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Opponents give up on Corriveau recall

BY TONY BRUSCATO
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

State Rep. Marc Corriveau, D-Northville, won't have to worry about a recall vote on the Aug. 5 primary ballot after all.

Michigan Taxpayers Alliance leader Leon Drolet Thursday turned in more than 16,000 signatures to the Michigan Secretary of State office for the recall of House Speaker Andy Dillon, D-Redford Township, but admitted the group didn't have enough signatures to



Corriveau

recall Corriveau, whose 20th House District includes the Plymouths, Northvilles, a part of Canton Township and the city of Wayne. "We just didn't have enough money," Drolet said. "The Democrats hired an army of blockers who surrounded petitioners at the local library, township hall or post office; intimidating people as much as possible and blocking them from

getting to the petitioners.

"We tried to avoid the blockers by collecting signatures door-to-door, but the blockers went to the doors ahead of us making allegations," he added. "It was really, really ugly and we didn't have enough resources to fight them on a number of different fronts."

MTA organized a rally Feb. 11 in Livonia to begin the recalls against Dillon and Corriveau for their votes in favor of an income tax hike Oct. 1 to balance the state budget. They needed more than 10,000 certified signatures to put Corriveau up for

recall; however, Drolet admitted they knew by late March the effort probably wouldn't succeed.

"When Dillon and the Democratic Party cranked up their blocking machine, all we could do was make a decision. We didn't want to fall short in both," Drolet said. "The speaker (Dillon) was a very key figure, so we went after him. Corriveau will finish his term and we'll see what happens with re-election."

Corriveau said he pretty much stayed out of the fracas during the recall effort.

"I stayed out of the situation completely. I never did anything but continue my job," Corriveau said during a telephone conversation from the House floor. "I understand the issues in Redford got ugly on both sides."

"This was all about Leon from the very beginning," Corriveau added. "I'm out knocking on doors and I don't run into too many people who don't respect the fact I did my job and did what was in the best interest of the (20th House) district."

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City looks at building new structure

BY TONY BRUSCATO
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The Plymouth city commission's Super Parking Committee is moving forward with plans to consider a new downtown parking garage on the current East Central Lot between the Penn Theatre and the Plymouth District Library.

The committee — made up of members from the city commission, planning commission and Downtown Development Authority — voted in favor of that location after considering several public and private options. Among those was a new deck to replace the current 274-space, two-story parking structure off Harvey Street and purchasing the private lot at Wing and Harvey.

The committee also gave consideration to — but has discounted for the time being — some day purchasing the Wilcox property at Penniman and Union and Saxton's Garden Center at Wing and Deer streets for additional parking spaces.

Along with a new 244-space parking deck, the committee also gave thought to purchasing five homes on Union Street, adjacent to the proposed deck, to eventually add another 62 parking spaces.

Committee member Tracy Hewitt said she favored constructing a new deck at the site of the current structure, but believes the committee's choice is also a good option.

"You can't see it from Kellogg Park, so it maintains our core asset, which is really important," Hewitt said. "We do have a lot of demand from the library. I think the Penn Theatre

Please see **STRUCTURE, A6**



Salem High School seniors Riley Kennysmith (left) and Ted Wakar are named King and Queen during May Day activities held at the school Friday afternoon.

PHOTOS BY TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Happy May Day

Celebration follows months of research

BY BRAD KADRICH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

After months of planning, research and hard work, humanities students at Plymouth-Canton Educational Park weren't going to let a little rain spoil their May Day celebration Friday.

When Mother Nature dropped the rain on the outdoor site of the annual celebration, the students simply moved inside.

The May Day committee started researching the customs of western cultures back in January, figuring out what kind of clothing to wear, activities to host, etc.

"We study the history of the western world," said humanities teacher Shelly Bates, who was also to preside over a renaissance festival at Bentley Elementary School Friday night. "There is a lot of research that goes into it, and (the celebration) is the fruition of that."



Students at Salem High School weave their way around the May Pole during May Day activities at the school Friday afternoon.

The event featured the traditional May Pole (and corresponding May Pole dancing), activities such as juggling and jousting, and period costumes, all put together by the students following both on-line and in-library research.

The success of the resulting celebration provides a warm feeling. "When you try to plan

something so different, you never know what it's going to look like," said 18-year-old Canton High School David Catalan, one of the coordinators. "The whole thing is a learning experience, because none of us has done anything like this before. So when it happens, it feels so good."

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Dad: Not all facts came out at beheading trial

BY BRAD KADRICH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Pete Letkemann isn't trying to make excuses for his son, and he knows nothing he says now, in the wake of his son's guilty plea to second-degree murder in the death and beheading of Daniel Sorensen, will change anyone's opinion about the case, or about his son, Alexander.

But those opinions are based on facts that came out during the trial of — and were used to convict — Jean Pierre Orlewicz of Plymouth Township of first-degree murder in the case.

The elder Letkemann believes there are other facts, which never came out during Orlewicz's trial, that paint a truer picture not only of Alex's involvement in the crime, but of Alex as a person.

And while he understands — and acknowledges — the seriousness of his son's crimes, he thinks judgments should be made with *all* the facts.

"There are some facts and opinions that would have come out had Alex gone to trial," Pete Letkemann said. "I offer this ... as a dad. I believe those

how know Alex will find my explanation easy to believe and (understand) those who do not know him may have some trouble."

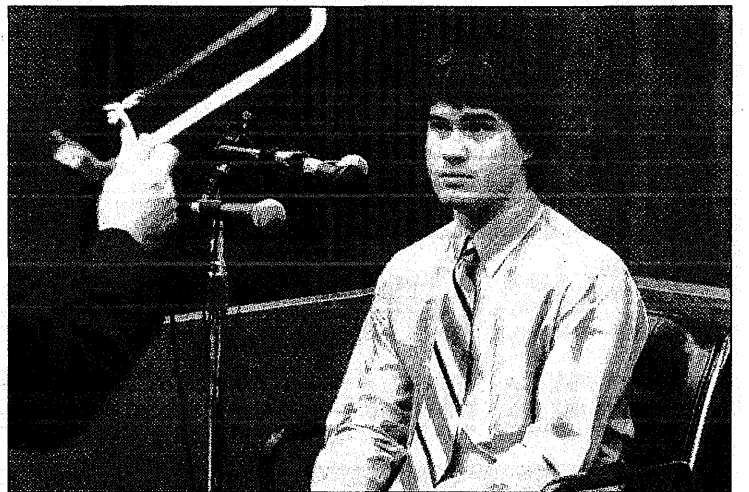
The elder Letkemann wanted to expound on various points:

■ Much was made at trial of teens who heard Orlewicz talk just days before the murder about killing Sorensen. According to Letkemann, kids in that circle heard Orlewicz talk like that "all the time" and didn't take it seriously.

Opinions offered in some circles that teens who testified to hearing those statements — principally Levi Webb and Sean Gaikowski — could have done something to stop the murder are unfair, according to Pete Letkemann.

"They weren't keeping some deep, dark secret," Pete Letkemann said. "They heard (Orlewicz) talk like that all the time. It was only in retrospect the comments were important to anyone. The media has unfairly portrayed them as if they were co-conspirators in some way, and this is wrong."

Please see **DAD, A6**

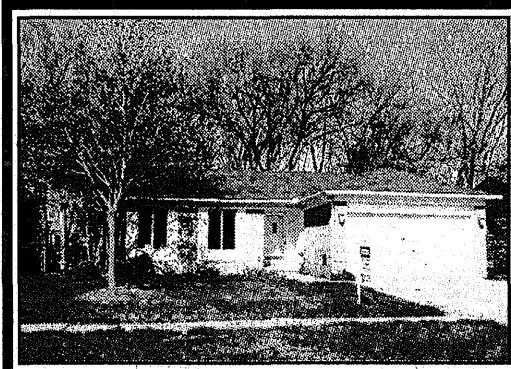


Alexander Letkemann of Westland, a former Livonia Churchill student, describes the killing of Daniel Sorensen during testimony in Wayne County Circuit Court.

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High school team meets, beats college racers

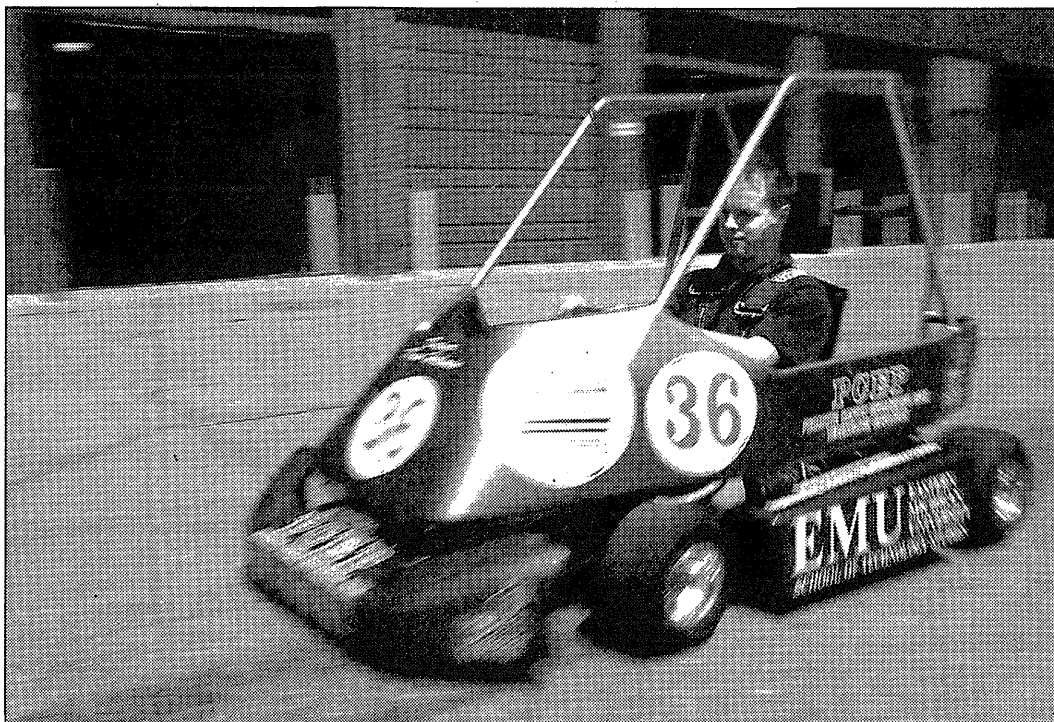
BY TONY BRUSCATO
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Students enrolled in Plymouth-Canton Educational Park's Advanced Automotive Technology class had their work cut out for them when they were asked by Eastern Michigan University to take a used, gasoline-powered go-cart and turn it into a sleek-looking competitive racing machine powered by E-85 fuel.

The catch: Complete the project within a month and race it against seven teams composed of college students from Bowling Green State University — most of them engineering and physics majors — in a 16-mile Grand Prix road race.

There were long hours dedicated by P-CEP auto tech students to hand-molding metal and fabricating supports, configuring the exact amount of E-85 fuel for the 5.5-horsepower Honda engine and painting the salvaged go-cart.

Entering the alternative fuel race was supposed to be enough expectation for the high school students, but somebody forgot to tell them otherwise. On April 12, the P-CEP team surprised their college-age counterparts in winning the race convincingly — by eight lengths — followed by a BGSU driver throwing his



Driver Ken Holman takes the cart for a spin outside the auto shop at Canton High School.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

helmet in disbelief.

"It was a good whoopin'," said Jim O'Connor, who teaches the high school class with Michael Duff. "If you empower kids and teach them skills and attention to detail, they can do anything. We all stepped up to the plate."

The challenge was put forth by Al Tessmer, technology education professor at Eastern Michigan University's School

of Technology Studies. Tessmer worked one year at Bowling Green and helped start the Grand Prix tradition to bring attention to alternative fuels. BGSU officials wanted to involve other schools this year, and invited Tessmer to put together an EMU racing team. Through his friendship with O'Connor, Tessmer — only four weeks before the race

— asked if P-CEP students could construct a competitive racing cart. Knowing the odds, Tessmer really just wanted an EMU entry, even if it finished last. Tessmer got much more when EMU student Ken Holman finished second in time trials and then crossed the finish line to capture the checkered flag.

"It was probably one of the

toughest things I've done, especially with the time constraints," said Brian Sawle, 18, of Canton, who remembers working some nights until 10 p.m. to finish the go-cart. "We didn't have all the parts at first, so we had to order them."

Sawle helped fabricate the chain guard and weld it on the go-cart, paint it and work with teammates on "jetting" the carburetor (mixing fuel with air before it goes into the engine) to accept the E-85 fuel, which is 85 percent ethanol and 15 percent gasoline, derived mainly from corn.

"We were testing it right up to the last day, but I was confident it would make it through the race," Sawle said. "I was surprised we beat out college students, considering they are engineering students. It was just a great feeling."

Trent Shelton, 18, of Canton said he was confident they would meet the challenge, but he also wanted to be proud of the EMU/P-CEP entry.

"We wanted to show quality, we didn't want to show garbage," Shelton said. "We saw pictures of the other carts and they didn't look like this one."

"The teachers gave us the guidance and we did it ourselves," he added. "I knew we'd run out front, but I was surprised we won. It was a huge confidence boost."

O'Connor said it was difficult finding the right mixture to convert the gasoline-powered go-cart to one which ran on the E-85 blend.

"The fuel lines and seals needed to be E-85 convertible, but it was mainly figuring out

what a gasoline engine wanted in regards to the E-85," O'Connor said. "If you were to put E-85 into something that was set for gasoline, it would run way too lean and it wouldn't have any power."

"The kids had their hands into every part of this car. We (teachers) just directed what was needed to be done next," he added. "The college kids had three years to perfect their cars, so you would think they would build this incredible powerhouse of technologically superior cars. I think they took it for granted they would win."

Duff said P-CEP students had to use much of their classroom knowledge in readying the go-cart for competition.

"There's a ton of physics, engineering, math and science planned out to meet the goals and objectives," Duff said. "There's thinking involved, and hand and eye coordination, to develop it."

"(The college students) are a little more conceptual than what we have, but they lack the building skills we have," he added.

"They're screaming in industry for people who can do both." Tessmer was obviously pleased the go-cart — which is on display at EMU — won the race. But equally as important are the lessons learned about alternative energy.

"Our whole intent is to get the U.S. free of gasoline while developing more alternative sources to drive prices down," Tessmer said. "If we can get kids to think about alternative energy, in the process they'll find the solutions we need."

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CORRECTION

A story about the Plymouth Township supervisor's race in the Thursday, May 1, *Plymouth Observer* should have said candidate K.C. Mueller served on the township's planning commission, not the Downtown Development Authority.

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Clerks round up seniors to beef voting ranks

BY TONY BRUSCATO
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Several hundred high school seniors at Plymouth-Canton Educational Park took the first step in voicing their opinions this November in the presidential and local elections. Municipal clerks and their representatives from Plymouth, Plymouth Township and Canton Township spent several hours at each of the three high schools this past

week registering seniors to vote. "In our office we always have issues with high school kids going off to college and then trying to find out how to register to vote and receiving an absentee ballot at school," said Linda Langmesser, Plymouth clerk, who organized the effort. "If they sign up in person, they can get an absentee ballot their first election. "The kids are excited we're giving them the opportunity

to register and they don't have to go elsewhere to do it," she said. "I think this election, because of how controversial it is, might encourage kids to get out there and voice their opinions." Being able to voice her opinion is why Erica Caudillo, 17, of Plymouth registered to vote. "I think it's important because we're the future," said Caudillo. "I'm looking forward to voting, though I'm a bit unsure because I don't know everything that's going on. But, I try to follow it." Eric Piwowar, 18, of Canton

Township, is aware of the low voter turnouts in most elections. "I think everyone should vote and express their opinions," said Piwowar. "It's appalling to see how many people you know who don't vote. I try to inform myself as much as possible so I can vote accurately." Plymouth Township Deputy Clerk Joe Bridgman said those registering were asking a lot of good questions about voting and absentee ballots. "Many aren't aware they can register at 17½-years-old," Bridgman said. "As long as

they turn 18 by November they can still vote in the general election." Jackie Shamus, representing the Canton Township clerk's office, said she was surprised by the number of students who registered to vote. "The last time I did this 2½

years ago I had about three kids fill out the form in 2½ hours," Shamus said. "This time I had about three kids in 10 seconds. Definitely the kids are more interested this time, and that's nice to see."

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



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Students Eric Franka, Jackson Vaughn, Jessica Cicirelli, Andrew Inagni and Kyle Sanders register to vote with Canton Township's Jackie Shamus.

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Bells concert

St. John's Episcopal Church's Classical Bells professional handbell ensemble will perform a lively, eclectic program that is sure to delight and inspire 7 p.m. Friday, May 9.

St. John's Episcopal Church is located at 574 S. Sheldon in Plymouth. Admission is free; no tickets required.

For more information, call Scott Elsholz, (734) 453-0190, Ext. 16.

Child Seat Safety Clinic

The Plymouth Township Police Department is hosting a Free Child Seat Safety Clinic, Saturday May 10, beginning at 10 a.m.

The event takes place at the Plymouth Township Police Department, located at 9955 N. Haggerty Rd. The inspections will be by "appointment only" and limited space is available.

If you would like to have your child's seat inspected by a national certified Child Passenger Safety Technician, make an appointment by calling Officer Jamie Senkbeil at (734) 354-3232.

Thursday classics

May is "Musical Month" for

the Thursday Classics film series at the Penn Theatre in downtown Plymouth.

The series is sponsored by the Plymouth Downtown Development Authority. Free passes are available at Sweet Afton Tea Room, Panera Bread, Bohemian Home and Lotus Arts Gallery.

The schedule for the rest of the month: May 8, *Annie Get Your Gun*, May 15, *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers*, May 22, *Brigadoon*, and May 29, *My Fair Lady*.

The box office opens at 6:30 p.m.; showtime is 7 p.m. The Penn Theatre is located at 760 Penniman in downtown Plymouth. All seats are \$3.

For more information, visit the Web site at www.penn-theatre.com or call (734) 453-0870.

Ice cream social

Allen Elementary School, located at 11100 Haggerty in Plymouth, hosts its annual Silent Auction/Ice Cream Social 5:30-8 p.m., Friday, May 9.

Items donated include signed sports memorabilia, restaurant gift certificates, tickets to sporting events, birthday party packages as

well as a number of other great family experiences. Other auction items include a police ride along, and many items perfect for Mother's and Father's Day.

There will also be a raffle the night of the auction for the chance to win one of three waterpark experiences. We will also be selling one of kind "Webkinz" collars and bags to benefit the Allen Scholarship Fund.

All proceeds from the event go to enhancing the educational experience of the Allen student body. Admission and Ice Cream Social are free. The first 100 people to register for the auction will receive discount coupons for local businesses. Checks or cash only please.

Rock Shoppe classes

The Rock Shoppe, located at 6275 Gotfredson, offers upcoming classes:

■ Brick paver class, 10 a.m., May 17: Free class on brick paver installation, featuring experts from Allan Block demonstrate the step by step process of installing a brick paver patio, sidewalk or driveway. Free design help will be available. This class will be followed by a free lunch and a second class.

■ Retaining wall and pillar installation, noon, May 17: Free class on retaining wall and pillars installation, featuring John Kerr, the Allanblock expert, demonstrating the step-by-step process of installing retaining walls and pillars. Free design help will be available. Register by phone at (734) 455-5560, or via e-mail at rustcustomerservice@gmail.com

Hike for Hope

The New Hope Center for Grief Support hosts its "Hike for Hope," 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, June 7, at Maybury State Park (Eight Mile entrance, a mile west of Beck, car fee of \$6).

A registration fee of \$15 per person or \$25 per family will be charged prior to the event and \$20 per person or \$30 per family the day of the event; donations from sponsors can be obtained by walkers. Registration is from 9-9:45 a.m. The hike will be followed by a "Time of Remembrance" and a complimentary hot dog lunch. There will be lots of fun for kids and family entertainment.

New Hope Center for Grief Support is a Christian-based bereavement outreach center located in Northville. The non-profit agency provides grief support services for adults, children, and teens through groups, seminars and other resources. All groups offered by New Hope Center are provided free of charge and the agency relies on individual and community support for its funding.

For more information about Hike for Hope or to participate, volunteer, or be a business sponsor, call the New Hope office at (248) 348-0115.

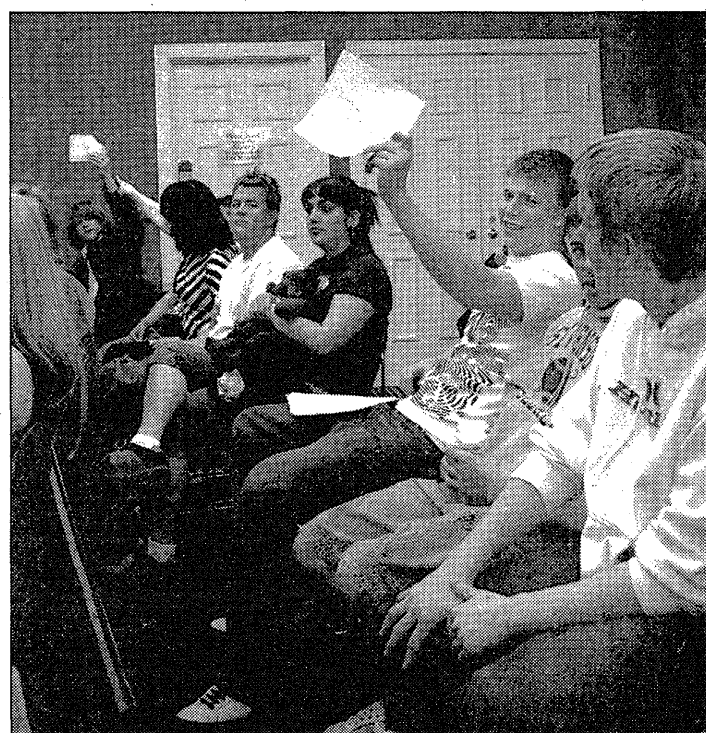
Farm and garden

The Plymouth Branch of the Women's National Farm & Garden meets 12:30 p.m. Monday, May 12, in the Plymouth Library. Presenter is Celeste Watts, who will discuss Ecological Gardening. All are welcome.

For more information contact Linda C. at (734) 459-7478.

Symphony fund-raiser

The Plymouth Symphony League launches its 2009 Greater Detroit Area Entertainment Book Sale. For \$20.00, buyers get



Judges judge

Judges for the Plymouth District Library Poetry Slam share their scores with the crowd. Seventy-five students from Plymouth, Canton and Livonia all enjoyed the lively night with fellow students and master of ceremonies, Canton High School teacher Larry Francis.

coupons that save money on a variety of entertainment activities like Plymouth Symphony Orchestra concerts, attractions like the Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village, specialty stores, and fine and casual restaurants all over the area.

For a limited time only, with each purchase of a 2009 Entertainment book, customers will receive a 2008 book free (while supplies last). The 2009 edition of the Entertainment Book also includes a Platinum section, featuring special discount certificates for the "best of the best" restaurants in Metro Detroit, including Plymouth's own Ernesto's and the Whitney restaurant in Detroit. Help the arts thrive in the community and place an order at the Plymouth Symphony Office by calling (734) 451-2112, Tuesday-Friday, 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information or the Plymouth Canton Symphony Society, visit the PSO Web site at www.plymouthsymphony.org

DAR meets

The Daughters of the American Revolution-DAR-Sarah Ann Cochrane Chapter

meets 6-8:45 p.m. Monday, May 19 at Plymouth Township Hall, 9955 N. Haggerty, in Plymouth.

The program will be on "Separation of Church and State." For more information, call (734) 453-8194.

Kidney Foundation golf outing

The National Kidney Foundation of Michigan hosts the first Team Michigan Golf Outing Monday, May 12 at Fox Hills in Plymouth.

The event is open to individual golfers or teams of four. Sign up to golf and you will receive lunch, 18 holes of scramble-style golf, cart, open bar and hors d'oeuvres reception. Sponsorship opportunities are also available. For more information or to sign up please call (800) 482-1455, Ext. 206.

All proceeds from the event support Team Michigan attending the U.S. Transplant Games—an Olympic-style sporting event held for recipients of organ donations. The Games are meant to increase organ donations for the 100,000 Americans waiting for a life-saving transplant.

Wedding Workshop

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Tuesday
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Make Mother's Day Special!

Sunday, May 11, 2008

Enjoy a relaxing Mother's Day Brunch set in a Tropical Garden Atrium with Cascading Waterfalls at the Embassy Suites Hotel Livonia. Executive Chef Michael Stewart has designed a fabulous menu including a delightful array of desserts that is sure to please the entire family!

