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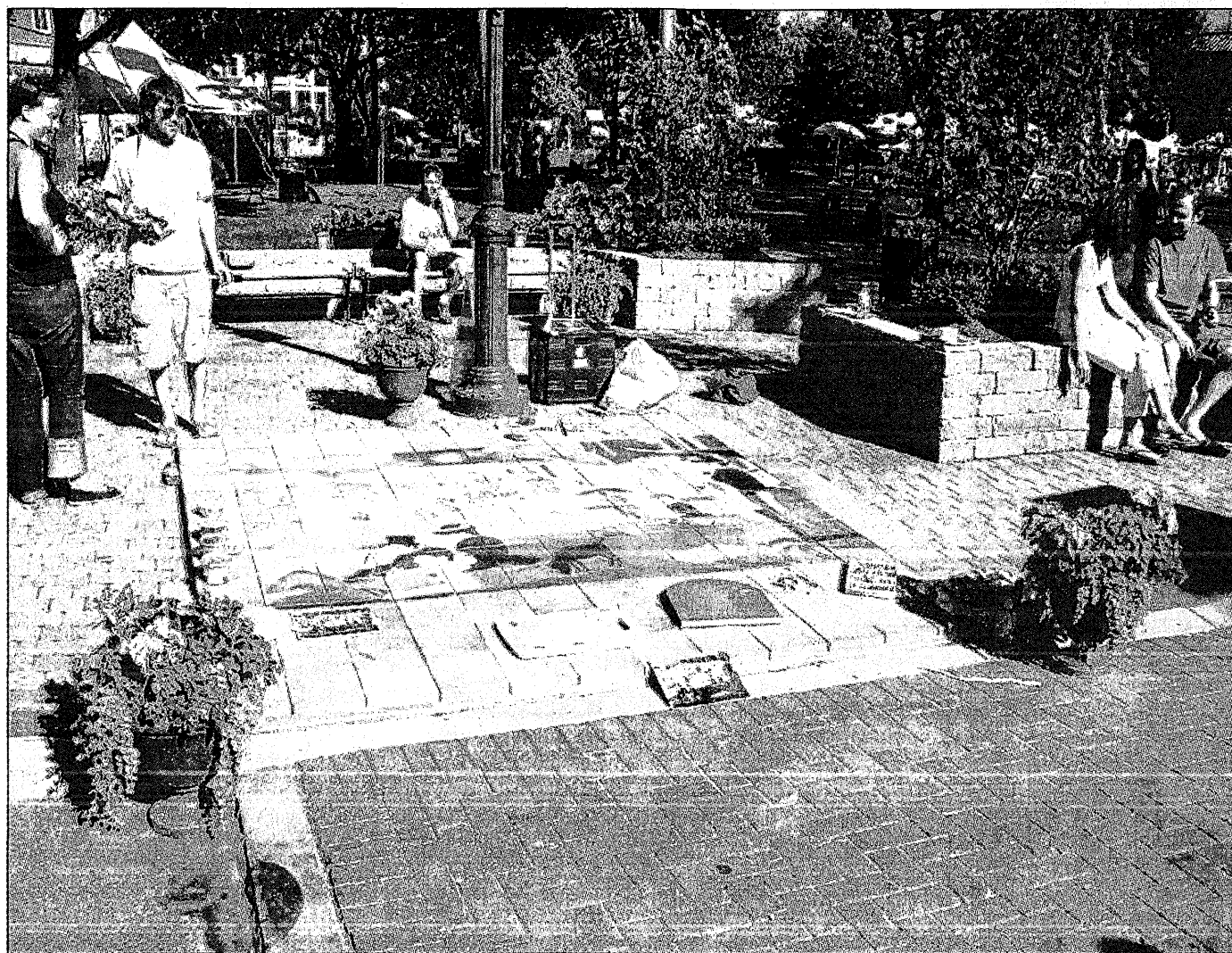


SUNDAY
August 3, 2008

PLYMOUTH Observer

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Dianne Quinn hopes the addition of some landscaping to Kellogg Park will help her "give back" to the city.

Progress marks work on underpass

BY TONY BRUSCATO
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Wayne County officials say there's "more visible evidence" the Sheldon Road underpass project is on its way to completion.

Assistant County Executive Alan Helmkamp said this week has been "a great week" in terms of progress.

"CSX Railroad really stepped up in taking the permanent tracks out of service and putting in temporary tracks," Helmkamp said. "That allows us to mass-excavate the embankment that the permanent tracks were on and start the foundation for the bridge. We'll be pouring cement for the retaining walls, and paving should start on the north and south end of the road within the next few weeks."

The underpass project — which has been on the drawing board since 1999 and has almost doubled in cost to about \$15 million — is scheduled to be completed in December.

The closing of Sheldon Road for almost two years has caused a number of businesses, which have already been hurt by an economic downturn, to lose customers and profits. A manager at Caribou Coffee, located in what is commonly known as the Busch's strip mall at Five Mile and Sheldon, said business is still very slow because of construction.

"Our mornings aren't as good as they used to be because many people are not coming this way on their way to work," said the manager, who asked not to be identified. "We're still getting our industrial (park) customers during the week, but our late evenings and weekends are hurting."

Helmkamp said he still has his fingers crossed the project will be completed by the end of the year.

"I'm feeling pretty good about things," he said. "As the bridge construction starts, people will see dramatic progress."

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Pretty in park

Landscaping designed to spruce up Kellogg Park

BY TONY BRUSCATO
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Dianne Quinn, perhaps best known for organizing the annual Art in the Park festival in downtown Plymouth, said she's looking to give back to the city that's been home to her nationally renowned art fair the past 29 years.

Quinn said the perfect idea came after numerous compliments about the creation by Michigan Landscape Design of Plymouth, which was set in Kellogg Park for the three-day event.

"We had this gorgeous landscaping and everyone loved it ... and I thought that landscaping could become a permanent part of the park," Quinn said. "With our 30th Art in the Park coming up next year, I was thinking about what I could do to give back. This would be a perfect addition."



Organizers envision three 'modules' of two planters and a short knee wall on the Main Street side of Kellogg Park, at a cost of some \$12,000.

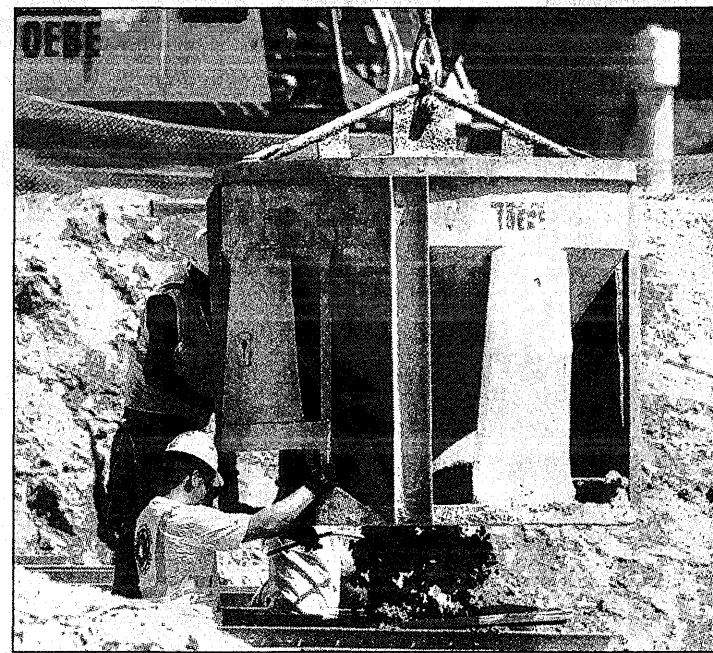
Jeremy Christianson of Plymouth, owner of Michigan Landscape Design, said he envisions three "modules" of two planters and a short knee wall on the Main Street side of Kellogg Park.

"It will create structure at the park, which could be used as an enhancement along Ann Arbor Trail, Penniman and Main Street to draw people and make

them want to stick around," Christianson said. "We don't want to close in the park or block traffic flow, just enhance it ... to fit in the surrounding development so it looks like it's always been there."

Christianson said the cost for the three additions would be approximately \$12,000. Quinn has already received more than half of that with seven \$1,000 donations.

"Clearly, it's a very beautiful setting and we're excited about the possibilities," said City Manager Paul Sincock, who noted he'll be seeking input from city officials and the Downtown Development Authority. "Any time you change the streetscape, or add or take things out of the park, you have to look at the big picture ... maintenance issues, future costs of the design, those kinds of things. Certainly, it was an exciting view during Art in the Park."



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Concrete is poured on Friday morning as workers lay temporary track at the Sheldon Road underpass construction site.

Township hopefuls take varied spending approaches

BY BRAD KADRICH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Campaign spending generally provides an interesting sidelight to any political campaign, and it seems to do just that in the Plymouth Township election, particularly in the race for supervisor.

The four candidates in Tuesday's Republican primary are each taking different approaches when it comes to spending, according to campaign finance reports required by the Michigan Secretary of State.

As of July 20, the last reporting date required, one candidate had spent all her money, the incumbent had outspent

Please see **SPENDING, A3**

Partners asking for school supplies

BY TONY BRUSCATO
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The Plymouth Salvation Army Corps is asking Plymouth-Canton and Van Buren school district residents to drive the bus in helping struggling families before the start of the school year.

The partnership is hoping to fill an entire school bus with school supplies to help families in need.

From 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Friday, Aug. 22, volunteers will be on hand at The Salvation Army

church and community center at 9451 S. Main to accept donations of pens, paper, crayons, backpacks and other supplies needed to start the school year. The supplies will then be sorted and packed into backpacks for distribution to families a week later.

"These hard economic times are squeezing parents on every front," said Major Jim Irvine, pastor and corps officer at The Salvation Army Plymouth Corps. "The Salvation Army is seeing the outcome of those realities every day as parents turn to us for help. We're glad to partner

with the Plymouth-Canton and Van Buren public school systems to ensure students have the basic supplies needed to start the school year without need or embarrassment."

Plymouth-Canton school officials, who have noticed increased usage of the district's Clothing Bank, aren't surprised by the increasing need for school supplies.

"There isn't any question we're seeing more and more families who are struggling," said Frank Ruggirello, director of community relations for

Plymouth-Canton Schools. "The district has always had a relationship with the Salvation Army, and we're working with them to define the needs of the community and help meet those needs."

Laurie Aren, the Plymouth Corps' director of family and community ministries, said the number of people asking for help before the start of school is certain to top last year's 36 families for a total of 113 students.

For more information, call the Plymouth Salvation Army Corps at (734) 453-5464.

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Coming Thursday in filter



West Bloomfield High grad Brandon T. Jackson stars alongside Ben Stiller and Jack Black in the upcoming comedy 'Tropic Thunder.'

"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

Couch Potato to 5K racer

A new, free weekly running group starts Aug. 3 at 8 a.m. in downtown Plymouth.

Jaime White, owner of Core Sport Pilates studio in downtown Plymouth, is committed to helping her clients, and her community, develop healthy lifestyles. White trained in New York and then taught in Philadelphia before opening her own studio in downtown Plymouth.

She sees a lot of her clients and others who need motivation to create a more active lifestyle. She organized Family Fun Fitness activities in Kellogg Park as part of the Kidpalooza event on Aug. 2 and is following that up Aug. 3 with the New Free Weekly Running group which will meet at the Core Sport Pilates studio at 829 Penniman Ave., take a run, and then finish by stretching out together.

"It should take 45 minutes from start to finish," White said, "We will follow the Couch

2 5K training program. It is a program designed to get beginner runners, men and woman, off the couch and running a 5K in nine weeks."

For more information, follow this link: http://www.coolrunning.com/engine/2/2_3/181.shtml.

If you have any other questions or to RSVP, e-mail core-sportinfo@yahoo.com or call Jaime White, (734) 233-5268.

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 communi-

ties. Monthly meetings will be held the first Thursday of the month at 9:45am 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.

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 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.

Literary arts class

Literary Arts Class For Children - Embark On A Creative Writing Journey

Poet and photographer Cheryl A. Vatcher-Martin of Canton offers a Literary Arts Class for Children noon-1 p.m., Aug. 4-7, at the Tinkham Center off Venoy Road in Westland.

The class is designed to live up your story telling skills by writing in your journal, learn about new ways to describe things so that all of your stories and haiku will be cool to write and fun to share with others.

Call (734) 419-2426 to register. Anyone wishing to speak first to Martin can e-mail her at peroinc5@comcast.net or call (734) 397-1626.

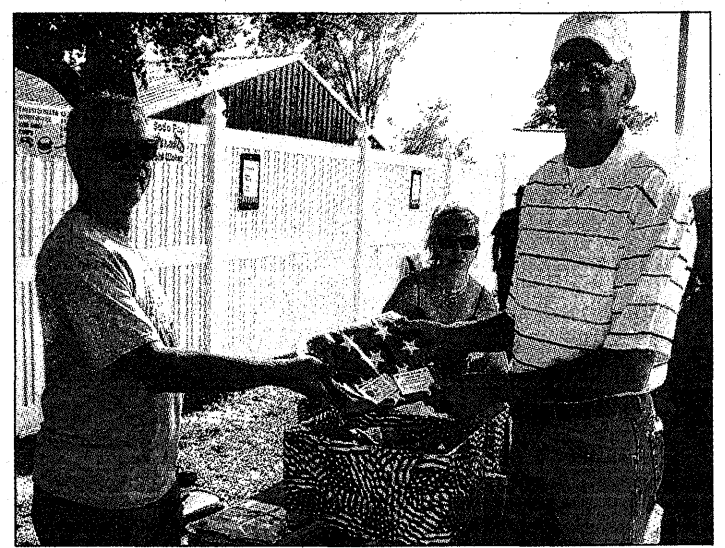
Citizen police academy

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



Exchanging of the flag

Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 528 Plymouth/Canton member Darrell Basman (left) presents a new flag to Tim Curtis, who traded in his worn out flag last week. Chapter 528, along with Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6695, are exchanging brand new American flags for flags that need to be retired. They will be at Cruzin' 528, the weekly car show the veterans host at VFW Post 6695 on Mill Street on Wednesdays from 5-8 p.m. Those interested should bring in the old 3x5 flag and trade it in for a new American made flag for free until the first 100 are gone. Also, the veterans group will be collecting cell phones and accessories in conjunction with Lynn Dery from RE/MAX CLASSIC in Canton. Each cell phone or other accessory will be turned into an hour calling card to be used by our troops deployed overseas. The post, located at 1426 S. Mill in Plymouth, will be a collection point through the first Wednesday in September. For more information about either program, call Gary Bear at (734) 459-6700.

