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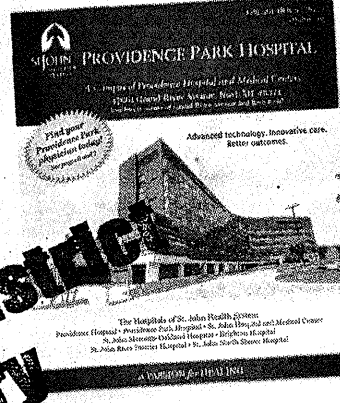
The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

Volume 124  
Number 35

75 CENTS

# PLYMOUTH OBSERVER

THURSDAY December 17, 2009 . online at [hometownlife.com](http://hometownlife.com)



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## PLYMOUTH PIPELINE

### Santa's house

Youngsters still hoping to visit Santa in his downtown Plymouth house get one last chance this weekend.

Santa will be on hand to visit with children at his house, located on the outskirts of Kellogg Park along Main Street in downtown Plymouth Friday from 5:30 to 8 p.m., and then again Saturday and Sunday from noon to 5 p.m.



Santa will visit with children at his house outside Kellogg Park for a final time this weekend.

Santa's House is sponsored by DMC Family Care Associates and First Choice Urgent Care. The Chamber of Commerce hosts Santa's House and the Walk of Trees in Kellogg Park.

### Folk music

The BaseLine Folk Society hosts traditional folk music performed live at its new home, the Joanne Winkelman Center for the Performing Arts, 774 N. Sheldon in Plymouth, 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 19.

Featured performers include Rise Again: AKA; the BaseLine House Band.

Admission is \$5. BaseLine Folk Society offers annual memberships, both for individuals and families. With an Individual Membership, you will have free admission to monthly open mics, instead of the \$5 admission charge. Cost is \$25 per season. With the Family Membership, you AND your immediate family (spouse and children of all ages) will have free admission. Cost is \$50 per season. Memberships will be available at the door.

### Kiwanis nuts

Kiwanis Club of Colonial Plymouth supports the agencies and organizations that provide assistance to many people in need as well as helping folks directly. To be able to fund these various projects, the club has many fund-raising activities. One of them is the Annual Gourmet Nut Fund-raiser being held now.

The gourmet nuts can be purchased by the can at Papa Romano's, 555 W. Ann Arbor Rd, Plymouth, (734) 459-2930, or by the case or pallet at Fitness Things, 1160 W. Ann Arbor Rd., Plymouth, (734) 455-8790. Many other Plymouth businesses will also have the Kiwanis Gourmet Nuts available for purchase at their location.

Businesses interested in participating, or anyone who needs more information, can contact Gary Walley, (734) 455-8790.



PHOTOS BY JOHNATHON FIDLER

Hundreds of people gathered in downtown Plymouth Sunday for the annual candlelight vigil of The Compassionate Friends of Wayne County-Livonia chapter.

## Keeping memories alive

### Candlelight vigil honors children gone too soon

BY BRAD KADRICH  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

When Sandy Lucas of Canton lost her daughter to a sudden heart ailment in August 2008, she lost not only her daughter, but her best friend.

Lucas, who owns Lucas Nursery in Canton, was in Plymouth's Kellogg Park Sunday night with other mothers, fathers, friends and relatives who've lost their daughters, sons, best friends, all gathered to hear their child's name one more time.

Lucas and hundreds of others dodged the raindrops for the annual candlelight vigil sponsored by The Compassionate Friends, Western Wayne County (Livonia) Chapter, in conjunction with Children's Memorial Day.

"We tell (Nancy) we miss her, tell her we love her," said Sandy Lucas, who attended the ceremony with Nancy's brother, Bob. "It just makes you feel closer."

Lucas said she found out about the Compassionate Friends' ceremony from a customer. Missing Nancy, and watching the 3-year-old son, Conner, she left behind, gave Lucas a reason to attend.

"Conner was her whole life,

Please see **VIGIL, A4**



Gail Lafferty and Pat O'Donnell of the Compassionate Friends Livonia chapter read some 570 names during the group's annual candlelight vigil to honor children who died too soon.

## Township to staff: Concessions or layoffs in 2010

BY MATT JACHMAN  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Saying they want to spread the pain of a tight budget in order to avoid further job cuts, Plymouth Township officials Tuesday said they need about \$1 million in concessions from three employee unions.

"We're just going to have to work harder and get paid less," Treasurer Ron Edwards said in introducing a 2010 general-fund budget of just over \$13.25 million at Tuesday's Board of Trustees meeting.

The "only other option is to lay off people," Edwards said.

With revenue from the state and interest income down, and reduced tax collections linked to a decline in property values, officials have been working for more than three months to close a gap in next year's budget. The revenue situation has deteriorated even further during the process, and the outlook for 2011 is gloomier, as officials are anticipating a 13.5-percent drop in residential property values and a 20-percent drop in commercial and industrial property values, Edwards said.

"If we don't keep on this, it's going to get away from us," he said.

"We're cutting to the bone," Supervisor Richard Reaume said.

Edwards said the township is "very close" to getting about \$300,000 in concessions from the civilian division of the Police Officers Association of Michigan, which represents about 25 employees, most of them clerical workers. Those concessions were built into the budget unanimously passed by the board.

But Edwards said the new budget hinges on another \$400,000 to \$450,000 in concessions from the two unions that represent about 30 police officers and command officers, and another \$300,000 in concessions from the International Association of Fire Fighters local, which represents 24 Plymouth Community Fire Department firefighters.

"We need to get some sort of concessions in order to get through this crisis," Edwards said. Otherwise, he said, three firefighters will be laid off and the police department will also face cuts, which he said he couldn't detail because they hadn't been shared with the police unions.

Fire Lt. Rick Tefend, president of the firefighters union, said his union is willing to talk concessions.

"I'm confident we can trim the budget without laying off the guys," he said Wednesday. Tefend said the township and his union met for the first time on possible concessions just last week, and that talk of layoffs is premature.

"We understand it's hard economic times, we understand the revenue sharing is down, but we don't feel that layoffs in the fire service are going to be good for the citizens," Tefend said.

Tefend renewed his call that the township have his department transport more patients to hospitals during emergency medical runs. He has said that by becoming the primary transporter on medical runs, his department could bring in \$750,000 or more a year, but township

Please see **TOWNSHIP, A2**

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## Township officials spar over pay cuts, Cox opinion

BY MATT JACHMAN  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Most of Plymouth Township's elected officials Tuesday agreed to continue voluntary pay reductions through 2010, even as they discussed an opinion from Michigan Attorney General Mike Cox that said they hadn't followed the correct process for making such cuts.

"Who's going to get prosecuted? Somebody's going to give up money?" said Treasurer Ron Edwards, who, along with Supervisor Richard Reaume, a year ago turned down 5-percent raises for 2009 that had been approved by the township's local officers compensation commission.

Reaume and Edwards renewed that refusal for 2010



Bridgman

and Michael Kelly — renewed their pay cuts of 10 percent of their \$11,400 yearly salary. Reaume's pay, about \$94,000, and Edwards', about \$87,000, will stay at 2008 levels.

But Clerk Joe Bridgman, who sought the opinion from Cox, resisted calls to cut his pay, saying he would give up the \$3,900 a year he receives for opting out of the township's health insurance.

"You want some cost savings, there's some cost savings,"

during Tuesday's Board of Trustees meeting, and the four part-time board members — trustees Steve Mann, Kay Arnold, Robert Doroshewitz

and Michael Kelly — renewed their pay cuts of 10 percent of their \$11,400 yearly salary. Reaume's pay, about \$94,000, and Edwards', about \$87,000, will stay at 2008 levels.

In the opinion issued Dec. 1, Cox said a voluntary pay cut for an elected township official must not only be agreed to in writing, but must be accompanied by a proportional decrease in job duties. Cox said officials who had taken the cuts could be reimbursed, minus applicable deductions, and then write a check back to the township.

"This is kind of government at

Please see **OPINION, A2**

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# Flood crimps IKEA's style

BY BRAD KADRICH  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Kelly Blair and her mother, Sherry, stood on the doorstep at the IKEA store in Canton, staring at the big yellow sign in disbelief.

The sign was announcing the unexpected closing of the store — which turned out to be caused by a ruptured fire suppression sprinkler that dumped thousands of gallons of water into the store's main showroom — and suggested shoppers could still access IKEA goods online.

The Blairs, who traveled from the Benton Harbor area specifically to complete their Christmas shopping, weren't interested in the retailer's Web site.

"We came just for IKEA," said Kelly Blair, who said the drive took more than two hours. "It was a big part of our Christmas shopping. This is crazy, I'm pretty upset."

She wasn't the only one. Store manager Kelly Frieze couldn't say exactly how many shoppers tour IKEA each day, but put the number "in the thousands," all of whom were turned away Tuesday and weren't likely to get back in until the weekend. That's because the sprinkler



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Barbara Hill and Jeanette Poulous head back to their cars after finding IKEA closed. Hill, a resident of Royal Oak, works in Livonia and likes to walk at IKEA while on her lunch break. Poulous lives in Plymouth.

head ruptured around 2:30 a.m. Tuesday, flooding the main showroom and forcing the popular retailer to close its doors. Frieze said store officials were notified by their alarm monitoring system.

Frieze estimated "thousands of gallons" of water spilled into the main showroom, causing significant damage to inventory and display items there.

The store's warehouse, Frieze said, was undamaged.

Frieze wouldn't estimate how much monetary damage was done, pointing out he was awaiting the arrival of an insurance assessment team. He said the store would remain closed until that assessment — along with an inventory of display items and inventory items that needed

replacing — could be done.

Frieze said the store would almost certainly be closed Wednesday, and said he was "hopeful" the retailer could reopen by the weekend. The flood comes at a bad time, just 10 days before Christmas.

"There's never a good time, but this is certainly inopportune," said Frieze, who noted he'd been dealing with unhappy customers all day. "People drive from all over to visit us. We service the local community, certainly, but we're also a regional destination. We understand it's frustrating."

It certainly frustrated Bridget Nicklas, who made the 90-minute trip from Metamora looking for a bed for her daughter. She checked IKEA's Web site before embarking, and there was no mention of the closure; instead, according to Frieze, the retailer opted for a media alert as "the quickest way to get the word out."

"My husband took the day off, we planned the whole day," said Nicklas. "I understand it's beyond their control, but it's really frustrating."

Frieze said customers could find updates on the situation at the store's Web site, [www.ikea.com](http://www.ikea.com).

## OPINION

FROM PAGE A1

its silliest," said Doroshewitz, who joked that if he had to decrease his job responsibilities, he'd tune out 10 percent of the time at board meetings.

"We don't shop opinions here, we rely on our attorneys," Edwards told Bridgman, adding that during difficult economic times elected officials can't ask employees for sacrifices they're not willing to make themselves.

Bridgman, who sought the opinion through the office of Sen. Bruce Patterson, R-Canton Township, defended his action.

"I felt that politically, I was being beat up on, basically, on this issue," Bridgman said. "I wanted to make sure that I was making the right decision."

Mann, an attorney, said Cox's opinion is not binding. "These times are dire and we need to give back," Mann said.

On Wednesday, Bridgman said he didn't succumb to peer pressure because he wanted to adhere to Cox's opinion.

"The only way that a charter township elected official is able to take a pay reduction legally is by consenting in writing, and (having) their responsibilities and requirements of the position diminished, and that also has to be in writing," he said. "I don't see the responsibilities or the requirements of my job diminishing."

But, Bridgman acknowledged, "Politically, I'm taking a hit."

Bridgman said he also has made a sacrifice by not seeking reimbursement for some on-the-job expenses. Asked how he could surrender the \$3,900 insurance opt-out payment given Cox's opinion, he said the opinion relates to salary, not total compensation, and that the \$3,900 is part of the latter.

The decisions by Reaume and Edwards a year ago to forgo their 2009 raises was followed by voluntary 10-percent pay cuts from Mann, Arnold and Doroshewitz. Kelly agreed to the 10-percent cut late last summer, making it retroactive to the beginning of the year.

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

## TOWNSHIP

FROM PAGE A1

officials question those numbers and say the added costs could outweigh the revenues. The nonprofit Huron Valley Ambulance now does most hospital transports.

Sgt. Steve Rapson, president of the Plymouth Township Command Officers Association union, on Wednesday said the township and his union are in negotiations, but said he couldn't detail what concessions might be reached.

Edwards said he and Reaume would accept concessions of their own proportional to what police officers and firefighters accept, and that township department heads, who are not unionized,

are also getting 7-percent pay cuts.

In addition, the new budget calls for the layoff of two currently part-time township hall employees, and does not replace a recently retired firefighter or a recently retired Parks and Recreation Department foreman.

Reaume went through a list of just over \$1 million in budget cuts the township made in recent months.

"The belt-tightening in this township started 18 months ago," Reaume said. "Unfortunately, times have just gotten worse in the state."

Officials from the Plymouth Township Police Officers Association could not be reached for comment Wednesday.

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

**Blue Christmas Service**

St. John's Episcopal Church, located at 574 S. Sheldon in Plymouth, offers a Blue Christmas service 7 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 20.

The Blue Christmas service is specifically designed for people who, for whatever reason, are not in the holiday spirit. This could include people who are dealing with the loss of a loved one, a job loss, troubled relationships or any number of situations that make it difficult to enjoy a more festive church celebration.

The service will include Taize music, Holy Eucharist and a service of candle lighting.

For additional information, call (734) 453-0190 or check the church Web site, www.stjohnsplymouth.org

**Saturdays @ the Penn**

The Plymouth Community Arts Council hosts its next Saturdays @ the Penn performance

Jan. 2 at the Penn Theater in downtown Plymouth.

Special musical host and performer is Beverly Meyer, The Music Lady. Special guest performer is juggler Joel Tacey, with BIG laughs and BIG fun. Announcer is Tamara Trudelle.

Tickets are \$4 and may be purchased the day of the show. Doors open at 11:05 a.m. To purchase tickets before the concert or for information for



**The bell tolls**

Kiwanis Club of Plymouth members were out in force last weekend to support the Plymouth Salvation Army's Red Kettle Campaign. Kiwanians rang bells at five Plymouth locations, including Hiller's (Five Mile and Haggerty), Busch's (Sheldon and Five Mile), Kmart (Ann Arbor Road and Haggerty), the U.S. Post Office on Penniman Avenue, and Kroger (Ann Arbor Road and Sheldon). Monies collected during the campaign are used to help families in need with assistance for utility bills, food and clothing.

groups, contact Deb Madonna. (734) 377-0914, e-mail clarion@storytellerdesign.com or Tamara Trudelle, (734) 416-4278, e-mail tamara@plymoutharts.org

**Kiwanis nuts**

Kiwanis Club of Colonial Plymouth supports the agencies and organizations that provide assistance to many people in need as well as helping folks directly. To be able to fund these various projects, the club has many fund-raising activities. One of them is the Annual Gourmet Nut Fund-raiser being held now.

There are 1-pound and 3-pound cans of gourmet nuts for purchase by the can, case and pallet. They are great gifts for family, employees and clients. Please consider the Kiwanis Gourmet Nuts as your gift of choice this year and assist in allowing Kiwanis Club of Colonial Plymouth to continue serving those in need in our community and around the world.

The gourmet nuts can be purchased by the can at Papa Romano's, 555 W. Ann Arbor Rd, Plymouth, (734) 459-2930, or by the case or pallet at Fitness Things, 1160 W.

Ann Arbor Rd., Plymouth, (734) 455-8790. Many other Plymouth businesses will also have the Kiwanis Gourmet Nuts available for purchase at their location.

Businesses interested in participating, or anyone who needs more information, can contact Gary Walley, (734) 455-8790.

**Holiday activities**

Bilingual Fun is offering an interactive bilingual Spanish program for parents looking for fun, educational activities for their children over the holiday break.

Mexican Christmas Traditions and holiday Spanish fun will be taught through music, games, crafts, food, and more Tuesday, Dec. 22, for preschoolers through fifth grade (9:30 a.m. to noon) at Praise Baptist Church in Plymouth.

Bilingual Fun also sponsors a free family event at Caribou Coffee in Plymouth 10 a.m. Dec. 29.

Contact info@bilingualfun.com or call (877) 686-7399 for

more information and registration.

**Entertainment books**

The Beckridge Chorale is selling the 2010 Entertainment Book to support its vocal scholarship program. The book contains hundreds of 2-for-1 and 50-percent discounts at airlines, restaurants, hotels, car rentals, movie rentals, theater and sports events, and much more.

Retail cost is \$35; your cost is \$20. Save money and support the BeckRidge Chorale.

Call (734) 459-6829 to order. Books will be delivered in the Plymouth area upon request.

**Grief seminar**

Harry J. Will Funeral Home sponsors a one day grief seminar, From Grief to New Hope, 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Jan. 9. This workshop will be conducted by John O'Shaughnessy from New Hope Center for Grief Support.

All adults who are learning

to cope after the death of a loved one are encouraged to attend. There is no charge for the seminar which is open to the public and refreshments will be served. Harry J. Will Funeral Home is located at 37000 Six Mile Road in Livonia.

For registration information call New Hope Center for Grief Support at (248) 348-0115 or view our Web site www.newhopecenter.net

**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@cch.net.

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# Fire officials urge safety this holiday season

BY JUDY COMOLETTI

NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION

For most of us, the holidays represent a treasured time of year, and we work hard to make it special for the people we care about most.

We decorate our homes with great thought and detail, and entertain friends and family by hosting parties and cooking elaborate meals and treats. But as we do these things, fire safety is rarely a thought.

It may seem that the holidays and home fires are two completely different topics, but they're not; national statistics show that the holiday season turns sorrowful, and sometimes even fatal for so many households each year as the result of home fires. Cooking, Christmas trees, candles and holiday lights – all key parts of the holiday season – are significant causes of fires that occur this time of year.

While it's quite a somber perspective on the holiday season, the good news is that it doesn't have to be this way. With just one or two minor

changes, often taking a few minutes, or even seconds, of time, the holidays can stay festive and safe for everybody.

It's important for people to take basic but vital fire safety precautions as they plan and prepare for the upcoming holiday season. These simple steps can greatly reduce the risk of fire and its potentially devastating impact on homes and families:

- **Cooking:** NFPA statistics show that unattended cooking is the leading cause of U.S. home fires and home fire injuries. Stay in the kitchen while you're frying, grilling or broiling food. Most cooking fires involve the stovetop, so keep anything that can catch fire away from it, and turn off the stove when you leave the kitchen, even if it's for a short period of time.

- **If you're simmering, boiling, baking or roasting food, check it regularly and use a timer to remind you that you're cooking.** Create a "kid-free zone" of at least three feet around the stove and areas where hot food and drinks are prepared

or carried.

- **Candles:** Candles are widely used throughout the holidays, and December is the peak month for home candle fires. More than half of all candle fires start because the candle was too close to things that could catch fire.

- **Consider using flameless candles,** which look and smell like real candles. However, if you do use traditional candles, keep them at least 12 inches away from anything that can burn, and remember to blow them out when you leave the room or go to bed. Use candle holders that are sturdy, won't tip over and are placed on uncluttered surfaces.

- **Avoid using candles in the bedroom** where two of five U.S. candle fires begin or other areas where people may fall asleep. Lastly, never leave a child alone in a room with a burning candle.

- **Christmas trees:** U.S. fire departments annually respond to 250 structure fires caused by Christmas trees. Nearly half of them are caused by electrical problems, and one

in four resulted from a heat source that's too close to the tree. Here are some guidelines for picking, placing and lighting a tree:

- **If you have an artificial tree,** be sure it's labeled, certified or identified by the manufacturer as fire-retardant.

- **If you choose a fresh tree,** make sure the green needles don't fall off when touched; before placing it in the stand, cut 1-2 inches from the base of the trunk. Add water to the tree stand, and be sure to water it daily.

- **Make sure your tree is at least three feet away from any heat source,** like fireplaces, space heaters, radiators, candles and heat vents or lights.

- **Make sure the tree is not blocking an exit.**

- **Use lights that have the label of an independent testing laboratory,** and make sure you know whether they are designed for indoor or outdoor use.

- **Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords, or loose bulb connections.** Connect no more than three

strands of mini-string sets and a maximum of 50 bulbs for screw-in bulbs.

- **Never use lit candles to decorate the tree.**

- **Always turn off Christmas tree lights before leaving the home or going to bed.**

- **After Christmas, get rid of the tree.** Dried-out trees are a fire hazard and should not be left in the home or garage, or placed outside the home.

- **Think green.** Check to see if your community has a Christmas tree recycling program.

- **Bring outdoor electrical lights inside after the holidays** to prevent hazards and make them last longer.

The holidays are a truly special time of year. Following these fire safety precautions and measures will ensure it remains one. For more tips, advice and information about holiday fire safety, please visit <http://www.nfpa.org/holiday>.

Judy Comoletti is the Division Manager of Public Education for the National Fire Protection Association.

## CRIME WATCH

### Rings stolen from doughnut shop display

Costume jewelry was stolen from the Dunkin' Donuts on Ann Arbor Road east of I-275 on the evening of Dec. 10, the Plymouth Township Police Department said.

A doughnut shop employee told police a woman walked in shortly after 7 p.m., ordered a coffee and doughnuts and asked about the box of 24 rings that were on display. After paying for and receiving her order, the employee said, the woman grabbed the box of rings and ran out of the shop.

### Theft from car

Cash and prescription medicine were reported stolen from a car parked outside a house on North Drive early Friday.

The 1995 Toyota Tercel had been left running and unlocked when the theft occurred shortly after 8 a.m., the victim told police. He told police he had started the car in order to warm it up and went back into his house, leaving the Tercel unattended for about five minutes.

### Landscaping damaged

Someone damaged the landscaping by driving over it outside a home on Ann Arbor Road near Joy Road in western Plymouth Township on the night of Dec. 8.

The extent of damage was not detailed in a police report; police said tire tracks indicated the vehicle used left the property through a driveway off of Joy Road.

A man asleep in the house at the time didn't hear anything, but a neighbor reported hearing a crash about 5 a.m. on Dec. 9, police said.

— By Matt Jachman

## VIGIL

FROM PAGE A1

and we tell her how much he misses her," Sandy Lucas said. "You realize there are so many other people hurting like you are. Their hearts are broken, too, and our hearts go out to them."

The ceremony included the dedication of trees decorated with ornaments featuring the children's names, a candle-light vigil, a reading of a record 570 children's names, poetry and songs.

The ceremony came in conjunction with the world-wide candle-lighting. The idea is that, as candles burn down in one time zone, they're lit in another, creating a 24-hour memorial.

"The holidays are especially

difficult for parents who have lost children," said committee member Gail Lafferty of Livonia, who organizes the ceremony every year. "This candle-lighting ceremony honoring them helps their memories live on."

It's what brought Howard Gross and Esperanza Santos-Gross of Livonia to Kellogg Park Sunday, the chance to remember their son, Howard, struck down in September 2008 by a drunk driver.

"It's peaceful, it shows he's not forgotten," Esperanza said. "You hear your child's name. In your heart, you know everyone's holding a candle for your baby. What you see in other people's eyes, is the same thing that's in your eyes. It gives us comfort."

bkadrich@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-8899



JOHNATHON FIDLER

The idea of the candlelight vigil was to create a ring of light in honor of children who died too soon.

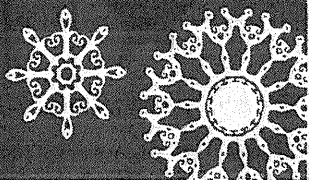
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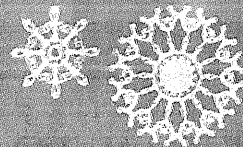
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SIMON



# Marketing agency gives thanks by giving back

Strategy Network, a marketing agency based in Livonia, recently celebrated its 10th birthday by hosting a party for 19 children from Kids Kicking Cancer.

Kids Kicking Cancer is a non-profit organization that provides weekly classes for children, both inpatient and outpatient, in the mind-body techniques found in the martial arts. Their mission is to ease the pain of very sick children while empowering them to heal physically, spiritually and emotionally.

Strategy Network treated the children to special activities, including a "tattoo" parlor, cookie decorating and arts and crafts. A magician made balloon animals, and a deejay got every child out on the dance floor. The children also enjoyed a "Kids Cafe" for dinner, birthday cake and gift bags.

Strategy Network, which serves clients in the financial, insurance, non-profit and automotive industries, has a history of giving back. From its inception in 1999, the company has donated a significant portion of its profits to charity. For its fifth anniversary, it made a donation to Make-A-Wish Foundation supporting a child's entire wish, said Founder and CEO Kathy Nagy. "Giving back, helping those in need — this is one of our greatest responsibilities in life," Nagy said.

At the celebration, the children put on their special presentation, "Peace, Power, Purpose." Through this program, children from Kids Kicking Cancer teach stress and pain management to adult populations on a regular basis, sharing their unique approach to reducing stress. "More than



Children from Kids Kicking Cancer perform their 'Peace, Power, Purpose' presentation at Strategy Network's 10th anniversary celebration.

anything else they do, the kids are empowered by helping others, embodying perfectly the belief that no matter what you face in your own life, your joy and meaning will come from helping others," said Rabbi Elimelech Goldberg, founder and national director of Kids Kicking Cancer and a clinical assistant professor in the Department of Pediatrics at Wayne State University School of Medicine.

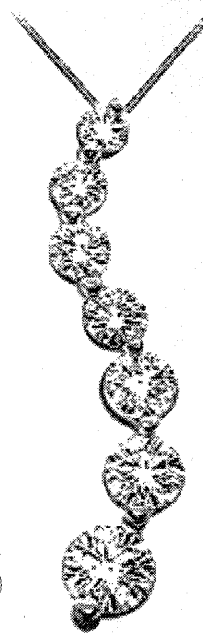
For more information regarding Strategy Network, visit [strategynetwork.com](http://strategynetwork.com) or call (734) 464-8100.

For more information regarding Kids Kicking Cancer, visit [kidskickingcancer.net](http://kidskickingcancer.net) or call (313) 557-0021.



Kathy Nagy (right) presents a donation in honor of Strategy Network's 10th anniversary to Rabbi Goldberg of Kids Kicking Cancer.

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### LIBRARY WATCH

The following programs are available during December at the Plymouth District Library:

- Library closings - The Library will be closed Dec. 24-25 and Dec. 30-31.

- STARS, MOONS & PLANETS, Monday, Dec. 21, 7 p.m. - He loves the skies and after this informal gathering, you will too. Plymouth resident Mike Best leads a lively discussion each month for adults and children over the age of 6. No registration is required. Contact (734) 459-BEST or [starmikebest@gmail.com](mailto:starmikebest@gmail.com)

- NEEDLECRAFTERS MEETING, Monday, Dec. 28, 7-9 p.m. - Knitters, quilters, needlepointers are all invited to attend this informal group gathering. Lessons are not provided, but ideas exchanged among attendees. No registration required. Bring your latest project.

- HOMEBOUND BOOK DELIVERY - Joining the Plymouth Community Council on Aging, the Plymouth District Library will deliver library books and audio books to homebound residents of the City of Plymouth and Plymouth Township. Call (734) 453-0750, Ext 240, to enroll or go to [plymouthlibrary.org](http://plymouthlibrary.org) and complete the homebound delivery service registration.

### Youth Programs

- LAP SIT STORYTIME, Saturday, Dec. 19, 10 a.m. - This 15-minute program is designed for the very young - babies ages 6-24 months and their caregivers. No older siblings please. Registration is required - call Reader's Advisory Desk at 734-453-0750, Ext. 5.

- BABY PLAY, Monday, Dec. 28, 10 & 11 a.m., and Saturday, Jan. 2, 10 a.m. - This fun program is for babies ages 6-24 months. Baby Play is a less formal companion to our Lapsit program. Babies and caregivers listen to a story, followed by play with developmentally appropriate toys and interaction with other children. Registration is not required for Baby Play.

- HOLIDAY BREAK PROGRAM: LEGOS, Monday, Dec. 28, 10 or 11 a.m. - For children ages 5-12 only, this is a chance to build spaceships, buildings, sculptures or any lego creation their heart desires. Space is limited - registration opens on December 15 is required. Call 734-453-0750, Ext. 5.

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<sup>†</sup>Based on Medicare's Plan Quality and Performance Rating 2009 Survey conducted by the federal Medicare program. To see full results, go to "Compare Health Plans" on [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov)

HAP Senior Plus and Alliance Medicare PPO are health plans with a Medicare contract. Alliance Medicare Rx (PDP) is a stand-alone Prescription Drug Plan with a Medicare contract. Alliance Medicare Rx (PDP), Alliance Medicare Supplement and Alliance Medicare PPO are products of Alliance Health and Life Insurance Company, a wholly owned subsidiary of Health Alliance Plan. Alliance Medicare Supplement is not connected with or endorsed by the U.S. government or the federal Medicare program.



