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SPECIAL SECTION INSIDE

THURSDAY
September 16, 2010

The Observer & Eccentric
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PLYMOUTH OBSERVER

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PIPELINE

Restaurant crawl

The Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce, in a joint effort with the Friends of the Penn, announces the fifth annual PENN-Taste-Tic Downtown Plymouth Restaurant Crawl 5:30-8:30 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 22.

"Crawlers" can walk around downtown Plymouth enjoying delicious samples and treats from many of their favorite Plymouth restaurants and sweet shops.

This year's participants include: 1999 Tavern; 336 Main; Boule Artisan Bakery; Box Bar & Grille; Burger Spot; Compari's; E.G. Nick's; Ironwood Grill; Kilwin's; Nico & Vali; Old World Olive Press; Panera Bread; Plaka; Sean O'Callaghan's and Sweets 21. Attendees will get a chance to vote for their favorite taste and restaurant.

Tickets must be purchased in advance and are only available at the Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce located at 850 W. Ann Arbor Trail, in downtown Plymouth. Adult tickets are \$20 each, and children 10 and under are \$15.

For more information on the Crawl, call the chamber at (734) 453-1540.

Color blind

The Michigan Roundtable for Diversity and Inclusion sponsors a discussion with essayist, author and educator Tim Wise, author of *Color-blind: The Rise of Post-Racial Politics and the Retreat from Racial Equity*, 7 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 6, in the Vista Tech Center presentation room 550 at Schoolcraft College in Livonia.

If an under-privileged or disadvantaged group exists, then there must be a privileged or advantaged group that also exists. As part of the Michigan Roundtable's public education effort, Wise will discuss how structures and institutions have been put in place and reinforced by people of privilege in order to marginalize the other. The message is quite clear: Acknowledge your privilege and take responsibility to eradicate it.

Admission is free to the public, but pre-registration is necessary. Registration is available online at www.mroundtable.org or by contacting Tanaya Parker by phone at (313) 870-1500.

Calling all Vets

The Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 528 in Plymouth is looking for Vietnam-era veterans to join the post.

Veterans can get a membership, and their spouses are eligible for associate memberships. The chapter, located at 1426 S. Mill in Plymouth, meets 7 p.m. on the second Monday of every month.

For more information, call Gary Kubik, (734) 459-6700.

Rain delay



ANN ESPINOZA

4-year-old Aden Eldridge of Walled Lake came out to support his Grandpa who is in the Kiwanis by enjoying the annual Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast Saturday morning.

Festival attendance up after Saturday showers keep crowds away

See related story and photos, Page A9.

BY MATT JACHMAN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The 55th annual Plymouth Fall Festival is being hailed as a success despite persistent rain on Saturday that diluted the crowd and cut into the proceeds of one of the festival's major fundraising events.

Attendance on Friday and Sunday was up over last year, as measured by the number of visitors to the carnival rides, but rain that began Saturday afternoon shut down much of the festival for the rest of the day, said Colleen Brown, president of the Fall Festival committee.

"It rained for a good four hours and it never recovered after, because it was chilly, damp," Brown said.

But good attendance Sunday, she said, probably included some who had put off their Saturday visits because of the rain.

Many of the crafters on Union Street packed up and left Saturday because of the rain, Brown said, and some of the larger carnival rides had to be shut down. Some smaller ones were still operating, but there were few riders, she said.

Festival goers usually don't mind a little fall chill, Brown said, but the addition of rain was just too much for many people.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Ashley Micek and Calvin Kohler prepare corn for chicken dinners. They are just two of a small army of student volunteers working with the Rotary Club.

The rain steeply reduced attendance at Saturday's spaghetti dinner fund-raiser sponsored by the Rotary Club of Plymouth A.M. Dinner committee chairwoman Kate Rosevear said the group served just under 400 dinners, compared to about 1,000 in other years.

"We certainly didn't do as well as we would have had the weather been better," Rosevear said. "Once the rain stopped, people actually showed up."

A drive-up spaghetti spot at Union Street and Ann Arbor Trail helped

Please see **FALL FEST, A6**

School drug use stance draws board members' ire

BY BRAD KADRICH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Three Plymouth-Canton Community Schools Board of Education members Tuesday called for the repeal and reconsideration of the district's new Student Code of Conduct, saying the discretion it gives district administrators in dealing with drug distribution within the school "liberalizes" the district's stance on drugs.

Board Treasurer Judy Mardigian and Trustees Dianne Gonzalez and John Jackson criticized the new code of conduct, which they feel lessens the penalty for distributing drugs in schools.

At the heart of the issue is the portion of the policy that deals with distribution and allows administrators to deal with offenses based "on the severity of the offense." Bob Hayes, the district's director of student services, has used an analogy of the penalty being the same — expulsion — both for a student giving an aspirin to someone and another student carrying a pound of marijuana.

Hayes and other administrators felt the district should have the discretion to treat such instances on a case-by-case basis. To some board members, however, distribution is distribution.

"(Drug) distribution is a very serious offense," said Mardigian, a former board president who helped craft the district's Guiding Principles 12 years ago. "When you look at kids dealing drugs in our schools, they have to go. I don't want any drug dealers in our schools. We're liberalizing the policies in this area. Our kids are really smart ... whenever you relax the rules, they're begging to be tested."

Board President Steven Sneedman agreed having drug dealers in the school shouldn't be tolerated, but said cases can be different.

"I don't want drug dealers in our schools either, I don't think anyone does," Sneedman said. "I would like to think someone handing someone an aspirin is different than someone selling a bag of cocaine. One person has malice, one person doesn't. I would like for us to be able to differentiate."

Hayes said the new code, which was crafted by administrators starting in June, was changed to "make it consistent," citing one place where some distribution offenses could be punished by consequences starting with suspensions, while another section dealt straight to expulsion.

Hayes said the district's policy remains Zero Tolerance.

Please see **DRUGS, A2**

Cask-bashing replaces ribbon-cutting as auto supplier opens new facility

BY MATT JACHMAN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Visitors toasted with sake and champagne Tuesday as an automotive supplier formally opened a research and design facility in Plymouth Township that could employ 50 people or more within a few years.

The debut of Amtex Inc., on Genoa Court west of Beck, was marked by a ceremony

in which company and public officials used wooden mallets to break open a cask of sake, a rice-based alcoholic drink. The ritual — called a kagami biraki in Japanese — is akin to ribbon-cuttings at grand openings in the U.S.

Amtex, a subsidiary of Japan's Hayashi Telempu Co., makes textile and trim parts for cars and trucks, including carpeting, sound insulators,

padding, mats and wheel liners. The company has several plants in the U.S. and supplies the U.S. assembly lines of Japanese auto manufacturers, including Toyota, Honda, Nissan and Mitsubishi.

The idea behind the new 27,000-square-foot facility is to put Amtex's testing, research and design capa-

Please see **AMTEX, A2**

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AMTEX

FROM PAGE A1

bilities closer to its plants and customers, said Jeff Fliegel, director of sales and vice president of purchasing. Amtex had been either outsourcing such work or having it performed by the parent company in Japan, Fliegel said.

Amtex President Toshio "Tommy" Kuroyanagi acknowledged difficult times in the industry.

"Amtex has chartered rough seas in the past and is prepared to face the challenges of the automotive industry," Kuroyanagi told guests before the cask-opening. Amtex was founded in the U.S. in 1983.

Dave Tyler, deputy director of the Wayne County Department of Economic Development, echoed Kuroyanagi's ideas about the economy.

"You're certainly on the leading edge," Tyler said. "We all believe, certainly in Wayne County, that we've bottomed out and we've begun to see an upswing in terms of investments."

The Amtex facility represents an initial investment of about \$1.8 million, Fliegel said, and the company expects to invest another \$1.6 million within three years. Six employees work there now, and Amtex is in the process of hiring more engi-

neers and plans to employ 50 or more people there within five years, he said.

"If the economy booms, that could double," Fliegel said.

The research and design facility opened for business earlier this month, manager Harry Okamoto said.

Township Supervisor Richard Reaume, who took part in the cask-opening, mentioned the presence of other Japanese and German companies in the township as he welcomed Amtex.

"We're very pro-business here in Plymouth Township," Reaume said. "We have a broad mix of international companies."

Also speaking briefly Tuesday was Hiroyuki Hayashi, the managing director of Hayashi Telemu, whose grandfather founded the company as a textiles manufacturer 100 years ago.

"I cannot say enough how much importance we place on our North American operations," Hayashi said.

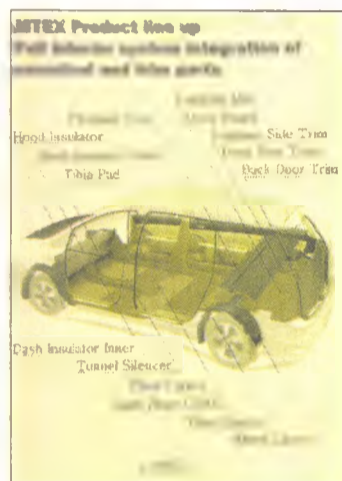
Amtex plans to apply for a 50-percent abatement on personal property taxes — the taxes on its machinery and business equipment — and for the transfer of the property tax abatement enjoyed by the building's previous occupant, Metaldyne, Reaume said.

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



Company and public officials used mallets to break open a ceremonial cask of sake Tuesday as they marked the opening of the Amtex Inc. research and design facility in Plymouth Township. From left are Jeffrey Fliegel, Amtex director of sales and vice president of purchasing; Hiroyuki Hayashi, managing director of Hayashi Telemu Inc., the parent company of Amtex; township Supervisor Richard Reaume; Amtex president Toshio Kuroyanagi; Jeff Sand, development director for the Michigan Economic Development Authority; and Dave Tyler of Wayne County's Department of Economic Development.

Toshio "Tommy" Kuroyanagi, the president of Amtex Inc., and Jeff Sand, development director for the Michigan Economic Development Authority, at the opening Tuesday of the Amtex research and design facility in Plymouth Township. The company, with manufacturing facilities in the U.S., makes carpeting, insulators, pads, mats, interior trim pieces and other parts for use in cars and trucks.



A poster displayed at the Amtex Inc. open house in Plymouth Township on Tuesday shows the variety of automotive components the company makes. The new research and design facility in the township will support the operations of its U.S. plants.

DRUGS

FROM PAGE A1

"We do have a Zero Tolerance policy on drugs," he said. "Not all Zero Tolerance policies result in expulsions." Jackson disagreed, saying the Code of Conduct needs to reflect the district's by-laws and policies, enacted by the Board of Education.

"We're not going to sit and write your Code of Conduct for you, but we want to make sure it follows the board's policy," Jackson said. "I don't support that change. Any amount of use of illegal drugs should be recommended for expulsion, and then let the board decide."

Until Sept. 9, the 2010 Code of Conduct also contained a provision for random drug testing, but administrators removed it due to concerns over the legality, although the district does retain the right to administer a Breathalyzer to students they have cause to think have been drinking or using drugs.

Such legal questions prompted Gonzalez to call for a legal review of the entire Code of Conduct.

"I believe your intentions were noble," she said. "I believe these changes leave the district open to liability issues. I'm concerned there are pieces of the Code of Conduct that are illegal."

Mardigian and Gonzalez asked for the issue to be placed on the next board agenda, at which time they hope to consider a motion to repeal the Code of Conduct. The next board meeting is scheduled for Sept. 28.

"I'm asking administrators to rescind these rules," Mardigian said. "I want to send a clear message about our responsibility to provide drug-free schools."

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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

Chiefettes variety

Pon Teams Chiefettes Pom Pon thes present "Fettes-Pom Variety Show" 1:30 and 7 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 18, in the Gloria Logan Auditorium at Salem High School.

Tickets are on sale now for \$6 and are available for Chiefette team members and parents or can be purchased for \$8 at the door on show day. For more information visit our website www.cantonchiefettes.com

Titanic tea

On Sunday, Sept. 26, Fashion Historian Pam Yockey will present the Plymouth from the 1910 decade during "A Titanic Tea" at the Plymouth Historical Museum.

Beginning at 2 p.m., a Victorian-style tea will be served complete with scones, tea sandwiches, and other fare. The tea that will be served is the Museum's signature blend, "Mary's Blend," a tantalizing cherry and almond black tea in honor of Mary Todd Lincoln. This tea is also available for purchase only in the Museum's store.

Be sure to arrive at the Museum early (doors open at 1 p.m.) so you can take a step back in time in the special exhibit "Margaret's 1910," in honor of Margaret's 1910, in honor of her quill work expresses the texture, light and color of the river and its immediate surroundings.

Marilyn Prucka holds an MFA in Textiles from Eastern Michigan University and a BA in printmaking. She has been a guest lecturer at Wayne State University and teaches fiber and printmaking workshops.

An artist reception will also be held on Friday, Sept. 24 from 6-8 p.m. The public is invited. The exhibit continues through Sept. 30 and can be viewed Monday through Thursday from 9-5. The Arts Council is located at 774 N. Sheldon Rd. in Plymouth. Call (734) 416-4278 for additional information.

Mom 2 Mom
The Plymouth Canton Mothers of Multiples host their semi-

The event draws some 1,500 customers and features food and drawings.

For information on how to take part, call or e-mail Judy Stone at JBSTONE716@comcast.net or Alice Chrenko, (248) 348-9610 or dachrenko@hotmail.com

AAUW meeting

The Plymouth/Canton branch of the American Association of University Women will host its monthly meeting on Sept. 16, at 6 p.m., at the Plymouth Community Arts Council, 774 N. Sheldon (just north of N. Territorial) in Plymouth.

The meeting will feature Lisa Noel, the branch's NCCWSL. Noel will share information about the conference and describe its effects upon her life and future plans. AAUW is dedicated to advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research. AAUW membership is open to all.

For more information, contact Esther Nelson at enelson1c@att.net or (734) 981-4938.

Quilt art

Contemporary quilt art begins the fall season of exhibitions at the Plymouth Community Arts Council. "Confluence" is the aptly named title of Marilyn Prucka's September exhibit. The artist uses the Raisin River in Monroe for her inspiration. Her quilts work expresses the texture, light and color of the river and its immediate surroundings.

Marilyn Prucka holds an MFA in Textiles from Eastern Michigan University and a BA in printmaking. She has been a guest lecturer at Wayne State University and teaches fiber and printmaking workshops.

An artist reception will also be held on Friday, Sept. 24 from 6-8 p.m. The public is invited. The exhibit continues through Sept. 30 and can be viewed Monday through Thursday from 9-5. The Arts Council is located at 774 N. Sheldon Rd. in Plymouth. Call (734) 416-4278 for additional information.

Mom 2 Mom
The Plymouth Canton Mothers of Multiples host their semi-



Wish you were here

This photo was taken two weeks ago when Marilyn Schwinn (GranMar) visited her son Jeff (J) Schwinn, daughter-in-law Valerie Schwinn and grandchildren Luke and Kendall Schwinn at their home in La Mesa, Calif., outside of San Diego. Val grew up in Livonia and J grew up in Plymouth, where they lived before moving to California. Marilyn still resides in Plymouth. In the picture, (left to right), are Val holding 6-month-old Kendall, GranMar and Luke holding the Observer and J.

annual Mom-to-Mom sale 8:30 a.m. to noon Saturday, Sept. 25, at West Middle School, 44401 Ann Arbor Trail (at Sheldon) in Plymouth.

The event features department-style shopping (grouped by boy or girl, then by size), fall and winter boys and girls clothing (newborn to size 10), sets for twins and triplets and multiples items, clothes, toys, baby gear, strollers, maternity clothes and a bake sale.

Admission is \$1, cash only, all sales final (no strollers before 10 a.m.). For more information e-mail pcmom@hotmail.com.

Premontessori openings

Plymouth Christian Preschool, a division of Plymouth Christian Academy, has openings for 3-year-olds, 4-year-olds, and young 5-year-olds for the 2010-2011 school year. Check the school's website for information about pre-

school, kindergarten and extended day kindergarten programs are available for children between the ages of 3-6 years old. The school is located at 45245 Joy Road in Canton, and fall classes are scheduled to begin Wednesday, Sept. 8.

In addition to its preschool and kindergarten programs, PCMS provides before and after school day care, and a summer program that includes lots of arts and crafts, in-house presenters, science experiments, dramatic play, cooking, picnics, outdoor time, music, stories and games.

For enrollment information or to schedule a school tour, call (734) 459-1550 or visit www.premontessori.org.

Preschool openings

Plymouth Christian Preschool, a division of Plymouth Christian Academy, has openings for 3-year-olds, 4-year-olds, and young 5-year-olds for the 2010-2011 school year. Check the school's website for information about pre-

school, kindergarten, elementary, or secondary programs, and call the school office to request a tour of the facilities.

Plymouth Christian Academy is located in Canton on Joy Road between Lilley Road and

Morton Taylor/Main Street. For more information, check the website at www.plymouthchristian.org or call (734) 459-3505.

New Morning Openings Full-day kindergarten, half-day kindergarten, and preschool classes have fall openings at New Morning School, located at 14501 Haggerty in Plymouth. Toddlers and their parents are invited to register for the fall Me and My Shadow program at New Morning School. Me and My Shadow is an introductory class for 2-4 year olds and their parents who will participate together in music and finger-play activities, art and discovery projects, and snack and story time, all centered on a seasonal theme. The theme for this session is Fruits and Vegetables.

New Morning School is an independent parent cooperative offering individualized education, multi-age classrooms, a 12:1 student-teacher ratio, and student-directed goal management plans. More information

is available at www.newmorningschool.com. Call (734) 420-3331 with questions or to set up a personal appointment with the admissions director.

Host families

AYUSA International is a non-profit high school foreign exchange student organization which welcome teenagers from more than 65 countries worldwide and provides a host family placement and ongoing supervision for 5- and 10-month academic programs.

These young people look forward to a warm bond of friendship with host families and a rewarding cultural exchange. Host families are asked to provide meals and a bedroom either shared or private. Students pay for all other personal expenses while in the U.S.

For more information, call Sue McGrath, (313) 278-8424.

New school opportunity

Plymouth Children's Nursery will be offering a bilingual English/Spanish program for 4-6 year olds this fall.

This popular co-op school has been in business since 1962 and is now working in partnership with the Bilingual Fun Company to offer an enrichment bilingual program.

Contact: membership@plymouthnursery.org or call (734) 455.6250. Membership applications are available at www.plymouthnursery.org

PLAV recruiting

PLAV Post #166, located at 39375 Amrhein in Livonia (at the corner of Amrhein and Eckles) is seeking veteran members interested in joining a vibrant post, restructuring itself in the 21st century. The Post goal is to have a significant and meaningful impact within the veteran community.

The post meetings are the 2nd Monday of every month at 7:30 p.m., with the exception of July and August, and a light lunch with refreshments follows. Free beverages are provided throughout the meeting's. Those interested in additional information are welcome to call Roger L. Kehrier at (734) 453-2031 or stop in the night of a scheduled meeting.

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PUBLIC SAFETY

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PHOTO GALLERIES
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Fall Festival crafter seeks word on stolen cash box

BY MATT JACHMAN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A strongbox was reported stolen Sunday from a craft booth at the Plymouth Fall Festival, leaving a business owner out some cash and fearful that credit card numbers she had collected from customers could be compromised.

Carol Phillips of Canton Township, who helps people turn digital photographs into more traditional photo displays, such as albums and framed pictures, through a business called Creative Memories, said the cash box was taken shortly after 6 p.m. Sunday as she and other crafters on Union Street were taking apart their booths at the close of the festival.

She had taken a restroom break, her husband had gone to get their car and a teenage daughter was continuing to pack up the booth when the theft occurred, said Phillips, who filed a report with the Plymouth Police Department.

Her daughter had taken her eyes off the box for no more than two minutes, Phillips said, and neighboring crafters didn't report anything unusual.

"Everybody was busy breaking down their own booths," she said.

Phillips estimated she had only \$60 cash in the box, but is apparently more worried that customers who paid by credit card — she thinks there were four — will have their card numbers stolen. Plus, she can't get paid for the credit card sales she made Sunday without the numbers.

Phillips also had in the box about 25 phone numbers from potential customers who may start to wonder why she hasn't called, she said.

"I don't want them to think that's how I do business," she said.

Police Sgt. Jamie Grabowski said police have no leads or new information in the case.



This was how Carol Phillips' Creative Memories booth, at the corner of Union and Penniman, looked during last weekend's Fall Festival. Phillips' cash box was stolen from the booth just after the festival ended Sunday.

Phillips said she enlisted neighboring crafters to help her after the theft was discovered.

"We were climbing into Dumpsters, we were looking into bushes," she said.

Colleen Brown, chairwoman of the Fall Festival committee, said the theft was the first such incident at the Fall Festival in at least 10 years.

"It had to be someone who was looking for that," Brown said. "The opportunity window was very small."

The metal strongbox is brown with a black handle. Phillips said it also contained business cards, a calculator and some small items of merchandise.

The Creative Memories booth was at the corner of Union and Penniman.

Phillips is asking that anyone with information about the box, or who might have seen something suspicious, or who had given her a credit card number on Sunday to call her at (734) 451-9451.

The crime, she said, hasn't soured her on Plymouth or the Fall Festival.

"It's one of the best things about this community," she said. It was Phillips' seventh Fall Festival, she said, and she plans to return next year.

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

Pickup passenger gets pinched for possession

CRIME WATCH

A 21-year-old Canton Township man was arrested on a charge of marijuana possession Saturday night after police were called to a suspicious scene on Postiff Street in Plymouth Township.

Police found suspected marijuana in the truck in which the man was a passenger, and the substance later tested positive for marijuana, according to a Plymouth Township Police Department report.

An officer was sent to the area about 10:15 p.m., police said, on a report of two people smoking marijuana in a parked pickup truck. As the officer approached, he spotted the suspected marijuana on the dashboard of the truck, on a folded piece of paper, and the passenger admitted it belonged to him, police said.

The male driver was released at the scene.

Vehicle break-ins

Two cars parked in Plymouth Township were broken into on Friday afternoon, and valuables were reported stolen from each of them.

One incident was in the parking lot of Bally's Total Fitness on Ann Arbor Road, police said. A window on a 2007 Pontiac GS was broken out, a police report said, and a Gucci purse, with a cell phone, debit card and checkbook in it, was reported stolen.

The break-in occurred between about 1:15 p.m. and just before 2 p.m., the victim told police.

Another incident occurred

in a parking lot on Joy Road, police said. A window on a 2008 Audi was broken and a wallet, with cash in it, plus a navigation system were reported stolen, a police report said.

The victim, who was from Lorain, Ohio, told police the break-in occurred between about 1 p.m. and 1:40 p.m.

SUV wheels swiped

All eight tires and wheels were stolen from two nearly identical 2009 GMC Yukon sport-utility vehicles one night last week. The SUVs were parked outside a house on Fellows Creek Drive when the theft occurred between about 1:30 a.m. and 6 a.m. Sept. 8, a police report said.

The lugnuts to the wheels had been left behind, and the SUVs themselves left standing on blocks, police said.

In addition, an Apple i-Pod was reported stolen from one of the Yukons.

Vandalism

Two tires on a 2003 Jeep were slashed in Plymouth Township one night last week. The hood of the Jeep had also been scratched, police said.

The vandalism occurred between about 9 p.m. on Sept. 7 and 6:30 a.m. the next day, the victim told police. The Jeep was parked in the driveway of a house on Bradner Street at the time, police said.

By Matt Jachman

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GREAT OAKS

All about art: Partnership shifts to artist support role

BY BRAD KADRICH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

With its original objective long ago accomplished, the Partnership for the Arts and Humanities spends its time these days transitioning to its new mission: Keeping the arts alive in the local community.

With the Village Theater at Cherry Hill as its centerpiece, the Partnership now focuses on raising money it uses to encourage the development of arts and encourage the growth of the groups trying to do just that.

It's a job the Partnership's new director, Jill Engel, jumped into with both feet.

"Our goal is to foster the arts," said Engel, who left Parisian after some 15 years as a human resources manager to run the Partnership. "We're encouraging arts in the community by providing funds for the artists. When that investment is made in the community, look at all that community can accomplish."

CULTURAL BOOST

The Partnership was formed under the auspices of Canton's Commission for Culture, Arts & Heritage, which was formed in 2003 to get the Village Theater built.

Since the theater opened in fall 2003, the Partnership has moved into more of a fund-raising arm, chiefly to help bolster the groups that make the Village Theater their home. The Partnership has an annual grant program that hands out thousands of dollars to keep arts groups afloat.

In 2009-10, the Partnership handed out \$87,500 in grants; last year it dipped to \$48,275. Recipients included residents groups such as Comic Opera Guild, Spotlight Players, Forever After Productions, the Canton Concert Band, TLC Productions and Orchestra Canton. BeckRidge Chorale and 8th Wonder Theatre company, based out of Eastern



The initial mission of the Partnership for the Arts and Humanities was to get the Village Theater at Cherry Hill built.

HOW TO HELP

Local residents have an opportunity to join the Partnership for the Arts and Humanities 8 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 16, at 8 p.m. for Blackthorn in concert at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill. Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased online at CantonVillageTheater.org or by calling (734) 394-5300. All proceeds from this performance will benefit the Partnership for the Arts and Humanities. This is local dollars staying local and encouraging the development of the arts in the greater Canton community.

Anyone interested in simply making a gift to the Partnership for the Arts and Humanities, can go to www.partnershipforarts.org to donate online or send your donation to P.O. Box 871722, Canton, MI 48187-9998. The Partnership for the Arts and Humanities is a registered 501(c)3 organization.

Michigan University, also received grant money.

It's a tough job. When the Partnership was raising money to get the theater built, potential donors could see what the goal was: A project they'd be able to see and feel. Raising money for something as abstract as arts groups is a little tougher, according to Jennifer Tobin, executive director of the Village Theater.

"People got it, it was brick and mortar. They can touch and feel it," Tobin said. "Now (the Partnership is) into a fund-raising phase that's nebulous. You can't touch it, you can't feel it. It's to help with marketing."

It's also to help with other areas. Tobin told a story of a

group wanting to put on Peter Pan, and needing help making "Peter" fly. A Partnership grant made that happen.

"They paid for a company to come in and fly Peter Pan," Tobin said. "It's challenging, but it's great when you have a place you can do that. But you have to do it with a professional company who knows what they're doing. You can't just have dads, as much as they want to be, pulling the ropes."

HOW TO HELP

There are a variety of ways to help, Engel pointed out. Donations can be given to the Partnership for the Arts & Humanities Society, there are chances to be theater group,



The Spotlight Players, a beneficiary of a Partnership for the Arts & Humanities grant, presents 'Kiss Me Kate' at the Village Theater Sept. 17-19 and Sept. 24-26.

program and event sponsors, donations can be made to educational grants.

A grant allowed the Partnership, theater management and organizers for the various artists' groups to participate in a retreat recently, hosted at the theater to talk about working together, how each group can benefit. The Partnership was part of that discussion, and Tobin expects them to continue to be a driving force in arts awareness.

"When any organization starts out, you think you're one thing, and then you find out things you should be doing," Tobin said. "You get pushed and pulled in a lot of directions. But I think (the Partnership) is coming into its own. The beauty is any money given to them, very little of it stays with them. Everything else is put back out to work in the community."

It's all about keeping the arts

thriving in the community.

"I'm excited about being able to expand the amount of arts in the community," said Engel, who graduated from Canton High School, along with husband Frank, in 1987. "The more we invest in the community, the more it's going to continue to grow. People are going to want to come to Canton. They're going to want to be a part of what we're doing."

With the theater built and thriving, Engel said the Partnership's focus will remain now on the artists who come into town.

"Now that the theater is completed, and we're assisting the artists, we want to expand that even more," she said. "We want to make sure this isn't forgotten, and that it continues to grow even further."

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Jill Engel is the new director of the Partnership for the Arts & Humanities, charged with heightening awareness of the arts in the local community.

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Taylor Meadows, 6 years old, has a good view of Fall Festival on her dad's shoulders. Jim Meadows brought daughters Taylor and nine year old Kendall to the festival on Sunday afternoon.



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The Rotary Chicken Barbecue brings a good Sunday afternoon crowd.



High School volunteers April Olinger and Aaron Freeling took a break from working the barbecue to enjoy chicken dinners.



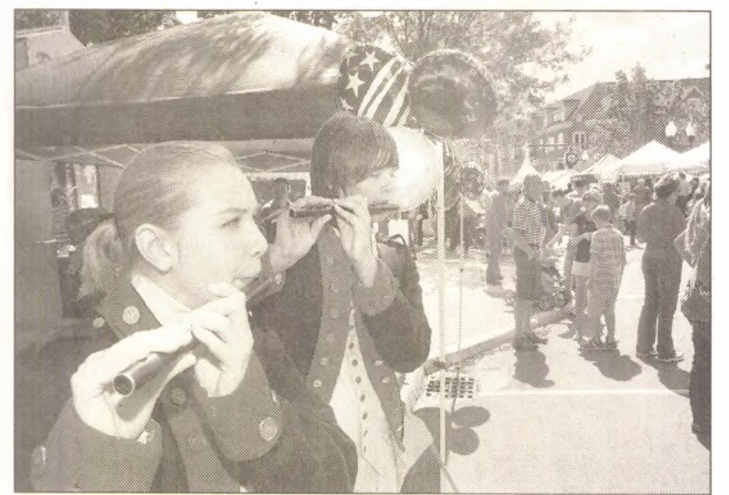
The Bump is Back. Laurie Finch and Jonas Borenstein dance hard enough to burn off several Rotary chicken dinners. They are from Ann Arbor.



Nick Agostini and Dale Yagiela unload Rotary chicken from the grill.



Midwest Tae Kwon Do entertains on Sunday afternoon.



Danielle Stephens and Robbie Holmes play to attract customers to the Plymouth Fife and Drum Corps booth where roasted almonds are for sale.

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FALL FEST

FROM PAGE A1

cover some of the loss, she said, and the Rotary improvised by opening the Odd Fellows Hall about a block away, where volunteers were cooking, for diners.

"It was nice and warm, smelled great and it had a television set, so they were able to watch the Michigan-Notre Dame game," said Rosevear. A few, she added, braved the cold and damp in the Rotary tent at Kellogg Park.

Dinner proceeds haven't been totaled, but with the labor and many of the supplies donated, Rosevear expects the event will end up in the black. The fund-raiser was also helped by advance ticket sales, she said.

"We'll be back next year," she said.

There was one crime reported at Fall Festival, the theft of a cash box from a crafters' booth. It was the first incident of that kind at Fall Festival in at least 10 years, Brown said.

There were no medical emergencies and only a few "bumps and bruises" that needed to be tended to, she said.

The Fall Festival, which began as an annual picnic in the 1950s, provides a venue for community groups, service clubs, neighborhood groups and others to raise money and pitch their organizations.

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The first debate?

Snyder shares his Town Hall meeting with Bernero

BY LEANNE ROGERS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The question of debate or no debate in the gubernatorial race got answered Monday in Westland as Republican candidate Rick Snyder's town hall meeting became a bipartisan event with the addition of Democrat Virg Bernero.

Snyder's camp — and pretty much everyone attending the event at Hawthorne Valley Country Club — were surprised when Bernero arrived to deliver a letter asking his opponent to meet for coffee to discuss scheduling debates. Snyder surprised Bernero and the partisan audience by inviting the Lansing Democrat to join him speaking to the crowd of about 100.

It was a cordial meeting of the candidates — Snyder quieted some rumbblings from the audience as Bernero was speaking.

During his comments, Snyder kept his focus on his goals and plans to reinvent Michigan.

"The reason we are all here tonight is that we love Michigan — we all care. Michigan is suffering. It's not the time to dwell on negatives and can we fix this or that," said Snyder. "Our one chance is to reinvent Michigan. I'm using the framework for success that I've used all of my life."

Part of that framework is a vision that identifies where point B is located, plan of action to go from point A to B and taking positive measurable action, Snyder said.

IN AGREEMENT

Both candidates agree on the need for more and better jobs in the state. While Snyder focuses on his private sector background, former legislator and current Lansing Mayor Bernero cites his success attracting employers and jobs to Lansing.

"My father came here from Italy in

1948. He risked everything for the dream of something better — the American Dream in Michigan. I want that opportunity again," said Bernero. "That is in jeopardy. We can do better. We laid out the red carpet, not red tape, for business in Lansing."

In five years as Lansing mayor, Bernero said he had been able to balance the city's budget — something running mate and Southfield Mayor Brenda Lawrence has done for nine years.

The candidates answered questions about how to deal with a state corrections budget that has higher funding than public education, decreasing property values and property taxes.

The last question of the town hall came from Westland resident Beverly Smith, a self-described lifelong Democrat who voted for Snyder during the primary. Noting the governor can't fire legislators, Smith asked how the candidates would build a team to work for the betterment of the state.

"Regardless of the party label, campaigning is a personal sacrifice. All of the legislature is well-intentioned and trying to make a difference," said Snyder. "We need partners with a vision for the state."

