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ELECTION COVERAGE

7TH DISTRICT STATE SENATE SEE PAGE A8

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SUNDAY October 17, 2010

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PIPELINE

Holiday help

The Salvation Army Plymouth Corps will begin scheduling appointments for Thanksgiving and Christmas assistance beginning Wednesday, Oct. 20.

Application for assistance will be provided by appointment only. At the time of application, families will be asked to provide proof of household income and identification.

The deadline to apply for Thanksgiving assistance is Nov. 10. The deadline to apply for Christmas assistance is Dec. 10.

For more information on available assistance, contact Laurie Aren at laurie_aren@usc.salvationarmy.org or by calling The Salvation Army's Family and Community Ministries office at (734) 453-5464.

Junior Miss

Plymouth-Canton Junior Miss Scholarship Programs is still looking for "future" Junior Misses to be in the program with the Junior Miss participants on Nov. 18 at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill in Canton. Children ages 6-12 are eligible, with a cost of \$50. Participants get a T-shirt, will be featured in the program book, a program book to keep and a tiara.

They will escort the Junior Miss participants on stage for the self-expression portion of the judging and dance with the participants in the "Be Your Best Self" ending number. The \$50 is a fund-raiser to help raise money for cash scholarships. The deadline for the "future" Junior Misses is Oct. 23.

Plymouth-Canton Junior Miss is also looking for businesses that would like to donate a scholarship in honor of the company name. All participants in the program are Plymouth and Canton residents. Donations are tax-deductible.

For more information, e-mail pcjrmis@yahoo.com.

Voter guides

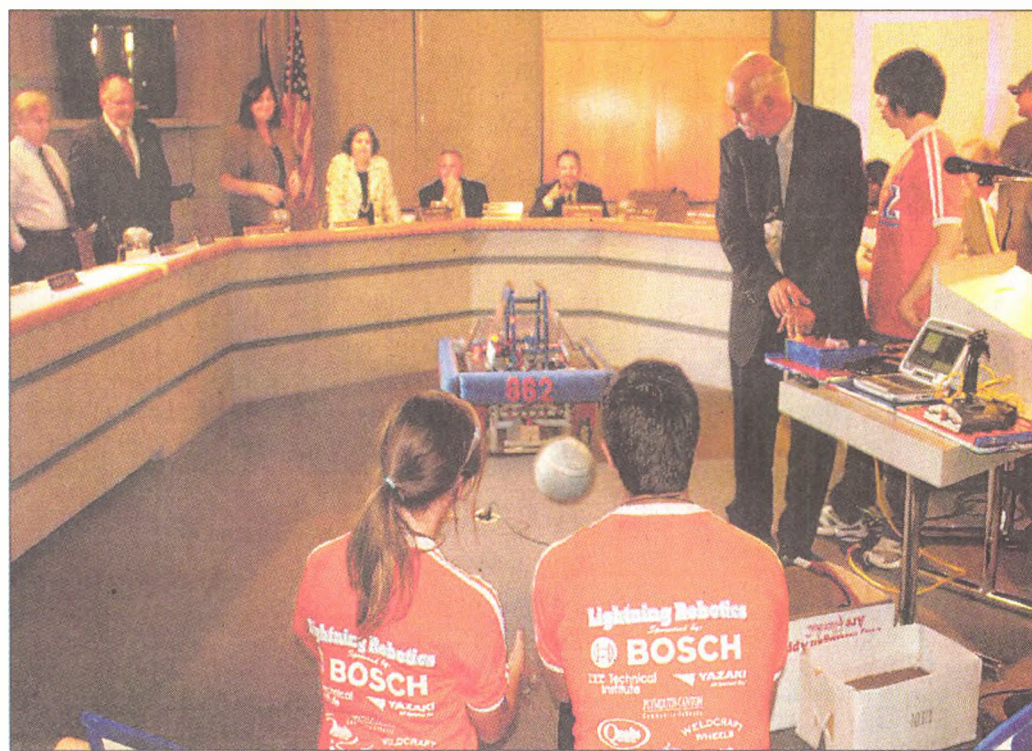
The League of Women Voters of Northwest Wayne County has posted Voter Guides on its website (www.lwvww.org) for the Nov. 2 general election.

From judges to library boards to state senators and representatives, the League's website contains voter guides for all the state, federal, county and local candidates. Candidates were sent questionnaires in August and September, and voters can now compare their responses by visiting www.lwvww.org. Also included is the language for the two state ballot proposals and analysis of the pro and con positions.

Print copies of the Voter Guide are also available at all the area's public libraries; however, the print copies do not include all the races that are available online.

The League is a nonpartisan, public service organization that never supports or opposes any candidate, but works to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government.

For more information, contact league President Paula Bowman, (734) 669-5830 or by e-mail at paulabowman9000@gmail.com.



Plymouth-Canton Board of Education Vice President Barry Simescu takes the controls of the PCEP robotics team's pride and joy during the robotics presentation at Tuesday's board meeting.

Tools of the trade

Robotics team inspires love of science, math

BY BRAD KADRICH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

When Brian Schwartz was a freshman and had just joined Plymouth-Canton's robotics team, he was a shy, quiet young man hesitant to speak up in front of even the smallest group of people.

When the robotics team made its presentation during the "Celebrating Success" portion of the district's Board of Education meeting, there were more than 100 people in the room.

And standing right up front was Schwartz, now a senior and no longer the sit-in-the-corner-quietly kid he long ago left behind.

"I remember freshman year when I first started there wasn't as much structure," said Schwartz, student president of the team, "I was a quiet kid off to the side with my computer, and one of the mentors got me started learning. My social skills have definitely improved a million-fold."

Schwartz, and the other 70-some students involved in the robotics program, credit the team with that kind of development, life skills and technical acumen they'll take into the work force or college when they leave Plymouth-Canton. Started in 1999 by Salem High School teacher Jay Obsniuk, the FIRST (For Inspiration and Respect of Science and Technology) robotics team — like the pro-



Robotics team president Brian Schwartz and five-year team member Kristen Todd handled the presentation at Tuesday's board meeting. The robotics team is a largely student-run organization.

gram established 10 years earlier by Segway electric vehicle inventor Dean Kamen — is designed to inspire young people to learn more about engineering.

Obsniuk saw the district cutting classes and formed the robotics team to introduce students to science and technology.

"I wanted to get them to appreciate how much fun it can be," said Obsniuk. "We want to get them to learn math and science by building stuff, and teaching them math and science is a good way to go."

Results may back up Obsniuk's belief. He said he gets four or five kids every year who graduate the program who go on to success in

Please see **ROBOTICS, A6**

School solution could include interim chief

BY BRAD KADRICH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

When Plymouth-Canton Board of Education Trustee Dianne Gonzalez voted against renewing the contract of Supt. Dr. Craig Fiegel two weeks ago, she said she did so after talking to teachers and staffers afraid to speak up for fear of losing their jobs, calling them the "silent majority." At Tuesday's school board

meeting, two weeks after the board decided 4-3 not to renew Fiegel's contract, some of that majority was not so silent.

After picketing the district's administration building with signs that said "Enough is Enough," a reference to the fact they still don't have a contract, dozens of teachers helped fill the board meeting room and spoke up not only about that issue, but about

other district issues that concern them, including Fiegel's contract.

Several used those exact words — "silent majority" — and complained about the lack of collaboration between administration and staff.

The loudest of all was former Plymouth-Canton Education Association President Charles Portelli,

Please see **INTERIM, A5**

Crime climbs, city still safe

BY MATT JACHMAN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Serious crime in the City of Plymouth moved up in 2009, with higher numbers reported in five crime categories, according to Federal Bureau of Investigation statistics.

Still, the city was safer than most comparable U.S. communities, as the per-capita crime rates in six of eight major categories, including murder, forcible rape, robbery and burglary, were below the averages for suburban communities with populations of less than 10,000. (There were no murders in Plymouth in 2009.) The city saw higher-than-average rates — when measured per 100,000 people — of aggravated assault and vehicle theft.

The FBI's Uniform Crime Reports for 2009, listing crimes across the country by region, state, municipality and community type, were released last month. The numbers are compiled based on reported crimes in the local jurisdictions, which generate reports that are sent to the FBI. The complete reports are available at www.fbi.gov.

Police Chief Al Cox blamed the economy for much of the problem in Plymouth.

"The economy's driving a lot of things," Cox said.

"People are desperate. People are going to do things to get money."

Economic stress and employment uncertainty spill over into more than just theft crimes, the chief said. "People are on edge and it doesn't take a lot to get them angry," Cox said.

The number of reported aggravated assaults in Plymouth jumped from three in 2008 to 18 last year. The FBI defines aggravated assault as an attack on a person, usually with a weapon, with intent to cause great bodily harm. Attempted aggravated assault that involves the display of a weapon, or a threat to use one, is included, and some of the Plymouth incidents, according to Cox, fit that category: threats or intimidation that did not result in injuries.

The aggravated assaults also included fights between men who had been drinking at downtown bars — outside, after the bars closed — fights and threats between schoolchildren, a bomb threat, and domestic assaults, Cox said. "A lot of people with short tempers, not getting along with people they know," he said.

The number of reported larcenies also jumped

Please see **CRIME, A3**



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Spike time

Frenzied Plymouth Christian Academy volleyball fans go crazy for their squad as PCA fought off a stiff challenge from Oakland Christian before vanquishing the Lancers 15-7 in a deciding fifth game. Read more about it in Sports, page B1.

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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

Holocaust exhibit

During the month of October, the Plymouth Community Arts Council will exhibit special works by Ann Arbor artist Miriam Brysk entitled "Children of the Holocaust."

The exhibit will be available for viewing from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Thursday at the Joanne Winkleman Hulce Center for the Arts, 774 N. Sheldon, Plymouth. The public is invited to attend a reception for the Artist on Sunday, Oct. 31 from 1-2:30 p.m.

At the end of 2007, Miriam Brysk published her memoir "Amidst the Shadows of Trees: A Holocaust Child's Survival in the Partisans". As she was writing her story, and feeling the pain and emotions of her childhood, she felt moved to consider the plights of those Jewish children who, unlike herself, did not survive. She felt a compelling drive to remember through art those children who perished, and to portray the nature of their disrupted lives during the Holocaust.

To preserve historic authenticity, each picture depicts a real child victim of the Holocaust, as well as the particular circumstances of his life and death. Each piece is named with the city the child is from and the likely place where he died. Children are portrayed from the major Jewish population centers, the major ghettos and camps, and the sites of killings by the Einsatzgruppen. Present-day

memorials are also included, usually at the top of each piece. All the pieces in this series are 24" x 16", excluding the fringes which add about 36" to the length.

For more information, feel free to call the PCAC at (734) 416-4278.

Miller Woods tours

Come experience the beauty of the fall colors in Miller Woods. On Sunday, Oct. 17 and Oct. 24, the Friends of Miller Woods are offering guided tours through the woods and will share the history of the Miller Family as well as discuss this unique ecosystem, a rarity in southeast Michigan.

The tours are free and start every half hour between 2 p.m. and 4 p.m., and last approximately one hour. Strollers and dogs are not permitted in the woods.

DAR meets

The Plymouth-Canton-Northville chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution meet Monday, Oct. 18 at 6 p.m. at Mill Race Village, Cad Inn, 215 Griswold in Northville.

Guest speaker Anna Lopez, education director for the Plymouth Historical Museum, will talk about "The Life of Mary Todd Lincoln."

For more information, call (248) 348-1845.

Hats for homeless

The Plymouth Community United Way has a new clothing collection drive, "Hats for the Homeless," for the fall of 2010.

During the months of October and November, community residents can donate any new hats, gloves, mittens

and scarves for all genders and sizes.

All donations can be dropped off to the Plymouth Community United Way located at 960 W. Ann Arbor Trail, Suite 2 in Plymouth or arrangements can be made for items to be picked up.

For additional information, e-mail Krista Strobel at kstrobel@ameritech.net or call (734) 453-6879.

Wadsworth meets

Joan Wadsworth, Democratic candidate for the Michigan House of Representatives 20th District, will host two more Community Conversations in October to share her vision for revitalizing Michigan with voters in Northville, Plymouth, Canton and Wayne.

Wadsworth will detail her plans for creating jobs, strengthening education and supporting community services. Wadsworth also will be available to discuss any other issues on the minds of voters and answer questions.

The remaining Community Conversations will take place the following dates, times and locations:

- Tuesday, Oct. 19, 9:30-10:30 a.m., at Karma Coffee Shop, 3015 South Wayne Road, Wayne.

- Thursday, Oct. 21, 9:30-10:30 a.m., at the Coffee Bean, 884 Penniman Avenue, Plymouth.

"If we want to leave a vibrant Michigan for our children, we must work quickly; we must make tough decisions; and we must work together," Wadsworth said. "Leaders have spent too much time delaying hard decisions and pointing fingers. I believe

we can create a consensus around key priorities — reviving the economy, focusing on jobs, and strengthening education — and move our state forward."

The 20th District comprises the City and Township of Plymouth, Northville Township and the City of Northville south of Eight Mile/Baseline Road, a portion of Canton Township and the City of Wayne.

AAUW meeting

The Plymouth/Canton branch of the American Association of University Women will host its monthly meeting 6 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 21, at the Plymouth Community Arts Council, 774 N. Sheldon Rd. Plymouth, MI (just north of North Territorial Rd.)

The meeting will feature Tanya Panizzo of Fighting Spirit Personal Safety, who will offer tips on self-defense, mental and physical.

A light dinner will be served featuring chicken lasagna. A \$10 donation is suggested.

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.

Free seminar

Plymouth Christian Academy sponsors a free seminar, "Combating the Growing Problem of Sex, Pornography, and Violence," 7-8:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 19, at The Barn next door to Calvary Baptist Church, 43065 Joy Road in Canton.



Prodigy performance

The Plymouth Canton Symphony Orchestras welcome 11-year-old prodigy Anastasia Rizikov to the stage for a Sunday afternoon concert 2 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 7, at the First Methodist Church in Plymouth. Anastasia studies with award-winning piano teacher Maia Spis, who has a Masters in Music Education from Ukraine and currently teaches at the Nadia Music Academy in Toronto. This 'youthful' program will also feature Beethoven's Symphony No. 1 written in his early years. Following the concert please join in the fun for 'Sundaes on Sunday,' \$3 per person with proceeds going to the Salvation Army. Tickets for the concert are \$25 for adults, \$20 for seniors, \$10 for students. For more information call the Plymouth Symphony at (734) 451-2112 or go online to www.plymouthsymphony.com.

Sara Grivas, director of Darkness by Default Ministries, will support parents from the community in helping their children avoid or escape destructive behaviors.

Contact Pastor Larry Machonga at Plymouth Christian Academy for more information by calling (734) 459-3505, Ext. 2136 or lmachonga@plymouthchristian.org

Identity theft workshop

Community Financial Credit Union hosts an "Identity Theft Workshop" for

anyone who has been a victim of identity theft, or knows someone who has, 6:30-8 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 20, at Community Financial, 500 S. Harvey in Plymouth.

Community Financial Credit Union is committed to helping you learn about topics such as what identity theft is, how thieves get and use your personal information, how to protect yourself from identity thieves and what to do if you are a victim.

Reserve a spot by calling Community Financial at (734) 582-8702. Light refreshments will be served.

CORRECTION

A story in Thursday's *Plymouth Observer* about FBI crime statistics for Plymouth Township incorrectly said there were no murders in the township in 2008. There was one murder in the township in 2008, no murders in 2009.

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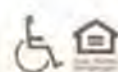
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Last stand for historic Daisy factory wall?

BY MATT JACHMAN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

It could be the last call for the last wall at the former Daisy Manufacturing Co. site in Plymouth.

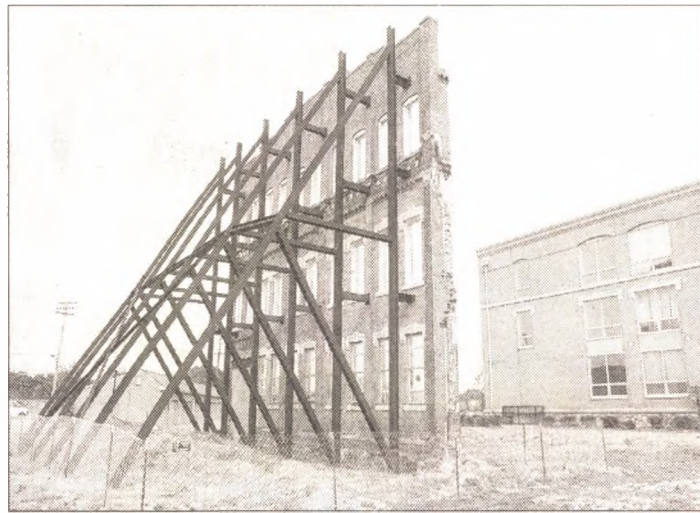
Joseph Freed and Associates, the Chicago-based developer of the Daisy Square condominiums, is seeking a five-year extension to its development plan, along with permission to tear down the remaining wall of the factory off of Union Street, where Daisy air rifles were made for eight decades. The Plymouth Planning Commission heard from Joseph Freed at its meeting Wednesday and scheduled a public hearing on the topic for Wednesday, Nov. 10.

