

TOP ATHLETES OF THE YEAR

SPORTS, B1

TEACHERS HAILED FOR GOING EXTRA MILE

EDUCATION, A4

CHURCH PLANTS GARDEN TO FIGHT HUNGER, A6



SUNDAY

June 13, 2010

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

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PLYMOUTH OBSERVER

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PLYMOUTH PIPELINE

Dad stories

Time is running out to get your memories of dad to the Observer staff for inclusion in our June 20 Father's Day coverage.

If you've got a particularly fond memory of your father, or care to share the most important lesson your dad ever taught you or simply want to share something about your dad, we'd like to know and we'd love to help you share them.

Just e-mail them to Plymouth Observer editor Brad Kadrich at bkadrich@hometownlife.com, along with a photo of you and/or your dad (in JPEG format, please) by Thursday, June 17. We'll print as many as we can in our Sunday, June 20, edition to honor Father's Day. If you don't have access to e-mail, you can send a note and photo via the U.S. Postal Service to Plymouth Observer Editor Brad Kadrich, 615 W. Lafayette, Second Level, Detroit, MI 48226.

Pottery painting

New Hope Center for Grief Support, in cooperation with the Plymouth Community United Way, is offering an evening at Creatopia in downtown Plymouth.

This event is for parents with children who are interested in painting a pottery piece in memory of someone who has died. Dinner will be at Subway (next to Creatopia) starting at 6:15 p.m. After some brief instructions, painting will begin at 7 p.m. and will conclude at 8:30.

The event is free, but space is limited. Call New Hope at (248) 348-0115 to register.

Habitat holds meeting

Western Wayne County residents hoping to be a part of the American dream of owning a home can attend Habitat for Humanity of Western Wayne County meeting at 6 p.m. Tuesday, June 15, at the Dorsey Community Center, 32715 Dorsey, east of Venoy, Westland, for potential homeowners.

The 60- to 90-minute session will include video presentation, overview of criteria to qualify, history of Habitat, question and answer segment and distribution of applications. Current homeowners will be on hand to talk about their experience.

The meeting is mandatory for people interested in participating in the Habitat for Humanity program.

Applicants also must reside in the Habitat of Western Wayne County's geographical service area - Belleville, Canton, Dearborn Heights, Garden City, Huron Township, Inkster, Lincoln Park, Livonia, Northville, Plymouth, Redford, Romulus, Sumpter, Taylor, Van Buren, Wayne and Westland.

For more information, call Habitat of Western Wayne County at (734) 459-7744.



Kelly Mangion snaps a post-marathon photo of her children, Olivia and Joshua, two of the New Morning School students who participated in the school's cooperative triathlon. Members of the school community ran and walked a total of 10 marathons on Thursday; the bicycling and swimming parts of the triathlon were totaled up earlier.

Fit bodies, fit minds

School programs tie fitness to classroom success

BY MATT JACHMAN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Students, staff members and parents at New Morning School set out Thursday to run and walk a marathon.

Instead, they ended up doing 10 marathons — more than 260 miles, — on the fitness loop at Lake Pointe Soccer Park. The paved loop travels around the soccer field for just over a third of a mile.

It was the third and final segment of the Plymouth Township school's "triathlon," a months-long swimming, bicycling and running event intended to keep students motivated and improve their ability to learn by harnessing the benefits of exercise. In keeping with the school's educational philosophy, the triathlon was cooperative and noncompetitive, and each participant went at his or her own pace, taking breaks as needed.

New Morning's ongoing emphasis

on fitness — the community has also logged 37,416 additional miles in a quest to hoof it around the world (a goal they reached weeks ago) — has captured the students' imaginations, said Elaine Kennedy, head of school.

"I can't walk through the hall without a kid saying, 'Elaine, I did two miles last night,'" Kennedy said.

For the triathlon, New Morning's swimmers hit the pool at the Livonia Family YMCA, logging 5.79 total miles. That's more than twice the distance in a 2.4-mile Ironman triathlon swim.

For the bicycling, the school community went more than 400 miles, most of it on Bike Day, which was Monday. The cycling leg of an Ironman is 112 miles.

Thursday's tally of 10 marathons at the park just south of the school wound up the marathon portion of the triathlon.



Student Nolan McCarthy and parent Julie Shultz on the trail during New Morning School's marathon day on Thursday. They were at the Lake Pointe Soccer Park, adjacent to the school.

Please see **FITNESS, A5**

Local auto landscape changing

BY MATT JACHMAN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Changes are afoot at three automobile dealerships in the Plymouth area.

Hines Park Lincoln Mercury, founded 40 years ago in Plymouth as a Mercury dealer, will be losing its Mercury line later this year, while Dick Scott Dodge on Monday added Chrysler and Jeep vehicles to its lineup.

And Saturn of Plymouth, cut off from obtaining new vehicles with the post-bankruptcy General Motors Corp. decision last year to shut down its Saturn division, closed its doors Friday.

At Hines Park Lincoln Mercury, on Ann Arbor Road, operations manager and part-owner Ryan Kolb said Ford Motor Co.'s announcement about the end of the Mercury line was a surprise, but one that was balanced by good news, as Ford announced it will introduce seven new or substantially remade Lincoln models within the next four years.

"It might be a tough year next year, but we're excited about the long-term picture," Kolb said. "It's not something we wanted to see happen," he added of the demise of Mercury.

Kolb said Ford has assured dealers and owners that it will support Mercury by continuing to supply parts and honor warranties.

He also said Ford was "very fair" in compensating Mercury dealers for the loss of business, though he declined to say how much his dealership was getting. Hines Park sold about 2,400 new vehicles last year, he said, about half of them Mercury.

Though Ford, in a press release, says Mercury accounts for only a small portion of its 16-percent U.S. market share, Kolb said he suspected it's a much higher proportion in the Detroit area.

"In our region, this being Ford country, Mercury business is huge around here," he said.

Since the announcement, he said,

Please see **DEALERS, A5**

Plymouth slims down with \$7.15 million budget

BY MATT JACHMAN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

It isn't getting any easier, in the face of revenue-sharing cuts and declining property tax collections, but Plymouth officials have come up with a budget for the next fiscal year.

The city's new general fund budget of nearly \$7.15 million, more than \$400,000 less than budgeted a year ago, was approved with a unanimous vote during Monday's Plymouth City Commission meeting.

Next year's budget is projected to drop by another \$92,000. "It's a lot funner when you're heading up than when you're heading down," Mayor Dan Dwyer quipped at Monday's meeting.

The budget — \$7,146,170, to be exact — kicks in at the start of the next fiscal year, Thursday, July 1. Officials have been working on the plan for months, however.

Commissioner Michael Wright, the mayor pro tem, said he's confident in the budget and that it's a good reflection of the commission's priorities, given the falling revenue.

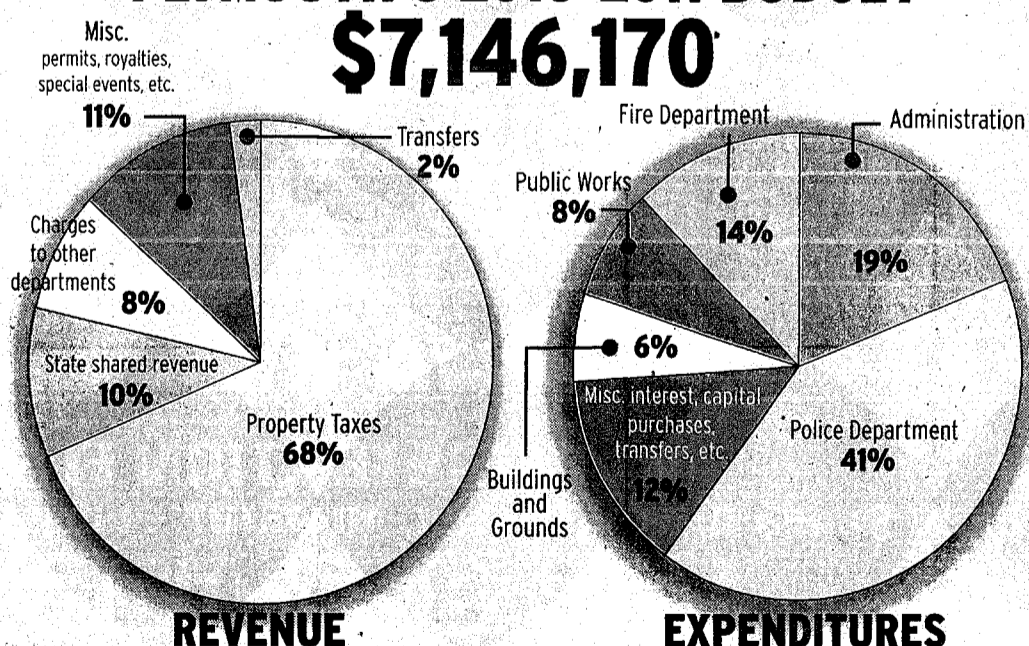
"It's a very engaged commission, and we certainly get excellent data from the staff," Wright said.

Public safety accounts for nearly 56 percent of the general-fund budget, or almost \$3.96 million, down about \$54,000 from what was budgeted a year ago. The Plymouth Police

Please see **BUDGET, A5**

PLYMOUTH'S 2010-2011 BUDGET

\$7,146,170



Note: Revenue percentages do not add up to 100% because of rounding.

Source: City of Plymouth



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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

Father's Day run

The Plymouth YMCA Fathers Day Run will be Sunday, June 20. Events will start at 7:30 am in downtown Plymouth, and the YMCA is looking for volunteers.

For race information or to register visit www.ymcamedetroit.org/plymouth. To volunteer, contact Cindy Morency at cmorency@ymcamedetroit.org or call (734) 453-2904.

Car wash

The Canton High School Cheerleaders Booster Club sponsors a fund-raising car wash 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, June 19, at Rose's Restaurant, 201 Canton Center, in Canton.

Customers at the car wash will receive a coupon for a free appetizer at Rose's (with the purchase of an entrée) for every car wash purchased.

Chiefette fund-raiser

Buffalo Wild Wings of Canton sponsors a fund raiser for the Canton High School Chiefettes Pom Pon team 5-9 p.m. June 23. During this time, 20 percent of qualifying purchases will be donated to the squad by BW3 by presenting an event sponsor form.

Forms are available at www.cantonchiefettes.com (no forms will be available at the restaurant). Buffalo Wild Wings is located at 41980 Ford Road in the Willow Creek Shopping Center.

Cheer clinic

The Canton High School Cheerleading "Summer Kids Cheer Clinic" takes place Monday, June 21, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. (check-in at 8:30 a.m.) at Phase III-Canton Gym.

The clinic is open to kids ages kindergarten through eighth grade. Participants should wear comfortable shorts, gym shoes and sun screen.

Cost is \$50 (\$90 for two family members, \$120 for three), which includes the

clinic, lunch, afternoon drink/snack and a Canton Cheer sports bag. Registration deadline is June 11.

For more information, e-mail allik162@gmail.com or visit the website at www.cantoncheerleading.com

Class reunion

The Plymouth Canton/Plymouth Salem Class of 1990 hosts its 20-year reunion Saturday, July 17.

For more information, e-mail pepsclassof1990reunion@gmail.com

Cox coffee

Livonia and Plymouth residents will soon have the opportunity for conversation, coffee and donuts with Wayne County Commissioner Laura Cox (R-Livonia).

Cox will meet with residents 10-11 a.m. Monday, June 14, at the Livonia Senior Center (15218 Farmington Road, (734) 466-2555).

She'll also meet with constituents 10-11 a.m. Tuesday, June 15, at the Plymouth District Library, 223 S. Main, (734) 453-0750.

The gatherings will give residents a chance to meet the commissioner, address concerns, and to mingle and enjoy each other's company.

Cox (10th District) represents the northern portion of Livonia, along with Plymouth, Plymouth Township, Northville and Northville Township.

For more information, contact the commissioner's office at (313) 224-0946.

Backyard decathlon

Sun and Snow Sports sponsors a Backyard Decathlon to benefit the Miracle League of Plymouth 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, June 26 in Kellogg Park.

Games will include Bocce Ball, Corn Hole, Badminton, Washers, Ladder Ball, Disc Golf Putt Challenge, Lawn Darts, Putting Green Challenge and Horseshoes. Prizes will be awarded. Check in at Sun & Snow Sports, 388 S. Main, to obtain a wristband. Proceeds from the events, as well as 5 percent

of the in-store sales that day, will go to Miracle League of Plymouth.

Cost is \$10 for adults, \$5 for children (donations for MLP will also be accepted).

For more information, contact Debra Madonna, Miracle League of Plymouth, (734) 377-0914 or debra@miracleleagueplymouth.org or Alex Parent at Sun & Snow Sports, (734) 927-0007.

Cruise raffle

The Plymouth Symphony is conducting a raffle for a cruise on the Celebrity Cruise Lines of the Great Cities of the Western Mediterranean Oct. 30 to Nov. 6.

The raffle includes the cruise for two from Barcelona, Spain to Nice, France, and Genoa, Florence, Rome and Naples/Capri Italy including airfare for two roundtrip from Detroit to Barcelona.

Raffle tickets are \$50 each and only 300 tickets will be sold. Drawing will be June 30 at the Plymouth Arts Council.

Travel arrangements have been made through Travel Leaders in Plymouth. This cruise package is also available to anyone interested in cruising the Western Mediterranean. Contact Travel Leaders for details, (734) 455-5810.

Contact the Plymouth Symphony office - 734 451-2112 or online at www.plymouthsymphony.org for more information and to purchase tickets.

Summer of Service

The YMCA Youth Volunteer Corps Program will once again be supported by the Wilcox Foundation. The YVC Summer of Service program is made possible through the support of the Wilcox Foundation.

The Summer of Service program includes eight one-week sessions that provide participants with an extensive service-learning experience as well as having some fun. "Our goal is to help every participant understand and believe in the difference their service can make in their community, and the difference it can make within them," explained Plymouth YMCA Community



Night of improv

Canton brothers Matt (left) and Tim Majzlik prepare for Barefoot Productions' debut of its Summer Improv Series, Barefoot Laffs, 8 p.m. Saturday, June 19. Patterned after the popular "Whose Line Is It Anyway?" Barefoot Laffs will feature a new improv group each month through August. Improv troupes will take spontaneous audience suggestions and pair them with quick wit, sharp humor and zaniness to keep patrons roaring. The June 19 Barefoot Laffs, sponsored by Compari's On the Park and Fiamma Grille, features "Strangers in the Alps," a four-man improv group who has performed in Royal Oak and Ferndale. The \$10 ticket includes complimentary refreshments provided by Barefoot. The entertainment takes place at the old Walker-Buzenberg furniture store, 240 N. Main in Plymouth. For more information, call (734) 582-9688.

Program Director Jenny Paffi. "In addition to gaining community service hours, participants interact with a diverse group of individuals as well as learn more about themselves and their community."

"Jack Wilcox supported the Plymouth YMCA and its objective of teaching young people the importance of their leadership and involvement in guaranteeing a successful future for the Plymouth community," explained Wilcox Foundation committee member Dan Herriman.

For more information about how to become involved with the program as a participant

or an agency, please contact Heather Jones at the YMCA office, 734-453-2904 or hjones@ymcamedetroit.org.

DAR meets

The Daughters of the American Revolution-Sarah Anne Cochrane Chapter meet for their annual potluck picnic and auction Thursday, June 21, at noon at Greenmead's Alexander Blue House in Livonia.

