

Gadgets ease travel - but don't forget the charger.

Tech Savvy, C1

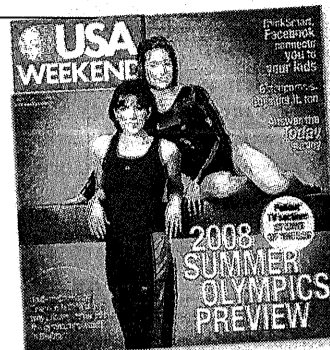
2008 Voter Guide

Go to www.hometownlife.com for a list of candidates on your election ballot Aug. 5

USA WEEKEND

Shawn Johnson is the gymnast to watch in Beijing, says 1996 gold medalist Shannon Miller.

Inside today's Newspaper



PLYMOUTH Observer

SUNDAY July 27, 2008

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New chief, firefighters not coming for now

BY BRAD KADRICH OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

This isn't the first time Mark Wendel has served as the interim fire chief for the Plymouth Community Fire Department. And, having done it before, he's comfortable in the position.

It's a good thing, too, because Plymouth Township officials said this week they aren't looking to fill the position any time soon.

"I've done it before, so being in the position doesn't faze me at all," said Wendel, the longtime assistant chief. "Until such time as the township

board makes a decision, I'll continue to do the job to the best of my ability."

Plymouth Township Supervisor Richard Reaume said this week the township won't ask to fill the chief's position right now. Without specifying, Reaume said he's asked the township attorney to clarify some things about procedures outlined in Act 78, the state law that governs promotions within the department.

"At this point, (Wendel) is performing the duties, and he'll be paid the fire chief's wages," Reaume said.

That's not likely to sit well with firefighters, who have been calling

for the township to bolster the roster. In addition to having no chief and being without a training officer, the department is shy two of its full complement of 27 firefighters.

The township recently hired three firefighters, bringing the total to 25. While a full roster would be 27, the union's contract calls for a bare minimum of 21. Even so, firefighters argue, the lower staffing is unsafe.

"You can't rely on the new guys, because they aren't ready yet," union representative Pete Bukis said of the new hires, who he said take some six months to get oriented. "When you've

got nine guys (per shift) instead of six, that's two more (fire) trucks on the road. The bottom line is when we're full-staffed it's a lot safer."

Bukis and the union argue the township told voters when they passed an increase in the police/fire millage a few years ago the additional revenue was necessary to "keep the department at 27 firefighters," and question where the revenue from that millage has gone.

Township officials counter with the argument that even with the increase in millage, the cost of running the police and fire departments hasn't kept up with the revenue. According

to figures in the 2007 audit, public safety millage revenue was some \$6.3 million, while expenses totaled some \$8.8 million.

"It's hard times," Treasurer Ron Edwards said. "Millage revenue does not cover expenses of public safety, and the gap is getting wider."

Firefighters say employing fewer than 27 firefighters is tantamount to breaking a promise to taxpayers.

"These people are paying taxes to have guys here," Bukis said. "And they aren't here."

bkadrich@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2153

Police nab car-hopping teenagers

BY BRAD KADRICH OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

It wasn't exactly a reign of terror, but a flurry of thefts from unlocked cars being perpetrated all over Plymouth Township — but primarily on the township's west side — is over.

Plymouth Township police cited three teenagers they say have confessed to literally hundreds of larceny-from-auto thefts after police found one of them thanks to a driver's license he used when he sold a stolen set of golf clubs at Play It Again Sports in Canton.

Plymouth Township Detective Brian Schaefer said the youth got \$280 for a set of clubs he stole from an unlocked car in the township. Schaefer found evidence of the sale while making the rounds of pawn shops and sporting goods stores in the area.

"The kid's driver's license was part of the transaction" at Play It Again Sports, Schaefer said. "We brought him in, and he rolled on the other two."

Police issued citations to all three teens on charges of receiving and concealing stolen property. They face an Aug. 28 court date in Plymouth's 35th District Court. The charges constitute a 90-day misdemeanor, Schaefer said.

The teens targeted cars parked in driveways, all left unlocked, a practice known as "car-hopping," Schaefer said. The thefts involved items such as portable GPS systems, iPods, golf clubs and "pretty much anything else they could get their hands on," Schaefer said. The thefts took place in the late night-early morning hours.

According to Schaefer, the teens have admitted to doing "hundreds" of car-hoppings. He also said they don't realize they're facing more legal trouble than they think.

"A lot of them think because the cars are unlocked it's not breaking and entering," Schaefer said. "They don't know how much trouble they're in."

Meanwhile, police are asking residents to resort to a fairly common practice to prevent this kind of theft.

"People should be locking their cars," Police Chief Tom Tidderington said.



PHOTOS BY TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Salem freshman Alexis Capnerhurst of Canton doesn't like the idea of enforcing the dress code more strictly. 'If they want us to act like adults, we should be able to dress like we want to,' she said. Wearing the cover over her shoulders is acceptable as she works in the media center.

Dress right, dress

District to get tougher on students' clothing

BY BRAD KADRICH OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Ginny Shpakoff of Plymouth isn't sweating Plymouth-Canton school officials' decision to more stridently enforce the district's dress code.

Unlike other students who think the code detracts from their rights to freedom of expression, Shpakoff, a junior at Canton High School, said the decision has no real effect on her.

"I came here from a Catholic school, so I'm used to it," said Shpakoff, who transferred from Divine Child in Dearborn. "My closet doesn't really have much in it that would (violate the code) anyway."

After months of committee meetings and discussion, Plymouth-Canton officials have been stressing the district's dress code during summer school, which ended this week. Gone will be low-riding pants, exposure of undergarments, blouses with revealing necklines, short shorts and other clothing the district deems a distraction to the educational process.

Penalties range from a Saturday detention for the first offense to a three-day, out-of-school suspension for a fourth offense.

Administrators are quick to point out this isn't a policy

Please see DRESS, A4



Short shorts, such as these worn by Canton sophomore Paige Bishop, won't be acceptable.

Ballot confusion could cause spoiled votes

BY BRAD KADRICH OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Plymouth Township officials are a little concerned the design of the ballot being used for the Aug. 5 primary election may cause a number of absentee ballots to come back spoiled.

Already, nearly 50 ballots have been returned to township hall, spoiled when the voters filling them out unwittingly split their ticket. Michigan law requires voters casting ballots in a primary election to vote "straight ticket." Consequently, Democrats voting their party and then casting votes in the Plymouth Township election are spoiling their ballots.

"It's the setup of the ballot," Clerk Marilyn Massengill said. "It's poorly set up, but the state approved it. I don't like it, but there's nothing to be done."

The front of the ballot includes Republican and Democrat ballots for federal and state races, and the ballot for the nonpartisan 35th District Court race. Voters must flip the ballot over to find the Republican and Democrat ballots for Plymouth Township and Wayne County races.

The problem, according to township officials, is that some people either don't realize the township board race is partisan, or simply cast their ballot before they realize they're spoiling their ballot.

"We get a lot of phone calls," Massengill said. "They have to come in and spoil that ballot, get a new one and then cast their votes."

Township officials sent out more than 3,200 absentee ballots; as of Thursday, more than 1,300 had been returned. The problem could come, Massengill said, with voters who don't realize they've spoiled their ballots. By the time such mistakes are discovered on Election Day, it's too late to rectify the problem.

"Most people are aware this is a primary election and their ticket can't be split," said Massengill, who pointed out there are clear instructions on the front of the ballot. "I'm a little concerned, but I think most voters understand. If people read (the instructions), it'll be OK."

VIEWING THE FORUM

Voters who missed the Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce candidates' forum for the Plymouth Township board Wednesday at the Comfort Inn of Plymouth have several chances to catch it on TV.

Comcast Cable will broadcast the forum Saturday, Aug. 2 at 10 a.m. and 5 p.m.; and Sundays (July 27 and Aug. 3) at 8 a.m., noon and 7 p.m.

WOW cable channel 10 will broadcast the forum July 28 to Aug. 4 on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 10 a.m. and 8 p.m. On Sunday, Aug. 3 it will also be broadcast on WOW at 10 a.m., 3 p.m. and 8 p.m.

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Coming Thursday in filter



Get ready for battle. Livonia Firefighters ready to square off against the USMC in a tug o' war.

"Around Plymouth" is designed to announce upcoming events taking place in the community. Items will run on a space-available basis. Send details to bkadrich@hometownlife.com.

Fife & drum event

The Plymouth Fife & Drum Corps is preparing for its 2008 summer tour. As part of tour preparation, the Corps will be showing off their concert moves with a pre-tour concert in the park Thursday, July 31.

The 2008 PFDC will perform a pre-tour concert at 7:30 p.m. at Kellogg Park in downtown Plymouth, just prior to the Plymouth Community Band. The PFDC concert is free and open to the public.

Preceding the concert, the Plymouth Fife & Drum Corps will host a picnic for current and alumni PFDC members and families. It will be held at 5 p.m. at Jaycee Park, located at the northeast corner of Joy and Harding, near downtown Plymouth. For those PFDC families planning to attend, please bring lawn chairs, beverages, a dish to pass (A-L salads/appetizers, M-Z desserts). The Corps will provide hamburgers and hot dogs with condiments.

Please let Debbie Johnson

know how many from your family will be attending the picnic. She can be reached at (734) 718-2184 or adlk1@comcast.net

Citizen police academy

The Plymouth Township Police Department hosts its seventh Citizens Police Academy beginning Sept. 10. The 11-week program offers residents and businesses a first-hand look into the law enforcement operations of the Plymouth Township Police Department.

Participants meet 7-10 p.m. each Wednesday at Plymouth Township hall. There is no charge for the program; however, application and acceptance to the program are required. Students must be 18 years old to participate.

Deadline for applications is Aug. 17, and class size is limited. Applications can be obtained at the Plymouth Township Police Department, 9955 Haggerty, or by calling (734) 354-3232. Application forms may also be downloaded from the Plymouth Township Web site at www.plymouth-twp.org under the heading "Forms." For more information on the program, contact Officer Jamie Senkbeil at (734) 354-3243.



DAVID ALEXANDER

Going Barefoot

Nahan Corliss as Lysander, Elizabeth Whitcomb as Hermia, Pamela Satchwell as Helena, Matt DeLisle as Demetrius, Chelsea Parkkila as Puck, all from Livonia, and Ken Karges as Oberon from Plymouth will be among the cast as Barefoot Productions of Plymouth presents one of Shakespeare's earliest and most popular comedies, 'A Midsummer Night's Dream,' Aug. 7-10 and Aug. 14-17. Evening shows start at 8 p.m., Sunday matinees at 2 p.m., in the former Walker-Buzenberg furniture store building, 240 N. Main. Tickets are \$15.00 and can be purchased by calling (313) 582-4310.

Band car wash

The Plymouth-Canton Marching Band hosting its annual "PCMB Car Wash-A-Thon" 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 9 at the Plymouth High School parking lot on Beck Road south of Joy in Canton.

The car wash is free. Money is raised through pledges gathered by approximately 200 band members.

Individual band members of the not-for-profit organization are accepting between one-half cent to two cents for every car washed or a donation prior

to the day's activities. The band expects to wash about 1,000 vehicles. Donations are tax deductible.

"The Car Wash-A-Thon" is one of the biggest fundraisers of the year," said Scott Ragland, president of the 2008 Plymouth Canton Music Boosters. "The money raised helps the kids with participation fees to be in the band, including uniforms, instruction, and the cost to attend band camp in August. The car wash itself is fun for the kids and parents alike."

The award-winning high

school band is comprised of students at the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park in Canton, Mich. This is the first year the car wash will be hosted at Plymouth High School.

Holistic moms

A new chapter of the Holistic Moms Network is forming in Plymouth and will host an open house 6:30-8:30 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 7, at the Plymouth District Library.

The Holistic Moms Network is a national non-profit organization dedicated to supporting moms with an interest in natural health and mindful parenting. We will cover a variety of topics in our monthly meetings, including toxic ingredients in skincare and cleaning products, and easy nutritional snacks for your family. In addition, we will be forming playgroups for moms with babies and pre-schoolers. The Metro-Detroit Chapter is open to all parents in Plymouth and the surrounding communities. Monthly meetings will be held the first Thursday of the month at 9:45 a.m. at the same location.

For more information, contact Andrea Stevens at (313) 220-4592 or e-mail amstevens14@juno.com. You may also visit the Web site www.holisticmoms.org.

Internet workshop

Learn strategies and techniques to raise your Google rankings and increase traffic to your Web site during an interactive workshop 6-8:30

p.m. Aug. 19, (networking begins at 5:30 p.m.) at the Plymouth Cultural Center.

Internet marketing expert Corey Perlman will discuss low-cost strategies such as using eNewsletters, press releases and blogs to create more buzz about your business and bring more visitors through your door. This workshop will be conducted in a simple, easy-to-understand presentation that Perlman promises to be fun, entertaining and extremely beneficial to your business.

Before creating the Small Business eBoot Camp, Perlman spent three years with the e-Commerce division of General Motors where he visited 37 cities throughout the country providing one-day seminars to GM dealership personnel. He left GM in 2002 to help build an internet start-up, InfoAlly.com, which was recently acquired in 2005.

Anyone interested in learning more about the upcoming workshop, contact Sherrie Pryor from the Downtown Development Authority, (734) 455-1453.

Chorale fund-raiser

The BeckRidge Chorale is selling the 2009 Entertainment Books in order to fund their charitable and music education activities.

Special fund-raising price for the book is \$20. Those who order the 2009 book now get a 2008 book free of charge; supplies are limited; Call (734) 459-6829 to order. Books will be available Aug. 5.

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POSTAL PERIODICAL REQUIREMENTS
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CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON ACCESS TO PUBLIC MEETINGS

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

David Medley, ADA Coordinator
Charter Township of Canton, 1150 S. Canton Center Road
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DRESS

FROM PAGE A1

"change" — they say the same policy has been in effect since 1993 — as much as it is an attitude adjustment toward enforcement. They shrug off complaints they're stifling students' expression and call stricter enforcement of the code "a matter of respect."

"The changes are about

more consistent enforcement," said Casey Swanson, a Plymouth High School social studies teacher who served on the dress code committee. "In our buildings we talk about respect — for individual students and for themselves. Dress is a big part of that."

The committee included teachers, administrators, students and parents. In addition to committee discussions, Swanson said he conducted an anonymous survey among

freshmen, and the results showed the way some students dress "is a distraction."

But not everyone agrees. Evan McGuire, 18, a Plymouth High School senior who lives in Plymouth, called many of the rules, such as a ban on large belt buckles and colored contact lenses, "ridiculous."

"They say the larger belt buckles are 'potentially dangerous,' but really isn't almost anything potentially dangerous?" McGuire said. "In all honesty, anything you're wearing doesn't harm others. I don't see why you shouldn't be able to wear it."

