



'O little town of Bethlehem'
Inside today's newspaper

In these difficult times, we're still your local news source

Opinion, A9



Keeping Santa looking good for his big day

Hometownlife, C1



PLYMOUTH Observer

SUNDAY
December 21, 2008

75 cents

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Mother Nature provides the 'white' for Christmas

BY TONY BRUSCATO
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Plymouth postal worker Russ Scott almost had his mail delivery truck stuck in the snow while delivering a package - at his first stop along Main Street - during Friday's snowstorm. Certainly Scott had to be reciting the mailman's creed - "Neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night stays these couriers from the swift completion of their appointed rounds" - in pushing forward to deliver the remainder of his route. "It's not written anywhere, but we try to do that," Scott said with a chuckle. "Otherwise it just piles up. It's just like Newman (the postal worker on *Seinfeld*) says 'the mail never stops.'" The snow was a welcome sight for Lauren Hurley, her two boys and their golden retriever, Ellie, who took great pleasure retrieving an old tennis ball in the drifts at their Burroughs home. "I love the snow," said Hurley, who was almost done shoveling her driveway. "It's Christmasy and it's fun for them to play in. I don't mind the shoveling. Maybe in March we'll feel differently about it."

For Aidan, 9, it was fun to be out of school for the day.

"We can make snow forts," Aidan said. His brother, 7-year-old Ian, was just as excited. "I like it because you can make tunnels through the snow and you can jump in snow piles," he said. Snow plow driver Allen Martin of Echo Lawn Service in Canton Township said it would take him into the darkness to get all his businesses completely plowed. "At least twice, maybe more. It's going to be a long night," Martin said. "The timing of the storm was really bad." One might conclude the large amount of snow would keep potential customers from downtown Plymouth, which could be detrimental to merchants only days before Christmas. However, Tom Piotrowski, owner of Delta Diamond on Ann Arbor Trail, was happy to see the snow fall. "Most of the time we do better when we have heavy snow," said Piotrowski. "People will get into the festive move in town. They'll look at the decorated trees or get a coffee. They like the atmosphere in town with snow."

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Ann Kurtis of Livonia runs her usual five miles in the Plymouth Township area of Hines Park, in spite of the snow. "It's better than a treadmill," said Kurtis, who is married to famed local runner Doug Kurtis.

Donations still coming

BY TONY BRUSCATO
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Despite the tough economic times in Michigan, those who still have the means to help the less fortunate appear to be doing so.

The Plymouth Salvation Army Corps reports that with only a few days left before Christmas, the Red Kettle campaign is running some \$39,000 - about 47 percent - ahead of last year.

Major Jim Irvine said they are hopeful of attaining the \$235,000 goal.

"Whenever the economy is down, donations go up," Irvine said. "People see the kettles, and they have a sister or a brother or a relative who is struggling, and they can put a face and a name to the need."

"Every time they walk by a kettle, they drop something in," he said. "It might only be a dollar, it might only be some spare change, but it becomes a repetitive thing; whenever they pass a kettle, they put something in."

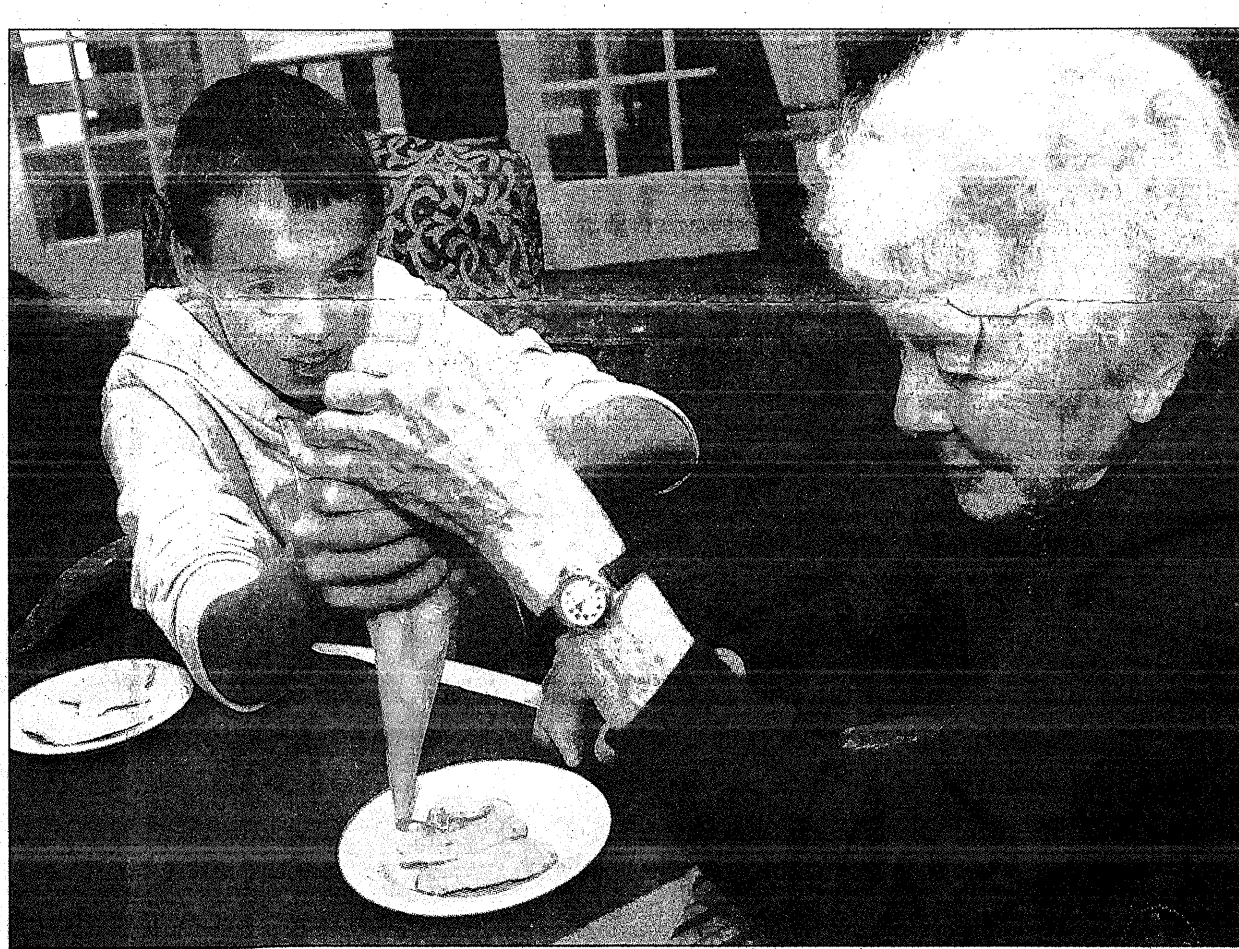
Penny Irwin, president of the Plymouth Goodfellows, said donations "came in pretty well."

"We were surprised at the generosity of people," said Irwin, who pointed out the Goodfellows assisted 91 families and 224 children. "We had a lot of people who called and adopted families. Some would also give gifts, which was also helpful. We didn't have to cut back this year, and that was good."

At the Plymouth Community United Way, this year's \$1.1 million campaign has been extended into the first quarter of 2009.

"Largely because of the economy and our major companies - Johnson Controls, Detroit Edison, Visteon and General Motors - have moved their United Way campaigns into January," said Marie Morrow, PCUW president. "There are concerns because a lot of companies are restructuring and downsizing, and that has a lot of impact. However, we found many others have increased the size of their campaign donations."

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TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Our Lady of Good Counsel eighth grader Jimmy Bowling of Plymouth helps Madeline Satwic, resident at Independence Village in Plymouth, with squeezing out the frosting to decorate her Christmas cookie. The students have visited the village twice now. Students also helped raise money for a 4-year-old Taylor girl afflicted with progeria.

Spreading some cheer

BY TONY BRUSCATO
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Seventh- and eighth-grade students at Our Lady of Good Counsel have been busy spreading holiday cheer.

Tuesday they visited with residents at Independence Village in Plymouth Township decorating cookies, singing holiday songs and giving gifts.

And, presented with a chance to help raise money for a 4-year-old Taylor girl with a rare disease, they didn't hesitate.

Students designed Christmas cards they sold at area stores, raising more than \$1,000 for Lindsay Ratcliffe who has progeria, a genetic defect that accelerates aging, which has affected

only 46 children worldwide. "Everybody was really excited about helping," said Veronica Zak, 12, a seventh-grader at OLGC. "It feels good even though we didn't know her, but now we know a lot about her."

After designing the cards, students formed an assembly line to make packs of 10 original cards and envelopes, which were being sold at Gabriela's and The Haven in downtown Plymouth, as well as Ann Tailoring - owned by the mother of 12-year-old Cindy Ding of Canton.

"She sold them all," said Ding, proudly, of her mother's allotment.

Terry Zimmerman of Canton is the seventh-grade teacher who read about Lindsay this past summer. She

enlisted the help of her students and those of eighth-grade teacher Nancy Carapellotti, whose husband owns a printing company and helped defray the cost.

"We need to teach children to look outside themselves, appreciate what they have but also do for others," said Zimmerman. "They jumped on board."

Michael Whalen, 12, of Canton said the project was worthwhile.

"Because all the money goes to her and she can do whatever she wants with it," Michael said. "I don't think she gets to go a lot of places, so I hope she goes somewhere fun ... or uses the money to help with her disease."

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Township slices full-time hours

Union: Board didn't have the authority

BY BRAD KADRICH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The Plymouth Township Board of Trustees voted Tuesday to slice the hours - and by extension the benefits package - of seven union workers to save some \$150,000, a move trustees who voted in favor of the measure say was necessary to avoid even deeper cuts down the road.

But members of the township's local unit of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, the union most affected by the changes approved Tuesday, don't think township officials have the authority to make the changes.

However, apparently buoyed by attorney opinions rendered in a closed session prior to Tuesday's meeting, the board voted 4-3 to approve the slicing of seven full-time AFSCME jobs to part-time. Six of the jobs were cut from 37.5 hours to 30 hours per week; a seventh, the full-time park ranger, was cut from 40 to 30 hours.

The other cuts came from around the township, including the clerk's department, public works and the police department. An additional job, the admin-

Please see **CUTS, A4**

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Coming Thursday in filter



Low budget or big budget - we have the New Year's Eve events for you. Check them in the next issue of Filter on Christmas day.

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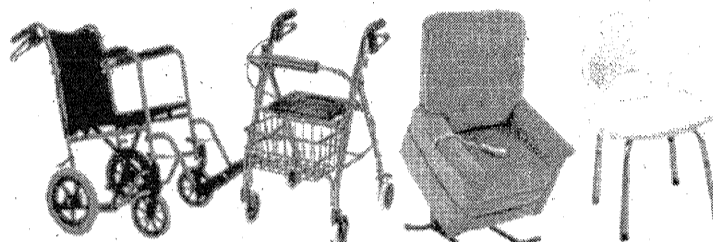
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Grocery mag tabs Hiller's as 1 of best

At first, they were impressed with the new store in Union Lake. Upon further investigation, Richard Turcsik and his team of industry experts at Grocery Headquarters Magazine realized that Hiller's Markets is an outstanding American company with the values, dedication and quality that all grocers should exemplify.

That's why Hiller's Markets will be featured on the cover of the January 2009 issue of Grocery Headquarters Magazine as that publication's Independent Retailer of the Year.

"It's more than a beautiful new store," says Turcsik. "Hiller's is an interesting company. Especially given the state of the economy in Michigan, the fact that Jim Hiller is building his customer base and meeting the needs of consumers is extraordinary."

In addition to the new Union Lake store, Hiller's has a store at 5 Mile and Haggerty.

"I'm just a grocery man trying to do well and do good at the same time," says CEO Jim Hiller, whose family company has served metro Detroit's grocery needs for more than 65 years. "I couldn't live with myself if my stores weren't clean, cutting-edge and complete in offering the best quality, service and selection around. Why settle for anything less than the best? Even in tough economic times, I believe a business must represent the core values of the people behind it if it is to succeed."

Nationally known as a leader in the food business, Hiller's maintains an exceptionally high level of quality, selection and service in every department. Founded in 1941, Hiller's has long been dedicated to meeting the needs of specific food audiences, including gluten-

free, kosher, vegan, organic, gourmet and allergy-sensitive as well as unparalleled British and Japanese food sections. The company is committed to supporting the communities around its stores. In collaboration with producers and manufacturers, Hiller's is spearheading an economic recovery.

Last month, Hiller's launched a green tag program which slashed prices on thousands of everyday items by 10-60 percent - without compromising its high standards. Departmental buyers can trace the path of every food item from origin to store shelf. Hand-selected meats are ground fresh daily, and all fish at Hiller's was raised humanely in pristine waters. Hiller's produce is always grown naturally and safely without fear of bacteria run-off. It is the last store perpetuating the art of grocery buying, with relationships between buyers and producers driving a humane trade.

"I have always been proud of my company, which is built on the strength of relationships with loyal customers and manufacturers," says Jim Hiller. "In today's tough economic climate, I am even more proud to be a Michigan business owner dedicated to rebuilding our economy."

Rose Parade honor

Leah Girard, a senior at Canton High School and three-year member of the Plymouth Canton Marching Band, has been selected by Bands of America for the national Honor Band in the 2009 Tournament of Roses Parade.

Girard was selected from among hundreds of applicants across the nation for membership in this prestigious honors



Girard

ensemble. Girard, the daughter of Steve and Francine Girard, performed for band directors Marc Whitlock and Martin Montoya and color guard section director Jennifer Leseth. She has studied dance for 14 years at the Dancin' Feet Studio of Canton, under the direction of Cheryl Reitz.

The BOA Honor Band is a 300-piece national ensemble with winds, percussion and a flag and dance team. George N. Parks, Director of the University of Massachusetts Minuteman Marching Band, and an All-Star staff, will direct the band. Bands of America is a program of Music for All, one of the nation's largest and most influential organizations in support of active music-making.

Girard, a dance team member, will spend a week in southern California, where she will have rehearsals, performances at the Tournament of Roses Bandfest and Disneyland, special activities and a featured appearance in the world-famous parade. The Tournament of Roses Parade, "America's New Year's Celebration," will kick off at 8 a.m. New Year's Day.

"To be selected for this unique opportunity is a once-in-a-lifetime experience for these students," says Scott McCormick, Bands of America President and CEO. "The Tournament of Roses Parade is one of our country's national pageantry treasures and the 2009 Honor Band members will be ambassadors of America's bands and of their states and communities."

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CUTS

FROM PAGE A1

istrative assistant to supervisor Richard Reaume, was eliminated Wednesday.

Reaume, treasurer Ron Edwards and trustees Kay Arnold and Bob Doroshewitz voted in favor of the cuts. Clerk Joe Bridgman and trustees Michael Kelly and Steven Mann voted against them.

Doroshewitz said the cuts were necessary to avoid facing a budget deficit that could rise to \$1.2 million in two years.