Joseph Freed's 2003 planned unit development agreement with the city called for it to preserve the Daisy factory, which dated from 1882, and incorporate it into the condominium project. But three of the factory walls have been torn down, with the company saying they had deteriorated and were unsound. The remaining wall is leaning and is propped up by beams.

"It would become a very costly project to have to stabilize or rebuild the wall," said Jane Thompson, a Joseph Freed spokeswoman, on Friday.

Instead, Thompson said, the developer wants to take portions of the wall and incorporate them into a kind of Daisy memorial at the site. "There would be an ongoing deference to the history and the appropriate pieces of the wall," she said.

Joseph Freed also wants more time to complete the



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The original Daisy facade stands in front of the Daisy Square development.

project, which was to be wrapped up by the end of this year.

Daisy Square, which includes both loft- and townhouse-style condominiums, was envisioned as a \$35 million, 159-unit development. Thompson said market conditions have stalled development, but that the company hopes to start it up again in the first quarter of 2011.

Mark Oppat, a member of the Plymouth Preservation Network, argued the wall should be saved because of its historic significance.

"It's sad that the Daisy company was a great icon of Plymouth. ... It's probably the icon of Plymouth manufacturing in the United States," said Oppat on Thursday. "It's just a very, very important part of Plymouth history. I don't think you can underestimate that."

Oppat said the factory was demolished by neglect, and fears the last wall could see the same fate.

"There was no priority made to it, so they put it off and put it off until even most of the development was already completed," he said.

Thompson, answering Oppat's criticism, said: "The developer obviously has an ongoing interest in this property and I think they have paid ongoing attention to the project." She pointed out that public opinion on saving the wall was mixed at Wednesday's planning meeting.

The Plymouth City Commission would have the final say on any amendments to the Daisy Square development agreement.

Daisy had its roots in the Plymouth Iron Windmill Company, which was founded in 1882. The company began building air rifles a few years later, and in 1985 changed its name to the Daisy Manufacturing Co. Daisy moved its manufacturing south in the 1950s.

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CRIME FROM PAGE A1

markedly, by 36 percent, from 111 in 2008 to 152 last year. Larceny, the FBI says, includes shoplifting, pick-pocketing and the stripping of vehicle parts, but does not include theft by force (robbery) or by fraud.

Cox said a rash of thefts from unlocked vehicles, one night in the summer, can be blamed for much of the increase. About 60 unlocked vehicles were hit in one night, he said. Three people were arrested in the case.

Police have been more aggressive in looking out for larcenies from vehicles, Cox said, paying special attention at times when that type of crime tends to peak, and even sending officers out in unmarked cars.

Of course, police encourage residents to lock their parked vehicles and to not leave valuables inside. "More times than not they (thieves) just will try the door. If the door opens, they go for it," and if not, they move on, Cox said.

PLYMOUTH CRIMES						
2009						
MURDER	FORCIBLE RAPE	ROBBERY	AGGRAVATED ASSAULT	BURGLARY	LARCENY	VEHICLE THEFT
0	1	4	18	29	152	16
2008						
MURDER	FORCIBLE RAPE	ROBBERY	AGGRAVATED ASSAULT	BURGLARY	LARCENY	VEHICLE THEFT
0	1	2	3	22	111	14

Source: FBI

The things commonly stolen in such cases include cellular phones, satellite navigation systems, cash and computer equipment.

Cox said he's seen the numbers of thefts from vehicles in Plymouth, and much of western Wayne County, moving up since about 2006. The perpetrators sometimes turn out to be high school-age teens out for kicks, he said.

Cox said he'd like to add another officer to his 15-member department, but that continuing budget pressures make that unlikely. The police department's general-fund budget for this fiscal year is about \$2.76 million. "We're trying to do more with less and that's where we're at," he said.

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Meeting sends out S-O-S on school funding

State, lawmakers must get serious about fixing state's problems

BY SUE MASON
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The message Tom White and Mary DeYoung-Smith delivered to a group of school officials and parents Thursday evening is a familiar one for Livonia Public Schools Superintendent Randy Liepa. He only has to look at the district's bottom line to see that school funding is, indeed, going down a slippery slope.

"Public education is facing a multibillion dollar deficit down the road," he said. "It's alarming for us because we've never seen a time like this when funding looked so bleak." The steep step down a slippery slope was the theme of a presentation by White, the chair of Save Our Students, Schools and State, and DeYoung-Smith, president of the Michigan PTSA. The program was hosted by the Wayne-Westland Community Schools in cooperation with the Livonia Public Schools and the Wayne County Regional Educational Services Agency. The 1½-hour program focused on the problems facing K-12 education and the state, the steps that need to be taken to correct them and what concerned individuals can do to get the message to lawmakers to do something about it now.

NEED TO ACT NOW

"We need to act now to protect the future and leave our children with a better future," said White, SOS task force chairman. "Our children only get one chance at a quality

education. We can't furlough seventh grade, we can't tell them they can't have seventh grade because we don't have the money."

"Things don't happen quickly," said DeYoung-Smith. "Your kids, your community need you to keep up the fight. Economic recovery is dependent on education. We can't have one without the other."

According to White, the issue is the state's poor economy, and while the legislature didn't cause it, it has done nothing to fix it. It has failed to address the core issues while using \$6 billion in one-time fixes to fill the funding gaps.

"Since the 1990s, lawmakers have cut taxes 75 times, taking some \$450 million away from the schools," said White. "We've had job losses, taxes are down in Lansing and they can't agree on a solution. They just push the problem down to the local level. Since 2000, they have failed to come to grips with the structural flaws."

Michigan currently ranks 22nd in the country in its per pupil funding and is below the national average. In 2008-09, the state took \$932 million from the school aid fund and replaced with federal money, and last year, cut the per pupil amount by \$165. For some schools receiving 20J money, loss was more like \$500-\$600, White said.

Districts received an \$11 increase in the per pupil payments this year, and it looked like the Education Jobs Bill hammered out by lawmakers would have restored the

remaining \$154. However, Gov. Jennifer Granholm vetoed the bill, saying that it doesn't comply with the federal guidelines.

NOT A HIGH TAX STATE

White told the audience of about 200 people that Michigan isn't a high tax state. In fact, it ranks 27th in the nation for the portion of income spent by taxpayers for state and local taxes, according to the Tax Foundation. It also ranks 17th in the country for its business tax climate.

Expanding the sales tax base will result in revenue that more closely tracks the state's economic growth. It would mirror the shift to a service economy. Currently, no tax is paid on such things as rounds of golf and theater, concert and sports tickets, which, if taxed, would cost and average of \$30-\$40 per person per year.

"This is where the growth in the economy is. Without restructuring, public education will have to be recalibrated to match revenue," White said. "What does recalibrating mean? Cuts in programs."

He also said that stopping a planned reduction in the state income tax from 4.35 per cent to 3.9 percent by 2015 would save the state \$150 million per year. A progressive income tax where those who make \$100,000 or more would pay more tax also would generate another \$500 million a year.

"K-12 and the state general funds are facing a \$2 billion hole for 2010-2011," said

White. "The dam is about to break for us. We don't have a lot of options."

"The message is so simple that a third-grader can get it, but Lansing doesn't get it," White said, referring to the "School Funding from a Third-Grader" videos now being shown on the SOS website, www.sosmichigan.org.

Both White and DeYoung-Smith stressed that there are sacrifices that need to be made: Either cut the K-12 program or restructure funding. With Proposal A now 15 years old, the belief is that now is the time to revamp it.

"People are getting tired of Lansing being unresponsive, but that's how they play the game," White said. "We need to create a new funding formula that links taxes to the new economy."

Lawmakers have looked at different ways of generating taxes but in many instances caved in to criticism. One of those areas was increasing the beer and wine tax and when a question about it was raised during the meeting, former state representative John Stewart of Plymouth provided the answer.

"I was graduating from high school when they touched the beer and wine tax in 1967 and it was to reduce it," he said.

In the end, the audience was encouraged to be respectful but to continue to prod their lawmakers to make the difficult decisions and be a part of the solution.

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Poetry in motion

Dodson Elementary School students (first row from left) Ashley Wenzel and Nathan Koh and (second row) Ryan Berger, Chantal LeDoux, and Catherine Christensen show off the plaque Dodson get from being named one of the top five schools in the nation in the Young American Poetry Digest. Each year thousands of students submit their poetry to this publication and only about 65 percent are selected to be included in the book. More than 240 Dodson students who had haikus and other forms of poetry were chosen for this honor. To go along with this special achievement our school also received a monetary award and a special plaque. These funds will be used to help frame the photos of the writers. Dodson was also given the title of an 'Exemplary School' by Creative Communications. Other Dodson students had their work featured in the Anthology of Poetry by Young Americans and The American Library of Poetry.

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INTERIM

FROM PAGE A5

who now works for the MEA. He said Fiegel "is a decent and honest man," and then pointed out Fiegel's \$248,000 compensation package is second in Wayne County only behind Greg Baracy of Wayne-Westland, and "290 percent higher than teachers at the highest step" in the district.

Portelli, who also said he supported teachers picketing for a contract settlement, called for the board to end the divisiveness that has crept up among board members over this issue.

"I request you be the leaders we elected you to be," Portelli said. "You need to come together and have open and honest communication. It's time to stop plotting against each other ... we are now standing in the midst of a firestorm, and I believe it is time for you to stop working against each other and let Dr. Fiegel assist you in a plan for his departure."

The process for replacing Fiegel — his contract expires June 30 — may be altered somewhat from what's been done before. Board President Steven Sneiderman said he's like to see the board take time to figure out exactly what board members want in their next superintendent in an effort to hire someone that can last longer than a couple of years. Since Mike Hoben left the job after 22 years in June 1994, Plymouth-Canton has had four superintendents and three interim superintendents (Jim Ryan served six months as an interim before taking the job on a permanent basis in December 2002).

With a board goal-setting session coming up Tuesday, Sneiderman said he'd like to see the

HEAD OF THE LINE

Here's a list of the people who've served as superintendent of Plymouth-Canton Community Schools since Mike Hoben took the job in 1972:

Name	Start	End
Mike Hoben	July 1972	June 1994
Chuck Little	July 1994	August 1999
Ken Walcott*	July 1999	January 2000
Kathleen Booher	January 2000	July 2002
Jim Ryan*	July 2002	December 2002
Jim Ryan	December 2002	February 2007
Ken Jacobs*	February 2007	June 2008
Craig Fiegel	July 2008	Present
*Interim		

board decide exactly what it's looking for in the next superintendent.

"I'd like to see us do a little more work as a board on what we're looking for and what we think our roles are versus the superintendent's role before we go through all of that," Sneiderman said, referring to a search process.

Sneiderman said the board could either elect to do the full search process now, including hiring a search firm to find qualified candidates, or members could elect to appoint another interim superintendent for a year to give them time to figure out what they want.

Sneiderman prefers the latter option.

"I'd like to work on those things some more before starting a search," he said. "But if the majority of the board decides to move forward, that's what we'll do."

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Diversity group touts gains, eyes positive second year

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Heartened by strides it made in its inaugural year, Plymouth-Canton Citizens for Diversity and Inclusion plans to continue carving a path in hopes that community groups, elected boards and government labor pools can become more reflective of the community's increasingly diverse population.

Dozens of volunteers representing a wide swath of cultures and ethnic groups attended PCCDI's second annual community forum Wednesday evening at Pioneer Middle School, citing first-year gains yet realizing much work remains to achieve a more inclusive community.

"Last year we were very much a fledgling group," said Stan Olszewski, a PCCDI strategic planning board member.

Perhaps, but PCCDI cited numerous milestones:

- The group worked to help elect the first African-American candidate, Adrienne Davis, to the Plymouth-Canton school board.

- A clothing drive organized with the Canton Mosque brought in large donations that helped the community at

large.

- PCCDI worked alongside Canton Township officials to broaden recruiting efforts to reach minorities for a potential job pool. Though budget woes have stalled most new hires, Jeffery Shamberger, PCCDI vice chair, said he hopes the measures will eventually lead to more people of color getting hired for positions such as police officers and firefighters.

However, PCCDI members said their efforts are intended not to meet a racial quota, but to find qualified minority candidates.

- PCCDI formed ties with the Canton Community Foundation, allowing potential donors to log onto www.cantonfoundation.org and provide financial support for the group.

- Alongside parents and school representatives, PCCDI members worked with the Plymouth-Canton district to successfully attract more minority educators for this school year and to support an African-American high-school history course.

"I think it was really a productive summer," said Shelley Clifton, who heads up PCCDI's education committee.

- PCCDI nurtured its ties to a larger organization, the Michigan Roundtable for Diversity and Inclusion, by becoming involved in events such as a regional diversity walk on Belle Isle.

- More recently, PCCDI has launched the initial phase of Time Banking, a project intended to link people who have needs, such as tutoring or transportation to doctor's offices, with those who can help. The effort will place emphasis on helping residents with disabilities.

"Many people are unemployed, and many people are hurting," said Anne Marie Graham-Hudak, who chairs PCCDI's strategic planning committee.

PCCDI members brainstormed about other projects it might explore during the next year, such as a film festival promoting diversity and a fund-raising golf outing as early as next spring. Clifton said PCCDI also hopes to secure funding to hire an independent, problem-solving ombudsman — likely part time — to serve as a liaison between the school district and community.

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As medical director of Four Seasons Rehabilitation and Nursing, Livonia physician Dr. Thomas Selznick assists patients and families in making decisions. Most times the choice is obvious for short term rehabilitation or long term care.

For knee and hip replacements, cardiac surgery, pulmonary diseases, Selznick recommends rehabilitation outside of the hospital.

Four Seasons utilizes a team approach. Physicians make rounds 7 days a week. Physical and occupational therapists work with patients 5-days a week to ensure a quick return home.

"Rehab centers are geared for rehab," said Selznick. "Four Seasons provides outstanding intense therapy if patients don't have the means of caring for themselves at home or their spouse is working."

The need for long-term care depends on family dynamics. Is someone able to nurse a mother, father or spouse at home? Family support is a necessity. Nursing aides can help if finances permit.

"There's no place like home," said Selznick, "but when that can't be met Four Seasons would be their home and treated as it was their home."

Rehabilitation and nursing centers have changed dramatically since Selznick went into practice 25 years ago after a residency at Wayne State University. Back then, physicians visited patients once a month as required by law. Selznick and Dr. Jerry Wilburn, his partner at Livonia Family Physicians, changed that practice. About eight years ago they formed Continuum Geriatric Services and recently merged with InPatient Consultants (IPC), a national hospitalist.

"It was strictly nursing. Too many patients were being sent out to the hospital to be evaluated because they didn't have that physician in-house," said Selznick. "At Four Seasons we can treat them site specific. We're coming to them instead of them coming to us."

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ROBOTICS

FROM PAGE A1

the work force. He said potential employers sit up and take notice if the FIRST program shows up on an application.

NATION'S BEST

That's especially true, he said, if you're from a Michigan school. Milford's robotics team, for instance, has won the national championship two straight years, part of a string of seven consecutive years — and eight of the last nine — with national champions from Michigan.

"If you have FIRST robotics on your resume, companies will look at you before anyone else," Obsniuk said. "If you go to one of our competitions, pick a top-10 stock company and they're all there. FIRST creates (students with) responsibility, it creates leadership and it creates knowledge."

The team learns its "game" for the year in January, in a conference call with all 1,800 teams worldwide. The teams then have six weeks to build their robot, and competition season runs in March and April. It's a student-run organization, with adult mentors who advise, but aren't generally hands-on.



Eric Schendel (left), Joe Jagadic and Ashley Saunders worked well together in competition last year.

Obsniuk said that's by design.

"It's like the parents who build the Pinewood Derby car for their kids in scouting, and all the kid gets to do is race the car," Obsniuk said. "There are (robotics) teams like that. But on our team, if the kids don't work on the robot, we don't have a robot. We let the kids run the organization the way they think it should be run.

We don't shoot for winning, we shoot for learning."

That's one of the things that appeals to Schwartz, who said the adult mentors and advisers — "Some are engineers, some are just parents," he said — are vital, but the student-run aspect makes the team something more important to its members.

