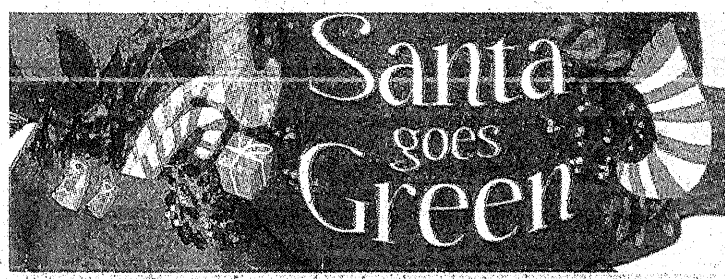




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Hometownlife, C1



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Inside today's newspaper



**SUNDAY**  
December 14, 2008

# PLYMOUTH Observer

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## Back on track!

Businesses hopeful following Sheldon Road reopening

**BY TONY BRUSCATO**  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

With the reopening of Sheldon Road at the CSX railroad tracks Friday, it's pretty much a given Teri Allen won't be on the phone as much giving directions to lost customers attempting to find her Dearborn Jewelers store on Ann Arbor Trail in downtown Plymouth.

"I don't think MapQuest ever got it straightened out that Sheldon Road was closed," Allen said. "It was still telling people to get off the freeway (M-14) and take Sheldon Road south. Of course, you couldn't get to Plymouth and customers would call on their cell phones telling me they couldn't figure it out. We'd have to direct them through Old Village or onto Beck Road," she said. "So, the reopening will certainly help."

Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano presided over a brief ceremony to reopen Sheldon Road, which has been closed since

January 2007, Friday. Fittingly, instead of a traditional ribbon-cutting, officials broke the ribbon with a car, donated for the occasion by Bob Jeannotte Pontiac-GMC.

Arlette Stobbe, owner of Bella Mia on Forest Avenue and the newly opened Bella Mia Dressed Up on Ann Arbor Trail in downtown Plymouth, is hopeful the reopening of Sheldon Road will enhance her business.

"I do have a lot of customers from Northville, but I think we might see more since the road is open," said Stobbe. "It can only be for the better because there were people that were avoiding coming to Plymouth because it was such a pain to get to."

"Of course, Plymouth people will also have an opportunity to resume going to Northville," she said.

Not everyone is warm and fuzzy about Sheldon Road reopening. Establishments in the Five Mile and Sheldon area of Plymouth Township balked numerous times to Wayne County officials about losing up to



Wayne County Executive Bob Ficano drives a hybrid vehicle through the ribbon to open the underpass. The GMC Denali hybrid was provided by Bob Jeannotte, whose business has suffered from both the economy and the construction project.

PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Chief Wayne Carroll gives the OK to Mike Janz, who is the first civilian vehicle to officially travel through the underpass. He lives on North Territorial, which saw a big increase in traffic for two years. He said "I told my daughters that I wanted to be the first car through. They said, 'Dad, you need to get a life. But it's a long way around.'"



40 percent of their business during construction. County officials erected signage and advertised on its Web site to remind customers the businesses remained open. However, Randy Lorey of Lorey Cleaners in the Busch's retail center said all he can say is "I'm relieved" Sheldon Road is finally open.

"Not only did I lose \$150,000 over the past two years, it's not like the 40 percent of my business that left will just come back because the road opened," Lorey said. "It will take years for me to rebuild what has been taken from me."

It got so bad the Subway sandwich shop in the same retail center saw a change in ownership during the construction period.

"We didn't think it was going

**Motorists adjusted** during closure, A3.  
**DDA reaches** beyond city borders, A3.  
**Timeline on Sheldon Road** project, A3.

to hurt us as much, but it really hurt us a lot," said Steven Dawson, Subway manager. "It actually hurt us so bad the old owner had to sell the store."

"We're excited about the road being open," he said, "but we'll have to fight to get our customers back. Hopefully there will be some loyal customers that will drive back here."

Bob Jeannotte, owner of Bob Jeannotte Pontiac-GMC just north of the railroad tracks in Plymouth Township, said he'll probably incor-

**WHAT IT COST**

Here's what it cost to get the Sheldon Road underpass built (figures courtesy Assistant Wayne County Executive Alan Helmkamp):

- Total project: \$15.5 million
- Federal grant: \$5.5 million
- Plymouth Township: \$1,021,750
- City of Plymouth: \$503,250
- State of Michigan: \$1.3 million

The remaining is from Wayne County and other state and federal funds directed to the project. Part of it includes \$1.5 million in redirected funds from other projects to accelerate the project the last six months with additional weekend and evening work.

## Cheering throng greets opening of Sheldon Road

**BY TONY BRUSCATO**  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The scene was reminiscent of the Tigers winning the World Series or Red Wings the Stanley Cup as several dozen drivers honked their horns - some waving with delight - as they were among the first to drive the \$15.5 million Sheldon Road underpass which opened Friday afternoon.

Motorists lined up behind the GMC Yukon Denali from Bob Jeannotte Pontiac-GMC with Wayne County Executive Bob Ficano at the wheel. After

Ficano drove slowly through a ceremonial red ribbon held by Plymouth, Plymouth Township and other dignitaries to signify the opening of Sheldon Road after two years of construction, drivers honked their horns in celebration while heading northbound toward Northville.

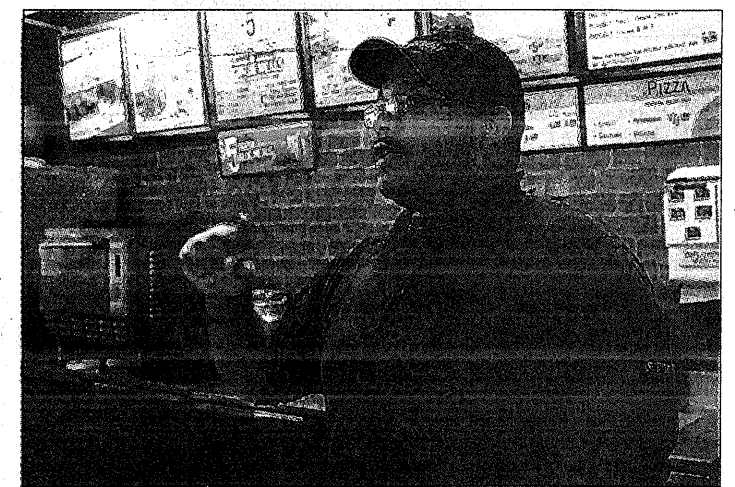
"I'd never been to something like this before so I couldn't resist it," said Mike Janz of Plymouth Township, who was first in line in his 2002 Cadillac. "I e-mailed my two daughters that I was doing this and they told me 'to get a life.'"

"While it's important for the businesses, it's also important for the residents," said

Janz, who lives off North Territorial. "North Territorial took a beating. It shouldered a big load the last two years."

Right behind Janz, in her late model Saturn, was Peggy Vankerckhove, who lives just down the street at Sheldon and Joy.

"To get to M-14 we had to go all the way around and I'm just excited about having this open again," said Vankerckhove. "It's going to open up all those businesses to Northville for us without having to go all the way around. And, when my brother



Steven Dawson, manager of the Subway at Five Mile and Sheldon, talks about customers lost to the closing of Sheldon Road.

## Economy keeping any buyers of old township hall at bay

**BY BRAD KADRICH**  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

When Plymouth Township officials were selling the idea of building a new township hall along Haggerty near Ann Arbor Road a couple of years ago, proceeds the sale of the old township hall were going to be used to help pay the \$12 million cost of the new digs.

At this point, though, there haven't been many proceeds.

Township officials still have the old property, located at the corner of Ann Arbor Road and Lilley, on the market, but thus far precious few takers have come calling.

Only one part of the property - the old Friendly's building which used to house the clerk's office - has been sold. Fifth Third Bank bought it in December 2006 for some \$2 million. But no serious offers have been made for the other 2.75 acres the township owns on

the site.

Reaume said two development groups have shown serious interest, but both "had their financing pulled back." The supervisor said there is still "one strong group" interested, though he wouldn't name the group. He said the group was waiting to see if it could get its financing plan worked out.

"We've had a number of interested parties," township Supervisor Richard Reaume said. "But it's dif-

icult to sell old buildings in this economy. It's something we may have to sit on until the economy turns around."

Even after purchasing it, Fifth Third Bank officials said they may have to take that same approach to developing the old Friendly's building, which they want to turn into a bank branch. Fifth Third plans its build-outs on a three-year basis, slotting in which branches they want to build and when.

"Right now our plan is still in the evaluation stage," said Jack Riley, senior vice president of marketing. "Like most everybody else we're reading the market. That process is still in progress."

"Obviously, we own the dirt," Riley added. "We just have to figure it out and, hopefully, in the next few weeks we'll make our final decisions for 2009."

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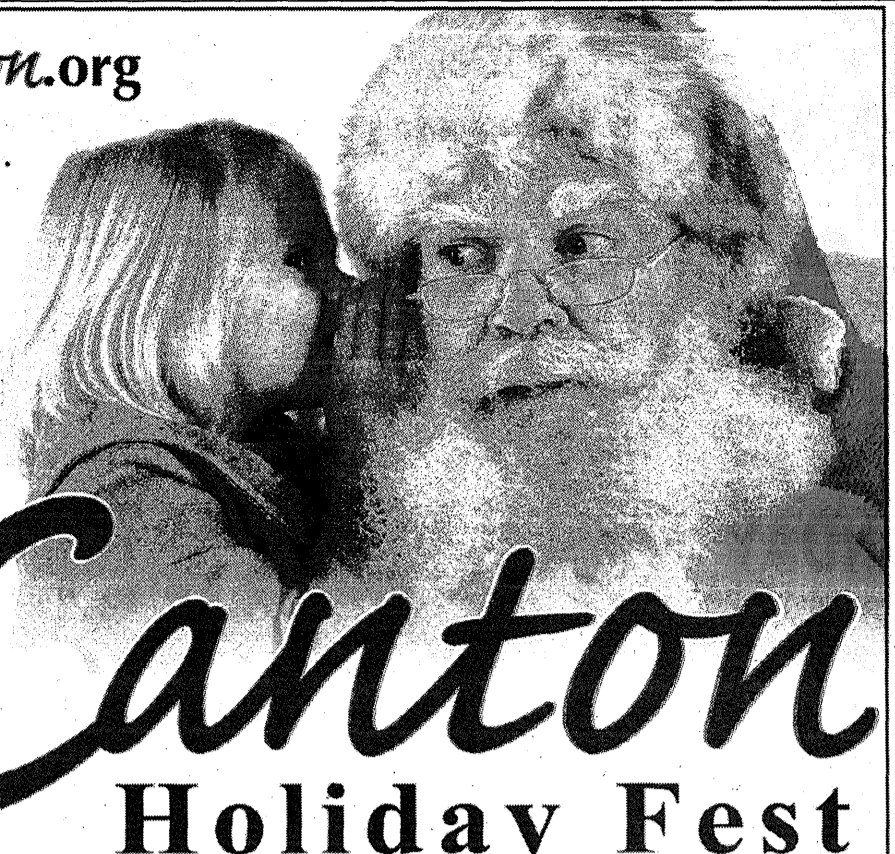
**Coming Thursday in filter**

Greenfield Village is a winter wonderland. Learn more about this month's venture into The Henry Ford's Holiday Nights event, running through the holidays, in Thursday's FILTER.



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Photos available for purchase until January 30, 2009 at [www.stephaniweatherly.com](http://www.stephaniweatherly.com) Enter: HFEST08 under proofing to view the images.

Please e-mail your comments and suggestions to [info@shopcanton.org](mailto:info@shopcanton.org)



Photos courtesy of Stephanie Weatherly Photography

# Motorists adjusted during closure

BY TONY BRUSCATO  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

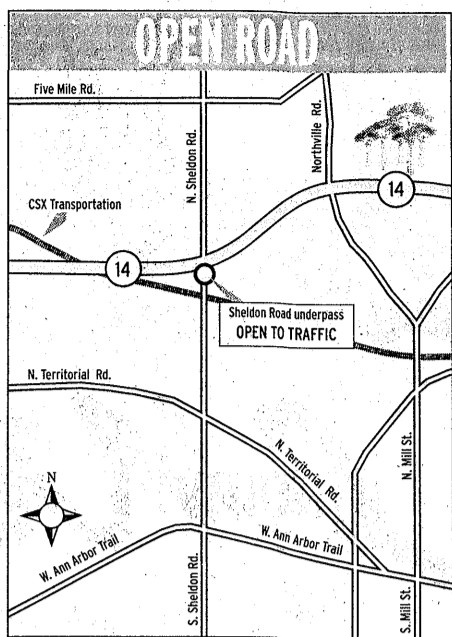
The two-year closure of Sheldon Road at the CSX railroad tracks forced many people to change their driving habits between Plymouth and Northville.

While some remained loyal customers and traveled the not-so-convenient detours to their favorite establishments, others decided it was just much easier to change their habits and where they conducted business.

Case in point is Dennis Dicken, who works at Northville Downs and traveled southbound Sheldon Road frequently to visit his favorite waitress and eat at Pizza Hut on Ann Arbor Road in Plymouth Township.

"When they closed Sheldon Road it was impossible for me to really do it," said Dicken. "Sheldon Road being closed for so long made me change."

While manning the Salvation Army Red Kettle at Busch's grocery store on Sheldon at Five Mile, Trudy



Steigerwald of Canton Township said she used to frequent the businesses in the Plymouth Township shopping cen-

ter, but not much after the Sheldon corridor was closed.

"I haven't been to any of these businesses in a while ... I used to come to Nassau, Einstein's and even Wendy's once in a while," said Steigerwald. "It's been a little bit of pain to drive around and I'm glad to see it's opened. It will be great for the businesses."

There are some who have never even experienced the convenience of driving Sheldon Road, knowing only the detours west on Beck Road or through Plymouth's Old Village.

"We moved here (from Florida) the month it closed so we've never gotten to use it (Sheldon Road)," said Kathy Lee of Northville Township, who visits Plymouth often. "We found going down Northville Road around is better ... to get to our favorite restaurant, Compari's, for the chicken piccata."

"We love it here because everything is convenient, except for that," said Lee, referring to Sheldon Road the day before it reopened.

## THE TIMELINE

Here are some of the highlights of the Sheldon Road underpass project (this list is not all-inclusive):

- March 25, 1998 - Congressional funding established
- Nov. 1, 1999 - City of Plymouth adopts first resolution on the project.
- Aug. 23, 2001 - County says construction to start May/June of 2002.
- July 9, 2002 - County Commissioner Lyn Bankes sends an update to city and township officials. Construction now scheduled for January 2003.
- Oct. 24, 2002 - Start of construction now scheduled for April 2003.
- Jan. 18, 2005 - County announces Fall 2005 Construction start.
- Oct. 6, 2006 - County opens bids on the project. The low bidder is Walter Tobe and was reportedly 1.6 percent under the county's estimate of \$10.2 million
- Oct. 31, 2006 - County announces they plan on closing Sheldon Road shortly after Thanksgiving 2006.
- Dec. 15, 2006 - County announces Sheldon Road will not close until after the Holidays.
- Jan. 9, 2007 - WAYNE COUNTY CLOSES SHELDON ROAD!
- November 2007 - Business owners consider suing to stop project.
- Dec. 21, 2007 - Contractor asks for a 259-day extension.
- Oct. 10, 2008 - Crews were placing the rubber decking on the railroad bridge. The county hopes to switch the trains to the new bridge on or about October 27th. Crews are also continuing to pour concrete for the new roadways and drive approaches to 909 N. Sheldon.
- November 2008 - First train runs over new track.
- Dec. 12, 2008 - Sheldon Road re-opens to traffic.

# With Sheldon open, DDA reaches beyond borders

BY TONY BRUSCATO  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

When Northville residents open their mailboxes Monday they'll find postcards with a coupon enticing them to shop downtown Plymouth.

It's not a coincidence the mailings were delivered just

days after Sheldon Road reopened Friday. Plymouth Downtown Development Authority Operations Manager Sherrie Pryor said they've been planning for months to get an immediate impact from the completion of the underpass after nearly two years. Pryor said many Northville residents

stayed away from downtown Plymouth rather than take out-of-the-way detours.

"We want to find those people who maybe have missed their favorite places for lunch or shopping because of the construction," said Pryor. "And, there are several new stores that have opened in the

last two years that many people may not even know about.

"It's perfect timing for the merchants because there's still a couple of weeks before Christmas," she said. "We think it will give merchants the little boost they're looking for right now. The merchants are looking at this as a gift."

## CHEERING

FROM PAGE A1

comes to visit from Flint he won't get lost."

The Sheldon Road underpass started out with a federal grant in 1999 by then-Congresswoman Lynn Rivers, D-Ann Arbor. At the time, estimates pegged the underpass at about \$8 million. After a number of delays regarding funding from Plymouth, Plymouth Township and Wayne County, the road was closed in January 2007. Two years later the underpass is

now complete at about twice the original cost estimates.

"I know there was a lot of skepticism whether this would actually be done on time and on budget, and I can tell you that both were met," said Ficano. "It's a special day and one that shows we're facing the challenges."

During speeches before the road was reopened, Plymouth city officials gave Assistant Wayne County Executive Alan Helmkamp - who at times was the only one who believed the project would be completed within two years of groundbreaking - a black and orange road sign that

read "Northbound Sheldon Road Open at Railroad Tracks."

Plymouth Mayor Pro-Tem Ron Loiselle, who was on the city commission at the very beginning stages of the underpass project, said it was worth the wait.

"Absolutely," said Loiselle, who has always supported the underpass. "It's not going to be the greatest thing for the City of Plymouth, but it is for the community because it will make access to north and south more reasonable without stoppage by trains."

Plymouth Township Supervisor Richard Reaume

said despite the ups and downs, the underpass remained a project important to all neighboring communities.

"For all the reasons this was a good idea eight years ago we're still delighted to have it," said Reaume to laughter by dignitaries. "Now we have a north-south artery under the railroad tracks so emergency vehicles, as well as residents, will be able to use it."