# Green Street Fair sets 2010 return

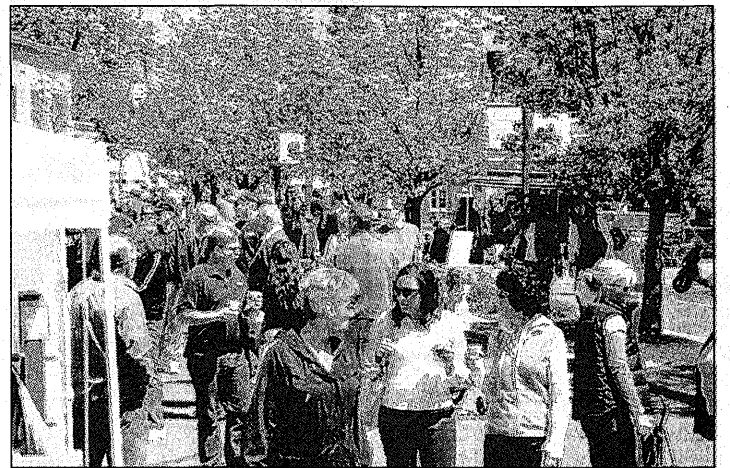
The third annual Green Street Fair returns to the streets of downtown Plymouth April 30-May 2.

Green Street Fair, Inc. was founded to help educate and inform people of all ages about the benefits of green, organic, and eco-friendly products and services. To promote global interest and personal well-being, the Green Street Fair blends companies, artisans, entertainers, and workshops together in a friendly and family-oriented outdoor environment.

Consumers who attend the Green Street Fair will be encouraged to learn the advantages of taking strides, large or small, towards living a healthier and greener life.

With an estimated crowd of 90,000 over three days, the 2009 Green Street Fair had more than 200 exhibitors and 30 sponsors showcasing, demonstrating and selling eco-friendly, organic, and green products.

Planning for the 2010 Green Street Fair is underway and will include several new high-



The third annual Green Street Fair hits the streets of Plymouth April 30-May 2.

lights and exhibitors.

Highlights of the 2010 Green Street Fair will include exhibitor displays, recycling workshops, Fort Box, live entertainment, organic cooking demonstrations, street performers, interactive displays, children's activities, fitness and well-being demonstrations, art installations and more.

For information on becoming an exhibitor at the Green

Street Fair, contact Raychel Rork at (734) 259-2983 or e-mail raychel@greenstreetfair.com.

For Green Street Fair sponsorship opportunities, contact Terri O'Brien at (248) 347-4350 or e-mail terri@streetmktg.com.

For the latest updates on Green Street Fair, visit www.greenstreetfair.com, e-mail info@greenstreetfair.com or call (734) 259-2983.

## Alano Clubs offer addicts help through holiday season

BY JULIE BROWN  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The holiday season is tough for recovering alcoholics, who face the temptation of drinking to cope with the season's stresses. Local Alano Clubs are available to help recovering alcoholics and addicts this time of year and all year.

The Metro West Alano Club in Redford will hold an Alcathon 10 p.m. to 10 p.m. both Christmas Eve/day and New Year's Eve/day. People can gather in a festive and alcohol-free setting.

"We usually do that all holidays," said Fred Cathey, chairman for Metro West. "That's open to anybody who needs it."

The Alano Clubs are social clubs for recovering alcoholics and addicts. "Sometimes a few of us have a rough time around the holidays," Cathey said. "For the first couple years it's kind of rough on us."

Metro West member Mike Mango noted that family members are also welcome. "Al-Anon is welcome to join us," he said, noting the importance of family support and that many don't know where to turn for help.

"You don't have to drink to suffer from alcoholism," Cathey added. The men, both recovering alcoholics, said their Metro West Alano Club is family-friendly. It's at 15100 Aubrey St., in a former school,

south off of Five Mile and east of Beech Daly in Redford.

The club hosts Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous meetings. "We have dances and different events," Cathey said.

"It's amazing how much fun they have," Mango said. You can reach Metro West online at www.metrowestalano.org or by phone at (313) 286-3622.

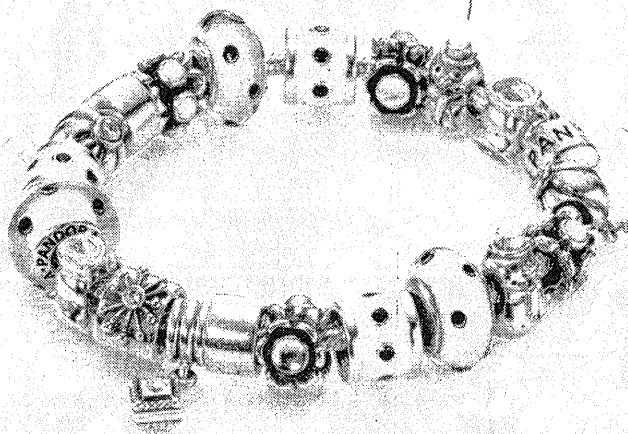
There's also a Plymouth-Canton Alano Club, in the Harvard Square shopping area, on the east side of Sheldon just north of Ford Road in Canton. Its address is 5936 N. Sheldon, Canton, online at pc-alano.org.

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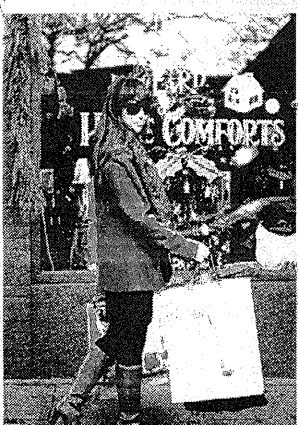
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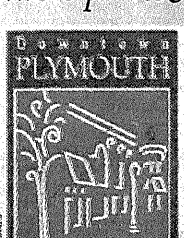


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# 25 years later

## Ex-staffers remember Wayne County General as 'phenomenal'

BY SUE MASON  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

It's been 25 years since Wayne County General Hospital closed its doors, but for those who worked there, it seemed like only yesterday they were there working.

"There was a sense of pride because we were doing so much with so little," said Shirley Beyer. "It was always a learning experience for us nurses at the County."

"We had a sense that we were providing a service no one else could," said Dr. Joe Weiss. "We served people who had a need. In the 1980s, there were still a lot of people without health insurance."

Beyer and Weiss were among former hospital employees who filled every available seat in the Cafe Marquette at the William D. Ford Career Technical Center last week to reminisce about the hospital. Nurses, maintenance workers and administrators exchanged stories and caught up on their lives after the hospital closed in 1984.

Beyer worked as a nurse from 1961 to 1983. When the hospital was sold to Southwest General, she was given the option of staying with Wayne County and was offered a job working at the jail in downtown Detroit.

"That wasn't my cup of tea," the Westland resident said. "I stayed at home and then went to work at Garden City Hospital."

### 'SEE WHAT HAPPENS'

Beyer, who wore her hospital badge that had a 1984 expiration date, worked in pediatrics, obstetrics and the intensive care unit when it was started. She recalls that the hospital "knocked down some walls and put in some cots" for the unit.

"We were flying by the seat of our pants," she said. "They decided to try it and see what happens."

Judith Corbutt of Bloomfield Hills was "there until the bitter end," spending her last 15 years in the emergency room. But not before being the hospital's "first ICU nurse."

After she left, she spent 20 years working in her husband's business placing medical personnel. Now she's billing herself as a master gardener.

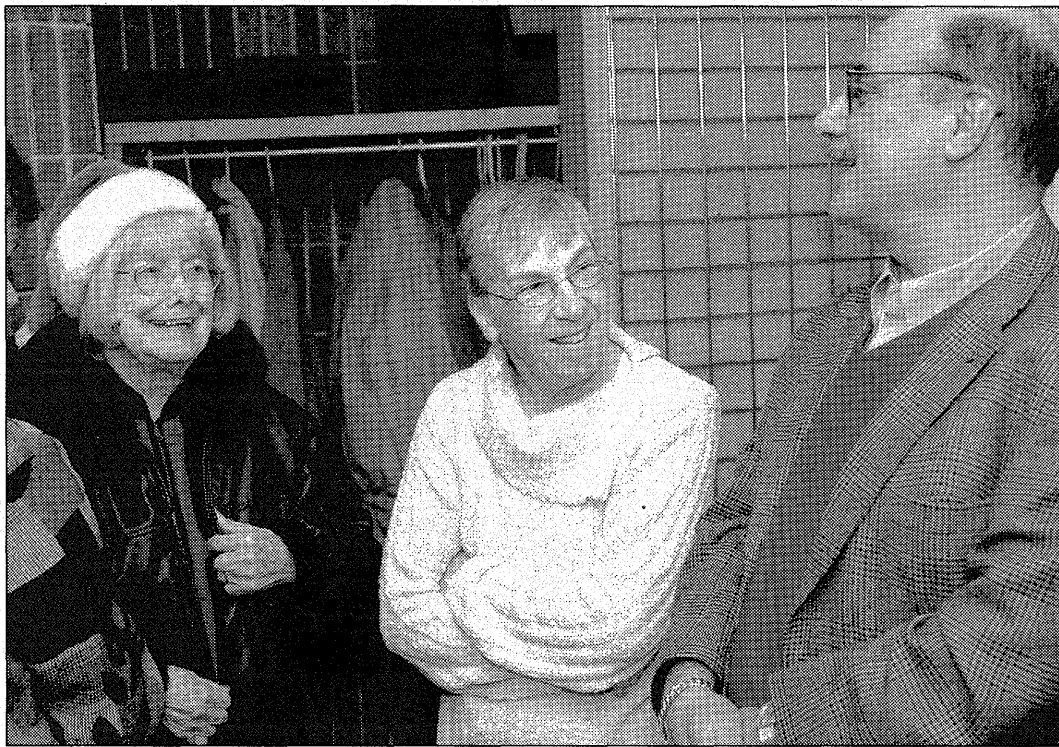
"I'd still be there, if I could," said Corbutt. "ER was my favorite department. We worked out butts off, but we had fun. It was a good hospital, we learned a lot."

One of the people who taught was Norm Potter, the medical electronics technician. He roamed the hospital repairing machines. According to Corbutt, Potter would fix the respirators, then show the nurses how to do it.

"You name it, I fixed it," said Potter who worked at the hospital for 12 years. "I worked on all the medical equipment."

Potter described the staff as a "close knit group" that worked together and played together. There were three racquetball leagues, and they played baseball on a diamond on the hospital grounds. The hospital also had a team that competed in the stretcher races at Hutzel Hospital during Michigan Hospital Week every year.

"When we played baseball, Norm would get mad and



Former Wayne County Commissioner Kay Beard talks with former Wayne County General Hospital employees Charlene Maxwell and Dennis Abraham at a reunion marking the 1984 closing of the facility.



Luetta Ellis hugs her old boss Nancy Rowles at a reunion of former Wayne County General Hospital employees.

take the bases and go home," said Nancy Rogerro, adding that "we also had a guys golf league."

"We worked harder than anywhere else, but it was so interesting," said Rogerro, also a Westland resident.

Rogerro worked in the emergency room and discharge and home care. When the hospital closed and became Westland Medical Center, she stayed on and worked six more years. She left and took a nursing position at the Garden City Schools' Burger School for Students with Autism.

"In its heyday, the hospital was phenomenal," she said. "You never worked a slow day. You'd blinked and the day was over."

### THE RED PHONE

The hospital was a major trauma center. During a presidential visit, a red phone would be set up at the hospital. Delphine Maddox remembers the day she picked up the receiver of the red phone.

"There was no one there, but awhile later another phone rang and someone said, 'Don't play with the red phone,'" the Westland resident said.

One of the oldest retirees at the gathering was 91-year-old Erma Greenwood of Wayne. She started working at the Eloise complex in 1937. She spent 14 hours one day and 12 hours the next, working the wards. She retired in the

1970s.

"I worked in admitting on the fifth floor of D Building, admitting patients, the second floor was where they did all the treatments," she said.

Greenwood met her husband there. He was a truck driver, and according to Greenwood, she "chased him and when he turned around to see how close I was, I grabbed him." She lived on the second floor of one of the buildings he was on the first floor. The building manager would let her sit in his room with the door open for a date.

"We'd go to Brownie's Dinner in Wayne and get hamburgers and milk for \$1, then go back to his room and eat them," she said.

There was one person at the reunion who didn't work at the hospital, but she worked her hardest to keep it open.

"I did everything but stand on my head," said former Wayne County Commissioner Kay Beard. "I really fought for that hospital. I did everything I could possibly do."

Beard, who has one of the few remaining buildings named after her, the general hospital was charged for the maintenance of the entire Eloise complex. Had it had been charged for only what it cost, "the hospital would have broke even or even made money."

Weiss worked at the hospital in 1961 and left for the

### A BIT OF HISTORY

The Eloise Complex of buildings at various different times referred to the Wayne County Poor House, the Wayne County Sanatorium, serving tuberculosis patients, the Wayne County Asylum, serving the mentally ill indigent population, and Eloise Hospital.

Eloise, which started out as a poorhouse and a poor farm, later became Wayne County General Hospital. From only 35 residents on 280 acres in 1839, the complex grew dramatically after the Civil War until the total land involved was 902 acres and the total number of patients was about 10,000. There were about 75 buildings in the large complex. It became a city in itself and even had its own post office, named after the postmaster of Detroit's six-year old daughter, Eloise.

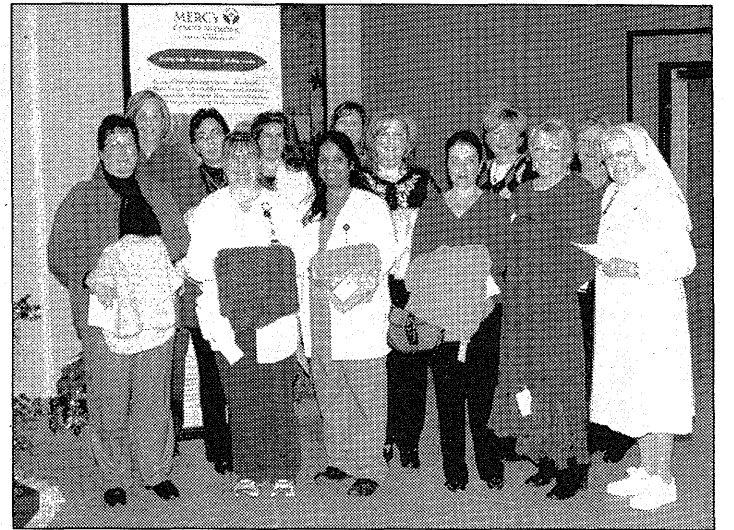
In 1945, Eloise was renamed Wayne County General Hospital and Infirmary. By the 1950s Wayne County General was considered one of the best hospitals in the nation. It played a major part in metro Detroit's health network. It was the only acute-care medical and surgical hospital between Detroit and Ypsilanti.

As patient treatment was updated, so were the facilities. Older buildings were razed in the 1960s and 1970s and two new buildings were constructed - the 511-bed medical hospital in 1962 and a long-term care facility in 1974. The Walter Reuther Long Term Care Facility housed the surviving mentally ill and poor who had made Eloise their permanent home.

Psychiatric care ended in 1979, and the general hospital closed in 1984. The general hospital building on Merriman stood until 1999 when it was demolished.

service. He returned in 1967 and was a resident and fellow and stayed on the staff until it closed. Looking back on his time at the hospital, Weiss said the hospital had a lot of special people working there.

"They were all wonderful," he said. "The hospital was large enough to provide what the people needed, but small enough to know everyone," he said. "There was a lot of energy there because of the medical students who'd come in and experience what we were doing in patient care."



Members of Just Hugs Knitters include (front row, from left) Janet Yim, Terry Erchenbrecher, Juby Abraham, Gigi Kitromelides, Debbi Ozak, (back row, from left) Sue Eichorst, Tina Skilton, Peggy Wright, Claudine Kuelske, Jeanette Adams, Susanne Madden and Teri Holtz. Also pictured is Sister Mary Eucharita.

## Knitters donate shawls to cancer patients

Patients of Our Lady of Hope Cancer Center at St. Mary Mercy Hospital in Livonia received about 20 handmade knit shawls Friday to keep them warm during cancer and chemotherapy treatment.

The shawls were made by a newly formed group called "Just Hugs Knitters," staff members of Trinity Health Information Services.

St. Mary Mercy patients are the first recipients of these shawls.

The group organized in the fall of 2009 after one of the group members was touched by the act of kindness from a shawl she received. The group includes 20 knitters from first-timers to advanced skill levels who enjoy giving back to the community.

"The sense of connectedness with each other and the community has been inspirational, and we all feel very blessed to be a part of this experience," said Susan Eichorst,

group member and Trinity Information Services' employee. "The shawl tag sums it up best: 'May this shawl enfold you in warmth, comfort, healing and peace.'"

A blessing ceremony took place prior to the donation.

"The St. Mary Mercy Cancer Center expresses our deepest gratitude to the Trinity Information Services group for the love, kindness and patience that went into making the shawls," said Crystal Andrews, oncology service line administrator. "Their gift of thoughtfulness and compassion is immeasurable."

"We are very grateful to have individuals in the organization and within the community who demonstrate high levels of humanitarianism for those patients who suffer from cancer and are undergoing chemotherapy treatments."

For more information about the Trinity Health Just Hugs Knitters, call Teri Holtz at (248) 324-8432.

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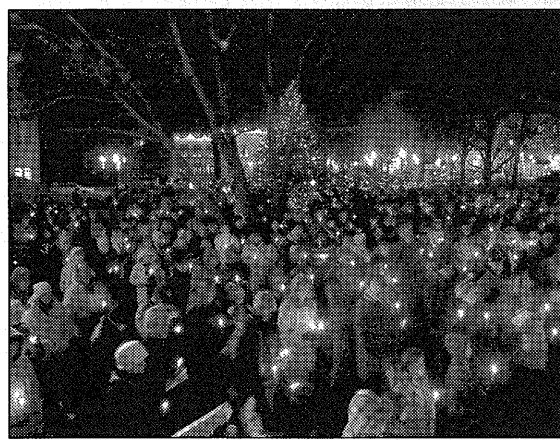
# LOCAL OPINION

online at hometownlife.com



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



JOHNATHON FIDLER

Hundreds of people turned out Sunday for the annual Compassionate Friends candlelight vigil in Plymouth's Kellogg Park.

## Vigil great event for grief support

They came from all over, from Livonia and Plymouth and Canton and Dearborn and points unknown.

They crowded into downtown Plymouth's Kellogg Park to hear the names of their children one more time, to seek from others the help they also knew they were uniquely capable of supplying. And they were all driven by the same emotion:

Grief.

Hundreds of people gathered Sunday for the annual candlelighting ceremony in honor of children who've died too soon, sponsored by the Compassionate Friends of Livonia. Finding a word to describe them is tougher than it might seem. Calling them mourners is certainly accurate, if not quite complete.

What they are mostly is a large group of people who seek help with — and an outlet for — their grief. Those who have come before know all too well the gathering helps people find others in the same boat, others dealing with the same pain. And in numbers there is strength.

It's a comfort they all not only feel, but relish. Many of these people — in fact, most of them — are repeat attenders, folks who've come to rely on the considerable power of shared love, of knowing there are people out there just like them, folks who've felt a pain so deep it's nearly impossible to grasp, much less voice.

But grasping it, and sharing it, is how they get through it. Cathy Clough, a Plymouth resident who heads the New Hope Center for Grief Support in Northville, has long believed — and indeed staked her center's reputation on the idea — people enveloped by grief are best helped out by those who've been there.

Lafferty knows it's true, sad as that may be. She also believes her son and all the other children are grateful for the love, watching from Heaven as she's sure they are. In fact, Lafferty attributes the traditionally bearable mid-December weather to her son, Max, whom she believes watches over the vigil, designed to create a worldwide ring of candlelight.

For the most part, the weather isn't bad. It rained during the day Sunday, but cleared before the event, Perhaps Max and the others pulled some strings.

As folks gathered before the vigil started, there was a soft buzz of conversation as people greeted each other, doled out a large portion of hugs and kisses and caught up with each other's lives. The crowd noise then softened as the vigil began.

As the traditional reading of the names got under way and candles were being lit, a silence passed over the crowd like a blanket. It's a stirring moment, hundreds of loved ones gathered as one, tears falling silently as the names are read.

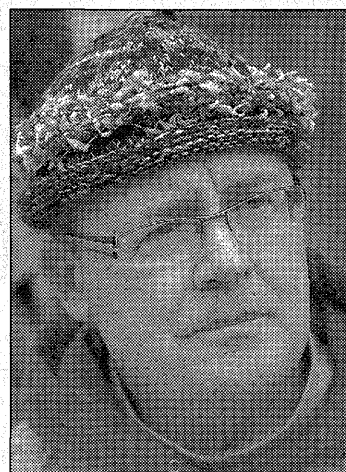
Those gathered seem to snuggle in even closer together, and it becomes obvious why they're there. They've all been touched by the same tragedy, and they find a definite comfort in each other's embrace.

It's the beauty of what the Compassionate Friends provides.

## COMMUNITY VOICE

### "Are you planning to attend the Plymouth Ice Festival in January?"

We asked this question outside the U.S. Postal Service branch office in downtown Plymouth.



"Yeah, more than likely. ... It's something that you just take part in if you live in Plymouth."

Tom Scott  
Plymouth



"No, I don't. I live in Colorado. Otherwise, I would. I loved it when I grew up here."

Kristen Sorensen  
Littleton, Colo.



"Oh, sure. It's a fun family event. I have four kids and they really enjoy seeing all the sculptures."

Heather Pacheco  
Plymouth



"Oh, absolutely. Because it's a special event. It's always been a special event."

Mary Takis  
Plymouth Township

## LETTERS

### Lions Club thanks

The Plymouth Lions Club would like to thank community members for the overwhelming support shown during our Candy Cane sales event that was held Nov. 27-28.

With your help, we had a very successful fund-raiser in which we collected more than last year! In these hard times, we appreciate every dollar and dime.

In addition to monies collected on the street, we would like to thank the following for the donations sent to the Plymouth Lions Foundation during this Candy Cane Drive: Randall P Whately PLLC, Victory Honda, Plymouth Nursery, Penn Grill and Bar, Plymouth Hills Apartments, and Westchester Square LLC.

Collected funds will be used to support the many projects Lions conduct throughout the year. Some of the community programs include First Step, Penrickton School for the blind, Plymouth High School Scholarships, and Leader dogs for the blind.

Your donations will truly make a difference. Thank you for helping us help others!

Bill Moy and Debbie Baudino-Dowling  
Co-Chairpersons  
Plymouth Lions Club Candy Cane Drive

### Replace the autocrats

After returning from a business trip last week, I was appalled to find that the Plymouth-Canton school board had once again changed the dates for the school board elections.

They have cancelled elections in even years (2010, etc) and replaced them with elections only in odd years (2011, etc). While the board members cited various reasons for this silliness, the truth seems clear. The school board prefers elections in odd years so that turnout will be minimal and they can easily manipulate the results to remain in office.

Odd-year elections receive less than 10 percent voter turnout and cost the district over \$75,000, while even-year elections have much larger turnouts and zero cost due to the concurrent gubernatorial or presidential elections. The board has chosen the most costly, least representative solution.

Even more amazing is that they have chosen the highest cost solution while they travel around the community and go to Lansing to whine about how "underfunded" our school district is. Perhaps they should spend more on our kids and less on low turnout elections. Seems like simple math to me.

So next year when your children have large class sizes, just remember that instead of that extra teacher, the school board spent your money on elections to keep themselves in office.

I think the time has come for our community to stand up to this lunacy and replace this group of autocrats with the representatives our children deserve.

Mark Horvath  
Canton

### Not getting it

When is the Plymouth-Canton school board going to get it?

The Plymouth Canton school board needs to start thinking about the excessive spending they are doing. We are in tough economic times; however, the Plymouth Canton school board continues to ignore budgets.

The citizens of the Plymouth-Canton area are tired of paying for teachers and administrators, and their waste of tax payers money. The Plymouth-Canton school board needs immediately to reduce their spending, and quit asking for millage renewals without

### 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.

accountability.

Teachers and administrators need to start contributing, paying taxes, reducing their benefits, and most of all, cut their salaries. I urge all Plymouth-Canton voters to stop renewing school millages until the school board becomes responsible. The citizens of Plymouth-Canton are not the cash cow that the Plymouth-Canton school board thinks we are!

Keith Martin  
Plymouth

### Thanks to firefighters

I just wanted to say thank you to the Wilcox station firemen who came to put out our chimney fire Dec. 4. We live directly across the street from the station, and in all these years of appreciating their service from across the street, we actually got to witness their skills right on our own property.

This is a poem I wrote to show my gratitude:

'Twas the fire before Christmas  
'Twas a few nights before Christmas and there in their house,  
a chimney fire started so they called you to douse.

The Millers were snuggled all watching TV,  
the dogs were all sleeping as quiet as could be.

When there in the fireplace there arose a funny smell,  
and a whirring sound that came from the fires of hell.

Away to the fire station Mike made a mad dash,  
while Lisa called 911 and flew open the sash.

And what to their joy should quickly appear,  
but the Wilcox station firemen with all of their gear.

With the extinguisher and ladder to cool off the brick,  
they knew in an instant the fireman was Rick.

Quicker than blazes the crew all arrived,  
"the chimney ignited on the inside" they derived.

Now Phillips, Harned, Perez, Mallari, Ramin- did a fine job!  
They put out the fire and thwarted a mob.

Then up on the ladder they examined the roof,  
there was no more danger for reindeer hoof.

So they gathered their gear and headed out of sight,  
while Mike and Lisa exclaimed:

"Merry Christmas to all, and to all a good night".

Lisa Miller  
Plymouth

### Thanks for support

I'd like to express my heartfelt thanks to the American people for the sustained outpouring of support you have shown our men and women in uniform during these years of conflict. They serve us proudly, and we are inspired by their sacrifices and by the patriotism and resolve of their families.

If you happen to be traveling through our Nation's busy airports or other transportation hubs this holiday season, you'll likely see many service members traveling in uniform. As part of what our Army calls its "Holiday Block Leave," we suspend basic and advanced skills training to allow Soldiers to spend the holidays with their families and friends.

During the next two weeks, more than 40,000 Soldiers will depart our posts, camps and stations to travel across America. They will be joined by thousands of other troops traveling to and from Afghanistan, Iraq and other overseas locations where they're stationed to protect and promote the liberties we celebrate during this time of year.

I ask all Americans to take a moment to say "thank you" to these service members as you encounter them. They have all sworn an oath to protect our way of life knowing the risks that entails, and many of them have experienced multiple deployments into the war zones.

There's nothing they appreciate more from those they serve than a simple expression of gratitude and acknowledgment of their service and sacrifice.

Throughout our history, young Americans have answered the call to serve. This generation, yet again, is demonstrating that they care more deeply about their country, their fellow countrymen, and their fellow Soldiers than they do about themselves.

We must never take that for granted.

Martin E. Dempsey  
General, U.S. Army  
Commander, U.S. Army Training  
and Doctrine Command

### At least there's a plan

President Obama's pledge to begin withdrawing troops from Afghanistan has drawn unified fire from the right wing neons. In unison, they claim this date of July 2011 "this is just stupid, immoral, worthless, self-absorbing, non-strategy," writes Ralph Peters in the *New York Post*.

This type demagogic nonsense is echoed by other Fox News-type talking heads and accomplishing nothing. At least President Obama, unlike Bush, has a plan. Bush had none and was confident to have his open-ended war on terrorism which would never end designed to keep Americans fearful and Republicans in power.

We are a bit troubled by the troop build up in Afghanistan and would rather see rebuilding, schools, hospital, roads, etc. which may in fact actually benefit Afghan citizens, rather than more troops. We do not recall any of these right wing pundits criticizing President Bush for his largely ignoring and hostile indifference toward Afghanistan while pursuing a completely optional war in Iraq.

Although July 2011 may not be a solid date for the withdrawal of US. troops, we commend President Obama for at least the semblance of a plan and exit strategy where Bush had neither.

Gerald and Dolores Maxey  
Farmington Hills

PLYMOUTH  
**OBSERVER**

GANNETT

Brad Kadrich Community Editor	Susan Rosiek Executive Editor / Publisher	Grace Perry Director of Advertising
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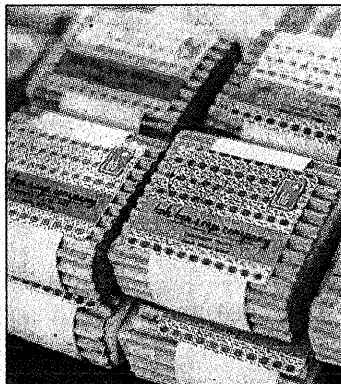
# Michigan made gift ideas for everyone on your list

BY WENDSY VON BUSKIRK  
CORRESPONDENT

There are still a few days left before Christmas, so it's time to get your last-minute shop on. It's always hard to pick out the perfect gift, so why not narrow down your choices by buying something Michigan-made? Here are some ideas:

- If you've got someone artsy on your list, try Pewabic Pottery. Founded in 1903 during the Arts & Crafts Movement, Pewabic is nationally known for its tile and pottery in unique glazes. New for the holidays are snowflake ornaments, and pinecone and reindeer tiles. Tiles and ornaments depicting Detroit and Michigan are also favorites. Visit the historic studio at 10125 E. Jefferson Ave., in Detroit or shop online at [www.pewabic.com](http://www.pewabic.com).

