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FOOD, B8

## Wing ringers

The Detroit Red Wings will compete for bragging rights Friday to see which duo can raise the most money for The Salvation Army Red Kettle Campaign, as four two-man teams ring bells 4-6 p.m.

Head coach Mike Babcock will join Executive Vice President and General Manager Ken Holland, who is serving as honorary chairman of the 2011 Red Kettle Campaign for the sixth straight year, outside Hiller's Market in downtown Northville. Drew Miller and an unnamed player will be outside the Kroger in Plymouth.

This season marks the sixth consecutive year the Detroit Red Wings and The Salvation Army are teaming up through the "Red Wings for Red Kettles" initiative to help the nonprofit reach its \$8.2 million Red Kettle campaign goal.

"Both the players and staff have embraced The Salvation Army and have remained committed to helping people in need in our community," Holland said. "We're proud to support The Salvation Army again this year."

Miller

## Santa letters

While Christmas is a very busy time of year for Santa Claus, he always makes time to read letters from children.

Youngsters can be sure Santa knows what they want by writing a letter to Santa. Santa Claus has given the Observer permission to print some of those letters in our Thursday, Dec. 22, issue.

Letters should be e-mailed to bkadrich@hometownlife.com. Parents, be sure to include a JPEG photo of your child, with their name, age, address and phone number. Only your child's name and age will be published.

Letters can also be mailed to Letters to Santa, c/o Brad Kadrich, 615 W. Lafayette, Second Level, Detroit, MI 48226.

The deadline for all Santa letters is Friday, Dec. 16.

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# PLYMOUTH OBSERVER

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PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER  
Brad and Debbie Wardell in their sunlit conservatory.

## Home, sweet home

### Ten-year plan has couple settling in

By Darrell Clem  
Observer Staff Writer

Without ever leaving their home, a Canton family can enjoy a movie theater with massage chairs, a two-level library, a sunlit conservatory, a fitness room and sauna, a circular dining area with a splendid countryside view, three outdoor terraces and an indoor swimming pool that stretches 40 feet long, 20 feet wide.

It's the lavish, multimillion-dollar, British country-style place where Brad and Debbie Wardell live with their three chil-



At the back of the lot, a large solar panel array supplies lots of electricity on sunny days.

dren. It's an opulent, brick home built in a still-emerging, exclusive area on Canton's northwest side where housing market woes seem mythical.

The Wardells spent nearly 10 years planning their three-story dream home, saving their mon-

Please see HOME, A8

## Plymouth builder 'green' even in lavish home

By Darrell Clem  
Observer Staff Writer

On the surface it might seem illogical to tag Brad and Debbie Wardell's three-story house as environmentally friendly — or "green."

Indeed, it rises three

floors and sprawls 20,000 square feet. One of Canton's largest homes, it's the centerpiece of 16 acres of land the couple bought in northwest Canton.

Yet the gold plaque adorning the front of the Wardell home says it all:

Certified Green Home, GOLD rating, bestowed by the Maryland-based National Association of Home Builders Research Center.

The Wardells are proud of it. So is Walter Menard,

Please see BUILDER, A8

## Plan calls for parish partners

By Brad Kadrich  
Observer Staff Writer

Churches could combine leadership, services, A6.

Parishioners at St. Kenneth Catholic Church and Our Lady of Good Counsel could notice some differences as a result of a report released by the Archdiocese of Detroit last week, but any changes aren't likely to be major.

While the report calls for the two Plymouth churches to "partner" for at least some services, neither parish is slated to close or merge, and any changes are likely three to five years away.

The changes will be more dramatic in Canton, where St. John Neumann, Resurrection and St. Thomas a'Becket likely will merge into one parish with three worship sites.

Mark Curtis, who serves as chair of the OLG Parish Council and represented the church on the planning committee that forged the archdiocese report,

said no impact will likely be felt in Plymouth parishes, at least at first.

"We don't really expect any impact initially," Curtis said. "The entire process is trying to get out in front of a statistical reality that there is going to be a dramatic reduction in the number of priests available in the next 10-15 years. As the archdiocese did about six years ago, we went through the process of identifying where are the Catholics now, and where should they worship?"

Curtis said the strength of the Catholic presence in the Plymouth-Canton area (OLGC has some 8,900 parishioners) left the area unscathed in terms of closings. While at least nine churches are set to be closed under the plan, none of them

Please see PARISH, A7

## Board moves toward tax vote as court fight continues

By Matt Jachman  
Observer Staff Writer

represents the Citizens Action Group of Plymouth Township, from heading on Wednesday to Wayne County Circuit Judge Wendy Baxter to seek a "writ of mandamus," or an order that the township government perform a clear ministerial duty.

The legal battle over a petition drive aimed at saving jobs in the Plymouth Community Fire Department is escalating, despite Plymouth Township officials' move toward petitioners' goal of putting a tax question before township voters.

The township Board of Trustees voted 4-2 Tuesday, during a special meeting, to set a Monday, Dec. 19, public hearing on a ballot proposal that would create a special assessment district, of the taxable property in the township, to raise money for the PCFD. The department will lose more than \$900,000 annually, about a quarter of its revenue, plus roughly a quarter of its coverage area, beginning next month when the city of Plymouth withdraws from it, and township officials have said some firefighters could face layoffs.

But the board's move didn't prevent attorney Marvin Stempien, who

Meanwhile, the township, following a closed-door meeting Sunday evening, on Monday appealed an earlier ruling that CAG had fulfilled the requirements for getting a special assessment question on the ballot. Township Attorney Tim Cronin said Tuesday that an emergency hearing had been requested from the Michigan Court of Appeals, but that the court had not yet responded.

### Back to court

According to Stempien, Baxter ruled Wednesday that a writ of mandamus was inappropriate because she was not persuaded the

Please see BOARD, A2

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# Plymouth marks Pearl Harbor's 70th anniversary

By Matt Jachman  
Observer Staff Writer

A couple dozen people gathered just outside downtown Plymouth Wednesday to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the Japanese attack on the U.S. Navy's fleet at Pearl Harbor.

The surprise attack on Dec. 7, 1941, a Sunday, killed more than 2,400 servicemen, wounded more than 1,200 others and damaged or destroyed 18 Navy ships and hundreds of aircraft. It also sent the U.S. to war against Japan and its allies, Germany and Italy, in what came to be called World War II.

"It pushed the United States population from complacency and isolationism to acceptance," said Steve Monaghan, a former Marine and past commander of American Legion Post 112, who was



Bugler Rich Mazurkiewicz plays 'Taps' while Color Guard Commander Rick Ciaramitaro salutes during Wednesday's commemoration of the Japanese attack on the U.S. fleet at Pearl Harbor in 1941. The event at the Plymouth Community Veterans Memorial Park in Plymouth drew a couple of dozen veterans.

the master of ceremonies during the event at the Plymouth Community Veterans Memorial Park. "War was inevitable."

Wednesday's short ceremony featured remarks by Monaghan and open-

ing and closing prayers by Richard Whipple, chaplain at Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 528.

The event was to remember those who "never asked questions, but followed orders and

died," Monaghan said.

"We must remember that the doors of freedom are kept open by the men and women of the military," said Whipple, a former Army soldier.

There was also a recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance, led by Walt Glovna, a World War II Navy veteran.

A bugler played "Taps," and an honor guard fired off a rifle salute.

The annual ceremony was held for years in Kellogg Park, and was moved to Veterans Memorial Park when it opened in 2006, said Frank Pawelak, the commander of American Legion Post 391 and an Army veteran.

The event was sponsored by Legion Posts 391 and 112, VVA Chapter 528 and the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6695.

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(313) 222-2405

## BOARD

Continued from page A1

township had failed to perform a clear duty and that the law on the type of assessment the petitioners seek doesn't say how long the board has to act on the petitions. Stempien said he would be preparing briefs in hopes of returning to court Thursday to seek an injunction.

Stempien said the Dec. 19 hearing leaves too little time to get a special assessment proposal on the ballot for the Tuesday, Feb. 28, primary election. Wayne County's deadline for ballot language for that election is Tuesday, Dec. 20, and Stempien wants an earlier hearing.

"That's really cutting it too close, but they could do it" by the Dec. 20 deadline, he said.

But township Supervisor Richard Reaume said the hearing could be no earlier than Friday, Dec. 16, because of public notification requirements. Reaume said he was "puzzled" by Stempien's request for the earlier hearing, because the Dec. 19 hearing scheduled by the board will leave enough time to submit ballot language the next day.

"This is like three times they've dragged us to court in two weeks, and in each case the judge has not issued any writ of mandamus," Reaume said.

### Language dispute

Unresolved is the question of the millage rate voters may be asked to vote up or down. CAG's petitions specified 1 mill (\$1 for every \$1,000 of a property's taxable value) for five years, but township officials argue the law governing special assessment districts for public safety purposes limits the millage to 10 mills for equipment and is unlimited for maintenance and operations, and has no time limit.

"They're full of crap," said Stempien, who

responded that the ballot language is left to the discretion of the board, and that language referring to a higher or unlimited millage is "all designed to get a 'no' vote."

Reaume, for his part, called CAG's petition language a "misrepresentation" of what such a special assessment district would allow.

Reaume said Tuesday's board vote for a public hearing on a ballot question may make the township's appeal of Baxter's ruling moot, but also may be a way of reserving the township's right to appeal future rulings in the case.

Reaume and Trustees Steve Mann, Kay Arnold and Mike Kelly voted Tuesday for scheduling the public hearing, while Treasurer Ron Edwards and Trustee Bob Doroshewitz voted against the hearing. Clerk Joe Bridgman was absent.

Doroshewitz said the petition process had been "botched," saying the petitions don't list the people who circulated them and contain obvious phony signatures, such as when a husband or wife may have also signed for his or her spouse.

"The petitioners kind of failed, you know, basic high school petition-writing," he said.

CAG supporters accused the board of stalling tactics.

"I cannot believe the (steps) they have gone through, at this 11th hour, to dispute the validity" of the petition drive, said Don Howard.

Plymouth gave notice to the township a year ago that it planned to leave the PCFD, and in January will formally begin a partnership with the Northville Fire Department. Officials in Plymouth expect to save \$400,000 or more a year, excluding start-up costs that have totaled about \$1.5 million.

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## Colbeck talks jobs with NASA audience

State Sen. Patrick Colbeck, R-Canton, spoke before program managers, engineers and chief technologists from NASA about the wealth of partnership opportunities available in Michigan at the Connection Point Breakfast.

The breakfast was hosted by the Detroit Regional Chamber and the Michigan Economic Development Corporation. Members of NASA's Goddard Flight Center, Langley Research Center and Glenn Research Center are in Michigan to explore partnership opportunities with Michigan companies.

In his message to NASA personnel, Colbeck talked about the wide range of qualified businesses in Michigan ready and willing to partner with NASA on upcoming initiatives and the opportunities to expand development in a variety of industries including the high tech sector and the auto industry.

"Michigan offers excellent partnership opportunities for NASA and other similar organizations," Colbeck said. "Our state has some of the most cutting-edge technology firms in the world and is leading the nation in tech job growth, accord-

ing to the latest 2010 TechAmerica report. In addition, just last month Newsweek/The Daily Beast ranked Michigan as the best state in the nation for job growth."

Colbeck pointed out Michigan's workforce features a world-class blend of advanced engineering, information technology specialists, skilled trades, and entrepreneurs. The state's infrastructure, he said, includes high-tech development areas such as Automation Alley and Aerotropolis.

He called state universities "leaders in technology," and lauded their

long history of working with government agencies and industries.

"I am a product of one our public universities, the University of Michigan, ranked the number five aerospace engineering program in the U.S. by U.S. News, Colbeck said. "During my tenure at the university, I personally participated in two partnerships - one with the government and one with private industry."

He told the audience Michigan has "renewed its commitment to creating a business environment that makes it easier than ever to start and grow businesses."

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## Head-on pickup-minivan crash sends three to hospital

By Matt Jachman  
Observer Staff Writer

A head-on collision on Ann Arbor Road just west of Sheldon sent two sisters from Plymouth Township to the University of Michigan Hospital Dec. 1.

The crash occurred shortly before 10 p.m. when an Ann Arbor man driving a Ford F-150 west on Sheldon crossed the center line and crashed the pickup into an eastbound Honda Odyssey minivan with the sisters inside, according to Lt. Bob Antal of the Plymouth Township Police Department. A 21-year-old was driving the Odyssey and her 16-year-old sister was a passenger, Antal said.

The driver was trapped in the Odyssey and had to be cut out by firefighters using an extrication tool, Antal said.

Both victims from the Odyssey were conscious but disoriented, and Antal said he did not know the extent of their injuries, though they did not appear to be life-threatening.

They were taken by ambulance to the U-M Hospital, where a spokesman said Wednesday that they had apparently been released.

The truck driver, 40, did not seem to be seriously injured but was taken to St. Mary Mercy Hospital in Livonia for observation, Antal said. The driver told police that he was on his way home from work and could not remember what happened just before the crash, Antal said.

There were no obvious signs that alcohol was a fac-



PHOTOS BY PAUL SCHULZ  
An Ann Arbor man crashed this Ford F-150 into a Honda Odyssey minivan in an accident on Ann Arbor Road just west of Sheldon.



The driver of his Honda Odyssey had to be cut out of the vehicle with extrication tools after being slammed into in a crash on Ann Arbor Road just west of Sheldon. The driver and a passenger were taken to the University of Michigan Hospital.

tor in the crash, but police are awaiting the results of

blood tests performed on the pickup's driver, Antal said.

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### CRIME WATCH

#### Toyota taken

A 2003 Toyota Corolla was reported stolen from the driveway of a house on Bradner Avenue, in the area of Five Mile and Northville Road in Plymouth Township, on Sunday.

The complainant had last seen the car about 9:30 p.m. the night before, according to a Plymouth Township Police Department report, and discovered it was missing at about 11 a.m. Sunday. She told police she had heard her dogs barking at about 4 a.m. Sunday.

#### Vehicle burglaries

Items were reported stolen Monday from two vehicles parked outside in southwest Plymouth, according to Lt. Jamie Grabowski of the Plymouth Police Department. The thefts occurred late Sunday or early Monday.

On Maple Street, an iPod and a DVD player were reported stolen from a Mercury Mariner, and on Elm Street, a laptop and business records were among the things reported stolen from a Saturn, Grabowski said.

Both vehicles had been left unlocked.

#### Pickup pilfered

A portable digital videodisc player, cigarettes and a navigation device were among the things reported stolen from a Chevrolet pickup truck parked outside a house on Meadow Drive, in the area of Powell and Ridge roads, late last month.

The incident occurred on Nov. 28 or early the next morning, a police report said. The complainant told police he wasn't sure if the truck had been locked; police found no signs of forced entry.

#### Wallet stolen

A wallet and a navigation device were reported stolen Dec. 1 from a Chevrolet pickup truck parked outside a house on Basswood Court, in the area of Joy and Beck roads.

The incident occurred the night before or some time that morning, a police report said. It was unclear if the truck had been locked, but police found no signs of forced entry.

#### Stolen for scrap

A water-retention valve on a sprinkler system, plus about 18 inches of copper tubing, were reported stolen Nov. 28 from outside a business on Pilot Drive, in the area of Five Mile and Beck roads.

The theft had taken place some time since Nov. 23, a police report said.