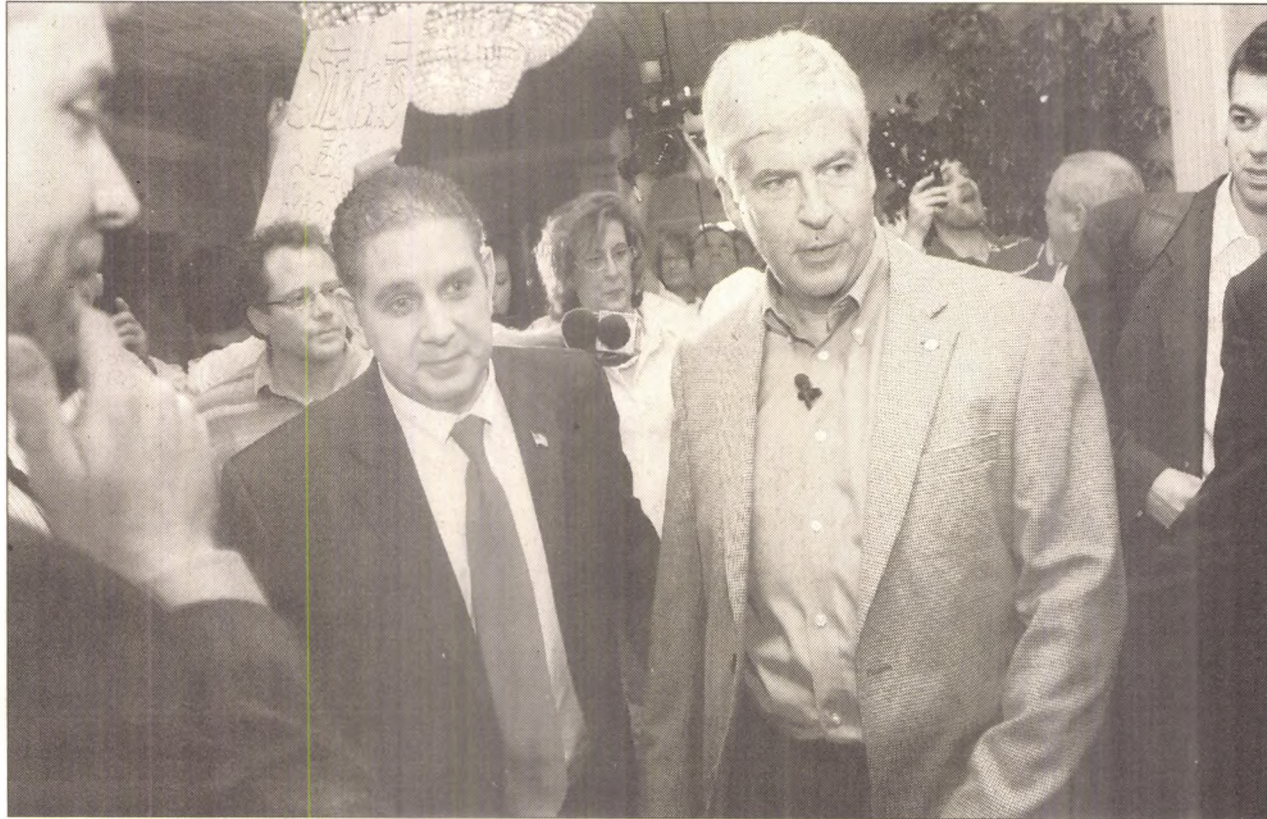
Bernero cited his legislative experience working closely with Republican colleagues, adding that he serves as a nonpartisan elected official as mayor.

"We (he and Snyder) are not bitter enemies, nor should we be. I hope we can do more of these and that they will be just as civilized," Bernero said.

SUPPORTERS SPEAK

Working in human resources at the University of Michigan, Smith said she is tired of partisan political bickering and that part of Snyder's message was attractive.

"I thought it was very generous of him (Snyder) to invite him (Bernero) to speak. I had not heard Bernero speak before," said Smith, whose sup-



Democratic gubernatorial candidate Virg Bernero and his Republican challenger Rick Snyder shared the stage at what had started out to be a town hall meeting for Snyder at Hawthorne Valley Country Club in Westland.



Rick Snyder talks about his vision for reinventing Michigan, if he's elected governor.



Republican candidate for lieutenant governor State Rep. Brian Calley (R-Portland) addressed the audience at gubernatorial candidate Rick Snyder's town hall meeting in Westland.

port for Snyder wasn't changed by the meeting. "Snyder is putting his money where his mouth is — we've had career politicians."

Garden City resident Jim Rhoades had a specific area of interest he wanted addressed by Snyder — motorcycle issues.

"I know Bernero supports us," said Rhoades, a Republican and legislative director for ABATE (American Bikers Aiming Toward Education).

A self-described conservative and

Republican, Westland resident Phil Solarz said he came to the town hall meeting already supporting Snyder.

"I didn't get a lot of information about him before at the state convention," said Solarz, who was elected as precinct chairman at the Republican convention. "I want to see what he is all about. I hope he can keep things going and bring down spending and taxes. We need to get jobs in the state — we've lost too many."

Having already decided to support

Snyder, Northville resident Cheryl Nothnagel said she came to town hall meeting to get more information.

"This was a great opportunity. I'm pretty much politically active. I've worked on a bunch of campaigns myself," she said. "I'm a Realtor. A lot of what goes on in the state affects us. We need more jobs."

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All bids should include 2 copies (1 original, 1 copy) of the Proposal Pricing Form (Section 00300) and the Proposal Execution Form (Section 00400). The Proposal Execution Form provides a space for the bidder to disclose any familial relationship as required by the State of Michigan and this form must be signed and notarized in order for the bid to be accepted.

There will be a pre-bid meeting at 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 21, 2010 in the Salem High School construction trailer, located at 46181 Joy Road, Canton, MI 48187. The purpose of the meeting will be to review the bidding requirements, schedule, project scopes of work, and to answer any question that bidders may have. Bidders are strongly encouraged to attend.

Any and all questions in regards to the bidding or the Bid Package Documents should be addressed in writing to the Construction Manager, McCarthy & Smith Inc. Questions or clarifications will be promptly answered and returned to the bidder/bidders.

The Board of Education for the Plymouth Canton Community Schools reserves the right to accept and/or reject all bids, as they judge to be in the best interest of the school district.

This project is to be bid and the work performed at the Prevailing Wage Rates.

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

Publish: September 16 and 23, 2010

OE08713961 2x11

Library 'Check Out' program provides business savings

Visiting the Canton Public Library could save you 20 percent on carpet cleaning. Or get you a discount on a facial, thanks to the just-launched Check Out Canton program.

A partnership between the Canton Economic Development office and the Canton Public Library, Check Out Canton

connects local businesses with library users in a unique way.

Local businesses supply special offers that can be checked out from the library with a library card. Library patrons use the passes to save on goods and services throughout Canton, including a buy one, get one free ticket from the

Village Theater at Cherry Hill, savings on catering, carpet cleaning, veterinary care and more.

To see the current offers and availability, search the online library catalog at <http://catalog.cantonpl.org> for "Check Out Canton."

"This program works much the same as the Museum Adventure Pass program," said library director Eva Davis. "We are very happy to support local business in this way and give our patrons some additional savings."

"This is a great partnership that helps promote the library

as a great business resource and introduce businesses to residents," according to Deb Bilbrey-Honsowetz, Canton Economic Development Manager. "It's another advantage to locating your business in Canton and helps drive the local economy."

Look for passes in the Check Out Canton rack, then take the pass to the Checkout Desk to receive a voucher. The voucher is good for the terms and conditions of the offer. Businesses interested in participating can contact the Canton Economic Development Office at (734) 394-5182.

NOTICE OF SALE

MAYFLOWER TOWING

The following vehicles will be sold at Public Auction for cash to satisfy lien pursuant to F.S. 713.78 on September 23, 2010 at 10:00 a.m.

			5760 Belleville Rd. Canton, MI 48188 734-397-3560
2001	Chrysler	300M	2C3HE66G91H566803
1992	Plymouth	Voyager	ZP4GH258NR545806
1987	Infiniti	I30	JNKCA21D8VT500631
1995	Volkswagen	Jetta III GI/Jetta	3VWRA81H2SM008928
1995	Ford	Contour GI	1FALP6532SK211566
1996	Pontiac	Grand Am SE	1G2NE5277TC751969
1996	Ford	Contour GI/Sport Boat & Trailer	1FALP6530TK149439 ARWVA0841176
1996	Buick	Park Avenue	1G4CW52K8TH616411

Publish: September 16, 2010

OE08713912-23

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We're taking small steps to make our publications more eco-friendly by using soy-based inks, recycled paper and local printers that "print on demand" to reduce waste and unnecessary travel.

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Recycle

Remember to do your part. The paper industry is aiming to reach 60 percent recycling by 2012.*

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*www.afandpa.org/sustainability.aspx (How We Meet our Commitment)



ANN ESPINOZA

The Plymouth Kiwanis Club kept the griddle hopping at Saturday's annual Pancake Breakfast.



ANN ESPINOZA

Dancing was on the agenda Saturday during the 55th annual Plymouth Fall Festival.

Festival rain provides charity bright spot

In a festival highlighted by food, it was a rain sandwich delivered by Mother Nature that had the biggest impact on last weekend's 55th annual Fall Festival.

The festival opened to a cool, sunny weather on Friday, and closed with a nice day on Sunday.

In between, however, rain dampened Saturday's middle day of the three-day festival.

On the other hand, the damp weather that kept the crowds down for events like the Rotary Spaghetti dinner had an uplifting effect in other areas. For instance, Rotarians delivered leftover spaghetti meals to Cass Community Social Services. Leftover spaghetti, salads, rolls, etc., were "unexpected and much appreciated," according to Ed Hingelberg, a Plymouth City Commissioner who serves as director of operations for Cass Community Social Services.

"The rain on Saturday certainly dampened all the hard work of the Plymouth A.M. Rotary Club ... Without a doubt, their numbers were down, but where I work spirits were lifted," said Hingelberg, who pointed out Cass Community Social Services has several homeless facilities that provide services and shelter to the less fortunate in Detroit. "All of the left over spaghetti, salads, rolls, etc. was certainly unexpected and much appreciated."

Hingelberg also delivered perishable food supplies from the Noon Rotary Chicken Barbecue.

"The club was glad to know ... nothing would go to waste," he said. "I felt like Santa Claus in September when I pulled up with my van full of Santes much needed items."



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Working the pits is a smoky job for the volunteers at the Fall Festival Rotary Chicken Barbecue.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Nine-year-old Clare Barrette enjoys an ear of corn with her chicken dinner. Clare, her 6-year-old brother Ian, mom Kathy Barrette and dad Terry Barrette are from Plymouth.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Scarecrow Christina Carnevale towers over Fall Festival.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

At 1:25 p.m. Barb Jones marks the tote board as the 7,025th chicken hits the grill.



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

Brad Kadrich,
Community Editor
Susan Rosiek,
Executive Editor
Grace Perry,
Director of Advertising

OUR VIEWS

Fresh start Put health at top of school year to-do list

School is back in session and kids are spending more time sitting at their desks; sitting at their computers; sitting at the kitchen table doing homework or sitting in their rooms, reading.

While this is a good thing, academically speaking, it's also a bad thing, health-wise.

Because they're not outside, running around the neighborhoods with their friends, riding bikes to the park, playing catch in the backyard or swimming, they're not getting as much exercise as they do during the summer months. It's really something to think about. Childhood obesity has tripled in the past decade and one in three children is now considered obese or overweight. Not surprising, one-third to one-half of the children born this century will become diabetic at some point during their lives.

In the state of Michigan, 12 percent of middle school children and 15 percent of high school students are considered to be obese.

Now is the perfect time of the year to establish a routine that incorporates exercise on a daily basis. It's also a great time of the year for parents to evaluate food choices in school lunches and at home.

A new school year always brings a new routine for kids and parents — we encourage them to stop and think about their food choices and really try to add a brisk walk, jog or visit to the local gym or pool to the back-to-school routine. Plymouth-Canton food services staff are constantly reviewing the school menu to make sure students have healthy choices; parents should be doing the same at home.

A new school year always brings a new routine for kids and parents — we encourage them to stop and think about their food choices and really try to add a brisk walk, jog or visit to the local gym or pool to the back-to-school routine. Plymouth-Canton food services staff are constantly reviewing the school menu to make sure students have healthy choices; parents should be doing the same at home.

There are all kinds of studies, programs, statistics and plans to help students, parents, workers — anyone, really — available just a mouse click or a phone call away.

Healthy children and families are happy children and families. We encourage people to make sure a daily dose of healthy activity isn't lost among the homework and classwork.

Tea Party case shows parties have too much say on elections

The presumably Democratic-inspired effort to put a faux Tea Party party on Michigan's ballot once again highlights a central flaw in state elections: Political parties run the state's election machinery. Partisan interests, not voter needs, come first in Michigan.

Nowhere is that more obvious than this Tea Party carnival's when the Board of State Canvassers deadlocked 2-2 on whether the Tea Party could appear on the ballot, with the "no" votes coming from the Republican members of the board. The two Democratic members voted "yes."

Now, a citizen with common sense might wonder at the wisdom of stocking a state elections panel on the basis of partisan membership. Wouldn't a partisan have a vested interest in keeping party interests high and competition low? Of course. But Michigan does not score highly for running its elections anyway.

"The first pillar on which a modern electoral system must build is the establishment by statute of an independent, non-partisan, professional election commission in each state," argues a 2009 report from the Center for Democracy and Election Management. Yet, this report noted that Michigan not only does not have an independent board, but also operates its elections under a partisan official — the secretary of state.

Far from being concerned with political independence, state law requires the Board of State Canvassers to be split between the two major political parties: The "state central committee of each major political party shall submit to the governor the names of three individuals as nominees for each position that is up for reappointment that the major political party is entitled to" on the board.

There you have it, voters, the Democratic and Republican parties are "entitled to" positions running Michigan elections. If that isn't a direct conflict of interest, what is?

On Sept. 3, the Michigan Supreme Court ruled (5-2) that the mysterious Tea Party will not appear on Michigan's ballot in November, but out state's system of managing elections already stands convicted of excessive partisanship.

COMMUNITY VOICE

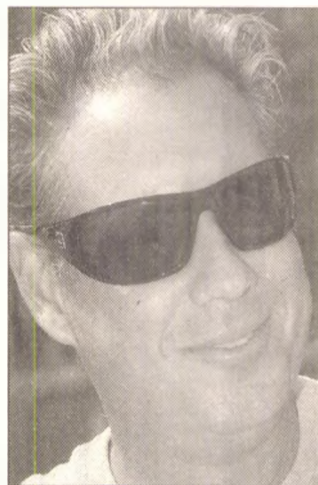
What is the biggest issue Michigan's new governor will face when he takes office, and why?

We asked this question outside the U.S. Postal Service station on Penniman in downtown Plymouth.



"Jobs, I'm guessing. Because of the unemployment in Michigan."

Vickie Comai
Canton Township



"You're kidding. Jobs, right?"

Don Miscovich
Novi



"Jobs. Our unemployment rate is, what, 15 or 14 percent?"

Ed Chrasz
Canton Township



"Probably the budget, just 'cause it's out of whack."

John Bills
Plymouth Township

LETTERS

Eye-opening link

As students head back to school, parents in school districts across the nation are once again paying attention to the funding of their child's education. The lack of funding in our state continues to result in larger class sizes, elimination of or cutting back of services and increases in activity fees. It is amazing our district does so well and scores so highly in the education of our students with the continuing cut-backs from state funding.

In her efforts to operate under the umbrella of transparency, Gov. Granholm has mandated that all public school districts in the state publish their budgets on their district's website. This isn't something that has been made very public, however, and most people have no idea they can easily garner this information.

Simply go to the district website, find the world globe icon and click on. There you will be able to see the salary schedules, benefits and contracts for all school employee groups from administration to teaching staff, transportation, maintenance, food service, paraprofessionals, athletics, etc.

Interesting things to see here in Plymouth-Canton: Did you know that a special education parapro who has to medically catheterize a student makes a top pay of \$11.90/hr. (with an additional annual stipend of \$357) or that the superintendent's salary is \$231,000 (with an annual annuity of \$17,500)? Of course, employee costs are not just salary but may include medical insurance, uniform stipend, car allowance, etc.

It behooves each of us to know all we can about school funding as well as school expenditures and to offer suggestions and support as we feel necessary.

Check out the link on the district's website. It could be a real eye-opener.

Cindy Bastion
Canton

Supports Wadsworth

Joan Wadsworth is my favorite local leadership role model. Over her many years of service to the community, I have observed that she always listens, does her homework, handles stressful situations

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

We welcome your Letter to the Editor. Please include your name, address and phone number for verification. We ask your letters be 400 words or less. We may edit for clarity, space and content. Submit letters via the following formats

E-mail: bkadrich@hometownlife.com.

Read or comment online:
www.hometownlife.com

Deadline: Letters must be received by 10 a.m. Monday to be published in the Thursday edition.

Blog: You may also let your opinions be heard with your own blog at www.hometownlife.com.

calmly, appreciates input from everyone, and accepts responsibility.

Joan Wadsworth is a strong advocate for education. Through her school board experience, she has gained firsthand knowledge of the issues and keen insight into how best to resolve the challenges facing public education today.

Joan Wadsworth's role serving the community has been recognized repeatedly. She gets things done.

For all these reasons, I strongly urge voters in Northville, Plymouth, Canton and Wayne to elect Joan Wadsworth on Nov. 2 to serve the 20th District in the Michigan House of Representatives.

Steve Mihalik
Northville

Arts success

The Canton Commission for Culture, Arts and Heritage was recently briefed on the progress that the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools has made in developing a comprehensive arts curriculum for visual and performing arts throughout the system. We are amazed how quickly and efficiently the entire system has integrated a plan that touches kindergarten through graduating seniors.

One of our active commission members, Tim Schoenherr, who is the Visual & Performing Arts coordinator at PCCS, delivered the briefing. Tim was the first person to hold this position for the district and, with his leadership, our community has enjoyed significant growth and development of the program. It now delivers higher standards and more measurable results.

While teachers coordinated the overall program with the guidance of Mr. Schoenherr, they also benefited through his relationship with the Canton Commission for Culture, Arts and Heritage. Mr. Schoenherr was able to connect the schools to even more community resources. They now collaborate with several activities hosted at The Village Theater. Some of these initiatives and events have gained not only Canton Township support but additional funding from The Partnership for Arts & Humanities, a local nonprofit fundraising organization. Another proof point of success is the start up of their very own PCCS Fine Art Show that displays artwork to over 4,000 people annually.

With proven evidence that creative minds generate a positive economic impact on communities, the further development of a visual and performing arts program in the public school system benefits us all. And, PCCS are ahead in this regard. For the first time this year, the United States Congress designated the third week in September "National Arts in Education Week." Why? Because creative minds developed in school generate new small businesses and new jobs once students graduate.

The Commission for Culture, Arts & Heritage is committed to helping PCCS provide high quality arts and educational experiences. We are grateful that Mr. Schoenherr is an active member of our group and hope others will not only recognize his contribution to our communities but join us in applauding his success.

To learn more about how to get involved with culture, arts or heritage activities in Canton, individuals can go to canton-mi.org or contact me at Obrec@wowway.com.

Linda Obrec, chair
Canton Commission for Culture, Arts and Heritage

Band stories facet of community approach

When I covered sports many years ago for another newspaper, I frequently heard this from readers: "I wish other activities would get the kind of coverage sports gets."

Their point was that "regular" students — kids who are good at math and science, English and art, acting and singing — deserve just as much attention as the kids who score the touchdowns.



Brad Kadrich

They were right, of course, but we were a two-person newspaper staff at the time, and there was only so much two people can do. I remember writing a column to that effect that was quickly killed by our owner, who said, "People don't wanna hear our excuses."

I learned at the feet of the master, my former editor Annette Kingsbury, to keep community in mind, and I've tried to do that since I've been in

Plymouth and Canton.

And that's why the *Observer* recruits and pays a freelance writer, local resident and local *Observer* reader — Diane Hanson — to cover the award-winning, national recognized marching band.

Hanson will (again) be covering the Plymouth-Canton Marching Band for the *Observer Newspapers*. I met Diane in November 1999 when she turned in a story on PCEP's national championship, which they won in my first week on the job. She's done a great job, with great passion for the kids (her children were band kids) and for their achievements.

It's important to have her doing it. Not that the marching band is any more important — or their successes any more newsworthy — than the Science Olympiad or the robotics kids. But that program has drawn national attention to the district, and their reputation precedes them. It's ultimately what earned them their trip to the 2011 Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade in New York.

Her passion for it is amazing, considering it's been five years since her youngest child graduated. When I asked her about doing it again — it'll be her 16th year — she seemed hesitant, at first. I think her brain was saying, "No, I've got other things to do." But her heart was telling her, "Blah, blah, blah." To her heart, Diane's brain likely sounded like Charlie Brown's teacher in the old Peanuts cartoons. Her love for the kids, for the band, trumped the busy-ness of her schedule.

And Diane's passion for making sure the kids get the recognition they deserve matches our desire to present the achievements of as many of the people in our area as possible. That is, after all, our job.

It's a job we take seriously and, with people like Diane Hanson, it's a job we do better than anyone.

Brad Kadrich is community editor of the Plymouth and Canton Observers. He can be reached via e-mail at bkadrich@hometownlife.com or by phone at (313) 222-8899.

Batteries included: A123 Systems hires 300 workers

BY KEN ABRAMCZYK
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A123 Systems officially opened Monday with a tour for a congressional delegation and members of the news media of part of its 291,000-square-foot lithium ion battery production facility in Livonia.

A123's facility brings 300 new jobs to Livonia. Company officials said half of the employees hired had been laid off from their previous jobs.

Located in a building that once housed Technicolor Videocassettes at 39000 W. Seven Mile, the plant will manufacture prismatic cells and systems. The factory is designed to enable the complete production process, including research and development, manufacturing of high-value components, cell fabrication, module fabrication and the final assembly of complete battery packs ready for vehicle integration.

ASSEMBLY REQUIRED

Reporters viewed the battery cell and pack manufacturing assembly lines in what the company called "precisely controlled clean rooms." The facility has the capacity to produce 1 million cells a month, enough for 30,000 electric vehicles a year, according to Jason Forcier,

vice president of Automotive Solutions Group.

The facility had been vacant about 10 years, Forcier said.

Forcier discussed the production process with reporters. The battery cells are aged for 14 to 28 days, to check for deterioration and electrical shorts, which occur from small particles. That quality control check is an industry standard, Forcier said.

The batteries are expected to last 10 years and 3,000 cycles or charges. About 95 percent of the battery is recyclable.

Current electric batteries add about \$10,000 to the cost of a hybrid vehicle, Forcier said, but company officials believe as production increases, costs will fall and that may be cut to about half in three to five years.

Daimler has expressed interest in A123's batteries and GM is also talking with the company about possible production, company officials said. GM's first electric car, the Chevy Volt, has a price of about \$41,000.

Heavy duty trucks will receive the first electric batteries because of the low mileage those vehicles traditionally get.

BRINGING JOBS BACK

David Vieau, CEO of A123 Systems said the electrodes, a small pack of the actual

battery cell, will be built in Romulus. "Today it is built in China, but it will be built in Romulus in two months," Vieau said. Vieau said the technology is already being used in single deck buses and earth-moving equipment.

A123's list of customers includes BAE, Eaton, Fisker, Navistar, Shanghai Automotive Industry Corporation (SAIC) and other global automakers and heavy-vehicle manufacturers.

U.S. Secretary of Energy Steven Chu said there is a market in transportation for electric batteries and that electric batteries will reduce the U.S. dependence on foreign oil. Chu added that a "major overhaul" of the energy grid will be needed. When asked what that would cost, he said energy peak usage and how best to store energy locally would need study. He used winds generating electricity at night as an example. "We have to understand how to regulate the voltage," Chu said. That may require investments in high voltage electronics, he said.

Forcier said the company looked at its infrastructure and power requirements when deciding on the Livonia facility.

kabramcz@hometownlife.com
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Share your good news, win dinner at Buddy's

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers and Buddy's Pizza present "Good News, Good Chews!"

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Tell us about that special event, person or group effort that made you smile and feel good. Tell us about the good things going on in your community and we'll share them with readers.

To top it off, you could win a scrumptious meal for four at Buddy's.

Marcy Brontman and Michelle Lawton of Buddy's along with O&E editors will select one overall winner each month (through 2011) to enjoy a special meal at Buddy's.

"Some-times just reading a good news story can simply inspire and make you remember that it's the little things in life that are still important," said Brontman, of Buddy's public relations and special promotions.

E-mail your good news story (include a photograph) to: good-news@hometownlife.com.

Tell us your story in 150 words or less (attach photos in a jpg format as large as possible and be sure to identify everyone in the photo).

Deadline is the last day of each month.

Buddy's Pizza was established in 1936 on the corner of Conant and Six Mile as a neighborhood tavern. It was not until 1946 that Buddy's introduced its famous square pizza — the first of its kind — to Detroit. It was as the Buddy's official website states: "love at first bite."

Buddy's dine-in locations are: Auburn Hills, Dearborn, Detroit (the original Buddy's), Farmington Hills, Detroit/Grosse Pointe, Livonia and Warren. Carry-out locations are Bloomfield Township and Royal Oak.

Think beyond tax implications with finances

Recently returned from speaking at a retirement seminar and the question that came up the most was taxes and tax policy. It never ceases to amaze me that as a society we have a fixation on taxes. I don't mean that as a bad thing, but I question whether all the emphasis on taxes does more harm than good.



Money Matters

Rick Bloom

I have been in the financial world a quarter-century and I've always taken the view that when it comes to taxes "being smart" with them should be an investor's goal.

In our tax system, the more money you make, the more money you pay in taxes. I believe the most important number to focus on is not what you pay in taxes, but rather what ends up in your pocket.

The way tax laws are designed, as one makes more money his/her bracket goes up. However, no matter what bracket if you make more money you still net more money, no matter if you are thrown into a higher tax bracket or not.

The problem I have is people fixated on taxes are focused on the wrong number. The focus should always be on what ends up in your pocket.

I've always wondered why people get involved in lousy investment vehicles such as

variable annuities and limited partnerships. For the great majority of people these types of investments make no sense yet many get involved because these vehicles are touted as tax shelters. The problem with most tax shelters is not that they don't lower your taxes, because many of them do. However, they lower taxes because you make less money.

I believe most investors would find that if they avoided some of these gimmicky tax shelters they may pay a little more in taxes but they would have more money in their pocket — exactly where it belongs.

If you want to fool people about investing, you focus on taxes. It's the number one way to take advantage of an investor. Whether you deal with a

financial advisor or a financial salesperson, if the main focus is reducing your taxes as opposed to making more money, you'll know that you're dealing with the wrong person.

As 2010 winds down, many people will do some year-end tax planning. I encourage readers to always focus on the financial aspect of the transaction as opposed to the tax consequences. If something does not make sense financially, no matter what the tax consequences, the transaction still makes no sense.

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

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Salem spikers finish job, hammer South Lyon

BY TIM SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Salem varsity volleyball coach Amanda Nies didn't want Tuesday night's KLAA Central contest against South Lyon to turn into another tough loss — which was the case last week — against Canton.

The Rocks won the first two games against the visiting Lions, by comfortable margins of 25-17 and 25-15. But they stumbled in Game 3, losing 25-27. Nies then conferred with her players between Games 3-4 to nip any South Lyon comeback in the bud. The result

was a decisive 25-13 win to earn a 3-1 match victory and improve to 4-3-0 overall and 1-0-0 in the KLAA Central.

"Against Canton, we had problems with finishing the matches," Nies said. "So I told them in the huddle to get it together right away."

Kerry MacDonald took the lead, reeling off four aces among five points to start the game, serving up lasers too hot to handle. MacDonald also sparked the offense from other spots on the floor, tallying 54 assists.

"With that kind of cushion, it's hard to come back in a rally game," Nies said. "Their serve receive started

breaking down and they couldn't get their big hitters going. That makes it real easy for us."

HARD TO HANDLE

Then it was Kerstin Johnson's time at the serving stripe, and she went off on a six-point scoring binge to make it a 13-3 Salem advantage.

According to Nies, when a player goes on a serving streak, it puts opposing players on their heels.

"It becomes mental big time, not wanting (the ball) to come to them," Nies said. "(Johnson and MacDonald) really did a great job serving today. We

work on serving aggressive a lot."

South Lyon head coach Mindy Collins, whose team finally lost (the Lions are 6-1-0 and 0-1-0 in the Central), blamed off-target passing more than anything for the defeat.

"We played this weekend and passed wonderfully and won the (Dexter) tournament and then we come in here today and couldn't pass the ball," Collins said. "It took us out of our rotations and it didn't allow us to have two options on the ball at all times, which we need to be a successful team."

Please see **VOLLEYBALL, B2**

SIDELINES

Captain's Corner

Once again, the Observer will spotlight captains of prep sports teams, particularly those with a strong take on the importance of leadership.

If coaches of Canton, Plymouth, Salem and Plymouth Christian teams would like to suggest someone to be highlighted (one per team, please), send an e-mail to sports editor Tim Smith, tsmith@hometownlife.com.

Valerio-Pinnacle first

The Mike Valerio/Pinnacle over-50 men's softball team captured the Senior Softball USA Northern Regional, Aug. 27-29, in Lansing to qualify for the SSUSA World Tournament, Oct. 22-25, in Phoenix, Ariz., and SSUSA Tournament of Champions, Feb. 11-13, in Lakeland, Fla.

Valerio/Pinnacle finished undefeated in the winner's bracket before losing to the Detroit Jags, 25-24, in the championship round before rebounding to beat the Jags for the title, 19-16.

All-Tournament selections included Allen Park's Mike McLellan, who batted .864, Livonia's Chuck Uhlinger, .720; Canton's Dave Jacek, .765; Trenton's Eddie Karras, .692 with six homers; and Allen Park's Bruce Antioch, .615.

Other team members included manager Mike Valerio (.737); Mike Rieber (.684); John Henderson (.655); Dave Jaska (.625); Dan Fritz (.571); Brian Koppin (.538); Paul Agosta (.500); and Paul Neilson (.714).

MU harriers fifth

The Madonna University women's cross country team placed fifth out of six teams in the 24th annual Running Fit-Detroit Titan Cross Country Invitational Saturday at Cass Benton Park in Northville.

Wayne State captured the team title with 30 points, followed by Front Line Racing (39). MU was fifth with 131.

Front Line Racing's Angela Matthews (Lutheran High Westland) was the individual winner in 18 minutes, 13 seconds (5,000 meters). Former Livonia Stevenson standouts Lisa and Linda Montgomery, also of Front Line, took third and 13th, respectively, in 18:57 and 19:53.

Sarah Sherwood (Salem) was seventh for MU in 19:12, followed by Emily Bambach (Livonia Ladywood), 33rd (21:47); Inta Grinvalds, 34th (21:48); Cassie Yarnall, 37th (22:22); Devan Walley (Livonia Franklin), 55th (27:17).

Maddy LaFave led Schoolcraft College in 39th (22:37), followed Tera Bean, 41st (23:00) and Sally L'Esperance, 53rd (25:54).

In the men's four-mile race, Tim Boes (Westland John Glenn) was MU's top finisher in 51st (22:45); Nick Brubaker, 55th (22:57); Dan Pratt, 69th (23:44); and Luke Mion, 82nd (24:55).

Schoolcraft College got a 67th from Mark Freyberg (Livonia Churchill) in 23:34. Andrew Belt and Scott Howse (Churchill) took 85th and 86th in 25:21 and 25:38, respectively.

Chiefs romp to big division win

BY TIM SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Canton will try to get on a roll over KLAA South boys soccer rivals, beginning with Tuesday night's 8-0 shellacking over host Westland John Glenn. The Chiefs welcome division foe Livonia Franklin on Thursday in hopes of keeping the momentum going.

It was all Canton Tuesday as some usual contributors and pleasant surprises combined talents for the state-ranked Chiefs, who upped their record to 7-2-1 overall and 2-1-0 in the KLAA South.

Junior forward Mitch Posuniak again was in the scoring mix, with two goals and an assist. Also having a big night was senior Kyle Krause, who tallied the first goal of his varsity career (assisted by sophomore Bobby Budlong).

Other Canton goals were collected by Budlong (from Posuniak), junior Bryan Ren on an unassisted effort, senior Sean Balnaves on a penalty shot (for his first of the year), junior Nathan Bergeson (from senior

Senior Night is a winner, B2.

Connor Furgason) and sophomore Scott Piwowar, who took a feed from senior Garrett Derian-Toth and beat the John Glenn goalkeeper.

Sophomores Connor Shennan and Dan Ovesea also drew assists, each setting up one of Posuniak's goals.

Splitting goalkeeping chores for the Chiefs were seniors Brandon Laabs and Garren Carr.

Salem coasts to win

Another Plymouth-Canton Educational Park boys soccer team had a big offensive night on Tuesday as Salem routed visiting South Lyon East, 7-0.

Dan Martin's three goals paced the Rocks to the KLAA Central triumph while Brandon Barfuss chipped in with two goals. Helping the cause with single tallies were Colin Rooney and Chris Ensor.

Salem improved to 4-3-3 overall and 2-1-0 in the KLAA Central while South Lyon East dropped to 1-6-0, 0-3-0.



In full pursuit of the ball during Tuesday afternoon's KLAA South boys soccer match are Canton's Daniel Ovesea (left) and Westland John Glenn's Jimmy Merdani.

