

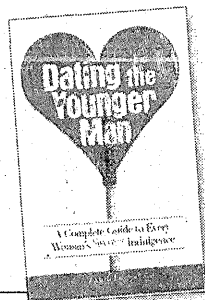


## The year in photos

Inside today's newspaper

## The zoo in the winter?

County news, A5



## Book seeks to change double standards when it comes to older woman-younger man couples

Hometownlife, C1



SUNDAY  
December 28, 2008

# Observer

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## Salvation Army: Requests for assistance rise

BY BRAD KADRICH  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The Salvation Army's annual Red Kettle fund-raising campaign is one of the most recognizable charitable drives around, and their Thanksgiving and Christmas Adopt-a-Family programs are perhaps their most visible and well-known efforts.

And while those programs saw increasing numbers this year as the economy suffered, they aren't the only numbers on the rise within the Salvation Army. Lesser known, but equally as important, programs such as utility and rent assistance are also climbing.

At the Plymouth Salvation Army, for instance, calls for utility assistance are coming at a rate of some 30 per day.

"We're seeing a huge increase in utility and rent (assistance)," said Laurie Aren, the Plymouth Corps' director of family and community ministries. "We encourage them to go to the Department of Human Services (because) that gets them in line for other kinds of assistance, as well."

Aren said many of the calls she fields are from people who "are in shutoff now," people who ran up large utility bills staying cool during the summer. Many calls, she said, come from people in low-income housing or mobile homes, drafty structures difficult to heat during the winter and cool in the summer.

She said the largest bill she's seen from someone seeking help is \$3,600, though she said she'd heard tell of one bill that closed in on \$10,000.

"It's cyclical," Aren said. "People are

in shutoff now from the summer. Then shutoff protection plans expire in the spring, so we'll start seeing them again in April, May and June."

While fielding some 30 utility calls a day, Aren said the Plymouth corps is also getting about 15-20 calls per day for rent assistance, in addition to 35-40 calls per day for food assistance.

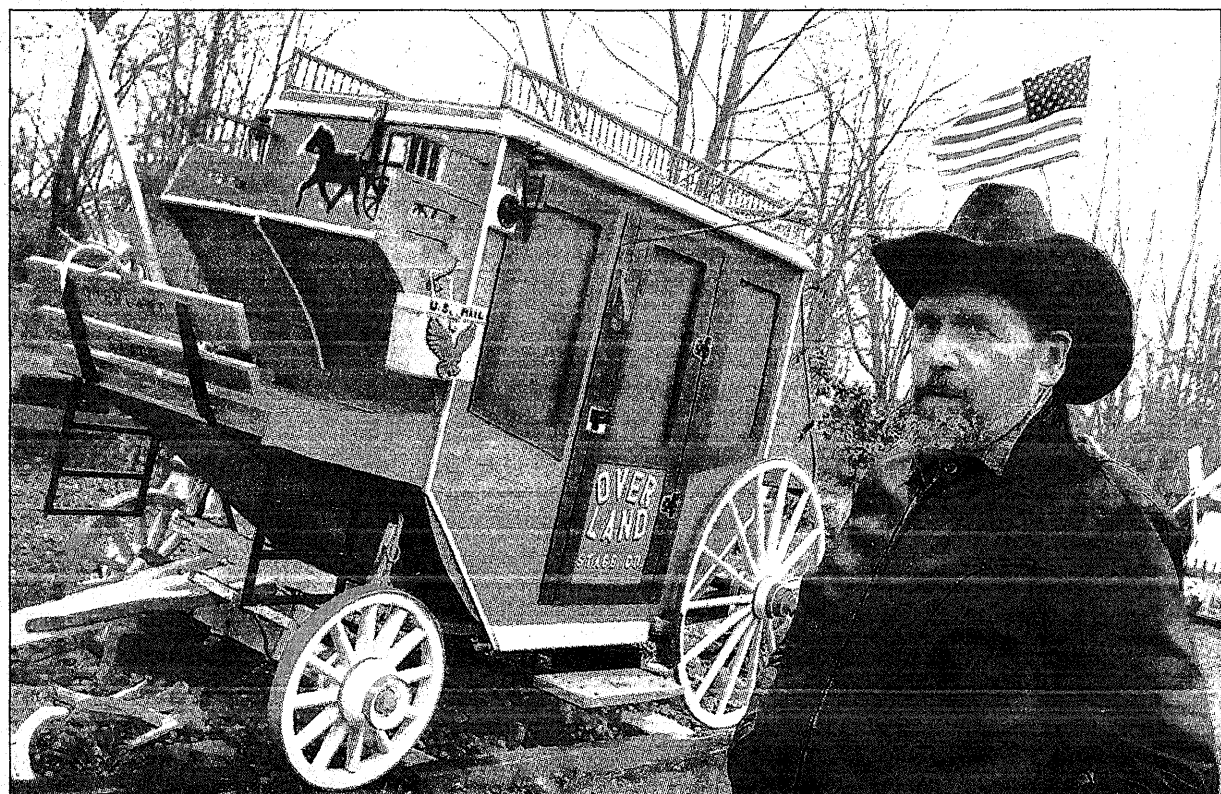
In addition, the corps adopted some 435 families for Christmas (up from 343 in 2007), a figure that encompasses some 1,035 children (up from 737 a year ago). The holiday need adds additional stress to an already strained mission.

"The challenge for us is while people are turning to us for Christmas and Thanksgiving assistance, we're trying to keep up with our regular case load," said Maj. Jim Irvine, the corps officer in Plymouth.

It's the same around the county. According to Capt. Derek Rose, commander of the Wayne-Westland Salvation Army, his corps is fielding some 20-30 calls a day for assistance. Unfortunately, the Wayne-Westland corps won't receive its funding for utility/rent assistance until after the first of the year, that means Rose's staffers have to refer those in need to other agencies, such as the DHS, churches and other organizations that might be able to help.

And Wayne-Westland, like the other corps, saw an increase in need over the holidays. According to Rose, the Wayne-Westland Salvation Army had some 700 requests for help this year, up from 630 a year ago.

Please see **REQUESTS, A4**



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

H. Clemens of Westland stands near the stagecoach he built in his back yard.

## Wild, wild Westland Man builds a stagecoach

BY DARRELL CLEM  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

H. Clemens doesn't fancy himself a modern day John Wayne, even if he did build a stagecoach in his back yard.

"I just always wanted to build one," said Clemens, 58, a self-employed auto body repairman and painter.

His stagecoach blends with other relics, including an old-fashioned locomotive and a windmill, that can be found on Clemens' prop-

erty on Westland's southeast side. He even has a Memory Lane sign posted in his back yard.

Clemens built his latest project, similar to an old U.S. Mail delivery stagecoach, last summer. He used wheels and axles he bought at an old apple orchard, and he pieced together scrap wood, steel, leather belt straps, handmade latches and a couple of Old West-style arrows that make it appear as though his latest creation has been under attack.

He used galvanized deck screws and construction adhesive to hold his stagecoach together even during winter weather, and he tucked a couple of plastic skeletons inside his old-school ride. He calls one of them Tex.

If anything seems a little mod-

ern on this stagecoach, it might be the Wyoming license plate, but Clemens had it and figured he may as well put it to use.

Even though the stagecoach doesn't really roll, Clemens put up a sign advertising for a full-time driver who must be handy with firearms and speak fluent Cherokee. The pay: \$20 a month.

The other side of the sign notes that coach rides are available, though riders are warned of possible holdups and urged to take out their own scalping insurance.

While he doesn't live in the wild, Westland, Clemens does seem proud of the stagecoach he built in his little corner of Westland.

"It was a labor of love," he said.

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## Gift exchange has a charitable side

BY JULIE BROWN  
O&E STAFF WRITER

Did you end up with a gift that doesn't exactly suit your tastes? Consider coming to Westland Shopping Center 6-8 p.m. Monday, Dec. 29, for a "White Elephant" gift exchange or donation.

The event, in the East Court, will benefit the Wayne-Westland Salvation Army.

"Bring along everything and anything you'd like to exchange," said Denise Mills, marketing manager for Westland Shopping Center, at Wayne and Warren roads. "We'll see what happens."

This is the first year for the "White Elephant" exchange so organizers aren't sure just what the response will be. It came from the

mall's corporate office which had a "Spread the Cheer" program, including the concept.

"I thought, 'Let's give it a try,'" Mills said.

Participants will bring a gift, new or of good quality, and register it with a contact phone number. Organizers will make calls Tuesday to let donors know if the item is wanted for exchange. Unwanted items can be donated to the Salvation Army.

"We wanted to give them a head start for next year," Mills said. "We'll do the rounds on Tuesday. Being a first time, you have no idea."

She chose not to put size limits on gifts: "We'll just see what shows up."

There's no cash involved, strictly a gift exchange. For details, call Mills at (734) 425-5001.

## Police seek info on three holdups

BY DARRELL CLEM  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Westland police are investigating a rash of armed robberies or attempts, including two that occurred in a sprawling apartment complex, The Landings, southeast of Warren and Central City Parkway.

The most recent holdup happened about 8:45 p.m. Tuesday, when a 25-year-old mother was getting her child out of the back seat of her car in a Landings parking lot, police Sgt. Steve Borisch said.

"Someone approached her, stuck an unknown object to her back and took her purse," he said.

The victim wasn't hurt, and the lone bandit fled on foot. He was described as a tall black male with a slim build. His face was masked, and he wore an orange jacket with fur around the collar, Borisch said.

Two nights earlier, a lone bandit who caught a taxi cab from Inkster to Westland tried to rob the driver

of money, but escaped with only a cell phone following a brief struggle at The Landings, police Sgt. Brian Miller said.

The suspect produced a handgun, but no shots were fired during the incident that happened about 9 p.m. last Sunday, police said. The gunman had been picked up by the cab driver near Inkster and Annapolis roads.

Miller said the cab driver described the gunman as a black male, 5 feet, 9 inches tall, 150 to 160 pounds, in his early 20s. His clothing included what the victim described as a white, fur-type hat, Miller said.

Meanwhile, an attempted robbery happened shortly after 8 p.m. Monday at Romantasy, a retail business in a shopping center on the northwest side of Wayne and Hunter roads, Borisch said.

Two men armed with handguns went into the store and tried to take money from a 65-year-old female

clerk, who slammed the cash register drawer closed and pressed an alarm, Borisch said. The bandits fled without any money.

The men had earlier been inside the store and were believed to have staked it out, the detective said.

The victim described both men as black males in their 20s and between 6 feet tall and 6-foot-4. One was stocky; the other had a thin to medium build, the woman told police.

The stocky male was wearing a red coat, and the other suspect wore a black or dark blue coat with some type of lettering on the back.

Anyone who has information about any of the incidents is asked to call Westland police at (734) 721-6311 or (734) 722-9600.

Borisch also said anonymous tips for a possible reward up to \$1,000 may be made to Crime Stoppers by calling (800) SPEAK-UP (773-2587).

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### Coming Thursday in filter



Nine events to help kick off 2009

# GC man faces sentencing for indecent exposure

BY DARRELL CLEM  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A Garden City man and repeat sex offender is facing sentencing in January after pleading guilty

to charges he exposed himself to passing motorists in Westland. Steven Brian Smith, 46, already spent 12 years in prison for second-degree criminal sexual conduct involving a boy. He

was released in 2006, according to the Michigan Department of Corrections. Smith is now facing sentencing Jan. 6 for indecent exposure following his arrest in June in the

Venoy-Cherry Hill area, where he was "standing totally naked and posing for traffic," Westland police Sgt. Debra Mathews has said. On Friday, defense attorney

Marvin Stempien said it would be inappropriate for him to comment on Smith's still-pending sentencing in front of Wayne County Circuit Judge Brian Sullivan.

Smith had been ordered to stand trial after he earlier waived his preliminary hearing in Westland 18th District Court, but his plea has averted further court proceedings other than his sentencing.

Following his latest arrest, Smith was jailed with a \$1 million cash bond set by 18th District Judge Sandra Ference Cicirelli, who cited his criminal history.

Last December, Smith was charged with indecent exposure after he was accused of masturbating by a Westland road, police said. While on bond in that case, he was detained after he was spotted near two Garden City elementary schools, prompting Cicirelli to sentence him to jail for 89 days.

Smith had just gotten out of jail last April, two months before he was accused of exposing himself in the latest incident.

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## Man arrested in Christmas holdup in GC

A Dearborn Heights man was arrested on Christmas Day in the robbery of a Garden City convenience store.

A clerk at 7-Eleven, on Warren at Middlebelt, told police he was working in the candy aisle about 6:30 p.m. when a man entered the store. The clerk said he began to ring up a candy bar purchase when the man demanded all the money and threatened to shoot him.

"I don't want to shoot you. Just give me the money, I have a gun," the man told him, the clerk reported.

The clerk, a Wayne resident, told police he gave the man approximately \$350 from the register. The man never showed a weapon, the clerk said, but implied he had a gun in his pocket.

Just prior to the robbery being reported, a responding officer noted, Dearborn Heights police were looking for a suspect in an attempted armed robbery in that city. The description of the would-be robber and the vehicle were the same as in the Garden City robbery.

As Garden City officers responded to the local robbery, Dearborn Heights officers had stopped a possible suspect at Ann Arbor Trail and Telegraph. The 7-Eleven clerk was taken to the scene and identified him as the man who had robbed the store, police said.

Since the suspect did not have a gun when arrested, police said it appeared he had implied he had a gun by placing a hand in his jacket pocket.

A Westland man stopped and told police he had seen the suspect at 7-Eleven a short time earlier. He said he was waiting in his vehicle while his son was in the store and the suspect had given him a dirty look as he drove by. The suspect parked and was entering the store as the man left. When he saw the same vehicle stopped by police, the Westland man said, he stopped because the man had seemed suspicious.

Dearborn Heights police took custody of the suspect pending charges in Garden City.

### Friday holdup

A second Garden City robbery was reported at 2 a.m. Dec. 26 at the Speedway gas station, 28451 Ford.

The clerk told police he was cleaning the coffee equipment when a man entered the store wearing a scarf around his face. The man demanded the money from the cash register and escorted the clerk to the register.

After the suspect obtained approximately \$100 in cash, the clerk was told to go back to the area of the coffee machines and turn his back to the suspect, he told police.

Officers attempted to track the suspect's footprints but lost the trail at Pardo.

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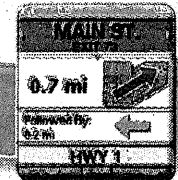
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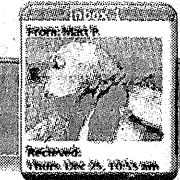
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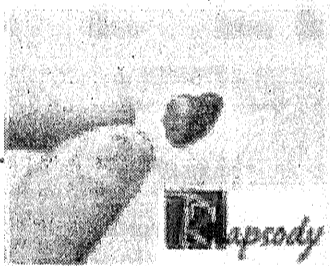


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**REQUESTS**

FROM PAGE A 1

"We just finished distributing for Christmas," said Rose. "Our numbers were up 30-40 percent for families coming in. We saw a lot of new families we were able to assist for toys, food and a Christmas meal, as well."

Happily, according to Rose, another number was up this year: The number of families he was able to adopt out. Rose said some 67 percent of the families the Wayne-Westland corps assisted were adopted out to donor families, up from last year.

"With the Westland community, we've been trying to get the word out it's going to be a tough year," Rose said. "The economy is in everybody's face, and people know how hard it is out there. We're very grateful to see people stepping up and letting us help the people in this community."

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TH 4:50, 7:15, 9:35  
FRI-TH 12:00, 2:25, 4:50, 7:15, 9:35  
FRI/SAT 1:5, 11:55  
**◎ MARLEY & ME (PG)**  
TH 4:20, 7:00, 9:40  
FRI-TH 11:00, 1:40, 4:20, 7:00, 9:40  
**◎ THE CURIOUS CASE OF BENJAMIN BUTTON (PG-13)**  
TH 3:10, 6:30, 9:50  
FRI-TH 11:55, 3:10, 6:30, 9:50  
**◎ YES MAN (PG-13)**  
TH 4:30, 7:05, 9:30  
FRI-TH 11:45, 2:10, 4:30, 7:05, 9:30  
FRI/SAT 11:50  
**◎ THE TALE OF DESPEREAUX (G)**  
TH 4:10, 6:45  
FRI-TH 11:50, 2:00, 4:10, 6:45  
**FOUR CHRISTMASSES (PG-13)**  
DAILY 3:30, 5:35, 7:40, 9:45  
FRI/SAT 12:00  
**3D BOLT (PG)**  
FRI-TH 11:10, 1:25

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# Humane Society provides 'pawsitive' reinforcement

BY JULIE BROWN  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Damion, a 1-year-old retriever, enters the room at the Michigan Humane Society's Berman Center for Animal Care in Westland eager to show his stuff.

"So we're looking for a nice loose leash," said Terri Mallett, companion animal behavior specialist for the MHS. She was talking about the Pawsitive Start program, started by the MHS this spring to give positive behavior a boost. Some 80 volunteers work with cats and dogs at the shelters in Westland, Rochester Hills and Detroit. "We don't have cable television for them," said Mallett of animals like Damion at the Westland and other shelters. He's an adolescent dog and larger, so having socialization opportunities is particularly important when he's kenneled.

"It's a good experience for the animal," said MHS spokeswoman Stephanie Baron. "It's a good thing for the adopters to build on."