Plymouth Police Chief Wayne Carroll said he doesn't foresee any problems with traffic that will no longer have to slow down, or be stopped, at the railroad tracks.

## SHELDON

FROM PAGE A1

porate the opening of Sheldon Road in his future advertising to attract customers from Plymouth he hasn't seen for a couple of years.

"I think we lost business we're never going to see again," said Jeannotte. "I hope this new corridor will bring more traffic and we will recover. I, personally, don't think so. But, I'm looking forward to getting back to business."

During the two-year construction period, one route motorists were detoured was through Old Village. Despite the increased traffic, Robert Costanza of Station 885 on

Starkweather said it didn't bring increased revenues.

"It seemed like the influx of traffic was more of a bypass with people in a hurry to get home," said Costanza. "From what I can tell, nobody in Old Village saw much of an increase in business."

However, Costanza said the reopening of Sheldon Road will help his business - and others in Old Village - in the long run.

"Now I can tell customers to get off M-14, take Sheldon to Farmer Street into Old Village," Costanza said. "The last two years I've had to explain the detours and it just got confusing. It will be a lot easier for people to get in and out of Plymouth."

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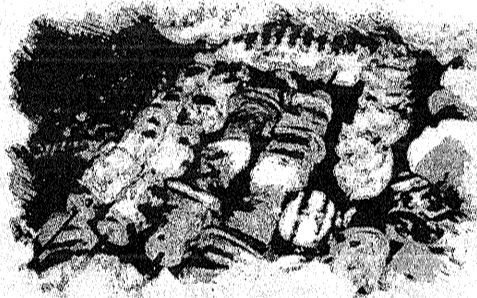
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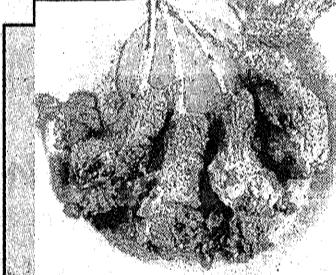


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"Around Plymouth" is designed to announce upcoming events taking place in the community. Items will run on a space-available basis. Send details to bkadrich@hometownlife.com

**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 [pcep-senior-party@comcast.net](mailto:pcep-senior-party@comcast.net)

**Gingerbread Teens**

Area teens are invited to come to the Plymouth District Library 3-4 p.m. Monday, Dec. 15, to make gingerbread houses. All supplies provided. Teens are free to bring a parent or grandparent along with them. Register by calling the Help Desk at (734) 453-0750, Ext. 4.

**DAR meets**

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

**Medicare workshop**

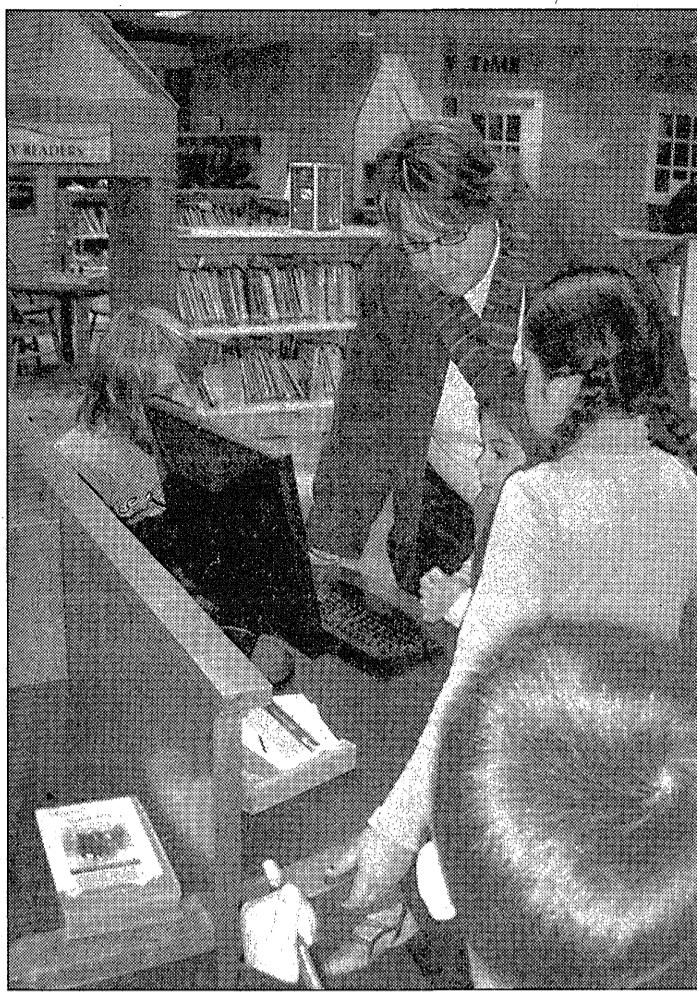
The Plymouth District Library has scheduled a Medicare D workshop.

Seniors with questions about the selection of a drug prescription program through Medicare should plan to attend the workshop at the Plymouth District Library 10 a.m. Tuesday, Dec. 16. Participants should bring a list of their current prescriptions to determine what plan best suits their need.

Register for this free program by calling (734) 453-0750, Ext. 4.

**Luminaria sale**

The Plymouth Symphony League is selling Luminaria kits for



**Night at the library**

Farrand Elementary School principal Dana Jones helps students search the library catalog for favorite books and movies during the school's recent visit to the Plymouth District Library. More than 20 families and staff members from Farrand Elementary School came to the library for an information night which featured story time, tours and an introduction to the library's Web site.

the holiday season.

Each \$5 kit consists of 10 white paper bags and 10 candles and can be purchased at Gabriela's, Sideways, Saxton's and the Plymouth Symphony office at 470 Forest Place, Suite 18, through Dec. 24.

For more information visit the symphony Web site at [www.plymouthsymphony.org](http://www.plymouthsymphony.org)

**Ornament sale**

Our Lady of Good Counsel Church is offering beautiful Christmas Ornaments for sale.

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For further information contact either Mark Coulter, (734) 453-5423, or Mary Vangieson, (734) 737-9942.

**Holiday Pottery Gallery**

In response to customer requests, the Village Potters Guild is opening its studio gallery for special holiday hours for the first time ever.

The gallery, which features Guild members' original artwork, will be open 5-8 p.m. Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays and 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays through Dec. 20. It is located at 340 N. Main, Suite G-1 in Plymouth.

For more information or to learn about classes, call (734) 207-8807 or see [www.villagepottersguild.org](http://www.villagepottersguild.org).

**College workshop series**

The Plymouth District Library will host a series of workshops

designed to assist high school and college students and their parents.

■ "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.

**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](http://www.plymouthhistory.org)

**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](mailto:hope4healing@rocketmail.com)

**Holiday classics**

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

The schedule includes: "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](http://www.penntheatre.com)

**Saturdays at the Penn**

The Plymouth Community Arts Council and the Plymouth Canton Symphony Society present "Saturdays at the Penn" old-fashioned variety shows for children and families at the Penn Theatre in downtown Plymouth.

The upcoming performance features special musical host Nan Washburn, conductor of the Plymouth Symphony Orchestra, announcer Timothy Thompson and special guest performer Josh White, Jr. The event is set for noon Saturday, Jan. 3.

Tickets are \$3 and may be purchased the day of the show. Doors open 11:15 a.m. The Penn is located at 760 Penniman.

To purchase tickets before the concert or for more information on group purchases, contact Deb Madonna at (734) 377-0914. The concert is made possible, in part, by a grant from The Wilcox Foundation and other sponsors.

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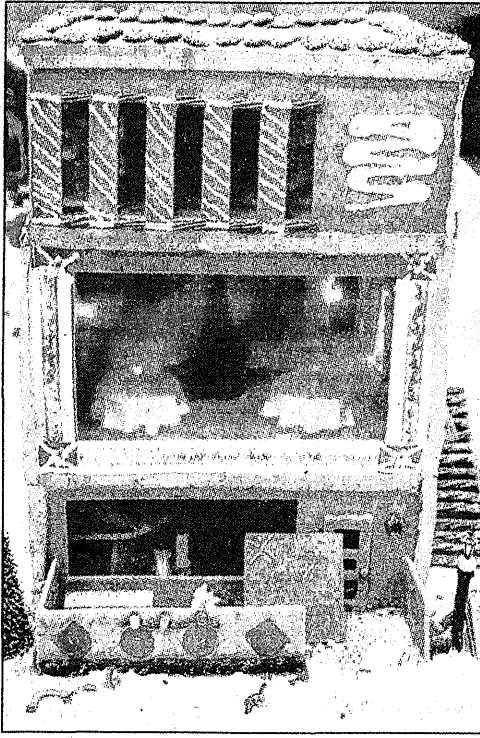
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# Schoolcraft students create a sweet downtown



Third place winner Tina Czarney and Lisa Chin's construction La Saison in the Gingerbread Village display at Schoolcraft College.

The theme of this year's Gingerbread Village at Schoolcraft College is "Downtown." Students in the Culinary Arts Program have created a delectable vision of the city with such landmarks as Comerica Park and Macy's in sweet gingerbread.

The creations also include some imaginative buildings that only exist in the students' imaginations. The buildings include intricate details of fruits and vegetables, baked items, Scrooge and a snowman all down in candy and spun sugar.

And it's all edible, except for the gas lamp lighting system.

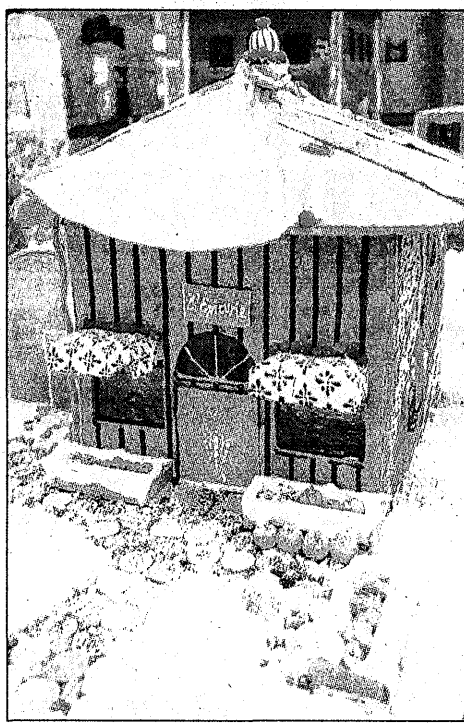
The 16 buildings were created by 30 students working individually and in groups. It will be on display at Schoolcraft's VisITaTech Center until 5 p.m. Friday, Dec. 19, and is open to the public.

A panel selected four buildings for special recognition.

First place was awarded to Rudeepan Wattanapat of Plymouth for North Star Gallery.

Second place was awarded to Gabrielle Todd of Jackson for Epicurie and to Laura Camacho-Arguello of Dearborn and team mate Nancy Mechler of Brighton for Old Town Bakery.

Third place was awarded to La Saison by Tina Czarney of Allen Park of Allen Park and Lisa Chin of Canton.



Second place winner Gabrielle Todd's construction Epicurie in the Gingerbread Village display at Schoolcraft College.



First place winner Rudeepan Wattanapat's North Star Gallery in the Gingerbread Village at Schoolcraft College.

PHOTOS BY TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



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# Schoolcraft creates new Transitions Center

BY HUGH GALLAGHER  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The Women's Resource Center at Schoolcraft College is now one of four programs within a new Transitions Center.

College officials say the change is to serve students and the community better but some longtime WRC advisory board members aren't happy with the change and how it was presented.

A meeting was held Tuesday at Schoolcraft to introduce the change. The Transitions Center, under director Stacey Stover, incorporates the Women's Resource Center, Adult Student Services, Family Resources and Student Engagement Programs.

"We're excited about this, providing opportunities to more students and growing services to students and the community," Stover said.

Stover replaced Nancy Swanborg as director of the Women's Resource Center in July.

"This is an expansion of services. Services are continuing," Stover said. "It meets the needs of the community."

Laura Callow of Livonia has been an advisory board member since 1970, when the WRC was founded. She said the changes have been in the works since September.

"All the trappings of the Women's Resource Center were stripped, a quilt, pictures, plants. People could no longer refer to it as the

Women's Resource Center but only as WRC," she said.

She said Schoolcraft President Conway Jeffress was concerned that a center for women at the college might be a violation of Proposal 2, the anti-affirmative action amendment approved by voters in 2006.

But Beth Allen of Farmington Hills, who has been on the WRC advisory board for 18 years, said the center has always welcomed and assisted men.

"It was called the Women's Resource Center because that's where most of the efforts were," Allen said.

Stover emphasizes that the change will not eliminate any of the services now offered. Allen and Callow say they understand that the services

will continue.

The Women's Resource Center includes a Divorce Support Group, programs to help women in transition and help with economic independence. Adult Student Services offers financial planning, income tax assistance, a workers in transition program and help for adult students. Family Resources offers campus recruiting information and a Web site for families and parents. Student Engagement sponsors a women's history month program, helps with student schedules, and a high school to college transition program.

Allen said what many on the advisory board are concerned about is that the WRC won't have a separate identity and that many of the women

who have come for assistance

won't feel as comfortable under the new arrangement. She said many women come in emotionally upset but through counseling are able to become economically self-sufficient.

"Many of us believe that with the changes you won't see that anymore," she said.

But Stover said she knows the history of the WRC is important and that it will continue under the new arrangement.

"One thing that was done well under the Women's Resource Center was the abil-

ity to work one on one, to sit down with students and work with someone," she said.

She said the program has "as wonderful base" of 48 volunteers who will continue their work.

"They are empathetic and knowledgeable," she said.

Another tradition that will continue is the annual WRC Spaghetti Dinner, which has raised scholarship money for adult students. Stover said the dinner will continue and funds raised will go to the Transitions Center.

The date scheduled is March 17, 2009.

# Winter dark covers a world of wildlife

Winter Dark. It never really takes me by surprise. But it does send me inside early. I adjust and have come to realize that it's

the near frantic scurrying of black walnut-hauling red squirrels, the huddling of chickadees against the wind and the sudden cessation of dripping icicles that warns me

I have about 30 minutes to finish outdoor task.

So it is with winter dark, a more powerful warning than a ticking watch. I head in with a few oak logs for the night fire about the same time deer cautiously head uphill from their woodland edge beds of pine needles.

Jonathan Schechter

of the owl, the fox and the coyote. The time for the occasional rifle shot like crack of a frozen tree "explosion." One night soon the mysterious throaty groans of nearby lake ice join the dark noises. Winter dark is the time to wonder on the ways of nature and man as ranting winds rattle windows on my old hilltop home and send the occasional puff of smoke back drafting from the wood stove.

I may feel frustration these moments can be hard to share, but I find more pleasure in their peaceful solitude than the more common human trait in my small town of heading out or a drink or two. And I know that winter dark is followed by the sparkle of dawn, frosted windows and a new world of discovery laced with snow. Fresh snow sets the stage for discovery. More often than not those discoveries are found along the edge of my cross country ski tracks.

Technical books on winter

wildlife seldom mention the tiny intricacies that seem so obvious on a slow paced solitary ski sojourn. Perhaps it is because those writers are cloistered indoors and work from established facts rather than direct personal observations. Chickadees: We all know they huddle a bit against the wind. But look at them closely down among the dogwood thicket and some observations are quickly noted — their huddling is not random. Random behavior is not the way of successful winter survival. The chickadees huddle low and face into the wind. A trait that seems to be shared by most small winter "feeder birds." I can only surmise it is to keep the cold winds of winter dark from blowing up under their layers of insulating feathers.

Dawn, with her almost imperceptible slowness wakens the sleeping earth as I push on along the tree line. Crows calls. A startled rabbit

bursts into flight and then freezes to "disappear." If I was a hunter it would be his end. And as the first clear rays of sunshine warm my cheek and soak the feathers of huddled chickadees, I ski over small logs that hide tiny earth-covered wood frogs, amphibians frozen into a comatose state of ice laden biomass until their time of spring. I enter the backwoods swamp, a place where winter dark's hand gives us a clear sense of time and place. I smile recognizing that if it was not for the slowing of the pace brought on by winter dark, the eye would not see and the mind would not absorb the subtleness of wilder mysteries, a world that on this dawn includes the painfully slow trek of an inquisitive young opossum with frost nipped ears and a dragging bent tail.

Jonathan Schechter writes on nature's way. Reach him at Oaknature@aol.com.

# Holocaust Memorial founder was 'selfless'

BY SARA CALLENDER  
ECCENTRIC STAFF WRITER

Rabbi Charles Rosenzweig turned his personal tragedy into messages of tolerance and understanding.

Rosenzweig, whose family was killed by the Nazis, later created Holocaust memorial centers in

West Bloomfield and Farmington Hills. He died Thursday of heart failure at Royal Oak Beaumont Hospital.

Because his personal documents were destroyed in the

Holocaust, Rosenzweig — who lived in Southfield — didn't know how old he was. Estimates range from 80 to 88.

"He was a selfless man who worked tirelessly to bring the knowledge and the tragedy of the Holocaust to many," said Alan Zekelman, a member of the board of the Holocaust center. "He knew that the only way to prevent hatred and genocide was to educate people about them."

Born in Ostrovitz, Poland, Rosenzweig immigrated to the United States in 1947, after his parents, brother and one of his two sisters and all of his aunts, uncles and cousins were killed.

Rosenzweig was ordained at Yeshiva University in New York in 1951. He served as rabbi at Congregation Mt. Sinai in Port Huron from 1953 to 1993.

His passion was creating a permanent memorial to Holocaust victims and teaching the importance of tolerance.

Burial will take place in Israel. Memorial contributions can be sent to the Holocaust Center, 28123 Orchard Lake Road, Farmington Hills 48334.