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.

Summer movie series

The Penn Theatre hosts the "Summer Cinema Matinee

Series," through the end of August, with free passes available at Michigan Made & More and Westchester Barber Shop.

Sponsored by the Packaging Corporation of America and the Plymouth District Library, the schedule includes: Aug. 7, *Life Begins for Andy Hardy*; Aug. 14, *The Yearling*; Aug. 21, *Swiss Family Robinson*; Aug. 28, *The Muppet Movie*.

Showtimes are 1 p.m. and 7 p.m.; the box office opens 30 minutes before each showing; all seats \$3. The Penn Theatre is located at 760 Penniman in downtown Plymouth. For more information visit the theater's Web site at www.penntheatre.com or call (734) 453-0870.

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CORRECTION

A letter to the editor in the July 31 *Observer* said Plymouth resident Kurt Heise is "a key supporter of Carl Berry and officer for the 11th Congressional Republicans." Mr. Heise called the *Observer* to point out neither of those things is true.

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City moves Central precinct in Cultural Center shift

BY TONY BRUSCATO
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Beginning with Tuesday's primary election, all registered voters in the city of Plymouth will cast ballots at the Cultural Center.

City Clerk Linda Langmesser said access and security issues helped forge the decision to move Precinct 3 from Central Middle School to the Cultural Center, which already housed precincts 1, 2 and 4.

"We had some climate control issues at Central, it was either too hot or too cold," said Langmesser. "And, people needing handicap access to the building had to walk around to the front entrance and go all through the school to get to the annex gym.

"Also, the lighting in the parking lot wasn't really good, so it also became a security issue," she said. "It just wasn't voter friendly."

Just like the concerns of Plymouth Township Clerk Marilyn Massengil, Langmesser is warning voters the Aug. 5 primary ballot is confusing and can lead to spoiled ballots.

"Voters need to realize they can't split their ticket when voting for Democrats and Republicans, and when they turn it over to complete the ballot to be cognizant of the party selection," Langmesser said. "If they don't their ballot will be spoiled."

Langmesser said several voters have already exchanged their spoiled absentee ballots

for a new ballot at City Hall. However, even if voters have already mailed in their absentee ballots and now realize they spoiled it by voting incorrectly, Langmesser said a new ballot can still be issued.

"If they realize they made a mistake, they can come to my office and check to see if their absentee ballot is spoiled," said Langmesser. "If it is, we can issue them a new ballot. As long as the absentee ballot hasn't been given to the absent voter counting board at 9 a.m. Tuesday, they can get a new ballot."

Langmesser is predicting that 20 percent of Plymouth's 6,896 registered voters will cast ballots in Tuesday's primary.

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SPENDING

FROM PAGE A1

his most ardent challenger by more than 2-to-1, and one candidate decided she'd spend very little money at all.

As of July 20, incumbent Supervisor Richard Reaume had collected \$14,680 and spent more than \$9,300 of it. He still had more than \$5,300 in the bank.

Plymouth-Canton school board Trustee Dianne Gonzalez, the most outspoken challenger to Reaume, had spent more than \$4,300 of the \$10,982 she'd reported collecting.

Meanwhile, K.C. Mueller, a Realtor and former Plymouth Township trustee, reported she'd spent all of the nearly \$5,900 she'd collected.

Mueller's campaign, meanwhile, was buoyed this week by the announcement the Western Wayne Oakland County Association of Realtors had endorsed her.

Marilyn Massengil, the long-time Plymouth Township clerk running for supervisor, filed paperwork saying she planned on spending less than \$1,000.

Spending in the clerk's race was equally interesting. Political newcomer Mary Ann Prchlik had nearly doubled the spending of Deputy Clerk Joe Bridgman, according to reports both filed with Wayne County. Unfortunately for Prchlik, Bridgman had collected nearly twice as much in contributions.

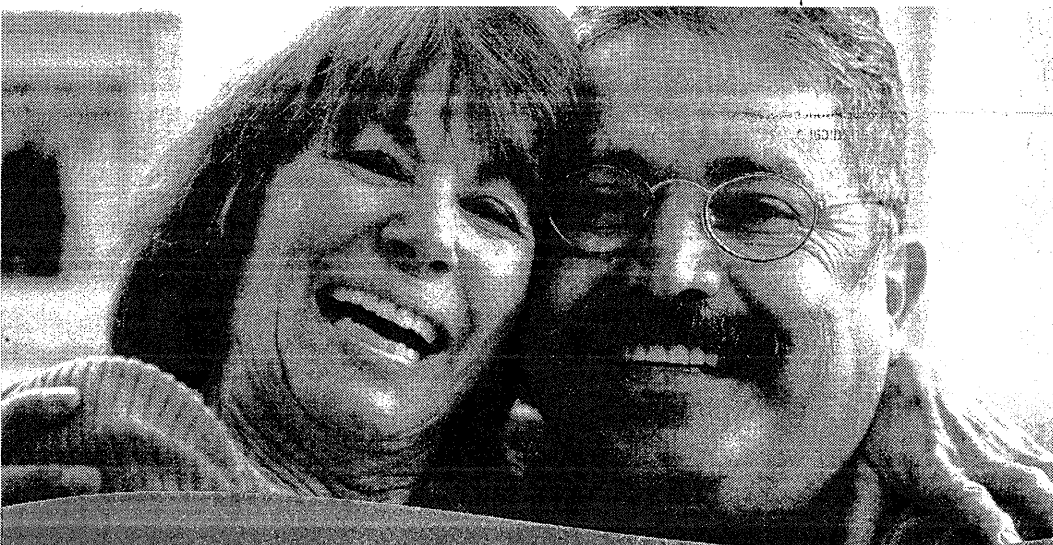
As of July 20, according to their reports, Bridgman had collected \$6,900 and spent \$6,593. Prchlik, meanwhile,

had spent more than \$14,000, but only listed some \$3,200 in contributions.

In the race for four trustee seats, the incumbents — Steve Mann, Bob Doroshewitz and Kay Arnold — led the way in contributions as of July 20. Mann had collected some \$4,000 and spent \$2,600; Doroshewitz had spent \$3,000 of his \$3,300 balance; and Arnold had collected \$3,600, but spent only slightly more than \$1,600.

Former township police chief Carl Berry reported nearly \$2,900 in contributions and \$2,600 in expenditures. Township resident Michael Kelly, seeking his first elective office, told the state he'd spend less than the \$1,000 limit that triggers the requirement for a report.

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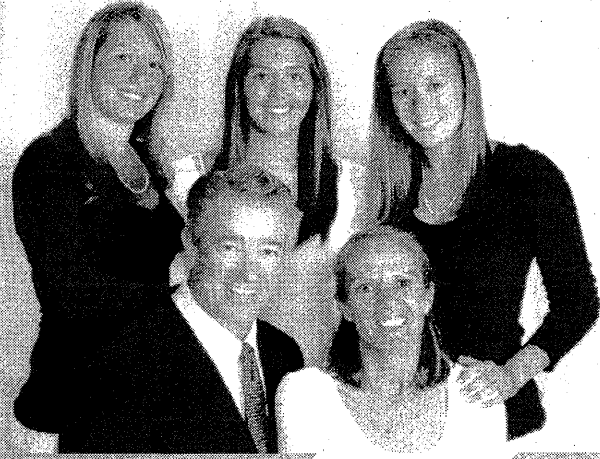
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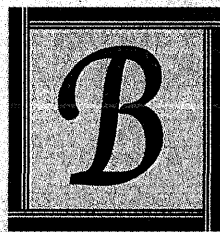
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PAH-fest honors Livonia team's 6-minute film

The second annual Project Accessible Hollywood (PAH-fest) Motown '08 has come to a close after a week of events, contests, filmmaking, and concerts. Area artists stepped into the limelight as their stories were showcased during an awards ceremony at Madonna University's Kresge Hall, on Sunday, July 20. The ceremony, featuring movie-viewing, awards and celebration, was hosted by WXYZ Channel 7's Dennis Neubacher.

The main event at PAH-fest is Mobi-Flicks, a competition where participants create and produce a six-minute film in four days. This highly anticipated award - \$1,000 cash and a digital recorder - went to a team of Livonia residents: Christina Harris, Ryan Brown, Ashley Harris, Matthew McFerris, Susan Knighton, and Madonna instructor Chuck Derry (coach). Their film, entitled 'Espranza,' told the story of Detroit's Angela Reyes, founder of the Detroit Hispanic Development Corporation (DHDC), which provides a fun, safe environment for local youth.

PAH-fest creator Christopher Coppola was so inspired by the creativity and enthusiasm of the children involved with Circus Vision, a PAH-fest event that took place near Hart Plaza, he made an unscheduled visit to the DHDC so the children there could participate in Cell Phone Art, which had been scheduled to take place at Madonna's campus in Livonia only.

The other competitions that took place throughout the festival were: DigiPortraits, two-minute portrait shot with a cell phone; Circus Vision, a smart phone digital treasure hunt for kids 14 and younger; Cell Phone Art, one-minute movie on a cell phone; Cellular Tone Poems, images that visually express an original musical composition are recorded using a cell phone.

The awards ceremony recognized creative minds of all ages and from all walks of life. Rozell Clay of Detroit won the Circus Vision contest, receiving \$100. Mary Fairgrieve took home a \$250 prize for her Cell Phone Art entry. Nancy Boyd, 13, and Megan Griesbeck, 12, from Highland Township, won the DigiPortrait competition and also received a \$250 cash prize. Detroit resident, Lisa Dorrrough, was awarded a digital recorder for her Tone Poem.

Coppola, who officially has become a member of the Madonna broadcast and cinema arts faculty, presented the University with the first Spirit of PAH award, for its enthusiasm and dedication to helping make Hollywood accessible to all. In receiving this award, Madonna University sets the bar for all other PAH-Fest hosts around the world.

The second annual PAH-fest Motown took place throughout the week of July 14-20 at Madonna University's main campus in Livonia, as well as in Detroit. The free, digital media festival travels to cities throughout the U.S. and internationally, giving people of all walks of life a chance to tell their stories through movies. PAH-fest is the brainchild of Christopher Coppola, nephew of director Francis Ford Coppola and brother to actor Nicholas Cage.

Coppola was at the main campus of Madonna University (www.madonna.edu) at 1-96 and Levan Road in Livonia, throughout the festival. The University also has centers in Southwest Detroit, Orchard Lake and Gaylor.



PAH-Fest award winners, left to right: Chuck Derry (coach) Susan Knighton, Matthew McFerris, Ashley Harris, Ryan Brown, Christina Harris and, PAH-fest organizer Christopher Coppola.

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Poison ivy is bigger and badder than ever

First: an annoying little itch. More likely than not, you pay no attention. Next, tiny blisters appear. And if you are not particularly sensitive, that may be all that happens. But for many Oakland County residents, itching intensifies, your skin may become inflamed and fluid filled oozing rashes become unbearable and sink summer fun. You scream out "Benadryl" and race for the dermatologist. Your misery lasts for weeks. You are just one more victim of an extreme case of rhus dermatitis. Poison ivy got you good!

And it is not your imagination that poison ivy of today is bigger and badder than back in



On Nature
Jonathan Schechter

the days when granny would strip you down after your backwoods romp, sponge you with that rough bar of laundry soap and leave you to soak in an oatmeal bath. Studies are confirming what some scientists were suspecting. Rising levels of carbon dioxide are producing more potent, more vigorous poison ivy. And that is not good news if you are part of the 85 percent of the popu-

lation that is sensitive to this plant.

If all you know about poison ivy is the old adage, "Leaflets three, let it be," the summer of '08 may be your downfall. Many plants have three leaves; one of my favorites is wild strawberry.

And poison ivy takes on many different forms. Poison ivy can be found on the ground, but it also takes on thick bushy forms in open fields. In woodlands and along park trails it is often an enormous high climbing vine thick as your arm. And from that vine monstrosity large face-slapping leaves reach out on branches five or six feet long.

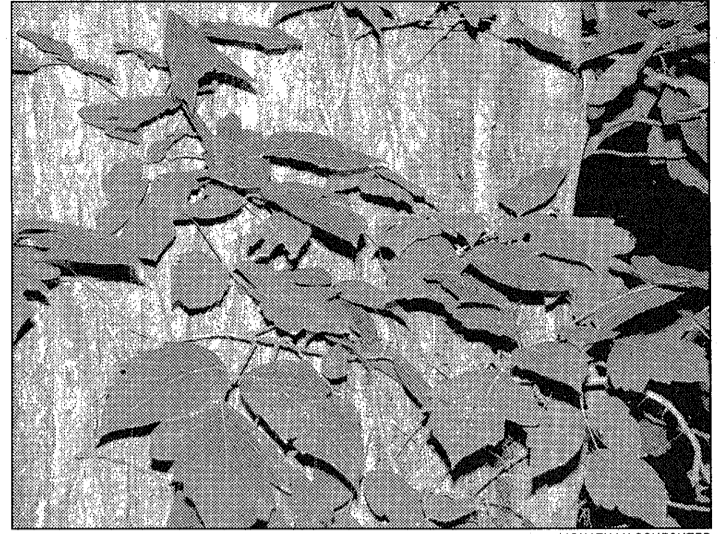
I think back to the worst case of poison ivy I ever saw. It was an area fire chief about 15 years ago. You had to feel for that guy, for after his exposure his face looked like the Pillsbury Doughboy with sunburn and measles. He was one miserable guy.

But a few days later I cut fire wood and failed to notice a poison ivy vine clinging to a log. It rubbed against my bare belly as I hauled wood resulting in a

raging rash of misery that also appeared in locations where the sun never shines. I still remember the look of puzzlement on my doctor's face, "You got this how?"

Here's the hard facts. Urushiol is the active ingredient in poison ivy. No one is immune. Sensitivity varies and an allergic reaction is usually only a matter of time. Urushiol can retain potency for up to five years on dead vines and hand tools. And if your dog romped through a poison ivy patch today and you stoke his fur tonight, that annoying little itch may join you tomorrow. And as many wildlands firefighters have discovered this fire season the oil readily bonds to smoke particles and cause serious skin and lung irritation.