The decision was made to start enforcing the code in summer school as a means of gauging its impact when school starts. It's the second straight year they've done it; last year, the district banned cell phones starting in summer school.

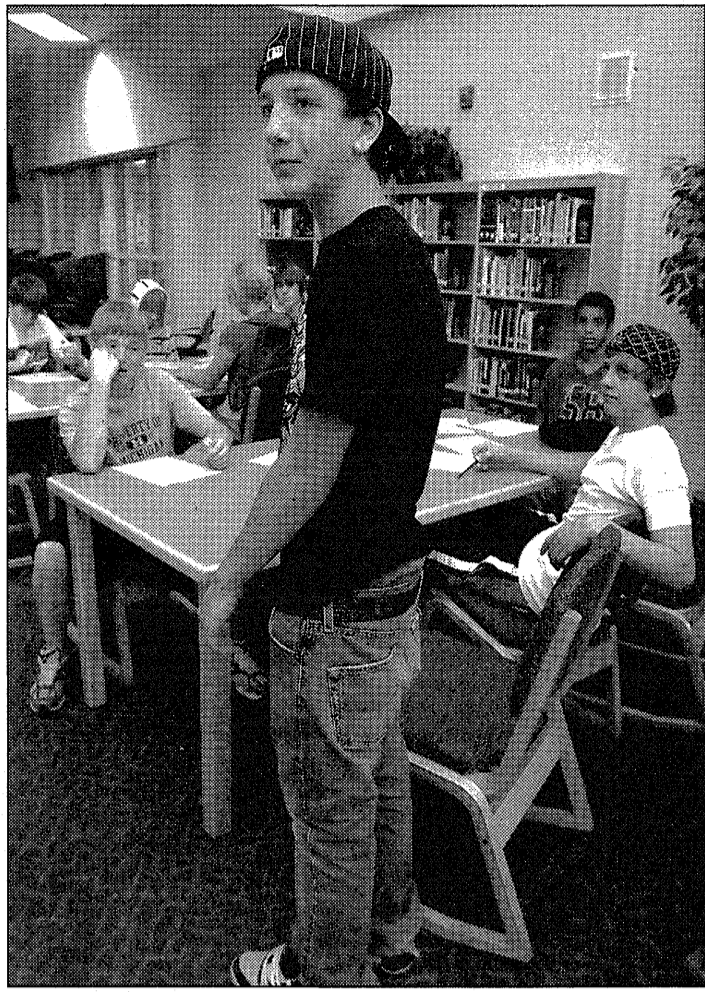
According to summer school principal Pat Fitzpatrick, who is also the interim principal at Salem High School, some 15-18 students were referred to the school office, mostly for short shorts and saggy pants.

In fact, Fitzpatrick bought a spool of clothesline for those students found not wearing belts.

"You get kids who try to test the policy," said Fitzpatrick. "The majority of our students understand why we need to increase our enforcement. For the most part, the kids have been cooperative."

Cooperative, perhaps, but not everyone understands or agrees with the shift. Taha Siddiqui of Canton, a freshman at Canton High School, said except for clothing highlighting drug or alcohol use, for instance, students should be allowed to dress in their own style.

"I understand all the hub-bub," he said. "Kids should be allowed to dress freely, because that's how they express themselves, show their own opinions. Lots of kids speak through their clothes."



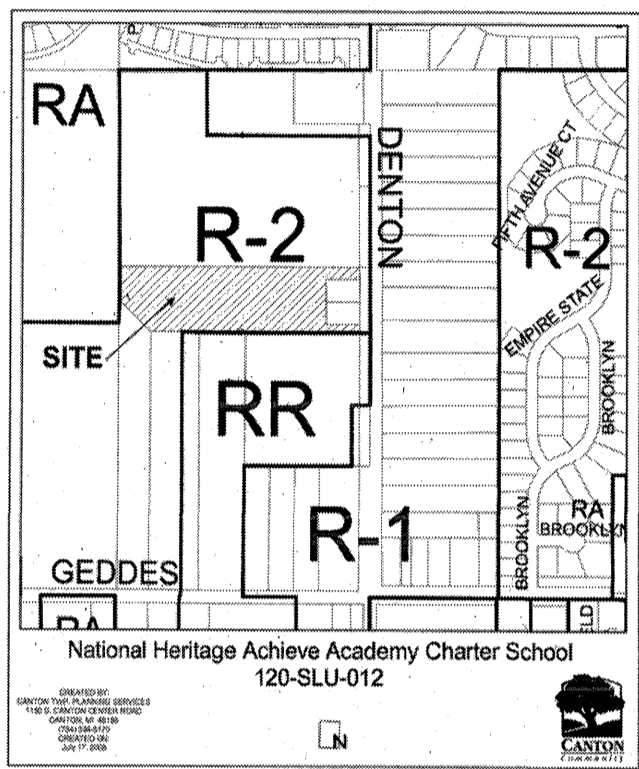
TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

bkadrich@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2153 Canton freshman Makek Alawieh has been sent home once for low-riding pants.

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Michigan Public Act 12 of 2008, of the State of Michigan, as amended, and pursuant to the Zoning Ordinance of the Charter Township of Canton that the Planning Commission of the Charter Township of Canton will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, August 11, 2008 in the **First Floor Meeting Room of the Canton Township Administration Building, 1150 S. Canton Center Road at 7:00 p.m.** on the following proposed special land use request as provided in Section 27.03 of the Canton Township Zoning Ordinance:

NATIONAL HERITAGE ACHIEVE ACADEMY CHARTER SPECIAL LAND USE - CONSIDER REQUEST FOR SPECIAL LAND USE APPROVAL FOR A PUBLIC/PRIVATE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AS REQUIRED IN SECTION 11.02 B4 FOR PART OF PARCEL NO. 120 99 0010 707. Property is located west of Denton and north of Geddes Road.



Written comments addressed to the Planning Commission should be received at the Canton Township Administration Building, 1150 Canton Center S. prior to Thursday, August 7, 2008 in order to be included in the materials submitted for review.

VIC GUSTAFSON, Chairman

Publish: July 27, 2008

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THE SPIDERWICK CHRONICLES (PG)

LONG WAY DOWN
Evan McGuire's Chilling Story of a 12,000 mile motorcycle journey from Scotland to South Africa
THURS. 7/31 7:30 PM

THE X-FILES: I WANT TO BELIEVE (PG-13)
12:25, 2:45, 5:05, 7:25, 9:35
FRI/SAT 11:55

THE DARK KNIGHT (PG-13)
12:40, 3:40, 6:40, 9:40
MAMMA MIA! (PG-13)
11:50, 2:15, 4:40, 7:05, 9:30
FRI/SAT 11:55

SPACE CHIMPS (G)
11:00, 1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00, 9:00
FRI/SAT 11:00

HELLBOY II: THE GOLDEN ARMY (PG-13)
FRI-WED 11:25, 2:00, 4:35, 7:10, 9:45
TH 11:25, 2:00, 4:35

JOURNEY TO THE CENTER OF THE EARTH 3D
11:00, 1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:15, 9:25
FRI/SAT 11:35

WALL-E (G) 12:00, 2:20, 4:40, 7:00, 9:20
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Choosing the right mortgage depends on buyer's situation

Dear Rick: I'm in the process of buying a new home. What is the best mortgage to get right now?

Congratulations on the purchase of a home. In regard to mortgages, the issue is what is the best mortgage for you. One of the problems we have had over the last few years is people failed to realize that the best mortgage isn't necessarily the one that has the lowest initial payments. After all, many people that had adjustable-rate mortgages (ARM) have found that their payments have shot up, causing them financial difficulty.

The key issue is how long you plan to be in your home. If you plan to stay for five years or longer, I generally lean to a fixed-rate mortgage. If your plan is to stay less than five years, then one of the adjustable-rate



Money Matters
Rick Bloom

mortgages may be appropriate. Considering the economic environment we're in and where interest rates are, you cannot make a mistake — even if you are going to be in your home for just a few years — by going into one of the fixed-rate mortgages.

If you decide on a fixed-rate mortgage, the next issue is the term of the loan. In most cases, I prefer 30-year fixed-rate mortgage rather than a 15-year fixed-rate mortgage. Interest rates on 30-year fixed-rate mortgages are near historic lows, so take advantage of it. After all, for many people after they deduct the interest on their taxes, a

30-year fixed-rate mortgage is costing approximately 4 percent or below.

In addition, the 30-year fixed-rate mortgage allows greater flexibility than a 15-year mortgage. For example, if you had a 30-year mortgage and you wanted to turn it into a 15-year mortgage, all you have to do is make extra payments on your mortgage. In a 15-year mortgage, the only way to turn it into a 30-year mortgage is to refinance.

Some mortgages — throughout the life of the loan — give the option of changing terms. However, I am leery of some of these mortgages. Many are gimmicky and have a variety of hidden fees associated with them. I like to keep things simple and that is why I lean to the traditional 30-year fixed-rate mortgage.

It is important to know the

cost of the mortgage. Too many people just shop interest rates. That is a mistake. You need to understand the various fees involved. One loan may have a lower interest rate, but higher fees that offset the advantage of a lower interest. Fees are not standard in the mortgage industry. Some mortgage companies are very creative. Ask if they have an origination fee.

Best of luck on your new home. I recommend you to deal with a qualified mortgage person and don't be afraid to ask questions.

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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Sheriff says proposed budget cuts harm public safety

BY HUGH GALLAGHER
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER



Evans

Wayne County Sheriff Warren Evans says public safety should be the county's top priority and a proposal to cut his budget by 10 percent would harm public safety.

"Protecting public safety is probably the most important thing that any government can do," Evans said in an interview with the *Observer*. "Clearly, the county has responsibility for the prosecutor, the sheriff and the courts and it is a major function that has to be a higher priority than some other things."

Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano has proposed a budget that would cut 10 percent from all department budgets for 2008-09 to deal with a projected \$33 million deficit.

For the sheriff's department, Ficano has proposed cutting the sheriff's 2007-08 \$96 million general fund amount by \$9.6 million.

"Basically the sheriff has increased his budget over the last five years," said Vanessa Denha, a spokeswoman for Ficano. "He has requested a \$7 million increase over last year, even after we asked people to make cuts. We've made cuts (in the executive's office) and we're just asking all the electeds to do the same."

The Wayne County Commission is scheduled to approve the 2008-09 budget by late August. Evans made a PowerPoint presentation to the commission is making his case with the public that his budget problems are being misrepresented by Ficano.

Evans argues that retroactive salaries and benefits in a collective bargaining contract and underfunding for overtime are two key factors for a reported

\$17 million in overspending on this year's budget.

Evans said the county negotiated a collective bargaining agreement with the employees of the sheriff's department without budgeting for it.

"Our budget for this year was cast in stone a year ago. We warned at budget hearings and everywhere else that there had to be some contingency," Evans said. "It was in binding arbitration. The county and the unions agreed to the economic package, so it was not binding arbitration thrust upon the county."

Evans said he was not part of the negotiations, a point disputed by the executive's office.

"He had somebody from his office at those meetings. He was part of that whole process from the beginning," Denha said.

OVERTIME UNDERFUNDED

On overtime, Evans said the department has always been underfunded for overtime,

even going back to the time of the previous sheriff, Robert Ficano.

"You never know how many officers are going off sick, you don't know what emergencies are going to come up," he said. "But you do know a general trend, what the overtime is going to be. It's never budgeted for and you're always running a deficit immediately."

Evans said overtime has run as high as \$9 million and as low as \$6 million (of a \$131 million budget).

This year, it was budgeted for \$4 million.

Evans said that he is concerned that under Ficano's plan 238 deputies and four civilians would face layoffs. Options would include closing the Hamtramck Jail or releasing pretrial felons to reduce the jail population and lay off officers.

Evans said the county has a

jail capacity of 2,600 and the proposed cuts would reduce that number by 800. He said the present jail capacity is inadequate for the need.

REPEAT OFFENDERS

"Most of our offenders are repeat people who have been in jail more than once," Evans said. "In this economy they are not getting a job when I release them. They are going to up the crime rate considerably when they go back to do what they do best."

Evans said he understands the need for belt-tightening but argues that other departments and other projects are less important.

"I have tried to help with belt-tightening. I have closed floors in our existing jail to try to help balance the budget," he said.

Denha said the sheriff's

department may have to do some layoffs but she suggested there were other options.

"He doesn't need to run the (police) academy. He can use the community colleges in our area that offer programs," she said.

She said the department's kitchen and food services run two to three times more than Oakland and Macomb counties.

"There are ways to cut his budget," she said. "We're happy to sit down with him and help him cut his budget."

Evans said \$42 million of the \$96 million he receives from the general fund comes from a dedicated public safety millage and should not be factored into the proposed 10 percent budget cut.

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- * Police Officers Association of Wyandotte (POAM)
- * Retired Detroit Police and Fire Fighters Association
- * Michigan Teamsters, Joint Council 43

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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 "kid-die" concert series, hosted by

the Plymouth Community Arts Council and sponsored by major sponsor McCully's Educational Resource Center, 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 30 - Zak Morgan

- Aug. 6 - elmoThumm
- Aug. 13 - Guy Louis, Chautauqua Express
- Aug. 20 - Matt Watroba & Friends

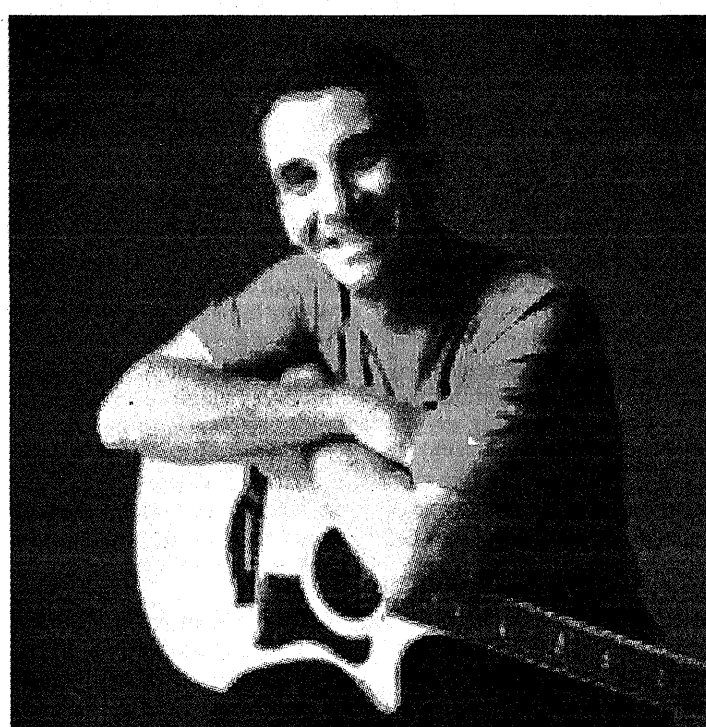
Music in the Air

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

- 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

KNOW THE SCORE

check out the numbers in today's **SPORTS** section



Zak Morgan takes to the stage to entertain youngsters at Wednesday's Music in the Park concert series event in Kellogg Park.