~ Breakfast Station ~

Three Cheese Scrambled Eggs • Cheese Blintz with Assorted Fresh Fruit Topping
Crispy Hash Browns O'Brien • Fresh Sausage and Crispy Bacon
Have it Your Way Omelets • Make it Your Way Waffles

~ Caving Station ~

Slow Roasted Honey Chipotle Turkey Breast served with Pineapple Relish
Dijon Crusted Dry-Aged Prime Rib served with
Rosemary Au Jus and Horseradish Sauce

~ Hot Entrees ~

Barbeque Pork Loin with Cherry and Sweet Onion Chutney
Baked Cod Creole • Penne Rigate Primavera
Roasted Potatoes Provençal • Green Beans Almondine
Saffron Infused Basmati Rice • House made Macaroni & Cheese

~ Hors' D'oeuvres Station ~

Montage of Fresh Fruit and Berries • Farm Fresh Vegetable Display
International and Domestic Cheese Display
Smoked Fish Assortment • Peel and Eat Shrimp Cocktail

~ Fresh From the Garden ~

Cheese Tortellini with Sun-Dried Tomatoes and Artichokes
Marinated Tomato and Cucumber Salad • Southern Style Coleslaw
Tri-Color Rotini Pasta Salad • Crispy Romaine and Fresh Tossed Salad with
All the Makings for the Salad of Your Dreams

~ Sweets Endings ~

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Seating Times Available: 11:30 - 12:30 - 1:30 - 2:30

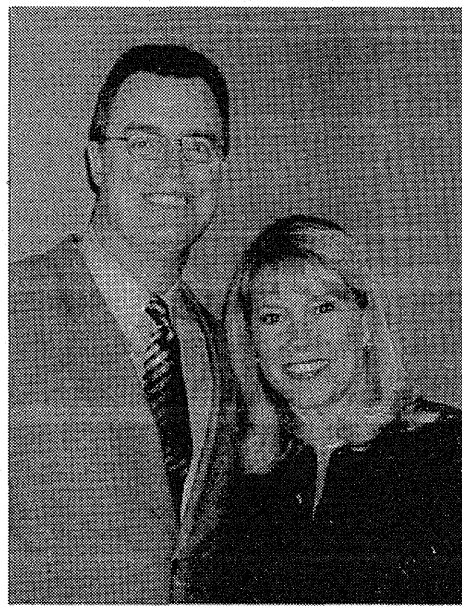
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You're invited to come and hear...



**Frank and
Cathy Tanana**
Mother's Day
May 11 at 10:45 a.m.

Calvary Baptist Church
43065 Joy Road, Canton
(between Main Street and Lilley Road)
734-455-0022 www.cbjoy.org

Since retiring from Major League Baseball in 1994, Frank (former pitcher for the Detroit Tigers) and Cathy have been active in ministry in their home church and community. Cathy is Director of Women's Ministries at Highland Park Baptist Church in Southfield, and Frank has many opportunities to share his love for Jesus Christ through speaking engagements here at home and around the country.

Frank and Cathy will be speaking in the morning service. You are invited to join us for this special morning celebrating moms!

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8121 Lilley, Located between Joy & Warren Roads

'Sunset at the Zoo' set for June 20

The Detroit Zoological Society's annual Sunset at the Zoo fund-raiser takes place 7-11:30 p.m. Friday, June 20. Presented by General Motors and Saturn, the year's wildest party features a strolling supper, zoo-themed martinis, live entertainment, dancing, and live and silent auctions. The event is held rain or shine, and the zoo closes at 2 p.m. that day in preparation for the festivities.

More than 2,000 zoo supporters are expected to attend the 2008 Year of the Frog-themed event. A strolling supper offers tastes of signature dishes from 40 of the area's finest restaurants, the Jerry Ross Band entertains throughout the evening, and guests have access to the zoo's award-winning animal habitats as the sun goes down. Attire for the evening is "elegant summer chic."

The live auction includes "zoo-nique" items such as a gourmet dinner for 12 with the polar bears at the zoo's Arctic Ring of Life, a behind-the-scenes tour for four with the zoo's night staff, the Ultimate Zoo Birthday Party and Overnight Experience for 20, and a custom piece of zoo-themed jewelry from Jules R. Schubot Jewellers.

Tickets for Sunset at the Zoo range from \$125 to \$500 per person. A Benefactor Party will be held on Tuesday, May 20, at the Bloomfield Hills home of Jennifer and David Fischer for those purchasing \$500 tickets. A VIP Reception will be held at the zoo's National Amphibian Conservation Center 6-7 p.m. Friday, June 20, for those purchasing \$500 and \$250 tickets. Tickets can be ordered by phone at (248) 541-5717, Ext. 3750, or online at www.detroitzoo.org.

Sunset at the Zoo is also supported by Comerica Bank, Crain Communications, Dining in the Wild!, Jaffe Raitt Heuer & Weiss, P.C., JP Morgan Chase, Sue and Alan J. Kaufman, Strategic Staffing Solutions and Unique Expressions. Co-chairs for this year's event are Beverly Bantom of Farmington Hills, Margaret Ogden of Grosse Pointe and Lois Shaevsky of Bloomfield Hills.

2008 Year of the Frog is a global public awareness campaign to focus attention on endangered amphibians and the critical work being done by zoos and aquariums to save them. The Detroit Zoological Society is supporting the worldwide initiative with special events, fund-raising activities, educational opportunities and community outreach efforts throughout the year.

The Detroit Zoological Society is a nonprofit organization that operates the Detroit Zoo and Belle Isle Nature Zoo. Situated on 125 acres of naturalistic exhibits, the Detroit Zoo is located at the intersection of 10 Mile Road and Woodward Avenue, just off I-696, in Royal Oak.

The Detroit Zoo is open daily 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. April through October - with extended hours until 8 p.m. Wednesdays during July and August - and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. November through March. Admission is \$11 for adults 13 to 61, \$9 for senior citizens 62 and older, and \$7 for children ages 2 to 12; children under 2 are free. For more information, call (248) 541-5717 or visit www.detroitzoo.org.

The Belle Isle Nature Zoo is open daily 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. year-round and provides educational programming with interpretive staff support from the Huron-Clinton Metroparks.

For more information, call (313) 852-4056.



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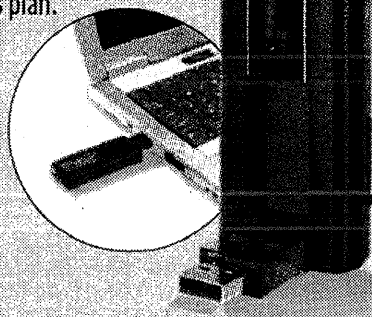
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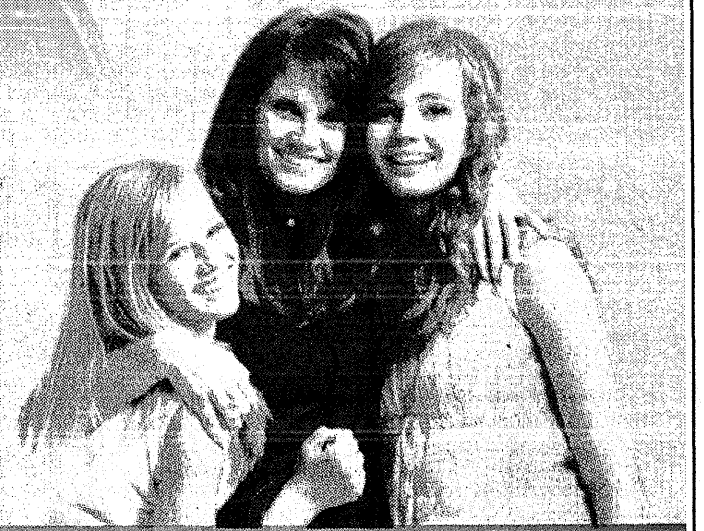
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Corners)
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DEARBORN
24417 Ford Rd.
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(in the Sears Plaza)
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Twelve Oaks Mall
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Place Mall)
248-335-9900

ROCHESTER HILLS
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248-853-0550

ROYAL OAK
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(at Normandy)
248-549-4177

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(at 10 1/2 Mile)
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28117 Telegraph Rd.
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(M-59 & M-53,
Utica Park Plaza)
586-997-6500

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(across from
Southland Mall)
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TROY
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248-526-0040

Oakland Mall
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next to food court)

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DAD

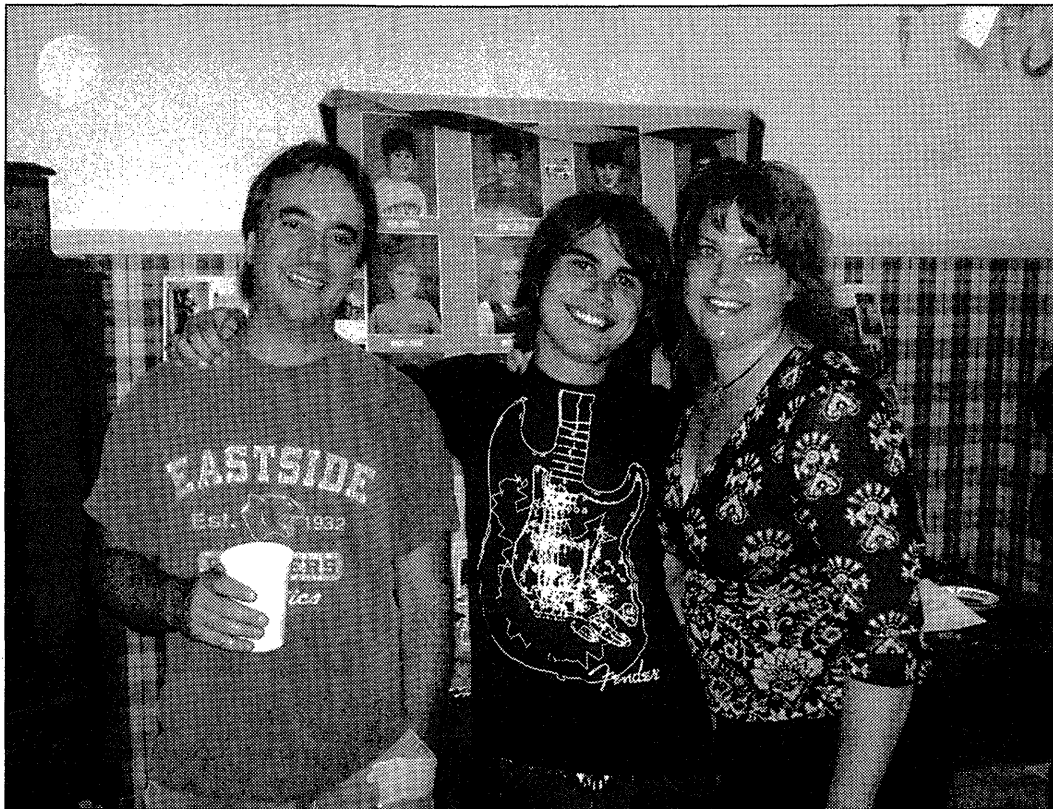
FROM PAGE A1

They were doing their best to put a killer behind bars. "I know of at least a half-dozen other kids who heard the same thing (Orlewicz talking about killing)," Pete Letkemann added. "Everyone's been to a party and heard someone talking crap and they said, 'Yeah, right.'"

While drugs were always on the periphery, there really wasn't much testimony about drugs during Orlewicz's trial. However, Pete Letkemann acknowledges, Alex had "started doing some serious drugs." In fact, the elder Letkemann said, the \$100 debt Alex was trying to clear by helping Orlewicz clean up after Sorensen's murder was drug-related.

According to his father, Alex Letkemann thought humoring Orlewicz by going along with his plan would buy him some time to pay back the \$100. When Orlewicz aborted the initial plan (Tuesday, Nov. 6), it cemented the idea in Alex's mind that Orlewicz was "talking more crap like he always did," Pete Letkemann said.

The murder happened the next day. Letkemann testified he'd been drinking and said he "froze" when Orlewicz began stabbing Sorensen. In a statement he gave Canton police that was videotaped — which was played at the preliminary hearing in December, but not at Orlewicz's trial — Letkemann professed fear. "I was afraid to turn my back on him ... he had just done this to someone he'd known for years, what would he do to me?" (Alex) was messed up,



Alex Letkemann (center) with dad Pete and mom Diane.

there's no doubt about it," Pete Letkemann said. "I know through his friends he had been doing some (drugs) at the time. That night, when it was going on, he was deathly afraid, absolutely."

The day after the murder, Alex Letkemann first declined, then agreed to help Orlewicz dispose of evidence. While his father believes "this is the only crime Alex committed; some of you will disagree," he thinks Alex at that point was just trying to "make it go away."

On Friday, Nov. 9, the younger Letkemann's mind began to clear, according to his father, and the enormity of what he'd done began to sink in. According to Pete

Letkemann, his son was worried Orlewicz might "do it again," because of talks Orlewicz had about "mistakes he'd made ... he wouldn't make again."

Letkemann wound up giving three different statements to police and, according to his own testimony in Orlewicz's trial, was untruthful in all three of them. It wasn't until he got his plea deal in April that Letkemann told law enforcement the entire truth, even though he had helped police find Sorensen's head.

Still, the Letkemann family bristles at the idea Alex testified to "cop a deal and save himself." In fact, according to Pete Letkemann, Alex had wanted to testify long before

the April 1 plea arrangement.

"The entire time Alex was in jail he said he wanted to testify to make sure JP could never hurt anyone again," Pete Letkemann said. "We convinced him to wait (for a deal)."

Defense attorney Raymond Cassar of Farmington Hills — who Pete Letkemann said "did a wonderful job" — said his client wanted to put everything right from the beginning.

"Every time I went to visit with Alex, he indicated to me how sorry he was," Cassar said. "Alex always wanted to do the right thing. What I'd hoped the judge would have done, was not to judge Alex by the misdeed, but by the corrective

IN ALEX'S WORDS

"Every day I wish I would have made better choices. I was in a terrible situation and made the worst decision possible. I take complete responsibility for my actions. When somebody asks why I was involved at all I say, 'I don't know' because I honestly can't think of a reason. I really don't think there is an acceptable explanation, but I will say this: The whole scene went to the extreme in seconds. I was overwhelmed with shock and fear. My mind was clouded by intoxicants and instead of doing something, I froze. I know I should have done everything differently and I will forever be in debt to my conscience. I hope that some will remember that in spite of my incredible lack in judgment, I went to the police and cooperated in giving them information, helping to solve the case. I then testified, not for my own piece of mind, but for that of the Sorensen family. I am so grateful for their forgiveness and I admire their courage and strength. I made a very severe mistake, but I was glad to be able to insure proper justice and closure to this case. I know I did the right thing. In doing so, I was given another chance at life, with which I will show everyone I can be the person they know I am. I plan to do everything to help others in any way possible."

measures he took afterward. I would hope she'd give him more credit than that."

At sentencing, Judge Annette Berry criticized Letkemann for his inability to come up with an appropriate answer to her lone question: "Why?" But the victim's parents, James and Kimberly Sorensen, forgave Alex during their statements and even offered to speak on his behalf when he comes up for parole.

It was a gesture filled with meaning for Letkemann's family.

"I knew (the Sorensens) were good people ... I still didn't know ... what they really felt," Pete Letkemann said. "When they saw the work we did trying to get the 'real' Alex out there, they began to understand these weren't two peas in a pod cooking up some sinister plot in the basement. I'm grateful they were able to see that. I can't tell you how much that means. It means

everything." With the trial and sentencing behind them — Berry imposed the 20- to 30-year sentence prosecutors and Cassar agreed upon — Pete Letkemann said the family's focus is on the future. He said his talks with Alex don't center much on the case, but on staying focused.

"I've got a daughter, Amanda, who is having a hard time with this, even though she's a strong person and has a strong group of friends," Pete Letkemann said. "With Alex, it's getting him focused and keeping him upbeat and working toward the future. He plans on going full-tilt for any educational opportunities he can grasp. He understands at some places he's going to be able to work on his music (he writes music and plays guitar), and he's excited about that."

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ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS
CITY OF PLYMOUTH, MICHIGAN

Notice is hereby given that the City of Plymouth will accept sealed bids until 2:00 PM, EDT on Thursday, May 22, 2008, at 201 South Main Street, at which time all proposals received shall be publicly opened and read aloud for:

Crowd Control Fencing

Specifications, bid documents, and proposal forms may be obtained from the office of the Purchasing Agent during regular office hours.

The City Commission reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, in whole, or in part, and to waive any irregularities.

Address bids to:

LINDA LANGMESSER, CMC/AAE
PLYMOUTH CITY CLERK
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In a sealed envelope bearing the inscription:
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For opening: **Thursday, May 22, 2008**

If you have any questions or if you would like to view the existing equipment, please contact:

Chris Porman
Assistant Director
Municipal Services Department
(734) 453-7737

Publish: May 4, 2008

Notice is hereby given that on Monday May 19, 2008 Tate & Co. Auctioneers, Executive Administrator for Extra Space Storage, will be offering for sale under the judicial lien process by public auction, the following storage units. The goods to be sold are generally described as household goods. The terms of the sale will be cash only. Extra Space Storage reserves the right to refuse any and all bids. The sale will be at the following location: EXTRA SPACE STORAGE, 6729 N. CANTON CENTER RD., CANTON, MI 48187 AT 12:00 PM.

Alan Ray Brown	D153 10x20	Grinder, 11 Totes, 2 VCRs, Shop vacuum, Various Household/Garden Tools, Containers, 1 Gun Safe, Trail/Mountain Bike, 2 Lamps, 1 Fishing Rod, Large Tool Chest, Chest of Wicker Drawers, Quiver with Arrows
Canton Ice Cream Center c/o Brian Basienke	D155 10x10	Misc. Restaurant and Ice Cream Equipment
Christopher Donoghue	E189 10x10	Entertainment Center, Curio Cabinet, 16+ Boxes of Misc. Goods, 7 Board Games, Equipment Bag, 2 Bookshelves, 2 Standing Halogen Lamps, 30" Superman figure, Dish Network DVR.

Publish: May 4, 2008

STRUCTURE

FROM PAGE A1

will create more demand and I think the Parkside development will need 50-75 more parking spaces than they already have."

Old estimates indicate putting a third deck on the current parking structure could cost \$5 million, while a total rebuild was at \$8.5 million. The committee is expected to

ask the city administration to update the numbers before proceeding.

If the committee moves forward with a new parking deck next to the library, the DDA will continue to pay for upkeep of the current garage.

"It's a structure that has a 35-year life expectancy," committee member Mike Wright said of the deck constructed in 1981. "It costs about \$50,000 annually to maintain."

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

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH
PLANNING COMMISSION

PROPOSED ACTION: Request Approval of a Special Land Use
DATE OF HEARING: Wednesday, May 21, 2008
TIME OF HEARING: 7:00 P.M.
PLACE OF HEARING: Plymouth Township Hall, 9955 North Haggerty Road

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Planning Commission of Plymouth Charter Township has received an application requesting **Special Land Use Approval** for Outdoor Storage in a Industrial District, (IND), on Tax ID R78-016-02-0014-303, pursuant to Zoning Ordinance No. 99, Section 19.2-9. The property is located on the east side of Plymouth Oaks Boulevard, south of M-14 Expressway, west of the CSX Railroad, and north of the City of Plymouth, at 43939 Plymouth Oaks Boulevard.

Application 1988/0408 Applicant, Ilmor Engineering, Inc.

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: For parcel description, see tax records based on Tax ID No. R-78-016-02-0014-303.

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

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

KENDRA BARBERENA, Secretary
Planning Commission

Publish: May 4, 2008

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH
PLANNING COMMISSION

PROPOSED ACTION: Request Approval of a Special and Use
DATE OF HEARING: Wednesday, May 21, 2008
TIME OF HEARING: 7:00 p.m.
PLACE OF HEARING: Plymouth Township Hall, 9955 North Haggerty Road

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Planning Commission of Plymouth Charter Township has received an application requesting **Special Land Use Approval** for a Gymnastics Facility in an Industrial District, (IND), on Tax ID R78-009-01-0004-302, pursuant to Zoning Ordinance No. 99, Section 19.2-14. The property is located on the east side of Keel Street, south of Five Mile Road, west of Cleat Street, and north of Helm Street at 15180 Keel Street.

Application 1989/0408 Applicant, Euro Stars

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

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

KENDRA BARBERENA, Secretary
Planning Commission

Publish: May 4, 2008

CITY OF PLYMOUTH
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Sealed proposals for the construction of the City of Plymouth 2008 Sidewalk Repair Program will be received by the City Clerk, City of Plymouth, Michigan, 201 S. Main Street, until 2:00 P.M. Local Time on Tuesday, May 27, 2008 at which time and place all bids will be publicly opened and read:

Major Estimated Quantities are:

4" Concrete Sidewalk	15,000 S.F.
6" Concrete Sidewalk Driveway Approach or Ramp	5,000 S.F.
8" Concrete Pavement Replacement	1,400 S.F.
12" Reinforced Concrete Pavement Replacement	1,000 S.F.
3/4" Expansion Anchored Hook Bolts	700 EA.

Specifications may be obtained from Dietrich, Bailey and Associates, P.C., 107 South Main Street, Plymouth, Michigan after May 5, 2008 for a non-refundable charge of \$30.00 per set. Bid documents will be mailed for an additional charge of \$10.00.

Specifications may be examined at the City of Plymouth Clerk's Office, 201 South Main Street, Plymouth, Michigan without charge.

Questions on the project may be directed to the City of Plymouth Municipal Services Department at 734-453-7737 Ext. 136.

Each proposal shall be accompanied by a Certified Check in the amount of 5% of the bid, payable to the Owner, as security for acceptance of the Contract. A bid bond in the Michigan Standard Form issued by an approved surety company may be furnished in lieu of a Certified Check.

No bidder may withdraw his proposal within 60 days after the date set for the opening thereof.

The right is reserved by the Owner to reject any or all proposals, either in whole or in part, and to waive any irregularities therein.

Linda Langmesser, CMC
City Clerk

Publish: May 4, 11 & 18, 2008

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PURE ENTERTAINMENT!

Part of the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

Hayes Jones talks about his passions – sports and SMART

BY BRAD KADRICH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Hayes Jones, the general manager of the Suburban Mobility Authority for Regional Transportation, knew he was at the Plymouth Kiwanis Club meeting Thursday to talk about the rising SMART bus ridership and an increasing need for suburban communities to opt back into the system.

But Jones, chosen as SMART's GM about a year ago, couldn't keep himself from starting his speech with some reminiscences about what he called his "first passion" — sports.

The 1964 Olympic gold medalist in the 110-meter hurdles took the opportunity to thank the Kiwanis Club, as he has done many times over the years, for helping him realize the potential he displayed on the playgrounds of Pontiac so many years ago.

Jones attributes his success to a program the Kiwanis Club started in Pontiac in the late 1940s, "Little Olympics," that gave children a chance to excel at football, basketball and track.

Jones said he didn't have the size for football or basketball, but he knew he had speed.

"Knowing I was the fastest kid in the neighborhood, I decided on track," Jones said Thursday. "That's where I was introduced to the Kiwanis Club, and they helped me find my God-given talent."

Jones said he'd qualified for the 1960 Olympics and had been favored to win the gold, but brought home a bronze instead, two weeks after getting married, a move he said his athletic director kiddingly

teased him, "Hayes traded gold for bronze."

Four years later, he said, he was again the favorite, but said he wound up hitting the tape at virtually the same time as countryman Harold Lindgren and Russian Anatoly Mikhailov. After 45 minutes of consultation, officials awarded the gold to Jones in 13.6 seconds (the silver went to Lindgren, the bronze to Mikhailov).

"That's when I knew my dream had become a reality, and I was the fastest hurdler in the world," Jones said. "As I stood there on the victory stand, and they played the national anthem in my honor, the only thing I could remember was someone in Pontiac telling me, 'You have a gift.'"

His passion now is running SMART, a system he said is getting more difficult to run because of the struggling economy and the decision by some communities, including places like Livonia, Canton and the Plymouths, to not be part of the system.

He said the system, created in 1976, now carries some 250,000 riders per week. The larger buses, which until recently had been averaging some 27,000 riders per week, have exploded to more than 42,000 riders per week as people for whom the system was designed — commuters, entry-level workers, seniors and people with disabilities — look for alternatives to spending nearly \$4 per gallon on gas.

"We're in a perfect storm," Jones said. "People are clamoring to use (SMART), but we don't have the money. The money we're supposed to have from Lansing and

Washington, D.C., just isn't there."

Jones said the decision by suburban municipalities to opt out has left SMART with "a checkerboard kind of service," because, for instance, people who live in Washtenaw County but work in Wayne County can't get a straight ride in because Plymouth and Canton don't have SMART.

"We're not providing the level of service we were mandated to provide," Jones said. "We can't have a strong regional system when the communities say, 'Let them do it.'"

Jack Kirksey, Livonia's mayor who used to serve on the SMART board, pointed out Livonia was a part of the system for years, spending some \$2.8 million per year. He said the city got out because ridership in Livonia was low — "Most of the buses were empty or had only one-two passengers," Kirksey said — and city officials felt the money would be better spent elsewhere.

"We already had a community bus system for our senior citizens, so voters were asked whether they wanted to opt out and use those funds for more pressing needs," Kirksey said. "We now have about \$1.6 million for capital improvements ... money we've not had because of the way state finances have been, and we were able to do many positive things we couldn't do otherwise."

Kirksey said Livonia "stands ready to opt back in" if a viable plan were presented, but only if the city were "a vital link" to a regional system that included the communities west of them, such as the



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

SMART general manager Hayes Jones speaks with Kiwanis Club members at Ernesto's in Plymouth.

Plymouths.

That seems unlikely, however, since the City of Plymouth and Plymouth Township partner on a senior transportation program and also have a van to transport those who are disabled.

"We'd have to re-evaluate it," said Plymouth Township Supervisor Richard Reaume. "But we've already got pretty good options."

Jones urged the Kiwanis audience to contact their community leaders and get them to reconsider participation in SMART.

