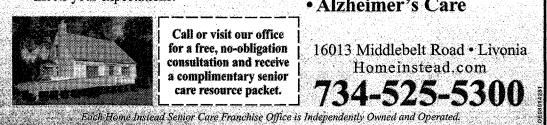
walking service is especially helpful for puppies and elderly pets that may not be able to wait the whole work day to get outside to relieve themselves.

The demand for these professionals is due to the fact that today's pet owners consider their "fur children" part of the family and are taking better care of them than ever. Cubbin pointed out a 1999 survey of pet owners in which the American

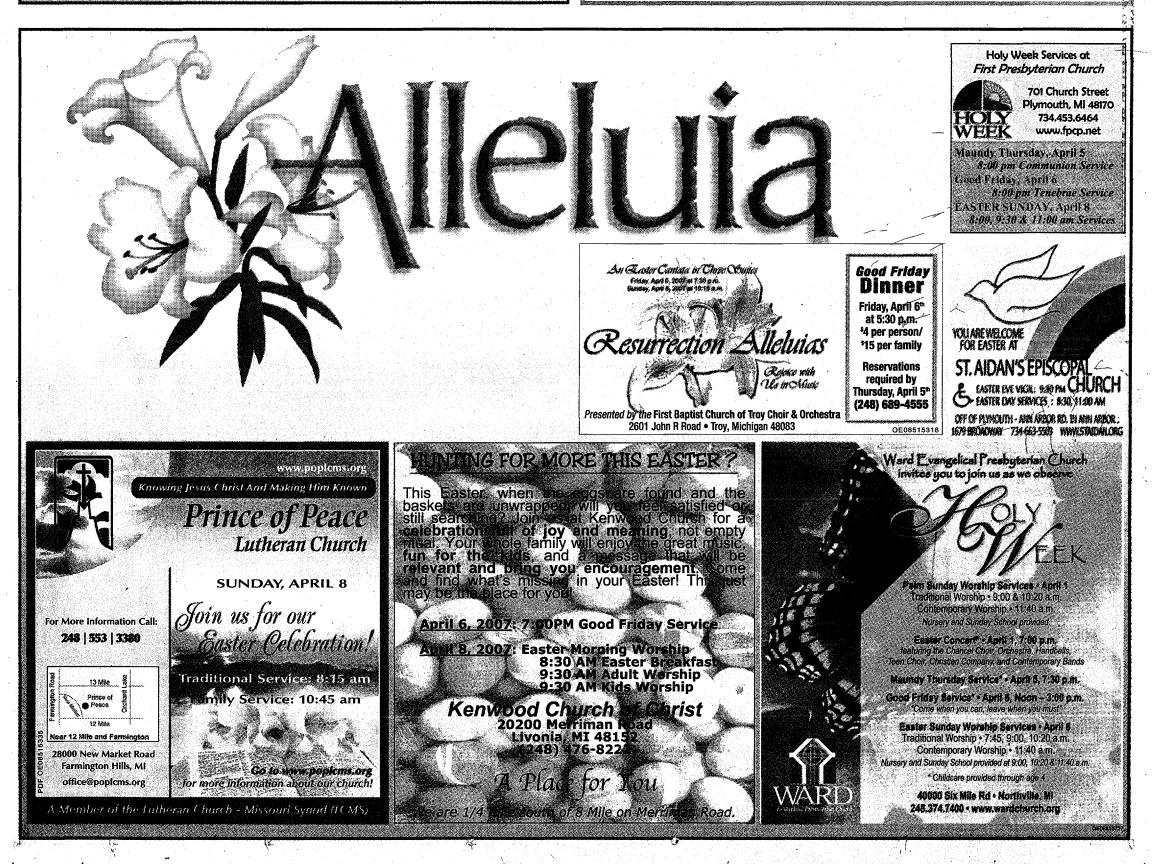
Animal Hospital Association determined 87 percent of pet owners include their pet in holiday celebrations, 94 percent have photos of their pets on display and 84 percent refer to themselves at their pet's "Mom" or "Dad." America's first professional pet sitters, she said, began their businesses more than 20 years ago. Today's pet sitters are knowledgeable professionals who visit approximately 10 million homes annually.



63 (\*)



Special package rate valid at AmeriSuites Livonia location only. Valid photo ID and credit card required at check in. Not valid with any other discount, promotions or groups. Subject to availability. Offer expires May 10, 2007.





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## Hassages Obituaries, Memorials, Remembrances 1-800-579-7355 🔹 fax: 734-953-2232 e-mail: oeobits@hometownlife.com

## GERALD L. "Jerry" THOMPSON

Age 57, of Farmington, March 29, 2007. Jerry was a Vietnam Veteran and was employed at Special Projects, Plymouth, MI. Jerry is survived by his beloved son, Michael; sister, Sandy Wegzyn; nieces, Holly Gullekson, Ashley Tyler, Lindsay Tyler. Greatuncle of Jaylynn, Zachary, Alex and Alyssa. He is also survived by his cousin, Greg McIntosh; uncle, Larry McIntosh and many other loving famly members and friends. Funeral service Tuesday, April 3, 11:30 AM at he Heeney-Sundquist Funeral Home, 23720 Farmington Road (just N. of Grand River, btwn 9 & 10 Mile Rds.) downtown Farmington (248-474-5200). Visitation Sunday 4-8 PM and Monday 2-8 PM. Memorial tributes suggested to Foundation for American Veterans, Inc., 7473 Wilshire, West Bloomfield, Michigan, 48322.

#### JEFFREY JAMES BROWN

Died Thursday, March 22, 2007 at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center. He was 63. Born and raised in Rochester, MI, he had resided in VT for the past 25 years, most recently in Fairlee. He was a graduate of Northern Michigan University, teaching in the Michigan Public Schools for 15 years, most recently he was a carpenter for Frumbull-Nelson Construction in Hanover, NH until his retirement. He was an avid wood worker, was a history buff and also enjoyed working with his friends, restoring antique automobiles. He is survived by his four children, sons David C. Brown of Monmouth Junction, NJ; Alan J. Brown of Altoona, WI; Andrew J. Brown of Clarkston, MI; daughter, Melissa A. Graham of Grand Blanc, MI; their mother, Susan; eight grandchildren; his mother, Iva and his sister, Ann. The family will be holding a private service. Arrangements are being handled by the Cremation Society of New Hampshire in Manchester, NH.

#### **ALLAN F. SNYDER**

Formerly of Bloomfield Hills, MI and formerly of Hilton Head, South Carolina, age 77, passed away Tuesday March 27 2007. A private memorial service will be held later. Cremation has taken place. If desired, memorial

contributions may be made to Volunteers in Medicine, 15 Northridge Drive, Hilton Head Island, SC 29926. Allan was born in Newark, OH January 1, 1930, the son of Edwin Allan and Frieda (Butler) Snyder. He married Susie Morgan in Cranford, NJ in 1954. She preceded him in death on June 26, 2001. He was a Marketing

## STEPHEN THOMAS MOORE

Age 45 passed away on March 27, 2007. Beloved son of John and Georgina (Ferns) Moore. Supportive husband of Lesley and loving father of Kelly, Sean and Heather. Dearest brother of Brendan (Emily), Paul (Dawn), Kevin and Anne Marie O'Neill (Jim). Cherished uncle to Matthew, Jessica, John-Paul, Liam, Nicole, Darrin, Robbie and Jamie. Dear son-in-law of Jim and Dorothy Horn and brother-in-law of Kenny and Jean Horn. He will be remembered lovingly by many relatives who reside in Ireland and Scotland. A good friend to many individuals who enjoyed his wit, sense of humor and enthusiasm in pursuit of "the good life." Visitation Saturday 2:00 p.m. until time of funeral service 4:00 p.m., O"Brien/Sullivan Funeral Home 41555 Grand River. Novi (248) 348-1800. Memorial contributions may be made to Stephen's Children in his memory.

## DELMYRNA (DEL) K. (SIMPSON) MOORE

Born February 2, 1937, in Grevbull, Wyoming, she had a two year older brother, Russell. Her father, William A. Simpson, was the first Big Horn County Welfare Director, and her mother, the former Margaret Draper, was a homemaker. Just prior to Del going into school, her mother got an infection and in a relatively short time was paralyzed from neck down except for limited use of one arm and hand, but not fingers. Del began to do the cooking and cleaning and washing for the family from kindergarten through high school and on college vacations. Her mother became a reporter for the Greybull Standard, and other regional newspapers for decades. Everybody in the area called Margaret with the news and she reported it to the world. Her body wasn't working, but she had a good mind and an intelligent one. Del sang and entertained the town folks, then in college she was on traveling show teams singing and dancing all over Wyoming. In 1958 she was invited to accompany a Fred Warring Show Group that toured Europe entertaining the troops and she sang at the 1958 World' Fair is Deversely Stream for World's Fair in Brussels. She graduated as a grade school teacher and began to teach in Cheyenne, the capital city She met her husband, George W. Moore III, from Ohio, when they were in a play together, became engaged, and married in August 1961. He became a CPA, they decided to go to law school. He became a Tax Lawyer/CPA and practiced in Ashtabula, Ohio and Kalamazoo, MI and then Bloomfield Hills, MI. They had three children, George W. Moore IV, Brian P. Moore, and Heather M. Moore, all college graduates. George lives in Hilton Head, is a Comedian, and also manages upscale restaurants in southeastern USA, Brian, lives in Boston area, is a Computer Scientist, for major world wide computer company, and Heather, lives in Chicago area, was a star salesperson for Meade, before marriage Del was a homemaker and sewed most of the children's clothes and some of her own, until all the children were in school. Then she and another lady started an automotive industry visitors helper company, sold it out, and then Del was part of a group that moved GM International offices from NYC to Detroit. She got a real estate license, and went into sales, became a broker, and assistant office manager of the Birmingham office of Schweitzer Real Estate, a large local firm. She and George got into Rotary, PTO, Scouts, their church's "Christmas Hand in Hand" pageant, and they hosted several Rotary youth exchange students from Europe and Heather was also a youth exchange student who studied in Europe. Del and George got into First Theatre Guild at their church, then Village Players, an independent group with their own facility, in Birmingham. Del was in many musical comedies and she was President in 1990-91. For several years she was a member of a four person stage show with a banjo band, called the "Gartersnappers", that entertained in the Detroit area. She was state Treasurer of Alpha Delta Kappa, a teaching honorary. Del and George started traveling in the middle 80s to Europe to see Heather and the other former exchange students and their families. George became a Rotary District Governor in the middle 90s and they began a stint of going to 14 Rotary International Conventions everywhere in the world. George got involved in providing almost 2,000 Rotary water wells for India and they went there for several weeks. They have met a lot of wonderful people both in and out of Rotary. As a past officer of Rotary, George and Del went to Zone training sessions all over Canada, and the Midwestern USA, and even drove to Alaska one year. Del also stayed as an active alumnae of her college sorority, Kappa Kappa Gamma, and she recently became President of the Birmingham/ Bloomfield Panhellic Council. Del also belonged to the Birmingham Republican Woman's Club, and has done singing programs for them. Del and George have been in a duplicate bridge group for decades. In recent years Del has taken up quilting and recently did all the quilts for the VP play called "Quilters". Del recently entered the Michigan State Fair Quilting show and her quilts and quilted jackets both won first prizes and other prizes too. Del recently said she wanted to slow down a little and enjoy their six grand children more. She loved to visit and play with them, cook for them, sew for them, and she was a very welcome grandmother. Del died accidentally and unexpectedly on March 20, 2007. Del was many things to many people, and only they will truly know the extent to which she touched their lives and helped them on their way. We all will miss her smiling face and bubbly personality. .