Power of the pack: Salem girls capture KLAA Invitational

BY TIM SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER



Right in the thick of things during Saturday's KLAA Invitational at Willow Metropark is Salem freshman Kayla Kavulich (No. 504), who finished sixth overall.

In the case of Salem's girls cross country team, packing it in is a good thing.

Consider Saturday's KLAA Invitational at Willow Metropark. The host Rocks won their first meet of the season with 81 points, besting Livonia Franklin (101) and Livonia Churchill (107).

Meanwhile, placing seventh out of 11 teams with 139 points was Canton, led by Bianca Kubicki (10th, 19.39.07) and Emily Southern (17th, 21:34.93).

But what really did it for Salem was having runners crack the 21-minute mark, including those finishing from 24th through 29th place.

"Pack running is always a big key, something we really try to teach," said Salem head coach Dave Gerlach, who lost just one varsity runner from the 2009 squad that won the KLAA and finished eighth in Division 1. "We had nine kids under 21 minutes, which is incredible."

Leading the pack were freshman Kayla Kavulich (sixth overall, 19-minutes, 14.3 seconds), sophomore Shannon Flynn (12th, 19:58.2) and senior Victoria Tripp, who despite feeling under the weather registered a 14th-best time of 20:12.1. All three won medals (as did Canton's Kubicki and Southern).

"They're two young kids, Kayla being a freshman and Shannon a sophomore," Gerlach said. "They really stepped up and as a 1-2 punch there,

KLAA Invite stats and more, B3.

it really helped us and was a huge key to our victory.

"Anytime you can have a front runner and a No. 2 step up like that and run that well, break 20 minutes this early in the season, and score you low points, that's stuff that can help you."

RUNNING TOGETHER

The Salem girls in places 24-29 were separated by just over 15 seconds. Those included Autumn Burin (20:41.2), Kara Booms (20:43.1), Emily Bizon (20:45.8), Madison Goodpasture (20:46.5), Alejandra Beltran (20:53.7) and Adrianna Beltran (20:56.6).

Another plus was being able to bounce back after a bit of a slow start.

"They fought through a tough start (of the race)," he continued, "but really made up a lot of ground up in the middle mile to put ourselves back in the hunt."

"I was very proud of these girls today and how hard they competed."

Gerlach said the invitational victory is a good sign that his team heeded his advice to not fall into a trap of complacency after last year's success.

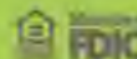
"With last years successes we knew that there was a target on our back and we wanted to come out strong," he said. "Victory makes you vulnerable and we did not want to rest on those past successes."



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VOLLEYBALL

FROM PAGE B1

SCOUTING REPORT

One player who had plenty of success for South Lyon was 6-4 sophomore middle blocker Chloe Reinig, a teammate of Salem senior stalwart Nicole Merget in club volleyball.

Reinig tallied 17 kills, 14 defensive digs and four blocks while the Rocks' 6-3 Merget — who played both middle blocker and outside hitter — helped her squad with 16 kills.

"I knew that we had to have a strong block against her because she's a really strong hitter," said Merget, about Reinig. "I basically told the girls that we just had to be prepared, be on the line, make sure we're digging everything and we have our hands up. Be ready to block."

But it seemed as though the Lions stopped potential surges because of bad serving or other shots that missed the Salem side of the court.

The Lions also had to deal with Salem's crisp serve receive and a hard-working defense spearheaded by junior libero Katie Vincent (10 digs in her first starting assignment) and defensive specialist Madeleine Vala (14 digs) among others.

"She (Vincent) did a great job for us defensively," Nies added. "Just calm, she brings a lot of calmness to the floor. You wouldn't have thought that this was her first match."

Other contributors for Salem included Jillian Sommerville (eight kills, three blocks), Alli Morrison (nine digs), Abigail Dworzanin (seven digs) and Johnson (seven digs along with seven aces).

For South Lyon, Alicia Kalik (37 assists, three aces) and Lyndsay Tyler (nine kills) drew praise from Collins.

THE NIGHT IN REVIEW

The opening game was a back-and-forth affair through the midway point. It was 13-12 Salem, but the Rocks gradually pulled away.

A sneaky tip in the front row by MacDonald (who faked a pass first) helped Salem build



JOHN KEMSKI

Jillian Sommerville of Salem watches after hammering the volleyball over the net. She had eight kills and three blocks Tuesday during a win over South Lyon.

a 19-15 cushion and two-point serving runs by Lauren Aschermann and MacDonald finished the job.

MacDonald and Johnson combined their serving abilities to push the Lions into a 9-4 hole in Game 2 with runs of three and four points, respectively.

Salem kept padding that lead with quick defensive side-outs (keeping South Lyon from grabbing any momentum) and the front-row combo of MacDonald-to-Merget gave the Lions absolute fits on more than one occasion.

Capping off the win with a point from the serving stripe was Katie Heitmeyer.

But the Lions came out strong in Game 3, with Tyler getting it started by serving

up the first three points and Reinig chipping in with spikes and blocks in the front row.

Salem's Johnson put the Rocks up 19-18, however, thanks to a five-point run (including two aces).

The lead grew to 22-20, but the Rocks couldn't seal the deal just yet. Reinig's string of four service points put South Lyon up 24-23 and the game went back-and-forth until an errant Salem shot provided the Lions with game point.

Of course, all that did was lead to a Nies pep talk followed by an even more assertive Salem team in Game 4, making sure the match did not need a fifth game to be decided.

tsmith@hometownlife.com

Wildcats gain from tourney

Plymouth fell in three games to Marysville in the final of Saturday's University of Michigan-Dearborn Invitational, but Wildcats head coach Kelly McCausland said the team's 4-1 record provides a nice springboard into its opening week of KLLAA competition.

After splitting with Sterling Heights (25-17, 15-25) defeating Southfield Christian (25-11, 25-14) and winning a pair of 25-17 games against Dearborn Edsel Ford in pool play, Plymouth took care of two more opponents in three games each to reach the final.

In the quarterfinals, the Wildcats defeated Sterling

PREP VOLLEYBALL

Heights (16-25, 25-22, 15-12) and followed up with a 19-25, 25-22, 15-12 victory in the semifinals over Livonia Franklin. But Marysville won the decisive match, 25-20, 25-20.

"For a first tournament, it was a good show, but we definitely will be fine-tuning our skills this week at practice," McCausland said. "We had a tendency to be up and down all day, and this tournament gave us the opportunity to see which kinks we need to work out. "Defensively, we had a tendency to be a little slow to

some off shots, but when our defense and serve reception were on, we were able to run a very productive offense."

McCausland noted games this week against Livonia Churchill and Salem (6:30 p.m. Thursday), who both have outstanding offensive squads. "So we will be focusing our attention on a dominant double block."

Statistical leaders for the Wildcats on Saturday included Kayla Bridge (22 kills, 45 defensive digs), Emilee Beyer (25 kills, 14 blocks), Dani Risi (25 kills), Shayla Smalls (79 set assists, 24 digs), Madelyn Betts (22 kills, 11 blocks) and Mariah Tesarz (61 digs).

Soccer fans for both schools have plenty reason to cheer

Three second-half goals Saturday night sparked Canton to a 3-1 victory over Salem in a KLLAA crossover boys soccer match.

But in the annual alumni game that followed, the Rocks prevailed by a 4-1 score.

In the opening game at Plymouth-Canton Educational Park's soccer stadium, Salem (3-3-3) got on the board about 26 minutes into the first half.

Sophomore Chris Dierker took a feed from junior Jake Pascarella and drove a shot past Canton senior goalkeeper Brandon Laabs.

The state-ranked Chiefs, however, got it going after intermission and dominated the action over the final 40

minutes. First, sophomores Connor Shennan and Bobby Budlong (2 assists) hooked up for the tying marker with 28:05 left in the second half. Shennan finished the play, knocking a shot behind Salem sophomore goalie Erick Beas.

Canton (6-2-1) broke the tie at the 34-minute mark of the half when senior Phil Baciak sent a pass over to sophomore Scott Piwowar — who finished the job.

Junior Mitch Posuniak added some insurance, making it 3-1 with a goal at the 36:12 mark (from Budlong).

Rocks win alumni tilt

The "Senior Night" crowd

also enjoyed the alumni game, which Salem won 4-1. The Rocks led 2-0 at halftime and never relinquished the lead.

Among players taking the pitch for Canton were current head coach George Tomasso, Logan Magraw, Ryan Dugan, Parker Laabs, Mark Edwards, Andy Huang and Brandon Tolinski.

Former Salem Dream Teamers Brian Popeney and Scott Duhl were among those returning to past glories for the blue-and-white.

Also suiting up for the Rocks were Drew Drummond and Brett Stinar, both players who were named All-State First Teamers during their prep careers.

Chiefs eyeing boys tennis division title

Canton is hot on the trail of the KLLAA South boys tennis championship following Tuesday's 7-2 victory over Livonia Franklin.

Chiefs head coach Barb Lehmann said his team (4-0 in dual meets) only needs to take care of Thursday's opponent (Wayne Memorial at home) for the division crown.

From there, the team would gear up for next week's KLLAA crossover matches — used to decide conference and overall KLLAA rankings.

"We are ready for the com-

petition," Lehmann said. Against the Patriots, the Chiefs lost No. 1-2 singles, but came back to take care of all other opponents.

At No. 1 singles, Canton's Ryan Hansz lost 6-0, 6-2 to Stephen Payne and then No. 2 singles player Adam Payne dropped a 6-0, 6-0 matchup against Walter Woods.

Canton then won No. 3 (Varun Bandri over Brandon Kozyn, 6-2, 6-3) and No. 4 (Jordan Anderson over Tim Crouson, 6-4, 3-6, 6-3). The Chiefs swept all five

doubles flights. Those results were as follows: No. 1 doubles - Jimmy LaFontaine-Austin Payne (6-0, 6-1 over Chase Semonick-Quentin Palais); No. 2 doubles - Rocky Willette-Josh Wendel (6-0, 6-1 over Chris Sitarski-Jake Turchan); No. 3 doubles - Ashwin Kumar-Alan Halim (6-1, 6-1 over John Vetula-Tyler Kaldobsky); No. 4 doubles - Luke Freeman-James Dodge (6-2, 6-1 over Joe Bastas-Adam Michaels); No. 5 doubles - Steve Price-Nirmal Pathak (6-3, 6-0 over Jacob Liberati-Brian Haupt).

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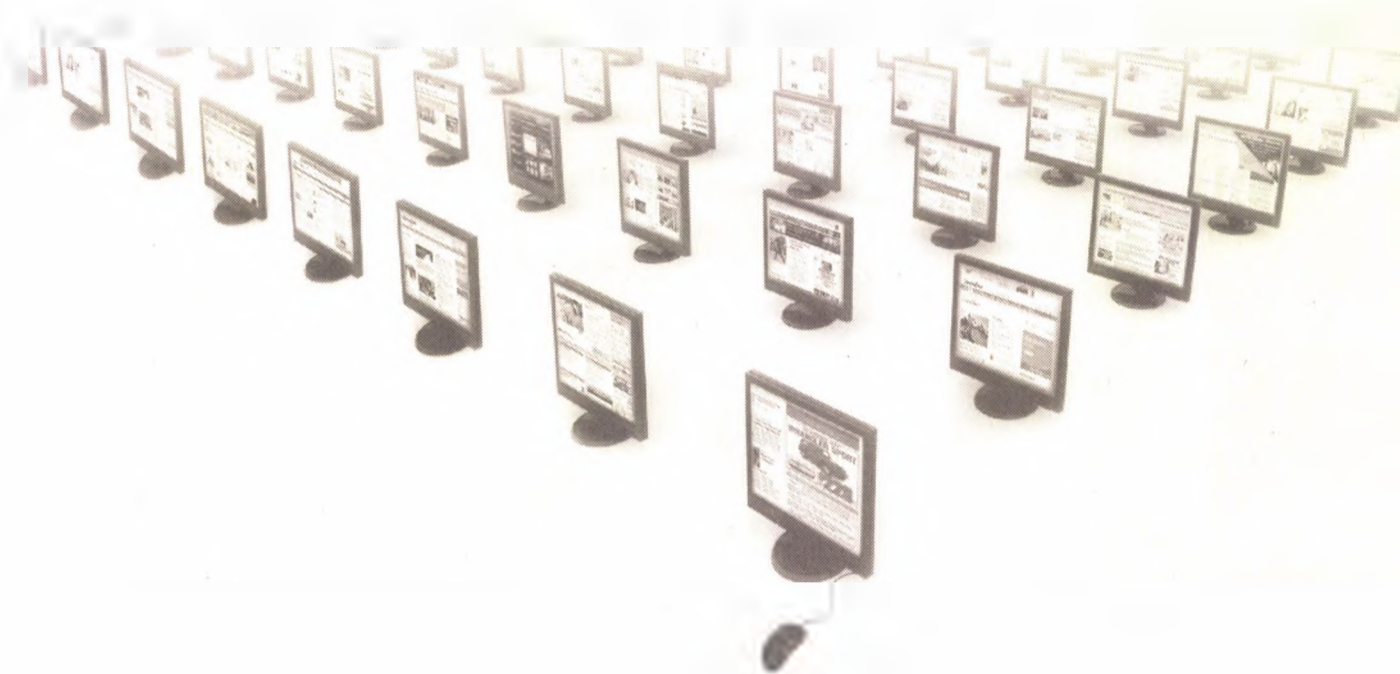
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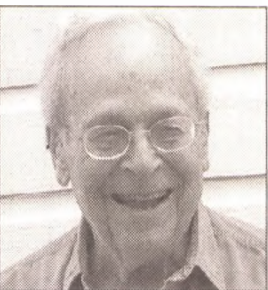
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EDWIN DALE CLINE

Beloved Father and Grandfather, preceded in death by his beloved wife Della. Survived by his children Teri, Mary, Ed and Val, his grandchildren Alyssa, Rebekah and Josiah, and his siblings Fernita and Ronald. Gathering Thursday 2-9pm and funeral service 12pm Friday at the Harry J. Will Funeral Home, 37000 Six Mile, Livonia. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to your local senior's center, the Alzheimer's Association or the American Legion. www.harryjwillfuneralhome.com

Jim composed the preceding obituary, presented verbatim. His was a Life Well Lived - full of experiences, friends, and good times. Jim served four hitches in the Navy, in WWII and the Korean War. He was an IRS Agent for 25 years, and enjoyed retirement for 22 years. In retirement, he spent his winters in Mexico, California, or on the Gulf Coast. He toured the Wine Countries of California, France, and Italy. He was a free thinker, a voracious reader, and deeply introspective. Those desiring to remember and commemorate Jim's life are invited to join us in raising a glass, and having a drink to his memory, in a celebration on Sunday, October 10, 2010 from 1:00-3:00pm at Deerfield Apartments Club House, 19559 Farmington Road, Livonia. Jim's family can be reached through Jim's e-mail: flannigan1@att.net. Please share a memory at www.rgrharris.com.



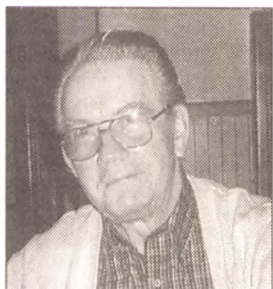
DR. GERALD LEE COX

Retired Detroit Public School Teacher of Troy, MI, a resident of Garden City, MI for 51 years, died peacefully August 17, 2010. He was born July 25, 1926. After serving in the 78th Infantry Division in World War II, he was the first and only one in his family to pursue a college education. He graduated from Michigan State University, earned his MA from Wayne State University, and his PhD from the University of Michigan. He served as a member of the Board of Trustees for Schoolcraft College for nearly a decade. He earnestly devoted his life to education, the examined life, harmonious race relations, and human rights activism. Beloved husband of Madeline Mary (Galia) Cox; proud father of Dr. David Cox (Jill Perry), Dr. Gail Fairhall, Keith Cox (Beth Gebeloff), and Dr. Suzanne Cox (Jeffrey Eno); and loving grandfather of Lydia, Emily, Adam, Andrew, Ethan, Joseph, Aidan, Jessica, and Juliana. A private memorial service is planned. Memorial contributions may be given to the National Peace Foundation (nationalpeace.org).



JAMES WILLIAM "JIM" FLANNIGAN

Of Livonia, Michigan, Age 82, Died September 3, 2010 at Woodhaven Retirement Community in Livonia, Michigan. Survived by son John Flannigan and daughter Lois Whitmire. Also five grandchildren: Alexandra, Jeffrey, Melissa, Kimberly, and Kelly Flannigan. There will be no viewing or visitation. Cremation and burial took place without services. Jim, an avowed atheist, and maven of good beer, fine wine, choice bourbon and single malt Scotch whiskey requested that those desiring to remember and commemorate his life, raise a glass, and have a drink to his memory.



JOHN S. MCGUIRE

Age 78, of Westland, died Monday, September 13, 2010 after a three month battle with cancer. John is survived by his beloved companion of 14 years, Marilyn Wilt. He is also survived by his five children, David (Becky) McGuire of Westland, Steve McGuire of Westland, Kathy (Dave) Leach of Ypsilanti, Joe McGuire of Charlevoix, Diane (Steve) Snouffer of Roanoke, IN. His loving grandchildren, Amber, Libby, Jenny, Eric, Heath, Aaron, Jesse, Maggie and Brock, one great-grandchild, Preston. His decision was always to donate his body to U of M for research. Memorial to be held at a later date.



MARY JANE WRIGHT

Age 95 of Plymouth, September 14, 2010. Former co-owner of Harold G. Wright Florist in Detroit. Beloved wife of the late Harold G. Loving mother of Robert H. (Sheila) and Richard "Tim" (Patricia). Proud grandmother of ten, great-grandmother of seventeen, and great-great-grandmother of three. Visitation Thursday, 3-9 PM at Vermeulen Funeral Home, 46401 W. Ann Arbor Rd. (btwn Sheldon and Beck), Plymouth. In State Friday 10:30 AM until 11 AM Funeral at First United Methodist Church of Plymouth, 45201 N. Territorial Rd., Plymouth. Memorials may be made to the church. To share memories please visit vermeulenfuneralhome.com



EARL WALFRED HILL

Of Farmington, formerly from Detroit, South Lyon and Negaunee, Michigan where he was born on 2-20-1930. He was released from his pain on September 6, 2010. Earl was 80 years old and the youngest son of 11 children to John and Hilma Hill. He is survived by his children: Marty and his wife Charleen of South Lyon, Patti (Arbour) Leppi and her husband Jim of Commerce, Ernie and his wife Juel of Missouri City Texas, Charlie of Houston, Texas as well as mother of Earl's children Jane Morgan and her long-time companion Ron Beaudoin. He is also survived by his siblings: Lorraine Riddell residing in Florida and Coy Hill, living in Ishpeming, Michigan. He was an avid golfer and loved ski jumping. He was the proud winner of the Nation Ski Jumping Championship in 1952 in Salisbury Connecticut. He has five grandsons: Jacob Rudi Hills, Justin Paul Hill (wife Lindsey), Alan Anthony Arbour, Ryan William Arbour, and Christopher Alan Hill. Earl was a tool and die maker by trade and worked for Borroughs Corporation for many years. Earl hold the record for the oldest person to dive from the 30 foot tower and Sun Lake (Finn Camp) at the age of 77. He loved life and his family and friends and will be missed. There will be a Celebration of Life Party on Sunday, September 25, 2010 at the Finn Camp clubhouse located at 2524 Loon Lake Road, Wixom Michigan 48393 from 1:00-3:00 p.m. Memorial contributions in lieu of flowers are suggested to the Arthritis Foundation. Arrangements by PHILLIPS FUNERAL HOME, South Lyon. On-line guestbook www.phillipsfuneral.com



JO ANN "JENNIE" SHINN

80, of Ft. Wayne, Indiana, formerly of Plymouth, passed away at 10:12 a.m., Thursday, September 2, 2010 at Lutheran Hospital in Ft. Wayne, Indiana. Born on February 8, 1930 in Logansport, Indiana, she was the daughter of the late Giuseppe "Joe" and Marfina (Marocco) Scagnoli. On June 14, 1952 she married Jack L. Shinn, he survives. She was a former medical assistant for several physicians in Michigan and Carmel, Indiana. She enjoyed cooking, gardening, bowling and playing cards. Survivors include her husband Jack L. Shinn of Ft. Wayne, Indiana, also formerly of Plymouth, Michigan, daughter, Elizabeth A. Wasalaski and husband Larry of Novi, sons; Richard A. Shinn and wife Janet of Ft. Wayne, Indiana, John J. Shinn of Ft. Wayne, Indiana and Jeffrey V. Shinn of Edmonds, Washington, one brother, three sisters, in Logansport, Indiana. Also surviving are grandchildren, Kristen Wasalaski, Carrie Jarco and husband Steven, Kelly Wasalaski, Madison Shinn, Alan Shinn, Jessica Shinn and Rachel Shinn, and one great-granddaughter, Hailey Elizabeth Jarco. She was also preceded in death by brothers, Fred, Albert, Guido, Pacifico and Raymond Scagnoli and sister, Mary Arvin. Visitation was Sunday, September 5, 2010 at Marocco Funeral Chapel, 119 E. Market St., Logansport. Funeral services immediately followed with Father Mike McKinney officiating. Burial will be at Mt. Hope Cemetery in Logansport, Indiana at a later date. Memorial Contributions may be made to All Saints Catholic School in Logansport.

GALEN (MIKE) LE MIEUX

September 13, 2010, age 69. Beloved husband of Barbara. Dear father of Michael (Lori) and Matthew (Renee). Grandfather of Madison and Max. Visitation at Manns-Ferguson Funeral Home, 17000 Middlebelt, (South of 6 Mile), on Saturday from 1 to 9 p.m. with service at 7 p.m. Share a memory at: www.mannsfuneralhome.com

In Memory Of



IN LOVING MEMORY OF RICHARD E. PORTER

April 8, 1950-September 15, 2009 It has been a year now since the good Lord has called you to his side.

You are often in our thoughts and are deeply missed with each day that passes.

~Your loving Wife and Family~

OBITUARY POLICY

The first five "billed" lines of an obituary are published at no cost. All additional lines will be charged at \$4 per line. You may place a picture of your loved one for an additional cost of only \$6. Symbolic emblems may be included at no cost (example: American Flags, religious symbols, etc.)

Deadlines:

Friday 4:15 PM for Sunday
Wednesday 9:45 AM for Thursday

Obituaries received after these deadlines will be placed in the next available issue.

e-mail your obit to oebits@hometownlife.com or fax to: Attn: Obit c/o Char Wilson 313-496-4968

For more information call: Char Wilson 586-826-7082 or Liz Keiser 586-977-7538 or toll free 800-579-7355 ask for Char or Liz

Conference on Oct. 2 focuses on ministry, teaching, growth

The International Christian Education Association will present its 64th annual conference for pastors, teachers, Christian education directors, youth leaders and church workers on Saturday, Oct. 2, at Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church, Northville Township. The conference will run from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the church, located at 40000 Six Mile.

The event is non-denominational, open to the public and will offer 30 workshops centered around the themes contemporary issues, personal growth, special ministry, teacher education and teaching techniques. Exhibit City will be available to tour throughout the day, offering a variety of wares for church needs, Sunday School classes, and Bible studies, as well as gift items appropriate for birthdays and holidays.

"Second Time Around" will recycle Christian books appropriate to all age levels from a collection of materials covering at least five decades. Purchasers make a donation for the items they need.

Kids Korner runs all day (except lunch hour) for those age 5-12 offering Bible stories, music, arts and crafts, surprise guests, snacks and more.

The afternoon general session will feature keynote speaker the Rev. Earl Hood of the Berean Chapel, Detroit. He is known for founding "Faith Walkers," for his inspirational preaching, and for leading countless, in-depth Bible studies. He will emphasize "Back to the Basics - Equipping for Your God-Given Assignment."

Morning refreshments and lunch are included in the registration fee. Call (248) 557-5526 or visit: www.iceaOnline.org for more information.

United Memorial Gardens and The Old Testament Tabernacle



The only full scale duplication of the original Tabernacle in the United States which is in full view for visitors to see without charge.

A duplication of the Historic Tabernacle that Moses built in 1522 BC has been on the grounds of United Memorial gardens since 1985. The two Cherubim on the Arc of the Covenant were hand sculptured by a Catholic Priest. An average of 50 people visit every week, tours are available.

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29015 Jamison • Livonia • 734-427-5220
(East of Middlebelt, between 5 Mile & Jeffries)
MASS: Tues 7 p. Wed., Thurs 9 a.
Sat. 4 p., Sun 11a

St. Maurice Roman Catholic Church
32765 Lyndon • Livonia • 734-522-1616
(between Meriman & Farmington Roads)
MASS: Mon. 8:30 a. Fri. 8:30 a.
Sat. 6 p., Sun 9a

UNITED METHODIST

ORCHARD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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www.orchardumc.org
248-626-3620

Worship:
9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.
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Pastors: Carol J. Johns, Jim Braid, Margo Dexter OE089982

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9601 Hubbard at W. Chicago, Livonia, MI (between Meriman & Farmington Rds.)
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Traditional Service 10:30 am
Visit www.rosedalegardens.org
For information about our many programs

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www.nativitygochurch.org

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www.christoursavior.org

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website: www.stpaulslivonia.org

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Fellowship Presbyterian Church
Adult Sunday School: 9:30 - 10:15 a.m. • Worship: 10:30 a.m.
Childrens Sunday School: 10:30 a.m.
Pastor: Dr. Jimmy McGuire
Services held at: Saint Andrews Episcopal Church
16360 Hubbard Road in Livonia • South of Six Mile Road
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Children's Programs available at 9:30 & 11 a.m.

The Traditional Service is broadcast on the radio each week at 11 a.m. on 560 AM

CONGREGATIONAL

North Congregational Church
36520 12 Mile Rd.
Farmington Hills
(bet Drake & Halsted)
(248) 848-1750
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Faith - Freedom-Fellowship
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11:15 AM CONTEMPORARY SERVICE
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For Information regarding this Directory, please call Donna Hart at 248-437-2011, Ext. 247 or e-mail: dhart@dnps.com

ENTERTAINMENT

Thursday, September 16, 2010 hometownlife.com

HAVE A STORY IDEA?

Contact Editor Sharon Dargay
Voice Mail: (313) 222-8883
E-mail: sdargay@hometownlife.com
Comment online at hometownlife.com

Sew much fun

Livonia woman will compete in on-the-spot fashion contest

BY SHARON DARGAY
O&E STAFF WRITER

Raminta Vilkiene knows what it's like to be a fish in an aquarium.

"People can't enter your work area but they can see you and ask you questions," she described her experience in a *Project Runway*-style fashion design challenge two years ago at the American Sewing Expo in Novi.

"Everybody looks at you and you think, 'how will I concentrate?' But I was so surprised, when I was working, it's like everything else disappears."

The Livonia woman won third place for her three-piece day-to-evening ensemble that year in the Passion for Fashion competition. She'll attempt to design and sew her way to another victory Sept. 24-25 when the expo returns to the Rock Financial Showplace.

"It's two days. Friday morning they announce the challenge," said Vilkiene, 38.

"You're given a half hour to sketch and a half hour to shop inside the expo. In 2008 they gave us \$100. And you shop inside the expo for everything — thread, fabric."

That year contestants were challenged to create day-to-evening looks inspired by water, air, earth or fire. They worked in the middle of the expo, on public view, designing and sewing their garments. The contest culminated in a fashion show and judging.

Vilkiene expects much of the same this year, with a twist on the challenge garment.

"For me and maybe all contestants, it's the time," she said, describing the brief sketching, shopping and sewing timetable. "The first day you still think you have enough time and you decide to do maybe more difficult designs. And at the end of the day or Saturday morning, you see you don't have enough time to finish."

Vilkiene said she sometimes faces tight deadlines while working as a free-lance fashion designer and seamstress in her basement work shop at home.

"Every time I promise myself not to leave work until the last night. But even if you are professional and you trust yourself, and know how to do seams and you think you have enough time, sometimes you mismanage it."

SEWING IN LITHUANIA

Vilkiene, who is married and has two children, has honed her sewing ability over a lifetime. She started designing and sewing doll clothes when



A model struts the runway wearing one of Raminta Vilkiene's creations during a student fashion designer show last year in Detroit.



Raminta Vilkiene of Livonia will compete in the Passion for Fashion contest at the American Sewing Expo.

she was 6 years old in her native Lithuania.

"My grandmother was an excellent seamstress. I learned on a Singer that was not even electric. Back in Lithuania, we didn't have (sewing) patterns."

She studied at Vilnius University in Vilnius, Lithuania and moved to the United States in 1998.

"It was a cultural shock to move from one country to another. When I went into a fabric store here I thought I

would pass out. I never saw so many fabrics and threads and sewing machines in one place."

She discovered the American Sewing Expo in 2002 and began attending seminars at the annual show.

Vilkiene earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree at the International Academy of Design and Technology in Detroit and hopes to teach sewing to disabled individuals in the future.

"I have a huge fashion library — 300-400 books — and I'm not afraid to share. Sometimes you feel instructors or designers are afraid to share secrets or techniques. I am not. Even if someone copies a design, that's in the past. As a creative person, you are always looking to the future."

"Every designer dreams to have a clothing line. But I don't think I have to have a huge line, maybe some boutique stores, definitely."

In addition to participating in the Passion for Fashion challenge, Vilkiene will take a seminar, as she did last year, with one of her favorite designers, Koos van den Akker. Vilkiene likes his "wearable art" style.

SEWING SHOW

The American Sewing Expo runs 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Sept. 24-25; and 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 26, at the Rock Financial Showplace, located at 46100 Grand River Avenue between Novi Road and Beck in Novi.

Attendees can purchase unique fabrics and supplies at more than 300 vendor booths, watch reality sewing competitions, enter contests, attend hands-on classes and hear

lectures from experts such as Kenneth D. King, professor of the haute couture program at New York's Fashion Institute of Technology.

Expo admission is \$14 and children 16 and under are admitted free with a paying adult. One-hour seminars are \$14, all-day workshops are \$98 to \$148 and special combination packages are available. On site parking is available for \$5. (248) 889-3111; www.americansewingexpo.com



Even zombies like to look fashionable. This one models a Raminta Vilkiene creation at an annual zombie party and fashion show in Warren.

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SEPTEMBER

17, 18, 19, 24, 25 and 26

Presented By, Spotlight Players

The Village Theater at Cherry Hill
50400 Cherry Hill Road, Canton, MI 48187

ART

Art & Ideas

Time/Date: Through Sept. 18
Location: 15095 Northville Road, south of Five Mile, Plymouth
Details: "Social Realism" photography by Thomas McMillen-Oakley, Shaqe Kalaj, and Julia DeClerck
Contact: (734) 420-0775

City Gallery

Time/Date: Through Oct. 15
Location: Costick Center, 28600 W. 11 Mile, Farmington Hills
Details: Great Lakes Beadworkers show beads with "attitude." Artists' reception, open to the public, will run 5-9 p.m. Friday, Sept. 19
Contact: (248) 473-1856

COMEDY

Go Comedy!

Time/Date: Various show times
Wednesdays thru Sundays
Location: 261 E. Nine Mile, Ferndale
Details: Improv most nights. Open mic/jam session show for improvisers is 10 p.m. Wednesdays
Contact: (248) 327-0575; www.gocomedy.net

JD's House of Comedy

Time/Date: Various show times
Wednesday-Saturday evenings
Location: 25333 W. 12 Mile, inside Star Theatre complex, Southfield
Details: Stand-up shows, 8 p.m. Thursday and 8 p.m., 10:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday; Apollo amateur night, 8 p.m. Wednesday
Contact: (248) 348-2420 or www.ticketmaster.com

Joey's Comedy Club of Livonia

Time/Date: 8 p.m. Mondays, Open Mic; 8 p.m. Tuesdays, Local Legends; 8 p.m. shows Wednesdays, Thursdays; 8 p.m. & 10:30 p.m. Fridays, Saturdays
Location: 36071 Plymouth Road, Livonia
Details: Marc Ryan, through Sept. 18; Doug Williams, Sept. 22-25; Ira Proctor, Sept. 29-Oct. 2
Contact: (734) 261-0555, www.kickerscomplex.com

Mark Ridley's Comedy Castle

Time/Date: Brian McKim, Sept. 16-18; Jackie Flynn, Sept. 23-25; David Alan Grier, Sept. 30-Oct. 2
Location: 269 E. Fourth, Royal Oak
Contact: (248) 542-9900, www.edycastle.com

CONCERTS

The Ark

Time/Date: Toad The Wet Sprocket, Sept. 16; Vishten, Sept. 19; Aimee Mann, Sept. 21; The RFD Boys, Sept. 24; The Chenille Sisters, Sept. 25
Location: 316 South Main, Ann Arbor
Contact: (734) 763-8587; www.theark.org



Beadwork "with an attitude" is on display through Oct. 15 at the Costick Center in Farmington Hills.