Avoidance is the best prevention, but we've progressed a long way from the days of "Where's that pink lotion?" Many lineman and forestry workers use both pre-contact and after-contact lotions. Now for my true testimonial. Last summer while backpacking on a sweltering day in Ohio's



Face-slapping high poison ivy vines cling to tree trunks in the Ortonville State Recreation Area.

Zaleski State Forest my trail partner and I suddenly discovered we were entering a kingdom of poison ivy of all shapes and forms.

With no turning back, it was time. We rubbed on "IvyX Pre-contact Towelettes" (www.forestrysuppliers.com) and plodded on past potent ankle-embracing, leg-hugging, face-slapping, urushiol-oozing ivy leaves.

And after making camp we slathered on a post-exposure cleanser: Technu (tecnue-

treme.com). Two days later back in Michigan the only rash I had hatched from other summer wonders: mosquitoes and stinging nettle. My summer day pack now contains both pre- and post-exposure towelettes along with the usual compass, matches and mini-tarp.

Jonathan Schechter writes on nature's way and is certified in Advanced Wilderness Life Support by the Wilderness Medical Society. Reach him at oaknature@aol.com.

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Skipping tax payment can cause problems with IRS

Q: Dear Rick: I currently pay a quarterly tax estimate and would like to know if skipping a payment and then doubling up on a subsequent payment will cause me

penalties or other problems? **A:** Unfortunately, if you miss a quarterly payment it can cause you problems with the Internal Revenue Service. Under tax laws, in order to avoid a penalty you have to make four installments. If any of the installments is paid late, interest is charged. Interest is determined by the number of days the payment

is late. In addition, although it is rare, the IRS can also assess you with a penalty for a late payment. The 2008 due dates for taxpayers required to pay quarterly are April 15, June 16, Sept. 15 and Jan. 15, 2009. If you miss an estimated tax payment, there is a possibility the penalty can be waived. Form 2210 is the form that would file with your 2008 tax returns to take advantage of one of the exceptions to the rule. **Q:** What is your opinion on the Westcore Plus Bond as opposed to bank CDs? Is the difference in yield worth investing in this bond fund? **A:** I like the Westcore Plus Bond Fund and I believe it is a very good bond fund to have in your portfolio. However, it is a different type of investment

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than a bank CD. The Westcore Plus Bond Fund is an intermediate term, investment grade bond fund. The fund typically invests in very secure corporate and government obligations. In fact, more than half the funds in the portfolio are rated AAA.

The fund has also had a very solid long-term track record and is one I use in many portfolios that I manage. The fund is rate five-star fund by Morningstar and has very low expenses. It is no-load, which means it can be purchased without having to pay any commission. Although I recommend it, it is different from a bank CD.

The bank CD is insured up to \$100,000. The Westcore Plus Bond Fund is not government-insured. The other difference is there is no market fluctuation in a CD. The principal of your investment cannot go down.

The Westcore Plus Bond Fund, like all bond funds, has market volatility. In bond funds, if interest rates go up, the value of the bond fund goes down. If interest rates decline, the value of the bond fund rises.

Advantages of a bond fund are the yield (currently, the yield of the Westcore Plus Bond Fund is higher than the return on CDs) and greater flexibility than in a CD. In a CD, you're locking your money up for a period of time, where in a bond fund you have access to your money penalty-free.

If you consider yourself a very conservative investor, I recommend the CD over the bond fund. However, if you are conservatively moderate or above and do not mind principal fluctuation, the Westcore Plus Bond Fund is an excellent investment.

One note for CD investors. If you buy a CD at a bank, make sure to shop around. Consider Michigan banks, Internet banks and out-of-state banks. After all, the money is federally insured and if you can make a few extra dollars on your money, why not?

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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13 candidates vie for county treasurer

Nine candidates have filed to run against incumbent Wayne County Treasurer Raymond Wojtowicz in the Aug. 5 Democratic primary. Two Republicans are seeking the GOP nomination. The county treasurer serves a four-year term. The position pays \$128,768 a year. All candidates were asked to respond to an online questionnaire by Gannett Newspapers in Michigan for our online voter guide. Three Democrats, Wojtowicz,

County Commissioner Philip Cavanagh and Beverly Kindle-Walker and two Republicans, former county auditor Brenden Dunleavy and Timberly Robinson responded. Kevin Kelly of Grosse Ile, Thomas Marciniak of Plymouth, Robert John Nozicka of Dearborn, Brian O'Donnell of Dearborn, Catherine O'Meara of Grosse Pointe Farms, Sigmunt John Szczepkowski of Riverview, Keith Windham of Detroit,

and Linda Kay Zebrowski of Garden City did not respond to the questionnaire. These are the responses of the Republican candidates to the questionnaire. Answers from the Democratic candidates who responded ran in Thursday paper. For responses in this and other contests, go to the Voter Guide at www.hometownlife.com.

Foreclosure process is major issue

What makes you the most qualified to hold this position?

As Wayne County Auditor General, I have reviewed the operations of the Wayne County Treasurer's Office and I can tell you what's right and what's wrong with the current operation, and because I am not "beholding" to current politicians or contractors, I can provide innovative solutions. **What are the two most important issues facing the office you are running for, and how would you address them?**

1. Property Foreclose Process
2. Dwindling County Revenue and Investments. I would meet with legislators in Lansing to amend current laws governing delinquent property taxes. I would work with city officials countywide to establish specific policy or procedures to maintain and physically safeguard properties held in the county's name.

As the number of properties foreclosed and/or owned by the county increases, it is imperative that controls are developed to safeguard and maintain properties. To assure that all appropriate process and procedures are followed with respect to county investments.

I would make informed, impartial recommendations regarding the investment and management of county funds to insure the largest yield possible with the least amount of risk. The appointment of honest, competent and qualified deputies and staff will be one of my first priorities in assure that all the functions of the office are performed properly and timely. **Just a few, quick, personal trivia questions: What was the last book you read?**

BRENDEAN DUNLEAVY



Party: Republican
Age: 48
Marital Status: Married to Eileen M. Dunleavy

Family: Kathleen 18, Colleen 16, Brendan 15, Maura 14, Molly 12
City/Town: Plymouth Township
Education/Degrees: B.A. Accounting, Michigan State University, Masters of Science-Finance, Walsh College
Occupation: Senior Financial Advisor
Experience: EXPERIENCE October 2004 to Present-- Michigan Financial Companies, Southfield Michigan, Senior Financial Advisor. September 1997 to September 2004 -- Wayne County, Wayne County Auditor General, Detroit Michigan July 1991 to September 1997 -- Wayne County, Wayne County Auditor General, Detroit Michigan October 1984 to July 1991 -- Ernst & Young, Audit Manager, Detroit Michigan June 1983 to October 1984 -- Star Line Corporation, Williamston, Michigan
Community Involvement: Active member of Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish, Plymouth Michigan.

Passion is to see neighborhoods restored

What makes you the most qualified to hold this position?

I have worked for Wayne County for five years and understand the diverse needs of the communities. Individuals who have not spent much time driving from Belleville to River Rouge then to Hamtramck might not spend too much time thinking about accessibility of services. My diverse background has given me experience working with local and federal government in addition to experience in the private sector.

I will be able to oversee operations effectively because I have performed responsibilities in human resources, information systems, vendor payments, finance and organizational operations. My passion is to see neighborhoods restored. It's not just a dream, it must be a reality or the quality of life for our residents will diminish. **What are the two most important issues facing the office you are**

running for, and how would you address them?

Improving Customer Service is essential.

I will analyze current operations to determine a method for adding evening hours because it's difficult for residents to conduct business between the hours of 8-4:30 p.m. Providing "Wayne County Tax 101" workshops will be implemented with the assistance of educators and the business community.

My goal is for every high school student to understand how taxes should be incorporated into budgets while considering whether or not a house is affordable. I want the County Treasurer's Office to launch some of these workshops at large corporations like DMC, Oakwood, Henry Ford and factories during "Brown Bag" lunches. Protecting homeownership is a top priority. Meet with city leaders

TIMBERLY ROBINSON



Party: Republican

Age: 41

Marital Status: Single no children

Family: Mother, 2 brothers

City/Town: Detroit

Education/Degrees: BS, Biology, Wayne State University, MBA, e-Business, Davenport University
Occupation: Project Coordinator (WSU) services in support of Perinatology Research Branch/National Institutes of Health/ Eunice Kennedy Shiver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NIH/NICHD)

Experience: WSU (2003 - present), Risk Management Consultant, DPS (2002-03), Wayne County (1997 - 2002), Human Resources, Detroit Newspapers (1995 -1997)

and university professors who specialize in acquiring funds to address social and urban development issues. As a collective body, more resources may be available. **Just a few, quick, personal trivia questions: What was the last book you read?**

I'm actually reading "Never

Again" by John Ashcroft. **What is the best movie you've seen in the last 12 months?**

Ironman is at the top of my list. I loved the cast. A well written script that had a social message. The action scenes were fun and the ending definitely made me want to see a part two.

Baseball writer wins Michigan Author Award

Tom Stanton, author of award-winning books on baseball and American life, has been awarded the 2008 Michigan Author Award.

Sponsored jointly by the Michigan Center for the Book (a program of the Library of Michigan) and the Michigan Library Association, this annual award honors a Michigan writer for his or her contributions to literature based on an outstanding published body of work.

The Michigan Author Award will be presented this fall at the Michigan Library Association "Shaping Our Tomorrow" conference at the Radisson Plaza Hotel in Kalamazoo. Tickets are \$25 to hear Stanton speak at the award presentation luncheon on Friday, Oct. 24.

For more information, visit the Michigan Library Association Web site at www.mla.lib.mi.us/events/annual and access the conference registration.

Stanton writes about the memorable players and places of baseball, but most of all, how baseball is part of American life. His newest book is "Ty and the Babe: Baseball's Fiercest Rivals," the story of Babe Ruth and Ty Cobb's rivalry and friendship.

"The Final Season" was named Baseball Book of the Year as the winner of both the Casey and Dave Moore awards. It is a memoir of the last year of Tiger Stadium. In "The Road

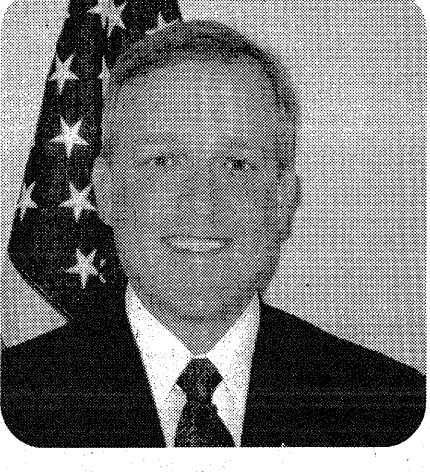
to Cooperstown," Stanton fulfills the dream of a family trip to the Baseball Hall of Fame. "Hank Aaron and the Home Run That Changed America" tells the compelling story of one of sports most historic moments.

For more information about the Michigan Center for the Book and its programs, visit www.michigan.gov/mcfb.

you read? Purpose Driven Life, by Rick Warren
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- * Police Officers Association of Dearborn (POAM)
- * Police Officers Association of Wyandotte (POAM)
- * Retired Detroit Police and Fire Fighters Association
- * Michigan Teamsters, Joint Council 43

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- * State Bar of Michigan, U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan, and the United States Army Court of Criminal Appeals
- * American Legion, Knights of Columbus, Polish Legion of American Veterans, Polish Roman Catholic Union of America

PERSONAL:

- * Honorably Discharged **VETERAN**, U.S. Army ('93-'97)
- * Proud Husband and Father


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Gonzalez has new ideas

This is a critical election cycle for Plymouth Township. The electorate is presented with clear choices; to move the township forward, and allow it to assume its rightful position as a leader in southeast Michigan with the dynamic leadership it deserves, or to stay the course returning to office those that carry the baggage of cronyism, lethargic effort and the out-dated policies of the past.

Dianne Gonzalez, candidate for supervisor of Plymouth Township, represents new ideas, boundless energy and a genuine concern for her neighbors as evidenced by her leadership and contributions to the Plymouth-Canton school board.

What is currently lacking in Plymouth Township governance is aggressive, well-thought-out, yet pragmatic and containable strategic planning. A cogent strategic plan would allow Plymouth to chart a course for the future, shared and understood by all residents, taxpayers and stakeholders.

Township residents have reaped the benefits of a workable and effective Plymouth Township Master Plan that has served us well for two decades. What is mandatory in these times of diminishing resources is a strategic plan which anticipates tomorrow's needs, based on realistic assumptions for revenues, and provides prioritized alternatives that are pro-active rather than "fly-by-the seat of your pants." This is not a time to muddle through and plod on.

I would urge that the qualifications and capabilities of Dianne Gonzalez be carefully considered in advance of next Tuesday's primary. A vote for Dianne Gonzalez for Plymouth Township supervisor represents an understanding of the unique challenges Plymouth Township faces going forward, and an endorsement of her past leadership and performance and an understanding of what Plymouth Township requires to maximize the promise and potential of all its residents.

No one else offering themselves in this election brings her vision and willingness to lead the way, the right way for our future.

Kenneth Black
Plymouth Township

Reaume goes extra mile

My sisters and I spent years bouncing around the foster care system. My uncle, Richard Reaume, who had taken care of us at various times through our struggles, finally realized if we were to have any stability at all it was going to be with him.

He sacrificed many things in his personal and professional life to become our foster parent and ultimately adopt us. My uncle is my hero who went the extra mile to ensure a happy, healthy and secure life for my sisters and I.

Going the extra mile isn't something my uncle does for just my family, it is something he does every day as the supervisor for Plymouth Township. He works very hard to keep the township running smoothly and meet the needs of every citizen.

I know he has my vote, respect and gratitude for the progress he has helped make in my life and in the wonderful township we live in.

Jasmine Millwood
Plymouth Township

Supporting Miller

Our dad, Cameron Miller, is running for judge here in our community's court (35th District), but we would like to tell you something about our dad that you might not know.