### **KATHERINE ANN** (JACKSON) HALL

Age 60 of Canton, MI, (formerly of Alma, MI), passed away March 28 2007 in Canton, MI suddenly of natural causes. She was born July 29, 1946 in Los Angeles, CA to William and Barbara Jackson of Lakehills, TX. She was a retired clerical worker for the State of Michigan. She is survived by daughters Carol (Alex) Lundberg of Detroit, MI, and Jennifer (James) Gross of Ithaca, MI; brother Larry (Donnie) Jackson of oodlands, TX; sister Carol (Rickey) Booher of Lawrenceville, GA., and grandchildren Jonathan Sinko, Tyler Rolph, and Ashleigh Rolph. She was preceded in death by grandmother Annie Fossett. Visitation will be held 2-2 p.m. April 1, 2007 at the Harry J Will Funeral Home, 25450 Plymouth Rd., Redford, MI followed by a funeral service at 2 p.m at the funeral home, presided over by Jonathan Hosanna-Tabor Lutheran Manor. Church clergyman. Memorials may be given to: Harry J. Will Funeral Home, for the family of Katherine Hall.



#### **ROBERT A. HERMANN**

March 27, 2007 of Birmingham. Husband of Clara M. Hermann. Robert married Clara McNair on Valentine's Day 1948. Father of Carol Hermann, Jim (Laura) Hermann, Lynn (Lowell) Rodd and Bonnie (Al) Fisk. Grandfather of Ryan, Randall, Micheal and Joseph. Brother of William Hermann and the late Betty Williams. Retired GM Engineer (1981) after 30 Longtime member of First years + United Methodist Church of Birmingham. Church involvement included: finance, mission and social committees, Boy Scouts, Explorers and numerous work camp projects. Active in Senior Men's Club of Birmingham, BASCC and Prairie Club of Chicago. Funeral Service at First United Methodist Church of Birmingham, 1589 W. Maple Saturday 11:00 AM. Visitation at The Wm. R. Hamilton Co: 820 E. Maple, Birmingham Friday 3 to 8 PM. Family requests tributes to Alzheimer Association or habitat for Humanity.



## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## ANNIVERSARY



Browns celebrate 50th anniversary Wilford (Bill) and Dollye (Davis) Brown of Westland celebrated their 50th anniversary Jan. 26.

The Browns were married Jan. 26, 1957 in Bill Brown's parents home in Nankin Township.

Children are daughter, Cathy (Tom) Riney of Westland and son Bill (Marilou) of Goshen, Ohio. They have four grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

The couple enjoy gardening, fishing and camping and belong to the Moose.

They celebrated their anniversary at the Wayne **Recreation Center Wayne** Players dinner theater on Jan. 26.

## SINGLES

**MISC. SINGLES** 

#### Moon-dusters

Ballroom Dancing to a live band every Saturday 8:30-11 p.m. at the Livonia Civic Center, 15218 Farmington Road, Livonia. Admission: guest/\$6, associates/\$5.50, members/\$5. Dress: Ladies - date style clothes, gentlemen - jackets and ties. for more information, call Joe Castrodale (248) 968-5197.

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Anytime 6:30-9:30 p.m. Meets at the Main Lounge at Drakeshire Lanes, 35000 Grand River Ave. just east of

## **ENGAGEMENTS**

**Murray-Brown** Ken and Colleen Murray of

Livonia announce the engagement of their daughter, Julie Murray of Westminster Colo., to Andrew Brown of Westminster, Colo.

Julie Murray is a 1999 graduate of Livonia Stevenson High School and a 2004 graduate of Western Michigan University. She is employed by Coal Creek Physical Therapy.

Andrew Brown is the son of Steve and Margaret Brown of Conklin, Mich. He is a 1998 graduate of Coopersville High School in Coopersville, Mich. and 2002 graduate of Grand Valley State University. He received a master's degree from Colorado State University. He is employed by Garney Construction as a project engi-

### Steffen-Ray

Tony and Christine Steffen of Livonia announce the engagement of their daughter, Angela Marie Steffen, to John Randolph Ray of Albuquerque, N.M.

The bride-to-be is a 1998 graduate of Livonia Churchill High School and a 2002 graduate of the University of Michigan. She is senior bird keeper at the San Diego Zoo.

The groom-to-be is a 2004 graduate of the University of Oregon and is currently a marketing manager for the San Diego YMCA.

The couple are planning an April 28, 2007, wedding at the All Hallows Catholic Church in

#### **Paff-Whitehurst**

Elwood and Candice Paff of Northville announce the engagement of their daughter, Heather Nicole Paff, to Ashley John Whitehurst of Irmo, S.C. The bride-to-be is a graduate

of Mercy High School and the University of North Carolina, Wilmington.

The prospective groom is a graduate of the University of North Caroline, Wilmington, and a employed by Time Warner.

An April 14, 2007, wedding is planned for the Magnolia Plantation in Charleston, S.C.

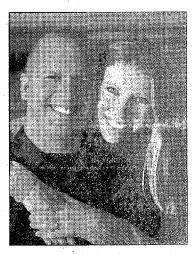




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neer.

An Aug. 25, 2007, wedding is planned at the Shrine Chapel of Our Lady of Orchard Lake. A reception will follow at Glen Oaks Country Club in Farmington Hills.



La Jolla, Calif. They will honeymoon in Hawaii and make their home in San Diego.



Executive from Union Carbide Corporation, retiring in 1987. He was a graduate of Rutgers University. Allan was a U.S. Navy Veteran of World War II. He was a long time volinteer with Volunteers in Medicine and Hilton Head Hospital. Surviving are: daughter, Saundra L. and husband Jack Crandall of Grayling; 2 granddaughters, Morgan and Taylor Snyder; ister, Frances E. Malcom of Phoenix, AZ. He was preceded in death by his parents; wife; and son, Scott Morgan Snyder, Rossell Funeral Home, Inc., lushing, MI.

#### MILLARD L. MITCHELL

Age 88, of Plymouth, passed away March 28, 2007.Born April 4, 1918 in Milbank, South Dakota, then moved to the Detroit area as a teenager, eventu-ally settling in Plymouth. Millard retired from the Twin Pines Dairy in Detroit and then worked and retired or the Plymouth Canton School Systems. Mr. Mitchell enjoyed readng, being in the outdoors, especially fishing and golfing. He married the love of his life, Phyllis La Vergne, and ogether they spent the next 53 years as a loving couple until her death in 2003. Together they had two beautiful daughters, Michele (Regan) LaMothe and Annette (Rahn) Frederick. He was the proud grandfather of Kyle & Cody Frederick and Lindsay, Ryan, and Patrick LaMothe. Dear brother of Siser Eucharista Marie; SBS (Harriet Mitchell), Mary (William) Richardson, and Joseph Mitchell. Services were held on Saturday March 31, 2007 from Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church 47650 North Territorial Rd, Plymouth. Arrangements entrusted to he Schrader-Howell Funeral Home, Plymouth. Memorials may be made to the Educational Excellence Foundation, 454 S. Harvey Plymouth, MI 48170. Share memories at:

www.schrader-howell.com

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## CHARLES R. "Chuck" O'BRIEN

March 29, 2007 age 66 of Orchard Lake. Longtime Automotive Industrialist and Chairman of the Board, Detroit Medical Center. Beloved husband of Linda L. (nee. Scallan) for 10 years. Dear father of Kara Laramie (Michael), Anne Perlin (Andrew), Cassie Sobelton and Colby Zemmin (Ryan). Grandfather of Katie, Sarah, Erin, Patrick and Abigail. Brother of Barbara Reason (Roger), Egan (Henry), Maureen Denise Morrow (Greg) and Monica Guercio (Tom). Family will receive friends at A.J. Desmond & Sons (Vasu, Rodgers & Connell Chapel), 32515 Woodward Ave. (btwn 13-14 Mile) Sunday 2-7pm and Monday 2-8pm. Scripture service Monday evening. Funeral Mass Tuesday 11am at St. Hugo of the Hills, 2215 Opdyke Rd., Bloomfield Hills. Visitation begins at church 10:30am. Memorial tributes to the Charles R. O'Brien Memorial Fund, Detroit Medical Center, 3663 Woodward Ave., 5th Floor, Detroit, MI 48201-2445 View obituary and share memories at

www.DesmondFuneralHome.com

## Å G **OBITUARY** POLICY

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. Symbolic emblems may be included at no cost (example: American Flags, religious symbols, etc.)

**Deadlines:** Friday 4:30 PM for Sunday Wednesday Noon for Thursday Obituaries received after these deadlines will be placed in the next available issue.

#### e-mail vour obit to oeobits@hometownlife.com or fax to: Attn: Obits c/o Charolette Wilson 734-953-2232 For more information call: **Charolette Wilson** 734-953-2070 or Liz Keiser 734-953-2067 or toll free 866-818-7653 ask for Char or Liz

Drake Road in Farmington Hills. Cash bar and reasonable priced dinner is also available off the menu. \$5/members, \$6/non-members. Volleyball

Anytime 6:45-9:45 p.m. Drop-in volleyball in the gym and fieldhouse of the Bloomfield Hills Middle School, 4200 Quarton Road, west of Telegraph. Cost is \$6. In the park, Farmington Hills, anytime 6:30 p.m. to dusk. Heritage Park, Farmington Road, between 10 Mile and 11 Mile. Cost \$2.

## **BETHANY SUBURBAN WEST**

#### **Monthly Dance**

8 p.m. Saturday, April 7, at 27101 W. Chicago. Cost \$10. Call Diane K. for information at (734)261-2716. Chili Cook Off

7:30 p.m. Friday, April 13, at St. Patrick's Parish, 140 Superior, Wyandotte, Bring a spoon and \$5. Enter your chili and you could win \$100 prize. If interested in being a chili chef, call Marion at (734)324-8983 for details.

### **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.

#### **Bible Studies-Prayer Nights**

ELearner's Bible Study - 7 p.m. Mondays in Room A101. Praying Together - 7 p.m. Tuesdays in the Sanctuary at Ward Church. Men's Bible Study 6:30 a.m. Wednesdays in the Single Adult Ministries office.

### SINGLETON

Senior groups meet weekly for dinner at local restaurants to discuss current events and future activities. For a monthly newsletter, call (313)563-9362 or write to: P.O. Box 5356 TelFord Station, Dearborn, MI 48128.

### Harris-Holland

Dave and Patty Harris of Livonia announce the engagement of their daughter, Danielle Harris, to Shawn Holland of Westland.

Danielle Harris is a graduate of Livonia Stevenson High School. She received a bachelor's degree in 2001 and a master's degree in 2004 from the University of Michigan. She is employed a senior marketing analyst with Market Strategies Inc. of Livonia.

Shawn Holland is a graduate of Sandusky High School and a 2001 graduate of Michigan State University. He is employed as an engineer at Ford Motor Co.

A May 2007 wedding is planned for St. John Bosco

# Catholic Church in Redford

Township with the Rev. Richard A. Osebald officiating.

## **BIRTHS**

**Carter Francesco Caccamo** Kay and Todd Caccamo of Canton announce the birth of their son, Carter Francesco Caccamo on Feb. 2, 2007 at Beaumont Hospital/

'He weighed 7 pounds, 11 ounces and was 20 inches long

Ethie Neuzil of Fort Atkinson, Iowa, and Frank and Rosemary Caccamo of Auburn Hills.

#### Heidi Rose Kasden

Kristen Foley and Tim Kasten of Redford announce the birth of their daughter, Heidi Rose Kasden, on Jan. 4, 2007, at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital.

Grandparents are Debbie Foley, Peter and Nancy Foley and Fred and Cathy Kasten, all of Plymouth Township.

Great-grandparents are Bob and Beth Doll of Milford, Tom and Pat Foley of Applegate and Robert and Virginia Kasten of Brighton.





at birth.

Grandparents are Dan and

## Stories. WE ALL HAVE ONE.

Experience Easter at NorthRidge this season ...

