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Health, B5

Board missed chance to bolster school elections

SUNDAY **December 16, 2007**

PLYMOUTH (1) becuet

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City unlikely to cap liquor licenses

BY TONY BRUSCATO

It appears a cross-section of Plymouth residents prefer the market determine how many liquor licenses should be allowed in downtown Plymouth.

And, armed with that information, Mayor Phil Pursell said it appears likely there won't be any limitations set when the 90-day moratorium on new and transferred liquor licenses in the downtown business district ends in mid-January.

Of the nearly three dozen city residents who attended a Wednesday night forum at the Cultural Center, no one was interested in limiting the number of restaurants selling liquor.

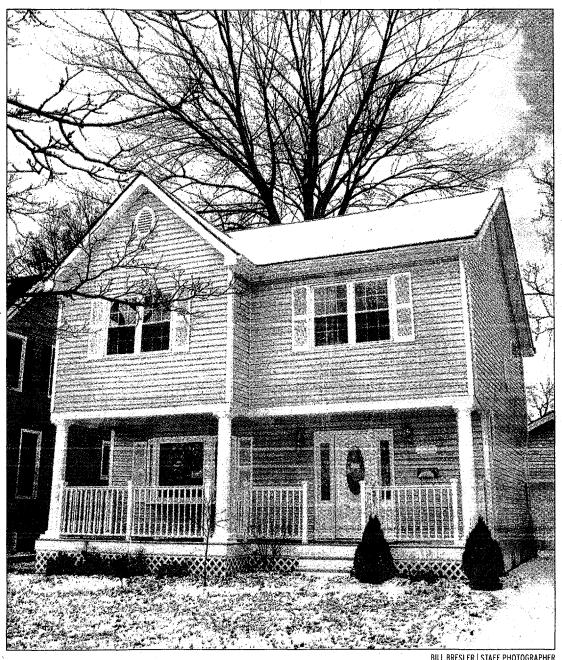
"If you create an opportunity for businesses to come here, you're going to create an opportunity for the city to continue to grow and generate revenue," said Scott Milligan, 35, who moved to Plymouth from Northville because of the night-life options. "If you're going to build condos and want more people to move to Plymouth, you're going to have to have more restaurants, more bars, more places that serve alcohol and food. Retail is only going to come to downtown if there are places to eat."

With the rise in the number of drinking establishments in downtown Plymouth, city commissioners became concerned about the number of drunken driving arrests and subsequent paperwork that takes officers off the street for hours, as well as potential parking problems. However, with the input from residents, and similar responses from the Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce Property Owners group and the Downtown Development Authority, it appears the fate of new liquor licenses will be determined by free-market competi-

"When the moratorium is up, my guess is there probably won't be a limit set on the licenses," said Pursell, who had been leaning toward limiting the number of liquor licenses. "What we heard is people don't just want bars only, they want restaurants that sell liquor.

"It takes about three hours to book a drunk driver, which means time our officers off the street," he said. "If the trend continues where we have more liquor licenses, it stands to reason you'll have more drunk driving arrests. We may have to look at hiring additional officers in the future."

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



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Foreclosure phase

Plymouth nicked by burgeoning real-estate ills

BY TONY BRUSCATO STAFF WRITER

As a 20-year former Realtor, Barbara McLean looks at the vacant tri-level house across from her Byron Street home and believes the mortgage-foreclosed property is doing some damage to home prices in her neighborhood.

"It probably does," said

McLean, who has lived in Plymouth for 20 years. "I've never seen it this bad in Michigan.

"I think Plymouth has a really good reputation, so I think people who can afford will still buy here," she said. "They do sell in the neighborhood."

It was reported last week that U.S. foreclosures have reached an all-time high. The Mortgage

Bankers Association has said the delinquency rate for all mortgages rose to 5.59 percent in the third quarter, up from 5.12 in the second quarter. It's the highest rate since 1986.

According to Michigan's banking data, foreclosures in the state have nearly doubled since 2006, burgeoning from

Please see FORECLOSURE, A9

Board restores busing

BY TONY BRUSCATO STAFF WRITER

The Plymouth-Canton Board of Education has restored busing for about 645 K-5 students who were forced to walk to school this year after the district increased the elementary walking distance from a mile to 1½ miles.

Since announcing the increase in walking distance last spring to save \$206,000 in busing costs, which originally affected 2,400 students, trustees have almost come full circle in restoring busing.

The restoration of the busing cut comes after parents voiced concerns about youngsters walking during the winter months and more frequent traffic jams at the schools, as well as a realization by the Board of Education that the original budget savings will really turn out to be only \$22,500 when busing is restored Jan. 28.

"When we had estimates of over \$100,000 in savings, it was worth thinking about because we had a lot of other cuts we were considering that would affect the classroom," said school board President Judy Mardigian. "As we achieved half the savings and caused a lot of pain for the lower elementary ... a half is too far, and I woul have my child walk that far."

The board voted 5-2 to restore busing, with Trustees Dianne Gonzalez and Nancy Eggenberger the two dissenting votes.

'It's a cut I'm not happy with and causes a lot of hardship for parents, but we don't have the money," Eggenberger said. "I know on the next cuts list we're going to have more and more things that directly affect the academic experience of the children in our schools, and this does not affect that."

Bruce Christenson of Canton Township, who has a second- and fourth-grader walking to Dodson Elementary, is pleased the board reinstated busing.

"It's a good thing for the kids in the district. and I hope they keep that in mind as they go into the next budget year," Christenson said. "It's a long walk, and on bad weather days the parents have to get together to make sure the rides are there both ways."

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



Retailers say Plymouth offers the kind of oldfashioned shopping that draws people even from out of town, as Bobbie Bone of Beverly Hills, Michelle Smith of Birmingham and Kathleen Biggs of South Lyon found out recently.

Plymouth offers old-fashioned shopping

BY DIANE GALE ANDREASSI CORRESPONDENT

Tara Eastin and Jim Strand looked like they could have been stepping out of a Thomas Kincade picture as they walked around downtown Plymouth recently.

They were driving through town and couldn't resist the charm of the city that radiates an old-fashioned Christmas. Plymouth offers "smaller, fun stores, which is unusually nice, because we live in Sterling Heights where we have strip malls and box stores," Eastin said.

Sales were a little slower at the beginning of the year, "but now

after Thanksgiving it's definitely picked up," said Alicia Norton, a buyer for Gigi's Mode.

Joel Bienefeld of Royal Oak brought his 5-year-old daughter, Samantha, to Kids Play Café. As they left the Book Cellar & Café they planned to walk around town before going home.

"I hate the mall, it's crowded and the parking is bad," said Alleana Meltzer, owner of Eclectic Home, which is celebrating its first Christmas in Plymouth. She enjoys Kellogg Park and the lights on the streets.

"It's more Christmassy here," Meltzer added.

PERSONAL SERVICE

Sherrie Pryor, City of Plymouth **Downtown Development Authority** operations director, says one of the perks of shopping in Plymouth is that often the person assisting you owns the store.

"They're personally interested in helping you find your needs," Pryor said. "The owner greets you, they know you. It's very personal and there's a community feel. It's just the experience of walking up and down the street and passing someone and they say, 'Hello.' It's a nice, comfortable, hometown community."

Fran Toney, Plymouth

Community Chamber of Commerce executive director, describes a community that makes you think of Christmases past.

"There's a warm friendly atmosphere in the stores and they'll help you find what you're looking for," Toney said. "It's not the same as going to the malls and the box stores.'

The chamber offers gift certificates to 40 Plymouth stores and 25 restaurants for gift buyers who don't want to leave the comfort of their homes.

You can call and charge over the

Please see SHOPPING, A6

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> Volume 122 Number 34





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Coming Thursday in filter



Sounds of the season

The award-winning Plymouth-Canton Educational Park Choirs, under the direction of Jennifer L. Kopp, will present their annual holiday concert, Sounds of the Season, 7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 18, in the Salem High School Auditorium.

Tickets are on sale now from all P-CEP Choir students or from the Choir Office (Room 1603 in Salem High School). Tickets are \$4 presale and \$5 at the door while they last. This concert is very popular and typically sells out before the night of the performance.

The PCEP Choirs consist of six choral ensembles comprised of more than 250 students in grades 9-12 from Plymouth, Salem and Canton High Schools, under the direction of Jennifer L. Kopp.

Luminaria sale

The Plymouth Symphony League is selling Luminaria Kits for the Christmas Holiday. Each kit consists of 10 white envelopes and 10 candles. Kits are \$5 apiece and may be purchased through Dec. 24 in Plymouth at the Book Cellar, Gabriala's, Saxton's, sideways or at the Plymouth Canton Symphony Society Office (470 Forest Place, Suite #18.

For more information, call (734) 451-2112.

Toy drives

■ Mel's Golden Razor barber shop in downtown Plymouth conducts its 26thannual toy collection drive for needy children at Christmas, as well as donations for food baskets.

Donors can drop off their donations of food or toys to Mel's Golden Razor, 595 Forest in downtown Plymouth, through Dec. 18.

For more information, call (734) 455-9057.

■ Metro Dance will be collecting new, unwrapped toys for children of all ages through Dec. 19 for the Toys for Tots of Southeast Michigan. Donations can be dropped off Monday-Thursday 4-8 p.m.

nd Saturdays 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Metro Dance is located in Plymouth on the corner of Mill and Ann Arbor Trail at



Gingerbread houses on parade

The Plymouth District Library joins almost 60 other downtown businesses in this holiday promotion. Rebecca Giroux, a kindergarten student at Smith Elementary School, checks out the gingerbread library. The gingerbread houses will be on display around town through the holidays.

541 S. Mill. For more information, call (734) 207-8970 or e-mail info@ MetroDanceCompany.com

Me & My Shadow class

Young children and their grown-ups are invited to frolic indoors this winter at New Morning School's Me & My Shadow Parent & Young Child Classes, a fun, nurturing and educational introduction to preschool for 2-, 3- and 4year-olds and their grownups.

Activities include music and finger-play, art and discovery projects, snack and story time, all centered around a learning theme. New Morning School's Me & My Shadow classes provide special one-on-one time for parents and children, and encourage children to take their first steps toward socializing with their peers.

Parents can choose from two eight-week sessions beginning

Jan. 11. Classes run on Friday morning from 9±10 a.m. or 10:30-11:30 a.m. Cost is \$72 for the entire session.

To enroll, please call (734) 420-3331, or download the registration form at www.newmorningschool.com

Winter concert

The Celebration Youth Orchestras present their winter concert 7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 18, at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill, in Canton. Tickets are \$6.

The CYO is the youth

orchestra supported by the **Plymouth Canton Symphony** Society, dedicated to challenging and inspiring students through high level ensemble training and the performance of standard and new repertoire. CYO ensembles are conducted by Ariel Toews, Plymouth Symphony Orchestra and Orchestra **Canton Assistant Conductor** and are part of the Plymouth Symphony's Youth Outreach Education Program, which will impact more than 5 000

students this year.

Showing off all they have accomplished this season, young musicians in the CYO will perform a variety of classical and contemporary music. The Celebration Youth Symphony is performing the first two movements of Beethoven's Symphony No. 1, Mother Ginger from "The Nutcracker Suite" and Leroy Anderson's "Christmas Festival" in honor of his centennial year. The Celebration Sinfonia will perform "Shaker Fantasia", an arrangement of the tune "Simple Gifts" by Elliot Del Borgo, "Le Froid De L'Hiver" by Soon Hee Newbold, Allegro in D by Vivaldi and arranged By Steven Frakenpohl, and The Bells of Christmas. Lastly, the Celebration Strings will perform "Beginning Bluegrass", Algadoon by Henry Purcell, Trepak from the Nutcracker, and will be playing "Believe" from the Polar Express sideby-side with the Celebration Sinfonia.

Tickets are \$6 and can be ourchased through Summit on the Park, (734) 394-5460, online at the Village Theater link on http://www.canton-mi.org, or the Village Theater box office one hour before performance, or online at.

For audition information or more information please contact the Plymouth Symphony office at 734.451.2112 or by email at Jane@plymouthsymphony.org.

Benefit concert

The National Homeschool Music Ensembles, an instructional band program located in Tecumseh and Ann Arbor dedicated to serving homeschooled students, will host a Red Kettle Benefit Concert Wednesday, Dec. 19, to benefit The Salvation Army of Washtenaw County's 2007 Red Kettle Campaign.

The concert will feature student musicians from NHME, Father Gabriel Richard High School in Ann Arbor, the Plymouth-Canton

Homeschool Band and the Oakland County Homeschool Band. The student musicians 🖫 will play music from the original Salvation Army songbook that was used to perform on city streets across America more than 50 years ago.

Kicking off at 7 p.m., the concert is taking place at the Power Center for the Performing Arts, located on the University of Michigan campus in Ann Arbor.

Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$12 at the door and can be purchased at Nicola's Books ... in Ann Arbor (2513 Jackson Ave.), King's Keyboard House in Ann Arbor (2333 E. Stadium Blvd.) and Doby's Smokehouse in Tecumseh (111 W. Chicago Blvd.).

Garden Club

Beneath frosty autumn carpets, the gardens are awaiting their future displays for 2008. Trailwood Garden Club of Plymouth is looking for gardens in the Plymouth area for its annual Garden Walk taking place next June. Over the years, all manner of gardens have delighted visitors, ranging from compact city gardens to watery, wildflower, herb, cutting, and expansive country gardens.

Anyone interested in opening their special garden can contact Georgia Randinitis at (734) 459-7146 or Marilyn Detmer at (734) 454-4625.

DAR meets

The Daughters of the American Revolution Northville/Plymouth chapter meets 11 a.m. Monday, Dec. 17, at Greenmead, Alexander Blue House in Livonia

The program will feature Christmas music and a Sing-

For more information, call (734) 459-4764.

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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POSTAL PERIODICAL REQUIREMENTS

The Plymouth Observer - Publication NO. USPS 436-360 Published every Thursday and Sunday. Periodical postage is paid at Livonia, Michigan 48150.

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CITY OF PLYMOUTH NOTICE OF CLOSE OF REGISTRATION PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the voter registration of Qualified Electors for the PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY ELECTION to be held on Tuesday, January 15, 2008, will be taken at the Office of the City Clerk during the office hours as enumerated below:

> MONDAY - FRIDAY 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Registration will close on MONDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2007, and no further voter registrations will be accepted for said election. Any interested person may also register at any Secretary of State Branch Office during their regular business hours. Qualifications of an elector for registration are as follows:

- 1. Citizen of the United States
- 2. At least 18 years of age 3. Resident of the State of Michigan for thirty (30) days
- 4. Resident of the City of Plymouth on or before thirty (30) days prior to the date of the election.

Qualified electors who are currently registered with the City Clerk will not have to re-register. If you have a physical problem and cannot come into City Hall, please call and make other arrangements. The telephone number is 734-453-1234, ext. 234 or

> Linda Langmesser, CMC City Clerk

CORRECTION

A story in the Dec. 13 Observer should have said Dave and Kim Blackwood were at the Compassionate Friends Candlelight Vigil in Plymouth Sunday to honor Dave's sister, Amy Louise Blackwood.



PLANNING COMMISSION NOTICE CITY OF PLYMOUTH, MICHIGAN **WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 9, 2008** 7:00 PM (734) 453-1234

A regular meeting of the Planning Commission will be held in the Commission Chambers of the City Hall to consider the following:

SITE PLAN APPROVAL:

Sweet Dreams, Pastry & Coffee House SP 08-01 614 S. Main Zoned: B-1, Local Business

Applicant: John Janviriya All interested persons are invited to attend.

In accordance with the Americans with disabilities Act, the City of Plymouth will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audiotapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting/hearing, to individuals with disabilities. Requests for auxiliary aids or services may be made by writing or calling the following:

> Maureen Brodie, ADA Coordinator 201 S. Main Street Plymouth, MI 48170 (734) 453-1234, Ext. 206

Publish: December 16, 2007

An exceptional home-like setting for Active/Alert,







Residents of the Country Club Village Condominiums pose with Plymouth Township Police Chief Tom Tiderington and Community Resource Officer Jamie Senkbeil following this week's graduation from the Citizens' Police Academy.

Neighborhood watch

Condo residents use academy as learning tool

BY BRAD KADRICH STAFF WRITER

When Plymouth Township Police put out the call for students for its annual Citizens Police Academy as a way of learning more about the police department, few neighborhoods heeded the call as seriously as those who live in the Country Club Village Condominiums.

In the last four years, more than a dozen CCVC residents count themelves among the graduates, including those who recently finished the Class of 2007, which graduated 29 new members at a ceremony before Tuesday's Plymouth Township Board of Trustees meeting.

Graduates include residents who have lived in Plymouth a long time, and those who are relative newcomers, like Jerry and Sandy Wood, who've lived in the township just two

"It was lovely," Sandy Wood said. "Every week was unique and always taught something that really gave us alot of insight into the job police officers have and how they

approach it." The class, which just finished its sixth year, has gradu-

The course provides students a hands-on look at aspects of law enforcement and firefighting, with tours of the 35th District Court and the Plymouth Community Fire Department.

There are also selfdefense demonstrations, a variety of lectures and a chance to fire on the firearms simulator.

In Police Chief Tom Tiderington's view, the CPA is one of the department's most important offerings.

"It's become a very popular course," Tiderington said. "It gives good insight into the complexity of the job. But it also gives officers a different kind of interaction with the citizens.

Township clerk Marilyn Massengill is a 2007 graduate, the first municipal official to

take the course. "Everybody should take the class," Massengill said. "It's a great way to learn more about

what they do." That's why the folks in Country Club Village Condominiums like about it. Nine condo residents took the course this year alone.

"Our neighborhood is committed to learning much as possible about the police department, its services and its opportunities for us to give back to our community through volunteering when needed for public events," resident Karen Ross said. "We want as many of our neighbors as possible to participate so we can develop individual relationships with the police department and can be better informed.'

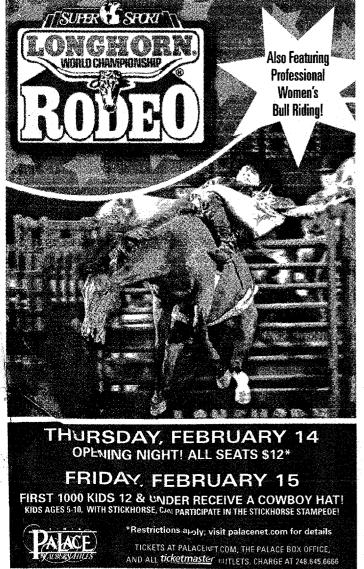




Schubot Jewellers to their son Brian, who will continue to build on the 90-year tradition at Jules R. Schubot.









Grad, 76, realizes nursing degree dream

BY HUGH GALLAGHER STAFF WRITER

It's never too late to pursue a dream. Just ask Lillian Anderson.

The 76-year-old Coldwater resident joined 47 other Madonna University nursing graduates Thursday at a pinning ceremony at Laurel Manor. Anderson delivered the keynote/inspirational speech and was honored with the writing award and the O'Neill Award for Humanistic Nursing for her compassion and caring.

"She was an inspiration to her fellow students," said marketing director. "There wasn't a dry eye in the room after she told her story."

It hasn't come easily. "Ever since I was a kid I wanted to be a nurse, but life got in the way," she said Friday. "When I turned 70, I needed a new direction and some friends sat me down and asked what had I always wanted to do and I said I wanted to be a nurse."

Anderson worked 48 years as a secretary, 20 years at Ford Motor Co., retiring in 1995. She already had a degree from Madonna.

"I had graduated from Madonna with a bachelor's degree in business manage-

ment. I decided to take business because it tied into my work at Ford Motor Co.," she said. "I thought I was too old to be a nurse, but I guess I'm

She actually began her business degree studies in the 1960s but had to put them on hold when her son. Kevin Giedre, was diagnosed with bone cancer. She cared for him until his death at 18 in 1973. She finally earned that first bachelor's degree in 1989.

She registered for Madonna's hospice program in 1991 but never attended classes because her second husband became ill and she cared for him until he died in 2000.

She began the nursing program in 2002 but her daughter, Judy Zammit, had been diagnosed with ovarian cancer. She died earlier this year at age 54.

"She was a 10-year survivor," Anderson said. "She was a fantastic example for so many of us."

Next week, Anderson will be making the long drive from Coldwater to Troy to take Kaplan classes to prepare for the state board exam.

"It's like taking the bar exam, you want to get it right the first time," she said.

Anderson admits she might be too old to become hospital floor nurse but she is interested in working in hospice care.

"For my emergence, I worked at Angela Hospice, a wonderful place," she said.



Lillian Anderson (left) with Madonna University Dean of the College of Nursing and Health Teresa Thompson.

At Madonna an "emergence" is a real workplace experience allowing students to emerge

into the real work world. "I worked with a preceptor, Paula Bending, who is the epitome of what a nurse

should be," Anderson said. She is looking into doing some home hospice care when she passes her boards.

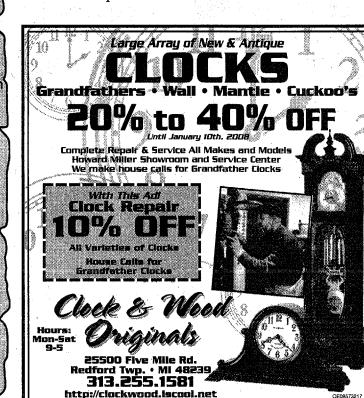
"What an inspiration, she is," said Teresa Thompson, dean of the College of Nursing and Health. "It's been a pleasure to watch her grow, and care, and give to so many. She's become part of who we are at Madonna.'





