

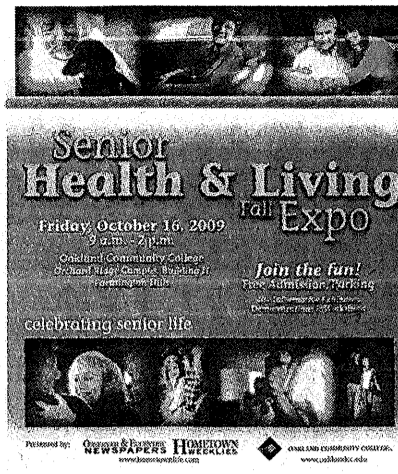
THURSDAY
October 8,
2009

The Observer & Eccentric
Newspapers

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Number 15
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PLYMOUTH OBSERVER

online at hometownlife.com



Senior Health & Living Fall Expo
Friday, October 16, 2009
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Oakland Community College
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celebrating senior life
Presented by: www.aaaws.org www.howtofind.com

Senior Health & Living Expo is free, fun

Special section inside

PIPELINE

Youth needed

The Plymouth Community Youth Advisory Commission is accepting applications for new members.

The applications can be found on the City of Plymouth website www.ci.plymouth.mi.us under the Plymouth Community Youth Advisory Commission tab.

Applications can be dropped off at City Hall until 4 p.m. Friday, Oct. 9; interviews will be held in City Hall Commission Chambers 6 p.m. Monday, Oct. 12.

Applicants must be entering the seventh through 11th grade and reside in either the City of Plymouth or Plymouth Township.

Top colors



First-place winners in the Plymouth Fall Festival coloring contest (pictured with contest organizer Brian Paton) were Amanda Tchonang (2-3 age category); Rhea Bhosale (4-5); Anna Arapoff (6-7); Isabelle Fanning (8-9) and Adrienne Paton (10-12).

The Plymouth Newcomers and Neighbors announced the results of its annual Fall Festival Coloring Contest, showcasing Plymouth's talented youngsters. Five winners were chosen from the more than 450 entries received over the course of Fall Festival weekend at the PNN booth in Kellogg Park.

First-place winners were Amanda Tchonang (2-3 age category); Rhea Bhosale (4-5); Anna Arapoff (6-7); Isabelle Fanning (8-9) and Adrienne Paton (10-12).

Runners-up were Navya Jacob, Savanna Mabey, Garrett Ratliff, Anushree Jakate, Alyssa Malbon, Sydney Keller, Robert Keller, Camryn Stankiewicz, Brittney McIntyre, and Kristi Bellenger.

Craft show

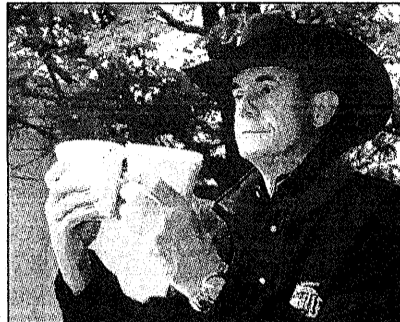
The Delta Kappa Gamma Education Society hosts its annual juried, handmade-only Craft Show 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 17, at West Middle School in Plymouth.

The event will feature some 1,500 customers, food and drawings.

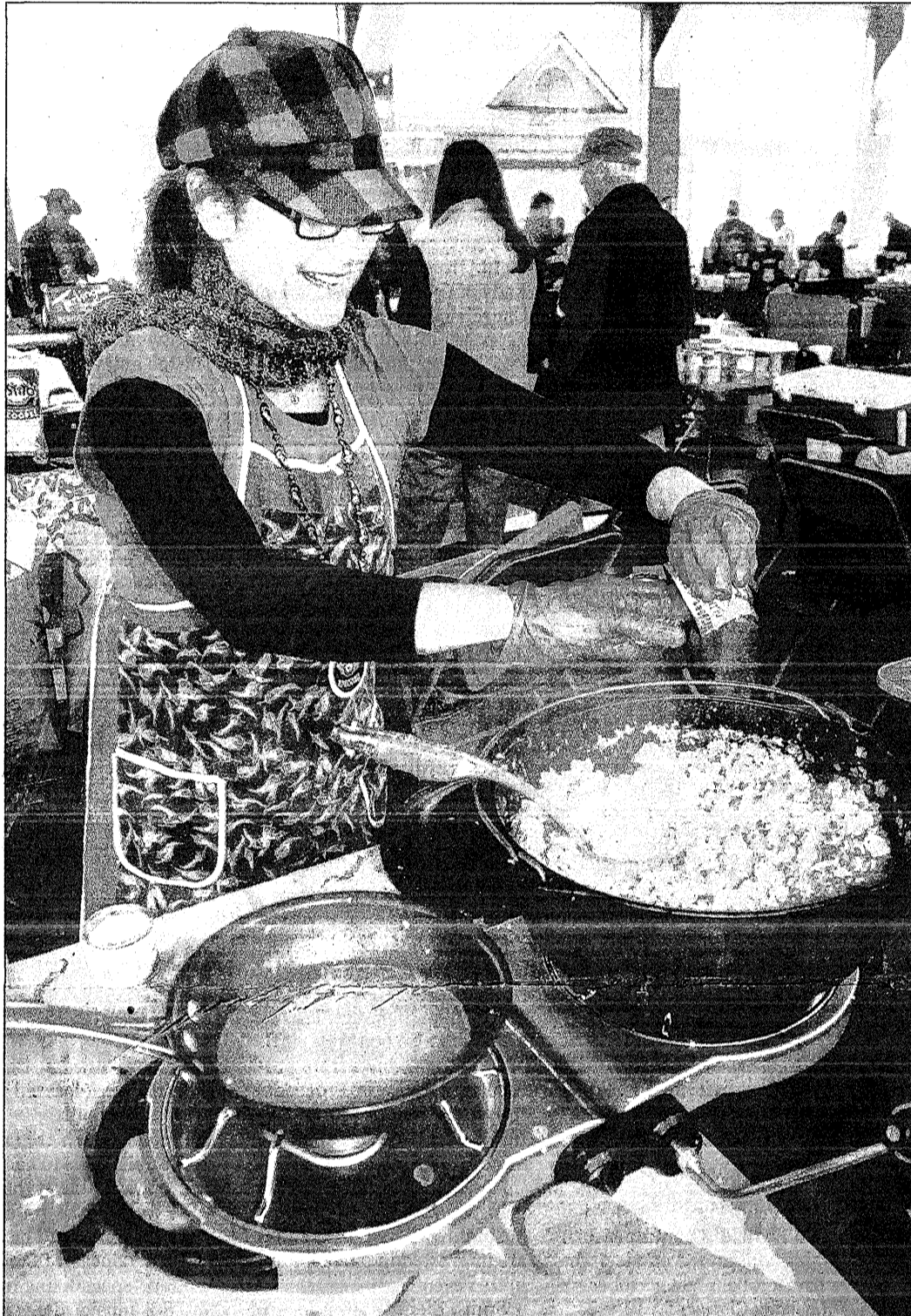
Hand-made and juried art and crafts will be sold from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 17 at West Middle School. The Delta Kappa Gamma Educational Society sponsors this show and uses all of the proceeds to provide college scholarships for Plymouth-Canton students.

Call Sandy Downs at (734) 340-4229 or e-mail Judy Stone at JBSTONE716@COMCAST.NET

Hot (and mild) time



Ken Horn, Plymouth's premier chili master, hoists two samples of salsa, ready for judging.



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Michele Katz of Brighton adds another can of chilies to her "Crazy Edie's Chili." Katz worked with two women named Edie. One was Edie and one was Crazy Edie. Crazy Edie gave her the recipe that she uses today with some tweaks that Katz has made.

Thousands sample chilis in annual Great Lakes cookoff

BY MATT JACHMAN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Despite two brief rain showers, thousands of people converged Sunday on downtown Plymouth to sample chili from professional and amateur cooks alike.

The 14th annual Great Lakes Regional Chili Cookoff, a fundraiser for Habitat for Humanity of Western Wayne County,

featured 60 different chilis and brought an estimated 15,000 people to town, said Annette Horn, president of Great Lakes Regional Chili Inc., the non-profit behind the event.

"It didn't scare away too many folks," Horn said of the rain. "It ended up being a more beautiful day than it started."

Chili ticket sales, however, were down about 10,000 from last year, Horn said. Though

final figures hadn't been tallied, Horn estimated that net proceeds would fall below the \$24,000 that was donated to Habitat for Humanity from last year's event. Last year's cookoff drew an estimated 20,000 visitors.

The chili festival's Restaurant Chili Challenge drew entries from 16 area restaurants, the

Please see **CHILI, A3**

Commerce Dept. opens local office in township

BY MATT JACHMAN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A new effort to make federal and state resources more accessible to businesses and entrepreneurs around the country was launched Tuesday in Plymouth Township.

CommerceConnect, a sort of U.S. Department of Commerce field location, opened the doors to its pilot office with a noontime ribbon-cutting by Commerce Secretary Gary Locke.

The office, intended as a "one-stop shop" for business people looking for research, analysis, market advice, financing options or other help the government can offer, is located in the Michigan Manufacturing Technology Center, on Halyard near M-14 and Beck Road.

"What we're really here to do is to improve our outreach to businesses across America," Locke said. "Not enough people know about the breadth and quality of the services the Department of Commerce offers."

Locke, who joined President Barack Obama's cabinet in March, said he plans to take the CommerceConnect concept nationwide. It will be a convenient link, he said, not only to commerce department expertise, but to state resources and other federal resources, such as the Small Business Administration, which offers loans to small businesses.

"All of us in economic development really need to come together to share our ideas," he said.

Roger Kilmer, director of the commerce department's Manufacturing Extension Partnership, is leading the CommerceConnect program. He said Plymouth Township's proximity to automobile-related manufacturers made it a good location for the CommerceConnect pilot office, and that the MMTC's work makes it a good partner.

MMTC offers manufacturers ways to improve quality, increase efficiency and productivity, reduce waste and otherwise improve their businesses.

CommerceConnect will spend a few months testing the waters and working with the business connections established through MMTC, plus finding the best ways to deliver resources to businesses that need them, before opening offices in other states and communities, Kilmer said. Though the focus now is on manufacturers, especially those related to the automobile industry, plans call for CommerceConnect to offer its resources to other types of businesses, he said.

Fred Kilgus and Fred Nothdurft, both of Vogel Industries Inc., a small Marine City company that makes automotive components, were pleased with the opening of CommerceConnect.

Please see **OFFICE, A3**

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City puts brakes on liquor licenses

BY MATT JACHMAN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

An influx of restaurants licensed to serve alcohol by the glass has prompted Plymouth officials to put an immediate 180-day moratorium on new liquor licenses in the city.

The Plymouth Commission approved the moratorium with a 6-1 vote during its regular meeting Monday. Officials say they plan to study the pros and cons of having licensed establishments and perhaps come up with a cap on such licenses.

"I think we're to the point now where it's changing our community not for the better," said Mayor Phil Pursell. "I think we're reaching a critical mass."

Pursell, who will leave the commission after next month's election, in which he is not seeking re-election, later said the number of licenses should be capped.

"Very soon, enough is going to be enough," said Commissioner Ed Hingelberg.

There are currently 23 licensed bars and restaurants in the city, 15 of those in the downtown development district. Two of the downtown licenses are for restaurants that have yet to open.

Pursell said he is concerned about the amount of attention from the police department that licensed establishments require, especially in the administration of the city's liquor license policy. He also fears restaurateurs can skirt the minimum food-to-alcohol sales ratio — 70 percent to 30 percent — the city requires of establishments that were not grandfathered in to the policy.

Commissioner Ron Loiselle cast the lone no vote. He said the city already has a system of checks in place — and that officials would be alerted to problems at any newly

licensed establishment by the number of calls to police. "We're not going to allow a dollar-a-beer joint," Loiselle said.

Loiselle said he could favor a shorter moratorium if it was limited to the downtown area.

"For us to put this restriction on the whole city is crazy," he said.

Restaurateur Tony Belli, a partner at E.G. Nick's on Forest, spoke to commissioners about maintaining a balance between alcohol sales and food sales, and seemed to favor the moratorium. He said he'd like to see more retail businesses locate downtown.

"If your restaurant tips too far to the liquor side, you literally run out your dining room business," he said.

Plymouth last had a liquor license moratorium from October 2007 to February 2008.

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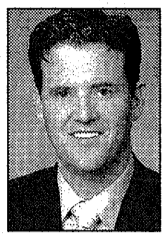
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Everyday Essentials program to help needy residents

■ Campaign to run Oct. 17-31

BY PAM FLEMING
NORTHVILLE RECORD STAFF WRITER

It's the little things in life that mean a lot. With that in mind, Rep. Marc Corriveau (D-Northville) will launch the Everyday Essentials campaign to help the needy on Oct. 17. The program will run through Oct. 31. This is the 20th House District's campaign to collect personal care and household items for area food distribution centers and human service organizations. These include Northville Civic Concern and



M. Corriveau

the Plymouth Salvation Army, which serves Plymouth, Canton, Northville and Belleville. The program is being supported by the Corriveau Community Fund, and donations will be welcomed. Items needed include toilet paper, facial tissue, diapers, baby wipes, paper towels, hand soap, dish soap, laundry deter-

gent, personal hygiene items, dental care products and other products. Drop boxes will be located at the Northville and Plymouth District Libraries, the Wayne Public Library and area businesses. Barrels will be placed around the district. The campaign will kick off from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Oct. 17 at Kellogg Park in downtown Plymouth. "This kind of blossomed from a meeting I had a couple of months ago with Marlene Kunz from Northville Civic Concern," Corriveau said. "We try to stop in there every once in awhile. I'm actually involved in quite a bit of conversation

lately with her because people are struggling." **PAPER PRODUCTS NEEDED** Corriveau learned while talking to Kunz that not only are nonperishable, non-outdated food products needed. "They really have trouble providing people with paper products," he said. "She said Civic Concern was really getting down to a critical level." He and his staff were sitting around his office one day wondering what they could do to help. During a brainstorming session, they came up with the name Everyday Essentials as a way to promote the need for soap, paper towels, diapers and

other non-food items people need every day. "There are families with babies that don't have diapers," said Ewa Jarosz, legislative assistant in Corriveau's office. "With their Bridge cards (which used to be called food stamps) they can't buy non-food items." "We've since learned that Northville Civic Concern and the Salvation Army need food to distribute, too, so we're asking people to bring both food and everyday essentials if they can during the drive," Corriveau said. "As a community, I think we should come together and do as much as we can," he said. "This is us as people trying to

give back to the community. We get calls every day about people who are struggling beyond belief." The Plymouth Salvation Army, which will also benefit from Corriveau's drive, is glad to have the help. "The need in our communities is growing in this bad economy," said Laurie Aren, director of family and community ministries for the Plymouth Salvation Army. "Programs like these help us meet those needs." For more information, call Corriveau's office at (517) 373-3816. pfleming@gannett.com (248) 345-0834, Ext. 260

AROUND PLYMOUTH

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

Miller Woods tours

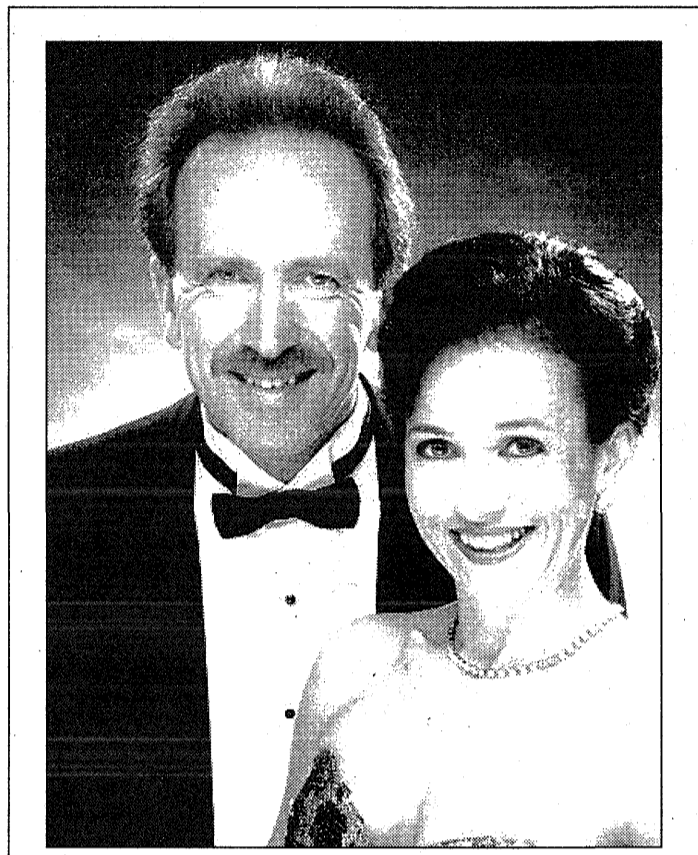
Join the Friends of Miller Woods for their annual fall tours of historic Miller Woods, the area's only nature preserve. The tour lasts for approximately 60 minutes and will cover the history of the Miller family, the significance of the beech-sugar maple forest to the area, and interesting facts about the trees, leaves, plants and animals within the woods. Tours will be on Sunday, Oct. 18 and 25, running every half hour from 2-4 p.m. No dogs are allowed in the nature preserve. For more information about other tour opportunities, visit the group's Web site at millerwoods.com

Craft show

The Delta Kappa Gamma Education Society hosts its annual juried, handmade-only Craft Show 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 17, at West Middle School in Plymouth. The event will feature some 1,500 customers, food and drawings. Hand-made and juried art and crafts will be sold from 9 am until 4 p.m. on Saturday, October 17 at West Middle School. The Delta Kappa Gamma Educational Society sponsors this show and uses all of the proceeds to provide college scholarships for Plymouth Canton students. Call Sandy Downs at (734) 340-4229 or e-mail Judy Stone at JBSTONE716@COMCAST.NET

Historic bike ride

Dust off that old bicycle and join other riders on a leisurely 10-mile tour of the pro-glacial Lake Whittlesey. The Oct. 17 bike ride, sponsored by the Plymouth Historical Museum, takes participants along a 10-mile tour of the 400-mile long pro-glacial Great Lake Whittlesey shoreline ridge. Great Lake Whittlesey formed in the Erie basin and its shoreline was formed by ice that initially drained to create an early route for aquatic life to migrate into the waters of the Great Lakes. The majority of the historical ride is on sidewalks or paved pathways with some residential streets, and there will be various "water stops" for discussions. The ride leader is Plymouth Historical Society (PHS) member Alan Van Kerckhove. The bike ride will be slow-



Rhapsody: Music at the Library

The Plymouth District Library will host American Songbook II 3 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 11. The Michigan Opera Theatre performance features the return engagement of singers Maria Cimarelli and Mark Vondrak (pictured), accompanied by pianist Amanda Sabelhaus. Register for this free program by calling the library at (734) 453-0750, Ext. 4.

paced and last 1-1/2 to 2 hours. Riders must be at least 14 years old; minors are required to be accompanied by an adult. Wearing a bicycle helmet is strongly advised as is water for drinking during the ride. Tickets for the ride are available at the Plymouth Historical Museum, 155 S. Main Street, in downtown Plymouth, or online at www.plymouthhistory.org/Events.html, using PayPal. The cost is \$10 per person for PHS members and \$15 per person for non-members. Participants will meet near the south entrance to the Plymouth Historical Museum at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Oct. 17. For more information, call (734) 455-8940.

AAUW meeting

The Plymouth/Canton branch of the American Association of University Women hosts its monthly meeting Oct. 15, at 6:30 p.m., held at the Plymouth Community Arts Council, 774 N. Sheldon Rd. Plymouth (just north of North Territorial Rd.) The meeting will feature a light dinner (\$10 per person) followed by a presentation of "Lily Ledbetter - A Fair Act Play." Increasing awareness of pay inequities is one of the goals

of AAUW. For more information contact Esther Nelson at enelson1c@att.net or 734 981-4938.

Shocktober

The Penn Theatre in downtown Plymouth continues its Thursday-themed movie nights with October's "Shocktober Thursday Classics." The schedule: Oct. 8, "The Mummy," (1932); Oct. 15, "War of the Worlds," (1953); Oct. 22, "Abbott and Costello Meet Frankenstein," (1948); and Oct. 29, "Bride of Frankenstein," (1935). Admission is \$3, and the box office opens at 6:30 with show time at 7 p.m. The Penn Theatre is located at 760 Penniman in downtown Plymouth. For more information, call (734) 453-0870 or visit www.penntheatre.com

Grief workshop

Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church sponsors an eight-week grief workshop, "From Grief to New Hope," beginning Oct. 19. This free workshop is open to the community and will be presented by Plymouth Township resident John O'Shaughnessy from New Hope Center for Grief Support. Each session

will begin with a talk about one aspect of grief followed by small group participation led by trained facilitators. Each person will be placed in a group with others who have had similar losses.

The workshop will meet for eight consecutive Monday nights from 7-8:45 p.m. at Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church located at 47650 N. Territorial Road, Plymouth. For registration information call the parish office at 734-453-0326 x 221.

Walk for Melanoma

The fourth annual KDB Melanoma 5K Run/Walk will be held on Sunday, Oct. 11 at Kensington Metropark. Registration is at 9 a.m. and the walk/run will begin at 11 a.m. Register on line: www.melanomawalk.org - click on First Giving. All proceeds go to the Melanoma Research Foundation.

Smith fund-raiser

Smith Elementary School hosts its seventh annual Holiday Shopping Spree Fund-raiser 4-8 p.m. Friday, Nov. 13 in the school gymnasium. Admission is free. More than 30 vendors will be on display offering a diverse range of products - just in time for holiday shopping! This event will also feature a raffle of over 30 products from participating vendors. Proceeds from table rentals and raffle ticket sales directly benefit the Smith Elementary PFO. Applications are currently being accepted for home-based business owners/crafters that are interested in participating in this event. Smith Elementary is located at 1298 McKinley, a block west of Harvey. For more information, contact Julie at (734) 414-0218.

Mary Todd program

Mary Todd Lincoln spent the latter years of her life in mourning for a murdered husband and the loss of three children. On Sunday, Oct. 25, the Plymouth Historical Museum will host "Mary Todd Lincoln and Civil War Mourning Rituals" along with a Mourning Tea. Sip on our special brew of Victorian tea and nibble on scones, tea sandwiches, and other Victorian fare while enjoying a performance by The Sorrowful Sisters. The "sisters," Debbie Eleson and Gail Smalley of The Petticoat Ladies, will put on an educational performance detailing the sorrowful and tragic life of Mary Lincoln. They will also provide a description of how

Victorians handled mourning during the Civil War. The tea begins at 2 p.m. and will be catered by Sweet Afton Tea Room in Plymouth. Tickets are \$20 for Plymouth Historical Society members and \$25 for non-members, and can be purchased at the Plymouth Historical Museum during open hours, or on the website at http://www.plymouthhistory.org/Events.html using PayPal. The tea and presentation are being sponsored by Schrader-Howell Funeral Home in Plymouth.

The Plymouth Historical Museum is located at 155 S. Main Street, a block north of downtown Plymouth. Hours are Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday 1-4 p.m. For further information, call (734) 455-8940.

Council on Aging event

• Senior Flu Shot Clinic, Monday, Oct. 19, from 9 a.m. to noon at the Plymouth Cultural Center, 525 Farmer Street. Appointment required, call (734) 453-1234, Ext. 236 (no Walk-Ins). Medicare Part B, HAP, Care Choices and Priority Health Cards accepted, all others \$25.

Sweetest Day dance

PLAV Post #166 and VFW Post #6695 will co-host a Sweetest Day Dance 8 p.m. to midnight Saturday, Oct. 17, at the VFW Post located at 1436 Mill in Plymouth. Tickets, which are tax deductible, are \$10 each and are available at the VFW lounge/club room. Entertainment will be provided by Benny Spear, of Benny and the Jets (specializing in 50s and 60s music) along with Greg Jaqua (an Elvis impersonator). There will be door prizes offered throughout the evening along with a cash bar. For more information, call (734)459-6700.

Hospice volunteers

Compassionate Care Hospice is a community-based organization committed to providing excellent hospice care for patients and their families. The group is currently seeking caring and dedicated individuals to provide support by being a friendly visitor to patients in the Western Wayne County area. Training is provided. For more information, contact Ann Christensen, Volunteer Coordinator, toll-free (888) 983-9050 or e-mail at achristensen@cchnet.net.

Crafters wanted

The Plymouth-Canton Music

Boosters (PCMB) is hosting its Annual Holiday Arts and Crafts Ensemble on Saturday, Nov. 21. Exhibitors who hand-craft their own items are invited to submit an application to exhibit at the fundraising event to be held at Plymouth High School in Canton, Mich.