## April 6-8, 2007

## Be a part of the ongoing Story ..

Though Jesus' value and impact is no secret to most in our world today, the reality is that for most of His life He was the poster boy for "ordinary." This Easter, come join us as we uncover the extraordinary story of Jesus and those who accepted, rejected, or simply ignored Him. Though missed by most, the reality is that knowing Jesus' story is foundational to discovering and embracing the value of our own. Don't miss this opportunity... It could change your story!

EIGHT IDENTICAL SERVICES! Friday - 1:15, 3:15, 5:15 & 7:15 p Saturday - 5:15 & 7:15 p Sunday - 9:15 & 11:15 a

Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, April 1, 2007

story

h Jesus'

Life changes when your story

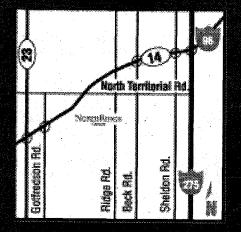
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## NORTHRIDGE

19555 North Territorial Plymouth, Michigan 48170 731.414.7777 NorthRidgeChurch.com

## 's a Jungle Out There! starting April 14

When it comes to relationships, it REALLY is a jungle out there. Whether with co-workers, a spouse, children, parents, friends, or you name it...relationships are hard work. They don't reach their full potential without clearing out all of the naturally growing "underbrush" that keeps us from experiencing them at their best. Whatever relationships you're finding difficult to discover, develop, and/or experience in your life, this series will help you to identify the tools you need for clearing away the natural obstacles and making them work. It may be a jungle out there, but jungles were meant to be tamed.

1



www.hometownlife.com

Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, April 1, 2007



## **HOMETOWNLIFE.COM**

## Rescue shelter recommends adopting, not buying bunnies

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN STAFF WRITER

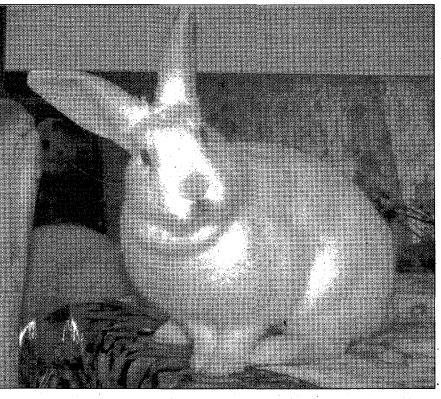
Dominique Moroz is hoping parents don't go out on a whim and buy a live bunny for their child this Easter when 90 abandoned rabbits are waiting to be adopted from Midwest Rabbit Rescue and Rehome in Old Village in Plymouth.

She says the sad part is most commercially sold rabbits will not survive long enough for parents to turn them into the shelter once the family tires of the long ears. Moroz estimates 80percent die within the first two weeks leaving behind plenty of broken hearted kids.

"They're taken from their mothers at about 3 weeks and their digestive system require mother's milk 8 weeks, 6 weeks minimum," said Dominique Moroz, adoption coordinator. "They're not born with the bacteria to digest their food.

"I'd like to encourage people to look to rescue and to be informed about the pet that they're going to bring into the home. Rabbits do make a wonderful pet, a family pet, but it's important to have them evaluated for temperament and health. They have as varied a nature as cats and dogs. One of the differences though is that rabbits are a prey animal so they tend to be a bit more quiet and don't come to commands until they know and trust you."

The no-kill shelter specializes in matching the right rabbit to a family or individual. Currently there are about 15 bunnies under the age of four months, many under one year, and adults. The males are neutered at three months, females spayed at six months to make them easier to litter train. Since rabbits sleep during the



Keely was abandoned in an apartment building and needs a good home. She is the perfect size for a family bunny, about 5 pounds, not too small and delicate. Unfortunately she is not a designer bunny. Her white fur and red eyes are less popular than the more exotic varieties.

day and are active morning and evening, they fit well into family life and are not uncomfortable being confined.

"If they come to the shelter they'll be seeing many types and breeds," said Moroz. "A family might want to adopt an older rabbit because they have a life span of about 10 years. A 12-year-old might want to adopt a 5year-old rabbit, because they'll be going off to college. Another good reason to come and visit the rescue is so many people may be allergic to the rabbits or the hay."

Midwest Rabbit Rescue offers a foster program for those uncertain about adopting.

"For a month we lend you a cage, give you the hay and as much support as we can." said Moroz. "Rabbits main food is hay. They should not eat seeds because they can gum up their insides."

Moroz and the shelter's volunteers provide prospective owners with a



An experienced rabbit person is needed to adopt Dashel, a Holland bunny who was given up after biting his family and still occasionally "nips." He is extremely affectionate and gives many bunny kisses.

wealth of information on caring for domestic rabbits. Founded about two years ago, the nonprofit specializes in indoor pet rabbit rescue.

"We don't encourage people to take rabbits outside," said Moroz. "They are prey animals, not indigenous to this area. They can get parasites of wild rabbits and don't have the immune system to fight them off."

In order for the nonprofit to continue finding homes for the rabbits and educating the public, volunteers and donations are needed.

Hops for Hope, an April 7 beer and chocolate tasting benefit for Midwest Rabbit Rescue, takes place 2-4 p.m. at Ichomin@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2145

The Corner Brewery, Ypsilanti. The event pairs six to eight micro-brews and a wide variety of fair- and ethically-traded chocolates from Equal Exchange, Dagoba, Divine, Alter Eco, Green & Black's, 3400 Phinney Chocolate Factory, and Endangered Species Chocolate Company. There will also be a vegetarian appetizer buffet, fair-trade coffee, and Easter baskets full of fair-trade goodies for auction.

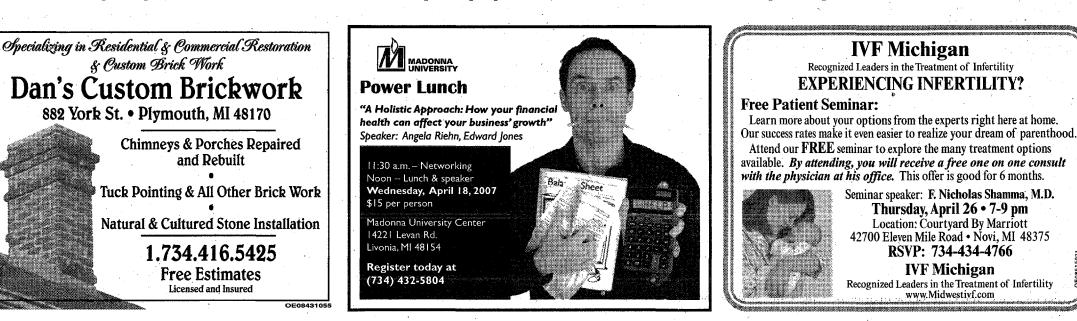
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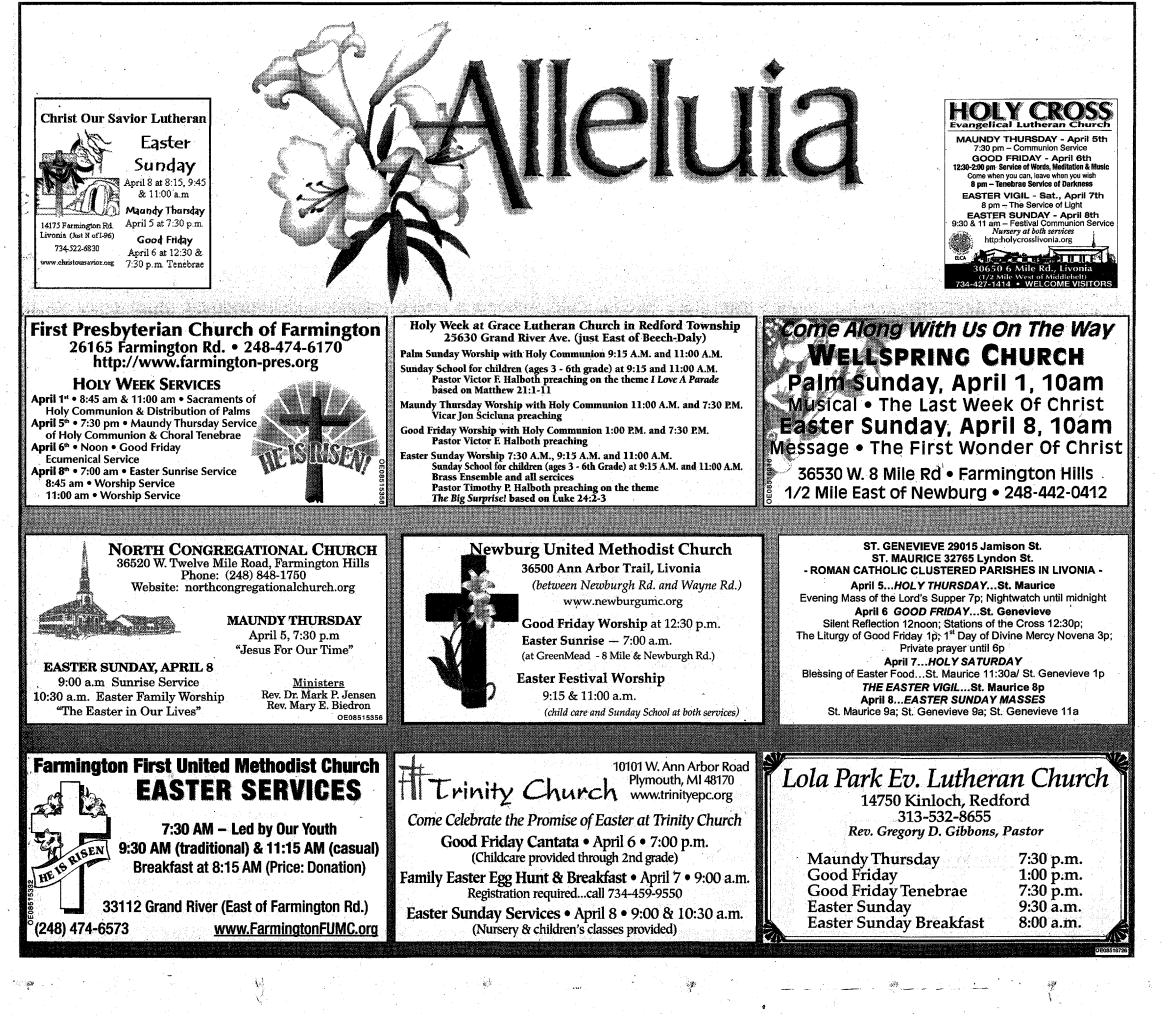
Tickets are \$20 or half-price for non-drinkers, children under age 12 free. Call (734) 717-8545 or visit www.rabbitrr.org. You must be 21 or older to consume alcoholic beverages.

"It's not possible to have too many volunteers," said Moroz. "We would like to make books with photos and stories of the rabbits to hand out and to do a float for the Plymouth parade. We need manpower for this, volunteers to go into schools to speak and to take the rabbits to Petco Novi for adoptions."

For those unable to adopt, volunteer or attend the benefit, there's still a way to help the rescue, especially if you're a gardener. The shelter has lots of good compost to offer. Unlike horse and cow manure, rabbit manure does not need to be matured long and can be directly applied to flower beds. Moroz says the shelter has a huge amount of the manure that they would rather not put in a landfill.

Midwest Rabbit Rescue and Rehome is located at 886 North Holbrook in Old Village in Plymouth. Hours are 12:30-4 p.m. Saturday-Sunday. For more information, call (248) 348-8519, (734) 717-8545, or (734) 459-3207.







### Hugh Gallagher, editor . (734) 953-2149 . hgallagher@hometownlife.com

## **RealAge makeover** Physician tells how to add years to your life

#### **BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN** STAFF WRITER

Until 1994, Dr. Michael Roizen thought he was living a healthy lifestyle. Then a friend who was a lifelong smoker developed severe arterial disease. The news sent the doctor on a search for the latest findings on reversing the aging process. Along the way he wrote several books, including two New York Times best sellers, and came up with a test to deter-

mine a person's RealAge as opposed to their biological or calendar age.