"(Mentors) bring a lot to the team, but the big part of our

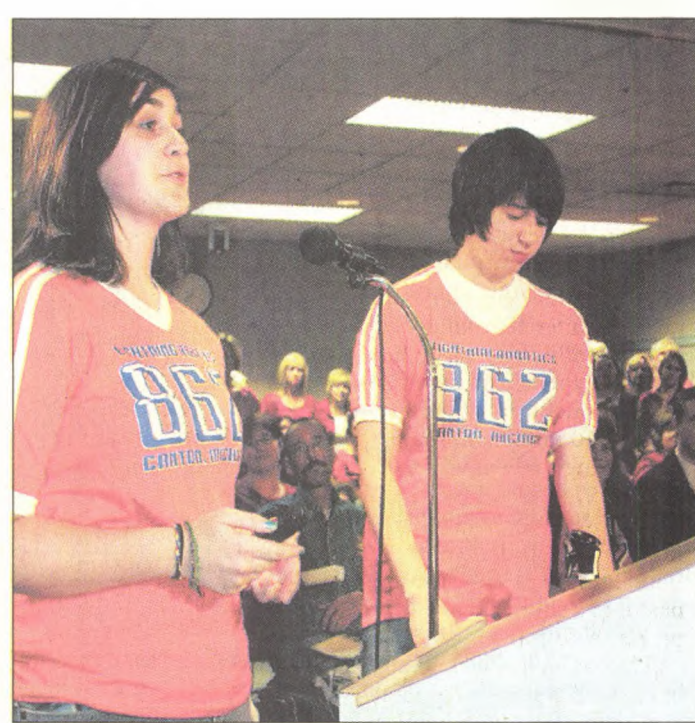
team is being student-run," he said. "We don't let the mentors touch the tools. The students handle the tools with the help of the mentors. This is a high school team and we want it to be a learning experience, to build the robot rather than watch the robot being built."

VARIOUS REASONS

Kristen Todd is an rarity on the robotics team, a fifth-year member who got to join when she was in eighth grade. Her brother, Bryan, was a member, and Kristen was intrigued by the family atmosphere.

"Everyone knew me, and they were cool with (her joining)," said Todd, a Plymouth resident who is a senior at Plymouth High School. "I went to a competition in my seventh-grade year and saw how amazing it was. It was loud and exciting, and it got me hooked."

While many of the students on the team are on it to work with the tools and build the robots, the technological aspects of FIRST don't really appeal all that much to Todd. She loves to write, so she does the award submissions and



Like everything else in the student-run robotics program, team members Kristen Todd and Brian Schwartz were in charge Tuesday during the team's 'Celebrating Success' presentation at Tuesday's school board meeting.

the public relations materials associated with the team.

And while she rarely picks up a tool — "I'm less a science-math girl and more a writer," she said — it's the atmosphere Todd likes.

"I actually call (Obsniuk) 'Grandpa,'" said Todd, who served as the team's treasurer the last two years. "We're good buddies. I have a lot of friends on the team, it's pretty much a big family. Once you get on the team, you find your niche, and you can't leave."

SPONSOR VITAL

The program costs some \$20,000 a year to run and is funded in large part by the team's major sponsor, Bosch, which kicks in some \$10,000 a year in addition to providing engineer mentors, an end-of-year banquet and other amenities.

"Bosch is vital to the success of the team," Obsniuk said. "They bring the current technology with them. Many of the young ones come there with ways to build something better."

The team is some 70 students strong now, and mem-

bers do a good job of replenishing their numbers by doing outreach to elementary and middle schools. And not only does the robotics program appeal to mainstream students, special-needs students get a lot out of it, too.

"We go out to middle schools and elementary schools, try to get them started early," Obsniuk said. "I have Advanced Placement kids, and I have a lot of special-needs students, including two autistic students who are enjoying the heck out of it. They may not get as much out of it educationally as some of the other kids, but the hands-on work really thrills them."

Obsniuk has been at it since 1999, and shows no signs of giving it up any time soon. He laughs when asked why he's stuck with it so long, but the answer comes easily enough.

"Sometimes I sit down and ask my wife the same question," he said, chuckling. "I put in about 500 hours after school and on weekends, but I enjoy the kids a lot."

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Missionary spreads his story in Canton visit

BY JULIE BROWN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The Rev. Ashraf Beshay, 38, grew up in the Christian faith and lets Americans know that some 10 million people in his native Egypt are Christians.

That's out of a population of some 80 million, Beshay said during a recent visit to Geneva Presbyterian Church in Canton, which is hosting him through its denomination. Beshay is a Presbyterian pastor of a church of about 110 people in Cairo.

"I feel at home," he said of his Canton welcome, his fourth visit to the U.S. "Your hospitality is wonderful, thank you."

He's been to Greenfield Village and Henry Ford Museum in Dearborn. "I spent wonderful time there last Saturday," he said, acknowledging he hadn't been aware of the large number of Arabs and Arab-Americans who call Dearborn home.

Beshay, who's married to Nahla and dad to a toddler daughter, grew up in upper Egypt, where more Christians live. The Coptic Church is the largest Christian body in his country.

"In my experience, they have a lot more rituals. A lot more liturgy," said the Rev. Bryan Smith of Geneva, the host pastor.

Beshay is among four missionaries visiting through the denomination's General Assembly, which chooses a different country each visit. A pastor and lay person from Lebanon are in Ohio, among the two pastors and two lay people visiting.

Beshay was in a discussion on Israel and Palestine at First Presbyterian Church of Birmingham, and spoke to young people at Pioneer Middle School on his country. He spoke on solutions to the Israel-Palestine conflict at a church in Ann Arbor, along

THE BESHAY FILE

Name: Ashraf Beshay
Profession: Senior pastor at The Evangelical Church, Al-Rahibat Square, Maadi, Cairo, Egypt
Education: Bachelor of mass communication, 1994; bachelor of theology, 1998; bachelor of laws, 2005. Currently in master's studies in Middle Eastern Christianity.
Family: wife Nahla, daughter Amanda, 14 months old. Amanda was born in the U.S. and holds American citizenship.

with having fun at a corn maze with church youth, a cider mill and a high school soccer game.

"He took a midnight train ride from Toledo to Pittsburgh," Smith said of Beshay's current visit. The Egyptian pastor heard a professor of his in Egypt while in Pittsburgh.

He's visited New York, New Jersey, Georgia and Virginia in the past. He finds a lot of interest among Americans in the Middle East and the Israel-Palestine conflict.

Beshay has a degree in mass communications and is an editor/writer for Al-Huda magazine, a synod magazine. "I usually follow CNN for news," said Beshay, who hadn't yet seen local newspapers. "We have in Egypt some Christian newspapers and magazines. This is besides our ministry as pastors."

He's animated while talking about his ministry and the publication, which carries news of the synod and members, issues related politically and socially, and theology. There's a staff of about 12, mostly pastors, said Beshay, who also writes for secular publications.

He's proud of helping to establish the first Presbyterian library in his area, along with publishing seven books in

recent years.

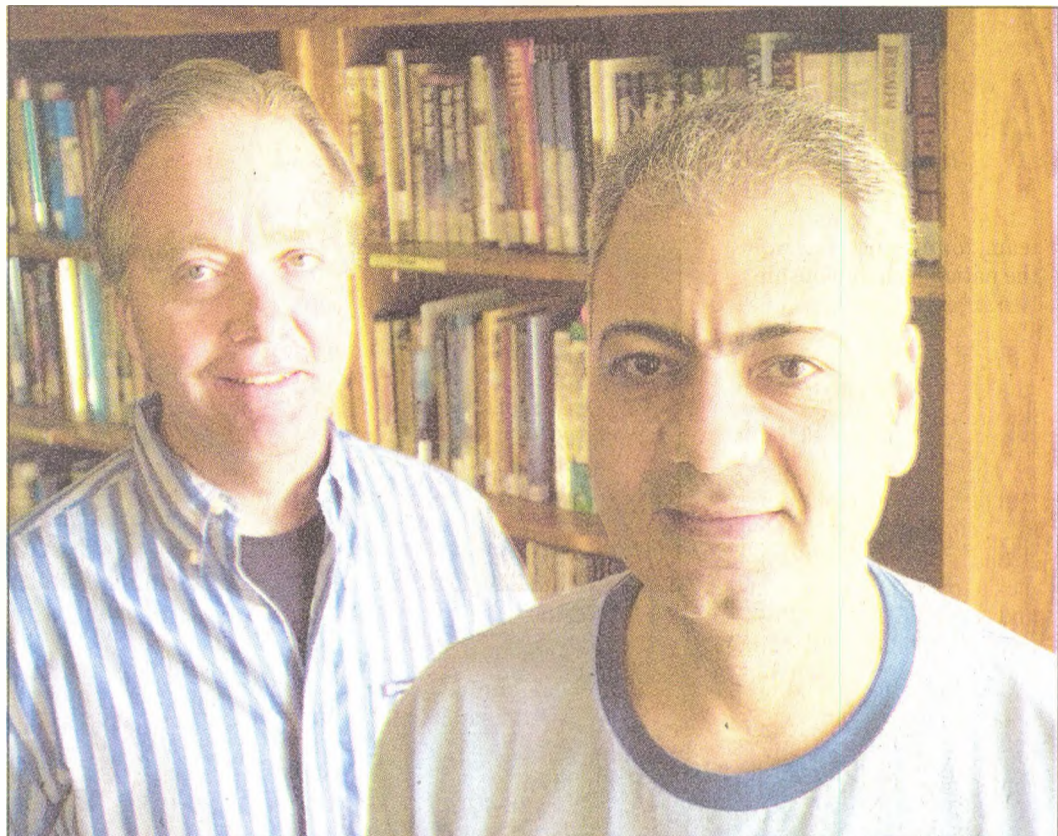
"This is wonderful achievement," he said. "We feel it will serve our community, not just Christians but Muslims."

Beshay preaches several times a week, and hosts speakers and youth groups at his congregation. "We usually encourage our youth to go to some Arab countries" to help through ministry," he said.

He's particularly pleased with help of missionaries from the U.S. and South Korea. "They are very nice, very honest in dealing with people."

Beshay, who'll visit New Jersey relatives before flying home Nov. 2, followed the John McCain-Barack Obama race, and is proud the U.S. elected a black man. He said Martin Luther King Jr. is a hero in Egypt among Christians.

"We're looking forward to having some heroes like you to struggle for justice," he said, noting there's some discrimination by race and other factors.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

jcbrown@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-6755 Pastor Bryan Smith of Canton's Geneva Presbyterian Church and Ashraf Beshay.



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Meet the candidates for the state Senate 7th District seat

Brandys: 'If people are looking for message, they'll find it'

BY BRAD KADRICH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Marlin Brandys isn't kidding himself when it comes to his campaign for the 7th State Senate seat, representing Plymouth, Canton, Northville and several downriver communities.

As the Libertarian candidate on the Nov. 2 ballot, Brandys, a former U.S. Marine and Chicago-area law enforcement officer, is honest when assessing his chances of getting elected.

"Slim and none," he said. Brandys has lived in Plymouth for about a year. He spent four years on active duty in the U.S. Marines, then did 20 years of National Guard service, including serving in both Gulf Wars. He was also an officer in the Chicago Housing Authority.

The chance of being elected is of lesser importance to Brandys than

getting his message out there. His platform, he said, revolves around business and education.

Brandys said improving the business climate is Job. 1 if he gets elected, and he'd do it by first eliminating not only

the Michigan Business Tax, but all taxes. He'd replace that tax revenue by increasing the state sales tax to 9 percent.

"You have to promote businesses of all types to come back to Michigan, or to locate here in the first place," said Brandys. "You have to make sure businesses understand you're there to promote them, not tax them out of existence."

Government has not done well at handling the education system, Brandy said, which is why he said he'd get government out of the education business. He would, instead, fund schools using scholarships from 501(c)3 groups and other private businesses. He'd also cut the number of school districts through consolidation.

"We have to get education out of government's hands," Brandys said. "They're having a hard enough time running the government. We have more than 500 school districts. We should have several hundred fewer."

"We need to encourage more family involvement in education," he added. "We should gradually promote taking the responsibility of education away from the politicians and allowing for private entities to administer scholarships for each student to use at private and charter type educational establishments."

He said the idea of multi-year budgeting has pluses and minuses.

"It is not a sure-fire fix-all," Brandys said. "If we have the revenue to make it work then it will save us on time, money and resources. This will be difficult at first; however with a positive revenue stream it can be done and used to our advantage. As long as we have stable and predictive revenue that is a majority of our revenue stream; I believe this type of budgeting will be an asset to the state."

Brandys said he became a Libertarian after living in the Chicago area, represented by Dick Lugar, whose votes Brandys said eventually started straying from his own views.

"Lugar's voting was going away from my beliefs, and I realized the Republican party was going away from my beliefs," Brandys said.

Brandys said he's not doing much campaigning, hasn't raised any money and is campaigning mostly through social networking sites such as Facebook, Twitter and his own website.

"If people believe in my message, it'll get out there," Brandys said. "I'll put my message out there and if people are looking for it, they'll find it."

THE BRANDYS FILE

Who: Marlin John Brandys, 41
What: Candidate for 7th State Senate seat
Residence: Plymouth
Number of years you have resided in the District: One
Family: 3 children and 1 grandchild
Education: Some college and professional certifications
Professional background: Public servant (Military/Law enforcement)
Community involvement: VFW, volunteer martial arts instructor at Boy's and Girl's Club
Web site: www.lpwmm.org/
MarlinBrandys

Colbeck: Limit government, improve business climate

BY BRAD KADRICH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Coming off a win over an established Republican in the August primary, Patrick Colbeck of Canton is finding even more reasons for optimism as he campaigns prior to the Nov. 2 general election.

Colbeck, a management consultant with an aerospace engineering background, has been knocking on doors during his campaign for the 7th State Senate seat, being vacated by the term-limited Bruce Patterson. Colbeck, one of five candidates on the November ballot, is liking what he's hearing on the doorsteps of the district, which includes Plymouth, Canton, Northville and several downriver communities.

"All indications are very good," Colbeck said. "I love it when I knock on doors and people say, 'I'm voting for you.'"

One of the biggest tenets of Colbeck's campaign is the idea of smaller government. He said the government has 15 separate agencies with a lot of redundant functions that could be combined to slash expenses.

"We need to cut the size of government," Colbeck said. "We can cut without eliminating services."

Colbeck also said jobs are the biggest issue — "Everyone can agree we want jobs," he said — and he believes the way for Michigan to climb out of its economic doldrums is clear, if not obvious: Climb from what he says is a ranking near the bottom in business friendliness in the country to the top spot.

And the way he says the state should do it is to "start treating businesses as customers, not piggy banks." He'd start by eliminating the Michigan Business Tax and property taxes.

"Businesses provide jobs ... the more people who have jobs, the more taxpayers we will have," Colbeck said. "The more taxpayers we have, the more tax revenue we generate. The more tax revenue we have, the more we can effectively support the government services called for under our constitution."

Colbeck, who launched his campaign with an April 15 speech during a Tax Day Tea Party event in Plymouth, said he's running a "grass roots" campaign. He thinks his management background gives him the right perspective on the ways to fix Michigan and its long-suffering economy.

"My bread-and-butter is going into dysfunctional situations," Colbeck said. "There's a different mindset when you go at it from a design engineer perspective. That thinking can extend into the business system very well. I have what it takes."

Colbeck said the way to start is to cut expenses, rather than increasing revenue in ways such as tax increases. Pointing out he signed a Taxpayer Protection Pledge, Colbeck said the state can't "tax ourselves to prosperity."

"Everyone is focused on the revenue side of the ledger," Colbeck said. "We need to lift the hood and look at the other side."

THE COLBECK FILE

Who: Patrick Colbeck, 44
What: Republican candidate, state 7th Senate District
Family: He and his wife, Angie, have been married more than 14 years
Residency: 14 years
Community involvement: outreach coordinator for Good News! Via de Cristo, member of Canton and Northville Chambers of Commerce, member of SharePoint Users Group, NorthRidge Church in Plymouth Township
Related experience: treasurer, Canton Charter Academy Board (2009-present)
Profession: Currently a self-employed management consultant (11 years total experience. Past six years have been on my own). Also provides IT consulting and web hosting services.
Education: Detroit Catholic Central High School (1983); bachelor's (1987) and master's (1988) degrees in aerospace engineering, University of Michigan; International Space University, life sciences (1989).
E-mail: Committee@ColbeckforMISenate.com
Website: www.FixingMichigan.com

Kheibari: Voters looking for something different

BY BRAD KADRICH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Michael Kheibari of Northville is encouraged by statistics he's heard that show independent candidates might have a better-than-usual shot at getting elected this year.

Kheibari, a pharmaceutical manager for Rite-Aid, figures that increases his chances of winning the 7th State Senate seat for which he's campaigning in the Nov. 2 general election. Kheibari, 60, an Iranian-American who came to the U.S. in 1992, is one of five candidates — including two independents and a Libertarian — running for the seat to serve the 7th District, which covers Plymouth, Canton, Northville and several downriver communities.