Barn Theatre

Time/Date: 7:30 p.m., Sept. 25
Location: 32332 12 Mile, Farmington Hills
Details: Jill Jack; tickets are \$19 for adults; \$17 for seniors and students
Contact: (248) 473-1856

Baseline Folk Society

Time/Date: 7-9:30 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 18
Location: The JWH Center for the Arts, Plymouth Community Arts Council, 774 N. Sheldon, Plymouth
Details: Eight "Open-Mic" performances plus a featured group "A Circle of Friends" with a tribute to Peter Paul and Mary. Annual memberships are available for both individuals and families. Individual membership is \$25 and includes monthly concerts from September through May. Otherwise, admission to each concert is \$5 at the door. Family memberships are \$50 and include monthly concerts
Contact: (248) 719-3464 or mjmmul-len@yahoo.com

Detroit Institute of Arts

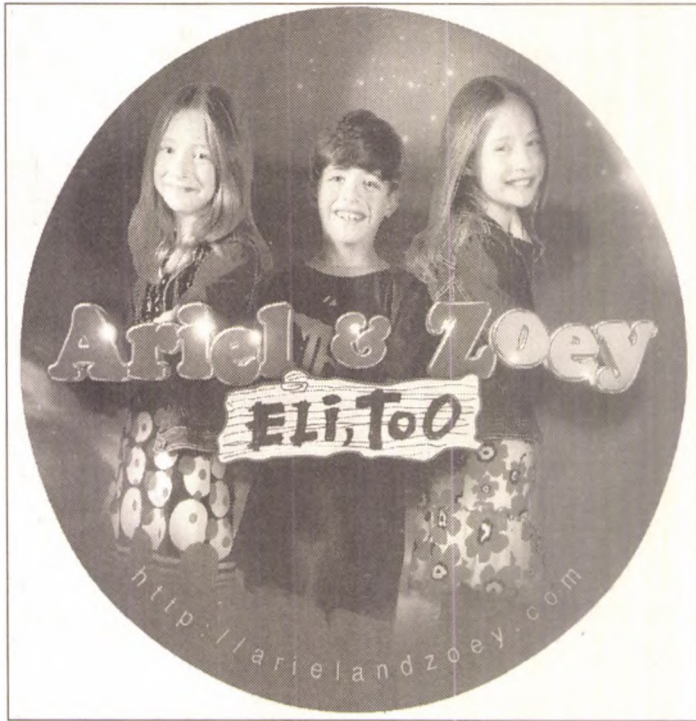
Time/Date: 6 p.m. Friday, Oct. 16
Location: 5200 Woodward Ave
Details: George Winston performs; tickets \$8
Contact: (313) 833-7900, www.dia.org

Hillberry Theatre

Time/Date: Oct. 1 through Dec. 4 in rotating repertory
Location: 4743 Cass, Detroit
Details: "Hay Fever," one of Noel Coward's earlier, notable comedies; tickets \$10-\$30
Contact: (313) 577-2972; www.wsush-ows.com

Jazz Cafe

Time/Date: 8 p.m. and 10 p.m., Sept. 17-18
Location: Music Hall, 350 Madison Ave., Detroit
Details: Curtis Fuller and his quintet



On television

Ariel & Zoey (Eli too), a locally-produced television show, will debut at 4 p.m., Sunday, Sept. 26, at the Michigan Theater in Ann Arbor. Tickets are \$5 and proceeds will go toward Ann Arbor Public Schools arts and music programs. Ariel and Zoey are 11-year-old twin sisters, and their brother Eli is 9 years old. They attend Ann Arbor Public Schools. The music variety show will enter national syndication the week of Sept. 27, and will be available in more than 85 million homes. The show is about people who have accomplished great things and have a positive message for kids. During the live debut, season one highlights will be shown on the big screen and Ariel, Zoey and Eli will perform. After show there will be a meet and greet for autographs and pictures. For more information, visit arielandzoey.com. Ticket information is at http://www.michtheater.org/events.php



Allan Holdsworth will play Sept. 30-Oct. 1 at the Jazz Cafe at Music Hall.

kick off the new season of Jazz Cafe; tickets \$30
Coming up: Allan Holdsworth, Sept. 30 and Oct. 1; tickets \$30 in advance or \$40 at the door
Contact: www.ticketmaster.com; (313) 887-8500

Livonia Symphony

Time/Date: 4 p.m., Oct. 9
Location: Louis Schmidt Auditorium, Clarenceville High School 20155 Middlebelt, Livonia
Details: Program includes Tchaikovsky, Mendelssohn, Beethoven and more; adults, \$20, students of any age, \$5 and senior citizens, 60 and over, \$18
Contact: (734) 421-1111; www.livonia-symphony.org

Contact: (734) 421-1111; www.livonia-symphony.org

Magic Bag

Time/Dates: Robert Bradley's Blackwater Surprise with Jamie McCarthy and Alyssa Simmons, Sept. 17; The Ultimate Retro Party with The Mega 80's, Sept. 18 and 25; Stan Ridgeway, Sept. 21; Michelle Shocked, Sept. 24; Rick Emmett, Sept. 26; Bettie Serveert, Sept. 30
Location: 22920 Woodward, Ferndale
Contact: (248) 544-3030, www.themagicbag.com

Music Hall

Time/Date: 8 p.m. Oct. 7-9



"Kiss Me Kate" starts a two-weekend run Saturday, Sept. 18, at the Village Theatre at Cherry Hill, in Canton.



Samantha L. Rosentrater plays Judith Bliss and Alan Ball is David Bliss in "Hay Fever," the season opener at the Hillberry Theatre.

Location: 350 Madison, Detroit

Details: "The Merchants of Bollywood," a dance and music spectacular based on the real-life story of the Merchant family dynasty, whose members have been prominent choreographers and filmmakers since the beginning of the Hindi film industry in the 1920s; tickets are \$25-\$65
Contact: Ticketmaster.com, Ticketmaster Outlets or charge by phone at (800) 745-3000

Trinity House Theatre

Time/Date: Matt The Electrician, Sept. 16; Pat Terry and John Austin, Sept. 18; Martyn Joseph, Sept. 23; Nobody's Darlin', Sept. 24; Kevin Meisel, Oct. 1; Jason Dennie and John Latini, Oct. 2; Madcat and Kane and Maxwell Street, Oct. 8; Rob Lute with Jo Serrapere, Oct. 9; Dana Cooper with Daphne Willis, Oct. 15; Daniel Martin Moore and Ric Hordinski, Oct. 21; David Nefesh with Delta Twins, Oct. 23; Roy Bookbinder, Oct. 29; Gaslight Square with Joel Palmer, Annie and Rod Capps, Jim Bizer and others, Oct. 30
Location: 38840 W. Six Mile, Livonia
Contact: (734) 464-6302, www.trinityhouse.org

Village Theater at Cherry Hill

Time/Date: 7:30 p.m., Friday, Oct. 8
Location: 50400 Cherry Hill Road in Canton
Details: AcappellaFest Detroit includes regional a cappella sensation Cartoon Johnny (D.C.), as well as local Doo-wop favorites Full Throttle, and the winners of this year's "So You Think You Can Sing" competition from CMU, Fish 'N Chips. Tickets are \$12-20
Contact: CantonVillageTheater.org or call (734) 394-5460.

FAMILY

Bakers Keyboard Lounge

Time/Dates: 2-5 p.m. Sundays
Details: Jazz for Kids Program
Location: 20510 Livernois Ave., Detroit
Contact: (313) 345-6300, www.bakers-keyboardlounge.com

Detroit Institute of Arts

Time/Dates: 2 p.m. Sundays
Details: Target Family Sundays, storytelling, performances, free with admission

Location: 5200 Woodward, Detroit
Contact: (313) 833-7900, www.dia.org

Detroit Zoo

Time/Date: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. through Oct. 31

Location: I-696 service drive and Woodward, Royal Oak
Details: Admission is \$11 for adults 15 to 61, \$9 for senior citizens 62 and older, and \$7 for children ages 2 to 14; children under 2 are free
Contact: (248) 541-5717

FILM

Penn Theatre

Time/Date: 7:05 p.m., Sept. 16
Location: 760 Penniman Ave., Plymouth
Details: "The Sorcerer's Apprentice," \$3 admission
Coming up: "Inception," 7 p.m. Sept. 17-19 and Sept. 23, 4 p.m. Sept. 18-19; "Despicable Me," 7 p.m. Sept. 24-26 and Sept. 30, and 5 p.m. Sept. 25-26
Contact: (734) 453-0870, www.penn-theatre.com

Redford Theatre

Time/Date: Sept. 24-25
Location: 17360 Lahser, Detroit
Details: "The Godfather," \$4
Contact: www.redfordtheatre.com

MUSEUMS

Cranbrook

Time/Date: 2 p.m., Thursday through Sunday
Location: 39221 Woodward, Bloomfield Hills
Details: Docent-guided public tours of Saarinen House, a rare integration of art, architecture, design and nature, depart from Cranbrook Institute of Science front desk. The tours are about 90 minutes long and take place rain or shine.
Contact: (248) 645-3200 for house tours; http://science.cranbrook.edu

Plymouth Historical Museum

Time/Dates: Through Oct. 24
Location: 155 S. Main, Plymouth
Coming up: "Margaret's 1910" honors philanthropist Margaret Dunning's 100th birthday with a look at life in 1910
Contact: (734) 455-8940, www.plymouthhistory.org

THEATER

Village Theater at Cherry Hill

Time/Date: 8 p.m., Friday-Saturday, Sept. 17-18 and Sept. 24-25; and 2 p.m. Sept. 18-19 and 25-26
Location: 50400 Cherry Hill Rd., Corner of Ridge and Cherry Hill, Canton
Details: "Kiss Me Kate" by Cole Porter; tickets are \$18 for adults and \$16 for senior citizens and students
Contact: (734) 394-5300 or (734) 394-5460 or online at www.spottlight-playersmi.org

Advertisement for THE PRINCESS LAURA RIVERBOAT - Cruising Belleville Lake. Includes menu items like Friday - Pizza for Two, Saturday - Dinner Cruise, and Sunday - Afternoon Color Tour.

Large advertisement for the movie DEVIL, featuring the text 'BAD THINGS HAPPEN FOR A REASON' and listing the cast including Chris Messina, Logan Marshall-Green, and M. Night Shyamalan.

Advertisement for Dan's Custom Brickwork, specializing in Residential & Commercial Restoration & Custom Brick Work. Contact: 1.734.416.5425

Advertisement for Canton Animal Hospital, featuring services like Full Service Pet Hospital, State of the Art Facility, and Orthopedic Specialist Available.

Advertisement for St. Michael the Archangel Church, featuring the text 'WHY BE CATHOLIC?' and 'Series Resumes Saturday, Sept. 18th at 7 PM'.



It's pumpkin time at the Wilson Barn in Livonia.

Bring on the pumpkins, fall fun at Wilson Barn

Get ready for pumpkins — lots of pumpkins. The City of Livonia and the Wilson Barn will present the annual Pumpkin Fest from 10 a.m.-8 p.m. daily, from Oct. 2-30 on the grounds of the barn, located at 29350 W. Chicago Road, Livonia. Pumpkins, corn stalks, straw bales and gourds will be available daily. On Saturday and Sunday the barn will be open from 11 a.m.-8 p.m. with holiday crafts, cider, doughnuts, caramel apples, hot chocolate and coffee for sale. Weekend entertainment will take place in the Fall Family Picnic Area, in front of the historic Wilson Family's Caretaker House. Joyous Noise, a folk group, will perform Oct. 3 and classic rock will fill the air on Oct. 10. Tours through the Caretaker's historically preserved home will be available from noon-2 p.m. Oct. 2, 9, and 24. An old-fashioned checker tournament will be held from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Oct. 2 for senior citizens, 62 and older. The games will produce two or four winners, depending on how many individuals play. The winners will play on Oct. 9. For information or to register for the tournament, e-mail Ricky or Karen Brogdon at wilsonbarn@me.com or call (313) 937-8710 or (734) 358-1733. Fall cooking demonstrations also will be held in conjunction with the Farmer's Market on Oct. 2 and 9. Pumpkin Fest Haunted Barn, for those 12 and under, runs 5:30-8 p.m. Oct. 15-17, 22-24, 29-30. Admission is 50 cents.

Passes offer free visits to arts and cultural venues

The Museum Adventure Pass (MAP) program starts its new season on Oct. 1 with kick-off parties scheduled throughout a nine-county area. The program is a partnership between more than 200 libraries in Southeastern Michigan and 33 arts and cultural organizations. Library card holders may pick up passes to visit participating arts and cultural institutions for free. Passes are on a first-come first-served basis and can't be reserved, renewed or requested through interlibrary loan. One Museum Adventure Pass may be checked out per person, per loan period. The loan period is seven days. Up to two or four people may be admitted on each pass, depending on location.

Oakland, Macomb, Lapeer, St. Clair, Genesee, Washtenaw, Monroe, Wayne and Livingston counties belong to the program, which is in its fourth year. Visit www.DetroitAdventurePass.org for a listing of all cultural organizations, libraries, pass information and restrictions, as well as directions. Kick-off parties are scheduled locally from 10 a.m.-noon, Tuesday, Oct. 5, at the Holocaust Memorial Center, in Farmington Hills and from 1:30-3:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 9, at the Ypsilanti District Library. For more information, call the Holocaust Memorial Center at (248) 553-2400 and the Ypsilanti District Library at (734) 482-4110.

Street art fair features local artists

Look for several local artists to exhibit their art during Common Ground's 36th Annual Birmingham Street Art Fair, Saturday-Sunday, Sept. 25-26.

Mariko Brenner and Dennis O'Neill, both of Farmington Hills, will show their ceramics, including some raku. Donna Williams of Plymouth also will display ceramic art. Painters include water-color artist Kathleen Spellman of Farmington and Heidi Macintyre of Plymouth.

The art fair, produced in association with the Guild of Artists and Artisans, will bring together more than 160 artists from across the country to Old Woodward, south of Maple, in downtown Birmingham.

Admission is free and parking is located throughout Birmingham.

Fairgoers this year may participate in the creation of a large scale mosaic, which marks the 40th anniversary of Common Ground, a 24-hour crisis agency.

For more information about Common Ground's 36th Annual Birmingham Street Art Fair go to www.theguild.org or call (734) 662-3382.

Fair hours are 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday.



Heidi Macintyre of Plymouth painted this and other scenes that will be on display Sept. 25-26 in Birmingham.

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STRICTLY BUSINESS

Thursday, September 16, 2010

hometownlife.com

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Contact Editor Brad Kadrich

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IT'S YOUR BUSINESS Q&A



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Some of the staff of Northville Township's Jolee hair salon on Five Mile Road: (left to right) Susie Hourany, owner Susie Ftouni and Marsha Shollack.

Jolee's: 'All about the hair' for 10 years

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

Jolee's: We are a family-oriented salon. We feel like everyone is family when they walk through our door. We offer perms, high- and low-lites, roller sets, color, waxing, haircuts and styles.

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

Jolee's: I've always wanted to open my own salon one day. At the time, my husband, Ahmad, gave me encouragement and led me to push my foot in the door and said, "Susie, you can do this. Your strong enough and you have this in you. I have faith in you." That same day, my son said, "Momma, do it. It's a great idea." He was only in preschool at the time. It was such a great feeling to hear.

Observer: Why did you choose this area?

Jolee's: Ahmad worked in the area before and spotted the location, so he was familiar with the people and what a great community that they have there. It's been wonderful to watch families grow over the years. This is our 10th year. We are celebrating our 10th anniversary by offering special prices on Saturday Sept. 25, 9 a.m.-6 p.m. -- kid's cuts (8 and under) are only \$5; men's cuts \$10; and women's cuts \$13. We will also be giving away great gifts throughout the

JOLEE'S HAIR SALON

Business Name: Jolee's Hair Salon

Address: 40400 Five Mile Road, Plymouth, MI 48170

Your Name/Title: Sue Ftouni

Your Hometown: Dearborn Heights

Business Opened When: Aug. 7, 2000

Number of Employees: 5

Hours of Operation: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday; 10 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Tuesday-Friday; 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday

Your Business Specialty: "It's all about the hair. We are here to work with any kind of hair."

Phone: (734) 420-7800

day, providing refreshments and handing out balloons for the kids. If it weren't for the people in the community and the support from family, I wouldn't be where I'm right now, and for that I am truly grateful.

Observer: What makes your business unique?

Jolee's: First, customer service is a number one priority with us. We love our kids and they put big smiles on our faces, which our customers love to see when they come for cuts.

Observer: How has it changed since you opened?

Jolee's: We have remodeled the salon since we opened, but

that's about it. We do not have a high turnover of employees and our customers are loyal. They keep us going.

Observer: Do you have a funny tidbit or story about your experience as a small business owner to share with our readers?

Jolee's: One of our child customers, named Jack, whom I adore, wrote a little story about coming to the salon to see me for his haircuts on a Father's Day note. He was only about 4. His mom said he just added that in out of the blue. That was very precious to me that he thought about me and coming here to write about.

Observer: How has the recent economy affected your business?

Jolee's: People have moved away. Clients are taking longer to come in because everyone needs to budget more than ever. That's why we keep our prices reasonable. We need to work together to survive and think positive. Things will change. I highly believe that we just have to hang in and hope for the best.

Observer: Any advice for business owners?

Jolee's: Believe in yourself and always keep your faith up. You live once, do the best you can.

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

Jolee's: I would love to open another salon so our friendly at-home atmosphere here at Jolee's can continue.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Supply VP

RKA Petroleum Companies, Inc., a leader in the fuel transportation and services industry, strengthens its top management with the addition of Brian Alderate as its Vice President of Supply & Transportation. This is a new position for RKA as a result of continuous growth delivering fuel to its commercial, government and retail customers.

In his position, Alderate, a Plymouth resident, oversees all aspects of RKA's transportation division, including that of RKA's sister company, Rex Petroleum Companies, Inc.

Alderate's strong background in both the fuel and the transportation industries adds over 15 years of experience to the company. Most recently he served as Vice President of Supply & Logistics for Fleet Card Fuels and Nikolaus Tank Lines in Bakersfield, Calif.

Alderate's resume also includes holding professional leadership positions



Alderate

at Pan Pacific Petroleum Company, Inc., Wholesale Fuels Inc., and USA Transport, all located in California.

"We (RKA) required additional high-level management to meet the demands of our increasing transportation needs, to better serve our fast-growing customer base," said Rick Enright, President. "RKA is an extremely strong, customer-focused business and this is critical to our continued success as a service organization," Enright added.

Married with one child, Alderate relocated from the Bakersfield, Calif. area to Plymouth Township, Michigan, and he will soon hold a B.A. in business management from the University of Phoenix in May 2011.

Feed in 'Knead'

According to the United Way for Southeastern

Michigan, 700,000 people in the region are food insecure - meaning they don't know where their next meal is coming from.

Hoping to fight this statistic and "Feed Families in Knead," Panera Bread has partnered with UWSEM's Emergency Food and Shelter Program to host a non-perishable breakfast food drive Sept. 22-25.

All 43 metro Detroit Panera Bread locations will collect breakfast items, including cereal, oatmeal and granola bars. The donations will benefit more than 30 emergency food providers located throughout the region. The Plymouth Panera location will collect food for Help's on the Way of Belleville.

Emergency food providers in the area report that requests for food have grown by 20 percent in the past year. Each person to drop off an item will receive a coupon for a free Panera Bread bagel on their next visit.

CHAMBER CHAT

Auction excitement

It's time to go to the movies this year for the Chamber of Commerce's Annual Meeting, Dinner and Gala Auction. Walk the red carpet with over 400 attendees and join the chamber for a star-studded night at a Hollywood style party with live and silent auctions and raffles. Tickets are \$75 and include food, drinks, and dancing.

New this year:

- Pay for your tickets prior to Oct. 15 and receive \$10 of free auction raffle tickets.
- Guests can dress in cocktail attire or come as their favorite movie character. There will be a costume contest with an "Oscarete" for the winner!
- New types of sponsorships are available that provide added recognition and include tickets to the event. Platinum table sponsorships are still \$975.

To RSVP or inquire about sponsorship opportunities, contact the Chamber at (734) 453-1540.

Brandon speaks

University of Michigan athletic director and former Domino's Pizza CEO David Brandon will be our featured speaker at our Good Morning Plymouth Community Breakfast on Sept. 29. He will discuss the state of the U-M athletic programs and also relay interesting lessons from his successful business career.

The breakfast will be at Plymouth Manor starting at 7 a.m. Brandon will be speaking promptly at 7:30 a.m. and the event will conclude at 8:30 a.m. The cost is \$13 per person. Cancellations must be received 48 hours prior to the event, since the Chamber is liable for all meals. Plymouth Manor is located at 345 N. Main St.

To RSVP for the breakfast, e-mail teri@plymouthmich.org or call (734) 453-1540. RSVP as soon as possible since the chamber can only take 200 reservations from members. This event is co-hosted with the Plymouth AM Rotary and sponsored by TDS Metrocom.

Prospecting workshop

Struggling to find enough good prospects for your business? Learn how to build an appropriate mix of prospecting activities, including valuable lessons on taking the pressure off phone prospecting in this interactive presentation.

From 8:30-10 a.m. on Sept. 28, Mike Winn



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Beth Marshall and Dwight Cloutier checked out items available at last year's Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce Gala Auction. This year's event is set for Friday, Nov. 5.

from Sandler Training in Ann Arbor will present "No Pressure Prospecting." Sandler Training is a world leader in innovative sales and sales management training. For more than 40 years, Sandler has taught its distinctive, non-traditional selling system and highly effective sales training methodology, which has helped salespeople and sales managers take charge of the process.

To register for the workshop, call (734) 453-1540 or e-mail teri@plymouthmich.org. There is no cost to attend this workshop. The event is limited to 30 participants and will be at the chamber office at 850 W. Ann Arbor Trail.

Skeet shooting

Members who are interested in shooting sports are welcome to join the chamber 3-5 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 21, at the Western Wayne County Conservation Association for trap and skeet shooting. The cost is \$13 for a line of 25 shots, which includes the ammunition. The club also has shotguns available for use that day.

While you are not required to pay in advance, the chamber does need to provide the club with a count of how many shooters will attend, so RSVPs would be welcome to the Chamber at teri@plymouthmich.org or call (734) 453-1540.

The Western Wayne County Conservation Association is located at 6700 Napier Road. You can take North Territorial west from Plymouth past Beck Road and turn north on Napier. The club is located between Five Mile and North Territorial and has a prominent sign.

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FOOD

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The fabulous flavors of FALL

Fall brings a whole new set of flavors to the table, and that's reason enough to celebrate with friends. Award-winning celebrity chef and cookbook author Michael Chiarello has created some delicious seasonal dishes that make the most of autumn's bounty and make it easy to entertain.

"If you want to create beautiful food for your friends and family, the most important thing you can do is start your recipes with the best possible ingredients," says Chiarello. "Progresso makes it easy to fill your pantry with the very finest ingredients." Using Progresso 100 percent natural broth and panko bread crumbs, Chiarello has created dishes with exceptional flavor and paired them with the award-winning wines of the Cavit Collection.

Find more seasonal recipes at www.progressofoods.com and www.cavitcollection.com.

TURKEY SCALOPINI AND SQUASH RAVIOLI WITH CRANBERRY BROWN BUTTER

Makes 8 servings
 Prep Time: 10 minutes
 Start to Finish: 30 minutes
 8 portions boneless turkey breast (4 ounces each)
 ¼ cup extra virgin olive oil
 ¼ cup all-purpose flour
 2 eggs, beaten
 2 cups Progresso plain panko crispy bread crumbs
 1 stick (8 tablespoons) unsalted butter
 1 package (18 ounces) frozen squash ravioli
 ¼ cup finely chopped fresh sage or 2 teaspoons dried sage
 1½ cups fresh cranberries
 3 tablespoons dark molasses
 ¼ cup balsamic vinegar
 1 cup Progresso chicken broth or reduced-sodium chicken broth
 Salt and pepper

Bring 4 quarts lightly salted water to a boil in a large pot. Between two sheets of plastic wrap, pound turkey breast pieces to an even ¼-inch thickness with a meat mallet. If you don't have a meat mallet, the back of a frying pan will work fine. You can do this a day ahead and leave them stored in the plastic wrap, folded over on each other. You can also ask a good butcher to cut and pound the turkey for you.

Heat olive oil in a large saute pan over medium-high heat. Lightly coat turkey pieces with flour, and pat off excess; dip in beaten eggs and then dredge in bread crumbs. When oil is hot and bubbling, add turkey pieces. Do not crowd the pan. Let brown about 1 minute, then turn to cook the second side, another 30 seconds. The turkey will cook very quickly and will dry out if overcooked. When done, remove to a baking sheet or platter and keep warm. Do not wash saute pan!

To make the sauce, add butter to saute pan and place over medium-high heat. At the same time, drop ravioli into the boiling water. When butter begins to turn light brown, add fresh sage. Stir for a few seconds; then add cranberries, and saute until skins begin to burst. Add molasses, balsamic vinegar and broth, scraping bottom of the pan to pick up all the flavor of the turkey. Simmer until cranberries are soft and the sauce coats the back of a spoon, about 2 minutes. Season to taste with salt and pepper. Be sure to taste sauce for seasoning before you pour it over the turkey.

Test ravioli for doneness in about 3 minutes — pinch edges of dough; it should be tender. Drain. Divide ravioli among hot plates and layer a piece of turkey over the ravioli. Spoon sauce over them.

Tip: The sauce must be put together very quickly, so have all the ingredients premeasured and ready at the side of the stove.

Enjoy with Cavit Riesling or Pinot Noir.

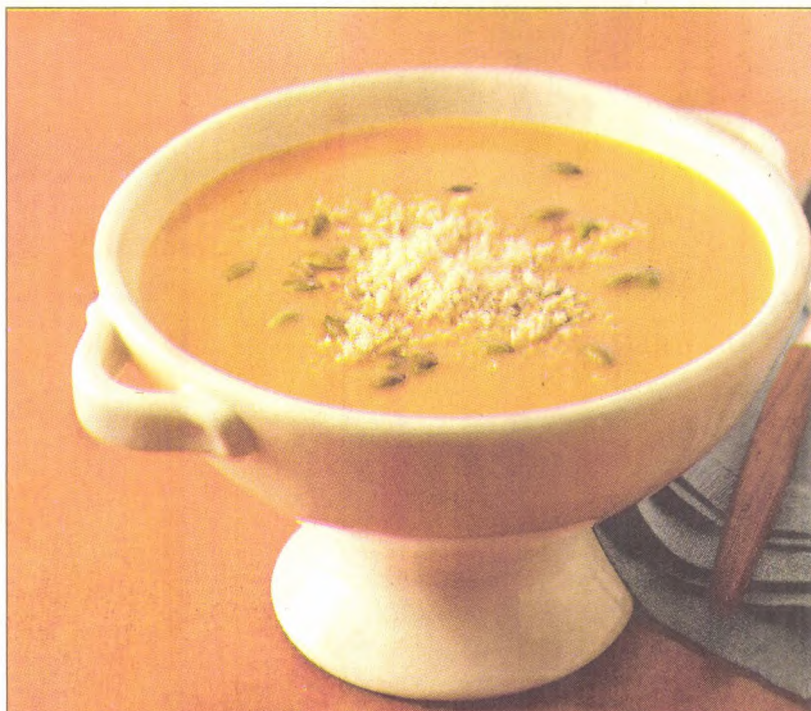
Wine Pairing

When it comes to pairing wine and food, there are some general guidelines that will result in great combinations. However, everyone's sense of taste is different and what tastes good to one person may not taste good to another. If you find a combination that you like, but it doesn't follow the guidelines, don't worry — just enjoy! Part of the fun is experimenting with different combinations to find the ones you like best.

For more wine pairing tips, visit www.cavitcollection.com.

Fish — White		●	●	●	●	●
Fish — Salmon/Meatv		●	●	●	●	●
Shellfish		●	●	●	●	●
Chicken — Baked/Grilled		●	●	●	●	●
Chicken — Marinated		●	●	●	●	●
Turkey		●	●	●	●	●
Duck		●	●	●	●	●
Ham/Pork		●	●	●	●	●
Steak		●	●	●	●	●
Fruit		●	●	●	●	●
Salad — Leafy/Vegetable		●	●	●	●	●
Salad — Dominant Protein		●	●	●	●	●
Pasta — White Sauce		●	●	●	●	●
Pasta — Red Sauce		●	●	●	●	●

Pinot Noir
 Merlot
 Lunetta Pinocetto
 Chardonnay
 Cabernet Sauvignon



ROASTED BUTTERNUT SQUASH SOUP

Makes 4 servings
 Prep Time: 30 minutes
 Start to Finish: 60 minutes
Roasted Winter Squash
 2 tablespoons butter
 2 cups diced (¾-inch) raw winter squash (butternut, hubbard, acorn)
 Salt and pepper

Soup
 2 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil
 ½ cup diced onion
 ¼ cup diced celery
 ¼ cup diced carrot
 1 cinnamon stick
 Sea salt and freshly ground pepper
 1 carton (32 ounces) Progresso chicken broth (4 cups)
 ½ teaspoon ground toasted coriander, if desired
 1½ cups Roasted Winter Squash (above)
 ½ cup half-and-half, if desired
 2 tablespoons toasted pumpkin seeds
 ½ cup Progresso plain panko crispy bread crumbs, toasted light brown in saute pan over medium heat

To make roasted winter squash: Heat oven to 375°F. Heat butter over medium-high heat in an ovenproof saute pan; add diced squash, salt and pepper. When squash begins to brown, place pan in oven. Roast for 15 minutes or until medium-brown on all sides. Remove from oven and let cool slightly. Puree in food processor, or mash with potato masher or ricer. Measure 1½ cups squash; reserve.

To make soup: Heat olive oil in large saute pan over medium heat until hot. Add onion, celery, carrot and cinnamon stick; saute until soft but not brown, about 10 minutes. Season with salt and pepper. Add broth and coriander; bring to a boil. Simmer for several minutes. Stir in reserved squash until smooth; simmer gently to let flavors meld, about 10 minutes. Discard cinnamon stick.

Puree soup using an immersion blender or in a blender until smooth. (The soup can be made ahead to this point, cooled, covered, and refrigerated for several days or frozen for about 1 month. It will thicken as it cools and may need thinning with broth or water when reheating.)

Return soup to pan and reheat gently. Add half-and-half. Adjust seasoning with salt and pepper. Top each serving with pumpkin seeds and toasted bread crumbs.

Tip: Depending on how rich you want it, or how cold it is outside, you can use cream, yogurt or mascarpone instead of half-and-half.

Enjoy with Cavit Chardonnay.

MAMA CHIARELLO'S STUFFED EGGPLANT

Makes 4 servings
 Prep Time: 30 minutes
 Start to Finish: 1 hour 20 minutes

1 large eggplant
 3 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil
 ½ teaspoon grey sea salt
 ¼ teaspoon black pepper
 ½ pound ground beef
 1 onion, diced small (about 1 cup)
 1 red bell pepper, diced small (about 1 cup)
 3 cloves garlic, finely chopped
 ½ cup chopped fresh parsley
 ¼ cup chopped fresh basil leaves
 1½ cups grated pecorino Romano cheese
 ½ cup Progresso plain panko crispy bread crumbs
 1 whole egg
 2 chopped tomatoes
 Heat oven to 350°F.

Cut eggplant in half and scoop out center, leaving enough meat inside the skin so that it holds its shape when baked. Chop eggplant that has been scooped out of the inside; place in saute pan, cover with water and boil until very soft, 10 to 12 minutes.

Meanwhile, in medium saute pan, heat 1 tablespoon olive oil over medium heat. Salt and pepper the beef. Add seasoned ground beef to pan, and saute until all of its liquid is evaporated and beef begins to brown slightly. Let cool briefly, and chop cooked beef so that there are no large chunks of meat. In another medium saute pan over medium heat, add remaining 2 tablespoons olive oil, and saute the onion, pepper and garlic together in oil.

In bowl, mix together cooked eggplant, vegetables, beef, herbs, 1 cup cheese, ¼ cup bread crumbs and egg. Fill scooped-out eggplant halves with this mixture, dividing it evenly between the two halves.

Top with chopped tomatoes, remaining ¼ cup cheese, remaining ¼ cup bread crumbs, and season with salt and pepper. Place on an oiled oven tray or baking dish, and bake for 50 minutes. Let cool briefly; slice widthwise and serve.

Enjoy with Cavit Pinot Noir, Merlot or Cabernet Sauvignon.

- Courtesy Family Features



New cookbook offers taste of Armenian cuisine, heritage

BY SHARON DARGAY
O&E STAFF WRITER

Armenian Cuisine — Preserving Our Heritage, a new cookbook set to debut Sept. 24 at St. John Armenian Church's fall festival, maintains culture while eliminating all the "atch-key-chop."

"There's a saying in Armenian — atch-key-chop — which means 'as much as your eye sees,'" explained Dolly Matoian, an Orchard Lake resident and co-chair of the Southfield church's Women's Guild cookbook committee.

When grandma or great-grandma cooked, she often skipped measuring implements in favor of eyeballing the ingredients — atch-key-chop.

Most of the recipes that St. John's members submitted for the cookbook were "passed from grandmother to mother or mother to daughters," and many used Armenian terms, hand-mixing methods and approximate measurements.

Matoian said the 12-member committee reviewed about 600 recipes, narrowed the collection to 450 and updated them to include modern methods and terms.