"It's tough times, we've got some very difficult financial goals we need to meet," said Doroshewitz, who admitted other options were discussed but wouldn't elaborate because they were talked about in closed session. "Without taking any action we're looking at a \$1.2 million deficit two years from now. If we were to wait, we'd most likely be put in a position in the future where we'd have to take even more drastic action."

"We're really trying to shore it up now," Doroshewitz added. "The longer we wait, the more Draconian the actions might be."

Union members believe they've given enough. The union, which had 36 members when they ratified their first contract in 2001, was down to 25 members before Tuesday's action. While the part-timers are still represented, union leaders vow to fight the cuts.

"We'll do everything we can to stop it," local president Carol Pyykinen said. "We're already doing more with less. The level

of service is going to plummet."

Muddying the waters is an upcoming vote the local is scheduled to take Jan. 8 to decide whether to stick with AFSCME or switch to the clerical wing of the Police Officers Association of Michigan. Township officials say the cuts weren't discussed with union leadership because of a state law that prohibits them from talking to unions within 30 days of any scheduled vote.

The issue could actually end up in court. "The Plymouth Township Board exceeded its legal authority by voting to reduce the regularly scheduled working hours of seven township employees represented by AFSCME," said Albert Garrett, president of Michigan Council 25 AFSCME. "At any time, such a proposal would be subject to bargaining between the employer and the Union, and could not be implemented unilaterally by the employer."

"However, at this time a representation election under the Michigan Public Employment Relations Act has been scheduled for this bargaining unit in January 2009, and the law requires that wages, hours and conditions of employment remain frozen until after that election has been conducted," Garrett added. "We are consulting our legal counsel to determine the most appropriate course of action to halt these illegal actions by the Plymouth Township Board and to protect the legal rights of these seven AFSCME members."

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Music man

Library staffer leads a musical life

BY BRAD KADRICH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

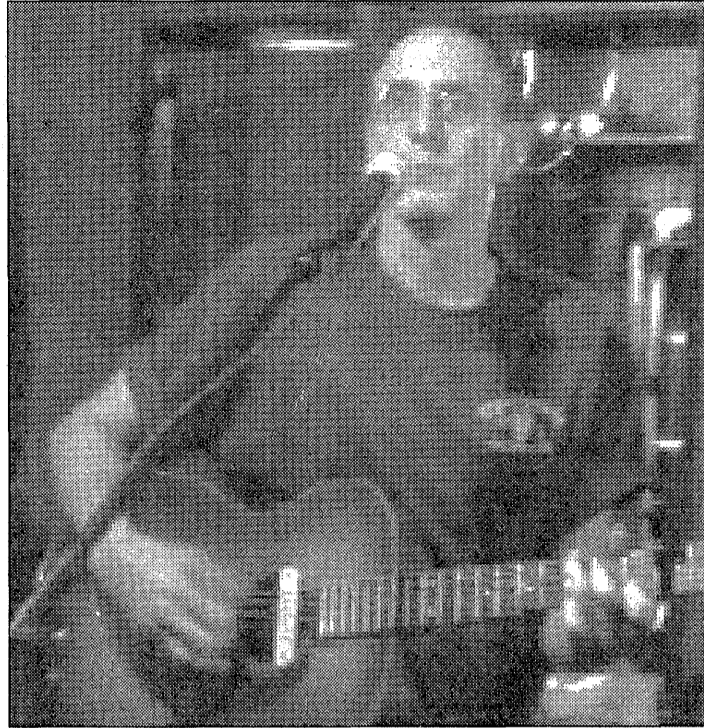
When Leo Papa was a child, his Italian parents wanted him to learn to play an instrument, so they got him an accordion.

Papa long ago left the accordion behind (although he still has it), but the love of music that came with it still reaches all the way down to his soul. It's what convinced him to start a production company, "Cybersong," while he lived in Texas (he still maintains the Web site at www.cybersong.com) and it's what sustains him now.

"My mother had a great love of music," said Papa, also known in the music world as Levon Bus. "There was such an era of creativity in the late 1960s and early 1970s in music and pop culture. I got caught up in the folk music scene. Art is something that really sustains people. It enriches us."

It's been sustaining him now for years. Papa, who grew up in Allen Park and got a degree in education from Eastern Michigan University, spent a few years teaching in Wisconsin. From there he migrated to Texas, where he attended library school.

While he lived in Michigan, he said, he "learned a lot" about folk music, blues and even country music. Texas, he said, was an



Leo Papa, a department head for technology at the Canton Public Library, has built a career as a music producer and occasionally gets out to play on his own.

"eye-opening experience."

"Texas has its own brand of sort of folk and blues, with some Cajun music mixed in," said Papa, now the department head for technology programs at the Canton Public Library. "I met a lot of fine musicians living in Texas."

It's also where Papa started "Cybersong," a home-based

recording business focused on using the Internet to blend technology and music, a Web site that helped him emphasize the digital recording of acoustic music.

Papa recorded a few artists he says have done pretty well, including Russell Clepper, whose first CD was chosen as one of the top 12 of the year by a Texas music Web site.

But after more than 20 years in Texas, Papa returned to Michigan, where he hooked up with some Irish musicians, including one of his favorites, Terry Murphy, with whom Papa frequently plays (including gigs Tuesday and Friday at Dick O'Dow's in Birmingham). In fact, Papa says, he's been playing with Murphy "a lot," and has helped produce two CDs with him, but wants to make sure to draw the line of distinction between himself and Murphy. "Terry is one of the premier true, traditional Irish folk musicians in the area," said Papa, who noted Murphy plays with two bands - The Goats and a trio called The Bowzies. "He is

a student and historian of Celtic music, he's a great guitar player, great singer, great performer. Terry is involved in multiple bands and is a professional musician. I just go out and play."

Papa is just being modest, according to his biggest fan, co-worker Kathie Gladden, who also works at the Canton Public Library.

"First off, he's a pretty good guitar player," Gladden said of Papa, who has worked at the library five years. "He really feels his music; he even writes some of his own songs. Also, he's my friend and I respect both his and Terry's ability to get up in front of a group of strangers and make music, especially since I can't even read music or talk in front of strangers."

"I always enjoy myself when I see them play, because they create an atmosphere where you can just kick back and trust that what they are going to lay down is going to be quality stuff."

Papa is currently working on what he lovingly calls his "life-long project," a CD of his own that was supposed to be titled "Watershed," until country singer kd Lang came out with an album of that name. The CD is a mix of different types of American folk, blues and country, all original songs either Papa has written or were written by songwriter friends in Texas.

Papa, a retired Texas educator, is also hoping to translate what he knows about recording and music into a kids' program at the library dealing with music and technology.

"I'd love to be able to connect with kids who have an interest in music," Papa said. "I'd like to get a little more involved teaching kids again."

Still and all, while music is a big part of Papa's life, it isn't the only - or even the most important - part. It's a portion of his life he likes to keep in perspective.

"It is for me a secondary preoccupation," Papa said. "I get out (to play) as much as I can when I have time, and I've had the good fortune of playing with some really good musicians. (But) My job and my family come first. Over the course of 30 years, I've been able to do some great things. It has enriched my life, but it's not the sole focus."

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CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
THURSDAY, JANUARY 8, 2009
6:00 P.M.

PLEASE NOTE that the Zoning Board of Appeals will hold its Regular Meeting on Thursday, January 8, 2009 commencing at 6:00 p.m., to consider:

- Application 1463, 13320 Karl DR: The applicant is requesting a variance in required distance between residential dwelling units; required distance is 16 feet, proposed distance is 12.7 feet, variance requested is 3.3 feet.

The meeting will be held at Plymouth Township Hall, 9955 N. Haggerty Road in the Town Hall Meeting Room.

For further information contact Plymouth Township Building Department 734 354-3210.

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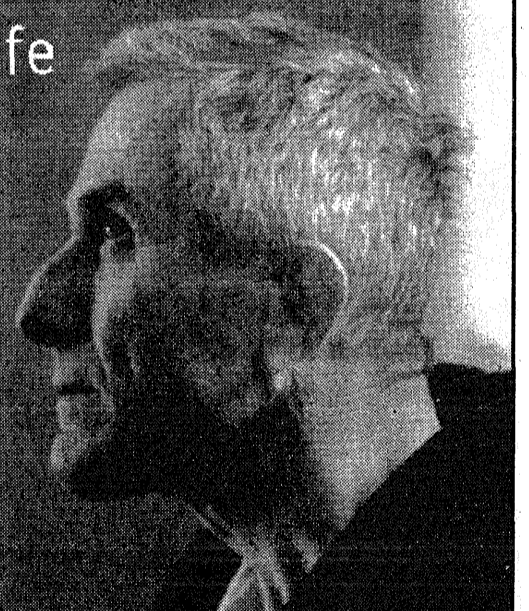
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PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Snow-blowers were out in full force as locals went about the business of cleaning sidewalks of more than six inches of snow.

A blast of winter

Snow no reason for locals not to go about business

Ann Kurtis of Livonia generally runs about five miles a day.

When Mother Nature dropped some 6-10 inches of snow on the area Friday morning, Kurtis refused to be deterred and got into her gear anyway.

"It's better than a treadmill," said Kurtis, who is married to famed local runner Doug Kurtis.

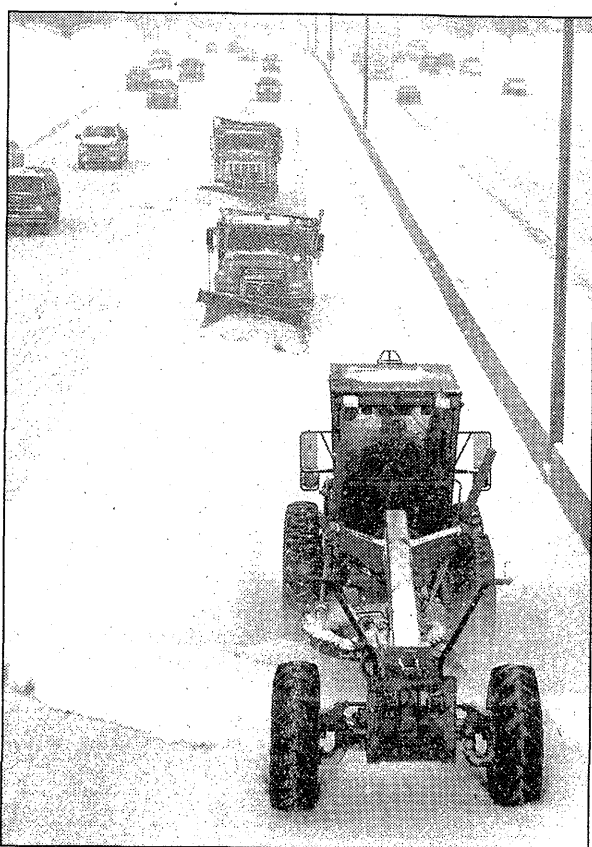
The storm, the biggest the area has seen this season, dumped less snow than the 10-12 inches originally expected, but still brought its share of problems (shoveling, digging cars out) and pleasure (sledding, day off from school).

Lauren Hurley enjoyed the latter, getting in some winter fun with her two boys and golden retriever, Ellie.

"I love the snow," said Hurley, who was almost done shoveling her driveway. "It's Christmassy and it's fun for them to play in. I don't mind the shoveling. Maybe in March we'll feel differently about it."

Bill Peck figured he'd gotten away from the white stuff when he moved to sunny Englewood, Fla. But he couldn't escape the snow upon his return to the area to visit his mother, Margaret Peck, a resident at Plymouth's Tonquish Creek Manor.

"I drove right into it," said Peck.



County crews had heavy equipment out on I-96 trying to keep the roads clear of snow and ice.



Three year old Jared Olson-Baker slides down a big pile of snow on Penniman Avenue. He is out enjoying the weather with brother Eric Olson-Baker, and his aunt, Michelle Olson.



Bill Peck came up from warm Englewood, Fla., to visit his mom, Margaret Peck, who resides at Tonquish Creek Manor in Plymouth.

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Pre-planning a funeral may save trouble for loved ones

Dear Rick: My wife and I are in our early 70s and it seems we've been attending too many funerals of late. Friends told us they have pre-planned and pre-paid their funerals. It seems like a smart thing to do. Do you recommend it?



Money Matters

Rick Bloom

There are two separate issues that need to be addressed. First, is whether you pre-plan your funeral. Second is whether you pre-pay?

Most Americans don't plan their funerals, thus leaving it to loved ones to handle. Unfortunately, family and friends are in a very vulnerable position after a loved one's death. The result is many people spend too much money on funerals. They do not have the energy or

If you're thinking about pre-planning a funeral, some of the issues to consider are whether you will be buried or cremated and what type of casket you desire. A casket is where individuals can save a substantial amount of money. Most people purchase caskets directly through a funeral home where, in many cases, prices are artificially inflated. Caskets are high-profit items for funeral homes and it is not unheard of for them to mark up caskets 500 percent or more. Some funeral homes may tell you that you must purchase the casket through them, however, that is not the law.

mindset to shop around, nor do they want to give the funeral director the impression that they are cheap. In addition, when you're grieving over the

loss of a loved one it is hard to think dollars and cents. That is why it makes sense to pre-plan a funeral.

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where individuals can save a substantial amount of money. Most people purchase caskets directly through a funeral home where, in many cases, prices are artificially inflated. Caskets are high-profit items for funeral homes and it is not unheard of for them to mark up caskets 500 percent or more. Some funeral homes may tell you that you must purchase the casket through them, however, that is not the law. Over 20 years ago, the Federal Trade Commission issued a ruling that required funeral homes to accept caskets other than their own. The ruling also required funeral homes to itemize charges.

Pre-planning a funeral can save your loved ones aggravation and a substantial amount of money at a time when they can least afford it. I believe it makes sense to pre-plan a funeral. However, pre-planning is different than pre-paying.

When it comes to pre-paying a funeral, issues to consider are what happens if you no longer live in the area, the funeral home goes out of business, or you just change your mind regarding the funeral. If you decide to pre-pay your funeral check with the funeral home in regard to these issues.

Death is a topic that no one likes to talk about. However, it is a fact of life and therefore we should not ignore problems that may arise when we are no longer here. That includes what to do with your funeral and have a good and current estate plan.

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

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Women To Work boosts job search

The next Women To Work Program presented by JVS starts with an information meeting on Thursday, Jan. 22, 2009, at the Southfield office from 9-11 a.m. The program starts on Tuesday, Jan. 27, and continues for five weeks, on Tuesdays and Thursdays, ending on Feb. 26. Hours are from 9 a.m. to noon.

"I've gotten such a good response," said Judy Richmond, employment specialist/Women To Work coordinator, of past *Observer & Eccentric* coverage. She often gets her best candidates from the *O&E*, including the Livonia and Plymouth areas. Charter One Bank supports the program.

"We assist women who are interested in entering or re-entering the job market," Richmond said of the program, also available to men. Some participants have been out of the paid workforce, often for family responsibilities which can include caring for older parents.

"It's for people who are able to begin a job immediately and can commit to that schedule of Tuesdays and Thursdays," Richmond also meets with participants individually during the program.