Pawsitive Start began last May and is designed to maintain mental and emotional well-being while animals are in the shelters. Being better behaved after they've been adopted is a nice extra, Mallett said. Heather, a boxer-lab mix about three months old, was also good about responding to commands. A clicker is used to alert the pet and a treat then given after the desired behavior's shown. Pawsitive Start offers environmental enrichment through positive training, said Mallett.

"I think the economy is having an impact," she agreed, noting animals tend to stay in the shelters longer.

"We are still adopting out," Baron said. "People are still coming in." The Bingham Farms-based MHS has a Web site at www.michigan-humane.org where you can find information on pets, volunteer opportunities and more.

Training by volunteers

helps to alleviate boredom, Mallett said, as she gave small treats to Damion.

"A lot of people don't associate training with cats," said Baron, whose two cats walk on a leash.

"You have to be a lot more patient with cats," Mallett said. "They're more independent." Cat training sessions are shorter, she said as she reached into Duchess' area, to work with the 2-year-old domestic shorthair.

Targeting is used with cats, in which they respond to the end of a stick being placed near them and a small treat given. You can use your finger as well.

Training works with any age animal, as young as eight weeks.

"Senior animals can learn new things, too," said Mallett, adding such training helps the MHS make the best home match.

Training also includes working with dogs on special nail files which the animal scratches to file nails. Mallett's four dogs are enthusiastic, and she must keep the file of plywood with a rough surface on the shelf.

"They like doing their nails so much," Mallett said. It's less stressful for the dog and saves money for the owner.

Volunteers are trained by the MHS and work individually or in teams. "It's pretty easy," Mallett said in encouraging those interested.

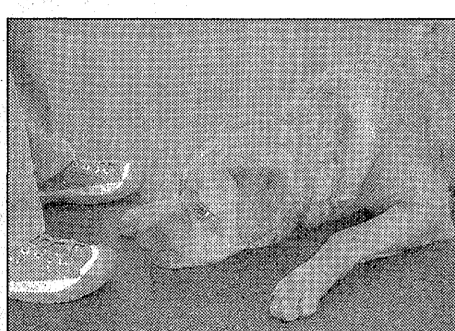
Dogs are trained to recognize the human "mad face" which indicates displeasure. "We don't start out telling them they're bad," Mallett said.

Baron added the busy holiday season may not be the ideal time to bring a new pet home, especially if you're entertaining. "They'll be more comfortable, you'll be more comfortable," she said of an adoption after the New Year.

The Michigan Humane Society offers a Behavior Help Line for challenges with pet behavior. You can call (248) 650-0127 anytime and leave a message for a return call.



Terri Mallett and Damion work on loose leash walking during the Michigan Humane Society's Pawsitive Start program.



Damion responds to a command given by Terri Mallett, a companion animal behavior specialist for the MHS.



Stephanie Baron of Troy holds a young Dancer.

PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

## Businesses' collection aids pets

While animal homelessness is especially heartbreaking during the holiday season, a Michigan-based company is hoping that by filling the animals' stockings with items that bring comfort such as food, toys, treats, and towels, they can help make their holidays a little brighter.

To that end, US-Mattress, an online retailer specializing in mattresses, bedroom furniture and linens, is holding a Holiday Wish List Drive at their showrooms in Macomb and Plymouth to benefit the Michigan Humane Society (MHS), through Wednesday, Dec. 31.

MHS wish list items that are most needed include dog and cat food (dry or canned), treats, toys (nonporous), clay cat litter, towels, small blankets and, of course, monetary donations that will help

MHS place the animals in new, loving homes. For the complete MHS Wish List, visit [http://www.michiganhumane.org/donate\\_wishlist](http://www.michiganhumane.org/donate_wishlist).

Wish list items can be dropped off at the US-Mattress showrooms in Macomb at 15611 Hall Road, and Plymouth at 1056 W. Ann Arbor Road. Store hours are 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday.

Donations can also be dropped off at one of the three Michigan Humane Society adoption centers, located at: 7401 Chrysler Drive in Detroit, 3600 W. Auburn Road in Rochester Hills, and 900 N. Newburgh in Westland. MHS adoption center hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Wednesday.

US-Mattress is also partnering with MHS to raise funds. When you buy a mattress online at [www.us-mattress.com](http://www.us-mattress.com) you'll receive free shipping on your order and, by entering the coupon code "MHS" during checkout, you'll generate a donation of \$100 to MHS for each mattress ordered.

In addition, when you buy a US-Mattress gift card online through Dec. 31, 2008, the amount will be matched as a donation to MHS. For added convenience, the gift card can be e-mailed either to you or the recipient.

For more information on the US-Mattress Holiday Wish List drive or to make a monetary donation, call the Michigan Humane Society at (866) MHUMANE, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays or visit [www.michigan-humane.org](http://www.michigan-humane.org).

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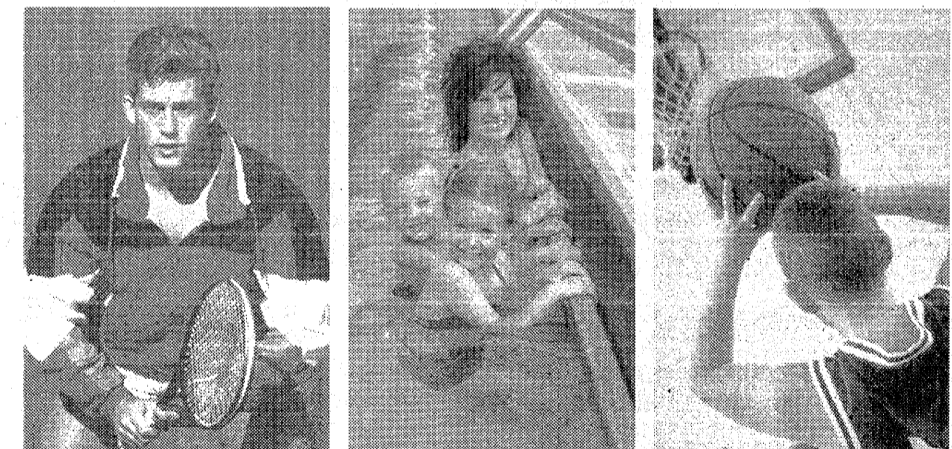
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# Zoo in winter?

It's more fun than a barrel of polar bears

BY MEGAN PENNEFATHER  
O&E STAFF WRITER

Compared to the Arctic, Michigan winter is a springtime stroll for those giant white fur-balls at the Detroit Zoo.

"The polar bears are in their prime right now," said Bob Lessnau, curator for mammals at the Detroit Zoo.

Of course, polar bears don't have to drive in this weather, but still, frigid temperatures and snow only make the Arctic Ring of Life exhibit more of a playground for them, he said. "They're having a great time out there."

So are a lot of animals at the zoo, as the colder weather brings out a lot of mammals like wolverines, red pandas and even the tigers.

"It is a better time to see animals," said Lessnau, adding he once saw gorillas playing in the snow at the Cleveland Zoo a few years back.

Even though many zoo species hail from subtropical and tropical climates, mammals are warm-blooded and can adapt to some pretty punishing conditions.

"I think I'm having a harder time than these animals," Lessnau said of the winter weather. "The animals do adapt to it."



PHOTOS BY LAWRENCE MCKEE  
STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

## ZOO FACTS

The Detroit Zoo is open daily from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. November through March. Admission is \$11 for adults 13 to 61, \$9 for senior citizens 62 and older, and \$7 for children ages 2 to 12; children under 2 are free. For more information, call (248) 541-5717 or visit [www.detroitzoo.org](http://www.detroitzoo.org).

the Zoo's Web site, [www.detroitzoo.org](http://www.detroitzoo.org).

For those animals that can't adapt to the conditions, exhibits are either moved indoors, as in the case of the meerkats, or on hold until spring, like with the giraffes. Animals like the apes are allowed outside but with easy access to a heat source.

The winter will also be a transformative time for the zoo, said Lessnau, as the facility is trying to acquire rare "cold-tolerant" animals, like the takin, a goat-ante-



Polar bears are in their prime this time of year, says Bob Lessnau, the zoo's curator of mammals.

lope that hails from the eastern Himalayas. More farm animals will be added as well, like pigs and an amber-colored Scottish Highlands steer.

In addition, the zoo will be replacing one of its two male tigers with a female in hopes there will be a new cub in a few months. "Come spring," said Lessnau, "the zoo will have a new look to it."

But that's still months away. Now's the time to see how some of your favorite animals act when put in the cold.

See the elk come alive. See the polar bears play. See the bison — well, the bison don't do a whole lot no matter the weather, but they're interesting to see. But the most surprising stars of winter viewing are the wolverines. "The wolverines are really

fun to watch," said Lessnau. "It almost seems like they're doing snow angels."

And even if the animals aren't enough to lure you in, the scenic serenity of a zoo in winter may.

"When it's dressed up in snow," Lessnau said of the zoo, "it's a beautiful place."

[mpennefather@hometownlife.com](mailto:mpennefather@hometownlife.com)  
(248) 901-2558

A Japanese macaque, or snow monkey, has a conversation with other snow monkeys at the Detroit Zoo. Snow monkeys are one of many animals more active this time of year.

In the heat of summer, most animals sleep during the day to conserve energy, so visiting the zoo on an 85-degree day can be kind of a yawn.

Still, the dog days of summer are the zoo's busiest time of year. Zoo spokeswoman Patricia Mills Janeway said zoo attendance is 200,157 in July compared to 22,724 in November.

"Many people contact the Detroit Zoo this time of year and ask when we close for the season," said Janeway. "The answer is, we don't."

This week the zoo is offering a discount of \$2 off all admissions through Dec. 31. The offer is available only with a printable coupon, which can be found on

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# Help wanted: Warming center puts out call for volunteers

BY SUE MASON  
OGE STAFF WRITER

You can set your wrist watch to 7 p.m. Jan. 1. Like clockwork, the warming center operated by Lighthouse Home Mission opens its doors to the homeless. For three months, now through March 31, the center offers food and a warm place to sleep from 7 p.m. to 8 a.m.

That was the case until last month. With bone-chilling winter weather hitting early, the mission opened the center two weeks early.

"The Lord provided the space and the workers," said Thelma Ivey of Garden City, who has been working with the homeless, first in Detroit and now in the western suburbs for more than 20 years.

This is the fifth year a warming center has operated at Full Gospel Temple on Palmer Road in Westland. Operated by the Lighthouse Home Mission, it provides a hot meal of soup, donated by area businesses, a shower and place to sleep for homeless men and women. It's able to operate with the help of volunteers and the support of nine area churches.

According to Ivey, the outreach coordinator, some of the people

who come to the warming center and a soup kitchen that's open at lunchtime each day aren't homeless in the strictest sense of the word. Some might have jobs, but can't afford to have a place to stay. The heartbreaker, she said, is the men who chose to be homeless to avoid paying child support.

"I see so many stories," she said. "A lot of people come in and they're about to be evicted. We don't have the finances to help them, but we make calls and by the time they leave, nine out of 10 have help."

Twice a week, Ivey meets with homeless and needy individuals, seeing what they need and helping them connect with social service agencies. In some cases, it's as simple as acquiring a state ID card so they can get a job, or signing up for assistance. People are transported to where they need to go, but Ivey believes if agencies could send someone to the center once a month that would help tremendously.

Ivey has worked on the warming center since 2004 with the Rev. B.C. Beneteau, director of the Lighthouse Home Mission. The mission covers the electric and heating bills, but it's donations that

provide clothing and bedding for the center. Volunteers serve as the night watchmen at the center or help launder the bedding.

Help has come from the employees at Kohl's, Henry Ford OptimEyes, Safe Step and local church youth groups, to name a few.

The mission also relies on donations to feed the homeless. Ivey's name is synonymous with bologna sandwiches. Each month, volunteers at her church, Warren Road Light and Life in Westland, prepare 1,200 bologna sandwiches that are served at the warming center and at the soup kitchen. Donations of leftover soup from area restaurants as well as juice, coffee, milk and sweets fill out the menu for the evening meal.

But Ivey is looking for another church to also make sandwiches, so the warming center and a soup kitchen open 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. daily can handle the increasing demand.

"Again, I'll ask the Lord to provide because there's no money to buy more food," she said.

There also are men who pick up the soup donations, but what is desperately needed is men and women to work in the soup kitchen

which feeds up to 60 people a day. While the kitchen is open 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., workers are needed to show up by 10 a.m. to help set up and get the soup ready. Volunteers can commit to one day a week or more. Ivey will take whatever she can get.

Beneteau, in an appeal to area businesses, stressed that donations go to the needy not to administrative costs.

"Our goal is to help the indigent to take on life in society with new vigor, to help them find the means to clothe and feed themselves," said Beneteau in a letter to the business community. "We want to be a hand up not a handout."

People interested in donating or helping the warming center and soup kitchen can call Lighthouse Home Mission at (734) 326-3885.

"It's all about making a difference in someone's life," said Ivey. "I know this year there will be bigger needs than we have experienced in the past."

"We need a year-round shelter staffed with volunteers to help clients to see there is a better life for them. We do care and give them hope."

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## WARMING CENTER

**What:** Lighthouse Mission Warming Center, a temporary overnight shelter for homeless men and women during the winter months, and a soup kitchen.

**When:** The warming center is open 7 p.m. to 8 a.m. daily now through March 31. The soup kitchen is open 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday-Friday.

**Where:** At the Full Gospel Temple, 34033 Palmer, east of Wayne Road, Westland.

**What:** The center provides a hot meal, showers and a place to sleep for up to 50 homeless individuals. It is staffed by volunteers and operates with the help of donations from individuals and businesses and the support of nine area churches - Christ Temple, Westland Free Methodist, Warren Road Life and Life and the Full Gospel Temple in Westland, Merriman Road Baptist in Garden City, Abundant Life Church in Canton, NorthRidge Church in Plymouth Township, First Methodist in Wayne and Ward Presbyterian in Northville Township.

**What:** Volunteers are needed to work in the soup kitchen 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday, to help sorting and sizing clothing and preparing food boxes 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday, or work at the warming center, laundering bedding once a week on Tuesday or Thursday or serving as watchmen when the center is open.

**Information:** To make a donation or to volunteer to help, call Thelma Ivey at (734) 326-3885.

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## Metroparks offer winter fun

Christmas break is starting out with a blast as a winter storm blanketed 13 Huron-Clinton Metroparks. Park staffs are busy clearing roads and parking lots, and will be grooming cross-country ski trails, as they get the parks ready for winter activities. Visitors are advised to always call ahead to check on snow conditions and facility conditions.

Cross-country ski trails will be open, as conditions allow, at Hudson Mills, Huron Meadows, Indian Springs, Kensington, Lake Erie, Metro Beach, Stony Creek and Willow Metroparks. Most trails are self-groomed; tracks will be set as snow conditions allow. Trails are groomed for classic cross country skiing at all parks; Huron Meadows Metropark is one of a few parks in southeast Michigan

that grooms its trails for skate-style and classic cross country skiing. Call the individual park for trail conditions and when grooming will be completed.

Cross-country skis can be rented at Hudson Mills, Huron Meadows, Kensington, Stony Creek and Willow Metroparks on weekends. Kensington, Willow, Huron Meadows and Stony Creek Metroparks' ski centers also will be renting ski equipment during Christmas break - now through Jan. 4 - as snow conditions allow.

Sledding hills are located at Kensington, Indian Springs, Lake Erie, Willow, Stony Creek and Willow Metroparks. Toboggans can be used on designated hills at Stony Creek and Willow Metroparks. Kensington has two toboggan runs.

Snowboards are allowed only on the designated snowboarding hill at Stony Creek Metropark.

Lower Huron, Kensington and Willow Metroparks also have outdoor ice rinks. Call the individual park for ice rink conditions.

Snowshoes can be rented from the nature centers at Oakwoods and Stony Creek Metroparks - \$5 per adult, \$3 per child for three hours. The nature centers are open from 1-5 p.m. weekdays and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekends. Both nature centers are closed New Year's Day.

Because ice and snow conditions vary from day to day, it's always best to call ahead to check on snow conditions before visiting any park. For more information, visit the Metroparks Web site at www.metroparks.com.

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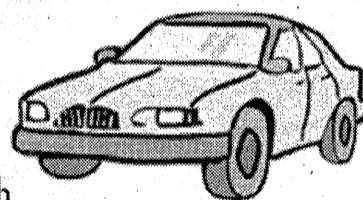
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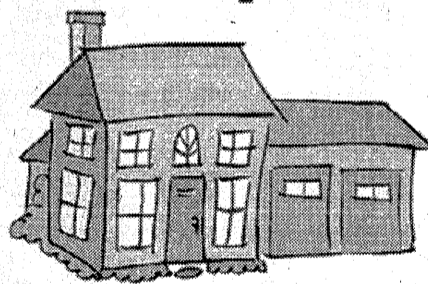
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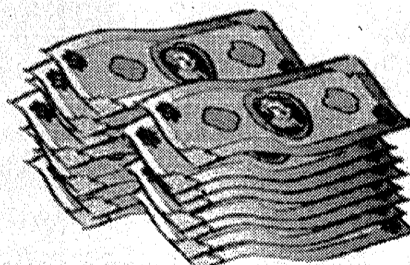
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# Kwanzaa's core shines light of hope on hard times

BY STACY JENKINS  
OGE STAFF WRITER

In hard times, Kwanzaa's beacon of hope shines even brighter.

Unity, self determination, collective work and responsibility, cooperative economics, purpose, creativity and faith are the seven principles of Kwanzaa, being celebrated Dec. 26 through Jan. 1.