- Give a gift with Michigan pride and help laid-off workers close to home with 'Don't Mess with the Mitten' and 'MichiCAN' shirts. Created by local residents Lisa Burnia and Terri O'Brien, the shirts use homegrown resources including T-shirts from Border Bros. in Plymouth and screen printing from The Identity Source in Livonia. Proceeds benefit Bridgepointe, Schoolcraft Foundation and Gleaners. T-shirts and hoodies come in white and navy, along with MSU and U of M colors. Find



Handmade local soaps make perfect stocking stuffers or hostess gifts.

them at Dancing Eye Gallery in Northville, Michigan Wild in Livonia's Laurel Park Place, or online at [www.yesmichiCAN.com](http://www.yesmichiCAN.com).

- Pamper a loved one with locally-made pedicure products. Exfoli-feet is a unique pedicure tool invented by a metro Detroit woman that uses a blend of sand and pumice on one side to buff feet smooth. The other side is a nail scrub brush that reduces toe nail cuticles. \$9.99 at [www.bodyofwaterspa.com](http://www.bodyofwaterspa.com). YogaToes (\$24.97) instantly refreshes feet by stretching and aligning the toes. Made by Ann Arbor-based YogaPro.com, the gel products slip around and between the toes, relieving stress and foot pain. The new "Indulgence in a Bottle" gift set includes jewel-colored YogaToes, two clip-on Deluxe



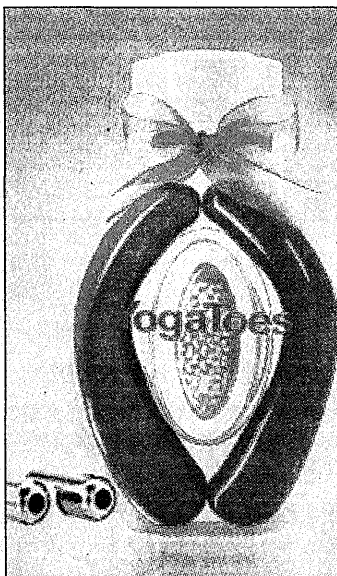
Give the gift of Michigan pride with this sweatshirt made by local residents.

Massagers, and a Microplane Foot File for \$84.95. Visit [www.yogapro.com](http://www.yogapro.com).

- Indulgent homemade soaps make great stocking stuffers or hostess gifts. Boh Bon Soap Company offers beautifully-packaged scents like Cedarwood & Lime, Wildflower and Honey, and Up North Natural, reminiscent of a Michigan forest (\$4.25 per bar). Find a selection at Illumination Jewelry inside of Frameworks Gallery on Penniman in Plymouth, or visit [www.bohbonsoapco.com](http://www.bohbonsoapco.com).

Or, check out Boh Bon Soap at Holiday Crafternoon, noon-5 p.m. Dec. 19 at The Loving Touch, downstairs from The Woodward Avenue Brewery in Ferndale.

- Guys are always hard to buy for, but the unique and useful Auto Seat Gap Blocker is one solution. Made in Michigan, the product does just what it says — blocks the gap between the front seats and center console keeping coins and crumbs from falling into no-man's land. The foam inserts cost \$19.99 per pair



YogaToes instantly refreshes feet by stretching the toes.

at [gapblocker.com](http://gapblocker.com).

- Celebrate the area's rich history with the Days of Detroit 2010 Calendar. The wall calendar features an event in local history for each day of the year, along with seldom-seen historical photos from the collection of the Walter P. Reuther Library at Wayne State University. The cal-

endar (\$12.95) is available at the Plymouth Historical Museum, Books Connection in Livonia, metro Detroit Borders locations, and online at [www.detroithistorical.org](http://www.detroithistorical.org).

- Another creative invention by a Michigan-based company is the Stufz Gourmet Stuffed Burger System. This kitchen gadget allows you to make hamburgers with all the toppings inside — instead of on top — reducing the mess factor and increasing the flavor. Simply shape, stuff, seal and grill. \$15.99 at [www.stufz.net](http://www.stufz.net).

You can't go wrong with gifts of food and drink. Fill a basket with homemade treats like Cafe Cortina marinara sauce, Honey Bear Farms honey, Chartreuse tea, Better Made potato chips, FlatOut bread, Garden Fresh salsa, Guernsey Dairy egg nog, Kowalski sausage, Sanders chocolate, Germack pistachios, Paygo pop, Naturally Nutty peanut butter, Serra cheese, or Cherry Creek wine. Hiller's Markets highlight "Made in Michigan" foods with special shelf tags, or increase your awareness of options at [www.thinkmichiganmade.com](http://www.thinkmichiganmade.com).

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# Rowers put their backs into helping families fight health crises

BY MATT JACHMAN  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

More than 200 people last week rowed to the rescue of two local families facing serious illnesses and medical expenses this holiday season.

The Million Meter Row, a three-day row-a-thon on nine rowing machines, raised more than \$8,000 to help Tom Lazorka, of Plymouth Township, and Donna, of Northville Township, who asked that her last name be withheld, through difficult times.

"I'm kind of overwhelmed," said Lazorka on Saturday at Plymouth CrossFit, where the row-a-thon was in full swing. "I can't thank them ever enough. It helps me keep battling and get through this."

Lazorka was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in September and has been undergoing chemotherapy. A manager at a Kroger supermarket in Westland, he's been out of work for 10 weeks, though he hopes to return early next year.

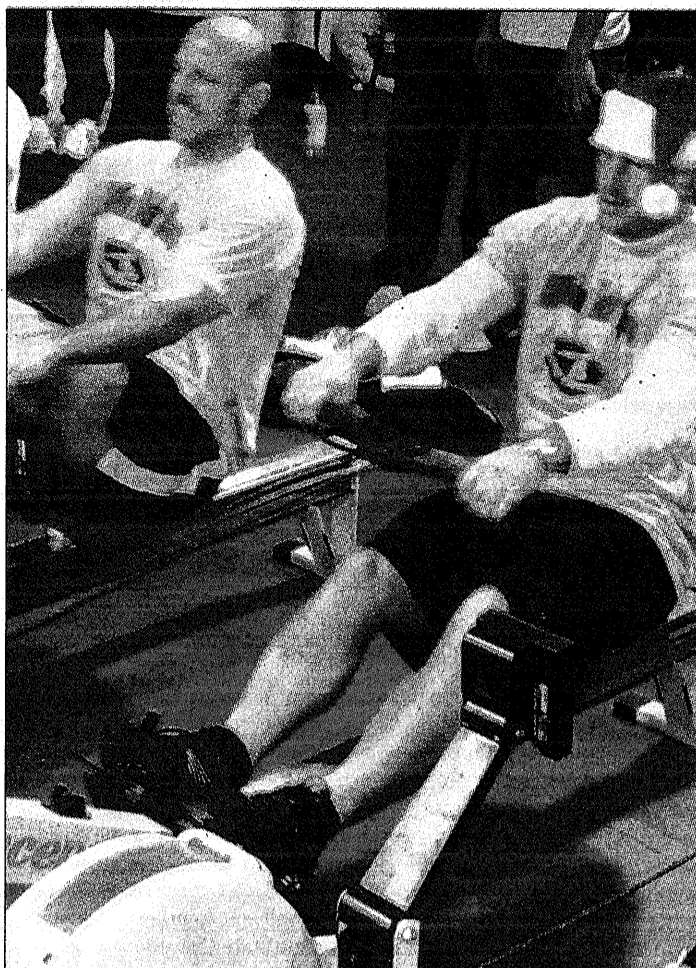
"I'm shocked at the turnout. It's great, and we've had a lot of fun so far," said Lynne Phetteplace, a friend of Donna and her family. She and Donna know each other through Farrand Elementary School, where they send children; other members of the school community participated in the benefit.

Donna was diagnosed with ulcerative colitis, a bowel disease, last spring, was hospitalized for much of the summer and underwent five surgeries, Phetteplace said.

Tom Lazorka and his wife, Laurie, have three sons; Donna and her husband have two girls.

Both families have health insurance, but not all expenses are covered. Donna, for example, has used up her prescription benefits for the year, and one medicine alone will cost \$710 for this month.

Dave Finlay, a trainer and part-owner of Plymouth CrossFit, said he'd planned to do a local fund-raiser, something participants would know was for the benefit of a neighbor or



Plymouth CrossFit partner Dave Finlay, right, and gym regular Jason Swafford kept motivated with a little competition of their own Saturday during the Million Meter Row, which raised money to help two local families pay medical expenses.

someone they might meet at the grocery store. When the situations of the Lazorkas and Donna and her family were brought to his attention, Finlay said, they became the obvious choices.

Plymouth CrossFit, which has been open for about a year and a half at Farmer and Amelia in Plymouth, recently changed its name from The Training Station.

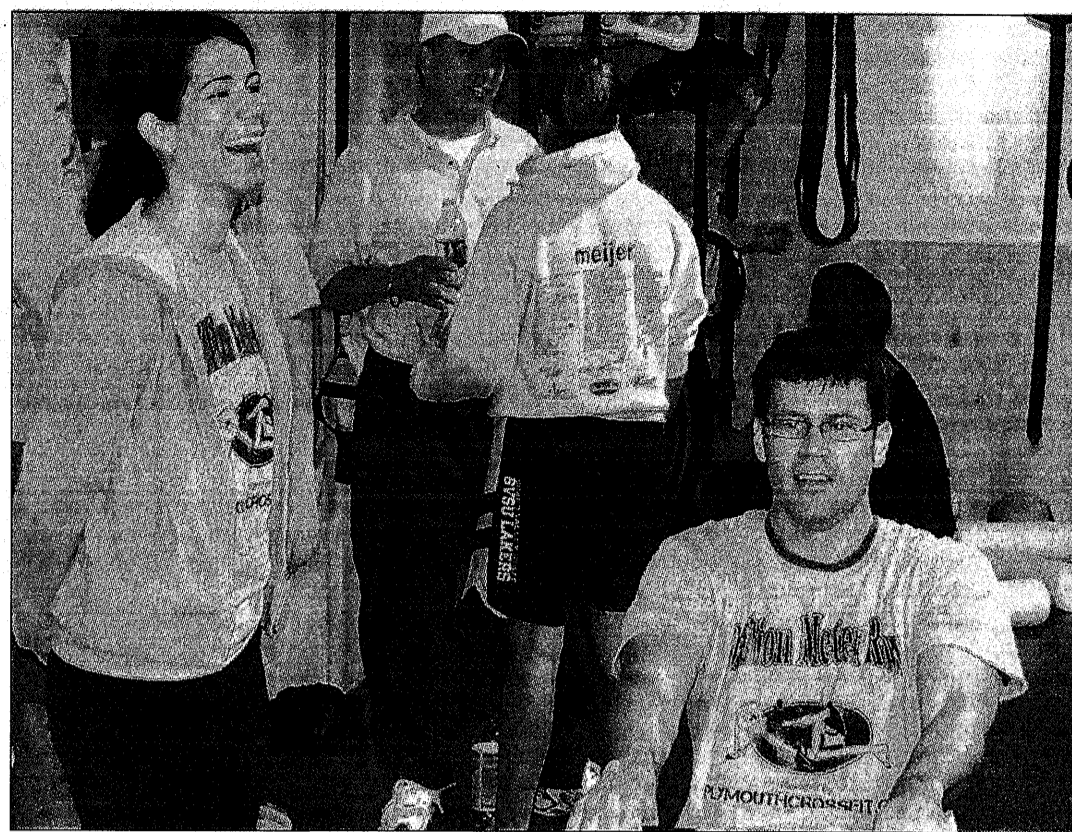
The gym was busy Saturday as members rowed side by side with friends and supporters of the two families. The nine rowing machines, three borrowed from Joust CrossFit in Ann Arbor, were laid out across almost the entire width of the gym, and row-a-thon participants clustered nearby, waiting their turns on the machines. A buffet table was set up nearby, and T-shirts were being sold for the occasion.

"He's been knocking out a thousand at a time," said Bridget Werdengeller of her husband, Scott, who said he had rowed about 8,000 meters by just before 1 p.m.

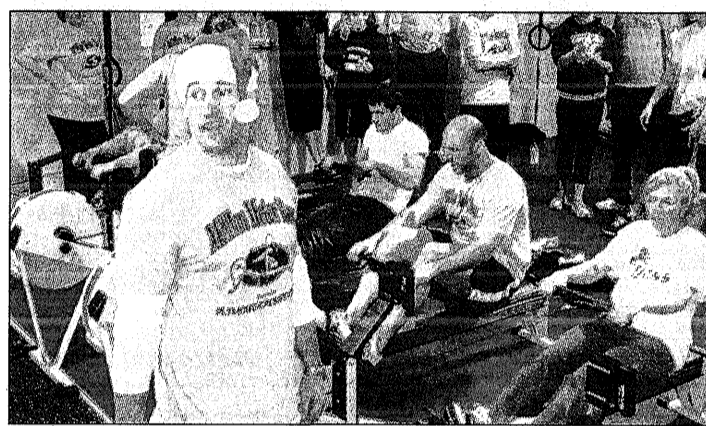
The Werdengellers are gym members and don't know either family.

"I think it's great," said Scott Werdengeller. "I hope it can raise enough money to make a difference."

The row-a-thon had started Dec. 10 when a competition — a 100,000-meter race — between the hockey teams at Novi Catholic Central, Plymouth Salem and Plymouth high schools began. Catholic Central won the race, and both CC and Plymouth reached 100,000 meters in under an hour. Salem's time was just over an hour. All



Plymouth CrossFit members Bridget and Scott Werdengeller of Plymouth were on the same rowing team Saturday. More than 200 people put a million meters on nine different rowing machines over a three-day period in order to raise money for two local families facing extraordinary medical expenses.



Dave Finlay, a trainer and one of the three partners at Plymouth CrossFit, looks over his gym Saturday during the Million Meter Row, a fund-raiser for two local families.

three teams train at Plymouth CrossFit.

The Lazorkas' 16-year-old son Tyler is a defenseman for Plymouth. He appreciated his teammates' support for his father.

"I thought it was a good idea," Tyler said. "I know they have my back."

The Lazorkas also benefited

from a recent bowling event sponsored by Kroger, and from a benefit hockey game between teams of Plymouth Canton Hockey Association coaches, which was held Friday.

"We just have a lot of friends that have come to our aid," said Laurie Lazorka. "Hockey families are the best families." The other two Lazorka sons, Adam,

20, and Parker, 12, also play hockey.

In addition to the high school hockey teams, the Stingrays, a PCHA youth team, also rowed, racking up another 50,000 meters. The million-meter mark — that's 621 miles — was reached about 3:30 p.m. Saturday, Finlay said.

Angela Nolan was there Saturday with daughters Raleigh and Lilli, and some of Raleigh's fellow Brownie Girl Scouts from Farrand, who were taking their turns on the rowing machines. Donna and her family are "just the nicest people in the world," she said.

"I really felt strongly about helping the family without it feeling like we're just handing them charity," Nolan said.

Contributions to the Charitable Fund for Donna can be made through the Community Financial Credit Union in Plymouth.

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



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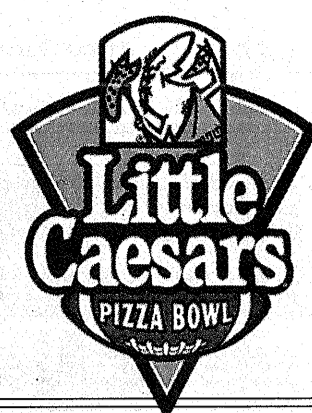


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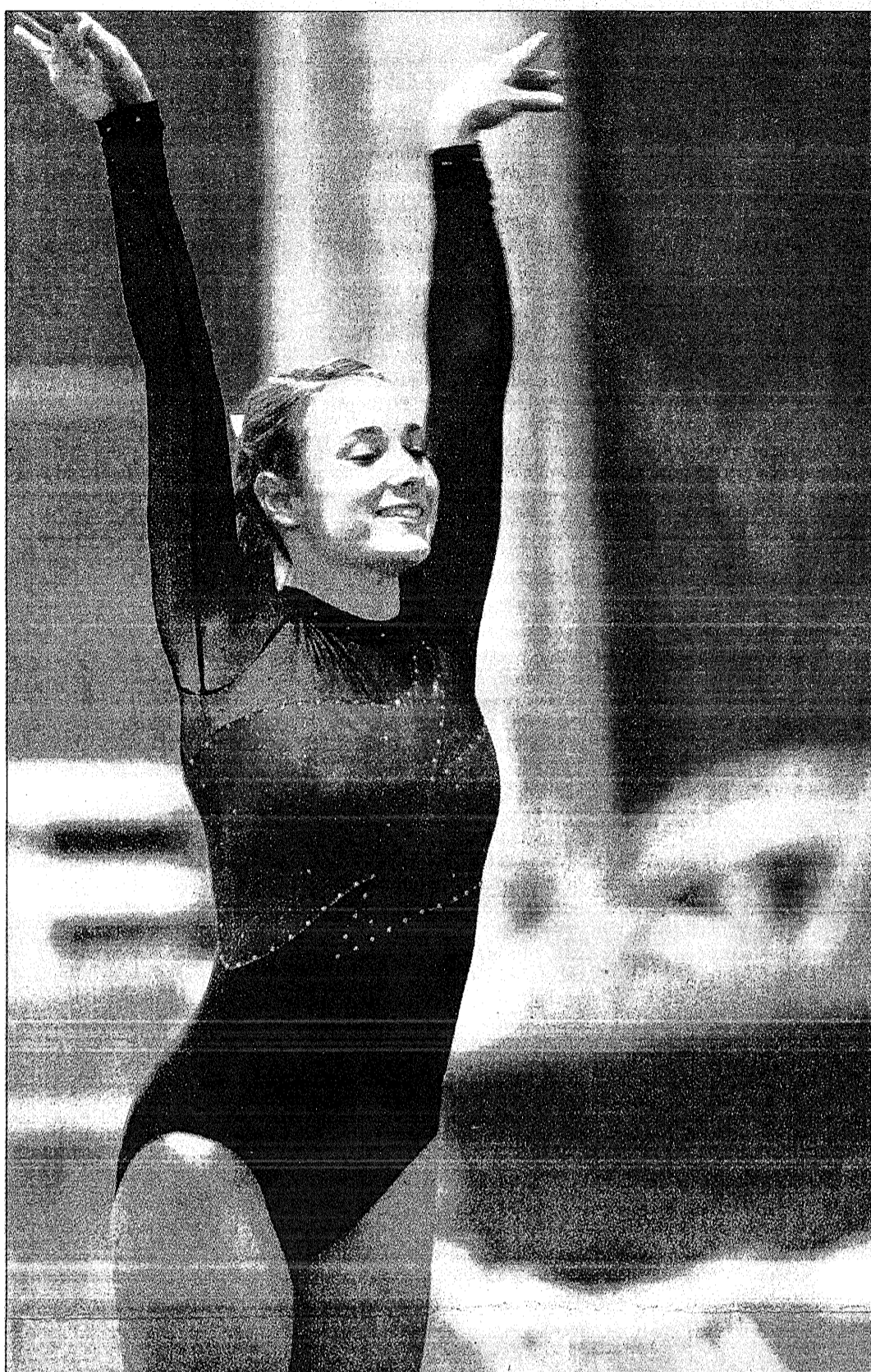
SECTION B  
(CP)

# HOMETOWN LIFE



Tim Smith, editor, (313) 222-2637  
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## 2009-10 GYMNASTICS PREVIEW



PHOTOS BY JOHN KEMSKI

On a Canton team brimming with talent, the top all-arounder entering 2009-10 is junior Robyn Piwowar, who last year set a school record in floor exercise.

## On the beam

### Canton gymnasts know 'routine' for success

BY TIM SMITH  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A couple of days after Canton's gymnastics team registered a season opening victory against Vassar, Chiefs coaching legend John Cunningham watched intently as a group of highly motivated young athletes pushed themselves to keep improving.

Not even a 136.675-103.525 win Saturday lessened their desire to sharpen up on the balance beam or uneven bars or become even more proficient in floor exercise or vault.

It's the Canton culture for gymnasts — whether bringing considerable club experience or learning at the prep level — to go to the mat, if you will. Consider junior Kali Pierce, who, despite having an injured shoulder, registered 9.1 on beam at Vassar.

"She has a dislocated shoulder, but she did a one-armed routine (Saturday)," Cunningham said with a chuckle of amazement. "That's the kind of thing I expect some girls will do and some girls will never do."

Of course, if Pierce and others have their way, more and more teammates will get in line in order to compete and score points to help the Chiefs try to exceed the 2008-09 team's 9-3 record (and second-place finish at regionals).

"We always challenge each other," Pierce said. "We give a lot of pep talks like, 'You know how to do this, you've done this a million times. Just go for it 100 percent and you'll be fine.'"

#### TALENT ABOUNDS

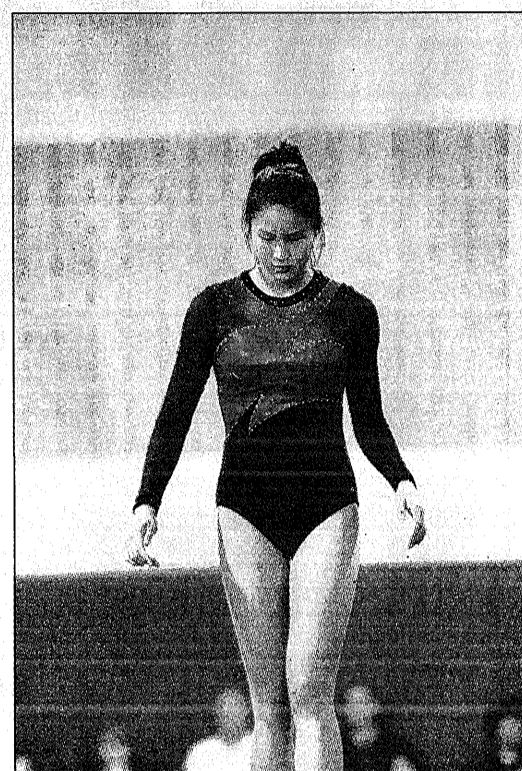
Cunningham also has an intriguing mix of talented returners (led by junior all-arounder Robyn Piwowar, who set a school record last season in floor exercise) and newcomers.

"She's my best all-arounder," Cunningham, entering his 31st season as Canton head coach, said about Piwowar. "She's the only kid on the team right now that's up on the record board. She set the record on floor and has consistently scored 36-to-37 which is plus-nine on every event."

Piwowar, a co-captain, also was fourth in the state on vault and excels on the balance beam.

Senior co-captain Mallory Hudak, another all-arounder, "is my psycho girl, she can do anything," the coach said.

Also back is sophomore all-arounder Marina Milad, who is the lone Chief perfecting an aerial



The picture of concentration in the Vassar dual meet is Canton's Cathy Huang.

on beam routine.

"When you can challenge yourself like that, and show it to the other girls, that's the type of thing that makes them want to get better, too," Cunningham said.

Junior Cathy Huang could set a school record on the bars and "is one of the few in the state" to do a double twist on floor exercise.

Meanwhile, the Chiefs, despite the graduation of 2008-09 state meet qualifier Olivia Stevens, could be even stronger in the KLAA South because of the influx of four girls with club experience.

#### SHOOT FOR TOP

Cunningham said junior Brooke Granowicz (whose twin sister Brittany is now in her second season), sophomore Ayana Lewis and freshmen Alex Fidele and Nicole Lasecki could ultimately become better gymnasts than Stevens before

Please see **CANTON, B4**

## Penguins hang on, ice Regina

BY TIM SMITH  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

For stretches of Tuesday night's game, it looked like the Plymouth-Canton-Salem Penguins could not be stopped.

Senior defenseman Jordyn Moore scored two high-light-reel goals, and the Penguins were up 4-1 early in the third period against Harper Woods Regina at Canton Arctic Edge Arena.

But a funny thing happened on the way to a blow-out. The pesky Saddletites scored two ugly goals in less than 50 seconds to suddenly make it 4-3 with 11:09 remaining in the Michigan Metro Girls High School Hockey League matchup. So PCS head coach Mary Beth Johnson called a timeout.

"I just told them they had to start over, it was like a 0-0 hockey game again," Johnson said. "Two bad bounces going their way completely changed the hockey game. We just had to start over and pretend it was a 0-0 hockey game and they had to win that period."

The Penguins clamped down all right, not giving Regina much of a chance to net the equalizer against PCS freshman goalie Cortny McAdoo (10 saves) and hanging on for the 4-3 victory to improve to 4-3-0 on the season.

Please see **PENGUINS, B3**



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Jordyn Moore (right) celebrates one of her two goals with Penguins teammate Ellexus Montoya during Tuesday's 4-3 win over Regina.

## Comeback falls short

BY TIM SMITH  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Not all defeats are created equal.

As far as Canton varsity boys basketball coach Jimmy Reddy is concerned, Tuesday's 56-54 loss to host Birmingham Seaholm felt more like a victory than anything else.

"Hopefully, we get better from this and learn from it," Reddy said. "This simulates what a game in March is going to be like. That's why we play these good teams in non-league games."

The Chiefs (1-2) started out slowly against the Maples, trailing 22-12 after one quarter, as the home team hit just about everything from the floor.

"We just weren't focused and ready to go and everything they

Please see **BASKETBALL, B2**

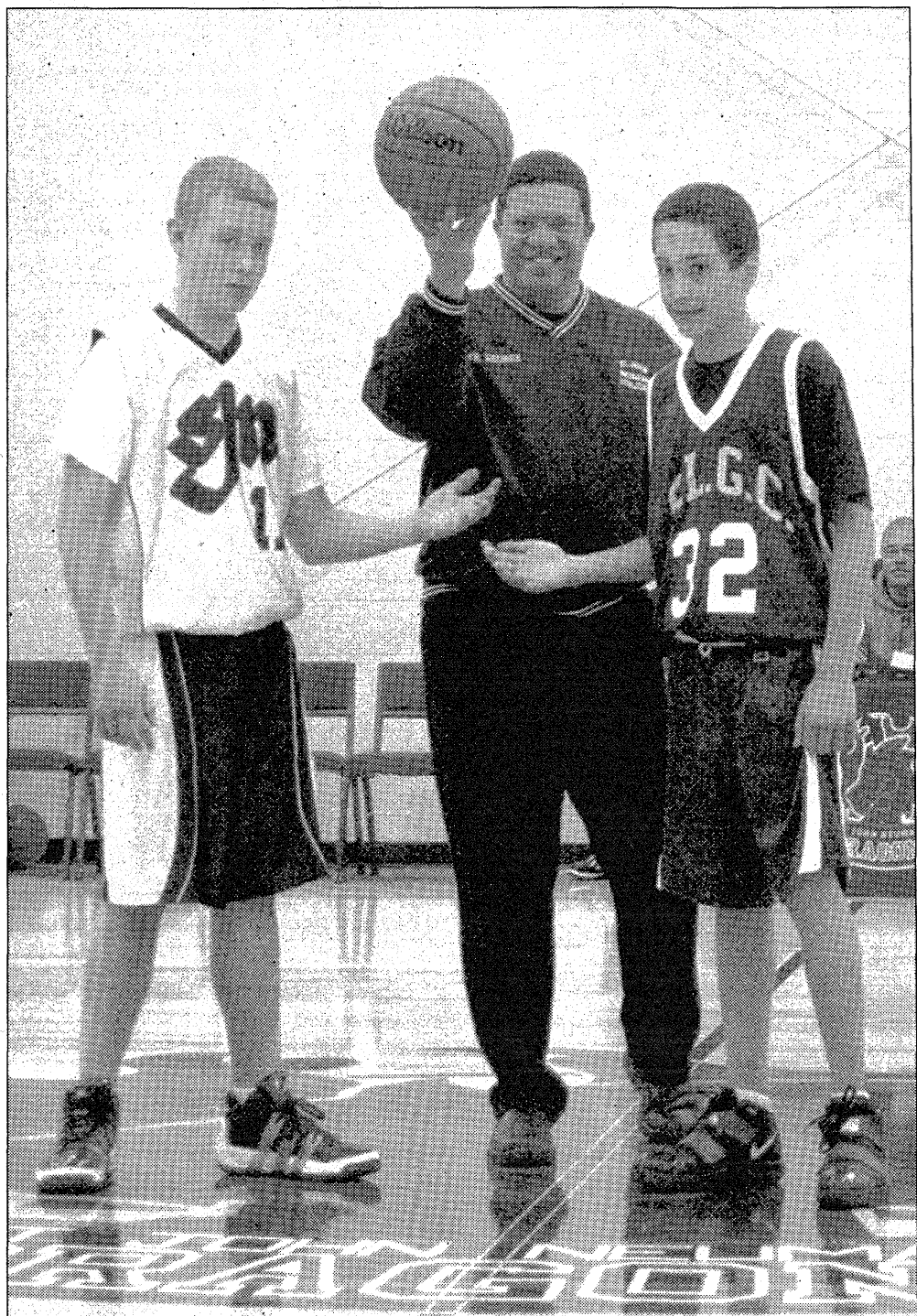
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**Jump ball**

St. John Neumann Rev. George Williams throws up the ceremonial opening tip off of the Canton parish's first Thanksgiving tournament, also the unveiling of the new gymnasium. Also pictured are S.J.N. player Wesley Weber (left) and an unidentified player from Our Lady of Good Counsel. At the tournament itself, the S.J.N. seventh grade boys team made it to the championship game only to fall short in a very thrilling CYO basketball game to St. Lawrence.

