

BAND TAKES FOURTH AT SUPER REGIONAL
PAGE A5



STRICTLY BUSINESS

WHAT'S NEWLY OPENED OR CLOSED, CHAMBER NEWS AND MILESTONES
SEE PAGE B10 INSIDE SPORTS

hometown life **inspire**



THURSDAY
October 21, 2010

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

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PLYMOUTH OBSERVER

hometownlife **hm.com**

PIPELINE

Food drive

DTE Energy's Women in Information Technology Services group, Sam's Club and Gleaner's Food bank are asking the public to join them in a food drive to help area families in need. Items will be collected from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 23, at Sam's Club, 39800 Ford Road, in Canton.

Contributors are asked to bring in nonperishable food and personal care items. Items in glass containers cannot be accepted. Gleaner's Food Bank will deliver the donations to local soup kitchens, homeless shelters, senior homes and other agencies that feed the hungry.

Donors also have the option to make monetary donations online at gcbf.org/womenofits or via text message. Text donations need to be addressed to 27138 and in the message type WOITS, space, and the amount you wish to donate.

Village Voices

The BeckRidge Chorale opens its 37th season with a gathering of friends and fun as Village Voices presents "Musical Feast IV" Saturday, Oct. 23, at Plymouth First United Methodist Church.

The evening features a dinner buffet by Chef Kathy Norred and begins with a silent auction at 6 p.m. The silent auction is followed by dinner, dessert and a concert featuring the select ensemble Village Voices.

For tickets and more information, please visit www.beckridgechorale.org.

Barefoot opener

The first production of Barefoot Productions' fifth season concludes this week-end with the psychological thriller, *Mindgame*.

Remaining performances are 8 p.m. Oct. 22-23 and 2 p.m. Oct. 24.

All performances are held in the Barefoot Productions Theatre, 240 N. Main Street, Plymouth (the former Walker-Buzenberg Building). Individual and group tickets can be purchased by calling Barefoot Productions' box office at (734) 560-1493. The box office will also be open one hour prior to each performance.

Alumni tailgate

Hoping to bring former Plymouth-Canton students of all ages back into the fold, school officials last year formed an alumni committee charged with making the district a more graduate-friendly atmosphere.

The committee's first move was putting together a website (alumni.plymouth-cantonschools.net) launched in April 2009. Now, the committee is getting ready for its first alumni-themed event, "Gathering @ the Gridiron," an alumni tailgate party set to take place south of the Canton High School parking lot at 5:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 22.

Tickets are just \$5 each and can be purchased online at:

<http://www.give2schools.org/cat.asp?id=8662BF89DAD54B029F719C18D164B8A5>.

Township plans police hiring, promotions

BY MATT JACHMAN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Its ranks thinned by four retirements, including one of an officer who was shot in the line of duty nearly a year ago, the Plymouth Township Police Department is planning to hire two officers, promote two more, and recall an officer who was laid off in 2008.

The process should take two to three months, officials said.

The township Board of Trustees approved Police Chief Tom

Tiderington's staffing request by a 6-1 vote during a special meeting Tuesday. The vote followed a presentation by the chief, who said he recognized ongoing budget difficulties but needed to replace retiring officers in order to maintain the level of service to which residents have become accustomed.

Following one retirement in August and three this month, the department is at 26 sworn members. Its general-fund budget, not including the dispatch center, which also serves the fire department, is nearly \$3.8 million.

"What we used to be able to do we

are no longer able to do as a result of tightening our belts," Tiderington told the board. He listed officers' presence in the schools, drug-awareness classes, police dog demonstrations and talks to homeowners groups as among the programs that have been curtailed.

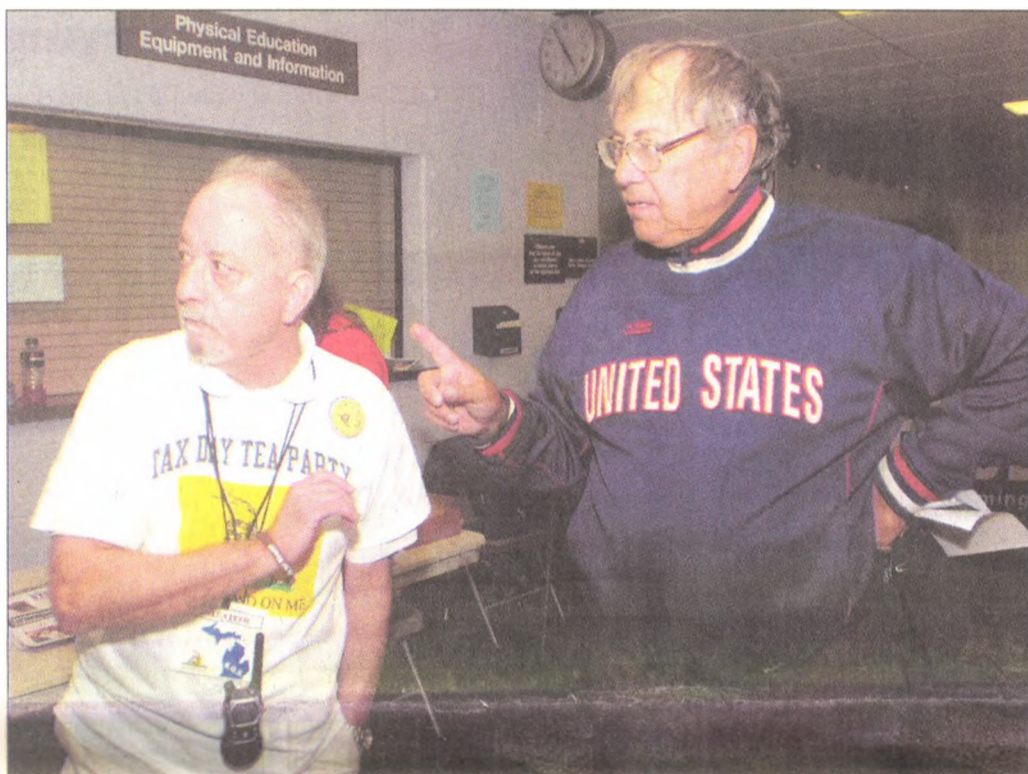
Two of the current 26 officers are temporarily assigned to other agencies (one to the Drug Enforcement Agency and another to a western Wayne County task force) and don't do much of their work in the township directly, the chief said. The funding sources for those jobs are also from outside the

township.

Trustee Steve Mann, a former township police officer and supervisor, cast the only no vote. Mann said he was willing to give Tiderington's plan informal approval but wanted to study its budget implications before voting.

Mann balked when Tiderington said that, earlier in the year, he was given the green light by Supervisor Richard Reaume and Treasurer Ron Edwards to tell officers that the department would be staffed at 29 officers follow-

Please see **POLICE, A3**



Mike Duke of Plymouth and Tom Castello of Canton talk politics at Saturday's rally.

Rally engages Tea Partiers as general election nears

BY BRAD KADRICH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Amanda Mog of Canton is little more than two weeks away from voting in a general election for the first time in her life and she was at Saturday's Tea Party event at Schoolcraft College in Livonia in an effort to further educate herself before casting her first ballot.

What she's learned so far, she said, is this: President Barack Obama and like-minded politicians should be tossed out of office as soon as possible.

"Obama has to get out of here," said Mog, 19. "He's ruining everything ... his

health care plan, we owe trillions of dollars."

She wasn't alone Saturday. Some 500 people who attended the rally, organized by several Tea Party groups, including Rattle With Us of Plymouth, agreed with her, and used a stream of conservative, smaller-government candidates to press the point that a more conservative agenda is needed, both in Washington and at home.

"It's about limited government and reining in the out-of-control spending," said Larry Recca of Troy, a member of Plymouth-based Tea Party Patriots, who helped organize Saturday's rally. "It's about taking back

our country. It's not about parties."

Organizers presented a string of Republican candidates for state and federal offices, all pushing the limited-agenda, cut-spending issues on which they're running. Among the speakers were Secretary of State candidate Ruth Johnson; attorney general candidate Bill Schuette, U.S. House candidates Rocky Raczkowski of Farmington Hills, running against Rep. Gary Peters, and Rob Steele, who is running against longtime Rep. John Dingell; and Michigan Supreme Court candidates

Please see **RALLY, A2**



Several hundred people attended the Tea Party Rally held at Schoolcraft College Saturday.

Old Village ready for annual old-school Halloween block party

BY MATT JACHMAN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Residents and business owners in Plymouth's Old Village will scare up cash for neighborhood beautification on Sunday with their fourth annual Haunted Halloween Block Party.

The Halloween-themed event, complete with pumpkin bowling, pumpkin-stacking and pumpkin-decorating, is 1-5 p.m. Sunday on Liberty Street. Open to the public, it's a fund-raiser sponsored by the Old Village Association.

In addition to all things pumpkin, the party will include other games (like "tombstone tipping," otherwise known as a beanbag toss), prizes, trick-or-treating at about 10 local businesses,

Please see **HALLOWEEN, A3**

MORE TRICKS AND TREATS

The Old Village Haunted Halloween Block Party isn't the only Halloween event on tap.

What: Great Pumpkin Caper
Who: Sponsored by the Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce and supported by downtown-businesses

Why: Costumed youngsters get to parade around downtown Plymouth in a fun, safe environment while generous store owners contribute to their trick-or-treating success. The event also includes a costume contest.

When: Thursday, Oct. 28, 5:30-7 p.m.

Details: For more information, call the chamber, (734) 453-1540



The popular Old Village Haunted Halloween Block Party returns to Liberty Street 1-5 p.m. Sunday.

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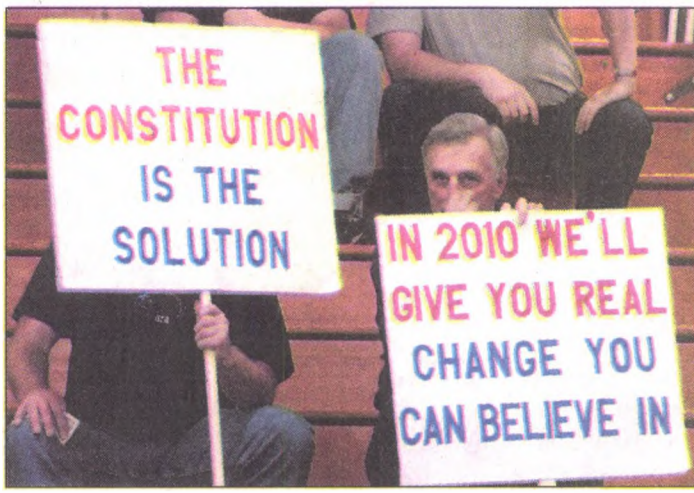
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RALLY
FROM PAGE A1

Bob Young and Mary Beth Kelly. Conservative talk-radio host Thayronne X served as the emcee, and set the tone for the rally early.

"I would argue this is the most important election of my lifetime," he said. "Here's my philosophy for this election: If it has an 'R' next to it, vote for it. If it has a 'D' next to it, drive a stake through it."

Tea Party favorite James Keena, author *We've Been Had*, served up the keynote address. Keena, a Walled Lake resident who is a member of Rattle With Us, said he got involved in the Tea Party after the 2008 elections because "the Democrats were hope-



PHOTOS BY JOHN STORMZAND | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Signs were the order of the day for some 500 people who attended Saturday's Tea Party rally at Schoolcraft College in Livonia.

less and the Republicans were nearly there."

"The country was headed in the wrong direction," Keena said. "I had never been active,

and I decided I had to do something. I liked that (the Tea Party) was a grassroots movement, it wasn't directed by any party. We thought it was time for the people, who are most affected by the U.S. Constitution, to take control. It's not about parties, it's about what's right."

Sharon Amburgey of Redford attended the Schoolcraft rally and liked what she heard. She's been a member of Plymouth-based The Patriots for two years.



Talk-radio host Thayronne X exceed Saturday's Tea Party Rally at Schoolcraft College.

"They're uplifting, they tell the truth, they get people to learn the truth," Amburgey said of Saturday's rally. "The movement is amazing."

For Sharon Lolloio of Plymouth, a member of Rattle With Us who helped organize the rally, this election is about

making sure voters know there's what Lolloio calls "the back of the ballot," that include judicial races. Lolloio wants to make sure voters are educated.

"I don't care if they agree with the Tea Party or not, I want people to be informed," Lolloio said. "I want to see people get educated, and get engaged."

CORRECTION

The profile on Republican candidate Patrick Colbeck, running for the 7th state Senate seat representing Plymouth, Canton, Northville and Belleville, should have said Colbeck favors eliminating personal property taxes.

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Dispute over press release revived in local House race

BY MATT JACHMAN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Campaign literature from the Michigan Republican Party has reignited a dispute in Plymouth's Michigan House of Representatives race over a press release issued in February by the Northville Public Schools.

The fliers allege Joan Wadsworth, the Democratic candidate in the 20th House District, "illegally used public school resources" to promote her candidacy. The accusation is based on a press release the Northville district posted on its website in February announcing that Wadsworth, a 16-year school board member, was running for the House and would continue serving on the board during her campaign.

Wadsworth faces Republican Kurt Heise, an attorney, in the Tuesday, Nov. 2, election. The 20th District, which is made up of is made up of Plymouth, the Wayne County portion of Northville, Northville and Plymouth townships, part of eastern Canton Township and the city of Wayne, is now represented by Marc Corriveau, D-Northville, who is not seeking re-election.

The press release was taken down after about a week, after the district received a complaint about it. A formal complaint to the Michigan Secretary of State Terri Lynn Land's office was made in April, accusing Wadsworth, the district and Superintendent Leonard Rezmierski of misusing district resources and violating Michigan campaign finance law.

Land's office in July found that as there was no explicit advocacy of Wadsworth in the press release, there had been no campaign finance violation. But the office also said, in a letter to a school district attorney, the release "certainly could sow confusion



Heise



Wadsworth

and create the impression" that the district was endorsing Wadsworth.

Wadsworth said she felt exonerated by the decision from Land's office. The GOP-sponsored fliers received recently by district voters, of which there were at least three versions, were "a blatant lie," she said.

"The Republican Party is lying about me. Absolutely lying," Wadsworth said.

Michigan Republican Party communications director Jennifer Hoff said the party stands behind the literature.

"Joan Wadsworth and Northville Public Schools put campaign information on a taxpayer-funded website. In the least, that is questionable behavior," said Hoff.

The matter "was dismissed because Northville schools recognized the misuse of public funds and removed the campaign materials from their Website," she contended.

Voters in the district have also been receiving recorded phone messages criticizing Wadsworth over the press release, but the messages don't name a sponsoring organization.

Marilyn Price, the school board president, said there were legitimate purposes, not advocacy, behind the press release: to tell district residents that Wadsworth would continue her board duties during her campaign, and to tell them there was a process for replacing Wadsworth should she be elected to the House and have to resign her board position.

"It's pretty clear what the district was doing was informing the stakeholders," Price said.

Heise disagreed, and objected to a mass e-mail that originated from the district last week that decried the anti-Wadsworth campaign literature.

"I certainly think it advocates a particular candidate," Heise said of the original press release.

If district officials think they were cleared by the decision from Land's office, he said, they should repost the press release.

"This is something the school district never should have been involved with in the first place," Heise said.

Price said school board members were "very concerned and upset" about the allegations in the Republican fliers because of the potential damage they could do to the school community.

"Allegations have a way of hanging out there," and could affect property values and people's decisions about whether to move to the district, Price said. "It's dominoes."

Wadsworth said she reimbursed the district for the \$4,300 in legal fees it incurred in answering the complaint to the secretary of state's office. Price confirmed the reimbursement.

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POLICE

FROM PAGE A1

ing the planned retirements. Mann said that was news to him.

"I'm pretty frustrated with this process, as you can probably tell," Mann said. "The board didn't hear of this."

"I think we did inform you" during a closed session, Edwards replied. Officers were negotiating concessions with the township at the time, officials said.

Mann also objected to having four officers in the detective bureau, saying that a decade ago, there was just one detective.

"To me, it looks like fairly high staffing," he said.

Tiderington said investigations are a key part of stopping crime, and stressed the bureau's caseload: 246 new cases this year, 58 of them open, and 500 total cases reviewed, some from previous years.

"I think it's a need for the police department," said Clerk Joe Bridgman.

Voting for the chief's plan were Bridgman, Reaume, Edwards and Trustees Bob Doroshewitz, Kay Arnold and Mike Kelly.

Officer Mike Lego, a 19-year veteran, took a disability retirement on Tuesday when the board approved a sever-

ance package. Lego was shot in the right shoulder and left hand last November as police confronted a robbery suspect outside a cellular phone store in the township. The suspect, who had been trailed by plainclothes officers, was killed.

Officer Jamie Senkbiel retired in August, and Sgt. Dennis Wilson and Lt. Bob Smith, the assistant chief, retired this month. All were 25-year veterans.

Tiderington said a promotions process will take place in order for the department to name a lieutenant and a sergeant.

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HALLOWEEN

FROM PAGE A1

a 4 p.m. costume contest (no advance registration required), and refreshments from neighborhood restaurants, including pizza from Amici's.

Liberty will be closed between Starkweather and Mill — and outfitted with Halloween decorations — for the event. Tickets are \$1 each, and most games cost a ticket or two.

"We're just happy to cover costs, do a nice event for kids and have fun," said longtime Old Village resident Mark Oppat, the OVA's chairman for

this year's party.

But Haunted Halloween also raises money for the neighborhood association, which directs most of it toward beautification projects. Tree-planting has been the focus in recent years, Oppat said, but association members also want to restore the deteriorating wooden signs that welcome people to the neighborhood, and invest in decorative banners for utility poles along its major

streets.

Other Haunted Halloween features will include a haunted "graveyard" tour, train rides for children by Dan Dan the Choo-Choo Man, a performance by the Plymouth Fire & Drum Corps (which will also sell refreshments), and a skateboarding demonstration sponsored by Chiips, a neighborhood skateboarding store.

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Would-be thief skates after shoplifting try

A man tried to shoplift a hockey stick from a local sporting goods store Friday after distracting an employee there by asking to have a pair of ice skates sharpened.

The theft attempt occurred at the Plymouth Trading Post, on Ann Arbor Road near Main Street, just before 7 p.m., according to a Plymouth Township Police Department report.

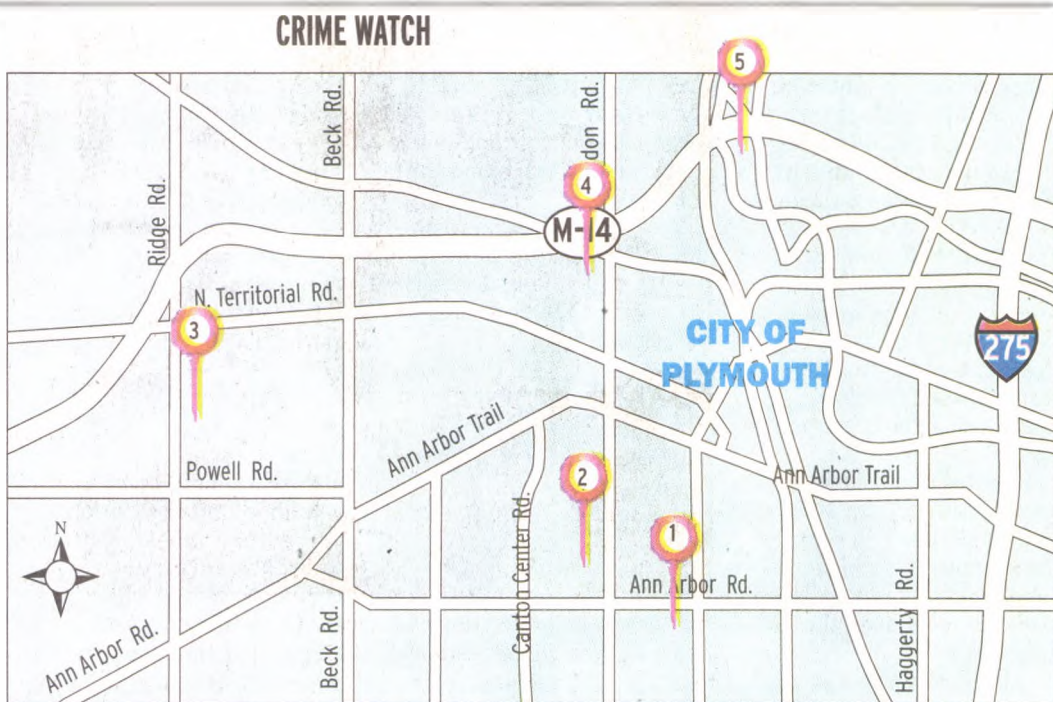
An employee told police the man walked in and gave him a pair of skates to sharpen, and that he went in back to do so. As he was working at the back of the store, he said, a bell alerted him, twice, to the front door opening and closing. The second time, he said, he looked up to see the same man entering the store.

Done sharpening the skates, the employee walked to the front of the store, glanced outside and saw a new hockey stick on the pavement outside, he told police. The employee looked at the man who had brought in the skates, and he fled the building without taking the skates, he told police.

Van recovered

A minivan that had been reported stolen in Taylor was recovered in Plymouth Township early on Oct. 13.

An officer checked out the 2001 Chrysler Voyager, parked in the area of Pinetree Drive and Sheldon, near Ann Arbor Road, shortly before 5 a.m. Oct. 13 and found it had been reported stolen, a police report



said.

The minivan's ignition had been damaged and a stereo system had apparently been stolen from it, police said. It was turned over to Taylor police.

Thefts from pickup

3 An i-Pod and stereo equipment were reported stolen Oct. 9 from a Ford pickup truck that had been parked in the driveway of a house on Fox Drive in Plymouth Township.

The theft occurred between 8 p.m. Oct. 8 and 7 a.m. the next morning, police said. The pickup had been left unlocked.

- By Matt Jachman

Fire runs

The Plymouth Community Fire Department responded to the following runs during the period Oct. 13-19:

• Tuesday, Oct. 19 - Special run at Huntington and Schoolcraft; residential rescue runs on Newport, on Bradford Court, on Rocker, on Tennyson, on Canton Center and on Sheldon; commercial rescue runs on Beck, on Ann Arbor Road and on Sheldon; single-family fire on Lakewood; mutual-aid-received runs on Lakewood, on Tennyson and on Ann Arbor Road.

4 Monday, Oct. 18 - Emergency runs on Haggerty, on Tall Timber, on Leighwood, on eastbound M-14 at Sheldon, on Lindsey, on Clipper, on Main, on Barrington, on Mill, on Hartsough and on Ann Arbor Road.

5 Saturday, Oct. 16 - Residential rescue run on Northville Road; rescue run at Ann Arbor Trail and Hamilton; vehicle acci-

dent on Haggerty; fire on Beck; vehicle fire and accident on eastbound M-14 at Robinwood.

• Friday, Oct. 15 - Residential rescue runs on Hunters Creek, on Northville Road, on Ross and on Brougham; rescue run on General Drive; smoke investigation on Red Maple; dumpster fire on Union.

• Thursday, Oct. 14 - Residential rescue runs on Oxford, on Liberty, on Harvey, on Northville Road, on Sheridan, on Irvin, on Lindsay, on Lilley, on Junction, on Karmada and on Hunters Creek; vehicle fire on Main; open burn on Evergreen; rescue run at a public building on Haggerty.

• Wednesday, Oct. 13 - Emergency runs on Brentwood, on General Drive, on Leicester, on Mill, on Fair, on Terry and on Northern.

Tips to keep Halloween trick-or-treating safe

BY MATT JACHMAN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Excited goblins and ghosts dashing across the streets at dusk. Porch lights, flashlights and lighted jack-o-lanterns. Pillow cases, plastic buckets and plastic bags filled with candy. Must be Halloween.

The suggested trick-or-treating hours in Plymouth are 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 31, and Police Chief Al Cox offers the following safety tips for children, their parents and residents handing out treats.

For trick-or-treaters:

- Don't go out alone. Stay in familiar neighborhoods and stop only at homes with a porch light on. Avoid strangers.
- Carry a flashlight and wear a watch.
- Walk, don't run, and look out for traffic. Don't cut across yards or driveways. If there is no sidewalk, walk well off the road, facing traffic.
- Costumes shouldn't drag on the ground and shoes should fit comfortably. Don't let masks obstruct your vision. For better nighttime visibility, wear light-colored clothing or clothing with reflective markings or reflective tape.
- Don't eat treats before having them inspected by a parent.
- Don't pet or go near animals you don't know.

For parents:

- Have children eat dinner before trick-or-treating, and

know where they are going.

• Children should trick-or-treat with friends, and young children should be accompanied by an adult. Children going out without an adult should have a way of contacting a parent in case of emergency.

• Costumes of flame-retardant material are best. Remind children not to walk too close to burning items, such as a jack-o-lantern with a candle in it.

• Inspect all candy and treats for possible tampering. Tampering is rare, Cox said, but when in doubt, throw it out.

For residents:

• If you are handing out treats, keep the porch light on as a signal.

• Clear the front yard of things that can trip costumed youngsters, such as ladders, hoses, dog leashes and flowerpots.

