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SUNDAY
July 13, 2008

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Observer

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Plymouth gets artsy

Thousands crowd the streets for annual festival

BY TONY BRUSCATO
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Christine Jansen of Canton Township and her mother, Marge Hay of Plymouth Township, make it an annual ritual to walk Art in the Park on the first day of the three-day event.
"It's a mom-and-daughter thing, we like to come together for a girls day out," said Jansen, 31, who leaves the kids home with dad. "When you have kids in tow, you can't get as much done. We get Christmas presents and stuff every year."



Early afternoon crowds are always good at Art in The Park.

Hay wholeheartedly agreed it's more fun without the men and kids to hold them back.

"Oh, God, yes," said Hay, 60. "There's nobody around telling us how to spend our money."

Hay uses the shopping opportunity to purchase gifts for her family and friends who are Michigan State Spartan fans.

"I come down to buy Ohio State stuff just to irritate people," she said.

Jimmy Dreskin, who has been selling his crystal and glass jewelry at Art in the Park for 11 years, has a prime spot at Main Street and Ann Arbor Trail.

Dreskin said Plymouth is one fair he eagerly anticipates every year.

"It's one of my favorite shows all over the country," said Dreskin of Ft.

Lauderdale, Fla. "The ladies who put it on (Dianne Quinn and Raychel Rork) are wonderful, the show gets a phenomenal turnout and there's always beautiful weather. And, financially, it's a good show to do."

Anne Alatalo of Superior Township, a Bentley Elementary teacher, said she was concerned Art in the Park might suffer the effects of the Michigan economy.

"I don't know how many people are buying, but lots of people are here and that's great," Alatalo said. "I like looking at photographs and buying jewelry. My pocket-book isn't empty, but it's diminished."

For more photos, see the gallery at www.hometownlife.com.



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Petty Shepard, originally from Kenya, now of Kingsford, Tenn., brought hand-woven baskets and hats colored with natural dyes for Plymouth's annual Art in the Park festival.



Emily Oberlittner, Melanie Thoms and son Jack Thoms, 4, look at purses, lamps and clocks designed and made from cigar boxes. The work is created by Elaine Laurent of Sarasota, Fla.

Arbitration settles firefighter contract

BY BRAD KADRICH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Some 27 months after the last deal expired, an arbitrator has settled the contract dispute between Plymouth Township and the firefighters of the Plymouth Community Fire Department.

The three-year deal, which runs retroactively to April 1, 2006, expires March 31, 2009. That means the labor peace won't last long; the sides will likely begin negotiations again in March.

Both sides claimed victory in the negotiations, which for the first time went to binding arbitration. And both sides said it should never have gone that far.

"We didn't want to go to arbitration," said Rick Tefend, president of the firefighters union. "If (the township) had negotiated and accepted our offer, they could have saved the citizens a lot of money."

Plymouth Township Supervisor Richard Reaume said wages were not the sticking point, but that the township decided to hold the line on fringe benefits.

"We were trying to save money on benefits," Reaume said. "The dollar increase for benefits was going to be just as much as the salary increase."

According to a copy of the document obtained by the *Observer*, the arbitration panel accepted union proposals on some issues, township proposals on others. Some of the key issues:

■ **Wage increase:** The township proposed a 2-percent hike per year, while the union wanted 3 percent the first year, 1.5 percent every six months after that. The arbitrator ruled in favor of the union's proposal.

■ **Health care:** The township asked firefighters to pay 5 percent of the cost of HMO coverage (some \$49 per month for a family covered by Blue Care

Network HMO coverage). The arbitrator agreed with the union and left it at 1 percent of the firefighters' base pay.

However, effective April 1, 2008, firefighters choosing the more expensive PPO coverage will have to pay the difference. According to township records, 14 of the department's 25 firefighters are covered by a PPO plan now.

■ **Sick time:** The union currently gets 144 hours of regular sick time, 96 hours of supplemental sick time and 144 hours. They were seeking to double the regular sick time to 188 hours per year. The panel ruled in favor of the township and left sick time at current levels.

■ **Paramedic bonuses:** The union sought to raise it from \$2,000 to \$3,000 per year. Township officials said a bonus benefit alone would have cost \$25,000.

The panel sided with the township and left it at \$2,000.

The arbitration turned out to be an expensive proposition. Township officials said they spent between \$100,000 and \$150,000, while estimates for the legal costs for the union were some \$80,000.

The difference: The township expense comes from the budget, while individual firefighters foot the cost for the union.

"We didn't want to go to arbitration (because) we pay out of our pockets," Tefend said. "It's not the citizens' money that we spend. We didn't want to go to arbitration. The township wanted to take a lot of things away."

Not so, according to Reaume. "We have been responsibly negotiating salary and benefits with the firefighters to keep our costs in line and save our taxpayers money," Reaume said. "The health and safety of our community is my first priority."

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Veteran trustee, former chief among five on ballot

Watching township budget key issue for incumbent

Berry: Township manager should be considered

BY BRAD KADRICH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Kay Arnold, the longest-serving trustee on the Plymouth Township board, admits she gave some consideration to giving up her seat rather than seek re-election in 2008.

But Arnold, along with current Clerk Marilyn Massengill elected to the board in 1992, decided there was still enough left to do to warrant another term.

"I have no axes to grind, and I think I can look more clearly at things other people might have issues with," Arnold said. "I weighed it (dropping out) pretty heavily, but I felt I needed to do it one more time to keep that sense of community."



Arnold

Arnold said managing the township's budget is the biggest issue the board faces, what with declining property values and a struggling economy.

Plymouth Township has the lowest taxes in Wayne County, and Arnold said the board needs to keep it that way. To do that, she said, board members have to watch their spending.

"With the challenges we have with the budget, we have to oversee administrators who want to spend money," Arnold said. "We need to watch what we do and keep our taxes low."

Please see **ARNOLD, A7**

BY BRAD KADRICH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Carl Berry has spent years consulting with politicians about their political careers and campaigns.

Now Berry, the first chief of the Plymouth Township Police Department some 25 years ago, is heeding his own advice and running his own campaign. Berry is among five candidates — with incumbents Kay Arnold, Steven Mann and Bob Doroshewitz and newcomer Michael Kelly — vying for a quartet of four-year trustee seats in the Aug. 5 Republican primary.

After years of coaching other candidates, Berry figured it was time to get into the game himself.



Berry

"I've always been dedicated to public service," said Berry, who is head of security for the Detroit auto show. "I've been around a long time, and I've got a lot to offer."

Berry said he's thought in years past about running, but felt his schedule wouldn't permit him "to do a good job."

"I thought about running for supervisor, but I don't want a full-time job," Berry said. "I think now I can dedicate the time it'll need."

Berry said the next board will have to help manage a transition from a developing com-

Please see **BERRY, A8**

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Thefts seem sign of the times during campaign season

BY TONY BRUSCATO
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The stealing of campaign lawn signs during an election season is almost as predictable as the sun coming up.

And, rarely does someone actually get caught.

However, Plymouth police are investigating a complaint by 35th District Court judge candidate Jim Plakas after someone was reportedly seen stealing his lawn signs. The witness, surprisingly, is one of Plakas' competitors, Cam Miller.

Miller said he was driving to dinner with his family about 7 p.m. July 5 when they noticed a hatchback

vehicle "full of lawn signs" on Hamilton, near Ann Arbor Trail, in Plymouth.