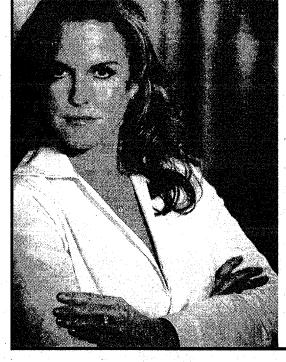
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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

AROUND TOWN

Nutty Nutcracker

Center Stage Dance Co. presents their holiday production of 'The Nutty Nutcracker. Loosely following the story of The Nutcracker, the show will present a wide variety of music including songs from Dreamgirls. some Sammy Davis Jr., a little Bing Crosby and the soundtrack from Pirates of The Caribbean. Dance styles will include ballet, tap, jazz, lyrical, and hip hop. The show starts at 6:45 on Wednesday, Dec. 19, at Hillside Middle School Auditorium. Admission is free. For more information call (248) 380-1666.

Christmas dinner

St. Dunstan Catholic Church is hosting their annual Christmas Day Dinner for anyone who would otherwise be alone on the holiday. The doors open at 1 p.m. and dinner is served at 1:30 p.m. The dinner is free but advance reservations are required by calling (734) 595-3049.

Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, December 16, 2007

The Livonia Youth Philharmonic of Michigan, a regional orchestra, has openings for interested student musicians in our intermediate and advanced orchestras and also the sax choir. Rehearsals are on Saturday mornings at Churchill High School. For more information contact Kathy Bilger at (734) 464-8704 or e-mail auditions@LYPM.org

New Year's Eve parties

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 a

Bid for Site-work at Starkweather, Canton, and Salem High Schools. Bidding documents prepared by TMP Associates, Inc.

will be available for public inspection at the office of the

Construction Manager, McCarthy & Smith Inc., 24317 Indoplex

Circle, Farmington Hills, MI, 48335 or (248) 427-8400; FW Dodge

Plan Room, Southfield; Construction Association of Michigan Plan

Room, Bloomfield Hills; Daily Construction Reports Plan Room,

There will be a pre-bid meeting at 2:30 p.m. on Tuesday,

December 11, 2007 at the site office of the Construction

Manager, McCarthy & Smith, Inc., located at Salem High

School, 46181 Joy Road, Canton, MI 48187. The site trailer is

located behind the school. The purpose of the meeting will be to

review the bidding requirements, schedule, project scopes of work,

and to answer any question that bidders may have. Bidders are

strongly encouraged to attend. This Bid Package will consist of

- 102: Asphalt Paving / Exterior Concrete

- 107: Steel Rails

- 143: Electrical

- 148: Landscaping

Each bid shall be accompanied by a Bid Security in the amount of

five (5) percent of the amount of the bid, payable to the Plymouth

Canton Community Schools, as a guarantee that if the proposal is

accepted, the bidder will execute the contract and file the required

bonds within ten (10) days after notice of award of contract. Bid

Bids are to be submitted in a sealed envelope supplied by the

Construction Manager, McCarthy & Smith Inc. with the

corresponding bid division identified on the outside of the envelope.

All submissions should include 1 original and 1 copy and the

Proposal Execution Form provides a space for the bidder to disclose

any familial relationship as required by the State of Michigan and

this form must be signed and notarized in order for the bid to be

accepted. Bids are due to the PCCS E.J McClendon

Educational Center on or before 2:00 p.m., Wednesday,

December 19, 2007 where they will be opened and read

publicly. These projects are to be bid and the work performed at

the Prevailing Wage Rates. For additional information, phone Dan

Phillips, Assistant Director of Finance & Purchasing at (734) 416-

2746. The Board of Education reserves the right to accept and/or

reject all bids, as they judge to be in the best interest of the school

Board of Education

Plymouth-Canton Community Schools

Steven Sneideman, Secretary

securities may be in the form of a Bid Bond or Certified Check.

Detroit; and the Builders Exchange, Lansing.

separate sealed bids for the following Bid Divisions:

Youth Philharmonic

■ Ring in the New Year with Jimmy Howard & Company at a New Year's Party at the Livonia Elks, 31117 Plymouth Road in Livonia Monday,

Dec. 30. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.; party goes until 1 a.m. Dinner (ovenbaked chicken and port tenderloin) served at 7:15 p.m. Tickets are \$60 per person. Due to the Christmas holiday, tickets must be purchased by Dec. 19. For more information, call Linda at (734) 507-9173 or Mary Ann at (734) 654-0115, or e-mail parties.2go2@yahoo.com

31, at the Wayne Ford Civic League, 1645 N. Wayne Road, Westland. The by Neil Diamond, Rod Stewart and The ticket package includes an allyou-can-eat buffet dinner, open bar with a champagne toast at midnight while watch the ball drop at Times Square in New York City. Designated Drivers will be available to ensure a

safe beginning to the New Year. For

■ A New Year's Eve party will be held Monday, Dec. 31, at AMVETS Post 171 are \$25 each and include dinner, open bar and dancing: For tickets,

The Livingston County Genealogical David Bridgens of the Michigan Historical Museum in Lansing talk of Latter Day Saints, 1041 W. Grand River, in Howell. For more information, call (810) 227-7745.

phone and we'll mail them out," she added.

This year, the chamber is also hosting a challenge among the Rotary, Kiwanis and Lions Club. Every time club members make a purchase at one of the 105 businesses involved they ask the store keeper to credit their club. Nonmembers can have them credit the club of their choice. The winning club gets "bragging rights," Toney said.

Many merchants are also participating in the Gingerbread Houses on Parade, which involves 56 locations displaying different gingerbread creations. Customers are invited to vote for their favorite gingerbread house, which makes them eligible to win gift certificates to shops, restaurants and the Penn Theater.

"This is the first time we've ever done this and there could be a gingerbread man walking around town," said Sandy Marulis, who owns Michigan Made & More.

Shoppers who need breaks can stroll through Kellogg Park where, on weekends, Santa awaits in a portable house. He's also collecting canned goods and nonperishable items that will be given to the Salvation Army for distribution.

In a town where tradition rules, strollers and shoppers can also enjoy the decorated holiday trees in Kellogg Park that are sponsored by scout troops, families and businesses.

Marulis says Plymouth offers something to shoppers that the malls can't.

"When you shop in a little town like Plymouth there are a lot more specialty shops and you'll find things that you won't find in the malls," said Marulis, Plymouth chamber retail chair. "You can get some unique gifts that you won't find anywhere else."

MERCHANTS UPBEAT

The sour economy has affected sales, but merchants always look forward to the

holidays.

"We are in the auto industry economy and that trickles down," Marulis said. "We have a good place to shop and we encourage people to shop where they live. Plymouth has a lot of good restaurants too so you can have a shopping experience and go and have a good

Cornwell Pool & Patio, a Christmas shop mainstay in Plymouth for more than a quarter of a century, is a mini Frankenmuth offering everything from decorating essentials and gift items to centerpieces, table pieces, lights and collectibles. The store is transformed into a Christmas wonderland in the winter and a patio furniture shop in the summer.

"We try to buy the best quality we can for the best value," said owner Gerry Visel. "Most of our business comes from residents. When they shop locally we can deliver it and take care of problems. If they order it online there's no one there to take care of that."

Less than one mile away in Old Village shoppers will find everything from vintage clothing for women; antique and jewelry shops; a massage therapy facility; delis and restaurants; and specialty shops offering everything from haircuts to facials and music supplies.

Lori Jouppi, a book seller at Old Village Book Shop, says shoppers come from all over Michigan to browse their shelves.

"With the vintage clothing store and antique stores, (Old Village) is different than downtown," Jouppi said. "You're down here for different things than you would be looking for in most areas."

You'd never know there was a downturn in the economy when you talk to Jeff Crawford, who opened Crawford's Kitchen in Old Village in the summer of 2006. The original restaurant is in Northville. Crawford serves breakfast, lunch and dinner, sells pies and other bakery goods and provides catering.

"Our business is growing everyday," Crawford said. "We've had inquiries about when we are going to expand."

■ You can also ring in the New Year at a party, 8 p.m. to 2 a.m. Monday, Dec. festivities include live performances Blues Brothers impersonators. Tickets are \$50 per person, \$85 per couple, or reserve a table of eight for just \$320.

tickets or more information, contact Laurie at (734) 637-5553 or by e-mail at lbarra@comcast.net or the hall staff at by calling (734) 728-5010 or by e-mail to vbarra@comcast.net.

Hall, 1217 Merriman, Westland. Tickets call (734) 721-9440.

Genealogical society

Society meets 7 p.m. Jan. 3 to hear about "Treasures Located in Farmers Outhouses-the Last Place to Look for Genealogical Information." There's a help session at 6 p.m. The meeting takes place at Church of Jesus Christ



ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS MEETING NOTICE CITY OF PLYMOUTH, MICHIGAN (734) 453-1234

A special meeting of the Zoning Board of Appeals will be held on Thursday, January 3, 2008 at 7:00 P.M. in the Commission Chambers of the City Hall, 201 S. Main Street, Plymouth, MI, to consider the following item:

1. Z 08 -01 260 W. Ann Arbor Rd Non-Use Variance Requested Front Yard Parking Zoned: ARC, Ann Arbor Road Applicant: Greko Print & Imaging, Inc.

2. Z 08 -02 763 Burroughs

Non-Use Variance Requested Front Yard Setback (Dewey Street) Zoned: R1, Single-Family Residential Applicant: Jim Offer & Amy

3. Z 08 -03 1600 N. Territorial

Non-Use Variance Requested Height Variance Zoned: RM-1, Multiple Family Residential Applicant: Sunrise Development, Inc.

All interested persons are invited to attend.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Plymouth will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audiotapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting/hearing, to individuals with disabilities. Requests for auxiliary aids or services may be made by writing or calling the following:

> Maureen Brodie, ADA Coordinator 201 S. Main Street Plymouth, MI 48170, (734) 453-1234, Ext. 206

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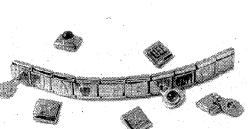
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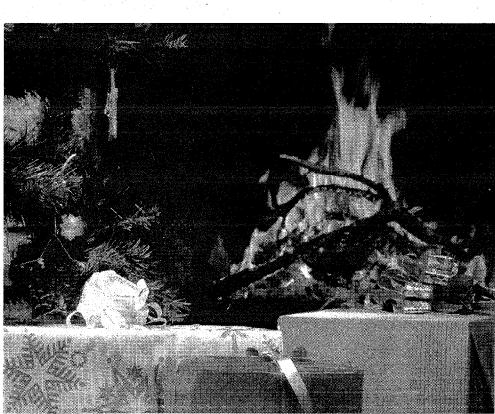
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Chamber accepting Hall of Fame nominations

The Plymouth Evening Kiwanis Club and the Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce are accepting nominations for the Plymouth Community Hall of Fame.

More than 100 community support-

ers attended the April 2007 Hall of Fame Banquet inducting Don Massey, Margaret Slezak and Robert Thompson. The program was first started in 1980 and has elected 40 people. To

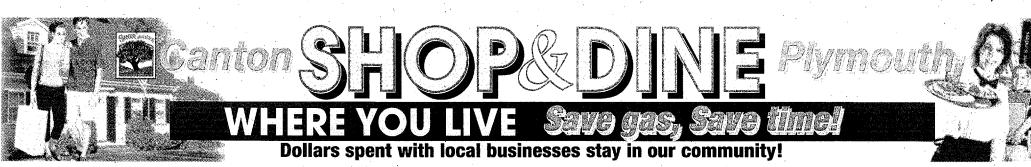
be eligible, a candidate must have

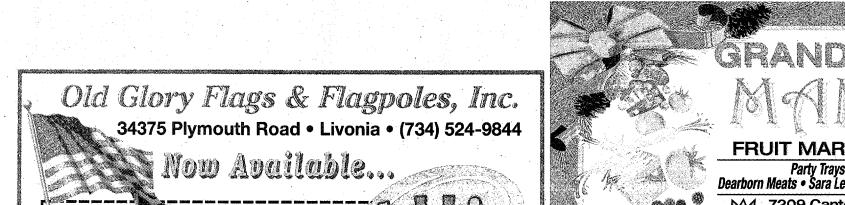
been a resident of the Plymouth community for at least 10 years, be at least 30 years old and made a recognizable contribution to the community in terms of time and effort in the building or rebuilding

of the well-being of the community. The deadline for nominations is Dec. 31. Background information to support each nomination is helpful. Nominations are being accepted by the Plymouth Community Chamber

of Commerce, 850 W. Ann Arbor Trail, Plymouth, MI 48170.

The Plymouth Wall of Fame is presently located at the Cultural Center showing the 40 prominent Plymouth Hall of Famers.





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just over 42,000 to a projected 83,000 foreclosures by the end of 2007. The foreclosure rate in Detroit is the highest in the nation.

"In the past, we would come across a foreclosure here and there in some markets." said John McArdle, who is in his 20th year at Remerica Hometown One in Plymouth. "In the last 24 months there's been a significant increase in the number of homes that are in some sort of foreclosure

process. The four-bedroom home at 525 Byron is one of about a dozen listed in Plymouth as a mortgage-foreclosed property. There are about twice that

many in Plymouth Township. "This is the worst I've seen it," Plymouth Township Treasurer Ron Edwards said of the number of mortgage foreclosures. "Unofficially, we'll see about a 4-percent decline in property tax values, which will mean a decline in revenue for 2009 of about \$300,000.'

Mark Christiansen, the finance director for Plymouth, said despite the foreclosures, he's not predicting much impact on the city's budget.

"I'm expecting there will be some decrease in property tax revenue, but I don't think it will be huge," Christiansen

The biggest impact of the mortgage foreclosure epidemic in Michigan is mainly the result of adjustable rate mortgages that are moving upward and increasing mortgage payments for homeowners who can't afford them.

When adjustable-rate mortgages were the talk-of-thetown, many homeowners were able to purchase high-priced

homes with little - if any - down payment, many times securing a mortgage worth more than the property. With home values falling, many people find themselves owing much more money than their homes will sell for, with no equity in the property to back them up.

"I believe that most good Realtors and brokers who were counseling their clients on the 100-percent mortgages and lowest starting interest rate possible expected a steady housing market," McArdle added. "Realtors didn't see this type of loss by the marketplace. If we saw it coming, we would have advised clients differently."

Marshall Mandell, of ReMax Classic in Farmington Hills, who specializes in foreclosed homes, including 717 McKinley Street in Plymouth, disagrees. Mandell said he saw the current housing problems coming years ago.

"I could see what was going with adjustable rate mortgages, with the people who were giving the loans and those who were getting them," Mandell said. "If they keep writing 100-percent loans, it's going to cause a problem eventually. People were banking on home prices going up, and that if you got into trouble you could always sell your home.

"I put a lot of blame on the mortgage companies," he said. "These were highly leveraged investments that went bad."

In response to the crisis, President Bush has proposed freezing the interest rates of some mortgages that fit certain criteria.

Last week the state House passed legislation that would allow qualified borrowers to refinance their homes into secure, fixed-rate loan products through the Michigan State Housing Finance Agency. The legislation is currently before the state Senate.

Following legislative approval, the "Save the Dream" initiative will help qualified borrowers refinance their homes into secure, fixed-rate loan products in order to avoid foreclosure.

McArdle said it's unlikely banks will go back to requiring down payments of 10-20 percent to purchase a home; however, the days of no documentation, or "no doc," loans are probably over.

"What we will return to is looking at a person who is employed and has decent credit," McArdle said. "HUD and FHA will continue to promote home ownership for first-time buyers. The fixedrate mortgage will rule the day for a while.'

Karen Camilleri of Century 21 Row in Livonia, who is attempting to sell 525 Byron for a bank, said the 1.700square-foot home with four bedrooms, a great room and lower-level family room with fireplace, is big competition for homeowners attempting to sell.

Camilleri said in a different market, the home would sell for about \$210,000. And, despite the fact the previous owners owed \$200,000, the out-of-town bank has it on the market for \$178,500.

"Oftentimes the bank accepts a price based on how long the previous owner lived there and how much money they've already made on the asset," said Camilleri, who is attempting to sell 40 foreclosed homes for the same bank. "Banks structure price adjustments to try and get rid of properties. They don't want inventory."

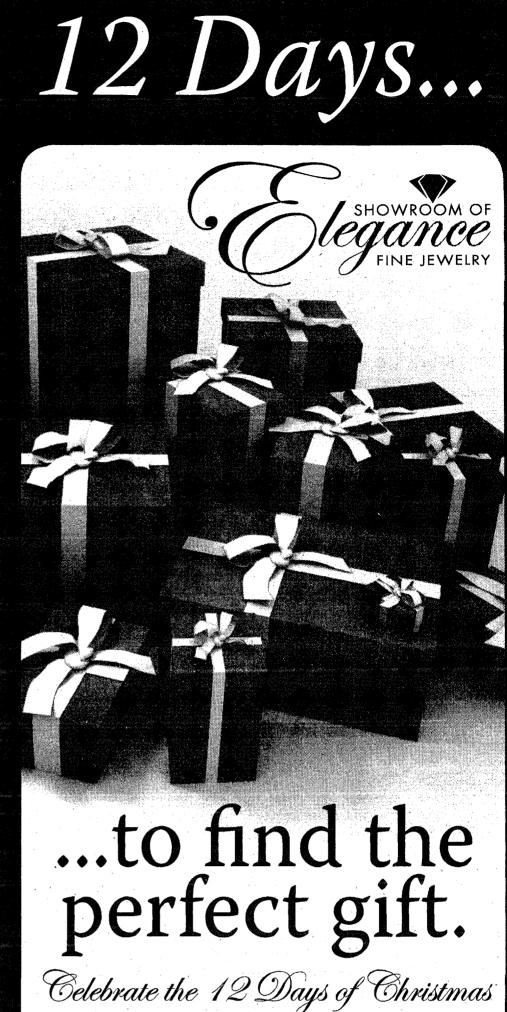
And, added Camilleri, many of the foreclosed homes are in move-in condition.

"Sellers are getting beat up trying to compete with the lower prices," she said. "It's tough to have a bank-owned property as your competitor."

Meanwhile, Mike Stacey - who has lived a few doors down from the foreclosed property since 1980 - said he doesn't believe the vacant house is affecting the price of his home.

"The whole state is like this, it's the ups and downs of the economy," Stacey said. "It's a part of life."

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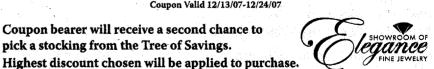
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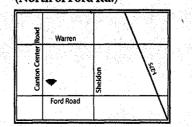
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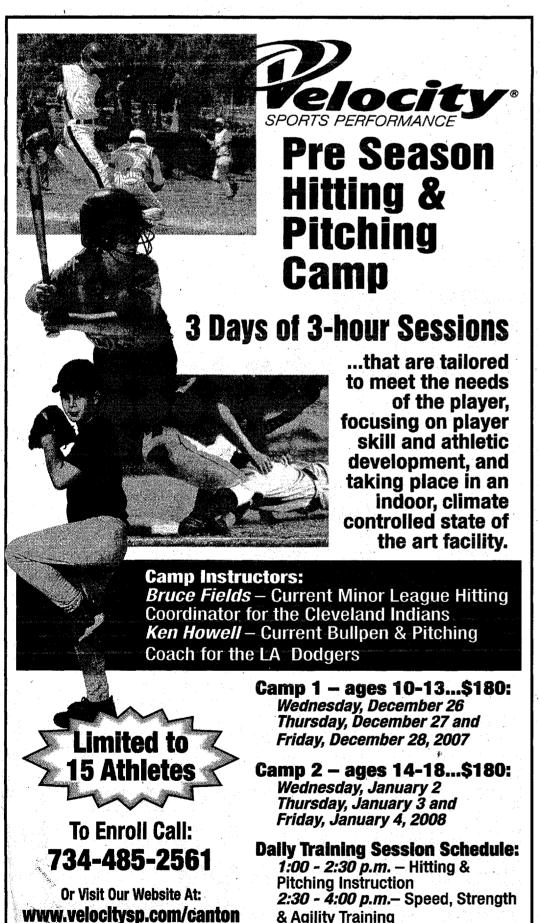


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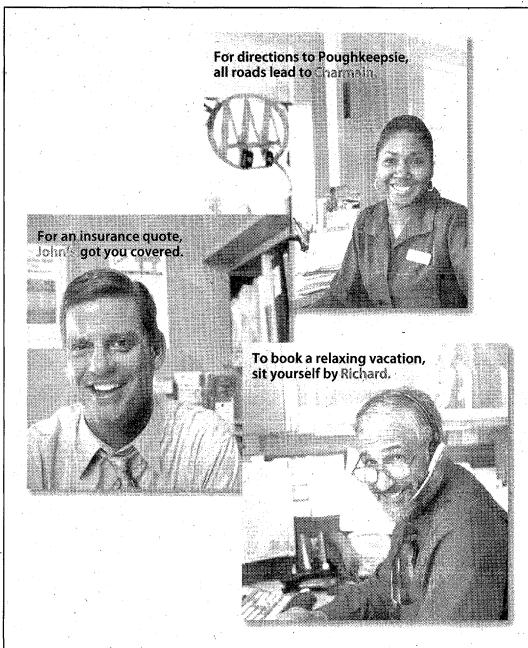
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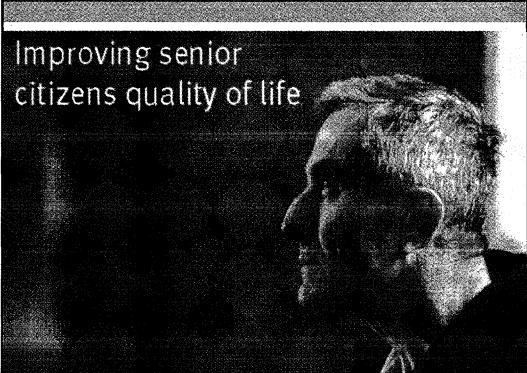
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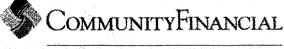
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PUPs dazzle with winter production

Plymouth Uptown Players, the children's theatre group of the Plymouth Community Arts Council, presented its winter production at the Livonia Public Library auditorium.