For additional information on Women To Work, contact Judy Richmond at JVS, (248) 233-4232.

- By Julie Brown

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

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Commission fails to override Ficano's veto on parks money

BY KURT KUBAN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The Wayne County Commission met Thursday for the last time this year, and failed to come up with enough votes to override Robert Ficano's veto of a parks funding ordinance that would have sent money back to local communities for local parks initiatives.

Last week the county executive vetoed the commission's ordinance to distribute 25 percent of what each community contributes to the county's parks millage. While some of the ordinance's supporters vowed they would have the 10 votes to override Ficano's veto on Thursday, the ordinance was sent back to the commission's Ways & Means Committee for further deliberation.

Alan Helmkamp, an assistant to the county executive, said the commission made the right decision because the ordinance had legal problems and would have resulted in some major cuts to the parks department, which he said has improved dramatically as a result of the millage.

"The concerns the county executive expressed about the legality and the policy problems obviously resonated with the commission," Helmkamp said. "By sending this back to committee was a way to avoid losing on the override vote."

The parks millage was initially passed by Wayne County voters in 1996, and involves a levy of .25 mills, generating approximately \$12.7 million per year. The millage was renewed in 2000 and again in 2005. It

expires at the end of 2010. Under provisions stated in the ordinance, each Wayne County municipality that contributes to the millage will receive 25 percent of the funds to improve parks and related facilities within the municipality. The other 75 percent will be allocated for improvement and operations at Hines Park, Elizabeth Park and other county owned parks facilities.

Commissioner Kevin McNamara (D-Canton), who is one of the sponsors of the ordinance, said the vote was not taken Thursday because Commissioner Ronaele Bowman (D-Westland) failed to show up at the meeting. She had voted for it previously.

Despite the fact that there is a new commission coming in next month, McNamara said there is still the possibility that the ordinance could emerge from the committee and be voted on sometime in January.

"From what I understand, we have 45 days from the day the executive vetoed the measure (Dec. 12)," he said.

"I'm very disappointed. I think it's the right time for this ordinance. It's good policy, and the right thing to do. As I've said, the only problem with expanding our parks system has been trying to maintain it. We should give this money back to local communities, and let them maintain their parks," McNamara said.

Helmkamp said Ficano recognizes the plight of local communities in these times, and he is committed to working with them and explore ways to partner on recreation projects.

"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

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.

Plymouth Community Arts Council Winter/Spring 2009 Schedule

PCAC offerings

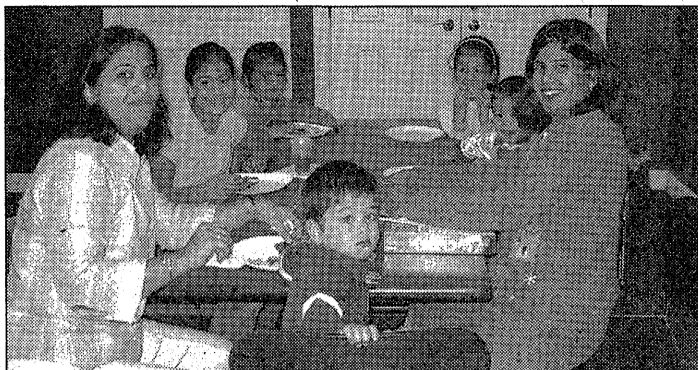
The Plymouth Community Arts Council's Winter/Spring Session starts in January.

The PCAC is bringing back its camp program for children ages 5-12. The mid-winter camp runs Feb. 23-27, the spring break camp is April 13-17, and the PCAC offers snow-day camps when Plymouth-Canton school officials call a snow day due to inclement weather. All camps run 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The PCAC offers Girl Scout programs, with workshops for badges including ceramics and clay, theatre, Her Story and colors and shapes.

There are drop-in art classes with Pam Grossman. The drawing-based class takes place Mondays and Wednesdays, while the youth (ages 6-19) classes are offered Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Pottery A-Z with Jeff Burda

AROUND PLYMOUTH



Game on at the library

The Plymouth District Library will host a couple of game nights over the winter break. Family Game Night takes place 6-8 p.m. Monday, Dec. 29 for kids ages 5-12 and their families. The library will provide the board games, pizza and pop at no charge. Registration is required for this free event; call (734) 453-0750, Ext. 5. A Teen Family Game Day takes place noon to 2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 3. Teens and their families will also enjoy pizza and board games, video games and fun for the entire family. No charge for this event, though registration is required (734) 453-0750, Ext. 4.

is offered in six-week sessions for children ages 6-12, on Saturdays Jan. 24-Feb. 28, March 7-April 11, April 25-May 30.

All camps and classes are held at the Joanne Winkleman Hulce Center for the Arts, 774 N. Sheldon in Plymouth. To register for these programs stop in at the PCAC or call (734) 416-4278. More information on all programs is available at the PCAC Web site, www.plymoutharts.com

New Morning options

New Morning School is accepting applications for several current openings in their successful early childhood program. Students are eligible to begin classes in January 2009. There is one spot available in

the Monday-Wednesday morning preschool program, as well as one spot in the Tuesday-Thursday morning program.

New Morning School also announced they have afternoon or full-day kindergarten spaces available. Plymouth-Canton bus service can be arranged.

New Morning School is a state-certified, non-sectarian, non-profit school for students in preschool through grade eight. To find out more, call (734) 420-3331 or visit the school's Web site at www.newmorningschool.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:

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/classof2009/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/classof2009/senior-party09.htm>

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

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First shows on Christmas Day will start after 3pm.

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WED 11:45, 2:10, 4:30
THE TALE OF DESPERAUX (G) FRI-TUE 11:50, 2:00, 4:10, 6:45, 9:00 FRI/SAT LS 11:10
WED 11:50, 2:00, 4:10
THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL (PG-13) FRI-TUE 12:00, 2:20, 4:40, 7:00, 9:20 FRI/SAT LS 11:40
WED 12:00, 2:20, 4:40
FOUR CHRISTMASSES (PG-13) FRI-TUE 11:20, 1:25, 3:30, 5:35 FRI/SAT LS 11:50
WED 11:20, 1:25, 3:30, 5:35
AUSTRALIA (PG-13) FRI-TUE 6:25, 9:50
TWILIGHT (PG-13) FRI-TUE 11:00, 1:40, 4:20, 6:55, 9:40
WED 11:00, 1:40, 4:20
BOLT DISNEY DIGITAL 3D (PG) FRI-TUE 12:30, 2:45, 5:00, 7:15, 9:25 FRI/SAT LS 11:35
WED 12:30, 2:45, 5:00
MADAGASCAR: ESCAPE 2 AFRICA (PG) FRI, SUN-WED 11:15, 1:30, 3:45

WAYNE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICES NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

In accordance with the provisions of Section 18, chapter IV, Act 283 of the Public Acts of 1909, as amended, seven or more freeholders have Petitioned the County of Wayne to absolutely abandon and discontinue:

All of that portion of the alley, 20 feet wide, as dedicated to the use of the public, abutting lots 821 through 852 and the Northerly portion of Lot 822, North of the Easterly extension of the South line of Lot 746 along the East line of said alley, also that portion abutting Lots 732 through 746 along the West line of said alley, inclusive, in MCINTYRE GARDENS SUBDIVISION NO. 1, lying South of Crescent Ave. (60 feet wide) and West of Morton-Taylor Rd., being a part of the SE 1/4 of Sec. 15, T2 S., R.8 E., Canton Twp, Wayne Co., Michigan, recorded in Liber 61 of Plats on Page 74, Wayne County Records.

Therefore, it has been decided a Hearing be held on **WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 04, 2009 at 2:30 p.m.**, at Wayne County Department of Public Services, 415 Clifford Street, 3rd Floor, Detroit, Michigan 48226, and that a Hearing Examiner of the County shall hold said hearing and obtain all necessary facts and information concerning the advisability of either granting or denying said Petition, and shall report all findings of fact to the Board of Wayne County Commissioners.

True copies of this notice are to be served, posted and published in accordance with the provisions of said Act No. 283 of 1909, as amended.

WAYNE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICES
Real Estate, 3rd Floor
Attention: Sandra M. Martin
415 Clifford Street
Detroit, Michigan 48226
313.224.7772

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS AGENDA JANUARY 8, 2009

Notice is hereby given that there will be a meeting of the Zoning Board of Appeals **THURSDAY, JANUARY 8, 2009 at 7:00 PM.** The meeting will be held in the Board Room at the Township Administration Building located at 1150 S. Canton Center Road, Canton, MI 48188. The following Agenda will be discussed:

Pledge of Allegiance to the flag

Roll Call: Randy Blaylock, Jim Cisek, Craig Engel, Steve Johnson, Vicki Wely
Alternate: Dawn Zuber

Acceptance of Agenda

1. Don Conger, 1547 Walnut Ridge Circle, Canton, MI 48187, for residential property located at same address, east side of Lilley Road between Saltz and Ford Roads, appealing Buildings and Building Regulations Article V, Section 78-128(a), required fence permit.
Zone R-5 Parcel 053 04 0113 000 (Building)

2. Mark Mosed, 13506 Helen Street, Detroit, MI 48212, for commercial property located at 3933 Lotz Road (Super 8 Motel), east side of Lotz Road between Michigan and Van Born Roads, appealing Sign Ordinance Article 6A.00, Section 6A.06 nonconforming signs.
Zone LI-2 Parcel 141 99 0027 715 (Building)

3. JFK Investment Company L. L. C., 43252 Woodward Avenue, Suite 210, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302, for commercial property located at 42595 Ford Road (buybuy BABY), south side of Ford Road between Lilley and Morrison Roads, appealing Sign Ordinances Article 6A.00,
Section 6A.09.17 blade under-canopy signs, Article 6A.00, Section 6A.17 wall sign area scale, and Article 6A.00, Section 6A.25, legibility and design requirements.
Zone C-2 Parcel 054 99 0001 701 (Building)

Election of Officers for 2009

Approval of the December 11, 2008 Minutes

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

Publish December 21, 2008

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

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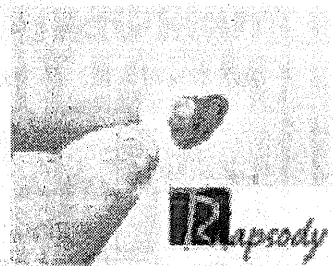


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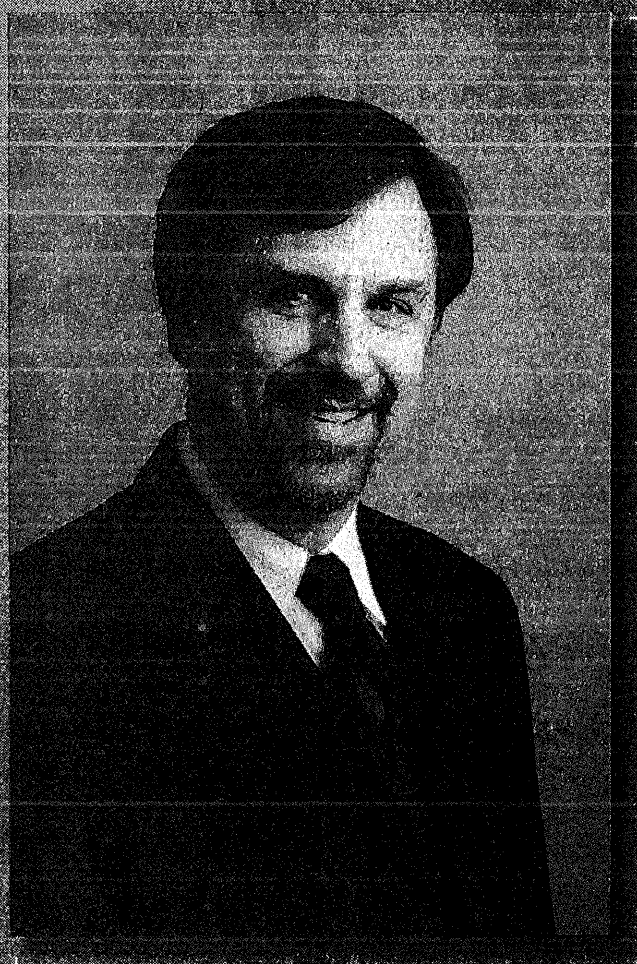
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Expand your horizons in the new year

The new year is a good time to expand your horizons. Elizabeth LaManna has grown musically since resolving to join the BeckRidge Chorale in 2006. The elementary school teacher was among the board of directors who met Tuesday night at the Plymouth District Library to discuss their spring concert.



Linda Chomin

The BeckRidge Chorale is looking to add new voices for a program of love songs April 25-26, at Northville High School.

This is the 35th anniversary of the nonprofit formerly known as the Plymouth Community Chorus. The name was changed two years ago to reflect the membership which hails from Canton to Fenton, Rochester, Allen Park, Walled Lake, and Plymouth.

"I hadn't sung since high school when a friend told me they had been to the Christmas concert," said LaManna of Northville. "I've been here ever since."

The chorale rehearses from 7:30-9:30 p.m., Tuesdays beginning Jan. 13, at First United Methodist Church on North Territorial, between Beck and Ridge, in Plymouth. For more information, visit www.beckridgechorale.org or call (734) 416-9885.

The year kicks off with a Jan. 6 meeting of the Vision Team which director Michael Gross formed as a way to plan for the future. The Canton resident took over as leader 30 years ago after reading an article in the *Observer Newspaper*.

"I asked them to help me think differently and get the chorale to the next level," said Gross, who wants to form a separate non-audition group of singers. They novices would rehearse and perform for two years before joining the BeckRidge Chorale.

"It's a learning process," said Gross. "I want everybody to sing."

The board of directors and Gross already encourage high school and college students by offering \$1,000 scholarships if they rehearse and perform with BeckRidge for an entire season. Right now they're only able to support three or four young singers but have dreams of inspiring as many as 16. When Gross wanted to go to college to study music his mother said no, so Gross paid his own way. Although he ended up in a business career, he has used the musical training to direct the chorale and several church choirs.

Jeanne Martin first sang under Gross at First United Methodist in Plymouth. She enjoyed his style so much she followed him to the chorus after he left the church choir.

PROFESSIONAL, CARING

The BeckRidge Chorale regularly reaches out to help the community whether it's by participating as a group in fund-raising walks for cancer or performing at senior centers.

"I feel privileged to be on board," said Martin of Canton. "We care about our community. We bring hope. We do a lot of sacred music with the group with a core Christian heart."

Sherrie Northway emphasizes that Beckridge is not a social group.

"People come to our concerts expecting to hear a community group and leave thinking they've seen professionals," said Northway, a Redford resident who joined in 1982. She drove through a snowstorm from her workplace in Troy last week just to talk about the chorale. Not to be outdone, Sandi Edwards drove from Commerce Township.

"I had been an audience member for years and knew that there was good musicality I wanted to be part

Please see **BECKRIDGE, C2**



Make a resolution to expand your horizons by joining the BeckRidge Chorale in song.