"We all work together and we all are one — that's what it's about," said Wayne Smith, of Farmington Hills, whose family participated in a Kwanzaa celebration recently in Farmington. "Our nation has come together and showed us that we can work as one. That's the unity we need at this time."

Royce Anderson, 14, of Farmington Hills, read a story of courage and determination to a small audience at the celebration.

"To limit ourselves is to limit our determination," he said.

Other families shared their thoughts about a particular principle of Kwanzaa. The Beamer family, of Farmington, talked about collective work and responsibility and how this principle can be applied at a "time when our community is hurting."

"It's so important at this time, when businesses, households and schools are under pressures of all sorts," said Dirk Beamer. "We need to work together to tackle problems and find new solutions."

Drawing strength from the seven principles is at the heart of Kwanzaa, a secular observance created in 1966 by Dr. Maulana Ron Karenga, for African Americans to celebrate their African heritage. The observance was born from adversity in the 1960s racially divided America, which saw monumental changes in civil rights and equality by decade's end.

Today, Kwanzaa is a family-oriented observance, in which the symbols of a straw mat, a candle holder, ears of corn, gifts, a unity cup, water and soil weave the story of Kwanzaa and the African American culture.

"Kwanzaa allows us to cel-



PHOTOS BY TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The Smith family, from left, Wayne, Donna, and 8-year-old Taylor, of Farmington Hills, discuss the first principle of Kwanza, Umoja (Unity) during a Kwanzaa celebration in Farmington.



Sonia Anderson lights the second Kwanzaa candle as she and her family, husband Roy, and 14-year-old son Royce, talk about the second Kwanzaa principle, Kujichagulia (Self Determination).

brate the season without shame or fear, while embracing our culture," said Marvin Gilliam.

His wife, Cora, said it's not just a week-long event.

"Kwanzaa is a way of life, not just a celebration," she said. "Kwanzaa is to help black Americans relate to their past, in order to understand the present, and especially to deal with the future."

Kwanzaa means "first fruits," or harvest time, a time of the year designated for families to be together and share the fruits of the year. A candle is lit, usually before the dinner meal, on each of the seven days of Kwanzaa.

Each day of Kwanzaa has its own focus.

- Dec. 26 — Unity: striving for and maintaining unity in the family and community.
- Dec. 27 — Self-determi-

nation: Speaking for yourself, instead of being spoken for by others.

- Dec. 28 — Collective work and responsibility: Building and maintaining the community together, making fellow African Americans' problems our own.

- Dec. 29 — Cooperative economics: To build and maintain enterprises and profit from them together.

- Dec. 30 — Purpose: To build and develop the community in order to restore African Americans to their traditional greatness.

- Dec. 31 — Creativity: To do as much as you can to leave the community beautiful.

- Jan. 1. — Faith: To believe with all of your heart in African American people, parents and leaders.

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Douglas Saulsberry performs the Pouring of Libations, paying homage to influential people in one's life, as part of the Kwanzaa celebration in Farmington.

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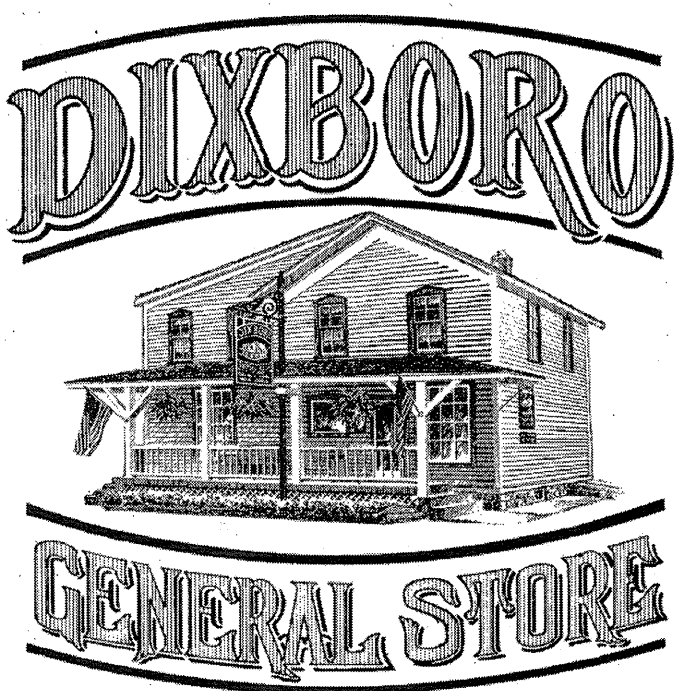
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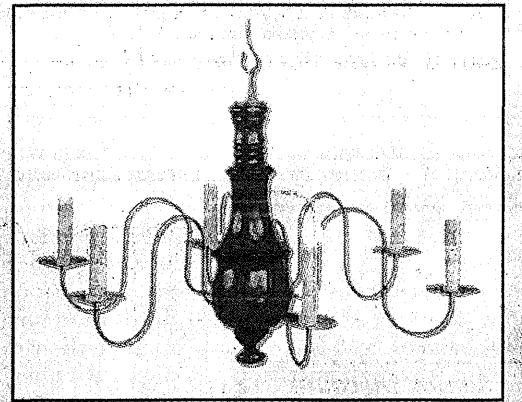
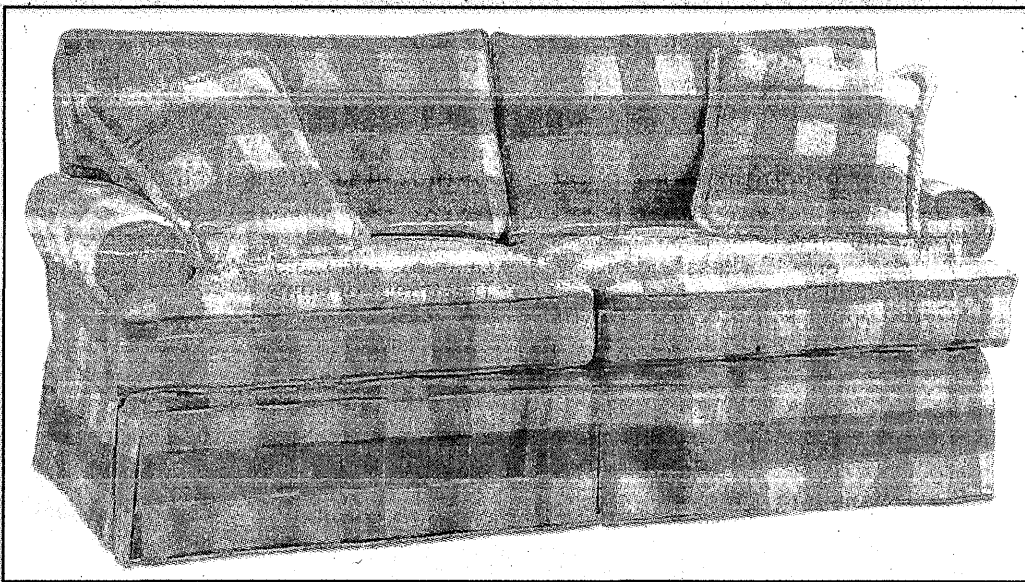
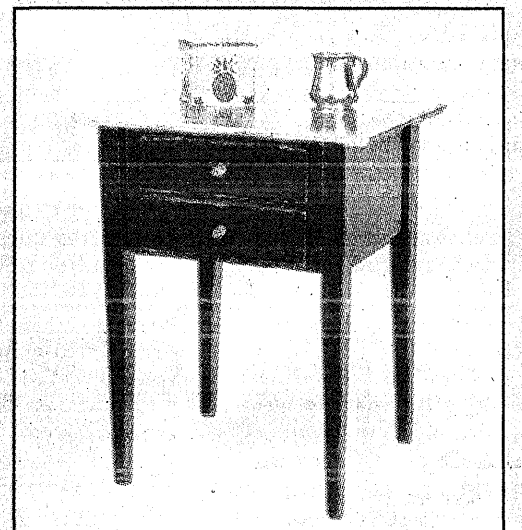
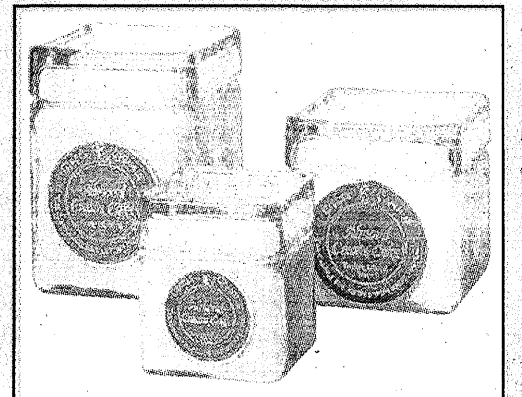
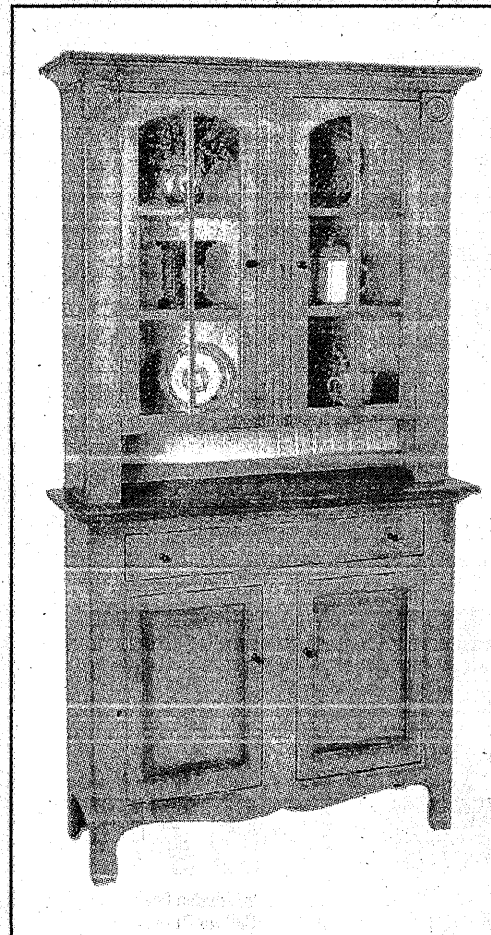
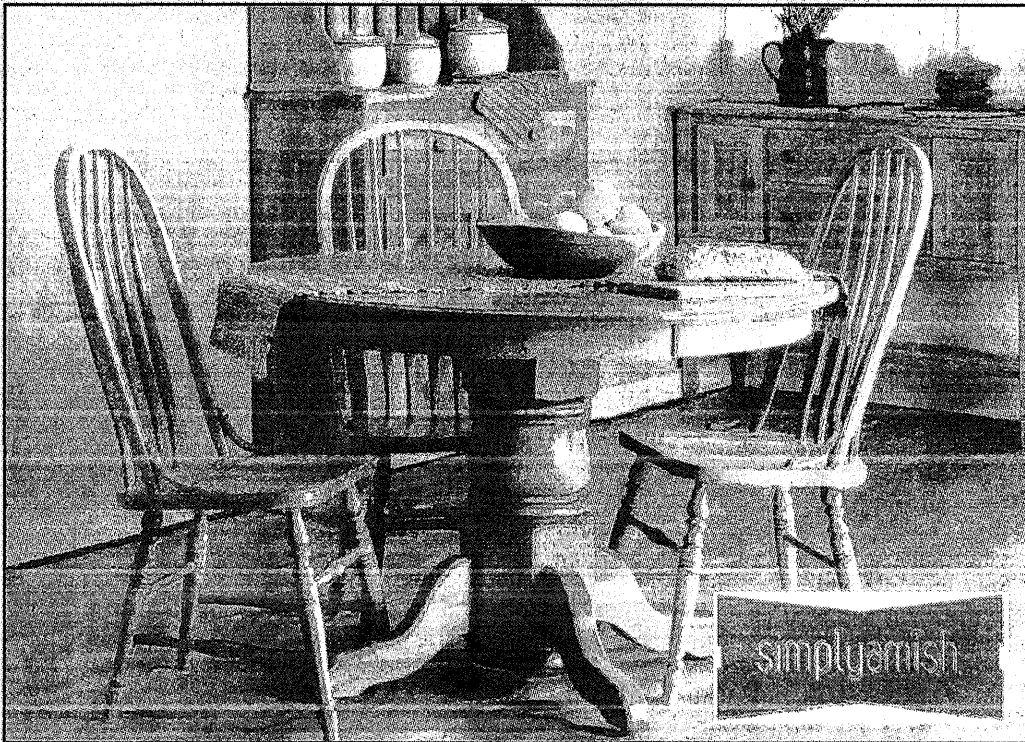


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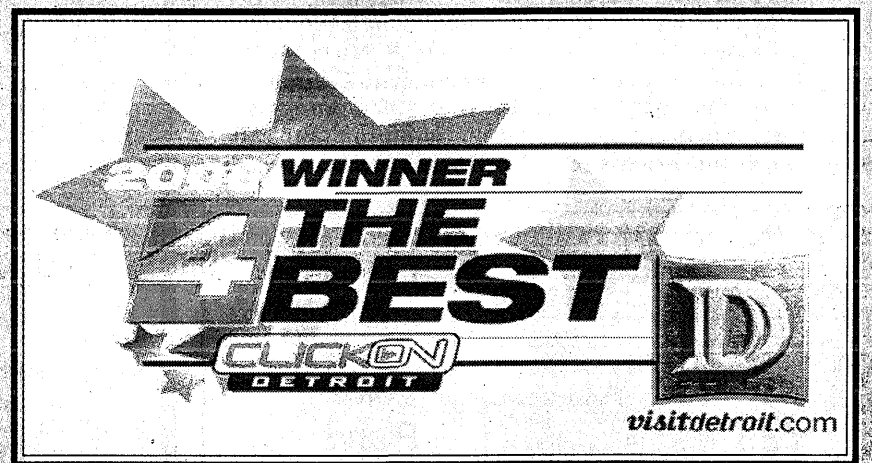
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COMMENTARY

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## Donating is doable even when your budget is getting tight

The economic downturn is putting many charitable organizations in Michigan and across the country in a difficult predicament. Requests for assistance from those in need are increasing at a time when donations to support charitable services are sinking.

More than 80 percent of food banks in a recent Feeding America survey said that they can't adequately meet the requests of hungry people asking for assistance. As

potential donors are having to make their own difficult budget decisions to keep food on the table, gas in their car, and a roof overhead, charitable giving is often the first thing cut from a family budget.

While donating money may be difficult, there are many other ways people can provide assistance to those in need of a helping hand. The following are a few examples of how to make a positive contribution to charitable causes when times may be tough on your own checkbook:

**DONATE TOYS, FOOD OR OTHER ITEMS**

Many organizations can put "in-kind" gifts to good use, but contact the charity to find out what donated items are actually needed before you give. Donors sometimes think any item they give will

be useful to someone, but the truth is that broken toys are not acceptable presents for any child and soiled or torn clothes will not sell in a thrift store. Disposing of unusable donated items actually adds administrative costs to charities, which become a hindrance to their ability to serve the community.

**SHOP THRIFTY**

Shopping at a Salvation Army, St. Vincent de Paul or Goodwill thrift store could help you save money for your family budget while also supporting a good cause. These stores offer good deals on secondhand items, and sales help fund charitable programs.

**GET RID OF THAT UNUSED CAR**

An unused car or truck could be put to use directly by a charity or provided to a third-party vehicle donation program like Charity Motors, Purple Heart or Volunteers of America that donate proceeds from its resale to support local charitable causes. Make sure you understand how a charity will benefit from the donation and investigate what you can claim as a tax deduction before you donate.

**VOLUNTEER YOUR TIME**

Volunteering your time can be as important as a cash contribution. Volunteering doesn't have to involve direct assistance to those in need (like laddling

soup at a homeless shelter). Assisting with office work or other behind-the-scenes tasks can be just as helpful.

**SPEAK OUT**

Some charities are looking for advocates who can help advance policies and practices that will contribute to their missions. Charities can't promote political candidates, but they can urge or lobby for public policies that further charitable causes. You may be able to contribute by writing a letter to your congressional representative, calling a state legislator, e-mailing your county commissioner, or speaking at a city council meeting. Your endorsement could also encourage other people to donate their time or money to support a charity.

Even a small cash gift often produces big benefits. Feeding America says that \$1 in cash can help supply up to \$30 worth of food to those in need because the organization has economies of scale not available to the public. If you can afford to give a financial donation — give, but give wisely. Before you donate, check out a charity with your local Better Business Bureau at www.bbb.org/charity or by calling (248) 644-9100.

Tim Burns is the public affairs director for the Better Business Bureau serving Eastern Michigan. He can be reached at (248) 593-3253 or www.easternmichiganbbb.org.

**Gov. Jennifer M. Granholm**

Send correspondence to P.O. Box 30013, Lansing, MI 48909, or call Constituent Services at (517) 335-7858. The fax number is (517) 335-6863.

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**U.S. Sen. Carl Levin, D-Michigan**

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

**U.S. Sen. Debbie Stabenow, D-Michigan**

In Washington, D.C., the address is 133 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510. Call her there at (202) 224-4822, TTY (202) 224-2066, or e-mail her at senator@stabenow.senate.gov. In Detroit, her office is at 243 W. Congress, Suite 550. Call (313) 961-4330. She also has a Web site, stabenow.senate.gov.

**U.S. Rep. Thaddeus McCotter, D-Livonia**

His Washington, D.C., mailing address is 1632 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515. Call him at (202) 225-8171 or send a fax by dialing (202) 225-2667. His district office is at 17197 N. Laurel Park Drive, Suite 161, Livonia, MI 48152. Call him at (734) 632-0314 or send a fax at (734) 632-0373. He also has a Web site, mccotter.house.gov.