Fifty-five children ranging in age from 5-13 entertained nearly 700 people over the weekend, each show with almost a full-house capacity. The production was themed "Magical Adventures" this season and combined three ever-popular yet entertaining adaptations of Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs, The Wizard of Oz and Peter Pan. The event was a culmination of an 11-week fall season program.

PCAC's PUPS program was completely restructured and redesigned this.

"Our offering was good in the past, but we wanted to grow the program and make it better, so that one day it can become the best in the area," said PCAC Executive Director Paula Gangopadhyay. "Three major changes were brought in strategically and by design."

Firstly, Gangopadhyay explained, the PCAC hired two associate theatre directors, who are college graduates with degrees in theatre, film, and fine arts. Jaclyn Morrow and Lisa Gibson were hired in September and bring in years of technical theatre experience. Morrow, apart from directing, also has a fine arts background and drew the basic design for the sets used in the plays. She is also a choreographer and dancer.

The PCAC forged a new partnership with Eastern Michigan University's Children's Theatre department and Professor Patricia Zimmer, along with noted actress Gillian Eaton, will be advising PCAC's theatre direc-



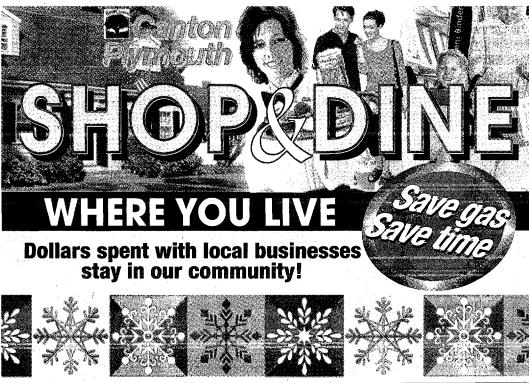
Plymouth Uptown Players, the children's theatre group of the Plymouth Community Arts Council, presented its winter production at a packed Livonia Public Library auditorium.

tors, Gangopadhyay said.

Secondly, the performances were combined under an umbrella theme so that all 55 children performed in three casts but brought forth the dynamism of a single-themed production. In the past, Gangopadhyay explained, PUPS participants have performed separately in individual casts for smaller audiences.

"Lastly I took the major decision of having the performance at an off-site location this season that had a formal stage, lights, curtain as we wanted to give our children the best venue to showcase their potential," Gangopadhyay said. "We brought in high quality sound system and attempted to make the presentation professional."

"Our daughter has been performing for several years and this was simply the best by far," said Brian and Angela Hill, whose daughter was in the production. "The costumes, make-up, sets, sound, music, and the venue. It was just great. I hope this format continues."





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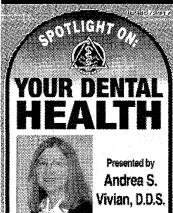
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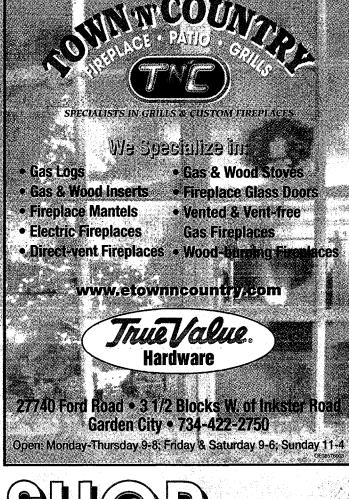
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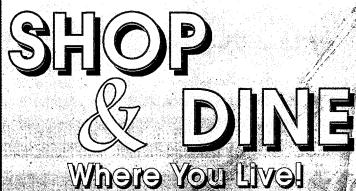
growth and development. Some children grind their teeth because the top and bottom teeth are not properly aligned. As a result, in some extreme circumstances, nighttime grinding and clenching can wear down tooth enamel, chip teeth, increase temperature sensitivity, and cause severe facial pain and jaw problems. If so, proper diagnosis and treatment with a custom-fitted night guard can help.

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Board missed chance to bolster elections

It's good the Plymouth-Canton Board of Education decided to move its elections and saved themselves \$50,000 a year in

What's too bad is they had a chance to save twice that and passed on the opportunity.

The board voted this week to move their elections to a oddyear-May cycle, starting in November 2009. That will drop the cost of elections to \$25,000 per election, using Schoolcraft College as a partner.

Here's the rub: The district could have saved all election costs by moving to an even-year-November schedule, when other elections (state and national) are held, a move that would have saved the district \$100,000 most years.

The arguments against moving the elections to November don't seem strong to us. The idea that voters will be ballotweary in years where there are many races and other issues seems to place little trust in voters being interested in doing what they come to the voting booth to do.

Likewise, the idea a November election opens the race to more influence by political parties seems naive. If political parties are going to get involved in a school board race, they can do it in May just as easily as they can in November.

In one respect, moving to odd-year-May elections makes it lic hearing this week and come back before even easier for a particular faction to gain control of the school board. Under the current system, only two seats are up for grabs most years (every fourth year there's only one). Under the new system, four seats will be open in one election, three in the next, making it easier for a political party to run a "slate" of candidates in an attempt to control the board in one fell swoop.

Another effect of this move is the way it affects voter participation. Historically, far more voters turn out for November elections than they do for off-month elections. You could argue voters are just as welcome at the polls in May as they are in November, and therefore it isn't the cycle that causes voter apathy, it's the voters themselves.

But that's a weak argument. History shows more people turn out when more is at stake. The district shouldn't discount that fact in making this decision.

Board President Judy Mardigian is right when she says the district will have to revisit the issue. State officials are rethinking the options for elections. When they do, they'll have to figure out how to save the most money and get the most people involved.

We'd like to think they'll choose the option that gives them the best of both worlds.

Reduced opportunities

The PCCS school board voted Tuesday to reduce the opportunity for citizens to participate in the board electoral process.

Everything was legal and met the letter of the law Tuesday night, but how many citizens had any idea that there was going to be a vote this week on changing school board elections to odd years in May? Citizens' opportunities to effect change in this district have been cut in half. The annual 10 percent turnout will now move to biannual 10 percent turnout. How does this increase public participation in the schools?

The board orchestrated it well to get only one public comment regarding odd-year May elections. No press release was issued regarding the public hearing. No notice was posted on the Web site about the hearing and asking for input.

If it wasn't for one letter to the editor, there would have been no comments anywhere that the board was favoring odd-year elections in May. The local papers did not publish this aspect of the story. Commentary so far has been regarding the current annual May elections vs. a November election.

I'm sure the meeting notice was posted properly according to the Open Meetings Act. I have too much respect for Dr. Rvan to ever suggest otherwise. The usual practice of posting the agenda on the district Web site on Monday did not happen. It was posted after 6 p.m. Tuesday for the 7 p.m. meeting. This was ironic considering the agenda included an update on the Web site.

The board had the option to have the pubthe end of the month for a vote; but instead rushed through adding an action item to the agenda and voting, making sure that public

commentary would not slow them down. Kudos to Tom Wysocki for being the lone dissenting vote against conducting the vote and changing to odd years in May

> **Larry Martin** Plymouth Township

Smoking policy concern

I'm concerned about smoking policies in restaurants in Michigan. I do not believe that smoking should be permitted in restaurants at all. There are a few restaurants in our area that do not allow smoking anywhere in the facility, but most have smoking and nonsmoking sections.

I think if you are in the nonsmoking section you still can smell and be affected by the smoke. Some restaurants barely even divide the two areas. Often the smoking section is

placed around the bar and in some restaurants the bar is in the middle of the building, which just causes the smoke to blow around the entire restaurant.

LETTERS

Some people are severely allergic to smoke, and cannot go into restaurants that allow smoking. I believe that is completely unfair. People should not have to avoid a certain restaurant because it could cause them health problems.

Second-hand smoke increases adult death rates by 15 percent. No one should have to put their health at risk in order to go out to eat at their favorite restaurants. Second-hand smoke kills approximately 62,000 nonsmokers each year in the United States. By not allowing smoking in restaurants, America could lower the death rates of our citizens by the thousands.

Michigan is one of only seven states that do not have any restrictions on smoking in restaurants in place. Over half of the states in the U.S. have complete bans on smoking in restaurants; many more states have one or more cities that have passed city wide bans on smoking in restaurants and other public places. On Dec. 6 this year the Michigan House of Representatives passed a ban on smoking in the workplace including bars and restaurants, now this must be voted on in the Senate. I hope our senators will vote in favor of this legislation.

> **Casey Chamberlain** Plymouth

sophomore, Salem High School A historic view

Ask your average citizen who this country's greatest president was and you're likely to get a variety of responses — George Washington, John F. Kennedy, Ronald Reagan, Franklin Roosevelt. However, the name Abraham Lincoln will probably be quoted more than any other.

Fast-forward to the year 2007. "No president has carried the power of presidential edict and executive order independently of Congress so far as he did ... It would not be easy to state what (he) conceived to be the limit of his powers."

Yet hold on. This quote is from historian James G. Randall and is attributed to Abraham Lincoln, not George W. Bush. While Lincoln is regarded by most historians to be this nation's greatest president, you wouldn't have known it during his term in office. Lincoln was elected with only 39 percent of the popular vote (the lowest in U.S. history). Under Lincoln's leadership, he suspended the writ of habeas corpus throughout the nation establishing military tribunals

for terrorists; assumed the power to close newspapers (and in fact closed hundreds of them in the North which criticized his policies); and arrested elected officials, including former members of Congress, who opposed

It wasn't pretty. Over time, history has smoothed out the ugly wrinkles of Lincoln's decisions because the Union was ultimately saved and the issue of abolishing slavery came to the forefront. The real fact is that war is hell and it forces those in power to make unpopular decisions.

I am sure the decision to drop atomic bombs on civilian populations would be viewed differently by U.S. citizens had we been Japanese citizens. But then it helped end the war, did it not? Unpopular, arguably immoral and wretched, but someone had to step up and make that unpopular call.

So do we give everyone a free pass for their decisions during war? No, we don't. I am happy that we still have a free press (yet even that is debatable by both sides). This war, this fight, this conflict, whatever you choose to call it, is like nothing else history has ever seen. Have been mistakes been made? Yes. I guess history will ultimately tell how this all plays out, won't it?

Until then, no matter how much some decisions may irk me, I remind myself that we are not dealing with a benevolent enemy, but one who has the ability to kill more U.S. citizens in one deadly terrorist attack than all the lives lost over four years of bloody Civil War. Times have a changed indeed and now is no time for the meek of heart.

Brian Hill Plymouth

Don't buy toys from China

In Linda Chomin's article about the toy recalls from China because of the lead content she discussed ways to protect kids from these toys. All of the suggestions were good, and she even included calling your senators, "... call their U.S. senators and representatives and tell them the Consumer Protection Product Safety Commission needs more funding and staff to protect our children better ...'

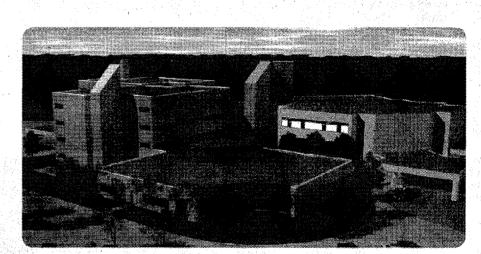
But what about calling them and asking them to stop buying toys from China? Even with more funding, people are capable of making mistakes. The best way is to get toys made is in some other country that had not as many recalls as China toy companies have had. While it may not be cheap, can you really put a price on children's safety?

Katrina Czajkowski



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Fee-only financial advisers avoid conflicts of interest

Dear Rick: I was approached by a financial adviser. He told me that I pay nothing for his services and that he is paid by the different mutual funds to help people like me. I am somewhat suspicious. Should I be?

Your instincts are correct and you have every right to be suspicious. You were really dealing with a financial salesperson not a financial adviser.

All too often, financial salespeople who work on commission do not want to disclose how they are compensated. Mutual funds and other investment companies make it easy for them to hide what the consumer is paying. It appears the person who you are dealing with is a commission-based salesperson. When you invest in one of the mutual funds that he/she is selling, the money comes off the top and goes directly to the salesperson.

When you purchase a commissioned mutual fund, there are two components of the investment, the commission and the amount actually going into the investment. For example, if you invest \$10,000 in a 7 percent commission (loaded) mutual fund, \$700 goes to the salesperson and only \$9,300 of your money is actually invested.

In addition, some mutual funds have 12b-1 fees, additional sales charges assessed on a year-byyear basis through higher management fees. Money comes out of your account in the form of higher management fees and goes directly to the salesperson as additional compensation.

My problem with commissions and 12b-1 fees is they are typically very difficult for the individual consumer to know what they are paying. The mutual fund companies and the financial salespeople do their best to hide these fees from you.

Anyone who has listened to my radio show or read my columns over the years knows I am not a fan of commissions create a conflict of interest. After all, why do you think companies that work on commissions such as mutual fund companies and variable annuities offer their salespersons sales incentives such as free trips to sell their products? Obviously, they want the salesperson to concentrate on the sale not on proper planning for the individual.

As far as I am concerned, when someone deals with someone in the financial world, they shouldn't be dealing with a salesperson. They shouldn't be dealing with someone whose loyalty is to the investment company

instead of to the client. Over the years, I have seen many commissioned people in the financial world. Unfortunately, all too often

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Money Matters

Rick Bloom

because of pressure from employers or a lack of understanding, they are only concerned about selling

products. On the other hand, there are commissioned salespeople

who are up front about commissions and have no problem informing the client how they are compensated. The best commissioned salespeople I know of never worry about commissions. They worry only about taking care of their clients.

Unfortunately, there are too few good commissioned financial advisers.

My firm employees and I recommend fee-only advisers who charge for their services and make no compensation from any product they recommend. When advisers are not burdened by conflicts of interest that commissions create, they can operate for the benefit of the most important person — the client.

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

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Ed Wright, editor . (734) 953-2108 . ewright@hometownlife.com

Robinson's clutch shot sinks Rocks

BY ED WRIGHT STAFF WRITER

Plymouth junior guard Kelsi Robinson found herself between a Rock and a hard place in the closing seconds of Friday might's cross-campus showdown at

With her team trailing 56-55, the clock ticking dangerously close to 0:00 and the Rocks' Sara Stone playing textbook inyour-face defense against her, Robinson nailed an incredible 13-foot, up-and-under, falling-down jumper with seven seconds left to put the Wildcats up 57-56.

After Salem's desperation, lengthof-the-court shot fell way short as the buzzer sounded, the Wildcats celebrated one of the school's most memorable wins with a joyful group hug just in front of their bench.

The final result of the highly entertaining game left Plymouth with a 3-3 mark while the Rocks slipped to 4-1.

Glory and accolades were the last things on Robinson's mind as she watched the ball squeeze through the bottom of the net on her game-winning effort.

No, she had far more important things to think about.

"My first reaction was, 'I have to get up, get down the court and play some defense," a smiling Robinson said a few moments after her thrilling game-winner. "There was still some time left and I didn't want them to score on their last possession."

Robinson improvised slightly when she secured the pass that led to her late-game heroics.

"At first I was going to try to drive to the basket and try to get a layup, but (Stone) came too close to me so I had to go under her for a shot.

"It's so exciting to beat Salem. Our locker room was pretty loud just now. We beat them once last year, but this is a lot more exciting because their record was way better than ours and everybody at school was expecting them to win."

Plymouth coach Richelle Reilly said the ball was in the right player's hands with the clock winding down.

"Kelsi has a great understanding of the moment," said Reilly. "She's aggressive and she's one of those players who likes to take the big shot. She knew we needed a basket and she was going to do whatever it took to get one.

"I still don't know how she made it. She was falling down, the Salem player played great defense. It was unbelievable."

While Robinson sealed the victory, it was junior Shaakira Haywood who put the Wildcats in a position to win. The 6-foot-2 post player netted a career-best 24 points and grabbed 10 rebounds.

Salem junior forward Chelsea Davis

Please see **HOOPS**, **B2**



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Plymouth's Kelsi Robinson, pictured above with the ball during a game earlier this season, was the hero in the Wildcats' last-second win over Salem Friday night.

MU softball camp

Madonna University softball coach Al White is hosting a hitting camp 9 a.m. to 12 noon on Saturday, Dec. 22.

He also wants prospective participants to sign up for Madonna's softball fundamentals camp, of which there will be two sessions. The first is 9-11:30 a.m. on Saturdays beginning Jan. 5 through Jan. 26; the second is set for 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Sundays beginning Jan. 13 through Feb. 3.

The fundamentals camp sessions will focus on all aspects of fast-pitch softball, White said.

For more information, call White (734-432-5783).

Observer grid team coming Dec. 27

The 2007 All-Observer football team will be unveiled in the Thursday, Dec. 27 edition of the Observer. Keep an eye out for it.

Baseball camp

Precision Baseball in Canton will be holding a "Holiday Baseball Camp" Dec. 26-28 from 9 a.m. to noon each day.

The camp, which will be run by Wayne State University head baseball coach Jay Alexander, will focus on fundamental instruction in hitting, pitching, fielding, catching, base-running, injury prevention and strengthand-conditioning.

Campers will receive a Precision Baseball skills camp T-shirt. For more information,

For more information call (734) 459-5921

HVS offerings

High Velocity Sports in Canton will be offering a multitude of events this winter, including the usual soccer, flag football and dodge ball Winter 2 session that is slated for Jan. 2-Feb. 29. For more information on these offerings, visit www.hvsports.com or call (734) HV-SPORT. The deadline for registering is Dec. 16.

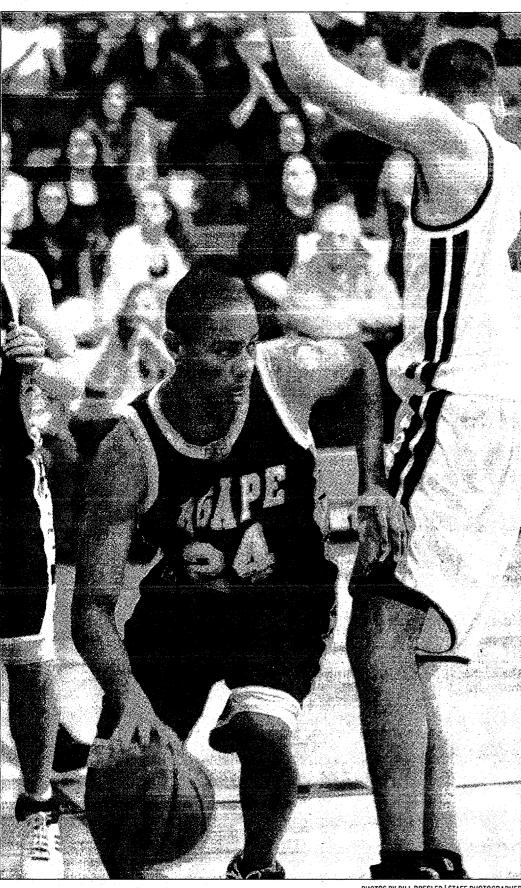
HVS will also host a winter break sports all-sport camp from Dec. 20 to Jan. 4. The half-day price (8 a.m. to noon; or 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.) is \$25 per day while the full-day cost (9 a.m. - 4 p.m.) is \$45 per day. A soccer camp run by Detroit Ignition players will also be available from 1-4 p.m. for \$25. Participants must preregister for the camps; no walk-ups will be allowed.

Among the new programs offered at HVS is a soccer clinic called "Lil" Kickers," which is part of a nationwide contingent with classes for children 18 months through 9 years of age.

The classes start in January and are \$12.50 for each class. Those who sign up for a full season of eight classes will receive a free uniform (soccer shirts and jersey).

The program will be run by certified instructors Christie Rife and Amy Callahan. For more information, call (734) HV-SPORT.

CROSSTOWN SHOWDOWN: Agape vs. PCA



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Canton Agape senior forward Joel Ruffin drives to the basket past Plymouth Christian Academy's Reid Barber during Friday night's game at PCA. Ruffin tallied nine points and 19 rebounds in the Wolverines' 63-42 victory.



Plymouth Christian Academy's Spencer Wiard pulls up for a jumper over Agape's Joel Ruffin during Friday night's MIAC cross-over game at PCA.

ALL SENIORS, ALL THE TIME

Experienced Wolverines clip Eagles

BY ED WRIGHT STAFF WRITER

Every night is "Senior Night" for Canton Agape Christian's boys basketball team.

Amazingly, all nine players on the Wolverines' varsity roster are seniors — and all nine played like it Friday night in their resounding 63-42 road victory against Plymouth Christian Academy.

Led by an incredibly balanced attack, the experience-abundant Wolverines evened their record at 2-2 in front of a near-sellout crowd that displayed a rousing level of enthusiasm from the opening tip to the final buzzer.

Agape's quarter scores mirrored its consistent play on Friday night: 15, 17, 16, 15.

Ty Majeski paced the winners with 15 points, one more than teammate Kevin Reith. Joel Ruffin (nine points, 19 rebounds), Mark Mullett (eight points) and Jared Miller (seven points, 10 boards) also made major contributions to the Wolverines' second straight triumph.

The brothers Zinn — senior
Trevor and junior Brent — both
tallied 12 points for the Eagles,
who also got an eight-point, fiverebound night from senior Reid
Barber.
"I thought we were your good

"I thought we were very good defensively tonight," said Agape coach Keith Anleitner. "Most of the shots PCA took were contested.

Please see **SHOWDOWN, B3**

PCA lady cagers soar over Agape

BY ED WRIGHT STAFF WRITER

In the third year of head coach Carol Gerulis's tenure, the Plymouth Christian Academy girls basketball team is starting to play on the same page.

The way the Eagles have performed in their first six games, the 2007-08 season may be a best-seller.

PCA improved to 5-1 on Friday with a 56-30 victory over visiting Canton Agape Christian. The setback dropped the Wolverines to 2-1.