— By Matt Jachman



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Happy Holidays





# Churches could combine leadership, services

By Brad Kadrich  
Observer Staff Writer

None of the nine Catholic churches in the Archdiocese of Detroit expected to close under a pastoral plan released last week is in Plymouth or Canton, but that doesn't mean Catholic churches in this area aren't eventually going to be affected by the report.

Three parishes in Canton, and two more in Plymouth, are expected to become partners under the plan, released Thursday as the archdi-

ocese begins to deal with a shortage of priests. The move would create one parish, with three different worship sites.

Canton churches affected by the report include St. John Neumann, Resurrection and St. Thomas a'Becket. Plymouth parishes affected by the plan include St. Kenneth and Our Lady of Good Counsel.

The Rev. Pat Casey, who is not only the pastor at St. Thomas a'Becket but is also vicar for the Northwest Wayne Vicariate, said the changes are

at least three years away. "Churches are not going to close," under the plan, Casey said. "We'd be looking to become one parish, with one priest, one parish council, one of everything. We're looking at three to five years down the road."

The report suggests eight churches in the archdiocese should be closed next year to address the shortage of priests, a declining population and declining revenue. Based on Catholic population statistics, there was a 6-per-

cent decline in the number of Catholics in the archdiocese between 2000 (1,443,651) and 2009 (1,434,622), which also includes nonregistered Catholics.

St. Thomas a'Becket has some 3,600 families, while Resurrection parish serves about 650 households. Officials at St. John Neuman didn't return calls seeking comment. Currently 293 priests serve in 270 parishes, including five in the three Canton churches.

Casey pointed out that a few years ago the archdiocese combined parishes, although he said those were smaller churches than either St. Thomas a'Becket or St. John Neumann. Now, with the priest shortage looming, it's time for even the big churches to think of better ways to do things, Casey pointed out.

"A lot of the bigger churches think they're too big to worry about the priest shortage," Casey said. "We're trying to say even we can make some adjustments."

According to the report, the resulting benefits and efficiencies due to the partnering process "are reflected throughout the planning material submitted. In addition, the three Canton parishes ... are part of a plan calling for their merger into a single parish with three worship sites. This proposal also includes an increased role for lay leaders."

The Rev. Ken Chase, pastor at Resurrection parish, called the partnership with the other Can-



St. Thomas a'Becket Catholic Church in Canton would partner with two other Canton parishes under a reorganization plan released by the Archdiocese of Detroit last week.

ton churches "a possibility," but refrained from saying much more.

"It's not clear yet," Chase said. "(The plan) still needs approval from the archbishop, and they're saying that might not come until February. Until then, I can't really say much about it."

The parish planning group consisted of volunteers from the Archdiocese of Detroit and presented Archbishop Allen Vigneron their recommendations. These recommendations — formed through the parishes themselves, reviewed and amended by a group of mostly lay advisers called the Archdiocesan Pastoral Council — call for a number of multi-parish efforts in areas ranging from youth ministry to vocations to financial considerations, according to the archdiocese's website.

Vigneron will spend the next several weeks reviewing the recommendations and is expected

to put forth an archdiocesan-wide pastoral plan in February. Vigneron said last week he is likely to shutter about 48 churches in the next five years, according to one published report.

Casey said parishioners likely won't see a decline in the number of services offered, but the priest shortage could affect how those services are delivered.

"Ten years ago, there were plenty of priests to do everything; 10 years from now, there will be a hundred fewer priests," said Casey, whose vicariate includes 25 churches. "We're trying to do this and still give them everything they need, it just might not be 'father' doing it."

"Everyone knows there's a priest shortage, but they've never felt it," he added. "They're about to feel it."

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## PARISH

Continued from page A1

are in Plymouth or Canton.

"What the archdiocese directed every parish to do is identify a partner," Curtis said. "What it's not going to mean is any sort of closure. (St. Kenneth and OLGC) will both continue to be independent parishes, have their own pastors. We'll look to see where we can share resources where it might make sense, but members won't notice a difference (in services), certainly not for the foreseeable future."

What Curtis said is more important, perhaps, than paring down the number of parishes is shoring up the number of priests. According to the report, 39 (13 percent) of the 293 priests currently serving in the archdiocese are 70 years old or older, and



Our Lady of Good Counsel officials say parishioners aren't likely to notice much difference even if the church partners with St. Kenneth under a plan announced by the Archdiocese of Detroit.

another 21 are eligible for retirement in the next three years. The average age of priests is 62.

Curtis said a key component of the archdiocese plan is to foster vocational choices that draw more young people into the seminary. One of the priorities put forward by Archbishop Allen Vigneron was to "get creative" and figure out how to foster vocations.

Church officials, Curtis said, need to start talk-

ing about the priesthood in church, with the young people, in order to at least make them consider the possibility of serving God.

"God hasn't stopped calling men to the priesthood, men have stopped answering," Curtis said. "The idea would be to get men to start answering the call. If we're not talking about it in the parish, and more specifically in our families, we can't expect young men to hear that call and answer it."

## AROUND PLYMOUTH

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

### CRAFT BAZAAR

**Date/Time:** Saturday, Dec. 10, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
**Location:** Plymouth Historical Museum, 155 S. Main in Plymouth

**Details:** The Plymouth Historical Museum hosts its annual juried Craft Bazaar and open house, with artisans specially selected for their unique gifts and ideas. Crafts range from jewelry and ceramic art to knit and recycled creations, making it easy to find something for everyone on your Christmas list this year. The museum will also hold a bake sale filled with a wide varieties of tasty snacks and refreshments to enjoy while shopping.

**Contact:** For more information, visit the website at [www.plymouthhistory.org](http://www.plymouthhistory.org) or call (734) 455-8940.

### A CHRISTMAS CAROL

**Date/Time:** Saturday, Dec. 10, 7:30 p.m.

**Location:** Barefoot Productions Theater, 240 N. Main (near the railroad tracks) in Plymouth

**Details:** Plymouth's own Barefoot Productions will keep a holiday tradition going with its third annual production of "A

Christmas Carol - A Narrative." This unique and intimate reading of A Christmas Carol is a tribute to the original performances given by Charles Dickens. All proceeds of the night will aid in the production budget for the remainder of Barefoot Productions 2011-2012 season. All donations are tax-deductible. Barefoot Productions is a 501(c)3 non-profit community theater, Plymouth's only live, adult, Theater for the Community.

**Contact:** Reservations are strongly recommended and can be made by calling the Barefoot Productions Box office at (734) 560-1493 or order tickets at [www.just-gobarefoot.com](http://www.just-gobarefoot.com).

### HEISE HOURS

**Date/Time:** Monday, Dec. 12

**Location:** 10 to 11 a.m., Northville District Library, 212 W. Cady St., Northville; 1 to 2 p.m., Wayne Community Center, 4635 Howe Road, Wayne; and 3 to 4 p.m., Plymouth District Library, 223 S. Main St., Plymouth.

**Details:** State Rep. Kurt Heise invites residents to meet with him locally during district office hours. Heise is also available to meet with constituents by appointment either in the district or at his Lansing office.

**Contact:** Residents are invited to call toll free 1-855-REP-KURT or e-mail [kurtheise@house.mi.gov](mailto:kurtheise@house.mi.gov) to schedule an appointment.

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# HOME

Continued from page A1

ey and choosing a Plymouth Township company, Menard Builders Inc., that specializes in high-end construction. The couple settled on a 20,000-square-foot house after they refused to budge on their wish list of amenities.

"I never thought it would be this big," Brad Wardell said, smiling and holding hands with his wife of 17 years as they sat in their main-floor library, framed by tall windows, cherry wood, well-stocked bookshelves and a spiral staircase leading to a bedroom-level reading room.

The Wardells aren't even sure how many rooms their home has — though it's probably upwards of 30 including bedrooms and bathrooms. Yet they seem to lack the pretentiousness that could easily accompany their lifestyle. They say they had humble beginnings. Brad Wardell, 40, grew up in Gibraltar, while Debbie Wardell, 41, was raised in Boyne City.

"We grew up in lower middle-class neighborhoods," Brad Wardell said.

## College sweethearts

They met while earning their bachelor's degrees from Western Michigan University, where he studied electrical engineering while she majored in applied mathematics and computer science. Their livelihood, however, comes from a Plymouth-based computer software company, Stardock, initially started by Brad Wardell to pay his way through college. He also has penned a sci-fi fantasy book, *Elemental Destiny's Embers*, published by Random House.

The couple recently marked their one-year anniversary in their home, situated on 16 acres. They decided to invest in a place where they hope to grow old together — hence the elevator that goes among the three floors, though it already gets used. They share their luxurious abode with sons Alex, 15, and Ryan, 11, daughter Ashley, 5, a 9-month old Entlebucher dog, Bailey, who has her own shower in the laundry room, and a turtle named Cuddles, whose terrarium is in the conservatory.

"I've had Cuddles for 25 years," Brad Wardell said.

As the Wardells researched the home



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Brad and Debbie Wardell spent nearly a decade planning their dream home, which also is a "green" home.



The floors offer radiant heating from tubes in the floor. The family dog, Bailey, stands near a large "W" for Wardell near the front entrance.

they wanted, they decided to pay homage to their British ancestors. To be sure, it resembles an English country home out of a PBS *Masterpiece* production. Just inside the front door, double staircases rise majestically toward the upper floor from a foyer where a large "W" serves as the centerpiece of a floor made of travertine with marble accents.

## Room by room

Debbie Wardell, a stay-at-home mom, said her favorite rooms are the kitchen and laundry room. The kitchen has two large, side-by-side refrigerator/freez-

er units, enclosed by oak wood. It also has a baking center, an indoor gas grill, one of the home's six gas fireplaces, a butler's pantry and other amenities — all within sight of a lounging area that includes a sofa, three chairs and a television.

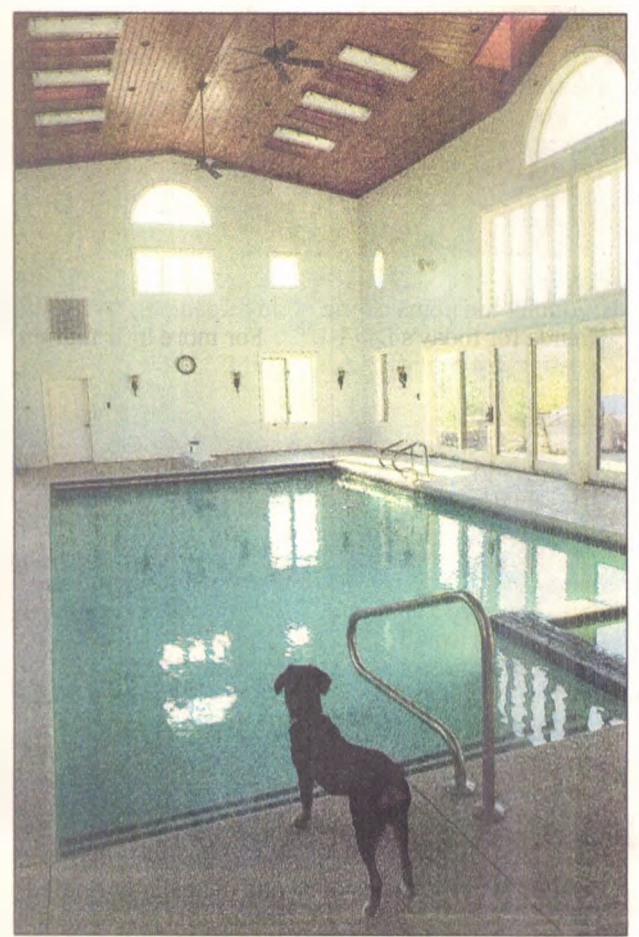
"The kitchen is my dream kitchen," Debbie Wardell said. "I love to cook."

Even doing laundry isn't such a chore with her two washing machines, two dryers and a folding station with a scenic view of the back yard area, where Brad Wardell said deer are prone to visit and where he keeps several

bee hives. The yard also has an apple orchard and raised gardens.

The children predictably prefer the media room, where they can play video games, and Brad Wardell cited the two-story library as among his favorite spots to relax. "I read a lot."

The family also enjoys the indoor movie theater, with a large screen, several massage chairs and overhead fiber optics that have the appearance of the Milky Way. It is located on the lower level, along with a pub, a wine cellar, the vast swimming pool, his and her locker rooms, an outdoor



Bailey takes a look at the vast indoor pool.

pizza oven, the fitness room and sauna, Debbie Wardell's craft room and Brad Wardell's hobby room.

Throughout the house, much of the wood — black walnut, pine, cherry and spruce — came from trees that once stood where the house was built. The Wardells wanted to incorporate

nature into their home.

Brad Wardell pauses when asked how much the home cost. He prefers to leave it at several million — money he believes was well-spent.

"I can't think of anything I'd do differently," he said.

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# BUILDER

Continued from page A1

whose Plymouth Township company, Menard Builders Inc., built it.

It's the first "green" home of its size and caliber Menard's company built using materials and technology that earned the rating.

"For a house that size, it's sometimes hard to achieve," Menard said.

The Wardells say their utility bills are as low as \$200-\$300 a month, compared to thousands of dollars that could be expected for a home as large as theirs. It's all because of how their house is designed.

Menard explains:  
• A geothermal system supplies energy to heat and cool the house, relying on 30 underground, backyard wells built 10 feet apart and 150 feet deep. It uses glycol, an antifreeze-type liquid, to avoid freezing.

• That system, along with a gas-fired boiler, also disperses radiant heat through the house via special features, such as tubing under the floors, to improve efficiency and comfort.

• Across the back yard and down a slope, some 90 solar panels create a 20-kilowatt system that generates electricity for the house, and some of it



Double stairways lead to bedrooms.

even goes back into DTE Energy's grid.

• The house uses LED lighting — light-emitting diode — for efficiency.

Brad Wardell chose to have the house built in a Menard Builders development because of the company's reputation.

The Wardell house took two years to build, keeping at least 100 trades people employed during a time when the area

desperately needs jobs. Menard already is building a similar-size home in Superior Township.

Menard and his wife, Mary, founded their company in 1979 and began building homes on a full-time basis nine years later, mostly within a 25-mile radius of Plymouth. Menard said the company has probably built 50 homes.

The Wardells have



Not many kitchens have an area with sofas and a fireplace.



Brad Wardell used wood milled from trees on their lot for the wine cellar.

lived in their home just over a year. They have embraced their "green" house and lauded Men-

ard Builders for getting it right. "We're here because this is a Menard develop-



Though it's huge, the Wardell home has been certified as environmentally friendly, or green.

ment," Brad Wardell said. For more on the company, visit [www.menard-builders.com](http://www.menard-builders.com) or call (734) 451-7400.

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## PLYMOUTH BUSINESS BRIEFS

### Business News

From the desk of the Plymouth Downtown Development Authority:

• Join Spa Agio and some of the artists from the Village Potter's Guild for a three-day open house, show and sale Dec. 8-10. Artists will be available during normal business hours. Enter to win a unique piece of art in clay and get some holiday shopping done at the same time.

• On Dec. 10, Home Sweet Home is having a Holiday Chamilia Bead Event and will give away its most popular bead (a \$45 value) with any Chamilia purchase, to the first 100 people. Home Sweet Home opens at 8 a.m. On Dec. 26, starting at 8:30 a.m., all Christmas merchandise will be 50 percent off with cash or check or 45 percent off with credit or debit.