"We saw a person casually walk to the corner, look in every direction, get a sign and throw it in the back," said Miller. "I got a description of the person, the vehicle and license plate number and called the police immediately. I know it may help my competitor, but it's illegal."

Plakas said he's lost nearly 50 signs recently.

"It's just too many to be a coincidence," said Plakas, who said he's also lost signs in Northville. "There's a lot of planning and scheming going on."

"It's very frustrating," he

said. "But, it also gives a charge and a lift to the campaign, and all those people who support you and participate with you."

Miller said he's lost nearly 100 signs during the campaign. Martha Snow said she's missing about 80 lawn signs, and doesn't consider it just a prank.

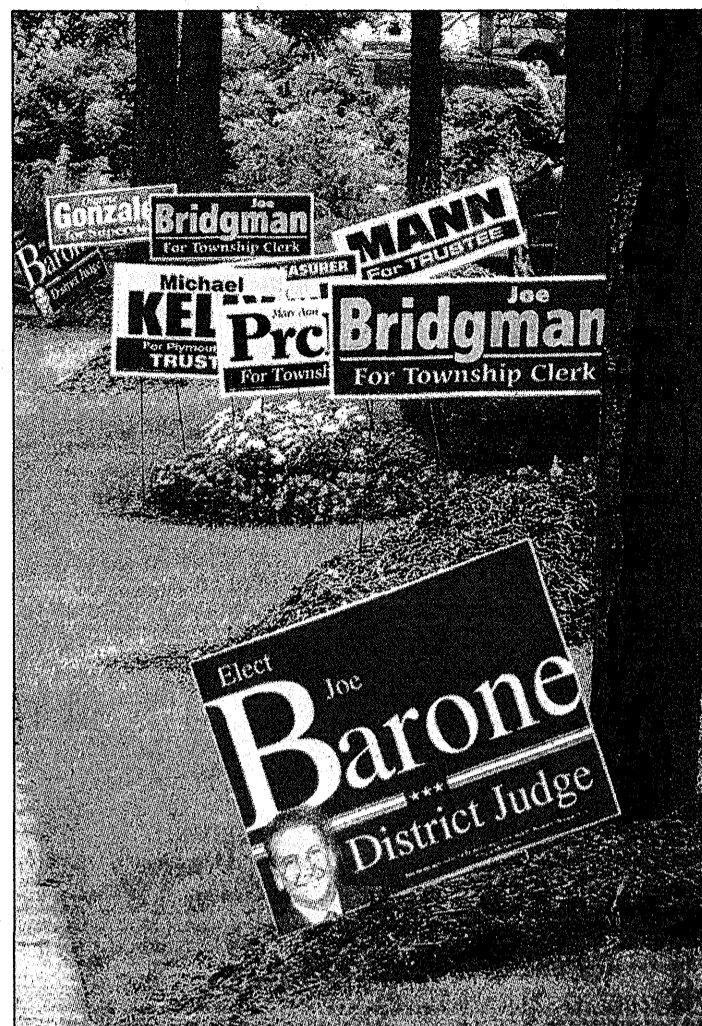
"It's not just happening at night, but in broad daylight," said Snow. "Sometimes I'll go past a location where I got permission to put a sign and when I come back several hours later it's gone. I don't think it's a coincidence that when a particular candidate (who she wouldn't name) put signs in a subdivision, mine go down."

The other 35th District Court judge candidates - Joe Barone, Art Butler and Jim Malinowski - said they aren't experiencing problems with stolen campaign signs.

Judy Hudson of Plymouth had a Plakas sign stolen from her yard, and said it's not only disturbing but illegal.

"I can only assume it's somebody who is supporting a different candidate," said Hudson. "The fact that this is a judicial race and someone representing the candidate is breaking the law is ironic. You don't have to support my candidate, but don't shut up others rights to speak."

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BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Candidate signs along Ann Arbor Road.

CORRECTION

An article on a forum for candidates to the Wayne County 3rd Court Non-Incumbent position incorrectly said that six candidates will advance from the Aug. 5 primary to the general election in November to compete for the three open seats. The three positions will be filled in the Aug. 5 primary.

Get on the ball. Read today's **SPORTS** coverage!

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Third DUI arrest costs Plymouth-Canton teacher his job

BY TONY BRUSCATO
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The Plymouth-Canton Schools Board of Education has taken steps to fire a Plymouth High School teacher who has had three drunken driving arrests in the past four years.

Trustees voted 7-0 Tuesday to terminate 48-year-old Dennis James Ross of Plymouth Township — a social studies teacher in the district since 2000 — following an April 2 arrest while driving his Chevrolet Trailblazer on Ann

Arbor Road in Plymouth. "He came off the light at Main Street, continued east-bound and drifted left into the adjacent lane, nearly striking another eastbound vehicle," Police Chief Wayne Carroll said. "The officer smelled the odor of intoxicants, observed his eyes were glassy and bloodshot and his speech was slurred, all indicators that he was possibly under the influence."

Carroll said Ross' blood-alcohol level was 0.18. In Michigan, the legal limit is 0.08.

Records at 35th District

Court indicate Ross was charged with driving while intoxicated third offense, a felony, and driving with a suspended license. His video arraignment was conducted by Judge John MacDonald, who released Ross on a \$1,000 personal bond. Ross waived his preliminary exam and the case was bound over to Wayne County Circuit Court.

Court documents also reveal Ross was charged with driving while intoxicated in May 2005, and also waived a preliminary exam with the case bound to Circuit Court. In that

incident, Ross hit a curb in the parking lot at Plymouth-Canton Educational Park and was charged with drunken driving.

And in December 2004, Ross was charged with driving while intoxicated second offense, but had the charge reduced to driving while intoxicated.

Ray Bihun, the executive director of human resources for P-CCS, said tenure charges against Ross were presented July 2 to the Board of Education. After a closed door meeting Tuesday

— which lasted only minutes — between trustees and union leaders representing Ross, the school board voted to discharge Ross. Bihun said Ross has 20 days from the receipt

of formal notice by mail to appeal to the Michigan Tenure Commission.

Ross has been on paid administrative leave since April 2.

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25 O.A.R. ✕
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26 DETROIT SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA ✕
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29 PETER DINKlage ♪
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30 3 DOORS DOWN ✕
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and SICK PUPPIES
DTE ENERGY MUSIC THEATRE

31 NEIL DIAMOND
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avoiding foreclosure is to get involved!

The program is open to anyone. Refreshments will be available.

The first workshops are scheduled for 4:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 5 at the WCCC western campus, 9555 Haggerty, Belleville and 4:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 7, at the WCCC eastern campus, 5901 Connor, Detroit.

Additional times/locations and information are available at www.fightmortgageforeclosure.com or (877) 693-6199.

Whatever the price of gas, summer is here

Cicadas humming from tree tops with the rhythm of miniature chain saws, orange day lilies edging rural roadsides and suburban gardens, fireflies flickering over moist meadows, hen turkeys clucking to their trailing chicks and house wrens chattering all day — I cannot deny the season we call summer is here.

And summer for hundreds of thousands of area residents is a time for boating.

Or it used to be. I've got a good friend, a country neighbor of mine, that keeps his 1936 nautical love, a tug boat, on the Detroit River. But if he was to say "fill her up," that would set Paul back \$5,748. The math: 1,200 gallons of diesel fuel at \$4.79 per gallon. That was the going price yesterday to keep Elizabeth, his 61-foot, 80-ton tug, chugging about. Might be more today. He hasn't filled up for over a year.