Fall Festival seeks crafters and cars

The Plymouth Fall Festival is accepting applications for its Craft Show that takes place during the Fall Festival Sept. 5-7.

Once again, the craft show will be on Union Street. Ten-by-ten foot spots will be \$75 per day or \$200 for the weekend. Applications are available to download at www.plymouthfallfestival.com or for more information, call Colleen Brown at (734) 455-1614.

CAR SHOW

Registrations are also being taken for the annual Antique Car show (1978 and older) that takes place during the Fall Festival (Sept. 6-7). This year, festival officials are bringing back the pre-registration cruise night Friday, Sept. 5, beginning at 6 p.m.

Registration before Sept. 5 will be \$10 for one day or \$15 for two days. Door prizes will be awarded both days. Applications will be available to download at www.plymouthfallfestival.com or for more info call Dave Reeves (734) 455-4018.

BUSINESS PROMOTION

Applications are now available for businesses interested in booth space or Entertainment Sponsorship at the Plymouth Fall Festival, which runs Sept. 5-7. Booth applications can be found at www.plymouthfallfestival.com.

For more information or Entertainment Sponsorships, contact Colleen Brown, (734) 455-1614.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS AGENDA AUGUST 14, 2008

Notice is hereby given that there will be a meeting of the Zoning Board of Appeals **THURSDAY, AUGUST 14, 2008 at 7:00 PM.** The meeting will be held in the Board Room at the Township Administration Building located at 1150 S. Canton Center Road, Canton, MI 48188. The following agenda will be discussed:

Pledge of Allegiance to the flag

Roll Call: Randy Blaylock, Jim Cisek, Craig Engel, Steven Johnson, Vicki Welty
Alternate: Dawn Zuber

Acceptance of Agenda

1. John Groat, 43611 Hanover Court, Canton, MI 48187, for residential property located at same address, west side of Morton Taylor Road between Warren and Joy Roads, appealing Zoning Ordinance Article 26.00, Section 26.02, rear yard setback variance.
 Zone R-5 Parcel 012 03 0401 000 (Building) **Tabled from the 7-10-2008 meeting.**
2. Kim Allard, 33650 Giftos, Clinton Township, MI 48035, for commercial property located at 41211 Ford Road (LaQuinta Inn), south side of Ford Road between Haggerty Road and I-275, appealing Zoning Ordinance Article 6A.00, Section 6A.25.02, Hi-rise sign variance.
 Zone C-4 Parcel 050 99 0009 004 (Building)
3. Thomas and Lynn Kerchen, 7552 Wheaton Drive, Canton, MI 48187, for residential property located at same address, west side of Sheldon Road between Joy and Warren Roads, appealing Zoning Ordinance Article 2.00, Section 2.03.D.3, Setbacks- shed setback variance; Buildings and Building Regulations Article V, Section 78-129.h, Location in front yard, and Article V, Section 78-131.b Corner lots- fence variance.
 Zone R-5 Parcel 011 01 0087 000 (Building)
4. Bryan L. Amann, 355 North Canton Center Road, Canton, MI 48187, for vacant property located on the west side of Denton Road between Proctor and Geddes Roads, appealing Zoning Ordinances Article 5.00, Section 5.02B.3.b, Berms used for screening other than in the front yard, and Article 5.00, Section 5.03D.1, Protective screening requirements for berms required for non-residential uses in residential districts.
 Zone R-2 Parcel 120 99 0010 707 (part of) (Planning)
5. Joby Mazak, 5333 McCauley Drive, Ypsilanti, MI 48197, for commercial property located at 1600 S. Canton Center Road (Saint Joseph Mercy Health System), west side of Canton Center Road between Summit Parkway and Proctor Roads, appealing Sign Ordinance Article 6A.00, Section 6A.25.02, variance relative to the contrast requirement for ground signs and to the minimum lettering requirement for ground signs, and Article 6A.00, Section 6A.21, Maximum size of a directional sign variance.
 Zone R-6 Parcel 084 99 0004 700 (Planning)

Approval of the July 10, 2008 Minutes

All written comments need to be submitted to the Charter Township of Canton, Clerk's Office 1150 S. Canton Center Rd., Canton, MI 48188, prior to 5:00 PM on the date of the hearing.

Publish July 27, 2008

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 for Plymouth Township Clerk

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- ★ Joe holds an associate's degree in accounting and a bachelor's degree in business administration.
- ★ While serving as Plymouth Township Deputy Clerk for the past five years, Joe became a Certified Municipal Clerk and election-inspector trainer.
- ★ Professional memberships include the Kiwanis Club of Plymouth-Canton, the Association of Wayne County Clerks, and the International Institute of Municipal Clerks.

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- ★ Marilyn Massengill, Plymouth Township Clerk
- ★ Kay Arnold, Plymouth Township Trustee
- ★ Mary Breen, Schoolcraft College Trustee
- ★ Laura Cox, Wayne County Commissioner
- ★ Plymouth Community Firefighters Local 1496
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OUR VIEWS

Politics shouldn't trump public good

For the second time in the same week, the Plymouth Township Board of Trustees appeared to play politics with something that should have been treated as a matter of public interest.

First, it was the township's agonizingly slow response to a series of Freedom of Information Act requests made by Dianne Gonzalez, who was seeking to find out just how much money the township spent the last two years conducting labor negotiations and fighting a lawsuit brought by a former township police officer.

Then, there's the shabby treatment of the Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce's scheduled candidates forum. Chamber executive director Wes Graff sought - and received - permission to use the township's meeting room for the forum, which was to feature candidates for supervisor, clerk and trustee, nearly a month ago. The forum was scheduled for Wednesday night.

But late Tuesday night, at the end of a long meeting which featured a crowded closed session - and after all audience members had gone home - board members took on the question of the propriety of holding the forum on government property.

According to several board members, Township Attorney Tim Cronin offered an opinion that such a use might violate Michigan's Campaign Finance Act. Board members voted - less than 24 hours before the forum and despite concerns of at least three of them - unanimously to revoke permission. According to officials in the state's elections bureau, however, there is at least one exception to the law that permits the use of government property for such a forum.

The back-door maneuver forced Graff to scramble to find a new location (the Comfort Inn graciously allowed it) and make sure participants and audience members alike were aware of the shift.

In our view, there was no need to cancel the forum and throw organizers into a last-minute tizzy to save it. Governmental bodies routinely offer their city halls, library facilities, etc., most at no cost as long as the hosting entity is a nonprofit organization conducting an event designed for the public good, clearly the case here.

Here, there were no aggrieved parties threatening legal action, no one was crying, "foul," except perhaps board members supporting candidates who weren't attending. And ask this: Why did board members wait nearly a month to raise questions?

With plenty of precedent - Plymouth Township officials have often allowed such political forums - behind them, no one would have questioned this forum. Tim Cronin is an accomplished municipal attorney, and board members do well to consider his opinion, or else why pay him? However, this case provided board members their second opportunity in a week to err on the side of the greater public interest.

If they're not going to do that, it's fair to ask: Whose interest are they serving?

Vote for Barone

In reading Judge Gerou's letter in the Sunday, July 20, *Observer*, describing the attributes of a great judge, it must have been written for Joe Barone.

Joe fits that description to the max. We definitely need a man like Joe in our court system. He is an excellent attorney who practices in our court on a weekly, if not daily, basis. He is knowledgeable and even-tempered, and he knows what will be asked of him as judge.

His family certainly stands behind him and supports him in his race for judge. My family and I are definitely voting for Joe and I would hope that everyone will join with us in our support for Joe Barone.

Kay Jasin
Canton

Re-elect Reaume

My family moved to Plymouth Township in 2002. In our time here, I have had occasion to ask our supervisor, Richard Reaume, for assistance on a couple of issues. Mr. Reaume has been remarkably responsive and, more importantly, effective in getting things done.

In particular, Mr. Reaume has provided prompt and appropriate attention to matters of public safety, transportation and aesthetics in my local neighborhood. Mr. Reaume has also been a helpful resource in terms of assisting with other local governmental issues.

I am an independent voter and do not belong to any political party. I have no general agenda or platform to promote. Mr. Reaume's resume (available at www.plymouthtp.org) and past performance on major township issues speak for themselves.

However, I strongly believe that local government is where our elected officials have the most impact on our day-to-day life. I also believe intelligent, experienced, hard-working and kind people are difficult for any organization to find.

Based upon my personal experiences with Mr. Reaume, I find him to possess all of the foregoing attributes and feel that he is a material asset to Plymouth Township residents and, by extension and virtue of being such a close neighbor, city of Plymouth residents. I will vote for him

LETTERS

for supervisor Aug. 5, and I encourage others who may not have had the pleasure of working with him to do the same.

Jeffrey Dobson
Plymouth

Supports Kelly

I would like to add my support to the endorsement of the *Observer & Eccentric* for Michael Kelly as the new trustee for Plymouth Township. We need his honesty and straightforward approach, and we trust in his professional and educational credentials. Kudos to the *O&E* for endorsing Michael Kelly.

Michael Kelly is a graduate of the University of Michigan in biology and chemistry. His intellect, sensitivity and willingness to work with all citizens make him the best choice for trustee. He will bring a fresh set of perspectives and ideas for the township, unencumbered by any past political ties or political agenda.

The three incumbent trustees (Kay Arnold, Steve Mann and Bob Doroshevit) should all be returned to office. They have done a great job during their terms and will help provide consistency of leadership and direction as we move the township forward during these challenging times.

We will miss Charles Curmi and commend him for the great job he did during his three terms as township trustee.

Elaine Bain
Plymouth Township

Backing Reaume

In 2002, we moved our family-owned construction business to Plymouth. Over the course of the next several years, we completed many projects in Plymouth Township, including new homes in Woodland Ponds and a commercial building on Sheldon Road.

I had the opportunity to meet Richard Reaume at a review meeting concerning our new commercial building. Before the meeting Richard came up to me and introduced himself, asked about our project and mentioned that he thought it was a good project for us as well as the community. He also mentioned that he is always available if we have any issues with the township.

This was a refreshing approach to me. Having worked in most of the Detroit metropolitan communities, I had experienced many that were not friendly or cooperative. I felt this town had its act together as it encouraged and assisted in get new businesses into the community.

I would urge the citizens of Plymouth Township to re-elect Richard Reaume, as he has their best interest at heart. He is professional, always available and eager to assist any business that can maintain the quality of the community.

Keeping Richard Reaume in office will ensure continued progress for Plymouth Township - a real plus for both business and citizens. No wonder Plymouth Township is one of the Top 100 best places to live in America.

Dominic J. Maltese Jr.
president, D.J. Maltese Corp.

Robotics thanks

P-CEP's FIRST robotics team 862, Lightning Robotics, would like to take this opportunity to thank the people who keep the team running smoothly.

First off, we would like to thank our main sponsor, Robert Bosch, LLC. Bosch not only supports us financially, but also provides us with mentors who are both our teachers and our friends; second, ITT Technical Institute; and last but not least, Reliable Business Computers, Inc.

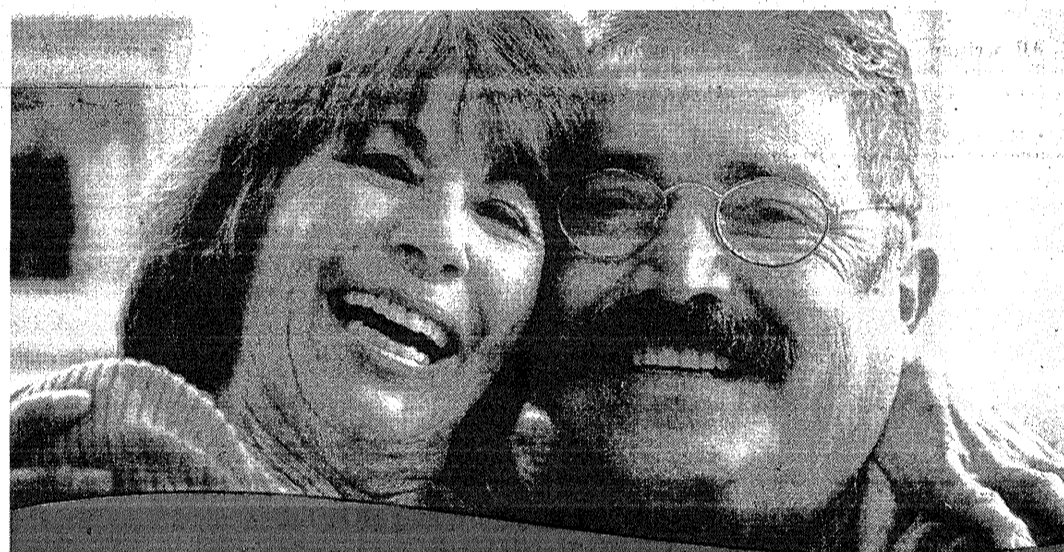
Without the help of these wonderful sponsors, we would not have been able to afford to build a robot and attend FIRST competitions last year. Lightning Robotics thanks each and every one of you and hopes you will continue to support our team for years to come!

As mentioned before, the mentors are a large part of our robotics family. They give up many hours each year to spend time with the team and to teach the students skills needed to design and build a robot in only six weeks. Among these skills, they teach both leadership and safety in a fun and interesting way. Without them, there wouldn't be a robotics team at P-CEP.

Thanks again!

Your friendly neighborhood robotics team
Plymouth-Canton Educational Park

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today's SPORTS section



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Emergency lessons

Camp teaches youngsters life-saving skills

BY TONY BRUSCATO
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Nearly three dozen 8- to 12-year-olds learned CPR, the Heimlich maneuver, bicycle safety and how to perform various other life-saving skills at Camp 9-1-1.

The Huron Valley Ambulance camp at the Plymouth Cultural Center was designed to teach youngsters life-saving techniques that should carry them through adulthood.

"The main focus of the camp is to teach prevention strategies for children of this age group that end up being the leading causes of injury-related deaths," said Andrea Dunn, emergency medical technician and HVA community relations assistant. "We had helmets for bike safety, and gave them one if they didn't have one, as well as a bicycle safety quiz. We taught them CPR so if they saw someone down they would be able to supply

CPR. They have all the basic knowledge."

The kids also went on a field trip to St. Mary's Hospital's emergency room, talked with a Plymouth police officer and visited the Plymouth Community Fire Department's Fire Station No. 1, where they were taught first aid and tested the fatal vision glasses used in the drinking and driving classes.