The juried art event is produced twice each year by the PCMB to help support the band and color guard programs at the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park. Plymouth High School is located at 8400 Beck Road in Canton, Mich. The Holiday Arts & Craft Ensemble will be held from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. on Nov. 21. In addition to over 100 exhibits, there will be food, a raffle, and entertainment by local musicians and artists throughout the day. Admittance is \$2.

Prisoner family support

Do you have a family member currently in prison? Do you feel alone? Do you wish you had a support group that you could turn to? If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, then this support group is for you. Contact Bonnie at (734) 646-2237 or e-mail hope4healing@rocketmail.com for more information. This support group is to provide adult family members with support and a place to talk with others that have experienced similar pain. Meetings are free and run 6:30-8:30 p.m., the second Monday of every month at Kirk of Our Savior, 36660 Cherry Hill, Westland.

Rabbit sponsors

Great Lakes Rabbit Sanctuary, the largest rabbit rescue in the United States, is looking for individual sponsors of its 500-plus bunnies. The sanctuary, located in Willis, near Ypsilanti, is seeking sponsors for \$15 per month. To view rabbits in need of sponsorship and to sign up, visit www.rabbitsanctuary.org. For more information, call (734) 461-1726.

PLAV members

PLAV Post #166, located at 39375 Amrhein in Livonia (at the southeastern corner of Amrhein and Eckles) is seeking new veteran members (the first year is offered free). The Post meeting is the second Monday of every month (except July and August) and begins at 7:30 p.m. with a light lunch that follows the meeting. Those interested are welcome; contact Sr Vice Cmdr/Adj Roger L. Kehrier, (734) 453-2031.

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PUBLIC NOTICE
CITY COMMISSION, CITY OF PLYMOUTH
WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN

Notice of a public hearing on proposed Brownfield Plan Amendment on October 19, 2009, at 7:00 p.m. at the City of Plymouth City Hall located at 201 South Main, Plymouth, Michigan. At that time, the City Commission of the City of Plymouth will hold a public hearing on a proposed Brownfield Plan Amendment for the Hamilton Garden Loft Condominium Project at which time all interested persons will be heard and the City Commission shall receive and consider all written communications with reference to the proposed Plan Amendment and a record of that public hearing, including all data presented at the public hearing shall be made and preserved. All aspects of the proposed Plan Amendment shall be open for discussion at the hearing. The property to which the Brownfield Plan Amendment applies consists of twenty-seven (27) parcels on the west side of Hamilton Street, between Ann Arbor Trail and Roe Street in Downtown Plymouth (permanent tax parcel nos. 006-23-0001-000 through 006-23-0027-000, Inclusive)

A copy of the Proposed Brownfield Plan Amendment and maps are available in the office of the City of Plymouth City Clerk at the address provided above.

LINDA LANGMESSER,
City Clerk
City of Plymouth

Publish: October 8, 2009
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Sending a message

Kids divided on texting while driving ban

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Plymouth-Canton high school students are sharply divided over efforts by some U.S. lawmakers who support a nationwide ban on text messaging while driving.

Some students — even those who admit they have engaged in texting behind the wheel — say a ban could reduce accidents, injuries and deaths, while others believe the proposal goes too far and wouldn't convince drivers to halt the practice anyway.

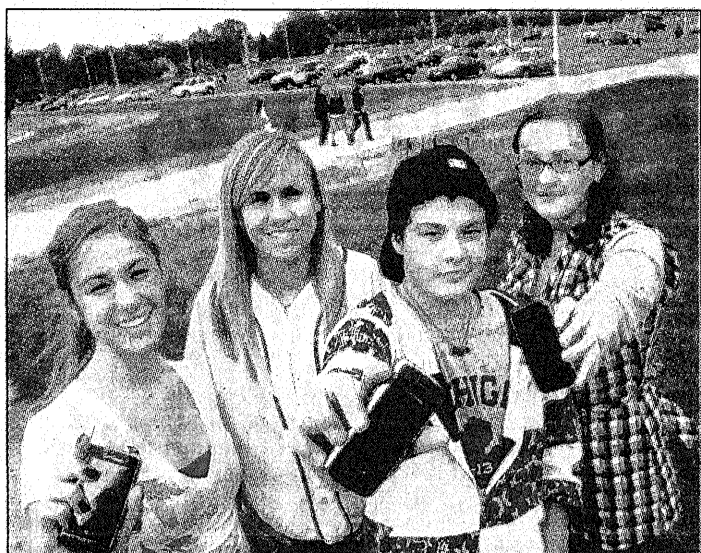
Kristyn Sturtz, a 16-year-old Plymouth High School junior, said she has stopped text messaging while driving, but she opposes a federal ban because "people are going to do it anyway" and she believes the law would be ineffective.

Still, Sturtz said, "I know people who have gotten in crashes (while texting). No one has gotten hurt, but cars have been totaled."

Kara Bongiovanni, a 17-year-old Canton High School senior, said she doesn't typically initiate texting while driving, but she reads and responds when others text her.

"I try to make it to a red light before I respond, but I do read it while I'm driving, though," she said.

Still, Bongiovanni said she would stop texting while driving altogether if state or federal lawmakers impose a ban



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Kara Bongiovanni, Kristyn Sturtz, Alex Gravin and Amy Paladino are part of a generation that would rather text than talk ... AFTER school is out. P-CEP prohibits cell phone use during school hours.

'I never text while I'm driving. I just let them pile up until I'm done driving.'

AMY PALADINO

— an idea she supports.

"If they make it illegal, I won't do it because I'll be scared," she said.

Bongiovanni said a ban might convince drivers to pull off the road before they read or send text messages.

Some states — but not Michigan — already have adopted bans on texting while driving. U.S. Sen. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y., has suggested a nationwide ban and slashing federal highway funding for states that don't pass such laws.

Some companies, such as Ford Motor Co. and auto club giant AAA, have indicated support for bans on texting while driving, and groups such as the Governors Highway Safety Association also have endorsed the idea.

Alex Gravin, a 16-year-old Salem High School junior, said an outright ban goes too far. He suggested efforts to find "a middle ground" in the

controversy, although he isn't sure what it would be.

Gravin said he often prefers quick text messaging over formal phone conversations, and he said it's a practice he engages in "from the time school gets out until I go to bed." He conceded he texts while driving "every now and then," but he usually tries to do it when he is stopped at a red light.

Students said when they are driving, they often get a passenger to send or respond to a text to avoid doing it themselves.

Some even said they get texts from parents who have warned them against texting while driving.

Amy Paladino, a 17-year-old Canton High School senior, said she has completely stopped sending or reading texts while she is driving, and she supports a ban.

"I never text while I'm driving. I just let them pile up until I'm done driving," she said, adding that she became fearful after seeing stories about people who have died while texting and driving.

"I don't want that to be me," Paladino said.

dclcm@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-2238

School hopeful says involvement is key

BY BRAD KADRICH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Adrienne Davis and her family moved to Plymouth Township 10 years ago specifically because of the solid reputation of the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools.

Now, Davis wants a seat on the board entrusted with developing and enhancing that reputation.

Davis, 47, is one of five candidates seeking three four-year terms on the Plymouth-Canton Board of Education in the Nov. 3 election.

"We were looking for the best special education programs," said Davis. "My research and interviews led me to Plymouth-Canton, and I've been very, very impressed."

Davis owns Different Drums Educational Services, an educational services company that partners with the Michigan Council on Economic Education to teach children about various components of education.

Before that Davis, who lives in Plymouth Township with her husband, Harold, and sons Brandon, 16, and Jared, 14, spent some 20 years in corporate America, doing marketing for companies such as Xerox, ADP and Kodak.

She serves with the Special Education Parent Advisory Committee, the Sexual Education Advisory Committee and JNP, the district's African-American parent committee. She's served on PTOs, done the West Middle School parent coffee, been a Wildcat booster and helped with both the 2004 and 2006 bond committees.

It's that level of parent involvement she believes will aid her as a member of the school board.

"I'm that mom who's working and participating and sharing," Davis said. "I have a long history of working with the district."

Like anyone else, Davis knows the district's biggest issue is financing. The state is likely to take \$218 per student out of the Plymouth-Canton foundation grant, and the district has already cut some \$15 million over the last several years.

She knows the financial situation "touches everything we do" in the district and, while the district "does a phenomenal job with the product we present" to students, she sees such things as increasing class sizes as a threat to that product.

"I see class sizes creeping up this year," Davis said. "They're higher than previous years. Will

THE DAVIS FILE



Davis

- **Who:** Adrienne Davis
- **What:** Seeking a four-year term on the Plymouth-Canton Board of Education
- **Where:** Plymouth Township resident
- **Family:** Husband, Harold; sons Brandon, 16, and Jared, 14
- **Profession:** Runs Different Drums Educational Services

that impact student achievement? I don't have a crystal ball, but I hope not."

Davis said her platform features innovation, collaboration and communication as its key elements. Thinking outside the box, working with other partners and making sure decisions and issues are communicated with parents are areas Davis thinks the district can work on.

She cites a training session she attended over the summer with Microsoft, during which she learned Microsoft develops partnerships with various entities. Davis thinks such partnerships can be a source of revenue.

"We must be innovative in our approach to education in the 21st Century," Davis said. "We must collaborate with the broader community, including the private sector and other potential sources of funds. Finally, we have to promote real-time, relevant communication to all members of the community."

Davis thinks Dr. Craig Fiegel, just starting his second year at the helm, "has come in and continued to manage the resources" of the district and, in tandem with the board, has helped PCCS students maintain the level of achievement they've reached the last several years.

"Look at the MEAP scores and Promise Scholarships," Davis said. "Are we competitive in test scores with other districts? We're doing a good job of that."

She said parent concerns she's heard on the campaign trail include class size and continuing to maintain the level of education.

"I bring a skill set, having worked with so many committees," Davis said. "I understand the district, I'm open and I want the public's input."

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PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

"Crash," a Canton resident, parks his 1946 Harley Davidson, complete with tank mounted shifter. He finished the bike just a few days ago. Crash and his wife own two of the vintage 1946 Harleys.

CHILI

FROM PAGE A1

most in the history of the challenge, Horn said.

The festival also featured a motorcycle exhibition and motorcycle "chili rides" into town from two different motorcycle dealers, MotorCity Harley Davidson in Farmington Hills and Dick Scott Indian Detroit in Canton Township. The bikers paid \$10 each to be part of the chili rides, Horn said.

"When you have 200 bikes coming into town all at once, it's pretty exciting," she said.

The motorcycle show included a slow-speed exhibition of motorcycle maneuvers. Police motorcyclists from Dearborn Heights, Inkster and Plymouth Township participated in the show.

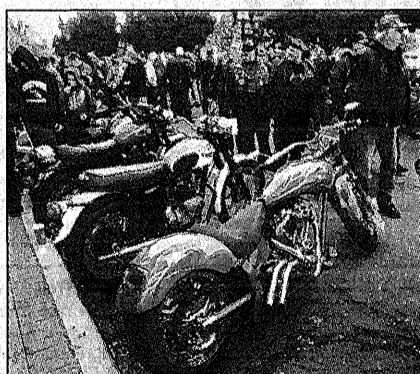
Horn said that although volunteer participation was healthy — Habitat for Humanity provides many volunteers — more help is always needed.

"No matter how many volunteers I get, I can always put some people to work," she said.

mjachman@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-2405



Carol and Paul Steffanni are former residents of both Plymouth and Canton. Now they live in Haslett, near Lansing, but came down to enjoy the chili festival. Clearly, Paul has done this before, as his muffin tin/chili holder makes it easier to sample a large number of chilis.



From stock and modified Harleys, to choppers and some old British bikes, there is a bike for every biker's taste.

And the winners are ...

Richard Chauvin of Windsor and Pete Skwiers of Livonia emerged as the top chili cooks in Sunday's 14th annual Great Lakes Regional Chili Cookoff in downtown Plymouth.

Skwiers, who won for his red chili, and Chauvin, who cooked green chili, or chili verde, will move on to the 2010 International Chili Society's World Chili Cookoff.

In addition, Gary Ray, also of Livonia, won first place for his salsa recipe. Leo Buk of Trenton won the Best Booth prize.

An estimated crowd of more than 15,000 people turned out for the cookoff, which featured samples of 60 different chilis in all categories.

In the Peoples Choice category, a non-ICS competition, Chris Thompson of Westland took the top prize among individual cooks.

In the Restaurant Chili Challenge, which featured entries from 16 different restaurants, the Omelette & Waffle Cafe of Plymouth won the Peoples Choice award, while the Picnic Basket Market, of Plymouth Township, won the Best Judged award.

The "hottest dog" awards, for dressed-up dogs, went to Cody Super Dog of Livonia (owner Dabkowski), in the Hot & Spicy category, and to Harley of Madison Heights (owners Dale and Teresa Upton) in the Biker Dog category.

The "hottest dog" contest was a fund-raiser for the Huron Valley Humane Society.

OFFICE

FROM PAGE A1

Kilgus, one of Vogel's owners, said the commerce department can provide Vogel with services it can't

afford to buy.

Both men said Vogel's alliance with MMTC, which began about a year ago, has helped Vogel stay afloat in a tough economy by showing them ways to make it leaner and more efficient.

"We're definitely committed," said Nothdurft, the chief operating officer. "We're going to make this work."

Locke, the former governor of Washington, also Tuesday addressed the Midwestern

Governors Association Jobs and Energy Forum in Detroit. It was his fifth visit to Michigan as commerce secretary.

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PUBLIC SAFETY

Freeway traffic stop turns into drug arrest

A 19-year-old Livonia man was arrested on a marijuana-possession charge on Oct. 1 after a traffic stop on eastbound M-14 in Plymouth Township.

According to a Plymouth Township Police Department report, a patrolling officer spotted the suspect driving a Ford pickup truck at more than 90 mph on the freeway shortly before 9 p.m. and pulled him over for speeding. The officer smelled burned marijuana in the truck as he spoke with the driver, police said.

Asked if he had anything in the pickup that he shouldn't have, the driver said he did, and handed over a small black case containing suspected marijuana, rolling papers and a grinder, police said. The substance later tested positive for marijuana, police said.

The man was ordered to appear in court on the drug charge and warned about speeding and narcotics paraphernalia, police said.

Vandalism

Someone recently used a small marble to punch a hole a second-floor bedroom window at a house on Mayflower Drive in the township.

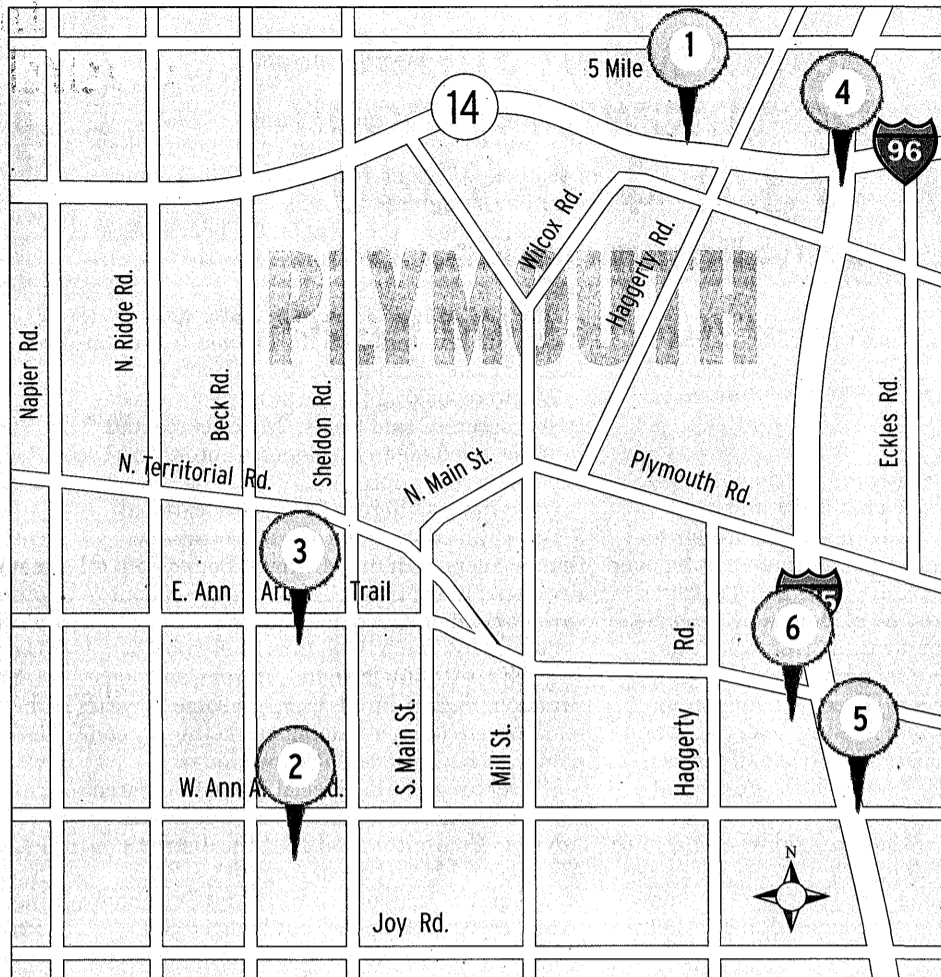
The vandalism occurred between Sept. 27 and Oct. 4, the complainant told police. Police said the marble ended up stuck between two panes of glass.

By Matt Jachman

FIRE RUNS

The Plymouth Community Fire Department responded to the following runs during the period Sept. 30-Oct. 6:

3 Tuesday, Oct. 6 - Residential rescue run on Cove Court; commercial rescue runs on Schoolcraft and on Main;



vehicle accident on McClumpha; rescue run on Apple Tree; downed wires on Main.

Monday, Oct. 5 - Residential rescue runs on Grant, on Eastside, on Northville Road, on Sheldon and on Penniman; rescue run at a public building on 5 Mile; single-family fire on Beechwood; rescue run on Lilley; mutual-aid-given run on I-275 south of Koppnick.

Sunday, Oct. 4 - Commercial rescue run on Ann Arbor Trail; residential rescue runs on Plymouth Lake, on Shadywood and on Haggerty; rescue run on Hines.

Saturday, Oct. 3 - Vehicle accident with extrication on southbound I-275 at M-14; residential rescue runs on Russell, on Main, on Carol and on Lamond; commercial rescue runs on Beck and on Haggerty; rescue runs on Hines at Riverside and on Ann Arbor

Road at Beck.

Friday, Oct. 2 - Mutual-aid-given run on Cherry Hill; vehicle accidents at Warren Lilley and on eastbound M-14; residential rescue runs on Ann Arbor Road, on Ann Arbor Trail and on Sheldon; single-family fire on Trailwood; commercial rescue run on Ann Arbor Trail; downed wires on Union.

Thursday, Oct. 1 - Residential rescue runs on Lakewood and on Northville Road; rescue run at a public building on Church; commercial rescue run on Ann Arbor Road; vehicle accident (mutual-aid-received) on southbound I-275 and Ann Arbor Road.

Wednesday, Sept. 30 - Residential rescue runs on Shadywood, on Parkview, on Haggerty and on Nantucket; vehicle fire on Chestnut; stream/storm sewer investigation on Walnut; rescue runs on Northwood and at Ann Arbor Trail and Ann Arbor Road.

City OKs firm to study public safety services

BY MATT JACHMAN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

City officials moved ahead Monday with plans to look for greater efficiencies — and savings — in the way police, firefighting and emergency medical services are delivered in Plymouth.

The Plymouth City Commission voted unanimously to have the city attorney, Robert Marzano, review a contract for a detailed study of the city's current public safety services and recommendations on ways to provide those services at a lower cost over the long term.

Plymouth currently has about \$4 million, more than half the general-fund budget of \$7.6 million, budgeted for public safety in the current fiscal year. That's nearly \$3 million for the city's police department and just over \$1 million for the Plymouth Community Fire Department, which also serves Plymouth Township. The city provides about 25 percent of the fire department's revenue.

The initial cost of the study proposed by the International Association of City Managers Consulting Services is \$25,000; the cost could go higher, depending on the direction the city takes after the basic study is done.

Mayor Phil Pursell said the move is in the best interests of the city's taxpayers.

"We owe it to them to find alternatives," Pursell said. "This study, I think, will lead us to an answer."

Commissioner David Workman said the study would take the emotional element out of decisions regarding the future of police, firefighting and medical

services by providing objective information.

The study's authors could recommend, for example, further regionalization of the fire department, or perhaps the adoption of a public safety department model, which would have police officers cross-trained as firefighters and emergency medical personnel.

"This study might give us something that no one has ever thought of," Pursell said.

City Manager Paul Sincok said he will inform officials in neighboring communities of the city's plans.

The consulting service, Sincok said, is "one of the premier teams in the country" and was recommended by officials in Novi, where a similar study was recently done.

Dan Dwyer, a former commissioner and mayor and current commission candidate, told the commission that neighboring communities such as Northville and Plymouth townships should be formally brought into the study and asked to share its costs.

"When it comes to fire service, I'm convinced you cannot look inward," Dwyer said, arguing that unless communities with which the city might form a joint fire department are part of the study, it won't provide enough information to show whether such regionalization would be effective.

Dwyer, who pushed as mayor to regionalize the fire department, said he would not be in favor of a regional police department.

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GRILLED BEEF TENDERLOIN MEDALLIONS*
With portabella mushroom, onions and cubanelle peppers with a hint of garlic. \$12

LOBSTER MAC
Ziti pasta with lobster, fresh basil, brie and fontina cheese
 Topped with roasted garlic panko crumbs. \$12

SHORT RIB QUESADILLAS
With Monterey jack cheese.
 Accompanied with spiced black bean and tomato salsa, avocado and sour cream. \$9

FIAMMA CHEESE TASTING
Featuring award winning Leelanau cheese from the creamery at Black Star Farms in Northern Michigan, mini baked brie and chef's choice cheese of the day.
 Accompanied with fresh fruit garnish, nuts and gourmet crackers. \$14

AHI TUNA (Sashimi Grade)*
Rubbed with Asian spice, served rare,
 Accompanied with spicy mango chutney, avocado mousse and wonton crisps. \$12

SMOKED PLATE (Served Cold)
Prepared in house, pepper encrusted hot smoked salmon, cold smoked salmon,
 White fish and salmon pate. Served with traditional accompaniments. \$14

GRILLED CAJUN PRAWNS
Accompanied with spicy avocado dip, mango chutney and whole grain crème fraiche. \$10

RAW OYSTERS*
One-half dozen. Served with cocktail sauce and horseradish. \$12

CALAMARI
Flash-fried with Choice of one of two ways:
 San Marzano sauce with cherry peppers, grape tomatoes and Kalamata olives or
 Tomato and red onion with a lemon-garlic citrus butter sauce. \$10

HOUSEMADE BUTTERNUT SQUASH RAVIOLI
Topped with brown butter, hazelnut and fresh sage. \$9

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND MUSSELS
Steamed mussels and Italian sausage in a light tomato wine sauce.
 Accompanied with Pommes frites. \$10

MEAT

Substitutions available. \$2.00. See also our full bar and wine list.
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All natural. Cut from the best of the tenderloin.
 Topped with Fiamma zip sauce.
 Accompanied with Potatoes Au Gratin and caramelized parsnips, carrots and cranberry chutney.
 6 oz. Filet... \$23 8 oz. Filet... \$29 10 oz. Filet... \$35

RESERVED BLACK ANGUS NEW YORK STRIP STEAK*
Chosen from the top 5% of choice beef, center of the loin, topped with button mushroom ragu.
 Accompanied with brie-fontina Mac & Cheese and ratatouille. \$27

BRAISED SHORT RIBS
Accompanied with garlic mashed potatoes and caramelized parsnips, carrots and cranberry chutney.
 Topped with crispy red onions. \$23

COLORADO PRIME LAMB CHOPS*
Marinated and char grilled. Topped with port wine demi.
 Accompanied with cream spinach and fennel scented fingerling potatoes. \$26

FIAMMA CHICKEN FLORENTINE
Chicken breast stuffed with a blend of cheeses and spinach. Topped with a cauliflower cream sauce.
 Accompanied with garlic mashed potatoes and broccoli florets... \$17

WOODLAND TENDERLOIN
Beef Tenderloin Tips, sautéed with shallots and wild forest mushrooms, roasted red peppers,
 Accented with Gorgonzola cheese, finished with a touch of truffle oil. Served with risotto cake. \$19

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SWEET POTATO BISQUE Cup \$4 Bowl \$6
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CLASSIC CAESAR*
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 Parmigiano reggiano cheese, anchovies, olive oil and garlic croutons. \$9

DINNER SALAD
Romaine, beef, lamb, chicken, turkey, pork, salmon, red onion and Campari dressing
 (Tomato and other dressings available upon request). \$6

CRIMSON ROASTED BEET SALAD
Mixed field greens, roasted beets, chevre cakes, toasted almonds
 Grapefruit segments and red onion, tossed in a lemon honey vinaigrette \$10

SPINACH SALAD
Baby spinach, bacon, cherry tomatoes, spiced pecans, Gorgonzola cheese
 Crispy red onion and egg. Tossed with a roasted shallot vinaigrette \$10

FIAMMA CAPRESE SALAD
Vine ripened tomato, fried eggplant, fresh buffalo mozzarella and balsamic. \$10

WEDGE OF ICEBERG LETTUCE
With garnish of olive ripenade, roasted red pepper, crumbled bacon,
 Olives, tomato and bleu cheese dressing. \$8

ACCOMPANIMENTS

Sautéed Mushrooms \$4 Creamed Spinach \$5 Potato Gnocchi \$6
 Sautéed Hungarian Peppers \$3 Asparagus \$6 Mac & Cheese \$3

SANDWICHES

Accompanied with Fries or Sweet potato fries

GRILLED SALMON CLUB
Apple cured bacon, vine ripened tomato, herb cheese spread,
 Roasted shallot glaze and baby spinach. Served on whole grain bread. \$12

CLASSIC PHILLY STEAK SANDWICH
Shaved New York strip, caramelized onions, exotic mushrooms and
 White cheddar cream sauce. Served on a fresh French roll. \$12

FISH & SEAFOOD

Add a bowl of soup or dinner salad \$3. Sub risotto on any dish for an additional \$2

LAKE SUPERIOR WALLEYE
Sautéed in a light flour dusting drizzled with our roasted garlic aioli.
 Served with long grain, wild rice and roasted orzo, and chef's fresh vegetable. \$19

NORWEGIAN SALMON
Lightly encrusted with dried exotic mushrooms, pan roasted and drizzled with truffle oil.
 Accompanied with garlic mashed potatoes and chef's fresh vegetable. \$19

AHI TUNA* (Sashimi Grade)
Searched rare with an Asian spice rub. Served with ponzu reduction and cucumber wasabi sauce.
 Accompanied with fried risotto cake and stir fry vegetable. \$22

AUTUMN SPICED SEA SCALLOPS
Accompanied with creamy pumpkin risotto, Michigan cherries, pine nuts and granny smith apples. \$19

SEAFOOD PABELLA WITH CHICKEN
Lobster, shrimp, clams, bay scallops, chicken breast and chorizo.
 Classically prepared with saffron and Arborio rice. \$21

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Two - 6 oz tails, broiled.
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PASTA & VEGETARIAN

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Walnut encrusted chicken breast served over ziti pasta with apple-cured bacon,
 Slow-roasted tomatoes, grilled portobellos, shiitake mushrooms, and a smoked gouda cream sauce. \$17

PASTA FIAMMA
Linguini pasta tossed with pan seared scallops, shrimp, shiitake mushrooms, roasted peppers,
 Hungarian peppers, in a white sherry wine sauce (spicy). \$21

POTATO GNOCCHI AND PIEDMONTSE MEDALLIONS
Tossed with exotic mushrooms, shallots and asparagus tips with a sherry wine sauce.
 Topped with brie cheese. \$23

ROASTED BEET RICOTTA GNUDI
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Performance honor

Communities pull together to ensure premiere's success

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
CORRESPONDENT



Jane Libbing, educational coordinator for the symphony, speaking at last month's Ford Made in America luncheon at the Village Theater in Canton. Representatives from local and regional groups met to discuss ways to promote the Michigan premiere of 'Chasing Light,' by the Plymouth Canton Symphony Orchestra on Saturday, Nov. 21.

musicians," said Lynn Quigley, manager community relations, Ford Motor Company Fund. "Arts are important because they transform, educate and inspire. We've found they cross cultural barriers. Everybody likes some kind of music. It's a common thread people have."