Every now and then, I prepare my nautical love, a nameless 12-foot Old Time kayak for a cruise. Not on the big river, but on a small, secluded, gla-



On Nature

Jonathan Schechter

of exorbitant wallet-stinging fuel prices and the painfully obvious rising costs of a day on the water.

And as a naturalist, I find another advantage to what I call seclusion kayaking. It can be an otherworldly adventure, something of an intimate caress with the subtleties of nature, for a quiet kayak, on a small weedy lake, as the sun starts to settle on the western horizon, becomes a part of the scene as wild creatures go about their ways.

But I must confess I am not just out on the lake to see what Mother Nature is doing in the

hours preceding darkness. Nor am I out there paddling about as a sacrificial lamb to tempt blood-thirsty mosquitoes. I am there tempting bass with my jitterbug lure. Every now and then, a bass explodes from under the lily pads, hits my surface lure hard and gives me an excuse to keep paddling and dreaming. I release the bass and cast again.

And although on most excursions I paddle alone, I am not alone, and that makes all the difference. With darkness two hours away, a pair of painted turtles slips off a half-submerged log and slide back into their nightly underworld. A doe and her twin fawns appear, feasting on succulent vegetation.

Sandhill cranes fly over as catbirds start their melodic mew of melody. With darkness one hour away, an odd slow chatter — almost what I would imagine a drug overdosed red squirrel to sound like — wafts from among the thick lily pad bed. Much to my surprise, it belongs to an inquisitive muskrat that loops slowly around

the kayak, comes within a foot for a better look and then continues silently on its journey.

The rising moon sets bullfrogs into full serenade of competitive territorial chorus from every corner of the pond, all but drowning out the distinctive, "who, who, whooooo" of a great horned owl, a hidden night hunter that I think perches on a dead oak beneath a stand of pines. Fireflies signal me: Time to work my way back to shore. But perhaps the best moments are the mysterious splashes and kerplunks from the among the lily pads and snaps from the edge of the woods that I cannot identify, but that fall silent as I paddle back to my half-sand, half-muck point of exit, ending my intrusion for another summer's night in nature's way, a boating experience not held back by the harrowing effects of rising fuel costs that curtail so much summer passion for so many.

Jonathan Schechter writes on nature's way. E-mail him at oaknature@aol.com.

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League of Women Voters offers voters guide

The League of Women Voters of NW Wayne County has produced Voter Guides for the contested area races appearing on the Aug. 5 ballot. The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government and which never supports or opposes any candidate. Voter Guides will be available on the League's website at www.lwvnmw.org on July 10 for the following area races: Canton Township treasurer and trustees

Plymouth Township supervisor, trustees and clerk Redford Township supervisor, trustees and clerk Wayne County commissioner: 9th District and 12th District 11th District U.S. representative 3rd Circuit Court non-incumbent judge 16th District Judge 35th district judge The Voter Guide for Northville Township trustees will be posted by July 14. Candidates for all of the contested races were invited to submit responses to questions prepared by the League. In addition to the Voter Guides prepared by the Local League of Women Voters, the League of Women Voters of Michigan will post an on-line Voter Guide for the contested Michigan House of Representatives races. A link to that Voter Guide will also be available at www.lwvnmw.org.

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Miss Wayne contest accepts applications

Applications are now being accepted for the 2008 Miss Wayne County Scholarship Pageant, an official Miss America preliminary. Young women who live, work full time, or attend school full time in Wayne County and who are ages 17-24 are eligible. The winner will represent Wayne County at the 2009 Miss Michigan pageant in Muskegon. Areas of competition include: interview, lifestyle and fitness in swimsuit, evening gown, talent and onstage question. The winner will also receive a cash scholarship. Call (734) 367-0560 or e-mail: sheilamae116@aol.com. To request an application go to the website at www.Misswayneco.com. Deadline for entry is Aug. 11, 2007. Pageant date is Saturday, Sept. 6 at Livonia Churchill High School.

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Joint and survivor benefits is safest route for pensions

Dear Rick: I am retiring and I have a pension. I will spread out payments over my lifetime instead of the lump-sum option. I have been approached about taking payments over my lifetime and then buy a life insurance policy to protect my wife upon my death. I was told that, by doing it this way, I can get more money per month while I am living and at the same time protect my wife.



Money Matters
Rick Bloom

What do you think? I don't like this strategy for many reasons. There are many issues that can severely impact your spouse. One of the reasons you selected a lifetime pension benefit vs. a lump-sum is you wanted a more conservative approach. Considering some of the other potential pitfalls, I would discourage the insurance option and encourage you to select a joint and survivor pension.

In analyzing whether someone should take a pension for their life or a joint and survivor pension, one issue that must be considered is health care. In many pensions, a surviving spouse would lose health care benefits if they survived the working spouse and the pension was not a joint and survivor pension. We all know how costly health care can be and that must be factored into the equation. In addition to the cost, health care availability also must be factored into the decision.

I do not like buying insurance in this type of situation because people have a history — for many reasons — of canceling the policy or stopping premium payments. When this happens, it puts the surviving spouse at risk.

Other issues include not enough insurance or purchasing the wrong type of insurance. I remember a situation where a couple purchased a 20-year term life insurance policy. They made the assumption the husband would not live 20 years and the wife would be protected. The husband was living 20 years after he retired and it caused all sorts of problems because extending the term coverage was too expensive. His wife was left with no pension and no insurance upon his death.

I have done calculations regarding this strategy many times and almost always taking the joint and survivor pension is the most prudent course of action.

Dear Rick: I know your firm manages money. My question is will you be making changes for your clients based upon who wins the presidential election?

No. Our research has concluded that the outcome of an election does not materially impact how investments perform. There have been times where the economy appears to be in retreat, yet the stock market has done well. At other times, the economy appears to be in good shape and the stock market underperforms.

For the portfolios my firm manages, we don't make

adjustments based only upon what is happening in the market on a day-to-day basis or what is happening in Washington. After all, I think that most of us recognize that the air is different in Washington and whatever candidates say in their campaigns for elected office generally has nothing to do with what actually happens

in Washington. As a firm, our job is to protect and grow someone's portfolio in all types of environments.

What we will make adjustments on are changes in the economic environment or tax laws.

Whenever we have a change in administrations, we will have people who will try to anticipate what the affect on

the markets. I believe this is a fool's game.

The election is months away and the outcome is far from certain. History has shown that the markets do just as well under Democratic administrations as Republic administrations.

Although it is interesting conversation, it is rather immaterial with respect to

how we should handle our portfolios.

Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial adviser. Observer & Eccentric readers can submit questions at monematters@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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ON STAGE

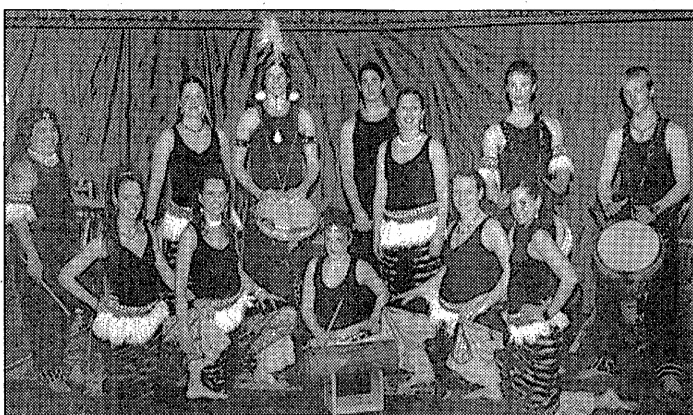
Plymouth Community Band

The Plymouth Community Band, entertaining crowds since 1960, performs Thursdays at 8 p.m. in downtown Plymouth's Kellogg Park.