"We learned about what police officers do and the types of calls he gets," said

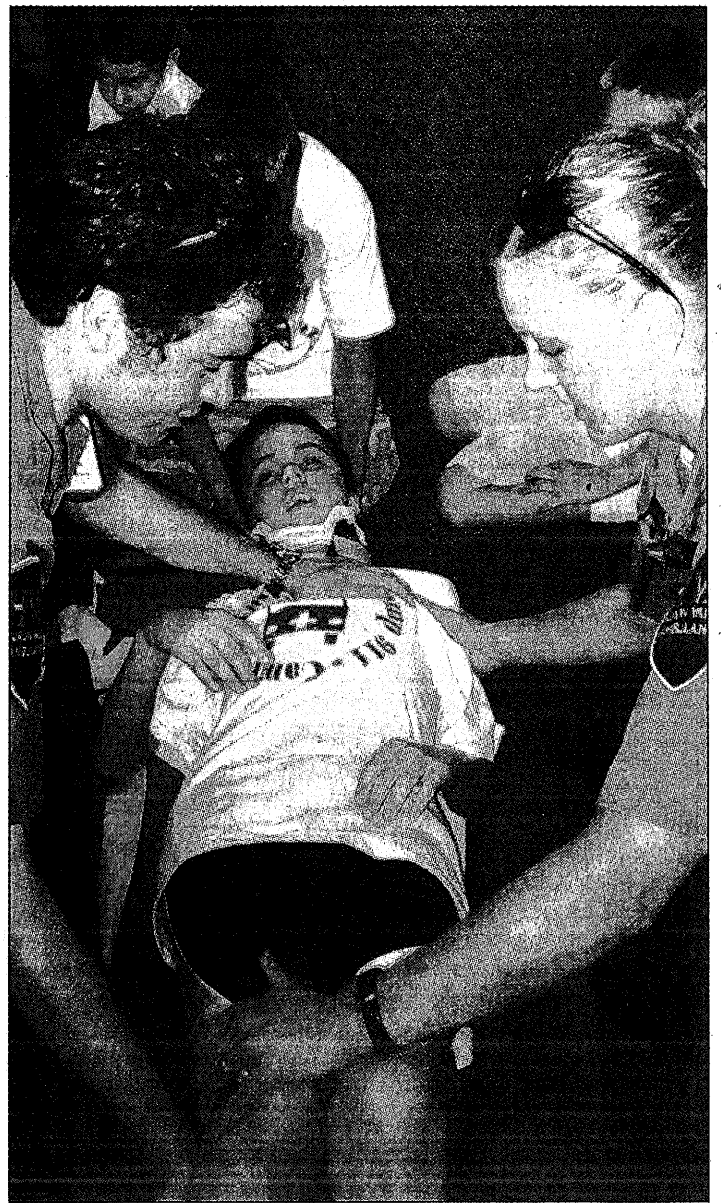
9-year-old Andrew Fedel, whose father, Vince, is the Taylor fire chief. "We went to the hospital and went to the fire station to see and meet the firemen.

"We learned what to do in case you are in public and something does happen," he said: "You do CPR and just do as much as you can until the ambulance gets there."

Paramedic Matt Watson of Canton Township said it's important for the young students to recognize emergencies, and get to know paramedics, firefighters and policemen so as not to be afraid of them.

"So they know we are just regular people out there," said Watson. "They know a little about first aid so they can stop a really bad cut. Or, if their parent is having chest pains, they know to dial 9-1-1.

"They recognize what is an emergency, how to respond and know what to do," he said.



Paramedic Mark Watson of Canton and EMT Andrea Dunn of Garden City demonstrate backboarding techniques with 12-year-old Max Wallazy of Plymouth during HVA's camp at the Plymouth Cultural Center.

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CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH LEGAL NOTICE PRIMARY ELECTION - TUESDAY, AUGUST 05, 2008

Notice is hereby given that a primary election will be held in the Charter Township of Plymouth, Wayne County, Michigan, on Tuesday, August 05, 2008, from 7:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m., at which time candidates of the Republican, Democratic and Non-Partisan Candidates and one County Proposal will be voted upon:

United States Senator
Representative in Congress - 11th District
Representative in State Legislature, 20th District
Wayne County Prosecuting Attorney
Wayne County Sheriff
Wayne County Clerk
Wayne County Treasurer
Wayne County Register of Deeds
Wayne County Commissioner, 10th District

And in the Charter Township of Plymouth:

Township Supervisor
Township Clerk
Township Treasurer
Township Trustees
Delegates to the County Convention

And the following Non-Partisan Candidates:

Judge of Circuit Court-3rd Circuit, Non-Incumbent Position, vote for not more than 3
Judge of District Court -35th District, Non-Incumbent Position, vote for not more than 1

And the following County Proposal:

WAYNE COUNTY ZOOLOGICAL AUTHORITY

The Wayne County Zoological Authority was established pursuant to Public Act 49 of 2008, and formed to allow for continuing zoological services for the students, residents and visitors of the County of Wayne. The law allows the Authority to seek authorization from the electors to levy a tax of not more than 0.1 mill (10 cents per \$1,000 of taxable value) on real property and personal property to provide revenue for this purpose. Accordingly, to continue providing zoological services to benefit the residents of the County, shall a 0.1 mill on all taxable property located within the County of Wayne be imposed for a period of ten (10) years, being years 2008 through 2017. It is estimated that if approved and levied, this new millage will generate approximately \$5,299,640.48 in 2008.

Shall this proposal be adopted?

YES NO

Polling locations for the Charter Township of Plymouth are as follows:

Precinct 1	Farrand School	41400 Greenbriar
Precinct 2	Friendship Station	42375 Schoolcraft Rd
Precinct 3 & 4	Plymouth Twp Municipal Offices	9955 N. Haggerty Rd
Precinct 5	Bird School	220 N. Sheldon Rd
Precinct 6	West Middle School	44401 Ann Arbor Tr
Precinct 7	Living Word Church	46500 N. Territorial Rd
Precinct 8	St. Kenneth's Catholic Church	14951 Haggerty Rd
Precinct 9	Church of the Nazarene	45801 Ann Arbor Rd
Precinct 10	Fiegel School	39750 Joy Rd
Precinct 11	First Baptist Church	45000 N. Territorial Rd
Precinct 12	Pioneer Middle School	46081 Ann Arbor Rd
Precincts 13 & 16	Risen Christ Lutheran Church	46250 W. Ann Arbor Rd
Precinct 14	Isbister School	9300 Canton Center Rd
Precinct 15	First United Methodist Church	45201 N. Territorial Rd
Precinct 17	NorthRidge Church	49555 N. Territorial Rd

Applications for absentee ballots for Plymouth Township registered voters may be obtained at Plymouth Township Clerk's Office, 9955 N. Haggerty Road, Plymouth, MI, 48170, during regular business hours, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Absentee ballots will be delivered to qualified absentee voters in person at the Clerk's Office from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., on Saturday, August 2. On Monday, August 4, qualified voters shall receive their ballots, and vote them in the Clerk's Office until 4:00 p.m.

MARILYN MASSENGILL, CMC
Clerk, Charter Township of Plymouth

Publish: July 27, 2008

CE081122-308.5



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

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Aside from all the other smoking-related health risks, research shows that smokers are more likely to develop gum disease and to have more serious cases than nonsmokers. Bone loss, gum recession, and tartar (hardened plaque) all contribute to gum disease and are common among users of tobacco. If the excessive plaque is not removed, the gums become infected and pull away from the teeth.

Researchers believe that nicotine and other substances in tobacco may weaken the body's immune response to harmful bacteria and reduce blood flow to the gums. As the bacteria in plaque attack the tissues and bone that support the teeth, the stage is set for loosened teeth and tooth loss, also more common among smokers than nonsmokers.

Breaking the smoking habit now can greatly reduce your risk of developing severe gum disease and its resultant tooth loss in the future. One of the most important things we can provide you with is education. Teaching you proper oral hygiene, however, is only the first part. The rest is up to you. We'll help you keep an eye on your dental health beginning with a thorough oral exam. Call us at 734-453-9413 for an appointment at 496 W. Ann Arbor Trail, Ste. 201, Plymouth. New patients are always welcome.

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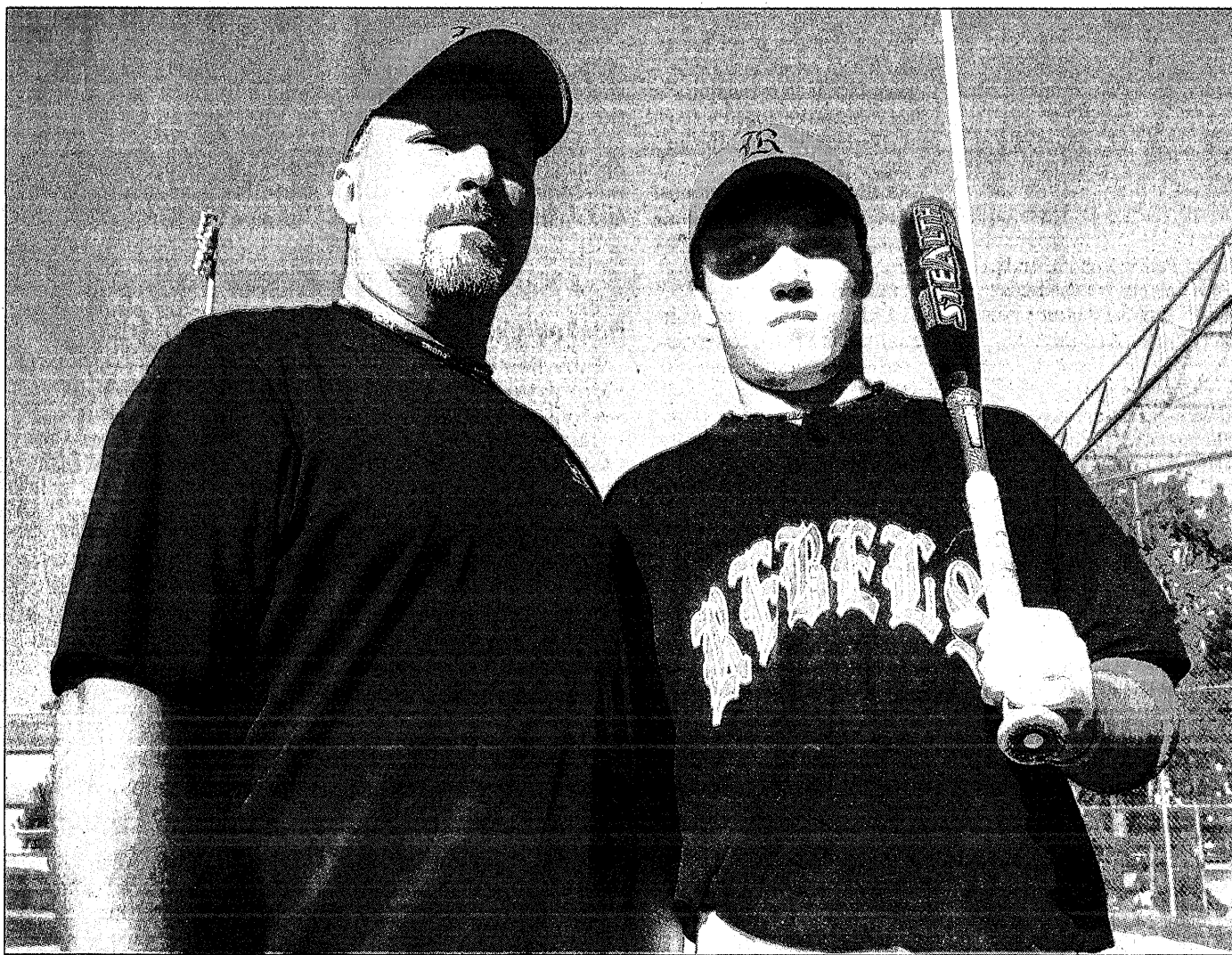
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Sunday, July 27, 2008

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

www.hometownlife.com

Brad Emons, editor (734) 953-2123 b.emons@hometownlife.com



TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Redford Rebels' baseball coach Bruce Corner (left) and his son, Brian, a catcher for the Rebels, have been on the same teams often over the past decade. For them, family and baseball are top priorities, but not necessarily in that order.

Father-son connection's a hit

BY TIM SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

They might be Corner-ing the market on bonding through baseball.

But Redford Rebels' coach Bruce Corner and his 17-year-old son, Rebels' catcher Brian, don't seem to be too upset about it.

In fact, starting with the Redford American Little League Red Sox during the late 1990s right up until this summer with the Rebels, the Redford Township father and son have been virtually inseparable thanks to being together on one baseball team after another.

"We've got to spend a lot of quality time out here on the diamond, both before,

during and after practice," said coach Corner. "We talk about things besides baseball because we do have that time together.

"We go to practices and games three, four or five times a week, driving to and from, there's a lot of time together to talk about life and school and a lot of things that are important."

According to Brian, who recently graduated from Redford Thurston (where he batted .417 his senior year while earning first-team All-Observer honors), it's been "cool" being coached by his dad so many of the past 10 years.

"I enjoy it because not
Please see **DUO, B2**

ON THE CORNERS

Family: Bruce and Kathleen Corner of Redford Township have two children, 17-year-old Brian and 14-year-old Bridget. Brian — a 2008 graduate of Redford Thurston — is entering his freshman year at Henry Ford Community College; Bridget will be a sophomore at Redford Thurston, where she was on the 2007 varsity girls swim team.

Back in the day: Bruce coached his son beginning in the late 1990s with the Redford American Little League Red Sox. From there, the father-and-son combo also were on a RALL Junior League squad and with Thurston's junior varsity team in 2005-06.

Future: After the Redford Rebels

finish play this summer, Brian will play in a fall baseball league and also gear up to try and play at Henry Ford. Meanwhile, coach Corner is interested in being an assistant to varsity head baseball coach Bob Snell at Thurston and will again coach his son with the Rebels in 2009.

Challenge: Bruce also has interest in donating or coaching players with physical or mental handicaps through the Challenger Division of North Redford Central Little League.

"I've been fortunate enough to have a healthy child play ball," he said. "And if I could ever donate my time and efforts to those people that go out there and do that (Challenger), that's something I would like to do."

O&E Women's Open to tee off Aug. 16

BY ED WRIGHT
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

"Drive" time is fast approaching for all women golfers looking to claim the title of 2008 Observer & Eccentric Women's Open champion.

The one-day, 18-hole tournament is set to tee off Saturday, Aug. 16, at Whispering Willows Golf Course in Livonia.

The deadline for entries is Saturday, Aug. 9, at 6 p.m.

All entrants will be trying to dethrone defending champion Susan Macinkowicz, who earned medalist honors by carding an impressive round of 78.

Participants must have a current United States Golf Association index to play in the annual O&E Open.

Registration forms can be picked up at Whispering Willows Golf Course, which is located at 20500 Newburgh Rd. in Livonia; at Fox Creek Golf Course, which is located at 36000 Seven Mile Rd. in Livonia.

