

# **Experts give tips** for the holidays

Hometownlife - C1

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PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

A large crowd joins Karen Newman for holiday songs and the arrival of Santa Claus in Kellogg Park Friday.

# Santa's arrival kicks off holiday season

BY BRAD KADRICH **OBSERVER STAFF WRITER** 

As the pealing siren of the Plymouth Community Fire Department truck drew closer with its important passenger, drowning out Christmas music being played by Karen Newman and Michael King, the three Scannell children of Plymouth Township drew even more excited.

As they have the last six years, the Scannell brood — 9-year-old Julia and 6year-old twins Maria and Joseph — were right up front with mom Judy and dad Jeff as firefighters delivered Santa on his annual sojourn into the Plymouth community.

It was part of a day-long parlay of events that included sales for shoppers at some 80 retailers in downtown Plymouth, the concert by Newman and King and the arrival of Santa Claus that marks the unofficial beginning of the holiday season in Plymouth.

"It's just a wonderful family event," Judy

Scannell said. "It's the first time this year the kids have seen Santa ... they were waving frantically at him. You can't beat it."

It was the second straight year for Newman at the event, which also featured hot chocolate and coffee being handed out by the Salvation Army, which was also the beneficiary of donations for its annual Red Kettle Campaign.

But the highlight was Santa, who arrived shortly after 6 p.m. and accepted the "Key to the Hearts" of the children of Plymouth, helped light the official Plymouth Christmas tree and led some singing.

"It's always a joy to come back to Plymouth," Santa told the cheering masses. "It's a joy and a pleasure to spend time with

the children here in Plymouth." Santa will visit with children at his house along Main Street weekends through Dec. 23. He'll be at his house 5-8 p.m. Fridays, noon to 5 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays and 5-8 p.m. again Dec. 23.

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



Santa Claus steps off the fire truck and greets the crowd upon his arrival in Kellogg Park in downtown Plymouth Friday night. For more pictures of Santa's arrival, please see the photo gallery at our Web site at hometownlife.com.

# **Board approves** reworked budget

# Cuts include overtime, police, fire positions

BY BRAD KADRICH **OBSERVER STAFF WRITER** 

The good news, Plymouth Township officials discovered as they crafted their 2009 budget, is that the bad news is still a year or two away.

The bad news is that, while they've cut more than \$500,000 in expenditures for 2009, declining property values will make putting together the 2010 and 2011 budgets that much tougher.

It was all part of the discussion Tuesday as the Board of Trustees passed its 2009 budget resolution following a public hearing which actually drew no public comment. The hearing was required prior to Dec. 15; the budget was required to be adopted by Dec. 31.

The board also voted to keep the millage rate steady at 4 mills, so residents won't see a tax increase.

When we started this budget process, we had a \$300,000 deficit and expenditures exceeded revenues," township Treasurer Ron Edwards said. "We've turned that around."

New township Clerk Joe Bridgman, making his first budget vote, cast the lone "nay" in the 6-1 vote approving the budget.

"I think there are some additional cuts that could've been made without cutting people," said Bridgman, who pointed to the township calendar and newsletter as potential cuts that survived the knife. "If we're truly going to cut the budget, we need to get rid of unnecessary items. People are a necessary item, in my opinion. We're in business to serve the community, and if we're going to do that we need qualified people working

According to figures Edwards provided to the board Tuesday, township officials carved more than \$523,000 in spending out of the proposed budget, which had more than \$14.3 million in expenses a couple of weeks ago and now lists just over \$13.8 million.

Proposed revenues also went down, by some \$95,000. The township's budget now sits at \$14.26 million. Among the drops were \$50,00 in property tax revenue and another \$50,000 in interest income due to declining interest rates.

To cut expenses, Edwards counted heavily on reducing some full-time positions (in the clerk and supervisor's office, primarily) to part time, cutting out the cost of benefits. Overtime pay has been halted except in emergencies or unless previously approved, and all

Please see BUDGET, A9

# Black Friday turns downtown Plymouth green with cash

BY BRAD KADRICH **OBSERVER STAFF WRITER** 

Katie Polidori of Dearborn said Friday afternoon she'd been shopping "for about 12 hours" by the time she caught up with her godmother, Kim Pascua, in downtown Plymouth.

She'd started at Fairlane Mall in Dearborn around 5 a.m., but knew better than to try to convince Pascua, a Plymouth resident, to join

"I don't do malls," Pascua said with a smile, standing inside Gigi's Mode in downtown Plymouth. "She knew better than to ask (to get up that early). We had our plan. I like to shop local."

Pascua and Polidori were among the throng of people who filled downtown Plymouth's stores the day after Thanksgiving, the most

popular shopping day of the year, taking advantage of the opportunity to avoid crowded nearby malls in places like Westland or

They were also taking advantage of a coordinated effort from some 80 retailers and two dozen restaurants which combined to offer holiday sales and make shopping easier for patrons. The plan was designed to promote the idea of shopping locally.

Beverly Whitby, who owns Gigi's Mode, said the plan to promote local shopping was working pretty well, especially combined with a concert put on by Karen Newman.

"Plymouth is recognized as one of the top five areas for shopping," Whitby said. "Business is going well. It's been pretty steady all day.

Ann Hassell of Livonia and her 19-yearold daughter, Julia, have been shopping

Plymouth for years. They've made it a post-Thanksgiving tradition since Julia was 2.

"I like the unique things you can find, and the variety," Ann Hassell said during a break in shopping at Basket Kreations in Westchester Square. "We really like coming here."

Shirley Broccardo, who works at Basket Kreations, said the idea of avoiding mall crowds brings people into downtown Plymouth, even into a store that's a little off the beaten path.

"People love coming to Plymouth rather than going to the mall," Broccardo said. "I think that's a huge advantage for us. There's so much stress in our lives. To go through that (mall crowds), to me, is not worth it. Traffic here has been very steady."

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



**BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER** 

Jan Walsh and daughter Katie Walsh of Livonia shopped downtown Plymouth on Black Friday, and found a good buy at Gabriala's.

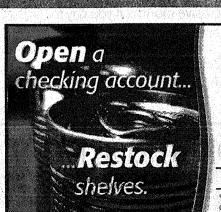
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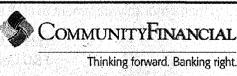
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**SPORTS** 

**Coming Thursday** 



The Beatle Maniacs. the ultimate tribute to The Beatles

# Ballet company's 'Nutcracker' to light up Salem stage

**BY KURT KUBAN OBSERVER STAFF WRITER** 

The Sugar Plum Fairy, Snow Queen and Herr Drosselmeyer will be some of the characters that take center stage when the Plymouth-Canton Ballet Co. teams up with the Plymouth Symphony Orchestra to present The Nutcracker, Dec. 6-7 at the Salem High School Auditorium.

According to Plymouth-Canton Ballet Co. President Beck Greene, more than 50 dancers will perform the

holiday classic, accompanied by the PSO's full professional orchestra. Greene said the dancers range in age from small children to adults, with lots of accomplished students.

Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, November 30, 2008

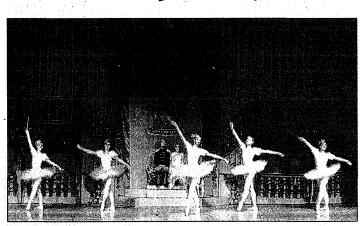
"Our older students are very skilled, pre-professional," he

Nearly all of the performers are from the local area. Reid Conlon from Canton will perform as the Nutcracker Prince and Lauren Hansen from Livonia will dance the role of Clara. Amber Lawson of Livonia will perform as the Dew Drop Fairy. Jessica Zultowski

will dance as the Snow Princess. Erica Martin of Canton will perform as the Rat King.

In addition to the company's dancers, there will be two special guest performers from the Cincinnati Ballett in Ohio: Jay Goodlett will perform as the Cavalier and Snow King, with his partner Tricia Sundberg dancing the Sugar Plum Fairy and the Snow Queen. Both have performed in many productions, including The Nutcracker.

Add it all up and Greene says the group's performance will take audience members by surprise.



The Plymouth-Canton Ballet Co.'s upcoming performances of 'The Nutcracker' at the Salem High School auditorium will feature some 50 dancers and will be accompanied by the Plymouth Symphony Orchestra.

"We make this as professional as possible. We have huge set pieces. The scenery is well done. Those that come out are going to see a production very comparable to the Michigan

Display Advertising.

Opera Theatre's production downtown," said Greene, a former Canton resident who now lives in Grosse Ile.

In addition, Greene said the company has altered the

traditional story a bit to cater to families. There will also be two intermissions, so the kids don't get too antsy.

We have a little different twist. The story is very easy for people and especially children to follow. The kids will love this one," he said.

The performances will be at 6:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6, and at 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 7. Tickets are \$18 for adults and \$10 for children up to 12. Tickets can be ordered by phone at (734) 451-2112, online at www.plymouthcantonballet. org or at the door. Following each performance audience members may join the performers on stage for a Sugar Plum Parade for \$2. For more information, visit www.plymouthcantonballet.org or www. plymouthsymphony.org.

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# Livonia

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# **Plymouth**

Wednesday, Dec. 17, 2008

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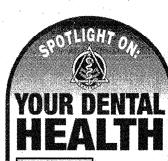


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Andrea S. Vivian, D.D.S.

# LINGERING PROBLEM

permanent tooth grows behind rather than directly below a primary tooth. Usually, the over retained baby tooth will fall out of its own accord to make way for the emerging permanent teeth. It it doesn't, the lingering primary tooth may have to be extracted to give the new permanent tooth a chance to position itself properly. Most children who experience this doubling up of primary and permanent teeth do so only once. When doubling up does occur, it usually involves the bottom central incisors, and should not be a source of concern. However, when over retention involves a top central incisor, it is often a sign of overcrowding, which can inhibit

Early dental visits can keep watch on how tooth development is progressing. They are an important part of growing up healthy. When it's time for their first visit, satisfy your children's natural curiosity by telling them that the dentist is first going to count their teeth, then take their picture, clean them, and see that they are healthy. Bring along a doll or stuffed animal, and we'll check its teeth too. We believe that a healthy smile is important at any age. Our office is located at at 496 W. Ann Arbor Trail, Ste. 201, Plymouth. Call us at 734-453-

9413 for an appointment. P.S. Over-retention of a primary tooth may be due to a root that does not resorb properly or a root that is tightly fused (ankylosed) to the jawbone

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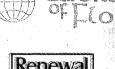


SANTA will be on hand accepting donations of canned goods, new children's books, and new, warm children's clothing to help support the Goodfellows. Santa photos by CL!X Studio.





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Canton Downtown Development Authority

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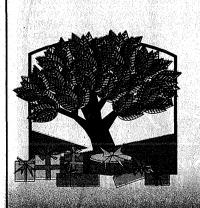
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ught to you by the Canton Downtown Development Authority, the Canton Chamber of Commerce and Canton Leisure Services.





"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

#### Museum bazaar

The Plymouth Historical Museum holds its annual Craft Bazaar and Open House 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6. Admission is free to the museum's exhibits and to the Craft Bazaar.

Visitors will be able to give Santa Claus their wish lists, as well as view the museum's new special exhibit, "Twas the Night Before Christmas."

This year's Craft Bazaar, in addition to having free admission, features crafters on both levels of the museum. Other opportunities include a bake sale and refreshments for sale in the Sanford Burr Meeting Room, and a craft raffle of items donated by participating crafters.

Parking is available in the free lot behind the Plymouth District Library, as well as along Union Street east of the museum, which is located at 155 S. Main. For more information, call (734) 455-8940.

#### Gabriala's fund-raiser

The Plymouth Community Arts Council and Gabriala's join together for a fund-raising event 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 4.

Gabriala's will donate 15 percent of all purchases to the PCAC. All donations go to support PCAC programs, including arts education classes, a theater program, concerts, lectures and seminars, work-

shops, and community-based

enrichment activities.
Gabriala's is a specialty gift store offering home accents perfect for holiday gifts.
Gabriala's is located at 322 S.
Main in downtown Plymouth, across from Kellogg Park.

For more information contact the PCAC at (734) 416-4278 or Gabriala's at (734) 455-8884.

#### College workshop series

The Plymouth District Library will host a series of workshops designed to assist high school and college students and their parents.

"Money for college:
Financing college tuition,"
Thursday, Dec. 4, 6:30-8:30
p.m. - Sheryl Krasnow, college and career counselor will
provide information on paying
for college and how to find
financial help for college costs.
How to complete and file the
FAFSA (Free Application for
Federal Student Aid) forms
will be explained.

■ "Test strategies for the ACT," Thursday, Jan. 15, 7-8:30 p.m.

"Essay writing workshop for the ACT essay," Thursday,

Jan. 22, 7-8:30 p.m. Registration is requested for these free programs. Contact the Library at (734) 453-0750, Ext. 4.

#### Saturdays at the Penn

The Plymouth Community
Arts Council and the
Plymouth Canton Symphony
Society present "Saturdays at
the Penn," with noon concerts
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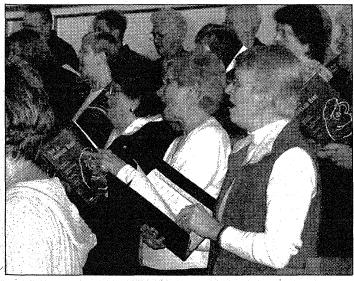
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#### Seasonal sounds

The BeckRidge Chorale presents its 'Sounds of the Season' Christmas Concert 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6 and 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 7. Each concert will be held at Northville High School, located at 45700 Six Mile in Northville. The Chorale is also gearing up for a pair of free concerts at local senior assisted-living centers. For more information or to order tickets visit the Chorale's Web page at www.beckridgechorale.org or call us at (734) 416-9885.

The next concert is set for noon Saturday, Dec. 6, with special musical host Beverly Meyer, The Music Lady, with announcer Timothy Thompson. Special guest performer will be Josh and Roy, "A Comedy, Juggling Show."

Tickets are \$3 and may be purchased the day of the show. Doors open at 11:15 a.m. at the Penn Theatre, 760 Penniman in downtown Plymouth. To purchase tickets before the concert, sponsored in part by a grant from the Wilcox Foundation and other generous supporters, or for more information on group purchases, contact Deb Madonna at (734) 377-0914.

#### Museum exhibits

The Plymouth Historical Museum has reopened with its new special exhibit, "Twas the Night Before Christmas," featuring several popular Christmas stories from the past two centuries, including the poem of the same name purportedly by Clement C. Moore, A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens, and The Polar Express, by Chris Van Allsburg. The special exhibit will be open through Jan. 4.

Santa is now visiting the Museum to meet good little girls and boys. Santa Claus will be at the Museum every Saturday until Christmas. and will be at the Museum 9-5 p.m. Dec. 6 during the Annual Craft Bazaar and Open House. This year's Craft Bazaar will have free admission, with more crafters and a craft raffle.

The Museum's permanent Lincoln Collection exhibit will remain closed until early December while the exhibit undergoes a facelift in anticipation of the upcoming special exhibit "In the Presence of Lincoln," honoring Abraham Lincoln's 200th birthday in February 2009. That exhibit will run Jan. 21-Nov. 4.

The Plymouth Historical Museum is located at 155 S. Main. Hours are 1-4 p.m. Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. Admission is \$5 for adults, \$10 for families, and \$2 for students 6-17. Tours and groups can be accommodated by calling (734) 455-8940. For more information, visit www.plymouthhistory.org

#### Christmas craft show

St. Thomas a'Becket
Catholic Church, 555 S. Lilley
Road, Canton (southeast corner of Cherry Hill and Lilley),
will host its Christmas craft
show from 9 a.m.-4 p.m.,
Saturday Dec. 6. The event
will feature more than 85
crafters, a bake sale, and lunch
will be available. Admission is
\$2. Children under 12 will be
admitted free. For more information, contact the church at
(734) 981-1333.

#### Prison Family Support Group

Do you have a family member currently serving time in prison, a subject that you can't easily discuss with just anyone? Now, there's a place for help – for conversation – for understanding of what you are going through.

Hope-4-Healing is a free on-going support group for those who have loved ones in prison, providing a safe place to talk about it, share with and learn from others. The group meets the second Monday of every month beginning in January 2009 at Kirk of Our Savior Presbyterian Church, 36660 Cherry Hill, in Westland.

For additional information, contact Bonnie at (734) 646-2237 or e-mail hope4healing@rocketmail.com

#### Senior party fund-raisers

The PCEP Senior Party Committee is inviting diners to dine out for "a wonderful cause," supporting the senior party by dining out at one (or more) of the area restaurants which have agreed to donate 20 percent of the purchases made during a specific time and date.

Fund-raisers take place at the following restaurants on the following dates:

Wednesday, Dec. 17, at Buffalo Wild Wings; Monday, Jan. 12 at Palermo's; Thursday, Feb. 12 at Caravel; Monday, April 6 at Palermo's; and Thursday, May 7, also at Palermo's. All restaurants are on Ford Road in Canton.

Detail information and a flyer is available at http://web.pccs.k12.mi.us/ pcep/pages/classof/2009/ senior-party09.htm (this flyer must be presented at time of purchase for us to receive 20% credit of your purchase).

Visit the committee's blog at http://pcep09seniorparty. blogspot.com/ or its Web page at http://web.pccs.k12.mi.us/ pcep/pages/classof/2009/ senior-party09.htm

To volunteer or for questions, contact peep-senior-party@comcast.net

#### DAR meets

The Daughters of the American Revolution-Sarah Ann Cochrane Chapter meet 11 a.m. Monday, Dec. 15, at Greenead, Alexander Blue

House in Livonia.

The program will feature
Christmas music and a sing-

along with "MI Darlings." For more information, call (734) 459-4764.

#### Holiday classics

The Penn Theatre will show a variety of holiday classics during December.

The schedule includes: "It's a Wonderful Life," featuring a live performance by the Belleville Bass before the Thursday, Dec. 4 and 6:45 and 9:15 p.m. Friday, Dec. 5; "White Christmas," 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 11; "Polar Express," 7 and 9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 19 and 5 and 7 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 20-21.