"I'm appealing to you as business people to revisit your decision," Jones said. "It would help immensely in building a system that could serve the entire region. We sure could use you."

bkadrich@hometownlife.com
(734) 459-2700

Senate approves alternate insurance reform bills

Legislation to improve accessibility and affordability in the individual health care market was passed Thursday in the Michigan Senate by a 23-13 vote.

The legislation is a substitute for HB 5282 and 5283 and was approved after a compromise was reached over competing amendments by Sen. Tom George, R-Kalamazoo, chair of the Health Policy Committee, and Sen. Jason Allen, R-Traverse City. The bills now go to a Senate-House conference committee.

The bill differs significantly from legislation approved by the House in October and pushed by Blue Cross Blue Shield, the state's largest health

insurer. The bill does not include a high risk pool, which would have provided insurance for consumers who have been denied or dropped from health coverage. Under the House plan, all health insurance carriers would have contributed to the fund, which Blue Cross would have administered and absorbed most of the losses.

The Senate bill preserves the oversight of the attorney general and the Office of Financial and Insurance Regulation and requires Blue Cross to file an annual report on meeting its social mission as a tax-exempt, not-for-profit corporation.

"Senate Republicans remain committed to ensuring the Michigan residents have access

to affordable, quality health care coverage in the individual health care market," said George in a press statement. "The George Allen substitute is about increasing consumer protections by making it harder to raise rates when people get sick, and it levels the playing field in the individual health care market."

Blue Cross issued a statement saying the legislation does not "bring meaningful change."

"While we are encouraged to see the legislative process continuing, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan is disappointed with the bills as they are now structured. We don't believe they bring about the meaning-

ful change and protections that Michigan consumers deserve and expect," said Helen Stojic, Blue Cross director of public relations.

"Throughout the process one point has become clear, that more and more people are finding themselves in need of individual coverage, but the system does little to help them. As the bills go back to the House, we are hopeful that there will be meaningful solutions on this important issue."

The Senate did not address HB 5284 and 5285 which would allow Blue Cross' for-profit subsidiary, The Accident Fund, to offer other lines of insurance beyond workers compensation.

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Gardening advice blooms at nursery open house

BY JULIE BROWN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Gardening's much on the mind of local residents, as evidenced by the turnout at a home and garden expo last weekend at Plymouth Nursery.

Speaker Janet Macunovich, a master gardener, urged her audience to dig in during a Saturday, April 26, session at the renovated nursery on Plymouth-Ann Arbor Road west of Plymouth.

"What did you not like last

year?" the former *Detroit News* gardening columnist asked. "Make yourself a space while you're looking for something else."

The co-founder and director of the Michigan School of Gardening was peppered with questions from an audience eager for spring planting. Macunovich looked around the colorful greenhouse, and noted it's easy to buy based on looks.

She recommends favorites "that should be the nucleus, the center that you put other

things around." Consider what you have, what does well in your garden, she said, and how to combine those.

In talking of perennials, hostas quickly emerged atop her list. The big leaves and light/dark contrast make for a coarse look, which she compared to clothing styles.

"This one is polka dots, this one is tweed," she said, holding up plants, some of which were Plymouth Nursery door prizes.

Bearded irises also ranked high with Macunovich, who noted reblooming varieties will bloom again in fall. "These are resistant to the borer," she said.

A silver-stripe and gold-stripe iris were well-received.

Macunovich also gave a green thumbs up to coneflowers and bee balm.

She's planting already in her garden and at the Detroit Zoo. Macunovich recommends old linens and weighted newspaper to prevent frost damage.

"People put in tomatoes early," she said, noting that's not wise. "Fred had to have the first tomatoes in the neighborhood every year," she said of a late neighbor. In fact, Fred's wife resorted to putting a tomato on the spindly plants, which suffered from early planting.

"It's the end of summer that zinnias look wonderful," she said.

April and September

are best for moving what's already in your garden, although Macunovich recommends doing so if you think of it at just about any time. She recommends daylilies, peonies and astilbe among other perennials for our area.

"Heucherellas are very good in the partial shade," she said while hoisting a new variety, Georgia Peach.

Macunovich, whose husband weeded their garden several times last year to avoid an ordinance violation, urged gardeners to look at root formation. That teaches about soil and what company a plant keeps.

She covered shrubs and trees as well: "We live in a part of the world where we can do red maples. They're outstanding plants."

A Viridis Japanese maple drew a good response. "Look for the green leaf ones. There's a lot of Japanese maples and we should be looking at those."

She's available to gardeners with questions at her office line, (248) 681-7850 or online at www.practicalgardening.com. There's a forum for gardening questions.

"If you've got edible plants in the garden, you really should be using them," she said, citing sorrel and rhubarb.

The presentation was among many April 26-27 at the nursery, which just

wrapped up a nearly yearlong renovation and expansion.

"The parking lot is jammed," general manager and co-owner Tim Parker said Saturday. The hard-working staff needed a deadline for "getting the place in the best shape for the spring season," the Hamburg Township resident said.

Weber reps showed the latest in grilling, and there was abundant information on gardening. "We're doing a lot more indoor foliage, houseplants," Parker said.

Sunday, a pond was built "so they can see how it's done." A number of vendor partners took part, and WOMC broadcast from the site.

Parker was pleased to have so many experts. "We want to become a year-round business," he said of the decision to expand in tough economic times.

He's asked often now if it's too early to plant, and says trees, shrubs and perennials should be fine. Annuals, such as hanging baskets, need to come in for the night. Bedding plants typically go in later in May.

"They just get excited seeing them," Parker, a Michigan State University graduate with a horticulture degree, said of visitors to the 16-acre nursery.

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Tax-free bonds may not calculate as best investment

Dear Rick: I have been sitting on cash for a period of time. I am a conservative investor. I have some stocks in my



Money Matters

Rick Bloom
It has been recommended that I invest in tax-free bonds. Do you think tax-free bonds are a good investment?

I appreciate your concerns over the market. There is no doubt that many investors have been nervous as to the direction of the U.S. economy. The

first quarter was certainly a shock to many investors. There are many investors who have cash and can invest that money, but because they are nervous, are leaving it in unproductive checking accounts or low-paying money market accounts. In those situations, considering tax-free bonds makes sense. However, like most things in the investment world, not all tax-free bonds are the same.

LOOK AT RETURN

It is important to determine whether a tax-free bond is the

proper alternative or does it pay to invest in a bond and pay the tax. The key is not the tax you pay, but rather what ends up in your pocket. For example, if the after-tax return on a tax-free bond is 3 percent, but you can make 5 percent on a taxable bond and net 4 percent (after taxes), it's obviously advantageous to invest in a taxable bond.

On the other hand, if the after-tax return was 2 percent on the taxable bond, then a 3-percent tax-free bond would be appropriate. The first issue is to determine whether a tax-

free bond makes economical sense for your individual situation.

FORMULA

There is a simple formula to determine what is best. Divide the tax exempt yield by one minus your tax rate. For example, if you are in the 25 percent tax bracket and your yield on a tax-free bond was 3 percent, the taxable equivalent yield would be 4 percent (1 - 0.25 = 0.75) (0.3 ÷ 0.75 = 4 percent). Therefore, if your yield on a taxable bond was 5 percent, you'd be better off to invest in

this bond and to pay the tax. If your yield on a taxable bond was only 3 percent, the tax-free bond would be more appropriate.

CONSIDER COSTS

If you are thinking about purchasing a tax-free bond fund, pay particular attention to the costs involved. If you're only getting a 3- to 4-percent return, paying an extra 1 percent in fees can erode your return by a third.

In addition, if you end up having to pay commission to purchase a bond fund, you can lose nearly two years worth of returns. Therefore, avoiding high fees and commission-based tax-free bond funds is the only prudent course of

action, particularly in today's interest rate environment. Vanguard and Fidelity are just two of the mutual fund companies which offer commission-free, low-cost investments.

Tax-free bonds play an important part in diversifying a portfolio. However, before you buy tax-free, make sure that your focus is not on the taxes you save, but rather what ends up in your pocket.

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 Rick from noon to 3 p.m. Sundays on WDTK-AM (1400).

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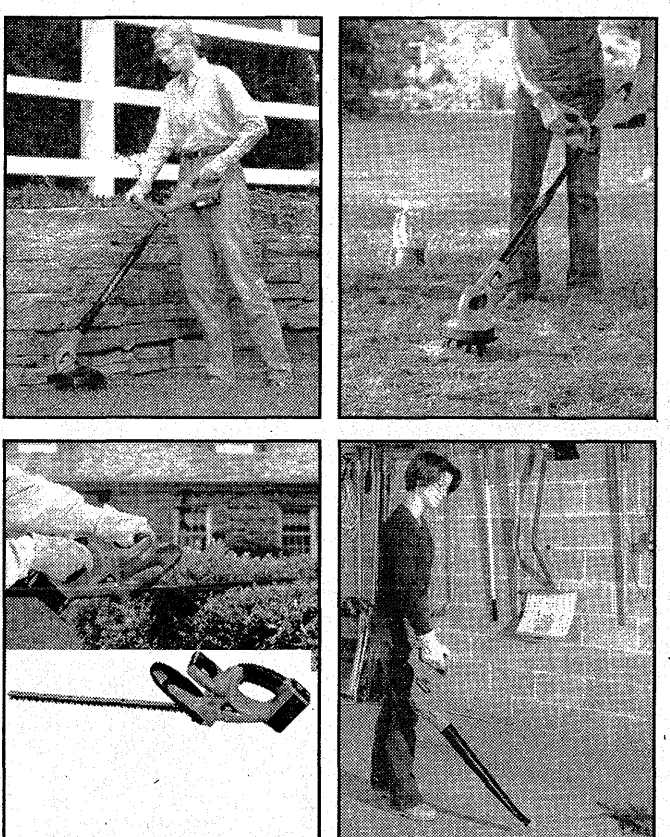
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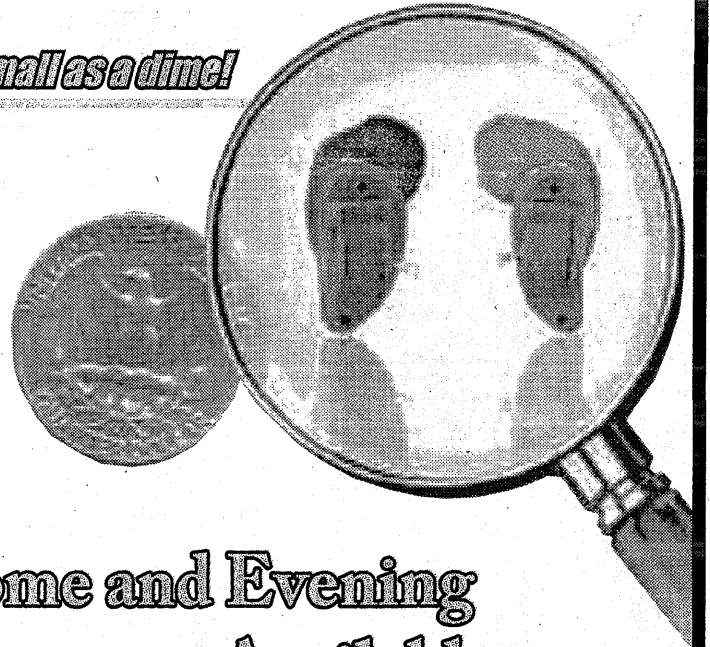
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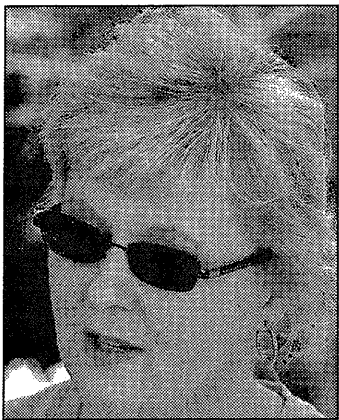
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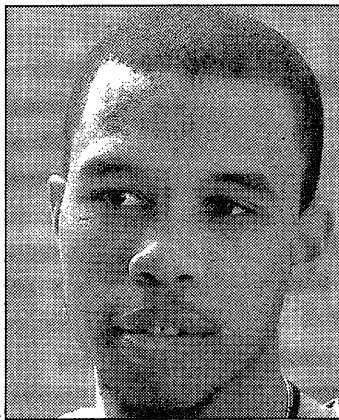
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— Kelly Shaver, Canton



"Orlando."

— Bernard Gladney, Redford



"I'm retired so I'm on a vacation every day."

— Elaine Clair, Canton

GOVERNMENT CONTACTS

Gov. Jennifer M. Granholm

Send correspondence to P.O. Box 30013, Lansing, MI 48909, or call Constituent Services at (517) 335-7858. The fax number is (517) 335-6863.

State Sen. Bruce Patterson, R-Canton

Contact him by mail at P.O. Box 30036, Lansing, MI, 48909; by phone at (517) 373-7350; toll-free at (866) 262-7307; or by e-mail at senbpatterson@senate.michigan.gov.

State Rep. Marc Corriveau, D-Northville

Contact him by mail at P.O. Box 30014, Lansing, MI 48909-7514; by phone at (517) 373-3816; or by e-mail at MarcCorriveau@house.mi.gov.

Plymouth Mayor Phil Pursell

Call him through City Hall at (734) 453-1234 or send an e-mail via the city Web site at www.ci.plymouth.mi.us.

Plymouth Township Supervisor Richard Reaume

Send correspondence to him at Plymouth Township Hall, 9955 N. Haggerty, Plymouth, MI 48170. Call his office at (734) 354-3200. E-mails can be sent via the township's Web site at www.plymouthtp.org.

U.S. Sen. Carl Levin

His Washington, D.C. mailing address is 269 Russell Office

Building, U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510-2202. Call him at (202) 224-6221. The fax number is (202) 224-1388.

He also has offices in Patrick V. McNamara Federal Building, 477 Michigan Ave., Room 1860, in Detroit. The local phone number is (313) 226-6020, TTY (800) 851-0030 and fax at (313) 226-6948. He also has a Web site - levin.senate.gov.

U.S. Sen. Debbie Stabenow

In Washington, D.C., the address is 133 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510. Call her there at (202) 224-4822, TTY (202) 224-2066, or e-mail her at senator@stabenow.senate.gov. In Detroit, her office is at 243 W. Congress, Suite 550. Call (313) 961-4330. She also has a Web site - stabenow.senate.gov.

U.S. Rep. Thaddeus McCotter

His Washington, D.C., mailing address is 1632 Longworth House Office Building, Washington D.C. 20515. Call him at (202) 225-8171 or send a fax by dialing (202) 225-2667. His district office is at 17197 N. Laurel Park Drive, Suite 161, Livonia, MI 48152. Call him at (734) 632-0314 or send a fax at (734) 632-0373. He also has an Web site - mccotter.house.gov.

LETTERS

Going to college not easy

I am very happy to have been admitted to Michigan State University and excited to begin my studies at MSU in the fall.

The graduating class of 2008 is the largest Michigan has ever seen. Graduating in such large numbers puts stress on the college application process. With such a large percentage of our graduating class competing for admission to a college or university, every student must work as hard as possible throughout their high school years in order to get accepted.

I have actively participated in the Rotary Interact club for the past four years. It has been a pleasure working with A.M. Rotary President Beth Stewart and the A.M. Rotary in our community. The time and effort Mrs. Stewart has put into advising our club has made this our most successful year.

It has been a great experience and an honor for me to work with former state Rep. John Stewart. Mr. Stewart continues to help our communities by recommending students for admission to colleges. As former Chair of Higher Education Appropriations, I am grateful for the contacts Mr. Stewart has at Michigan colleges and universities.

I was privileged to attend a board of trustees meeting at Michigan State University and to meet President Lou Anna Simon. John Stewart's continued commitment to education has given me the opportunity to reach my initial goal of attending Michigan State University.

Morgan Franke

senior, Plymouth High School
Canton

Science and politics

It was a truly remarkable departure for this year's Earth Day. Even President George W. Bush got into the act and joined the bandwagon. Bush now pushes "global warming" initiatives wherever he goes throughout the world.

Kudos to George; but I can't help but wonder where this newfound ecological mindset came from. The first six years of Bush's tenure have been marked with a continuous chorus of "we need science to support this." The USA would not approve the Kyoto Accord. All of his rhetoric despite decades of such science. Completely on this bandwagon has been our (U.S.) Rep. Joe Knollenberg claiming there is no good science to say there has been any global warming.

Now that Bush claims there is indeed global warming, will we trust his mouthpiece, Joe Knollenberg, to similarly "change" his mind and go with the new open mindedness? The truth of the matter is that George and Joe only fought such "science" because Al Gore made a movie. We need new and fresh leadership that acknowledge scientific evidence that does indeed exist. We need to vote Joe out during our next election.

Mark Reina

Farmington

Support Obama

As a college student, I was active in the student movement of the early '60s and participated in many civil rights gatherings. The rhetoric and marches drew attention to the need for racial justice and much was accomplished. However, it took the riots in L.A., Newark, Detroit, Memphis, and elsewhere to cause America to look inside the black communities and discover what was really going on.

White America had conveniently placed the problems of its black citizens in ghettos that were kept separate. Many regarded these areas as trash heaps, and the lid of the trash can was never lifted for fear of seeing what was there.

It took the riots, not the rhetoric, to truly lift the lid off the garbage can and show us what we had tried to hide.

Alas, as years passed, that lid returned in the guise of polite denial, and it remained there until Barack Obama's remarkable speech on Tuesday.

America has been deluded to believe that civil rights laws have overcome racism and classism. Barack Obama, by acknowledging the hidden fears and rationalizations of all communities, has put the issue of race on the table. He has lifted the lid and opened the door and told us what we already knew: that Americans mistrust those who are different from them. He has placed us at a fork in the road and asked us to choose wisely. He has asked us to see this choice not as a black, white or class problem ... not even as an American problem ... but as a view into the future.

Peter Pascaris

West Bloomfield

Cleanup help appreciated

The Friends of the I-275 Bike Path would like to thank the following people for their donations to the recent cleanup that we had between Michigan Avenue & Van Born Road in Canton:

Kurt Kuban of the *Observer & Eccentric Newspapers* for his story about it. Mitch Albom and his time to help volunteers. Paul at Vizzy's Pizza in Westland for feeding all of us. Fuzzy Stott and The Home Depot for their help every year.

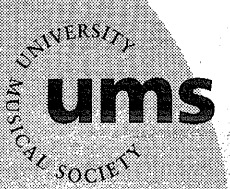

The following businesses/organizations donated items for raffle prizes: The Livonia YMCA; Dream Dinners of Livonia; American Cycle & Fitness of Walled Lake; Rob Kelley and his students from the massage therapy program at Schoolcraft College; Leslie Briggs at REI; Manager Debbie Stewart of the Holiday Inn Express and her facilities employee John, where the event was held.

Without all of your kind donations and help, this event would not have been at all as successful as it was. Thank you so much!

Dave Duffield

director, League of Michigan Bicyclists
Northville

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2008 Ford Honors Program

Sir James Galway


Saturday, May 10, 6pm • Hill Auditorium

The University Musical Society honors flutist Sir James Galway at the 13th Annual Ford Honors Program. The 90-minute performance and tribute features an abbreviated recital with Sir James Galway, his wife Lady Jeanne Galway, and pianist Phillip Moll, as well as the presentation of the 2008 UMS Distinguished Artist Award.

The program includes:



Poulence	Sonata for Flute and Piano
Gaubert	Madrigal
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Doppler	Rigoletto Fantasy (with Lady Jeanne Galway)
Chaminade	Concertino, Op. 107

The UMS Advisory Committee hosts a gala dinner after the performance to benefit UMS education programs. Tickets to the dinner are sold separately.

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SPORTS

B (CP)

Sunday, May 4, 2008

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

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Eric Piowar and Lindsay Jewett.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

'TAKE NOTHING FOR GRANTED'

That's the advice of two senior soccer players who can teach all prep athletes a lesson in perspective

This is a story of broken bones, shattered dreams, priceless perspective and, ultimately, admirable acceptance.

Both sad and uplifting, it includes invaluable advice that should be heeded by every sports-loving high school athlete who has occasionally dreaded going to practice or taken a game or two for granted.

It is a real-life tale featuring two incredible student-athletes — senior soccer players Lindsay Jewett and Eric Piowar — who wish

like crazy they were merely reading this story and not telling it.

UNBREAKABLE SPIRIT

Last Monday, late in the Plymouth girls soccer game against Wayne Memorial, Jewett, a senior forward, approached Wildcats coach Jeff Neschich with a modest request: "Put me in coach."

On the surface, Jewett's request seemed reasonable. The Wildcats were dominating 7-0 against an overmatched opponent and she hadn't played one second all season.

There was one catch, though: The bottom half of Jewett's left leg was encased in a hard cast and for the previous seven weeks she had relied on crutches or a wheelchair to get from point A to point B.

"I was egging coach on, telling him I wanted to play goalie," recalled Jewett,

smiling. "Nothing was going on down on our end, so why not? I told him if they did get a shot off, I could just stick my crutches out, you know, left or right, depending on which way the shot was coming in, and block it."

Two months earlier, Jewett had lost something all the money in the world couldn't replace — her entire senior season of soccer — but she clearly hadn't lost her sense of humor.

GONE IN AN INSTANT

Jewett's life changed in a heartbeat on Feb. 29, just one week before the Wildcats' first official practice.

Playing in an indoor game against Walled Lake Northern at Total Soccer in Wixom, she was involved in a three-player collision while doing something that came naturally to the energetic forward — hustling after a ball.

When the dust had settled, the other two players pushed themselves off the artificial turf unscathed.

Jewett wasn't so lucky. "I knew right away my leg was broken," she said. "The pain was unbearable and I could see how the lower part of my leg was facing the opposite direction than the rest of my body."

Three things immediately raced through Jewett's mind as she lay on the turf while Dan-Hughes — a parent of one of her teammates — held her leg together during the close-to-an-hour wait for an ambulance.

"I thought about my senior season of soccer that I was looking forward to so,

Please see **INJURIES, B3**

Sidelines

Salem grid camps

The Salem High School football program will be offering a pair of camps this summer — one aimed at youths and the other at women who want to learn more about the finer points of the sport.

The Salem Women's Football Academy, which is set for May 31 at Salem High School, will teach the finer techniques, rules and strategies of American tackle football women only.

One-hundred percent of the proceeds will go to the Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute's "First Step" program.

The cost is \$50 per adult and \$40 per girls under 13.

Registration begins at 7:59 a.m. and the camp runs through 3 p.m.

The annual Salem Youth Football Instructional Camp will be held Saturday, July 12, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the PCEP varsity football field.

The registration for participants who pay before July 7 is \$10; the cost is \$20 after July 7.

Participants will receive hands-on instruction in the fundamental strategies and techniques necessary to become a successful football player.

The camp is open to all Plymouth and Canton residents between the ages of 7 and 13, regardless of where they will attend high school.

For more information on the camps, visit www.football.salemrocks.com or send an e-mail to psstoo@comcast.net.

'Cat grid meeting

There will be an incoming freshmen meeting for the Plymouth High School football program on Tuesday, May 6, at 7 p.m., in the Plymouth High School cafeteria.

All interested Plymouth freshmen players and their parents are encouraged to attend.

Tidwell's the hero in Chiefs' 8-inning win over Rocks

BY ED WRIGHT
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Where there's a Will, there's a way.

And a win — at least that was the scenario for Canton's baseball team Wednesday afternoon against cross-campus rival Salem.

Chief senior Will Tidwell stroked a one-out, bases-loaded, pinch-hit

line-drive single up the middle off Rock reliever Justin Horger to plate Ben Vaughn with the winning run in the bottom of the eighth inning. Vaughn led off the frame by reaching on a two-base error.

After Dan Stoney was intentionally walked, Horger struck out the next batter, but Alex Dixon delivered a solid single to center to

PREP BASEBALL

load the bases, setting the stage for Tidwell's heroics.

Tidwell also sparkled on the mound, limiting the Rocks to five hits over eight innings.

Both teams were left with 8-6 records following the down-to-the-wire contest.

Tidwell and Salem starter Dave Hales locked up in a pitcher's dual over the first six innings, before Hales was lifted for a reliever due to his pitch count.

Tidwell yielded just one walk while retiring the final nine batters he faced. The hard-throwing Hillsdale College-bound hurler struck out a trio of Rocks to improve his record to 3-0.

Hales settled down big time after yielding a pair of first-inning runs. Overall, he gave up just five hits while striking out one in six innings.

Salem grabbed a momentary 1-0 advantage in the top of the first on successive two-out singles by Sam Ott, Joe Posler and Dana Lorber.

Please see **BASEBALL, B2**

Salem, Canton battle to 0-0 draw

BY ED WRIGHT
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Friday night's annual showdown between the Canton and Salem girls soccer teams had to be moved at the last minute from the PCEP soccer stadium to the varsity turf field a couple hundred yards to the west due to a malfunctioning scoreboard.

As it turned out, the two rivals could have survived without a scoreboard after battling to a 0-0 draw on a perfect, 60-degree mid-spring night.

The game may have been void of goals, but there was plenty of end-to-end action to make up for the scoring drought.

While Salem possessed the ball for most of the first half, the Chiefs

rebounded with a strong second and would have scored one — if not three — goals if not for the heroic play of Salem senior net-minder Kristen Dondzilla, who did a good imitation of a human force field in front of the Rocks' net during the final 20 minutes.