• Kitchen & Bath by De Giulio has an Angel Tree from the Salvation Army displayed in the front window. Please stop in and take a tag from the tree to help children in need. Gifts need to be new and unwrapped. All gifts need to be returned to our showroom no later than Dec. 12.

### DDA meeting

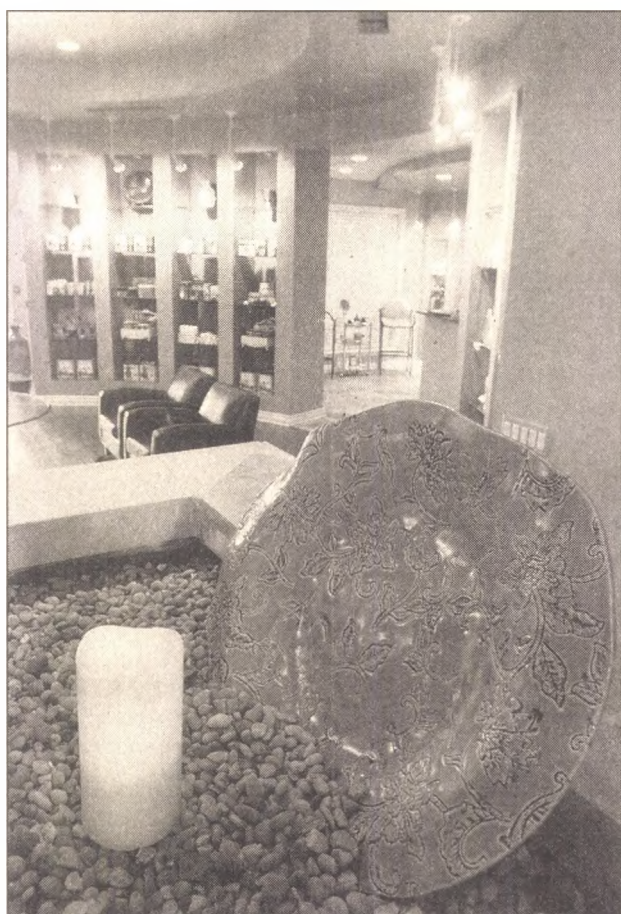
Among the items on the agenda for today's DDA meeting is a request from Frank Yaquinto, owner of Compari's/Fiamma Grill, to offer valet parking to anyone who wants to use it. Yaquinto wants to use the five parking spaces in front of his establishments on Main St. on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. Valets would park the cars in the Saxton's lot. The City

Commission has approved the request, pending approval by the DDA Board.

### Credit union collection

Catholic Vantage Financial is collecting cans of coffee and packs of socks to help those less fortunate stay warm this winter.

The coffee and socks will go to St. Christine's



Spa Agio's open house, show and sale Dec. 8-10 features artists from the Village Potters Guild.

and St. Aloysius, two Detroit parishes.

Donations may be dropped off by Dec. 30 in the lobby of the credit union's Livonia branch at Five Mile and Levan in Livonia or its Plymouth branch at Sheldon and Joy Road.

For more information, call (734) 432-0212 or visit [www.mycvf.org](http://www.mycvf.org).

### Expert panelist

Lori Bainbridge of the JB Ashtin Group, Inc., served as an expert panelist at iiBIG's fifth annual Global Clinical Trial Partnerships: Optimizing Cross-Border Outsourcing summit.

The conference focused on the unique issues involved in outsourcing clinical research and life sciences manufacturing to non-US locales and on the regulatory, logistical, and technology-related issues that are empowering global partnerships.

Bainbridge's panel discussed the challenges of bringing a global study team together by walking conference attendees through the entire process for an effec-

tive study team preparation meeting. In addition, the panel instructed the attendees how to tune into the "ah-ha" moments that solidify cooperation.

Bainbridge stated that, "Today there is increasing pressure to achieve a greater level of accuracy and skill on both the drug sponsor and provider front," Bainbridge said. "It's more important than ever to drive higher levels of joint effectiveness with clinical partners by establishing strong alliances early in the process. There are a lot of opportunities for clinical partners to meet and maximize one another's expectations and goals moving forward."

## Information, please: Tablets top 2011 gift list

By Jon Gunnells  
Guest Columnist



Tech Savvy

Jon Gunnells

In the '90s, holiday shopping was all about grabbing the hard-to-find Tickle Me Elmo dolls. Now, holiday shopping is about finding the hottest tech gifts — and in 2011 no gifts are hotter than tablets.

If you are one of the many technologically challenged shoppers out there you may not even know what a tablet is. Think of a tablet as a small, light weight, portable computer. Tablets are larger than a smartphone, more versatile than a netbook and sleeker than a laptop.

The most revered of them all is the iPad2 — which is available starting at \$499. The iPad2 checks in at about nine by seven inches and weighs a mere 1.33 pounds. It has built-in Wi-Fi so you can search the net for free — and like smartphones — it can access the fast 3G data networks.

There are a number of reasons the iPad2 is the best selling tablet — including a front facing camera, a 1GHZ processor, Bluetooth capabilities and up to 64GB of internal storage.

Most important, the iPad2 has up to 10 hours of battery life — which includes surfing the web through a Wi-Fi connection. And like most Apple products, you can visit the Apple App Store to download programs, games, books and more to keep you busy on your iPad.

For those who want a tablet to read e-books, the

new Kindle Fire is a good challenger to the iPad2. The Kindle Fire weighs less than a pound and can carry all

the e-books on its 8GB frame. More storage can be added to the Amazon Cloud — a free online storage service.

The 7-inch color display on the Kindle Fire is a bit smaller than the iPad but also, much larger than your average novel.

Samsung also produces a line of bright, engaging tablets including the Samsung Galaxy Tab Wi-Fi which is available from \$350. This Wi-Fi only tablet is cheaper than an iPad but does not have wireless connectivity options. Samsung also offers the original Galaxy Tab which has wireless network connectivity options.

If you are however, always near Wi-Fi hotspots, this unit could be the right fit for your lifestyle. As could be the HTC Flyer, a Wi-Fi only unit that costs \$499 for a model with 16GB of storage.

The HTC Flyer is a 7-inch tablet that comes with a stylus and a 1.5ghz processor. The Flyer is recommended for gaming and reading.

In true Blackberry fashion, the company has made a tablet which sadly, is about as well respected as their

phones. The Blackberry Playbook is no match for the iPad2 or of the other tablets listed here.

Users looking for the best tablet experience should stick with the iPad2, or a unit like the Galaxy Tab or HTC Flyer which both run on the Android platform — Apple's main challenger.

Sony also has an Android power tablet called the Tablet S which retails for \$599 for a 32GB model or \$499 for a 16GB model. The Tablet S is Playstation certified for mobile gaming.

### Best bets

If you are shelling out a couple hundred dollars for a tablet, either for personal use or for a gift, make sure you pick the one that suits the proper lifestyle. Here are the best tablets for each intended function.

For general computing, web surfing and productivity: iPad2

For reading: Kindle Fire

For gaming: Sony Tablet S

For those who only use Wi-Fi: HTC Flyer

For those who don't buy Apple products: Samsung Galaxy

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](mailto:jonathan.gunnells@gmail.com). Follow him on Twitter @GunnSh0w.

## Credit union kicks off 'Season of Giving'

In the spirit of the holiday season, Community Financial Credit Union announced plans to support local non-profit organizations by surprising them with donations throughout the month of December.

During its "Season of Giving," Community Financial will donate more than \$50,000 to groups in the areas the credit union serves, including Plymouth, Canton, Northville, Novi, Gaylord, Hillman and Lewiston.

"There are many organizations that do so much good throughout the year," said Bill Lawton, Community Financial president and CEO. "What better time than the holidays to thank them and surprise them with a gift on behalf of our members."

During the holiday season, one recipient will be announced each business day through Friday, Dec. 23. The announcements

will be made through Community Financial's social media outlets on Facebook and Twitter.

Throughout the year, Community Financial is actively involved in supporting the community. Lawton said this is especially important during difficult economic times.

To follow the "Season of Giving" and find out which organizations receive gifts, join Community Financial on Facebook at [www.Facebook.com/CommunityFinancial](http://www.Facebook.com/CommunityFinancial) or Twitter at [www.twitter.com/CFCreditUnion](http://www.twitter.com/CFCreditUnion).

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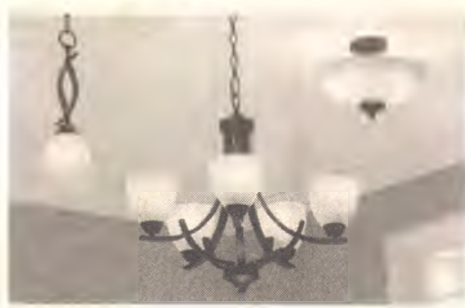
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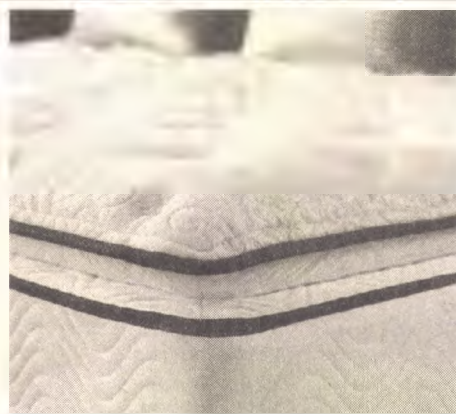


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## OUR VIEWS



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The Citizens Action Group of Plymouth Township is trying to establish a special assessment district to fund the Plymouth Community Fire Department.

## Sunday snub

### Weekend meeting no way for township to conduct business

There isn't much question at least some of the members of the Plymouth Township Board of Trustees wish the Citizens Action Group would find a hole, climb into it and pull it in around them.

CAG members have made themselves seen and, more importantly, heard around the township, to the point where they've been able to gather signatures from at least 10 percent of the township to back their desire for a Special Assessment District to save the Plymouth Community Fire Department as it is currently constructed.

The CAG has been like a gnat, buzzing around the ears of the board, and board members have been trying to swat them away.

But Sunday they went too far.

Even if you agree they've been pushy, even if you think their plan for a SAD is wrong for the township, scheduling a special meeting for 7 p.m. Sunday to discuss the issue violates the spirit, if not the language, of the Open Meetings Act.

Was it coincidence the notice for the meeting went out at 4:15 p.m. Friday, just 15 minutes before the township closed for the day? Of course not.

We understand how frustrated board members must be. The CAG is tough to satisfy. The board voted in yet another special meeting Tuesday to schedule a public hearing — a required step in the SAD process — and developed language calling for a 10-mill assessment with no time limit (which is the advice they're getting from their lawyer).

The CAG wants a five-year, 1-mill assessment, and members were upset Tuesday because the board's solution is not what they're asking for. It seems the CAG isn't much interested in any sort of compromise, which is why they've taken the township to court to try and force the issue.

The CAG is trying to push the SAD onto the Feb. 28 primary ballot, and frankly we don't understand the rush. Township officials point out any SAD approved in that election won't collect revenue for another year, so the cuts township officials are talking about — admittedly in very vague terms thus far — will still have to happen for next year. The sides could negotiate language satisfactory to both sides and it could be put on the August or November ballot next year, with the same revenue effect. What's the hurry?

There are other options. If the township doesn't want to do a SAD, they could put a small, dedicated millage on the ballot. The CAG has demonstrated there is significant, if not majority, support for some type of millage. The township board should at least listen to them.

Whatever they're going to do, township officials should put it out there. They've got about three weeks left before they lose 25 percent of their budget, and a significant portion of their coverage area. When some township officials are pressed for a plan to deal with that, they ask, "What plan? There are going to be cuts."

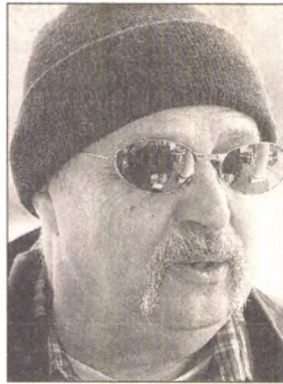
Obviously, that's true. But township officials owe their citizenry an explanation of how they're going to deal with the changes. Residents want to know they're going to be safe, and saying "Trust us, you're going to be safe" isn't enough of an assurance.

And they deserve to get such an assurance at a time when they can actually hear it. A hastily called, Sunday night meeting doesn't get the job done. Residents deserved better than that.

## COMMUNITY VOICE

### Are you ready for Christmas, and why or why not?

We asked this question at the Plymouth District Library.



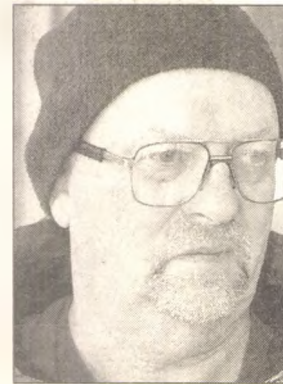
"No. (Must) get in the mood."

Robert Pizio  
Plymouth Township



"Yes. And Hanukkah. Both."

Bob Forreider  
Plymouth Township



"Am I ready for Christmas? No. Shopping and sending out Christmas cards."

Charlie Roebuck  
Plymouth Township



"Of course. Get a lot of presents, and I love getting things."

Jarvis Young  
Plymouth Township

## LETTERS

### Hear all voices

Regarding Mr. Scannell's statement that students shouldn't be allowed on a committee to develop standards of conduct at school dances:

What Mr. Scannell doesn't consider is that there are probably many, many students who are also uncomfortable and disgusted by what goes on at the dances. It's very important that their voices be heard and supported.

Victoria DeVinney  
Canton

### Underlying meaning

There's been a lot of talk lately about "going green" and trying to live a more environmentally friendly lifestyle. Commercials, newspaper ads, and catalogs all stress a company's efforts to be green and be more environmentally friendly, but really what does that mean and why is it important?

Really "being green" and doing what's right for the environment is just part of the bigger picture, being more sustainable. In essence, sustainability is the ability to meet the needs of today without hindering the ability

### WHAT DO YOU THINK?

We welcome your Letter to the Editor. Please include your name, address and phone number for verification. We may edit for clarity, space and content. Submit letters by the following formats:

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of future generations to meet their needs. Acting sustainably isn't just doing one thing or acting in a way that benefits just one aspect of the world. It's all about creating a lasting world that will be able to support generations and generations of human life. Acting sustainably isn't always easy or cheap but it's one that will make an impact on the entire world.

To act in a truly sustainable way we need to think how

the actions we take affect the entire world around us. Yes this includes the trees, rainforest and such, that many companies focus on. But it also means thinking about the bigger picture. This includes thinking about where the energy we use comes from and how much of it is left in the world, about how we use natural resources that are limited and we don't think anything about, such as water, how much we pollute and how that affects the atmosphere for future generations. Keep in mind these aren't the only things considered when trying to be more sustainable, just some key points.

If all companies start to produce more sustainable products and do so in more sustainable ways we will by far create a much better world for the future. But companies can't be held responsible alone, we as people have to make an effort to be more sustainable and have to make a conscious effort as consumers to purchase goods that are sustainable. And by doing so we can truly be green and help preserve the world that we have today for the future.

Norm Freda  
Canton

## GUEST COLUMN

### Bridge building material: vision, leadership

By Tom Watkins  
Guest Columnist

Gov. Rick Snyder, vision, leadership and persistence will ultimately build the New International Trade Crossing between Detroit and Windsor, Ontario.