The RealAge Today, RealAge Inc., an education-oriented health company, and RealAge.com, the Web site, attract millions of people looking to add years to their lives. The phenomenon has boosted Roizen to celebrity status. Dressed in scrubs, Roizen regularly lectures to PBS, Channel 56 television viewers who hope to look younger and avoid the diseases of aging by following his makeover program. In fact, his message has become so popular an upcoming appearance presented by Crittenton Hospital Medical Center sold out more than one month in advance.

### **FEELING GOOD**

Much of the information Roizen shares during the April 25 lecture can be found online at

www.RealAge.com and in his books including The RealAge Makeover, an updated version of his first book RealAge: Are You as Young as You Can Be? published in 1999 by HarperCollins. Once a person knows the RealAge, he or she can make the necessary changes to look and feel younger.

"I'll be telling people how their body gets a do-over, that the body is really unusual because you get to do a makeover," said Roizen, professor of anesthesiology and internal medicine, and chair of the division of anesthesiology, critical care medicine, and comprehensive pain management at Cleveland Clinic.

medical establishment was that genetics defined how a person aged. Prevention did not figure into the equation for good health. Out of the 2,800 hours of lectures Roizen sat through in medical school, only two hours were devoted to nutrition and lifestyle.

"I didn't know most of the data so I decided to write the book," said Roizen, who with the RealAge Scientific Advisory Board analyzed more than 35,000 medical and scientific studies to discover the

factors instrumental in aging. "What we want to do is let people understand their bodies so they can be the world expert and take control. I realized fish was much more important than meat. Weight lifting is more important than cardiovascular." Roizen grew up in Buffalo, N.Y., eating the typical and add them to your life American diet. Today, he's institut-Michael F. Roizen, M.D. ed healthier habits that include eating a good breakfast every morning and walking

10,000 steps a

day. He does 48

The RealAge Makeover is the updated version of Dr. Michael Roizen's first book RealAge: Are You as Young as You Can Be?

keover

Take years off your looks

The besaselling book that he

l'he

Makeover

minutes of cardiovascular exercise three times a week, and 20 minutes of weight lifting three times a week. Plus he takes the vitamins and supplements he recommends in The RealAge Makeover.

His biological age is 61, but his real age is around 42 according to the results of the RealAge test on the Web site. The calculations factor in lifestyle, genetics and medical history to come up with an individual's RealAge and a 90-day plan to turn back time. Genetics account for only 25 to 30 percent of the aging process, the rest is the result of choices. A person's RealAge can be years younger than their calendar age depending on the changes they're willing to make. Roizen recommends eating 25 grams of fiber and an ounce of nuts a day, and four or five servings each of vegetables and fruits as part of a balanced diet. About 25 percent of daily calories should come from healthy fats like olive oil, avocado, flaxseed, and cocoa butter-

How old are you really?

a. Yes, I currently smoke +2

b. Yes, but I have quit 0

more months?

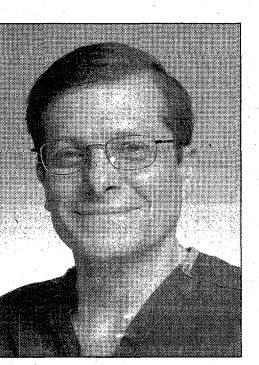


PHOTO COURTESY OF CLEVELAND CLINIC

Dr. Michael Roizen tells how to take years off of your calendar age. Roizen's RealAge program appears regularly on PBS, Channel 56.

based chocolate which provides age-reducing flavonoids for the body. According to Roizen's makeover book flavonoids decrease the rate at which our arteries and immune system age.

### ON THE GO

Roizen admits he "doesn't get enough sleep and has too much stress" in his life. It's difficult for him to do much about his schedule as a physician and author. In addition to his own five books, Roizen's co-written three with Dr. Mehmet Oz, including his latest, You on a Diet: The Owner's Manual for Waist Management (2006) in which they talk about waist size not weight being the key number. For optimum health, a woman's ideal waist size should be 32 1/2 inches, a man's 35 inches

'I'm an avid Cavaliers basketball fan, me

## Top 12 ways to make your RealAge younger

www.hometownlife.com

Below are the top 12 Grow Younger® strategies designed to make your RealAge younger. To receive personalized recommendations, take the RealAge test at www.RealAge.com along with 40 other health assessments. S. C.

Take your vitamins regularly. Vitamin C (1200 mg/day), vitamin E (400 IU/day), calcium (1000-1200 mg/day), vitamin D (400-600, .... IU/day), folate (400 mcg/day), and vitamin B6 Ofice (6 mg/day) can make your RealAge 6 years 1 off younger. g hR

Quit smoking and avoid passive smoke. ⊖ď ø3 Smoking makes your RealAge 8 years older. non

🖀 Know your blood pressure. A person with 🔬 🕫 low blood pressure (115/75 mm Hg) is as much fire as 25 years younger than a person with high blood pressure (greater than 160/90 mm Hg). ICaP

Reduce stress. In highly stressful times, 1624 your RealAge can be as much as 32 years older than your calendar age. By building strong social networks and adopting stress-reduction strategies, you can erase 30 of those 32 years of de aging caused by stress.

Floss your teeth. Flossing and brushing t-si, daily can make your RealAge 6.4 years younger.

Be active. Even a small amount of exercise – two 20-minute walks per day – can make your RealAge nearly fice years younger.

Wear your seatbelt. Regularly wearing a seat belt and driving within 5 miles per hour ofthe speed limit can make your RealAge as much as 3.4 years younger.

Fill up on fiber. Getting 25 grams of fiber per day in your diet can make your RealAge 2.5 years younger than if you only included 12 grams of fiber per day in your diet. Men may need even more than 25 grams of fiber per day (personalized results can be garnered upon taking the RealAge Test).

Monitor your health. People who are proactive about seeking high-quality medical care and managing chronic conditions can have a RealAge as much as 12 years younger than their peers who do not.

Take the RealAge test; Develop an Age Reduction Plan<sup>®</sup>. Over your lifetime, you can make your RealAge as much as 26 years younger. That means that you will live younger a every day, and live longer with as much health and energy as possible.

Laugh a lot. Laughter reduces stress, strengthens the immune system, and can make your RealAge as much as 8 years younger. Become a lifelong learner. People who remain intellectually involved throughout their lives have a RealAge as much as 2.5 years younger.

In his practice, Roizen frequently sees patients who are "overweight, hypertensive and don't take time for themselves." His goal is to help people realize they can take control of their health. In the 1960s when Roizen was in medical school the thinking of the

and my wife," said Roizen. "She lets me go crazy rooting for the Cavs and I play squash, and do deep breathing exercises once a day to relieve my stress."

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b. No -1

you eat per day?

a. None +2

## Watch for subtle asthma symptoms



Peter's

Peter

Nielsen

**Principles** 

Cheryl from Chesterfield Township emails that asthma runs in her family. She wants to know more about some of the subtle warning signs for the dangerous condition.

Cheryl, when we think of asthma we usually picture wheezing and inhalers. That can be an accurate image in some cases but not all. Symptoms can be much less severe and often go unrecognized. It can be a danger sign if you have wheezing or shortness of breath

during any of the following activities: exercise, sleeping, laughing, crying, being in cold alf,

being around airborne toxins like cigarette smoke, and exposure to allergens. Some symptoms can be tougher to spot. In some kids it can be as simple as a cough. A detailed exam by a doctor is the best way to be sure if a problem exists. Sometimes the condition, can be diagnosed by something as simple as an airflow test.

The main thing is to find out if the condition is present so the right steps can be taken to avoid a potentially life-threatening situation.

#### Jill from Ann Arbor is looking to cut her chances of getting breast cancer and e-mails for tips.

Jill, keeping your weight in check should be one of your top priorities! We know that excess weight can boost the chances for breast cancer. Now we are learning that how much weight is gained and when a happens can be a prime predictor for getting the' disease.

Researchers tracked 63,000 postmenopausal women. They found those gaining 21 to 30 pounds between the ages of 18 and 40 had a greater risk than those with a gain of five pounds or less. Women who gained 70 pounds or more had nearly double the risk So far there is no conclusive evidence that shows losing weight once it is on will help counter the problem. But since the increased risk is tied to high estrogen levels triggered by weight gain, it is a good bet that weight loss can only help.

If you have a health or fitness question you would like answered in the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, e-mail Peter through his Web site www.peternielsen.com. Contact him at Peter Nielsen's 🐲 Personal Training Club in West Bloomfield or Nielsen's Town Center Health Club in Southfield.

What's Your RealAge? Your RealAge is the actual age of your

body, based on how well you maintain it. Are you as young as you can be?

Answer the questions to find out whether your lifestyle is making you younger or older. Choose only one answer for each of question. This is an abridged version of the scientifically validated RealAge test. You can learn exactly how many years younger or older you are by taking the complete RealAge test for free at www.RealAge.com.

How would you rate your physical health compared to others of your chronological age?

a, Excellent -2 b. Very good -1 c. Good O d. Fair +1 e. Poor +2 Have you ever used tobacco (cigarettes, cigars, chew tobacco) on a regular basis for 3 or

c. No -2 How often do you floss? a. Never +2 b. 1 time per week +1 c. 2-3 times per week 0 d. 4-6 times per week -1 e. 7 or more times per week -2 How often do you use a mobile phone while driving? a. I don't own a mobile phone 0 b. I never use a phone while driving -2 c. Very infrequently 0 d. 1-2 times each day I drive +1 e. 3-5 times each day I drive +1 f. More than 5 times each day I drive +2 g. I don't drive 0 Which best describes your current marital status? If you consider yourself in a life-

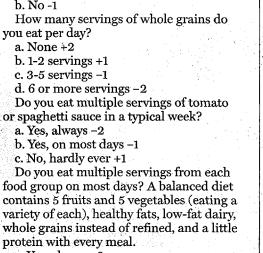
long, cohabitating relationship even though you are not legally married, please choose "married." a. Never married 0

- b. Happily married -1
  - c. Unhappily married 0
    - d. Separated +1
    - e. Divorced +2
    - f. Widow/Widower +2
    - In the last 12 months, have you

experienced some events that

> great deal of stress, such as death of a family member, illness, divorce,

> > ment, etc? a. Yes +2



a. Yes, always -2

b. Yes, on most days -1

a. Yes, type 1 diabetes +3

b. Yes, type 2 diabetes +3

Score Your RealAge

c. No, hardly ever +1

On average, how many days per week do you do light to moderate aerobic, strengthbuilding or flexibility exercises?

Add up your positive and negative points

separately. More positive points than nega-

than your calendar age. An equal amount

of positive and negative points means your

RealAge is approximately the same as your

positive points means your RealAge is like-

The RealAge test is the gold standard for

calendar age. More negative points than

overall health measurement. To get your

accurate assessment in actual years, take

www.RealAge.com and learn how to gain

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the complete RealAge test for free online at

ly younger than your calendar age.

tive means your RealAge is likely older

- a. Never +2 b. 1-2 days 0
- c. 3-4 days -1
- d. 5-6 days -2
  - e. 7 days –2 Do you have diabetes?

c. No 0

caused you a

unemploy-

## **HOMETOWNLIFE.COM**

#### Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, April 1, 2007

## **@ THE LIBRARY**

Every week the Plymouth District Library staff provides the library's list of best-sellers based on the number of requests for titles by library patrons. The books are available by placing a request with the library at (734) 453-0750 or on-line at plymouthlibrary.org

### FICTION

**Ç10** 

(CP)

- 1. "Nineteen Minutes," Jodi Picoult
- 2. "Shopaholic & Baby," Sophie Kinsetta 3. "Daddy's Girl," Lisa Scottoline
- 4. "Whitehorn Woods," Maeve Binchy

5. "Step on a Crack," James

Patterson/Michael Ledwidge

#### **NON-FICTION**

1. "In an Instant," Lee and Bob Woodruff

2. "A Long Way Gone," Ishmael Beah

3. "I Feel Bad About My Neck," Nora

Ephron

Gayzaglen

4. "The Audacity of Hope," Barack Obama

5. "Infidel," Ayaan Hirsi Ali

## **PARENT'S CHOICE**

### **NEW CHILDREN'S PICTURE BOOKS**

1. "Kittens! Kittens! Kittens!" Susan Meyers

- 2. "Bear of My Heart," Joanne Ryder

Adilakshmi Kaza, M.D.