The program features plant and craft auction and silent auction (bring white elephant item). For more information, call (734) 459-4764.

Sports sale

The City of Plymouth Recreation Department hosts a buy-or-sell All Sports Equipment Sale 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, June 26, at the

Plymouth Cultural Center Ice Arena, 525 Farmer, in Plymouth.

Anyone with new or gently used sporting equipment they'd like to get rid of is welcome to participate. Admission is free. Rental fee for a 10x10 space is \$20.

To reserve your space or for more information contact Michelle or Kim at (734) 455-6620.

New Morning camp

New Morning School offers summer camps for children ages 3-11. Science themes include beginning and advanced Lego NXT Robotics and K'Nex, Disaster Science, and Sports Science. Discovery Days classes for the preschool set include Castles and Dragons, Construction Zone, Firefighters, and Outer Space.

For dates, times, and registration information, download the school's brochure at www.newmorningschool.com/summercamps.htm or call (734) 420-3331.

Toastmasters open house

Motor City Speakeasy of Plymouth presents an open house Monday, June 28, at the Plymouth District Library.

Toastmasters will greet guests from 6:30-7 p.m., and the meeting runs 7-8 p.m. Admission is free, and organizers said the meeting is geared toward anyone interested in improving verbal skills, gaining leadership skills or who is curious about Toastmasters.

Featured speaker will be Sheryl Kubiak, first-place winner in Toastmasters District 28 Humorous Speech Contest.

For more information, contact Maggie Staples, (586) 201-5117 or e-mail mstaple3@msn.com

Spanish camp

Students in preschool through fifth grade are invited to join Bilingual Fun for a week long day camp 9 a.m. to noon July 26-30 at Praise Baptist Church.

Children will learn Spanish through thematic activities, music, movement, hands on activities, cultural crafts, outdoor play, and the week ends with a Fiesta! Registration is now open. Contact Bilingual Fun at info@bilingualfun.com or (877) 686-7399 for more information.

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CORRECTION

The story in the June 10 *Plymouth Observer* about the fundraiser to raise awareness of neuroblastoma should have said Chef John Cortez is from an organization called Chefs Against Cancer.

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Input has district rethinking policy shift

BY BRAD KADRICH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Plymouth-Canton Community Schools officials are reconsidering their stand on a policy shift they've been considering to provide broader control over student publications after school board members and administrators received letters from outside the district's boundaries criticizing what appeared to be a move toward more censorship.

The Student Press Law Center, a student journalism advocacy group headquartered in Arlington, Va., and the American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan wrote letters to trustees on the Plymouth-Canton Board of Education, urging them to reconsider a policy shift that would alter the way journalistic forums within the district are governed.

The recommendation came from NEOLA, the policy consultant used by the district, as a change to the policy covering school-sponsored publications and productions.

The change would designate Plymouth-Canton publications such as *Perspective*, the district newspaper, as nonpublic forums, giving administrators more power over what can be printed, played or expressed

over forums such as WSDP 88.1FM, the student-run radio station, plays performed by the drama department and even the content of morning announcements.

Adopting the more-stringent option suggested by NEOLA "would be a terrible mistake on many levels, legally and educationally," according to Frank LoMonte, executive director of the SPLC.

"In the first place, making a drastic policy change in your district would be the epitome of fixing something that is not broken," LoMonte wrote. "The *Perspective* is an outstanding student newspaper with a long tradition of producing successful graduates. Tampering with something that successful — a vehicle that actually gets teenagers enthusiastic about writing — should be done only where there is a compelling reason for change, not just a speculative fear."

LoMonte said "ratcheting up the level of censorship" could lead to students taking discussions, particularly negative ones, about school conditions online to social networking sites where school administrators would have far less, if any, control over them.

"When students discuss the school on social-networking sites, none of the values and

principles of sound journalism apply," LoMonte wrote. "They need not check their facts, correct their mistakes, sign their real names or publish letters with opposing points of view."

"When you stifle controversial viewpoints, you do not eliminate dissent — you just relocate it," he said. "If you want to fuel the proliferation of 'my_school_sucks-dot-com' websites, then you should continue along your present course."

Instead, LoMonte urged the board to take a more liberal approach, as was done in Birmingham schools, where the board eschewed the two more restrictive NEOLA options in favor of a more balanced policy," LoMonte wrote.

Plymouth-Canton Board of Education member John Jackson, who chairs the board's policy committee, said the letters, and especially input board members have gotten from teachers and oth-

ers within the district, has the administration reconsidering its options.

"We feel as though we've had good legal advice, (but) we don't want to infringe on students' free speech," Jackson said. "I'd like to take a couple steps back and systematically look through the reasons for the policy, what our counsel has said, what we've heard from others and put it all together and make sure we come up with a solid policy that does what we need to have it do."

The new policy, if adopted, applies to "school-sponsored media" such as *Perspective*, 88.1, yearbooks, playbills, blogs, library journals, theatrical productions and video and audio productions. It also extends to posters, pamphlets, and school-sponsored clothing such as T-shirts.

The policy prohibits content that is deemed defamatory, libelous, obscene or harmful to juveniles and speech "likely to cause substantial disrupt-

tion of or material interference with ... the educational process."

The biggest change, though, is the addition of a provision that provides for pre-publication review by administrators including the building principal — in this case likely Park Principal Bill Zolkowski — and district Superintendent Craig Fiegel. The policy allows those administrators "prior review and restraint" of the publications.

Plymouth-Canton administrators have said the district is seeking neither to hinder students' rights nor censor their opinions.

"What people are concerned about is 'Big Brother' censoring what kids are doing," said Bob Hayes, the district's director of student services. "That's not our intent."

In a letter to the district, ACLU of Michigan board member Loren Khogali pointed out the U.S. Supreme Court has "reiterated that students do not shed their con-

stitutional rights of freedom of speech or expression at the schoolhouse door."

"I am greatly troubled by the fact that all of (NEOLA's recommendations) infringe on the students' rights under the First Amendment," Khogali wrote. "The sweeping language of the proposed policies allow censorship beyond that driven by educational purposes and threaten the First Amendment rights of the students."

During several Board of Education meeting discussions on the topic, Hayes said very little would actually change in how the district monitors its student publications.

"The intent is to make sure any copy sent out reflects academic excellence, and keep out objectionable content," said Hayes. "We want to teach students the responsibility that goes along with a free press."

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EDUCATION

Sunday, June 13, 2010

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Teachers hailed for going extra mile

BY BRAD KADRICH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Even as Cyndi Burnstein was accepting a Mary Beth Carroll Extra Miler Award from the Plymouth-Canton Board of Education Tuesday, she was crediting the guy who nominated her with all the success.

But the board was having none of it, and honored Burnstein, an English teacher at Salem High School.

It was the first of two Extra Miler awards handed out by the board, which also honored Plymouth High School special education teacher Renee Schmoekel.

Teacher consultant Jeff Crockett, who nominated Burnstein, lauded her efforts in obtaining grants, her pioneering the implementation of Projected Based Learning including a Shakespeare partnership with Bird Elementary School, and her service on district committees over her career, most recently the administration realignment task force.

Burnstein, Crockett noted, presented three times at the Michigan Association of Computer Users in Learning conference at the Michigan Integrated Technology Support Institute, and has been the teacher-leader for the Smaller Learning Communities and created a "successful, innovative model for the eighth-grade transition to high school."

Burnstein even volunteered to make costumes for student



English teacher Cyndi Burnstein accepts the Mary Beth Carroll Award from Plymouth-Canton Board of Education treasurer Judy Mardigian.



Special education teacher Renee Schmoekel (right) and Plymouth-Canton Board of Education trustee Adrienne Davis share a laugh as Schmoekel accepts the Mary Beth Carroll Extra Miler Award.

performances at Plymouth-Canton Educational Park.

"It's all about engagement and student achievement."

said Crockett, who pointed out he and Burnstein went to elementary school together. "If I could put (Burnstein) into a few phrases, it would be this: She leaps and then looks for the safety net."

But all Burnstein wanted to do was credit Crockett.

"Although Jeff nominated me, he really deserves the award," Burnstein said. "It's important to Jeff that kids can learn 24/7, because that's how kids learn these days."

How kids learn is especially important to Schmoekel, who works with special-needs students, particularly those with autism.

Nominated by board member Adrienne Davis, Schmoekel was hailed for being innovative and seeking new ideas, being well-versed in the autism community with many resources and relationships.

"Renee really embodies what the award is all about," Davis said. "Renee not only goes the extra mile, she's usually got two or three people she's picking up and taking with her. She advocates for each child as if they're her own child."

Julie Woodhams, the district's director for special services, said Schmoekel is the type of employee who only comes along "every once in awhile."

"She keeps us laughing and we love that," Woodhams said. "She is beyond passionate about her work. We call her own 'human Google' about autism."

For her part, Schmoekel said she's happy to be a part of the team.

"We do wonderful things with kids," Schmoekel said. "I love working with students. I just love my job."

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

ON CAMPUS

Research grant

Adrienne Gibson of Canton received a \$3,500 grant to conduct student research at Pierce Cedar Creek Institute. The Institute, a Biological Field Station located south of Hastings, Mich., recently awarded 18 grants to fund 11 research projects through the Undergraduate Research Grants for the Environment program.



Gibson

The URGE program provides a \$3,500 stipend for students conducting summer research at the Institute, along with up to a \$3,500 faculty mentor stipend that can be used for equipment purchases, general expenses, travel, or training needed for conducting the research project. Additionally, each grant award allows for up to \$4,000 in room and board expenses for the student and faculty mentor.

Gibson and her research partner, Lauren Villalobos, along with their mentor, Dr. Eric Snyder, are examining how the aquatic communities are responding to the removal of the dam on the Thronapple River in Barry County, Michigan.

Gibson is a junior and biology major at Grand Valley State University. She is a 2008 graduate of Canton High School. She is the daughter of Mary Kay and Cedric Gibson of Canton.

Northern Michigan

Northern Michigan University announced its Dean's List for the Winter 2010 semester.

Bryanne Belovary of Canton made the list with a grade-point average of 4.0.

Two Canton students - Amy Markey and Ashley Olson - and two Plymouth students

- Rachel Pawlowski and Kathryn Shepherd - made the list with grade-point averages between 3.25 and 3.99.

Bucknell University

Bucknell University has released the dean's list for outstanding academic achievement during the spring semester of the 2009-10 academic year.

A student must earn a grade point average of 3.5 or higher on a scale of 4.0 to receive dean's list recognition.

Allison M. Janda, a 2006 graduate of Salem High School, and her sister, Kathryn Janda, a 2009 graduate of Salem High School, both made the list. They are the daughters of David and Elizabeth Janda of Plymouth.

Allison Janda graduated Summa Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Arts in Economics and Chemistry and departmental honors in Economics. A member of Phi Beta Kappa national honor society, Janda received the William C. Gretzinger Prize for the highest standing in economics and the Samuel Lewis Ziegler Prize for best exemplifying the goal of a premedical education.

Washington and Lee

Robert Edwin Dean II received the juris doctor degree from Washington and Lee University during commencement exercises for the School of Law.

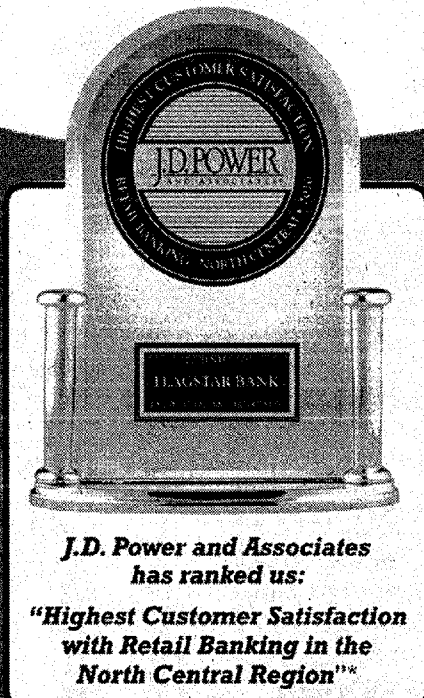
Dean was among 123 students receiving their J.D. and two receiving their LL.M. during the ceremonies held on Washington and Lee's historic Front Lawn.

Harding University

Emily Stone of Canton is among the Harding University students included on the dean's list for grades achieved during the spring semester. Stone is a sophomore double-majoring in Spanish and missions.

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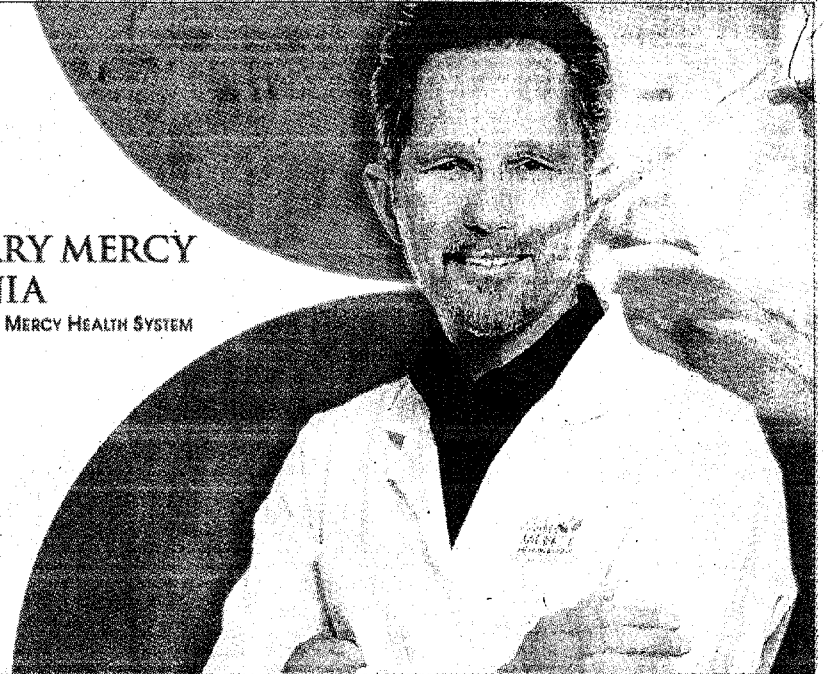
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FITNESS

FROM PAGE A1

Kelly Mangion of Plymouth said the program has motivated her children, second-grader Joshua and kindergartner Olivia, and that they surprised her with their physical achievements and endurance.

"They're excited about it," Mangion said. "They incorporate it into their everyday lives."

Joshua, who is almost 8, said he runs nearly every day. "It helps your body a lot," he said. He completed 16 laps — nearly six miles — Thursday.

Eighth-grader Sydney Bartell said she's used to running, as a soccer and volleyball player, but still had fun Thursday.

"I like running with the little kids," Sydney said. "They get really excited when they complete a lap."

Like real marathons, Thursday's New Morning event had sponsors — Running Fit, REI and Monroe Bank & Trust. There were also refreshments and goodie bags for the runners.

Kennedy said she was prompted to put a greater emphasis on fitness after learning about research showing that aerobic exercise in the morning helps children regulate their moods and increases their attention spans and memories.

"Those are three things that every teacher wants," she said. The school's 85 students begin most school days with some sort of physical activity.