Music in the Park

The Music in the Park "kiddie" concert series, hosted by the Plymouth Community Arts Council and sponsored by Main Street Bank, Rotary Club of Plymouth A.M., and Huron Valley Ambulance, takes to the Kellogg Park stage Wednesdays at noon.

- The schedule:
- July 16 - Like Water Drumworks
 - July 23 - Jan Krist
 - July 30 - Zak Morgan
 - Aug. 6 - elmoThumm
 - Aug. 13 - Guy Louis, Chautauqua Express
 - Aug. 20 - Matt Watroba & Friends



Like Water Drumworks plays Kellogg Park July 16 as part of the weekly Music in the Park concert series for youngsters.

Music in the Air

Here's the schedule for the Music in the Air concert series, sponsored by the Plymouth Downtown Development Authority and Blue Cross/Blue Shield:

- July 18: Mass Transit

Band

- July 25: Bluescasters
- Aug. 1: Paul King's Rhythm Society
- Aug. 8: Trilogy Band
- Aug. 15: Sean Riley Band
- Aug. 22: Fifty Amp Fuse
- Aug. 29: Lady Sunshine and the X Band

ARNOLD
FROM PAGE A1

When we decide to do something, we need to make sure we've got the money."

Arnold said property values are going down and, with the state's economy continuing to struggle, less money is coming in the form of state-shared revenue. With that in mind, she said, the township has to manage its expenditures.

For instance, with less development coming into the township, the planning commission has stopped having so many workshop sessions. Now, she said, if a workshop is needed, they are more often conducted in conjunction with regularly scheduled meetings.

"You have to watch your expenditures," she said. "I think the board is doing a good job with that on most things."

While housing values are falling, development is still coming to the township. Arnold said a developer looking to build on property near

THE ARNOLD FILE

- Who: Kay Arnold
- What: Running for Plymouth Township trustee
- Now: Business manager, Colonial Collision in Plymouth
- Family: Four children, six grandchildren
- Education: "A lot of common sense."
- In the community: Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce, United Way volunteer, nine years on Community Financial board; Schoolcraft College Foundation; 12 years on planning commission

the Elks Lodge comes before the planning commission Tuesday. She said more than a half-dozen facilities have opened in recent months.

"We don't have that many foreclosures yet, so that's a good thing," she said. "There's building going on. We've had seven ribbon-cuttings in the last two months. I think that's incredible. We're a viable community, and

we want to keep it that way."

She said the township has recreation opportunities, some of which have faltered in recent years. For instance, there was a plan to partner with Plymouth-Canton Schools to renovate playgrounds at township elementary schools. They got it done at Isbister Elementary, but the school district pulled out not long after, citing budget problems of its own.

The township has seen recreational opportunities such as the drive-in movies at Compuware Arena thrive. Hilltop Golf Course hasn't provided the kind of cash infusion the board envisioned, so Arnold said "we have to take a serious look at that."

Arnold said she's spent 16 years looking after the township's fortunes, and she wants one more term to keep on doing just that.

"I have common sense," she said. "I've always looked out for our citizens' welfare. This is their community."

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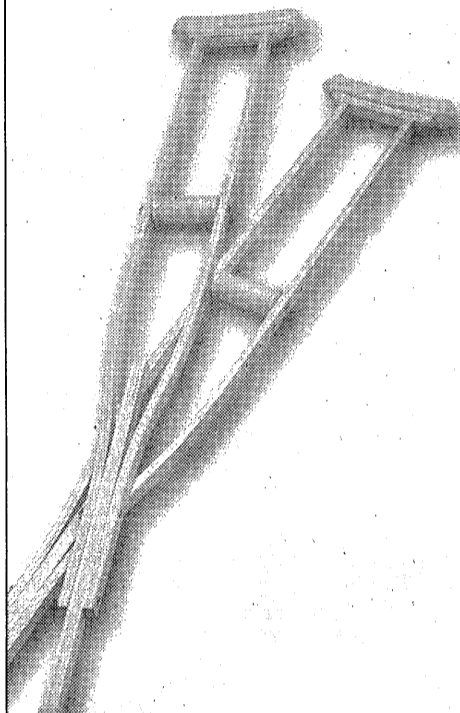


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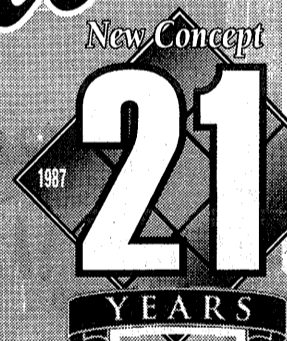


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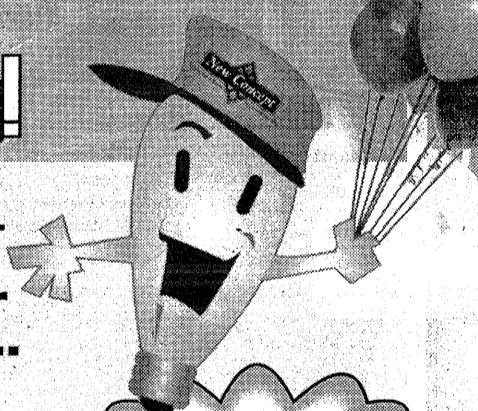
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BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

On the stump

Republican presidential candidate John McCain shook hands with customers, including former Plymouth Township board member Abe Munfakh (left) during a campaign stop at Senate Coney Island in Livonia. The senator and his wife, Cindy, also ate breakfast and greeted supporters.

BERRY
FROM PAGE A1

munity to a maintenance community, with the township largely built out in terms of residential building. He said the township must focus on its industrial building, since "they give us our strong tax base."

It's Berry who's been pushing the idea of shifting from a full-time to a part-time supervisor and hiring a professional manager to run things, much the same as is done in Northville Township. Berry thinks a manager would "bring some consistency."

"If we put a plan in place, it won't be a plan that could change in four years," with the

election of a new board, Berry said. "There are a lot of advantages. I don't know if it's the best way, but you've got to take a hard look at it."

With a golf course (Hilltop) struggling to provide the revenue board members thought they'd see, recreation has become an issue. Berry said the township offers plenty of opportunities — Plymouth Township Park, Lake Point Soccer Park, Miller Family Park and Compuware Arena — but said people may simply not know that much about them.

"The township has a lot to offer, but how many people know about it?" Berry said. "I think we can coordinate all the activities and get the information out to people, and

do it all at no additional cost. I really think we can do that."

He said in a failing economy, fewer people are leaving home and are, therefore, looking for local recreational opportunities. Many residents would like to see a community pool, for instance. Berry thinks partnerships with the city and school district could help take advantage of existing opportunities.

"There are pools (in schools), the cultural center (in the city)," Berry said. "Can we do concerts in the park in township park? What can we share? I think more can be done. Maybe if we sit down and work with the city and schools, maybe that can happen."

In the struggling economy, Berry said the township has to be careful to maintain the few homes being foreclosed upon. He said keeping up homes people have walked away from is vital to maintaining quality neighborhoods. While praising the board for cutting where necessary — "The township has been good about eliminating positions they don't really need," he said — board members must be careful not to cut too deep in areas such as public safety.