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obesity and weightloss.

"Dragon Dancing," Carol Schaefer 5. "One White Fishing Stone," Doris

## Dueling pianists to raise money for free jazz festival

Pianists Matt Michaels and Cliff Monear duel each other on Steinway Grand pianos 3 p.m. Sunday, April 15, in the VisTaTech Center at Schoolcraft College, 18600 Haggerty, between Six Mile and Seven Mile, Livonia. They will follow the format used on Public Radio's Marian McPartland Piano Jazz program.

The concert will be totally improvisational and unrehearsed. In between dueling, the pianists will discuss the tunes they play, the composers, and different ways jazz allows the freedom to never play a

piece the same way twice. They will each solo and may play duets on the same or separate pianos. Tickets are \$15 and available at

the door or by calling (248) 474-2720. Proceeds go toward producing the 13th annual Michigan Jazz Festival scheduled for Sunday, July 15, at

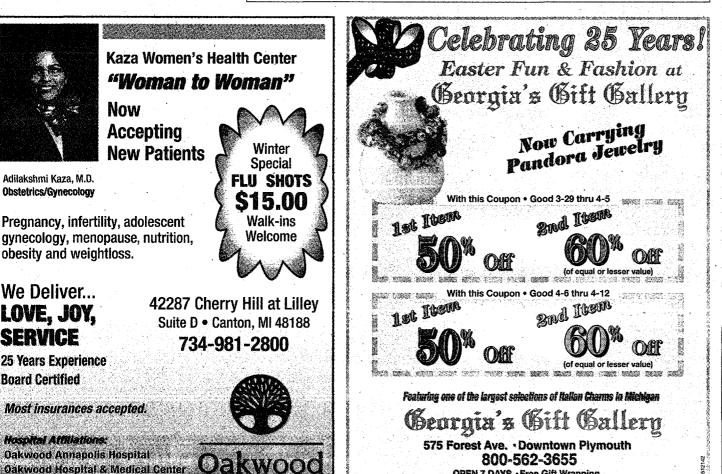
Schoolcraft College.



Cliff Monear (above) along with Matt Michaels improvise on two Steinway grand pianos Sunday, April 15, at Schoolcraft College in Livonia.

> Matt Michaels of Southfield is one of the dueling pianists performing in a benefit concert for the Michigan Jazz Festival.

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\*Does not apply to other offers, sales

## RESCUE

## FROM PAGE C1

Kerstetter praises the Heinrichs for the commitment to their faithful friend.

In addition to spending \$3,500 for the surgery, the couple initially paid \$500 for X-rays to diagnose the problem.

On Friday, Cody begins hydrotherapy at a veterinary hospital in Union Lake. The three will make the long trip three times a week for the next month.

The Heinrichs are not concerned about the \$500 cost for therapy, but for Cody who gets car sick. But then they knew before adopting Cody that he had problems such as chronic ear infections.

### THE RESCUERS

The Heinrichs have followed in daughter Amy's footsteps when it comes to rescuing animals. Neither Amy or her sister Jill, 32, were able to have a dog as kids due to allergies inherited from their father. After Amy adopted her first dog while a student at Michigan State University, she began going to shelters to rescue dogs.

Today, Amy continues to rescue dogs from her home in Grass Lake. The 29-year-old woman helps her boyfriend find homes for pit bulls.

"She was playing musical shelters," said Heinrich. "There's a 30-day rule if dogs don't find a home they are euthanized. Amy would pick them up from one shelter and take them to another, and then she found Last Chance Rescue with its no-kill policy."

"Sometimes she would ask us to take a dog for a weekend if she had too many," added Mary

Anne Heinrich.

These days, Cody is the only dog romping around the Heinrichs' back yard and barking at a squirrel up on the wires overhead. During the day, Bob says Cody charges through the pain. Come evening the dog will start to limp. That's when tender loving care becomes somewhat heavy. Cody weighs 55 pounds.

www.hometownlife.com

"By nighttime we have to end up carrying him upstairs," said Mary Anne.

As long as the three of them are together nothing else seems to matter. Bob, a 62-year-old retired banker, and Mary Anne, a retired Oakwood Hospital oncology nurse, spend all of their days together with Cody.

"There's something about knowing some entity needs you," said Heinrich. "It's so rewarding for us."

Mary Anne says Cody is a calming influence. When her 87-year-old mother moved in with them after Mary Anne's father died, Cody wove his way into the elderly woman's heart as well.

Mary Anne smiles as she looks out onto their back yard and talks about caring for her mother and Cody.

"God bless my husband," said Mary Anne. "His back yard was his pride and joy."

Now little patches of brown grass remind the Heinrichs of their love for Cody.

"We've gotten more out of it than what we've given," said Heinrich. "When we adopted Cody, it was her dog. Now he's our dog."

For more information about Last Chance Animal Rescue, call (810) 220-9394 or visit www.lastchancerescue.org.

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



3. "The Bunnies' Picnic," Lezlie Evans

Now



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PLYMOUTH TOWNE

APARTMENTS

## HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



Melissa Zinn (center) as Ophelia, Marie Wyatt (left) and Carolyn Szatan (right) performed in the Motor City Youth Theatre production of Hamlet about two years ago.

## **Playwright turns Shakespeare's** Hamlet tragedy into a comedy

#### **BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN** STAFF WRITER

www.hometownlife.com

Nancy Florkowski can't wait for Melissa Zinn to return to Livonia with her version of Shakespeare's Hamlet. The tragedy makes an about turn to tell the story from the character's point of view.

Zinn originally came up with the concept while playing Ophelia in the Motor City Youth Theatre's production of Hamlet in 2005. Florkowski founded MCYT to give budding young local actors and actresses a chance to perform. She brings Zinn's Nineteen Variations on Hamlet to the Grantland Street Playhouse in Livonia 8 p.m. Friday, April 6.

Tickets are \$10. Call (313) 535-8962 or visit www.mcyt.org.

"It takes Shakespeare's language and combines it with Melissa's wittiness," said Nancy Florkowski, a retired

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Redford teacher. "It helps to know Hamlet but plays like this are enjoyable even if you don't know Hamlet inside out. What's hilarious is all the characters tell their side of the story. The king who was the evil character decides not to kill Hamlet and everybody lives happily ever after."

Not all of Zinn's ideas for Nineteen Variations occurred to her while playing in MCYT's Shakespeare in the Park in 2004 and 2005 in Redford and Livonia.

"I was watching Twin Peaks and saw similarities of agent Dale Cooper and Hamlet," said Melissa Zinn, the 31-year old Kalamazoo resident who wrote and directed the play being performed by Abstraction Theatre.

"It's a comedy. People think Hamlet tragic, dark, serious, fast paced. This is kind of Monty Python-esque and there is some audience participation."

Zinn wrote Hamlet over a period of about two years. Writing is something she's loved to do since revising the story of Alice in Wonderland at age 6. Her Perils of Prince Charming was performed on the Sterling Heights Public Library channel, her Garbo and Gable Show at Meadow Brook Hall. Zinn attended Oakland University in Rochester. She moved to Kalamazoo to be with her husband. "I do miss the Detroit area

and come back as often as I can," said Zinn. "We performed this the first two weekends in March in Kalamazoo. I thought I would like to take the show to other places and larger audiences and so I thought of bringing it to Livonia."

**Grantland Street** Playhouse is located at 27555 Grantland, Livonia.

Ichomin@hometownlife.com (734) 953-2145

## Art club to host figurative painter

Figurative artist Lin Baum is the guest speaker at the Three Cities Art Club meeting 7 p.m. Monday, April 2, in a lower level room at Canton Township Hall, 1150 Canton Center Road S., south of Cherry Hill. Enter via the southeast entrance and an attendant will direct you to the room. Everyone will have the opportunity to ask questions of the guest speaker plus vote on their favorite artwork submitted by members to the monthly competition.

Baum expands on the tradition of the psychological portrait in her alla prima oils which have been extensively exhibited. A graduate of the University of Michigan, School of Architecture and Design, Baum is a painting and portrait instructor at Schoolcraft College (continuing education). She also conducts workshops and teaches gifted children. Baum is a former appointee of the Wayne County Council for the Arts, History

and Humanities.

Each art club member is invited to bring one or two pieces in progress for Baum to critique and help with any problems they are encountering. There is no charge for the event. If you are an artist or a want to be an artist, this is an informative event.

For more information, contact Marilyn Meredith weekdays at (248) 557-3800, ext. 123, or send e-mail to threecitiesartclub@hotmail.com.

## Genealogist reveals strategies for reading foreign-language records

The Northville Genealogical Society presents Jan Zaleski, an accredited genealogist, speaking on The Parish Records Are Not in English, and I am Not Bi-lingual !: Strategies For Analyzing Foreign-Language Records during the society's meeting 2:30 p.m. Sunday, April 1, at the Northville District Library, 212 West Cady. Zaleski is president of the Polish Genealogical Society of Michigan. She will teach you how to analyze records written in a language you cannot read. Learn how to recognize the differences between birth, marriage, and death

records. Discover how you can make extraction templates tailored to the records you are researching. A computer genealogy class, Family Tree Maker 2006: Odds & Ends, will be held at 1:15 p.m. (prior to the regular meeting). The public is invited to attend both, free of charge. Individual help on \*\*\* genealogy is offered by society members in the Local History Room at the Northville District Library 1-3 p.m. Mondays and by appointment. Call Tillie Van Sickle at (734) 595-7806 or visit the Web site at www.rootsweb.com/~mings.



# Mature Lifesty

If your business or organization serves seniors you'll want to be part of this exciting event!

TUESDAY, MAY 22, 2007 9 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Schoolcraft College Livonia Campus in the VisTaTech Center Haggerty Road between 6 and 7 Mile Roads

Exhibitor Package Includes:

- BOOTH INCLUDES: Covered table and two chairs, identification tent care, with ample space for your giveaways, demonstrations and promotional materials.
- PRINT ADVERTISING: Ad in our special Mature Lifestyle section distributed on Thursday, May 17, 2007
- **EXHIBITOR LISTING on the center spread of Mature Lifestyle section and newspaper** promotion of the event during April and May, 2007.
- FOOD: Continental breakfast plus two boxed lunches for exhibitors.

