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## Tree lighting

The Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce and the Downtown Development Authority team up to welcome Santa and Mrs. Claus to town Friday to help light Plymouth's official Christmas tree.

The Plymouth-Canton Educational Park Choir will lead a sing-along on the Kellogg Park stage at 5 p.m., followed by magician Alan Smola at 5:30 p.m. and Santa's arrival via a fire truck at 6 p.m. There will be the lighting of the holiday tree in Kellogg Park.

Enjoy snowflake lined streets, new lights on the Main Street boulevard and throughout downtown, storefronts decorated for the season and gingerbread houses in store windows. Sing along with the PCEP strolling carolers every Friday and Saturday afternoon between Thanksgiving and Christmas. Vote for your favorite Gingerbread House on Parade and be eligible to win a prize.

## Santa sighting

After Santa arrives (with Mrs. Claus) courtesy the Plymouth Community Fire Department Friday night, he's got to help light the official Christmas tree in Kellogg Park.

Then the real work begins for Santa. He'll begin visiting with children of all ages following the tree lighting until about 8:30 p.m. that night.

After that, he'll hold weekend hours every weekend through Dec. 23. Santa will visit with children from noon to 4 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 26, then from noon to 5 p.m. Dec. 3, Dec. 10, Dec. 17 and Dec. 18; 5:30-8:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 9, and 4:30-8:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 23.

## Get shopping

The focus will be on major retailers for Black Friday, but when it's Small Business Saturday, it's all about shopping local businesses, and we have just what you need. We have a terrific holiday gift guide, "Make Your Holiday Wishes Come True — Your Guide to Gift Giving, Entertainment, Festive Foods" that's in today's edition of your *Plymouth Observer*. The guide is 68 pages and is chock-full of ads featuring local businesses. It also has Black Friday deals and much more, while Inspire offers up technology gift suggestions and ideas for food gift baskets.

## Most shoppers eye 'same' level of buying

By Darrell Clem  
Observer Staff Writer

Walking from the Kohl's store at Westland Shopping Center, Redford resident Win Webster said he expects to plunk down more money this holiday season compared to last year, after getting a better-paying sales job with a Michigan furniture chain.

"I'll probably end up spending more because I just got a better job," Webster said, though he conceded his wife, Renee, handles most shopping chores for gift recipients such as their children Camden, 4, and Morgan, 2.

Strolling in downtown Plymouth, resident Francesca Lavetti said she expects a frugal holiday season to save money amid

a still-troubled economy.

"I may spend less because of the economy," Lavetti said. "I buy gifts for close friends, but I might buy for fewer people this year to try to save money."

Webster and Lavetti certainly represent segments of holiday shoppers across metro Detroit, but a majority of people who

Please see SHOPPERS, A2



BILL BRESLER  
STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Plymouth resident Francesca LaVetti shops the stores in downtown Plymouth.

Check out [www.hometownlife.com](http://www.hometownlife.com) Thursday for coverage of the P-CEP Marching Band in the Macy's Parade



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Chaperone Shirley Potter and clarinet player Brian Quintos confer over last-minute packing.

## Marching band is Big Apple-bound

By Brad Kadrich  
Observer Staff Writer

The Plymouth-Canton Marching Band took off Monday for New York, and if anyone wants to see them again before they get back this weekend, it'll have to be on television.

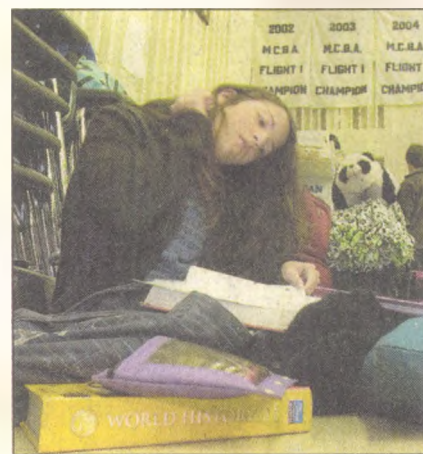
The 180-member band makes its national television debut Thanksgiving Day in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, the first Michigan high school to be so honored. The band left in seven chartered buses that carried

nearly 350 people, followed by a caravan of other vehicles carrying the band's posse on its journey to the Big Apple.

Band members, who are used to performing in parades around the local area, are excited to be stepping onto such a big stage.

"We will always love the downtown Plymouth (Fourth of July) parade, but this isn't downtown Plymouth," said David Armbruster, Plymouth-

Please see BAND, A7



Freshman clarinet player Melissa Lentine gets no break from her teachers when it comes to homework.

## Judge dismisses petition case

By Matt Jachman  
Observer Staff Writer

Citizens organized to support Plymouth township firefighters have taken their fight over a tax question to court, where township officials won the first round on Tuesday.

After nearly an hour of sometimes spirited argument, Wayne County Circuit Court Judge Michael Sapala said he couldn't determine whether the petitions submitted by the Citizens Action Group of Plymouth Township met requirements that would force the township Board of Trustees to put a special assessment question to voters. CAG's petitions called for a 1-mill tax, for five years, to support the Plymouth Community Fire Department, which is facing a \$925,000 budget cut, and the group was seeking to have the court order the board to put the question on the ballot for the Tuesday, Feb. 28, election.

"I need credible evidence including that we have 10 percent of owners," Sapala said of the petitions in dismissing the case. "I don't have that."

GAG attorney Marvin Stempin, who argued before Sapala with Township Attorney Tim Cronin, said the fight was not over. "We'll get the evidence the court wants," he said outside the courtroom.

"I was disappointed," said CAG member and town-

Please see PETITION, A1



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# SHOPPERS

Continued from page A1

responded to an informal poll by the *Observer* indicated they expect to spend roughly the same amount of money as last year.

That's similar to the 54 percent of U.S. shoppers in a more formal Gallup poll who said they are likely to spend about the same amount as last year. However, the national survey found that 29 percent of respondents expect to spend less, with only 15 percent spending more than last year.

Livonia resident Lisa Bebow counts herself among the same-spending majority, saying she and husband Roger never splurge on holiday gifts.

"We don't have any kids, so we don't really spend a lot on the holidays," she said, head-

ing into the Target store at Wonderland Village on Plymouth Road.

Bebow typically buys a gift for one cousin — and that's usually it. She said she doesn't understand why some consumers spend more money than they can afford — or why they would rack up big credit-card debt during the holidays.

"I've tried to convince my family members to adopt a (needy) family for Christmas," Bebow said.

Plymouth resident Diane Pitak, a dentist with South Lyon-based Pitak & Associates, said she expects to buy 30 gifts this season — a similar amount as most years.

Pitak's gift list includes 14 employees as well as her family members. As she left Westland Center on a chilly November day, she said she had found gifts for her husband, daughter and niece.



Win Webster, shopping at Westland Mall, is from Redford.

With so many gifts to buy, Pitak said she typically starts her holiday shopping in August, and she hopes to finish by early December.

Northville mother of five Victoria Jaworski paused with a shopping cart full of items as she left the Canton Hobby Lobby store near Ford and Lilley with one of her children, 6-year-old daughter Gemma.

Jaworski said she expects to buy gifts for

about 20 people this season — the same as last year. She said she started her shopping in October and expects to finish as late as Christmas Eve.

If Gemma had her way, holiday spending would increase this season. She paused and smiled when asked what she wants for Christmas.

"Um, too much stuff," she said.

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Victoria Jaworski and her daughter, Gemma, got some shopping done in Canton.

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## Township budget reflects loss of city fire funds

By Matt Jachman  
Observer Staff Writer

Plymouth Township has a new \$12.3 million general-fund budget for the fiscal year that begins in January.

The spending plan was approved by a 7-0 Board of Trustees vote on Nov. 15; it was little changed from the budget discussed at a special board meeting on Nov. 1.

The budget is down 7.6 percent, more than \$1 million, from the amended 2011 budget.

Most of the decline can be attributed to the city of Plymouth's withdrawal, at the end of this year, from the Plymouth Community Fire Department. This year's budget calls for a \$1,050,000 contribution to the fire department from the city, while next year's plan shows a \$125,000 contribution,

which officials said will go toward the city's share of retirement costs.

That's a net loss of \$925,000, and is mirrored by a similar drop in the PCFD budget for next year, from almost \$3.98 million this year to just over \$3 million for 2012.

Officials haven't specified where they'll find the savings, but major changes in the fire department are expected. Officials in Plymouth decided to partner with the Northville Fire Department for fire-fighting and emergency medical service starting next year, and expect to save \$400,000 or more annually, after start-up costs. The city is also planning on a bigger role for Huron Valley Ambulance for emergency medical response.

Other major budgets within the town-

ship's 2012 spending plan include the police department (about \$3.7 million), general government and administrative expenses (almost \$2.97 million) and emergency dispatch (nearly \$1.05 million).

Major sources of revenue for 2012 include property taxes (\$6.95 million), state revenue sharing (\$1.95 million) and cable television franchise fees (\$525,000). Property tax collections are anticipated to be down, due to lower taxable values, more than \$1 million from the 2008 total of \$8.05 million.

The city of Plymouth is expected to continue participating in the shared emergency dispatch service, and will provide \$295,000 of its 2012 revenue, about 28 percent.

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# Diaper donation called 'overwhelming'

By Darrell Clem  
Observer Staff Writer

An 18-wheeler hauling 250,000 diapers donated by Huggies rolled into Canton Monday morning, providing a huge boost to the nonprofit Detroit Area Diaper Bank and its volunteer founder, Marybeth Levine.

"It's overwhelming," Levine said, "and yet it's satisfying to have a huge company like Huggies acknowledge the need and to support it."

The semi-trailer pulled up to M.S.A. Delivery Service, on Hannan south of Michigan Avenue, where owner Jerry Rozum and other volunteers unloaded pallets of diapers as 36 of DADB's nonprofit partners lined up to accept diapers for needy families they help.

Metro Detroit marked the 11th stop as Huggies donated 12 million diapers in 12 days in



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER  
Marybeth Levine's Detroit Area Diaper Bank receives a donation of 250,000 diapers from Huggies.

12 cities, showing its support for the newly formed National Diaper Bank Network.

Kevin Brown, a Farmington native and Wisconsin-based commercial program manager for Huggies, said the project marked the company's 12 Days of Thanks program as the Thanksgiving holiday approached. He said studies have shown that one in three

U.S. families with children faces decisions such as cutting back on food to buy diapers, which aren't covered by government assistance programs.

"We felt as an industry leader that this is not acceptable," Brown said.

Huggies donated more than 22 million diapers in 2010 and pledged a similar amount over the next three years to diaper banks such as the one Levine started in April 2009. In all, the DADB has collected and donated some 657,000 diapers.

Monday's delivery of 250,000 Huggies came after the DADB already had collected more than 203,000 during its pre-Thanksgiving fall campaign, boosted by partners such as the Canton Public Library. Levine said the two projects will help meet a need through the first of the year for agencies such as Starfish Family Services, First Step domestic violence shelters

and The Salvation Army. "It's an incredible thing," Levine, a mother of three, said as husband Steve and other volunteers helped out Monday morning.

Huggies also has indicated it plans to donate as many as 182,000 more diapers to DADB in the coming weeks.

State Rep. Dian Slavens, D-Canton, stopped by to help and show her support for the DADB and Levine. "Canton is very fortunate to have her in the community," Slavens said.

Levine's father, John Burnham, came all the way from Virginia Beach, Va., to help with the latest diaper-collection efforts. He was visibly proud of his daughter, saying she proves "how one person can make a difference."

Janice Strozier showed up at M.S.A. Delivery to pick up diapers for the Michigan Department of Human Services office

in Inkster, which services numerous communities such as Westland and Canton. The DADB's partners are spread across southeast Michigan.

"Organizations like this really help us out," Strozier said, adding that struggling families shouldn't have to decide between buying food and diapers.

Volunteers Joan Carr and Kathy Lancaster came to collect diapers for the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, which distributes diapers through Sts. Simon & Jude Church in Westland. They voiced deep appreciation for the gift of diapers.

"Honestly, where would we get these?" Carr asked. "Marybeth and the diaper bank have been a godsend for us."

For more on the DADB, go to [www.detroitareadiaperbank.org](http://www.detroitareadiaperbank.org).

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## CRIME WATCH

### Township's east side hit with vehicle, garage burglaries

An east-side Plymouth Township neighborhood was hit with at least seven vehicle burglaries last week, with tools, cash, sunglasses, a navigation device and a tablet computer among the things reported stolen.

In addition, burglaries from the garages at two addresses in the same neighborhood were reported. All seven vehicles, as well as the garages, had been left unsecured, according to Plymouth Township Police Department reports.

The thefts from vehicles all took place in a residential area near Ann Arbor Trail west of I-275. There were three incidents on Butternut Avenue, two on Gilbert Street and one

each on Brownell Avenue and Morgan Avenue.

All incidents were reported Friday, and all except the incident on Morgan Avenue took place Friday or the day before; on Morgan, the burglary had occurred between Nov. 16 and Friday, a police report said.

At the site of one vehicle burglary on Butternut, the garage, which had been left slightly open, was also entered, and tools reported stolen from it, police said.

On Ferguson Avenue, in the same neighborhood, the garage at another house was also entered, and tools reported stolen from it. That garage had been left unlocked, the complainant told police. An unlocked Ford Edge parked there had been rifled through, but nothing reported stolen from it, police said.

### Another burglary

Three compact discs and tickets to a professional conference were among the things reported stolen Nov. 15 from a vehicle parked outside a house on Quail Circle, north of Joy Road and east of Rideney.

The larceny occurred late on Nov. 14 or early the next day; the vehicle had been left unlocked, a police report said.

### Lawn job

A lawn at the Plymouth House Apartments, on Postiff Avenue west of Lilley, was torn up when someone drove a vehicle over it last week.

The vandalism occurred between Nov. 14 and Nov. 18, the complex's maintenance supervisor told police.

—By Matt Jachman

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- 5:30 pm - Alan Smola presents his holiday Magic Show on the Kellogg Park stage
- 6:00 pm - Santa arrives by Fire Truck and lighting of the Holiday Tree
- Free candy canes for kids
- 6:30 pm - Santa's House officially opens for the season

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# Thankful for the memories

## Food, family dominate seniors' holiday histories

By Matt Jachman  
Observer Staff Writer

No football. Few parades — and certainly no television. No fancy trips, either.

For some senior citizens gathered Monday at the Plymouth Cultural Center, Thanksgiving decades ago was about more basic pleasures — food and family.

"It was dinner and family time," said Mary Montgomery, 85, a retired corporate librarian. "You didn't travel to the Caribbean or go on a cruise."

"It's always been very family-oriented, all the way through," said Roger Tassell, a semi-retired engineer. "All the families getting together."

Tassell, of Plymouth Township, and Montgomery, of Northville, are members of the Cultural Center's wood-carving club, which meets most Mondays. Their work — Montgomery was doing a relief carving of a town scene with houses, trees and a bridge, while Tassell was working on a Popeye figurine — and the work of eight or 10 other carvers nicely suited a discussion of Thanksgiving memories. Both will be joining family members in the area for this Thanksgiving.

### 'Master cook'

Montgomery, who grew up in Dearborn, remembers her mother, Rae Montgomery, and her cooking most of all.

"My mother was an outstanding cook and she would never tolerate a



Mary Beth Hausman shares some of her favorite Thanksgiving memories.

pre-oiled turkey," preferring a freshly killed bird, she said. "Everything she cooked was so delicious."

That included, Montgomery said, macaroni and cheese, stuffing — both the traditional kind and cornbread stuffing — and pies, like fruit, mincemeat and pumpkin. "Her pies were outstanding," she said.

Back in the 1930s, Montgomery said, her parents, Rae and Vaughn, always hosted Thanksgiving dinner, on the strength of her mother's cooking. The family of five — Mary had two brothers, Jim and Hale — would about dou-

ble in size for those dinners, she said, and visitors would raid the kitchen, tucking into the dishes even before they made it to the table.

"She was the master cook of the family, and she enjoyed the reputation," Montgomery said.

The family went to the Thanksgiving parade in downtown Detroit "once or twice," but, "Usually, we concentrated on the family getting together," she said.

More recently, one of Montgomery's nephews hosted Thanksgiving at his cottage in the Thumb — serving dinner on Rae



Roger Tassell said Thanksgiving has "always been very family-oriented, all the way through."

Montgomery's old dining-room table.

"It brought back a lot of memories to everybody," said Montgomery, who will be spending this Thanksgiving at the Dearborn home of another nephew.

### Thanks for dad's safety

For Mary Beth Hausman of Superior Township, carving at the same table, talk of Thanksgiving prompted memories of her father, Frank Gerdes, and his annual hunting trips.

"Thanksgiving was always that he came home safe," said Hausman, a retired Comerica Bank management employee in her 60s. The family lived in Cin-

cinnati, she said, and her father would travel to other states, including Colorado and North Dakota, to hunt, sometimes in remote areas, on trips that lasted up to two weeks. She remembers him hunting deer, rabbits and pheasant.

The trips weren't really something the family could afford, and her mother, Bernice, frowned on them, but "now that you get into a hobby, you see all the things a hobby can do for you," said Hausman, a novice carver.

Tassell tells stories of family Thanksgivings at a great-aunt's house north of Kalamazoo in the early 1950s.

"It was just really interesting as a kid, a lot of

stories," he said.

### Talk, no TV

His mother's aunt, Nellie Ward was more like a grandmother to him, Tassell said, and still worked the land she and her late husband had farmed. She cooked with a wood-fueled stove, churned butter, baked bread and served a fresh turkey with lots of vegetables — and homemade pies, he said.

"Something that the kids don't have a chance to have anymore," he mused.

Gender roles were more strictly defined and, after dinner, the women would retreat to the kitchen to clean up. "The men would go in the living room and talk," Tassell said.

He was one of the few children at those gatherings, he said, and the adults' conversation, along with the dinner, seemed to dominate the day. "There was no TV. Radio, but no TV," he said.

Tassell unexpectedly lost his wife of 44 years, Sandra, in September. "It's going to be a little different this year," he said.

But he is carrying on a tradition of his wife's — and his great-aunt Nellie's — by bringing pie to this year's Thanksgiving dinner at the Plymouth home of a son and daughter-in-law, Aaron and Stephanie Tassell. A 17-year-old granddaughter, Brittany Chaney, will help with the baking, he said.

"My wife made really good apple pie," Tassell said.

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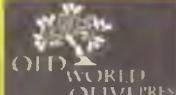
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## Holiday delays trash pickup

There will be no collection of household trash, yard waste or recyclables in Plymouth Township on Thursday due to the Thanksgiving Day holiday, and pickups will be delayed by one day for the remainder of the week.

Residents whose regular collection day is Thursday or Friday should put out their trash,

yard waste recyclables one day late this week; Thursday collections will be completed on Friday and Friday collections on Saturday.

The holiday doesn't affect residential pickups in the city of Plymouth, which normally has a weekly pickup schedule that is completed by Wednesday.

"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

### HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

**Date/Time:** Friday, Dec. 2, 7-10 p.m.

**Location:** Steeplechase of Northville, 17174 Crestbrook Drive in Northville

**Details:** New Hope Center for Grief Support, in cooperation with Toll Brothers Inc., hosts a Holiday Open House at their spectacular community, Steeplechase of Northville. You are invited to leisurely tour the luxurious Harding Country Manor model home. The evening also includes raffles, appetizers from local restaurants, a chocolate fountain and musical entertainment. Valet service provided and sponsored by Toll Brothers. Cost is \$40 per adult prior, \$45 at the door.

**Contact:** Call New Hope Center at (248) 348-0115 by Nov. 30 or register online at [www.newhopecenter.net](http://www.newhopecenter.net)

## AROUND PLYMOUTH



### Choral concert

Measure for Measure, a men's choral society, will present a Holiday Choral Concert at 4 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 11, at Newburg United Methodist Church, 36500 Ann Arbor Trail, Livonia. The concert of about 90 minutes will be followed by a reception in the church's social hall. Proceeds from ticket sales will support a mission project in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, by a team of 10 Newburg Church members who will travel there in April 2012. Tickets are \$12 and can be obtained by calling (734) 459-5631.

### COLLEGE PLANNING

**Date/Time:** Dec. 1, 7 p.m.

**Location:** Plymouth District Library, 223 S. Main

**Details:** The Friends of the Plymouth District Library will sponsor a free two-part program for high school students and parents who are approaching college

decisions. John Boshoven, Counselor for Continuing Education at Ann Arbor's Community High School and the Frankel Jewish Academy in West Bloomfield will share years of experience in this field. The programs include: Finding the College that Fits,

Thursday, Oct. 27 at 7 p.m., and Paying for the College that Fits, Thursday, Dec. 1 at 7 p.m.

**Contact:** Register for these programs by calling the library, (734) 453-0750, Ext. 4.

**AAUW HOLIDAY PARTY**  
**Date/Time:** 6:30 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 8

**Location:** Hoben Elementary School (Saltz between Sheldon and Canton Center)

**Details:** The Plymouth-Canton branch of the American Association of University Women hosts its holiday party. Please bring a pound of something to share, such as coffee, flour, cookies, etc. and put it in holiday wrapping. Everyone will have a chance to bid on it with proceeds going to the AAUW Legal Advocacy fund. There will also be a monetary collection for First Step. Appetizers and desserts will be served. Please come and join us!

**Contact:** For more information contact Becky Copenhaver at [bgcopenhaver@yahoo.com](mailto:bgcopenhaver@yahoo.com) or (734) 981-6023.

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# PETITION

Continued from page A1

ship resident Tom Kelly, who was acting on behalf of the group, according to the complaint filed in court last week.

Stempien had presented Sapala with a map outlining property boundaries in the township, with the land owned by people who had signed the petitions colored in green or purple. Township Clerk Joe Bridgman's office drew up the map, after comparing petition signatures to township property tax rolls, and Bridgman estimated last week that the signers represented about 10.9 percent of the land area within the proposed special assessment district.

The state law governing the type of special assessment district CAG members hope to create forces an election if 10 percent or more of the land within the proposed district is represented by petition-signers.

Sapala wasn't satisfied. "I don't know how this diagram proves that," he said. "Do we need the clerk here to testify?"

Cronin had argued that wasn't Bridgman's job, but the entire board's, to determine if the 10-percent threshold had been met.

"Let the board make that evaluation," Cronin told the judge. "If there's 10 percent, the township board will do its duty."

Cronin also said verification of land ownership should be done by the county's register of deeds, while Stempien said that would be cost-prohibitive and that tax records are sufficient for proving ownership.

Also at issue was the language that would go on any ballot question. Cronin argued the applicable law limits a special assessment tax to 10 mills for firefighting equipment, and has no limit for department operations and maintenance, regardless of the 1 mill called for in the petitions.

Property owners who signed the petition thinking they were expressing

support for a 1-mill tax, Cronin said, might not support a higher tax. "It's not going to work, judge. It's not going to work and the petitioner has been told that," he said.

Stempien responded that Cronin was raising "all sorts of minutiae that doesn't apply" and "becoming a politician now instead of an advocate of the law." But, after the hearing, he said he would supply the court with evidence to answer the question of how special assessment ballot lot draw up.

Stempien did win one argument, when Sapala agreed that CAG member Kelly had the legal standing to bring the action to court.

Cronin had argued Kelly didn't have the standing, and that township officials shouldn't be forced by the court to take action based merely on the perception of a group of citizens.

Stempien said the township board has just 20 days to go through the procedures needed to put a special assessment question on the ballot in time for the Feb. 28 election. A public hearing to review the issues, during which petition-signers would have the opportunity to remove their names, would be required.

The fire department faces the loss next year of about \$925,000 of its \$3.9 million annual budget because of the city of Plymouth's withdrawal from the shared department. Township officials have said changes, including possible layoffs, will be coming to the department because of the loss of revenue, but haven't specified what those changes will entail.

Plymouth, in a cost-cutting move, is partnering with the Northville Fire Department.

Township Supervisor Richard Reaume attended Tuesday's hearing and said he was pleased with the outcome.

mjachman@hometownlife.com  
(313) 222-2405



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Seven buses transport more than 300 students, chaperones and parents.

# BAND

Continued from page A1

Canton's director of bands. "There are three million people watching it in person, stacked 20 stories high, and a national TV audience. This isn't your average parade."

For its appearance on national television, the band will play a pair of tunes, *Welcome Christmas* and *Trim Up the Tree*, from *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*. The rest of the time, the band will play traditional holiday and patriotic fare.

Until recently, the band's rehearsal consisted of rehearsal for both the parade and its competition season. Since the close of the season, the band has focused more on Macy's. That has included some unexpected

responsibilities, such as talking to the media.

Senior drum major Grace Wine got a taste of it Monday, talking to a local television station about the trip.

"It's definitely exciting," Wine said. "The band is pumped to go to New York; a lot of us haven't been there before. Our band has a great reputation. We've done some things that other bands can't do. We can compete at a high level, and I think that's why we were chosen."