"Usually 5 to 10 percent of people are voting for independents," said Kheibari. "This year, it's up to 39 percent, according to polls. People are sick and tired of left and right. They want a change."

Like most candidates, Kheibari said the state's focus has to be in three areas: Balancing the budget, creating jobs and fixing education and health care. The difference that sets him apart, he says, is he's not trying to promise everything to voters.

"Candidates are promising the sun and the moon, but where's the money?" Kheibari asked rhetorically.

Well, he thinks he knows. According to Kheibari, Michigan's expenditures on the budget for the Department of Corrections is three times higher than the national average. Illinois, Kheibari said, spends a third of what Michigan spends.

It costs the state, according to Kheibari, some \$36,000 to house each of the state's 50,000 prisoners. He said the cost is driven up by the amenities given to prisoners.

"I'm not saying release the prisoners, but (prison) is a place for punishment," Kheibari said. "If we can get the corrections budget down to the national average, it would save \$1 billion a year."

Kheibari said his plan for the state puts school funding first and school budget cuts last. He said "Lansing is slaughtering" education funding in the state and pledged to protect it in an effort to keep Michigan students in Michigan after they graduate.

"Education is like a disaster," Kheibari said. "Statistics show 50 percent of graduates are moving out. We need to keep graduates here."

Kheibari said he wants to "recover money" from other areas, and then fund his health-care plan, which he said hinges on three main priorities: Coverage for low-income workers, for low-income senior citizens and for students.

Kheibari said improving the business climate in the state is necessary to helping the state out of its sluggish economy. Among Kheibari's ideas: Involving national companies on state projects with the contingency to hire local workers first; giving special incentives to Michigan companies only for new Michigan — "That will bring more jobs to the state and will promote the level of customer satisfaction in our state," he said — and giving special incentives to those companies who want to invest on renewable energy and use Michigan workers.

"I don't believe in lip service," he said. "I don't believe in band-aid solutions. I have to fix things, once and forever."

THE KHEIBARI FILE

Who: Michael Kheibari, 60
What: Candidate for 7th State Senate seat
Residence: Northville
Number of years you have resided in the district: 10 Years
Family: Married, 3 daughters, Rosita, Azadeh and Athena
Education: Master of Engineering (Aeronautical Meteorology) and some computer classes at Wayne state
Professional background: Major of Air Force (IIAF) as a branch of CENTO, Computer programmer and now a part of successful management team in Rite Aid.
Related experience: None, but was a member of committee in Lansing to write the new employee bill of rights.
Community involvement (past five years): Member of ACLU and working on my campaign approximately a year.
Web site: www.michaelforstatesenate.com

Law: Renewable energy among top state issues

BY BRAD KADRICH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Kathleen Law of Gibraltar believes the state needs to reinvigorate its economy, and she thinks she knows the mechanism that could at least help start that process.

Renewable energy. Law, a Democrat seeking the 7th State Senate seat in the Nov. 2 general election, said renewable energy is "the issue I wanted to campaign on." The 7th district represents Plymouth, Canton, Northville and several downriver communities.

She believes policies enacted in Germany and nearly 50 other countries could help lead the way. Her plan would include a "feed-in tariff" designed to encourage the adoption of renewable energy sources and to help accelerate the move toward grid parity. It's an issue she said she tried to push during her stint

in the state House of Representatives (2003-2008), but one on which she couldn't get much traction.

She's bringing it back now. "I wanted to have a conversation," said Law, 64, one of five candidates on

the Nov. 2 ballot. "There are others to have, and we should have them. Other representatives have heard it, because I taught it. There are more people willing to listen now."

When it comes to education, Law admits "I don't have all the answers." But she does believe education should be changed to better accommodate the people it's most supposed to serve — the students. For instance, she said the educational calendar is based on an agricultural calendar.

"We don't need kids in the fields anymore," Law said. "I want to hear from teachers what the ideal 'dream' school would be."

She suggested perhaps the school day should be shifted because "kids are brain-dead in the morning," and that perhaps schedules could be rearranged to take advantage of more optimum learning times.

"I'd like to get something that accommodates kids' biological clocks," Law said. "We have to decide what we want to be. If we're going to be a day care, that's one kind of school. If we're going to educate kids, that's a whole different school."

"I don't have all the answers, but I have lots of questions," she added. "That'll get us somewhere."

Law said she's OK with the Michigan Turnaround Plan, a five-point strategy to "transform Michigan's economy" put out by Business Leaders for Michigan, a private, non-profit executive leadership organization.

It's points include "changing the way we manage finances," "right-sizing and enacting structural budget reforms," and "getting Michigan competitive to attract and retain jobs," among others.

"There's nothing I don't support" in the plan, Law said. "But there's nothing that's going to get the job done, either."

Law said multi-year budgeting would provide stability, particularly to education and local government.

"That stability depends, however, on the state's ability to meet the commitment," she said. "Funding for schools is largely dependent on sales and income tax so if the economy falters, so does funding. My concern with two-year budgets is that it's important for the legislature to review the state budget annually to be sure that spending decisions are made transparent and accountable to the taxpayers."

THE LAW FILE

Who: Kathleen Law, 64
What: Candidate for the 7th State Senate Seat
Residence: Gibraltar
Number of years you have resided in the District: 60+
Family: Husband, Richard, son Jeff (Paula), two grandsons
Education: Bachelor of science degree in Microbiology from Eastern Michigan University
Professional background: Research Scientist, Wastewater Treatment Operator, Secretary
Related experience: City of Gibraltar Council (Mayor Pro Tem) 98-99, 99-2002, Michigan House of Representatives, 23rd District, 3 terms, 2003-2008
Community involvement: Executive Board, Wayne Conservation District, Women in Wind, AAUW, NOW
Web site: www.kathleenlawforsenate.com

Stewart: Moderate stance right for the district

BY BRAD KADRICH AND MATT JACHMAN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITERS

Plymouth attorney John Stewart figures the political paradigm is shifting and, particularly with a new governor, change will be afoot in Michigan.

And he wants to be part of it. The former three-term state representative from the 20th House District figures as a moderate, he best represents the qualities of the 7th State Senate district, to which he's hoping to be elected in the Nov. 2 general election. Stewart, who served in the House from 2000-2006, is one of five candidates on the ballot hoping to serve the district, which covers Plymouth, Canton, Northville and several downriver communities.

"People are tired of extremism. People are tired of partisanship," said Stewart. "I can bridge the partisan divide."

Stewart has been a Republican and a Democrat, but independent is a label Stewart said he wears most comfortably. He considered a bid for the state Senate as a Democrat, but decided against it when the Rep. Marc Coriveau, D-Northville, announced his candi-

didacy in January. The two share a voter base, Stewart said, and would likely have split it.

When Coriveau dropped out of the Senate race in May, Stewart saw his chance. He and supporters collected 2,544 petition signatures — over 1,000 more than needed — to put him on the ballot as an independent.

Stewart paints himself as fiscally responsible and touts his six years on the House appropriations committee as experience that will help him tackle the state's finances. Abolishing the personal property tax, a tax on the value of business equipment from computers to heavy machinery, is toward the top of his list.

"You repeal the personal property tax, you attract high-tech businesses, you attract manufacturing jobs," he said.

That would cut state revenue by about \$1.8 billion annually, in Stewart's estimation; to balance the budget, he favors consolidation in state government (state departments, for example, should not each have their own personnel office, he said) and curbing Medicaid fraud, which, he said, is driving up costs.

Overall, Michigan needs tax reform, said Stewart, who said he would support the call by Republican gubernatorial candidate Rick Snyder to repeal the Michigan Business tax. "There's going to be major restructuring of taxes," said Stewart, who is against a tax on services and says the 22-percent surcharge on the Michigan Business Tax should be repealed. To replace tax revenue, he said, he'd vote for a 6-percent corporate net income tax, and he could see himself voting for a \$1.25 increase on a six-pack of beer.

"The beer and wine industry has controlled Lansing," Stewart said. "Lansing is controlled by interest groups."

Stewart said his Downriver roots — he grew up in Wyandotte and two sisters were teachers in the area — and the fact that he collected petition signatures in that part of the district will help him win voters there. "I'm most representative of the voters," he said. "I am the only mainstream candidate."

THE STEWART FILE

Who: John Stewart, 61
What: Candidate for 7th State Senate seat
Residence: Plymouth
Number of years you have resided in the district: 26
Family: Wife of 31 years, Beth; daughters Laura and Sarah
Education: Bachelors (Eastern Michigan University), Masters (Wayne State University), Law Degree (DCL/MSU)
Professional background: Attorney, 34 years
Related experience: Elected Trustee, Plymouth Township (1988-1992); State Representative, 20th District (2000-2006)
Community involvement (past five years): Plymouth Colonial Kiwanis Club (26 years); First Presbyterian Church (26 years); Plymouth Chamber of Commerce (21 years)
Website: www.stewartforsenate.com

When dealing with IRS, get professional help

Q: Dear Rick: The Internal Revenue Service notified us that our 2007 and 2008 tax returns are going to be audited. We have never been audited before and as far as I know we've completed our returns correctly. I'm concerned as to why the IRS chose our return. We have always done our returns ourselves and we currently use Turbo Tax. My husband wants to deal with the IRS on his own. I think we should hire someone. What are your thoughts?

A: Sometimes there is no rhyme or reason why the IRS chooses to audit a return. The IRS uses many different formulas and programs to determine who to audit. Just because your return was selected, doesn't mean there is anything wrong with the return or that you will owe money.

The IRS does random audits to make sure people comply with tax laws. That being said, if you've completed your returns accurately there probably is nothing to worry about. The audit may be relatively routine in that you present your backup documentation to the IRS, and everything else falls into place. However, that doesn't mean you shouldn't be



Money Matters

Rick Bloom

concerned. Whenever the IRS wants to discuss your tax return, it is something to be concerned with. After all, you don't know why the IRS is auditing your return. It could be just a relatively routine matter or it could be something more complex.

I recommend that a professional handle the audit for you. I recognize that hiring a professional is not inexpensive, however, I believe he/she is worth the money.

When called to the IRS, anyone is a little nervous — that is natural. Being nervous and not knowing the procedures and policies of an audit gives the IRS the upper hand. A professional allows you to level the playing field.

After all, professionals who have handled audits in the past typically won't be intimidated by the IRS. Also, knowing what the IRS's procedures and policies are allows the professional to properly represent you. My general advice is that

anyone being audited should retain a professional.

There are three types of individuals you can consider — a tax attorney, a certified public accountant or an enrolled agent. All generally have experience dealing with audits. However, don't make the assumption that just because someone is a tax attorney or CPA that they handle audits. In today's world, it is not unusual for a CPA to have no experience in audits. Therefore, before you hire a professional, make sure that they have experience in dealing with the Internal Revenue Service. In addition, it is important to have an understanding of their fees. Do they charge a flat rate or an hourly fee? Know this up front. Fees may be an uncomfortable conversation, however, it is important.

Good luck!

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

Local travelers firm in Europe plans

Plymouth-Canton area travelers are moving forward with plans to travel to Europe, even after the U.S. State Department issued a "Travel Alert" on Oct. 3, according to the travel experts at the Travel Leaders location in Plymouth.

While answering many questions regarding the State Department advisory, the Travel Leaders experts are making it clear that no warning is in place against traveling to Europe. They also are counseling area residents who may be traveling internationally on simple precautions to maximize enjoyment while further minimizing risk.

"It is important to note that the State Department is not warning against travel to Europe. While the 'Travel Alert' issued on Oct. 3 is new, it is largely consistent with the State Department's Worldwide Caution that has

been in place for most of the last decade," explained Kate Rosevear, owner of Plymouth's Travel Leaders location.

As has been the case for the past 10 years, Rosevear said, "The State Department recommends that Americans use common sense and 'take every precaution to be aware of their surroundings and to adopt safety measures to protect themselves when traveling.' We, in turn, are providing the full text of the alert to our clients so they may make informed decisions regarding their travel. At this time, all of our clients are moving forward with their travel plans to Europe."

In fact, Rosevear said she's in the final stages of preparing to personally escort a group of 56 travelers on the Plymouth Symphony Orchestra benefit cruise departing for

Barcelona and the Western Mediterranean on Oct. 27.

Rosevear also noted that the State Department has acknowledged that "European governments have taken action to guard against a terrorist attack."

"While no one can ever say with absolute certainty that any destination is 100-percent free of issues, we believe that if travelers from the Plymouth-Canton area use common sense, they will mitigate most problems," Rosevear said. "For all travelers planning overseas trips, we also strongly recommend travel insurance for the additional peace-of-mind it provides should anything happen before or during travel."

Plymouth's Travel Leaders location is at 44427-B W. Ann Arbor Road. More information is available on their website at www.travel-leaders.com/plymouthmi or by calling (734) 455-5810.

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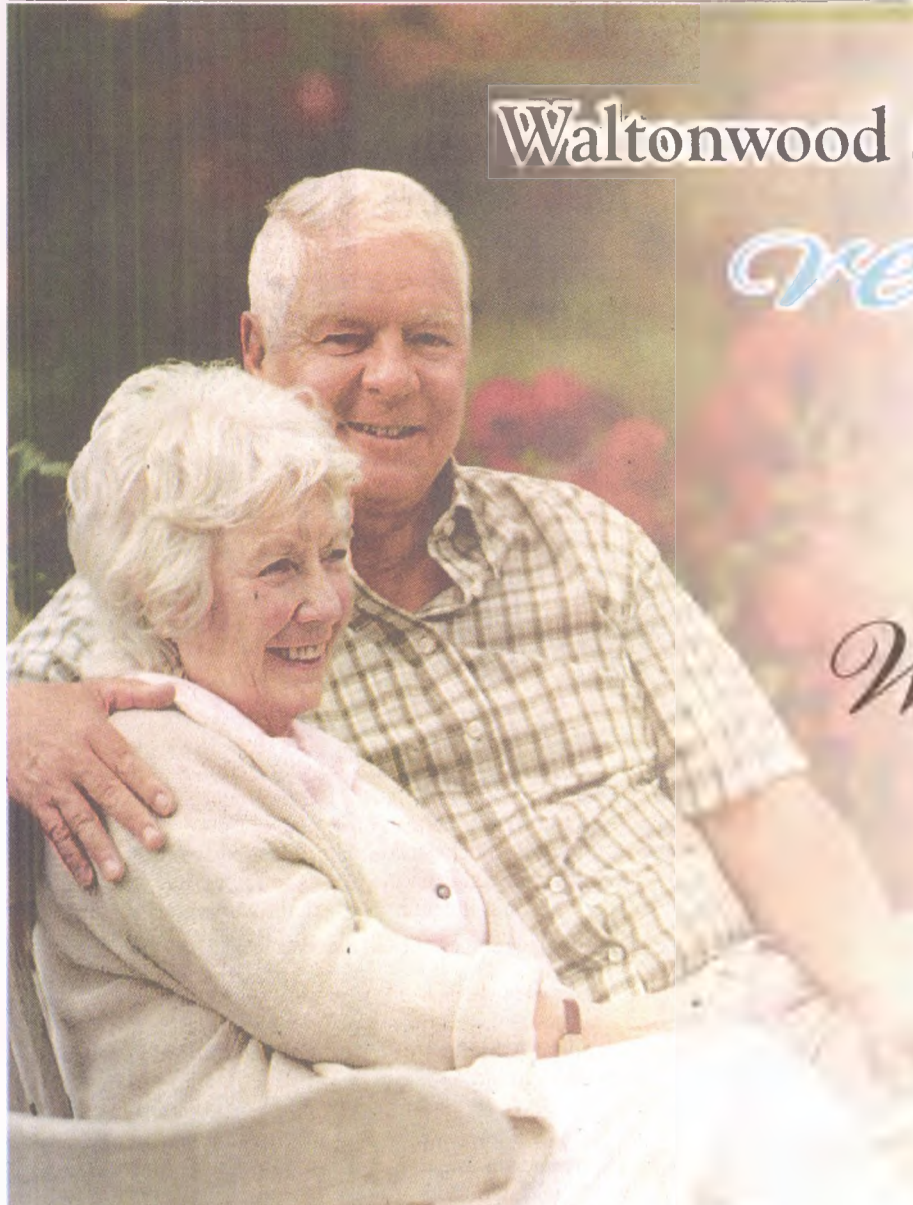
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COMMUNITY LIFE

Sunday, October 17, 2010

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ReMARKable woman gets fit, leads way for other women

BY BETH JACHMAN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Remarkable. That's a word that is following Chris Benson around these days.

From losing weight, to working at Madonna University, to working on her doctorate at Michigan State, to running marathons, Benson has a pretty full plate, but it's filled with healthy choices, because that's the key to her success.