For more information about this popular Expo and to reserve your exhibit space, contact: Frank Cibor, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers Classified Manager 734-953-2176 or fcibor@hometownlife.com

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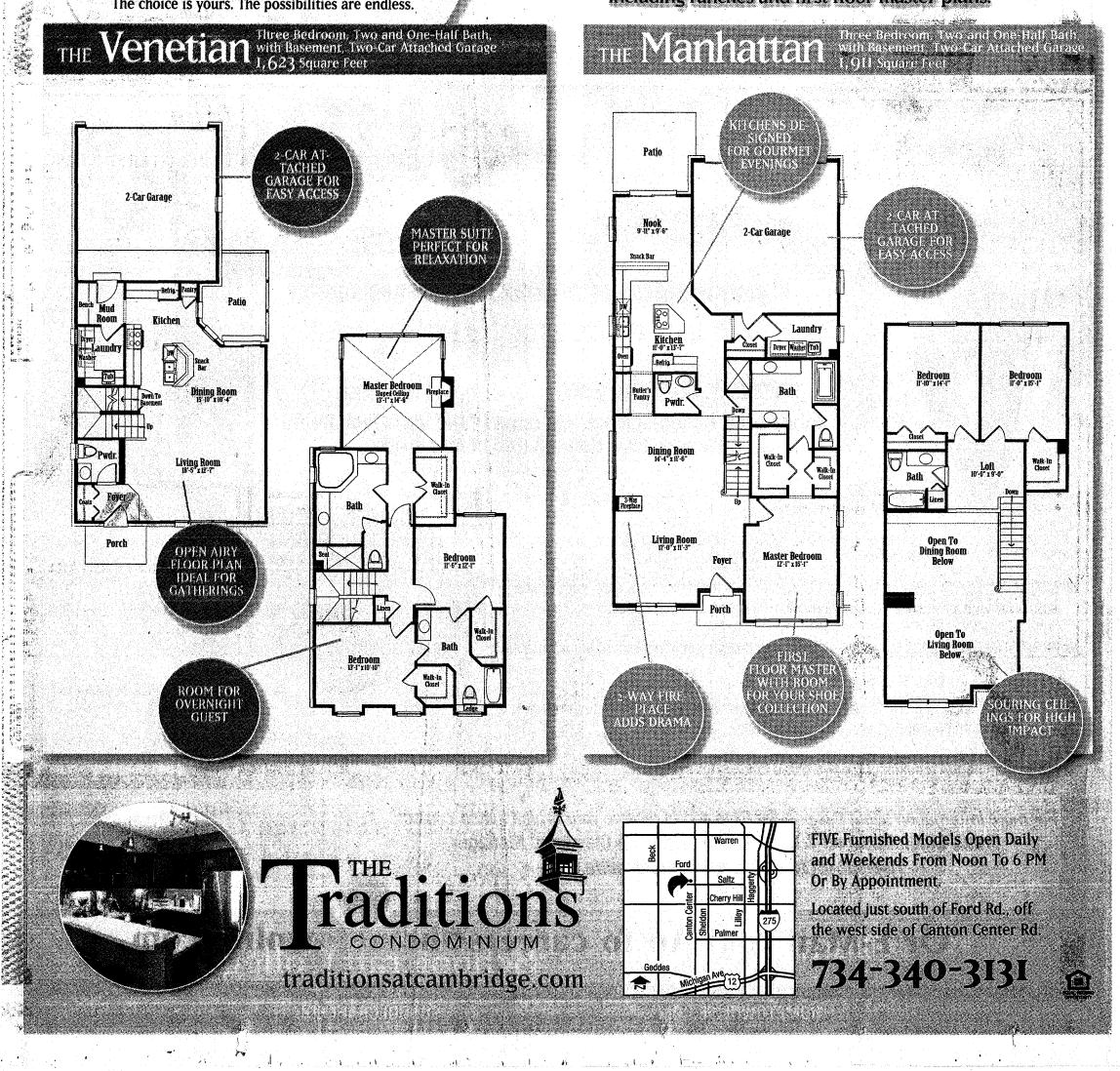
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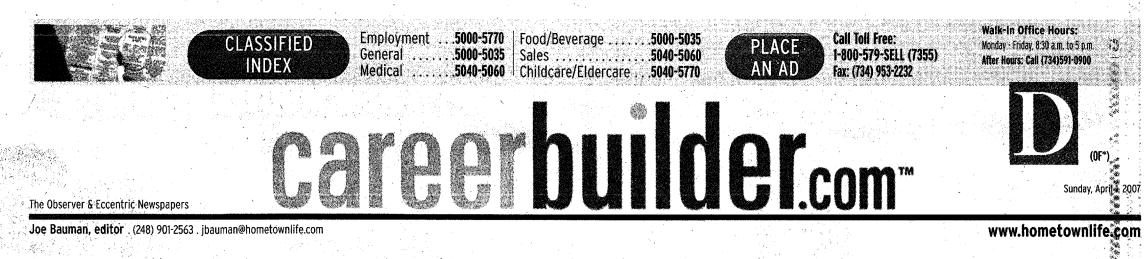
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## Focus:HOPE gets high-tech boost from Comcast Foundation

A \$150,000 grant presented to Focus:HOPE by The Comcast Foundation recently will assist Focus:HOPE's Information Technologies Center (ITC) in the ongoing process of updating its computer networking curriculum. The curriculum prepares students for industry certifications that are highly valued by employers. The certification exams verify that students have specific knowledge and skills.

"As technology changes, we have the formidable task of keeping our course work up to date," said Tim Duperron, interim chief executive officer at Focus:HOPE. "We appreciate Comcast partnering with us in our information technology program. Their support helps us ensure our courses prepare students for careers in technology."

"Ensuring Michigan has a highly trained workforce is vital to the success of our comprehensive economic plan to grow jobs and diversify our economy," said Gov. Jennifer M. Granholm. "This generous grant will allow hundreds of workers to gain the new skills they need to attain good paying jobs in the 21st century."



Comcast has been a longtime supporter of Focus:HOPE. It has hired graduates of the ITC and had opened a call center on Focus HOPE's campus where IT students could work part time while taking classes.

"As an active part of the communities we serve across Michigan, Comcast is proud to support Focus:HOPE," said Dave Buhl, Comcast regional senior vice president for Michigan. "This grant from The Comcast Foundation will serve as a catalyst for solid preparatory education for students at the Information Technologies Center."

"Both Comcast and Focus:HOPE have played such an important part in bringing technology and a better education to kids who need it," House Minority Leader Craig DeRoche, R-Novi, said. "Last year, they worked with me on a program to install Internet-ready computers in the homes of Detroit-area families, and today's announcement simply builds on the good work they do for students and their families."

This grant will fund changes to courses that prepare students for the CompTIA (Computer Technology Industry Association) A+ certification exams. The exams verify that students have the ability to perform tasks such as installing, configuring and troubleshooting PCs connected to a network.

"Michigan needs to do everything we can to strengthen our students' technological skills so they can compete in a global economy," said Speaker of the House Andy Dillon, D-Redford. "We applaud the Comcast Foundation for its generous contribution and for partnering with such a worthy organization as Focus:HOPE that is working every day to expand opportunities for our young people."

Charnique Simmons of Detroit used the certification training to leave an unskilled job and start a computer career at EDS. "I figured computers could take me more places," she said. "I made the right choice. It's really paying off for me."

Keenan Williams of Southfield also left a job that didn't offer any opportunities to enroll at Focus:HOPE. He's now starting a career at Tech Team Global where he works as a support technician and is starting to pursue a college degree in information management systems engineering.

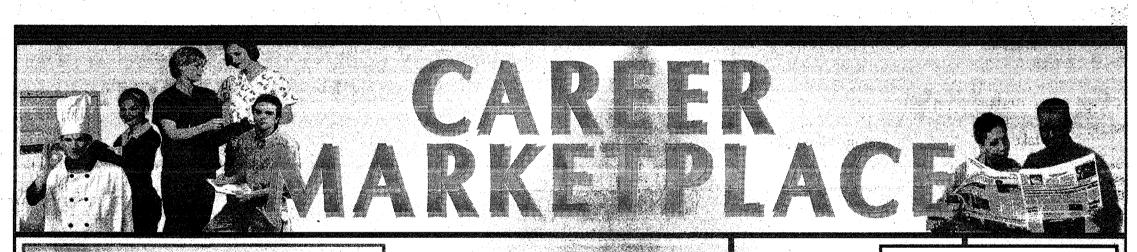
Both graduates had achieved CompTIA A+ and Network+ certifications before being hired into new careers.

Focus:HOPE has transformed the lives of hundreds of thousands of people in the Detroit area since its founding in 1968. In a quest to 🛸 address the deep social problems of poverty and racism, Focus:HOPE established education and training programs to help underrepresented. minorities gain access to jobs and financial independence. Its education programs broke the race and gender barriers in the machinist trades and have graduated thousands of students into careers in manufacturing, information technology and engineering. Its food program assists 42,000 women, children and senior citizens each month.

Other Eocus:HOPE initiatives include a community arts programs targeted to elementary and high school students, neighborhood revitalization efforts, a child care center and conference center.

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## THE DETROIT INSTITUTE OF ARTS

## Administrative Assistant

The Detroit Institute of Arts is seeking a full-time Administrative Assistant in our Development Department. Salary range is \$30,000-\$32,000 annually based on experience. The successful candidate will possess the following:

- High school diploma or equivalent, some college-level
- business coursework or secretarial training preferred;
- Minimum five years experience in an executive secretary position;
- Strong organization, oral and written communication skills;
- Minimum typing speed of 70-80 wpm;
- Ability to take dictation;
- Proficiency in Word and Excel is required; PowerPoint is preferred;
- Ability to manage multiple tasks simultaneously, organize meetings, coordinate appointments and calendars
- Submits time sheets and coordinates expense records
- Handles requests from staff, volunteers, Trustees, the general public and other entities as necessary
- Performs inquiry functions and generates reports
- Maintains accurate logs, reports and department budgets

### CANDIDATE MUST BE A CITY OF DETROIT RESIDENT WITHIN THREE MONTHS FROM DATE-OF-HIRE

Please apply by sending your resume to The Detroit Institute of Arts Organization Development and Human Resources Department, 5200 Woodward Avenue, Detroit, MI 48202 email <u>HRJobs@dia.org</u> no later than Friday, April 13, 2007. EOE



nvda Huron Valley Physicians Association, P.C. me association (IBI) **REGISTERED NURSE** (Søuthfield Huron Valley Physicians Association, an independent practice association is seeking an the center of it all experienced Registered Nurse to plan, organize ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT 1 and implement specific disease management interventions throughout our physician network. City of Southfield Administrative secretarial duties for City Council, City Clerk and Deputy City Clerk and three (3) Council Committees. Associates Degree or equivalent; 4 years of secretarial experience, demonstrated proficiency with Microsoft Office Suite dictation and transcription skills using written or electronic shorthand methods and The position requires a person who can work both independently and as a team member with excellent organizational and communication skills. Responsibilities include management and Trinity Hospice is coming to Wayne County! implementation of clinical projects, disease Ocealng May 1, 2007 written or electronic shorthand methods and equipment, experience in the preparation of detailed minutes. Must be available for evening and possible weekend meetings and during election. experience evening and meetings and during specific interventions and relationship building Join a team dedicated to serving the with physician offices. Competitive pay and physical, emotional and spiritual needs of benefits offered. Qualified and self motivated our patients and their families. candidates should email their resume election season: excellent communications skills. Must pass Secretarial skills battery will be tested on dictation, transcription and preparation of detailed minutes. Pay range: \$33,927-\$41,759, plus benefits. roberdeb@trinity-health.org We have the following openings: or fax to (734) 975-1248 Program Administrator **Director of Clinical Services** Medical Director **Quality Nurse Snecialist** Apply no later than 5:00 p.m., 4/16/07: **Certified Home Health Aides RN/LPN's** City of Southfield H. R. Dept, 26000 Evergreen Social Worker (Per Visit) Spiritual Counselor (Per Visit) Rd. Southfield, MI 48076. For more info visit **Director of Volunteer Services** Bereavement Coordinator http://www.cityofsouthfield.com lospice Consultant **Director of Operations** We offer full-time, part-time or per visit opportunities and have comprehensive benefits package for full-time positions Søuthfield Trinity Hospice, LLC Email: malito:hr@trinitvhospice.com the center of it all<sup>™</sup> www.trinityhospice.com SEASONAL EMPLOYMENT **City of Southfield American Laser Centers** Outside maintenance. Operate LEGAL SECRETARY City vehicles, power equipment; Exceptional Farmington Hills Corporation hand tools. Must wear steel toed Seeks Full-Time Legal Secretary. shoes. 40 hrs p/wk starting in Excellent organizational, filing, typing, computer skills April. Must be 18 yrs or older, along with Excel background preferred. Familiarity have a valid driver's license and with leases and worker's comp. are an added plus. Must be able to work independently and meet short good driving record. deadlines. A positive and professional mind-set, is Apply to: City of Southfield, HR Dept, 26000 Evergreen Rd, Southfield, MI. Posting and applications may be downloaded from the City's essential. Salary is negotiable. Generous benefit package provided. Please email resume to: careers@alcpartner.com website at http://www.cityofsouthfield.com or fax to Attn: HR at: EOE, Drug-Free Workplace

