



THURSDAY
April 21, 2011

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

Volume 124
Number 71

\$1.00

PLYMOUTH OBSERVER
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PIPELINE

Egg hunt

The Plymouth Lions Club sponsors the annual Easter Egg Hunt 10 a.m. Saturday, April 23, at Plymouth Township Park. Hunters should bring baskets and bags (and their parents should bring cameras) for photos with the Easter Bunny. Age groups this year include 0-3, 4-6, 7-8, and 9-11. Club members will also be collecting hearing aids, eyeglasses and cell phones. Plymouth Township Park is located at Ann Arbor Trail and McClumpha. For more information call Heather Rau at (248) 473-4569 or e-mail her at hrau@mi.rr.com.

Repeating history

Folks at the Penn Theatre will begin auditorium renovations this summer. Theater manager Ellen Elliott said new seats, carpeting and draperies will be installed over a two-week period some time in July.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Plymouth's Penn Theater gets an interior makeover this summer.

Ironically, the new seats are made by the same manufacturer that made the original seats for the Penn Theatre when it opened in 1941.

Elliott said all the new decorations will fit the period of the Penn. According to information provided by the Plymouth Downtown Development Authority, the renovations will cost \$170,000, paid for with money raised in fundraising campaigns over the last couple of years. Donation can still be made to the Friends of the Penn for renovations.

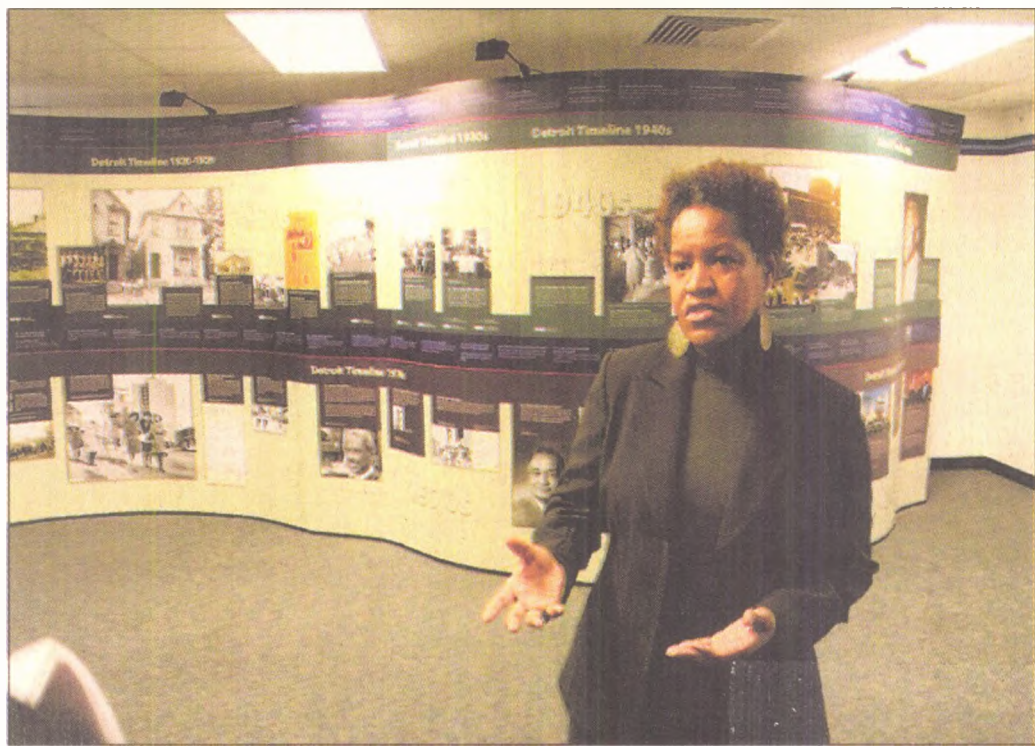
Author, author

The Plymouth District Library hosts a Michigan Notable Books Author presentation 7 p.m. Thursday, April 28, featuring guest speakers Stephen Ostrander and Martha Bloomfield discussing their book "The Sweetness of Freedom, Stories of Immigrants."

Ostrander is a historian, designer and writer for the Michigan Historical Museum. He designed the "Movers & Seekers Michigan Immigrants & Migrants Exhibit" in 2005. Bloomfield is an educator, writer, artist, oral historian and curator of the "Movers & Seekers Michigan Immigrants & Migrants Exhibit" in 2005, at the Michigan Historical Museum.

The authors will talk about how the book came to be and adventures along the way. Bus Spaniola, author of the Foreword, will talk about his Italian Immigrant ancestors arriving here in the early 20th century.

Signup is requested at http://plymouthlibrary.org/regis_friends.htm or by phone at (734) 453-0750, Ext. 4.



Michigan Roundtable project manager Freda Sampson explains the exhibit, which traces the racial roots of housing policies and issues, focusing mainly on the metro Detroit area.

A roof over their heads
Exhibit traces racial tone of housing policies

BY BRAD KADRICH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Along a parcel in the Eight Mile/Wyoming area of Detroit sits a fence built years ago as a condition for a developer who wanted to build housing to be sold exclusively to white buyers.

As legend goes, the developer was told by city officials they could not build on their parcel unless a barrier was constructed separating it from an area dominated by African-American residents.

It's that kind of systemic racial policy-setting the Michigan Roundtable for Diversity and Inclusion wants people to see in their historical exhibit, "Race, Residents and Prejudice," on display now in the media center at Salem High School. The exhibit, which took some eight months to put together, chronicles racial housing issues from the 1900s through 2010.

"We were looking at the history of race and housing in the (metro) Detroit area," said Freda Sampson, project manager for the Michigan Roundtable. "There's so much history we had to find a way to communicate it."



The exhibit is made up of panels and banners like this controversial piece of the story.

DOING THE RESEARCH

Partnering with the Charles Wright Museum of African-American History in Detroit, Roundtable organizers researched the various issues they wanted to highlight. According to Sampson, the Federal Housing Authority used racial bias as a means for determining housing subsidies, policies, etc., fostering the segregated country that fought racial battles, particularly through the 1960s.

Michigan Roundtable officials said the exhibit focused

Please see **EXHIBIT, A6**

RACE ON DISPLAY

What: Educational exhibit "Race, Residents and Prejudice"
Who: Sponsored by the Michigan Roundtable for Diversity and Inclusion
When: Open to the public 4-8 p.m. Monday, May 2, and Wednesday, May 4
Where: Salem High School Media Center
Why: The exhibit traces housing policies Michigan Roundtable officials say were based in racial bias.

Daisy Pavilion plan gets commission endorsement

BY MATT JACHMAN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The Plymouth City Commission on Monday gave tentative blessing to a drive to preserve part of the 1882 factory where Daisy air rifles were born and made for about 70 years.

With a unanimous voice vote, the commission approved a resolution stating the city would accept ownership of the Daisy Wall site off of Union Street — where preservationists hope to restore part of the factory wall and

incorporate it into a pavilion in a park-like setting — under specific conditions, including no financial involvement.

"I support this," said Mayor Dan Dwyer before the vote. "The city cannot spend money on it. I just want to make this crystal clear."

The resolution is intended to give direction to the Plymouth Planning Commission as it discusses the Daisy Wall site off of Union Street and whether to recommend that Joseph Freed and Associates, the developer of the Daisy Square condomini-

ums, be allowed to alter its planned urban development agreement with the city. Those issues will be decided by the City Commission once the planning board makes its recommendations.

CHANGING CONDITIONS

The three-story Daisy Wall, under the development agreement, was to be used in a loft-style condominium building, but Freed officials say it has deteriorated since its project began and that preserving

Please see **DAISY, A6**

Students, friends use Facebook to support teacher

BY BRAD KADRICH AND
MATT JACHMAN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITERS

While Ray Schepansky awaits his April 29 preliminary hearing on three felony charges, hundreds of students, friends and supporters are mounting a campaign of support for the 52-year-old social studies teacher.

A Facebook page, "Free Schepansky," has already drawn more than 1,000 "likes" as a variety of people — including current and former students, teachers and even one union official — offer support for Schepansky, the popular teacher arrested last week. Schepansky was arraigned Saturday on three felony charges following allegations that he brought an unloaded pistol to school Thursday morning, prompting school officials to cancel classes and leading to his arrest by Canton police.

STUDENTS 'SHOCKED'

Students and former students were shocked by the turn of events involving one of their favorite teachers. Former student Megan Ringler said Schepansky was "by far the most devoted,

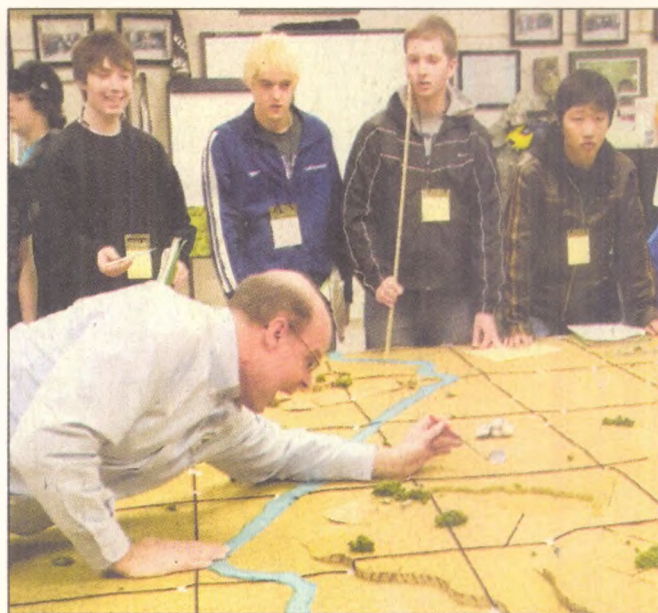
caring and sincere" teacher she had.

"He would take the time to get to know every student individually," said Ringler, who had Schepansky's military history class in 2006. "He motivates his students. The way he teaches is very different from any other style of teaching I've ever encountered. He's very approachable, and very easy to talk to. He knows what's right and what's wrong, so I was shocked this would happen, that he would get in trouble."

Schepansky, who has taught in the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools for more than a decade, is charged with carrying a concealed weapon, having a gun in a weapons-free zone and using a gun during a felony. He was arrested April 14 as he arrived for school, and police say they found an unloaded 9 mm pistol in his car, plus two loaded magazines for it.

Magistrate Jeffery Fanto dropped a fourth charge of carrying a weapon with unlawful intent after a Canton police detective told him Saturday police had no

Please see **TEACHER, A5**



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Teacher Ray Schepansky the way his students view him: Teaching a war simulation in his military history class. Nearly 1,100 supporters have "liked" a Facebook page supporting Schepansky, who was arrested last week.

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Honor mom with breakfast in bed

The Matt Prentice Restaurant Group wants to honor metro Detroit's greatest Mom with a special Mother's Day Breakfast in Bed, prepared and served by Prentice and his staff.

To enter, explain in 100 words or less why your mom is a personal hero, unique inspiration and why she deserves the star treatment this Mother's Day. Deadline for nominations is May 1.

Entry form and information for the Breakfast in Bed

for Mom competition can be found at: <http://mattprentice.com/momsday2011.html>. Contestants must include a 100-word essay on why they have the metro area's most deserving mother. The winner must live within a 50-mile radius of zip code 48207 (Detroit). To mail entry, print out the information from the link above and send it with the essay to: Matt Prentice Restaurant Group, Special Mom, 1380 E. Jefferson, Detroit, MI 48207.

CORRECTION

Matt Landry will perform on saxophone at the Livonia Prayer Breakfast next month. Information accompanying Landry's photo in the April 14 issue of the *Observer* incorrectly identified his choice of musical instruments for the May 12 event.

Motorcycle fashion show to raise money

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A Canton motorcycle dealership has found a way to help riders look sharp while raising money for charity.

BMW Motorcycles of Southeast Michigan has announced a spring-season fashion show that will benefit the United Cerebral Palsy Foundation.

Owner John Horner said BMW Motorcycles, on the southwest corner of Ford and Lotz roads on Canton's east side, chose to raise money for the foundation because an employee — apparel manager Audrey Wicke-Jackson of Plymouth Township — lost a brother, Joey, to cerebral palsy when he was only 22.

BMW Motorcycles will open its doors and have motorcyclists model proper riding gear during a fashion show set for 6 p.m. Friday, April 29.

"We think it's real important to be involved in the community," Horner said.

Theresa Bailey, a BMW Motorcycles employee who handles marketing, said riders will model fashions the dealer sells from BMW, REVIT and Olympia. Helmets made by Schubert also will be modeled.

Tickets may be bought in advance for \$15 by calling the



BMW MOTORCYCLES OF SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN

Some of the latest motorcycle fashions will be worn by real motorcyclists during an upcoming fund-raiser at BMW Motorcycles of Southeast Michigan in Canton. Money from the benefit will go to the United Cerebral Palsy Foundation.

business at (734) 981-1479 and asking for Bailey or Wicke-Jackson. Admission at the

door is \$20. BMW Motorcycles has been involved before in charity, such

as raising money to help Toys for Tots during the Christmas season, Horner said.

It's the first time the business has had a fashion show to benefit the United Cerebral Palsy Foundation, which provides education and support to help those who have cerebral palsy live as independently and productively as possible.

"We sat down and decided we needed to bring some different kinds of events to the dealership and the market, and we wanted to promote proper riding gear," Horner said. "With that, I suggested we should do it so there's a charity involved."

Wicke-Jackson suggested the United Cerebral Palsy Foundation — a charity she continues to support even after her brother's death.

The event could bring widespread exposure to the charity. Last year, the Canton business finished the year as the 14th largest BMW motorcycle dealer in the country, Horner said.

Bailey has said all of the proceeds from the fashion show ticket sales will be donated to the United Cerebral Palsy Foundation. The event also will include prizes and will be catered by Hayden's Grill and Bar in Canton.

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AROUND PLYMOUTH

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

Pure Art exhibit
Date/Time: Runs through April 28; 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Thursday
Location: Plymouth Community Arts Council, 774 N. Sheldon, Plymouth
Details: The PCAC's open exhibition, Pure Art Michigan, which drew almost 100 submissions from approximately 50 artists from metro Detroit, runs through April 28. The Council invited artists to submit work that highlights the unique beauty of the state. It received photography, oil paintings, watercolors, acrylics, pastels, colored pencil art, mixed media and wood block prints. Themes ranged from recognizable Michigan landmarks to more personal perceptions of the state's beauty around us.
Contact: Call the PCAC at (734) 416-4278 or e-mail to amy@plymoutharts.com.

Jazz @ the Elks
Date/Time: April 26, 7-10:30 p.m.
Location: Plymouth Elks Lodge #1780, 41700 Ann Arbor Road
Details: Naima Shambourger will be doing Vocals with Sven Anderson on Keyboard, Marion Hayden on Bass and George Davidson on Drums. There is limited seating, a \$5 donation is requested and complementary hors d'oeuvres are served.
Contact: For more information, call (734) 453-1780 or visit www.PlymouthElks1780.com

Good Friday breakfast
Date/Time: Friday, April 22, 8 a.m.
Location: St. Michael Lutheran Church, 7000 N. Sheldon in Canton.
Details: Chris Shepherd, chaplain of the U of M football team and character coach, will be the guest speaker at this community outreach event. All men and boys are invited to the breakfast.
Contact: Tickets may be obtained by calling the church at (734) 459-3333 and are \$6 for men and \$3 for boys 10 and under.

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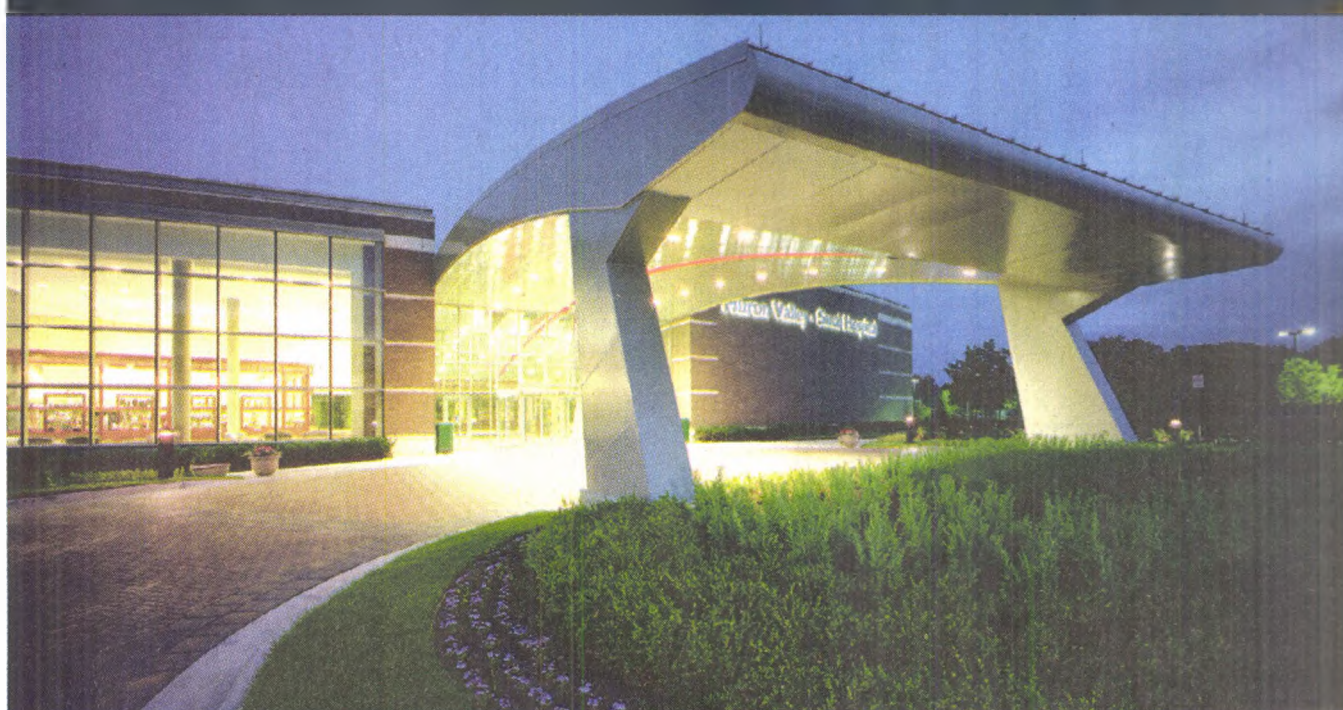
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Defective car headlight leads to marijuana arrest

1 A 29-year-old Redford Township woman was arrested early Monday on charges of possessing marijuana and narcotics paraphernalia after being stopped by police because the car she was driving had a headlight out.

According to a Plymouth Township Police Department report, an officer stopped the woman, who was driving a Nissan, along Plymouth Road east of Haggerty shortly before 2 a.m. Upon speaking with her, the report said, the officer noticed the odor of marijuana and asked if she had anything illegal in the car.

The woman replied she did not, police said. But she consented to a search of the Nissan, police said, and the officer found a pipe in the center console, and rolling papers and a grinder in a purse on the front passenger

CRIME WATCH

said. The woman then admitted she had marijuana, police said, and turned over a plastic bag of suspected marijuana she had been carrying.

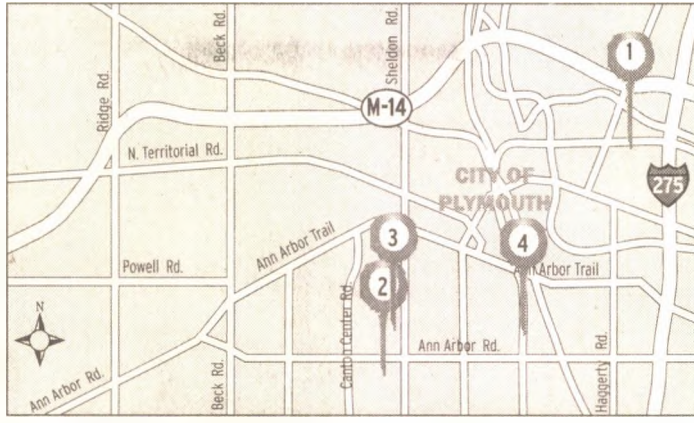
The substance later tested positive for marijuana, police said.

In addition to being arrested, the woman was given a warning for the defective headlight.

Shoplifting arrest

2 A 21-year-old Canton Township man was arrested outside a supermarket in Plymouth Township Saturday night on charges of receiving and concealing stolen property.

The suspect was carrying two cans of Monster energy drink when stopped by an offi-



cer responding to a report of a shoplifting at the Kroger on Ann Arbor Road near Sheldon Road shortly before 11 p.m., police said. The drinks had been reported stolen; the suspect told police they had been taken by another man, whom police couldn't locate.

A third man whom police thought may have been

involved was questioned and released.

Shoplifting

3 Two men fled the CVS drug store at Ann Arbor Road and Sheldon early Saturday after being confronted by an employee during an apparent shoplifting, police said.

The employee told police a

customer reported the incident, and that the men, at the front of the store, ran when approached, dropping two bottles of eye drops and two tubes of cortisone cream. They looked as if they were concealing more items in their coats, the employee told police.

The pair drove north on Sheldon in a silver Ford Taurus, the employee told police. The incident occurred shortly before 1 a.m. Saturday.

Police said a check of the Taurus' license plate showed the car had been reported stolen in Meridian Township on April 4.

Pot bust

4 Police arrested a 30-year-old Canton man on the afternoon of April 13 after finding suspected marijuana in a car where he was hanging out.

The man was found in a parking lot on Lilley, where a man had been reported smoking marijuana about 1 p.m., according to a police report. A responding officer asked him what he was doing and he said he was relaxing, police said.

The officer smelled marijuana, police said, and asked the man if he had any. The man replied he had some residue, then added that he had marijuana under the passenger seat in a nearby Kia, police said.

Police found three jars of suspected marijuana there, a total of more than 11 grams, police said. The substance later tested positive for marijuana, police said. The officer also found two pipes, which were destroyed.

- By Matt Jachman

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Son represents new generation in longtime Plymouth dental practice

BY MATT JACHMAN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

John Hamerink continued a long Plymouth tradition when he joined his father's dental practice, H. A. Hamerink and Associates, last year.

His father, Howard Hamerink, is marking 35 years as a dentist in the city, with a practice that dates back to 1946, when dentist A.E. VanOrnum, who was called Van, set up shop above a hardware store on Penniman Avenue. Hamerink took over the business, which is now on Harvey north of Fralick, from VanOrnum in the 1970s.

Many of Van's patients stuck with the new guy.

"We've got some people from Van who are in their 90s now," said Howard Hamerink, who lives in Plymouth Township, during a visit in his office on Tuesday.

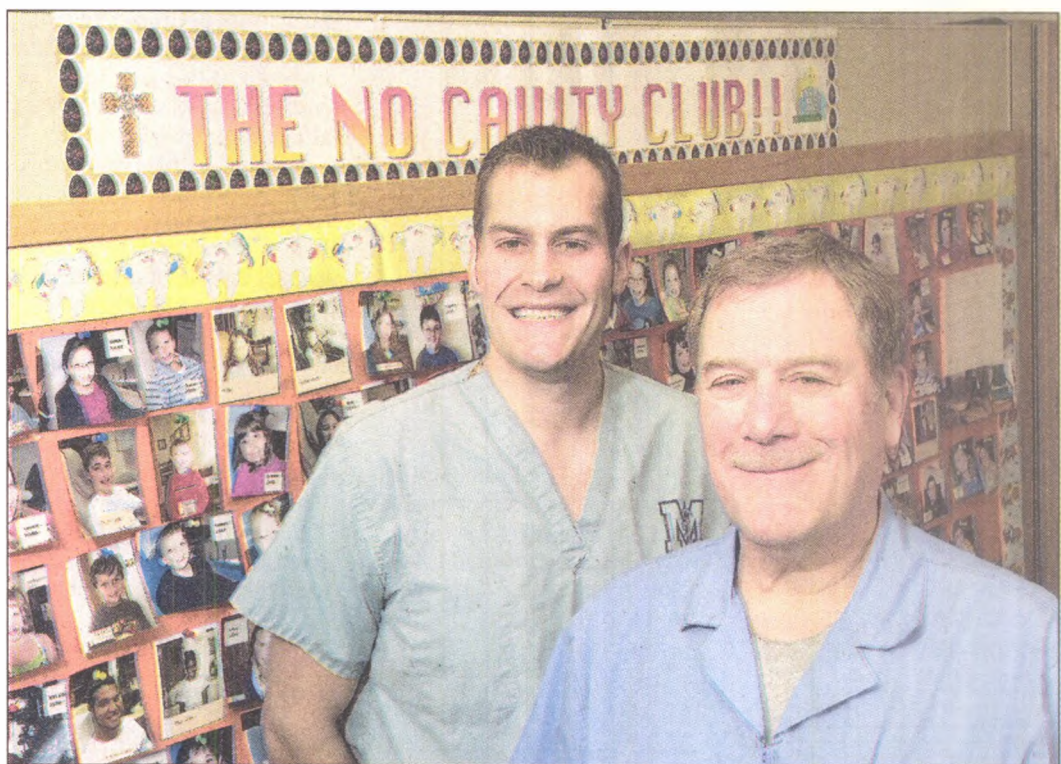
Actually, their tradition dates back thousands of years: Howard Hamerink said early dental fillings were done in China about 5000 B.C. "They found some evidence of root canals being treated during Roman days," he said.

STARTING OUT

Like Van, the elder Hamerink started out as a teacher after college, graduating from Wayne State University with a double major in chemistry and economics. Also like his mentor, Hamerink went back to school, studying dentistry at the University of Michigan, where he and son John both now teach.

"It was always an interest when I was in high school," Howard Hamerink said. "It involved the sciences and hand skills."

John Hamerink, of Ann Arbor, took a more direct path into dentistry after getting his bachelor's degree in kinesiology, the study of human move-



John Hamerink continued a long Plymouth tradition when he joined his father's dental practice, H. A. Hamerink and Associates, along with his father, Howard, who is marking 35 years as a dentist in the city.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

ment. He also has a master's degree in basic medical science from WSU, and a doctoral degree from U-M.

"I was always going to do health care," he said. He started working at his father's practice while in college, assisting, cleaning instruments and doing office maintenance, and found he liked it, he said. He said he felt driven to serve people.

"I wanted to be part of an occupation that delivers a standard of care," he said. "Everyone wants to do well for themselves, but I'd like to do well and provide a service."

Both men are active in the Michigan Dental Association, and Howard Hamerink oversees dental research at U-M; right now, thanks to a grant from United Way, he is managing a project that's evaluating the effects of providing dental prostheses to people who need them but can't

afford them. John Hamerink provides dental care to prison inmates once a week.

BOOSTING PATIENTS

Both are gratified by helping improve the appearance of people in need of dental work. It's a boost to patients' self-confidence, they said.

"You'll see people who used to walk around with their hands in front of their mouths" who are later "smiling and gregarious," Howard Hamerink said.

Howard Hamerink said the biggest change he's seen in 35 years in dentistry is the increasing attention to patient comfort. "I always want to stay on top of that," he said.

Another change, both men said, has been an expanding body of research that links poor oral health to non-dental diseases, such as certain types of heart disease. The use of

dental "biomarkers" in diagnosing other problems in the body is going to become more commonplace, they said.

At their office, the Hamerinks do checkups and cleanings, fill cavities, whiten teeth and perform root canals and fit patients with crowns, bridges and dentures. Between their patients and their teaching schedules, the two work together in Plymouth only on Tuesdays.

John Hamerink said he likes working with his dad. "Good dynamic. Very good mentor, good to work for," he said.

Do they know any good dentist jokes?

"I'm not big on jokes," the elder Hamerink said, before quoting a slogan commonly found at dentists' office: "Brush and floss the teeth you want to keep."

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

Lineup complete for Miracle League groundbreaking

BY MATT JACHMAN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The Miracle League of Plymouth will break ground on Friday, April 29, for a baseball field designed for use by players with special needs.

The \$500,000 park is slated for a parcel behind Central Middle School in Plymouth; the Plymouth-Canton Community School District is leasing the site at no cost to the Miracle League for 10 years, with a 10-year renewal option.

Ryan Field, an on-air personality for Fox Sports Detroit, will be the master of ceremonies for the groundbreaking ceremony, which is set for 5 p.m.

With plenty of volunteers to serve as "buddies" to players with special needs, who might be using a walker or a wheelchair, the Miracle League is now looking for players, and play at the completed field is tentatively scheduled to begin in late August.

"They said, 'Build it and they will come,'" said Miracle League co-chair Bob Bilkie, echoing a line from the baseball fantasy Field of Dreams, "but we're just making sure."

Some special-needs players and their families are expected at the groundbreaking, in addition to Plymouth Mayor Dan Dwyer; state Rep. Kurt Heise, R-Plymouth Township; school board president John Jackson and other officials. Paws, the Detroit Tigers mascot, will be the guest of honor.

The Salvation Army's Plymouth Corps will be serving hot dogs, and members of the high

school marching band at Plymouth Canton Educational Park will be performing the National Anthem and Take Me Out to the Ball Game. A representative from a similar ballfield begun last year in Bridgeport, Mich., will be there to pass along a ceremonial Miracle League shovel.

Plymouth's Miracle League field will be the third such field in the state; in addition to the one in Bridgeport, there is another in Southfield.

The Miracle League organization was founded in Georgia in 1998, and now has about 250 fields across the country.

The fields are scaled down — each basepath is 35 feet, compared to 90 feet in full-sized fields — and surfaces are rubberized for safer navigation by children who might be using wheelchairs or walkers. There is no grass or raised bases, which could present hazards for players, and players' abilities on the field are the focus of their games.

Plymouth's field will include shelters for the players, a grandstand for spectators, and restrooms.

Deb Madonna, who shares Miracle League co-chair duties with Bilkie, said many children with special needs will go on to play on more traditional ballfields, but that a Miracle League field is a place where they can start out in a comfortable setting and build confidence.

"This is a place where people go and try their wings," she said.

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TEACHER

FROM PAGE A1

evidence that Schepansky had made a specific threat.

INDEFINITE LEAVE

A person convicted of carrying a concealed weapon or bringing a gun to a weapons-free zone could face a maximum prison term of five years for each charge. The penalty for a conviction of using a gun during a felony is a mandatory two years' imprisonment.

School officials have placed Schepansky on an indefinite leave of absence while the legal process plays out. His supporters are planning to be at Plymouth's 35th District Court April 29 to show their support. The show of support reached a level that prompted Nancy Wojtowicz, president of the union that represents Schepansky, to urge calm.

Wojtowicz, who is out of the office this week due to spring break and couldn't be reached, posted on the Facebook page:

"I spoke with Mr. Schepansky's attorney. He and Ray appreciate all the support from everyone. There are many people planning on attending the April 29 court date. Mr. Schepansky's attorney asked that if you are attending, please ... no signs regarding freeing Mr. Schepansky. It will be better and show more support if we are respectful to the court and the judge."



Schepansky

Schepansky's troubles started April 13, police said, when, while in a dispute with co-workers, he was heard making references to his military background and his weapons collection. Police said they seized three assault-type rifles from Schepansky's home during a search.

WITHOUT INCIDENT

When he arrived on campus shortly after 6 a.m. April 14, police said, an officer stopped him in a driveway and he told police of the pistol in his car.

"He was arrested without incident," Canton detective Sgt. Dave Schreiner said, adding school officials and police worked together to prevent what could

have become a much more serious incident.

"It's a good testament to the school district and the police officers who responded efficiently," Schreiner said. "We had (several) police officers in the area of the high school looking for a teacher who had made threats the previous afternoon. They stopped a bad situation from getting worse."

Police said Schepansky does not have a concealed weapons permit. Police said he also has no prior record.

Former student Annie Bergmans, who took Schepansky's U.S. History class in 2004 and his military history class the following year, said she "couldn't believe it" when she heard the news.

"He is an amazing, dedicated teacher who has impacted so many people's lives," she posted on the page. "It's horrible to realize that even if found innocent, he will probably never teach again. The guy never did anything unless he had a really good reason behind it ... I'm sure all of you who had him as a teacher remember how he always believed that any person can make a difference."

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Find inspiration with Jenna Bush Hager

The Michigan International Women's Show brings Jenna Bush Hager and an eclectic mixture of experiences that will appeal to women of all ages and interests when it returns to the Suburban Collection Showplace April 28-May 1.

"Get inspired, feel refreshed and uncover the secrets to living well, feeling healthy, and having fun," said Beth Anderson, executive show manager of Southern Shows. "Visitors will experience unique shopping, make-up tips, fashion shows, cooking classes, entertainment, and much more."

Hager, author, educator and correspondent for NBC's "Today" program, will share her experiences on making a difference through the power of compassion on Thursday at noon, sponsored by Detroit Medical Center. She is the daughter of former U.S. President George

W. Bush and Former First Lady Laura Bush and granddaughter of former President George H. W. Bush and Former First Lady Barbara Bush.

Novi Fire Department's charity fashion show will heat up the runway Friday and Saturday with firefighters modeling their dress blues and bunker gear. Additional fashion shows include new spring styles, tunics, gowns and evening wear collections. Salvation Army Thrift Stores and Donation Centers will have a bargain boutique featuring collectibles and fashion wear for sale.

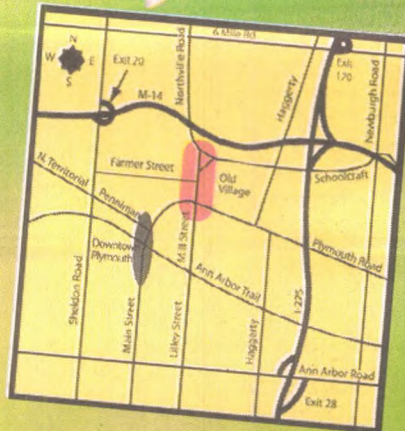
Beth Troutman and Kristy Villa, hosts of "The Balancing Act" on Lifetime, will be featured at the "Balance Your Life Road Tour" pavilion created to help women balance it all with elements on health, fashion, beauty, travel, business and all aspects of a woman's life.

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EXHIBIT

FROM PAGE A1

on housing because it's an area that affects everybody.

"We all need someplace to live," said Stacey Stevens, Michigan Roundtable community organizer. "How you live is impacted by where you live. The realities of how we live today aren't the result of individual choices. It's systemic. It's resources being taken out of one community and put into another."

Sampson said the Michigan Roundtable wanted to put together an exhibit that taught people who "have a sense of history, but may not have an understanding of how we got to the place of being a segregated society."

"The FHA was intentional in their policies that based access to housing on the color of people's skin," said Sampson, who said she found "lots of material" supporting what transpired. "Part of their policy was that people of color ... were not allowed to be in some neighborhoods."

SHOWING A TIMELINE

The exhibit features eight banners and 14 panels, as well as a 20-foot panel detailing the timeline from the early



Michigan Roundtable community organizer Stacey Stevens said the exhibit focuses on housing because "we all have to live somewhere."

1900s through the elections of President Barack Obama and Detroit Mayor Dave Bing. There are also video and audio components to accompany the exhibit, which has been up at Salem since April 5. The traveling exhibit came to Salem after a stop at the University of Detroit Mercy and earlier exhibits at Wayne State University and the University of Michigan. It's scheduled for the downtown Detroit headquarters of DTE Energy next.

Students have been viewing the exhibit since its arrival. The exhibit has become so popular, according to Salem Assistant Principal Allie

Suffety, teachers are asking to have it back every year.

"It's very timely for our students because of the district's diversity initiatives," Suffety said. "This is a very important part of our history that has been overlooked."

George Belvitch, Plymouth-Canton's director of elementary education, said the exhibit is important as a means of dispelling stereotypical views of Detroit as "the place where black people live" or a place "you don't go."

"Our students don't really know anything about metro Detroit," Belvitch said. "This (exhibit) allows them to learn



Another panel in the eight-banner, 14-panel housing exhibit sponsored by the Michigan Roundtable for Diversity and Inclusion.

about something they need to know. The display has given us a feeling of real responsibility to help our students learn about race."

Sampson said showing the exhibit at a high school helps the Michigan Roundtable attract attention from a core audience officials believe need to know the history before they can help move forward.

"We want to get the attention of young people," Sampson said. "We want them to be aware of what's been out there so they know where they need to go to move forward."

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DAISY

FROM PAGE A1

it and using it in a building would be too costly and perhaps impossible.

Dwyer praised the Plymouth Preservation Network's campaign to save the wall, which Freed had proposed tearing down and replacing with a memorial park that would include some of the wall's elements.

"It's great to see a community get energized by something positive. I think that's fantastic," the mayor said.

The PPN's Mark Malcolm said the vote indicates the commission is trying to help the Daisy Pavilion proposal become a reality.

"Our community galvanized, focused efforts and creativ-

ity to develop a project that promises enduring value to Plymouth," Malcolm told the commission. The Daisy Pavilion, estimated at between \$200,000 and \$250,000, would increase property values at Daisy Square and fulfill promises made in the development agreement, Malcolm said. He has said a combination of fundraising and a contribution from Freed could provide money for the project.

Freed, which owns the site, has been receptive to the Daisy Pavilion proposal but has not committed to a specific contribution, and no offer to donate the parcel to the city has been made. The issued is expected to return to the Planning Commission next month.

'DECISION HAS TO BE MADE'
Eric Nemeth, who can see

the Daisy Wall from his house on Union Street, told the commission he endorsed the proposal, but also sounded a note of caution.

"I think it's important that we don't overstate the uniformity in favor of maintaining the wall. A lot of folks want it gone," Nemeth said. "There does come a point in time where a decision has to be made."

Conditions of ownership outlined in the commission's resolution include:

- No financial participation by the city in either the demolition or construction of any structure.

- A clean environmental bill of health for the site before the city accepts ownership.

- A full review by city officials of all documents related to the parcel, including mort-

gage and financing documents and environmental studies.

Daisy Square was envisioned as a 159-condominium development when work began in 2003, but, hurt by the crash of the housing market, hasn't seen construction in several years. The project now has 66 townhouse condominiums and a building of 56 loft-style condos.

The Daisy factory began in 1882 as the Plymouth Iron Windmill Company; by late that decade, however, the company was focused on making air rifles, and it changed its name to Daisy Manufacturing Co. in 1895. Daisy closed shop in Plymouth in 1958, moving its manufacturing to Arkansas.

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

Cupcake Station: We sell gourmet cupcakes baked 100 percent from scratch, the old-fashioned way. We use the finest and most natural ingredient we can.

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

Cupcake Station: It had always been a dream of mine. Cupcakes are affordable to everyone and they're guaranteed to put a smile on one's face.