The Legislature is on its annual deer hunting and turkey-eating break. The governor and his team need to use this time to figure out how to get the job done.



Tom Watkins

One thing is for sure: Persistence is needed to ensure that the new public-private bridge is built.

That's one of the lessons to be learned from how a previous governor and Legislature came together to build a bridge — and our state — over a half century ago.

Fifty-four years ago, Michigan's governor, lawmakers, businesses, labor and citizens across the state cheered the opening of a bridge connecting our two beautiful peninsulas, the Mackinac Bridge.

Like today, the quest to build the Mackinac Bridge produced naysayers who questioned its need and feasibility and claimed the financing "scheme" to pay for the construction of the bridge was unworkable.

Yet our political leaders then, chief among them Gov. G. Mennen "Soapy" Williams, were able to overcome the obstacles and

build the bridge. Today, we have a beautiful span that stands as a reminder of our capability to overcome insurmountable odds.

Why were our elected leaders then able to build a bridge many thought impossible? Because of vision, leadership and persistence.

The Mackinac Bridge opened to traffic on Nov. 1, 1957. In the souvenir book celebrating the grand opening, a section titled "the legislative story" reads: "it is a symbol of progress in Michigan, progress made possible by far-sightedness, by the co-operation, by the unity of purpose and by the devotion to the idea on the part of leaders in the legislature, state administration and interested citizens." It concludes with this sentence: "Application of the same spirit to other fields will bring a great deal of prosperity in Michigan and make our state a better place in which to work and live."

We can only wish this sentiment would have spilled over to today.

Gov. Williams wrote in his welcome letter in the same souvenir book: "In a larger sense, this bridge is more than just the world's greatest bridge of steel and concrete. It's also a symbol of the Michigan spirit — the spirit of a people for whom no obstacle is too wide, no job too big, no undertaking too difficult."

The New International Trade Crossing, of course, is being held hostage by the owner of the existing Ambassador Bridge, Matty Moroun, and his money and legislative influence.

Canada is our largest trading partner. International trade creates thousands of jobs in Michigan and countless more across the U.S. The case has been made to build another international bridge crossing — and we want it in Michigan, not some other state.

A new bridge has deep support from business, labor, Gov. Snyder and all of Michigan's living former governors — Republican and Democrat alike. It's time to build the public/private New International Trade Crossing and get Michigan working again.

Gov. Snyder, please take the advice of our 30th president, Calvin Coolidge, when he said, "Nothing in the world can take the place of persistence. Talent will not. Genius will not. Education will not. Persistence and determination alone are omnipotent."

In his first State of the State address nearly a year ago, Gov. Snyder surprised many when he called for the building of this bridge. To date, political gamesmanship and lots of Matty Moroun's money have dug a moat around accomplishing this goal. The governor has provided the rationale, vision, and leadership to build this needed bridge. Time will tell if he has the persistence to persevere.

Tom Watkins is a business and educational consultant in the United States and China. He served as Michigan's state superintendent of schools, 2001-05. He can be reached at: tdwatskins88@gmail.com.

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James DeVries of Canton, a materials engineering manager for Ford in Dearborn, packs food boxes for the hungry during Ford's volunteer effort.

## Local Ford volunteers feed the hungry

Canton and Plymouth residents were among the hundreds of Ford Volunteer Corps employees and retirees dispatched into local communities Friday to help feed the hungry on a Ford Accelerated Action Day.

Hundreds of thousands of people in southeast Michigan struggle to find food each and every day. Ford employees and local nonprofit hunger relief agencies teamed up to feed people in shelters, missions and family centers. MODEL Teams of Ford volunteers collected and sorted food, cooked and served meals, and packed food boxes.

"Many of our neighbors are suffering as they struggle each day to find food for themselves and their families," said Canton resident



Cynthia Flanigan (from left) of Canton, Laura Beyer of Canton, Janice Tardiff of Plymouth, and James DeVries and Cindy Peters of Canton pack holiday food boxes for area seniors.

Jim Vella, president, Ford Motor Co. Fund and Community Services. "Ford employees are thankful we're able to share our time and resources with people in need."

Many of the organizations participating in the Dec. 2 volunteer effort split \$75,000 in Ford

grants to buy food and other items needed to complete their projects. Those partners include:

- Capuchin Soup Kitchen, Detroit — serve lunch and pack emergency food boxes
- Cass Community Social Services, Detroit — prepare 165 meals for

families and disabled

- COTS - Peggy's Place, Detroit — serve meals, pack and deliver food boxes
- Detroit Rescue Mission Ministries, Detroit — help set up, staff and cook for luncheon
- FOCUS:Hope, Detroit — pack holiday food boxes for area seniors

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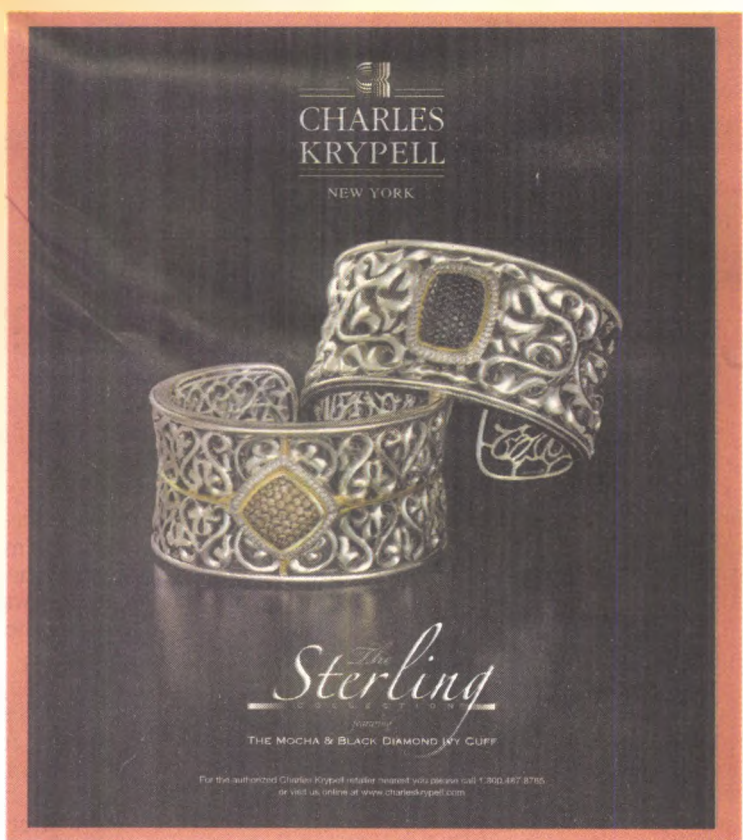
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# Foundations not (too) concerned over state tax credit cut

By Helen Niemiec  
Correspondent

This year's annual fund-raising letters that go out in November not only asked for donations for community foundations but also included a reminder that this is the final year that financial gifts can earn a Michigan State Tax Credit.

Dec. 31, though the federal income tax credit for donations remains for those who file long-forms. The foundations in Canton, Farmington/Farmington Hills, Livonia and Plymouth have made their donors aware of the coming change, though most don't believe there will be a major change in donations in 2012. At least, they're hoping

that's the case. "From my experience, charitable people make charitable donations," said Joan Noricks, Canton Community Foundation president.

Cheryl Elliott, president and chief executive officer of the Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation (which manages the Plymouth Area Community Foundation), said a survey taken of its donors say foundations may see a hit. "We took a survey this summer. For those gifts that come as a result of the tax credit, 54 percent said they didn't know if they would contribute in the coming year," Elliott said. "That could definitely affect our giving."

The Ann Arbor Foundation as a whole saw \$8.3 million in contributions last year, with approximately \$200,000 coming from the donors identified as those contributing solely because of the tax credit. Larger contributors to the endowment funds, with a minimum gift of \$5,000, were also unsure of 2012 donations, with 40 percent saying they didn't know if they would contribute.

Under the current tax credit, donors who contribute \$200 or more receive a tax credit of \$100. If filing jointly, a \$400 donation or greater earns a \$200 tax credit. Businesses have a different tax rule when it comes to charitable giving, receiving a tax credit of \$5,000 or 5 percent of the total tax liability for that business, whichever is less.

Each foundation has two types of activities, an endowed fund which is eligible for the tax credit, and the project-specific that wasn't. As an example, if a foundation was sponsoring a fund-raising

drive by selling inscribed bricks at a particular landscape effort, it wasn't covered by the tax credit. The credit to endowments encouraged efforts to establish a sustainable financial situation for community efforts.

The foundation grants money to local organizations in their respective community, especially in areas of education, history and the arts.

Noricks said that while the foundations help the communities in which they are located, they also help the state indirectly.

"We're building a social capital, a savings account, to benefit our community. With that funding, there is less that the state would have to be providing," Noricks said.

She said she's curious to see what happens with donation levels in 2012. "Is the majority of support coming from the tax benefit? I'd say no, but it's a nice benefit. Is it a deal breaker for our organization? Again, I'd say no."

Elliott said the Ann Arbor Foundation didn't send out end of the year donation requests until the tax credits came into being. Now every foundation does it as a reminder, she explained.

"It's too bad. The tax credit was a great vehicle to introduce people to the foundations and what they offered their communities. Over time, we see these tax credit donors learning more about what we do and increasing their annual gifts to \$700 or \$1,000," Elliott said.

The Council of Michigan Foundations is expected to collect data from the community foundations and assess the impact.

"It may be that they will

| Community Foundations       |             |  |
|-----------------------------|-------------|--|
| Community Foundation        | Established | Recipients 2011 examples   |
| Canton                      | 1989        | Open Door Food Pantry, Starfish Family Services, The B.L.O.C.K., Michigan Philharmonic, college scholarship recipients, area non-profit organizations and education programs |
| Farmington/Farmington Hills | 1995        | Community musical groups, school programs, Neighborhood House, Painting with Patience  |
| Livonia                     | 1994        | Greenmead and Wilson Barn, libraries and education programs, Livonia Symphony, senior citizens programs, Livonia Parks and Environmental Programs                            |
| Plymouth                    | 2005        | Arbor Hospice, First Step (victims of violence), Michigan Philharmonic, New Morning School, Salem Area Historical Society, Village Potter's Guild                            |

see a need to push the legislature to bring back the tax credit," Noricks said. Meakin disagrees. "I don't think there is any chance of getting it back."

Elliott agrees with Meakin's assessment.

"We tried to keep the tax credit and proposed a middle ground to the legislature and government but that didn't work," Elliott said. "It will be hard to get it reinstated. Once you lose it, it's very hard to get it back."

She said the Michigan economy would have

to be strong for several years before that topic would surface again.

The Michigan Community Foundation Tax Credit was signed into law in late 1988 to encourage individuals and businesses to help build permanent endowments for community foundations. Before the tax credit, there were only approximately 20 foundations. Since the tax credit went into effect, the number rose and now 64 of Michigan's 83 counties have community foundations serving their areas.

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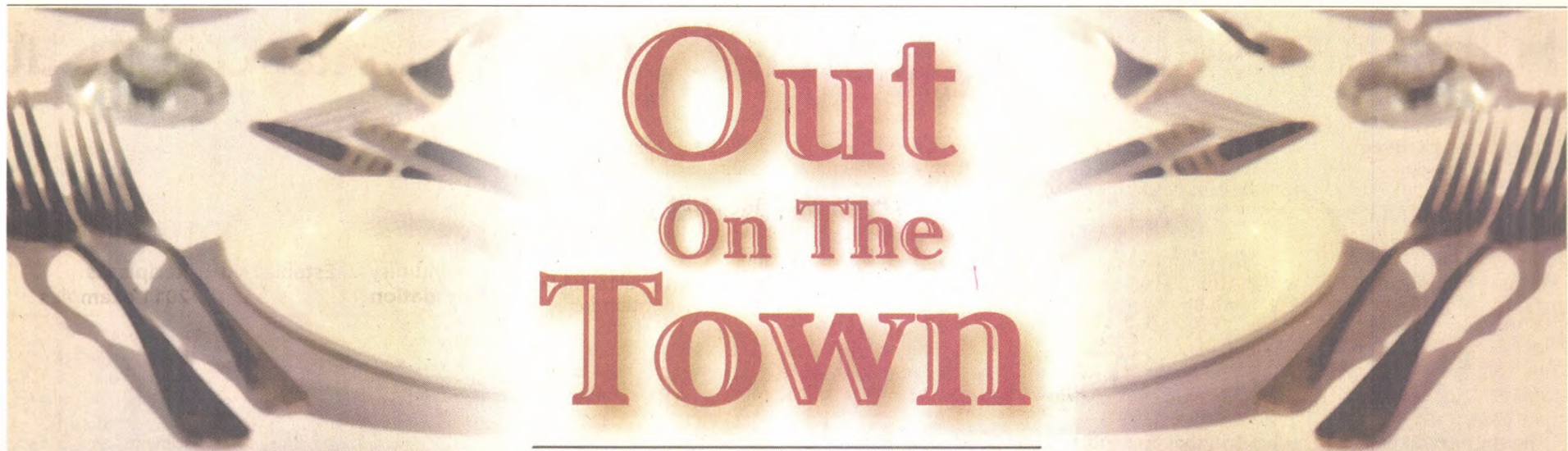
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Sushi is the most famous Japanese dish outside of Japan, and one of the most popular dishes among the Japanese themselves. In Japan, sushi is usually enjoyed on special occasions, such as a celebration. During the Edo period, sushi referred to pickled fish conserved in vinegar. Nowadays sushi can be defined as a dish containing rice which has been prepared with sushi vinegar.

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## BOYS BASKETBALL PREVIEW PT. 2

# Solid Rocks

Salem could have all the right stuff

By Tim Smith  
Observer Staff Writer

Power moves to the rim and rainbow treys could be regularly featured by the versatile Salem varsity boys basketball team in 2011-12.

At least that's what 28th-year head coach Bob Brodie is looking forward to as the Rocks open with a nonconference game 7 p.m. Thursday at Redford Union.

"We're a balanced team all right," Brodie said. "We've got players who can play at the guard and players who are able to score inside."

Brodie then joked that the Rocks will "be big, we'll take up a lot of space in the gym if anything else."

Several key returnees from last year (the Rocks finished 14-8 overall last year and placed third in the KLAA Central Division) provide the multi-pronged offensive skills that could make it a nightmare for opponents to play defense.

### Inside-out duo

At the top of that list are 6-7 junior Chris Dierker and 6-4 senior Tyler

Stewart, who will play forward and shooting guard, respectively.

Dierker averaged 11 points and seven boards last season, and could very well improve on those totals.

"Chris is a little stronger this year," Brodie said. "Last year he was still trying to learn the game as a sophomore. He's back as a junior and I can tell you he's been around the block a little bit more."

The coach said Dierker is "explosive inside and also steps out on the perimeter. He can shoot the three fairly well."

Ditto for Stewart, a two-year all-conference player who averaged nearly 14 points per contest in 2010-11. Although a guard, he plays bigger.

"Tyler's got a good shooting touch, he handles the ball well, (there's) a lot of court savvy about him," Brodie said. "He's big enough

Please see SALEM, B3



With another season under his belt, Chris Dierker (No. 23 in a 2010-11 game) could be a key to Salem's potential rise in the KLAA Central Division this season.