"We got things on slips of paper that someone's mother or grandmother wrote. We had to re-write it so it's as user friendly as possible," said Charlene Apigian, a Canton resident and committee member. "Try explaining a pinch of this or a coffee cup full of that. Coffee cup — What size is that? We took these things and re-measured and tried different recipes."

YOUNG COOKS

The cookbook project grew out of a cooking and recipe DVD production that Matoian chaired. The church sold about 2,000 DVDs, many to young members and to non-Armenians as well.

"Many younger people had asked for cooking classes and I asked certain people I knew who were well known to teach that. Some of the recipes you

had to see being made. Those were on the DVD," Matoian said. "It was so well received. These are recipes the younger ones want to learn to make."

The cookbook is geared to age 35-50. Pairs of committee members worked on different sections of the book, updating terminology and method, testing and tasting.

TIME-SAVING MEALS

Apigian and another committee member tackled the meat recipes — everything from a think Armenian pizza to meat-stuffed vegetables. Apigian even used her own backyard grape leaves in one recipe.

"What I've always liked about Armenian recipes is the amount of one pot meals," Apigian said, adding "The beauty of this food is that it all can be frozen. Someone who is working can do a little work on Sunday and have meals set up for the week."

Matoian said the book includes about 93 vegetable and grain recipes. Even some of the meat dishes mix vegetables with lamb or beef.

"Armenians are known for healthy eating. They were eating yogurt before it was popular," Matoian noted. "Our people live very long."

She and other members of the Guild have been busy since June, preparing 1,000 cheoregs, a braided brioche-like sweet bread, 5,000 rolled grape leaves and 6,000 meatballs for the upcoming festival.

"We make them every Monday and Tuesday. All of them are ready to be sold at the festival. People wait in line for them."

The cookbook is \$25 and is available at the festival, located at St. John's Armenian Church, 22001 Northwestern Highway, Southfield. Or buy it from the church during business hours, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday-Friday, with cash, check or MasterCard. For more information or to buy the cookbook, call the church office at (248) 569-3405. Or visit the church Web site at www.sjchurch.org. The festival runs Sept. 22-26. Visit the church Web site for a complete list of activities.

YANLANCHI SARMA

(Stuffed vegetarian grape leaves)

- 6 cups chopped onions
- 1 cup olive oil
- 1 cup rice, long grain
- 2 tablespoons chopped parsley
- 2 tablespoons tomato paste
- 1/2 teaspoon paprika
- 1 tablespoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon black pepper
- 1/2 teaspoon allspice
- 1 teaspoon dried dill
- 2 tablespoons-1/4 cup fresh lemon juice
- 50-60 grape leaves (1 pint if canned)

Fry the onions over low heat in olive oil in a 3 quart skillet until soft but not colored, for approximately a half hour. Add the rice and 1/2-3/4 cups of water. Cover and cook until the rice is half done, approximately 15 minutes. Add the rest of the ingredients except the grape leaves.

While mixture cools, prepare leaves. If leaves are freshly picked, soak them in boiling water for a few minutes. If they are canned, wash well in cold water. Place some large leaves on the bottom of a 3-quart pan to prevent the Sarma from burning.

To roll Sarmas, spread a leaf wrong-side-up with the stem towards you. Cut off the stem. Put 1 teaspoon filling near the stem end and fold over the sides. Roll from the stem end like a cigar. Arrange the rolled leaves side by side in the pan in two or three layers. Place a plate or extra leaves on top to keep them in place. Add 1 cup water and cook, covered, at high heat until the liquid begins to boil. Reduce the heat to low and cook for 1-2 hours. May also be baked in a 350 oven for approximately the same amount of time.

Test for doneness by piercing with a fork. When soft, leave in the covered pan until cold to prevent movement and discoloring. Serve cold or at room temperature. Extra lemon may be added if desired. If yahlanchi is left covered in the pan it was cooked in and refrigerated, it lasts 5-7 days.

Yield: Approximately 60
Variation: Same recipe as above but add-in 1 teaspoon sugar, 1 cup chopped parsley, 1/2 teaspoon cayenne, 1/2 cup pine nuts and/or dried currants, 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon, 1/4 cup dried dill and 1 teaspoon allspice.



Yalanchi Sarma Grape Leaves

IMAM BAYELDI

(Eggplant prepared with Sauteed Onion and Olive Oil Filling)

- 36 small eggplants, about 4 inches each
- 1/2 cup light olive oil
- 1/2 cup regular olive oil (not extra virgin)
- Salt
- Filling:
- 1 cup light, 1 cup regular olive oil (not extra virgin)
- 9-10 medium onions, very thinly sliced
- 6-7 cloves garlic, chopped
- 1-2 green peppers, small dice
- Kosher salt, pepper to taste
- 3 medium tomatoes, chopped
- 1/2 bunch parsley, chopped
- 1/2 cup fresh chopped dill
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 2-3 pinches sugar
- Juice of 1/2 fresh lemon or to taste
- Tomato sauce:
- 15 ounces tomato sauce
- 1/4 to 1/2 cups water
- Salt and pepper to taste
- Pinch of sugar

Prepare olive oils for the eggplants by combining half light olive oil and half regular olive oil in a quart-sized liquid measuring cup. Wash eggplants, cut off stems and caps. With a sharp paring knife, peel one narrow strip lengthwise down one side. Make a slit on this strip for filling later. When all are prepared, line the eggplants slit-side-up on a baking dish/tray with 2-inch sides. Salt the eggplants lightly and let stand for 15 minutes. Wipe with a damp paper towel to remove excess salt and moisture. Preheat the oven to 375 and with olive oil combination, place enough to cover the bottom of the tray. Roll

each eggplant in olive oil to coat, to prevent sticking while roasting. Roast eggplants until bottoms are lightly browned. Turn once halfway through cooking time and return to slit-side-up for filling.

Meanwhile, prepare filling, using 2 large frying pans, adding 1 cup combination of light/regular olive oil to each pan. Divide any ingredients added between the two pans. Heat olive oil and add onions, cooking on medium heat until soft but not fried, stirring frequently. Once the onions have just started to turn lightly browned, lower heat and add garlic and green peppers, stirring occasionally. Lightly salt and add pepper to taste. Salt and pepper the chopped tomatoes, add a pinch of sugar and again, divide between the mixtures. Add the chopped parsley and chopped dill. Mix well and cook slightly. Add 2-3 pinches sugar and adjust seasoning. Add lemon juice to taste.

Fill the slits of the eggplants with the filling mixture, leaving the eggplants in the tray, side-by-side. For the sauce, combine the tomato sauce, water, salt and pepper and a pinch of sugar in a small saucepan. Boil lightly for 5 minutes and cool. Place a small amount of tomato sauce on the bottom of the trays. Spoon 1 tablespoon sauce over each filled eggplant. Bake in a preheated 365 oven for 30 minutes. Serve at room temperature. This dish may be served as an appetizer or a side dish.

May be frozen in trays baked. To serve, bring to room temperature, bake in a preheated 350 oven for approximately 15-20 minutes and return to room temperature to serve.

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HOMETOWNlife.com

Automotive advertisement for Lou LaRiche & Sons. Features a grid of cars for sale including Chevrolet Malibu, Ford Expedition, and various SUVs. Includes a large sidebar on the left with 'We Pay Top Dollar For Clean Used Cars' and a large bottom section with 'Switch to LaRiche & Take It Home Today Pricing'.

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food



hometown life
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September 16, 2010

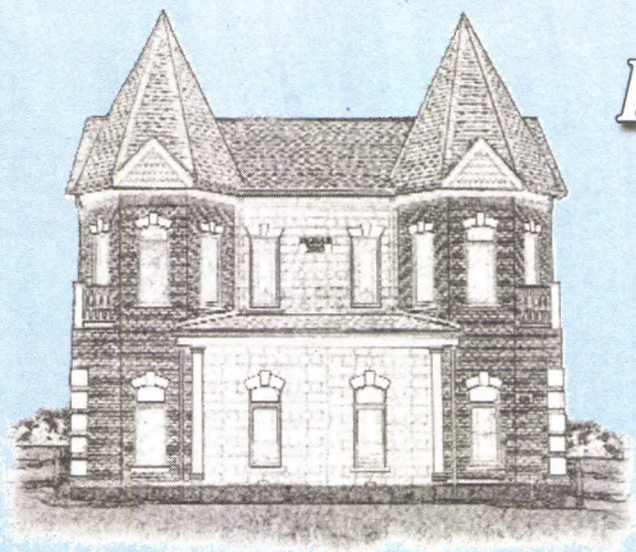


Special edition: Fall Home Improvement



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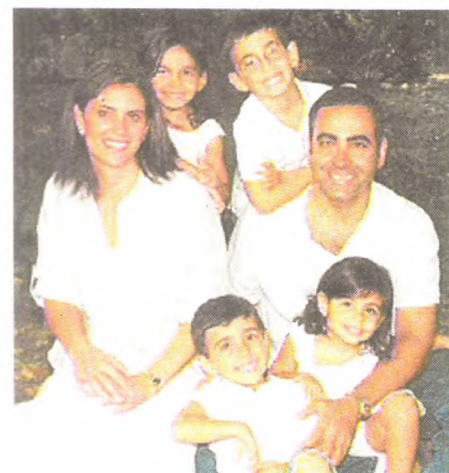
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hometown life
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September, 16 2010

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Special edition begins on page

DAILY:

- Animal Barn
- Farm Playground
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welcome

Inspire ushers in fall season of fun, home improvement

The calendar still says summer, but the recent cool temperatures, start of the football season and colorful leaves are harbingers of autumn.



The changing season ushers in all sorts of fun, fall activities. It's a great time to live in southeast Michigan. Apples are Michigan's largest and most valuable fruit crop, and there's a whole industry built around our love of them. Area mills and orchards serve up cold and hot cider along with a variety of other goodies — donuts, candied apples, pies, pumpkins and more. But there's more to orchards and farms this time of year than just cider. See our list of local attractions on Page 6.

You've probably noticed that this month's *inspire* is really thick — that's because it's chock full of information for those looking for fall home, lawn and garden improvement projects.

Be sure to read our **Special Advertising Section: Fall Home Improvement**. Some of the highlights include "Equipping the man cave: Area businesses make recreation rooms easy" by Contributing Writer Jon Gunnells. Other home improvement features focus on getting your home ready for winter, flooring trends and how to save money on heating costs. For the planners out there, Contributing Writer Alison Bergstieker offers up a peek at this year's holiday decor. There's more on fall lawn and garden care, along with information about hreplaces, home offices, paint trends and even home spas.

Yes, it's time to get ready for that other season that follows autumn. Take time, get a head start and have fun preparing for the upcoming holiday seasons and winter. And, as always, shop local! The businesses inside today's *inspire* offer great products at competitive prices. They are the backbone of our local economy.

I welcome your comments and story suggestions for upcoming editions of *hometown life inspire*

Susan Rosiek
 Publisher
srosiek@hometownlife.com

SAVE THE DATE FOR THIS FOOD/WINE EXTRAVAGANZA

Food and wine lovers from throughout the metro area will want to attend the Schoolcraft College Culinary Extravaganza on Sunday, Sept. 26.

Guests will have the opportunity to sample some of the finest culinary delicacies from the most notable restaurants, pastry shops and beverage vendors from 2-5 p.m. in the colleges Vis Ta Tech Center, 18600 Haggerty Road, Livonia.

Culinary Extravaganza brings together students, food professionals and the southeastern Michigan community. The event is a fund-raiser to benefit the college's famous Culinary Arts program and Schoolcraft students by providing scholarships and grants to enhance educational opportunities. Visit www.schoolcraft.edu/foundation for

a current listing of participating restaurants, pastry shops and beverage vendors.

Tickets are \$50 per person (\$20 of which is a charitable contribution). To order tickets call 734-462-4518 or go to www.schoolcraft.edu/foundation.

Sponsorship packages ranging from \$300 to \$5,000 are still available and offer additional benefits including a VIP pre-event private reception. Call 734-462-4518 to join the list of sponsors supporting this event.

A special raffle (tickets are \$5 each or three for \$10) is also planned with prizes of \$1,000 (first place), \$500 (second place), \$350 (third and fourth place) and dinner for two at the American Harvest Restaurant /Schoolcraft (fifth,



sixth and seventh place). And even if you don't win, you win because the back of the ticket offers a 20 percent discount at American Harvest and Guilio's Cucina Italian, Livonia and a 10 percent discount at Steve & Rocky's, Novi.

Event patrons can also participate in silent auction featuring food, wine, entertainment and sports packages and a overnight stay at the Townsend Hotel in downtown Birmingham.

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Local cider mills, apple orchards make perfect autumn outings

APPLE FACTS

- Apples are Michigan's largest and most valuable fruit crop, with an average annual economic contribution to the state of \$700-\$900 million.
- There are 900 family-operated farms throughout Michigan's Lower Peninsula. Small family farmers operating their own orchards continue to dominate the landscape. According to statistics, 65 percent of Michigan orchards had fewer than 200 acres in apples.
- Michigan is the third largest apple-producing state in the nation.
- On average, Michigan harvests about 20 million bushels (840 million pounds) of apples per year. The 2010 crop is estimated at 15.5 million bushels, down 20-25 percent due to some frosty spring nights.
- Michigan has more than 7.5 million apple trees in commercial production, covering some 36,500 acres.
- Michigan plays a vital role in processed apples. About 60 percent of all Michigan Apples are processed into another product. Michigan is the largest supplier of apple slices used in commercially prepared apple pies. Michigan apples are also a main source for applesauce, fresh-cut slices, and fresh and shelf-stable apple cider.
- The Michigan Honeycrisp continues to grow in popularity. Despite increased tree plantings, Michigan production is still not keeping pace with consumer demand! Honeycrisp has a crisp, juicy bite and a sweet flavor. Best for fresh eating!

Source: Michigan Apple Committee and michiganapples.com

By DIANE GALE ANDREASSI
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

There's no place like Michigan for cider mills and apple orchards on a warm autumn day. Picture leaves bursting with color and crunching underfoot on the way to warm doughnuts and cold cider. A tasty getaway — even if only for an afternoon.

Autumn is the time to enjoy the simple pleasures of squeezed apples and hot out of the oven freshly made doughnuts. It's a time when calories and carbs are balanced by fresh fruit and a wholesome outdoor atmosphere.

Some orchards invite the public to enjoy the fruits of their labor as they pick each apple off the vine before bringing it to their kitchen table. Most even offer tractor rides to the orchards and an opportunity to be left off where your favorite apple variety grows.

Celebrating its 90th year, Erwin Orchards is a third-generation family farm in South Lyon. While old time traditions continue, Erwin Farms also uses new technology and techniques, including Integrated Pest Management, which features biological controls on insects instead of chemicals, "whenever possible," according to the mill's website. Choose from 14 apple varieties, sweet cherries, raspberries and pumpkins. Anyone who



Photo by Sue Munday, Lincoln Park resident
Plymouth Orchards & Cider Mill donuts and cider.



Photo by Donald J. Alley

Water from the stream forces this huge wheel to turn, which provides the energy necessary to operate the presses used to make the apple cider. Here, Gary Faigin of Seattle, WA and son Benjamin, 8, watch the wheel turn. Benjamin's grandmother lives in Southfield, and the cider mill trip is a tradition being passed down during their visits home.

visits should be sure to look for the mascot dogs, Zoe and Chloe.

Other visitors are looking for more than apples and cider. In recent years, orchards have been the perfect place to try your navigational skills in mazes carved from corn rows. The Nighttime Weekend Corn Stalkers adds a little spook to the fun and promises to tear at your nerves. Erwin Orchards also offers wagon rides, a petting farm and other special events.

The longtime-running Franklin Cider Mill is packed with history; charm; organically grown apples;

fresh cider; doughnuts; candied and caramel apples and other goodies.

The mill was completed in 1837 and the current water wheel, one of the largest in the country, was installed soon after the turn of the century. All the apples are 100 percent organically grown.

Plymouth Orchards provides wagon rides, pumpkins, a petting farm and live music. Calling ahead for the times and dates of the performances.

Some cider mills, like Parmenter's even offer on site wineries

where customers can choose from a variety of alcoholic wines, three hard cider flavors and one non-alcoholic sparkling cider. The Chow Mill, which is owned and operated by the Northville Cider Mill, is just outside the building. Patrons whose hunger is grander than a bag of doughnuts can order hot dogs, kielbasa, sauerkraut, chips and cider by the glass.

Some cider mills and orchards offer arts and crafts and an array of other events. One thing is certain, each one is sure to provide a one of a kind charm. Call ahead, or go online, to learn more.

Alber Orchard & Cider Mill

13011 Bethel Church Road
Manchester
(734) 428-9310
www.alberorchard.com

Ashton Orchards & Cider Mill

3925 Seymour Lake Road
Ortonville
(248) 627-6671

Erwin Orchards U-Pick & Cider Mill

*See ad on page 8
61475 Silver Lake Road
South Lyon
(248) 437-4701 or (888) 824-3377
www.erwinorchards.com

Flint Farmers Market

(810) 232-1399
www.flintfarmersmarket.com
Open year round. Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays.

Franklin Cider Mill

P.O. Box 250041
7450 Franklin Road
Franklin
(248) 626-2968
www.franklincidermill.com

Greeneck Mills

10470 Rushton Road
South Lyon
(810) 437-5900

Long Family Farm

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Commerce Township
(248) 360-3774
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continued on page 8

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continued from page 6



Students visiting the area from the Ritto Nishi Junior High School in Japan sampled something truly American — the Franklin Cider Mill.

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Obstbaum Orchards
*See ad on page 19
9252 Currie Road
Salem Township
(734) 560-2840
www.obstbaum.com

Parmenter's Northville Cider Mill Inc.
714 Baseline Road
Northville
(248) 349-3181
www.northvillecidermill.com

Plymouth Orchards and Cider Mill
10685 Warren Road
Plymouth
(734) 455-2290
www.plymouthorchards.com

Spicer's Orchards
*See ad on page 4
10411 Clyde Road
Fenton
(810) 632-7692
www.spicerorchards.com

Three Cedars Farm
*See ad on page 13
Cider Mill & Corn Maze
7897 Six Mile
Salem Township
(248) 437-8200
www.threecedarsfarm.org

Wasem Fruit Farm
6590 Judd Road
Milan
(734) 482-2342
www.wasemfruitfarm.com

Wiard's Orchard and Country Fair
5565 Merritt Road
Ypsilanti
(734) 482-7744
www.wiards.com

Wolcott Orchards
3284 Coldwater Road
Mount Morris
(810) 789-9561
www.wolcottorchards.net

VerEllen Orchards & Cider Mill
63260 Van Dyke
Romeo
(586) 752-2989

Michigan is likely to have approximately three-quarters of an apple crop this year, according to a consensus of apple growers and shippers across the state. Some of the state's apple orchards experienced loss brought on by the early onset of hot temperatures in April, followed by several nights in May with temperatures in the mid-20s in some areas across the state.

Damage appears to be

scattered across the state, and depends on the type of land the apples were grown on (lower elevations being more frost-susceptible); the variety of apple; the stage of blossom or fruit development during the cold temperatures; whether the grower had frost protection available; the age of the tree and many other factors. Often growers have one farm that was significantly damaged by frost, and another farm that had so many apples thinning was required.

Michigan growers had a crop of near-record proportions last year, which was estimated by the USDA to be 28.6 million bushels. "Apples — which like to take a rest every other year — surprisingly came back this spring with a great return bloom, but we think some of them were prepared to be finicky," said Denise Donohue, executive director of the Michigan Apple Committee. "In some cases, the cold nights proved too much and the trees dropped much of their load during the traditional 'June drop.'"

Michigan has thousands of new trees coming into in their best bearing years, and because these trees were not overloaded last year they will certainly help nudge up production numbers this fall.



Photo by Alison Bergsieker

Parmenter's Cider Mill in Northville.



Erwin Orchards & Cider Mill

61475 Silver Lake Rd., South Lyon

888-8Cider7 www.erwinorchards.com

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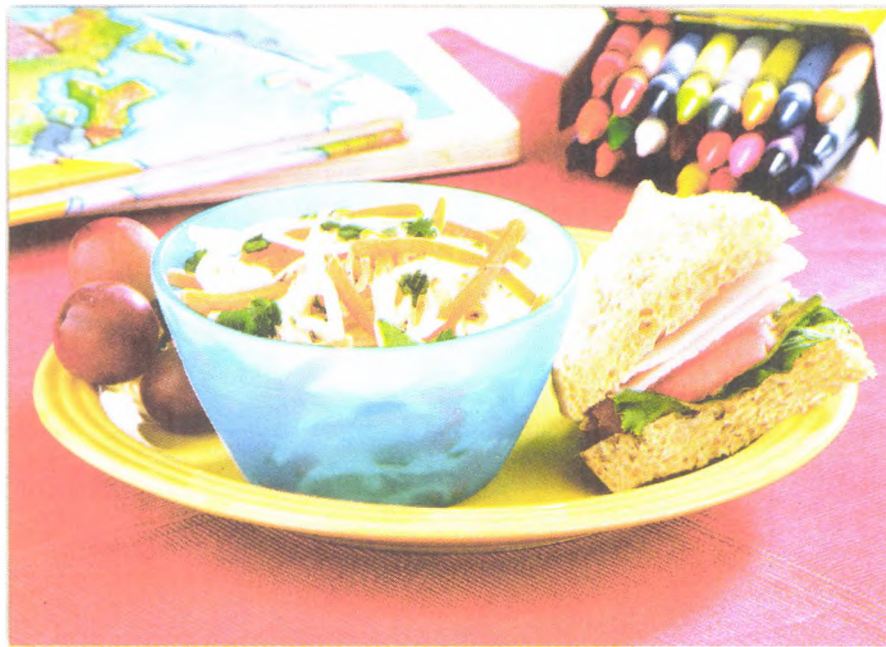
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Smarter after-school snacking



String Cheese "Slaw."

Chips and a soft drink may be a convenient after school snack, but it doesn't do the body any good. Believe it or not, there are snack options that not only do the body – and the brain – some good, but they taste good, too.

Omega-3s are fats essential to brain development and continued brain health, vision, prevention of cardiovascular disease, and normal growth and development throughout childhood. However, they are not produced in the body, nor are they found in many foods. Fatty fish are an excellent source of omega-3s, but fatty fish are not on most kids' after school snack menus. However, there are other sources of omega-3s, such as Omega-3 Milk from Organic Valley.

"Adding milk high in omega-3s to our daily diet is a simple, practical way to promote life-long health, and it is especially important for families with young children. Omega-3s are essential building blocks for infants and children as they grow and their brains develop," said Dr. Charles Benbrook, chief scientist of The Organic Center.

With Omega-3 milk, Organic Valley complements its pasture-based organic milk—which already contains elevated levels of the naturally-occurring ALA Omega-3—with DHA and EPA, two other Omega-3 fatty acids extracted from sustainably-sourced fish oil. Each glass delivers complete Omega-3 nutrition.

For a mouth-pleasing, brain-boosting after school snack, try serving up some of this

fun String Cheese "Slaw" with a tall glass of Omega-3 milk. It may just turn chips into a snack of the past.

For more information and coupons, visit www.organicvalley.coop.

String Cheese "Slaw"

Prep time: 15 Minutes
Servings: 6

Crayon-sized string cheese cylinders can be sliced into "buttons" or stripped into "threads," then added to salads of all stripes. Here, the cheese strips are the main ingredient in a fun, carrot-flecked slaw.

- 6 Organic Valley Stringles String Cheese
- 1½ cups carrot, cut into matchsticks or shredded
- 3 tablespoons cilantro, chopped (or parsley)
- 4 teaspoons fresh lemon juice
- 2 teaspoons olive oil
- black pepper, freshly ground

Pull threads of cheese off each string cheese stick (not too thin). Toss with carrots, cilantro or parsley, lemon juice and olive oil. Add pepper to taste.

Serve immediately, or chill the salad in the refrigerator, tossing occasionally, ½ to 1 hour. Serve at room temperature or chilled.

Other Serving Suggestions: This also makes an unusual and fun side dish to sandwiches or burgers. Or it may be added to tacos or burritos, or piled into pita bread with sliced tomatoes.

— Courtesy Family Features

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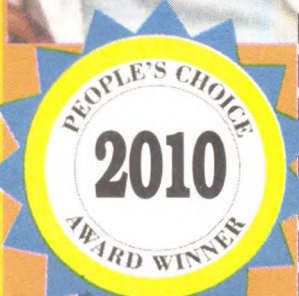


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Apple pies made easy



Festive Apple-Berry Pie

Crisp air, changing colors, orchards teeming with ripe apples — all sure signs of autumn. Usher in the fall harvest season by spending an afternoon with the family picking apples, and then rewarding yourself with a delectable home-baked pie.

It's easy to save time in the kitchen by starting with Pillsbury Refrigerated Pie Crusts. Just unroll a crust into your favorite pie plate, spoon in a sweet apple filling, bake and serve. Add a delicious twist to the classic apple pie with a number of complementary and favorite fall flavors — such as cinnamon, nutmeg, caramel, streusel, pecans and even cranberries.

From picking apples to baking a pie and enjoying it with family and friends, all in a matter of hours — any way you slice it, it's a delicious time of year. Here are a few Pillsbury

pie recipes to get you started baking apple pies now. For more ideas, visit www.pillsbury.com/pie, or become a fan and share your pie-making stories, photos or tips at www.facebook.com/lovethepie.

Festive Apple-Berry Pie

Prep Time: 30 minutes
Start to Finish: 1 hour 20 minutes
8 servings

- 2 cups fresh or frozen cranberries
- 1 1/2 cups sugar, divided
- 4 tablespoons cornstarch, divided
- 2 tablespoons water
- 1 box (14.1 ounces) Pillsbury refrigerated pie crusts, softened as directed on box
- 5 to 6 cups sliced peeled apples (5 to 6 medium)
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1/2 teaspoon ground nutmeg

In 1-quart saucepan, mix cranberries, 1 cup sugar, 1 tablespoon cornstarch and water. Heat to boiling. Boil 5 minutes. Cool 15 minutes.

Heat oven to 425°F. Make pie crusts as directed on box for Two-Crust Pie using 9-inch glass pie pan.

In large bowl, mix apples, remaining 1/2 cup sugar, remaining 3 tablespoons cornstarch, cinnamon and nutmeg until apples are

coated. Stir in cooled cranberry mixture. Spoon into crust-lined pan. Top with second crust; seal edge and flute. Cut slits in several places in top crust.

Bake 40 to 50 minutes or until golden brown. After 15 to 20 minutes of baking, cover crust edge with strips of foil to prevent excessive browning.

Perfect Apple Pie

Prep Time: 30 minutes
Ready in: 3 hours
8 servings

- 1 box (14.1 ounces) Pillsbury refrigerated pie crusts, softened as directed on box
- Filling
- 6 cups thinly sliced, peeled apples (6 medium)
- 3/4 cup sugar
- 2 tablespoons all-purpose flour
- 3/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/8 teaspoon ground nutmeg
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice

Heat oven to 425°F. Place 1 pie crust in ungreased 9-inch glass pie plate. Press firmly against side and bottom.

In large bowl, gently mix filling ingredients; spoon into crust-lined pie plate. Top with second crust.

Wrap excess top crust under bottom crust edge, pressing edges



Caramel-Apple Streusel Pie

together to seal; flute. Cut slits or shapes in several places in top crust.

Bake 40 to 45 minutes or until apples are tender and crust is golden brown. Cover edge of crust with 2- to 3-inch-wide strips of foil after first 15 to 20 minutes of baking to prevent excessive browning. Cool on cooling rack at least 2 hours before serving.

Tip: Two cans (21 ounces each) apple pie filling can be substituted for the filling.

Caramel-Apple Streusel Pie

Prep Time: 30 minutes
Start to Finish: 3 hours
8 servings

- 6 cups sliced peeled ripe apples
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 2 tablespoons quick-cooking tapioca
- 1/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon ground nutmeg
- 1 box (14.1 ounces) Pillsbury refrigerated pie crusts, softened as directed on box
- 3/4 cup old-fashioned oats
- 1 tablespoon all-purpose flour
- 3 tablespoons sugar
- 1/2 cup cold butter or margarine
- 18 caramels, unwrapped
- 5 tablespoons milk
- 1/2 cup chopped pecans

Heat oven to 400°F. In large bowl, mix apples and lemon juice. In small bowl, mix 1/2 cup sugar, tapioca, cinnamon, salt and nutmeg. Add to apples; stir gently. Let stand 15 minutes. Place 1 pie crust in ungreased 9-inch glass pie plate. Pour apple

mixture into pastry-lined pie plate.

In small bowl, mix oats, flour and 3 tablespoons sugar. Cut in butter until crumbly. Sprinkle over apples. Cut second crust into wedges; arrange wedges in an alternate pattern across the mixture.

Bake 45 minutes. Meanwhile, in 1-quart saucepan, heat caramels and milk over low heat until caramels are melted. Stir until smooth; add pecans. Drizzle over pie. Bake 8 to 10 minutes longer or until crust is golden brown and filling is bubbly. Cool completely on cooling rack, about 2 hours.

— Courtesy Family Features

APPLES RIPE FOR BAKING

Some apple varieties are just made for pie baking; those with a firm texture and that hold their form under heat are best. Pillsbury test kitchen experts cite Golden Delicious apples as particularly suited for use in pies. Other favorites include Cameo, Cortland, Granny Smith, Idared, Jonathan, Newtown Pippin, Pink Lady and Rome Beauty. Ask the staff at your local orchard, farmers market or grocery store which types they recommend for pies.



Perfect Apple Pie

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Hot tips for cool crops: Get growing in your fall garden

You might think the end of summer means bidding farewell to fresh, homegrown veggies. Not so — many cool-season crops hit their heyday as autumn temperatures drop, and some even taste better when nipped by a light frost.

As long as their basic growing conditions are met, vegetable plants don't care what season it is. If you live in a warmer climate, you may be able to grow your fall garden all winter long. If, however, you live in a colder area, your growing season will be shorter.

In most regions of the country, gardeners plant fall vegetables in September for harvest in October and November. You'll need to carefully calculate your growing season so you can ensure plants have time to produce before freezing weather arrives. Generally, you should plant fall vegetables when daytime temperatures range between 60 and 80 degrees Fahrenheit (the cooler the better); night temperatures should be above 40 degrees, and you'll need enough sunshine to ensure plants will get at least six hours of sun per day. You'll also need to give plants at least an inch of water per week.

To get started, remove all the debris left over from your summer garden so fall crops have plenty of room to grow. Add compost to your garden beds and landscapes. Soil should be light, well-aerated and well-draining — since fall gardens are more likely to get soggy from rain. Mulch will keep the soil cool and moist during the last days of summer.

You can also mix in an all natural fertilizer like Bonnie Plants, Herb and Vegetable Plant Food, made from soybean oilseed extract, known to contain 150,000 nutritional and organic compounds that include vitamins, minerals, amino acids and proteins, enzymes, plant hormones and carbohydrates. All are vital to plant growth. Next, find out your local frost and freeze dates. For most areas, frost doesn't have to end the fall growing season. Monitor your local weather forecast during late September and early



Many cool-season crops hit their heyday as autumn temperatures drop, and some even taste better when nipped by a light frost.

October so you know when frost is coming.

Once you know your local frost and freeze dates, you can begin planning — and planting — your fall garden. Remember, when growing vegetables in the fall, plants need to be in the ground in time to mature before the first frost, and to yield most of their harvest before the first heavy freeze. Some cool-season crops mature in as little as 30 to 40 days, while others may take several

months to produce.

Since time is of the essence when planting a fall garden, start out with transplants that are already growing. Choose fast-maturing varieties, like Bonnie Plants, to get the most for your harvest. The gardening experts at Bonnie suggests these fall crops:

Winterbor kale — This vigorous producer weathers winter easily, even in very

cold climates. Cut outer leaves so that the center can continue growing. Space transplants about 12 inches apart

Georgia collards — Another leafy green similar to kale, Georgia collards are prized for their sweet, cabbage-like flavor. Space transplants 36 inches apart.

Romaine lettuce — Romaine packs more vitamins, minerals, fiber, and phytonutrients than other popular types of lettuce. Space transplants 18 inches apart.

Early dividend broccoli — Popular, productive and easy to grow, this broccoli is high in fiber and calcium. Set transplants 18 inches apart.

Mustard greens — Offering spicy hot leaves, this is a very fast-growing, nutritious vegetable. Mustard greens always taste sweeter when nipped by frost. Space plants 12 inches apart.

Bonnie hybrid cabbage — Bonnie's best cabbage is high in beta-carotene, vitamins C and K, and fiber. Space transplants 24 inches apart.

Arugula — These fast-growing leafy greens are super-food for your bones. The leaves are "nutrient dense" and low in calories. Leaves grow best in cool weather.

As winter grows closer, you can extend your garden harvest by using floating row covers on frosty nights, or by planting in containers that can be brought indoors overnight. Be ready with some kind of protection to cover your plants. You can opt for something commercially manufactured, such as cloches, polyethylene blankets and corrugated fiberglass covers, or try simple household items like old towels, bed sheets, or even used plastic milk jugs with the bottoms removed.

You can continue to enjoy fresh, home-grown vegetables through fall and even into winter when you start with some expert knowledge and the right plants. To learn more about growing a fall garden visit www.bonnieplants.com.