The Penn Theatre is located on Penniman in downtown Plymouth. Box office opens a half-hour before each showing; tickets are \$3. For more information, call (734) 453-0870 or visit www.penntheatre.com

#### Sounds of the season

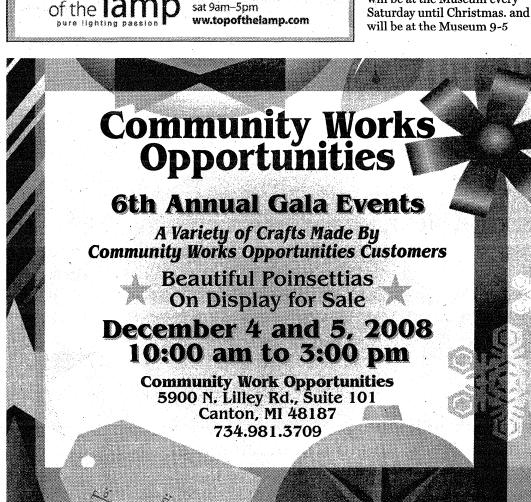
The BeckRidge Chorale proudly presents our "Sounds of the Season" Christmas Concert Saturday, Dec. 6 at 8 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 7 at 4 p.m.

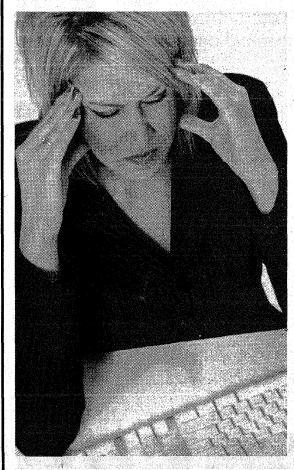
Each concert will be held at Northville High School, located at 45700 Six Mile in Northville. Tickets are \$13 and \$16.

For more information or to order tickets visit us at www.beckridgechorale. org or call us at (734) 416-9885.

#### Nutcracker Ballet

More than 70 dancers from Bunny Sanford's School of Dance perform the holiday classic at 11:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13 at Stevenson High School, 33500 Six Mile Road (just west of Farmington). Tickets are available for \$5. This special production features original choreography and costumes from the Nutcracker Ballet that formerly appeared at the Fox Theatre and Detroit Opera House. Tickets are available at the door or by calling Bunny Sanford's School of Dance at (734) 464-7440.





# Trouble coping? Feeling anxious? Depressed?

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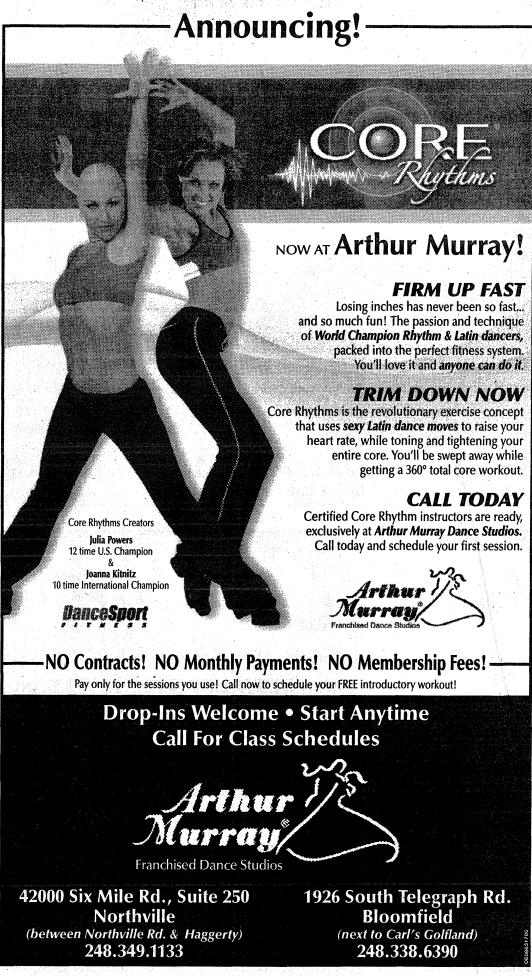
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# 'Stop, thief!'

# Demonstrations show ways to stay safe shopping

BY SUE MASON **OBSERVER STAFF WRITER** 

"Hey, someone stop that guy, he just stole my purse," shouted Kenya Davis as Ray Johnson ran through the parking lot of Westland Shopping Center with her purse in his hand.

Cameras were rolling to catch the crime, but it wasn't the neither first time Davis hollered that nor a fleet-footed escape for Johnson. Wayne County Sheriff officers, the duo were re-acted purse snatchings several times to show the how to thwart the crime during the holiday season.

It was a lesson Maureen Brown took to heart. Looking at her purse, dangling from her shoulder, she had to admit, "This is bad."

Brown and her husband Peter had come to the shopping center to watch the demonstration put on for members of the media in advance of the start of the holiday shopping season.

"Boy, if I can pick up one little tip ... any little thing can help," said the Plymouth resident.

"This is the worst economy ever and when the economy is poor, you're going to have more people looking for an opportunity to steal," said Wayne County Sheriff Warren Evans. "You have to be aware of your environment."

Davis played the victim for the demonstration, making several walks to a car, parked several hundred feet from the Kohl's Wayne Road entrance. Each time Johnson darted out from in front of a white panel van, grabbing her purse from her shoulder as she talked on her cell phone and loaded her packages in the car.

He also waited until she had placed the bags in the backseat and was well on her way back to the store, when he broke the window with a hammer to gain access.

According to Evans, the different scenarios showed what shoppers need to do to stay safe. In the case of the cell phone, he said to make the call in the mall "and get it out of the way." He also advised women to place their purses across their body or "better yet across their bodies and under

a jacket."

He also told shoppers to park beside smaller vehicles, taking away a hiding place from would-be thieves and to move the car every time they make a trip to the car to drop off purchases.

"They're not going to follow you," Evans said. "These are not violent people. The louder you scream, the less likely they'll continue.'

Joining Evans for the presentation was Westland Police James Ridener, whose department began a beefed-up presence at the mall Friday with the official start of the holiday shopping season.

"We'll have stepped-up enforcement at the mall through Christmas Eve," he said. "We'll have patrols inside and outside."

Evans stressed that opportunistic crime has yet to happen, but that doesn't mean it won't.

"Ask me in two weeks," he said. "We want to make sure people enjoy the season. If people are aware, they're going to enjoy themselves."

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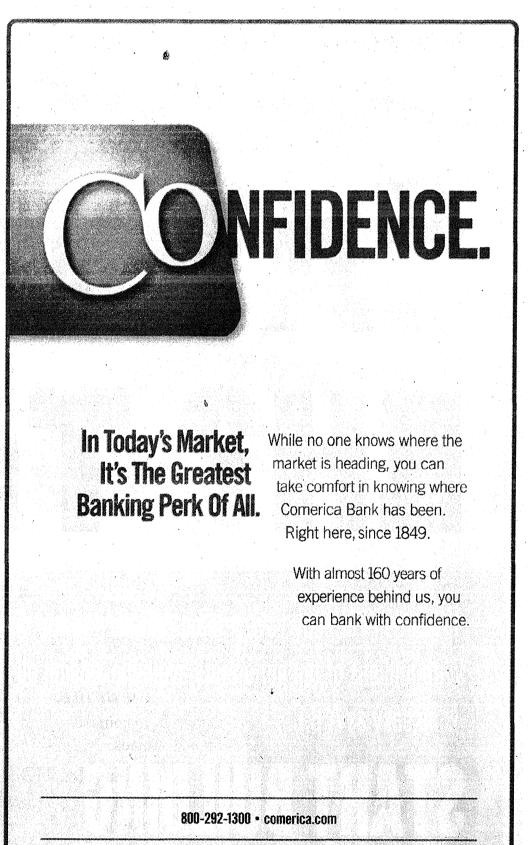
Wayne County Sheriff Officer Ray Johnson steals the purse from fellow officer Kenya Davis as she talks on a cell phone while walking to a car in the parking lot of Westland Shopping Center during a shopping safety demonstration.











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#### **NEWS BRIEFS**

# needy families A local organization whose

First Step seeks donors,

mission centers around helping victims of domestic and sexual violence is seeking help for families for the holidays.

First Step, a Wayne County agency dedicated to eliminating domestic and sexual violence, is currently looking for support for their annual Adopt-A-Family Program. First Step's Adopt-A-Family Program assists families who are seeking to rebuild lives that have been shattered by an abuser.

"Many families are spiraled into poverty when they take steps to move from violence to safety," said Judith Barr, First Step's associate director. "First Step's Adopt-a-Family Program is designed to help families feel supported as they make the transition."

For the past couple of years, First Step's Adopt-a-Family Program has been able to help hundreds of families. However, Barr said, stressful economic times have contributed to a significant upswing in requests for support while the number of donors has decreased.

"Now more than ever, families experiencing domestic and sexual violence need the help of citizens who care," Barr said. "We know right now the majority of citizens are in economic and financial hardships, but we are asking all those who can to lend a helping hand to those families that are in need. The holidays are especially hard for everyone, but everyone should remember that holidays are for caring and sharing for all.'

Information about First Step can be found at www. firststep-mi.org. First Step's 24-hour help line is (734) 459-5900 and (888) 453-5900.

To adopt a family, contact Niki Harris via e-mail at NieshaNHarris@aol.com or call (734) 416-1111.

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each Thursday, starting Dec.

Observer is starting a

new page, called Strictly

Business, which will run

Strictly Business will

include a roundup of local

anniversaries, openings,

ness profile in a "question

and answer" format, with a nice photo. Also look for a

our local businesses.

business events, promotions,

closings and other changes at

We will also feature a busi-



# Tree of Life

Angela Hospice volunteers Lil Korsog of Dearborn Heights, Barbara Keppen of Livonia and Stella Smith of Plymouth assisted visitors at the opening of the Angela Hospice Tree of Life next to Von Maur at Laurel Park Place in Livonia. Over 1,500 angel ornaments have already been placed on the trees. The annual fund-raiser supports programs for hospice patients and the community, while offering a way to remember those dear to us at a special time of year. The Tree of Life display features six large lighted trees. Visitors are invited to place an ornament featuring their loved one's name on any of the trees when they make a donation to the Tree of Life effort. The Tree of Life will remain on display through Dec. 24. To make a donation, visit the trees in person during mall hours, or call (734) 464-7810.

#### MTU Board chair

Plymouth Township resident Russell Gronevelt was recently elected Chairman of Michigan **Technological University** Board of Control.

Gronevelt is currently president of OHM, an engineering and architectural advisor to government. Michigan Gov. Jennifer Granholm appointed Gronevelt to MTU Board of Control in 2004.

Gronevelt is a graduate of Michigan Tech University and was a trustee with the Michigan Tech Fund and was inducted into MTU's Academy of Civil & Environmental Engineers.

Observer rolls out Strictly Business

The Michigan Technological

newsmakers and items from

the Plymouth Community

Chamber of Commerce. "It's a local business blitz

every Thursday in your Plymouth Observer," said

Editor Brad Kadrich. "We

encourage our business own-

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events, grand openings, staff changes with photos, and

requests to receive a Q&A

form to fill out for the busi-

ness profile piece. All infor-

Brad Kadrich at bkadrich@

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University Board of Control is responsible for the general supervision of the University. This includes expenditures

from the institution's funds; amending tuition and other fees and charges; and the appointment or removal of personnel which may include, if necessary, the election of a president for the institution.

#### Hospital appointment

Holly Favero of Plymouth

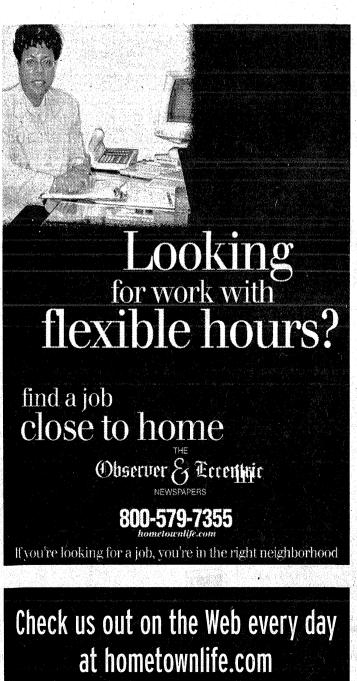
has been named Program Director of the Vascular Access Center at St. Mary Mercy Hospital.

Favero will lead the implementation of a new program at St. Mary Mercy focusing on the coordination of vascular access treatment for hemodialysis patients.

Favero comes to St. Mary Mercy Hospital from Southeast Michigan Surgical Hospital in Warren, where she was the Vascular Access Coordinator and Chief Nursing Officer for the facility. She is a licensed Nurse Practitioner with a Master of Science degree from Wayne State University.



# updates and information. roundup of local business Winner of the Pulitzer Prize for drama and nine Tony Awards' including Best Musical. *"A CHORUS LINE* IS BACK, AND IT'S THRILLING!"—John Lahr, The New Yorker "Great music, a great story and a fresh cast that brings new energy to every performance." --- CBS4 Denver Fisher Theatre • Jan. 13–Feb. 1 Tickets at Fisher Theatre box office & all ticketmaster outlets incl. Macy's • ticketmaster.com • 248-645-6666 • Info 313-872-1000 BroadwayInDetroit.com · AChorusLine.com · Groups (12+): 313-871-1132 or groupsales@nederlanderdetroit.com



#### **GOVERNMENT CONTACTS**

# Gov. Jennifer M. Granholm

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

# State Sen. Bruce Patterson, R-Canton

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

#### State Rep. Marc Corriveau, D-Northville

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

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

**Plymouth Township Supervisor** 

#### Richard Reaume

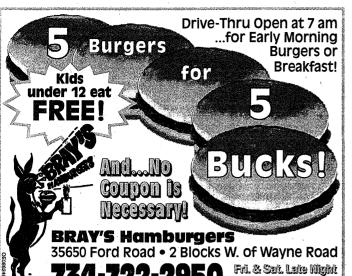
Send correspondence to him at Plymouth Township Hall, 9955 N. Haggerty, Plymouth, MI 48170. Call his office at (734) 354-3200. E-mails can be sent via the township's Web site at www.plymouthtwp.org.

#### U.S. Sen. Carl Levin

His Washington, D.C. mailing address is 269 Russell Office Building, U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510-2202. Call him at (202) 224-6221. The fax number is (202) 224-1388. He also has offices in Patrick V. McNamara Federal Building, 477 Michigan Ave., Room 1860, in Detroit. The local phone number is (313) 226-6020, TTY (800) 851-0030 and fax at (313) 226-6948. He also has a Web site - levin.



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# Battle over Blue Cross reform continues in lame-duck session

BY HUGH GALLAGHER **OBSERVER STAFF WRITER** 

Attorney General Mike Cox has been making the media rounds in his continuing battle against individual market health care reform bills that would benefit Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan but, he argues, would be bad for consum-

"We are worried about them trying to push through any one of the five or six versions in lame

duck," Cox said in a meeting with Observer & Eccentric editors Nov. 20. "They come back the first Tuesday after Thanksgiving, schedule three days that week and three days the next week, they won't have hearings."

Blue Cross Blue Shield has been promoting the reform legislation for more than a year. Last fall, legislation was passed quickly through the Michigan House of Representatives. The Senate approved its own bill

after months of hearings and since then the legislation has been stalled. In addition to Cox, the bills have also been opposed by commercial insurers, the Consumers Union, AARP and the UAW.

"The Senate took five or six months holding hearings. They held at least nine hearings and came up with a radically different version which gave Blue Cross a lot of things, but also kept a lot of consumer protection in the role of

the insurance commissioner and my office," Cox said. "Blue Cross rejected it. In lame duck, they don't have hearings. It won't happen. It is purely backroom."

BCBS is a not-for-profit insurance company chartered by the state of Michigan since 1939 as the health care insurer of last resort. It receives special tax advantages in exchange for providing state-mandated services and state-rate regulation.

The company has been seeking relief from the growing burden of providing individual health insurance policies for those not covered by a group policy. The individual market is expected to grow in the coming years as small businesses no longer offer health coverage, more people work as independent contractors and more workers are laid off.

#### **CONSUMER PROTECTION**

BCBS has argued in favor of creating a risk pool into which it would contribute the largest share, but other health insurers in the state would be required to participate. BCBS accounts for about 70 percent of health care coverage in the state. BCBS is also asking for changes in how its rates are approved. A separate bill would allow BCBS to expand its for-profit insurance subsidiaries, the largest being the Accident Fund, which writes workmen's compensation insurance.

Cox argues that the various iterations of the bills being proposed do not address his major concerns. He said he is especially concerned that his office and the governor's office, through the insurance commissioner, would have less say over rate increases.

"Every single version allows them to charge the sick and elderly more. Right now, they are required to charge everyone in the same market the same," Cox said.

He said the original legislation took his office and the insurance commissioner completely out.

"The new mantra is that we are still in the picture, but we're really not," he said. "We couldn't ask for a hearing until they exceeded 80 percent (rate increase). Now my office is able to intervene for any rate hike.

State Rep. Marc Corriveau, D-Northville, said he has been asked by House Speaker Andy Dillon, D-Redford, to head a joint House-Senate committee to reach a compromise between the two chambers. He emphasized that the current version is not his bill, but a reworking of House and Senate bills.

'We have no final consensus. Major points have been agreed upon. Debates are going on and suggestions are being taken," Corriveau said.

He said the bills being discussed do have consumer protections for people with pre-existing conditions. He said the bills do offer rate oversight.

## RATE SETTING

Currently, BCBS files for a rate increase with OFIR, the Office of Financial and Insurance Regulation, through the governor's office. The attorney general, or any resident, can object and demand a rate hearing. Corriveau said sometimes the hearings can last as long as 18 months. Commercial carriers operate under file and use. They tell OFIR their new rates and can imple-

ment them immediately. Corriveau said under the proposed legislation, BCBS would submit a rate to the governor's office to determine if it is actuarially sound. The rates would go into effect in 30 days. The attorney general, or any resident, can object. It would then go before a special panel, which would decide quickly on the request.

Cox argues BCBS will be able raise rates for senior Medigap insurance, which supplements Medicare, by up to 74.5 percent of current premiums without oversight.

"For the first time, Blue Cross will be able to red line, charge people in different areas differently. Same person, same house, same gender, it will matter where you live," Cox said.

Corriveau said the redlining problem was fixed.

He said the original legislation allowed Blue Cross to define areas that were geographically too small. He said the new proposal would set areas taking in four counties.

He also said that the legislation sets a 90-percent loss ratio, meaning the insurer must spend 90 cents of every dollar collected on health care. Corriveau said that BCBS

would always lose money on its Medigap insurance.

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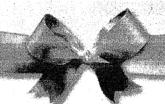
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# McCotter hopeful government will approve support for Big Three

BY HUGH GALLAGHER STAFF WRITER

U.S. Rep. Thaddeus McCotter, R-Livonia, is hopeful that the Big 3 auto companies will get support from the federal government.

"No one has closed the door on a bridge loan," McCotter said Tuesday. "Last week there was a lot of political posturing.