Associate dean for Academic Advising and the First-Year Experience at Madonna University in Livonia, Benson lost more than 70 pounds on the Weight Watchers™ program. And that's just the beginning.

While attending a celebration luncheon in May, she caught the attention of Florine Mark, president and chair of the board of The WW Group, Weight Watchers' largest franchise holder. The result of that meeting is that Mark named Benson 2010 ReMARKable Woman of the Year for the 11th annual luncheon held in September at The Henry, the former Ritz Carlton, in Dearborn. In addition, Benson has appeared on Mark's WXYZ Channel 7 show *Ask Florine*, as well as being interviewed on her radio show.

"I'm totally shocked," she says of the attention. She gives the credit for her successes to Weight Watchers.

"Weight Watchers was the start of me being able to do a lot of things in my life," she said. "I feel like losing the weight was what gave me the confidence," she said.

A resident of Taylor, she has worked at Madonna for seven years. She is pursuing a doctorate in higher education administration.

She joined Weight Watchers in March 2000.

"I went because my doctor told me I was obese and no one ever said that to me before," she said. She was well over 200 pounds at the time. The doctor said, "I want you to go to Weight Watchers tonight. I don't even want



Chris Benson, who lost more than 70 pounds on the Weight Watchers program, speaks at the ReMARKable Women luncheon in September.

you to go home. I want you to go right to a meeting," Benson said.

Joining Weight Watchers was definitely a big lifestyle change, she said. The strategies of Weight Watchers include making healthy eating choices and writing down what you eat, but "they also talk to you about psychological aspects too," she said.

"I did lose it (the weight) in under a year," she said. "It's not so hard losing it, it's keeping it off," she said, adding she struggled with her weight going up and down even after she reached her goal weight.

And even though once Weight Watchers members reach their goal they no longer have to weigh in every week, she still does. "I have to go every week. I know that I deal with stress sometimes by eating."

FACING CHALLENGES

One rough patch was when she had a comprehensive exam at Michigan State and failed one of the questions. "I was so depressed," she said. But she was determined not to turn to emotional eating and that's when

she turned to running even though she says at the time she could barely run one block. "I can't go back to (over)eating," she said she told herself, adding she had always wanted to try running. She read a book called *50/50* by ultramarathoner Dean Karnazes about running 50 marathons in all 50 states, and in early 2009 she started running. "When I incorporated the running in, that helps me so much with the stress," she said.

"I guess I felt like I was at a place that I had to try it. It's totally changed my outlook on life," she said. She now averages 30 to 40 miles a week. "It's really given me so much energy I can't see my life without it," she said.

Her first marathon was the Detroit Free Press Marathon in 2009. She is also running it again today. Her next goal is a 50-mile endurance run in 2011. Her running schedule is sometimes hard to fit in with all the demands for her time, but she says she does it no matter what. "That's something I do for myself," she said.

Her husband, who also was not a runner prior to this, is supportive and

has become more active and has been posting his training on Facebook.

"A lot of people have told me 'you've really inspired me to get out there,'" she said.

To stay motivated she sets up a calendar of her training plans "I have written down every day what I need to do," she said. "Posting it where I can see it keeps me going," she said.

Benson says she has never looked or felt better in her life, but she has traveled a ways to get there.

Although fairly thin as a child, when she got into her early 20s, things got complicated.

"I couldn't seem to find what it is I wanted to do," she said and that caused stress. "I felt that all that was weighing on me, literally."

SEEING SUCCESS

Things just started happening after her success with Weight Watchers. She attended a celebration in May for anybody who lost more than 50 pounds with Weight Watchers, which is where she met Florine Mark. Mark asked if Benson would like to be inter-

viewed on WXYZ Channel 7's *Ask Florine*.

"Then I'm at work and someone said 'did you see the post card?' It was then she found that she was part of the "I Did it" campaign on www.888-3-florine.com, which features her success story. After that she got an e-mail that invited her to be recognized as a ReMARKable Woman of the Year.

The annual luncheon was attended by 600 people. "It was so wonderful ... the greatest experience," Benson said.

At the ReMARKable women luncheon she talked to the audience about her struggles with weight and told them, "When I look at myself I still see myself 73 pounds heavier," she said.

She talked about how women tend to lose their positive self-image as young girls. She says she talked about the fact that a first-grader points to themselves when asked who is the smartest, but by third grade they point to others.

"I work with freshmen at the university," she said. "We've got a whole new generation of leaders coming up."

So one of her next goals is working with young women to make healthy choices now, she said.

Since the ReMARKable woman honor she has been asked to go to Magic 105 studios in Ferndale to be interviewed for Mark's radio show, which is broadcast on several radio stations in Michigan. It's a half-hour show and it's basically to inspire other women to do things that they want to do, Benson said. That show was scheduled to be aired today.

And Mark has also asked her to be a Weight Watchers leader, but for now she just wants to continue working and running and completing her doctoral program.

But she is excited by all the attention. "It's an amazing opportunity. I never thought it would lead to all these things," she said.

Now she has people say to her, "I can't believe you ever had a weight problem."

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Bowl for animal welfare, visit the zoo

If you love animals and bowling, Tail Wagger's 1990 is offering a deal you can't resist.

The nonprofit animal welfare organization will hold its 21st Tail Wagger's Bowl on Saturday, Nov. 13 at Woodland Lanes in Livonia. Participants will meet many of the organization's four-legged benefactors, hear compelling rescue stories and talk to pet owners who have received assistance from Tail Wagger's 1990. They'll also bowl three games, eat lunch or dinner, get a commemorative gift and prizes.

Bowling times are 9:30 a.m., 1 p.m., 4:30 p.m. and 8 p.m. Costs is \$25 per person.

Children can become official Pet Cadets by participating in the 9:30 a.m. squad. For \$10 per person, kids will get the same benefits as the adults but also receive a personalized Pet Cadet Membership Card which gives them a phone number to call to ask animal-related questions or to report animal cruelty. Pet Cadets are featured on the Tail Wagger's Web site and can be proud of the fact they are stepping up to the plate on behalf of animals.

Founder, Laura Zain says that for the first time in many years there are openings for new participants to join in

the fun. She hopes to raise enough money so that families can continue to rely on Tail Wagger's for pet food assistance, low-cost vaccinations, spaying/neutering and emergency assistance.

Tail Wagger's 1990 strives to support dedicated pet owners who are in need of assistance and it pays for animal emergencies.

To register for the 21st Tail Wagger's Bowl, call Zain at (734) 560-4660 or e-mail to tailwaggers.1990@yahoo.com.

PLAYING WITH FOOD

Detroit Zoo animals will taste, eat, tear, smash and roll around in pumpkins Thursday, Oct. 21.

Each year around Halloween, the Zoo's animal welfare staff gives animals environmental enrichment in the form of pumpkins, gourds and corn stalks as special holiday treats.

The enrichment items are hidden throughout the animals' habitats or prepared and placed in a unique manner to stimulate natural behaviors. The primates' pumpkins, for example, will be carved out and filled with red-colored pasta.

"The gorillas enjoy digging



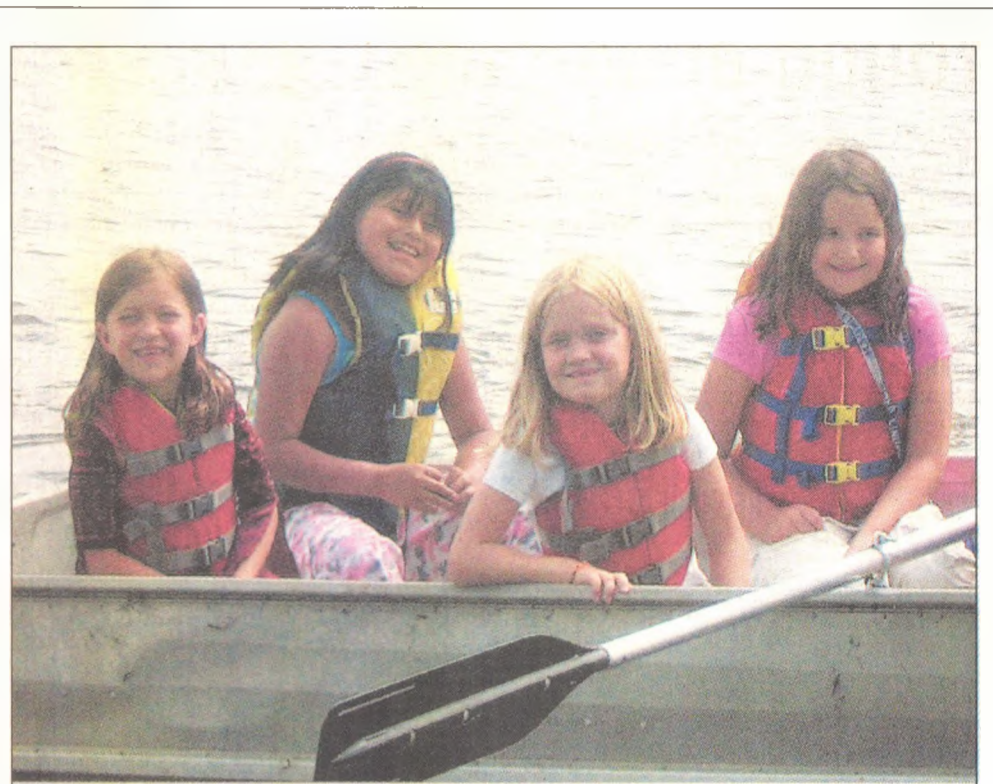
PET PROJECTS

in and eating the ghoulish spaghetti," stated Elizabeth Arbaugh, animal welfare manager.

Zoo visitors can watch the animals devour and play with their treats. Here's the enrichment schedule for Oct. 21:

- 10:30 a.m. - Gorillas with spaghetti-filled pumpkins
- 11 a.m. - Snow monkeys with Halloween treats
- 11:30 a.m. - Rhinos with pumpkins and corn stalks
- Noon - Zebras with corn stalks
- 12:30 p.m. - Bison with pumpkins and corn stalks
- 1 p.m. - Wolverines with pumpkins and spaghetti
- 1:30 p.m. - Polar bears with pumpkins

The Detroit Zoo is open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. through October and will close at 4 p.m. each day beginning in November. It's located at Woodward and 10 Mile in Royal Oak. 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.



Canoeing at Scout camp is a fun activity for these girls.

Campaign aim: Get Scouts to camp

Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan believes that financial hardship should never be a barrier to attending summer camp. "When it comes to Girl Scout camp," said Jan Barker, CEO of Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan, "the question shouldn't be if a girl goes, it should be when."

That's why the organization launched the first targeted campaign to make Girl Scout camp possible for every girl who wanted to attend camp in 2010 in the council's 34-county service area that includes parts of western Wayne County. The three-month campaign brought in nearly \$86,000. Of that amount, \$62,787 funded camp scholarships, allowing 502 girls to experience outdoor adventure at one of the council's eight premier camps. Additional

funds were used to maintain the camps and to improve outdoor and environmental programming.

The need for scholarship funds and supplies at all of the council's camps increased dramatically in 2010 as Michigan's economy continued to falter. By August, all funds set aside to provide financial aid to campers had been spent. That's when the fund development team at Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan decided to try a last-minute phone-a-thon in all five of the council's regions: Kalamazoo, Jackson, Saginaw, Lansing and Ann Arbor. The two-day telephone campaign brought in \$3,700, money that was used to send girls to camp during the last few weeks of the camping season.

Other elements of the



Catching fish makes Girl Scout camp even more memorable.

successful campaign included a direct mailing to 5,000 past donors, e-mail blasts to potential donors, online giving, personal solicitations and memorial gifts.

Through the Girl Scout Leadership Experience girls discover their strengths, connect with others, and take action to make the world a better place. For more information, visit www.gshom.org or call (800) 49-SCOUT.

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- How benefits affect taxes
- What to do if you have other income from pensions or IRAs



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<p>Detroit - Eastside 4481 Gratiot Ave. North of 7 Mile Road</p>	<p>Riverview 19224 Fort Street Riverview Commons At Sibley</p>
<p>Detroit - Northwest 18463 Livernois South of 7 Mile Road</p>	<p>St. Clair Shores 31065 Harper Shores Plaza At 13 Mile Road</p>
<p>Garden City 30094 Ford Road Garden City Square • West of Middlebelt</p>	<p>Southfield 23647 Greenfield Road Kroger Shopping Plaza At Providence Drive</p>
<p>Livonia 33036 W. 7 Mile Road (near Joe's Produce) East of Farmington Road</p>	<p>Taylor 21584 Ecorse Road Taylor Commons East of Telegraph</p>
<p>Madison Heights 1419 West 14 Mile Rd. Campbell Plaza at Campbell Road</p>	

Young adult cancer survivor event set

Gilda's Club Metro Detroit will host a young adult cancer survivors symposium on Thursday, Oct. 21, from 5:30-8 p.m.

The event will feature two guest speakers, Deborah Olszewski Ward, R.N., M.S.N., from Karmanos Cancer Institute and Glenn Rockowitz, a four-time cancer survivor,

comedian and former writer for *Saturday Night Live*.

Ward will discuss the long-term side effects from chemotherapy. She is a hematology/oncology nurse practitioner at the Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute. For the last three years, she has practiced at Karmanos in hematology and has cared for many young adults

who have been diagnosed with cancer and are either in chemotherapy treatment or are in need of care after treatment.

In 1998, Rockowitz, at 28 years old, was given three months to live. He will tell his story of how he used laughter and comedy to defy the odds and survive.

The event is open to all young

adults diagnosed with cancer who are in their 20s or 30s. Admission is free, RSVP is required, (248) 577-0800.

Supper will be provided. Networking and social time will be available before and after the guest speaker presentations, allowing participants the opportunity to meet other young adult survivors.

REUNION CALENDAR

Send reunion items to Sharon Dargay at sdargay@hometownlife.com

Belleville High School Class of 1971

Planning 40th reunion in 2011. Seeking classmates and contact information. E-mail BHS.1971@yahoo.com. If on Facebook join the group by searching BHS reunion 1971 40th sign up site; also on CLASSMATES/REUNIONS.

Birmingham Groves High School Class of 1975

35th class reunion, Oct. 22-23, will include homecoming game, Friday night, and party, Saturday night, at The Birmingham Community House. Contact grovest975@gmail.com or Groves Class of 1975 - 35th Class Reunion, on Facebook.

Detroit Mackenzie Class of 1962

Planning class reunion in 2012. Seeking classmates and contact information. E-mail the committee at mackenzie1962@gmail.com.

Farmington High School Class of 1970

Planning reunion in 2010. Seeking classmates. Join the group on Facebook by searching Farmington High School Class of 1970 Reunion. Or e-mail Caria Campbell Lehn at dblehn@aol.com.

Garden City High School Class of 1960

Mini-reunion luncheons held the second Saturday of every month at 1 p.m. in the banquet room in the Plymouth Denny's on Ann Arbor Road, east of I-275. Call Gary Simon at (734) 751-4101 or send e-mail to GCHS.MCMLX@yahoo.com.

Livona Bentley

Class of 1961

Planning a 50th class reunion for 2011. Seeking classmates and contact information. E-mail to dbruner@twmi.rr.com or call Don Bruner at (734) 524-0979 to register and for more information.

Livonia Churchill Class of 1980

30-year reunion, Nov. 27 at One Under Banquet Hall at Idyl Wyld Golf Course in Livonia. Seeking classmates and contact information. Join the group on Facebook by searching Livonia Churchill or e-mail Mary Furlong Tabone and Kathy Hesch Zelin at churchillicasof80@yahoo.com.

Redford Union Class of 1975

Reunion runs 5-11 p.m., Friday, Nov. 26, at Embassy Suites Livonia. Cost is \$50 per person; Nov. 1 is deadline for sending in money and \$50 ticket price. Make checks payable to Joanne Piasecki and send to Reunion Redford Union 1975, P.O. Box 530213, Livonia, MI 48153. Questions? Contact RU75Reunion@gmail.com or Reunion Redford Union 1975 on Facebook.

Rosary High School Class of 1966

Planning 45th reunion in July of 2011. Seeking classmates and contact information. E-mail Pam at Taffttoo@aol.com

St. Ladislaus High School Class of 1955

55th reunion, 3-8 p.m. Oct. 24, American Polish Cultural Center, Troy. Includes sit-down dinner, \$40. Still looking for 1955 classmates. For more information call Joan at (248) 471-5315 or Rose Marie at (586) 573-6045.