## Boucher commits to Lake Superior

Lake Superior State University second-year head softball coach Lori Shimasaki announced that Canton senior pitcher Alyssa Boucher committed to LSSU during the early signing period.

The hard-throwing Boucher was 19-3 with a 2.25 earned run average, 63 strikeouts and 16 walks for the Chiefs in 2011 to earn All-KLAA honors. At the plate, she chipped in with a .357 average.

Meanwhile, last summer playing for the Queen of Diamonds in Milan, Mich., Boucher batted .487 and posted a 2.42 ERA.

"Alyssa is a wonderful all-around athlete," Shimasaki said. "She can pitch, play the field and hit for power. I watched her perform in Colorado, and she will be an asset to our squad."

## Salem girls lax meeting

The Salem girls lacrosse team is holding a player-parent information meeting 7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 14, in Room W-2112 (second floor) at Salem High School. New and returning players are urged to attend.

Salem will be adding a junior varsity team for the 2012 spring season.

The session will last about one hour, to provide information about tryouts, registration deadlines and season fees. Go to [www.salem-girlslacrosse.com](http://www.salem-girlslacrosse.com) for more information.

# New PCA coach Washington sees bright days ahead

By Tim Smith  
Observer Staff Writer

When the Plymouth Christian Academy boys basketball coaching job opened up over the summer, Dominique Washington licked his chops.

After coaching AAU and middle school basketball during the years since graduating from Salem in 2005 — where he was a talented shooting guard — the Canton resident wanted to take over a varsity team.

"I saw the opening at PCA as an opportunity to get into the high school ranks," Washington explained.

That chance came when

last year's PCA coach, Keith Anleitner, resigned in order to take a new position as an educator in the Garden City school district.

Washington had coached five seasons next to Dave VanWagoner (his PCA assistant, by the way) at Discovery Middle School.

Probably the better training for his new job was a two-year stint with the AAU's Plymouth-Canton Wolfpack, comprised of what he called "varsity level players."

### Experience helps

Another key factor for Washington was taking over a team with several

varsity returnees, such as senior center Eric Jipping among others.

"The fact that they had not lost anyone to graduation also stood out to me," Washington said. "It makes my job a little easier knowing I inherited seven players who were all on varsity last year."

Jipping "will be our biggest offensive weapon. He plays hard, very versatile, and has great footwork for his size."

Along with Jipping, players from last season include versatile forward Drew Ibach, wing guards

Please see PCA, B3



Plymouth Christian's Eric Jipping (No. 42) could be a major force in the MIAC this winter.

## World Juniors hook Whalers

The Plymouth Whalers could have a chunk of key players missing from OHL action due to the 2012 IIHF World Junior Hockey Championships.

Goalie Scott Wedgewood will be trying out for the Canadian team beginning on Saturday.

"It's a huge accomplishment for him," Plymouth head coach and general manager Mike Vellucci said. "We had a pretty good feeling he was going to be one of the goalies, so he's one of the four that goes to camp and hopefully he can be one of the two."

Meanwhile, it was announced Monday by USA Hockey that Plymouth forward J.T. Miller and defenseman Austin Levi (Farmington Hills) will go to the U.S. training camp, set to begin on Dec. 17 in Alberta.

Forward Rickard Rakell is on the roster for the Swedish team's tryouts while defenseman Dario Trutmann is expected to go for the Swiss roster (although that had not been announced as of Tuesday).

On Tuesday, Vellucci said a lot of teams in the OHL are facing the possibility of having top players leave for an extended period.

"I think it's great for them to make it, and that's what they're trying to do, play for their country," Vellucci noted. "It will give us more opportunity to play our young guys and see what we have going in to the trade deadline. It's just a big opportunity for our young guys to step up."

# Chiefs' attack heats up

By Tim Smith  
Observer Staff Writer

Fans showing up late to Tuesday's varsity boys basketball opener between Canton and visiting Berkley wouldn't have missed a thing.

Both the Chiefs and Bears found the rims boarded up at each end of the floor during the first quarter, which with the game tied 6-6. The home team made just three of 12 field-goal tries and Berkley was just as cold.

But Canton coach Jimmy Reddy's squad heated up soon enough thanks to the power moves of senior forwards Terrell Sewell and Paul Baumgart and the Chiefs won going away, 68-40.

"We really wanted to make a statement, since this was our first game," said Terrell, who scored 18 points and grabbed nine rebounds (seven on the offensive glass).

They did, but it took a while.

### Chairmen of the boards

"We started making some good shots inside," Reddy said. "Paul and Terrell really got going and played well after the first quarter."

"Terrell was awesome tonight, the way he pursued the ball. I don't know how many offensive rebounds he had but he pursued it hard



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Scoring a low-post basket Tuesday night is Canton senior forward Terrell Sewell (No. 20), muscling past Berkley's Nick Bauer.

tonight."

Canton outrebounded the Oakland Activities Association team by a 45-15 margin, with much of that edge due to the play of Sewell and Baumgart (18 points, 11 rebounds). Their dominance soon opened up enough room for teammates to create an offensive spark.

Tallying 18 for the Bears was point guard Jason Taylor. He drained four triples, including three in the first half — which ended with Canton up 28-19.

But the Chiefs blew the game

Please see CHIEFS, B3

## WRESTLING PREVIEW - PT. 2

# Pipeline, optimism flowing for Rocks

By Tim Smith  
Observer Staff Writer

This could be the year when the 50th wrestler in Salem history places in the state meet.

Could No. 50 be junior Cody Korpus at 119 or 125? How about junior Alex Arble at 112 or junior Tyler Gross at 160 or senior heavyweight Ali Ajami?

Perhaps a special place on the "wall of fame" inside the Salem wrestling room will come from a rising star not yet heard from.

Regardless, second-year head coach Pete Israel is bubbling over with enthusiasm about the potential of his squad to move up the ladder in the KLAA and state tournament.

### Rocking the tradition

"We are very young but experienced thanks to the middle school programs and Plymouth Canton Wrestling Club," said Israel, referring to programs serving as developmental pipelines to the Rocks. "Our upperclassmen will lead the way with their strong work ethic and dedication as we embark on our 50th state placer."

"So there is a lot of promise in the Rocks wrestling room right now to continue the 'Salem Tradition.'"



Last year's team didn't have a lot to cheer about, finishing 5-10 overall and 1-4 in the KLAA Central (fifth place).

But Korpus and Arble did reach the Division 1 regionals. Korpus chalked up a 21-10 mark at 119 as a sophomore and finished second in that weight class at regionals while Arble (24-21) came away empty-handed there at 103.

Although Korpus (for undisclosed reasons) was not expected to be in the lineup for Wednesday's season-opening quad meet at Plymouth, Israel said he'd likely be slotted at 119 or 125 when he returns.

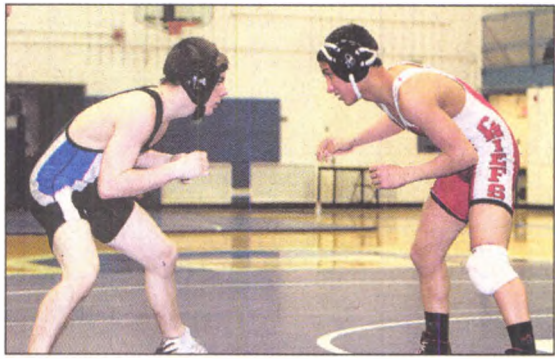
Meanwhile, Arble will move up to 112 this year. Sophomore Devin Wells and freshman Joey Taylor will vie at 103 to fill Arble's old spot.

Two other holdovers with aspirations to wrestle at The Palace of Auburn Hills include co-captains Gross (160) and Ajami (285).

"Tyler is ready to make his mark in Salem's long tradition of wrestlers," Israel said. "His

Please see ROCKS, B2





Salem junior Mitch Rosinski (left, shown from last season) could be a mainstay in the 130-pound weight class this season for the Rocks.

## ROCKS

Continued from page B1

goal is placing at states and I believe we will see him on the podium this year."

Ajami is poised for a break-out year, according to his coach.

"He hasn't missed a single practice or off-season tournament since April," the coach said. "We're looking for Ali to make a huge impact this year."

### Breaking it down

Israel has high hopes for the rest of his lineup, too. Following is a weight-by-weight breakdown, with comments from Israel:

- At 119 is freshman Caleb McCabe, a hard worker with promise.

- At 125 and 130 will be junior Jordan Guy and sophomore Mitch Rosinski, respectively. "We are hoping for some good things by both of these guys."

- Returning to handle duties at 135 is second-year varsity wrestler Ahmed Abed.

- Three juniors are in the mix for 140 and 145. Those include Riley Duxtader, co-captain Danny Kemp and Matt Lang.

"Riley is a machine and should make some noise on the mat this year," Israel said. "Danny has been a part of the Plymouth Canton Wrestling Club for four years. With his experience he should strengthen the team. Matt is looking to increase his success from last year."

- Dividing duties at 152 will be sophomores Connor Thornbury and James Upshaw. Both are touted for

having outstanding technique and potential.

- At 171 will be either senior co-captain Kyle Sugg or senior Dan Karies. Sugg is a leader on-and-off the mat and Karies is working tirelessly to improve, the coach noted.

- Handling bouts at 189 will be senior co-captain Jake McCabe or senior Alex Brown.

"Jake can go as far as he wants this year to achieve his goals," Israel stressed. "Nobody likes wrestling Jake. ... Alex will be right behind him fending for the spot. If Jake isn't having a good day Brown will catch him."

- Junior Tony Agostini will be pencilled in at 215. "He is one of the hardest workers on the team and has a lot of talent."

### Up and coming

Another reason for Israel's enthusiasm is the fact his JV team will, for the first time in quite some time, feature freshmen from the Plymouth Canton Wrestling Club and middle schools' feeder program.

Some JV wrestlers who could bump up to varsity at some point include junior Mitch Marshall, sophomore Taylor Born and freshmen Mitchell Gross, Garen Tekkessian, Joshua Streetter and (heavyweight) Matt Pietrowski.

"This is the first year where most of our freshmen have had some sort of wrestling experience before high school," Israel added. "We should have a lot of success at the JV level."

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## Claggett sparks Wildcats

Forward Mitch Claggett's first high school hat trick led the Plymouth High School varsity hockey team to a 5-2 home win over South Lyon Saturday at Canton Arctic Edge Arena.

South Lyon opened the scoring 47 seconds into the game when Jake Taiariol converted on a 2-on-1 rush.

Claggett tied the game less than four minutes later when tapped in a cross-crease, backhand pass from linemate John VanDenBeurgueury. Later in the period, Claggett and VanDenBeurgueury each added power-play goals to give the Wildcats a 3-1 lead at the end of one period.

South Lyon narrowed the gap when Matt Burton scored 1:11 into the second period.

Claggett completed his hat trick at the 3:33 mark of the period. VanDenBeurgueury and forward Sean Smiatcz created the scoring chance when they freed the puck in a battle behind the net and fed Claggett at the top of the crease.

Smiatcz finished the game with three assists.

Forward Michael Schultz added a third-period insurance goal on a play assisted by Richie Mitchell and Cody Staub.

Rich Guglielmi made 23 saves on 25 shots to earn the win. Plymouth is 3-2 overall (2-2 in the KLAA).

### Chiefs hang on

Canton defeated host Farmington 4-3 on Saturday behind goals from seniors Brandon Grillo, Duggan Tear, Taylor Baker and Derek Voight.

Making 17 stops for the victory was Canton senior netminder Spencer Craig.

## Whalers win ugly

By Tim Smith  
Observer Staff Writer

The Plymouth Whalers didn't seem too crazy about winning Saturday's game against Guelph, twice giving up third-period goals right after scoring them at Compuware Arena.

But they hung on anyway, 7-5, with forward Mitchell Heard snapping a tie with a spectacular goal at 15:39 of the third — his second go-ahead tally of the period — followed by an empty netter scored by forward Rickard Rakell.

On the winner, forward J.T. Miller (four assists) threaded a tape-to-tape pass from the right boards to Heard inside the left circle. Heard wasted no time blasting a shot into a small opening in the top-right corner of the cage, past Guelph's screened goalie Brandon Foote.

"The D was blocking the goalie so I just let her go and good things happen," said Heard, who now has 15 goals on the season.

The roller-coaster victory enabled the Whalers to improve to 19-8-2-1, good for first place in the OHL's West Division.

"I thought we played OK, but I think we played terrible defensively," Whalers coach Mike Vellucci said. "Actually, I thought they out-worked us for most of the night and we got lucky to get two points."

Vellucci added that he didn't like how his team's defensive breakdowns enabled the visiting Storm to hang around like a dark cloud.

"Usually you don't win games like that when you give up goals after you score," Vellucci said. "We responded by scoring some big goals, but defensively we were terrible. What really upsets me is we worked on it all week.

"We worked on our D zone and we did a lot of video. I guess we didn't do a good job."

Heard earlier scored a power-play goal at 13:51 of the third to break a 4-4 tie.

After taking Miller's perfect feed from the right boards, Heard ripped a low wrist shot from between the circles past Foote (35 saves). That lead lasted 30 seconds, as Zack Mitchell's wraparound got behind Plymouth goalie Scott Wedgewood (27 saves).

### Ahead to stay

The next time Heard scored to

give the Whalers the lead, much to Vellucci's relief, they didn't relinquish it.

Heard, the night's No. 1 star, said he merely tried to get open knowing that Miller would find him.

"He's got spectacular vision on the ice," said Heard, adding that another linemate (Plymouth grad Tom Wilson) also was key to the winner by stripping the puck from a Guelph defenseman.

The Whalers and Storm traded goals earlier in the third period, too. At 2:03, forward Garrett Meurs tipped in a pass from winger Stefan Noesen to make it a 4-3 Plymouth lead.

But just 25 seconds later, a shot by Guelph's Tanner Richard trickled through Wedgewood to even the ledger at 4-4.

### Bear-y good start

Plymouth started things pretty well at the annual "Teddy Bear Toss" game when forward Alex Alardi (Farmington Hills) scored his team-leading 16th goal at 5:41 of the opening frame.

Alardi converted Wilson's cross-crease pass, giving the 2,155 fans the green light to shower the ice with teddy bears (which will be donated to charity). Also assisting was defenseman Austin Levi (Farmington Hills).

At the nine-minute mark, forward Andy Bathgate's deflection of a slap shot by defenseman Dario Trutmann made it 2-0. It was Bathgate's 10th of the season.

Setting the tone for the evening, however, Guelph stormed back with two goals in 33 seconds (by Brock McGinn and Stephen Gaskin) to even things up before the period ended.

The teams traded goals in the second period, even though the Whalers held a 17-5 advantage in shots.

Guelph went ahead for the only time all night when Mitchell broke in to score a shorthanded marker at 12:37.

The Whalers answered this time, as Trutmann's blue-line blast beat Foote. Of course, as both teams and those fans would find out in the final frame, the scoring was far from over.

(Plymouth will next play back-to-back 7 p.m. home games — Belleville and Sarnia on Friday and Saturday, respectively.)

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# Reunion at RU's sweet for Wildcats' Soukup

By Ed Wright  
Observer Staff Writer

Sandwiched between a pair of compelling coaching subplots — “The Debut” and “The Homecoming” — Redford Union and Plymouth faced off in a points-starved season-opening boys basketball game Tuesday night.

The Wildcats scrapped back from an eight-point third-quarter deficit to sink the host Panthers, 40-32, in Randall Taylor's first game as head coach at Redford Union.