McCotter was one of the leaders among Republican House members who defeated the original \$700 billion Wall Street bailout bill.

Last week he was a strong voice in support of a \$25 billion federal "bridge loan" to the Big 3 automak-

Congressional leaders grilled the top executives of the auto companies last week and demanded that they



**McCotter** 

return to Congress with a detailed plan for how they intend to spend the \$25 billion. McCotter said members of Congress need to be disabused of the idea that the auto companies have not been restructuring.

"We've seen people suffering through the restructuring process. Right here in my (11th) district. Wixom is closed, other plants are underutilized, people are laid off," McCotter said.

He said that an earlier \$25 billion in aid to the auto companies to help retool for more energy efficient cars was funding to cover an "unfunded mandate" to produce more energy efficient vehicles. McCotter and

other Michigan representatives have been critical of higher corporate average fuel efficiency standards. The Bush Administration has argued that the auto companies should use some of that money to tide them over through the end of the year.

He said the auto companies did not come to the federal government to ask for money to support their restructuring. He said they only came after the banking crisis made it difficult for them to sell cars and forced them to "burn through cash." He said they are "victims" of the crisis not the cause of the crisis.

McCotter and other Republicans favored a private investment plan to buy up so-called toxic debts from investments banks. A revised Senate version of the federal bailout was passed in the Senate and House and signed by President George W. Bush. Since the bill was passed, Secretary of the Treasury Henry Paulson has spent about half of the approved amount but has changed the original investment strategy.

McCotter said if the government is going to provide \$700 billion in an attempt to stabilize the economy, then some of that money should be used to help get "an essential industry back on its feet."

He said helping the auto industry will help prevent more foreclosures brought on by unemployment in the auto industry.

McCotter said the recent defeat of Rep. John Dingell, D-Dearborn, as chair of the House Energy and Commerce Committee by Rep.

Henry Waxman, D-Calif., is a huge problem.

"For 50 years, we've had a person protecting our jobs and prosperity. It's a huge loss," McCotter said.

He said Dingell's defeat is indicative of the infighting in the Democratic Party between environmentalists and labor unions. He said Waxman's victory is a sign of the direction that President-elect Barack Obama's administration will be taking in support of an environmentalist

McCotter said he was taking a wait and see attitude about Obama's recently named economics team, led by his nominee for Treasury secretary Timothy Geithner.

"He says he will act boldly and swiftly. His party is running the Congress," McCotter said.



The winner of the Dining With the Stars contest will be treated to lunch with Dick Purtan (right) and Purtan's People of WOMC-FM (104.3).

# You could lunch with Purtan's People

The lucky winner of this month's Dining With the Stars will be treated to lunch with Dick Purtan and Purtan's People (Big Al Muskavito, Jackie Purtan, Dana Mills, Rebekah Rhodes, John "Ankles" Stewart and Larry Lawson) of WOMC's Oldies

Tell us in 100 words or less why you want to have lunch with Purtan and his zany morning show crew at Hills. E-mail your entry to BuddysDiningStars@gmail. com by 5 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 17.

In addition to lunch, the winner will be treated to a limo ride courtesy of Class Plus Limo, mini-makeover by Sebastian and Heba of I Design Salon and Spa in Dearborn, \$100 gift certificate from Reaver Diamond Co. in Southfield and dance exhibition by the Fred Astaire Dance

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Studio in Bloomfield Hills. Dining With the Stars is co-sponsored by Buddy's Pizza and the Observer & Eccentric

Newspapers. Purtan is one of Michigan's most recognized on-air personalities. As host of WOMC's Morning Show with Purtan's People, he entertains his loyal listeners with comedic commentary and topical wit.

Purtan's work also has been recognized on a national level. He ice been named *Billboard* magazine's "Major Market Air Personality of the Year" and is the winner of radio's top prize, The National Association of Broadcasters MARCONI Award as "Major Market Air Personality of the Year."

Dick Purtan and Purtan's People can be heard 5-10 a.m. Monday through Friday and 6-10 a.m. Saturdays on WOMC.

Internet searches could raise museum's funding What if even a fraction of the \$20 billion generated by search engine advertis-

Historical Society? That's the concept behind GoodSearch.com, a new search engine powered by

ers and on-line shopping was directed toward the Plymouth

According to Elizabeth Kerstens, executive director of the museum, GoodSearch donates 50 percent of its revenue - approximately a penny per search - to the charities designated by its users. Users use it exactly as they would any other search engine and the pennies add up quickly just 500 people searching four times a day will earn around \$7,300 in a year, according to Kerstens.

"Every penny counts," says Elizabeth Kerstens of the Plymouth Historical Society Museum. "While doing a search or shopping online, why not raise money for our cause? There is absolutely no reason not to use GoodSearch and GoodShop - it's so easy."

With GoodShop.com, consumers are helping their favorite causes by shopping at hundreds of well known retailers including Amazon, Target, Apple, Macy's, Best Buy, Orbitz, Staples and others. The shopping experience and the prices are exactly the same as going to the retailer directly, but by going through GoodShop, up to 37 percent of the purchase price is donated to the user's favorite cause.

The Plymouth Historical

Society recently registered with the sites, giving its supporters a chance to raise money for the cause every time they search the Internet or shop on-line. The goal, according to Kerstens, is to earn \$10,000 through the site this year, which will be used to pay for operating expenses.

More than 60,000 nonprofits and schools are now registered with GoodSearch and GoodShop and more than 100 charities and schools are registering daily. GoodSearch has quickly spread via wordof-mouth and the blogger community. Examples of other organizations listed on the site include the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, which has earned more

than \$8,000; The ASPCA, which has raised more than \$14,000; and The Bubel/ Aiken Foundation, which supports children with disabilities and has earned more than \$8,000.

"We know there are a lot of people who want to do good but may not have the time or the money to help out," said Ken Ramberg, co-founder of GoodSearch and former president of MonsterTRAK, the largest online career site for college students (now a division of Monster.com). "GoodSearch and GoodShop make it as easy as possible. We've taken something people do every day - searching the Internet and shopping online - and have turned it into doing good."

# FROM PAGE A1

employee wage increases (for union employees, non-represented employees, department heads and elected officials) have been eliminated for 2009.

Supervisor Richard Reaume said the wage hikes for union employees have been "zeroed out" — for now. Most union contracts (for police officers, command officers, dispatcher and administrative workers) expire Dec. 31. The budget will have to be adjusted following completion of negotiations for those unions to include whatever wage increase is worked out, Reaume said.

What won't be returned to the budget are manpower decreases in both the police and fire departments. The police department loses a sergeant's position (which has gone unfilled since former Sgt. Jeff Felts left in a legal entanglement and wrangled a six-figure settlement out of the township), but it also will be forced to lay off an officer.

Those two cuts make up nearly \$200 000 of the \$257,000 cut from the police department budget.

The fire department saw some \$51,000 in cuts, the bulk of which come from a decision

not to replace a firefighter eligible to retire this summer.

"We were hoping they'd fill (the sergeant position), and there were some patrol officers who were hoping to get a shot (at a promotion)," said Sgt. Steve Rapson, who heads the command officers' union. "We'll have to do a little more work to make up for the lack of personnel."

The cuts leave the police department with 20 patrol officers (along with six sergeants and two lieutenants while the fire department will be down to 24 firefighters if the eligible firefighter retires.

Critics point out the cuts in public safety go against what

township officials promised when they urged residents to pass a millage a few years back. Reaume said the millage is bringing in less money every year. Officials estimate the public safety millage will bring in about \$6 million this year, \$5.7 million in 2010 and \$5.3 million in 2011.

"The only ways to overcome the loss (in revenue) are to cut costs or to ask for a higher tax rate," Edwards said. "I don't believe, in these economic times, residents would be w ing to pay more. They want us to cut expenses, just like they have to."

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# Required IRA distribution can be invested in Roth IRA

Dear Rick: Thanks so much for your radio show and your newspaper column, I've learned a lot throughout the years. I am in my early 70s. I have not yet taken my required distribution from my IRA. I always wait until

the year. I

heard that

because of the

downturn on

Wall Street

there is a

possibility

the end of

they will **Money Matters** suspend required **Rick Bloom** distributions

this year. I don't want to take a distribution this year as all my funds are currently very low.

I have heard talk and have seen some articles that suggest it would be a good thing to waive minimum required distributions this year. However, it is just talk. I think that the government will run into all sorts of problems if it tries to change the minimum required distributions this year. Not only are we near the end of the year, but many seniors who are required to take distributions have already taken them and that would cause all sorts of problems. I do not believe the government will change the rules so you should plan on taking your distribution before the end of the year.

A lot of seniors are in a situation where assets in a IRA have taken a significant hit. However, when you take your minimum required distribution you don't have to spend it.
I recommend taking the distribution then buy back the same investment or a similar one outside of the IRA. This way you are still staying in the market and when the market recovers, which it will, you will be in a position to recoup your losses. You should only buy back a good solid investment.

When you turn 70½ you must begin taking distributions from your retirement accounts. There are a couple of different exceptions, including deferring required minimum distributions from

an employer's retirement account if you are still working for that employer and from Roth IRAs. Roth IRAs are not subject to required minimum distributions.

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There is a formula from the Internal Revenue Service to compute your required minimum distribution. It is based upon the balance of your retirement accounts at the end of the year. Therefore, your 2009 required minimum distributions will be based upon the balance of your retirement accounts on Dec. 31, 2008. Next year, required minimum distributions will be significantly lower than they are this year.

For those individuals who

have not taken the required minimum distributions and who are charitable in nature. you are allowed to transfer your required minimum distribution from an IRA directly to a charity. The advantage is you can avoid paying taxes on your distribution. However, you do not receive a deduction for your charitable contribution. If you plan to do this, you can't wait until the last second. You need to obtain transfer information from the charity and have your IRA custodian directly transfer the money to the charity. IRA custodians are extremely busy near the end of the year so if you're going to implement this transaction, do it as soon as possible.

Dear Rick: My husband and I because jurisdictions around recently moved to Michigan. In the past we have done wills and trusts along with powers of attorneys. Now that we are Michigan residents, do these documents have to be redone?

Although you've come to Michigan during a difficult time, I think you'll learn over time how great it is. That being said I do believe it is important to have your estate planning documents reviewed by a Michigan attorney. In most situations, there will not be any changes that are required, however, better safe than sorry.

One document that I would redo would be your Medical **Durable Power of Attorney** 

the country have different rules.

The Medical Durable Power of Attorneys gives someone the right to make a medical decision for you if you are unable. In today's world you do not necessarily have to pay an attorney to draft these documents. In Michigan, we have the Michigan Patient Advocate Form which is a free fill-in-the-blank form that meets most people's needs. You can download one at www. bloomassetmanagement.com. Click on the "articles, forms" tab on the left-hand side of the home page.

Everyone should review estate planning needs every few

years. Not only do laws change but family situations change and therefore it is important to make sure your documents are

up to date. The main reason you have an estate plan is because you love your family and want to make sure things will go as easy as

An up-to-date estate plan will accomplish this goal.

here.

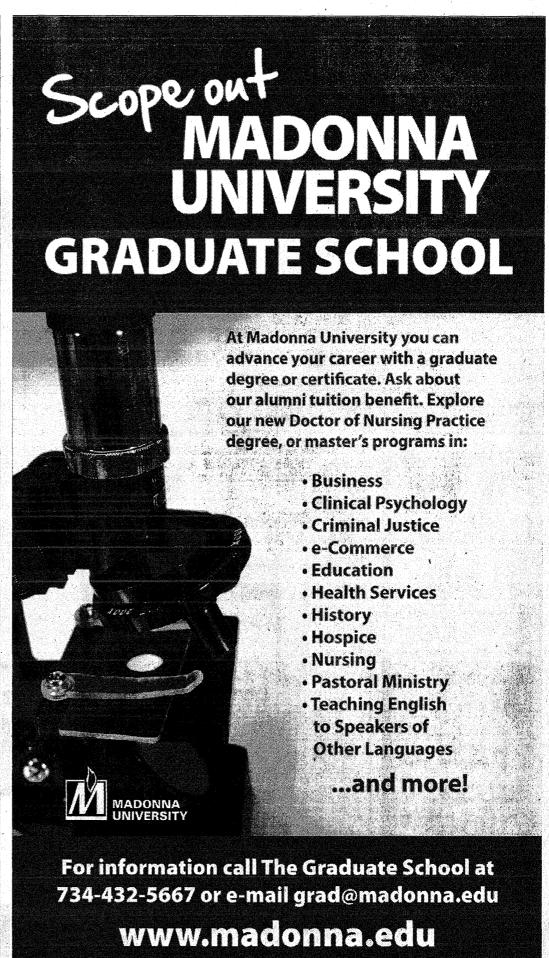
possible for them if you're not

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 noon to 3 p.m. Sundays on WDTK 1400 AM.



\*Stated Annual Percentage Yield (APY) is accurate as of 12/1/08. Minimum opening balance requirement is \$500 and maximum deposit is \$100,000. Deposits are allowed only on the maturity date or during the grace period. Account fees could reduce earnings. Penalty may be imposed for early withdrawal. Not available for public units. Customers must maintain their primary checking account at flagstar Bank and conduct an average of 15 monthly transactions or at least \$250 in recurring ACH transactions per month to qualify for the Loyalty Checking account rate. "Loyalty Checking account" rate offer cannot be combined with coupons or other special offers, Rate is effective for a limited time only and subject to change without notice. Certain restrictions may apply.





Sunday, November 30, 2008

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

www.hometownlife.com

**High Velocity** 

break camps **High Velocity** Sports in Canton will offer "fun days" and camps during the upcoming holiday

breaks.
On "fun days", parents can drop off their kids at HVS any time between 7:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. and pay \$5 per hour for supervised care that includes sports and non-sports stations that rotate every 30 minutes. Fun days will be offered Dec. 1, Dec. 22-23; Dec. 29-31; Jan. 19; Feb. 23-27;

and April 13-17. HVS camps will be offered from Feb. 23-27 and April 13-17. The camps included basketball (10 a.m. to noon), soccer (1 p.m. to 3 p.m.) and crafts (9 a.m. to noon).

For more information, call (734) 487-7668 or visit www. hvsports.com.

#### LeDuc update

Plymouth High School graduate Josh LeDuc was a part of NCAA football history Friday.

The 6-3, 240pound Eastern Michigan University tight end snagged eight passes for 81 yards and a pair of touchdowns in the Eagles' 56-52 upset victory over Central Michigan University.

During the game, EMU starting quarterback Andy Schmitt set an NCAA record for most completions in a game.

## Nokes seminar

Former Detroit Tigers catcher Matt Nokes will present the seminar "The Art of Hitting Your Way" Dec. 7 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Precision Baseball in Canton.

The cost of the 90minute PowerPoint seminar and 90-minute training session is \$75.

For more information, contact Precision Baseball at (734) 459-5921 or visit http://precisionbaseballone.com.

The indoor baseball facility is located at 7835 Market St. in Canton.

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

PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Salem's Nick Gennety and Canton's Donny Barlow stretch for a loose puck during Friday night's 2-2 draw at the Plymouth Cultural Center. The Chiefs were defending their Salem Thanksgiving Tournament championship.

# Fozen cassic

# Salem, Canton hockey teams skate to triple-OT 2-2 draw

BY ED WRIGHT **OBSERVER STAFF WRITER** 

The longest, most-dramatic battle in the 10-year existence of the Salem and Canton hockey programs was packed with a little bit of everything Friday

Everything, that is, except a winner. Stand-on-your-head goal-tending, tenacious checks, jaw-dropping puckadvancing moves — the Rocks and Chiefs provided it all during a Salem Thanksgiving Tournament semifinal contest that was eventually halted with the score knotted at 2-all following 45 minutes of regulation and three eightminute overtimes.

Following a brief meeting between the two coaches and PCEP athletic director Tom Willette, it was decided that Canton (2-0-1) would advance to Saturday's 4 p.m. final against the Michigan Stars, a Midget A travel

Salem (0-1-2) was set to take on Forest Hills Northern in the 2 p.m. consolation match-up.

"Since we won this tournament last year, the coaches and athletic director agreed that we should not lose our chance to regain the championship this year," said Canton coach Dan

Abraham.

Shoot-outs are prohibited by MHSAA rules, Abraham said.

"It seemed like the fair thing to do," Salem coach Ryan Ossenmacher said, regarding the decision to let Canton play in Saturday's championship tilt. To flip a coin after a game like that wouldn't have been right. It was a fun hockey game. It was what high school hockev is all about."

Ossenmacher said his players were understandably dismayed by the ruling, at least initially.

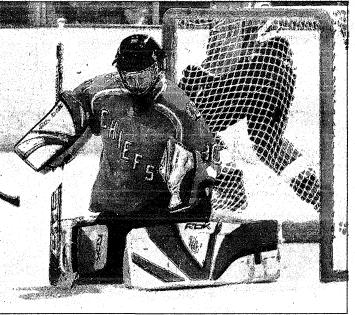
When you play over 60 minutes of hockey like they did and you work as hard as they did, they felt they deserved to be playing in the championship game as much as the other team," said Ossenmacher. "But in the end, I think they realized that this was the right decision. I think losing a coin flip would have been more disappoint-

The way the two rivals' senior goaltenders were playing — Canton's Zane Birchler and Salem's Adam Powers the game may still be going on at the Plymouth Cultural Center had it not been stopped due to time restrictions.

The quick, athletic Powers turned

Please see HOCKEY. B2

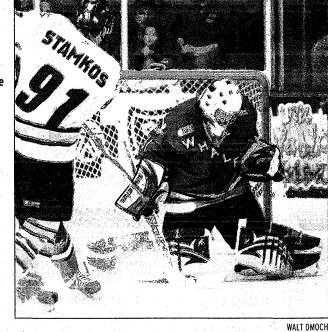




Above, Canton's Bryan Davison (left) makes sure Salem's Kurt Driscoll doesn't turn the corner Friday night. At left, Canton goalie Zane Birchler stopped 34 shots during Friday's 2-2 draw with Salem.

Plymouth Whalers netminder Matt Hackett, pictured making a save last year, turned in a stellar effort during his team's 4-3 victory over Sarnia Friday

night.



# Revived Whalers edge Sting, 4-3

stopped 30-of-33 shots as the Plymouth Whalers defeated the Sarnia Sting, 4-3, Friday night in an Ontario Hockey League game played before 3,795 at the Sarnia Sports and Entertainment Centre.

Plymouth improved to 9-12-3-0 and is 3-1-0-0 since team president and general manager Mike Vellucci returned to coach the Whalers on Novi. 10.