RELIGION CALENDAR

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

OCT. 17-20

Breakfast

Time/Date: 8:30 am - noon, Sunday, Oct. 17

Location: St. Theodore Social Hall, 8200 N. Wayne Road, Westland
Details: All you can eat pancake and French toast breakfast sponsored by St. Theodore Men's Club, includes pancakes, French toast, ham, sausage, scrambled eggs, applesauce, tea, coffee, milk and juice; \$3 adults; \$1.50 children, ages 2-10
Contact: (734) 425-4421

Concert

Time/Date: 4 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 17

Location: St. John Lutheran Church, 23225 Gill, Farmington Hills
Details: The Birmingham Concert Band performs a program called "Music for Symphonic Band." The concert features Danielle Mukami, Birmingham Concert Band scholarship awardee, and a special segment of Irish music; free
Contact: (248) 474-0584

Concert

Time/Date: 5 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 17

Location: Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church, 40000 Six Mile, Northville
Details: Gary and Ron Matthews in

concert

Contact: (248) 374-7400

CROP walk

Time/Date: 1:30 p.m. registration; 2 p.m. walk, Sunday, Oct. 17

Location: St. John's Episcopal Church, 574 Sheldon, Plymouth
Details: Raises funds for Church World Service and the Salvation Army
Contact: (734) 981-4205

Divorce support

Time/Date: 7-8 p.m. Mondays, for seven weeks beginning Oct. 18

Location: Birmingham Temple, 28611 W. 12 Mile, Farmington Hills
Details: Group for parents and their children (through 8th grade), "Rainbows," offered by National Council of Jewish Women, SPACE for Changing Families. \$10 registration fee; must pre-register
Contact: (248) 355-9936 or e-mail space@ncjwgd.org

Living Rosary

Time/Date: 7 p.m., Wednesday, Oct. 20

Location: St. Michael the Archangel, 11441 Hubbard, just south of Plymouth Road, Livonia
Details: Biannual "Living Rosary," in which a person or small group represents each bead of the rosary and leads the prayer it represents. The ceremony is held by candlelight and as each prayer is offered, a candle is lit to represent that particular bead. The ceremony, which commemorates October as the month of the Rosary, will follow the parish's monthly day of Eucharistic Adoration in which the church is open for adoration from 10 a.m. until closing ceremonies at 7 p.m.
Contact: (734) 261-1455, Ext. 200 or visit www.livoniastmichael.org

Canton residents respond to Pakistan disaster

Several Canton residents and members of the Muslim Community of Western Suburbs will collect clothing for flood victims in Pakistan, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 23, at Summit on the Park, 1150 Canton Center Road, Canton.

"Our goal is to get as many items as possible to the flood victims," said Wafa Yusus, a member of the mosque and a Canton resident. "The scale of the disaster has been so bad. There is so much widespread famine and disease."

The flooding began in the summer after heavy monsoon rains and has affected more than 20 million people, according to the United Nation's Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

Yusus said residents held a food drive in August, and sent donations to Helping Hand, a global relief and development organization. The clothing donations will be handled by Al-Huda, which also is involved in relief efforts in Pakistan.

"We're all originally from Pakistan and that makes it dear to us," Yusus explained, adding that the group wasn't sure at first how it would respond to the crisis. "We really brainstormed."

The group is collecting gently-used or new, washed and labeled blankets, comforters, and bed sheets. It also will accept warm items for adults and children, including jackets, coats, sweaters, shoes, new socks, mufflers, gloves, hats, shawls and thermal items. Items should be labeled and sorted into these categories: Men, women, boys age 0-10, boys age 10-18, girls age 0-10, and girls age 10-18.

Volunteers also will accept dry milk in individual sachets, one-liter water bottles and cookies.

For more information call Yusus at (734) 658-9224 or Nadia at (734) 238-0595 or e-mail to Call4pakistan@gmail.com.

-By Sharon Dargay

GARDEN EVENTS

Send garden news to Sharon Dargay at sdargay@hometownlife.com

MONARCH BUTTERFLIES

The Southeast Michigan Butterfly Association will show a documentary, "Flight of the Monarch Butterfly," at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 20, at Nankin Mills Nature Center, 33175 Ann Arbor Trail, Westland. The film tells the adventure story of pilot Vico Gutierrez, who in an ultralight plane follows the Monarchs' journey to Mexico with the goal of increasing awareness about the challenges they face. Parking on Hines Dr. or Ann Arbor Trail. \$3 for non-members. For more information call (734) 326-0578 or visit www.sembabutterfly.com.

AT ENGLISH GARDENS

Learn how to put your garden "to bed" for winter at a free presentation, 10 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 23.

Start planning holiday decorating at a free presentation at 10 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 30.

See holiday displays, hear caroling, and take a free photo with Santa, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 7 at the store's annual holiday open house. Refreshments will be served.

Local stores are at 155 N. Maple, Ann Arbor, (734) 332-7900; 22650 Ford Road, at Outer Drive,

Dearborn Heights; (313) 278-4433; 4901 Coolidge Highway, Royal Oak; (248) 280-9500; and 6370 Orchard Lake Road, West Bloomfield; (248) 851-7506.

CRAFT CORNER

Send information about your upcoming craft show to Sharon Dargay at sdargay@hometownlife.com. Remember to include a telephone number readers can call for more information.

LIVONIA

• Noon to 6 p.m., Friday, Oct. 22 and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 23 at Riverside Park Church of God, 11771 Newburgh. More than 30 vendors selling handmade crafts. Lunch menu available and youth bake sale fund-raiser for goodies. Free admission. (734) 464-0990; www.riversideparkchurch.org

• Frost Middle School Craft Show is set for 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 6, at the school, 14041 Stark, west of Farmington Road, north of I-96. Admission is \$2. No strollers. (734) 744-2670

NORTHVILLE

The Northville Christmas Market opens at 5 p.m. Friday, Nov. 19, with the annual illuminated Christmas Parade. It will run 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 20 and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 21 on Main Street. The event will include 60 artisan and craft booths, free carousel rides, treats. Free admission. Visit www.michiganchristmasmarket.com.

Arthritis Today

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PSEUDOGOUT


Pseudogout will play an important role in the coming years of senior care. The term "pseudogout" refers to an arthritic condition that looks like gout, acts like gout, but is not gout. Gout crystals consist of uric acid; pseudo gout crystals are calcium pyrophosphate dihydrate.

Gout most often strikes men between age 45-70, pseudogout appears in men and women in a nearly equal distribution, and is the dominant form of crystalline arthropathy in both men and women over age 80. Physicians are gaining awareness of the presence of pseudogout as the advanced aging population increases.

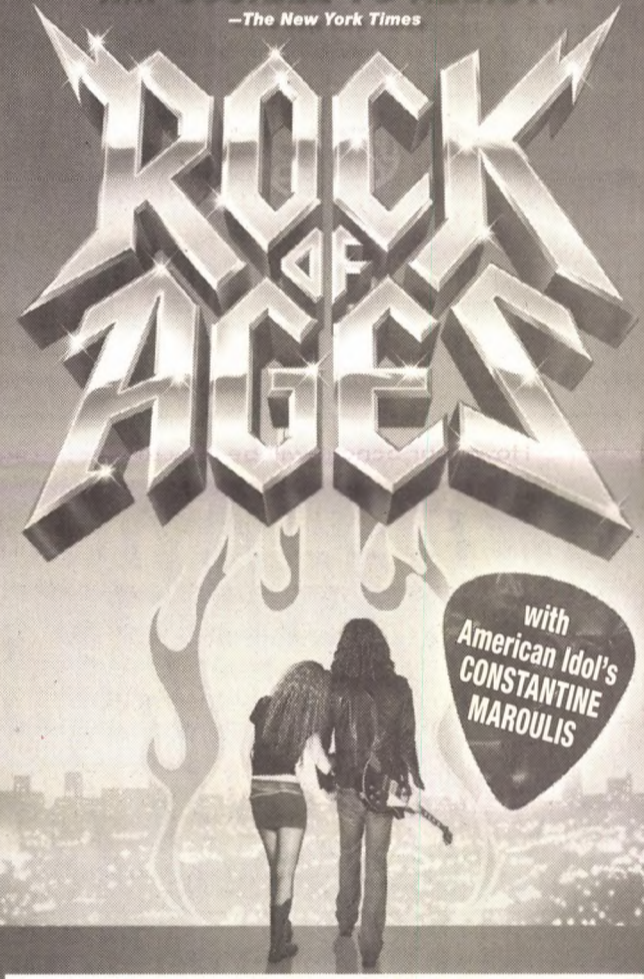
Doctors realize the importance of recognizing that pseudogout, not gout is behind an attack of sudden foot, ankle or knee pain in the elderly. Pseudogout requires different treatment from gout; the usual medications for gout such as Allopurinol and Uloric, have no effect in preventing or treating pseudogout attacks. Colchicine, a drug that has a 4,000 year history in treating gout also is of little benefit in pseudogout.

On the other hand, cortisone, either by mouth or by injection, is effective in stopping an attack of gout or pseudogout. Injecting steroid into the inflamed joint is the best therapy as the medication immediately reaches the site where it is needed. At the same time the needle delivers the medication, the physician can obtain fluid and identify under a microscope that the joint inflammation does indeed come from pseudogout.

Often attacks of pseudogout will occur one after another for weeks to months. Then without reason attacks may stop for years.



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BY JULIE BROWN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Sondra and Jack Felsot are glad to call downtown Farmington home.

"Farmington to me is the best place to live," Sondra Felsot said. "Everything's accessible. Everything you need is here. The people who live in this neighborhood are wonderful people."

The Felsots, who've lived in their late 1800s home for about 16 years, recently had it renovated with the help of Guy Jones Sr. of Signature Siding and Trim. The couple praises the artistry of his work, along with the fact that they won't need to paint again.

The couple, parents to two grown children, doesn't know the exact year their home was built. Sondra looked through local author Brian Golden's *Farmington:*

A Pictorial Historical Photograph Collection. The book has photos of the home, next to the Salem Church. The home was moved on logs in 1905, as was its carriage house, which remains.

The home was placed on a full basement, she said, and the former porch enclosed for a front room.

"So they actually remodeled in their own little way."

Only a handful of owners, including a watchmaker, have lived there. The family the Felsots bought from did renovation, but much of the home remains Victorian in style, with a modern stove in the kitchen but no dishwasher.

THE RIGHT PRO

Sondra needed the house painted and had trouble finding the right pro. "I was antiquing with

my husband and I saw his work," she said of Jones. He did all the siding by hand, putting pieces of various signs in intricate designs, including around windows.

Sondra Felsot is an artist who does folk art, acrylic on canvas. She commissions her work and has some in their home. Her husband's a food broker.

She's thrilled with the look of their home.

"He's very talented. He's an artist," Jones created different looks from varied colors.

"He totally guided me," she said. "I knew what I wanted." She wanted to preserve the Victorian look.

Gutters were installed to match. The exterior had been stucco, which was removed down to the wood.

Jones put in the windows and their trim, achieving a wood look with materials

that won't need repainting. "I absolutely recommend him," she said. "He gets the job done. You don't have to be there, worrying."

"You have an artist doing your house. He's one of a kind and he does everything with love," added Felsot, who was glad to invest in local property values for her community.

He did a girlfriend's house in West Bloomfield after she saw their home, said Felsot, who'd like to rent some of their furniture and bric a brac for local movie productions.

LABOR OF LOVE

Jones, who lives in Holly but travels for work, has been doing this work some 35 years, since he was 17. He had a brain aneurysm in 1991 and wanted to focus on quality work.

"I'm still enjoying every



JOHN STORMZAND | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Sondra Felsot outside her home in Farmington.

minute I get to work," Jones said.

He did a former law office in Farmington in 1998, now a music store, and received

a mayor's award. The Felsot project presented new challenges.

"That all had to be scraped off with a chisel," Jones said of the stucco. The Felsot project took about five weeks, with the couple remaining in their home.

He took out trees and shrubs for them.

"It is a really pretty house. The garage came out nice, too," Jones said.

They'll need no maintenance other than an annual hosing down of dust with a garden hose. Jones said he's been busy the last 20 years at his craft, with things slowing down this year.

"I was very excited about how it turned out," he said of the couple's home. "It makes it more fun."

Jones can be reached at www.signaturesidingandtrim.com or by phone at (586) 406-0024.

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Tuesday, October 26, 2010
Loc Performance Products, Inc.

PLEASE TAKE NOTE: that a Public Hearing will be held on Tuesday, October 26, 2010, during a regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Plymouth to consider the request of Loc Performance Products, Inc. for an Industrial Facilities Exemption Certificate for the cost of machinery, equipment, furniture, and fixtures located at 13505 Haggerty Rd, Haggerty, L.L.C., Plymouth Township, Wayne County, Michigan.

The request of Loc Performance Products, Inc. is on file in the Clerk's Office at Plymouth Township Hall where it is available for public perusal from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

During the public hearing any resident of Plymouth Township or members of the Legislative Board of any affected taxing unit in the Township shall have the right to appear and be heard. Written comments addressed to the Clerk will be considered. Contact phone number is 734-354-3224.

The public hearing, commencing at 7:00 p.m., on Tuesday October 26, 2010, will be held in the Town Hall at the Charter Township of Plymouth, 9955 N Haggerty Rd, Plymouth, Michigan 48170. Following the public hearing, the Board may decide on the request by resolution.

Joe Bridgman, MMC
Clerk
Charter Township of Plymouth

Publish: October 17, 2010

OE08716379_2x5

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
Tuesday, October 26, 2010

Request to Transfer Industrial Facilities Exemption Certificate
From Karmann Technical Development LLC
To Webasto-Edscha Cabrio USA, Inc.

PLEASE TAKE NOTE: That a public hearing will be held on Tuesday, October 26, 2010 during a regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Plymouth to consider a request to transfer Industrial Facilities Exemption Certificate Number 2001-607 from Karmann Technical Development LLC to Webasto-Edscha Cabrio USA, Inc. The request includes building improvements and personal property. The facility is located at 14967 Pilot Drive, Metro West Industrial Park, Plymouth Township, Wayne County, Michigan.

The request of Webasto-Edscha Cabrio USA, Inc. is on file in the Clerk's Office at Plymouth Township Hall where it is available for public perusal from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

During the public hearing any resident of Plymouth Township or members of the Legislative Board of any affected taxing unit in the Township shall have the right to appear and be heard. Written comments addressed to the Clerk will be considered. Contact phone number is 734-354-3224.

The public hearing, commencing at 7:00 p.m., on Tuesday October 26, 2010, will be held in the Town Hall at the Charter Township of Plymouth, 9955 N Haggerty Rd, Plymouth, Michigan 48170. Following the public hearing, the Board may decide on the request by resolution.

Joe Bridgman, MMC
Clerk
Charter Township of Plymouth

Publish: October 17, 2010

OE08716912_2x5

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
Tuesday, October 26, 2010

Request to Transfer Industrial Facilities Exemption Certificate
From Karmann Manufacturing, LLC
To Webasto-Edscha Cabrio USA, Inc.

PLEASE TAKE NOTE: that a public hearing will be held on Tuesday, October 26, 2010 during a regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Plymouth to consider a request to transfer Industrial Facilities Exemption Certificate Number 2004-192 from Karmann Manufacturing, LLC to Webasto-Edscha Cabrio USA, Inc. The request includes building improvements and personal property. The facility is located at 14988 Pilot Drive, Metro West Industrial Park, Plymouth Township, Wayne County, Michigan.

The request of Webasto-Edscha Cabrio USA, Inc. is on file in the Clerk's Office at Plymouth Township Hall where it is available for public perusal from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

During the public hearing any resident of Plymouth Township or members of the Legislative Board of any affected taxing unit in the Township shall have the right to appear and be heard. Written comments addressed to the Clerk will be considered. Contact phone number is 734-354-3224.

The public hearing, commencing at 7:00 p.m., on Tuesday October 26, 2010, will be held in the Town Hall at the Charter Township of Plymouth, 9955 N Haggerty Rd, Plymouth, Michigan 48170. Following the public hearing, the Board may decide on the request by resolution.

Joe Bridgman, MMC
Clerk
Charter Township of Plymouth

Publish: October 17, 2010

OE08716969_2x5

Treat Your Depression Without Medication or Side Effects ...With TMS Therapy

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- NO Loss of Libido
- NO Dry Mouth
- NO Memory Loss

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At the Michigan TMS Center for Women, you will be treated by Dr. Ronald Rosenberg, the only Board Certified OB/GYN – Psychiatrist – IN THE STATE OF MICHIGAN - with the special expertise in treating the subtleties of depression in the pregnant patient. This specialized treatment includes external heart rate monitoring of your baby, ensuring adequate blood flow, and total well being of both mother and baby, -- just one of the benefits of receiving TMS therapy administered by Michigan's only OB/GYN-Psychiatrist.

It is safe for treatment before pregnancy, during pregnancy, during breast-feeding and post partum! Why expose you or your unborn/newborn to any potential risk with medication when it is not necessary?

With more than 20 years research, the TMS device is FDA-cleared and proven safe and effective for the treatment of depression. Patients have reported being without symptoms for up to two years after treatment, and the majority can stop medication. Treatment is for six weeks, with most patients showing improvement after four weeks.