• Pets can get frightened by the activity and the doorbell-ringing. Secure them from to protect them from cars and keep them from biting a trick-or-treater.

• If using candles, such as inside jack-o-lanterns, place them well away from where trick-or-treaters will be walking or standing. Use battery-powered lights to be safer still. Also, keep decorations away from lighted candles.

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St. Louis surprise – marchers fourth at super regional

BY DIANE HANSON
CORRESPONDENT

It was all worth it — a 1,000-mile roundtrip with 215 teenagers on five motor coaches; 430 uniforms; 20 chaperones; a semi and several additional box and pick-up trucks filled with giant props, hundreds of instruments and food.

It was worth it for the learning experience and for the results, which saw the Plymouth-Canton Marching Band finish fourth out of the 48 high school bands from 13 states competing at the two-day Bands of America Super Regional Championships Saturday in the Edward Jones Dome, St. Louis, Mo.

"I am so proud of the kids," said a pleased Sheldon Frazier, marching band director. "Every performance they give 100 percent and continue to improve after every event."

"I thought both shows were fabulous," said Peggy Fenwick, a member of the Plymouth-Canton Music Boosters. She and her husband were celebrating their anniversary as well as cheering for the band and son Ryan, a freshman member of the band's drumline. "They looked spectacular. I got chills and teared up just a little bit."

Fenwick said the PCMB had its own cheering section even though it was the only Michigan band at the

'I am so proud of the kids. Every performance they give 100 percent and continue to improve after every event.'

SHELDON FRAZIER, marching band director

competition. A number of band parents, including the Fenwicks, flew to St. Louis. But Terri Saenz, another booster mom, organized a fan bus of 55 supporters outfitted with gold pompons, gold and black beads, and silver stars to cheer on their home team.

"I was surprised to see how many parents came down to see us," said Plymouth senior Jake Noss, section leader of the front ensemble percussion section. "It was a good feeling to see we had some guaranteed fans out there."

Noss felt the band's morning preliminary performance was a bit shaky since there was no time beforehand for a run-through, but the finals performance was definitely improved.

"Finals was one of the best performances we've had," said Noss. "We really threw down. We had the passion we needed."

And that passion paid off. After two days of preliminary competition, Plymouth-Canton placed among the top 14 bands for the Saturday nighttime finals performance. The final top spots went to Broken Arrow

High School, Okla., first, 85.15; Carmel, Ind., second, 83.85; Union, Okla., third, 83.00; and Plymouth-Canton, fourth, 79.35.

"The difficulty of this show is through the roof and the kids are handling it very well," said Frazier of this year's 10-minute production, "The Source." "The logistics behind putting this show together is at a completely new level for Plymouth-Canton compared to recent years. What we are trying to pull off this year, many (band programs) wouldn't even attempt."

Noss couldn't agree more. "This is the most elaborate, thought-out show I have ever been in," he said.

In addition to a grueling practice and performance schedule, the hometown marchers, who stayed in a YMCA, squeezed in time for study and some educational sightseeing, taking in the Gateway Arch.

"The biggest learning experience for the kids at St. Louis," noted Frazier, "was how to deal with an imperfect situation and still perform well."

Next up for Plymouth-Canton is Flushing High School's Michigan Invitational Tournament Saturday at Atwood Stadium in Flint where, according to Frazier, there are many new elements to be added to the already award-winning show.



The Plymouth-Canton Marching Band captured the fourth-place trophy out of 48 outstanding bands from 13 states during the Bands of America Super Regional Championships Saturday at the Edward Jones Dome in St. Louis, Mo.

Celebrity chef set for Canton cooking

Celebrity chef Curtis Aikens, who has appeared on the Food Network and authored *Curtis Cooks with Heart and Soul*, will visit Canton to share tips on eating well on a budget, buying local and easy entertaining.

Aikens comes to the IKEA store at Haggerty and Ford roads 2-4 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 23, as part of the Food

University tour.

Aspiring home cooks will be able to watch Aikens cut, slice, mix, prepare and entertain during an afternoon of learning and cooking. The event is free and open to the public.

Aikens will be demonstrating *Family Circle* recipes and discussing the importance of local produce, the power of

using spices to boost flavor, ideas for quick and tasty appetizers, and tips for carefree entertaining.

"Our readers, the moms of tweens and teens, are cooking more at home to save money and spend more time together with their families," *Family Circle* publisher said in a prepared statement.

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Since 1948, International Credit Union Day has been celebrated annually on the third Thursday of October. Each year, the international event affords the opportunity to remember credit unions' proud history and promote awareness of and support for the credit union difference. This year's theme — Local. Trusted. Serving You.™ — underlines the commitment to their communities and trustworthy member service that credit unions today embody.

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nized as a force for positive economic and social change and have provided significant social and economic value in both developed and emerging nations. International Credit Union Day is sponsored by World Council of Credit Unions (WOCCU), the international trade association and development agency for credit

unions worldwide, and Credit Union National Association (CUNA), the premier trade association for credit unions in the United States.

On Oct. 21, credit unions from around the world will be celebrating the day with parades, festivals, contests and open houses. Visit your local credit union for more information.

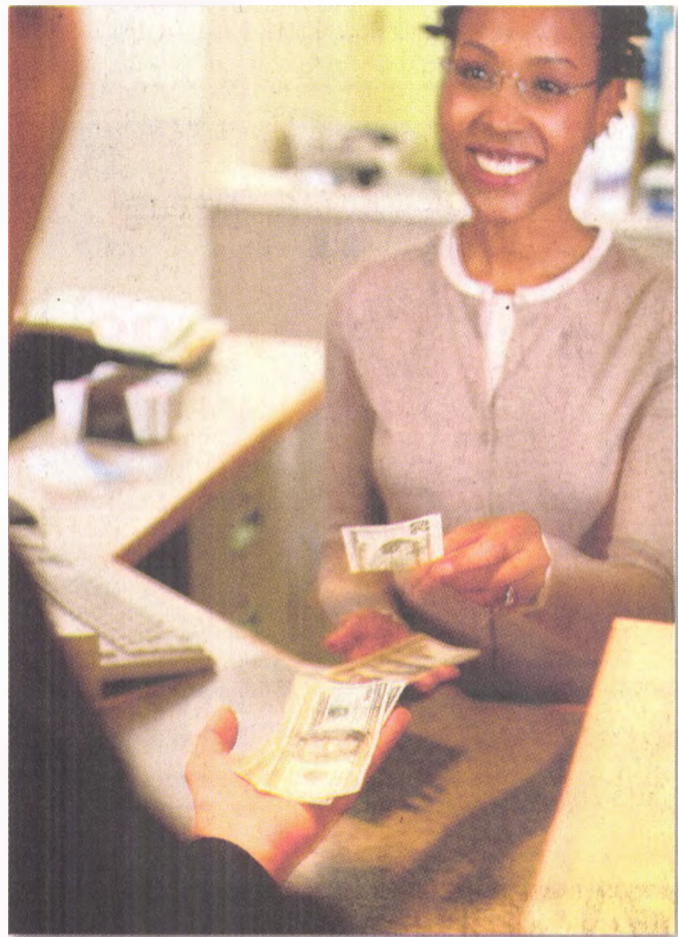
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Buying a foreclosed property calls for expert legal help

I've been reading articles to try to get to the bottom of this foreclosure mess. What is currently happening is something that could affect more and more people.

Foreclosure rates have been on the rise and have accelerated even more over the last year. Foreclosure is a legal process that has a variety of rules and regulations that must be complied with. Foreclosures basically take place when a homeowner who borrowed money to purchase a home can no longer afford to make the payments. In those situations, after certain conditions have been met, the lender institutes foreclosure proceedings.



Money Matters
Rick Bloom

In order to complete the process, certain paperwork and forms need to be completed and that is part of the problem. Large lenders throughout the country have admitted that many of the documents filed with courts have been incorrectly completed. It is because of this problem that many lenders throughout the country have a moratorium on foreclosures. It is also why many attorneys general throughout the country are investigating the whole foreclosure mess.

Hopefully, most of the errors in completing the paperwork were unintentional, however, some of the articles that I've read suggest that mistakes were intentional. Some law firms which wanted to process as many foreclosures as possible supposedly took shortcuts on purpose. Obviously, many of these lawyers will be the subject of litigation and it would not surprise me if many are disbarred. That being said, if your home has been foreclosed and you suspect the paperwork was not completed correctly, you may have a cause of action. However, before you get too excited, it may not make sense to pursue action, particularly if you don't want your home back. In addition, before you hire an attorney make sure you understand all the costs involved.

In this situation if you were to hire an attorney, I recommend one who will take your case on a contingency fee basis. There are many attorneys that specialize in consumer law and many of will take cases on a contingency fee basis.

Another consequence of the number of foreclosures throughout the country is that many people are rushing out and buying foreclosed properties at a variety of different venues, including auctions. Although there are some deals and ways to make money, whenever you buy a foreclosed property you must understand the process. There have been all sorts of reports where people have purchased

foreclosed properties only to find out the property they purchased did not come free and clear. People have discovered there are liens on some of these properties that resulted in paying substantially more for the property than it is worth.

In addition, people who buy foreclosed properties and don't do proper due diligence can find that the original homeowner still has rights resulting in a nightmare of legal issues.

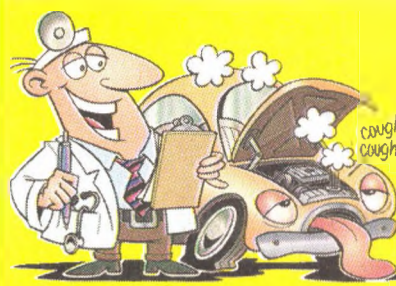
It is extremely important that before you commit yourself to buying a foreclosed property, you know exactly what you are purchasing. I recommend hiring legal representation if you're buying a foreclosed property.

No doubt there deals out there on foreclosed properties. However, keep in mind that there are just as many bad deals out there. The adage of let the buyer beware certainly applies in the case of foreclosed property.

Therefore, before purchasing a home make sure you do a proper inspection to know the condition of the property and use an experienced attorney who will inform you of what you're buying and what obligations you may be assuming.

Good luck!

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



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Gala raises funds, friends for senior services at St. Mary Mercy

The Laurel Manor Banquet and Conference Center was transformed into a Midwest version of New York's Central Park Oct. 8 for the St. Mary Mercy Hospital annual Gala.

Autumn leaves, colorful fall mums, park benches and the aura of Central Park and the New York skyline greeted guests at the 18th annual celebration.

The black-tie affair raised \$200,000 for the hospital's Senior Emergency Department.

David Spivey, president and CEO of St. Mary Mercy, welcomed the nearly 500 guests reminding them that proceeds will help to provide specialized emergency services "to our most vulnerable seniors — those who have complex health and quality of life limitations that can be addressed with our new approach to senior emergency care."

Special recognition went to Northville Township residents William and Bridget Phillips, their family and the Phillips Service Industries Inc. — the gala's presenting sponsors for the second consecutive year.

"We are so grateful to the Phillips family," said Sara Stauffer, development/special events director at St. Mary Mercy. "We are truly blessed to have their support."

Other major sponsors of the event were Guardian Plumbing & Heating and Temperature Services Inc. (platinum) and Huron Valley Radiology, P.C. (gold).

Serving as chair and vice chair of this year's event were Sandy Bojrab and Lucia Romano, both of Northville.

In her program message to guests, Bojrab likened the progress that exemplifies the city of New York to St. Mary's Mercy progress throughout the years and "the hospital's commitment to continually provide patients and families with innovative services that meet their health care needs."

Guests enjoyed an opening reception amid a Central Park decor, followed by a sit-down dinner highlighted by fall fruit and vegetables. The afterglow included a fall-themed dessert station and "New York" style pizza station.

Music was provided by the Mark Randisi trio and The Royce and Jenn Band.

St. Mary Mercy Hospital is part of the Saint Joseph Mercy Health System, a member of Trinity Health.



Orin Mazzoni (left) of Orin Jewelers in Northville and Garden City and daughter, Gina, (right) award the Hearts and Fire Diamond earrings to Lucia Romano, gala vice chair and lucky winner of the auction item.



Checking out the bling are Pete Seilo of Canton and Kevin Moore of Canton. Seilo is vice president/market development of Michigan Orthopedic Services and was a member of the gala planning committee. Moore is the director of Rehabilitation and Wound Care at St. Mary Mercy Hospital.



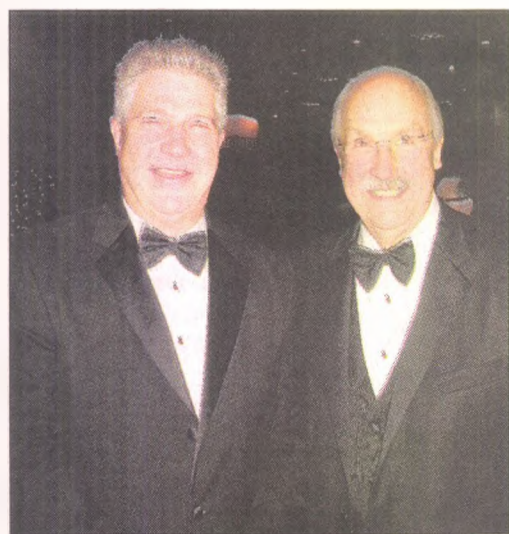
Volunteers at the gala included Lauren and Jason May of Garden City. Lauren works in the special events department at St. Mary Mercy.



Planning this year's gala were Lucia Romano (left), vice chairwoman, and chairwoman Sandy Bojrab both of Northville.



Presenting sponsor of the 18th annual St. Mary Mercy Gala Bill (standing) and Bridget Phillips of Northville Township along with son-in-law Steve Cauzillo and daughter Terry Cauzillo of Novi.



David Spivey, president and CEO of St. Mary Mercy Hospital (left), welcomes Garry Faja, president and CEO, Saint Joseph Mercy Health System and regional market executive, Trinity Health to Friday's event.



Guests were treated to a fall-themed dessert station at the gala.



The gala brought family and friends together. Enjoying the night were Antoinette Lombardo of Canton (left), her daughter, Rose Anne Russo of Northville (right) and family friend Josie Norcia of Northville (middle).

Madonna speaker: State's wind farms off to slow start

BY DIANE GALE ANDREASSI
CORRESPONDENT

Christina Harris attended a lecture on the future of wind power in Michigan at Madonna University last week in hopes of finding a place in the growing market.

She was among a full-house crowd gathered to hear Aubrey C. Agee II, General Electric's Wind Farm Site manager in Uby, explain that the amount of power generated by wind is comparable to throwing a cup of water in the sea, but definitely an area of great growth now and in the future.

"That can be said about any power plant given the massive power grid that we have," Agee said.

He currently leads the operation and maintenance service of 46 1.5-megawatt wind turbines at the John Deere 69-megawatt wind farm, Michigan Wind I, located in the state's Thumb region.

Agee exceeded availability production targets by 2.7 percent last year, earning GE a performance bonus of \$130,000. John Deere was recently purchased by Exelon.

Harris, 54 of Livonia, refers to herself as "one of the casualties" of the automotive industry. She is taking classes at Madonna "to learn, reinvent and reinsert" herself among the employed in a field, she said, takes a "visionary" to understand.

The vision might not be too far off. In 2008, Michigan passed the Renewable Portfolio Standard, which requires electric providers achieve a retail supply portfolio that includes at least 10 percent renewable energy by 2015.

"We're always looking for how wind energy can grow," Agee said.

Wind turbines are located typically in rural areas, because there are fewer buildings to obstruct the air flow and for safety reasons, allowing easy



Michigan has earmarked the Thumb area for a maximum of 3,000 wind turbines and the state's west coast for 1,000 more wind turbines.

access to the turbine in case of breakdowns. They are also built in areas that have been identified as high-wind zones.

WIND AREA

Michigan has earmarked the Thumb area for a maximum of 3,000 wind turbines and the state's west coast for 1,000 more wind turbines.

Politicians haven't made it easy for wind technology developers, Agee told the crowd.

"Our wind farm was being spoke of in 2005," he said. "We have 90 or 100 turbines and other states got into the game much later and have much more."

The GE wind turbine park average production is 150,000 megawatt-hours a year depending on wind speeds, he explained. Commercial-size wind turbines cost about \$1-\$2 million to build. The efficiency rate for wind power is 30-40 percent and "solar is much less," Agee said. Michigan is 14th among the states in wind capacity.

"We're in the beginning stages of the wind industry," he said, adding, however, that the basic components of the technology, like gear boxes, generators and rotors, are old ideas.

Many lecture participants were among a large group of employees from Power Technology Institute in Canton, who wanted to know what kind

of employment potential wind power had.

"This is hopefully going to be our career," said Matthew Robideau, a PTI student.

How many employees does it take to run a 90-turbine farm?, another PTI employee asked Agee.

"I would say we have 46 turbines with four technicians and probably six people total with up to seven visiting technicians," Agee said. "But for the construction, there are 200 people on a site building a wind farm. With all the farms being built, you will put a lot of people to work."

"The biggest problem with wind is the transmission lines to get that power to the grid," he added.

The cost to make a kilowatt of power from coal is about 11 cents and the cost for wind power is 13 or 14 cents, he said.

"I think, to be honest, the big (wind) parks will be a help, but they won't get up to the production amounts of traditional energy," he said. "That is until technology changes."

Other questions raised by people in the audience addressed the affects on migrating birds and noise levels.

"They say noise level of a wind turbine is the same as a compressor in a refrigerator at maximum wind speeds," Agee said. "People don't want change."

The Southwestern Wayne Democratic Club Proudly Endorses the Following Candidates

DEB KENNEDY FOR STATE REPRESENTATIVE



A Downriver resident and community volunteer for more than 30 years, Deb Kennedy knows that we are sick of watching politicians bicker and waste our tax dollars in Lansing. That's why Deb has been fighting to streamline state government so that it's focused

on supporting the small businesses that will create jobs for our workers and revitalize Michigan's economy.

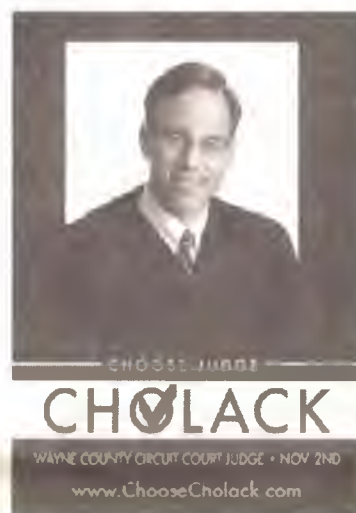
- Cut lawmaker's salaries-including her own-by 10 percent and end their taxpayer-funded lifetime health care.
- Support our entrepreneurs so they can start and grow small businesses.
- Expand incentives that paved the way for General Motors' new Brownstown Township facility to manufacture high-tech batteries for electric vehicles.

Re-elect Judge Mark SLAVENS



- Wayne County Circuit Court Judge (Juvenile Court)
- Licensed Attorney for over 29 years
- Admitted to Federal Bar
- Michigan State Bar
- Michigan Association for Justices
- Sole owner of private practice Law firm for over 20 years
- Former Instructor at Oakland University
- Former member of State Trial Court Administration committee of the State Bar
- Former member of Legal Education Committee of the State Bar

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Wayne County Circuit Court

Judge Gershwin Drain



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- Has presided over both criminal and civil cases.
- Judge Drain has received the highest ratings possible from the Metropolitan Detroit Bar Association (Outstanding) and the Wolverine Bar Association. (Well Qualified)

Judge Drain views himself as a public servant dedicated to running his court in a fair and efficient manner.



BRENDA LAWRENCE Democrat for Lieutenant Governor

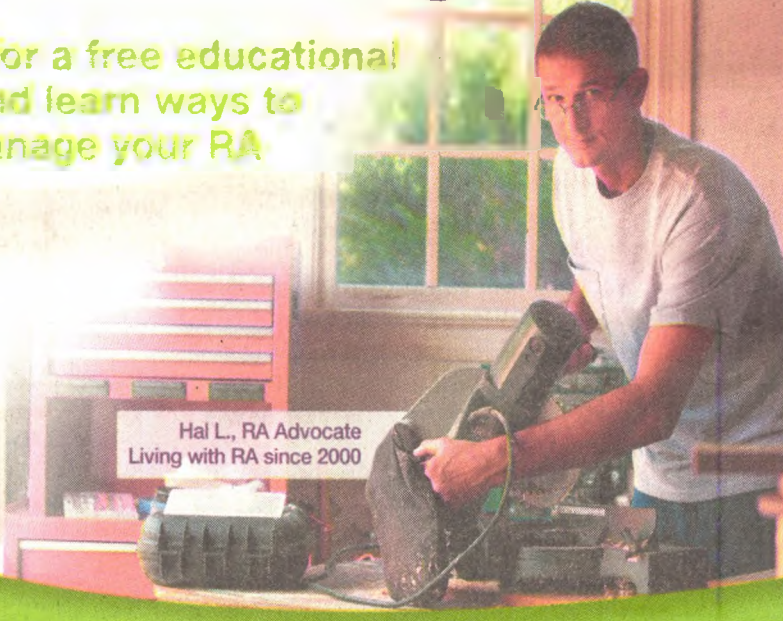
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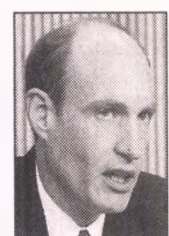
OUR VIEWS

U.S. House: 11th District Rep. McCotter is experienced, principled

U.S. Rep. Thaddeus McCotter is a politician of principle and integrity who harbors a keen intellect focused on the interests of his constituency. We don't always agree with McCotter, but anyone who has observed him at a congressional hearing knows that he seeks answers to legitimate and necessary questions. He avoids using the platform to lecture the participants.

We believe these characteristics sets him apart from many others who at present serve in Congress and we endorse **Thaddeus McCotter's** re-election on Nov. 2.

He has served in Congress since 2002. A Republican, he represents the 11th District which includes the western Wayne and western Oakland communities of Canton, Garden City, Livonia, Northville, Novi, Plymouth, Milford, Redford, South Lyon and Westland as well as others. Before being elected to Congress,



McCotter

McCotter served in the state Senate, the Wayne County Commission and Schoolcraft College Board of Trustees.

He brings an intelligent, studied and principled approach to issues. Except for a short tenure in the private sector, he has been a career politician but we don't regard that as negative. He's smart, principled and knows how Washington runs.

McCotter's opponents in the race are Democrat Natalie Mosher of Canton

Township and Libertarian John Tatar of Livonia. Mosher is a former school teacher who served on the Erie, Ohio, County Commission. Locally, she is the former chief development officer for the Detroit Riverfront Conservancy.

Tatar, is a former teacher in Livonia Public Schools. He has served in the U.S. Army Reserves and ran two years ago for this same seat as a Libertarian.

Mosher is mounting a strategic campaign. She is a credible alternative to the conservative McCotter. Tatar is relying on the Libertarian platform to attract voters in November.

November 2010 should be good year for the GOP and McCotter will have no trouble winning his fifth term.

McCotter supported the bailout of GM and Chrysler because he understands how important manufacturing is to this region and to the country. He is aware of what happens to economies that don't manufacture a product for the global marketplace.

His opposition to the bank bailout two years ago may have left some constituents scratching their heads. He opposed the bailout of Wall Street banks he says because it didn't go far enough to clean up the toxic assets of the big banks and it didn't do enough for small banks.

A staunch conservative, McCotter seeks to make the Bush-era tax cuts permanent. He makes no distinction between upper income and middle-income tax relief. He believes a tax on any segment of the taxpaying public would be harmful to the U.S. economy.

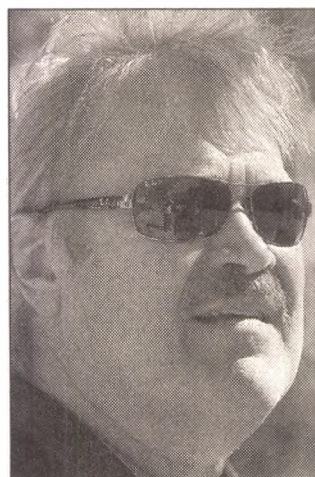
He opposes the health care bill enacted by Congress, but his solution (opening up markets and allowing more health care competition across state lines will increase supply) appears too simple and doesn't address what is a complex economic and social issue. However, his position is consistent with this free-market philosophy. And he knows that overreaching either way — left or right — is not what the American public wants.

Voters in the 11th District know that by re-electing **Thaddeus McCotter** on Nov. 2, they have a congressman who will work hard to balance the budget, represent the interests of a manufacturing region and state and all the while make decisions based on sound ethical, deeply held personal conviction.

COMMUNITY VOICE

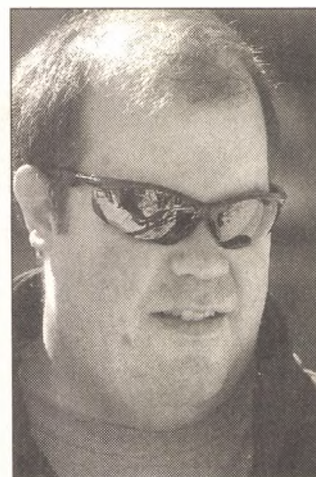
The Plymouth Canton Community Schools board has voted to not renew the contract of Superintendent Craig Fiegel, who interviewed for another job. Do you think the district should try to keep him?