Fans of the band who couldn't make the trip and hope to catch a glimpse of them on TV can watch the parade on WWJ-TV (Channel 62) beginning at 9 a.m.

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VALERIE OLANDER

Theresa Zakrzewski, 82, at her Livonia home on Monday with pictures on the table from her 27 years as a volunteer with the Parade Company.

# Parade volunteer, 82, honored to participate as Santa's elf

By Valerie Olander  
Correspondent

When Santa arrives in Detroit for the annual parade along Woodward Avenue on Thanksgiving Day, a jolly old elf from Livonia will be among those marching alongside the sleigh.

It will be the 27th year Theresa Zakrzewski, 82, will be part of the holiday tradition, greeting merry revelers and excited boys and girls with a wave and smile.

Age is a state of mind that doesn't add up for Zakrzewski. Her exuberance could put two 40-year-olds to shame.

In the nearly 30 years of volunteering with America's Thanksgiving Parade, Zakrzewski has worn out several pairs of sneakers, two knees and a hip, but all have been replaced with newer versions to keep up with her youthful spirit.

"It's less than two miles," the grandmother said of the route from Mack Avenue to Campus Martius.

She's used to walking that distance five days a week. On cold days, she will walk inside Laurel Park Place. During the holidays, she's easily spotted by her San-



Theresa Zakrzewski, 82 of Livonia, dressed up as a flower for the 1999 parade.

ta hat and jingling bells as she makes her laps in the shopping center. She also spends four days a week at Schoolcraft College's swimming pool doing water aerobics, and, when she's not exercising, she volunteers at St. Aidan Catholic Church and Angela Hospice.

Marching as a costumed volunteer among the floats, balloons and marching bands, she's been a flower, an Indian, a doctor, a chef and a strawberry, but never an elf with such close proximity to the red-suited guest of honor.

"This is a nice swan song that I get to be one of the elves this year

because I'm going to retire. I think this will be my last year," she said.

Her daughter, Mary, claims she said that last year.

Zakrzewski will be marching with her long-time friend, former Our Lady Queen of Hope Principal Sister Mary Ann Markel, who has joined her on the parade route for 25 years. Zakrzewski used to work for Markel as school secretary.

Afterward, she will return home to host Thanksgiving dinner for 18 people.

A Detroit native, Zakrzewski remembers the first time she saw the parade when she was 14.

She brought two younger kids with her and they lined the street in front of the old Hudson's Department store, former sponsors of the parade.

While raising her six children, she stayed home and cooked Thanksgiving dinner while watching the parade on TV. Her late husband, Tom, brought the kids downtown to see the parade some years. Marching in it had been a dream.

In 1984, her oldest daughter, Susan, paid for her entrance fee, making her dream become reality. Then, the dream became a fun-filled tradition.

Renee Rodriguez, director of volunteers for the Parade Company, said the event depends on volunteers to keep it going year after year. About 5,000 marchers will take to the streets this year.

"The volunteers create smiles and magic for thousands of people each year," she said.

America's Thanksgiving parade is one of the oldest and most celebrated events in the country and second largest to the Macy's Thanksgiving Parade in New York City. The parade is in its 85th year.

# Family wants thief to return handicapped ramp by Christmas

By Ken Abramczyk  
Observer Staff Writer

The holiday season just got more difficult for a woman who enjoys visits from her mother, who is in a wheelchair.

Someone stole the access her mother has to her daughter's home — an aluminum handicapped ramp at the home on the 27600 block of Five Mile Road some time between Friday afternoon and Saturday morning.

The ramp is used by the homeowner's mother,

who is a paraplegic, when the homeowner's parents come to visit her.

"It was a way for her to get in and out of the house, especially during the holidays when they come to visit," said the homeowner, who only wanted to be identified as Kristine and didn't want her last name used in the story.

"It really helps her to get around, and she really needs to have that ramp. It was one of the things that drew me to buy this house, is that it had room

for a ramp."

Lt. Tom Goralski said many thieves are stealing metal to sell it as scrap for cash.

Still, the theft of a wheelchair ramp is unusual. "We've never had anything like this happen before," Goralski said. "It's a damn shame."

Kristine noticed the theft early Saturday morning when she went outside to check her mail.

The silver-colored ramp, valued at \$1,000, has a black surface and is about 4 feet wide and 10

to 12 feet long. Her father bought the ramp about 18 months ago.

"I'm hoping the ramp will be returned in time for Christmas. I want the people to be caught and pay for what they've done. I find it reprehensible that they did this."

Goralski asked anyone who may have seen someone removing the ramp or acting suspicious Friday or early Saturday in the area of Five Mile Road and Deering to contact the Livonia Police Department at (734) 466-2470.

# BBB offers tips for safe Cyber Monday shopping

Cyber Monday, the Monday after Thanksgiving, has officially replaced Black Friday, the day after Thanksgiving, as the most popular day to shop for the holidays. Shopping online means avoiding the crowds, but it also opens the buyer up to attacks from scammers and hackers.

In order to fight these online grinchies, the Better Business Bureau (BBB) recommends 10 tips for staying safe when holiday shopping online.

According to the National Retail Federation (NRF) seven in 10 online retailers expect their sales to grow at least 15 percent this holiday season. The NRF's holiday survey also found that the average person plans to do 36 percent of their holiday shopping online — up from 33 percent last year.

"The convenience and ease of shopping online has replaced the hassle of going to the store for many people—but online shopping has its own set of risks," said Patrick Bennett, BBB Director of Community Relations. "Taking steps to avoid the fraud online will result in a much happier holiday for everyone—except, of course, for scammers and hackers."

Following are the "Top 10 Online Shopping Tips" for holiday shoppers to help fight unscrupulous online retailers, scammers and hackers:

1. **Protect your computer** — A computer should always have the most recent updates installed for spam filters, anti-virus and anti-spyware software and a secure firewall.

2. **Shop on trustworthy websites** — Shoppers should start with BBB to check on the seller's reputation and record for customer satisfaction. Always look for the BBB seal and other widely-recognized "trustmarks" on retailer websites and click on the seals to confirm that they are valid.

3. **Protect your personal information** — BBB recommends taking the time to read the site's privacy policy and understand what personal information is being requested and how it will be used. If there isn't one posted, it should be taken as a red flag that personal information may be sold to others without permission.

4. **Beware of deals that sound too good to be true** — Offers on websites and in unsolicited e-mails can often sound too good to be true, especially extremely low prices on hard-to-get items. Consumers should always go with their instincts and not be afraid to pass up a "deal" that might cost

them dearly in the end.

5. **Beware of phishing** — Legitimate businesses do not send e-mails claiming problems with an order or an account to lure the "buyer" into revealing financial information. If a consumer receives such an e-mail, BBB recommends picking up the phone and calling the contact number on the website where the purchase was made to confirm that there really is a problem with the transaction.

6. **Confirm your online purchase is secure** — Shoppers should always look in the address box for the "s" in https:// and in the lower-right corner for the "lock" symbol before paying. If there are any doubts about a site, BBB recommends right-clicking anywhere on the page and select "Properties." This will let you see the real URL (website address) and the dialog box will reveal if the site is not encrypted.

7. **Pay with a credit card** — It's best to use a credit card, because under federal law, the shopper can dispute the charges, if he or she doesn't receive the item. Shoppers also have dispute rights if there are unauthorized charges on their credit card, and many card issuers have "zero liability" policies under which the card holder pays nothing if someone steals the credit card number and uses it. Never wire money and only shop locally on sites like Craigslist.

8. **Keep documentation of your order** — After completing the online order process, there may be a final confirmation page or the shopper might receive confirmation by e-mail — BBB recommends saving a copy of the Web page and any e-mails for future reference and as a record of the purchase.

9. **Check your credit card statements often** — Don't wait for paper statements. BBB recommends consumers check their credit card statements for suspicious activity by either calling credit card companies or by checking statements online regularly.

10. **Know your rights** — Federal law requires that orders made by mail, phone or online be shipped by the date promised or, if no delivery time was stated, within 30 days. If the goods aren't shipped on time, the shopper can cancel and demand a refund. There is no general three-day cancellation right, but consumers do have the right to reject merchandise if it's defective or was misrepresented. Otherwise, it's the company's policies that determine if the shopper can cancel the purchase and receive a refund or credit.

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## Retailers stretch 'Black Friday' timing

As stores up the ante with earlier holiday hours that creep into Thanksgiving night, Black Friday is turning into Black Thursday.

• Toys R Us said Monday that it will open at 9 p.m. on Thanksgiving, an hour earlier than last year and the earliest of any retailer so far this year.

• Nationally, Walmart will open at 10 p.m., two hours ahead of last year's midnight opening. However, the Ford Road and Michigan Ave. (at Canton Center) Walmart super stores in Canton will, as always, be open all day, even on Thanksgiving.

"It's traditionally a pretty good sales day for us," said Hillery Chambers, the store's co-manager. "We offer some great deals."

• Other stores, including Target, Macy's, Best Buy and Kohl's, will open at midnight.

Target spokeswoman Molly Snyder said the decision to open earlier is due to consumer desire.

"We have heard from our guests that they want to shop Target following their Thanksgiving celebrations rather than only having the option of getting up in the middle of the night," she said.

ConsumerSearch.com found in a recent survey of 1,003 people that 87 percent felt retailers should stay closed on Thanksgiving. "There's definitely a family spirit around Thanksgiving that people don't really want to see adulterated," says Christine Fritchen, editor-in-chief of the site.

Kohl's plans to open at 12 a.m. on Friday, Nov. 25,



Diane Pitak did some shopping at Kohl's Westland Mall store. She lives in Plymouth.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

and remain open for 24 hours. Kohl's campaign, "Love to Give, Happy to Save," will emphasize "unprecedented value," as well as its hassle-free return policy and no-exclusion sales.

In downtown Plymouth, where smaller retailers dominate the shopping landscape, "Black Friday" will start ... well ... Friday. Local store owners are hopeful for a good holiday shopping season.

"Downtown retailers are cautiously optimistic this holiday season," said Tony Bruscatto, director of operations for the Plymouth Downtown Development Authority. "As the economy shows some signs of improvement, they are looking for a holiday season that's improved from recent years."

Gannett News Service contributed to this report.

## Survive the holidays with these apps

By Jon Gunnells  
Guest Columnist

The holidays can be stressful, especially if you are in charge of shopping, decorating and planning. Luckily, there are a number of free and low cost apps to help you navigate to the New Year.

Even if you don't know what an app is — help is on the way. An app, short for application, is a program that can be installed on a smartphone, tablet, or a computer.

Apps provide easy access to the tools you need with a touch of the button — instead of going through a clumsy Internet search that could be time-consuming if you are on a mobile device.

For example: a mobile banking app allows you to access your bank statements, make transfers and check on recent activity with the tap of a button instead of visiting a browser and typing in a URL.

Speaking of mobile banking, many national banks offer free apps that will allow you to monitor your accounts from your smartphone during shopping trips.

Bank of America, JP Morgan Chase, PNC Bank, USAA and many more banks, credit card companies and credit unions offer free apps to help you track your expenditures.

Take it one step further with apps like Mint.com Personal Finance that helps your monitor your personal spending.



Tech Savvy

Jon Gunnells

device. PayPal is perfect for paying online merchants or eBay sellers.

As for eBay, of course there's an app for that. If you are doing any holiday shopping, make sure to download the eBay and Amazon.com apps to track sales, purchases and payments in the palm of your hand.

Of course there are many apps beyond the realm of finance. You can check out Black Friday deals with Dealtaker Inc's Black Friday app. Or if you have a specific store in mind, there's a good chance you can download apps to check prices and more. Target, Walmart, Walgreens and Sam Club each have free apps.

You can even compare prices of items across all stores with an app like Red Laser which compares prices when you scan a product's bar code.

It may sound cliché but there truly is an app for everything. You can download cookbooks to help with holiday recipes, or navigation apps to help you find the nearest mall or big box store.

Even online gift giving can be completed from your handheld device as

many social coupon sites have free apps.

Once you get done pillaging your app store or marketplace for the programs that best fit your lifestyle, while not downloading something new fun.

Visit the games section and try out one of the most popular games across all platforms: Angry Birds Seasons. Use the angry birds to blow off some steam and take out some holiday aggression — instead of directing it to the crazy shoppers and mall parking lot drivers.

### Download an app

Don't know how to download an app? Don't worry here's how:

If you are on an Apple device like an iPad, iPhone, or iPod, click the "App Store" button, and get started. You can search for apps using keywords or search by categories.

Similarly, Android smartphone or tablet users can surf through apps in the Android marketplace. BlackBerry users can visit the BlackBerry World App that is preloaded on the device.

Jon Gunnells, a Northville Township resident, is a social media planner at a Detroit-based advertising agency. A 2007 graduate of Michigan State University, he holds a B.A. in journalism. When he's not working, Gunnells enjoys college sports, social media and playing basketball. He can be reached at jonathan.gunnells@gmail.com. Follow him on Twitter @GunnSh0w.

## PLYMOUTH BUSINESS BRIEFS



### Triple threat

Three businesses in downtown Plymouth who share office space recently held a grand opening. Pictured with the scissors is Kathy Bernardi, Brad Sandeberg and Jeff Scott from Michigan Management and Property Maintenance (property management), Rima Belau from Rima Designs (interior design) and Dawn Gallagher from Skin Rejuvenation Center (cosmetologist specializing in facial peels). They are located at 292 S. Main St., Suite 207 above Kilwin's.

### Computer class

Forest Computer Solutions will host an "All you need to know about Pictures" computer class on Wednesday, Nov. 30, from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Learn how to upload photos to SnapFish and print a photo album for a great gift, as well as how to receive and save pictures via e-mail. Class size is limited to eight people.

Call (734) 259-8611 to reserve a seat. Forest Computers is located at 480 Forest in downtown Plymouth.

### Business news

From the desk of the Plymouth Downtown Development Authority:

• Owner Robert Kolo of Panache 447 on Forest Ave. says he hopes to have his upscale restaurant open by mid-December.

• Sweet Afton Tea Room has 2011 Holiday High Tea on sale. This event sells out for all dates each year, so to avoid disappointment, call (734) 454-0777 or (313) 300-1672 to reserve tickets. Holiday music will be provided by Harpist Celisa Gutierrez. Tickets are \$37 for adults and \$25 for children under 10 (price includes tax and gratuity).

• Downtown shops will be having a ladies shopping night on Thursday, Dec. 1 from 5-9 p.m. This event is for

ladies to choose what they would like to receive as holiday gifts. Shops will have wish lists for attendees to fill out and give to their significant other.

Shoppers can also get some of their own holiday shopping done while enjoying refreshments and special treats. Bring new hats, scarves, mittens and hats for the Plymouth United Way's Hats for the Homeless drive. Donations can be dropped off at the participating stores during the event.

### Gingerbread houses

For a fun family outing, check out the display of Gingerbread House at shops around the downtown area, and then vote for your favorite to be entered into a drawing to win Plymouth gift certificates. Voting forms are available at each of the participating businesses and at the Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce office. The houses will be on display through Dec. 23.

### Holiday classics

The Penn Theatre in downtown Plymouth will be offering four classic holiday movies during the month of December: *It's a Wonderful Life*, *White Christmas*, *Polar Express* and *Elf*. Tickets are \$3. Go to [www.penntheatre.com/attractions](http://www.penntheatre.com/attractions) for dates and times.

## hometownlife.com OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC HOMETOWN WEEKLIES

### Donate a new gift to a local child in need



Give gifts from  
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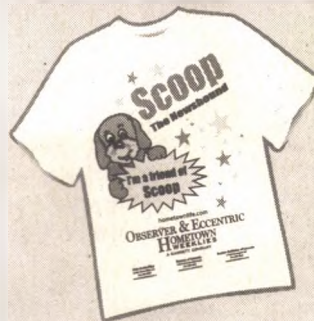
Bring a new unwrapped gift to one of the office locations below and as our way of saying thank you, receive a coupon for a free Buddy's 4 square cheese pizza.\*

All gifts will be given to Methodist Children's Home Society in Redford and Orchards Children Services in Southfield.

Methodist Children's Home Society is a 94-year old agency that responds to the needs of abused and neglected children by providing residential, adoption and foster care services.

Orchards Children's Services is a 50-year old agency that helps local troubled, abused and neglected children specializing in foster care and adoption.

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Friday,  
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3 p.m. - 5 p.m.  
41304 Concept Drive  
Plymouth, MI 48170

All unwrapped gifts will be accepted Nov. 6 through Dec. 9, at the addresses listed above.

\* while supply lasts

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## OUR VIEWS



# Give thanks, act locally

## Reach out, be grateful for family, friends

Each year always brings plenty of reasons to give thanks as we begin the holiday cycle. This Thanksgiving is no exception, but with a little reflection on what's really important, giving thanks can become more than a once-a-year opportunity.

Don't worry if the Lions lose the game on Thanksgiving. Be thankful that we have a great sports town, including (though certainly not limited to) Canton's girls volleyball team, which with a regional title to its name went farther than any Chiefs team in history, and the Plymouth, Canton and Salem high school swimmers, who sent 21 swimmers to the state swimming and diving championships over the weekend.

Overlook that remark from Cousin Don at Thanksgiving dinner. At least all the relatives brought a dish to pass.

And relax, it's OK that the TV is on. The Thanksgiving Parade will be a joy to watch, especially if you can catch the Macy's parade from New York featuring the Plymouth-Canton Marching Band.

Finding the little things to be grateful for all year long helps to offer balance when some bigger things, like losing a job or finding a loved one is terminally ill, seem to consume all too many waking thoughts, especially during the holidays.

For some area residents, however, even the little things are difficult to find. These are the people we may have dispassionately referred to in the past as the down-and-out — those who are down on their resources, emotionally and fiscally, and out of work and maybe out of their homes.

Those were the folks that, years ago, we heard about but didn't know. Now, they're the neighbor next door, picking up food and clothing at the Plymouth Salvation Army Corps in Plymouth or Open Door Ministry in Canton, or the dozens of other groups offering help. Need has a face; maybe this year it's the one staring back at you in the mirror.

This year, let your prayer of thanksgiving at Thursday's dinner table be more than a recitation of what is good in your life. Let it become a call to action. Invite the neighbor over to share your meal, or walk off the meal, carrying a treat with you that someone just may not be able to afford this year.

Find a little something your neighbor may need, and remember it while supporting your neighborhood merchants and shopping at your local grocer, specialty stores or department store.

Sometimes it is easier to make a donation than to get involved during the holidays. Go ahead, make that donation. Drop off a new toy for the Goodfellows or Toys for Tots and help make a child feel special on Christmas. But don't stop there — getting involved with that church or other civic group to help those in need is a priceless gift.

Soon the Thanksgiving leftovers will be parceled out, and the dishes put away. Don't store up those reasons to be grateful until next year. Remember them when a child at your kid's school can't afford to buy a book during the annual book fair. Recall them when a shopper comes up short while checking out at the grocery store.

And be grateful that local merchants have taken risks and ridden out the recession. Support them year 'round as well.

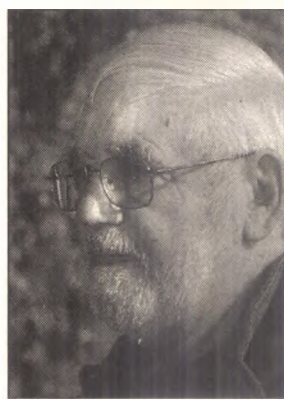
So enjoy the game and watch the parade, but make the day — and the season — one of sharing and caring.

## What are you thankful for?



"We have each other. We have our health."

**Bonnie Dyorich**  
Plymouth Township



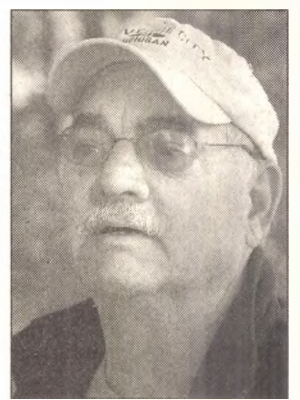
"The same. ... Satisfied."

**Michael Dyorich**  
Plymouth Township



"I'm thankful for my church. ... Plymouth Christian Academy. I'm a teacher there. I'm thankful to be a teacher."

**Kristin Chamberlain**  
Canton Township



"Family. That's always something to be thankful for. We're finally ending this crazy war in Iraq. And I'm thankful for my veteran (status)."

**Rick Regan**  
Plymouth



"I guess that my kids have jobs and we're safe. So many people are not, right now."

**Kathy Schettler**  
Plymouth



"My family."

**Angela Phillips**  
Canton



"Good health."

**Lori Austin**  
Canton



"My family, without any hesitation."

**Alisha Davis**  
Southfield

## LETTERS

### Homecoming kill-joys

I decided to chaperone PCCS homecomings after hearing all the rumors about grinding and the dress code. Well, after chaperoning four homecomings, I offer my observations and opinions:

1. Homecoming may be the only chance for some young ladies to wear a beautiful dress, even if they seem to be dressed for a slumber party. They are so cute and happy to be with their dressed-up friends.

2. Most of the guests are very well dressed, very well behaved and actually look after each other.

3. My understanding is that only school staff/police are allowed in the dance areas for obvious reasons: parents have no legal authority to touch/correct students, other than their own child (how embarrassing for their kid!).

4. A little "grinding" is much better than a bomb threat. So is all the creativity and effort that goes into each homecoming and the fun of planning an outfit to wear.

5. Finally and unfortunately, some chaperones are prudish kill-joys who really need to stay home.

Thank you to PCCS administration for continuing to provide each homecoming dance.

**Clare Barwick**  
Canton

### No 'right' to share

Occupiers believe by demanding a better country they will get it. Egyptians recently took to the streets and removed a dictator — the people are poorer now. Libya overthrew a tyrant and the Muslim Brotherhood now rules by Sharia Law!

Further back, Communists overthrew the Russian aristocracy. Millions were slaughtered in the century following. Hitler and Mussolini delivered prosperity and jobs, but cost the citizens dearly.

The United States has elections to choose leaders. Stop demanding gifts from the wealthy and study the political choices. There is no "right" to share the good fortune of others.

### WHAT DO YOU THINK?

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

E-mail: [bkadrich@hometownlife.com](mailto:bkadrich@hometownlife.com).

Read or comment online:  
[www.hometownlife.com](http://www.hometownlife.com)

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

Learn, work and invest to join the upper crust.

**Hank Borgman**  
Farmington

### Questions bully bill

The Michigan Senate recently distinguished itself by passing sweeping Anti-Bullying legislation (SB 137). My first thought as I glanced through the recent news article was that it was about time that our elected officials formalized such a law. Any and all kids deserve the basic right to feel safe and unthreatened when they walk through their school doors every morning.

Reading further into the article, I was surprised to discover that SB 137 didn't pass through the state Senate unanimously, the bill was passed along party lines — 26 Republican state senators supported the bill and 11 Democratic senators opposed it. How could anyone oppose this commonsense legislation that would protect our kids from such a destructive act?

Upon further research, turns out Democrats aren't pro-bullying, they were opposed to a Republican-supported section of the bill which states:

"This section does not prohibit a statement of a sincerely held religious belief or moral conviction of a school employee, school volunteer, pupil or a pupil and parent or guardian."  
Apparently 26 of our Republican

state senators (including my own representative) feel that bullying is OK (and legal) if the bully really, sincerely believes that his/her taunts and verbal humiliation are religiously or morally based. This anti-bullying bill certainly appears to allow any bully to excuse and legally defend their actions, rather than put an end to such unacceptable behavior.

Whose interests are being served when an anti-bullying law allows for bullying under specific religious and moral circumstances? I challenge any senator that voted in support of this bill to explain their position on this legislation.

Until we demand more of our elected officials, apparently this is the sort of government we should expect and deserve. I believe we all should expect and deserve better.

**Marty Drury**  
Highland

### Call the GOP

Mitch McConnell and Eric Cantor are very uncomfortable with the Wall Street protesters. Eric Cantor called them a "mob." They are a reminder that all is not well here in the U.S.

They would want you to believe that all Americans back the Republicans in their attempt to destroy our Social Security, our Medicare, our Medicaid, our public education system, etc. The big push to have a flat tax by the Republicans that even some right wing commentators say will cause us serious economic problems.

Meanwhile, Mitch McConnell and Eric Cantor and John Boehner keep repeating the same all give the rich more tax breaks and get rid of all regulations so they can gut our country ... they block all President Obama's attempts to put middle class and poor people back to work.

We should all call these Republicans and tell them enough is enough. Pass the Jobs Bill. The young people protesting on Wall Street want good government not broken government.