Having already completed enough miles to travel around the world, and then some, New Morning will come up with a bigger goal for the next school year — perhaps the distance between Earth and the Moon (averaging 239,000 miles), she said.

Thursday's triathlon included one lap by a toad and one lap by a pill bug, both carried by students.

"You've got to keep it fun," Kennedy said.

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

DEALERS

FROM PAGE A1

Mercury sales have jumped and Hines Park has been selling 20 to 30 a day. "We are asking the factory for extra inventory right now," he said.

At Dick Scott, on Ann Arbor Road and Main Street, the sales force had been selling Dodge and Ram vehicles, mostly trucks and minivans, plus specialty vehicles like the Dodge Challenger and Dodge Charger. General Manager Jason Scott said the dealership has been working with Chrysler Corp. for about a year to land Chryslers and Jeeps.

"I think it's something that we've needed for quite a while," Scott said. The nearby Fox Hills Chrysler Plymouth, dropped by Chrysler, closed shop about a year ago.

Scott said his dealer-

ship began taking Jeep and Chrysler vehicles Monday and has just begun a renovation and expansion project.

"We're probably doubling our showroom size," he said.

Saturn of Plymouth, on Ann Arbor Road near I-275, stopped getting new Saturns after GM shut down production last year.

Bob Cunningham, the marketing manager for United Companies, parent company of Saturn of Plymouth owner Romain Automotive Group, said many options for the site were explored. "Obviously, we've known about the Saturn wind-down for some time," he said.

Romain was able to lease its former Saturn dealership in Farmington Hills to another automobile dealership, Cunningham said, but hasn't been able to do the same at the Plymouth Township site. Romain will continue to explore options for the site, he said.

Romain purchased Saturn of Plymouth in 2003, Cunningham said; before that, it was a GM-owned dealership. He was uncertain how many people worked there, and dealership officials did not return phone calls.

"A lot of families are affected, because they'll lose their jobs now, and there will be the empty building," Plymouth Township Supervisor Richard Reaume said.

Saturn of Plymouth customers who want to have their Saturns serviced or have warranty work performed can go to one of the following GM-authorized Saturn service providers: Sellers Buick Pontiac GMC in Farmington Hills; Serra Chevrolet in Southfield; Dick Genthe Chevrolet in Southgate; or Suburban Cadillac Buick Hummer in Troy. For more information, visit the website www.saturn.com.

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BUDGET

FROM PAGE A1

Department was allotted nearly \$2.76 million, while the city's contribution to the Plymouth Community Fire Department came in at \$1 million. The fire department expenses are shared with Plymouth Township, which contributes about \$3 million a year.

Administration (\$1.34 million), public works (nearly \$600,000) and buildings and grounds maintenance (nearly \$410,000) are among the other major expenses in the general fund.

Sources of the budget's projected revenue include property taxes (almost \$4.88 million), state revenue sharing (\$721,500), charges made to other city departments with separate funding sources (\$593,350) and sources like, fines, court revenue, special events, royalties and special assessments (\$552,700).

Wright said the budget requires the city to dip into its

current fund balance — the cash on hand at a given time — but that in order to avoid doing so on an annual basis, officials will stay on the hunt for more long-term savings.


Programs such as the \$1 million geothermal energy project at the Cultural Center and the ongoing study of what savings might be found in reorganizing the way public safety services are delivered are examples of where long-term savings might come from, he said.

He praised the city administration, saying it's been finding efficiencies and doing more with less. The city has the equivalent of 57 full-time employees, down from 73 eight years ago.

"The administration has been very effective at consolidating, combining and using technology to lower the burden on our staff," Wright said.

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THE A-TEAM (PG-13) 11:00, 1:45, 4:15, 6:55, 9:25 FRI/SAT LS 11:55
 MARMADUKE (PG)
 12:45, 2:50, 5:00, 7:05, 9:10
 KILLERS (PG-13) 12:10, 2:40, 5:15, 7:30, 9:45 FRI/SAT LS 11:50
 GET HIM TO THE GREEK (R)
 11:50, 2:15, 4:50, 7:15, 9:40
 FRI/SAT LS 12:00
 PRINCE OF PERSIA: THE SANDS OF TIME (PG-13) 11:05, 1:35, 4:10, 6:45, 9:20
 FRI/SAT LS 11:45
 SEX AND THE CITY 2 (R) FRI/SAT LS 11:15
 3D SHREK FOREVER AFTER (PG)
 \$2.50 PREMIUM PER 3D TICKET 11:40, 2:00, 4:20, 6:50, 9:00 FRI/SAT LS 11:10
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SINGH ♿

Church plants garden to fight hunger

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A Canton church has started a small garden to fight a big problem.

Grace Lutheran Church volunteers have planted tomatoes, sweet peppers, bush green beans and peas in their first community garden, and they plan to turn their harvest over to food banks struggling to feed a growing number of hungry people.

Pastor Steve Newton and several volunteers at Grace Lutheran, on Warren west of Canton Center, planted their garden after Newton read an inspiring article in a religious outreach magazine.

"We're a small church," he said, "but we've got big hearts."

Grace Lutheran has nearly 100 members and typically draws about 50 people to its services, Newton said. They come from communities such as Canton, Plymouth, Westland, Garden City, Livonia and Belleville.

Church member Ken Witt of Canton has volunteered to serve as leader of the garden endeavor. "There are so many people out there in need," he said. "So many people are out of work."

Grace Lutheran volunteers

realize their garden will not provide massive relief for people in need, but they believe the cumulative effect of small endeavors like theirs can, indeed, make a difference.

"I felt the Lord was pressing on my heart to do something," Newton said.

It isn't the first time.

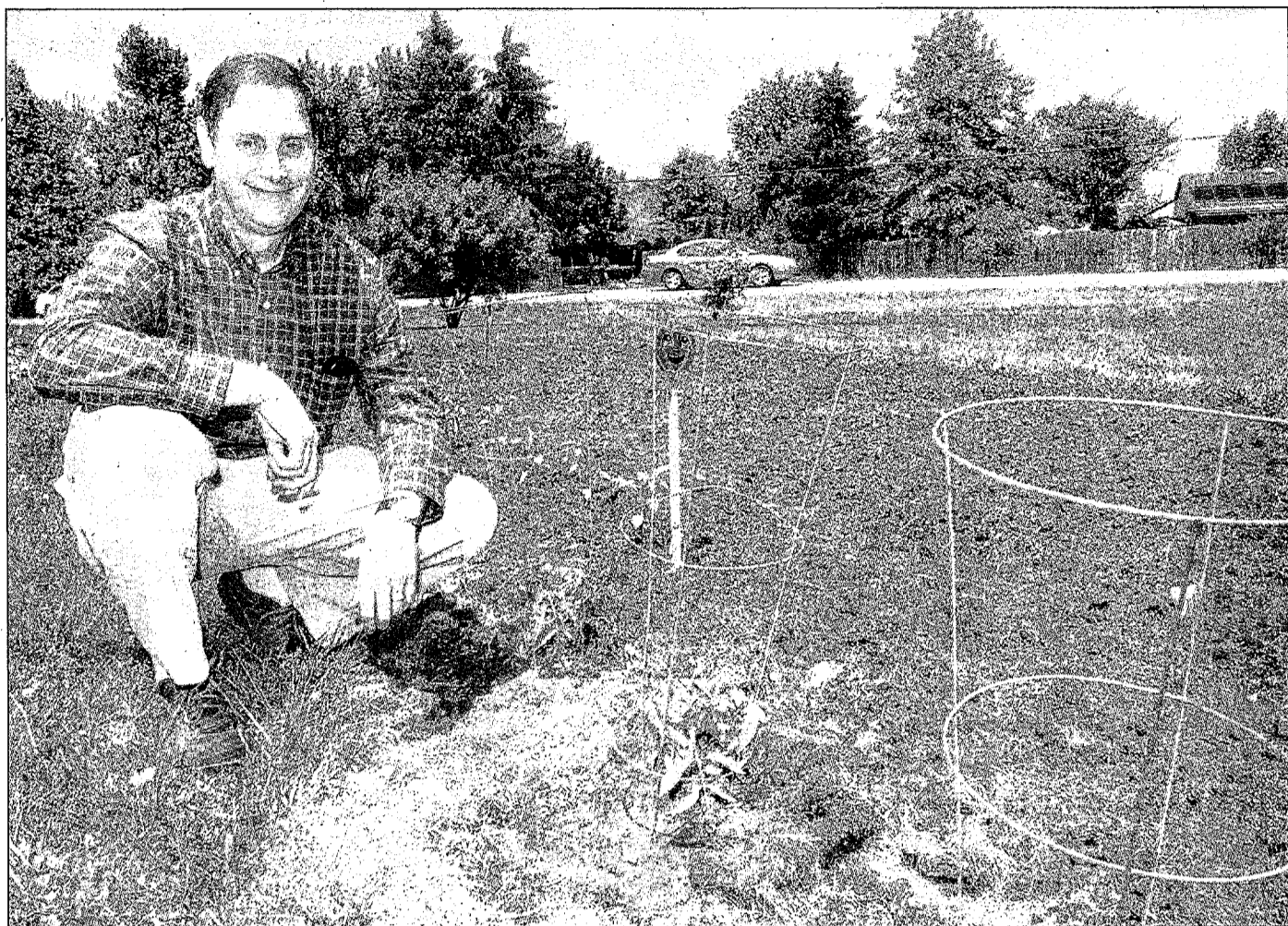
Newton, who grew up on Detroit's east side, said he left his job as a General Motors Corp. engineer and entered a four-year program at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, Mo., in 2004. Newton, a father of two, said his decision was supported by his wife, Sharon.

"I felt that God wanted me to serve," he said.

Newton had an internship in Nebraska before returning to Michigan to lead Grace Lutheran, part of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod.

Grace Lutheran sits on three acres in Canton, but Newton said church volunteers decided to start with only a small garden. Already, volunteers are eager to see how well their project blossoms.

"Our hope," Newton said, "is that we can help some of the people who are in need."



Steve Newton poses near some of the tomato plants his church members have planted.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

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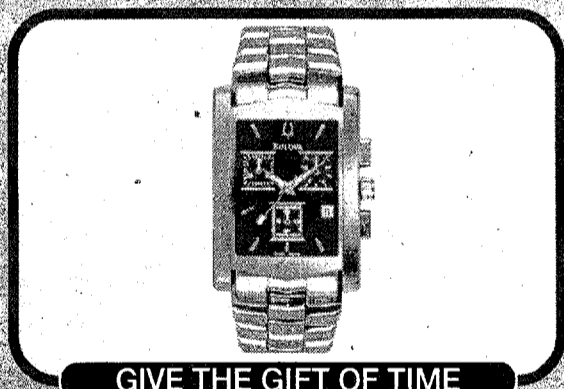
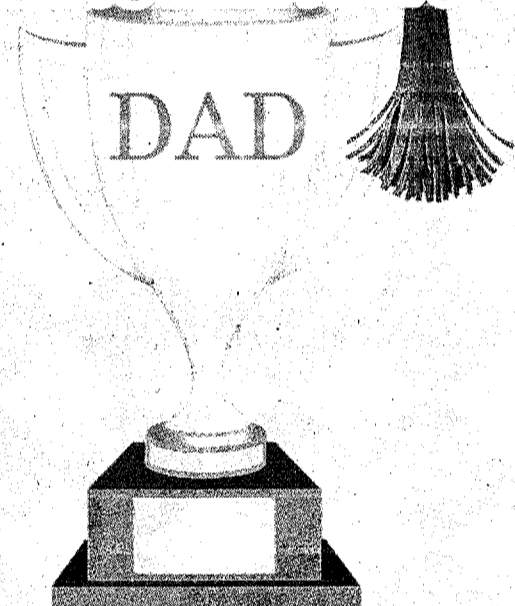
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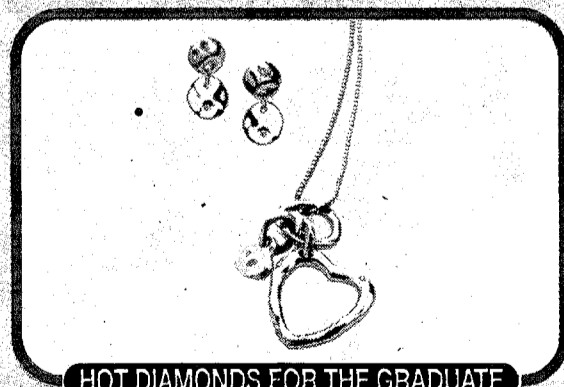
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Plans call for more Cherry Hill homes

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

In what signals Canton's largest single spurt of residential development in five years, a local company plans to build 33 new homes in a Victorian-style section of Cherry Hill Village.

Canton-based Livonia Builders hopes to begin site work within days, amid projections of starting construction by late summer and building the homes within the next year southeast of Cherry Hill and Ridge roads, Danny Veri, a company partner, said.

"Our first 10 buyers should be in their homes by the end of this year," he said.

The company, working with Canton-based Breault Homes, plans to build the homes south of Jackson, between Roosevelt and Buchanan, expanding a village where construction began nine years ago and where the streets are named after U.S. presidents.

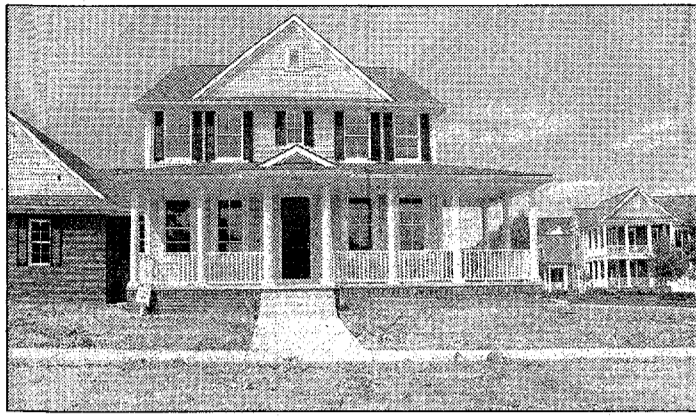
"We've actually seen a demand for new housing," township Community Planner Jeff Goulet said. "I think everybody is happy that development is continuing."

The new housing comes as Canton, caught in a nationwide economic downturn, witnessed a dramatic decline in new home construction since 2005, Municipal Services Director Tim Faas said.

Canton issued just 38 new home permits in all of 2009, Faas said, and even that low number ranked the township as the fifth-busiest community in southeast Michigan for housing construction.

Prior to 2005, Faas said, Canton had typically issued permits for 1,000 to 1,200 homes each year.

The projected price for the new homes is expected to start around \$180,000, Veri said, and he is confident there is a market for new houses in Cherry Hill Village, where sporadic construction has con-



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Sporadic new construction in Cherry Hill Village will give way in coming months to the largest single spurt of development in Canton in five years.

tinued despite a market slump. "The homes sell because Canton is a good community to live in and work in," Veri said.

The company received final site plan approval Tuesday night from an enthusiastic Canton Township Board of Trustees.

Livonia Builders and Breault Homes plan to construct 21

cottage-style homes that range in size from roughly 1,400 to 2,000 square feet with a 40-foot lot width. The remaining 12 village-style homes are larger, approximately 1,800 to 2,200 square feet with a lot width of 55 feet, Veri said.

Most homes have a lot depth of around 100 feet. The two-story houses will be built on a nearly six-acre

site. The new housing is less intensive than an earlier, preliminary site plan that called for 52 residences, including 32 attached condominiums in six buildings, 15 cottage homes and only five village units.