Sarnia slipped to 12-12-2-1. Besides Hayes' pair, A.J. Jenks and Patrick Lee scored for the Whalers.

Jordan Hill, Michael Neal and Jamie Arniel

replied for Sarnia. first period, outshooting Sarnia, 15-6, while

receiving two goals from Hayes. Sarnia cut Plymouth's lead to 2-1 at 8:37 of

Ryan Hayes scored twice and Matt Hackett the second period on Hill's shot from the left point that deflected over Hackett's shoulder.

> However, Plymouth roared back to score a pair of goals 1:08 apart to build a 4-1 cushion and chase starting Sarnia keeper Dan Spence when Jenks ripped a hard shot from the left hashmark at 10:16. Lee scored on a short from the right wing at 11:24.

WHALERS 2, WINDSOR 1: Vern Cooper's goal at 10:57 of the third period snapped a 1-1 tie as the Whalers edged the top-ranked Windsor Spitfires in an OHL game played Wednesday night at Compuware Arena.

The teams traded goals in the first period. Eric Wellwood scored his second goal of the The Whalers enjoyed a territorial edge in the season for Windsor at 7:51 of the first period when he roofed a severe-angle shot from the

Please see WHALERS, B2





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away 36 Chief shots — including six in the extra sessions —while the tall, agile Birchler re-directed 34 net-seeking pucks.

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"Adam was our No. 1 star," said Ossenmacher. "He made some huge saves on break-aways and on two-on-ones. When you only allow two goals on close to 40 shots — and 25 of them were quality chances — you're playing well."

The player most responsible for the on-ice marathon was Canton's Nick Tomilenko, whose sensational stop-start move and subsequent unassisted goal with 1:28 left in regulation knotted the game at

Tomilenko also netted the Chiefs' first goal — a power-play lamp-lighter off a rebound 1:40 into the third period. Anthony Bonnett and Mark Barath assisted.

"Tomilenko has a way of finding the net, and Mark Barath does a good job of feeding him the puck," said Abraham. "They're our two top point-scorers in the early season. They make a good combination along with the other member of that line, Anthony Bonnett."

The focal point of Salem's offense could be summed up with two, three-letter words: Sam Ott. The senior forward's goal, which was assisted by Steve Haburne,

PCA at Baptist Park, 7:30 p.m. F.H. Mercy at Plymouth, 7 p.m.



Salem players celebrate Sam Ott's second-period goal that put the Rocks ahead, 1-0.

opened the scoring with 4:24 left in the second period.

Ott gave the Rocks a 2-1 advantage with a up-close net-finder with 9:59 left in regulation off assists from Ryan Quigley and Nick Haves.

"Sam is playing well," Ossenmacher said. "He's a powerful player."

The game remained scoreless for more

than the first half of regulation thanks to stellar play from both squad's defensive units. Donny Barlow, Ryan May and Bryan Davison anchored the Chiefs' "D" while Michael Hochkins, Haburne and Eddie Mazorowicz frustrated Canton's scoring efforts throughout the night.

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#### THE WEEK AHEAD

GIRLS PREP HOCKEY **GIRLS PREP BASKETBALL Tuesday, Dec. 2** Saline at Canton, 7 p.n Tuesday, Dec. 2 c-Kingswood at PCS Penguins W I Northern at Plymouth, 7 p.m at Arctic Edge, 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 3 **BOYS PREP HOCKEY** Tuesday, Dec. 2 W.L. Western at Salem at Cultural Center, 7:30 p.m. Salem at A.A. Huron, 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 4 nam Marian at Canton, 7 p.m Friday, Dec. 5 Wednesday, Dec. 3

at Novi Ice Arena, 6:30 p.m. **Friday, Dec. 5** Novi at Canton at Arctic Edge, 8 p.m. Livonia Stevenson at Salem at Cultural Center, 8:30 p.m. West Bloomfield at Plymouth at Compuware Arena, 7:40 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6 Salem at Waterford Mott, 2:20 p.m Plymouth at Chelsea

at Arctic Coliseum, 7 p.m

Wednesday, Dec. 3 Canton, Salem, Lakeland and Belleville at Canton guad, 5:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6 Canton at Warren Woods Tower-Duals, 9 a.m. Salem at Orion Invitational. 9 a.m. Plymouth at Columbia Central Invitational 9 a.m.

PREP WRESTLING

lower rim of the right circle underneath the cross-bar past Plymouth goaltender Matt Hackett. The Whalers replied on Michal Jordan's third goal of the season at 18:21 of the period. On the goal, Jordan accepted Tyler J. Brown's pass at center and skated into the Windsor zone to the right circle. Jordan beat Windsor goaltender Andrew Engelage with a hard shot that caught the Windsor netminder back

in his blue crease. Plymouth outshot Windsor, 15-13, in the first period. Windsor outshot Plymouth, 11-4, in the second period. Hackett saved his best work of the game in the third period when he stopped the OHL's leading scorer Taylor Hall (18-25-43) and Dale Mitchell on breakaways.

The Whalers used the forecheck to turn the game around in the third period and to take their only lead of the game. Good work deep in the Windsor zone by the forward line of Cooper, AJ Jenks and Kaine Geldart resulted in Cooper's goal in a scramble in front of the Windsor net at 10:57. The goal is Cooper's seventh of the season.

With Jenks already serving a tripping penalty at 18:44 of the third period, Windsor head coach Bob Boughner called a time-out and pulled Engelage for a 6-on-4 manpower advantage. Hall's shot from the right circle clanged off the cross bar in the final minute and the Whalers blocked several Windsor shots to preserve the victory.

"I'm very proud of the team," said Vellucci after the game. "You saw at the end (of the game) there, Geldart going down, blocking shots, then he turns his back on the play to block another shot. With that kind of heart and determination, it doesn't matter what kind of team you have - if you're very talented or not, you have to block shots and you have to pay the price. Our guys did that tonight."

Vellucci feels the Whalers are starting to believe they can turn things around.

"It's all about belief," Vellucci said. "The guys are a little down right now, but we're 2-1-1-0 in our last four games and probably should have won against Sault Ste. Marie (5-4 overtime loss last Saturday). Our guys are working hard, working hard in practice. We're fixing a few little things and those things are working out right now.

Hackett emerged as the game's first star, stopping 34-of-35 shots in goal for the Whalers.

"Hack played great," Vellucci said. "He came up big and made some big saves when we needed them. He has a calming effect in the net. He keeps everything in front of him and deserves to win tonight as much as anybody."

W.L. Western at Canton at Arctic Edge, 6 p.m.

#### CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON ACCESS TO PUBLIC MEETINGS

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

David Medley, ADA Coordinator Charter Township of Canton, 1150 S. Canton Center Road Canton, MI 48188 (734) 394-5260

Publish: November 30, 2008

#### CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING FY2007 "CAPER"

On December 16, 2008, at 3 p.m. in the Administrative Services Conference Room, first floor, Administration Building, 1150 S. Canton Center Road, Canton, Michigan, there will be a public hearing on the FY 2007 Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation Report (CAPER). The CAPER covers Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program activities between July 1, 2007 and June 30, 2008. Written comments or requests for information should be directed to: Gerald Martin, Community Services Specialist, Finance Department, 1150 S. Canton Center Road, Canton, Michigan 48188-1699, (734) 394-5194.

Terry Bennett, Clerk

Publish: November 30, 2008

Brought to you by the Canton Downtown Development Authority, Canton Chamber of Commerce, and Canton Leisure Ser

Join us for the ShopCanton Holiday Fest on Saturday, December 6th, from 12:00-4:00 in the Willow Creek shopping plaza, located on Ford Rd. between Haggerty and Lilley. Color and decorate the ShopCanton mascot any way you like. Be CREATIVE!

Turn your entry in at World of Floors (during business hours) located at 43711 Ford Road, by noon on Friday, December 5th. You can also bring your picture to the ShopCanton Holiday Fest between 12-3:00 p.m. (Entries received after 3:00 are not eligible to win.) Pictures will be displayed and judged at the World of Floors Coloring Corral in Candyland. (It will be located in the old Bombay store at the east end of the mall.) 1st, 2nd and 3rd Place winners will be selected from each age group. Winners will be notified by e-mail on Wednesday, Dec. 10. For more details on the ShopCanton Holiday Fest event or extra coloring forms, please visit www.shopcanton.org.

Name Phone \_\_\_\_ Parent E-mail

**Age Group:** □ **4-6** □ **7-9** Coloring Contest Sponsored by:

ORLD Observer & Eccentric Lloors HometownLife.com

□ 10-12

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#### NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Notice is hereby given that the City of Plymouth, Michigan will accept sealed bids up until 12:30 p.m., December 3, 2008. The bid opening will be at 12:30 p.m., December 3, 2008 for the following:

#### Request for Proposal - Engineering Services

Specifications and bid documents are available at the city hall during normal business hours. You may also download a copy of the documentation from the City's web site at: http:// www.ci.plymouth.mi.us.

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

Linda J. Langmesser, CMC City Clerk City of Plymouth

Publish: November 30, 2008

#### CANTON POLICE DEPARTMENT 1150 S. CANTON CENTER RD. **CANTON, MI 48188**

The following vehicles have been deemed abandoned and will be sold at public auction, December 2, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. The auction will be held at Westland Car Care Towing, 6375 Hix Rd., Westland, MI 48185. The vehicles will be sold as is, starting bid is for towing and storage.

			Ü	
Year	<u>Make</u>	<u>Model</u>	Body	<u>Vin</u> #
1990	Ford	Econoline	Van	1FDEE14N9LHA24995
1995	GMC	Jimmy	S/W	1GKDT13B2D2503863
1995	Ford	Explorer	S/W	1FMCU24X9SUB87654
1998	Pontiac	Grand Am	2 Dr	1G2NE52T9WC770611
2006	Dodge	Charger	4 Dr	2B3KA43RS6H394348
2004	Mazda	RX 8	2 Dr	JM1F317324O102875
1996	Nissan	Altima	4 Dr	1M4B03107T2171188
1998	Ford	Windstar	S/W	2FMZAS143WBC20206
2004	Pontiac	Grand Prix	4 Dr	2G2NP522941305271
1999	Ford	Windstar	S/W	2FM2A5143XBB23850
1996	Mercury	Marquis	4 Dr	2MELM7462TX605906
1997	Dodge	Intrepid	4 Dr	2B3HD46T6VH763712
1995	Plymouth		4 Dr	P3AA4639SF508686
2000	Pontiac	Sunfire	2 Dr	1G2JD12T5Y7282388
2000	Olds	Alero	4 Dr	1G3NF12E9YC394613
Dublich	November 27 &	20.00		



#### **CITY OF PLYMOUTH PUBLIC NOTICE**

**PUBLIC HEARING ON** PROPOSED USES OF 2009-2010 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT **BLOCK GRANT FUNDS** 

Pursuant to Federal guidelines, the City of Plymouth is announcing its objectives and possible uses for developing projects using Year 2009-2010 Federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding.

## **OBJECTIVES:**

1. To provide benefits to senior citizens.

To provide benefits directly to persons of low/moderate income and/or areas in which at least 51% of the residents are of low/moderate income.

To maintain a high level of performance in the management of all CDBG funded programs

# PROPOSED YEAR 2009-2010 PROJECTS:

The City anticipates receiving approximately \$65,000 in CDBG funds for the contract year 2009-10, and has identified the following potential projects and corresponding estimated allocations for use of these funds:

**ADA Public Facility Improvements** Public Services- Senior Transportation 3. Administration/Planning

\$12,350 \$ 6,500 TOTAL \$65,000

\$46,150

## **PUBLIC HEARING:**

Citizens are invited to comment on the proposed projects listed above, and to suggest other projects. All projects must meet one of the Federal CDBG objectives.

A public hearing for the purpose of receiving comments on the proposed uses of 2009-2010 CDBG funds, and additional suggestions for use of said funds, will be held at the Plymouth City Commission Meeting on Monday, December 15, 2008 at 7:00 pm in the Commission Chambers at Plymouth City Hall, 201 S. Main St.

> Linda J. Langmesser, CMC City Clerk

(\*)

## FIRST TEAM

SASA MISKOVIC, JR. GK, Salem: The iunior recorded a 17-1-2 record and registered 11 shutouts for the Rocks. who were the No. 1-ranked team in Division 1 for most of the season. Miskovic earned first team All-State honors despite missing two weeks with an injury.

"Sasa was a critical component in what was perhaps the best overall defensive unit in the state this year." said Salem coach Ed McCarthy. "He has great range as a goal-keeper. He's very quick, which allows him to go out in traffic and dominate the 18-yard box. He'll be a major

Division 1 college recruit."
GREG SHRADER, SR. GK, Garden City: Daring and acrobatic, Shrader's brilliant goalkeeping was a key reason the Cougars enjoyed a winning season. The third-year varsity player competed much bigger than his 5-9 height, racking up a team record 10 shutouts, stopping nearly 90 percent of shots sent his way and allowing just 14 regular season goals. Honors included team MVP and Mega White first team.

"His tremendous horizontal dives were surpassed only by his spectacular one-handed punches and twohanded grabs off high kicks," said Garden City head coach Bill Torni. ... He is going to be the benchmark for goalies from this point forward.'

KEVIN COPE, SR. DEF., Salem: Cope wrapped up a stellar four-year varsity career by being named "Mr. Soccer" by the Michigan High School Soccer Coaches Association, a rarity for a defender. He netted four goals and three assists, but really made his mark on the defensive end of the pitch as he led a Rocks' defensive unit that allowed just a handful of goals all season.

"Kevin is not only one of the most complete defenders in the state, but he's one of the most complete all-around players," said McCarthy. "He simply has no weaknesses. He's a leader on the field and he has the ability to run the entire back line. Kevin does a great job of making everybody else around him better."

ADAM BEDELL, JR., DEF., LIV. CHURCHILL: The junior defender, who scored six goals and added 13 assists, earned second-team Division 1 All-State honors and was also named to the All-KLAA, All-District and All-Region teams.

"Adam was our mainstay in the back and really gets involved offensive for a defender," Churchill coach Reid Friedrichs said. "He was on of the most talented players and leaders, and the reason we had a successful season."

CHRIS LONG, SR. DEF., LIV. STEVENSON: The senior center back had four goals and three assists in his second year as a starter and third season on the

Long made All-Conference, All-District, All-Region and Division 1 All-State honorable mention.

"Chris was fifth for us in scoring last year, but in order to help the team, he moved into a central back position, bringing composure, speed and stability," Stevenson coach Lars

#### **2008 ALL-OBSERVER BOYS SOCCER**

FIRST TEAM

Sasa Miskovic, Jr. GK, Salem Greg Shrader, Sr. GK, Garden City Kevin Cope, Sr. Def., Salem Adam Bedell, Sr. Def. Liv. Churchill Chris Long, Sr. Def., Liv. Stevenson Brian Klemczak, Sr. MF, Liv. Stevenson Joey D'Agostino, Sr. MF, Liv. Stevenson Jeremy Stoychoff, Sr., MF, Salem Etienne Lussiez, Sr. MF, Liv, Churchill Nate Sergison, Sr. MF, Liv. Stevenson Scott Zech, Sr. F, Canton Josh Kruger, Sr. F. Luth, Westland

SECOND TEAM Brent Zinn, Sr. GK, Ply. Christian Kendal Snow Sr. Def. Liv. Stevenson Phil Strachan, Jr. MF. Liv. Clarenceville Gage Flanery, Jr. MF, Luth. Westland Nelson Kenne, Sr. MF, Westland Glenn Josh Pascarella, Sr. MF, Salem

John Selinski, Jr. MF, Garden City Francis Mensah, Soph, F. Redford Union Max Washko, Jr. F. Liv. Churchill Danny Jasewicz, Sr. F. Plymouth Kyle Breitmeyer, Sr. F., Canton Khalid Suleiman, Sr. F. Westland Glenn **COACH OF THE YEAR** Lars Richters, Liv. Stevenson

HONORABLE MENTION Churchill: Erik Bird, Matt Regan, Ian Guerin, Drew Sieber, Ben Zukowski, Chris DeNapoli, Jakub Herout; Franklin: Steve Trapp, Zain Qureshi, Travis Matthey; Stevenson: Alec Iwasko, Conne Burton: John Glenn: Sergio Pavan, Jacob Gates: Wayne Memorial: Zach Girouard; Garden City: Tyler Arban, Justin Vincent, Vaughn Frederick Redford Union: Chris Gibbs, Greo Raile-Janna Redford Thurston: Chris Clay, Luke Toppa. Mike Riffenburg, Dakotah Mullett; Clarenceville: Garrett Gregg, Matt Garant, Dustin Csokasy, Garet Hintzman, Jake Bibik; Lutheran Westland: Micah Hausch, Chris Barnaby, Austin Baglow, Laith Francis; Huron Valley Lutheran: Aaron Howell: Canton: Eric Caron, Joev Krizanek Sherif Hassanien, Joel Langdon; Salem: Dan Radosevich, Lachlan Savage: Plymouth: Austin Kaczanowski, Vinh Nguyen; Plymouth Christian: Jordan Machonga, Spencer Wiard.

Richters said. "He created instant offense when asked to move forward in games. His unselfishness and willingness to help the team at a new position were integral to the team's success. He demonstrated great heart and reliability.'

Long also garnered Stevenson's Unsung Hero award. "Most people never knew, but he

played the last two week of the season with mononucleosis."
BRIAN KLEMCZAK, SR. MF, LIV. STEVENSON:

The senior captain and four-year varsity starter garnered a slew of honors this fall including Michigan **High School Soccer Coaches** Association Dream Team, Division 1 first-team All-State, All-Region, All-District, All-Conference and All-Midwest.

Klemczak, led the state runnerup Spartans with 18 goals, including eight game-winners, along with 13 assists as a senior.

"He did all this despite not being a numbers guy," Richters said. "Brian is a tremendous soccer player, student and young man. He will go down as one of the all-time greats in Stevenson soccer.' A 4.0 student, Klemczak will

play next year for the University of Michigan. Klemczak is also captain of his



Sasa Miskovic Salem



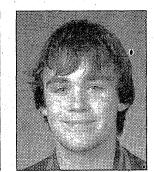
**Greg Shrader Garden City** 



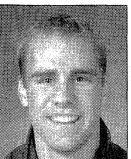
**Kevin Cope** Salem



Adam Bedell Churchill



**Chris Long** Stevenson



Michigan Wolves club team which

U.S. Youth Soccer Association 2007

senior captain, who had five goals and

seven assists, teamed up Klemczak

All-District, All-Region and first-

of his Michigan Wolves Under-15

year," Richters said, "He's a 'big-

game player' of the highest order.