Santa's beard



Joe Smotherman (right) grooms Santa in his hair styling shop in Farmington. Michael Deller (left) personifies the Big Guy in the red suit.

Barber keeps Santa looking good for his big day

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
O & E STAFF WRITER

Clients smile as they pass the Big Guy in the red suit inside Joe's Headquarters in Farmington. Yes, Virginia, Santa needs a haircut just like everyone else. On this day though, he stopped by just to say hello.

Michael Deller, the Big Guy's Agent, usually makes an appointment with barber Joe Smotherman every six weeks then disappears much like Superman's Clark Kent. In his place appears Santa and a green velvet bag filled with tricks of the trade. The jovial elf is especially busy right before Christmas telling stories to children at libraries. Deller told his first tall tale as director of the Livonia public libraries from which he retired in 1999. He is a 1959 graduate of Birmingham High School.

"I call them scissor stories," said Deller



Santa (Michael Deller) enjoyed donating his time to have photographs taken with children at the St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store in Westland. The big jovial elf has a limited amount of time right now as he prepares for the busiest night of the year.

as he began telling the story of an old woman who lived alone except for two mice.

Deller mesmerizes the audience as he cuts out two pieces of cheese and mice from a paper plate. The Livonia resident has his own story to tell about accidentally becoming Santa's Agent. Back in 2002, he and wife Paulinda were moving when Deller forgot to shave for a couple of days. His sons bet that the beard wouldn't grow out completely white. Deller, who turned gray and then white by age 50, had no doubt as to who would win.

BECOMING SANTA

Not long after he was visiting Livonia Mayor Jack Kirksey's office when a staff member was so impressed with the new look she asked him to play Santa in the city's Holiday Parade after another Santa quit. Deller said yes, but had nothing to wear so it was on to Bronner's for the red

suit, Scott Colburn's for boots, and his eye doctor for reading glasses to look like Santa. Deller was having so much fun he decided to attend Charles Howard's Santa School in Midland. He's been warming the hearts of children and adults ever since.

And no, it's a myth that Santa puts on weight magically before traveling around the world to deliver toys to all the good boys and girls — just ask Deller who sports a hefty physique all year long.

"I went for a refresher course in 2008 to see if there was anything new," Deller said. "Different Santas approach what they do as Santas in a different way. I learn something new from presentation to what to do when visiting a nursing home or hospital."

BUSY SANTA

Please see **SANTA, C2**

Nonprofits looking for end-of-the-year donations

BY SHARON DARGAY
O & E STAFF WRITER

Is it mission-focused?
Is it responsible with its money?
Does it have high administrative overhead?
Does it do good work?

Those are a few of the questions that individuals may be asking themselves as they sort through end-of-the-year appeals for charitable causes from local nonprofit organizations.

It's the kind of thought process Beth Morrison goes through when



she and her family consider where they will spend charitable dollars. "HAVEN is my No. 1 organization for support," said Morrison, who heads the Oakland County domestic violence shelter. "But there are a few other nonprofits that my family and I support. At some point in the year we sit down and ask 'Are we going to support everything we did last year?' I think a lot of people go through a thoughtful process and more so

now than ever, because dollars are so limited. They want to make sure their gift makes an impact. If, for example, I have the capacity to give \$1,000, do I give it all in one place or spread it out over 10 places or more?"

"Some people literally wait until the last week of the year to make a decision on what they want to donate. Part of it is just habit. The day after Christmas they sit down and decide. Every year with all of our donors, we do an end of the year appeal," Morrison said.

Other organizations do, too.

HELPING THE HOMEBOUND

Linda Devore of Senior Alliance — Area Agency on Aging 1-C, the organization that aids senior citizens and individuals with disabilities in Western Wayne County, is still taking donations for its holiday meals program, hoping to garner a few more dollars before Christmas.

"We're selling Christmas cards for \$5. The card will go to a senior with their meal," she said, adding that the donation funds the cost of one hot holiday meal. "Meals on Wheels is

Please see **DONATIONS, C3**

SANTA

FROM PAGE C1

Although Deller knows of Santas who have lost their jobs in malls, he booked the bulk of the Big Guy's appearances by Aug. 15. Santa especially enjoyed donating his time to have photographs taken with children at the St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store in Westland where Michael Saine offered the treat for free to parents.

Smotherman's clients like to share their list with Santa as well when he's in the hair styling shop.

"Customers come in saying I've been a good boy or girl,"

Smotherman said. "We all joke around. They say you aren't bringing me coal, are you?"

Smotherman's been an especially good boy this year by giving free haircuts to longtime clients who have lost their jobs. He began cutting hair in 1967 and uses a special shampoo to prevent Santa's hair from oxidizing and turning yellow.

"He makes me look really good. December is one of my busier months," said Santa with a wink.

Before long the Big Guy was finishing the story that ended happily ever after and it was time to leave and prepare for his trip.

lchomin@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-2241

Dinner to benefit local health organizations

The CDS Foundation holds its 16th Annual Wild Game Benefit Dinner 6 p.m. Friday, Jan. 23, at Laurel Manor in Livonia.

The event benefits the Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute in Detroit; St. Mary Mercy Hospital's Our Lady of Hope Cancer Center and Angela Hospice Home Care in Livonia, and Botsford Hospital Foundation in Farmington.

The evening begins with hors

d'oeuvres followed by a family style dinner with wine at 7:30 p.m.

The 50/50 raffle and silent auction run from 6-10 p.m., a standard open bar from 6-11:30 p.m. then a cash bar from 11:30 a.m. to 2 a.m.

There will also be a live auction, crap shoot and Texas Hold'em.

Tickets are \$70 per person. This is a stag event.

For more information, call (734) 462-0770.

and dinner is a popular event.

"I joined nine years ago 'cause it's fun," said Jack Charlefour of Dearborn. "I love to sing and it's one of my ways of worshiping."

Charlefour is a member of the chorale's 16-member Village Voices, an elite group that performed the music of French composers at the last Musical Feast.

It's obvious the BeckRidge Chorale offers real opportunity for growth.

Linda Ann Chomin is the health and community life reporter for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. She can be reached at (313) 222-2241.

BECKRIDGE

FROM PAGE C1

of," said Edwards, who most enjoyed singing with the group in 2002 at the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C.

"It's the professionalism of the group that I admire and our spiritual side," added Kathy Norred. The Livonia woman joined in 2002 after husband Bruce became a member.

Norred was a chef for the chorale's Musical Feast program with Schoolcraft College culinary arts students this fall. The annual concert

REUNION CALENDAR

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: Kayniniu@aol.com or Kathy Shoebriidge@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.MCMLX@yahoo.com.

Class of 1989

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

Grosse Pointe North

Class of 1991

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

Lincoln Park High School

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

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At times, for unknown reasons, the bursa becomes inflamed. The pain that ensues, may radiate to the low back or down the leg, and may present at night when you turn in bed or shift position. The pain is close to the hip joint and often brings a person to make a doctor's appointment from concern that hip arthritis has begun.

Your doctor can usually tell immediately that the problem is not arthritis. Particularly important is that you are experiencing pain at night while in bed. Arthritis lessens at such times, because you are off your feet, not weight bearing. In contrast, trochanteric bursitis asserts itself because of movement of the muscle over the bursa when turning.

When trochanteric bursitis begins, the best treatment is heat alternating with ice. The heat brings in a blood supply and the cold gives relief by numbing the bursal area and also causes blood vessels in the vicinity of the bursa to expand widely when the heat begins.

If these measures do not work, then the next step is injection into the bursa with cortisone. Your doctor can repeat injection therapy as needed as long as each injection provides you benefit.

In some instances, the bursitis will resolve, and the other leg bursa will become irritated and need attention. Why this sequence occurs is not known; fortunately, conventional treatment by heat, cold or steroid injection, resolves the bursitis.

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DONATIONS

FROM PAGE C1

not open on holidays, so we pick up delivery on Easter, Labor Day, Christmas and Thanksgiving. "The need is great. It grows every year. If we get an increase in funds, we can add holidays, like Fourth of July."

The organization's counterpart, Area Agency on Aging-1B, serves approximately 8,300 meals a year through its holiday program to the homebound in six counties, including Oakland. Its volunteers will deliver hot meals for Hanukkah and Christmas this week, as well as on New Year's Day, Easter, Passover, and Thanksgiving.

"We don't have a special (fund-raiser) event. We send an appeal, direct mail," said Kathleen Yanik,

communications director. "A lot of times the need is not necessarily tied to income. A lot of times, the seniors we serve don't have the mobility to get around to the grocery store."

"Something that we give these people most often who are homebound is companionship. Often there's no one else there to wish them a happy holiday beyond the volunteer."

MONEY TO EXPAND

Like Devore, Alice Dent hopes to receive enough donations to expand her organization's efforts in 2009.

Dent is executive director for Habitat for Humanity Western Wayne County, the faith-based organization based in Plymouth that builds and rehabs houses for the needy. Although volunteers work without pay on Habitat construction sites, the cost of building supplies

increased this year as gas prices soared. And when the economy nosedived in the fall, Dent had to reduce new builds to two houses.

"We need at least \$80,000 for new builds and a company or individual who can co-sponsor a rehab house at \$5,000. They can be a full sponsor for \$20,000," Dent said. "We are in desperate need of licensed general contractors that can donate hands-on time to our organization. We also need real estate appraisers ... site supervisors and crew leaders with construction experience that would like to help lead volunteers."

The organization also needs help with grant-writing and clerical support. Anyone interested in volunteering can call the Habitat office at (734) 459-7744. Donate by sending a check to 638 Starkweather, Plymouth, MI 48170. Or visit www.habitatwwc.org.

habitatwwc.org.

Donate to the group's Oakland County counterpart by visiting www.habitatoakland.org.

Here's donation information for other groups:

■ The HAVEN: Morrison says crisis calls have increased in the past month and that the agency's shelter generally is full, with children accounting for half of its residents. The organization needs volunteers, financial contributions and items for the shelter. Make online donations and download a wish list of items at www.haven-oakland.org. Or call (248) 334-1284, Ext. 659.

■ The Senior Alliance: Buy a holiday meal for a senior for \$5 or make a donation. Stop by in person or send a check to 3850 Second St., Suite 201, Wayne, MI 48184. Call (734) 727-2063 to volunteer.

■ Area Agency on Aging-1B: Donate by calling the center at (800) 852-7795 or online at www.aa1b.org.

■ CARE House of Oakland County, home of the Child Abuse and Neglect Council: "Our greatest need is monetary donations to be able to continue with the programs we have in place," said executive director Pat Rosen. The organization in Pontiac serves approximately 4,000 families and children annually. All of its services and programs are provided at no cost to its clients. Mail contributions to CARE House of Oakland County, 44765 Woodward, Pontiac, MI 48341 or make an online donation at www.carehouse.org. The group also maintains a wish list online that includes arts and crafts supplies, disposable diapers, baby food and toys, among other items.

Knowing Jesus Christ And Making Him Known
Prince of Peace
 Lutheran Church
 Join Us Christmas Eve
 5:00 pm - Family Worship | 7:30 pm - Candlelight Service
 Christmas Day Worship at 10:00 am
 28000 New Market Road • 248 | 553 | 3380

ROSEDALE GARDENS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
 ~Christmas Eve Services~
Wednesday, December 24, 2008
 5:00 p.m. - Family Service
 Featuring Children's Choir and Youth Handbells
 10:00 p.m. - Candlelight Communion Service
 Featuring Adult Chancel Choir and Handbell Choir
 Rev. Richard Peters, Pastor • Rev. Kellie Whitlock, Assoc. Pastor
Rosedale Gardens Presbyterian Church, USA
 9601 Hubbard at West Chicago • Livonia, MI 48150
 734.422.0494
www.rosedalegardens.org
 Wheelchair Accessible

ST. PAUL'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
 620 Romeo Street, Rochester
stpaulsrochester.org 248.651.9361
Christmas Eve Services
 4 p.m. - Children/Family Celebration
 7:30 & 11 p.m. - Candlelight Celebration
 Childcare for birth through 4 years is available at 4 p.m. & 7:30 p.m. services.

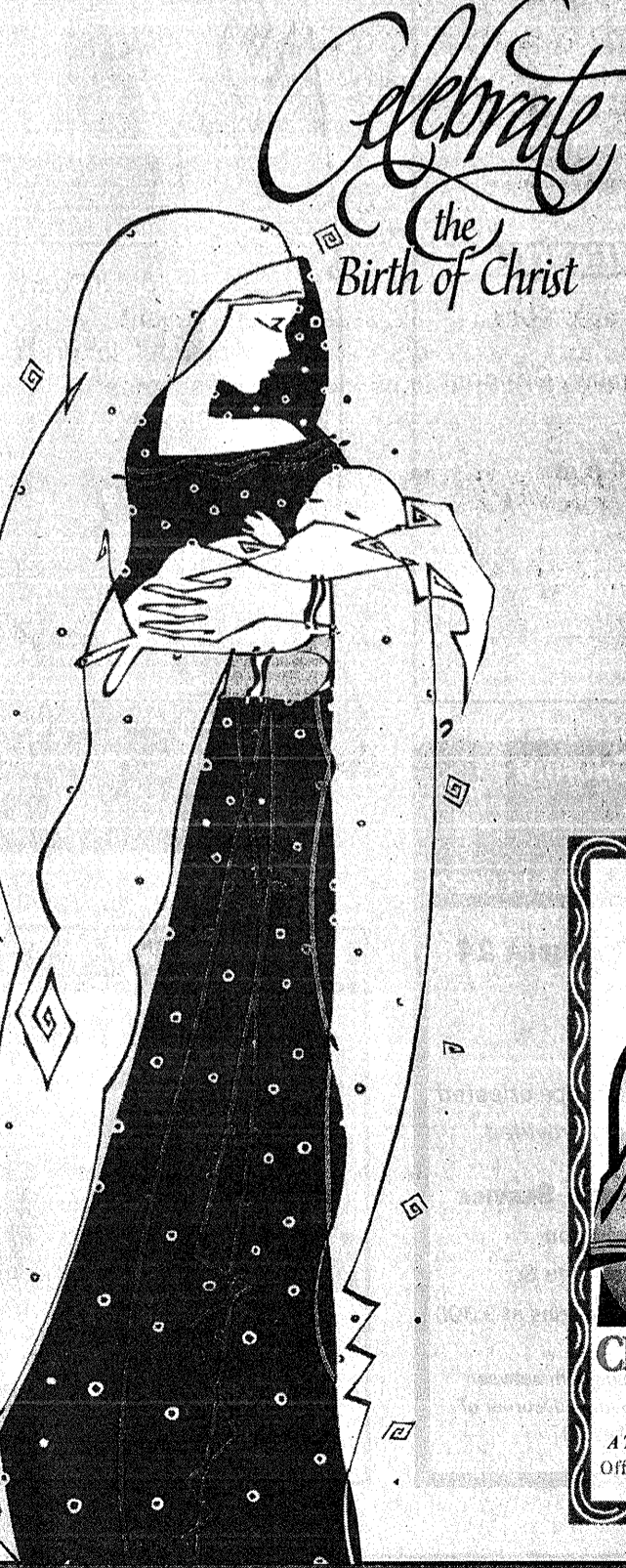
FREE MOVIE
 THE NATIVITY STORY
 TUESDAY, DECEMBER 30TH
 2 PM
 PENN THEATRE
 Bring your family and friends!
 Sponsored by Plymouth First United Methodist Church
www.pfumc.org (734) 453-5280