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



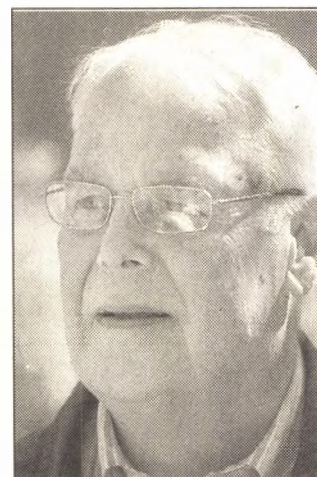
"I'm sure they have their reasons. We're electing them to do the job."

Ron Cook
Plymouth Township



"I don't know a lot about what happened, but in today's economy (he) wanted to keep a job."

Ryan Beck
Canton Township



"Yeah. ... Apparently, from what I could see, he did a pretty good job when he was here."

Ron Beck
Canton Township



"I think he's done an excellent job and I haven't heard a good reason not to."

Kathy Powers
Plymouth Township

LETTERS

McCotter a no-show

It appears that Thaddeus McCotter shies away from attending public forums where he would have to explain his position on various subjects in an open debate with well-informed candidates.

I can understand that when Congress is in session he could possibly be working on issues in Washington, D.C. He did this at a time when Congress was not in session and he had the opportunity of attending to his official responsibility of representing the people of his congressional district.

He, instead, attended a very special interest group that probably has access to him in Washington, D.C. He did this at a time when Congress was not in session and he had the opportunity of attending to his official responsibility of representing the people of his congressional district.

According to a Dec. 6, 2009, press release, Rep. McCotter was honored by the Michigan Bankers Association for doing what they considered very important work. Once again, he was available to a special interest group whose policies have negatively affected so many people in our state.

I can think of only two possible reasons why Rep. McCotter selects his availability to the public when Congress is not in session. The first may be that he would not be able to justify his position under cross-examination by an informed candidate who would like to represent "unconnected" people.

The second reason is that there may be a form of future merit pay available for those who serve well-heeled interest groups. Many members who leave Congress end up in high-paying positions in the private sector of the business world. We the people do not have the advantage of monetarily rewarding a representative in the future. Perhaps that is the reason we do not actually have very many representatives of the people, for the people.

Perhaps Natalie Mosher, a candidate who has no need to be concerned about future employment, should be given a chance to really represent the unconnected, common people in Congress.

William G. Cole
Plymouth

Democrat lies and hypocrisy

Recently, a number of attacks have been launched against Patrick Colbeck, the Republican Senate candidate for Wayne County's 7th District. On Sept. 30 an article was published critical of Mr. Colbeck accepting contributions from prominent Republicans, some of whom are term-limited out, with these funds left over from previous campaigns.

The distribution of these funds is highly regulated with the practice of contributing to

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other campaigns a common practice by both the Democrat Party, as well, as the Republican Party. It is interesting; the writer did not divulge who she was supporting or the fact that she is a Democrat Party operative. But, let's examine some of the tactics practiced by Democrats.

On Wednesday, Sept. 29, people received an absolutely absurd attack piece on Mr. Colbeck, issued by the Michigan Democratic State Central Committee, implying he supports Republicans who want to eliminate Social Security and Medicare for seniors. Mr. Colbeck has stated publicly, people depend on these benefits, benefits that people deserve having paid into these systems all of their life, along with their employers.

In addition, this is a national not a state issue; therefore, neither the Michigan state Senate nor its members can affect any change in regards to Social Security or Medicare. The Democrat Party, in passing ObamaCare calls for the reduction in Medicare funding by \$500,000,000,000 (that's 500 billion dollars), which will, in fact, negatively affect all American seniors' health care. Democrats are also responsible for increasing the age when seniors can receive Social Security, and for increasing the withholding amount for Social Security and Medicare by individuals and their employers.

On the national level, Democrat Rep. Charlie Rangle of New York State, chairman of the House of Representatives Ways and Means Committee, responsible for all federal tax policies and laws, in an effort to keep fellow Democrats from investigating and bringing criminal charges against him, used campaign funds to influence (BRIBE) his comrades, for very serious and numerous violations of federal income tax laws. Even if one were to suggest that federal tax laws are so complex that they are too difficult to understand, Rep. Rangle's committee is responsible for writing these laws and if anyone should know what is in these laws, he certainly should. From an ethical standpoint, the use of campaign funds to influence ethics and criminal investigations and to impede prosecution is a very serious matter.

Are these the standards that we want our political parties and politicians to live by? a proud Patrick Colbeck supporter,

Michael Hansel

Canton Township, Republican delegate

Where truth lies

It seems with each political campaign season it gets more and more difficult to decipher what's true and what's not on the campaign literature we receive and the commercial ads we watch. We shouldn't have to work at finding what's true and many candidates know we won't bother. Campaigns should be run with the same honesty and integrity that our candidates should possess.

Yet a recent TV commercial put out by Kathleen Law was a blatant lie. The commercial states that state Senate candidate Patrick Colbeck wants to take away Social Security and Medicare from our seniors. First of all, Patrick Colbeck has publicly stated that he supports the protection of seniors' Social Security and Medicare benefits. Seniors have worked for those benefits and depend on them to make ends meet and address their health concerns.

Secondly, Colbeck is running for state senator, not a U.S. senator. Social Security and Medicare are federal programs not state programs. State senators do not have any control over federal programs such as Social Security and Medicare. It is really sad that Kathleen Law feels she has to rely on lying and deceiving our seniors to get votes instead of honestly discussing the issues facing our state.

It's time we all look at our candidates with eyes wide open. Do we really want to send candidates who are deceiving us to Lansing? While serving with Patrick on a local school board, I have gotten to know him and have found that he always conducts himself with honesty and integrity.

If you really want to know who Patrick Colbeck is, visit his website at www.FixingMichigan.com. Let's make sure we vote this November for candidates who are demonstrating honesty and integrity.

Diana J. Noble
Canton

Stewart supporter

I have had the pleasure of knowing John Stewart for over 10 years.

I first met John when he ran for the state representative as a Republican, and was struck by his integrity and his adherence to his principles. John served admirably, and has long been an ardent supporter of public education and a woman's right to choose. He maintained this mainstream position even as the Republican party moved further and further away from the beliefs of most moderate Americans, and of John himself.

John's run for State Senate as an Independent in Michigan's 7th District is his opportunity to truly represent the needs of his constituents, staying above the backbiting and negativity so common in political discourse today. John wants to move beyond blaming and finger pointing and get to the business of putting Michigan back to work again. We need John Stewart in Lansing.

Suzan Hyssen
Livonia

ONLINE VOICES & VIEWS



The following are excerpts from readers participating in our online forum for discussing issues. In Your Voices. Find more comments or join the discussion on the Web at hometownlife.com.

• In response to "Diversity group touts gains, eyes good 2nd year,"

Regarding "time banks" and the time bank concept being floated here. Visit <http://www.timebanks.org/> and see for yourselves what is being proposed here. Here's an idea: Instead of infusing more social-engineering and collective mantra, let's Lower taxes and stimulate job creation. This in turn, would free up more money for private citizens to actually contribute to worthy causes of their choice. Instead, we have a group of social engineers and "liberation theologians" that now what to propose that we all, in the name of "social justice", run around town doing an hour for an hour. How about we do things how we always have in this Country, and that it by doing our own work, having the government stop taking more and more of our money, and lowering taxes for businesses so that they can hire people and put them to work. These ideas that are being floated sound all nice and friendly and soft-toss. But, the barter system is a joke because it will soon be abused like welfare is now abused.

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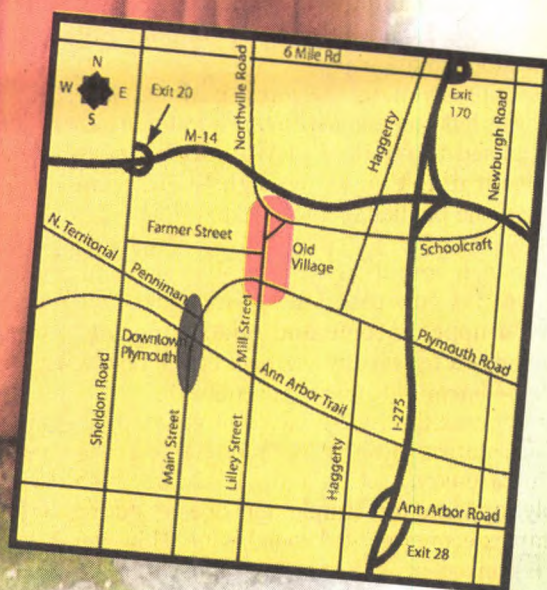
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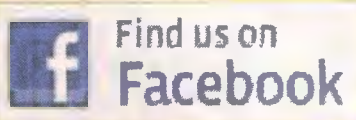
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Churchill 'D' foils Canton bid

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Livonia Churchill continues to prove its back row play is just as important as its front row attack.

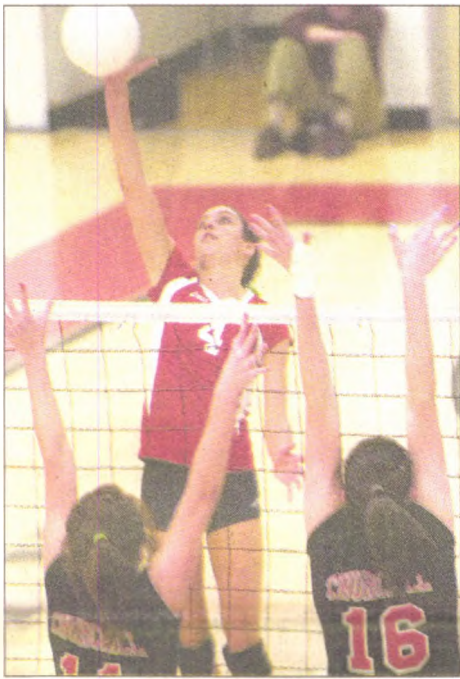
That was no more evident than in Tuesday's 26-24, 25-22, 25-22 KLAAs South Division clinching match victory over visiting Canton.

The Chargers, who improved to 35-6-2 overall and 9-0 in the division, were led by senior setter Cory Urbats, who had 26 assist-to-kills and 18 digs, along with senior twins Kara and Nicole Kempinski, who combined for 42 more digs.

"These kids are just relentless and they play very good defense," Churchill coach Mark Grenier said. "We give ourselves a chance with great ball control and setting. And in transition, we can score from there. But it's all about the defense."

The opportunity was there for Canton (24-8-3, 7-2) to claim a share of the South Division title. But the Chiefs squandered sizable leads in all three sets including 7-0

Please see **VOLLEYBALL, B3**



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Canton's Kristen Muir hammers the ball over Livonia Churchill defenders Tuesday night.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Canton defender Neil Zech (No. 4) is able to clear the ball out of danger despite pressure from Plymouth's Nick Russ (No. 22) during Monday's pre-district game.

Chiefs stay alive in districts

BY TIM SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Two key plays within seconds in the final minute of Monday's first half told the tale of the Division 1 pre-district boys soccer matchup between Canton and Plymouth.

Sophomore forward Bobby Budlong's goal off a perfect corner kick with 12 seconds to go in the half put the sixth-ranked Chiefs up 1-0 and the Wildcats nearly answered just nine seconds later.

But a leaping, lunging stop by Canton senior goalkeeper Brandon Laabs denied Plymouth senior Derek Austin's bid to even things

up at halftime and the Chiefs held on for a 2-0 victory at Plymouth-Canton Educational Park's varsity soccer field.

"There were three seconds left, we were just trying to put something on net and I hit a pretty good ball," Austin said. "It was a great save by Laabs, I couldn't have hit it any better."

The direct kick by Austin was a laser, ticketed for the top right corner. An airborne Laabs extended his arms and managed to get a hand on the ball, batting it away.

Canton head coach George Tomasso agreed, noting that Laabs (9 saves) "earned his shutout tonight," backstopping the 16-3-2

Chiefs into Wednesday's district semifinal against Livonia Churchill.

"Brandon told me he was blocked for the majority of that shot and he reacted to it," Tomasso said. "I felt his reaction was great, he kept the ball to the side and he made a great save there to keep us up 1-0."

That near-miss wasn't the only time the Wildcats would put pressure on the Canton defense, but Plymouth could not finish.

EARLY ONSLAUGHT

"The boys played great tonight, we had a good game plan going in,"

Please see **SOCCER, B2**

Canton tankers tops in showdown

BY TIM SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

It didn't long for Ed Weber to know that Tuesday was going to be a good night for his Canton varsity girls swim & dive team.

The 200-yard medley relay team of Caitlyn Orr, Sara Krebs, Delaney Adams and Destinee Barmore-Hicks won that event with a time of 1-minute, 57.05-seconds — the fastest ever during the 12 years of Weber's Canton coaching career.

That set the tone as the Chiefs rolled to a 111-74 victory over Plymouth, to take over sole possession of the KLAAs South.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Canton's Caitlin Orr's ability in events such as the 200-yard medley relay helps the Chiefs' cause in meets such as Tuesday's against Plymouth for the division title.

"They all did perfect splits, just like we planned it," said Weber with a grin.

The quartet actually needed to motor to finish on top, since Plymouth's 200 medley team of Linda Erickson, Emily Toro, Rachel Huhta and Abbey Kelly finished close behind (1:58.24).

Both the Canton and Plymouth relays made state cuts with their performances.

"We swam very well, we had 20 best times," said Plymouth head coach Doug Schade, whose team now is 6-4-0 overall and 4-1-0 in the KLAAs South. "They're just better."

Superior depth continues to drive Canton (7-0-1, 6-0-0), and the Chiefs can clinch the KLAAs South outright by winning the division meet on Oct. 29-30.

Schade said it's been a positive season so far for the Wildcats, with "a lot of kids on the doorstep of making (state) cuts, so hopefully they will. We're just going to continue to swim our best, that's all we can do."

Plymouth did get the better of Canton in the relay department, winning both the 200 and 400 free relays.

PLENTY OF LEADERS

According to Weber, the impact of Canton's large senior contingent cannot be downplayed.

Please see **SWIMMING, B3**



WALT DMOCH

Wearing a special jersey for Saturday's 'Pink Out!' to raise awareness about breast cancer, Whalers netminder Scott Wedgewood stretches to stop a Windsor shot.

Goalie sparks Whalers on 'Pink Out!' night

BY TIM SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Plymouth Whalers goalie Scott Wedgewood obviously took plenty of notes last season as the understudy to Matt Hackett, because he's been stellar so far in 2010-11.

Take Saturday night, for instance. Wedgewood stopped

10 Windsor shots before the first period was nine minutes old — a span where his teammates could not even manage one.

His confident, sometimes-acrobatic play helped calm the Whalers, who found their game over the final two periods in a 4-1 Ontario

Please see **WHALERS, B2**

SIDELINES

Zhang zings it

Plymouth junior Aaron Zhang had an outstanding showing at the recent Division 1 state finals in Midland, defeating Grand Blanc's Jon Pfister in the second round before falling to No. 3-seed Andrew Cahn of West Bloomfield.

Zhang, 21-4 this season and a good bet to be Plymouth's first all-state tennis player, "played amazing tennis and led Andy (Cahn) in both the first and second set," said Wildcats head coach Tom Kimball. "These two proved to be two of the hardest hitters in the tournament."

Want proof? Zhang actually broke a tennis ball with one of his serves.

"It was a great experience for Aaron and, as he is only a junior, he is fired up to return again next year," Kimball said.

Helping Zhang gear up for the state finals was Salem No. 1 singles player Jacob Scott.

Although Canton's Chiefs were not represented in Midland, head coach Barb Lehmann praised her team for how well it played at the recent DI regionals. Canton finished fourth, trailing only power programs such as Ann Arbor Pioneer, Ann Arbor Huron and Saline.

"All of our players made it through the first round and third and fourth doubles made it one more round to give us the best finish we have had in a few years," Lehmann noted.

Murphy 5th, 'Cats 11th

Plymouth sophomore Kelsey Murphy wrapped up her brilliant prep season Saturday with a two-day total of 156 strokes — tied for fifth place overall — at the Division 1 girls golf finals at Eagle Crest.

The Wildcats, meanwhile, placed 11th overall, which accomplished the team's goal of finishing in the top 12, head coach Chris Moore said.

"We were very pleased to beat Brighton (regional champs) and Milford, ... it was a great experience for such a young team," Moore said. "Each girl was determined to play their best."

"Kelsey finishing top five was not a surprise to me. She practices harder than any other girl in the state of Michigan."

Other Plymouth golfers included Sarah Thompson (177 over two days) and Danielle Allen (214 over two days) with one-day performances from Lindsay Dean (106), Christy Pattison (104), Mandy Kirsch (106) and Carly Curvin (116).

TV grid pairings

The Selection Sunday Show, announcing the first-round pairings for the 2010 MHSAA Football Playoffs, plays to cable television and internet audiences on Fox Sports Detroit and FoxSportsDetroit.com beginning at 7 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 24.

Qualifiers and pairings will be posted to the MHSAA's football home page following the one-hour show, which will expand this year from 30 minutes to 60 minutes.

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HAVE A STORY IDEA?

Contact Editor Sharon Dargay

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Improv-inspired show promises family-friendly humor

BY SHARON DARGAY
OGE STAFF WRITER

Len Fisher describes Inspire Theatre's new show as a bit of *Carol Burnett Show*, *Laugh-In* and *Saturday Night Live* all rolled into one fast-paced, 90-minute production.

And it's family-friendly to boot.

"What I wanted to see was kind of old school and currently popular. It's a sketch comedy show, so I wanted to do something similar to the *Saturday Night Live* format, but also the format of *Carol Burnett Show* and *Laugh-In*," said Fisher, director of the Westland theater.

He borrowed elements from all three to create *Uncle Fuzzy's Serendipitous Cafe*.

Singer/songwriters Kylee Phillips and Brion Reborn will perform but won't appear in sketches as the musical guests did on the *Carol Burnett Show*. The audience may recognize the "Weekend Update" style in the show's news segment. And the cast will twist the *Laugh-In* "joke wall" into a bit about Facebook.

"It's not quite as fast-paced as *Laugh-In*. People my age will remember the joke wall but young people will identify with Facebook," Fisher said.

The show runs Friday-Sunday, Oct. 22-24 and Thursday-Saturday, Oct. 28-30, at 33445 Warren Road in Westland. Curtain is at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$12 and available by calling (734) 751-7057.

SCRIPT DEVELOPMENT

The show is based on improvisation in rehearsals and group writing sessions, the same way the group developed its popular comedy show, *KORK-TV*.

"After *KORK* we did our annual musical variety revue. It was music and sketches, borrowed sketches from the

stage and television. It went well. I thought, why not take the idea of writing things from improv sessions and the variety style we've done well over the years?"

"I gave the company a premise and then I'd divide it into groups. I'd send them away to different rooms and let them work on ideas and come back and present it," Fisher described the writing process.

He and the troupe recently finished tweaking the script, which has been a work in progress since rehearsals began. Fisher said the actors strive to "keep it clean," focusing on "reality-based humor" in lieu of expletives, sex jokes or drug-related skits.

INVOLVING GUESTS

Although the improvisational work is complete, the show will include audience participation. Two ticket-holders will become silent actors in a soap opera sketch called "Disturbia Lane." They'll get some off-stage coaching and costuming before the sketch begins and will be placed in a scene about a cocktail party.

"These two people have to die on stage. They just have to die. The woman will just sit there. She has no lines. The script is written to say that Blanch is quiet all evening. And the other person in the scene is poisoned. He as to cough and die.

"Their friends will be in the audience cheering them on."

Fisher doesn't want to give away the scene, but everyone in the audience will be fair game for laughs during a multi-media presentation during the show.

In addition to eight sketches and two musical numbers, the show also includes video shorts. The Inspire Theatre cast includes actors from Westland, Canton, Plymouth, Redford, Garden City and Belleville.



"Uncle Fuzzy's Serendipitous Cafe" cast includes Len Fisher (back left), Gerry Wiatr, Thomas Grimes, Bobbi Gladden, John Donnelly, Toni Hammond (front left), Kelsi Fey and Mitch Hardy.



Thomas Grimes and Bobbi Gladden portray Thurston and Lovey Howell in Inspire Theatre's "Uncle Fuzzy's Serendipitous Cafe."



Thomas Grimes, Bobbi Gladden and John Donnelly rehearse a scene for Inspire Theatre's new show.

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International coffee house set in Farmington Hills

Blues singer/songwriter Robert Jones will perform from 7-9 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 21 at the International Coffee House in the Longacre House, in Farmington Hills.

The coffee house is free and is part of the Farmington/Farmington Hills Multicultural/Multiracial Community Council's Heritage Week celebration. Coffee and refreshments will be offered for a modest price. Other entertainment will include dance and vocal performances by local students. Jones has opened for well-known musicians, including B.B. King,

Bonnie Raitt, Taj Mahal, Robert Lockwood, and more. Known for his personal storytelling style, Jones also is an actor and radio producer and personality. He hosts a show on WDET-FM and has won many awards, including the "2007 Educator of the Year" from the Blues Foundation, and the "Outstanding Blues Writer" and "Outstanding Blues Album" at the Detroit Music Awards.

The Longacre House is located at 24705 Farmington Road, between 10 Mile and 11 Mile. For more information call (248) 871-2512.



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Beautiful images

Learn to capture the beauty of fall through a "walking photography" class at 6 p.m., Wednesday, Oct. 27, in Woodland Hills Park located on the west side of Farmington Road, just south of I-696. Jacob Nothstine will share professional techniques to improve photography skills and lead the one-mile walk on primitive trails. Participants should bring their camera, questions and walking shoes. Classes are open to students ages 7 through adult; children must be accompanied by an adult. The fee is \$10 per class for residents, \$15 per class for nonresidents. On-line registration is available at www.recreg.fhgov.com. For more information, call the Cultural Arts Division at (248) 473-1859.

Livonia woman wins fashion design, sewing challenge

BY SHARON DARGAY
O&E STAFF WRITER

Raminta Vilkiene of Livonia has never driven a 1969 Pontiac GTO, but let it inspire her winning garment at a fashion design challenge last month during the American Sewing Expo in Novi. Vilkiene won first place in the two-day Passion for Fashion Sewing Challenge. During the competition, contestants must draw inspiration from the Challenge theme, shop for fabric and supplies at the Expo, design and construct a garment while on public view. A fashion show caps the event.

"The challenge was we had to pick an old car and be inspired by the car," Vilkiene said. We had 12 contestants and 14 cars. Mine was a 1969 Pontiac GTO. It was a nice orange color, a nice car. I was born in 1972. I told the judges that for me, it's a little difficult because in the Soviet Union, you don't have a fancy car."

Vilkiene grew up in Lithuania and has lived in the United States since 1998. She's married, has two children and began designing and sewing clothing as a child.

"I tried to imagine my mom because that year she was college student who'd probably like to drive that kind of car," she said. "We had to shop inside the Expo. Haberman Fabrics (of Royal Oak) had some interesting upholstery fabric, a graffiti fabric. It was a 1960s-70s fabric that I chose for my skirt."

She selected a double-sided wool jersey in black and orange for a tank top and jacket from Fabrications, a Grand Rapids store. The two pieces are reversible.

"It was a little easier from



Steve Jeffery, president of Baby Lock, presents Raminta Vilkiene of Livonia with a new Baby Lock Symphony Sewing Machine, after she won first prize in the Passion for Fashion Challenge. The model (right) wears Vilkiene's winning garment.

when I participated two years ago. It was a different challenge but I wasn't worried. There was less pressure and I thought I managed my time better," Vilkiene said. "Honestly, until Saturday morning I was not even knowing what I would do for the top. It was a last-minute idea. I liked some of the other pieces I saw and I wasn't sure that I would be chosen the winner."

Judges quizzed finalists about inspiration, technique and the fabrics they used. They considered construction, fit, composition and creativity when selecting the top three garments. Judges

included fashion designer Kenneth King; Annie Diaz of Haberman Fabrics; Joi Mahon, winner of the 2009 Challenge; and Becky Fulgoni, sewing mentor for the contest and a finalist in the 2007 Challenge.

Vilkiene won a sewing machine from Baby Lock and a trip to New York City, N.Y. "It is a quilting machine, but sewers can use it too, of course. It has a lot of decorative stitching and you can connect it to your computer."

The New York trip will include a tour of Simplicity Patterns, visits to designer studios, and stops at fabric stores.