Polly Kahn always knew music had the power to bring people together but never realized the extent until the League of American Orchestras partnered with the Ford Motor Company Fund and Meet the Composer for the Ford Made in America program. Kahn, the League's vice president for learning and leadership development, flew in from New York for the luncheon.

The League is a national consortium of more than 900 orchestras including the Detroit Symphony Orchestra and PCSO.

"It's a fantastic program, the largest commissioning program in the history of our country," said Kahn.

NATIONAL EFFORT

"The idea of the director of a small orchestra in Glens Falls, New York, smaller budget orchestras coming together to commission a work by a major composer is awesome. The music symphony orchestras play is a vital, living art form. It's a tremendous opportunity to connect people to artists working today. The Plymouth Symphony and us are committed to bringing great music forward, to cherish not only Beethoven but Joseph Schwanter, a major American composer. It's important to the life of art."

Kahn especially appreciates the support of the Ford Motor Company Fund, the major contributor for the \$900,000, three-year long project debuting with a premiere in Reno in September 2008. The Ford Motor Company Fund is Ford Motor Company's philanthropic arm.

"We've created all kinds of materials around it to create more visibility for it," said Kahn. "It links all of the orchestras together on the Web site www.americanorchestras.org to see what each other are doing when they click on Ford Made in America. Part of our goal was creating a natural community with orchestras to connect with one another as they might never have before. We were also interested in whether they would commission work on their own and that has begun to happen."

Nan Washburn, PCSO music director/conductor, has always been an advocate of new music and has encouraged the orchestra's board to commission works. She's been recognized with 17 national ASCAP awards for adventuresome programming.

"It's very exciting. I'm thrilled," said Washburn of Plymouth Township.

Washburn introduced a computer generated recording of a portion of the music about a "beautiful rural New Hampshire morning." "It's similar to what we do day to day. It takes an orchestra's commitment to do a new piece. It's very different. I brought my score along to the luncheon. I'm interested in talking to colleagues who have already

performed the piece. His use of orchestra is quite extraordinary," she said.

Kathleen Straus said the Michigan Board of Education will spread the word about the premier and surrounding activities.

Tamara Trudelle of the Plymouth Community Arts Council is thinking about creating portfolios about the composer and work for volunteers to take into classrooms for the nonprofit's monthly programs.

Jane Libbing, PCSO education coordinator and youth orchestra manager, couldn't be more excited about introducing students to the composer.

"We will have the composer coming in for programs before the concert. Music teachers will decide how we use him. With Joseph Schwanter we're interested in developing a curriculum to engage students and teachers."

Jim Vella told guests he was proud to be part of the premiere and educational activities. The Canton resident is president of the Ford fund.

"Over our 106-year history starting with Henry Ford, it's always been important to give back to the community," said Vella. "Music cuts across all of the demographics from the educational perspective where we reach out to the schools to the communities. It's not just a one night concert but about how we get young people involved. When we get young people involved test scores go up. Today we're asking people to contribute to find a way that this community knows about it."

For information about the premiere, call the symphony office at (734) 451-2112.

W-W makes grade with adequate yearly progress

BY SUE MASON
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Wayne-Westland Community Schools received a passing grade for making adequate yearly progress.

But the news isn't all good. While earning a passing grade, one of its high schools failed to make adequate yearly progress as required under the No Child Left Behind Act.

"Wayne Memorial made it as a whole except for its special education subgroup," Superintendent Greg Baracy said. "We made it as a whole district, and we're happy about that."

AYP evaluates schools and school districts in the areas of academic achievement, participation in state assessment, graduation rate for high schools, and student attendance for elementary and middle schools. Eighty-six percent of Michigan public schools and 99 percent of K-12 school districts in Michigan made AYP this past school year.

Schools that don't make AYP for two or more consecutive years are placed on the federally required consequences list. The consequences get progressively severe with each additional year a school does not make AYP. The penalties range from having to provide school choice and transportation to another school, to tutorial services for the students, to eventual school

restructuring. In addition to AYP, schools statewide received Education YES! letter grades for academic achievement and school performance.

In Wayne-Westland schools, nine elementaries — Schweitzer, Hamilton, Kettering, Madison, P.D. Graham, Edison, Vandenburg, Walker-Winter and Wildwood — received the highest grade, an A, while 12 schools received a grade of B. They were the district's four middle schools — Franklin, Marshall, Adams and Stevenson — and eight elementaries — Elliott, Hicks, Hoover, Jefferson-Barns, Lincoln, Patchin, Roosevelt and Taft-Galloway.

However, its two high schools — John Glenn and Wayne Memorial — earned a grade of C, and John Glenn was identified for improvement.

"We've just got to strategize and identify students who are struggling and provide intervention," he said.

According to Baracy, the Education YES! grades are up from last year, but more needs to be done to continue the improvements.

"We have our work cut out for us," Baracy said. "We tougher and stronger guidelines we must follow. We face more challenges and are expected to do more with less."

smason@hometownlife.com
(313) 222-6751

Jaycee event 'strikes' a blow at recession

Bowlers can step out of the recession's shadow for an afternoon at the lanes on Saturday, Oct. 10, during the Plymouth Area Jaycees' Bailout Bowling.

The event is 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Plaza Lanes, 42001 Ann Arbor Road. For \$8, bowlers can get three games, including shoe rental, plus socialize with local Jaycees and enter a 50-50 raffle. The event is a fundraiser for the local Jaycees; members recently re-formed a Jaycees organization for the Plymouth area after a former group lost its charter in 2007.

The Jaycees is a service-ori-

ented group for people ages 21 to 40 that helps them build professional, leadership and organizational skills. Members of the local chapter hold an informational event from 6:30 to 8 p.m. on the fourth Thursday of every month at the Panera Bread at Main Street and Ann Arbor Trail in downtown Plymouth.

Bowlers interested in taking advantage of Bailout Bowling should call Mark Evenson at (734) 582-8748 or Dominique Duong at (248) 357-7265 to reserve a spot.

For more information on the Plymouth Area Jaycees, send an e-mail to plymouthjunior-chamber@gmail.com.

Book advises parents about schooling special-needs students

BY PAM FLEMING
NORTHVILLE RECORD STAFF WRITER

Plymouth author Jennifer Greening knows what she's talking about when discussing the pros and cons of mainstreaming special education students.

Her own 11-year-old daughter was moved from a special needs school to a public school, and she's out to help parents who would like to try it.

In her new book, "Opening Doors, Opening Lives," recently published by Nelson Publishing & Marketing in Northville, she tells parents just



Greening

been sold.

"This is my very first book, hence my excitement," Greening said of the book, published in August. "Everyone seems to buy two or three copies of it, and share copies with other people."

what to do who want to place or move their special-needs child to a public school. This is a hot topic in the field of education. The book is in national distribution, and 500 copies have already

She's been teaching for 19 years, but had never written a book until she saw this need.

"There wasn't anything out there to help parents who want to mainstream their special needs children," Greening said.

"As the parent of a child with special needs, I wasn't getting the educational research I needed."

Greening said she believes her daughter is a child first, and a special needs student second.

"What I wanted the book to be about was my experience as a mother with a child with disabilities and as a public school teacher," she said.

"It's really a gift that I have both. I don't think anyone else would have the insight that I have, and I really want to help."

She believes parents can get all the support and services for their disabled child at public schools.

The goal of the book is not to try to convince parents who already have children in special needs schools to move their children to a public school. It is for parents who have already made the decision and want to know how to go about it.

Greening believes there are many positive aspects for both the special needs child and other children for

mainstreaming.

"We enjoy walking to school with other children," she said.

Greening will speak at Wayne State University in Detroit at the Purdy-Kresge Library on campus 7 p.m. Dec. 3 on this topic hosted by the university's Developmental Disabilities Institute. She will talk to parents and staff from the College of Education and College of Social Work.

"I want to spread the good news to parents that having their children included (in public schools) is a possibility," she said.

pfleming@gannett.com | (248) 349-1700, ext. 260

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Our fundamental purposes are to enhance the lives of our readers, nurture the hometowns we serve and contribute to the business success of our customers.

OUR VIEWS

Incumbents top the list for schools

The Plymouth-Canton school district's Board of Education faces enormous budget challenges with the accompanying decisions on what to cut and when, and how to do it all while maintaining the quality education for which the district has become known.

With decisions of such magnitude facing it, the board could use all the experience it can get. That's why we're recommending the return of Judy Mardigian, Barry Simescu and John Jackson to their seats when voters hit the polls Tuesday, Nov. 3.

Mardigian is the board's longest-tenured member, a former board president who knows the inner workings of the district inside and out, backward and forward. In her long years of service, Mardigian has shown a dedication to the district that will be valuable as they face tough choices.

She has the respect of state Legislators, which could come in handy as funding issues are debated. She is zeroed in on student achievement, which has helped district students perform better on tests such as the MEAP with much greater success than districts around the state.

Simescu provides a reasoned approach to problem solving, and his business acumen provides a perspective on which other board members depend. His leadership is valuable - he's currently the board vice president, he chairs a couple of committees - and his is one of the first opinions sought when decisions need making.

All four of the other board members are in their first terms; Mardigian and Simescu provide a balance of experience and corporate knowledge the board can lean on.

Jackson is running unopposed for the lone two-year term available. It's the completion of the term to which Mark Slavens was elected a couple of years ago, before being appointed a judge.

Jackson was appointed to fill the position when Slavens resigned, and he's done more than enough to earn the chance to serve out the term. He's smart, he's actively involved in a variety of ways within the district.

Since incumbent Tom Wysocki decided not to seek re-election, leaving his seat open to a newcomer, there will be at least one fresh face on the board. There are three other challengers - Plymouth Township residents Adrienne Davis, Larry Martin and Eric Bacyinski - seeking seats at the table.

Our choice is Davis, The 47-year-old has two children in the district, she's volunteered for a variety of committees and she has an educational background, running Different Drums Educational Services, with which she partners with the Michigan Council on Economic Education to teach children about the components of education.

She also has 20 years of marketing experience in corporate America, having worked for companies such as Xerox, ADP and Kodak. Her marketing experience could be valuable in hopes of raising money through foundations, donations, etc.

It's going to take a good deal of work for the board as it faces a variety of daunting challenges. We think Judy Mardigian, Barry Simescu, John Jackson and Adrienne Davis should be considered when voters go to the polls.



John Jackson



Barry Simescu



Judy Mardigian



Adrienne Davis

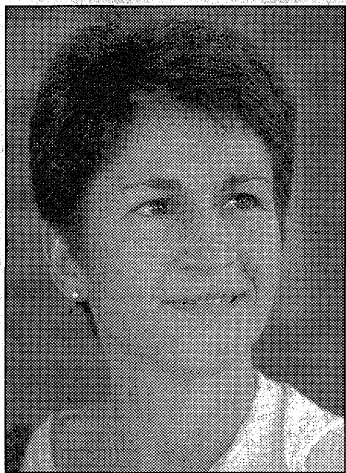
COMMUNITY VOICE

What do you like best about the fall season, and what do you like the least about it? We asked this question at the Plymouth District Library.



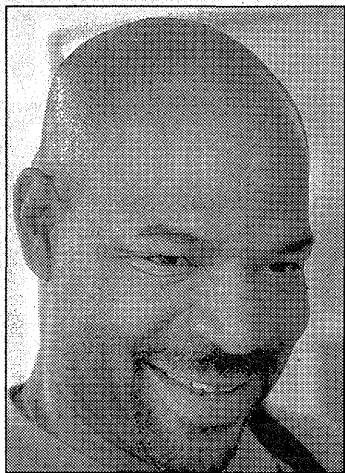
"Fall's my favorite season. I like the nice weather we have, the cool evenings. (Least favorite): Probably just back to school and getting back into a fall schedule."

Kerry Maloney
Canton Township



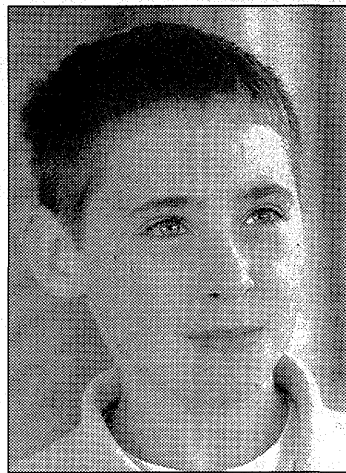
"I like everything about fall. The colors of the leaves, the cooler weather."

Wendy Pfannes
Canton Township



"Most I like about fall: Good start on the football season. Least about fall? Summer's gone."

Lawrence Smith
Canton Township



"Halloween! I don't like it when it's cold but there's no snow to play in."

Ean Maloney
Canton Township

LETTERS

Dwyer the choice

We met Dan through our son's soccer team and have grown to know him well over the past several years. We cannot say enough about his character. He is very proactive in helping with the team and very sincere in what ever he does. He shares many of the concerns that we do about preserving the great city of Plymouth and steering it on the correct path through the next few tough years and into the future. When you vote November 3, Dan will be an excellent choice for City Commission.

Michelle and Jack Dorigo
Plymouth

Supports Dwyer

I just wanted to drop you a quick note about a candidate (Dan Dwyer) for the Plymouth City Commission.

We fully support his run for the commission. Dan is first a foremost a quality individual, a family man, with strong community ties, and a pragmatic leader. I think he would be a wonderful addition to the Plymouth City Commission representing the interests of the Plymouth residents.

Paul Allan
Plymouth

Move bus stop

I live in the Plymouth Hill Mobile home park located on Ridge Road, between 5 mile and N. Territorial.

This year, our subdivision and school district decided to change a bus stop and move it in front of a pond. Still water seems to be a liability to me, but after many parents contacted the transportation for Plymouth Canton Community Schools and our Park Management, we found ourselves discouraged.

They refuse to move this bus stop. And to add to this, the bus stop is 581 feet away from a registered sex offender. I even have a voice mail to show that they refuse to do move the bus stop.

We have Kindergarteners waiting at this bus stop. They are wanting more parents to be there with their kids, and it is not happening.

Jackie Grim
Plymouth Township

Best bid chosen

It is true - the Friends of the Penn hired Wagner Electric Sign of Elyria, Ohio, to complete the restoration of the marquee at the Penn Theatre in downtown Plymouth.

The restoration of an historic marquee is unique and there are only a handful of sign companies in the United States that have experience with this distinctive craft. At the beginning of a 14-month process, we sent bid packets to companies across the country, including one to a Plymouth sign company that had done work for us previously (it should be noted that this local company chose not to submit a quote for the restoration project.)

From the four bids that we received, we chose Wagner Electric Sign Company. Their extensive experience with historic marquee restorations made our project run smoothly from start to finish. Wagner's assistance with gaining the approval of the Historic District Commission was invaluable and the end product has drawn nothing but positive comments.

Our volunteers have dedicated thousands of hours of their time to bring this gem back

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

We welcome your Letter to the Editor. Please include your name, address and phone number for verification. We ask your letters be 400 words or less. We may edit for clarity, space and content. Submit letters via the following formats. Web: www.hometownlife.com E-mail: bkadrich@hometownlife.com Blog: You may also let your opinions be heard with your own blog at hometownlife.com. Deadline: Letters must be received by 9 a.m. Monday to be published in the Thursday edition.

from the brink of demolition. Our donors have entrusted us with their hard earned money to ensure that this venture is successful. Our success has helped to revitalize downtown Plymouth and has had a positive effect on the local stores and restaurants.

It is our goal to continue with the responsible operation and restoration of the Penn Theatre. Whenever possible we will utilize the resources available from local merchants and vendors with the understanding that when goods and services are not available locally then other sources must be considered.

We thank the Plymouth community for their ongoing support of Friends of the Penn.

Michael Hatsios
Chairman, Friends of the Penn Board

Supports Dwyer

Just a quick note to let you know we support Dan Dwyer in his bid for Plymouth city commissioner. He is energetic, enthusiastic, family-oriented, well-informed and would make a terrific commissioner.

Nola Wellman
Plymouth Township

Dwyer the pick

I know Dan Dwyer from the parent perspective. Our sons wrestle and play soccer together. He is a wonderful and committed parent.

I first met him just last year when his son joined our long-standing soccer club. This group goes back a number of years and it takes a good amount of tact and social skills to "fit in." Dan did that quickly and with ease.

I've observed him effectively use those same skills in other areas and I'm sure that would be a great asset on the commission.

I think Dan Dwyer will enhance the effectiveness of the commission and thus improve what is already an outstanding community.

Jeff Saunders
Plymouth

Dan's the man

As a life time resident of the Plymouth-Canton area I strongly support Dan Dwyer's bid for Plymouth City Commission.

I've gotten to know Dan over the last three years and he is a common sense kind of guy who will use sound logic to make the tough decisions that face city government. Dan has strong ties to the community and will continue making Plymouth a great place to live.

Scott Swartzinski
Plymouth

Sharing in sacrifice

There's no question that times in Michigan are tough right now.

All across the state, families, faced with a shrinking household budget, are sitting down at the kitchen table and searching for ways to cut back and spend their hard-earned money more efficiently. And at the Capitol, lawmakers are up against the same challenge.

As my colleagues in the Legislature and I continue our budget negotiations, it's clear that difficult decisions will have to be made in order to protect vital programs such as K-12 education, scholarships including the Michigan Promise, local police and fire protection, and health care for kids and seniors. These programs are essential to jumpstarting Michigan's economy, moving the state into the future and protecting our most vulnerable citizens.

It's also critical that we reform government to make it more efficient and accountable to Michigan's residents and ensure that legislator's pay their fair share. That's why we moved measures to:

- Cut the salaries of elected officials - including our own - by 10 percent;
- Dock lawmakers' pay when they miss a day of House session; and
- Cut \$1.7 million from the House budget through such steps as reducing all legislators' budgets and requiring ourselves and our staff to pay more for health care.

I believe it is imperative that elected officials share in the sacrifice being asked of Michigan families in these difficult times.

Make no mistake; budget negotiations will be tough. Nevertheless, it's my belief that we will resolve the budget crisis by reaching out across the aisle and working together.

I encourage residents to share their questions and ideas about the direction our state is going and ways we can help get Michigan back on track. Please feel free to contact my office toll-free at (877) 208-4737 or MarcCorriveau@house.mi.gov.

Marc Corriveau
State Representative
20th House District

Great greyhound story

I am writing in response to More greyhounds need homes as racing tracks close down, dated Sept. 27.

Ms. Bowen of Greyheart Greyhound Rescue & Adoption said, "... it is so important that we are diligent and try to continue to educate people on the fact that greyhounds make wonderful family pets." I couldn't agree more.

I have adopted six retired racing greyhounds in six years. They are intelligent, sensitive, gentle companions. While the years spent in greyhound racing require a transition to life in a home, they are adaptable and eager to please. They are generally retired at 2 to 4 years of age, and are long-lived for a large breed. Affectionately known as the "45 mile per hour couch potato," they are laid back and do well in a home with a fenced back yard, or with having several walks a day on leash.

Congratulations and sincere thanks to Greyheart Greyhound Rescue & Adoption for telling the truth about dog racing, and helping save the lives of these beautiful dogs.

Jennifer Krebs
Board of Directors
www.GREY2KUSA.org

PLYMOUTH OBSERVER



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Susan Rosiek
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/ Publisher

Grace Perry
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 Joe's Homemade Lasagna
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 Joe's Homemade Lasagna

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HOMETOWN LIFE



Canton bid falls short

BY TIM SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Livonia Churchill giving up a goal this soccer season has been a rarity.

On a windy, rainy Tuesday night at Plymouth-Canton Educational Park, the Chargers did give up a goal. Canton freshman midfielder Daniel Ovesea scored with 15:58 left in the first half to make it 1-1 in the battle for the KLAA South Division championship.

But all it took was 1:52 for Churchill to regain the lead — on a penalty kick by senior defender Adam Bedell — and the Chargers were off and running to a 4-1 victory.

Churchill (8-0-1 in the South) will face the Central Division winner (either Salem or Northville) Monday for the Kensington Conference title.

"We came back with one in the next minute or so and another one in the next five after that, so it was a nice response to their goal," Churchill head coach Reid Friedrichs said. "We've only given up four goals all year in about 15 games, so it was nice to see how you respond when something hasn't happened in a long time."

Canton head coach George Tomasso credited the Chargers for finishing on their scoring opportunities, as well as doing a good job defensively after falling behind in the match.