Since new development in Cherry Hill Village began nearly a decade ago, Goulet said, the area has seen 750 residences built, including 350 homes southeast of Cherry Hill and Ridge, 100 houses in the River's Edge community to the west, and about 300 apartments in the Uptown area north of Cherry Hill Road.

Although Canton — like other communities — has seen a rapid decline in home values, Faas said new construction can only help Cherry Hill Village.

"At the very least, it helps stabilize values when there's new growth," he said.

The Village Theater at Cherry Hill has served as one of the focal points of the community, luring audiences to a

wide array of performances.

Some business owners along the Cherry Hill Road business strip — and some residents, as well — have held out hope for more commercial growth, such as a grocery store.

Business growth has proved elusive amid the economic downturn and financing difficulties, according to township officials, but Goulet said there are signs that one new business — a convenience mart selling pizza and other items — may locate in a vacancy on the south side of Cherry Hill Road.

While local officials remain hopeful of more sustained commercial growth in the village, Faas said the new round of housing development will likely only benefit existing businesses.

"More rooftops here means more business for them," he said.

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City trash pickup fees rising

It's going to cost Plymouth residents who use the city's trash-hauler a little more to dispose of their trash starting next month.

The Plymouth City Commission voted Monday to raise its trash pickup fee from \$7.15 to \$9.42 a month for stops that use wheeled trash cart, and to raise the cost of city-approved trash bags from \$2.25 each to \$3 each.

For a household using a trash cart, the annual cost for weekly pickup will go up more than 31 percent, from \$85.80 to \$113.04. Trash pickup customers are billed for the service on the city's quarterly

water bills. Only a small portion of the user fees collected come from trash bag sales, officials said.

Officials said raising the fees was an alternative to raising the solid waste millage rate — which will stay at 1.72 mills, or \$1.72 for every \$1,000 in taxable value — in order to cover rising contractor costs.

The property tax generates about 65 percent of the revenue for the city's \$1.1 million waste and recycling fund, the user fees (dubbed the pay-as-you-throw system) about 29 percent.

— By Matt Jachman

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W-W explores partnership with Chinese university

BY SUE MASON
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

East met West in a conference room in Westland Tuesday morning as school officials and Chinese university representatives got together to talk about a possible partnership.

The unusual conversation took place over the Internet and linked educators from the Wayne-Westland Community Schools and officials and students from Mianyang Normal University, located in China's Szechuan Province.

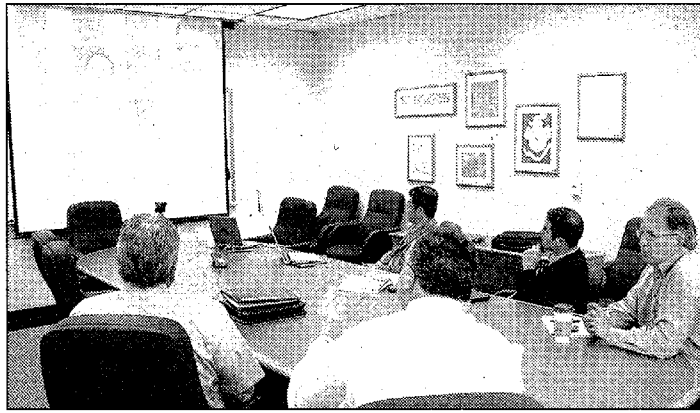
"There seems to be a genuine interest in partnering with us and it seems there are people desirous of teaching Chinese to our kids," said Wayne-Westland school board President Skip Monit who participated in the hourlong discussion. "I'm enthusiastic about it. It's a real good opportunity for our district to get

involved in the initial phase to offer Chinese to our students."

Specifically, the language is Mandarin Chinese, which, according to educational consultant Tom Watkins, is "spoken by one-fifth of all humanity." The exploratory discussion centered on creating a partnership in which Mianyang University would send student teachers to Wayne-Westland to teach Mandarin Chinese.

"Think how powerful it would be to develop a relationship with a university that prepares Chinese teachers to teach Chinese to non-Chinese speaking individuals," said Watkins who is an honorary professor at Mianyang University. "If that can be set up, Wayne-Westland could have a very solid exchange program and people for quality teaching."

According to Superintendent Greg Baracy, the interest is there on both



Wayne-Westland school board President Skip Monit (from left), Superintendent Greg Baracy, educational consultant Tom Watkins, Paul Salah, senior executive director for instruction, and consultant Koralo Chen participate in a Skype conference with officials of Mianyang Normal University in Szechuan, China.

ends of the Internet connection. The university president, professors and students want to come to this country to teach Chinese, and a partnership would allow the district to offer it to its students.

"If you look at the informa-

Westland students, according to Watkins, Szechuan Province has a sister province relationship with Michigan, and Mianyang University is looking for a similar relationship that will be "mutually beneficial."

"We have to build bridges with China that are educational, manufacturing based, cultural and academic," said Watkins. "Children in Wayne-Westland are no longer competing against the children sitting next to them or living in Livonia, they're competing against the children of the world. They have to have a knowledge of the fastest growing country in the world to better compete."

If the partnership was developed and all of the pieces fell into place, Wayne-Westland would join a handful of Wayne County school districts that offer Mandarin Chinese as a foreign language.

"We'll have to talk to the unions, we'll have present it to the community as another option for our students," said Monit. "China needs to be a country we need to understand. We need to know about their culture and we need to know their language."

Watkins added that Baracy "is sensitive to how to do it and do it right."

Admittedly, the district is in a difficult financial position, but Watkins believes the exchange program would have low cost or no cost for the district. The students' teachers possibly could come with stipends and require host families to house them.

"In the next 20-30 years China will eclipse the United States," Watkins said. "The smart schools, individuals, communities and states are making the connection now."

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Up-to-date estate plan can avoid fights

Q: Dear Rick: I read about actor Gary Coleman and how there are fights over his estate. It seems I'm always reading something about fights when famous people die. Are fights over estates common when average everyday people die? What's the best way to prevent them?

A: Unfortunately, it happens all the time to everyday people. I believe the number of fights within families has increased substantially.

People have access to lawyers today that they did not have in the past and today's



Money Matters

Rick Bloom

modern family is more intricate. It's no longer unusual for someone to have been married more than once and to have children from a variety of different relationships. When you factor all this into consideration, there are more fights and disputes upon death than ever before.

I wish I could say there is a sure fire way to avoid

fights and family disputes upon death, but there is none. However, there are ways to reduce the chances of having a family fight.

The best way to reduce the chance of dispute is to have an up-to-date estate plan. A plan that reflects your current situation.

Fights within families occur because an estate plans has not been updated for years. Having an up-to-date estate plan is a key ingredient in reducing family disputes.

Those who have an estate plan, should review it when there is any change in your

family situation such as a birth or marriage of an adult child. In addition, if your financial situation changes dramatically then it also makes sense to review your estate plan. At a minimum, an estate plan should be reviewed every two to three years. The number one reason to do an estate plan is to prevent family disputes upon death. It's probably one of the greatest legacies you can leave your family.

Many people assume that good estate planning means doing wills and trusts and other legal documents. Although these are valuable in

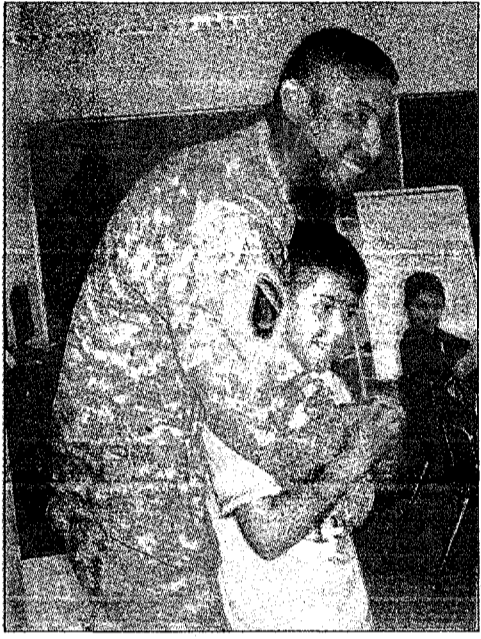
many situations, not everyone needs a trust. Everyone does need a document locator — a road map for your loved ones. If something happens to you, your loved ones should be able to pull out a list to help them locate your assets, locate your legal documents and know who your advisers have been.

It is amazing how much time and money is wasted upon death trying to locate a deceased person's assets. You don't need a lawyer or fancy software to do. It can be as simple as a handwritten document.

When it comes to estate planning, everyone's goals should be to make things as easy as possible for the beneficiaries. That is why it is important to keep a plan current. An estate plan that's out of date may cause more problems and aggravations than not having a plan. Good luck!

Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial adviser. Observer & Eccentric readers can submit questions at moneymatters@hometownlife.com. For more information, visit Rick's Web site at www.bloomassetmanagement.com.

Home on leave, soldier surprises son at school



U.S. Army Sgt. Juan Hernandez hugs his son, Juan, after arriving home on leave two months early from Iraq and surprising him at school.

BY KEN ABRAMCZYK
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Joe Schiffman, principal at Botsford Elementary in Livonia, knocked on the door and walked into Mrs. Nelson's third-grade class Thursday afternoon. "We have a special visitor today," Schiffman said.

U.S. Army Sgt. Juan Hernandez walked in behind Schiffman, and his son, Juan, jumped out of his chair, and gave his Dad a big-time bear hug. Sgt. Hernandez returned the embrace as a father and his family planned to enjoy 15 days of R&R for the Army sergeant.

Hernandez had just arrived at Detroit Wayne County Metropolitan Airport, where his wife, Michelle, picked him up. Hernandez had flown to Detroit from Wiesbaden in Germany after leaving Iraq.

"They bumped my leave up," Hernandez said. Hernandez wasn't supposed to be home on leave until August so young Juan received a surprise with

his father's arrival.

Hernandez, now serving on his third tour, has served six months in Iraq and will serve another six months there.

For now, it was time out from the war and time in for family.

Juan was happy to see his father. He shrugged his shoulders when he was asked what he wanted to do with his father that day.

The sergeant smiled when he was asked the same question about what activities the two of them like to do. "Play video games, play baseball and go swimming," Hernandez said. "We'll probably go swimming. It gets pretty hot in Iraq."

Wife Michelle said she expects Juan and her to spend some family time together with Juan, Xavier, 2, and 6-month-old Arianna.

Michelle said the children talk to Juan every day he is in Iraq. "They talk to each other with the computer with a Web cam so they see him every day," Michelle said.

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Basket Kreations owner Stella Delap shows off some of the store's 'made in Michigan' products. The store, on Forest Ave., in downtown Plymouth, celebrates its 21st anniversary with a party on Thursday.

Gift shop plans 21st anniversary celebration

Stella Delap, owner of Basket Kreations Gift Shoppe in Downtown Plymouth has seen a lot of ups and downs over the last 21 years. Since starting the business out of her basement, she has survived a recession, a collapsed roof, relocation, and now a streetscape construction project but she stays inspired by the happiness her gifts and gift baskets bring to their recipients.

Delap will celebrate the store's 21 years with cake, prizes and other fun surprises 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Thursday at the store's location on Forest Avenue in downtown Plymouth.

"People said I was crazy," she said. "In 1989, times were not good. I had left my professional job years before to have my two boys. They were getting older and I wanted to do something more, but I also wanted the flexibility to be there for them when they needed me. Finding a happy medium between work and home when your kids are little is not easy. I didn't know where I could find a job like that so I decided to create my own."

She heard about the idea of baskets while researching ideas in Entrepreneur magazine.

"It reminded me of when I was younger, Watching my mom create these fabulous baskets for people," Delap said "She would give them as

gifts to family and friends and sometimes make things up for people in need. She took time with them and made every little detail so beautiful.

"The look on a person's face when they opened those lovely baskets full of goodies--you could see she had made a difference to that person with her gift," Delap added. "She could make a person's day with a basket! She passed away in 1983, a few years before I opened the business."

Delap originally set up shop in her basement and hosted home parties.

"It seems so simple to tell it now but looking back 21 years, I would get the kids off to school and build baskets, then build some more after I tucked them into bed," she said. "Sometimes the kids would even help. When times got busy I would hire all of the mothers in school to coordinate deliveries. The way it all worked it's hard to believe."

By Christmastime the baskets had taken over her garage and the whole house was overflowing. She decided to open her first storefront in Canton Township at Joy and Lilley in Golden Gate Plaza with Bob's of Canton.

Then in January 1999, she was on a buying trip in Atlanta when her husband called to tell her that there had been a major

snowstorm, the roof collapsed on the shopping center and all of the stores were condemned.

"I couldn't believe it," she said. "I immediately began looking for a new location. I contacted my current landlord who was wonderful getting me into this space right away. We opened here on Forest Ave in February 1999.

"Little did I know at the time that what appeared to be a tragedy was really a blessing in disguise," Delap said, "I attribute a portion of my lasting success to finding this location in Downtown Plymouth. The Chamber of Commerce, the DDA, the other merchants and all of the events that bring people make it a great environment to do business."

Delap said she's "excited" for the store's June 17 anniversary party.

"It's going to be great fun to see old faces and new friends and to reminisce a little about everything that has happened over the years," she said. "We'll definitely be celebrating our good fortune and the hope that there will be another 21 wonderful years to come."

Basket Kreations is located at 550 Forest, #10. For more information e-mail basketkreations@gmail.com or call (734) 354-9156. The store can also be found on the Web at www.basketkreationsandgifts.com.

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The first win is the sweetest

Wildcats nab D1 regional, first-ever victory over Canton

BY TIM SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

You can add Canton to the list of strong girls soccer teams that Plymouth junior goalkeeper Marissa Williams had all the answers for. Williams — showing no fear time and again as she raced out into traffic to get to balls before the Chiefs did — backstopped the Wildcats to a 1-0 victory in Thursday's Division 1 regional final at Plymouth-Canton Educational Park's grass soccer field.

An overtime goal by freshman midfielder Zoe Foster was all Williams and the rest of the team needed, as Plymouth knocked off Canton for the first time in school history. As a result, the Wildcats (14-4-4) move on to Wednesday's D1 semifinal while the 17-2-3 Chiefs go home.

"It's pretty amazing to me because Plymouth has been that no-name, like one of those 'Oh, they should be good' schools, but they never quite get through," said Williams following the contest. "And finally this year is our year to get through."

"And we cannot believe it right now, we just stand around and we're like 'Guys, we're Top-4 in the state right now.'"

Williams last week shocked No. 3-ranked Northville and Salem in the districts and followed up with Tuesday's regional win over Dearborn. All of the wins were 1-0, with two games decided by penalty kicks.

Plymouth head coach Jeff Neschich could barely get the words out, with the thrill of the moment overwhelming him.

"It's been mushrooming, just getting better and better and better," Neschich said. "Exclamation point," he added about picking a regional final to get that elusive first win over Canton.