**Catholic Central hockey remains undefeated**

BY SAM EGGLESTON  
CORRESPONDENT

Three more have stepped up to take on the daunting task of defeating the Novi-Detroit Catholic Central hockey team and three more have fallen.

The Shamrocks, coached by Todd Johnson in his 15th year, know what it's like to be winners. They have a state championship from just last year still being talked about. They have one of the best goalies in the state in Zack Cisek.

They know how to be champions.

Livonia Stevenson, Livonia Churchill and DeLaSalle all found out the hard way that the Shamrocks have no intention of being considered anything less at this point. The Catholic Central skaters defeated DeLaSalle in a tightly contested match, 4-3, last Wednesday before toppling Churchill and Stevenson, convincingly, 8-1 and 6-2, respectively.

"It was nice to see our efforts being rewarded with pucks going into the net," said

Johnson. "We struggled scoring in the first five games, but the guys kept working hard and focusing on some structure ideas our staff was presenting, and they were rewarded for executing."

Johnson pointed out that his team doesn't have any true superstars, other than Cisek. On the offensive side of the team, the Shamrocks rely on their depth. That showed against Churchill has the team picked up eight goals from eight different players.

Chris Waterstreet, Eric Winkler, Sean Gaffney, Brad Wilhelm, Jimmy Peplinski, Ian Jacobs, Ryan Obuchowski and Ryan Keller all netted goals in the win over Churchill.

Credited with assists were Eric Fragoso (2), Michael Zylik (2), Wilhelm, Gaffney, Mitchell Gatt, Austin Hervey, Robert Ault, Waterstreet, Steven Hayden, Nolan Gluchowski, Obuchowski and Keller.

Connor Pankow earned the win at goalie and Alex Nork came in to relieve him for part of the contest.

Against Stevenson, the

Shamrocks found themselves behind 1-0 in the opening minutes of the contest, but bounced back to tie the game off a goal by Winkler at the 9:21 mark with Waterstreet and Gaffney earning assists.

The squad then took the lead nine minutes later when Fragoso found the back of the net off a pass from Waterstreet. Wilhelm also assisted on the play.

The Spartans pushed back, tying the game in the second period before the Shamrocks went on a scoring rampage to shut the game down. Winkler added his second goal of the game with 13:13 left in the second before FGaffney and Fragoso each collected a goal to put the game out of reach at 5-2. Winkler notched the final goal of the night in the third period to complete a hat trick.

Assists were earned by Ault, Jacob Downing, Hervey, Peplinski, Nick Crowley and Gatt.

Sam Eggleston is a free-lance writer and former staff sports writer for the Northville Record and Novi News.

**PREP GAME WRAPS**

**Boys hockey**

**PLYMOUTH 7, SOUTHGATE 2:** The Wildcats broke a 2-2 tie with 5:46 left in the third on a goal from Ryan Brown and pulled away with four more markers to lift host Plymouth (7-0-1) to this non-conference victory on Saturday at Compuware Arena.

Registering three goals and assisting on another was Brown, while Zach Gambrell, Colin Wright, Pat Smiatacz and Nick Schultz also hit the back of the Titans net.

For Schultz, it was his first goal of the season. "That was the result of just going to the net," said Wildcats head coach Paul Fassbinder, "something we have been preaching the last few weeks."

Making 17 stops for the victory was goalie Zach Vojcek, who the coach said played very well.

"It was good to get a lot of people ice time," Fassbinder said. "Everyone played. Going into the toughest week of the year we needed to get guys some ice."

Gambrell, Cody Hunt, Ryan Renault and Tyler Sanders each tallied two assists for Plymouth.

**ST. MARYS CC 5, SALEM 2:** Visiting Salem rallied Saturday from an early 2-0 deficit to tie the game in the second on goals by Ryan Quigley and Steve Haburne. But Monroe St. Mary's Catholic Central (No. 2 in Division 3) regained control with two power play goals in the third.

"We had too many penalties and spent the majority of the third period in the box," said Rocks head coach Ryan Ossennmacher.

Kurt Driscoll collected two assists while Haburne also drew an assist on Quigley's goal.

**Girls basketball**

**SALEM 55, DETROIT COMMUNITY 8:** The host Rocks scored early and often Friday night against Detroit Community, earning

their second victory.

"They're not as good as they've been in past years," said Salem head coach Fred Thomann, whose team improved to 2-2 on the seasons. "It was a pretty easy win for us."

Thomann also said it was a good night for the entire team to contribute, as nine of 10 players who got into the game scored at least one point.

Three players reached double figures in the scoring department. Brett deBear and Sara Stone each scored 12 points while Breanne Beaver tallied 10 points. Stone led Salem with nine rebounds while deBear registered five assists.

Chipping in with six points was Lily Burnstein.

Salem's next game is a biggie, 7 p.m. Thursday against district rival Plymouth. The visiting Wildcats (1-2) will be looking to snap a two-game losing streak. Plymouth lost 50-30 Friday night to Farmington Hills Mercy, despite five points from Stacey Klonowski and four each from Alex Roberts and Katelyn Watson.

**Boys basketball**

**SALEM 48, RU 39 (OT):** It may not have been the result head coach Brett Steele was seeking from his Redford Union cagers Tuesday night, but the effort put forth certainly is something the youthful Panthers can build upon heading into league play early next year.

The Panthers took visiting Plymouth Salem right down to the wire, and then some, in falling 48-39 in overtime.

"Our kids played their hearts out," Steele said. "But like I told them after the game we've been around here too long and had too much success for any moral victories. If you don't come out on top then you didn't do enough things right. We've got a lot of things to work on, but hopefully this is something we can build on."

The Panthers old bug-a-boo

of starting slow was again present against the Rocks as they managed just four points in the opening eight minutes to fall behind by a 15-4 count.

The second quarter produced a little more excitement for the home fans as the Panthers found the bottom of the bucket with a little more frequency, cutting the deficit to 22-16 at the break.

In the second half, junior Anthony Stadler and sophomores JaVonte' Davis and Try Goynes provided a spark that saw the Panthers get right back into the game in the third quarter and draw even with Rocks in the waning moments of the fourth period.

RU even had a chance to pull it out in regulation, but the youthful Panthers failed to get a shot off before the buzzer sounded sending the game into overtime.

In the extra session it was all Rocks as they outscored the Panthers 9-0 to register their first victory of the season.

"In overtime Salem scored quickly to get the lead and I think we might have been a little demoralized after not getting a shot off in regulation to try and win it," Steele said. "I think our youthfulness and inexperience kind of came out near the end there."

The Rocks were led to victory by center Jake Peterson who tossed in a game-high 25 points. Tyler Stewart chipped in with 10.

Stadler, a 6-foot guard, led RU with 13 points. Davis followed with 11 points and Goynes bagged seven.

"We changed our lineup in the second half and guys like Stadler, Davis and Goynes did a lot of nice things," Steele said. "And you can't forget (senior forward) Keith Marshall. He played well inside and really battled to get rebounds."

The loss kept the Panthers winless in three starts. Their next opportunity at salvaging that initial victory comes Friday night against visiting Fordson.



**Monarchs school rivals**

The Monarchs recently won the Canton Education Basketball League Girls 'A' league championship. Team members (listed alphabetically) are Sarah Curtis, Taylor Hunley, Katie Latack, Jessica Lentine, Dayna Schroeder, Kelly Schmidt, Jessica Stevenson and Layne Visser. Dave Visser is the head coach. Congratulations to the Monarchs for the accomplishment.

**BASKETBALL**

FROM PAGE B1

threw up went in," Reddy said. "But we fought back and won every quarter after that."

Canton outscored Seaholm 42-34 the rest of the way, led by Kevin Weisz (19 points, eight rebounds), Paul Baumgart (10 points, seven rebounds) and Dietrich Lever (nine points, eight assists, four steals).

Reddy said his team had several chances to tie or take the lead in the final stages.

"But we just couldn't get over the hump," he said. "You just have to take your hat off to Birmingham Seaholm, they took away the stuff we like to do. But I like the way our kids competed."

For Seaholm (2-1), senior guard Richard Pack scored 29 points (13-of-15 from the free-throw line) and junior forward Shawn Conway scored 17 points.

**Wildcats nipped**

Dexter defeated host Plymouth 44-42 Tuesday night in a non-conference boys basketball tilt.

Brennen Beyer and Mike Nadratowski scored 11 and 10 points, respectively, for the 1-1 Wildcats.

For Dexter (2-0), Alex Dobbs registered 13 points.

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**Shorthanded Whalers don't miss a beat**

One mark of a good team is to receive positive contributions from everyone and find a way to win.

The Plymouth Whalers are proof in an 8-0 victory over the Saginaw Spirit in an Ontario Hockey League game played Saturday night before 2,216 at Compuware Arena.

The Whalers improve to 19-14-0-1, good for 39 points and a share of fourth place in the tight Western Conference race. Saginaw is now 16-13-3-0.

Plymouth played in the game with center Tyler Seguin (third in the OHL scoring race with 26 goals and 25 assists for 51 points in 29 games) and goaltender Matt Hackett (2.57 goals against average and .926 save percentage) - both away at Canada's National Junior selection camp in Regina, SK. But the Whalers depth proved to be too much for Saginaw as Plymouth led, 4-0 after one period and 5-0 after forty minutes of play.

With Hackett away, Whalers rookie goaltender Scott Wedgewood stopped 35 Saginaw shots en route to his first OHL shutout. Wedgewood - who has won in shoot-outs on the road in Windsor and Sudbury this season - lowered his goals against average to 3.51 and raised his save percentage to .909.

Offensively, Plymouth captain AJ Jenks and rookie Garrett Meurs led the Whalers attack with a goal and three assists apiece. Jamie Devane scored twice (second and third), while Tyler J. Brown (fourth), Ryan Hayes (fifth), Michal Jordan (eighth and fifth in five straight games) and Robbie Czarnik (third) all scored single goals for the Whalers.

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2009-10 BOYS SWIMMING PREVIEW

# Plenty of promise in Canton's pool

BY TIM SMITH  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Youth very well could be served this season for Canton's varsity boys swim team.

A nucleus of returnees includes state-meet hopefuls such as sophomores Victor Zhang, Jay Jin and Adrian Simion along with reliable seniors Brandon Tolinski, Ryan Boes and Steve Watts. "Victor can do anything," said Canton head coach Dave Le. "And he can do anything real well."

But the Chiefs, according to Le, enjoy 19 first-year swimmers who could provide important team depth and competition for the returnees.

"My initial thought so far, is our depth is satisfactory," said Le, whose team is gearing up for Friday's Plymouth Wildcat Relays. "As we get into it a little more, with 19 freshmen, I'm sure we'll find quite a bit more."

In order for Canton to equal last year's 5-0 mark in the

KLAA South and be reckoned with at the conference meet (and hopefully beyond), the so-called veterans and newbies will need to mesh as a unit.

But Le has few doubts if any about that transpiring. "I have high hopes for conference meet and doing well at the conference meet," Le said. "That's our ultimate goal, to swim fast at the end of the year."

Despite the graduation of individual state qualifier Richard Zhang and relay state qualifier Eddie Koelzer, the Chiefs expect others to fill the void.

Juniors Chris Krebs (IM, freestyle), Evan Champine (freestyle) and Jacob Dillon (breaststroke) can definitely do that.

"They've all been training in the off-season and I expect them to do well," Le stressed.

Co-captains Tolinski, Boes and Watts bring a been-there, done-that mindset and want to finish their prep careers strong.

Tolinski was part of state-meet relays "and hopefully he can qualify in some individual events this year, hopefully in the butterfly," Le said.

The coach said Boes is a "very strong" breaststroker while Watts rips through the water as a sprint freestyler.

Senior Pat Jenner also is a returnee from the state-meet relays, with breaststroker Eric Tian another important returnee.

Both Andrew Hanagan and Madison Derian-Toth will bring experience and leadership.

Canton also could pose problems for KLAA rivals because of its diving capability.

Leading in that department will be sophomore Ryan Kilgore, although "remarkable progress" from first-year divers such as freshmen Kyle Spence, Quinn Hosler, Mike Carlson and sophomore Drew Wade could really make things competitive.

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BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Skating down the Arctic Edge ice Tuesday night is PCS Penguins forward Rebecca Majszak (No. 12), who gets past Regina's Amber Constantine. Majszak finished off the play by scoring the game's first goal.

## PENGUINS

FROM PAGE B1

Although Moore scored her seventh and eighth goals of the season to take over the team lead in that category, it was her steady defense and strong skating that made the biggest impact.

"She played travel for a while and then came to play for us, and she's obviously a two-way player," Johnson said. "She can put the puck in the net, but she can also defend in her own end. She's a great, versatile player."

Also strong in the back end were senior blueliner Shauna Siebert and junior defensemen Sarah Coleman and Rhianna Fleisher.

Moore scored carbon-copy goals in the first and second to turn a 1-0 lead into a 3-0 advantage, with 6:19 remaining in the middle period.

## TWICE AS NICE

After junior winger Rebecca Majszak scored at 6:50 of the first from senior center Kara Bongiovanni, the Penguins went up 2-0 with about 11 minutes to go in the period.

Moore collected the puck deep in her own end, raced down the right wing, cut into the slot and ripped a high shot over the glove hand of Regina junior goalie Kelsey Erne, who played an excellent game in defeat, making 35 stops.

With 8:44 left in the second, Moore did it again. She skated out of traffic in the Penguins' zone and turned on the jets, roaring down ice and going top shelf again.

"When it comes down to a game that's going to be close," Johnson said, "our stars really pull through and get those goals for us."

But Regina would not go quietly. With 2:06 remaining in the second, winger Kristen Taylor (two goals, one assist)

was stopped by McAdoo. But the rebound slithered under the goaltender's pads into the crease and Taylor managed to poke the puck over the line.

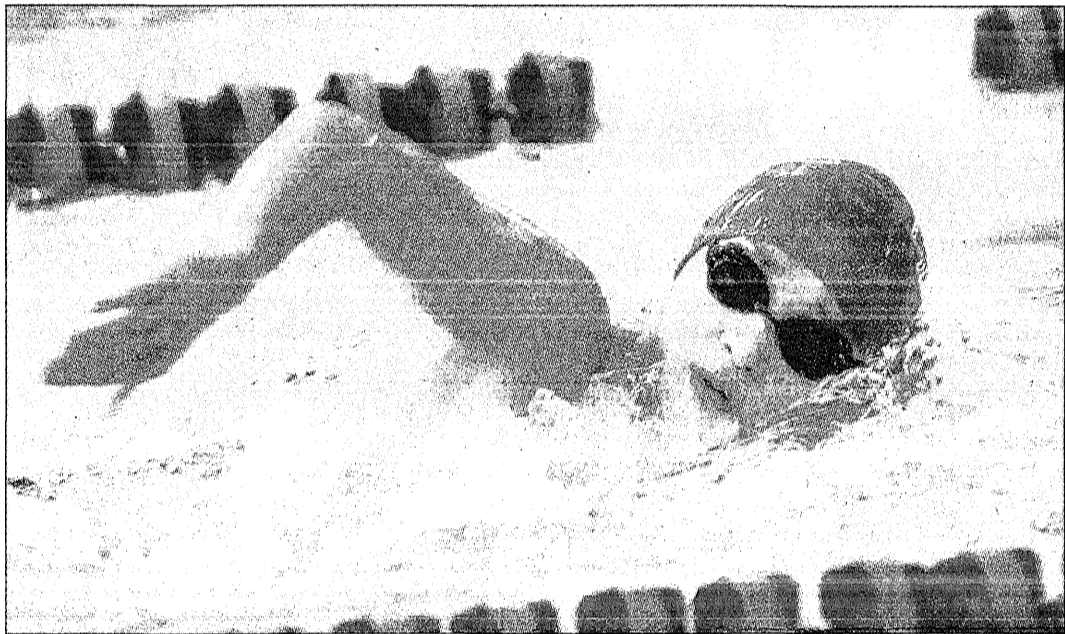
Restoring the Penguins' three-goal lead was junior winger Marissa Sullivan (from Majszak and Siebert) at 2:27 of the third. Stationed between the circles, Sullivan took a feed from the corner and drilled the puck into the goal.

But just 37 seconds later, Danielle Merow jabbed in a rebound to make it 4-2.

Then at 3:51, Taylor's second of the night, also from in close, signalled time for Johnson to call the crucial timeout and settle down the team for the final stretch.

The Penguins were slated to visit Grosse Pointe North Wednesday night in the final game before the holiday break. The team's next action is 6:30 p.m. Jan. 5 against Port Huron.

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BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

After making a splash as a freshman, Canton's Jay Jin looks to help propel the Chiefs to another strong season in 2009-10.

### Coaches, please call

It's getting close to the winter season of high school sports, believe it or not.

Coaches or their assistants are asked to supply recaps of games, meets and matches (win or lose, home or away) to help spotlight the accomplishments of deserving student-athletes at Canton, Plymouth, Salem and Plymouth Christian Academy.

To do so, please e-mail Observer sports editor Tim Smith (tsmith@hometownlife.com) or leave him detailed messages at (313) 222-2637. Deadlines are Tuesday nights for the Thursday paper and Friday nights for the Sunday edition.

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Jan 30	The Thomas Crown Affair (1968)	Starring the Gallery, 118 W. Main	Jan 16
Feb 6	The Philadelphia Story (1940)	Orin Jewelers, 101 E. Main	Jan 23
Feb 13	Roman Holiday (1953)	Riffle's Homestyle Restaurant, 160 E. Main	Jan 30
Feb 20	Mr. Smith Goes to Washington (1939)	Wine Sync, 122 W. Main	Feb 6
Feb 27	That Touch of Mink (1962)	Alexander's Custom Clothiers, 124 W. Main	Feb 13
March 6	Charade (1963)	Sincerely Yours, Inc., 110 N. Center	Feb 20
March 13	Paris When It Sizzles (1964)	Sizzling Sticks, 144 Mary Alexander Ct.	Feb 27
March 20	Vertigo (1958)	Poole's Tavern, 157 E. Main	March 6
March 27	Easter Parade (1948)	Gardenviews, 202 W. Main	March 13

Tickets (\$3/ticket) are available for purchase exclusively at ticket-sponsor locations. The Movies at the Marquis series is open to all guests five years and older. The historic Marquis Theatre is located in downtown Northville at 135 E. Main Street. For more information and updates on the 2010 Movies at the Marquis series, visit www.downtownnorthville.com or call 248-349-0345.

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# Lady Ocelots avert Skippers' upset bid

Call it the "Great Escape" for the Schoolcraft College women's basketball team on Saturday.

The host Lady Ocelots, ranked No. 2 nationally in the latest NJCAA Division II poll, overcame 29 turnovers and held off a valiant effort by upset-minded St. Clair County Community College for a 62-58 triumph.

Angie Burrell's two free throws with 25 seconds left helped secure Schoolcraft's 43rd straight win at home and 32nd straight Eastern Conference win in the Michigan Community College Athletic Association.

The Lady Ocelots, now 14-0 overall and 5-0 in the conference, held double-digit leads of 50-37 (with 12:35 left) and 54-42 (with 7:30 left) during the second half, but could not shake the stubborn Skippers (7-3, 2-1).

April Goins had 13 points and seven rebounds to pace Schoolcraft. Antania Shepherd and Goins each added 12 points and nine rebounds. Kimberly Bee also grabbed nine rebounds.

Chanahl Putnam paced St. Clair with 20 points.

Mariah Spicer added 14.

It was also Schoolcraft's 64th conference win in the last 66 games. The Ocelots' closest win during that stretch was an identical 62-58 triumph over St. Clair (Feb. 12, 2009). The last loss was Jan. 23, 2008 (62-59 vs. Oakland CC).

**MADONNA 80, ST.-MARY (IND.) 64:** Junior Tabatha Wydryck notched her fourth 20-point game of the season Saturday as Madonna University (4-4) led four players in double figures to beat St. Mary-of-the-Woods (2-4) to close out the St. Ambrose Classic (Ia.) at Lee Lohman Arena.

Wydryck finished with 21 points and nine rebounds.

Also scoring in double figures was Kaylee McGrath (Livonia Stevenson), 17; Erin Bentley, 16; and Katie Mount, 12.

Chelsey Barron led St. Mary-of-the-Woods with 19 points, while Brittney Shaner added 15.

MU led 48-40 at halftime hitting 18-of-37 shots from the floor, including 5-of-10 from three point range.

The Crusaders had a 40-34 rebounding edge.

# Fresh faces could catapult Rocks

BY TIM SMITH  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Salem's varsity girls gymnastics team looks to vault toward success in 2009-10, with a trio of newcomers essential to that transpiring.

Freshman all-arounder Ade Jepperson could be the top sparkplug for the Rocks, bringing seventh-level club experience.

"Ade is an amazing athlete and an inspiration to her teammates," said Salem assistant coach Amy Driscoll, who works on the staff of head coach Dana Driscoll. "She is one of those kids that absolutely loves the sport and it is infectious."

But Jepperson, who excelled in cross country this fall, won't need to carry the team thanks to a nucleus of returnees.

Sophomore Nicole Jacobs is the top returner from 2008-09, having finished fifth at the Division 2 regional.

"Nicole is a hard worker with unlimited potential," Driscoll said. "We expect that she will continue to improve and will be a top competitor in the region and state."

Jacobs could make an impact at the state meet both on the balance beam and floor routine.

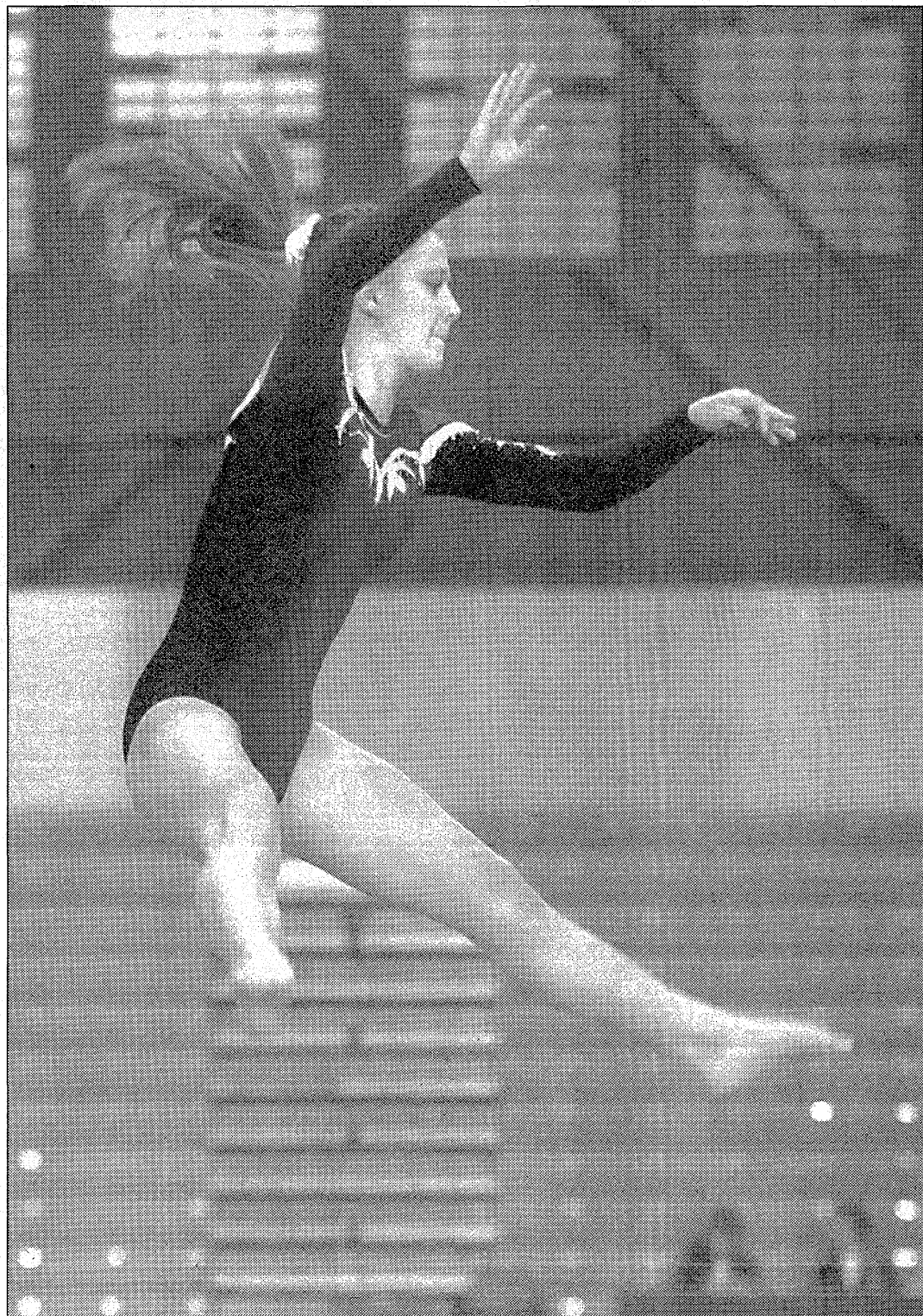
"Her beam routine is packed with difficulty and she makes it look easy," said Driscoll about Jacobs.

Another key returner is senior co-captain Kasey Winczkowski, an A-team all-around performer for the past three seasons.

"Kasey is by far one of the most graceful gymnasts on the team and that makes her really fun to watch," the Salem assistant noted. "Her biggest contribution will be on the uneven parallel bars and also on the balance beam."

Other co-captains will be called upon for leadership and solid performances. Joining Winczkowski in that group are seniors Andrea Negele, Ashley Hughes and junior Marie Cross — all solid performers on balance beam.

Jepperson isn't the only noteworthy addition. Driscoll likes the potential of junior Kristina Klusek and senior Brianna Burbo, with both "expected to make significant contributions to the team this year."



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Returning for Salem in 2009-10 is Nicole Jacobs, who placed second in the Division 2 all-around competition last season.

Klusek could become an all-arounder, but opens the season specializing in floor exercise, vault and balance beam while Burbo will compete in floor exercise, uneven parallel bars and balance beam.

According to Driscoll, having such promise coming on board will help offset the graduation of eight girls from last year's 18-member team.

"While some may consider this a rebuilding year after the

loss of so many seniors," she said, "we are very excited for the opportunity to work with the astounding number of new, eager and talented gymnasts that have come out for the team this year."

Driscoll added that her team's penchant for effort won't hinder its hopes to excel in the KLA and perhaps beyond.

"With so many new faces and first-time competitors

rounding out our team this year," she emphasized, "it is hard to predict what the season has in store for us."

"But we have a group of extremely talented, focused and hard-working gymnasts and hard work always pays off."

Look to the Observer for a preview of Plymouth's gymnastics team in an upcoming issue.

tsmith@hometownlife.com

## SPORTS ROUNDUP

### Moose mission

The Detroit Moose hockey team, which has Canton's Derek Fowler as captain, is hosting families and children that lost a parent in the Iraq or Afghanistan wars to watch a special closed-door Detroit Red Wings practice on Tuesday, Dec. 22 at Joe Louis Arena. The practice starts at 10:30 a.m..

"The Red Wings are really great to step up to the plate like this," said Fowler, about opening the practice up. "... We would like to pay a very special thank you to Mr. and Mrs. (Mike) Ilitch and the whole Detroit Red Wings organization as well as Mr. Joe Kocur to allow us to put on this wonderful event for filing our mission of giving back unselfishly and making a difference in our commu-

nity."

For more information about the event — which includes lunch at Cheli's Chili following practice — go to [www.detroitmoose.org](http://www.detroitmoose.org).

The Moose plays in the Detroit B division of Hockey North America, a recreation hockey circuit.

### Holiday hoops camp

The Plymouth High School Basketball Booster Club announced it will be hosting its Holiday Basketball Camp, 1-3 p.m. Monday, Dec. 28 through Wednesday, Dec. 30 at the PHS gymnasium.

Up to 50 boys in grades 5-8 are eligible to sign up. The cost of the camp is \$50. For more information and to register, contact booster club president John Nadratowski at (734) 844-3212.

**UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK**

**In re MOTORS LIQUIDATION COMPANY, et al.**  
f/k/a General Motors Corp., et al. Debtors.

**Chapter 11 Case No. 09-50026 (REG)**  
(Jointly Administered)

**In re REMEDIATION AND LIABILITY MANAGEMENT COMPANY, INC., Debtor.**

**Chapter 11 Case No. 09-50029 (REG)**

**In re ENVIRONMENTAL CORPORATE REMEDIATION COMPANY, INC., Debtor.**

**Chapter 11 Case No. 09-50030 (REG)**

**NOTICE OF DEADLINE FOR FILING PROOFS OF CLAIM TO ALL PERSONS AND ENTITIES WITH CLAIMS AGAINST DEBTOR SET FORTH BELOW:**

Name of Debtor	Case Number	Tax Identification Number	Other Names Used by Debtors in the Past 8 Years
Remediation and Liability Management Company, Inc. (subsidiary of General Motors Corporation)	09-50029 (REG)	38-2529430	Uptown Land Development Corporation
Environmental Corporate Remediation Company, Inc. (subsidiary of General Motors Corporation)	09-50030 (REG)	41-1650789	GM National Hawaii, Inc., NCRS Hawaii, Inc.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT, on December 2, 2009, the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of New York (the "Court") having jurisdiction over the chapter 11 cases of Remediation and Liability Management Company, Inc. and Environmental Corporate Remediation Company, Inc., as debtors in possession (each subsidiaries of General Motors Corporation) (collectively, the "REALM/ENCORE Debtors") entered an order (the "Bar Date Order") establishing February 1, 2010, at 5:00 p.m. (Eastern Time) as the last date and time for each person or entity (including, without limitation, individuals, partnerships, corporations, joint ventures, and trusts) to file a proof of claim ("Proof of Claim") based on prepetition claims against any of the REALM/ENCORE Debtors (the "Bar Date").

The Bar Date Order, the Bar Date and the procedures set forth below for the filing of Proofs of Claim apply to all claims against the REALM/ENCORE Debtors that arose prior to October 9, 2009, the date on which the REALM/ENCORE Debtors commenced their cases under chapter 11 of the United States Bankruptcy Code (the "Bankruptcy Code").

The REALM/ENCORE Debtors were subsidiaries of GENERAL MOTORS CORPORATION. The properties owned by the REALM/ENCORE Debtors, which are listed below, may have been known to you as property of General Motors Corporation.

If you have any questions relating to this Notice, please feel free to contact the Debtors at 1-800-414-9607 or by e-mail at [claims@motorsliquidation.com](mailto:claims@motorsliquidation.com). In addition, you may contact the Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors through its website at [www.motorsliquidationcreditorscommittee.com](http://www.motorsliquidationcreditorscommittee.com) or at 1-212-715-3275.

YOU SHOULD CONSULT AN ATTORNEY IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, INCLUDING WHETHER YOU SHOULD FILE A PROOF OF CLAIM.

**1. WHO MUST FILE A PROOF OF CLAIM**

You MUST file a Proof of Claim to vote on a chapter 11 plan filed by the REALM/ENCORE Debtors or to share in any of the REALM/ENCORE Debtors' estates if you have a claim that arose prior to October 9, 2009. Acts or omissions that occurred before October 9, 2009 may give rise to claims against the REALM/ENCORE Debtors that must be filed by February 1, 2010, notwithstanding that such claims may not have matured or become fixed or liquidated or certain prior to October 9, 2009.

Pursuant to section 101(5) of the Bankruptcy Code and as used in this Notice, the word "claim" means: (a) a right to payment, whether or not such right is reduced to judgment, liquidated, unliquidated, fixed, contingent, matured, unmatured, disputed, undisputed, legal, equitable, secured, or unsecured; or (b) a right to an equitable remedy for breach of performance if such breach gives rise to a right to payment, whether or not such right to an equitable remedy is reduced to judgment, fixed, contingent, matured, unmatured, disputed, undisputed, secured, or unsecured.

**YOU SHOULD NOT FILE A PROOF OF CLAIM IF YOU DO NOT HAVE A CLAIM.**

**2. WHEN AND WHERE TO FILE**

All Proofs of Claim must be filed so as to be **actually received** on or before February 1, 2010 at the following address:

If by overnight courier or hand delivery: The Garden City Group, Inc. Attn: Motors Liquidation Company Claims Processing 5151 Blazer Parkway, Suite A Dublin, Ohio 43017

If by first-class mail to: The Garden City Group, Inc. Attn: Motors Liquidation Company Claims Processing P.O. Box 9386 Dublin, Ohio 43017-4286

Or if by hand delivery to: United States Bankruptcy Court, SDNY One Bowling Green, Room 534 New York, New York 10004

Proofs of Claim will be deemed timely filed only if **actually received** by The Garden City Group, Inc. or the Court on or before February 1, 2010. Proofs of Claim may **not** be delivered by facsimile, telecopy, or electronic mail transmission.

**3. WHAT TO FILE**

If you file a Proof of Claim, your filed Proof of Claim must: (i) be written in the English language; (ii) be denominated in dollars; (iii) conform substantially to Official Bankruptcy Form No. 10 ("Proof of Claim Form"); (iv) state the REALM/ENCORE Debtor against which it is filed; (v) set forth the factual basis for the alleged claim; (vi) include supporting documentation or an explanation as to why such documentation is not available; and (vii) be signed by the claimant or, if the claimant is not an individual, by an authorized agent of the claimant.

Proof of Claim Forms may be obtained at [www.uscourts.gov/bkforms/](http://www.uscourts.gov/bkforms/) or [www.motorsliquidation.com](http://www.motorsliquidation.com).

**YOU SHOULD ATTACH TO YOUR COMPLETED PROOF OF CLAIM FORM COPIES OF ANY WRITINGS UPON WHICH YOUR CLAIM IS BASED. IF THE DOCUMENTS ARE VOLUMINOUS, YOU SHOULD ATTACH A SUMMARY.**

**4. CONSEQUENCES OF FAILURE TO FILE A PROOF OF CLAIM BY THE APPLICABLE BAR DATE**

If you do not file a Proof of Claim on or before February 1, 2010 in the appropriate form in accordance with the procedures described in this Notice for any claim you wish to assert, you will be forever prohibited and forbidden from asserting the claim in the future, and each of the Debtors and their respective chapter 11 estates, successors, and property will be forever discharged from and will not be liable or responsible for anything relating to the claim, and you will not be permitted to vote to accept or reject any chapter 11 plan filed in these chapter 11 cases, receive any distribution in any of the REALM/ENCORE Debtors' chapter 11 cases on account of your claim, or receive further notices with respect to any of the REALM/ENCORE Debtors' chapter 11 cases.

A holder of a possible claim should consult an attorney as to whether the holder should file a Proof of Claim.

DATED: December 2, 2009 BY ORDER OF THE COURT  
New York, New York

WEIL, GOTTSCHAL & MANGES LLP  
767 Fifth Avenue  
New York, New York 10153  
Telephone: (212) 310-8000  
Facsimile: (212) 310-8007

ATTORNEYS FOR DEBTORS AND DEBTORS IN POSSESSION

**LIST OF PROPERTIES**

Site Name	Address	City, State Zip
6560 CASS AVENUE (NEW CENTER COMPLEX)	6560 CASS AVENUE	DETROIT, MICHIGAN 48202
BAY CITY - CROTTY STREET	1001 WOODSIDE AVENUE	BAY CITY, MICHIGAN 48708
DANVILLE CENTRAL FOUNDRY LANDFILL	1-74 @ G STREET	DANVILLE, ILLINOIS 61832
DELPHI I-COLDWATER ROAD (LANDFILL & WWTP CLOSURE)	WWTP AT 6220 HORTON STREET, LANDFILL AT 1245 EAST	FLINT, MICHIGAN 48505
DELPHI SAGINAW PLANT 2 - LANDFILL	79 WEST CENTER STREET	SAGINAW, MICHIGAN 48605
ELYRIA LANDFILL (LORAIN)	1400 LOWELL STREET	ELYRIA, OHIO 44035
FORMER DELCO CHASSIS PLANT	12950 ECKLES ROAD	LIVONIA, MICHIGAN 48150
GMPT - TOLEDO REALM PARCEL	1455 WEST ALEXIS ROAD	TOLEDO, OHIO 43612
GREENPOINT LANDFILL	77, 79 WEST CENTER STREET AND 3305, 3307 GABRIEL	SAGINAW, MICHIGAN 48602
LEEDS ASSEMBLY LAND	LAND SOUTH OF 6817 STADIUM DRIVE	KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI 64129
LEY CREEK SITE (SALINA)	FACTORY AVENUE AND/OR MALLEO ROAD EAST	SALINA, NEW YORK 13209
LINDEN ROAD	1200 SOUTH LINDEN ROAD	FLINT TOWNSHIP, MICHIGAN 48532
PEREGRINE - COLDWATER ROAD (PLANT)	1245 EAST COLDWATER ROAD (G-1245 EAST COLDWATER ROAD)	FLINT, MICHIGAN 48505
SOUTH LAGOON (MORAIN COMPLEX)	3801 DRYDEN	MORAIN, OHIO 45439
SUMMERFIELD (LAND ALONG STANLEY ROAD)	STANLEY ROAD	MT. MORRIS, MICHIGAN 48458
TEXTILE ROAD LAND	BUNTON & TEXTILE ROADS	YPSILANTI, MICHIGAN 48197
TONAWANDA LANDFILL	2520 KENMORE AVENUE	TONAWANDA, NEW YORK 14207
VACANT LAND SOUTH OF VAN BORN	5000 ECORSE ROAD	BELLEVILLE, MICHIGAN 48111

## CANTON

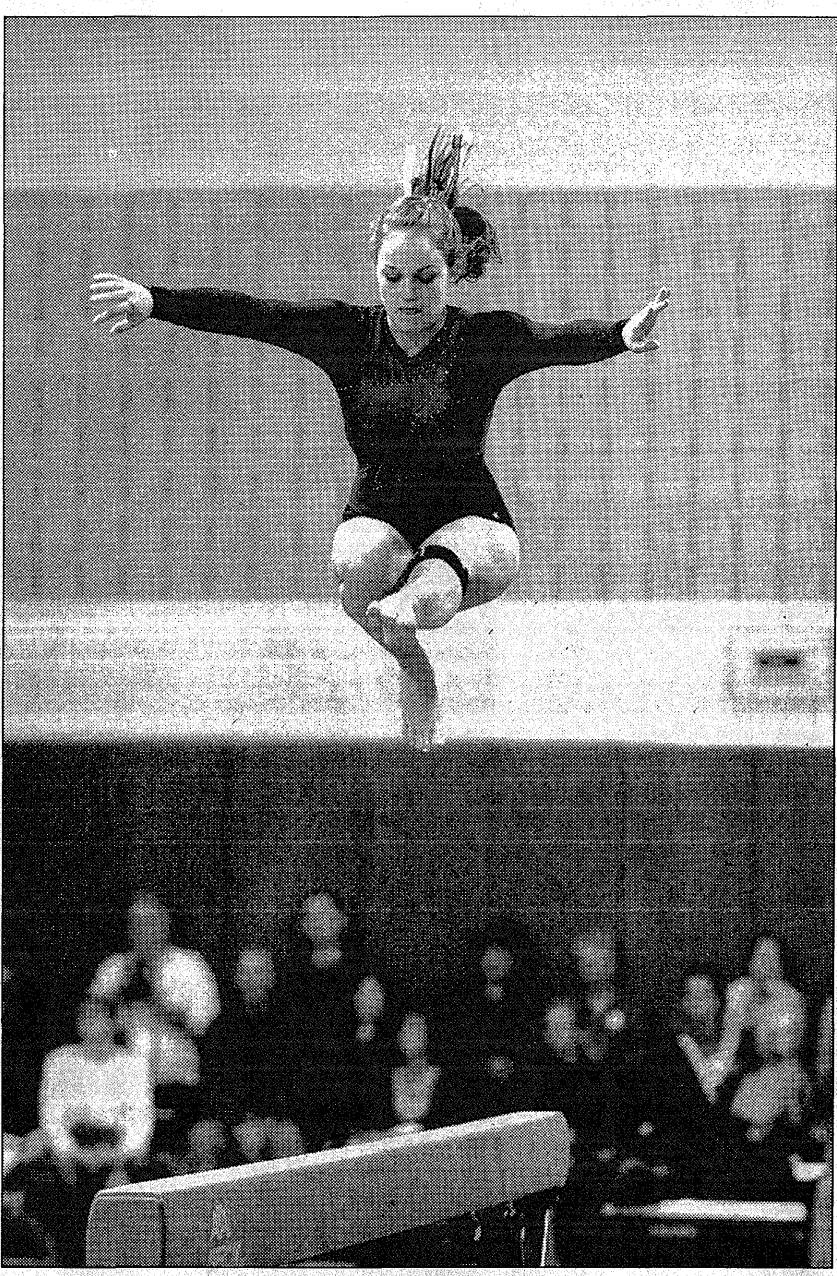
FROM PAGE B1

they leave high school.

Cunningham said having a large contingent of athletes working hard to push each other to excel should only help Canton's quest to finish in the top three at the conference and regional meets and improve on last year's No. 8 state ranking.

But it won't be easy, with always-tough Salem, Northville, Livonia Blue and Livonia Red in the conference and regional picture.

"All have strong teams and they all come to our region," Cunningham said, "and only three can make it to state. The other half is, when we do go to state, there are four regions, with three teams from each so that means 12 teams. ... I want to be in the top three of that as well."



JOHN KEMSKI

Canton junior gymnast Kali Pierce excels in a beam routine last week against Vassar.

Check us out on the Web every day at [hometownlife.com](http://hometownlife.com)



# Plymouth Strictly Business

## BUSINESS MILESTONES

### Around Town

In its weekly update, the Plymouth Downtown Development Authority noted the following items:

- The DDA Board finalized plans for a new \$1.8 million Streetscape project. Look for a new concrete intersection with a decorative compass on the corner of Main and Ann Arbor Trail. New traffic signal mast arms will be erected at the corners of Main and Ann Arbor Trail and Main and Penniman. The first phase of the project - to begin next spring - also calls for new asphalt for Main Street between Penniman and Ann Arbor Trail, as well as on Ann Arbor Trail from Union to Forest. New crosswalks will be constructed with new bricks, keeping the traditional look of downtown.

- The Rock Bar and Grill on Penniman could open as soon as Friday. The owners plan to have a soft opening with a grand opening sometime next month.

- Muriel's Doll House on Penniman was voted No. 1 on WDIV-TV's Web site - ClickonDetroit.com - for Best Children's Gifts. Coming in at No. 4 on the list was newly opened Genuine Toy Company on Forest Ave.

- The Plymouth Community United Way collected more than 1,000 Teddy Bears at the annual Plymouth Whalers Teddy Bear Toss game Dec. 5.

In what has become a 10-year tradition, fans bring Teddy Bears and when the Whalers score their first goal toss them on the ice. The bears are distributed to the United Way, Plymouth Salvation Army and other organizations, who then give them to young children to comfort them at disaster scenes.

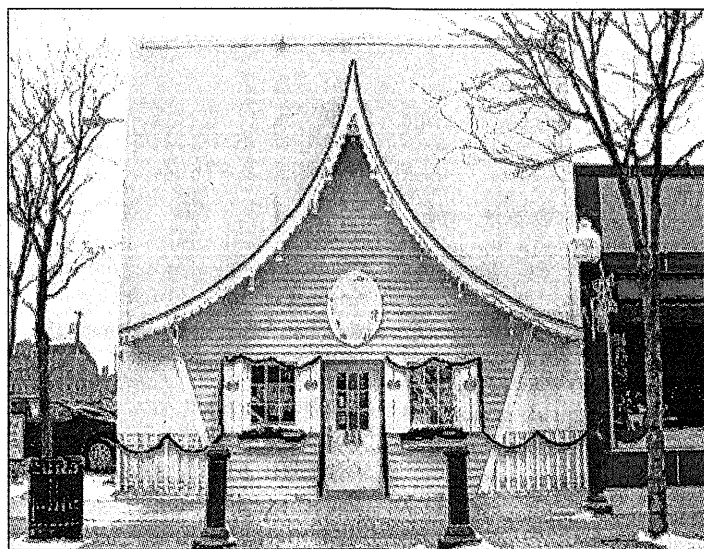
- Lori and Parker Whitaker at ROM Fitness are offering downtown Plymouth employees a discount on their four-minute workout. Try a 30-day membership for \$40, a 33-percent discount from the regular \$60 price. A 20-session pack (regularly \$70) is \$45.

### Better Health

Novi-based Better Health Markets announced its Warren location is moving and its Plymouth location is expanding.

The new 4,600 square foot Sterling Heights location will be a complete market including organic meats, dairy, produce, and possibly to go meals. Employees from the Warren store will move to the new location and more employees will be hired by year's end. The build out costs were approximately \$100K. The store was expected to open sometime this month.

Better Health Market also announced the expansion of its Plymouth location at 44427 Ann Arbor Road to 7,200 square feet. The expanded location will feature more pro-



Muriel's Doll House on Penniman was voted No. 1 on WDIV-TV's Web site - ClickonDetroit.com - for Best Children's Gifts.

duce, meats, deli meats, fresh and frozen foods, everyday groceries, beauty and cleaning products, and beer and wine. The store was expected to open sometime this month, with more employees to be hired by year's end.

"We expect both locations to do quite well and are excited to open both of them," said Tedd Handelsman, owner of Better Health Markets. "More people are becoming aware of the benefits of eating natural organic foods and as a result, we are seeing increased foot traffic. Our goal is to be able to expand other locations to carry more products that our customers are requesting."

Better Health Market carries a wide variety of vitamins and dietary supplements - also available on the Internet - as well as beauty and cleaning products, groceries, natural and organic meats, produce, grains and dairy. For more information, visit [www.thebetterhealthstore.com](http://www.thebetterhealthstore.com)

### Parenting seminar

What do you do when children misbehave? Parents who are interested in learning how to manage a variety of situations that arise with their children are invited to hear nationally recognized educator and speaker Chick Moorman Monday, Jan. 18. The free workshop will be held from 7-8:30 p.m. at Dearborn Heights Montessori Center, which is located at 466 N. John Daly in Dearborn Heights.

"Mr. Moorman is highly regarded for helping both parents and educators," said Kay Neff, head of Dearborn Heights Montessori Center. "This will be his third visit to our school, and we look forward to the wealth of information that he always brings to our staff and families."

Moorman will present "The Five Voices of Enlightened Parenting," regarding a variety of techniques that parents can use to help guide children through the daily challenges of family life. According to Moorman, when children misbehave, it can become a teaching moment for parents.

Although consequences or



Moorman

punishment may be the appropriate response to some misbehavior, Moorman will talk about other approaches that work better and create lasting improvement. He offers parents five "voices" that they can use to help their children through difficult situations.

Moorman is a distinguished educator and captivating speaker who has addressed more than 300,000 parents and educators while conducting more than 2,000 talks on raising and educating children. He is noted for his humor and enthusiasm, as well as his ability to deliver practical ideas. He is the author of more than a dozen books and teaching resources. He writes monthly parenting columns for publications across the United States, and is a regular contributor to the Chicken Soup for the Soul series of books.

The free workshop, which is open to the public, will include complimentary child care. To ensure adequate seating, reservations are requested by calling (313) 359-3000.

For additional information about the January 18 workshop and programs available at Dearborn Heights Montessori Center, call 313-359-3000 or visit [www.dhmontessori.org](http://www.dhmontessori.org).

Dearborn Heights Montessori Center is a non-profit educational community founded in 1972. Now in its fourth decade, DHMC is the largest and longest-established Montessori school in western Wayne County. Programs include preschool, kindergarten, elementary, and middle school as well as summer programs and academic tutoring. Day care and latchkey are also available for enrolled children. DHMC preschool and latchkey programs, along with its satellites Livonia Montessori Center and Plymouth-Canton Montessori School, are licensed by the Michigan Division of Child Care Licensing.

More information is available at [www.dhmontessori.org](http://www.dhmontessori.org).

## CHAMBER CHAT

### Gift certificates

A great way to keep money in the local community this holiday season is to give Chamber Gift Certificates that can be used at over 80 stores and restaurants. The Chamber sells over \$60,000 a year in certificates that are used as great gifts for coaches, teachers, friends, family and coworkers. Gift certificates



Wes Graff

can be purchased in any denomination at the Chamber office Monday-Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 5 p.m. For additional information or to order gift certificates to pick up, please call the Chamber at (734) 453-1540.

### Food collection

Any nonperishable food is accepted or PB&J for the PB&J ministry that goes down to the Church every Saturday and distributes sandwiches to the homeless. Gabriela's is located at 322 South Main across from Kellogg Park in downtown Plymouth. Call (734) 455-8884 for hours.

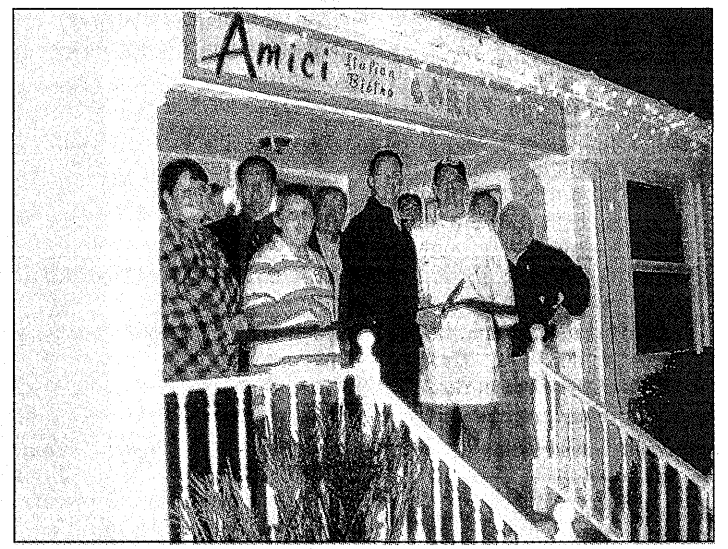
### Santa is back for the Holidays

Santa roared into town on a fire engine to meet hundreds of children and their families in the Kellogg Park, and he'll spend lots of weekend time through Christmas Eve greeting children at his house along Main Street just outside Kellogg Park.

Santa's House is sponsored by DMC Family Care Associates and First Choice Urgent Care. The Chamber of Commerce hosts Santa's House and the Walk of Trees in Kellogg Park.

### Real Life holiday

Real Life Plymouth is part-



### Grand opening

Amici Italian Bistro, located in Old Village, opened recently with a ribbon cutting attended by Chamber Ambassadors, friends, family, Mayor Dan Dwyer and Commissioner John Barrett. Cutting the ribbon are the owners, Jay and Nick Lindsey. Aside from the charming bistro setting, the restaurant has an extensive take-out menu with most entrees priced between \$7-\$10, including salad. Amici is located at 710 N. Mill Street near Liberty Street. For take-out orders, call (734) 335-7801.

nering with local businesses, organizations and individuals to introduce "A Real Life Christmas" for Plymouth area families who are experiencing financial hardship. They are currently seeking donations of unwrapped gifts, gift certificates or money to purchase gifts. They also need help promoting the program, finding families who are in need and assisting parents as they select gifts. For more information visit [www.reallifeplymouth.com](http://www.reallifeplymouth.com) or call (734) 927-0300.

### Red Ryder

The Plymouth Historical Museum is showcasing a special exhibit, "A Red Ryder Christmas Story." The exhibit draws its inspiration from the popular 1983 movie, "A Christmas Story," in which the main character, Ralphie, longs for a Red Ryder BB gun for Christmas. Throughout our Main Street there will be vignettes of scenes from the movie and from the

original story that the movie is based on, Plymouth Historical Museum style. Red Ryder BB guns were sold by Daisy Manufacturing Company of Plymouth. The exhibit runs through Jan. 24. Call (734) 455-8940 for the museum's schedule.

### New directory

Time is running out to purchase advertising in the Chamber's new Business Directory and Local Area Profile. The book provides a buyers guide to all member companies and will be used as a marketing piece about the Plymouth Community. To learn more about advertising opportunities in the guide, please call Gillian Mashni of NovoPrint at (734) 718-4049.

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

## Health care coverage will cause problems for many

The talk in Washington and throughout the country lately has been about health care. Every day we hear something different about health care reform. Whatever your opinion on health care reform, any plan passed will take years to fully implement and there will be many changes along the way. After all, politicians will do what politicians do. That being said, there are many people who do not have the luxury of waiting. They need to make some decisions about their health care, in particular those covered by COBRA (Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act).

COBRA is the federal legislation that allows an individual who loses his/her job to keep their health care insurance for a period of time. COBRA coverage is not free. In fact, it is expensive. However, it does give unemployed workers the means to keep insurance. Despite the price, millions of Americans - many in Michigan - have taken advantage of COBRA until they are able to obtain alterna-



Money Matters

Rick Bloom

about \$1,100 a month, which is the bulk of an unemployed individual's unemployment benefits. Although the subsidy has allowed millions to keep their health care, the problem is the federal subsidy is about to end. This will put millions in the position of not being able to afford their health care premiums, thus causing them to lose their coverage. Congress has recognized this problem and has introduced legislation to extend the subsidy for another six months. The problem occurs if your subsidy terminates before Congress passes the legislation. What makes this issue even more difficult is, if

an individual lets COBRA lapse and does not obtain other health care, he/she may find it difficult to obtain affordable health care in the future.

If you're in a situation where your subsidy is about to terminate and you don't have alternative coverage, what do you do? My advice is to ask your employer, no matter how difficult it is, if they can see fit to make you eligible for COBRA before Dec. 31. Many employers will be willing to do this as an accommodation.

There is no doubt that unemployed individuals are under a tremendous amount of financial pressure, particularly this time of year. However, you must be proactive. Make plans now so you won't be in a more difficult situation down the road.

Good luck!

Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial adviser. Observer & Eccentric readers can submit questions at [moneyatters@hometownlife.com](mailto:moneyatters@hometownlife.com). For more information, visit Rick's Web site at [www.bloomassetmanagement.com](http://www.bloomassetmanagement.com).

## BOOST YOUR LOCAL ECONOMY... SHOP LOCAL

What kind of community do you want to live in? How we spend our money makes a difference in the wellness of our residents and the overall success of our businesses.

Each time you shop, your decisions will impact your local economy. Choose locally owned businesses that are truly invested in your community's future!



OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC HOMETOWN  
NEWSPAPERS WEEKLIES

Online at [www.hometownlife.com](http://www.hometownlife.com)

The Observer, Eccentric & Hometown Newspapers proudly supports this message.



Religion calendar items appear on Thursdays on a space available basis. To submit an item, e-mail sdargay@hometownlife.com or write: Religion Calendar, Observer Newspapers, 615 W. Lafayette-2nd Level, Detroit, MI 48226, Attn: Sharon Dargay. Item must include the venue address and phone number and any admission costs for events. Items must be submitted at least a week in advance of publication. Feel free to send a related photo in jpg form. For a complete listing online, go to hometownlife.com.

**DEC. 17-23**

**Antiochian Orthodox Basilica of St. Mary**

**Time/Date:** 5 p.m., vespers; 7 p.m., concert, Saturday, Dec. 19  
**Location:** 18100 Merriman Road between Six and Seven Mile roads in Livonia  
**Details:** Holy Land Christmas Concert featuring the Orthodox Choir of Metro Detroit singing Orthodox and western Christian hymns and carols for the season and an Arabic ensemble singing nativity hymns; a freewill offering will be collected to support the work of the International Orthodox Christian Charities  
**Contact:** (734) 422-0010

**Our Lady of Good Counsel**

**Details:** The Limited Edition Our Lady of Good Counsel Christmas ornament is now on sale. This ornament was specially crafted in Poland and is hand painted with a mosaic portrait of the O.L.G.C. Mother and Child. This keepsake ornament is available for \$35 after Masses at O.L.G.C. All proceeds benefit Our Lady of Good Counsel  
**Contact:** Mark Coulter at (734) 453-5423 or Mary Vangieson at (734) 737-9442

**St. James Presbyterians Church**

**Time/Date:** 10 a.m. worship service, Dec. 20  
**Location:** 25350 West Six Mile, Redford  
**Details:** Chancel Choir sings "A Carol Fantasia"  
**Contact:** (313) 534-7730

**St. Theodore Men's Club**  
**Time/Date:** 8:30 a.m.-noon, Sunday, Dec. 20  
**Location:** St. Theodore Catholic Church social hall, 8200 N. Wayne Road, Westland  
**Details:** Pancake and French toast breakfast. Cost is \$3 adults; \$1.50 children ages 2-10. Menu includes pancakes, French toast, ham, sausage, scrambled eggs, applesauce, tea, coffee, milk, and juice  
**Contact:** (734) 425-4421

**DEC. 24-30**

**Cherry Hill Seventh Day Adventist Church**

**Time/Date:** 6 p.m. Friday Dec. 25  
**Location:** 33144 Cherry Hill, Garden City  
**Details:** A free Christmas concert featuring teen singer/songwriter, Sarah Draget, with her family  
**Contact:** (734) 524-0880

**Lola Park Lutheran Church**

**Time/Date:** Family Christmas Eve service at 7 p.m. Dec. 24 and 10 a.m. service on Dec. 25  
**Location:** 14750 Kinloch, Redford  
**Contact:** (313) 532-8655 or (734) 968-3523

**St. James Presbyterian Church**

**Time/Date:** 6:45 p.m., Dec. 24  
**Location:** 25350 West Six Mile, Redford  
**Details:** Hear "Quiet Noels and Carols for Organ"  
**Contact:** (313) 534-7730

**DEC. 31-JAN. 6, 2010**

**Lola Park Lutheran Church**

**Time/Date:** 7 p.m., New Year's Eve Service, Dec. 31  
**Location:** 14750 Kinloch, Redford  
**Contact:** (313) 532-8655 or (734) 968-3523

**Newburg United Methodist Church**

**Time/Date:** Call in orders from 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Monday-Tuesday, Jan. 4-5, 2010  
**Location:** 36500 Ann Arbor Trail, Livonia  
**Details:** The church is making and selling Cornish pasties as a fundraiser. Pasties are \$4 each and can be ordered by calling into the church office. Call in orders only. Any orders left on the church answering machine will be ignored. Pick up times are noon-6 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 14, 2010 and noon-5 p.m. Friday, Jan. 15, 2010  
**Contact:** (734) 422-0149

**St. Robert Bellarmine**  
**Time/Date:** 7:30 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 2, 2010  
**Location:** 27201 W. Chicago Road, corner of Inkster Road, Redford  
**Details:** Monthly Bethany Suburban West Singles dance; dance lessons and DJ  
**Contact:** Diane K for more information at (734) 261-5716

**JAN. 7-13, 2010**

**Our Lady of Loretto Parish**

**Time/Date:** Starting at 1:30 p.m., Sunday, Jan. 10, 2010  
**Location:** 17116 Olympia, Redford  
**Details:** A "Grief Recovery" series runs for six-weeks and deals with the phases of grief, loneliness and other related issues. A \$20 fee covers all materials. Sponsored by Widowed Friends  
**Contact:** Joan at (248) 478-1084

**JAN. 14-20, 2010**

**St. Thomas a' Beckett Parish**

**Time/Date:** Mass at 2:30 p.m., Sunday, Jan. 17, 2010  
**Location:** 555 S. Lilley, Canton  
**Details:** Fellowship and refreshments follow Mass sponsored by Widowed Friends  
**Contact:** Pat at (734) 895-6246

**ONGOING**

**AWANA**

**Time/Date:** 6:30-8 p.m., Wednesdays  
**Location:** Faith Bible Church, 23414 Orchard Lake Road, Farmington Hills  
**Details:** AWANA program for children from kindergarten through fifth grade  
**Contact:** (248) 426-0096.