"We rebounded the ball well and did a good job of getting the

GIRLS HOOPS

ball up the court quickly," said Gerulis. "We still missed too many layups early in the game, but overall I thought we played well.

"This is my third year here, so the kids are starting to figure it out what we're trying to do. Everybody's on the same page and reading from the same book."

Senior guard Meghan Polera sparked the winners' fast-breaking offensive attack with 14 points.

Junior Autumn McKenzie

added 11 points and Megan Greve chipped in with 10.

Two of the Wolverines' six players — sophomore Brooke Purcell and eighth-grader Ayanna Martin — shared the scoring lead with 13 points each.

PCA led 10-7 after one quarter before extending its advantage to 25-12 at the intermission. Agape cut its deficit slightly to 34-22 after three quarters before the Eagles exploded for 22 fourthquarter points.

The Eagles drained 10-of-17 free throws while Agape hit 6-of-10 shots from the stripe.

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Plymouth Christian Academy's Brooke Williams drives to the basket past Agape's Folake Olojo during Friday night's 56-30 PCA victory.

-Robinson's cousin — matched Haywood's production by compiling 20 points and 13 rebounds before fouling out with 12.7 seconds left. Davis was a force in the second half despite playing with three or four fouls throughout the final 16 minutes.

"I thought Chelsea played very well tonight," said Salem coach Fred Thomann. "She is really coming along. Mitch (senior guard Alaya Mitchell) had a good game, too.

"Overall, it was a hard-fought game. We had moments when we really played well, but then we had some breakdowns, too. They made one more play than we did — that's the bottom line."

The Rocks carried a 26-24 advantage into the half thanks to Rachel Norman's threepointer from just beyond the top of the key with 0:01 showing on the clock.

The contest was deadlocked at 38-all after three quarters.

Plymouth appeared to gain some breathing room with 1:40 to play when a nice inside move

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by Haywood gave the 'Cats a 53-50 advantage.

Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, December 16, 2007

However, Mitchell calmly stroked a triple from the top of the key with 1:25 left to knot the game at 53-all.

Following a missed Plymouth shot, Salem grabbed a 55-53 lead with 42 seconds left when a cutting Victoria Brotz snared a slick pass from Davis and converted a layup.

Robinson swished two free throws 10 seconds later to make it 55-all.

Salem's final lead -56-55– came with 21 seconds to go when Davis made 1-of-2 free

Reilly called a timeout with 18 ticks left to set up the final play.

"I was supposed to cut toward the free-throw line, but I went the opposite way toward the baseline," Robinson explained. "Everything just fell together after that.'

Mitchell finished with 19 points for the Rocks, who also received six points and 10 boards from Stone.

Plymouth shot well from the field, connecting on 25-of-48 attempts (52 percent). The Wildcats converted 6-of-10 free

players!

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Salem drained 25-of-64 field goals (39 percent), but struggled from the charity stripe, making just 4-of-13.

The Rocks return to action Tuesday when they travel across the parking lot to face Canton.

The opening tip is set for 7 p.m. Plymouth is set to host Walled

Lake Central on Tuesday at 7 W.L. NORTHERN 24, CANTON

23: On Friday at Northern, the Knights' Whitney-Tower Woods made two free throws with four seconds left to hand the Chiefs a heart-breaking setback.

The loss dropped Canton to 1-4 while Northern improved

"The kids played hard and competed," said Canton coach Brian Samulski. "We just couldn't make any shots, especially in the fourth quarter. You're not going to win many games when you score three points in the fourth.

The Knights secured their final possession with 50 seconds left, but couldn't penetrate the Chiefs' defense. "We played great defense in

the last minute," said Samulski. "They had to call two time outs - the first with 24 seconds left and the other with seven seconds left. Those two points were Tower-Woods' only two of the night. She's usually their leading scorer; so Leslie Weisz did a great job of defending her."

Northern led 7-6 after one quarter before the Chiefs rebounded to grab a 14-11 halftime lead.

Canton led 20-15 with eight minutes left before the Knights outscored it 9-3 down the stretch.

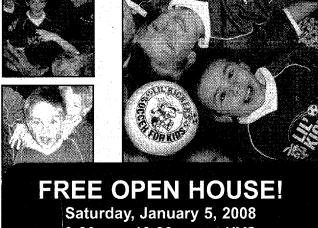
Senior forward Baylee Hollowell paced the Chiefs with 11 points and 17 rebounds. Freshman Kayla Bridges also played well, netting seven points.

Katie Hockstad led the winners with 11 points.

Canton canned 7-of-11 free throws while Northern hit all six of theirs.

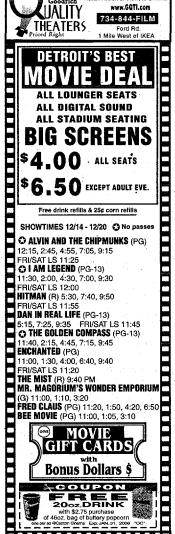


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Strong start lifts 'Cats to first win

BY ED WRIGHT

Following two good practices, Plymouth's boys basketball team proved to be too good for Milford Friday night.

The Wildcats entered the win column for the first time this season when they stampeded the Mavericks, 67-54, to improve to 1-3. Milford slipped to 2-1.

"The bottom line is we had two of our best practices of the season on Wednesday and Thursday after getting whooped on Tuesday night," said Plymouth coach Tom Van Wagoner. "The boys worked hard and really bore

A pair of seniors led the winners: Brandon Roberts, who netted 22 points and six rebounds; and Garrett Rebain, who had a career-high 20 points to go along with his six boards. In his first career start. Rebain hit one triple and nailed 5-of-6 free throws.

"Garrett's not real tall or real quick, but he works hard every second he's out there," said Van Wagoner. "I keep telling the kids that there's all kinds of playing time out there for the players who are willing to work hard. Garrett's proof of that."

Senior guards Navraj Sandhu (12 points and six rebounds) and Dan Jeong (eight points) also had a solid nights for Plymouth.

Jordan Kidd was the most-productive Maverick as he registered 12 points.

The Wildcats surged to a 14-5 first-quarter lead and 38-15 halftime advantage. Milford whittled its deficit to 50-30 with eight minutes to play before cutting the final margin to 13 with a barrage of on-target three-point missiles during garbage time.

"They hit some bombs at the end to make it close," said Van Wagoner

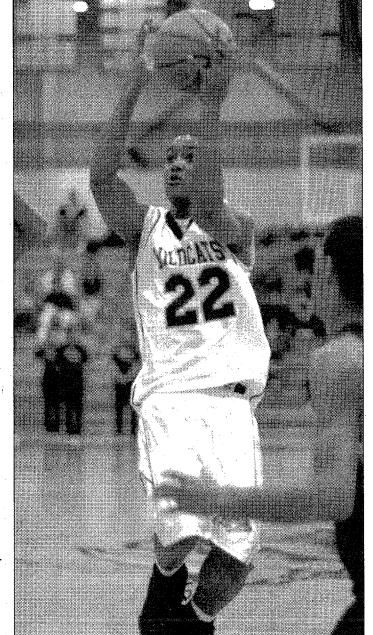
The Wildcats nailed 16-of-23 free throws while Milford connected on just 6-of-19 from the

SOUTH LYON 52, CANTON 41:

On Friday at Canton, the Lions overcame a 16-13 deficit after one quarter to post an impressive non-conference road win.

South Lyon improved to 4-0 with the triumph while the Chiefs slipped to 2-2. The Lions led 23-21 at the half and 35-29 with eight minutes to play.

Neil Sharma paced Canton



Plymouth senior guard Brandon Roberts scored 22 points in the Wildcats' 67-54 victory over Milford Friday night.

BOYS PREP HOOP

with 11 points and seven rebounds. Chris Bailey added nine points and eight boards.

Zach Short led the Lions with 13 points. Eric Wedesky chipped in with 12.

'We got off to a great start with 16 first-quarter points," said Canton coach Dan Colligan. "We had a seven-point lead at one point. But we couldn't really get a good run out offensively after the first quarter.

"South Lyon is a very good basketball team. They play extremely p.m.

hard and they're well-coached. They took away what we do best drive the ball."

South Lyon extended its lead to 10 early in the fourth quarter with back-to-back triples. Undaunted, the Chiefs responded with a pair of threes of their own from Kyle Biega and Sharma to get to within four. However, that was as close as they would get.

Canton shined at the free throw line, canning 7-of-8. South Lyon connected on 8-of-13 from the stripe.

The Chiefs travel to Salem to take on the Rocks Tuesday at 7

Men's Night '07

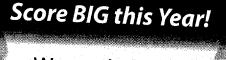
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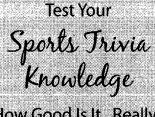
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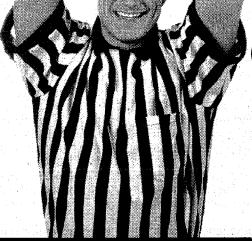


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Ignition SHOWDOWN bites Sharks, 22-6

The Detroit Ignition (6-2) defeated the expansion Orlando Sharks (0-10), 22-6, Friday night at Amway Arena in Orlando.

The victory improved the Ignition to 6-2 while the snakebit Sharks slipped to 0-10.

The Ignition's assault started early as Worteh Sampson and Hewerton Moreira both scored two-point goals within the first minute of play. Midfielders Ryan Mack and Vahid Assadpour added two-point scores of their own to put the Ignition up 8-2 at the end of the period.

Defenders Droo Callahan and Josh Rife scored four more points for Detroit in the second period to put the Ignition up 12-4 at halftime.

Moreira scored his 100th and 101st career points at 4:28 of the third quarter with a twopoint score off an assist from defender Jonathan Greenfield. Two minutes later, Sampson scored the 25th goal of his Major Indoor Soccer League career to bring the score to 16-6.

Ignition midfielder Doug Rice closed out the quarter with a two-point goal off an assist from reigning MISL Most Valuable Player Jamar

Moreira and Sampson would both finish the night with a hat trick, as each scored a twopoint goal in the game's final stanza.

KNOW THE SCORE check out the numbers in

"Offensively, the key to our success was getting the ball inside to our big people. We worked the ball inside-out. which springboarded our offense into other types of

Anleitner was especially impressed by the play of Ruffin, who missed a doubledouble by just one point and a 20-rebound night by just one carom. The senior forward probably would have had both had he not missed a large chunk of the second half after losing a contact lens.

"Joel's only about 6-1, but

he plays much bigger than that," said Anleitner. "He has long arms and he can get up. I thought he had an exceptional game tonight."

Anleitner said the key to beating the Eagles is slowing down Trevor and Brent Zinn, who entered Friday's game with scoring averages of 20 and 18 points, respectively.

"You have to stop the Zinns if you want to beat Plymouth Christian," said Anleitner. "They're both very good ball players who can take it to the hole. We did a good job of stopping their penetration tonight.'

Agape led 15-12 after one quarter and 32-21 at the half.

The Zinn-led Eagles put together a mini-rally early in the third quarter when they cut their deficit to 35-27 thanks to a Brent Zinn free throw and jumper along with a deep triple from Trevor

However, the Wolverines countered with an 8-1 spurt to pad their lead to 43-28. Terrell Pierce ignited the game-deciding run with a top-of-the-key three and

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Majeski capped it with fastbreak layup.

"There's only about 35 to 40 boys at the high school and nine of them are on the basketball team," said Anleitner. "What are the odds that they're all seniors? I've never had a team of all seniors in all the years I've coached.

"They're fun to coach not just because they're good, hard-working basketball players, but because they're all

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s Masimus (Genes Onco

good kids."

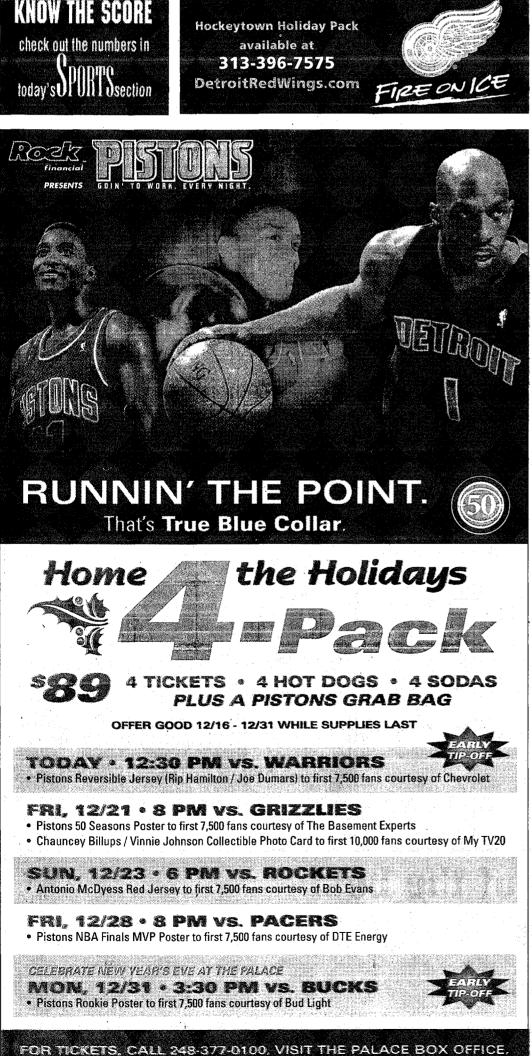
Agape hit 22-of-55 field goals (40 percent) and 15-of-27 free throws (55 percent).

The Eagles connected on just 12-of-52 field goals (23 percent) while swishing 17-of-29 freebies (58 percent).

The Wolverines committed 22 turnovers while the Eagles registered 20 miscues.

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Experts offer tips on sailing through the season stress-free

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN STAFF WRITER

It's no wonder Dr. Jackie Odom is seeing more patients under stress. All of the shopping, parties and family gatherings leave little time to sleep, eat properly and exercise. According to the Beaumont Hospital psychologist, healthy living is essential to balance

the demands of the holidays.

"You have to look at the sources of stress, the increased commitments and responsibilities. The other big source of stress is financial. As much as you might want to give, there might be restrictions. People can't afford to give as they used to given the economy in Michigan. They're getting themselves into debt by buying more than they can afford," said Odom, a licensed marriage and family psychologist. "If there's family conflict they're having to confront that. Dealing with loss at a time when you're supposed to be happy creates stress. If you already have depression when you're supposed to be happy that creates a stress.

As director of psychology for Beaumont Weight Center, Odom helps patients reduce their intake of food and alcohol. That's especially difficult when holiday parties offer calorie-laden beverages and trays of goodies.

"Stress eating is the worst thing you can do," said Odom of Bloomfield Hills. "They need to identify the sources

of stress, the issue of loneliness for people who don't have families. The second step is to develop strategies to try to minimize stress. It's important to develop a support system, if not your family, make a family of choice. Surround yourself with friends who are caring, a church group, volunteer to serve at a soup kitchen, deliver gifts to a children's unit of a hospital, just wrap packages at a store to get yourself out."

STRESS FACTOR

According to Odom, stress is related to 80 to 90 percent of illnesses.

"Stress decreases immune system functioning making us susceptible to colds, etc. There's a whole list of symptoms like headaches, pain syndromes, digestive problems that may be exasperated with stress," said Odom. "It also increases cholesterol, hypertension. Studies have shown that fat building up in the abdomen can be related to stress. The body is designed to deal with chronic stress as if there's a food shortage so a lot of this make sense.

Odom says it helps to raise spirits by focusing on what you have to be grateful for and writing it down.

"I suggest to patients during the holidays to look at the year that's just passed, look at the goals you've accomplished and what goals you still need to work on for 2008, all the different areas of your life. Look at trying to balance yourself as Holiday hassles



best as you can," said Odom, who is challenged by gift buying for her 9-year-old daughter's teachers and preparing to visit relatives in Florida with her daughter and husband.

"I exercise, walk a lot on an indoor track every day and eat healthfully," said Odom. "I enjoy spending time with my daughter. We have two puppies who I love walking and I enjoy helping the Michigan Humane Society to support

cancer research and trying to raise funds."

Sandra Finkel meditates early in her day and then again later in the evening. Throughout the year, she shares stress relieving techniques in prevention and rehabilitation classes for the cardiovascular medicine division at University of Michigan Hospital in Ann Arbor.

"There are a lot of links between stress and heart

disease. The stress alone can increase risk factors," said Finkel, a stress management specialist and manager of stress management services at the University of Michigan Hospital. "The first thing is to recognize how much we increase our stress through our thoughts. We need to have more of an awareness that we're creating more stress by worrying, holding onto the

WAYS TO COPE

Finkel suggests practicing techniques such as relaxation, deep breathing, meditation, journaling and imagery, and to eat more fruits, vegetables and whole grains, lean protein sources like legumes, and drink plenty of water. Finkel exercises during her lunch hour in the fitness center at work.

"Plan activities according to your values. That may mean saying no to going to the party you hate if you want more family time, more time to yourself, said Finkel, who celebrated Hanukkah with her husband's family in Chicago. Finkel works full time and is the mother of two children, ages 10 and 14. "And let whatever actually happens be fine. You make your plans but you have to let go and recognize what the reality is. Find aspects in every situation to savor and enjoy. Young children have this wonderment that we can adopt. There are a lot of strategies I teach people that don't actually take a whole lot of their time like breathing for five minutes with your eyes closed."

Finkel teaches a six-week stress management class beginning 5:30-7 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 16. The cost is \$118.

Martha Kimball teaches beginning meditation 6-7:30 p.m. Wednesdays starting Jan. 23 for four weeks (\$82). For information about either class, call (734) 998-5679.

Ichomin@hometownlife.com (734) 953-2145

MEDICAL DATEBOOK

December Flu shot clinics

University of Michigan Health System's Michigan Visiting Nurses offers flu clinics throughout the area in December. Flu shots \$33, pneumonia shots \$84. Clinics open to public, most limited to age 12 and older. Call 888-547-7295 or visit www.umvn.org.

Flu shot clinics

9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday at Livonia Urgent Care, 37595 Seven Mile, (734) 542-6100, and Western Wayne Urgent Care, 2050 Haggerty, Suite 140, Canton, (734) 259-0500. The cost is \$25, but covered for those with Medicare.

Flu shots

Visiting Nurse Association of Southeast Michigan is providing flu shots (\$25) and pneumonia shots (\$40) at Oakland and Wayne County locations. For weekly listings, call (800) 296-8660 or visit www.vna.org. Homebound service also available. \$40 service fee applies that is not covered by insurance. Must have a physician's prescription. Call (800) 882-5720,

Ext. 8752. **Holiday cards**

The American Lung Association of Michigan is selling holiday cards to support lung health research, education and advocacy. To see samples, visit www.buyholidaycards.com. For details, call (248) 784-2030 or (800) 543-5864.

UPCOMING CHADD meeting

Children & Adults with Attention-Deficit Disorder meet Monday, Jan. 7, at Way Elementary on W. Long Lake Rd. east of Telegraph, Bloomfield Hills. Registration begins at 7 p.m. for the meeting from 7:30-9 p.m. The Parent Group will have Fran Parker PhD, Mary Jo Schuster and Kevin Roberts moderating a panel of college students who have been successful in college managing their AD/HD. This session is open for parents to bring teens or pre-teens. There will be a simultaneous Adult informal support group in a different room. Free to CHADD members, \$5 donation per non-member families. If school is closed due to inclement weather, the phone line at (248) 988-6716 will indicate if meeting is cancelled. The Web site is www.

Fibromyalgia support The Metro Fibromyalgia and CFS

chadd.net/527.

Support Group features speaker Dr. Michael Hsu 1-3 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 10, at Merriman Road Baptist Church on 2055 Merriman, south of Ford road. Hsu, a clinical lecturer and research fellow in the department of physical medicine and rehabilitation at the University of Michigan, is part of Healing Through Affective Self-Awareness in Fibromyalgia, a randomized control trial with Providence internist Dr. Howard Schubiner. Donations are accepted. The group meets monthly on the second Thursday. For more information, call Lucy Rowley at (734) 462-1768.

Joint replacement seminars

To educate community about joint replacement options Thursday, Jan. 24, at the Center for Joint Replacement at St. Mary Mercy Hospital, 36475 Five Mile at Levan, Livonia. No charge. To register or for information, call (734) 655-2400.

CARE House of Oakland County

Circle of Friends holds its annual fund-raising luncheon Tuesday, Jan. 29, begins at noon, preceded by a jewelry show from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. by designer Sharon Meyer, at The Townsend Hotel, Birmingham. A portion of proceeds will be donated to CARE House. Speaker is Naomi Griffith, a consultant on child welfare issues, a storyteller and author of Red Clay and Vinegar: Looking at Family Through the Eyes of a Southern Child. She uses humor and her own experiences to challenge and inspire audiences in business; education, juvenile justice, mental health, child abuse prevention and family violence systems. Circle of Friends patron level tickets are \$150, luncheon tickets \$75. Call

ONGOING

New parents support group Meets at 10 a.m. on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month at DMC Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital, 1 William Carls Drive, Commerce. For details, call (248) 858-7766.

H.U.G.S. support group

(248) 332-7173.

Help, Understanding and Grief Support Group and counseling for parents who have suffered a pregnancy or newborn loss, meet 7-9 p.m. on the third Thursday of the month, at Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital, 1 William Carls Drive, Commerce. For information, call (248) 937-4847. There is no pre-registration required.

Hospice volunteers needed Looking for caring volunteers to pro-

vide in-home companionship visits to patients with life-limiting illnesses and/or respite support for their caregivers and families. Weekday availability preferred. St. John Hospice provides services in Wayne, Oakland, Macomb and St. Clair counties. Mileage reimbursement available. For information, call (800) 248-2298 or visit www.stjohn.org/Hospice.

AA support group

Alcoholics Anonymous and the Al-Anon (for family and friends) groups meet 10 a.m. every Sunday, at Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital, 1 William Carls Drive, Commerce. For information, call (248) 706-1020. No pre-registration required.