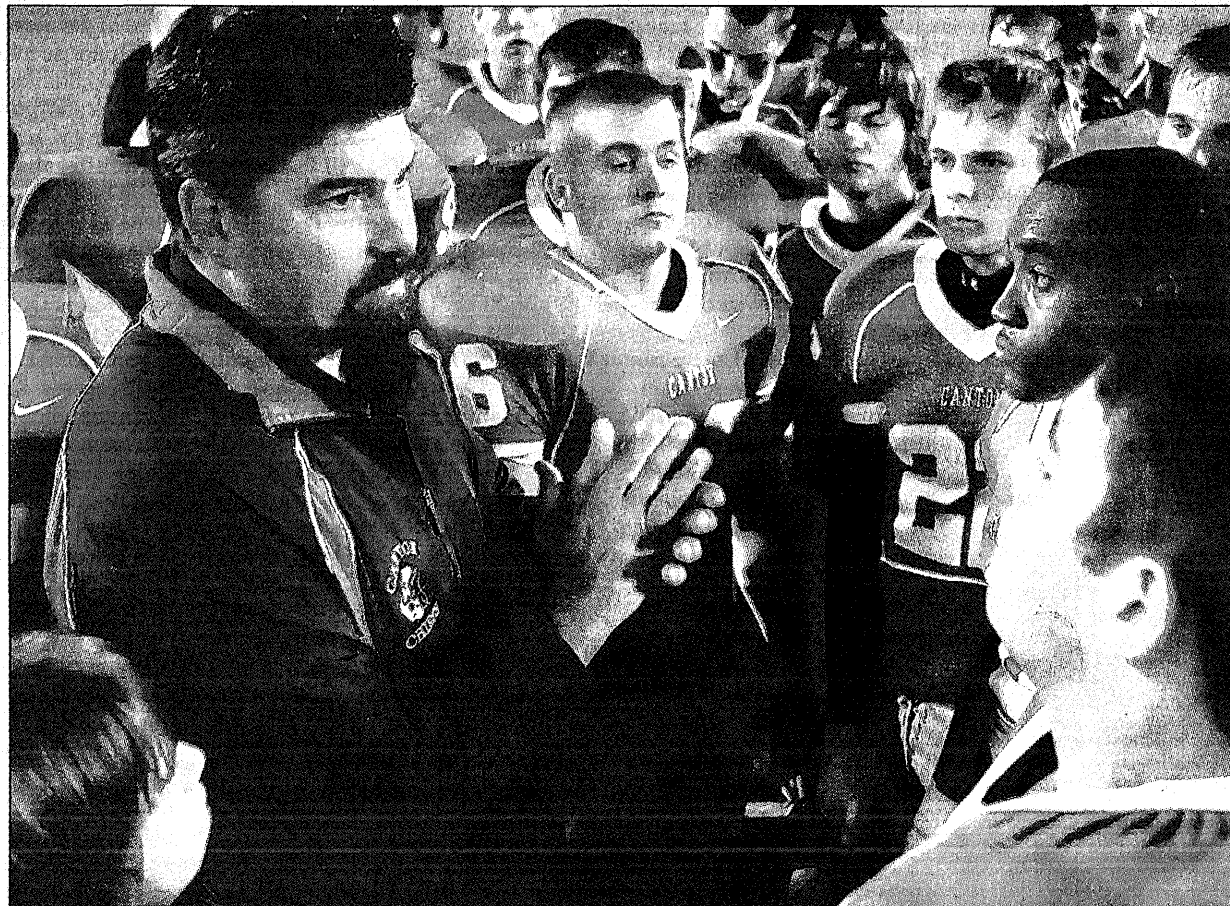
"Churchill did a great job to earn this win and I'm proud of my boys for fighting as hard as they could," said Tomasso, whose team dropped to 7-2-0 in the South. "They did a good job to shut our attack down in the second half."

But Tomasso lamented his team not finishing around Churchill sophomore goalkeeper Bryan Bartig.

"In the first half, we had anywhere from eight to 10 scoring opportunities," he said. "We finished one. We just need to do a better job of capitalizing and I think we'll be there when we're preparing for districts (which begin Oct. 19)."

The Chargers came out with energy and jumped ahead 1-0 when senior forward Tyler Varney banged home a rebound at 12:28. On the play, senior midfielder Ian Guerin smoked

Please see **CANTON, B2**



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Canton football coach Tim Baechler talks to his players on the field after last week's win over Livonia Franklin, which clinched a playoff spot for the Chiefs. Despite that accomplishment, he wants them to stay focused on what happens next.

Baechler, Chiefs keep even keel

For most high school football teams, the number six is all-consuming.

Teams that reach six victories in a season are guaranteed a spot in the Michigan High School Athletic Association playoffs.

Of course, it's important to get to six, according to Canton head coach Tim Baechler.

But it's more a necessity than anything else because it's only considered an appetizer before the main course.

"We've got one goal down, and we've got at least a share of the (KLAA) South Division championship," said Baechler, moments after the Chiefs knocked off Livonia Franklin last week. "We still want to seal the deal."



Tim Smith

with excitement.

Yeah, making it into the state playoffs for the eighth time in nine seasons is pretty special. But that's not what it's about these days at Canton.

The next step is to knock off Livonia Churchill in Week 7 and finish off the divisional quest. Then comes the conference.

"Now, we want to go 7-0, we want

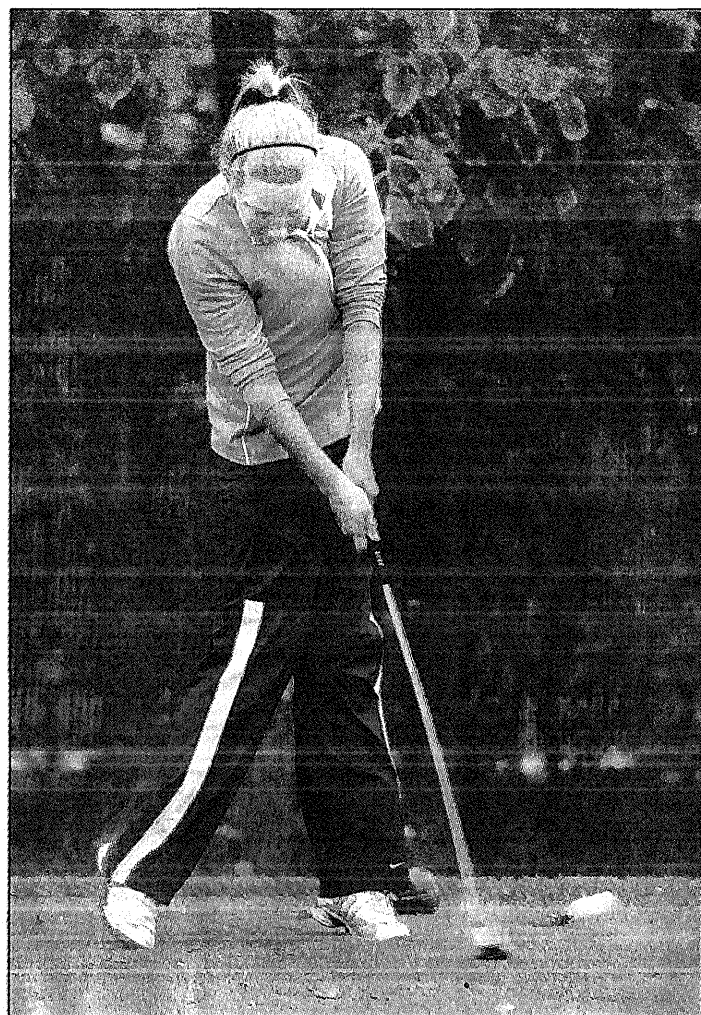
to be undefeated going into the league championship," Baechler emphasized. "That's the most important thing. ... If we can accomplish that, then of course we want to go 9-0 and make sure we get a couple of home games" in the playoffs.

There's nothing surprising about that statement. The Canton grid juggernaut of this decade plods along from step to step, goal to goal.

It mirrors the approach the team takes during a now-typical offensive drive — plow forward and don't stop. Just move the chains again, please.

And along with that, the handle Baechler keeps on the team's emotional lid is admirable. The players

Please see **SMITH, B3**



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Maintaining focus while chipping away is Plymouth High School's Kelsey Murphy, who finished first overall at Tuesday's KLAA Conference girls golf tournament at Pheasant Run Golf Club in Canton.

Plymouth's Murphy tops at KLAA golf tournament

Kelsey Murphy of Plymouth's varsity girls golf team was medalist at Tuesday's KLAA Kensington Conference tournament at Pheasant Run Golf Course in Canton with a splendid round of 78 strokes.

Murphy nearly sparked the Wildcats to a team victory, too. But Plymouth's 386 score trailed first-

More on KLAA tournament, B3. place Northville (351) and

Novi (377). The Wildcats did share South Division honors with Livonia Churchill (5th, 414).

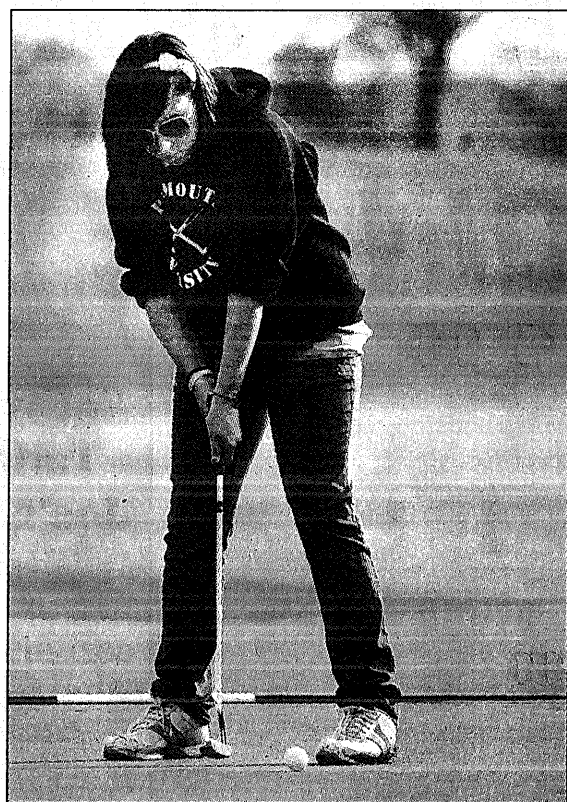
Finishing in eighth place with 447 points was Canton while Salem's squad did not register a team score.

Murphy nipped Northville's top performer, Stephanie Sakorafis, who finished with an 80 for the cool, wet day.

Plymouth placed two golfers on the Kensington All-Conference squad — Murphy and Sarah Thompson, who tallied a 93.

Other Plymouth golfers to finish included Chloe Marentic (105), Mandy Kirsch (110), LeAnn O'Shaughnessy (112) and Christy Pattison (122).

Megan Baumgart led the Chiefs with a finish of 108, followed by Mary Elizabeth Winther (112), Ariel Albert (113), Erin Lixie (114), Paige Osler (115) and Kaylie Loble (118).



Plymouth's LeeAnn O'Shaughnessy completes a putt at the KLAA conference tourney.

GAME WRAPS

Whalers edged

Tyler Seguin scored late for the Plymouth Whalers, but it wasn't enough as the Sault Ste. Marie Greyhounds already had a 3-0 lead and then added an empty net goal to defeat the Whalers 4-1 Saturday night at the Essar Centre.

Matt Hackett made 29 saves for Plymouth (4-3-0-0). Assisting on Seguin's goal were linemates AJ Jenks and Myles McCauley.

The Whalers will look to get back on the winning track with road games Wednesday and Friday at Owen Sound and London, respectively, before hosting Sudbury at 7:05 p.m. Saturday at Compuware Arena in Plymouth Township.

Haslett Invitational

Salem's varsity girls cross country team nabbed the runner-up trophy with a strong showing at Saturday's 21-team Haslett Invitational with 85 points.

Taking first on the slow, muddy course was East Grand Rapids (50 points), while Plymouth took ninth with a finish of 231 points.

Senior Jordyn Moore placed eighth with a time of 19:48.1, followed by junior Victoria Tripp (11th, 19:57.7), freshman Shannon Flynn (15th, 20:13.5), junior Kara Booms (23rd, 20:35.9), freshman Ade Jepperson (28th, 20:41.8), sophomore Kelly Kerwin (36th, 20:58.4) and sophomore Autumn Burin (44th, 21:16.4).

Meanwhile, the Wildcats girls harriers competed hard, although the slow footing cost everybody about 30-45 seconds, head coach Mary Kerwin said.

Top Plymouth finishers were Paula Green (22nd, 20:35), Nicole Traitses (31st, 20:51), Britta Swanson (41st, 21:05), Julie Hahn (64th, 22:02), Tricia Pniewski (73rd, 22:17), Kelly Hahn (77th, 22:28) and Ashley Liakos (97th, 23:23).

• Taking sixth out of 20 varsity boys teams at Haslett was Salem, sparked by Mike Charara, who took sixth place (16:56) despite the muddy course, assistant coach Steve Aspinall said.

"We ran very tough in difficult conditions and the team is progressing nicely," Aspinall said.

The Rocks' second finisher was Steve McEvilly, trailed by Jimmy Daniels. Filling out the rest of Salem's lineup were Robert Cowing, Tom Patterson, Andy Rabe and Matt Krupansky.

Plymouth tops Churchill

Plymouth's varsity boys cross country team defeated Livonia Churchill 18-39 Tuesday at Cass Benton.

"It was a cold, rainy and muddy day at Cass," Wildcats head coach Jon Mikosz said. "(But) Jimmy

Please see **WRAPS, B2**

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CANTON
FROM PAGE B1

a shot that Canton senior goal-keeper Kai Walther rejected. But the ball bounced right out to Guerin, and he didn't miss the target. Canton evened the match on Ovesea's goal. A direct kick by sophomore defender Tyler Winningham from mid-field drifted to the right of Churchill's goal. Bartig jumped up to catch the ball, but he lost control of it and Ovesea pounced on it to chip it into the net. Not too long after that, however, a Churchill player was knocked down inside the box. Taking the penalty kick was Bedell, who took one deliberate step forward before hammering a shot inside the left

post. Just two minutes after that, junior defender Brian Lewandowski scored to make it a 3-1 contest. Churchill added a fourth tally with 22:52 to go in the match. Senior forward Max Washko broke in off the left flank and cleanly beat junior goalie Brandon Laabs from about 10 yards. "They (Chiefs) were very dangerous coming out of the gate," Friedrichs said. "We saved one off the line and the field conditions didn't make it for either team to be very special. "But we were smart, created a lot of re-starts and we finished our chances. We had a lot of energy everywhere on the field."

tsmith@hometownlife.com

Canton spikers sweep Wayne

BY TIM SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The more the merrier, as Canton's volleyball depth is continuing to bring victories and a smile to the face of head coach Mary Kryska. Tuesday at Wayne Memorial, the Chiefs routed the Zebras 25-5, 25-9, 25-8. If it wasn't Jordan Kielty (9 kills) it was freshman Erica denBoer in the front row (5 kills). How about Lauren Macuga or Laura Feasni with eight and seven digs, respectively? Leading in the assists department were Traci Breitmeyer (8), Jackie Waite (6) and Kielty (5) while Torry denBoer came off the bench to chip in with four solo blocks. "I was very pleased with how

our team played and kept up the intensity until the end," said Kryska, whose team improved to 13-4 overall and 4-1 in the KLAAs South. "Everyone got a lot of playing time and the team chemistry was stellar even with all the changes." Another plus, she noted, was consistent serving (underscored by 17 aces and minimal errors). "We do very well serving when the pressure is off," the coach added. **PCA sweeps** After struggling in a 25-18 first game win Tuesday against Lutheran Northwest, host Plymouth Christian Academy pumped up the intensity. As a result, the Eagles took Games 2-3 by convincing scores of 25-9 and 25-

10, capturing the Michigan Independent Athletic Conference volleyball match-up. According to head coach Kelly Blackney, PCA started the night playing unfocused with not as much energy as she would like to see. Yet the Eagles still pulled out the opening win and then got in sync after that. "The second and third set was a totally different game," Blackney said. "We earned all of our points. We really played as a team. One person didn't carry us through." Sparking the turnaround with serves, kills and blocks was sophomore middle hitter Kristen Malcolm (21 kills, 4 aces, 16 digs, 6 blocks). Other standouts included Foloke Olojo (6 kills), Amy

Zinn (14 digs, 4 kills), Abby Bartes (18 digs) and Brianna Harris (11 digs, 22 assists). "I was very proud of our ability to control the game," Blackney said. "That's something we have been working on the whole season." **Plymouth falls** Livonia Churchill's Cory Urbats played maestro Tuesday night as she helped orchestrate an impressive 25-12, 25-9, 25-19 KLAAs South Division girls volleyball triumph over host Plymouth. The junior setter racked up 39 assist-to-kills and 13 digs as the state-ranked Chargers (No. 10 in Division 1) improved to 30-4 overall and 5-0 in the division. The loss drops Plymouth to 3-2 in the division.

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SPORTS ROUNDUP

Plymouth YMCA eyes grant
Liberty Mutual will soon donate a \$2,500 Responsible Community Grant to 20 youth sports organizations demonstrating their commitment to doing the right things on and off the playing surface. The Plymouth Family YMCA is hoping to be one of the recipients. "The Liberty Mutual Responsible Sports program targets many of the issues we see happening at youth sporting events by shining a positive light on what it means to be a responsible coach and a responsible sports-parent," said Greg Gordon, vice president of Consumer Marketing at Liberty Mutual. "Beyond that, Liberty Mutual is making a significant financial contribution to support the efforts of local organizations like Plymouth Family YMCA." The ongoing, community-based program offers meaningful, easy-to-use educational resources for youth sports parents and coaches, including access to on-the-field game and practice preparation tools as well as self-paced online courses filled with learning tools, videos and topics addressing youth sports issues. The Responsible Sports program, including community grants, comes at a crucial time for communities where youth programs are under pressure from increasing numbers of participants, limited volunteer activity and mounting program-administration costs.

Through the resources provided by the grants, it is hoped that "our organizations thrive even under challenging circumstances." For more information, contact the YMCA at (734) 453-2904 or go to www.responsiblesports.com.
Arctic Edge shavings Arctic Edge on Michigan Avenue in Canton is hosting a "Learn To Skate" program Saturdays from Sept. 26 through Nov. 14 with sessions from 10-10:45 a.m. and from 11-11:45 a.m. Each class is 30 minutes with 15 minutes of full ice practice time. Cost is \$100 per skater per eight-week session. For more information, contact Learn to Skate director Theresa McKendry at learnstoskatearcticedge@yahoo.com.
Sunday Night Mixers Superbowl in Plymouth is hosting a mixed bowling league 6 p.m. Sundays. League president Chico Rodriguez said he needs couples who are interested in joining the fun to hurry and sign up. Contact secretary Sandy Carpenter, (734) 637-3363, or Rodriguez, (734) 453-2980; rose-cater@comcast.net for more information.
Cool happenings Plymouth Cultural Center Ice Arena continues to be a busy place. Open skating sessions through Nov. 7 will take place from 12 noon to 1:20 p.m. Tuesdays-through-

Fridays with the fees as follows: adults, \$5; kids (under age 16) and senior citizens (over 55), \$4. Skate rental is \$2. For more information, contact the Open Skate Line (734) 455-6620 or go to www.ci.plymouth.mi.us for up-to-date changes if any.
Plymouth YMCA offerings Registration is underway for Plymouth Family YMCA youth sports leagues planned for this fall, including the following:
• Community Co-Ed Soccer: Leagues run through Oct. 24 with the following age brackets — ages 4-5, 6-7, 8-9, 10-11. Contests will be Saturdays at Hulsing Elementary. Cost is \$64 per member and \$96 per community member.
• Community Girls Volleyball: Leagues for ages 8-9 and 10-12 run through Oct. 24. Games are Fridays at New Morning School. Cost is \$71 per member and \$103 per community member.
• Kickers Soccer: This league for players ages 4-5 runs through Oct. 22 at Hulsing Elementary with the cost of \$60 per member and \$92 per community member. Players will be placed on teams and receive three weeks of instruction followed by three weeks of games. Jersey is included in the fee.
• Registration for Community Basketball Leagues for boys and girls in several divisions (ages 4-11) are underway. Sessions will be Nov. 2 through Dec. 18 and Jan. 18 through March 19, 2010. For more information, or to register online, go to www.ymcadowith.org.

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FOOD & WINE

Winners share their tips for making award-worthy chili

BY SHARON DARGAY
O&E STAFF WRITER

Peter Skwires doesn't care if he makes the fiercest chili around.

The Livonia man strives for the best-tasting combination of meat, sauce and spices.

"I like my chili to be flavorful and have a bite at the end. But I don't like it to be so hot you can't enjoy it. I want it to be good tasting."

Judges at the 14th Annual Great Lakes Regional Chili Cook-Off Sunday in Plymouth agreed Skwires' entry into the red chili category was first-rate and awarded him top honors, \$1,000 and entry into next year's International Chili Society competition.

Skwires, who started cooking chili and entering contests in 2003, will head to this year's international cook-off, which will be held Sunday, Oct. 11 in Charleston, W. Va.

The retired millwright's hobby started when he was asked to judge a chili competition a few years back.

"I hate to say it, but the chili was terrible and I thought I could cook better than this," Skwires recalled. "I was never an avid chili cook. My wife (Camille) doesn't like chili. My daughter (Amelia Brady of Plymouth) helps me when we're cooking (in competition)."

Skwires has chili cooked his way through competitions in Omaha, Neb., Las Vegas, Nev., and other states, using the same recipe in cook-offs since 2007.

"I try to use the freshest stuff I can find. It makes a difference," he said, adding that no beans are allowed in competition chili. "And I pray a lot. I think winning contests like this is a lot of luck. It's what the judges like. He suggests that novice chili makers not only use fresh ingredients, but also care-

fully watch their cook pot.

"Make sure it's not too hard of a boil, otherwise the meat mushes up."

PEOPLE'S CHOICE

Chris Thompson of Westland, who cooks with friends Paul Perlongo and Sean Skinner, says practice makes perfect when tweaking chili for competition.

"As far as tips go when making chili, just have fun and be adventurous try new things," Thompson said.

The friends started competing against each other at first and then decided to go public by entering the Great Lakes Regional Chili Cook-Off three years ago. They've won the People's Choice category two consecutive years since then.

"I do enjoy cooking a lot. Chili is definitely one of my favorite things to make," Thompson said. "I think what sets our chili apart is the combination of seven different types of peppers and four meats. The crowd seems to enjoy the heat that they get with our chili."

Thompson said he can't reveal their chili recipe, but said they'll slightly alter the ingredients next year by adding an eighth pepper to the mix.

TRIED AND TRUE

Al Jonna said his cook, Connie Fox, at Picnic Basket Market in Plymouth Township, has a recipe "we don't tamper with."

"No substitutions. We stick with it," said Jonna, owner of the 21-year-old market. "It's a red tomato-based chili. What separates ours from everyone else is that everything comes from the meat counter."

He said Fox makes sure there's no grease in the mix and is careful to prepare the vegetables in a separate skillet with different marinades.

Picnic Basket Market's

chili, which won the judged portion of the restaurant competition two years in a row, includes chorizo sausage and no more than one bean per spoonful of chili.

Jonna said beans are permitted in the restaurant chili cook-off but "you don't want it to overpower the taste."

Fox's chili is on the menu at the market and available in gallon quantities for parties.

"I get a lot of people bringing in their own pot and they say 'fill it up.' They want people to think they made it," Jonna said, with a laugh.

Other winners from the event Sunday:

■ Omelette and Waffle Cafe in Plymouth won the People's Choice award in the restaurant competition.

■ Gary Ray of Livonia won first place for salsa.

■ Leo Buk of Trenton had the best decorated booth

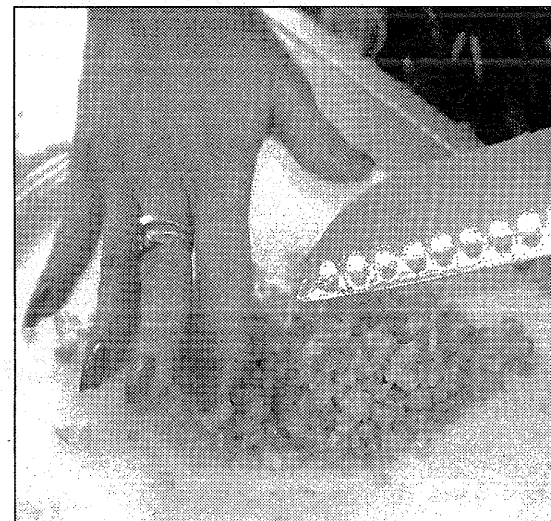
■ "Cody Super Dog," from Livonia, owned by Cindy Dabkowski won first place in the dog costume category, "Hot & Spicy" category.

■ "Harley" from Madison Heights, owned by Dale and Teresa Upton, also won in the "Biker Dog" costume portion of the event.