After hitting both the cross-bar and a post once in the first half, the Chiefs' best opportunity to score came with 32 seconds left when senior Hannah Mills controlled a free kick five yards in front of the net and launched a shot from the doorstep that Dondzilla managed to get both of her hands on.

Canton's Tracy Rymph momentarily controlled the loose ball, but her rebound shot in front barely sailed over the cross-bar to thwart

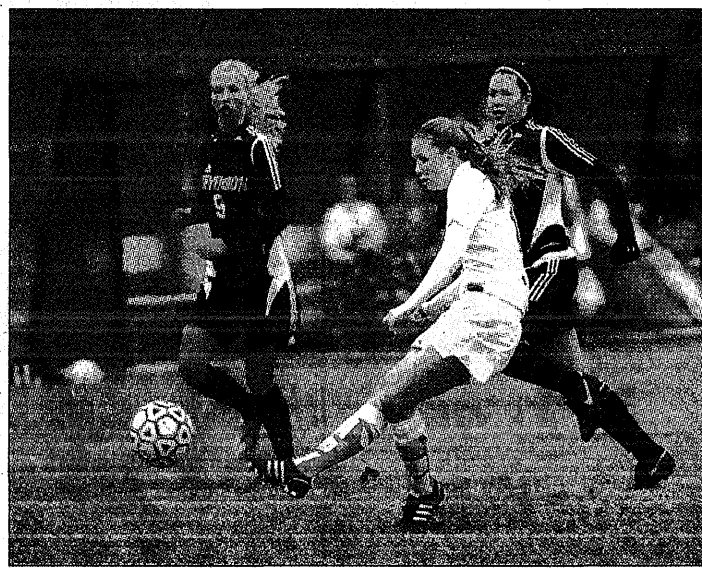
the scoring opportunity.

"Kristen made at least three game-saving saves on shots that I think everyone in the stadium thought were going in," said Salem coach Joe Nora. "On a couple of those at the end, I don't know how she came up with the ball. She played her heart out and I'm very proud of her."

Canton coach George Tomasso lamented his team's numerous golden scoring opportunities that ultimately came up empty in the second half.

"We were producing quality goal-scoring opportunities, especially in the second half," said Tomasso, whose team will take a 6-4-3 record

Please see **SOCCER, B3**



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Canton's Megan Staub, pictured firing a shot in a game earlier this season, created several decent scoring opportunities for the Chiefs in Friday night's scoreless tie with Salem.

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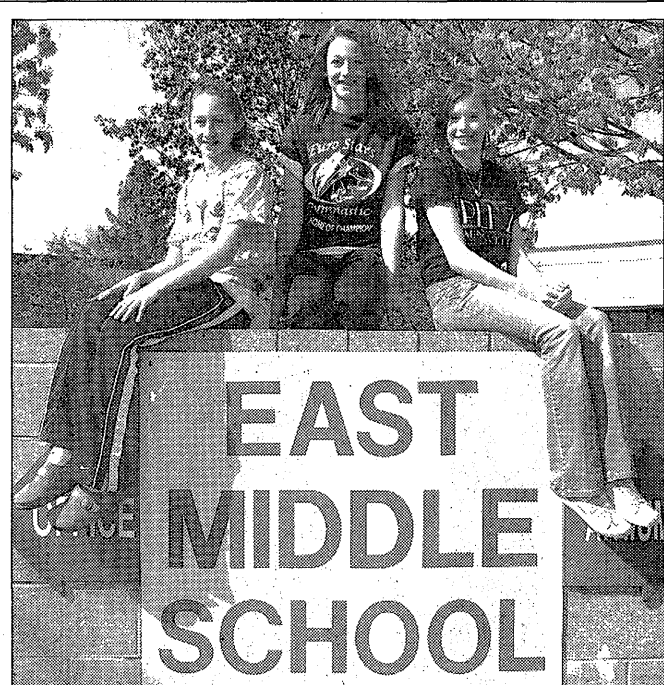
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Three of a kind

Pictured (from left) are East Middle School Level 9 gymnasts Kayla Weber (eighth grade), Anna Genrich (eighth grade) and Kayla Spicher (seventh grade). All three train at different gyms and have qualified for the Level 9 National meet following outstanding efforts at the Level 9 Regional meet in Lansing April 25-27. Weber, who trains at Michigan Elite Gymnastics Academy in Farmington Hills, took first place in the Junior C Division All-Around; Genrich, who trains at EuroStars Gymnastics in Plymouth, placed fourth in the All-Around in the Junior C Division; and Spicher, who trains at Splitz Gymnastics in Canton, was sixth All-Around in the Junior B Division.

Wildcats nip WL Central

BY ED WRIGHT
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

PREP SOFTBALL

The longest game in the history of the Plymouth softball program ended up as one of the most joyful as well.

On Wednesday, the Wildcats nipped host Walled Lake Central, 2-1, in a 14-inning marathon. The previous Plymouth record for longest game was 11 innings, set last season against Livonia Stevenson.

The victory improved Plymouth's record to 11-6. Senior right-hander Megan Patterson threw all 14 innings, yielding just five hits.

"Megan got stronger and stronger as the game went on," said Plymouth coach Val Canfield. "She was unstoppable. She had great movement and her experience was really a factor late in the game."

The Wildcats' game-winning rally started with the bases empty and two outs when Amy Bondy reached first on a drag bunt and Stacey Klonowski was safe on an error. Amanda Burnard then ripped a long single

to the fence that plated Bondy. Gina Giordano, Burnard and Beth Heldmeyer all had two hits for the 'Cats, who totaled 10 altogether.

"Gina got our first hit — a double in the second inning — that was huge because it showed we could hit their pitcher, Christy Hardy. Hardy is probably the best pitcher we've faced this year."

Central scored its only run in the opening frame. Plymouth knotted the contest at 1-all in the sixth when Heldmeyer singled and scored on Jill Brennan's line-drive triple down the right-field line.

The key defensive play for the winners unfolded in the 12th when with the potential winning run on second base, Plymouth third baseman Burnard dove to her left to deflect a line drive headed for left field. Klonowski, playing shortstop, grabbed the deflected ball and fired it to first to get the batter and end the inning.

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TENNIS RESULTS

SALEM 4 LIVONIA STEVENSON 4

THURSDAY AT SALEM
No. 1 singles: Lindsay Hostetter (LS) defeated Tracy Lytle, 6-1, 6-1. No. 2: Laura Sims (LS) def. Alli Carpenter, 4-6, 6-2, 6-1. No. 3: Paige McNamara (LS) def. Liz McKinley, 6-1, 6-2. No. 4: Linda Ling (S) def. Carli Marschner, 6-3, 6-1.

No. 1 doubles: Rachel Norman-Ariel Rojo (S) def. Katey Roberts-Katherine Morse, 7-5, 7-5. No. 2: Katie Fletcher-Kerry MacDonald (S) def. Gabriel Sabatini-Laura Gumpfer, 6-2, 6-2. No. 3: Ashley Benvenuti-Shannon Dwight (LS) def. Emma Vanhoof-Emily Hayter, 7-5, 5-7, 6-2. No. 4: Amanda Emmons-Alex Lamb (S) def. Danielle Jagodzinski-Simona Enna, 7-5, 6-2.

SALEM 7 W.L. WESTERN 1

WEDNESDAY AT WESTERN
No. 1 singles: Tracy Lytle (S) defeated Kelly Doherty, 6-1, 6-2. No. 2: Alli Carpenter (S) def. Jillian Bean, 6-2, 6-2. No. 3: Liz McKinley (S) def. Saki Masuda, 6-1, 6-0. No. 4: Linda Ling (S) def. Sarah Kean, 7-5, 6-0.
No. 1 doubles: 1. Rachel Norman-Ariel Rojo

(S) def. Michele Cha-Erica Osp, 6-0, 6-1. No. 2: Katie Fletcher-Kerry MacDonald (S) def. Emily Sklar-Nicole Jackson, 6-2, 6-3. No. 3: Vidya Sadasivan-Janani Sadasivan (WLW) def. Emma Vanhoof-Emily Hayter, 6-7(3), 4-6. No. 4: Amanda Emmons-Alex Lamb (S) def. Lauren Steven-Ursula Kamiski, 6-4, 6-2.
DUAL-MEET RECORDS: Salem, 6-2-1.

PLYMOUTH 4 LIVONIA FRANKLIN 4

WEDNESDAY AT FRANKLIN
No. 1 singles: Angelica Woods (LF) defeated Lauren Strahm, 6-1, 6-1. No. 2: Emily Wisniewski (LF) def. Kylie Mackenzie, 7-5, 7-5. No. 3: Emma Stack (LF) def. Whitney Askew, 7-6, 6-0. No. 4: Chelsea Craig (P) def. Jessica Jagdeo, 6-0, 6-1.
No. 1 doubles: Elen Mitchell-Shannon O'Guinn (P) def. Lauren Osiwala-Jennifer Neautu, 6-4, 6-3. No. 2: Michelle Thompson-Angela Tomassini (LF) def. Radhika Patel-Jessica Bracey, 6-1, 6-0. No. 3: Claire Marchesano-Gina Matar (P) def. Stephanie Belcher-Lauren Pennings, 6-0, 3-6, 6-4. No. 4: Mahela Mashraf-Lauren Jeung (P) def. Crystal Henderson-Jennifer Rellinger, 6-4, 6-2.

GIRLS TRACK RESULTS

LIVONIA FRANKLIN 78 PLYMOUTH 59

THURSDAY AT FRANKLIN
Shot put: 1. Ashley Price (LF), 36 feet, 5.5 inches; 2. Ryan Buchanan (P), 32-2; 3. Savannah Haig (LF), 30-4.5.
Discus: 1. Ashley Price (LF), 45-4; 2. Savannah Haig (LF), 43-4; Ryan Buchanan (P), 42-2.

Long jump: 1. Kelly Tapella (LF), 15-11; 2. Stephanie Okolo (P), 14-9.5; 3. Jill Morton (P), 14-3.75.
High jump: 1. Liz Holloway (LF), 5-0; 2. Emily Quint (LF), 5-0; 3. Sam Culp (LF), 4-8.

Pole vault: 1. Meghan Powers (LF), 9-6; 2. Emily Quint (LF), Leah Knisely (P), 8-4.

3,200-meter relay: 1. Plymouth (Molly Slavens, Ahearn, Etleva Mema, Kelly Hahn), 11:03.54; 2. Franklin, 11:21.57.

100 hurdles: 1. Jen Muller (LF), 18.18; 2. Mandy McManus (P), 18.37; 3. Sam Campbell (LF), 18.52.

100 dash: 1. Stephanie Okolo (P), 12.75; 2. Monica Hardy (LF), 13.35; 3. Molly Hirst (LF), 13.41.

800 relay: 1. Franklin, 1:50; 2. Plymouth, 1:59.
1,600 run: 1. Megan McPherson (LF), 5:27.58; 2. Kelly Hahn (P), 5:44.82; 3. Mallory Church (LF), 5:57.37.

400 relay: 1. Plymouth (Jill Morton, Mandy McManus, Walker, Stephanie Okolo), 52.24; 2. Franklin, 52.41.

400 dash: 1. Ashly Bulkowski (LF), 1:03.2; 2. Seneca Scott (LF), 1:03.63; 3. Bacha (P), 1:06.02.

300 hurdles: 1. Shannon Niznik (LF), 52.78; 2. Mandy McManus (P), 56.69; 3. Seneca Scott (LF), 57.46.

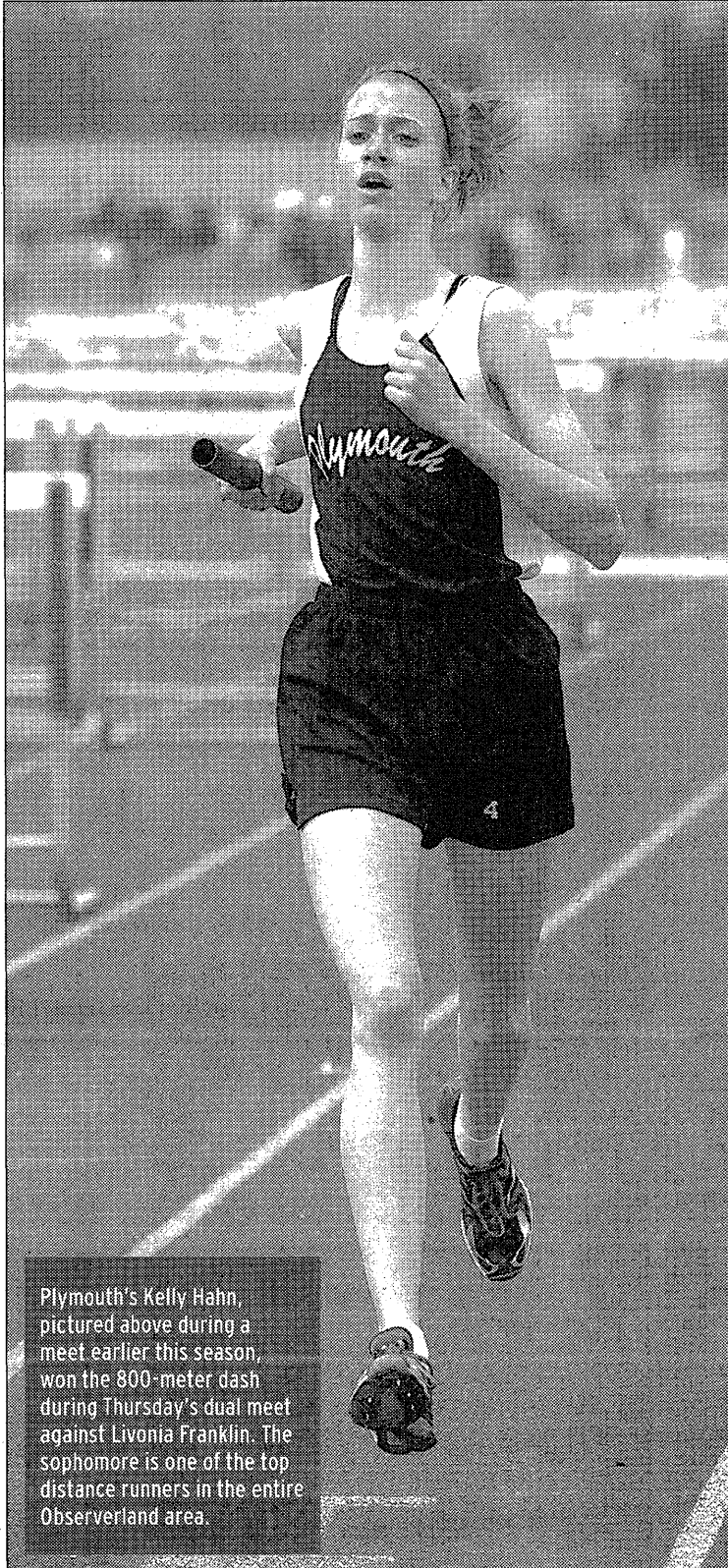
800 run: 1. Kelly Hahn (P), 2:29.41; 2. Mallory Church (LF), 2:33.13; 3. McPherson (LF), 2:33.61.

200 dash: 1. Stephanie Okolo (P), 26.73; 2. Monica Hardy (LF), 27.76; 3. Walker (P), 27.8.

3,200 run: 1. Molly Slavens (P), 12:36.34; 2. Green (P), 13:14.3; 3. Lauren Ahearn (P), 13:16.24.

1,600 relay: 1. Plymouth (Bacha, Saati, S. Brown, Hahn); 2. Franklin.

DUAL-MEET RECORDS: Franklin, 4-1 overall, 3-1 in the WLLA Western Division.



Plymouth's Kelly Hahn, pictured above during a meet earlier this season, won the 800-meter dash during Thursday's dual meet against Livonia Franklin. The sophomore is one of the top distance runners in the entire Observerland area.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

BOYS TRACK RESULTS

LIVONIA FRANKLIN 72 PLYMOUTH 65

THURSDAY AT FRANKLIN
Shot put: 1. Sam Richards (P), 45 feet, 8.5 inches; 2. Cory Gomoll (P), 43-3; 3. Nate Coleman (LF), 43-2.5.

Discus: 1. Jaris Woolfork (LF), 115-8; 2. Nate Coleman (LF), 112-6; 3. Pat Choma (P), 111-8.

Long jump: 1. Connor McKinney (P), 19-4; 2. Brandon Roberts (P), 19-3.75; 3. Isaac Cadet (LF), 14-3.25.

High jump: 1. Tony Lawson (LF), 5-8; 2. Kevin Beadle (LFO), 5-6; 3. Pawan Dahilwal (P), 5-3.

Pole vault: 1. Ben Ambrose (P), 12-6; 2. Nick Fenner (LF), 12-6; 3. Kevin Beadle (LF), 12-0.

3,200-meter relay: 1. Plymouth (Kyle Wallath, Nuemann, Derek Lax, Justin Huey); 2. Franklin.

110-meter high hurdles: 1. Stuart Gregory (LF), 15.79; 2. Cameron Wludka (LF), 16.68; 3. Kevin Beadle (LF), 17.40.

100 dash: 1. Paul Voegele (LF), 11.20; 2. Connor McKinney (P), 11.20; 3. Darell Myree (LF), 11.37.

800 relay: 1. Franklin, 1:34.58; 2. Plymouth, 1:46.22.
1,600 run: 1. Matt Lewandowski (P), 4:39.62; 2. Mike Kratovich (LF), 4:44.59; 3. Evan Sirena (LF), 4:50.39.

400 relay: 1. Franklin, 43.76; Plymouth, 50.76.
400 dash: 1. Mike Hanchett (P), 52.75; 2. Tony Lawson (LF), 55.35; 3. Ryan Tarhanich (LF), 57.10.

300 hurdles: 1. Stuart Gregory (LF), 42.24; 2. Cameron Wludka (LF), 43.84; 3. Ken Lomske (P), 44.42.

800 run: 1. Kyle Wallath (P), 2:04.62; 2. Matt Lewandowski (P), 2:08.15; 3. Mike Kratovich (LF), 2:09.62.

200 dash: 1. Connor McKinney (P), 22.8; 2. Darell Myree (LF), 23.52; 3. Mike Hanchett (P), 24.09.

3,200 run: 1. Justin Huey (P), 10:17.47; 2. Evan Sirena (LF), 10:24.97; 3. Warren Buzzard (P), 10:30.10.

1,600 relay: 1. Plymouth (Kyle Wallath, Ken Lomske, Connor McKinney, Mike Hanchett); 2. Franklin.

CANTON 87 W.L. WESTERN 50

THURSDAY AT WESTERN
Shot put: 1. Rob Moores (C), 38 feet, 6 inches; 2. McKenzie (WLW), 36-1.5; 3. Shafof (WLW), 35-1.5.

Discus: 1. Calo (WLW), 134-7.2; Jason Foster (C), 121-4; 3. Shafof (WLW), 111-1.

Long jump: 1. Ocie Lewis (C), 21-0; 2. Byars (WLW), 19-8.5; 3. Kaggos (WLW), 19-5.5.

High jump: 1. Keith Zech (C), 6-0; 2. Ben Spreitzer (C), 5-8; 3. Kyle Biega (C), 5-6.

Pole vault: 1. Chris McGinnis (C), 13-0; 2. Eddie Koelzer (C), 11-0; 3. Gage Herrmann (C), 10-6.

3,200-meter relay: 1. Canton (Scott Zech, Keith Zech, Paul Rakovitis, Josh Hurst), 8:32.9; 2. Western, 8:40.6.

110 high hurdles: 1. Tim Belcher (C), 16.7; 2. Sherif Hassanien (C), 17.9; 3. Ross (WLW), 18.0.

100 dash: 1. Doe (WLW), 11.2; 2. Eric Piowar (C), 11.3; 3. Ocie Lewis (C), 11.8.

800 relay: 1. Canton (Ryan Randall, Sherif Hassanien, Tim Belcher, Eric Piowar), 1:34.5; 2. Western, 1:36.2.

1,600 run: 1. C. Schnaible (WLW), 4:37.42; 2. Derek Hoerman (C), 4:44.9; 3. Josh Hurst (C), 4:46.3.

400 relay: 1. Canton (Ryan Randall, Ocie Lewis, Adam Somers, Eric Piowar), 45.2; 2. Western, 45.6.

400 dash: 1. J. Schnaible (WLW), 51.5; 2. Sherif Hassanien (C), 52.3; 3. Davion Stackhouse (C), 52.4.

300 hurdles: 1. Tim Belcher (C), 41.1; 2. Kyle Breitmeyer (C), 43.6; 3. Ross (WLW), 44.4.

800 run: 1. Keith Zech (C), 2:05.8; 2. Mehninger (WLW), 3. Creadle (WLW).

200 dash: 1. Doe (WLW), 23.3; 2. Ryan Randall (C), 24.2; 3. Ocie Lewis (C), 24.6.

3,200 run: 1. C. Schnaible (WLW), 10:23.3; 2. Kyle Clinton (C), 10:26.1; 3. Yanika (WLW), 10:28.9.

1,600 relay: 1. Western, 3:37.6; 2. Canton (Josh Etlm, Jordan Wisniewski, Kyle Breitmeyer, Tim Belcher), 3:42.7.

DUAL-MEET RECORDS: Canton, 5-2 overall, 3-1 WLLA; Western, 2-2 WLLA.

BOYS TRACK LEADERS

Kyle Biega (Canton), 5-3

POLE VAULT

Brandon Larsen (Garden City), 14-0

Chris McGinnis (Canton), 13-6

Ben Ambrose (Plymouth), 13-6

Brandon Larsen (Garden City), 13-0

Joe Massel (Canton), 12-0

Eddie Koelzer (Canton), 11-6

John Krutty (Salem), 10-6

Gage Herrmann (Canton), 10-6

Phil Snyder (Garden City), 10-0

100-METER DASH

Eric Piowar (Canton), 11.0

Connor McKinney (Plymouth), 11.2

Demetrius Wilson (RU), 11.4

Rico Tys (Plymouth), 11.5

Devaunta Baker (Garden City), 11.5

Anthony Mullins (Canton), 11.5

Antoine Mitchell (RU), 11.5

Ocie Lewis (Canton), 11.6

Demetrius Wilson (RU), 11.6

Michael Hines (Thurston), 11.8

200-METER DASH

Eric Piowar (Canton), 23.0

Connor McKinney (Plymouth), 23.3

Devaunta Baker (Garden City), 23.5

Ryan Randall (Canton), 23.6

Pat Patin (Salem), 23.7

Malik Rich (Plymouth), 23.1

Ocie Lewis (Canton), 24.0

Jeremy Quillico (Canton), 24.1

Demetrius Wilson (RU), 24.5

August Garrett (Canton), 24.6

Adam Somers (Canton), 24.8

400-METER DASH

Sherif Hassanien (Canton), 52.3

Mike Hanchett (Plymouth), 52.6

Stephen Telenko (Canton), 52.9

John Stoddart (Garden City), 53.1

Jordan Wisniewski (Canton), 53.3

Davian Stackhouse (Canton), 53.4

Ken Lomski (Plymouth), 53.9

Chris Jahoda (Canton), 54.0

Kevin Stephens (RU), 54.3

Davon Mullins (Salem), 54.4

800-METER RUN

Kyle Wallath (Plymouth), 2:02.9

Ron Berger (Garden City), 2:04

Brian Chambers (Garden City), 2:04

Keith Zech (Canton), 2:05.8

Scott Zech (Canton), 2:06.2

Justin Huey (Plymouth), 2:06.4

Zack Gaskell (Salem), 2:07.5

Josh Hurst (Canton), 2:08.5

Brandon Tolinski (Canton), 2:08.7

Mike Charara (Salem), 2:09.4

Paul Rakovitis (Canton), 2:10.5

1,600-METER RUN

Keivi deBear (Salem), 4:33.0

Derek Hoerman (Canton), 4:36.9

Josh Hurst (Canton), 4:39.7

Mike Charara (Salem), 4:40.5

Matt Devey (Salem), 4:41.7

Duncan Spitz (Canton), 4:42.2

Zack Spreitzer (Canton), 4:47.3

Craig Cowing (Salem), 4:48.8

Alex Lang (Salem), 4:50.6

Dan Martin (Salem), 4:53.9

3,200-METER RUN

Kevin deBear (Salem), 9:58.7

Duncan Spitz (Canton), 10:03.1

Craig Cowing (Salem), 10:11.2

Jason Smith (Salem), 10:13.9

Matt Devey (Salem), 10:18.9

Kyle Clinton (Canton), 10:20.3

Zack Spreitzer (Canton), 10:27.1

Derek Hoerman (Canton), 10:31.0

Mike Charara (Salem), 10:38.5

Michael Nordby (Garden City), 10:57

110-METER HIGH HURDLES

Vanier Joseph (Thurston), 14.6

Marcus Bennett (Thurston), 14.7

Mike Giles (Salem), 15.5

Scott O'Connor (Salem), 16.5

Tim Belcher (Canton), 16.5

Sherif Hassanien (Canton), 16.8

Quentin Peterson (RU), 17.8

Shawn Calvey (Garden City), 18.0

Jordan Norton (Canton), 18.1

Brandon Pilligan (Plymouth), 18.9

300-METER INTERMEDIATE HURDLES

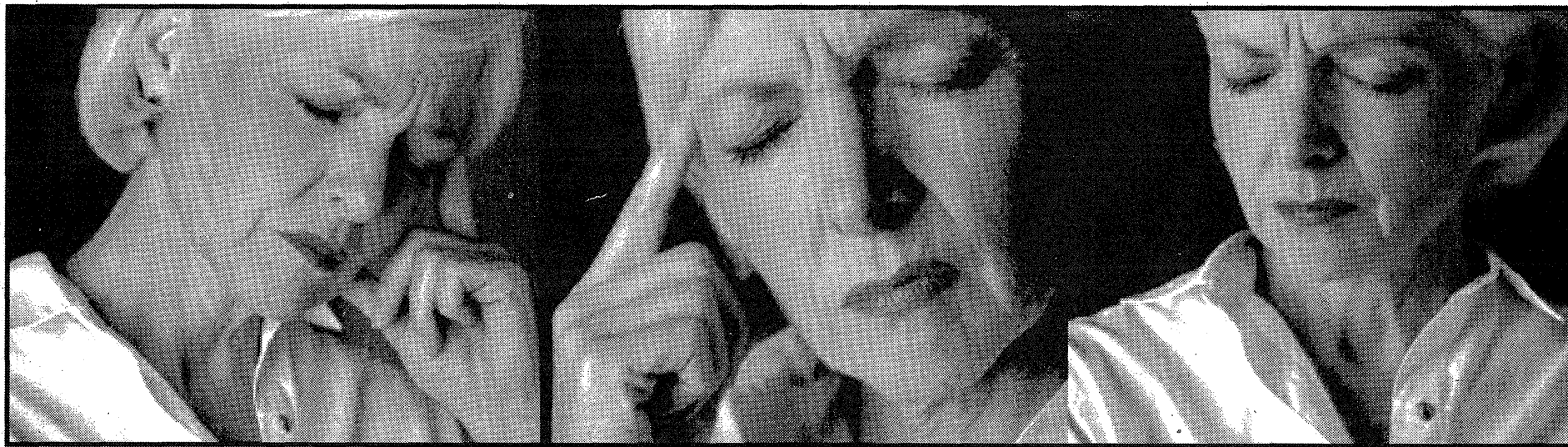
Sherif Hassanien (Canton), 39.9

Tim Belcher (Canton), 40.1

Scott O'Connor (Salem), 41.2

Marcus Bennett (Thur

Fibromyalgia



Event raises awareness about disorder

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
O&E STAFF WRITER

Sharon Ostalecki admits she was a Type A personality until her seven-mile a day runs were cut short by undiagnosed muscle pain and fatigue.