Everyone knows he has the most experience in the 35th district, 2,655 cases since 1997 when the next closest candidate has 149 cases. What you may not know is what a great dad he is and how much he cares for our community.

He is a past president of the Goodfellows and has sold papers with the Goodfellows for 30 years, helping kids have a Christmas who might not otherwise have one. He even got our friends and us involved by getting us to help with the shopping for, and wrapping of, the presents.

He is a past president of the Jaycees, and was in charge of the fireworks in town for eight years and the Easter Egg Hunt for seven years.

When we joined the Steelers junior cheerleading, he served on its board of directors and even was the announcer for four years. Later when we went to high school, it was our dad who stepped up and became president of the cheerleading booster club for three years. He has been a Rotarian in town for 14 years and even in charge of this year's chicken BBQ.

Did we mention that from Steelers cheerleading, through high school cheerleading and lacrosse, he never missed one of our games? Well he didn't, because that's the kind of dad he is. And that's the kind of judge he would be. The kind of judge that cares. Who listens, and does whatever needs to be done.

Please join us in voting for our dad, Cam Miller, Aug. 5.

Courtney and Jillian Miller
Plymouth

Snow deserves vote

I've known Martha Snow for just under three years. Since I first met Martha at Leadership Canton in 2005, I was struck by how personable, professional and dedicated she was to the community. My few community volunteer activities paled in comparison to her numerous commitments and demonstration of leadership.

Filling the role of 35th District judge, as the honorable 35th District Judge Mike Gerou points out, requires a whole host of character traits to faithfully execute the duties of that office.

I believe that Martha unequivocally possesses those essential character traits. Whether it's honesty, kindness, hard-working, experience, compassion, or courage, Martha's personal and professional values are beyond reproach. I know this because I've worked alongside her in numerous volunteer opportunities, served with her on the Canton Chamber Board, and witnessed her professional and hard work as an attorney.

Based on my personal and direct experience, I have no doubt Martha will make an exemplary 35th District Court judge and is the best qualified candidate worthy of your vote.

Hussien Fawaz
Canton

Backing Plakas

The position of district judge requires a person with integrity, good judgment, honesty and compassion. I have known Jim Plakas and his family for many years and can state that his character and behavior exemplify what is needed to represent the 35th District.

During my time working with Jim on our homeowning association, he consistently demonstrated a keen ability to analyze both sides of issues with an even temperament and commitment to achieve fair and equitable results.

Additionally, throughout the years I have known Jim and his family, there is no doubt that he is a man of compassion deeply committed to upholding strong values.

I encourage all voters to pick Jim Plakas for 35th District judge.

Debbie Grant-Kelterborn
Northville

Plakas right choice

I was recently amused by a letter sent to the Observer by a law student who took it upon himself to interpret the Code of Judicial Conduct where he incorrectly concluded that "it is inappropriate for judges to endorse certain candidates."

He further mistakenly concluded by endorsing a candidate for judicial office, the judge is engaging in "political activity inappropriate to judicial office." This letter-writer has taken these provisions out of context and given them his interpretation instead of the correct one.

Judges can only endorse other judges and candidates for judicial offices. Judges may not endorse a candidate for political office running as a member of a political party.

It is not uncommon for judges to endorse candidates for the judiciary because we have usually observed that person in our courtrooms, know of that person's reputation in the legal community, and are able to determine the candidate's demeanor in a courtroom setting. Our objective in endorsing a candidate for judicial office is to let the public, who know little or nothing about a candidate, know that we feel that person possesses the integrity and background to undertake the enormous responsibility of being a judge, an obligation we feel we owe to the public.

I have chosen to endorse Jim Plakas because I have seen him function as our prosecutor in

the 18th District Court and have watched him grow into the fine attorney he has become. Besides being an excellent, thorough and knowledgeable attorney, he is a person of great integrity and possesses the type of demeanor necessary to interact in a courtroom with attorneys and litigants, and treat all people that come before him with respect.

C. Charles Bokos
chief judge, 18th District Court
Westland

Supporting Prchlik

I am writing in support of the candidacy of Mary Ann Prchlik for Plymouth Township clerk. Ms. Prchlik is currently employed as the accounting manager for Herriman & Associates, Inc., a firm that manages condominium associations.

My CPA firm has provided auditing or review services for year-end financial reports of more than 50 condominium associations managed by Herriman & Associates, Inc. In the process of auditing or reviewing the books and records of each association, we have become familiar with Herriman's & Associates, Inc. day-to-day accounting operations, which are managed by Ms. Prchlik.

In the 15-plus years that we have serviced mutual clients, we have never encountered a material discrepancy, nor have we ever found it necessary to qualify an opinion as to the accuracy of the statements of financial condition or the results of operations for the Herriman-managed associations.

Ms. Prchlik clearly has the professional skills necessary to manage an accounting staff and to manage day-to-day accounting operations skills, that are required of Plymouth Township's next clerk. I urge you to vote for Mary Ann Prchlik for Plymouth Township clerk.

Michael G. Thomas
Northville

A time for change

Are the real issues being addressed? Leadership is at stake. "Doing business as usual" is not leadership.

In 2001, Steve Mann initiated the formation of an Elected Officials Compensation Commission to determine a fair and equitable compensation package for the supervisor, treasurer, clerk and trustees.

During the last meeting of the commission (Nov. 19), a compensation package was submitted for the board's review based on the review of nine relevant and comparable communities and their averages. Michael Kelly, supported by Daniel Herriman, motioned to accept the package, which increased the supervisor's salary to \$102,404 and the clerk and treasurer's salary to \$96,231. Fortunately for the citizens, three members - Jack Dempsey, Judith Spriggs and, surprisingly, Michael Kelly - voted against the package.

The motion was defeated. The meeting minutes reflect that Daniel Herriman, whose wife, Mary Ann Prchlik, is running for township clerk, made a motion, supported by

Michael Kelly, that Resolution 11-19-07-01 be reviewed and passed. Resolution 11-19-07-01 provided a 4-percent increase in 2008 and 5-percent increase for 2009 for the supervisor, clerk and treasurer and no increase for the trustees. It passed unanimously. The increase represented a salary package of \$93,760 in 2008 and \$98,454 in 2009 for the supervisor. The clerk and treasurer salaries increased to \$87,027 in 2008 and \$91,378 in 2009.

The compensation package by the commission does not address the commitment required to fulfill the duties of the positions nor a performance criteria in which to judge the basis for further increases. It has been reported that Plymouth Township salaries were among the highest in Wayne County. In 2005 figures based on the Council of Western Wayne County indicated that Canton Township population, 84,884, has higher salaries. Official salaries in populations matching Plymouth Township's population of 26,980 have lower salary packages. The only criteria used appears to be other communities' compensation packages. Is this not comparing apples to oranges?

It's been reported that supervisor Steven Mann and treasurer Ron Edwards in 2004 "orchestrated" the opportunity for Richard Reaume to register just before the deadline for the supervisor position by not announcing his decision to vacate the position until the last minute. Was this a coincidence or uncanny timing? You make the call.

Another issue to be addressed is accountability. Accountability is a mark of leadership. Interfacing with other governmental units and bringing in new businesses is only one aspect of leadership. Being responsive to citizens' issues relating to ordinance enforcement and citizen welfare is also critical.

A case in point: The "back room maneuver" by township officials to deny the use of the township facilities to hold a "Meet the Candidates" forum to help citizens be better informed. Rather than welcome such an open discussion, township officials chose to cite a legal opinion to deny this service to the citizens.

What better purpose can these buildings serve than to be used for the community's welfare rather than the personal needs of the township officials? Yet another incident has come to light wherein township officials are exercising the power of their office to thwart residents legally gaining pertinent information through the Freedom of Information Act by delaying their response as long as legally possible. Such actions are a sign of doing "business as usual."

It is time for a change. New people need the opportunity to bring new ways to do the business of Plymouth Township and give credibility to the Plymouth Township motto: "People: The Priority."

Sonia Mayer
Plymouth Township

Faulty arguments

Re: Trustee Doroshewitz's letter, did he write this from the Manoogian Mansion? If you research the facts, Act 312, Binding Arbitration, consistently results in a near 50/50 split between the municipal requests and the union's, similar to a divorce action or a plea-bargained criminal suit.

I'm not sure if Trustee Doroshewitz is an actuary or not, but his analysis of what a 22-year-old firefighter, hired today, may make in 2058 is like me saying gas is going to cost \$50 a gallon in 2058!

Re: his "gross wages" paid, what were the "total" salaries/benefits paid in 2007 vs. 2006? The township administration chose not to hire retirement/replacement firefighters thereby costing large amounts of overtime, but no additional benefit costs! If we didn't replace Clerk Messengill and asked Supervisor Reaume to work overtime to do her duties, what would his "total" wages have been?

Why didn't he mention that fire stations have been "closed" recently due to lack of manpower? Must have slipped his mind.

Tom Kelly
Plymouth

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ON STAGE

Music in the Park

The Music in the Park "kiddie" 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:
 ■ Aug. 6 - elmoThumm
 ■ Aug. 13 - Guy Louis, Chautauqua Express
 ■ Aug. 20 - Matt Watroba & Friends



elmoTHUMM takes to the stage Wednesday for the weekly Music in the Park concert series for kids in downtown Plymouth's Kellogg Park. The concert starts at noon.

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. 8: Trilogy Band
 ■ Aug. 15: Sean Riley Band
 ■ Aug. 22: Fifty Amp Fuse
 ■ Aug. 29: Lady Sunshine and the X Band

Livonia will elect a new District Judge this year. Will your vote be cast based on name recognition -or- Will you vote for the most experienced candidate?



David A. Stevens is the most experienced and best qualified candidate

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 Public Defender
 Hearings Officer

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 Respected by Judiciary
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 Coach and Director - Livonia Hockey Association
 Member - Livonia Family 'Y'

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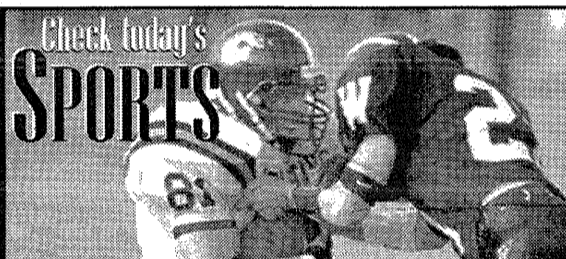
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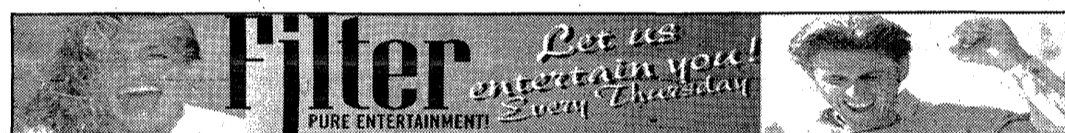
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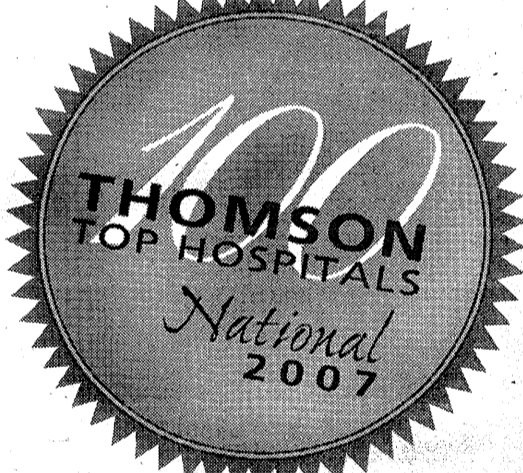


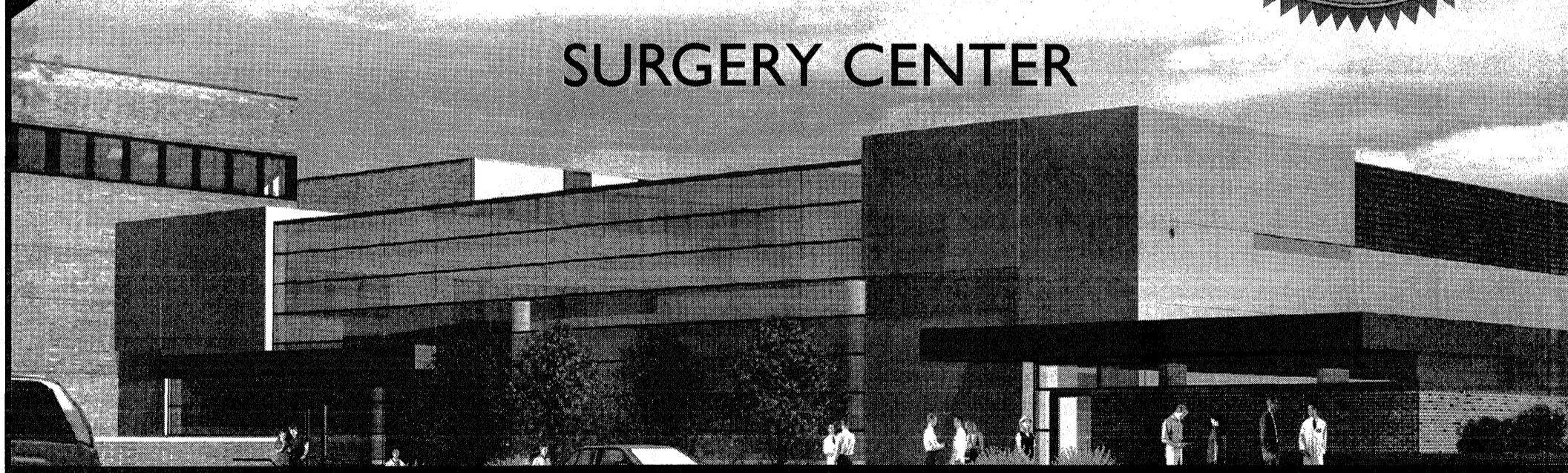
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A piece of Plymouth

Greenfield Village 'mill street' has piece of history

BY JULIE BROWN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Life certainly was different in the 1800s, as evidenced by the Gonsolly Carding Mill at Greenfield Village.

"Girls, I hate to tell you, but this would have been your job. No TV or shopping at the mall," said historic presenter Debby Krzyske, demonstrating a carding paddle. The paddle's much like a dog or cat brush, "a very laborious process, very time-consuming," she said during a recent demonstration.