Registration forms can also be found at www.golflivonia.com.

The entry fee for the tournament is \$50, which does not include a cart.

For pairings and starting times, participants are encouraged to call (248) 476-4493 after noon on Thursday, Aug. 14.

The O&E men's tournament is scheduled for Sept. 20 and 21 at both Whispering Willows and Fox Creek golf courses. The men's event is a 36-hole tourney.

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



FILE PHOTO

Susan Macinkowicz of Chesterfield Township is the defending O&E Women's Open champion.

Singles

Jr. Olympics on Aug. 6

Rain halted the first try at a 50th annual Redford Parks and Recreation-hosted Junior Olympics on July 12, but don't despair.

The rescheduled event will take place on Wednesday, Aug. 6, said Theresa Burgess of the parks and rec's youth department. Registration (free for Redford residents; \$5 for nonresidents) will be 9-10 a.m. with the field events and races to follow beginning at 10 a.m.

The Junior Olympics will be at Hilbert Middle School in Redford.

Hilbert is located one-half mile north of Five Mile and one-half mile west of Beech Daly at 26440 Puritan.

Parents should be present at all times, no organized teams are welcome and no spikes will be permitted on the field. For more information, call (313) 387-2650.

'Learn hockey' clinic

Suburban Ice-Farmington Hills is hosting a free Learn To Play Hockey clinic 6-7 p.m. Tuesday, July 29. The clinic is for boys and girls ages 5-12 who have not played organized hockey.

All equipment including skates and a stick will be provided to participants, who must pre-register for the clinic. There will be professional instruction with help from local volunteers.

Pre-registration is required to participate in the clinic. To do so, call (248) 888-1400.

Probens shine

The Livonia Proben brothers — Ben and Nick (both 14) — recently qualified for the Metropark Championship golf tournament by shooting rounds of 94 and 95, respectively, during a qualifying round at Willows Golf Course in New Boston. The Probens finished fifth and sixth in a field of 30 golfers aged 13 and 14.

The championship tournament is set for Aug. 5 at the Stoney Creek Metropark in Shelby Township.

Both Ben and Nick Proben will be freshmen at Livonia Churchill in the fall.

Grizzlies tryouts

The Plymouth/Canton Grizzlies 14U travel baseball team is holding tryouts for the 2009 season on Sunday, Aug. 10, from 6:30-9 p.m. at Heritage Park in Canton. Players must be 14 or younger on April 30, 2009.

To pre-register or for more information, contact Rob Sudz at (734) 637-1638.

GC spike tryouts

The Garden City volleyball program will hold tryouts on Monday, Aug. 11 at Garden City High School. Ninth and 10th graders earmarked for the junior varsity will practice from 3:30-5:30 p.m. while varsity players will follow from 5:30-7:30 p.m.

'Boot' Camp

Ignition clinics draw waves of energetic youngsters

BY ED WRIGHT
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Life could not have been much sweeter for the 52 kids who dashed and darted around the two side-by-side grassy soccer fields that were set up at Pembroke Park in Livonia Thursday afternoon.

The sky was blue, the humidity was low, the enthusiasm was high and — most importantly — the young athletes were being supervised by their heroes — members of the Detroit Ignition professional soccer team.

Pembroke Park was the site of one of several week-long camps the Ignition hosts throughout the summer across the state.

Along with lending its name to the clinic, the two-year-old ultra-successful franchise offered players like Druo Callahan and Ryan Mack to serve as instructors/coaches.

"All's we hear when the kids get home from the camp is, 'Drew Callahan did this today; Ryan Mack did this — I want to do this like Ryan Mack did today,'" said Mark Warner, the head coach of a Livonia YMCA U11 team. "The kids are having a blast because the Ignition

players are so enthusiastic about what they're doing.

"And the kids aren't just having fun — they're learning important skills. This week is something they'll remember the rest of their lives."

Mack said the primary objective of the five three-hour sessions is to inject as much soccer knowledge as the Ignition can in a fun, fast-paced environment.

"One day we'll work on finishing, one day we'll work on dribbling — we try to touch on all the basics," said the former Birmingham Seaholm soccer standout. "It's fun for us because the kids are so enthusiastic and you can tell they want to get better."

The fact that the league the Ignition competed in the past two years — the Major Indoor Soccer League — folded earlier this summer has not affected the popularity of the summer camps.

"We have approximately 1,800 kids registered for the camps this year compared to 1,200 last summer, so it's still a popular thing for the kids," said Michelle Green, the Ignition's director of communications.

Greene said the Ignition



Nine-year-old Brandon Navarro of Livonia took his shot at the goalie during a scoring drill at the Detroit Ignition Soccer Camp held last week at Pembroke Park in Livonia. Pictured looking on is Elizabeth Desmarais, 12, of Plymouth.

will play this coming fall in a restructured league. Details of the changes will be released sometime in mid-August, she said.

Mack said there were a few anxious moments amongst



PHOTOS BY TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Noah Rimtzi, 10, of Livonia keeps his eye on the ball during the Detroit Ignition Soccer Camp that was held last week at Jaycee Park. Rimtzi was one of 52 youngsters participating in the camp.

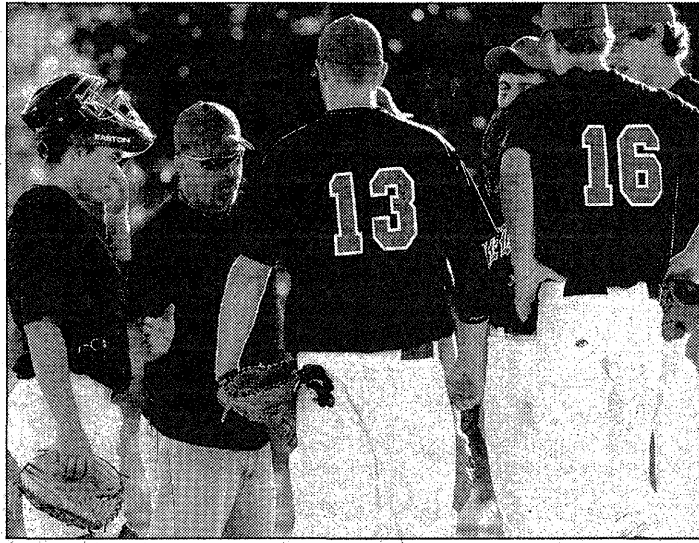
he and his teammates when word of the MISL's demise spread. However, he's encouraged by the information he is hearing from reliable sources regarding the 2008-09 indoor season.

"They've assured us there is going to be a team, we just may start a month later than we did the first two years,"

said Mack. "When we first heard the news about the league folding, everybody wanted to know what was going on. But they've guaranteed us we'll have a team for sure, the league will just be structured a little differently."

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DUO
FROM PAGE B1



TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

everybody gets to go out and play ball with their dad," Brian said. "Not many kids get that opportunity."

"He's helped me a lot, he works hard to help me try to make that next step in baseball. Everything he tries to do is for me."

Probably the only times the elder Corner was not at the helm of his son's team were Brian's junior and senior seasons at Thurston — coached by Bob Snell.

BOUNDLESS ENERGY

Bruce said his son has definitely heeded his mantra over the years to work tirelessly in the effort to improve as a baseball player.

"He knows he has to work hard, nothing's given to him," the veteran coach explained. "He works out on his own, we have a batting cage in the basement."

"He probably takes between 40-50 swings almost every day, hitting off a tee into a net."

When he's not practicing his hitting approach, he's watching baseball videos. Or he's talking about the sport with his dad, something that Bruce Corner said is invaluable for

Before a recent summer baseball game at Capitol Park in Redford, Rebels' head coach Bruce Corner (second from left) gives his players a pep talk. Standing next to him is catcher Brian Corner, who is such a student of the game that his dad thinks of him as an assistant coach on the field.

him. "I've probably learned as much from him (Brian) about coaching as anybody else because of our time together," Bruce said. "He gives me that insight, because we're always talking baseball."

"... If he's not going to be a player I think he'll be a coach."

On trips to and from the baseball field, Brian might offer suggestions that could help the Rebels improve their lot in the Midwest Alliance Travel Baseball League.

Their might be suggestions about the batting order or

where to play somebody in the field on a particular day.

"He has insight on injuries and insight on the pulse of the team," Bruce Corner said.

This week, Brian will take that penchant for extra effort and try to make a solid impression on the baseball coaches of Henry Ford Community College. He is looking to latch on for the 2009 season.

"He's got the capabilities to make it," Bruce said. "But he has to play up to his capabilities because it's the next level. Everybody's going to be better

at the next level just like they are here (in travel baseball)."

IN THE FRAY

There won't be many players — whether at Henry Ford or with the Rebels — who know more than Brian about what makes them tick on the diamond.

For Brian, it's being a catcher.

"You're in every play," Brian said. "It's an important position and I like that responsibility that you've got to be good and you can't let anything get by you."

But that wasn't his first position of choice when he started playing for the RALL Red Sox.

Bruce said his son played the outfield in those early days although Brian claims he actually was a third baseman on the day he first donned the catching gear.

"I think I was at third base," Brian said. "There was a pick-off, the kid ran home and I threw it in there and had him out."

"The kid slid into him (the catcher) and all I heard was the catcher going 'Oh, my leg.'"

Since the team's other catcher already was disabled, the Red Sox were in a bind.

"So my dad's looking around 'Who do I got to catch' and he asked me if I could go in there," Brian recalled. "He threw me in there, and I never looked back. I just took over at catching."

For every year since, he's been the always-dependable backstop. The coach on the field. He'd have it no other way.

And neither would his dad.

tsmith@hometownlife.com

Rams remain undefeated

The Michigan Rams improved their Livonia Collegiate Men's Baseball League record to 24-9 on Tuesday with a 12-0 pasting of the Trailblazers in a game played at Bicentennial Park in Livonia.

James Bertakis earned the victory with four innings of shutout ball. He allowed just three hits while striking out one and walking one. Brett Spencer was near-perfect in relief, yielding just one walk and no hits while whiffing five

over the final three innings.

Brad Sullens suffered the loss for the Trailblazers.

Offensively, the winners were paced by Aaron Wick, who went 4-for-4 with two RBI and two runs scored, and Brad Herman, who ripped four hits and scored three runs for coach Rick Berryman's squad.

The Rams outthrew the Trailblazers, 16-3.

The Rams' big inning was the fifth when they scored five runs on five hits.

SPORTS ROUNDUP

Hockey clinics

Suburban Ice - Farmington Hills will be hosting several pre-season hockey clinics the week of Monday, Aug. 18 through Thursday, Aug. 21.

Sessions include the following: "Deking & Dangling," 12 noon - 2 p.m. Monday, Aug. 18 for ages 9 and up; "Shoot to Score," 2-4 p.m. Monday, Aug. 18 for ages 6 and up; "Backward Skating," 12 noon - 2 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 19 for ages 9 and up; "Quick & Fast," 2-4 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 19 for ages 6 and up; "Playmaker," 12 noon - 2 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 20 for ages 9 and up; "Outside Edges," 2-4 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 20 for ages 6 and up; "Learn to Check," 12 noon - 2 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 21 for ages 11 and up; "Defense Clinic," 2-4 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 21 for ages 9 and up.

Players will be grouped by skill and experience level in each class. Full hockey equipment is required. For more information, call (248) 478-1600 or go to www.suburbanhockey.com.

Precision Baseball

Precision Baseball in Canton will be hosting a structured hitting program every Wednesday and Friday from 10 a.m. to noon. Participants will work at stations that will include hitting off machines, tee work and soft toss. Instruction will be provided by Wayne State University head coach Jay Alexander.

The program is limited to the first 50 baseball and/or softball players (there is no age limit). The cost is just \$20 per session.

To reserve a spot, call Precision Baseball at (734) 459-5921.

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Simply Self Storage
Notice is hereby given that on August 13, 2008 on or after 9:30 a.m. that Simply Self Storage will be offering for sale under the Judicial Lien Process by Public Auction the following units. The goods to be sold are generally described as household goods. Terms of the sale are cash only. Simply Self Storage reserves the right to refuse any and all bids. The sale will be at the following location: 34333 E Michigan Ave. Wayne MI. 48184. 734-728-8204.
Ruth Walker - A206 - 2 Tables, clothes, 20 bags
Gwendolyn Hill - A273, Mattress, clothes, 20 Boxes
Robert Hoeft - A324 - Box spring, Bike, 15 boxes
Tawanna Scott - A373 - 10 boxes, Grate, Tote
Jerushia Williams - A442 - Computer, Dresser, two mattresses, microwave
Margaret Pulley - C149 - Desk, Chair, Shelf
Lisa Callebs - A429 - 3 Bikes
Tila Richardson - A417 - Cooler, Dryer, 5 totes
Demarco Fields - C180 - Globe, Chair, Desk
Sean Herd - C186 - Washer, Dryer, Stove
Neakia Perry - B128 - Freezer, 5 boxes, chair
Mary Dickerson - C151 - Vacuum, 10 boxes, stove
Latesha Davis - C191 - Dresser, 3 totes, mattress
Jefferie Campbell - D143 - Tool chest, stove, refrigerator
Beverly Brown - RV50 and RV53 - (1) Ford Bronco and (1) Plymouth Villager van
Scott Wells - D164 - Mattress, 20 boxes, Toys
Publish: July 27 and 31, 2008
0C08912977-24

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Friday, August 22, 2008
8:30 a.m.—3:00 p.m.
Morris Lawrence Building,
Washtenaw Community College
4800 E. Huron River Drive, Ann Arbor
Encore Careers are undertaken later in life with an emphasis on "purpose-driven" work. Recent research indicates that almost half of all baby boomers are interested in using their talents and experiences to give back to their communities in meaningful ways. The Forum will have lively presentations, panel discussions and networking opportunities. Attendees will be encouraged to gather information from a variety of educational institutions, training providers, service agencies and others to explore their options for this exciting and rewarding phase of life.
\$15 registration fee (includes lunch)
Click on "Encore Career Forum" on the Calendar of Training at www.misbtdc.org to register.

MISBTDC MICHIGAN SMALL BUSINESS & TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT CENTER
MetLife Foundation
CIVIC VENTURES
Washtenaw Community College
For more information, contact the Michigan Small Business & Technology Development Center at 734-547-9170

HIGHVELOCITY SPORTS 2008 Summer Camps
All-Sport Camp: All-Sport camp includes a multitude of sports including soccer, flag football, floor hockey, basketball, volleyball, dodge ball and an array of backyard games like capture the flag, kickball, and hide & seek. Plus, enjoy the Carnival of Inflatables! (June 16--August 22)
Full-Day (ages 7-12): 9 am--4 pm. Fee: \$225/week
Half-Day (ages 5-8): 9 am--12 pm or 1-4 pm. Fee: \$125/week
Early Drop-off: 7:30-9 am \$5/day. Late Pick-up: 4-5:30 pm \$5/day.
Both Early and Late Care: \$35/week.
Fun board games & crafts during extra care time.
New! Occasional picnics outside when weather permits!
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Sorry, no discounts apply to these camps.
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Weeks of: 6/16, 7/7, 7/21, 8/4, 8/11

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hvsports.com 46245 Michigan Ave. in Canton (734) HV-SPORT

Kil's Tae Kwon Do students shine at National Junior Olympics competition

BY ED WRIGHT
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

If the Detroit Lions experience as much success at Ford Field this season as students of the Canton-based Kil's Tae Kwon Do Center did earlier this month, they're probably bound for the NFL playoffs.