"When you see the economy go south, you generally see

THE BERRY FILE

- Who: Carl Berry
- What: Running for Plymouth Township trustee
- Now: Political consultant; head of security, Detroit auto show
- Family: Wife, Lucy; three children, six grandchildren
- Education: Graduated Plymouth High School; served in U.S. Air Force
- In the community: Past member of Kiwanis, Rotary and Jaycees; volunteers for Habitat for Humanity; American Legion member

crime go north," Berry said. "You have to be careful what you eliminate."

Berry said his previous involvement in the township and his lifelong commitment to the community — he graduated from the original Plymouth High School — make him a perfect candidate to oversee the government.

"I have a specific interest in the community," Berry said. "I have the experience and the knowledge. I've been very involved in the community, and I have a lot to offer."

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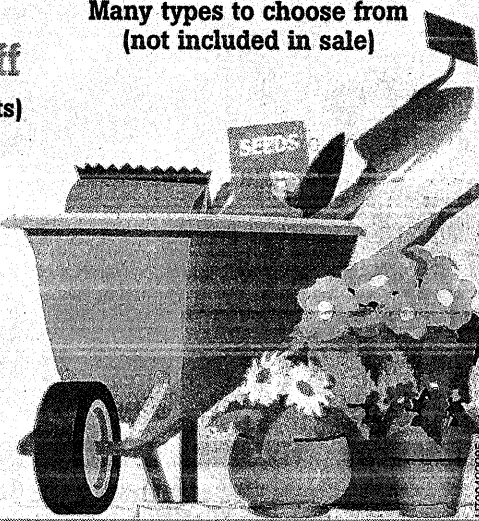
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FRISAT LS 12:00
MEET DAVE (PG) 11:15, 1:20, 3:25, 5:30,
7:35, 9:40 FRISAT LS 11:45
KIT KITTREDE: AN AMERICAN GIRL (G)
12:30, 2:40, 4:50, 7:05
WALL-E (G) 12:00, 2:20, 4:40, 7:00, 9:20
FRISAT LS 11:40
WANTED (R) 11:45, 2:10, 4:35, 7:00, 9:25
FRISAT LS 11:50
GET SMART (PG-13) FRI-WED 7:15, 9:55
INCREDIBLE HULK (PG-13) 9:15 PM
FRISAT LS 11:40
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Presented by
Andrea S. Vivian, D.D.S.
THE NIGHTLY GRIND

Chances are that if your room- or bed-mate has not made you aware of the fact that you grind your teeth at night, you probably do not know that you are doing it. As disruptive as the noise of tooth grinding may be for your sleeping partner, it is potentially very injurious to your teeth.

Your dentist can readily identify the evidence of grinding your teeth. Bruxism, as tooth-grinding is technically known, not only wears down the biting surfaces of molars, in particular, it can lead to tooth erosion of the gumline. The good news is that this preventable form of premature wear can be halted with the use of a custom night guard.

For many, bruxism is not just a nighttime habit. Some people continue grinding their teeth during the day, causing even more wear and tear on their teeth. If you have a problem with tooth grinding, your dentist will see the evidence of it during a check-up.

This is a good time to find out what you can do to save your teeth from this problem. Be sure to ask us about being custom-fitted for an occlusal guard (mouth guard), an effective preventive appliance that can lessen the impact of bruxism. Please call **734-453-9413** for an appointment at **496 W. Ann Arbor Trail, Ste. 201, Plymouth.**

P.S. Bruxism, which is often caused by stress, can lead to temporomandibular-joint (TMJ) disorder and headaches if left unchecked.

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OPINION

OUR VIEWS

Bridgman our pick in clerk's election

When Plymouth Township Clerk Marilyn Massengill made Joe Bridgman her deputy some five years ago, she did so with the idea Bridgman could replace her when she decided to retire.

Massengill isn't retiring — she's running for supervisor — but she's still backing Bridgman in his bid for clerk in the Aug. 5 election.

And so are we. Bridgman is running against Mary Ann Prchlik in the Republican primary. There is no Democrat in the race, so the winner on the Republican side will be the next clerk, barring a run by an independent candidate.

We believe Bridgman has spent the last five years learning election law and everything else he needs to run the clerk's office efficiently. He's taken the classes, attended the meetings and done the homework necessary to make him-



Bridgman

self the best candidate for the job.

He's got the educational credentials: a bachelor's degree from Cleary University and an associate's degree in accounting from Schoolcraft College.

That's key, because the accounting function in the clerk's office is an important one.

In fact, one of the biggest criticisms of Bridgman is he doesn't have the accounting background of his challenger, Mary Ann Prchlik. While her education and experience in this area are, in fact, deeper than Bridgman's, it should be remembered the clerk's office employs a pair of accountants, and Bridgman still has a better background than Massengill.

Bridgman has said he will take over full responsibility for the clerk's accounting functions, currently managed in large part by the treasurer's office. We believe he should do exactly that. Massengill has been comfortable allowing the treasurer to keep a hand in, because it's not her strongest area. Bridgman should regain control there.

In considering the clerk's race, we've heard several people say the best part of each candidate — Bridgman's elections background and Prchlik's accounting experience — would make a great clerk if they could somehow be combined.

We believe they can be, and think whomever gets elected would do well to make the other his or her deputy clerk.

But we believe Bridgman should be the clerk, and we urge voters to cast their ballot for him Aug. 5.

Backing Bridgman

I am a resident and five-year employee of Plymouth Township. I am writing to give my full endorsement to Joe Bridgman for Plymouth Township clerk.

Joe has earned not only my respect as a fellow employee, but my enthusiastic support as the only choice for township clerk. I know that Joe possesses the most experience as well as the professional knowledge to handle the complicated operations of the clerk's office.

Officers of local government need to be qualified, as stated by Mr. and Mrs. Lawson in the Sunday, July 6, opinion, and Mr. Bridgman's five years of experience as deputy clerk with his educational background and training clearly make him the most qualified candidate.

In the five years Joe has been with Plymouth Township, he has been trained and educated as a certified municipal clerk by the International Institute of Municipal Clerks (it takes three years of international certified education to earn this certification). Joe is a certified election inspector trainer, as well.

The Michigan Townships Association has awarded Mr. Bridgman the prestigious Townships Governance Academy Credential. He is an active member of the Michigan Association of Municipal Clerks. He also has a degree in accounting, as well as a bachelor's degree in business administration. Joe has previously served as a trustee for the Plymouth Community Library Board. Joe is also an active member of Kiwanis, serving as past president, vice president and treasurer. These are just a few examples of Mr. Bridgman's education, accomplishments and commitment to the community and the

position of clerk.

In order to continue the outstanding service provided by the Plymouth Township clerk's office, remember to vote Aug. 5 for Joe Bridgman. Joe is the only experienced, qualified candidate for the position of clerk.

Deanna Foerster
Plymouth Township

LETTERS

Bridgman is best

As a Plymouth Township resident and township hall co-worker, I would like to enthusiastically endorse Joe Bridgman as the best choice for Plymouth Township clerk.

He has worked as deputy clerk for more than five years and is familiar with all procedures necessary to ensure elections run smoothly. He is always patient and helpful when working with residents, as well as with his co-workers at Plymouth Township Hall.

His knowledge of all election procedures as well as the day-to-day workings of the clerk's department is second only to the current clerk, Marilyn Massengill. I have known Joe for five years and worked closely with him for the last two. His work ethic is above reproach as he puts out his best effort each and every day.

His education (accounting degree, B.A. in business administration), work experience and knowledge from a multitude of municipal training seminars have helped to keep his office one of the most efficiently run in the township hall. The surest way to guarantee that the work of the clerk's office in Plymouth Township remains in top form is to vote for continuity, vote for the best candidate, Joe Bridgman.