Canton head coach George Tomasso, whose team won the division, association and districts with a deep, tal-



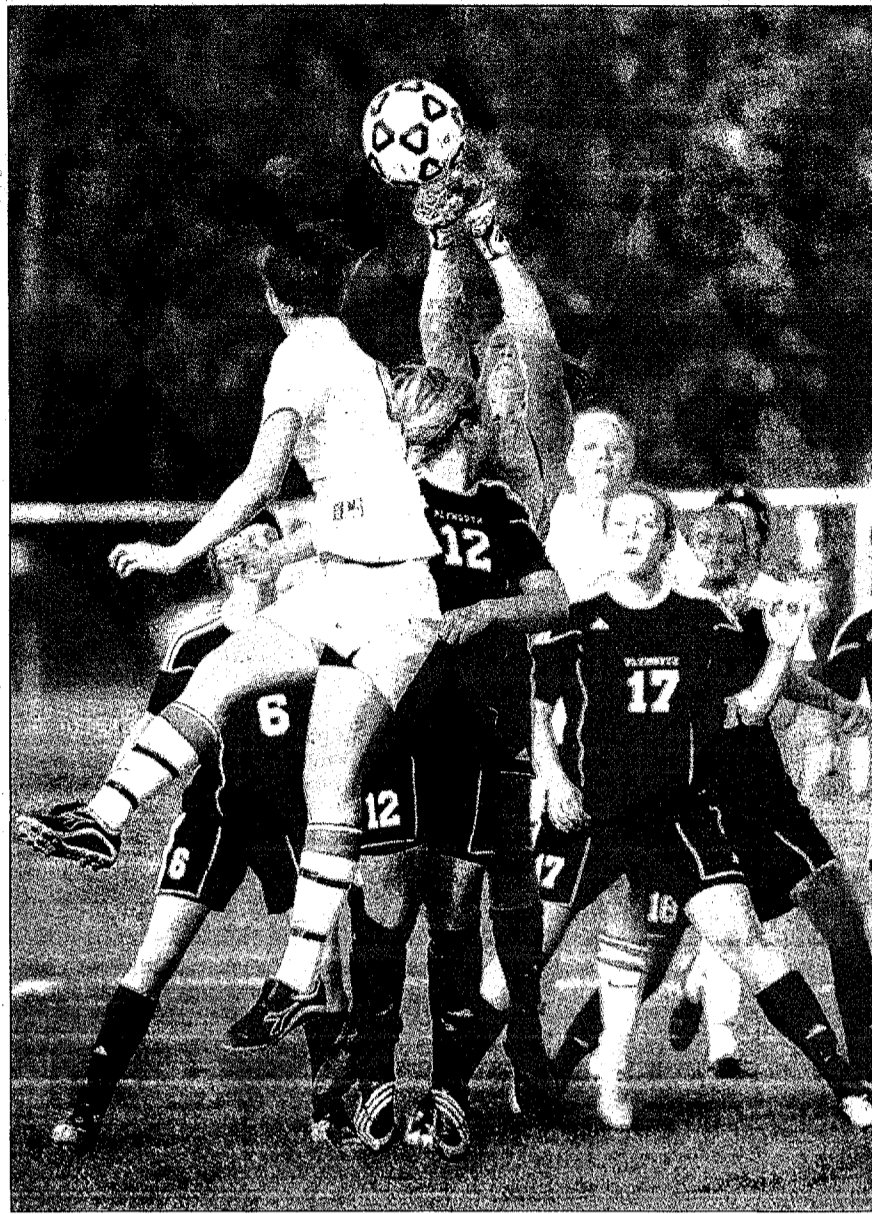
Plymouth freshman midfielder Zoe Foster (No. 10) celebrates with teammates following Thursday's regional final victory over Canton. Foster scored the winning goal in overtime. At right is senior midfielder Jessica Heck (No. 9).

ented roster, said there were enough scoring opportunities to win.

"It's just a shame that the ball didn't find the way into the back of the net," Tomasso said.

But he didn't hesitate to praise his squad, especially his eight seniors who came up two victories short of the coveted state championship.

Please see **SOCCER, B3**



The key to Plymouth's regional championship, junior goalkeeper Marissa Williams, goes high above the crowd to snag the ball during Thursday's regional final.

PHOTOS BY TOM HAWLEY

TOP ATHLETES OF THE YEAR PT. 1

Winning's the thing for Canton trio

BY TIM SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Whether Kevin Delapaz is staring down an enemy batter from the pitcher's mound or doing the same to onrushing defensive linemen, it is obvious the Canton senior will do whatever he can to win that moment — and ultimately win the game for his team.

Ditto that for seniors Alyssa Cottrell and Lindsey Winters, among key contributors to the highly successful girls basketball and girls soccer teams they have suited up for during 2009-10.

Delapaz, the lefthanded-throwing pitcher and quarterback for Canton's just-as-successful baseball and football squads, recently earned Top Male Athlete of the Year honors at the high school while Cottrell and Winters shared Top Female Athlete honors.

All three underscore why there have been so many conference, district and regional championships at Canton all year — they are outstanding athletes and student leaders who get the most out of themselves and their teammates.

"I think it's deserving, he's a great kid, he's great in the classroom," said Chiefs baseball coach Mark Blomshield. "I've coached him for a long time, I've had him for four years now."

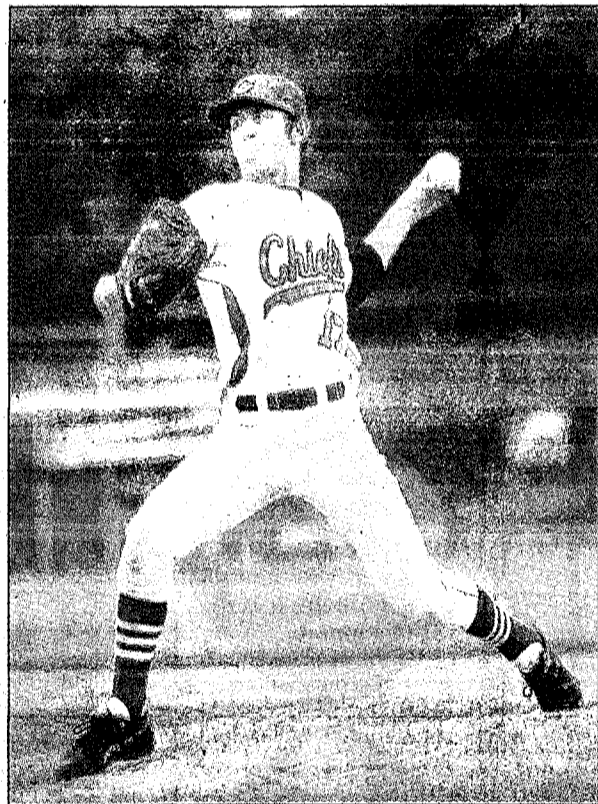
"And he's such a respectful kid, 'Yes sir, No sir.' He's one of the best athletes I've ever coached and one of the best human beings I've ever coached."

Brian Samulski, who coached Canton's girls basketball team to the Final Four in '09-10 in large part to the all-around contributions of Cottrell and Winters, called them outstanding student-athletes and "even better people."

"They've had huge impacts on both the soccer and basketball programs at Canton High School the past four years," Samulski said. "It was a true honor for me to coach them the past four years and both will truly be missed."

Delapaz showed plenty of true grit and on-field leadership as he spearheaded the Canton football team to a 10-2 record — just falling short of defeating eventual state champion Novi-Detroit Catholic Central in the regional final.

This spring, for the third year in a row, Delapaz pitched and won the baseball district final for the



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

With determination etched on his face, Canton senior pitcher Kevin Delapaz eyes his target during Saturday's Division 1 baseball district final against Livonia Stevenson. Delapaz is Canton's Male Athlete of the Year.

Chiefs. This weekend, he pitched in a Division 1 regional game that took place after this issue of the *Observer* went to press.

All of that big-game pressure doesn't seem to rattle Delapaz, who will go to Bowling Green University in Ohio and bring his varied pitching repertoire. One big reason for that composure is fear of not letting down his teammates and coaches.

Please see **CANTON, B4**



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

This year's Female Athlete of the Year for Salem is Brett deBear, who was Rock-solid with the girls basketball and soccer teams in 2009-10.

They love to be versatile

BY TIM SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Blake Abbey and Brett deBear have more in common than just being Salem's 2010 Male and Female Athlete of the Year, respectively.

They love being multisport athletes, displaying quiet leadership and providing younger kids with examples of how to compete with dignity and self-confidence.

"It's exciting to have achieved this

goal and know that all my hard work, commitment and guidance has been well worth it," said Abbey, co-captain this year for the football, wrestling and boys lacrosse teams. "And it was not only worth it for the award, but also the experience of working with all of my coaches and teammates and watching them grow as a result."

According to deBear, who was a co-captain for the girls basketball team

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Area girls thinclads display talent

2010 ALL-OBSERVER GIRLS TRACK & FIELD TEAMS
Shot put: 1. Chelsea Carradine, Sr., Redford Thurston; 2. Taylor Byron, Sr., Livonia Churchill; 3. Trisha Jordan, Soph., North Farmington.
Discus: 1. Cally Perkins, Sr., Garden City; 2. Savannah Hale, Sr., Livonia Franklin; 3. Lynn Nagengast, Sr., Farmington.
High Jump: 1. Abbey Lovat, Jr., Farmington Hills Mercy; 2. (tie) Emilie Freeman, Sr., Lutheran Westland; Senclair McDonnell, Soph., Churchill; 3. Lindsay Lipa, Jr., Canton.
Long Jump: 1. Aubrie Scott, Jr., Westland John Glenn; 2. Becka Knox, Soph., Plymouth; 3. Leah Heinzelman, Soph., Churchill.
Pole Vault: 1. Reagan Engstrom, Soph., Plymouth; 2. Jane McCarry, Fr., Plymouth; 3. Meghan Lark, Jr., Franklin.
100-meter hurdles: 1. Megan Yanik, Sr., Livonia Ladywood; 2. Sennecca Scott, Sr., Franklin; 3. Karlyn Cassidy, Sr., Farmington Hills Harrison.
300 hurdles: 1. Becky Adamcheck, Sr., Livonia Stevenson; 2. Bobbi Beveridge, Sr., Garden City; 3. Altemecia Martin, Sr., Thurston.
400 dash: 1. Brianna Nixon, Fr., Thurston; 2. Clara Fullilove, Fr., N. Farmington; 3. Dominique Smith, Soph., Thurston.
200: 1. Tiera Parker, Soph., Harrison; 2. Madi Lewis, Fr., Plymouth; 3. Sydney Sterling, Fr., Farmington.
400: 1. Cherie Gaines, Jr., N. Farmington; 2. Josephine Zolynsky, Jr., Farmington; 3. Megan Kelly, Sr., Churchill.
800: 1. Sara Kroll, Sr., Churchill; 2. Megan Vitale, Jr., Ladywood; 3. Rachael Hill, Soph., Plymouth.
1,600: 1. Gabby DeFlorio, Soph., Farmington; 2. Kerrigan Riley, Fr., Churchill; 3. Nicole Zehel, Sr., Lutheran Westland.
3,200: 1. Megan McPherson, Jr., Franklin; 2. Bethany Pilat, Soph., Churchill; 3. Bianca Kubicki, Jr., Canton.
400 relay: 1. Thurston (Sonya Burks, Sr.; Brianna Nixon, Fr.; Altemecia Martin, Sr.; Dominique Smith, Soph.); 2. Harrison (Jalia Parker, Jr.; Karlyn Cassidy, Sr.; Talia Shuford, Jr.; Tiera Parker, Soph.); 3. North Farmington (Asha Freeman, Fr.; Maleah West, Fr.; Alex White, Sr.; DeJene Berry, Jr.).
800 relay: 1. Thurston (Sonya Burks, Sr.; Brianna Nixon, Fr.; Ariele Harris, Jr.; Dominique Smith, Soph.); 2. North Farmington (Cherie Gaines, Jr.; Clara Fullilove, Fr.; Alex White, Sr.; DeJene Berry, Jr.); 3. John Glenn (E'Aijsha Gustler, Jr.; Kayla Jones, Fr.; Stephany Brown, Soph.; Aubrie Scott, Jr.).
1,600 relay: 1. Ladywood (Teresa Wojnarowski, Jr.; Shannon Scarlett, Jr.; Megan Vitale, Jr.; Megan Yanik, Sr.); 2. Farmington (Gabby DeFlorio, Soph.; Jacquelyne Zolynsky, Jr.; Sydney Sterling, Fr.; Josephine Zolynsky, Jr.); 3. Plymouth (Madi Lewis, Fr.; Carissa Buttermore, Jr.; Becka Knox, Soph.; Rachael Hill, Soph.).
3,200 relay: 1. Churchill (Tiffany Raisanen, Sr.; Bethany Pilat, Soph.; Kerrigan Riley, Fr.; Sara Kroll, Sr.); 2. Farmington (Gabby DeFlorio, Soph.; Olivia Salinas, Soph.; Lydia MacKlin-Camel, Sr.; Josephine Zolynsky, Jr.); 3. Mercy (Heather Smith, Soph.; Katie Clark, Sr.; Lindsey Tartaglia, Soph.; Jaclyn Godwin, Fr.).

FIRST-TEAM INDIVIDUALS
Chelsea Carradine, Sr., Red. Thurston (shot put): One of the finest track performers to ever compete at Thurston, Carradine again displayed grit and determination in earning her fourth consecutive opportunity to line up against the state's elite. Battling through injuries to her hamstring and shoulder during much of the 2010 campaign, Carradine was able to claim her fourth straight regional crown in the shot put.
 "Chelsea finished third last year in the Division 2 finals, but was hampered by shoulder and hamstring injuries this year," Thurston coach Al Chambo said. "She wasn't able to compete in the running events, but she was able to dominate in the shot put."
Cally Perkins, Sr., Garden City (discus): The Cougar senior concluded her second varsity campaign by earning a spot in the state finals. Consistently throwing the discus anywhere between 99 and 102 feet, Perkins acquired a new disc prior to the finals and promptly went on and improved on her mark by some 10 feet. Perkins' school-record toss of 112 feet at the finals placed her 12th overall.
Abbey Lovat, Jr., Farm. Hills Mercy (high jump): Lovat was all-state again in the high jump, placing seventh in Division 1. She won the event at the Jackson Invite and Catholic League meet, and she was the regional runner-up. Lovat also excelled in the long jump and throwing events, and she was the Field Athlete of Meet at the River Rat Invite. The two-time team MVP scored 198 points this year, which is the school's third-best, single-season total since Gary Servais became the coach in 1988.
Aubrie Scott, Jr., Westland Glenn (long jump): The junior was Division 1 regional champion with a season-best 17-0.5 inches. Scott was also undefeated in dual meets and was Kensington Conference long jump champion (16-9).
 "Aubrie was a huge part of our team this season," Glenn coach James Fitzgerald said. "After qualifying for the state meet in three events as a sophomore, Aubrie was excited for a great junior year. Her best event is the