Observer: Why did you choose Plymouth?

Cupcake Station: The community and downtown district are strong and family-oriented.

Observer: What makes your business unique?

Cupcake Station: We've never settled for anything less than the best.

Observer: How has it changed since it opened?

Cupcake Station: Not a whole lot has changed, but we do feel like we've become part of the community.

Observer: Do you have a tidbit to share with other business owners?

Cupcake Station: I didn't know how much work it'd be to bake from scratch everyday, but I've stayed true to myself.

Observer: How has the recent economy affected your business?

Cupcake Station: Like any business we've suffered a little, but luckily we have been able to keep our price point stable.



Cupcake Station owner Kerry Johnson with a tray of gourmet cupcakes, like everything in the shop baked 100 percent from scratch.

Observer: Do you have any advice for other small-business owners?

Cupcake Station: Find your passion, stay true to who you are, and never settle for anything less than the best.

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

Cupcake Station: The future is unknown but we're hoping for steady growth within our company, growing for success and not failure.

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CHAMBER CHAT

Showcase Plymouth

The Chamber of Commerce is now taking reservations for exhibit space at the Showcase and Taste of Plymouth, set for 5-7:30 p.m. Monday, May 23, at the Inn at St. John's.

This year the event will be held in the Main Ball Room and adjoining Garden Room to provide more space for exhibitors and attendees. With space going quickly, you need to reserve your space as soon as possible to ensure you can be an exhibitor.

Last year the event was bigger than ever with 830 attendees and 90 exhibitors.

Showcase and Taste of Plymouth was created to celebrate the Plymouth Community's businesses, restaurants, and the people who live here.

Exhibit space is only \$110 and \$135 and includes a 6' x 3' skirted table. This is a great opportunity to market your business to residents and local businesses. If you are interested in exhibiting, please contact the Chamber at teri@plymouthmich.org or call (734) 453-1540. Cancellations must be received by May 17.

The major sponsors for this event are Hines Park Lincoln and Community Financial.

Extreme After Hours

The Canton Chamber of Commerce and the Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce team up for "Extreme After Hours," a networking event from 5-7:30 p.m. Thursday, April 28, at the Plymouth Roc, 1020 Ann Arbor Road (at the corner of Harvey) in Plymouth.

There is no cost to attend the event, which features two chambers in one great event. Host for the evening is the Plymouth

ROC who will provide hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar. There will be door prize drawings and you can join us any time throughout the evening.

Contact teri@plymouthmich.org or call (734) 453-1540 for reservations.

Trap and skeet

Canton Chamber of Commerce members interested in shooting sports are welcome to the Western Wayne County Conservation Association 2-5:45 p.m. Thursday, April 28, for trap and skeet shooting. Please RSVP by Tuesday, April 26. This event is a great opportunity for camaraderie among local business people who enjoy shooting sports.

Cost is \$10 per line for 25 shots, includes ammunition. The WCCA is located at 6700 Napier in Plymouth.

The club's pistol and archery ranges will also be open. While you are not required to pay in advance, we do need to provide the club with a count of how many shooters will attend and we ask that you RSVP to the Plymouth Chamber at wes@plymouthmich.org or call (734) 453-1540.

Lawrence Tech camps

This summer Lawrence Technological University will hold a dozen enrichment summer camps to introduce high school students to topics that could lead to a college major or a career. The camps are designed for high school sophomores, juniors and seniors interested in technology, science and design. For information and the registration form, contact Lisa Kujawa at kujawa@ltu.edu or go to ltu.edu/community_k12/summer_camps.asp. The registration deadline is June 1.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Best of Michigan

Genisys Credit Union was recently selected as one of Corp! Magazine's 2011 "Best of Michigan Businesses" and was honored on April 5, 2011 at an awards breakfast at MSU Management Education Center in Troy. Genisys was one of 66 top businesses honored for their hard work and commitment to excellence.

"Genisys is proud to receive this award two years in a row," said Jackie Buchanan, CEO. "The Genisys team works hard and takes pride in doing what's in the best interest of our members. It's about providing convenience and value as well as helping people realize their financial potential."

Genisys was one of ten exhibitors who had a booth at the event to answer questions and provide financial information about the credit union. Attendees were also able to network with more than 250 people representing over a dozen different industries.

"Corp! Magazine does a great job recognizing the ethics and efforts of many Michigan businesses," said Buchanan. "Their focus on positive business practices in the area is refreshing."

For more information on Corp! Magazine, please visit their website at www.corpmagazine.com or contact them at (888) 277-6464.

Genisys Credit Union is proud to be making a difference in our communities, and we

truly believe that Genisys is "where you come first". We are locally owned, locally controlled and continue to receive BauerFinancial's five-star rating for financial safety and soundness. Follow genisyscu on Facebook and Twitter for contests, promotions and other helpful information. A calendar of events can also be found on our website at www.genisyscu.org.

Better Health seminar

Juli Johnson, a certified medical assistant in cardiology will be appearing at the Plymouth Better Health Market to conduct a free seminar on the benefits of Human Chorionic Gonadotropin, a hormone produced naturally by women who are pregnant.

Johnson will explain how easy weight loss is with HCG. The seminar takes place 7 p.m. Wednesday, May 11, at the Plymouth Better Health, 44427 Ann Arbor Road.

The hormone is extracted from these women, refined and made into drops that people wanting and needing to lose weight can take on a daily basis. There are several phases to the HCG diet. First, there is the detoxification stage and then the dieter begins taking HCG for up to 40 days in conjunction with a low caloric intake. Following the 40 day period, there is a lifelong maintenance which must be adhered to.

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Three-year-old Julia Montgomery stacks eggs in a basket held by her mom, Jade Montgomery. Brother Grant, 6, was still searching for more eggs.



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Three-year-old Davin Burnell and sister Makiah Burnell, 6, get hugs from Sesame Street characters Big Bird and Elmo. The kids are at the egg hunt with Mom and Dad, Malaika and Dan Burnell.

The hunt was on!

A little bit of less-than-spring-like weather couldn't stem the enthusiasm of hundreds of youngsters eager to find some early Easter treats. The kids scurried through the fields of Heritage Park Saturday in the annual Canton Township Easter Bunny Eggstravaganza. The egg hunts, which ran for about two hours in two different age categories, provided the usual excitement for the children who took part. In addition to the Easter



Cold and rain doesn't dampen the smiles of Emily Laskie, Jeff Simpson and Kyle Kelly, Canton Leisure Services employees who were in the Easter spirit for Canton's Easter Eggs-stravaganza Saturday at Heritage Park.

Bunny, kids saw characters such as Sesame Street's Elmo and Big Bird. The fun all came after the

annual buffet breakfast, which featured strolling entertainment and a visit with the Easter Bunny.

Dumping of dogs outrages Humane Society

BY DIANE GALE ANDREASSI
STAFF WRITER

Eleven thin and poorly cared for dogs have been dumped and abandoned in Salem Township since April 6.

The Humane Society of Huron Valley is looking for information leading to the person or persons who dropped the dogs off near Six Mile and Salem roads. Last week, seven pure breed cocker spaniels were abandoned. A few days later, two more cocker spaniels and two cockapoos — cocker spaniel and poodle mixes — were left on the road to fend for themselves.

A \$500 reward from the Humane Society is offered for any information leading to the arrest and conviction of the persons responsible, according to Deb Kern, Humane Society of Huron Valley marketing director.

"They're all uncared for and heavily matted," Kern said. "It appears they were living in their own feces and urine. None were spayed or neutered. To us it appears that they were used to breed and when they felt their use was over, they were dumped. "Other than that, they appeared to be OK," she added. "We're outraged that someone would just dump the dogs."

DOGS DISCARDED

It is believed the pure breed cocker spaniels were left by the same person or persons, and investigators are looking into whether or not the cockapoos are part of the same case.

Likely, a puppy mill or backyard breeder simply left the dogs on a rural, dirt road and then drove away, said Matt Schaecher, HSHV director of cruelty and rescue.

"It's disturbing to see dogs discarded, because someone decided they could no longer be used to make a profit," Schaecher said.

The dogs range in age from 5 to 12 years old.

"We are currently evaluating the health of all the dogs," said Dr. Carrie Allen, HSHV veterinarian. "All are in horribly neglectful states, with overgrown, badly matted feces-covered fur. It appears that they have been

"It's disturbing to see dogs discarded, because someone decided they could no longer be used to make a profit."

MATT SCHAECHER, Humane Society of Huron Valley director of cruelty and rescue

housed in small cages amidst their own waste. They range in age, but sadly, some are very old and appear to have had at least one litter of puppies a year for many years."

SILVER LINING

If there is a silver lining in the case, it is the fact that as of Tuesday, three of the dogs had already been adopted, including a 12-year-old cocker spaniel with cataracts.

Anyone who wants to relinquish their dogs or cats should call the Humane Society to talk about options, like programs to help pay for the food or what to do.

"Please bring them to us," Kern said. "Don't just dump an animal."

There are programs available for people who have a financial need and are burdened by feeding their pets. More information about Bountiful Bowls is available by calling the Humane Society of Huron Valley.

"We have a lot of different programs to help people," Kern said.

Tanya Hilgendorf, executive director of HSHV, said this is a case of "greed on the part of the breeders, who only see the animals as money makers and not as living feeling beings, unfortunately supported by unwitting people who buy pets without doing proper research.

ADOPTION FIRST

"We always want families to consider adoption first, but if they go to a breeder, they need to make sure it is a responsible one," Hilgendorf said. "Folks need to know that they should never buy companion animals from pet stores or from the Internet, or any other place where you can't see where all the animals are raised and cared for. These dogs weren't family pets. They were 'breeder dogs' kept for the sole purpose of making puppies to make money.



PHOTOS BY HAL GOULD | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Dr. Mary Rupley (from left), Dr. Allison VanZant, and Dr. Stacey Weinrick of the Humane Society of Huron Valley working on "Blossom" — one of 11 dogs that were dumped in Salem Township last week.



Deb Kern of the Humane Society of Huron Valley pets one of the dogs HSHV officials named "Daisy."

"As such, they were severely neglected and probably lived tortured lives — never

knowing the joy of a loving family, a happy walk outside, or a warm bed, like all dogs

deserve. People who buy puppies from puppy-mill-like conditions are inadver-

tently supporting animal suffering."

Anyone with any information about where these dogs came from should call an anonymous tip line at (734) 661-3551.

Cocker spaniel lovers interested in adopting one of these dogs should call (734) 662-5585 or go to the shelter. HSHV is open daily from noon to 6 p.m. for adoptions.

The Humane Society of Huron Valley is an independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization serving all of Washtenaw County, Canton and Plymouth, and relies solely on donations from businesses and individuals to support its community programs. HSHV is not affiliated with, nor does it receive donations from, the Michigan Humane Society or any other humane organization. The mission of HSHV is to promote responsible and compassionate care of all animals in the community. For more information, call (734) 662-5585 or visit www.hshv.org.

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Community Editor
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OUR VIEWS

Work together School board needs to end the bickering

Enough already.

After a 3½-hour meeting April 12 at which very little was accomplished, it is clear the seven members of the Plymouth-Canton Board of Education simply aren't interested in mending fences and moving on.

It's time for all seven to work together for the good of the district.

The 4-3 fissure is as wide as it's been since it became evident last year. That was clear last week, when trustees made virtually every discussion contentious. If it's something one group wants, the other group finds a reason to schedule another meeting or delay the process. Similar ideas get different votes, depending on who suggests them.

Consider the two most important pieces of "business" on the April 12 agenda:

- Superintendent and chief operating officer reviews: Some board members want reviews done on outgoing Supt. Craig Fiegel and COO Ken Jacobs. Trustee Steven Sneiderman wants to do them, others do not. The board has been struggling for months to find common ground on the criteria and have not yet come to it. Truth is, they don't need to be done. Fiegel departs at the end of the school year. Jacobs retires at the start of the next school year.

Sneiderman wants to make sure the board is doing its due diligence by evaluating the two employees who report directly to them. That's an admirable sentiment. However, it can't possibly matter what rating either man gets if they're both gone. The board would do well to focus on the criteria they'll use to both select the next superintendent.

- New superintendent: The fight over the current superintendent is old news, but it's at the heart of the trouble between the two factions. Now trustees can't — or won't — agree on what they want. The administration wrongly placed an internal posting without approval of the full board. However, to be fair, the administration was doing what it was told by John Jackson, board president. Jackson had asked Jacobs to get started, a mistake Jackson acknowledged last week. The search for a new superintendent has been bungled from the start, for political reasons, and the board needs to come together to fix it.

- Delaying everything else until the budget and superintendent situations are resolved: Another area where board opinions vary. Several board members said they'd like to postpone various reports in order to focus on the budget and the superintendent search. Others think all the work of the board is important and shouldn't be put off, because it hasn't been in recent years. In fact, Sneiderman correctly pointed out Fiegel's review was downgraded last year precisely because a report wasn't delivered on time.

These are uncertain, unprecedented times, with an \$18 million hole in the budget, a new superintendent to hire and important issues to discuss. There's a potential school closing, teacher layoffs and expanding class sizes to consider.

It's a time for the seven trustees entrusted with deciding these things to work together. Some of the discourse last week had people in the audience scratching their heads and, in at least one case, chuckling at an attempt to explain a position.

These are tough decisions that will be extraordinarily difficult to make. And they all must be made. Board members can't pick and choose what decisions they'll make. They were elected to make *all* of them.

All seven of them are dedicated, intelligent, caring people who have the best interests of the district and its 19,000 students at heart. But they aren't acting like it.

There's an election in November and board members no longer interested or anxious about making decisions should step aside at that time. Until then, however, the seven board members must find a way to work together for the good of the district. The people who elected them — and the students they represent — deserve that much.

DTgringo

josephcole123

COMMUNITY VOICE

What are you most looking forward to doing when spring weather arrives?

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



"Getting out in the yard, I guess."

Harve Bock
Plymouth Township



"Probably enjoying the ice cream and the Penn Theatre more. We come downtown more often when it's warm."

Russ Watson
Plymouth Township



"I want to be able to take a walk in sunshine."

Elinor Sheridan
Plymouth Township



"Being able to take a walk and not fall on the ice."

Kathy Thornell
Plymouth

LETTERS

Radio station support

A few words in support of WSDP.

On Dec. 19, 1980, history teacher Scott Beaman noticed me in the Plymouth Salem library, and asked what I was doing. My answer was, "nothing."

In fact, "nothing" was my outlook in life. High school Junior: unmotivated, mediocre grades, no athlete or musician or artisan of any kind. Just one of hundreds upon hundreds at PCEP in that category.

Mr. Beaman (you can't call him anything but "Mr. Beaman") looked at me for a moment and replied, "Follow me." He left me in the WSDP general manager's office with Jeffrey Cardinal, John Seidelman, and Kathy Allen — all faculty members with formal duties at the radio station. I don't know what Mr. Beaman saw in me, other than a b-s'er, and perhaps that fits for the broadcasting profession. But they handed me a long roll of yellow UPI wire copy and told me to edit it and read it for an audition.

The next school year I was WSDP's news director. The year after that, I was working professionally in news radio, and 30 years later, I am a television news anchor in Florida.

I still have that UPI wire copy, now faded to a pale brown, still hastily marked up with my almost-juvenile pencil scrawls. A reminder that a high school radio station that some consider an extravagance, was absolutely vital to providing me a direction, a career, a life.

All of us who support WSDP recognize school board members have tough choices to make. None of us believe you would blithely cut funds for this program. But as you consider the difficult alternatives in front of you, please keep in mind the fact that WSDP has enormous practical value, that sometimes can only be measured in the lives of people like me — proof that you can make something out of nothing.

David Snyder
WSDP '82

Feel the pain

Dear Rep. Dian Slavens, Rep. Kurt Heise, Sen. Patrick Colbeck, and Gov. Snyder:

I am writing to urge you to fulfill your promise to Michigan's students and act now to pass the revenue necessary to fully fund the School Aid budget, this year and into the future.

Michigan schools need a stable revenue stream and the time to address this problem is NOW. The members of the Michigan Legislature have been saying for many years that our children are our future. It is time for them to take action to fulfill that promise. The answer is not K-20 funding. K-12 schools cannot charge tuition or take out student loans as colleges can.

You and your colleagues must take the following steps to ensure that schools can continue to provide our students with the kind of education that will ensure their future:

1. There are huge inequities in school funding across Michigan. The base foundation level needs to be set at an equitable level for all school districts. Additionally, the across the board cuts that were enacted only exacerbated the current inequities. Fair funding must be a priority for the legislature.

2. Allow all districts equal access for local enhancements. These local enhancements should include funding for such things as excess special education costs or other specific general fund expenditures that would allow districts some leeway to fund those programs that current state funding cannot support. Why is my child worth

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

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

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

less than children in surrounding districts? We get the same funding per student whether it is elementary, middle school, or high school. It costs more to educate a high school student than a kindergarten student. Where is the fairness?

3. Act now to fix the structural school funding problem and provide students with the level of education that can only come with a stable and predictable school funding source.

4. I personally invite you to attend all future budget meetings for PCCS schools to hear our pain.

I am requesting that you contact me directly to discuss where you stand on this issue. Specifically, I want to know whether you support the continued taking dollars out of our classrooms, support increasing class size and putting our district into further debt?

I am also asking for your response if you support and will fight to allow the local school districts to raise our own revenue for our schools and revisit Proposal A as it is not working for our kids. Our students are now counting on you to finish the job and provide the revenue necessary to fund school district for this year and into the future.

John Nichols
Canton

Slash from the top

Many of us have read the Observer's numerous articles reporting budget cuts throughout the state, local governments and schools.

What I, as a taxpayer, don't understand is why, then, do my property taxes continue to rise? Where is the benefit of these supposed cuts to the individual taxpayer?

Current protocol seems to continually protect those government/township employees who already have the highest paying jobs, health care and retirement benefits. When will taxpayers see those cuts?

Yes, so 80 teachers will lose their jobs. Excuse me if I don't join the pity party. Let them join mainstream America in the unemployment line and see how the rest of us live.

Let us add state and township officials and employees to the list of cuts. Some of us worked in the private sector and didn't ever receive their scale of pay and benefits.

Where else can an entry secretarial job pay an unreasonable \$30,000+ per year that Canton Township pays? You would be lucky to get \$15,000 in the private sector. Where else can you deny taxpayer property appeals while at the same time consider allotting funds to buy the police department another new, fancy vehicle as they do in

Canton?

I say, let the slashing continue, and let's begin at the top, until we get down to common sense numbers that will allow us ALL to live reasonably, not just government employees.

Phyllis Counts
Canton

Disappointed about views

Dear Sen. Colbeck,

I was extremely disappointed with many of your views on public education expressed at the legislative forum held at the board office/Dyer Senior Center on April 7.

I also want to thank you for attending because I have a good idea who will help the public education system and who will not. I was extremely impressed with the comments that Sen. Hoppgood made regarding finding additional funding for the public school system. In addition, Rep. LeBlanc seems to be a supporter of public education. I commend Rep. Slavens who quickly spoke up when you said "no one will care if our public schools are not meeting the needs of students when choosing a new state to live in."

I agree throwing money at schools is not the answer, but at least decrease the cuts to the districts that are successfully running their school districts with the current budget. My husband and I are responsible for raising our two boys and making sure they have the best education possible. We are blessed with jobs, and enough money to live comfortably. We do not have additional funds to send our children to private school, and we are not happy with the charter schools in our area. The closest charter school is Gaudior Academy and the children that live on our street and attend that school are not as advanced as our boys.

I am impressed with the Wayne-Westland school district because most of the children I have met or know personally are academically successful. Even the students who are struggling, like one of my sons was last year, are quickly assisted. My son received services, such as speech, free summer school, and free after-school tutoring. I am so impressed because his reading level went up from a beginning first-grade level to an end-of-year second grade level half way through his second grade year. That makes me wonder why Wayne-Westland is receiving the most cuts.

After listening to you I feel that you want the public schools to fail so that we have to send our children to charter schools. I was appalled and amazed at your comments regarding the lottery. Your idea is to cut the education budget, and you don't like piggy-backing on gamblers. What do you propose? I think any funding we can get is welcomed. If you or someone else has a gambling problem then they need help. If people gamble responsibly then I would like that money to benefit K-12 public schools. I also would love to see the cigarette tax, alcohol, beer and wine tax to help meet the budget and eliminate the need for these cuts. Why don't you stop worrying so much and get creative about finding the funding we need.

I am not sure how you got elected, but you need to speak and listen to your constituents. If they feel the same way you do that is great! Thank goodness I don't live in your district. Your views are scaring me to death. Good luck in your future endeavors. Also heaven help our children if there are more people who think like you do.

Vonda L. Newborn
Inkster

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 "Popular PHS teacher faces charges,"

The fact that he wasn't immediately terminated from the school is sickening. Schools and teacher unions do this crap all the time yet they expect us to be sympathetic when they demand lavish compensation and benefits. Why the heck should our tax dollars keep funding our public education system when they shovel this crap at us all the time? What more does a person have to do to get fired?

• In response to "New charter schools get site plan OK,"

Don't wait any longer. Search for an accredited degree program. Advance your career. Contact your local colleges or read "High Speed University" news article and learn about jobs and degree

Repeated economic contractions seen in plight of homeless

They say Michigan was a place where decent jobs were plentiful, where anyone who could turn a wrench, lift a door panel onto a car body or work a typewriter and a telephone could earn a living.

But that hasn't been what I've witnessed, or experienced, during more than 30 years in the work force, and as I look around at the after-shocks of the so-called Great Recession, which in Michigan has been a nearly 10-year ordeal, it becomes ever more difficult to hold onto hope. Michigan's economic golden age is talked about in glowing terms by those who can remember it, but I'm beginning to wonder if the economic slide hasn't actually lasted longer.

Yes, some promising new industries have taken root, with government help, such as advanced battery manufacturing and biomedical research. Yes, there's great excitement about increased automobile sales, with two of the Detroit Three auto manufacturers having benefited mightily from government support.

BEING SQUEEZED

But with incomes being squeezed between higher medical costs and pay cuts — new auto assembly line workers will earn half the hourly wages of those they're replacing, for example — our homes declining in value and our energy future uncertain, these gains seem like another bubble in the making. Add Gov. Rick Snyder's state budget gamble — tax cuts for large corporations, balanced by new taxes on pensioners, cuts in funding for public education, local communities and support for the poor, and more "shared sacrifice" from public workers — and it gets difficult to see how far this recovery can go.

There have been four major national recessions since I graduated from high school, and with each one, more people seem to get left behind. The economy eventually roars ahead for many — is it even a majority now? — but it invariably leaves in its wake people who are "downsized" and financially disenfranchised, stuck without enough work or in lower-paying jobs for which they're overqualified.

Many give up altogether and stop looking for work, retiring before they're ready, declaring bankruptcy, lowering their living standards and relying on family and friends to get by, or joining the underground economy — all the better for the politicians and corporate types doing the economic cheerleading, as such "discouraged" workers, their unemployment benefits gone, aren't counted in jobless statistics.

ECONOMIC CYCLES

I landed on the unemployment line for the first time in late 1981, just as the recession of the early 1980s was taking hold. I had lost my job as a handyman and groundskeeper at a small Catholic college in Detroit, and, feeling I had been mistreated there, took to the unemployment office on the city's west side with a certain amount of indignation and anger.

What I saw from my fellow unemployed mostly seemed like resignation, as though they were accustomed to the up-and-down economic cycles. In the 30 years since, those cycles have only accelerated; for the haves, the peaks have gotten higher, and for the have-nots, the lows lower.

All this comes to mind now because of an exhibition, *Letters Home*, on display through Friday (9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.) at St. John Episcopal Church in Plymouth Township. Put together by sisters Susan Clinthorne and Sally Thielen, *Letters Home* is a look at homelessness in the U.S.; the artists drew from their encounters with homeless people in Michigan and around the country.

DISPLAY EFFORT

There are signs asking for handouts or work, a cardboard shelter such as a homeless person might sleep in, and large cut-out photographs of homeless people (Clinthorne and Thielen got permission from their subjects, and continue to keep up with many of them). It's a timely exhibition at a fitting location — a Christian church, where concern for one's neighbor is a major theme.

What struck me was not so much the display itself, but the effort behind it. Clinthorne and Thielen weren't passive observers, but actively got to know homeless people, hearing their stories (while respecting privacy) and sharing food and cups of coffee, looking beyond the nameless faces and the stereotypes.

One doesn't need to take in *Letters Home* to see the plight of homeless people. That plight can be seen on the evening news, at local shelters and soup kitchens, and on street corners and freeway exit ramps.

But no matter where it's seen, or how, it's a plight that should be confronted as our economy, having again dumped millions of workers, starts to move on without them.

Matt Jachman is a reporter for the Plymouth Observer. He can be reached at (313) 222-2405 or by e-mail at mjachman@hometownlife.com.



Matt Jachman

Protect your sensitive information, even at home

BY RICK BLOOM
GUEST COLUMNIST

This is a very special week for those of the Jewish and Christian faiths.

This week, Jews around the world are celebrating Passover while Christians are celebrating Good Friday and Easter. To all those who are celebrating a holiday this week, I wish you and yours a happy, healthy and peaceful holiday season.

Unfortunately, in the world of personal finance, there are no holidays. When it comes to finances, we can't let our guard down. Whether it's investing money, buying insurance or making a charitable contribution, always be vigilant. I bring this up because I recently read an article about someone who had their credit card numbers stolen and the harm it caused. What caught my eye was that the thief was a friend of the family who stole the information while attending a party at the victim's house.

I mention this not because you should mistrust your family and friends, however, there is a lesson to be learned. In this situation, the individual had guests in her home and had left out a variety of financial papers. The result was the theft of the credit card number. The lesson is sensitive information must be kept private at all times. That means brokerage and credit card statements,

as well as social security numbers and PIN numbers, must be in a safe, secure location at all times. Don't leave that information lying about, because you don't want to give someone an opportunity to steal it.

At the same time, just because someone asks for something — such as your social security number — doesn't mean you have to give it to them. My automatic answer is no. The only way they get the number is if they can give me a pretty good reason why they need it. More often than not, my experience has been that they don't really need the number.

You may not hear as much about identity theft anymore because it's become so common in our society. However, if you're a victim, trust me, it's not something that's pleasant to deal with so no matter where it is — at home or in the office — protect sensitive information.

Many people are under the mistaken belief that only the wealthy have their identity stolen. Nothing could be further from the truth. In fact, there's not one group of people immune to identity theft, including newborns as well as college students. College students are notorious for leaving information out and about and that's where they run into trouble.

I'm frequently asked, "is there a way to prevent identity theft?" and the answer is "no." However, there are ways to reduce the risk, including not only protecting your information, but reviewing all statements that you receive and questioning anything you don't understand. People think identify theft

Many people are under the mistaken belief that only the wealthy have their identity stolen. Nothing could be further from the truth. In fact, there's not one group of people immune to identity theft, including newborns as well as college students. College students are notorious for leaving information out and about and that's where they run into trouble.

involves large sums of money. It doesn't always have to be that way. Some of the more successful identity thefts are actually for small amounts of money because the thieves hope small amounts of money won't draw your attention as easily. However, as you know, small amounts of money over a long period of time do add up.

Twenty years ago, identity theft was something that

most people had never heard about. Today, it's an epidemic and the only way to protect yourself is to be vigilant in protecting your information.

Good luck!

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



Money Matters

Rick Bloom

Were you raised a Catholic but now seldom, if ever, go to church?

Are you angry with the Church or with God?

Has Church teaching confused or hurt you?

Do you believe that you have "outgrown" religion?

CATHOLICS RETURNING HOME

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**CANTON TAKES
THIRD PLACE
AT DEARBORN
ELKS RELAYS**
PAGE B4

2011 BOYS GOLF PREVIEW

Wildcats on prowl for another huge season

BY TIM SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

After a sensational 2010 season, Plymouth's varsity boys golf team can't wait to tee it up for 2011.

Many golfers from the team that went 10-0 to win the KLAA South Division are back in the fold as the Wildcats embark on a new season at 3 p.m. Monday against Westland John Glenn at Fox Hills in Plymouth.

And Wildcats head coach Chris Moore welcomes a solid group of newbies who will seamlessly mesh with the veterans to form another very competitive group in the South.

"I feel that we have a great mix of returners and rookies," Moore said. "The returners have such a great work ethic, they understand what it takes to be successful. And I hope that the rookies can learn from the upperclassmen and returners."

Last year, Plymouth followed up the spotless regular season (which featured winning the Western Wayne Invitational) by earning a trip to the Division 1 golf state finals for the first time in school history.

At Michigan State's Forest Akers, the Wildcats placed eighth, albeit just five shots out of third.

STILL AIMING HIGH

Back for what they hope is a successful encore are senior Justin Bauer (18-hole average of 78), junior Josh Heinze (who also averaged 78) and sophomores Ryan Rieckhoff and Kyle Rodes, all prominent players in the postseason push.

'I feel that we have a great mix of returners and rookies. ... And I hope that the rookies can learn from the upperclassmen and returners.'

CHRIS MOORE, Plymouth boys golf coach

"The 2011 team has set the same type of goals for this season," Moore said. "We hope that we can win our division and conference championship this season and then earn our way back to the state tournament."

Other key returners for the Wildcats include seniors Mark Thompson, Derek Austin, Steven Kirsch and CJ Thompson; juniors Craig Whatley, Eric Thompson and Joel Simpson; and sophomores Ryan Riva, Gunnar Savalox and Thomas Wolf.

Among newcomers are senior Jimmy May (who played varsity baseball in 2010), sophomore Austin Horton and freshmen Chris Kozler, Corey Smith, Chris Bicknell, Alex Decker, John Tatti, Lucas Winkler, Jack Marentic, Kyle Melnick and Evan Chipman.

Moore said the large roster has "allowed us to continue to get better each and every year with a tremendous amount of talented depth on our team."

Another plus, he added, is the team's home facility.

"We are fortunate to practice at Fox Hills with the wide array of options for practice," Moore said, "including range work, short game areas, a par-3 course and, of course, the 27 holes."



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

One of the top returnees from last year's undefeated Plymouth varsity boys golf team is senior Justin Bauer, shown in this 2010 file photo.

Canton boys golfers look to chip toward success

BY TIM SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

It figures to be a season of transition for the Canton varsity boys golf team in 2011.

Chiefs head coach Tom Alles said the team that went 8-3 last year in the KLAA South Division lost several key members to graduation (Zach Conrad, Kyle Korte, Brendan Muir).

That means returnees will

'The boys are improving steadily and come in with great attitudes.'

TOM ALLES, Canton boys golf coach

have a chance to move up in the pecking order, while varsity newcomers can make their case.

"We are young and appear to be in a rebuilding mode," Alles said. "The boys are



improving steadily and come in with great attitudes.

"Our lack of experience could be a factor this season."

Although Alles knows Plymouth and Livonia Churchill will be tough to beat

in the division, the Chiefs can still be competitive.

"I think a .500 season for this team is a real possibility," he said.

A lot of the leadership load falls on the shoulders of senior co-captains Frank Parzynski and Brandon Laabs, who will see plenty of action.

Junior Josh Maxam is likely to see more action, while sophomores Alex Champagne, Justin Legel, Matt Peck and

Brent Perry will vie for varsity playing time.

Alles added that first-year sophomores Chandler Berlin and Brian Gahm could pick up some varsity experience before the season is over.

They'll start to get that opportunity when the season opens at 3 p.m. Monday against visiting Livonia Franklin at Hilltop Golf Course.

tsmith@hometownlife.com



Plymouth senior McKenzie Hengesh (front right) recently signed to play women's soccer at Michigan Tech University. Seated next to her is her mom, Jennifer Hengesh. Standing are (from left) Plymouth varsity soccer coach Jeff Nesch and McKenzie's dad, Ed Hengesh.

Hengesh will help keep family's MTU tradition alive

BY TIM SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The Hengesh family lives and breathes Plymouth girls soccer these days. But they love the Upper Peninsula experience, too.

Soon McKenzie Hengesh will follow the Michigan Tech University tradition established by her parents (Ed and Jennifer Hengesh) and her older brother, Eddie.

The parents met at MTU and Plymouth alum Eddie Hengesh also is a Huskie.

As for 18-year-old McKenzie, a

high-scoring forward who sparked the Wildcats to the 2010 Division 1 state finals, it was a natural that Michigan Tech would be her next educational home. She recently signed her national letter of intent to play at MTU on a soccer scholarship.

"I chose Michigan Tech because it just felt like the perfect school for me," she said. "It felt right every time I visited the campus."

Please see **HENGESH, B2**

Chiefs are team to watch

BY TIM SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

With a nucleus of talented athletes, the Canton varsity girls track and field team is hopeful of being relevant in the KLAA South Division this spring.

But co-coaches Brad Waidmann and Pamela Ston also know the team will need to remain injury free and get a

GIRLS TRACK PREVIEW spark from the more inexperienced runners, jumpers and throwers in order for that to happen.

Waidmann, at last week's annual Bolger-Mangan Memorial Meet at Plymouth-Canton Educational Park, emphasized that the 2011 team remains a work in progress.

"We're a really solid team," Waidmann said. "We just have to get everybody on the same page."

Three members of last year's 1-4 team will lead the way, including Madonna University-bound senior distance runner Bianca Kubicki.

Running the 100-, 200- and 400-meter dashes will be senior Jordan Clark, who the coach said "can pretty much run anywhere she wants (in college), she's that good."

Then there's senior Lindsay Lipa, who went to states in 2010 in the high jump, but who also can do sprints and relays. She will go to Cornerstone University in 2011-12.

"That crew really kind of anchors us," Waidmann said.

Two other key seniors are middle distance runner Rachel Martin and co-captain Robyn Pichow, who is a dependable sprinter both for relays and individual events.

The Chiefs will also feature junior transfer student Alena Valetti, who came over from Hartland. "She's



One of Canton's senior co-captains is Chelsee Smith, shown competing at last week's Bolger-Mangan Memorial Meet.

one of our top sprinters," Waidmann said.

On the down side, the Chiefs are thin in some of the field events, particularly shot put and discus.

"We're trying to get some younger people on the right track and get some points from them," Waidmann said.

Also are taking a chunk out of the team's depth as the season begins are injuries, such as those to Michele Lu and Melissa Newton.

Waidmann and Ston will look for

Please see **TRACK, B2**

SIDELINES

Strike out prostate cancer

Salem Baseball Boosters will host the second annual "Strike Out Prostate Cancer" benefit doubleheader, on Saturday, May 7. The twinbill between Salem and Plymouth starts at 11 a.m.

There will be raffles, baked goods and concessions to help raise money for the cause. Go to www.salemrocksbasketball.com for more information.

Benefit softball game

Meanwhile, the Plymouth varsity softball team will dedicate its game on Monday, May 9, against Livonia Stevenson to benefit the American Cancer Society.

Spectators are asked to wear pink and bring change for a "miracle inning." There also will be a bake sale and team baskets for bidding. All proceeds will go to the American Cancer Society. Visit www.softball.plymouthwildcats.com for more info.

Baseball wraps

SALEM 12-10, S. L. EAST 3-0

Salem swung some hot bats on Wednesday, April 13 in this doubleheader romp at South Lyon East.

The Rocks, who are now embarking on their annual trip to Cincinnati, started strong in the opener with four runs in the first and two more in the second to build a 6-0 lead. They never looked back, parlaying nine hits into the big win.

Senior Devin Price was the big gun for the Rocks. He went 3-for-5 (including a double) and drove in five runs while seniors Scott Devine and Evan Gambino went 2-for-3.

Earning the win was starter Scott Theisen, who gave up just one run and four hits over five innings. Finishing up the pitching duties were Marcus Olind and Jeremy St. Laurent (who struck out four of seven batters over the two games combined in an outstanding varsity debut).

In Game 2, it was more of the same. Senior pitcher Tommy Rodriguez blanked the home team over five innings, giving up just one walk and four hits. St. Laurent finished up with another scoreless frame.

At the plate, the Rocks scored twice in the third and blew it open with eight runs in the sixth. Devine and Gambino each had two hits and two RBI while sophomore center fielder Demetrius Dunlap starred with two doubles in three at-bats and three RBI.

The Rocks showed excellent defense all day, turning two double plays in each game. Perhaps the defensive play of the twinbill was a relay from Brad Trubowski to Matt Rowland to catcher Brett Ramirez to cut down a run at the plate.

LUTHERAN WESTLAND 7, S. CHRISTIAN 5

Kevin Wade reached a milestone in his baseball coaching career last Thursday as Lutheran High Westland downed host Southfield Christian, 7-5.

Wade, in his sixth season at the helm with the Warriors, garnered his 100th career victory thanks to an 11-hit attack and the complete game mound performance by Jake Andrzejewski.

Aaron Gartha led the way going 2-for-3 with a double and two-run homer in the fifth inning to put the Warriors up 7-2.

Kent Krzyske added two hits and two RBI, while Nick Andrzejewski and Taurrek Fikes also contributed two hits each.

Jake Andrzejewski went all seven innings, scattering nine hits and three walks while striking out 11. He allowed four earned runs.

"It was good for us to get a quality win on the road against a tough conference opponent," said Wade, whose team improved 2-0 overall and 1-0 in the Blue Division of the Michigan Independent Athletic Conference.

Wade is now 100-58 overall at Lutheran Westland.

The loss drops Southfield Christian to 1-1 overall and 1-1 in the MIAC Blue.

HURON VALLEY 8, BAPTIST PARK 1

Ivan Bell went 3-for-4 with an RBI as defending MIAC Red Division champ Westland Huron Valley (3-0, 3-0) rolled last Thursday past visiting Taylor Baptist Park.

Alex Harris also added two hits and RBI for the victorious, who collected 10 hits.

HENGESH

FROM PAGE B1

"There is tons of snow, the school has an awesome program for environmental science, my future teammates are great and it's kind of a family tradition to attend Tech."

According to Ed Hengesh, "McKenzie fell in love with MTU during the few trips we made to Houghton to see Eddie and meet the women's soccer coaching staff."

Of course, first things first. McKenzie is co-captain for the 2011 season, which the Wildcats hope will mirror last season's success.

Hengesh collected all-conference, all-district and all-state honorable mention honors for her 2010 season.

HONING HER SKILLS

Now beginning her fourth year as a starter, McKenzie's time with Plymouth's varsity team helped mold her into the player she is today.

But she also said she learned much from playing for teams in the Canton Soccer Club, along with stints with the Canton Quest, Michigan Rush and Michigan Hawks elite teams.