This was most visible in the state

passes with tenacious slide tackles

"People don't realize how great

Joey is until he isn't there. He will

play at a Division I university next

year; they will be fortunate to have

solid mid-field unit this season. He

notched three goals and two assists

while providing a leadership spark

"Jeremy was the key to our mid-

that often lifted the Rocks during

field this season," said McCarthy.

'He tackles as hard as any player

receive the ball in the mid-field and

ETIENNE LÛSSIEZ, SR. MF, LIV. CHURCHILL:

KLAA honors after scoring 17 goals

"Etienne was our most talented

The senior midfielder earned All-

Stat honorable mention and All-

offensive player, our playmaker,

our quarterback on the field,"

in the state. He has the ability to

finish the play to the front.'

and adding seven assists.

their one-loss season.

him and we'll certainly miss him.'

JEREMY STOYCHOFF, SR. MF, Salem:

Stoychoff anchored the Rocks'

final, as he combined pinpoint

and non-stop inspiration to his

teammates.

team All-State. He was also captain

National championship team in 2007.

"Joev became a very leader this

to form one of the state's best central

midfield combinations playing nearly

every key minute of every game for the

D'Agostino made All-Conference.

JOEY D'AGOSTINO, SR. MF. LIV. STEVENSON: The

finished second in the Under-16

**Brian Klemczak** Stevenson

Nationals.

second year in a row.



Joey D'Agostino Stevenson



Friedrichs said. "He really found his

game this year by helping our team

attack and score in way we have not

NATE SERGISON, SR., MF, LIV. STEVENSON:

The third-vear varsity starter and

senior captain, who scored 12 goals

Sergison scored twice in a win

over Northville and had the game-

winning goal against Grand Blanc

in the state semifinal. He was also

within inches of a state champions

"Nate's a great athlete, a varsity

goal when his shot from distance

track athlete who has a future in

college soccer if he would like to

pursue it," Richters said of the All-

Conference and All-District pick.

"He is one of the most athletic and

SCOTT ZECH, SR. F, Canton: Zech has

gram for the past three seasons, the

likeable players to cross my path."

made a mark on the Canton pro-

first two as a defender. His motor

is always running and he controls

the ball as well as anyone around.

He earned second-team Division

1 All-State honors for the second

All-Kensington Lakes Activities

Association.

consecutive season and was named

senior co-captain led the area with

a total of 31 goals and 11 assists for

Kruger, who figured in 42 of

the Warriors' 60 goals this season,

also made first-team All-State in

"His real asset to the team was

his leadership," Lutheran Westland

coach Rich Block said. "Anytime

Our practices are pretty intense

we needed someone to take control

and settle things down, it was Josh.

and often times would run over. As

I would walk to my car to leave, I would see Josh taking penalty kicks

Division 4 and also earned All-

the state-ranked Warriors.

Metro Conference honors.

JOSH KRUGER, SR. F., LUTH. WESTLAND: The

and added six assists, was the

Spartans emotional and inspira-

been able to in the past.

tional leader.

rang off the bar.

**Etienne Lussiez** Churchill



Nate Sergison

"I'd sum up the character of Josh

by saying that in our last game and

one team in the state, Josh stepped

up with the help of his teammates

and scored two goals to tie the game

with 15 minutes left. Never quitting,

always working – that's Josh Kruger.'
LARS RICHTERS, COACH OF THE YEAR,

STEVENSON: The 11th-year coach guid-

ed the Spartans to a 20-2-3 overall

record and a berth in the Division 1

state finals before losing in overtime

Stevenson captured the KLAA's

to defending state East Kentwood.

tough Central Division with an

8-0-2 record en route to beating

down by two goals to the number

on Micah Hausch.



Stevenson



and Brighton (4-0) for the overall KLAA crown. Richters, a graduate of Yale University and nine-vear member

Churchill (6-1) for

the Kensington

Conference title

of the pro indoor soccer team the Detroit Rockers, played on three state championship teams as a Spartans

state finals and one Final Four. His overall head coaching record

is 199-27-14.

and has guided Stevenson to two

**Richters** 

#### SIMPLY SELF STORAGE

Notice is hereby given that on December 15, 2008 on or after 9:30 a.m. that Simply Self Storage will be offering for sale under the Judicial lien Process by Public Auction the following units. The goods to be sold are generally described as household goods. Terms of the sale are cash only. Simply Self Storage reserves the right to refuse any and all bids. The sale will be at the following location: 34333 E Michigan Ave. Wayne MI, 48184. 734-728-8204.

A121-Gina Solomon- 20 bags, 20 Totes, clothes

A145B- Randall Frye- TV, Microwave, Fax Machine A175- Gina Solomon- TV. Stereo, Safe

A332- David Moraniec- 2 Speakers, Computers, Stereo A353- John Johnson- Computer, 20 Bags

B133- Randall Frye- Fax Machine, Shop Vac, 20 boxes B142- Jerisha Hawkins- Bike, Table, 30 Boxes

C123- Andrew Weaver- Tools, Hutch, Microwave

C191- Latesha Davis- Stereo, Dresser, 3 Totes

C194- Mark Hughey- Tool chest, Computer, Exercise Equipment D166- Kenneth Siebert- Display Racks, Display Case, Tote

E150- Marita MacNall- Volvo, Generator, Tools E155- David Quarles- 2 Dressers, Mattress, Record Player

RV10-Randolph Valentino- 1960 Grey Cadillac

RV11-Randolph Valentino-Ford F-7

RV50-Beverly Brown- 1984 Ford Bronco RV53- Beverly Brown- 1955 Mercury Villager

Publish: November 30 & December 7, 2008

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Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, November 30, 2008

Melanie Pickert (15), pictured last year in a game against Walled Lake Western, will play a major role for Canton's girls basketball team this winter.

# Young Chiefs have high hopes for 08-09

BY ED WRIGHT **OBSERVER STAFF WRITER** 

There will be no "Senior Night" ceremony this season for the Canton girls basketball

No, the annual, late-season celebration that honors each team's final-year players is not a victim of a budget crunch.

There will be no "Senior Night" for the Chiefs because the Chiefs have no seniors - a rarity that coach Brian Samulski hopes his young squad can overcome with several other attributes.

"This is a pretty competitive, athletic group and they work hard," said Samulski, who is looking to improve on last season's  $\tilde{6}$ -15 mark. "Although we don't have any seniors, several of our underclassmen last year played a lot of minutes on varsity, which will help."

Canton will be led by a pair of sophomores: 5-foot-9 guard Melanie Pickert and 5-10 post player Kayla Bridges.

"Melanie continues to

work hard," said Samulski.

**PREP HOOP PREVIEW** 

"She knows how to get to the rim and finish. "She's a solid defender on the ball.

"Kayla can play the four and five positions. She has a nice touch around the rim and she can rebound."

Samulski will welcome the return of sophomore CarolAnn Sexauer, a 5-9 guard who missed last season with a knee injury.

"She can knock down the 12- to 15-footers, something we missed last season," said Samulski. "She worked very hard this summer rehabbing her knee. Now, I think she's better than she was before the injury."

A pair of 5-9 juniors - Lindsey Winters and Alyssa Cottrell — will be counted on to make some major contributions to the Chiefs' fortunes this

"Lindsey played six games on varsity last year, so the experi-

**Direct Cremation** 

ence she gained will help her a lot this year," said Samulski. "Alyssa plays with tremendous energy and she can score around the rim."

Sophomore twins Kari and Sara Schmitt played key roles in the Chiefs' junior varsity contingent's 20-0 record last winter.

'They both play with a lot of effort," said Samulski. "Kari can hit the 12- to 15-foot shot and she can defend the post. Sara is a very good rebounder. She's a tremendous worker.'

Freshman guard Robyn Mack, who's 5-5, will help distribute the ball for Canton.

"Robyn has great vision on the court and she has the instincts it takes to pass the ball to the right teammate at the right time.'

Providing valuable depth for the Chiefs will be 5-9 junior Kelly Latimore, 5-5 junior guard Ciara Williams and 5-5

junior guard Yuki Krolicki. Samulski predicted the **Kensington Lakes Activities** 

Association's South Division

will be competitive from Day 1.

"Obviously, Livonia Franklin - with the Taylor twins back - will be very solid," said Samulski. "Plymouth has just about everybody back, including Shaakira Haywood and Stacey Klonowski, so they'll be tough. On the other side, Salem and Novi should both be very good."

Canton opens its season Tuesday at home against Saline. The opening tip is set for 7 p.m.

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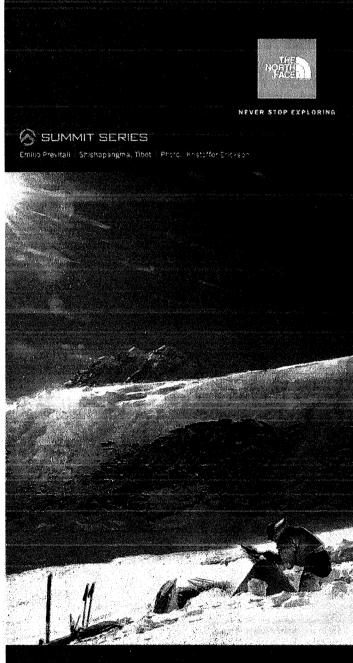
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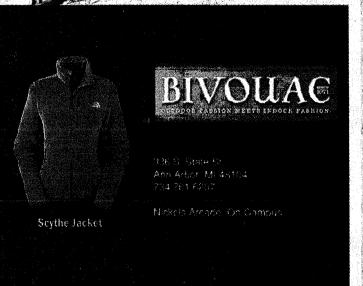




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December 1 December 22-23 December 29-31

January 19 February 23-27 April 10 April 13-17









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Reid Conlon dances the role of the Nutcracker Prince, Erica Martin, the Rat King, when the Plymouth-Canton Ballet Company joins the Plymouth Symphony Orchestra for performances of Tchaikovsky's holiday classic. Both dancers live in Canton.

# Holiday tradition dances into town

t's been a few years since I've seen *The Nutcracker* ballet but the storybook characters are still dancing in my head. It's hard to forget the tale of a girl who dreams her doll has come to life especially when set to live music.

Local productions are especially fun to watch year after year even though the story remains the same more than a century after Tchaikovsky wrote the beloved music. Many of the dancers start as little mice only to go on to play the role of Clara

Beck Greene has watched them all grow up. For many years he played the sinister Uncle Drosselmeyer who gives the doll to Clara. This holiday season Greene works backstage for the



Linda Chomin

Plymouth-Canton Ballet Company performances with the Plymouth Symphony Orchestra. The curtain rises 6:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6, and 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 7, at Salem High School Auditorium in Canton. Tickets are \$18 for adults and teens, \$10 for chil-

dren. Call (734) 676-7233 or visit www. GrosseIleDance.com.

Dawn Greene directs the ballet company, Nan Washburn the PSO.

"Expect a magical, fantasy type of experience," said Beck Greene. "The children who sit in the audience almost think of it as watching a movie or cartoon rather than a ballet. It's very entertaining for the children."

The children in the audience are the reason the ballet company and symphony are keeping prices the same this year in spite of the downturn in the economy. *Nutcracker* productions can be quite costly so instead of raising ticket prices, the number of performances has been cut from three to two. The Plymouth-Canton Ballet always spotlights professional dancers. This year, Jay Goodlet performs as the Snow King and Cavalier, Tricia Sundberg as the Sugar Plum Fairy and Snow Queen. Both are soloists with the Cincinnati Ballet.

"We're trying to make it so everybody gets an opportunity to enjoy this holiday tradition," said Greene.

For the first time in several years, the Livonia Symphony Orchestra brings back the story by opening the concert with several movements that feature nearly 40 dance students from Bunny Sanford's school in Livonia. Although only a few selections will be performed at the Christmas Festival, it's a step in the right direction. The symphony used to put on the entire ballet, but budget concerns eliminated the annual production. The program takes place 4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6, at Clarenceville High School, 20155 Middlebelt, south of Eight Mile, Livonia. Tickets are \$17 adults, \$5 for children and students. Call (734) 421-1111.

For the second half of the program 18 musicians from the Livonia Youth Philharmonic sit side-by-side with orchestra members for classics such as Sleigh Ride and White Christmas. The fifth- and sixth-grade choir from Johnson Upper Elementary School, under the direction of LSQ musician Karen Danke, will sing two selections from the movie How The Grinch Stole Christmas. The Clarenceville High School Choraliers, under the direction of Jason Debandt, close the program with Silent Night.

"It's going to be great family fare," said Rose Kachnowski, president of the Livonia Symphony Society. "It's always a fun thing for youngsters to see the Waltz of the Flowers. It moves quickly and kids love it. The second half is a fun one with several student groups joining the orches-

Linda Ann Chomin is the health and community life reporter for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. She can be reached at (734) 953-2145 or Ichomin@hometownlife.com. Party time

# Experts give tips for the holidays

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN O&E STAFF WRITER

John Del Signore moves from food station to dessert table checking last-minute details for a tasting of holiday dishes at Laurel Manor in Livonia. Preparing for a party takes time. For the last few days the kitchen staffers, including executive chef Greg Vitale, have been busy making asparagus wraps and apricot chicken to give businesses, corporations and nonprofit organizations ideas, but anyone can use these tips to create a memorable event.

"We display not just food but decorations to get ideas to do these different types of events," said Del Signore, who has been in the restaurant business 50 years. "We do a different table in December, different settings, from a seven-course meal to a simple dinner. I love the holidays. You always have people coming from out of town and having a party year after year."

#### **SCALING BACK**

While people are still planning to entertain this holiday season, gone are the days when corporations like Roush Industries treated 2,500 to 3,000 employees and clients to a buffet from 4 p.m. to midnight every year. Events are being scaled back although Del Signore is especially excited about Laurel Manor's New Year's Eve Gala with an elaborate display of hors d'oeuvres, plated dinner, specialty dessert table, and afterglow with pizza and Danish.

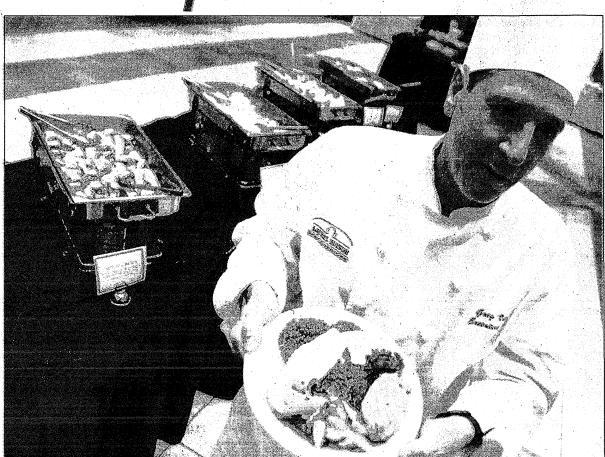
"Because of the economy people are doing parties but not as elaborate," said general manager Linda Baffy. "For holiday parties, we do market place stations with hot food, pasta, carving stations, a sweet table and coffee station. Our deli has hot food and sandwiches and we have desserts from Sweet Dreams in Farmington Hills and our own."

## COST-CUTTERS

Vitale proudly displays one of the ways to dress up chicken for the holidays. Chicken seems to be a popular choice as a way of cutting costs.

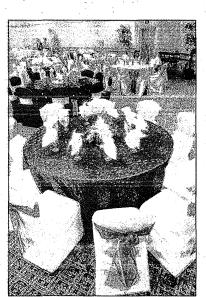
"There's chicken breaded with pecan, apricot chicken, Anchorage chicken stuffed with crab meat," said Vitale. "We have new and old favorites like chicken picatta. Pasta is popular, homemade rolled pasta with ricotta, Parmesan and spinach."

"Shrimp is always big at the holidays" added Deirdre Stemmelen, general sales manager. "It's a celebratory time. For



PHOTOS BY TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Greg Vitale, executive chef at Laurel Manor, describes a holiday dish of Chicken Pecan with Twice Baked Potatoes and Squash Medley.

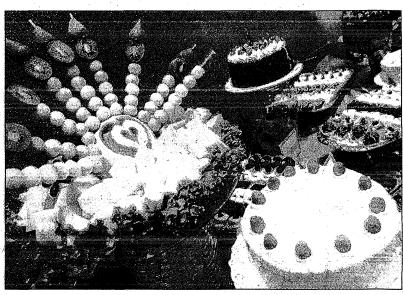


Holiday table settings fill the room at Laurel Manor in Livonia.

decor, bright colors are in this year, lime green and black, chocolate brown, jewel tones."

Just about anything goes as far as decorations, but again the downturn in the economy is affecting spending not innovation. Lori Morrison offers plenty of inspiration for that table centerpiece.

"We have orders for four parties already for this year which is early," said Morrison, co-owner of Ribar Floral Co. in Plymouth with her mother, Marcia Sayles. "The dollar amount of what people are spending is down. They're doing primarily centerpieces with candles. Turquoise and silver is popular. Traditional red is always a favorite."



Holiday desserts lay on the table for sampling at the Afternoon of Taste at Laurel Manor in Livonia.

## OFFERING SUGGESTIONS

Morrison was designing a red rose centerpiece for the Plymouth Symphony League Holiday Home Tour, planned for today, Sunday, Nov. 30. She's always willing to share ideas with customers from setting a table to creating a focal point.

"Roses don't last as long with Christmas greens which drink far more water," said Morrison. "If they're trying to cut costs, they certainly can do arrangements with assorted pines, cones and ribbons which would go from now 'till end of year if watered every day. They might get it earlier and try to keep it going.

"People are still spending, but not high ticket. You certainly can still have a nice party. One woman, her daughter is getting married in December. They were looking for creative ideas for a centerpiece. You can just gather pine cones up in your yard, or branches off your tree.

"A lot of people have things in their own house they don't even think of. A red tablecloth with a tea light candle in a glass mayonnaise jar. Tie a holiday ribbon around the neck and you have a beautiful candle with Christmas charm. You could nestle the candle in peppermints, nuts or even sand if you wish. Try grouping several together for a dramatic evening effect."

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TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Mary Cambridge sits among the decorations in the laundry room of her Livonia home which is featured on the Greenmead Christmas Walk.

# Walk brings Christmas home for yule revelers

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN

Don't expect a McMansion, but cozy rooms filled with memories, Kathie Sterbling tells a visitor to her Livonia home. At least two of the stops on the Greenmead Christmas Walk spotlight keepsakes that revisit holidays past. Six private homes as well as the Hill House at the historical village offer dozens of ideas for reusing old treasures that have been in the family for

The Sterblings still cherish a music box with Santa skating on top from their first Christmas as a married couple 49 years ago. Handmade ornaments decorate a ceiling-to-floor tree in the living room. On Christmas day, the couple's three daughters and their eight children take turns opening presents nearby.