The Gonsolly mill, now at Greenfield Village in Dearborn, is noteworthy in that it operated for years on the Middle Rouge River in Plymouth. John Gonsolly ran the mill from 1850 to 1890,

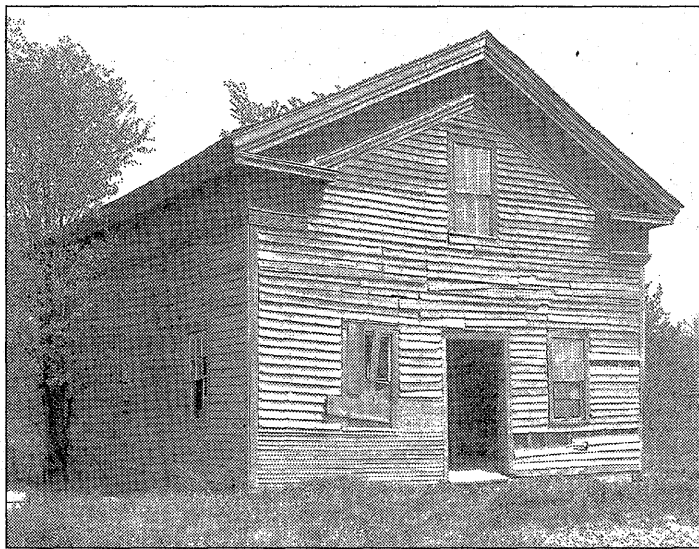
and often kept some of the wool he carded for customers as a payment for his services.

The sign outside the mill building notes that later, larger mills took away business from small ones like Gonsolly's. The structure dates to 1850 and was built in Plymouth.

"The water wheel would have been on the lower level," Krzyske told her attentive audience that Saturday. The mill served farms for about 40 miles around, and Gonsolly also ran saw mills and a cider mill.

"Plymouth was a big mill town, a very busy place," Krzyske said.

Among interested observers was Kathe Telingator of Chicago, accompanied by her husband and two kids. She



This circa 1929 photo shows the Gonsolly Carding Mill at its Plymouth site, prior to its relocation.

enjoyed learning about the

way wool fibers were processed.

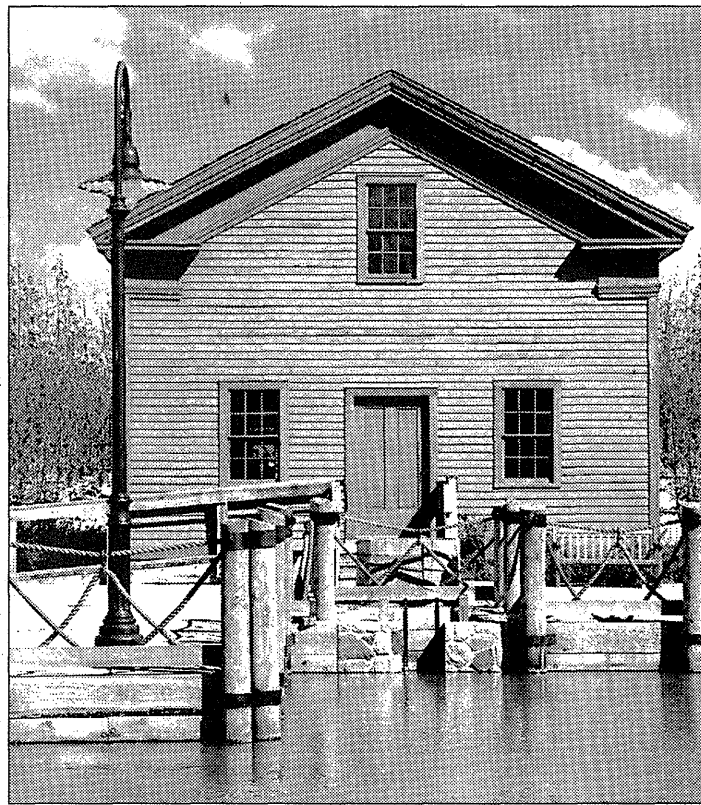
"It's fascinating," the Greenfield Village visitor said. "I didn't know anything about how wool was made before."

"I have been to Plymouth before but it was a long time ago," the Chicagoan added. "One of my college roommates lived in Plymouth."

During the mill's heyday, raw wool from sheep was transformed into straightened lengths of wool, the first step toward finished cloth. By the mid-1880s, faster and more efficient carding machines at mills replaced hand cards women traditionally used at home for the process.

Auto pioneer Henry Ford played a key part in bringing the Gonsolly mill to Greenfield Village. Henry's father, William, took wool from his sheep the two- to three-hour trip by horse-drawn wagon to the Plymouth mill. Young Henry often went along and his memories inspired him to relocate the building later when it was no longer being used.

"I'm familiar with Plymouth," historic presenter Krzyske said before her demonstration of the equipment.



FROM THE COLLECTIONS OF THE HENRY FORD

This 2003 photo shows the Gonsolly Carding Mill in a more present-day light. The mill was run by John Gonsolly in Plymouth from 1850 to 1890, and later relocated by Henry Ford to Greenfield Village.

"My mother lived there a long time ago," Krzyske, who's been at Greenfield Village about seven years, has a sister-in-law and other family who call Plymouth home.

"I remember going through Plymouth," she said. "Plymouth still retains its small-town atmosphere which is really nice."

She told her listeners Michigan was big in sheep raising and the Gonsolly mill would have been busy in the spring. The first machine, hand cranked, to card wool was developed in England in the late 1740s, and water power added later.

Krzyske demonstrated the picking machine, of which Gonsolly had at least three in his prime, "until finally he has obtained wool that is nice and fluffy, has no tangles." A strategically placed mirror allows all to see the

process demonstrated.

Farmers paid 10 cents per pound for the finished product, said Krzyske, who noted the machine's relative quiet and the different size teeth for different wool on the finishing machine. The machines at the modern-day mill are from the correct era, she added, but not from the actual mill.

John Neilson, director of Henry Ford Museum & Greenfield Village, added this: "Visitors to Greenfield Village really enjoy the Carding Mill, its connections to Henry Ford and his early life growing up on the farm. But I think it is seeing actual equipment in operation, showing how processing wool moved from a hand-operation to a mechanical process, which really fascinates people."

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OUR VIEWS

Our picks in Tuesday's primary election

Voters head to the polls Tuesday to elect new officials in Plymouth Township, a new judge at the 35th District Court, a Democrat to face Thaddeus McCotter in November and to vote on a millage to sustain the Detroit Zoo.

Here are our recommendations:

SUPERVISOR

We think Richard Reaume has done enough to earn a chance at a second term. Reaume has proven adept at certain aspects of the job, even as he's undergone a great deal of on-the-job training. He works well with the Michigan Economic Development Corp. to make it convenient — and, more importantly, profitable — for businesses to make Plymouth Township their home. Since 2005, more than a dozen companies have either located or expanded here, retaining nearly 3,000 jobs and adding 1,100 new ones.

Reaume works very hard, and long hours, to get his job done. While the township hasn't undertaken a great number of new plans in his first term, Reaume is responsible for shepherding existing ideas such as the new township hall, the Ann Arbor Road corridor and the second water tower.

CLERK

We believe Joe Bridgman should be the next Plymouth Township clerk.

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



Reaume



Bridgman



Mann



Doroshewitz



Kelly



Arnold



Plakas



Larkin

candidate for the job. He's got the educational credentials: a bachelor's degree from Cleary University and an associate's degree in accounting from Schoolcraft College. That's key, because the accounting function in the clerk's office is an important one.

TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE

Incumbents Kay Arnold, Robert Doroshewitz and Steven Mann, along with political newcomer Michael Kelly, are our picks for the four trustee positions.

Mann seeks his second term as a trustee, his third term overall (he served as supervisor from 2000-04). During his term as supervisor, recreational additions included Lake Point Soccer Park and Miller Family Park, and he got the ball rolling on the new township hall.

Doroshewitz is perhaps the board's most reasoned voice. When discussions with the city about the joint fire agreement began to blow up because of personalities, Doroshewitz's calming influence kept them from digressing into a political morass. He asks pertinent questions, does his homework on issues and doesn't let emotion sway his thinking.

Arnold will be the board's longest-serving member (if Clerk Marilyn Massengill fails in her bid for

supervisor), and her experience and historical perspective are valuable to the board. As a long-standing member of the planning commission, she's also intimately familiar with development issues the township faces.

Kelly wants the board to take a long, hard look at things like salaries and benefits. We believe Kelly would bring a fresh voice, an outsider's perspective, that would be beneficial to a board loaded with entrenched long-timers, much the way Doroshewitz did four years ago.

35TH DISTRICT COURT

We believe Jim Plakas is the best choice to replace retiring Judge John MacDonald.

Plakas seems to have been training for this particular job most of his career. He's been a prosecutor, a city attorney and a defense attorney. He's handled all manner of cases in a variety of courtrooms.

He comes from an experienced legal background, has a sound judicial temperament and has the backing of many judges. His list of endorsements includes MacDonald, who has served with distinction; the Hon. Robert Brzezinski of Livonia's 16th District Court; and the Hon. Chuck Bokus — three of the most

respected district court jurists in the area.

We believe Plakas' breadth of experience and his passion for the job lift him above the other five candidates in the field, and recommend Jim Plakas for 35th District Court judge.

U.S. CONGRESS

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

McCotter hasn't faced a well-known elected Democrat since his first congressional race against then Redford Township Supervisor Kevin Kelley. That holds true in this election. Livonia attorney Joseph Larkin has never run for elected office. Former Novi City Manager Edward Kriewall served in appointed government positions. Both candidates are running as relatively conservative Democrats.

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

Larkin makes a stronger case against the war, for alternative

energy, fair trade and measures that would help people keep their homes in the foreclosure crisis. We support Joseph Larkin for the Democratic nomination.

ZOO MILLAGE

These are tough times to ask taxpayers to approve yet another tax. Voters in Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties will vote on a 10-year, 0.1-mill tax to support the Detroit Zoo in Royal Oak and Belle Isle Nature Zoo in Detroit. If approved, the tax would generate about \$12 million annually and cost the owner of a \$200,000 home \$10 a year. The annual operating budget of the zoo is \$24 million. The rest of the zoo's budget would be covered by admission fees and private donations.

Zoo officials have argued that the new tax is needed to fill an \$8 million annual operating shortfall created when the city of Detroit, which owns the zoo, terminated its annual subsidy and turned over operations to the Detroit Zoological Society.

We believe the zoo is a major asset to the Detroit area as a regional tourist attraction and a valuable educational institution with numerous school programs. We agree with proposal supporters that the tax is reasonable for the benefit.

JOAN NORICKS FOR TREASURER

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A treasurer who will excel at relationship building and has business experience.

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Joan is endorsed by the Canton Observer and Canton residents.

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William Ballelli	Hussien Fawaz	Judith Fleischaker	Herbert & Olivia Scott
Rocky & Nancy Barra	Heather Fiedor	Betsy & Rich Mazurkiewicz	Ed & Rosemary Sieracki
Beverly Bazzell	Peter & Debbie Fulan	Thomas & Sue McGee	Frank Sinagra
Bonnie Berg	Gary & Kathy Gavioli	Richard & Nikki McKamie	Steven Sneiderman
Sandy Bergeson	Paul & Trish Geick	John & Nancy Middlestead	Gregory & Jean Stachura
Dan & Patty Bihn	Bruno Genrich	Lisa Mininni	Vada Starr
Beth & Tim Bland	William & Mary George	Bill & Cindy Moore	Deirdre Stemmellen
Duane & Sharon Bordine	Patty Gerou	Henry Moore	Jean Stenger
Thomas Borg	David & Elizabeth Givens	Steven & Debra Otting	Michael & Rebecca Stephens
Nancy Boyd	Gary & Gina Goerke	Gale Owens	Jim & Lou Stockton
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Bowl-4-Animal event on tap

This Saturday, Aug. 9, marks the third annual Bowl-4-Animal Rescue hosted by former pro bowling champions Aleta Sill and Michelle Mullin at Country Lanes, located at 30250

W. Nine Mile Road, just west of Middlebelt in Farmington Hills.

It is a 7 p.m. starting time with tickets at \$25 (include three games, food and shoe rentals if needed.)

There will be auctions (computer, digital cameras, etc. . .) raffles, door prizes and Karaoke.

Any bowler can also let one of the professional bowlers roll a strike for them.

The event will benefit the Friends for the Dearborn Animal Shelter (FFDAS) and the Michigan Animal Adoption Network (MAAN).

Both Sill and Mullin have adopted six animals between them. It is a great event to support the care, respect and adoption of animals in need. One-hundred percent of the proceeds will benefit FFDAS and MAAN.

I adopted a rescued cat a year ago and it has added a great deal of pleasure to our own household. Sill is bowling's first lady to

achieve \$1 million in prize money and she is a Detroit Dream Team Legendary Athlete (along with Joe Louis and Gordie Howe). She was most recently honored by her induction into the National Polish-American Sports Hall of Fame, joining the likes of Stan Musial, Alan Trammell and Mike Ditka.

Sill is the only woman bowler to win the pro tour triple crown twice in her illustrious career.

Both Aleta and Michelle have retired from the tour and are now devoting their energies to helping other become more skillful at the sport via individual or group lessons.

Tickets may be purchased by calling Aleta Sill's Bowling World at (248) 615-9060; or you can go online at michellemullen@att.net.

It is not often that I will enthusiastically boost any product but this one deserves mention.

It is a nutritional supplement called Super Collagen +C.

And for the first time in years I am able to bowl without knee pain. I had previously tried just about everything, from fish oil to Glucosamine, various pain killers and a variety of knee braces.

The problem had been from arthritis. Knee pain not only can make a grown man cry, but also bring the average down a lot.

By endorsing this product, I can only say it worked for me. I bought it at the local Costco outlet.

O&E area bowlers garnered

five of the top 16 places in the Budweiser Michigan Majors as the 42nd season concluded recently at Five Star Lanes in Sterling Heights.

Garden City's Terry Haines and Larry Walker led the way with third and fifth-place, including a 300 game in the process, bringing home \$500 and \$300, respectively.