GET OUT

ART

Art & Ideas

Time/Date: Through Nov. 14

Location: 15095 Northville Road, south of Five Mile, Plymouth

Details: "Diverse Forms, Diverse Meanings," with works by Schoolcraft College Art Faculty, Robert Bielat, Sarah Olson and Ellen Moucoulis

Contact: (734) 420-0775

City Gallery

Time/Date: 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday, through Nov. 16

Location: Costick Center, 28600 W. 11 Mile, Farmington Hills

Details: Paintings and prints by Munazza Naem, an instructor at the Windsor, Ontario Printmaker's Forum, where she teaches drawing, painting, and printmaking, are on exhibit

Contact: (248) 473-1856

Northville Art House

Time/Date: Through Oct. 23

Location: 215 W. Cady Street, Northville

Details: Figurative juried exhibit with works by more than 60 artists

Contact: (248) 344-0497

Plymouth Community Arts Council

Time/Date: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday-Thursday, through October

Location: Joanne Winkleman Hulce Center for the Arts, 774 N. Sheldon, Plymouth

Details: Works by Ann Arbor artist Miriam Brysk, "Children of the Holocaust." A reception for the artist runs 1-2:30 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 31

Contact: (734) 416-4278

Schoolcraft College

Time/Date: 2 p.m., Oct. 23

Location: VisiTech Center on campus, 18600 Haggerty, Livonia

Details: Fiber artist, Madelyn van der Hoogt will speak at a program in honor of Margaret Windeknecht and Jean Brudzinski. Refreshments will be served; free

Contact: www.michiganweaversguild.org

COMEDY

Genitti's Hole-In-the-Wall

Time/Date: 8 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 23

Location: 108 E. Main, Northville

Details: The Irish Comedy Tour includes comedians Derek Richards, Keith Aherne and Mike McCarthy; \$15

Contact: (248) 349-0522 www.genittis.com

Go Comedy!

Time/Date: Various show times Wednesdays thru Sundays

Location: 261 E. Nine Mile, Ferndale

Details: Improv most nights. Open mic/jam session show for improvisers is 10 p.m. Wednesdays

Contact: (248) 327-0575; www.gocomedy.net

MORE ONLINE

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hometownlife.com

JD's House of Comedy

Time/Date: Various show times Wednesday-Saturday evenings

Location: 25333 W. 12 Mile, inside Star Theatre complex, Southfield

Details: Stand-up shows, 8 p.m. Thursday and 8 p.m., 10:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday; Apollo amateur night, 8 p.m. Wednesday

Contact: (248) 348-2420 or www.ticketmaster.com

Joey's Comedy Club of Livonia

Time/Date: 8 p.m. Mondays, Open Mic; 8 p.m. Tuesdays, Local Legends; 8 p.m. shows Wednesdays, Thursdays; 8 p.m. & 10:30 p.m. Fridays, Saturdays

Location: 36071 Plymouth Road, Livonia

Details: Shang, through Oct. 23; Angel Salazar, Oct. 27-30

Contact: (734) 261-0555, www.kickerscomplex.com

Mark Ridley's Comedy Castle

Time/Date: Kathleen Madigan, Oct. 21-23; Collin Moulton, Oct. 28-30; Dave Attell, Nov. 4-6; Mike Lukas, Nov. 11-13; Lisa Landry, Nov. 18-20; J. Chris Newberg,

Location: 269 E. Fourth, Royal Oak

Contact: (248) 542-9900, www.comedycastle.com

CONCERTS

The Ark

Time/Date: The Alternate Routes, Barefoot Truth and The Kin, Oct. 21; The RFD Boys, Oct. 22; The Max Weinberg Big Band, Oct. 23; John Jorgenson Quintet, Oct. 24; Take a Chance Tuesday with LeRoy Bell, Oct. 26; Big Bad Voodoo Daddy, Oct. 27; Chris Buhalis and Jo Serrapere, Oct. 28; Los Straightjackets and Big Sandy and His Fly-Rite Boys, Oct. 29; The Verve Pipe Kids' Show and The Verve Pipe - Alternative Takes, an Evening with The Verve Pipe, Oct. 30; The Subdudes: Halloween Spectacular, Oct. 31

Location: 316 South Main, Ann Arbor

Contact: (734) 763-8587; www.theark.org

Baseline Folk Society

Time/Date: Third Saturday of the month

Location: The JWH Center for the Arts, Plymouth Community Arts Council, 774 N. Sheldon, Plymouth

Details: Eight "Open-Mic" performances plus a featured group perform. Individual membership is \$25 and includes monthly concerts from September through May. Otherwise, admission to each concert is \$5 at the door. Family memberships are \$50 and include monthly concerts

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6 servings

Prep Time: 20 minutes

Cook Time: 30 minutes

¼ cup plain dry bread crumbs

½ teaspoons Italian seasoning

¼ teaspoon garlic powder

6 boneless, skinless chicken breast halves (about 2 pounds)

1 egg, beaten

1 jar (1 pound 10 ounce) Ragu Old World Style Pasta Sauce

1 cup shredded part-skim mozzarella cheese (about 4 ounces)

12 ounces pasta, cooked and drained

Preheat oven to 400°. Combine bread crumbs, Italian seasoning and garlic powder in shallow dish. Dip chicken in egg, then crumb mixture; turn to coat.

Arrange chicken in 13- by 9-inch baking dish. Bake 20 minutes.

Pour pasta sauce over chicken; top with cheese. Bake an additional 10 minutes or until chicken is thoroughly cooked. Serve with hot pasta.

TIP: Most dishes that call for frying can be baked to cut down on the fat. Try substituting eggplant for chicken for a vegetarian version.

Nutrition Information per serving: Calories 570, Calories From Fat 90, Saturated Fat 3.5g, Trans Fat 0g, Total Fat 10g, Cholesterol 135mg, Sodium 810mg, Total Carbohydrate 64g, Sugars 9g, Dietary Fiber 5g, Protein 52g, Vitamin A 4 percent, Vitamin C 8 percent, Calcium 25 percent, Iron 25 percent.

SKILLET PASTA & BEEF DINNER

Save any leftovers, then send to school heated and stored in a thermos for a warm lunchtime treat. 6 servings

Prep Time: 5 minutes

Cook Time: 25 minutes

Stand Time: 5 minutes

1½ pounds lean ground beef

1 jar (1 pound 10 ounces) Ragu Old World Style Traditional Pasta Sauce

3 cups water

12 ounces uncooked rotini pasta

1 cup shredded part-skim mozzarella cheese (about 4 ounces)

Brown ground beef in 12-inch skillet; drain.

Stir in pasta sauce and water. Bring to a boil over high heat. Stir in uncooked rotini and return to a boil. Reduce heat to medium and cook covered, stirring occasionally, 14 minutes or until rotini is tender. Remove from heat, then sprinkle with cheese. Cover and let stand 5 minutes or until cheese is melted.

Nutrition Information per serving: Calories 490, Calories From Fat 110, Saturated Fat 5g, Trans Fat 0g, Total Fat 12g, Cholesterol 85mg, Sodium 670mg, Total Carbohydrate 54g, Sugars 8g, Dietary Fiber 5g, Protein 38g, Vitamin A 2 percent, Vitamin C 4 percent, Calcium 20 percent, Iron 30 percent

Putting wholesome food on the table that your family will enjoy doesn't have to take hours to prepare. Registered dietitian and author, Felicia Stoler, offers some simple recipes and tips on how to add more flavor and nutrition into your meals, making meal prep stress-free and fun for the family.

— Keep your pantry stocked and plan ahead. A pasta meal typically takes less than 30 minutes to make. Ragu Old World Style Traditional pasta sauce now has a new, thicker recipe with two servings of vegetables in every half cup. Add some pre-cut fresh, frozen or canned greens as a side dish, and you have a veggie-packed meal.

— Include your kids in the cooking process. This is a great way to spend quality time with your children and teach them the skill of cooking. They love to feel like they can contribute to their family, plus — many kids will eat what they make.

— Use leftovers for lunch. The Ragu No Frying Chicken Parmesan is a classic dish that will help save time. After dinnertime, pack it in a small container or prepare in a hero sandwich for lunch the next day to make less work (and stress) in the morning.

For more tips and recipes, visit www.ragu.com or www.facebook.com/ragusauce.



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6 servings

Prep Time: 20 minutes

Cook Time: 20 minutes

1½ pounds lean ground beef

4 slices whole grain bread, torn into small pieces

2 eggs

1 jar (1 pound 10 ounces) Ragu Old World Style Pasta Sauce, divided

¼ teaspoons Italian seasoning

¼ teaspoons garlic powder

12 ounces spaghetti, cooked and drained

Combine ground beef, bread, eggs, ½ cup pasta sauce, Italian seasoning and garlic powder in medium bowl; shape into 18 meatballs.

Bring remaining pasta sauce to a boil over medium-high heat in 12-inch skillet. Gently stir in uncooked meatballs. Reduce heat to low and simmer covered, stirring occasionally, 20 minutes or until meatballs are done. Serve over hot spaghetti.

TIP: Try adding a cube of mozzarella cheese to the center of each meatball for an easy but fun recipe twist.

Nutrition Information per serving: Calories 480, Calories From Fat 90, Saturated Fat 3g, Trans Fat 0.5g, Total Fat 10g, Cholesterol 130mg, Sodium 630mg, Total Carbohydrate 61g, Sugars 10g, Dietary Fiber 6g, Protein 36g, Vitamin A 2 percent, Vitamin C 4 percent, Calcium 6 percent, Iron 30 percent.

— Courtesy Family Features



Skillet Pasta & Beef Dinner



Sweet & spicy ribs warm up fall feasts

Just because the weather is getting cooler doesn't mean you have to pack the grill away for the season. Fall is a perfect time to prepare a mouth-watering spread on the deck or in the backyard. And whether you're tailgating, having weekend guests or just craving the tastes and smells of the grill, Chili-Glazed Beef Ribs are a great dish for everyone. Sweet with brown sugar and molasses and spicy, with a little help from Tabasco sauce, these ribs will disappear lickity split!

CHILI-GLAZED BEEF RIBS

Serves 6

- 4 pounds beef back ribs
- 4 teaspoons original Tabasco brand pepper sauce, divided
- ½ cup ketchup
- ½ cup molasses
- ½ cup white balsamic vinegar
- 1 tablespoon brown sugar
- ½ teaspoon salt
- Preheat oven to 325° F.
- Brush ribs with 2 teaspoons Tabasco sauce. Place in large roasting pan. Cover tightly with foil; bake 1½ hours.
- Meanwhile, in small saucepan, combine ketchup, molasses, vinegar, brown sugar, remaining 2 teaspoons Tabasco sauce

and salt. Heat to a boil over high heat; reduce heat to low; simmer, uncovered about 5 minutes to blend flavors.

Preheat grill to medium-low over indirect heat. Brush ribs on both sides with sauce. Place ribs on grill; meat-side down. Cover and continue cooking 15 minutes. Turn ribs over; brush with more sauce. Cook 15 minutes longer, or until ribs are tender. Serve ribs with grilled bell peppers, if desired.

Note: If you prefer, substitute one 4-pound slab pork spare ribs in place of beef ribs. Prepare as above.

- Courtesy Family Features

Thick fall sweaters and cozy pants are no excuse to let your craving for comfort food expand your waistline. To keep your appetite at bay during the cool months of autumn, swap traditional baking ingredients with versions that can help you enjoy favorite baked goods without interfering with your weight goals. Read on for a few quick tips and new products that can help you stay on track.

To make over some of those high-fat fall baking favorites, try these quick substitutions:

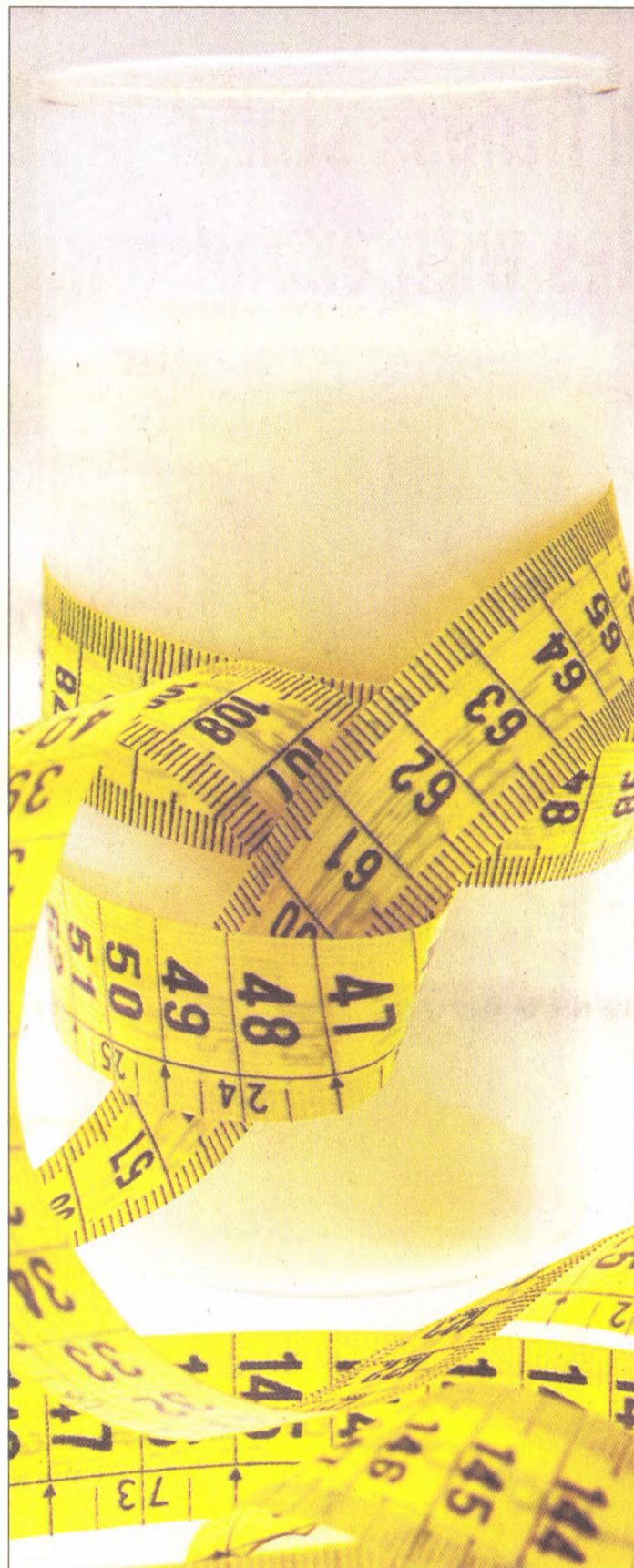
- 1 cup whole milk: 1 cup skim milk
- 1 cup butter or oil: ½ cup applesauce
- 1 egg: 2 egg whites
- 1 cup cream cheese: 1 cup lower-calorie cream spread for cooking, such as Weight Watchers Reduced Fat Cream Cheese Spread
- 1 cup heavy cream: 1 cup evaporated skim milk

Smart substitutions can help you cut calories by more than half. The basic banana bread slice, for example, contains an average of 325 calories and 12 grams of fat, and fruity bread or carrot cake might sound healthy but can be surprisingly high in fat and cholesterol. Fortunately, a few tweaks on these American favorites can help you cut calories by half.

Simply replace eggs with low-calorie egg beaters, butter with no-sugar-added applesauce, and add whole-wheat flour to your regular banana bread all-purpose flour (mix 1¼ cups whole-wheat and ¼ cup all-purpose flour for a large-loaf pan). And if you are a carrot cake fan, you don't have to skimp on the frosting if you use a rich low-calorie reduced-fat cream cheese. For example, Weight Watchers' new 8-ounce cream cheese spread contains 40 percent less fat than regular cream cheese and is perfect for cooking.

To enjoy warm baked goods and keep everyone in good shape also try serving a veggie quiche instead of a pie. When making a quiche, use fat-free milk, olive oil and low-fat cheese to keep it on the healthier side. Try this recipe for a delicious warm treat that the whole family will love.

Fall Baking



THREE ONION AND SWISS QUICHE

Makes 8 servings

- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- ¾ cup diced leek, white part only
- ½ cup sliced shallots
- 1 cup sliced sweet onions
- 1 10-inch unbaked pie crust
- 4 slices Weight Watchers Swiss Cheese slices, cut into thin strips
- 6 ounces Weight Watchers Reduced Fat Cream Cheese Spread
- ¾ cup fat-free milk
- 4 eggs
- ½ teaspoon Tabasco sauce
- Kosher salt and pepper to taste

Preheat oven to 350°F. Heat olive oil over medium heat in large skillet; cook leek, shallots and onion until softened or about five minutes. Set aside. Line pie crust with foil and pastry beads or rice; bake 8 minutes. Carefully remove foil. Place crust on rimmed baking pan. Place onion mixture and Swiss cheese in baked crust. Beat cream cheese and egg in mixing bowl until smooth. Gradually beat in milk, Tabasco, and salt and pepper to taste, beating until smooth; pour into pie crust. Bake 45 minutes or until knife inserted near center comes out clean. Let stand 15 minutes before serving.

- Courtesy Family Features

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Plymouth fitness studio flexes its muscles with expansion

BY MATT JACHMAN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Despite the uncertain economy, a fitness studio in downtown Plymouth is strengthening its business as well as its clients.

Core Sport Pilates Fitness Studio, which opened on Penniman three years ago this month, has more than tripled its size with the opening of a second location on Main Street. The new 1,700-square-foot space is on the second floor, above Compari's on the Park, and accessed via the restaurant's takeout entrance across the alley from the downtown parking deck.

The move allowed Core Sport to offer more fitness classes with larger class sizes, which brought down the cost of those classes, said studio owner Jamie White.

"We didn't want to sacrifice the quality, we just wanted to make it more affordable," White said.

Equipment from the original location was moved up to the new location, White said. That freed up space at the Penniman site for larger classes, which are usually between eight and 12 people. Class sizes of 12 or less allow for individual instruction from the trainer, White said.

At the new location, equipment was added to what was moved from the Penniman site, and showers installed — something studio regulars had been seeking, White said. At the new space, trainers focus on private, duet and small-group (three to five people) training.

Pilates is an exercise system, pioneered by Joseph Pilates (1883-1967), that emphasizes controlled, natural movements and a strong body core. White, who is certified as a teacher of teachers by the U.S. Pilates Association, was trained in "classical" Pilates in New York City, but Core Sport offers more than just Pilates: yoga poses are used in some classes,



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Instructor Donna Collins works with Kelli Hatfield, who is a massage therapist at the studio.

and the new location has free weights and stationary bicycles.

Hoping to save money and lessen the expansion's environmental impact, White opted for "green" materials at the new studio, including a floor consisting of 80 percent recycled rubber, water-saving bathroom and shower fixtures, recycled tiling and energy-efficient indirect fluorescent lighting.

"We wanted to do as much as we possibly could on the green scale, because we knew, it would save us in the long term," and because, while running a business focused on health, White didn't want to ignore the health of the planet, either, she said.

As it turned out, the cost

of the "green" materials was competitive with traditional materials, White said, except for the lighting. And even the lighting, because of its lower energy use, will pay for itself within a year, she said.

White credited the fitness trainers she employs and a helpful downtown business environment with giving her the opportunity to expand Core Fitness.

"I'm very happy that we've been able to grow in the last three years," she said. "The downtown Plymouth community has been very supportive and very helpful with the growth of our business. We're very fortunate to be where we are."

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

BUSINESS BRIEFS

JCI honored

Plymouth's Johnson Controls has been recognized as a 2010 "Corporation of the Year" by the Michigan Minority Supplier Development Council for its outstanding achievements in developing diverse supplier companies.

This year marks the 11th time in the past 15 years Johnson Controls has gained this award from the MMSDC. The organization's representatives recently presented Johnson Controls with the award at its 27th annual awards dinner, "Celebrate the Stars of Supplier Diversity." The event, which was attended by more than 1,500 people, was held at the Max Fisher Center in Detroit. Jim Bos, vice president of Purchasing - North America, Automotive Experience for Johnson Controls, accepted the award.

Johnson Controls has operated an innovative program to recruit and develop diverse suppliers since the early 1990s. The company is a member of the "Billion Dollar Roundtable" that includes just 17 companies that spend \$1 billion annually with diverse suppliers, covering more than 50 purchasing categories.

The Corporation of the Year recognition earned by Johnson Controls was for companies in the Manufacturing Sector 1 of MMSDC. It is presented to firms that actively include certified minority business enterprises (MBEs) suppliers in their procurement opportunities; assist in the development of minority suppliers; and promote supplier diversity and



Making a difference

October is National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, and once again Molly Maid of Plymouth/Farmington will donate a portion of service fees from each home that it cleans to the Ms. Molly Foundation, a non-profit organization that provides assistance to local domestic violence shelters and organizations. At the end of October, the money collected nationally will be totalled and disbursed to participating Molly Maid locations in the form of a grant. Molly Maid of Plymouth/Farmington will use its grant money from the Making a Difference Drive to benefit First Step of Wayne County, whose mission is to reduce the incidence of domestic and sexual violence and to provide services to individuals affected by these crimes. Tax-deductible monetary contributions can be made by check, payable to the Ms. Molly Foundation and sent to Molly Maid at 36977 Amrhein, Livonia, MI 48150. Last year's drive raised almost \$147,000.

business development within their corporation and to their vendors and other businesses and organizations. Johnson Controls spent \$678,437,476 with 292 certified MBEs in 2009.

Weight loss seminar

Learn how eating foods like organic produce and grass fed beef can reset your body's system and find out how and what foods impact your weight gain/loss metabolism at a free weight loss seminar at The Better Health Market, 44427 Ann Arbor Road in Plymouth,

7 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 26.

Dr. Julie TwoMoon of the Breathing Waters Health Center will present a program titled "Maximum Results" - An Age Reversal Weight Loss Program utilizing HCG. TwoMoon will introduce her model for successful weight loss that includes appetite balancing, and knowing what foods to eat, so you won't gain the weight back.

Reservations are recommended. To RSVP for this free health-based weight loss seminar, call The Better Health Market at (734) 455-1440.

CHAMBER CHAT

Benefit concert

Yazaki North America, Inc., of Canton presents a concert to benefit the United Way 6-10 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 28, at the Plymouth Roc Bar, 1020 Ann Arbor Road in Plymouth.

Three bands will be playing. Proceeds from 50/50 drawings and a portion of patrons' food and/or drink bill will go toward United Way of Southeast Michigan.

Health care presentation

The Canton Economic Development Office hosts a Health Care Reform Presentation for local businesses 8:30 a.m. Tuesday, Nov. 16, at The Summit on the Park in Canton.

Admission is free. Topics include Health Insurance Reforms and Group Plan changes, Grandfathered Plan Concepts, Employer Obligations, Cafeteria Plan Changes and Long Term Care Insurance.

Millionaires Party

Participants have the chance to be a millionaire at the Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce's After Hours 5-7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 27, at Monroe Band & Trust, 706 S. Main, in Plymouth.

Each person who arrives prior to 7 p.m. will be given an envelope that could give you the opportunity to win millions of dollars. Ten of those envelopes will contain a lottery ticket and, hopefully, a few winners. Participants can open the envelope if they leave early or open them with everyone else at 7 p.m.

The event will also provide members a great opportunity to network with each other in a relaxed setting. The sponsor, Monroe Bank & Trust, will provide hors d'oeuvres, beer and wine.

Anyone interested in attending can e-mail teri@plymouthmich.org or call (734) 453-1540. There is no fee to attend this event.

Auction excitement

It's time to go to the movies this year for the Chamber of Commerce's Annual Meeting, Dinner and Gala Auction, set for 6-11 p.m. Friday, Nov. 5, at Laurel Manor in Livonia.

Walk the red carpet with over 400 attendees and join the chamber for a star-studded

night at a Hollywood style party with live and silent auctions and raffles. Tickets are \$75 and include food, drinks, and dancing.

New this year:

- Pay for your tickets prior to Oct. 15 and receive \$10 of free auction raffle tickets.
- Guests can dress in cocktail attire or come as their favorite movie character. There will be a costume contest with an "Oscarete" for the winner.

- New types of sponsorships are available that provide added recognition and include tickets to the event. Platinum table sponsorships are still \$975.

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

Candidate page

In an attempt to help voters and chamber members understand where candidates stand on important issues related to business, the Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce has created a page on its website featuring the candidates running for the Michigan House 20th District and Michigan Senate 7th District.

Both of the seats are open contests this year. There are bios on the candidates along with their answers to 5 key business questions and short videos they recorded for our YouTube channel. With jobs and the economy being the number one issue in this election, we wanted to provide a quick and succinct format for voters to be able to evaluate the candidate's positions regarding our economic future.

We hope this provides a useful tool and encourages our members to share the link with others. The page can be seen at http://www.plymouthmich.org/chamber/2010-Candidate-Forum_1103.html.

Penn classics

October is "Shocktober" month at the Penn Theatre for their Thursday Classics.

This month's features include:

- Oct. 21 — The Wolf Man (1941)
- Oct. 28 — Abbott and Costello Meet the Mummy (1953)

The box office opens at 6:30 p.m. with movies starting at 7 p.m. All seats are \$3. For more information, visit www.penntheatre.com.