St. Thomas a'Becket Catholic Church
 555 S. Lilley Rd., Canton
 (SE corner of Lilley and Cherry Hill)
 Free Christmas Concert
 Sunday, December 21, at 3:30 PM
 Christmas Eve Masses
 4 PM (two masses), 6 PM, 9 PM, and Midnight
 Christmas Day Masses
 10 AM, and Noon

WORSHIP WITH US THIS CHRISTMAS
 Christmas Eve
 Wednesday, December 24
 Holy Eucharist at 5 p.m.
 (suggested for families with small children)
 Festive Eucharist at 8 and 11 p.m.
 with choir and orchestra
 The Rev. Edward L. Mullins preaching
 Childcare available at 5 and 8 p.m.
 Christmas Day
 Thursday, December 25
 Holy Eucharist at 10 a.m.
 The Rev. W. Terry Miller preaching
 No childcare
CHRIST CHURCH CRANBROOK
 470 Church Road, Bloomfield Hills
 (at corner of Lone Pine and Cranbrook)
 248.644.5210 • www.christchurchcranbrook.org

Come Celebrate the Birth of Jesus
 Christmas Eve (December 24th)
 7:00 P.M.
 Sunday Worship - 10:30 A.M.
Central Woodward Christian Church
 3955 W. Big Beaver Road in Troy
 (Corner of Big Beaver and Adams)
 248-644-0512
www.centralwoodward.org

Fellowship Presbyterian Church
 Christmas Eve Service
 Wednesday, December 24th at 6:00pm
 "Why God Became Man"
 Rev. Dr. James N. McGuire
 (Nursery Provided)
 We meet at:
 Madonna University's
 Kresge Hall 36600 Schoolcraft
 Road - Livonia
 (Parking lot is NW corner
 of Levan & Schoolcraft)
www.fellowship-presbyterian.org



A Multicultural Christmas Eve!
December 24 7:00 pm
 U R Invited!
Ecumenical Service:
Filipino-American Presbyterian Fellowship Church of Pentecost
Southfield Presbyterian Church
 21575 W. Ten Mile Rd., Southfield 48075
 (between Lahser & Evergreen)
 248-356-1430

St. John's Episcopal Church
 Woodward Avenue and I-75 (exit 50)
 NEXT TO COMERICA PARK
www.stjohnsdetroit.org
 (313) 962-7358
Christmas Eve - December 24
 4:00pm - Children's Pageant Service
 8:30pm - Carol Prelude Service
 9:00pm - Candlelight Festive Communion
 Christmas Day - 11am in the Chapel
Saturday, December 27th
The Feast of St. John the Evangelist
 4pm - Christmas Lessons and Carols with our professional choir for the 150th Anniversary of the founding of our parish!
 Come find out why your neighbors are coming to Detroit for Biblical Preaching & Teaching, Traditional Anglican Music & Liturgy

Hosanna-Tabor Lutheran Church & School
 9600 Leverne, Redford, MI 48239
www.HosannaTabor.org 313-937-2233
 Join us in worship!
 Dec 21 9:30 AM A Service of Music
 Dec 24 6 PM Family Service
 Dec 24 10 PM Candlelight Service
 Dec 25 10 AM Christmas Morning Svc
 Dec 28 9:30 AM Worship Service
 10:45 AM Education Hour
 Dec 31 5 PM New Year's Eve Service And Game Night.
 A Tuition Based, Christian School of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod
 Offering Infant-Toddler Day Care, Preschool, All Day Kindergarten, Elementary Grades 1-8.

Covenant Community Church
 On Beech Daly Just N. of 5 Mile in Redford • 313-535-3100

Christmas Eve Service:
 Wednesday, December 24, 2008 – 6:00 pm

Sundays:
 Sunday School (Classes for all ages) – 9:45 am
 Morning Worship Service – 11:00 am

Loving Him, Loving Others & Working with Him in the World

Let the Procession Begin

You are cordially invited to join us Wednesday, December 24, as we celebrate **Christmas Eve by Candlelight**. Service times are 4:30 and 6:00 pm. *Nursery Provided*

Calvary Baptist Church
 43065 Joy Rd., Canton, MI 48107
 734-455-0022 cbcjw.org

Newburg United Methodist Church

36500 Ann Arbor Trail, Livonia
 Rev. Marsha M. Woolley, Lead Pastor
 Rev. Paul Perez, Deacon

*"Love Came Down at Christmas"
 ...and made all the difference!*

CHRISTMAS EVE
 5:00 pm...Children/Family Service
 7:00 pm...Family Worship & Candlelight
 11:00 pm...Lessons & Carols, Communion & Candlelight

St. Anastasia Catholic Church
 4571 John R, Troy 48085
 (248) 689-8380

40 YEARS
 1968-2008

Christmas Eve Mass Times:
 4 pm, 7pm & 12am (midnight)
Christmas Day Mass Times:
 8:15am & 11:15am

www.stanastasia.org & http://stabasic.com

Antioch Lutheran Church

33360 W. 13 Mile Road Farmington Hills, MI 48334
 Antioch, a congregation of the E.L.C. NE corner of 13 Mile and Farmington Hills. (248) 626-7906; website: www.antiochlutheran.org

Join our celebration of Jesus' birth!

Christmas Worship!
 Wednesday, December 24 (communion)
 4:00 p.m. Children's Christmas
 6:00 p.m. Family Worship (pre-service)
 10:30 p.m. Candlelight Festival with music at 10:30

Sunday, December 28 (one service)
 10:00 a.m. Festive Service—Praise

You're invited to experience the sights & sounds of Christmas

Wednesday, December 24, 2008
 4:00, 7:00 & 11:00 p.m.

Childcare available at 4:00 & 7:00 (ages 4 & under) | Candle Lighting at all three services

Trinity Church

10101 W. Ann Arbor Road • Plymouth, MI • www.trinityepc.org

North Congregational Church
 36520 W. Twelve Mile Rd., Farmington Hills MI 248/848-1750

Sunday, December 21, 2008
 10:30 a.m. Fourth Sunday of Advent: "Prince of Peace"
 Worship, Chancel Choir and Orchestra performs the Christmas Section of Handel's *Messiah*

Wednesday, December 24, 2008
CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE
 7:30 P.M. - "Wonder in the Night"

Ministers: Rev. Dr. Mark P. Jensen, Rev. Mary E. Biedron

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH-DETROIT
 21200 Southfield Rd., Southfield
 (248) 569-2972 www.fbc-detroit.org

ADVENT WORSHIP SCHEDULE
 December 21st – Fourth Sunday of Advent
 11:00 a.m. Worship: Christmas Pageant

Wednesday, December 24th – Christmas Eve
 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service
 "Candlelight Service"

ROMAN CATHOLIC CLUSTERED PARISHES IN LIVONIA

ST. GENEVIEVE 29015 Jamison...ST. MAURICE 32765 Lyndon

December 24...**Christmas Eve Masses**
 4:00p at St. Genevieve Church; 4:30p at St. Maurice Church
 Children's Masses
 10:00p at St. Genevieve Church

December 25...**Christmas Day Masses**
 9:00a at St. Maurice Church; 11:00a at St. Genevieve

December 31...**New Year's Eve Masses**
 4:00p at St. Genevieve Church; 6:00p at St. Maurice Church

December 31-January 1...**Holy Hour at St. Maurice**
 11:30p Exposition...12:30a Reposition & Benediction

January 1...**New Year's Day Masses**
 9:00a at St. Maurice Church; 11:00a at St. Genevieve Church

"A Family in Christ"
 St. Augustine Lutheran Church LCMS

December 24
 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 7:00 pm
 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 11:00 pm

Opportunities for Children
 King's Court each Sunday at 9:45 am
 For more information call (248) 879-6400
 http://www.saltchurch.net

Celebrate Christmas in a traditional Anglican setting at

Church of the Redeemer

18140 Cornell Road • Southfield
 Just N. of 8 Mile, W. of the Southfield Service Dr.
 248-569-4418

Christmas Eve
 Choral Communion 9 p.m.
Christmas Day Services
 Holy Communion-8:30 a.m.
 Sung Communion Service 11 a.m.

Christmas at the Kirk

December 21
 4:00 PM Annual Service of Lessons and Carols

December 24 - Christmas Eve

11:00 AM Young Families Service Rev. Lana Russell	8:30 PM Holy Night Service Dr. Norman Pritchard
4:00 PM Family Service Rev. Katy Doyle	11:00 PM Holy Night Service Dr. Norman Pritchard
6:00 PM Family Service Rev. Katy Doyle	

Kirk in the Hills

1340 West Long Lake Road, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48302
 (248) 626-2515 kirkinthehills.org

First United Methodist Church
 1589 W. Maple Road, Birmingham
 248-646-1200 • www.fumcbrirmingham.org

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

4:00 p.m. for Families with Young Children
 5:30 p.m. for Families with Elementary Children
 Nursery Open

2:00, 7:00, 9:00 and 11:00 p.m.
 Christmas Lessons and Carols
 Dr. John E. Harnish preaching
 Holy Communion at 2, 7 & 11
 Nursery Care at 2 and 7

John E. Harnish, Senior Pastor
 Rodney F. Quanton Jeff Nelson Chad Oyer Carl Price

Come Catch the Christmas Spirit
Redford Aldersgate United Methodist

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services
 Dec. 24

5:30 p.m.
 ☆ Family Musical:
"Angels We Have Heard"
 A multi-generational choir presents a delightful story with an important message with lights, drama and lively music.
 ☆ Closing service with individual candles
 ☆ Nursery provided for preschool children

10:00 p.m.
 ☆ Adult Choirs
 ☆ Hand Bell Choir
 ☆ Communion
 ☆ Candle lighting

10000 Beech Daly
 2 blocks south of Plymouth Road
 313- 937-3170
 www.redfordaldersgate.org

Diana & Bob Goudie Pastors

Sunday
 Dec. 21
 2 services
 9:30 a.m.
 11:00 a.m.

Dec. 28
 one service
 10:00 a.m.
 Blessing of the children & their toys

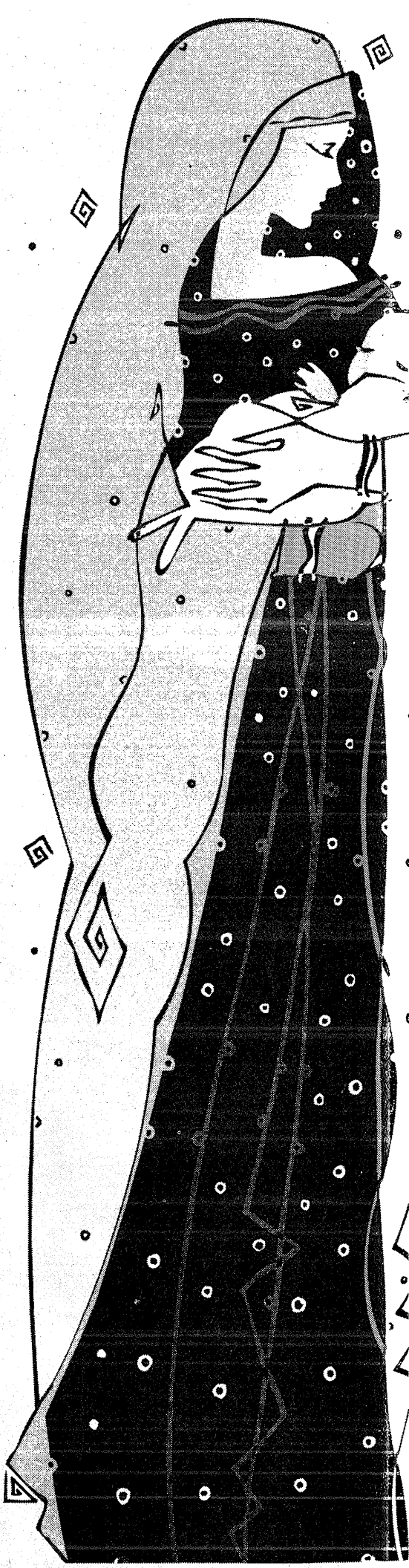
ST. JAMES EPISCOPAL CHURCH
WORSHIP SCHEDULE
 website: stjamesbirmingham.org
 The Reverend Fred Elwood, Rector 248.644.0820

CHRISTMAS EVE, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24

5 P.M. CRECHE PROCESSION & HOLY COMMUNION
 Carols & Candles; Service oriented for children; Nursery provided

10 P.M. CHORAL SERVICE
 Carols, Communion, Christmas Message & Candles (Music begins at 9:30!)

(Downtown Birmingham between Woodward & Southfield, corner of W. Maple and Chester)



LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER

Your Communion Can we help you? Wedding, Baptism

248-6 Redeemer 1800 W. Birmingham

Christmas Eve • Join Us
 Carols by Candlelight
 5:30, 8:00 & 10:00 P.M.

New Years Eve Worship 7:00 P.M.
 Pre-Service Meal 6 P.M. Call for Reservations

Weekly Sunday Worship 8, 9 & 10:30 A.M., Monday
 Children's Sunday School 9:00 & 10:30

Grace Lutheran Church

25630 Grand River Ave.
Redford, MI (just E of Beech Daly)
Sunday, December 21 at 9:15 and 11:00 (S.S. at 9:15 and 11:00)
Fourth Sunday in Advent
Service of carols, concert and sermon.
The Chancel Choir will render extra music along with a sermon by
Rev. Victor F. Halboth, Assistant Pastor. Holy Communion will be celebrated.
Christmas Eve
7:00 PM Family Worship
11:00 PM Candlelight Worship
Music provided by the Handbell Choir and Chancel Choir
Rev. Timothy P. Halboth, Senior Pastor, preaching

www.princeofpeacewestland.com 734.722.1735

Prince of Peace Lutheran - Westland



Join us this Christmas!

7:30 pm - Candlelight Service | Christmas eve
9:30 am - Nativity Service | Christmas day

37775 Palmer Rd. (1/4 MI west of Newburgh)

Berkley First United Methodist Church

2820 W. Twelve Mile Road, Berkley Michigan 48072
248-399-3698
www.berkeley1stumc.org

CHRISTMAS CANTATA
December 21 at 10:30am
LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE
December 21 at 6:30pm
CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT
December 24 at 5:30pm
CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE
December 24 at 10:00pm

Risen Christ Lutheran

David W. Martin, Pastor
46250 Ann Arbor Road • Plymouth
(1 Mile W. of Sheldon)
734.453.5252
Sundays 8:15 & 10:45 am
Sunday School 9:30
Adult Bible Study 9:30
Nursery Care Available
**Christmas Eve
4:30 & 7 pm**
All are welcome.
www.risenchrist.info

Resurrection Catholic Church



48755 Warren Road
Canton, Michigan 48187
734-451-0444
Rev. Richard A. Perfetto, Pastor
CHRISTMAS EVE - Dec. 24th
• 4:30 p.m. Mass & 10:00 p.m.
• 4:30 p.m. Children's Mass
(All Saints Gym)
CHRISTMAS DAY - Dec. 25th
• 10:30 a.m. Mass
SUNDAY, Jan. 1st • 10:30 a.m.