Twenty years ago, medical professionals wouldn't even acknowledge fibromyalgia existed. Ostalecki went from doctor to doctor who seemed to all come to the conclusion it was all in her head. Finally she found a physician who was willing to work with her to relieve the symptoms.

Ostalecki, a nutrition counselor, was so relieved to regain energy and resolve sleep problems she wanted to share the information so H.O.P.E., the educational support group for Helping Our Pain and Exhaustion, was born. The nonprofit organization regularly hosts Tuesday evening lectures at the Farmington Hills Public Library to update patients on the latest information about the disorder that affects more women than men.

"You need to find what helps you," said Ostalecki. "There's no standard protocol. Exercise is important. Everyone has to figure it out for yourself."

DECADES OF RESEARCH

Ostalecki's decades of research on the disorder led to the book, *Fibromyalgia: The Complete Guide from Medical Experts and Patients* published by Jones and Bartlett, and presentations by medical experts in

conjunction with Fibromyalgia Awareness Day. The event takes place May 13 at the Courtyard by Marriott in Farmington Hills.

Dr. Dennis Dobritt leads off the evening talking about diagnosis and treatment. Dobritt is director of Tri-County Pain Consultants in Livonia, Farmington Hills and Royal Oak. Those in attendance will be able to speak as well with Dr. Joseph Meerschaert, a retired physical medicine and rehabilitation physician who specialized in fibromyalgia and chronic pain; Peter Ianni, a pain psychologist in private practice in Farmington Hills; dentist Ghabi Kaspo, TMJ and Orofacial Pain Management, Troy, and physical therapist Loren DeVinney of West Bloomfield.

"Fibromyalgia is starting to be recognized in the community. As an advocate and support group we try to raise awareness," said Ostalecki. "The event is open to the general public. We hope to answer questions and help people to see fibromyalgia is real. There's still misunderstanding. Even with awareness increasing we run into a medical establishment that knows little about fibromyalgia. We hope patients take some of this awareness back to their doctors. We want people to recognize it is a valid medical issue."

Dr. Safwan Badr wrote about different sleep disorders in Ostalecki's book. "Seventy percent of those with fibromyalgia don't go into the deep stages of sleep where the body repairs itself," said

FIBROMYALGIA AWARENESS DAY

What: Speakers on diagnosing, treating and understanding the disorder, yoga demonstration, chair massage available
When: 6-9:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 13
Where: Courtyard by Marriott, 31525 W. 12 Mile, Farmington Hills
Cost: \$10. Pre-registration encouraged. Call (248) 344-0896 or send e-mail to smo23915@aol.com.

Ostalecki. "Sleep is the No. 1 thing that needs to be corrected and can cause cognitive issues, fibrofog (impaired brain function), the not sleeping problem, not being alert."

Badr speaks about Understanding Sleep at 8 p.m. The West Bloomfield resident is chief of the pulmonary, critical care and sleep medicine division, Harper Hospital, and professor of medicine and associate chairman, department of internal medicine, Wayne State University. He usually only sees fibromyalgia patients referred for another disorder like sleep apnea on which he does research.

"Because the sleep symptoms are nonspecific: fatigue, sleepiness, most of the time it is kind of ignored," said Badr. "Patients work around it or ignore it."

"I'll be describing all the physiology of sleep in the sense of how much sleep we need. Sleep deprivation has significant adverse consequences on health, a big effect on job performance, alertness, motor vehicle accidents. It contributed to a good number

of highly famous spectacular industrial accidents like Three Mile Island, Chernobyl, Exxon Valdez.

"People with fibromyalgia have poor quality sleep. Patients know exactly what it means, patients who wake up tired, fatigued, just don't feel themselves."

TREATMENT PLAN

Badr's job is to unlock the cause and come up with a treatment.

"We don't have a comprehensive treatment for fibromyalgia," said Badr. "We try to look at what else is going on, is there snoring, sleep apnea, restless leg syndrome? There are all kind of things we look at and review the medication patients are on so we make sure there's no effect on sleep. Insomnia has to be added to sleep complaints of patients."

In the beginning Ostalecki was able to rest with medication but then began doing yoga and meditation. She rarely takes prescription sleep medication anymore since starting a routine consisting of yoga at night, aerobics in the morning. Ostalecki is currently co-authoring a book to answer 100 questions about fibromyalgia with Dr. Martin Tamler.

"Nutrition is really important," said Ostalecki. "Fibromyalgia patients need to stay away from refined carbohydrates. The problem is the sugars. It's comforting but the protein levels go down. They need beans, fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and then protein."

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MEDICAL DATEBOOK

MAY

MS Walk

Keep us moving towards a cure by joining a team, raising funds, and/or volunteering in the Metro Detroit Northeast Walk MS at Troy High School on Sunday, May 4. To register or for information, visit www.nationalMSSociety.org/mig.

Volunteers needed

For Camp Discovery for children with epilepsy (June 29 to July 3), at Sherman Lake YMCA Outdoor Center in Augusta, northwest of Kalamazoo. Volunteer training from experts on epilepsy and camp procedures Saturday, June 28. Free room/board. For information/application, visit www.epilepsymichigan.org, call (800) 377-6226, option 1, Ext. 231, or send e-mail to sdjarroch@epilepsymichigan.org.

CHADD meeting

Sari Solden, award winning author, will be speaking on Women and ADD (Attention-Deficit Disorder) 10 years later at the Monday, May 5 meeting

at Way Elementary School, 765 W. Long Lk, Bloomfield Hills. Registration begins at 7 p.m. Free for members and their families, \$5 donation for non-member families. Call (248) 988-6716 or visit www.chadd.net/527.

Divorce support group

Group discussion; attorney Patricia Kasody-Coyle will also be available to answer questions in a private setting on a first come, first served basis, 7-9 p.m. Tuesday, May 13, in the Women's Resource Center (room 225), McDowell Center, Schoolcraft College, 18600 Haggerty, Livonia. (734) 462-4443.

Thyroid workshop

Your Thyroid Does All That? Yes, & More! Find Out What You Need to Know To Stay Healthy, a seminar 7 p.m. Wednesday, May 7, with Dr. William Karl, D.C., on the third floor of the Livonia Civic Center Library, 32777 Five Mile, between Merriman and Farmington Rd. Visit www.KarlHolisticHealthCare.com for more information. To register, call (734) 425-8588.

Fibromyalgia awareness day

Meeting 1-3 p.m. Thursday, May 8, at Merriman Road Baptist Church, 2055 Merriman, one block south of Ford, Garden City. For more information, call Lucy at (734) 462-1768.

Fibromyalgia lectures

Speakers on diagnosing, treating and understanding the disorder, yoga demonstration, chair massages 6-9:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 13, at Courtyard by Marriott, 31525 W. 12 Mile, Farmington Hills. Cost \$10. Pre-registration encouraged. Call (248) 344-0896 or send e-mail to smo23915@aol.com. Presented by H.O.P.E. educational support group.

Skin cancer screening

Free 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thursday, May 15, at the Marian Professional Building, 14555 Levan, Suite 410, Livonia. Call (734) 462-9499. By appointment only.

Art dash

To benefit the Arbor Hospice Foundation Thursday, May 15, at St. John's Golf and Conference Center, Plymouth. An evening

of wine, food, auction items, and fun. For tickets, call (734) 794-5152.

Asthma walk

American Lung Association of Michigan Asthma Walk will be held 9 a.m. (registration at 7:30 a.m.) Saturday, May 17, at the Detroit International Riverfront. The walk will raise funds for lung health education, advocacy, asthma treatments and research. Registration is free. Families, children, individuals, and teams are welcome to participate. For details and to register, visit www.AsthmaWalk.org or call 1-800-LUNG-USA.

Hearing loss event

Day at the State Capitol in Lansing Wednesday, May 21, chartered bus leaves Tel/Twelve Mall (cost \$30), participants meet with their state representative and senator, and attend a session of the Senate and House, hearing access provided the entire event. For a registration form, call (586) 247-4053 or send e-mail to ngibben@hfh.org. A bus registration form may be obtained from the Hearing Loss Association of Michigan, P.O. Box 4808, Troy, MI 48099.

Race for the cure

17th Annual Susan G. Komen Detroit Race for the Cure® presented by Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute - 5K Run/Walk and One-Mile Walk 7-11:30 a.m. Saturday, May 31, at Comerica Park, in Detroit. In 2007, more than \$11 million raised from the race supported local breast cancer screening, treatment and education programs. In addition, nearly \$350,000 was contributed the national organization for breast cancer research, educational, scientific and outreach programs. Organizations can get involved through sponsorship opportunities or by hosting a team. For information on sponsoring the race, call (248) 351-1862. Online team registration runs to May 13, individual registration through May 29, at www.karmanos.org/raceforthecuredetroit. Cost is \$12-\$40 and varies by age, the time you register and online versus on-site registration. On-site registration will be available at May 30 Expo or on Race day beginning at 7 a.m. Komen Detroit Race for the Cure® Expo will be held 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday, May 30, at the Max M.

Fisher Music Center, 3711 Woodward, Detroit. The free event offers entertainment, merchandise, pink ribbons to honor loved ones and other special surprises. Visit www.karmanos.org or call (800) KARMANOS.

Recovery, Inc.

The support group meets at 10 a.m., Wednesdays at Prince of Peace Church, Walnut Lake Road and Green, West Bloomfield. Recovery, Inc. is an international, non-profit, self-help community based organization that helps people with nervous and emotional disorders reduce their suffering and improve quality of life. Call Marthapaul at (248) 682-9362 or send e-mail to marthapaul@sbcbglobal.net. The self-help meetings in Livonia run 7:30 p.m. Monday St. Matthew's Methodist Church, 30900 W. Six Mile; 1:15 p.m. Thursday, Mt. Hope Congregational Church, 30330 Schoolcraft, and 2:30 p.m. Sunday at Rosedale Gardens Presbyterian Church, 9601 Hubbard. Call (313) 561-2521 or visit www.recovery-inc.org. No charge, contributions collected.

Eat your veggies for better health

Gary from Sterling Heights e-mails asking what he could add to his diet to help keep him healthy?

Gary, that is a great question! The answer is to add lots of color, in the form of fruits and vegetables. New research has shown the more colorful your diet, the more antioxidants you get, which are key to youthful skin, healthy bones, sharp memory and fighting and preventing disease. Each color has a different class of nutrients.

Yellow and orange fruits and vegetables such as

carrots and melon can reduce the risk of cancer. Green, such as spinach and broccoli can keep your vision sharp and clear.

Blue and purple, in your blueberries and blackberries can prevent tumors from forming and suppress their growth.

Red in tomatoes and watermelon can protect against cancer and heart disease. Finally, white, such as cauliflower can help fight off stomach and colon cancer. For the best benefit, mix and match these foods.

Ted from Detroit e-mails asking how important is it for him to lose weight?

Ted, it is critical to slim down and stay healthy. It could save your life.

The World Cancer Research Fund found a new link

between body fat and cancer. It found convincing evidence to link six types of cancer to body fat, five more than in its previous report 10 years ago. Among the new types of cancer are colorectal and breast cancer. Researchers believe processed meats, red meat and alcohol are the big causes for the increased risk. They now recommend what I have been saying for a long time. Thirty minutes of exercise daily! Eat fruits and vegetables, lean meats and drink plenty of water.

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

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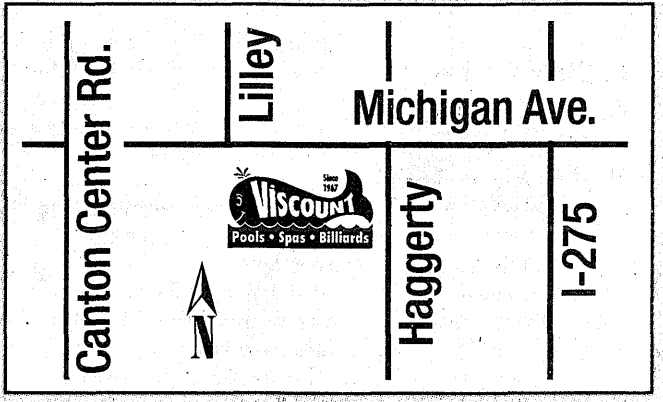
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Today's funeral traditions set during Lincoln's time

FOOD DRIVE

FROM PAGE C1

BY REBECCA JONES
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

One million people viewed Abraham Lincoln's corpse during a 20-day funeral procession from Washington, D.C., to his burial site in Springfield, Ill.

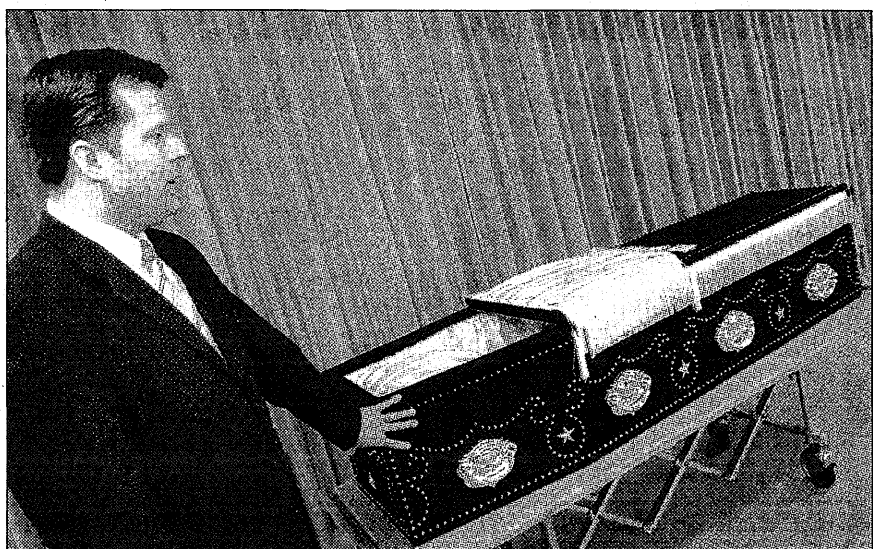
Without embalming, that wouldn't have been possible.

Lincoln was the first U.S. president to be embalmed, a practice that began during the Civil War so fallen soldiers could be transported home for burial, explained Jeff Bell, a funeral director from Plymouth's Schrader-Howell Funeral Home, who gave a talk on the history of funerals at the Livonia Historical Society's meeting Monday.

Many of today's funeral service traditions are derived from Lincoln's funeral, Bell said.

His coffin — made of solid walnut and covered in expensive black fabric and lined with lead — was the most elaborate of that time. A replica was on display at the Livonia Senior Center on Monday. It will be back in Plymouth next February in honor of the 200th anniversary of Lincoln's birth.

In 1900, after an attempt to steal Lincoln's body, a select few had the



TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Jeff Bell, funeral director at Schrader-Howell Funeral Home in Plymouth, talks about the authentic replica of Abraham Lincoln's coffin, which has been on display at the funeral home.

chance to examine it again, and reportedly, his appearance had not changed much since his original burial.

Embalming replaces blood with a watered down solution of formaldehyde. The process cost about \$100 in the mid-19th century.

Civil War soldiers (privates were paid about \$13 a month) would set money aside for this preservation technique.

Another way to transport bodies home was to encase them in whiskey, said Livonia Historical Society President Gene Kramer, who is also a

Civil War re-enactor.

In the pioneer days, when the average life expectancy was 42, people would plant trees on their property with the intention of using the wood for their own coffin, Bell said. Today, someone pointed out, caskets can be purchased at Costco.

Families also used to hire photographers to take pictures of the dead to send to distant loved ones.

Some customs were based on superstition, such as moving a body out of the home feet first, so no one would follow the deceased to the grave, Bell said.

There are a few thoughts behind another custom, draping mirrors with black cloth.

Wayne State mortuary science student Mara Kimel said according to her Latvian mother, if the deceased's spirit can't see him or herself in the mirror, the ghost will realize someone is dead and move on.

Once a male-dominated field, Kimel, an Ann Arbor resident, said the great majority of students in her mortuary science program are women.

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tions are "Doing the Most Good" to help the communities in which they live and work.

"Doing the Most Good" is as easy as donating food for the needy, volunteering to sort food, or ringing the bell during the holiday season. To find out how you can join The Salvation Army in "Doing the Most Good," visit www.salmich.org for a listing of some quick and easy ways to make an impact on the lives of those around you.

At work in Michigan since 1887, The Salvation Army operates 180 facilities throughout the state. Annually, these facilities provide more than 3.4 million meals and 780,032 nights of shelter for the homeless. The Salvation Army uses \$.83 of every dollar raised to provide direct services to people in need each and every day of the year.

For more information about The Salvation Army, call (877) SAL-MICH, or visit www.salmich.org.

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Wyoming man looks for information about family

BY SUE MASON
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A Mills, Wyo., man is hoping that someone in Garden City can provide him with information about his biological father, a brother and other paternal relatives.

Rob Piotter's search for his biological family has spanned more than 20 years and covered five states. He has been able to locate his biological mother, grandparents and aunts, and is now looking for information on his father and brother.

"I'm hoping that someone will remember a vital piece of information," Piotter said in an e-mail. "I am in the process of trying to find my biological father who I was told lived in the Garden City area. I am also trying to find my younger sibling brother who was adopted out with me in 1967.

"I really hope this will help me locate information on finding them or relatives from my father's side."

Piotter began searching for his biological mother when he was about 15. His adoptive parents were always open about the adoption and gave him what information they had "which was very little." He wrote the adoption agency but was "stonewalled by sealed records."

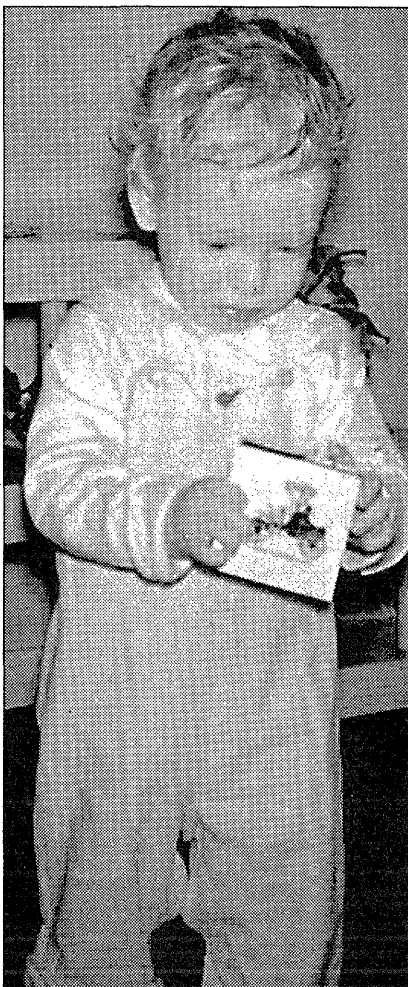
At age 19, he moved West with friends and ended up in Mills, Wyo. During a return visit to Michigan in 1984 to see family and friends, he found information that led him to the last foster care family who cared for him.

"I met with them and found they held a vital piece of the puzzle, information of my baptism and a kindergarten picture with my birth name on the back of the picture," Piotter said. "This was the missing piece that led me to an aunt in Westland who kept her maiden name listed in the phone book in hopes I would someday find her."

"From there, the rest of the pieces for my biological mother's side fell into place."

According to Piotter, he was born Robert Shawn Staffig on June 29, 1962, to Darlene Diane Staffig. His mother, who went by the name of Diane and was 16 years old at the time, grew up in Garden City and attended Garden City High School.

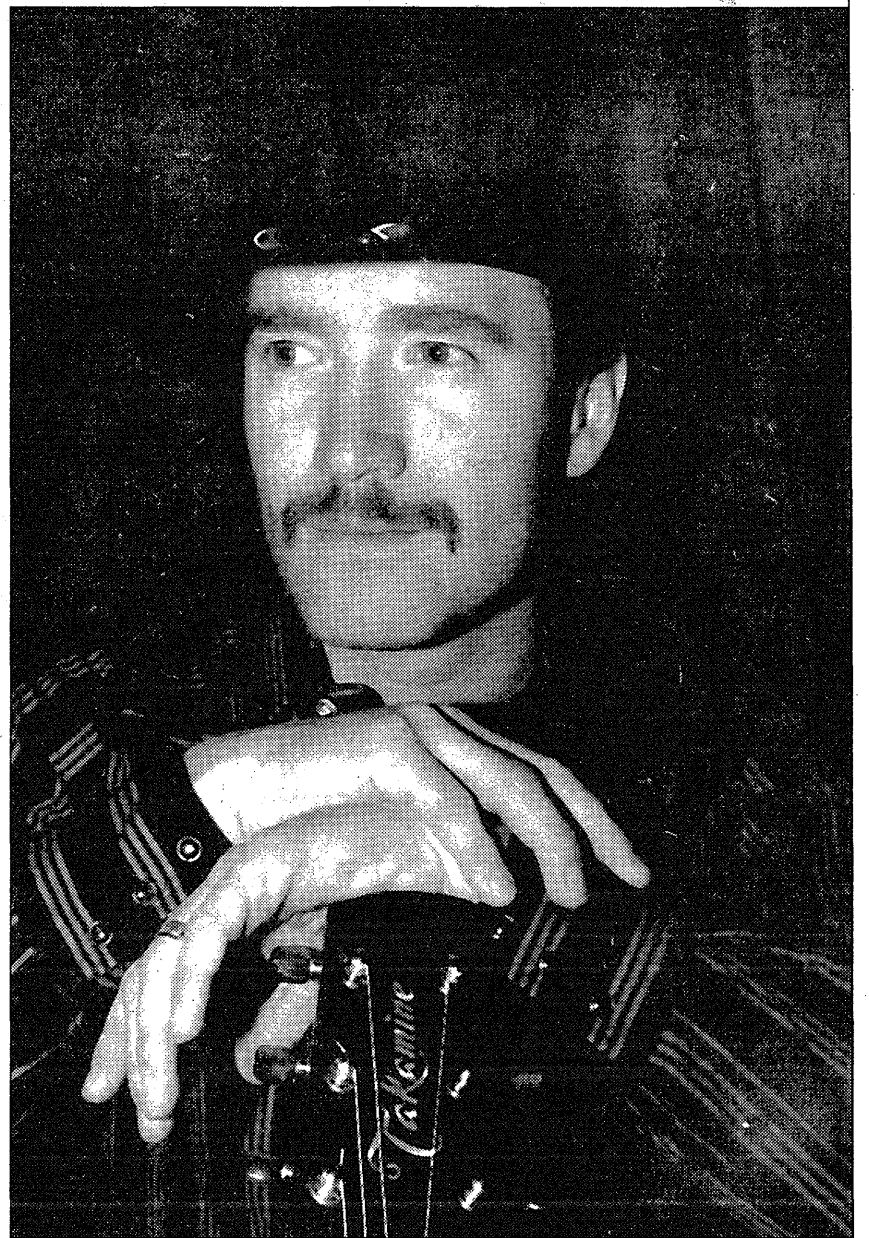
His mother and father never married, but Piotter was able to find



This photo of Robert Staffig was taken in 1963 when he was 1½ years old.