"Playing with all of these different clubs has given me the ability to play all sorts of

formations and styles of play," McKenzie said.

Jennifer Hengesh said the family link with MTU was a plus. But the main things were "joining a great group of girls for the next level of soccer" along with being able to study ecology and wildlife management.

Of course, there also is snowboarding at Mount Bohemia in the off-season, Jennifer added.

"McKenzie had a big decision to make, and we are thrilled with her choice," she said. "She will have a lot of time to study on the long bus rides to the away games."

tsmith@hometownlife.com



Thunderous!

Let's hear it for the All Saints Catholic School's Junior Varsity Thunder, champions of their division with a record of 9-1. The Canton-based Thunder includes: (front row, from left) Justin Savona, John Pacente, Jacob Dolan, Joey Tatro and Kenny McCormack; (middle row, from left) Patrick Hegarty, Theodore Day, Daniel Moore, Brendan Doyle, Alec Nordberg and Brendan Nordberg; (back row, from left) coaches John Savona, Jim Day, Bob Dolan and Bob Tatro. Not pictured is Charlie Feichtinger.

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Off to a good start

Pioneer Middle School Swim team won their recent first meet against Central Middle school 147-119. Their coaches names are: Jennifer Fenner, Kathy Sonnanstine, and Heather Colombo (pictured in the middle of the third row). All members of the team live in Canton or Plymouth.

TRACK

FROM PAGE B1

points from Chelsea Smith, Marina Milad, Sherice Moore,

Caitlin Wakefield, Jessica Siegler, Cathy Huang, Gabby Williams, Emily Lang and Carolyn Benner.

"What do I expect this year? A lot, when we get everybody healthy and on the same page,"

Waidmann said. Canton (0-2) will visit Westland John Glenn on April 26 as the season resumes following spring break.

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Golfers have options to 'Train with Tami'

Golfers of all ages have something for them this spring and summer at Hickory Creek Golf Course just west of Canton in Superior Township.

With classes taught by PGA professional Tami Bealert, there is a long list of available classes for junior and adult golfers to choose from. Golfers are advised to bring their own clubs, although additional clubs will be available for use.

Hickory Creek Golf Course is located at 3625 Napier Road off of Ford Road. Call (734) 731-0238 or send an e-mail to TrainwithTami@yahoo.com if interested in signing up.

Also, Bealert said private lessons are available. Go to www.HickoryCreekgolf.com for more information.

Junior classes

• **Juniors (ages 8-17):** The four-week program (Fee \$80) is for 4-8 students with up to two years of golfing experience. They will work on: fundamentals of the golf swing and short game; life skills/etiquette; easy practice drills and fun training tools for each phase of the swing.

Schedule: Saturdays 11 a.m. to 12 noon, through May 7.

• 3-Day, Mini-Youth Camp:

This program runs for three consecutive half-days for 6-9 students. Juniors will learn golf fundamentals covering all areas of the game, including set up of putting, chipping, pitching and the full swing. Practice drills and teaching tools/aids will be tailored for each student. Golf rules, etiquette and course management will be applied. The \$95 fee includes a gift bag, and daily snack. One year of golfing experience is required.

Schedule: Ages 8-12, Monday, Aug. 15 through Wednesday, Aug. 17, 9-11 a.m.; ages 13-17, Monday, Aug. 15 through Wednesday, Aug. 17, 1-3 p.m.

• **Drop in Clinics (ages 8-17):** The eight-week offering (\$95; drop

in rate: \$20) is a one hour clinic for all skill levels. Depending on class size weekly, students will be divided into age groups. Each week, topics will vary, covering all aspects of the game. There will be games and contests.

Schedule: Wednesdays, 11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. from June 22 through Aug. 10.

• **Golf Tourney Wrap-Up (ages 5-17):** On Wednesday, Aug. 24, all juniors can take part in the two-person scramble. There will be age divisions, awards and pizza all for \$25. More information is forthcoming.

Schedule: Saturdays 11 a.m. to 12 noon, through May 7. (Fee \$80)

• **Little Linksters (ages 5-7):** The four-week program (\$80) is for 4-8 students, who will learn set-up fundamentals in a safe environment for putting, chipping and swing. They will learn via the use of vivid colors, numbers, hoops and easy to learn training clubs. Life skills, golf etiquette and golf games are part of the fun.

Schedule: 10-11 a.m. Saturdays, June 4-25; 10-11 a.m. Saturdays July 9-30.

Adult golf programs

• **New to Golf:** This is a six-week class for 4-10 students (\$105). It is for the new golfer with little or no experience. Learn fundamentals of all aspects of the game (the set up, swing, putting, chipping, rules and etiquette). Easy swing drills and training tools will be applied as well as demonstrations of on-course play and strategies.

Schedule: Tuesdays, 4:30-5:30 p.m., through May 24; Thursdays, 5-6 p.m., from May 5 through June 9.

• **Refresher Course:** The three-week program for 4-8 students (\$75) focuses on review of fundamentals of the short game and full swing. Understand and control ball flight and learn

how to build a repeatable swing for consistent contact with all clubs.

Schedule: Tuesdays, 7-8 p.m., May 10-24; Wednesdays, 4-5 p.m., June 1-15.

• **Short Game:** This is a three-week program for 4-8 students (\$75) and deals with the short game (100 yards and in). Sixty-five percent of scores take place from 100 yards and into the hole, so learn how to execute a chip and pitch shot and dial in the correct distance. Specific drills and skills are on tap.

Schedule: Wednesdays, 12-1 p.m., June 1-15; Thursdays, 4:30-5:30 p.m., June 16-30.

• **Course Management:** Another three-week program for 4-8 students (\$120), this is a chance to receive coaching while on the golf course. Learn strategies on how to manage your thinking to control scores, learn how to play from difficult lies and know where to aim/land the ball with correct trajectory. Cart and green fee included.

Schedule: Thursdays, 7:15-8:30 p.m., May 12-26; Tuesdays, 7:15-8:30 p.m., June 7-21.

• **Golf Enhancement Session:** A year-round program (\$150), this features eight weekly one-hour sessions where participants learn proper warm-ups and how to stretch and practice properly. They'll also receive golf tips on various topics of the swing. There will be optional "Super Twilight" golf following practice.

Schedule: Mondays, 5:30-6:30 p.m., April-through-October.

• **Golf Enhancement Session Level II:** This continues GES Level I, with total body swing assessment, golf-specific fitness program for maximum flexibility and strength. A 12-session package runs \$250, while six-week sessions are \$135.

Schedule: Wednesdays, 5:30-6:30 p.m. (start time may vary); Fridays, 10-11 a.m.



Hickory Creek PGA golf pro Tami Bealert (right) helps out Hailey Wasik of Canton during one of the youth clinics held in 2010. Bealert is offering more of the same this spring and summer.

SPORTS ROUNDUP

YMCA spring leagues

The YMCA spring soccer and girls volleyball leagues are now forming.

The soccer leagues are for children ages 4-10 and will run through June 11. There will be one practice and one game per week, on Saturdays.

Volleyball is for girls ages 9-10 and 11-12, also to run through June 11. There will be one practice and one game per week, on Friday evenings.

Both the soccer and volleyball leagues are filled on a first-come, first-served basis and the registration deadline is April 1. For more information about these leagues, or other YMCA programs, go to www.ymcadetroit.org or call the office at (734) 453-2904.

Captain's Corner

If you know of a senior varsity captain at Canton, Plymouth, Salem or Plymouth Christian who is worthy of recognition,

please submit candidates for "Captain's Corner" to Observer sports editor Tim Smith, tsmith@hometownlife.com.

Father's Day Run

The Plymouth YMCA Fathers Day Run has again been recognized as a quality physical activity by the Governor's Council on Physical Fitness.

This year's run, by the way, is set to begin at 7:30 a.m. Sunday, June 19 in downtown Plymouth.

The Governor's Council endorses local, regional and state events to acknowledge an organization's ability to plan and carry out a quality event that significantly contributes to the health and well-being of Michigan residents. The Fathers Day Run exemplifies this core value and is endorsed by the Governor's Council.

"By endorsing local events all across the state, we hope to bring attention to the importance of physical activity and encourage our citizens to take responsibility

for their health," said Marilyn Lieber, president and CEO of the council. "These local events can have a tremendous impact on health care costs that present a significant challenge for our state's economy."

For more information about the Governor's Council endorsement program, go to www.michiganfitness.org. For more info on the Fathers Day Run, contact cmorency@ymcamedetroit.org.

Combine training

Combine training for high school football to prepare for the 2011 season takes place on Sundays at the Auburn Hills Sports Dome.

Players will be taught drills and techniques used to prepare college seniors for the NFL Combine and use SPARQ, Michigan Preps and NUC testing protocols.

To register, visit www.coachjackson-speed.com; or call coach Jaime Jackson at (248) 535-7404.

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 CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH

SUMMARY OF ORDINANCE NUMBER C-2011-01
 2009 EDITION OF THE INTERNATIONAL FIRE CODE WITH APPENDICES

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH ADOPTING AND INCORPORATING BY REFERENCE THE 2009 EDITION OF THE INTERNATIONAL FIRE CODE WITH APPENDICES; PROVIDING FOR THE REGULATION OF THE SAFEGUARDING OF LIFE AND PROPERTY FROM FIRE AND EXPLOSION HAZARDS ARISING FROM THE STORAGE, HANDLING AND USE OF HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES, MATERIALS, AND DEVICES, AND FROM CONDITIONS HAZARDOUS TO LIFE OR PROPERTY IN THE OCCUPANCY OF BUILDINGS AND PREMISES IN THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH; PROVIDING FOR THE ISSUANCE OF PERMITS AND HAZARDOUS USES OR OPERATIONS; PROVIDING FOR PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION HEREOF; PROVIDING FOR REPEAL AND SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION AND EFFECTIVE DATE.

THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH ORDAINS:

SECTION 1. ADOPTION OF FIRE CODE.

Section 24.010. Code Adopted. This section provides that the 2009 Edition of the International Fire Code with Appendices is adopted by reference as the Fire Prevention Code of the Charter Township of Plymouth.

Section 24.020. Changes in the Code. This section provides that certain sections and subsections of the 2009 Edition of the International Fire Code are hereby amended as to the title, penalties and stop work orders

Section 24.030. Notice: opportunity to correct.
 This section provides that if a violation of this Chapter is noted, a Code Enforcement Officer may notify the owner of record and/or the occupant of the property of the violation specifying the violation.

SECTION 2. REPEAL.
 This section provides that all Ordinances or parts of Ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed only to the extent necessary to give this Ordinance full force and effect.

SECTION 3. SEVERABILITY.
 This section provides that any unenforceable section can be severed from the rest of this Ordinance.

SECTION 4. SAVINGS CLAUSE.
 This section provides that adoption of this Ordinance does not affect proceedings, prosecution for violation of law, penalties and matured rights and duties in effect before the effective date of this Ordinance.

SECTION 5. PUBLICATION.
 This section provides that the Clerk for the Charter Township of Plymouth shall cause this Ordinance to be published in the manner required by law.

SECTION 6. EFFECTIVE DATE.
 This section provides that this Ordinance shall take full force and effect upon publication.

Copies of the complete text of this Ordinance are available at the office of the Charter Township of Plymouth, 9955 N. Haggerty Road, Plymouth, Michigan 48170, during regular business hours.

Joe Bridgman, MMC
 Township Clerk

Introduced: March 8, 2011
 Adopted: April 12, 2011
 Publish: April 21, 2011

Chiefs third at Elks Relays, with a little help from the kids

BY TIM SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Ever since Bob Richardson's been coaching the Canton boys track and field team, he's included the Dearborn Elks Relays on the early season schedule.

With some varsity athletes gone for spring vacation, the Dearborn event provides kids on the junior varsity opportunity to show Richardson what they've got in a "varsity" setting.

This year is no different. With help from JV athletes, the Chiefs finished third out of seven teams at Saturday's Dearborn Elks Relays — held at Dearborn High School.

Novi-Detroit Catholic Central, which has a rule that prohibits athletes from leaving for spring break, placed first with 70 points. Trailing the Shamrocks were Ferndale (36), Canton (34), Woodhaven (33), Dearborn (27), Northville (18) and Westland John Glenn (15).

"A lot of these kids normally aren't varsity kids," Richardson said. "We had so many people out of town that it just opened the door for some of these kids."

"That's what we tell them. Here's your opportunity now. Somebody opened the door for you to be varsity. Make sure you close that door and make sure you get to stay varsity."

CHANGE OF PACE

The event is intriguing for coaches such as Richardson for other reasons, such as the inclusion of different events than those found in typical track and field meets or invitationals.

Those who throw shot put and discus compete in a running event, for example. Or, how about a 6,400-meter relay or long jump relay?

"It's a lot different than most invitationals," said Richardson, whose Chiefs have participated in the Dearborn Elks Relays since he became the team's head coach in 1989. "That's because it's so



JOHN KEMSKI

Ryan Kilgore of the Canton varsity boys track and field team competes in the pole vault during last week's city meet. Teammates Mitch Nickert and Kyle Zander (far left) wait to go next. Kilgore, Nickert and Nick Alaniva finished first in the pole vault relay at Saturday's Dearborn Elks Relays.

distance-oriented. When you hear some of the events you'll say, "Wow, more distance?"

Canton enjoyed a solid showing Saturday, with one first-place finish leading the way, along with two relays placing second and two others third.

Finishing first was the pole vault relay, comprised of Nick Alaniva, Ryan Kilgore and Mike Nickert. The team won with a combined score of 32-feet, 6-inches and Alaniva won a special individual award for the best mark of anybody at the invite (13-6).

"He's just doing a great job," said Richardson, about Alaniva.

In second place was the high jump relay, which collectively tallied 11-8. On the team was

Ben Spreitzer, Matt Schacht and Jamal Dixon.

Canton's other runner-ups were in the 3,200-meter relay, with Sean Krolicki, Tyler Winningham, Keegan Sullivan and Austin Golles registering a mark of eight-minutes, 45.1 seconds.

The Chiefs picked up third-place finishes in the 6,400-meter relay and 800-meter relay.

In the former, the unit of Jeff Molchan, Zach Cox, Bradon Conley and Josh Joy finished in 20:15.8; in the latter, Ryan Jones, Darian Evans, Colby Morris and Alaniva finished in 1:36.3 seconds.

RARE OPPORTUNITY

Alaniva won his second individual medal of the day as

part of Canton's fourth-place long jump relay.

The relay team (Alaniva, Nickert, Dixon) tallied 50-6, but Alaniva's jump of 19-7.5

again was the best of anybody competing at the invite.

Another fourth-place finish was in the 110-meter, high-hurdle shuttle relay. Spreitzer,

Dixon, Drake Hogan and Javon Hill completed the event in 1:14.1 seconds.

Three other fourths were chalked up by Canton.

Those were as follows: 400-meter relay (Jones, Alaniva, Morris, Avery Simms), 46.0; intermediate shuttle hurdles (Spreitzer, Dixon, Hogan, Hill), 1:29.1; 1,600-meter relay (Spreitzer, Matt Schacht, Sapan Patel, Tyler Winningham), 3:38.9.

Canton also registered fifth-place finishes in the 400-meter shot put relay and distance medley.

In the shot put relay, throwers Jack McAllister, Matt Halim, Steve Schacht and Daniel Kidwell had the unique chance to run in an event.

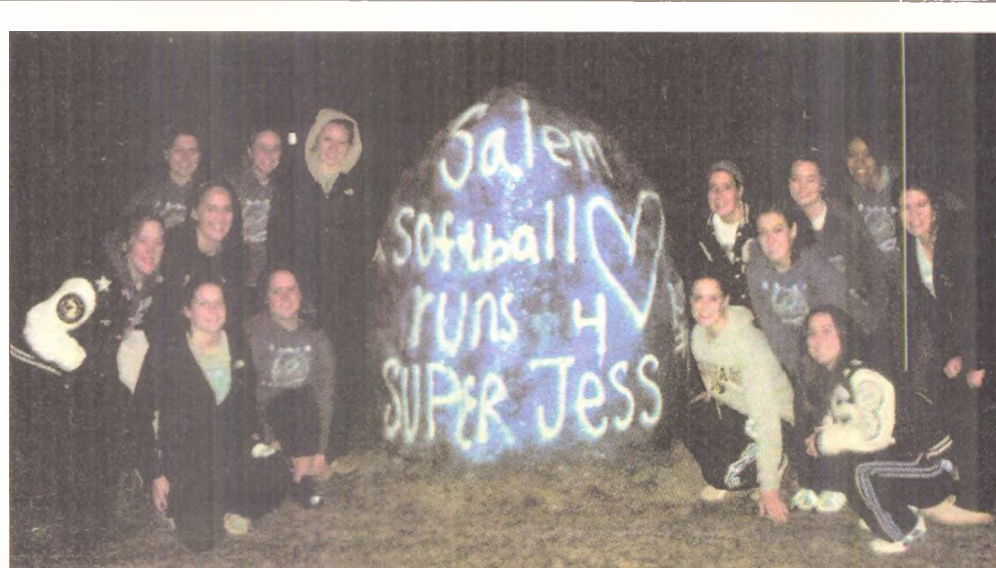
They finished the 400 meters in 55.7 seconds.

"It's interesting and they take a little pride in it," Richardson added. "They were working on their exchanges the other day in practice. None of them had ever taken an exchange before. It just gave them a chance, everybody was watching and cheering for them."

Meanwhile, the distance relay team of Jackson Lytle, Patel, Alex Krul and Evan Dunklee clocked in at 12:25.6 seconds.

Richardson said the 2-0 Chiefs will return to KLAA action on April 26 at John Glenn.

tsmith@hometownlife.com



Rock-solid behind Jess!

Members of Salem's softball team recently made sure people knew about the upcoming 'Run for Super Jess' 5K run on Sunday, May 1 at Plymouth-Canton Educational Park. The run, hosted by the PCEP National Honor Society, will go from 8-11 a.m. and more than 1,300 people have already signed up to take part. Proceeds will help the family of Jesse 'Super Jess' Lindbauer to help generate funds for the Canton High School sophomore. He is recovering from a brain abscess rupture, but needs physical and speech therapy. The NHS continues to register participants in advance and will also hold limited registration on May 1, beginning at 7 a.m. Costs to run are \$20 for students and \$25 for adults. E-mail Salem senior Tommy Halewicz at thalewicz@aol.com for registration forms.

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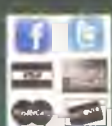


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Darkness creates powerful service

BY SHARON DARGAY
O&E STAFF WRITER

Nativity United Church of Christ in Livonia will start its worship service on Easter Sunday in the way it ends it. On Good Friday — in the way it begins. The congregation has already prepared for its "tenebrae" service at 7 p.m. Friday, April 22, by darkening windows in the building.

"It's not all that unusual, although it is unique for us. We take an existing service and modify it," said the Rev. John Landis, describing Nativity's Good Friday service. "More and more churches are doing tenebrae services."

Tenebrae is a service of darkness and shadows celebrated on Maundy Thursday or Good Friday. It includes gospel readings that tell the story of Good Friday, the time between the Good Supper and the Passion of Christ. With each reading a candle is extinguished until the church is left in darkness.

"It's very powerful. With some reformed traditions they take all of the candles out and at the end they take the Christ candle out and then bring it back in," he said, describing the tall pillar candle that symbolizes Christ as the "light" of the world.

Landis, who also pastors the First Congregational Church of Wyandotte, takes a slightly different approach. The sanctuary will be dark and "stripped" of little more than a cross and tables bearing candles. He'll tell the story of Good Friday with readings from all four gospels and will extinguish a candle at the end of each reading. He'll also place items that illustrate the readings on each table.

"As we go along, when we read about Mary anointing Jesus before the Last Supper, we'll distinguish that with a flask of oil. When we read about the flogging, we'll place a whip on the table," Landis explained.

Easter service on Sunday, April 24, will start the way Good Friday service ended. The chalice will be turned on its side. A whip and crown of thorns will hang from the cross and the sanctuary will be dark.

"If I can make it cold, I make it cold," Landis said.

Nativity United Church of Christ is located at 9435 Henry Ruff Road, at W. Chicago Road, in Livonia. Sunday services, including Easter worship, are at 2 p.m. (734) 421-5406.



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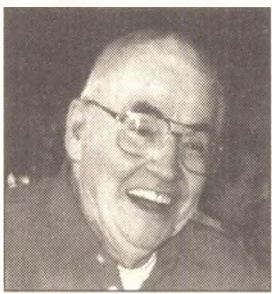
OE8659491



BURTON, CYNTHIA MARIE

Age 56. Cindy passed away peacefully on March 22, 2011 after a courageous battle with cancer. Words cannot express how much Cindy will be missed by her family and friends. She is survived by her mother Marge Burton of Check, VA, brother Steve Burton (Kelly) of Miami, FL, brother Terry Burton (partner Diane Belli) of Livonia, MI, sister Ann Harmon (Dave) of Hamburg, MI, sister Peggy Streetman (James) of Fountain Hills, AZ, and brother Michael Burton of Check, VA. Also survived by numerous nieces and nephews. Cindy was preceded in death by her father, Leo R. Burton. Cindy happily lived her entire life in Westland, MI, dedicating her life's work to the restaurant business. She proudly began working at an early age at the family-owned restaurant known as the Windjammer Lounge in Livonia. Later, she continued her career at Sandy's By The Beach in Redford. She was very dedicated to her career, loved working with people, and always had a smile and a kind word for everyone. Cindy also loved animals, especially her two four-legged friends Freddie and rescue dog Max. She gave freely to the Humane Society and had compassion for all animals in need. With respect to her wishes an anatomical donation for medical research has taken place. Close friends and family will gather together to celebrate her life. A "Celebration of Cindy" memorial will be held at "Slings" (formerly the Windjammer Lounge) located at 11791 Farmington Rd. on Saturday, April 30, 2011 between 1:00 and 4:00 pm. The family requests that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to the Michigan Humane Society in loving memory of Cindy Burton.

May You Find Comfort in Family & Friends



CHAPMAN, HARVEY WALTER (MIKE)

Age 82. April 16, 2011. Beloved husband of the late Marie (Petersen) and the late Jenny (Neil). Dearest father of Nancy Kapitan (John), Mike (Mari), Kim, Carol Spreitzer, and Chris. Proud grandfather of Krista, Bryan, Joel, Faith, Christian, and Marie. Dearest brother of the late Butch, Earl, Josie, Hank, Bill, Don, Grace and Dick. Loving uncle of many nieces and nephews. Mike was born on July 28, 1928 in Farmington Township. He graduated from Farmington High School and served in the Korean War. He was a member of the American Legion, Groves Walker Post 0346. Mike was a co-owner of "Mike and Tom's Pub" in Farmington Hills for 26 years. He sponsored golf leagues, the March of Dimes Wild Game Dinner, and other charities. He loved baseball and he loved life! A Funeral Mass was held on Tuesday at Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church, Farmington. www.thayer-rock.com

Paying Tribute to the Life of Your Loved One



CHRISTIE (STREMIK) LOU ANN M.

Age 74. Memorial services will be 12:00 Noon Saturday at Spear-Mulqueeny Funeral Home 667 Mentor Ave Painesville, OH with Rev. Jimmy Riley officiating. Born on August 29, 1936 in Nekoma, North Dakota. Mrs. Christie grew up in Plymouth, MI and was a resident of Painesville, OH and formerly of Gold Canyon, AZ. She passed away on April 17, 2011 at Kemper House in Mentor, OH. She was a Legal Secretary for Atty Joseph Dillon and an Executive Secretary for Howmet Mfg in Plymouth. Member of Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church in Painesville, OH. Lou Ann enjoyed singing with church and community choirs, playing the organ, gardening and arts and crafts. Survived by Husband Jack G. Christie, whom she married on March 10, 1979. Daughters Cheri (Dan) Frantz of Painesville, OH. Cindi (Tim) Chapman of Garden City, MI. Lori Leveille of Greensboro, NC. Son Doug (Jodie) Leveille of Royal Oak, MI. 12 Grandchildren: Kim, Brian, Jacob, Jennie, Laurie, Christine, Ben, T.J., Gabrielle, Lauren, Michael, and Shannon. Preceded in death by 1st Husband Dale Leveille in 2000. Parents Louis and C. Mary (Spanier) Stremick. Friends received from 11:00 am to Noon Saturday at the Spear-Mulqueeny Funeral Home in Painesville, OH. Contributions may be made to Hospice of the Western Reserve 5786 Heisley Rd. Mentor, OH 44060 or to the Alzheimer's Foundation Cleveland Area Chapter P.O. Box 74924 Cleveland, OH 44194-4924.

COIL, SANDRA JEAN
Age 56. April 16, 2011 Beloved daughter of Mary Ann and the late Harold. Sister of Ronald. Sandy was loved and cherished by all her extended family that cared for her. Funeral was April 20, 2011 at St. James Church, Novi. Donations to ARC of Western Wayne, 2257 South Wayne Rd, Westland MI 48186. Online condolences: www.obriensullivanfuneralhome.com

HEDGER, KIMBERLY A.

April 17, 2011 Age 49 of Westland. Beloved mother of Tiffany Marie Hedger & Mariah Manier. Dear daughter of Geraldine (William) Smith & William (Joanne) Hedger. Loving grandmother to Devon, Owen, Savanna, Madison & Noah. Also survived by many aunts, uncles & cousins. Funeral at the Uht Funeral Home 35400 Glenwood Rd., Westland Thurs. 1 PM. Family will receive friends Thurs. 10-1 PM. Donations to the family appreciated. Please visit and sign a tribute at: www.uhtfh.com.



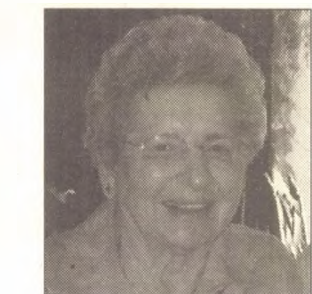
MENSER, BETTE G.

72, of Walled Lake, passed away at her home on April 15, 2011. She is survived by her high school sweetheart & loving husband of 52 years, William. She was a loving Mother to their 4 children, Grandma to 8. Caring sister, aunt, and friend to many. Bette's most enjoyable times were spent with her family and friends. She will be remembered for always putting others first, her loving thoughtful ways, and giving helpful advice whenever needed. A memorial service will be held at St. Georges Episcopal Church in Milford, MI on Monday April 25, 2011 at 11:00am. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to The American Lung Association.

LACY, BLANCHE B.

Age 88, passed away April 18, 2011. A memorial Mass will be held at St. Joseph Catholic Church in South Lyon in the near future. Arrangements entrusted to:

PHILLIPS FUNERAL HOME



MARSTON, GENEVIEVE

Died April 18, 2011 age 90. Beloved wife of the late Dr. George Marston. Dear mother of Blaine (Jeanette), Nancy (John) Nowak, Dr. Carol (Mark Foucher) Marston, and Joseph (Kimberly). Proud grandmother of Michael, Nicole, Julie, Elizabeth, Matthew, Christopher, Nick and Chris. Sister of Thaddeus Gudsden. Caring for her family was her passion in life. She was happiest at a sewing machine or in the kitchen. An accomplished seamstress and devoted gourmet cook, she took great joy in sharing her delicacies with family, friends and neighbors. Visitation was held at Manns-Ferguson Funeral Home. The funeral Mass took place at St. Michael Catholic Church in Livonia. Share a memory at: www.mannsfuneralhome.com

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For Information regarding this Directory, please call Donna Hart at 248-437-2011, Ext. 247 or e-mail: dhart@dnps.com

ENTERTAINMENT

Thursday, April 21, 2011

hometownlife.com

Pantry secrets for EASTER DINNER FOOD, B6



Beth Duey, (left) Stephanie Lee, Carol Lipinski, Bobbie Judd, Betty Berryman and Samantha Lowry will perform the "Vagina Monologues" April 29-30 at Barefoot Productions' After Hour Theatre.

ON STAGE



Michael Ludlum, Piper Grenfell, Jonathon Wennstrom and Kristin Heitmeier rehearse a scene from Barefoot Players' production of "Lips Together Teeth Apart."

Local troupes gearing up for end-of-season shows

BY SHARON DARGAY
O&E STAFF WRITER

Laugh with the Still Got it Players in Canton.

Feel the emotion on stage with Barefoot Productions in Plymouth.

Hum along with the Farmington Players and explore your feminist side with After Hours theater.

Local theater troupes are gearing up for their final productions of the 2010-11 season with a little something for everyone.

"The audience likes the full length plays. Last August was the first time I tried it. I wasn't sure if seniors could do a full length play. That's a lot to memorize," said Debbie Lannen, director of Still Got It Players, the senior component of Spotlight Players in Canton. "I was very pleased with the last one."

The troupe, designed for actors who are 50 and over, performed one-act plays its first year and took

on full length comedic spoofs this season, starting with a twist on *Arsenic and Old Lace* in August 2010.

Its upcoming production, *Murder by Indecision*, takes a playful jab at mysteries, telling the story of an aging writer Agatha Crispy and the literary characters that come to life as she struggles to write another manuscript.

Lannen chooses shows that call for large casts and roles for older actors. For the first time since the group formed, there weren't enough parts to go around when auditions were held last month.

"People are hearing about us and more and more people are coming to auditions. We're growing. This time I had to turn down five seniors. It killed me to do that," Lannen said, adding that crew positions are open to those without roles in the play.

Curtain is at 1 p.m. Wednesday-Thursday, May 11-12, 7 p.m. Friday, May 13 and 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Saturday, May 14 at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill, Canton. Tickets are \$15 for adults, 19-59; \$13 for students under 19 and seniors, 60 and up; and group prices for 15 or more are \$11. Buy them online at spotlightplayersmi.org, by phone at (734) 394-5460 or at the door.

The troupe performs two shows a year and will open next season with another murder mystery spoof Aug. 11-14. She's considering a musical for the spring 2012 production.

"I'm not sure yet," she said. "But we're going to keep pushing the envelope."

CUTTING EDGE

Barefoot Productions in Plymouth will deliver the final show of this season's "After Hours" series at 10 p.m. April 29 and 30 in the Barefoot Productions Theatre, 240 N. Main, Plymouth. Admission is \$10.

Barefoot artist director Craig Hane

cast the *Vagina Monologues* and let actresses rehearse on their own. They'll all come together for a dress rehearsal next week.

"We cast the show and are mounting it in less than a month, which is unheard of, especially in community theater," said Samantha Lowry, producer and cast member. "Caig and I had rehearsal time with each of the women. We were giving them helpful tweaking. We're not really directing."

Eve Ensler's script is based on interviews she conducted with women on such topics as sex, violence and relationships and includes both humorous and dramatic monologues.

"It will be a funny night and a touching night," Lowry said. "It's a nice way to promote the next show. There are similar themes and both shows are for a mature audience."

The cast will deliver monologues on the set of *Lips Together, Teeth Apart*, Barefoot's final show of the regular season, which opens at 8 p.m.

May 6.

The contemporary drama tells the story of two dysfunctional couples who vacation together on Fourth of July in a beach house on Fire Island, New York.

CHALLENGING ROLE

"It's got a lot of human facets to it," said Kristin Heitmeier, Barefoot's marketing director and a cast member. "There's poignancy and then some great, sharp humor. It's an intelligent and sophisticated production. It has so many levels and will touch on a lot of subjects...sexuality, race, mortality and family."

Heitmeier was impressed by the script and its complex characters. She welcomed the chance to play a "real person" who had experienced loss, fear and frustrations.

"There are a lot of different aspects to each of these characters. They will

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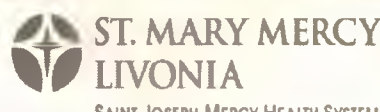
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Exhibit celebrates Glass Month at Village Theater Stamp show in Plymouth worth sticking around for

Artists from the Furnace Design Studio and The Glass Academy of Dearborn are showing their works through April 29 at the Gallery@VT, located in The Village Theater at Cherry Hill in Canton.

The exhibit celebrates Glass Month in Michigan and shows glass in many forms — from objects and vessels to its use in mixed media.

Artists at the Furnace Design Studio combine silica and heat, powdered pigments, metal dusts and added color to create pieces of exquisite beauty.

The Furnace Design Studio is the collaboration of internationally-acclaimed glass artists, Chris Nordin and Michelle Plucinsky. This Dearborn-based glass studio is known for custom commission and site-specific installations for homes, commercial spaces

and hospitality interiors. The artists also are known for their classic Venetian-style craftsmanship, modern flair and versatility in creating signature molten glass pieces that range in style from organic and minimalist pieces to works with elaborate detail. The Furnace Design Studio shares a 14,000 square foot working studio with The Glass Academy.

Works are on display 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Monday-Friday at the theater gallery, located at 50400 Cherry Hill, in Canton. The gallery also is open during public performances at the theater and by appointment. For more information about this latest exhibition in the Gallery@VT, call (734) 394-5300 or visit cantonvillageattheater.org. For more information about The Glass Academy visit www.glassacademy.com.



Glass ornaments are among the works on display this month at the Village Theater in Canton.

The 42nd annual Plymouth Show, sponsored by the West Suburban Stamp Club, will take place on Saturday and Sunday, April 30 and May 1. The show will be held at Central Middle School, 650 Church St., at Church and Main in downtown Plymouth. Show hours are 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Sunday. Admission and parking are free.

Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder has issued a proclamation declaring the week of April 24 as Michigan Stamp Week to coincide with the show dates.

A 40-dealer bourse will offer stamps, covers, cachet covers, and supplies for both new and experienced collectors. The dealers will come from nine states and Canada.

Also the United States and United Nations Postal Services will have booths on-site to sell their current stamp and postal stationary issues.

With 2,000 exhibit pages, the Plymouth Show is a qualifying national show in the APS "World Series of Philately." The Grand Award winner will be eligible to compete in the August Champion of Champion exhibition at STAMPSHOW 2011 in Columbus, Ohio.

The grand award winner will receive a framed duck drawing by noted wildlife artist Larry Hillard. In addition to the Grand Award, a reserve grand award, the customary five levels of medals, and numerous special awards will be presented.

A panel of accredited American Philatelic Society (APS) judges will determine the exhibition award levels at the Plymouth Show.

At the judge's critique, at 11:30 a.m. Sunday, exhibitors can ask judges questions regarding awards and receive constructive help on how to improve their exhibits. This is also an opportunity for future exhibitors to learn the ins and outs of exhibiting.

The successful "Stamps in Your Closet" sessions are scheduled from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. each day. The sessions are patterned after the successful APS national show "What's in Your Attic" program. Experienced collectors and dealers will help identify and provide guidance on a collection's worth.

This year, the show will expand its youth program with "how to" classes for beginning collectors. The young collector will receive the basic collecting tools, free stamps and tips to start a collection. Following the class the junior collectors will be invited to visit the show bourse and attend a club meeting. The classes are scheduled at 11 a.m., 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. Saturday and 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. Sunday. Space is limited so preregistration is suggested. To register, e-mail the club at mywssc@msn.com, please type "Youth Seminar" in the subject line and include the child's name and age in the note.

Several stamp collecting societies will participate in this year's show. The show will host the annual meeting of the Peninsular State Philatelic Society, regional meetings of the Plate Number Coil Collectors Club, American Topical Association, China Stamp Society and American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors, and an APS Town Meeting.

The West Suburban Stamp Club meets the first and third Friday of each month at the Plymouth Historical Museum at Main and Church streets in Plymouth. Doors open at 7 p.m. and meetings include a social time, a program and 25-lot stamp auction. The stamp auctions lots represent the break down of large lots purchased by the club and then auctioned off to club members each meeting. The auctions give members the opportunity to add to their collections at modest cost.

GET OUT!

ART

Art & Ideas

Time/Date: 2-6 p.m. Thursday, 1-7 p.m. Friday, 3-7 p.m. Saturday, through April 30

Location: 15095 Northville Road, between eastbound and westbound Five Mile intersections, Plymouth Township

Details: Interactive art project for all ages, "Collaging History," arranges historical imagery across 40 feet of the gallery walls

Contact: (734) 420-0775 or artandideasgallery.com

Northville Art House

Time/Date: Entry deadline April 27 for June 3-25 exhibit

Location: 215 W. Cady, Northville

Details: Call for entries into its "West of Center" all media show. Entry fee is \$25 for up to three entries. Check the website for entry form and guidelines

Exhibit: Mosaic art exhibit and online auction runs through April 27. Register for online auction at BiddingForGood.com/DWB-MSF and bid on the mosaics by international artists that are on display at the gallery. Auction benefits Doctors

Without Borders

Contact: northvillearts.com; (248) 344-0497

VAAL

Time/Date: May 2 through May 27;

awards presentation and reception 7-8 p.m. Thursday, May 5

Location: Livonia City Hall, 33000 Civic Center Drive

Details: Visual Arts Association of Livonia (VAAL) presents its spring art exhibit, "Artistic Expressions." The exhibit will feature the art work of VAAL members in watercolor, acrylic, oil, pastel, mixed media and more. Show juror is Leslie Masters of the Birmingham Bloomfield Art Center.

Contact: (734) 838-1204 or vaalart.com

COMEDY

Go Comedy!

Time/Date: Various show times Wednesdays thru Sundays

Location: 261 E. Nine Mile, Ferndale

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

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



Benefit fashion show

See spring motorcycle fashions like this BMW Rallye 3 suit at a show designed to raise funds for United Cerebral Palsy Foundation, 6 p.m., Friday, April 29, at BMW Motorcycles Southeast Michigan, 39933 Ford Road, Canton. Admission is a \$15 in advance or \$20 at the door. In addition to fashions, the show will include prize giveaways and hors d'oeuvres. Get tickets by calling (734) 981-1479. The Rallye 3 men's suit is \$799 for the jacket and \$549 for the pants.

STAGE

FROM PAGE B6

make some people uncomfortable but there are characteristics everyone can relate to."

Curtain is at 8 p.m. May 6-7, 13-14, 20-21 and 2 p.m. May 15 and 22. Tickets are \$16 for general admission and \$14 for students and seniors. For tickets call the Barefoot box office at (734) 560-1493 or visit www.justgobarefoot.com.

Because of language and adult themes, no one under 18 will be admitted to the *Vagina Monologues* and *Lips Together, Teeth Apart*.