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# Some insurance agents know their products, others just salesmen



Money Matters  
Rick Bloom

**Dear Rick:** I need to purchase some life insurance. After listening to your radio show, I decided to buy term life insurance. I contacted

a friend of mine who sells life insurance and he gave me a bid. I went online and was able to find a policy with same terms that was considerably cheaper. Both of the companies are AAA rated. Is there any reason why I shouldn't buy the one online? Congratulations for shopping around and getting competitive bids. I

don't have a problem with buying life insurance online particularly term where the policies are straightforward and easy to understand. The money you save looks better in your pocket than it does anywhere else. As far as I am concerned there are two types of insurance agents those who are salespeople and those that understand their

policies and the workings of insurance and client needs. Those who are salespeople only don't understand the policies they sell nor do they understand individual needs. All they want to do is sell. These people provide no value to you so there is no reason to deal with them. There are agents who understand complex insurance needs and they

are able to guide you to select the right policy for your situation. These individuals bring value to the process. One of the reasons I like term insurance is because the policy provisions are easy to understand — you're buying insurance for a period of time and if you pass on during that period of time, your

beneficiaries collect on the policy. In most situations, I recommend term insurance because it fills a need and is cost effective. If you are considering term insurance, get competitive bids and remember, the Internet is a great resource. **Dear Rick:** I want to take some losses by selling some good funds but I don't want to be out of the market. How can one find good comparable funds to replace those when making sales for tax losses? I want to sell Vanguard Explorer, Vanguard Wellington, Dodge & Cox International and Selected America. I never see this specific issue addressed. What do you suggest?

The real issue is to not violate the wash sale rule which says if you sell an investment with a loss, you cannot buy that same fund back within 30 days. If you purchase the same fund within 30 days, then you cannot take the loss for tax purposes. That does not mean that you cannot buy back a similar fund because you can. For example, if you are in a balanced fund and you sell that fund, you can immediately buy back another balanced fund without violating the wash sale rule.

In your situation, I like all the funds you are selling. Although, they've all had a difficult time of late, they are all good funds. Therefore, there are a couple things that you can do. You can sell the existing funds that you're in and then reinvest the money into an index fund for that category, hold the index fund for over 30 days, then sell them and re-buy the same funds you have sold. This would allow you to still deduct your losses for tax purposes and remain invested. Therefore, if the market does have a short-term run you'd be in a position to benefit from it.

In your situation, the index fund that you can use to substitute for the Vanguard Explorer will be the Vanguard Small Cap Index. A substitute index fund for the Vanguard Wellington would be the Vanguard Index Balanced Fund, a substitute for the Dodge & Cox International would be the Vanguard Index International, and a substitute for the selected American Shares Fund would be the Vanguard Index 500 Fund.

Another strategy as opposed to using the index fund is just to buy some very good similar funds. In that case, I'd consider the Baron Small Cap Fund as a replacement for the Vanguard Explorer. Instead of Vanguard Wellington, the Dodge & Cox Balanced Fund would be an excellent substitute. To replace the Dodge & Cox International, you could use the Vanguard International Value Fund, while replacing the Selected American Shares with the Dodge & Cox Stock Fund.

I believe you never want to let the tax tail wag the dog. In other words, you don't want to do anything for tax reasons and tax reasons alone. However, if you can do something that makes sense economically and it saves you on taxes, then that is a strategy worth pursuing.

Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial adviser. Observer & Eccentric readers can submit questions at [moneymatters@hometownlife.com](mailto:moneymatters@hometownlife.com). For more information, visit Rick's Web site at [www.bloomassetmanagement.com](http://www.bloomassetmanagement.com). You can hear Rick noon to 3 p.m. Sundays on WDTK 1400 AM.

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OUR VIEWS

## And critics said it couldn't be done

When Wayne County officials closed Sheldon Road nearly two years ago to begin the underpass project and said it would be done by December 2008, nearly everyone scoffed.

Whether they did it publicly or privately, pretty much everyone snickered when Assistant Wayne County Executive Alan Helmkamp continually insisted he'd find a way to meet the deadline.

On Friday, Helmkamp had a chance to stick his tongue out at all the doubters when Sheldon Road reopened to traffic basically on schedule (or way ahead of schedule, depending on your level of cynicism).

Of course, he didn't. In fact, Helmkamp, who local officials credit the most for shepherding the massive project, pretty much stood aside and let his boss, Wayne County Executive Bob Ficano, and other dignitaries have the stage at Friday's brief grand opening. In our minds, it would have been more fitting for Helmkamp to preside Friday, but he's much too good a soldier and, when the time came, stood aside to let his boss run things.

None of that, however, diminishes the effort Helmkamp put in to get this project completed. Hamstrung by his own engineers and other members of the county's team in the beginning — when mistakes piled up and delayed construction for weeks at a time — he held the project together with baling wire and bubble gum.

He fought an uncooperative CSX (which copped a surprisingly indifferent attitude considering they weren't being asked to put in much money and they were getting a brand new underpass out of the deal), along with a balky Detroit Water and Sewerage Department and utility companies.

You can argue about whether the project was worth the money, some \$15.5 million, up from some \$8 million the method for getting the project back on track — Wayne County essentially threw as much money as it took to get the contractor to get the job done — but it didn't cost Plymouth (some \$500,000) or Plymouth Township (a little over \$1 million) any more money than they signed on for to begin with.

There's still some tweaking to do on the project, so it's not totally over yet. But north and southbound traffic is moving again, right on time. It's everyone's sincere hope the businesses most affected by the two-year closure will see business pick up again.

No one's saying the project was well-managed, and you have to wonder if they'd have been able to avoid all the delays whether the project would have been done even earlier.

Business owners have earned a medal for their patience and their ability to survive an extended painful period. And Helmkamp has earned the right to take a bow for making sure it wasn't prolonged any longer than necessary.

COMMUNITY VOICE

How has the two-year closing of Sheldon Road for the underpass project affected you?



"There was a woman I know that transferred to the Pizza Hut on Ann Arbor Road (in Plymouth Township) and I would go there to eat. When they closed Sheldon Road it was impossible for me to really do it. Sheldon Road being closed for so long made me change."

— Dennis Dicken, New Hudson



"We moved here (from Florida) the month it closed so we've never gotten to use (Sheldon Road). We found going down Northville Road around is better ... to get to our favorite restaurant, Compari's, for the chicken piccata. We love it here because everything is convenient, except for that (Sheldon Road)."

— Kathy Lee, Northville Township



"It's been a little bit of pain to drive around and I'm glad to see it's opening. It will be great for the businesses. I haven't been to any of these businesses in a while."

— Trudy Steigerwald, Canton Township

OUR VIEWS

## Thank you, Rep. McCotter, for standing up for Detroit

U.S. Rep. Thaddeus McCotter, R-Livonia, has developed a reputation for his soaring oratorical style in the House of Representatives.

His speeches are notable for their obscure historical references, stinging wit, musical allusions and passion.

We have not always agreed with the positions that McCotter has supported with his oratory. But on Wednesday, the 11th District congressman used his eloquence in support of the auto recovery bill and rose to the defense of not just the auto industry but the embattled Detroit region and working men and women everywhere. This was a Class A rhetorical performance.

McCotter had been one of the most ferocious Republican leaders against the bank bailout, something he continues to rail against. He and others were instrumental in defeating an initial bailout

bill before a revised version was passed in the Senate and the House. He has been harshly critical of the lack of oversight on how those billions of dollars are being spent and the clueless arrogance of investment bankers.

But, McCotter argues that the auto industry is different. Contrary to its critics, the industry has been restructuring, has been meeting federal CAFE mandates, has been developing better and more energy-efficient cars. They didn't ask for help until they were swamped by the bank disaster. He says that it is the hard-working people of his district and other districts all across America who will suffer if there is no bailout. Small businesses will collapse. Whole towns will be devastated.

He strongly rebukes those who have railed against the UAW for daring to negotiate decent contracts for their members.

"I once spent a freezing winter morning in front of the glass house, the Ford Motor Company corporate headquarters, in Dearborn. All those employees, those UAW members, that people say don't want to work come to work and don't want to perform, don't care about their quality of performance. Well I'll tell you what: They stood out in zero degree temperatures to keep the Wixom plant in my district open. That's how badly they wanted to work. That's how much they cared about the production of those cars. That's how much they love their families," McCotter told his fellow representatives.

Perhaps McCotter's oratory helped move a few votes to win passage of the bailout in the House, where he was one of only 32 Republicans to vote yes.

Whatever the outcome, McCotter deserves a warm thank you from his district.

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# WHALERS

FROM PAGE B1

the Plymouth zone to the Saginaw blue line. Terry skated by Saginaw defenseman Nick Crawford and beat Pasquale with a well-placed shot from the right circle.

Hayes scored his 10th of the year at 6:44 of the third period to give Plymouth a 3-0 with a shot through traffic in tight on the left wing.

Pleckatis cut the Plymouth lead to 3-1 on a power-play goal at 13:08 of the period with he ripped a rebound from the left hashmark by Hackett.

Murovich scored his 12th of the season 1:22 later at 14:30 with a hard shot from the left circle that was tucked inside the short side

post.

Hackett saved some of his best work for early in the third period when Saginaw had a two-man advantage and was steady all night in raising his record to 10-5-1-0. His last loss came Nov. 8 in a 4-2 decision to Ottawa at Compuware Arena.

## Newest Whaler

After the game, Plymouth President, General Manager and Head Coach Mike Vellucci announced the Whalers acquired overage defenseman Scott Fletcher (Haslett, MI) from the Niagara IceDogs in exchange for London's eighth round draft choice in 2010.

The 20-year-old Fletcher is the third overage (1988 birthday) on the Plymouth

roster. OHL teams can carry three overages and Plymouth has had right wing Patrick Lee on the roster all season and acquired center Matt Caria from Sault Ste. Marie on Tuesday. Caria made his debut tonight, skating on a forward line with Terry and right wing Kaine Geldart.

Fletcher was originally selected by Saginaw in the

second round (22nd overall) in the 2004 OHL Draft and was traded to Niagara in 2007.

In 201 OHL games in his career, Fletcher has scored one goal with nine assists for 10 points and 561 penalty minutes.

Fletcher started the season with Providence of the American Hockey League before returning to Niagara.

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

## Holidays a time for sharing

Everyone has been affected by the economy, but some a lot more than others. This year, the need is greater than ever for charities caring for the less fortunate. I was reminded of this last week when I spoke to nonprofit organizations in our communities. Even though we might not be able to give as much as in the past it's important to do what we can.

### JA'NOAH HOUSE

Audrey Mattson of Livonia is still taking clothing and food to the poor and homeless in the Norwayne area of Westland, Brightmoor, Cass Corridor, and Brewster Projects even though her husband, Carl, died in April 2007. The Livonia woman continues their work through the Ja'Noah House. Call (734) 522-5077 to help.

In years past, the couple was able to fill 250 holiday gift bags for children, this year only about 50.

"Every little bit means a lot even socks for the homeless, hats and gloves," said Mattson. "We're seeing more homeless on the streets. Even though they can go to the shelters at night, they have to walk the streets during the day and they're hungry."

### CAPUCHIN SOUP KITCHENS

Sister Nancy Ann Turner is concerned about those with homes, but no heat. The Livonia nun runs the tutoring program at the Capuchin Soup Kitchen's Conner location. She's asking for educational and hand-held games for the 60 children and socks, blankets and hand and body lotions for everyone. Call (313) 822-8606, Ext. 210.

"I try to give the moms a food card. We have a lot more coming for meals," said Sister Turner. "For the low income it's kind of their way of life. Others they're struggling for the first time because they lost their job. Last year, we had families living without heat and people got sick."

Brother Vincent Reyes used to collect toys for the children at the Meldrum kitchen. This year, he's asking for caps and gloves for the kids in addition to underwear and tube socks for the homeless shower program. Call (313) 579-2100, Ext. 203.

"We're seeing more people at the Meldrum kitchen," said Reyes. "The family pack we give feeds a family of four for a week and usually includes 15 pounds of chicken now only 10 pounds, and the numbers jumped from September to October from 4,300 families to 5,100 families. It's going to be even worse next year. The economy is becoming more of a problem and people can't give what they haven't got."

### FIRST STEP

Judith Barr has been busier than ever at First Step which helps survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault. Around 75 families need to be adopted for the holidays by this week. Call (734) 416-1111.

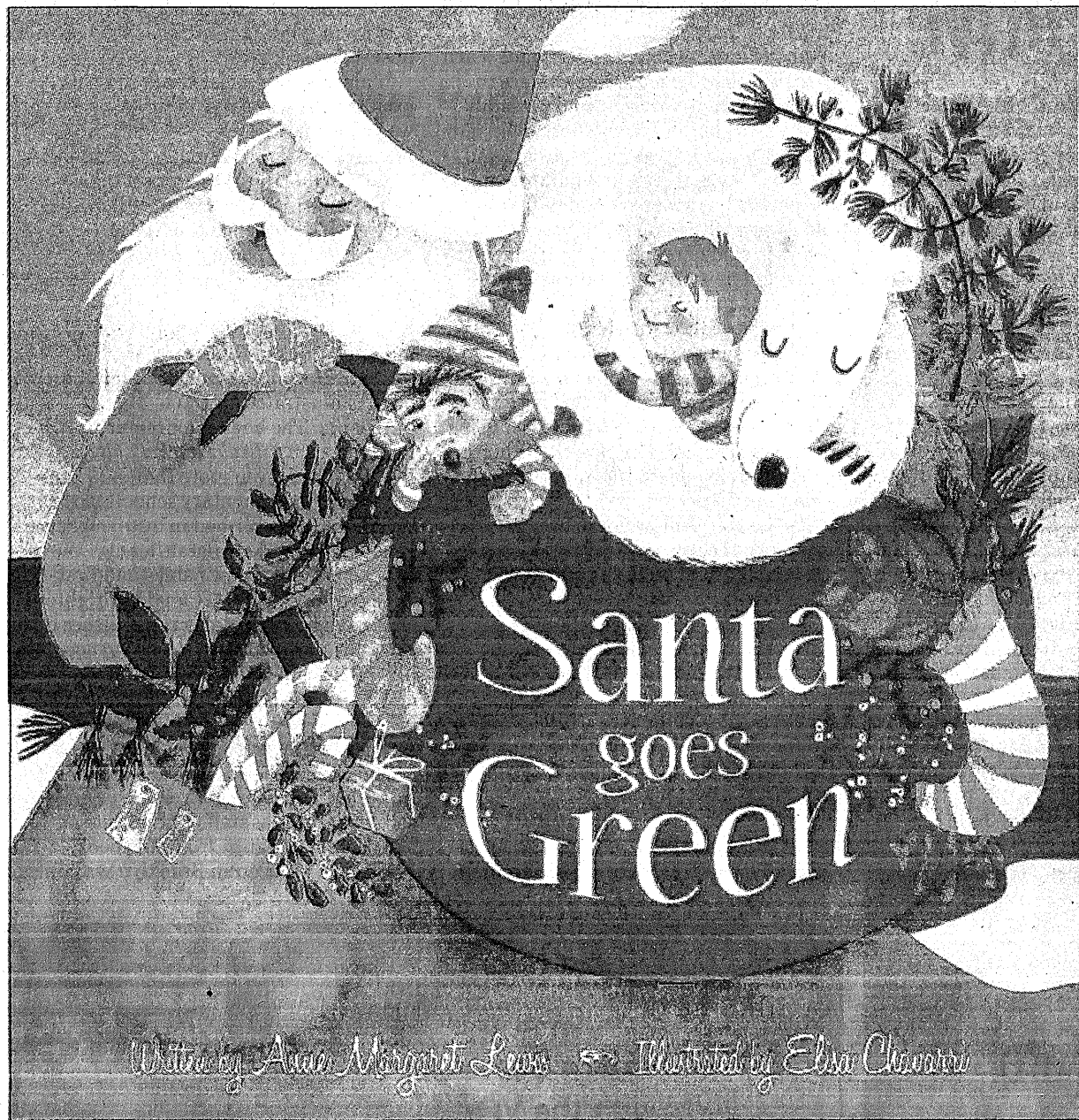
"When the economy is hurting and people are underemployed there's more stress which leads to an increase in family fighting and domestic violence. We're seeing more calls to the 24-hour line, seeing more women afraid to leave and prosecute because they need the income, the bread and milk," said Barr, associate director of the agency based in Plymouth. "We're in need of coats, pajamas, sweat suits used for assault response. When they go to hospitals and police stations, clothes are generally taken. We do need underwear, all sizes of socks, gas cards. People can't afford gas anymore to go to court, to park. We need disposable phones with minutes, food cards. We're trying to help people sustain. For children, we're giving non-violent, durable toys. We still have hats and mittens because of the generosity of churches last year."

First Step does need small or individual sizes of juice, protein bars and canned goods for the shelter that provides a haven for women and children.

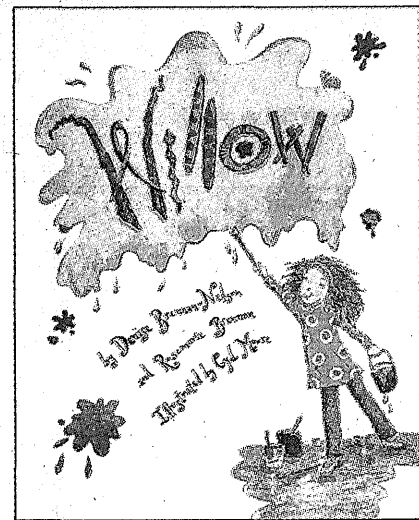
"First Step is in a transition. We're looking for a new way to house people to be safe. Our building is 60 years old. We're halfway in a capital campaign for a new facility. If someone makes a cash donation then we're able to go out and buy what a family needs, an alarm system to ensure their safety."

If you need help, call (888) 453-5900.