Find out today if TMS is right for you! Get your life back without medication and side-effects! Call:

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Michigan TMS Center for Women
Ronald Rosenberg M.D., Psychiatrist, OB/GYN

248-792-6166 or 1-877-340-3030

60 Big Beaver Road, Ste. 110 • Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304

Practice not restricted to women

OE08716180

Giving choices: Clients receive a helping hand

BY LEANNE ROGERS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Karen Soave is excited about her new micro-enterprise business making artificial flower arrangements.

"I make them to order, the color scheme — like they want," said Soave. "It's the first time I've done this, I hope to make it a lasting business so I can generate some money for me and my dog. I'm supporting Sugar, a Maltese."

A Livonia resident, Soave, 47, is a client of Community Choices Supported Employment which serves about 200 developmentally disabled people — about half of those participating in the vocational program. Located in Westland, Community Choices offers a variety of programs, such as community skill building, an in-house day program, job development, job coaching and the micro-enterprise businesses.

"The micro-enterprise individuals can come up with ideas or we can help them create an idea to put together their own business," said social worker Alison Reddy. "They write a business plan, produce a product and sell it. Some people go to crafts shows or fill vending machines."

The micro-enterprise business include making greeting cards, buttons and assembling first-aid kits.

"It takes awhile to do each arrangement. I make what they want or use my imagination," said Soave, who sells her arrangements to family, friends and at the Craftique Mall in Garden City. She calls her business Sunrise Flowers by Design by Karen.

Soave began her flower arranging business earlier this year, but Erica Gray, 27, is an old hand at her micro-

enterprise business having started making buttons about two years ago. It's called Sunshine Accessories.

"One young lady did buttons — she taught me how to use the stuff for the buttons," said Gray, a Dearborn Heights resident. "I make a lot of buttons, maybe a million, for every holiday."

Gray spends Tuesdays and Thursdays at Community Choices.

"It's awesome here. I've made a lot of friends. Basically, I know everyone just to say hi," she said. "I enjoy coming here. I'm at home relaxing other days, just enjoying my day."

Colline Peregood, 39, recently began selling Avon products as her micro-enterprise business.

"I've done pretty good so far. I sold \$167 worth to my family, friends and at the workshop," said Peregood, who is one of Soave's roommates. "I had a pot painting business before. I sold a couple."

Dearborn Heights

resident Saleh El Kadri, 54, runs his business at Community Choices. For five years, El Kadri has sold coffee, tea, hot cocoa and snacks to clients and staff through his Wake Up With Uncle Sal business.

"Sometimes I give away stuff for free. Like if you buy coffee, you get a snack for free," said El Kadri.

Everyone works with a staff person on items at Community Choices and also when they go into the community to sell items, said Reddy. Like the non-profit Community Choices, making money isn't the primary goal of the micro enterprises.

"We offer something to get them out of the house, to be more productive. It gives the clients a purpose, a place to go and friends to see," said Reddy.

A fund-raiser to benefit Community Choices will be held 1-6 p.m. Sunday at the Crystal Bar and Grill, 8051 N. Middlebelt, Westland. There will be entertain-



Social worker Alison Reddy (center) works with developmentally disabled clients at Community Choices Supported Employment, a non-profit agency in Westland.



Erica Gray has been making and selling buttons for a couple of years. She makes buttons for holidays and other special occasions.

ment, a silent auction, raffles and prizes.

For more information, call (734) 467-9092 or visit www.community-choices.org.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH CITY OF PLYMOUTH LEGAL NOTICE

STATE GENERAL ELECTION TUESDAY, November 2, 2010

Notice is hereby given that a General Election will be held in the Charter Township of Plymouth and the City of Plymouth, Wayne County, Michigan, on Tuesday, November 2, 2010. The Polls are open from 7:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m., for the purpose of nominating or electing candidates for the following offices and to vote on the following proposals:

Partisan Section:

State Governor and Lieutenant Governor
Secretary of State
Attorney General
Representative in Congress – 11th District
State Senator – 7th District
Representative in State Legislature – 20th District
Member of the State Board of Education
Regent of the University of Michigan
Trustee of Michigan State University
Governor of Wayne State University
County Executive
Sheriff – Partial Term Ending 12/31/2012
County Commissioner – 10th District

Non-Partisan Section:

Judge of Supreme Court
Judge of Court of Appeals, 1st District
Judge of Circuit Court, 3rd Circuit – Incumbent position
Judge of Circuit Court, 3rd Circuit – Non-Incumbent position
Judge of Circuit Court, 3rd Circuit – Non-Incumbent position – Partial Term Ending 01/01/2013
Judge of Probate Court
Judge of District Court – 35th District
Board of Trustees Member Schoolcraft College
Board Member Plymouth District Library

Proposal Section:

State Proposal 10-1,

A PROPOSAL TO CONVENE A CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DRAFTING A GENERAL REVISION OF THE STATE CONSTITUTION

Shall a convention of elected delegates be convened in 2011 to draft a general revision of the State Constitution for presentation to the state's voters for their approval or rejection?

State Proposal 10-2,

A PROPOSAL TO AMEND THE STATE CONSTITUTION TO PROHIBIT CERTAIN FELONS FROM HOLDING ELECTIVE OFFICE AND SPECIFIED TYPES OF PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT POSITIONS

The proposed constitutional amendment would:

Make a person ineligible for election or appointment to any state or local elective office or to hold a position in public employment in this state that is policy-making or has discretionary authority over public assets, if:

- within the preceding 20 years, the person was convicted of a felony involving dishonesty, deceit, fraud, or a breach of the public trust; and
- the conviction was related to the person's official capacity while holding any elective office or position of employment in local, state or federal government.

Require the State Legislature to enact laws to implement the prohibition.

Should this proposal be adopted?

County Proposition P,

PARKS MILLAGE RENEWAL

To renew the millage authorized in 2005, shall Wayne County continue to levy this millage at the estimated 2010 rollback rate of .2459 (about 25 cents per \$1,000 of taxable valuation) for five more years (2011 through 2015) to continue to improve and operate several parks and related facilities, including major improvements to Hines Park, Elizabeth Park, Chandler Park and Fort Wayne on the condition that, for any year for which this increased levy would be imposed, Wayne County must budget from other sources an amount equal to its 1995-96 fiscal year appropriation for Parks? This renewal is projected to generate \$10,628,000 in 2011.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH POLLING LOCATIONS ARE:

Precinct 1	St. Kenneth's Catholic Church	14951 N Haggerty Rd
Precinct 2	Friendship Station	42375 Schoolcraft Rd
Precinct 3	Township Hall	9955 N Haggerty Rd
Precinct 4	Fiegel Elementary School	39750 Joy Rd
Precinct 5	Isbister Elementary School	9300 Canton Center Rd
Precinct 6	West Middle School	44401 W Ann Arbor Trl
Precinct 7	Church of the Nazarene	45801 Ann Arbor Rd W
Precinct 8	Praise Baptist Church	45000 N Territorial Rd
Precinct 9	Living Word Church	46500 N Territorial Rd
Precinct 10	NorthRidge Church	49555 N Territorial Rd
Precinct 11	Risen Christ Lutheran Church	46250 Ann Arbor Rd W
Precinct 12	Pioneer Middle School	46081 Ann Arbor Rd W

CITY OF PLYMOUTH POLLING LOCATIONS ARE:

Precinct 1, 2, 3, & 4 Plymouth Cultural Center 525 Farmer St

All polling locations are accessible to the elderly and the handicapped.

Applications for Absentee ballots may be obtained during regular business hours, which are 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

For Plymouth Township Residents:
Plymouth Township Clerk's Office
9955 N Haggerty Road
Plymouth, MI 48170

For City of Plymouth Residents:
City of Plymouth Clerk's Office
201 S Main St
Plymouth, MI 48170

On Saturday, October 30, 2010 the Clerk's Offices will be open; 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., to issue Absentee ballots to qualified voters.


On Monday, November 1, 2010 qualified voters may be issued an Absentee ballot in person, and shall vote them in the Clerk's Offices until 4:00 p.m.

Joe Bridgman, MMC
Clerk, Charter Township of Plymouth

Linda Langmesser, CMC
Clerk, City of Plymouth

Publish: October 17, 2010

OE08715084 - 3x16



**CITY OF PLYMOUTH
ACCURACY TESTING FOR
VOTING EQUIPMENT
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2010.
3:30 p.m.**

The City of Plymouth has scheduled and will be conducting the accuracy testing for the Optical Scan Voting Equipment, as well as the Hearing Impaired Equipment, for the Primary Election to be held on TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2010. The testing is scheduled for THURSDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2010, 3:30 p.m. at the Cultural Center, 525 Farmer Street, Plymouth, MI 48170.

This is an open testing session and any interested person is encouraged to attend. Election Source will be conducting the testing to assure that the voting equipment has been programmed appropriately.

If there are any questions, please direct them to the City Clerk's office at 734-453-1234, ext. 234. The Plymouth Cultural Center is in compliance with the American Disabilities Act and is handicapped accessible.

Linda Langmesser, CMC
City Clerk

Publish: October 17, 2010 OE08715123 - 2x3.5



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Valid Sunday-Thursdays only. With coupon only. May not be combined with other offers. Dine in only. Not valid on holidays. Expires 11-7-10.

CE0878982

HEALTH

Sunday, October 17, 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

Angela Hospice to 'Light Up a Life' on Nov. 13

It was in 1985 that Angela Hospice first began serving patients facing a terminal diagnosis. Working out of a small office at Madonna University, Sister Mary Giovanni and a small handful of volunteers began providing home hospice care.

But the journey to that important first day for Angela Hospice and its founder started years before. In the 1970s, trained and practicing as a registered nurse with degrees from Madonna University, Sister Giovanni began looking into a new type of medical care appearing in the U.S. Going by the name of "hospice," this care blended age-old principles with modern medical advancements to enhance the lives of terminally ill patients. Years of research and dedication brought her dreams to fruition when Angela Hospice was founded under the direction of the

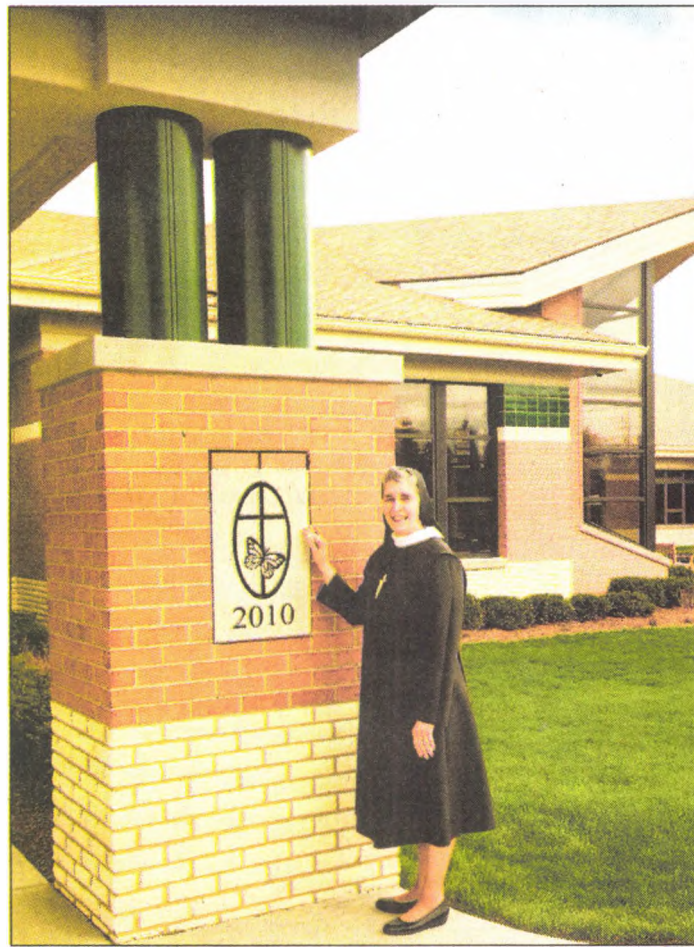
Felician Sisters.

Next month Angela Hospice will mark 25 years of caring for the community of Southeast Michigan with a gala event.

"There are so many stories I could tell," said Sister Giovanni, president and CEO of Angela Hospice, "of the many amazing people we've met these past 25 years, and the wonderful families that have welcomed us into their homes and into their lives to help care for their loved one at such a sacred time."

Angela Hospice has made a name for itself in the community, having cared for thousands of patients over 25 years — from patients who have celebrated their 100th birthdays, to those just minutes old.

"It has been such a blessing to be able to serve so many people," said Sister Giovanni. "It has always been with the



Sister Mary Giovanni outside the expanded Angela Hospice facility.

support of our donors and community friends who have helped us to carry out our work as a nonprofit, and who have most recently partnered with us to create this beautiful building we now occupy."

The Angela Hospice Care Center, which originally opened in 1994 as the first freestanding hospice facility in Michigan, opened a new state-of-the-art patient wing in April, expanding the



Sister Mary Giovanni at Madonna College in 1985.

hospice's inpatient capacity from 16 to 32 private patient rooms. Although most hospice patients choose to receive care in their homes, the Angela Hospice Care Center provides an alternative for patients without a caregiver at home, or for those with an illness that demands around the clock medical care.

Angela Hospice will celebrate its work at Light Up a Life Benefit 25th Anniversary

Gala. The event will run 6-11 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 13, at Laurel Manor in Livonia. Fine dining, an open bar, auctions, raffles, dancing, and the 16-piece Monroe Big Band will be featured. Reservations are \$100 per person and are due by Oct. 29.

Call Barb Iovan at (734) 953-6045, or visit www.AskForAngela.com for information.

MEDICAL DATEBOOK

OCTOBER

Bipolar class

Jacqueline Castine, author of *I Wish I Could Fix It, But ...* and a community education specialist for the Oakland County Community Mental Health Authority, will lead a class, "Living with Bipolar Disorder," 7-9 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 21, at The Community House, 380 South Bates, Birmingham. The author will share her personal story of living with bipolar disorder and discuss supports and services for people with mental illness and family members. She'll teach success stories for coping with mental illness and offer information on how to respond to family members or friends who struggle with mental illness and addictions, especially, those who refuse to seek help. Class fee is \$25 and Castine's book can be purchased for \$14 at either class. Register for the Livonia session by calling Sharon at (734) 744-2602 and for the Birmingham session at (248) 644-5832.

Blood drive

St. Mary Mercy Hospital and the American Red Cross plan a drive, 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 28, in the auditorium at the hospital, 36475 Five Mile, Livonia. Donors will receive a small bag of wrapped candy and a free St. Mary Mercy lunch bag. To schedule an appointment call (800) GIVE-LIFE, or visit redcrossblood.org. Walk-ins are accepted, but appointments are preferred.

Health workshop

The National Kidney Foundation of Michigan presents a free health workshop from 9:30 a.m.-noon, Fridays, through Oct. 22 to help individuals

manage long term health conditions. The Personal Action Toward Health (PATH) class will meet at Royal Oak Township Recreation Department on 21272 Mendota, in Ferndale. The PATH workshop provides information and skills to adults with chronic health conditions such as arthritis, heart disease, chronic kidney disease, diabetes, bronchitis, asthma and depression. Workshops are run by trained leaders who hold informal, small group discussions and provide easy-to-understand course materials. Facilitators explain ways to reduce pain and stress, cope with fatigue, use medications wisely, and benefit from exercise. The PATH program is suited for both the newly diagnosed as well as those seeking more aggressive management. To register, or for more information, contact the National Kidney Foundation of Michigan at (734) 222-9800.

Massage, Mammograms

St. Mary Mercy Hospital presents "Massages, Manicures, Mammograms & More!" 9 a.m.-noon, Saturday, Oct. 23, in the hospital's South Lobby. Participants will learn about women's health topics, including breast health, the latest in breast screening detection, cancer prevention, and heart health. They'll also get a chance to pamper themselves with a manicure or massage. The first 100 individuals through the door will receive a free Mary Kay hand cream. An "Ask the Experts" panel is slated for 9:30 a.m. Health screenings, Zumba, yoga and cooking demonstrations, food, refreshments, giveaways, massages, manicures and health presentations start at 9 a.m. Mammograms must be scheduled in advance and require a doctor's order. To schedule a mam-

program or register for the event, call (734) 655-1182. St. Mary Mercy Hospital is located at 36475 Five Mile in Livonia.

Sibling tour

Children ages 1-13 may attend the sibling tour and learn how much fun it can be to be a big brother or big sister. They'll see what the new baby will look like and learn the safe way to hold the new baby, and talk about how it feels to be a big brother or big sister. Good sibling preparation can minimize a child's feelings of anxiety and jealousy with the coming of a new baby. Cost is \$10 per family. The session runs from 10-11:30 a.m. Oct. 30 at the hospital, 36475 Five Mile, Livonia.