Other upcoming plays:

• Farmington Players caps off its season with the comedy musical, *The Producers*, directed by Cynthia Tupper, with assistance from Mary Ann Tweedie and Michael Schacherbauer. The story is about two theatrical producers who scheme to get rich by overselling interests in a Broadway flop. The show turns out to be a huge success, creat-



Nana Allen of Plymouth, (left), Jack Galazka of Redford and Philip Lukasik of Westland rehearse a scene from "Murder by Indecision," by the Still Got It Players.

ing complications for everyone. Curtain is at 8 p.m. April 29-30; May 6-7, 12-14 and 19-21 and 2 p.m. May 1, 8 and 15 at The Farmington Players Barn Theater, 32332 West 12 Mile, Farmington Hills. (248) 553-2955. Tickets range from \$16-\$25. Buy online at farmingtonplayers.org.

• Inspire Theatre presents *The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940* at 7:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday, May 5-6 and 13-14 and 3 p.m. Sunday, May 15, at 33445 Warren Road, Westland. Admission is \$12. Showbiz folks have gathered in a mansion to flush out a serial killer in this madcap comedy.

(734) 751-7057

• Joey Catalano of Livonia plays "Lysander" in the classic Shakespeare play, *A Midsummer Night's Dreams*, 8 p.m. Thursday-Saturday and 3 p.m. and 8 p.m. Sunday, April 28-May 8, at 1515 Broadway in Detroit. Sixth Street Entertainment in Royal Oak presents a twist on the classic, setting the story in San Francisco, Calif., during the 1960s. Tickets are \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door. Get advance tickets through www.ticketmaster.com, or at The Actor's Workshop, 307 W. Sixth, Royal Oak. (248) 398-7744

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Contact Editor Sharon Dargay

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Pantry secrets for EASTER DINNER

You probably don't know it, but you may have the secret ingredients for an exceptional Easter dinner in your pantry right now. The holidays are a perfect opportunity to sprinkle creativity into special meals by using staples like pancake mix, syrup and instant mashed potatoes in unexpected ways to craft new and delicious dishes the whole family will love.

Celebrity Chef Adam Gertler, host of Food Network's *Kid in a Candy Store*, along with Hungry Jack®, have come up with original, easy-to-prepare recipes using everyday items to create a memorable Easter meal.

"Planning for a holiday meal can be stressful," Chef Gertler says. "But by looking to your pantry for inspiration, you will find ingredients to make a truly unique and special meal sure to delight your family and guests!"

Here are ways to use up what you already have to make a complete Easter menu, including savory Bacon and Cheese Appetizer Bites, Spinach Salad with Warm Maple Dijon Vinaigrette, Maple Glazed Pork Tenderloin and a sweet Spiced Mocha Fudge Cake. You'll create an Easter meal worth celebrating and make your hungry family a happy one.

For more creative recipes and tips, visit www.useupthebox.com.

ADAM GERTLER'S USE UP THE BOX PANTRY TIPS

- **Punchy potatoes:** Add a teaspoon of prepared horseradish or Dijon mustard and a sprinkle of garlic powder to Hungry Jack Instant Mashed Potatoes for gourmet flavor ready in less than five minutes.

- **Make dry spices last:** Ground spices tend to lose pungency rather quickly. Buy spices like cinnamon, cayenne pepper, cumin, nutmeg, cloves and allspice whole and grind small batches as you need them. It's a good idea to have a separate coffee grinder for your spices.

- **Save room and keep dry goods fresh:** When you get home from the grocery store, transfer flours, pastas, cereals and other dry grains into resealable storage bags or containers. Simply label and date them with a marker, and you'll be surprised at how much extra room you'll have in your pantry.



Gertler

SPICED MOCHA FUDGE CAKE

Makes: 12 servings
Prep Time: 20 minutes
Cook Time: 1 hour

CAKE:

Crisco Original No-Stick Cooking Spray
4 (1-ounce) squares unsweetened baking chocolate

3 tablespoons butter
1 cup hot brewed Folgers Classic Roast® Coffee
½ cup Hungry Jack Instant Mashed Potato Flakes
1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
½ teaspoon cayenne pepper (optional)
½ cups sugar
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
4 large eggs, separated
½ cup Pillsbury BEST® All Purpose Flour
½ teaspoons baking powder
¼ teaspoon salt
Powdered sugar

SPICED WHIPPED CREAM:

½ pint whipping cream
3 tablespoons powdered sugar
1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
¼ teaspoon vanilla extract

1. **HEAT** oven to 350°F. Line bottom of a 9-inch springform pan with parchment paper. Coat paper with no-stick cooking spray. Place chocolate and butter in medium microwave-safe bowl. Microwave on HIGH power 45 to 60 seconds or until chocolate is melted and smooth when stirred.

2. **COMBINE** coffee, potato flakes, cinnamon and cayenne in large mixing bowl, stirring until moistened. Blend in sugar and vanilla. Blend in chocolate mixture and egg yolks. Stir together flour, baking powder and salt. Gradually blend into chocolate mixture.

3. **BEAT** egg whites on medium speed of electric mixer until stiff. Add to chocolate mixture and blend on low speed until completely blended, scraping sides and bottom of bowl frequently. Pour batter into prepared pan. Bake 55 to 60 minutes or until set in center. Cool completely in pan on wire rack. Remove from pan. Sprinkle liberally with powdered sugar.

4. **COMBINE** whipping cream, powdered sugar, cinnamon and vanilla in medium mixing bowl. Beat on medium speed of electric mixer until stiff. Serve with cake.



Spinach Salad with Warm Maple Dijon Vinaigrette



Bacon and Cheese Appetizer Bites



Spiced Mocha Fudge Cake

MAPLE GLAZED PORK TENDERLOIN

Makes: 4 servings
Prep Time: 7 minutes
Cook Time: 12 minutes

1 teaspoon dried thyme leaves, crushed
1 teaspoon dried marjoram leaves, crushed
¼ teaspoon salt
¼ teaspoon onion powder
¼ teaspoon garlic powder
1 pound pork tenderloin, cut into ½-inch slices
1 tablespoon butter
2 tablespoons Hungry Jack Original Regular Syrup

1. **COMBINE** thyme, marjoram, salt, onion powder and garlic powder in large resealable food storage bag. Seal bag and shake well. Add pork slices. Seal bag. Shake to coat.

2. **MELT** butter in large nonstick skillet over medium-high heat. Add pork mixture. Cook and stir 8 to 10 minutes or until pork is browned and no longer pink in center. Add syrup. Cook and stir until pork is glazed.

SPINACH SALAD WITH WARM MAPLE DIJON VINAIGRETTE

Makes: 4 servings
Prep Time: 15 minutes
Cook Time: 1 minute

¼ cup Hungry Jack Original Syrup
3 tablespoons cider vinegar
4 teaspoons Dijon mustard
1 teaspoon fresh thyme leaves, minced, or ½ teaspoon dried thyme leaves
2 cloves garlic, minced
½ teaspoon salt
¼ teaspoon pepper
½ cup Crisco 100% Extra Virgin Olive Oil
1 (6-ounce) bag fresh baby spinach leaves

1 small unpeeled red apple, cored and thinly sliced

½ cup crumbled blue cheese
2 tablespoons crumbled cooked bacon or real bacon bits

1. **WHISK** together syrup, vinegar, mustard, thyme, garlic, salt and pepper in a medium microwave-safe bowl until well blended. Gradually whisk in oil, stirring until thickened.

2. **COMBINE** spinach, apple, cheese and bacon in a large bowl. Just before serving, microwave vinaigrette on HIGH for 30 to 45 seconds or until warm. Drizzle salad with desired amount of vinaigrette; toss salad and serve immediately.

BACON AND CHEESE APPETIZER BITES

Makes: 24 appetizers
Prep Time: 5 minutes
Cook Time: 10 minutes

Crisco® Original No-Stick Cooking Spray
½ cup sour cream
1 tablespoon water
1 cup Hungry Jack Buttermilk Complete Pancake & Waffle Mix (Just Add Water)
½ cup (2 ounces) shredded cheddar cheese
½ cup bacon, cooked and crumbled
2 tablespoons butter, melted
Paprika

1. **HEAT** oven to 400°F. Spray cookie sheet with no-stick cooking spray.

2. **MIX** sour cream and water in medium bowl until well combined. Add pancake mix, cheese and bacon pieces. Stir just until dry ingredients are moistened. Drop by rounded teaspoons onto prepared cookie sheet.

3. **BAKE** 10 to 12 minutes or until lightly browned. Brush with melted butter, sprinkle with paprika. Serve warm.

Courtesy of Family Features

REAL ESTATE

PAGE B9 (*) Thursday, April 21, 2011

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Julie Brown, editor (313) 222-6755
jcbrown@hometownlife.com

Being a good neighbor can often avert problems

BY JULIE BROWN
O&E STAFF WRITER

Tony Schippa of Plymouth likes his neighbors.

Schippa lives in downtown Plymouth in a home that his wife's a third-generation owner of: "We pretty much know everybody on the street," said Schippa, a Realtor with Coldwell Banker Preferred in Plymouth.

He hasn't heard in his 10 years in real estate a lot of questions from prospective buyers on neighbors. "I don't know if I've ever encountered anybody telling me that," said Schippa, president of the Western Wayne Oakland County Association of Realtors. WWOCAR is merging with the Metropolitan Consolidated Association of Realtors and Schippa will be president-elect of the newly formed group.

His home dates back roughly to the World War I era, although he hasn't researched its history extensively. His father-in-law says the basement was

cut out by his uncles.

"I think more people hang out in their back yards," said Schippa, although his family likes the front porch just as previous generations did for visiting.

"I think communication, talking," he said of what it takes to be a good neighbor. Schippa grew up in rural Milford.

"Back at that time, our nearest friend was four miles away," although neighbors were closer. He recalls neighbors chipping in with food during births, deaths and illnesses.

These days, Schippa will get out his snowblower to be a good neighbor, helping with sidewalks and driveways when possible. His neighbors return the favor.

"It's being a good person," he concluded of a good neighbor.

Renters aren't necessarily bad neighbors. Schippa has a home in the neighborhood he doesn't own but which has had good tenants. One set became good friends.

"I'll say 'hi' and introduce myself," said Schippa, adding some people think greetings and "Have a nice day" are odd for strangers.

He agreed calling police should be a last resort for neighborhood trouble. "I think it should be very specific to a certain need," Schippa said. "You should try to work it out among yourselves."

Sgt. Mark Gajeski of the Canton Police said it's fine to call police if you feel unsafe. "Anytime you don't feel safe, obviously, contact the police. You can remain anonymous. We never tell anyone who the complainant is on an anonymous complaint."

Those are often loud parties, and the revelers may ask responding police, "Who called?" The name isn't given to them, Gajeski said.

Sometimes problems can be worked out through cordial conversation. "If you want to remain good neighbors, you should always approach them first and work it out," Gajeski said. "Follow-through is very important,"

he noted. Sometimes people complain to police about an ordinance violation but aren't willing to pursue it or go to court. You'll need to make your identity public in court.

Gajeski and colleagues will hear people say, "Oh, no, I don't want to do that." He recommends you check with your township or city to see who owns the property and try contacting the landlord.

"The ordinance people are really good about that," Gajeski said of Canton Township.

If you're moving into an area, it's worth your while to check with local police on any crime/neighbor problems. Canton, along with Livonia, Inkster and Detroit, participates in an Internet crime mapping program. For Canton, it's www.crimemapping.com/map/mi/canton.

"I think any time people live in close proximity they're bound to get on each other's nerves once in a while," Gajeski concluded of neighbors — and families.

Party room use: ask lawyer

BY ROBERT MEISNER
GUEST COLUMNIST

Q: I am trying to determine whether the association's use of its party room in our clubhouse can be considered a public accommodation under the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) where we do not rent the room to businesses, community organizations or educational seminars?

A: A place of public accommodation is a facility whose operations affect commerce and fall within at least 12 categories, including the following:

1. Places of lodging;
2. Establishments serving food or drink;
3. Places of exhibition or entertainment;
4. Places of public gathering;
5. Sales or rental establishments;
6. Service establishments;
7. Public transportation terminals;
8. Places of public display or collection;
9. Places of recreation;
10. Places of education;
11. Social service center establishments; and,
12. Places of exercise or recreation.

However these examples could, on occasion, cover a community building if it rents rooms to local businesses, community organizations such as a meeting place for educational seminars or, perhaps, places of exercise or recreation if a fee is charged. In any event, you are best advised to get an opinion from legal counsel regarding the utilization of your clubhouse area.



Robert Meisner

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of Jan. 7-13, 2011, at the Wayne County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

42720 Redfern St	\$120,000
44497 Savery Dr	\$41,000
245 Scarlett Dr	\$235,000
49449 Taft Ln	\$90,000
44211 Village Ct	\$133,000
47828 Vistas Circle Dr S	\$190,000
385 Westbourne Ct	\$375,000
1256 Whittier Dr	\$130,000
48765 Woodson Way	\$60,000

Canton	
4002 Berkeley Ave	\$83,000
1636 Brookview Dr	\$147,000
769 Buckingham Rd	\$113,000
45834 Buckley Rd	\$210,000
1709 Copeland Cir	\$123,000
7124 Foxridge Dr	\$185,000
45824 Gainsborough Dr	\$162,000
47968 Gladstone Dr	\$282,000
7950 Kaiser St	\$126,000
2070 Lafayette Dr	\$172,000
1865 Lone Wolf Ln	\$111,000
48151 Mollinghill Ln	\$125,000
1928 Paddock Ln	\$165,000
43960 Parkside St	\$130,000

Garden City	
29484 Alvin St	\$26,000
29526 Alvin St	\$40,000
31940 Chester St	\$55,000
33440 Donnelly St	\$65,000
29961 Florence St	\$49,000
5956 Gilman St	\$74,000
5911 Lathers St	\$23,000
29745 Rosslyn Ave	\$74,000
Livonia	
29458 Barkley Ct	\$123,000
9412 Bassett St	\$115,000
28623 Bayberry Park Dr	\$129,000
20507 Beatrice St	\$15,000
30231 Bentley St	\$136,000
11369 Cardwell St	\$117,000
13961 Cardwell St	\$110,000

HOMES SOLD-WAYNE

12144 Cavell St	\$67,000
9145 E Bassett Ct	\$139,000
28537 Elmira St	\$68,000
32653 Five Mile Rd	\$59,000
19910 Floral St	\$35,000
18525 Middlebelt Rd	\$100,000
16236 Duakertown Ln	\$205,000
36543 Roycroft St	\$135,000
37840 Southampton St	\$178,000
17524 Stamwich St	\$112,000
29025 W Chicago St	\$90,000
34128 Wadsworth St	\$56,000
Northville	
18220 Arselot Dr	\$370,000
39456 Champion Ct	\$179,000
15908 Crystal Downs E	\$438,000
19509 Dartmouth Pl	\$61,000
19513 Dartmouth Pl	\$60,000
16893 Dunswood Rd	\$210,000
48899 Freestone Dr	\$5,000
18825 Heather Ridge Dr	\$525,000
15917 Johnson Creek Dr	\$133,000
16050 Johnson Creek Dr	\$125,000
16217 Johnson Creek Dr	\$18,000
16673 Lyonhurst Cir	\$215,000
359 N Rogers St	\$295,000

18227 Parkshore Dr	\$450,000
16211 Westminister Dr	\$20,000
16952 Yellowstone Dr	\$115,000
Plymouth	
1450 Ann Arbor Rd W	\$16,000
19777 Beacon Hill Dr	\$360,000
41115 Crabtree Ln	\$170,000
11645 Francis Ave	\$48,000
12421 Hillside Dr	\$376,000
40451 Newport Dr	\$66,000
284 Pinewood Dr	\$40,000
357 Sunset St	\$180,000
11749 Turkey Run	\$155,000
51013 W Hills Rd	\$270,000
Redford	
11667 Centralia	\$35,000
13469 Crosley	\$77,000
13576 Fenton	\$25,000
16925 Five Points St	\$41,000
17629 Five Points St	\$12,000
25215 Keebler	\$14,000
9551 Lucerne	\$48,000
16529 MacArthur	\$32,000
24841 Midland	\$16,000
19326 Negaunee	\$20,000
15456 Norborne	\$52,000

11750 Riverdale	\$30,000
9920 Rockland	\$71,000
11301 Royal Grand	\$37,000
Westland	
2151 Ackley Ave	\$14,000
31640 Ann Arbor Trl	\$95,000
34713 Birchwood St	\$55,000
33148 Chief Ln	\$105,000
37195 Glarhart St	\$70,000
33484 Silverwood	\$57,000
34809 Hivley St	\$62,000
30351 Julius Blvd	\$60,000
33484 Krauter St	\$30,000
34141 Majestic St	\$85,000
35635 Melton St	\$19,000
6937 Mohican Ln	\$86,000
35933 Palmer Rd	\$45,000
28345 Powers St	\$14,000
1844 S Brandon St	\$28,000
37649 S Butler Cir	\$121,000
7353 S Kingston Ct	\$63,000
31295 Steinhauer St	\$28,000
241 Stephanie Dr	\$53,000
558 Van Sull St	\$67,000
37241 Vincent St	\$7,000
8260 Vista Ln	\$203,000

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of Jan. 3-7, 2011, at the Oakland County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

1666 Birmingham Blvd	\$970,000
2460 Buckingham Ave	\$149,000
1311 Cedar Dr	\$640,000
664 Chesterfield Ave	\$227,000
876 Madison St	\$320,000
547 N Old Woodward Ave	\$163,000
Commerce Township	
5640 Antlers Ct	\$338,000
1965 Applebrook Dr	\$64,000
4963 Fairgrove Ln	\$230,000
8690 Golfside Dr	\$107,000
4642 Ponderosa St	\$101,000
4980 S Duck Lake Rd	\$70,000
1910 Thorncrest Ct	\$325,000
Farmington	
33635 Alta Loma Dr	\$115,000
Farmington Hills	
29042 Augusta	\$390,000

HOMES SOLD-OAKLAND

21144 Collingham Ave	\$43,000
31232 Country Ridge Cir	\$271,000
29952 Gilred St	\$65,000
22120 Lind Rd	\$52,000
29434 Glen Oaks Blvd W	\$60,000
22220 Indian Creek Dr	\$45,000
35163 Knollwood Ln	\$140,000
24509 Lakeland St	\$125,000
21326 Mulberry Ct	\$140,000
26021 Old Homestead Dr	\$179,000
26321 Old Homestead Dr	\$250,000
29664 Pine Ridge Cir	\$85,000
28236 Shadylane Dr	\$115,000
39322 Silverthorne Blvd	\$265,000
23777 Stony Creek Dr	\$200,000
36597 Valley Ridge Dr	\$245,000
30038 W 12 Mile Rd Unit 48	\$43,000
29378 Weathervane Ave	\$290,000

28900 Wellington St	\$190,000
Milford	
664 Hill Crest Ct	\$205,000
910 Panorama Dr	\$135,000
958 Panorama Dr	\$120,000
999 Stone Barn	\$245,000
Novi	
45441 Addington Ln	\$333,000
24179 Broadmoor Park Ln	\$40,000
41491 Burroughs Ave	\$346,000
28227 Cariton Way Dr	\$120,000
47648 Cheltenham Dr	\$60,000
43153 Emerson Way	\$215,000
24570 Enchanted Dr	\$219,000
22751 Foxmoor Dr	\$325,000
44778 Gwinnett Loop	\$63,000
44850 Lafayette Dr	\$313,000
44667 Mansfield Dr	\$215,000

24181 Nilan Dr	\$148,000
43181 Sandstone Dr	\$258,000
24451 Venice Dr	\$265,000
39704 Village Wood Cir	\$35,000
41080 W 10 Mile Rd	\$95,000
South Lyon	
15221 Nine Mile Rd	\$17,000
54125 Birchwood Dr	\$30,000
57323 Hidden Timbers Dr	\$210,000
Southfield	
28429 Everett St	\$30,000
17030 Hilton St	\$68,000
26474 Isleworth Pt	\$135,000
30276 Southfield Rd	\$20,000
24617 Templar Ave	\$32,000
White Lake	
9452 Beechcrest St	\$190,000
9518 Garforth St	\$33,000

REAL ESTATE BRIEFS

Career Seminar

A Real Estate Career Seminar will be 6:30-7:30 p.m. Thursday, April 21, at Keller Williams Realty, 40600 Ann Arbor Road, Suite 100, Plymouth. For information, contact Lesley Aiello at (734) 459-4700 or laiello@kw.com.

Investors

The Real Estate Investor Association of Wayne County holds monthly meetings the first Tuesday of each month at the Holiday Inn, 17201 Northline Road, Southgate. Entrance fee is \$20 for non-membership. To be applied to annual membership. For information, call (313) 819-0919 or visit www.reiawaynecounty.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. Seminars are 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@addevaluerealty.com or visit FreeForeclosureTour.com.

At conference

Susan Kellam, Relocation director, and Leslie Smith, Relocation coordinator with the Charles Reinhart Company, Realtors (www.ReinhartRealtors.com) attended the 2011 Leading Real Estate Companies of the World (LeadingRE) conference March 8-10. The annual event attracted 850 top real estate brokers, managers, relocation professionals, sponsors and guests from the U.S. and eight countries around the world. Participating brokers represented one-third of the U.S. real estate market.

"The conference was hugely gratifying, bringing together so many industry leaders to create an energizing learning and networking experience," said LeadingRE President/CEO Pam O'Connor.

The Charles Reinhart Company, Realtors is the local representative of Leading Real Estate Companies of the World, a global real estate network comprised of over 600 of local and regional real estate firms. With nearly 5,000 offices and 150,000 sales associates in the United States and 35 countries abroad, LeadingRE affiliates sell almost \$300 billion in homes sales, representing nearly one million transactions annually.

Visit www.reinhartrealtors.com or contact Susan Kellam at (734) 669-5804 or skellam@reinhartrealtors.com.

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. Call (248) 644-4433 or visit bmeisner@meisner-associates.com. This column shouldn't be construed as legal advice.

Q: We are thinking about buying a co-op and I am wondering if we can get any financing from any of the big banks, and, what type of security the lending institution will require?

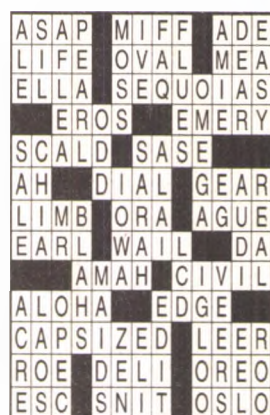
A: I can only tell you by way of example that in New York City where half of the co-ops in the world are located, there are hundreds, if not thousands, of co-op loans made every day. Banks that lend on individual co-ops include Citibank, Chase, Wells Fargo, HSBC, Bank of America, Capital One, etc., although, I am not necessarily recommending any particular lender. Typically, the loans are secured by a pledge of the shareholders proprietary lease and stock certificate and a UCC-1 Financing Statement filed with the County Clerk and/or Department of State. Obviously, no mortgage is recorded as the loan does not create an interest in real estate. There is also something called a Recognition Agreement which is a three part agreement between the borrower (shareholder of the co-op), co-op corporation and bank pursuant to which the co-op corporation recognizes the bank's interest in the collateral and agrees to give it notice and time to cure before enforcing its rights under the proprietary lease and evict the shareholder. In some respects, it is actually far more useful than mortgages for condominium clients as the banks that hold co-op loans often cure when they are sent a copy of the default notice in order to preserve their collateral while typically mortgagees never do.

Challenging fun for ALL ages
Thursday
PUZZLE CORNER

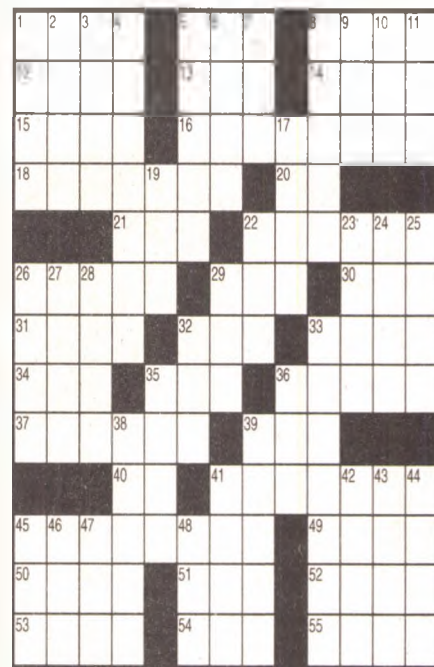
CROSSWORD PUZZLER

- ACROSS**
- 1 Hedge shrubs
 - 5 Radar-gun info
 - 8 Fossil impression
 - 12 Bryce Canyon site
 - 13 Polished off
 - 14 Night attire
 - 15 Cabbage cousin
 - 16 Hip-hop (2 wds.)
 - 18 Furtiveness
 - 20 Polynesian plant
 - 21 Starfish arm
 - 22 Lure
 - 26 Accepts
 - 29 Pecs neighbor
 - 30 Leaf out
 - 31 Between
 - 32 Crane arm
 - 33 Nerve network
 - 34 Embarrassed
 - 35 Windhoek's cont.
 - 36 Very pale
- DOWN**
- 37 Ready (2 wds.)
 - 39 Dues payer, for short
 - 40 Stone Age cartoon
 - 41 Lull
 - 45 Gave out
 - 49 Commotions
 - 50 Herr's refusal
 - 51 "Bali —"
 - 52 Do another hitch (hyph.)
 - 53 Orderly
 - 54 Vocalist Sumac
 - 55 Graceful seabird
 - 1 Hearty laughs
 - 2 Oregon, to Yves
 - 3 Hull plank
 - 4 Harvested wool
 - 5 Country's Robbins
 - 6 Chief god of Memphis
 - 7 Not square

Answer to Previous Puzzle

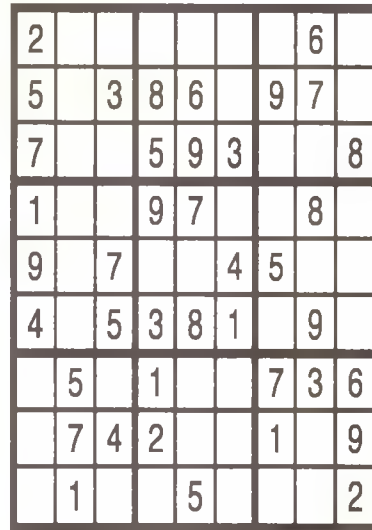


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- 8 Orchard yield
- 9 Aurora, to Plato
- 10 Diamond stat
- 11 Toshiba rival
- 17 Natural elevs.
- 19 — Vegas
- 22 Wane
- 23 Alpine goat
- 24 Winsome
- 25 Blissful spot
- 26 Kahuna's spud
- 27 Famous last word
- 28 Pirate captain
- 29 Tune
- 32 NYC airport
- 33 Bulwark
- 35 IRS employee
- 36 Craven or Unsed
- 38 Piano-key wood
- 39 Radio and TV
- 41 Juice a grape-fruit
- 42 — fixe
- 43 Excursion
- 44 Sports chan- nel
- 45 Crumb toler
- 46 Luau welcome
- 47 Jar top
- 48 Quaker pronoun

SUDOKU



Fun By The Numbers

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

Here's How It Works:

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

Word Search — Spring



- bloom
- butterfly
- chirping
- daffodil
- flowers
- garden
- hose
- lawn
- rebirth
- showers
- spring
- sprinkler
- sunshine
- tulip
- warm

CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE



CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE



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HOMETOWNlife.com

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Time Share 3630
MARRIOTT TIME SHARE: Based in Las Vegas. Can exchange with interval or any Marriott worldwide property. 2 bdrm, sleeps 6. 2 weeks available. Call: (734) 459-4344

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Livonia's Parkway Cemetery 6 plots, Sect. 554, Block C, \$600 ea. or all 6 for \$3000. Value \$1200/ea 734-395-7575
Parkway Memorial Cemetery in Livonia. Beautifully wooded lots, 4 avail., \$1000/each \$3600/for all. 734-502-8045

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Carpentry 0410

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Condos/Townhouses 4820

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Duplexes 4830

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Announcements

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Legal & Accepting Bids 6220

Household goods belonging to Frank and Nicky Turner. Last known address of Brighton, MI, will be sold at a PRIVATE SALE May 11th, 2011, 10:00am at 23305 Commerce Drive, Farmington Hills, MI.

Household Goods belonging to Peggy Ruffin. Last known address of West Bloomfield, MI, will be sold at a PRIVATE SALE May 11th, 2011, 10:00am at 23305 Commerce Drive, Farmington Hills, MI.

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Sat. April 30, 10am-5pm.
Sun. May 1, 12pm-5pm.
You name it, we think we have it! Household items, furniture, mini collectibles, D56, playing cards, porcelain dolls, plates & much more!
34975 Norfolk, Livonia, MI 48152
1 blk S of 8 Mi. W off Gill Rd.

7100 Estate Sales 7100

LIVONIA Estate Sale:
Thurs-Sat 9-5, 9586 Deering (S. off Plymouth Rd, W. of Inkster Rd). Furn., Collectibles, pics @ actionestate.com (586) 228-9090

MOVING/ESTATE SALE
Household furniture, washer/dryer, china/stemware, artwork/collectibles, & so much more. 4/21-4/23, 10-4pm
2254 Bordeaux West Bloomfield Middlebelt & Long Lk Rd

Garage Sales 7110

CANTON
7492 Embassy. Sat/Sun., (4/16 & 4/17) & Fri/Sat. (4/22 & 4/23) from 9AM to 6PM. Curio Cabinet, China Cabinet, Washer/Dryer, Crystal, dishes, 50+ kitchen table/chairs & misc. household items.

CANTON
Subdivision Garage Sale, Woodlands of Chatterton Village, corner of Geddes and Beck Roads, Canton, Michigan. Saturday, May 21, 2011, 8am - noon
www.w-cv.com
734-678-8086

PLYMOUTH'S OLD VILLAGE ANNUAL YARD SALES
Sat. May 7, 8am-3pm.
Over 20 homes & shops. TRUNK SALE - Station 885. \$15 for 2 spaces.
www.oldvillageplymouth.com or call 734-207-2346 for info.

REDFORD
Church being sold! 9 AM - 5 PM on May 20 & 9 AM - 2 PM on May 21 @ St John's Lutheran Church 13542 Mercedes. 1 blk E of Inkster. 1 blk S of Schoolcraft. Come browse our quality items! To reserve space to sell at as low as \$15 for 2 days call 313538-2660 10 AM - 2 PM Mon - Fri. No early sales. Cash only please.

WESTLAND Community Garage Sale
Sat. May 7th, 9-4pm.
100 Vendors. 3660 Ford Rd. Spaces still available
734-722-7620

NOVI Moving Sale, 43507
Scenic Lane. 1 day only, Sat. Apr. 23, 9-5. Quality furniture, Drexel sofa, oak hutch, rocking chair, antique lamps, etc.

Moving Sales 7130

PLYMOUTH - MOVING SALE
50155 Ann Arbor Rd., W. Plymouth. April 23, 2011, (9am-6pm). Furniture, Washer, Dryer, Fireplace, Holiday, Clothes, Shoes, Books, MUCH MORE! 734-765-4862

WESTLAND MOVING SALE
8039 Fremont (Ann Arbor Tr/Middlebelt). Contents of home. April 17-21st, 9-5pm.

Household Goods 7150

CURIO: 3 piece glass, lights up, paid \$3,000 at Gorman's of Southfield, asking \$500.
Call: (734) 727-9675

NATUZZI LEATHER COUCH
w/2 oversized chairs & ottomans, \$2500 for all. Armors desk, made by Hooker, \$500. 248-667-9379

PATIO SET: Brown Jordan, cream, glass table with 5 chairs, chase lounge, \$350. Call: (248) 349-4830

TEMPURPEDIC MATTRESS & BOX SPRING
Elderly woman wishes to sell year old \$1500 Tempurpedic full size mattress & box spring. Sacrifice \$900. 248-293-0476

TWIN BEDS: Two Ethan Allen beds, new \$1200, asking \$350. Evenings or leave message: (248) 731-7841

Appliances 7180

DISHWASHER GE
Brand new, never installed, color is bisque. A bargain price at \$210. 248-859-4413

FRIDGE & STOVE -Exc cond.
Gas stove: Maytag, white, 2 racks, \$100/best. Fridge: GE, white, freezer on top, 3 shelves, 2 crispers, door shelves, \$75/best offer. 248-910-3230

Hobbies-Coins, Stamps 7190

Pool table with accessories
Rarely used and in perfect condition. We paid \$7,000, but we are selling for \$3,500. Celebrity 3-wheel scooter, blue. It has only 12 miles on odometer. Perfect condition. \$1,500. 248-982-0689

Hospital/Medical Equipment 7400

CONCORD LIBERTY STAIR-LIFT: Used, straight, 10 ft 8 in, long, 300 lb capacity, price neg - \$1300. Call: (248) 661-0169

Hospital/Medical Equipment 7400

ELECTRIC WHEELCHAIR,
\$350.
734-326-6267

SCOOTER: 4 wheel Blue Pride Scooter with basket, paid \$2145, asking \$1200. Call: (734) 522-6925

Miscellaneous For Sale 7500

POOL TABLE: Pecan wood, exc. cond., 7 ft., \$500/best offer. Incl rack, balls, sticks & stand. 248-910-3230

Sporting Goods 7520

GOLF CLUBS Cobra 3100 1/2 irons, reg. mid kick, Aldia Graphite 4-GW. \$125. 734-455-0198

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Cats 7830

CAT - 2 year old cat
needs forever home.
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6 wks old. Kitty litter trained. To a good home. (248) 408-2656

Dogs 7840

HAVANESE PUPPIES, AKC,
shots, wormed, non-shedding, parents on sight. (586) 218-7057

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Hypo-allergenic, beautiful quality, home raised. Call: 313-999-6447

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DIETARY AIDE
Exp working in long-term care kitchen preferred. Must be able to every other weekend, hrs and shifts will vary days to afternoons.

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kduquette1@live.com
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Help Wanted-General 5000

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PT & FT positions. Must be trained, have positive attitudes, clean driving record. Starting at \$7.61/hr. 734-524-1361

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\$575-\$975/per wk
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Manufacturing facility is in search of entry-level, non-skilled workers for both full and part time openings, day shift. You must possess a High School Diploma and be at least 18 years old. This would be the perfect job for someone recently out of high school or currently attending college due to the fact that we WILL work around your school schedule.

Please submit your resume for review to hrlpymouth@yahoo.com If selected, you will be contacted for an application & interview from us. Thank you.

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GENERAL LABOR: Part-Time/ Full-Time/Seasonal. Dependable. Starting at \$10/hr. Plymouth: 734-536-8976

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Manufacturing Engineer
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Canton, 48188-1104

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Must have exp in reading telephone bills & entering data with Excel. F/T/P
Please send resumes to: HR Dept. P.O. Box 250370, West Bloomfield, MI 48325

Help Wanted-General 5000

OPERATIONS/MANUFACTURING
Established global, mid-west based manufacturing company seeking emerging leaders for our organization. The ideal candidate would have 4-6 years of practical work experience in a best practice multinational company; hands-on, process oriented with strong technical engineering experience in packaging manufacturing plants. Demonstrated ability and desire to grow a business, strong business acumen, customer focus, talent mindset & leadership skills. Qualifications incl: bilingual, ability to travel and relocate globally. Bachelor's degree required. MBA or Master's preferred. EOE

Send resume to: OMLD@ccoconfidential.com

Software Engineer
For Title Source, Inc. in Livonia, MI to understand requirements, implement designs, provide administration tools, document projects; develop in a C# environment; ASP.Net, CSLA.net, web services; client-server applications; participate in design, code reviews; enhance development processes; write SQL queries, stored procedures; perform on-call duties. Requires Masters degree in C.S. or Computer Engineering; 2 yrs experience designing/developing web & windows applications using Visual Studio, SQL server. In lieu of Masters degree, will accept Bachelors in said fields and 5 yrs progressive, post-Bachelors stated experience. Background must include ASP.Net; CSLA.net; object oriented programming using C#; net; service oriented architecture; converting project specifications for coding. Send resume to: Tina Bogel, Quicken Loans Inc., 1050 Woodward Avenue, Detroit, MI 48226. No phone calls.

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Help Wanted-General 5000

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\$25-\$35K

Please send resume to: **Attn: HR, CHM, 2959 Martin Luther King Blvd, Detroit, MI 48208**
Fax: 313-463-2222
Email: dherndon@covenanthouse.org

No phone calls please. For more information on Covenant House Michigan please visit our website at www.covenanthousemi.org EOE

Help Wanted-Dental 5040

DENTAL HYGIENIST

High quality practice in Novi seeks high quality RDH, experienced particularly in Perio, part-time, knowledge of digital x-rays and paperless charting preferred.

Call Helana: 248-471-0345
contactus@providentdentistry.com

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Help Wanted-Medical 5050

Director of Health Care Services: Registered Nurse West Hickory Haven

In Milford has a leadership opportunity for an energetic, organized nurse manager. We are currently seeking candidates who can lead a dynamic and talented team delivering the highest quality of care to our 101 bed skilled nursing center residents. Interested candidates must possess a valid Michigan license, previous SNF experience and ability to demonstrate regulatory knowledge along with strong clinical and basic computer skills.

Please email resume to: don@peplinskigroup.com

Help Wanted-Medical 5050

Medical Receptionist

Full-Time. Send resume to: 43422 West Oaks Drive, PMB #167, Novi, MI 48377-3300

Patient Appointment Coordinator

The Department of Ophthalmology at Kresge Eye Institute for Wayne State University Physician Group has an opening in Detroit office. Responsibilities include: scheduling patients, verifying insurance, obtaining referrals, other duties as assigned. Qualifications: Medical front desk exp, exc interpersonal communication skills.