Ten athletes who train at the Canton-based Kil's placed among the top three in their age brackets in either the sparring or form divisions at the National Junior Olympics championships held July 6 in Detroit.

Among the titleists was 10-year-old Canton resident Marissa Provine, who faced a potentially unsettling situation when she stepped into the ring for the first-place sparring bout in her age group.

"I had to fight against my best friend in the finals," said Provine, who will be a sixth-grader at Pioneer Middle School in the fall. "One thing we've learned is that once you step into the ring, you're competitors, not friends. But as soon as the match is over, you're friends again."

Provine defeated one of her fellow classmates at Kil's — Genna Liu, who moved to the United States from Beijing, China in 2007.

Canton resident Sarah Walsh, a senior-to-be honor roll student at Salem High School, captured two medals at the national championships — a silver in forms and a gold in sparring.

"This is like another family to me," said the 16-year-old fourth-degree black belt, as she looked around the Kil's facility during a class. "It's hard work, but it's fun, too, and I like competition."

Walsh's career goal is to become a nurse, but that won't prevent her from abandoning Tae Kwon Do — a sport she's participated in for the past 11 years.

"I really want to open up my own studio some day," said Walsh. "It's definitely something I want to keep doing."

Walsh's younger brother, Ethan, also enjoyed a successful experience at Ford Field, kicking his way to a pair of medals — one gold and one bronze — at the national tournament.

"Ethan's been a great workout partner for me," said Sarah Walsh. "And he's a great brother."

Twelve-year-old Canton resident Shantanu Madaboosi, who will be a seventh-grader at Pioneer in the fall, has been attending classes at Kil's since he was 5.

"My parents encouraged me to try it when I was young; they said martial arts was not a choice — I had to do it," said Madaboosi. "It's been great for my self confidence and discipline."

"My friends at school joke around and say, 'Don't mess with Madaboosi,' but I would never get in a fight. We're taught to walk away or try to break up fights. One of the most important things I've learned here is self control."

Madaboosi earned a second-place medal in sparring at Ford Field.

A pair of brothers — Vincent and Drake Coy of Brighton — also medaled as did Valentin Najjar, who racked up a third-place showing in sparring.

ewright@hometownlife.com
(734) 953-2108

'One thing we've learned is that once you step into the ring, you're competitors, not friends. But as soon as the match is over, you're friends again.'

MARISSA PROVINI, 10-year-old Canton resident



ANNETTE WALSH

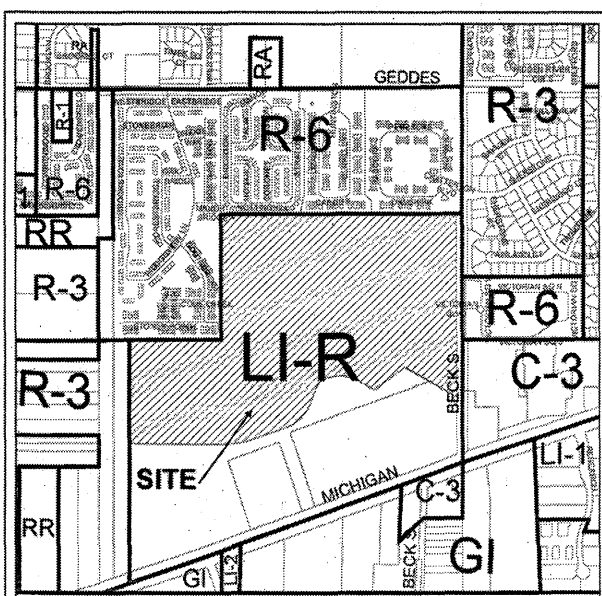
Several students of the Canton-based Kil's Tae Kwon Do School fared well at the National Junior Olympics held earlier this month at Ford Field in downtown Detroit. Pictured (front row from left) are Drake Coy, (middle row from left) Shantanu Madaboosi, Marissa Provine, Vincent Coy, (back row from left) Valentin Najjar, Sarah Walsh, Genna Liu and Grand Master Sang Sup Kil. Medalists not pictured are Ethan Walsh, Tyler Oh and Matthew Armstrong.

PLANNING COMMISSION CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

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

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Michigan Public Act 110 of 2006, of the State of Michigan, as amended, and pursuant to the Zoning Ordinance of the Charter Township of Canton that the Planning Commission of the Charter Township of Canton will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, August 11, 2008, in the First Floor Meeting Room of the Canton Township Administration Building, 1150 S. Canton Center Road at 7:00 p.m. on the following proposed amendment to the Zoning Ordinance:

OAKWOOD CANTON MEDICAL CAMPUS PLANNED DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT (PDD) - (FINAL PLAN) - CONSIDER REQUEST TO ESTABLISH A PDD AS PERMITTED IN SECTION 27.04 OF THE ZONING ORDINANCE INCLUSIVE OF PARCEL NO(S). 125 99 0002 707 (47520 MICHIGAN AVE). Property is located north of Michigan and west of Beck Road.



Oakwood - Canton Medical Campus 125-PDD-043

CREATED BY
CANTON TWP PLANNING SERVICES
1150 S. CANTON CENTER ROAD
CANTON, MI 48106
(734) 953-2108
DATE CREATED
February 16, 2008

Written comments addressed to the Planning Commission should be received at the Canton Township Administration Building, 1150 Canton Center S. prior to Thursday, August 7, 2008 in order to be included in the materials submitted for review.

VIC GUSTAFSON, Chairman

Publish: July 27, 2008

0E08613861-2-8.5

PLANNING COMMISSION CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

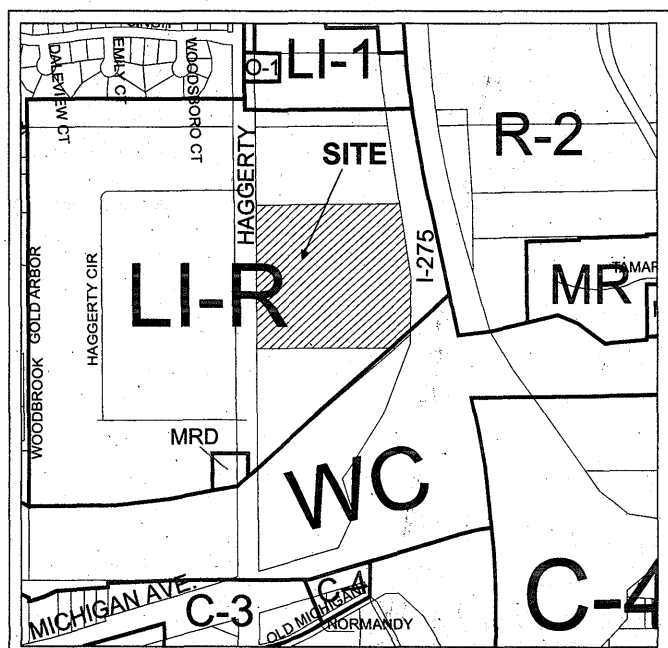
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Michigan Public Act 12 of 2008, of the State of Michigan, as amended, and pursuant to the Zoning Ordinance of the Charter Township of Canton that the Planning Commission of the Charter Township of Canton will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, August 11, 2008 in the First Floor Meeting Room of the Canton Township Administration Building, 1150 S. Canton Center Road at 7:00 p.m. on the following proposed special land use request as provided in Section 27.03 of the Canton Township Zoning Ordinance:

BEAUMONT MEDICAL SPECIAL LAND USE - CONSIDER REQUEST FOR SPECIAL LAND USE APPROVAL FOR A MEDICAL FACILITY AS REQUIRED IN SECTION 21A.02.B.6 FOR PARCEL NO. 099-99-0001-704. Property is located east of Haggerty and North of Michigan Avenue.

Written comments addressed to the Planning Commission should be received at the Canton Township Administration Building, 1150 Canton Center S. prior to Thursday, August 7, 2008 in order to be included in the materials submitted for review.

Vic Gustafson, Chairman

SEE ATTACHED MAP



Beaumont Medical Center 099-SLU-054

CREATED BY
CANTON TWP PLANNING SERVICES
1150 S. CANTON CENTER ROAD
CANTON, MI 48106
(734) 953-2108
DATE CREATED
July 17, 2008

Publish: July 27, 2008

0E08613861-2-8.5

CITY OF PLYMOUTH LEGAL NOTICE STATE PRIMARY ELECTION TUESDAY, AUGUST 5, 2008

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a "State Primary Election" will be held in the City of Plymouth, Wayne County, Michigan, on TUESDAY, AUGUST 5, 2008, from 7:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m., at which time candidates of the Republican, Democratic and Non-Partisan Candidates along with one County Proposal will be voted upon:

- UNITED STATES SENATOR
- UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS - 11th DISTRICT
- REPRESENTATIVES IN STATE LEGISLATURE, 20th DISTRICT
- WAYNE COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY
- WAYNE COUNTY SHERIFF
- WAYNE COUNTY CLERK
- WAYNE COUNTY TREASURER
- WAYNE COUNTY REGISTER OF DEEDS
- WAYNE COUNTY COMMISSIONER, 10th DISTRICT

And in the City of Plymouth:

Delegates to the County Convention

And the following Non-Partisan Candidates:

- Judge of Circuit Court - 3rd Circuit, Non-Incumbent Position, Vote for not more than 3
- Judge of District Court - 35th District, Vote for not more than 1

Also the following Wayne County Proposal will appear on the Primary Ballot:

WAYNE COUNTY PROPOSAL WAYNE COUNTY ZOOLOGICAL AUTHORITY

The Wayne County Zoological Authority was established pursuant to Public Act 49 of 2008, and formed to allow for continuing Zoological services for the students, residents and visitors of the Wayne County. The law allows the Authority to seek authorization from the electors to levy a tax of not more than 0.1 mill (10 cents per \$1,000 of taxable value) on real property and personal property to provide revenue for this purpose. Accordingly, to continue providing zoological services to benefit the residents of the County, shall a 0.1 mill on all taxable property located within the County of Wayne be imposed for a period of ten (10) years, being years 2008 through 2017. It is estimated that if approved and levied, this new millage will generate approximately \$5,299,640.48 in 2008.

Shall this proposal be adopted?

- YES
- NO

Polling Locations for the City of Plymouth are as follows:

- Precinct #1 Plymouth Cultural Center 525 Farmer Street, Plymouth
- Precinct #2 Plymouth Cultural Center 525 Farmer Street, Plymouth
- Precinct #3 Plymouth Cultural Center 525 Farmer Street, Plymouth
- NOTE: (MOVED FROM CENTRAL MIDDLE SCHOOL)
- Precinct #4 Plymouth Cultural Center 525 Farmer Street, Plymouth

Applications for absentee ballots for the City of Plymouth registered voters may be obtained at the City of Plymouth Clerk's Office, 201 S. Main Street, Plymouth, MI, 48170, during regular business hours, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Absentee Ballots will be delivered to qualified absentee voters in person at the Clerk's Office from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., on Saturday, August 2nd, 2008. On Monday, August 4th, qualified voters shall receive their ballots and vote them in the Clerk's Office until 4:00 p.m.

Linda Langmesser, CMC
City Clerk
City of Plymouth

Publish: July 27, 2008

0E0861131-2-10



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Offer valid on new Community Financial checking accounts with eStatements, Direct Deposit and Visa Check Card, that have completed an RSVP Switch Kit. Consumer loan of \$5,000 or more must be opened within 30 days to qualify. See branch for complete details. Offer ends August 30, 2008 and is subject to change. NCUA Your savings federally insured to at least \$100,000 and backed by the full faith and credit of the United States Government. ESU Your savings also privately insured up to an additional \$250,000 by Excess Share Insurance Corporation (ESI). ESI is a subsidiary of American Share Insurance.

0E08612764

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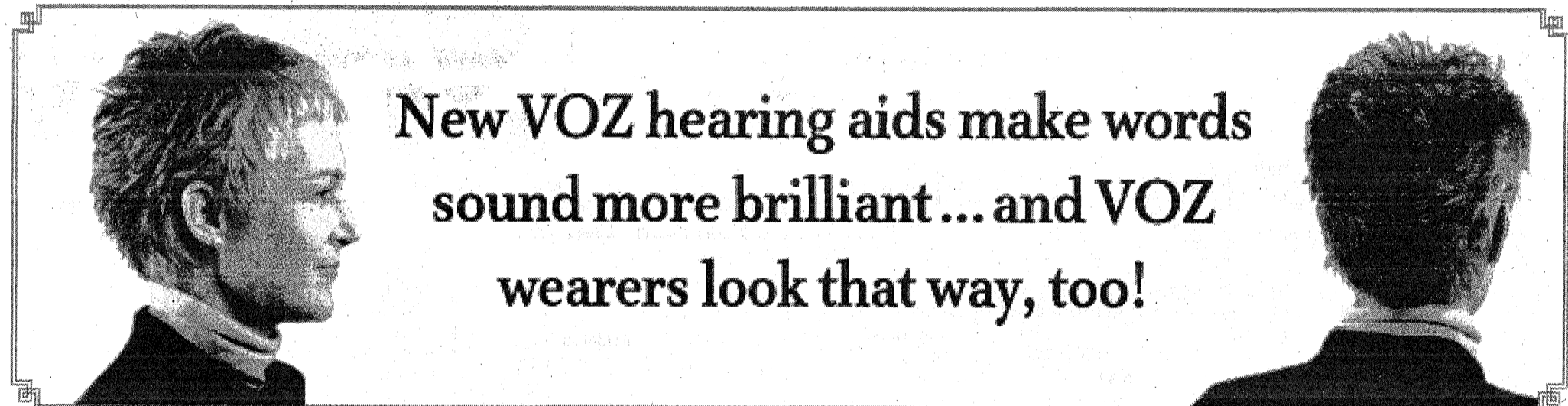
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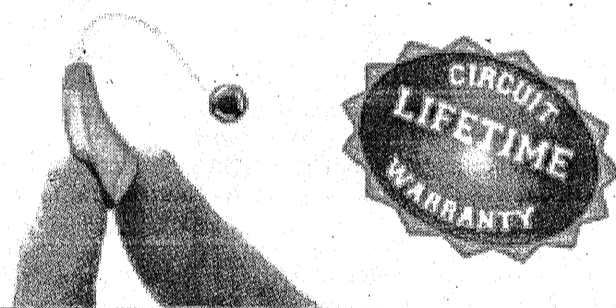
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iPods, cell phones ease travel, but don't forget chargers

Is today Sunday? Feels like a Thursday. (Just joking. My editors forgot to tell me they were moving my column. Why am I always the last to know everything?)