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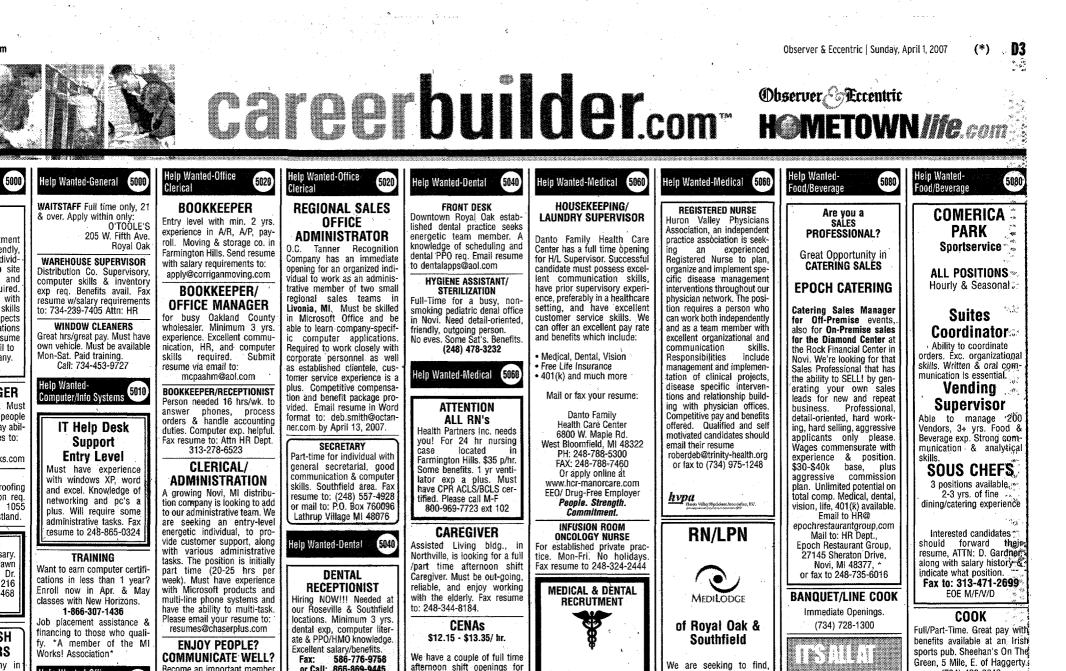
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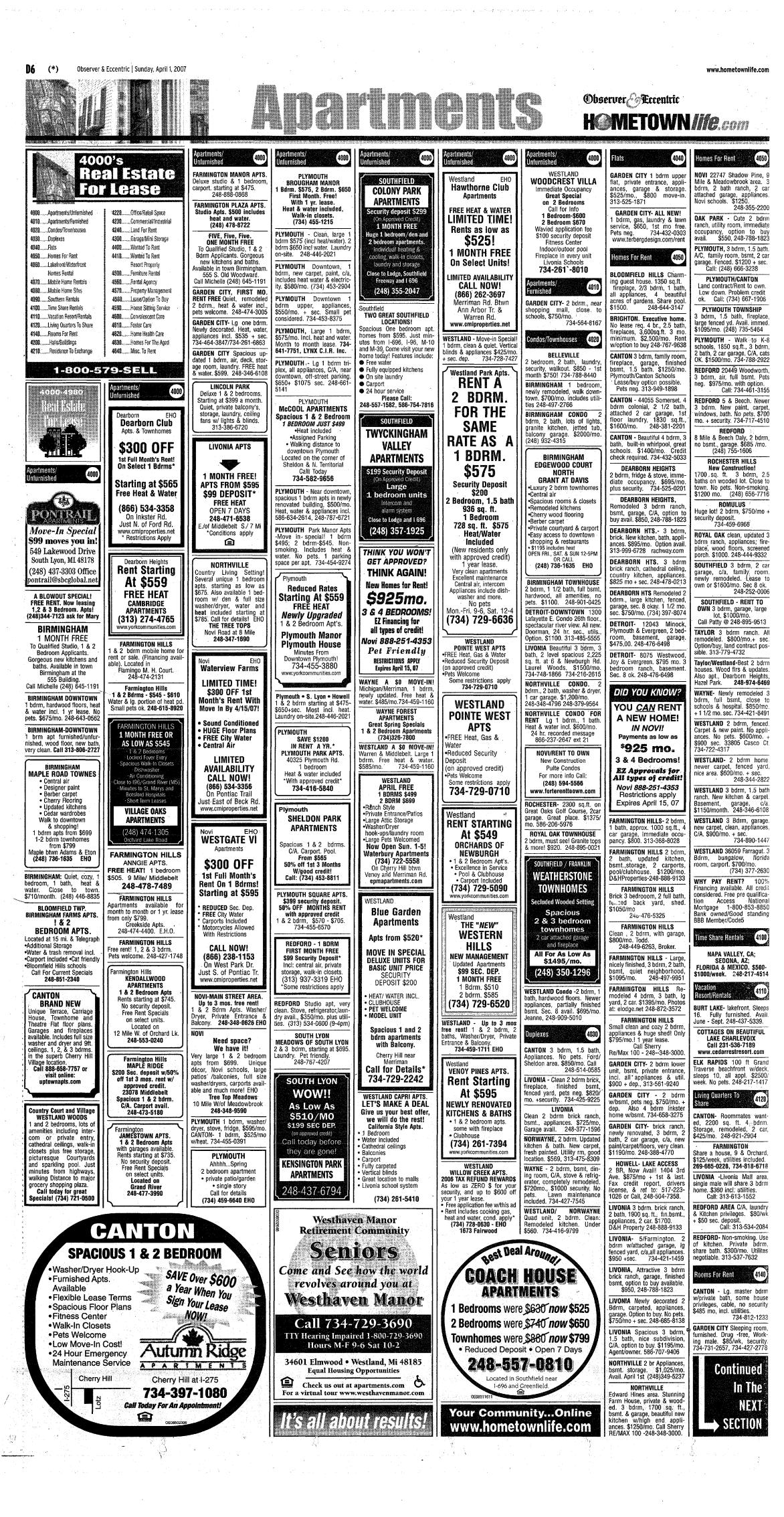
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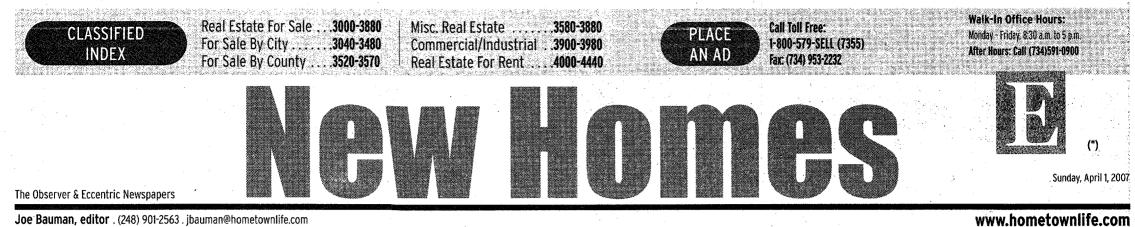
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Do-it-yourself moving tips

(NAPSI) - As many as 17 million household moves take place each year in the U.S. If you are among the do-it-yourselfers, here are a few tips to get you started:

Truck selection. Most movers find the 12- or 16-foot truck perfect for moving a few large items or the contents of a small condo or apartment. For guidance with larger moves or your truck selection, visit www.GoPenske.com.

Reserve your truck at least two weeks in advance.

Pack smart, loading the heaviest items on the truck first. Mark your boxes as you

pack, so it's easier to put them in the right room when you unload. To ensure a smooth moving

day, pick up your truck a day early and practice driving it.

Take extra precautions, especially when the truck is loaded. Use caution near lowhanging tree branches and building overhangs and when cornering. Park in well-lit areas and padlock the rear door.

Make safety and security a priority. Trucks are taller, wider, heavier and require more stopping distance than the vehicle you are used to driving. Drive slower and take extra precautions, especially when the truck is loaded. When traveling, park in well-lit areas and padlock the rear door. Penske offers 24/7 emergency roadside assistance and optional protection plans.

Create a travel bag for moving day to keep important paperwork, credit cards, identification, change of clothes, drinks and snacks close at hand. For more moving tips, visit www.GoPenske.com.



Using boxes, packing tape, bubble wrap, moving blankets and hand trucks can help make your move easier.

## Area builder spearheads 120unit development in Oak Park

The initial phase of a new condo community, The Oaks on Lincoln, is now open for sale. Kaftan Communities, an innovative developer with current condominium projects in Royal Oak, Southfield and Shelby, made 40 homes available for purchase at The Oaks and plan to finish renovations on at least 80 more units this spring.

Despite a slumping local economy, Kaftan is optimistic that a recovery is imminent; therefore, the developer is continuing to open new condo projects. At a time when many businesses are laying off employees, Kaftan has hired additional personnel and engaged numerous local outside contractors for this new development.

"We have faith that the economy will turn around in the near future," said Jeffrey Kaftan, president of Kaftan Communities. "Rather than waiting for things to improve, Kaftan wants to be an active part of the recovery. We are very excited to offer these stylish and affordable homes in the north Oak Park community."

The Oaks on Lincoln is conveniently located near downtown Royal Oak, Huntington Woods and Ferndale, and is within easy walking distance of grocery stores, restaurants and the Jewish Center.

Situated on eight acres, the development is on Lincoln Drive, just east of Greenfield and minutes from I-696, I-75 and M-10 expressways. Exterior features include a swimming pool, professionally landscaped grounds and immediate access to the paved pathways of Rothstein Park.

Both townhouse and garden-style floor plans are available ranging from 1,010 to 1,460 square feet. The units include basements, new appliances, cabinets, countertops and flooring and are projected to start at under \$100,000. Available upgrades include granite countertops, maple cabinets, stainless steel appliances and hardwood floors.

"Buying your first home is part of the American Dream," Kaftan said. "First-time home owners are too often overlooked by builders. Kaftan's mission is to create communities designed with first-time buyers in mind."

For more information regarding The Oaks on Lincoln, visit www.kaftancondos.com or call (248) 968-2900.



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## Unique and distinct look hallmark of Fairchild

Many roof lines and gables provide the Fairchild (D2733) with a distinct look. There are numerous windows that accent the gables and give the brick façade open warmth of welcome. The two-car garage is on the left and sets in a U-shape providing a unique look. The home is 3,904 square feet, with an unfinished basement of 2,813 square feet.

**"E2** 

(\*)

The entry faces a sweeping staircase on the right, and a coffer vaulted dining area on the left. A built-in hutch on the inside wall of the dining room provides a lovely setting for china and treasured dishes. Adjacent to the dining room is the utility room with a sink and storage closet, separated from the hall with a pocket door.