Qualified applicants, please fax resume to 313-577-8271 or email resume to: resumes@med.wayne.edu

Help Wanted-Medical 5060

Receptionist/Medical Asst

With exp. for busy OB/GYN practice in Farmington Hills. westoaklandobgyn1@yahoo.com

VETERINARY ASSISTANT/TECHNICIAN

Full/Part-Time. Exp. preferred, not req'd. Fax resume: 734-326-3234

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Exc. PR skills. Computer & sales exp. helpful. Email resume to: jobs.pwc@gmail.com

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Gray, Auto. \$24,995

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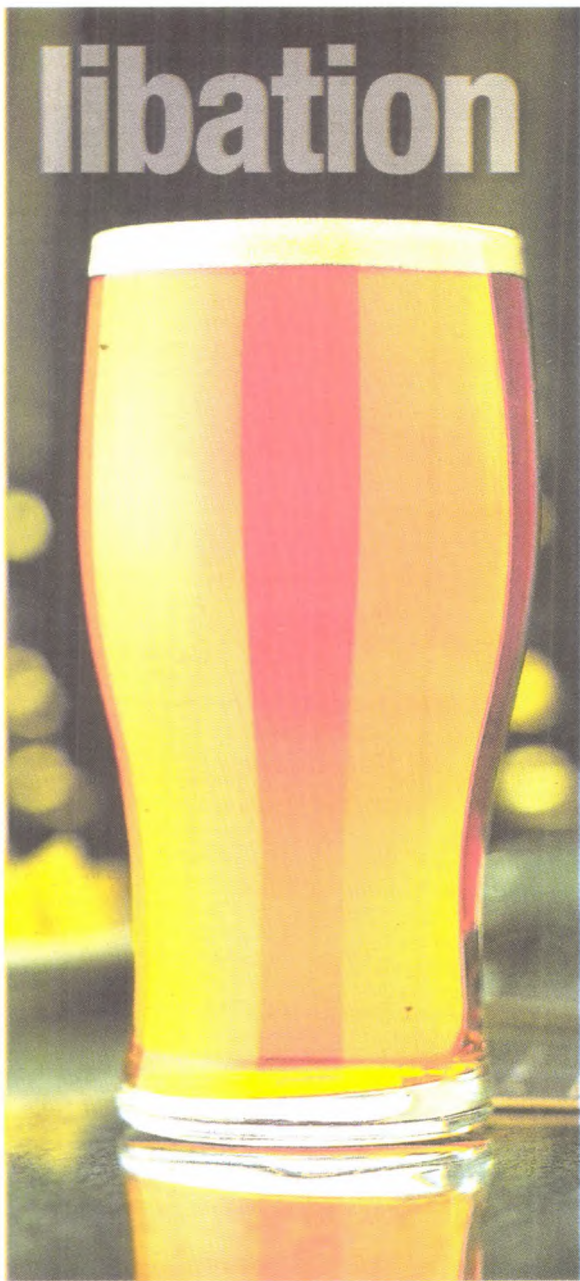
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615 W. Lafayette Blvd., Detroit, MI 48226
101 N. Lafayette, South Lyon, MI 48178

Advertising
101 N. Lafayette, South Lyon, MI 48178
41304 Concept Drive, Plymouth, MI 48170

Circulation
41304 Concept Drive, Plymouth, MI 48170

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Let Inspire help with your home makeover

It's time to kick winter to the curb. Spring is here and so is our appetite for home projects.



Today's Inspire features a 40-page special section devoted to home improvement — from painting and tiling to roofs, decks and mailboxes and spas. Whether you are getting your house in shape to sell or updating and improving a tired interior or weathered exterior, there's news you can use inside today's section.

And be sure to check out the local

businesses which are here to help with your project, providing products and services close to home.

Be sure to patronize these businesses — they are the backbone of our local economy.

Spring also signals cleaning. But before you turn up your nose, we're here to help. Read Sally Rummel's story on decluttering with advice from local experts. There's a list of local storage facilities for the stuff you can't bear to part with but have no place to keep at home.

After the work is done, take time for fun.

Today's Inspire offers up features on kite flying (it's not just for kids,

you know), motorcycling couples (polishing up their wheels for a new season on the open road) and local entertainment.

So kick back and enjoy Nate Parsons' column on beer, pick out a local eatery from our list of restaurants getting ready for Cinco de Mayo and enjoy today's Inspire.

As always, I welcome your comments and suggestions for future stories.

Susan Rosiek
Publisher
srosiek@hometownlife.com
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Spring Home Improvement Special Edition



Local attractions
April is kite month



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Beer bliss

TOAST WINTER FAREWELL WITH A WHEAT-DOPPELBOCK

NATE PARSONS
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Germany is synonymous with beer — it's the birthplace of lager, home of Bavaria and host of a little mixer called Oktoberfest. The rich heritage and endless lineage that has defined a



Nate Parsons

nation cannot be denied its rightful place in beer lore. The Fatherland offers many specialties that dot the countryside and are worth seeking out. Clove-infused hefeweizen from Bavaria, refreshing Kolsch from Cologne, or smoked beer from Fanconia, are all highly prized game for any beer hunter. Yet in recent years Germany has not kept pace with other leading beer nations, including the U.S. Some say the Reinheitsgebot purity law, passed in 1516, hampers creativity by limiting German brewers to only a handful of ingredients. Others point to a younger generation not so eager to follow in their forefathers traditional footsteps. Only time will tell.

On point today is the elusive Weizen-Doppelbock or Wheat-Doppelbock depending on which side of the pond you reside. Under the Weizenbock label this hybrid is a cross between two beer styles, Weizen and Bock. Weizen offers a light body with a citrus quality, while Bock delivers a roasted malt feature and a slap in the head ABV. If you venture down this path, Aventinus, brewed by Schneider Weisse will lead you to beer bliss. It's a notable encounter and good candidate for toasting a final farewell to old man winter.



Aventinus, brewed by Schneider Weisse will lead you to beer bliss.

mahogany settles to support a billowing three finger head. The nose offers a sizable hint of bananas and cloves on a backdrop of bread yeast. Initial intake has a healthy blend of gingerbread, caramel, holiday spice, and touch of citrus that cleans the palate on finish. The medium body offers depth and complexity but the wheat backbone keeps it well balanced. I'm hard pressed to find a better rendition — but I'll keep hunting.

WHERE TO PURCHASE

- Holiday Market, 520 S. Lilley Road, Canton - 4.49/500ml
- Antonio's Liquor, 22804 Orchard Lake Road, Farmington - \$4.99/500ml
- The Wine Palace, 13971 Middlebelt Road, Livonia - \$3.99/500ml

TASTING NOTES

- Beer: Aventinus
- Brewery: G Schneider Weisse & Sohn
- Origin: Kelheim, Germany
- Style: Weizenbock
- ABV: 8.2 percent
- Glassware: Weizen Glass or Flute
- Description: A lively pour of rich

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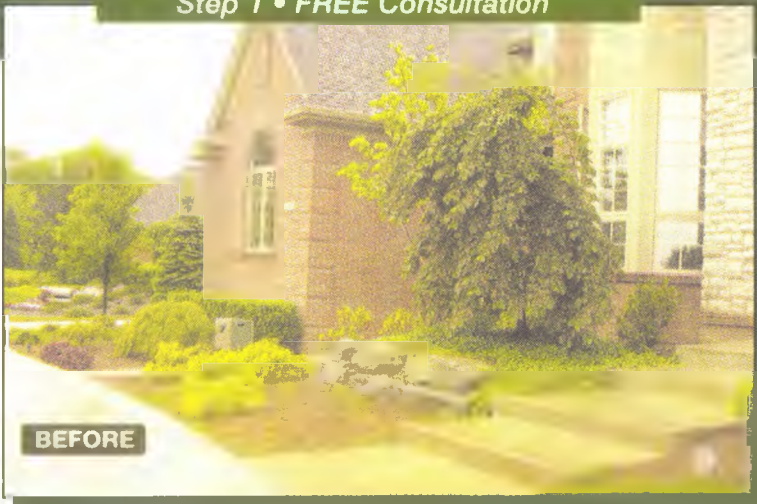
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April is kite month so decorate the sky

By DENNIS ZELAZNY
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Kite flying has enjoyed a worldwide renaissance and is now a year-round sport.

The exact date and origin of the kite is unknown but it is believed that they were flown in China more than 2,000 years ago. Sailors also brought kites back from Japan and Malaysia in the 16th and 17th centuries. The kite has been used for many purposes, and has an interesting history, but one thing it always holds is people's fascination.

Getting a kite to fly isn't complicated, but many people will say they've just never had

any "luck" with kites. While luck may play a small role, at least as far as Mother Nature's cooperation with the right kite and a basic understanding of what to do and when to fly, practically anyone can find success.

For my April Inspire journey I've enlisted two professionals to help me — go fly a kite.

Jon Trennepohl is the owner of Kites and Fun Things in Plymouth. Mike Castor is the owner of Air Fun Kites in Pentwater, a village nestled along the shore of Lake Michigan in Oceana County. Pentwater is home to Mears State Park.

Both men own what they call "real kite shops," and say if

you wanted to make a kite you could do so with just about any light weight material including paper, Tyvek®, nylon and even plastic garbage bags.

One of the fun parts is picking out a kite, so many colors, shapes and sizes. Whether a novice or a professional stunt kite flyer, you will be impressed by the knowledge these two

pros have accumulated over the years and the wisdom they willingly share.

All the employees at Pentwater's Air Fun are required to understand kites. Castor invests a lot of time to make sure everyone knows all about the kites. He wants his customers to get correct and accurate answers. Castor personally tries out all the products before he purchas-

es them for the store.

At Kites and Fun Things in Plymouth, Trennepohl has won several awards from local competitions and national events. Understanding how kites are built and what makes them strong and flexible makes him the expert. Sky Shark Tubes, his other company, makes carbon fiberglass tubing. These tubes are used to frame his kites and is the number one selling item in the shop.

Since this was my first time kite shopping — since childhood — the advice I got was to go basic. The right choice for me was a single line delta-styled kite and it is the easiest to fly. "Keep it simple and fun" is my motto. A single line kite uses one string to handle and control the kite. A delta-styled kite is shaped like a large triangle. It has an extra wide base and a spine running from the middle to the tip of the triangle top. It is good for those days when most other kites won't fly and a good choice to have in the trunk of your car when the wind is right and the urge hits.

With my delta style, single line kite in hand I had one last



Dennis Zelazny



Photos courtesy of Jon Trennepohl

In Niagara Falls, N.Y., single line Octopus styled kites are surrounded by sport kites flown by teams on the ground.

KITE HAPPENINGS

May 1

High Flying Kites and Music Festival

Wayne County Parks is hosting a kite and music fest, 1-3 p.m. at Nankin Mills Park, Hines Drive (just east of Farmington Road), Westland. Admission is free for stunt kite flying demonstrations, open flying field, kite crafts and moonwalks for the kids. Gratitude Steel Drum Band will perform. For more info, call (734) 261-1990.

June 4

Third annual South Lyon Kite Festival

Set for 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., at James F. Atchison Memorial Park.

"This is a children's program designed to help bring out good wholesome, environmentally sound activities for our youth and their families," according to Kite Festival adviser John Bell, a local historian and longtime community volunteer. Call Bell at (248) 437-2240, Ext. 119, for more information.

July 15, 16, & 17

North Coast Stunt Kite Games

Maumee Bay State Park, Oregon, Ohio. Reservations are a must for the NCSKG Campsites. For more information, go to <http://www.bsaf.org/home.htm> or e-mail Kevin Kilgoar, bsaf@roadrunner.com



Jon Trennepohl holds a single line delta styled kite at his Plymouth store, Kites and Fun Things.

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Local eateries celebrate Mexican heritage, great food!

By MARY QUINLEY
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

When the urge for Mexican grub strikes, hungry souls, like Art McCauley, head to local eateries to satisfy their taste buds. McCauley's favorite is Carlos Mexican Restaurant in Westland.

"The food is delicious! I really like the California burrito and the lengua (beef tongue) taco," said McCauley of Garden City. He and his wife, Vanessa, have dined at Carlos for almost eight years.

Carlos, one of dozens of area Mexican-themed dining spots, is "a friendly, family-owned restaurant where people get to know us and we get to know them," said Juan Herrera, Carlos family member.

When Sherri Winters craves south-of-the-border cuisine, she'll get together with family or friends at Mexican Fiesta in Canton.

"I like the cheese browned on my chicken enchilada and the restaurant always does a great job of accommodating me," said Winters of Plymouth. "It's a comfortable restaurant with good service."

In the mood for a chicken chimichanga? Kathy Day recommends Border Cantina in Novi.

"The food and service is always good, and the margaritas are amazing," said Day of Livonia. Her fiancé, Franklin Luxon of Royal Oak, also enjoys the eatery. "It's reasonably priced with a good Mexican feel," he said.

Old Mexico in Livonia has been a longtime favorite for Vicki Diaz.

"Their guacamole is the best — a substantial concoction that emphasizes the subtle, buttery flavor of avocado and doesn't overwhelm the mix with peppers or citrus. I like just about everything on



Photo by Mary Quinley

Shrimp fajitas and Mexican pizza are served at Carlos Mexican Restaurant in Westland by Nancy Herrera. Herrera is a Carlos family member.

the menu, but I'd especially recommend the chorizo with scrambled eggs," said Diaz of Livonia.

There are lots of reasons — the varied menu, homemade chips and the fajitas — why patrons, like Barb and Mark Johnson, are lured to Cinco Lagos in Milford.

"I like it because it's 'different' — not a typical Mexican restaurant. The Mexican flavor is there without the food being smothered in cheese and sauce," said Barb Johnson. The couple from Commerce Township also enjoys the fish

tacos and enchiladas.

Livonia recently welcomed Las Palapas to the local restaurant scene. On Cinco de Mayo (Thursday, May 5), a celebration of Mexican heritage and pride, Las Palapas' revelers will be treated to the tunes of a mariachi band, beer and margarita specials, and, T-shirt and hat raffles.

"Customers will feel like they're in Mexico. If they bring their passports, we'll stamp them!" said Cesar Ochoa,

WHERE TO EAT MEXICAN CUISINE

- Border Cantina, Novi and Brighton: www.bordercantina.com
- Carlos Mexican Restaurant, Westland: (734) 421-2488
- Old Mexico, Livonia: www.old-mexicorestaurant.com
- El Patio, Farmington Hills, Livonia and Waterford: www.elpatiomexicanrestaurant.com
- Camelia's Mexican Grill, Farmington Hills and Royal Oak: www.cameliasmexicangrill.com
- Rio Grande, New Hudson: www.riogrande-restaurant.com
- Cinco de Mayo, Redford: (313) 534-2639
- Los Tres Amigos, Canton (734) 207-1920 www.lostresamigosonline.com
- Las Palapas, Livonia: (734) 762.7003
- Rancho Grande, Garden City: (734) 427-1177
- Mexican Fiesta, Canton and Dearborn Heights: www.mexicanfiesta.net
- The Lyon Cantina, South Lyon: www.thelyoncantina.com
- Zapata's Mexican Kitchen, Plymouth: www.zapatas-plymouth.com
- Cinco Lagos, Milford: www.cincolagos.com
- Los Amigos, Westland: www.losamigosmexrest.com
- On the Border Mexican Grill, Novi: www.ontheborder.com

CINCO DE MAYO CONTINUES ON PAGE 10



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FROM CLUTTERED CLOSETS TO ORDERLY SPACES, IT'S THE PERFECT TIME TO TACKLE THOSE EXTRA THINGS



Declutter your house this spring ...

BY SALLY RUMMEL
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The issue of clutter is finally “coming out of the closet.”

With home organization shows starting on TV and audiences tuning into the drama of hoarders, it's no secret that many Americans are living in cluttered spaces, too overwhelmed by the demands of everyday life to re-claim it.

One percent of the U.S. population — about three million Americans — has a hoarding problem, defined by Novi psychotherapist/clinical social worker Janet Kester, LMSW, as “a person who saves anything that is obvious trash.” She owns Hoarding Professionals LLC in Novi, a company that specializes in assisting families with chronic disorganization and the mental health issues that accompany hoarding.

However, there are many more millions who come home every night to overflowing closets, scattered toys and tabletops teetering with newspapers and magazines — a situation Kester identifies

as “chronic disorganization.”

The good news is, there is help for people who want to get control of their clutter, whether it's a matter of just cleaning out messy drawers and closets, or totally revamping an entire room or living area.

“For the most part, these are just busy people who get overwhelmed by work, school and family, and have a hard time prioritizing their schedules,” said Lynette E. Walton, owner of I Organize ... NU Survive, an organizational resource company that helps many homeowners in Detroit and its suburbs to organize their lives.

SCHEDULE TIME

“Some people just need another person like me telling them what they need to do to get things in control. You have to schedule time to tackle a closet, a basement or any other cleaning project, just like you would any other activity on your calendar.”

Kester, who helps clients declutter or deal with hoarding issues through

Hoarding Pros LLC, advises her clients to tackle jobs in “baby steps,” even devoting just 15 minutes a day to straightening out one drawer or cleaning out one small cupboard. “That way, you'll be spending 1½ hours a week on decluttering,” said Kester. “You can make a lot of progress in that amount of time.”

For bigger projects, homeowners need to decide what area of the house will make the biggest difference in the quality of their lives. “My usual organizing routine in any given room is to have three boxes and a trash bag,” said Kester. “The boxes are ‘keep’ (in the room), ‘goes elsewhere,’ ‘donate/sell,’ and ‘trash.’ I start in one corner of a room and work my way around the room until all items are sorted and purged.”

The next step, Kester said, is to assign a home for the “keep” items and containerize/store them properly. Finally, a habit of daily maintenance (also called a “10-minute tidy”) needs to be implemented to keep the order. “You have to ask yourself with every item, ‘is this an item that I love and/or that I use?’ If not,

then it needs to either be discarded or donated,” said Kester.

Walton is also a huge believer in the power of donating items to eliminate clutter, understanding that in this economy, there are many people who need what you don't use anymore. She goes through her own attic, basement and garage every month and boxes up four or five boxes to give away — either to Goodwill, local churches, Salvation Army, or other worthy organizations.

Both experts agree that many of today's issues with clutter have to do with consumerism and “instant gratification.” “You have to learn the difference between what you need and what you want,” said Kester. “Go shopping with a list and stick to it.”

They also believe in the clutter control concept of “one new item in — one old item out.” “If you're bringing in something new, it has to be replacing something you already have, and that item either needs to be donated or thrown away,” said Kester. •

TEN ORGANIZING PROJECTS YOU CAN COMPLETE IN 10 MINUTES

You can get organized, even if you're pressed for time. Here are 10 organizing projects you can complete in 10 minutes or less.

- 1. Weed out 10 file folders.** Dedicate one minute per folder and recycle any papers you no longer need.
- 2. Pick through a junk drawer.** Set a timer for 10 minutes, grab a garbage bag, open the junk drawer, pick through anything no longer needed and toss it in the garbage.
- 3. Make a donation bag.** Go through your clothes closet and choose five articles of clothing you never wear. Donate them to your favorite charity.
- 4. Corral toys.** Walk around your home for 10 minutes with a hamper (or have your kids do this) and put any stray toys into the hamper. Tomorrow, make your 10-minute organizing project to put all the toys back in their proper homes.
- 5. Write out your greeting cards.** Write out all of your birthday, anniversary and other greeting cards for one month. Address them, stamp them and send them out.
- 6. Pay a few bills.** If you dread spending an entire hour each time you have to pay your bills, just take 10 minutes each day to do this task instead. Leave your bill paying supplies out and available, so you could pay the bills as you get them without having to take all of your supplies out each time.
- 7. Make an appointment.** Whether you've been meaning to make an appointment with a doctor, your accountant, a repairman or a friend, take 10 minutes now to do so.
- 8. Delete some e-mail.** Spend 10 minutes deleting any e-mail you no longer need from your inbox.
- 9. Clear off a surface.** Whether the surface is a table, a dresser, a desk or an ottoman, remove any clutter so you can actually see the surface again. File any papers needing filing, return any stray items to their rightful homes and toss any junk.
- 10. Clean out your medicine cabinet.** Toss old makeup you never use, expired prescriptions and anything else you don't need. Save your valued space for the things you actually use.

How to clean a closet

Each one of your days actually begins in your bedroom closet. How well you can navigate your closet by finding the clothes you want to wear and feel your best in every day just may determine the quality of the rest of your day.

Because you wear only 20 percent of the clothes in your closet 80 percent of the time, it's important that you clear out all the items you don't wear so that you can concentrate on what you do have and know what you need to fill in the gaps of your wardrobe.

That's the advice from California Closets Michigan franchise owner Sheilah Markham, who has been helping homeowners organize their closets with custom built organizational spaces for over 23 years, from her two locations in Rochester Hills and Commerce Township.

Here are her suggestions for cleaning out your own closets at home:

- Take everything out of the closet



Success is a neat closet.

and create four distinctive piles: 1) what you wear regularly now 2) what you'd like to fit into "someday," plus special occasion clothes 3)

clothes you never wear 4) seasonal items, like ski jackets, summer capris, etc.

• Move the "someday" clothes into the "never" pile. "You'll see that pile is bigger than you ever expected," said Markham. "You're actually wasting 40 percent of your closet space on clothes you never wear."

• Closely inspect the clothes you wear regularly now and take out items that need to be repaired or laundered.

• Put your "never" pile into a trash bag and put it away out of sight for awhile. In about a week, re-visit that bag and see if you can even remember what's in there. Take out whatever you know you will wear, then donate the rest.

"The good news is that you can use this technique with every room in your house," said Markham. "Cleaning doesn't have to be painful. Savor your success every step along the way."

WHERE TO STORE YOUR STUFF

If you still find yourself "overflowing" with items in your home and need extra storage, here are a few storage facilities that will take the "clutter" out of your home and place it in a secure location.

CANTON

America's Budget Storage
40671 Joy Road
(734) 459-6444

Devon Self Storage
47887 Michigan Ave.
(734) 217-4033

Extra Space Storage
6729 N. Canton Center Road
(877) 710-0232

The StorRoom
40600 Michigan Ave.
(734) 707-1991

Michigan Storage Centers
39000 Grand River Ave.
(248) 971-0964

Simply Self Storage
28650 Grand River Ave
(248) 987-8967

Simply Self Storage
24500 Sinacola Court
(248) 716-0905

Public Storage - Self Storage
28600 Grand River Ave.
(800) 883-8369

EZ Storage
31298 Ludden St.
(248) 474-9620

8 Mile Moving & Storage
31465 Eight Mile
(248) 919-0704

Johns Storage
12801 Inkster Road
(734) 513-8773

Mini U Storage
13450 Merriman
(734) 422-4600

Mini U Storage
32455 W. Eight Mile
(248) 746-6444

Self Storage
13350 Stark Road
(734) 427-1650

Simply Self Storage
11960 Farmington Road
(734) 425-9610

National Storage Center
13635 Merriman
(734) 422-6500

Public Storage - Self Storage
12900 Newburgh
(800) 883-8369

Public Storage - Self Storage
30300 Plymouth Road
(800) 883-8369

Milford Self Storage
320 E. Huron
(248) 685-9222

Milford Storage
3010 Childs Lake Road
(248) 684-2141

National Storage Center
1574 Alloy Pky. Road.
Highland
(248) 714-4418

Sam's Mini Storage
313 E. Huron St., Milford
(248) 685-3484

Best Self Storage
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(248) 437-1660

NORTHVILLE

Country Storage
58000 Eight Mile
(248) 437-3333

All American Storage
10124 Six Mile
(248) 449-5065

Suburban Storage
42419 Crestview Circle
(248) 344-2005

Northville Storage
19320 Gerald St.
(248) 349-0719

Daytona Storage
143 Cadycentre 328
(248) 735-9170

Compass Self Storage
40900 Grand River Ave.
(248) 232-9653

Estate Self Storage
21650 Novi Road
(248) 349-1673

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!

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

Level: Beginner

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

Level: Intermediate

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

Level: Advanced

Answers found on page 18

consideration, a tail. Tails are useful accessories for delta kites, especially with gusty winds. Tails provide additional drag, which helps the kite fly more steadily. A rule of thumb, is to use a short kite tail for light winds, and longer kite tail for stronger winds.

Now it's time to fly.

Trennepohl and Castor explain that the area to fly a kite is just as important as all the thought that went into picking out a kite.

From 5:30-7:30 p.m. Wednesdays you can find Trennepohl with other kite enthusiasts at Schoolcraft College, Six Mile and Haggerty in Livonia. They meet in the back parking lot on the south side. This is a free venue and everyone is welcome to attend. Trennepohl uses this time to instruct and help others learn the art of kite flying.

Castor offers a simple kite building class for "kids — from ages 3 to 103" on Mondays at 7 p.m. The program, "10 Monday Nights of Summer," is held at alternate locations between Ludington State Park and Charles Mears State Park. Castor and his employees assemble sled-style kite kits year around for these classes. Last year, they helped to make 1,100 kites, and since 1998 they have helped produce 12,000 kites. Admission is free and the kit costs a \$1.

It doesn't take long to get hooked on kite-flying. After mastering a single line kite, consider flying a dual line stunt kite. I have my eye on a Dragon Kite. It is beautiful, with graceful flowing tails. Trennepohl tells me that those can be



Photo courtesy of Jon Trennepohl

Jon Trennepohl flies a single line kite in Sana, Denmark.

easy to fly and both stores carry a selection of them. The most unusual kite on the floor at Air Fun Kites is "The Flip," a product from Prism Design, made in Seattle. It will fly in winds from 8-20 miles an hour. What makes it unique is it rotates on an axis and is a single line kite.

There are several groups in the area that celebrate the kite and welcome others to participate. The third annual South Lyon Kite Festival is set for 11 a.m.

to 5 p.m. Saturday, June 4, at James F. Atchison Memorial Park.

One of the largest festivals is the 23rd annual Great Lakes Kite Festival, May 20-22, at the State Park in Grand Haven, Michigan. And for those who appreciate some unusual excitement try the North Coast Stunt Kite Games, July 15-17 at the Maumee Bay State Park in Ohio.



Photo courtesy of Mike Castor

Air Fun Kites in Pentwater is where you will find Mike Castor explaining the art of kites to everyone who wants one.

KITE STORES

Air Fun Kites

167 S. Hancock St.
Pentwater, MI 49449-8931
(231) 869-7004

Kites & Fun Things

1049 S. Main St.
Plymouth, MI 48170-2022
(734) 454-3760

Kite Kraft

618 S. Main St.
Frankenmuth, MI 48724
(989) 652-4908

Furnival's Kite Korner

1105 W. Ganson Street
Jackson, MI 49202-4208
(517) 787-2013

MACkite

106 Washington Avenue
Grand Haven, MI 49417-1355
(616) 846-7501
mackite.com

Online Kite Groups

www.aka.kite.org

Basic membership is \$30 annually, which includes "Kiting," the premier magazine for kite enthusiasts, four times a year, as well as other benefits.

Kite flying can be fun, relaxing and a great stress reducer. "Spend time together and appreciate the world around us — it's all about making memories," said Castor.

National Kite Month (NKM) is a not-for-profit venture co-founded by the American Kitefliers Association and the Kite Trade Association International.

Mark your calendar March 26 to May 1 — it's all about flying kites and sharing them with others.

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Motorcycling couples enjoy freedom of the 'open road' — together

By SALLY RUMMEL
SPECIAL WRITER

Whether you're experiencing the "open road" as a passenger on the back of your guy's motorcycle or riding the roads with him on your own bike, you're part of a growing trend of motorcyclists who enjoy the sport as a couple.

"Most couples still ride together on a bike, but we're seeing an increase in the number of couples who enjoy riding their own bikes — together," said Jennifer Loberman, marketing director at Motor City Harley-Davidson in Farmington Hills.

For Mike and Nancy Hrigora of Howell, a huge Gold Wing 1800 touring bike has carried both of them on scenic back roads all across the country, "twisting and turning" them around meandering roads from a much more personal vantage point than a car.

"You not only see the country on a bike, but you also feel it and smell it," said Nancy, 60, who has been riding



Photo by Sally Rummel

The Natters enjoy their motorcycle trips because they can see and experience so much more from their bikes. "We're doing something together, too," added Nancy, who loves to ride on her own bike, but will sometimes ride on the back of Bob's bike, just for fun.

with Mike for about five years. "We can hear the hawk scream, feel the coolness of shade and nearby water, and we can smell the freshly cut hay or the hint of

flowers as we motor in. All of our senses are engaged while we ride, seeing the beauty of this country at a slower pace."

Mike has been riding for about 40 years and couldn't talk Nancy into joining him until he took her words seriously five years ago. "Get me a bike that's comfortable and I'll ride with you!" she told him. So she picked out the bike, and has been hooked on riding ever since.

"Our helmets have intercoms, CDs, GPS, digital players, you name it," said Nancy. "We definitely ride in comfort!" The Hrigoras pull a trailer when they travel, "tenting" along the way. "It's another way to experience the open road," she added.

The Hrigoras ride at least two to three weekends per month, plus two to three evenings after work. "We'll

ride an hour and a half just to go for ice cream," said Nancy. "Our favorite thing is to take a back road that we've not been on before."

They're also hooked on taking a few longer trips a year, riding out to a different state and traveling through it for a couple of weeks on a bike. "We're trying to get to all the states," said Nancy, "and I'm not talking about just driving through. We have to visit them and experience them, in order to count them. This really is a beautiful country." Their dream trip? A motorcycle trip to Australia or New Zealand.

The Hrigoras are members of the D2 Chapter of the Gold Wing Road Riders Association (GWRRA), the world's largest social organization for owners and riders of Gold Wing/Valkyrie motorcycles.

They are regular attendees at the group's annual rally, this year, set for July in Knoxville, Tenn. "We meet as a group once a month all year 'round," said Nancy. "We've built many friendships along the way."

Bob Natter, 51, of Westland started riding back in 1998 when he picked up a motorcycle for about \$600 after winning some unexpected cash at a snowmobile auction.

As a heavy equipment mechanic by

trade, he had no trouble fixing up the little 600cc bike and riding it, but at 6-4, he admitted that it was a little small for him, especially when his wife, Nancy, rode on the back. "I took Nancy for a spin on a friend's Harley one time," said Bob, "and that's when we both knew we had to get something bigger."

Bob is still riding the '89 Gold Wing that he bought after that, fixing it up just the way he likes it. He then turned his attention to scouting for a bike that would be "just right" for Nancy. "Bob wanted me to learn how to ride, so the next spring, I took a motorcycle safety course and passed with flying colors," said Nancy, who has been riding since 2004.

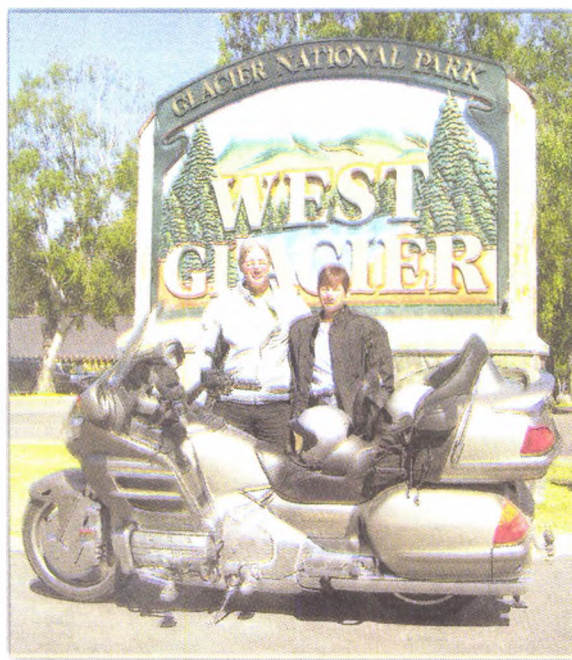
In the fall of 2009, they found "the perfect bike" for Nancy, a white Gold Wing, which Bob "two-toned" for her with orange on the bottom and white on the top.

"We've gone all over the country on our bikes," said Bob. "A couple of years ago, we went through nine states as part of a trip to South Carolina for the national GWRRA rally." The Natters are Senior Chapter directors for their local W2 Chapter.

The Natters enjoy their motorcycle trips because they aren't enclosed in a car and can see and experience so much more from their bikes. "We're doing something together, too," added Nancy, who loves to ride on her own bike, but will sometimes ride on the back of Bob's bike, just for fun.

Because both of them are still working, most of their biking takes place on weekends, with one or two longer trips planned throughout the year. Sometimes, Nancy will ride to her job as an administrative assistant for Ford Motor Co., but most of their riding is done for pleasure.

"We haven't gone anywhere where we haven't had a good time," exclaimed Bob. "Some of the nicest people in the world are others who 'have their knees in the breeze!'"



Submitted photo

Mike and Nancy Hrigora take a few longer trips a year, riding out to a different state and traveling through it for a couple of weeks on a bike. This photo was taken on a trip a few years ago to Glacier National Park in Montana.

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« LOCAL VENUES »



« KARAOKE »

Karaoke is alive and well. Want to sing? Here are some karaoke tips. When it comes to choosing karaoke songs to sing, always go by the audience's choice. Or, choose such top karaoke songs, which have been so popular in the past few years or decades that most of the audience knows their lyrics by heart. If you select the songs well, no matter how outrageously you sing, you and your audience are bound to enjoy every moment of it.

EXPLORE FURTHER: [BUZZLE.COM](http://www.buzzle.com)

1. "Born to be Wild" — Steppenwolf
2. "Don't Stop Believing" — Journey
3. "Cecilia" — Simon and Garfunkel
4. "Friends in Low Places" — Garth Brooks
5. "Sweet Home Alabama" — Lynyrd Skynyrd
6. "Livin' On A Prayer" — Bon Jovi
7. "Sweet Caroline" — Neil Diamond
8. "(I Can't Get No) Satisfaction" — The Rolling Stones
9. "You Shook Me All Night Long" — AC/DC
10. "Born in the USA" — Bruce Springsteen

BEST KARAOKE SONGS FOR WOMEN TO SING, ACCORDING TO BUZZLE.COM

1. "I Will Survive" — Gloria Gaynor
2. "Man! I Feel Like a Woman" — Shania Twain
3. "First Cut Is The Deepest" — Sheryl Crow
4. "Papa Don't Preach" — Madonna
5. "Mamma Mia" — ABBA
6. "That's The Way It Is" — Celine Dion
7. "My Heart Will Go On" — Celine Dion
8. "I Will Always Love You" — Whitney Houston
9. "Everyday Is A Winding Road" — Sheryl Crow
10. "That Don't Impress Me Much" — Shania Twain

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The Unbecoming, April 22
Hanzel Und Gretyl, April 29
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2. Light Dance (1995) NR
3. Red (2010) PG-13
4. The Social Network (2010) PG-13
5. Wall Street: Money Never Sleeps (2010) PG-13
6. Toolbox for New Dads (2007) NR
7. The Other Guys (2010) NR
8. Black Swan (2010) R
9. Toy Story 3 (2010) G
10. New in Town (2009) PG-13
11. Killers (2010) PG-13
12. Limitless (2011) PG-13
13. Megamind (2010) PG-13
14. Date Night (2010) PG-13
15. Love Happens (2009) PG-13
16. Gangs of New York (2009) R
17. It's Complicated (2009) R
18. Diary of a Wimpy Kid (2010) PG
19. Going the Distance (2010) R
20. The New Daughter (2010) PG-13

What to do when a pet runs away

We give them shelter, affection, food, and entertaining toys. But once the front door opens, some pets have their minds set on escape. A cat may dart, a dog may sneak. Either way, getting outdoors unattended can spell trouble.

It's impossible to count all of the runaway pets, but estimates suggest hundreds of thousands of pets go missing every year. Many of these pets end up in shelters where, unless they're adopted, they face euthanasia.

A lost pet can be devastating for an owner. Pets are extended members of the family, and their presence in the home can be immediately missed. Should a pet get loose, there are some steps to take.

- Cats are territorial and aren't likely to venture where other cats reside. If you know where stray cats often congregate, look elsewhere for your kitty. Bring along a cat carrier and urge the cat inside with a treat.

- Some dogs will see something interesting in the distance and chase after it. Others will run a perimeter around the neighborhood. Focus on a five- or six-block radius around your home to find a lost dog.

- If a pet is located, do not chase the animal. He or she may see it as a game and evade capture. Lure the pet in with a treat.

- Some animals can find their way home. Give it a little time and the pet might just return home.

- If it's been several hours and the pet hasn't been found, visit area shelters to see if he or she has been picked up. Check with shelters that aren't in the immediate vicinity, too.



Animals can wander great distances when lost.

- Post pictures of the pet around the neighborhood and ask if the mail carrier can distribute "lost pet" fliers.

- Shelters have different rules regarding how long they hold an animal. Some will do so for a few days before putting the animal up for adoption or putting it down if it's a shelter that euthanizes.

Preventing pets from getting lost is the key to avoiding the heartache and lost sleep of searching for a missing pet.

- If a dog is allowed to remain outdoors unleashed, do so only in a fenced-in yard.

- Be sure to license and register the pet with the municipality in which you live. Display the license and an ID tag on the pet's collar.

- Use leashes and animal crates when transporting pets to and from the car.

- Invest in a permanent radio-frequency identification microchip. An RFID chip is the size of a grain of rice and is injected under the excess skin by the shoulders of the pet. It contains contact information should the pet be found. Many shelters have the scanners necessary to read the chip's frequency.

- Be aware of your pet when opening the door. Don't leave doors and windows open if your pet is a known escape artist.



LOCAL STORAGE

— PAGE 11

Higgins Lake West Area Storage
45657 Galway
(248) 348-4152

Mini U Storage
39670 Grand River Ave.
(248) 471-7900

National Storage Center
24985 Haggerty
(248) 478-4555

Storage Tek
28001 Cabot Drive
(248) 675-2650

PLYMOUTH

Storage Unlimited
15176 N. Beck
(734) 475-4551

Extra Space Storage
6729 Canton Center Road
(734) 259-2083

Undercover Self Storage
13995 N. Haggerty
(734) 354-9855

Stow & Go Self Storage
41999 Ann Arbor Road E.
(734) 237-6516

SOUTH LYON

Simply Self Storage
271 Lottie St.
(248) 437-1600

WESTLAND

Mini U Storage
1638 S. Newburgh
(734) 728-3222

National Storage Center
39205 Ford Road
(734) 981-0700

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7840 N Wayne Road
(734) 261-6640

Storage Pros
29180 Van Born
(734) 237-3005

Secured Self Storage
6855 Yale
(734) 721-1920

Public Storage - Self Storage
36001 Warren Road
(800) 887-2926

Storage Pros
29180 Van Born
(734) 237-3005

Mr. Stor-It
5235 S. Merriman
(734) 721-4670

MOTORCYCLE COUPLES CONTINUED FROM 15

RIDING FOR CHARITY

Many motorcyclists ride not only for their own pleasure, but also to raise money for different charities while they enjoy their ride. Here is a sampling of charity rides and other motorcycle events this spring and summer.