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## Houle picked to play in national game

Plymouth resident David Houle, an eighth-grade student at Our Lady Good Counsel School in Plymouth, was selected to play in the inaugural National 8th Grade All-Star Football Game in San Antonio, Texas, on Jan. 4.



David Houle

Houle was one of just eight Michigan eighth-grade players in the state of Michigan to play in the prestigious contest.

Unfortunately, the Michigan players will not be able to compete due to a Michigan High School Athletic Association guideline that prohibits athletes from competing in such events.

If Houle were to play, he would be ineligible to participate in high school sports in Michigan for a minimum of 365 days.

"We wish he could play in the game, but we understand the rules," said Houle's dad, David, a former gridiron standout at Salem and



Plymouth resident David Houle (55) was selected to play in a prestigious All-Star football game in San Antonio, Texas, on Jan. 4. Unfortunately, MHSAA rules prohibit Michigan athletes from playing in national All-Star contests.

Michigan State University. "It's an eighth-grade all-star game, which leads to the question: Where do you draw the line on how young these kids are? He's very, very disappointed, but he's honored just to have been selected."

Houle was selected after organizers of the event watch game film of him in action for OLGC.

The 5-foot-8, 172-pound linebacker will attend Novi Detroit Catholic Central in the fall of 2009.

## Nine returning seniors make PCA hoop team a contender

BY ED WRIGHT  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Led by a senior class of nine seniors who have played together for as long as they can remember, the Plymouth Christian Academy boys basketball team has its sights set on achieving some lofty goals during the 2008-09 season.

Optimism is justified for PCA, which finished 4-16 during the regular season last year before peaking during the post-season and winning a Class D District title.

"With nine seniors who have played together almost forever, our strength will be our experience," said second-year PCA coach Mike Doyle. "We should get stronger as the season goes on. We have a couple of players who are expected to join us in January who should help a lot.

"Our No. 1 weakness is probably our rebounding. We just don't have a lot of big guys."

All five Eagle starters are seniors: 5-foot-7 point guard Caleb Middleton, 6-foot shooting guard Spencer Wiard, 6-foot small forward Brent Zinn, 6-3 power forward Stephen Wrobelski and 6-3 center Reid Barber.

"Caleb is our floor leader," said Doyle. "He's a pass-first guy, but he can shoot, too. He's an extension of the coaching

### BOYS PREP HOOP PREVIEW

staff out there.

"Spencer is a great all-around player. He's one of our best defensive players, plus he can shoot threes and drive. And he's one of our best rebounders even though he's a guard.

"Brent is a very strong, athletic player. He's just a great all-around player.

"Stephen is a solid rebounder and Reid is a 10-rebound, 10-points guy every game. He's very, very consistent."

Among the first players off the bench for Doyle will be senior guard Paul Kitti (5-7) and sophomore sharpshooters Travis DeKruyter (5-7) and Matthew Dodson (5-8).

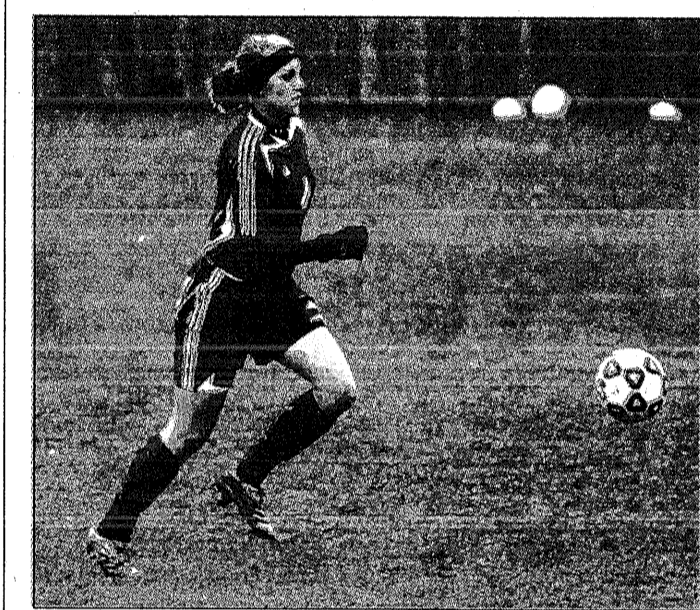
"Paul is a great on-the-ball defender," said Doyle. "He's very quick, very fast."

"Travis and Matthew are two of our best perimeter shooters. They can really shoot the three."

The Eagles will be one of the deepest teams around thanks to the contributions of Josh Krause, a 5-7 senior guard; John Slater, a 6-3 sophomore forward; Scott Hampson, a 6-2 senior forward; and Jordan Allen, a 5-10 junior guard.

PCA should be bolstered next month by the addition of 6-4 senior forward, Justin Govan, a transfer from Washtenaw Christian. Govan averaged 20 points and 10 rebounds per contest as a junior.

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



ED HENGESH

## Excelling at the next level

Former Plymouth High School soccer standout Brittany Hengesh played a key role in Olivet (Ill.) Nazarene College's title-winning effort at the 2008 National Christian College Athletic Association's championship tournament earlier this month in Kissimmee, Fla. Hengesh, a sophomore sweeper, earned the tournament's "Most Valuable Defensive Player" award as Olivet defeated Master's College (Calif.) in the national championship game. Hengesh was also named to the NCCAA Division 1 All-America team.

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Bio HD • FX HD

### NEW CHANNELS COMING SOON:

MLB Network • This TV (NBC Sports)  
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**COMING JANUARY 1st  
2009!**  
The new MLB Network will be launched on January 1st, 2009 on Bright House Networks Channel 162 as part of the Digital Variety Package!









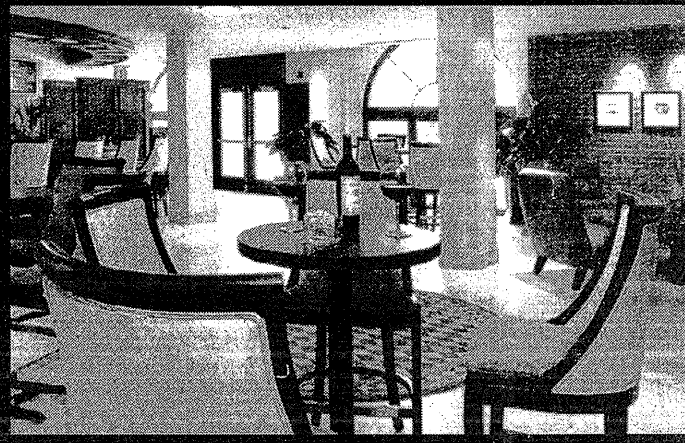
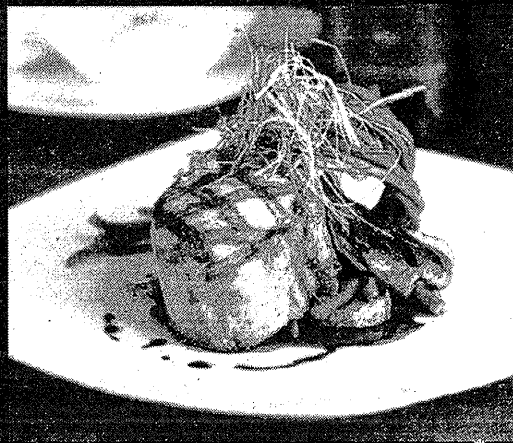








*Five Restaurant invites you to*  
**RING IN**  
*the New Year...deliciously!*



**JOIN US FOR AN EXQUISITE CULINARY CELEBRATION**

the menu

small tastes trio starter

pan seared crab cake, cajun remoulade  
 aged gouda, quince marmalade  
 porcini cream "cappucino"

intermezzo

pink champagne "bellini"

entree (choose one of the following)

center cut fillet of beef\*, garlic-herb grilled, pinot noir reduction, sweet potato bacon dauphinoise  
 certified organic chicken breast, "risotto style" root vegetables, tarragon-brown butter jus  
 half lamb rack\*, goat cheese crusted, sweet jalapeño spiced garlic jus, sweet potato bacon dauphinoise  
 wild alaskan salmon char-grilled\*, creamy multi-grain risotto, smoked red pepper coulis  
 butternut squash tortelacci, Five spice cream sauce  
 duet of petite fillet of beef, herb butter poached cold water lobster tail,  
 bacon - lobster - butternut squash ragout, pinot noir reduction (add \$29)

finish

chocolate tastes trio  
 warm flourless dark chocolate cake, white chocolate - raspberry gelato, milk chocolate - berry parfait

\$50.00 per person

**FOR DINNER RESERVATIONS, PHONE 734-357-5700.**

Five Restaurant  
 invites our Plymouth  
 friends to come  
 "under the tracks" to  
 visit, with easy access  
 on Sheldon Road  
 now open.



Following the celebration, we invite you  
 to arrive safely on the doorstep of a  
 comfortable and luxurious hotel room.  
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 reservation - dinner for two with hotel room  
 packages just \$175.



**Five**  
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LOCATED WITHIN THE INN AT ST. JOHN'S  
 44045 FIVE MILE ROAD AT SHELDON ROAD IN PLYMOUTH





# Class action lawsuit sparks furnace repair

The following is an e-mail description of a serious furnace problem, which is located in the furnace room of many American homes, and yet many homeowners don't even know they have it. Sarah and Bob wrote:

"We have the Consumers Energy Appliance Insurance Plan — we heard you recommend it on your show — and called them when our 10-year-old Bryant gas furnace wouldn't start. Consumers is a little difficult to get hold of because you have to call a general number and it takes some choices before you get to the appliance insurance line. They said they would send someone out, but when the service man called we couldn't get to the phone and he didn't leave a phone number to call him back. So, by 8 p.m. that same evening I called Consumers and they said the service man will only call once and so we would just have to wait even though it was very cold that night. She said it was too bad we hadn't answered the phone!

"I told her we were senior citizens but she didn't give us any reassurance. But then we were surprised when a service man did call at approximately 10 p.m. that same evening and came right over to temporarily repair the furnace. In a few days another Consumers service man came over

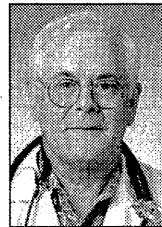
with a part for the furnace and we were told that these Bryant furnaces were part of a class action suit! We should have the company that installed it check it out thoroughly because two flames were blue and one was yellow and there was water in the exhaust pipe.

"Well, the company that installed it didn't give us much reassurance and would only give us \$400 toward the repair, so we called Haley in Dexter and they were totally aware of the problem with these furnaces and made a date to repair the secondary heat exchanger. They want to repair it before the end of the year because everything will be covered! It will be an all-day job because they have to gut the furnace.

"I researched the class action suit on the Internet and indeed our model number was listed as one that would be covered. We had never received any letters about this because it was not a "recall." We were just curious as to your knowledge of this class action suit regarding a polypropylene-laminated secondary heat exchanger. Perhaps you have discussed it on your show and we missed it, but since owners don't receive any letters as to the problem, maybe you could make them aware of it. Thanks."

Thank you Sarah and Bob for making people aware through this newspaper column. The Web site for our readers is [www.lief-fcabraser.com/furnace.htm](http://www.lief-fcabraser.com/furnace.htm).

Joe Gagnon can be heard at 8 a.m., Saturdays on WAAM 1600 and Sundays at 2 p.m. on WDTK 1400. You can e-mail your problems and questions on appliances to [appldr@twm1.rr.com](mailto:appldr@twm1.rr.com)



Appliance Doctor

Joe Gagnon

## SIMPLY SELF STORAGE HUGE AUCTION SALE - CASH ONLY

Notice: Jan 12, 2009, at or after 9:30 AM  
Location: Simply Self Storage  
11960 Farmington Rd  
Livonia, MI 48150  
734-425-9610

Unit # 123 Andrea Watkins, House hold goods  
Unit # 133 Andrea Watkins, House hold goods  
Unit # 531a Lauri Denis, House hold goods  
Unit # 702 Guy Humeniuk, House hold goods  
Unit # 215 Carrie Hall, House hold goods  
Unit # 759 A and B Michael Straus, House hold goods

Publish: December 28, 2008

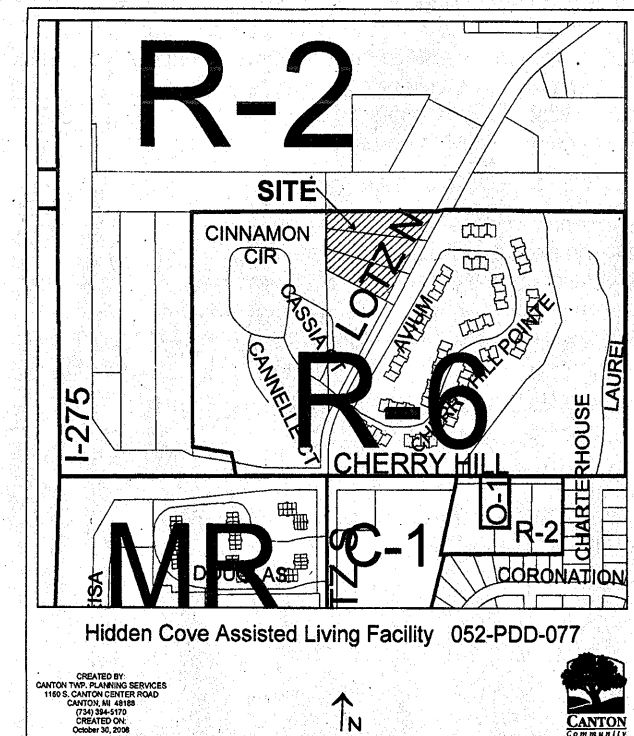
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## PLANNING COMMISSION CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

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

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Michigan Public Act 110 of 2006, of the State of Michigan, as amended, and pursuant to the Zoning Ordinance of the Charter Township of Canton that the Planning Commission of the Charter Township of Canton will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, January 12, 2009, in the **First Floor Meeting Room of the Canton Township Administration Building, 1150 S. Canton Center Road at 7:00 p.m.** on the following proposed amendment to the Zoning Ordinance:

**HIDDEN COVE MINOR PLANNED DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT (PDD) - CONSIDER REQUEST TO ESTABLISH A MINOR PDD AS PERMITTED IN SECTION 27.04 OF THE ZONING ORDINANCE INCLUSIVE OF PARCEL NO(S).052 99 0016 711, 052 99 0016 713, 052 99 0016 715 (451 LOTZ S.), 052 99 0016 717. Property is located north of Cherry Hill Road and west of Lotz Road.**



Written comments addressed to the Planning Commission should be received at the Canton Township Administration Building, 1150 Canton Center S. prior to Thursday, January 8, 2009 in order to be included in the materials submitted for review.

Greg Green, Vice-Chairman

Publish: December 28, 2008

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## SYNOPSIS OF THE MINUTES OF THE 1,622nd REGULAR MEETING

LIVONIA CITY COUNCIL  
DECEMBER 3, 2008

Meeting was called to order at 8:00 p.m. Present: Thomas Robinson, Don Knapp, Terry Godfroid-Marecki, James McCann, Joe Laura, Brian Meakin, and Laura Toy. Absent: None.

**#524-08** Resolution by Knapp and Robinson, unanimously adopted, approving the minutes of the 1,621st Regular Meeting of the Council held November 19, 2008, as submitted.

McCann wished his grandson, Kaiden, a Happy 1st Birthday on December 4, 2008. He also wished his son a Happy 19th Birthday on December 3, 2008.

Mayor Jack Kirksey mentioned that this Saturday the Goodfellows will be selling newspapers so that "no child will be without a Christmas". It is especially important this year with the economy. The tree lighting ceremony was yesterday, and the Mayor encouraged citizens to visit both sides of City Hall in the evening to view the lights made possible by Bright House donating funds to cover the costs. Late this afternoon, under the leadership of Chairman, Jack Engebretson, of the new Brownfield Authority, the group reviewed the Brownfield Plan and associated Reimbursement Plan and approved both. The Council will be giving final approval to the Plan.

### AUDIENCE COMMUNICATION:

Don Kolhoff, 14066 Mayfield, stated that this Saturday, December 6, 2008, at 4:00 p.m., the Livonia Symphony Orchestra is having a concert at the Louis E. Schmidt Auditorium at Clarenceville High School. Tickets can be obtained at the Livonia libraries, Livonia Drugs, and at the door for \$17.00 per adult and \$5.00 for students or children.

President Laura Toy announced the annual Gleaners Food Drive on December 18, 2008 at the Monaghan Knights of Columbus on Farmington Road.

Vice President Godfroid-Marecki mentioned the Christmas Walk this Saturday, December 6, 2008. Tickets can be obtained at the Main Library and Community Resources.

### The following items were received and filed:

A revised Livonia Marketplace Planned General Development Agreement between the City of Livonia and Livonia Phoenix, LLC, received December 2, 2008.

A communication from the Civil Service Department, dated September 30, 2008, regarding an Administrative Response to Council Resolution #330-08 on the subject of the City of Livonia's Deferred Compensation Plan providers. (CR 331-08)

A communication from Alicia F. Washeleski, Plante Moran CRESA, LLC, dated November 17, 2008, with an attached Proposal Breakdown and Bid Analysis Post Clarifications sheet on the subject of the General Contractor selection for the new 16th District Court building. (CR 93-07)

At the direction of the Chair, Item #12, regarding a request for approval of the Livonia Marketplace Planned General Development Agreement, was removed from the Consent Agenda and moved to the Regular portion of the Agenda.