The family room and kitchen area are separated from the formal areas of the home by the stairway to a basement and the second floor. The family room has large windows on three sides and is open to the angular kitchen. An eating bar, C-shaped counter, desk, pantry and cabinets make up the kitchen. The nook with a coffered ceiling has numerous



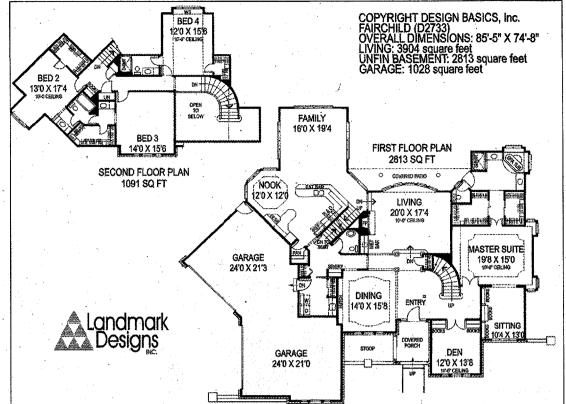
windows to catch the morning light.

The formal sunken living room is accented by a curvature of windows, a large fireplace, and a wet bar. A half bath is centrally located in the hall. The right side of the Fairchild has the master suite, sitting room, and den.

The master suite has a coffered ceiling with accent windows. French doors open into the master bath highlighted by two large walk-in closets, a corner spa tub, large corner shower, and private stool area. A door opens onto the rear patio. The sitting room and den have built-in bookshelves, giving Mom and Dad a private room of their own.

Up the sweeping staircase are three bedrooms with two baths. Bedrooms 2 and 3 share a bath, each having their own walk-in closets. The secondary staircase is adjacent to bedroom 2. Bedroom 4 has a great window seat, its own private bath and walk-in closet. This would be ideal as a guest room.

For a study plan of the FAIRCHILD (D2733), send \$15 to Landmark Designs,



33127 Saginaw Road E., Cottage Grove, OR 97424 or call (800) 562-1151. Be sure to specify plan name and number. Compact discs, with search functions are free of

charge, to help you search our portfolio for your dream home (\$5 shipping and handling will apply). Or you may order or search online at www.ldiplans.com. Or you may order or search online at www.ldiplans.com. Save 15 percent on construction plans using the code (LOE48) online, mailing, or calling (800) 562-1151.

## Decorate like a designer

Take the guesswork out of decorating your home with the seminar "Decorate Like a Designer" offered by Farmington Community Education in cooperation with Oakland Builders Institute's Design Spirit. This class will be held Wednesdays, April 18, 25, May 2 & 9, 2007, from 7-9:30 p.m. at The Community School, 30415 Shiawassee, Farmington.

Learn how interior decorators make decisions about furniture choices and placement as well as those important touches that create beautiful homes. The course will cover basic design principles and how to apply them to your home. Hands-on exercises include measuring and sketching a room on graph paper as well as finding companion wall, furniture and flooring colors with samples of patterned fabrics. Also covered are the principles of color and color matching. Many hand-outs and helpful tips. Bring a small pair of scissors to class.

Education at (248) 489-3333 to register Monday – Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The Design Spirit presents the interior decorating classes for Oakland Builders Institute. For a free brochure and current schedule, call 1-800-940-2014 or 248-651-2771.

## Builder's class is offered

Get the help you need to pass the Michigan state builder's license examination with a 16-hour comprehensive seminar offered by Henry Ford Community College in cooperation with Oakland Builders Institute. The seminar is scheduled for Tuesday/Thursday, April 17, 19, 24, 26, 2007 from 6-10 p.m. at Henry Ford Community College, Dearborn Heights Campus, 22586 Ann Arbor Trail, Dearborn Heights.

The course is for those who want to subcontract the construction of their own homes, real estate investors and developers and building trades people who want to work legally in Michigan. The cost of the seminar is \$189 for residents plus \$20 for the register Monday – Friday, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

BRIEFS

This seminar is comprehensive, teaching math as well as blueprint reading. Oakland Builders Institute teaches building courses in 16 school districts in Michigan. For a free brochure and current schedule, call toll-free 1-800-940-2014 or (248) 651-2771.

## Pre-license class offered

Get the help you need to pass the Michigan state builder's license examination with a 16-hour comprehensive seminar offered by Clarkston Community Education in cooperation with Oakland Builders Institute. The seminar is scheduled for Tuesday/Thursday, April 17, 19, 24, 26, 2007 from 6-10 p.m. at the Community Education Center, 6558 Waldon Road, Clarkston.

The course is for those who want to subcontract the construction of their own homes, real estate investors and developers and building trades people who want to work legally in Michigan. The cost of the seminar is \$199 plus \$20 for the course textbook and sample questions. Pre-registration with payment is required no later than Friday, April 13, to Clarkston Community Education. Call (248) 623-4321 to register Monday – Friday, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. This seminar is comprehensive, teaching math as well as blueprint reading. Oakland Builders Institute teaches building courses in 16 school districts in Michigan. For a free brochure and current schedule, call toll-free 1-800-940-2014 or (248) 651-2771.

## Builder helps customers build their own home

Howard Satovsky, a 35-year veteran Master Builder in the Western Oakland and Wayne County markets has decided to switch hats in 2007 to a style better suited to the current economic climate and Web savvy clients.

Satovsky says his new company, Help To Build It, LLC is a way to orchestrate the final dream home with customers that know little about the building business.

Through extensive reference materials, software and one-on-one counseling, Satovsky shows how to make the dream a reality from start to finish. hour seminar, How To Build Your Own Home on Saturday/Sunday, April 28 and 29, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Best Western ConCorde Inn of Rochester Hills, 1919 Star-Batt Dr., Rochester Hills.

Designed for those who want to contract their own home construction as well as those who want to work with a builder, the course details each stage of construction as well as your rights and responsibilities. The course covers home financing, the building process, builder's terms and contracts as well as building codes, insurance requirements and much more.

Many hand-outs and guidance from an instructor who is also a builder. The seminar costs \$220 and is all inclusive with a building textbook and a book prepared exclusively for seminar students covering home building information pertinent to southeastern Michigan.

Pre-registration with payment is required no later than Wednesday, April 25, to Oakland Builders

The instructor is a graduate of New York's Sheffield School of Interior Design and the University of Michigan.

The cost of the class is \$110 plus \$5 for materials to the instructor. Class size is limited. Register by Monday, April 16. Call Farmington Community course textbook and sample questions, or \$208 for non-residents plus \$20 for the course textbook and sample questions.

Pre-registration with payment is required no later than Friday, April 13, to Henry Ford Community College. Please call 313-317-1500 to Visit www.HelpToBuildIt.com or see the consultants at the Spring Home and Garden Show at the Rock Financial Showplace, April 13-15.

## How to build your own home

Oakland Builders Institute will offer a comprehensive, all-inclusive 16 Institute. Please call 1-800-940-2014 to register Monday - Friday, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Oakland Builders Institute teaches building courses in 15 school districts in Michigan. For a free brochure and current schedule, call toll-free 1-800-940-2014 or (248) 651-2771.





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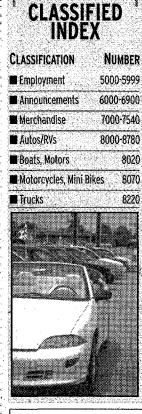
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Advertising Feature

Automotive



By Kevin Koloian Avanti News Features

Volkswagen listened to its fans and gave them what they wanted, a larger and higher performance Jetta midway through the 2005 model year. And VW continued the improvements with the 2007 Jetta, this time in a whole other way – a price tag reduction.

For 2007, in addition to minor updates via technology advancements such as a tire pressure monitoring system and an auxiliary audio input jack for iPods, Volkswagen has dropped the price of its most popular car by \$1,400. The new Jetta starts out at \$16,490, yet still has a host of standard equipment you'd find on more expensive vehicles.

Volkswagen felt the need to drop its price to compete with the better-selling Asian automakers' sedans, namely the Honda Civic and Toyota Corolla.

Designed and engineered in Germany, the Jetta has some of the same quality calling cards that expensive European luxury cars have and cost twice its price.

The 2007 Jetta is available in four models separated by engine size and standard features with a slew of packages. As a matter of fact, the Jetta is offered in so many different variations its price tag nearly doubles from the base model to the top-of-the-line GLI trim. Due to not being able to pass new 2007 government emissions tests the popular diesel-fueled Jetta TDI has

been discontinued, but should be back next year. The base Jetta and the Jetta 2.5, which costs \$17,990, are powered by a 2.5-liter inline 5-cylinder engine good for 150 horsepower and mated to a 5-speed manual transmission. Both models are available with a 6-speed automatic transmission, which includes a manual shift feature.

Standard equipment on both includes cloth upholstery, air conditioning, power windows, cruise control, a CD player, eight-way manually adjustable front seats, a manual tilt-and-telescope steering wheel, and power locks with remote. The Jetta 2.5 adds 16-inch steel wheels, wider tires and VW's standard Electronic Stability Program

Option Package No. 1 for the low-priced models includes a higher-power audio system with an in-dash six-CD changer, vinyl upholstery, a fold-flat rear seat and alloy wheels. Package No. 2 adds leather upholstery, front-seat position memory and dual-zone automatic



## The 2007 Volkwagen Jetta's price drop should appeal to car buyers. However, its average fuel economy will turn them off.

climate control. Stand-alone options include heated seats, alloy wheels, a power sunroof and a DVD-based satellite navigation system.

Racing enthusiasts will want to opt for the turbocharged models, which have a 0-60 mph time of about 8 seconds flat.

The \$21,990 priced Jetta 2.0T and the high end Jetta GLI, priced at \$23,990, are powered by a 2.0-liter turbocharged 4-cylinder engine with a 6-speed manual transmission. This high-tech engine produces 200 horsepower. These models offer VW's Direct Shift Gearbox as an option. This 6-speed works like a manual transmission with an automatic clutch pedal, and can be shifted manually or left in full automatic mode.

The 2.0T model adds a folding rear seat, a leatherwrapped steering-wheel with audio controls, remote trank release and 17-inch alloy wheels. The GLI adds sport seats, high-intensity bi-xenon headlights, sporty alloy pedals and a leather shift knob.

Option Package No. 1 for the turbocharged models includes a sunroof, heated seats and a premium audio system. Package No. 2 adds leather upholstery and dualzone automatic climate control.

All Jetta's interiors have an upscale taste and comfortable seating. Its tall roof gives the front seats a spacious feel and enough headroom for tall adults.

An attractive feature that you won't be able to live without once you get used to it is the Jetta's optional three-spoke steering wheel, which controls all major radio functions. It can be used to operate a phone, mute the radio, or toggle between the various modes of the sound system.

With increased size comes an increased payout at the pump. The 2007 Jetta falls nearly 10 miles per gallon below the Honda Civic and Toyota Corolla in city driving fuel economy ratings.

The automatic-equipped 2.5 comes in at 22 miles per

gallon city and 30 mpg on the highway, while the 2.0T with an automatic gets 25 mpg city and 31 mpg highway.

What the Jetta lacks in fuel economy, it makes for up in safety. Safety features that come standard on all models include front airbags, front passenger side airbags for torso protection, and front and rear curtain-style side airbags for head protection. Rear passenger side-impact airbags are optional.

As far as safety control goes, all Jettas have anti-lock brakes with electronic brake-force distribution and traction control. Electronic stability control is standard on all but the base model, which offers this skidmanagement system as an option.

Volkswagen's dedication to safety has paid off and earned the Jetta the best overall crash-test ratings of any car in its class. The Jetta received the best score ever in a side-impact crash test performed by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety. It was also given high marks in the frontal-offset crash test. And after you add in the Jetta's positive rating for seat/head restraint design in the rear-impact test, you'll find that the Jetta is the toprated car among its competitors.

For 2007, Volkswagen has its sights on giving Asian automakers a run for their money with the new Jetta. With enough options and variations at a low price, the Jetta is an easy sell. The only thing holding it back is its relatively bad fuel economy.

2007 Volkswagen Jetta. Vehicle Class: Mid-Size Sedan. Power: 5-Cylinder Engine. Mileage: 22 City / 30. Highway. Where Built: Mexico. Base Price: \$16,490.

Kevin Koloian covers the auto beat for Avanti NewsFeatures. Write him at mailto:kevinkoloian@excite.com

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