**Joanne Braund**  
Royal Oak

PLYMOUTH  
**OBSERVER**

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**Brad Kadrich,**  
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**Susan Rosiek,**  
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**Grace Perry,**  
Director of  
Advertising



# How to deal with grief during the holidays

By Cathy Clough  
Guest Columnist

Looking ahead to the holidays can be overwhelming when you're grieving after the death of someone you loved. Holidays are times that bring families together and the absence of an important member of the family can cause those who are grieving additional pain as they anticipate those upcoming days.

I've had many people say to me that they could eliminate all of the days between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day from the calendar! But they can't, and it's almost impossible to ignore the season. Everywhere you go you find holiday decorations and Christmas carols playing. And, everyone expects you to be merry – after all, it's the holiday season!

There are some things you can do to help yourself get through the days ahead if you're grieving. Let me share with you some of the things that helped me after the death of my first husband and many others I've been privileged to help over the years:

### Plan ahead realistically

If you don't plan and just let the holidays hit you expecting that they will be OK, you may be disappointed. Grieving people often have trouble planning ahead, but this is the one time that I suggest you think about



Cathy Clough

what you can do to make the holidays less intimidating. Do you want to do things the same or differently? Often-times, trying to do things the

same doesn't work – someone very important is missing and things can't be the same. Many people find that making some changes helps. Some of these changes could include changing where you have the holiday meal, planning a different menu or travelling.

If you make changes, be sensitive to the needs of others who have been affected by the death including small children. When my husband died, my children were very young so I didn't have the option of ignoring or running away from Christmas. We still had to have a tree and observe many of the traditions that were so important to them. I encourage families to talk about the things that are important to them. Decide which traditions are important and need to be continued and which traditions can be dropped or changed this year. Changing something this year doesn't mean that you can't do it again. It may take a lot of honest discussion and negotiation to decide what is important to all family members involved.

### HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

New Hope Center for Grief Support, in cooperation with Toll Brothers Inc., will be hosting a Holiday Open House at their Steeplechase of Northville community from 7-10 p.m. Friday, Dec. 2.

You are invited to leisurely tour the luxurious Harding Country Manor model home. The evening also includes raffles, appetizers from local restaurants, a chocolate fountain and musical entertainment. Valet service provided and sponsored by Toll Brothers.

New Hope Center for Grief Support is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that reaches out to those in our community and throughout southeastern Michigan who are grieving the death of a loved one. New Hope's mission, centered in Christian principles, is to help people work through their grief and offer hope and healing to all.

This event is one the larger fundraisers that New Hope relies upon to provide the funds, support and means by which New Hope Center can continue to offer support groups, seminars, workshops and other grief services free-of-charge.

The cost is \$40 (ages 21 and over only) prior to the event; \$45 at the door; \$30 is tax deductible.

Steeplechase is located at 17174 Crestbrook Drive, Northville (north of 6 Mile and west of Ridge Road)

To RSVP, call New Hope Center at (248) 348-0115 by Nov. 30 or register online at [www.newhopecenter.net](http://www.newhopecenter.net).

### Take care of yourself

Mourning after the death of a loved one is exhausting! If you don't take care of yourself, you may feel worse. As difficult as it might be, try to eat right, exercise and don't overcommit. And, you don't have to do everything you've done in the past. Prioritize! Do you really need to put up all those Christmas decorations? How about a tabletop tree instead of the full-sized tree you've always had. Shop on-line, buy gift cards or patronize your local stores rather than going to the mall.

Ask for help! Friends can shop for you, help you decorate ... you just need to ask. And, you don't need to send Christmas cards. People should understand if you don't this year.

### Include your loved one

He was an important part of your life and did exist. Many people will avoid mentioning his name because they don't want to make you feel sad or bring up something that could cause discomfort during this happy season. If you are like most grievers, you want your loved one

to be remembered this holiday season. It's probably going to be up to you to make sure that happens. Bring his/her name up in conversation. Ask others to share memories or pictures. You could even go around the holiday table and ask people to share a memory. Light a candle in your loved one's memory. Make a donation in his or her memory to your church or charity. Do something because of your loved one.

### Reach out to others

Sometimes just putting the focus on something or someone other than yourself can help you. Maybe you could invite someone to share a holiday meal with you – someone who has no family or has lost their job. You'll be amazed at how good this will make you feel.

I hope that some of these suggestions will help you as you face this holiday season. And hold on to this hope ... eventually you'll face the holiday season with a mild sadness or happiness and anticipation again. You'll remember the good times of holidays past, rather than those early days soon after the death of the one you loved.

Cathy Clough is the founder/executive director of New Hope Center for Grief Support located in Northville. She can be reached at (248) 348-0115 or [cathy@newhopecenter.net](mailto:cathy@newhopecenter.net).

## CALENDAR

### CHEER CLINIC

**Date/Time:** Saturday, Dec. 17, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

**Location:** In the cafeteria at Plymouth High school.

**Details:** The Plymouth High School competitive cheer teams will be sponsoring a Kids Cheer Clinic for first grade through eighth grade girls. All Clinic participants will receive a T-shirt and snacks. The Clinic will end with a performance for family and friends. Cost is \$30 per child.

**Contact:** Visit [www.plymouthcheer.com](http://www.plymouthcheer.com) for a registration form.

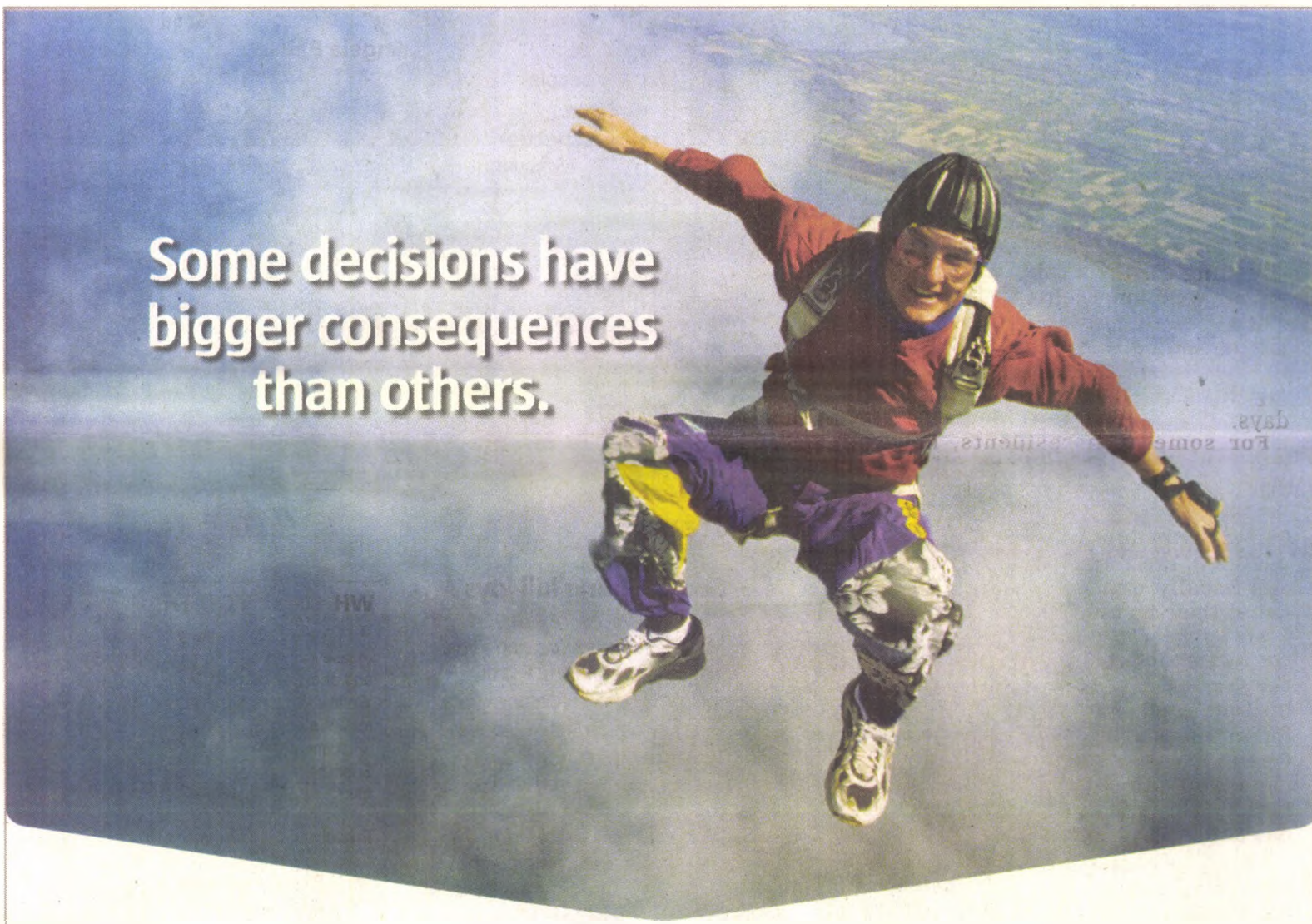
### MOPS MEETINGS

**Date/Time:** First-third Fridays, 9:15-11:30 a.m.

**Location:** St. Kenneth Catholic Church, 14951 Haggerty, Plymouth

**Details:** The St. Edith/St. Kenneth Catholic Parishes' Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS) group invites all mothers with children aged newborn through kindergarten to join. The group provides the encouragement, nurturing, and support and features a schedule of activities that include speakers, crafts, and group discussions.

**Contact:** Heather at (734) 437-9517 or e-mail [stekmops@gmail.com](mailto:stekmops@gmail.com), or visit [www.stekmops.org](http://www.stekmops.org).



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\*Based on Medicare's 2011 and 2012 Overall Plan Star Ratings. See full results at [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov). Plan performance summary star ratings are assessed each year and may change from one year to the next. Health Alliance Plan is a health plan with a Medicare contract. Alliance Medicare Rx (pdp) is a stand-alone Prescription Drug Plan with a Medicare contract. Alliance Medicare Supplement plan is not connected with or endorsed by the United States Government or the Federal Medicare program. Neither Alliance Medicare Supplement nor its agents are connected with Medicare.

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# Wayne County Parks' Lightfest brightens the holiday season

It's billed as the Midwest's largest and longest light show - more than 45 giant animated displays and more than one million lights stretching more than four miles along Hines Drive from Westland to Dearborn Heights.

Wayne County Parks' annual Lightfest opened with a bang last week as adults and children joined Santa Claus and Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano in lighting up Hines Park for the holidays.

In its 15th year, the display stretches from Merriman Hollow in Westland to Warrendale Park east of Telegraph and features such popular displays as the Celebration of Lights arch, Cecil the Magic Dragon, a large waving polar bear with cubs, an animated Old Glory, an animated snowflake arches and the new music note tunnel.

Youngsters can stop and visit Santa's Workshop at the Warrendale Park at the end of the Lightfest. Santa will be there from Thanksgiving until Dec. 23. They can bring their letters to Santa and put them in a giant mailbox outside of his workshop. Santa's elves will pick up the letters each night to get them to the North Pole.

Lightfest is open 7-10 p.m. daily now through Dec. 31, except for Christmas Day when it will be closed. Enter Lightfest at the Merriman entrance to Hines Park, north of Warren Road. There's a \$5 fee per vehicle. However, Tuesday, Dec. 6, 13

and 20, are Toy Nights. Wayne County will be lending a hand to provide toys to disadvantaged children. On those three nights, the community is invited to bring a new, unwrapped toy in lieu of the \$5 vehicle fee.

Although Lightfest begins at 7 p.m., Hines Drive will be closed to traffic beginning at 5:45 p.m. nightly.

Families also are invited to take part in the Family Holiday Fest and Tree Lighting 4-6 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 10, at the Nankin Mills Interpretive Center on Hines Drive at Ann Arbor Trail.

The Friends of Nankin Mills and Wayne County Parks are inviting the community to participate in the old-fashioned celebration. This is the 24th year the Friends of Nankin Mills have sponsored the event.

The event includes crafts and games from 4 to 5:15 p.m., followed by the tree lighting at 5:15 p.m.

There's a \$4 charge for the seasonal crafts which include make-and-take tree decorations. There also will be unique seasonal games, such as fruitcake bowling, Pin the nose on Rudolph and reindeer antler wreath toss. The second part of the program is free, and includes a short outdoor community Mill lighting and sing-a-long with an indoor visit from St. Nick, sponsored by the Friends of Nankin Mills. Refreshments will be provided.

For more information on these Wayne County Parks events, call (734) 261-1990.



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Santa Claus as his reindeer pull his sleigh in one of the 45 displays lining Hines Drive.



Santa Claus and Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano watch Sophia Mark perform a solo during the festivities.



Santa Claus, dancers, doughnuts, fireworks and a crowd of more than 100 people were there for opening night for the Wayne County Lightfest in Hines Park.



Westland residents Amanda Skiver brought Celeste Hernandez, 7, and Emily Gomez, 8, and Nicholas Bee brought daughter Madison Bee, 8, to the opening ceremony. Joining them is Santa Claus, a North Pole resident.



Seven-year-old Michael Pushies asks Santa for an iPad for Christmas. Mom and dad Sarah and Rich Pushies are from Westland.



The dancers of Dance Extreme perform a holiday dance at the Lightfest opening ceremony as families waited for the lights to be turned on. The throwing of the switch was carried live on Fox 2 News.



# All Stars make 25th appearance in parade

The Mid American Pompon All Star team will perform in America's Thanksgiving Day Parade for its 25th consecutive year.

During the parade, the team will open national coverage with an original pompon routine performed to a new Detroit-themed song. The team will also present an additional routine during the route.

The prestigious All Star team, which originated in 1986 with only 40 members, has grown to more than 200 performers from high schools throughout Michigan. Each year, they perform at several events throughout the United States.

The All Star Team is comprised of pompon girls from more than 40 cities, including Farmington, Livonia, South Lyon, Northville, Novi, Garden City and Canton. The group is well known for its creative chore-

ography which involves sharp, precise and unified moves, showmanship and spectacular kicklines. They use pompoms and upbeat music.

During the parade, they will perform their routine up to 40 times.

To be eligible for the Mid American Pompon All Star team, girls must be a member of a high school varsity pompon or dance team. Each year team members are selected based upon their outstanding showmanship, academic stature and pompon/dance performing abilities. Auditions take place at Mid American summer camps.

The girls perform together three to four times a year. They have performed at Presidential Inaugural Parades for President Bill Clinton and President George W. Bush, the Fiesta Bowl and Citrus Bowl parades, the 2007 Motor City Bowl at Ford Field in Detroit, the

1996 Olympics in Atlanta, Sea World of Ohio, Epcot Center and on Carnival Cruise Lines, as well as at Detroit Stars and Ignition games.

The All Star Team has been invited to perform in the Cultural Olympiad, Big Dance 2012, which will take place before the July opening of the Olympic Games in London. Dancers and choreographers from around the world will unite for a celebration of dance in all of its forms.

Mid American Pompon was established in 1979 by owner Karen Blazaitis. It has become Michigan's leader in pompon and dance instruction and summer camps for high school teams. The team is based out of Mid American Studio in Farmington Hills, which offers instruction in fitness, dance and pom for children and adults.

For more information, visit [www.pompon.com](http://www.pompon.com).



The Mid American Pompon All Star team features girls from high school pompon teams from Farmington, Livonia, South Lyon, Howell, Dearborn, Northville, Novi, Garden City, Canton and Birmingham.



The Mid American Pompon All Star team will open national coverage of America's Thanksgiving Day Parade with an original pompon routine performed to a new Detroit-themed song.

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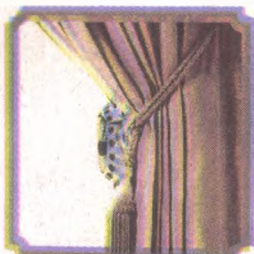


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# Vigil to honor loved ones lost too soon

By Brad Kadrich  
Observer Staff Writer

Members of the Compassionate Friends know the holidays are tough times for people who've lost loved ones, especially children.

In an effort to help with the grief, The Compassionate Friends, Western Wayne County (Livonia) Chapter, sponsor their 15th annual Worldwide Candle Lighting ceremony in Kellogg Park in downtown Plymouth today, Dec. 11, in conjunction with Children's Memorial Day.

"The holidays are especially difficult for parents who have lost children," said committee member



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Gail Lafferty of Livonia reads the names of children lost to their families during The Compassionate Friends candlelight vigil last year in Plymouth's Kellogg Park. This year's vigil is set for Sunday, Dec. 11.

Gail Lafferty. "This candle-lighting ceremony honoring them helps their

memory live on." The ceremony will include the dedication

of at least two trees decorated with ornaments featuring the children's

names, a candle-light vigil, a reading of the children's names, poetry and songs.

The local ceremony includes the candle-lighting at 7 p.m. in conjunction with the world-wide candle-lighting. The idea is that, as candles burn down in one time zone, they're lit in another, creating a 24-hour memorial.

Recognized in communities around the world, International Children's Memorial Day is already officially sanctioned by the U.S. Congress.

"Hundreds of families will gather near a tree specially decorated with the names of children who have died too soon,"

Lafferty said.

The vigil annually includes the reading the names of those lost too soon. Organizers are recommending people arrive by 6:30 p.m.

Friends and family are invited to the remembrance and candles will be provided. You do not have to attend to register your child. Anyone with a name they'd like read, or who wants more information about the event, can call or e-mail candle-lighting committee members Gail Lafferty or Brenda Hernandez, tcf-candlelight@yahoo.com or (734) 778-0800.

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# Do your homework before donating to any charity

**By Rick Bloom**  
Guest Columnist

Happy Thanksgiving to you and your loved ones! I think most would agree that the holiday season has arrived and, along with it, the Black Friday sales and all of the other associated ploys to get us to buy, buy and buy some more. As I discussed in a column a few weeks ago, it is important to have a game plan and a budget before you hit the stores.

Another recurring event that happens as we hit the holiday season is that charities gear up for their year-end, gift-giving campaigns. And as difficult as it is, there too, you must set a budget.

There is no doubt that we live in difficult times. High unemployment and a sluggish econo-



**Money Matters**  
Rick Bloom

my have taken their toll. There is great need. However, just like shopping, you need to set a budget as to how much you want to give this holiday season.

After you set a budget and it comes time to choose individual charities, do it wisely. There are so many good charities that need your money. You don't want your generosity going to an organization that wastes your money. With the advent of the Internet, it is easy for bogus charities to solicit donors through e-mails that tug at their heartstrings. These bogus charities also have bogus websites that look legitimate. That

is why when it comes to giving to a charity, even if it's one that you are somewhat familiar with, perform some sort of background check before making a contribution. After all, the reason you are giving is because you want your money to help accomplish a worthy goal.

Determining whether a charity's goal is important to support is just the first step. Think of it as a decision tree and the first branch that you take is the cause that you want to support. We all know that for any cause, there is more than one charity. That first step will require some research. For example, for those who wish to support our troops, there are many great charities that do so, from the USO to Wounded Warriors. It would be nice to say just give to them all, but that's not real-

ty. Therefore, you need to narrow your choices. Once you have done so, establish that they are legitimate and will be good stewards of your money. Obviously there are scam artists out there that have no charitable purpose whatsoever and, are just trying to steal your money. However, there are many legitimate charities that genuinely try to do good work, but are just poor managers of your money. Doing research before you donate will provide valuable information to assist you.

With the Internet, you can do some effective investigating of a charity. There are both federal and state agencies that have information about charities. In addition, the following are a couple of websites that I use: [www.give.org](http://www.give.org) through the Better Business Bureau and [www.charitynavigator.org](http://www.charitynavigator.org). Both of these websites have a wealth of information with regards to charities.

Those of us who give know the good feeling of donating our hard-earned money to help others. But the main reason we give is because we want to promote a good cause and to accomplish something. To do so, do your homework. If you don't, there is the risk that your money is not going to help a charitable cause.

As we enter the charitable-giving season, make sure your money goes to a worthwhile charity. Good luck!

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

## COOL YULE SCHEDULE

### Around Town

**10 - 4 pm: Christmas in the Country Craft Show** (South Lyon High School, 1000 N. Lafayette) Admission is \$3 or \$2 with a can of food for Active Faith.

**11 am: Candy Cane Hunt** (McHattie Park) Pre-register by Nov. 28 for \$3. On-site registration is \$5. Please be on time and bring a bag for your goodies.

Ages 3 - 5: (11 am - 11:15 am)  
Ages 6 - 9: (11:15 am - 11:30 am)  
Ages 10 - 12 (11:30 am - 11:45 am).

Call (248) 437-8105 or [www.slrec.net](http://www.slrec.net) to register.

Sponsored by South Lyon Area Recreation Agency, South Lyon Cycle, Busch's and Kumon Learning Center.

**Noon: Santa Arrives Downtown!** Santa will make the rounds throughout downtown. He'll be stopping by to say "hello" to one of his reindeers at South Lyon Cycle.

**Noon - 3 pm: Live Reindeer Downtown** (South Lyon Cycle 209 S. Lafayette) Get your picture taken a reindeer from Carousel Acres!

**3 - 5 pm: Christmas Family Fun Event** (First United Methodist Church, 640 S. Lafayette) A free event featuring cookie decorating, ornament making, hot chocolate bar, pop corn, hot dogs, music and so much more!

**3 - 8 pm: Cougar Christmas Cabaret** (VFW Hall, 125 E. McHattie) Spaghetti dinner and musical entertainment featuring SLEHS students.

Event is from 3-8 pm with dinner served from 4-7 pm. Dinner price: \$7/person or \$30/family of 5 or more. \$2 donation if you're just coming for the entertainment—will get you a delicious cup of hot chocolate!

**5:30 - 8:30 pm: Historic House Tours** (The Dunigan's House, 216 E. Lake) Donations accepted for South Lyon High School Band Program.

### 4 & 7 pm: Holiday Movie at the Lyon Theater

(126 E. Lake) Get a break from the cold and enjoy a show. "The Muppets" (rated PG) plays at 4 & 7 pm.

**4-6 pm: Bake Sale** (St. Joseph Catholic Church, 830 S. Lafayette) will continue on Sunday from 8 am-1 pm.

**5:30 pm: Cool Yule Fun Run** Free fun run will lead the parade. Holiday attire and lights are encouraged!

Visit [www.slxc.com/coolyle](http://www.slxc.com/coolyle) for more information.

**Lighted Parade** Route goes from Whipple Street, south on Pontiac Trail to Dorothy Street, ending at the Witch's Hat Depot and Historic Village.

### Festivities at Historic Village (6:30-8:30 pm)

**Tree Lighting Ceremony** Directly after the parade, join us for a ceremony at the Gazebo near Witch's Hat.

**Holiday Stories Reading** Librarians from the Salem-South Lyon Library read some of their favorite holiday stories aloud in the turn-of-the-century schoolhouse.

**Father Christmas at the Freight House** The first 50 children will get a special gift from Father Christmas!

**Holiday Cookie Walk** Goodies, treats, cookies and sweets! All proceeds go to Boy Scout Troop 38.

**Music in the Chapel** A woodwind quartet will play beautiful holiday music from 7-8 pm in the restored chapel.

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# Regional Marketplace

ADVERTISING FEATURE

## Home for the Holidays

Abbey Park in Lyon Township will fill with festive cheer this Friday, kicking off the third annual Festival of Trees to benefit local charities.

"Community groups decorate all of our trees and each year the Festival grows bigger and better," said Tamra Ward, Abbey Park Administrator. "Our residents, their families and the local community look forward to seeing all of the energy and creativity that goes into decorating all of our beautiful trees."

The local community is invited to participate in this year's Festival of Trees by voting for their favorite tree with a \$1 donation. Voting concludes at 2:00 on Christmas Eve and all of the proceeds from the donation ticket sales will benefit a charity chosen by the winning design team. In 2010, 18 community groups and organizations decorated trees for the competition.

Located on Milford Road just across from Coyote Golf Club in Lyon Township, Abbey Park is a popular new community for seniors looking for affordable retirement living near friends and family. The community has welcomed over 170 new residents since opening in January 2009.

### Something for Everyone

Abbey Park brings in the New Year with a festive dinner, and concludes each year with their Community Christmas Celebration and Festival of Trees. Residents have enjoyed a little midnight madness at a Pearls, Pumps and Pajamas Party, kicked up their heels at their midsummer dance and joined the limbo line at the Grandparents Day Luau and pig roast. To celebrate autumn, residents were treated to an Oktoberfest event including serving wenchers, marching waiters, bratwurst, German potato salad and apple



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Abbey Park at Mill River resident Lois Watson was recently awarded first place at the annual Senior Spelling Bee. Residents at Abbey Park enjoy weekly dinner trips, monthly visits to local casinos and bi-weekly shopping excursions in addition to field trips to local events, musicals, festivals and parades.

strudel - along with a little beer and musical entertainment. Over 200 grandchildren, great-grandchildren and even a couple of great-great grandchildren participated in the annual Halloween Carnival complete with ghosts, games and a costume parade.