### The following resolutions were offered by Laura and McCann:

**#525-08** Approving a request submitted by Lori Johnson and Nancy Bingham, Cookie Walk Coordinators, Timothy Lutheran Church, to display 18" x 24" signs at various locations in the City advertising their 2nd annual Christmas Cookie Walk fundraiser on Saturday, December 13, 2008; FURTHER, signs will be displayed from Sunday, December 7, 2008, and removed no later than Sunday, December 14, 2008.

**#526-08** Approving the designation of authorized depositories to allow the City to collect property tax payments and water bills, as well as purchase Certificates of Deposit at these financial institutions in accordance with Chapter VII, Section 11, of the City Charter.

**#527-08** Approving the Specialized Services Transportation Operating Assistance Program third party agreement for the period of October 1, 2008 through September 30, 2009 between the City of Livonia and SMART utilizing Grant Funds to be used for the Livonia Community Transit Program to provide lift-equipped transportation to senior and disabled residents of the City.

**#528-08** Approving a one-year extension of the contract with D'Angelo Brothers, Inc., 25543 Ranchwood, Farmington Hills, MI 48335, from December 1, 2008 through November 30, 2009, to perform water main taps and service connections, 3/4" to 2", at various locations in the City, at the unit prices submitted on February 11, 2005, with a cap of \$4,000.00 retainage. (CR 525-07)

**#529-08** Approving a one-year extension of the contract with Vanguard Utility Service, Inc., 1421 West 9th Street, Owensboro, KY 42301, for the period through December 31, 2009, to test, repair, and calibrate large commercial water meters, at various locations in the City, at the unit prices submitted in February of 2007; FURTHER, approving unit prices for all meter sizes requested plus an additional \$8,000.00 to purchase repair parts from budgeted funds. (CR 589-07)

**#530-08** Accepting the lowest unit price bid meeting all specifications of All-Pro, 24166 Haggerty Road, Farmington Hills, MI 48335, to supply Parks and Recreation Department (Community Recreation Center) with seven (7) Ellipticals or Octane Pro 3700 Cross Trainers based on a total price of \$23,765.00, less trade-in of \$5,100.00, for a net amount of \$18,665.00; and six (6) Model Matrix T5 Treadmills based on a total price of \$24,300.00, less trade-in of \$3,125.00, for a net amount of \$21,175.00; Fitness Things, 1160 West Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth, MI 48170, to supply one (1) Model Cybex Total Body Arc Trainer based on a total price of \$5,288.85, less trade-in of \$400.00, for a net amount of \$4,888.85; and Star Trac, 14410 Myford Road, Irvine, CA 92606, to supply sixteen (16) Spinner NXT Studio Cycles in the amount of \$15,300.00 for a grand total of \$60,028.85 from budgeted funds; FURTHER, rejecting the bids of Fitness Things and Fitness Lifestyles for sixteen (16) Studio Cycles as they did not meet the specifications of the bid.

**#531-08** Accepting the lowest unit price bids meeting all specifications of Kelgraphics, Mr. Charles Kelly, 110 W. River St., Cadillac, MI 49601, for eight (8) items of clothing; Monroe Sports Varsity Athletic, Mr. Jerry Angel, 1307 W. Seventh St., Monroe, MI 48161, for eighteen (18) items of clothing; and World Promotional Products, Ms. Amber Canales, 3002 Dow Ave., Suite 122, Tustin, CA 92780, for two (2) items of clothing to supply Parks and Recreation Department for the 2009 Fiscal Year; FURTHER, authorizing the purchases from budgeted funds.

**#532-08** Determining to advise the Wayne County Department of Public Services (Permit Section) that the City of Livonia approved storm sewer site plans and will accept jurisdiction and maintenance of the storm sewer (at no cost to the County) as part of the development of the Speedway SuperAmerica Store No. 8800 located at 33405 Plymouth Road, on the S.W. corner of Plymouth and Farmington Roads, in the N.E. 1/4 of Section 33; FURTHER, that the Speedway SuperAmerica LLC will reimburse the City for any maintenance, as necessary.

**#533-08** Approving the Intergovernmental Agreement between the County of Wayne, the City of Westland, and the City of Livonia to resurface Joy Road from Middlebelt Road to Inkster Road, with the City of Livonia's participation estimated at \$48,088.00, or 4%, and expenditures being made upon receipt of invoices from Wayne County.

**#534-08** Approving the Intergovernmental Agreement between the County of Wayne and the City of Livonia to resurface Inkster Road from Joy Road to Plymouth Road, with the City of Livonia's participation estimated at \$53,817.00, or 4%, and expenditures being made upon receipt of invoices from Wayne County.

**#535-08** Accepting a quit claim deed from the Wayne County Treasurer for the tax foreclosed property located at 9001 Hugh, with monetary consideration involved. (CR 345-08)

A roll call vote was taken on the foregoing resolutions:  
AYES: Robinson, Knapp, Godfroid-Marecki, McCann, Laura, Meakin, and Toy.  
NAYS: None.

**#536-08** Resolution by McCann and Godfroid-Marecki, approving the Livonia Marketplace Planned General Development Agreement, as revised on December 3, 2008, between the City of Livonia and Livonia Phoenix, L.L.C. in connection with previously approved Petition 2008-06-02-20 requesting waiver use approval for a Planned General Development (Livonia Marketplace) on property located at 29514 Seven Mile Road, on the north side of Seven Mile Road, between Middlebelt Road and Purlingbrook Avenue, in the S.W. 1/4 of Section 2. (CR 378-08 and CR 429-08)

There were many discussions by Council, Law, and Mayor Kirksey regarding the Agreement. Sean Kavanagh stated that any changes to the site plan will go back to Council for approval.

Council President Toy relinquished the gavel to Council Vice President Godfroid-Marecki at 8:35 p.m. to speak to the above item.

A roll call vote was taken on the foregoing resolution:  
AYES: Knapp, Toy, McCann, Laura, Meakin, and Godfroid-Marecki.  
NAYS: Robinson.

Council President Toy resumed the gavel at 8:51 p.m.

**#537-08** Resolution by Knapp and McCann, unanimously adopted, referring to the Mayor for his report and recommendation regarding the issue of how to proceed if the City decides to open up the field of Deferred Compensation providers and whether there are certain restrictions in the relationships with current providers that would limit the City's options. (CR 331-08)

There were many discussions by Council and Mayor Kirksey regarding the providers.

**#538-08** Resolution by Meakin and Laura, unanimously adopted, authorizing the Administration to enter into negotiations regarding a proposed contract with the Dailey Company, 179 Northpointe Drive, Lake Orion, MI 48359, to serve as General Contractor and complete all work required in connection with the construction of the new 16th District Court building. (CR 93-07)

**#539-08** Resolution by Meakin and McCann, unanimously adopted, determining to take no further action in connection with a request from T & T Land Clearing, LLC to lease approximately 17.28 acres for a wood recycling operation from the Livonia DPW Yard. (CR 1134-96)

**#540-08** Resolution by Meakin and Laura, unanimously adopted, determining to take no further action regarding the matter of establishing an additional Capital Improvement Fund for maintenance equipment at the golf courses. (CR 213-01)

**#541-08** Resolution by Meakin and Laura, unanimously adopted, determining to take no further action regarding whether an addition to a building within a designated historic district would require permission from the Historic Preservation Commission, as well as questions concerning Greenmead, Greenmead 2000, ordinance amendments and the Historic Preservation Commission. (CR 734-97)

**#542-08** Resolution by Meakin and Godfroid-Marecki, approving increases in use fees and charges for the Playground Program, effective December 1, 2008; FURTHER, a one-time material fee of \$10.00 per participant shall be paid to cover the costs of a t-shirt, specialized crafts and special theme parties. (CR 664-03)

There were many discussions by Council regarding the increases.

Council President Toy relinquished the gavel to Council Vice President Godfroid-Marecki at 9:32 p.m. to speak to the above item.

A roll call vote was taken on the foregoing resolution:  
AYES: Knapp, McCann, Meakin, and Godfroid-Marecki.  
NAYS: Robinson, Toy, and Laura.

Council President Toy resumed the gavel at 9:37 p.m.

**#543-08** Resolution by Meakin and McCann, approving an increase in usage fees for pavilion rentals at Rotary Park and other parks, effective December 1, 2008; FURTHER, the electricity fee is eliminated. (CR 664-03)

A roll call vote was taken on the foregoing resolution:  
AYES: Knapp, Godfroid-Marecki, McCann, and Meakin.  
NAYS: Robinson, Laura, and Toy.

**#544-08** Resolution by Knapp and Godfroid-Marecki, approving an increase in greens fees at Fox Creek, Idyl Wild and Whispering Willows Golf Courses, effective December 1, 2008.

A roll call vote was taken on the foregoing resolution:  
AYES: Knapp, Godfroid-Marecki, McCann, and Meakin.  
NAYS: Robinson, Laura, and Toy.

**#545-08** Resolution by Meakin and Knapp, approving the increases in Capital Improvement Fund Contributions for improvements and purchases at Fox Creek, Idyl Wild and Whispering Willows Golf Courses, effective December 1, 2008.

A roll call vote was taken on the foregoing resolution:  
AYES: Knapp, Godfroid-Marecki, McCann, and Meakin.  
NAYS: Robinson, Laura, and Toy.

**#546-08** Resolution by Knapp and Meakin, amending the Golf Course Section of the City of Livonia's Four-Category Fees/Waivers Grid Policy as well as eliminating reference to the Ice Arena, effective December 1, 2008. (CR 660-03)

A roll call vote was taken on the foregoing resolution:  
AYES: Knapp, Godfroid-Marecki, McCann, and Meakin.  
NAYS: Robinson, Laura, and Toy.

**#547-08** Resolution by Godfroid-Marecki and Knapp, unanimously adopted, supporting and approving the request of Linear Mold & Engineering, Inc. to obtain tax relief for their property located at 12926 Stark Road under the Wayne County TURBO (Transforming Underdeveloped Residential and Business Opportunities) Development Program. (CR 501-08)

**#548-08** Resolution by Knapp and Robinson, unanimously adopted, approving the Bylaws of the Board of the City of Livonia Brownfield Redevelopment Authority ("Brownfield Board"), adopted November 24, 2008, to constitute the rules governing procedures and holding of regular meetings set forth in Section 5(5) of Act No. 381 of Public Acts of 1996 of the State of Michigan, as amended.

**#549-08** Resolution by McCann and Robinson, unanimously adopted, referring to the Legislative Committee for its report and recommendation on the subject matter of creating a Northeast Livonia Redevelopment Authority/Corridor.

### AUDIENCE COMMUNICATION: None.

By Meakin and McCann, unanimously adopted, adjourning this 1,622nd Regular Meeting of the Council of the City of Livonia at 9:54 p.m. on December 3, 2008.

LINDA GRIMSBY, CITY CLERK

\*The foregoing is a summary of the Council's proceedings in synopsis form as authorized by CR 1158-68. The full text of the official minutes of this meeting is on file in the Office of the City Clerk and is available to the public upon request.

Publish: December 28, 2008

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 Detroit Marriott • 200 W. Big Beaver Road • Troy, Michigan  
 One Team...Many Opportunities.

**Mechanical Engineers**

Work with leaders in military systems to develop and integrate wheeled and tracked vehicle systems. Responsibilities include development, design and integration of the mobility, weapon, survivability, structures, auxiliary, crew, mechanical, and mission system components. The candidate will be responsible for the assimilation of the design requirements, exploring concept solutions, conducting trade studies, developing selected designs, overseeing hardware prototype build, and verification of the design performance characteristics through test validation in preparation for field tests and production. A BSME plus a minimum of 2 years' design experience or equivalent technical degree and experience is required. Pro-E knowledge is desired.

**Designers**

Must work with engineers and drafters to design and develop subsystems and component parts, which can include, but are not limited to, powertrain, suspension, survivability, structures, auxiliary automotive, mechanical, and/or electrical. The candidate is responsible for the documentation, analysis, layout, and design, up to and including final engineering drawings. Proficiency in Pro-E, 3-D and solid modeling is required, proficiency in CADD5; an AA degree plus a minimum of 5 years' design experience or equivalent work experience is required.

**Checker**

Ensures the accuracy, completeness, and sound design of engineering documentation to prescribed standards and contractual requirements. Exercises authority to reject incorrect documentation in terms of technical content, standards, and specifications. Supports Model and Drafting/ Drawing Standards and reference manual revisions. Interprets applicable model and drawing standard requirements and assesses the quality of the technical backup data. Must have proficiency in Pro-E with 6 years' mechanical design experience and checking experience. Must be familiar with ASME Y14.100; ASME Y14.41, and proficient with GD & T applications.

**Project Engineers**

Responsibilities include the technical coordination, lead, and execution of proposals, designs, and development projects (e.g. powertrain, suspension, survivability, structures, auxiliary automotive, mechanical, and/or electrical). As a member of an engineering team, the project engineer is the primary technical point of contact to the customer and is responsible for the project's overall technical compliance. A Bachelor's Degree with 11 years of experience or a Master's Degree with a minimum 9 years' as a project engineer is required.

**Electrical Engineers (Mobile, Power Generation and Management, FPGA Logic, Motion Control, Hybrid Electric Automotive, High Voltage Testing)**

Requires a broad knowledge of systems and components

for electrical/electronic embedded and test hardware for military systems and vehicles. Bachelor's in Electrical Engineering and 2+ years' experience.

**Quality Engineers**

Uses a wide range of mechanical or electrical engineering and quality skills to research/review technical design development activities, test, and support documentation for mechanical, digital & analog integration of systems and subsystems. Routine interaction with all levels of management and the customer. Develops quality systems and procedures to monitor design assurance activities. Develops quality provisions, specification, and validation requirements.

**Program Manager**

Responsible for managing one or more programs. Manage any or all forms of contracts. Oversee program budget and schedules. Has primary responsibilities for program growth; may be responsible for developing and marketing new technology or follow-on business acquisition. Accountable for all schedules, quality, profit, performance, and customer satisfaction with respect to relevant program. Manage departmental personnel, budgets, and administration.

**Program Control Analyst**

Develop and monitor Earned Value Management (EVM) baselines (budgets, management reserve, undistributed budget, network schedules, and scope changes) for all EVM and other engineering contracts. Analyze cost and schedule variances, determine root causes, program impact, and report contract performance to internal and external customers. Develop and assist in implementation of corrective action strategy for cost and schedule issues. Interact with Program Managers and Control Account Managers to guide problem resolution. Ensure data integrity and quality of all performance reporting submitted to both internal and external customers. Make presentations to management on contract performance status and implications of problems/ issues. Prior EVM experience is required.

**Configuration Data Management Specialist**

A minimum of 10 years of experience working in a CDM environment of which 5 or more years is spent in supporting a project in the DoD acquisition environment, or an equivalent mix of project and CDM Core staff experience. Three years of related work experience in a manufacturing or engineering environment with a demonstrated understanding of functional interrelationship of contract administration, design engineering, manufacturing, quality and logistics are required. Must have extensive knowledge of identification, change control, status accounting and audit requirements and procedures. Requires excellent knowledge of CDM computer applications (i.e. CDM systems, CCC, SUN, PC, UNIX) and be thoroughly skilled in their operation.

**Specialty Engineers (Senior Reliability/Maintainability, Quality)**

Requires strong/broad background in reliability/probability with application to complex military or aerospace systems; Bachelor's in ME, EE, Math or Physics.

**Systems Engineers**

Requires knowledge in one or more of the following: weapon systems, requirements analysis and performance optimization, vehicle design and physical architectures, embedded system integration, architectures and interfaces, C4ISR, sensor integration, survivability suites, ballistic fire control, integrated diagnostics, control systems, operations research, requirements management, objective oriented modeling. Requires a Bachelor's or Master's in Engineering or related technical field.

**Supply Chain**

Responsible for gathering, analyzing, and presenting program data across all systems platforms within a particular program; the development and implementation of tools and procedures to aid in the strategic execution of materials procurement; and guiding and instructing key members of the supply chain organization in proper and efficient use of company technological and systems assets. Requires B.S. degree in Business, Finance, or Information Systems; strong analytical, communication (written & verbal) and excellent presentation skills. Strong technical skills in an information systems discipline with the ability to perform financial analysis.

U.S. Citizenship is required for most positions.

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## ADA UPDATE -- WHAT IT MEANS TO YOU



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

If you want to change industries, move into one that's growing and almost crying out for new employees. But new employees are one thing; career-changers, another. Energy is one of few receptive industries. Although it doesn't publish statistics on numbers being hired, it provides welcome relief to refugees of declining industries.

operations." Zeffrey Lucas confirms Pike's report of the commitment to hiring. He is president of operations in the Americas for Production Services Network Inc. (PSN), which has almost 8,000 employees worldwide, with 2,000 in North America. This global energy and gas service provider, headquartered in Aberdeen, Scotland, draws employees from the military, not just because of their skill sets and technical training, but because of their work ethic. "We've been actively pursuing them," Lucas states. They take on a wide range of functions, from accounting to commercial planning.

Another company, Petrobeam Inc., in Raleigh, N.C., and on Long Island, brings people from wide-ranging industries, such as pharmaceuticals and software development, according to G.R. ("Bud") Brainerd, president and CEO. He explains that this privately-held start-up, opened in 2005, has 17 employees developing a technology -- a process that will be implemented throughout the petroleum industry. They are lab technicians, executive assistants to engineers, AR and AP workers, and engineering techs with background in electrical engineering, plumbing and metalworking.