"It's very homey and very old-fashioned."
The grandkids made things, kids made things. It's things like that you can't leave in a closet," said Kathie Sterbling.

The family tree is the most important in

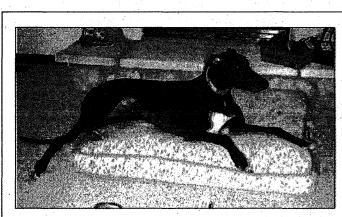
Please see **GREENMEAD**, C2



Kathie and John Sterbling sit in the living room of their Livonia home which will be featured.

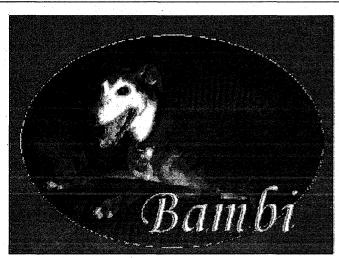
## GREENMEAD CHRISTMAS WALK

What: Friends for the Development of Greenmead present six homes and the Hill House at the historical village When: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6 Tickets: \$9 in advance, \$10 day of the walk, and available at Livonia libraries, Greenmead (Newburgh, south of Eight Mile), and Community Resources Department at Livonia City Hall. For information, call (734) 466-3540 or (734) 425-4855.



# **Good dog**

Barney is an adorable, lovable and friendly black male greyhound, according to his foster mom. He is 2.5 years old and looking for his 'Forever Home.' He lives with two other greyhounds and two cats. Barney loves his squeaky toys and his peanut butter-filled Kongs. He is a very friendly and happy boy. He has been in his foster home for one year only because his family does not live near an area that Greyheart Greyhound Rescue and Adoption hosts Meet & Greets and therefore does not get any exposure. To find out more, visit www. greyheart.org.



## Bambi

Bambi is an 11-year-old greyhound looking for a permanent home. This black beauty with a graying face is a very sweet lady that loves walks and is wonderful with other dogs and cats. She is a cuddlebug that loves to sleep with her family. For information, call (866) 438-4739 or visit www.greyheart.org. Greyheart Greyhound Rescue and Adoption is holding Meet & Greets with other homeless greyhounds noon to 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 7, at Petco, 43435 Ford Road, Canton, and Sunday, Nov. 30, at PetSmart, 385 Haggerty, Commerce Twp.

# Cyclist to speak at Italian American Club on Dec. 4

The Dante Alighieri Society of Michigan presents a program on one of the world's premier cycling events that will mark its 100th anniversary in 2009. Guest speaker Christian Vande Velde, holder of the coveted Pink Jersey from the 2008 Giro d'Italia, reveals the inside stories and exciting action from the front lines of the race 6:30-10 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 4, at the Italian American Club & Banquet Center, 39200 W. Five Mile.

Tickets are available in advance for \$20 adults, \$15 children and students, \$25 and \$20 at the door (all tickets include dinner and entertainment). For reservations, visit www.dantemichigan. org/events.htm or call Diana Manzo at (586) 264-3579.

# Madonna University to present **Christmas** opera

The Madonna **University Lyric** Theatre Performers, faculty and guest artists present Amahl and the Night Visitors 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6, at the Millennium Centre Theatre, 15600 J.L. Hudson Drive, Southfield. Tickets are \$15 adults, \$10 seniors and students, and available at the box office, www.millenniumboxoffice.com, or by calling (248) 796-5199. This Christmas opera, first televised in the 1950s, tells the story of the young, crippled Amahl and his mother who are visited by the Three Wise Men on their way to bring gifts to the Christ Child. The second half of the program is a potpourri of Christmas songs performed by various artists and a sing-along with the audience.



Tristan Lopus (left), a seventhgrader at St. Fabian's in Farmington, plays Amahl, and Wayman Ezell King Balthazar in the Christmas opera presented by Madonna University at the Millennium Centre Theatre in Southfield. Ezell, a Detroit native, is an actor and conductor living in New



»Holiday figures rest on a bench in the Cambridge home.

the house with photographs of the grandchildren instead of ornaments. Everywhere the eye looks are vignettes with snowmen, bird houses and Santas John made in his woodworking shop. A sewing tree with scissors and a tape measure garland spotlight one of Kathie's hobbies. Gardening gloves form a skirt beneath the dead tree branches stuck in a dirt-filled watering can. John and Kathie share a love of making things grow in their back yard which has been on the Greenmead Garden Walk. The two events raise money for the restoration of the historical park in Livonia.

"I don't take anything down until the third week in January," said Kathie, who spends a couple of weeks putting out the village of bird houses by John and another village ordered from the Sears Catalog 49 years ago. "January is so dull. It makes it colorful. They all have a story. I hope they spend time looking at things and enjoy it."

#### **DESIGNER'S TOUCH**

Visitors definitely will delight in the decorations and furnishings in the home of Mary and Jim Cambridge. Mary was trained as an interior designer and used her talents in every room over the last 22 years. Since their home was on the walk four years



The garden tree in the Sterbling home.

ago, she's redone the upstairs. The master bedroom features a black, white and red theme with framed antique kerchiefs, a tabletop red aluminum tree and her mother's bassinet from childhood.

In the living room is a large snowmen tree where the couple and their three grown children gather on Christmas Eve. Mary collects snowmen and Santas, but also glass shoes, plates, and cloth country dolls. Her collections, including the Santa eggs she painted, can be seen in groupings in many rooms. The Santa in the living room belonged to her mother so it holds special memories.

"Every room is decorated to the color of the room," said Mary Cambridge. "The tree in the sun room has handmade

storvbook ornaments I made in college 30 years ago, felt ornaments with sequins on them, and also Greenmead ornaments. I'm a historical commissioner so doing the walk is always fun and for a good cause. Greenmead is Livonia's history. Those are the founding families of Livonia, the Kingsley House, Meeting House where Quakers gathered, the Hill House where we're gutting the inside and redoing everything."

#### **RETRO LOOK**

Janet Bennett is especially excited about the theme of the Hill House this year. Bennett is president of Friends for the Development of Greenmead and organizes the walks.

"They're doing the theme 1950s and using an artificial tree the Hills used in 1950 in an 1850 farm house which also has hot chocolate and homemade cookies in the kitchen for visitors," said Bennett. "A couple of the homes are quite different. One modest home has interesting mouldings, classical pillars on the inside of the house. Another man has a pipe organ in his home and is going to play all day long. Another house reminds me of a little cottage in a nursery story. Another is a big home with its own little theater room. One just built a home over a smaller home. The living room has the old fireplace and will be a fascinating place."

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## **Arthritis Today**

JOSEPH J. WEISS, M.D. RHEUMATOLOGY 18829 Farmington Road Livonia, Michigan 48152 Phone: (248) 478-7860



up storm doors, flush out and refill the car engine's antifreeze, and bring out warm clothes and boots. But you can do more; take time to put yourself in the best condition possible. If you

are experiencing a nagging pain in your shoulder or knee, or you find yourself too stiff for too long a time in the morning, you should see your doctor about the problem. Almost every joint or muscle problem is easier to care for if identified by your doctor early rather than late. In particular, if you are subject to sudden give-way weakness of your legs and nearly fall, you should see a doctor. Winter time with black ice on sidewalks and porch steps could turn a near fall into a serious injury. Seeing your doctor

now about such a problem, gives him the time he needs to evaluate the cause and give

you preventive treatment or advice on how you should deal with winter weather and the risk of a fall. You should take shoulder pain seriously. Winter brings unexpected slips and a sudden need to right yourself; you need to have a shoulder able to brace on a railing, person or side of a car. If you have a painful shoulder, you can't depend on such an

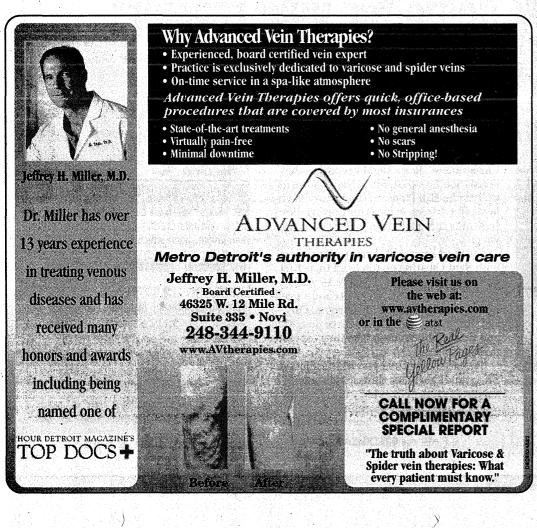
Attending to our home and your car is fine, but don't overlook also preparing your body for winter.

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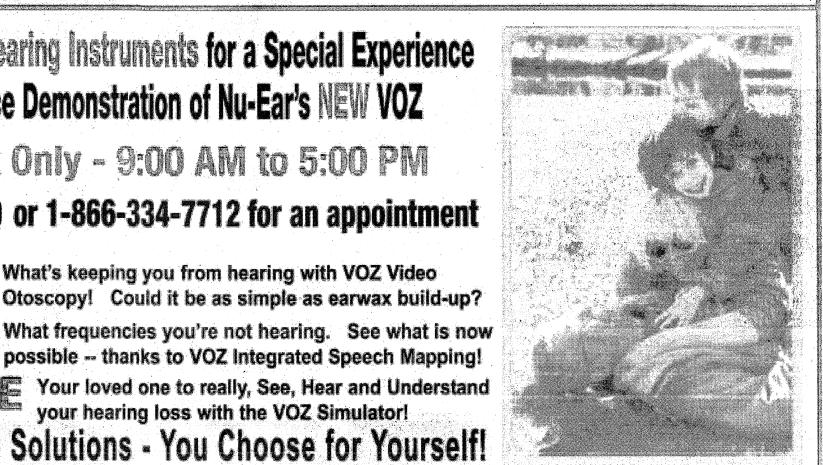
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#### **REUNION CALENDAR**

Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, November 30, 2008

The Reunion Calendar runs Sundays in the newspaper as space allows, and online in its entirety at www.hometownlife.com. Submit your reunion announcement at least two weeks in advance to Linda Chomin, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft Road, Livonia, Mich., 48150, or e-mail Ichomin@hometownlife.com.

#### **Brighton High School** Class of 1989

Planning a 20th reunion and searching for classmates. Sign up at "yahoo groups-brighton high school class of 1989" for more information.

#### **Class of 1959**

50th reunion with activities June 5-7, 2009. Events will include a Saturday evening dinner party at Plum Hollow Country Club in Southfield. For information, visit www. casstech59.com or contact Marge Teramino Knable, reunion@casstech59.com; Debbie Friedman, (248) 626-3729; or Steve Sperling, (248) 360-9658.

#### **Dearborn Fordson Class of 1969**

Planning a reunion. Contact Kathy Nisun at (248) 363-5679 or e-mail: Kayninilu@aol.com or Kathy Shoebridge

#### Detroit St. Brigid

@ Klivingston@nu-core.com. Class of 1959

Planning a reunion and looking for classmates. Contact szonyek@att.net with any information about classmates.

#### **Detroit Winship School** Class of 1956

Members of the eighth-grade graduating class of 1956 who are interested in planning a reunion, should call Beth Weingarden at (810) 695-7882.

#### **Garden City High School** Class of 1960

Mini-reunion luncheons held the second Saturday of every month at 1 p.m. in the banquet room in the Plymouth Denny's on Ann Arbor Road, east of I-275. Call Gary Simon at (734) 751-4101 or send e-mail to GCHS. MCMLX@yahoo.com.

#### **Class of 1989**

20th reunion Aug. 29, 2009, at Joy Manor (6 p.m. to midnight, Ticket \$65 before March 1, 2009, \$75 from March 2 to June 1, 2009. No tickets will be sold at the \* door. Tickets include dinner, premium open bar, dj, door prizes, picture cd and other gifts, and available for purchase at www.gardencity89.com or contact Paula at gchs1989reunion@hotmail.com.

#### **Grosse Pointe North**

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

#### Lincoln Park High School

Looking for members of Lincoln Park High School class of 1958 for 50-year reunion. Contact Nancy, (313) 535-8777 or nc6897@sbcgloblal.net.

#### Livonia Franklin Class of 1969

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

#### Milford High School Class of 1978

Planning a 30th reunion. Class members should contact the reunion committee as soon as possible. E-mail milford78@gmail.com.

#### **RELIGION CALENDAR**

To submit an item for the religion calendar, fax it to (734) 591-7279 or write: Religion Calendar, Observer Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150. Deadline for an announcement to appear in the Thursday edition is noon Monday.

#### **UPCOMING**

#### Caregiver's support group

St. John's Support Group for the Caregiver's of Alzheimer's patients or patients with other forms of dementia meets at 10 a.m., the first and third Friday of each month at St. John's Episcopal Church, 574 South Sheldon, Plymouth. Respite care for your loved one will be provided. Call Connie McNutt at (734) 895-1426 for more information. This group is authorized by the Alzheimer's Association.

#### The Nativity movie

7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 2, at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church on Five Mile, one

**GRETCHEN BORNOR** 

COLE

3orn November 12, 1927 to loving

on in peace on November 24, 2008 at

age 81, with her daughters Cynthia and

Sally by her side. She is also survived

by Sally's husband Ron, grandchildren

Erich, Nicole (Josh), Misha, Libby

Terry), and Emerson, and great-

grandson Jayce. Gretchen's life is a estament to her loving, intelligent and ndependent spirit. She was born in

Detroit and lived in several states dur-

ng her childhood, as her father

lesigned the nation's new highways Her family later settled in Royal Oak,

where she graduated from Royal Oak

High School. She earned a bachelor's legree in 1949 in sociology and music

rom DePauw University in Indiana,

where she created many lifelong

riendships as a member of the Alpha

Chi Omega sorority. Gretchen devoted

countless volunteer hours as a Braille

ypist and with numerous other organ-

zations while she was a wife and

nother, and raised her two daughters

with devotion, love and great fun.

When she was in her 50s, she earned a

naster's degree in social work from

Wayne State University, and then

worked as a medical social worker at

St. Joseph's Hospital in Pontiac,

Michigan. In 1983 she became CEO of

Detroit Air Compressor Company,

which her parents had founded and run

ogether for more than 40 years, and in

he 1990s Gretchen received the

Woman of the Year award from the

National Association of Women

Business Owners. Gretchen continualy gave her love, thoughtfulness, keen

ntellect, grand humor and radiant smile to her family and many friends.

She enjoyed traveling, and made everyone around her feel special.

Gretchen marveled others with the

power of her beautiful singing voice despite her 4'10" frame, reveled in the

quiet of a glass of wine and a good

book, and the beauty of Lake Michigan

from her vacation home in northern

Michigan. She leaves a lasting legacy

all who knew her forever. While the

Maryland 20871.

block west of Inkster Rd., Livonia. Desserts will be served. All are welcome to attend this free event. For more information or to sign-up call (734) 422-1470.

#### Kids Christmas craft days

Deadline is Dec. 4 to register for Kids Christmas Craft Day 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, Dec. 6, for ages 5 years through 5th grade, at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church on Five Mile, one block west of Inkster Rd., Livonia. Kids will enjoy creating Christmas crafts to be used as gifts or decorations. All are welcome to attend. Suggested donation of \$3 per child. For more information or to sign-up, call (734) 422-1470.

#### Advent presentation

Through Scripture, food and drink, reflect on and delight in preparing for Christ's arrival 7-8:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 4, in Bixman Hall at St. Aidan Catholic Church,

17500 Farmington Rd., Livonia. No charge, but RSVP by calling (734) 425-5950. Presenter is David Conrad, M.A. Theology.

#### Glory of Christmas

The theatrical production opens Thursday, Dec. 4, and runs weekends through Sunday, Dec. 14, at NorthRidge Church, 49555 N. Territorial at Ridge, Plymouth. Tickets \$16 and \$18. Call (734) 414com. Curtain times are 7:30 p.m. Thursday-Friday, 1 p.m. Saturday,

#### Holiday concert

performs 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6, at the historic Old St. Mary's Church in Detroit's Greektown, 229-7147 or \$20 at the door. Information is also available at www.mcs-notes.org.

7777 or visit www.northridgechurch. and 3 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Sunday.

Madrigal Chorale of Southfield 646 Monroe at St. Antoine. Tickets \$18 and available by calling (248)

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WALTER R. NAAS

Of East Grand Rapids,

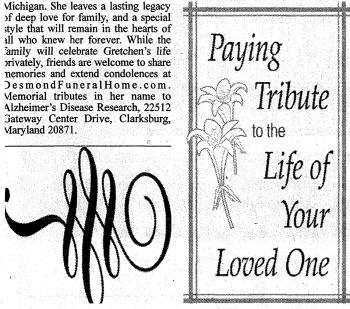
passed away on November 24, 2008. Walter served in the Army Air Corps as a Bomber Pilot in WWII. He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Suzanne, and his children, Connie and Richard Todd of DE, Jim Naas of N.C., and Nancy and Jeff Wickman of East Grand Rapids, MI, four grandchildren, Lindsey and Chris Jacona, Allison, Amanda, and Molly Wickman, one great granddaughter, Sienna Jacona. A private family service was held November 26th. In lieu of flowers, send contributions to the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans, 3000 Monroe N.E., Grand Rapids, MI 49505.

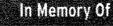
## BARBARA P. RANSFORD

Age 63 of Magnolia, AR. Died Monday, November 24, 2008 at the John R. Williamson Hospice House in El Dorado, AR. Memorial services were held Tuesday, Nov 25th in AR.

## E. HELEN (Tiri) SNABB

Age 84, Farmington Hills, MI, passed away November 26, 2008. Thayer-Rock Funeral Home, Farmington, MI







IN LOVING MEMORY OF EDWARD KENT EBERE II 12-1-2006

Taken from us in the prime of his life. ever moment we spent with you. We miss your infinite knowledge, guidance, your laughter and jokes, discussion and advice. If tears could build a stairway to Heaven and memories a road, we would walk right up to Heaven and bring you home again. It will never be the same, we will never be the same, we will forever love you and never forget you. Love always and forever, your loving wife Connie and son Walt, Bev and Jeff.

#### OBITUARY & **POLICY** The first five "billed" lines of an

obituary are published at no cost. All additional lines will be charged at \$4 per line. You may place a picture of your loved one for an additional cost of only \$6. Symbolic emblems may be included at no cost (example: American Flags, religious symbols, etc.)