A typical week at Abbey Park kicks off on Sunday with an elegant champagne brunch, all faiths church service and cookies and coffee with family and friends. An average week offers the residents more than 45 events and activities to choose from, including live entertainment, Bingo, card clubs, two ice cream socials, weekly dinner trips, chair fitness classes, shopping, scheduled chauffeured transportation, movies and a weekly Happy Hour.

Residents also enjoy monthly casino trips, excursions to Kensington Metro Park and Erwin's Orchards, attendance at local plays and concerts and visits to annual festivals such as Milford Memories and Pumpkinfest.

In a community all their own, residents operate a small Country Store with basic grocery and personal items, and participate on a council that comments and suggests amendments and additions to the

daily menu and activities schedule.

"Anything our seniors are willing to do, we make available to them," said Tamra Ward, Administrator for the Lyon Township location. "We encourage residents to be as active as they can be for as long as possible so they can maintain their independence."

### Live Longer, Healthier, Happier

A full activity schedule, great food and a wealth of amenities are just the beginning at Abbey Park. The community features 24-hour staffing, a medical alert system, scheduled chauffeured transportation, a beautiful dining room, and delicious meals in addition to a cafe, theater, chapel, library, fitness center, beauty salon and the reassurance of a full facility generator.

Abbey Park residents are no strangers to the local community. Group trips are planned for events like the Milford Fourth of July Parade and Hartland Senior Center's Home for the Holidays, plays and performance at local schools, shopping trips and dinner outings to Deadwood Bar & Grill in Northville and

other restaurants in the area.

Although Abbey Park is one of the newest businesses in the neighborhood, they have generously supported many local events and organizations including South Lyon Pumpkinfest, Lyon Township's Kite Festival, Operation Injured Soldier, the Lyon Township Film Festival and Lyon Area Rotary in addition to the Grace Care Center in Trincmalee, Sri Lanka.

Located just 1.5 miles south of I-96 and minutes away from Novi, Brighton and Ann Arbor, Abbey Park offers affordable luxury. From beautifully landscaped grounds and courtyards to an elegant lobby with fountains, fireplaces, a grand piano and comfortable lounge areas, residents are proud to welcome visitors to their new home.

Life at Abbey Park includes a variety of complimentary conveniences that are often an added expense at other communities. On a daily basis, housekeepers make the beds and take out trash. Residents start their day with continental breakfast in the cafe, and enjoy a delicious lunch or dinner in the Grand Dining Room. Once a week, all residents are treated to full cleaning services, including laundering bed linens and towels.

There are nine floor plans to choose from, ranging from one bedroom with one bath to two bedrooms with two full baths and two walk-in closets. All apartments include either a balcony or patio and a medical monitoring system that is easily accessed from several areas within each unit. Heat, water, electricity and basic cable services are also included.

With an average of 45 weekly events and activities to choose from, days at Abbey Park are full of fun and friendship. Activity Director Cindy Kometh and her assistant Karen

**"They make us feel special here. I don't think we could find a better place to live."**

Ed Kustron,  
Abbey Park resident

Hanley work full time to provide opportunities for socialization, entertainment and great food.

### The Home of the Brave

Abbey Park also hosts monthly Huron Valley Am-Vet Post 2006 meetings for veterans and their spouses. Some veterans are eligible for up to \$1900 per month in reimbursed living expenses. "Many veterans are not aware of the Aid and Attendance Benefit available through the Veterans Administration." In addition to monthly meetings, the community recently dedicated their "Hall of Honor" commemorating the service of resident Veterans.

World War II Veteran, Ed Kustron, a resident of Abbey Park, is proud of his military service to his country and enjoys reminiscing with the 30 Veterans who are also neighbors in the community. Kustron and his wife, Margaret, moved to Abbey Park from Farmington Hills and are quite sure they've found a happy home. They've become regular players in card games, enjoy the food and new friends and are fond of the Hospitality Director Charles Duty, who regularly makes a special delivery of buttermilk - their favorite drink.

"They make us feel special here," Kustron said. "I don't think we could find a better place to live."

Residents stay connected with friends and family on the Abbey Park facebook page. Visit [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com) to check out photos from year-round events, say hello to Abbey Park residents or keep up with scheduled events. Abbey Park also produces monthly newsletters, weekly activity schedule and a daily posting of menus, schedules and photos from previous events on their in-house monitor system.

"Our friendly staff members arrive each day and work with one directive: to treat our residents at Abbey Park as if they are our own parents," Ward said. "As a result, we all feel like part of one big family here; this is our home away from home."



Abbey Park at Mill River is a great place to call home for the holidays. In addition to dozens of holiday parties, events and concerts, life at Abbey Park includes weekly live entertainment, wine and cheese, Happy Hour, ice cream socials, Wii Bowling, movies and card parties.

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DIVISION 1 GIRLS SWIMMING & DIVING FINALS



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Canton's 200 medley relay team of (from left) Delaney Adams, Hannah Jenkins, Destinee Barmore-Hicks and Caitlin Orr swam in the consolation heat of the D1 finals.

## Taking it to the limit



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Springing off the blocks to begin the championship heat of the 500 freestyle at EMU is Salem senior Lauren Seroka. She finished seventh.

## Chiefs drink in EMU scene

By Tim Smith  
Observer Staff Writer

A look at the bigger picture revealed a silver lining for Canton's varsity girls swimming and diving team.

Canton only had swimmers in one event at Saturday's Division 1 finals at Eastern Michigan University.

The 200 medley relay team of Caitlin Orr, Hannah Jenkins, Delaney Adams and Destinee Barmore-Hicks finished 16th in the consolation heat (1:52.67) to give the 37th-place Chiefs their only two points of the finals.

But that relay team also had Canton's EMU highlight, going 1:52.28 during Friday's prelims to set a new school record.

"We had some great swims on Friday," Chiefs coach Ed Weber said. "Our medley relay broke the school record. Delaney Adams had her best time in the 200 IM yesterday. Hannah Jenkins dropped considerable time in her IM.

"Destinee Barmore-Hicks had a very nice swim in the 100 freestyle (54.2), Claire Green had an outstanding swim

*'We had some great swims on Friday. Our medley relay broke the school record.'*

ED WEBER  
Canton coach

in the 500 freestyle with a 5:13, she dropped six seconds. Caitlin Orr had a fabulous backstroke swim at a 1:01.7."

According to Weber, this year's experience at Jones Natatorium should benefit them next season. Virtually everybody will return, pumped up to "not just make our qualifying times" like they did this year.

"Next year we're getting (everybody) back, and we hope to make steps forward and score at this level," Weber continued. "There's a lot of pressure to perform, not only conference meet, but turn around and do it at state meet and do it again on Saturday.

"The on Saturday swims even on our relay today."

Please see SWIMMING, B4

## Rocks go all out in bittersweet finale for Seroka

By Tim Smith  
Observer Staff Writer

Choked up with emotion, Salem senior Lauren Seroka remembered her first trip to the girls swimming and diving finals as a freshman in 2008.

"I placed third in the 200 free my freshman year and now that (time) would have hardly made it to the top 16," said Seroka during Saturday's Division 1 state championships at Eastern Michigan University's Jones Natatorium. "It just shows how fast it's gotten over the years."

Farming Hills Mercy set the pace, showing plenty of talent and depth at each event en route to tallying 258 points and capturing the D1 title.



Giving a thumbs up to her Salem teammates before starting the consolation heat of the 100 backstroke is Salem junior Abby Aumiller.

Salem finished 19th with 28 points.

Seroka talked shortly after her seventh-place finish in the 500 freestyle final. There was disappointment in her voice about following up her

school-record time of 5:02.46 in Friday's preliminaries (second place) with Saturday's 5:04.47.

"I would have like to have gone faster," she said. "But I did everything I could."

### Bouncing back

But true to her entire career with the Rocks, Seroka rebounded quickly to team up with junior Maddie Gorman, sophomore Julia Suriano and junior Abby Aumiller to set a new Free relay record in the 400-free relay, the final event of the day.

The quartet placed 13th with a time of 3:38.12, which was significantly faster than the 3:39.98 recorded at prelims (16th).

"My 400 relay really brightened my mood," said Seroka, with a smile following the last race she'd ever swim for the Rocks. "We broke it (record) by five seconds. I love my relay."

Veteran Salem head

Please see FINALS, B4

## Shamrocks work OT for berth in D1 final

By Ed Wright  
Observer Staff Writer

As the sixth play of overtime unfolded Saturday in the Division 1 semifinal football game between Novi-Detroit Catholic Central and Rockford, the stands

**DIVISION 1 FOOTBALL SEMIFINAL** were packed with thousands

of fans, the sidelines were jammed with close to 150 players and Ram defensive backs shadowed Shamrock receivers in the north end zone of Battle Creek's C.W. Post Field.

But Catholic Central running Anthony Darkangelo was all ... by ... himself. And for that, the Rams paid dearly.

With his team trailing 20-17 and facing a second-and-goal at the Ram seven, Darkangelo slipped out of the backfield like a thief in the night and hurried in Kyle Cooper's soft spiral to put the hammer down on CC's dramatic, 23-20 victory.

### On to the finals

The 12-1 Shamrocks earned a berth in the state final 1 p.m. Saturday at Ford Field against Detroit Cass Tech (10-3). "The play is called 35 Wham and I wasn't the



Zack Bock dashes down the field during Catholic Central's Division 1 semifinal win over Rockford.

primary receiver," Darkangelo said. "It's supposed to go to our tight end, but I was wide open; so Kyle threw it to me. I just wanted to make sure I caught it."

"It seemed like the ball took about two minutes to get there," CC coach Tom Mach said. "Anthony made a great catch and Kyle put it right where it should be.

"It was a hard-fought game. Rockford is one of the best teams we've faced this year. It was

one of those games that you were just happy to be able to participate in. Both teams played terrific."

Darkangelo's catch capped a thrill-a-minute showdown that was stuffed with offensive fireworks and bone-crunching collisions.

After yielding 17 first-half points to Rockford's multidimensional, misdirection-loaded "Wings & Things" offense, the

Please see GRID, B4

BOYS HOCKEY PREVIEW - PT. 2

## Salem vets to set tone

By Tim Smith  
Observer Staff Writer

Gone from Salem's varsity boys hockey team are a few of last year's top skaters to mention an all-state netminder.

But things shouldn't change too much at the Plymouth Cultural Center this winter. Expect the 2011-12 Rocks to continue skating, slamming, scoring and making life tough for rivals in the KLA South Division.

Salem opened the schedule Wednesday night against Division 1 state champion Novi in a game that took place after this issue of the *Observer* went to press. Next up, the Rocks host Canton at 8:30 p.m. Saturday.

"All of our returning guys are good players," said Salem's fifth-year head coach Ryan Ossenmacher. "We have everybody on our team expected to contribute so we should be in for another exciting year."

A quartet of seniors will be leaned on heavily while newcomers get up to varsity speed.

Back in the blue-and-white are several players who played key roles in 2010-11 — when Salem finished the regular season 17-6-2 overall and 7-3-1 in the division (second place).



Leading the Salem charge will be forward and senior captain Mark McGee (No. 9), shown threatening to score in a 2010-11 game.

Senior forward and captain Mark McGee leads the way. A second-team all-stater in '10-11, McGee was Salem's second leading scorer with 20 goals and 27 assists.

Salem's assistant captains are senior forward Austin Sartorius (third in scoring last year), senior defenseman Michael Manser (fourth in scoring) and Kyle Eggenberger.

### Scoring punch

"They all know what we expect," Ossenmacher said. "All of them had good success last year."

McGee and Sartorius will be the top scoring threats on Salem's No. 1 and No. 2 forward lines.

"We have two lines that we expect to compete and score," Ossenmacher said.

On one of those lines, junior Alek Zultowski will center McGee and 6-4 sophomore Jason Newel.

"He (Zultowski) centered McGee last year so they're a little familiar with each other," the coach said.

He said Newel brings size and skill. "He's got something you can't teach with the size aspect; he's got some pretty good abilities to go along with that."

Salem's other big line features 6-4 center Sartorius.

Please see ICERS, B3



# All-area soccer stars turn in pitch-perfect efforts

## First team

**Rene Mejia, GK, Sr., Plymouth:** The acrobatic senior goalkeeper posted seven shutouts for the Wildcats, leading them to a record of 8-6-2 overall and 6-2-2 in the KLAA South.

For his efforts, Mejia was named to the All-KLAA 1st team.

"Outstanding goalie for the 'Cats," coach Jeff Neschich said. "He was a team captain and the vocal leader on the field."

"He made the outstanding saves for us all season and kept us in a lot of games."

**Connor Furgason, Def., Sr., Canton:** The senior and co-captain scored 17 goals, many coming off of corner kicks, and added nine assists for the Division 1 champion Chiefs.

Furgason was instrumental in Canton's lone goal in the final against Grand Haven as he screened the goalkeeper on the long shot by Daniel Ovesea.

Honors keep piling up for him, too. He was named to the All-KLAA, All-District, All-Region and 1st-team All-State teams.

And add to that lofty honors such as All-State "Dream Team," regional All-American and national All-American.

"Connor displayed a tremendous amount of leadership qualities that can unite any team," coach George Tomasso said.

**Jake Genrich, Def., Sr., Salem:** The senior defender began his three-year varsity Salem stint by starting in the Division 1 state semifinal in 2009 and he kept on accomplishing big things the rest of the way.

The team captain tallied four goals and four assists for the Rocks, who were in the state's Top-10 rankings for part of the season.

"Jake reads the game exceptionally well and has outstanding anticipation," coach Ed McCarthy said.

Genrich was named to the 2nd-team All-State and All-KLAA squads for his excellent season and was Salem's Most Valuable Defensive Player. He will play college soccer at Bowling Green.

**Tyler Winningham, Def., Sr., Canton:** Whenever Canton needed to take a key corner kick, it often was Winningham to handle the task.

Many times during the Chiefs' championship season, those corner kicks were perfectly placed inside the goal box and enabled teammates to finish off goals.

An all-around player, the defender collected nine goals and eight assists and was named to the All-KLAA, All-District and All-Region teams. Winningham also was selected as an All-State honorable mention player.

"Tyler displayed sportsmanship throughout the season and on one occasion helped an opposing injured player," Tomasso said.

**Alex Jones, Def., Sr., Churchill:** The senior central defender earned honorable mention all-state honors in Division 1 along with being named to the all-KLAA team.

"Alex was our best player," Churchill coach Reid Friedrichs said. "He's one

of the best one-on-one defenders we've had at Churchill in a long time."

**Mitchell Boehm, Def., Sr., Luth. Westland:** The senior defender showed his versatility with 14 goals and two assists en route to Division 2 second-team all-state honors and first-team all-Michigan Independent Athletic Conference honors.

"Depending on the opponent and what the score was at the time Mitchell was asked to play several different spots on the pitch," Lutheran Westland coach Rich Block said. "So he never really had the luxury to just stay in one spot and pad his stats. Mitchell's dedication to the success of team and program came first to him, not personal stats or goals."

Boehm also played full time on Lutheran Westland's playoff-qualifying football team as a kicker and defensive back.

"Mitchell is a strong player physically, mentally and very highly skilled both technically and tactically," Lutheran Westland coach Rich Block said. "Mitchell's stats may have not been as elevated as some, his value to our team was his strong presence goal line-to-goal line and touch line to touch line."

Boehm, a first-team Lutheran High School All-America, plans to play next season at either Madonna or Concordia (Wis.).

**Brent Winkler, MF, Jr., Farmington:** The junior midfielder is a three-year varsity starter for the Falcons, who are the OAA White Division champions. Winkler played a large role in Farmington having a 13-3-4 record as he scored 20 goals and had four assists. He was the offensive catalyst who often got things started and ended up on the finishing end. In his high school career, he has 36 goals and 22 assists.

Winkler, who was a team captain, is an all-league, all-district and all-state, third-team selection. He helped Waza FC West 95 win the U-16 State Cup last summer, and he has since joined the Columbus Soccer Academy Wolves U-16 team.

"Brent is one of the most talented players to ever play at Farmington," coach Luke Juncaj said. "He is a complete player who can be effective at any position. He has great speed and works extremely hard. Brent is a consistent player. This year he scored in just about every game."

**Jacob Bur, MF, Sr., N. Farmington:** The senior midfielder was a three-year starter who also played defense for a portion of the season due to injuries. He moved back to attacking mid, scoring seven goals and making four assists. Bur was a major reason why the Raiders owned the midfield at the end of the season, according to coach Mike Horner. Bur was the player designated to take all corner and penalty kicks. He is an all-division player and an all-state academic honoree with a 4.0 GPA.

"Jake is every coach's dream," Horner said. "He is smart, mentally and physically tough and a consummate team player. As a cap-

## 2011 ALL-OBSERVER BOYS SOCCER TEAMS FIRST TEAM

GK-Rene Mejia, Sr. Plym.  
DEF-Connor Furgason, Sr., Canton.

DEF-Jake Genrich, Sr., Salem  
DEF-Tyler Winningham, Sr., Canton

DEF-Alex Jones, Sr., Churchill  
DEF-Mitch Boehm, Sr., Luth. Westland

MF-Brent Winkler, Jr., Farmington  
MF-Jake Bur, Sr., N. Farm.

MF-Dan Ross, Jr., Ply. Christian  
MF-Chris Ensor, Sr., Salem

F-Daniel Ovesea, Jr., Canton  
F-Mitch Posuniak, Sr., Canton

F-Vaughn Frederick, Sr., Garden City  
F-Zach Atwood, Jr., Stev.

F-Jeff Thomas, Sr., Stev.  
SECOND TEAM

GK-Austin Valentine, Sr., John Glenn  
GK-Matt Wisniewski, Jr., Garden City

DEF-John D'Agostino, Jr., Stevenson  
DEF-Darren Sacks, Sr., Stev.

DEF-Daniel Mullett, Sr., Ply. Christian  
DEF-Ryan Haefner, Sr., Farm. Harrison

DEF-Andrew Crechiolo, Sr., Franklin  
DEF-Michael Ambrose, Sr., Plymouth

DEF-Sean Kunde, Sr., Wayne Memorial  
MF-Kyle Kansman, Jr., N. Farmington

MF-Donald Payne, Jr., Farmington  
MF-Justin Bean, Sr., John Glenn

MF-Madala Mathurin, Sr., Harrison  
MF-Mike Murphy, Jr., Churchill

MF-Chandler Olah, Jr., Plymouth  
MF-Nathan Bergeson, Sr., Canton

F-Andy Hill, Sr., Farmington  
F-Lewis Ellis, Jr., RU

F-Jake Pascarella, Sr., Salem  
F-Austin Henson, Sr., Church.

COACH OF THE YEAR  
George Tomasso, Canton

HONORABLE MENTION  
Churchill: Colton Robison,

Tyler Reetz, Derek Ralls; Franklin: Craig Beebe,

Ryan Tikey, Gabe Edwards; Stevenson: Zack Zukowski,

Alex Vrovski, Chris Liepa; John Glenn: Alex Isaevski,

Tyler Simpson, Bobby Mason; Wayne: Kevin Diehl,

Zach Huffman, Jacob Charon; Clarenceville: Evan

Gregg, Ma Sambou Jatta; Lutheran Westland: Ernie

Babon, Seth Whitehouse; Huron Valley Lutheran:

Justin Howell; N. Farmington: Alex Woods, Ronnie

Basin, Patrick Cuffaro; Farmington: Tom Ashmore,

Dominique Hajdu, Kevin Pachuta, Tommy O'Connor,

Ryan Markiewicz, Alex Arlin, Brandon Schulz;

Harrison: Trevor Kubitskey, Lui Fakhoury, Brandon

Buckner; Plymouth: Viet Nguyen, Zach D'Agostino,

Do-Hyung Kim, Mike Shackelford, Matheo Segovia-Plate;

Salem: Blake Townes, Austin Covert;

Canton: Steven Murphy, Sean Krolicki, Neil Zech,

Ken Krolicki; Plymouth Christian: Alex Chapman,

Jacob Bailey; Garden City: Richie Blevins, Josh Selinski,

Brian Kalinowski; Redford Union: Jeff Swinea, Aaron

Sandelin; Redford Thurston: Austin Alessandrini,

Dylan Crompton.

tain, he provided steady leadership on and off the field. When our roster was riddled with injuries, Jake played wherever we needed him, from the back line to the front, without complaint. He never came off the field and had the



Rene Mejia  
Plymouth



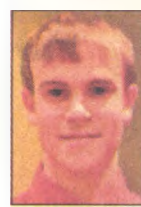
C. Furgason  
Canton



Jake Genrich  
Salem



T. Winningham  
Canton



Alex Jones  
Churchill



M. Boehm  
Luth. West.



B. Winkler  
Farmington



Jacob Bur  
N. Farmington



Daniel Ross  
Ply. Christian



Chris Ensor  
Salem



D. Ovesea  
Canton



M. Posuniak  
Canton



V. Frederick  
Garden City



Z. Atwood  
Stevenson



Jeff Thomas  
Stevenson



G. Tomasso  
Canton coach

game at a high energy level. "In his natural position of center midfielder, he shut down the opponent's attack, forcing them to play wide or over the top. Jake was a playmaker on offense, especially in transition, where he was instrumental in starting most of our attacks. Opposing coaches were always relieved to find out he was a senior this year."

**Dan Ross, MF, Jr., Ply. Christian:** Experience with the Regional Olympic Development Program paid dividends for the junior, who scored 15 goals and 13 assists for the Eagles. The team captain earned selection to the Class D All-State second team along with first-team honors in the district, conference and region.

"Dan Ross is an extremely talented and gifted player," said PCA coach Nathan Yates. "During my time as a soccer coach over the years I have never seen a player blessed with so many abilities."

"Throughout the season many teams we played against tried to refuse Dan the ball with no success. Dan found ways to get open and continue to be a dominant player on our team throughout the season."

**Chris Ensor, MF, Sr., Salem:** One of Salem's strong points was sturdy defense and the senior midfielder was one of the main reasons for that. Ensor also contributed with his all-around play, which earned him an All-State honorable mention selection. He also was selected to the All-KLAA team.

"He has strong vision and was our leader in the midfield," McCarthy noted. "He was the key to our ability to keep possession of the ball." Daniel Ovesea, F, Jr., Canton: It was the junior's goal that gave the Chiefs the D1 state championship, but he scored many big goals all year as he finished with 23

goals and 10 assists while earning

Of course, the highlight came on Nov. 5 in the D1 final against Grand Haven at East Kentwood Crestwood Middle School.

Ovesea lofted a direct kick from midfield that landed inside the left post to provide the winning margin.

"Daniel displayed a sharp-shooting, goal-scoring mentality that led his team to victory," Tomasso said.

**Mitch Posuniak, F, Sr., Canton:** One of the offensive big guns for D1 state champion Canton, he tallied 18 goals and seven assists — including a big goal during the regional semifinal win over Dearborn.

Posuniak's senior season earned the co-captain several accolades, including selection to the All-KLAA, All-District and All-Region teams along with an All-State honorable mention nod.

"Mitch displayed a desirable winning attitude that brought out a fierce competitor, and (he) led by example as the team followed," Tomasso said.

**Vaughn Frederick, F, Sr., Garden City:** Frederick enjoyed a record-setting season for the Cougars, netting 22 goals and 21 assists while leading his team to a Western Wayne Athletic Conference championship. Frederick combines uncanny dribbling skills, great vision and stellar speed.

"Vaughn is a dynamic player with a ball at his feet," said Garden City head coach Jason Dean. "He has the ability to beat defenders in space with an arsenal of moves that most college players have. Vaughn has an incredible ability to use his speed to break entire defenses down. His willingness to distribute the ball made him the total package."

**Zach Atwood, F, Jr., Stevenson:** The junior forward was the Spartans' MVP and leading scorer with 17 goals and 10 assists while earning

all-KLAA, all-district and honorable mention all-state honors.

"Zach had an outstanding season for us, scoring a number of important, and often incredible, goals," Stevenson coach Lars Richters said. "He continues to work hard to learn and to improve himself as a player, and he has a very bright future ahead of him."

**Jeff Thomas, F, Sr., Stevenson:** The senior transfer finished the year with 11 goals and six assists while earning all-KLAA, all-district and honorable mention all-state recognition for the Division 1 district champions.

"Jeff was a huge addition to our team this season," Richters said. "He brought with him a great amount of high school and club experience, strong technical ability, and a competitive streak. He plays with a good blend of desire and style."

**Coach of the Year George Tomasso, Canton:** The former goalkeeper of a state champion Canton team during the 1990s, Tomasso duplicated that feat as head coach of the 24-1-2 Chiefs.

Canton racked up championships in the KLAA South Division, Kensington Conference, overall KLAA, Division 1 districts, regionals and state finals.

"Six out of six trophies," Tomasso said. "What a great season that will always be remembered."