Other top finishers included Doug Spicer, seventh (\$200); Terry Mariucci, 13th (\$130); and Pat Brown (Canton), 16th (\$100).

The Michigan Majors will take a short summer break and resume competition on Aug. 23 with the new season opener at Galaxy Lanes in Grand Blanc.

Those interested in joining should contact the tournament office at (586) 775-2414; or go to the web site at www.michiganmajors.com.

The Alro Steel Michigan Junior Masters Association awarded two \$1,000 scholarships at the seasons end in the name of the founder Dan Ottman.

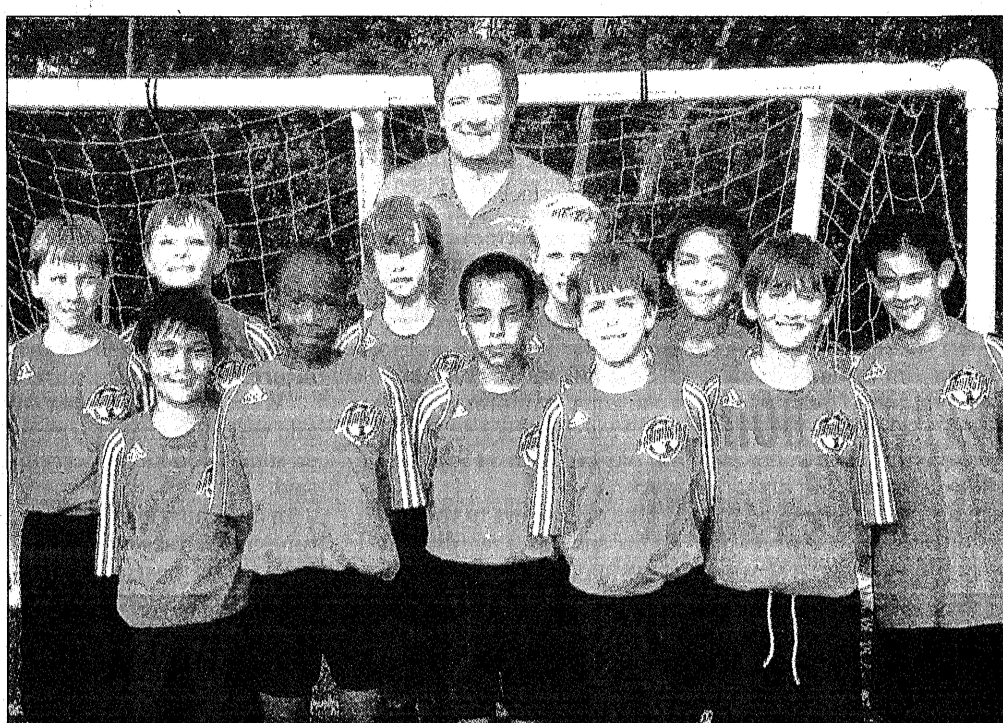
The recipients included Michael Kiel of Livonia, a pre-law student at the University of Michigan, and former Livonia Ladywood High standout Sarah Jaeger of Highland, who will be a senior at the University of Detroit Mercy.

Al Harrison is a resident of Southfield, and a member of the Bowling Writers Association of America and the Detroit Bowling Hall of Fame. He can be contacted by E-mail at: tenpinally710@yahoo.com



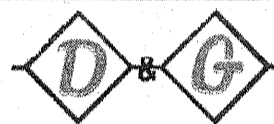
Ten Pin Alley

Al Harrison



Falcons unbeaten

Make that 60 victories in a row for the Falcons, a boys under-10 team in the Western Suburban Soccer League following an 8-0 season thanks to a late second-half goal in the season finale. The Falcons, founded in 2004, include (front row, from left): Lucas Dorzaio, Justin McChristian, Zeb Noble, Nick Joseph and Justin Barr; (second row, from left) Josh Kornaga, Sean Pastor, Brandon Gabrielson, Joe Soave, Emilio Garza and Joey Lajcaj. The team is coached by Steve King (back row) and managed by Diane Kornaga.



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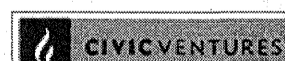
Encore Careers are undertaken later in life with an emphasis on "purpose-driven" work. Recent research indicates that almost half of all baby boomers are interested in using their talents and experiences to give back to their communities in meaningful ways. The Forum will have lively presentations, panel 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.



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If you don't want an iPhone, alternatives exist

Question: I'm in the market for a new phone, but I don't want an iPhone. What else can you recommend?

What? Are you crazy? Everyone wants an iPhone! Well, OK, maybe not. After all, it does force you to become an AT&T customer for at least two years and pay a minimum of \$70 monthly for the privilege.



Tech Savvy

Rick Broida

That said, I recently had the chance to take several "iPhone killers" for a spin, and let me be brutally honest: Not one came anywhere close to matching the iPhone's elegance, ease of use, stellar Web browser, superb music and video capabilities, and dazzling library of

third-party applications.

On the other hand, if you take iPhone comparisons out of the picture, some of these phones are quite exceptional. Start with the Samsung Instinct from Sprint, a real bargain at \$129.99 (with contract and after rebate).

The Instinct sports an iPhone-style touchscreen and interface, iPhone-style visual voicemail (meaning you can browse messages onscreen and choose which ones to play), and world-class GPS navigation.

And despite the low price, Samsung bundles a bunch of worthwhile accessories, including a 2GB memory card for storing music and whatnot, a spare battery, a travel charger, and a USB cable.

The Web browser is just so-so, and the Instinct lacks instant-messaging software. But otherwise I think it's an incredible phone for the money.

I also came away impressed by

Verizon's LG Dare (\$199.99 with contract and rebate), which is more compact than the Instinct and has a better browser.

The Dare is a better music phone, too, thanks to newly added support for Rhapsody's music-subscription service (all you can download for \$15 monthly).

Verizon's VZ Navigator service turns the Dare into a full-featured GPS navigation system (complete with

traffic updates), but you'll pay extra for it: \$2.99 per day or \$9.99 monthly.

Finally, I looked at AT&T's LG Vu, which is noteworthy for its slim and sexy design. Priced at \$299.99 (with contract and rebate), it costs more than similar models, but lacks a key feature.

Namely, GPS. Don't expect the Vu to help you find your way. Furthermore, it can't sync with Macs or PCs (something the Dare is no champ at either, actually), and its Web browser feels especially cramped owing to its smallish screen.

The Vu does let you watch TV on the go thanks to AT&T's optional Mobile TV service, which is excellent. And I found call quality to be excellent as well, even when using the speakerphone.

Before buying a new phone, do your homework. Read every review you can find, then visit stores so you can get a little hands-on time with each model. I can bluster about them all day, but ultimately you have to pick the phone that's best for you.

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.



PHOTOS BY TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Because of Patrick, Debbie Dayton was able to seat herself at Culver's restaurant in Westland.

Golden moment

Leader Dog restores Westland woman's life

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
O & E STAFF WRITER

Patrick seems to know he has some big paw prints to fill. Debbie Dayton's first Leader Dog, Josh, knew instinctively that she was the center of his world.

At 2½, Patrick is still a puppy but one with big responsibilities. Dayton's life and well-being depend on him. When Josh died in October the Westland woman lost her independence once again. She still was able to volunteer her time to help out at the Halloween walk in Westland, but it wasn't easy.

"Every one of those nights it was just ripping me apart standing there with my cane without my dog, what a blessing those dogs are," said Dayton. "It wasn't easy going through the parking lot trying to feel my way along with my cane. Josh was 6½ and it happened so suddenly it ripped my heart out."

With Patrick's help Dayton moves around the parking lot at Culver's with confidence. She knows his sudden stop is to save her from tripping over an obstacle, in this case a curb. Dayton is organizing a classic car show at the restaurant with owner Bob Fitzpatrick and the Motor City Muscle Car Club to benefit the Westland Lions Club.

Josh made it possible for Dayton to coordinate the organization's two major fundraisers, including the golf outing being held the last Saturday in September. Ten percent of the day's receipts from the Aug. 13 car show at Culver's goes to charities supported by the Lions including Leader Dogs for the Blind in Rochester, Penrickton School for Blind Children, Seedlings Braille Books for Children in Livonia, and to provide glasses for individuals in financial need.

"When Josh died it was a



Debbie Dayton of Westland wouldn't be able to lead such an active lifestyle without her Leader Dog Patrick. She is pictured here with Pat and Orville Butzin of Canton (left); Norm Leist, White Lake; Jeff Ward, Motor City Muscle Car Club president; Jamie Bell, Culver's general manager; Dave Henwood, Livonia, and Bob Fitzpatrick, Ward, Leist, Henwood, and the Butzins show their classic cars in the Aug. 13 benefit.

CRUISIN' WITH CULVER'S

What: A classic car show to benefit the Westland Lions Club
When: 5:30-9 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 13
Where: Culver's, 6500 Newburgh, south of Warren Road, Westland. For more information, call (734) 721-4216

heartbreaker," said Dayton. "I lost my sight a little more than 10 years ago and realized how easy it is to take your sight for granted. When I lost Josh it was right back to the day I lost my sight, being dependent on everyone, holding onto everyone's arm. I lost part of me."

Debbie and her husband Bill both cried for days after losing Josh. By December she was back at Leader Dogs for the Blind in Rochester for live-in training with Patrick so she could regain her independence. Josh would have wanted it that way.

"We're still working on being a seasoned team. It takes a year or more," said Dayton, Westland Lions Club president. "He already knows where the card store is in the mall. He's learning quickly. I am so blessed to have two dogs so well matched to me. When I got

Patrick I didn't realize I got lax with commands because Josh was reading my mind."

Pat and Orville Butzin make it possible for individuals like Dayton to receive the dogs that increase the mobility and safety of blind and visually impaired individuals. The Canton couple raises puppies for Leader Dogs. Their 11th dog, Juki, is a 10-month-old Golden Retriever. Before retiring as a counselor for the Plymouth Canton District, Pat used to take the puppies into Pioneer Middle school to socialize the dogs and teach the kids about volunteer work and helping others.

"We're getting so much pleasure from it," said Pat. "You're giving somebody the opportunity for independence."

"And you get to meet the people," added Orville. "One

Please see **DOG, D3**

First Step celebrates 30 years of helping

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
O & E STAFF WRITER

When Judy Ellis first volunteered at First Step 29 years ago, battered women had nowhere to turn for help. Only one year earlier the Wayne-Westland National Organization for Women had started the agency to provide services such as temporary housing to those fleeing abusive spouses in the middle of the night.

Thirty years later Ellis is looking for survivors and everyone who made a difference in the lives of these women and their children. A Tribute Book is being assembled for celebrations in September and October.

First Step became a private, nonprofit agency to assist victims of domestic abuse and sexual

assault in 35 communities in western Wayne County and downriver in 1978. Originally located in offices in Westland City Hall, First Step eventually moved to Plymouth. Today the agency also has outreach offices in Redford and Taylor.

"Women felt they didn't have much of a chance. There were no laws on the books," said Ellis, now the executive director. "The reason I started was because of a woman I went to court with. I didn't want her to go alone. She had her ear cut off, her face slashed and tendons cut in her fingers. He got probation."

It wasn't long after that First Step started a

comprehensive volunteer program and opened the first shelter. Today in addition to offering a 24-hour help line, counseling for women and children, support groups, violence prevention programs in schools, in-court victim advocacy, and on-call assault response teams to meet with survivors at hospitals, police departments and schools, First Step is planning to replace the old shelter with a new building in the next 18 months.

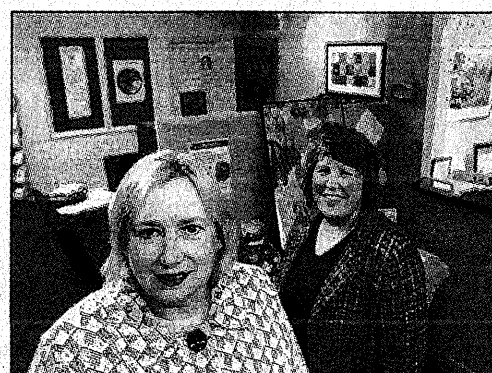
"Until opening the first shelter we would put women and children up in hotel rooms," said Ellis. "We didn't have pagers or cells. An answering service called us at home. These were the days when you could be called back at a pay phone and we did. We had arrangements with various hotels and the next day got them to a shelter out of the area. In 1983 we opened a shelter at Five Mile and Sheldon. Everybody slept in one big room, 20 women and children, but it was safe."

Thirty years ago police officers would respond to incidents of domestic violence at the same home 10 to 15 times but their hands were tied if the victim wouldn't press charges out of fear of retaliation. Today, because of changes in the laws, it's possible to prosecute a batterer without the victim's consent.

"There were no victim's rights," said Ellis. "What's changed is a greater awareness on the part of the public but it's still difficult for people to grasp the kind of fear families face when they're exposed to this domestic terrorism. We saw acts of torture 30 years ago."

Associate director Theresa Bizoe witnessed the changes as well. She began working on the crisis line as an Eastern Michigan University student intern in 1983. Bizoe was later hired as First Step volunteer coordinator. She's now an associate director involved with raising money for the new shelter while trying to gather the stories of people

Please see **FIRST STEP, C3**



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Judy Ellis and Theresa Bizoe, of First Step.

Bowling event to raise funds to benefit homeless animals

Professional bowling champions Aleta Sill and Michelle Mullen will host the 3rd Annual Bowl-4-Animal Rescue 7 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 9, at Country Lanes, 30250 W. 9 Mile, west of Middlebelt, in Farmington Hills. One hundred percent of proceeds from the event benefits the Friends For the Dearborn Animal Shelter and

the Michigan Animal Adoption Network. Tickets are \$25 and include three games, food and shoe rental. Reservations required. Call (248) 615-9060. The evening also features raffles, door prizes, karaoke, and auctions for computer, digital cameras and more. Aleta Sill is bowling's First

Lady \$1,000,000 Player, a Detroit Dream Team Legendary Athlete (along with Joe Louis and Gordie Howe) and was most recently inducted into the National Polish-American Sports Hall of Fame, joining the likes of Stan Musial, Alan Trammell and Mike Ditka. She and Mullen have adopted six animals.