The winning mentor — Plymouth's Mike Soukup — served as an assistant coach with Taylor for three years at RU before taking the reins of the Wildcats' program three years ago.

“Like I've always said, an ugly win is better than a pretty loss any day,” Soukup said, smiling. “We're a young team and we made young-team mistakes early on tonight, and I know that's going to be the deal a lot this year. Our coaches were joking about getting me some Rogaine for the holidays because my hair is going to be receding faster than it normally does.”

The Panthers' shooting percentage receded noticeably during a pivotal nine-minute stretch in the second half when they were outscored 15-0 by the Wildcats, turning



ED WRIGHT PHOTO

Plymouth basketball players Jalen Eason (right) and Ryan Karr put the defensive clamps on Redford Union's Tre' Goynes during Tuesday night's 40-28 Wildcat victory.

a once-sturdy 25-17 RU lead into a 32-25 deficit.

Dwight Pooler's pull-up, tear-drop runner from the lane ended the drought with 3:40 to play, but Plymouth scored the next four points to up its lead to nine with just 1:51 to play.

“I really liked our defensive energy in the first half, and we moved the ball pretty well offensively,” said Taylor. “But in the second half, we reverted to playing street ball instead of disciplined basketball.”

“... I think we beat ourselves tonight. Mike did a great job, getting his young team ready to play. It was a good win for them.”

## Momentum swing

The start of the Panthers' downfall could be traced to a play that unfolded with 3:45 left in the third quarter and RU holding a 25-17 advantage. Senior point guard Dwight Pooler exploded ahead of the pack on a run-out, but instead of laying the ball in, he threw an off-the-backboard-alley-oop pass to trailing teammate Tre' Goynes, who was unable to secure the ball.

The Wildcats scored on their next possession to spark the momentum-grabbing 15-0 run.

Plymouth's comeback was spearheaded by junior guards Josh Priebe and Jake Divens, who have shared the same back-court since their early AAU days.

Priebe, who was manning the point-guard position while senior Marcus Oden recovers from an injury, netted 15 points (including five in the fourth quarter), four steals and five assists.

“We stuck together as a team when we were down (in the third quarter) and persevered,” Priebe said about his team's opening-night rally. “We didn't get down on ourselves. The guys on the bench were into it, high-fiving each other.”

“We're not the biggest team and we're not the best-skilled team anywhere, so we're going to have to play hard

and play as a team if we want to be successful. I thought we did that tonight.”

Divens added 10 points and four rebounds for the winners. Junior forward Sid Acharya contributed eight points and four boards.

## Nice to see you

Eleven of Pooler's team-leading 13 points came in the first half. The senior point guard buried all six of his first-half free throws.

Goynes had a solid game, scoring eight points while grabbing nine rebounds. JaVonte Davis scored six points and junior forward Emmanuel Chatman yanked down a team-high six rebounds for RU.

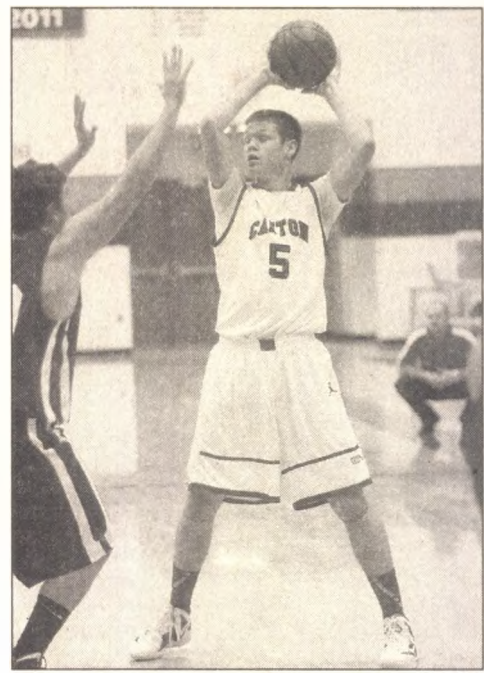
Patient on offense, Plymouth connected on eight of its 11 second-half field-goal attempts. The Wildcats were shaky from the stripe, canning just 13 of 25 attempts.

RU found the mark on 11 of 39 shots from the floor.

Both teams turned the ball over 15 times.

“It was fun coming back and seeing a lot of my old friends,” Soukup concluded. “I saw coach Miles Tomasaitis, coach Ouellette, coach Rogowski — they were all here. The only one who wasn't here was coach Steele.”

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BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Canton senior forward Paul Baumgart (No. 5) gets set to pass the ball to a teammate Tuesday night, although Berkley's George Patterson tries to stop those plans.

## CHIEFS

Continued from page B1

open with a 19-6 third quarter, featuring a mix of putbacks, bank-shots and jumpers from the perimeter.

Canton's shooting eye sharpened up considerably over the final three frames, with the Chiefs nearly hitting the 50-percent mark in two-point field goals (47 percent, 27-53). Reddy said the slow start wasn't unusual for the first game of a season.

“First games are hard,” Reddy emphasized. “It doesn't matter who you're playing or where you're playing. ... It's a learning process to see what you've got.”

## Freshman find

If he didn't know already, he has a pretty good freshman guard in Greg Williams.

Playing his first varsity game, Williams looked as poised as a senior. He contributed nine points, six assists, four boards and two steals in more than 18 minutes of playing time.

Only the starters had more court time and only junior point guard

Josh Mayberry had more assists (seven).

“I think he played, for a first game in the program for a freshman, I think he did a great job,” Reddy said. “We think Greg can play. (But) that was better than we had hoped for.”

“... he felt comfortable, he was into it, he helped us defensively, made a couple shots and scored around the rim, too.”

Another player registering his first-ever points on the varsity was junior guard Ryan Planey. He scored four points.

Several others made some key buckets along the way.

Tallying seven points was senior guard Kyle Adams junior guard while senior guard Miles Felton and sophomore forward Scott Gring each scored six.

“We really didn't know anything about them (Bears),” Reddy said. “They hung around and played hard. But it's a first game for them, too.”

“I'm glad we got out of here with a win, we played well for three quarters.”

Canton will visit Dexter in another nonconference tilt on Friday.

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# Chiefs topple Saline, 54-37

The Canton girls varsity basketball team got off to a winning start to the 2011-12 season with a 54-37 victory at Saline. A 15-2 opening quarter propelled the Chiefs, who were led by Kiara Schneider (17 points, five rebounds), Robyn Mack (nine points, six assists) and Paige Aresco (eight points, six rebounds).

Mack and Aresco each chipped in with three steals.

The Chiefs, who led 25-16 at halftime and 44-23 after three, were “solid” for a season opener, coach Brian Samulski said. “But we have a lot to get better at.”

Samulski added that a key to the victory was how “other kids stepped up and played well in the first half” after Mack and Rachel Winters got into foul trouble.

Canton will next visit Bloomfield Hills Marian in a game slated for 7 p.m. Friday.

**HURON 39, SALEM 24:** The visiting Rocks got the season started Tuesday with this non-conference matchup.

Scoring 12 points and grabbing 11 rebounds for Salem was Breanne Beaver while Bri Berberet tallied seven points.



Salem junior forward Breanne Beaver (No. 20) looks to shoot the basketball over an Ann Arbor Huron opponent Tuesday night.

The Rocks will face Farmington Hills Mercy on Friday.

**DEXTER 41, PLYMOUTH 29:** After a strong start, the visiting Wildcats ran into a Dexter buzzsaw in the second quarter, and could not recover.

Plymouth took a 10-2 lead after one quarter, but the Dreadnaughts responded with a 20-5 edge in the second to take control.

“The second quarter just killed us,” Plymouth head coach Bob de Bear said. “We got off to a great start, we played good defense and forced Dexter to make a lot of mistakes. But in the second quarter we turned it over for scores.”

Plymouth ran into penalty trouble in the second quarter, acerbating the rough

patch. Dexter made six of eight foul shots during that span.

Top scorers for Plymouth (1-2) were Kate Watson (eight points), Jada Woody (seven points, four rebounds), Alyssa Dillon (five points), Brooke Senkbeil (four points) and Chyna Williams (four points). Dexter's top scorer was Olivia Vollmers, with 13.

The Wildcats square off at 6 p.m. Friday at home against Ann Arbor Skyline; that game will be followed by the Plymouth-Skyline boys game at 8:30 p.m.

**PCA 48, FRANKLIN ROAD 39:** Undaunted by a slow start Tuesday, host Plymouth Christian Academy bounced back in the middle frames and won for the first time in three games this season.

Franklin Road led 14-6 after the first, but the Eagles responded with an 11-5 second quarter to close the gap to 19-17 at halftime. In the third quarter, sophomore center Jenny Malcolm stepped up with nine points (out of her 11 for the night) and PCA took charge with a 17-8 stanza for a 34-27 edge after three.

In addition to Malcolm, the Eagles were paced by Jenna Abraham and Emily Gerulis with nine points each while Karen Windle scored eight.

Windle (11 rebounds, nine steals) was the catalyst for the Eagles while Gerulis hauled down nine boards and contributed three steals.

Malcolm pulled down five rebounds while Abraham and Gerulis helped out with four and three steals,

respectively. “We came out strong, played great defense and scored 17 in the third quarter,” noted PCA head coach Carol Gerulis. “I was able to rotate a lot of players in the game.”

Other players helping the cause, the coach said, were Martha Mullett and Rachael Fuller “who played some good minutes for us tonight.”

The Eagles will next visit Southfield Christian at 7 p.m. Monday.

**MERCY 54, PLYMOUTH 38:** On Friday night, Farmington Hills Mercy defeated the visiting Wildcats behind 16 points from Sarah Benson and 15 from Candice Leatherwood.

Plymouth's Kate Watson scored 10 points, Kylie Robb eight, Jada Woody and Chyna Williams seven apiece for the Wildcats (1-1).

**POWERS 54, LADYWOOD 48:** A 15-7 fourth-quarter run carried Flint Powers Catholic (1-0) to a victory Friday over visiting Livonia Ladywood (1-1).

Emily Sweet and Sarah Ruhstorfer each tallied 11 points for the victorious Chargers, who overcame a 41-39 third quarter deficit thanks to a pair of triples in the final period.

Junior guard Andie Anastos paced the Blazers with 16 points and 10 rebounds, while junior guard Shelby Walsh added 13.

Senior guard Briana Combs also contributed nine, all on threes.

Ladywood was 11-of-13 from the foul stripe, while Powers hit 6-of-9.

forwards who are varsity newcomers include Nate Sass and Cam Werner (both 6-2) and Austin Whitted (6-1).

“They come in and their scrappy players,” Brodie said. “They could see some time, depending on how well these other front-liners pan out.”

Brodie added that a plus for the Rocks will be facing a tougher slate of non-conference opponents, such as Ann Arbor Skyline, Brighton and Pinckney.

Playing such squads will help Salem get up to speed before launching into the KLAAC Central schedule (Jan. 6 at Northville).

“Every year surprises always come down the pike,” Brodie summarized. “... We should be in the thick of the hunt in our division.”

tsmith@hometownlife.com  
(734) 469-4128

## SALEM

Continued from page B1

that he can take players inside.

“He's going to be a tough player to handle in terms of his size, playing on the perimeter and the ability to go inside.”

Of course, the Rocks are far from a two-player squad.

At center, seniors Josh Peterson (6-6) and Ryan Jankowski (6-8, but sidelined until January due to injury) each will see plenty of minutes.

“He's a senior now,” said Brodie about Peterson. “What you look for in players is, they learn as juniors and come off the bench and as seniors they step up their game a little bit and play better.”

## Options abound

Dierker is entrenched at one of the forward

spots, but the Rocks have two players who could rotate at the other spot in 6-5 junior Ankit Tiwari and 6-4 junior Ahmad Khalid.

Tiwari, who played on the JV last year, is “a good offensive rebounder, he's got good putbacks and a nice touch for a big guy.”

Khalid, a transfer student from Virginia, could provide an X-factor for the Rocks as they look to contend in their division.

“He's 230 pounds, he's got pretty good game awareness on the court,” the coach said. “He rebounds fairly well. He should be a strong force for us inside.”

Don't forget about 6-6 junior Jake Burns, another player who likely will be heard from off the bench.

“We rotate a lot of players in games anyway,” Brodie said. “So those guys will see a lot of action.”

Along with Stewart, Salem's backcourt will include 6-1 senior point guard Grant Bettner (8 points per game last year).

“Grant's got a good shooting touch from the perimeter, he'll bring some threes for us,” Brodie said. “He also handles the ball extremely well and defensively he's a pretty smart kid. He'll kind of run the floor for us.”

The top backup guards are 6-0 senior Markus Olin and 5-11 junior Kevin Mack (on JV last year).

“Markus gave us a lot of great minutes off the bench last year,” Brodie said. “He's a tremendous shooter. He also is very smart defensively.”

Mack's role will spell Better, but he is expected to see plenty of action.

## In the hunt

Three junior guard-

## SPORTS ROUNDUP

### Wolfpack tryouts

The Western Wayne Wolfpack will hold girls basketball tryouts for girls ages 11-13 (grades six-eight) from 12 noon to 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 10, and Saturday, Dec. 17.

Tryouts will take place at the Canton High School gym and cost \$25. For more info, contact coaches Fred Thomann, (313) 929-0291, Bob de Bear, (734) 218-4478, or Brian Samulski, (734) 673-2555.

Canton High School is located off of Joy Road, west of Canton Center.

### 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 Turo 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.





The Lessons and Carols service includes members of the music ministry at St. John's Episcopal Church in Plymouth. Their concert is Sunday, Dec. 11.

# Advent service combines music, art

Julie Ford describes the annual Lessons and Carols service at St. John's Episcopal Church in Plymouth as "half concert and half worship service."

"It has lots of music in it, but it also has prayer from scripture," said Ford, the church's music minister. "We do seven scripture readings and all talk about the prophecy of Christ."

"It's mainly Episcopal churches that do Lessons and Carols. It's our little niche. It's a beautiful service."

Lessons and Carols, an Advent service, is part of St. John's concert series, Resounding Art in Sacred Space. It starts at 4:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 11 in the church, 574 S. Sheldon. Members of the church's music ministry, including the Youth Choir, Handbell Choir, Parish Choir and Son-Shine will perform in a format that alternates music with scripture read-

ings. Ford will direct the performances.

A reception and exhibit of paintings by C. Robin Janning, will follow the service and concert. Janning is a church member and St. John's webmaster. Each concert in the Resounding Art in Sacred Space series includes an art exhibit.

"She is a very talented artist and her art fits in with the whole idea of Advent. It's very abstract with lots of colors in it. They're a mixture of media, paint and collages."

Admission to Lessons and Carols is free, although the church will accept donations for Gleaners Community Food Bank of Southeastern Michigan.

For more information about the service, call the church at (734) 453-0190, Ext. 16, or visit [www.stjohnsplymouth.org](http://www.stjohnsplymouth.org).

— By Sharon Dargay

## RELIGION CALENDAR

Send calendar items to Sharon Dargay at [sdargay@hometownlife.com](mailto:sdargay@hometownlife.com). Or mail items to Dargay, Observer, 615 Lafayette, Level 2, Detroit, MI 48226.