— Courtesy ARAcontent

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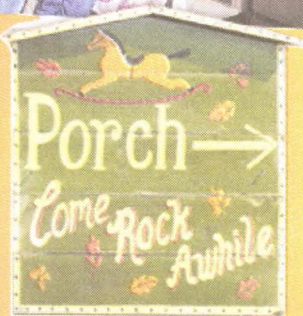
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Sudoku

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

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

Level: Beginner

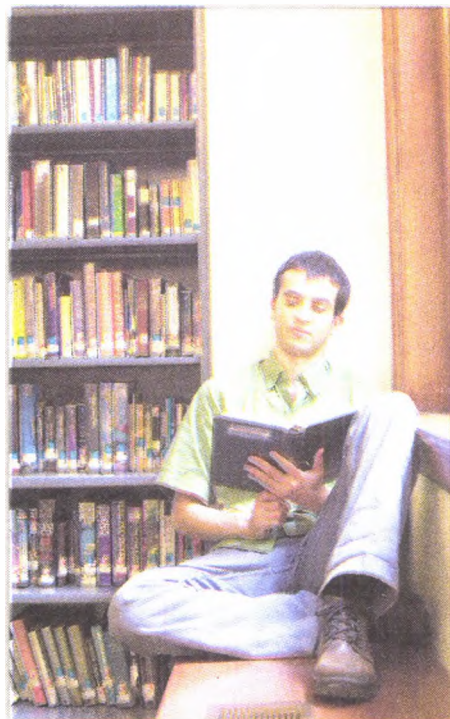
9	7							4
8						7	5	
2		3						
		4	6					
				4		1	2	3
			5				7	
7			3		8	5		
		6		5				8
			1					

Level: Intermediate

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

Level: Advanced

Answers found on page 19



When choosing a major, it's best for students to choose a field that interests them, regardless of how popular or potentially lucrative that field might be.

Top 10 most popular college majors

Each year, college kids across the country face the difficult decision of choosing a major. Some schools allow students to choose a major at their own pace while others require students to pick a major freshman year.

Though capricious college kids are known to change their majors from time to time, according to the Princeton Review, a resource to help students, parents and educators achieve the best results at every stage of their educational careers, the following 10 majors are the most popular among the nation's college students.

1. Business Administration and Management/Commerce
2. Psychology
3. Nursing
4. Biology/Biological Sciences
5. Education
6. English Language and Literature
7. Economics
8. Communications Studies/Speech Communication and Rhetoric
9. Political Science and Government
10. Computer and Information Sciences

Though these majors are popular, the Princeton Review notes they are not necessarily the majors that garner the most demand in the job market, particularly in the current economy. When choosing a major, it's best for students to choose a field that interests them, regardless of how popular or potentially lucrative that field might be.

— Metro Creative Connection

PLANNING FOR STUDENT SUCCESS

Much of a student's success with respect to the college admissions process rests with how much that student and his or her family has prepared. Leading test preparation provider Revolution Prep offers the following timeline for parents and students to easily navigate the process from start to finish.

Sophomore Year

October - November: PSAT
 March - June: SAT Subject Tests
 April - June: AP Exams

Junior Year

October - November: PSAT
 July - December: Ideal time for test prep and to take SAT/ACT
 January - June: Standard time for test prep and to take SAT/ACT test
 March - June: SAT Subject Tests
 April - June: AP Exams

Senior Year

July - December: Last chance for test prep and to take SAT/ACT test and/or SAT Subject Tests
 July - December: College applications and essays
 April - June: AP Exams

— Metro Creative Connection

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Rescues foster, carefully match dogs with new homes

By SHARON DARGAY
STAFF WRITER

Shelter, adoption event, rescue group or petfinder.com — you may want to consider all four avenues in your quest to find the perfect canine companion.

Petfinder.com offers a method for sorting through the thousands of dogs available for adoption nationwide. You can search by shelter, organization, breed or geographic location to find photos and descriptions of adoptable pooches.

Big shelters, like the Michigan Humane Society and Humane Society of Huron Valley offer dozens of adoptable animals all under one roof.

Rescue organizations rely on a network of foster parents who care for rescued dogs at their homes.

An adoption event, like the recent Paws in the Park in Canton, brings both shelters and rescue organizations together. You can meet dozens of animals in person, fill out adoption papers and in a few cases, go home with a new furry friend.

However, most rescue organizations don't adopt out on site. Waggin' Tails Dog Rescue Inc. in Northville, for example, requires an application — which must be approved by the foster parent — followed by a home visit.

"We know what the dog needs in a 'forever home' and diligently screen applicants to make sure that both sides — the dog and the adopter — are getting what they want. Because of that care, we have a very low return rate," said Karen Gould, a Plymouth resident and volunteer. "That's a good thing, because although we absolutely will take back any dog that doesn't work out, we'd really rather save another dog instead."

The group of 40 volunteers has found homes for about 400 dogs since it was founded in 2007. Gould said foster parents can give potential adopters a "better sense of the dog's personality and needs, and whether it might fit into their household" because the dog lives in a home, not a kennel, while awaiting adoption.

"Adopters who already have other animals in the home, inexperienced dog owners, and parents of younger children find this information especially valuable, because a bad fit can be so much more difficult for them to deal with," she said. Some rescues handle specific breeds and some, like Last Day Dog Rescue of Livonia, help canines only in the most dire



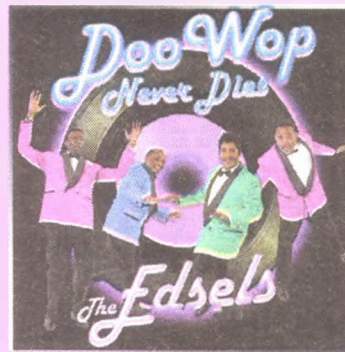
circumstances.

"We focus on helping dogs who are in kill shelters — for example, shelters that euthanize dogs in gas chambers, euthanize with heart sticks, or sell dogs to research," said Kathryn Lampi, vice president. "This past year, we have also focused on helping families who have been impacted by the economy and need to surrender their pets due to foreclosure situations.

"The best reason to adopt is that you are truly saving a life."

Here's a sampling of a few other dog rescues:

- Great Lakes Mini Schnauzer Rescue Inc. in Livonia; web page link on Petfinder.com; mmciver@twmi.rr.com
- Tail Waggers is a Livonia-based group that helps other rescues and supports pet owners in need of assistance. It also does a limited amount of rescuing, fostering and adoptions. www.tailwaggersusa.org.
- Great Dane Rescue Inc., in Plymouth; www.greatdanerescueinc.com
- Guardian Angel Animal Rescue in Livonia; www.gaarmichigan.org
- Michigan Pug Rescue, in Farmington; www.michiganpugrescue.com
- Better Life Canine Center, Redford; has web page link on petfinder.com
- Homeward Bound Rescue League, Canton; www.hbrlmi.org
- Mutts and Mutts Rescue League, Redford; www.muttsandmuttsrescue.org



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Take a Michigan fall color tour

With 19 million acres of woods set to turn to vibrant shades of browns, oranges and reds this month, Michigan will brim with gorgeous scenery along highways, country roads, coastlines and local parks.

Color changes take place across the state beginning mid-September and stretching through the end of October. Check out Pure Michigan's list of Michigan Fall Color Tour locations for a prime view of nature's wonder. Visit www.michigan.org for more information.

Michigan's Sunrise Side greets fall color in late September, and the autumn hues usually linger until mid-October. This 200-mile route travels from Lake Huron's shore to a stunning stand of virgin forest, with

lots of opportunities for wildlife viewing along the way.

Where better to begin a driving trip than in the Motor City? The home of the Motown Sound is the starting point for a 195-mile fall color route that skirts three waterways to the maritime city of Port Huron, and rolls through historic southeast Michigan towns with connections to three pop music stars. The month of October is prime for viewing autumn hues at a variety of parks and stopping to taste seasonal treats at cider mills along the way.

Catch the last spectacular show of fall color in East Central and

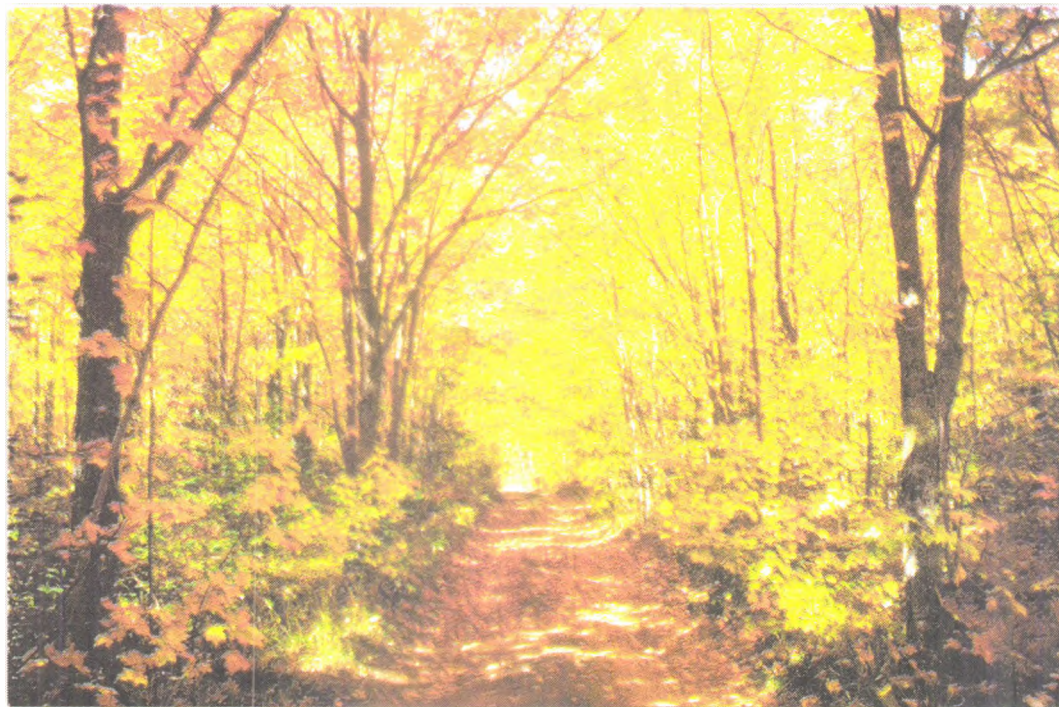


Photo by Don Simonelli

County road in fall in Michigan's Upper Peninsula.

Southeastern Michigan in October. There is plenty of see and do with the entire family in this loop of 150 miles from Bloomfield Hills, to Flint and back down to the Brighton area.

A fall color excursion that starts just outside the State Capital and takes in scenic farm and woodlands, rivers, and a unique geological formation that is about 300-million years old. The 150-mile loop is best enjoyed from mid to late October.

Pack the binoculars, bicycles and beach blanket for a fall color tour that takes in all the sights, from city scenes and sand dunes to wineries, farm markets and Lake Michigan sunsets. And don't forget the camera for this 195-mile West Michigan jaunt, which is best enjoyed from early to late October.

Enjoy this area's fall color by car, on foot, canoe or on a vintage train ride. The winding Au Sable River is the perfect waterway to paddle and

enjoy the splashes of vibrant color against towering evergreens.

Catch the last act of Michigan's fall color show in the central Lower Peninsula near the state's border with Indiana and Ohio. Best enjoyed from mid-to-late October, the 155-mile loop travels through countryside known for agriculture, antiques and Amish communities.

Michigan's fall colors come first to the trees of the Keweenaw Peninsula, the state's northernmost point. The crooked finger of land that juts into Lake Superior puts on its annual show from about mid-September to early October in a stunning display of reds, oranges and golds that blankets the hills and ridges and forms colorful tunnels on winding two-lane roads.

If you're looking for fabulous fall color, look no further than Michigan — it's around nearly every bend in the road. We invite you to take time along the way to discover the many

local U-pick orchards, pumpkin patches, cider mills, and autumn festivals for a real taste of the harvest season in Michigan.

This Western Upper Peninsula fall driving tour includes breathtaking vistas, country roads, waterfalls and a chance to walk on the Lake Superior shore. With 90 percent of the area forest-covered, you are sure to be engulfed by a sea of reds, oranges, golds, and greens that tint the countryside from mid-September to early October. The colors outlined by the mountains, bluffs, and lakes form woodland rainbows around every bend.

For a dose of Michigan history with your fall color tour, take this 195-mile trip through southeast Lower Peninsula and follow old Indian trails and territorial roads, an early tavern, a battlefield, the hometown of an infamous general, and even a winery or two. The colors along the mostly two-lane highway route are usually best from

continued on page 18



Photo courtesy of Travel Michigan

Fall color at School Lake in Leelanau County.

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Over the years, Garden City Hospital has strived to improve the health and well-being of our neighbors. Since caring for our first patient in 1947, we have continued to expand our capabilities and expertise, growing with your changing needs. Your support has made it possible to open our new \$15 million Surgery Center, as well as attract a team of nationally-respected professionals, that deliver the highest-quality healthcare — in nearly every specialty, including:

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Photo by Vito Palmisano

Fall view of the Au Sable River near Oscoda.

continued from page 16

mid-to-late October.

In Michigan's Capital City of Lansing and neighboring East Lansing, fall color means equal parts green and white — at least on football weekends. The home of the Michigan State University Spartans, the pioneer land-grant institution was founded in 1855 and boasts an arboretum-like campus that bursts into an autumn palette of vibrant reds, oranges, bronze — even maize (but no blue). It's a good place to begin a 175-mile mid-mitten fall color tour that is best viewed throughout October.

This Northwestern Michigan fall color tour includes hilly, forested countryside, charming resort towns nestled along the sparkling blue waters of Lake Michigan, breathtaking views, fresh air and colorful wildlife.

LUDINGTON

Make a 185-mile loop for exciting fall color and visits to parks, cities and special attractions in Manistee, Cadillac and Ludington. A great fall color tour adventure depends on great fall color! Make sure you know when the colors will be peaking by checking out the most current fall

color conditions. Updates are posted weekly through September and October.

This Central Upper Peninsula fall driving tour includes tree-lined country roads, waterfalls, historic sites and a stunning drive along the Lake Superior shore. Any road winding through the Central U.P. will show you trees ranging from a subtle yellow to brilliant red from mid-September to early October. The peace and quiet of this period is unmatched at any other time of the year.

If you're looking for fabulous fall color, look no further than Michigan — it's around nearly every bend in the road. We invite you to take time along the way to discover the many local U-pick orchards, pumpkin patches, cider mills, and autumn festivals for a real taste of the harvest season in Michigan.

Head to the heart of Michigan's Lower Peninsula from early to mid-October for a town-and-country fall color tour that departs Midland and circles hardwood forests and farmland in four counties. The 160-mile route is dotted with dozens of inland lakes and criss-crossed by the

Pine, Salt, Sturgeon, Tittabawassee, Tobacco and Chippewa rivers.

Mother Nature's paintbrush gets a workout in Michigan each autumn. Beginning in mid-September her fall palette washes over the Upper Peninsula, complementing the blue-greens of the Great Lakes, and the white birch bark and deep evergreens of forests that envelop miles of quiet country roads.

When the air cools at night, lush green leaves change to brilliant jewel colors ... turning forests to gold and fields of blueberry bushes to crimson. This Southwestern Michigan tour features cider mills, U-pick farms, roadside markets, wineries and quiet hiking trails as you travel.

This Michigan Sunrise Side fall color tour includes a scenic drive along Lake Huron, unspoiled wilderness and recreation areas, abundant wildlife, and the River Road Scenic Byway along the beautiful Au Sable River.

This Western Michigan fall color tour includes rolling wooded hill-

sides, orchards with ripe apples and beautiful vistas of Lake Michigan.

Give a thumbs up for pure Michigan color. The cool, crisp air and colorful roadside show staged by changing leaves makes early to mid-October an ideal time for a driving tour through the Thumb of Michigan's "mitten." This easy, 130-mile square trip skirts the Lake Huron shore and takes you across farmland and country roads to orchards, cider mills, pumpkin patches and small towns and museums just right for exploring on a quiet afternoon.

Woods and water have always been important to the northeast corner of Michigan's Sunrise Side at the "Tip of the Mitt." You'll see no shortage of either on a tour of the 200-mile triangle that includes the sandy beaches of Lake Huron, rivers and lakes teeming with fish, the only waterfalls in the Lower Peninsula, and thousands of acres of forests. The land that was clear cut during the lumbering boom more than a century ago now offers beautiful fall scenery from late September to mid-October.

The breathtaking splendor of Lake Huron awaits you on this "thumb" area color tour! Other highlights include: Frankenmuth, Saginaw, state parks, farm markets and antique shops.

A driving tour through the Eastern Upper Peninsula of Michigan will provide you with a memorable experience. Don't forget to bring your camera. The wonderful fall colors provide a beautiful backdrop for photographing the beautiful lakes, waterfalls, and lighthouses.

The oldest European settlements in the Midwest, and the third oldest in the United States are at the heart of this tour of the Eastern Upper Peninsula. The historic city of St.

Ignace, at the Straits of Mackinac, is a good place to begin this 160-mile tour.

From late September to mid-October, the Traverse City-Northport-Frankfort areas are ablaze with autumn hues. The Grand Traverse area encompasses more than 250 miles of Lake Michigan shoreline, certainly providing some spectacular fall color viewing. It's a great time to take a hot air balloon ride to see the colors from above, or to climb aboard the twin-masted schooner Manitou for a sail across Grand Traverse Bay.



Photo courtesy of Travel Michigan

Country road in Leelanau County during the fall season.



Photo by Michael M. Smith

Fall color at Ionia Recreation Area.

Score a tailgating touchdown with beef



Bruschetta Burger

Tickets? Check. Foam finger? Check. Favorite team jersey? Check. Tailgating food that scores with all your friends? You bet.

Beef and tailgating are a winning team. In fact, for a tailgating party with friends, burgers are the preferred food of choice, according to a survey by Pelegrin Research Group on behalf of the Beef Checkoff.

And we know that the grill is king of the gridiron, with 61 percent of people saying they prefer to cook beef outside on the grill. So when the time comes to bring friends and family together for the big game, you'll have the best handoff of the day with a parking lot-friendly Bruschetta Burger.

Charge ahead. Score a touchdown for your tailgating team with a burger fit for champions.

Bruschetta Burger

Makes 4 servings

Total Recipe Time: 30 to 35 minutes

- 1 pound ground beef
- 1/2 cup grated Parmesan cheese
- 2 tablespoons minced green onions
- 1 teaspoon minced garlic
- Salt and pepper
- 4 slices rustic crusty bread, cut 1/2 inch thick
- Olive oil

Bruschetta Topping:

- 3/4 cup chopped red tomatoes
- 1/2 cup chopped yellow tomatoes
- 1 tablespoon thinly sliced fresh basil

- 1/2 teaspoon minced garlic
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- Pepper

Combine Bruschetta Topping ingredients in medium bowl; set aside.

Combine ground beef, cheese, green onions and garlic in medium bowl, mixing lightly but thoroughly. Lightly shape into four 1/2-inch thick patties.

Place patties in center of grid, over medium, ash-covered coals. Grill, uncovered, 11 to 13 minutes (over medium heat on preheated gas grill, covered, 7 to 8 minutes) until instant-read thermometer inserted horizontally into center registers 160°F, turning occasionally.

Meanwhile, brush both sides of bread slices with oil. About 3 minutes before burgers are done, place bread on grid. Grill until lightly toasted, turning once.

Season burgers with salt and pepper, as desired. Place 1 burger on each bread slice; top each with 1/4 cup Bruschetta Topping. Serve open-faced.

Cook's Tip: Cooking times are for fresh or thoroughly thawed ground beef. Color is not a reliable indicator of ground beef doneness.

Cook's Tip: If using 95 percent lean ground beef, combine ground beef with 1/4 cup soft bread crumbs, 1 egg white and ingredients as directed in step 2.

— Courtesy Family Features & The Beef Checkoff.

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

Intermediate

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

Advanced

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

Properly dispose of hazardous waste at local sites

By DIANE GALE ANDREASSI
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

While recycling benefits the environment revamping our mindsets to avoid using certain products and limiting consumption of others goes a long way to helping Mother Earth and sometimes your bank account.

Reduce, reuse, renew and recycle has been a mantra repeated by everyone from school children to greenies, and the rest of the world. A lot of us want to do the right thing, but we're not always sure what we can and cannot put in our recycle bins.

The recycle bin is not for hazardous waste, garbage, Styrofoam, oil containers, medical waste, yard waste and tires, according to Resource Recovery and Recycling Authority of Southwest Oakland County, serving Farmington, Novi, Southfield, South Lyon, Walled Lake, Wixom.

The recycle bin is for all plastic bottles and the labels can be left on; grocery and retail bags placed in one big bag and plastic coated paper juice containers, big boxes broken down, as well as magazines, newspapers, junk mail, cans and foil, as well as pots and pans.

Don't place yard waste in plastic bags and expect them to be taken by the garbage collection, because in Michigan it is illegal to landfill yard waste. That means all yard waste must go to a compost site.

Plastic, however, won't break down in the composting process. Put small branches, leaves, grass clippings and other yard waste in brown paper yard waste bags or a trash can marked with a yard waste sticker so it can be taken to the compost site.

Household hazardous waste shouldn't go at the curb with your garbage, either. Those items, as listed by RRRASOC, are:

Bleach, drain cleaners, mercury thermometers, aerosol cans, medicines, nail polish, metal polish with solvent; pesticides, herbicides, fungicides, insecticides, weed and feeds, deck wash; used oil, brake transmission fluids,



The recycle bin is for all plastic bottles and the labels can be left on; grocery and retail bags placed in one big bag and plastic coated paper juice containers, big boxes broken down, as well as magazines, newspapers, junk mail, cans and foil, as well as pots and pans.

gas, kerosene, diesel fuel, fuel oil, car batteries and battery acid and antifreeze; fluorescent bulbs, glue, oil based paint and primer, batteries, mercury, small propane tanks, pool chemicals, printers, keyboards, televisions and radios.

Unacceptable items at the household hazardous waste sites are latex paint, smoke detectors, radioactive waste and explosives including flares, ammo and fireworks. Latex paint is not a hazardous waste and is not accepted at Household Hazardous Waste days (HHWs). It is recommended to dry out the latex paint and place it, can and all, into a plastic garbage bag and then into your regular container at home by following these guidelines: In a well-ventilated area, open the can and add sand or kitty litter. The paint will solidify in a few days. Once it is completely solid, place it out with your trash.

Locations for Hazardous Waste collection include the following:

SATURDAY, SEPT. 25

8 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Northville City Yards
650 Doheny
City of Livonia, City of Northville and Northville Township residents are free to go to this event.

SATURDAY, OCT. 2

9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
20000 W. Eight Mile Road
(enter off of Mapleridge Road one block east of Evergreen)
Southfield
*RRRASOC sponsored Household Hazardous Waste Collection

SATURDAY, OCT. 9

9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Novi Civic Center
45175 W. Ten Mile Road
Novi

SPRING 2011

Compuware Sports Arena
14900 Beck Rd.
Plymouth
Date to be announced.

For more information about Hazardous Waste collection in Wayne County go to www.waynecounty.com/mygovt/dbe. In Oakland County go to www.oakgov.com/waste/assets/doc/2009.

For more information on RRRAS Oakland County go to www.rrrasoc.com.

Call your local Department of Public Works for specific questions that will apply to your community.

The Livonia Drop-off Recycling Center is open Monday through Friday 7:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on the south side of Glendale about half a mile east off of Farmington road between Schoolcraft and Plymouth roads. The center accepts larger corrugated cardboard; vehicle batteries; oil and anti-freeze and large scrap metal, like frames and folding chairs.

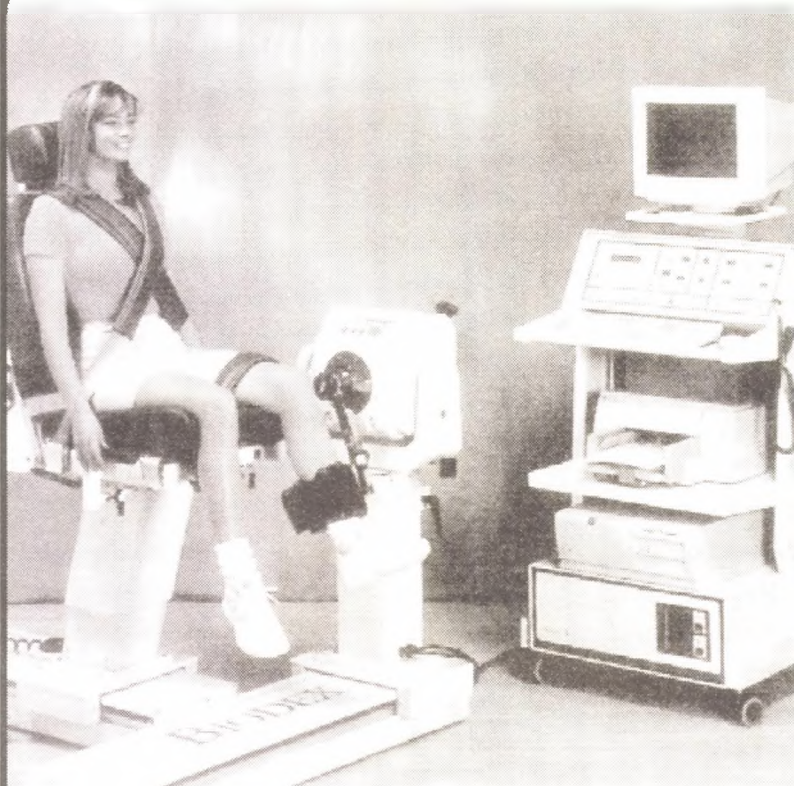
Other ways to reduce waste is to avoid avoidables, like disposable razors, as well as paper plates, according to the Livonia recycle website at www.ci.livonia.mi.us/departments/dpw/publicservice/refugecycling/recyclinginformation.

For more recycling tips go to www.govguru.com/michigan/recycling.

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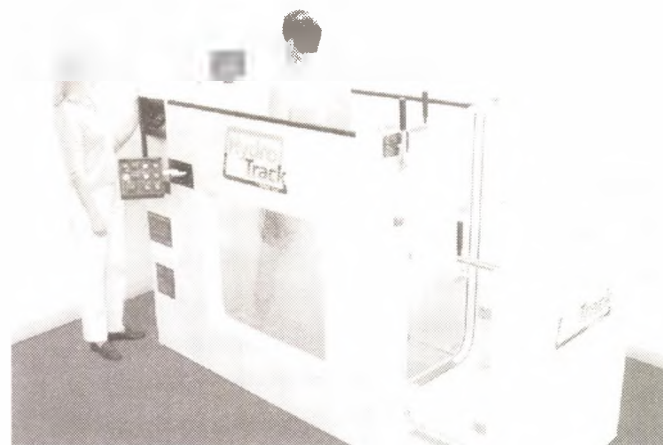
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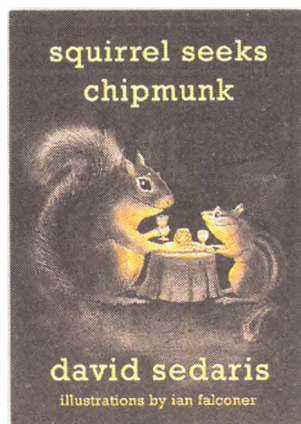
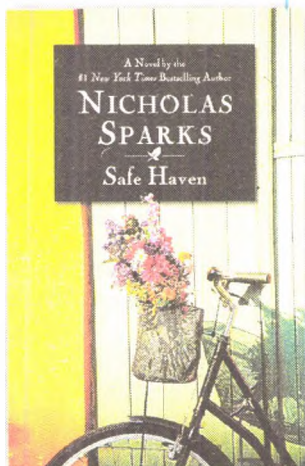
The latest in books, music and movies

NEW READS

SEPTEMBER NEW RELEASE » SAFE HAVEN

By Nicholas Sparks | Grand Central Publishing
Release Date: September 14

When a mysterious young woman named Katie appears in the small North Carolina town of Southport, her sudden arrival raises questions about her past. Beautiful yet self-effacing, Katie seems determined to avoid forming personal ties until a series of events draws her into two reluctant relationships: one with Alex, a widowed store owner with a kind heart and two young children; and another with her plainspoken single neighbor, Jo. Despite her reservations, Katie slowly begins to let down her guard, putting down roots in the close-knit community and becoming increasingly attached to Alex and his family. But even as Katie begins to fall in love, she struggles with the dark secret that still haunts and terrifies her... a past that set her on a fearful, shattering journey across the country, to the sheltered oasis of Southport. With Jo's empathic and stubborn support, Katie eventually realizes that she must choose between a life of transient safety and one of riskier rewards... and that in the darkest hour, love is the only true safe haven.



SEPTEMBER NEW RELEASE » SQUIRREL SEEKS

CHIPMUNK: A MODEST BESTIARY

By David Sedaris | Little, Brown and Company
Release Date: September 28

Featuring David Sedaris' unique blend of hilarity and heart, this new collection of keen-eyed animal-themed tales is an utter delight. Though the characters may not be human, the situations in these stories bear an uncanny resemblance to the insanity of everyday life.

In "The Toad, the Turtle, and the Duck," three strangers commiserate about animal bureaucracy while waiting in a complaint line. In "Hello Kitty," a cynical feline struggles to sit through his prison-mandated AA meetings. In "The Squirrel and the Chipmunk," prejudiced family members separate a pair of star-crossed lovers.

With original illustrations by Ian Falconer, author of the bestselling Olivia series of children's books, these stories are David Sedaris at his most observant, poignant, and surprising.

Mark Bittman



SEPTEMBER NEW RELEASE » THE FOOD MATTERS COOKBOOK. 500 REVOLUTIONARY RECIPES

By Mark Bittman | Simon & Schuster
Publication Date: September 21

The Food Matters Cookbook is the essential encyclopedia and guidebook to responsible eating, with more than 500 recipes that capture Bittman's typically relaxed approach to everything in the kitchen. There is no finger-wagging here, just a no-nonsense and highly flexible case for eating more plants while cutting back on animal products, processed food, and of course junk. But for Bittman, flipping the ratio of your diet to something more virtuous and better for your body doesn't involve avoiding any foods — indeed, there is no sacrifice here.

LOCAL MUSIC EVENTS

THURSDAY

Chuck Bradley Band » Mediterranean Bistro, Livonia

Alice in Chains » DTE Energy Music Theatre, Clarkston

Daniel Harrison & the \$2 Highway » Bullfrog Bar & Grill, Redford

Fallout » Chatter's Pub, Westland

Howard Glazer » M's Gathering Place, Garden City

FRIDAY

99.5 WYCD's Birthday Bash featuring Sugarland » DTE Energy Music Theatre, Clarkston

Big Will » M's Gathering Place, Garden City

Wally Gibson & Denny Cox » Station 885, Plymouth

We Like Music Festival » Magic Stick, Detroit

Mike Moore » M's Gathering Place, Garden City

Steven Curtis Chapman/Third Day » DTE Energy Music Theatre, Clarkston

Benny and the Jets » Wayne Road Pub, Westland

Chris B Acoustic Show » Uptown Grille, Commerce Township

Spirit of Detroit Chorus » Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church, Farmington Hills

WEDNESDAY

Double Take » JB Bamboozles, Farmington Hills

No Lookin' Back Open Jam Session » Uptown Grille, Commerce Township

THURSDAY

Chuck Bradley Band » Mediterranean Bistro, Livonia

Daniel Harrison & the \$2 Highway » Bullfrog Bar & Grill, Redford

Eddie Money wsg Jesse Money and Tripper » DTE Energy Music Theatre, Clarkston

Hidden Agenda Band » Billy's Inn, White Lake

Lyle Lovett and His Large Band » Meadow Brook Music Festival, Rochester Hills

Relativity » M's Gathering Place, Garden City

SATURDAY

Hidden Agenda Band » Uptown Grille, Commerce Township

Wally Gibson & Denny Cox » Station 885, Plymouth

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MacGruber
Solitary Man

Letters to Juliet
Prince of Persia:
The Sands of Time

Robin Hood

Get Him to the Greek
Iron Man 2

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Going the Distance

I'm Still Here
Resident Evil: Afterlife
The Romantics

Never Let Me Go

Easy A
Alpha and Omega 3D
Catfish
Jack Goes Boating
The Town

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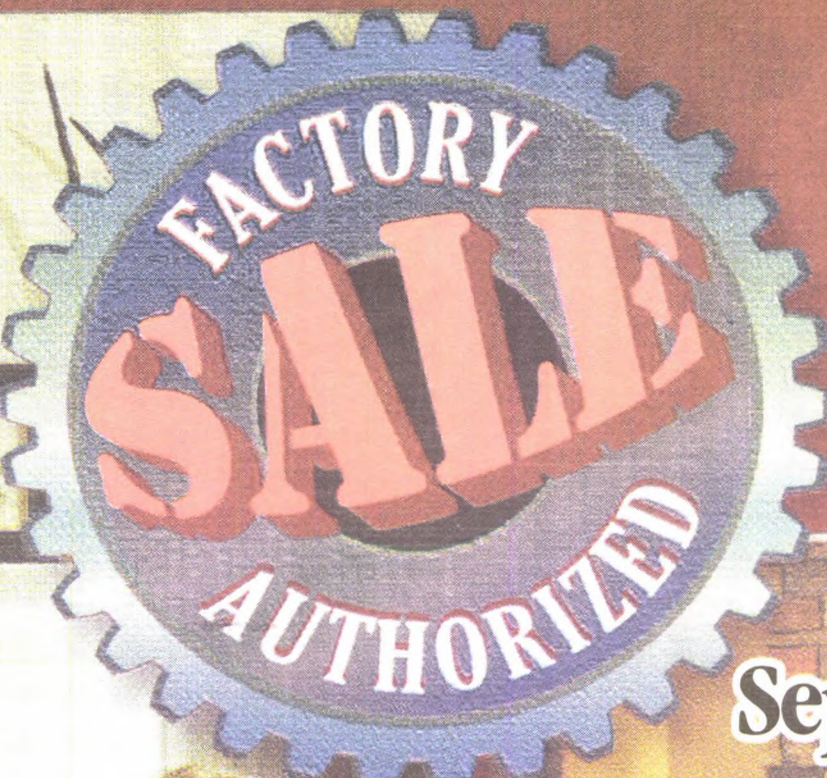


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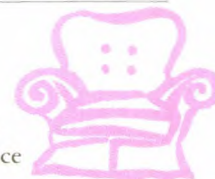
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Fall Home Improvement

2010



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Fall Home Improvement

ADVERTISING FEATURE — BY SALLY RUMMEL

Living spaces that offer function, organization and accessible storage

With more and more homeowners opting to stay in their current house rather than making an expensive move, creating functional space has become an economic reality for many families.