**Classes/study**

**Time/Date:** 9:30-11:15 a.m. Tuesday  
**Location:** Detroit First Church of the Nazarene, 21260 Haggerty, north of Eight Mile  
**Details:** Tuesday Ladies Bible Study; \$15 registration fee includes interdenominational study materials. Child care available for children through age 5  
**Contact:** (248) 348-7600

**Emmanuel Lutheran Church**

**Time/Date:** 7-8 p.m., second Monday of the month  
**Location:** 34567 Seven Mile, between Farmington and Newburgh roads, Livonia  
**Details:** Open Arms Bible class for adults with developmental disabilities and special needs. Includes songs, Bible lessons, crafts and activities, prayer, snacks and fun  
**Contact:** Judy Cook at Emmanuel, (248) 442-8822 or e-mail to jcook59@att.net.

**Livonia Unity**

**Time/Date:** Monday movement Qigong, 7-8:30 p.m.; Thursday Qigong meditation, 10-11:15 a.m., and Friday Therapeutic Qigong, 7-8:30 p.m.  
**Location:** 28660 Five Mile, Livonia  
**Details:** Learn Qigong, the ancient form of Chinese energetic medicine - a safe and effective way to rid the body of toxic pathogens and years of painful emotions  
**Contact:** (810) 813-4073 or gary@energeticarts.org.

**Men's Bible study**

**Time/Date:** Breakfast at 7 a.m. and study at 8 p.m.  
**Location:** Kirby's Coney Island, 21200 Haggerty, Northville Township  
**Contact:** John Shulenberg at (734) 464-9491

**Merriman Road Baptist Church**

**Details:** Adult and English as a Second Language literacy classes are available for those who want to improve reading, writing and English conversational skills. Open to age 18 and over. Trained tutors available for day or evening.  
**Contact:** (734) 421-0472; leave your name and phone number and someone will contact you

**New Life Community Church**

**Time/Date:** Jobs seminar, 8-9 a.m., Fridays; reading program for students in grades K-12 and martial arts instruction, both at 10 a.m., Sundays  
**Location:** 42200 Tyler, Belleville  
**Contact:** (734) 846-4615

**Our Lady of Loretto**

**Time/Date:** 6:30-7:30 p.m. Monday  
**Location:** Six Mile and Beech Daly, Redford  
**Details:** Scripture study  
**Contact:** (313) 534-9000

**St. Andrew's Presbyterian**

**Time/Date:** 10:30 a.m., Wednesday and 10:30 a.m. Thursday  
**Location:** 26701 Joy  
**Details:** Wednesday study/discussion group focuses on relationship with God and that of other religious groups and philosophical and scientific issues that might impact faith. Thursday group examines early writings not included in the Bible as well as other versions, extensions and controversies concerning Christianity. Led by interim pastor Larry Hoxey  
**Contact:** (313) 274-3820.

**Seeds of Mercy Mission Home**

**Time/Date:** 7 p.m., every Friday  
**Location:** 21819 Middlebelt, Farmington Hills  
**Details:** Bible study  
**Contact:** Nicole Christ at (313) 531-1234

**United Methodist Church of Wayne**

**Time/Date:** noon and 7 p.m. Wednesday  
**Location:** 3 Townsquare, Wayne  
**Details:** Celebrate Recovery Bible Study is a Christ-centered and Bible-based 12 Step Recovery Program  
**Contact:** (734) 721-4801

**Ward Presbyterian**

**Time/Date:** 7 p.m., Mondays  
**Location:** Room A101, 40000 W. Six Mile, Northville  
**Details:** Learner's Bible study  
**Contact:** (248) 374-5920

**Clothing bank**

**Time/Date:** 10 a.m.-noon, fourth Saturday  
**Location:** Canton Christian Fellowship, West of Canton Christian Fellowship, at 41711 Joy  
**Details:** Free clothing (men, women and children) for those in need  
**Contact:** (734) 404-2480, visit www.CantonCF.org or send e-mail to info@cantoncf.org

**Fellowship dinner**

**St. James Presbyterian**  
**Time/Date:** 6 p.m., the first Thursday of the month  
**Location:** 25350 W. Six Mile, Redford  
**Details:** Cost is \$8 and includes dinner, beverage and dessert. The Cookie Lady, Susan Navarro, provides the meals  
**Contact:** (313) 268-7780. The church phone number is (313) 534-7730

**Films**  
**Kenwood Church of Christ**  
**Time/Date:** 10 a.m. Wednesday Kids Matinees and 4 p.m., Saturday family movie  
**Location:** 20200 Merriman, Livonia  
**Details:** Guitar Praise game precedes the film on Saturday. Children in second grade or younger can play prior to the film; those in third grade and up can play after the movie. Pizza will also be served following the movie. All events are free  
**Contact:** (248) 476-8222

**Moms**  
**Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church**  
**Time/Date:** 9:30-11:30 a.m., second Tuesday and 7-9 p.m., fourth Tuesday  
**Location:** 14175 Farmington Road, Livonia  
**Details:** Mothers of Preschoolers. Aimed at mothers of infants through kindergartners  
**Contact:** Angie at (248) 427-1020

**Unnig Park Bible Chapel**

**Time/Date:** 9:30-11:30 a.m., first and third Tuesdays  
**Location:** 24800 West Chicago Road, Redford  
**Details:** MOPS is a place where moms can build friendships, receive mothering support, practical help and spiritual hope  
**Contact:** Amy at (313) 937-3084 or Kristen at (734) 542-0767

**Prayer**

**Good Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
**Time/Date:** 7-9 p.m. the first and third Tuesday  
**Location:** 28680 Cherry Hill, Garden City  
**Details:** Prayer, spiritual healing and outreach  
**Contact:** (734) 427-3660

**Nardin Park United Methodist Church**

**Time/Date:** 7 p.m. Wednesday  
**Location:** 29887 W. 11 Mile, Farmington Hills  
**Details:** Participate in an open time of praying silently and aloud together as well as responding to personal requests  
**Contact:** (248) 476-8860

**St. Edith Church**

**Time/Date:** 7 p.m. Thursday  
**Location:** 15089 Newburgh, Livonia.  
**Details:** Music, singing, prayer  
**Contact:** Grace at (734) 464-1896, Shirley at (734) 464-3656, or Geri at (734) 464-8906

**St. Michael's Church of Livonia**

**Time/Date:** 10 a.m.-7 p.m. third Wednesday  
**Location:** Corner of Plymouth and Hubbard roads, Livonia  
**Details:** Parish prayer and Eucharistic Adoration. Benediction service follows  
**Contact:** (734) 261-1455

**Singles**

**First Presbyterian Church**  
**Time/Date:** Thursdays 7:30-7:45 p.m. for social time, 7:45-8 p.m. opening, 8-9 p.m. program  
**Location:** 200 E. Main St., Northville  
**Details:** Single Place Ministry meets; cost is \$5  
**Contact:** (248) 349-0911 or visit www.singleplace.org

**Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church**

**Time/Date:** 11:30 a.m., Sunday  
**Location:** 40000 Six Mile, Northville  
**Details:** Single Point Ministries, for ages 30 and older, offers fellowship and related topics. Coffee, doughnuts, conversation  
**Contact:** (248) 374-5920

**Support**

**Detroit World Outreach**  
**Time/Date:** 7-8:30 p.m. Tuesday  
**Location:** 23800 W. Chicago, Redford; room 202  
**Details:** Addiction No More offers support for addictive behavior problems, drugs, alcohol, overeating, gambling  
**Contact:** (313) 255-2222, Ext. 244

**Farmington Hills Baptist Church**

**Time/Date:** 7-9 p.m., second Tuesday of the month except January, July and August  
**Location:** 28301 Middlebelt, between 12 Mile and 13 Mile  
**Details:** Western Oakland Parkinson Support Group  
**Contact:** (248) 433-1011

**Merriman Road Baptist Church**

**Time/Date:** 1-3 p.m., second and fourth Thursday  
**Location:** 2055 Merriman, Garden City  
**Details:** Metro Fibro-Myalgia support group meets; no dues, but donations are accepted  
**Contact:** www.metrofibrogroup.com; or call Lucy with questions at (734) 462-1768

**St. Andrew's Episcopal Church**

**Time/Date:** 10 a.m. to noon Saturday morning  
**Location:** 16360 Hubbard, Livonia  
**Details:** A weekly drop-in Food Cupboard (nonperishable items) is available. There are no requirements, this a service the church wants the community to be aware of and use if needed. Donations of nonperishable items also accepted for the cupboard.  
**Contact:** (734) 421-8451

**St. John's Episcopal Church**

**Time/Date:** 10 a.m., the first and third Friday  
**Location:** 574 S. Sheldon, Plymouth  
**Details:** St. John's Support Group for the Caregiver's of Alzheimer's patients or patients with other forms of dementia meets. Respite care is provided. The group is authorized by the Alzheimer's Association  
**Contact:** Connie McNutt at (734) 895-1426

**Thomas a' Becket Church**

**Time/Date:** Weigh-in is 6:15-6:55 p.m.; support group meeting starts at 7 p.m., Thursday  
**Location:** 555 S. Lilley, Canton  
**Details:** Take Off Pounds Sensibly encourages members to lose weight and keep it off  
**Contact:** Margaret at (734) 838-0322

**Unity of Livonia**

**Time/Date:** 7 p.m. Thursday  
**Location:** 28660 Five Mile, between Middlebelt and Inkster roads, Livonia  
**Details:** Overeaters Anonymous meets  
**Contact:** (313) 387-9797. www.aa.org

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**DORIS HOPE DIEDRICK**

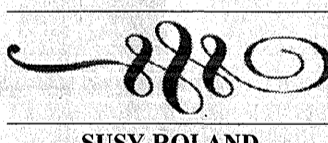
Age 80. Born February 4, 1929, Doris passed away peacefully surrounded by her family on December 13, 2009. She was born and raised in Plymouth, graduated from Plymouth High School in 1948, and loved her town with heart and soul. Doris loved children and worked in the Plymouth-Canton School District as a para-professional at Bird Elementary School for 26 years. She was a lifelong member of the First United Methodist Church of Plymouth, as well as a member of the Trailwood Garden Club and the Plymouth Women's Club. She enjoyed spending time with her family and friends, and was devoted to her husband of 59 years, Ralph, who precedes her in death. Doris leaves behind daughter, Connie, her husband, Jeff Jacobs, son-in-law, F. Weldon Regan, husband of her daughter, Pamela, who precedes her in death, and sister Marion Owens. Four grandsons, Matthew (Heather) Regan, Ben Jacobs, Chris (Beth) Jacobs, and Mark Regan, and a great-granddaughter, Madelyn Regan, also survive. Memorial Service at the First United Methodist Church, 45201 N. Territorial Rd. Plymouth, Saturday 3pm. Friends may visit at church beginning at 2pm. Memorials, in lieu of flowers, may be made to the First United Methodist Church of Plymouth or the American Cancer Society, Southfield, Michigan. Share a special thought or memory at: [schneider-howell.com](http://schneider-howell.com)

**OLGA ELIAS**

Died December 12, 2009, age 91. Dear Mother of Juanita Elias, Anthony (Elda) Elias, Kathleen (Jeff) Sternik, and the late Sharon (Jim) Elder. Grandmother of 10, and many great grandchildren. Services were private. Share a memory at: [www.mannsfuneralhome.com](http://www.mannsfuneralhome.com)

**MARY ALICE ISBISTER**

Passed away December 13, 2009 at the age of 84. She is the beloved sister of Betty Ann Isbister. Dear aunt of Kitty (Alan) Jensen, Bill (Betty) Isbister and Pat Hepburn. Also survived by numerous great nephews and nieces. Alice was a retired sales clerk having worked many years at Manley's, a retail office supply store in Sarnia, Ontario. She came to the Plymouth area in 1992, having lived at Tonquish Manor. She was a people person who loved people and was very social. She made many many friends over the years. She enjoyed word puzzles, comic books and reading about people. Services will be held at a later date. Memorials may be made to the American Heart Association. Share a special thought or memory at: [schneider-howell.com](http://schneider-howell.com)



**SUSY ROLAND**

Entered the Lord's House on Sunday, Dec. 13, 2009, surrounded by the love of her family. Born in Highland Park, Michigan, she was the daughter of Percy and Edna Gilroy. Living in Texas for 29 years, Susy was a member of St. Joseph Honeycreek Catholic Church where she was an Eucharistic Minister and a St. Stephen Minister. Preceded in death by her father, Susy is survived by her loving husband of over 30 years, Timothy F. Roland; mother, Edna Gilroy; her "Girls," her devoted daughters, DeAnn and Angie, and their husbands, Perry and Michael; other children, Tracey and Tim, Timothy F. Jr. and Lisa, Tami and Matt, and Thomas; adoring grandchildren, Brittany, Ryan, Jordan, Matt, Makenzie, M.J., Courtney, Kyle, Blase, Bryce, and Brady, as they called her Grandmommy! Visitation will begin on Thurs, Dec. 17 at 5:00 p.m. at Vaughan's Funeral Home of Boerne, with the Recitation of the Rosary at 7:00 p.m. The Funeral Mass will be celebrated on Saturday, Dec. 19 at 10:00 a.m. at St. Joseph Honeycreek Catholic Church, 25781 State Highway 46 West, Spring Branch, TX 78070, with Monsignor Gregory Deane, celebrant. If so desired, Memorials may be made to the American Cancer Society, P. O. Box 291048, San Antonio, TX 78229. To leave a message or tribute for the family, please visit: [www.vaughanfuneralhome.com](http://www.vaughanfuneralhome.com) and select the obituaries icon. Funeral Arrangements entrusted to Vaughan's Funeral Home of Boerne.

**MARY JANE WOTASZAK**

December 13, 2009 Age 79 of Canton. Loving wife of the late Lawrence "L.J." Wotaszak. Devoted mother of Jane M. (Vahe) Rostamloo, Julie Wotaszak Jones, and the late Bruce (Joanie). Dear sister of John, Paul, Tom, and the late Martha Joan. Proud grandma of Scott (Alison), Rose Mary, Christopher, Charles, Aaron, Rachel, Sarah, Lauren, and Hannah. Also survived by many nieces and nephews. Visitation was held Tuesday 5-9 PM at Vermeulen Funeral Home 46401 W. Ann Arbor Rd. (Btwn. Beck and Sheldon) Plymouth. In state Wednesday 10 AM until 10:30 AM Funeral Mass at St. John Neumann Church 44800 Warren Rd. Canton. Memorial contributions may be made to American Lung Association. To share a memory please visit: [vermeulenfuneralhome.com](http://vermeulenfuneralhome.com)



**RAYMOND RICHARD "DICK" YADACH**

78, of Livonia, retired President of Servco Automatic, Inkster, died suddenly December 14, 2009. Beloved husband of the late Lorraine. Dick is survived by his children, Mark (Kathleen) and Lynn (Rick) Yadach-Blakey; his sister, Patricia (the late Walt) Ruzciclo; and grandchildren, Meaghan and Kara Yadach, and Kyle, Grant and Ryan Blakey. Visitation Friday, December 18, 2-9 PM, with 7:00 PM prayers, at the Heeney-Sundquist Funeral Home, 23720 Farmington Rd., (btw. 9-10 Mile Rds., just N of Grand River), downtown Farmington (248-474-5200). Funeral Mass Saturday, December 19, 9:30 AM (in state 9:00 AM) St. Aidan Catholic Church, 17500 Farmington Rd., Livonia. Entombment in St. Hedwig Mausoleum, Dearborn Hts., will follow lunch. Memorial tributes suggested to American Heart Assn., heart.org.

**Let others know...**  
 When you've lost a loved one, place your notice on our website and in "Passages"...a directory located in every edition of your hometown newspaper.  
 Observer & Eccentric  
 Call 1-800-579-7355

*Paying Tribute to the Life of Your Loved One*



# Church offers service for those feeling "blue"

BY SHARON DARGAY  
O&E STAFF WRITER

You're too depressed to hear another Christmas carol or watch a festive Nativity pageant.

Yet, you long to attend a church service this holiday season.

If you're not in the "holiday spirit" the second annual "Blue Christmas" service at St. John's Episcopal Church in Plymouth may be just what you need. It's designed to help you avoid seasonal hype while feeding spiritual needs at the holiday.

"Christmas can be very difficult for people. I think it exaggerates the whole season, both good and bad," said the Rev. Dorian McGlannan. "As a pastor I get annoyed at all the cultural stuff. It pulls people away from what matters in your life."

"If you've lost a job and don't have much money or your home is being foreclosed on, it's a devastating time of year. For those who won't go near a church, this is a possible place to come."

The service starts at 7 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 20, at the church, 574 Sheldon, Plymouth. It will include music, Holy Eucharist, candle lighting and a softly-lit sanctuary. Boxes of tissues will be placed among the pews.

## SUBDUED SERVICE

"The Episcopal church tends to be more reflective. Our normal Christmas service is not over the top. It's joyous but not out of control."

The music is lively and includes upbeat carols. But



participants at the blue service will sing more subdued music, along the lines of *It Came Upon a Midnight Clear* rather than *Hark! the Herald Angels Sing*.

"We keep the lighting as low as we can go without keeping people from being able to read."

Rev. McGlannan said about 30 individuals worshipped at the first blue service last year.

"We're not the originators of this. It's being done elsewhere," she said. "I knew about it but had never been to one."

The unexpected death of a congregation member in early fall last year was the catalyst for the service at St. John's.

"He was in his early 50s. His wife went out shopping, came home and found him. We knew this would be an incredibly hard Christmas for her."

Rev. McGlannan planned the service. Just before Christmas last year two other "mainstays" of the congregation died.

"The service ended up being a good thing to have in place."

## FEELING BLUE

Rev. McGlannan said individuals who are in grief, "regardless of what the grief is about," may isolate them-

selves, especially during festive holidays. While friends gather at parties and other seasonal events, a person grieving over divorce, death, job loss, health difficulties and other problems, may "run home and hide."

"This is a way to encourage them to come out of that. There still is a spiritual longing to make sense out of what the grief is."

During the service, participants will get an opportunity to light candles and place them into a sand-filled container. The idea is to pray about a person or concern while lighting the wick. The service will include all of the traditional Christmas readings, with Rev. McGlannan focusing on a thoughtful telling of the Christmas story that she hopes will resonate with participants.

## REALISTIC NATIVITY

"Despite what the culture says, it's a family on the run. They've come in for the census. They're from out of town, far from home, lonely and they don't have a place to stay."

"These were dangerous times and difficult for a family without a lot of money," she said, pointing out that Mary gave birth in a stable. "It can't get more difficult than that. We can connect with this story in a lot of ways. It's not all about angels singing."

She hopes participants will leave the service feeling better and able to express their grief.

For more information about the service, call the church at (734) 453-0190, ext. 11.

## Orthodox organization picks new officers

The Council of Orthodox Christian Churches of Metropolitan Detroit (COCC) has elected new officers for 2009-2011. They are:

- Subdeacon Robert A. Mitchell, of St. Raphael of Brooklyn Orthodox Church, Detroit, president
- Subdeacon John E. Lazar, of St. George Romanian Orthodox Cathedral, Southfield, vice president
- John Vasilco, of St. Michael the Archangel Orthodox Church, Redford, treasurer
- The Rev. Kristijan Petrovich, of St. Petka Serbian Orthodox Church, Troy, secretary

The COCC (<http://www.coccdetroit.com>) is a 52-year-old clergy and lay association that represents various canonical Orthodox churches in metropolitan Detroit and sponsors a variety of worship, fellowship, and charitable, educational and outreach programs.

The COCC is advised on spiritual matters by members of the Orthodox Clergy Brotherhood of St. John Chrysostom of Metropolitan Detroit, led by its president, the Very Rev. Roman Star of St. Innocent of Irkutsk Orthodox Church, Redford.

# Your Invitation to Worship

<p><b>CATHOLIC</b></p>	<p><b>UNITED METHODIST</b></p>	<p><b>PRESBYTERIAN (U.S.A.)</b></p>	<p><b>LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSOURI SYNOD</b></p>	
<p><b>ST. ANNE'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH</b> Tridentine Latin Mass St. Anne's Academy - Grades K-8 38100 Five Mile Road Livonia, MI 48154 • (734) 462-3200 Mass Schedule: First Fri. 7:00 p.m. First Sat. 11:00 a.m. Sun. Masses 7:30 &amp; 10:00 a.m. Confessions Heard Prior to Each Mass Mother of Perpetual Help Devotions Tuesdays at 7:00 P.M. <small>CE08020544</small></p>	<p><b>Redford Aldersgate</b> <small>2 blocks South of Plymouth</small> United Methodist 10000 Beech Daly 313-937-3170 9:30 - Trad. Worship &amp; Sunday School 11:00 - Contemp Family Worship <a href="http://www.redfordaldersgate.org">www.redfordaldersgate.org</a> <small>CE08020487</small></p>	<p><b>St. James Presbyterian Church, USA</b> 25350 West Six Mile Rd. Redford (313) 534-7730 Sunday Worship Service - 10:00 A.M., Sunday School - 10:15 A.M., Thursday Dinners - 6:00 P.M., Thrift Store every Sat. 10am-2pm Nursery Care Provided • Handicapped Accessible Rev. Paul S. Bousquette <small>CE08020548</small></p>	<p><b>Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church</b> 14175 Farmington Road, Livonia Just north of I-96 <b>734-522-6830</b> Sunday Worship 8:30 &amp; 11:00 am - Traditional Sunday/Bible Class 9:45 am Early Childhood Center Phone 734-513-8413 Staffed Nursery Available <b>Making disciples who share the love of Jesus Christ</b> Senior Pastor: Rev. Dean Davenport Pastors: Robert F. Bayer and Anthony M. Creeden <small>CE08020507</small></p>	
<p><b>St Genevieve Roman Catholic Church</b> St. Genevieve School - PreK-8 29015 Jamison • Livonia • 734-427-5220 (East of Middlebelt, between 5 Mile &amp; Jeffries) MASS: Tues. 7 p, Wed., Thurs. 9 a, Sat. 4 p, Sun 11a <b>St. Maurice Roman Catholic Church</b> 32765 Lyndon • Livonia • 734-522-1616 (between Merriman &amp; Farmington Roads) MASS: Mon. 8:30 a, Fri. 8:30 a, Sat. 6 p, Sun 9a <small>CE08020546</small></p>	<p><b>ORCHARD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH</b> 30450 Farmington Road • Farmington Hills <a href="http://www.orchardumc.org">www.orchardumc.org</a> <b>248-626-3620</b> Worship: 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. Christian Education for all ages Pastors: Carol J. Johns, Jim Braid, Margo Dexter <small>CE08059897</small></p>	<p><b>ROSEDALE GARDENS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)</b> 9601 Hubbard at W. Chicago, Livonia, MI (between Merriman &amp; Farmington Rds.) <b>(734) 422-0494</b> Friends in Faith Service 9:00 am Traditional Service 10:30 am Visit <a href="http://www.rosedalegardens.org">www.rosedalegardens.org</a> For information about our many programs <small>CE08046763</small></p>	<p><b>GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSOURI SYNOD</b> 25830 GRAND RIVER at BEECH DALY 313-532-2266 REDFORD TWP. Worship Service 9:15 &amp; 11:00 A.M. Sunday School 9:15 &amp; 11:00 A.M. Nursery Provided The Rev. Timothy R. Halboth, Senior Pastor The Rev. Dr. Victor F. Halboth, Assistant Pastor <small>CE08020517</small></p>	<p><b>Risen Christ Lutheran</b> David W. Martin, Pastor 46250 Ann Arbor Road • Plymouth (1 1/2 mi. W. of Sheldon) <b>(734) 453-5252</b> Worship 8:15 &amp; 10:45 am Sunday School 9:30 • Adult Bible Study 9:30 Nursery Care Available. All are welcome. Come as you are. <a href="http://www.risenchrist.info">www.risenchrist.info</a> <small>CE08059903</small></p>
<p><b>CHURCHES OF THE NAZARENE</b></p>	<p><b>GREEK ORTHODOX</b></p>	<p><b>EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN</b></p>	<p><b>LUTHERAN CHURCH WISCONSIN SYNOD</b></p>	
<p><b>PLYMOUTH CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE</b> 45801 W. Ann Arbor Road • (734) 453-1525 Sunday School - 9:45 A.M. Sunday Worship - 11:00 A.M. Sunday Evening - 6:00 P.M. Family Night - Wed. 7:00 P.M. NEW HORIZONS FOR CHILDREN LEARNING CENTER (734) 455-3196 <small>CE08020528</small></p>	<p><b>NATIVITY OF THE VIRGIN MARY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH</b> 39851 West Five Mile, Plymouth Twp., MI Sunday Services Matsins 8:30 am, Divine Liturgy 10:00 am Rev. Fr. George Vapouris Parish Office 734-420-0131 Office Hours M-F 10:00 am - 2:00 pm <a href="http://www.nativitygochurch.org">www.nativitygochurch.org</a> <small>CE08065119</small></p>	<p><b>WARD Evangelical Presbyterian Church</b> 40000 Six Mile Road "Just west of I-275" Northville, MI 248-374-7400 Traditional Worship 8:00, 9:30 &amp; 11:00 A.M. Contemporary Worship 9:30 &amp; 11:00 A.M. Nursery &amp; Sunday School During the 9:30 &amp; 11:00 Hours Evening Service • 7:00 p.m. Service Broadcast 11:00 A.M. Sunday WRDT-AM 560 The WNUZ Word Station For additional information visit <a href="http://www.wardchurch.org">www.wardchurch.org</a> <small>CE08051477</small></p>	<p><b>ST. PAUL'S EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH &amp; SCHOOL</b> 17810 FARMINGTON ROAD LIVONIA (734) 261-1360 WORSHIP SERVICES SUNDAY: 8:30 A.M. &amp; 11:00 A.M. THURSDAY: 6:30 P.M. website: <a href="http://www.stpaulsilivonia.org">www.stpaulsilivonia.org</a> <small>CE08099030</small></p>	
<p><b>LUTHERAN-ELCA</b></p>	<p><b>PRESBYTERIAN</b></p>	<p><b>CONGREGATIONAL</b></p>	<p><b>North Congregational Church</b> 36520 12 Mile Rd. Farmington Hills (bet. Drake &amp; Halsted) (248) 848-1750 10:30 a.m. Worship &amp; Church School <i>Faith - Freedom-Fellowship</i> Ministers Dr. Mark P. Jensen Rev. Mary E. Biedron <small>CE08059907</small></p>	
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# FILTER

## This 'Jersey Boy' is happy to perform at home in Michigan

BY SHARON DARGAY  
O&E STAFF WRITER

Eric Gutman has performed with the musical hit, *Jersey Boys*, touring nationally, in Chicago, Ill., and on the Broadway stage. But the Farmington Hills native says he looks forward to its upcoming Detroit run because he's certain residents will respond to its gritty story.

"I think it will resonate with this city more so than any other city," said Gutman, during a phone interview from Chicago last week. He was finishing his final performances in the Windy City before heading to Motown for costume fittings and opening night, today, Dec. 17, at the Fisher Theatre.