Pilgrim Congregational Church
and The River Church
3061 N. Adams Road
just north of Big Beaver Road
248-642-2290

Christmas Eve Service:
"Gift of Music"
A prelude of traditional,
instrumental music - 7:30 pm.
"Carols, Candlelight
and Communion"
Worship - 8:00 p.m.

Come, Let Us Adore Him
St. John Lutheran Church
23225 Gill Road • Farmington Hills • 248-474-0584

Christmas Eve
Candlelight Worship Services... 5:30, 8:00 & 10:30 pm
Christmas & New Years Sundays
Traditional Service... 9:00 am
Contemporary Service... 11:15 am

St. Priscilla Church
19120 Purlingbrook Street
Livonia, MI
248-476-4700
North of 7 Mile Road
Between Middlebelt & Merriman Roads
Christmas Mass Schedule
Christmas Eve
4:30 PM Children's Liturgy
6:00 PM Mass
12 Midnight Mass
(Carols begin at 11:30 PM)
Christmas Day
9:00 & 11:00 AM

Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church
5631 N. Adams Road • Bloomfield Hills • 248-646-5041
Between Square Lake & Long Lake Roads

Christmas Eve Services
4:30 pm - Children's Service
7:00 pm - Family Service
10:30 pm - Festival Communion Service
Christmas Day Service
10:00 am - Holy Communion Service
Regular Worship
Sat. 5:30 pm
Sun. 8:00, 9:50 & 11:00 am

Celebrate the Birth of Christ

SALEM CHURCH
Downtown Farmington
33424 Oakland Ave.
(N. of Grand River, W. of Farmington Rd.)
Farmington, MI 48335
(248) 474-6880

Christmas Eve 8:00 pm
Candlelight with Holy
Communion
Everyone Welcome

Holy Trinity
Lutheran Church (ELCA)
39020 Five Mile Rd., Livonia
734-464-0211
www.holytrinitylivonia.org

CHRISTMAS EVE
5:30 pm Family Worship with
Holy Communion
7:30 pm Contemporary Candlelight
with Holy Communion
10:30 pm Festival Music Prelude
11:00 pm Traditional Candlelight
with Holy Communion
CHRISTMAS DAY
10:00 am Holy Communion

**Christ the King
Lutheran Church**
9300 Farmington Road
Livonia, MI 48150
734-421-0749

**Christmas Eve
Candlelight Worship
with Communion**
7:30 & 11:00
The Rev. James L. Fogle, Pastor
www.ChristTheKingLivonia.com

Come join
Riverside Park Church of God
for any or all of the
December Activities

December 24 5-6 pm **Christmas Eve Service
with Communion**
December 31 10:00 pm **New Years Eve Service**
Regular services are Wednesdays at 7:00 pm
and Sundays at 10:00 am
Located at 11771 Newburgh Rd (NW of Plymouth Rd)
Information 734-464-0990

**St. Paul's
Presbyterian Church**
All Are Welcome to Join Us for
Christmas Eve Services
Communion and
Candlelight Services
8 p.m. and 11 p.m.

Five Mile & Inster Roads in Livonia
734/922-1470 • www.sppc.org

Please Join us on
Christmas Eve:
5:00 pm - Family Service
11:00 pm - Candlelight Service

Grace Chapel
27996 Halsted Road
Farmington Hills, MI 48331
(NE corner of 12 Mile & Halsted)

HOLY CROSS
Evangelical Lutheran Church

Traditional
Christmas Eve Worship
Carols, Candlelight and
Holy Communion
4:00* 7:30 and 11 pm
*For families with young children
All are welcome
http://holycrosslivonia.org

30650 6 Mile Rd., Livonia
(1/2 Mile West of Middlebelt)
734-467-1414 • WELCOME VISITORS

Two very special events on
two very special nights...

Old Moravian Lovefeast
Sunday, December 21, 2008 • 7 pm
You are invited to our 36th annual Old Moravian
Lovefeast! Bring the whole family to celebrate the birth of
Christ through scripture, beautiful music, candlelight and
sharing a simple meal of a Moravian bun and water.

Blue Christmas Service
Monday, December 22, 2008 • 7 pm
Dealing with death, divorce, loss of a job, cancer, or some other
dis-ease can take the joy out of the season. Our Blue Christmas
service holds out the promise of Christ's healing and hope for all
people. Join us for a time of support and affirmation.

Metropolitan United Methodist Church
8000 Woodward Avenue • Detroit
(North of Grand Boulevard in the New Center area)
FREE Admission
FREE Supervised, Lighted Parking
For more information call... 313-875-7407
or www.metroumc.org

St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church (WELS)
17810 Farmington Road ~ Livonia, Michigan
734-261-1360 ~ website: stpaulslivonia.org

Christmas Worship at St. Paul's
Christmas Eve Worship.....6:30 p.m.
Christmas Day Worship.....10:00 a.m.
New Year's Eve.....6:30 p.m.
Come and worship with us! Pastor James Hoff Pastor Eric Steinbrenner

**Northwest
Unitarian
Universalist
Church**

invites you to celebrate the holidays with
our welcoming congregation. Our liberal
religious traditions embrace the hope
and inspiration of the Christmas story, as
well as the many faiths that celebrate this
season. Please join us for fellowship:
**Sunday Morning Services
10 a.m.**
**Christmas Eve
Candlelight Service
11 p.m.**
For more information, visit
www.northwestuu.com
or call 248-354-4488.

**ST. ANNE'S ROMAN
CATHOLIC CHURCH**
Immemorial Tridentine Latin Rite Mass
22310 Joy Road, Redford, MI 48239
(313) 534-2121

**CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEARS DAY
MASS SCHEDULE**

*Christmas Day
and New Years Day
are Holy Days
of Obligation*

Christmas Eve	Confessions	10:15-11:50 pm
	Midnight Mass	12:00 am
Christmas Day	No Confessions	
	Mass	10:00 am
New Years Day	Confessions	9:45-10:25 am
	Mass	10:30 am

Celebrate Christmas!
Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church
14175 Farmington Road, Livonia
Just north of I-96 (734) 522-6830

Christmas Eve:
7:00pm Family Service
10:30pm Candlelight Service

Christmas Day:
10:00am Worship
http://www.christsaviorsoc.org

**WE'RE ABOUT TO CELEBRATE THE MOST
WONDERFUL BIRTHDAY EVER.**

It belongs to Jesus.
And we're going to celebrate it four times
on December 24. We'll have a service at:

3:00 p.m. - This is not a hush-hush worship.
(It's for families with children of all ages.)
5:00 p.m. - We'll have one for jazz lovers.
(Very relaxed with cookies.)
8:00 p.m. - We'll share the lord's supper.
(Everyone's welcome at that table.)
11:00 p.m. - It's all about singing.
(You, the choir, everybody sings. Music begins at 10:45 p.m.)
Come, celebrate with us a birth that changed the world.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
BIRMINGHAM
1669 West Maple Road, Birmingham, MI 48009 • 248-644-2040
www.fpcbirmingham.org

CHURCH
some way?
Counseling?
4010
gham.org
ile Rd.
48009
oday!
7:30 P.M.
4.

VISIT HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Bring Coupon **OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK!**

A-Quality Care

VETERINARY HOSPITAL

WALK-IN Low Cost Vaccinations Available
WED. & THURS. 1-5 pm
Vaccination Packages starting at \$29.00

Free Office Visit for any First Time Client

Spay/Neuter, Declaw Surgery 15% off (minimum \$20 savings)	Dental Cleaning from \$159 (includes general anesthesia, cleaning & polishing)	Free Heartworm Test with Early Protection Blood Profile
---	--	---

Hours: Mon - Fri 9:30 - 7:00 pm • Saturday 9:30 - 5:00 pm • Sunday noon - 4:00 pm
11655 Farmington Road (Just N. of Plymouth Rd.)
Livonia • 734-421-PETS (7387)

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 are parents to James (Mary) VanBoven of Canton and Brian VanBoven of Redford Township. They have one grandson, Andrew, 16. Cornelius worked in trucking for more than 40 years and Jean worked for Plymouth Canton Community Schools. Both are retired. Cornelius has been a member of the American Legion in Plymouth for 43 years. The couple celebrated their anniversary with family and friends, Saturday, Dec. 20

ANNIVERSARY



at Atlantis Restaurant, in Plymouth. They plan a trip to Hawaii in the New Year.



Cornelius and Jean (Duty) Van Boven of Canton on their wedding day 50 years ago.

BIRTH



Mya Rane Bedoun
Jason and Megan Bedoun of Canton are proud to announce the birth of their daughter, Mya Rane Bedoun, at Providence Hospital in Southfield. Her grandparents are Al and Ann Thomas of Canton and Ed and Debbie Bedoun of Canton. Her great-grandparents are Albert and Margaret Thomas of Harriman Tenn., Jennie Meier of Novi and Frank and Peggy Hicks of Canton.

*We get your dentures fitting right the first time!
We guarantee it!*

- Same Day DENTURES w/Extractions
- CROWNS-\$200 OFF
- FLEXIBLE SOFT PARTIALS

Get your dental work done before your insurance runs out!

AMERICAN MADE RIGHT HERE IN LIVONIA!

Full Set of Dentures From **\$380**
Offer Good til December 31, 2008

APPLE DENTURE CENTER & MORE, L.L.C.
28200 West 7 Mile Rd. • Suite 126 • Livonia, MI 48152
(248) 777-7547

Dr. Michael Blume, D.D.S. Ronald DeLuca, D.D.S.

PLEASE RECYCLE

ENGAGEMENT

Zucchet-Szachta
John and Linda Joslin of Northville announce the engagement of their daughter, Danielle Renee Zucchet to Daniel John Szachta, son of Don and Karen Szachta of Troy. The bride-to-be is a graduate of Churchill High School, the James Madison College at Michigan State University and the University of Michigan. Her fiancé is a graduate of Troy High School, Michigan State University and currently works for Johnson Controls. The couple plans an April 2009 wedding in Plymouth.



Visit us online at hometownlife.com

An excellent decision. No matter which one you make.

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THE **Observer & Eccentric** NEWSPAPERS
YOUR TOTALLY LOCAL NEWSPAPER

Pet love: Treat your dog to homemade, holiday cooking

BY SHARON DARGAY O&E STAFF WRITER

Nancy Ridella wouldn't think of letting her dog, Max's, birthday go by without baking a tasty turkey cake frosted in mashed potatoes for him and his canine party guests.

When her church, Unity of Rochester, needs cross-shaped biscuits for its annual pet blessing, her oven is already heated and ready to bake.

And if someone in her Troy neighborhood has a new puppy, she'll welcome the new pooch with a big batch of homemade canine treats.

"It's our animal world. I just love it," she said. "Our church is so full of people who love animals. Once a year I make the biscuits and bring in and after service, if people want biscuits, they can donate whatever amount of money they can for them."

She sends the proceeds — \$250 for her latest batch — to Hawkeye and Friends, a dog rescue in Memphis, located on the dividing line between Macomb and St. Clair counties.

"Max rules the house. He lays on the couch, paws over the edge, but that's OK. I wouldn't have it any other way."

Nancy is my kind of pet owner. She doesn't just cook from scratch for her husband, Bob, but occasionally cracks open the recipe file for Max, their Border Collie-Lab mix, underscoring just how much a part of the family he is. She includes a little something extra for Max at the holidays, for celebrations and makes sure the homemade biscuit jar is always full.

Max's diet isn't limited to dry kibble day in and day out.

Neither is my dog's. I started cooking occasionally for Hunter, my 3 1/2-year-old Akita-Shepherd mix several months after I brought him home from an Ohio shelter over Labor Day weekend 2006. I got a few pointers from my O&E colleague and longtime dog owner, Linda Chomin, who cooks for her Irish Wolfhound, Clancy, every day. I scoured the cookbook shelves, checked the Internet, and started experimenting with different foods, stepping up my efforts during the melamine-tainted pet food recall in early 2007. Since then I've scaled back some, limiting most of my canine cooking to the weekends when I have extra time and just occasionally after work.

But you can bet I won't let the upcoming holidays go by without serving him at least one special meal or homemade treat. While the family indulges in holiday fare, he'll get his own hot meal. For me, it strengthens the bond I've developed with my loyal four-pawed friend.

This year, I've got a few new recipes to try — and to share with you. Nancy gave me her biscuits and turkey cake recipes and Susan Goetz, owner of All Under One Woof dog day care in Oakland Township, passed along a chicken cake



PET PROJECTS

recipe that one of her clients often makes.

They follow, along with one of my favorite "every day" canine entrees and a couple of cookbook suggestions:

PEANUT BUTTER K9 COOKIE

by Nancy Ridella

- 2 cups wheat flour, 1 cup wheat germ, 1 cjt peanut butter, 1 egg, 1/4 cup cooking oil, 1/2 cup water

Mix all ingredients together; roll out dough and cut with cookie cutters. Bake in a 350-degree oven for 15-20 minutes. Cool on racks.

DOG BIRTHDAY CAKE

by Nancy Ridella

- 4 pounds ground turkey, 3 cups of cooked brown rice, 1 cup diced carrot, 1 cup diced celery, 1 cup minced parsley, 2 eggs beaten, 3 teaspoons chopped garlic, 2 tablespoons olive oil, 1/2 cup whole wheat flour, Optional: mashed potatoes for frosting

Mix ingredients. Place in 9- by 13-inch pan or larger. Bake in 350-degree oven for an hour. Cool. If desired, frost with mashed potatoes. Nancy says the recipe can be cut in half to make it more manageable. She often makes the full amount explaining "I always have extra on hand in case someone's dog comes over."

CHICKEN BIRTHDAY CAKE

Submitted by Susan Goetz, who got it from one of her doggy day care clients. It was originally from dogskitchen.com

- 1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour, 1/2 teaspoon baking powder, 1/2 cup margarine, softened, 1/2 cup corn oil, 1 jar strained chicken (baby food), 1 cup shredded carrots, 3 eggs, 2 strips of bacon, fried and crumbled, Yogurt for icing

Sift flour and baking powder together; set aside. In large bowl, cream margarine until smooth. Add corn oil, baby food and eggs and carrots; mix until smooth, gradually add flour and baking powder to the mixture and blend until smooth. Pour batter into well-greased and floured 8-inch round pan. Bake in a preheated 325 degree oven, 60-70 minutes. Cool on wire rack before removing from pan. Ice cake with yogurt or cottage cheese. Crumble bacon on top.