Diane Leclair
Plymouth Township

Larkin better choice for 11th District nomination

Whoever wins the Democratic nomination in the 11th Congressional District will have an uphill battle to unseat incumbent Republican Thaddeus McCotter.

Despite McCotter's support for the unpopular war in Iraq and his solid party line voting record at a time when many voters are disenchanted with Republican positions, McCotter remains a formidable candidate. As chair of the Republican House Policy Committee, McCotter is respected within the ranks of his party and with the party's conservative base.

McCotter is running unopposed in the Aug. 5 primary election.

McCotter hasn't faced a well-known elected Democrat since his first con-



Larkin

gressional race against then Redford Township Supervisor Kevin Kelley. That holds true in this election. Livonia attorney Joseph Larkin has never run for elected office. Former Novi City Manager Edward Kriewall served in appointed government positions. Both candidates are running as relatively conservative Democrats.

Larkin and Kriewall share many of McCotter's views on immigration, gun rights and even trade agreements. Larkin describes himself as a pro-life Catholic Democrat. They both say the war in Iraq is a major reason they decid-

ed to run.

While Kriewall has more government experience, he doesn't give Democratic voters a clear alternative. He admits voting for George W. Bush in the last two presidential elections. His views on energy, immigration, guns and taxes could easily fit into a Republican candidacy.

Larkin makes a stronger case against the war, for alternative energy, fair trade and measures that would help people keep their homes in the foreclosure crisis.

In the primary election on Tuesday, Aug. 5, *The Observer* recommends Democrat **Joseph Larkin** as someone who will offer voters a clearer choice.

KNOW THE SCORE: Check out the numbers in today's Sports section

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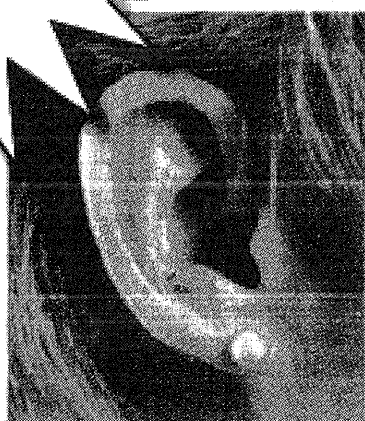
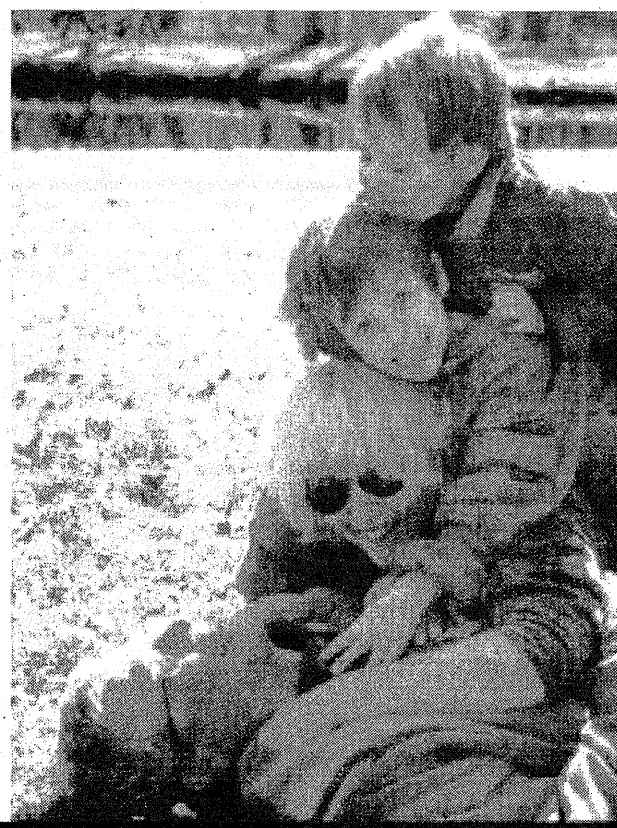
communityalliancecu.org

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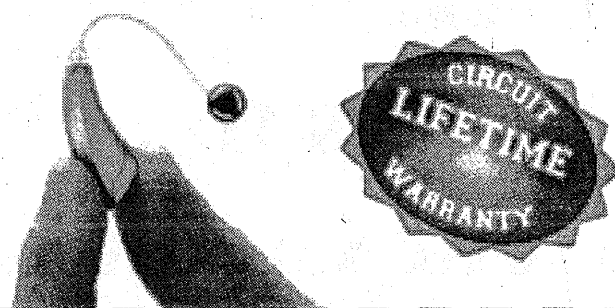
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ONE WORLD, MANY BEINGS

Greyhounds, rabbits, purebreds and friendly little mutts need you

When I adopt animals I don't look for the cutest; I look for the animal who needs me most.

Usually they're older and not picture-perfect, but who cares? It makes me sick to choose an animal based on cuteness factor.

My most recent rescue is a pitbull; the friendliest dog who has ever lived with me. She even sleeps under the blanket, head on the pillow, in bed.

Also living with us is a rescue dog from Hurricane Katrina; a small black lab no one wanted. Rescuers say that at shelters, tan or light-haired dogs are always adopted before the dogs with dark fur. How superficial!

My black lab is the most sensitive dog I've ever had, and just wants hugs, pillows and to play fetch.

GREYHOUNDS, RABBITS NEED HOMES

One breed of dog that really needs help from compassionate people are greyhounds from racetracks.

I do not support greyhound racing. Animals shouldn't spend the majority of their lives in cages only to be let out once in a while to run a lap, and then forced back behind steel bars. They should run whenever the heck they feel like it.

And, when racing greyhounds don't make a buck, they're usually killed — often when they're just two to five years old.

Nice life, eh? Greyhounds are big couch potatoes, they would rather cuddle than run.

If you would like to meet one, and maybe save one too, visit the Retired Greyhounds as Pets (REGAP) booth at the Ann Arbor Art Fair through July 19. REGAP will be in the non-profit area on Liberty Street, near 5th Street. Or visit them at www.rescuedgreyhounds.com

REGAP needs people willing to foster greyhounds. They need gentle families willing to teach the dogs how to walk up and down stairs, and reassure the dogs that no one will hurt them. Greyhounds will follow you throughout the house once they've gained trust. They give love and seek gentle affection. REGAP also needs families willing to adopt these sweet and often silly dogs who normally love other dogs too. Many are good with cats.

REGAP will help you choose a dog best for your family. It's a fantastic group that drives across the country to help these dogs — and they are all local volunteers.

If you've made the trek to Ann Arbor, like many of us will, and if you like rabbits, consider visiting a rabbit adoption group that day too. Don't adopt a rabbit if you think he or she will only be around for a few months — they can live as long as dogs.

And don't adopt a rabbit if you plan to force them in a cage their whole life.

What kind of life is that? Rabbits, like all animals, have the right to roam around.

When they gain trust, rabbits like to be held, are quite playful and some will snuggle.

Great Lakes Rabbit Sanctuary hosts a rabbit adoption day from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., each Saturday in July, at Arborland PETCO, 3537 Washtenaw Ave., in Ann Arbor.

Members of the adoption group are on hand to answer questions about rabbit care.

Call (734) 461-1726, e-mail karen@rabbitsanctuary.org or see the rabbits who need homes on <http://www.petfinder.com/shelters/MI120.html>.

BOWL FOR ANIMALS

Mark your calendars now.