**RESISTANCE/RETENTION**  
Career-changers, if you believe these three leaders, encounter very little resistance in the process of being hired, retained or promoted. Brainerd, in fact, observes that resistance in his company doesn't exist: "We're looking for people from non-petroleum industries, because since we're integrating a technology that's been around for a long time into a new industry, we need people who can think outside of

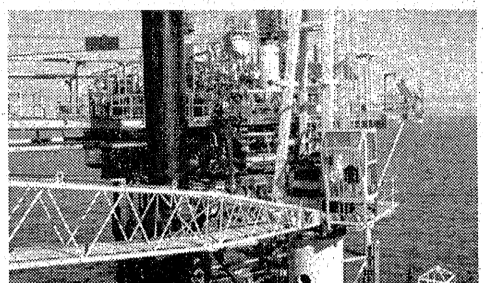
the petroleum box. They're a tremendous advantage to us, because they come without pre-conceived ideas and concepts that we often have to challenge." For example, he cites the company's director of operations, with a decade in investment banking and previous experience as an engineer developing a production plant for a non-woven fiber, a new product line. His combined engineering, start-up and financial experience was unbeatable.

Pike says that well-qualified people with good employment records encounter little resistance. However, employees at PSN find a different workflow. "It's a very fast-paced group that typically has a lot of irons in the fire," Lucas observes. "It's not just an 8:00 to 5:00 (job), because the workload comes and goes."

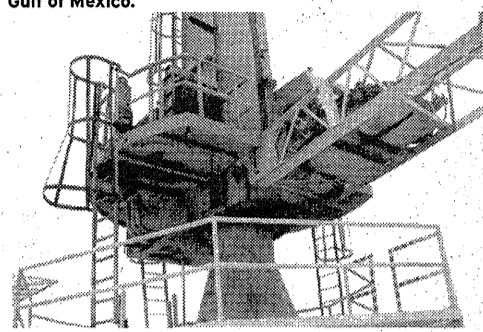
Compensation has a lot to do with retention industry-wide. Employee ownership rules at Petrobeam, where 13 employees are participating and the remaining four are relatively new. PSN tailors its benefits to the individual. Pike notes that support "salaries are highly competitive" for career-changers.

If you have doubts about the viability of the industry for you, consider what Brainerd says about the equal importance of skill set and team skill: "A person with great skills who can't work in a team environment is really of no value in our organization. A person with great team skills -- the ability to get along, interact, cooperate as a colleague -- we can teach."

(Dr. Mildred L. Culp is an award-winning journalist. E-mail your questions to [culp@workwise.net](mailto:culp@workwise.net). Copyright 2008 Passage Media.)



This jack-up rig services an oil and gas platform in the Gulf of Mexico.



A crane and pedestal sit atop an oil and gas platform in the Gulf of Mexico. Both are staffed by employees of Production Services Network Inc., of Aberdeen, Scotland, whose North American employees number approximately 2,000.

**5000-5980**  
**Employment**  
Business Services

Help Wanted-General 5000

**ACCOUNTING;**  
Bookkeeper  
BBA, MBA or CPA  
Full Time w/benefits.  
Hartland & NW Detroit  
Fax to: (313) 535-4403 or  
Email: [HVAC@MECC1.com](mailto:HVAC@MECC1.com)

**APPOINTMENT SETTER**  
Ideal for anyone who can't get out to work. Work from home PT, schedule pickups for Purple Heart. Call 9-5, M-F. 734-728-4572

**Automotive Mechanic**  
Exp. D. & Certified only. Paid by flat rate hour. Apply in person: Novi Motive Inc. 21530 Novi Rd., btwn 8 & 9 Mile Rds. 248-349-0290

**BOWLING CENTER** now hiring afternoon Shift Manager. Full or Part-Time. Please apply in person: Ford Lanes, 23100 Van Born, Dearborn Heights.

**CLEANERS NEEDED**  
For Plymouth area homes. \$10/hr. to start. No nights or weekends. Full-Time. Car required. 734-455-4570

**CLEANERS/JANITOR**  
\$8.00/hr.  
Mon-Fri, PT Evenings.  
Canton area  
(734) 283-9934

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**Technical Architects**  
(job code TA-IBMEAI)  
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(job code STA-IBMEAI)

To apply, please visit <http://www.perficent.com> fill out a general application (available in Careers Section) & specify correct job code on cover letter.

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is Equal Employment/  
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**DIRECT CARE ASSISTANT**  
Assist persons we serve in residential settings. Feel good about your work. \$7.65 total plus good benefits.  
Livonia: 734-469-4523  
734-469-4519, 248-474-0283

**Help Wanted-General 5000**  
**DIRECT CARE STAFF**  
\$8.20 wages & benefits.  
Must be trained/valid license.  
313-255-8295

**Driver**  
**A Merry Christmas!**  
Unwrap your new Career today at Integrity  
**Truck Driving School**  
The Best Gift Ever!  
A steady Paycheck and job Stability  
**No Experience needed!**  
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\$1,600/mo per co. program.  
Large company seeking ambitious career-minded men & women.  
**Good pay.**  
**Weekly bonuses.**  
**Paid Vacations.**  
**Rapid Advancement.**  
Call for interview 734-425-7180

**LOOKING FOR A CAREER (not a job)**  
**Real Estate Agent**  
Free pre-licensing (except for materials \$55)  
  
Salaried positions available if you qualify  
  
This is the time to buy homes in Michigan, be the one to sell the House. Change your life personally & financially register today.  
**CALL ED BOWLIN**  
AT 734-591-5940, EXT. 107

**OFFICE CLEANING SUPERVISOR**  
Plymouth. Part-Time.  
Mon-Fri 6PM-9:30PM.  
\$11.00/hr. 248-465-1415

Sterling Software Inc, Troy, MI wanted Computer Systems Analyst for Analysis, design, development, implementation, and maintenance of applications using required software languages and tools.  
Email resumes to [pk@ss-us.com](mailto:pk@ss-us.com)

**TAX PREPARER**  
Livonia CPA office looking for Seasonal 1040 Tax Preparer. Minimum 3 days/wk. Exp. preferred.  
Email resume: [cnf@cnfcpa.com](mailto:cnf@cnfcpa.com)  
or fax: 734-522-0508

**Trailer Mechanic**  
Chief's trucking in Romulus. Full time work with benefits. Please call Todd 313-295-2150

**Help Wanted-Office Clerical 5020**  
**LEGAL SECRETARY**

The law firm of Bernstein & Bernstein has an immediate opening for a professional Legal Secretary in our Southfield office. The ideal candidate should have knowledge of legal documents, pleadings and court procedures. Candidate must have 2 or more years experience in personal injury litigation. Must be proficient in Microsoft Word. Knowledge of Needles software is beneficial. Position is full-time with benefits.  
Please send resume to:  
Sharon Lovelace  
C/O Law Firm of Bernstein, PC  
3000 Town Center  
Suite 1601  
Southfield, MI 48075

**LEGAL SECRETARY /ASSISTANT**  
Exp. in Family Law & time slips preferred. Flexible hours. Bloomfield Hills, sole practitioner. Email resume to: [mrobbinslaw@aol.com](mailto:mrobbinslaw@aol.com)

**Secretary/Telemarketing Manager & Telemarketers**  
Exp'd. Good Pay for Good People. Jason. 248-231-2102

**Help Wanted-Dental 5040**

**DENTAL ASSISTANT**  
Great opportunity. Full-Time in a progressive dental practice in Livonia with some exp. necessary. Benefit package offered. Salary commensurate with ability. 734-525-1200

**Help Wanted-Medical 5060**

**CUSTOMER SERVICE FULL-TIME**

Lincare the national leader in respiratory services and equipment is conducting interviews for a Customer Service Representative. Responsibilities include: maintaining patient info, verifying insurance coverage, and processing paperwork while taking orders from a referral sources and patients. Applicants must have general office skills such as PC skills, data entry, filing and proven human relations skills. Lincare provides competitive wages, benefits and the best potential in the industry of advancement.

Lincare  
16725 Middlebelt Rd.  
Livonia MI 48154  
Attn: Sean  
Phone: 734-524-0682  
Fax: 734-524-0718  
EDE

**Medical Biller**  
2+ yrs. exp. Must be proficient in physician billing, CPT & ICD-9 coding, dependable. Full-Time/Benefits.  
Email: [gpressley@pbsb.net](mailto:gpressley@pbsb.net)

**Help Wanted-Medical 5060**

**Medical Receptionist**  
2+ yrs. exp. Must be professional, dependable, provide excellent customer service & maintain multi phone lines. Full-time, benefits.  
Email: [gpressley@pbsb.net](mailto:gpressley@pbsb.net)

**Medical Receptionist**  
Needed for surgical practice in Livonia. Must be experienced, good with people & detail oriented. Salary commensurate with experience.  
Call Olga: 734-462-1525  
Fax resume: 734-462-1830

**Optical Dispenser** wanted for 2 location practice. Experience required. Canton area. Call Kathie or Diane: (734) 455-3190 or 261-8868

**PHLEBOTOMY EDUCATION**  
Saturday accelerated classes beginning in January, 10-4pm. Garden City: \$900 (313) 382-3857

**PHYSICIAN/PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT**  
Part-Time for Internal Medicine Practice.

**MEDICAL RECEPTIONIST/ASSISTANT**  
Needed. Experience required. Please fax resume to: (734) 421-9954

**Help Wanted-Food/Beverage 5080**

**CASHIER**  
Full Time. Good Pay.  
Call Sid or Harry  
248-352-7377

**Help Wanted-Domestic 5240**

**Residential Housekeeper/M/F**  
Gardner/Handyman, Cook  
3 positions. Exp. refs.  
Non-smoking. 800-436-2193

**Position Wanted 5340**

**"Caregiver Maid in Heaven"**  
Certified Geriatric Nurse. Avail for weekdays. Exc. references. (734) 844-8828

**Divorce Services 5610**

**DIVORCE \$75.00 -**  
[www.CSRdisability.com](http://www.CSRdisability.com)  
CS&R 734-425-1074

**Business Opportunities 5740**

Earn \$3000-\$5000 Per Month Not Serious, Don't Call. Executive Level Income. Learn How. 800-753-7632

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**FAX**..... 734-953-2232  
**ONLINE**..... [hometownlife.com](http://hometownlife.com)  
**EMAIL**..... [oads@hometownlife.com](mailto:oads@hometownlife.com)

**Deadlines:**  
Sunday edition ..... 4:30 p.m. Friday  
Thursday edition..... 11:00 a.m. Wednesday

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

**POLICY**  
All advertising published in the Observer and Eccentric Newspapers is subject to the conditions stated in the applicable rate card. (Copies are available from the advertising department, Observer and Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150 (734) 591-0900. The Observer and Eccentric Newspapers reserves the right not to accept an advertiser's order. Observer and Eccentric Newspaper sales representatives have no authority to bind this newspaper and only publication of an advertisement shall constitute final acceptance of the advertiser's order. When more than one insertion of the same advertisement is ordered, no credit will be given unless notice of typographical or other errors are given in time for correction before the second insertion. Not responsible for omissions. Publisher's Notice: All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968 which states that it is illegal to advertise "any preference limitation, or discrimination". This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal housing opportunity basis. (FR Doc. 724983-3-17-72) Classified ads may be placed according to the deadlines. Advertisers are responsible for reading their ads) the first time it appears and reporting any errors immediately. The Observer and Eccentric Newspapers will not issue credit for errors in ads after THE FIRST INCORRECT INSERTION. Equal Housing Opportunity Statement: We are pledged to the letter and spirit of U.S. policy for the achievement of equal housing opportunity throughout the nation. We encourage and support an affirmative advertising and marketing program in which there are no barriers to obtain housing because of race, color, religion or national origin. Equal Housing Opportunity slogan: "Equal Housing Opportunity". Table III - Illustration of Publisher's Notice.

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**1-800-579-7355**

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for January 1, 2009

Due to the holidays, the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers will be having early deadlines for advertising.

Issue of 1-1-09

Real Estate Display Fri. Dec 26 4pm  
Automotive Display Mon. Dec 29, Noon  
Recruitment Display Mon., Dec. 29, 3pm  
Classified Liners Tues Dec. 30 11am  
Obituaries Tues Dec 30, 10am

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# Automotive

Observer & Eccentric  
**HOMETOWNlife.com**

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Automotive Recreational Vehicles

Auto Misc. (8150)

**TIRED OF WALKING?**

We have many cars priced under \$4000, most with warranty. The other ones you wouldn't want! TYME AUTO 734-455-5566

**WHY WALK?**

We have over 50 pretty cars & 2 ugly ones priced at only \$99 down. No turn downs. No credit reports. TYME AUTO 734-455-5566

Junk Cars Wanted (8200)

AACHEN AUTO.com RECEIVE CASH & TAX DEDUCTION For Running, Wrecked, Junk Cars. Call info FREE TOWING 24/7 (888) 484-0508

ALL AUTOS TOP \$\$ Junked Wrecked Running E & M 248-474-4425 Evenings 734-717-0428

**Trucks for Sale (8220)**

**CHEVY COLORADO Z71 2005** Crew Cab, 4x4, Superior Blue, Test Drive Today! Just \$13,995  
888-372-9836  
**Lou LaRiche**

**CHEVY S-10 LS 2003 37K** miles, automatic, 4 cylinder, very clean, pewter, airbags, warranty, \$7,995  
RALPH THAYER AUTO 734-425-5400

**CHEVY SILVERADO Z71 2005** Artic White, 4x4, Remote Starter, Many Option! Winter Warrior! \$17,995  
888-372-9836  
**Lou LaRiche**

**FORD F-150 2000** Reg Cab, long bed, hard to find! Only 26K! \$6,950  
**NORTH BROS. FORD** 1-800-586-3518

**FORD F-150 2004 Super** Cab, FX4, V8, loaded, 5.4 Liter, trailer tow \$14,994  
**Bill Brown Ford** (734) 522-0030

**FORD F-150 SPT XL 2003** Super low miles! \$7,295 or \$37/week. WAC + TTL  
**NORTH BROS. FORD** 1-800-586-3518

**FORD F-150 XLT 2007** Crew Cab, 4x4, 25K miles, extra clean \$19,900  
Hines Park Lincoln Mercury 1-866-455-5332

**Trucks for Sale (8220)**

**FORD F-150 XLT 2007 Super** Crew, 4x4, black, loaded \$21,997  
**Bill Brown Ford** (734) 522-0030

**FORD F-150 XLT 2008** Only 7,900 miles, V8, auto, loaded, sharp!! \$24,950  
JOHN ROGIN BUICK 734-525-0900

**FORD F-350 KING RANCH** 2007 Crew Cab, diesel, dually 4x4, \$32,997  
**Bill Brown Ford** (734) 522-0030

**FIND IT ONLINE**  
HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

**FORD RANGER XLT 2006** 4x4, X-Cab \$14,998  
AVIS FORD (248) 355-7515

**GMC SIERRA 1500 SLE 2006** 4x4, Ext Cab, Z71, 5.3 V8, auto, only 14K miles \$20,950  
JOHN ROGIN BUICK 734-525-0900

**GMC SIERRA 2500 SLE 2004** 4x4, Ext Cab, 6.0 V8, auto, loaded \$16,950  
JOHN ROGIN BUICK 734-525-0900

**Mini-Vans (8240)**

**BUICK TERRAZA 2005** Leather, DVD, blue, loaded, only \$13,995  
**Bob Jeannotte Pontiac** (734) 453-2500

**CHEVY UPLANDER 2007** Only 29K Miles, Maroon, ABS and Alloys, Room For The Whole Family! Just \$16,995!  
888-372-9836  
**Lou LaRiche**

**DODGE CARAVAN 2005** Take the whole family! \$9,890  
Stk. 8T3004A  
**NORTH BROS. FORD** 1-800-586-3518

**DODGE GRAND CARAVAN SXT 2007** 6 cylinder, 42,950 miles, \$12,997  
**SUMMIT PLACE KIA CANTON** 734-397-9900

**FORD FREESTAR 2006** Gray, A/C, 23K, certified \$11,995  
**Bill Brown Ford** (734) 522-0030

**FORD WINDSTAR 1999** Green, sharp, only \$4,995  
**Bob Jeannotte Pontiac** (734) 453-2500

**HANDICAP VANS - USED, BOUGHT & SOLD.** Mini & full size. I come to you. Call Date anytime, 517-882-7299  
**KIA SEDONA LX 2006 7** pass, V8, 21,378 mi, \$13,990  
**SUMMIT PLACE KIA CANTON** 734-397-9900

**Mini-Vans (8240)**

**MERCURY MONTEREY 2006** \$13,998  
AVIS FORD (248) 355-7515

**MERCURY MONTEREY 2007** Leather, hot/cold seats, clean \$16,955  
**Bill Brown Ford** (734) 522-0030

**CHEVY EXPRESS 1500 2004** Cargo van, V8, auto, air, bulk head, cargo mat \$10,850  
JOHN ROGIN BUICK 734-525-0900

**FORD E-150 CLUB XLT 2008** V8, dual A/C, heat, 8 passenger, low miles \$16,998  
**Bill Brown Ford** (734) 522-0030

**FORD E-150 VAN 1996** Tilt wheel, cassette player, air cond, trailer tow package, 184,000 miles. \$2800, cash only. Call: (734) 502-0861