A smiling Robert Staffig at age 3.



Robert Staffig can only wonder, as an adult, if he looks like his biological father and a brother he is hoping to locate.

his father's name, Robert William Evans, on a Sept. 23, 1962, baptismal certificate from St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church in Plymouth.

Piotter isn't sure of the exact date, but sometime between 1964-65, his mother married Don Corman and had a son, Don David, born in September 1965. The family lived on Block Street in Garden City.

The marriage ended sometime in 1967 and his mother struggled raising her two sons on her own. She eventually gave her two sons up for adoption with Lutheran Child and Family Services in Detroit. Both children were adopted by different families.

Piotter recently learned that his biological mother died of cancer in October 2006.

In his search, Piotter has come up with the names of people he described as "prominent" in his biological mother's life between

1962 and 1968. They include Ginger Rogers who baby-sat the two boys and Diane Paquin who was listed as a sponsor on his baptismal certificate.

According to Piotter, his biological mother also lived with a couple, Cletus and Paul Schwegg of Plymouth, before she married Don Corman. She also had a close friend named George Wyscoky.

And he has learned that after the adoption, his mother moved to Texas with a friend named Bridgette.

Bridgette's real name was Virginia Tucker and she lived on Haggerty between Cherry Hill and Ford in Canton before moving to Plymouth near her cousins, Darlene, Patty and Glenn Heinrich, in Plymouth, according to Edith Denton of Garden City, who saw the story about Piotter's search in the *Garden City Observer*.

Denton also knows Paquin, "her

best friend," and has talked with her and with Piotter. One of the things Paquin has for Piotter is a box of baby photos, Denton said.

"When I talked to her, she said, 'Edith, this is a godsend,'" Denton added.

Piotter is elated with hearing from his godmother.

"I've talked with Diane Paquin last night for about an hour," he wrote in an e-mail. "It was amazing."

Piotter is concentrating on the search for his biological father and sibling brother.

"I've contacted the adoption agency in years past, updating my

information with them in case my sibling brother or biological father ever contacted them, but the records remain sealed," he said.

Piotter added that his brother was only 3 years old at the time. He may not even know he was adopted or may not know the agency that processed the adoption.

People who may have information about his biological father and brother can contact Piotter by e-mail at biofamilysearch@hotmail.com or write to him at Rob Piotter, P.O. Box 2415, Mills, WY 82644.

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The Zonta Club of Northwest Wayne County and Botsford Center for Health Improvement are hosting a night of fun, fitness, beauty and shopping.

"A Taste of the Spa" and Women's Health Night will be 5:30-8:30 p.m. Friday, June 6, at Botsford Center for Health Improvement, 39750 Grand River (just W of Haggerty) in Novi. The cost is \$30, Botsford Center

members can attend for \$15. Mother and daughter duo can attend for \$50.

The even will include use of the entire facility including pools, exercise equipment and indoor track; A women's health lecture; beginning weight lifting "Iron Maiden" class; free Blood pressures; chair massages; hand care by Body Shop; make-up by Mary Kay; Lia Sophia Jewelry and Beijo handbags.

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REUNIONS

Berkley High School Class of 1958
 Planning a 50th Reunion, Sept 19-21, 2008. All members of January 1958, June 1958 and January 1959 are invited. At Somerset Inn, 2601 West Big Beaver Road, Troy. Events include: a Friday evening hospitality party, Saturday afternoon tour of BHS and lunch, dinner Party at the hotel on Saturday evening and brunch at hotel Sunday morning followed by a golf outing. Contact: csingerbhs58reunion.org for access to the web site: www.bhs58reunion.org or call Jackie Yorgen Castine, (248) 332-5984.

Clarenceville High School Class of 1988
 A reunion is being planned for the summer of 2008. Trying to reach as many classmates as possible. Send contact information to Dale Weighill at resource@gfn.org.

Crestwood High School Class of 1968
 A 40th class reunion Oct 4, 2008. For information, contact Gail Goodall Welch, (313) 937-3477 or e-mail CHS1968Sec@yahoo.com.au.

Dearborn High School Class of 1963
 A 45-year reunion planned Aug. 1, 2008. Father Patrick O'Kelley Hall, Dearborn. Contact Betsy Cushman at (313) 565-5972 or ecushman@comcast.net.

Dearborn Edsel Ford Classes of 1958
 The 1958 January and June Classes of Dearborn and Edsel Ford High Schools are having a combined 50-Year Reunion on Saturday Aug. 2, 2008 at the Dearborn Country Club. Judy Richards Goerke at (313) 562-9031, Judygoerke@yahoo.com or Shirley Chiado Peters at (248) 348-9443, Shirley.peters@villageford.net may be contacted for further information.

Dearborn Edsel Ford Class of 1968
 A 40-year reunion Aug. 2, 2008, at Patrick O'Kelly Knights of Columbus in Dearborn. For more information, contact Janet Wzola Robbins at (313) 277-1418 or Susan Taylor Szalony at (248) 348-6692.

Dearborn Fordson Class of 1969
 Planning a reunion. Please contact Kathy Nisun at (248) 363-5679 or e-mail: Kaynilitu@aol.com or Kathy Shoebridge @ Klivingston@nu-core.com.

Class of 1958
 A 50-year reunion on Aug. 2, 2008 at Park Place. Reservations only. For information, please contact Marsha (Duzal) Moviesian, (313) 277-5624, or Joyce (Anderson) Mechalko, (313) 278-4488.

Detroit Cass Tech Class of 1958

A 50-year reunion, Oct. 11, 2008. For details, call Isabelle at (313) 882-4626 and at casstech58.com.

Detroit Chadsey High School Class of 1958
 A 50-year reunion, Friday, Sept. 19, 2008, at Burton Manor, Livonia. \$55 per person. Contact, Mike Poterala, (248) 548-4829 or mspoterala@comcast.net.

Detroit Christ the King Elementary Class of 1963
 A 45-year reunion is being planned for 2008. Searching for classmates. The reunion date has not been set. Contact Dennis Place at (734) 354-0223 or email denplace@bigfoot.com.

Detroit Holy Redeemer High School Class of 1958
 A 50th reunion on Saturday, Oct. 4, 2008 at O'Kelley K of C, Dearborn. Contact Mary Burns at (313) 937-3979 or burnsmary@aol.com for information.

Detroit High School of Commerce Class of 1958 January, June and August
 Planning reunion for Sept. 13. Call J. Wilkinson, (313) 861-0834, or B. King, (248) 547-1693.

Detroit Western High School Class of 1978
 A 30-year reunion is planned for Saturday, Nov. 29, 2008. For more info, contact Donna Willingham at (313) 605-0377 or e-mail western1978@att.net.

Garden City High School Class of 1960
 Mini-Reunion Luncheons held the second Saturday of every month at 1 p.m. in the banquet room in the Plymouth Denny's on Ann Arbor Road, east of I-275. Anyone interested in more information can call Gary Simon at (734) 751-4101 or send e-mail to GCHS.MCMLX@yahoo.com.

Class of 1989
 Need classmates to register online with names, addresses and e-mail addresses to Paula at gchsi989reunion@hotmail.com and check out Web site at www.myspace.com/gchsi989reunion. The reunion date has not been set yet.

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

Jefferson Avenue Cooperative Nursery School 60th Anniversary
 The Jefferson Avenue Cooperative Nursery School (JACNS) in Detroit is celebrating its 60th anniversary this year. A celebration and silent auction are being planned Saturday, May 24. If you were associated with Jefferson Avenue Cooperative Nursery School at any time in the past, as either a student or parent, the school is seeking your memories.

For information, email gandjack1@yahoo.com, or call the Shields family at (313) 822-3211.

Lincoln Park High School
 Looking for members of Lincoln Park High School class of 1958 for 50 year reunion. Contact: Nancy, (313) 535-8777 or ncc6897@sbcglobal.net.

Lincoln Park High School Class of 1978
 A 30-Year reunion June 28, at Ramada Inn of Taylor. Contact: Tracy Zimmerman at (714) 837-2191

Livonia Franklin Class of 1969
 A reunion is in the pre-planning stages. For more information, contact Kathy Nisun at (248) 363-5679 or e-mail: Kaynilitu@aol.com.

Livonia Stevenson Class of 1978
 A 30 year reunion, Aug. 16, 2008, at Marriott, 17100 N. Laurel Park Drive, Livonia. Includes DJ, cash bar, and strolling buffet. There will be information coming soon. For information, contact the Reunion Committee, Tim Oehmke at (734)637-1002 or superchargertest@aol.com

Milford High School Class of 1978
 Planning a 30th reunion. Class members should contact the reunion committee as soon as possible. E-mail address is: milford78@gmail.com.

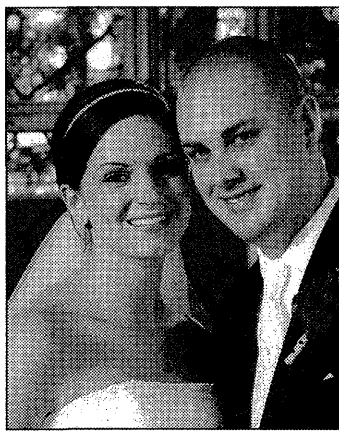
Plymouth High School Class of 1968
 Searching for classmates for a 40th reunion on July 19, 2008. Only about 63 percent of the class have been located. Contact Sue (Keith) Johnson at (734) 451-1048 or contact phs40threunion@charter.net.

Plymouth-Canton high schools Classes of 1988
 Plymouth Canton and Plymouth Salem classes of 1988 20-year reunion will be held on Saturday, Aug. 2, at Laurel Manor in Livonia. Contact cepclassof1988@yahoo.com for more information.

Royal Oak Kimball Class of 1988
 A 20-year class reunion on Saturday, Oct. 4, 2008. For more information please go to www.kimball1988.myevent.com to register.

Wayne Memorial High School Class of 1988
 A 20th reunion 6:30 p.m. to midnight Saturday, Aug. 9, 2008, at Fellows Creek Golf Club, 2936 Lotz Road in Canton (west of I-275, north of Michigan Ave). Cost \$50 per person, including dinner, DJ, and open bar. Make checks payable to Connie Wright-Gregory and mail to 23217 Ennishore, Novi, MI 48375. Or you can use paypal at tupper4u@yahoo.com and add \$2 per person to the cost per ticket. Payments need to be made by July 23, 2008.

WEDDING



Webber-Hall
 Dusty Hall and Jillian Webber were married Dec. 8, 2007, at St. John's Episcopal Church in Plymouth with the Rev. Robert Miller (Jillian's grandfather) and the Rev. Dorian McGlannan officiating.

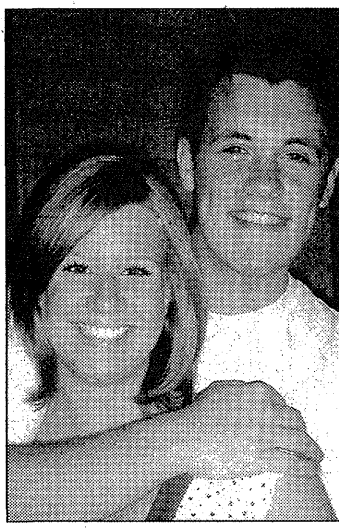
The bride is the daughter of Robert Webber of Livonia and Janice Webber of Livonia. She is a 2000 graduate of Franklin High School in Livonia and a 2005 graduate of the University of Michigan-Dearborn with a degree in psychology. The groom is the son of Harvey and Linda Hall of Livonia. He is a 2000 graduate of Franklin High School in Livonia and will graduate in May 2008 from Wayne State University with a degree in kinesiology.

The bride was attended by Kelly Evanoff, maid of honor, Erin Webber, Karen Hall, Misty Butcher, Alexis Gay, Jennifer Schack and Elizabeth Raley.

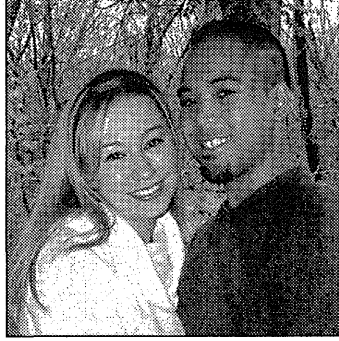
The groom was attended by Brandon McCullough, best man, Bob Webber, Tommy Hall, Harvey Hall, Nick Evanoff, Danny Wright, John Diponio and Andy Wright. Tommy Miles was the usher. A reception was held at Fox Hills in Plymouth. The couple honeymooned in Florida. The Webbers are making their home in Novi.

ENGAGEMENTS

Whitney-Fuller
 Bill and Peg Whitney of Wyckoff, N.J., announce the engagement of their daughter, Maggie Whitney, to Garrett Fuller, son of Dennis Fuller of Plymouth and Leah Lucy of Garden City. The bride-to-be is a graduate of Rampano High School in New Jersey and is employed by Creative Technology Services. The future groom is a graduate of Garden City High School and is employed by Creative Technology Services. A November, 2008, wedding in Wyckoff, N.J., is planned.

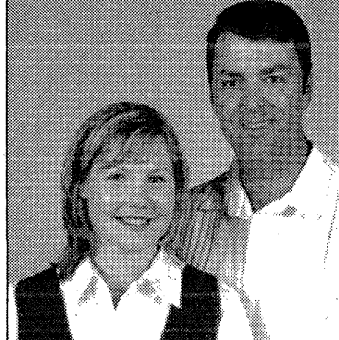


Milne-Odtohan
 Kimberlee Ann Milne of Livonia and Richard Odtohan of Livonia are engaged to be married May 31, 2008, at Commerce United Methodist Church. The bride-to-be is the daughter of Terri Brown of Commerce and Angel Gomez of Dearborn. She is a 2000 graduate of Walled Lake Central High School and a 2005 graduate of the University of Michigan-Dearborn with a bachelor of arts degree in English and communications. The groom is the son of Harvey and Linda Hall of Livonia. He is a 2000 graduate of Franklin High School in Livonia and will graduate in May 2008 from Wayne State University with a degree in kinesiology. The bride was attended by Kelly Evanoff, maid of honor, Erin Webber, Karen Hall, Misty Butcher, Alexis Gay, Jennifer Schack and Elizabeth Raley.



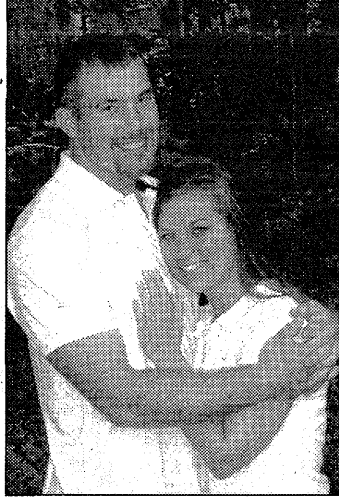
Churchill High School and a 2004 graduate of the University of Michigan-Dearborn with a bachelor of arts degree in economics. The Rev. Dean Wyllys will officiate at the wedding. A reception will follow at the White Lake Oaks Country Club.

Dolan-Thompson
 Mark A. and Nikki Dolan of Marysville announce the engagement of their daughter, Megan Dolan, to Christopher Thompson. The bride-to-be recently completed teacher certification and is a graduate of Oakland University. She is currently pursuing a master in education degree. The future groom is the son of Larry Thompson of Livonia and Nancy Thompson of Livonia. He is employed as an electronics test technician



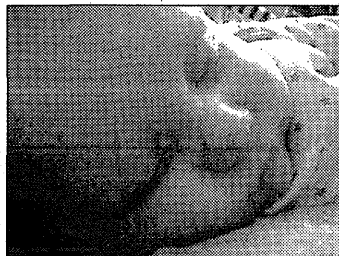
at Yazaki North America in Canton. The couple plan an Aug. 9, 2008, wedding in Fenton.

Davis-Boulter
 Henry and Ronda Davis of Elmira, Mich., announce the engagement of their daughter, Jessica Jo Davis, to Daniel R. Boulter, son of Dan and Janet Boulter of Redford. The bride-to-be is a graduate of Gaylor High School and a 2007 graduate of Ferris State University. She manages a tanning salon and works for Victory Camps and coaches cheerleading at Gaylor High School. The future groom is a graduate of St. Agatha High School and a 2007 graduate of Ferris State University. He is employed as a developmental engineer with General Motors.

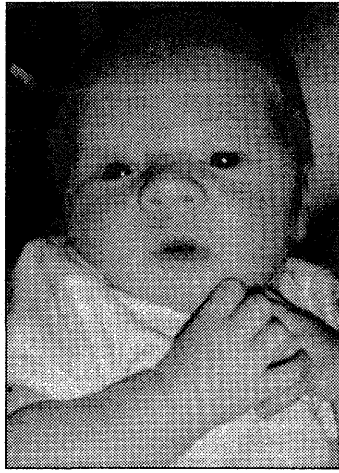


An Aug. 23, 2008, wedding is planned for St. Thomas Aquinas Church in Elmira.

BIRTHS



John Bohdan Wilson
 Natalie and Daniel Wilson of Livonia announce the birth of their son, John Bohdan Wilson, on June 14, 2007, at Oakwood Hospital. John has a sister, Audrey Wilson, 3. His grandparents are Wiebke and Bohdan Hnatiuk of Livonia and Dolores and Jack Wilson of Ferguson, Mo. Great grandparents are Anna Hnatiuk of Livonia and Lucia O'Donnell of Livonia.



Andrew Eugene Osborne II
 Andrew and Amanda Osborne of Livonia announce the birth of their son, Andrew Eugene Osborne II, on April 8, 2008, at St. John Providence in Southfield. Andrew weighed 8 pounds, 5 ounces and was 21.5 inches long at birth. Andrew has a sister, Addison Osborne. Grandparents are David and Linda Regelin of Monroe and Keith and Kathy Osborne of Coloma, Mich.

Ford Freedom Award kudos set for May 6

Coretta Scott King and Dr. Dorothy Height will be honored for their achievements at the 10th annual Ford Freedom Award program on May 6. The daylong event includes both a scholar's lecture for invited middle schools in the morning at Orchestra Hall and a ticketed evening gala at 6 p.m. at the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History. Coretta Scott King will receive the Ford Freedom Award posthumously; and Dr. Dorothy I. Height, chair and president emerita of the National Council of Negro Women, has been named the Ford Freedom Award Scholar. Kevin Frazier, weekend anchor and correspondent of *Entertainment Tonight*, and local TV host Chuck Stokes, WXYZ-TV, will again serve as masters of ceremonies of the evening gala. The Ford Freedom Award program was created in 1999 to celebrate and recognize individuals whose achievements brought lasting and positive change for African Americans and the world. The program is underwritten by Ford, and funds raised are used to support the Charles H. Wright Museum of African-American History's educational programs, exhibits and community outreach initiatives. The Ford Freedom Award program is made possible by a grant from Ford Motor Co. Silver sponsors of the event are Chrysler and Comerica Bank. Call (313) 494-5800 or visit www.maah-detroit.org.

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DONA JEAN CONSANI
 Age 85, April 27, 2008. Beloved wife of the late Melvin. Loving mother of Gayle Saari, Randy Consani, Sandy Darr (Michael) and Greg Consani. Cherished grandmother of Autumn, John, Allyn, Drew, Crista and Becky. Memorial contributions may be made to Angela Hospice, 14100 Newburgh Rd., Livonia, MI, 48154. Private arrangements entrusted to Thayer-Rock Funeral Home, Farmington. www.thayer-rock.com

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Knittels celebrate 50th
 Dennis and Mary Knittel of Livonia are celebrating their 50th anniversary. The Knittels were married May 17, 1958, in Birmingham. They have seven children: Kathy (Doug) Heuer of Plymouth; Denise (Ken) Mahn of Brighton; Colleen (Mark) Price of Westland; Mary Jo (Kelly) Carley of Novi; Susan (Mike) Ellis of Northville; John (Kim) Knittel of Canton; and Patrick Knittel of Plymouth.



The Knittels have 14 grandchildren. The couple plans to celebrate their anniversary with their children and grandchildren at Ernesto's in Plymouth.

Hiram's mark 55th
 Soichiro "Patrick" Hiram and Cynthia Marie (Monroe) Hiram of Livonia are celebrating their 55th anniversary. The Hiram's were married May 2, 1953, at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Denver, Colo. They have lived in Livonia for 49 years. They have five children: Timothy Hiram, Gregory Hiram of Plymouth, Eileen Hiram of Seattle, Brian Hiram of Chicago and Ann-Nora Hiram of Plymouth. They have three grandchildren. Pat is a native of Los Angeles and a graduate of the University of Colorado and Columbia University. He worked as a social worker at the Denver Department of Welfare and the Wayne County Department of Welfare. He retired in 1980. Cynthia is a Detroit native and a graduate of Mt. Carmel Nursing



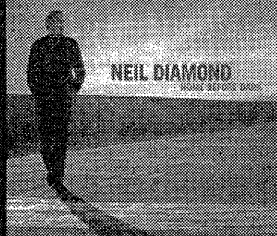
School in Detroit. She was a registered nurse at St. Mary Hospital in the emergency and recovery departments. She also worked at the Evening Medical Care Centers and Detroit Diesel Corp. She retired in 1992. They have been active at Our Lady of Good Counsel Church in Plymouth and St. Edith Church in Livonia. They are active in social justice and peace issues. On Friday they were to receive a special blessing and a Mass at Gesu Catholic Church in Detroit, followed by dinner at Mario's in Detroit and a play at the Detroit Repertory Theater.

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Local artist puts her own style into handbag gig

BY KIMBERLY MORTSON
OBSERVER CORRESPONDENT

Aladdin may have been best known for his magic carpet, but for Michele Kramp it's her magic bags.

A textile artist from Canton, Kramp has been designing one-of-a-kind handbags since 2003 under the name The Magic Bag Lady. Unconventional designs, recycled fabrics and unique embellishments are all trademarks of her custom handbags.

Born in Redford, Kramp moved to Canton with her parents, James and Georgette Craig, when she was 10 years old. Kramp says both of her parents encouraged her creativity at a very young age.

"My mom taught us to knit, crochet and sew. She's a strong, self-motivated woman and took great pride in how her three daughters looked growing up. From our hair to all the clothes she made us - we always looked so neat and put together," said Kramp.

When she was in elementary school, Kramp first tried her hand at sewing by making her own doll clothes. After graduating from Plymouth Canton High School, she earned a degree in apparel design and merchandising from Wayne State University.

"It was my dad who encouraged my love of drawing, which I refined in college," Kramp said. "He allowed me to use his drafting tools and made sure my school projects were done well. He had high standards for all

his daughters. He would say, if you have the proper tools use them, no excuses."

In addition to drawing, Kramp took fine tailoring classes at WSU, where she learned all the old-school techniques such as welt pockets, hand-sewn buttonholes and draping.

"I became even more proficient when I used those skills everyday working for a couple of local tailors," she said. "Tailoring is much more mechanical and structural in nature but my sewing skills were so much better by the time I left."

A STITCH IN TIME

In 1997, Kramp and her husband Matthew gave birth to their daughter Madeline.

"The first year of her life I made all of her clothes. I wanted to take the same pride in my daughter's appearance that my mom did for me and that I have done for myself," said Kramp. "At the same time I tried to make a go of designing and selling children's clothing at craft shows but it seemed like I never had the right size someone was looking for in something I sewed. So I made this little green bag out of fabric with fairies on it. It was perfect. So I made another and another and another."

Then in 2001, Michele and her family moved to Italy while her husband, a computer-aided designer, worked with an international company fabricating automotive door latches. Kramp says she became a "professional tourist" and immersed herself

in the Italians' love of fashion.

"We went crazy buying clothes, sunglasses and shoes," Kramp said. "It was fantastic."

While touring the countryside with a Canadian family they befriended, Kramp became known for carrying everything they might need while sightseeing in her handbag.

"My friend Lorraine started referring to me as 'the keeper of the magic bag,'" she recalled.

And the rest is history. Upon their return from Europe, Kramp revived her handbag designing and got to work improving the style, quality and structural integrity of her bags. Again, she tried craft shows as an outlet for her handbags but that didn't work.

"People at craft shows wanted to see 10 of the same bags so if their friend bought one they could walk in and buy the same one. My bags do have some little similarities but no two are the same," said Kramp.

It's that level of individuality that fuels Kramp's creativity. Her handbags are based on current trends but with "a little rebellion mixed in."

"I combine what's going on this season and funk it up a bit," added the Canton textile artist.

Kim McCord, a local pediatrician and internist, has purchased several handbags for herself and given them as gifts over the past 10 years.

"I don't know how to describe it but I like what she does on a lot of levels," said McCord, a Plymouth resident. "She's got a good business idea, if you

see her work you recognize it's very unique and I love that she recycles material. Her bags are fun, creative and artistic."

McCord's 4-year-old daughter has several pieces from The Magic Bag Lady's "Fairy" series, which includes a ditty bag, backpack and purse. The fairy material was brought back from Italy. Kramp cuts out the fairies and often embellishes the miniature winged creatures with beads.

"My daughter loves them and they're some of my favorite," added McCord.

A signature of Magic Bag Lady handbags is the integration of reused and recycled fabric.