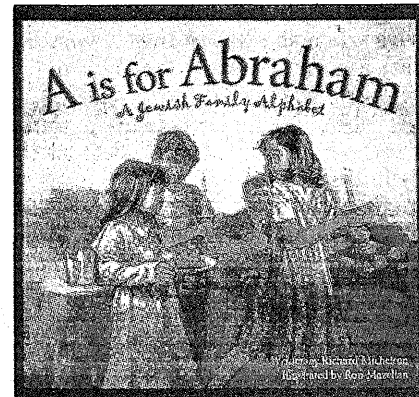
Linda Ann Chomin is the health and community life reporter for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. She can be reached at (734) 953-2145 or lchomin@hometownlife.com.



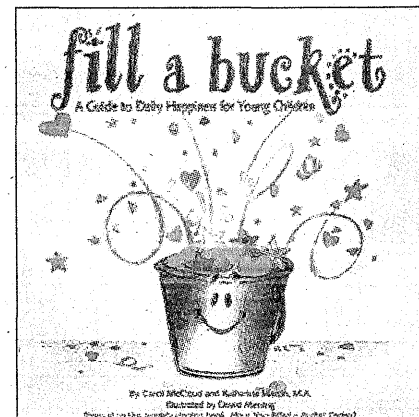
Santa helps a little boy save the polar bears in this new book illustrated by Elisa Chavarri of Northville.



Willow is a free spirit in this new book from Sleeping Bear Press.

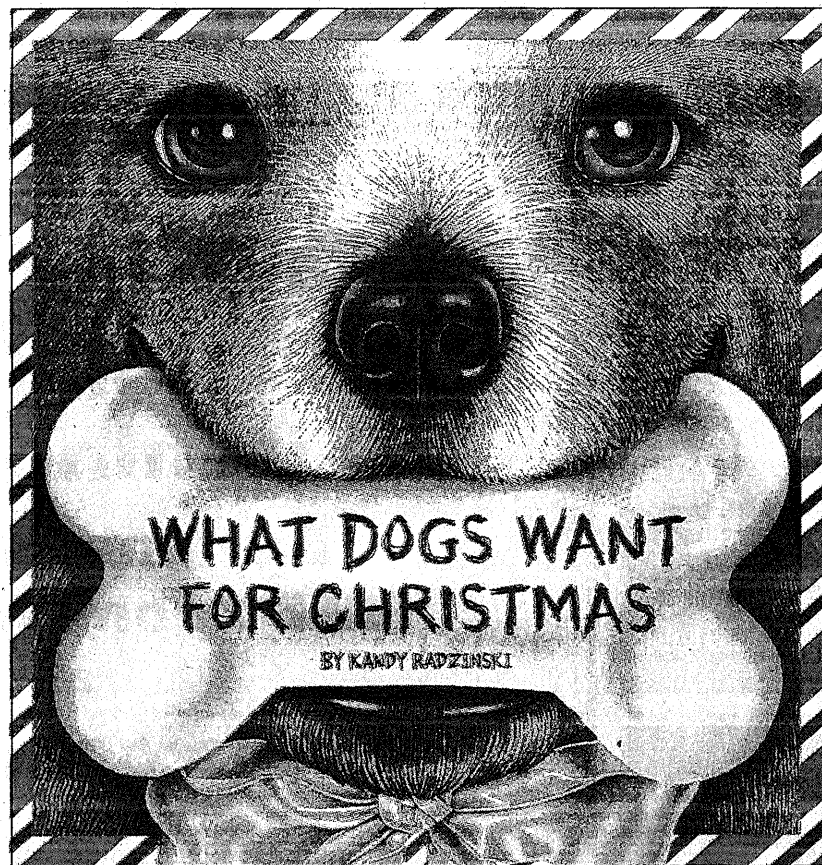


Richard Michelson's new book is a primer for Jewish tradition.



David Messing of Livonia illustrated this new book written by Carol McCloud.

# Child's play



Dogs write Santa with their Christmas wishes in a new book by Kandy Radzinski.

## Authors use imaginations to create fun books

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN  
O&E STAFF WRITER

All Sam wants for Christmas is something warm to wear. While that might not seem unusual for a little boy or girl, this wish comes from a chihuahua. The short-haired pup is just one of the characters in Kandy Radzinski's *What Dogs Want for Christmas*.

Children's books open a world where animals can write Santa with their requests. Several new tales this season take creativity to the limit. Nowhere is that more true in the Oklahoma author's new book, a sequel to *What Cats Want for Christmas*, from Sleeping Bear Press in Chelsea.

### WHAT DOGS WANT FOR CHRISTMAS

Radzinski's rescue dog provided plenty of inspiration as evidenced when Beanie asks for something new to chew besides a nice leather

shoe. Radzinski took a photograph of the innocent-looking trouble maker. Her love shines in these beautiful renderings. Radzinski grew up with dogs before going on to teach art at Central Washington State College and the University of Tulsa.

"I'm probably closer to dogs than people. They're always there for you," said Radzinski, who also lives with a Scottie named Kirby. "The book mostly revolves around Beanie. She was the most expensive. There's the living room leather chair with one arm. In the dining room, one chair is garbage. She chewed the throw pillows just enough to ruin them, but we love her."

### WILLOW

Denise Brennan-Nelson and her sister, Rosemarie Brennan,

Please see **BOOKS, C2**

## Celebrate Christmas Irish-style

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN  
O&E STAFF WRITER

Not much has changed for Mick Gavin since he left County Clare in 1973. Give the Irish any reason to celebrate and out come the dancing shoes and fiddles. This year, Gavin is inviting everyone to step out to his annual party on Dec. 20 at the Monaghan K of C Hall in Livonia.

At least twice a year, the Redford musician calls his performer friends together for gatherings. This Saturday, Wallace Hood of the Irish Rovers and Ray Maguire of Plymouth join Gavin on stage. There will be step and ceili dancing with students from the Ardan Academy of Irish Dance based in Livonia. Kitty Heinzman brings her students from the Hibernian Club in Redford and Gaelic League in Detroit. They'll take turns kicking up their heels with Anne McCallum's Set Dancers. "We do encourage parents to bring their kids. It's a family event," said



Mick Gavin (back row) and his students perform at two Celtic shows during the holidays. Pictured are sons Sean (left front row) and Michael, Colleen Shanks (back row), Kelsey Lutz and Holland Raper.

Gavin. "We'll have about 12 to 14 local musicians playing *Bells of Belfast*, *Silent Night* and a sing-

along. There will be food including Christmas cake and Irish scones, and step, set and ceili dancers. It's

### CELTIC CHRISTMAS

**What:** Christmas Songs & Ceili Tunes

**When:** 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 20

**Where:** Monaghan K of C Hall, 19801 Farmington Road, between Seven Mile and Eight Mile, Livonia

**Cost:** \$10, kids under age 12 free. Call (313) 537-3489.

**Related events:** The Irish fun continues at the Crossroads Ceili 7:30 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, Dec. 27-28, at The Ark, 316 S. Main, Ann Arbor. Admission \$16. Call (734) 761-1800. Workshops for fiddle, flute, tenor banjo, penny whistle, uilleann pipes, guitar accompaniment, button accordion and mandolin performance off by advance registration only on Saturday afternoon. For information or to register, call (313) 537-3489

really a party, a Christmas party."

John Heinzman grew up dancing, but turns the floor over to his students at the Ardan Academy of Irish Dance. The team of eight advanced dancers will be accompanied by Heinzman on flute and Irish whistle, and Jo Ryan on keyboards.

Please see **CELTIC, C3**

# Canned goods are sought for annual Holiday Food Drive

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN  
OGE STAFF WRITER

This year more than ever, Livonia Councilwoman Laura Toy hopes the community puts politics aside to help the needy. On Thursday, Dec. 18, she'll join with state Rep. John Pastor and state Rep.-elect John Walsh to collect canned goods and nonperishables for Gleaners Food Bank from 5:30-7 p.m. at the Knights of Columbus on Farmington Road, between Seven Mile and Eight Mile, in Livonia.

Toy started the annual drive when she was in the state Senate. Over the last six years, she's collected everything from gently used coats to books to brighten the holidays of the less fortunate.

"I started it to do something to help people during the holidays. The natural thing would be to do some-

thing with toys because of my last name, but in my district I looked and saw there was a need, particularly in the south end of the district, Westland and Redford as well as Garden City," said Toy, who now is the community outreach specialist for the state Senate in Lansing in addition to being a Livonia councilwoman.

"This year, the food shelves are empty. I felt between the three of us we could rally all of our supporters. Besides canned goods and nonperishables, people could provide a gift certificate for a grocery store or favorite bakery or deli, or any cash donation."

Cash donations can be mailed to Rep. John Pastor at 15417 Middlebelt, Livonia, MI 48154.

"Gleaners serves Southeast Michigan and maybe not all the help goes to Livonia but it makes us better to help our neighbors," said Toy.

## BOOKS

FROM PAGE C1

really used their creativity to write about Willow, an independent thinker, for Sleeping Bear Press. The recently released book was illustrated by Cyd Moore, who formerly lived in Birmingham and Beverly Hills. Willow paints pink trees and blue apples in Miss Hawthorn's art class.

"I hope kids, teachers and parents learn or realize that the more free you are to explore in art and writing and probably reading, the better," said Moore, who now lives in Sylvan Lake with three cats and one dog. "My mother was a painter and art teacher but never sat us down and told us you have to do it this way. We were always provided reams of paper, clay. We always got new crayons and markers for Christmas so I was just free like Willow who was not following along."

The Brennan sisters were careful not to cast a negative light on teachers but still relay a message. Although this is Denise's eighth children's book, it is her first using human characters. The Howell author is best known for *Buzzy the Bumblebee* and *Grady the Goose*.

"It's the fact Willow doesn't see Miss Hawthorn the way anybody else does and her ability to unleash creativity in Miss Hawthorn," said Denise Brennan-Wilson. "Using our imaginations is so important. Nobody sees art the same way. Everything being the same isn't as much fun. My sister and I originally started talking about trees, willow and hawthorn. The metaphor is there about the difference in trees and part of the underlying messages."

### SANTA GOES GREEN

Elisa Chavarri especially had fun illus-

trating Anne Margaret Lewis' story about saving a polar bear in *Santa Goes Green* from Mackinac Island Press in Traverse City. A boy named Finn is concerned about Leopold and the sea ice so necessary to hunt for food. The melting glaciers could mean the extinction of the species.

Chavarri was born in Peru but eventually moved to Michigan where a trip to the Detroit Zoo left her with an idea for portraying the big white bear fond of nose-to-nose kisses.

"I always liked polar bears so I was excited. The way Anne described him he was a lovable character," said Chavarri of Northville. "The book makes it seem that it's attainable that we can save the polar bears. Anything you can do will make a slight difference and all of those add up if everyone starts being more aware."

### FILL A BUCKET

Carol McCloud revisits the topic of helping others in *Fill a Bucket: A Guide to Daily Happiness for Children*. The book is illustrated by David Messing of Livonia. The book is a prequel to her *Have You Filled a Bucket Today?* McCloud has given more than 800 presentations in elementary schools since the book was published in 2006 by Ferne Press (www.bucketfillers101.com).

"It's perfect for new babies and first-time parents," said McCloud of Brighton. "Kids at age 2 can start taking dishes off the table. It gives them a sense of accomplishment and pride. When you fill others' buckets it fills yours."

### A IS FOR ABRAHAM

Richard Michelson wrote *A is for Abraham* for a younger version of himself, but adults as well as children can learn about Judaism from this book. Michelson grew up in Brooklyn without

any religious education even though his family were Jews. It wasn't until deciding to marry a woman outside his culture that Michelson became curious about his background. She eventually converted to Judaism and they raised their children in the faith.

Although he represents illustrators through his R. Michelson Galleries in Massachusetts, it was an editor at Sleeping Bear Press who suggested Ron Mazellan for the drawings that seem as if from an earlier age.

"It's a Jewish family alphabet. I thought of it as a fun encyclopedia for families to share," said Michelson. "I'm culturally Jewish but didn't understand where the traditions came from or why things were being done. My mother had grown up in a Jewish household and rebelled. We didn't keep any traditions, didn't celebrate the Sabbath 'cause my dad was busy making a living. I was trying to be a regular kid and fit in. As an adult I'm not alone. A lot of people don't understand the basics of their tradition."

Michelson recently read African and Native American alphabet books just to learn about the cultures.

"I hope non-Jews turn to this book as a primer, but obviously Jewish people are the most likely audience for it," said Michelson. "I hope they get fun and education. It's hard often to have the second without the first. I generally write poetry, stories. The best way to communicate is through a good story in this case in fun word play. It's difficult to reconcile the tradition. There are so many different branches of Judaism so I tried to be general enough. For those steeped in one tradition it can be used as a jumping off point."

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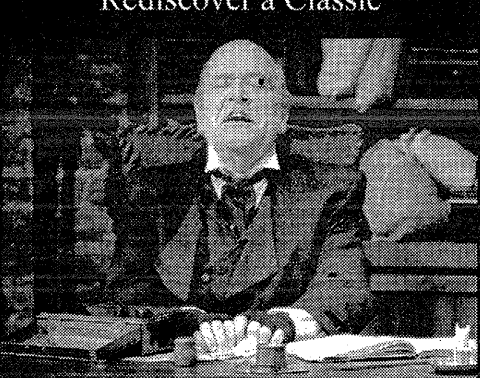
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The number of medications doctors have to treat arthritis is large. However, this array of therapy is not open to people with arthritis age seventy or older.

For example, ibuprofen is drug commonly used to treat osteoarthritis. This medicine belongs to the class of drugs known as the Non Steroidal Anti-inflammatory Drugs (NSAIDs); a well known side effect of this class of medication is upset stomach, even ulcers. But for individuals over age 70, this complication of therapy is unlikely. The real risk for the elderly with NSAID therapy is that NSAIDs can cause kidney failure, and it is not necessarily the result of excessive use of the NSAID. For that reason doctors limit drug treatment for osteoarthritis in the elderly to acetaminophen (Tylenol), a medicine that gives pain relief but does not hurt either the stomach or the kidney.

Another arthritis, rheumatoid arthritis can appear in old age. Again, doctors have many drugs available for treatment, but not for the group over age seventy, because the medications interfere with the body's immune system. The effect of this change is to disrupt the elderly individual's surveillance against cancer, making that person more susceptible to lymphoma. In addition, interference of the immune system by rheumatoid arthritis medication increases the elderly person's risk for infections such as pneumonia.

Finally, starting new arthritis drugs on an elderly person means taking a chance, as drug trials usually do not include patients over age 65.

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Before After

**CELTIC**  
FROM PAGE C1

"They'll be dancing a variety of Irish step dances, and ceili old folk dancing intermixed with Christmas music," said Heinzman. "Last year it was a nice event. Even though we had a bad snow-storm, we still had a good crowd. Kids danced and turned the stage over to Mick and his music students. We had people from the audience come up and do ceili dancing. There's food and drink so people can come out and have an entire evening and participate a little bit. It's like a cabaret kind of day."

Heinzman's mother Kitty is from Westport, County Mayo, and he started dancing at age 5. That was 39 years ago. About 15 years ago, he and his sister, Liz, opened their studio, then known as the Heinzman

School of Irish Dance. They bring a select few of their students to Crossroads Ceili Saturday-Sunday, Dec. 27-28, at The Ark in Ann Arbor. Paddy Homan, winner of the 2001 Thomas Moore Cup for solo Irish tenor, will be joined by Hood, Gavin and his students, and Maguire who played with the popular Irish group, Pat's People, in the 1970s and 1980s.

"It's just a way of life for us. My mom still is a very involved part of the Irish community," said Heinzman. "She teaches ceili which means together or group dancing. We teach solo dancing or step dancing now at the Ardan Academy of Irish Dance in Livonia with locations in Redford, Wixom, Taylor, Grosse Pointe, Warren, Lansing, Toledo and Windsor."

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Dancers from the Ardan Academy of Irish Dance kick up their heels at a Celtic Christmas party Dec. 20, in Livonia. Pictured are Grace Carey (back row), Kim Bell, Jackie Harris, Elizabeth Gallagher; Paula Ryan (middle row), Jobi McCarthy, Maddie Calderon-Jackson, and Emily Wheeler (front row), Victoria Gallagher and Sarah Quinn.

**Art classes to start in January**

Visual Arts Association of Livonia (VAAL) is offering winter art classes beginning Jan. 7, 2009. Classes in drawing, watercolor, mixed media, portraits, and color technique are available. A pastel workshop with Michigan artist, Jerry Power, is also offered on Feb. 5-6, 2009.

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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 lchomin@hometownlife.com.

**Brighton High School Class of 1989**  
Planning a July 25, 2009 reunion at Barnstormer Entertainment Complex in Green Oak Township. There will be a buffet dinner, DJ, and cash bar. Tickets are \$75 per person or \$140 per couple. For details, contact Kelley (Doan) Simpson at (269) 375-5773 or at email4kelley@yahoo.com, or see groups.yahoo.com/group/brightonclassof1989.

**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: Kayniniulu@aol.com or Kathy Shoebridge@klivingston@nu-core.com.

**Detroit St. Brigid Class of 1959**  
Planning a reunion and looking for classmates. Contact szonyek@att.net with any information about classmates.

**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.MCLX@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

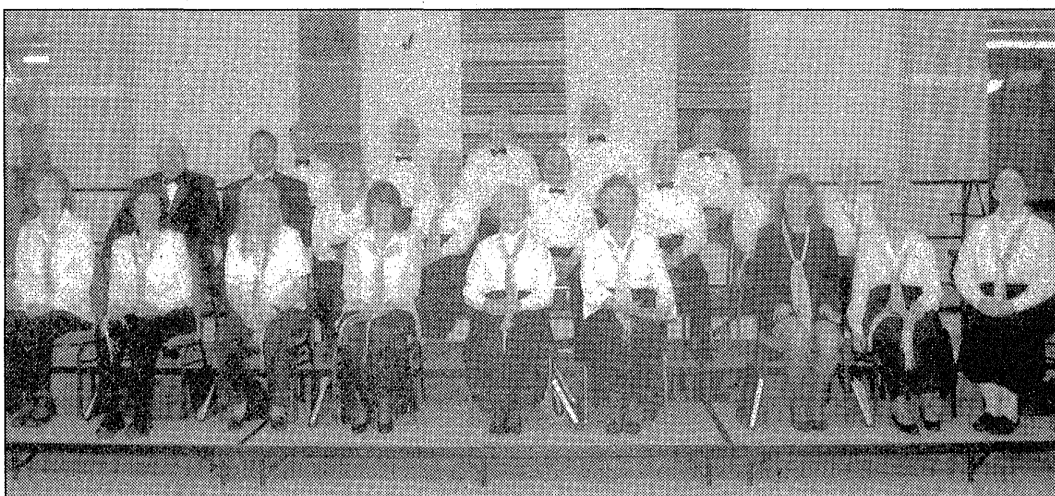
will be sold at the door. Tickets include dinner, premium open bar, dj, door prizes, picture cd and other gifts, and available for purchase at www.gardencity89.com or contact Paula at gchs1989reunion@hotmail.com.