**FORD E-350 2008** Passenger van \$13,998  
AVIS FORD (248) 355-7515

**FORD ESCAPE XLS 2007** 4 door, auto, A/C, certified \$12,955  
**Bill Brown Ford** (734) 522-0030

**4 Wheel Drive (8280)**

**FORD ESCAPE XLT 2007** 4x4, 4 cylinder \$15,998  
AVIS FORD (248) 355-7515

**FORD ESCAPE XLT 2007** 4WD, moonroof, 31K, looks new! \$14,500  
Hines Park Lincoln Mercury 1-866-455-5332

**FORD FREESTYLE LTD 2007** AWD, power moonroof, navigation, clean \$17,997  
**Bill Brown Ford** (734) 522-0030

**FORD FREESTYLES 2007 8 to** choose starting from \$12,997  
**Bill Brown Ford** (734) 522-0030

**BUICK RAINIER 2004** Silver, moon, navigation, 4x4, \$6,995  
**Bob Jeannotte Pontiac** (734) 453-2500

**BUICK RENDEZVOUS 2006** Tan, loaded, only \$13,995  
**Bob Jeannotte Pontiac** (734) 453-2500

**BUICK RENDEZVOUS CXL 2005** Moonroof, leather, 2-tone \$9,995  
**Bob Jeannotte Pontiac** (734) 453-2500

**Sports Utility (8290)**

**CHEVROLET HHR 2008** Two to Choose From, Nicely Equipped, GM Certified, Starting at \$15,755  
888-372-9836  
**Lou LaRiche**

**CHEVY TAHOE HYBRID 2008** Midnight Black, Fully Loaded, Can't Miss This One! Call for Details!  
888-372-9836  
**Lou LaRiche**

**CHEVY TAHOE LT Z71 2004** Moonroof, DVD, leather, loaded, SAVE! \$19,950  
JOHN ROGIN BUICK 734-525-0900

**CHEVY TRAILBLAZER 2006** EXT, Seating for 7, DVD, Front & Rear Air, Alloy Wheels & More, Priced to Go! #P7967  
888-372-9836  
**Lou LaRiche**

**CHEVY TRAILBLAZERS 2006** Several to Choose From, Nicely Equipped, Winter Ready, Starting at \$11,995  
888-372-9836  
**Lou LaRiche**

**DODGE DURANGO 2004** SLT, Red hot! 3rd row seat, \$11,123 or \$55 per week. WAC + TTL  
**NORTH BROS. FORD** 1-800-586-3518

**END OF THE YEAR CLEARANCE!** EVERYTHING MUST GO!  
**NORTH BROS. FORD** 1-800-586-3518

**FORD EXPEDITION EL 2008** Eddie Bauer, 4x4, 11K \$26,998  
AVIS FORD (248) 355-7515

**FORD EXPEDITION 2004** Eddie Bauer, black, 47K, \$13,995  
**Bob Jeannotte Pontiac** (734) 453-2500

**FORD EXPEDITION XLT 2007** 3rd seat, loaded, full power, only \$15,950  
JOHN ROGIN BUICK 734-525-0900

**FORD EXPLORER 2007** Eddie Bauer, 4x4, power moon, 3rd seat, 10K, \$19,997  
**Bill Brown Ford** (734) 522-0030

**GMC ENVY XL SLT** 58K, \$8,998  
AVIS FORD (248) 355-7515

**GMC SUBURBAN 2500 SLE** 1995 Diesel, auto, air, loaded, only \$6,950  
JOHN ROGIN BUICK 734-525-0900

**GMC SUBURBAN LT 1999** Leather, 3rd seat, loaded, sharp! \$9,950  
JOHN ROGIN BUICK 734-525-0900

**Sports Utility (8290)**

**GMC YUKON 2007** Holiday Special! Remote Start, ABS, Alloys, Sunroof, and Ready For Winter! \$25,995  
888-372-9836  
**Lou LaRiche**

**GMC YUKON SLE 2005** Rear heatair, 3rd seat, fully loaded, only \$15,950  
JOHN ROGIN BUICK 734-525-0900

**GMC YUKON SLT 2007** Navigation, DVD, white, 4x4, only \$21,495  
**Bob Jeannotte Pontiac** (734) 453-2500

**JEEP COMMANDER 2006** 4x4, 26K miles, full power, new car warranty, \$12,900  
Hines Park Lincoln Mercury 1-866-455-5332

**JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE LAREDO 2006** 4x4, 27K, sharp! \$12,900  
Hines Park Lincoln Mercury 1-866-455-5332

**MERCURY MOUNTAINEER 2008** AWD, leather \$17,998  
AVIS FORD (248) 355-7515

**SATURN VUE 2005** Silver, 4 cylinder \$10,995  
**Bob Jeannotte Pontiac** (734) 453-2500

**SATURN VUE 2006** Auto, air, moon, red, only \$12,495  
**Bob Jeannotte Pontiac** (734) 453-2500

**SATURN VUE 2006** Red, 27K, moonroof, only \$12,995  
**Bob Jeannotte Pontiac** (734) 453-2500

**SATURN VUE 2006** Red, 27K, moonroof, only \$12,995  
**Bob Jeannotte Pontiac** (734) 453-2500

**SATURN VUE 2006** Red, 27K, moonroof, only \$12,995  
**Bob Jeannotte Pontiac** (734) 453-2500

**SATURN VUE 2006** Red, 27K, moonroof, only \$12,995  
**Bob Jeannotte Pontiac** (734) 453-2500

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**SATURN VUE 2006** Red, 27K, moonroof, only \$12,995  
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**SATURN VUE 2006** Red, 27K, moonroof, only \$12,995  
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**SATURN VUE 2006** Red, 27K, moonroof, only \$12,995  
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**SATURN VUE 2006** Red, 27K, moonroof, only \$12,995  
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**SATURN VUE 2006** Red, 27K, moonroof, only \$12,995  
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**SATURN VUE 2006** Red, 27K, moonroof, only \$12,995  
**Bob Jeannotte Pontiac** (734) 453-2500

**SATURN VUE 2006** Red, 27K, moonroof, only \$12,995  
**Bob Jeannotte Pontiac** (734) 453-2500

**SATURN VUE 2006** Red, 27K, moonroof, only \$12,995  
**Bob Jeannotte Pontiac** (734) 453-2500

**Audi (8350)**

**AUDI A4 2001** \$9,998  
AVIS FORD (248) 355-7515

**CENTURY 2004-2005 8 to** choose, certified, loaded, low miles, from \$9,950  
JOHN ROGIN BUICK 734-525-0900

**LACROSSE CXL 2005** Leather, sharp, blue \$15,495  
**Bob Jeannotte Pontiac** (734) 453-2500

**LACROSSE LT 2006** Brown, only \$12,495  
**Bob Jeannotte Pontiac** (734) 453-2500

**LESABRE 2004** White, leather, only 12K  
**Bob Jeannotte Pontiac** (734) 453-2500

**LESABRE 2005** Gray, 18K, only \$16,495  
**Bob Jeannotte Pontiac** (734) 453-2500

**LESABRE LIMITED 2005** Leather, tan, only \$11,995  
**Bob Jeannotte Pontiac** (734) 453-2500

**LUCERNE CX 2006** Dark blue, 4 door \$13,995  
**Bob Jeannotte Pontiac** (734) 453-2500

**LUCERNE CXL 2006** \$14,998  
AVIS FORD (248) 355-7515

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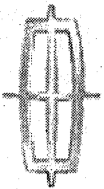
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30400 PLYMOUTH ROAD  
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Continued In The NEXT SECTION

**AVIS Does What Others CAN'T!**  
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ASK FOR MR. SCOTT  
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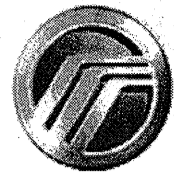
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2007 KIA SPORTAGE LX.....	4 cyl., 2WD.....	29,272 miles.....	\$11,900
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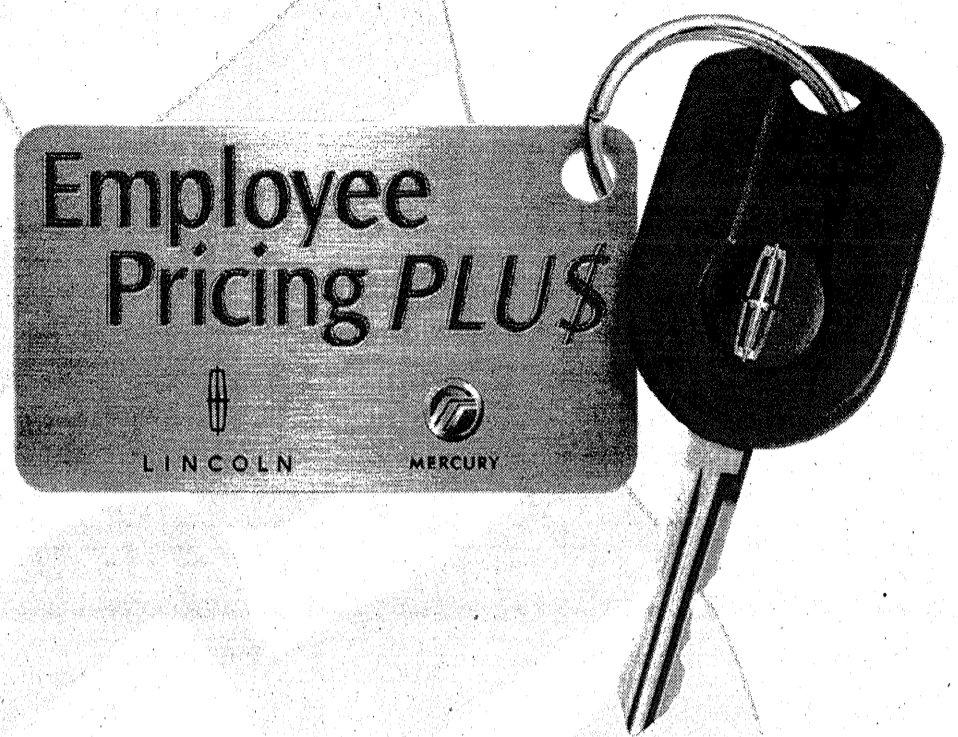
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\$347 Due at Signing



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Includes Lease Renewal Rebate  
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NOW **\$29,999**



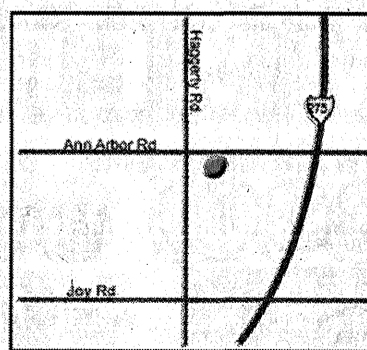
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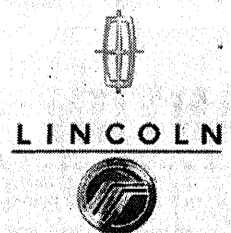
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Stock #90656

**New 2009 Ford Focus 4 Door SE**

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

\$1121.85 DUE AT SIGNING

**GREAT VALUE!**



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**New 2009 Ford Edge**

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

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**SUN & SYNC VALUE PKG.**



Stock #90586

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Stock #90770

**New 2009 Ford Escape XLT Fwd**

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

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Stock #83499

**New 2008 Ford F-150 XL 4x2**

Was **\$21,240**

Now Only **\$10,834\*\***

**WOW! 4.2 L V-6 Automatic, Air, L Décor Group**

**\$750\*\* Extra for your Trade Coupon**

**24 MPG! Hwy Rated**



Stock #90009

**New 2009 Ford Flex SE Fwd**

Lease for 36 Months **\$279\*\*** mo.

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**STX DECOR PACKAGE**



Stock #90906

**New 2009 Ford F150 Supercab**

**BUY FOR \$376\*\*** mo.

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

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**CLOSED**  
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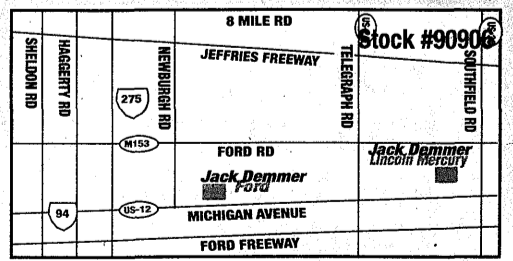
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All lease payments and buy prices are for qualifying A/Z Planners. For qualifying non A/Z planners an additional \$900 to \$1500 would be required to keep the payments or prices the same. All payments include acquisition fee, exclude tax, plates, and doc fees. 10,500 miles per year. Security deposit waived. Buy for price add tax, title, doc, and destination fees. Subject to availability. All factory rebates assigned to dealer including owner loyalty or previous lease where applicable and may require Ford Credit financing. Pictures may not represent actual vehicle. Payments and prices per program in effect at publication and are subject to change. All offers expire 1/31/09. 0% APR financing on F Series w/approved credit. Free bedliner offer for non A/Z/A plan buyers and also expires 11/30/08. \*See dealer for details. \*\*Must finance thru FMCC and qualify for Rcl/Rco renewal. \*0% APR on new 2008 Ford F150. Up to 72 months with approved credit. \*\*12,000 miles/yr. A/Z plan w/approved credit. \*\*'08 model or newer with less than 100,000 miles. All prior sales excluded. One coupon per customer.

# New Homes

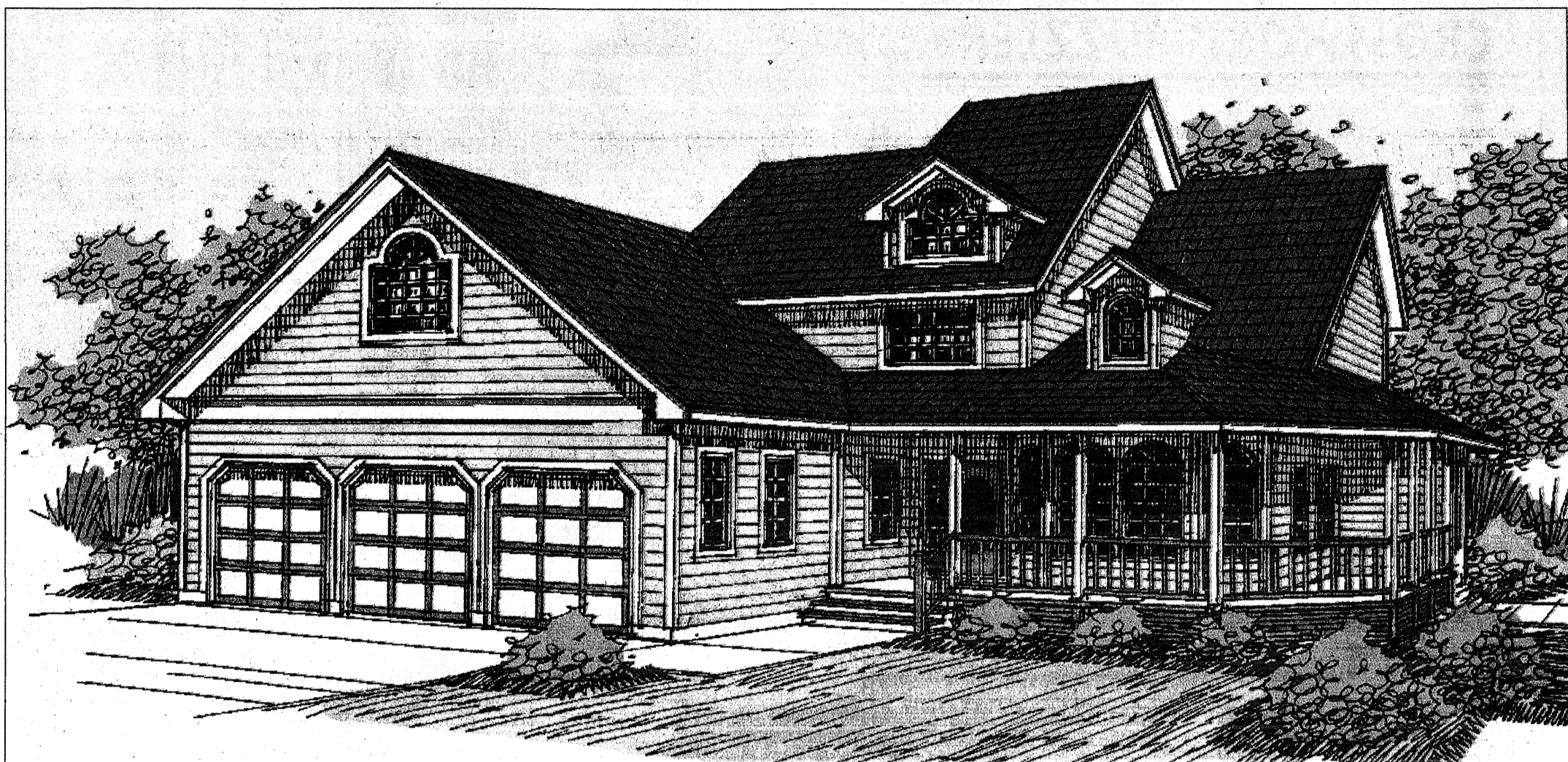


Sunday, December 28, 2008

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

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

www.hometownlife.com



## Spacious Louise design beckons with hospitality

The delightful Louise is very pleasing to the eye. Built with exterior materials of brick and wood, this Contemporary/Country style charmer will appeal to a wide range of prospective owners. The Louise (337-040) boasts of 2,722 square feet of living space, with an additional 2,088 square feet available in the basement, attic and garage. A wrap-around porch, with waist-high railing, adds to the hospitable atmosphere.