- April 30 — Trout Town Vintage Motorcycle Show/Swap Meet, Kalkaska
- May 1 — Rally at Battle Alley, Holly
- May 13 — 39th annual Blessing of Bikes Festival, Baldwin
- May 21 — Habitat for Humanity Blessing of the Bikers, St. Johns
- May 21 — Biker Blessing & Memorial Cancer Ride, Garden City
- May 21 — Feed The Children Poker Run, Ann Arbor
- May 28 — Eighth annual Dillinger Ride for Hospice, Port Hope
- May 30 — Thunder Rolls in Belleville
- June 4 — Fourth annual Breast Cancer Bike Run, Brownstown
- June 4 — Wolverine Antique Bike Show, Kalamazoo
- June 5 — Diamonds & Chrome Rally, Washington Township
- June 10 — Melvin Motorcycle Museum Grand Opening, Oscoda
- June 11 — We Love Our Troops Charity Poker Ride, Ithaca
- June 11 — Rumble on the Road Poker Run, Westland
- June 17 — 23rd annual Sandy Corley Memorial Run, Fremont
- June 18 — POW MIA Poker Run, Leslie
- June 18 — Hookin' Up Heroes, Newwaygo
- June 23 — Ride the Rock Rally, Munising
- June 24 — Thunder on the Grand at the Springs, Ionia
- July 16 — 10th annual Niles Burn Run, Niles
- July 23 — Second annual Dominick Calhoun Memorial Ride, Gaines
- Aug. 19 — Gold Wing Road Riders Midnight Ride, St. Ignace
- Sept. 10 — Tri County Eagle Riders third annual Charity Run for West Michigan Hospice, Sand Lake
- Sept. 23 — Bikes on the Bricks, Flint
- Sept. 30 — Roar to Shore, Acme



Submitted photo

For Mike and Nancy Hrigora of Howell, a huge Gold Wing 1800 touring bike has carried both of them on scenic back roads all across the country.

Photo by Mary Quinley
Sizzling shrimp fajitas are a popular menu choice at Carlos Mexican Restaurant in Westland.



co-owner.

Other area restaurants also plan to celebrate Cinco de Mayo. Try half-off enchiladas at Carlos; stop at Mexican Fiesta for meal and drink discounts; or, wander into Old Mexico for food and drink deals and a chance to win gift certificates and gas cards.

Drink specials will be offered at Rancho Grande in Garden City. And, at Zapata's Mexican Kitchen in Plymouth, Cinco de Mayo food specials will run from April 29 through May 5.

The merrymaking continues throughout the month of May at Rio Grande in New Hudson. According to Dawn Salvati, owner, "trinkets and other promotional gifts" will be handed out to customers. Year-round specials at the restaurant include a free kids' meal on Tuesdays with the purchase of an adult dinner (dine-in only).

El Patio locations in Farmington Hills, Livonia and Waterford, and, Camelia's Mexican Grill in Farmington Hills and Royal Oak, are planning "something special" in honor of the Mexican holiday. Details were incomplete at press time.

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Fax (248) 666-2488

39241 Grand River Ave., Farmington Hills
(248) 471-9590
Fax (248) 471-9593

Family-friendly homemade crafts

As warmer weather arrives, there are things families can do to prepare for a season of fun in the sun.

There are many craft projects families and children can tackle, but ideas that involve projects that can be put to use outdoors may be the most fitting. Fortunately, there are a number of ideas for crafty projects to involve everyone in the household.

- **Birdhouse:** Head to the hardware store and pick up a few supplies. Otherwise, chances are items that can be made into a birdhouse probably can be found from scraps of materials already around the house or in the garage. Scraps of wood, metal, tiles, plastic, and the like can be used to craft a birdhouse or feeder. Even an empty plastic bottle can be used. Some nesting material, such as pieces of yarn or cotton, can be placed inside the house to entice birds to take up residence once the weather warms.

- **Stepping stones:** Stepping stones can be a whimsical way to dress up the outdoor garden or yard. A trip to the craft store for some plaster or even a quick-set cement can be the medium to use for the stones. Experiment with shapes that can be used as molds, and gather different materials that can be embedded into the stepping stone, such as pebbles, marbles, beads, etc. Use a pencil or another pointed tool to engrave a message or name on the stepping stones before allowing them to dry and harden.

- **Kite:** The beginning of the spring season often arrives behind a burst of wind. Make the most of blustery conditions by crafting a kite from a kitchen trash bag, some sticks and string.

- **Garden gnomes:** Craft stores often sell unfinished pottery that can be



painted and sealed. See if garden gnomes or other whimsical creatures can be found. Use acrylic paint to decorate the figurines in your favorite colors.

- **Outdoor games:** A large piece of plywood or fiberboard can serve as the game board for a number of different activities. Use spray paint to stencil on alternating squares of red and black for a larger than life checkerboard or chess board. For those with more time and creative stamina, use large stones to paint on letters and make an outdoor Scrabble® board for fun times with family and friends.

- **Painted flower pots:** If the colors and designs at the local garden center don't fit with a particular design scheme, buy unfinished terra-cotta or plastic pots and paint them with the designs and colors that coordinate better.

Getting crafty doesn't have to mean knitting sweaters or decoupage hat boxes. By making items that can be put to use outdoors, families can usher in the warm weather and reap the rewards for months to come.

—Metro Creative Service

Sudoku Answers

Beginner

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

Intermediate

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

Advanced

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

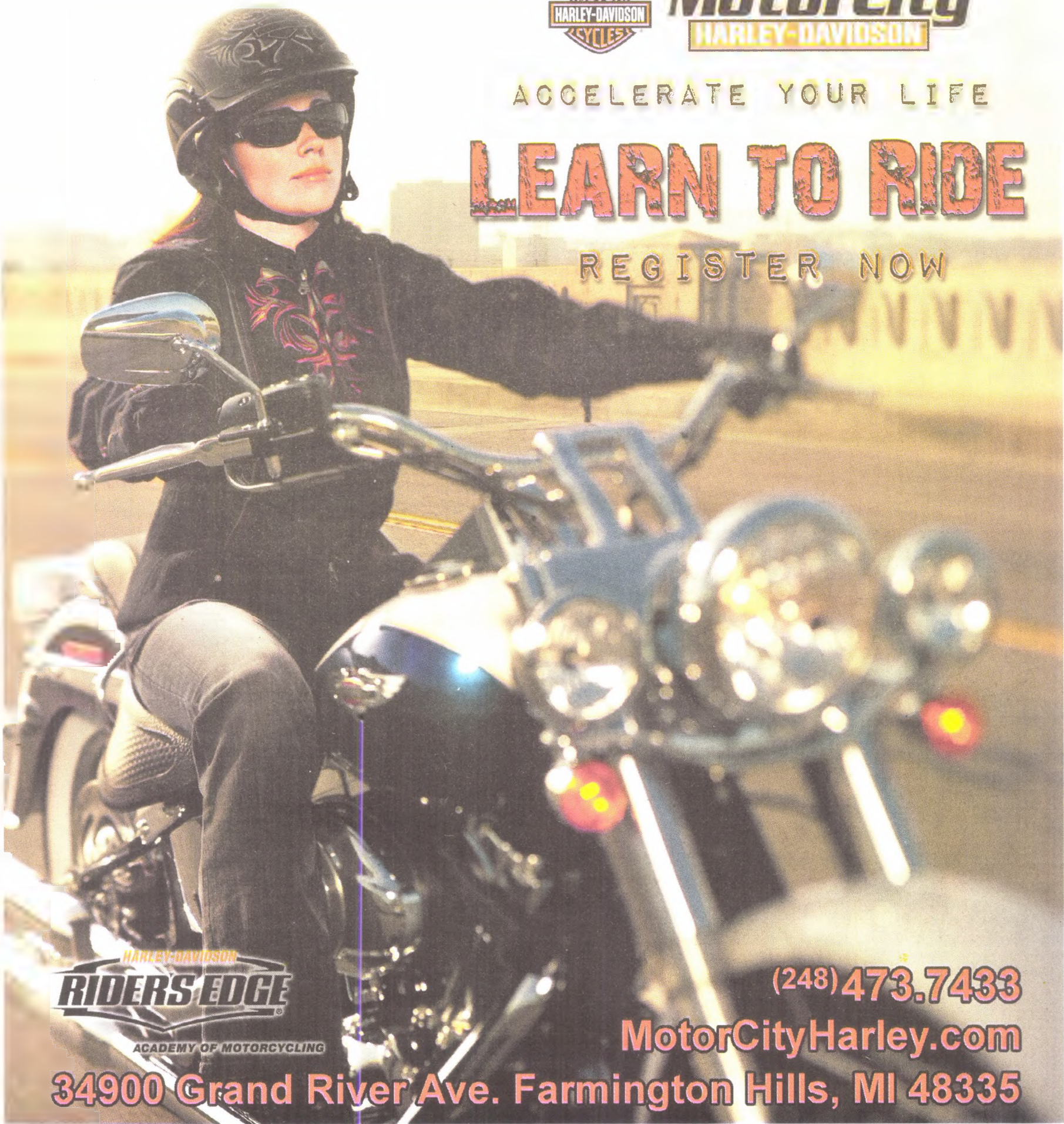


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HOME *improvement*

What's Inside...

Kitchen and Bath Trends

Doors with Attitude

Floor Covering Choices

Living Rooms for your yard

Tools for the Weekend Warriors



April 2011

Asking for that little 'extra' help is not a bad thing

BY DENNIS ZELAZNY
ADVERTORIAL WRITER

Your home is your castle and you are its ruler. How many times have you said, "If I were king" — things would be different and a lot easier. All home remodeling projects should have a start and finishing point. Getting to both sometimes can be a problem. It is good to know your sources, and it's good to dream out loud with them. Those professionals are the ones that can help you achieve the look and satisfaction that your dreams are all about.

Hire My Hubby/Truss Construction services the tri-county areas of Michigan. Owner Scott Truss said his company, "Is where your ideas become reality." Any size job, including the honey-do list is where Truss can step in and take over. With over 25 years of experience as Truss Home Improvement, Truss finds that he quickly becomes part of his clients' family. It is that kind of trust and ambition that Truss brings to the table. Electrical, plumbing, kitchen and bath remodeling, storm damage repairs, and the list can go on and on. Call (248) 987-2866 or visit www.trussfmi.com for more information.

Following through with your dreams list, what features would you consider? Take a look at the most popular wish list in 2011 from Nudura, a leading firm in building technology:

1. Curb appeal. Home exterior, driveway, and landscaping must attract admiring attention.

2. Concrete and natural stone, rather than wood framing and brick. These homes are not only beautiful, they are stronger, more sound resistant, and far more energy efficient than wood frames and brick.

3. Maximum energy efficiency throughout from top to bottom.

4. Solar panels in the roof to generate a personal energy source.

5. A large, designer kitchen with natural stone countertops and futuristic appliances, cabinetry and water-works.

Bill and Rods Appliance in Livonia, has been serving customers since 1963.



Your home deserves designer elements when remodeling. Be sure to find out what is available before you begin.

Owner Joe Legato said that their knowledgeable staff will lend their expertise in the appliance industry when helping you choose a washer, dryer, refrigerator, freezer, oven or dishwasher to fit your needs. They also carry reconditioned appliances with a 30-day warranty. Legato recommends looking at dishwashers that have stainless steel tubs, they stay warmer and are energy efficient. Call (734) 425-5040 or visit www.billandrodsappliance.com

6. Natural hardwood flooring like Brazilian cherry and sustainable bamboo.

7. A sunroom, a front porch, and a backyard finished patio.

8. Vessel sinks, or freestanding bowls above the bathroom countertop, accompanied by wall-mounted faucets.

9. Bedroom walk out or balcony.

10. Designer bathtubs and walk-in shower with marble tile, a seating bench and rainfall showerhead.

Stow & Go in Plymouth, offers short and long-term storage solutions. When remodeling you want to keep your possessions out of harm's way. Stow & Go units are dry, clean and safe, they want your experience to be worry-free so you can concentrate on other projects. They also suggested that their units are the perfect place to store your remodeling supplies till

you are ready for them. It's an affordable extra that makes life a little easier. Call (734) 455-7950 or visit www.stowandgopolymouth.com for more information.

And let's not forget about furniture for that newly remodeled room or addition. Making that room attractive and functional is all part of the plan. Before you go out shopping take a good look around your home, you might just have the perfect piece tucked away in another corner. With a little elbow grease and some refinishing it could become the focus piece of the new room.

Custom Furniture and Upholstery in Northville is the store you want to see. Professional restorer and owner Ken Netti said, He has always enjoyed working with wood and likes seeing the results of a finished piece of furniture and the satisfaction of a happy client. Netti stated that if a piece of furniture is built well and you like having it around it is worth refinishing. If its kitchen cabinets, he will remove the doors and drawers and work on the rest in your home. He uses water-based finishes that are mostly odor-free. The door and drawers are then finished in his shop. Call (248) 912-1212 or visit www.CustomFurnitureRefinishing.com for more information. ❖

Spring Home Improvement

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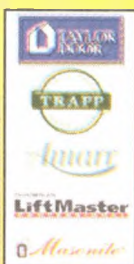
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Affordable bathroom upgrades add luxury and updated looks

When you sit back to relax in the tub, or take time to preen in front of the bathroom vanity, do you often feel that the setting just isn't giving you the comforting and spa-like experience you wish you could feel at home?

Sure, you take good care of your bathroom — you've scrubbed the faucets to make them as shiny as you can and everything works the way it has for many years. But maybe it's time you gave your bathroom a refreshing change — one that not only gives you the luxurious feeling of comfort and elegance, but also that benefits your wallet and the environment.

You may be surprised to learn that bathroom showers, toilets and sinks account for about 75 percent of the water used in each American home. If you haven't replaced any of your faucets or toilets for many years, you may be not only struggling with keeping these older fixtures looking clean and fresh, you may also be paying a lot of extra money to keep them running.

Consider your toilet. Older toilets can use as much as 5 gallons of water per flush, while stylish modern toilets are designed to cut that amount by more than a third. Toilets that have saving qualities earn the EPA WaterSense label for being water efficient. And being wall hung makes sense aesthetically — by hiding the tank in the wall and lifting the toilet from the floor (making cleaning a breeze), you can save a total of 9 inches of precious room space.

Now take a look at your vanity and see your faucet for what it is. If the faucet has been around for many years, excessive use may have corroded some of the metal finish, or even worn away the hot and cold labels. A new faucet would not only freshen the look of the vanity, but also give your bathroom a beautiful new look. Standard bathroom faucets use 2.2



An updated bathroom is very inviting, it is very important to include something for all the senses.

gallons of water per minute, newer models are available that provide the robust drenching needed to clean your hands while only using a modest 1.5 gallons per minute.

Finally, check out the showerhead in your tub. You may already have upgraded your showerhead once since 1992, when it became a requirement that showerheads use no more than 2.5 gallons per minute. But newer models allow you to save even more water. The average person showers for eight minutes each day, so switching to a high-efficiency showerhead can save a family of four more than 8,700 gallons of water each year and reduce the demand on their water heater, saving them enough energy to power their television for a year.

Freshening up your outdated plumbing fixtures is a great step toward creating a spa-like atmosphere in your bathroom. Not only will you be able to enjoy the comfortable and beautiful bath space, but you'll also know that the changes are benefiting your pocketbook and the environment. ✦

— Courtesy of ARA

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Sure fits with new kitchen and bath trends

Starting any home project can be stressful, especially when undertaking those projects in the most-used rooms of the house, like the kitchen and bathroom. From overall room style to structural changes and fixtures, many pieces of the puzzle need to fit together to create the finished product.

Consumers are concerned with every detail of a kitchen and bathroom project, especially the finish of their new fixtures, according to new research from faucet-maker Moen.

"Whether consumers are purchasing faucets for a remodeling project, replacing an existing faucet or selecting one as part of their new home construction, we're finding that the finish does matter," says Jack Suvak, director of research and insights for Moen. "And it's much more than just selecting chrome instead of brushed nickel or oil rubbed bronze. Consumers are looking for product lines that have a number of finish options available to fit any style they desire."

Chrome is still king in the kitchen and bath, representing 47 percent of all faucets purchased, the research shows. Stainless steel and brushed nickel came in second at 37 percent, and oil rubbed bronze came in third at 7 percent — a number that's doubled in the past few years.

"As American consumers continue to be more varied in their style choices, it's becoming more important for manufacturers to offer a variety of finishes on new and existing products," says Suvak. "While we can't make style decisions for consumers and tell them that modern or traditional is more their taste, we can provide a variety of options to meet the needs of homeowners. As a result, Moen has added new finish options to some of its most popular product lines."

In the bath

"We've seen a lot of changes in bathroom finish preferences during the past

few years," says Suvak. "In 2007, more than 60 percent of consumers purchased chrome, whereas now, less than 50 percent do."

Which finish are those consumers selecting instead? Stainless steel and brushed nickel purchases for the bath have increased, growing in popularity from 24 percent in 2007 to 36 percent in 2010. To offer additional options for consumers in the bathroom, Moen has added the popular LifeShine brushed nickel finish to its modern 90 degree collection. The collection features a minimalist design with its geometric, 90-degree-angled lines. In addition to the new LifeShine Brushed Nickel finish, 90 degree is also available in chrome.

In the kitchen

"Research continues to show that traditional design remains popular in the kitchen, but consumers are also looking to incorporate traditional elements in new ways," says Suvak. "As a result, we're seeing a demand for finishes that fall into that 'traditional' category. But consumers are often having a difficult time finding these finishes on products that they love."

One such "traditional" finish that consumers are taking a different approach with is oil rubbed bronze. Its warm hue is the perfect addition to any kitchen faucet, and while it is a smaller portion of the market, it has been gaining popularity the past few years.

"Nowadays, the applications for oil rubbed bronze include products with transitional and modern styling, and consumers are looking to add a hint of traditional flair to these types of products," says Suvak.

Arbor kitchen collection faucets feature a single-handle design and unique styling, such as high-arc spouts and a curved, S-shaped handle. Although not traditional in its design elements, the availability of Arbor faucets in the new oil rubbed bronze finish allows the faucet collection to coordinate with virtually any home decor.

"It's no secret that consumers want choices, especially when it comes to choosing products for their homes," Suvak says. "With the expansion of our product lines to include finish options that are popular with consumers, we're hoping to not only provide the products they want, but also make completing their home projects much easier." ❀

—Courtesy of ARA

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Well-designed entrances make an inviting difference

Spring Home Improvement

DENNIS ZELAZNY
ADVERTORIAL WRITER

A door is more than an entrance into a home. A well-designed entryway reflects a distinct personality of its own.

Entry doors must be tough enough to withstand wind, rain, scorching sun and would-be intruders, yet handsome enough to make a good first impression. They provide a true thermal barrier, minimizing heat loss, condensation and ice build-up in cold weather.

Unfortunately, meeting those needs is a tall order for many front doors. Most older doors are made of wood or wood veneer, both of which warp, crack and delaminate after years of exposure to the elements. Metal doors don't last forever, either — the surface on some older steel doors can peel.

Damage to an exterior door or door frame makes a replacement necessary. Exterior door choices include solid core doors and steel doors. The most common solid core doors consist of particleboard laminated with wood veneer. However,

solid wood doors are exactly what their name implies, which adds to their cost. Steel doors have foam interiors for insulation.

Whether that describes your front door or you just want to trade a solid door for one with glass panels that offer more light, you'll find plenty of options available. There are new wood doors that resist the elements better than earlier versions, as well as metal and fiberglass doors that look like wood but provide greater security and often cost less.

Tarrow Doors in Farmington Hills knows doors, since 1966 Tarrow offers a large selection of custom, garage and entry doors. Manager Bud Helgemo said, "When shopping for doors, it's important to look for the R-value (the measured capacity of an insulating material to resist heat flow. The higher the R-value, the greater the insulating power.). If you have an attached garage you may appreciate Tarrow's insulated models. Call (248) 478-9060 or visit www.tarrowdoor.com for more information.

Other doors in your home may need attention as well, bedroom doors, door walls and specialty doors. These doors all perform a daily function. Whether they are meant to keep things in or out, if the door malfunctions, the service it provides would be missed.

Dryer Vent Wizard serves the tri-county areas; they are the people you can



Your entrance is one of many doors in your home. Consider their function and location when you are in the planning stages of your project.



A foyer can be visually stimulating when all the architectural elements are taken into consideration for the final effect.

to turn to for all your dryer vent needs. Owner Larry Butterfield said, "Poorly maintained dryer vents cause fire hazards and will cause a dryer to substantially cost more to operate." It is important to vent your dryer to remove excess moisture and lint contaminants. Ask about the no-pest vent cover that is Michigan made. Call (313) 402-7659 or visit www.dryer-ventwizard.com for more information.

Another door consideration is for the shower/tub area. Keeping the water in the tub or shower area seems like an easy request. It is also very important to keep water off the floor and prevent water from getting under the tub, which can prevent extra maintenance or possible slip-and-fall incidents. Shower and tub doors are

a good solution. With all the focus bathroom renovation has been getting, there are many kinds of innovations to consider.

Glassworks in Novi is a leader when it comes to Euro-style and custom shower doors. Manager Donna Burrows said, "We have an in-house artist available, and we provide free estimates." European Shower doors are trackless and frameless. Doors are mounted on hinges and are allowed to swing both in and out. This allows your tub area to dry out quickly, helping to prevent mold and mildew. All of the glass is tempered and is strong enough to handle daily use with ease. Call (248) 946-4400 or visit www.novishowerdoor.com for more information. ✦

Paid Advertisement

'SafeBet Hidden Fencing' keeping pets safe in the yard for over 8 years

These days people don't need a wooden or metal fence to keep their pet out of the pound. In fact the best way to ensure the family dog doesn't become the neighborhood stray can't be seen at all. "The idea when we set this business up was to offer a high quality product at a reasonable price. Something everybody can afford," said Randy Badour, owner of SafeBet Hidden Fencing of Michigan LLC. "With some of the other companies out there, you call them up, have them come out and they give you a price that is usually very, very expensive. We wanted to offer something that everybody could do."

"What Randy's business offers is a safe, economical alternative to chain link fencing. His product, Hidden Fence, is 99.2 percent effective at training a dog to respect the boundaries of a yard. Not to mention Hidden Fence can save pet owners \$1,000's compared to wood or metal fence installation.

There's no guarantees that a chain link fence will work either. Dogs can climb over them or dig under them or someone will make the mistake of leaving the gate open. I've had plenty of calls to go put in an electric fence inside their fence.

"With Hidden Fence, the dog is fit with a collar which emits a warning sound when the animal wanders too close to the boundaries specified at installation. If the animal continues towards the boundaries the collar delivers a mild corrective stimulation.

"Depending on the dog, you are talking about two to four weeks for training. Once they hear that warning tone that is all it takes," said Badour, who uses Hidden Fence to keep his dog, Kramer, from terrorizing the neighbors.



Randy Badour, started SafeBet Hidden Fencing in Michigan 8 years ago. He and his dog Kramer, will help you keep your pet where it belongs.

Hidden Fence's collar interacts with a boundary of wire installed into the ground. The process of setting up the wire takes between two and four hours. Badour and his crew slice open the ground in order to thread Hidden Fence across the yard. The grass makes a complete recovery within days of installation.

"We're a local business. I think we offer a little more personal touch for the customer. We're available when the customer calls and we're there the same day doing whatever they need, from any problems they have with the system to training their dog," said Badour.

All of Badour's packages include up to one acre of Hidden Fence wiring.

As well as keeping pets in the yard, SafeBet also offers solutions inside the home, in the form of small

battery powered units which will safeguard anything from a garbage can or toilet bowl to a computer room.

"If you have something in the house you want to keep the cat away from, these will do the trick," said Badour.

The aforementioned devices and others including training equipment for sporting dogs and other remote training collars are available for purchase online at www.safebethiddenfence.com.

Discipline for a dog is one thing, Badour has pet owners in mind with the newest addition to the SafeBet stable.

Now, anyone who owns a goldfish, parakeet, cat, dog or any other house pet can go SafeBet Hidden Fencing's website and purchase everything from food to collars. "Order what you want and it's delivered right to your door," said Badour.

Customers can either make a one time purchase or schedule regular deliveries of a wide array of high quality products.

People are so busy now they don't want to mess with buying pet food. Whatever they need just comes automatically and they don't even have to think about it," said Badour.

SafeBet is most proud of making pet protection and training products more affordable for everyone. SafeBet Hidden Fencing is available for appointments year round, Monday thru Saturday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Please call (810) 653-5300 or visit them at www.safebethiddenfence.com to set up an installation time.

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Personalize home improvements to enhance your quality of life

DENNIS ZELAZNY
ADVERTORIAL WRITER

Some homeowners are turning to renovation for fun and enjoyment versus investment. They undertake home improvements to enhance their living spaces according to what they need. Workout rooms, larger and more luxurious bathrooms, updated kitchens with all new appliances and master suites that make a statement, can give homeowners a more content feeling with their current addresses.

KC Construction in Garden City makes home maintenance easier by offering services in roofing, siding, gutters, windows, doors, insulation and garages. They will accept projects large or small. Owner Kirk Gagneau has more than 40 years of experience with home improvement projects. Gagneau said it is important to consider future planning and to watch utility usage as you expand your home. He adds that his designs are, "good solutions that work," and that "it is cost effective to rebuild." Putting ideas into motion and helping customers to choose the right direction make it fun. Call (734) 425-6272 or visit www.kcconstructioninc.com for more information.

Americans will spend nearly \$141 billion on remodeling in the first half of this year, according to Harvard's Joint Center for Housing Studies. If you'll be among the many homeowners opting to improve, rather than move, you may be wondering what renovations are likely to give you the best balance of enhanced resale value and immediate enjoyment.

Jim Seghi Renovations in South Lyon, believes remodeling doesn't always mean bigger. Even small, economical renovations can have a big impact by making your existing home more livable, utilizing existing space more efficiently, adding conveniences or making upgrades that enhance your

home's beauty. Seghi said, "I can put any project together for you with all the wow factors." Call (248) 437-2454 or visit www.seghi.net for more information.

Home improvement projects can vary in size and expenses, here are some suggestions. All these projects have one thing in common: they are meant to make your home more enjoyable and comforting.

1. Skylights

You can lower your electric bill by installing skylights that will reduce dependency on artificial light and fill your home with natural light. In terms of positive energy, the mental and physical health effects of exposure to natural light are well documented. They're also an effective privacy preserver for bathrooms where you might not want a wall window. Skylight and sun tunnels (skylights that use reflective tubes to bring sunlight into rooms without direct roof access) not only

enhance the energy efficiency of your home, they may make you feel better about living there.

2. Decks

Whether you choose wood or composite, adding a deck is a great way to expand your living space and up the enjoyment of your home's outdoor environment. Consider multiple levels and incorporate the use of hot tubs and fire pits. Perhaps you live in a hilly area and creating a lookout spot would be the perfect place to view sunsets with an outdoor setting area? Decks are also a great way to visually connect your indoor living area to the great outdoors. Use of matching stone, wood surfaces and finishes all tie in with good design elements.

3. Kitchens

It makes sense that the room where most families spend the bulk of their time would be a popular remodel. Kitchen cabinets offer multiple functions. An organized kitchen is one that functions well and is a pleasure to cook in as well as visit with friends. Island sinks and overhead fans offer added ease to the cooking experience. Watch cooking shows for ideas that work; note how storage is key to the overall look of the kitchen.

Welker Construction in Farmington is an industry leader. Welker Cabinetry and Millwork, Inc. said they offer kitchen, bath and home cabinetry made of quality materials that last. They offer total home remodeling with their own crew and more than 38 years of experience. Owner Bob Welker said, "It's important to make the right choices, and the decision process should be based on product selection, quality and style."

Call (248) 477-6600 or visit www.welkerkb.com for more information.



Bedroom skylights offer privacy plus natural light with an ever-changing view of the sky both night and day.

Spring Home Improvement

4. Baths

Whether you're tackling a major job that involves knocking out walls and changing fixtures or just making cosmetic improvements like upgrading faucets and repainting, remodeling a bathroom goes straight to the heart of many homeowners' cravings for comfort. Many Americans view their baths as far more than a place to get clean and take care of other necessities. Even if you're not creating a home spa, improving the bathroom could boost your satisfaction of the room.

5. Basement/attic remodel

With more families staying put in the homes they have, rather than moving up to larger homes, many Americans are looking for ways to expand their living space while staying at their current location. Attic and basement remodels are great ways to add usable, livable space at a fraction of the cost of building an addition. The lingering effects of the recession have multiple generations living together under one roof again, and many of these families create bedrooms, bathrooms or even family rooms in unfinished attic or basement space. Entire households often appreciate the extra room, along with attic renovations and basement remodeling.

Gardner Builders of Southfield have been doing this sort of work for more than 40 years. Additions, kitchens, bathrooms and updating homes are among their specialties. Empty nesters do not have to move but instead can expand and repurpose their homes present floor plan for a fresh feel. The staff at Gardner will consult and review your lifestyle to help create customized designs based on your thoughts and activities. They will explain the process and make sure you understand it before the work begins. Call (248) 258-5885 or visit www.gardnerbuilders.com for more information. ✦

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Basements were scary, today they offer beautiful extra living space

It's no longer a dark, gloomy place to stash holiday supplies, store neglected exercise equipment or hide out-of-date furniture. Basements are becoming "dream spaces" for many baby boomers and their loved ones.

Whether it's a private living suite to accommodate a child or grandchild who's moved back home, a cheerful craft studio or a fully loaded man cave, basement renovations are popular home improvement options.

"Today many baby boomers are remodeling their homes instead of building or moving to a new one," says Pella Windows & Doors spokesperson, Kathy Krafka Harkema. "Kitchens and bathrooms are often remodeled, and today basements are also being updated to create fun entertainment zones. Adding new windows and using warm colors can transform a basement into a home gym, workshop, wine cellar or a high-tech media room."

Safety first

Renovating the basement for adding bedrooms? You'll likely need egress windows to create an easily accessible exit in case of a fire. Essential for safety, egress (emergency escape and rescue) windows also lighten up a dark basement — making it more inviting.

Egress windows are larger than a common basement window, says Cordell Burton, Pella product qualification manager. Egress defines the minimum width, height and square footage of the window opening. "Each level of the home has different egress requirements," Burton says.

Window-shopping

Casement windows — featuring one hinged sash that cranks out — are easy to open and a popular choice for basements, Burton says. However, casements require a wider window well on the home exterior, so consider that in your remodeling plans. Pella offers many energy-efficient casement window options, ranging from vinyl and fiberglass composite to wood styles.

If exterior space is limited, Burton suggests a sliding window — featuring

two sashes where one sash slides left or right. Sliding egress windows must meet higher width requirements and are available in budget-friendly vinyl and fiberglass options.

Consult with a local building code expert or make sure your contractor is familiar with your area's building codes before beginning a basement renovation, Burton advises.

Wonderful walkouts

If your home has a walkout basement, consider adding a beautiful new patio door to create an impressive focal point inside and out.

Here's an additional tip from Burton: If you have limited patio space outside, install an in-swing hinged patio door — one that opens into your basement, providing more usable space on the patio. Consider your climate conditions as well. In areas with heavy snowfall, an in-swing hinged patio door may be your best option. But if you have limited room inside, consider an out-swing hinged door.

Or opt for sliding patio doors, like the energy-efficient new Pella 350 Series vinyl patio door line, which features distinctive design possibilities with a choice of two-, three- or four-panel doors to create more natural light and an expanded view. Optional shades or blinds are permanently sealed between the glass to stay clean, provide light control and increased privacy. And the blind design with no room-side cords is safer for homes with children and pets.

Keep it comfortable

As you create your dream basement, ask your contractor to incorporate universal design features.

"Update your home now with your future safety, comfort and convenience in mind," Krafka Harkema says. "Adding 36-inch wide doors, stylish levers rather than knobs on doors, easy-access storage areas and other universal design features now can make a home easier to live in or visit in the long-term, regardless of a person's age, size or ability." ❖

— Courtesy of ARA

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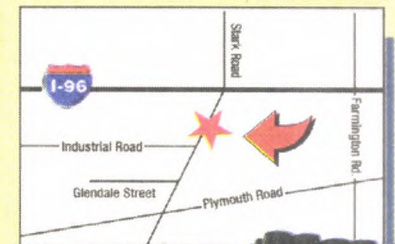
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Premium Hardwood	650	\$25.50	110 sq. ft. @ 2" deep
Hardwood Blend	650	\$17.50	110 sq. ft. @ 2" deep
Cedar-Shredded 100% Pure	650	\$26.50	110 sq. ft. @ 2" deep
Cypress Mulch	650	\$39.50	110 sq. ft. @ 2" deep
Dark Cherry Brown Mulch	650	\$29.95	110 sq. ft. @ 2" deep
Red Mulch	650	\$29.95	110 sq. ft. @ 2" deep
Black Mulch	650	\$29.95	110 sq. ft. @ 2" deep
Brown Mulch	650	\$29.95	110 sq. ft. @ 2" deep

	Weight	Price	Approx. Coverage
TOPSOIL, SAND & UTILITY			
Screened Topsoil	2400	\$17.00	110 sq. ft. @ 2" deep
Screened Peat	1900	\$26.00	110 sq. ft. @ 2" deep
Compost	2200	\$22.00	110 sq. ft. @ 2" deep
50/50 Mix	2200	\$28.00	110 sq. ft. @ 2" deep
Fill Dirt	2200	\$14.00	110 sq. ft. @ 2" deep

	Weight	Price	Approx. Coverage
GENERAL AGGREGATES			
Pea Pebble	2280	\$20.50	80 sq. ft. @ 2" deep
21 AA Crushed Stone	2600	\$23.85	80 sq. ft. @ 3" deep
6A Stone	2600	\$22.50	100 sq. ft. @ 3" deep
4" - 8" Oversize Rock	2280	\$60.00	30 sq. ft. @ 2" deep
Egg Rock/River Rock	2800	\$52.00	80 sq. ft. @ 3" deep
Boulders 1' - 2'	3000	\$65.00	1" high 20" long
Fill Sand	2900	\$14.00	110 sq. ft. @ 2" deep
Mason Sand	2900	\$18.00	110 sq. ft. @ 2" deep
Slag Sand	2400	\$21.95	110 sq. ft. @ 2" deep

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3' x 100'.....	\$20.50
4' x 220'.....	\$40.00

	Weight Per Cu. Yard	Price	Approx. Coverage Per Yard
SEED			
Shady	25 lbs	\$44.50	8 lbs./1k sq. ft.
Premium Sunny	25 lbs	\$44.50	8 lbs./1k sq. ft.
Contractors	25 lbs	\$42.50	8 lbs./1k sq. ft.
Shady	1 lbs	\$2.19	
Premium Sunny	1 lbs	\$2.39	
Contractors	1 lbs	\$1.99	
Fertilizer 19-19-19	50 lbs	\$25.00	
Seed Aide	50 lbs	\$18.95	
Herbicide	25 lbs	\$35.00	
Hydromulch		\$11.75 per bale	
Supersand Beige/Gray (Polymeric)	50 lb	\$25.00	

	Price
BLACK DIAMOND EDGING	
Black Diamond 20' Edging	\$12.50
Extra Stakes	\$.75
Straight Connectors	\$.95
90 Degree Corners	\$3.50
GATOR EDGE-BRICK PAVER EDGING	\$8.00

	Price
ALUMINIUM EDGING	
16' Proline Mill Finish	\$22.85 (Incl. 5 stakes)
16' Proline Black or Green Duraflex	\$26.85 (Incl. 5 stakes)
8' Proline Mill Finish	\$11.85 (Incl. 3 stakes)
8' Proline Black or Green Duraflex	\$13.85 (Incl. 3 stakes)
Mill Finish Extra Stake	\$1.50
Black or Green Duraflex Extra Stake	\$1.80

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Design solutions

Shop with a keen eye for affordable, creative decor

Spring Home Improvement

BY DENNIS ZELAZNY
ADVERTORIAL WRITER

It can be affordable and easy to make updates to any room by stimulating the senses through color, texture and scent. Having a beautifully scented room encourages guests to linger in the space, relax and enjoy themselves, because it is a positive reinforcement of the environment.

Mix vintage-inspired fabrics like florals and stripes with worn pieces. For an added touch, try updating drawers and side tables with new knobs for a custom look. Soft-slip covered sofas and chairs add a comfortable and easy-to-care-for element.

Mix aged wooden pieces, like a distressed end table topped with several old metal cans holding fresh or artificial flowers. Place this next to a more formal collection of white intricate floral detailed vases. Bring in island influence with bamboo furniture or frames. The mix of old and new, with punches of soft blues and greens, can create a casual elegance. Whether you go with colorful new throw pillows or a faux flower arrangement, updating a room can be easy and cost-effective.

Town and Country Hardware in Garden City is a great resource for all your fix-up projects. Manager Nancy Henry said they carry everything from basement fireplaces to cleaning products for your home. They are a True Value Hardware store with a lot to offer. Their paint department carries all the trendy colors, available in paint and stain. For your patio and outdoor living spaces, they are currently stocking patio furniture, firepits and a wide range of grills. Call (734) 422-2750 or visit www.truevalue.com. Your order ships free to the store.

By relying on your creativity, finding good sources for home decor and following these three simple steps you are on your way to creating a great new environment.



Collect items that are similar in shape, color and texture to harmonize the design.

Here are some more tips to get you inspired:

1. Think outside the box. Look at items purely based on color and see a room in a whole new light. Painting an accent wall is one of the easiest ways to get a fresh pop of color into a room. To make the room cohesive, pick three accessories in that same color and position them around the room in a triangle pattern. This could be a few new throw pillows on the sofa and a vase on the mantle with a few chic blooms. Coffee table books with jackets in the accent color work great as styling accessories, as well.

2. Bring the outdoors inside. Greenery is often overlooked in a home but really gives a room life. If a live tree is too much of a commitment, incorporate an artificial tree, plant or arrangement. Use a stylish pot and cover it with moss to create an inexpensive accessory.

3. Create visual and tactile variety. Achieve a warm and inviting atmosphere using soft lighting with lamps and dimmers. Also use a variety of textures in the room. If there's a lot of wood in a room already, opt for a side table made from glass and metal materials, and choose upholstered dining chairs instead of using additional wood.

4. Don't forget the finishing touch. If a room looks beautiful but lacks an inviting scent, the effect may fall flat. To bring a room together, don't forget to add fragrance as the finishing touch to home.

Nankin Hardware in Westland is an Ace Hardware store that is committed to being "the helpful place" for hardware, plumbing, tools, grills, garden and more by offering customers knowledgeable advice, helpful service and quality products. Manager Bob Rates said their store has a large selection of supplies you need for prep work before the renovation begins. They also carry all the basics needs for plumbing and general home repair work. Call (734) 255-5700 also visit www.nankinhobby.com for your hobby and craft needs. ❖

Great floor designs are one touch away on the new iPad

Imagine being able to hold in your hands the full line of samples from the latest trends in hardwood flooring — colors, finishes and species — all in the comfort of your home. It would be like holding hundreds of actual in-store sample boards in the palm of your hands, making the selection of your new hardwood floors effortless.