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

**Lincoln Park High School Class of 1958**  
Looking for members of Lincoln Park High School class of 1958 for 50-year reunion. Contact Nancy, (313) 535-8777 or nc6897@sbcglbl.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: Kayniniulu@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.



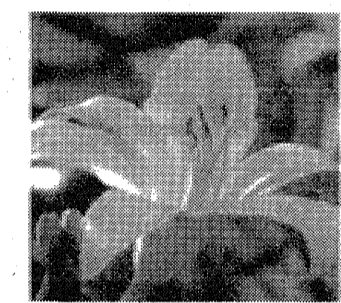
The Finnish-American Singers will present, "The Scenes of Christmas," an international Christmas concert at 3 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 21, at the Finnish Center at 35200 W. Eight Mile, between Newburgh and Gill Road, in Farmington Hills.

# Finnish singers present 'The Scenes of Christmas'

The Finnish-American Singers will present, "The Scenes of Christmas," an international Christmas concert at 3 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 21, at the Finnish Center at 35200 W. Eight Mile, between Newburgh and Gill Road, in Farmington Hills.

Carols from many countries will be performed by this mixed chorus of 25 voices with Henry Naasko, director, and William Gramzow, accompanist. There will be solos and duets as well as a song by a quintet. Following the concert will be

a Finnish coffee table with home-made open-faced sandwiches and desserts. All of this is for a donation of \$10. Chorus members will hold a Bake Sale of Finnish Cardamon coffee breads made in fancy shapes and decorated for Christmas.



# Passages

Obituaries, Memorials, Remembrances  
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**ARTHUR ANTHONY ARDITTO**  
Age 86+. Born July 31, 1922 in Detroit, Michigan. Passed away December 10, 2008 in Florida. Loving husband of Edna (deceased). Beloved father of Richard A. (Pilar) Ardito and Susan M. Sanderfer. Grandfather of Angela, Renae, Stephen, Mandi, Korby and Gina. Great-grandfather to Falyn and Rylee, of Florida. Brother to Marie T. Caldwell of Grosse Pte. Woods, MI, Delphine F. Ardito of Clawson, MI, John R. of Florida and Barbara A. Kerr of South Lyon, MI. Uncle of many loving nieces and nephews. He served his country in World War II in the Army Air Corp, as a bombardier and retired as a Major from the Air Force Reserve. He was a school teacher at St. Francis School for Boys in Detroit. He graduated from Wayne State University in Detroit and was the number one car salesman at Lou LaRiche in Plymouth, MI. He loved sports, a professional bowler, ardent golfer, pool player, fisherman and card player and was a baseball and football fan. Arthur traveled the world - loved nature, animals and music. He played the piano, accordion and harmonica. A member of the Italian-American Club. He was a lifetime friend, associate, companion and was admired. He is with the Lord, may he rest in peace. Services in Florida, on Sunday, December 14, 2008, 2-4 pm. Donations to Preston James or Susan Sanderfer, Compass Bank, 7205 Forrest Oaks Blvd., Spring Hill, FL 34606.

**WILLIAM O. BLISS**  
Age 87, of Farmington, MI, passed away December 10, 2008. Heenev-Sundquist Funeral Home, Farmington, MI, 248-474-5200

**FRANK DONALD BLOCK**  
December 9, 2008. Age 89, formerly of Redford, MI. Lynch and Sons Funeral Home, 248-684-6645

**SUZANNE WILLIAMS BUSCH**  
Age 79, Notre Dame, IN passed away Nov. 23, 2008. Thomas J. Busch, her husband, survives along with five children, and 15 awesome grandchildren. Upon Tom's retirement from Bendix Corp., Suzie and Tom moved from Birmingham, MI to Savannah, GA, then to Kalamazoo, MI and Notre Dame, IN to be with family. Suzie enjoyed her family, community service, playing golf, bridge, and parties with friends. Memorials may be donated to the Christ Child Society of Northern Michigan or to the Center for Hospice, South Bend, IN.

**PAUL DONOVAN**  
Age 86. December 10, 2008. Beloved husband of the late Rosemary for 52 years. Loving father of Sue Watts (Don), Linda Underwood (Craig Gross), Laura Bunker (Jeff), Paul Donovan and Lisa Walker (Joe). Cherished grandfather of Amy (Tim), Kyle, Victoria, Autumn, Jacob, Ian, Joshua, Jillian, Joey, Emily and Nicole (Mitch). Proud great-grandfather of Tori Lee. Memorial Mass Monday 11 AM at the Servant Church of St. Alexander, 27835 Shiwawsee, Farmington Hills, MI 48336. In lieu of flowers, donations to the Disabled American Veterans or Maryknoll Sisters. www.thayer-rock.com

**DONALD E. FRASER, SR.**  
December 9, 2008. Age 91. Beloved husband of Shirley for 63 years. Dear father of Don Jr. (Gina), Ray (Valerie), Jim (Sally), Wendy Routhier (Charles) and the late Lawrence. Also survived by nine grandchildren. Brother of William (Joanne). Father-in-law of Danielle. Memorial service Saturday, January 3, 2009 12 noon at North Congregational Church, 36520 W. Twelve Mile Rd., Farmington Hills. Memorial tributes to Beaumont Hospice, 3601 W. Thirteen Mile Rd., Royal Oak, MI 48073 or North Congregational Church. A.J. Desmond & Sons (248) 549-0500. View obituary and share memories at: www.DesmondFuneralHome.com.

**CHARLOTTE G. (Zavitz) HESTER**  
Age 81, of Farmington, MI, passed away Dec. 12, 2008. Visitation at Thayer-Rock Funeral Home, Farmington, MI Sunday, Dec. 14 from 2-5 with funeral service Monday, Dec. 15 at 11am at the funeral home.



**JOHN "RUSS" HILL**  
Of Bloomfield Hills, lost his battle with cancer on December 9, 2008, at the age of 77. He died peacefully at home under the care of Mercy Hospice, with his family and dog at his side. He survived by his loving wife, Dolly, two sons, Bruce (Mary Beth) and Stephen (Tracy), and four outstanding grandchildren, Douglas, Kathryn, Brad, and Daina. Graduated from Wayne State University in Electrical Engineering in 1955, and earned a Master's Degree in Business Administration. Employed by Chrysler Corporation until retirement in 1991. A devoted husband, father, grandpa, and friend, he will be missed by all. A memorial service and gathering of friends and family was held at Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church, Bloomfield Hills, on Saturday, December 13. Inurnment at White Chapel Cemetery, Troy. In lieu of flowers memorial tributes to Mercy Hospice, 281 Enterprise Court, Suite 200, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302, or Michigan Animal Rescue League, 290 Featherstone, Pontiac, MI 48342. A. J. Desmond & Sons, 248-362-2500. View obituary and share memories at: www.DesmondFuneralHome.com

**JERRY LAMBERT JR.**  
Born in Malden, Arkansas, he moved to Bradenton in 1989 from Plymouth, Michigan. He is a member of First Church of the Nazarene of Bradenton and retired after 34 years of service as an engineer for General Motors Corp. of Livonia, Michigan. He is survived by his wife of 38 years, Barbara E.; daughters, Anthonette Beach of Johnson City, TN, Debra K. Carter of Bradenton and Sondra L. Raubacher of Shanghai, China; sons; Jim D. Lambert of Toledo, OH and Terry L. Miller of Mesa, AZ; sister, Laveda Lambert of Ankeny, Iowa; 13 grandchildren and 8 great grandchildren. Friends may visit the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home 280 South Main, Plymouth Monday from 11:30am until time of funeral service at 1:30pm. Entombment Glen Eden Cemetery. Share memories at schrader-howell.com.

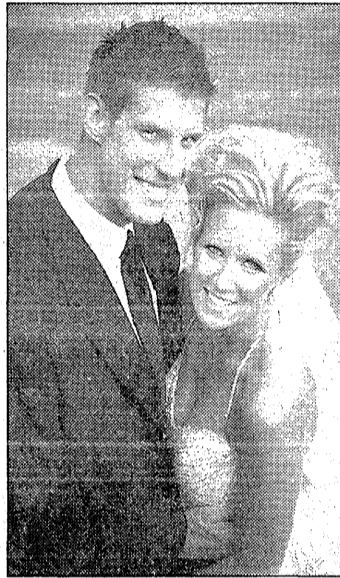
**ROBERT G. MARKS**  
July 26th, 1926 to December 9th, 2008. He passed away peacefully surrounded by family early on the morning of Tuesday, December 9, 2008. Bob was a navy veteran of W.W.II serving in the Pacific Theatre as a navigator with a squadron of P.B.Y's. Robert lived most of his life in the metro Detroit area- Old Redford, Wayne, Dearborn. The last seven years he resided in Lantana, Florida with his wife June (Rigg). He was a long time professional educator in the Livonia Public Schools, holding a variety of positions; elementary teacher, M.S. administrator, coach, and H.S. media center director. He changed to this career later in life for he wished "to make a difference" and in his final days mentioned how content he was with that decision. In that new career he was very successful impacting the lives of countless children in schools, libraries, and on the sporting fields/courts in and around Livonia and the greater Metro-Detroit area. He was especially important in the lives of his four children: John, Tom, Sue, and Doug, and greatly enjoyed touching the lives of his 21 grandchildren and his 17, soon-to-be 18 great-grandchildren. Robert loved a good book, a good card game, a good debate, a good word puzzle, a good sporting contest (even two or three at a time), a fine meal, a cup of tea, travel, music in all forms, and the outdoors. Most of all it was time spent, or activities with, his family and good friends that made him most happy. He would appreciate these words from Dr. Seuss at this moment, "Don't cry that its over, celebrate that it happened". Bob was preceded in death by his parents, Robert H. & Lillian M. Marks, his wife of 44 years Alice K, and his younger brother Doug. He is survived by his wife of 9 years, June, his four children and their spouses: Patti, Amy, Paul, Glenda, and Judy, his four step children: Chris, Robin, Heather, and Craig, his sister-in-law Sandy and his many grandchildren and great-grandchildren who will miss him very much. Robert was truly a member of America's "greatest generation" and we who carry on are thankful for the model of living he represented. We will be forever blessed that he shared so much of himself with his family and extended family of friends. Peace. A private family service is planned for Friday at the Palm Breezes Park in Lantana. A Memorial Service for family and friends is being planned for the spring in Dearborn, Michigan with details to be announced early in the new year. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Focus Hope Inc. of Detroit or Hospice of Palm Springs, Florida

**FRED C. NELSON**  
December 6, 2008. Age 88. Resident of Plymouth. Retired in 1981 after 33 years as a vocal music teacher in the Plymouth-Canton Schools. Survived by wife Lois, sons Jim (Nancy), Bill (Susan), and granddaughters Melissa and Kathy. Private service held already.

**JEREMY D. ROWLANDS**  
Age 30, formerly of Farmington, MI, passed December 7, 2008. Thayer-Rock Funeral Home, Farmington, MI

WEDDINGS

**Nastase-Lambert**  
Sam and Kathy Nastase of Algonac announce the marriage of their daughter, Stacey, to Chad Lambert, son of Jean Lambert of Clinton Township. The bride is a 1998 graduate of Stevenson High School in Livonia and a 2002 graduate of Kalamazoo College. She works in sales. The groom is a 1994 graduate of Henry Ford II High School and a 1998 graduate of Stetson University. He also works in sales. The couple wed Sept. 19, 2008 at the Royal Park Hotel in Rochester. The Rev. Michael Maras officiated. They spent their honeymoon in the Greek Islands.



ARISING IMAGES

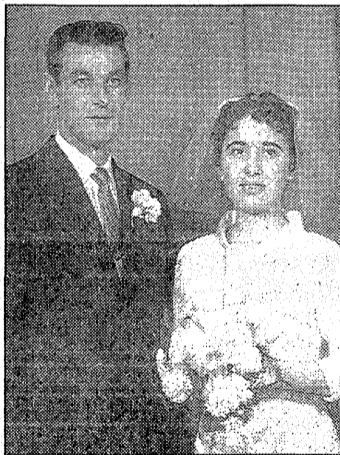
**Spencer-Jacovetti**  
John and Laurie Spencer of Lakeland, Fla., and formerly of Redford, announce the marriage of their daughter, Crystal Marie, to Christopher Andrew Jacovetti, son of Bill and Karen Jacovetti of Livonia. The bride is a 2000 graduate of Redford's Thurston High School and she currently attends Daytona University. The groom is a 1997 graduate of Catholic Central High School and he works as manager of Sunbelt Rentals in Ormond Beach, Fla. The couple wed Aug. 8, 2008 at the First Church of the Nazarene. A reception followed at the Italian American Club.



The couple spent their honeymoon at the Atlantis Resort in the Bahamas.

ANNIVERSARY

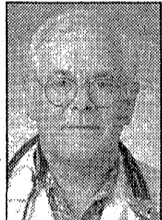
**Golden anniversary**  
Cornelius and Jean (Duty) Van Boven of Canton are celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary this month. The couple wed Dec. 27, 1958 at Newburg Methodist Church in Livonia. They have lived in Livonia for 58 years and are parents to James VanBoven of Canton and Brian VanBoven of Redford Township. They have one grandchild. Cornelius VanBoven worked at Teamsters Trucking and Jean worked for Plymouth Canton Community Schools until retiring 23 years ago. They've been members of the American Legion in Plymouth



for 43 years. The couple will celebrate their anniversary with a trip to Hawaii.

# Stain problem with no cure

They have put some of my work in the World Book Encyclopedia and called me to court cases as an expert witness and yet I don't have the smarts to answer the problem described in the following e-mail. Please read it and if you have a solution to this lady's frustration, please drop me a note and tell me what you think about all this:



Appliance Doctor Joe Gagnon

"My husband and I have had a laundry problem for several years that has caused us constant frustration. The problem is that when we wash dark-colored clothing at our house, it often comes out with grease-like stains that were not on the clothing prior to washing. The stains usually come out after treatment with color-safe bleach and re-washing. We have tried many different detergents and we don't use fabric softener, so we know that our washing products are not the source of the problem. We had thought that the problem could be the washing machine, so we replaced it with a new front loader a couple of years ago, but we have continued to have the problem. We wondered whether the problem was the dryer, but we have had the spots on some clothes that we have air dried or dried elsewhere.

"We know that the problem is not the hot water heater because it happens to clothes washed and rinsed in cold water. We have consulted with an appliance repair person (when we had the previous washer), a handyman, and a plumber, and none of them can figure out what is wrong. We have city water and we wonder whether there could be something in our pipes, but they are copper including the pipe to the water source. We were told that corrosion would be unlikely. We are desperate to find an answer to this problem, and we have tried everything that we can think of. Can you offer some advice? Thanks Christine."

I am sitting here scratching my head just the way Jim Carrey did it in the movie, *Dumb and Dumber*. Let's look at some facts about stains that occur on items being washed and how they get there. We are not going to blame the washer because you illuminated that possibility in your e-mail to me. Fabric softener has always been a leading contender in the stain race but that is also out of the picture. The hot water heater is also removed from the story, which leads us to the only area of possibility, the rubber fill hoses. But wait, it can't be the hoses! You had a new washer installed and I'm sure they used the new hoses that came with the washer, right? Transmissions can leak oil into a washer tub but that's been ruled out as well. Your washer doesn't have a transmission. My dear Christine, I would love to give you an answer to this problem but I am stumped. I will count on some of the readers to come up with a prescription and pass it on to you. Stay tuned.

Joe Gagnon can be heard at 8 a.m., Saturdays on WAAM 1600 and Sundays at 2 p.m. on WDTK 1400. E-mail questions to appldr@twm1.com.

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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.)  
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# This year's party clothes are about 'the piece'

BY SAMANTHA CRITCHELL  
AP FASHION WRITER

With more people likely to enjoy smaller-scale, at-home holiday gatherings this year instead of big blowouts at restaurants and fancy venues, multitasking separates seem better suited to the social whirl than do sexy cocktail frocks.

A recent spin around retailers' "occasion" dress departments found more knits and less glitz, as well as several racks of dressy slacks and skirts.

Adam Glassman, creative director and fashion expert at *O: The Oprah Magazine*, says many women likely have the makings of a stylish outfit already in their closets. But if you want to give yourself a gift, here are some pieces that could be the perfect finishing touch:

■ A skirt: Strut with a little

swish.

It could be a long cocktail skirt or a 1950s-style circle skirt, both of which offer graceful movement. They'll look great with sequin tank tops or a subtle tonal-beaded sweater, recommends Glassman.

"Dresses are easy no-brainers, but skirts give more mileage and bang for the buck," he says. "Even if it's shiny or metallic, it can move from day to night. You have the ability to wear that skirt to work or a nice lunch with a girlfriend if you pare down the look."

■ Statement jewelry: A necklace is the key piece.

A bold necklace will turn a casual outfit into a chic one and a dressy outfit into something glamorous. A very sophisticated style is a ribbed black turtleneck with one of these chunky pieces.

It doesn't matter if the jewelry isn't expensive — you can find love-

ly options at every price point from Vera Wang to J. Crew to Kohl's, reports Glassman — but don't try to pass off costume jewelry as anything other than what it is. Instead embrace the jewelry as fun, trendy pieces and take some chances.