Today's homeowners are looking not only for additional bedrooms and bathrooms, they also want to create space for hobbies and crafts, for working at home in a home office, a more productive laundry room or a finished basement for an additional living area. Families are also looking for a kitchen that will accommodate today's trend toward cooking and entertaining at home, and gathering in everyone's favorite room of the house.

"For me, today's kitchen is the living room," said John DeGiulio, owner of DeGiulio Home Improvement, with showrooms in Plymouth and Dearborn. His com-

pany offers design, manufacturing and installation of complete kitchens and baths, as well as other home improvement projects.

"Today's emphasis is on function, organization and accessible storage,"

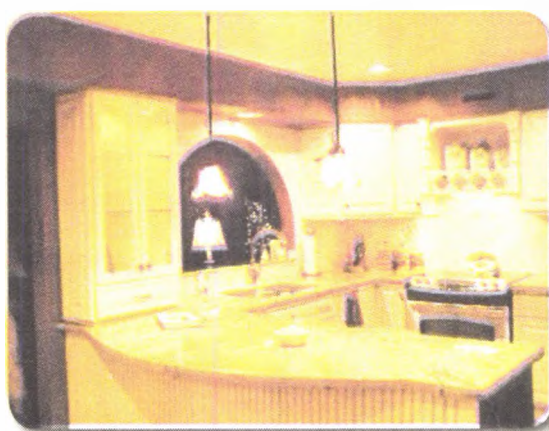


PHOTO COURTESY EPIPHANY KITCHENS

Epiphany Kitchens in Northville designs kitchens for all different sizes of space, creating a "designer look" for any size kitchen.

said DeGiulio, whose five sons also work in the area of design and construction. With more than 21 years in the business, DeGiulio has seen many trends come and go, but he senses now more than ever the need for organization, especially in the kitchen.

"Using the space for efficiency, while fitting in appliances and cabinetry, is our specialty," DeGiulio said. "It's a process that we go through with our clients, step-by-step, giving them several different design ideas."

At Epiphany Kitchens in Northville, Jay Tower's objective is to provide each customer with a "designer kitchen," no matter what size the space — large, small or in-between.

"We are proud to work only with Michigan manufacturers, saving money on shipping, with less

opportunity for damage and more local control and support," Tower said. "We are the exclusive distributor for a local custom woodworking shop's custom cabinetry. We can compete with places like Direct Buy, and beat them on price while maintaining the quality."

Even though their name says "kitchens," any room in the house where cabinets are needed can be designed by this talented design team at Epiphany Kitchens.

"Through our Design Service, we provide computer renderings of all projects on a 30-inch computer monitor, including perspectives, elevations, floor plans and color renderings," Tower said. "Bathrooms, entertainment centers, libraries and bar systems are just a few of the projects that we design here for customers. What we offer is timeless

Continued on page 2



PHOTO COURTESY DEGIULIO HOME IMPROVEMENT

This kitchen design from DeGiulio Home Improvement in Plymouth and Dearborn shows their Elite Plus Valens Door Design, charcoal glazed, with Zodiaq countertops and subway tiled backsplaces.



PHOTOS COURTESY TB CONSTRUCTION

TB Construction, a local building, remodeling and handyman company, helped a homeowner declutter their kitchen with more functional cabinet space.



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Fall Home Improvement

perfection and uncompromising quality, while respecting your budget."

For customers who are interested in a quality kitchen or bath remodel that won't disrupt their lifestyle for more than just a few days, Frank Gennaccaro of 5 Day Kitchen and Bath in Madison Heights may be the general contractor of choice. Working with Amish-made Smart Cabinetry in Indiana, he is able to get six different door styles in three different finishes — oak, maple and cherry — shipped directly from the factory to his showroom in just five days.

"We serve as project managers for your entire kitchen or bath renovation," said Gennaccaro, who has been in the home remodeling business for more than 30 years, most recently as a Home Depot Kitchen & Bath manager. "Our installers, master plumber and electrician have each been in the business for more than 25 years — we all work together as a team to get your project done in five days."

Other customers are seeking more organizational possibilities and "niche" rooms that personalize their own passions and hobbies.

"People are doing more and more craft centers, entertainment areas and mud rooms," said Sheila Markham, owner of a California Closets in Michigan franchise for 23 years. While their name mentions "closets," this local company in Commerce Township manufactures cabinetry and storage for any room of the house, from a Murphy's Bed to a Wet Bar.

"We manufacture everything locally



PHOTO COURTESY EPIPHANY KITCHENS

Epiphany Kitchens in Northville offers full service home improvement, specializing in custom kitchens and baths, flooring, interior design, sun rooms and landscaping.



PHOTO COURTESY 5 DAY KITCHEN AND BATH

5 Day Kitchen and Bath in Madison Heights can complete a kitchen or bath project in just five days, once the Smart Cabinetry has been delivered to the 5 Day showroom.

right here, where we have full control over the quality of our products, as well as the turn-around time we can provide for customers," Markham said. "We're proud to employ Michigan people, who have helped us earn a 98 percent customer satisfaction rating as well as many industry awards."

To give your home that positive first impression, you may want to seriously think about sprucing up the exterior of your home, as well as the inside. A new roof, siding, windows, doors and fencing are just a few of the home improvement projects that will send a message that you have pride in your home — both inside and out.

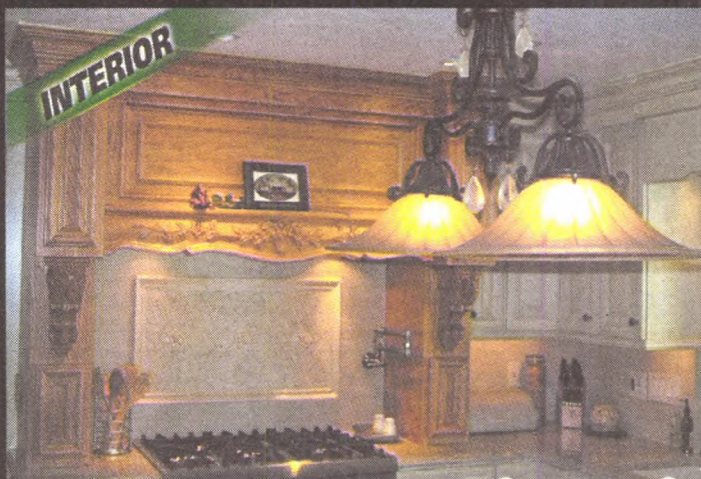
Mulligan Construction in Farmington has been in business for 45 years, earning a reputation as Michigan's premiere home improvement company — based on the number of customer referrals

and positive feedback that the Harbucke family has earned in over four decades of doing business. They specialize in the exterior of your home, adding not only "curb appeal," but also maintaining the integrity of your home's structure through quality roofing, windows, siding and doors.

The sky really is the limit when it comes to personalizing your home, with just the right project that will provide you with years of enjoyment.

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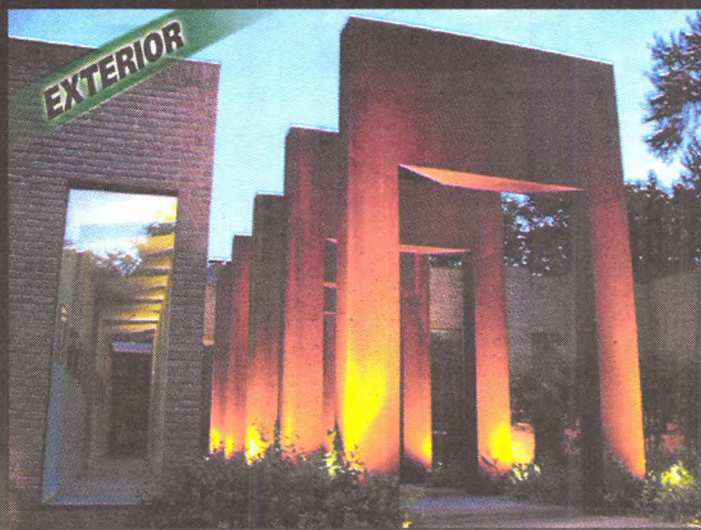
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Fall Home Improvement



PHOTO COURTESY IVERSON'S LUMBER

Easy Track Storage Solutions are available at Iverson's Lumber in Milford and Highland.

IVERSON'S LUMBER OFFERS EASY TRACK STORAGE SOLUTION

Iverson's Lumber Company, Inc., with two locations in Milford and Highland, offers a variety of storage solutions for local homeowners.

Custom closet systems in white, cherry and truffle (darker, walnut-toned wood) finishes can be created using easy-to-install modular components from Easy Track.

"It's easy to install," said Bob Brown, location manager at Iverson's Architectural in Highland. "A homeowner can do it with very little mechanical ability. You hang the track along the wall, and everything hangs off that track and can be configured for drawers, hamper baskets or long and short hanging items. The starter kite will do a closet from 4-8 feet, or customers can buy the components and just design their own."

All wall hanging applications use the original Easy Track rail that will support 1,200 pounds over an 8-foot span.





"This is very inexpensive as opposed to having a closet company come out and install a job," Brown said.


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Fall Home Improvement

Create a spa experience at home



Homeowners with a spa bathtub can indulge in soothing jet-propelled massage whenever they desire.

People looking to escape stress often turn to spa treatments for rest and relaxation. However, if trips to the spa for massages and facials aren't in the budget, create a spa experience at home.

Stress is a big health problem. Over 50 percent of Americans are concerned about the level of stress in their lives. And 62 percent of Americans say that it's their jobs that contribute to the most amount of stress.

Stress can exacerbate existing health conditions and lead to new ones. Individuals may feel fatigued, irritable, depressed, overeat, undereat and suffer other consequences if overstressed. Doctors often suggest therapies to combat stress in people's lives.

One such therapy can be massage or spa treatments popular in many salons. But these services can be expensive and might be an indulgence better left as an occasional splurge. Those interested in reaping some of the benefits of spa treatments at home can try the following ideas.

- Invest in the right equipment. Purchase an ultra-soft and thick robe and slippers. Stock up on loofah sponges, long-handled bath brushes, wash cloths, bath salts, and moisturizing creams. Simply using professional products can seem indulgent.
- Homeowners with a spa bathtub can indulge in soothing jet-propelled massage whenever they desire. If installing a new tub is not in the cards, purchase a spa mat that can be suction-cupped to the bottom of a traditional bathtub. An external pump blows air bubbles through the mat, creating the same effect as a spa tub.
- Rely on aromatherapy. There are many essential oils that can be added to bath water or applied to the body. Depending on the aroma, a person can induce calm and contentment simply by inhaling a few scents.
- Ask a spouse to provide a massage. He or she can use unscented mineral or olive oil to rub down achy parts of the body. It is much more cost-effective than a spa massage.

— Metro Creative Connection

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ADVERTISING FEATURE — BY JON GUNNELLS

THE MALE DOMAIN

According to a recent survey by ServiceMagic, a business that connects homeowners with contractors, about 40 percent of respondents said that they have a man cave or room in their home and another 13 percent said the male domain is in the planning or construction phase.

No matter what the man cave will entail, there are some steps guys can take to ensure the plans go smoothly.

Create the theme

This is a chance for the man to dream up any design style he prefers. Maybe the walls will be covered in sports memorabilia. Perhaps he desires a dark, solitary space. The room can also be a mix and match of any style, as long as it's the desire of the guy.

Tech it out

Chances are the focal point of the man cave will be a big screen television. If budget allows, go for the biggest and best TV with all the peripheral equipment. If budget is a bit more modest, shop around for a deal and see what can be picked up from swap websites or online bidding sites. Also, check out the classified section of the newspaper to find local deals on equipment being unloaded by others for a steal.

Lock it up

For those who want to keep the man cave off limits, install a lock to keep unwanted visitors out.

Enjoy the space

The man cave is a place where guys can kick back and relax and do what they prefer — something that may be off limits in the rest of the house.

—Metro Creative Connection

Equipping the man cave

Area businesses make recreation rooms easy

Caves: They aren't just for bears anymore. Nowadays, every man needs a good one where he can grow out his beard, grunt and escape all things feminine. Many local businesses are around to help men do just that: create a space of their own.

For more than 30 years, the Kitchen Top Shop has been creating unique living spaces, basements, recreation rooms and man caves for the homeowners of metro-Detroit.

"Every job is different, it just depends what the homeowner is into," Kitchen Top Shop Owner Loreen Keith said. "Some people want game rooms, some want living rooms, some are into taxidermy and they want a room where they can mount all of their stuffed critters."

A staple of many man-caves, and even non-discriminating family basements, include wet bars and



Local businesses offer electronics, appliances, renovations and more to convert any space into the ideal man cave.

kitchens. If you need a place to supply your appliances after a remodel, Bill & Rod's Appliance in Livonia has you

covered.

"We do a lot of basement installs, rec rooms and game rooms," Bill & Rod's Appliance employee Joe Gannon said.

Gannon, who is nicknamed the "Appliance Doctor," and his staff can outfit a home with under the counter microwaves, refrigerator drawers and also help homeowners repair their home appliances, even more unique appliance such as kegerators.

Afraid your freshly tapped keg may go bad during a power outage? Battery Giant in Southfield has thought of it all.

"We have everything from laptop batteries to uninter-

ruptible power sources," Battery Giant owner Ray Cuttaway said.

Battery Giant has batteries for a wide variety of electronics — from computers and video game units to iPods and portable video game systems — so that your game room never goes dark.

Even if you are just starting your recreation room from nothing but four walls and a slab of concrete flooring, local professionals have the solutions you need.

"We cement walls, stud them, insulate them and dry wall them," said Mark Kwolek of Planned Home Improvement. "We do suspended ceilings and dry wall

ceilings to match what people want in their homes."

Planned Home Improvement, also specializes in laying laminate or ceramic flooring. They even outfit living spaces to include bathrooms, downstairs basements and bars.

"All of the spaces we create are unique," Kwolek said. "Lately, we've been working on a lot of habitable spaces to take them up to code."

Kwolek said many homes need to have extra exits — sometimes in the form of large windows to meet code. So if you start a small

fire by frying a circuit you overloaded with a home theatre system like Tim Allen from the TV show Home Improvement, the professionals at Planned Home Improvement have you covered.

Stella Contracting in Plymouth is another local home remodeling company specializing in finishing basements and creating fun living spaces. From bars to full kitchens, Stella Contracting has seen it all.

"We do a lot of work with surround sound systems," Jeff Stella said. "This isn't like the 70s anymore. We camouflage everything. Hide your



PHOTO COURTESY STELLA CONTRACTING

Stella Contracting can design living spaces with specialized entertainment and sound systems, or kitchens areas designed to entertain.

Even if you are just starting your recreation room from nothing but four walls and a slab of concrete flooring, local professionals have the solutions you need.



PHOTO COURTESY PLANNED HOME IMPROVEMENT

Whether your sites are set on an extra bedroom, a finished recreation room, exercise area or entertainment space, Planned Home Improvement of Westland will transform the basement of your home into an attractive, useable living area.

HOW MANLY IS YOUR MAN CAVE?

Calculate the points for each feature in your man area and see how your kingdom stacks up.

5 points for: A bar or kitchenette, big screen television, surround sound system, arcade game, kegerator, pool table. One bonus point if your arcade game is Pac-Man or Golden Tee Live, or if your pool table is bumper pool.

3 points for: A collection of beer signs, sports, or car collectibles, a fridge, ping-pong table, air hockey table, foosball table, dart board, mounted deer and moose heads or rugs that look like things that live in actual caves (ex: bear).

1 point for: Each video game console, computer, recliner, couch and adjacent workout room or workshop. One bonus point if your video game system is a Nintendo or Atari.

-1 point for: Flowers, candles, frilly pillows and anything scented.

Man Cave Charts

10 or less: It's time to call the professionals to help make your man cave an acceptable hang out for you and the boys.

11-20: Man Cave in training: A pretty good start for the old boys club, but you still may want to call some of the professionals to apply the finishing touches your clubhouse requires.

21-31: A most impressive recreation room/man's basement. Keep up the good work.

32 or more: You're a true man man with a space so impressive it should have been featured in this story.

Fall Home Improvement

ADVERTISING FEATURE — BY CHRIS JACKETT

Flooring trends lean toward newest options

Warmer tones, textures popular among homeowners

Fall is in the air and that means many home remodeling projects are wrapping up before the brisk winter weather rolls into southeastern Michigan.

With winter temperatures come cold floors in the mornings, an issue that can be remedied by a new carpet or warmer hard-textured floor.

Residents looking to maintain a harder surface without the clammy feel in the morning should look to vinyl and laminate flooring, which are popular options for a warmer feel underfoot.

"It seems for quite a long time people wanted hardwood. People are switching to laminate now because it doesn't scratch and dent like hardwood," said Pat Wlodarczyk, owner of Modern Floors in Walled Lake. "For people who want a warmer ceramic or marble look, they can get sheet vinyl."

More environmentally chic options are also becoming more commonly used.

"Bamboo and cork are becoming popular versus the traditional hardwood," said Ruth Dillard, who co-owns J&R Flooring in Farmington with her husband, Jerry. "Congoleum and Armstrong have a product that looks like stone, marble, etc. We have a vinyl that goes over the existing floor. These products go right over the existing floor and saves the owner cost on subflooring."

Hardwood options and alternatives vary, as do vinyl, ceramic and other hard surface options. This has given local flooring supplies larger showrooms for residents to browse during their selection process.

"The sheet flooring industry has grown tremendously over the past few years. The patterns

and presentations are also unbelievably true to visual," said Cathy Buchanan, a manager at family-owned Independent Carpet One Floor & Home in Westland.

Although some businesses are seeing

hardwood alternatives grow in popularity, others are still experiencing customers swarming to the simple, but elegant, hardwood options.

"We sell a lot more hardwood than

ever before. It's a little bit more affordable. The more demand, the more people produce the product and the price goes down," said Ron Williams, co-owner of Perfect Floors in South Lyon. "They've also been softer, a lot of different patterns. Vinyl's starting to come back a lot."

Hard flooring isn't for everyone. Anyone looking for new carpets is met with perhaps even more of a variety of options than when browsing hard options.

"A lot of people don't want to go hard surface," said Rob Robinson, owner of World of Floors, which opens its new Livonia showroom in October. "Anso Nylon has great warranty and stain protection."

Carpet textures have become a whole new ball game in the flooring industry, as previous varieties are being combined or modified to create new options.

"Yarn systems are constantly improving, providing stronger, high performing and luxurious feeling carpets," Buchanan said. "The direction today is 'softer is better.' When you come home from a long day at work, you want to take your shoes off and feel heaven underfoot. That's what our new Tigressa carpets provide, as well as our soft Bigelow collection made from Triexta yarn, made from the silks of corn."

In addition to creating new textures and strengths of carpets, patterns have also become more elaborate, allowing homeowners to be more expressive.

"We're kind of reverting back to the '70s a bit, but with earth tone colors," Dillard said.

Chris Jackett is a freelance writer and former Novi News staff writer.



Many homeowners are switching to laminate floors because it doesn't dent like hardwood.

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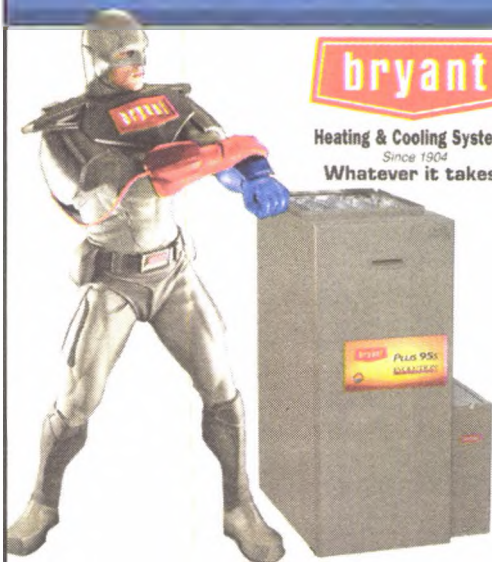


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PHOTOS COURTESY PERFECT FLOORS

Carpeting and flooring displays — including
hardwood, laminate, vinyl and more — are
aplenty at the Perfect Floors showroom in
South Lyon.



PHOTO COURTESY INDEPENDENT CARPET ONE FLOOR & HOME

Independent Carpet One Floor & Home in Westland's hard surface department features
ceramics, vinyl, laminate and hardwood. For the customer concerned about allergies, hard
surface floors keep homes free of allergents collecting into the fibers of carpet, allowing easy
to clean, long-lasting wear and beauty.

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'SafeBet Hidden Fencing' keeping pets safe in the yard for over 7 years

These days people don't need a wooden or metal fence to keep their pet out of the pound. In fact the best way to ensure the family dog doesn't become the neighborhood stray can't be seen at all. "The idea when we set this business up was to offer a high quality product at a reasonable price. Something everybody can afford," said Randy Badour, owner of SafeBet Hidden Fencing of Michigan LLC. "With some of the other companies out there, you call them up, have them come out and they give you a price that is usually very, very expensive. We wanted to offer something that everybody could do.

"What Randy's business offers is a safe, economical alternative to chain link fencing. His product, Hidden Fence, is 99.2 percent effective at training a dog to respect the boundaries of a yard. Not to mention Hidden Fence can save pet owners \$1,000's compared to wood or metal fence installation.

There's no guarantees that a chain link fence will work either. Dogs can climb over them or dig under them or someone will make the mistake of leaving the gate open. I've had plenty of calls to go put in an electric fence inside their fence.

"With Hidden Fence, the dog is fit with a collar which emits a warning sound when the animal wanders too close to the boundaries specified at installation. If the animal continues towards the boundaries the collar delivers a mild corrective stimulation.

"Depending on the dog, you are talking about two to four weeks for training. Once they hear that warning tone that is all it takes," said Badour, who uses Hidden Fence to keep his dog, Kramer, from terrorizing the neighbors.



Randy Badour, started SafeBet Hidden Fencing in Michigan five years ago. He and his dog Kramer, will help you keep your pet where it belongs.

Hidden Fence's collar interacts with a boundary of wire installed into the ground. The process of setting up the wire takes between two and four hours. Badour and his crew slice open the ground in order to thread Hidden Fence across the yard. The grass makes a complete recovery within days of installation.

"We're a local business. I think we offer a little more personal touch for the customer. We're available when the customer calls and we're there the same day doing whatever they need, from any problems they have with the system to training their dog," said Badour.

All of Badour's packages include up to one acre of Hidden Fence wiring.

As well as keeping pets in the yard, SafeBet also offers solutions inside the home, in the form of small

battery powered units which will safeguard anything from a garbage can or toilet bowl to a computer room.

"If you have something in the house you want to keep the cat away from, these will do the trick," said Badour.

The aforementioned devices and others including training equipment for sporting dogs and other remote training collars are available for purchase online at www.safebethiddenfence.com.

Discipline for a dog is one thing, Badour has pet owners in mind with the newest addition to the SafeBet stable.

Now, anyone who owns a goldfish, parakeet, cat, dog or any other house pet can go SafeBet Hidden Fencing's website and purchase everything from food to collars. "Order what you want and it's delivered right to your door," said Badour.

Customers can either make a one time purchase or schedule regular deliveries of a wide array of high quality products.

People are so busy now they don't want to mess with buying pet food. Whatever they need just comes automatically and they don't even have to think about it," said Badour.

SafeBet is most proud of making pet protection and training products more affordable for everyone. SafeBet Hidden Fencing is available for appointments year round, Monday thru Saturday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Please call (810) 654-9377 or visit them at www.safebethiddenfence.com to set up an installation time.

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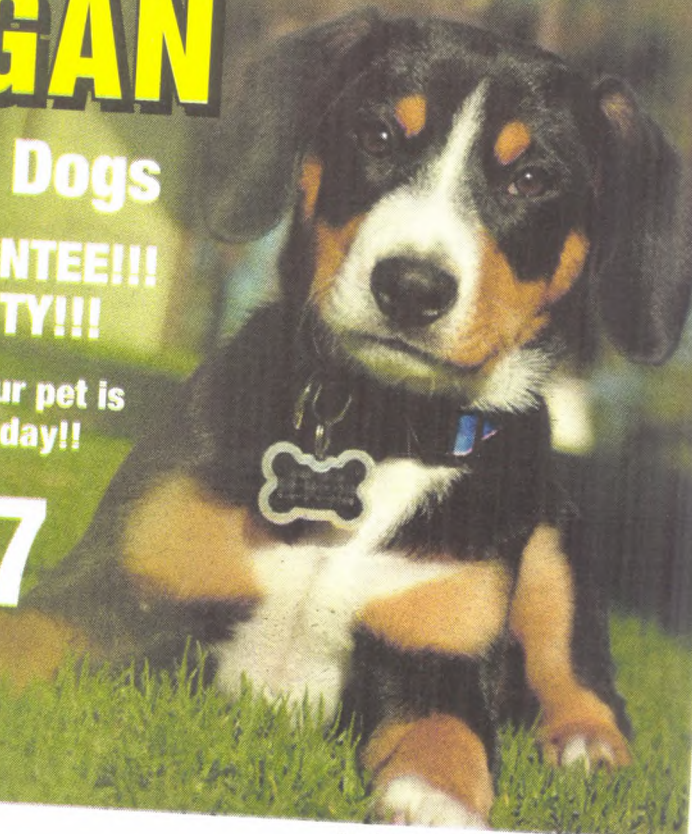
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Fall Home Improvement

ADVERTISING FEATURE — BY SALLY RUMMEL

Welcome autumn to your lawn and garden

Many people like to garden throughout the summer, but once the calendar has changed over to September, their interest wanes — and so does their garden.

It doesn't have to be that way, say many experienced gardeners. You can have a lush, green, beautiful yard and garden all autumn long, without working any harder than you did all summer. Another bonus: the temperature is usually much more comfortable for working outdoors.

The success of a garden and landscaping project depends first upon the quality of materials used in the process.

At Tuthill Farms & Composting in South Lyon, a Michigan Centennial Farm, it takes years to produce finished compost, which is the “root” of successful gardening.

Turning waste into a valuable product for farmers and gardeners, compost releases nutrients to plants — preventing erosion, reducing compaction, helping retain moisture and improving soil structure.

“Our finished compost helps promote a healthy soil environment for roots,” said Sandra Tuthill. “Our topsoil has our finished compost blended in.”

Tuthill Farms sells and delivers farm



PHOTO COURTESY BELL'S LANDSCAPING SERVICES

Let Bell's Landscaping Service in Wixom help you with a design project using hardscapes such as decks, brick pavers, retaining walls or boulders.

compost, topsoil and mulch.

Also working to benefit the garden “from the ground up” is Wisti Landscape in Wixom, which supplies and delivers topsoil, sand, hardwood bark, cedar and gravel for many landscape projects. Fall's cooler temperatures makes this time of year an ideal time to get these projects started, so that they can be ready to unveil in the spring, according to Mary Wisti.

For people who want to extend the life of their garden through the fall until the first frost, there are many lawn tips and decorating ideas to help you accomplish that goal.

“You can welcome autumn to your garden by re-furbishing your lawn and adding color with cold-friendly flowers,” said Tim Parker, general manager of Plymouth Nursery in Plymouth. “Fall is an outstanding time to plant, because of cooler evening temperatures and ample rainfall.

Once the kids are back in school, take a look

around your yard and see how you ‘spruce it back up’ to enjoy all autumn long.”

Many lawn care professionals believe that fall is the most important time of year to feed a lawn with proper fertilizer, so that the roots can store away nutrients for the winter, according to Parker. “Area lawns have really taken a beating this year,” Parker said. “This is a perfect time to re-seed any bare spots. There's a brand new product in the market called ‘Grass Magic’ — a lawn fertilizer that works with beneficial microbes to rejuvenate your lawn.”

Fall is also an excellent time to clean up garden beds, re-mulch and winterize a sprinkling system, according to Marcy Bell of Bell's Landscaping Services in Wixom.

To get a head start on next spring, fall's beautiful weather is also a time to get started with a design project using hardscapes such as decks, brick pavers, retaining walls and boulders, according to Bell. “We do landscape design work all year long,” she said. “If you get started on it now, you'll be ready to go in the spring. You can do your project in phases. Have a design and work toward that goal, just like you do when building a house.”

Bulbs can also be planted in the fall, as

FALL GARDENSAPES

Fall is also the perfect time to decorate the landscape with mums.

Chrysanthemums are a mainstay for color in the fall garden.

Planting tips include:

- Buy plants with unopened flower buds. Mums in full bloom may not produce additional flowers this fall.
- Plant in a sunny to partly sunny location and keep well watered.
- Deadhead regularly, and when all of the flowers have faded, cut the plant back about a third. If the weather is mild you may get a few more flowers.
- Cut them back almost to the ground in late January, and they will bloom again next year in the fall.
- If you only wanted mums for temporary fall color, pull them up and put them in the compost when they are finished blooming.

well as trees and shrubs.

At Imagine Landscaping in Northville, owner Jack Kelly and his team of nine employees work in both the design and actual construction of garden hardscapes, from brick pavers to natural custom stone, retaining walls, asphalt, cement, building decks, pergolas and cabanas.

Their business is also built on service, from snowplowing in the winter to providing fertilizing, drainage/irrigation, lawn maintenance and more. Imagine Landscaping is proud to have earned numerous awards, including Peoples' Choice Awards in Northville in 2008 and 2009.

“We are very proud of the work we do,” Kelly said.

So instead of “letting your garden go” in the fall, it's time to embrace this new season and let your lawn and garden be the best it can be. Brilliant fall colors set amidst a backdrop of a lush, green lawn will truly set your lawn and garden apart from anyone else's, and will give you a head start next spring.



PHOTO COURTESY IMAGINE LANDSCAPE

Imagine Landscape of Northville specializes in both design and actual construction of garden hardscapes.

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Fall Home Improvement

Fall and winter prep

BY LON GROSSMAN — CONTRIBUTING WRITER

I know you don't want to think about the end of what has been a fantastic summer, but it's something you have to prepare for.

"Preparing" in this case, means getting ready for cold weather, snow and ice. Basically, it's buttoning down the hatches to make your self more comfortable and save money.

Everyone knows, or should know, when we have to turn our clocks back one hour we should also replace the batteries in our smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.

What you may not know is if you have a Kidde Dual-sensor Smoke Detector (model P12000) it is subject to a U.S. Consumer Product Safety Recall. The Consumer Product Safety Recall states they could fail to warn of a fire. The model being recalled has two buttons. One labeled "hust" while the other "push and hold to test weekly". The buttons are on the front of the detector. The aforementioned model, along with date codes is located on the back of the alarm. Only date codes from August 1, 2008 through May 4, 2009 are subject to the recall.

Kidde makes an excellent smoke, fire and carbon monoxide detector as well as other safety equipment. Call Kidde at 877-524-2086 to get a replacement alarm for free.

While we're on the subject of detectors, they all need periodic maintenance. Vacuum them to remove dust, dirt and spider webs. Never paint them and read the instructions on where they should be installed.

Before the cold air really blows in, have your furnace tuned-up and inspected. The heating company will perform preventative maintenance along with changing filters and turning on the dehumidifier. They should make sure the burner has the proper gas/air ratio. They also

should make sure the furnace is not leaking carbon monoxide into the house. If the blower motor needs oiling, they oil it. A good HVAC contractor does all the above along with making sure everything is working properly and efficiently so you have one less problem to worry about.

If you still haven't installed a programmable thermostat, do it now. The average annual dollar savings is well over \$100.00. They are usually easy to install by the homeowner and can pay for itself within one year.

If you haven't added insulation to your attic within the last ten years, it's time to install more. The overwhelming majority of houses are under insulated. Even if you have a new house, you don't have enough insulation. New homes come with R-30 insulation. That's the minimum code. You should double that to R-60.

Walk around the exterior of your house. Take a pair of binoculars with you. Inspect the roof for damage, loose or missing shingles. Check the chimney flashing, bricks and wash. If you don't have screens on top of your fireplace flue, have it installed before you get raccoons in your house.