Tomasso and assistant coach Mark Zemanski emphasized to the team the importance of never letting up over 80 minutes and taking "ownership of performance."

With a strong group of senior leaders, that message resonated with the full squad as it battled back from adversity time after time.

In the district final against state-ranked Novi, the Chiefs rallied from a goal down and went on from there to run the table.

"We were very proud of the way the team responded after each half-time," Tomasso said. "As you may know, each time we played Novi we came back from a goal down in all three games to win."

"Throughout the season the team gained strength by realizing that the only way to win was to perform their best every minute of every game."

Canton followed the win over Novi with victories in the regionals against Dearborn and Ann Arbor Pioneer and with a 1-0 victory over defending D1 champion and No. 1-ranked Warren DeLaSalle in the state semis.

Of course, Canton capped it all off with a 1-0 victory over Grand Haven on Nov. 5 in the D1 final at East Kentwood.

That gave the Chiefs their first state title in 17 years, when Tomasso was in goal.

Although Tomasso said the 1994 title was special in its own right, coaching this year's team proved even more rewarding.

"These guys wrote their own destiny," he said, shortly after the championship victory.

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**Dr. Gary Peppin**





Salem's Austin Sartorius (No. 14) is one of several returning seniors who will pace the Rocks' attack.

## ICERS

Continued from page B1

rius with returning right wing Jake Fedel and left wing Jake Sealy, a sophomore newcomer.

"I think Jake Sealy on the left wing, he moves the puck really well which is why right now he's working with Austin Sartorius," Ossenmacher said. "(Sealy's) job is to get pucks, move them ... and give them to Austin who's going to score some goals."

Another new player who could make an impact is sophomore forward Jack Driscoll.

"He's a good skater," the coach said. "He should add some speed and grit to our forward lineup."

Other forwards on the roster include sophomores Kyle Downey, Cam Nixon and Spencer Thompson.

### Top duo on 'D'

On defense, the Rocks' top duo of Manser and Eggenberger promises to provide everything from tape-to-tape passes out of Salem's zone, to safe-and-secure play in front of the Rocks' goal.

"Eggenberger's going to be paired up with Manser for the foreseeable

future," Ossenmacher stressed. "Michael is an offensive defenseman, we give him pretty free reins to be creative with the puck and do a lot of things offensively."

"Kyle's more of a defensive defenseman that's going to make sure that spots are covered. So when we give Manser the free rein, we know if a mistake is made or a play is made that he's going to be back there to cover up for us."

Junior defenseman Evan Patton is the third returning player back on the blue line.

"Evan's got some size and some skill and he's learned a lot the last couple years," the coach said. "As a junior this year, he's going to have to step up and be one of our go-to guys."

It will be a trial-by-fire situation for the other defensemen, varsity newcomers Adam Marthaler (a junior), Cameron Clark and Colin Pietron (both sophomores).

"With six defensemen, everybody's going to play," Ossenmacher said. "Some guys get more ice than others but all of them are going to have to contribute."

**Opportunity knocks**  
The graduation of all-

state goalie Brandon Price leaves a big void to fill in the Salem crease. Price played 22 games last season, giving the Rocks the chance to win in all of them.

"We have three new goalies this year, so our plan is yet to be determined," Ossenmacher said. "But I think they are all capable so we'll see."

"We replace a first-team all-state goaltender with Brandon Price being gone, but that's what happens in high school. Kids have to step up and fill in the spots that seniors vacate."

Ossenmacher said sophomore Parker Godfrey and junior Anthony Veresan are competing for the top spot with junior David Blossom also in the mix.

He'll likely go with the hot hand.

"The last three years we've had guys that have been No. 1's and we knew they were playing almost every game," Ossenmacher said. "So this year it will be a little different, unless one of them steps up and steals it."

"If (someone) is winning games we're not going to take him out."

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# Chiefs fall 4-3 in opener

Canton's 2011-12 varsity boys hockey season got off on the wrong skate Friday night as the Chiefs lost 4-3 to Dearborn Divine Child.

The speedy Falcons held off a late rally at Canton Arctic Edge Arena.

Canton senior Taylor Baker made it a one-goal game, scoring in the final minutes after goalie Spencer Craig was pulled for an extra attacker.

The Chiefs also received goals by seniors

Brandon Schlieger and Brandon Grillo, in the first and second periods, respectively.

Canton looked to even its early season record with Wednesday night's game against Plymouth. Results were not available as of press time.

**PIONEER 4, LADYWOOD 3:** Caroline Hurd recorded a hat trick, including the tying and game-winning goals during the final period to give Ann Arbor Pioneer (1-0, 1-0) the Michigan Metro Girls High School Hockey League win over host Livonia Ladywood (0-1, 0-1) at Plymouth's Arctic

Pond.

Ladywood jumped out to a 2-0 lead in the first period on goals by Lane Kolpacke (from Jackie Kristofik) and Hannah Pereira (unassisted) before Pioneer's Julia Franceschi answered from Shay Pinhey and Hurd.

Ladywood went up 3-1 on Pereira's second goal, but Hurd made it 3-2 before the second period ended on assist from Franceschi.

Hurd scored twice in the final period on an unassisted effort followed by the game-winner (from Franceschi).

Pioneer goaltender Pauline Arsenault stopped 19-of-22 shots, while Ladywood's Sarah Koch made 16 saves.

# Whalers streak into first place

By Tim Smith  
Observer Staff Writer

Two goals within five seconds on a 5-on-3 power play late in the third period Saturday lifted the Plymouth Whalers to a come-from-behind 4-3 victory over Kitchener

### OHL HOCKEY

at Computware Arena.

The Whalers — who won for the third time in three nights and seventh straight game — tied the Ontario Hockey League contest on a power-play goal Stefan Noesen at the 18-minute mark of the third. Then right off the ensuing face-off, Rickard Rakell beat Kitchener's John Gibson for the winning tally.

Plymouth defenseman and captain Beau Schmitz (Howell) netted the first

two goals against Gibson, who faced 50 shots.

Stopping 28 of 32 shots for the win was goalie Scott Wedgewood.

With the victory, the Whalers (16-6-2-1, 35 points) moved into first place in the West Division of the Western Conference and are tied for the conference lead with London, although the Knights have three games in hand.

Wedgewood also was the winning goalie on Friday at London, stopping all but one of 23 shots in a 4-1 win.

Rakell scored twice with other goals by Andy Bathgate and Alex Alear-di (Farmington Hills).

Thursday night, the Whalers kicked off a productive three-night span with a 5-4 overtime triumph at Windsor.

Plymouth jumped out to

a 3-0 lead on first-period goals by Garrett Meurs, Schmitz and Tom Wilson but the Spitfires tied the game 3-3.

Bathgate briefly enabled the Whalers to regain the lead, with J.T. Miller collecting his third assist of the night on the play. But Windsor forced overtime when Alexander Khokhlov slipped a shot behind Plymouth netminder Matt Mahalak (28 saves).

Then less than a minute into OT, defenseman and Farmington Hills native Austin Levi took a feed from Noesen and beat goalie John Cullen to cap the win.

Plymouth will look to keep the hot streak going with two home game this week. The Whalers will host Saginaw (7 p.m. Wednesday) and Peterborough (7 p.m. Friday).

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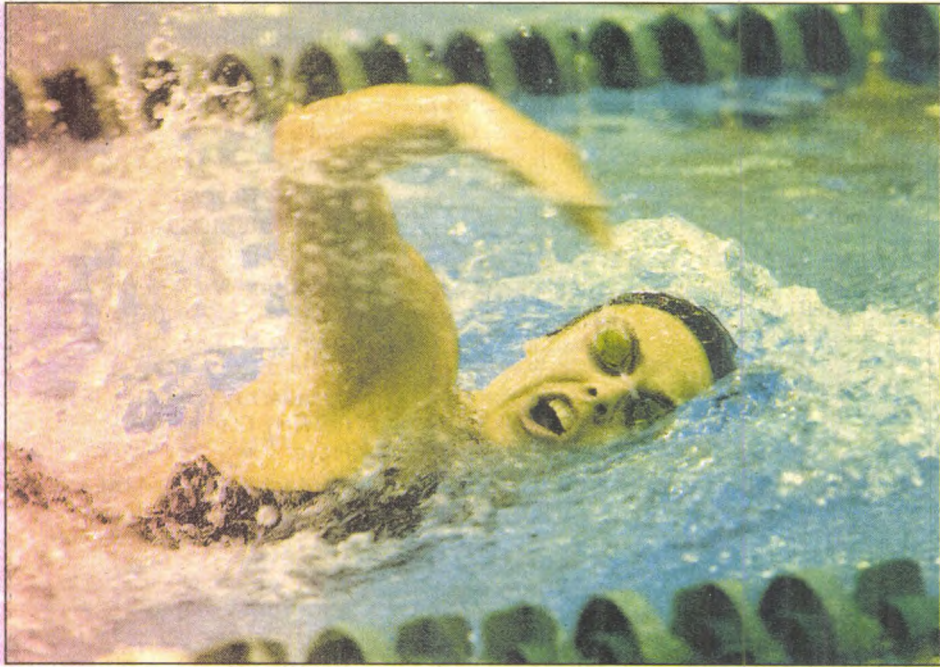
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Making every motion matter in Saturday's consolation heat of the 200 freestyle race is Salem's Lauren Seroka.

## FINALS

Continued from page B1

coach Chuck Olson was glad to see Seroka's outstanding high school career end on a bright note after all. He noted how Seroka's "great swim" in the 500 free at Friday's prelims was the best of her career in that race. But the next afternoon brought new challenges. "I think that (seventh place Saturday) was partly circumstances of the race," Olson said. "A couple of them (opponents in the 500) went out fast, a lot faster than yesterday. It's tough to fight through that mentally. "But she did a great job coming back (in the 400 relay), she stayed strong." In the consolation heat, Seroka came in 16th in the 200 free (1:55.79). Olson also was happy for the other three girls in the relay. "They deserve it, they worked very hard," he said. "It was a fast meet and we're real pleased

with the way things turned out today." **Oh so close** Aumiller was another swimmer who impressed beyond her work in the 400 relay. On Friday, she finished the 100 backstroke in ninth with a mark of 58.32. The top eight in each preliminary event qualify for the championship heat. "Abby missed out by 3/100ths of a second of making the finals," Olson noted. "The time was good, but she was a little disappointed not finishing in the top eight." On Saturday, Aumiller placed 10th overall with a 59.12 mark. Now she will go back to work to try and duplicate what Seroka did — make the finals all four years of her prep career. "I'm definitely going to go a lot harder," Aumiller said. "I was ninth again this year (at prelims) and I was ninth last year and I was a second slower last year." But she said being part of the record-setting 400

relay will be the best experience she'll take out of the 2011 finals. "It was nice to finally drop time again and everyone on our team did real well, so it was fun," she added. Olson praised his contingent of swimmers, especially Seroka and Aumiller. "I couldn't be happier for them," Olson said. "Obviously they are team leaders, they got some very good recognition today. "They're well-respected around the state." Meanwhile, in other Friday results, Seroka finished 16th in the 200 free (1:55.42) followed by teammates Aumiller (36th, 1:58.93) and Suriano (42nd, 1:59.71). Suriano chimed in with a 32nd-place finish of 5:20.86 in the 500 free. Also Friday, the 200-medley relay team of Aumiller, junior Jacey Lamoureux, Seroka and Gorman came in 28th with a mark of 1:55.24.

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## GIRLS SWIMMING & DIVING RESULTS

### MHSAA DIVISION 1 SWIMMING & DIVING CHAMPIONSHIP FINALS Nov. 19 Jones Natatorium (EMU)

**TEAM STANDINGS:** 1. Farmington Hills Mercy, 258 points; 2. Saline, 243.5 points; 3. Bloomfield Hills Marian, 165; 4. Hudsonville, 156; 5. Ann Arbor Huron, 153; 6. Ann Arbor Skyline, 147; 7. Holland West Ottawa, 146; 8. South Lyon, 125; 9. Zeeland, 104; 10. Clarkston, 103; 11. Novi, 102; 12. Lake Orion, 68; 13. Northville, 67; 14. Rockford, 57; 15. Jackson, 49; 19. Salem, 28; 37. Canton, 2.

**FINAL HEAT RESULTS**  
**200-yard medley relay:** 1. Saline (Maddy Frost, Sammy Richart, Emily Lau, Cristina Czyrka), 1:45.97; 3. Mercy (Elliott Schinella, Maddy Loniewski, Annie Valentine, Roxanne Griffore), 1:46.57.  
**200 freestyle:** 1. Maddie Wright (Waterford United), 1:49.04; 5. Sato Kakiyara (Mercy), 1:52.88; 6. Olivia Samoray (Mercy), 1:53.00.  
**200 individual medley:** 1. Anna DeMonte (Huron), 1:59.67; 3. Loniewski (Mercy), 2:04.82.  
**500 freestyle:** 1. Jaynie Pulte (Bloomfield Hills Marian), 23.23.  
**1-meter diving:** 1. Lauren Reedy (Rochester), 458.00 points; 7. Emmy Orrico (Mercy), 397.65.  
**100 butterfly:** 1. Maddie Wright (Waterford United), 54.82; 5. Kakiyara (Mercy), 56.73; 6. Valentine (Mercy), 56.94.  
**100 freestyle:** 1. Annie Jongekrijg (Lake Orion), 50.32.  
**500 freestyle:** 1. Marah Pugh (Macomb Dakota), 4:55.54; 4. Kathleen McGee (Mercy), 5:03.62; 5. Olivia Samoray (Mercy), 5:04.17; 7. Lauren Seroka (Salem), 5:04.47.  
**200 freestyle relay:** 1. Hudsonville (Michaela Rookus, Audra Thornton, Makayla Myers, Dani-

elle Freeman), 1:35.46; 3. Mercy (Loniewski, Schinella, Kakiyara, Samoray), 1:36.34.  
**100 backstroke:** 1. Anna DeMonte (Huron), 54.56; 4. Schinella (Mercy), 57.14.  
**100 breaststroke:** 1. Ashleigh Shanley (Skyline), 1:03.91.  
**400 freestyle relay:** 1. Hudsonville (Makayla Myers, Audra Thornton, Michaela Rookus, Danielle Freeman), 3:27.65; 4. Mercy (Kakiyara, Kathleen McGee, Roxanne Griffore, Samoray), 3:31.11.  
**CONSOLATION HEAT RESULTS (Observerland only)**  
**200-yard medley relay:** 16. Canton (Caitlin Orr, Hannah Jenkins, Delaney Adams, Destinee Barmore-Hicks), 1:52.67.  
**200 freestyle:** 9. McGee (Mercy), 1:53.90; 16. Seroka (Salem), 1:55.79.  
**200 individual medley:** 11. Valentine (Mercy), 2:10.43.  
**50 freestyle:** 10. Schinella (Mercy), 24.31.  
**100 freestyle:** 16. Griffore (Mercy), 53.88.  
**100 backstroke:** 10. Abby Aumiller (Salem), 59.12; 14. Jordan Ewald (Mercy), 59.62; 15. Griffore (Mercy), 59.90; 16. Christine Edwards (Mercy), 1:00.03.  
**100 breaststroke:** 9. Loniewski (Mercy)  
**400 freestyle relay:** 13. Salem (Seroka, Maddie Gorman, Julia Suriano, Aumiller), 3:38.12.

**PRELIMINARY RESULTS (Canton, Plymouth, Salem only) Nov. 18, Jones Natatorium (EMU)**  
**200-yard medley relay:** 13. Canton (Caitlin Orr, Hannah Jenkins, Delaney Adams, Destinee Barmore-Hicks), 1:52.19; 24. Plymouth (Linda Erickson, Emily Toro, Lydia Plencner, Lexi Ethier), 1:54.46; 28. Salem (Abby Aumiller, Jacey Lamoureux, Lauren Seroka, Maddie Gorman), 1:55.24.  
**200 freestyle:** 16. Seroka (Salem), 1:55.42; 36. Aumiller (Salem), 1:58.93; 38. Madeline Madison (Canton), 1:59.03; 42. Julia Suriano (Salem), 1:59.71.  
**200 individual medley:** 20. Adams (Canton), 2:12.29; 23. Jenkins (Canton), 2:12.85; 27. Toro (Plymouth), 2:14.50; 28. Erickson (Plymouth), 2:14.88.  
**50 freestyle:** 21. Barmore-Hicks (Canton), 24.79; 37. Stephanie Matsui (Plymouth), 25.56.  
**100 butterfly:** 29. Adams (Canton), 1:00.16; 41. Toro (Plymouth), 1:01.37.  
**100 freestyle:** 23. Barmore-Hicks (Canton), 54.26; 27. Matsui (Plymouth), 55.18.  
**500 freestyle:** 2. Seroka (Salem), 5:02.46; 18. Claire Green (Canton), 5:13.78; 32. Suriano (Salem), 5:20.86.  
**200 freestyle relay:** 17. Plymouth (Matsui, Toro, Erickson, Ethier), 1:40.61; 29. Canton (Jenkins, Abby Madison, Madeline Madison, Barmore-Hicks), 1:44.23.  
**100 backstroke:** 9. Aumiller (Salem), 58.32; 35. Orr (Canton), 1:01.71.  
**400 freestyle relay:** 16. Salem (Seroka, Gorman, Suriano, Aumiller), 3:39.98; 20. Plymouth (Matsui, Emily Weiner, Erickson, Ethier), 3:41.77; 30. Canton (Jenkins, Green, M. Madison, Adams), 3:48.42.

## SWIMMING

Continued from page B1

### Plymouth recap

Although disappointed that the Wildcats did not reach Saturday's championship round, head coach Doug Schade said he and the rest of the coaching staff "are incredibly proud" of each member of the squad. "We are thrilled with their hard work and tenacity," Schade said. "It was a great season." Still, Schade said Plymouth "had a solid showing" in Friday's preliminaries. Linda Erickson swam her season-best time in the 200 IM and lifetime bests on all three relays.



Competing in the 200-yard medley relay Saturday at EMU's Jones Natatorium is Canton junior Delaney Adams.

Erickson was part of the 400 free relay that set a new school record of 3:41.77. She teamed with Stephanie Matsui, Emily Weiner and Lexi Ethier for that accomplishment. In the 200 medley relay, Erickson's split of 28.59 and Lydia Plencner's of

27.59 were lifetime bests. And the 200 free relay of Matsui, Emily Toro, Erickson and Ethier just missed out on the finals with a 17th-place time of 1:40.61.

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## SPORTS ROUNDUP

### Salem food drive

The Salem Rocks Hockey Canned Food Drive is slated for Saturday, Nov. 26 at the Plymouth Cultural Center. Spectators are asked to bring a canned food item, or non-perishables, to the PCC for that evening's Salem-Canton varsity boys hockey game, which begins at 8:30 p.m. All donations will be delivered by Salem's varsity boys hockey team on Dec. 15 to the Open Door Ministry located on S. Lilley Road off of Michigan Ave. Also Dec. 15, the Rocks will volunteer at the ministry to hand food to the community. For more information, go to [www.hockey.salem-rocks.com](http://www.hockey.salem-rocks.com).

### Moose to face Wings alums

The Canton-based Detroit Moose hockey team and Detroit Red Wings Alumni Association will face off at 5 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 7 at Canton Arctic Edge in a charity hockey game. Tickets are \$10. All proceeds benefit the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. For more information, visit [www.detroit-moose.org](http://www.detroit-moose.org).

### Winter hoops

The Plymouth Family YMCA announced that winter basketball leagues are forming for ages 4-11. Programs are filled on a first-come, first-served basis. The annual registration fee is \$91 or \$123 for community participants.

Registration continues until Jan. 2, 2012. After teams are formed, they will practice once a week and play on Friday evenings from Jan. 16 through March 23. For more information, visit [www.ymcadetroit.org](http://www.ymcadetroit.org) or call (734) 453-2904.

### MSU harriers make NCAAs

Michigan State, bolstered by Livonia Churchill grads Sara Kroll and Rachel McFarlane, qualified for the NCAA Division 1 Women's Cross Country Nationals Nov. 21, in Terre Haute, Ind., with a runner-up finish in Saturday's Great Lakes Regional in Toledo, Ohio. Michigan (55 points), MSU (77) and host University of Toledo (84) all earned team berths. Kroll, a sophomore, placed fourth overall with a 6-kilometer time of 20 minutes, 37.3 seconds, while McFarlane, a red-shirt senior, placed 27th in 21:20.6. Michigan's Danielle Taur and Rebecca Addison finished one-two in 20:27.9 and 20:34.8, respectively. Eastern Michigan University junior Courtney Calka (Livonia Stevenson) finished 74th in 22:08.3.

### Holiday soccer

The Michigan Bucks will stage its third annual holiday soccer tournament, Thursday-Friday, Dec. 29-30, at Ultimate Soccer Arenas in Pontiac. The 8 vs. 8 format will guarantee all age boys and girls teams a minimum of three 50 minute games, with a championship final to be played for the top two teams in each group. Team registration is \$395 (until Dec. 26), but all teams registering by Dec. 10 will receive a \$45 early registration discount (\$350 team fee). For more information, visit [www.bucksoccer.com](http://www.bucksoccer.com) or call tournament director Brandon Sizemore at (248) 977-9133.



CC students rush the field and celebrate victory with players after the Shamrocks' overtime victory Saturday.

## GRID

Continued from page B1

CC defense was locked and loaded for the final 24 minutes, shutting out the Rams until Steven Mette's 26-yard field goal in overtime gave Rockford a short-lived lead. The Shamrocks limited the Rams to a 1-yard run by Connor Grady, who was stonewalled by CC's Aaron Hess and Clay Behrman, and a pair of incompletions prior to Mette's field goal. Meanwhile, Cooper was more than efficient, completing eight of 14 passes for 102 yards and two touchdowns. In addition to gaining 37 yards on 11 carries, Darkangelo completed both of his halfback passes, including a 21-yard throwback to Cooper that set up the Shamrocks' second TD, for 45 yards. Junior fullback David

Houle churned out 85 yards on 24 carries for CC. **Rams strike early** It took Rockford just 14 seconds to light up the scoreboard. That's how long it took the Rams to execute a deceptive, 97-yard kickoff return by Brandon Lubenow on the opening kickoff. Mette's first of two extra points made it 7-0. Rockford extended its lead to 10-0 on its first offensive possession when Mette ripped a 40-yard field goal through a gusty wind with 2:19 left in the first quarter. After going three-and-out on its next possession, CC got the ball back when David Racey stepped in front of a Mark LaPrairie pass and returned it to the Ram 22. Four plays later, Cooper connected with Matt Doneth on an 8-yard touchdown pass to bring the Shamrocks within 10-7. Rockford re-upped its

lead to 17-7 when LaPrairie tossed a 12-yard TD pass to Lubenow with 7:10 left in the half. Houle bulled in from two yards out in the final minute of the half, and Alex Kozlowski's second extra point made it 17-14. Powered by six up-the-gut runs by Houle and a 34-yard pass from Cooper to Racey, the Shamrocks rolled to the Rockford 12 on their next possession, but they had to settle for a 27-yard Kozlowski field goal and 17-17 tie. The Shamrocks appeared to have the game won in regulation, but Kozlowski's 19-yard field goal attempt with 30.2 seconds left never got enough height and failed to clear the offensive linemen. That set up the dramatic overtime and the game-sealing catch by Darkangelo, who quickly went from being the most isolated guy in Battle Creek to the most popular.

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Nov. 24-30

**HEALING SERVICE**

Time/Date: 7:30 p.m. Nov. 30  
Location: Rosedale Gardens Presbyterian Church, 9601 Hubbard, Livonia  
Details: The Rev. Jennie Clark will preach at a special service of Hope and Healing  
Contact: (734) 422-0494

**PRAISE OPEN HOUSE**

Time/Date: 7-10 p.m. Friday, Nov. 28  
Location: Harvest Bible Chapel, 6420 N. Newburgh, Westland  
Details: Open to all who want to drop in and pray or be prayed with  
Contact: (734) 895-3280; www.harvestdetroitwest.org

**VENDOR DEADLINE**

Time/Date: Friday, Nov. 25  
Location: Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 34567 Seven Mile, Livonia  
Details: The last day for crafters/vendors to turn in rental applications for craft fair on Dec. 10  
Contact: Judy Cook at (248) 442-8822

Dec. 1-7

**CONCERT**

Time/Date: 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 3; seating begins at 7:30 p.m.  
Location: Old St. Mary's Church, 646 Monro, at St. Antoine, in Greektown, Detroit  
Details: The Madrigal Chorus of Southfield presents its 2011 Holiday Concert. Advance tickets are \$18 for adults and \$12 for students. Cost at the door is \$20  
Contact: (248) 804-1377, e-mail yourmcs@yahoo.com or order online at msc-notes.org

**HANDEL'S "MESSIAH"**

Time/Date: 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 3, and 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 4  
Location: Fort Street Presbyterian Church, Fort and Third in downtown Detroit  
Details: The Fort Street Chorale and Chamber Orchestra will perform Handel's Messiah. Tickets are \$20  
Contact: www.fortstreet.org or by calling (313) 961-4533

**SUPPORT GROUP**

Time/Date: 7-9 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 1



The Fort Street Chorale and Chamber Orchestra will perform Handel's "Messiah" Saturday, Dec. 3, in Detroit.