Because of its musical history, "blue collar" identity and "grittiness," Detroit area residents will appreciate the story of Frankie Valli & The Four Seasons more than other audiences, Gutman said.

"Here's what I like about the show. *Jersey Boys* is about Frankie Valli & The Four Seasons, but it's a true story about these guys," he said. "People don't realize that these things really happened to them. There's something amazing about the rough time they had. They rose to the being one of the biggest groups of their era.

"People will be floored with what they went through. It's a hard-knock story. It's not a bubble gum musical. It's a gritty show with authentic Jersey language."

Gutman has been happy to help tell their story since 2007 as an ensemble cast member and understudy, first with the show's national tour and then for nearly a year on Broadway before earning the role of Norm Waxman in the Chicago show last summer. He'll play that character again for the Detroit run through Jan. 23, 2010.

His wife, Sarah, and dog, Toby, went along with him for the ride, moving from city to city for the national tour and living in New York until fall of 2008 when they moved back to Michigan to prepare for a new family member. Gutman quit the New York cast about two months later



"Jersey Boys" tells the story of Frankie Valli & The Four Seasons. This is a scene from the finale.

to be with his wife when she gave birth to their daughter in January this year.

### BACK AT HOME

After a six-month stint in Chicago, Gutman says he's happy to be back in Michigan.

"I really wanted to do the show at home," he said.

Now a Royal Oak resident, Gutman, 32, graduated from Harrison High School in Farmington and went on to study musical theater performance at Western Michigan University.

"I remember acting when I was in second grade. I was Toto in the *Wizard of Oz*. It's just continued since then.

I've always been a performer. I've played guitar since I was 9 years old, singing and in talent shows."

Gutman played in bands over the years and has acted in regional as well as Off-Broadway productions. He earned a Detroit Wilde Awards nomination in 2007 for his performance in *Hello Muddah, Hello Faddah* at the Jet Theatre. He tepped into various roles in *Tony & Tina's Wedding* Off-Broadway and took the lead in both *Forbidden Broadway 2001* and *Forbidden Broadway* 2nd Anniversary, while living in the Big Apple.

He moved back to Michigan and worked "a desk

job" after his roles in Off-Broadway plays.

"I was back home in Detroit, working 40 hours a week. I was happy doing local theater in the area. And then I found out through a friend that *Jersey Boys* was auditioning in Chicago."

### FULFILLING A DREAM

He listened to the show's music for weeks while driving in his car and then called in sick the day of the audition. Then he called in sick again when he was called back for a second look.

"I was supposed to go to a conference in Vegas, but they needed me in New York." The final callback in New

York "was a little frightening" because the audience not only included the show's creative staff, but Frankie Valli as well. The four-hour audition landed Gutman a spot in the touring company. He hasn't looked back since.

"Between the understudy and the New York tour and Chicago I've performed six different roles."

He also voiced an animated character for several episodes of a project called "International Hareport." He's waiting to hear if it will be picked up for broadcast.

And he might consider getting involved in Michigan's growing movie

industry after his work with *Jersey Boys* ends.

Meanwhile, he hopes his hometown will support the show.

"I know this is a hard time in Detroit, but come to the show. For 2 1/2 hours let us take you to a different place."

Tickets begin at \$34 and are on sale at the Fisher Theatre box office and all Ticketmaster locations. They're also available online at [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com) or [www.broadwayindetroit.com](http://www.broadwayindetroit.com) and by calling Ticketmaster at (800) 982-2787. The Fisher Theatre is located at 3011 Grand Blvd, in Detroit.

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SORRY, NO PASSES

## Rock legends celebrate Redford author's book

More Than 50 Motor City music legends will meet and sign autographs Sunday, Dec. 20 at the Gibraltar Trade Center in Taylor, celebrating Redford author Bob Harris' book *Motor City Rock and Roll The 1960s and 1970s*.

This will be one of the largest gatherings of its kind ever organized to celebrate Detroit's Rock history.

The event will run from 1-5 p.m., at the center, located on Eureka Road at I-75. All autographs are free and the legends will sign any item brought in.

"This is a fabulous opportunity to meet and greet the musicians and artists who dominated the 60s and 70s in metro Detroit and remain popular to loyal fans today," said Harris. "With more than 50 legends lined up for this event, this book signing could feature one of the largest participant lists in history."

Along with Harris, who co-authored the book with John Douglas Peters, those scheduled to appear include Benny from renowned southeast Michigan band Benny and the Jets, The Contours, Steve King and the Dittilies, Jeff Lehman from the band Looking Glass (*Brandy*), Kasuka Mafia of the legendary Funk Brothers and many more.

Copies of *Motor City Rock and Roll The 1960s and 1970s* will be available for purchase at the event, with a portion of the proceeds benefitting The Salvation Army.

For more information call the Gibraltar Trade Center at (734) 287-2000.

**Check us out on the Web every day at [hometownlife.com](http://hometownlife.com)**



# FOOD

## Get ready to toast the holidays with wine sellers' picks

BY SHARON DARGAY  
O&E STAFF WRITER

René Parks says you can have a holiday "with sparkle" for less than \$15 this year.

"Make your holiday sparkle, but you don't have to spend a lot of money doing it."

Parks, who is Westborn Market's wine expert, likes Segura Viudas' sparkling wines, particularly the Brut Reserva for toasting the holidays.

"It's flying off the shelves. This sparkling wine from Spain is quality. It retails for \$8.99 and it's a Brut Cava Reserve. It's made the same way as champagne but it comes from Spain, not France."

She describes it as "crisp" and delightful. "We have (Chateau) Chantal Celebrate. It's like a Brute Rose," she said, describing the Michigan-made sparkling wine.

"It's a lovely salmon color. I like to say it's the color of a Michigan sunset."

The \$13.99 per bottle wine has a fruit finish with raspberry and strawberry notes.

One of Westborn Market's best-selling Michigan wines is Chateau Grand Traverse late harvest Riesling, similar to a German Spatlese. Parks said although sweet, it can be paired with foods ranging from ham to turkey to kielbasa.

"People like 'sweet' around the holidays and the Moscato di Asti are light, with 5-7 percent alcohol. They're good...crowd pleasing," Parks noted. Prices range from about \$7.99 for a domestic brand to \$13-\$21 for authentic Italian versions.



### BUBBLY PICKS

Kathy Groman, owner of Wine Styles in Livonia, would drink "bubbles every day all day long" if she could.

"I love them. I hope Michigan catches on to the bubbles," she said. "People here have a misconception that bubbles are for cel-

ebration. We've done several tastings and we encourage people to pair their food with bubbles." Groman offers both true

champagne and sparkling wine recommendations in the "bubbles" category.

Her suggestions for breakfast bubbles include Louis Roederer Brut Premier, a true champagne, (meaning it's from France), that retails for about \$44.99 a bottle.

"It's not just for breakfast," she added.

She also likes Mawby's Jadore, from L. Mawby winery in Suttons Bay.

"Larry Mawby is known as one of the premier sparkling wine makers in the country," she said, explaining that Jadore is made in a style called "methode champenoise." It's the same method used to make champagne in France.

"The nice thing about Jadore is that it's a demi-sec. It means semi-sweet, but not totally sweet."

A bottle of Jadore retails for about \$19.99.

Groman's food-pairing picks include a true champagne, Chartogne-Paillet, retailing for approximately \$49.99 and a domestic sparkling wine called Sharffenberger, at about \$21.99.

She said the champagne is perfect for a buffet of appetizers.

The Sharffenberger "has a little more depth."

"When it comes to food wine, I like something deeper. Some bubbles are light and don't have much going on. You can drink it by itself. This has more to it, pinot noir mostly and chardonnay."

Groman's favorite party pick is "always Dom Pérignon." But in a more reasonable price range, (around

\$40) the Schramsberg brut rose made in the methode champenoise style, is perfect for toasting.

"They were the first domestic wine used during the inauguration at the White House. During Nixon's inauguration. They decided they wanted something domestic," Groman noted.

### EXPENSIVE DRINK

Mark George, owner of Wine Barrel Plus in Livonia, said he will toast the New Year with '82 Dom Pérignon. It's listed on the Wine Barrel Web site for about \$530.

But many of his customers will buy a champagne called Veuvecliquot Ponsardin that sells for between \$40-\$50 a bottle.

He also sells the effervescent Moscato di Asti in more than 50 varieties and says the wine makes a great desert drink.

"We've been doing well with a German wine that's not too sweet and not too dry. It has been flying out of here," he said, referring to Kreuznacher Kronenberg, a 2006 vintage Spatlese.

"It normally sells for \$17, but I've had it for \$13.99. It's done phenomenal for us."

George said many of his customers prefer sweet red wines.

"It's a category no one touches on. But we have high quality sweet Cabernets and Merlots, especially good sweet Michigan wines."

Westborn Market has stores in Berkley, Dearborn and Livonia. It's Livonia store is located at 14925 Middlebelt. (734) 524-1000. Wine Styles is located at 17386 Haggerty, Livonia; (734) 464-9600. Wine Barrel Plus is at 30303 Plymouth, between Middlebelt and Merriman, in Livonia; (734) 522-WINE.

### CITY BITES

#### Quality pet food

Plymouth - Hiller's Markets is selling an array of specialty pet products including Tykie vegetarian dog food, Holistic Natural Feline and Canine Formula by Bench and Field, Dogswell and Catswell natural pet snacks and Newman's Own dog and cat treats.

The store also is selling Snuggles for pets this winter. Priced at \$11.99, the pink and blue warm, soft fleeces come in four sizes, for dogs and cats ranging from 6 to 28 pounds and 6 to 20 inches in height. They're machine-washable and come with an adjustable hook and loop fastener to fit an array of pets.

The market also offers Mutt Lynch wines, a high-quality California vintage named for the whimsical tendencies of man's best

friend. A portion of the price on each bottle goes to the Dearborn Animal Shelter, the local organization that rescued 150 Chihuahuas in September.

Hiller's markets are found locally at 15455 Haggerty, Plymouth, (734) 420-5555; 6433 Orchard Lake Road, West Bloomfield, (248) 851-7100; 425 N. Center, Northville, (248) 344-0231; and 3615 Washtenaw Ave., Ann Arbor, (734) 677-2370.

#### Helping the homeless

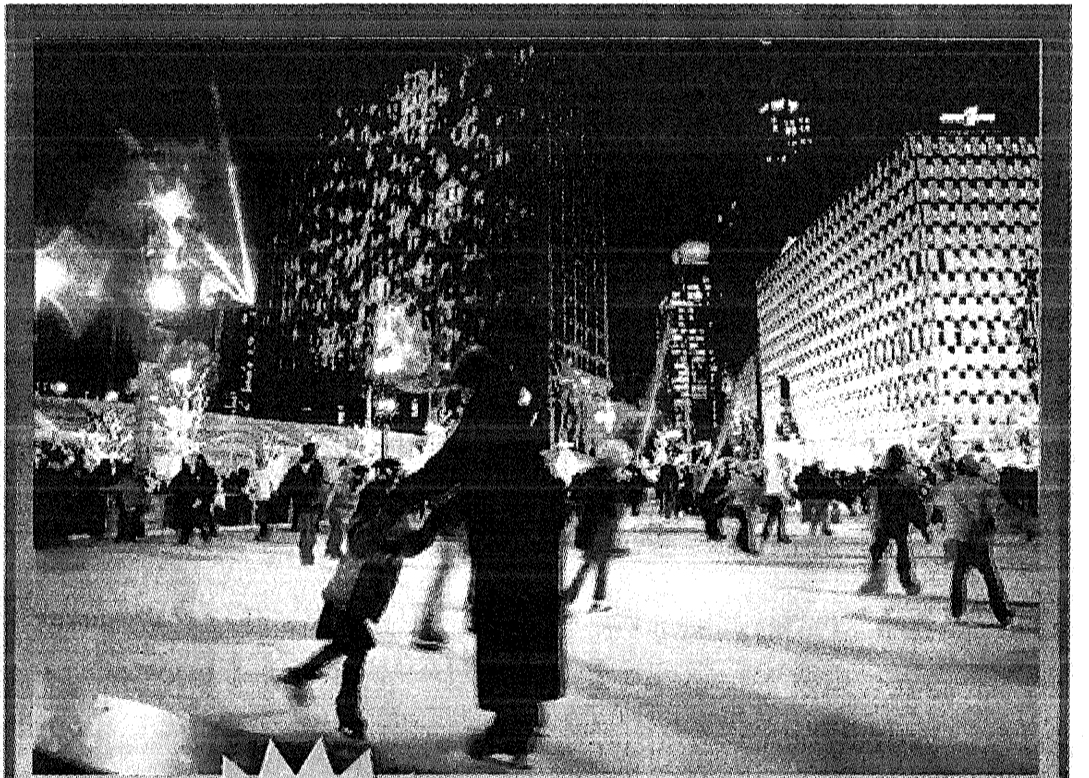
Tri-county - Tubby's Grilled Submarines has joined other businesses in sponsoring *Christmas in Detroit*, a holiday CD set of Detroit's top celebrities and musicians with proceeds benefiting the homeless and the needy in the Metro-Detroit area.

Participating Tubby's locations throughout metro

Detroit will have *Christmas in Detroit* CD sets for purchase for \$20.

The set is a three CD collection of 42 songs by Detroit artists with recordings of both original material and classic holiday favorites. In addition to songs from the first two *Christmas in Detroit* CDs ('92 and '93), 17 new tracks have been recorded by artists and personalities like Stewart Francke, the Hell Drivers, Devin Scillian, Jeff Daniels, Larry Lee & Back in the Day, Dave Edwards and rising stars Molly Hunt and Quentin Dennard.

Proceeds from the CD will support S.A.Y. Detroit, a nonprofit organization founded by author Mitch Albom dedicated to rebuilding the inner city one life at a time by funding homeless programs in the area.



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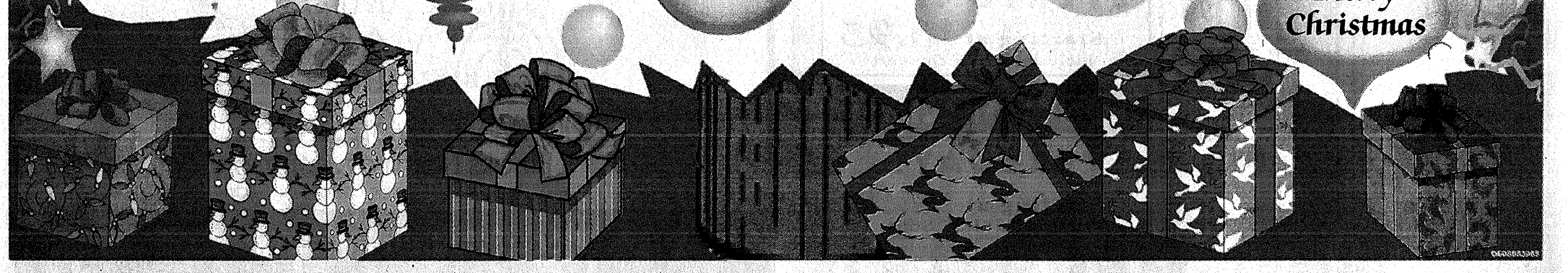
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**Happy New Year**





# Realtors see upside to tax credit extension

BY JULIE BROWN  
O&E STAFF WRITER

The National Association of Realtors Nov. 5 commended the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives for passing a bill that includes an extension and expansion of the current homebuyer tax credit as an important step in ensuring a real estate and economic recovery.

Gary Reggish, president of the Western Wayne Oakland County Association of Realtors, is pleased. Reggish, a Livonia resident and broker/owner of Remerica United Realty in Novi, noted NAR has made a good case for the credit.

"I think that that is great news," said Reggish, just back from the NAR convention in San Diego, Calif. The earlier credit had made a "significant difference and positive impact on the market," he said.

Reggish said demand for homes has increased, stabilizing values in the lower-end starter home market. The FHA is the predominant lending instrument now, he said, as compared to 2005 or so when loans were conventional.

You can now get into a home for 3.5 percent down, and finance closing costs with the credit, said Reggish, who's worked in real estate 10 years.

Realtor Debbie Horner is also pleased but has some misgivings. Horner, a Realtor with Century 21 Hartford in Farmington, noted the \$6,500 credit for the step-up buyer. Many owe more on their home than it's worth, said Farmington Hills resident Horner.

Such owners have no equity and are "a sizable amount upside down," she said.

The bill would extend the present \$8,000 tax credit for first-time homebuyers through April 30, 2010. Current homeowners are eli-



gible for a \$6,500 tax credit through April 30, provided they have lived in the home they are selling, or have sold, as principal residence for five consecutive years in the past eight years. If potential buyers have a binding contract on or before that date, they will have until July 1 to close the transaction.

Horner said some owners bought when they were a couple and now have one or two children and want a colonial with more space. They may be \$40,000-\$50,000 upside down: "They just can't sell their first home," she said.

Lenders aren't allowing lease payments as income to qualify. "They have to qualify for their existing home and for a new home," she said.

One buyer of hers bought a home for around \$200,000 in Farmington, and must now qualify for a new home. That will be for a lesser amount, although in this market the dollar goes farther.

You can, for example, get a

\$350,000 home for perhaps \$225,000, she said.

"Your first-time homebuyer can certainly take advantage of that. That's a good thing that can be utilized," Horner said.

First-time buyers usually need money for the down payment and closing costs, and Horner would like to see the tax credit available for those. "That covers a good percentage of that 10 percent down." Closing costs also run several thousand dollars, and could be covered.

Lenders won't allow gifts from parents to be included for such buyers, she said.

"It's good that they get it," she said of the credit, which can go for furniture or home repairs. She's not convinced it will stimulate the housing market sufficiently: "I think it would make a huge impact if they could use it for the transaction," said Horner, who's worked in real estate 15 years.

Reggish said the extension will boost home sales.

"Absolutely it will. It provides them the opportunity to take advantage of historically low prices." Those in a position to buy and move into a larger home do themselves a disservice by postponing action, he said.

"Buy a house," he urged. "Buy two. Prices are good, why stop at one?"

Income limits for eligible homebuyers are expanded to \$125,000 for single buyers and \$225,000 for couples. The purchase price of the home cannot exceed \$800,000. To help guard against fraud, buyers are required to attach documentation of purchase to their tax return.

"Realtors appreciate the swift action by Congress to extend the home buyer tax credit and expand it to some current homeowners," said NAR President Charles McMillan, a broker with Coldwell Banker Residential Real Estate in Dallas-Fort Worth. "As the leading

advocate of housing and real estate issues, we urge President Obama to sign this legislation into law quickly to keep the momentum going in the fragile recovery of the nation's housing market."

McMillan praised the efforts of several senators to put the recovery above politics. They are Sen. Johnny Isakson, R-Ga.; Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev.; Finance Committee Chairman Max Baucus, D-Mont.; Sen. Chris Dodd, D-Conn., chairman of the Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee; and Sen. Joe Lieberman, I-Conn., chairman of the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee.

NAR economists estimate that the current tax credit has contributed approximately \$22 billion to the general economy, and approximately two million people will take advantage of the tax credit this year.

"The substantial rise in home sales we've seen over the past few months proves that the tax credit is working and is being used by buyers who were waiting for the right opportunity to get into the market," McMillan said. "This important incentive is helping to stabilize the housing market, stimulate the economy and create new jobs in communities all across our great nation. Extending and expanding the homebuyer tax credit will enable even more families to take advantage of current low interest rates and affordable prices to invest in their future through homeownership."

Detailed information about provisions in the tax credit legislation is available on Realtor.org.

The NAR Web site contributed to this report.

## Tax credits a help on clubhouse work?

**Q: I understand that there is some new federal statute that might help our condominium association get some credits for fixing up our clubhouse. Do you have any information?**

**A:** In February 2009, President Obama signed The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, which is referred to as the stimulus bill, which made significant changes to energy-efficiency tax credits. Relevant



Robert Meisner

federal tax credits are divided into two sections of the Internal Revenue Code. Section 25(C), Credit for Non-Business Property, allows for a tax credit of 30 percent of the cost of certain residential energy efficient investments such as new windows. However, federal tax credits applied under this section are subject to a maximum credit of \$1,000 per taxpayer over 2009 and 2010. The second section is Section 25(D), Credit for Residential Energy Efficient Property, which allows for a tax credit of 30 percent of the cost for certain alternative energy investments such as solar and geothermal power. The tax credit being 30 percent applies to purchases and improvements made between Jan. 1, 2009, and Dec. 31, 2010. There are various qualifications and time constraints, and you are best advised to consult with your tax adviser as to whether your association would benefit or be able to take credits as a result of the stimulus tax credit package.

**Q: My grandmother deeded me property that gave me what was referred to as a profit à prendre which allowed me to hunt and fish on the neighbor's land. They now want to develop the neighbor's land as a subdivision and I am wondering whether or not I will be precluded from doing so or whether I have a right to continue to hunt on the land. What do you think?**

**A:** Based upon a similar case that was decided in 2008 by the Michigan Court of Appeals on similar facts, the court found that the establishment of a subdivision would interfere with the owner of the profit à prendre the right to hunt on the property and, therefore, precluded the subdivision from being established because the Court found that the entire parcel was at the disposal of the person for purposes of hunting and all recreational and resort purposes. Of course, each case is fact intensive, and, you should consult with a knowledgeable real estate lawyer as to your problem.

**Robert M. Meisner** is a lawyer and the author of Condominium Operation: Getting Started & Staying on the Right Track, second edition. It is available for \$9.95 plus \$1 shipping and handling. He also wrote Condo Living: A Survival Guide to Buying, Owning and Selling a Condominium, available for \$24.95 plus \$5 shipping and handling. For more information, call (248) 644-4433 or visit [bmeisner@meisner-associates.com](mailto:bmeisner@meisner-associates.com). This column shouldn't be construed as legal advice.

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Check out the numbers in today's Sports

### REAL ESTATE BRIEFS

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Learn about a career in residential real estate. Attend a free one-hour seminar, or shadow a top agent to get an inside feel of the business. Seminars are at noon or 6 p.m. Mondays. To reserve a spot, contact Steve Leibhan, Keller Williams Realty International, at (248) 893-2500, 27555 Executive Drive, Suite 100, Farmington Hills 48331.

#### BIA

■ Building Industry Association of Southeastern Michigan (BIA)

presents Boot Camp Sales Training on six Monday mornings, Jan. 11, 18, 25 and Feb. 1, 8, and 15, from 9-11 a.m. at Association Offices, 30375 Northwestern Highway, Suite 100, Farmington Hills.

Dave Tear, Head Coach of Sales Coaches' Corner, will present suggestions on how to set expectations and stay in control of the sale; how to ask the tough questions and qualify your prospects; how to stop selling on price and start making money; how to stop relying on prospects to return on their own and how to get prospects off the fence.

Registration is \$750 per person for

all six sessions. For registration information, call (248) 862-1002 or register online at [www.builders.org](http://www.builders.org).

■ Building Industry Association of Southeastern Michigan (BIA) presents a Certified Graduate course on Building Codes, Standards and Guidelines on Thursday, Jan. 14, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Association Offices, 30375 Northwestern Highway, Suite 100, Farmington Hills.

Don Pratt, CGR, CGB, of Wake-Pratt Construction, will present how to successfully navigate building codes, standards and guidelines. The course is based on the International Residential Code (IRC) and the National

Association of Home Builder's (NAHB) Residential Construction Performance Guidelines. Topics to be covered include the evolution of building codes, code administration and enforcement, construction planning and plan review, locating and interpreting required information, and how performance guidelines achieve quality construction. This course counts toward CGA and GMB designations.

Registration is \$155 for members of BIA's NAHB Professional Remodeler, \$175 for BIA members and \$200 for guests. For registration information, call (248) 862-1002 or register online at [www.builders.org](http://www.builders.org).

### HOMES SOLD - WAYNE

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of Aug. 24-28, 2009, at the Wayne County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

<b>Canton</b>		
1690 Aberdeen St	\$177,000	
50651 Colchester Ct	\$405,000	
43902 Cranford Ave	\$175,000	
41495 Elsa Ct	\$135,000	
44243 Fair Oaks Dr	\$160,000	
51350 Ford Rd	\$125,000	
46083 Graystone Ln	\$161,000	
45269 Horseshoe Cir	\$110,000	
50186 Jackson Ln	\$291,000	
<b>Garden City</b>		
973 Belton St	\$46,000	
29503 Cambridge St	\$95,000	
5949 Gilman St	\$44,000	
5747 Harrison St	\$17,000	
29851 John Hawk St	\$50,000	
29467 Meadow Ln	\$82,000	
31024 Roslyn Ave	\$60,000	
<b>Livonia</b>		
14051 Alexander St	\$97,000	

9226 Arden St	\$120,000	
14211 Berwick St	\$160,000	
32969 Brookside Cir	\$160,000	
12314 Camden St	\$87,000	
17100 Dolores St	\$129,000	
33009 Fargo St	\$25,000	
18636 Glenary Dr	\$360,000	
33146 Greenwood St	\$135,000	
14128 Ingram St	\$170,000	
28723 Jacquelyn Dr	\$118,000	
36032 Leon St	\$135,000	
9924 Mayfield St	\$85,000	
30677 Mayville St	\$165,000	
9375 Patton St	\$144,000	
31612 Pembroke St	\$67,000	
14405 Pemblewood St	\$135,000	
31517 Scone St	\$90,000	
16077 Swathmore Ln	\$190,000	
<b>Northville</b>		
39463 Champion Ct	\$230,000	
39481 Edgewater Dr	\$160,000	

520 Grace St	\$195,000	
39474 Springwater Dr	\$135,000	
48820 Wellsley Ct	\$1166,000	
<b>Plymouth</b>		
46356 Barrington Rd	\$214,000	
12619 Beacon Hill Ct	\$400,000	
50457 Beechwood Ct	\$88,000	
405 Blunk St	\$460,000	
9251 Brookline Ave	\$130,000	
1045 Carol Ave	\$105,000	
8875 Elmhurst Ave	\$124,000	
13962 Knollview Ct	\$300,000	
625 Sunset St	\$230,000	
14864 Thornridge Dr	\$183,000	
9380 Village Manor Dr	\$289,000	
9600 Wellington Dr	\$372,000	
50800 Weston Dr	\$325,000	
9111 Woodgrove Dr	\$260,000	
<b>Redford</b>		
13438 Arnold	\$70,000	
14804 Beech Daly Rd	\$80,000	

18644 Beech Daly Rd	\$38,000	
15926 Delaware Ave	\$50,000	
16136 Delaware Ave	\$66,000	
17678 Denby	\$38,000	
20455 Fox	\$30,000	
20429 Gaylord	\$56,000	
18258 Kinloch	\$12,000	
15928 Leona Dr	\$47,000	
18284 Norborne	\$20,000	
9631 Salem	\$41,000	
<b>Westland</b>		
33340 Anita Dr	\$122,000	
29104 Badell St	\$82,000	
38514 Deer Creek Blvd	\$93,000	
32421 Grandview Ave	\$103,000	
36000 Hazelwood St	\$47,000	
984 Mitchell Dr	\$174,000	
503 N Hanlon St	\$110,000	
1523 Raymer St	\$65,000	
32719 Steinhauer St	\$85,000	

### HOMES SOLD - OAKLAND

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of Sept. 8-11, 2009, at the Oakland County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

<b>Auburn Hills</b>		
3031 Carly Ct	\$42,000	
2347 Old Salem Ct	\$96,000	
<b>Beverly Hills</b>		
15836 Birwood Ave	\$106,000	
31100 Downing Pl	\$209,000	
17465 Kirkshire Ave	\$195,000	
<b>Birmingham</b>		
1201 Cole St	\$170,000	
1862 E Lincoln St	\$175,000	
1628 E Melton Rd	\$160,000	
1872 Humphrey Ave	\$140,000	
3905 Adams Rd	\$130,000	
1760 Sheffield Rd	\$110,000	
460 Southfield Rd	\$212,000	
1506 Yorkshire Rd	\$520,000	
<b>Bloomfield Township</b>		
1928 Klingensmith Rd	\$70,000	
783 Robinhood Cir	\$194,000	
2830 Rossmoor Cir	\$151,000	
3595 Wabeek Road	\$265,000	

<b>Clarkston</b>		
7937 Brookwood Dr	\$225,000	
8103 Deerwood Rd	\$165,000	
8417 Elkrun Dr	\$262,000	
7708 Golden Hill Ct	\$134,000	
6950 Hillside Dr	\$600,000	
9197 Morning Mist Dr	\$265,000	
5188 Old Cove Rd	\$168,000	
6668 Snow Apple Dr	\$107,000	
7134 Snow Apple Dr	\$158,000	
5013 Spring Meadow Dr	\$140,000	
<b>Commerce Township</b>		
1706 Point St	\$260,000	
4864 Triwood Dr	\$182,000	
<b>Davidsburg</b>		
7202 Ormond Rd	\$200,000	
<b>Farmington Hills</b>		
21429 Averhill St	\$99,000	
33184 Biddestone Ln	\$239,000	
32425 Dohany Dr	\$187,000	
25054 Pimlico Ct	\$99,000	
37890 Thames Dr	\$168,000	
23657 Tuck Rd	\$166,000	
<b>Lake Orion</b>		
461 Bellevue Ave	\$222,000	
3647 Forest Spring Dr	\$217,000	
429 Franklin Wright Blvd	\$347,000	
1597 Oneida Tr	\$235,000	
3624 Park Meadow Dr	\$316,000	
3771 Rolling Hills Rd	\$201,000	
36 W Flint St	\$175,000	