Have faith in emotional intelligence

How do we manage our emotions? Author Daniel Goleman introduced this idea in a book he wrote several years ago. His idea is that the better we



Chat Room Paul Melrose

manage all of our emotions the more satisfying and better a life we will have. We will even perform better in the workplace; some say that emotional intelligence even relates to one's success in getting a job, and correlates to how well one does on other psychological testing.

Some of the practical spin-off of being "emotionally intelligent" is that one has a basic positive approach to living.

In this way one can be on top of one's impulses and direct them appropriately. We can be sensitive to the emotions of another we are in a relationship, or a conversation, with.

From this angle one can look at problems in relationships, even in organizations,

and wonder what the emotional climate is like and whether or not it fosters, much less sustains the kinds of emotions that contribute to not only love and compassion and the deeper emotions often related to an intimate relationship, but also a spirit of cooperation, collegiality, even toleration that is needed for larger groups to make steps forward

I just recently read an article in which a leader in the Evangelical religious movement, Joel Hunter, a former United Methodist Pastor who became Senior Pastor of Northland Church in Orlando, Fla., felt that the impact which certainly the evangelical wing of Christianity, and by implication probably other faiths, do well when they find ways to bring people together and not find themselves advocating points of view which seem to keep people apart. Here, I think, is one example of emotional intelligence at work.

It is interesting, and this is a point that Goleman does not address, that studies indicate a strong correlation between regular belief and participation in a religious community and more posi-

tive relationships. No, I don't think that one can say that you get faith and all is right with the world.

But I think that this points us to examine those core values and beliefs that do guide our lives. Because that is what the intimate relationships and the people we see each and every day will benefit from:

Our approach to how we get along with others.

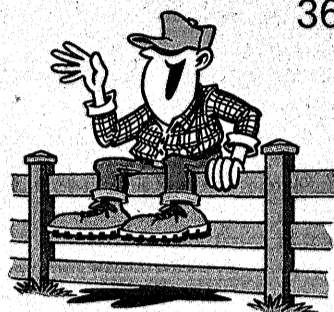
We find in the consulting room that strained, trapped, and troubled emotions contribute to lives that have problems.

Emotions can bubble up destructively like a volcano eruption or flow quietly and softly like a flowing stream. If yours feel like a volcano pay attention to what they are telling you about painful and troublesome places in your life. You and those around you will benefit from the care you find for yourself.

Dr. Paul J. Melrose is Executive Director of the Samaritan Counseling Center of SE Michigan. He can be reached through www.paulmelrose.com or (248) 474-4701. The Staff of the Samaritan Counseling center can be reached through www.samaritancounseling-michigan.com, or (248) 474-4701.

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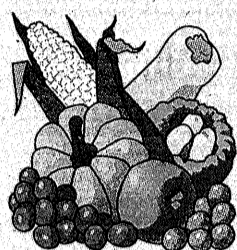


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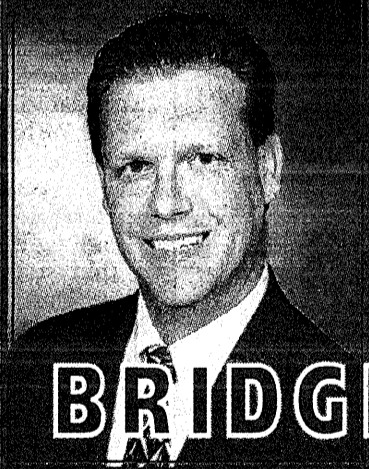
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JOE BRIDGMAN

About Joe...

- ★ 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.

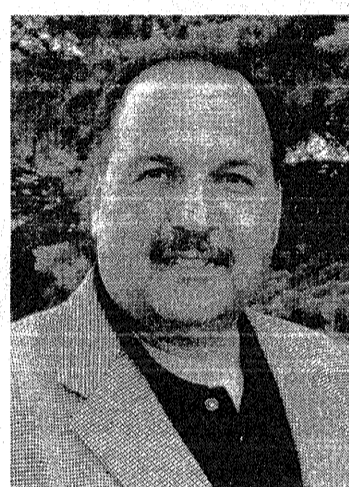
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- ★ Kay Arnold, Plymouth Township Trustee
- ★ Mary Breen, Schoolcraft College Trustee
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- ★ Plymouth Community Firefighters Local 1496
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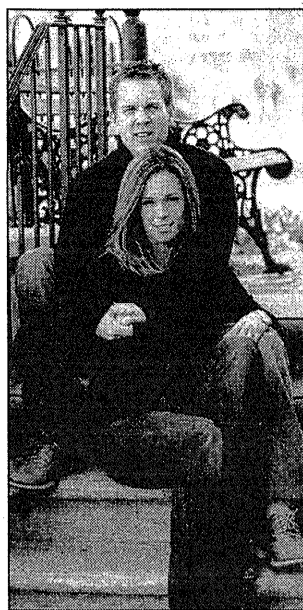
WEDDINGS

Esser-Czerniawski

John and Sheree Esser of Canton announce the marriage of their daughter, Lisa Michelle Esser, to Timothy Allan Czerniawski of Salem Township. He is the son of Jeanie Allan of Dearborn and Alexander Allan III of Westland.

Lisa is a 1999 Plymouth Salem High School graduate. She earned her bachelor's degree in finance from Western Michigan University in 2003 and her law degree from Thomas M. Cooley Law School in 2006. She is an associate attorney for Sommers Schwartz, P.C. in Southfield and specializes in medical malpractice. Timothy is a 1995 Canton High School graduate and earned his bachelor's degree from Eastern Michigan University. He works in home improvement sales in Canton.

The couple wed on June 28 at Oakhurst Golf & Country Club in Clarkston. The bride was attended by maid of honor Alison Morency and bridesmaids Natalie Esser, Krista Skillman and Melissa Marisco. The groom's best man was Scott Allan and his groomsmen included Sean Allan, Rocco Foggio and Ryan Esser. The couple took a honeymoon trip to St. Thomas, St. John and Virgin Gorda. They will make their home in Salem Township.



Mizak-Baumgardner

Richard Baumgardner and Katrina Mizsak-Baumgardner of Livonia wed on Aug. 25, 2007 in Canton and are about to move into their new home. Katrina works as a medical assistant and Richard serves in the U.S. Army.



Balko-Ianitelli

Ms. Denise Balko of Westland and Mr. Richard Balko of Livonia announce the marriage of their daughter, Lisa Ann Balko to Andrew Kenneth Ianitelli of Staunton, Virg. He is the son of Andrew and Susan Ianitelli of Westland. Lisa is a 2001 graduate of Franklin High School in Livonia Public Schools and a 2007 graduate of Madonna University. She works as a direct services associate at The Commonwealth Center for Children and Adolescents. Andrew is a 1998 graduate of Franklin High School, a 2001 graduate of Schoolcraft College and a 2007 graduate of the Michigan Institution of Aviation and Technology. He works as an A&P Mechanic at Dynamic Aviation.

The couple wed June 14 at St. Matthew's Lutheran Church before the Rev. Kurt Lambart. The bride was attended by maid of honor Dawn Balko and bridesmaids Jody Seitz, Sara Ianitelli, Carly Ferguson, Tiff O'Kane and Jess Price. The groom was attended by best man Shaun Ianitelli and groomsmen Dan Watt, Greg Sturdy, Mike Kovacs, Adam Buchanan and Karl Gallagher. A reception followed the service at Sacred Heart Conference Center in Livonia. The couple honeymooned in Niagara Falls and will make their home in Staunton, Va.



Five generations

Pearl Rowe (right) turns 101 on Wednesday, Aug. 6. The Livonia woman is pictured here with her daughter Dee Dee Dittmar on her left; Dittmar's daughter, Wendi Stull; Wendi's daughter, Jessica Stull and her 4-month old son Tanner Stull. Wendi, Jessica and Tanner were in town from Casper, Wyoming for visit at Dittmar's Livonia home.

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23 NINE INCH NAILS
THE PALACE OF AUBURN HILLS

23 BROOKS & DUNN / ZZ TOP
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23-24 WINE & FOOD FESTIVAL
MEADOW BROOK MUSIC FESTIVAL

24 THE HUMAN LEAGUE, BELINDA X
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SEAGULLS and NAKED EYES
REGENERATION TOUR
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24 GET BACK! CAST OF X
BEATLEMANIA
MEADOW BROOK MUSIC FESTIVAL

27 THE ALLMAN BROTHERS BAND / X
BOB WEIR & RAT DOG
DTE ENERGY MUSIC THEATRE

29 MAROON 5 / COUNTING CROWS
wsg AUGUSTANA
DTE ENERGY MUSIC THEATRE

30 THE MUSIC OF X
LED ZEPPELIN A Rock Symphony
DTE ENERGY MUSIC THEATRE

31 THE TEMPTATIONS REVUE X
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LEGENDS OF MOTOWN
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AUGUST

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THE PALACE OF AUBURN HILLS

21 LYNRYD SKYNYRD
DTE ENERGY MUSIC THEATRE

26 CELINE DION
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THE PALACE OF AUBURN HILLS

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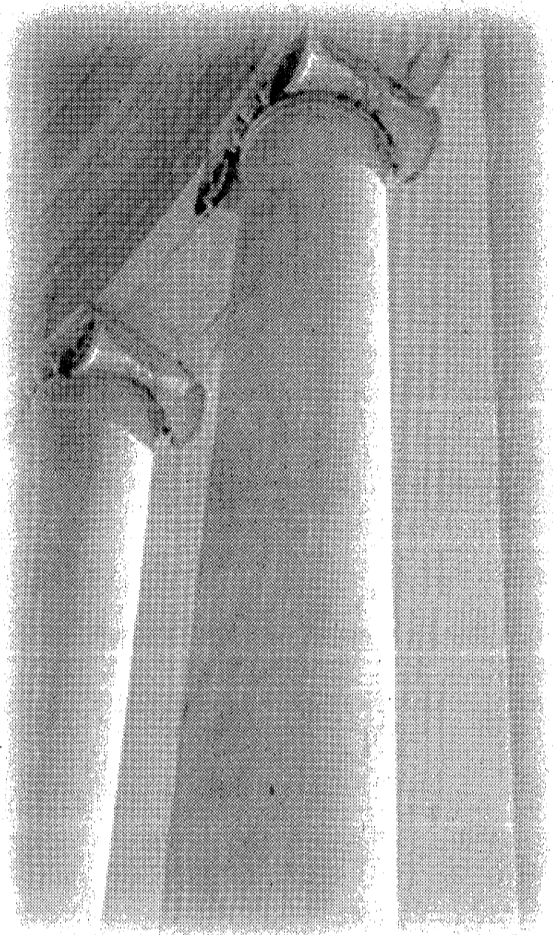
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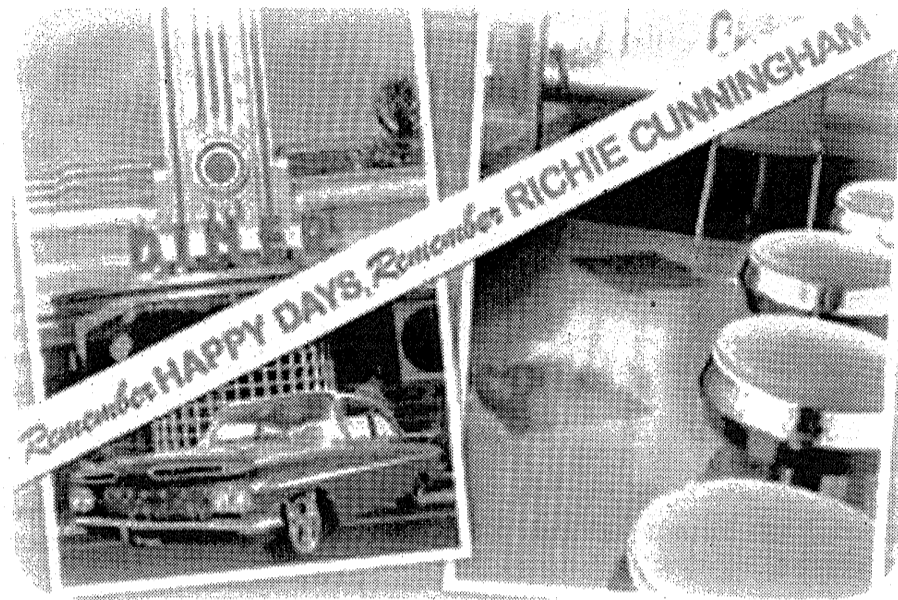
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But From Late And Long Observation
Of The Nature Of Evil In Others;
Knowledge Should Be His Guide,
Not Personal Experience."*

PLATO



Former Recorder's Court Judge **Richard Cunningham** is seeking election to the office of Wayne County Circuit Court Judge. He is one of eleven candidates seeking three open seats. His professional experience, demonstrated leadership and commitment to public service make him uniquely qualified for this important position.

Richard Cunningham is currently an attorney in private practice. His 29 year legal career includes service as an Assistant Wayne County Prosecutor, a trial court judge, an ethics prosecutor for the Attorney Grievance Commission, and staff attorney for the Veterans Administration. *Michigan Lawyers Weekly* named him an "Attorney Of The Year" in 2000. His exemplary judicial service was recognized by a major newspaper, which noted that he was among the 10 Michigan judges least likely to be reversed.

Richard Cunningham serves as an elected member of the Board Of Commissioners (the board of directors) of the State Bar of Michigan. He previously served two terms on the State Bar Representative Assembly. Other professional leadership positions include a term as President of the Criminal Law Section of the State Bar and three terms as Chairperson of Criminal Law Section of the Detroit Metropolitan Bar Association. He is a Trustee of the DMBA Foundation, and a Fellow of the State Bar Foundation.

Richard Cunningham is dedicated to the principle of "due process" for those accused of crimes, but has demonstrated his sensitivity and concern for crime victims. He has served as a member of the Board of Directors of Save Our Sons And Daughters (SOSAD) and on the National Board of Parents Of Murdered Children, Inc.

Richard Cunningham is involved in the community. He is the Vice-Chair of the Board of Directors for U-SNAP-BAC, a non-profit housing corporation. He is a graduate of Belleville High School, and was recognized in 2004 with a "Distinguished Graduate" award. He has served as an adjunct instructor at Henry Ford Community College.



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This is the highest rating available to a candidate for judicial office. Richard Cunningham is the only one of the eleven candidates for this office to receive the "Outstanding" rating.