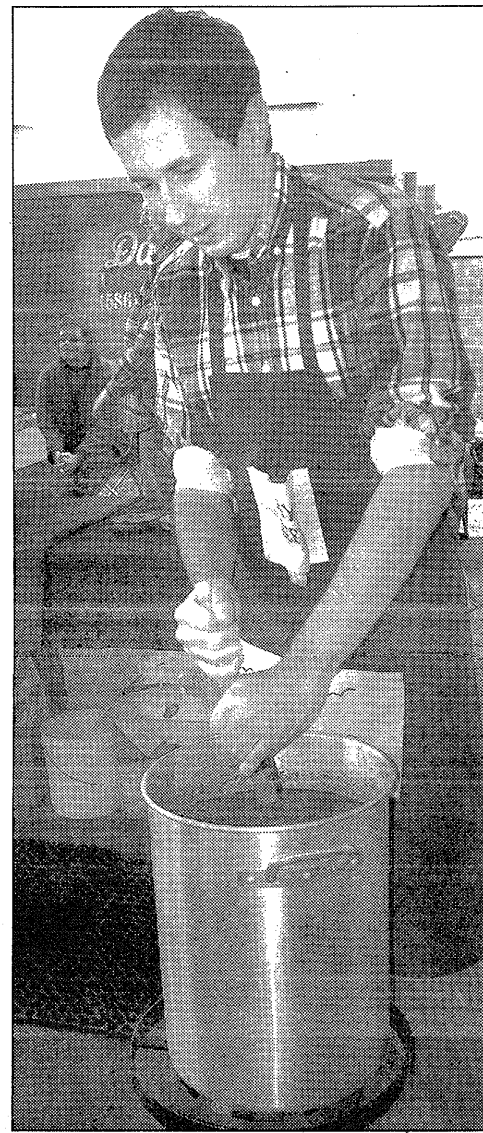


PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Laila Bolbolan and Tsukasa Watanabe are newcomers to Plymouth and dove right in to Plymouth's culture, sampling chilis at the festival.



Laurie Trombino chops celery for Brian Graham's Blackjack Chili.



Plymouth resident Paul Despres stirs a pot of his Sporthaus Michigan Chili. His goal was to use as many Michigan-sourced ingredients as possible.

More chili cook-offs planned this weekend

If you're hungry for more chili, head to Garden City and Canton this weekend for their cook-off competitions and tastings.

The Second Annual Garden City chili cook-off, sponsored by the Garden City Downtown Development Authority, runs 11 a.m.-6 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 10, at the Garden City Kroger Town Center, in the Farmers Market Lot, at the northeast corner of Ford and Middlebelt.

Events will include the cook-off and tasting, food and a beer tent, live bands, pom-pom demonstration, and scarecrows on display.

For more information call the Garden City Downtown Development Authority at (734) 261-2830.

That same day, Canton Leisure Services and the Canton Public Art Committee present 1st Annual Chainsaw Art and Chili Cook-Off, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., at the Lower Rouge River Recreation Trail, located off MortoWn Tylor Road at Michigan Avenue.

Chainsaw artists will display their works and demonstrate how they transform fallen trees into works of art. Home Depot will be on hand from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. with hands-on crafts for kids. Visitors can try a variety of chili from mild to hot and then vote for their favorite chili with a donation that will benefit participating non-profit groups.

For more information on the 1st Annual Chainsaw Art and Chili Cook Off call (734) 394-5460.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Published in accordance with Public Act 331 (1966), as amended.

Schoolcraft College announces that the financial audit for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2009, has been completed by Plante & Moran, LLP, Southfield, Michigan. It has been presented to the College Board of Trustees and has been accepted by them.

Notice is hereby given that the audit is available for public inspection in the Office of the Vice President and Chief Financial Officer in the McDowell Center at the College, 18600 Haggerty Road, Livonia, Michigan, on weekdays, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

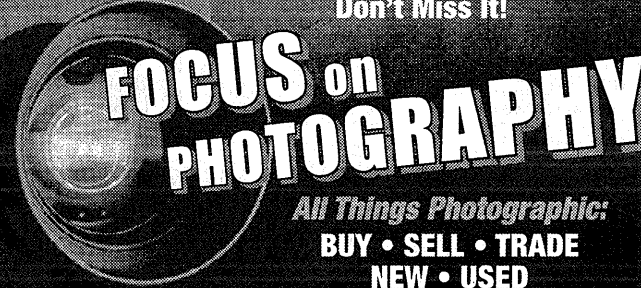
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Publication Dates:

Thursday, November 5th in the Hometown Weekly Newspapers - Sunday, November 8th in all the Observer and Eccentric Newspapers

We join the rest of the nation on Veterans Day in remembering the sacrifices of American's veterans and expressing our appreciation of their service.

Prices start at \$15 for a Photo Tribute or Photo In Memory ad



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Plymouth Strictly Business

IT'S YOUR BUSINESS Q&A

CHAMBER CHAT

Designer focuses on the 'whole' project

Observer: Tell us about your business, including the types of services and/or products you feature.

MaryBeth Wilson: I offer whole house interior design. This includes Kitchen and bath design, with cabinet offerings ranging from high end custom (Amish made) to value priced; Home office design; Spaceplanning and furnished floorplans; Furnishings, carpet, window treatments, selection and coordination of all finishes; Working with homeowners and builders to assure the best possible result; Hourly design consultation.

Observer: How did you first decide to open your business?

MaryBeth Wilson: I wanted to offer design services that assisted customers in getting the best value for their money, as well as outstanding interior design. Today's clients are more educated in design, and many just need help to implement their ideas. I saw that the design industry was changing due to the internet, HGTV and increased competition within the home furnishings market. By keeping my overhead low, I am able to offer product at lower prices than in traditional design firms.

Observer: What makes your business unique?

MaryBeth Wilson: I am able to offer clients access to a wide range of services and products, including cabinets, at great prices. I don't have a style that I try to impose on my clients, I work with them to determine their style, desires, and budget. I talk with my clients about how they live in their homes, how they use their kitchen, any special needs they may have, including concerns about "Aging in Place" and "Green Design". When I design a kitchen, I am not just placing cabinet boxes, I am working to integrate that space with the rest of the house, as well as to create a highly functional and



MaryBeth Wilson opened MaryBeth Wilson Interior Design, LLC, in 2005.

MARYBETH WILSON INTERIOR DESIGN

- **Business name and address:** MaryBeth Wilson Interior Design, LLC, located in owner's Plymouth Township home
- **Your name and title:** MaryBeth Wilson, owner
- **Your hometown:** Plymouth
- **Business opened when:** 2005
- **Your Business specialty:** I do residential interior design, including kitchen and bath design.
- **Business phone and Web site:** (734) 459-8025; www.mbwilsoninteriordesign.com (MaryBeth's blog page: <http://mbwilsoninteriordesign.blogspot.com/>)

attractive working kitchen. From planning a remodeling project, to cosmetic updates, I am able to help clients in projects large and small.

Observer: How has it changed since you opened?

MaryBeth Wilson: Since the decline in the housing market, people are staying in their homes, and fixing them up rather than selling. People are concerned about getting

the best value for their money, and about making their houses into homes that they want to live in.

Observer: Do you have a funny story or tidbit you'd like to share?

MaryBeth Wilson: As a woman in the construction and design field, I work with a lot of tradespeople who often think I am a "decorator" and have very little technical knowledge. I love it when I have an

opportunity to show people that I do in fact have a lot of technical knowledge on codes, electrical plans, lighting plans, etc. I have a bachelor's degree from EMU in Interior Design, and I am not just a decorator.

Observer: Do you have advice for other small-business owners?

MaryBeth Wilson: Always offer great customer service, and leave your customers happy.

Observer: What is in store for the future of your business?

MaryBeth Wilson: I hope to keep solving design problems, and helping clients transform their homes.

Auction countdown

Fantastic items are rolling in for the 20th Annual Gala Auction on Friday, Nov. 6. Restaurants are getting creative by offering packages like an authentic Irish dinner for four at Sean O'Callaghan's or the opportunity for two people to serve as guest bartenders and serve their own party of ten at 336 Main. Those are only a couple of the many unique and special items that are already donated. If you have an item, gift certificate or even a unique idea for an auction donation to showcase your company, please contact the Chamber at 734-453-1540.

Invitations for the Gala Auction will be mailed later this week. The Major Sponsors for this year's Auction are Genisys Credit Union and Hines Park Lincoln Mercury.

Networking event

The Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce sponsors an After Hours Networking Event Thursday, Oct. 15, at the Plymouth Community Arts Council, 774 N. Sheldon. The building is located south of the Sheldon Rd./M-14 exit and is on the east side of the road. The event will be from 5-7 p.m., but we encourage you come as close to 5 p.m. as possible. To make a reservation, please e-mail teri@plymouthmich.org or call (734) 453-1540. There is no fee to attend this event.

This After Hours is an interactive facilitated networking event to maximize your ability to make business contacts (dinner included).

This event will show everyone from veteran "Networkers" to those who are never comfortable at these types of events techniques to succeed any situation.

At this After Hours there will be an interactive presenta-



Wes Graff

tion and pizza dinner hosted by Michael Jefferys of The Yes Network. Throughout his high-energy presentation, he will have people interacting and networking with each other to practice skills that can be used that night and into the future.

Some of the skills that will be practiced at the event include: How to connect with others by getting on their wave length; Body language and its critical role in building trust; Vocal patterns and how they affect rapport building; Using positive language; Eliminating verbal mistakes that can cost you.

When the presentation concludes there will be 45 minutes to an hour to network with everyone at the event.

Top show

Sunshine Artist, America's Premier Arts and Craft Show magazine, named Art in the Park the 5th best arts and crafts show in the country. The festival takes place each year in Plymouth on the second weekend of July.

Scarecrows return

The Chamber is again hosting 25 scarecrows facing Main Street from Kellogg Park built by local organizations and businesses. Community Financial is the sponsor of this year's scarecrow display that will be up until Halloween.

The Scarecrow tradition is one more way the Chamber works to enhance our quality of life with traditions for our community.

Wes Graff is executive director of the Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce. He can be reached via e-mail at wes@plymouthmi.org or by calling (734) 453-1540.

BUSINESS MILESTONES

Hispanic Heritage Month

Parents and children can take advantage of a free children's event at the Plymouth District Library featuring bilingual story time, hosted by Bilingual Fun 10 a.m. Tuesday, Oct. 13 and again 7 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 14.

Children and parents will learn Halloween themed words and phrases in Spanish through music, stories, games, and more. Bilingual Fun founder Jennifer Manriquez is offering the free event to promote the benefits of becoming bilingual, as well as giving local families the chance to participate in an educational and fun event.

"The economy has really put a pinch on many families being able to participate in extracurricular activities, and we are dedicated to offering the community events that won't break the bank," Manriquez said. "Hispanic Heritage month celebrates and promotes an awareness of the 28 million Spanish speakers in the country today. Learning Spanish is an incredible benefit in today's global society."

Bilingual Story times will be held at the Plymouth District Library in Plymouth. Registration is free and the event is open to children ages 6 and under. A listing of free events hosted by Bilingual Fun, along with Spanish language products and language classes in Plymouth are listed on their website at www.bilingualfun.com

Food for good causes

Hiller's Markets is changing it up again. Two new dishes will appear in the prepared foods cases at all seven Hiller's grocery stores, including its Plymouth location, offering



Ribbon cutting

Owners, staffers, customers and various other officials took part in a ribbon-cutting ceremony Friday at Salon Bella Vi, located at 942 S. Main in Plymouth.

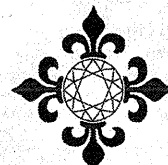
shoppers good food for good causes.

Tony Fayne's Buffalo Chili and Samira Cholagh's potato chop, kibbie and eggplant salad will be available at Hiller's through Oct. 19, with 100 percent of profits from sales of Buffalo Chili benefiting the Agree Foundation at Temple Israel, giving birthday parties to children of battered and homeless mothers. One hundred percent of profits from sales of potato chop, kibbie and eggplant salad will go to the Chaldean Foundation's Adopt a Refugee Family Program, helping Iraqi refugees resettle safely in America.

The following schedule indicates the individuals, dishes and their causes remaining in the program's initial launch. All sales of these dishes will send money to their respective charities. Jim Hiller is considering extending the program through the new year, in an effort to bring back the

first few dishes and send more donations to worthy causes.

- Oct. 20-Nov. 2: Lisa Diggs' corn and smoked whitefish fritters and Danielle Karmanos' tuna pasta; Causes: Gleaners Food Bank and DKWIO
- Nov. 3-Nov. 16: Janice Cherkasky's diabetic apricot salad and Jeff Loeb's pasta; Causes: Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation and Hiller ALS Center at WSU
- Nov. 17-Nov. 30: Deena Lisak's corned beef and cabbage and macaroni and cheese; Cause: the Achievement Center at the Multiple Sclerosis Society
- Dec. 1-14: Robbie Timmons' turkey meatloaf and Paula Tutman's DISH TO COME; Cause: CANTER and Children's ToothFairy Foundation
- Dec. 15-Jan. 1, 2010: Joy Cantor's pasta with Thai peanut sauce and tofu; Cause: SASHA Farm



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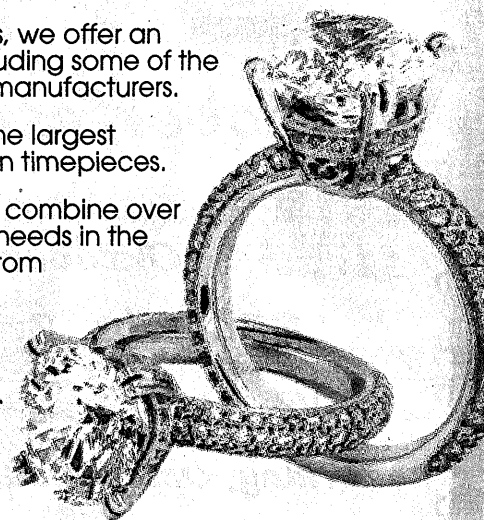
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Try these regional, world champion recipes

BY SHARON DARGAY
O&E STAFF WRITER

What were we thinking?

We asked the winners of the Great Lakes Chili Cook-Off, held Sunday, Oct. 4 in Plymouth, if they'd like to share their first-place recipes with us and most responded with a polite but resounding NO!

Chili cooks who enter — and win — contests tend to safeguard their prize-winning concoctions and use them again and again in the quest for taking home top honors.

But Richard Chauvin, whose South of the Border Chilli Verde won first place in the "verde" category, graciously agreed to tell all. "This is the fifth win with verde. We also have four red chili wins," said Chauvin, who lives south of Detroit's border, in Windsor, Ont., Canada.

"I grew up working in my Dad's grocery store. Dinner was whatever was in the meat counter we hadn't sold that day. We all got our chances to be creative. I entered my first competition in Windsor because it was a fund-raiser to support the Heart & Stroke Association. The couple that cooked next to me that day are still very good friends."

"For the cooks who travel, chili weekends are part family reunion, part block party. I cook in Plymouth because Ken and Annette (Horn) have one of the best organized, best run cook-offs anywhere."

Chauvin said the tomatillos and peppers he used in his winning chili verde "made all the difference" in edging out the competition.

But Chauvin doesn't just cook chili. He and his wife, Wendy, are on a "Memphis in May" competition barbecue team.

"Cooking is cooking. I enjoy it all."

Try his chili verde and find out why it won first place in Plymouth.

SOUTH OF THE BORDER CHILI VERDE

- Vegetables:
- 1 28 ounce can diced green chilies (mild)
 - 1 14 ounce can diced green chilies (hot)
 - 1 ½ pound diced green tomatillos, husked and diced (canned is okay)
 - 4 minced jalapeno peppers seeded and deveined
 - 4 serrano peppers, seeded and minced
 - 8 cloves garlic, pressed
 - 14 ounce Green Enchilada Sauce
- Meat:
- 3 pounds pork loin cubed (¾" to ½")
- Powders:
- 2 Tablespoons green chili powder
 - 5 Tablespoons cumin
 - Salt and Tabasco Habanero Hot Sauce as needed

Place all vegetables and powders in large pot and stir well. Brown pork. Drain & pat dry with paper towels then add to pot with vegetables. Bring to boil and reduce to simmer. Stir occasionally through the 3 hour cooking time. Check for salt and add as needed. Last 10 minutes check for heat and add Hot Sauce as needed.

Here's the 2008 world champion red chili recipe. The International Chili Society holds its 2009 world contest next week in Charleston, W.Va.

SOUTHERN CHILI

- 4 Tablespoons California chili powder
- 3 Tablespoons Gebhardt's chili powder
- 1 Tablespoon Pasilla chili powder
- 1 Tablespoon Chimayo chili powder
- 2 ½ Tablespoons cumin
- 1 Tablespoon granulated garlic
- 1 Tablespoon onion powder
- ½ teaspoon Cayenne powder
- 2 teaspoon salt

Combine above ingredients for spice mix. Reserve 4 Tablespoons of mix and set aside. Divide the remaining amount into two equal parts.

- 3 pound Tri-Tip roast or Chuck Tender cut in small chunks
- 1 15-ounce can of beef broth (Swansons)

- 1 15-ounce can of chicken broth (Swansons)
- 1 10-ounce can of tomato puree (Hunts)
- 2 Green Chiles from a 4 ounce can of whole ones, blended Tabasco to taste and salt to taste

In chili pot, combine beef broth, chicken broth, tomato puree and ½ of remaining spice mix.

In skillet, brown the meat, drain and add to chili pot. Cook for about 1 ½ hours.

Add other ½ of spice mix and blended green chiles and simmer for an additional hour.

Add reserved 4 Tablespoons of spice mix and cook a ½ hour more or until meat is tender.

Adjust salt if necessary. Add Tabasco to taste.

Makes about ¾ of a gallon

Cook book sales benefit Karmanos Cancer Institute

The Kroger Co. is donating all proceeds from sale of a limited edition cookbook, *Recipes for Hope*, to the Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute this month.

The book, sold during National Breast Cancer Awareness Month, costs \$9.99 and includes more than 200 recipes from Kroger customers, Clear channel listeners and WXYZ-TV viewers. Kroger partnered with Clear Channel Radio, WXYZ-TV Channel 7 and Diet Pepsi to develop the cookbook.

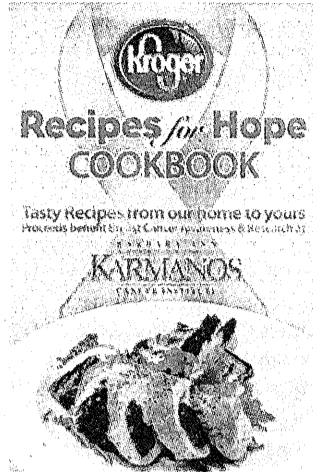
"While Kroger has long supported breast cancer awareness and research, this is the first year Kroger is offering the *Recipes for Hope* cookbook," said Dale Hollandsworth, Kroger public relations manager. "We will also offer customers the opportunity to donate at our cash registers where we will have coin boxes throughout October."

"Clearly, breast cancer touches many of our customers and our associates. We welcome this opportunity to team up with our customers to support research that can improve treatments for breast cancer and even find a cure for this life-threatening disease."

Recipes for Hope features gourmet and everyday recipes such as Texas Caviar, Quinoa Blend Bell Pepper Tomato Soup, Motown Mary's Comfort Meatloaf, Chocolate Lava Muffins and Bavarian Pretzels. The cookbook also includes a recipe for homemade doggie treats, along with details about the importance of early detection of breast cancer, self examinations and risk factors.

Recipes for Hope and the coin collection boxes are part of Kroger's Giving Hope a Hand annual program to support breast cancer awareness, treatment and research. In addition to raising more than \$3 million nationally to support breast cancer programs in the local communities Kroger serves, Giving Hope a Hand spotlights some of Kroger's own breast cancer survivors who have agreed to share their stories. Kroger launched the company-wide breast cancer awareness program in 2006. For more details, visit www.sharingcourage.com.

For more information about breast cancer services, call (800) KARMANOS or visit www.karmanos.org.



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Public Notice

Office of the Wayne County Treasurer
Public Auction of Tax Foreclosed Property
October 19, 20*, 21* & 22*, 2009
International Center Building
400 Monroe, 8th Floor
Detroit, MI 48226
*If necessary

BIDDER REGISTRATION BEGINS AT 8:00 A.M.
AUCTION BEGINS AT 9:30 A.M. ON OCTOBER 19
EACH DAY THEREAFTER THE AUCTION IS SCHEDULED TO BEGIN AT 9:00 A.M.

A \$500 cashier's check (U.S. funds) payable to the Wayne County Treasurer must be shown at registration and is required as a deposit for each parcel successfully bid.

For Auction Rules and Regulations and list of properties, visit:
www.treasurer.waynecounty.com

The Wayne County Treasurer, as the foreclosing governmental Unit, under Public Act 123 of 1999, reserves the right to remove Any property from the sale and to reject any and all bids.

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Senior Health & Living Fall Expo

Friday, October 16, 2009
9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

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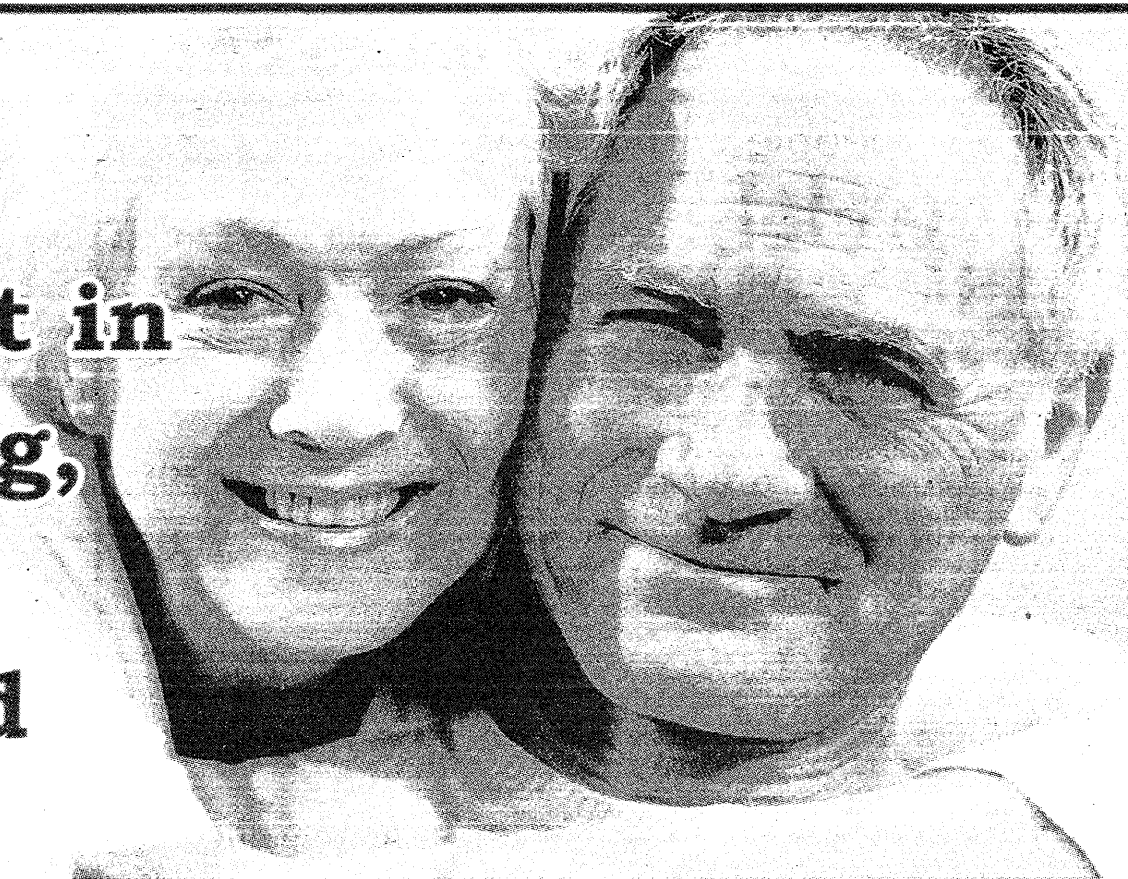
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Senior Health & Living Fall Expo

Celebrating Senior Life

Seniors, as well as friends and relatives: Get ready for a hardy welcome by more than 40 exhibitors and an action-packed activities agenda at the Senior Health & Living Fall Expo, sponsored by the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers and Hometown Weeklies and Oakland Community College on Friday, Oct. 16!

Oakland Community College Orchard Ridge Campus in Farmington is hosting the day's festivities from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., located just off the Orchard Lake Road I-696 exit north of 10 Mile Road.

Admission and parking are free!

Participants interested in learning "The truth about legacy and estate planning" will be treated to a seminar with Jack W. Bolling, Attorney and Counselor at Law.

Steve Falcone, CPM®, Executive Vice President of Senior Village Management/Unified Management Services, will also give a presentation, "At what point does changing one's residence make sense for an older adult?"

Richard W. Paul, CFP®, Owner and President of Midwest Financial Consultants, will speak on "Tax strategies for 2009 and beyond." Fitness and massage therapy activities are also scheduled.

The expo is a great opportunity to learn about assisted living options as well as retirement housing for parents who are ready to move from the responsibility of homeownership.

OCC's Adult Learning Institute will host a "Staying Active" presentation, and the Nursing School will offer free health screenings throughout the day.

Parking is available in Lots 2, A, B and C. A trolley will transport attendees to and from Building H for the expo.