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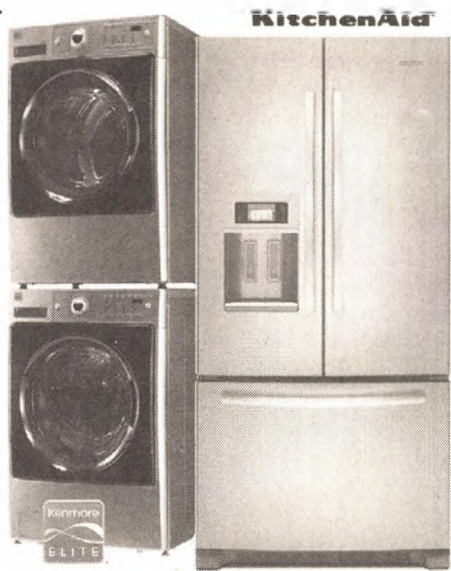
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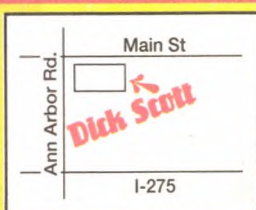
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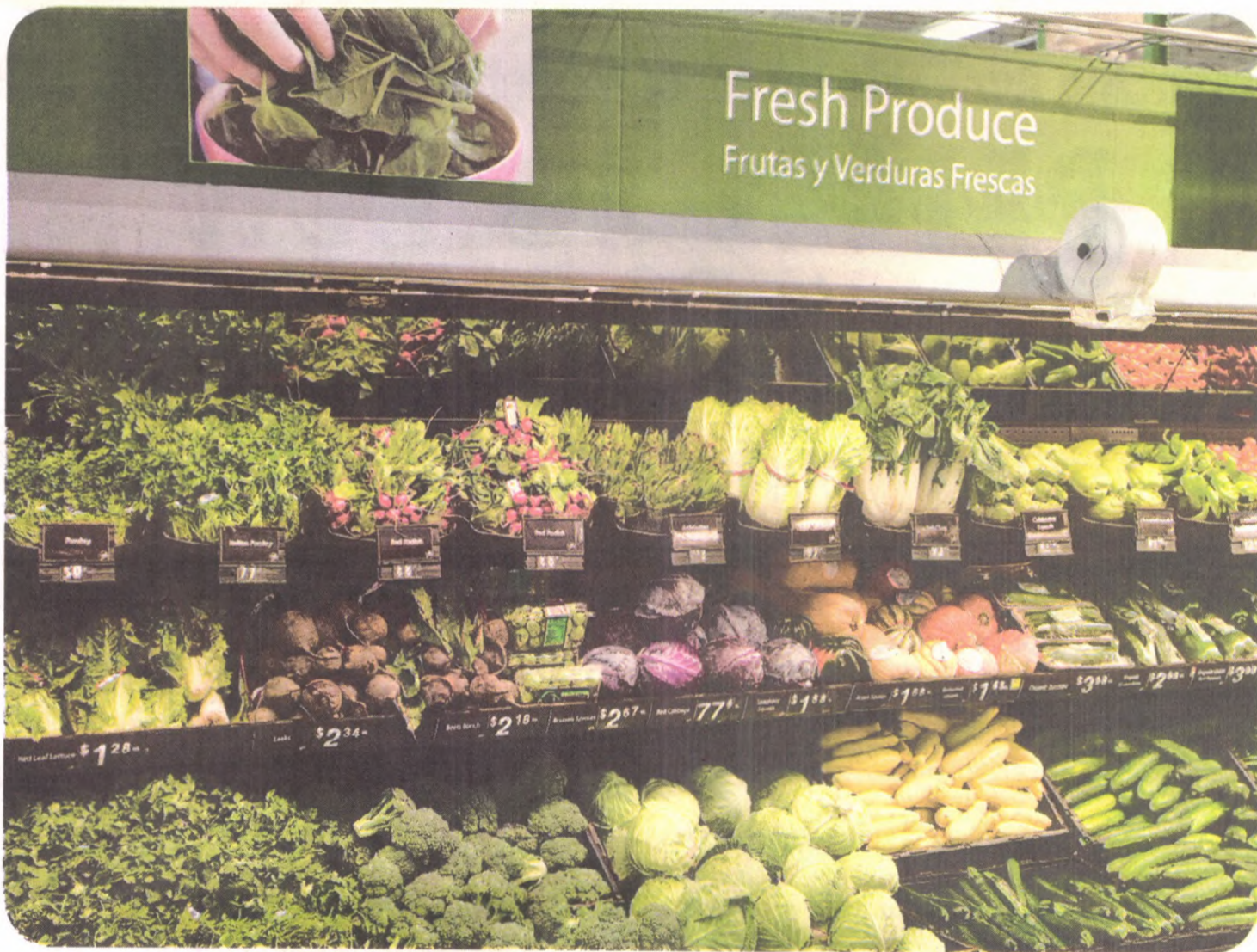
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SECTION C (*) Thursday, October 21, 2010

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Check the details on a short sale, be a smart consumer, pros say

BY JULIE BROWN
 O&E STAFF WRITER

Realtor Noel Derr-Johnson of Century 21 Dynamic in Westland agrees short sales call for cautious buyers.

"As a buyer and as a seller, you need to be very patient and have reasonable expectations," said Derr-Johnson, a Westland resident.

You won't get rich quickly, she added.

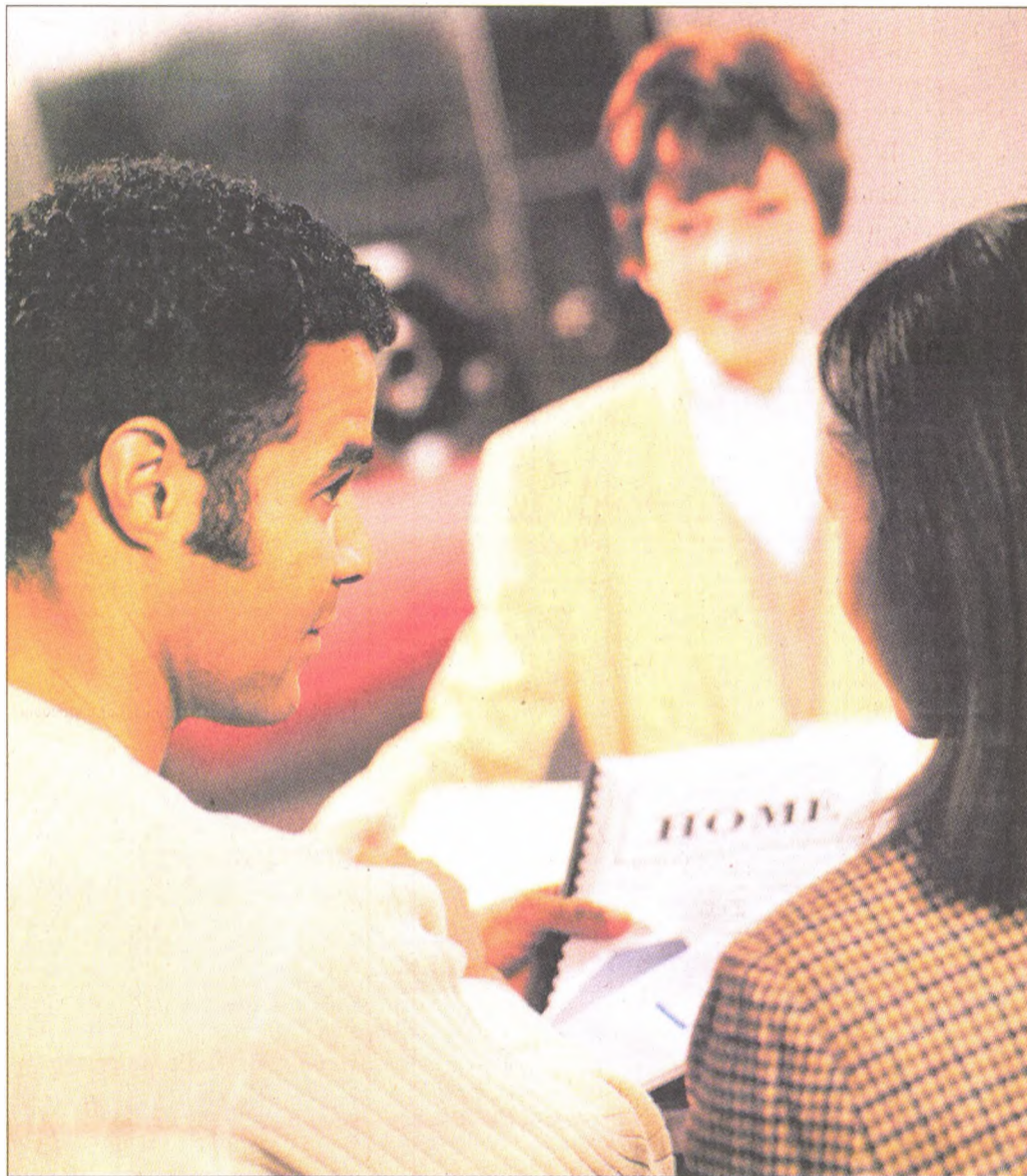
Patrick Bennett, director of community relations for the Better Business Bureau Serving Eastern Michigan, agrees.

"Buyers need to realize the time it may take for these to go through," said Bennett, a Livonia resident. "The lender is still in control. The seller may accept the offer even though the lender may not."

"Another important piece is the homes are sold as is," he said. If a home inspector says certain repair work needs to be done, it probably won't be taken care of by the seller.

"They're most likely not going to be able to take care of the things that need to be done," Bennett said. The BBB recommends a buyer put money in an escrow account to cover such work. A title search is also recommended for a short sale.

The Southfield-based BBB gets some consumer complaints on short sales.



"The biggest problem is the experience of the agent. They're having difficulty

selling regular homes." Some may lack experience in short sales, so Bennett recom-

mends the consumer check an agent's experience/background.

"Is the agent willing to work on a short sale?" is one basic question to ask. "They may have had a bad experience in the past," Bennett said. Such sales take longer to do, so an agent may be reluctant and also gets less commission.

Bennett recommends checking with the BBB on the agent and real estate company. The BBB consumer number is (248) 223-9400 or www.bbb.org online.

Century 21 Dynamic's Derr-Johnson said, "It's dictated by a financial hardship, typically," of short sales in which the sale proceeds fall short of the balance owed on the property's loan. They often occur when a borrower cannot pay the mortgage.

"Sometimes they don't get appraisals," the Realtor added. "It's unfortunate."

"She's saying everything right on," said Mary McGaw, a mortgage loan officer with Bank of America. "It can take months for short sales to be approved."

"Too many people are trying to do short sales when they shouldn't be," added McGaw, a Westland resident.

"There's no guarantees," Derr-Johnson said. "You put all your eggs in one basket." A buyer may waste time not looking at other properties.

"Now they've missed an opportunity to buy," Derr-Johnson said.

Tapes can be downfall

Q: One of our board members likes to tape record our meetings and there is some controversy among the board members about the feasibility and advisability of it. Do you have any comments?

A: In my experience with community associations and other types of organizations, audio recordings and verbatim transcripts generally lead to trouble for several reasons. First, members mistake the recordings and transcripts for, or let them take the place of, minutes, which they are not. Such detail almost always

leads to unneeded procedural and political issues. Minutes in its purest form under most parliamentary manuals is a record of what was done at

the meeting, not what was said. Moreover, once an electronic recording exists and a dispute arises or litigation starts, there is little that can be done other than to preserve the recording. Almost certainly, a judge will have to rule as to its relevancy and admissibility. I am aware of instances where a court reporter transcribed such a recording and nonrelevant portions were redacted (edited out). In any event, if you have any idea of what motions will come up at a meeting, a good secretary can prepare the minutes before the meeting except for whether motions are passed or failed. As President Nixon once learned, having a tape recording can be your downfall.

Q: We bought our house about five years ago when the homeowners association was in a lawsuit with the developer and the management company. We quit paying our dues and escrowed them. Also, at our closing there was no contract presented concerning the association or any bylaws. Do we have an obligation to pay assessments, and, what do we do about the fact that they are not taking care of the common grounds maintenance?

A: It is hard to say from your question whether you actually bought into a condominium or a homeowners association. It would appear that because there was a suit against the management company and the developer that you may well have bought what is proverbially referred to as a "site" condo. In the Condominium Act, a section which I drafted, precludes you from holding back assessments for the failure of the association to provide services or management. However, you can bring a separate action against the association for mismanagement. The fact that there was no reference to the bylaws at closing probably does not mean that you are not obligated to pay assessments in an HOA, depending upon the documents and definitely would not mean that in a condominium association. You are in need of a good community association lawyer.

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

HOMES SOLD-WAYNE

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of July 6-9, 2010, at the Wayne County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

Canton	
8460 Alton St	\$128,000
156 Brittany Dr	\$165,000
45709 Bryn Mawr Rd	\$215,000
50665 Colchester Ct	\$465,000
47198 Eastbourne Rd	\$312,000
40270 Finley Dr	\$170,000
46253 Gainsborough Dr	\$161,000
41484 Glade Rd	\$135,000
45657 Graystone Ln	\$99,000
7305 Haverhill Ct S	\$390,000
1686 Heritage Dr	\$122,000
1695 N Beck Rd	\$40,000
2230 N Woods Ct	\$218,000
47854 Pavilion Rd	\$386,000
244 Queen Anne Dr	\$385,000
48491 Rockefeller Dr	\$296,000
48715 Rockefeller Dr	\$316,000
5902 Runnymede Dr	\$178,000
41961 Sartz Rd	\$170,000
42621 Somersset Dr	\$159,000
43599 W Arbor Way Dr	\$49,000

43611 Westminster Way	\$135,000
48251 Whitney Ct	\$330,000
1965 Woodmont Ct	\$165,000
Garden City	
28622 Birchlawn St	\$52,000
28952 Dawson St	\$15,000
28535 Elmwood St	\$31,000
5651 Harrison St	\$65,000
651 Helen St	\$89,000
33451 Kathryn St	\$40,000
31035 Marquette St	\$28,000
348 Radcliff St	\$50,000
617 Radcliff St	\$81,000
28987 Rush St	\$55,000
32246 Windsor St	\$103,000
32288 Windsor St	\$70,000
Livonia	
34020 Angeline Ave	\$138,000
9369 California St	\$102,000
36220 Club Dr	\$73,000
34237 Coventry Dr	\$158,000
17170 Deering St	\$112,000
19602 Deering St	\$77,000
36512 Dowling St	\$130,000
36520 Dowling St	\$123,000
9351 Eastwind Dr	\$122,000
34946 Elmira St	\$117,000
19144 Fairlane Ct	\$230,000
5902 Runnymede Dr	\$178,000
36192 Fairway Dr	\$63,000
20613 Golf Ridge Cir	\$275,000
30463 Grandon St	\$123,000

38966 Grennada St	\$100,000
39096 Grennada St	\$116,000
9239 Idaho St	\$101,000
35973 Leon St	\$93,000
14845 Melrose St	\$140,000
34621 Navin Ave	\$350,000
19389 Norwich Rd	\$207,000
15675 Oporto St	\$165,000
35645 Parkdale St	\$127,000
29651 Robert Dr	\$105,000
14755 Ronnie Ln	\$139,000
28999 Roycroft Dr	\$79,000
37366 Saint Martins St	\$230,000
9941 Seltzer St	\$100,000
17462 Sunset St	\$135,000
14815 Yale St	\$131,000
Northville	
43555 Six Mile Rd	\$170,000
20240 Beck Rd	\$357,000
18399 Bella Vista Ct	\$1,460,000
18300 Blue Heron Pointe Dr	\$335,000
44682 Broadmoor Cir N	\$335,000
39473 Edgewater Dr	\$209,000
16460 Franklin Rd	\$180,000
39834 Golfview Dr	\$435,000
44067 Greenview Ln	\$455,000
116 High St	\$308,000
17330 Hilltop View Dr	\$445,000
41848 Ladywood Dr	\$220,000
16304 Lincoln Dr	\$20,000
16358 Mulberry Way	\$20,000
19789 Pierson Dr	\$383,000

20633 Woodbend Dr	\$312,000
Plymouth	
609 Adams St	\$195,000
15187 Amber Ct	\$180,000
817 Deer Ct	\$114,000
50555 Elmwood Ct	\$327,000
40807 Ivywood Ln	\$175,000
13285 Latheron Dr	\$340,000
1531 Lexington St	\$110,000
11353 Morgan Ave	\$134,000
679 N Harvey St	\$100,000
12534 Pinecrest Dr	\$156,000
433 Provincetown Ln	\$94,000
364 Red Ryder Dr	\$172,000
379 Red Ryder Dr	\$187,000
546 Roe St	\$104,000
12410 Wendover Dr	\$320,000
806 York St	\$80,000
Redford	
9198 Appleton	\$63,000
11387 Arnold	\$60,000
11761 Columbia	\$54,000
16222 Delaware Ave	\$45,000
19343 Delaware Ave	\$79,000
17318 Denby	\$71,000
26331 Dow	\$88,000
9967 Farley	\$68,000
14234 Garfield	\$100,000
18685 Gaylord	\$70,000
17280 Inkster Rd	\$50,000
15512 Kinloch	\$40,000
18255 Lexington	\$52,000

18705 Lexington	\$63,000
8926 Mercedes	\$85,000
9632 Nathalie	\$43,000
19435 Norborne	\$13,000
16102 Ryland	\$130,000
13957 San Jose	\$28,000
9947 Virgil	\$50,000
17237 Wakenend	\$50,000
14118 Westgate Dr	\$55,000
Westland	
7560 August Ave	\$99,000
38626 Avondale St	\$64,000
37545 Barkridge Cir	\$38,000
36731 Canyon Dr	\$135,000
6758 Caribou St	\$68,000
37044 Condor Ct	\$101,000
7661 Flamingo St	\$95,000
32456 Hazelwood St	\$62,000
8417 Liberty Blvd	\$113,000
30511 Lonnie Blvd	\$50,000
30841 Lonnie Blvd	\$56,000
38452 Loruss Ave	\$103,000
7640 Louise Ct	\$102,000
7441 N Kingston Ct	\$75,000
37668 S Butler Cir	\$122,000
445 S Norma St	\$115,000
35040 Sheffield St	\$25,000
38565 Warren Rd	\$110,000
38565 Warren Rd	\$131,000
6061 Wilmer St	\$55,000
33666 Yuma St	\$86,000

HOMES SOLD-OAKLAND

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of July 6-9, 2010, at the Oakland County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

30879 Lincolnshire W	\$220,000
17022 Madoline St	\$120,000

Bingham Farms	
30750 Bristol Ln	\$325,000
Birmingham	
1313 Lakeside Dr	\$425,000
1111 N Old Woodward Ave	\$168,000
1389 Pilgrim Ave	\$310,000
Bloomfield Hills	
250 Cranbrook Rd	\$1,050,000
3452 Balfour Dr	\$486,000
Bloomfield Township	
2745 Courville Dr	\$149,000
1085 Dorchester Ave	\$75,000
685 E Fox Hills Dr	\$20,000
1020 Greentree Rd	\$775,000
460 Laurelwood Ct	\$630,000
2388 Mulberry Rd	\$135,000

968 Sandhurst Rd	\$354,000
801 W Long Lake Rd	\$50,000
445 Wadsworth Ln	\$425,000
Commerce Township	
125 Cardinal St	\$120,000
8033 Cooley Lake Rd	\$131,000
3857 Ellisia Rd	\$135,000
4971 Knollcrest Ct	\$350,000
3467 Newton Rd	\$810,000
1150 Penarth Ct	\$50,000
6184 Venice Dr	\$120,000
Farmington	
22820 Brookdale St	\$67,000
33165 Cloverdale Ave	\$103,000
36915 Heatherton Dr	\$170,000
33325 Shiawassee Rd	\$276,000

24130 Twin Valley Ct	\$158,000
23215 Violet St	\$70,000
Farmington Hills	
22283 Atlantic Pointe	\$45,000
29406 Bradmoor Ct	\$548,000
36861 Elix Ct	\$260,000
21214 Flanders St	\$64,000
38560 Glastonberry	\$109,000
29378 Glen Oaks Blvd W	\$91,000
28115 Rollcrest Rd	\$266,000
32121 W 12 Mile Rd	\$47,000
Milford	
910 Larivee Ln	\$245,000
935 S Duck Lake Rd	\$157,000
Novi	
25969 Arcadia Dr	\$400,000

41958 Aspen Dr	\$270,000
42006 Aspen Dr	\$270,000
41484 Belden Cir	\$112,000
22724 Bertram Dr	\$325,000
45000 Drocton Ct	\$247,000
25881 Glenmoor	\$264,000
42017 Loganberry Rdg S	\$159,000
24507 Park Ridge Ct	\$170,000
31055 Seneca Ln	\$103,000
901 South Lake Dr	\$70,000
23785 Stonehenge Blvd	\$53,000
24389 Thatcher Dr	\$390,000
South Lyon	
26303 Daria Cir W	\$80,000
26335 Shumans Way	\$294,000
405 Walnut Dr	\$188,000
Southfield	
27189 Arlington Dr	\$86,000
18720 Capitol Dr	\$55,000
25062 Champlain Dr	\$26,000
29609 Everett St	\$17,000
18787 Hilton Dr	\$100,000
28384 Lady K Ct	\$160,000
28910 Murray Crescent Dr	\$72,000
23699 Plumbrooke Dr	\$57,000
25630 Southfield Rd	\$25,000
White Lake	
681 Akehurst Ln	\$275,000
9651 Steephollow Dr	\$298,000
8140 Vanden Dr	\$136,000

REAL ESTATE BRIEFS

Investors

Real Estate Investors Association of Oakland will offer a workshop Saturday, Oct. 23. Andy Heller will cover: how to buy bank-owned foreclosures before they are listed on MLS, before anyone else has a chance to buy them; how to rent your properties in days or weeks; how to sell for top dollar.

The workshop will be 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. in Royal Oak, Michigan at the Senior Center at 3500 Marias (between 13 Mile and 14 Mile and between Crooks and Main). More information: <http://www.reiaofoakland.com/heller201009.html> or (800) 747-6742. Cost is \$20.

BIA

Building Industry Association of Southeastern Michigan (BIA) will present a Certified Graduate course, "Sales & Marketing For Remodelers," on Wednesday, Nov. 17, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Association Offices, 2075 Walnut Lake Road, West Bloomfield. Chuck Breidenstein, CAPS, of Builders

Professional Group, will present the course on how to survive and thrive in today's business environment with a continuous supply of clients and leads. Course graduates will be able to use the benefits of marketing for the growth of their businesses, to generate and qualify sales leads, make effective presentations and sales calls, implement strategies to gain agreement and close sales, and provide exceptional customer service leading toward satisfied customers.

This course counts toward National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) Certified Graduate Associate (CGA), Certified Graduate Builder (CGB) and Certified Graduate Remodeler (CGR) designations. It also counts toward continuing education credit for CGA, CGB, CGR, Certified Aging-In-Place Specialist and other NAHB designations. Registration is \$175 per person for members of the NAHBR Professional Remodelers Council, \$195 per person for BIA members and \$225 per person for guests. For registration information, call (248) 862-1002 or register online at www.builders.org.

Real Estate Sales and Appraising

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

Seminar on Tuesdays

A free Reverse Mortgage Seminar is 6:30 p.m. every Tuesday at Colonial Mortgage Corp., 33919 Plymouth Road, Livonia. No obligation. Learn about reverse mortgages. RSVP with Larry Brady at (800) 260-5484, Ext. 33.

Free Foreclosure Tours

Free Foreclosure Tours are 1 p.m. every other Sunday. Meeting place is Panera Bread on the southeast corner of Middlebelt and I-96. E-mail Georgia@addedvaluerealty.com or visit FreeForeclosureTour.com.

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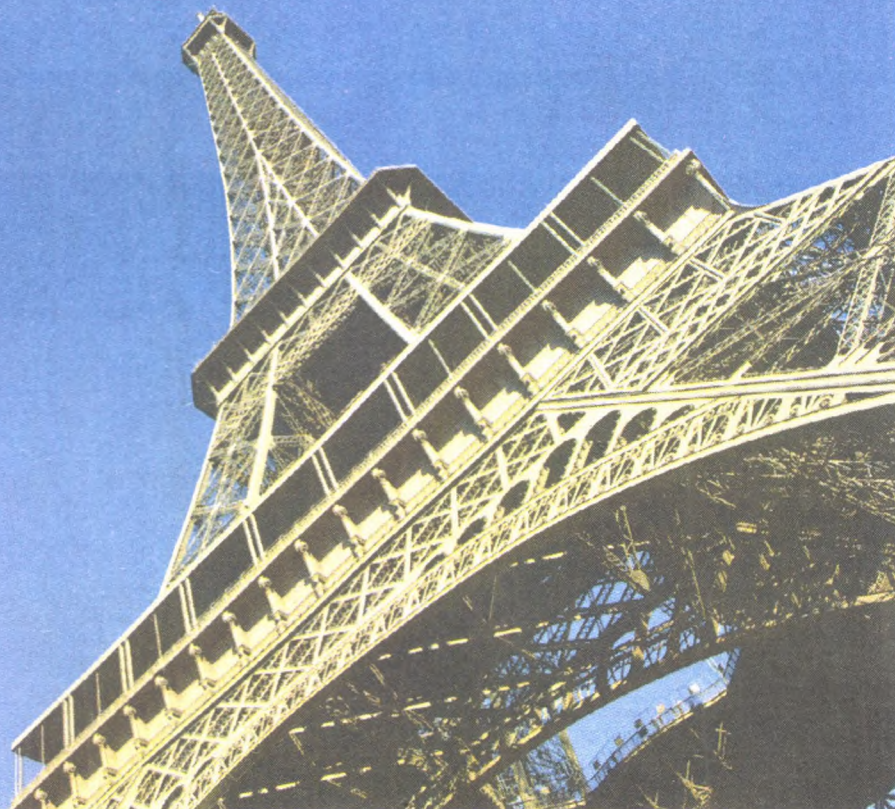


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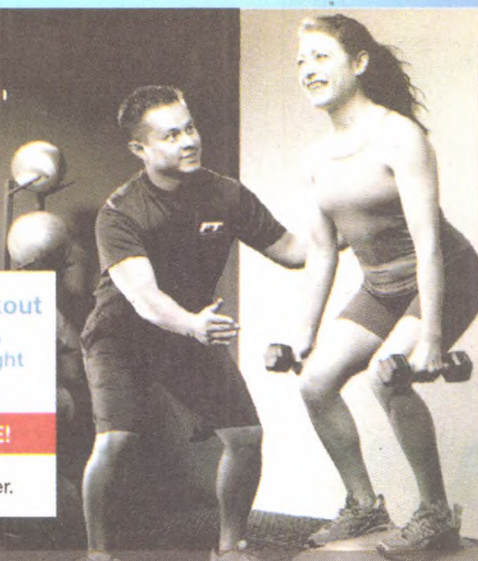
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Enjoy Halloween all 'season' long

I love Halloween. Candy, roasted pumpkin seeds, costume parties, scary movies, ghost stores, haunted houses, candied apples – I love it all.