Volunteer training

Heartland Hospice Services is looking for caring and compassionate individuals for hospice volunteer training to provide companionship, support and friendly visits for patients and their caregivers. Evening and daytime classes available. Office support is also needed. Call (800) 770-9859.

Cancer support group

The Charach Cancer Treatment Center at DMC Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital hosts a support group for anyone dealing with cancer 7-8:30 p.m. on the first and third Monday of the month, at Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital, 1 William Carls Drive, Commerce. For information, call (248) 937-5163.

Thyroid cancer support group

Free support group meets monthly and is open to all thyroid cancer patients and survivors as well as their family members and friends. For summer meeting dates or information, call Gwynne at (248) 740-9759.

ONGOING

Our Body exhibit

Our Body exhibit tickets \$24.95, \$22.95 seniors, \$19.95 children. Children ages 12 and under must be accompanied by adult. Advance tickets on sale at www. detroitsciencecenter.org. Exhibit has been extended to Jan. 6, at Detroit Science Center. As part of the extension, five new full human body specimens will be on display. For information, call (313) 577-8400 or visit www.detroitsciencecenter.org.

Volunteers needed

Sandcastles grief support program for children and teens needs volunteers for Rochester, Southfield, Livonia and other sites. Sponsored by Hospices of Henry Ford Health System, the programs meetings are held biweekly. Sandcastles also offers a weekend bereavement camp in August which is in need of volunteers. Call (313) 874-6881.

Blood pressure hard to control in winter, new research shows

exercise dur-

months.

Peggy from

ing the winter

Romulus e-mails

asking what can

she do to relieve

the pain from

osteoarthritis.

can not cure

osteoarthritis.

Peggy, you

Neil from Plymouth e-mails asking if the cooler weather could be affecting his blood pressure.

Neil, new studies have shown that blood pressure can be harder to control in the winter. Researchers studied more than 440,000 Americans with hypertension in 15 cities. They found fewer people saw their blood pressure levels return to normal when treated in the winter months compared to the summer. In fact, about 60 percent of the patients saw a change in blood pressure control in the winter. Experts believe the cause could be weight gain, different eating habits and less



Peter's **Principles**

Peter Nielsen

but there are some things you can do to slow its progression, reduce pain and improve your function. The first thing you need to do is exercise. I know you are saying: Peter you are crazy! I

can't even move. But exercise will help ease pain and stiffness and maintain mobility. Exercise will also strengthen your muscles and improve flexibility, balance and overall health. I would recommend an exercise routine which includes cardiovascular exercise, some light weight training and stretching.

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 Peter Nielsen's Personal Training Club in West Bloomfield or Nielsen's Town Center Health Club in Southfield.



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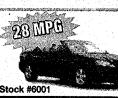
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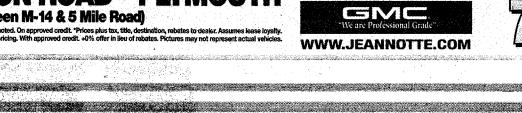
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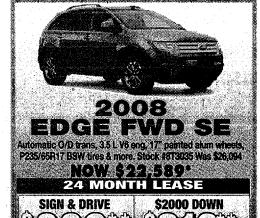
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The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

www.hometownlife.com

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

Friend's stealing costs everyone

My friend did something, like stealing. What should I say to him? Should I still be his friend? **Good Friend**

Garden City It sounds like you don't like what your friend did. Good for you! It's important not to do things that break the law. Breaking the law has consequences



Monica Fulton

immediate (like getting caught by the police), but some of them are far removed from us. Take shoplifting, for example . when someone steals clothes from a store, that person causes the price of the pair of jeans you

want to buy to increase. Why? Because businesses are in the business of making money. If a department store loses inventory due to shoplifting, then they have to increase the price on the other items in their inventory in order to make up the money they lost (because they can't sell the item that was stolen). Plus, they have to hire more security to help reduce their loss in inventory. But, more security costs more money. Where will the company get this extra money to pay for added security? From the extra money you and I pay for the items the store increased prices on! So tell your friend that by stealing or shoplifting, he's costing you more money! Then you can tell him that you won't be friends with someone who continues to

I know it's hard to fall in and out of love. What do you do when the person you loved doesn't love you anymore and they tell you they've moved on?

Lost in Love **Garden City**

break the law!

I'm sorry to hear that this relationship didn't work out. It's very painful, isn't it? Unfortunately, I can't say anything that will make the pain disappear overnight. It will take time ... but, I can tell you that it's important to focus on yourself during this tough time. Your self-esteem can take a big hit when you're rejected by someone you care deeply about. Remind yourself every day that you're a good person. Look in the mirror and tell yourself that the perfect match for you is just around the corner. Try not to focus on how perfect you thought the relationship was. Besides, it couldn't have been all that perfect if it didn't work out! If you spend too much time thinking about it, you might miss the perfect match. In short, it he's moved on, you need to move on too!

My parents always say I run my mouth too much. How can I control my mouth and still get

Please see FULTON, C3

Special childhood memories sought

Do you still think about the toy train you received one year as a kid or a doll house your dad made? The Observer Newspapers wants to hear about the special gift you received as a child for Christmas.

On Dec. 23, the Hometownlife section will feature our readers' memories. Send your story to hgallagher@hometownlife. com or The Observer Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150, Attn: Hugh Gallagher. The deadline for receipt is Monday, Dec. 17.

Magical evening

Performance troupe fills evening with wonder

> BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN STAFF WRITER

tand-up comedy, sleight of hand and razor blade swallowing magically blend into one act when members of The Wonder Merchants speak about their performance troupe. Each of the men bring their special form of entertainment to The Village Theater in Canton as part of a New Year's Eve celebration that includes a late night buffet and champagne toast at

Although they've never appeared together before, the troupe of four friends have been rehearsing a program that takes their different talents and turns them into a night of wonder to match their name. Andrew Dakota has been a full-time magician for 25 years. Ron Aldrich was awarded the Order of Merlin by the Brotherhood of Magicians for a career spanning

more than four

decades. Craig Alan uses walk around magic to entertain the crowds at Albert's on the Alley every Friday night in Garden City. His first memory of wanting to do tricks goes back to a Cub Scout meeting at age 9 or 10 when a magician performed. Alan combines his improvisation training at Second City with psychology and theater classes at Schoolcraft College to develop his brand of performance.

In addition to corporate functions, awards banquets, employee appreciation days, holiday and house parties, graduations and weddings. Alan entertains at Malarkey's

Please see MAGIC, C2



Pooch (left back), Craig Alan, Ron Aldrich, and Andrew Dakota perform as The Wonder Merchants on New Year's Eve in The Village Theater at Cherry Hill in Canton.

NEW YEAR'S EVE MAGIC

What: The Wonder Merchants performance troupe rings in the New Year

When: 9 p.m. Monday, Dec. 31 (doors open at 8:30 p.m., Afterglow until 12:30 a.m.) Where: The Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill at

Tickets: \$45 includes performance, late night buffet and champagne toast at midnight. Call (734) 394-5300 or visit www.cantonmi.org/villagetheater.

Ridge, Canton



Craig Alan does card tricks for the crowd every Friday night at Albert's on the Alley in Garden City.

Retreat makes great gift for Christian women



Women of all ages enjoy the peaceful and spiritually uplifting atmosphere at St. Mary's Retreat House.

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN STAFF WRITER

Marilyn Olszewski has the perfect solution to gift giving dilemmas for women this Christmas - a weekend at St. Mary's Retreat House in Oxford. The peaceful setting is actually the Motherhouse grounds of the Dominican Sisters, but the two-night and two-day stays are open to all faiths not just Catholics.

"It's well worth the time and money. It's a good way to start off the new year, what an excellent Christmas gift if you don't know what to give somebody, your wife or friend," said Olszewski of Plymouth Township.

Olszewski is coordinating the Jan. 11-13 retreat with the Rev. John Martin Shimkus on Learning Forgiveness, Learning Christ. Throughout the weekend, women will have the opportunity to attend conferences with the priest between times for reflection and prayer. For more

Please see RETREAT, C3

ST. MARY'S **RETREAT HOUSE**

What: Weekend retreats Where: St. Mary's Retreat House, 775 W. Drahner Road, Oxford Cost: \$150, includes lodging on Friday-Saturday nights, and five meals during the weekend. Call (248) 628-3894.



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Need a Santa? Troy man will 'ho, ho, ho' at no cost for nonprofits

STAFF WRITER

When Pat Grady performs a hearty "ho, ho," the 52-year-old Troy man sounds just like a North Pole native.

And when he dons his new red

coat, with jingle bell-studded boots and a fluffy white beard, he looks the part, too. "Betsy Reich, one of our

members is heavily involved in Childhelp and she sent out an e-mail looking for a Santa for an event they have coming up," said Grady, a member of the Birmingham Rotary Club.

He answered his fellow Rotarian's call for help and bought a Santa suit online, figuring he'd extend his services to other nonprofit groups for free and to private events for a donation to Childhelp, a national organization with offices in Southfield that works to prevent and treat

"I put some ads online at craigslist and on a couple of radio station Web sites. I had one animal rescue call me. Hopefully people will spread the word," Grady said.

Jeffrey H. Miller, M.D.

Dr. Miller has over

12 years experience

in treating venous

diseases and has

received many

honors and awards

including being

named one of

'Detroit's Top Docs'

by Hour Magazine.

Date of Birth

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Although he's had no formal training in portraying Santa Claus, he's been doing his homework, downloading tips from the

"One tip was to get a quality suit," he said, pointing out that he had done just that. "Probably

one of the biggest 'don'ts' is don't promise anything, especially pets."

He'll tell youngsters that animals "don't travel well in the sleigh," and will suggest they talk to their parents about their

There are probably a lot of things I haven't thought of yet," he said, adding that he might "fly by the seat of my pants" during his first Santa perfor-

Those pants will be a few sizes smaller than what Grady wore the last time he portrayed Santa several years ago at the elementary school his children attended. Now 21 and 19, the Michigan State

University students have seen a photo of their dad in his new Santa suit, but haven't watched him perform the char-

Grady said his wife, Nancy, supports his Christmas time endeavor and plans to accompany him to his Childhelp gig.

"Oh, she's all for it. I tried to talk her into being Mrs. Claus, she didn't want to invest another \$500 to get a quality suit. By the time you get most of the stuff, it's about \$500," said Grady, who's proud to say he needed padding to create Santa's ample waist.

"I needed the whole nine yards. I just got the suit after Thanksgiving. I thought this year might be slow and by next year it will

start to snowball. This is all about the kids." Arrange for Grady to play Santa Claus by calling him at (248) 229-7612 or by e-mailing him at gradypat@juno.com.

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Pooch works alone. The stand-up entertainer has spent years practicing to swallow fire and razor

in Southgate. He began mesmer-

izing the crowds at the Westland

location of Malarkey's about six

years ago. After the holidays he

at Albert's on the Alley to give

plans to resume the talent shows

other entertainers the opportunity

to perform. Between acts, he and

John Thiede, a member of their

improv troupe 94 East, perform.

At Albert's on the Alley Alan

goes around to customers' tables,

pass until food orders arrive.

early teens and came back in

my late high school years," said

Alan, a graduate of John Glenn

High School in Westland. "My

job is to keep people entertained.

bring something different to the

atmosphere with card tricks to

coin effects to mind reading. I

magic, take advantage of basic

human behavior, the usual way

people would think. I ask a person

to think of a favorite number up to

10, but not 7. Kids usually say 5 or

8, adults 3 or 4. You have to learn

to think on your feet, take a situa-

tion and roll with it and get people

While much of the show is

bers calling people up on stage,

interactive with the troupe mem-

to interact with you.'

use psychology, misdirection and

entertaining and making the time

"Magic has always been kind

of a hobby that tapered off in my

"It's a unique variety show from razor blade eating to poetry, mentalism such as mind reading, telepathy, and the audience will be allowed to participate," said Pooch, a local funeral director who prefers not to reveal his name. "Other than razor blade or fire eating, it's mostly geared to comedy and enjoying the start of the new year. Every element . of the show is meant to amaze or amuse.

Pooch is more of a humorist than a magician. He bought his first trick at a magic shop in Las Vegas.

"I found out it wasn't about the trick," said Pooch of Farmington Hills. "It's about entertaining people, that's why many magicians later turn to acting or stand-up comedy. Ultimately the audience doesn't remember the trick. They remember the performer. I do a lot of gags in my show instead of magic tricks. We all enjoy having a laugh, seeing a smile on someone's face.

"We're incorporating four different acts into one show. There's no blue material. I think it's going to be a fun night. We're merchants of wonder, men of wonder for hire."

For details about the talent shows at Albert's on the Alley, call Craig Alan at (734) 546-5207. For information about The Wonder Merchants, visit www.wondermerchants.com.

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

Items needed for soldiers and their pets

The Canton Petco is sponsoring a drive to collect items for the K-9 Off Base Housing Program for Military Pets, and the men and women who serve in the American military. The fund-raiser continues to Monday, Dec. 31, at Petco on the south side of Ford Rd., west of Lily.

Donna Law of Mutts & Mutts Rescue of Redford is asking for donations of travel size deodorant, hand sanitizer. baby wipes, shampoo, tooth paste and brushes, tampons and sanitary napkins, Rolaids, cough drops, hard candy (no chocolate) shaving cream, razors, package vitamins, powder drink mixes, playing cards, pens and notebooks, AT & T calling cards, white men's socks, and monetary donations to help ship packages.

The K-9 Off Base Housing Program currently has 5-dogs that are being cared for by Mutts & Mutts. Because many military families have no one to care for their pets while overseas, Law started the program which is in need of Pro Plan Lamb and Rice/Chix and Rice Dry Dog Food, wet canned food (Pedigree chopped beef), blankets and sheets, rugs, bleach, paper towels, 13-gallon garbage bags, brewer's yeast and garlic tablets, squeaky toys, and adult dog vitamins.

In August Law returned two dogs to a sergeant returning after an 18-month deployment in Iraq.

All donations are tax deductible. For more information, call (313) 232-0382. To adopt a dog or cat, go to www.muttsandmutts.petfinder.org or visit the Canton Petco noon to 5 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 22.





Jeffrey H. Miller, M.D. 46325 W. 12 Mile Rd. Suite 150 • Novi

Psst that's really

Santa Claus suit, but

don't tell the kids.

Pat Grady of Troy in the

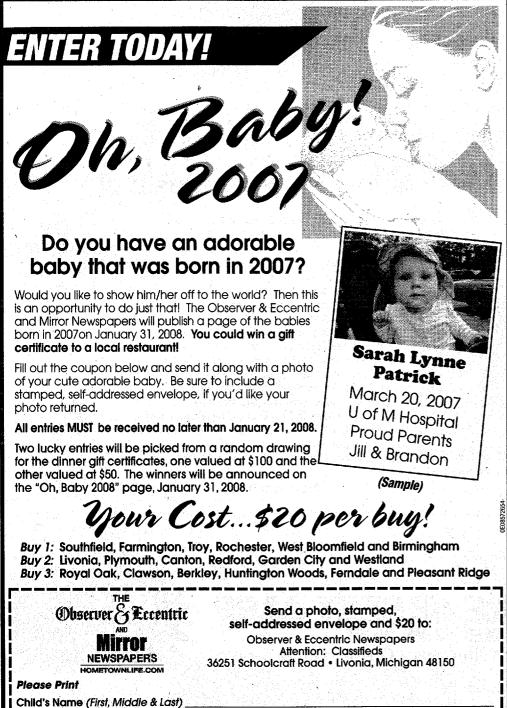
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Candlelight Services 7:00 & 11:00 PM

Christmas Day • Tuesday, Dec. 25 at 10:00 AM

Our Shepherd Lutheran Church 2225 E. 14 Mile Rd. • Birmingham, MI 48009 248-646-6100 • www.ourshepherd.net Located 5 Blocks East of Woodward Ave.

Prince of Peace ELCA - Westland

Come celebrate the birth of our LORD with us!

Christmas Eve: Family Service @ 7:30 p.m. Service of Adoration @ 10:00 p.m.

Sunday of Christmas: 12/30 @ 9:30 a.m. "Mary, Joseph and the Baby" Presented by our Bell choir

734-722-1735 37775 Palmer Rd. • Westland, MI 48185 (1/4 mi west of Newburgh) princeofpeacewestland.com





Knowing Jesus Christ And Making Him Known

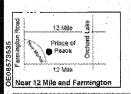
Prince of Peace Lutheran Church

Home for Christmas An unwanted toy sits unclaimed on

the shelf of a bustling toy store...

An orphan faces another Christmas alone in a world too busy to notice...

Together they find what they want more than anything - to belong.



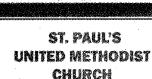
Join Us Christmas Eve at 5 pm for a dramatic presentation of this story at our family service, or at 7:30 pm for our traditional candlelight service.

28000 New Market Road • 248 | 553 | 3380

tidings of

areat joy...

Luke 2:10



620 Romeo Street Rochester stpaulsrochester.org 248.651.9361

Christmas Eve Services Monday, Dec. 24, 2007

New time: 4 p.m. Children/Family Celebration

7:30 & 11 p.m. **Candlelight Celebration**

Childcare for birth through 4 years is available at 4 & 7:30 p.m. services.

Open hearts. Open minds, Open doors.

Hosanna-Tabor Lutheran Church & School 9600 Leverne, Redford, MI 48239 www.HosannaTabor.org

The people of The United Methodist Church®



A Tuition Based, Christian School of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod

313-937-2233

Sunday Worship Services 8:30 am and 11 am Sunday School 9:45 am

Hosanna-Tabor Invites You to Join our Holiday Celebrations

A Night in Bethlehem Wed, Dec 19 7 pm Christmas Eve Worship 6 & 10 pm Christmas Day Worship 10 am New Years Eve Worship 5 pm Potluck & Family Game Night

following the service



St. John's

Episcopal Church

Voodward Avenue and I-75 (exit 50) NEXT TO COMERICA PARK www.StJohnsDetroit.org (313) 962-7358

Avoid the Christmas Rush... Come to Church this Sunday!

Sundays in Advent

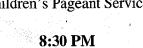
7:30 AM – Morning Prayer 8:00 AM - Holy Communion

9:05 AM – Christian Education for all ages

10:00 AM - Holy Communion followed by an Advent Soup Luncheon

Christmas Eve – December 24

4:00 PM Children's Pageant Service



Carol Prelude Service



9:00 PM - Candlelight Festive Communion

Christmas Day – 11:00 AM in the Chapel

Come find out why your neighbors are coming to Detroit for Biblical Preaching and Teaching, and Traditional Anglican Music and Liturgy

Christmas at St Paul

Christmas Eve Services: 7 pm - Family-oriented Story-telling, Candles, Holy Communion **11 pm** – Traditional Lessons, Carols, Candle Communion

St Paul United Methodist Church of Bloomfield Hills < 165 E Square Lk Rd east of Woodward 48.338.8233 www.gbgm-umc/paul

ROSEDALE

GARDENS

CHURCH

~Christmas Eve Services~

Monday, December 24, 2007

5:00 p.m. - Family Service

Featuring Children's Choir and Bell Choirs

10:00 p.m. - Candlelight Communion Service

Featuring Chancel Choir and Handbells

Rev. Richard Peters, Pastor • Rev. Kellie Whitlock, Assoc. Pastor

Rosedale Gardens Presbyterian Church, USA

9601 Hubbard at West Chicago • Livonia, MI 48150

734.422.0494

A Christmas Tradition

Christmas Eve Services

4:30 PM Family Service 8 PM Candlelight Service 10 PM Candlelight Service

Every Sunday 9:00 AM Service 10:15 AM Sunday School 11:15 AM Service

Plymouth First United Methodist Church



First Presbyterian Church ~ Plymouth Church & Main Streets ~ 734-453-6464 Regular Sunday Worship Services: 8:30, 9:30 and 11:00 a.m.

Christmas Eve Services: 3:00 p.m. Puppet's Service

5:00 p.m. Children's Christmas Pageant 8:00 & 11:00 p.m. Candlelight Service of Lessons & Carols December 30 ~ One service only ~ 10:00 a.m.

Orchard United Methodist Church

30450 Farmington Road, Farmington Hills, MI, 48334 248-626-3620 www.orchardumc.org

Christmas Eve Services 5:00 PM Family Worship

9:00 PM Candlelight Services 1:00 PM Traditional with Communion

FELLOWSHIP Presbyterian Church

Christmas Eve Service Monday, December 24th



PLEASE JOIN US IN CELEBRATION AND Worship of our LORD AND SAVIOR!

www.rosedalegardens.org

Wheelchair Accessible

Classic Worship: 6:00 p.m. REV. DR. JIMMY McGUIRE

Nursery Provided

We meet at Madonna University's Kresge Hall 36600 Schoolcraft Road Livonia, MI 48150 Parking lot is North-West corner of Levan and Schoolcraft

Candlelight Christmas Eve Service in Downtown Birmingham at the First Baptist Church

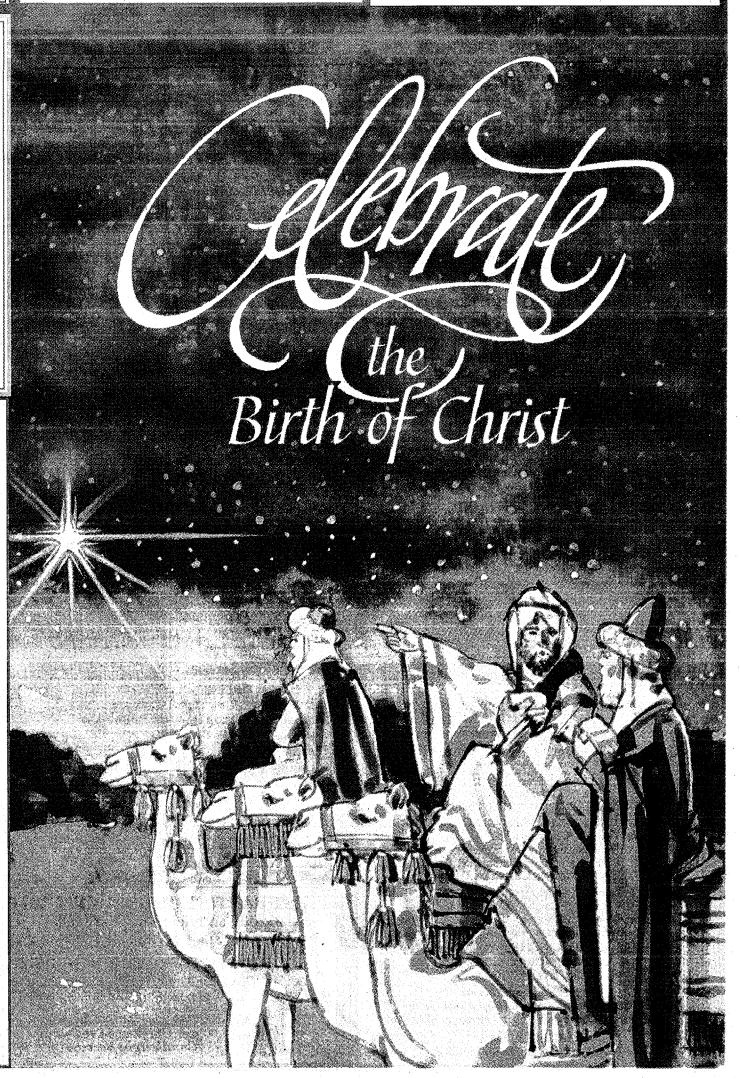
All are welcome to worship in the beautiful English Gothic Sanctuary in downtown Birmingham.