BARLEY, TURKEY AND PUMPKIN

This is one of Hunter's favorite Sun-

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- Chocolate, Coffee, Grapes and raisins, Macadamia nuts, Alcoholic drinks, Onions, Chicken bones, Anything with xylitol, a sugar substitute found in sugar-free gum, among other products, Unripened tomatoes and tomato plant leaves, Yeast dough, Salt, Moldy or spoiled foods, Avocado

The ASCPA also lists garlic as a food to avoid, even though many dog food recipes include garlic or garlic powder. According to the ASCPA Web site, "Garlic does have toxic potential to pets, and is generally more potent than onion, also a member of the Allium species, in causing changes in red blood cells in dogs and cats. This is true in raw, cooked or powdered forms. The site also says it generally takes a large single ingestion or continued exposure to alter a significant number of red blood cells, compromising their ability to carry oxygen. However, it also cautions that some dogs may be genetically more susceptible to problems from garlic. "An occasional low dose, such as those found in most commercial pet foods or treats, would not likely cause problems." But if you want to avoid risk, just leave the ingredient out.

day dinner. It's an altered version of a recipe that originally appeared in Rachael Ray's magazine

- 1/4 quart of vegetable or chicken broth

- 1 cup pearl barley, 1/2 pound ground turkey, 1 cup pumpkin puree, Pinch nutmeg and cinnamon, 3/4 cup of shredded carrots

Warm 1/4 quart of broth and add barley. Cook until it begins to bubble, about five minutes. Add turkey to broth, crumbling it in smaller chunks. Cook until the liquid is absorbed by the grains and then add the remaining 1/4 of the quart of broth. Cook, stirring occasionally, until the barley is tender. That's about 20 minutes. At the 15-minute mark, add the shredded carrots. Remove from heat and immediately add the pumpkin, stirring it in and making sure it's just heated through.

For more ideas, check out three of my favorite books:

- "The Healthy Dog Cookbook" by Joanna Anne with Mary Straus. Contains 50 "nutritious and delicious" recipes. "The Dog Ate It" by Linda West Eckhardt and Barbara Bradley. Each recipe includes a canine version and spiced-up version for people. "The Natural Pet Food Cookbook" by Wendy Nan Rees, includes recipes for both dogs and cats.



Alan and Joyce Hawkins, of Farmington Hills, both 70 and retired, embarked on one of many of their dream vacations — a cross country adventure on their BMW motorcycle and side car.

Retired couple is high on adventure in golden years

BY ANDI HAWKINS CORRESPONDENT

Retirement, the Golden Years, is it a myth? Or is it just attainable for a select few?

For one Farmington Hills couple, retirement is all about realizing their dreams. It affords them the opportunity to travel here and abroad, tend to their garden and home, and reconnect with family and friends.

Recently, Alan and Joyce Hawkins, both 70 and retired, embarked on one of many of their dream vacations — a cross country adventure.

Their mode of transportation was not a car, or plane, or mobile home. Instead, they chose a custom BMW motorcycle with deluxe side car.

When asked why he chose to travel this way, Alan Hawkins told about his love for motorcycles, stemming back to his teenage years in England.

Why he chose to attach a side car was necessity over desire.

"My legs weren't long

enough to reach the ground, so the side car was added for balance," he said.

Riding in the side car is very comfortable and Joyce finds lots to do: writing notes in her journal, reading, sleeping, or providing her husband with directions via chatter boxes affixed to their helmets.

"It looks like the Bat pod," said their son, Tony Hawkins, also of Farmington Hills.

Choosing not to use their home as a piggy bank and take out second or third mortgages to fund vacations and gratuities, the couple decided long ago they were never going to live on credit.

"If we couldn't afford to pay cash, we wouldn't buy it" was their motto. Alan a builder, and Joyce, a homemaker, saved enough money to be able to enjoy a comfortable retirement.

Cruising to New Zealand and Australia, visiting their native England, and purchasing such luxury items as two BMW motorcycles — and a car to match — only served to enhance their golden years.

When they're not traveling,

the couple spends their days tending to their vegetable and flower gardens, doing their own home improvements (updating each room of their house), and visiting with family and friends.

Their last trip was a six-week excursion, traveling into Canada via Glacier National Park and extending all the way to California, visiting old friends and relatives along the way.

Back home, their sons minded their two acre lawn and tennis court-sized garden and greenhouse.

"At 70, I only hope I can do half the things my dad is able to do and with the same energy and enthusiasm," said Tony Hawkins.

As children, Tony and his three siblings were taught that if they wanted extras, they needed to find jobs and pay for luxuries themselves.

"We all learned a strong work ethic early on," said Tony.

Joyce and Alan count their blessings and feel fortunate that they have their health and each other as they enter this stage in their life.



Passages

Obituaries, Memorials, Remembrances

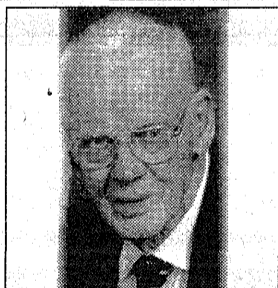
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BETTY BUTLER

Went home to be with the Lord on December 16, 2008. She is survived by numerous nieces, nephews and friends. Viewing will be held December 22, 12-4pm, with funeral at 4pm at Uht Funeral Home. In lieu of flowers please send contributions to Wayne County Senior Services.



CARL D. MARSEE

December 18, 2008. Age 91 of Plymouth. Beloved husband of Ila. Loving father of Barbara, David and the late Judy (Ed) Langer, Proud grandpa of Dawn Bradford, Darren(Jana) Koretko, Scott (Anita) Langer, Todd (Kara) and the late Kevin. Dear brother of Orin (Arlene). Also survived by nine great grandchildren and several nieces and nephews including Joan (the late Eugene) Morrison. Funeral Service Monday 12 noon at Vermeulen Funeral Home 46401 W Ann Arbor Rd., Plymouth (btwn Sheldon and Beck). Visitation Sunday 2-9PM. Interment Riverside Cemetery. To share a memory with the family, please visit www.vermeulenfuneralhome.com

WILLIAM G. FEHLIG

December 12, 2008. Age 88 of Plymouth. Loving husband of Virginia. Beloved father of David (Holly) and Patricia (David) Tome. Beloved grandpa of David (Maria), Jeff (Nancy), Brian (Sabrina) Tome, Catherine Tome, Jeff (Chitose) Hanert and Jill (George) Carroll. Dear Great-grandpa of Brittany, Makayla, Brenden, Jeremy, Justen, Jordan, Reed, Owen, Luke and Brandon. Mr. Fehlig was a custom home builder, developer and real estate broker. Bill was the last surviving charter member of the Plymouth Lions Club, having been a very active member for 61 years. He was also a lifelong member of the Plymouth Elks. Visitation and funeral services were held at Vermeulen Funeral Home-Plymouth. Memorial contributions may be made to the Plymouth Lions Foundation. To share memories, please visit vermeulenfuneralhome.com

WEDDINGS

Dickman-Schalter

Julie Schalter and Michael Dickman, both of Plymouth, were married Oct. 17, 2008 in Rochester.

The bride, daughter of Alan and Connie Schalter of Rochester Hills, earned a degree in marketing from Michigan State University in 2003.

She is an eCommerce Retail Specialist at Carhartt.

The groom, son of Catherine Sanders of Pinckney and Eric Dickman of Hamburg, received his bachelor's degree in 2003 and his master's degree in 2004 in account-

ing from Michigan State University. He is a CPA and internal auditor at Pulte Homes.

The Rev. Marc Gemelarro of St. Andrew Catholic Church, officiated the ceremony.

The bride's attendants were Jenny Lenz, Jocelyn Milshteyn, Jillan Bellows, Kara Jelley, and Alexa Jelley.

The groom's attendants were David Dickman, Jamey Schalter, and Zach Dickman.

A reception was held at the Royal Park Hotel in Rochester. They couple took a honeymoon trip to Amsterdam and Berlin.



LaMontagne-Kain

Robert and Ellen Kain of Livonia announce the marriage of their daughter, Mallory, to Craig D. LaMontagne of Westland. He is the son of John and Lynne LaMontagne of Livonia.

The couple wed Nov. 8, 2008, at Christ Church of Redford. Pastor Mark Einem presided. The bride was attended by Megan Kain, Michelle Kain, Megan LaMontagne, Jennifer Katrich and flower girl Mia LaMontagne. The groom was attended by Jeff Springer, Kevin Jarvis, Dan LaMontagne and Joe Katrich.

A reception followed at Glen Oaks Country Club in Farmington Hills, where the wedding party and guests enjoyed an evening of dinner and dancing. The couple will make their home in Westland.



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2009 Saturn Outlook Boosts Power

Advertising Feature

CAReport



By Kevin Koloian
Avanti News Features

The 2009 Saturn Outlook is more powerful than ever because it has gone back to its SUV roots for added strength. Eleven more horsepower, to be exact, thanks to the addition of direct-injection technology, which provides added power and increased fuel efficiency.

General Motors Corp. didn't mess with a good thing. It just made it more powerful. The Outlook, now in its third year, still has the same crossover attributes, providing the capability of an SUV with car-like style, efficiency and driving feel, all while seating up to eight.

Direct-injection technology in the Outlook's 3.6-liter V6 engine helps produce V8 engine power, yet uses regular unleaded gasoline. The Outlook XR puts out 288 horsepower and the Outlook XE is rated at 281 horsepower, which is best in class fuel economy.

The Outlook's V6 is mated to the Hydra-Matic 6T75 six-speed automatic transmission, an advanced transmission with clutch-to-clutch shift operation. Both the XE and XR are available in front-wheel- and all-wheel-drive configurations.

The front-wheel-drive XE gets 17 miles per gallon in the city and 24 mpg on the highway while the all-wheel-drive version gets 16 city and 23 highway.

Changes have also been made to the top of the line XR model to make it even more lux. A major upgrade is standard leather seating and, for the first time, leather seating will be available on the base XE.

Cabin comfort and convenience enhancements include OnStar with Bluetooth hands-free phone connectivity and a choice of two available Bose audio systems: the Bose 5.1 Cabin Surround system with DVD, or a non-surround Bose audio system.

The Outlook provides 19.7 feet of storage space behind the third-row seat, which pays for itself if you need to haul a lot of luggage.

Access to the third row seat and laying it flat for storage is as easy as pulling a strap thanks to a feature called Smart Slide. This feature allows



The 2009 Saturn Outlook XE's horsepower is up from 270 to 281, giving families extra power for pulling things like boats jet skis. Fortunately the added strength doesn't come at the expense at fuel economy numbers as the Outlook still gets a combined city/highway 20 miles per gallon.

second-row seat cushions to flip up as the seat slides forward, creating a wider path of entry for access to the third row.

Rivalling the storage space of the Chevrolet Tahoe, the Outlook is ideal for road trips. With the second and third rows folded completely flat, the Outlook holds an impressive 117 cubic feet. The Tahoe, which is an inch longer, only holds 109.

If you need to haul more than the Outlook's capacity, you can order a hitch package that's capable of towing 4,500 pounds. This is ideal for the people who need to pull a boat in the summer and a snowmobile in the winter.

A backup camera is also new for 2009 and is available on both XE and XR models. And to accommodate the in-mirror view screen, the compass on the XR model moves from the rearview mirror to the driver information center.

New, 20-inch alloy wheels also are standard on the Touring Package. Other Outlook models feature standard 18-inch wheels.

The Preferred Package on XE models adds body-color bodyside moldings, body-color, heated outside rearview mirrors and turn-signal repeaters for 2009.

Two new Outlook exterior colors are available: Quicksilver replaces Silver Pearl and Silver Moss replaces Ocean Mist.

The Outlook's comprehensive safety system is designed to protect passengers before, during and after a crash. A strong structure is the foundation and with a wide stance and low center of gravity, rollovers are highly unlikely.

The Outlook's responsive four-wheel independent steering system also enhances safety by providing a stable ride and nimble handling.

In case the vehicle does somehow get out of control, the Outlook's proactive safety features keep a potential accident from turning into a major bang-up.

The Outlook is equipped with six standard air bags: two dual-stage frontal air bags for the driver and front passenger, two seat-mounted side-impact air bags in the first row and two head curtain side-impact air bags that cover all three seating rows.

Complementing the air bags is General Motors' rollover sensing system, which can employ the side-impact air bags if sensors determine a rollover is imminent.

Because rollovers are typically longer in duration than non-rollover crashes, the air bags stay inflated longer to provide occupants increased protection from being thrown around the cabin.

For added safety, all-wheel-drive models feature an Active On Demand system that manages the torque split between the front and rear axles, shifting power to different axles as needed.

If you are looking for an alternative to a minivan for family outings and the occasional need to tow a boat, the 2009 Outlook should suffice.

Kevin Koloian covers General Motors Corp. for Avanti NewsFeatures and allopinionsallthetime.com. Write to him at avanti1054@aol.com. Distributed by Fracassa News Group. @2009, Fracassa Communications.

2009 Saturn Outlook
Vehicle class: Crossover SUV.
Power: V6 engine.
Mileage: 16 city / 24 highway.
Where built: Lansing, Mich.
Base price: \$29,380.