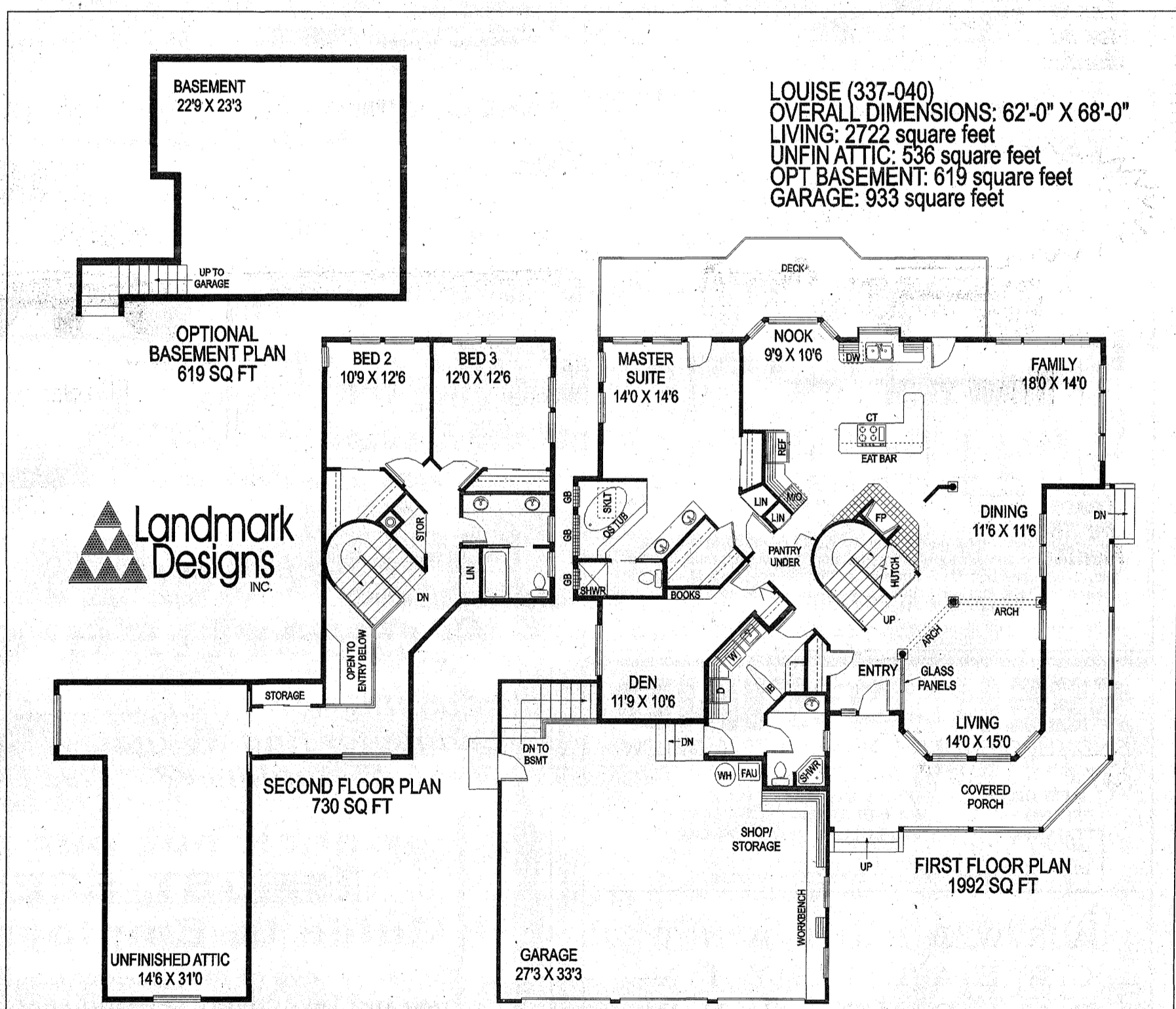
The open interior design is a true match for the lovely exterior. On the first floor, to the right of the entryway, is a multi-windowed living room.

The dining room, large family room, nook, and kitchen are completely open to each other and a big fireplace warms the entire area. A built-in hutch has been placed under the central stairway. Near the fireplace, this built-in shows off its contents to two rooms. The family room opens to the back deck. There is plenty of space here for the whole gang to enjoy a summer cookout.

The huge walk-through kitchen, just a few short steps from the dining room, will surely please the cook in the family. In addition to all the built-ins, there is an island cook top, sunny breakfast nook, appliance center, pantry, and linen storage.

The isolated master suite has a generous sleeping area, walk-in closet, access to the back deck and a private bathroom that includes shower, spa, skylight and twin basins. A good-sized den/office situated next to the master suite is equipped with a built-in bookcase, and offers room for a PC, chairs, and filing cabinets.

Completing the first floor is a fully equipped utility room with a full bath that leads into the garage. The garage houses a big shop area and extra storage. The stairs to the basement are located



here also. The second level of the Louise has the 536 square foot attic and the secondary sleeping quarters. There are two nice bedrooms here, per-

fect for older children. A full bathroom with twin basins services this floor. There is also a linen closet and two storage closets. For a study plan of the

LOUISE (337-040), 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.l diplans.com. Save 15 percent on construction plans using the code (LOE48) online, mailing, or calling (800) 562-1151.

### BRIEFS

#### Real Estate Agents, Appraising & Staging

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

There's a free seminar every week: Tuesday or Saturday, 11 a.m. to noon at 27555 Executive Drive (off West 12

Mile and Halsted), Farmington Hills 48331.

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

#### Investors

"Strategies for Property Tax Assessment Appeals," presented by Real Estate Investors Association of Oakland County, with David Nykanen as the speaker.

He will discuss property tax appeals, including working with a Board of Review and

procedures for filing with the Michigan Tax Tribunal.

It will be 5:30-9:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 8, at the MSU Management Education Center, 811 W. Square Lake, Troy. Call (800) 747-6742 or visit www.REIAofOakland.com.

#### BIA

Building Industry Association of Southeastern Michigan (BIA) will present its economic forecast luncheon and meeting — "Moving

Michigan Forward" — on Tuesday, Jan. 27, from noon to 2 p.m. at the Best Western Sterling Inn, 34911 Van Dyke Avenue in Sterling Heights.

Featured speakers are Robert A. Ficano, Wayne County executive, and Dennis W. Archer, former mayor of Detroit, and chairman of Dickinson Wright, PLLC. The speakers will address topics pertinent to those involved in the residential and light construction industries including: What can we expect during

2009? What new companies are locating in Michigan? Potential economic stimulus for our area. The vision for moving Michigan into the future. Registration fees are \$40 for BIA or Apartment Association of Michigan members with advance reservations made by Jan. 21; \$60 for members at the door, and \$75 for guests. Registration fees include entry to BIA's Builders & Remodelers Trade Show at the same location from 10 a.m. to noon. For registration infor-

mation, call (248) 862-1008 or register online at www.builders.org.

#### Tours, classes

Free Foreclosure Tours are 1 p.m. Sunday. Call (248) 787-7325 or visit FreeForeclosureFour.com. Investors can learn in a two-day class, \$99 includes classroom and field experience. Call AddedValueRealty.com, (248) 787-7325. Tours are Sunday at 1 p.m. Meeting place Home Depot lot at I-96/Telegraph.

# Sunday PUZZLE CORNER

Challenging fun for ALL ages

## CROSSWORD PUZZLER

### ACROSS

- 1 Comic-strip bark
- 4 Per
- 8 Bowser's pal
- 12 Sense organ
- 13 Guideline
- 14 Fragrance
- 15 Dogie catcher
- 17 Jealousy
- 19 "Tao — Ching"
- 20 Lodging places
- 21 Aspects
- 23 Plural indicator
- 24 Stinging insect
- 26 Well-known Pharaoh
- 29 Plays
- 30 Goose liver delicacy
- 31 Attic
- 33 Kept afloat
- 35 Boris' refusal
- 36 Ants at a picnic
- 37 Ms. Merkel
- 38 Zonked out
- 40 Disk capacity unit

- 42 New pet, maybe
- 44 Brit's exclamation (2 wds.)
- 46 They, to them
- 48 Funny person
- 49 Big spread
- 50 Nautical position
- 52 Type of arch
- 54 Notch shape
- 55 Brinks
- 56 Await action
- 57 Dangerous curve

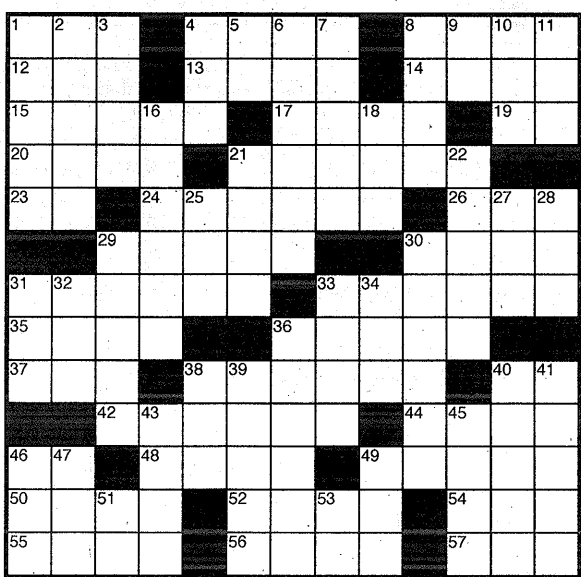
### DOWN

- 1 Nest on a crag
- 2 Showers
- 3 Tarkenton of football
- 4 Epoch
- 5 Roast beef — jus
- 6 Mops up
- 7 Therefore
- 8 Racer A.J. —
- 9 GI tag

### Answer to Previous Puzzle

LEG SCRUB LOU  
 AGA CHILI HOG  
 DOGWOOD GRAPH  
 OWN OWES  
 FAME GOAHEADS  
 ERASE CHEF EM  
 MIR QUEUE KEA  
 US AURA LOOMS  
 REALIGNS PISH  
 FETE LEA  
 MERCI PUBLISH  
 ORO ELENA LAO  
 WES SOGGY LYE

12-10 © 2007 United Feature Syndicate, Inc.



- 10 Pac-Man morsel
- 11 Prospector's find
- 16 Weekend wear (hyph.)
- 18 Zoo staffer
- 21 Brood
- 22 Lingers
- 25 Bravo, in Barcelona
- 27 Colorado tribe
- 28 Sen. Kennedy
- 29 Cause havoc
- 30 TV dinner
- 31 Dik-dik cousin
- 32 Ms. Rand of fiction
- 33 — here long?
- 34 Take advantage of
- 36 Oath
- 38 — snail's pace
- 39 Hone a razor
- 40 Volcanic output
- 41 Data storage units
- 43 Seals a deal
- 45 Rescue
- 46 Hostilities
- 47 New Haven student
- 49 Had over for dinner
- 51 Oz aunt
- 53 Dash size

## SUDOKU

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

### Fun By The Numbers

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

Level: Beginner

### Here's How It Works:

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

## SEEK AND FIND

FIND THESE WORDS IN THE PUZZLE BELOW.

- |          |            |          |
|----------|------------|----------|
| AFFLUENT | OPULENT    | RICH     |
| FLUSH    | PROSPEROUS | WEALTHY  |
| LOADED   | REPLETE    | WELL-OFF |

THE WORDS READ UP, DOWN AND ACROSS.

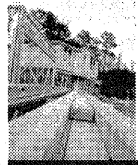
A S W O P U L A N T  
 C W E A L T H Y T X  
 R N L O A D E D N B  
 E M L P O I U T E R  
 P R O S P E R O U S  
 L D F F U B Z R L W  
 E S F F L U S H F E  
 T A Y W E O T C F L  
 E H F S N A O I A L  
 R I S H T E T R Y O

### CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE

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

### CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE

O	V	L	T	H	S	R	I	S	R	
L	V	I	O	N	A	M	E	T	L	
L	C	L	O	A	M	E	T	L	L	
H	S	T	F	E	T	E	R	E	S	
L	F	E	R	F	E	T	E	R	E	
S	L	I	F	E	R	E	T	E	R	
S	U	Z	E	R	S	O	S	E	P	
W	L	I	O	L	T	E	R	E	R	
B	R	E	R	L	I	O	L	T	E	R
C	R	O	A	D	E	D	E	R	E	
N	T	X	A	H	L	T	E	T	E	
T	N	A	S	P	L	A	W	O	P	



# Real Estate

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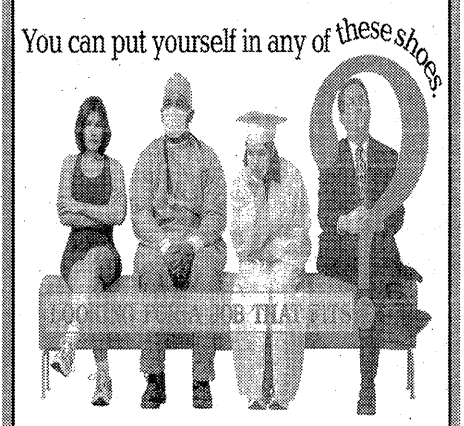
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# Automotive

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## 2009 Vibe Creates Excitement At Pontiac

Advertising Feature

### CAReport



By Kevin Koloian  
For Avanti NewsFeatures  
and allopinionsallthetime.com

Small wagons used to be known as simply practical and affordable, which are not bad things -- just boring. But the Pontiac Vibe changed all that when it debuted as a 2003 model.

It was one of the first entries in the new class of tall, compact sport wagons that boasted sporty styling and performance while remaining fuel efficient and versatile.

Now, fresh off a redesign, the 2009 Pontiac Vibe further cements its place in the compact hatchback segment.

An offspring of the on-again, off-again relationship between General Motors and Toyota, the Vibe shares its powertrain with the Toyota Matrix and is manufactured in Fremont, Calif.

Unlike the identical cabins, each model has its own unique exterior styling, with the Pontiac retaining its trademark dual grille theme and sharp, muscular lines.

The design of the Vibe resembles a sporty four-door hatchback rather than an outdated station wagon -- a smart move by Pontiac.

The new Vibe is also 1 inch shorter and 1 inch lower than the 2008 model. The reduced size is said to make it handle better than its predecessor.

But the increased handling comes at a price. At 49.4 cubic feet of interior space with the rear seats folded down, the 2009 Vibe loses about 5 cubic feet of room compared to the previous generation.

The Vibe is still practical, though. Its load surface is coated in durable plastic to allow for easy clean-up of a muddy dog or dirty baseball gear.

Adjustable cargo tie-downs housed in floor-mounted tracks make the Vibe accommodating to most tasks -- even some designated for small SUVs.



For those looking for an affordable, practical and sporty compact wagon, the 2009 Pontiac Vibe remains a good choice in the segment. It faces stiff competition in the Chevrolet HHR, Mazda3, Subaru Impreza and Scion xB, but it has a solid track record.

The Vibe comes in two trim levels: base and GT.

The \$15,310 base Vibe features 16-inch wheels, a tilt/telescoping steering column, a four-speaker audio system with satellite radio, a CD player and an auxiliary audio jack.

Two key upgrades can be made to the base via the ISB and AWD packages. The ISB package adds a more powerful engine, a rear cargo organizer and a fold-flat front passenger seat.

The AWD version adds all-wheel drive, sport suspension with independent rear setup, a luggage rack and air-conditioning.

The GT trim Vibe comes with everything the AWD package offers besides the all-wheel drive and adds a rear spoiler, 18-inch alloy wheels, an upgraded 320-watt audio system with MP3 playback, full power accessories, cruise control, keyless entry, leather/cloth sport seats and a leather-wrapped steering wheel and shift knob.

There's also the Preferred Package that provides the base with full power accessories, cruise control and keyless entry and the Sun and Sound package that includes a sunroof, the GT's audio system and the leather-wrapped steering wheel and shift knob.

Standalone options for the lower trims include air conditioning, a rear cargo organizer and an anti-theft system.

The base Vibe is powered by a 132 horsepower 4-cylinder engine, while all other trims get a 158 horsepower 4 banger. A five-speed manual transmission is standard on all but the AWD, which comes with a four-speed

automatic. The latter is optional on the base Vibe, while the ISB and the GT offer an available five-speed automatic.

With the base 4-cylinder engine and manual transmission the Vibe gets 26 miles per gallon in the city and 32 mpg on the highway. The more powerful engine mated to a manual trans gets 21 mpg city / 29 mpg highway.

These fuel economy ratings could get better in the years to come. The new Vibe has been engineered to accommodate a hybrid powertrain, though no definitive plans have been made yet as to when it may be offered.

Safety equipment is kind of sparse as are most vehicles in this class. The Vibe comes with antilock disc brakes, OnStar, stability control and a front-seat side and full-length side curtain airbags.

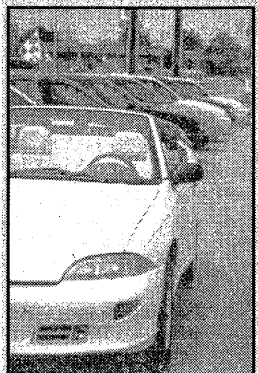
With so many different variations available at an affordable price one thing is for certain, the Pontiac Vibe remains a viable alternative to small SUVs.

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 Pontiac Vibe**  
**Vehicle class:** Compact hatchback.  
**Power:** 4-cylinder engine.  
**Mileage:** 26 city / 32 highway.  
**Where built:** Fremont, Calif.  
**Base price:** \$15,310.

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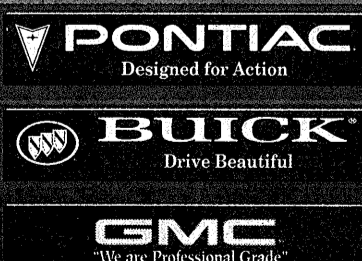
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