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Richard Cunningham served our country as a combat infantryman in Viet Nam. He is a member of the Viet Nam Veterans of America and a Life Member of the Veterans Of Foreign Wars (VFW)

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Recognize warning signs for teen suicide

My friend tried to commit suicide and I'm not sure how I feel ... I feel like I should've known she was this sad and that I could've done something to prevent this. I think I'm even a little bit angry ... I'm not even sure how to act around her now ... what do I do? Emotional Roller Coaster in Garden City

You are not alone ... I have had many letters and e-mails about this due to the recent teen suicide and suicide attempts in our area. So, I'm dedicating this entire column to teen suicide and those of us affected by it.

So, I'm dedicating this entire column to teen suicide and those of us affected by it.

U.S., thousands of teenagers commit suicide. Suicide is the third leading cause of death for 15- to 24-year-olds, according to the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry.

It is a final attempt to end pain. Someone who attempts or commits suicide has been experiencing a lot of pain for a long time. Teenagers experience strong feelings of stress, confusion, self-doubt, pressure to succeed, financial uncertainty and other fears while growing up.

For some teenagers, divorce, the formation of a new family with step-parents and step-siblings, or moving to a new community can be very unsettling and can intensify self-doubts.

For some teens, suicide may appear to be a solution to their problems and stress.

Many of the signs and symptoms of suicidal feelings are similar to those of depression. Teens who may try to kill themselves might change their eating and sleeping habits or pull away from friends and activities they normally enjoy. They may run away from home or act violently.

Drug or alcohol use and neglecting their appearance are common, too. You might notice a change in their personality and that they are constantly bored, are having problems concentrating and are letting their grades slip.

A teenager who is planning to commit suicide may also complain of being a bad person or feeling rotten inside. They might give us hints with statements such as: "I won't be a problem for you much longer;" "Nothing matters;" "It's no use;" and "I won't see you again."

A teen planning suicide might put his or her affairs in order by giving away favorite possessions, cleaning his or her room or throwing away

important belongings.

If a friend says, "I want to kill myself" or "I'm going to commit suicide," always take the statement seriously and immediately tell a teacher, parent, or other adult that can help.

It would be nice if everyone who was thinking about suicide gave us these types of warning signs, but they don't always.

If you know your friend suffers from depression or another psychological disorder, has attempted suicide, or is being physically or sexually abused, you might want to talk to your friend about his or her feelings even if they aren't giving any other warning signs. These types of factors increase the risk of suicide among teens.

Other factors that increase that risk include a lack of support, poor relationships with parents or peers, social isolation, and coping with homosexuality in an unsupportive family or community.

We usually feel uncomfortable talking about death. However, asking your friend whether he or she is depressed or thinking about suicide can be helpful. Rather than putting thoughts in your friend's head, asking this tough question will show that somebody cares and will give your friend the chance to talk about problems.

If one or more of these signs occurs, your friend's parents need to know so they can get your friend professional help from a physician or a qualified mental health professional. With support from family and appropriate treatment, teens who are suicidal can heal and return to a more healthy path of life. If you're not sure what to do, or you think your friend might be in crisis, you can call (800) SUICIDE for help.

What do you do when someone you know attempts or commits suicide? First, know that any emotion you experience is normal. Some teens say they feel guilty — especially those who felt they could have known their friend's actions and words better. Others say they feel angry with the friend who committed or attempted suicide for having done something so selfish. Still others say they feel no strong emotions. All of these reactions are normal; there is no right or wrong way to feel. When a friend attempts suicide and survives, you may be afraid of or uncomfortable about talking with him or her about it. Resist this urge; this is a time when your friend absolutely needs to feel connected to others.

When a friend commits suicide, the pain and grief may be overwhelming. Although these feelings may never completely go away, we can take steps

to begin the healing process.

It's important to maintain contact with others. Find supportive people to talk with about your friend and your feelings. It's also important to keep in mind that other people around you are grieving, too, and that everyone expresses grief in their own way.

Be there for each other through the tears, anger, and silences — and, if necessary, get help and support together.

You should expect that anniversaries, birthdays, and holidays may be difficult. Important days and holidays often renew a sense of loss and anxiety. On those days, do what's best for you, whether that means surrounding yourself with family and friends or planning a quiet day of reflection.

Most of all, understand that it's normal to feel guilty and to question how this could have happened, but it's also important to realize that you might never get the answer. Healing will happen over time and will come from reaching a point of forgiveness — for both your friend and yourself.

It's important to recognize that suicide is NEVER the answer. The pain and grief family and friends endure is incredible.

Family is left with guilt beyond words and friends are left with pain that will affect them for the rest of their lives.

Allergic reactions: Fabric softener has negative side

I heard an alarming news story on CBS radio the other day concerning fabric dryer sheets. It was reported that there are chemicals in these sheets that are not listed and these sheets will cause people to suffer allergic type reactions.

I went to the store and purchased a box of them and tried burning one in the driveway. Amazingly it didn't catch fire! Under an open flame, it melted as if I was burning a piece of plastic.

I don't know what date the fabric softener sheet came onto the market but I do know that any service technician who works on clothes dryers will tell you that he finds them everywhere inside the bowels of the clothes dryer.

They seem to get through seals and crevices and end up in the blower housings or the gas and electric heat chambers and are a concern to us in regards to a clothes dryer fire. Have you ever gone to work only to have someone smile and tug a fabric softener sheet out of your shirt collar or sleeve?

Diane Armstrong who writes for the *Timmins Times* newspaper in my hometown recently expressed her views on dryer sheets. Once consumers learned that the same sheet can be cut in half and used several times, they bought fewer boxes of dryer sheets. To boost sales, the consumers were told that they have more uses than originally thought.

Did you know you can put them in your clothes hamper to cut down on the odor of dirty socks? Put one in your garbage can. A dryer sheet just might mask the smell of that rotting, week-old chicken carcass. No one likes the smell of skunky sports equipment, so a dryer sheet in with those

stinky running shoes and sweat-soaked jerseys should eliminate the problem. I don't think so, but that's what the dryer sheet manufacturers suggest.

These little dryer sheets come in a wide variety of scents, very few of which I could identify blindfolded. I wonder what "rain" really smells like. Or "spring"?

Is there anything wrong with clothes out of the dryer or off the clothesline smelling just like clothes?

I recently wrote a column about the advertising you see and hear which is designed to lead you to purchase certain products. Caution was stressed and everyone needs to use sheer diligence to determine what is right or wrong. I once used these dryer sheets tucked into my baseball cap while on a fishing trip to repel mosquitoes. It didn't work; they ate me alive.

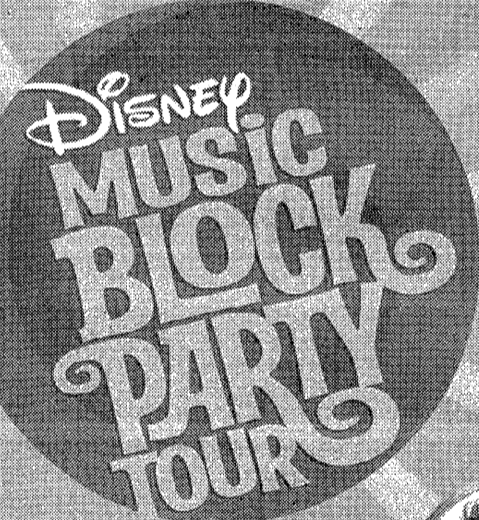
I was asked if the spray fabric softener was a

better product to use. Whatever chemical is in the spray product must be awful powerful as well. For years I've been warning consumers that if you use this spray around your washer and dryer and some of it comes in contact with the consul of these products you can expect the lettering and numbers to disappear.

When I hear a story coming of CBS headquarters in New York, I tend to pay close attention. It really shocks me that a product so commonly used by homemakers in America can contain harmful chemicals and there is no requirement that the manufacturer has to list those harmful agents. Stay tuned.

Joe Gagnon can be heard at 8 a.m. Saturdays on WAAM 1600. His phone number is (734) 971-1600 Ext. 28. Do you have a question about an appliance or have a problem with one? E-mail it to kabramcz@hometownlife.com and it will be forwarded to Joe Gagnon.


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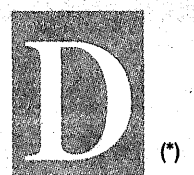
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New Homes



Sunday, August 3, 2008

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

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

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Meadow Creek has room to grow, style to spare

The Meadow Creek (D8077) has the traditional farmhouse look with a covered porch, large windows, a dormer in the front, and a two-car garage. The façade is accented by rock on the side and rock cornices on the garage. This home has 1,858 square feet of gracious living space along with an unfinished basement of 1,405 square feet and an added bonus room over the garage of 300 square feet.

Just to the left of the front door is the formal dining room. It has a large set of windows overlooking the front porch and yard. Separating the great room from the dining room is the stairs to the second floor and the basement.

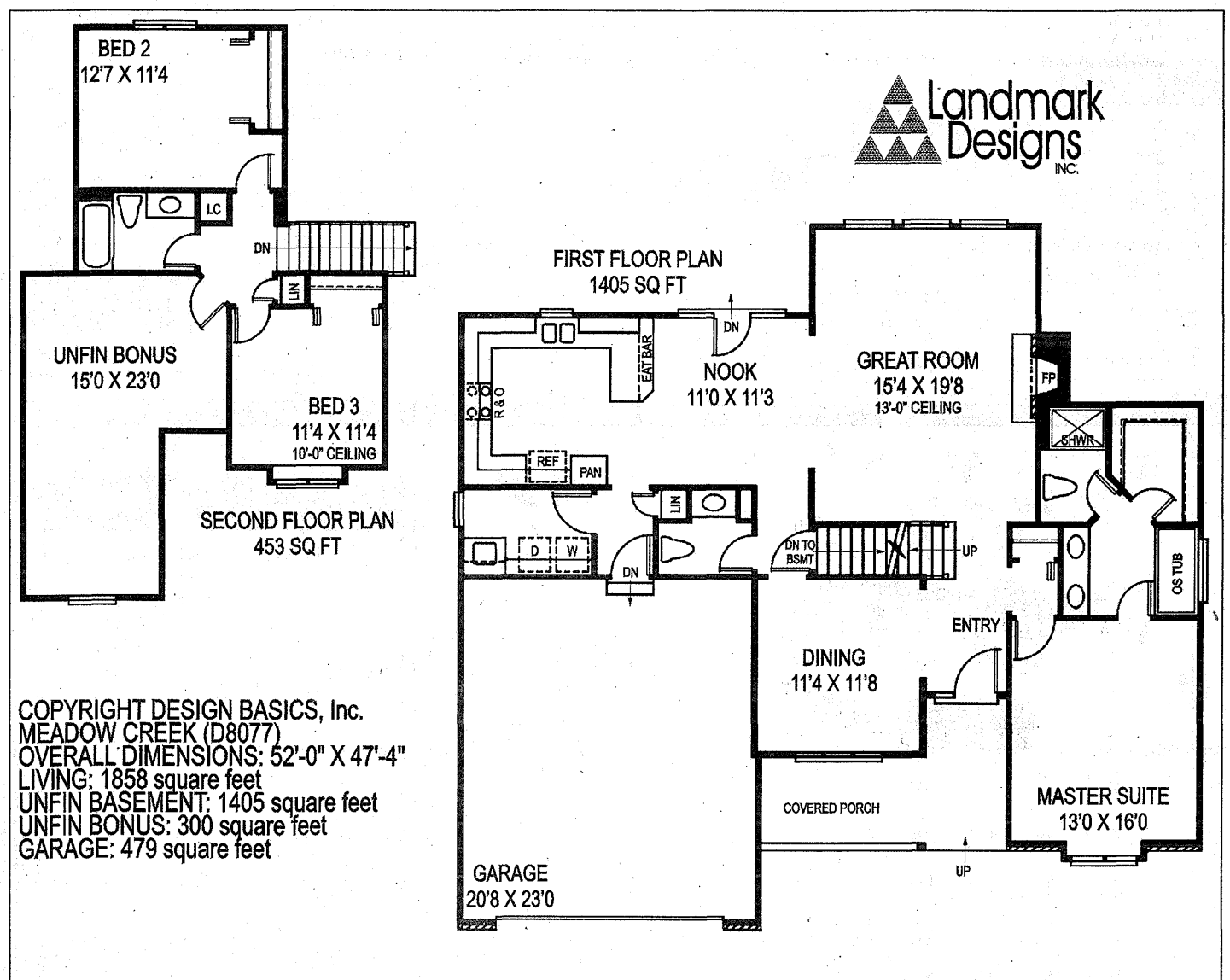
The great room has three large windows providing an open view of the back yard. A fireplace is on the right side. The room is open to the breakfast nook with a door to the back yard. The corner kitchen has a window over the sink, a pantry cabinet, and an eating bar facing the nook. Between the kitchen and the two-car garage is the utility room with a large laundry sink. A door to the garage separates the utility and a half-bath. For convenience, a linen closet is also in this area.

The master suite is on the right side of the entry and occupies the whole side. The master bath is rather uniquely laid out. In the first part are the "his and her" sinks with a large tub. In the rear corner behind a door is the walk-in closet. Adjacent behind another door is the shower and toilet.

Upstairs are two more bedrooms. Both have a wall closet and the front bedroom has the dormer window bathing the room with extra light. A linen closet is in the hallway opposite a full bath with a tub. The unfinished bonus room is located between the two bedrooms and has so many possibilities. It could be a playroom, a family room, a computer/den, exercise room, or just about anything a family would need.

The Meadow Creek would be ideal for the family with older children or the empty nesters that need upstairs bedrooms for the kids to come and visit. This home is compact yet has the open, spacious living area of a home that is much larger.

For a study plan of the MEADOW CREEK (D8077), 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.



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Investors

Learn about mobile home investing (buy, sell, where) from Jeff Bennett Thursday, Aug. 14. Presented by the Real Estate Investors Association of Oakland at 5:30-9:30 p.m. at MSU Management Education Center, 811 W. Square Lake Road, Troy. Seminar free to members, \$20 nonmembers. Call (800) 747-6742.

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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

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 fol-

lowing. 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 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@northstarhomelending.com.

BIA

Building Industry Association of Southeastern Michigan's 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.