The voices of goblins and gremlins soon will be filling the fall air as young and old grasp the spirit of the Halloween season. Yes, I did say season. In recent years the traditional one night stand, reserved for costumed children gathering candy door-to-door, has evolved into a month-long celebration of sorts.



Homes throughout the area have been decked out with pumpkins, lights, ghost, goblins, graveyards and ghouls for weeks now. Local residents are joining the 86 percent of Americans who now decorate for this season, spending \$2.5 billion.

I look forward to the trick-or-treaters and the parade of characters that will appear at my door. For many years, I took my station at the door in my "Elvira" costume to pass out treats. Meanwhile, my husband, in full Halloween regalia, shepherded our costumed son throughout the neighborhood.

In recent years, my family has settled for simply decorating with jack-o-lanterns and door decorations (a smiling, friendly witch) or a scary (not) CD to greet the neighbor kids. I am assisted by our black cat who enjoys surprising young guests at the door. He does love to watch the activity – but at a safe distance, down the hallway from our front door, of course.

Business data demonstrates that an ever-growing number of people share the love of this holiday inherited from our northern European cousins. One-quarter of all the candy sold annually in the United States is purchased for Halloween. Chocolate holds the lead at 52 percent with hard candy and coming in at 30 percent while gum and various other candies round out the favorites.

A survey by the National Retail Federation reports that \$1.5 billion will be spent on costumes for children, adults and pets. Two out of five Americans plan to wear a costume this year, up from one-third last year, and about 11.5 percent of consumers will dress up their pets, according to the survey. And Americans will spend an average of \$66.28 on Halloween, including \$23.37 on a costume, \$20.29 on candy and \$18.66 on decorations.

Be sure to read about decorating for fall and Halloween inside today's *inspire*. Our story tells you how to segue your Halloween decorations into harvest themes and beyond.

And there are plenty of other Halloween-inspired stories including special recipes, local activities and more.

Halloween falls on a Sunday this year, which is great for kids, adults and businesses too!

But if Halloween is not your thing, there's still lots to read in today's *inspire* including "How to plan winter travel," "Prepping your home for fall" and winter and "Pet Wellness: keep furry friends happy, healthy."

For all of the Halloween lovers out there, happy haunting. Have a safe, fun-filled Halloween.

Susan Rosiek
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Transition your displays from fall through Thanksgiving

By SALLY RUMMEL
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Don't be spooked by even the thought of Halloween decorating. Even if you're not into the ghoulish aspects of this ghostly holiday, you can incorporate just a few of your favorite Halloween things into a simple autumn display that will transition your home decor from harvest through Thanksgiving.

"We like to buy things for the store that our customers can use for a variety of different seasons," said Kathy Magaluk, owner of Acorn Farm in downtown Milford. "When you can use something more than just one way, it's much easier to make that purchase."

The basis of autumn/Halloween decorating can start with a simple pumpkin, whether you use the "garden variety" for your display or have a favorite ceramic or artificial pumpkin. One easy, inexpensive idea is using a set of three albino pumpkins to make a dramatic statement in just about any room of the house, when individual letters "B-O-O" are painted in black on each one.

Especially popular this year are heirloom pumpkins, which break the "round orange" mold of traditional pumpkins by offering different shapes, textures and unlikely colors like salmon, blue-gray and green.

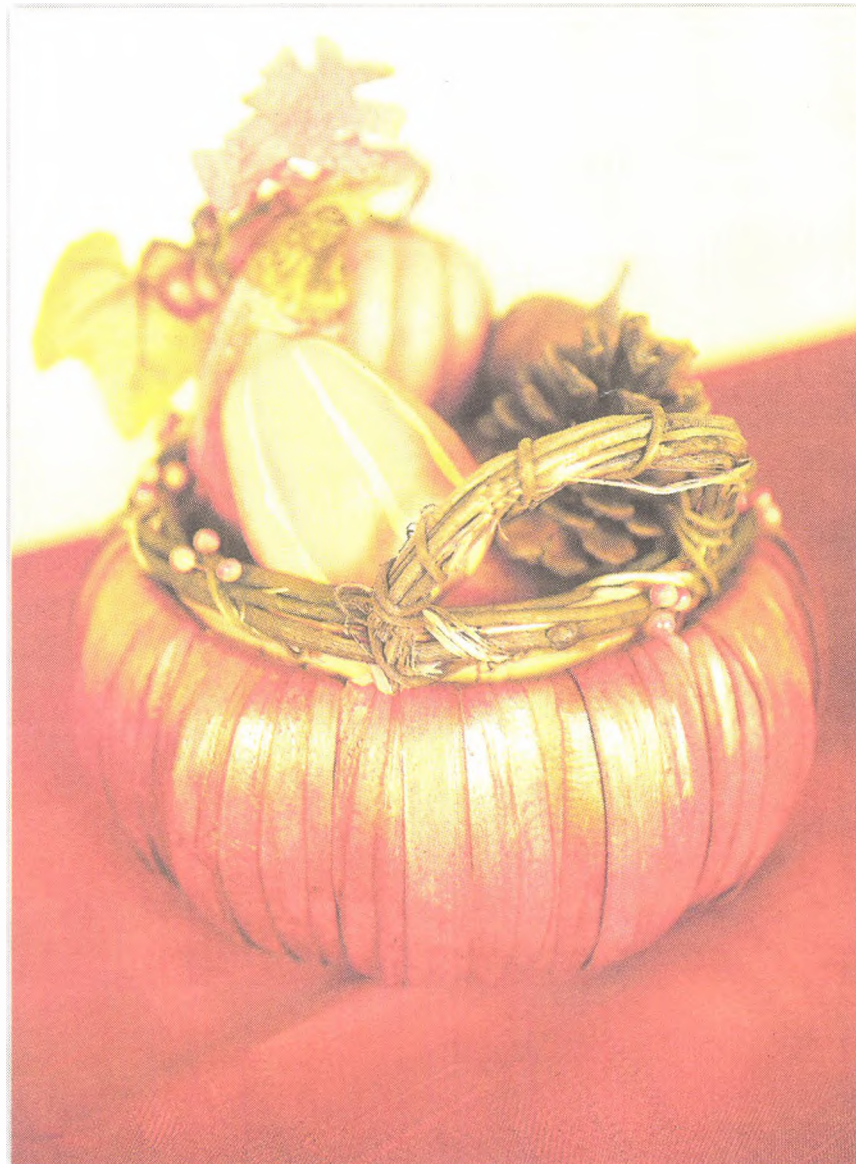
"Such non-traditional pumpkins add uniqueness to fall decorating," Magaluk said. "We even carry artificial heirloom pumpkins that can be re-used from year to year."

Pumpkins easily bridge the gap between fall, Halloween and Thanksgiving, looking as comfortable on the Thanksgiving table as they do on a windowsill greeting trick-or-treaters on Oct. 31. Acorn Farm even has a "candle carver" — a little tool to make candles out of fall squash and fruits, from pumpkins to apples.

"They make great fall centerpieces and are easy to make," Magaluk said.

Pumpkin runners, pumpkin tablecloths and other "pumpkin paraphernalia" easily stand the test of time during the fall season, gracing table's during the early harvest season as easily as a formal Thanksgiving setting.

But pumpkins aren't the only decorating tools that easily span from September through November. Vilinda Everett, owner of Intimate Touch Collections in Westland, is an interior decorator/special events planner and decorator who can find seasonal elegance in many inexpensive, every day items.



Pumpkins easily bridge the gap between fall, Halloween and Thanksgiving, looking as comfortable on the Thanksgiving table as they do on a windowsill greeting trick-or-treaters on Oct. 31.

She uses leaves — from fresh to artificial and cut-outs to garlands — to drape and pull together many autumn displays. She also loves the harvest fruits of the seasons, including Indian corn, corn stalks, gourds, mums, apples, pears and pinecones to complement any arrangement inexpensively.

"You can make a fall table arrangement out of any of these items and place a carved pumpkin in the center for Halloween emphasis," Everett said. "If you want to turn the same display into something suitable for

Thanksgiving, replace the pumpkin with a decorative turkey of some kind, and it will totally transition to this favorite fall holiday."

Everett suggests that you start outdoors with straw bales, pumpkins, mums and scarecrows, then move indoors for more refined displays with leaves and harvest fruits.

Anne Musson, an interior designer for 21 years with her own company, A.M. Designs in Plymouth, agrees with this season-spanning approach to the fall holiday season. She enjoys decorating for this special, spooky

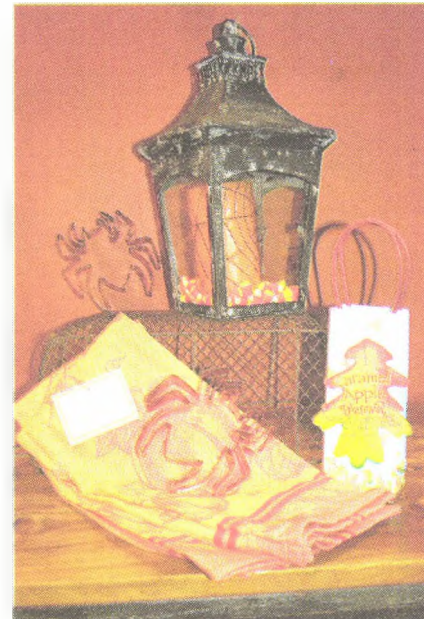


Photo courtesy of Acorn Farm in Milford

Hurricane lamps are a multi-seasonal item that can be filled with a variety of objects to celebrate the season. In the fall, candy corn, acorns, leaves and mini pumpkins are just a few of the items that would be a perfect addition to a hurricane lamp. Kitchen and bath towels with seasonal flair and cookie cutters in all different sizes and shapes will help decorate the kitchen.

holiday, but tries to keep the look more classy than garish.

"I like to make holiday home decorating as easy as possible by putting out fall decorations, then sprinkling Halloween themed decorations into it," said Musson, who is best known locally for professional holiday decorating during the Christmas season. "That way, when Halloween is over, I just remove that part of the decor from the overall fall theme, then add in my Thanksgiving decorations. I place real pumpkins into my outside urns and tuck artificial fall leaves. It makes a beautiful arrangement."

Another quick and easy decorating trick for Halloween is to slip a Halloween pillow onto a chair to totally make a statement for that holiday.

"That's how easy it can be to transform your home with small, thoughtful touches," Musson said.

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Pet wellness: keep furry friends happy, healthy



The problems of poor diet and a sedentary lifestyle aren't exclusive to people. Many pets don't get proper nutrition or enough exercise, which can lead to obesity and a host of other pet health problems.

According to a recent PetSmart survey, 93 percent of pet parents believe what they feed their pet matters to the pet's health and well-being.

"Pet obesity is the biggest health threat to pets in the U.S., now affecting 45 percent of all adult dogs and 58 percent of cats," said Dr. Ernie Ward, DVM, author and founder of the Association for Pet Obesity Prevention. "That's about 34 million dogs and 54 million cats that are overweight and at risk for diseases such as diabetes/insulin resistance, arthritis, high blood pressure, kidney disease, cancer and more."

Dr. Ward recommends two ways that pet parents can help their pets live healthier lives: good nutrition and daily exercise.

GOOD NUTRITION

People often choose natural foods for themselves because they are nutrient-rich and support overall health and well-being. These days, pet parents are making similar food choices for their pets.

Recently, PetSmart began carrying the Wellness brand of natural foods and snacks for dogs and cats. Wellness is made with the finest natural ingredients, including lean meats, whole grains, fruits and vegetables, in wet and dry recipes.

"Feeding your pet a natural diet that is low in fat and calories can help an inactive cat or dog maintain his or her weight or help an overweight pet lose weight," said Mark Finke, PhD,

pet nutrition expert for PetSmart.

Key nutrients and ingredients found in natural pet foods that support overall pet health and vitality include:

- Natural antioxidants like Lycopene and Beta-carotene.
- Glucosamine and Chondroitin which help maintain joint health and may help overweight dogs and cats that suffer from arthritis.
- Omega-3 and omega-6 fatty acids for healthy skin and hair and to help maintain an optimal immune system.
- An optimal blend of dietary fiber to help maintain digestive health and to help satisfy a pet's appetite without adding extra calories.

DAILY EXERCISE

Exercise is essential for a pet to have a happy and long life. Setting aside time each day for physical activity helps to encourage a routine and also gives pets something to look forward to.

"All dogs need at least 20 to 30 minutes of aerobic intensity walking per day. Larger breeds often need much more," said Dr. Ward.


Having time to do this can be a challenge for busy pet parents. One solution is PetSmart Doggie Day Camp, a place to bring a dog for hours of play and exercise with other dogs that have all been screened for group play. Supervised by pet care specialists, Doggie Day Camp is open seven days a week with flexible drop-off and pick-up times.




Each pet's nutrition and exercise needs are different, and pet parents can visit www.petsmart.com or a local store for solutions that help their pets stay healthy.


— Courtesy of Family Features

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Frightfully good, braces-friendly Halloween treats

Caramel apples, popcorn balls, hard candies ... Halloween goodies like these may bring a smile to kids' faces, but for kids with braces, clear aligners or other orthodontic appliances, they could cause some unhappy problems.

Halloween tends to be a busy time of year for orthodontists - primarily because patients indulge in treats that they should try to avoid. That is why October is National Orthodontic Health Month. Candies and other treats that are hard, chewy, sticky or crunchy have the potential to cause damage to braces or clear aligners, which can be uncomfortable for the patient, and may even prolong treatment.

The American Association of Orthodontists has scared up some sweets for the Halloween table to help orthodontic patients stay on track to achieving a healthy, beautiful smile. It's no trick - these treat recipes are fun to make, fun to eat - and they won't put a dent in your smile.

For more recipes and tips, visit www.braces.org.



Spider Bites

Spider Bites

Makes about 3 dozen cookies

- 1 cup shortening
- 1 cup sugar
- 2 tablespoons water
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 2 eggs
- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup cocoa
- 1 teaspoon salt
- $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon baking powder
- 1 package black rope licorice, cut into short 1-inch pieces
- 1 small tube of green (or color of choice) decorating gel

Toothpicks

Preheat oven to 375°F.

In large bowl, combine shortening, sugar, water and vanilla. Beat until smooth. Add eggs into mixture and blend. Slowly mix in flour, cocoa, salt and baking powder using low-medium speed.

Drop tablespoon helpings of mixture onto ungreased cookie sheets and roll each helping into a ball. Bake 9 minutes.

Let cookies cool for about 10 minutes. Then using a toothpick, create four small holes in either side of the cookie.

Still using the toothpick, push one end of a piece of the cut licorice into each hole, creating the "legs" of the spider. Keep licorice pieces short so as not to harm braces.

Once all eight pieces are in place, create eyes or decorate at will using the green decorating gel.

Recipe idea adapted from "The Braces Cookbook" by Pamela Waterman.

Frightful Finger Cookies

Makes about 2 dozen cookies

- 1 cup butter, softened
- 1 cup powdered sugar
- 1 egg
- 1 teaspoon almond extract
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- $2\frac{3}{4}$ cups flour
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1 teaspoon salt
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup almond slices, or whole almonds
- 1 tube red decorating gel
- 1 tube green food coloring (optional)

Preheat oven to 325°F.

Beat together butter, sugar, egg, almond extract and vanilla. Slowly beat in the flour, baking powder and salt. If you want green finger cookies, add drops of green food coloring to dough until you achieve a nice deep green color.

Divide the dough into four equal parts, cover and refrigerate for 30 minutes. Take one quarter of the dough at a time from the refrigerator. Break off one heaping teaspoonful and roll it into a finger shape. Squeeze in around the middle of the finger to create a knuckle shape. Then, using a butter knife, make indents in several places to resemble a finger. Repeat with rest of dough.

Place cookies on a lightly greased baking sheet and bake for 20 to 25 minutes - let cool. Then, squeeze red decorating gel onto the tip of each finger and gently press an almond on top so the gel oozes out from underneath.

Remove cookies from baking sheets and let them cool on wire racks.

Recipe idea adapted from "CDKitchen.coms" Marlene C. Mcasias.

Black-Cherry Fruit-Bats and Citrus Orange Pumpkin Fruity Cutouts

Makes about 2 dozen each

Black-Cherry Bats:

- 2 3-ounce packages black-cherry gelatin (dry)
- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup water
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup grape juice
- $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon lemon juice

Empty both packages of dry gelatin powder into a large bowl. In medium saucepan, stir together water and juice; bring to a full boil then remove pan from heat. Pour hot juice mixture slowly into bowl, stirring constantly with a large spoon. Keep stirring for two minutes or until all granules have dissolved. Add lemon juice and stir to mix.

Pour mixture into a 9-inch round or square pan and place pan in refrigerator. Chill for at least 3 hours or until firm. Cut into squares with a knife, or into bat-shapes with cookie cutters dipped in hot water. If pieces are hard to get out, set the entire pan for a minute onto a cookie sheet filled with a quarter-inch of hot water. Keep chilled.

For the Citrus Orange Pumpkins, repeat the directions with:

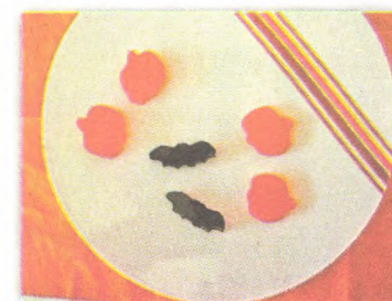
- 2 3-ounce packages orange gelatin (dry)
- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup water
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup orange juice (no pulp) or lemonade
- $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon lemon juice

Use pumpkin-shaped cookies cutters as desired.

Recipe idea adapted from "The Braces Cookbook" by Pamela Waterman.



Frightful Finger Cookies



Black-Cherry Fruit-Bats and Citrus Orange Pumpkin Fruity Cutouts

TREAT YOUR BRACES RIGHT

ORTHODONTIC-FRIENDLY TREATS

In general, orthodontic patients should look for foods that are soft and easy to chew.

- Soft, melt-in-your-mouth chocolates
- Peanut butter cups
- Milk shakes
- Gelatin
- Peeled, thinly sliced apples
- Ice cream

TREATS TO AVOID

In general, orthodontic patients should avoid treats that are sticky, hard, chewy or crunchy.

- Caramel
- Jelly beans or taffy
- Hard pretzels
- Bubble gum
- Hard candies
- Lollipops
- Popcorn (including unpopped kernels)
- Taco chips
- Ice

Kids (and adults) who indulge in sweets should remember to do so in moderation and to brush and floss afterward. More information for trick-or-treaters is available at www.braces.org.

— Courtesy of Family Features

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Host a ghoulish gathering

Scare up a happy Halloween party to celebrate the spookiest season. Bring out the orange and black linens, spiderweb doilies and skull coasters ... so easy and effective!

The entertaining experts from the Wilton Test Kitchen say it's easier to mix and mingle if you don't have to juggle a fork. So cast a spell with a savory buffet starring these deliriously delicious recipes.

For additional Halloween ideas and recipes, go to www.wilton.com.



wine vinegar, garlic, Worcestershire sauce, salt, thyme, mustard and pepper; whisk to combine. Add steak and turn to coat evenly. Cover and refrigerate 4 hours or overnight, turning steak occasionally.

Preheat broiler to high. Prepare broiler pan with vegetable pan spray. Remove steak from marinade; broil 6 minutes on each side for medium rare. Cover steak with foil and rest 5 minutes. To make bite-size pieces, cut steak into four strips with the grain; cut strips against the grain into smaller pieces.

Cut pumpkin rolls in half, fill with steak and favorite condiments, and serve.

Makes 16 sandwiches

Spooky Crackers with Savory Cheese Spread

Crackers:

- 1/2 cup (1 stick) unsalted butter, softened
- 1/2 cup grated Parmesan cheese
- 1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon minced fresh rosemary or 1/2 teaspoon dried rosemary
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 3/4 teaspoon black pepper
- 2 tablespoons water

In large bowl, beat butter with electric mixer until creamy. Add cheese, flour, rosemary, salt and pepper; mix until combined well but still crumbly. Add water; mix until dough pulls away from sides of bowl. Flatten dough into a disk; wrap tightly in plastic wrap and refrigerate at least 30 minutes.

Preheat oven to 350°F. Spray cookie pan with vegetable pan spray. On lightly floured surface, roll dough to 1/8 inch thick. Cut dough with Halloween Linzer Cut Outs Cookie Cutters, cutting both solid round and round with cut-out crackers. Place on prepared pan. Reroll dough scraps and repeat cutting.

Bake 15 to 17 minutes or until crackers are slightly golden at the edges. Cool 3 to 4 minutes on pan; transfer to cooling rack and cool completely.

Cheesy Onion Spread:

- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 yellow onion, finely diced
- 1 container (14 oz.) cheddar cheese spread

In medium skillet, heat olive oil over medium heat; cook onion, stirring occasionally, until caramelized about 10 minutes. Remove from heat; cool completely.

In medium bowl, combine cheese spread and caramelized onions; mix well. Spread on solid crackers; top with crackers with cut-outs.

Makes about 3 dozen appetizers.

— Courtesy of Family Features

Flank Steak on Pumpkin-Shaped Rolls

Pumpkin Rolls:

- 2 loaves (16 oz. each) frozen bread dough
- 1 tablespoon butter, melted

Defrost bread dough according to package directions.

Brush the cavities of Wilton Dimensions Multi-Cavity Mini Pumpkins pan with melted butter. Cut each loaf into 8 equal pieces; shape into rolls. Place rolls, seam side up, in each cavity. Cover loosely with plastic wrap; leave in warm place until doubled in size (about 45 minutes).

Preheat oven to 350°F. Remove plastic wrap from dough. Bake 24 to 26 minutes, or until tops are golden brown. Cool in pan 10 minutes; remove from pan and cool completely.

Marinated Flank Steak:

- 3 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 cup red wine vinegar
- 3 large garlic cloves, finely minced
- 1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon dried thyme
- 2 teaspoons Dijon mustard
- 1/2 teaspoon black pepper
- 1 flank steak (1 1/2 to 2 pounds)

In shallow glass dish, combine olive oil, red



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Eerie Halloween eats

MIX IT UP WITH JENNY

It's true — the kitchen is the heart of the home. Ever notice how people always gather there? Whether baking treats, making dinner or spending time with family and friends, the kitchen is my favorite place to be. Since my day job is Consumer Test Kitchen Project Manager for the Nestle Test Kitchens, you can bet I love to stir things up. This column lets me pass along to you some of my best recipes, tips and baking secrets.

Make no bones about it, it's time to conjure up some creepy cuisine for a ghoulishly good Halloween party for the kids.

In addition to making the tasty recipes below, here are some other fun ways to turn ordinary munchies into something monstrously yummy.

- Make a bone-chilling witches brew by serving your favorite punch in a black cauldron. Use Halloween-themed ice cube trays to make ice shaped like bones or skulls.

- Turn a basic cream cheese fruit dip into a devilish slime dip by mixing in some neon green food coloring.

- Use Halloween cookie cutters to cut soft sandwiches and cheese slices into spooky shapes like ghosts, bats and pumpkins. You can use them to make homemade tortilla chips, too.

To scare up some more Halloween recipes and ideas, visit www.VeryBestBaking.com.

bottom and upsides of pie plate. Set aside remaining 1 cups crumbs for dirt topping.

Whisk together evaporated milk, egg yolks and cornstarch in medium saucepan. Heat over medium-low heat, stirring constantly, until mixture is very hot and thickens slightly; do not boil. Remove from heat; stir in morsels until completely melted and mixture is smooth.

Pour into crust. Sprinkle with remaining 1/2 cups cookie crumbs. Press crumbs down gently. Refrigerate for 3 hours or until set.