A couple weeks ago I took my family to Chicago for what turned out to be a terrific vacation. One of the highlights was traveling by train, a long (six hours going, five hours returning) but mostly pleasant experience. Cheap, too.

Needless to say, I packed a fair number of gadgets: some for communication, some for navigation, and some for entertainment. Here's how they fared.

I made heavy use of Verizon's LG Voyager phone, which, when I first test-drove it several months ago, I unfairly dismissed as a poor iPhone clone.

The Voyager offers two features I really love: crackerjack GPS navigation and Mobile TV. The latter differs a bit from the streaming video that's long been a staple of Verizon's VCast service: It's live and prerecorded TV shows delivered over the old-fashioned airwaves.

For \$15 monthly, you get instant access to 11 channels, including CBS, NBC, Comedy Central, and Nick. As long as you're in a major metropolitan area, it really is like having a little TV in your phone.

The service worked great in Chicago, and Nick came in mighty handy a few times when the kids were bored and driving us insane.

Alas, Mobile TV is available only on four Verizon models. It's also available on a couple handsets from AT&T, including the LG Vu—an impressive model in its own right.

The Voyager's VZ Navigator also proved invaluable. I often used it to determine the distance from one Chicago attraction to another, so we'd know whether to walk or take a cab.

Lots of phones have rudimentary GPS capabilities, but VZ Navigator (which recently added traffic updates) is in a class by itself. It's well worth \$2.99 for a 24-hour period or \$9.99 monthly.

BOOKS, MOVIES, GAMES

For entertainment I packed an iPod Touch for me and a Creative Zen Vision W for the kids. The latter I stocked with movies downloaded from Vongo and TV shows recorded on a media-center PC.

The iPod Touch was freshly upgraded with Apple's 2.0 software update, which opened the door to hundreds of new programs from the iTunes App Store.

You've probably read about this ad naseum already (as part of the iPhone 3G launch), so I'll just give you some highlights. With the eReader app (the same one I've used on my Palm for years), I was able to read books on my Touch.

I also downloaded the New York Times' eponymous app for more great reading. AOL Radio let me tune into hundreds of Internet radio stations. And killer games like Aurora Feint (free), Bejeweled 2 (\$9.99), and Tap Tap Revenge (free) kept me thoroughly entertained.

Just one problem. The universal travel charger I packed to keep all these gadgets juiced—Callpod's Chargepod—didn't work for the Touch or Zen. I'd brought along their USB cables, but the Chargepod requires special connectors for those devices. D'oh!

Luckily, both players had just enough power to last the trip. And I still like the Chargepod, even if its power wart is disproportionately huge. All told, the right tech gear really can make travel easier and more fun.

Agree? Disagree? Shoot me an e-mail and let's discuss.

Rick Broida writes about computers and technology for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. Broida, of Commerce Township, also writes the Cheapskate blog for CNET (blogs.cnet.com/cheapskate). He welcomes questions sent to rick.broida@gmail.com.



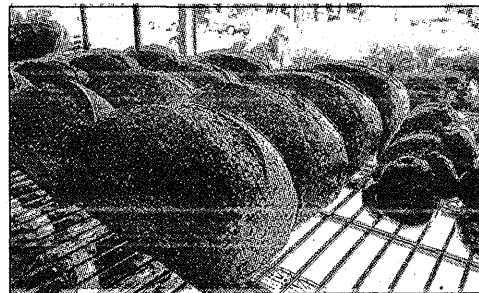
Phones like the AT&T LG Vu (pictured) and Verizon LG Voyager can double as portable TVs thanks to the impressive Mobile TV service, which costs \$15 monthly for unlimited access.



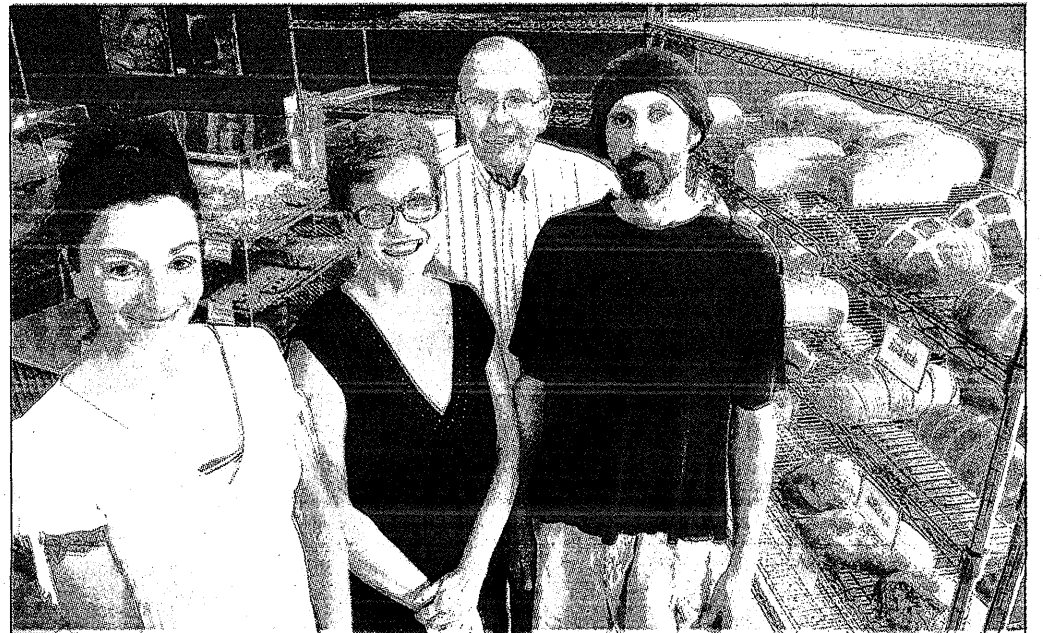
PHOTOS BY TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Jason Lawrence shows off the challah at Boule Artisan Bakery while Natalie Feneck looks on.

ALL IN THE FAMILY



Boule Artisan Bakery offers a variety of breads from French and Italian to whole grain, challah, and specialties like cheese, and fruit and nut.



Natalie Feneck (left), and Jan, Chester and Jason Lawrence are part of the family that keep Boule Artisan Bakery going. Missing is Jason's brother Jared.

Bakery builds on homey atmosphere

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
O&E STAFF WRITER

When Jason Lawrence and Natalie Feneck decided to buy a bakery in Plymouth there was never any discussion about whether family would be involved. Before the doors opened in January 2006, Jason's father Chester Lawrence had painted the back wall while wife Jan and son Jared helped Jason and Natalie clean the space soon to become Boule Artisan Bakery.

Today, they're still working together to make the business a success. Jason and Natalie do the baking, while Jan works behind the counter waiting on customers four days a week. On Saturday mornings she's joined by Chester and Jared who man a booth at the Plymouth Farmer's Market a block away in The Gathering on Penniman.

"We're that kind of family, a hard working together type of family. It's what we do. It's what we've always done," said Jason

BOULE ARTISAN BAKERY

Location: 880 W. Ann Arbor Trail, west of Main Street in downtown Plymouth.

For information: Call (734) 354-6980.

Hours: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday-Friday, and 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday. Plymouth Farmer's Market runs 7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. through the last Saturday in October.

Lawrence. "We all work. We know what it takes."

Some of the Old World-style Boule breads require three days of labor, from growing the yeast to letting the dough rise then baking and cooling on racks. Boule is the French word for round, but the bakery offers breads in all shapes and varieties, from cheese and fruit and nut specialties to multi-grain, rye, Italian, traditional challah, and French. Everything is hand made from scratch including sweet treats like all-butter cookies, scones, boulettes (bits

of croissants tossed with cinnamon and sugar), and croissants with pieces of fruit or chocolate.

"It's a time consuming process," said Natalie.

"It's what bakeries have gotten away from and there's no addition of preservative," said Jason.

"We sell half loaves so the first slice tastes as good as the last," added Natalie. "Sometimes people get half of this loaf, half of that."

Customer service is number one on the family's list of priorities. Natalie, who grew up in Redford and attended Wayne State University, worked in restaurant management in Colorado so she knows what it takes to keep bread lovers coming back. Regulars can receive a free loaf of bread by having a card stamped after each purchase. After 12 loaves, the next one is free.

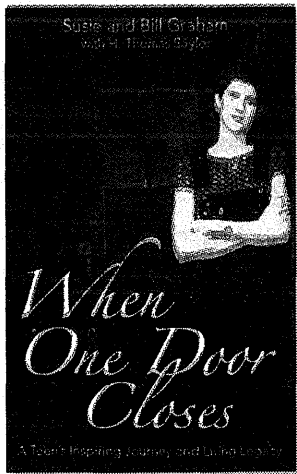
Jason contributes his baking skills to

Please see **BAKERY, C3**

Teen's legacy

Book seeks to inspire readers to live a life that matters

BY SHARON DARGAY
O&E STAFF WRITER



A photo of Alex Graham graces the cover of the book that includes her journal entries as well as the life lessons she taught others during her battle with cancer.

Alexandra Graham inspired those around her every day as she battled cancer from 1997-99.

There was the oncology nurse, who noticed the 17-year-old West Bloomfield girl's spunky attitude and loving concern for others.

There were many friends, who watched their classmate continue to laugh and fearlessly embrace life, despite the loss of a leg and part of a lung.

There were family members, students, medical professionals and others who marvelled at her maturity, positive demeanor and unselfish attitude.

Their recollections tell the story of Alex's journey from diagnosis, through treatment, to the living legacy that has continued after her death, in a book co-written by her parents, Bill and Susie



Bill and Susie Graham talk about their book, 'When One Door Closes: A Teen's Inspiring Journey and Living Legacy,' which was inspired by their late daughter's battle with cancer.

Graham, along with H. Thomas Saylor, a Northville-area writer.

When One Door Closes: A Teen's Inspiring Journey and Living Legacy, will be released Aug. 1 to local book stores, but can be pre-ordered (\$24.95) through www.alexswish.com.

The Grahams plan to donate their portion of proceeds to the Make-A-Wish Foundation. Susie is a Make-A-Wish board member and Bill will ride in the

organization's 300-mile bike tour, July 24-27, as he does every year. Together with Berline Advertising, Make-A-Wish fulfilled Alex's desire for a public service announcement about children with cancer. The PSA, which starred Alex and other young patients, began airing locally at first, and then nationwide, after her death in January 1997.

Please see **BOOK, C4**

BAKERY

FROM PAGE C1

the mix. He originally went to University of Michigan for premed before deciding to go into the food industry. He and Natalie met through a mutual friend and have been together since 1991. The life partners lived in Colorado for several years before moving back to Michigan to be close to family. Jason was a baker for Whole Foods Market in Denver.

Chester Lawrence, a practicing attorney in Dearborn, handled all of the legalities involved with the purchase of the bakery that also produces special orders for weddings, bar mitzvahs, funerals, and Jeff Zaks Catering in Plymouth in addition to baking 300 mini baguettes a day for Air France.

"There's two reasons I do it, to help my family and because my father and mother were in the bar/bowling alley business. I was

always working with people," said Chester Lawrence. "It's all about family being together. Sometimes it's close, but if I didn't work here I wouldn't get to see Natalie and Jason as often as I do."

There's one major reason Jason and Natalie opened the bakery - Jared, Jason's younger brother.

"Ten years ago he was in a bad car accident and had a closed head injury. He's a part owner," said Jason. "We wanted to provide something for him, a more normal work environment. We knew the one place he'd be able to work is to be with family."

It's all about family for Jan as well.

"When they were opening the bakery I said please, please can I help," said Jan. "I wanted to do this so I can help my kids. How many parents have a chance to help their children realize their dreams?"

The business has grown beyond their expectations. Natalie and Jason greatly appreciate the support of the community. Although not directly

involved with the bakery, Natalie is grateful to her parents as well. Sandy and Frank Feneck of Redford, care for the couple's 15-year-old Golden retriever, Bodhi, when they're at work.

"We feel lucky to be in a place like Plymouth," said Natalie. "We want to thank everybody who supported us. It's all been by word of mouth."

"Within three months of opening we could have had a major account but wanted to be a community bakery," said Jason. "There's such a bond in the community. We know 80 percent of their names."

Ila Marsee is a regular customer because of the sweets.

"I like everything," said Marsee of Plymouth. "My husband likes the lemon ginger and raspberry scones. The fruit bread with cherries is just fabulous for breakfast."

Dave Murphy has been coming to Boule at least once a week since the bakery opened. Every Friday he buys an extra loaf to share with someone to spread the word about the bread. He calls it Friendly Fridays.

"We buy maybe three loaves of bread a year elsewhere when desperate because we need to make sandwiches for the kids' lunches and we're out of bread on a Sunday night," said Murphy of Plymouth. "It's just a great quality bread. Jason is always experimenting but not making major changes. My brother up north is jealous. I just visited him and took bread."

The Plymouth Farmer's Market has been responsible for many new customers who later drop by the bakery.

"These are new people coming into town just for flowers and vegetables," said Jason. "They like coming to the market because it's a social thing. They enjoy grabbing a pastry and sitting in the park. They bring their dogs, their kids. It's the old world mentality of buying your food fresh daily."

The bakers of Boule buy their butter and milk fresh from Guernsey Farms Dairy on Novi Road. Even though the price of flour has tripled in the last 18 months, quality ingredients are essential.



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Ila Marsee of Plymouth tries to decide which of the sweets she'll buy at Boule Artisan Bakery. Marsee is a regular customer.