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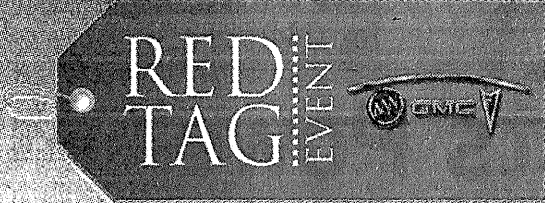
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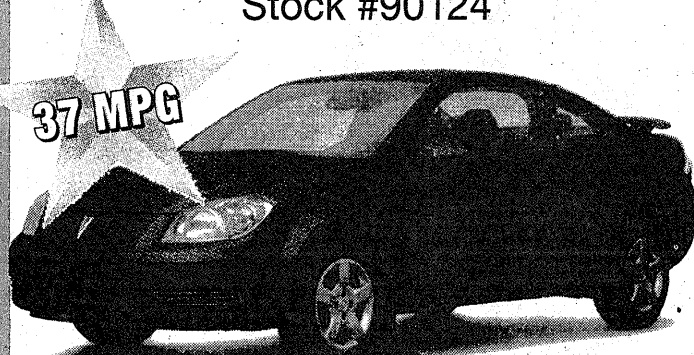
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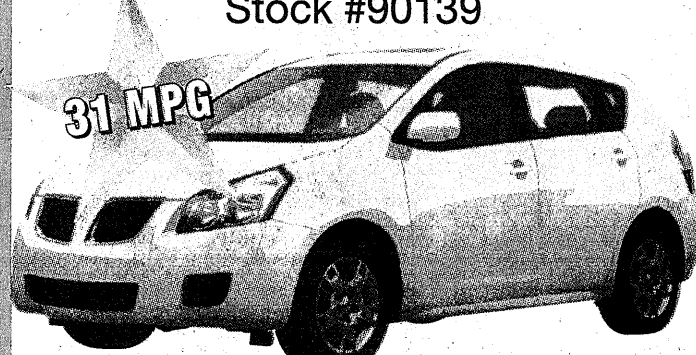
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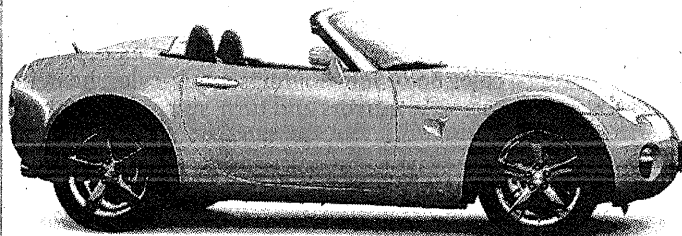
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New Homes

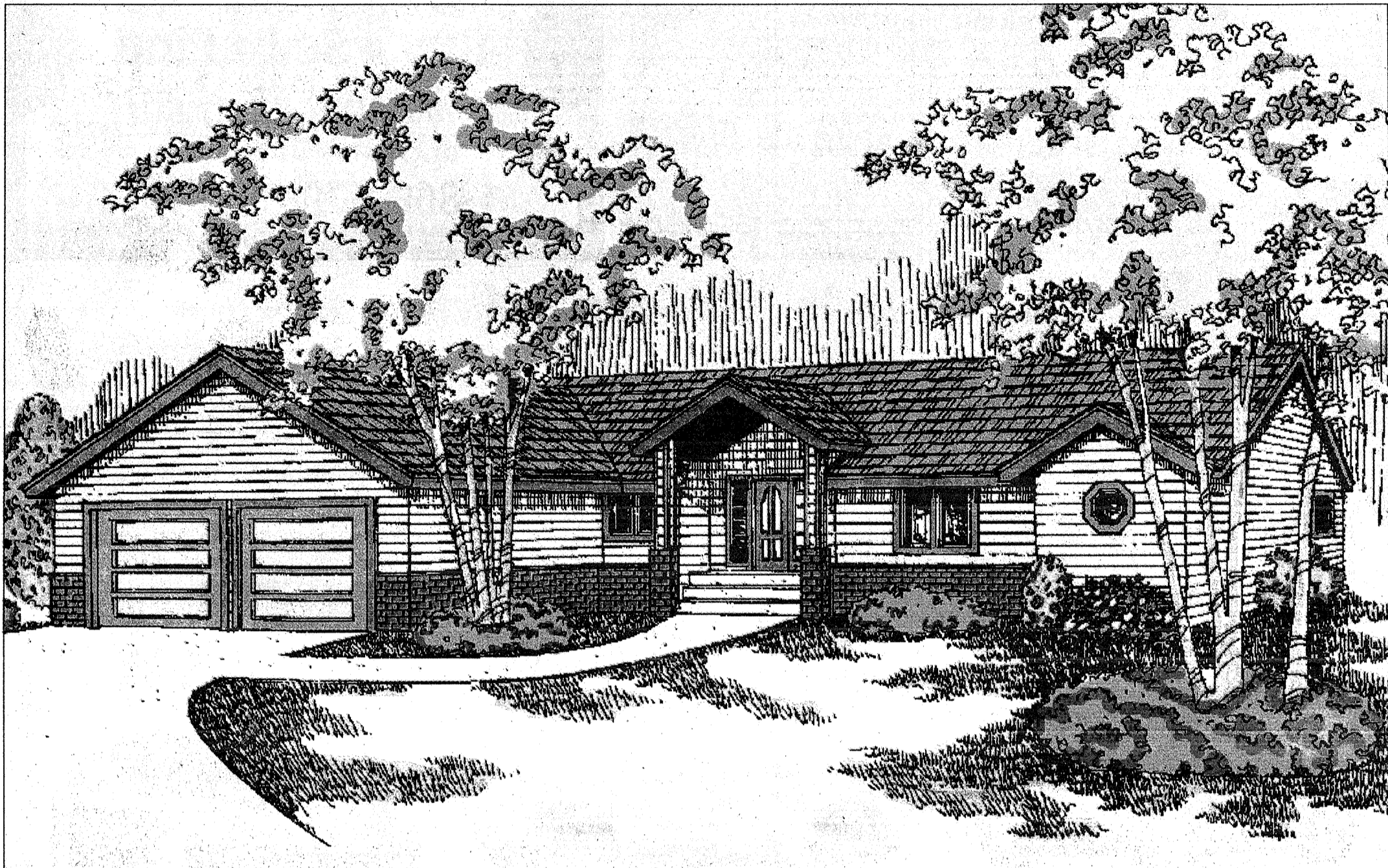


Sunday, December 21, 2008

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

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

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Be prepared to enjoy life in spacious Scout home design

The Scout (405-28) follows a traditional style brick wainscoting and a columnar entry, with contemporary touches like the octagon window in the master bath and the doorway windows in the entry.

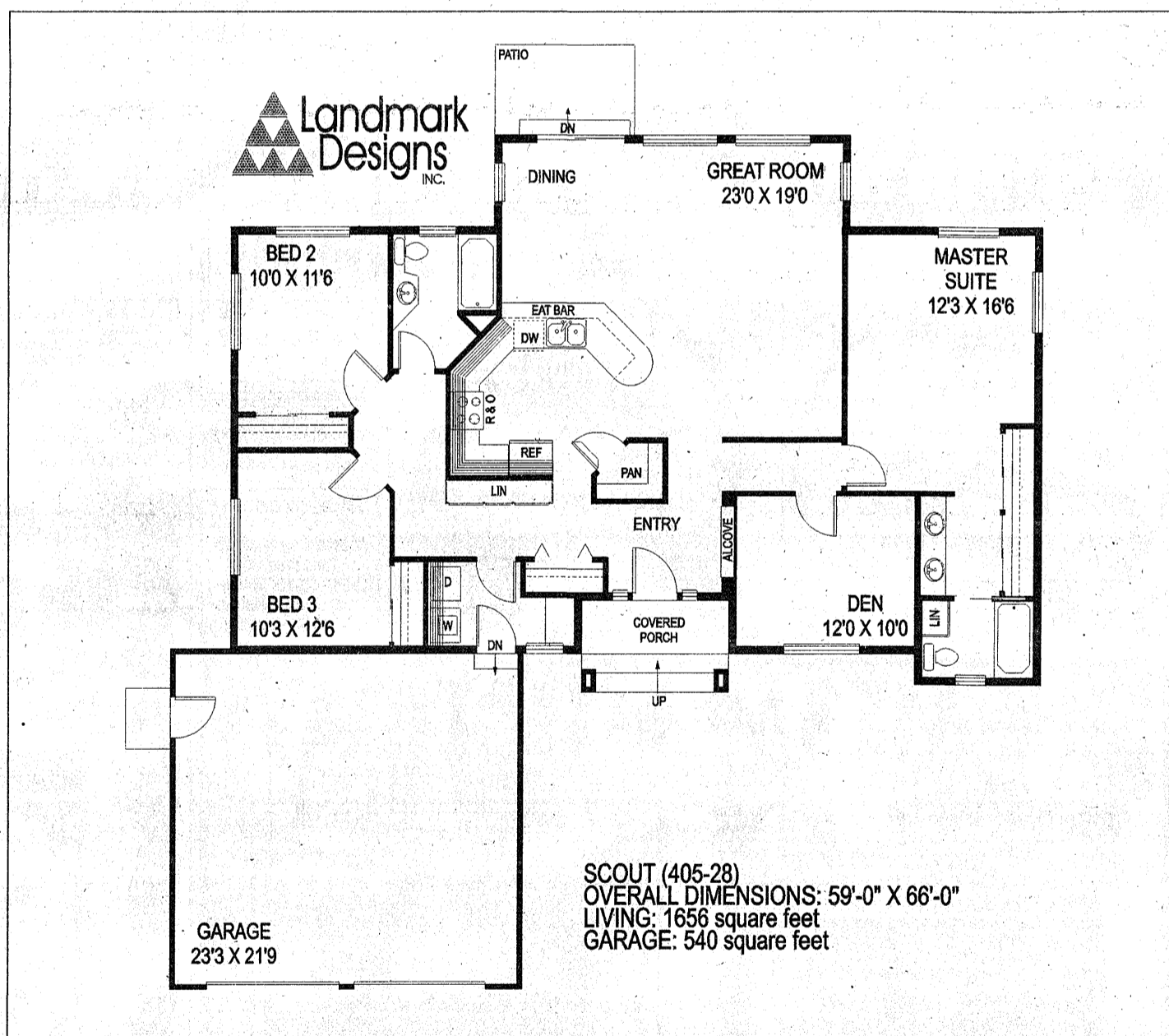
Inside, this well-appointed plan provides excellent traffic flow from the guest entry, as well as the garage entry, into the rest of the home. The entry also offers a unique alcove to display collectibles or a favorite painting. The master suite is located on the opposite side of the home from the secondary bedrooms. This design is becoming increasingly popular with parents wanting to give their children more freedom to play their music and have friends over without being disruptive. A full bath is located at the end of the hall, close to the bedrooms, while a large linen closet is just across the hall from the utility room. A window in the utility room, and the counter space below it, make the task of folding clothes more enjoyable.

The kitchen is integrated very well into this open plan. Ample cabinet space and a large pantry are balanced by an open peninsula with the sink and dishwasher on one side and a raised eating bar on the other. More than enough room lies beyond the eating bar for a large family dining table. The great room is brightened along the rear wall of the home with large windows, and a patio door leads outside for enjoying nice weather. The space is large enough for many furniture arrangements, accommodating a family's constantly changing needs.

To the right of the entry is the den with a door entry near the master suite. The spacious room could serve as a formal entertaining room, a movie room, or an office. The master suite at the end of the hall is quite large, and features double sinks in the dressing area, separated from the rest of the bath by a pocket door.

The Scout is a plan well suited for many families because of its versatile, spacious design.

For a study plan of the SCOUT (405-28), 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.



Looking good: Realtors know curb appeal the way to go in sales

For the second year in a row, Realtors report that exterior remodeling projects return the most money as a percentage of cost, as detailed in the 2008 Remodeling Cost vs. Value Report.

On a national level, wood deck additions and all types of siding replacements — upscale fiber cement, midrange vinyl, and upscale foam-backed vinyl — returned more than 80 percent of project costs upon resale. Of these, the most profitable project was upscale fiber cement siding, which recouped 86.7 percent of costs, followed by wood decks at 81.8 percent, midrange vinyl siding at 80.7 percent, and upscale foam-backed vinyl siding at 80.4 percent.

"Because today's buyers have much more to choose from in

the way of inventory, any home for sale must make a positive first impression," said National Association of Realtors President Charles McMillan, a broker with Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage in Dallas-Fort Worth. "As a trusted source for real estate information, Realtors understand what attracts and motivates their buyer clients, which is why the results of this year's Cost vs. Value report underscore the importance of curb appeal in the buyer's eye."

The 2008 Remodeling Cost vs. Value Report compares construction costs with resale values for 30 midrange and upscale remodeling projects comprising additions, remodels and replacements in 79 markets across the country, expanding from 60 markets last year.

Data are grouped into nine U.S. regions, following the divisions established by the U.S. Census Bureau. This is the 11th consecutive year that the report, which is produced by Hanley Wood, LLC, was completed in cooperation with REALTOR Magazine, as Realtors provided their insight into local markets and buyer home preferences within those markets.

In addition to wood decks and siding, window replacements and kitchen remodels also returned a relatively high percentage of remodeling costs on a national basis. All types of window replacements — upscale and midrange wood and upscale and midrange vinyl — returned more than 76 percent of costs. A major midrange kitchen remodel returned 76.0 percent of project costs, while

a minor midrange kitchen remodel returned 79.5 percent of costs.

On a national level, bathroom remodels, while still a relatively good investment, do not return as high a percentage as in previous years. A midrange bathroom remodel was estimated to return 74.4 percent on resale, comparable to a midrange attic-to-bedroom conversion, at 73.6 percent of costs recouped, and a midrange basement remodel, at 72.7 percent of costs recouped.

As in last year's report, the least profitable remodeling projects in terms of resale value were home office remodels, sunroom additions, and back-up power generators, returning only 54.4 percent, 56.6 percent, and 57.1 percent, respectively, of project costs.

Although most regions fol-

lowed national trends, the regions that consistently were estimated to return a higher percentage of remodeling costs upon resale were the Pacific region of Alaska, California, Hawaii, Oregon and Washington; the West South Central region of Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Texas; the East South Central region of Alabama, Kentucky, Mississippi and Tennessee; and the South Atlantic region of the District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia and West Virginia.

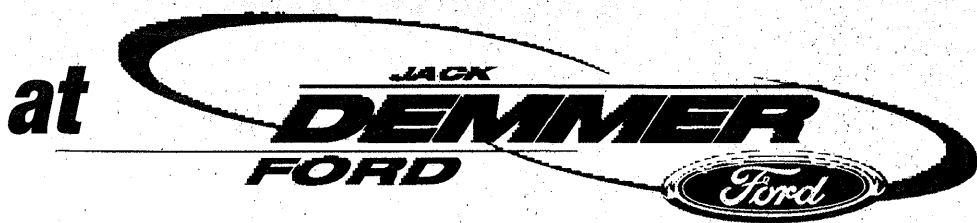
The regions that generally returned the lowest percentage of costs were New England (Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont), East North Central (Illinois,

Indiana, Michigan, Ohio and Wisconsin), West North Central (Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota and South Dakota), and Middle Atlantic (New York and Pennsylvania).

McMillan explained that the resale value of any given remodeling project depends on a variety of factors. "A home's overall condition, availability and condition of surrounding properties, location, and regional economic climate are all factors that will influence the value of any remodeling project," he said. "That's why it's important to consult with professionals like Realtors in your area when you want to enhance the value of your home."

Results are summarized in the December 2008 issue of REALTOR Magazine.

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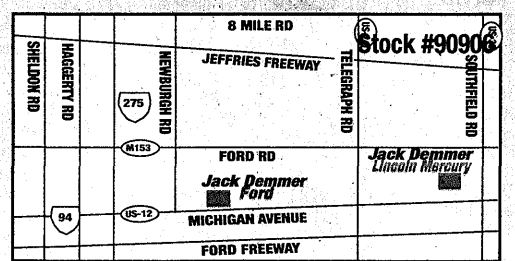
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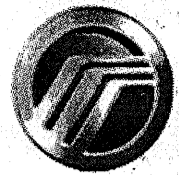
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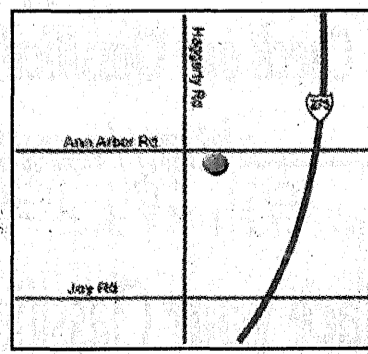


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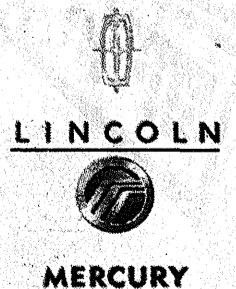


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