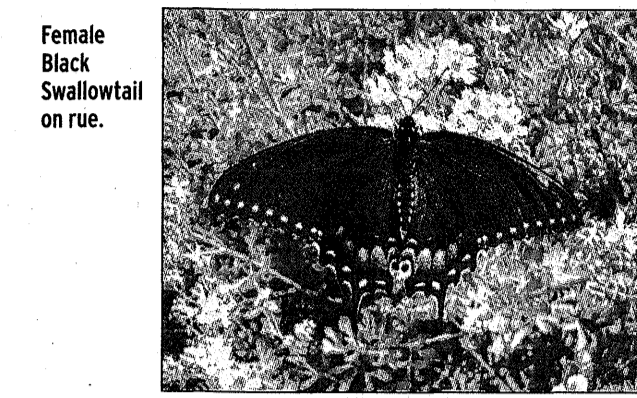
The goal: Raise money for two animal shelters. How: Bowling with bowling celebs.

Professional bowling champions Aleta Sill and Michelle Mullen — co-owners of *Aleta Sill's Bowling World* — host the 3rd Annual Bowl-4-Animal Rescue on Saturday August 9 at 7 p.m. It will be held at Country Lanes in Farmington Hills, 30250 W. Nine Mile Road, west of Middlebelt Road.

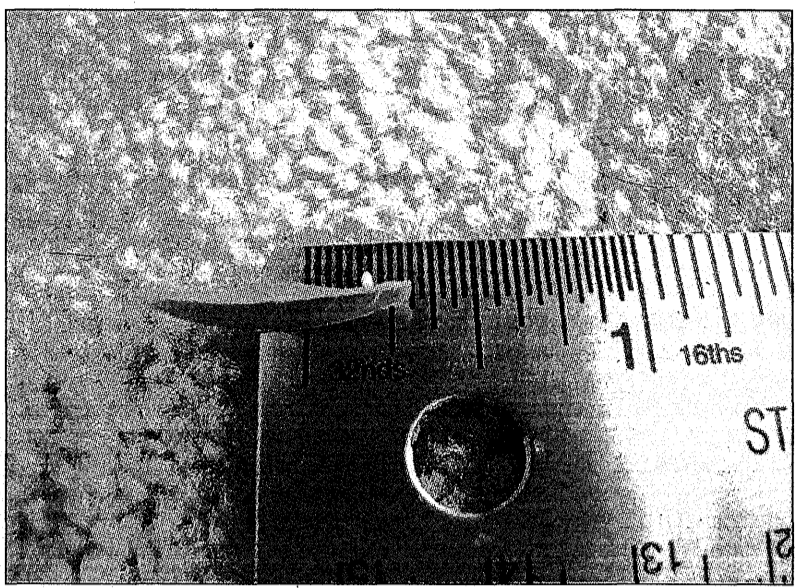
All the proceeds, not just a portion like some big events, will benefit The Michigan Animal Adoption Network at Dearborn Animal Shelter. Tickets are \$25 and include three games, food and shoe rental. There will be auctions (computer, digital cameras, etc), raffles, door prizes and Karaoke. Bowlers can even have one of the professional bowlers throw a strike for them.

Shelters are desperate for funds right now. The weak economy means less donations. As people lose their homes they are abandoning their animals inside them — or taking them to shelters for euthanasia. It doesn't have to be that way. Help raise funds at a fun event. Visit: www.YourBowlingCoach.com

Lana Mini's "One World, Many Beings" column focuses on animal freedom issues, the environment and how we look at it, plus more. E-mail her at imini@hometownlife.com or call (248) 901-2572.



Female Black Swallowtail on rue.



A monarch butterfly egg.

All about butterfly



A female monarch rests on a Swamp Milkweed flower.

Butterfly enthusiasts plant native flowers to lure their favorite winged insect

BY SHARON DARGAY
OGE STAFF WRITER

HANDLING AND TAGGING BUTTERFLIES

What: Southeast Michigan Butterfly Association's monthly meeting.

When: 7-8:30 p.m., Thursday, July 16

Where: Nankin Mills Interpretive Center, 33175 Ann Arbor Trail, Westland.

Cost: \$3 for non-members. Members pay \$15 in annual dues and attend meetings, which include programs and speakers, for free.

Details: The 70-member group meets monthly at the nature center. This month's program includes a naturalist-led walk to identify native trees and plants and information on tagging live butterflies for the purpose of studying migration patterns.

Contact: (734) 326-0578 or www.sembabutterfly.com

Brenda Dzedzic raises them. Doris Applebaum counts them. And Laura Palombi exhibits them.



Officers of the Southeast Michigan Butterfly Association are Brenda Dzedzic, (left) president, Teri Bongiovanni, secretary, Carolyn Sohoza, vice president, and Stephanie Rife, Webmaster.

They and other members of the South Eastern Michigan Butterfly Association (SEMBA) can't get enough of their favorite insect.

"I love butterflies," said Applebaum of Oak Park. "I think they are lovely. They are such serene creatures."

Palombi tends only to tropical butterflies in the Detroit Zoo's butterfly house, where she works as associate curator of invertebrates. She joined SEMBA to meet others who love butterfly watching and to lend her professional experience.

"It has helped me learn a

lot about local butterflies," she said.

Dzedzic, who has "about 20 butterflies fluttering around at all times" in her Westland back yard, a certified wildlife habitat, started SEMBA last year to make lepidoptera lovers aware of native plants that are key factors in attracting butterflies and moths.

"People are more into hybrid plants that may be genetically altered. But the adults (butterflies) don't want to get nectar from those. Native plants are what they lay their eggs on. More of their habitats are being destroyed to put in homes and strip malls. That's one of the rea-

Please see **BUTTERFLIES, C2**

Michigan Jazz Festival brings youth to the stage

MICHIGAN JAZZ FESTIVAL

What: This isn't a smooth jazz festival, it's traditional, big band, Latin jazz. The Festival features six stages, 18 groups, five big bands, six piano workshops, plus the Steinway Cafe to actually learn how to listen to jazz. Wine and beer available for purchase

Admission: Free

Where: Schoolcraft College on Haggerty Road, between Six and Seven Mile Roads in Livonia. <http://Michiganjazzfestival.homestead.com>.

When: Sunday, July 20 from noon to 9:15 p.m.

BY LANA MINI
OGE STAFF WRITER

Young music lovers: jazz aficionados are passing the torch to you.

It's yours for the taking. Longtime jazzheads are worried this American music will be forgotten by future generations.

They worry that someday there will be no dark, sultry jazz clubs creating smoldering vibes for talented saxophonists who belt out robust sounds. Places in Detroit like Baker's Keyboard Lounge, the country's oldest jazz club — and Cliff Bell's, the city's newer spot, are

crowded, yet still unknown to the masses.

Jazz, music that originated in America, is still an underground sound in that it doesn't receive much radio play — which makes it cool.

Midge Ellis, a strong, robust 85-year-old jazz music die-hard, who credits the music for her youthful ways, is an organizer of the The Michigan Jazz Festival; the free festival at Schoolcraft College next Sunday, July 20.

Please see **JAZZ, C2**



Ryan Enderle's quartet performs on the stage with "younger" musicians.

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College degree is preferred, but not required. The starting compensation for this position comprised of a base salary plus commission on all sales. Qualified candidates should forward their resume to: AET33C@dnapply.com or fax (313) 447-2552.