Decorate cookie tombstones with writing gels as desired; let set. Insert tombstones around edge of pie. With spoon, mound cookie crumbs to form "fresh graves." Decorate graveyard with candy to make the pie as spooky as you want it to be!

Nutrition Information per serving: 560 calories; 260 calories from fat; 29g total fat; 16g saturated fat; 90mg cholesterol; 350mg sodium; 70g carbohydrate; 2g fiber; 44g sugars; 10g protein; 15% Calcium; 10% Iron

Spiderweb Munch

Makes 12 servings

- 2 cups (12-ounce package) Nestle Toll House Semi-Sweet Chocolate Morsels
- 1 cup creamy peanut butter, divided
- 1/2 cup powdered sugar
- 3 cups toasted rice cereal

Heat morsels and 1/4 cup peanut butter in small, heavy-duty saucepan over low heat, stirring constantly until smooth; remove from heat. Add sugar; stir vigorously until smooth.

Place cereal in large bowl. Add 1 cup melted chocolate mixture; stir until evenly coated.

Place on ungreased baking sheet. Using small metal spatula, shape into 10-inch circle with slightly raised 1-inch-wide border. Pour remaining chocolate mixture in center of circle; spread to border.

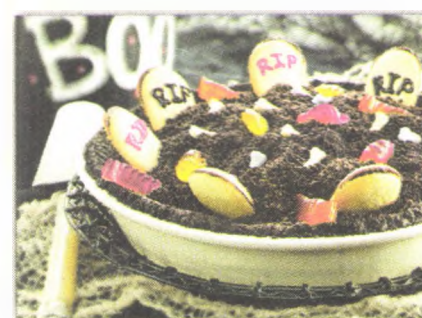
FOR SPIDERWEB:

Place remaining peanut butter in small, heavy-duty plastic bag. Cut tiny corner from bag; squeeze to pipe concentric circles on top of chocolate. Using wooden pick or tip of sharp knife, pull tip through peanut butter from center to border. Refrigerate for 30 minutes or until firm. Cut into wedges.

Nutrition Information per serving: 320 calories; 170 calories from fat; 19g total fat; 7g saturated fat; 0mg cholesterol; 150mg sodium; 32g carbohydrate; 3g fiber; 19g sugars; 7g protein; 15% Iron

Jenny Harper is Consumer Test Kitchen Project Manager for the Nestle Test Kitchens and www.VeryBestBaking.com.

— Courtesy of Family Features



Spooky Graveyard Pie

Spooky Graveyard Pie

Makes 8 servings

- 3 cups (about 32) finely ground chocolate sandwich cookies, divided
- 3 tablespoons melted butter
- 1 can (12 fluid ounces) Nestle Carnation Evaporated Milk
- 1 1/4 cups (11.5-ounce package) Nestle Toll House Milk Chocolate Morsels
- 2 large egg yolks
- 2 tablespoons cornstarch
- 8 chocolate filled vanilla wafer cookies
- Black and purple decorator writing gels
- Assorted Nestle Halloween Candies

Combine 1 1/2 cups cookie crumbs and butter in 9-inch pie plate. Press crumb mixture onto

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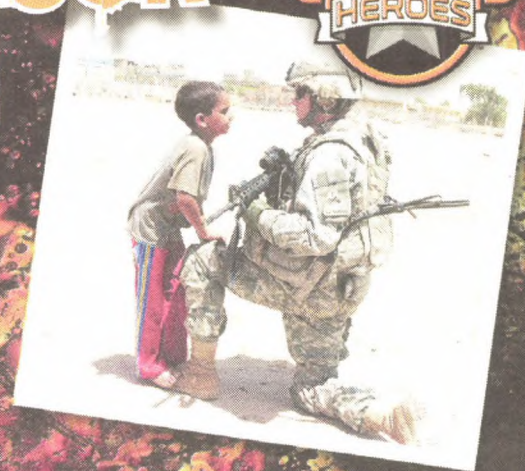
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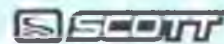
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How to make your house spectacularly haunted for one day

Most days, you probably want visitors to feel welcome and secure in your home. But one day a year, it's fun to scare the dickens out of them - so make the most of Halloween and all the good-natured frights that come along with the spookiest of holidays.

While your neighbors may pull out all the stops decorating outdoors for Christmas, an over-the-top Halloween display can also earn you a place in neighborhood lore. The Halloween decor experts at online retailer Seventh Avenue.com offer some tips to consider as you create a spooky playground to impress the trick-or-treaters:

- Know your audience. It might be a good idea to match the level of scary in your Halloween decorations with the age of the children you expect to come trick-or-treating. For younger children, think fun. Older kids might appreciate a good scare.

- Choose a theme. Halloween is the perfect holiday for creativity, so when it comes to the front yard, don't limit yourself. Decorations that center around a theme are the most impactful and will delight children when walking to your doorstep. You could choose something as simple as a graveyard theme, leading visitors through a path of gravestones and creaky gates, with zombie decorations for good measure. Or use ideas from your favorite scary movie. If you need ideas, try browsing outdoor Halloween decor at online retailers like www.seventhavenue.com.

- Direct traffic. Now that you've chosen a theme, think about how you want your guests to experience it, beginning with the sidewalk and ending with your front door. For example, if you went with a Dracula theme you could lead your visitors to the front door with lights that resemble chandelier candles. Solar lanterns could also be used to light the path, as they won't leave you burning through batteries or electricity. Well lit signs could also be used to



It is a good idea to match the level of scary in your Halloween decorations with the age of the children you expect to come trick-or-treating.

lead visitors through a scavenger hunt through your front yard.

- Dress the part. To make your theme really work for you, wear a costume to the door that goes along with it. It's a great way to get in touch with your inner child and to thrill the kids in your neighborhood.

- Safety first. While it's great to create the scariest yard on the block, you should also make sure it's safe. Walkways and hazards like ponds or stairs should be well lit.

- Get help from nature. The trees in your yard make a great place to hang spooky decorations. Use old grass clippings to give a spookier feel to zombies and gravestones. You can use leaves as stuffing paper for bags and figurines, filling them with life.

- Treats matter. We all know the number one reason kids look forward to Halloween is the bounty they'll bring home from a long night of trick-or-treating. Considering that everyone else will give out candy, make your house more memorable by giving a toy related to your theme. Or, give glow bracelets that are not only fun but will also keep them safe by making them visible in the dark.

— Courtesy of ARAcontent

Halloween events offer up family fun,

By ALISON ACCAVITTI
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

All dressed up with nowhere to go.

Put on a clever costume and head to one of many local Halloween-themed events this month.

Spooky corn mazes, pumpkin patches, trick-or-treating events, costume contests, ghost hunts, haunted houses and more are sure to please all ages — with special “kid friendly” events offering more fun than frights.

If it's a good scare you're looking for, many haunted houses have amped up their sets with high-tech lighting and sound effects. Groups rates are usually available for larger parties and often include a discounted rate. Many of these attractions donate a portion of their proceeds to local charities.

Check out our list of local Halloween happenings below to find something for everyone.

Boo Bash

Heritage Park, Farmington Hills

Bring the family out to Heritage Park for an afternoon of Halloween fun Saturday, Oct. 23, from noon to 2:30 p.m. and 3-5:30 p.m. Activities include face painting, hayrides, smores and candy free” trick-or-treat stations. A special program, “Basically Bats,” will intrigue and educate, while teaching children not to be afraid of bats and to understand the beneficial things they do. Live bats are shown including small bats and a larger fruit bat. Don't forget to wear your favorite costume! Event is for children in preschool through third grade and parents. Register early. Fee is \$14; \$9 for residents. Visit <https://recreg.fhgov.com> or call (248) 473-1800.

Donahee Farms

South Lyon & Plymouth

Pumpkin patches, pumpkin painting, hayrides through a spooky forest, two-level hay maze, jumpy pumpkin moonwalk, farm animals and more make Donahee Farms in South Lyon a great place for family friendly Halloween fun. The farm's main location is on North Territorial Road in Plymouth just west of Gotfredson. The farms u-pick pumpkin



Kid-friendly events offering more fun than frights are scheduled in several local communities.

location is on Pontiac Trail in South Lyon between Nine Mile and 10 Mile. Visit www.donaheefarms.com or call (734) 459-0655.

Erebus

18 S. Perry, Pontiac

The four-story haunted attraction claimed the 2009 Guinness Book of World Record honors for being the largest “Walk-through Haunted Attraction” in the world. Tickets are \$22 at the door or online; group rates available. Attraction is open through Oct. 31. Visit www.hauntedpontiac.com.

Erwin's Orchard Corn Maze/Barn of Horrors

61475 Silver Lake Road, South Lyon

Erwin's Barn of Horrors with the

Mystery of the Black Hole features state-of-the-art animatronics, special effects and robotics; no live actors.

Combo tickets (barn and corn maze) are \$15; \$12 for barn only. A wagon ride, glass of cider, doughnut, live monsters lurking and nightly bonfires are included in price. Attraction open through Oct. 31. Visit erwinorchards.com/wordpress or call (248) 437-4701.

Extreme Scream Haunted House

4724 Dixie Highway, Waterford
Established in 1998, the Extreme Scream is a self-described “extremely” scary old school haunt featuring a different design each year. An extra large building is filled with unique rooms, extreme darkness and energetic actors who love to scare. Special effect lighting, intense fog, high qual-

ity sound are aimed to make guests “so scared that you go running out.” Groups of no more than five people are sent in each time. Tickets are \$12 for adults; \$8 for children shorter than 48 inches. All concession stand proceeds go to Boy Scouts of America. Attraction is open through Oct. 31. Visit www.myspace.com/extremescreamhaunt.

“Ghosts of Southeast Michigan” Book Signing

Nico & Vali, Plymouth

Celebrate Halloween with local author and psychic medium, Kristy Robinett at Nico & Vali on Tuesday, Oct. 26. Robinett is the author of “Ghosts of Southeast Michigan” and will be selling and signing her book during the noon luncheon. Eight lucky guests will receive a 15-minute reading. Reservations for readings are required. Tickets are \$15 each and can be purchased at Nico & Vali or from the Plymouth Preservation Network. Visit www.plymouth-preservation.org.

Halloween Happiness

Southfield Civic Center, Southfield

Adults ages 18 and older with developmental disabilities are invited

to Halloween Happiness Thursday, Oct. 21, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Southfield Civic Center. The evening features dinner, music and dancing. Dinner will be served until 7:30 p.m. Cost is \$8 per person. Pre-registration and payment are required by Thursday, Oct. 18; space is limited. To register, visit the event calendar on www.destinationoakland.com. The Southfield Civic Center is located at 26000 Evergreen in Southfield.

Haunted Detroit Tours

Wunderground Magic Shop, Clawson

Haunted Detroit Tours features a three-hour ghost hunting paranormal adventure to haunted places in Metro Detroit. Charter transportation is provided. Tour guides provide history of the sites and are equipped with ghost hunting tools such as digital cameras, infrared thermometers and EMF detectors to help identify ghost/paranormal activity. Tickets are \$35; refreshments included. Guests assemble for the tour in the back parking lot of Wunderground Magic Shop at 16 S. Main in Clawson. Visit www.haunteddetroitours.com or call (248) 246-0607.



A trip to the local pumpkin patch is the perfect place to pick up a ja a great way to celebrate the crisp autumn weather.



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Haunted Hallows

6440 N. Hix Road, Westland

Beware of the Hallows ... Enter Haunted Hallows on a bone chilling, fear-for-your-life hayride and — if you make it out — continue on foot if you dare. The attraction is sponsored by VFW Post #9885. Admission is \$15 for all ages. Visit www.haunted-hallows.com or call (734) 536-3651.

Haunted Hideaways: A Victorian Mourning

Mill Race Historical Village,
Northville

Step back into time for this Victorian Halloween event and learn about death and mourning practices in Victorian times, post mortem photography, spirit photography and experience a seance reminiscent of Victorian days. You might also feel the spirits that go bump in the night in this historical village. Event is Saturday, Oct. 30, from 7-10 p.m. and presented by Kristy Robinett, a psychic medium. Tickets are \$30. The Mill Race Historical Village is located at 215 Griswold St.

The Haunted Winery

31505 Grand River Ave.,
Farmington



Costume contests, trick-or-treating events and other gatherings are offered across Oakland and Wayne counties this week and the next.

The Haunted Winery is a 110-year-old building. It was built as a powerhouse for the electric trolley lines that once ran up and down Grand River Avenue. The powerhouse brought the first electricity to the Farmington area. The 151-foot smokestack is the highest point in Farmington. Throughout the years, many unfortunate souls perished in and around the building. Some say their spirits still remain there — you decide. Admission is \$10 for adults; children shorter than 52 inches are \$5. Visit www.thehauntedwinery.com.

Hay Ride Central Heritage Park, Farmington Hills

Come enjoy the night air with this fabulous fall tradition every Friday through Friday, Oct. 29. Hayrides leave every half hour 5:30-7:30 p.m. on Friday nights. Enjoy a warm campfire, cup of cider and marshmallows as part of the hay ride package. Rides are available for children age 3 and older (parents can hold infants). Cost is \$5. Reserve your spot online at <https://recreg.fhgov.com>, call (248) 473-1800 or purchase them

in person at Heritage Park's Nature Center. Private/group rates are available; call (248) 477-1135.

Howl-Ween Pet Costume Contest & Great Pumpkin Caper Kellogg Park, Plymouth

This free event takes place 5-6 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 28. Registration is 5-5:20 p.m. with the contest beginning at 5:30 p.m. The costume contest will consist of first-, second- and third-place winners. Prizes will be giving to the top three winners. Pets must have current vaccinations and be people and animal friendly. Stay downtown for the Great Pumpkin Caper, which includes trick-or-treating and a kid costume contest starting at 6:15 p.m. Visit www.downtownplymouth.org.

Night Terrors at Wiard's Orchards 5565 Merritt Road, Ypsilanti

The grounds of Wiard's Orchard are said to be truly haunted. Six haunted events include the Ultimate Haunted Barn, The Asylum, The Mineshaft, Hayrides of the Lost, The Labyrinth and Alien Caged Clowns. Wiard's also features a bakery with

homemade cider, donuts and caramel apples. Tickets are \$15 for single events; \$29.99 for all six events. Attraction is open through Oct. 31. Visit www.hauntedhouseofmichigan.com or call (734) 390-9212.

Panic at Proud Lake Proud Lake, Milford

This outdoor adventure that includes a canoe ride on the Huron River, one mile hike on a trail through the woods and a hayride. Paddle your way down the river, then walk, run or crawl along a twisting, terrifying trail to finally escape the panic by way of a hay wagon ride. All proceeds from this event benefit the Friends of Proud Lake for park improvements. The attraction runs through Sunday, Oct. 31. Tickets are \$12 per person on Friday and Saturday; \$7 per person on Sunday; children age 5 and younger are free. A Michigan Passport Pass is required for entry (cost is \$10). Visit www.panicatproudlake.com or call (248) 685-2433.

The Realm of Darkness House 37 Turk, Pontiac

Known as "Michigan's only real" haunted house, "The Realm of Darkness House has been investigated in previous years by paranormal teams for unexplained occurrences that happen in three specific rooms. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$12 for children age 11 and younger. VIP tickets are \$30 and include no waiting in line and Monster Energy gift bag that includes a Realm of Darkness T-shirt and other surprises. Visit www.therealmofdarkness.com or call (248) 338-0400.

Three Cedars Farm 7897 Six Mile, Northville

Three Cedars Farm features a u-pick pumpkin site, 7-acre corn-maze, barn yard play land, hay rides and bonfire sites for a fun family together. Take the "3 Cedars" challenge through the maze to find the three cedar trees hidden on the main paths. Hayrides are \$5 and tour the property around the corn maze and the pumpkin patch.

Visit www.threecedarsfarm.org or call (248) 437-8200.



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The attraction features six haunted houses with 66 rooms of total terror: Bloody Mary's Butcher Shop, Dr. Phobia's Haunted House, Movie Monsters & Madmen, Hell's Labyrinth, Zombie Contamination Haunted Planet and Clown Freak Show. Tickets are \$25 for adults and include free zombie contamination mask; children shorter than 48 in. are free. Visit www.moneybackhauntedhouse.com or call (313) 366-1874.

Westland Jaycees Haunted House

Wayne Ford Civic League, Westland

The Westland Jaycees present "The Thrill Kill" haunted house, a ninth annual event every Thursday, Friday and Saturday in October. Admission is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children age 12 and younger. The attraction is open Thursdays from 7-10 p.m. and Fridays and Saturdays from 7 p.m. to midnight. The haunt is located at 1645 Wayne Road, behind the Wayne Ford Civic League in Westland. Visit www.westlandjaycees.org or call (734) 226-0400.

The Woodbine Psych Ward

12300 Woodbine, Redford

The Redford Jaycees Slaughter House presents the Woodbine Psych Ward, open through Sunday, Oct. 31. The haunt features movie production quality effects and is not recommended for children. Admission is \$15 at the door. Save \$1 off by bringing a nonperishable food item. Visit www.redfordjaycees.org for special offers and coupons.

Zoo Boo

Detroit Zoo, Royal Oak

The Detroit Zoo's annual "merry-not-scary" Zoo Boo celebration returns this Halloween season, featuring a festively decorated half-mile trick-or-treat trail through the front of the zoo. Presented by Meijer, Zoo Boo will be held evenings Oct. 22-24 and 29-31 from 6-8 p.m., rain or shine.

Elaborate pumpkin displays will line the treat trail, where greeters will pass out goodies to costume-clad children at treat stations along the route. A trail of eerie fog and mysterious sounds will lead through a spooky graveyard to the Haunted Reptile House, where friendly witches, vampires and other monsters have taken up residence for the Halloween season.

The Ghoully Games Tent, sponsored by Blue Care Network of Michigan, will feature Halloween-themed games, prizes, arts and crafts



and a hay maze. The popular live mini-musical "Zoo Boo Revue" will be performed in the Main Picnic Grove.

New to Zoo Boo is the Zombie Zone, sponsored by Tim Hortons, featuring ghastly games, spooky activities and pumpkin carving demonstrations. Costumed kiddies can enter the Tim Hortons costume contest and have their photo taken and posted on the zoo's website. The community will vote, and a zoo-themed prize

will be awarded for the best costume.

Also new this year is the limited release movie "The Curse of Skull Rock" at the Wild Adventure 3-D/4-D Theater in the Ford Education Center. The 3-D pirate adventure enhanced with 4-D special effects will have guests jumping out of their seats. Tickets for the theater are an additional \$3 per person; children age 2 and younger are free.

Advance tickets for Zoo Boo can be purchased at Booth One in front of the Detroit Zoo or online at www.detroitzoo.org. Tickets are \$7 per person ages 2 and older. Time slots for Zoo Boo are 6 p.m., 6:30 p.m., 7 p.m., 7:30 p.m. and 8 p.m. If a date and time slot is not sold out, a limited number of tickets may be available at the gate that day after 5 p.m. for \$10.



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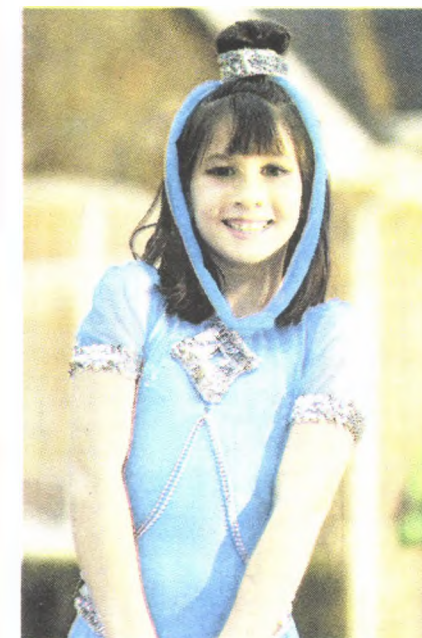
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Several local Halloween events donate a portion of their proceeds to area charities and community organizations.

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Plan your winter travel now

By DIANE GALE ANDREASSI
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Travel isn't a buyer's market anymore, so if you think you're going to get a cheap trip at the last minute, you might be spending a staycation instead of a vacation.

"You're not getting great bargains, because there aren't as many flights available," said Kate Rosevear, owner of Travel Leaders in Plymouth.

"The demand has increased back to levels of three or four years ago, but the supply of service has diminished," said Rosevear, who is also a spokeswoman for Travel Leaders in Brighton, Commerce Township, Ann Arbor, Ypsilanti, Bloomfield Hills, Shelby, Clinton Township, Troy and Southfield.

Travelers are planning ahead more, too, according to Mollie Fitzgerald, CEO of Frontiers Elegant Journeys, as reported in www.oceanhomemagazine.com. Last year, confident travelers were calling for holiday vacations in November.

"Also, people want something different, perceived to be more exotic and less resorty," Fitzgerald said.

Anyone interested in a vacation on spring break next year should start their planning as soon as possible, Rosevear said, adding that the demand for trips is high during February and March.

Some of the best travel values are the all-inclusive Caribbean resorts at Punta Cana in the Dominican Republic featuring beautiful hotels and lots of leisure entertainment, like golf, small casinos, blue water beaches and plenty of sunshine.

Charter services leaving from Detroit are available, Rosevear said.

Other hot spots are Mexico, particularly the Mayan Riviera and beach resorts south of Cancun. It takes about four hours to fly to Cancun from Detroit.

"Those are the best values in travel with beautiful beaches and lovely people, especially the Mayan people who work in those resorts," she added. "The concern is safety, because people are reading negative information about the travel to Mexico. The real problems are the border town areas, like Juarez, in particular and Tijuana, but those have always been problem areas because of drug cartels. But, all of Mexico is being painted with the same brush."

The safety factor for the Mayan Riviera, Cancun, Cozumel, Puerto Villarta and Cabo San Lucas are quite high.

"I have no concern about going to any one of them," Rosevear said. "I go there frequently and feel comfortable doing so. I basically caution my clients when traveling to that part of the

world to use the same safety precautions they do at home. If you see a seedy area, don't go to them."

For travelers who think they've done it all, the Mayan ruins and Costa Rica offer side trips that are bound to impress.

"All of a sudden people are interested in Costa Rica, which is an ecological paradise for people with an interest in the rain forest, animals and exotic birds," Rosevear said. "Costa Rica is a real paradise and it's probably one of the most politically stable countries in South and Central America."

Costa Rica is the perfect backdrop for romantic getaways, as well as families seeking fun-filled days hiking, fishing, bird watching, taking canopy tours in the rain forest, moun-



Submitted Photo

A waterfall in Costa Rica.

tain biking, white water rafting, rain forest exploring, cloud forest adventures, volcano watching and enjoying the waterfalls.

Cruises are still popular, too, explained Rosevear. The Oasis of the Sea, she said, is like a "moving city" with a 5,500-person capacity.

"It's terrific for families and lots of activities for teenagers," she added, pointing to a central park, royal promenade, an aqua theater, a carousel, games, amusements and many more attractions to keep everyone entertained. Maybe the rejuvenation spa, science lab, ocean theater, rock climbing walls, miniature golf, basketball court and even a zip line will pique the interest of everyone in your travel party.

"The clients and agents who have been on it say it's a 'wow experience,'" Rosevear said.

With all that to do, it's no wonder that Tom Roth, director of sales at The Atlantic Resort in Fort Lauderdale, says the biggest change he's seen in the travel industry are luxury consumers increasing the length of their stay from a couple of nights to four-plus nights as the economy and world conditions improve and stabilize.

"Value will continue to be of paramount importance," he says. "Resorts that offer Zen-like spas will grow in popularity as our 24/7 world means that finding and enjoying downtime is becoming harder and harder."

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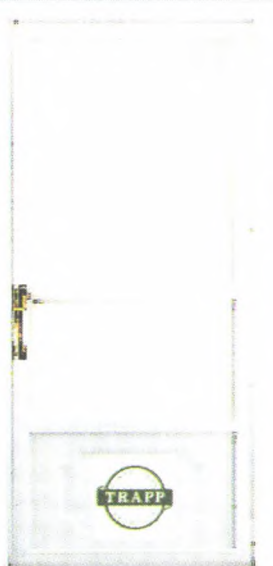
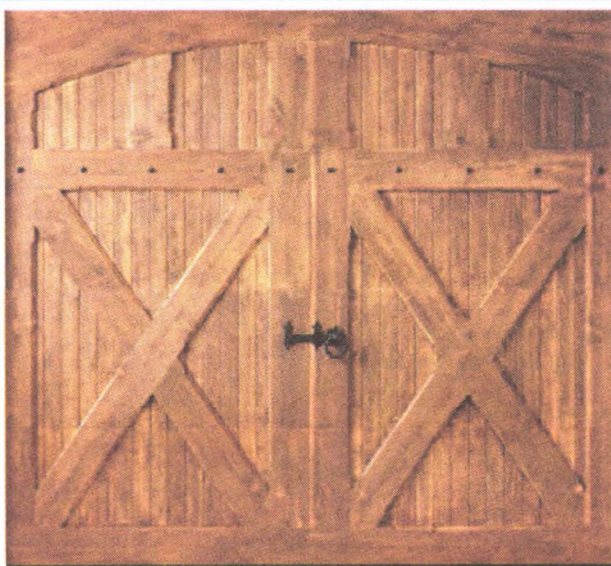


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Home improvement projects made easier by technology

Home remodeling projects can become overwhelming to even the most experienced DIYers. Thanks to new technology and online resources, these projects don't have to be so daunting. With online sites and tools to keep homeowners on track, complicated projects are simpler than ever. By doing the proper research and using these new resources, homeowners will find that technology can make home improvement projects faster, and more painless and precise.