A cocktail ring can also garner the right kind of attention, especially since you might be holding a drink, putting your hands further on display, but it's pretty much an either-or with the necklace or you risk overkill.

■ Jeweled flats: No need for black.

A jewel-tone shoe, adorned with bows, sequins or beads is "something that makes you feel happy and alive," Glassman says. "Even if you're not buying a full outfit, buy that great shoe like Dorothy's red ruby slipper — it will wake up your whole outfit."

The added bonus is that when

you're at a home party, more people are likely to see your shoes as you cross your legs when you sit on a couch and they can be good conversation starters, he adds.

■ Shine: Light up your look.

Something shiny around your face will brighten up your face and draw the eye upward. It could be a shiny fabric, beading or a top with

a jewel-encrusted neckline, which takes care of the necklace too.

Glassman singles out an Oscar de la Renta turtleneck with a jeweled neck and cuffs that perfectly balances coziness with sophistication.

■ Lace: This isn't your grandmother's lace.

"You hear lace and you might think *Little House on the Prairie*,

but we're talking about the new lace," Glassman says. That means lace worn in unexpected ways.

Wear a trace of lace: a lacy bra peeking through a blouse, lace shoes or a lace blouse worn with dressy trouser jeans. Glassman recommends black, brown, flesh-tone or even dove gray lace, which are both demure and sexy.

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## Staying on track

### Enjoy but choose holiday food carefully

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN  
O&E STAFF WRITER

It's all right to enjoy that slice of pumpkin pie or cookie at a holiday gathering, just remember to get back on track at the next meal. That's the advice of local registered dietitians this season. Gail Posner plans to eat the delicious foods at her family's Hanukkah celebrations, but limit portions. She cautions clients at Healthy Ways Nutrition Counseling in West Bloomfield not to arrive at parties hungry, but fill up on vegetables and fruits before leaving the house.

"The goal is not weight loss but weight maintenance. Who wants to deal with an extra five to seven pounds, the average gain over the holiday?" said Posner. "A cup of eggnog is 500 calories, martinis and daiquiris a good 350 calories. Try some alternatives like red vitamin water which has holiday color and is loaded with antioxidants: acia, blueberry and pomegranate, a good protector for our health with extra vitamin C. If you are going to drink, I encourage people to go every other drink, have a glass of water, Perrier, in between. Enjoy the holiday specials but keep them in check."

When it's time for dinner, make sure one half of the plate is vegetables, the other one tablespoon servings of high calorie items.

"You can always go back and try all the different things that people make, and eat slow,"

**'After the party, be careful of dangerous leftovers. People do fine at a party and gain weight afterwards. Give leftovers to your guests.'**

GAIL POSNER, registered dietitian

said Posner. "After the party, be careful of dangerous leftovers. People do fine at a party and gain weight afterwards. Give leftovers to your guests."

For Thanksgiving, Posner arrived at her sister-in-law's home with a salad, spinach Parmesan side dish, and fruit for dessert. In addition to vegetables, she ate turkey and a bite of sweet potato. Her motto is don't eat an entire serving when a taste could satisfy the craving.

"It's fine to enjoy these holiday items, but if you're going to eat a cookie have a glass of water between each delicious item, have one and then a cup of tea or water before enjoying the next one," said Posner. "We all get off track, don't wait till Jan. 1 to get back on."

As a certified diabetes educator at Troy Beaumont Hospital, Judith Pegg offers tips anyone can use to avoid weight gain. She especially warns those with a family history of diabetes to be aware of the consequences of obesity.

Pegg's mother died of complications and her grandmother had both legs amputated because of diabetes. Her hypoglycemia (low blood sugar) is a precursor to the disease.

"You don't have to avoid anything in their diet. You



have to learn to put it in your diet. Figure that chocolate in if that's going to help you feel satisfied," said Pegg, a registered nurse who gives presentations for the American Diabetes Association. "If you're going to a party allow one carbohydrate, a few crackers and cheese, for your evening snack. People shouldn't be drinking unless blood sugar is under control and depending on medication and then one drink for women, two for men. And don't stand by the

appetizer table. If you're going to stand there talking to someone, turn your back."

For many, weight loss means changing their lifestyle.

Pegg grew up in a large Italian family where food was the focus of celebrations. For Thanksgiving, she cooked a traditional dinner but made the stuffing with less fat and then baked it separately. Pegg admits she wasn't always conscious of her choices until her husband had a heart attack

two years ago at age 55.

"Changing the way you do anything during the holidays is difficult. It's important to stay focused," said Pegg. "If they have pre-diabetes with numbers higher than normal but not high enough to be diagnosed, they need to start living different, learn to change their lifestyle. They could possibly avoid ever going into diabetes. It's a chronic disease with no cure."

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

## Karmanos to offer help to quit smoking

As Detroit area residents prepare resolutions for the New Year, those wishing to conquer smoking can receive free assistance from the American Lung Association to accomplish their goal.

Karmanos Cancer Center is offering the American Lung Association's highly acclaimed Freedom From Smoking clinic, a program that will consist of 8 classes held on Tuesday evenings Tuesday, Jan. 6, through Feb. 17, as well as Thursday, Jan. 29.

All classes will be held 5-6:30 p.m. at Karmanos Cancer Center, 4100 John R., Detroit, MI 48201.

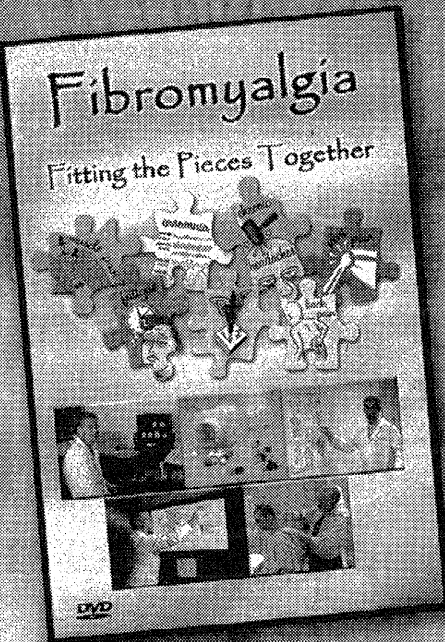
Registration is required. Contact Andrea Layman at (313) 576-8129 or laymana@karmanos.org.

As the American Lung Association's premiere smoking cessation program, Freedom From Smoking is a highly structured and comprehensive behavior modification approach to smoking cessation in a group support setting.

Freedom From Smoking is based on the premise that smoking is a learned behavior.

The 8 session format provides for tracking personal habits, developing coping strategies and practice in a supportive environment with others who are experiencing the same feelings and challenges.

## Helping Our Pain & Exhaustion



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## Fibromyalgia: Fitting the Pieces Together

(90 minutes - 13 chapters)

For the first time in one informative documentary, **Fibromyalgia: Fitting the Pieces Together** will provide practical advice and answers to questions about this debilitating condition.

The documentary will enhance your knowledge and awareness of Fibromyalgia as well as provide insight in the management of chronic pain.

With its easy to use menu, viewers can search chapters that correspond to one's specific concerns and interests.

### List of chapters:

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Daniel Clauw, M.D.  
Martin Tamler, M.D.  
Craig Hartrick, M.D.  
Martin Tamler, M.D.  
Leon Rubenfaer, M.D.  
Kenneth Peters, M.D.  
Dennis Dobritt, D.O.  
Cassius DeFlon, M.D.  
Loren DeVinney, P.T.  
Virginia Drouin-Berry, MT  
Peter Ianni, Ph.D.  
Lynne Matallana

**Fibromyalgia: A Global Condition**  
**Central Pain Syndrome and Research**  
**Diagnosis & Tender Point Exam**  
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Helping Our Pain & Exhaustion (H.O.P.E.) is a 501(c) 3 nonprofit organization whose mission is to enhance knowledge and awareness of Fibromyalgia and Chronic Fatigue syndrome through programs that educate families, friends, the public, the media and the medical community.

To order the documentary go to: [www.hffcf.org](http://www.hffcf.org)  
or contact Sharon at: [smo23915@aol.com](mailto:smo23915@aol.com)

1.5 CME credits are available,  
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## MEDICAL DATEBOOK

### Gluten-free food fair

11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 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 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.stmary-mercy.org](http://www.stmary-mercy.org).

### 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](http://www.oa.org) or call (248) 559-7722.

### Parkinson Support

Western Oakland Parkinson Support Group meets 7:09 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

#### Understanding diabetes

St. Mary Mercy Hospital hosts Diabetes Support Group presentations 7:8:30 p.m. Wednesdays, Jan. 14, and Feb. 11, in the hospital's Auditorium, 36475 Five Mile at Levan Road, Livonia. Please use the Main Entrance on Five Mile Road. Registered dietitian Katie Dooley presents Understanding Carbohydrates for Better Blood Sugar Control on Jan. 14. On Feb. 11, registered dietitian Judy Swancutt presents Diabetes and Vitamins, Minerals and Herbs: What's Right for You. All are welcome. A new topic is presented on the second

Wednesday of each month for adults with diabetes and family members. There is no charge, pre-registration not required. For information, call (734) 655-8961.

### 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](mailto: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 third 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](mailto: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 Tuesday (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](http://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](http://www.oakgov.com/health).

### CPR classes

Classes range from basic CPR for people who wish to know how to help save a life to certification for those who need CPR for work and state licensure, at DMC Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital, 1 William Carl's Drive, Commerce. First aid classes also available. Classes offered weekdays evenings and Saturday mornings. Price varies. Pre-registration required at [www.hvsh.org/hvsh/calendar](http://www.hvsh.org/hvsh/calendar) or call (248) 937-3314.



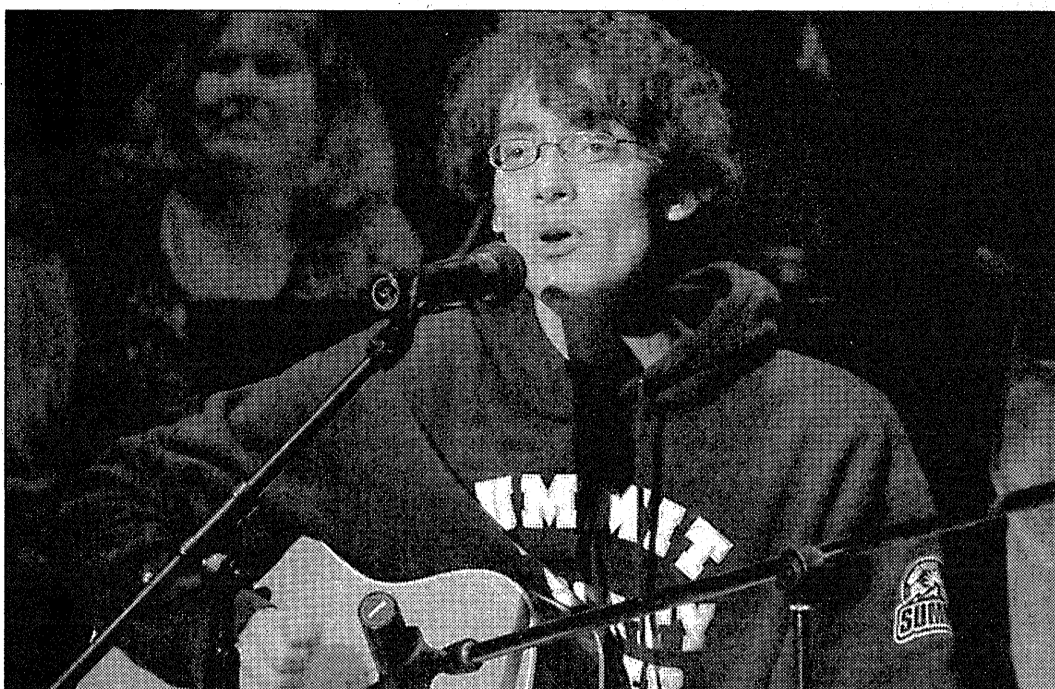


PHOTO BY KAREN ARSENAU

Ryan Maike, 18, of Farmington Hills, practices his song during a recent rehearsal for the Farmington Community Chorus holiday concert at Oakland Community College.

## Chorus member carries on family tradition

BY STACY JENKINS  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Ryan Maike remembers being in awe of the Farmington Community Chorus, when he would attend concerts with his grandparents.

Maike's grandparents, Jim and Dorothy Miller, were long-time members of the chorus, but have since moved out of the area.

Since they're in Arizona, currently, Maike, 18, said he plans to send them a video of the concert, in which he will perform a solo of the song, *God Bless the Broken Road*, at the FCC's holiday concert, "Joy!" at 8 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 18, Friday, Dec. 19, and Saturday, Dec. 20, at the L.C. Smith Auditorium at Oakland Community College's Orchard Ridge Campus in Farmington Hills.

Maike said his grandparents have always been a musical couple who encouraged his pursuit of music.

"I grew up with them always singing," he said. "I would listen to tapes of them singing. Throughout the years, my

grandparents were big advocates for me getting involved in music."

They paid for Maike to take piano lessons, guitar and voice lessons.

Maike, who is a student at OCC, was looking to join a singing group and saw the FCC notice at OCC.

"For the last couple of years, I had been singing in a group," he said. "Once I graduated from high school, and was in college, I knew I had to find a place to sing. I didn't know this was the same group that my grandparents were in, but once I found out, all of those memories came back. I was like, 'Wow! I have the chance to be in that choir!'"

He's enjoying his FCC experience so far.

"I've enjoyed getting to know people," he said. "There is such a wealth of knowledge about music and about life."

Maike, who lives in Farmington Hills, said he enjoys the leadership of Director Steve SeGraves.

"He does a really incredible job of leading us," he said.

The Farmington Community

Chorus is a 80-voice mixed chorus, which will be joined by dancers and instrumentalists for the concert.

This year, for the first time, talented music students from OCC have auditioned to join the FCC and are earning college credit. Directed by SeGraves and accompanied by assistant director Susan Garr, the chorus will perform a variety of holiday music including *Sweet Little Jesus Boy*, *Boogie Woogie Hanukkah*, *Christmas Joy*, *It's the Holiday Season*, and *Still, Still, Still* as well as solo and small group numbers.

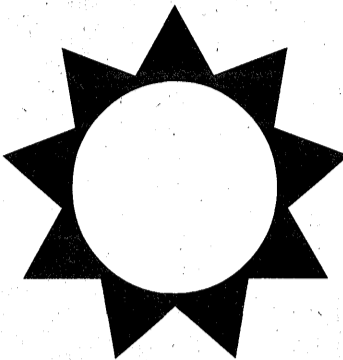
Tickets are \$15 and can be ordered in advance. A limited number will be available at the door. To order advance tickets, call the FCC ticket line at (810) 632-4067 or the Costick Activities Center, 28600 W. 11 Mile in Farmington Hills at (248) 473-1800. Tickets may also be bought from FCC members.

For more information about the Farmington Community Chorus, contact manager Kathy Hall at (248) 471-4516 or visit [www.farmingtonchorus.com](http://www.farmingtonchorus.com).

## Celebrate winter solstice with music, dance, stories

BY SHARON DARGAY  
O&E STAFF WRITER

If you dread winter's arrival next week, the Rev. Leonetta Bugleisi and the Paint Creek Unitarian Universalist Congregation might just change your mind. She and her congregation are busy transforming the American Legion Hall — where they hold weekly services in downtown Rochester — into a winter wonderland of snowflakes and icy silver and blue decorations.



"We go bozo mundo with decorating," said Bugleisi, who will lead the church's Fifth Annual Solstice Ritual at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 19, in the hall at Third and Walnut, a block west of Main.

The celebration will be heavy on cultural arts, too. The church choir will sing; the Lake Orion Drummers will sound out the beat on their African hand drums; dancers gracefully will glide into the hall to the music of Sarah McLachlan; and the sounds of Toronto musician Loreena McKennett will set the mood for contemplation.

### TELL ME A STORY

Dramatic storytelling, complete with gods and goddesses, ice fairies, elves, trolls and a Viking-druid solstice tale about the mischievous Loki, a shape-shifter, serves as the centerpiece of the event.

"It's an old story that taps into the druids and the meaning of mistletoe, which was called 'all heal' and was said to avert ill luck to herds. The kissing thing came later with the English," Bugleisi noted.

The congregation and visitors will have lots of opportunities to participate in chanting, dancing and music-making. Shakers and other small percussion instruments will be on hand for their use and everyone will join in on the final song, Ritchie Havens' rendition of *Here Comes the Sun*.

"Last year we did a pine cone exchange. Every pine cone had a peace message on it. They were in baskets and everyone took one and read the message. Then they exchanged pine cones. I might do it again this year."

Participants will spend some time in personal reflection and meditation and in a guided visualization.

"Someone gave us a good CD last year of the

### WINTER SOLSTICE

**What:** Celebration of winter's arrival and the return of the sun  
**When:** 7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 19  
**Where:** Paint Creek Unitarian Universalist Congregation, in the American Legion Hall, located at Walnut and Third, a block west of Main in downtown Rochester  
**Parking:** Public lots are located on Walnut and within walking distance  
**Attire:** Wear something gold, silver or black to become a part of the wintry audience  
**Details:** Music, storytelling, drumming, dancing, meditation, all in a winter wonderland setting  
**Contact:** Rev. Leonetta Bugleisi at (248) 202-1711  
**Afterward:** Stroll Main street just a block east of Walnut and take in the eye-popping Big Bright Light Show with its 500,000 lights.  
**Actual solstice:** 7:04 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 21

sounds the sun makes. We also have this cool noise, the scientific voice of the sun."

### MARKING THE DATE

Bugleisi said the winter solstice is universally celebrated in all cultures because it signifies the start of gradually lengthening days and the return of the sun.

"We are all so dependent on the sun and its return ... it's the juxtaposition, the contrast of the darkness and of wanting the light to return," she said. "It's a metaphor spiritually ... we carry the light within us."