### Dec. 8-14

#### ADVENT SERVICES

**Time/Date:** 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays through Dec. 21  
**Location:** Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 28000 New Market Road, Farmington Hills  
**Details:** Special worship services  
**Contact:** (248) 553-3380

#### SPECTACULAR

**Time/Date:** 7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 14  
**Location:** NorthRidge Church, 49555 N. Territorial, Plymouth  
**Details:** An all-star cast of Christian recording, artists including Steven Curtis Chapman, Newsboys, Francesca Battistelli, Natalie Grant, Selah and Anthem Lights, along with special guest authors/speakers Max Lucado and Randy Frazee, perform favorite Christmas carols along with a musical journey from Genesis to Revelations. Tickets are \$30-\$75. Order at [www.tickets.com](http://www.tickets.com) or (800) 965-9324  
**Contact:** [www.rushconcerts.com](http://www.rushconcerts.com) or (734) 414-7777

**COMICS, COLLECTIBLES**  
**Time/Date:** 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 10  
**Location:** Redford Aldersgate

United Methodist Church, 10000 Beech Daly, Redford  
**Details:** Comic, sports cards and collectibles show; admission \$1 for adults, free for children, 10 and under  
**Contact:** (313) 850-1223

**CONCERT**  
**Time/Date:** 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 11  
**Location:** St. John Lutheran Church, 23225 Gill, Farmington Hills  
**Details:** Christmas Music featuring the Madonna University Chorale directed by David Wagner. Refreshments will be served; admission free  
**Contact:** (248) 474-0584

**CONCERT**  
**Time/Date:** 6:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 11  
**Location:** Rosedale Gardens Presbyterian Church, 9601 Hubbard, Livonia  
**Details:** Advent Collage Concert will include the adult Chancel Choir; the Rosedale Praise Team; the adult Carillon Handbell Choir; the instrumental group, Grace Notes; youth ensembles including the Cherub Choir, Chapel Singers, Chapel Bells, Chime Choir and Cathedral Bells. An afterglow will follow. Free admission  
**Contact:** (734) 422-0494

**CONCERT**  
**Time/Date:** 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 11  
**Location:** Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church, 4000 Six Mile, west of Haggerty,

Northville  
**Details:** The church's Christmas concert will feature its chancel choir, children's choir, teen choir, handbells and orchestra. Admission is free  
**Contact:** (248) 374-4740

**CONCERT**  
**Time/Date:** 6 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 11  
**Location:** Trinity Church, 34500 Six Mile, Livonia  
**Details:** "A Trinity Family Christmas" will feature standards and classics, both traditional and modern. Admission is free  
**Contact:** (734) 425-2800

**CONCERT**  
**Time/Date:** 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 9  
**Location:** Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church, 14175 Farmington Road, Livonia  
**Details:** Detroit Lutheran Singers Christmas concert; \$10 general admission; \$7 for senior citizens and students, 12 and older  
**Contact:** [detroitlutheransingers.com](http://detroitlutheransingers.com)

**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

# Passages

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Obituaries, Memories & Remembrances

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Deadlines: Friday 4:15 p.m. for Sunday • Wednesday 9:45 a.m. for Thursday



**BEVELL, DR. WILLIAM**

Age 77, of Chelsea. Survived by Marilynn and his children Brian, Brad (Norma), Barry, and Beth (Dave) Sheffey. Proud grandfather of Austin (Holly), Evan, and Rachel, and great-grandfather of Harris. Visitation will be held at Fred Wood Funeral Home-Rice Chapel, 36100 5 Mile Rd., Livonia (E. of Levan). Friday from 3 PM until 9 PM. A funeral service is planned for 11PM Saturday at the funeral home. Memorial contributions may be made to the leukemia and lymphoma society 1421 E. 12 Mile Rd. Madison Heights, Michigan 48071 and the Alzheimer's Association 20300 Civic Center Dr., Ste 100, Southfield, MI 48076. Please visit online guest book [fredwoodfuneralhome.com](http://fredwoodfuneralhome.com)



**BURRESS, J.W.**

Age 89, Dec 4, 2011 of Westland, formerly of Canton. Beloved husband of Nadene. Dear father of Jan Munday, Peg McElroy, and the late Michael, Ronnie and Barbara Kay Burress. Loving grandfather of Julie Kelley and the late Jimmy and David Owens. Proud great-grandfather of Jordan and Brendan Kelley. Dear brother of the late Clarice Bruce and Frankie Walker. Visitation Thursday, 2-8pm and Friday 2-8pm at Vermeulen Funeral Home, 980 N Newburgh Rd., (btwn Ford & Cherry Hill), Westland. Funeral Service Saturday 10am at the funeral home. Interment Washtenog Memorial Park. Memorials may be made to Alzheimer's Association or to Merriman Road Baptist Church. To share a memory, please visit: [vermeulenfuneralhome.com](http://vermeulenfuneralhome.com)

### MAKEPEACE, NANCY L.

Age 81, of Hendersonville, NC, formerly of Plymouth, former resident of Tonquish Creek Manor, Plymouth. Loving sister of Phyllis (George) Maddox and Ruby (Ray) Lawrence. Beloved aunt of Terry Wasalawski, Linda Wall, Larry Wasalawski, Penny Wasalawski, Dennis Lawrence, Deborah Price, Merle Maddox and Laurie Maddox. Dear friend of Betty Brink, Clara Cervelli, and Karen Dingley. Visitation Saturday (12/10) 11 AM until 1PM, funeral service at Vermeulen Funeral Home, 46401 W. Ann Arbor Rd., (Btwn Sheldon & Beck), Plymouth. Interment Parkview Memorial Cemetery. To share memories please visit: [vermeulenfuneralhome.com](http://vermeulenfuneralhome.com)



**POTOCZAK, JAMES J.**

December 2, 2011. Beloved husband of 44 years to Loretta. Loving father of Todd and the late Terri. Loving brother of Rose (Lawrence) Kulik, Monica (William) Reinhold, and the late Leonard. Dearest brother-in-law of JoAnn Potoczak, Dolores Cwik, Henry (Karen) Kopicko and Elaine (Henry) Micallef, and many nieces, nephews and beloved friends. Memorial services will be held Friday, December 9 at 1pm at R.G. & G.R. Harris Funeral Home, 31551 Ford Rd., Garden City. Visitation from 10am until time of service at 1pm. Memorial contributions may be made to Pancreatic Cancer Action Network. ([www.pancan.org](http://www.pancan.org)) Please sign the on-line guestbook at [www.rgrharris.com](http://www.rgrharris.com)

May peace be with you in this time of sorrow.



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## Quirky musical

### College students pen play about their professor



Zirk

By Sharon Dargay  
 O&E Staff Writer

When Willard Zirk thought no one was paying attention to his lecture one day two years ago, the Eastern Michigan University music professor began spouting non sequiturs.

"I started saying anything ... 'And so, I ate a cow' ... 'And went to the zoo.' It had nothing to do with the content," recalled Zirk, a Saline resident.

Freshmen Heather Huber of Livonia and Jacob Nurse of Harrison Township were not only listening, but taking notes and memorizing his absurd comments, along with stories and jokes he sometimes told in class.

"He's a really nice guy and kind of quirky," said Huber, describing Zirk. "We were sitting in his music literature class at the end of sophomore year and said we should write a musical about Dr. Zirk. It was, ha ha wouldn't it be cool and funny?"

The roommates worked on a story and co-wrote songs over the next year before tackling arrangements for the pit orchestra. Although neither student has musical theater production experience, the duo held auditions, selected a cast, recruited a costumer, backstage crew, pit orchestra and led rehearsals for two months. They even obtained a \$250 grant for costume expenses from the Livonia Arts Commission. A music service fraternity at the university also kicked in \$500.

Zirk! *The Musical*, will make its debut 7 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 11 at Peace Auditorium on the Eastern Michigan campus in Ypsilanti. Admission is a suggested \$3 donation.

#### Student composers

"I respect their writing so much. It's clever writing," said Zirk, who recently attended a rehearsal.



Jake Nurse of Harrison Township and Heather Huber of Livonia will see their musical play come to fruition on Sunday, Dec. 11, on stage at Eastern Michigan University in Ypsilanti.

"They are wonderful students, young geniuses that applied themselves so diligently in their discipline. They are destined to be composers.

"It's not a chintzy production. It's high-quality work."

Zirk, who enjoys carpentry, made the sets for the show. His interest in sailing — he plans to build a boat next year — inspired the musical's plot. In the musical, Zirk and his wife, Gayle, go boating, end up shipwrecked on an island, and encounter a native tribe.

"It's a comedy. It's light-hearted," Huber said. "It's funnier if you do know him (Zirk) but if you don't, you're seeing a portrait of him."

#### Multi-talented

Huber played tenor sax, bassoon and piano. She also teaches piano and bassoon.

"I have loved music since I was 4 and figuring out *Little Mermaid* keyboard," she said. "I just wanted to do everything

music-related when I got to high school."

She graduated from Stevenson High School in 2007 and enrolled at Eastern Michigan University. She'll student teach next semester and plans to graduate with a bachelor's degree in spring 2012.

"We have ideas for other musicals," Huber said, describing the writing process as "a blast."

"I really enjoy writing pop music. I was in a couple of bands in high school and col-

lege. I've gotten good at lyrics and rhyming. That came in handy. And it helps to have a background it."

Whether Huber and Nurse continue collaborating depends on the direction their careers take, Huber said. With a minor in German, she's considering a stint overseas teaching English.

"If we both teach near each other, we might write more musicals. This has been such a great experience. It's been nice."

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**GET OUT!**

**Art**

**ART & IDEAS**

**Time/Date:** Through Dec. 24; gallery hours are 1-6:30 p.m. Thursday and 1-7 p.m. Friday-Saturday, or by appointment

**Location:** 15095 Northville Road, in Plymouth

**Details:** "Downtown Foot Art" includes works by the gallery's artist-in-residence, Shaq Kalaj. She focused on historical buildings in downtown Plymouth for her series of works which she sketched and painted with her feet in the outdoors over the summer

**Contact:** (734) 420-0775

**DETROIT INSTITUTE OF ARTS**

**Time/Dates:** 2 p.m. Sundays

**Location:** 5200 Woodward, Detroit

**Details:** Target Family Sundays, storytelling, performances, free with admission

**Exhibits:** Rembrandt and the Face of Jesus exhibit runs through Feb. 12, 2012 and includes 64 works. Tickets are \$16 for adults; \$8 for youth, 6-17. Other exhibits include Detroit Revealed: Photographs 2000-2010, an exhibit of 50 photos through April 8, 2012; Gift of a Lifetime: The James Pearson Duffy Collection of drawings, paintings, prints, sculptures and photographs through March 18, 2012

www.dia.org

**NORTHVILLE ART HOUSE**

**Time/Date:** Through Dec. 10

**Location:** 215 W. Cady, Northville

**Details:** The seventh annual Northville Holiday Art Market includes hand-crafted work in painting, printmaking, glass, mosaic, fiber, photography, jewelry and mixed media for sale by well-known local artists. Hours for the market are 1-5 p.m. Wednesday-Saturday. **Contact:** (248) 344-0497

**PLYMOUTH COMMUNITY ARTS COUNCIL**

**Time/Date:** 1-3 p.m. Dec. 17

**Location:** 774 N. Sheldon, Plymouth

**Details:** Artist reception for exhibit that runs through Dec. 22, featuring works in colored pencil, ink, pastel and watercolor by members of Pam Grossmann's adult drop-in drawing classes. Exhibit hours are 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Thursday

**Contact:** (734) 416-4278

**Comedy**

**Go Comedy!**

**Time/Date:** Various show times Wednesdays thru Sundays

**Location:** 261 E. Nine Mile, Ferndale

**Details:** Improv most nights. Open mic/jam ses-

sion show for improvisers is 10 p.m. Wednesdays

**Contact:** (248) 327-0575; gocomey.net

**JD'S HOUSE OF COMEDY**

**Time/Date:** Various show times Wednesday-Saturday evenings

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

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

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

**JOEY'S COMEDY CLUB OF LIVONIA**

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

**Location:** 36071 Plymouth Road, Livonia

**Details:** Chad Daniels, Dec. 7-10; Joey's Comedy All Stars, Dec. 22; John Roy, Dec. 28-31

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

**MARK RIDLEY'S COMEDY CASTLE**

**Time/Date:** Kivi Rogers, through Dec. 10; Lars Callieou, Dec. 15-17; David Dyer, Dec. 22-23; Joe Devito, Dec. 29-31

**Location:** 269 E. Fourth, Royal Oak

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

**REDFORD THEATRE**

**Time/Date:** 8:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 9

**Location:** 17360 Lahser, just north of Grand River Ave., in Detroit

**Details:** Cedric the Entertainer; tickets are \$52-147, available at ticketmaster.com

**Contact:** www.thecrofoot.com

**Dance**

**MOON DUSTERS**

**Time/Date:** 8:30-11:30 p.m. every Saturday;

dance lessons 7-8 p.m.

**Location:** Livonia Civic Center, 15218 Farmington Road, Livonia

**Details:** Singles and couples dance to music of the '30s, '40s and '50s; free refreshments. Dance lessons cost \$6; dance and lessons are \$11; dance only is \$7 for guests, \$6.50 for associates and \$6 for Moon Dusters members

**Contact:** Joe Castrodale, club president, (248) 968-5197

**FOOD AND RECIPES**

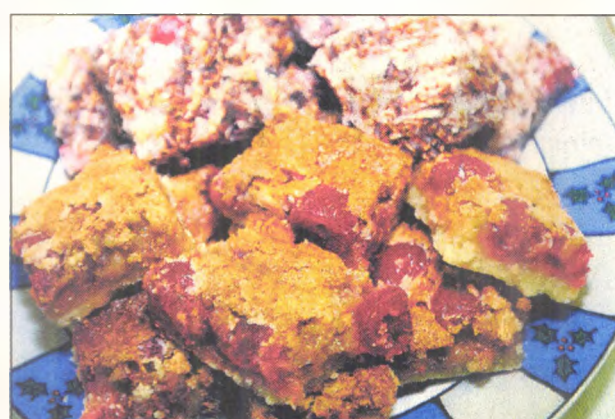
**Get homemade cookies at Livonia churches**

Take a break from holiday baking this week.

Holy Transfiguration Orthodox Church and Timothy Lutheran Church, both in Livonia, will sell dozens of different Christmas cookies at their holiday cookie walks on Saturday, Dec. 11.

Holy Transfiguration's sale will start at 9 a.m. — with doors opening at 8 a.m. — at 36075 W. Seven Mile; (248) 476-3432.

The 18th annual cookie walk will feature perogies, apricot rolls, poppy seed rolls, nut rolls, sweet bread and homemade European and holiday cookies such as Russian Tea Cakes and Peanut Butter Balls. Coffee and treats will be available when the doors open.



ARCHIVE PHOTO

If you want to serve homemade cookies this Christmas, but have no time to bake, head for the annual cookie walks, Saturday, Dec. 11 at Timothy Lutheran Church and Holy Transfiguration Orthodox Church, both in Livonia.

Trinity Lutheran's cookie walk will start at 10 a.m. and offer a variety of Christmas cookies sold by the pound, along with bake sale goodies. The church is located at 8820 Wayne Road, south of Ann Arbor Trail; (734) 427-2290

**Kick off holiday baking with reader's recipe**

Ready to start filling the holiday cookie jar?

Start with this favorite recipe from Nancy J. Brown of Redford.