While some homeowners have a natural instinct and vision for how they want their home to look, others need a little guidance. With seemingly limitless options, a homeowner could come up with literally millions of color and style combinations. The tools to narrow in on the perfect elements are crucial.

It's simple to pick out different pieces and materials for a home, but making sure everything fits together for a cohesive style is the most important part of home decorating. For those not blessed with the designer gene, many popular home publications and home improvement companies offer online resources with tools that provide both inspiration and a realistic visualization for those planning the design of their home.

Lumber Liquidators, the largest specialty retailer of hardwood flooring in the United States, recently created the "Room Designer" on its website, www.LumberLiquidators.com, for homeowners to view different varieties of floors within a number of different types of rooms and setups. Users can swap out the flooring, change the cabinet and wall colors, save their designed rooms and even e-mail the

combination to themselves or friends. The site also allows visitors to view before and after pictures from actual customers in order to get ideas for their own homes. Ultimately, homeowners must feel comfortable in their homes and the decor and tone should really fit their personalities and lifestyles.

Many people find themselves with limited time, and planning a home improvement project ends up at the end of a very long to-do list. For these homeowners, mobile applications are ideal to make progress - while waiting for the bus or during their lunch break - even if they don't have time to sit down and plan a home improvement project.

Mobile applications can also save DIYers a little cash as they don't have to spend money on expensive tools. Apps can be a remodeler's best friend as they'll do everything from turning a phone into a level, converting measurement units, serving as a flashlight or identifying the cheapest retailer to buy tools. The "Floor Finder" even tells homeowners the amount of flooring needed to fill a room. Homeowners can download the "Floor Finder" for free at the Apple iTunes store.

Besides doing everything but physically completing the project, technology can be a huge help in the home improvement process. Homeowners should take advantages of ways to make their lives - and projects - easier.

These useful tools and more can be found within the productivity and utility sections of your preferred app store.

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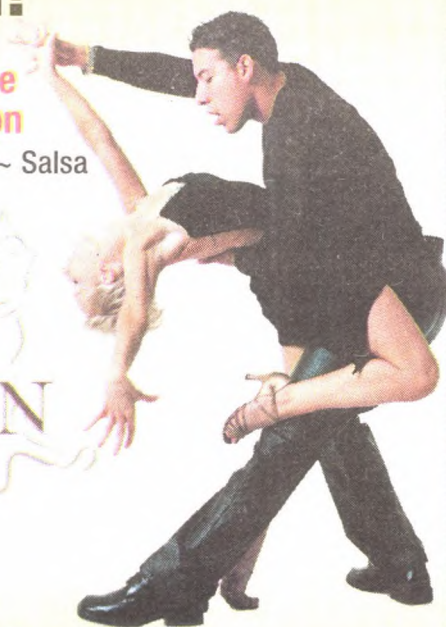
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OUT-OF-TOWN ATTRACTIONS

Traverse City's Haunted Lighthouse and Ghostly Inn

It's hard not to get a little spooked at night if you're walking around the Grand Traverse Commons. Surrounded by thick forest, the turreted buildings of Traverse City's former mental asylum loom out of the darkness like ruined castles, filled with strange shadows and furtive rustlings.

It should come as no surprise, then, that dozens of legends about ghostly appearances have accumulated around the 19th century asylum, which is being gradually redeveloped into a smart "village" of condos, boutiques, offices and restaurants. There are stories of mournful apparitions in the halls, strange physical sensations — and even an enormous gnarled tree that's supposed to mark the gateway to Hell.

In spite of the extensive makeover the former asylum is getting, many buildings on the 500-acre Commons campus are still waiting to be restored — and their gaunt, crumbling hulks seem ready-made for scary stories of demented spirits and restless souls. Every year, fans of the occult come to the Commons searching for thrills and chills, even though the owners of the property don't exactly encourage the attention.

"There's a ton of us who live and work here, and I've only heard one or two stories about things people couldn't explain," said Kristen Messner, who works for the project developers. "These are old buildings, and sound sometimes travels in strange ways. That's it."

The attitude toward hauntings is a bit more welcoming a few miles up the coast at the Grand Traverse Lighthouse Museum. For years, the isolated lighthouse at the tip of the Leelanau Peninsula has held a family-oriented "haunted lighthouse" program in honor of its own ghostly inhabitant, and it now has added a series of October "ghost walks." Small groups of visitors are invited in on Friday and Saturday nights to prowl the living quarters and working spaces of the historic 19th century buildings.

Established in 1850, the Grand

Traverse Lighthouse is one of the oldest lights on the Great Lakes. It occupies a lonely point of rocky coast (now the site of a state park) marking the outer edge of Grand Traverse Bay, with sweeping views of Lake Michigan and the distant Manitou and Fox Islands.

Not so with the goings-on across the bay at Bowers Harbor, a lovely cove on the western shore of the Old Mission Peninsula, where the area's most celebrated ghost has been carrying on at the former Bowers Harbor Inn for decades. Genevieve Stickney, whose husband built the



rambling waterfront home in the 1880s, is said to have died in the house under tragic circumstances. Although recent research has cast doubt on much of the backstory told about the Stickneys (that Genevieve was a scorned wife who committed suicide by hanging herself in the elevator shaft), the case has been featured in several books and television programs.

Having a ghost on the premises isn't bad for business, so long as things don't get out of hand. Far from downplaying their ethereal resident, the owners of the Mission Table and the adjoining Jolly Pumpkin Brewery enjoy regaling newcomers with tales of Genevieve's pranks. The restaurant has even devoted a page of its website to the ghostly legend: <http://missionsitable.net/legend>.

Ghost walks at the Grand Traverse Lighthouse Museum are held every Friday and Saturday in October, starting at 7 p.m. Groups are limited to 12 persons, and tickets are \$5 per person; to make an advance reservation, call (231) 386-7195.

For more information about Traverse City fall festivals and activities, and for help with lodging and dining options and other attractions in the Traverse City area, contact the Traverse City Convention & Visitors Bureau at (800) TRAVERSE or online at www.traversacity.com.

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Sudoku

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

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

Level: Beginner

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

Level: Intermediate

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

Level: Advanced

Answers found on page 34

Special Advertising Section

Holiday decorating made easy



This month's special advertorial edition of Inspire focuses on holiday home decor. With cold weather right around the corner, local home owners and business will soon spruce up their interiors and exteriors with cheery and festive decorations.

Zoro's Christmas Lights offers professional lighting installation and eye-catching displays without the hassle and will remove and store your decorations for the following year. Zoro is not limited to just the Christmas holiday — lighting and decorating services are available for all occasions. Thanksgiving, Independence Day, Halloween, Easter, birthday parties, graduations, promotions, retirements, anniversaries, religious celebrations and more can be spruced up with unique lighting design.

Learn more about Zoro's Christmas Lights on page 29.

Special advertorial themes will be featured each month in **Hometown Life Woman** and **Hometown Life Inspire**, reaching **187,500+** readers in **Oakland** and **Wayne counties!**

See who we're featuring in upcoming editions:

November

Woman, Nov. 4

— Senior Care & Communities

*Also our special Money Matters edition!

Inspire, Nov. 18

— Holiday Entertainment

December

Woman, Dec. 2

— Financial Professionals

Inspire, Dec. 16

— Winter/Spring Travel & Staycations

Does your business not fit into a theme? We'll create a custom advertorial for you regardless of theme for any edition! Inquire with your sales associate for details.

To advertise, call (734) 582-8363 (Plymouth) or (248) 437-2011 (South Lyon).

Don't get strung up this holiday:

Zoro's Christmas Lights offers hassle free lighting decorations

Deck the halls, doors, windows and everything in between without the hassle this holiday season, with help from Livonia-based Zoro's Christmas Lights.

Some families look forward to putting up their own outdoor lights each holiday season, but for many others it is a dreaded winter chore.

Zoro's Christmas Lights offers professional lighting installation, eye catching displays and will remove and store your decorations for the following year.

Stay in the comfort of your home while Zoro bares the cold weather to give you the most decorated house on the block. If there is ever an issue with your lights, we will correct the problem at no extra charge. We're insured and follow all safety guidelines so no one gets hurt.

Hiring a professional lighting installer not only saves headaches, it also makes for a more polished look. Zoro's installers can conceptualize a design that's personalized for your home or business, decorate windows and even add glitz to your landscape with staked lighting or luminaries along walks and driveways. Lights and music can be synchronized together, with an IT support staff on standby should customers experience any issues.

"We'll install lights you already own inside or outside your home, or customers can rent or buy our professional grade lights," Zoro said. "We offer a five-year guarantee on your Christmas lights, along with free removal and storage."

Megan Manni, a homeowner in Washington Township, said she has relied on Zoro's to make her house look spectacular five years in a row during the holiday months.

"We go for a simple, classic look with



Submitted Photos

Zoro's Christmas Lights offers professional lighting installation, eye catching displays and will remove and store your decorations for the following year.

white lights on all the eaves of the house all the way around," Manni said. "Martin guided us on what would be most suitable for our house. Every time a light went out or a timer wasn't working correctly, he was out within a day or so to fix it."

Zoro's is not limited to just the Christmas holiday — lighting and decorating services are available for all occasions. Thanksgiving, Independence

"We take pride in offering the best customer service we can give. We guarantee all of our work and provide the lowest rates in Michigan."

— Martin Zoro, owner

Day, Halloween, Easter, birthday parties, graduations, promotions, retirements, anniversaries, religious celebrations and more can be spruced up with unique lighting design.

"We take pride in offering the best customer service we can give," Zoro said. "We guarantee all of our work and provide the lowest rates in Michigan. If customers sign up by October 31, they are eligible for a 20 percent discount."

Zoro's Christmas Lights serves the entire state of Michigan. Contact Martin Zoro early to guarantee your lights and decorations outshine the competition.

— By Alison Accavitti



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www.zorochristmaslights.com

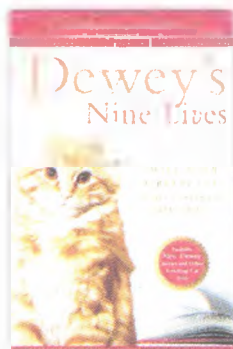
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« NEW READS »

OCTOBER NEW RELEASE > DEWEY'S NINE LIVES: THE LEGACY OF THE SMALL-TOWN LIBRARY CAT WHO INSPIRED MILLIONS

By Vicki Myron | Dutton Adult
Release Date: Oct. 12

Dewey's Nine Lives offers nine funny, inspiring, and heartwarming stories about cats — all told from the perspective of "Dewey's Mom," librarian Vicki Myron. The amazing felines in this book include Dewey, of course, whose further never-before-told adventures are shared, and several others who Vicki found out about when their owners reached out to her. Vicki learned, through extensive interviews and story sharing, what made these cats special, and how they fit into Dewey's community of perseverance and love. From a divorced mother in Alaska who saved a drowning kitten on Christmas Eve to a troubled Vietnam veteran whose heart was opened by his long relationship with a rescued cat, these Dewey-style stories will inspire readers to laugh, cry, care, and, most importantly, believe in the magic of animals to touch individual lives.



OCTOBER NEW RELEASE > HANDCRAFTED MODERN: AT HOME WITH MID-CENTURY DESIGNERS

By Leslie Williamson | Rizzoli
Release Date: Oct. 12

An intimate and revealing collection of photographs of astonishingly beautiful, iconic, and undiscovered mid-century interiors. Among significant mid-century interiors, none are more celebrated yet underpublished as the homes created by architects and interior designers for themselves. This collection of newly commissioned photographs presents the most compelling homes by influential mid-century designers, such as Russel Wright, George Nakashima, Harry Bertola, Charles and Ray Eames, and Eva Zeisel, among others. Intimate as well as revelatory, Williamson's photographs show these creative homes as they were lived in by their designers: Walter Gropius's historic Bauhaus home in Massachusetts; Albert Frey's floating modernist aerie on a Palm Springs rock outcropping; Wharton Esherick's completely handmade Pennsylvania house, from the organic handcarved staircase to the iconic furniture. Personal and breathtaking by turn—these homes are exemplary studies of domestic modernism at its warmest and most creative.



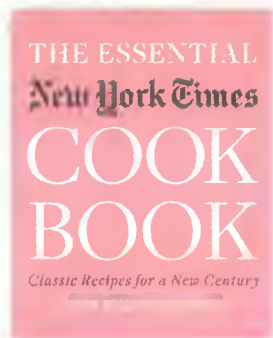
OCTOBER NEW RELEASE > THE ESSENTIAL NEW YORK TIMES COOKBOOK: CLASSIC RECIPES FOR A NEW CENTURY

By Amanda Hesser | W. W. Norton & Company
Release Date: Oct. 25

All the best recipes from 150 years of distinguished food journalism—a volume to take its place in America's kitchens alongside Mastering the Art of French Cooking and How to Cook Everything.

Amanda Hesser, the well-known New York Times food columnist, brings her signature voice and expertise to this compendium of influential and delicious recipes from chefs, home cooks, and food writers.

Hesser has cooked and updated every one of the 1,000-plus recipes here. Her chapter introductions showcase the history of American cooking, and her witty and fascinating headnotes share what makes each recipe special. The Essential New York Times Cookbook is for people who grew up in the kitchen with Claiborne, for curious cooks who want to serve a nineteenth-century raspberry granita to their friends, and for the new cook who needs a book that explains everything from how to roll out dough to how to slow-roast fish—a volume that will serve as a lifelong companion.

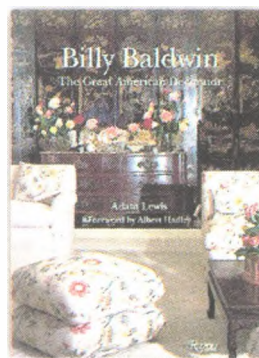


OCTOBER NEW RELEASE > BILLY BALDWIN: THE GREAT AMERICAN DECORATOR

By Adam Lewis | Rizzoli
Release Date: Oct. 26

The definitive book on the legendary decorator Billy Baldwin, known as the "Dean of American Decorating," famous for his classical taste, streamlined modernism, and brilliant use of color. In the tradition of Rizzoli's Albert Hadley and David Hicks, this is the first fully illustrated account of the career of Billy Baldwin (1903–1983), one of the most important decorators of the twentieth century, whose work has influenced contemporary designers from Bunny Williams to Jeffrey Bilhuber.

Baldwin's style was a revelation—simultaneously classical and modernist, tailored and clean, yet dramatically colored, and above all American. An enemy of clutter and conspicuous wealth, he favored natural materials and comfortable furniture. The drama in his rooms often came from color, as seen in the dark brown lacquered walls of Cole Porter's library or the scarlet cotton print that covered Diana Vreeland's apartment. Immensely charming, Baldwin was a popular addition to the high society of New York.



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« DVD RELEASES »

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| The Karate Kid | |
| Holy Rollers | OCTOBER 19 |
| The Secret of Kelis | Oceans |
| Splice | Please Give |
| The Oxford Murders | Predators |
| The Lottery | |
| OCTOBER 12 | OCTOBER 26 |
| Jonah Hex | The Girl Who Played with Fire |

« NOW PLAYING »

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|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| IN THEATERS | Carlos |
| OCTOBER 1 | The Two Esobars Hereafter |
| The Social Network | |
| Let Me In | IN THEATERS |
| Case 39 | OCTOBER 22 |
| Freakonomics | Paranormal Activity 2 |
| Barry Munday | The Prisoners |
| Hatchet II | Knucklehead |
| Chain Letter | |
| IN THEATERS | IN THEATERS |
| OCTOBER 8 | OCTOBER 27 |
| Secretariat | Strange Powers: |
| Stone | Stephin Merrit and |
| My Soul to Take | The Magnetic Fields |
| Life As We Know it | Baghdad Texas |
| It's Kind of a Funny Story | |
| Down for Life | IN THEATERS |
| Nowhere Boy | OCTOBER 29 |
| Tamara Drewe | Wild Target |
| | The Girl Who Kicked the Hornet's Nest |
| IN THEATERS | Saw 3D |
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Prepare your home for fall, winter

By LON GROSSMAN
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

I know you don't want to think about the end of what has been a fantastic summer, but it's something you have to prepare for.

"Preparing" in this case, means getting ready for cold weather, snow and ice. Basically, it's buttoning down the hatches to make your self more comfortable and save money.

Everyone knows, or should know, when we have to turn our clocks back one hour we

should also replace the batteries in our smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.

What you may not know is if you have a Kidde Dual-sensor Smoke Detector (model P12000) it is subject to a U.S. Consumer Product

Safety Recall. The Consumer Product Safety Recall states they could fail to warn of a fire. The model being recalled has two buttons. One labeled "hush" while the other "push and hold to test weekly". The buttons are on the front of the detector. The aforementioned model, along with date codes is located on the back of the alarm. Only date codes from August 1, 2008 through May 4, 2009, are subject to the recall.

Kidde makes an excellent smoke, fire and carbon monoxide detector as well as other safety equipment. Call Kidde at 877-524-2086 to get a replacement alarm for free.

While we're on the subject of detectors, they all need periodic maintenance. Vacuum them to remove dust, dirt and spider webs. Never paint them and read the instructions on where they should be installed.

Before the cold air really blows in, have your furnace tuned-up and inspected. The heating company will perform preventative maintenance along with changing filters and turning on the dehumidifier. They should make sure the burner has the proper gas/air ratio. They also should make sure the furnace is not leaking carbon monoxide into the house. If the blower motor needs oiling, they oil it. A good HVAC contractor does all the above along with making sure everything is working properly and efficiently so you have one less problem to worry about.

If you still haven't installed a programmable thermostat, do it now. The average annual dollar savings is well over \$100.00. They are usually easy to install by the homeowner and can pay for itself within one year.

If you haven't added insulation to your attic



within the last 10 years, it's time to install more. The overwhelming majority of houses are under insulated. Even if you have a new house, you don't have enough insulation. New homes come with R-30 insulation. That's the minimum code. You should double that to R-60.

Walk around the exterior of your house. Take a pair of binoculars with you. Inspect the roof for damage, loose or missing shingles. Check the chimney flashing, bricks and wash. If you don't have screens on top of your fireplace flue, have it installed before you get raccoons in your house.

Also check your gutters. Are they loose or clogged with leaves or debris? If so, clean and fix them to avoid more serious problems such as ice dams. ■

PLANNING AHEAD

Planning ahead will save you money, inconvenience – possibly your life. Not only should you plan for the normal seasonal conditions, but also those unforeseen. Keep emergency supplies on hand, including:

- Flashlights with extra fresh batteries.
- Extra blankets.
- Candles and/or lantern.
- Transistor radio with fresh batteries.
- Canned foods with hand operated can opener.
- Kerosene heater with fresh kerosene.
- Extra firewood if you have a fireplace.
- Water

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Integrate 'junk' into your home décor



"Junking" allows for imaginative self-expression, endless possibilities for original design, and the ability to make your interiors stylishly green.

Can you use junk to keep your home decor fresh?

As colder weather arrives, you are probably looking to freshen up your home decor. While it might be counterintuitive, a great way to do this is by using items you might not otherwise have a need for - or to put it bluntly, junk.

You may have already heard about a growing trend called "junking," which involves incorporating junk in your home decor. This allows for imaginative self-expression, endless possibilities for original design, and the ability to make your interiors stylishly green. Another plus is that you'll save a little green too, since you won't be buying as many new items.

Sue Whitney knows a thing or two about breathing new life into things some would consider junk. She's been leading the trend for the last decade, founding the premiere junking website www.junkmarketstyle.com and appearing on NBC's The Today Show as the junking expert. Whitney has also written three instructional books on the topic.

"Integrating junk in your home decor is not confined to flea market decorating," says Whitney. "I love flea market shopping, but there are countless other spots sweet on junk. Salvage yards, used restaurant supply stores and farm sales are just a few of the many alternatives."

The right products and tools are essential for crafting unique junk projects. Hammers, nails and super glue are good essentials to start with, in your junker's toolbox. Gorilla Super Glue is the perfect adhesive if you are looking to embellish your finds with other objects. For creating projects and other project fixes, the original Gorilla Glue works well.

As Whitney says, "Create your own style — one piece of junk at a time." Here are a few of her suggestions on how to cozy up your cot-

tage for the cool weather season:

- A little repositioning of furniture and accessories, a change of accent color, and a few new junk acquisitions or creative projects will take you down the transition highway quickly and easily. For example, tightening up your conversation pits will make your rooms seem cozier. You can achieve this by simply moving



your furniture a bit closer and adding a few extra accessory junk pieces. When it's cool outside, the closer, the better.

- Vintage pillows and throws are staples in the junking world. Trade in your light and bright cotton throws for ones with autumnal colors and cozy wool. Accent pillows with contrasting vintage textiles on either side will take you directly from summer to fall with a single flip.

- Thoughtfully combining colors and textures is a key element in cultivating good junk design. Trends for the season are all basic and neutrals. Galvanized metal, warm woods, whitewashed architectural salvage and weathered concrete pieces provide a stunning and timeless backdrop for your home.

For projects and more creative junking ideas from Sue Whitney, visit www.gorillatough.com.

— Courtesy of ARAcontent

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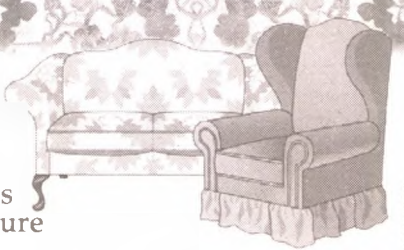
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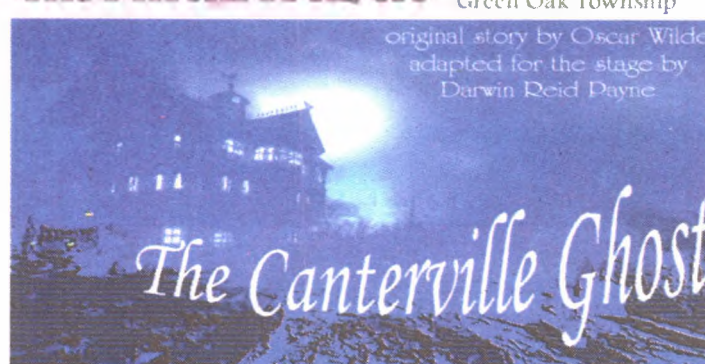


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5 9 1 7 8 3 4 2 6	1 6 5 3 7 4 9 2 8	9 6 5 8 2 3 7 4 1
8 3 2 6 9 4 1 7 5	9 2 4 1 8 5 3 7 6	7 1 3 9 4 6 2 8 5
2 5 3 9 4 7 6 1 8	2 7 6 5 4 3 8 9 1	3 5 8 7 6 9 1 2 4
6 4 9 8 1 5 2 3 7	3 1 8 2 6 9 7 5 4	6 7 9 2 1 4 5 3 8
7 1 8 3 6 2 5 4 9	5 4 9 7 1 8 6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

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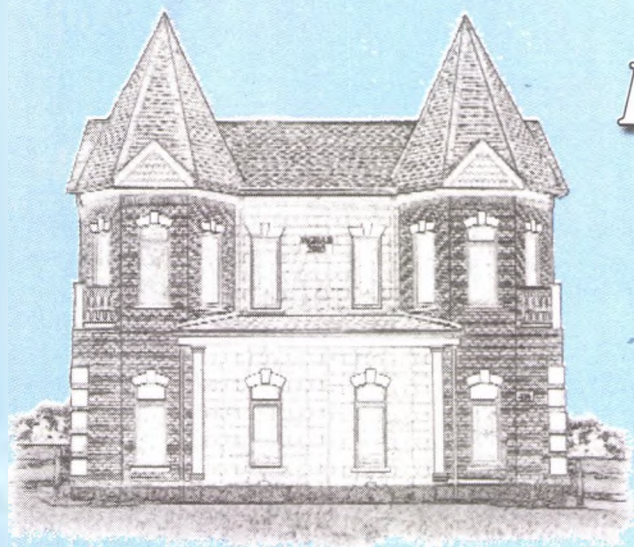
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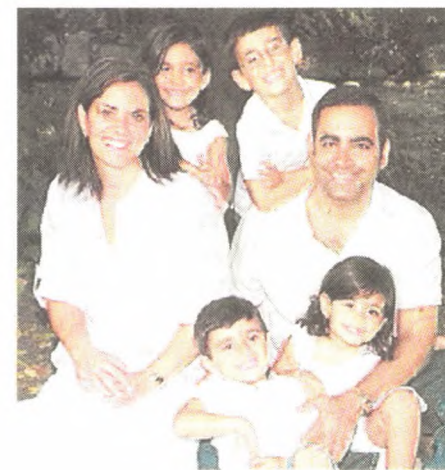
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