Monday, December 24, 2007 4:30 p.m. Family Service 11:00 p.m. Candlelight Service

Listen to an inspiring Hand Bell Choir Presentation of the Traditional Lessons and Carols of the Season on Sunday, December 23



First Baptist Church 300 Willits at Bates Streets Tel: 248.644.0550 Website: firstbaptistbirmingham.org



COMIM

Historic F1

United Methodist in

DECEMBER 23,

CHRISTMAS E



Berkley First United Methodist Church 2820 W. Twelve Mile Road • Berkley, Michigan 48072 248-399-3698 www.berkley1stumc.org

CHRISTMAS CANTATA — Today at 10:30am LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE — December 21 at 7:00pm CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT - December 24 at 5:00pm

CANDLELIGHT SERVICE - December 24 at 7:30pm CANDLELIGHT COMMUNION — December 24 at 11:00pm

Christmas Eve

Grace Lutheran Church 25630 Grand River Ave. (E. of Beech Daly) Redford Township, MI

Christmas Eve 7:00 PM Family Worship Christmas Eve 11:00 PM Candlelight Worship

The Rev. Timothy Halboth, Senior Pastor will preach on the theme "Crossing the Christmas Border" based on Luke 2:1-20. The Rev. Dr. Victor Halboth will serve as celebrant. Special music by the entire music ministry of Grace Church will beautify each worship hour. All are welcome!



Faith Covenant Church

Join us for candlelight Christmas Eve service Monday, December 24 5 p.m. & 10 p.m.

35415 W. 14 Mile Road, Farmington Hills (248) 661-9191 • faithcovenantchurch.org Childcare provided at 5 p.m. service



#5#5#5#5#5#5#5#5 Lutheran Church of the Shepherd King

5300 W. Maple • West Bloomfield, MI 48322 248.626.2121

Join us for worship

Sunday, December 23 at 10:00 a.m. (Lessons & Carols) Christmas Eve, December 24

Family Worship Traditional Candlelight Service with Holy Communion 6:00 p.m.

Nanahanahanahanah

St. James Episcopal Church Worship Schedule

website: stjamesbirmingham.org The Reverend Fred Elwood, Rector 248.644.0820

CHRISTMAS Eve, Monday, December 24



5 P.M. CRECHE PROCESSION & Holy Communion

Carols & Candles; Service oriented for children; Nursery

10 P.M. CHORAL SERVICE arole Communion **Christmas Message &** Candles (Music begins at 9:30!)

CHRISTMAS DAY, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 25

10 a.m. Holy Communion with Carols

(Downtown Birmingham between Woodward & Southfield, corner of W. Maple and Chester)

> Come Catch the Christmas Spirit Redford Aldersgate United Methodist

Diana & Bob Goudie **Pastors**

Sunday Dec. 23 2 services 9:30 a.m. 11:00 a.m.

Dec. 30 one service 10:00 a.m. Blessing of the children & their toys

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services Dec. 24

> 5:30 p.m. ☆Family Musical: 'Christmas Chronicles"

A multi-generational choir presents a delightful story with an important message with lights, drama and lively music. ☆ Closing service with individual candles ☆ Nutsery provided for preschool children



10:00 p.m. ☆ Adult Choirs ☆ Hand Bell Choir ☆ Communion ☆ Candle lighting

10000 Beech Daly 2 blocks south of Plymouth Road 313-937-3170

.www.redfordaldersgate.org

Historic Mariners' Church



A HOUSE OF PRAYER FOR ALL PEOPLE Traditional Anglican Worship Since 1842

Sunday, December 23 **Advent IV**

8:30 and 11:00 a.m.-The Holy Communion Monday, December 24 **Christmas Eve**

7:30 and 11:00 p.m. Duplicate Services Festival Choral Communion No services on Christmas Day

Sunday, December 30-The First Sunday after Christmas 8:30 a.m.-The Holy Communion 11:00 a.m.-The Festival Service of Lessons and Carols for

Christmas with the Holy Communion **Regular Services of Holy Communion** Sundays at 8:30 and 11:00 a.m.

Thursdays at 12:10 p.m. On Hart Plaza at the Tunnel Free Secured Parking in Ford Underground Garage with entrance in the median strip of Jefferson at Woodward

> (313) 259-2206 www.marinerschurchofdetroit.org

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church 749 West Fourteen Mile Road • Clawson

Advent Wednesday Evening Worship December 19 at 7:00 PM Light Supper at 6:00 PM (bring salad or dessert to share)

Resurrection Catholic Church

48755 Warren Rd.

Canton, Michigan 48187

734-451-0444

Rev. Richard A. Perfetto, Pastor

CHRISTMAS EVE - Dec. 24th - 4:30 p.m.

Children's Mass (All Saints Gym)

4:30 p.m. Mass (Church) & 10:00 p.m.

CHRISTMAS DAY - Dec. 25th - 10:30 a.m. Mass

SUNDAY, Jan. 1st - 8:30 & 10:30 a.m.

NEWBURG UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

36500 Ann Arbor Trail, Livonia, MI Rev. Marsha M. Woolley, Senior Pastor

"Celebrate the good news with us - that with God

all things still are possible...and that even now,

unto us, a Child is born!."

Christmas Eve Worship Monday, December 24 5:30 PM Children and Families Great for families with small children 7:30 Christmas Candlelight & Holy Communion
11:00 PM Christmas Candlight
& Holy Communion



Christmas Services

Services 4:00, 8:00 & 11:00 p.m. Music Prelude 10:30 p.m. Tuesday, December 25 10:30 a.m.

Monday, December 24

St. John's Episcopal Church 574 S. Sheldon Road Plymouth, Michigan www.stjohnsplymouth.org 734.453.0190



28860 Five Mile Road Livonia, MI 48154 (734) 421-1760

www.unityoflivonia.org

7:00 P.M. Family 11:00 P.M. Traditic 26425 Wellington (between 13 & 14 Mil First Baptist of Roche

6377 Orion Rd. • Roche 248.652.6151 fbcrochester.org

Christmas Eu Candlelight Sei Sunday, December 2



Christ the King Lutheran Church

9300 Farmington Road Livonia, MI 48150 (734) 421-0749 christthekinglivonia.com

The Rev. James L. Fogle Interim Pastor

Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship with Communion 7:30 & 11:00 pm

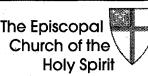


This Christmas Eve Monday, December 24th

6:00 pm Family Christmas Eve Candlelight Service with Children's Nativity Play

8:00 pm Traditional Christmas Eve Cârol & Candlelight Service

Peace is located at 17029 W. 13 Mile Rd Southfield, MI • 248.642.7047



9083 Newburgh Rd. Between Joy & Ann Arbor Tr. (734) 591-0211

Christmas Eve – 6pm Christmas Day - 10am www.holyspirit-livonia.org

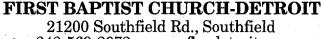


Christmas Eve

Candlelight Services Monday, Dec. 24th 4pm*, 5:30pm*, 7pm, 11pm *childcare provided through age 4



40000 Six Mile Just West of Haggerty 248.374.7400



248-569-2972 • www.fbc-detroit.org

ADVENT WORSHIP SCHEDULE **December 23rd - Fourth Sunday of Advent**





NKLIN TY CHURCH

lin Village Green ation, Ecumenical in Spirit 7 • Lessons and Carols

ice with Candle Lighting ervice with Candle Lighting

ECEMBER 24, 2007

Pastor: James E. Greer 1 block west of Franklin Road)

27996 Halstead Road

*Farmington Hills

9:30 am Sunday School 10:45 am Worship Service

Christmas Eve Services:

5:00 pm & 11:00 pm

Curist

Christmas Eve 8:00 pm Candlelight with Holy

SALEM CHURCH

Downtown Farmington

33424 Oakland Ave:

(N. of Grand River, W. of Farmington Rd.)

Farmington, MI 48335

(248) 474-6880

Everyone Welcome

Christmas Eve Worship Carols, Candlelight and Holy Communion 4:30* 7:30 and 11 pm *For families with young children All are Welcome

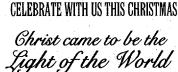
http://holycrosslivonia.org

North Congregational Church 35620 W. Twelve Mile Rd., Farmington Hills, MI 248-848-1750

Sunday, December 23, 2007 10:30 a.m. Fourth Sunday of Advent: "Receive Him"

Monday, December 24, 2007 CHRISTMAS EVE **CANDLELIGHT SERVICE** 7:30 p.m. "Finding Christmas Joy"

Ministers: Rev. Dr. Mark P. Jensen, Rev. Mary E. Biedron



Calvary Baptist Church 43065 Joy Road, Canton, MI 48187 734.455.0022 www.cbcjoy.org

Christmas Eve Services 4:30 & 6:00 p.m.

COME LET US ADORE HIM

St. John Lutheran Church

Farmington Hills • 23225 Gill Rd. • 248-474-0584

Christmas & New Years Sundays 9:00 am - Noon

(Come and leave as you decide) Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Services

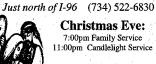
5:30 pm • 9:00 pm • 10:30 pm

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church (ELCA) 39020 Five Mile Rd, Livonia 734-464-0211 www.holytrinitylivonia.org **Christmas Eve Services** 5:30 pm Family Worship & Children's Christmas Program 7:00 pm Contemporary Candlelight 11:00 pm Traditional Candlelight

Christmas Day at 10:00 am New Year's Eve at 6:00 pm

Celebrate Christmas! Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church

14175 Farmington Road, Livonia



Christmas Day: 10:00am Worship

NORTH HILLS CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

3150 N.Adams Road • Troy

December 23 • 9:30 a.m. Christmas Worship with harp music

December 23 • 6:00 p.m. **Christmas Vespers with Communion**

www.northhillscrc.org

You're Invited! Come experience the Joy of Christmas St. Andrew Lutheran Church

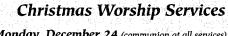


Christmas Eve Candlelight Service December 24th at 7:30pm

Sunday Worship 10:00am Staffed nursery available each week St. Andrew is located at 6255 Telegraph East Side - North of Maple

The Rev. Lauren Kirsh-Carr. Pastor

Anlioch Lutheran Church 33360 W. 13 Mile Road, Farmington Hills, MI 48334 Antioch, a congregation of ELCA, is located at the NE corner of 13 Mile and Farmington Roads in Farmington Hills. (248) 626-7906; website: antiochELCA.org. Join our celebration of Jesus' birth - God's gift to us all.



Monday, December 24 (communion at all services) 4:00 p.m. Children's Christmas 6:00 p.m. Family Worship (pre-service music at 5:45) 10:30 p.m. Candlelight Festival Worship (pre-service

Sunday, December 30 8:30 and 11:00 a.m.

music at 10:00)

ST. GENEVIEVE 29015 Jamison...ST. MAURICE 32765 Lyndon ROMAN CATHOLIC CLUSTERED PARISHES IN LIVONIA December 24... Christmas Eve Masses

4:00p at St. Genevieve Church; 4:30p at St. Maurice Church Children's Masses 10:00p at St. Genevieve Church December 25... Christmas Day Masses

9:00a at St. Maurice Church; 11:00a at St. Genevieve December 31... New Year's Eve Masses 4:00p at St. Genevieve Church; 6:00p at St. Maurice Church December 31-January 1... Holy Hour at St. Maurice

11:30p Exposition...12:30a Reposition & Benediction January 1...New Year's Day Masses 9:00a at St. Maurice Church; 11:00a at St. Genevieve Church

Carols and Candlelig Christmas Eve • 9:00pm - 10:00pm

Holy Communion "The Story"

'The Story' is a tender, touching celebration that indelibly writes the story of Jesus' birth on every heart."

The Crossing 31590 Grand River • Farmington, MI 48226 248.306.0661

St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church (WELS)

17810 Farmington Road~Livonia, Michigan 734-261-1360~ website: stpaulslivonia.org

Christmas Worship at St. Paul's

Christmas Eve Worship......7:00 p.m. Christmas Day Worship......10:00 a.m. New Year's Eve......7:00 p.m.

Come and worship with us!

Pastor Eric Steinbrenner Pastor James Hoff



Can we halp you in some way? Wedding, Baptism, Confirmation?

248-644-4010 RedeemerBirmingham.org 1800 W. Maple Rd. Birmingham MI 48009

Christmas Eve • Join Us Traditional Family Service 5:30 P.M. Carols by Candlelight 8:00 & 10:00 P.M.

New Years Eve Worship 7:00 P.M. Pre-Service Meal 6 P.M. Call for Reservations Today!

Weekly Sunday Worship 8, 9 & 10:30 A.M., Mondays 7:30 P.M. Children's Sunday School 9:00 & 10:30 A.M.

ST. ANNE'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Immemorial Tridentine Latin Rite Mass 22310 Joy Road, Redford, MI 48239 (313) 534-2121

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEARS DAY **MASS SCHEDULE**

Christmas Day and New Years Day are Holy Days of Obligation

Christmas Eve Christmas Day

Confessions Midnight Mass No Confessions

Mass

New Years Eve **New Years Day**

Confessions

Mass

Rosary and Benediction 11:30 pm 9:45-10:25 am

10:00-11:50 pm

12:00 am

10:00 am

10:30 am

Begin the new year with Benediction and praying the Holy Rosary. See schedule above.

First United

Methodist Church 1589 W. Maple Road, Birmingham 248-646-1200 • www.fumcbirmingham.org

<u>CHRISTMAS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 23</u>

8:15, 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. - Dr. John E. Harnish Preaching 12:30 p.m. - Rev. Lynn Hasley Preaching 5:00 p.m. - Rev. Jeff Nelson Preaching

4:00 p.m. for Families with Young Children 5:30 p.m. for Families with Elementary Children

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP 2:00, 7:00, 9:00 and 11:00 p.m. Christmas Lessons and Carols Dr. John E. Harnish Preaching

Holy Communion at 2:00, 7:00 and 11:00

Pastors John E. Harnish, Senior Pastor Rodney F. Quainton Lynn Hasley Carl Gladstone Jeff Nelson Carl Price

West Bloomfield UMC

4100 Walnut Lake Rd. W. of Orchard Lake Rd. 248.851.2330

Monday, December 24th

Christmas Eve Service 6:00 P.M.

> CA Service of Candlebight Music and

Fellowskip.





Warket Place

Observer & Eccentric HOMETOWN life.com

Observer & Eccentric

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ONLINE	hometownlife.com				
EMAIL	oeads@hometownlife.com				

. 5 p.m. Friday Thursday edition......11:00 a.m. Wednesday

Eccentric office......805 E. Maple, Birmingham Observer office36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia Hours8:30 - 5:00 Monday - Friday



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Moving Sales

Garage Sales

PLYMOUTH Moving Sale! HUGE SAVINGS!! 1361 Ross

St., Dec. 15 & 16, Sat/Sun. 10-3. Inquiries: 734-451-1519

7130

WESTLAND ESTATE SALE Cardio-glide, Nordic-Track, power trainer, Kimball organ, component system Infinity speakers, oak cabinet Craftmatic Queen massage bed w/headboard, blue leather recliner, odds & ends. Best offer. 734-326-4553 or call 313-402-5452

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JOHN ROGIN BUICK

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BED - \$225 KING PILLOW TOP
Mattress Set. NEW in bag. 734-328-0030

RED - \$65 - 1 ARSOLUTE ALL **BRAND NEW PILLOW-TOP** Can deliver 734-231-6622

- Code

CHINA - Bavarian hand-paint-"Heinrich Golden Harvest" 12-5 pc. place settings. Must sell! (248) 661-5903 CURIO CABINET-LG 6' X 3.5"

high, 3' X 3" wide. Medium oak, excel cond. \$100. Call: (734) 513-7181 **ENTERTAINMENT CENTER** Cherry wood. 65.5w X 62.5h X 23d. TV opening-41w X 33½h. Good cond, \$300.

Call: (734) 421-2698 KENMORE Heavy duty wash er, 70 series, \$75. Kincaid Queen Anne solid Cherry din-

buffet, \$2,300, 734-934-0081



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Immaculate John

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night. 2 adult Dinsey tickets paid \$750, sacrifice \$249 Good for 1 year. 734-226-0511 MEMORY FOAM THERA-PEU-TIC NASA-VISCO MATTRESS-ES WHOLESALE! As seen or

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WORKWISE

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the potential power of others in helping you complete what you started.

M. J. Ryan, executive coach at Professional Thinking Partners Inc., outside of San Francisco, helps people change. She observes that some people "aren't really good at initiating things, keeping the ball rolling and finishing. If you're not a great finisher, things trail off. This is why we need other people."

'SÁTIŠFACTION STOP'

We do need other people, but how can they help us reach our objectives at work? Debi Yohn, counseling psychologist to expatriates in Shanghai. suggests that you draw a line between positive people and the negative ones. The latter, she says, remain negative, refusing to make the changes

Some projects — necessary to turn their negative experiences to and some objectives positive." This is an important concept. What do you do next?

Karlin Sloan of the Karlin Sloan & Co. leadership development consultancy in Chicago says, "Simply asking for help isn't the best way to go. "You might ask a person to remind you of the reward of your project, its benefit, at critical moments when your spirit sags. The reward could be something as simple as an improved retrieval system to cut down on research time, thanks to your computer conversion. She also indicates how restorative and motivational lunching out with others may be when you've reached a benchmark or walking around the block together. Recruit someone to celebrate with you at what Ryan calls "a satisfaction stop.'

Ryan further points out that a conversation with another employer who's skilled at completing projects may be useful in providing "ideas about what you need to do to finish things off. This would vary, depending upon the type of work. It might be that you need more information. He may help you figure out the how."

Sloan directs you to "be specific about the help or resource you need, such as borrowing time from an administrative assistant. The more specific you

are, the easier it is to ask for help, and the simpler it is for a colleague to assist you." This tactic brings a strategic benefit, too. Being asked "makes people feel important and necessary, and it ultimately builds healthy, collaborative working environments," she says.

Harriet Vines, author of "Age Smart," suggests "taking stock. Make and prioritize a To-Do list and delegate tasks where possible" (Llumina Press, \$13.95). She mentions the importance of "promising to repay in-kind when they need you."

Robert Tuchman, president of sports marketing company TSE Sports & Entertainment in New York City, adds, "The key thing in getting others on board and motivated is to praise their work. Allow them to take the credit for the project. Even if you are the one doing the majority of the work, it will empower them to finish the project and give them confidence in future dealings.

Marathoner Lou Manza, chair of the Psychology Department at Lebanon Valley College in Annville, Pa., says that whether a marathon is literal or not, it can be very helpful to remind yourself, happily, that your co-workers and employer expect you to reach the finish line. In his case, the reminder goes something like this: "My dad and my kids are expecting me to do that. So is my wife, who gave



Lou Manza approaches the finish line at the Philadelphia Marathon in 2005. His perspective on getting to the end of a long, arduous task also encompasses insights from the field of psychology. When he's not running marathons, he chairs the Psychology Department at Annville, Pa.'s Lebanon Valley College.

birth three times and suffered." He considers it important to remind yourself of your responsibilities. Meanwhile, he advises, if you need a break, ask for 15 minutes of time out or a slightly-extended lunch break.

"I'll also focus on another runner," he discloses, "one who is about 100 yards ahead. If I concentrate on trying to catch that runner, it takes my mind off the pain. "That runner might well be another person in the company who's striving to reach a goal, too.

(Dr. Mildred L. Culp is an award-winning journalist. Copyright 2007 Passage Media.)