Thyroid cancer support

Free support group for cancer patients, survivors, as well as their family members and friends, will meet 7-8:30 p.m., Wednesday, Oct. 27, at 1641 Charlevoix Drive, Troy. (248) 515-0348

NOVEMBER

Baby basics

St. Mary Mercy Hospital will offer a class in infant care and breastfeeding from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 13, in classrooms 1 and 2 at the hospital, 36475 Five Mile in Livonia. The class will teach the skills of feeding, bathing, diapering, skin care, soothing and safety. Participants should bring a stuffed animal or doll to use during a demonstration on how to hold the baby when breastfeeding. The fee is \$55 per couple. To register call (734) 655-1162 or visit stmarymercy.org and click on "classes and events."



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HEALTH SERVICES

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month - remember to schedule your annual mammogram!

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Saturday, October 23
South Lobby
9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Invite your mother, sister, daughter or best friend and enjoy a women's health excursion.

The first 100 through the door receive a FREE Mary Kay hand cream!

Learn about various topics on women's health:

- "Ask the Experts" - panel of physician experts on women's health
- Learn about heart health, obstetrics, oncology, radiology, physical fitness and more
- Information on breast self-exams
- Health screenings
- Massages and mini manicures (free!), limited space available
- Mammograms (must be scheduled in advance)*
- Skin care
- Zumba and Yoga demonstrations
- Visit our vendors Spencer Douglas Jewelry, Zerbo's Health Foods, Fitness 19, Mary Kay and more
- Cooking demonstrations
- Food & refreshments
- Giveaways (while supplies last) and drawings for great prizes!

This event is free, but registration is recommended.

To register, call 734-655-1182 or visit stmarymercy.org and click Classes & Events.

*Must have a doctor's order. To schedule a mammogram call 734-655-1182.

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 • AM/FM stereo/Single CD player with 4 speakers



2011 EDGE SE FWD
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PER MONTH RENEWAL LEASE \$2,241 Cash Due at Signing

19 city / 26 highway MPG²
 • 3.5L Twin-independent Variable Cam Timing (Ti-VCT) V6 engine
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2011 TAURUS SEL FWD
\$299 For 27 months for current A/Z plan customers¹
PER MONTH RENEWAL LEASE \$2,201 Cash Due at Signing

18 city / 27 highway MPG²
 • 3.5 L Duratec V6 engine • MyKey • Perimeter anti-theft alarm
 • 6-speed select shift automatic transmission with paddle activation
 • Sync with traffic, direct and information



2011 FUSION SE FWD
\$199 For 27 months for current A/Z plan customers¹
PER MONTH RENEWAL LEASE \$2,030 Cash Due at Signing

23 city / 33 highway MPG²
 • 2.5 L Duratec V6 engine • 6-speed automatic transmission
 • Sync with traffic, direct and information
 • 17" design wheels with silver paint



2011 FLEX SE FWD
\$339 For 27 months for current A/Z plan customers¹
PER MONTH RENEWAL LEASE \$2,910 Cash Due at Signing

17 city / 24 highway MPG²
 • 3.5 L Duratec V6 engine • 6-speed automatic transmission
 • Dual chrome exhaust tips • Quad-beam halogen headlamps
 • 17" painted aluminum wheels

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1) Includes acquisition fee, waived security deposit, and excludes title, taxes and license fees. Some payments higher, some lower. Not all lessees will qualify. Residency restrictions apply. Special lease rates are for eligible A/Z Plan lessees. Payments include Renewal Bonus Cash for current RCL/RCO customers. You must currently lease a Ford product and finance through Ford Credit. Take delivery out of dealer stock by 11/1/10. Edge Limited and Flex SEL model shown. (2) MPG estimate based on 2011 Fiesta EPA estimated 40 highway MPG on SFE package only, 2011 Fusion SE 2.5L I-4 Engine with 6-speed automatic 23 city/33 highway, 2011 Taurus SEL 3.5L V6 engine 18 city/27 highway, 2011 Edge SE FWD 3.5L V-6 Duratec with 6-speed automatic 19 city/26 highway and 2011 Flex SE 3.5 Duratec V6 engine 17 city/24 highway. (3) Driving while distracted can result in loss of vehicle control. Only use mobile phones and other devices, even with voice commands, when it is safe to do so. (4) Unsurpassed by Honda & Toyota. Based on RDA Group's GQRS cumulative survey at 3 months of service in 3 surveys of 2008 Ford and competitive owners conducted 9/07-5/08. Residency restrictions apply.

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5 Ways to Botch a Phone Interview

Beth Braccio Hering,
 CareerBuilder Writer

Phone interviews are a fairly fundamental part of the job search process. Yet many candidates fail to progress beyond this stage in their pursuit of a particular job.

“Often, a candidate’s failure occurs because he didn’t treat the phone interview as seriously he would have a face-to-face meeting with a recruiter or potential employer,” says Vicki Salemi, author of “Big Career in the Big City.”

In her book, Salemi pinpoints several phone interview faux pas, which include the following:

Conducting the interview in your pajamas

Even though you’re not meeting with someone face-to-face, you should still wear clothes that make you feel confident and put together, Salemi says. In addition, she recommends candidates wake up at least 30 minutes before the interview, comb their hair and brush their teeth. “I can’t tell you how many times I’ve

conducted phone interviews with people who literally just woke up. This created the visions in my head about their unbrushed teeth, uncombed hair and overall inability to focus,” she explains.

Picking the wrong spot to talk

Whenever you’re talking with a recruiter or potential employer on the phone, it’s best to do so in a place that’s peaceful and quiet. Outside noise and too many distractions around you can make it difficult to concentrate on what you’re being asked during the interview. Salemi suggests staying at home for the phone interview and talking on a land line instead of a cell phone. “This way, it’s likely you’ll have clearer reception and you reduce any risk that you’ll lose the call in the middle of a sentence.”

Failing to take advantage of access to helpful resources right at your fingertips

According to Salemi, the main advantage to a phone interview is that you can refer to a handful of helpful

resources during your interview. For example, you can glance at a list of talking points or you can pull up the company’s website on your computer so that it’s in front of you while you’re interviewing.

Forgetting to let your smile shine

It may feel silly to smile when no one’s around to see it, but odds are strong that the person interviewing you will notice how much more pleasant your voice sounds when you’re doing so. Salemi also suggests standing up during the interview. “You’ll be able to project your voice more and sound more confident if you’re standing as opposed to sitting down. Celebrities do this all of the time during radio interviews, so why not channel your inner rock star?”

Neglecting to close on a strong note

It’s very important to close the phone interview just as you would an office interview, Salemi says. “Ask the interviewer about the next steps in the interview process, when you should

follow up, and where they are in the process. Then say your cordial good-byes, hang up and immediately send a thank-you note.”

Selena Dehne is a career writer for JIST Publishing who shares the latest occupational, career and job search information available with job seekers and career changers. She is also the author of JIST’s Job Search and Career Blog (<http://jistjobsearchandcareer.blogspot.com/>). Follow her on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/SelenaDehne>.

Selena Dehne, JIST Publishing



Communications Research Associate

Wayne State University Physician Group (WSUPG), a multispecialty physician group practice affiliated with Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan, is currently seeking an experienced Communications Research Associate to provide high level support for the Dean of the School of Medicine.

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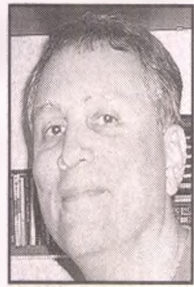
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CAReport



By Dave Menard
For Avanti NewsFeatures



The Outback is a crossover with very good ground clearance and drives well in the snow.

With the increase in the price of gas over the last few years, the full-size SUV has become less and less popular. Just ask any dealer what kind of vehicle was traded in the most during the "Cash For Clunkers" program. Even so, a lot of drivers aren't willing to go all the way back to driving standard sedans, needing more room or more versatility than the average family car. Hence the trend toward "crossovers," smaller SUVs, usually built on car platforms to give a more car-like ride while using less gas than a full-size SUV.

Crossovers have been around for a few years now and most manufacturers have at least one entry in the segment. Subaru, though, was one of the pioneers in the development of the crossover, launching the Outback 15 years ago. Starting its run as more of a beefed up station wagon than a slimmed down SUV, the Outback has been redesigned for 2010 and is more than holding its own in the crossover segment, with six different trimlines, including the 3.6R Premium.

The current version of the Outback features a longer wheelbase, which allows for more interior room. The overall length of the vehicle, 107.9 inches, is slightly shorter than last year's version, as Subaru has reduced the front and rear overhangs by two inches. The Outback actually looks a little more like an SUV than a wagon now, taking on many of the design cues

from SUVs. The grille is new, as are the hawk-eye headlamps. 17-inch alloy wheels are standard, as are new roof rails with crossbars that swing into position only when needed to help reduce wind noise. Fog lamps and body colored side mirrors complete the package.

The Outback has always been known as a vehicle you could take places traditional sedans feared to tread and that hasn't changed. Ground clearance, already higher than the average car, has been increased to 8.7 inches, and it's slightly wider, too.

The 3.6R Premium is powered by a 3.6-liter DOHC, horizontally opposed (Boxer) engine, with Active Valve Control System and variable valve timing. Rated at 256 horsepower and 247 lb.-ft. of torque, this engine has some pretty good jump to it. It takes regular fuel and EPA estimates it 18 mpg in the city and 25 mpg on the highway. Outback offers a 2.5-liter engine on its lower-level trimline of the Outback that gets about four extra miles per gallon in city driving, but you give up about 86 horses. And remember, you're getting fulltime all-wheel drive.

The other half of the powertrain consists of a five-speed, electronically controlled automatic transmission that comes with steering wheel paddle shifters, if you want more precise control of the shift points.

One of the downsides of fulltime all-

wheel drive has been in handling and ride. The Outback, however, both handles very well and gives you a pretty smooth ride. The front suspension features MacPherson struts with coil springs and stabilizer bar. The rear system is double-wishbone with subframe and stabilizer bar. Vehicle Dynamics Control, which includes electronic traction control, is standard. The turning circle is a little large (typical for all-wheel drive vehicles), making maneuvering into tight places and making U-turns a bit tricky, but otherwise, the Outback handles very well. The four-wheel anti-lock brakes are very good.

Inside, the Outback 3.6R Premium acquits itself very well. The driver's seat is 10-way power-adjustable and provides good support. The steering wheel is leather-wrapped and the seats can be heated.

There's plenty of room in the Outback; in fact, rear seat legroom has been increased by four inches. Headroom is not a problem and cargo volume has been increased, as well. The rear seats are 60/40 fold down seats and there is a rear area cargo cover, as well.

The 3.6R Premium comes with air conditioning, cruise control, power windows, locks and mirrors (heated), trip computer with outside temperature display and tilt steering column.

The standard audio system is an AM/FM/CD system that includes an auxiliary

audio jack for your mp3 player. For \$995 more, you can upgrade to a harman/kardon system that checks in at 440 watts, with nine speakers and Bluetooth capability. It's pre-wired for satellite radio, but you have to buy the extra kit to get it, and there's no subscription included. It's a monster system that sounds great.

In addition to the required front airbags, the Outback comes with side curtain airbags, front seat side-impact airbags and a tire pressure monitoring system.

The 3.6R Premium starts at about \$29,000. Add the upgraded audio system and you're at a little over \$30,000, which seems to be about the average price for a non-luxury crossover these days. And some of those don't come with all-wheel drive standard.

Overall, the Outback 3.6R Premium is a nice, well-put together package. Easy to handle, good-looking with plenty of power and some nice interior features. Even though it was one of the first crossovers, it's still fresh enough to take a look at. Dave Menard can be reached at Avanti1054@aol.com.

Subaru Outback 3.6R Premium
Vehicle class: small SUV.
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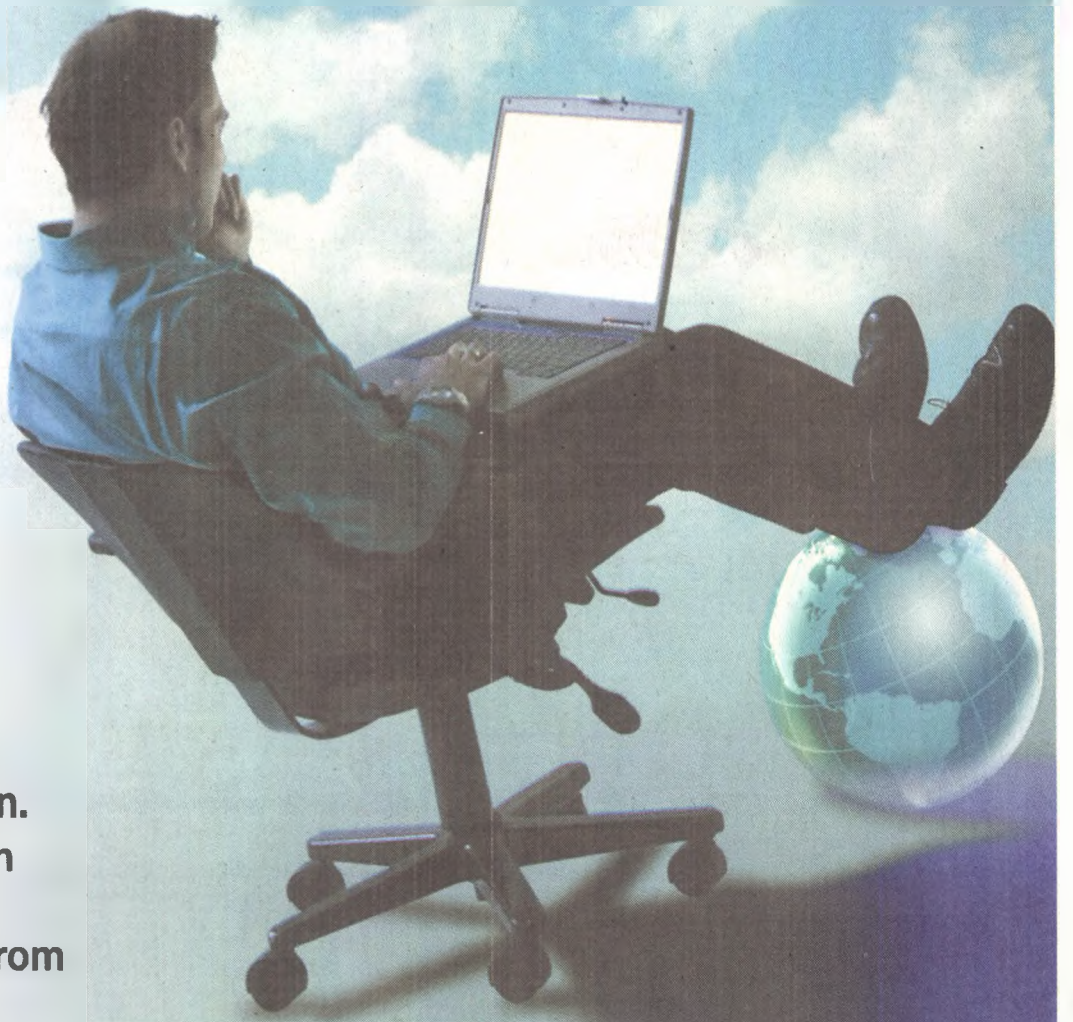
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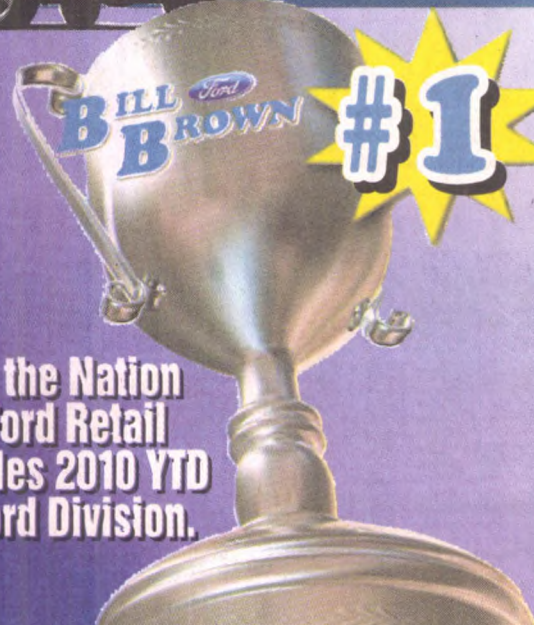
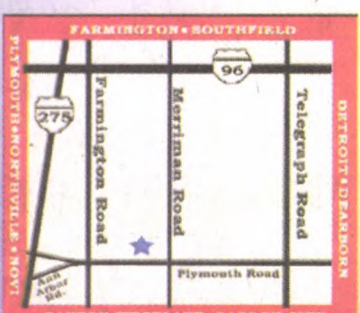
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