Location: Our Lady of Good Counsel School, 1062 Church, Plymouth

Details: New Beginnings is a support group for divorced Catholics. This will be the first of regular monthly meetings featuring guest speakers who will address topics central to the experience of divorced Catholics. The evening will begin with a talk by the Rev. John Riccardo, Pastor of Our Lady of Good Counsel, followed by a Q&A session. Participants can discuss issues related to divorce and faith in a safe, confidential, and prayerful environment. Pre-registration recommended  
Contact: newbeginning-solgc@gmail.com

Dec. 8-14

**CONCERT**

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 9  
Location: Geneva Presbyterian Church, 5835 N. Sheldon, Canton  
Details: "Twelve Bells of Christmas," bell concert by the Capital City Ringers of Lansing, directed by Jane C. Wright. Donations accepted for admission  
Contact: (734) 459-0013

**CONCERT**

Time/Date: 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 11  
Location: St. Aidan, 17500 Farmington Road, north of Six Mile, Livonia

Details: 30th Annual St. Aidan Christmas Concert, featuring the St. Aidan Adult and Children's Choirs, and the St. Aidan Contemporary Ensemble. There is a minimum donation of \$5 per person, along with two non-perishable food items. All proceeds will go toward food baskets for the needy  
Contact: (734) 425-9333

**CONCERT**

Time/Date: 4 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 11  
Location: Newburg United

Methodist Church, 36500 Ann Arbor Trail, Livonia

Details: Measure for Measure, a men's choral society, will present a holiday choral concert. The concert will be followed by a reception in the church's social hall. Proceeds from ticket sales will support a mission project in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, by a team of 10 Newburg Church members who will travel there in April 2012. Tickets are \$12. Sales will be final on Dec. 7.  
Contact: (734) 459-5631

**COOKIE WALK**

Time/Date: 10 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 10  
Location: Timothy Lutheran Church, 8820 Wayne Road, south of Ann Arbor Trail, Livonia  
Details: Christmas cookies of all varieties will be available for sale by the pound along with various bake sale items  
Contact: (734) 427-2290

**CRAFT FAIR**

Time/Date: 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 10  
Location: Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 34567 Seven Mile, Livonia  
Details: Craft/vendor fair with door prize raffles  
Contact: Judy Cook at (248) 442-8822

Dec. 15-21

**HANDEL'S "MESSIAH"**

Time/Date: 7 p.m., Friday, Dec. 16 and 3:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 17

Location: Jefferson Avenue Presbyterian Church, 8625 E. Jefferson Ave., in Detroit's former Indian Village neighborhood.

Details: The Community Chorus of Detroit with the CCD Chamber Orchestra and soloists, and special guests, the Detroit Children's Choir's Touring Choir  
Contact: www.chorusofdetroit.com

ONGOING CLASSES/STUDY

**Emmanuel Lutheran Church**

Time/Date: 7-8 p.m., second Monday of the month  
Location: 34567 Seven Mile, between Farmington and Newburgh roads, Livonia

Details: Open Arms Bible class for adults with developmental disabilities and special needs. Includes songs, Bible lessons, crafts and activities, prayer, snacks and fun.

Contact: Pastor Scott Sessler at (734) 673-2485 or e-mail to pastorscott@emmanuel-livonia.org

**Faith Bible Church**

Time/Date: 9:45-10:45 a.m. Sundays through May 8  
Location: 34541 Five Mile, Livonia

**Details: "Four Views of the End Times" adult study**

Also ongoing: "Life's Healing Choices" Study Group, 6 p.m., fourth Sunday through September, is for men and women who want freedom from hurts, hangups and habits of the past.  
Contact: (734) 464-7990

**Men's Bible study**

Time/Date: Breakfast at 7 a.m. and study at 8 a.m.  
Location: Kirby's Coney Island, 21200 Haggerty, Northville Township  
Contact: John Shulenberg at (734) 464-9491

**New Life Community Church**

Time/Date: Jobs seminar, 8-9 a.m. Fridays; reading program for students in grades K-12 and martial arts

instruction, both at 10 a.m. Sundays.

Location: 42200 Tyler, Belleville

Contact: (734) 846-4615

**Nicole's Revival**

Time/Date: 10:30 a.m., Monday-Friday  
Location: YWCA Northwest Branch, 25940 Grand River, west of Beech Road, Redford

Details: KJV Scripture Reading, Communion and Prayer  
Contact: (313) 531-1234

**Our Lady of Loretto**

Time/Date: 6:30-7:30 p.m. Monday

Location: Six Mile and Beech Daly, Redford

Details: Scripture study  
Contact: (313) 534-9000

# Passages

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**HOOVER, FRANCES**  
November 19, 2011 Age 87 of Plymouth and formerly of the Wayne/Westland area. Born and raised in Wabash, IN. Beloved wife of the late Donald. Dear mother of Lesia (Kenneth) Jean McQuade and the late Daniel and Clay. Sister to Kathryn (Raymond) Dillman, and the late Robert (Lois), Marland, and Byron (Anne) Halderman. Grandmother to Gregory Hoover McQuade and Jamie Lynn (Alan) Lewis. Great Grandmother to Braden and Garret Lewis. Funeral services were held at The Ugt Funeral Home, 35400 Glenwood Rd., Westland, Tuesday, November 22, 2011 at 10 a.m. Interment took place at Glenwood Cemetery, Wayne. Family requests memorials to Concerns of Police Survivors, Inc. (COPS) PO Box 3199, Cadenton, MO 65020. Please view memorial and send tributes at www.uhfh.com



**MULDOON, SARAH A.**  
Age 84, November 18, 2011. Beloved wife of the late Jerome Muldoon. Loving mother of Jack (the late Sue), Timothy (Fiancee Tina), Barbara (John) Salvatore, Kathleen (Dave) Nakonecny and the late Norman and Douglas Muldoon. Dear grandmother of 9 and great grandmother of 2. Dear sister of Joan Connor and the late Tom, Harry, Joe and Norm. A Memorial Mass will be held at St. Joseph Catholic Church, 440 E. Washington, Howell, MI 48843, Tuesday, November 29, 2011 at 10 A.M. In lieu of flowers contributions may be directed to the Muldoon family. Please share a memory of Sarah at www.rgrgharris.com.



**SARNS, RUSSELL**  
Passed away on November 11, 2011 at age 69. Resident of Livonia for 43 years. Beloved and thoughtful husband for 47 years to Judy (Mackinder) Sarns. Devoted father to David (Bianca) Sarns and proud "Papa" to 19-month old, Colin. Russ leaves behind his mother-in-law, Mariam Mackinder, brother-in-law, Frederick Mackinder (Kristina), sister-in-law, Peggy Jenkins, nephews, Christopher (Nicole) and Nicholas Mackinder and Jeffrey, Gregory, Steven Jenkins, niece, Mackenzie, great-nephew, Liam Mackinder, cousins, Eleanor, Bob, Terri and Laura. Russ worked for the GM for 37 years. He was the proud owner of a 1955 Chevrolet Bel Air which was seen in the movie "Flipped" and was a member of the Eastern Michigan Camaro Club. Russ will be missed by his loving family and many friends as well. Funeral services were held on Monday, November 14, at the Fred Wood Funeral Home. To leave a condolence or share a special memory, go to Fredwoodfuneralhome.com

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## Enjoy the weekend at a museum, concerts, outdoors

By Sharon Dargay  
 O&E Staff Writer

A Red Ryder Christmas Story has become a favorite seasonal exhibit at the Plymouth Historical Museum.

It debuted there in 2007, paid a return visit in 2009 and opened again last week for more than a month-long stay.

"We try to change it each time. This is the third time we're doing it but it's pretty popular and it's a perfect match for us," said Elizabeth Kerstens, executive director. "Plymouth was the home of Daisy."

Daisy Manufacturing Company sold Red Ryder BB guns which are central to the 1983 movie, *A Christmas Story*. In the film, the main character, Ralphie, longs for a Red Ryder BB gun for Christmas, but everyone from his parents to a department store Santa warns that he might shoot an eye out with the dangerous toy.

The museum's current exhibit includes both scenes from the film and BB guns on loan from private collections and the museum's own holdings.

Santa Claus also will be on hand from 1-4 p.m. every Saturday before Christmas, beginning Nov. 26.

Diehard fans will notice that the museum exhibit crew has changed some of the vignettes since 2009. The "Santa mountain," part of a department store scene, was eliminated this year and toys displayed in the store's window are different. But many favorite scenes have returned.



The National Acrobats of The People's Republic of China will perform Friday, Nov. 25 in Detroit.

"You can't do the exhibit without having Flick and his tongue (frozen) on a pole," Kerstens said. "And Scott Farkus, the mean guy. We've got a mannequin that looks just like him."

One of her favorite displays shows Ralphie dressed in a bunny suit on Christmas morning.

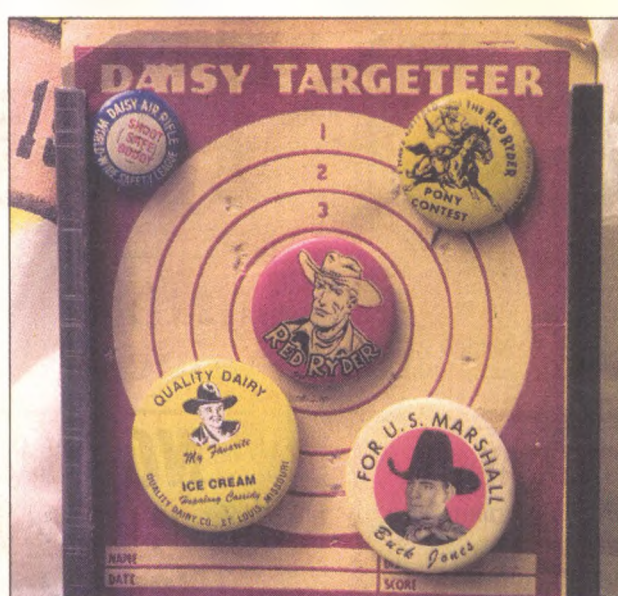
"One of the things that is so captivating about this exhibit is the way we have it set up. It's warm and cozy. It's a feel good type of thing. We have the lights dimmed and red and green outdoor bulbs strung across Main Street. It looks a lot like

the Main Street in the movie."

The Museum is open 1-4 p.m. Wednesday and Friday-Sunday. It's located at 155 S. Main Street, just north of downtown Plymouth. Admission is \$5 for adults and \$2 for students, 6-17; (734) 455-8940.

Looking for other fun family destinations this weekend? Here's a sampling:

- The Santaland Parade starts at 10 a.m. Friday, Nov. 26, at Garden City High School and travels south on Middlebelt to Ford Road, travelling east to the City Town Center parking lot. Who can



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Daisy memorabilia on display at the Plymouth Historical Museum.



Ralphie and the infamous bunny pajamas from Aunt Clara.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

resist the bands, floats, and hot chocolate afterwards?

- Billy Ray Bauer and Richard Bart present "Laughter on the Night After," a night of comedy, magic and music for all ages, 8 p.m. Friday, Nov. 25, at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 50400

Cherry Hill Road, Canton. A portion of the proceeds will benefit the Great Lakes Burn Camp. Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$15 for seniors, students and youth.

- Kensington Metropark offers a program for kids, 7-15, who want to learn more about farm

life, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Friday, Nov. 25. The fee is \$30 per participant. Participants will work alongside farmers cleaning stalls, feeding animals and working on other daily or seasonal chores. Reservations are necessary. Call (248) 684-8632 or (800) 477-3178.

- Families will flip for The National Acrobats of The People's Republic of China, 8 p.m. Friday, Nov. 25 at Music Hall, 350 Madison, Detroit. See incredible feats of balance, strength and flexibility. Tickets are \$50, \$40 and \$30. Call (313) 887-8501.

- Gemini — San and Laz Slomovits — play instruments galore and sing funny and sweet songs for the whole family, 1 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 27, at The Ark, 316 S. Main, Ann Arbor. Tickets are \$10.; www.theark.org. Their Thanksgiving concerts have benefitted Mott Children's Hospital since 1994.

- Get outdoors and exercise off the turkey leftovers with Hiking Michigan, an organization that arranges hikes and snowshoe walks throughout southeastern Michigan. The next walk is noon-3 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 27 in the Highland Recreation Area, 5200 Highland Road, White Lake. The Department of Natural Resources \$10 annual passport is required. The group will explore remains of Edsel and Eleanor Ford's old estate, as well as visit the Haven Hill Natural area on the north side of the lake created by the Fords' dam. The hike is dog-friendly and child-friendly. For information call (586) 446-7656 or (588) 295-7088.

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# Animated film has heart, humor, high-tech North Pole

By Sharon Dargay  
O&E Staff Writer

If you plan to see just one of the holiday films out this Thanksgiving weekend, you won't go wrong taking the family to *Arthur Christmas*, a fresh, funny twist on the classic Santa Claus legend by Aardman, the British animation studio that also brought moviegoers *Chicken Run* and the Wallace and Gromit characters.

I'm not a fan of the stop motion effects used in Aardman's earlier efforts, so I was pleasantly surprised to watch the film's inventive story unfold in 3D computer animation, the result of a team-up between the British studio and Sony Pictures Animation.

And although the visuals are more refined, the characters — three generations of the Christmas clan — are drawn Aardman style, with exaggerated features (Grandsan-



ta's nose rivals the size of a potato) and out-of-whack proportions. But it's a perfect look for this dysfunctional family.

### Meet the Christmas clan

Arthur Christmas, the hero of the film and Santa's youngest son, maintains an upbeat outlook on life and an adoration for his Dad, despite the lack of respect he gets from family members and elves alike. He's relegated to a tiny office

where he answers letters to Santa, while his older brother, Steve, runs Christmas like a high tech, precision military operation. On Christmas Eve, scores of elves drop down SWAT team style into homes from a hovering spaceship that resembles a cross between the Starship Enterprise and a sleigh, while Steve orchestrates the process from Mission Control.

Santa Claus is showing a bit of wear and tear after 70 missions around the world, but he has no plans of retiring any time soon and handing the family business to his ambitious elder son.

Grandsanta is retired, but can't stop talking about his own glory days, spent delivering presents from a mere sleigh drawn by flying reindeer.

"I did 70 missions without all this malarkey," he grumbles. "What happened to going down the chimney?"

### Heroic adventure

The real fun begins after the family discovers the "foolproof" corporate machine that Christmas has become has missed a child. Distributing billions of gifts in one night is no small feat and Steve pronounces the mission a success, anyway. He suggests sending the missed girl a gift by messenger, which will take five days.

Santa worries that he's just a figurehead, a "fatty with a suit," but can't muster the initiative to do anything but fall asleep.

When Arthur vows to deliver the goods in person before sunrise on Christmas day, Grandsanta dusts off the antique sleigh, hooks up the flying reindeer and the pair — along with a stowaway elf — embark on a hilarious adventure around the world and a race against the clock.

Young children may have a hard time understanding some of the dialogue because the actors

all have British accents, but there is enough physical humor — Arthur furiously pedalling a tiny girl's bike, magic dust sending African wildlife skyward — to keep them awake.

Adults will find plenty to laugh at in the funny script and quirky characters.

I'm ready to skip the turkey dinner Thursday just to watch this gem again.

*Arthur Christmas*, a Columbia Pictures release, debuted for general audiences Wednesday, Nov. 23. It runs a little over 90 minutes and is rated PG.

Other family movies that hit the big screen Wednesday, Nov. 23:

• *Hugo*: While looking for his missing family, Hugo Cabret discovers a robot in the walls of a Paris train station. The robot transports him to a world of wonder, mystery and magic where he meets girl who helps

him solve the mystery surrounding his missing family. The movie is based on Brian Selznick's award winning *New York Times* best-seller, *The Invention of Hugo Cabret*. The film is director Martin Scorsese's first film shot in 3D. Starring Asa Butterfield, Chloe Moretz, Jude Law, Christopher Lee, Sacha Baron Cohen and Ben Kingsley. Rated PG from Paramount Pictures.

• *The Muppets*: On vacation in Los Angeles, Walter, the world's biggest Muppet fan, and his friends Gary (Jason Segel) and Mary (Amy Adams) from Smalltown, USA, discover the nefarious plan of oilman Tex Richman (Chris Cooper) to raze the Muppet Theater and drill for the oil. Walter, Mary and Gary help Kermit reunite the Muppets to raise the \$10 million needed to save the theater. Rated PG from Walt Disney Pictures.

# Get into the holiday spirit with seasonal favorites

By Jill Halpin  
Correspondent

Sugar plum fairies and toy soldiers will soon join symphonies, bands and choruses in bringing smiles to audiences across the metro area.

It's a special time of the year for both performers and show-goers alike, according to dancer Kendall Snow, 20, of Livonia.

"It's definitely my most favorite time of the year and *The Nutcracker* really gets me in the holiday mood," he said.

Snow, a 2009 graduate of Livonia Stevenson, began dancing at Bunny Sanford's School of Dance in Livonia as a child. He vividly remembers dancing in one of his first holiday performances of Tchaikovsky's *The Nutcracker* and playing the role of a young boy, Fritz. Now a communications arts major at Michigan State University, Snow makes it a point to return each holiday season to dance in the school's production of the ballet.

### On stage

"I went from playing Fritz, the youngest male role, to playing Fritz's father this year. It's so awesome to still be able to do this," said Snow, adding that he makes an effort to stay in shape all year, even working out with weights when he is away at school so he will be ready for the performance.

He returns to the stage Saturday, Dec. 3 in the Livonia Symphony Orchestra's holiday production, "Stories of the Season." It will feature excerpts from *The Nutcracker*, conducted by Volodymyr Shesiuk,



Guest artists Leonid Flegmatov and Dawnell Dryja will dance with the Plymouth-Canton Ballet Company.

symphony music director. Snow will be joined on stage by other dancers from Angie Hahn's Dance Academy as well as the Livonia Civic Chorus.

According to Rose Kachnowski, president of the Livonia Symphony Orchestra, the program will begin with Christmas music, including favorites such as *Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas* and *O Little Town of Bethlehem*. The audience will have a chance to sing along with some songs.

The second act of the show is the performance of *The Nutcracker*, with vocal accompaniments by the Livonia Civic Chorus. In Farmington, dancers from the Positive Attitude Dance Academy will join forces with Curtain Call Dance of Canton to bring audiences a performance of *The Nutcracker* and something more — a chance to give something back to the community.

All proceeds from their hour-long performance of Tchaikovsky's *The Nutcracker* at Farmington's Civic Center Theater, Sunday, Dec. 4 will go to the Farmington-area Goodfellows, who provide assistance to needy families during the holidays. In addition, Goodfellow volunteers in the lobby will

accept donations of non-perishable food items and new, unwrapped toys, said Laurie Smalis of Farmington, owner of Positive Attitude.

"Everyone likes to give something to others during the holidays. This is a great opportunity for people to donate to the community and see a great performance, too," said Dorrie Milan of Plymouth, co-owner of Curtain Call Dance. "The kids absolutely love the idea of working on a fundraiser to help other people out."

Smalis said she, too, has noticed the dancers and their families really getting behind the idea of contributing to others.

"It really gives the kids a sense of giving back to the community and not getting wrapped up in themselves. They really respond to it. They can see that even in a small way, in doing something that you do every day, like dance, you can still be helpful to others," Smalis said.

The first-time collaboration features dancers from both dance studios ranging in age from 6-17 years, as well as a performance by a very special guest, 83-year-old Robert Brown of Westland.

Brown, who also happens to be Curtain Call

owner Milan's father, will perform the role of Herr Drosselmeyer in the show. Although this is not the first time he has played a role in one of his daughter's shows, he is "always game to try anything," said Milan. "He's going to be terrific."

Looking for holiday events to enjoy and or entertain visiting family this season? Here's a sampling of what's going on locally:

### CANTON

• The Central City Christmas Spectacular, billed as the "most explosive Christmas show around," is on stage, 6 p.m. Dec. 15-16, and noon and 5 p.m. Dec. 17-18, at The Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill Road. Tickets are \$20 and are available at Central City Dance Center, 6700 Canton Center Road or by calling (734) 459-0400.

• Cherry Hill Singers Christmas Concert, 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 9 in The Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill Road. Tickets are \$8-\$10 call (734) 394-5300 or visit www.beckridgechorale.org.

• "Santa Lives! Yes Virginia, There is a Santa Claus," Thursday-Sunday, Dec. 8-11 in The Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill Road. Performance times vary. Tickets are \$10. Call (734) 394-5300 or visit www.spotlightplayersmi.org.

• Plymouth Community Band's Christmas Festival, 7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 16 in the Canton Little Theater, Canton High School, 8415 North Canton Center Road. Admission is free.

• The Nutcracker presented by The Michigan Philharmonic with the Plymouth Canton Ballet Company, 6:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. and 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 4 in Salem High School Auditorium, 46181 Joy Road. Tickets \$15-\$20; call (734) 451-2112 or visit www.michiganphil.org or www.plymouth-cantonballet.org.

### FARMINGTON

• Excerpts from The Nutcracker LIVE performed by the Positive Attitude Dance Academy and Curtain Call Dance, 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 4 in Farmington's Civic Theater, 33332 Grand River Ave. Tickets are \$15; call (248) 476-2099.

• The Most Wonderful Time of the Year concert presented by the Novi Chorales, 7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 9, in the First United Methodist Church of Farmington, 33112 Grand River Ave. Tickets \$10-\$12 at the door.

### FARMINGTON HILLS

• Farmington Community Band's "The Holiday Show," 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 11 in the Harrison High School Auditorium, 29995 W. 12 Mile. Admission is free.

• Michigan Classic Ballet Company Presents The Nutcracker, 11 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 3 and 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 4 in Mercy Auditorium, Mercy High School, 29300 W. 11 Mile. Tickets \$17-\$22; visit www.michiganclassicalballet.org. Nutcracker Tea with the Michigan Classic Ballet Company, 1:30-2:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 4. Tickets are \$15 and do not include admission to show; visit www.michiganclassicalballet.org.

### LIVONIA

• Angie Hahn's Academy of Dance presents The Nutcracker at 11:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 17, at Stevenson High School, 33500 Six Mile. Tickets are \$7, available in advance at the studio or at the door. Young audience members can receive sweets and treats after each performance.

• St Olaf's Christmas Festival LIVE features a live performance of more than 500 musicians performing a Christmas concert on the campus of Minnesota's St. Olaf College, 3:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 4 at AMC Livonia 20, 19500 Haggerty, north of Seven Mile. Tickets \$18-\$15. Call (734) 542-3191.

• Livonia Symphony Orchestra presents "Stories of the Sea-

son" Christmas Concert, featuring The Nutcracker excerpts with Angie Hahn's Academy of Dance, along with the Livonia Civic Chorus, 4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 3 in the Louis Schmidt Auditorium, Clarenceville High School, 20155 Middlebelt. Tickets are \$5-\$20; call (734) 421-1111 or visit www.livonia-symphony.org.

• The Livonia Civic Chorus presents "Believe," 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 18 in Clarenceville High School, 20155 Middlebelt. Tickets \$10-\$12; available at Livonia Recreation Center or call (734) 542-907; visit http://www.livoniacivicchorus.org for more information.

### NOVI

• Novi Chorales present "The Most Wonderful Time of the Year," 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 3 in the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. 10 Mile and 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 4 in Church of the Holy Family, 24505 Meadowbrook. Tickets are \$10-\$12 at the door.

### NORTHVILLE

• BeckRidge Chorale and Orchestra present "Night of Joy," 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 3 and 4 p.m. Sunday Dec. 4 in Northville High School, 45700 Six Mile, Northville Township. Tickets are \$12-\$18 call (888) 459-4887 or visit www.beckridgechorale.org.

### PLYMOUTH

• Michigan Philharmonic presents "Home for the Holidays," a family-friendly concert at 6 p.m. and a traditional concert at 8 p.m., both on Thursday, Dec. 15, in the Penn Theatre, 760 Penniman. Tickets \$10-\$22; call (734) 451-2112.

• Noel Night with the Michigan Philharmonic, 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 8. Event includes a holiday performance and a chance to socialize with musicians in an intimate setting in a private home. Tickets \$65 per person. Call (734) 451-2112 or visit http://www.michiganphil.org for more information.



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[www.HolidayCraftExtravaganza.com](http://www.HolidayCraftExtravaganza.com)

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Turkey Casserole

## Lovin' TURKEY LEFTOVERS

**M**ake sure you buy a big turkey this year, because you'll want plenty left over to make these tasty post-holiday recipes.