Deadlines: Friday 4:15 PM for Sunday Wednesday 9:45 AM for Thursday will be placed in the next ava

e-mail your obit to oeobits@hometownlife.com or fax to: Attn: Obits c/o Jennifer Musztuk 586-826-7318 Jennifer Musztuk 586-826-7115 **Charolette Wilson** 

586-826-7082 800-579-7355

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### Bennett-LeBlanc

John and Sandy Bennett of Livonia announce the marriage of their daughter, Jennifer Leigh, to Darryl Joseph LeBlanc, son of Carol LeBlanc of Livonia and the late James V. LeBlanc.

The bride is a 2007 graduate of Eastern Michigan University, where she earned her master's degree in education. She works at Plymouth High School.

The groom is a 1995 graduate of Churchill High School and

works for H.D. Supply in Livonia. The couple wed Sept. 26, 2008, before the Rev. Phillip Rogers at Connection Church in Canton.

The bride was attended by maids of honor Terri Sabala and Kimberly Harris, and bridesmaids Meghin Gani, Rebecca Guibord, Nicole Frizzell, Erin Slater, Amanda Dimmer and

The groom was attended by best men Kevin Swider and Brian LeBlanc, and groomsmen Eric LeBlanc, John Bennett, Patrick Will, Michael Minghine, Michael Stanbury and Joseph Harris. Following the ceremony, the couple received guests at St. Mary's Cultural Center in Livonia.

They plan a two-week honeymoon in Hawaii and have made their home in Livonia.

# Young-Young Kenneth and Priscilla Young of Livonia announce the engage-

ment of their daughter, Megan, to Joshua Young, son of James and Kathleen Young of Waterford. The bride-to-be is a graduate of Franklin High School in

Livonia. She completed her master gardener's course and works at Glen Oaks Country Club and at Capital Grille in Troy. Her fiance is a graduate of Waterford High School. He works as a master electrician at Anstanig Electric. A June 20, 2009, wedding is planned.

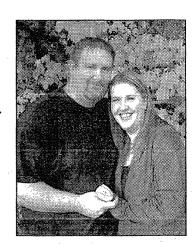


#### Nolan-Tulgetske

Dick and Betty Nolan of Canton announce the engagement of their daughter, Heather, to Terry Tulgetske, son of Connie Szocinski and Lloyd Tulgetske of Johannesburg.

The bride-to-be is a graduate of Washtenaw Community College where she earned a degree in photography. She works for Fox Portrait Studios. The groom served in the U.S. Navy, and is now working for Hayball Transport.

A September 2009 wedding is planned.



#### Elsner-Nahavandi

Robert and Marcia Elsner of Plymouth announce the marriage of their daughter. Elizabeth Marie Marzonie Elsner, to Kurosh Nahayandi of Portage. He is the son of Amir Nahavandi of Marabella. Spain and Amy and Paul Van Laak of Long Lake, New York, but currently residing in Kowloon Bay, Hong Kong.

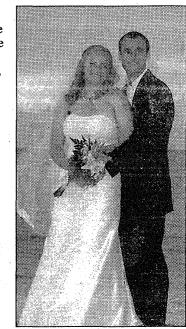
The bride is a graduate of Plymouth Canton High School and the University of Michigan, where she earned her bachelor's degree in chemical engineering, her master's degree in biomedical engineering and competed in softball as a Big Ten scholar athlete. She works as a senior analyst for Whirlpool Corporation in St. Joseph.

The groom is a graduate of Shenendehowa High School in Clifton Park, New York, and

of Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, where he earned his bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering and his master" degree in material science. He works as a senior designer for Stryker Corporation in Portage. The couple wed at sunset on

Sept. 13, 2008 on the beach at the Dreams Resort in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic. The bride was attended by maid of honor Kathy Mokienko Borsos of Plymouth and bridesmaids Marissa Young and Katie Shea. The groom was attended by best man Sujal Patel of Belmont, Calif., and groomsmen Bijan Nahavandi and Michael Elsner. A candle-lit evening recep-

tion followed the service. Seventy guests, hailing from Spain, New York, California, Michigan, Florida, Ohio, Georgia, Texas, Minnesota,



Massachusetts and the Dominican Republic, enjoyed an elegant evening of dinner and dancing.

## **GARDEN CALENDAR**

## 63rd Annual Greens Market

The Ann Arbor Branch of Woman's Farm & Garden Association plans its annual sale of fresh-cut Oregon greens, holiday wreaths, swags, forced bulbs and other arrangements from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 4, at Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Road, Ann Arbor. The market also will include custom-made accessories, jewelry, clothing, toys and gifts; homemade baked goods: antiques and collectibles and decorative craft demonstrations at 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. The market is open only to members of Woman's Farm & Garden Association and Matthaei Botanical Gardens and Nichols Arboretum from 10 a.m.-noon. Doors open to the public at noon. No admission fee. Free valet parking will be available. Lunches from Afternoon Delight will be available for purchase. (734) 647-7600 or www.annarborfarmandgarden.org. Winter Stonefly Search

Join a team to search the Rouge tributaries for the sensitive winter stonefly, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Jan. 24, 2009. Search starts from the University of Michigan-Dearborn Environmental Interpretive Center. Sign up available now through monitoring@ therouge.org. Or call Sally Petrella at (313) 792-9621. For a flier, visit www.therouge.org.

# Trinity House Theatre updates 'A Christmas Carol' for local fans

Clowns, magic, puppetry, improv, mime, funny accents and hat swapping all take place in a new production of "A Christmas Carol" Dec. 5-21, at Trinity House Theatre, 38840 Six Mile, west of I-275, Livonia. Curtain times are 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, and 2 p.m. Sunday. Tickets are \$15, \$12 members, and available at (734) 464-6302. Sunday matinees are \$12 for seniors and students.

This adaptation by Doris Baizley has actors rush about, sing, tumble, show puppets, and

take on the roles of numerous characters. The Older Clown presents the young Scrooge's monstrous schoolmaster and then jolly Fezziwig, both played by Jonathan Stanley, a hip-hop dancer from Canton. He also plays Jake the

Laura Gumina of Southfield is padding-up to play the hefty Character Woman who then becomes the dancing Mrs. Fezziwig and others. For more information, visit www.trinity-

house.org.





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

# Critical need

# Blood donations slow down during holidays

**O&E STAFF WRITER** 

Catherine Withrow couldn't believe her daughter's physician was refusing to order a blood transfusion. The 3-year-old Canton girl was going through a fourth round of chemotherapy and her blood count was dropping. After Amanda was diagnosed with leukemia in November 2005, Withrow slept at C.S. Mott Children's Hospital for the next seven months so she knew from the first three treatments it was just a matter of time before her daughter's life was in

"She had a 106 degree temperature for three weeks. Every day her numbers would drop. He said there's a shortage of blood and others need it more. By midnight her count was at a critical period and they ordered blood."

Withrow decided right there she was going to do something to make sure there was always enough blood available through the Southeast Michigan American Red Cross which supplies 57 hospitals in Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Washtenaw and St. Clair counties. She not only took over the blood drives at Trinity Presbyterian Church near Plymouth, but videotaped a commercial to tell Amanda's story

#### **GREAT NEED**

Withrow estimates her daughter had somewhere between 50 and 60 transfusions during five rounds of chemotherapy before going into remission. On Tuesday, Amanda, now 6, colored quietly as her mother spoke about the need for blood donations.

The church drive drew about 35 to 40 donors. The goal for the American Red Cross is to collect 900 pints a day at donor sites and mobile units sent to businesses, churches, schools, fire and police departments, post offices, hospitals, city halls, funeral homes, and airports. The blood is then tested for Hepatitis A, B and C; AIDS/HIV, West Nile Virus, type, and RH factor before being given to patients undergoing surgery, kidney and heart transplants, cancer treatment, and those suffering trauma from burns and auto accidents.

Volunteer Linda Erickson came straight from tutoring English as a second language in Livonia Public Schools to the collection site where she was placing UPC codes on tubes and bags to ensure the results match once blood is tested.

"We want to give back to the system," said Withrow. "Even if they can't donate because of health reasons, they could bake a plate of cookies or hold a drive even just a one-time drive.'

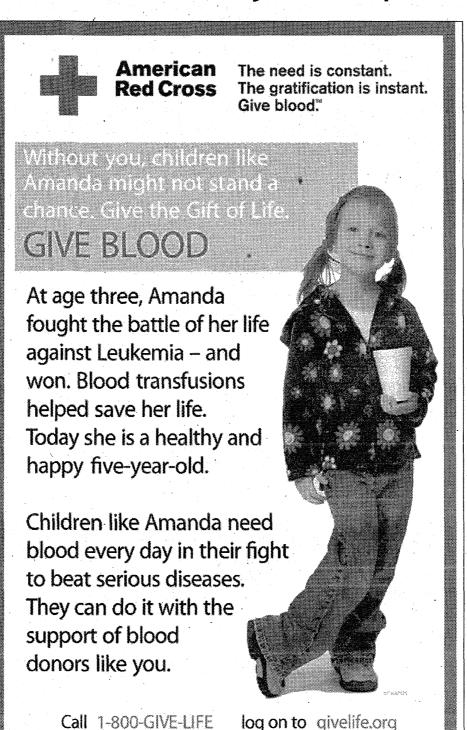
Withrow donated five times last year, but since hen was denied because of an iron deficiency. To qualify, donors must be age 18 or older, in good health and weigh at least 110 pounds. Specific eligibility requirements can be found at www.givelife. org. The entire process takes about an hour including 10 to 12 minutes to give blood. It's estimated the act of kindness can save up to three lives.

"Today we're collecting whole blood which is separated into red blood cells, platelets and plasma so the chances of going to the same person are slim," said Tina Stilley, donor recruitment regional representative for the American Red Cross. "They sign in, take their temperature, blood pressure and pulse, prick their finger for a blood test. They're asked about travel and anything that would make you ineligible. If you have diabetes and blood pressure under control then it's probably OK, but no blood thinners or no travel to a malaria area in the last 12 months.'

## **NO EXCUSES**

Nicky Bonnett thinks many people want to but don't donate because of a busy lifestyle. Bonnett. an R.N. who lives in Canton, was one of five nurses staffing the collection site at the church.

"Stopping on the way home from work isn't convenient," said Bonnett. "Churches a lot of people



Amanda Withrow is 6 years old today and still in remission thanks to blood donors. The American Red Cross has featured the Canton girl on two of its posters.

to schedule an appointment to donate blood

gather. Schools and universities usually keep us busy. It's amazing what elementary kids can talk their parents and grandparents into."

John Rinke usually gives blood at the Livonia Ford plant where he works but wanted to donate at church. He and wife Carey have three children of

"I want to help people especially because of Amanda," said John Rinke, a church member. "I'm a universal blood type and know you give to a lot of people. There's quite a few kids out there with the need for blood."

Carey was amazed by the number of transfusions Amanda needed while going through chemothera-

"She was able to participate in my vacation Bible school two years ago. As a 3-year-old she was bald. but now to see her with long hair is wonderful."

On the same day, donors were giving Martha Roemer Kurtz was worrying about a shortage of inventory during the holidays. Twenty-percent of blood collected in southeastern Michigan comes from school drives. To encourage donation, the American Red Cross is holding a drawing for anyone who donates Dec. 21, to Jan. 4, for a \$500 hotel voucher and round trip tickets for two anywhere in the continental U.S.

"Very often during the holidays it goes down to zero, what we have after we supply the hospitals," said Kurtz. "People go away, they're busy with holiday preparations. Even regular blood donors forget to make that appointment. Hospitals need more blood. With more people on the road, there are more accidents, slip and falls on the ice and snow. Economics are hitting us too because a lot of companies cutting costs, not allowing employees away from their desks, companies going out of business."

For more information or to set up an appointment, call (800) GIVELIFE or visit www.givelife.

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

# **Documentary** to educate viewers about fibromyalgia

More than 100 guests will attend the premiere showing of Fibromyalgia: Fitting the Pieces Together 5:45 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14, at the Townsend Hotel, 100 Townsend, Birmingham. The event also honors professionals committed to helping patients manage the pain of fibromyalgia. The event is presented by Helping our Pain and Exhaustion, Inc. (H.O.P.E), a nonprofit support group for those suffering with fibromyalgia.

The elegant gathering provides the opportunity to educate and create much needed awareness about fibromyalgia, a chronic pain disorder characterized by widespread pain and a variety of other symptoms including fatigue, sleep disorders, problems with cognitive functioning, irritable bowel syndrome, and anxiety. This condition affects an estimated 10 million people in the U.S. Severe cases can be extremely debilitating and interfere with basic daily activities. Frequently, access to treatments can be an additional challenge for those suffering with Fibromyalgia because it is often not properly diagnosed as a legitimate medical condition.

"We're ready to showcase the pre- ${\bf miere\ of}\ Fibromyalgia: Fitting$ the Pieces Together," said Sharon Ostalecki, Ph.D. Executive Director of H.O.P.E and author of two books on Fibromyalgia. "Patients suffering from Fibromyalgia deserve to be better educated regarding the disease itself and effective self-management techniques. They have the right to access all available treatment options. My sincere hope is that this event will help dispel the myths, inspire guests and create a more compassionate society equipped with a better understanding of this debilitating condition. This event will also honor those who have made a vital difference."

Honorees at the event committed to helping patients manage the pain of Fibromyalgia include Ananias Diokno, M.D., executive vice president and chief medical officer, William Beaumont Hospital; Martin Tamler, M.D., program director Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation Residency, William Beaumont Hospital and Daniel Clauw, M.D., director, Chronic Pain and Fatigue Research Center, University of Michigan Hospital. Lila Lazarus of FOX 2 Detroit will receive a Media Advocacy Award. Linda Ann Chomin, health reporter of the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, receives an **Excellence in Community Awareness** Award.

Tickets still available for \$125 each. Dinner and drinks included. Black tie optional. For more information, call Sharon Ostalecki at (248) 344-0896 or e-mail smo23915@aol.com. Copies of the documentary will be available following the event or by going to hffcf.org.

# **MEDICAL DATEBOOK**

#### DECEMBER Gala evening at the movies A benefit for the Crohn's & Colitis Foundation

of America, Michigan Chapter 6 p.m. Monday, Dec. 1, at The Uptown Palladium Theater, 250 North Old Woodward, Birmingham. Evening includes the premiere of a new feature film and an hors d'oeuvres and dessert pre-glow reception. The honoree for the 31st annual Gala Evening at the Movies is The Michael Yendick Foundation for Children. To attend the event, purchase a listing in the Movie Gala Souvenir Journal from \$75-\$5,000 and

receive complimentary tickets. Call (248) 737-0900, or e-mail michigan@ccfa.org for more information. Bone marrow drive

An opportunity to join the National Marrow Donor Program registry by completing a brief health questionnaire and having the inside of their cheek swabbed 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 2, at Madonna University, Take 5 Lounge, 36600 Schoolcraft at Levan off I-96, Livonia. Doctors search this registry to find a donor whose tissue type matches that of a patient. Potential donors must be between the ages of 18-60 and in good general health. For more information contact Edna Rankine at (734) 432-5425 or erankine@madonna.edu. :

## **Overeaters Anonymous**

Meet 7 p.m. Thursdays in the Courtyard Room at Unity of Livonia Church, 28660 Five Mile, between Middlebelt and Inkster roads, Livonia. And 7 p.m. Sundays at the Marion Professional Building at St. Mary's Hospital, 14555 Levan at Five Mile, Livonia, in Classroom 1. Call Wendy first at (313) 387-9797. Anyone who wants to stop eating compulsively is welcome. For more Greater Detroit Overeaters Anonymous Information visit www.oa.org or call (248) 559-7722.

## Qigong workshop

With Daisy Lee Sunday, Dec. 7, 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Winter Health for all, and 1-4 p.m. (women only), sponsored by Michigan Tai Chi Association, 38121 Ann Arbor Rd. at Ann Arbor Trail, Livonia. Call (734) 591-3530 for information and form.

## Jingle Bell run/walk

For The Arthritis Foundation Sunday, Dec. 7, at Northville Downs Race Track, and Saturday, Dec. 13, at Covington School in Bloomfield Village. Both festive events offer competitively timed 5K routes, 4-mile children's Snowman Shuffles and post-race chili parties. Call 1-800-968-3030 or visit www.arthritis.org.

# Gluten-free food fair

11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, Dec. 13-14, at Hiller's, 39950 W. 14 Mile (at Haggerty Road). Call (248) 960-1990.

## Get ready to have a baby

Learn what to expect during pregnancy, labor and delivery and make the entire experience more rewarding. Childbirth Education Weekday programs held 7-9 p.m. Mondays to Dec. 15, and Wednesdays, Dec. 3 to Jan. 14. Childbirth Education workshops 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6. There is a fee. Registration required. Call (734) 655-1162.

## Breast cancer support group

Meets 6:30-8 p.m. on the second Tuesday of the month in the Atrium of Our Lady of Hope Cancer Center, at St. Mary Mercy Hospital, 36475 Five Mile (use south entrance off Levan Rd.), Livonia. Call (734) 655-1100 for more information, or visit www.stmarymercy.org.

## **Parkinson Support**

Western Oakland Parkinson Support Group meets 709 p.m. on the second Tuesday of the month except January, July and August, at Farmington Hills Baptist Church, 28301 Middlebelt, between 12 Mile and 13 Mile. Enter at rear of church. For more information, call (248) 433-1011.

## **UPCOMING**

**Butterfly ball** The American Lung Association of Michigan has rescheduled its black tie fund-raiser to 6-11 p.m. Saturday, May 9, at the Ritz-Carlton in Dearborn. Proceeds go to lung health research, education and advocacy. Tickets \$250 per person and include The Butterfly Ball will be highlighted by music and will include a cocktail reception, dinner, dancing, and a live auction featuring trips, dinners and a variety of experiences. Sponsorships available. Call Jessica Jimenez, Development Specialist, (248) 784-2018 or jjimenez@alam.org.

## **ONGOING**

Caregiver's support group St. John's Support Group for the Caregiver's of Alzheimer's patients or patients with other forms of dementia meet the first and third Friday of each month at 10 a.m. at St. John's Episcopal Church, 574 South Sheldon, Plymouth. Respite care for your loved one will be provided. Call Connie McNutt at (734) 895-1426 for more information. This group is authorized by the Alzheimer's Association.