long jump in which she had the furthest jump at every meet we attended this season."
 Scott also excelled in the sprints and sprint relays. She clocked a 12.7 in the 100 and a 26.8 in the 200. She was Kensington Conference champ in the 100 and helped the Rockets to a first in the 4 x 200 and a second in the 4 x 100.
Reagan Engstrom, Soph., Plymouth (pole vault): The sophomore missed the first four weeks of the season due to an ankle injury, but then made up for lost time in a big way.
 Engstrom took first place at the Division 1 regional with a mark of 9-feet, 8-inches. She then vaulted 10-9 in the prelims of the state final in Rockford, which established Plymouth High and Plymouth-Canton Educational Park records.
 "Reagan is an athlete that makes coaching easy," said Plymouth coach Ricky Styes, who noted that "the sky is the limit" for Engstrom during the next two years, considering her abundant talent, work ethic and leadership skills.
 "We are confident that she will be one of the elite vaulters in the state these next two years," Styes added. "Being a captain this year, her work ethic became contagious within our vaulters, as well as the rest of the team."
Megan Yanik, Sr., Liv. Ladywood (100 hurdles): The senior, bound for Notre Dame, enjoyed the most productive state meet of any area athlete capturing the Division 2 state titles in the 100 hurdles (14.75) and 300 hurdles (43.85), both school records.
 Yanik, the class valedictorian was also regional and Catholic League A-B Division champion in both events. She broke a 26-year-old record in the 300 hurdles (45.02) at the Catholic League meet.
 "We gave her our MVP," Ladywood coach Alice Ahearn said. "She scored most of the points and was the reason why we finished fourth in the state (Division 2)."
Becky Adamcheck, Sr., Liv. Stevenson (300 hurdles): The senior, headed to DePaul University, moved up seven places from her heat to finish fourth in Division 1 in the 300

hurdles with a school-record time of 45.4.
 The two-year captain and top point-getter was also Public Schools of Livonia, Kensington Conference and regional champ in the 300 hurdles. She also helped the Spartans break the school record in the 1,600 relay.
 "Becky has been one of the toughest competitors I have coached," Stevenson coach Kelly Graham said.
 The two-time MVP also earned Stevenson's prestigious Gabe Award.
Brianna Nixon, Fr., Red. Thurston (100 dash): This Eagle freshman left opponents shaking their heads at her ability to blaze a trail to the finish line in various sprint events. Participating in her first state final, Nixon was able to rack up a third-place finish in the 100-meter dash with a time of 12.55 and took seventh in the 200 with a school-record clocking of 25.83. She also was a part of the 4x100 and 4x200 relay contingents that registered top 10 finishes at the state meet.
 "Brianna has natural speed and she will get better," Chambo said. "She is very focused, especially for a ninth grader."
Tiera Parker, Soph., Farm. Harrison (200): Parker set a school record of 25.4 seconds in the 200 dash, surpassing Devron Kennedy's time of 25.8. Parker was second in the West Bloomfield regional and went to state. She was eighth in the 100 dash at the state meet with a 12.88 time, and she shares the school record (12.1) in that event with Kristen Hardy.
Cherie Gaines, Jr., N. Farmington (400): Gaines finished eighth in the state with an area-best time of 57.92 seconds for the 400 meters. Her time is a school record, bettering Heather Burcar's 1993 time of 58.4. Gaines also ran the second-fastest time (25.9) in school history in the 200. The team MVP helped set another record of 1:45.6 in the 800 relay and was part of the fastest 1,600 four-some.
Sara Kroll, Sr., Liv. Churchill (800): The senior was regional champ in the 800 and 1,600 runs, along with being a part of the first-place 3,200 relay quartet that placed at the Division 1 state meet (sixth).
 Kroll, bound for Michigan State, was also Kensington Conference champion in all three events.
 She holds school records in the 800 (2:13.2), 1,600 (4:54.25) and 3,200 (10:50.32) - all set this season.
 "Sara is the most dominating distance runner in area and one of the top runners in the state," Churchill coach Pat Daugherty said. "She's the best runner I have ever worked with, and the most talented and hardest working athlete that I have ever known."
Gabby DeFlorio, Soph., Farmington (1,600): DeFlorio was 10th in the state with a school-record time of 5:11.5, breaking Janelle Lindman's record of 5:15.7. She was second in the regional to state champ Megan Goethals.
 DeFlorio is the OAA White Division champion in the 1,600 and 3,200 runs, and she was the runner-up in the 800. She won the 1,600, 800 and 3,200 races in the city meet.
 "Gabby displays equal measures of dedication and care toward her sport as well as her teammates," coach Chip Bridges said. "Her success is well deserved and, hopefully, just beginning."
Megan McPherson, Jr., Liv. Franklin (3,200): The junior posted a fifth-place finish in the Division 1 state finals with a school-record time of 10:53.84.
 "Her state meet performance is one of my proudest moments in coaching," Franklin's Dave Bjorklund said. "Megan is our hardest worker, and after getting knocked down last year in the 3,200 run at the state meet, she was bound and determined to do well this year, and her hard work paid off."
 McPherson was regional champ in the 3,200 (11:11.7) and runner-up in the 1,600 (5:07.4). She added a Kensington Conference title in the 3,200.



COACH OF THE YEAR
Pat Daugherty, Churchill: The third-year coach guided the Chargers to Public Schools of Livonia, KLA South Division (5-0 dual record), Kensington Conference and Division 1-Region 5 championships.
 The girls track team at Churchill has two things going for it, Daugherty said.
 "First, we have girl athletes who are very talented, extremely competitive and dedicated hard workers," she said. "And secondly, a coaching staff made up of John Filiatraut, Angie Krolkowski, Al Smith and Vern Williams, who are great teachers and motivators. This has been our secret to our success this year."

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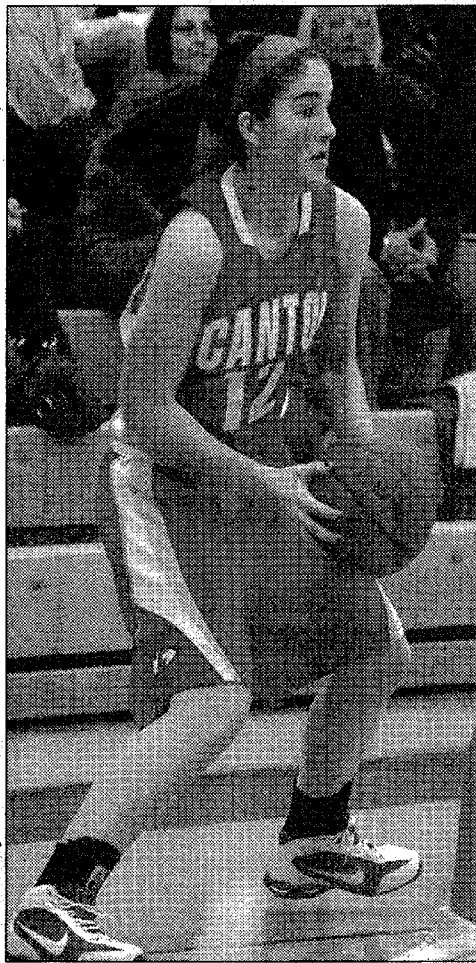
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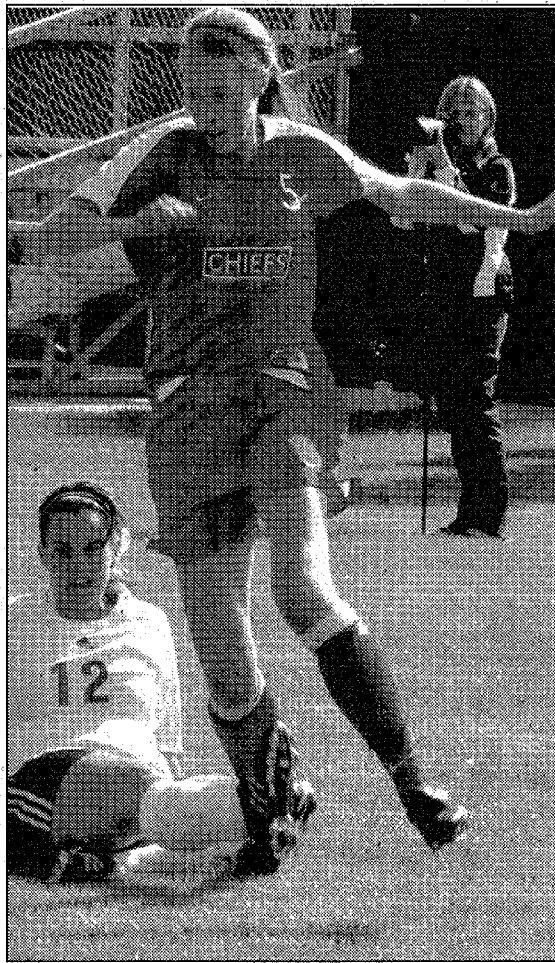
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Alyssa Cottrell's talent and leadership helped Canton's girls basketball and girls soccer teams have major success during 2009-10.



Canton senior Lindsey Winters (No. 5), like co-female athlete of the year Alyssa Cottrell, excelled throughout high school both in soccer and basketball.

SALEM
FROM PAGE B1

and just concluded the girls soccer season, she was "very surprised to hear my name called" for Salem's Top Female Athlete of the Year Award.

"I am very honored to represent Salem in this way," deBear said.

Both are solid students, too, with grade point averages of 3.0 for Abbey and 3.7 for deBear.

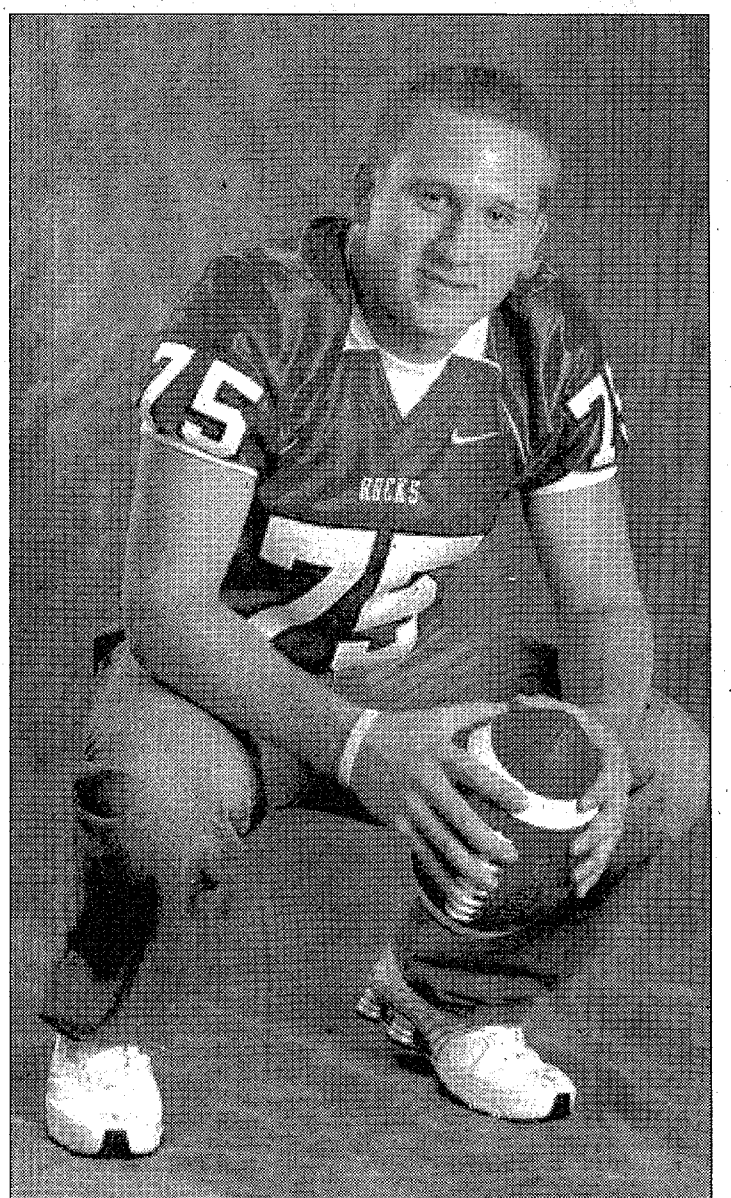
But they really excelled in the so-called athletic classroom, enthusiastically going from season to season and sport to sport.

"I didn't want to be a one-sport athlete," deBear said. "I can't get enough of sports, so I wanted to play as many as possible."

"I can't imagine life without soccer or basketball, so I had to play both."

Her soccer coach, Joe Nora, said deBear was a "wonderful choice" for the honor.

"She's just a top notch kid," Nora said. "(She's) always smiling, but working hard and striving to do her best. Brett's strength and competitiveness are her greatest qualities."



Three-sport varsity athlete and co-captain Blake Abbey recently was named Male Athlete of the Year at Salem. Abbey amassed 10 letters at the high school, competing in football, wrestling and lacrosse.

CANTON
FROM PAGE B1

"I work hard to do my best for the team and try to set an example for the team," Delapaz emphasized.

Although he shows plenty of swagger, he also has a humble side, especially about his experiences as a Canton athlete and the award itself.

"It was a great honor," he said. "There's a lot of great athletes at Canton and to be named top (male) athlete was great because a bunch of athletes at our school could have gotten it."

As for the past four years as a Chief, Delapaz said he's "enjoyed it a lot. All the people that have been involved with it, I'm really

grateful for the experience that I've had."

For best friends Cottrell and Winters, their whole senior year turned out to be quite a "win-win" scenario. They won on the basketball court, soccer pitch and on campus as student leaders.

They even were able to stand next to each other on stage when each earned their share of female athlete honors.

"I was really excited, I had no idea it was coming," Winters said. "So it felt good to be standing on stage next to Alyssa."

According to Cottrell, who carries a 4.0 grade-point average and is Michigan State University-bound, getting the honor was "really exciting. I worked hard for four years to get to this point."

Both said their part in helping the girls basketball and soccer teams have big seasons helped get them noticed enough for such recognition.

"With basketball I had huge success there, and I'm having huge success here (soccer)," Cottrell said. "... We're good athletes, we work hard and we're able to do things with teams and be successful."

Winters, slated to attend Olivet College and play soccer there, said this year proves there is benefit to being a multi-sport athlete in an era where more athletes are encouraged to specialize in one.

"It helps ... because you compare stuff between basketball and soccer, on and off the field," she said.

tsmith@hometownlife.com

THE RIGHT DECISION

Abbey reached his goal of being a three-sport athlete for all four years of high school, earning 10 varsity letters in the process.

He's now more certain than ever that he did the right thing instead of specializing in one sport — which is becoming a trend in preps.

"I have always had thoughts of what would happen if I had just focused on one specific sport," Abbey said. "... but looking back it was well worth it not to."

"I have met so many amazing people, been through a variety of different successes and adversities and have helped many more people than I ever thought I could."

Being a successful varsity

athlete in more than one sport isn't easy, however. And it's not for everybody.

But Abbey's advice to younger athletes is to find out what makes them tick and go from there.

"Do everything to challenge yourself and also be a great teammate and leader in the process," he said, "no matter what path you might take."

By the way, Abbey plans to diversify even at Ferris State University, with plans to play football and club lacrosse.

Meanwhile, very proud of Abbey's award was his wrestling coach at Salem, Greg Woodchuck.

"I believe Blake won the award for the same qualities that our captains have always been chosen for — honesty, loyalty, respect, unselfishness," noted Woodchuck, adding that Abbey "was always involved in doing something for someone with never the thought of being repaid."

tsmith@hometownlife.com

SPORTS ROUNDUP
Free golf clinic in June

PGA golf pro Tami Bealert is hosting a free family golf clinic (following a successful one on May 15). That will take place from 2-3 p.m. Saturday, June 26 at Hickory Creek Golf Course — located at Ford-Napier roads in Superior Township, just west of Canton.

For more information, go to www.TrainWithTami.com.