"I get a lot of material from friends. Either sentimental pieces such as wedding dresses or neckties worn by someone's grandfather to the clothing my daughter is outgrowing. I'm cheap and I work with whatever I have. From an environmental standpoint - everyone has something they're not using. Instead of throwing it out they give it to me," said Kramp.

And if you look at the floor of Kramp's Canton studio it's easy to see she throws nothing away - even the smallest swatch of fabric has the potential to work its way into a Magic Bag Lady handbag.

Plymouth resident Diane Ulin initially met Kramp at The Plymouth Coffee Bean Company, first as a customer buying coffee, then Ulin says they became friends and now she's one of the biggest Magic Bag Lady admirers.

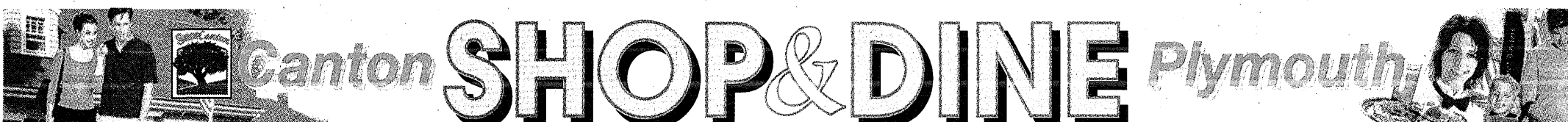
Ulin, owner of a film and video production company, recently purchased a pair of handbags for her clients as gifts.

"Michele's bags are truly unique. Everyone is so label conscious and has the same thing," Ulin said. "To have Michele create something that's one-of-a-kind - in an affordable way - is rare in and of itself."

Last fall, Kramp's friend and fellow artist Laura MacIntyre introduced her to Karen Thomas, the owner of Biddle Gallery (www.biddlegallery.com) in Wyandotte. Thomas opened the gallery in 1995 with her husband Ross. Original artworks by over 100 Michigan artists are available for purchase including jewelry, fiber, furniture, glass and more.

"Michele stopped by the gallery with another artist who was dropping off her portfolio. The friend mentioned Michele made really cool handbags and was wearing one of her bags to prove it," said Thomas. "I love that the bags are made from recycled and sentimental textiles. Each bag is one-of-a-kind. Michele's handbags are functional works of art. The craftsmanship and attention to detail is outstanding."

In addition to running her own business, Kramp is a substitute teacher in the Wayne-Westland School District and a member of HATCH - Hamtrack Art Collective (www.hatchart.org), a community of artists that come together to host group, solo and juried exhibitions at Café 1923.



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SPOTLIGHT ON:

YOUR DENTAL HEALTH



Presented by **Andrea S. Vivian, D.D.S.**

FULL DISCLOSURE

If you want to see just how effective your tooth-brushing and flossing efforts are at removing plaque, the dentist can perform a simple test. Plaque is the bacteria-laden sticky film that forms and clings to teeth. If it isn't removed on a daily basis, plaque reacts with sugars and starches to form acids that harm teeth and cause decay.

To see how much plaque remains on your teeth after you have brushed, the dentist can use a product that stains the plaque on your teeth after it is swished around in the mouth and spit out. So-called "disclosing" tablets/rinses show areas that you might have missed with a brush and floss, enabling you to identify places that warrant extra attention.

We'll use all the tools at our disposal to help keep your mouth a healthy one. Since the basis for our practice in family dentistry is prevention, we strongly believe that one of the most important services we render our patients is a plan for preventive care. Along with daily brushing and flossing, one crucial tool to your good dental health is regular professional care. Located at **496 W. Ann Arbor Trail, Ste. 201, Plymouth**, we have office hours by appointment. Please call us at **734-453-9413**.

P.S. In effect, a disclosing agent is a dye.

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Indigo Salon and Day Spa is hosting a **GOLD, SILVER & PLATINUM BUYING PARTY**

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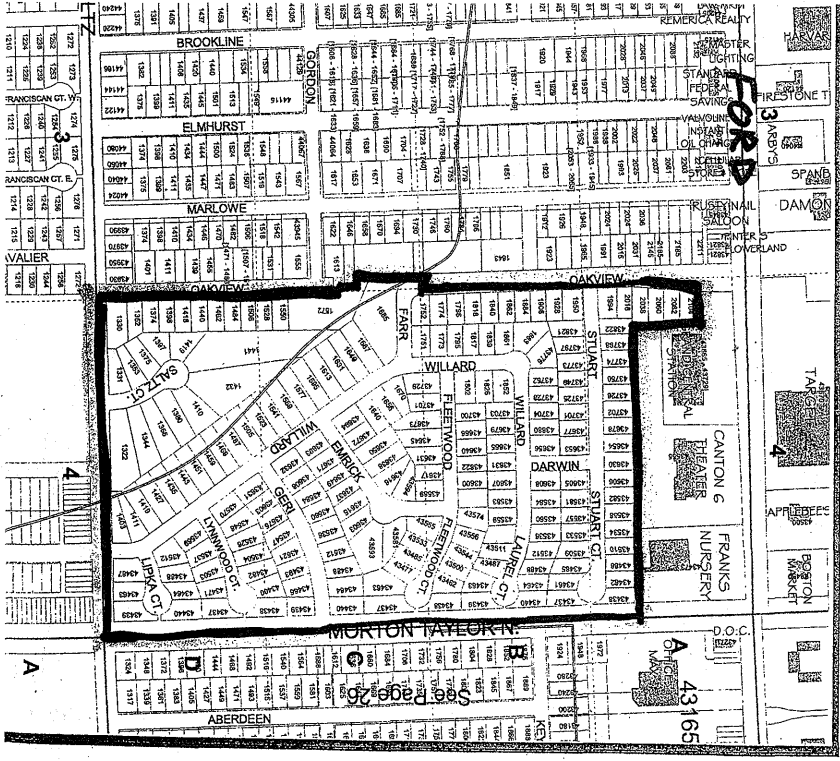
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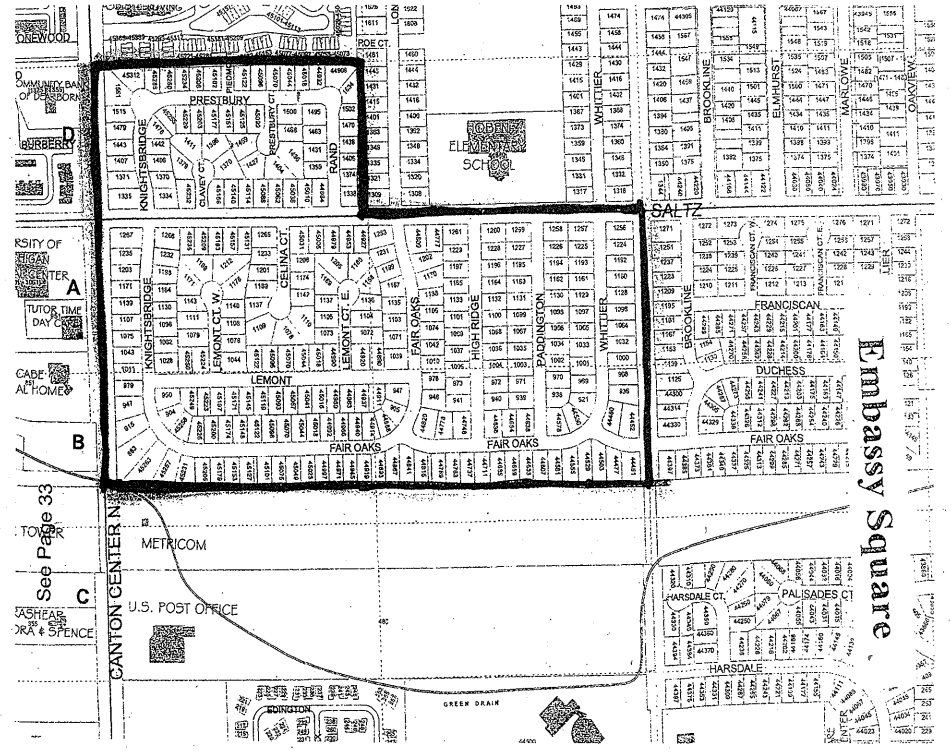
**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
2008 SIDEWALK REPAIR PROGRAM
HEARING OF NECESSITY FOR SIDEWALK REPLACEMENTS
IN THE FOLLOWING SUBDIVISIONS:**

**Brentwood Estates
Embassy Square
Sunflower Village 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 & 11
Miscellaneous Locations**

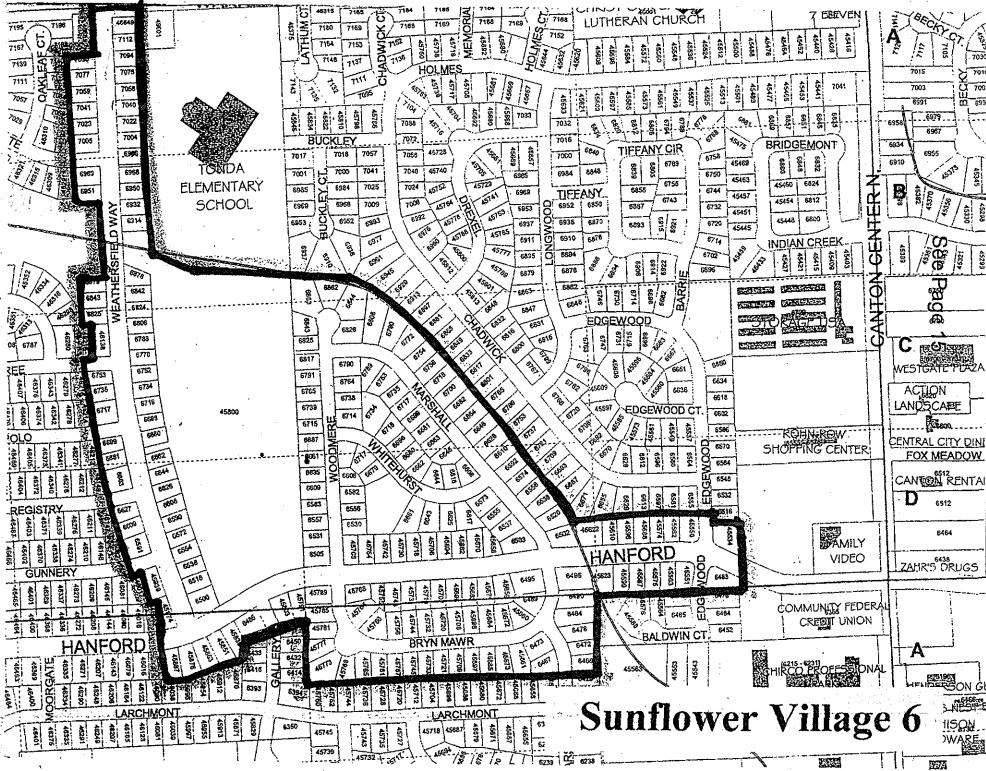
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to Public Act 80 of the Public Acts of 1989 of the State of Michigan, as amended, and pursuant to the findings of necessity; assessment against owners of property; hearing; exceptions; notice of the Charter Township of Canton that the Board of the Charter Township of Canton will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, May 13, 2008 at the Township Administration Building, 1150 S. Canton Center Road, Canton, MI 48188 at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Room for the proposed sidewalk replacements.
Publish: May 1 and 4, 2008



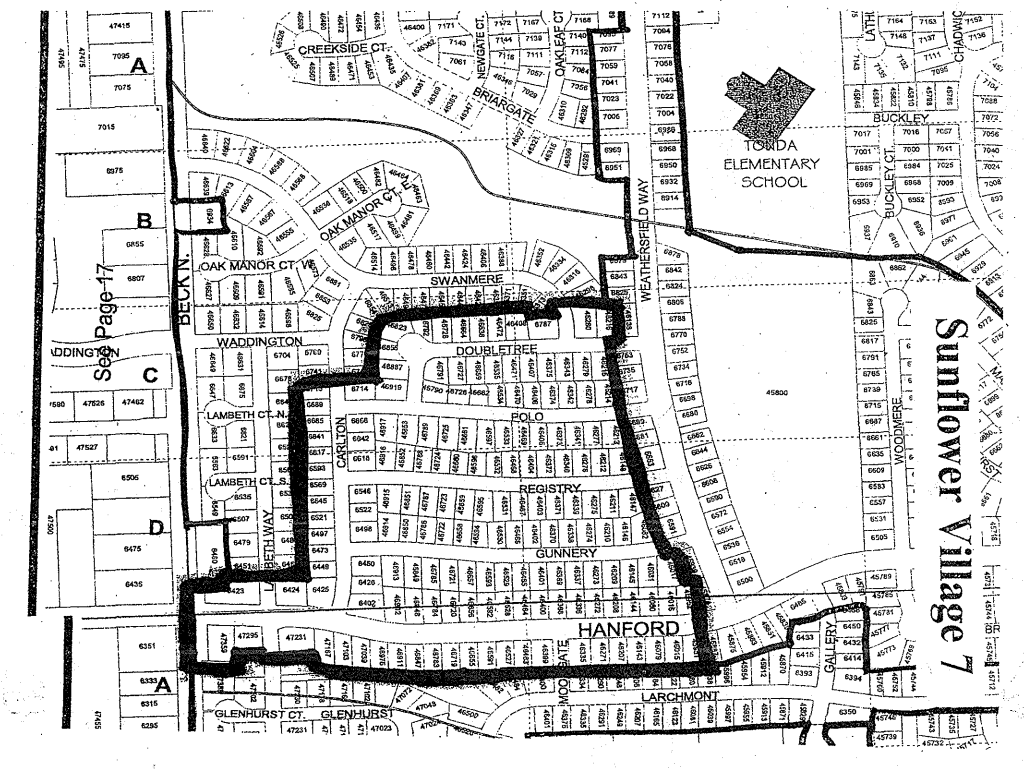
Brentwood Estates



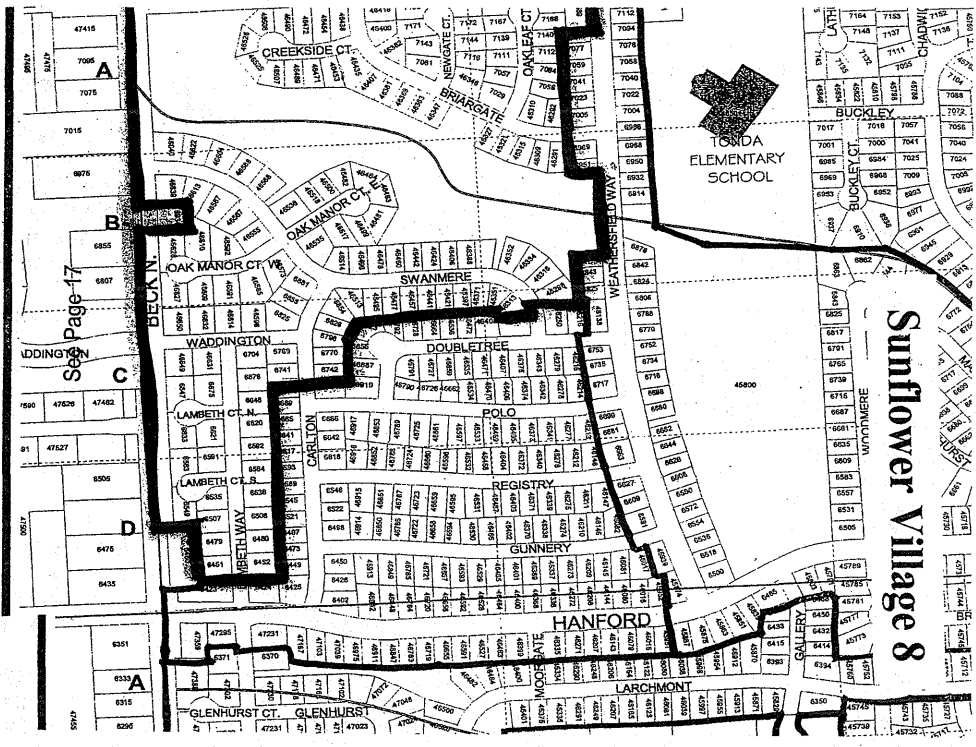
Embassy Square



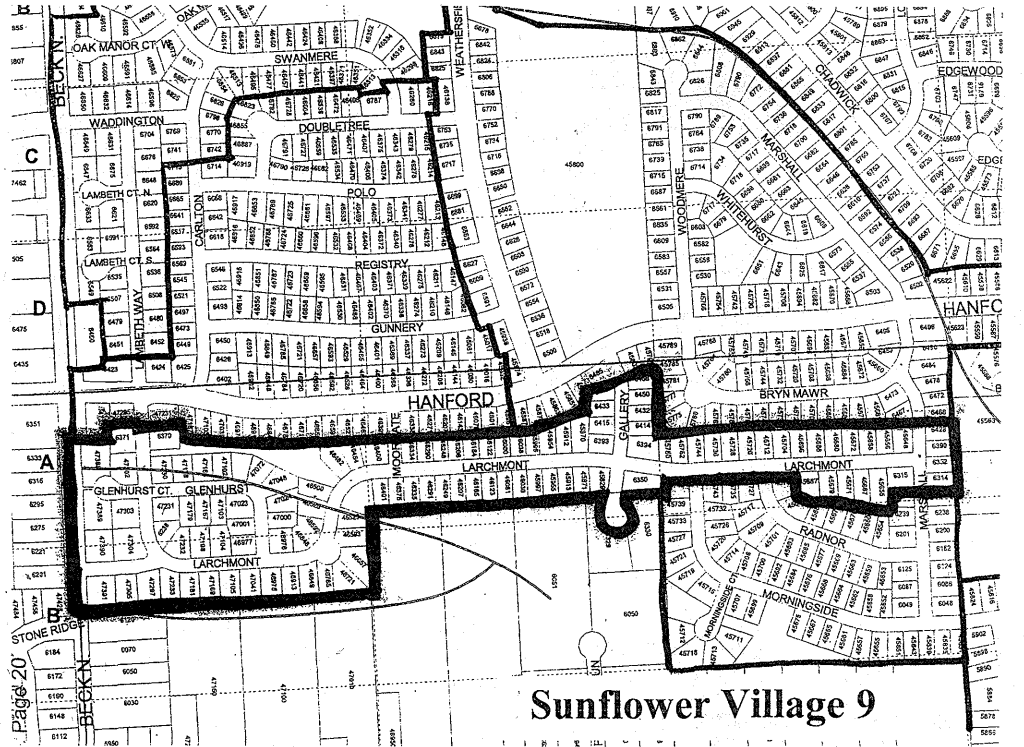
Sunflower Village 6



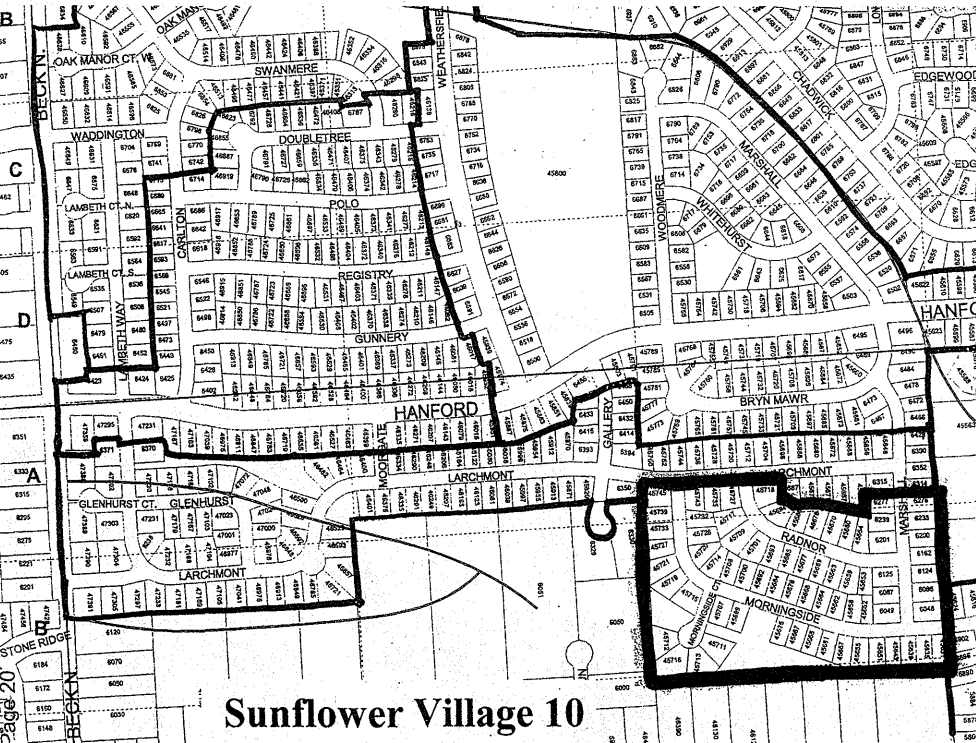
Sunflower Village 7



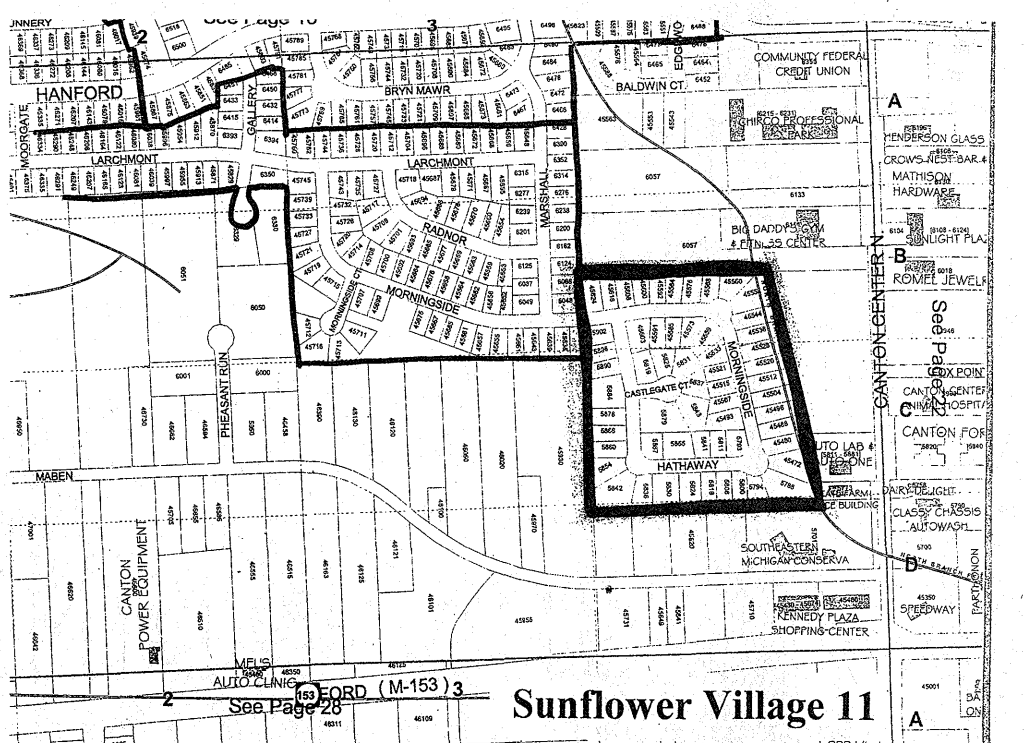
Sunflower Village 8



Sunflower Village 9



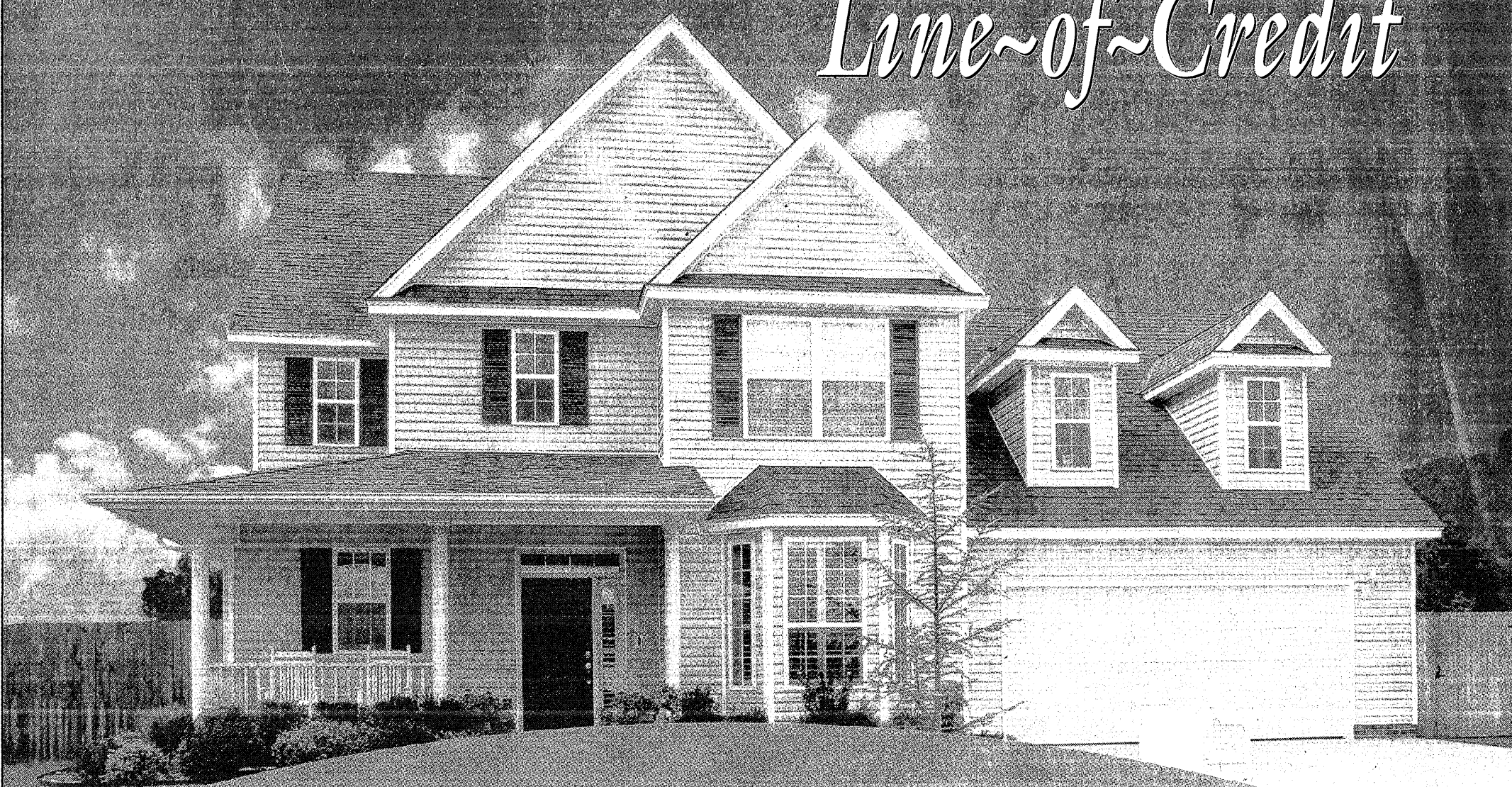
Sunflower Village 10



Sunflower Village 11

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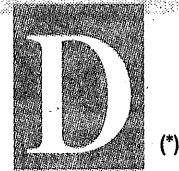
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Dearborn, MI 48126
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New Homes



Sunday, May 4, 2008

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

Julie Brown, editor . (734) 953-2111 . jcbrown@hometownlife.com

www.hometownlife.com

Ample Bordine has room for your family to bloom

A covered front porch wraps around three sides of the Bordine (406-26) giving it an all weather sensibility and a classic, country appearance. The 3,250 square feet of living space are separated into the quiet sleeping quarters on the right side and the food preparation and family areas on the left.