# Wayne metro caregiver support

Are you a caregiver of an aging parent, spouse or relative? Do you ever wish you had an understanding person to talk to? Wayne Metro's Caregiver Support Groups offer support and assistance to those struggling to find or give quality care to their loved ones and offers valuable information at meetings are held the 3rd Tuesday of the month 10 a.m. to noon at the Kay Beard Building on Michigan Avenue in Westland. Meetings are also held at the Village of Redford on Six Mile Road in Redford. Morning and evening options available. The morning group meets 10 a.m. to noon on the 2nd Thursday of the month, the evening group meets the fourth Thursday of the month from 6-8 p.m. Adult care may also be available. For information or if attending for the first time, call Nancy Coman at (313) 843-2550, Ext. 233.

## Physical performance classes

Incorporates jump-rope training, core work, and functional strength training using dumbbells and body weight for resistance 5:30 p.m. Mondays and Thursdays. An Exercise Therapy class for a mid to lower intensity workout that stress functional fitness, core, balance, strength and flexibility 8:45 a.m. Mondays and Thursdays. One hour sessions run through November at Metropolitan Adventist Jr. Academy Gym. 15585 Haggerty, north of Five Mile. Drop in sessions \$6 each, 10 sessions \$48. These classes are both lead by Jeanie

Weaver with the concept of training to spare the joints and improve back mobility and strength. She is a certified personal fitness trainer with 30 years of teaching/training experience. Call (248) 446-9176 or (313) 300-0957 to register. For information send e-mail to jeanieweaver@charter.net.

# Flu shots

Wayne County Department of Public Health offers flu shots for residents at its clinic in Wayne 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday and Thursday (walk-ins), Tuesday-Wednesday and Friday (by appointment only), at 33030 Van Born at Venoy. The cost of the flu vaccine is \$15, \$35 for pneumonia vaccine is also offered for \$35. Medicare (Part B) and Medicaid are accepted. Vaccines are offered for adults and children. For information about family flu vaccinations at Wayne County's public health clinic locations, call (734) 727-7000. For additional influenza and flu prevention facts, visit www.waynecounty.com/hhSvcs/public/pamphlet.htm.

## Flu shots

For adults and children over 6 months of age available at Oakland County Health Division locations at 1200 N. Telegraph in Oakland County Complex Bldg. 36 East in Pontiac; 27725 Greenfield, north of 11 Mile at Catalpa Road in Southfield, and 1010 E. West Maple at Pontiac Trail, Walled Lake. Hours are noon to 8 p.m. Monday, and 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday-Friday, Cost is \$11 (cash only). Medicare and Medicaid accepted. Bring photo identification and insurance cards. For information, call (800) 434-3358 or visit www.oakgov. com/health.

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# CRÖSSWORD PUZZLER

**Answer to Previous Puzzle** 

C H A L K L I D S L I L Y B E T P O L D R A E G L A D I S M D

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NAIL

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#### **ACROSS**

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**Fun By The** 

Like puzzles?

sudoku. This

mind-bending

Then you'll love

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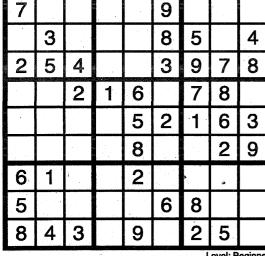
square off, so

sharpen your pencil and put

your sudoku

savvy to the test!

**Numbers** 



Level: Beginner

Here's How It Works:

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

THESE WORDS IN THE PUZZLE BELOW.

**CORSICA** CRETE **CYPRUS** FIJI

**MADAGASCAR MAUI NASSAU OKINAWA** 

**SARDINIA** SICILY SRI LANKA **TASMANIA** 

THE WORDS READ UP, DOWN AND ACROSS.

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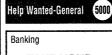
Saturday 9:15am-2:30pm Accepting applications through Dec. 19, 2008. Both positions require

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Bookkeeper, must know Quickbooks, P/T, flexible hrs. **Grounds-Part Time** Looking for someone to assist non-smoking office, Excel/ Word, bank reconciliations. with snow removal. Creekside of Farmington. adastaff@amail.com Call 248-474-4400

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Hines Park Lincoln Mercury 1-866-455-5332 Bill Brown Ford (734) 522-0030 **MONTEGO PREMIER 2007** AWD, power moon, loaded \$16,997 **Bill Brown Ford** 

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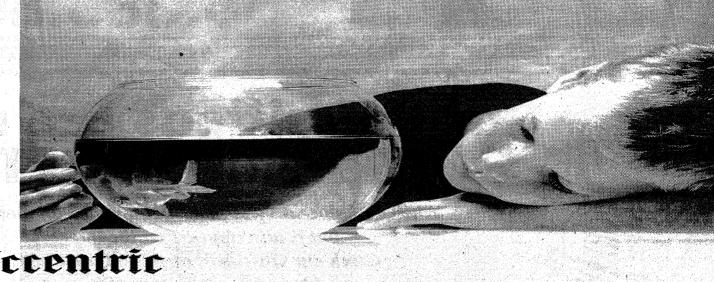
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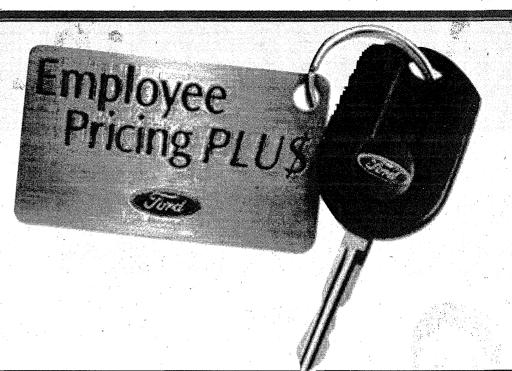
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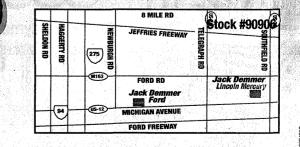




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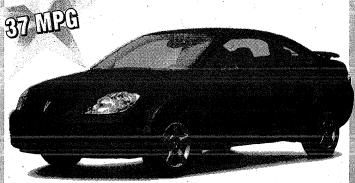


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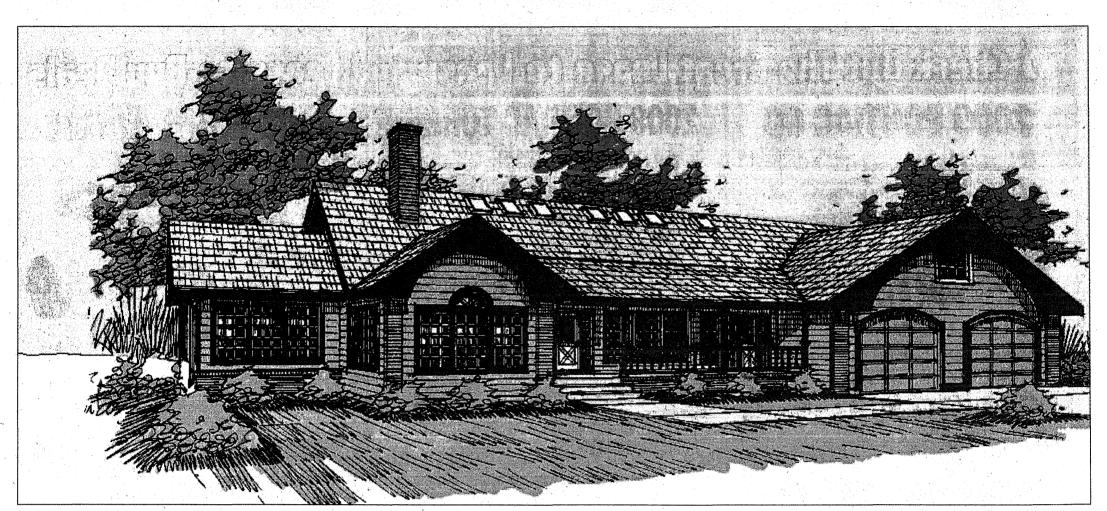
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# Proud to be your home: Give Anna design a close look

Sturdy brick trim, along with durable lap siding, project a sense of permanence to the 2,576-square-foot Anna (337-070). This is a classic beauty that any growing family would be proud to call home. The handsome exterior is just a prelude to the highly functional interior design.

A covered front porch, welcoming to your guests, will be a favorite spot to spend a summer evening. The long entry leads directly into a big family room brightened by multiple skylights. This centrally located room is the main gathering place in the Anna and has access to the back deck.

To the left of the entry is a nice cozy living room. Here, with a substantial fireplace to keep things warm, entertaining friends in style will be effortless. Built-in shelves are over the fireplace with a wood box underneath.

The isolated master suite has a spacious sleeping area and a secluded patio for privacy while enjoying the sun. The master suite also has a built-in entertainment center, huge walk-in closet and its own skylit bathroom equipped with a spa and twin basins.

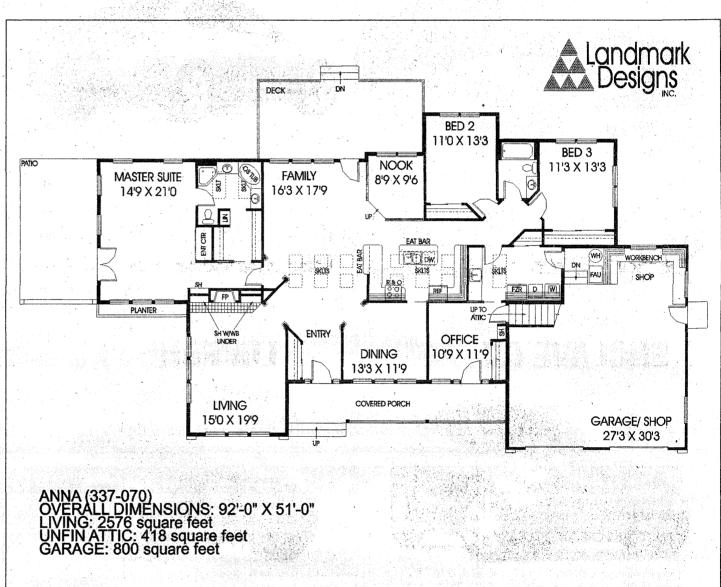
The walk-through kitchen is situated where the cooks in the household will admire the convenience. There are more skylights here, along with two eating bars and all the built-in appliances. The kitchen, for easy serving, is between the raised breakfast nook and the front dining room.

The secondary bedrooms are both quite large, with a full bathroom between. These bedrooms have plenty of closet space and one or the other could easily be converted into guest accommodations, sewing room or den.

An office, with private entrance, is located at the front of the Anna. It has built-in shelves and a closet, but still leaves enough room for a PC, chairs, cabinets, etc. A skylit utility room completes the main part of the floor plan. There is a big sink here and room for a freezer.

The attached two-car garage is fitted with a liberal shop area. For extra storage, the Anna offers an additional 418 square feet of extra storage.

For a study plan of the ANNA (337-070), 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-



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There's a free seminar every week: Tuesday or Saturday, 11 a.m. to noon at 27555 Executive Drive (off West 12 Mile and Halsted), Farmington Hills 48331.

For more details, contact Steve Leibhan, (248) 553-0400, Ext. 2500.

## Tips for buyers

Realtor Paul Schwartz of Prudential Cranbrook Realtors in Birmingham will review the things a buyer needs to know and accepting new buyer clients on a space available basis at a presentation Thursday, Dec. 4, at 7 p.m. at his office, 34122 Woodward Ave. in Birmingham. Reservations are needed. For reservations, e-mail: paul4realtor@yahoo.com (www.paul4realtor.com).

His phone numbers are —. direct: (248) 539-7283, office: (248) 647-6400, fax: (248) 258-1024.

## Investors

Learn about "The Art of House Foreclosure Short Sales" from Steve Dillon. Sponsored by the Real Estate Investors Association of Oakland on Thursday, Dec. 11, 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.

## BIA

**■** Building Industry Association of Southeastern Michigan (BIA) will sponsor a two-day "Green Building for **Building Professionals" course** on Thursday and Friday, Dec. 4-5, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at BIA Headquarters, 30375 Northwestern Highway, in Farmington Hills. The course is part of the National Association of Home Builders' Certified Graduate series and counts toward Certified Graduate Associate (CGA), Certified Graduate Builder

(CGB) and Certified Green Professional (CGP) designa-

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

Registration fees are \$200 for NAHBR Professional Remodeler Council members, \$225 for BIA members and \$300 for guests. For registration information, call (248) 862-1008 or register online at

www.builders.org.

Building Industry
Association of Southeastern
Michigan (BIA) will sponsor a
Certified Graduate "Business
Management for Building
Professionals" course on
Monday, Dec. 8, from 8 a.m. to
3 p.m. at BIA Headquarters,
30375 Northwestern Highway,
in Farmington Hills. The
course is part of the National
Association of Home Builders'

Certified Graduate series and counts toward Certified Graduate Associate (CGA), Certified Graduate Builder (CGB), Certified Graduate Remodeler (CGR), Certified Aging-In-Place (CAPS), Master Certified Sales Professional (MCSP) and Certified Green Professional

(CGP) designations.

Chuck Breidenstein, CAPS of Builders Professional Services Group, will teach management skills that give industry leaders a solid foundation in the best business practices for planning, organizing, staffing, directing and controlling smaller businesses. Case studies and sample forms will be used to provide practical and applicable tools for management success.

management success.

Registration fees are \$155
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■ Building Industry
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Home Builder's Professional Remodelers Council (NAHBR) will sponsor Certified Aging-in-Place (CAPS) seminars: "CAPS I: Marketing and Communication Strategies for Aging and Accessibility" on Wednesday, Dec. 10; "CAPS II: Design/Build Solutions for Aging and Accessibility" on Thursday, Dec. 11. The seminars will be held from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day at BIA headquarters, 30375 Northwestern Highway, Suite

100, in Farmington Hills.

Don Pratt, CAPS, CGB, CGR of Wake-Pratt Construction will teach strategies and techniques for marketing, designing and building aesthetically enriching, barrier-free living environments.

Registration fees are \$155 per course for NAHBR members, \$200 for BIA or Apartment Association of Michigan members and \$250 for guests. For registration information, call (248) 862-1008 or register online at www.builders.org.

■ Building Industry Association of Southeastern Michigan (BIA) is sponsoring a Certified Graduate seminar "Risk Management & Insurance for Building Professionals" on Tuesday, Dec. 16, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at BIA headquarters, 30375 Northwestern Highway, Suite 100 in Farmington Hills.

Chuck Breidenstein of Madison Heights-based **Builders Professional Services** Group, Inc. will provide comprehensive risk management strategies to reduce construction risks and other exposures for residential and commercial builders, developers and remodelers. From overarching principles to practical solutions on obtaining the most competitive insurance quotes, this course provides the tools to manage risk. This course is not intended to take the place of legal counsel.

Registration fees are \$155 for National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) Professional Remodeler Council members, \$175 for BIA and Apartment Association of Michigan members and \$200 guests. For registration information, call (248) 862-1008 or register online at www.builders.org.



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Thursday edition......11:00 a.m. Wednesday Offices and Hours:

Eccentric office... ......805 E. Maple, Birmingham Observer office ......36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia .....8:30 - 5:00 Monday - Friday

All advertising published in the Observer and Eccentric Newspapers is subject to the conditions stated in the applicable rate card. (Copies are available from the advertising department, Observer and Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150 (734) 591-0900. The Observer and Eccentric Newspapers reserves the right not to accept an advertiser's order. Observer and Eccentric Newspaper sales representatives have no authority to bind this newspaper and only publication of an advertisement shall constitute final acceptance of the advertiser's order. When more than one insertion of the same advertisement is ordered, no credit will be given unless notice of typographical or other errors are given in time for correction before the second insertion. Not responsible for omissions. Publisher's Notice: All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1966 which states that it is illegal to advertise "any preference limitation, or discrimination." This newspaper will not real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968 which states that it is illegal to advertise "any preference limitation, or discrimination". This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal housing opportunity basis. (FR Doc, 724983 3-31-72) Classified ads may be placed according to the deadlines. Advertisers are responsible for reading their ad(s) the first time it appears and reporting any errors immediately. The Observer and Eccentric Newspapers will not issue credit for errors in ads after THE FIRST INCORRECT INSERTION. Equal Housing Opportunity Statement: We are pledged to the letter and spirit of U.S. policy for the achievement of equal housing opportunity throughout the nation. We encourage and support an affirmative advertising and marketing program in which there are no barriers to obtain housing because of race, color, religion or national origin. Equal Housing Opportunity slogan: "Equal Housing Opportunity". Table III - Illustration of Publisher's Notice.

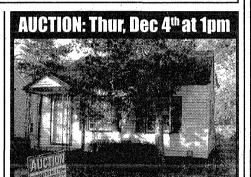
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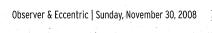
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> it okay. \$700, 248-788-1823 Garden City- 3 bdrm, 2 bath, finished bsmt, garage, all appliances. \$1025/mo. + security Deposit. 313 201 0366 INKSTER - 3 bdrm brick bsmt, garage, \$650; 3 bdrm ranch, bsmt, garage, \$550, option on both, 248-788-1823

bsmt, garage, \$700, 3 bdrm ranch, bsmt, garage, \$600, option on both. 248-788-1823 LIVONIA - 2 bdrm, large yard, carpet, appliances, pets considered, great starter home. LYON TWP LIVONIA - 3 bdrm brick ranch 2 bath, 1400 sq. ft., totally remodeled, granite kitchen.

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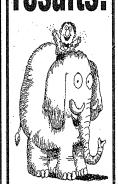
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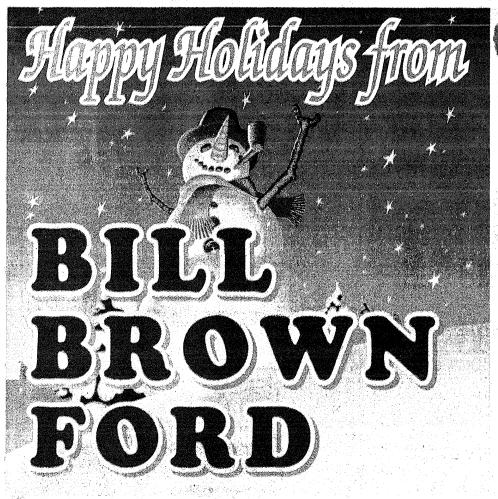
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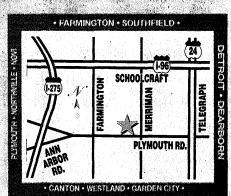
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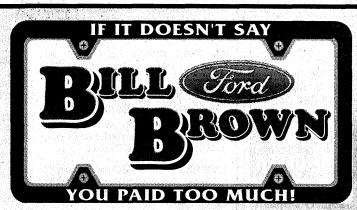


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