Thackaberry golf outing

The 2nd Annual Milt Thackaberry Memorial/Salem Baseball Golf Outing is set for 1 p.m. Saturday, June 26 at Fox Hills Golf & Banquet Center (8768 N. Territorial Road in Plymouth).

Those interested should e-mail Steve Gordon (sgordon88@sbeglobal.net), Denny Devine (devine@aol.com) or go to www.rocksbaseball.com.

Team effort sparks state champ Splitz gymnasts

Splitz Gymnastics, based in Canton, won the National Division in the USAG Level 5 State Meet last month in Traverse City, with a team effort of 114.525 points.

Coaches Patti Bovee and Shannon Green said all 14 girls on the Level 5 team worked hard all season and focused on teamwork, keys to this year's success.

There were more than 30 teams at the state meet.

Following are gymnasts who excelled and were named state champions:

- Morgan Soper, 13 years old: State champ on bars, floor exercise, all-around; 2nd on vault; 3rd on beam.
- Emilie Devanie, 13: State champ on vault; 2nd on bars, beam and all-around.
- Megan McKeehan, 13: 3rd on vault and floor.

- Rachel Robitaille, 11: State champ on vault; 2nd on all-around; 3rd on bars, beam, floor.
- Erin Haslem, 11: State champ on beam, floor and all-around.
- Rebeca Simu, 11: State champ on bars; 2nd on vault; 3rd on beam and all-around.
- Aliisa Annala, 11: 4th on bars and beam.
- Maleah Marshall, 11: 3rd on beam.
- Kendall Chemotti, 10: State champ on beam and floor; 2nd on vault and all-around.
- Jordyn Williams, 10: State champ on vault; 3rd, all-around.
- Jana Hilditch, 10: 2nd on beam.
- Reghan Draper, 9: State champ on vault.
- Alexa Rybicki, 9: 4th on vault.
- Destiny Johnson, 9: State champ on bars; 3rd, all-around.



Celebrating after winning the USAG Level 5 State Meet & #8217;s National Division last month is Canton-based Splitz Gymnastics, coached by Patti Bovee and Shannon Green.

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COMMUNITY LIFE

Sunday, June 13, 2010

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Mama Jazz keeps alive art form

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
CORRESPONDENT

They call her Mama Jazz — and for good reason. For nearly 70 years Midge Ellis has produced and promoted concerts showcasing the distinctly American art form. She's the powerhouse behind the Michigan Jazz Festival held every summer in Livonia.

The musicians can thank Ellis' father for introducing her to the music at a young age in the hills of Kentucky. She would sit on his lap for hours listening to the radio. By high school she was booking a band for her senior prom.

Ellis continued to represent musicians for the next several years at Air Force officer clubs. When her husband was transferred to Detroit, she rejoiced because Baker's Keyboard Lounge is known throughout the world as the oldest operating jazz club.

In search of a good place to raise her family, Ellis came to Livonia in 1960. It was here in the 1970s and 1980s she coordinated the Clarenceville Jazz Series bringing legendary Big Bands like Stan Kenton and Count Basie to Louis Schmidt Auditorium.

Ted Mallires remembers when Ellis started the Clarenceville series. He was a band director for the schools from 1959 to 1995. Ellis' children, Gary, Holly and Tim, played in the Clarenceville band.

"She convinced me to get a jazz band together with the kids, let them do a warm up



Midge Ellis (left) and Eileen Standley met at a jazz class years ago and now work together producing the Michigan Jazz Festival at Schoolcraft College in Livonia.



Midge Ellis gets a kiss from her son, Gary, who plays with Broken Arrow Blues Band.

down in the pits. I'm glad she was adamant," said Mallires. "It was really exciting times. The kids didn't realize but they were seeing history."

Johnny Trudell met Ellis in the 1970s. The Big Band leader has only praise for the

Livonia woman who turns 87 in September.

"There's so much that can be credited to Midge," said Trudell. "She instituted a jazz program where there was no jazz. The series is historic. The greatest names in jazz played there. It was amazing."

JAZZ FESTIVALS

She served on the committee of the Montreaux Detroit Jazz Festival for the first six years then went on to help Trudell and Big Band leader Emil Moro produce the successful Michigan Jazz Festival. By the 1990s she had taken over day-to-day details of organizing the event including raising money at concerts several times a year to keep the festival free to the public.

Ellis moved the festival to the Botsford Inn in Farmington from Freedom Hill where it was first held in

1995. When the historic eatery and hotel closed she sought yet another venue, Schoolcraft College in Livonia where it has remained since 1999. Ellis worked in special events on the campus for 17 years.

"She's been Mama Jazz for a long time around here and the musicians have benefited," Trudell said. "She put my band to work. She was instrumental in getting us into Botsford. She started a jazz series there with Jack Brokensha and brought the jazz festival there. She single-handedly does the hands-on stuff. People don't realize what's involved with putting on a festival."

POPULAR EVENT

Matt Michaels got to know Ellis when he was playing piano with Jack Brokensha at the Botsford Inn in the 1990s.

Please see **MAMA JAZZ, B6**

Michigan Jazz Festival salutes longtime volunteer

BY SHARON DARGAY
O&E STAFF WRITER

Eileen Standley of Plymouth is a little surprised to find her name under the dedication on this year's Michigan Jazz Festival promotional materials.

It's a long-standing tradition for the festival committee to dedicate the event to a jazz aficionado, but Standley, a member of the committee, never thought the honor would go to her.

"We had a board meeting a month and a half ago where we determine who is chosen. It turned out to be me."

She said the committee usually chooses someone involved in teaching others about jazz, often a musician.

"It's generally an educator, someone into furthering our music."

Standley, who handles contracts, fliers and other promotional materials for the festival, has done exactly that as a piano teacher, performer and festival committee member.

She taught classical piano for years and then met Midge Ellis, and her interest in jazz grew. She began working as a hostess on weekends at Baker's Keyboard Lounge and learning jazz piano at Wayne State University.



The Michigan Jazz Festival next month is dedicated to Eileen Standley of Plymouth.

Standley also accompanied the Schoolcraft College vocal group, SCool JAZZ for 20 years.

"I've had so much fun and consider myself so lucky," Standley said. "I've worked closely with Midge the last 15 years with the festival."

"It's a labor of love," she said. "It's about the music, first of all, and the mission is to get younger people to start playing our music. Some of the high schools do offer jazz and have their bands. I think it's catching on."

Young people will perform at "Playing with the Pros" a one-hour portion of the festival and college musicians will play on the "Future of Jazz" stage.

The festival runs from noon to 9:15 p.m. Sunday, July 18, at Schoolcraft

Please see **SALUTES, B6**

Explore some more...

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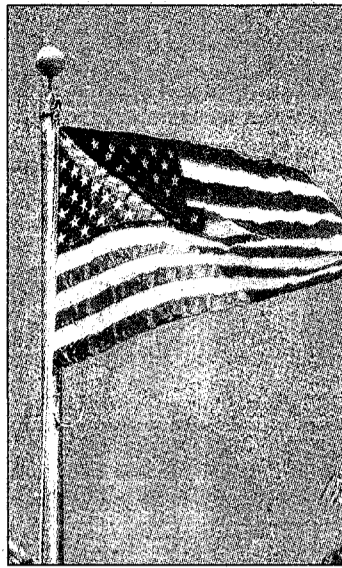
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Tell us about July 4 events

Fourth of July is just a few weeks away, and with it will come parades, fireworks and family traditions. We'd like to know how you celebrate our nation's birthday. Maybe your neighborhood runs an annual decorated bike parade. Or you go whole hog to deck the house and garden in red, white and blue. Do you continue a family or personal tradition that day? Tell us about it. Write to Sharon Dargay at sdargay@hometownlife.com or 615 W. Lafayette, level 2, Detroit, MI 48226. Include a photo if you like. Make sure it's in jpg format if e-mailing. We'll share your story with other readers on July 4.



Time for some R&R? You can notify us of your vacation stop

SALUTES

FROM PAGE B5

College in Livonia and will include more than 147 musicians and six piano workshops.

The music, which includes a variety of jazz styles, is continuous. Parking and admission is free. The festival is expected to draw 5,000-7,000 music lovers.

"We have six stages. If you don't care for (the music) on one stage, you can walk to another," Standley said. "Everything is free except for the food."

The festival's annual Father's Day brunch helps to keep it that way. The fund-raiser runs noon to 3 p.m. Sunday, June 20, in the DiPonio Room in the VisTech Center at Schoolcraft College, 18600 Haggerty, just south of Seven Mile. Brunch will be served from noon to 1 p.m. The Cliff Monear Trio, with vocalist Kelly Broadway, will perform until 3 p.m.

Tickets cost \$27.50. Enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope with a check payable to Michigan Jazz Festival and mail to 20457 Maplewood, Livonia, MI 48152-2022. For more information call Midge Ellis at (248) 474-2720.

MAMA JAZZ

FROM PAGE B5

"The Michigan Jazz Festival was on the grounds, in the banquet hall, a tent and the hotel," said Michaels of Southfield. "It was packed. You couldn't even walk through the crowd."

Ellis knew the Botsford Inn well and thought it was the perfect spot for a jazz series and festival.

"She was great friends with Buddy Rich, Woody Herman and Maynard Ferguson and they stayed at the Botsford. She was a Big Band buff, a real music lover, historically quite accurate, quite knowledgeable especially from the Big Band era," said Michaels, co-founder of the jazz studies program at Wayne State University. "She became a booking agent, booked Maynard. Woody Herman, when he was ill she got him in a hospital in Detroit where he passed away. She was a good friend of Stan Kenton. She knew all these band leaders."

Jerry McKenzie met Ellis in the 1970s when he was playing drums with Kenton. He credits Bob Talbert, the late *Detroit Free Press* columnist, with naming her Mama Jazz. Ellis has always mothered jazz players.

"When Stan's band came to town she would alert Stan and I would be invited up to play," said McKenzie who works in Farmington Hills and lives in West Bloomfield. "Over the years we just kept in contact. Midge has told many people about my band (Just Jazz) playing at Nikola's (in Southfield Thursday nights). She's stayed very active in promoting jazz."

Dan Jordan met Ellis in



Midge Ellis has been a part of the music scene for many years. Here she poses with Count Basie in the 1980s at Ford Auditorium in Detroit.

1972 at the Showers Club. Ellis had rented the space usually used to show dogs. Every Sunday night, Jordan and the house band would jam with guest artists from the Clarenceville series.

"She certainly must be commended for her dedication to the cause of jazz and the Michigan Jazz Festival, said Jordan, a South Lyon resident who plays bass with Just Jazz. Saxophonist George Benson admires Ellis for her dedication to the Michigan Jazz Festival as well. He will perform at this year's event, which is free to the public.

"I've known Midge for years," said Benson of Detroit. "She's always been very active as far as jazz goes. She's worked hard to promote it."

In 2006 she led a drive for used instruments that were donated to the festival then distributed to band programs in need. Ellis believes if jazz is to survive, young musicians must be exposed to the art form.

The Michigan Jazz Festival takes place noon to 9:15 p.m. Sunday, July 18 at Schoolcraft College, 18600 Haggerty, Livonia.

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HYDROXY APATITE

Hydroxy apatite is a body constituent composed of the common body constituents of calcium, hydroxalate and phosphate. Hydroxy apatite crystals form at the site of tendon and ligament injuries and act as scaffolding for injuries to these structures.

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The swelling associated with hydroxy apatite may lead a physician to treat the patient as experiencing a gout attack or begin the person on antibiotics because the swelling looks so much like a bacterial infection.

But hydroxy apatite does not respond to colchicine or allopurinol, the two drugs most commonly used for gout. Also, no antibiotic can resolve the pain or inflammation from hydroxy apatite. The only medication that resolves a flare of hydroxy apatite is cortisone either by injection or by mouth.

I prefer injection because it brings the amount of steroid needed to quell the problem right to the area experiencing the flare. Other physicians prefer oral steroids or a "dose pack," because of the convenience compared to the preparation and equipment needed for injection.

For unknown reasons, older people, that is individuals above age 80, experience recurrent attacks of hydroxy apatite disease having as many as 4-5 attacks in six weeks, then inexplicably, the attacks end.

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Proceeds benefit Barefoot Productions, Plymouth's only live theatre company.

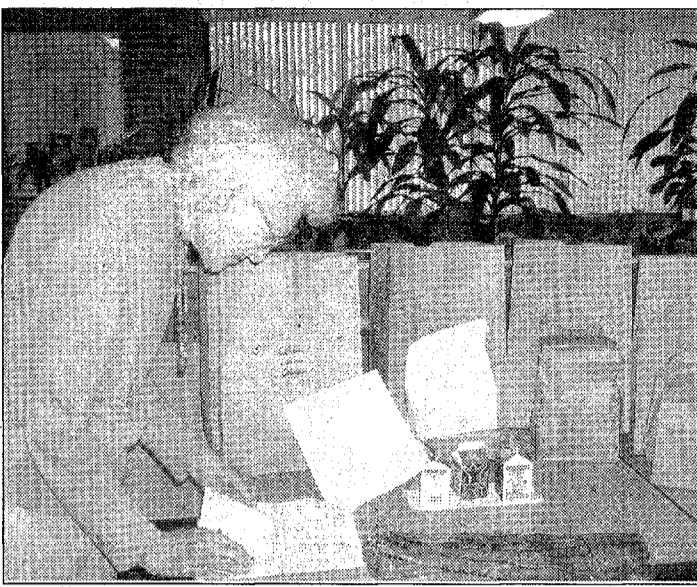
Barefoot Productions is a non-profit 501(c)(3) community theatre.

Drive, package foods for kosher Meals on Wheels

The National Council of Jewish Women, Greater Detroit Section's Meals on Wheels program is in need of volunteers. For 37 years, Kosher Meals on Wheels has provided high quality lunches and dinners for the homebound. It's the only Meals on Wheels program in the community to provide kosher and glatt kosher meals, preparing and delivering 40,000 meals a year.

More than 150 volunteers package and deliver the meals to local communities five days a week. Volunteers range in age from youngsters just old enough to be volunteering for their Bar/Bat Mitzvah service requirements to adults in their 90s. Each morning, packagers organize the meals and have them distributed in less than a half hour to cities throughout Oakland County. They deliver to Wayne County one day a week.

Founded by current volunteer treasurer Esther Rosenblum, Kosher Meals on Wheels provides lunches and dinners to its clients, who do not need to be Jewish, but who keep



A volunteer double checks paperwork near bagged meals that are ready for delivery.

kosher. Meals are prepared at the Jewish Senior Life Prentis Apartments in Oak Park by Morrison Senior Dining chef Dave Dry and his team.

Program participants make a donation within their ability to pay for meals, and some clients need not pay at all. The National Council of Jewish Women, Greater Detroit

Section provides the additional funding from the proceeds raised at their Council Thrift Shops in Royal Oak and Berkley. Additional support comes from AAA 1-B, the Michigan Office of Services to the Aging (OSA) and the Older Americans Act. The program is run in cooperation with Jewish Family Service, which provides intake and casework



Volunteers assemble kosher meals.

services. Drivers have dedicated routes and know the status and behaviors of each of their clients, who in some cases is the only person they will see all day. Not only do the drivers deliver the food but they also provide the social interaction that some of their clients are lacking. "Kosher Meals on Wheels provides much more than

food. The program provides friendship and can sometimes be a very real lifesaver to our clients," stated Irma Glaser, President, National Council of Jewish Women, Greater Detroit Section. "Our delivery volunteers have, in some instances, been the first at the side of a person in need. "While we have wonderful, dedicated volunteers,

we are always looking for more. We have come to mean something to the community and to so many families. Our goal is to serve more in the years ahead." For more information on Kosher Meals on Wheels, or to alert the organization to someone in need, call (248) 967-0967, 8-10:30 a.m. Monday-Friday.