This ideal fantasy for hardwood flooring consumers has now become a reality thanks to the latest iPad app by Mercier Wood Flooring. Just a few days before the iPad launch in Canada, Mercier, in collaboration with its long-time partner iXmedia, became the very first Canadian manufacturer to create an iPad app.

Using the iPad advanced technology, Mercier presents high-quality photographs highlighting the outstanding range of products. The Mercier application can literally illustrate right into the palm of your hands what the floor will look like once installed.



Wood floors are available in various colors, textures, widths and styles. The iPad app makes the choice a little easier.

“This new technology will quickly become an essential sales tool,” said Michel Collin, director of marketing for Mercier Wood Flooring. “The

Mercier app can reproduce almost perfectly the hardwood floor; as if we had the sample boards right in front of us.”

Spring Home Improvement

According to Mathieu Ouellet, executive director and strategic adviser for iXmedia, “innovation does not lie as much in the iPad technology but in the ingenious opportunity for businesses to reach their customers.”

This new application is available for free on the App Store. Easy to use, the Mercier app is the ultimate tool when choosing a new design and is a substantial upgrade for customers who are looking to choose the latest hardwood flooring. You can download this innovative application at <http://www.planchersmercier.com/ipad>. ♦

— Courtesy of Metro Creative Connection



A well-balanced room incorporates the wood tones found in the floor and window trim pieces. The overall look is sophisticated and welcoming.



Ceramic tiles used as a border treatment add visual interest while adding function.

Good design thoughts right under your feet

Spring Home Improvement

DENNIS ZELAZNY
ADVERTORIAL WRITER

Want your makeover to go from boring to brilliant? Look no further than right under your feet — to the floor below — for a simple, budget-minded way to freshen your decor. Give any room of the house an updated look with new flooring.

Installing new flooring can quickly and dramatically change a room's appearance without breaking your budget, thanks to stylish new flooring trends. Whether you're looking to update a bathroom, kitchen, living room or virtually any other room in your house, new flooring can help you make a spectacular transformation that offers everyday practical performance and stunning looks.

Your flooring can set the tone of the room, the look and feel of a room. Beyond appearance, the ultimate decision on which flooring material will be installed should be based on how a room is used. For example, a room in which there is heavy foot traffic needs a hard wearing floor, whereas a bedroom floor needs to be soft and cozy on the feet.

The recent innovation in the flooring industry that continues to gain momentum with designers, builders and do it yourselfers is self locking wood floor covering. They are engineered floors that do not require glue or mechanical fasteners to install. Self-locking wood floors are one form of "floating floor." Watch for wood planking that features a 2mm sawn veneer of hardwood bonded to a core available in multiple widths from 2.5-inch to 5-inch widths. These are good choices to choose from.

Independent Floor in Westland offers hometown service because they are locally owned and operated. Manager Bob Francavilla said, "If you stand on it, I stand behind it." With 42 years of experience behind us, you know we care about our customers. Today's trends vary from home to home. Francavilla himself likes



Floor covering comes in various styles. Bring samples home to see them in your lighting and living space to help make the final decisions easier.

carpeting. "It just feels better," he said. Popular colors include off-white, beige and sage. Greens are the new neutral. When it comes to installation, you can expect attention to all the details, including an antimicrobial spray for your padding with cleanup using hepa vacuums. Call (734) 729-6200 or visit www.independentfloor.com for more information.

Luxury vinyl tile provides homeowners

with the option to have flooring in any room that deftly echoes the style of popular natural, hard-surface flooring options, such as Travertine marble, limestone, concrete and slate. These designs pop with depth and realism and combine both classic and contemporary elements, providing a wide range of style options. You can even create custom designs by intermixing textures and borders throughout a room.

J & R Flooring in Farmington has been around for 21 years in the flooring industry. Manager Ruth Dillard finds hard surfaces easy to maintain and a wise choice for high traffic areas. Their showroom features Mohawk and Shaw products. Dillard points to heavy duty foam tiles for children's rooms because they are durable, colorful and easy for the homeowner to install. Berber carpets are low loop and multi-colored which hide dirt and are easy to clean. Call (248) 888-1200 or visit www.flooringfarmington.com

If you are considering hardwood flooring, the options are endless. Colors and textures play a huge role in the selection process. Laminates often look just like the real woods they imitate and offer better durability. Hardwood flooring has now become a classic with interior designers and can be used in almost any application.

Perfect Floors in South Lyon lets you take home their samples so you can select just the right carpet, hardwood or tile for your living spaces. Owner Ron Williams said all of his employees are able to answer any of your questions. They have been with us for long periods of time and have earned the trust of the company and their customers. Perfect Floors has an 8,000-square-foot showroom, filled with name brands and some varieties of carpets with 20-year warranty. Call (248) 437-2838 or visit www.perfectfloorsinc.com

With any of the floor covering choices you are thinking about, it is wise to check with professionals about their application usage and installation. A well performed installation with the best product for the area will give you the feeling of accomplishment.

Modern Carpet One Home & Floor in Walled Lake is a full service flooring company. They offer wood flooring, carpet, ceramic tile, area rugs and laminates. Owner Patricia Włodarczyk said, "We are all about the service and making the correct decisions." They have a spacious showroom filled with lots of samples. Their installers insist, "They do the right thing." They also make sure your job is 100 percent installed correctly. Modern Floor has something for everyone and offers value for your dollar. Call (248) 624-0333 or visit www.moderncarpetonewl.com for more information. ❖



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Added safety measures make your spa more desirable

Spas add extra comfort to homes, providing families with medical benefits and the opportunity to escape the outside hustle-and-bustle and relax in the soothing warm water.

Adding a home spa is a wonderful addition to any home. Coming home to an outdoor tub to soak away the day's troubles, or a place to share your thoughts and enjoy some laughter. We all will agree that owning a spa is a special treat and we want to keep it that way.

Home spas come with some risks that can lead to serious injury. According to the U.S. Consumer Products Safety Commission (CPSC), since 1990, spas and hot tubs have accounted for 800 deaths nationwide. To raise awareness of these risks, the Home Safety Council (HSC) and Viking Spas are urging families to follow spa safety practices to avoid common injuries including drowning, hair entanglement, body entrapment, or illness or scald burns due to high water temperature.

Drowning is a leading cause of injury and death in spas, yet according to a HSC survey, only six percent of respondents have taken any actions to prevent drowning at home. Home spa safety begins with a family conversation, setting rules for the spa — both while it is in use and when it is not. To prevent drowning, hair entanglements and body part entrapments, install anti-entrapment drain covers, tie-up long hair and avoid getting too close to the drain.

"People of all ages are vulnerable to injuries around the spa, especially from drowning and falls," said Meri-K Appy, president of the Home Safety Council. "It is critical that all spa users are aware of the safety risks of using a spa including hair entanglement and body entrapment. Taking the necessary steps to avoid these dangers, like making a rule to never use the spa alone, will help keep safety top of mind."

An anti-entrapment drain cover helps protect against hair entanglement and body part entrapments. Prevent entrapment by making sure spa drains have a dome-shaped outlet and two outlets for each pump, which will help reduce suction if one drain is blocked. Make sure



Discussing safety issues with friends and family members before they enter your spa is generally a good practice.

all spa users know where the emergency cut off switch is. Each year, spa owners should hire a professional to make sure their spa is in safe working condition.

"In addition to discussing spa safety, families should equip their spa with

protective devices that will help protect against common spa injuries," said Tom Kneeshaw, director of sales and marketing for Viking Spas. "New on the market are slip-resistant surfaces, an important innovation in spa safety since slips and

Spring Home Improvement

falls account for 50 percent of spa injuries, according to the American Journal of Preventative Medicine. And all spas should have a locking safety cover to make sure young children can not access the spa when adults are not looking."

When the spa is not in use, secure it with a protective barrier such as a locking safety cover and self-latching gate for an extra layer of protection. The locking safety cover and gate will ensure that young children do not enter the spa without adult supervision.

To learn more about spa safety, visit the Home Safety Council at http://www.homesafetycouncil.org/MySafeHome/msh_spas_w001. By following these safety tips you can better protect your family from common home spa injuries throughout the year. ♣

— Courtesy of Family Features



Adult supervision is advised when allowing small children to use your spa. Safety practices will enhance the experience for everyone.



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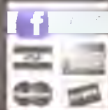
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Paint like a pro

If you want professional looking results when painting exterior wood, approach the project as if you were a professional painting contractor. That means following four simple rules that come second nature to experienced painters, says Debbie Zimmer, spokesperson for the Paint Quality Institute.

For the uninitiated, here are the four rules that great painters swear by:

1. Take time to prepare the surface properly.

According to Zimmer, this is where a lot of inexperienced painters go wrong.

"It's important to fight the urge to start painting as soon as possible," says Zimmer. "Even the best paints can fail if they're applied to a poorly prepared surface."

Before beginning to paint, clean the surface thoroughly. This can be done with rented power-washing equipment or by scrubbing with a long-handled brush using plain soap and water.

Afterward, remove any remaining loose, flaking, or peeling paint by scraping or wire brushing. Next, sand down rough edges on the old paint, as well as areas where the paint is glossy.

Finally, brush off the dust and particles left from the sanding and scraping. Then sand and prime any areas where the wood is bare.

2. Buy top quality paint.

"To get the best-looking and longest-lasting paint job, it's important to use the highest grade of paint," advises Zimmer. "On wood and many other exterior surfaces, top quality 100 percent acrylic latex paint is the best choice."

Because these paints contain more solids than run-of-the-mill paints, they form a thicker, more durable paint film. What's more, they hide better, so they'll often conceal the old paint color in fewer coats, saving a lot of extra work ... and saving money, too.

"Top quality 100 percent acrylic latex paints also have better adhesion, so they get a better grip on a properly prepared surface," says Zimmer. "And they remain flexible, so they can expand and contract with changing temperatures. These attributes help top quality paints resist peeling and flaking, which adds to the life expectancy of the paint job."

Top quality 100 percent acrylic latex paints typically last 10 years or more, compared to three or four years for lower quality coatings, according to Zimmer. So, they are a much better value in terms of cost per year of service — no small consideration in these trying economic times.

3. Use quality brushes and equipment.

For the best results when applying top quality paint, use quality brushes and accessories, says Zimmer. "Better quality equipment makes the work easier and helps apply the paint in a thicker, more uniform coat for a better-looking paint job."

She advises homeowners to choose brushes that are well balanced and springy, with multiple lengths of split bristles packed tightly in a 3/4- to 1-inch thickness on a standard 4-inch brush.

When working with latex paints, it's important to use brushes with synthetic bristles — ideally, polyester. According to Zimmer, polyester bristles will hold their shape and maintain the proper stiffness regardless of the amount of water they encounter.

4. Paint in the right weather conditions.

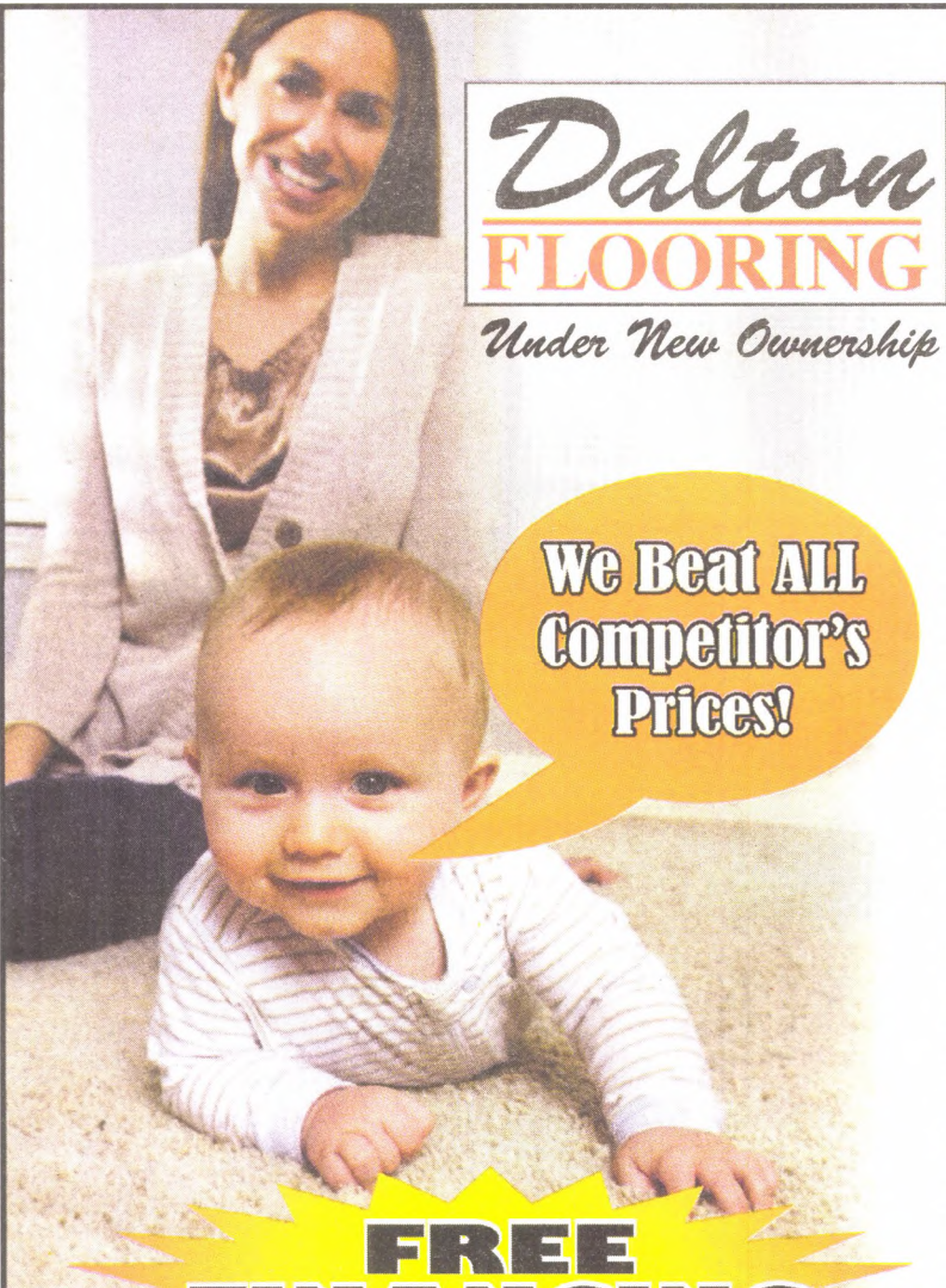
After you have your quality paint and tools in hand, choose the right type of day to apply the paint. Doing so will enable the paint to form a tough, durable, protective film.

Zimmer says it's best to do exterior painting in mild weather, ideally when temperatures are above 50 degrees F, and when the wind isn't strong.

On very hot days, try to avoid painting in direct sunshine, since surfaces sitting in direct sun can be 10 to 20 degrees hotter than the air temperature. One way to cope with this and still keep the job moving is to paint on the shady side of the house.

The four rules for perfect painting involve a lot of common sense and take a little self-discipline. But, if you follow them, you'll be rewarded with a beautiful, professional-looking paint job that will last for years. ♣

—Courtesy of Metro Creative Connection



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Yellow, red and blue hues make French country décor inviting

In an uncertain world, there's something undeniably comforting about returning to a house furnished with the familiar. Whether the pieces are treasured family heirlooms or recent acquisitions, the classic styles and playful patterns common to French Country decor evoke that warm and familiar feeling we associate with home.

Yet today, French Country decor is making itself at home in settings that are far from its traditional roots. How the style can blend with disparate looks ranging from contemporary to coastal is the subject of *Charles Faudree Interiors*, a new book by the nationally revered designer whose name has become virtually synonymous with French Country style. "I think French Country remains so popular mainly because of its warmth. Most of the furniture has movement to it instead of being straight and cold. It is warm and inviting, informal without being too casual," Faudree says.

As he marked his 70th birthday, the designer was inspired to share his latest projects that have ventured a bit farther afield. "I hate the word trendy, but the key word nowadays is transitional style. I jokingly used to say that transitional meant someone who didn't know what they wanted, but today the term has evolved to represent a pleasing mixing of the old with the new. This book repre-



Unique finds and mixing of furniture styles will add to the French Country look.

sents a nice mixture of new and old... and I had the joy and fun of doing something different," he says.

The book shows how French Country can blend with the coastal decor of a Jamaican villa, the elegance of a Georgian Manor, the sophistication of a contemporary estate or the quiet solitude of a hunting lodge. Blending the styles is simple if you keep one thing in mind, Faudree notes: "It's about the mix and not the match. Country French is truly my passion, but I'm not a purist in any sense, because I love mixing in English accessories. You can take that a step farther and combine French, Asian, Italian and even Swedish furniture. Mix old and new elements. Blend fabrics, like several different toiles as well as silks with cotton, linen and velvets, all within the same room. The result will be a space that's more warm and inviting."

His own cabin exudes this welcome blend of elements. There's an antique Black Forest lamp nestled on an antique horn table in the living room. In the kitchen, a painted pine bookcase features

a collection of old and new white ironstone, while an antique French garden table is paired with a new custom chair from Faudree's own line. The dining room sparkles under an Italian chandelier that casts a warm glow on Swedish dining chairs. The blend is unexpected, yet flawless, a cohesive design comprised of seemingly disparate pieces united by a subtle hand. When asked to describe his favorite aspects of his own cabin, the designer responded without hesitation: "Every inch of it. It is my solace; it's an unlisted phone number. If I had to pick one thing, I'd say that I love the screened-in porch, which wasn't photographed for the book. I have two daybeds out there as well as a dining room. It's the perfect place to curl up with a good book.

Get the look

How can you bring the Charles Faudree look into your own home? Here are a few of the designer's suggestions:

"The cheapest source of new decor and inspiration is fresh paint," Faudree notes. Rooms depicted throughout his

Spring Home Improvement

latest book feature a subtle palette of soft cream, beige, green and blue tones.

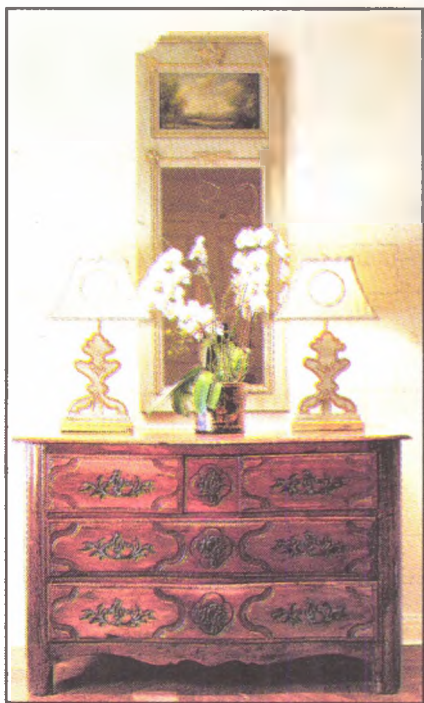
"Start with a single good piece of furniture, and I'd certainly consider an antique for that role," he says. "I could never surround myself totally with contemporary furniture. The warmth of the antiques adds so much to a room." When buying new, he says, consider acquiring an antique to balance the space.

What antique does he consider essential? "The French love a commode, which is a Country French chest," Faudree explains. I've used them in the living room, dining room, beside the bed or as bath vanities. You know you're safe and that you're always going to have a place for a piece like that."

When it comes to new pieces, develop an eye for quality. "If I'm working with young people, I tell them not to be intimidated by grand shops. Go in and look and see what they have and look at the prices. Then if you see something similar at a better value, you'll know what to look for," he advocates.

Finally, he emphasizes, "Hire a good decorator. In the long run, they are going to save you money by helping you avoid costly mistakes. I'm always impressed when I have a 25-year-old who calls me and wants to be a client, because they understand the importance of getting help from the very beginning." ❖

— Courtesy of IE News Service, LLC



Traditional symmetry gives this chest of drawers a very classic feeling.



Continue to be bold and expressive with your outdoor decorating style as well.

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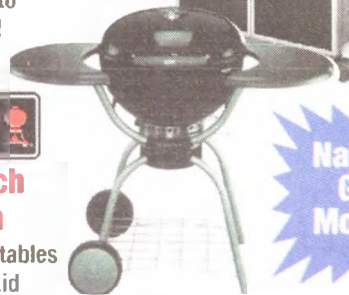
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Outdoor living rooms a must for summer season

Spring Home Improvement

DENNIS ZELAZNY
ADVERTORIAL WRITER

Nothing beats relaxing in the shade or entertaining a group of guests on your own private deck. When you take the time to plan your deck for the way you live, the result can be a versatile living space and a great addition to your home.

Trent Boozer, publisher of *Extreme How-To* magazine, notes his readers have made it clear that decks are one of the top projects they love to design and build. The Internet is full of deck plans and planning tools — and with the range of decking products and accessories on the market, every deck can take on a personality of its own, he said.

Personalization is what makes the deck an extension of the home, said Rick Preble of Deckorators, the leading deck accessory brand that embraces the concept of deck personalization.

“The idea of an outdoor living room has really materialized as people have reattached to their existing homes,” Preble said. “A cost-effective way to add square footage and upgrade your lifestyle without moving is with a deck. With all the deck products and accessories available today, homeowners can customize their outdoor rooms.”

Homeowners who want to build or who are renovating an existing deck will find new trends for 2011. One material making its move onto decks is stone.

Imagine Landscapes in Northville is an award winning landscape firm. Designer Jack Kelly said, “Our team will give you the comfort and happiness to know your landscape will last

a lifetime after completion. One of the new veneers that we like to use is stone. Because it is weather proof and looks terrific, it can be used inside as well as outside.” Kelly believes that by customizing designs you can change people’s lives. Call (248) 721-1340 or visit www.imagine-landscapes.com for more information.

Cast stone post-covers that install over rail posts are one new product in high demand. The post-covers provide the same look and feel as natural stone columns but are designed to install over basic wood posts. Post-covers are hand-painted to look like cobblestone, field-stone or stacked stone. The simulated product makes it possible for do-it-yourselfers or contractors to add simulated stone columns to a deck.

Stone Depot in South Lyon, has been in the aggregate business since 1963. Owner Ben Zamborowski said when talking about his products he carries, “everything that doesn’t die.” Homeowners can find unique boulders and stone materials such as black obsidian to pink quartz with colors and textures to suit every landscape. Stone Depot is also a great place to find hardwood mulch materials. All products are available for pick up or delivery.

Call (248) 437-1719 or visit www.stonedepotmi.com for more information. “Stone or simulated stone on a deck has become possible with new products, and it’s another example of interior design trends and the mixing of various elements making their way to outdoor living areas,”

Preble said.

Experts agree that putting the time into planning your deck up front and knowing what your product options are is the best way to ensure you end up with a space your family will embrace as a true outdoor living room. Decks are also a great area for everyone to gather and enjoy outdoor games.

Kids Gotta Play in New Hudson has ideas for your outdoor living areas. Owner Tracie Lampe said they carry a line of springfree trampolines that are movable and complete with a netting feature all the around the unit to keep everyone safe. Another consideration can include wood swing sets. These swing sets are movable, free standing and offer fun accessories such as a penthouse for all to enjoy. Call (248) 486-5300 or visit www.kidsgottaplay.com for more information.

Decks with or without stone, play areas or built-in fire pits all need a surrounding finishing touch. How about a beautiful, healthy lawn? Your lawn is the framing for all the work you have done around your home making it picture perfect.

Hillcrest Sod Farm in Romulus not only supplies sod but now also offers a variety of maintenance services that include mowing and fertilization. Manager Mike Thompson said, “We grow it, we know it and we mow it.” Kentucky Blue Grass is the most popular type of grass for this region, and it can withstand all types of activities. Thompson shares this advice — try to keep your turf density dense, as it aids in keeping weeds out and cuts down on the amount of necessary watering time. Avoid over fertilizing. Call (734) 231-3941 or visit www.hillcrestsod.com for more information. ♣



Personalizing your deck has become possible thanks to constant product innovations, like Deckorators post-cover and Duo-Connector deck railing accessories.



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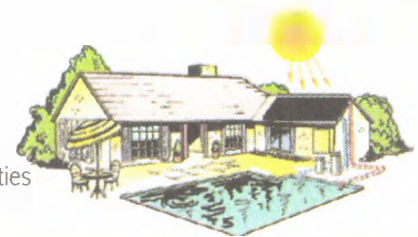
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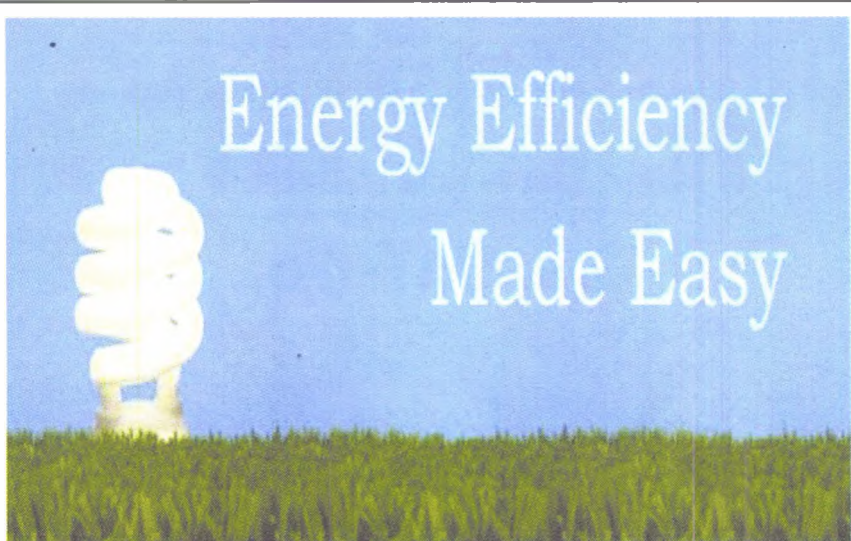


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VISIT OUR SOLAR SHOWROOM!



Today's homeowners want to know how their homes can operate more efficiently and with less of a negative impact on the environment. A Pillar To Post home energy inspection will show you how you can save money on heating and cooling costs, use less energy, add value to your property, and make you more comfortable. A professionally trained Home Energy Inspector will evaluate the home to determine how efficiently it uses energy, provide a detailed report of his or her findings, and make specific recommendations for energy-saving changes.

WHAT WE USE

We use the most current technology to evaluate your home including infrared cameras, which reveal hard-to-detect areas of air infiltration, missing insulation, and identify leaks within the building envelope.

COMPREHENSIVE INSPECTION

The comprehensive Pillar To Post inspection will include an evaluation of heating and cooling equipment, insulation, windows, water heater, major appliances, plumbing fixtures, and lighting fixtures.

EXCELLENT REPORTING

Homeowners will receive a report which details recommended upgrades to meet today's energy efficiency standards and highlights the energy savings opportunity. Your report provides information about energy efficiency improvements that the homeowner can easily implement. The detailed Recommendations Section enables contractors to provide preliminary cost estimates without a visit to your home. It also explains how to get the best energy savings from these improvements.

THE NEXT STEP

A home energy inspection is just the first step in making your home more efficient. An audit can help you assess how much energy your home uses and evaluate what measures you can take to improve efficiency. But remember, audits alone don't save energy. You need to implement the recommended improvements to make them happen.



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Minor cosmetic repairs to mortar can be made on any type of brick walls.

Protect your home by making minor mortar repairs now

As warmer temperatures happen, now is the time to check your home for deteriorating mortar joints and loose mortar — and make any minor repairs before they turn into major headaches.

Freezing rain, ice, snow and deicers, as well as freeze/thaw temperature cycles have the potentially caused damage. Unrepaired damage can allow water to seep in between cracked, loose mortar and cause interior wall damage.

Minor cosmetic repairs to mortar can be made on any type of brick walls — including garden walls, a home's exterior brick and chimneys. And making such repairs is easier than many homeowners realize — all you need is a caulk gun and the right repair material.

A sanded acrylic mortar repair caulk — such as Quikrete Mortar Repair — will give the appearance of mortar in texture and color and is a more easily undertaken project for homeowners who are nervous about mixing mortar. The caulk's sanded acrylic formula adheres to brick, block, stone and concrete surfaces, and the caulk tube's square applicator tip is designed to smooth mortar joints during application of the caulk.

Before applying, make sure joints are clean, dry and free of grease, dust or loose particles, and remove all loose mortar from the joint. Apply the caulk by pushing the cartridge tip over the surface and forcing a bead of caulking into the open-

ing. Do not apply any thicker than $\frac{1}{8}$ inch in one application. Excess caulk can be wiped off with a damp cloth.

For homeowners looking to repair cracks in their fireplace, there is a specially designed mortar that is ideal for repairing damage commonly found in fireboxes. Quikrete Fireplace Mortar is a silicate-based refractory cement caulk ideal for tuck pointing damaged firebox mortar joints and repairing chips, cracks and breaks in fire brick commonly found in fireplaces and woodburning stoves. Once cured, the mortar provides superior adhesion for a durable repair while withstanding temperatures up to 2,000 F.

Using a caulk gun, the mortar is applied in strips no greater than $\frac{1}{8}$ inch with multiple $\frac{1}{8}$ -inch layers for larger joints as needed. Once dry, start a low fire, keeping the temperature below 212 F until the mortar is dried thoroughly. It will typically take one to four hours to assure adequate drying and set time. Afterwards, increase the firebox temperature to 500 F for an additional one to four hours before routine usage.

As the weather changes, your house is vulnerable to possible damage. By taking these small steps that don't require anything more than a caulking gun and about \$5 per tube of caulk, homeowners can save significant money later by avoiding the need to make major repairs. ❖

— Courtesy of ARA content

Flush with excitement

OK, we know that drains aren't generally the height of style, but we've found lots to be enthusiastic about in the new KERDI-LINE shower drain from Schluter Systems. It's elegant, low profile design is an attractive alternative to traditional shower drains that looks great in a wide range of settings. It comes with three interchangeable grate designs to suit your style, while an adjustable frame accommodates tiles that range in thickness from $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 inches. For more information, visit www.schluter.com. ❖

— IE News Service

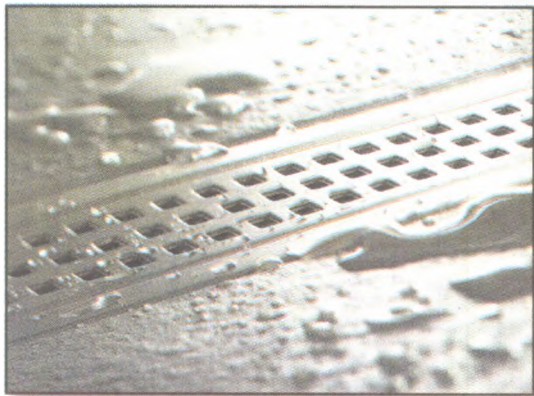


PHOTO COURTESY OF SCHLUTER SYSTEMS

The new KERDI-LINE shower drain from Schluter Systems offers a stylish low-profile twist on what used to be a rather mundane part of every shower.

Installing a mailbox — as easy as mailing a letter

Installing a new mailbox used to be avoided at all costs, as this type of a project could be full of hassles. Digging post holes, mixing concrete, struggling to make sure it was in the right position for the USPS — all can add up to a messy, time consuming, and frustrating project.

But now there is hope, as a new method is available that lets homeowners install a mailbox post in a fraction of the time — and at a fraction of the cost of hiring a professional.

“The Liberty Outdoor Mailbox Post,

featuring the patent pending Vortex 4 x 4 Post Ground Anchor, screws easily and securely into the ground — without the use of a post hole digger, or having to mix and pour cement,” said Bob Jennings, director, marketing services for Liberty Hardware. “And as an added bonus, the anchor works with an adjustable top plate so homeowners can easily orient the mailbox post toward the street.”

Tips for Installation: ensure there are no underground obstacles, such as cables or gas lines.

Tools you will need:

- Shovel
- Tape Measure
- Level
- Socket Wrench
- Screw Driver

Step 1: Clear and level ground.

Loosen the soil with a shovel, removing any turf to create a one-inch deep hole. Make sure the ground is level in all directions.

Step 2: Insert anchor. Turn the anchor in a clockwise direction, applying pressure as you turn. Once it's in place, make sure the anchor is level in all directions, oriented toward the street, and then tighten all nuts.

Step 3: Attach post. Position mailbox post over ground anchor so that the holes line up. Attach post onto the receptor, and use a level to make sure it's straight. Hand tighten bolts and washers, then use a screwdriver to secure arm.

Once your post is installed, you can add your new mailbox (sold separately). ❖

— Courtesy of Family Features



Inserting anchor, step 2 shown here.

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Spring Home Improvement

Transforming the look of the home does not need to be a costly, complicated process. And with an increasing focus on sustainability, homeowners are more concerned with using durable products that will keep their beauty and functionality for years to come. Revamping your home with ceramic tile is a great way to establish a contemporary look that will last.

The technical specifications and aesthetic applications that ceramic offers are affordable and do not necessarily involve major work. Ceramic tile is easy to clean and maintain, durable and resistant to most common forms of wear. The other notable feature is that tile comes in a multiplicity of shapes, colors, textures, finishes and weights. This range of options in ceramic floor and wall tile makes them the perfect ally for turning original design ideas into personalized spaces.

The tile experts at Tile of Spain offer these tips to consider when working with ceramic tile:

- When using ceramic tile to tackle a renovation project, make the material's versatility work as much as possible for you. Plan the kind of ambiance you want to create in any given room and select colors and finishes that will help achieve it. Bright colors help enhance the light. Earthy and ochre colors transmit serenity. Blues, greens and browns can be used to create natural spaces while the contrast of black and white adds simplicity and elegance. The possibilities are as boundless as the user's imagination.

- The broad spectrum of this material's design versatility has helped it become a popular decorative element. The old-fashioned view of ceramic as a simple, functional product to be used only in very specific rooms such as the kitchen and the bathroom, has

The beauty of ceramic tile turns original designs into personalized spaces

lost ground over the years as the material has become more versatile. When working with tile, be open to the various propositions - metallic finishes, finishes that mimic the look of fabric and wood, relief work, new sizes and formats. Choose those that enhance the personality of the

targeted design space.

- Combinations of finishes and textures help break up the linear nature of a room and make it more dynamic. Relief and "volume" finishes, as well as large format tiles, enable you to change the apparent dimensions of a room and play with the



Ceramic tile isn't just a shiny square tile any more. Various thicknesses, finishes and creative applications make this dramatic wall so desirable.



Ceramic tile is available in a variety of styles and colors to match and complement any decor in your home.

light. Imitations of wood and leather give a greater sense of comfort and create references to natural elements.

Because tile now provides such versatility and beauty, there is a growing quest to apply the qualities of ceramic to other spaces such as patios, porches and terraces, and even to other objects or furniture pieces, such as headboards, tables, benches, shelves, bookcases and inside closets. These new applications mean that homes are developing a more personal and original feel and are becoming more practical.

Equally, screen-printing and digital printing techniques have opened the doors of the imagination when decorating tiles. The development of these production processes enables the final look to be highly personalized, creating spaces that are unique and custom-made. Bearing in mind the durability of ceramic, ease of maintenance and easy installation methods that enable spaces to be altered cleanly, simply and cheaply, it's becoming clear that using ceramic tile is an efficient way to revamp your home creatively and affordably. ❖

— Courtesy of ARA Content

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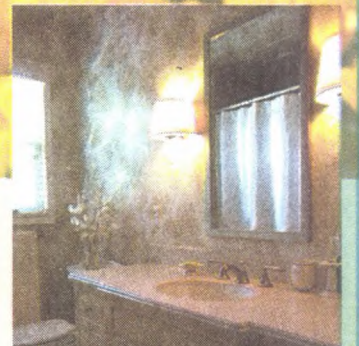
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The InSpire Cedar Shake Roofing System carries a Class A fire rating.

True-look cedar roofing delivers style with minimized fire risk

The roof is one of the most critical ways a family can protect the investment and comfort of a cherished home. Innovative composite technology is delivering the best of all worlds: beauty, durability, sustainability and maintenance-free living.

For those who love the traditional charm of shake roofing, today's innovations mean the era of compromise is over. The natural elegance of shake roofing has historically come at high cost from recurring maintenance and high risk of decay, and worse, fire.

Now, InSpire Roofing Products' Cedar Shake is changing the concept of shake roof architecture. Carrying a limited lifetime warranty, it combines optimum fire protection with no maintenance being required.

The InSpire Cedar Shake Roofing System carries a Class A fire rating — the highest level — meaning it's tested in accordance with Underwriters Laboratories' "severe" fire exposure testing. In comparison, much wood shake roofing carries no fire rating at all.

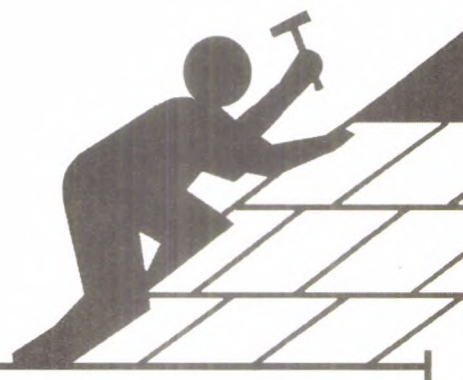
"Even with commitment to a great-looking home, homeowners attracted to shake style can't undo the effects of weather and time on wood. InSpire roofing allows home-

owners to avoid a needy roof, instead gaining one that keeps on giving beauty," says Jonathan Wierengo, director of marketing for The Tapco Group, maker of InSpire.

Underlying the shakes' authentic beauty, the innovative mineral filled polyolefin composition handles beastly weather; fierce wind-driven rain, class four hail impact, sea-spray and 110 mph winds. By exactly mirroring nature's texture, InSpire Cedar Shake produces deep dimension, long wood grain striations and wondrous interplays of light and shadow. Its InFlex cambered design means fasteners hold the shakes snugly to the roof. Locking tabs provide easy installation and also protect against wind-driven rain, preventing water penetration for a structurally-sound roof.

Durability also makes it the sustainable cedar alternative. Tiles are 100 percent recyclable, can be reused, and never have to be replaced with new material. In addition, there's no forced reliance on chemical treatments that need to be repeated every several years for wood shakes that could themselves need replacement in less than 20 years. ♣

— Courtesy of ARA Content



Spring Home Improvement

A 50-year roof that is Bellaforte

In Italian, Bellaforte translates to "beautiful and strong." In America, many homeowners are discovering that the translation means the exact same thing — especially when it comes to their polymer roofing tiles.