From a savory sandwich and hearty salads to easy turnovers and a simple casserole, there are plenty of delicious ways to finish off turkey leftovers. You can even keep the flavors of the holidays going with Bobby Flay's recipe for moist and delicious "Stuffing" Crusted Turkey Cutlets. He uses leftover poultry seasoning for flavor and Hellmann's® Mayonnaise to keep them tender and juicy.

For more great ways to love your leftovers, visit [www.hellmanns.com](http://www.hellmanns.com).

### Turkey Casserole

Serves: 6  
Prep Time: 15 minutes  
Cook Time: 40 minutes

4 cups leftover prepared stuffing, divided  
4 cups coarsely chopped leftover cooked turkey (about 1 pound)  
½ cup Hellmann's® or Best Foods Real Mayonnaise, divided  
½ cup whole berry cranberry sauce  
2 cups leftover mashed potatoes  
1½ cups shredded mozzarella cheese (about 6 ounces)

Preheat oven to 375°F.

Spray 8-inch baking dish with no-stick cooking spray. Spoon in 2 cups stuffing, then top with turkey.

Combine ½ cup mayonnaise with cranberry sauce; evenly spread over turkey.

Combine remaining ½ cup mayonnaise, potatoes and cheese in large bowl. Evenly spread on turkey, then top with remaining 2 cups stuffing.

Bake 40 minutes or until heated through. Let stand 10 minutes before serving. If desired, garnish with dried cranberries.



Leftover Turkey Super Sandwiches

### Leftover Turkey Super Sandwiches

Serves: 4  
Prep Time: 10 minutes

4 tablespoons Hellmann's® or Best Foods Real Mayonnaise  
8 slices whole grain bread  
½ cup prepared stuffing  
½ pound sliced leftover or deli turkey  
½ cup cranberry sauce or whole berry cranberry sauce  
1 small apple, cored and sliced

Spread mayonnaise generously on 4 bread slices. Layer stuffing, turkey, cranberry sauce and apple on bread slices. Top with remaining 4 bread slices.

### Turkey Fiesta Salad

Serves: 4  
Prep Time: 10 minutes

½ cup Hellmann's® or Best Foods Real Mayonnaise  
½ cup prepared salsa  
6 cups torn romaine lettuce leaves  
2 cups diced cooked turkey  
4 slices bacon, crisp-cooked and crumbled

Combine mayonnaise and salsa in small bowl; set aside.

Combine remaining ingredients in large bowl. Just before serving, toss with mayonnaise mixture.

Serve, if desired, with your favorite salad fixings, such as chopped tomatoes, black beans, shredded cheese, sliced pitted ripe olives, sliced green onions and/or tortilla chips.

— Family Features



"Stuffing" Crusted Turkey Cutlets



Blushing Cranberry and Pear Turkey Salad



Turkey Turnovers

### Turkey Turnovers

Serves: 8  
Prep Time: 15 minutes  
Cook Time: 12 minutes

2 cups shredded cooked turkey  
1 cup shredded cheddar cheese (about 4 ounces)  
1 cup chopped cooked broccoli  
½ cup Hellmann's® or Best Foods Real Mayonnaise  
½ teaspoon salt  
¼ teaspoon ground black pepper  
2 packages (8 ounces each) refrigerated crescent rolls

Preheat oven to 375°F. Combine all ingredients except crescent rolls in large bowl.

Separate each package crescent rolls into 4 squares; press diagonal perforations to seal.

Spoon turkey filling onto center of each square. Fold dough diagonally over filling to form triangles; press edges firmly to seal.

Arrange turnovers on baking sheet; brush tops lightly with additional mayonnaise.

Bake 12 minutes or until golden. Serve warm.

### "Stuffing" Crusted Turkey Cutlets

A Bobby Flay Recipe

Serves: 4  
Prep Time: 15 minutes  
Cook Time: 10 minutes

2 cups panko or plain dried bread crumbs  
3 tablespoons finely chopped fresh flat-leaf parsley  
Salt and freshly ground black pepper  
¼ cup Hellmann's® or Best Foods Real Mayonnaise  
2 tablespoons Dijon mustard  
1 teaspoon poultry seasoning  
4 turkey cutlets (about ½ inch thick)  
4 tablespoons canola oil, divided

Combine bread crumbs, parsley, salt and pepper in large shallow dish; set aside.

Combine mayonnaise, mustard and poultry seasoning with wire whisk in small bowl and season, if desired, with salt and pepper.

Season turkey, if desired, with salt and pepper. Brush 1 side of each turkey cutlet with mayonnaise mixture, then coat in bread crumbs.

Heat 2 tablespoons oil in 12-inch nonstick skillet over medium-high heat and cook 2 turkey cutlets, bread side down, 3 minutes or until golden brown and a crust has formed. Turn over and cook an additional 2 minutes or until turkey is thoroughly cooked. Repeat with remaining oil and turkey.

### Blushing Cranberry and Pear Turkey Salad

Serves: 4  
Prep Time: 10 minutes

½ cup Hellmann's® or Best Foods Real Mayonnaise  
½ cup whole berry cranberry sauce or cranberry relish  
4 cups torn romaine lettuce leaves  
2 cups baby spinach leaves or mixed salad greens  
2 cups diced cooked turkey  
1 medium pear, cored and thinly sliced.  
¼ cup toasted chopped pecans  
¼ cup thinly sliced red onion

In medium bowl, combine mayonnaise and cranberry sauce; set aside.

In large bowl, combine romaine, spinach and turkey. Just before serving, toss with mayonnaise mixture. Top with pear slices, pecans and onion. Garnish, if desired with dried cranberries.

Note: Recipe can be doubled.



# Pairing up Thanksgiving Day feast

Thanksgiving is around the corner, and many will be hitting the grocery store to stock-up in preparation for the national day of gluttony.

On a day when the table swells with dozens of dishes, how does one choose the appropriate beer(s) for the occasion? The good news is there is no wrong answer, since beer pairing is more art than science, and beauty is in the eye of the beholder.



Beer Tracker

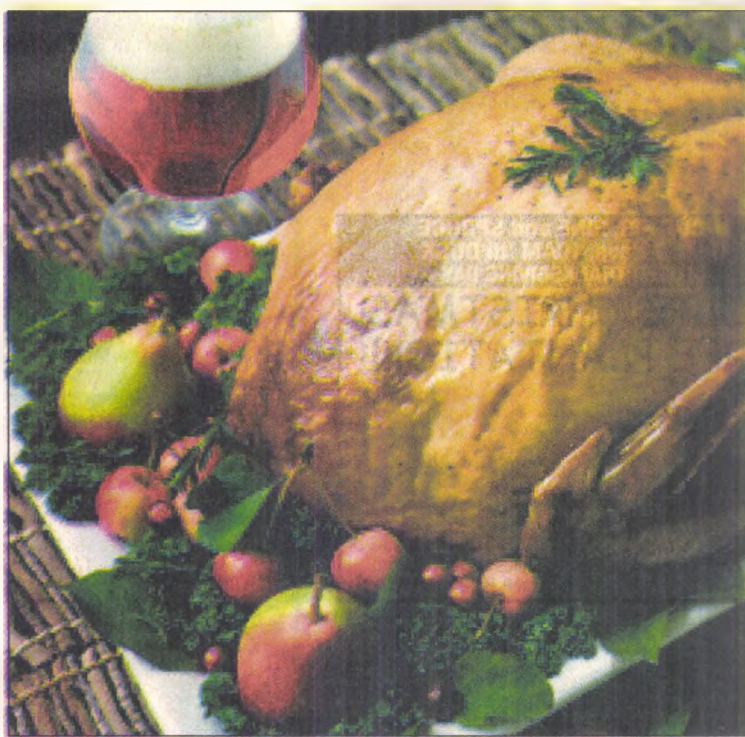
Nate Parsons

A rule of thumb for a successful pairing is that the drink should complement the food with either a contrasting or similar flavor profile. The chal-

lenge is that pairings work best with a singular soul mate like an artesian cheese or a lush dessert. The Thanksgiving experience is hardly a monogamous encounter, making it a challenge for any beer connoisseur. Fortunately, with the right line up, beer can win over the ardent wine lover when the most important meal of the year is on the line.

## Aperitif or Starter

As guests arrive, hand them something crisp, cold and refreshing. Something from the pilsner family is a good fit. It will heighten the senses, stir



up an appetite, and won't dull the palate with excessive alcohol. Furthermore, the clean finish will cut through any salty snacks circling the room.

- Pilsner Urquell — Light straw in color and crystal clear. Aroma is floral with a taste to match and it finishes with a hint of clean spice.

- Victory Prima Pils — A tasty lager with a hoppy floral taste. Crosses traditional Bohemian flavor with Yankee ingenuity for a well-balanced lager.

## Appetizer or Primer

Depending on the venue this course can be a challenge for

the beer aficionado. Think something midrange with citrus tones that cleanse the palate without scraping the throat... sorry no hop bombs here. These two offer earthy tones that complement a wide range of fare without stealing the show.

- Saison Dupont — Nice aromatics and a hazy straw hue, well-seasoned but not overpowering. Hints of citrus, white pepper and clove are balanced with a hit of prickly carbonation for a quenching finish.

- Hennepin Farmhouse Ale — Rustic in scent with an earthy palate cut by tangerine spice. Sweet malty flavors interplay

with citrus tones and the lively carbonation tickles the tongue.

## The Main Event

Typically a bold offering works here, something worthy of the 36-hour lead time required pull off such a beastly event. A muscle beer from the cellars of a Belgian monastery seems appropriate for the occasion. No doubt either of these recommendations will impose their will, but also court the complexities of flavors found in an all-out feast.

- Westmalle Trappist Triple — Sweet breadly malts mingle with spices to deliver a well-balanced high octane offering. The finish warms the mouth with drying alcohol and the carbonation cleanses the back of the throat.

- Orval Trappist Ale — Considered dry ale, it pours a dusty orange and boasts a rocky three-finger head. The mouth is sweet with dry fruits, but the clean finish will leave taste buds pining.

## Dessert

Whether it's pumpkin, pecan or sweet potato pie, there are a number of offerings that will compliment this course. Some enthusiasts push for a sweet beer such as Chimay Grande Reserve or a fruit-infused Lindamans Framboise. Others may prefer the bitter bite of coffee found in Bells Java Stout or Founders Breakfast Stout. If an early exit from the table is appealing, head to the sofa with

a bottle of dessert in time to catch the opening drive.

- Brooklyn Chocolate Stout — Infused cocoa is the backbone of this robust black stout. Rich chocolate spreads across the palate before roasted malt thins out the sweetness. The finish offers a hint of plum before exiting on a bed of dry cocoa.

- Southern Tier Pumpking Ale — An intense offering worthy of the imperial moniker. Deep full-bodied offering dominated with sweet nutmeg, cinnamon, and ginger. Creamy malts coat the mouth finishing with a rich presence.

Pairing beer with food is not an exact science, but these selections should offer direction when looking to impress the relatives at this year's sit down. All the offerings mentioned can be found at local beer caves around the metro area. Cheers!

- Hiller's, 425 North Center Street, Northville
- The Wine Palace, 13971 Middlebelt, Livonia
- Holiday Market, 520 South Lilly, Canton
- Super Fine Wine, 1634 Haggerty, Canton
- Beer Barron, 19610 Middlebelt, Livonia
- Meadows, 21099 Farmington Road, Farmington Hills
- Brass Mug, 19213 Newburgh, Livonia
- Bella Vita, 28870 W 12 Mile Road, Farmington Hills

Nate Parsons can be reached at modevin@yahoo.com

# Sweeten holiday fare with Michigan-grown chestnuts

By Sharon Dargay  
O&E Staff Writer

Fire up the charcoal. It's chestnut season. If you've got the roaster, Virginia Rinkel can supply the nuts.

She and other members of Chestnut Growers Inc., a cooperative of 40-some Michigan chestnut farmers, are taking their products, including chestnut flour, freeze-dried slices, whole and peeled, fresh chestnuts, on the road through December, visiting farmer's markets in metro Detroit.

"It's one way to educate the public that we're around," Rinkel said. "We need more growers and are experiencing more interest all the time in chestnuts."

With approximately 154 chestnut farms, Michigan claims more growers than other states. But Rinkel said the cooperative hopes to convince other Michigan farmers, such as cherry growers, to cultivate an acre or two of chestnut trees along with their regular crops, helping bolster the state's chestnut yield and meet growing demands for the product.

"By February our freezer is going to be full. We've had some orders for 5,000 pounds the last few years," she said, adding that Whole Foods and other local markets carry Chestnut Growers Inc. products.

Co-op members, like Rinkel and her husband, Bob, who own Vicary Road Chestnut Farm in Leslie, north of Jackson, grow Chinese, European or Japanese chestnuts. Most of the American chestnut trees were wiped out in the early 1900s by blight.

Chestnut Growers Inc. processes and sells their products at farm markets and to retailers. Members peel the chestnuts, which can be frozen, used whole, sliced and dehydrated or ground into flour. Whole unpeeled chestnuts, sold by the bag, must be scored before they are roasted. Peeled, fresh whole chestnuts should be stored in the refrigerator.

"Chestnuts are 70 percent moisture. It's constantly wanting to mold. But that's external mold that is easily wiped off. You won't get internal mold for months," Rinkel said, explaining how to store fresh chestnuts. "You just need to flip the bag every few days in the refrigerator. It's a whole new thing that people just need to be educated to."

Chestnuts are fruits that contain few oils, unlike most nuts. They spoil easily when left at room temperature and nutritionally are more like grains because they contain more starch than protein. They are gluten-free and sweet.

## Roasting

When preparing chestnuts for roasting, score the fruits by making a long cut in the shell across the middle of the nut. The opening will allow steam to escape from the nut. Failure to score the nut can cause it to pop and splatter.

Roast chestnuts by placing them in a chestnut roasting pan or old-fashioned fireplace popcorn cooker. Roast on coals or fire for 15-25 minutes. Shake them often.

For oven roasting, place chestnuts on a cookie sheet with raised edges. Add a little water to the pan. Roast for 20-30 minutes at 350 degrees.

Microwave by wrapping six to eight scored chestnuts in a damp paper towel. Microwave on high one or two minutes.

Use dehydrated, frozen sliced or chestnut flour in cooking. Here are a few recipes from the Chestnut Growers, Inc., that use the cooperative's chestnut products:



## Hummus

8 ounces CGI freeze-dried Chestnut "Slices" (rehydrated in 16 ounces boiling water) or use 1 pound fresh or frozen-peeled chestnuts

1 1/2 cup reserved chestnut water  
1/2 cup lemon juice  
2 large cloves garlic (sieved)  
1 teaspoon salt  
Freshly ground pepper  
1/2 teaspoon ground cumin  
3 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil  
2-4 tablespoons pine nuts (to taste)

4 tablespoons chopped fresh parsley or cilantro  
1 cup (8 ounces) Tahina  
Dash of paprika

For making hummus from freeze-dried chestnut "Slices," bring 16 ounces water to a boil in small saucepan and add freeze-dried chestnut "Slices" stirring to rehydrate. Reduce to a simmer and cook for 15 minutes. Drain the chestnuts, reserving any liquid. Add enough water to this liquid to measure 1 and 1/2 cups liquid. If cooking fresh or frozen-peeled chestnuts in small amount

of water, reserve water and adjust as for the freeze-dried "Slices."

In a food processor or blender, fitted with a steel blade, process the lemon juice, garlic, salt, pepper, cumin, chopped fresh parsley or cilantro, pine nuts and at least 1/2 cup of the reserved cooking water liquid. Add rehydrated chestnuts and continue blending, adding more reserved liquid if needed, blending to very smooth consistency. Pour into large bowl and hand stir in tahini last and blend till you have a smooth consistency.

Serve with cut-up raw vegetables, crackers or warm grilled pita bread cut into wedges.

Note: You also can add cayenne pepper to the hummus. Sometimes leftover hummus tends to thicken. Just add some water to return it to the right consistency.

## Cream of Chestnut Soup (vegan style)

4 ounce bag "Chestnut Chips"  
4 cups water  
1 carrot (7 baby carrots)  
1 celery stalk  
1 medium onion  
1 clove of garlic  
1/2 teaspoon nutmeg  
1/2 teaspoon thyme

Chop vegetables and garlic and place in 4 cups of water in large saucepan. Cover and bring to boil. Reduce heat to simmer, maintaining a low boil. Add "Chestnut Chips" and continue to low boil for 20 minutes. Carefully

remove to blender. If short on liquid, add water to make an even 4 cups. Blend to smooth consistency (about 45 seconds). Salt and pepper to taste. This is a simple base for a delicious soup. Do not hesitate to experiment with other ingredients. For variety, try adding additional spices, parsnips, squash, sweet potato, apple or 1/4 cup Madeira wine. Add Canadian bacon if meat is desired.



PHOTO BY MARIO MANDUJANO

## CHESTNUT ROASTINGS

Chestnut Growers Inc. will roast chestnuts and sell chestnut products at these locations:

- 7 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 3, Royal Oak Farmer's Market, 316 E. 11 Mile, two blocks east of Main, in downtown Royal Oak
- 7 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 10, Detroit Eastern Market, 2934 Russell, Detroit
- 7 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 17, Ann Arbor Farmer's Market, 315 Detroit Street, Ann Arbor

Contact: www.chestnutgrowersinc.com; (800) 667-6704; chestnuts4U@hotmail.com

## French Sponge Cakes

1/2 cup sifted "fine" chestnut flour  
1/2 teaspoons baking powder  
1/2 teaspoons salt  
3 whole eggs — separated  
1/2 teaspoon almond extract  
1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract  
6 tablespoons sugar or Splenda

Preheat oven to 350°F -180°C

Sift together flour, baking powder, and salt. Beat egg yolks in a small bowl, rapidly, until very thick and lemon colored (at least 5-7 minutes), adding almond and vanilla flavorings during the beating.

With clean beaters, (or another beater set) beat the egg whites until stiff and shiny. Add sugar, (1 tablespoon at a time about every 45 seconds) and beat on high constantly. Continue to beat rapidly until whites are very stiff and glossy.

Gently fold in the beaten egg yolks with large rubber spatula until just combined, using large turning over and under motion with spatula. In the same manner, fold in the dry ingredients until just mixed. Do not over beat.

Using two teaspoons, (one to pick up batter from bowl and the other to push it onto the cooking tray) drop onto baking sheets, 2 inches apart.

Bake for 10 minutes or until light golden brown. Remove at once to rack to cool.

TIP: For better results in increasing egg white volume, put bowl, beaters, and spatula used to turn batter in the freezer for a short time 5-10 minutes before using. Take out from freezer and use immediately.



French Sponge Cake Cookies on the left side of the plate are made with chestnut flour; those on the right side are made with regular, white flour. Virginia Rinkel, a Michigan chestnut grower, says the cookies with chestnut flour are sweeter and easier to remove from the baking sheet.



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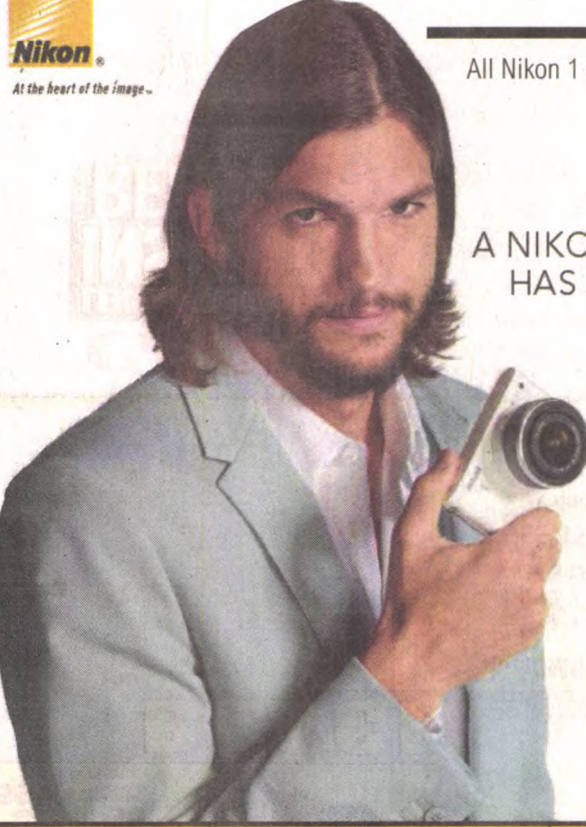
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Instant Rebate -\$50.00  
**BLACK FRIDAY PRICE \$129.99**  
(Nov. 24-26, 2011)

12mp/4x  
PowerShot ELPH 300 HS \$229.99  
Instant Rebate -\$80.00  
**BLACK FRIDAY PRICE \$149.99**  
(Nov. 24-26, 2011)

SALES TAX PAID ON ALL CANON PURCHASES ON BLACK FRIDAY ONLY!

EOS Rebel T3 by Canon



## CANON EOS INSTANT REBATES

	Original Price	Additional Lens Price	Instant Rebate	BLACK FRIDAY (Nov. 24-26, 2011) SPECIAL PRICE
T3 with 18-55IS	\$549.99		\$70.00	\$479.99
T3 with 18-55IS + 75-300 III	\$549.99	\$199.99	\$170.00	\$579.98
T3 with 18-55IS + EF-55-250	\$549.99	\$299.99	\$220.00	\$629.98
T3I with 18-55IS	\$899.99		\$50.00	\$849.99
T3I with 18-55IS + 55-250	\$899.99	\$299.99	\$200.00	\$999.98
EOS 60D Body	\$999.99		\$100.00	\$899.99
EOS 60D Body with 55-250	\$1,299.00	\$299.99	\$250.00	\$1,348.98
EOS 5D Body	\$2,499.99		\$100.00	\$2,399.99
EOS 7D Body with 55-250	\$1,999.99		\$250.00	\$1,749.99

## CANON LENS REBATE...\$35-\$170

33501 WOODWARD (4 Blocks North of 14 Mile Road) BIRMINGHAM  
[www.woodwardcamera.com](http://www.woodwardcamera.com) 248-642-1985

STORE HOURS: Mon. & Thurs. 9-8; Tues., Wed., Fri. & Sat. 9-6; Sun. 12-4





## Industry group lauds top properties, business leaders



Building Owners & Managers Association President Bill Wylonis presents the Outstanding Service to James Jonas of REDICO. BOMA held its annual awards program honoring excellence in commercial real estate at Greektown Casino Hotel Nov. 4.



Detroit-Wayne Joint Building Authority receives The Outstanding Building of the Year (TOBY) Award for best in class for the Coleman A. Young Municipal Center in Detroit. The TOBY recognizes best practices in office building management.

Detroit provides commercial real estate professionals the opportunity to work together for professional growth, advocacy rights, corporate profit, and the benefit of the nine

Southeastern Michigan communities it serves. For more information on BOMA and membership, visit [www.bomadetroit.org](http://www.bomadetroit.org).

## Budget required for repairs

By Robert Meisner  
Guest Columnist

**Q:** I am a new treasurer for our site condo association. I don't quite understand the rules/law regarding the 10 percent of the budget that needs to be set aside for the reserve fund. Is that 10 percent per year? So if the total budget is \$10,000.00, does \$1,000.00 get put into the reserve fund once?

**A:** The Michigan Condominium Act requires that a reserve fund be maintained for major repairs and replacements of common elements in a Michigan condominium, and the Michigan Administrative Code requires that it be at a minimum at least 10 percent of the budget, on a noncumulative basis. While this means that only 10

percent of the budget is required to be in the fund under the code, the Federal Housing Administration (FHA) is requiring that each annual budget contain a line item in the minimum amount of 10 percent of the budget. Moreover, the board is required by the act to reasonably determine how much is needed in reserves. Although a site condominium project is not required to obtain FHA certification for FHA backed loans, lenders often want to be assured that the FHA requirements are met by the condominium before funding a loan. Your Board of Directors may be well advised to have a reserve study conducted by a reputable company to ascertain the condition of the common elements to determine how much reserve monies need to be set aside for projected future repairs and replacements. You should consult an experienced condominium attorney to determine if your project and condominium documents meet the 2011 legal requirements, standards and laws.

**Q:** We are in the process of considering a review of our documents and some of the co-owners are concerned about additional construction in our site condominium which would impair their view, but the developer has not provided any type of guarantee. What do you recommend?

**A:** If your community is located in a scenic area such as near a beach, lake or in the city with a famous skyline, the view that co-owners enjoy from their units is, obviously, very important to them. Co-owners often buy their particular units because of the views and are dismayed if they are obscured by structure or foliage added later. Co-owners that have paid for a specific view that they can no longer enjoy or that previously made their unit more valuable and unique than others, making resale easier, could possibly sue the association. That is why your association should consider passing a view protection bylaw that prohibits Co-owners from building or planning anything that would block other co-owners' views. In order to pass and implement a successful view protection bylaw, your attorney must carve out key rights for your association and clearly define the terms in the bylaw, including: 1. at what point in time a view is "protected," and, 2. whether the association must enforce a bylaw that protects the co-owners' right to that view.