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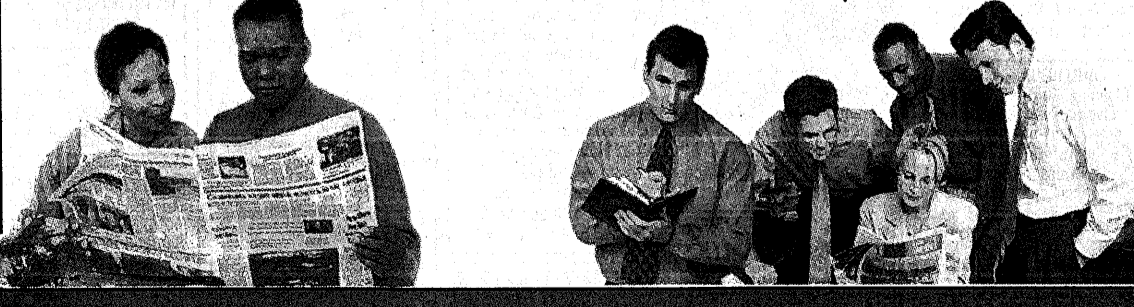
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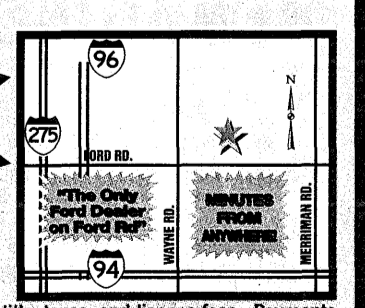
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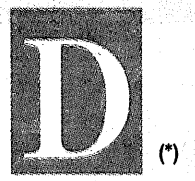
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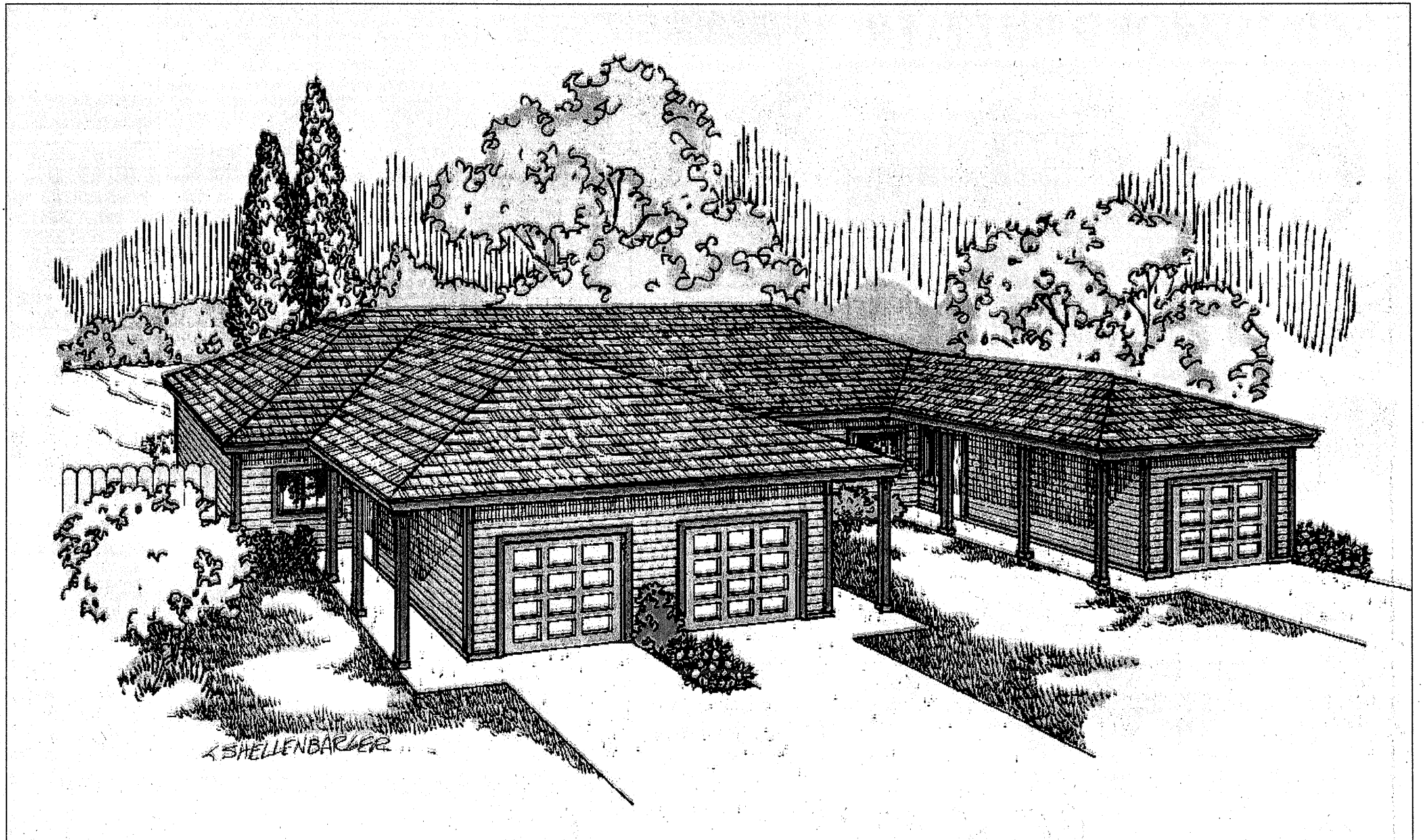


Sunday, July 27, 2008

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

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

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Danyelle's a triplex, but offers features of individual home

Triplexes are becoming extremely popular with landlords, as the cost of construction is less expensive. It also makes sense that there would be extra money with one more residence and would provide more housing. The Danyelle (407-52) has the advantage over a number of tri-plex plans in that each of these units has a single car garage on the front.

The two outside units each have 922 square feet of living space. There are two bedrooms, one of which is the master bedroom. It has a large walk-in closet and its own private sink and toilet.

The living room and the dining room run lengthwise of the modular and can be used as two rooms or incorporated into one great room. Because these units are only two bedrooms, it provides a larger area for use as a living/dining room. It also provides an area off the kitchen for each unit to have its own washer and dryer.

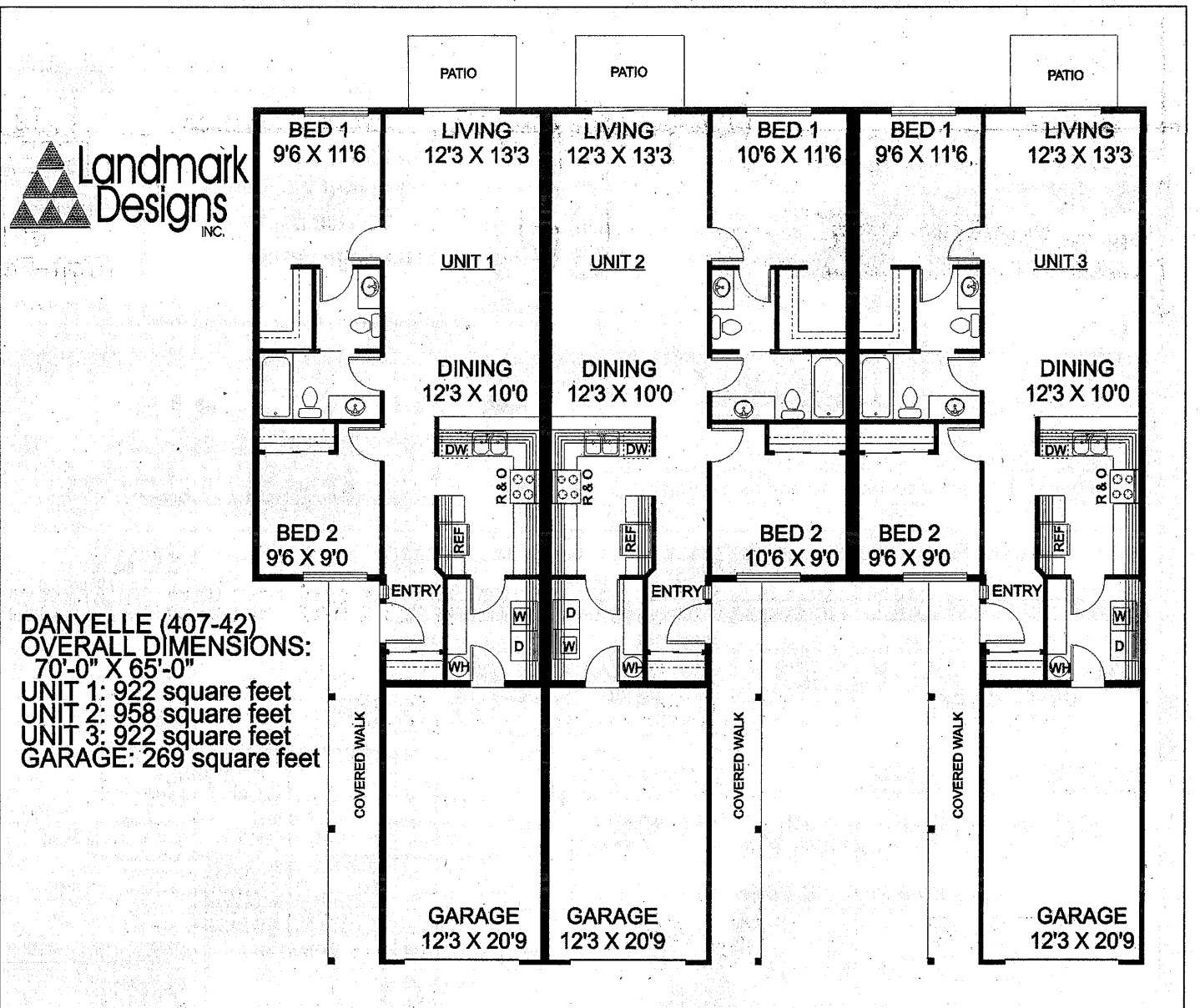
The kitchen has a good amount of counter and cabinet space. There is a walkway completely through the kitchen area into the utility and on into the garage. This makes unloading groceries an easier and dryer task. The utility room contains more cabinets and a long folding table along with the water heater for this unit.

The middle unit is slightly larger than the outer two with 958 square feet. The two bedrooms and the bathrooms are enlarged to provide more space. This unit is laid out opposite of the two outer units. The living/dining room area is on the left with the bedrooms on the right. With this arrangement, it provides an open courtyard effect between the two units that are facing each other.

The two units on the right have the bedrooms back to back with a soundboard between. The middle and left units have a shared living/dining room wall, which also has been designed with soundboard.

These units are ideal for a young couple starting out with only one child or with no children. The units are the size of a small home and have all the amenities that an individual home would have.

For a study plan of the DANYELLE (407-42), send \$15 to Landmark Designs, 33127 Saginaw Rd. E., Cottage Grove, OR 97424 or call (800) 562-1151. Be sure to specify plan name and number. Compact disks, with search functions are free of charge, to help you search our portfolio for your dream home (\$5 shipping and handling will apply). Or you may order or search online at www.ldiplans.com. Save 15 percent on construction plans using the code (LOE48) online, mailing, or calling (800) 562-1151.



BRIEFS

Real Estate Agents, Appraising & Staging

Thinking about a career in real estate? Is working in real estate your dream? Keller Williams Realty is seeking experienced or non-experienced people in the real estate field. The candidates must be hard working and have a passion for learning.

There's a free seminar every week: Tuesday or Saturday, 11 a.m. to noon at 27555 Executive Drive (off West 12 Mile and Halsted), Farmington Hills 48331. For more details, contact Steve Leibhan, (248) 553-0400, Ext. 2500.

Mortgage market

North Star Home Lending will present a seminar series, "Everything you always wanted to know about today's mortgage

market, but were to afraid to ask." In a free 10-part seminar series, North Star Home Lending will present industry leaders to address topics such as: how to qualify for a mortgage; where are home values going; how to lower your property taxes; getting the most out of your home; specialized financing including renovation, investment, and second home purchases

"We have been proud to support our community," said Bruce Rosenblat, president. "We appreciate being able to give back to our communities in this time of confusion. We are strong advocates of professional mortgage banking and unfortunately incorrect information is readily available. We feel that it is important to provide current and potential homeowners the ability speak with and learn

from experts." Each seminar will feature a 60-minute presentation by an industry expert on the high-lighted subject with a 30-minute question and answer period following. Refreshments will be available.

The seminar series kicks off on Thursday, Aug. 7, at the Bingham Farms location with "How To Qualify for a Mortgage" at 7 p.m. and at the Taylor location on Thursday, Aug. 14, with "The Benefits of Government Lending" also at 7 p.m.

The seminar series will continue on the first and second Thursday of each month with a new topic. For additional information and or to RSVP, contact either (248) 594-9300 or (313) 827-0990. North Star Home Lending may also be contacted by e-mail at info@northstar-homelending.com.

BIA

Building Industry Association of Southeastern Michigan's (BIA) NAHBR Professional Remodelers present "Cash In On CAPS" on Wednesday, Aug. 20, from 6-8:30 p.m. at Association Offices, 30375 Northwestern Highway, Farmington Hills. CAPS refers to the Certified Aging-In-Place Specialist designation offered by the National Association of Home Builders and earned by attending specific classes held locally at BIA headquarters.

Bob Johnson, Johnson Building Co., will present topics that relate to CAPS: using CAPS to expand your customer base; evaluating your qualifications to serve aging customers; marketing for jobs; knowing the similarities and differences between ADA and

CAPS; using universal and elegant design; and describing the CAPS certification program.

Registration is \$35 for BIA members. Advance registration required. For registration information, call (248) 862-1008 or register online at www.builders.org.

Building Industry Association of Southeastern Michigan (BIA) will sponsor a Certified Graduate (CG) course, "Building Codes & Standards," on Thursday, Aug. 14, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at BIA Headquarters, 30375 Northwestern Highway, Suite 100 in Farmington Hills.

Chuck Breidenstein, CAPS, of Builders Professional Services will identify the organizations that develop, revise and regulate building codes and standards. Emphasis will

be on state and local building departments, plan review, building permits, inspections, code enforcement and the appeal process.

The course counts toward requirements for National Association of Home Builders designation programs including Certified Graduate Associate (CGA), Certified Graduate Builder (CGB) and Certified Green Professional (CGP). It also counts toward Prelicensure and Continuing Education Competency for the State of Michigan.

Registration fees are \$155 for NAHBR Professional Remodelers, \$175 for BIA or Apartment Association of Michigan members, and \$200 for guests. For registration information, call (248) 862-1033 or register online at www.builders.org.

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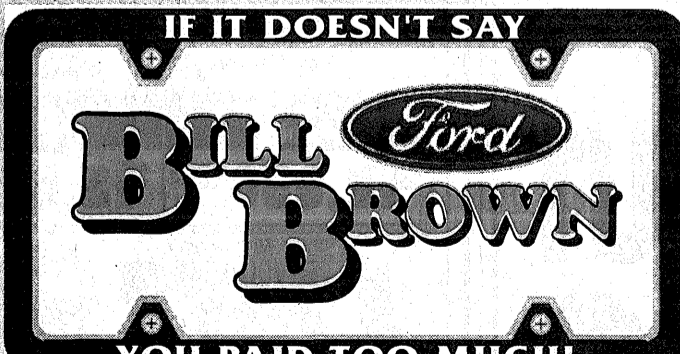
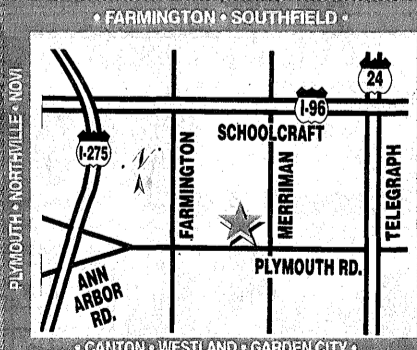
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