She refutes the idea that celebrating seasonal change is anti-Christian.

"We are trans-Christian. We study Christianity and other religions," she said. "I'd encourage people to check out the Web on Newgrange Ireland and Stonehenge in England. They'd see that something was going on before Christianity. Our ancestral stories go back long periods of time and are richer than just one culture."

Both the monuments at Stonehenge and the tomb at Newgrange were built so that they aligned with the solstice. At Newgrange, for example, a shaft of sunlight penetrates the tomb's central chamber at dawn on the winter solstice.

Bugleisi describes the annual gathering at her church as a "totally commercial-free ritual that transcends all religious interpretations of the holidays." It's designed for ages 6 and up.

"Some people last year brought their teenagers and they (the teens) loved it. They said 'This is the first service we went to that we didn't feel bad or guilty.'"

"People really appreciate it. Hopefully, they're coming here annually for it."

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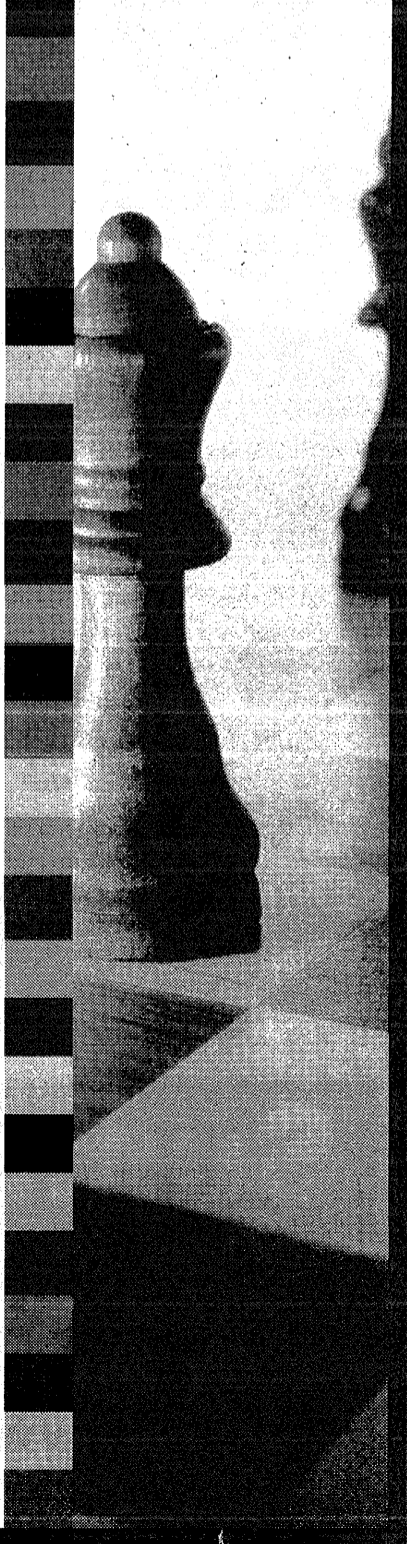
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# JOB SATISFACTION AND THE AMERICAN DREAM



**WORKWISE**  
by  
**Mildred L. Culp**

Where does work figure in the American Dream? J. Walter Thompson's report from a survey of 2,112 Americans at least 18 years old presents trends generational. Ann Mack, director of Trendspotting, maintains that "for older Americans, the Dream is about freedom, as well as the possibility of building a good life through hard work. Younger Americans tend to take for granted the conditions appreciated by older generations; theirs is a dream with bigger aspirations in terms of fame, fortune and happiness." However, job satisfaction would seem to be essential to the Dream, regardless of age.

**EMPLOYER/EMPLOYEE PARTNERING**  
Former dairy farmer Charles Isaak, inventory manager at Pacific Steel & Recycling (PS&R) in Great Falls, Mont., joined the company 12 years ago. PS&R has more than 700 employees, all owners of the company, across seven states. Isaak believes that his company aids him in achieving job satisfaction, which in turn benefits the company. "I've been encouraged to work my way up," he says, "through training and by letting people know I'm motivated."

When the CEO offered him management training, he grabbed it. Then came the opportunity to relocate to headquarters from his hometown in Aberdeen, Idaho, where he'd worked for 10 years. He'd lived in only one other place. The CEO offered him an out-of-state mentor to meet with him once a month for six months to help define his new position. Isaak sees a broad attempt to partner with employees. A consulting firm is working with around 150 to 200 managers, assistant managers and foremen to improve relationships at work and at home. This effort will eventually benefit the entire company. PS&R partners financially, too. When the ROI is on target, employees get a bonus, even if they've worked there only two weeks. Since 1977, the company has paid two bonuses every year to some of its employees.

**LEGAL WORK**  
Criminal lawyer Anthony Colleluori of Woodbury, N.Y., The Law Offices of Anthony J. Colleluori & Associates P.L.L.C., loves litigating. "I have a niche practice I find exhilarating and I pinch myself everyday because I love being an attorney so much," he says. "I try to put clients first. I get to help people in a time of their lives when all others have abandoned them and their family."

He engages clients and the professional community, M.D.s and psychotherapists, to identify what will forestall re-offending by defendants. "I try not to worry about money," he observes. "Then as a result, I get good results and happy clients and I make money. I feel blessed to be a lawyer."

**THE ENVIRONMENT**  
Lisa Kivirist, co-author, with John Ivanko, of

"Ecopreneuring: Putting Purpose and the Planet Before Profits," abandoned corporate excess to run multiple businesses, including bed and breakfast Inn Serendipity, on her Brownstown, Wis., organic farm (New Society Publishers, \$17.95). She believes that self-employment exemplifies the American Dream, integrating independence, control over the work environment and personal passion with a debt-free, self-reliant lifestyle. "It's work but it's so much more than that to me," she explains. "We all need to earn a living," she continues. "Doing everything smartly and strategically and still loving what you do when you go to bed (is the American Dream). We live very well on less."

**VALUES**  
Colleluori, the attorney, ranks his fulfilling employment "second or third in my life." Family comes first, while religious faith and employment vie for second -- the latter, "exceptionally important."

For Isaak, faith comes first, then family, then employment. "At the end of the day," he comments, "I like to say I made a difference."

Kivirist, the ecopreneur, views work socially. She believes that "work should be right up there. If it isn't, we're really missing something as a nation."  
All consider job satisfaction a key component of the American Dream.  
(Dr. Mildred L. Culp is an award-winning journalist. E-mail your questions to [culp@workwise.net](mailto:culp@workwise.net). Copyright 2008 Passage Media.)

Charles Isaak is operating a band saw at Pacific Steel & Recycling in Great Falls, Mont. He believes that his employer's partnering with him contributes to his job satisfaction. Isaak is inventory manager at his employee-owned company.



Credit: Pacific Steel & Recycling



Charles Isaak is inspecting material for defects at Pacific Steel & Recycling in Great Falls, Mont., where he is inventory manager. He believes that his employer's partnering with him contributes to his job satisfaction.



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Commercial roofing firm seeks exp'd single-ply flat roofers. Salary negotiable with exp. Own transportation req. Benefits package after 6 mos. Apply in person btwn 8-12pm 1055 Manufacturers Dr. Westland. Or submit resume to: [nessymic@yahoo.com](mailto:nessymic@yahoo.com) Absolutely No Phone Inquiries

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Commercial roofing firm seeks laborers. No experience required. Starting pay \$10/hr. Own transportation required. Benefits package after 6 mos. Apply in person btwn 8-12pm 1055 Manufacturers Dr. Westland. Or submit resume to: [nessymic@yahoo.com](mailto:nessymic@yahoo.com) Absolutely No Phone Inquiries

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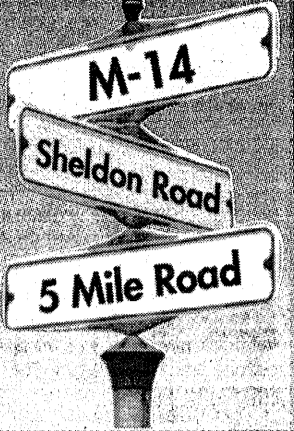
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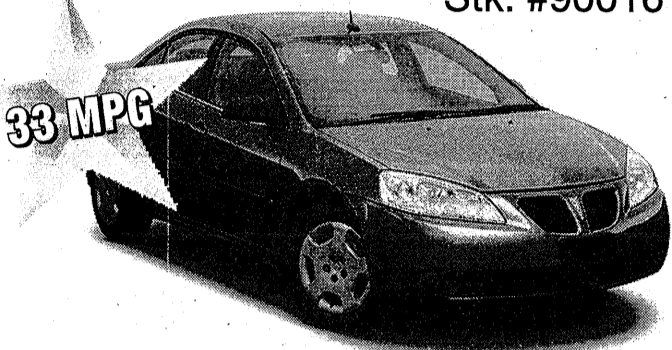


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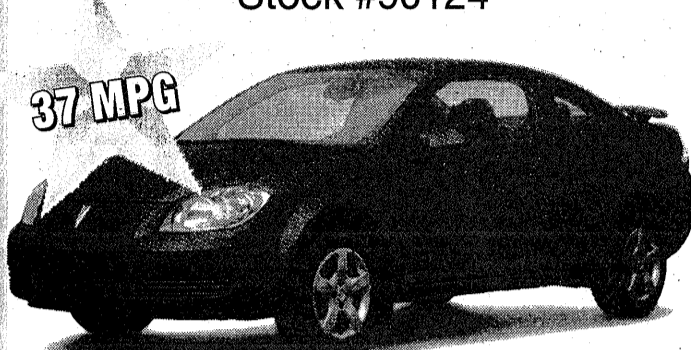
Stk. #90016



33 MPG  
Was \$22,505 **OR-LEASE FOR**  
**NOW \$14,559\*** | **\$209\*** PER MO.  
36 MONTHS  
\$0 Down Payment

### 2009 PONTIAC G5

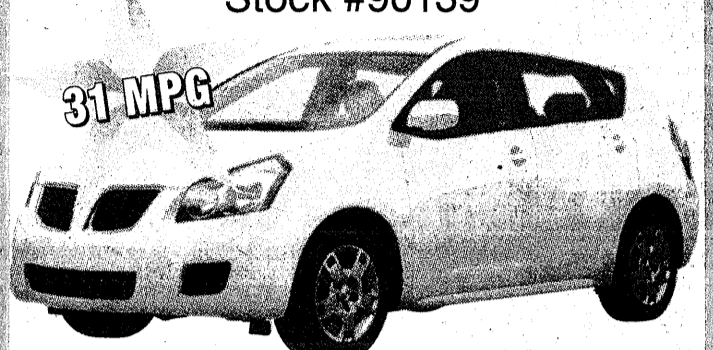
Stock #90124



37 MPG  
Was \$17,725 **OR-LEASE FOR**  
**NOW \$11,937\*** | **\$189\*** PER MO.  
36 MONTHS  
\$0 Down Payment

### 2009 PONTIAC VIBE

Stock #90139



31 MPG  
Was \$19,480 **OR-LEASE FOR**  
**NOW \$14,367\*** | **\$184\*** PER MO.  
36 MONTHS  
\$0 Down Payment

### 2009 PONTIAC G8

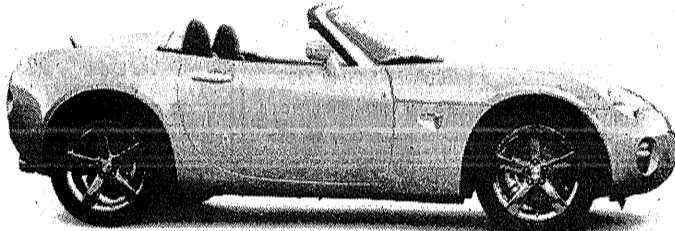
Stock #90177



Was \$28,875 **OR-LEASE FOR**  
**NOW \$22,296\*** | **\$338\*** PER MO.  
36 MONTHS  
\$0 Down Payment

### 2008 PONTIAC SOLSTICE CONVERTIBLE

Stock #6429



Was \$28,915 **OR-LEASE FOR**  
**NOW \$20,995\*** | **\$299\*** PER MO.  
48 MONTHS  
\$0 Down Payment

### 2009 BUICK LUCERNE CX

VIN #131058



Was \$35,385 **OR-LEASE FOR**  
**NOW \$20,212\*** | **\$319\*** PER MO.  
48 MONTHS  
\$0 Down Payment

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### 2009 BUICK LACROSSE CX

Stk. #93035



Was \$26,390 **OR-LEASE FOR**  
**NOW \$19,880\*** | **\$299\*** PER MO.  
60 MONTHS  
\$0 Down Payment

### 2009 BUICK ENGLAVE CX FWD

Stk. #93048



Was \$35,385 **OR-LEASE FOR**  
**NOW \$30,635\*** | **\$412\*** PER MO.  
48 MONTHS  
\$0 Down Payment

### 2008 GMC ENVOY

Stk. #95013



Was \$30,965 **OR-LEASE FOR**  
**NOW \$20,995\*** | **\$397\*** PER MO.  
39 MONTHS  
\$0 Down Payment

### 2009 GMC ACADIA

Stock #95004



Was \$32,675 **OR-LEASE FOR**  
**NOW \$24,953\*** | **\$395\*** PER MO.  
39 MONTHS  
\$0 Down Payment

### 2008 GMC YUKON DENALI

Stock #95113



Was \$56,710 **OR-LEASE FOR**  
**NOW \$38,920\*** | **\$599\*** PER MO.  
48 MONTHS  
\$0 Down Payment

### 2008 SIERRA

Stock #4431



Was \$20,010 **OR-LEASE FOR**  
**NOW \$10,995\*** | **\$206\*** PER MO.  
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\$0 Down Payment

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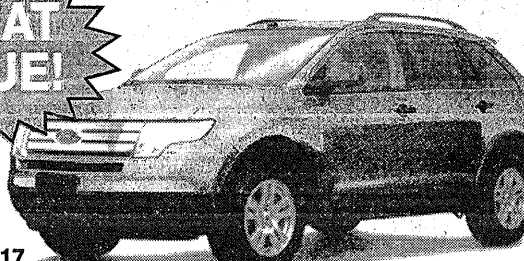
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**EXTREMELY ROOMY**



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**New 2009 Ford Focus 4 Door SE**

Lease for 36 Months **\$212\*\*** mo.

\$1121.85 DUE AT SIGNING

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\$2500 DUE AT SIGNING

**New 2009 Ford Taurus SE**

Lease for 36 Months **\$269\*\*** mo.

\$2500 DUE AT SIGNING

**SUN & SYNC VALUE PKG.**



Stock #90586

**New 2009 Ford Fusion SE**

Lease for 36 Months **\$182\*\*** mo.

\$2500 DUE AT SIGNING

**SUN & SYNC VALUE PKG.**

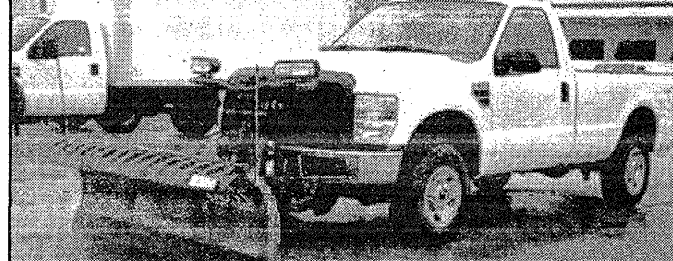


Stock #90770

**New 2009 Ford Escape XLT Fwd**

Lease for 36 Months **\$238\*\*** mo.