"We looked into many options when deciding to replace the asphalt shingle roof on our home," says Kathy Bradshaw, an Oklahoma homeowner. "Our research brought us to DaVinci Roofscapes. The Bellaforte roof that's now on our house is absolutely beautiful — it's the icing on the cake for our 3,800-square-foot ranch-style home."

Bradshaw's decision to have the synthetic roofing tile installed on her home has impacted both her pocketbook and the neighborhood in a positive way. "Because these tiles are fire resistant and can stand up to severe weather conditions, we're able to save on our homeowners insurance," says Bradshaw.

The cost-effective, high performance

roofing tiles are gaining in popularity due to their eco-friendly structure and ability to add both beauty and value to the home. Designed to complement a wide variety of architectural home styles, Bellaforte tiles include a 50-year warranty. The patented snap-fit, self-locating roofing tiles feature a built-in rain gutter. Ideal for all types of weather situations, the 12-inch synthetic slate roofing tiles have achieved some of the strictest testing ratings in the country.

Available in slate black and slate gray, along with six different blended color combinations, Bellaforte tiles use 20 percent less material than traditional synthetic and natural slate shingles, saving resources and reducing the tile weight. A square of Bellaforte roofing tile weighs just 185 pounds, helping reduce both installation time and landfill load due to reduced construction waste. ♣

— Courtesy of Metro Creative Connection



Durable Bellaforte synthetic roofing tiles are fire- and hail-resistant and are backed by a 50-year warranty.

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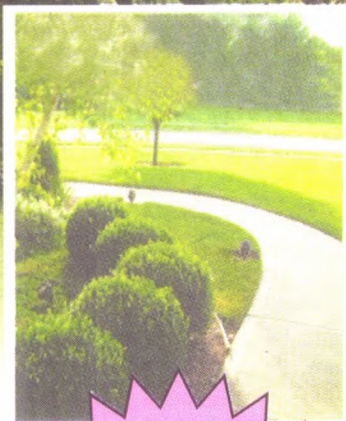
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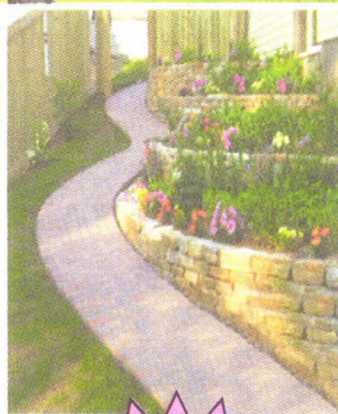
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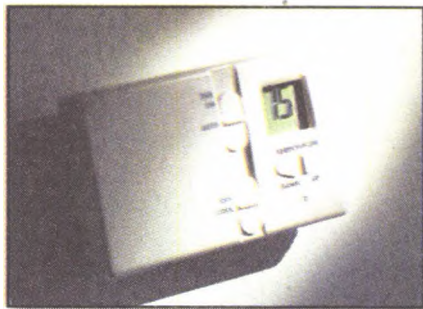
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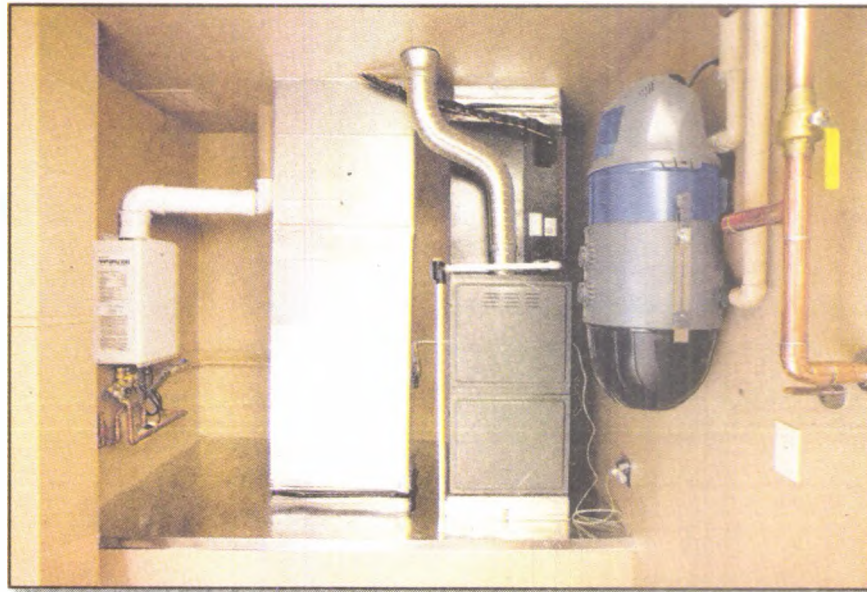
Spring Home Improvement

BY DENNIS ZELAZNY
ADVERTORIAL WRITER

After the dust clears is not the time to think about your furnace. We want our homes to be comfortable, and we work hard to get them into the best shape we can. When working on your home, a few preventable measures are advised to ease your task. Unusual amounts of drywall and saw dust can clog your ventilation system, so cover your vents when the dust is at its highest. Keep your work area away from the furnace whenever possible. And don't forget the condenser out in the yard needs to be kept clean as well. Your furnace doesn't require much attention — with a little effort, you can extend the life of your furnace.



Family Heating, Cooling and Electrical in Garden City offers a full range of heating and cooling units for any size home. General Manager Mike Miller encourages his customers to check their furnaces yearly. Whether it is summer or winter, your furnace filter needs to be clean, and this should be done often — especially during allergy seasons. If your outside air conditioner unit has fuses, Miller recommends bringing them in to the store to be checked. And don't forget to replace the battery in your digital thermostat. At Family Heating, "Family is not just our name it's the way we do business." Call (734) 422-8080 or visit www.familyheating.com for more information.



Heating and cooling system needs protection when renovating your home. Be conscious of keeping tools and building supplies away from them.

"The Department of Energy says that almost 45 percent of a homeowner's utility costs come from heating and cooling the house. Fortunately, there are some simple things you can do to help lower those costs, keep your system working as it should," said Dave Quandt VP of Field Services for American Home Shield.

- An air conditioner set at 70°F can cost twice as much to operate as one set at 78°F. Raise the thermostat by 2 degrees above its normal setting. You'll still be comfortable, and your pocket-book will thank you.
 - Set the thermostat to 80°F when you'll be out of the house for several hours and lower it when you return. But don't shut the air conditioner off; it's less efficient to cool the house back down than to leave it set at a higher temperature.
 - A ceiling fan uses about as much energy as a 100-watt bulb, but it can make a room feel up to 8 degrees cooler. In summer, blades should turn counterclockwise, pushing air downward to create a cool breeze.
 - Keeping windows closed and curtains drawn during the day can reduce cooling costs by 30 percent.
 - Lights, computers and televisions all generate heat. Turn them off when they're not in use.
- Strategic/United Temperature in Livonia has been servicing the Tri-County area since 1972. Manager David Brooks said that remodeling time is the

perfect time to upgrade your heating and cooling system. Brooks said that new furnaces and air conditioning units use much less floor space and offer up to 98% high efficiency. When looking at SEER (Seasonal Energy Efficiency Ratio) find numbers between 16 and 17, keeping in mind that 13 is the average. Air conditioning units have made huge improvements toward efficiency, sound and appearance. Call (734) 525-1930 or visit www.unitedtemperatureservices.com for more information.

The best protection, however, lies in preventative maintenance. Find out the manufacturer's recommendations for maintenance on your type of unit. You can usually find it online and in your owner's manual. It's always a good idea to find a heating and cooling company before you need one. When you find one that you are comfortable with make sure you keep their phone number handy.

Expert Heating and Cooling in Canton is North American Technician Excellence (NATE) certified and ready to solve any problem. Manager Paula Gravlin said they do not use contracted servicemen. Every serviceman is certified and experienced. Gravlin encourages customers to choose the Infinity Line products made by Carrier. They are quite programmable and offer top notch efficiency for both residential and commercial purposes. Call (734) 676-4488 or visit www.expertheatcool.com. ❖

SOLAR: AN ALTERNATIVE ENERGY SOURCE FOR HOMEOWNERS

Have you noticed those large black panels mounted on the walls and roofs of houses in our area? As the cost of power rises, solar panels are becoming more prominent. Could solar be in your future? Solar electricity is created by using photovoltaic (PV) technology by converting solar energy into solar electricity from sunlight. Photovoltaic systems use sunlight to power ordinary electrical equipment, for example, household appliances, computers and lighting. The photovoltaic process converts free solar energy — the most abundant energy source on the planet — directly into solar power.

A PV cell consists of two or more thin layers of semi-conducting material, most commonly silicon. When the silicon is exposed to light, electrical charges are generated, and this can be conducted away by metal contacts as direct current (DC). The electrical output from a single cell is small, so multiple cells are connected together and encapsulated (usually behind glass) to form a module (sometimes referred to as a "panel"). The PV module is the principle building block of a PV system, and any number of modules can be connected together to give the desired electrical output.

PV equipment has no moving parts, and as a result, requires minimal maintenance. It generates solar electricity without producing emissions of greenhouse or any other gases, and its operation is virtually silent.

Mechanical Energy in Canton is on a mission to bring alternative energy to Michigan. CEO Donna Napolitano said that they are an authorized dealer of SunPower. And their panels are the most efficient in the world. Michigan ranks 37 on the Total Energy Solutions list. This is a good rating. Solar collecting units work with light — even on overcast days it is light outside and energy can be generated. Napolitano is a highly sought after speaker at renewable energy events and has appeared at conferences throughout the United States. Call (734) 453-6746 or visit www.by-solar.com for more information. ❖

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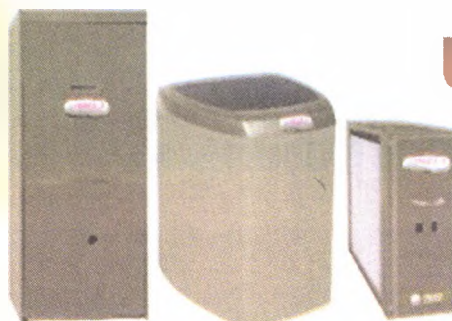


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Get out there and dig it

Spring signals time for landscaping plans

DENNIS ZELAZNY
ADVERTORIAL WRITER

Spring is a season for rebirth, and for homeowners, that often means bringing their property back to life. Once the winter weather has subsided, it's time to head outside and take inventory of the landscape and see how the yard, trees, bushes and shrubs fared after another long winter.

Max Bushel Center in Romulus has landscape supplies by the bushel or truckload. They are a good place to start the season because they are topsoil specialists. All their topsoil is sifted and cleaned and available for pick up or delivery. Owner Sal said they have design and lawn care services available. Call (313) 299-7878 for more information.

One of the best and most eco-friendly ways to bring your yard back to life is to plant around the property. Planting can be a soothing and enjoyable way to spend some time outdoors in the spring air, and it's not as difficult as it may seem.

Plymouth Nursery in Plymouth is the largest nursery on the west side of the Detroit area. They have 17 specialists on site to help with all your gardening needs. Owner Jeff Jones said, "We are your complete outdoor living center." Our 16 acres are filled with the area's finest quality plant materials. You will find no less than 300 varieties of perennials and a countless number of annuals. Weber grills, patio furniture, garden and yard art and a vast selection of ceramic pottery up to 36 inches wide and 48 inches tall can be found inside the showroom. Call (734) 453-5500 or visit www.plymouth-nursery.net for more information.

When planting around the home this spring, consider the following pointers:

Be aware of depth when planting. It's common for those who aren't used to gardening to plant too deeply. The idea of planting deeply seems to be correct, as homeowners want to be certain their plants or trees will take root, and it

seems like common sense that the deeper the plant is planted, the more likely it is to take root. However, planting depth should mirror the depth the plant was grown in at the nursery. When purchasing a plant at the nursery, ask for the

planting depth and be sure not to go any deeper than that when planting the plant on your property.

Stake new trees if necessary. While it's great to imagine spring as a season of warm sun and extended daylight, in



Planting during the spring season is a great way for homeowners to restore their property after a harsh winter

Spring Home Improvement

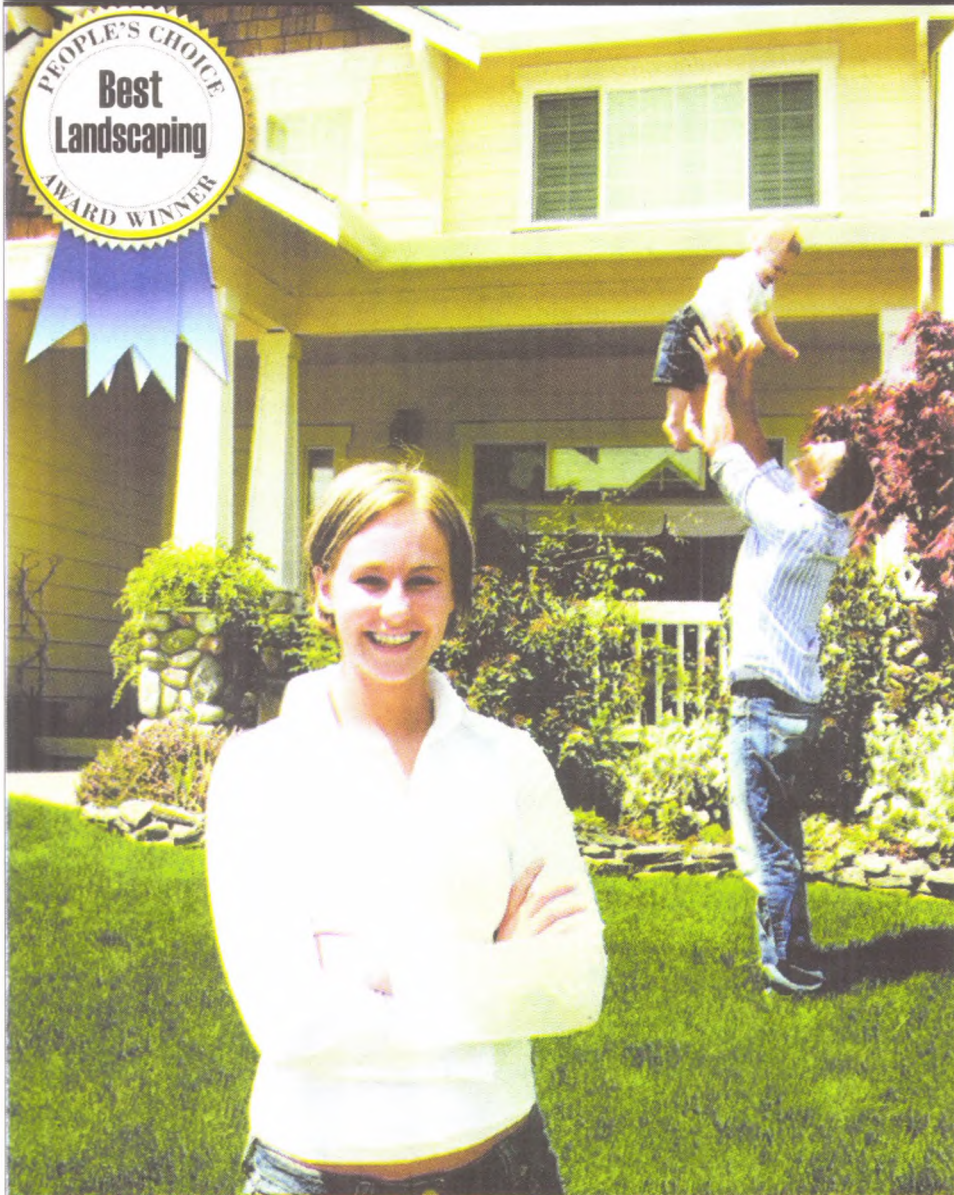
reality, most regions still get some wind and cold temperatures. This can make planting trees a difficult proposition, as new trees might rock back and forth and struggle to establish new roots. To mitigate any strong winds, stake new trees when planting around the property. Not all new trees need to be staked, but for those that do, the stakes will act as a stabilizing force during strong winds, enabling the tree to establish healthy roots for years to come.

Consider container-grown plants. Novice green-thumbers might find it best to go with container-grown plants. Container-grown plants are easy to plant around the property, and it's also easy to change the look of the property by simply moving the plants around. Also, as the seasons change, it's easy to reposition the plants so they're still getting the sun exposure they need to thrive.

Give the trees or plants their best chance to grow. It's important to survey the property ahead of planting to be certain the plants will be in the best place to thrive. Call the utility company and ask if there are any buried utility lines you'll want to avoid. Also, a tree's roots spread far beyond its branches, so try to plant the tree in a location that allows for that root growth without jeopardizing the property (i.e., roots spreading beneath the home's foundation).

Bell's Landscaping in Wixom, is a full service landscape company. Owner Marcy Bell said, "We do what we say." Bell's has been in business for 30 years and continues to grow with local residents. Whether it is new construction or renovation Bell's designs can be broken down in to phases and cost plans. The company work with the homeowner and listen to what they want, whether that's decks, brick pavers, retaining walls or water features. Everything is taken into consideration, and nothing is left to chance. Call (248) 486-0960 or visit www.bellslandscape.com for more information. ♣

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Weekend Warriors

Using the right tools makes the job easier

Few industries have grown as much in the last decade-plus as the home improvement industry. Whereas it was once commonplace for homeowners to have a handyman on speed dial, nowadays homeowners handle not only the routine upkeep necessary to maintain a home, but many home improvement projects as well.

Home expert Danny Lipford, host of the nationally syndicated TV show, Today's Homeowner, and radio show, Homefront, said, "Today you've got not only an amazing selection of tools to help with every project, but they also shorten the time it used to take to complete the project. When you couple that with all the DIY instruction and programming out there, it's no wonder we have the confidence to do more on our own."

As popular as home improvement projects have become, many homeowners still find themselves pressed for time when

it comes to tackling projects around the house. For homeowners without much time during the week, Woodcraft offers the following projects tailor-made for weekend warriors.

Ready the deck for summer fun

With spring on the horizon, the season to relax on the deck and soak up the sun is right around the corner. Homeowners can upgrade their deck and create an incredibly strong wood-to-wood bond with the Kreg Deck Jig System. Compatible with composite deck boards and ACQ treated lumber, can help homeowners create a beautiful and functional deck surface that's completely free of exposed fasteners and painful splinters. The Kreg Deck Jig System's easy grip

Continued on page 55



Regardless of individual skill level, user-friendly tools make home improvement projects safer, easier and more enjoyable for homeowners.

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Continued from page 54

handles help DIYers gain a secure hold and completely control each and every joint, while the system's three separate drill guides allow for easy installation of deck boards in a variety of hard-to-reach areas. When combined with a few simple tools homeowners already own, homeowners can vastly improve their deck no matter how pressed for time they might be.

Paint a new look inside

Spring is often seen as a season of rejuvenation, so why not give your home a brand new look by repainting the interior? Veteran DIYers can no doubt recall when painting took as much elbow grease as it did time, but times have changed. The tedious and time-consuming job of scraping old paint with a putty knife and sanding tight spaces with paper wrapped around your finger is a thing of the past. There are many new and innovated products to make these chores much easier. Sanding pads make scraping old paint easier than ever before. Be sure to check out your local hardware stores for an update on these time saving products.

Tackle indoor projects on rainy days

Spring might be synonymous with feelings of rejuvenation, but it also brings spring showers. On rainy weekends, tackle interior projects with the Rockwell BladeRunner. Whether you want to cut and install base molding, chair rails or hardwood flooring or frame and trim windows and doors, the lightweight, portable BladeRunner is your go-to tool. This precision cutter's variable-speed motor control and simple blade changing mechanism allow you to easily cut wood, metal, ceramic tile, aluminum, and plastic using a T-shank jigsaw blade. You can operate the BladeRunner on a benchtop or use the convenient wall mount bracket. Attach the tool's dust port to your shop vac for easy cleanup.

Prepare tools in advance

While there are several projects homeowners can complete in a single weekend, no project is likely to be successful without properly maintained tools. Homeowners should take inventory of their tools before beginning any projects to ensure the tools won't cause any



Remember the adage: Measure twice before you cut and always plan ahead.

delays. The Work Sharp® Knife and Tool Sharpener can bring tools back to life in a matter of minutes. This handheld, motorized tool sharpens any knife as well as scissors, tin snips, garden shears, and even lawn mower blades for green thumbs. The sharpener's patented Flex-Tek™ belt technology conforms to the shape of any blade, practically guaranteeing a sharp edge and ensuring your next home improvement project will start off on the right foot.

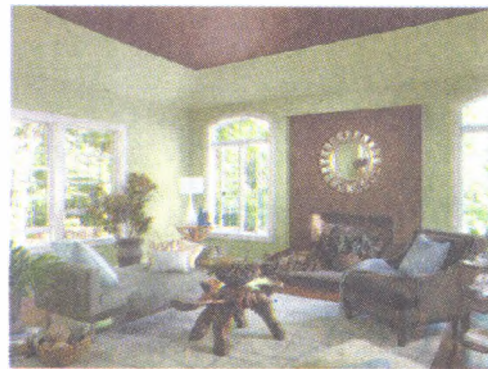
Work smarter

Tackling a home improvement project in a single weekend might not be easy, but DIYers can take steps to make such projects easier. For example, Vibe-Away Anti-Slip Pads are made from recycled tires and designed to reduce the transfer of vibration that occurs in most wood-working tools and stationary equipment. This shock absorption pad helps reduce sound, vibrations, and pulsating of router tables, scrollsaws, table saws and other benchtop or stationary machines, making it easier to complete a project mistake-free and in less time.

LOC-Blocks Interlocking Material Gripping Blocks grip both the work surface as well as your project without the use of any clamps. The nonslip pads support work during assembly without leaving marks, while the non-marring pads allow homeowners to lift work above the surface while finishing edges. ❖

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Top 10 innovative products for do-it-yourselfers

Do-it-yourselfers range from experts to novices, ambitious renovators to weekend handypersons, but one thing they all share is the drive to find products and tools that can make their home improvement projects easy, successful and fast.

"Do-it-yourselfers appreciate home improvement products that are new and innovative," says Patti Price, senior vice president of merchandising for Lowe's. "They're looking for products and tools that make projects easier."

A panel of DIYers were recently polled to find out what products they considered to be the most innovative — and useful.

1. Recessed light conversion kit

If you're looking for a quick, do-it-yourself lighting upgrade, with professional results, replace a recessed light with a pendant. This conversion kit makes the process quick and easy, and the end results provide, updated style to fit any decor.

2. Side-by-side refrigerator

With an array of high-tech features and an ENERGY STAR, the Whirlpool side-by-side refrigerator won high marks for its innovativeness and improved functionality. It helps contain spills easier and it also has more storage space.

3. Re-keyable lock sets

Schlage SecureKey Locksets allow homeowners to rekey the deadbolt lock using a special key. The lock cannot be rekeyed using generic tools so it provides a new solution to an old problem and improves functionality over other similar products.

4. Two-burner patio grill

Although the poll was conducted in winter, panelists were already thinking about warm weather and grilling season when they chose the Char-Broil Quantum 2-Burner Patio Grill. The grill uses the Quantum Infrared cooking system to lock in natural juices for moist, flavorful grilling and offers temperatures that range from intense searing to low barbecuing.

5. Lock and fold hardwood flooring

Installing traditional hardwood floor-

ing can be labor-intensive, so it's no surprise the Bruce Lock & Fold Hardwood Flooring was impressive because of its ease of use and how it utilizes new innovation to solve an old problem. The flooring, which comes in a variety of finishes, installs without glue, nail or staples by simply locking into place.

6. Self-adhesive tile mat

Ease of use is a hallmark of the products panelists chose, and the Bondera Tile MatSet certainly meets that criterion. It is a double-sided, peel-and-stick adhesive perfect for counter and wall tile. Just peel and stick, then add tile and grout, with no more waiting for mortar or adhesive to dry.

7. Double oven range

When it comes to electric ranges, panelists the Whirlpool Double Oven Range is twice as nice. Users enjoyed the flexibility of having two ovens, allowing them to cook two different dishes — like a pizza and a casserole — at the same time in one range.

8. Dual fuel gas grill

Among serious grilling enthusiasts debate has long ranged over gas versus charcoal. Lowe's customers liked having the best of both worlds with the Char-Griller Duo Gas & Charcoal Grill. The grill puts a charcoal-fueled unit side-by-side with a gas grill. Users highly rated the grill's innovation with both gas and charcoal being available in the same grill and ease of assembly and use.

9. Stylish ceiling fan

Ceiling fans have long been a point of contention for homeowners who love their practicality and designers who loathe the utilitarian look. Panelists give the allen + roth 23-inch Leaf Light Aged Bronze Ceiling Fan high marks for combining innovation and functionality.

10. Pull-down touch faucet

Anyone who's ever struggled to turn on a faucet with messy hands can appreciate the utility of touch technology. The Pilar Pulldown with Touch 20 Technology earned the approval, because of the stylish and gracefully curved faucet features a pull-down spout and can be touch activated. ❖

— Courtesy of ARA Content

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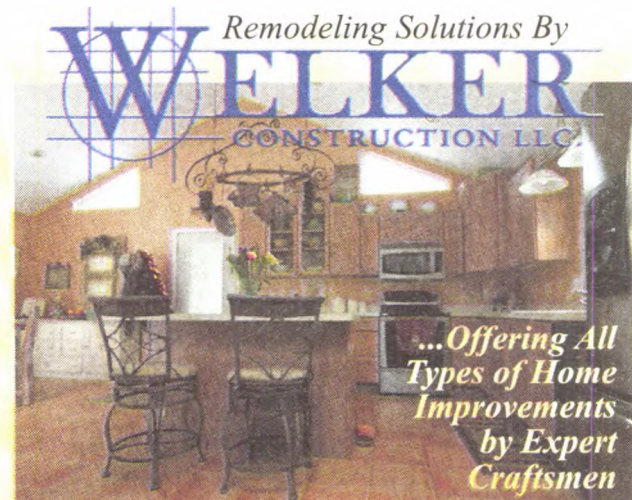
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Portable generators are good to have; make sure you know how to use them

When a storm knocks out the power, many homeowners turn to a portable generator to keep the lights on or the furnace running when cooler temperatures hit. While portable electric generators are very useful for temporary power, they can be dangerous if used incorrectly.

The most common dangers involving generators are carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning, electrical shock or electrocution and fire hazards. The Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI) and Reliance Controls are warning homeowners about the hazards of improperly installing and operating portable generators.

- Never use a gasoline-powered generator inside your home or garage. Generators can produce high levels of carbon monoxide very quickly, and opening doors or windows or using fans will not prevent CO build-up. Always use a portable generator outside and locate it away from opened windows or doors. Use CO detectors to monitor levels.

- Make sure generator fuel is stored safely, away from living areas and fuel-burning appliances, and in properly labeled containers. Before refueling, turn off the generator and let it cool down.

- Check extension cords before using — they should be rated for the load, free of cuts or worn insulation, and have three-pronged plugs.

- Do not overload the generator. Use it only when necessary to power essential equipment or appliances.

Do not connect generators directly to your household wiring without an appropriate transfer switch being installed. A transfer switch is an electrical device that is permanently installed near the service panel in your home. It prevents the utility power and the generator power from powering your household circuits at the same time. A transfer switch also eliminates the possibility of backfeeding, which is when generator power travels back up the utility service line. Backfeeding can result in fires and serious injury or even death to you, utility workers or electricians working on nearby electrical systems.

“Transfer switches have been around a long time, but we find that a lot of people



Spring time weather usually includes power outages. Be wise and be prepared in those situations. Generators are extremely helpful.

still don't know what they are, or they don't think they're necessary,” said Jeff Flegel, with Reliance Controls Corp., the first company to put its user-friendly transfer switch concept on the market. “A transfer switch is easy to install, can spare a lot of heartache and is an essential safeguard to protect families and property.”

The National Electrical Code (NEC), which sets national standards intended to minimize the possibility and effects of fire and other risks, requires that transfer switches be used with all portable generators supplying alternate power to a home or business.

“This is the time of year when many people rely on portable generators for their homes, and many times they're putting themselves at risk by not installing or using the generator properly,” said Brett Brenner, president of the Electrical Safety Foundation International. “People are in such a hurry to keep the heat, lights and television on, the refrigerator running, or the basement's sump pump operating, they don't think about the potentially devastating consequences of hooking up a generator incorrectly.” ❀

—Courtesy of Family Features



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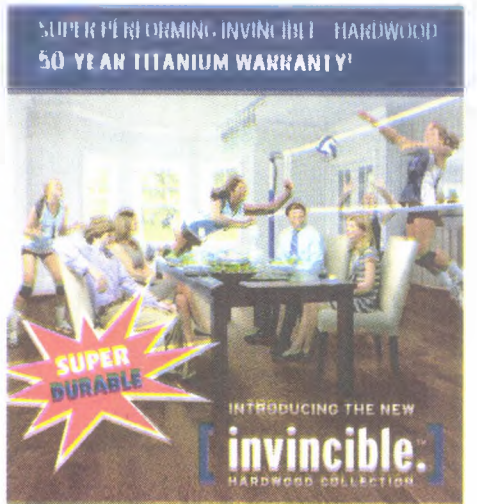
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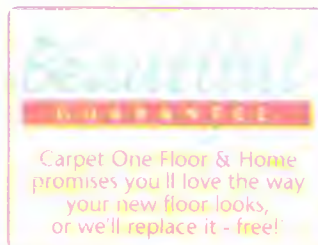
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Waste not: Recycling renovation debris benefits bottom line

Today, there are so many environmentally friendly choices you can make when renovating a home. You can choose engineered lumber to conserve wood, high-tech insulation to help boost the efficiency of your house and HVAC systems, water-saving faucets and energy-efficient appliances to preserve precious resources, and low-VOC paints to help your family breathe easier. Yet perhaps the most environmentally significant decision you'll make during the course of your remodeling project isn't what you'll put into your home, but what you'll do with the materials you remove from it.

Tossing construction debris into a dumpster, from where it eventually is hauled off to a landfill, has been common practice for all too long, notes Carl Seville, a green builder, educator, and consultant on sustainability to the residential construction industry. "With a little basic planning and proper jobsite management, you can reduce renovation waste by more than 50 percent," states Seville, owner of the Atlanta-based firm Seville Consulting (www.sevilleconsulting.com).

Seville, who has three decades of building and remodeling experience and has won over 100 industry awards, practices what he preaches. Take the 2007 EarthCraft/TecHome Showcase House he built for the Southern Building Show.

"We made use of every possible material that was removed from the existing home that was demolished. Lumber was ground into wood chips that were then



PHOTOS COURTESY OF SEVILLE CONSULTING

Used lumber can be ground into chips or mulch which then be used for gardening materials and erosion control on hill sides.

used for on-site erosion control. Large, serviceable boards were donated to furniture makers.

We re-used stone and brick in nearby renovation projects. Other materials, like concrete and broken brick, were ground up and used as gravel during construction," he says.

As you're tearing into your own project, what type of materials can be recycled, and where can you take them?

Some of the most common items jettisoned during renovation projects are also the simplest to repurpose. Cabinets, plumbing and lighting fixtures, windows and appliances that are serviceable but outdated can be donated to non-profit groups like Habitat for Humanity (or your local equivalent) that can use them in their own projects or resell them to support their programs, Seville notes.

"Copper wiring and plumbing, aluminum gutters and non-ferrous metals all provide a fairly reasonable return for your

time and effort," Seville says. Take them to your local metal recycling facility.

"Concrete, bricks and other masonry materials are easy to recycle," he notes.

"Landscape contractors may be interested in older bricks, which they can use to add instant character to walls and walkways." Broken bricks and chips, concrete block, clay roof tiles and ceramic tiles can be ground into gravel, as can asphalt roof shingles as well as toilets and porcelain sinks. Check with local grinding companies to see which types of materials they will accept.

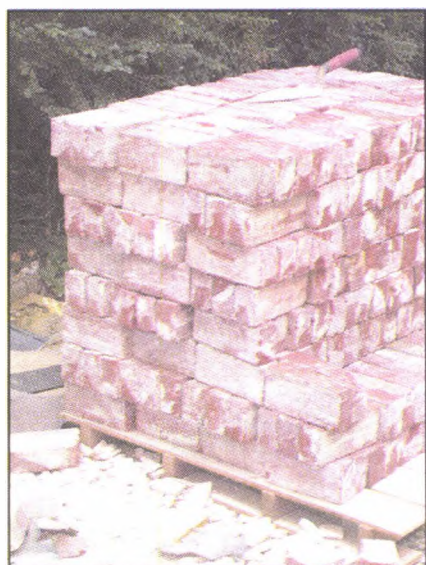
All too often, you'll see every scrap of wood removed from a home undergoing renovations piled into a dumpster. "Framing lumber that is still straight and true can sometimes be reused after nails are removed, while unpainted lumber can be ground into mulch and used for erosion control or landscaping," Seville says. Don't forget to consider the type of wood you are removing. Older homes often

Spring Home Improvement

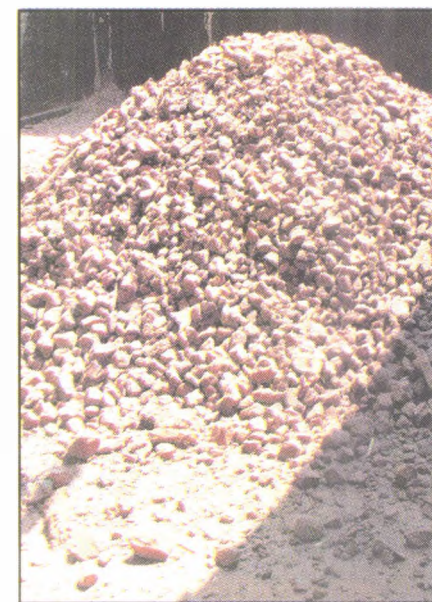
were constructed using wood that is considered rare and valuable today, like heart pine. Contact a lumber milling company to see if it makes sense for them to re-mill and reuse the boards.

Recycling construction debris is much gentler on the earth, and it also treads lightly on your wallet. Simply throwing away construction materials incurs costs — from renting the dumpster to hauling and disposal fees. Non-profit agencies will generally pick up donated items for free, as should companies like landscaping firms interested in aged bricks. While you will pay to have materials ground up on your site, doing so helps to offset some of the costs you would have paid to have gravel or mulch hauled in. "Recycling construction debris is more involved than tossing a newspaper in your household recycling bin, but with a little effort, it can have a major impact on both your budget and the environment," Seville notes. Follow Carl at www.greenbuildingcurmudgeon.com for more of his insights on green building. ♣

— Courtesy of Instant Edits News Service



Recycled bricks can be useful for just about any bricking or building project.



Broken brick and concrete can be crushed and used as gravel for walkways and underlayment.

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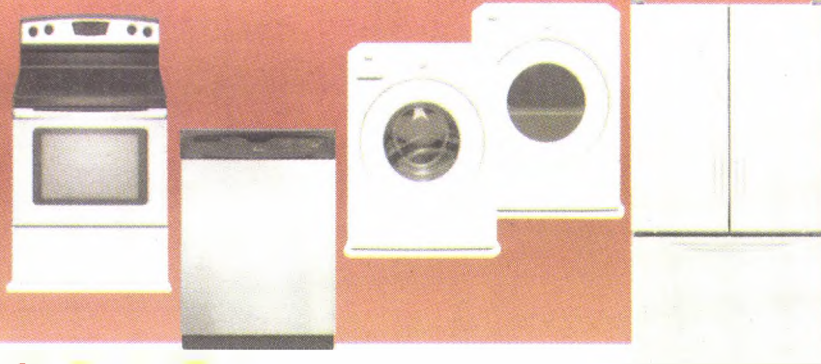
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Tools you can't do without on your home improvement project

As you begin planning your next home improvement project, make sure you have all the tools you need before you start the work. As you are gathering the "staples," such as hammers, screwdrivers, saws and wrenches, you might need - don't forget to look into oscillating tools.

• What exactly are oscillating tools?

Oscillating tools are compact, yet full-featured multi-tasking tools designed for a wide range of home projects, especially repair, restoration, installation, remodeling and renovation work. A variety of blades attach to the tip of the tool and oscillate from side to side at high speeds in a small arc so that the blades appear to be vibrating.

• What can oscillating tools do?

By switching out the blade, oscillating tools can be used to tackle a wide variety of applications and materials, including wood, laminates, metal, grout, adhesives and drywall. Many people know that oscillating tools cut



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and sand. What they might not know is that they can be used for so much more, including grinding, scraping, flush cutting, plunge cutting, caulk removal, grout removal and more.

• Why would I need an oscillating tool?

Users find that oscillating tools often accomplish what other tools in their toolboxes can't, and many times turn typically time-consuming projects into ones that are much more manageable. For example, oscillating tools allow users to make cuts in tight spaces. They turn the process of installing new flooring into an easy job: Using a scraping blade, power scrape tacky flooring adhesive to remove existing flooring. Then, cut rolls of carpet in manageable pieces with a cutting blade. You can also flush-cut baseboards to install new tile flooring with a wood cutting blade.

Additional common applications include removing tile grout and tub adhesive, sanding down old wooden furniture, removing rust, grinding out thin set beneath a tile, cutting drywall to install an electrical outlet or cutting an old pipe flush to a wall.

• How much do I need to spend on an oscillating tool?

Oscillating tools have a wide range of price tags, from \$70 all the way up to \$400. You should consider several factors in determining how much you should spend on an oscillating tool:

• How will you be using the tool?

If you are planning to use an oscillating tool frequently in a professional setting, you will need to opt for a tool that offers the highest level of performance. Typically, these tools have the highest price tags. The homeowner planning to

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use an oscillating tool for work around the house can find all the features he or she needs in a tool priced around \$100 to \$150, such as the Dremel Multi-Max, which comes in a corded or cordless variety. While less expensive tools can also be used for home improvement tasks, they offer far less versatility and range of use.

• What tool features are important to you?

Users who want to get the most versatility out of their oscillating tool should opt for one with variable speed. Most tools on the low end of the price scale only offer a single speed. Other nice features include electronic feedback, so the tool maintains a constant speed under pressure, and an electronic brake, which stops the tool immediately when it is turned off.

• Are accessories compatible between systems?

Typically, oscillating tools are not compatible with all brands of oscillating accessories. There is some crossover between brands, so check packaging before you buy to confirm which accessories will work with the tool you select. The Dremel brand recently introduced a new Dremel Multi-Max Universal Adapter, which allows users of all brands of oscillating tools to utilize the brand's patented Quick Fit oscillating accessories. ❖

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