Spend the day being entertained and educated at the **Senior Health & Living Fall Expo!**

Exhibit topics include:

- Massage therapy
- Yoga
- Stress management
- Nursing
- Eating healthy
- Dental care

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Schedule of Events

9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Nursing School
Health Screening
Room 113E
Massage Therapy
Gym

9-10 a.m.
Adult Learning Institute
/Staying Active
Room 107

10-11 a.m.
Stress Management
Presentation
Room 108
"The Truth about Estate
and Legacy Planning"
Speaker Jack Bolling
Law Office of Jack Bolling
Room 107

11 a.m. to Noon
"Tax Strategies for
2009 and Beyond"
Speaker Richard W. Paul, CFP®
Midwest Financial Consultants
Room 107

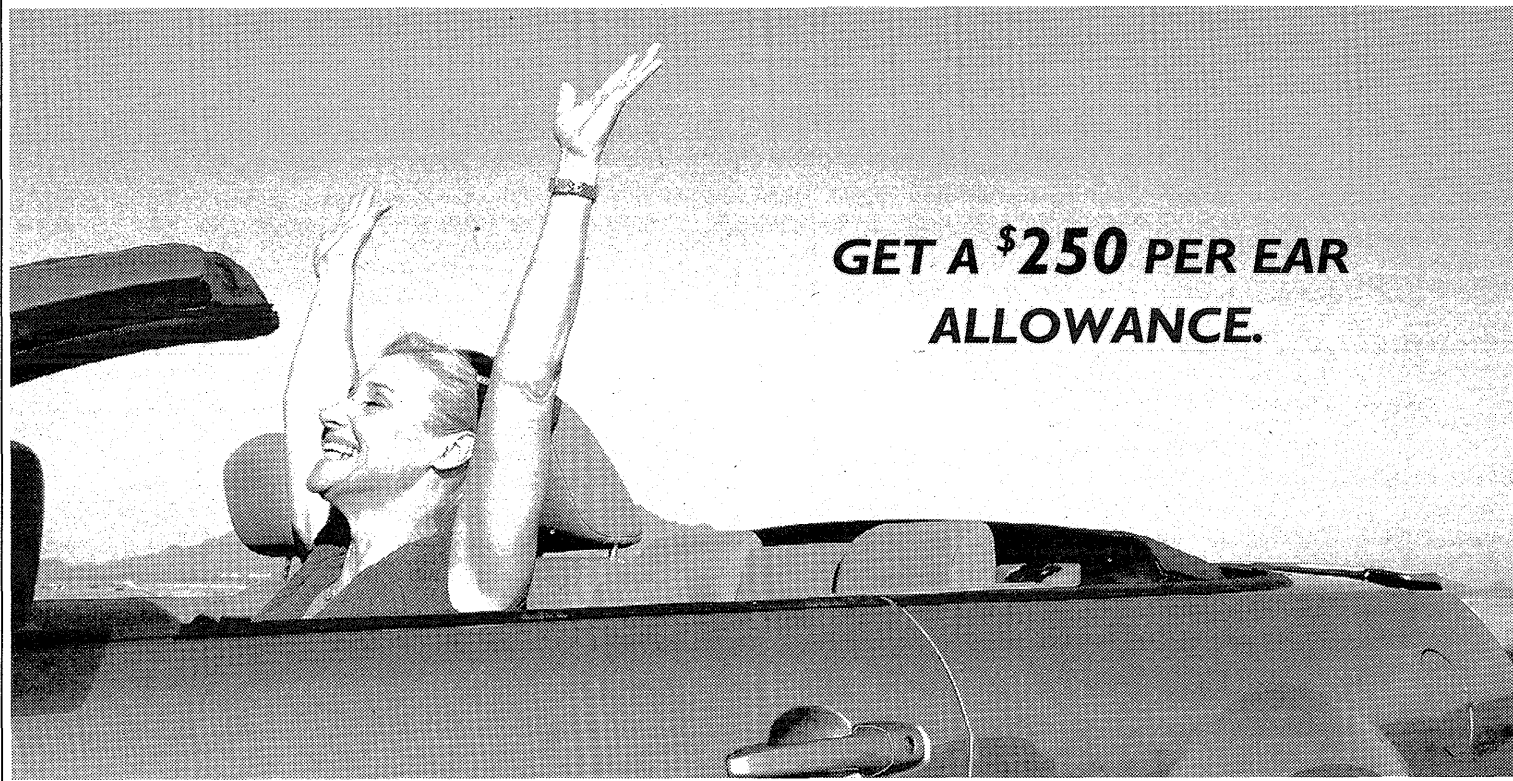
Noon to 12:45 p.m.
Meet and Greet with
Rita Mckenzie
Gym

Noon to 1 p.m.
Nutrition Presentation
Room 108

1-2 p.m.
"When is the right time to make
a move for older adults?"
Speaker Steve Falcone, CPM®
Senior Village Management,
United Management Services
Room 108

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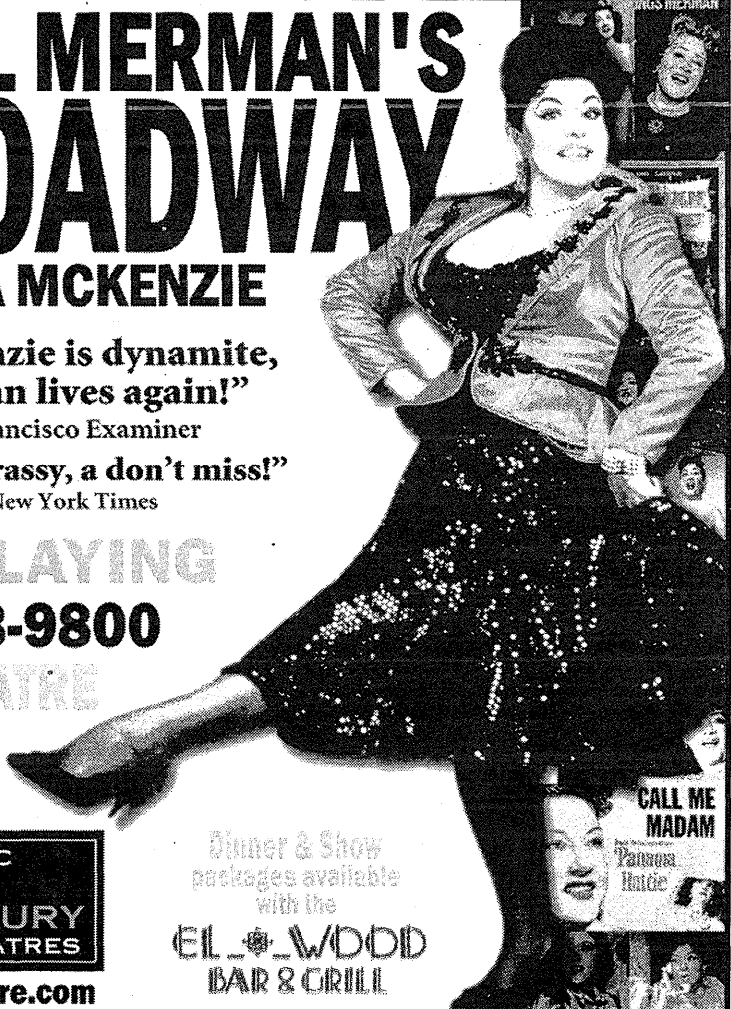
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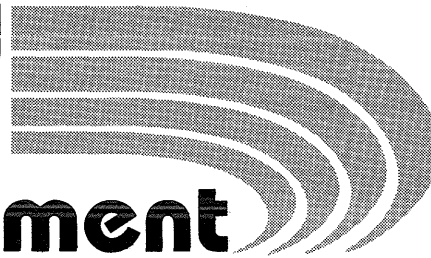
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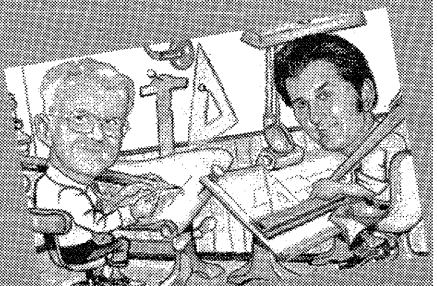
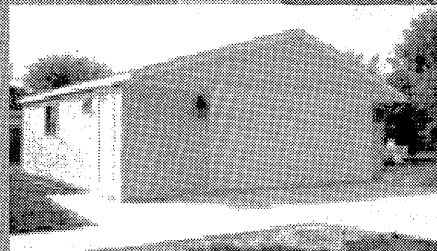
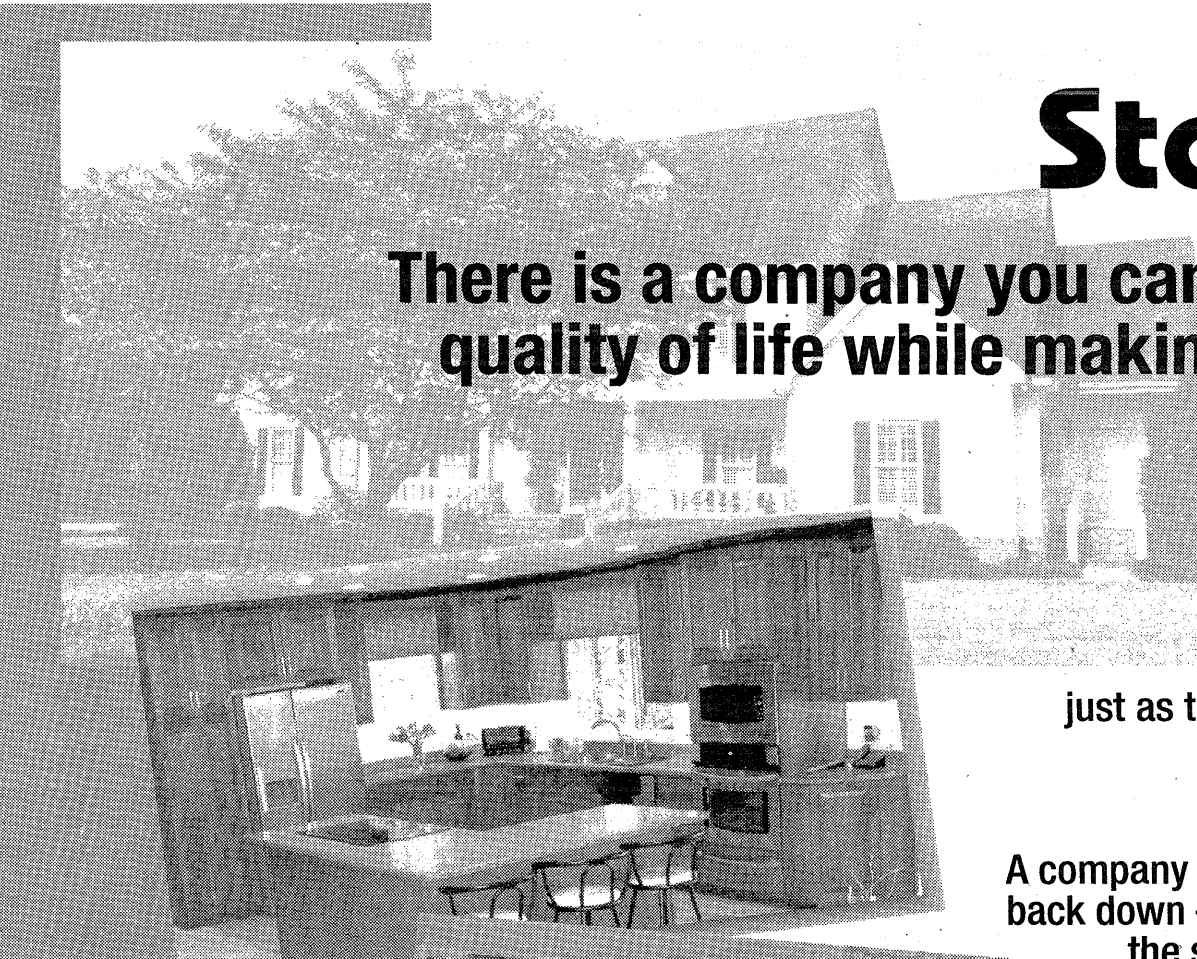


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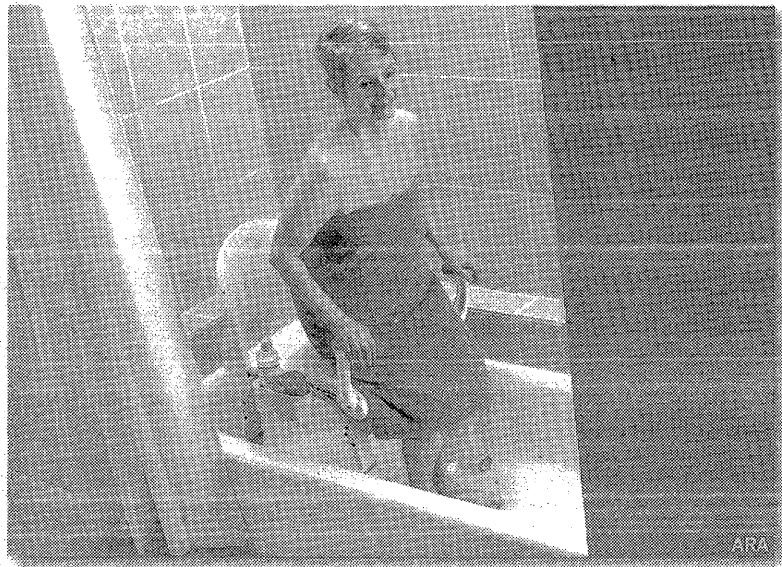
Home to stay

The aging population in the country is growing by the minute. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, by 2030 the number of individuals ages 65 and up is expected to be twice as large as in 2000 — growing to 71.5 million — and representing nearly 20 percent of the population.

With these burgeoning numbers, it's becoming increasingly important to create a safe home to accommodate everyone's wants and needs, and baby boomers are taking notice. According to a major home improvement center study, 60 percent of boomers plan to stay in their existing homes for some time. Remodeling and home improvement rank high on their to-do lists. Following are projects they can tackle themselves to ensure they are home to stay:

Safe, secure and stylish in the bath

As one of the most often used rooms in the home, the bathroom is a great place to undertake "home to stay" tasks. From projects such as custom closet configurations and adjusting mirror and toilet heights to installing roll-under sinks and angled mirrors, many product options exist for baby boomers to make their bathrooms safe yet stylish.



Shower chairs are another safe showering option for bathers that can be easily installed or removed as needed.

To help prevent slipping, tub grips are essential in lending a stable, helping hand getting in and out of the tub. The latest tub grip product designs feature an easy-locking lever to ensure a tight fit to most tubs without harming the tub surface. They offer easy, no-tool installation and removal in seconds. Shower chairs are another safe showering option for bathers that can be easily installed or removed as needed.

Today's consumer not only needs secure safety products for the home, but wants ones that blend and complement a variety of decors. Grab bars are a great addition to help assist with movement. SecureMount Grab Bars from Home Care by Moen are an ideal choice since they feature a unique anchor installation system that allows homeowners the ability to install quickly and easily anywhere on the wall — without the need for a stud — for the ultimate in safety and peace of mind. Plus, they are available in a variety of styles and finishes to beautifully coordinate with the rest of the bathroom.

New home standards

In addition to the bath, other areas of the home — such as the kitchen — rank high on the list for projects and safety updates that are quickly becoming new home standards for baby boomers. Ranging in cost, improvements such as expanding doorways and lowering countertops/sink

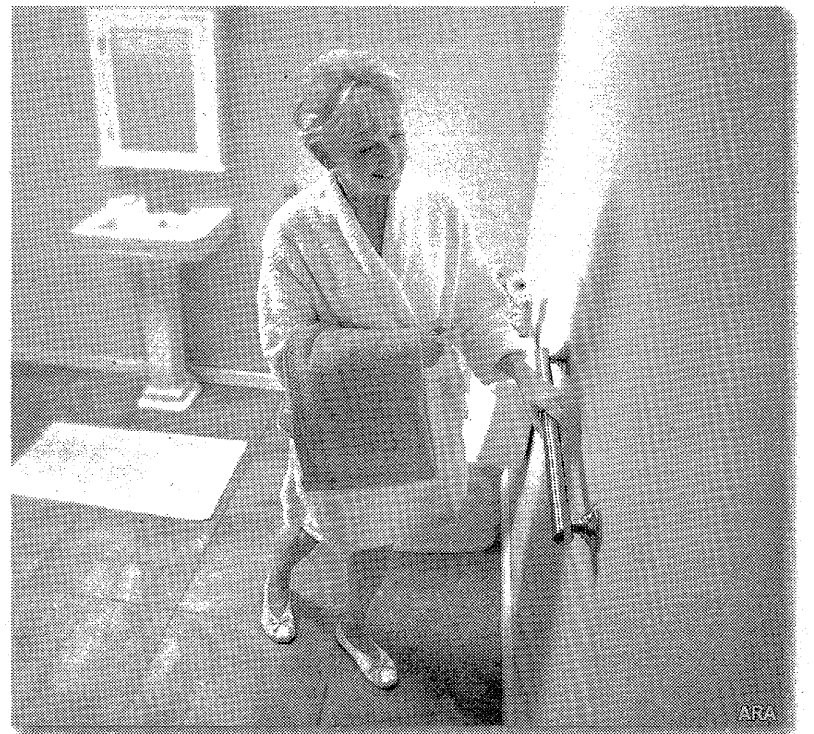
areas help not only wheelchair-bound individuals, but also parents carrying groceries or pushing strollers. Installing a pull-down kitchen faucet helps access hard-to-reach areas of the sink and also aids in everyday tasks such as watering plants or filling large pots and pans.

Consolidating essential appliances and living areas in one space in the home is another trend for boomers. Adding a first floor bathroom, installing a first floor water turnoff and washer or dryer allow easy access for any family member.

By making these improvements, you'll create a safe and stylish home — one you'll want to stay in and enjoy for years to come.

For additional tips and home improvement projects for baby boomers, visit ageinplace.com. For more information about stylish bath safety products from Home Care by Moen, visit homecare.moen.com or call 800-882-0116.

— Courtesy of ARAccontent



Grab bars, such as the SecureMount Grab Bars from Home Care by Moen, are an example of a stylish product that are a great addition to your bathroom to help assist with movement.

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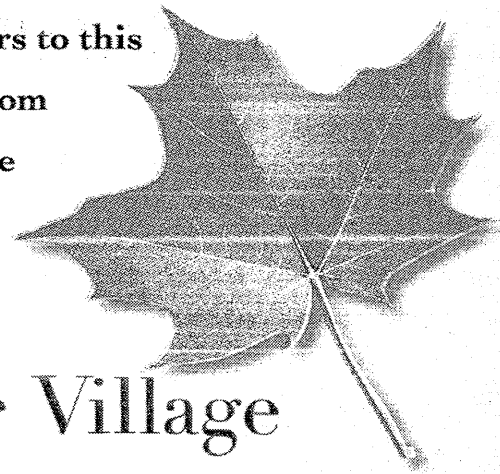
At What Point Does Changing One's Residence

Make Sense for an Older Adult?

For some people, it may never make sense for them to move. Yet others may have waited too long to move and now have only limited options available to them. When it comes to making a change, it can be a struggle for people of any age, particularly when it comes to changing our address.

In general, people resist change unless the pain of change is less than the pain of doing things the same (i.e. house becomes too difficult to maintain, one becomes socially isolated and lonely, home has steps that can't be managed any longer, daily living tasks such as cooking become difficult, etc). Often times, it is a loved one that first suggests the idea to the older adult that they move from their current residence to a home where certain services can be provided for them.

However, frequently the older adult does not want to move from the home that they've bonded with and where they've raised their family. When, then, is it the right time to make a move? This presentation will offer answers to this difficult question along with video clips from older adults and family members who have experienced similar dilemmas.



Join us for our presentation
**"When is it the Right Time
for an Older Adult
to Move?"**

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM
Friday, October 16th
OCC - Orchard Ridge Campus
Building H - Room #108

Given by Steven Falcone, CPM,
Executive Vice President,
Senior Village Management



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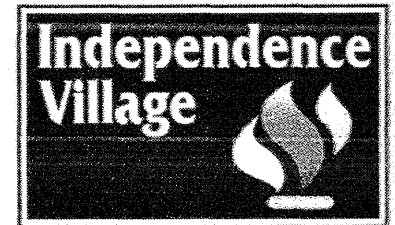
DOWN

- 2. Fall season
- 3. A bond between friends
- 4. A place where seniors enjoy a comfortable _____.
- 5. Services provided by a warm and _____ staff.
- 6. Each _____ offers a warm and appealing environment.
- 10. Amenities close at hand, from a beauty salon to a _____.

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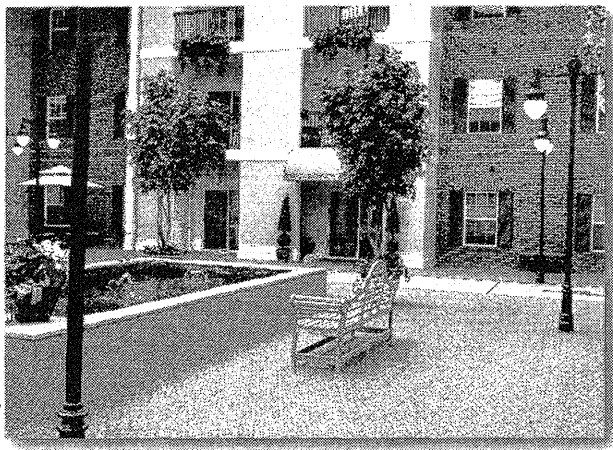
Senior Health & Living Fall Expo

advertising feature



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Senior Village Management has luxury retirement communities in Brighton, White Lake, Sterling Heights and Warren.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Abbey Park at Mill River in New Hudson has 24-hour staffing, a medical alert system, dining room, theater, chapel and more for a comfortable lifestyle.



Communities that care Luxury retirement communities offer a warm welcome home

Transitioning from living independently to assisted senior housing community is a difficult decision for many older adults and their families.

Many are concerned about giving up their privacy, staying connected with family and having access to medical care, transportation and other services vital to living comfortably.

A retirement community should not look institutional — it should look and feel like home. Senior Village Management and Abbey Park at Mill River communities offer luxurious living for older adults, 24-hour assistance and outstanding customer service.

Senior Village Management

Headquartered in Brighton, Senior Village Management, a division of Midwest Management, is a pioneer in retirement community living.

"We currently have 13 properties in Michigan and Ohio, approximately 2,000 units and we have a number of independent developers looking into potential projects in the next two years in the Carolinas and Florida," said Steve Falcone, Executive Vice President. "Many of the luxury communities focus on sticks and bricks. For us, it's about hiring the right people. When you think about how much time the day-to-day interaction affects the residents, the employees actually become family. Most of our employees have been with us for more than 30 years."

Independence Villages of Brighton and White Lake, Waterstone in Oxford, Sterling Woods in Sterling Heights and Park Place in Warren are locally operated Senior Village Management communities, along with other communities in Frankenmuth, Midland, Grande Ledge, Petoskey and Grand Rapids.

"Everyone is blown away when they enter one of our communities," Falcone said. "The placement of the artwork, the furniture, the attention to detail, the specially designed carpets...Everybody tells us what stands out after they get over the initial opulence is the friendliness of the staff. I don't think you can provide too much customer service."

Visit www.seniorvillages.com or call 810-220-2643 for more information.

Abbey Park at Mill River

Located in Lyon Township in West Oakland County, Abbey Park at Mill River is a premiere luxury retirement community opened in January this year.

The vast, 195,000-square-foot facility has 24-hour staffing, a medical alert system, dining room, café, theater, chapel, library, hair salon, fitness center and full-facility generator.

"Abbey Park is a community of its own," said Administrator Tamra Ward. "Residents build relationships with each other every day, manage their own country store and attend planned events and activities, many of which are right in town. Not only are seniors part of our community, they are part of South Lyon and Lyon Township too."

Staying connected to the community and to family and friends is important to residents of Abbey Park. A full-time activity schedules trips to the theater, local landmarks and festivals, shopping malls and regular trips to the market.

Privacy, independence and safety are important to residents of Abbey Park. The community's apartments vary from one or two bedrooms with or without a den, kitchen, living room, bathroom and walk-in closet options. An emergency pull cord is accessible in each room of the apartment in case a resident needs assistance from a nurse. Each apartment has an enclosed patio or balcony as an added safety feature, and all top floor apartments have cathedral ceilings as an added amenity. Even heat, water and basic cable are included, making Abbey Park a luxurious, affordable place to live.

Abbey Park at Mill River is located at 28413 Abbey Lane in Lyon Township. Tours are available during regular office hours, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and from noon to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Advance reservations for tours are encouraged.