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](http://bmeisner@meisner-associates.com). This column shouldn't be construed as legal advice.

## HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS-WAYNE

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of Aug. 15-19, 2011, at the Wayne County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

CANTON	
1142 Celina Ct	\$144,000
346 Charterhouse Ct	\$124,000
44232 Cherbourg St	\$100,000
591 Cherry Grove Rd	\$130,000
48173 Chesterfield Dr S	\$325,000
355 Cornell St	\$180,000
50051 Grant St	\$226,000
50058 Grant St	\$218,000
50082 Grant St	\$195,000

51235 High Meadow Crossing S	\$335,000
48726 Manhattan Cir	\$400,000
624 McKinley Cir	\$420,000
45587 N Stonewood Rd	\$120,000
767 Pinehurst Dr	\$259,000
6193 Porteridge Ln	\$187,000
3056 River Meadow Cir	\$154,000
49468 Taft Ln	\$35,000
49501 Taft Ln	\$30,000
43569 W Arbor Way Dr	\$65,000
8382 Westchester Ln	\$165,000
GARDEN CITY	
28771 Barton St	\$64,000
31426 Sheridan St	\$7,000
LIVONIA	
17300 Deering St	\$102,000
9210 E Bassett Ct	\$105,000
14446 Ellen Dr	\$140,000
15666 Gary Ln	\$200,000

15171 Harrison St	\$62,000
27735 Lyndon St	\$111,000
35924 Pinetree St	\$100,000
37564 Scone Ct	\$199,000
28959 W Chicago St	\$99,000
11225 W Clements Cir	\$63,000
NORTHVILLE	
19637 Cardene Way	\$152,000
745 Grandview St	\$255,000
15938 Jupiter Hills Dr	\$50,000
19318 Old Bridge Ct	\$106,000
207 Saint Lawrence Blvd	\$208,000
49763 Waterstone Estates Cir	\$518,000
42153 Westmeath Ct	\$364,000
48623 Wicker Creel Dr	\$525,000
PLYMOUTH	
263 Adams St	\$185,000
1450 Ann Arbor Rd W	\$37,000
424 Ann St	\$245,000

47330 Marisa Ct	\$435,000
306 N Holbrook St	\$156,000
1096 Roosevelt St	\$195,000
585 Virginia St	\$158,000
1441 Woodland Pl	\$443,000
25301 Five Mile Rd	\$6,000
REDFORD	
9144 Brady	\$50,000
14077 Breakfast Dr	\$126,000
11312 Dixie	\$52,000
26414 W Chicago	\$40,000
WESTLAND	
38182 Avondale St	\$99,000
37140 Condon Ct	\$88,000
32243 Harvard St	\$59,000
6080 Herbert St	\$45,000
30900 Hiveley St	\$65,000
33272 Mill Race Cir	\$66,000
1525 Selma St	\$72,000
38073 Sherwood St	\$23,000

## HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS-OAKLAND

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of Aug. 8-12, 2011, at the Oakland County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

BEVERLY HILLS	
16969 Dunblaine Ave	\$155,000
30425 Embassy St	\$175,000
15685 Kirkshire Ave	\$96,000
BIRMINGHAM	
125 E 14 Mile Rd	\$42,000
2859 E Maple Rd	\$29,000
2455 Fairway Dr	\$200,000
1340 Pierce St	\$293,000
1267 Pilgrim Ave	\$1,050,000
411 S Old Woodward Ave Unit	\$150,000
1977 Washington Blvd	\$107,000
1109 Yorkshire Rd	\$260,000
BLOOMFIELD HILLS	
2658 Brady Dr	\$35,000

3606 Halla Ln	\$248,000
6887 Lahser Rd	\$125,000
1044 Stratford Ln	\$93,000
3890 Valley Hill Rd	\$93,000
7470 W Greenwch Dr	\$183,000
705 Weybridge Dr	\$218,000
1241 Woodcrest Cir	\$175,000
BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP	
3108 Bradway Blvd	\$580,000
4519 Cherokee Ln	\$125,000
5920 Crabtree Rd	\$182,000
862 E Glengarry Cir	\$766,000
1864 Harvest Ln	\$290,000
4081 Justin Ct	\$155,000
1537 Ledbury Dr	\$130,000
3011 Middlebury Ln	\$435,000
2175 Squirrel Rd	\$231,000
COMMERCE TOWNSHIP	
3320 Edgewood Park Dr	\$900,000
5946 Strawberry Cir	\$308,000
5971 Strawberry Cir	\$306,000
8342 Timber Cove St	\$187,000
FARMINGTON	
35453 Heritage Ct	\$85,000
21229 Robinwood St	\$130,000

FARMINGTON HILLS	
27402 Beacon Sq	\$140,000
28014 Bellcrest St	\$140,000
30539 Fox Club Dr	\$385,000
28993 Glenarden St	\$174,000
35312 Hillside Dr	\$87,000
35355 Muer Cv	\$175,000
31236 Oak Valley Dr	\$152,000
22086 Purdue Ave	\$45,000
21164 Rensselaer St	\$21,000
21502 Rensselaer St	\$51,000
28868 Salem Rd	\$375,000
30710 Springland St	\$116,000
30711 Wingfield Way	\$205,000
LATHRUP VILLAGE	
18594 Saratoga Blvd	\$105,000
17535 Wiltshire Blvd	\$120,000
MILFORD	
3125 Katie Ln	\$268,000
1546 Pinewood	\$195,000
1301 Yellowstone Valley Dr	\$236,000
NOVI	
51123 Brompton	\$211,000

24604 Cavendish Ave E	\$368,000
27521 Cromwell Rd	\$236,000
44796 Ford Way Dr	\$253,000
31216 Kingswood Blvd	\$240,000
40512 Kinnox Park Dr	\$226,000
40542 Lenox Park Dr	\$251,000
23654 Londonderry	\$140,000
27134 Maxwell Ct	\$240,000
24488 Olde Orchard St	\$43,000
41696 Sudbury Ct	\$379,000
22617 Summer Ln	\$450,000
29420 Weston Dr	\$170,000
SOUTH LYON	
24859 Martindale Rd	\$179,000
Southfield	
26812 Franklin Pointe Dr	\$35,000
29420 Guy St	\$68,000
24205 Pierce St	\$36,000
23260 Russell St	\$43,000
WHITE LAKE	
8798 Charbane St	\$185,000
780 Ennest St	\$55,000
10226 Lakeside Dr	\$88,000
248 Rosario Ln	\$195,000

## REAL ESTATE BRIEFS

### On the job

RE/MAX Classic, a local real estate brokerage, announced the affiliation of Associate Realtor Angela Roe at their Canton location.

Roe, formerly of Keller Williams in Livonia, specializes in residential real estate sales in the Plymouth, Canton, Wayne and Westland areas. Roe's expertise expands to leasing opportunities, buyer representation, distressed properties and condominium sales throughout Western Wayne County.

"The expansion and growth of our associate members further strengthens our ability to meet



Roe



McGonagle

the needs of our customers," said Carol Boji, broker/owner of RE/MAX Classic. "Angela is a much-welcome addition to our team in Canton. Her personal attention to her clients and professional skills are a fitting addition to our Canton office and the surrounding communi-

ties. We welcome her aboard and are proud to announce she's joined us."

The firm of RE/MAX Classic encompasses four metro Detroit offices located in Farmington Hills, Novi, Canton and Milford.

Real Estate One, Novi, welcomed Linda McGonagle to its new office. McGonagle is a full-time sales associate with over 30 years of real estate experience.

Her credentials are: a licensed builder, a Short Sale & Foreclosure specialist, a relocation specialist, and a certified Seniors' Real Estate specialist.

In addition, McGonagle's

resume consists of many years of experience within the commercial side of real estate.

Kathy Solan, manager of the Real Estate One, Novi office, stated she was impressed with the depth of experience and knowledge McGonagle brings to the table.

"Our clients are well represented and in extremely proficient hands when they place their trust in Linda. We are proud to have her join our team of stellar agents."

McGonagle can be reached at Real Estate One, 41430 Grand River, Novi, and at (248) 348-6430.



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2 BEDROOM / 1 BATH  
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**FARMINGTON AREA:**  
Adult community - 1 bdrm, extremely updated, \$675/mo. 2 full apts for \$995/mo!  
Call: (734) 564-8402

**FARMINGTON HILLS ANNGIE APTS**  
1/2 off sec. dep. if qualified FREE HEAT! 1 bedroom \$505. 9 Mile/Middlebelt 248-478-7489

**FARMINGTON MANOR APTS.**  
1 bedroom, carport. Move-In Special Avail! From \$475. 248-888-0868

**LIVONIA - Mid 5/Middlebelt.**  
2 bdrm with laundry room in unit. \$725/mo. 50% Off 1st Month's Rent! Call: (248) 521-1978

**LIVONIA MANOR:** 2 bdrm, appliances. Heat/Water incl. Starting \$695/mo. 5 Mile & E/Middlebelt 734-288-8430

**LIVONIA: HEAT/WATER INCL!**  
Spacious 2 bdrm, wood floors, balcony. \$735/mo. 734-516-0541

**PLYMOUTH:** Prime location 1 bdrm. available. \$580/mo. Near downtown. incl. heat. No dogs. 734-455-2635

**Apartments**

**WESTLAND \$300\***  
Moves You In! Spacious 1 bedroom Private entry On-site maintenance Hurry, won't last! 734-721-6699 EHO \*call for details

**WESTLAND Hickory Woods Apts.**  
**\$224 MOVE IN!** (for qualified applicants)  
1 Bdrm-\$550  
2 Bdrm-\$650  
**FREE GAS & WATER** (734) 729-6520 \*Short term leases available.

**Apartments**

**Westland Park Apts. FREE RENT**  
2 Bdrm, 1.5 Bath. \$595, 936 Sq. Ft. 1 Bdrms start at \$530 728 Sq. Ft. "Special" \$100 off a month! \$200 Security Deposit Heat and Water Incl. (New residents only) with approved credit No Pets, C/A, Vertical Blinds, Intercom. Appliances include Dishwasher Very clean Apartments Excellent Maintenance (734) 729-6636

**WESTLAND 2 bedroom, 1.5 bath.** Laundry hook-up. Close to schools. \$600/mo. (248) 892-0262

**Homes For Rent**

**GARDEN CITY-\$950**  
Section 8. 3 Bdrms, 2 baths. 2 garage, basement. No pets! Available Jan. 1st, 2012. 734-788-1635

**REDFORD:** 3 bdrm, 1 bath, all appls incl. Detached garage. \$850/mo. 248-787-1323

**WESTLAND - Economical 2 Bdrm, updated, C/A, bsmt, new furnace. Stove, fridge, W/D \$700/mo Sect 8 well-com! Agent: (734) 646-4957**

**WESTLAND - Spacious 3 bdrm cape cod Hardwood, bsmt, gar., fenced. Nice area. \$995 Good credit. 985-290-9428**

**WESTLAND:** 3 bdrm, 1.5 bath, full bsmt, brick ranch, no garage, no pets. \$849/mo. 248-360-7916, 248-669-9519

**WESTLAND:** 3 bdrm, 2 bath ranch home. Completely redone & appliances, Livonia Schools. \$980. 734-604-1789

**NEWSPAPER POLICY**  
All advertising published in this Newspaper is subject to the conditions stated in the applicable rate card. (Copies are available from the advertising department: Observer & Eccentric/Hometown Weekly Newspapers, 41304 Concept Drive, Plymouth, MI 48170, 866-887-2737. We reserve the right not to accept an advertiser's order. Our sales representatives have no authority to bind this newspaper & only publication of an advertisement shall constitute final acceptance of the advertiser's order. Advertisers are responsible for reading their ad(s) the first time it appears & reporting any errors immediately. The Newspaper will not issue credit for errors in ads after THE FIRST INCORRECT INSERTION. When more than one insertion of the same advertisement is ordered, only the first insertion will be credited. Publisher's Notice: All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968 which states that it is illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation, or discrimination". This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal housing opportunity basis. (FR Doc, 724983 3-31-72). Equal Housing Opportunity Statement: We are pledged to the letter & spirit of U.S. policy for the achievement of equal housing opportunity throughout the nation. We encourage & support an affirmative advertising & marketing program in which there are no barriers.

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**WESTLAND - Holiday Park**  
townhouse 2 bdrm, 1.5 bath, bsmt, patio. Asking \$38,000. 248-797-0397

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**REDFORD MOBILE HOME-**  
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Hurry won't last!  
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1-800-579-SELL

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**CANTON:** Luxury condo, 2 bdrms, bsmt, 2 car garage, fireplace, pool/workout room. \$1375/mo. 734-216-1933

**PLYMOUTH:** 1 bdrm with gar in a unique country setting. Min from downtown Plymouth. \$675/mo + dep. 734-641-2009

**Living Quarters To Share**

**CANTON:** Quiet executive home on 5 wooded acres. \$325 incl. cable & all utilities. Non-smoking. 734-658-8823

**LIVONIA:** Whole house to share. Your 2 rooms plus bath, storage. \$500/mo + 1/2 utilities. Call: (734) 776-2802

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Looking for Room to Rent: Living with kid's, teenagers, or animals, okay. Hobbies incl sports, trains, model kits. Will pay \$250-\$300/mo. Rob: 734-564-8674

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2 bdrm, 1 bath duplex, fenced yard, washer/dryer, hardwood floors w/carpeted bdrms, c/a. \$650/mo. \$700 security. 734-693-9184

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**CANTON:** Country Setting, 3 bdrm, 1.5 bath, fireplace. 1 acre, Pole Barn. \$1390/mo. 734-320-7424

**COMMERCE TWP.** Lovely 3 bdrm, 2 bath, bsmt, lake privileges, appli., fenced yard. \$955. 248-568-6119

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**GARDEN CITY -**  
1 Bdrms only \$579  
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Newly updated, Hurry - Limited supply!  
New Management  
Bentley Square  
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1st Choice Mortgage Lending (734) 459-0782	3.75	0	3.25	0	J/A
Accurate Mortgage Solutions (800) 593-1912	3.75	0	3.25	0	J/A
AFI Financial (877) 234-0600	3.75	0	3.25	0	J/A/F
Ameriplus Mortgage Corp. (248) 740-2323	3.75	0	3.25	0	J/A
BRINKS Financial Group (800) 785-4755	3.75	0	3.125	0.25	J/A/V/F
Client Services by Golden Rule (800) 991-9922	3.75	0.25	3.25	0	J/A/V/F
Co-op Services Credit Union (734) 466-6113	4.125	0.25	3.375	0	J
Dearborn Federal Savings Bank (313) 565-3100	4.25	0	3.5	0	A
Fifth Third Bank (800) 792-8830	4	0	3.375	0	J/A/V/F
First State Bank (800) 372-2205	4.25	0	3.75	0	J/V/F
Golden Rule Mortgage (800) 991-9922	3.75	0	3.25	0	J/A/V/F
Group One Mortgage (248) 282-1602	4.125	0	3.75	0	J/A/V/F
Mortgages by Golden Rule (800) 991-9922	3.625	2	3.25	0	J/A/V/F
Signature Mortgage Michigan (810) 588-4424	3.875	0	3.25	0	J/A/F
Talmer Bank & Trust (800) 462-2786	4.125	0	3.5	0	J/A/V/F

Above information available as of 11/18/11 and subject to change at anytime. Rates are based on a \$200,000 loan with 20% down & credit score of 740 or above. Jumbo rates, specific payment calculation & most current rates available Fridays after 2:00 P.M. at [www.rmcreport.com](http://www.rmcreport.com).  
Key to "Other" column - J= Jumbo, A = Arm, V = VA, F = FHA & NR = Not Reported.  
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Late 30's, early 40's, dark wood, good cond, \$250/best  
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Toys, Paper, Records, Beer Signs, Comics, Nov 26 & 27th, 9-3pm, Livonia Eiks Btwn Plymouth & Middlebelt 586-775-3289  
Admission \$4, \$2 Off w/d!

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**TOY SHOW - 11/26**  
Kalamazoo Fairgrounds 2900 Lake Street, 9am-2pm  
For more info: 262-366-1314

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**ESTATE AUCTION SAT. Nov. 26th, 7pm**  
Cultural Center  
525 Farmer Plymouth MI  
Promo Cars, Furniture, Collectibles & Antiques Old Toy Collection Medical Human Skull Glassware, Pottery Cash/MC/Visa Bank Debit Cards No Checks  
Doors Open 6pm JCC Auction Service, LLC 734.451.7444 jcauctionservices.com

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**Estate Sales**  
**ESTATE SALE OF OCTOGENARIAN!**  
Don't miss this one! Entire Contents of Home for sale on Fri Nov 25 & Sat Nov 26 9am-5pm Couches Occasional Chairs Electronics LTV Chair (4 mo old), Tables, Lamps, Dining Room Set, Queen Bedroom Set, Twin Bed, Televisions, Electronics, Sewing Machines, Tools, China, Lenox, many household misc & small, linens & baby items 30664 Vine Court Maples of Novi. From 10am-11am Now Entrances between 13 & 14 MI off Novi Rd & also on 14 MI east of Novi Rd.

**Garage/Moving Sales**  
**LIVONIA MOVING SALE**  
Everything off of stage! No reasonable offer refused. 8959 Virginia St. Sat. Nov. 26, 9-5

**SOUTH LYON: Huge Moving Sale!**  
Moving out of state! Sat/Mon, 9-5pm 595 East Lake, Apt. 32, Lake Street Apts.

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**WEDDING DRESS -** Never worn, size 6-8. Beaded, one shoulder, charmesa in soft white. Currently being sold at David's Bridal (517) 516-5439 for \$750 asking \$400/best. 313-720-6401

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**MOVING SALE** Grosse Pointe GE Monogram Built-in SS Refrigerator, Drexel Heritage Grand Tour Dining Room Set, Henredon Sofa, Chairs & China, Wrangler Iron Patio Table, Chairs & Umbrella, Trek & Orange County Bikes. Visit Craigslist for details. For appt: 313-623-5005

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SPECIALS  
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**Found - Pets**  
**FOUND CAT -** Mixed Siamese, female on Lilley Rd in Canton 734-397-2435

**Lost - Pets**  
**LOST:** 2 dogs, Dolly, white Poodle & Jet, black Yorkie mix from Canton Home Depot. Reward offered. 734-721-0145

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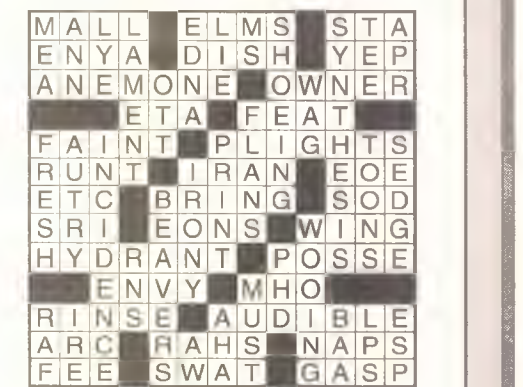
## Challenging fun for ALL ages Thursday PUZZLE CORNER

### CROSSWORD PUZZLER

**ACROSS**  
1 Creep forth  
6 "Don't get any funny —!"  
11 Tided over  
13 Like some wages  
14 Seance sound  
15 Traffic light feature  
17 Least amt.  
18 Ms. Thurman of "The Truth About Cats and Dogs"  
19 Paul Anka hit  
20 Nigerian tribe  
21 Spurt forth  
23 Chart shape  
24 Sooner city  
25 Upswept hairdo  
27 Wildcats with ear tufts  
29 Narrow inlet  
31 Kathleen Turner movie, "Peggy — Got Married"  
32 Threw rocks

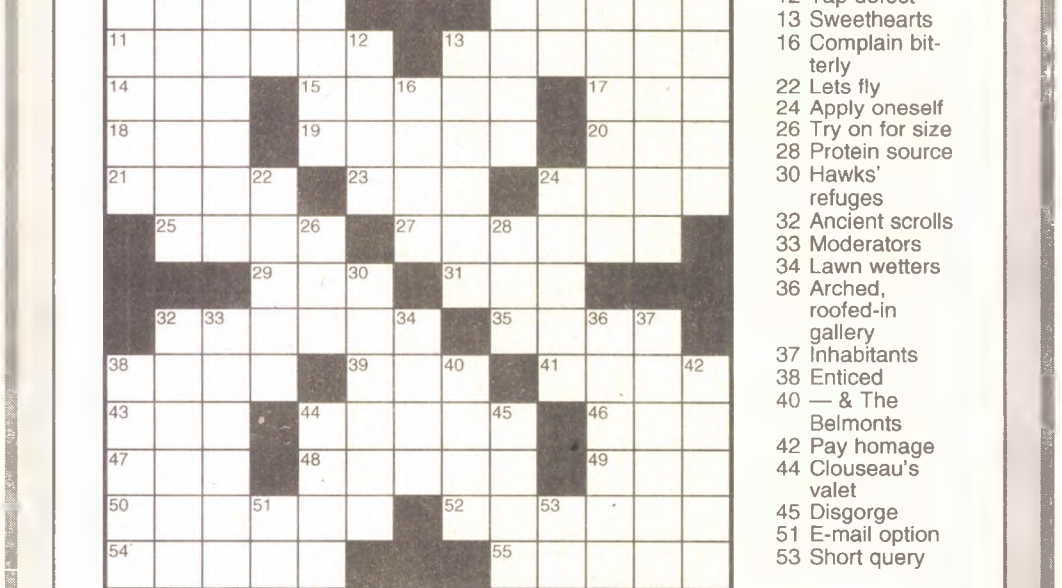
35 Sink part  
38 Runs away quickly  
39 One of the primary colors  
41 Arduous journey  
43 Merchandise ID  
44 Green-fleshed fruits  
46 Bunco artist's scheme  
47 Deli loaf  
48 Famed fabulist  
49 Tarzan's nanny  
50 Constructs  
52 Compass pointer  
54 Music with a beat  
55 Big-time operator

#### Answer to Previous Puzzle



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**DOWN**  
1 Monsieur's gesture  
2 Join forces (2 wds.)  
3 Border town (2 wds.)  
4 News agcy.  
5 Element whose symbol is Pb  
6 Plains state  
7 Madame Barry  
8 Elegant fur  
9 Cover stories  
10 Bishops' council  
12 Tap defect  
13 Sweethearts  
16 Complain bitterly  
22 Lets fly  
24 Apply oneself  
26 Try on for size  
28 Protein source  
30 Hawks' refuges  
32 Ancient scrolls  
33 Moderators  
34 Lawn wetters  
36 Arched, roofed-in gallery  
37 Inhabitants  
38 Enticed  
40 — & The Belmonts  
42 Pay homage  
44 Clauseau's valet  
45 Disgorge  
51 E-mail option  
53 Short query



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### WORD SEARCH

almond chocolate gingerbread molasses pecan  
bran cinnamon macaroons oatmeal peppermint  
utterscotch coconut meringue peanut pumpkin

### SUDOKU

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

### Word Search

H	A	N	S	L	O	D	E	N	S	I										
J	I	O	J	I	Z	K	N	H	Y	E	U	A	L	J						
F	D	N	K	C	J	A	O	T	U	P	G	T	O	Q						
N	A	I	G	H	C	M	U	V	P	N	M	C	O							
D	O	C	S	E	O	L	E	N	W	E	I	E	Y	I						
V	N	C	S	P	L	R	D	A	I	R	R	A	T	U						
Y	O	O	A	C	L	B	Y	E	B	M	E	L	A	Q						
V	B	T	M	N	O	F	R	P	R	I	M	C	F	Y						
Y	E	F	N	L	N	C	K	E	P	N	D	I	P	R						
I	O	R	J	X	A	I	O	D	A	T	Z	J	E	P						
N	I	K	P	M	U	P	C	N	C	D	B	R	A	N						
M	O	L	A	S	E	S	X	U	G	W	C	M	Z							
Q	F	H	N	N	V	M	U	F	T	K	C	I	U							
B	U	T	T	E	R	S	C	O	T	C	H	I	R	S						
S	N	O	R	A	C	A	M	Q	E	D	N	Y	H							

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EOE  
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Must have reliable transportation & valid drivers license. Hourly rate + team incentive. 734-495-0996 or email resume to: [don@renaissanceroofing.com](mailto:don@renaissanceroofing.com)

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•Self-motivated leader  
Resume may be sent by email to: [jealline@stannesmead.org](mailto:jealline@stannesmead.org) or by US Mail to: St. Anne's Mead 16106 W. Twelve Mile Rd Southfield MI. 48076 (248) 557-1221

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