3748 Waldon Rd	\$115,000	
Milford		
3245 Central Blvd	\$2,000	
1112 Eagle Nest Dr	\$165,000	
327 Trotter Trl	\$675,000	
1855 Wyom Trl	\$130,000	
<b>Novi</b>		
40016 Crosswinds	\$85,000	
1681 Harbor Cv	\$150,000	
25800 Peninsula Dr	\$415,000	
24950 Portsmouth Ave	\$220,000	
24450 Saybrook Ct	\$490,000	
23639 Stonehenge Blvd	\$95,000	
22846 Talford St	\$97,000	
<b>Oakland Township</b>		
5760 Cobb Creek Rd	\$225,000	
377 Oakbridge Dr	\$265,000	
5843 Wellwood Dr	\$813,000	
3712 Woodmonte Dr	\$393,000	
<b>Oxford</b>		
102 Denison St	\$125,000	
1086 Mill Valley Ct	\$137,000	
1342 Pondview Ln	\$137,000	
1216 Poppy Hill Dr	\$218,000	
<b>Rochester</b>		
402 East St	\$160,000	
436 Romeo Rd	\$30,000	
111 S Helen Ave	\$157,000	
1191 Terra Ln	\$375,000	
1361 Tulberry Cir	\$335,000	
<b>Rochester Hills</b>		

1714 Arcadian Dr	\$322,000	
3563 Blue Heron Ln	\$360,000	
3559 Cedar Shake Dr	\$361,000	
3293 Empire Dr	\$261,000	
658 Fieldstone Dr	\$167,000	
2962 Hartline Dr	\$69,000	
542 Kentucky Dr	\$169,000	
1683 Lodge Pole Ln	\$112,000	
661 Oakbrook W	\$62,000	
1704 Snowden Cir	\$312,000	
2834 Steamboat Springs Dr	\$251,000	
1392 Tracey	\$165,000	
2086 Wentworth Dr	\$275,000	
<b>South Lyon</b>		
1159 Horseshoe Cir	\$260,000	
<b>Southfield</b>		
21446 Avon Ln	\$77,000	
29289 Everett St	\$80,000	
22508 Ivanhoe Ln	\$110,000	
17440 Madison St	\$105,000	
19502 Nadol Dr	\$45,000	
30095 Pleasant Trl	\$123,000	
21537 Stahelin Rd	\$69,000	
<b>Troy</b>		
2782 Continental Dr	\$230,000	
1903 Fleetwood Dr	\$175,000	
1598 Hamlet Dr	\$440,000	
2023 Haverford Dr	\$505,000	
2561 Lanegan Dr	\$225,000	
3897 Root Dr	\$155,000	
2939 Roundtree Dr	\$116,000	

1861 Shepherds Dr	\$187,000	
1888 Wyrngate Dr	\$525,000	
<b>Walled Lake</b>		
411 Gamma Rd	\$115,000	
432 Market St	\$70,000	
462 Old Pine Way	\$124,000	
<b>Waterford</b>		
3663 Baybrook Dr	\$97,000	
3420 Clayton Ave	\$72,000	
6653 Doyon Dr S	\$76,000	
6502 Forestside Dr	\$134,000	
4266 Lotus Dr	\$130,000	
1158 Meadowview Dr	\$129,000	
2935 Saint Jude Dr	\$100,000	
2829 Swain	\$195,000	
<b>West Bloomfield</b>		
7030 10 Hill Dr	\$280,000	
3937 Englewood Ct	\$413,000	
6680 Heron Pt	\$210,000	
3940 Maple Blvd	\$275,000	
1551 Peterson St	\$81,000	
6773 Stonebridge Ct	\$400,000	
7304 Westchesler	\$72,000	
6315 Wood Pond Rd	\$	



# Challenging fun for ALL ages

## Thursday PUZZLE CORNER

### CROSSWORD PUZZLER

- ACROSS**
- Planet warmer
  - Have an effect
  - Manual skill
  - Sponge feature
  - Arm bone
  - Word of welcome
  - Swit co-star
  - Ecstatic (2 wds.)
  - Soup or salad
  - Decade number
  - Pays a visit
  - Struts along
  - Data medium
  - Good golly! (2 wds.)
  - Dupes
  - Melodrama shout
  - Hillock
  - Mooring site
  - Faultfinders
  - Blur, as ink
  - Fly high
  - Rigel's constellation
  - Lap dogs
  - One, to Conchita
  - Happens again
  - Made livelier (2 wds.)
  - Shoestring
  - Positive
  - Breathe hard
  - Fire, slangily
  - Half of a song
- DOWN**
- Aria, usually
  - Language of Pakistan
  - Close
  - Bakers' utensils (2 wds.)
  - Everybody
  - Woven
  - Moved gingerly
  - Fidel's friend
  - NFL team
  - Lotion additive
  - Furnace duct
  - Little kids
  - Snow boot
  - Foul mood
  - Argyle item
  - Walk noisily
  - Delhi address
  - Privilege
  - Chicago airport
  - Mr. Spock's forte
  - Doze
  - Cumulus or nimbus

**PREVIOUS PUZZLE SOLVED**

COOP	SHOAL	KILT
ALLY	HOOHA	AREA
TEAR	REHAB	BIND
SOFABEDS	CRUSTS	
MAW	ROOK	
APHIDS	HABITAT	
BRIDE	WHIT	WOE
BAN	FAUNS	ARN
ODD	ELMO	PANTS
TOUSLED	REGGAE	
POLO	ALE	
TAHITI	STRENGTH	
WREN	NOTRE	DAYO
OGLE	GRAIL	AIRS
SOPS	SOGGY	SLOT

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- Actor
- Reeves
- Sandal part
- Bodies of water
- Chillings e.g. (2 wds.)
- Drives back
- Hunters' org.
- Nimble
- Leave a mark
- More spooky
- Escape hatches
- Wait Kelly strip
- Computer system
- Big coconut exporter
- "Orinoco Flow" singer
- Crazy about
- Hi or bye
- Ave. crossers
- Bridal notice word
- Some MDs

### SUDOKU

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

**Fun By The Numbers**

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

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

### SEEK AND FIND

FIND THESE WORDS IN THE PUZZLE BELOW.

- |          |         |         |
|----------|---------|---------|
| CINNAMON | OREGANO | SAFFRON |
| GARLIC   | PAPRIKA | SAGE    |
| GINGER   | PARSLEY | SALT    |
| MARJORAM | PEPPER  | THYME   |

THE WORDS READ UP, DOWN AND ACROSS.

S A G E M T Y S U I  
O R E G A N O A A O  
H G J K R S L F K P  
G A R F O A D F I S  
Q R E A J L S R R R  
E L G R R T T O P E  
C I N N A M O N A P  
Y C I U M I O L P P  
T G G N M T H Y M E  
A P A R S L E Y W P

**CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE**

**SUDOKU**

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

**CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE**

**SEEK AND FIND**

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

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**Plymouth** 1 bdrm, single story Private entry/patio Plymouth/Livonia area **\$300+ MOVES YOU IN!!** 734-459-6640 EHO [www.cormorantco.com](http://www.cormorantco.com) call for details

**4000** Apartments/Unfurnished  
**PLYMOUTH - OLD VILLAGE,** Small 1 bdrm, hardwood floors, ceiling fan, island style breakfast bar, cable ready, storage & laundry, very clean & cute. \$145/wk incl all util. 1 yr lease. 248-425-4853, broker

**Westland Estates "WOW"**  
1 Bdrms, \$475  
2 Bdrms, \$615  
No fine print in this ad!  
-Heat/Water included  
-\$100 Application Fee  
-\$200 Deposit w/ Credit  
**New Resident's Only**  
734-722-4700  
Mon.-Fri. 9am-7pm  
Sat.-Sun. 10am-4pm

**REDFORD**  
1st Month Free!  
Large 1 bdrm.  
C/A, storage  
Tons of closet space  
\$590 per mo.  
734-721-6699 EHO  
[www.cormorantco.com](http://www.cormorantco.com)

**WALLED LAKE-ON THE LAKE**  
1-3 bdrms starting at \$500. 1st mo free with approved credit.  
C/A, Close to 12 Oaks, schools & x-ways. (248) 624-5999

**WESTLAND**  
1 bdrm w/appliances, private entrance, off street parking. \$475/mo. 248-892-0262

**WESTLAND**  
2 bdrm, 1.5 bath, laundry hook-up & off street parking. \$600/mo. (248) 892-0262

**WESTLAND**  
Hickory Woods Apts. **\$224 MOVE IN!**  
**1st Month Rent Free** (for qualified applicants)  
1 Bdrm-\$550  
2 Bdrm-\$625  
**FREE GAS AND WATER** (734) 729-6520  
\*Short term leases avail.

**Westland Park Apts.**  
**FREE RENT**  
2 Bdrm, 1.5 Bath, \$565, 936 Sq. Ft.  
1 Bdrm, \$490, 728 Sq. Ft.  
**\$200 Security Deposit Heat and Water Incl** (New residents only) with approved credit  
No Pets, C/A, Vertical Blinds, Intercom. Appliances include dishwasher.  
Very clean Apartments Excellent Maintenance  
**(734) 729-6636**

**Waywood Apts**  
Deposit from \$0\*  
1 & 2 Bdrms  
• Patio or Balcony  
• 24 Hr Emergency Maint.  
• \*Open 7 Days  
**Waywood Apts**  
734-326-8270, EHO  
\*Conditions Apply  
[www.waywoodapts.com](http://www.waywoodapts.com)

**Observer and Eccentric Classified Early Deadline for Christmas & New Years**

Please be advised due to the holidays, the Observer and Eccentric Newspapers will have early deadlines for the issues of Thursday, December 24th and December 31st. Please make note of these early deadlines, so your advertising will not miss these "well read" issues!

**Publications Of: Wayne County Observers/ South Oakland Eccentric/Birmingham Eccentric**  
Deadline for Issue of Thursday, December 24th:  
Liners: Monday, December 21st at 2:30 pm  
Display: Monday, December 21st at noon  
Obituaries: Tuesday, December 22nd at 10 am

**Publications Of: Wayne County Observers/ South Oakland Eccentric/Birmingham Eccentric**  
Deadline for Issue of Sunday, December 27th:  
Liners: Wednesday, December 23rd at 3 pm  
Display: Tuesday, December 22nd at 5 pm  
Obituaries: Wednesday, December 23rd at 2 pm

**Publications Of: Wayne County Observers/ South Oakland Eccentric/Birmingham Eccentric**  
Deadline for Issue of Thursday, December 31st:  
Liners: Monday, December 28th at 2:30 pm  
Display: Friday, December 25th at 5 pm  
Obituaries: Tuesday, December 29th at 10 am

**Publications Of: Wayne County Observers/ South Oakland Eccentric/Birmingham Eccentric**  
Deadline for Issue of Sunday, January 3rd:  
Liners: Wednesday, December 30th at 3 pm  
Display: Tuesday, December 29th at 5 pm  
Obituaries: Wednesday, December 30th at 2 pm

**Call To Place Your Ad Today: 800-579-7355**  
Or online at [www.hometownlife.com](http://www.hometownlife.com)



# APARTMENTS

HOMETOWNlife.com

**Apartments/Unfurnished** 4000

**Westland VENOY PINES APTS.**  
Rent Starting at \$549  
• 1 & 2 bedroom apts. with fireplace.  
(734) 261-7394  
[www.yorkcommunities.com](http://www.yorkcommunities.com)

**Apartments/Furnished** 4010

**WESTLAND:** Private entry, nice decor, utilities, internet. Non-smoking. No pets. 1275/Ford. \$420+ sec. 734-634-0542

**Condos/Townhouses** 4020

**FARMINGTON HILLS:** 2 bdrm, 2 new baths, appliances, carpet. Plenty of storage. Washer/dryer, walk-in closets. \$850/mo.+sec. Now! 686-915-8576

**LIVONIA:** Pristine/Spacious 2 bdrm, 2.5 bath, fireplace, 2 car. Walk to Laurel Park. \$1495/mo. (313) 657-8730

**WESTLAND:** 2 bdrm, 2 bath, 2 car garage, washer/dryer, pond view, full bsmt. \$1095/mo. 734-717-8621

**WESTLAND MALL AREA:** Sharp, 2 bdrm, 2 bath, pool, pond view, appliances, nice area. \$750. 734-261-5053

**Duplexes** 4030

**CANTON:** 2 bdrm, 1.5 baths, convenient location near Ford Rd. & I-275, c/a, full bsmt, appliances incl., washer/dryer. \$800/mo. + sec. dep., rest of Dec. FREE. 248-867-8759

**PLYMOUTH:** 2 bdrm, 1 car gar, W/D incl. \$750/mo. \$1000 sec. Water/heat incl. No pets, non-smoking. 734-459-7549

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**PLYMOUTH:** Attractive upper 2 bdrm, a/c, carpeted, dishwasher, \$695 + sec. Avail Jan. 1st. Call: (734) 453-1735

**Westland:** 32213 Hillside Ct. W/Merriman, S/Palmer. 3 bdrm, 1 bath, 1st mo. Free. \$700, \$600 sec. 313-937-2930

**Homes For Rent** 4050

**HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS!**  
\$199 Moves You In plus NO RENT DUE UNTIL 2/1/10  
3 Bed/2 Bath Homes from only: **\$599/mo.**  
All Appliances including W/D and C/A!  
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Now Open Sat. from 10am-2pm  
No application fee. No credit check. No background check. No pet fee. No security deposit. Expires 12/31/09.

**DEARBORN:** Attractive 3 bdrm cape cod, fin bsmt, dining room, 2 baths. Option/LC avail. \$800. (248) 788-1823

**FARMINGTON HILLS:** Recently remodeled 3 bdrm ranch. Garage, full bsmt, fenced yard, \$950/mo. 248-478-9628

**FARMINGTON HILLS:** Sharp 2 bdrm brick ranch, finished bsmt, stove, fridge, option/LC avail, \$750. (248) 788-1823

**INKSTER:** 2 bdrm ranch, mechanic's oversized gar util rm, fenced, pets ok, option/LC. \$450. 248-788-1823

**INKSTER:** Remodeled 4 bdrm, bsmt, gar, sec 8 ok, no pets/smoking. Call for additional listings. \$950. (734) 927-4314

**LIVONIA:** 4 bdrm, 2 bath, 1500 sq. ft, 2 car gar, finished bsmt, C/A, all appls, natural fireplace. \$1250/mo. 313-805-2679

**LIVONIA:** Brick ranch, 3 bdrm, 1.5 bath, bsmt, FL room, 2 car garage, C/A, no pets, \$899/mo. + Security. (734) 674-8153

**MELVINDALE:** 3 bdrm, ranch, utility room, option/LC, \$8000 avail, bad credit okay. \$750/mo. (248) 788-1823

**REDFORD:** 3 bdrm, 1 bath Ranch, fenced yard, C/A, tool shed, no bsmt, 5 Mile/Beech. Scott: 734-905-2644

**REDFORD:** 5 Mile/Telegraph Charming, updated 2 bdrm, a/c, deck, appliances. \$699/mo. Call: 248-346-6108

**REDFORD:** Beautiful 3 bdrm, new kitchen/ bath, bsmt, 2.5 garage, \$850/mo. + \$1500 move in. Call: (810) 599-0896

**REDFORD:** Remodeled 3 bdrm, huge master bdrm, bsmt, sharp kitchen, option/LC available. \$600. 248-788-1823

**REDFORD (S):** Spacious 3 bdrm ranch, partially finished bsmt, garage, \$1100/mo. + security. Call: (248) 354-3686

**Homes For Rent** 4050

**ROMULUS:** Remodeled 3 bdrm, bsmt, 2.5 car gar, family room, option/LC, bad credit okay, \$800. (248) 788-1823

**SOUTHFIELD:** Indian St. Section 8 Welcome. 1 bdrm, loft style home, 2 car garage, \$650. (313) 574-5596

**WAYNE:** 4250 Adams Cir. 3 bdrm, 1 bath, bsmt, 1.5 car garage, 1 yr. lease, \$900/mo. 734-459-6361, 734-709-7222

**Westland:** 2 bdrm, fenced yd, new carpet, fridge/stove incl, \$850 dep. 1st mo. free. Sec 8 & pets okay. 734-732-3120

**WESTLAND:** 2 bdrm, freshly painted, new carpet, appl, 1 pet, no smoking, avail immed. \$700/mo. (734) 751-0629

**Westland:** Cherry Hill/Wayne Rd. 3 bdrm brick ranch, 1100 sq. ft, CA, garage, fenced yd. New paint/carpet. No bsmt. \$850 + sec. (734) 223-4939

**WESTLAND:** Economical 2 bdrm. New carpet, paint, full bsmt, central A/C, deck, appl incl. washer/dryer. \$35,000 or \$750/mo. Sec. 8 Okay. Agent: 734-660-7996

**Mobile Home Rentals** 4070

**CAN YOU USE \$9,000?**  
Relocate your home by 12/31/09 and receive: **\$6,000/\$9,000** (single section/100-section)  
**\$100 off** monthly site rent for 3 years!  
Max Site Rent: \$29/mo.  
Apply Online at: [www.relocatemyhome.com](http://www.relocatemyhome.com)

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[www.4collegepark.com](http://www.4collegepark.com)

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Low monthly rent. Family oriented. Used and refurbished 2 bdrm. homes for sale or rent. Inkster/Westland Riverview Mobile Home Park (734) 721-7215

**Living Quarters To Share** 4120

Single Father seeks responsible female to share his home. Must be able to see his kids off to school in trade for rent. Private bdrm. Palmer & John Hix area. 734-765-9066

**Rooms For Rent** 4140

**CANTON:** Master bdrm suite w/private bath, \$425/mo. Full house privileges, all utilities & cable included. 313-319-2253

**GARDEN CITY:** Furnished room, cable TV, a/c, microwave, fridge. No deposit. \$100/wk. Call: 734-421-2326

**GARDEN CITY:** Room for rent in my private home. \$95 a week. (734) 427-2891

**GARDEN CITY:** Small bdrm, \$400; large bdrm \$450. Laundry & utilities included. Call: (734) 389-3553

**LUXURY MOTELS:** Low Rates, Fairlane 248-347-9999, Royal 248-544-1575, Days 734-427-1300, Comfort 248-504-5080.

**NORTHVILLE or PLYMOUTH:** Downtown. 1st week with full deposit. Furnished sleeping rooms. Newly decorated. \$85 weekly. Security deposit. 734-355-6453, 248-305-9944


**PLYMOUTH TWP.:** Room for Rent. \$400/mo. + 1/2 utilities, cable. Non-smoker. 734-968-0654

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Take advantage of one of these great specials today!	
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# MARKETPLACE

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**6000-6990 Announcements**  
LOOK HERE

**Announcements & Notices** 6200

**TAI CHI Classes**  
Livonia, Michigan Tai Chi Association will start new beginner classes the week of January 4th. See website for more information:  
[www.taotai.org](http://www.taotai.org)  
734-591-3530

**Cards Of Thanks** 6300

**PRAYER:** Pray 9 Hail Marys for 9 days. On the 9th day make 3 wishes & publish this prayer. Your wishes will be granted. M

**7000-7780 Merchandise**

**Absolutely Free** 7000

**HAMMOND ORGAN-SMALL**  
Rhythm 2, Pick-Up.  
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**MAGAZINES**  
Playboy 50+  
(248) 348-1243

**POOL TABLE 8' slate pool table plus accessories. Exc. condition. Free, you pick up!**  
734-420-0729

**Antiques/Collectibles** 7020

**Annual Antique Holiday Sale, 15-30% Off**  
Nov 19 - Dec 31, \$100 gift certificate drawing.  
Town & Country Antiques  
31630 Plymouth, Livonia, (behind East Side Mario's)  
734-425-4344

**Auction Sales** 7060

**AUCTIONS WE MUST GO**  
General Merchandise, Toys & Christmas. 28135 E Mile Rd. Every Sat. at 7PM.

**7100 Estate Sales** 7100

**CANTON:** 6629 Powderhorn (off N. Sheldon, S of Warren). Fri-Sun, 9-5pm. Furniture, household, clothing. 586-228-9090. Pics: [actestate.com](http://actestate.com)

**Estate Clothing & Jewelry Ladies** Plus sizes 22 & 24. After 5 casual, business. Full Length fox fur coat. New & Used. Call for appt. 313-402-6110 Ferndale.

**NORTHVILLE ESTATE/ MOVING SALE.** Fri. 9-5. Sat. 9-3. Corner of Sheldon & Thornapple, btwn. 6 & 7 Mile.

**Garage Sales** 7110

**LIVONIA - Indoor Moving/ Garage Sale.** Sat Dec 19th, 9am. 9930 Fremont, behind Wonderland.

**Household Goods** 7160

**BED SETS (2)**  
Twin, Mattress, Box Springs & Frame. \$100 for each set. Livonia. 989-225-6714

**DESK & CREDENZA**  
Walnut with leather chair. \$700. Natuzzi Leather Couch. 734-709-7191

**Dining Set-Formal, Bernhardt.** seats 10. Best offer over \$4000. Bdrm Set, medium oak. \$200. 734-709-7191

**DRESSER - LARGE.** Antique Black lacquer w/ mirror & matching night stand, \$150. 2 living room chairs, \$50 for set. Call: 248-792-1294

**MATTRESS**  
New queen pillow-top mattress. Can Deliver. \$200. (734) 444-7277

**MISCELLANEOUS:**  
Refrigerator \$135, Stove \$85, Dryer \$85, Dehumidifier \$45, King Mattress \$65, Queen Mattress \$25, 2 Twin Sets \$35-\$55, Antique Chair \$5, Wheelbarrow \$20, 6 Ft Tables \$15. 248-465-0262

**QUEEN - Pillowtop Mattress** \$98. New in plastic with warranty. Can Deliver. Call: (248) 416-6288

**SECTIONAL** Contemporary high end Carson's 4 piece, black, loveseat, corner, chair & chaise, \$1000. 248-761-6574

**Steamer Trunk, Early 1900's.** Good cond. \$50. Singer Sewing Machine, 1936, good cond., \$125. Christmas Tree, 7.5 ft frosted fir, used 1 season, \$20; 20 ft of cyclone fence, \$15. (734) 425-3452

**TABLE & 4 CHAIRS, \$125.** 8 pc. bdrm set, like new, \$195. Hewlett-Packard, Computer, like new, \$195. 734-367-0556

**TV 32" Console TV and glass coffee table.** \$75/both or will sell separate. (248) 442-0940

**Household Goods** 7160

**TWIN BED**  
2 night stands, mattress & springs, like new.  
Call: (248) 486-3101

**Exercise/Fitness Equipment** 7215

**ELLIPTICAL - NordicTrack Space Saver,** 2 years old, new cond. \$400. Call: (734) 612-1411

**Firewood-Merchandise** 7440

**WOOD STOVE - ANTIQUE**  
Excel cond. Large, very ornate, \$550. Call: (810) 874-5405

**Hospital/Medical Equipment** 7460

**LIFTCHAIR.** Electric. Pride. Lifts, Reclines. Navy Blue. Excellent cond. \$300/best. 734-469-2184

**Miscellaneous For Sale** 7500

**ROLLER SKATES:** Douglass-Snyder Frame, Riedel Boot. Ladies size 9 with case. Good cond. \$135. 734-455-1688

**Miscellaneous For Sale** 7500

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**Wanted to Buy** 7540

**CASH PAID FOR RECORD COLLECTIONS** 45's & LP's. Rock, Soul, Jazz & More. Call Justin: 734-578-3479

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**Cats** 7830

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**SHAR PEI** Male, fawn color, 5 1/2 mos. old. Asking \$450. Female, black, 4 mos. old, asking \$500. Both dogs are registered, updated shots, housebroken, inside dogs. Serious inquires only. 989-723-7661

**Dogs** 7840

**TEACUP MALTESE**  
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**YORKSHIRE TERRIER PUPS**  
AKC, small, \$650. Call: (248) 939-3143

**Lost - Pets** 7930

**LOST CHIHUAHUA**  
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# SALES RESULTS REFLECT STEADY IMPROVEMENT, AUTOMAKERS SAY

Advertising Feature

## CAReport



By Dale Buss

U.S. auto sales clocked in about flat in November compared with a year ago -- and in line with widespread expectations that the market will only gradually creep upward for at least the next year. But industry executives and analysts mostly chose to interpret the American auto market as a glass half-full.

November sales were 747,000 units. "It could be worse," said Jessica Caldwell, director of pricing and industry analysis Edmunds.com, in Santa Monica, Calif. "The fact that sales are stabilizing and increasing bit by bit each month is good news. The fact that they're not getting worse is a definite sign of promise."

Ken Czubay, Ford's U.S. sales chief, said: "The black clouds are clearing and we have guarded optimism for December." Nevertheless, a sales chief of the year's best-performing brand was among those holding a minority view. "We were, quite frankly, hoping that the economy and overall industry would have bounced back a bit more than we are seeing right now," said Dave Zuchowski, vice president of sales for Hyundai Motor America.

Giving the overall nod to optimistic shading were a couple important factors besides the sales numbers per se. First, the closely watched seasonally adjusted

annual rate of sales inched upward to 10.9 million units compared with 10.8 million units in October and a pace of 10.4 million units in November 2008. "The month was notable in that the industry succeeded the 2008 pace for only the second time this year -- and more notable because it was the first time the industry exceeded last year's pace" without benefit of last summer's federal "cash for clunkers" program that created a sales spike in July and August, said Robert Carter, group vice president of the Toyota division of Toyota Motor Sales U.S.A. "That's a real good sign for the industry."

Second, commentators today interpreted the mixed economic tea leaves as positive on balance for the U.S. auto industry, fueling their collective conviction that a continued ever-so-gradual recovery is in the cards.

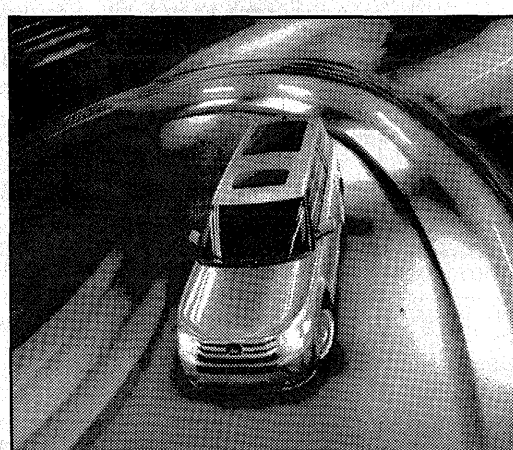
"There's a modest economic recovery that is underway," said Emily Kolinski Morris, Ford's chief economist. "Slow but sure is the best way to describe consumer and business activity."

Kolinski Morris and others cited favorable recent indicators including upticks in consumer income, spending and confidence as well as some stabilization in the housing market, a weak dollar that encourages exports, the



Ford's Flex is one of the new vehicles that has helped revive the brand.

The new Chevrolet Equinox is one of the hot sellers that helped GM post a respectable November.



strengthening of U.S. corporate balance sheets, and a string of stronger monthly readings of activity by the American manufacturing sector.

On the other side of the ledger looms one huge offsetting factor: the ever-increasing rate of U.S. unemployment, which continues to dampen any economic recovery as well as keep a lid on rosier expectations for the near future. "Jobs remain top of mind, holding spending in check," Kolinski Morris said.

Other negative indicators are credit conditions that "are still tight as banks remain cautious," according to Michael DiGiovanni, executive director of global industry analysis for General Motors. But Caldwell dismissed concerns that joblessness and other stubborn weak spots in the economy could introduce a "double-dip" recession that some economists still fear.

"I don't see that happening today," she said. "It looks like things are on their way to being steady." Caldwell and others cited a number of underlying reasons for coming down on the side of their optimistic interpretation of November results and portents for the future.

For one thing, she said, the spate of new and very recent products coming out of

Ford and GM are being almost universally embraced by American consumers -- suggesting that as the two strongest domestic automakers continue to introduce new and upgraded models, their prospects will continue to improve. They include the Ford Flex and Chevrolet Camaro, Buick LaCrosse and Cadillac SRX.

"It's easy to take for granted that these products would do well and are selling," Caldwell said. "They easily could not be doing well. They've been promising us better products for some time, made for the U.S. market, more evolutionary -- and it looks like they're doing that."

Stable gasoline prices over the last year and a half, within the range of \$2.50 to \$3 a gallon, also have caused American consumers to take closer looks at segments such as pickup trucks and large sport-utility vehicles that got slammed by \$4-a-gallon gasoline in the summer of 2008.

"People who need that type of vehicle now are getting more comfortable with the stabilization of oil prices," said GM's DiGiovanni. "We're benefiting from a nice lull at the pump." However, DiGiovanni also noted GM's forecast for a long-term re-escalation of oil prices as global economies recover.

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