5310

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ASSISTANT Farmington Hills based real estate development company seeks an administrative assistant with 5 plus years experi ence with real estate firm or practice. Must be highly proganized and proficient in Microsoft Word and Excel Transcrption from dictation required. Please forward your esume via email to: ccorden@grandsakwa.com

BOOKKEEPER/ OFFICE MANAGER Full-Time, Plymouth. Gregg: 248-417-1800

BOOKKEEPER/SECRETARY roperty Management Co. in Canton seeking an individual to in QuickBooks Pro & adminis trative duties a must. \$9/hr Please contact: 734-216-1371

LEGAL SECRETARY with 3+ vrs. exp. needed for busy Oakland County law firm. Must be proficient in typing & transcription. Knowledge of Word and WordPerfect, Exc. organization and communicaresumes with salary requirements to: pat@vanhewpc.com

LEGAL SECRETARY Farmington Hills law firm wil have an opening in January for an experienced litigation, appellate secretary. Minimum vears defense litigation experience required as well as knowledge in Word. Applicant must be able to multi-'Salary commensurate with experience and qualifications. Please fax or e-mail your resume, with salary specifications, to Cindy at:

info@JRI AF.com **LEGAL SECRETARY** For Southfield Plaintiff Pl law Great opportunity Majoractice Litigation experience neces-Immediate opening includes salary and benefits. Send resume to

oeresume@hometownlife.com (Code 1641)

LITIGATION

SECRETARY We are an AV rated firm located in Bloomfield Hills and are currently seeking a secretary with at least 2 years experience in a law firm. We offer an excellent benefits package and highly competitive salary Please email your resume to: HR@carsonfischer.com

or mail to: Carson Fischer 4111 Andover Rd. Bloomfield Hills, Mi 48302 Attn: Human Resources

OFFICE ASSISTANT For manufaturer in Walled Lake area. Exp. w/ all office duties required. Starting at 30-35 hrs. per week. May develop to full time in future. Fax only to: 248-363-7849.

RECEPTIONIST

FT for doctor's office in Westland. Call: 734-728-8200 Fax resume: 734-728-5470

RECEPTIONIST

Mon-Fri. 10-6pm. PC literate Answer phones & other neral duties. Novi area Email or resume only to: vicky@amdoors.net Fax: 248-427-9231

SECRETARY/RECEPTIONIST Needed for tax season. CPA office in Livonia.

Fax resume: (734) 293-0056 SECRETARY: 20-25 hrs/wk Word & Excel skills. Self-motivated & self-directed. \$12/hi (734) 326-9280 5030

DESIGN ENGINEER

for diesel engine manufacturer in Plymouth, Ml. Requires a Mechanical Engineering and two years experience leading cross-functional design and analysis of internal combus-tion diesel engine components and subsystems from concept through prototyping including reviewing and integrating cus-tomer specifications and manufacturing requirements into designs; conducting Design Failure Mode and Effects Analysis (DFMEA) and Finite Element Analysis (FEA); devel oping design verification test-ing plans and procedures and presenting concept designs and plans to management for review. Send resume to AVL Powertrain Engineering, Inc., Attn: Norine McElroy, 47519 Halyard Drive, Plymouth, MI

5040 Help Wanted-Dental

48170-2438.

DENTAL ASSISTANT For a Northville Dental office. Fax resume to: (248) 349-7014

DENTAL ASSISTANT Entry-Level for a fast paced modern dental office. Email resume to: exceptional dentaloffice@yahoo.com

DENTAL ASSISTANT Plymouth Endodontic office, 2 days/wk. Exp'd w/X-ray cert. Fax resume: 734-459-8281

Help Wanted-Dental

DENTAL ASSISTANT Plymouth/Northville office Assistant with ortho exp. & X-Ray certified. Able to work evenings & 2 Sat's a mo. Fax resume: 734-420-8304

DENTAL HYGIENIST Upscale Canton office looking a special person to join our team part time. Must be self motivated, outgoing & dependable. STM exp. a plus. Call Nancy at 734-788-2252

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FRONT OFFICE or part time for quality oriented Birmingham practice MIN 5 YRS DENTAL FRONT OFFICE EXP. Dentrix a plus. Must be experienced in dental insurance. Please fax resume 248-647-1804

FINANCIAL/ TREATMENT COORDINATOR Needed for growing, high tech Southfield dental practice Experience and computer resume to: 248-569-9231

MARKETING

COORDINATOR Part time, 20-25 hrs per week for busy Southfield office Dental experience a must. Self motivated, creative idea person to be in charge of all aspects of our marketing program. Send resume to: 248-569-7914.

Help Wanted-Medical

Attn: Respiratory Care Practitioner/ Marketing Rep.

Mitchell Home Medical is looking for a caring, inde pendent, well-organized Therapist/Marketing Rep to ioin our team, base our Ypsilanti location to cover SE Michigan area. The ideal candidate will be an RRT and/or have 2-4 years outside sales experience, 2 years suc-cessful experience in HME/RT field or related healthcare business preferred. Will be working with patients & making sales calls to physicians, hospitals & specialty facilities sation & benefit nackage with opportunity for professional growth & development. Submit resumes with job title

in subject line to hr@mitchellhomemedical.com or fax (734)572-1072. **Director of Nursing** For a Home Care Agency in NW Suburb. Salary and

Benefits negotiable based on experiene. RN license required. Experience in Home Health Care facility preffered. Plenty of room for growth within the company.

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Help Wanted-Medical 5060

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Kelli's phone: 248-932-1204 Harper Associates www.harperjobs.com MEDICAL TECHNICIAN **TECHNOLOGIST**

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If you are interested in ng our team of caring professionals, please mai or fax your resume to: Heartland-W. Bloomfield Attn: Brent Haves 6950 Farmington Road West Bloomfield, MI

48322 Fax: 248-788-8157 Ph: 248-661-1700 Email: 413hr@ hcr-manorcare.com Or apply online at w.hcr-manorcare.com EEO/Drug-Free Employe People. Strength. Commitment.



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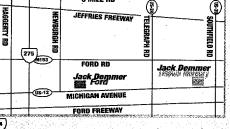
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\$1000	\$235	\$248	\$268	\$1000	\$261	\$275	\$296
\$0	\$263	\$277	\$314	\$0	\$289	\$303	\$325
\$3000	\$211	\$225	\$245	\$3000	\$239	\$254	\$275
\$2000	\$240	\$253	\$274	\$2000	\$268	\$282	\$304
\$1000	\$268	\$281	\$301	\$1000	\$296	\$311	\$332
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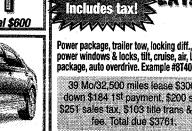
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Julie Brown, editor . (734) 953-2111 . jcbrown@hometownlife.com

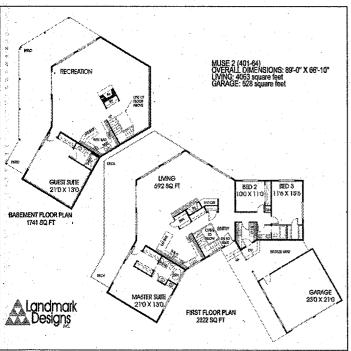
www.hometownlife.com

You won't have to think twice about move into Muse 2

The innovative hexagonal design of the Muse 2 (401-64) creates a floor plan that will appeal to many. For those that like to entertain frequently or families with children, this plan is for you. Enter into the heart of this home and the

open space invites. The living room/dining room/kitchen complex dominates this unique configuration.

Easy traffic flow is stressed here. Centrally located in this great room is a fireplace with a flue that extends into the



finished basement. Sit in the vaulted living room and savor the warmth with family and friends while enjoying the adjacent entertainment center. This arrangement favors an informal lifestyle. The location of the kitchen allows the cook in the house to serve meals either at the eating bar, in the vaulted dining room or carry hot food to the basement recreation area. A built-in pantry is behind the fireplace.

One wing of the home isolates the master suite. This spacious room features a bathroom with shower and spa, huge walk-in closet, vanity, and private access to the side deck. The other wing has two bedrooms, each with ample closet space. A full bath and linen closet are tucked between the bedrooms and a large utility room with deep sink. A door here allows groceries to be brought in from the detached garage with minimum of difficulty.

One possible inconvenience for parents is the great separation between their bedroom

and the children's rooms. On the other hand, kids old enough to demand privacy can have one wing largely to themselves, while the parents enjoy maximum peace and quiet in the master suite.

For more fun, take the stairs down to the finished basement. Plenty of room here for a pool table, pingpong, or whatever the family enjoys. A wet

bar tucked next to the stairway helps provide a festive atmosphere. For the overnight visitors, a large guest suite with a full bath makes a home away from home.

For a study plan of the MUSE 2 (401-64), send \$15 to Landmark Designs, 33127 Saginaw Rd. E., Cottage Grove, OR 97424 or call (800) 562-1151. Be sure to specify

plan name and number. Compact disks, 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. Save 15 percent on construction plans using the code (LOE48) online, mailing, or calling (800) 562-1151.



BRIEFS

Appraising and Sales

Century 21 Today offers career seminars Tuesday or Saturday noon to 1 p.m. at 28544 Orchard Lake Road, Farmington Hills. Contact Steve Leibhan at (248) 855-2000, Ext. 238.

■ Building Industry Association of Southeastern Michigan (BIA) presents Green Built Training from 9-10:20 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 23, at 879 Benjamin in Troy, in a Green Built certified home built by Wake-Pratt Construction Co. In this first of five trainings, Chris Pratt of

Wake-Pratt Construction discusses the technical and sales aspects of Building Green using materials and methods that result in Green Built certification. Building Green offers a change from selling cost per square foot to making an environmental statement. The training is free for BIA members. Advance registration is required. For registration information, call (248) 862-1008.

■ Building Industry Association of Southeastern Michigan (BIA) kicks off the Sales and Marketing Council (SMC) programs for 2008 with a Roundtable Discussion, "You're At A Networking Event ... Now What?" on Wednesday, Jan. 30, from 8:30-10:30

a.m. at BIA headquarters, 30375 Northwestern Highway, Suite 100 in Farmington Hills. Kirk Armstrong of Gerry Weinberg & Associates will lead the discussion focused on how to get a conversation transitioned into your business using proven, systematic techniques.

Registration fees are \$10 for SMC members, \$20 for BIA members and \$45 for guests. For registration information, call (248) 862-1033.

■ Building Industry Association of Southeastern Michigan (BIA) and its Remodelors Council (RC) will present a Negotiating Skills seminar, at BIA headquarters, 30375 Northwestern Highway, Suite 100, in

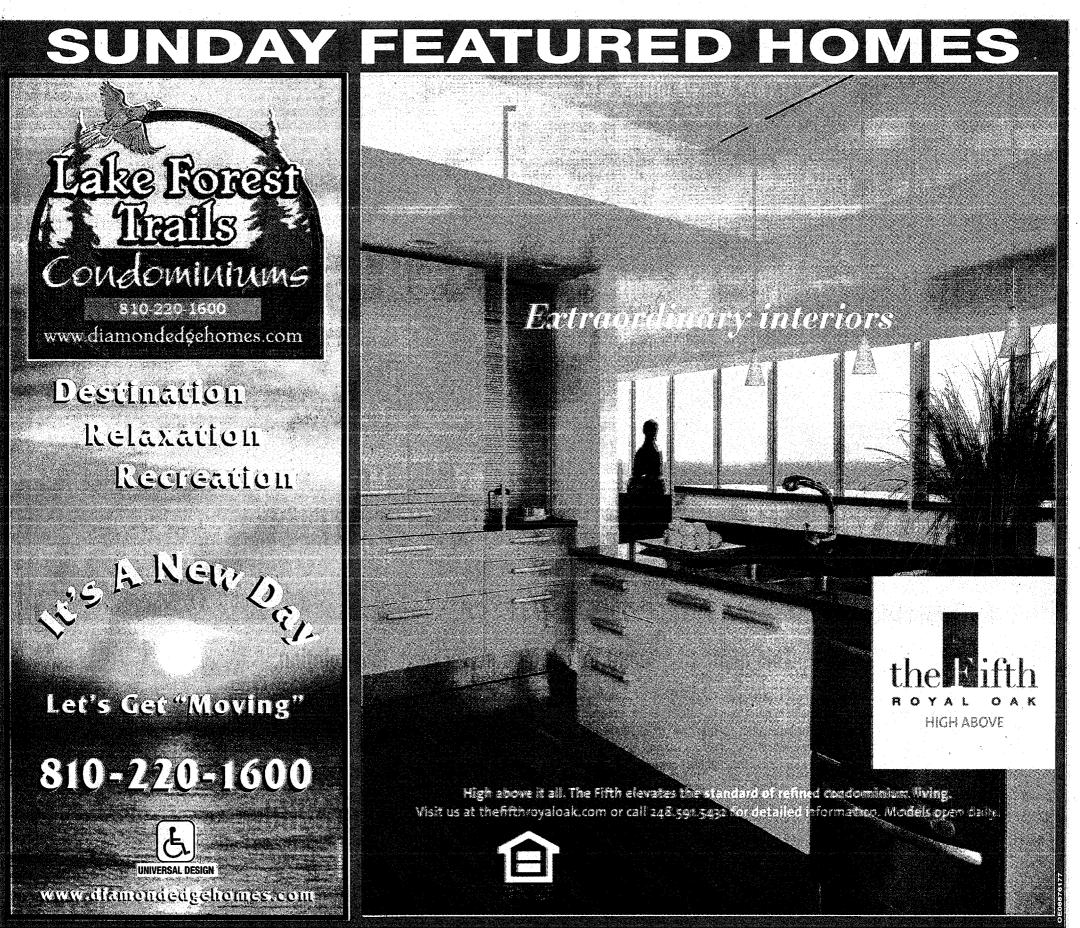
Farmington Hills on Thursday, Jan. 31, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. The seminar is part of the Certified Graduate Remodelor (CGR) series and counts toward CGR, Certified Graduate Associate (CGA) and Graduate Master Builder (GMB) designations.

Chuck Breidenstein, CAPS, of Builder Professional Services Group Inc. will present methods and strategies to negotiate with customers, employees, subcontractors, suppliers and government officials. Registration fees are \$155 for Remodelors Council members, \$175 for BIA members and \$200 for guests. For registration information, call (248) 862-1033.

Real Estate Investors

Real Estate Investors of Oakland will meet Thursday, Jan. 10, at the Michigan State University-Management Education Center, 811 W. Square Lake Road, Troy. There will be a buffet dinner (reservations needed) 5:30-6:30 p.m., early bird session 6:15-7 p.m. and general membership meeting 7:15-9:30 p.m. RSVP for dinner by Jan. 4 to www. reiaofoakland.com/dinner.html.

Speaker will be attorney David Nykanen discussing strategies for appealing tax assessments. Admission free for members, \$20 for guests.





(*)



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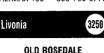
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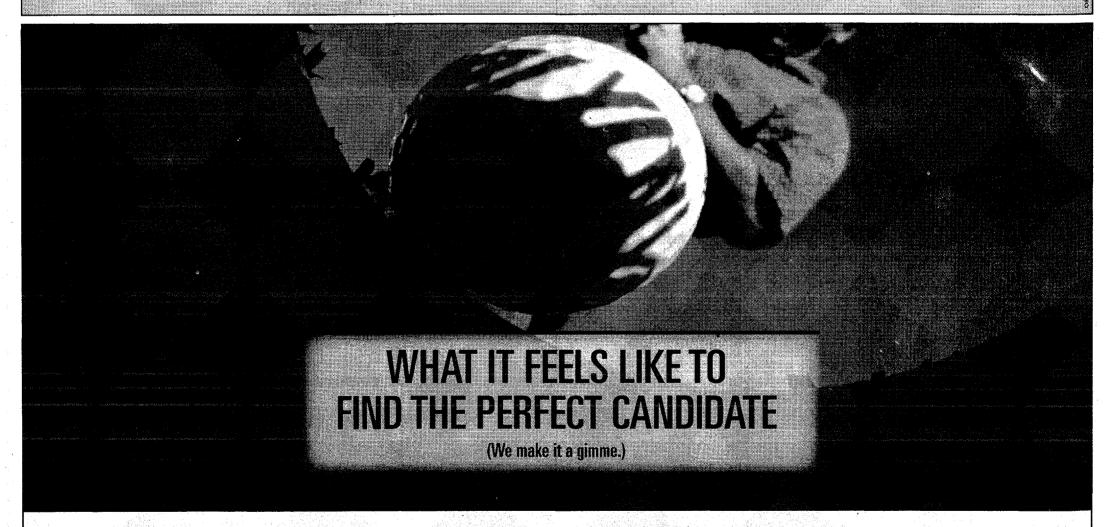
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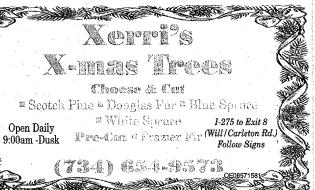
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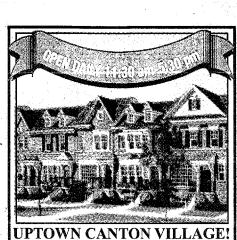
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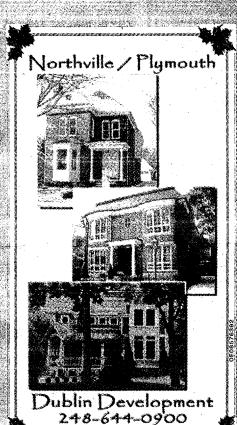
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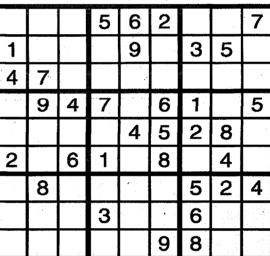
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Betsey Johnson revamped fishnets by adding bold colors. Legwear, like these cranberry colored tights from T.J. Maxx, keep your tootsies toasty in style.

Stocking stuffers take a striking turn

Eggsnog

at Lush

Sure, socks and underwear didn't make the most memorable holiday gifts in my youth. Perhaps it's time to re-think the idea of this "stocking stuffer."

This year when you're contemplating the little goodies on your gift list, don't bypass kitschy legwear or a soothing pot of lip balm. They're necessities in the battle against plummeting Michigan temperatures.

LEGS

Show your true spots in polka-dotted tights by Tracy Reese. Layer on a pair of pale pink Betsey Johnson fishnets over opaque tights or under plush leg warmers. That's right. Leg warmers are here to stay. The toasty ankle-to-knee apparel comes in a variety of fabrics and colors. Dash those '80s Flashdance images of the scrunched lower-leg accessory from your mind and try on a pair.

Here are a few styles sure to kick-start your search: *Building blocks*: Old Navy's got great basics for your legwear collection. Opaque tights come in black, grey or brown for \$6.50 a pair at oldnavy.

Cable-knits: Cozy up to Urban Outfitter's cableknit legwarmers by Sparkle & Fade. At \$16 they come in red.

Luxe cashmere: Betsey Johnson's cashmere legwarmers come complete with bows. Go ivory or fuschia for \$25 a pair at the sockboutique.com.

Go thigh-high: Over-the-knee socks pair perfectly with winter's tall boots. Your legs will look as sweet as candy canes in red and white stripes by Leg Avenue, \$10 at the sockboutique. com. Or go collegiate with red argyle for \$9 at footraffic.com.

Layer away: American Apparel has added some length to their supersoft legwarmers. Pop them over a pair of leggings. For \$16 they come in colors from raspberry to peacock at americanapparel.net.



Stepname Angelyn Casola

LIPS

Follow your winter warm-up with a dose of lip balm to shield against the chilly winds. Mistletoe-worthy lips are a must for the holidays and there are plenty of products out there ready to help. Here are a few stocking-stuffer-sized surprises:

Sugar lips: Om Spa in is selling a must-try line called The Lip Scrub by Sara Happ. Just a dab of this exfoliating treatment eliminates dry skin to reveal soft, supple lips. And who can resist flavors like Peppermint, Cocoa, Vanilla Bean or Brown Sugar, to name few. Located at 22070 Michigan Avenue, Dearborn. Call (313) 565-9686 or visit omdavspa.com.

Holiday snog: Lush's holiday line includes a tin of Eggsnog for \$7.25. The nutty, spicy balm is made of shea and cocoa butters to soothe and protect lips. Visit a Lush store at Twelve Oaks, Somerset

Collection or Lakeside malls, or try lush.com.

For dessert: Bath and Body Works' Temptations line includes treats like Sweet & Swirly Lip Gloss in Sugar & Spice or Glittery Gumdrop. They're \$7 each at bathandbodyworks.com.

Skip lipstick: Burt's Bees combined its legendary lip balm with a touch of color to create lip shimmers. The season clearly calls for Fig, Nutmeg or Cocoa. They cost \$4 each at burtsbees. com. With a little effort, it's a breeze to stock up on stocking stuffers suitable for any girly-girl on your list.



Get mistletoe-ready with The Lip Scrub at Om Spa.

Stephanie Angelyn Casola sneaks her cozy navy blue leg warmers under a favorite pair of bootcut jeans on a cold day, and no one is the wiser. She writes *Dollface* each month covering fashion and beauty for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers and can be reached at (248) 901-2567 or scasola@hometownlife.com.

ON THE COVER

Wrap up some holiday cheer in pretty packages tied up with ribbon, like these from Lisa's Gift Wrappers in Royal Oak.

> PHOTO BY STEVE CANTRELL COVER DESIGNED BY DAN DEAN



Vol. 4 @Issue 11 December 16, 2007

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Best New Fashion Special Section in the U.S.A., 2004 - INLAND PRESS ASSOCIATION

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SIE talk

Christmas Wisdom

"What I don't like about office Christmas parties is looking for a job the next day," — Phyllis Diller

"I stopped believeing in Santa Claus when my mother took me to see him in a department store, and he asked for my autograph," — Shirley Temple

Source: "Women Know Everything! 3,241 Quips, Quotes & Brilliant Remarks" by Karen Weeks (Quirk Books, 2007) Stop winter weight gain before it starts

If you're already worrying about packing on pounds during the holidays, now's the time to stop winter weight gain before it starts. I frequently receive e-mails from people who are looking for advice. Melissa of Canton wrote to me to say she's already having anxi-

ety about how she'll maintain her exercise and eating routine when she has to go to office parties and family parties during the holidays. Here's her letter:

Dear Jenn: I'm on a 1,200-calorie strict eating plan and exercise three to five times a week. I'm really concerned I'm not going to be able to maintain the same standards with the upcoming holidays. Any advice? - Melissa R., Canton.

Probably the best way to get started is to educate yourself and to develop a routine. Get in the habit now and commit to it so you don't waver no matter what month it is. To make sure you are working out smart, I suggest to my Boot Camp clients that they get a heart monitor. This will let you know you are working within the proper training range. You can pick one up at a sporting goods store or online for \$50 or less.