The two-car garage has a depth that will allow a shop area in the rear. For ease of use, there is an extra set of stairs to the optional basement. Off the garage is a carport that runs the full length of the garage and part of the home.

A large study on the right of the entry has shelves built in to the back wall. There is room enough for a reading table, chairs, as well as a complete office layout.

Directly in front of the study door, an open U-shaped staircase leads to the upper level and to the optional basement below.

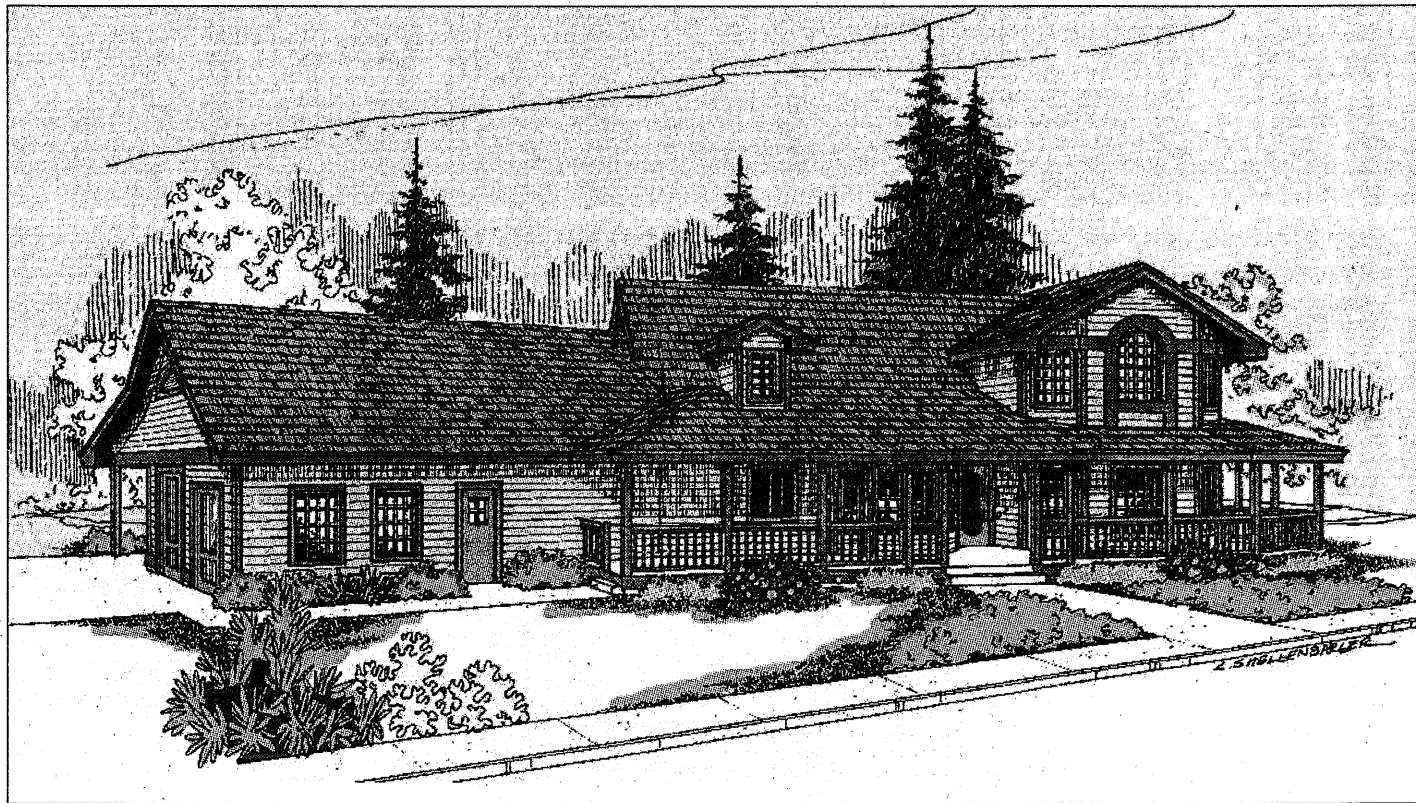
Beyond the vaulted formal dining room, the open kitchen design and nook area are convenient to the garage. Kitchen amenities include a large pantry, eating bar, and a built-in desk. The dormer above brightens this space. The utility room in this area has a sink, a drop-down ironing board, and a full bath.

From the nook, a sunroom with an optional spa provides an area for entertaining guests, as well as providing the family with relaxation

Open to the nook and kitchen, the vaulted family room has a patio door to the rear deck. A fireplace sits at an angle in the corner. In the master suite, an identical fireplace is mirrored on the same wall. Skylights and French doors brighten the rear of the suite, while two windows illuminate the bath. Double sinks and a large, two fixture shower with a bench complete the master bath. A sink is also located outside the main bath area for convenience to meet busy schedules.

after a hectic day. Heated with a wood stove, the cozy retreat also has a wet bar with an under-counter refrigerator, and a wine cabinet.

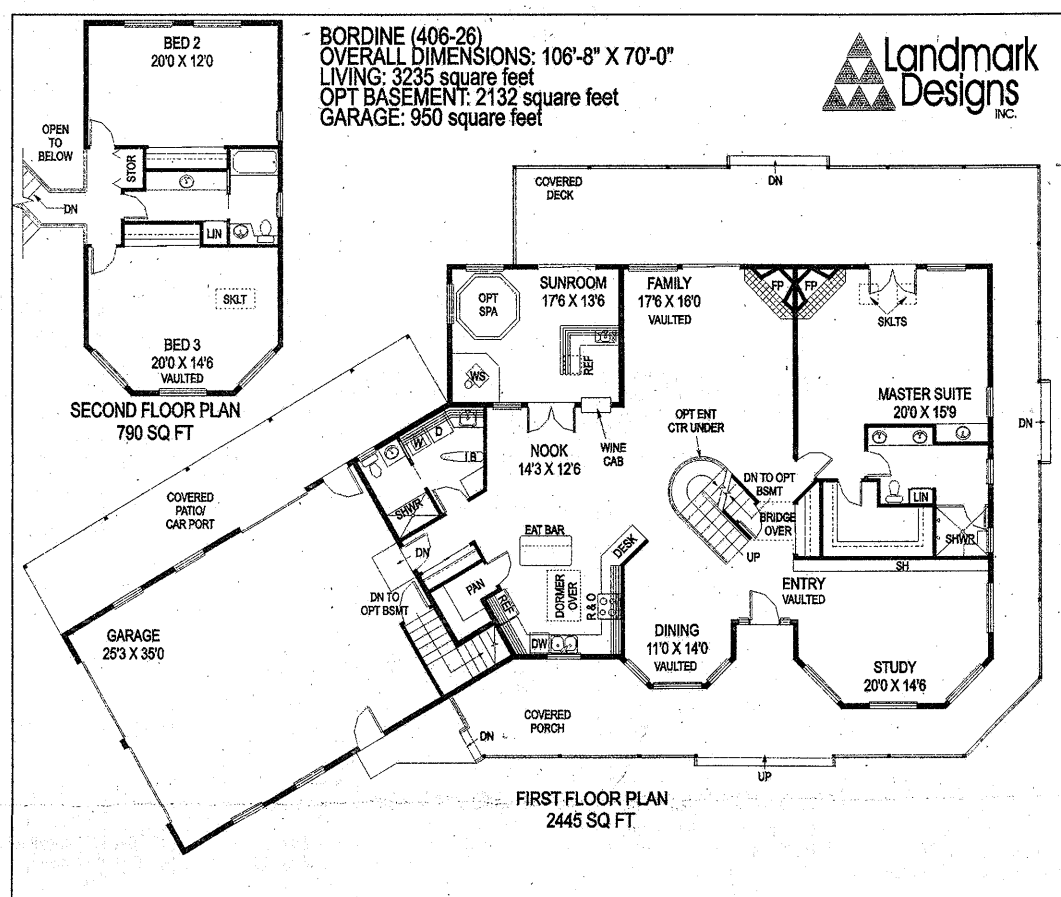
Open to the nook and kitchen, the vaulted family room has a patio door to the rear deck. A fireplace sits at an angle in the corner. In the master suite, an identical fireplace is mirrored on the same wall. Skylights and French doors brighten the rear of the suite, while two windows illuminate the bath. Double sinks and a large, two fixture shower with a bench complete the master bath.



A sink is also located outside the main bath area for convenience to meet busy schedules.

Two generous bedrooms share a full bath upstairs. The bath is compartmental design with a pocket door separating the sink area with a linen closet from the rest of the bath. Both bedrooms have large closets with storage in the hall.

For a study plan of the BORDINE (406-26), send \$15, to Landmark Designs, 33127 Saginaw Rd. E., Cottage Grove, OR 97424 or call (800) 5562-1151. 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.



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.

Mold in Homes

"Mold in Homes, Defensive Briefing" presented by Matt Bezanson, a professional home inspector, will cover how to separate fact from hype, how to protect yourself from liability. It is sponsored by the Real Estate Investors of Oakland 5:30-9:30 p.m. Thursday, May 8, at MSU Management Education Center, 811 W. Square Lake Road, Troy. Seminar free to members, \$20 guests.

Call (800) 747 6742 or visit www.REIAofOakland.com.

Homebuyer seminar

A free homebuyer seminar will be held 6:45 p.m. Thursday, May 8, at the Northville District Library 212 W. Cady St., Northville. Seating is limited, and RSVPs are needed. Whether you are a first-time home buyer or looking to buy up, you will learn about programs that can help you buy your first home, even if you think you may not qualify for a mortgage. Get answers to questions about the buying process ... including financing, efficient house hunting, market trends, and free take-home information to help you get started. Call Michael Fischer at GMAC, (734) 454-3600, or Brett Phillips at RE/MAX, (734) 459-7646. You can also send e-mail to BrettPhillips@remax.net or Michael.Fischer@GMACM.com.

BIA

■ Building Industry Association of Southeastern Michigan (BIA) will pres-

ent "Recovery By Design" on Wednesday, May 7, from 8:30-11 a.m. at Emagine Theater, 44425 W. 12 Mile, Novi (Fountain Walk, Novi Road & I-96).

The presentation will cover what people can do as an industry to overcome the challenges of Michigan's economy. Topics include how to build a partnership with a design professional to create distinctive neighborhoods; how to give buyers a reason to move and minimize risk for builders; and an overview of National Green Building Standard and how they will impact Michigan.

Speakers are Dominick Tringali, AIA, NCARB, of Dominick Tringali Architects Inc. and Arn McIntyre of McIntyre Builders Inc.

Registration fees are \$15 for BIA or Apartment Association of Michigan members and \$45 for guests. For registration information, call (248) 862-1033.

■ Building Industry Association of Southeastern Michigan (BIA) will present "The ABCs of Collection" on Tuesday, May 13, from 8:30-10:30 a.m. at Association Headquarters, 30375 Northwestern Highway, in Farmington Hills.

The seminar will be presented by Ron Rich of Ronald B. Rich & Associates. Topics include: proper format for creating credit applications; collections process; making the phone call; when to initiate liens and when to go to arbitration or court.

Registration fees, including a continental breakfast, are \$10 for BIA or Apartment Association of Michigan members and \$25 for guests. For registration information, call (248) 862-1033.

■ Building Industry Association of Southeastern Michigan (BIA) presents

Green Built™ Training on Wednesday, May 14, from 9-10:30 a.m. at Association Headquarters, 30375 Northwestern Highway, Suite 100, in Farmington Hills.

Chris Pratt of Wake-Pratt Construction will instruct on the subject of Water Efficiency 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) 862-1033.

■ Building Industry Association of Southeastern Michigan's (BIA) Sales & Marketing Council (SMC) will host the ninth annual Sales & Marketing (SAM) Awards on Wednesday, May 14, from 6-9:30 p.m. at The Community House of Birmingham, 380 S. Bates St. in Birmingham.

The SMC will recognize outstanding achievement in sales and marketing efforts throughout Southeastern Michigan. The Million Dollar Circle awards will also be presented. A portion of each ticket sold will benefit Habitat for Humanity.

Registration fees are \$55 for BIA or Apartment Association of Michigan members, nonmembers and guests. For registration information, call (248) 862-1033.

■ Apartment Association of Michigan's (AAM) Property Management Council (PMC) will sponsor a Fair Housing for Maintenance Staff seminar on Friday, May 16, from 9 a.m. to noon at AAM Headquarters, 30375 Northwestern Highway, Suite 100, in Farmington Hills. Kathleen Mabie of Ann Arbor-based Success on Site will provide fair hous-

BRIEFS

ing information specifically geared for maintenance and service personnel, housekeeping, grounds, vendors and part time staff. Situations encountered everyday will be the basis for the presentation.

Registration fees are \$45 for PMC members, \$55 for AAM or Building Industry Association members and \$65 for guests. For registration information, call (248) 862-1033.

■ Building Industry Association of Southeastern Michigan (BIA) will present "Condominium Flexibility: Cleaning Up After The Flood" on Tuesday, May 20, from 8:30 a.m. to noon at Association Headquarters, 30375 Northwestern Highway in Farmington Hills.

The inherent flexibility of the Michigan Condominium Act makes it possible to reposition and reformat existing residential projects. Participants will gain an understanding of the risks and opportunities related to stepping into an existing project.

Topics include: using expansion, contraction and convertibility rights to your advantage; developer retained rights; successor developer liabilities and rights; association administration in the stalled project; and escrow and lien issues peculiar to the Condominium Act.

Speakers for the seminar are Jim Babcock of Babcock Building, Bill Freeman of Freeman Cotton & Gleeson, PLC, Greg J. Gamalski of Giamarco, Mullins & Horton, PC, and Phil Seaver of Seaver Title.

Registration fees are \$10 for BIA or Apartment Association of Michigan members and \$25 for guests. For registration information, call (248) 862-1033.

■ Building Industry

Association of Southeastern Michigan (BIA) presents Green Built™ Training on Wednesday, May 28, from 1-4 p.m. at Association Headquarters, 30375 Northwestern Highway, in Farmington Hills.

Chris Pratt of Wake-Pratt Construction discusses building with 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.

Topics in this training include building more energy efficient, more durable and more environmentally sustainable homes.

The training is \$50 per person, or free if you join Green Built within 30 days. For registration information, call (248) 862-1033.

■ Building Industry Association of Southeastern Michigan (BIA) will sponsor a two-day "Green Building for Building Professionals" course on Thursday and Friday, May 29-30, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at BIA Headquarters, 30375 Northwestern Highway, in Farmington Hills.

The course is part of the National Association of Home Builders' Certified Graduate series and counts toward Certified Graduate Associate (CGA), Certified Graduate Builder (CGB) and Certified Green Professional (CGP) designations.

Chuck Breidenstein of Builder Professional Services Group will instruct attendees on strategies for incorporating green building principles into homes without driving up the cost of construction. Participants will learn how green homes provide buyers with better value, lower energy costs, lower maintenance, better indoor air quality and better long-term value.

Registration fees are \$200 for NAHBR Professional Remodeler members, \$225 for BIA members and \$300 for guests. For registration information, call (248) 862-1033.

Condo Association

Meisner & Associates law firm will present "Tools for Successfully Running a Condominium Association." It will be 7-9 p.m. May 6, 13, 20 and 27 at the Bingham Farms office. Cost is \$95 per person, \$85 for additional attendees from the same association. For registration information, call (800) 470-4433.

Topics covered include: assessment collection; legal aspects of budgeting and reserve analysis; bylaw enforcement procedures; introduction of the four necessary audits, legal, physical, financial and operational; how to avoid director liability and legal disputes; how to run an effective board meeting; protecting the attorney/client privilege before and after litigation; and review of the management contract.

Parade of Staged Homes

The second annual Parade of Staged Homes Event will be held 1-4 p.m. Sunday, May 4. Proceeds of the event benefit Ronald McDonald House of Detroit. Its purpose is to showcase exceptional houses and the Realtors who understand how to use home staging as a marketing tool, as well as provide an opportunity for the public to meet Accredited Home Staging Professionals that are helping to market and ultimately sell houses quickly in the Detroit metro area. Those who are interested in finding a quality home or learning about the staging process to sell their properties are encouraged to attend. Houses can be located by going to www.paradeofstagedhomes.com for map and addresses. Admission is free.

Sunday PUZZLE CORNER

Challenging fun for ALL ages

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

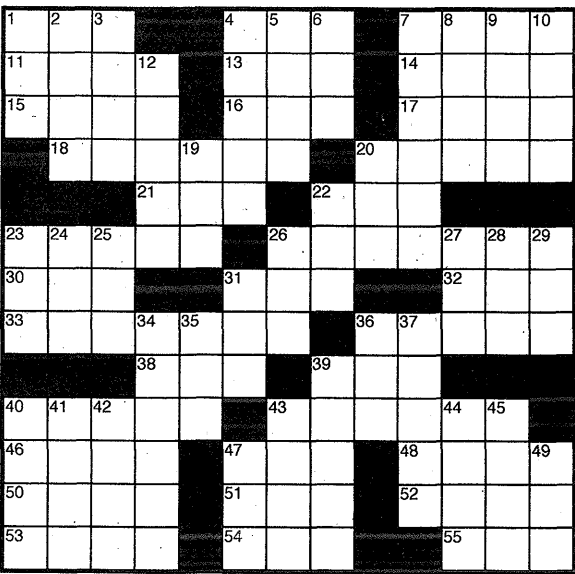
- ACROSS**
- Wedding rental
 - Commercials
 - Rise abruptly
 - Polite cough
 - Glop
 - Shaft
 - Viking letter
 - Mr. Serling
 - Trotsky's first name
 - Summer top
 - "Boating" painter
 - kwon do
 - Orange veggie
 - Promote
 - Aglow
 - Retiree's kitty
 - Kind of rally
 - Ermine or chinchilla
 - Chided
 - Malicious
 - Beagle feature
 - Claire, Wisc.
 - Bizarre
- DOWN**
- Pothole filler
 - Slangy refusal (hyph.)
 - Warrior Princess
 - Come to terms
 - Way out
 - Ground cover

Answer to Previous Puzzle

C	B	S	R	C	A	V	I	E	L
L	O	L	L	E	R	R	I	S	L
A	R	I	A	S	A	D	B	O	L
M	A	N	G	O	V	O	W	E	L
A	L	I	T	I	A	R	A	A	U
S	I	F	T	E	T	T	A		
B	Y	P	A	S	S	L	I	N	E
A	I	L	S	F	I	N	S		
S	P	A	W	I	E	L	J	O	T
S	T	E	R	N	Y	O	U	T	H
G	A	T	E	O	N	S	A	L	T
A	M	E	S	N	E	T	T	I	E
S	I	R	S	S	L	Y	H	E	R

- Cold cut
- Slow-moving beasts
- Lotion additive
- Budget item
- Thaws
- Make doilies
- Imprecise
- Bark or yelp
- Lobster-house wear
- Miners dig it
- Trirame mover
- Rainbow band
- Behind, at sea
- Filbert
- Experiment with
- Each
- Add oxygen
- Smidgen
- Bus alternative
- Halos, of sorts
- Gazing at
- Ford a river
- Lamb's pen name
- March 15, in Rome
- Engage
- Sacred bird of Egypt
- Lox purveyor
- Half pint
- Three-year-old

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SUDOKU

			2					
8	2	5			1	4		
	6		7				5	
1		9	4	8				
			1	5				
6	8	4	2	3		7	1	
	3			9	8	1		
7	9							
5	2					6	9	

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Here's How It Works:
Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

SEEK AND FIND

FIND THESE WORDS IN THE PUZZLE BELOW.

- | | | |
|-------|----------|-------|
| ANKLE | NECK | THIGH |
| EAR | PALM | THUMB |
| ELBOW | SHIN | WAIST |
| HEEL | SHOULDER | WRIST |

THE WORDS READ UP, DOWN AND ACROSS.

W R I S E L B O W S
W A I S T H I G H H
I N T H U M B P W O
U K L O Y T E A R L
O L E U P U Y L T D
E E L B O W M R E
L B H D S M Q W E R
B X D E H A N K E L
O W W R I S T B N M
B U R W N E C K Y E

CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE

6	9	8	4	7	3	7	4	8	9
7	9	8	1	2	5	4	7	4	8
4	3	6	6	9	5	8	1	7	2
6	8	4	2	3	6	7	1	5	9
8	4	8	4	2	7	1	5	9	6
1	5	9	4	8	7	3	6	8	2
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CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE

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By Owner
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DEARBORN HEIGHTS - 3 bdrm, finished bsmt, \$750; 3 bdrm. ranch, garage, \$650, option. (248) 788-1823

FARMINGTON HILLS - 2 bdrm, 1 bath, lg living room, fenced yard, appliances. \$825/mo. \$1200 sec. dep. 248-478-9481

FARMINGTON HILLS
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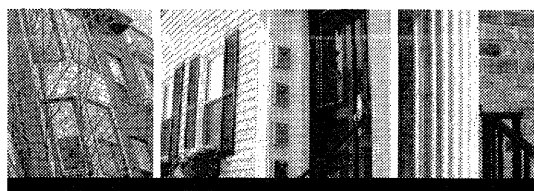
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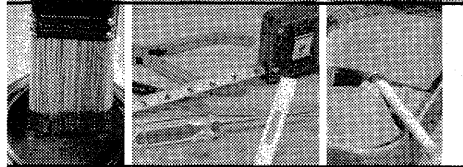
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Merchandise

Auction Sales 7060

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May 14, 2008
9AM Viewing
Auction starts at 10AM
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1 blk. W. of Merriman Sunnydale runs N. off 8 Mile.
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1992 Chevrolet, 4 dr. 1G1JCS448N7320714
1997 Ford, 4 dr. 1FALP52UXV289351
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1998 Pontiac, 4 dr. 1G2WP5215W264625

7100 Estate Sales 7100

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TUES., MAY 5, 10-5 WED., MAY 7, 10-5
Living room: Herridon sofa, Baker tables, lamps, curio cabinet. Dining room: Table, 8 chairs, buffet & server. Kitchen: Table & 4 chairs. Fl. room: two 50" sofas, chest, lamps, pictures. Den: Baker chair & tables. Bdrm: King bed, 2 night stands, dresser & chest. Bdrm: Single bed & desk

Accessories Include:
• Handmade Oriental & Chinese rugs
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• Fine hall table
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1076 N. Glenhurst N. off Maple, btwn Southfield & Covington

Sale by **LILLY M. & CO.**

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CANTON 8247 Orhan, Joy & E. of 275 area. May 8-9 & 10, 9am-4pm. Furniture, appliances, clothes, kids items & more.

CLAWSON - May 8-10th, 9-5pm. Girls bedroom-furniture, appliances, dishes, art work & lots more! 626 Hendrickson, N. of 14, W off Rochester

7110 Garage Sales

LIVONIA - HUGE GARAGE/ESTATE SALE!
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LIVONIA - Multi family, May 8-9, Thurs.-Fri., 8-4pm. 19614 Hardy,



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Total Due	\$934	\$2103

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Down	\$0	\$842
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