— By Alison Bergsieker



David Oreck, Founder

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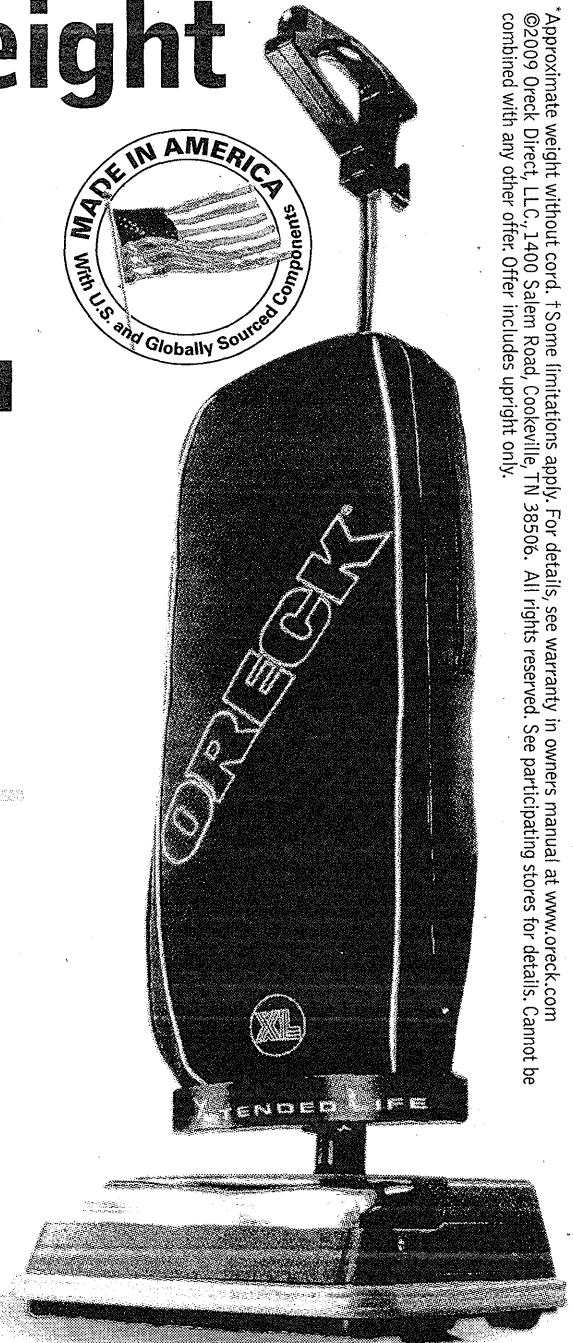
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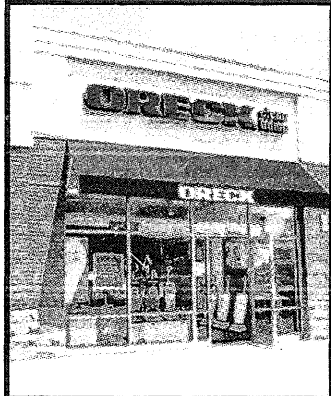
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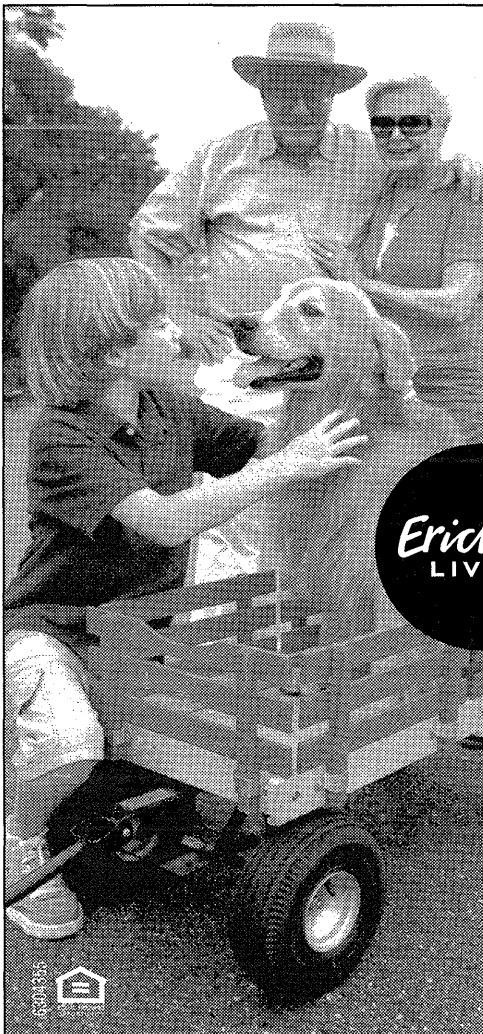
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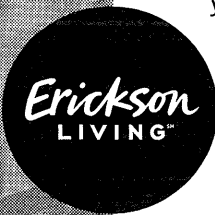
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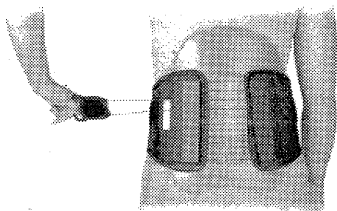
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Senior Health & Living Fall Expo

“At what point does changing one’s residence make sense for an older adult?”

Speaker Steve Falcone, CPM®
Executive Vice President, Senior Village Management/ Unified Management Services
1-2 p.m., Room 108

For some people, it may never make sense for them to move. Yet others may have waited too long to move and now have only limited options available to them. When it comes to making a change, it can be a struggle for people of any age, particularly when it comes to changing our address. In general, people resist change unless the pain of change is less than the pain of doing things the same (i.e. house becomes too difficult to maintain, one becomes socially isolated and lonely, home has steps that can't be managed any longer, daily living tasks such as cooking become difficult, etc). Often times, it is a loved one that first suggests the idea to the older adult that they move from their current residence to a home where certain services can be provided for them. However, frequently the older adult does not want to move from the home that they've bonded with and where they've raised their family. When, then, is it the right time to make a move? This presentation will offer answers to this difficult question along with video clips from older adults and family members who have experienced similar dilemmas.

About Steve Falcone



Steve Falcone has been in the multifamily real estate industry for more than 28 years. As Executive Vice President, his role includes employee development for the entire management division and the oversight of property performance for more than 20,000 residential units. This includes 2,000 units of luxury retirement living.

Steve's management experience encompasses conventional, subsidized, condominiums, and is largely responsible for Senior Village Management's success in becoming the recognized industry leader it is today.

Steve holds a CPM designation through the Institute of Real Estate Management and a Michigan Real Estate License.

Senior Village Management and Unified Management Services are a subsidiary of the United Property Group.
Contact Steve at sfalcone@unifiedpropertygroup.com.

“The truth about legacy and estate planning”

Speaker Jack W. Bolling
Attorney and Counselor at Law
10-11 a.m. Room 107

Jack Bolling will advise on creating effective estate and legacy plans, choosing the right advisor, drafting a will, culminating a trust, Medicaid planning, setting personal planning goals and more. He'll discuss the goals of estate planning – to maintain control of your assets, protect your spouse/children from bad choices or creditors/predators, maintain your social legacy, save taxes and protect your dignity in the event of disability. Attendees will learn the importance of personal counseling to meet these goals.

About Jack W. Bolling

Jack received his Juris Doctorate from Michigan State University College of Law, and his bachelor's degree in business administration from Michigan State University and William Tyndale College.

Before becoming an attorney, Jack was in law enforcement for 12 years, after brief service in the USMC, and is a former General Manager and VP of National Accounts in the marketing industry.

Currently, Jack is an instructor of Political Science and Criminal Justice at Schoolcraft College.

Elaine and Jack have been married for 39 years and they have 3 children; 2 sons and a daughter. Both their sons are also lawyers and their daughter is in business management. Jack and his family have been residents of the Commerce/Milford, Michigan area since 1978.

Jack is an active contributor to his community. He is presently on the Boards of Directors of The Huron Valley Chamber of Commerce, and the Carl's Family YMCA of Milford. He volunteers at the Highland and Milford Senior centers, and is the founder of the “Ask the Attorney” program at the

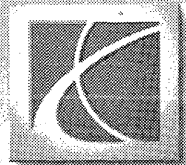
Milford Senior Center. Jack is past president and a longtime coach of the Milford Youth Athletic Association, and was its liaison to the Youth Sports Institute at Michigan State University. He is a former head coach of Walled Lake Braves football; Lakeland Wrestling Club; former Cub Master, Cub Scout Pack 33, Milford; volunteer speaker and career job shadow participant for the Huron Valley Schools.

Jack is a member of the prestigious National Network of Estate Planning Attorneys, the American Bar Association, the Michigan Bar Association and its probate and estate planning and elder law sections, the Michigan Forum of Estate Planning Attorneys, the Michigan Institute for Continuing Legal Education probate certificate program, and the Marine Corps League.

Jack is a guest columnist for Gannett Newspapers writing about estate planning and related subjects.

Jack's law office is located at 334 Union Street, Milford, MI 48381 in the historic 1880 Bissell House. Phone 248-684-9742, fax 248-685-7800, cell 248-563-1561, and email: jwbollinglaw@comcast.net. His practice is now focused on estate planning, Medicaid and Elder Law issues, and he is an accredited attorney with the VA for veteran's benefits.

View the firm website at: www.jackbollinglaw.com



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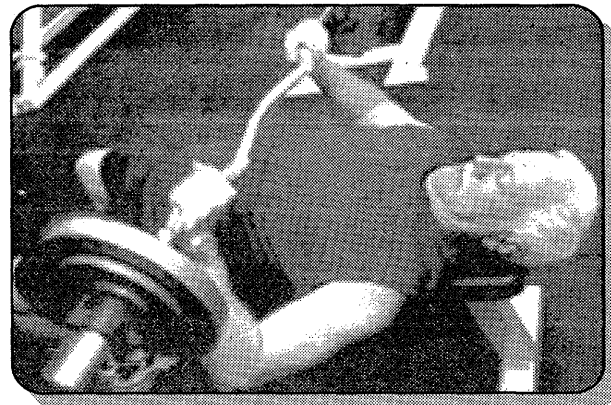
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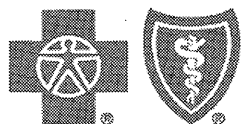


Rehabilitation & Nursing Facilities

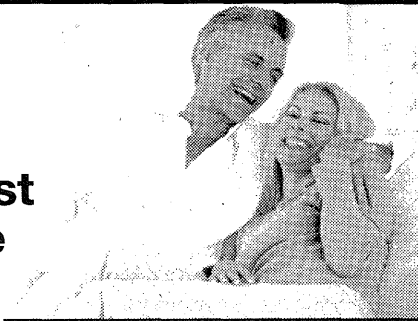
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“Tax strategies for 2009 and beyond”

Speaker Richard W. Paul, CFP®
President & Owner,
Midwest Financial Consultants
1-2 p.m., Room 108

Richard Paul, Certified Financial Planner and President of Midwest Financial Consultants, will be speaking on the timely topics of income and tax strategies for 2009 and beyond. He will be covering the following areas:

- Marketing Perspective
- Income Strategies
- Required Minimum Distributions for 2009
- Roth Conversions
- Capital Gains

About Richard W. Paul

Richard W. Paul CFP®, a retirement and financial planner, is president and owner of Midwest Financial Consultants, an Oakland County based independent financial and retirement planning company. Mr. Paul

is a Certified Financial Planner™ (CFP®), Certified Estate Planner (CEP), Registered Financial Consultant (RFC®) and an Investment Advisor Representative. Mr. Paul works with pre-retired and retired individuals, helping them achieve total wealth optimization and structuring a reliable income for life. He is a member of the Ed slott Elite IRA Adversor Group™, Financial Planning Association (FPA), International Association of Registered Financial Consultants (IARFC), National Ethics Bureau

(ethicscheck.com) and the Better Business Bureau. For more information about Richard W. Paul and Midwest Financial Consultants, please call 248-305-9911 or visit www.midwestfinancialconsultants.org.



Exercise your mind at OCC's Adult Learning Institute

BY ALISON BERGSIEKER
ADVERTORIAL COORDINATOR

It's never too late to learn something new. If you are older than age 50 and interested in learning about a variety of topics, the Adult Learning Institute at Oakland Community College's Orchard Ridge Campus offers classes, presentations, concerts and more for mentally active adults.

“The people that attend ALI for the most part have worked with their brains and not necessarily their hands,” said Marion Muma, ALI past president. “They are people who love to be educated. They just have an insatiable interest in what's going on in the world.”

ALI is a member-run organization and an affiliate of the Elderhostel Institute Network. Classes meet three days a week for two months in the spring and fall.

Each class is different, and the instructors come from a wide variety of professions. Guest speakers, professors and performers make appearances and receive a \$150 donation to their charity of choice for their participation.

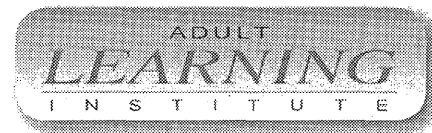
This fall, classes include appearances from Ron Dzwonkowski of the Detroit Free Press, Channel 4 Meteorologist Chuck Gaidica, Chris Collins and the Wayne State University Jazz Collective, Wayne State Professor and Metro Times Columnist Jack Lessenberry and much more.

“ALI also provides a social piece in your life because you get to meet people who are similar in thoughts and ideas about life,” Muma said. “This year is the highest membership we've ever had with 195 members and around 100 students attending each class.”

A membership fee of \$100 for each spring and fall covers the weekly classes scheduled on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, 10-11:30 a.m. and 1-2:30 p.m. Optional and special events may require an additional fee to cover costs.

Thursday morning programs are open to the public. An ALI member may bring two guests per term to any session. A guest may attend one ALI session per term.

Add your name to the Adult Learning Institute mailing list at info@ali-occ.org.



ADULT LEARNING INSTITUTE

Oakland Community College
Orchard Ridge Campus
27055 Orchard Lake Road
Building J – Room 303
Farmington Hills, MI 48334



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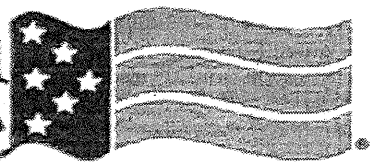
- **Third month rent-free:** We'll make your transition easier on your family's finances by waiving your third month's rent at an American House community.
- **\$500 moving voucher:** Save valuable dollars on your move by having American House pay up to \$500 of your moving expenses.
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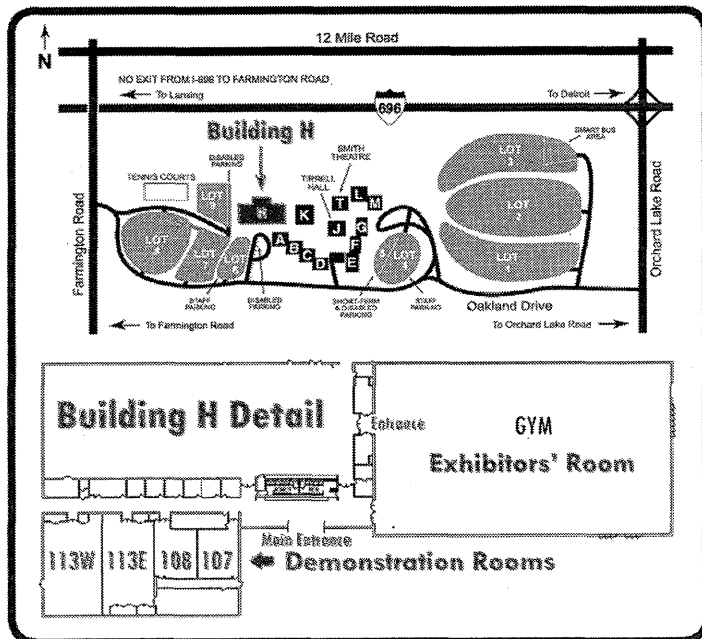
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OAKLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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DEMONSTRATIONS

- Room 113E, 9:00 am – 2:00 pm
Nursing Department
Health Screenings
- Room 107, 9:00 am – 10:00 am
Adult Learning Institute
"Staying Active"
- Gym, 9:00 am – 2:00 pm
Massage Therapy
- Room 113W, 9:00 am – 10:00 am
Yoga
- Room 108, 10:00 am – 11:00 am
Stress Management
- Room 107, 10:00 am – 11:00 am
"The Truth About Estate
And Legacy Planning"
- Room 113W, 11:00 am – 12:00 pm
Dental Care
- Room 107, 11:00 am – 12:00 pm
Tax Strategies for 2009 and Beyond

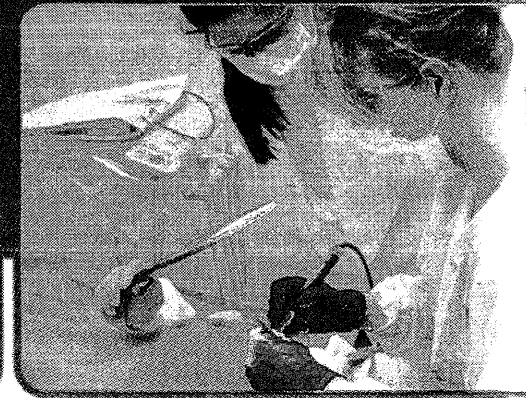
- Room 108, 12:00 noon – 1:00 pm
Nutrition Presentation
- Room 108, 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm
"When is the Right
Time to Make a Move?"
(For Older Adults)

**OTHER OCC
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- Auburn Hills
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Auburn Hills
- Highland Lakes
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- Royal Oak
739 South Washington
Royal Oak
- Southfield
22322 Rutland Drive
Southfield

SENIOR HEALTH

Friday, October 16, 2009 • Oakland Community College



Friday, October 16, 2009

**Orchard Ridge Campus
Building H**

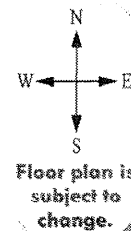
9:00 am – 2:00 pm

EXHIBITORS

- 920 On The Park
- 8330 On the River
- Abbey Park at Mill River
- AM 580 - Motor City Favorites
- American House Senior Living Residences
- Ameriprise Financial
- Bath Fitter of Livonia
- Bergman Parretta Eye Center
- Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan
- Botsford Hospital
- Brookdale Senior Living
- Chelsea Retirement Community
- Denopt Inc
- Detroit Media Partnership
- Fluke Hearing
- Fox Run
- Garan Lucow Miller, P.C.
- HealthQuest's Back & Neck Solution Centers
- Heartland Health Care Center
- HearUSA
- Hug Center for Hearing
- Humana Market Point
- Huron Clinton Metropolitan Authority
- Innovative Hearing Services
- Law Office of Jack Bolling, P.C.
- Medical Diagnostics
- Medilodge Group
- MetLife Bank
- Midwest Financial Consultants, Inc.
- National Multiple Sclerosis Society
- Michigan Chapter, Inc.
- Oakland Community College
- Oakland Hills Memorial Gardens
- Observer & Eccentric Newspapers
- Optimum Hearing
- Oreck
- Planned Home Improvement
- Saturn of Farmington Hills
- Senior Helpers
- Senior Village Management
- Smooth Jazz v98.7
- Stevens Van Lines, Inc.
- The Gem Theatre
- Trinity Senior Living Communities
- University of Michigan
- Livonia Vein Center
- Waldonwood

Oakland Community College

ENTRANCE

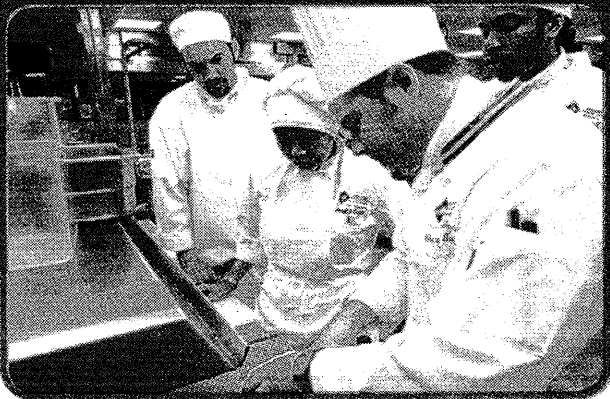


Observer & Eccentric
Newspapers

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HEALTH & LIVING EXPO

College • Orchard Ridge Campus • Building H – Physical Education • 9:00 am – 2:00 pm



All activities held at OCC's Orchard Ridge Campus, Building H

Law Office of Jack Bolling, P.C.

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Smooth Jazz v98.7

15

Fluke Hearing

22

HealthQuest's Back & Neck Solution Centers

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Heartland Health Care Center

45

Stevens Van Lines, Inc.

7

Fox Run

14

Ameriprise Financial

21

Medical Diagnostics

28

Detroit Media Partnership

35

National Multiple Sclerosis Society Michigan Chapter, Inc.

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Garan Lucow Miller, P.C.

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Medilodge Group

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Denopt Inc

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Optimum Hearing

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MetLife Bank

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Planned Home Improvement

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Botsford Hospital

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Midwest Financial Consultants, Inc.

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Oakland Hills Memorial Gardens

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Senior Helpers

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Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan

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920 On The Park
8330 On the River

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The Gem Theatre

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Waldenwood

11

Hug Center for Hearing

18

Trinity Senior Living Communities

25

Humana Market Point

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Brookdale Senior Living

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Abbey Park at Mill River

3

Bergman Porretta Eye Center

10

Saturn of Farmington Hills

17

American House Senior Living Residences

24

Huron Clinton Metropolitan Authority

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Chelsea Retirement Community

36

Senior Village Management

2

Senior Village Management

9

HearUSA

16

AM 580 - Motor City Favorites

23

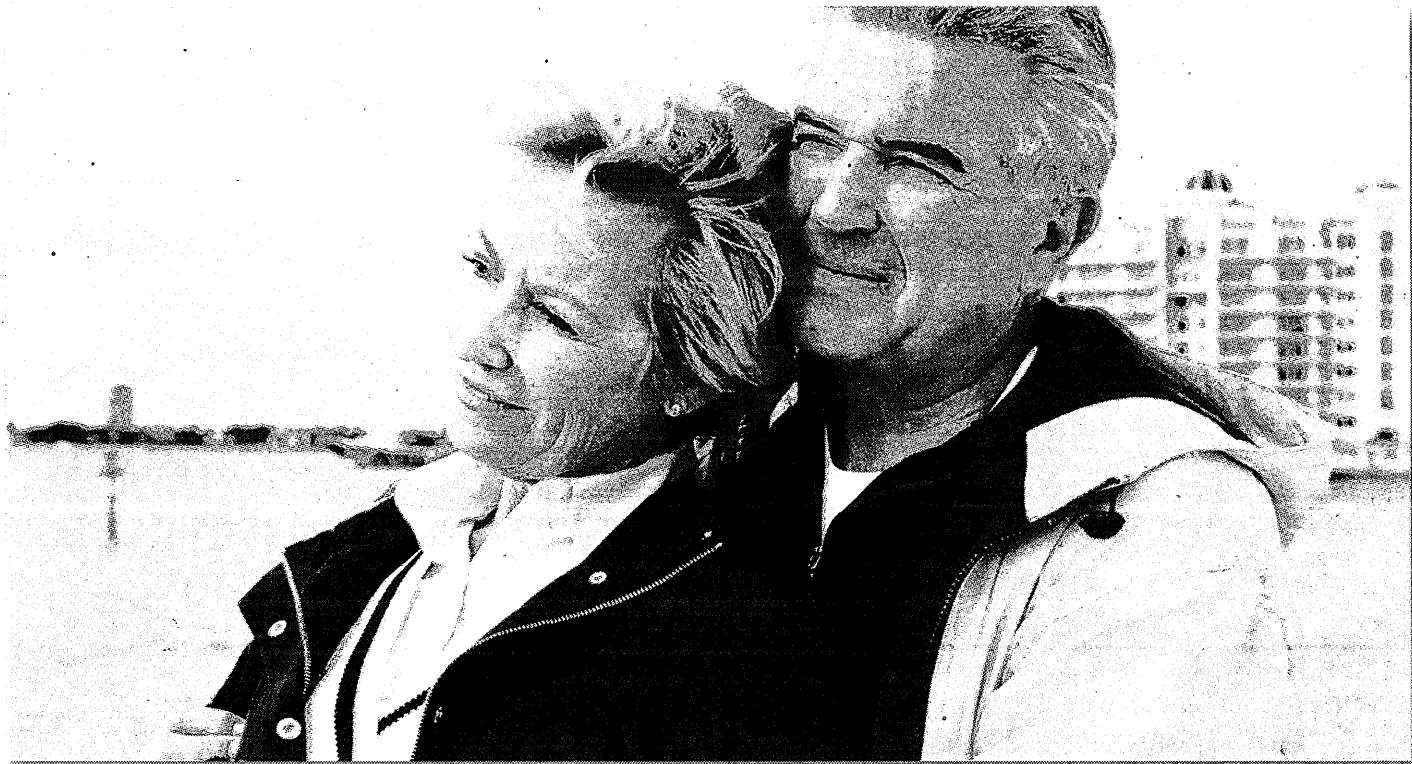
Oreck
43

Bath Filter of Livonia
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Innovative Hearing Services
41

University of Michigan Livonia Vain Center
30

Senior Health & Living Fall Expo



Bargains for travelers over 50

Empty nesters, retirees and busy baby boomers can all take advantage of travel deals to plan a great getaway. If you're over age 50, there's a bargain for you.