\$2500 DUE AT SIGNING



Stock #83347

**New 2008 Ford F-250 Plow Truck**

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Now Only **\$25,300\*\***

**\$750<sup>00</sup>\*\***  
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Stock #90009

**New 2009 Ford Flex SE Fwd**

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\$2426 DUE AT SIGNING

**STX DECOR PACKAGE**



Stock #90906

**New 2009 Ford F150 Supercab**

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72 Mo. with **\$0 DOWN**

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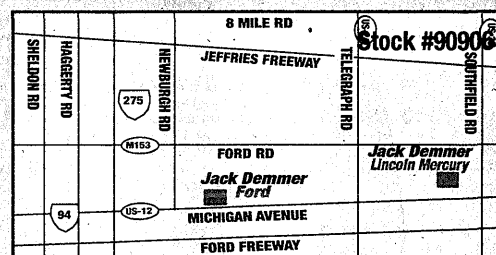
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# New Homes

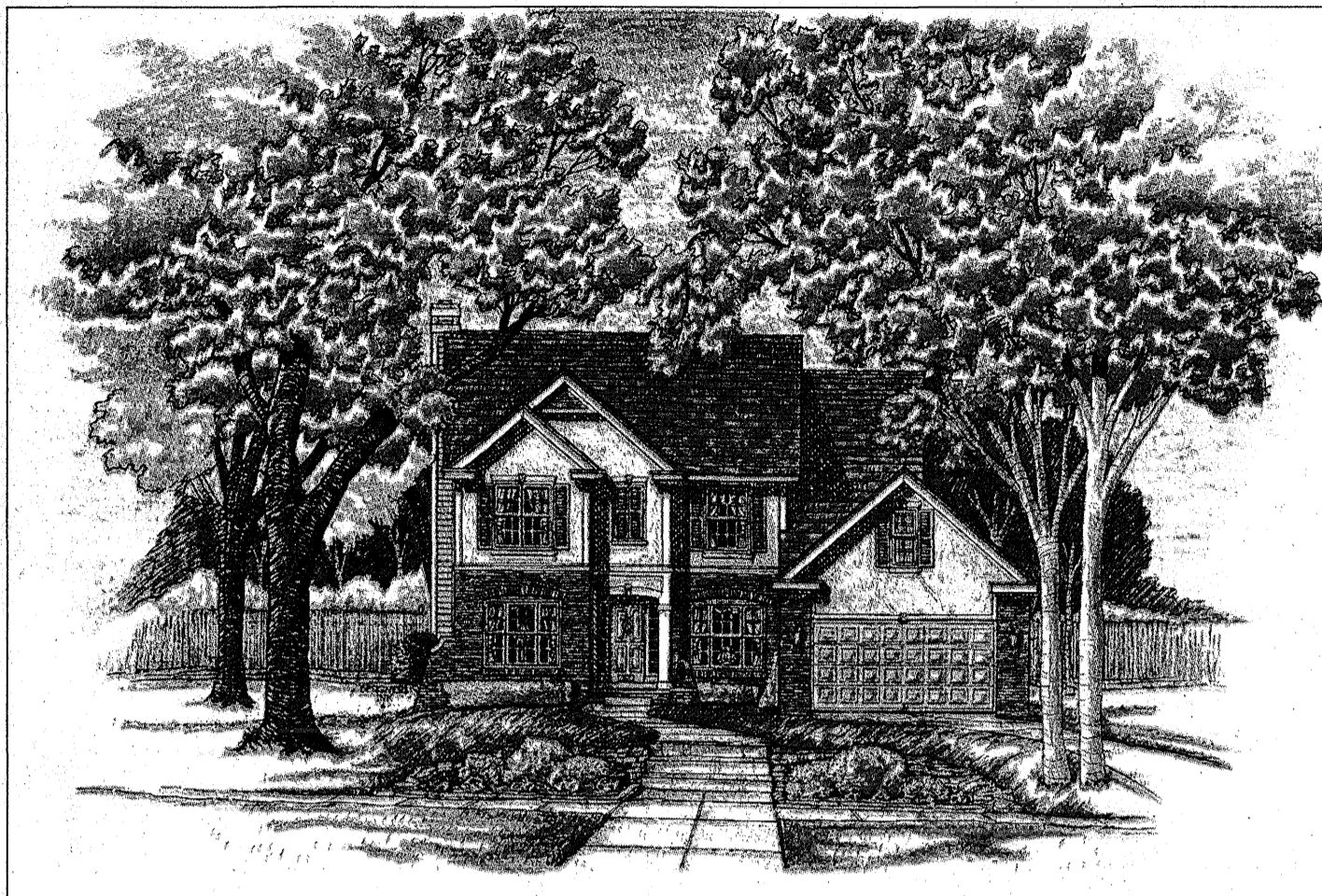


Sunday, December 14, 2008

The Observer &amp; Eccentric Newspapers

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

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## 2-story, 4-bedroom Gerard offers life of comfort to dwellers

The two-storied, multi-roofed Gerard (D4135) has 2,349 square feet of gracious living space, featuring four bedrooms and a very open floor plan. The home is compact and ideal for smaller lots. Large windows grace the façade of the Gerard and are accented with brick and shutters, giving a classical as well as a warm and cozy appeal.

A small covered porch provides protection for the entrance of the Gerard. Once inside, the home is open and spacious. The formal living room is on the left side of the entry. Windows facing the front yard bathe the room with light. To the right of the entry is the formal dining room with a built-in hutch on the right wall. French doors separate the dining room from the rest of the home.

The kitchen is a classic C-shape with a corner pantry cabinet, a double sink with a window overlooking the backyard, and a work island in the middle. Adjacent to the kitchen is the utility room with its own sink. Opposite the kitchen is a square room containing a half bath, linen closet, and a wet bar for the family room. The nook is open with a sliding door to the back deck.

The family room radiates the warm feeling of spaciousness with its fireplace on the left wall and its large windows facing the backyard on

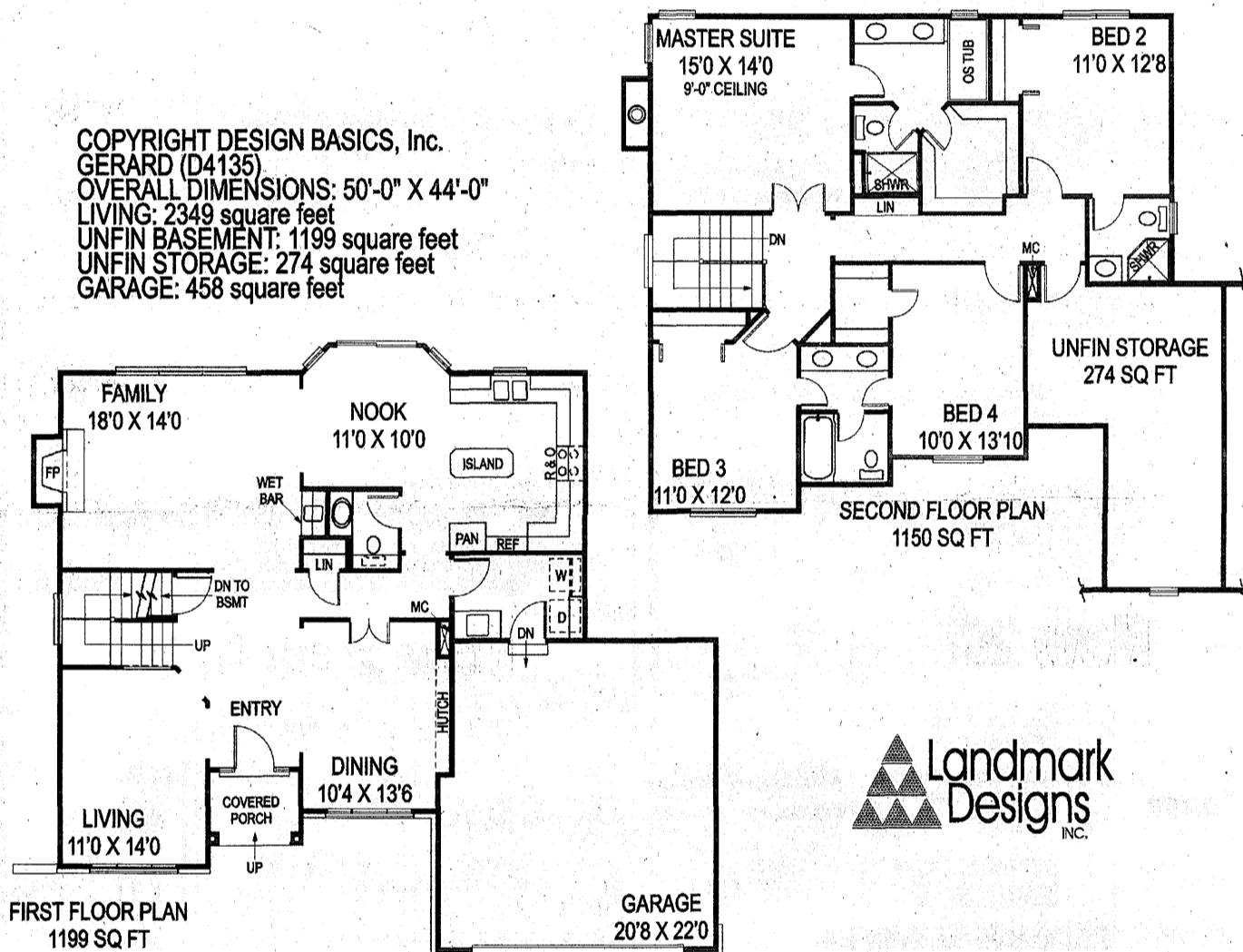
the back wall. Separating the family room from the formal living room is stairs to the 1,199 square foot unfinished basement and the second floor, which contains all the sleeping quarters.

The Gerard has four bedrooms. The master suite is in the left rear corner with a French door entry and corner windows. It also has a 9-foot ceiling. The master bath has "his and her" sinks, an oversized tub, a shower, and large corner walk-in closet.

Two of the other three bedrooms have wall closets. Bedrooms 3 and 4 share a common bathroom with a tub and dual sinks. Bedroom 4 has a corner walk-in closet. Bedroom 2 could be used as a guest suite as it has a private bath with a single sink and a corner shower. Adjacent to bedroom 4 is an unfinished 274 square foot storage area.

For a study plan of the GERARD (D4135), send \$15 to Landmark Designs, 33127 Saginaw Rd. E., Cottage Grove, OR 97424 or call (800) 562-1151. Be sure to specify plan name and number. Compact disks, with search functions are free of charge, to help you search our portfolio for your dream home (\$5 shipping and handling will apply). Or you may order or search online at www.ldiplans.com. Save 15 percent on construction plans using the code (LOE48) online, mailing, or calling (800) 562-1151.

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GERARD (D4135)  
OVERALL DIMENSIONS: 50'-0" X 44'-0"  
LIVING: 2349 square feet  
UNFIN BASEMENT: 1199 square feet  
UNFIN STORAGE: 274 square feet  
GARAGE: 458 square feet



Landmark  
Designs  
INC.

### BRIEFS

#### Real Estate Agents, Appraising & Staging

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

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

#### 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 for additional information.

## Fair housing efforts include Michigan Association of Realtors contributions

The National Association of Realtors commended the collaborative efforts of hundreds of fair housing advocates who participated in the National Commission on Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity.

Earlier this year, the commission conducted daylong hearings in Chicago, Los Angeles, Boston, Atlanta and Houston and collected information and heard testimony about the nature and extent of illegal housing discrimination. The commission also gathered data on the origin of housing discrimination, its connection with government policy and practice, and its effect on foreclosures and segregation in the community.

The commission was sponsored by The Leadership Conference on Civil Rights Education Fund, NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund, Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, and the National Fair Housing Alliance. Former HUD Secretaries Jack Kemp and Henry Cisneros chaired the commission. 2007 NAR President Pat V. Combs acted as a commissioner; a contribution by NAR helped support the commission's activities.

"I am proud to have served as a commissioner on the National Commission on Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity, representing America's largest professional association with 1.2 million Realtor members," said 2007 NAR President Pat V. Combs. "I'm most grateful for the support and collaboration of the hundreds of private and public housing advocates and

officials who participated in the hearings. While progress has been made in meeting the goals of the Fair Housing Act, more work needs to be done to increase awareness of fair housing laws, improve access to affordable housing, and promote inclusion and diversity in our communities - and that can only be done through effective cooperation and building upon the progress of the Commission."

At an event in Washington, D.C., Dec. 9 the commission released a final report, The Future of Fair Housing. The report is the result of the multicity hearings and addresses the nation's progress in meeting the Fair Housing Act's goals of ending housing discrimination and replacing patterns of racial segregation with healthy integrated communities.

"The broad theme of the commission's report is that a comprehensive approach is necessary to help end discrimination and ensure equal housing opportunity. This includes more collaboration between those enforcing fair housing laws, real estate practitioners, and educators - as well as offering additional training and education to practitioners and the public about fair housing law," said Combs.

NAR works closely with the federal government and other allies to build homeownership programs and offers its expanded fair housing education programs like At Home with Diversity for members, seeks out diverse membership and association leadership, and works to expand relationships with its real estate

diversity partners.

"Our Realtor members remain committed to America's policy of fair housing and NAR pledges to continue its work toward increasing education offered to real estate professionals as well as raising public awareness about fair housing laws and the issues surrounding discrimination," said Combs.

Realtors are bound by state and federal fair housing laws, as well as the Realtor Code of Ethics, which mandates that Realtors ensure that their clients and members of the public receive equal professional services at all times.

Many local and state Realtor associations have also implemented community programs to better educate their members on fair housing and the importance of inclusive housing practices. The Michigan Association of Realtors has successfully partnered with fair housing centers in Michigan to implement a voluntary and confidential self-testing program among real estate offices. The program has seen positive results and helped open the doors to additional fair housing training and development tools and made it easier for practitioners to better identify discriminatory practices.

"Fair housing is a complex issue and only through collaboration on education, reform, enforcement and creative solutions such as self-testing, can we achieve our shared goal of strong and inclusive communities," said Combs.

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# Sunday PUZZLE CORNER

Challenging fun for ALL ages

## CROSSWORD PUZZLER

### ACROSS

- 1 Hansoms
- 5 Sarcastic retort
- 8 Blunder
- 12 Almond-shaped
- 13 Ms. Lupino
- 14 Ship of myth
- 15 Hatcher or Garr
- 16 Seed container
- 17 Boldly attempt
- 18 News summary
- 20 Specks on a globe
- 21 Wrinkle-free
- 24 Come as a ghost
- 27 Pacino and Hirt
- 28 Crumple up
- 31 Pound on the door
- 32 Invite
- 33 Bleached-out
- 34 Shout
- 35 Colony member
- 36 Weird
- 37 Couch
- 39 Oil-bearing rock

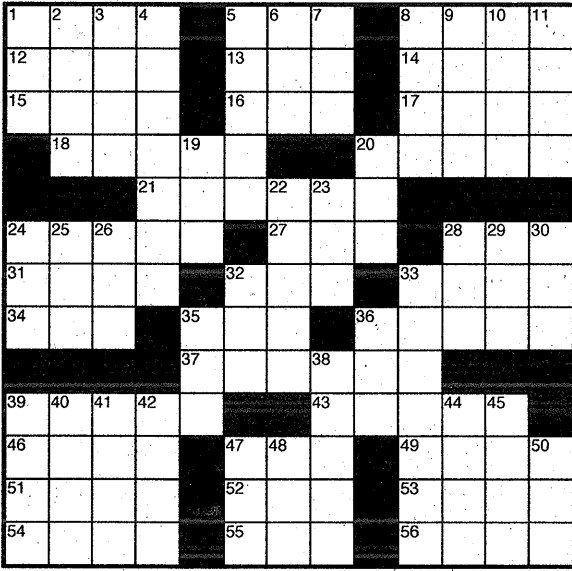
### DOWN

- 1 Collapsible bed
- 2 Declare
- 3 Like some necessities
- 4 Cutting thin
- 5 Zoo heavyweight
- 6 Shakespeare title word
- 7 Once owned
- 8 Traipses about
- 9 Grad-school exam
- 10 People devourer
- 11 Celts, to Romans
- 19 Sculpture or music
- 20 Badges and such
- 22 Bad-tempered
- 23 Broad-antlered animal
- 24 Cable network
- 25 Sigh of content
- 26 Famous numero
- 28 Series of battles
- 29 Ms. MacGraw
- 30 Access - Wallace-Stone
- 32 Collection of tales
- 33 Rode a bike
- 35 Summer drink
- 36 Cartoon shriek
- 38 Yielded
- 39 Crawled, perhaps
- 40 Go backpacking
- 41 Parroted
- 42 Not so expensive
- 44 Time long past
- 45 Quick drive
- 47 Pricing word
- 48 Impress
- 50 Salon request

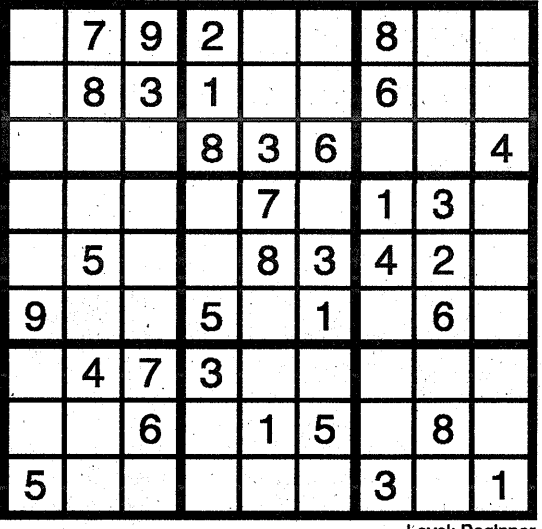
### Answer to Previous Puzzle

YUKS INTO MAL  
 OMIT VAIL ELI  
 WADED GREASED  
 SMUDGE USES  
 INKS EE SKY  
 ROI TIDIES KB  
 ARN HG NL SOU  
 NM BENGAL EAR  
 WRY UN FANG  
 ECHO LIELOW  
 BLOWOUT ERECT  
 BUS ALAI GEAR  
 SEE TURF EDDY

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## SUDOKU



### Fun By The Numbers

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

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!

## SEEK AND FIND

FIND THESE WORDS IN THE PUZZLE BELOW.

- AUTOGRAPH GIRAFFE PHOTOGRAPH
- CALF HALF POLYGRAPH
- DECAF LAUGH STAFF
- FLAGSTAFF PARAGRAPH TELEGRAPH

THE WORDS READ UP, DOWN AND ACROSS.

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

### CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE

### CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE

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

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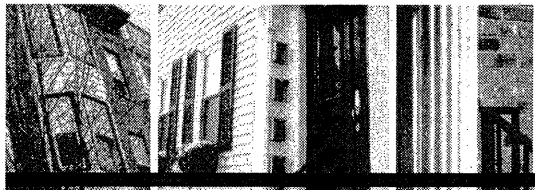
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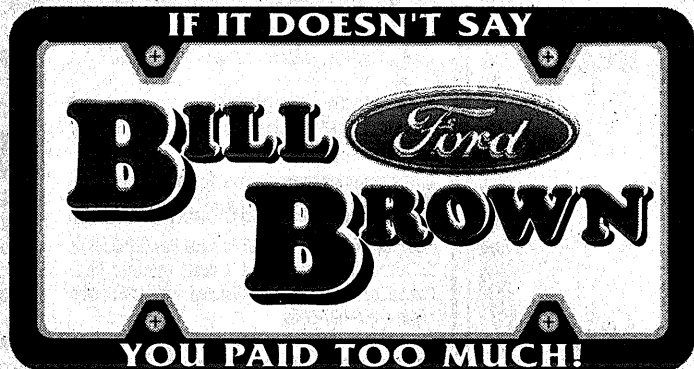
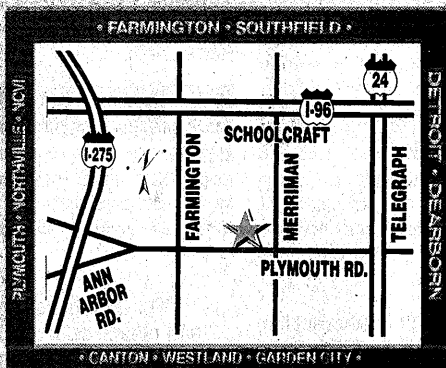
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