Also check your gutters. Are they loose or clogged with leaves or debris? If so, clean and fix them to avoid more serious problems such as ice dams.

Planning ahead

Planning ahead will save you money, inconvenience – possibly your life. Not only should you plan for the normal seasonal conditions, but also those unforeseen. Keep emergency supplies on hand, including:

- Flashlights with extra fresh batteries.
- Extra blankets.
- Candles and/or lantern.
- Transistor radio with fresh batteries.
- Canned foods with hand operated can opener.
- Kerosene heater with fresh kerosene.
- Extra firewood if you have a fireplace.
- Water

Check off your fall and winter preparation goals with a checklist on the following pages.



Lon Grossman



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Fall Home Improvement

Fall & Winter Checklist

Exterior

Roof & Gutters

- ☐ Secure any loose antenna supports. Where attached to the roof examine for possible source of leakage.
- ☐ Inspect and repair loose, damaged and missing shingles.
- ☐ Examine and repair all roof vents for broken, missing or obstructed screening; remove birds' nests.
- ☐ Inspect chimney flashings and wash/cap.
- ☐ Install hardware cloth screen on chimney flues to keep birds, squirrels and raccoons out of the house.
- ☐ Repair/replace loose sagging gutters
- ☐ Clean gutters.
- ☐ Cut back overhanging tree limbs.

Walls

- ☐ Check for peeling paint; touch up as needed.
- ☐ Repair/replace damaged, loose, warped or deteriorating siding and trim.
- ☐ Slope the terrain away from the structure at least four to six feet with at least a one-inch-per-foot slope. This will reduce moisture accumulation against the foundation walls and help make the basement dryer in the spring.
- ☐ Caulk around all windows, trim and wherever two different materials meet (i.e. siding meets brick, aluminum abuts wood, etc.)
- ☐ Caulk around all faucet bibs, outlets, lights, dryer vents, utility entrances, etc. (If you total up all the areas that need caulking around the average home, it would be equal to a three-foot hole in a wall or about the same as leaving a window open all winter.)
- ☐ Examine and re-putty any loose, cracked or missing glazing around window glass.
- ☐ Examine all doors for tightness and install weather stripping if needed.

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Continued on page 44

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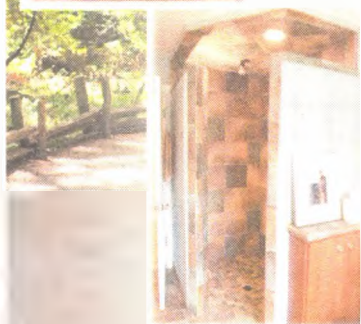
If you are considering any future remodeling projects, now is the time to act. Stella Contracting is currently offering a 10% savings on all home modifications to its past customers. We would love to hear from you!



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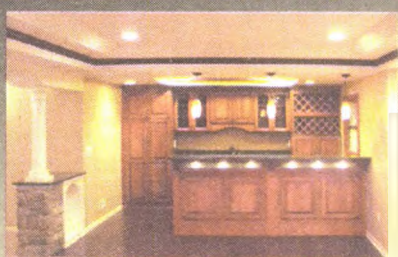
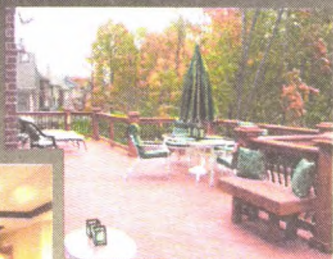


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Fall Home Improvement

Continued from page 42

Fall & Winter Checklist

- ▢ Replace all cracked or broken windowpanes.
- ▢ Install storm windows.
- ▢ Close crawl space vents.

Miscellaneous

- ▢ Replace all burned out bulbs on porch, post and flood lights.
- ▢ Stack firewood off the ground or it will deteriorate. It will also harbor mice and rodents.
- ▢ Clean and fill cracks in driveways and walkways to prevent moisture from freezing and heaving or eroding the concrete or asphalt.
- ▢ Store planters that could freeze and break.
- ▢ Have sprinkler system winterized.
- ▢ Bring in deck/patio furniture.
- ▢ Disconnect garden hoses from hose bibs, turn off and drain outside hose bibs (faucets).

Miscellaneous equipment

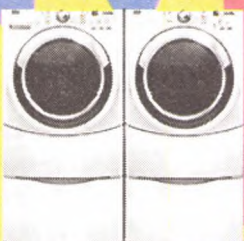
- ▢ If you left fuel in the tank of your lawnmower from last winter/summer and did not add Sta-bil (a gasoline additive that keeps stored gas fresh), then drain the tank and add fresh gasoline.
- ▢ Tighten loose handles or grips on your shovels.
- ▢ Sand and paint rusting metal sections of your shovels.
- ▢ Buy rock salt or de-icing compound early while it's on sale; store in a convenient and accessible place.
- ▢ Do not store lawnmowers in the basement. Even if you decide to drain the gasoline tank, gas fumes present a hazard.
- ▢ Check the oil in the lawnmower and fill if needed before storing.
- ▢ Remove the lawnmower blade and sharpen.
- ▢ Wash the air filter using soap and water, and then add 10 to 12 drops of oil to the sponge filter and squeeze it to evenly distribute the oil.
- ▢ Bring out snow blower. Check oil and fill with fresh gas.

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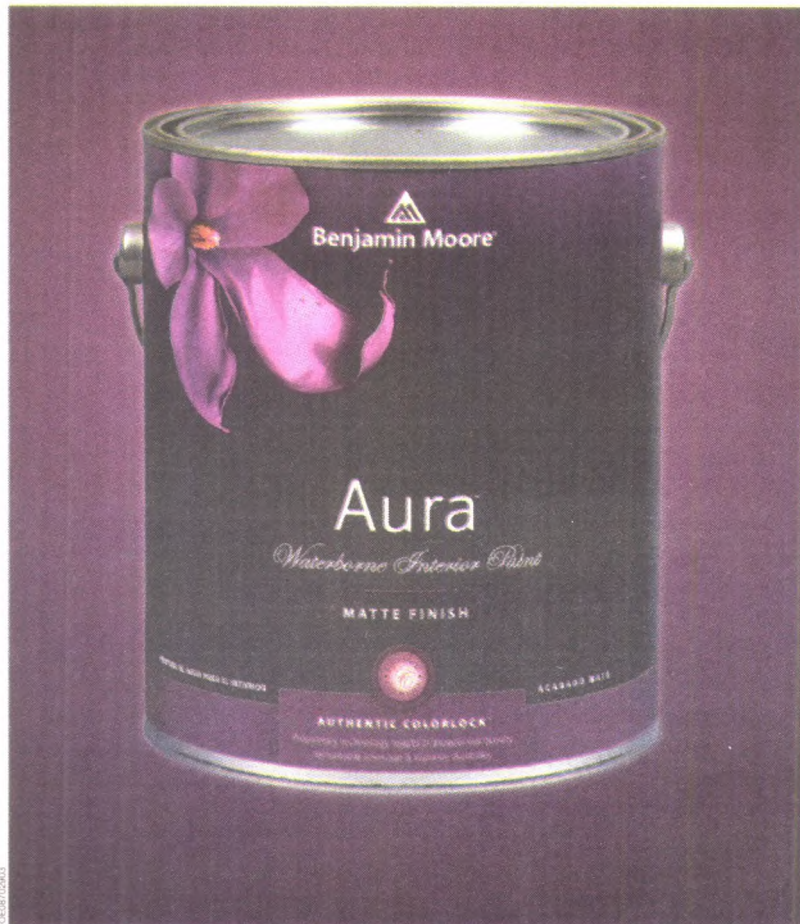
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Fall Home Improvement

ADVERTISING FEATURE — BY KATE PHILLIPS

Save money on home heating this winter

With the crisp air of fall comes the chill of home heating costs. But there could be some relief this year. Local heating experts outline some ways to save money while keeping your home safe and comfortable all winter.

Safety comes first. Every winter people are killed by faulty furnaces or space heaters. Space heaters can emit dangerous fumes or cause fires, plus they are generally more costly to run than a furnace.

To stay safe, furnaces should be checked over every fall, said Dennis Cline, owner of Royal Oak Heating & Cooling. Technicians will detect any carbon monoxide leaks and perform regular maintenance so that the system works properly. A maintenance call usually runs only \$70 to \$100.

"It is a small price to pay to save a life," Cline said.

Cline also recommended installing a carbon monoxide detector near all bedrooms, and checking the lifespan and batteries of existing units.

Expert Heating & Cooling offers a Professional Maintenance Program that provides preventative checks that include new filters and cleaning of the humidifier. It even offers a Signature Service Program that provide emergency service at a lower cost.

"If your system is properly maintained it will run at peak efficiency and your home will feel more comfortable," said Mark Angellotti, owner of Expert Heating & Cooling in Canton and Woodhaven. "It will save you money on utilities, extend the life of your system and cut down on service calls."

Both heating experts advise consumers to take steps to save energy. Adding insulation or replacing drafty doors or windows could keep the home warmer at less cost. Dressing warmly and keeping the thermostat low will cut costs. Angellotti mentioned that a programmable thermostat is an even easier way to save. This allows consumers to feel



PHOTO COURTESY FAMILY HEATING, COOLING AND ELECTRICAL

Family Heating, Cooling & Electrical in Garden City and Madison Heights has been family owned and operated for more than 40 years.

comfortable while they are home, but set the thermostat to drop when they are gone or are sleeping.

For many homes, replacing the entire furnace unit will save the most money in the long run. A number of programs may be available, including federal and state tax credits, plus manufacturer and utility rebates. The federal tax credit will expire at the end of December so many consumers are shopping now for the best deal.

"If you are thinking about buying, the time to do it is now, before the end of the year," said Mike Miller, general manager of Family Heating, Cooling and Electrical in Garden City and

Madison Heights.

Miller said that a new system could pay for itself within a couple years, with all of the rebates available, in addition to the saved energy costs.

Buying a new furnace will drastically save on heating costs because the systems are now 95 percent energy efficient. That's quite a bit of savings over systems that are five, 10 or 20 years old.

Yet, it's not always a good idea to buy the cheapest unit available, said Paul Fallert, owner of Fallert Heating & Cooling in South Lyon. He has all brands available, but advises customers to buy Bryant systems because they are reliable and are backed by a quality

company.

"Some cost less up front but they will cost more in the long run," Fallert said.

The system will perform better, save money on utilities and last longer if it is installed correctly. At Fallert Heating the technicians even look at the ductwork and make sure that the entire home heating system is working together properly.

Hiring an experienced company that has the expertise to make the system work at peak efficiency is important, said Fallert. A consumer should choose a reputable company that is well known in the community and will stand by its work.

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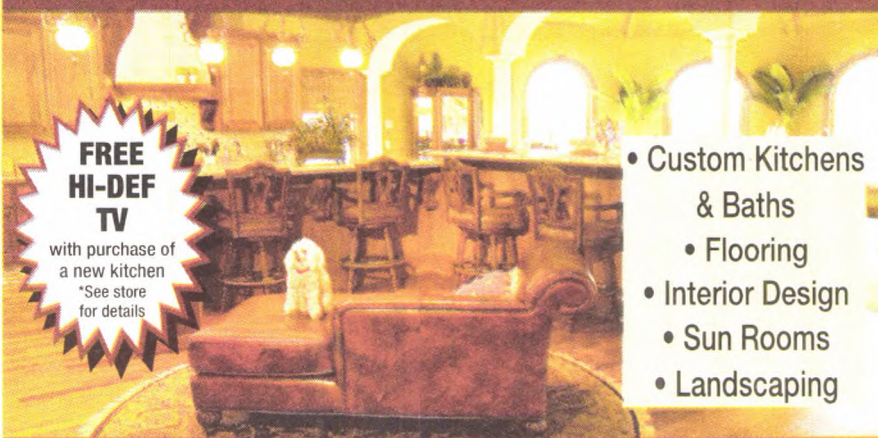
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Fall Home Improvement

Continued from page 44

Fall & Winter Checklist

Fireplace

- ☐ Look up, with caution, to check for loose bricks, obstructions or animals.
- ☐ If the chimney flue has not been cleaned recently and you use the fireplace weekly, have cleaned to prevent a chimney fire.
- ☐ Examine the firebox for loose or crumbling brick. Make necessary repairs using fire clay.
- ☐ Repair/replace missing or damaged mortar or bricks on chimney.
- ☐ Inspect chimney flashings and wash/cap.
- ☐ Install hardware cloth screen on chimney flues to keep birds, squirrels and raccoons out of the house.

Windows

- ☐ Paint as needed.

Electrical

- ☐ Learn the location of main electrical disconnects, fuses or circuit breakers.
- ☐ Buy spare fuses. Generally, you should use only 20-amp fuses for the kitchen and laundry circuits and 15-amp fuses only for lighting and outlets. Never install oversized fuses.
- ☐ If you have GFCI's (ground fault circuit interrupters) trip and re-test them monthly.
- ☐ Visually inspect each lamp, extension and appliance cord, and plug in the house. Immediately replace any that are frayed or broken.

Plumbing

- ☐ Replace all worn or dripping faucet washers.

Heating system

- ☐ Adjust furnace dampers and registers to provide warm air to the coldest rooms.
- ☐ Remove all combustibles from anywhere near the furnace or hot water tank.
- ☐ Depress the fan belt in the middle. If it depresses more than one inch, it should be adjusted by loosening the motor mounts, pulling taut and retightening.
- ☐ Change air filters or wash the electronic air filter.

Continued on page 50



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Fall Home Improvement

Fall & Winter Checklist

- ▢ Turn on the water to the humidifier and set the thermostat.
- ▢ Have your furnace heat exchanger inspected by a licensed heating contractor or the gas company. The heat exchanger is the interior part of the furnace that separates carbon monoxide from the air you breathe. It should be inspected annually. If the inspector tells you it is cracked or corroded, get a second opinion since it usually means you'll have to replace the furnace.
- ▢ If you have a window air conditioner unit, remove or cover it.
- ▢ Lightly blow off or dust the thermostat.
- ▢ On steam systems, blow off or drain the lower water cut off every week to prevent deposits from clogging the valve.

Interior miscellaneous:

- ▢ Repair/replace loose damaged floor coverings.
- ▢ Caulk around bathtubs.
- ▢ Grout tile in bathrooms.
- ▢ Repair/replace loose/damaged ceramic tiles.
- ▢ Tighten/repair cabinet and door hardware as well as hinges.
- Secure loose handrails and banisters.
- ▢ Change batteries in smoke detectors.
- ▢ Clean/test smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.
- ▢ Clean refrigerator coil.
- ▢ Check and repair/replace refrigerator gaskets as needed.
- ▢ Eliminate extension cord wiring.
- ▢ If you have a whole-house fan, it's time to cover and insulate it.
- ▢ Verify that all bathroom and kitchen exhaust fans exhaust through the attic and not into the attic.

Lon Grossman of Bloomfield Hills is president of *Technihouse Inspections Inc.* See more at www.technihouse.com.

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Fall Home Improvement

ADVERTISING FEATURE — BY ALISON BERGSIEKER

TAKE AN EARLY PEEK AT THIS YEAR'S HOLIDAY DÉCOR

Zoro's Christmas Lights offering discount to early bird customers

The holidays are just three months away, and cold weather is right around the corner.

For homeowners looking for festive decorations without the hassle, Livonia-based Zoro's Christmas Lights provides professional lighting and decoration services to homes and businesses in the entire state of Michigan.

"You don't have to stay out in the cold weather," said Owner Martin Zoro. "If the lights break down, we come and fix them at no charge. We're insured and understand safety zones so no one gets hurt. Your house will be the most decorative house on the street."

Receive 20 percent off your bill by ordering a lighting service by Oct. 31.

Visit www.zoroschristmaslights.com or call 248-408-6393 for more information.



PHOTO COURTESY ZORO'S CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

Zoro Christmas Lights provides professional light and decoration services without the hassle.

Dixboro General Store's annual Autumn Festival sale is Sept. 30-Oct. 3

Known for its unique array of furniture, candles, collectables, gardens, tabletops, bath and body items, lighting, edible goods and accessories, Dixboro General Store is an annual destination for holiday decor.

"Our whole store is transformed during the holidays," said Steve Dani, who owns the store with his wife, Brenda. "During

our Autumn Festival sale, we open up our barns, set up a tent, put pumpkins out in the yard, have cider and donuts and put our fall and Halloween items on sale at 20 percent off."

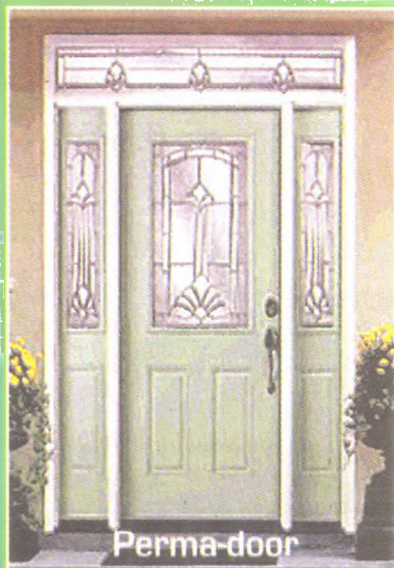
The store debuts its winter holiday gift merchandise at its Christmas Open House Nov. 9-14.

Visit www.dixboro.com or call 734-663-5558 for more information.

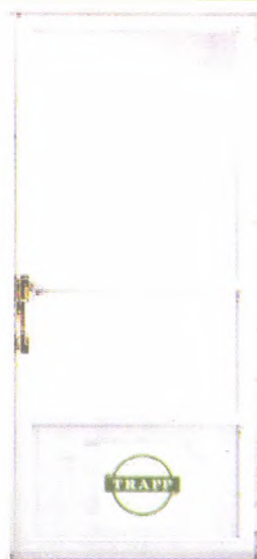


PHOTO COURTESY DIXBORO GENERAL STORE

Dixboro General Store in Ann Arbor is a destination store year-round for unique gift items, especially during the holidays.



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Call us now for a free estimate.
Contact Martin Zoro @ 248-408-6393

Zoro's Christmas Lights

Receive 15% off your bill by contacting us and signing up to reserve your date for your Christmas Lights by October 31st.

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Fall Home Improvement

ADVERTISING FEATURE — BY RACHEL FALLERT

Winterize your home with simple outdoor updates



Be sure to continually remove leaves and debris from the lawn throughout the fall.

As the warm days fade into cool nights, the chill of fall can be felt in the air. The kids are back to school and the leaves are beginning to change. As summer comes to end it is time to start thinking about preparing for the new season and prepping the home for changes in temperature. Preparing the home and lawn for the colder months now will keep a home safer and a yard healthier for the spring.

Gutters should be checked for leaves and debris, especially when the leaves are falling from the trees. Keeping gutters clean will allow rainwater to flow easily. If not clean, gutters will overflow.

Once all of the leaves of the season have fallen it is important to get gutters cleaned out. This will prevent both icicle build up and the chance of water backing up into the home. Century Gutter Systems, a South Lyon second-generation family owned business, recommends cleaning right before winter. They also recommend gutter guards, which are mesh screens that attach over the gutters to prevent debris entering the gutter. Make sure all gutters are secure and lined properly which will also help the flow of snow melting off of a roof.

Lawn care is crucial through October; keep mowing the lawn until it stops growing. If there are any bare spots in the lawn seed it before the ground is frozen. This will allow new growth to start earlier in the spring. It is not too late to kill weeds in the fall — October is still a good time to control them. This will slow the growth of weeds in the spring.

Be sure to continually remove leaves and debris from the lawn throughout the fall. The combination of debris built up and a season of snowfall will create a hard clean up in the spring. The fall is also a great time

to add to your landscape, the end of summer will bring great bargains on plants, flowers and seeds. It is not too late to plant — the soil is still warm and moist in the fall.

Preparing tools and machines is also necessary when getting ready for a new season. Lawn mowers must be stored properly and snow blowers should be ready to be used before the first snowfall. Remove fuel from the lawn mower and have the blades sharpened before storing it. According to Commercial Lawnmower in Livonia, the snow blower should have fresh fuel and oil, scraper blades should be checked ahead of time. Commercial Lawnmower provides a full service for snow and lawn equipment maintenance.

Move garden tools, seed and the lawnmower to the back of garage and bring the snow blower, shovels, and other tools needed in the winter to the front of the garage for easy access during snow fall.

Ensure efficiency and lower costs of heating bills by weatherproofing. Seal all windows and doors. Be any dry cracked caulk is replaced. This will help a home from losing heat. Door sweeps or weather stripping can be installed to eliminate the drafts coming in underneath doors. Furnaces should be inspected and filters should be changed for it to be running efficiently.

Preparation is key in order to create a safe transition to cooler weather. It is important to inspect all of the tools and parts of the home that will be directly affected or used during the cold months. Inspection now will not only save money but time when the weather warms again in the spring. It is better to be prepared now then surprised during the first snowstorm of the season.

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Fall Home Improvement



Once all of the leaves of the season have fallen it is important to get gutters cleaned out.

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SafeBet Hidden Fencing offers a safe, economical alternative to chain link fencing. Hidden Fence is 99.2 percent effective at training a dog to respect the boundaries of a yard — not to mention Hidden Fence can save pet owners thousands of dollars compared to wood or metal fence installation.

Hidden Fence's collar interacts with a boundary of wire installed into the ground. The process of setting up the wire takes between two and four hours. All packages include up to one acre of Hidden Fence wiring.

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Fall Home Improvement

ADVERTISING FEATURE — BY ALISON BERGSIEKER

Get cozy with a modern fireplace

When it's not time to sell a house, for many homeowners, it's time to remodel.

Many are discovering that one of today's most economical ways of transforming an unused or unsightly space into the family's favorite gathering spot is by installing a fireplace for supplemental heating.

"Because new construction is down so much, people are staying in their homes and are using fireplaces more," said Steve Brown, owner of American Fireplace and Barbecue in Ferndale. "Fireplaces are a feel good item. Homes from the 60s, 70s and 80s that have the traditional brick fireplaces can be updated simply by refacing the current fireplace."

American Fireplace and Barbecue features a 5,000-square-foot showroom with 76 live gas displays and more than 600 styles of mantel displays.

Brown said technology and manufacturing processes are getting better to make fireplaces look more real. Contemporary linear fireplaces have become popular, often displayed in restaurants and casinos.

Artificial gas log models have come a long way, too.

"The gas logs of today are so realistic, people cannot believe that it's not a real wood fire," Brown said.

Go vent free

Vent free gas fireplaces allow homeowners to put the fireplace anywhere they want, as they work like a gas cook top stove with blue flame technology.

Vent-free gas fireplaces are economical because they provide 99.9 percent energy efficient heat with no need for a chimney or a hole in the wall. Because vent-free appliances do not require venting to the outside, they can safely be placed practically anywhere in a home with access to a gas line. Over 20 million American homes have vent-free gas fireplaces, logs, inserts, and space heaters that operate on natural gas or propane to provide supplementary heating.

Vent-free gas fireplaces have an out-



Over 20 million American homes have vent-free gas fireplaces, logs, inserts, and space heaters that operate on natural gas or propane to provide supplementary heating.

standing safety record. All U.S. gas code groups and 49 states allow the sale and installation of vent-free appliances. Every vent-free gas product sold in the U.S. is equipped with a precision-engineered Oxygen Detection Safety-Pilot (ODS), which automatically shuts off the gas supply if the oxygen level in the room approaches a defined minimum set by American National Standard (ANSI)

Z21.11.2. Because of this and other vent-free safety features, there is no need to open a window to ventilate a vent-free gas-heating appliance.

Fire glass

Fire glass for both indoor and outdoor fireplaces and pits is growing in popularity among homeowners looking to give their entertaining areas new life and a

modern look.

"A lot of people are sick of the log look, especially the younger professionals," said Chris Talbot, Operations Manager at Town 'n' Country Hardware in Garden City. "The fire glass comes in a variety of colors. We have three operating displays on our floor of glass fireplaces, including a vent-free version that can produce heat."

Town 'n' Country Hardware has been located in Garden City since 1957 and specializes in fireplaces, grills, outdoor power equipment and hardware.

Lower emissions

Today's energy prices are on the rise, so many people are turning to alternatives to heat their home.

Flame to Fire in Hartland offers a variety of fireplace options including Renaissance Fireplaces that produce approximately 70 percent less emissions than a typical fireplace with the door open.

"The Renaissance is the only fireplace on the market that you can burn with the doors opens and still has low emissions," said Brian Kissinger, Flame to Fire owner.

Wood burning fireplaces, stoves, inserts or pellet stoves also have low emissions.

"Wood burning inserts go inside an existing wood burning fireplace and then the chimney is relined with stainless steel," Kissinger said. "All of the wood burning and pellet inserts and stoves qualify for the \$1,500 tax credit that expires at the end of this year."

The EPA regulates emissions of wood burning appliances depending on the category the appliance is placed in. For a wood stove or insert to be compliant, it must produce less than 7.5 grams/hr for non-catalytic stoves and 3.5 grams/hr for catalytic stoves.

The most popular wood stoves are the non-catalytic versions because they are very easy to use. Non-catalytic stoves sold at Flame to Fire produce emissions between 3 and 3.5 grams/hr — far exceeding EPA standards.

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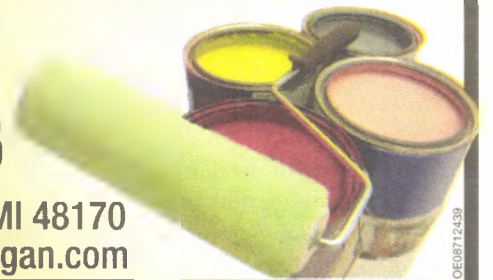


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Fall Home Improvement

Tips for a pain-free paint project

Few home improvement projects can be as fun, satisfying and inexpensive as painting. The excitement of choosing a new color scheme and then watching your home transform makes painting a project the whole family can enjoy.

By following a few simple tricks and tips you'll be painting like a professional before you know it. Bercom, the painting experts behind revolutionary paint products like Handy Paint Trays and Liners, offers an insider's perspective on how to make your next painting project as quick and pain-free as it is enjoyable.

- Plan ahead. Planning is the first step to a successful paint job. Before you start painting, stop by your local hardware or paint store, like Lowe's or anywhere paints are sold, and pick up all your supplies including paint, paintbrushes, rollers, trays, pails, tape and drop cloths. Look for new products on the market today that are long-overdue updates to traditional painting supplies. These next-generation supplies make painting a lot easier, and the time and materials they save you make them a worthwhile investment.

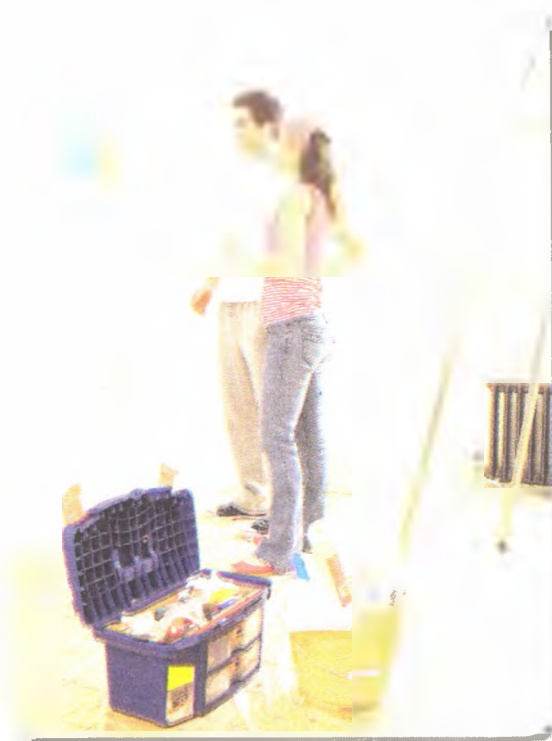
To save even more time, take measurements beforehand and determine exactly how much paint you need to get the job done. If you do this, you will not run out of supplies and end up having to make a trip back to the paint store in the middle of your project.

- Use the magic formula. The condition of the wall will play a role in how much paint is required to complete your paint job. Smooth, even surfaces generally require less paint than rougher surfaces. Make note of the wall surfaces when taking measurements. An easy formula for determining how much paint you need to purchase is:

(wall height X wall width) number of walls = 300 = gallons of paint

One gallon of paint covers about 350 square feet, so dividing by 300 will leave you the perfect amount of paint for touch-ups.

- Let the paint do the work for you.



A fresh coat of paint change the look and feel of any room.

For the best results, do not skimp on the paint. Applying a thicker coat versus one that is stretched thin will save time and help you achieve professional-looking results on the first try. The Handy Paint Tray is convenient because it holds up to a gallon of paint, more than any paint tray on the market, so that you can keep working without having to frequently stop and re-fill the tray.

- Prevent a mess by expecting one. Painting might be a fun home improvement job, but even the veteran painter expects a little bit of a mess. Painters can reduce the stress of a mess by protecting floors with old bed sheets or canvas, and covering woodwork, glass and metal surfaces with painter's tape.

Oftentimes, inexpensive, plastic drop cloths seem like an effective way to protect your floor and furniture because you can simply throw them away when you are finished. However, cloth drop cloths tend to be easier to work with because they are more durable than plastic, are rip and puncture resistant, lay flat as you walk across them, and you can easily fold cloth around wall angles and doors without having to tape them to the ground.

- Paint in the right order. Painting your

room from top to bottom will help prevent annoying drips and splatters. For the best results, start by painting your ceilings, then move on to walls. After your walls, paint the woodwork. Save the floor for the very last.

- Keep rolling along. Always begin painting an interior surface by "cutting in" -- paint a two-inch wide strip along the edges with a paintbrush. When using a paintbrush, new-age paint containers, like the Handy Paint Pail, are ideal tools. Look for containers that have magnetic brush holders and adjustable straps that prevent fatigue in your hand or can be strapped to your belt.

After you have cut-in, use a roller to fill in your brushed-on outline. While using a roller might seem simple, a few tricks can make it even easier and less messy. Slowly dip the roller into your paint tray, and then roll it back and forth

until it is completely and evenly coated with paint. Then, run your roller across a washboard to remove excess paint. Painters love the Handy Paint Tray's built-in, sturdy washboard because it has deep ridges that remove excess and evenly distribute paint to rollers, preventing drips and splatters as a result. And, the next-generation trays come equipped with a magnetic brush holder that prevents paintbrushes from falling into the tray, which allows you to keep a brush and roller nearby at all times.

- Make clean up quick and easy. Like most projects, clean up is often the worst part of painting. Choose a paint tray with disposable liners, so when you are finished painting, clean up is as easy as throwing away the liner -- then you are instantly ready for your next paint project! Handy Paint Liners are made of recycled plastic that is thick and durable, and can be used with all paints and stains. Plus, they snap into place so you don't have to worry about them shifting around and causing a spill.

For additional painting tips and ideas, visit www.handypaintpail.com.

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"When a customer comes into one of our stores, they work with the same person every single time," Darin said. "We listen to what our customers need and give them exactly what they're looking for. We're all homeowners, and we know what everybody wants. That's the key to a small town business."

The Paint Company website, www.the-paintcompany.com, offers a color visualization program courtesy of Benjamin Moore paints. Customers can preview specialty finishes, color selections and even upload images of their homes before they pick up a paint roller.

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Fall Home Improvement

How to equip your home office

Working from home is growing more popular each and every year. Advancements in technology have made it easier than ever before for the nation's workers to login from their home environment.

While working from home has its advantages, one notable disadvantage concerns the furniture. A cubicle or office at an office building comes fully furnished at the employer's expense, while a home office typically must be furnished entirely by the employee. Those about to furnish their home office should consider the following tips.

- Don't overdo it. Home offices need not be as crowded as the standard office building office. In today's computer age where most files are stored electronically than in file cabinets, a home office does not have to be filled with numerous file cabinets, shelving units or tons of drawer space. When working from home, especially when working from home only part-time, the office does not have to be fully stocked. The essentials will probably do the trick.
- Be flexible with choice of desk. A desk for a home office can be effective whether it's a folding table or an aesthetically appealing oak desk. Oftentimes, the individual will know what he or she needs. For example, an architect will need a larger desk to spread out blueprints while a writer might be fine working on a smaller desk because he or she does not need much more than a computer.
- Be choosy with the chair. Employers often look for chairs that discourage slouching and will keep workers comfortable and productive throughout the day. People working from home should also



Advancements in technology have made it easier than ever before for the nation's workers to login from their home environment.

be choosy when finding a workday chair. Cost should not be a major consideration. Instead, comfort should take precedence or it could have adverse effects on an individual's health over the course of time. Also, be sure the arms of the chair fit under the desk.

- Install a second phone line. It's not ideal to rely on an existing home phone line as the primary means of contact for work. Family or friends might call and force workers to miss important work-related phone calls. Many employers provide a phone line connected to the actual office where the business is located. However, they do not often expect workers to have a work-specific line at their home.



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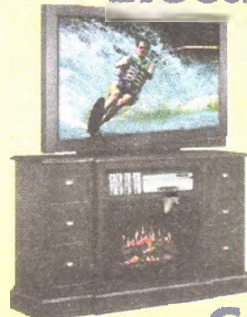
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