National Parks

The America the Beautiful — National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass — Senior Pass. For \$10, U.S. citizens or permanent residents age 62 or over can get a lifetime pass to any federal recreation site, which admits the pass holder and all car passengers in for free. It also provides a 50 percent discount on some fees charged for facilities and services such as camping, swimming and boating. The pass can only be obtained in person at the park. Visit www.nps.gov for more details.

Educational Tours

Don't let the name fool you — Elderhostel offers nearly 8000 educational tours in all 50 states and in 90 countries around the world. Their Web site, www.elderhostel.org, showcases many tours under \$600 including:

- A three-night Napa Valley winery trip
- A five-night service trip in Maryland to help build a Heifer Global Village
- A one-night Dine Like a Critic experience in Cambridge, MA
- A three-day digital photography class in Raquette Lake, New York



Cruises

There are cruise deals aplenty these days. Talking with a travel agent and searching online can turn up some significant savings. If you are interested in a specialty cruise for seniors only, visit www.cruisecompete.com, a cost comparison site. Searching under the seniors category will list offerings from various cruise lines and lets you compare features and pricing. Cruises for the end of 2009 and well into 2010 are listed.

Active Vacations

If sitting around the pool is too tame for you, look into the many active vacations available. The travel site www.away.com lists the Top 10 Active Baby Boomer Vacations. Affordable options include biking in Vermont, birding in Alaska, trekking the Appalachian Trail in Maine, horseback riding in Wyoming, hiking in Colorado.

There is also Passport in Time, a volunteer

archaeology and historic preservation program of the USDA Forest Service. Work with professional archaeologists and historians on archaeological survey and excavation, rock art restoration, archival research, historic structure restoration, oral history gathering, and analysis and curation of artifacts. You must submit an application, be chosen, and be ready to pitch a tent or pay for accommodations nearby. Find out more at www.passportintime.com.

General Money-Saving Tips

- Joining AARP nets discounts on hotels, rental cars, vacation packages and more. At www.aarp.org, they also have a Trend Tracker that lets you evaluate the least expensive hotel and flight prices for the time of year you want to travel.
- Combining air fare, hotel and rental car costs under a package deal can often save quite a bit of money. Do some homework, however, and compare the package price with the total cost of booking each element separately to make sure you're getting the best deal.
- Sign up for promotional emails from several hotel, airline and travel sites, such as www.expedia.com, www.orbitz.com and www.travelocity.com. You'll receive alerts on special promotions and fare reductions. Sites such as www.transitionsabroad.com have helpful travel tips and resources that can save you time and money.

— *Courtesy of Family Features*

For more than 30 years, people have trusted their hearing to Audiologist Roz Leiser.

If you, or a loved one, are experiencing problems or changes in your hearing, do what your neighbors have been doing for years. Pay a visit to Roz Leiser, a certified Audiologist with almost 30 years of professional experience.



For the past 15 years, Roz and her staff have been providing Audiology and hearing care services to your friends and neighbors at her Oakland Audiology practice in Waterford. This past Spring, Roz opened a second convenient location, Optimum Hearing Care in Novi, to make her services more accessible as the demand for professional hearing services increases.

Oakland Audiology and Optimum Hearing Care provide comprehensive hearing testing for all ages; the latest advances in hearing aid technology; hearing counseling and education; hearing protection; assistive listening devices and much more.

“Our ability to hear and communicate is essential to our quality of life,” says Roz. “Our goal has always been to provide our patients with the best possible hearing care, based on their individual needs. We hope you will visit us soon so we can show you the many hearing resources that are available today.”



Roz Leiser cuts the ribbon at the grand opening of Optimum Hearing Care in Novi this year – joined by friends and representatives from the Novi Chamber of Commerce and the City of Novi.

Asking Roz about your hearing is as easy as 1-2-3:

1.

Visit Us at These Events:

Novi Senior Health Fair

Thursday, October 15th • 8 am to 1 pm
Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. 10 Mile Road

and The Senior Health & Living Expo

Friday, October 16th • 9 am to 2 pm

2.

Celebrate With Us:

Oakland Audiology 15th Anniversary Open House • October 20, 21 & 22

and Optimum Hearing Care Open House • October 20 & 22

3.

Call us today at either of our two convenient locations



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Oakland Audiology

248-673-8000

4202 Pontiac Lake Road in Waterford
www.oaklandaudiology.com



Optimum Hearing Care

248-305-3355

44150 West Twelve Mile Road in Novi
Located Across from Dick's Sporting Goods
www.optimumhearingcare.com

OE08674267



The Importance of Senior Fitness

According to the National Institutes of Health (NIH), exercise and physical activity are some of the best things older adults can do to stay healthy. Even moderate exercise can improve the health of those who are frail or who have age-related diseases.

Some seniors are concerned that physical activity or exercise may be too strenuous or may do them more harm than good. In fact, it's an inactive lifestyle that proves to do more harm than exercise does.

Without physical activity, older people tend to grow weaker in four areas important for staying healthy and independent: strength, balance, flexibility, and endurance. The NIH maintains that:

- Increasing strength and endurance make it easier to climb stairs and carry groceries.
- Improving balance helps prevent falls.
- Being more flexible may speed recovery from injuries.

Exercising regularly can also have a positive impact on the immune system, blood

pressure, cardiovascular system and it can decrease the risk of heart disease and help with depression or anxiety.

The American Senior Fitness Association has some recommendations for those wanting to start a fitness program.

- Get medical clearance to exercise.
- Don't exercise if you are injured, sick, or running a temperature.
- Always warm up and always cool down.
- Drink plenty of water before, during and after exercise.
- Avoid heavy meals for about two hours before energetic exercise.
- If fatigue and/or discomfort last longer than one or two hours after exercising, cut back the next day but don't stop completely. Comfort ranges can change daily, so don't get discouraged if you can't do the same amount of exercise as you did the day before.
- Concentrate on exercises that improve and maintain your range of motion, lubricate the joints and keep muscles flexible. Everyday activities will be easier to carry out and you'll have less pain, too.

Stop exercise and consult your physician immediately if you experience any of the following:

- chest pain or tightness in the chest, neck or throat
- considerable difficulty breathing
- abnormal heart rhythm; nausea, dizziness, light headedness, or visual interruption
- excessive cold sweat
- extreme or lasting weakness or fatigue

For a good, overall exercise program, consider tai chi. Tai chi is a self-paced system of gentle physical exercise. It involves standing and performing a series of movements in a slow, graceful way. Each movement smoothly flows into the next. Studies suggest that tai chi may improve balance and knee joint stability, both of which help balance.

Staying active does the body and the mind a world of good. Find exercise and activities that you enjoy and you'll be able to stick with it and improve your quality of life.

— *Courtesy of Family Features*

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Senior Health & Living Fall Expo

Meet and Greet with Rita McKenzie



Rita McKenzie, star of Ethel Merman's Broadway, will be available to meet guests at the Senior Health & Living Fall Expo from noon to 12:45 p.m. The Gem Theatre will be giving away tickets at their booth!

From www.gemtheatre.com:

In the Golden Age of Broadway, Ethel Merman was the Queen of Broadway. She sang all the great songs, played all the great plays and knew all the great personalities. Ethel Merman's Broadway recreates a theatrical era filled with charm, wit, personality and most of all, wonderful music.

About Rita McKenzie

RITA McKENZIE (Ethel Merman) began her internationally acclaimed portrayal of Ethel Merman Off-Broadway at the John Houseman Theater in New York City and later performed at Carnegie Hall. The response was overwhelming, and McKenzie took her act to the Pasadena Playhouse in California; Harrah's Casino Hotel in Atlantic City, New Jersey; and on an eight-city tour in Japan. McKenzie recently completed

the national tour of Neil Simon's female version of The Odd Couple, in which she co-starred with her good friend Barbara Eden. McKenzie received a National Broadway Theatre nomination for "Best Actress in a Touring Play" for her portrayal of Olive Madison. McKenzie and Eden previously completed a successful tour of Gentlemen Prefer Blondes. She recently toured with Renee Taylor and Joe Bologna in Bermuda Avenue Triangle. McKenzie starred in the Los Angeles premiere of the Off-Broadway musical Ruthless! and can be heard on the original cast recording. She also toured as Annie Oakley in the 50th anniversary of Annie Get Your Gun with Glenn Yarbrough. McKenzie created the role of

Phoebe Farber in Sam Harris's Broadway bound Hurry! Hurry! Hollywood! in Los Angeles and portrayed Maggie Jones in 42nd Street with Mariette Hartley. Her other starring roles include Reno Sweeney in Anything Goes, Aldonza in Man of La Mancha, Ruth in The Pirates of Penzance, Belle Poitrine in Little Me, Domina in A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum, Cleo in The Most Happy Fella, Widow Corney in Oliver!, Nurse Custer in Whoopee!, and Rose in Gypsy. McKenzie has had the privilege of opening for Steve Allen, Don Knotts, and Norm Crosby. She has been a Pops guest with every major symphony across the country. For television and film, McKenzie played Alice on The Brady Bunch: The Final Days; guest-



starred on Caroline in the City; Mrs. Littlejohn on Frasier, Rita Marcus on Big Brother Jake, and her recurring role on Daddy Dearest starring Richard Lewis and Don Rickles. She co-starred in the feature film I Might Even Love You and was featured in Rodney Dangerfield's film Meet Wally Sparks. Ms. McKenzie's new venture Radio Bupkis is now playing on BlogTalkRadio.com every Thursday at 2 p.m. Join the clan of Meany, Miney, and Moe as they stumble through life blissfully Bupkis. Nothing Is Better!

Ethel Merman's Broadway is now playing through Nov. 22 at the historic Gem Theater in downtown Detroit.

Call 313-963-9800 or visit www.gemtheatre.com for more information.

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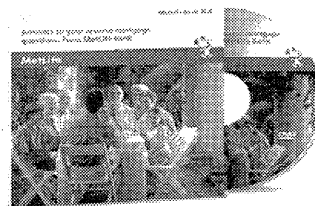
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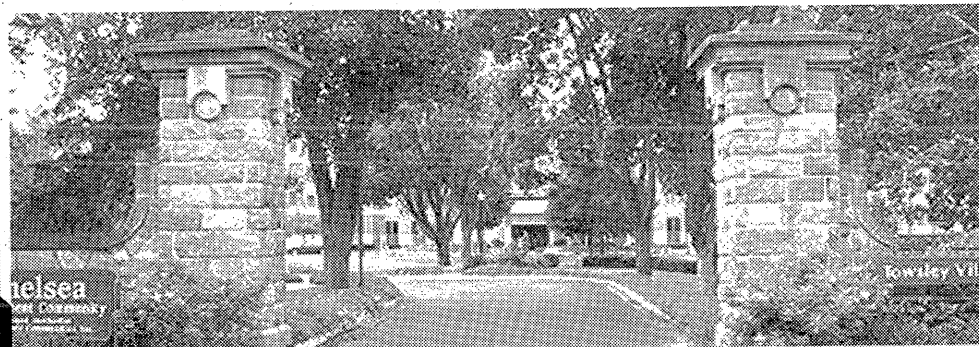
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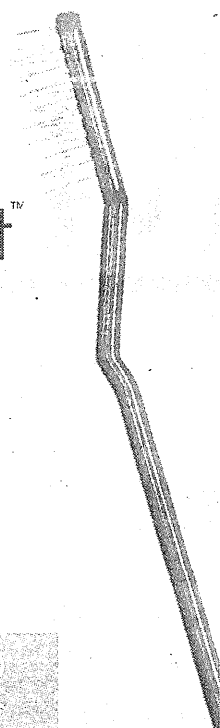
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Medicare open enrollment: time to make sure you're in the right plan

Of the more than 45 million people relying on Medicare for health care coverage, many may be paying for a plan that doesn't meet their needs or is too expensive. However, Medicare annual enrollment, which starts Nov. 15 and ends Dec. 31, offers anyone with Medicare the opportunity to switch plans so that they're getting the most from their coverage.

"Many people don't understand they have a wide variety of choices when it comes to Medicare coverage and too few review their needs before re-enrolling each year," says Paul Gada, personal financial planning director for Allsup Medicare Advisor, an objective plan selection service that helps people understand and choose the most appropriate Medicare plan for their health care needs.

Individuals need to consider the following questions to evaluate whether they should switch plans before the enrollment deadline:

1. Will traditional Medicare or Medicare Advantage work best for me?

If you visit the doctor often and take prescription drugs, a Medicare Advantage plan may best fit your needs. If you only require routine medical visits and few prescriptions, traditional Medicare with a prescription drug plan may work best. From year to



year, your answer to this question may change since your needs are likely to change.

2. Do I need a supplemental plan?

Medicare supplemental insurance can help pay costs not covered under traditional Medicare. However, not everyone needs this coverage, including those who are eligible for Medicaid, have employer-provided group health insurance or have a Medicare Advantage plan.

3. Should I use Medicare instead of my private health coverage?

If you have coverage through a former or current employer, speak to the plan administrator before making changes. Consider comparing your private plan to your Medicare options, especially if your private plan is limited or the cost has increased significantly.

4. Can I keep my doctors?

The majority of health care providers (doctors, hospitals, physical therapists, etc.) accept traditional Medicare. Medicare Advantage plans offer broad access, but this doesn't mean all doctors participate. Before joining a plan, determine if your doctor accepts it.

5. Does the plan cover prescription drugs?

Traditional Medicare doesn't generally cover medications unless they're administered in the

doctor's office or hospital. You have to enroll, usually at an additional cost, in a Part D plan for this coverage. Medicare Advantage plans, however, can offer prescription drug coverage.

6. Are my drugs covered?

Each prescription drug plan has a list of drugs (formulary) that it covers. Drugs covered by a plan can change, so you need to review this list each year.

7. Are my prescriptions expensive enough that I could fall into the Medicare "donut hole?"

Medicare Advantage plans with prescription drug coverage and stand-alone Part D plans may have a coverage gap, sometimes known as the "donut hole." This means once you have paid your deductibles and the plan has paid its coverage — you'll have to pay the full cost until it reaches a certain dollar level. In 2009, this dollar amount was \$3,453.75. Only after this out-of-pocket amount is paid does Medicare begin covering costs again.

8. How much will I have to pay?

Traditional Medicare may be inexpensive, but it comes with high deductibles. Medicare Advantage plans may have similar or higher monthly premiums, but offer a zero-dollar deductible and low co-pays; some also cap total out-of-pocket costs.



9. Will the plan cover additional services?

Some Medicare Advantage plans cover dental, vision and health and wellness programs not available through traditional Medicare.

10. Will I be covered while traveling?

Traditional Medicare provides coverage nationwide. Some Medicare Advantage plans restrict coverage to certain areas, but many offer out-of-network coverage for emergency care.

Reviewing your needs every year — especially with the experienced help of an independent Medicare plan selection service like Allsup Medicare Advisor — before annual enrollment is crucial to ensure coverage, Gada says.

"Medicare is like any other type of insurance; you don't want to be under-insured. But you also don't want to pay for things you don't need," Gada says.

For more information, Allsup offers a free screening to help determine eligibility for Allsup Medicare Advisor at ama.allsup.com.

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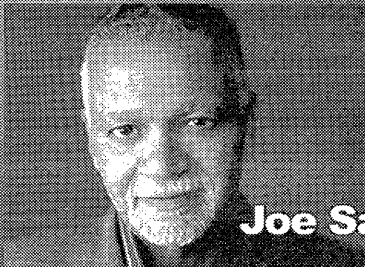
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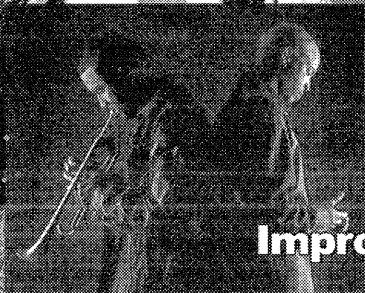
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The ABC's of baby boomer retirement planning

If you are one of America's 78.2 million baby boomers, you are likely considering what ideal retirement will look like, and the steps required to achieve it. With the current economic downturn, many boomers are finding it necessary to revisit their initial retirement goals.

According to the Social Security Administration, today's retirees count on corporate pensions and Social Security for 56 percent of their retirement income. With a few minor adjustments, some careful planning and a positive attitude, the other 44 percent is attainable.

"It's never too late to start planning for retirement and it's crucial that life insurance is considered as the foundation of your plan," says Vikki Pryor, president and CEO at SBLI USA Mutual Life Insurance Company, Inc. "Determine your needs by deciding how much money surviving family or loved ones will need to maintain their standard of living if you are no longer around to protect them. Women need to pay particular attention to their retirement planning options." To learn more about the educational tools and insurance products designed with baby boomers in mind visit www.sbliusa.com.

Consider the following ABC's of retirement planning:

A: assess your financial plan and budget.

- Begin to assess your basic retirement income sources such as a 401(k) plan, IRA, and life insurance plans.

- How much will you need to retire? Determine this by creating a budget that will enable you to pay your monthly expenses such as food, heat, rent and transportation. Consider expenses that may increase such as health insurance and prescription medicines. At the same time, consider those that may decrease, such as work-related and educational spending.

- Health care coverage is necessary in supplementing your financial foundation and these costs can add up fast. It's important to have an adequate plan both before and after retirement. After age 65 you are

eligible for Medicare coverage. But what if you want to retire before then? Your employer may offer a plan for retiring employees, or you may have to look into private coverage, so be sure to consider this.

- Take into account variable expenses such as tax liabilities on your home, illness or the care of elderly parents. Other, often underestimated, variables include gifts, clothing, recreational expenses, and increases in costs of living. For valuable retirement planning resources and projected trends in costs of living visit www.usa.gov.

B: begin to explore other retirement income options.

- Determine the amount of guaranteed retirement income you already have. Examples of these are cash savings, corporate pension plans, home equity, or annuity-type investments.

- Are you married? If so, how will that affect your retirement budget?

- Pay attention to how your retirement funds are earning money. Are they structured for maximum returns? It's crucial that you continually assess these funds.

- Decide when to begin Social Security benefits. According to AARP, for each year you put off collecting your benefits between ages 62 and 70, you increase your payments by 8 percent.

- Calculate your potential monthly retirement budget based on your estimated income weighed against your expenses. At minimum, you need enough retirement income to cover basic living expenses for your lifetime.

- If your initial assessment requires additional income, consider part-time work during retirement, or perhaps selling your larger home for a more comfortable, carefree condo.



C: consider life insurance - the foundation of a solid retirement plan.

- If you don't have a life insurance policy, get one. Life insurance not only helps to leave a legacy for generations to come, it will protect your loved ones and help provide them with financial security once you're gone.

- Consult an expert in order to find the right life insurance for you. For example, BoomerLife by SBLI USA lets you apply for up to \$25,000 of whole life insurance with no hassle. Acceptance is guaranteed for anyone ages 50 to 75. Selected benefits remain fixed for life and the premium you pay will not go up. Additionally, the policy builds cash value that grows each year tax-deferred. For a free, no-obligation quote call 866-331-3078, or visit www.sbliusa.com.

Start planning your retirement today. With a little strategy and the right attitude, you can build the financial security you need to live a successful, happy retirement.

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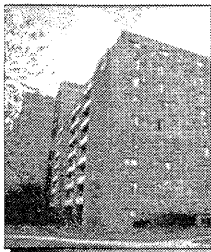
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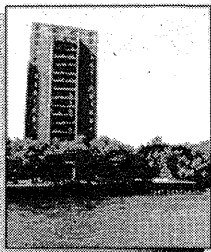
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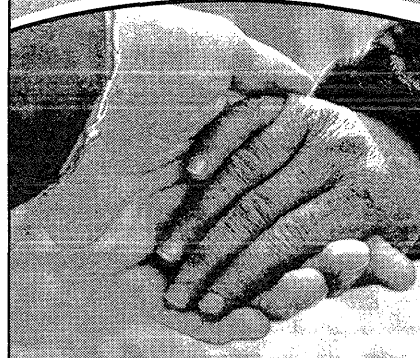
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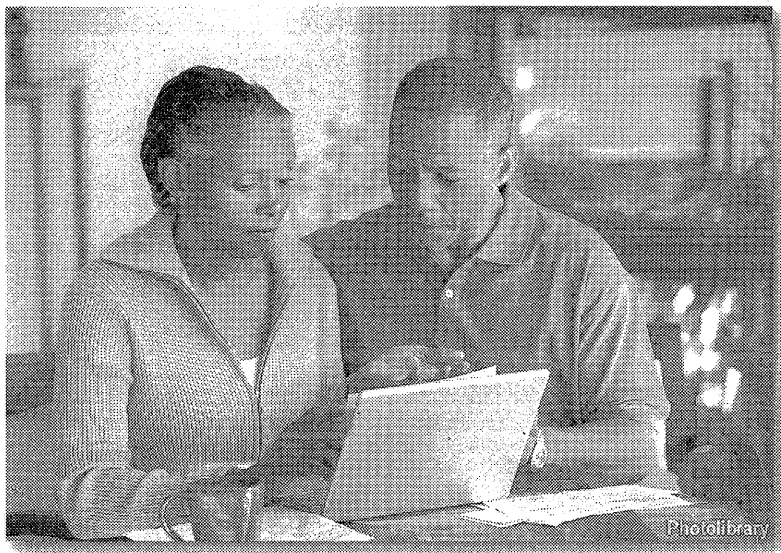
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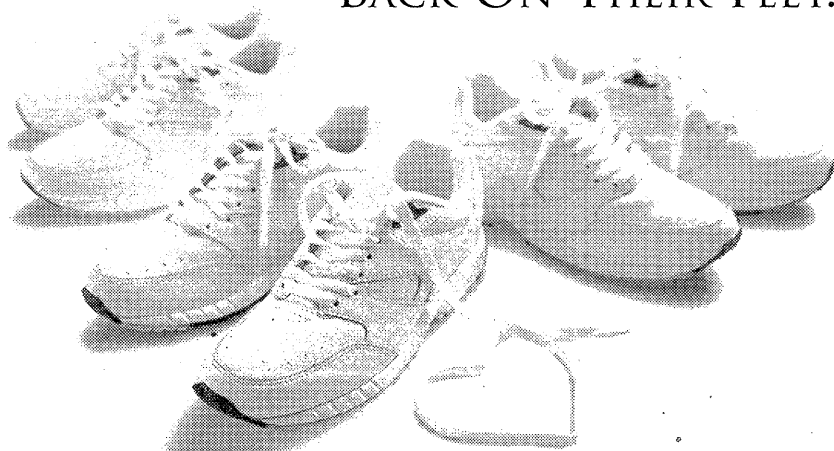
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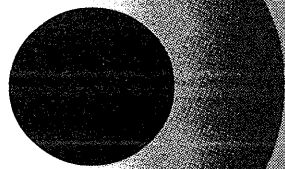


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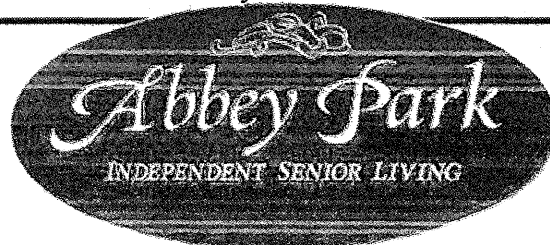
Services You Should Expect	Abbey Park	Other Communities	Services You Should Expect	Abbey Park	Other Communities
We make your bed	Daily	Once a week-if at all	Comprehensive Activity Program, Scheduled Chauffered Transportation, 24 hour staffing and a full facility generator	Always	Not Available in every community
We remove your trash	Daily	Once a week-if at all			
Two delicious meals	Daily	For an additional fee	Medicare certified services, physical therapy and podiatry available within the community	Always	Not Available in every community
Wash your bed linens and towels	Weekly	For an additional fee			
Full cleaning service	Weekly	For an additional fee	Weekly entertainment, complimentary Happy Hour, free ice cream socials	Always	Not Available in every community
Warm and fuzzy staff	Always	Every once in a while			
Unlimited access to fitness center, theater with free movies and popcorn	Always	For an additional fee	Affordable Prices	Always	Once a year - special rates



*Abbey Park - live a life of luxury at our extremely affordable rates.
For more information call...*

Grand Blanc

at Genesys Health Park
3221 E. Baldwin Rd.
Grand Blanc, MI
(810) 606-1110



www.abbeypark.com

Lyon Township

across from Coyote Golf club
28413 Abbey Lane
New Hudson, MI
(248) 437-6550