PLYMOUTH-CANTON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS NOTICE TO BIDDERS

The Board of Education of Plymouth-Canton Community Schools invites all interested and qualified companies to submit a bid for Milk Products for the 2010-2011 school year. Specifications and bid forms are available by contacting Ms. Hunter at 734-416-2741. Sealed bids are due to the E.J. McClendon Educational Center (attn: Milk Products Bid), 454 S. Harvey, Plymouth, MI 48170 on or before 11:00 a.m. EST, Thursday, June 24, 2010 where they will be opened and read publicly. The Board of Education reserves the right to accept and/or reject any or all bids, as they judge to be in the best interest of the school district.

Board of Education
Plymouth-Canton Community Schools
Nancy Eggenberger,
Secretary

Publish: June 6 and 13, 2010

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Send garden and nature items to Sharon Dargay at sdargay@hometownlife.com.

FAMILY BUTTERFLY EVENT
Southeast Michigan Butterfly Association offers crafts for children, a tour of the Butterfly Garden, a movie on Monarch Butterfly migration and a Butterfly Plant sale by Barson's Greenhouse of Westland, noon to 3 p.m., Sunday, June 13 at Nankin Mills, 33175 Ann Arbor Trail.

For questions call (734) 326-0578 or www.sembabutterfly.com.

RAISE BUTTERFLIES
Learn how to find butterfly eggs, how to care for them until mature butterflies are born, and how to nurture them in your yard, at the next meeting of the Southeast Michigan Butterfly Association (SEMBA). The meeting starts at 7 p.m., Wednesday, June 16, at Nankin Mills, 33175 Ann Arbor Trail, Westland. Parking on Hines Drive and Ann Arbor Trail. Meeting fee is \$3 for non-members. For more information call (734) 326-0578 or visit www.sembabutterfly.com.

BOUNTY AND BLOOMS
Gardeners of Northville-Novi present a tour of seven exceptional gardens, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday, June 26. Tickets are \$10 and will be available at Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. 10 Mile, on the day of the walk. For more information visit gardenersnorth-

ville-novi.org or call (248) 349-0376.

LIVONIA GARDENS
The Livonia Garden Walk, benefitting Historic Greenmead, runs 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday, June 26. Tour the Hill House gardens of Greenmead and six residential gardens. Tickets are \$9 in advance, \$10 on event day. Greenmead is located at 20501 Newburgh, Livonia. (248) 477-7375.

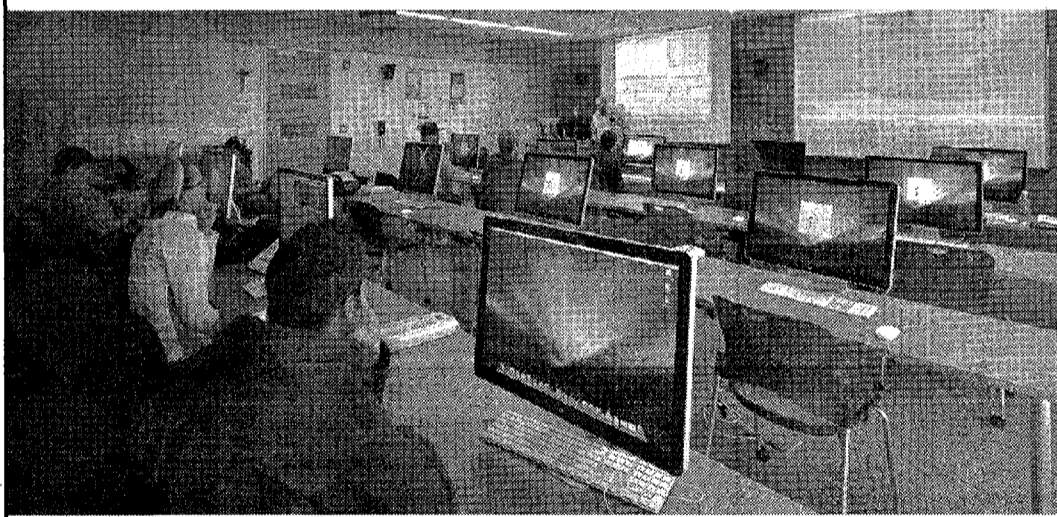
TRAILWOOD GARDEN CLUB
Tickets will be available beginning June 1 for the "Flowers are Forever Garden Walk" sponsored by the Trailwood Garden Club in Plymouth. Cost is \$8 before the walk; \$10 the day of the walk. Tickets for children, 12 and under are half off. Strollers will not be permitted in the gardens. The event runs noon to 8 p.m., Tuesday, June 29 and includes several gardens where complimentary refreshments will be served. Buy tickets at Saxton's Garden

Center, 587 Ann Arbor Trail, Backyard Birds, 627 S. Main, and from Darlene Rinke, (734) 455-6867.

NORTHVILLE GARDENS
The 17th annual Garden Walk, sponsored by the Country Garden Club of Northville, Woman's National Farm and Garden Association, runs 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Wednesday, July 7. The tour includes six gardens. Other unique attractions include a garden market, live music, and refreshments at historic Mill Race Village. Proceeds from the event support charitable contributions to local and national horticultural causes. Tickets are \$10 in advance, available after June 7, at Gardenviews, 117 E. Main, Northville; (248) 380-8881. Limited tickets will be sold the day of the event and will cost \$12 at Mill Race Village, 215 Griswold Ave., Northville. Visit the Country Garden Club of Northville Web site at <http://cgcnv.org/>

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1"	\$19.76	2" Tap	\$1,500.00	10" Tap	\$3,000.00
1.5"	\$39.65	3" Tap	\$2,250.00	12" Tap	\$6,000.00
2"	\$62.92	4" Tap	\$3,000.00	14" Tap	\$8,000.00
3"	\$117.96	6" Tap	\$4,500.00		
4"	\$185.22	8" Tap	\$6,000.00		
6"	\$389.20	For Sizes Not Listed Multiply Tap Diameter By \$750.00			

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Property owner is responsible for all sewer leads, pipes, and taps up to and including the connection to the City's mains. Property owner is responsible for the repair and/or replacement of any publicly owned property including, but not limited to grass, sod, top soil, trees, curb, gutter, street pavement and base material.

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3/4"	\$10.00
1"	\$20.00
1.5"	\$45.00
2"	\$75.00
3"	\$125.00
4"	\$154.00
6"	\$345.00
8"	\$700.00

All connections to the water supply system or the sewer disposal system shall be made by and at the expenses of the property owner or user so connecting, subject to any rules or regulations therefore now or hereafter established by the city, and subject to inspection and approval prior to use. A permit for such connection shall be obtained in advance from the city, and the property owner or user making such connection shall pay all inspection charges now or hereafter established by the city prior to the use thereof.

Property owner is responsible for TAP compliance with ALL Federal, State or Local Rules, Regulations, or Laws.

TAPS RESTRICTED

The term "tap" as used herein shall include any opening or outlet heretofore or hereafter made in the water system, for the purpose of withdrawing water therefrom for any use, public or private, either commercial or domestic, excepting fire hydrants. No taps shall be made to the system unless authorized by the proper city authorities.

- Non-Payment Penalty - 15% Added To Total Bill For All Bills Paid After The Due Date ••

Publish: June 13, 2010

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HEALTH

Sunday, June 13, 2010

hometownlife.com

HAVE A STORY IDEA?

Contact Editor Sharon Dargay

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Father's Day event raises prostate cancer awareness

BY SHARON DARGAY
O&E STAFF WRITER

John Miles of Plymouth had no history of prostate cancer in his family.

But when a friend at work mentioned that his own father died from the disease, Miles, 57, decided it was time to get serious about early detection.

"He told me, 'you'd better get checked,'" Miles recalled. "So I did."

A rectal exam and Prostate Specific Antigen (PSA) blood test led to a biopsy, an ultrasound and finally surgery two months ago. Robotic-assisted minimally invasive surgery at the Michigan Urology Institute removed the gland, which had been diagnosed with a "stage two" cancer.

Although recovery has been painful at times, Miles says he's glad he underwent the procedure. He urges other men to follow through with health exams and screening.

"Because it runs in the family I told my brothers to get checked," he said, adding that his 16-year-old son understands the importance of early detection.

Increasing awareness of prostate cancer is exactly why the Michigan Urology Institute is sponsoring the second annual Run for the Ribbon, a 5K run/walk on Father's Day, at the Detroit Zoo.

"For us, the most touching thing is to see our patients there ... to see fathers with sons and families celebrating Father's Day. One of our catch lines is 'Do it for Dad,'" said Dr. Michael Lutz, a urologist with the Institute

who primarily works out of Beaumont Hospital's West Bloomfield office.

"The first annual run was a huge success," he said, adding that the practice partnered with the Prostate Conditions Education Council in demonstrating the need for education, research and awareness.

Last year's event drew more than 200 participants, making it the largest of 11 Prostate Awareness and Cancer Education (PACE) races held that year, Lutz said.

"We hope to have over 5,000 runners this year."

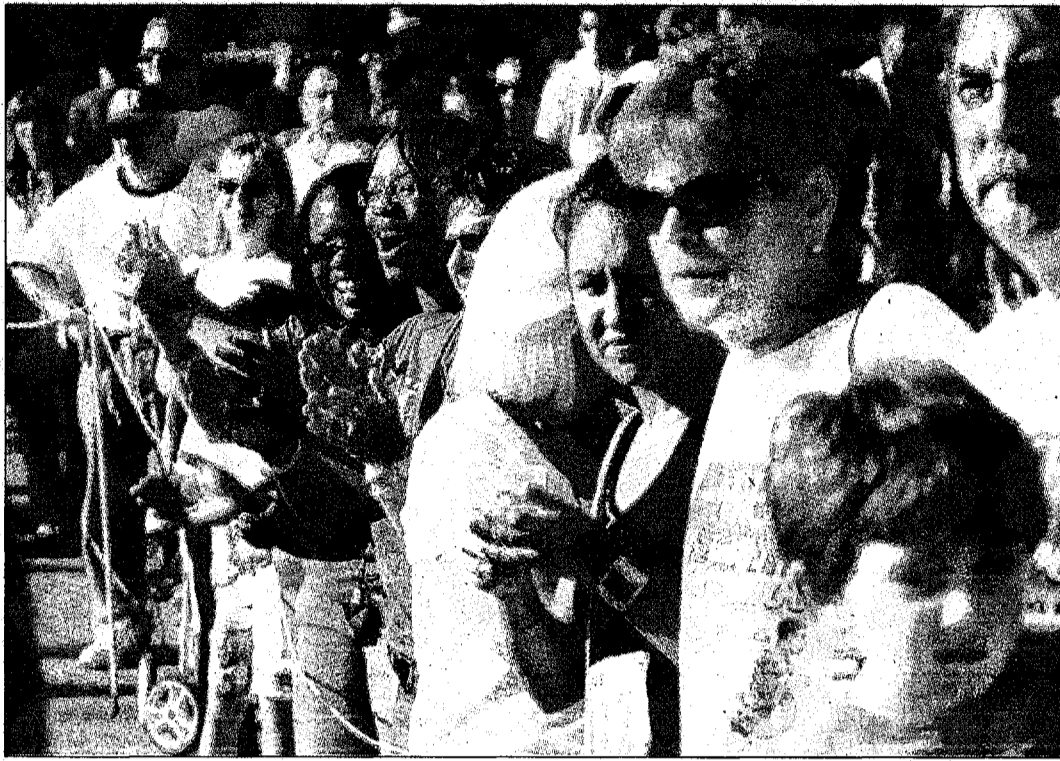
THE DISEASE

Prostate cancer is cancer that grows in prostate gland, a small, walnut-sized structure that makes up part of a man's reproductive system. Although the cause of prostate cancer is unknown, some studies suggest that a high fat diet, as well as genetic factors, may play a role.

Men at higher risk include African-American men older than 60, farmers, tire plant workers, painters, and men exposed to cadmium. The lowest number of cases occurs in Japanese vegetarians, according to the Michigan Urology Institute Web site.

"There's no question that if you follow a heart-healthy diet, you're following a prostate-healthy diet," Lutz said. "A diet that's low in dairy fat and meat fat, that has a reasonable amount of cruciferous-type vegetables, a lycopene-rich diet, vitamin D — those are things that are healthy for the prostate."

Prostate cancer is the most common non-skin cancer in the United States. It's the second leading cause of death



The crowd applauds for participants in the first annual Run for the Ribbon last year. The second annual event will be held June 20, at the Detroit Zoo.



The Michigan Institute of Urology's Run for the Ribbon raises awareness and funds for prostate cancer research.

from cancer among men and the most common cause of death from cancer in men over age 75. Lutz said more

than 200,000 men will be diagnosed with the disease in the U.S. this year. Although that's higher than in previ-

ous years, the mortality rate of prostate cancer has dropped as early detection has increased.

Screening includes rectal exams and a PSA test that pinpoints the amount of prostate-specific antigens in the body. The antigens are proteins produced by cells of the prostate gland.

The PSA test is aimed at all men age 50 and older and men at risk for the disease who are age 40 and older. An abnormal PSA count may lead to a prostate biopsy or imaging test.

"Early detection truly does help save lives," Lutz said. "What we haven't figured out yet is how we can prevent prostate cancer in the first place."

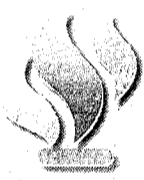
RUN FOR THE RIBBON

Night on the Townsend: 7 p.m. Friday, June 18, at the Townsend Hotel, 100 Townsend Street, between Pierce and Henrietta, three blocks south of Maple, in downtown Birmingham. The event features fine wine, food, a charity auction and music by Alexander Zonjic. Murray Feldman of WJBK Fox 2 is master of ceremonies. Tickets are \$125 and \$250.

Run for the Ribbon: 6:30 a.m. registration, 8 a.m.-noon event, Sunday, June 20, at the Detroit Zoo, located on Ten Mile (I-696 service drive) at Woodward Ave., in Royal Oak. Free parking, awards, commemorative T-shirts and medals for all finishers, live entertainment, raffle and free entry to the Detroit Zoo for anyone registered to run or walk in the event. All participants will receive a blue ribbon honoring individuals with prostate cancer. Survivors will be given a hat. Early registration fee is \$25 for adults and \$15 for children; race-day fees are \$30 for adults and \$20 for children.

Proceeds: Both events benefit prostate cancer awareness, education, treatment and research in Southeastern Michigan. The Michigan Urology Institute in partnership with Prostate Conditions Education Council and PACE Race Series have partnered to present both events.

Contact: (586) 443-4272 or e-mail to info@MIURunForTheRibbon.org. Or visit www.MIURunForTheRibbon.org.

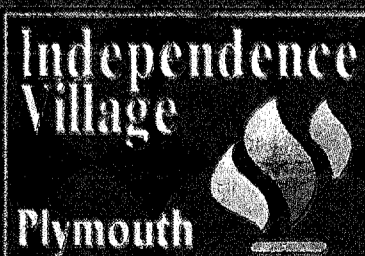


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