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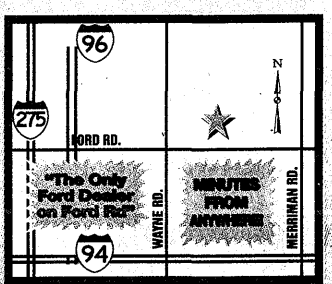
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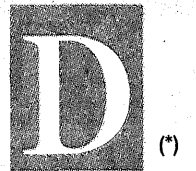
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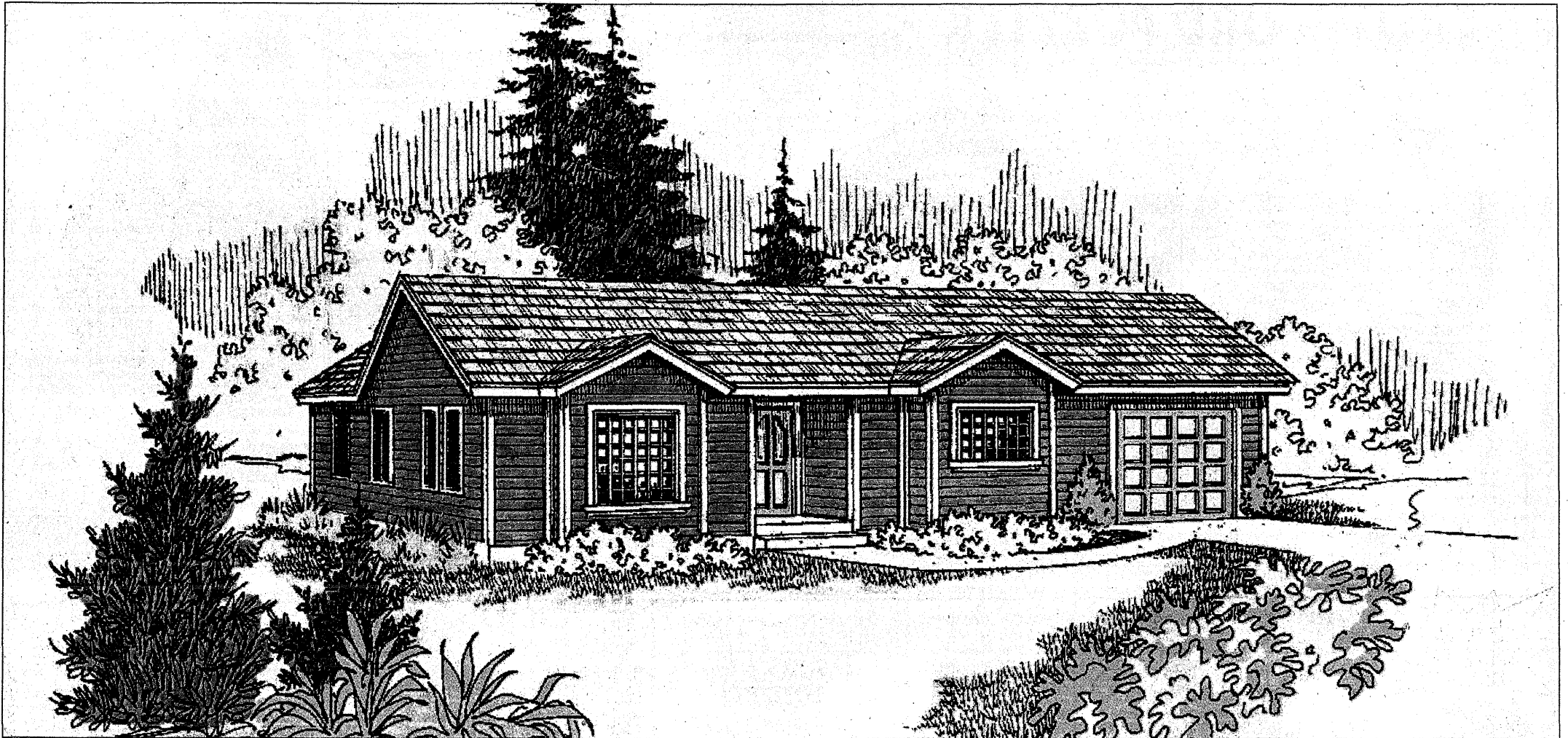


Sunday, July 13, 2008

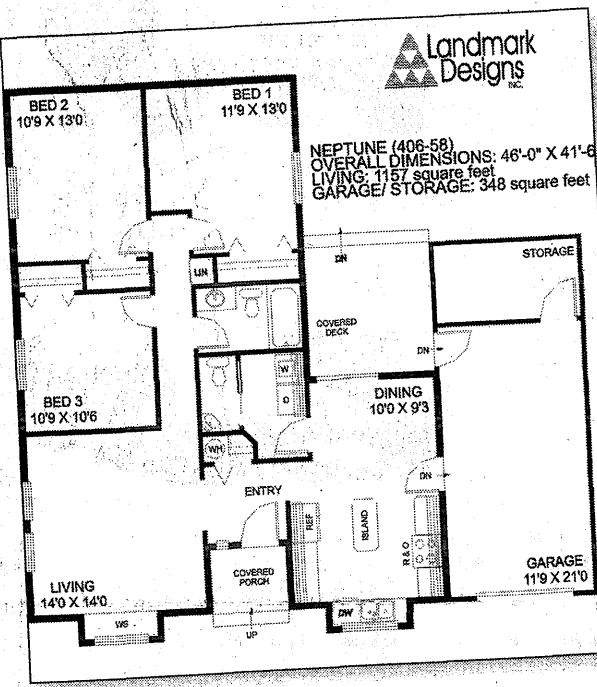
The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

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

www.hometownlife.com



Simplicity, spaciousness highlight Neptune



The Neptune (406-58) offers symmetry and simplicity on the exterior, with a spacious interior floor plan at 1,157 square feet. The inset-covered entry is lit by a door-side window and opens toward a coat closet straight ahead. Living and sleeping quarters are on the left, while the kitchen and dining rooms are on the right. A convenient storage area in the rear of the single-car garage could be used for storage of bicycles, tools or yard equipment. Access to the kitchen with bags of groceries is a very convenient one step up from the

garage. There is also a door from the garage onto a covered deck, as well as access from the dining room. This makes it ideal for planning outdoor parties or for easy accessibility for doing yard work. The unique U-shaped kitchen has a bay window for the sink and dishwasher. The cabinets stop at the wall, eliminating hard to reach corner cabinets. There is an abundance of counter space beside the refrigerator and on both sides of the range. A traditional center island completes this bright, spacious and inviting kitchen.

Down the hall to the rear of the home, three large bedrooms share a full bath on the right. A hall linen closet is ideally located between the bath and bedroom one. For a comfortable spot to sit quietly and read, or do needlework in a well-lit area, or even a spot to meditate, a window seat is well-placed in the living room. From this vantage point, one could also see who is stopping by to visit. The Neptune is an exceptional plan for a young family just starting out, or for the retired couple that needs less home and yet

wants one that is still fun and spacious. The dimensions of this home also make it ideal for narrow lots. For a study plan of the NEPTUNE (406-58), send \$15 to Landmark Designs, 33127 Saginaw Rd. E., Cottage Grove, OR 97424 or call (800) 562-1151. Be sure to specify plan name and number. Compact discs, with search functions, are free of charge, to help you search our portfolio for your dream home (\$5 shipping and handling will apply). Or you may order or search online at www.lidiplans.com. Save 15 percent on construction plans using the code (LOE48) online, mailing, or calling (800) 562-1151.

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