You also need to keep it simple. Write down what



you're eating and how much you're exercising. Logging eating habits has been proven to make people aware of their eating behaviors so they can learn how to correct them.

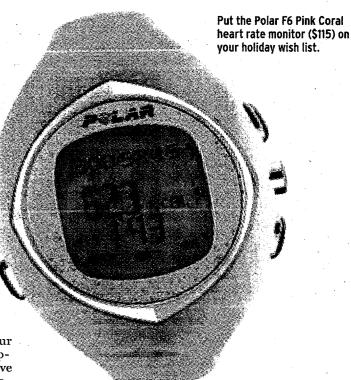
Record as well how you felt when you wanted to eat. Were you stressed or bored? Also, include success stories

in your log. Note on the log how and when you chose to relieve stress in non-food ways, such as exercising or taking a hot bath.

Part of the success of our Body Beautiful Boot Camps is having a support group. It can be your spouse, a friend or a family member. Maybe it's your kids. The most important thing about having a support group is that they should help you with positive reinforcement, not negative. It's also a good idea to have someone that you respect give you constructive criticism on your eating and exercise habits.

Finally, the best advice to keep you on track during the holidays is motivation.

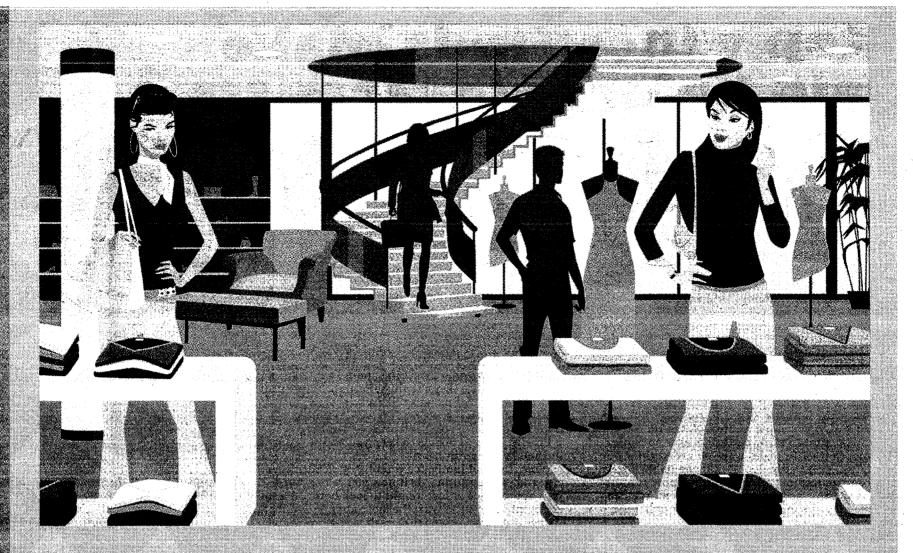
What is it that motivates you to stay on your exercise and eating routine? Is it how you've improved your appearance or lost weight to look better at a special event? No matter what the motivation — and it may change over time — keep that fresh in your mind and you're guaranteed to stay on track.



Jennifer Gray's Body Beautiful Boot Camp Classes are held in Royal Oak, West Bloomfield Rochester and Southfield. Get more fitness tips and register for classes by visiting www.bodybyjenn.com or calling (248) 761-2321







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Fragrance finds make great last-minute gifts

BY SAMANTHA CRITCHELL
AP FASHION WRITER

NEW YORK (AP) — Hubert de Givenchy expanded into the fragrance business 50 years ago using a famous face as inspiration: his muse, the late Audrey Hepburn.

L'Interdit was the first "celebrity" fragrance, created to honor the friendship between the designer and actress.

The company celebrates its history this season by reintroducing L'Interdit, which is dominated by the scents of jasmine and May rose, along with the house's other classic fragrances, Le De, Givenchy III and Eau de Givenchy for women, and Monsieur, Eau de Vetyver and Xeryus for men.

Now it's commonplace for celebrities to be linked to perfume. Top-tier actresses Hilary Swank, Keira Knightley and Kate Winslet all appear in advertisements, while Gwen Stefani, Sarah Jessica Parker, Jennifer Lopez and Victoria and David Beckham have their own branded fragrances.

Givenchy also launched a new ad campaign for Very Irresistible Givenchy featuring Liv Tyler, who has been the perfume's public face since its creation in 2003.

Tyler says it's a compliment to be asked to follow in the footsteps of a legend like Hepburn. Among the things she admires most about Hepburn were her talent, naturalness and passion for life.

Hepburn's confidence — or at least her acceptance of who she was — is something Tyler, who calls herself "a real woman," strives for. "She was comfortable in her own skin."

Looking for your smell this season? Here are some new options:

WOMEN:

- Very Michael Kors. This adds citrus, black plum and golden sugar cane to the white floral scent that is Kors' signature. Kors says it captures his essence: "I'm either the most outgoing or the shiest. I'm very casual but at the same time I kind of revere the classic and the traditional. I'm kind of jumpy and curious and, again, it's 'Show me what's new' and 'Show me what's a classic."
- Bond No. 9 Andy Warhol Silver Factory. This is the first in what will be a series of Warhol collectables by Bond No. 9, a brand devoted to bottling the smells inspired by New York City. The Warhol lineup will feature his favorite city haunts, beginning with the Silver Factory, more well known as the Factory, where Warhol did his thing.

The bottle's surface is a graphic image inspired by the famous Warhol Campbell's Soup Can. The smell inside aims to be a unisex mix of smoky and spicy blend of incense and seductive amber with floral notes of jasmine, iris and violet.

- DKNY Delicious Night. This seems made for a party girl: The opening note is a "cocktail" of the exotic citrus fruit pomelo, crushed ginger and blackberry martini, followed by florals and amber.
- Midnight Poison by Dior. An update to the 20-year-old Poison features earthy notes of patchouli, rose and amber.
- Fendi Palazzo. The base of this fragrance is the orange blossom mixed with other Mediterranean scents such as lemon and jasmine. The bottle features the facade of the real Fendi Palazzo in Rome.
- Elle by Yves Saint Laurent. A feminine fragrance for a cosmopolitan girl with notes of patchouli, litchi and freesia.
- Black Orchid Voile de Fleur by Tom Ford Beauty. As always with Ford, there's a hint of dark glamour with truffle, black currant and the orchid developed specifically for this fragrance. But the scent itself is lighter than the original Black Orchid thanks to a slew of white florals in the top note.
- My Insolence by Guerlain. Out from a delicate pink bottle comes a fresh raspberry note mixed with soft florals and a signature Guerlain base of patchouli, vanilla and tonka bean.
- Kelly Caleche by Hermes. The house's perfumer, after visiting the storage space for Hermes leathers, noted that some of the finest leathers actually had a floral scent. He aimed to put that smell in a bottle that also paid homage to the company's signature Kelly handbag with a turn-lock clasp.
- Daisy Marc Jacobs. It's a floral fragrance, of course, but the heart of the scent isn't the daisy, it's violet, with hints of strawberry, jasmine and white woods.
- Amalfi Flowers by Creed.
 Perfumers developed this fragrance at
 Villa Rufolo on Italy's Amalfi coast. In
 the garden they smelled citrus and floral
 notes, including lemon, orange and rose.
- Ann Taylor Possibilities. This is the first fine fragrance from the retailer. The feminine, floral notes include Bulgarian rose, waterlily and blue rose.
- Roxy. A fragrance intended for a daring young women, it uses the scents of grapefruit, lily and salty amber to mimic a sunny beach day. There is an eco-friendly accord worth noting, too the extract from ylang flowers in Madagascar that were grown and harvested without pesticides or chemicals.
 - Belle en Rykiel by Sonia Rykiel.

This was actually developed by Sonia's daughter, Nathalie, who says she shuns trends and likes to go her own way. The fragrance opens with frankincense and lavender, and also features coffee blossom and mahogany.

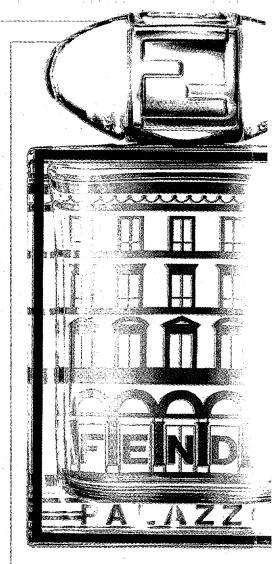
- Vivara by Emilio Pucci. The first version of this "beach fragrance" was introduced in 1966; it comes back in 2007 with as a fresh green floral with bergamot, narcissus and iris.
- White Jasmine & Mint by Jo Malone. You guessed it, jasmine and mint straight from a British garden.

MEN:

- Calvin Klein Man. The modern Man is minimalist and sexy, according to the company. In fragrance, that means crisp, spicy and woody notes like rosemary, spearmint and musk.
- Tom Ford for Men. Ford says he looked to create something unusual and complex with notes of lemon leaf oil, tobacco leaf and Cypriol, a root from India.
- Polo Explorer by Ralph Lauren.
 This uses notes from around the globe
 South African mandarin, Cuban
 mahogany and Argentinian mate, among
 them in the quest to balance ruggedness and refinement. Another note comes
 from sandalwood from the Australian
 Outback. For each sandalwood tree used
 in the fragrance, a new tree is being
 planted.
- •F by Ferragamo Pour Homme by Salvatore Ferragamo. There's an Italian accent to this woody scent thanks to a lavender top note and base of labdanum, the resin of a shrub that grows in Mediterranean regions.
- Mustang. This scent is the result of a partnership between Estee Lauder's Aramis and Designer Fragrances division and Ford Motor Co. It's all about masculinity, with aromas of pipe tobacco, cedarwood and fir balsam.
- ◆ Colonia Intensa from Acqua di Parma. The target customer is a man who likes to surround himself with beautiful things and appreciates the smells of bergamot, lemon, ginger and neroli.

CHILDREN:

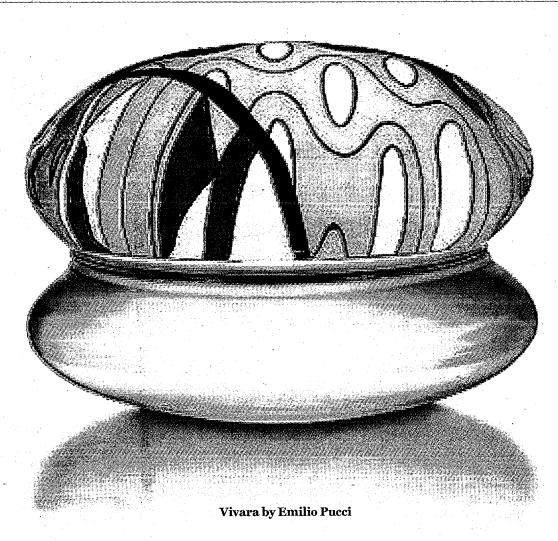
● Le Petit Prince and La Rose Du Petit Prince. These alcohol-free fragrances aim to be "fresh" scents. Le Petit Prince, intended for boys and girls up to 10 years old, includes notes of orange and Lily of the Valley, while La Rose is for girls ages 6-10 with notes of clementine, orange and grapefruit.

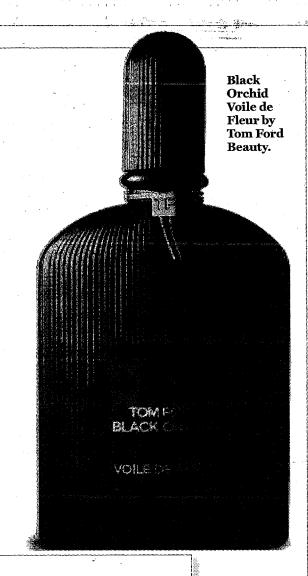


Fendi Palazzo.



DKNY Delicious Night.





BOND NO. 9 WILL RECYCLE OLD PERFUME BOTTLES

TROY — Sometimes it seems as if an equal amount of effort went into crafting a perfume flacon as into crafting the perfume. But as beautiful as the bottles might be, eventually you'll run out of room to display them.

Recycling the glass is a better end for the bottles than trashing

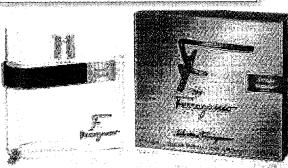
them, and perfumer
Bond No. 9 is willing
to take in any and
all empty perfume
bottles.
Company founder
Laurice Rahme
says that recycling
is one small way
she can make a
difference. "As I
become more aware

of the issues facing our environment, I feel compelled on a personal and business level to participate in the green movement – and assume a leadership role," she said in a statement.

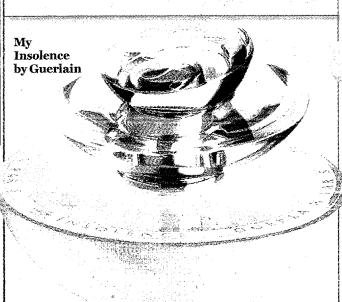
Bottles can be returned to the Bond counter at Saks Fifth Avenue stores.

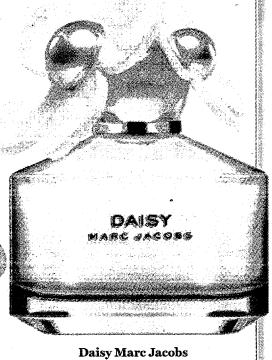
Bond also will give customers a free refillable pocket spray with any purchase.

- Associated Press

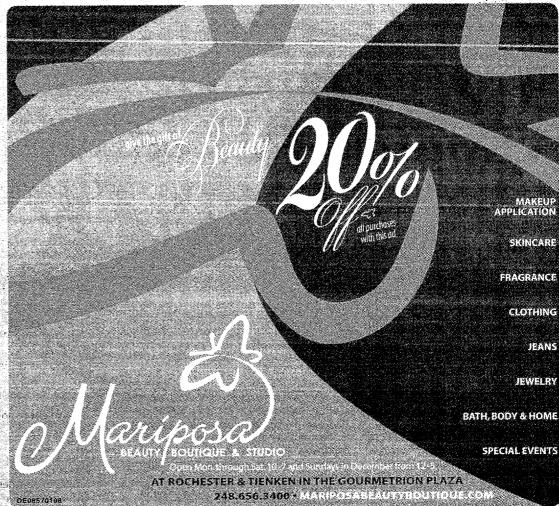










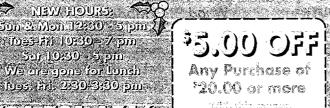


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Plymouth Rocks!

et's peek beyond a few alluring windows in Downtown Plymouth for a jump on holiday shopping.

GET YOUR "GIRL" ON

At Gigi's Mode, PINK-minded gals can find cute Thingue Pingue designs, Prada perfume, Betsey Johnson luggage and Red Engine jeans.

That's Awesome really is. Located adjacent to the popular Salon Awesome, this aptly named boutique brims with trinkets, hip handbags, tabletop accents, wall art and more. Italian for "my beautiful one," Bella Mia is one beauty when it comes to flirty contemporary apparel. Fend off Mr. Frost's bite with one of many fashion forward coats from Kensie or Tulle.

Opened in July, 2007, Vanity Salon offers fresh surroundings and services, and an aesthetician is waiting in the wings for facials and waxing. Maggie & Me carries an array of clothing styles, and R.S.V.P. stocks upbeat invitations, personalized cards and ornaments, gifts and wraps to ring in the holiday

Spa Julianna beckons you to "relax, reflect, revitalize, and rejoice" with its elegant environs and extensive treatment menu, including pre-natal massage. Can't go wrong with genuine holiday glitter at such fine jewelry shops as Dearborn Jewelers, Francis Jewelry Gallery, or Delta Diamond Setters & Jewelers. Onward to Sideways for a miscellany of modern delights and gourmet items for both the pantry and the palate. Find a sultry number at Sunny J's Lingerie & Leisure Wear, or drop into Hands On Leather & Jewelry for a supple something.

OH, BABY!

Pick up adorable duds and gifts for little ones at Sweet Peas & Little Sprouts.

Don't miss the old-world aura of Muriel's Doll House, with toys for girls and boys alike,

including cuddly Steiff stuffed animals.

Mia Bella Mommy-to-be & Baby Boutique caters to baby, and doesn't neglect mom. Tummy Honey soothes the skin and prevents stretch marks. And announce what month baby will arrive with a "Due in. . . " tee or tank in a punchy print or with rhinestone embellishments.

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Face it:

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Thomas Sabo

Charm Club at

in Farmington

Mazzoni Jewelers

Winter Crocs

Laura Mercier

Eve Collection

Plan a play date at Kids Play Cafe, where kids can frolic, while moms catch up over a cup of java. And bring home a treat for puppy at Three Dog Bakery.

CAPTIVATE YOUR SENSES

Penniman Gallery offers artist inspired jewelry and home accessories, Parkside Gallery boasts a large selection of Thomas Kinkade pieces, while Native West brings jewelry, pottery and sculptures from the southwest. Frameworks Gallery turns photos into canvas art, and Lotus Arts Gallery features eye-popping contemporary works.

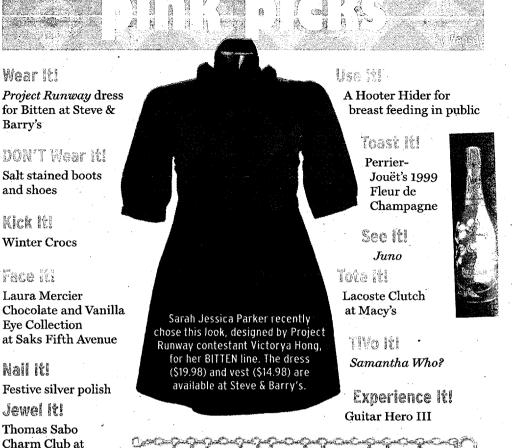
Design your own pottery at Creatopia, revive those hippie days at Earth Lore, or hit Scents of Delight for an elegantly designed Lampe Berger from Paris, an oil lamp that permeates the air with fragrance. Gabriala's oozes with special gift ideas, and Basket Kreations assembles treasures of treats.

Cozy up with a flavorful tea from TranquiliTea, and enhance your table with a whimsical bouquet from Magnolia Fresh Flower Market. Or, set up an afternoon tea outing at the Sweet Afton Tea Room.

If all you need is a loaf of bread, a glass of wine (and him!), stop off at Boulé Artisan Bakery, then hit Grape Expectations Wine Bar & Merchant for a bottle to go (or enjoy an in-house repast!)

From happening restaurants and taverns to aromatic coffeehouses and chocolate shops, downtown Plymouth satisfies all yens and vearnings - and the new bistro menu at the charming Cafe Bon Homme is no exception.







An affordable trip to the sunny island of women

ecently I told you about my trip to Cancun at the freshly renovated ClubMed resort.

Still, I was in Mexico and needed to leave the resort to explore the ancient Yucatan Peninsula.

And, oh, what I found for

Less than \$150 offered a guided tour of the Island of Women, called Isla Mujeres, which is a 20-minute ferry ride from Cancun. I almost accepted it until a local merchant in downtown Cancun gave another idea.

For \$18, I bought a round-trip Ferry Ride to the island, rented a golf cart for \$15 and journeyed on my own. My girlfriends and I were free to roam this charming island without tour schedules. Mujeres is about five miles long, one mile wide and gives a perfect taste of authentic Mexico. The casual town bustles with lively energy: colorful buildings, hectic narrow streets and pretty beaches where music emanates from the nearby restaurants.

I found many modest hotels with air conditioning and beach view rooms for as low as \$45 per night.

Yes. \$45.

The hotel I fell in love with is called Bucaneros where 16 rooms are decorated with soft Mayan flair. Bucaneros isn't on the beach, even better. It's on a skinny street filled with windowless restaurants and shops and is a fun eight minute walk to the clear blue North Beach. Some of the rooms were \$77 per night; still a steal as each has a private bathroom, safe and cable television.

It also has a relaxing restaurant where tourists can eat anything without worry - Bucaneros owners' pride themselves on quality, clean ingredients. I had the best guacamole I've ever encountered. Visit www.bucaneros.com for a virtual visit.

Mujeres earned its name in 1517 after a Spanish explorer wandered there and saw stone statues of women throughout the island; shrines to Ixchel, the Mayan goddess of fertility.

Mujeres was also visited by infamous pirate Jean Lafitte (whose surname is also the name of the oldest bar in America — Lafitte's Blacksmith Shop in New Orleans). That pirate sure got around.

The island is also known for its sea turtles. Local children help raise and release them each year. Visit the Turtle Farm for \$30.

Or there's a reef located just feet from shore at Garrafón Natural Reef Park which makes snorkeling a breeze. What I didn't do there was swim with dolphins — because dolphins belong free in the ocean not captive in enclosed waterspace for us to ride all day long.

Wander the ruins at Hacienda Mundaca and see the chilling empty tomb of a slave-trading pirate where the words are inscribed "As you are, I was. As I am, you will be."

At about 6 p.m., partake in tradition by enjoying a cerveza at an open-air taqueria (taco shop) while watching the sunset at Playa Norte.

And then there's the shopping. If you don't want to haggle, go to Cancun's malls where prices are set and low. If you like negotiating, try the stores on the island. Offer 60 percent less of asking price. How much should you increase your offer? This best rule: ask yourself what the item is worth to you personally; not to the dollar. Silver, turquoise, hand-woven purses, handcarved instruments and embroidered clothing are best bets.

And if that still isn't fun enough there's a seashell house at the southern point of the island. Don't believe me? Visit http://www.isla-mujeres.net/postcards.htm and see.

Lana Mini is a citizen of the world, professional belly dancer and staff writer for the Observer & Eccentric and Mirror Newspapers. See more of her stories in Filter: Pure Entertainment every Thursday and Sunday.

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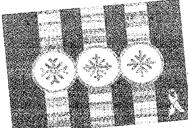
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