She says "These are the all-time favorite cookie in the Brown household. Can one husband, seven children, 11 grandchildren and 12 great grandchildren be wrong? And although they seem like a lot of work, they really are not. They are worth every bit of effort, especially considering you have eight dozen absolutely delicious, scrumptious cookies. The really are one luscious cookie."

**Hungarian Double Deck Pastry**

- 5 cups all purpose flour
- 1 1/2 cups white sugar, divided (plus extra for sprinkling on finished recipe)
- 4 teaspoons baking powder
- 2 teaspoons baking soda
- Pinch of salt
- 2 1/2 sticks of good quality margarine, room temperature (I use Imperial)
- 4 egg yolks
- 1/2 pint (1 cup) commercial sour cream
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 2 1/2 cups ground walnuts
- 2-pound jar apricot jam. (If you cannot find a 2-pound jar, weigh out 2 pounds. Using more will result in it oozing out and making a mess of the bottom of your oven).

Sift together dry ingredients, using 1 cup sugar. Cut in room temperature margarine. Add egg yolks, sour cream and vanilla and mix by hand. Divide into 3 equal portions — wrap in wax paper — chill.

Mix together the 2 1/2 cups of ground walnuts and remaining 1/2 cup sugar.

Roll out the first portion of dough into a 10- by 15-inch rectangle on a floured surface. Place in an ungreased 10- by 15-inch jelly roll pan (it has sides). Sprinkle evenly with 1/3 of the walnut/sugar mixture.

Roll out the second portion of dough and place it on top of the first layer. Spread with jam (which I have stirred for easier spreading) and top with remaining nuts/sugar mixture.

Roll out the third portion of dough, place on previous layers and sprinkle lightly with sugar.

Bake in a 350 degree oven 25 to 30 minutes, until lightly browned. Cool thoroughly in pan.

Cut the baked and cooled pastry in half the long way of the pan — then in fourths cross way of the pan so that you have eight equal portions. Wrap each portion in aluminum foil and refrigerate until ready to use. These will keep nicely, refrigerated for two weeks or frozen for several months.

To serve, (thaw if necessary) and cut each portion into 12 squares and place in mini paper cups.

If you want to share a holiday recipe with readers, e-mail it to Sharon Dargay at sdargay@hometownlife.com and we'll publish it in an upcoming issue. Or mail it to the Observer at 615 W. Lafayette, level 2, Detroit, MI 48226.

**The 2nd Sunday Photo Show**  
**Sunday, Dec. 11th 10am-3pm**  
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**WHY BE CATHOLIC?**

The exciting monthly series of personal stories and testimonies continues its 3rd season with an outstanding roster of new speakers, sure to bring rewarding new insights to your own faith life.

**Thursday, Dec. 13th at 7 PM**

Maronite revert & founder of the Army of Apostles, **Paul Thomas**, shares his timely faith journey, telling what led him from the drug scene and its resultant "street life" back to his family faith in this Eastern rite of the Catholic Church.

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 Call 313-943-2354

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 THURSDAY, MAY 10, 2012 - 7 pm  
 Call 906-227-1032

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# Scoop's Hound Dog Highlights!

## Holiday Traditions

**Enter to Win**  
**PLYMOUTH WHALERS**  
 a family 4-pack  
 and a Scoop T-Shirt!

**Send photo and story about how you and your family celebrate the holiday. Some of the photos and stories will be published in next month's Scoop's Hound Dog Highlights.**



**How about creating a new tradition with your family!**



**Celebrate the Holidays Contest**

Youth Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Youth Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Youth Community: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's information to contact winning entry:  
 (Phone, email, home address) \_\_\_\_\_

Selected winners will have their name, age, hometown and photo in the next Scoop's Hound Dog Highlights.

**Mail to:**  
**Scoop the Newshound**  
 41304 Concept Drive  
 Plymouth, MI 48170

**Deadline for submissions: 12/28/2011**

**All entries need to be received at the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers by close of the business day on Dec. 28th. Winners to be announced in the January Scoop's Hound Dog Highlights.**

### Scoop's Craft Corner:

Want to make a special ornament for your Christmas tree? It is super easy and lots of fun. All you need is salt, flour, water, vegetable oil, a rolling pin, a cookie sheet, decorations, some help from your parents and lots of imagination.

- Materials Needed:**
- 2 Cups Flour
  - 1 Cup Salt
  - 2 Tbsp Vegetable Oil
  - 3/4 - to - 1 Cup Water

**Instructions:**  
 Mix together flour and salt. Add the oil and then slowly add the water and stir until you get a nice clay consistency. Once completely mixed, make into the

desired shapes. Bake in a 250 degree oven for approximately 1 hour. This will vary depending on how thick your creations are. One hint, do not make shapes too thick or they will crack with baking.

Before star is placed in the oven, make a hole for the ribbon using the end of a straw. Once the star is out of the oven and cooled, use your creativity. Use colorful ribbon to hang your new ornament. Have FUN!



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#### Scoop's Birthday Club Entry Form



\* Required for Birthday Club

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 Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Boy or Girl  
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 \*Parent's Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \*Parent's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

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Fill out the form and have your parent's fill in their name and signature. Clip and mail, it's that easy!

**Mail to: Scoop the Newshound - 41304 Concept Dr. Plymouth, MI 48170**



## holiday traditions enhanced with grapes

What can possibly make the holidays easier and fun, more delicious and sweet, more festive and bright, and yet traditional all at the same time? The answer is fresh grapes. Luckily, grapes from California are in plentiful supply in all colors — red, green and black — throughout the holiday season.

For a dinner or buffet, fresh grapes can be added to two favorite sides, stuffing and cranberry relish, with delightful and satisfying results. There are many familiar stuffing ingredients in Wild Rice Stuffing with Grapes and Hazelnuts, but the distinction in the dish is the wild rice, the toasted hazelnuts and fresh grapes. The grapes add a warm, still-juicy brightness to the stuffing, one that's perfect with any kind of poultry, from turkey to game hens to goose.

In Grape Cranberry Relish, two seasonal fruits work very well together. Grapes provide natural sweetness, so the amount of sugar that's added to quiet the strong tartness of cranberries is much reduced compared to similar recipes. The relish is a nice blend of still-noticeable grapes in a sauce that's remarkably luscious.

Pluck the gift of grapes this holiday season and you'll enjoy every juicy bite no matter how you choose to serve them. For more recipes, visit [www.grapesfromcalifornia.com](http://www.grapesfromcalifornia.com).

### Make Grapes Your Healthy Holiday Ally

- Fresh grapes are low in calories — just 90 per  $\frac{3}{4}$  cup serving — yet are satisfying and very, very good for you. Grapes of all colors are a natural source of beneficial antioxidants known as polyphenols, which may help contribute to a healthy heart.
- Snack on grapes before going out. They'll fill you up, so you can graze in moderation.
- Offer grapes on appetizer plates and as a side so friends and family can share in the goodness of this beautiful fruit.

### QUICK TIPS FOR HOLIDAY ENTERTAINING WITH GRAPES

Fresh grapes are a versatile fruit with multiple uses.

- Grapes make for easy decorations and centerpieces in bowls and on platters or draped from a cake plate.
- Grapes can be easily "frosted" with sugar, spices and finely chopped nuts. Simply wet or dip clusters in liquid gelatin before rolling grapes in your favorite mixture. Use them to decorate cookie plates, cakes, puddings, mousses and more.
- Looking for an easy hostess gift? Wrap grape clusters — multiple colors work best — in tissue paper and place in a pretty basket, tied with a ribbon.
- Grapes are a quick and easy potluck treat, guaranteed to please, especially when you have very little time to throw something together.

### Wild Rice Stuffing with Grapes and Hazelnuts

Yields: 6 $\frac{1}{2}$  cups

2 cans (28 fluid ounces total) low-sodium chicken broth  
1 cup wild rice  
4 slices bacon, diced  $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch  
1 tablespoon butter, unsalted  
1 large onion ( $1\frac{1}{2}$  cups chopped), diced  $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch  
2 stalks ( $\frac{3}{4}$  cup chopped) celery, diced  $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch  
1 $\frac{1}{2}$  cups button mushrooms, sliced  
2 cloves garlic, fresh, minced  
1 teaspoon thyme, fresh, minced  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoon salt  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoon black pepper, ground  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  cup parsley, fresh chopped  
1 cup hazelnuts, toasted and coarsely chopped  
2 cups California seedless grapes, rinsed

In heavy saucepan, bring chicken broth to a boil. Add wild rice and stir. Cover pan and reduce heat to low. Let simmer for one hour, until rice is tender and has popped open.

Meanwhile, cook bacon in fry pan over medium until almost crisp, about 8-10 minutes.

Add butter to bacon pan, then add onions, celery, mushrooms, garlic, thyme and salt and pepper. Cook over medium heat for 5 to 7 minutes, until onions are translucent.

Remove from heat and fold in parsley, hazelnuts and grapes.

Add rice with any remaining liquid in pan to vegetable mixture and toss well to combine.

Stuffing may be used to fill turkey, game hens, or chicken. Stuffing may also be baked separately in a casserole dish covered with foil; bake at 350°F for 20 to 30 minutes until hot throughout.

To toast hazelnuts, place in 350°F oven for 9 to 12 minutes. Rub in a clean dish-towel to remove skins.

Note: If you make ahead and refrigerate, cook time will be 30 to 40 minutes until hot.

— Family Features



Serve a beautiful sparkling wine cocktail flavored with a dash of creme de cassis and adorned with colorful grapes and fresh mint.



### Cranberry Grape Relish

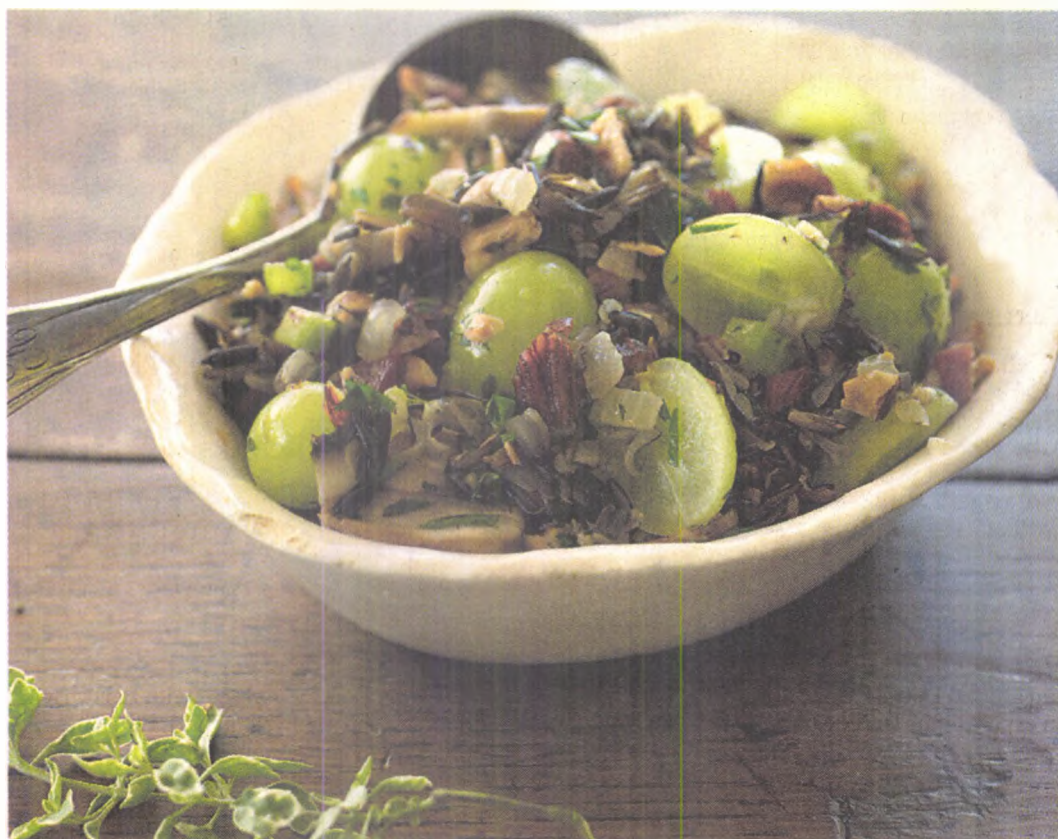
Yields: 3 cups

2 cups red seedless California grapes  
1 12-ounce package cranberries, fresh or frozen  
1 orange, juiced and zested  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  cup sugar

Place all ingredients in heavy saucepan and bring to a boil over high heat. Reduce heat to medium and cook, stirring occasionally for 10 minutes until thick and shiny. Let cool thoroughly, then store in airtight container in refrigerator for up to one week. Serve alongside roast turkey, pork or ham.



Arrange grapes around your cheese plate and cut into mini-clusters for easy eating.





## Looking good: Curb appeal matters whether selling, staying

Realtors tell those selling a home that curb appeal always matters. Those considering buying a property will notice piles of trash or unpleasant odors right away.

Curb appeal is important for sellers, but also contributes to the quality of life for those not planning a move. Whether you're in the market or not, a well-maintained home is appreciated by neighbors and the homeowner alike.

Visit [www.houselogic.com/buyandsell](http://www.houselogic.com/buyandsell) for tips on preparing a home for sale. Some tips include:

- Stay in synch with your neighborhood. Avoid being the proverbial sore thumb of the neighborhood. Regular maintenance and energy-efficient upgrades will provide a return on your investment.

- Stash your trash. Have mercy on your neighbors by renting a Dumpster and removing trash. A 20-yard Dumpster is about \$400 to \$500.

- Choose exterior colors wisely. Shock value is highly overrated when it comes to curb appeal. Your exterior color choices should be in harmony with other neighborhood homes. Scout around first before you paint or stain — your neighbors will thank you.

- Hire a landscape designer. A modest investment in a pro landscape plan will pay off bit-time when it comes time to sell your house. If you're averse to



regular lawn maintenance, consider a condo or apartment.

- A place for everything. You may be proud of your diligent recycling and trash maintenance routine, but that doesn't mean it should be on display for the world to see. Keep trash bins off to the side, and built a low-cost privacy screen to hide them from view.

- Chained to a bad fence option. Chain link fence is sturdy, reliable and relatively inexpensive. It's great for bordering back and side yards, but

out front, it's flat-out ugly. With so many great fencing options available at a fairly modest cost, you owe it to yourself to re-fence.

- When high-tech is low-cool. Technology has brought many wonderful things into our lives, but good-looking exteriors aren't necessarily included. If you're a techno-geek, keep your antennae and solar collectors hidden from view behind shrubbery or privacy screens.

- Ease up on the lawn ornaments. Front yards are great

for well-trimmed shrubs and fetching flowers, but they really aren't the place to display an overabundant collection of lawn ornaments. Moderation is a virtue, and helps preserve the value of your property.

- Don't stain your reputation. A little routine maintenance keeps little problems from becoming big eyesores. An annual cleaning keeps brick siding looking fresh. Scrub stains out and seal with a top-quality primer before painting over exterior stains.

## Check facts on structure

**By Robert Meisner**  
Guest Columnist

**Q:** Our subdivision documents preclude a mobile home from being parked temporarily on land unconnected to utilities because it is not a building (structure). Before closing on a lot purchase, one of our owners parked his mobile home on the lot. The mobile home sat on a trailer and remained unconnected to any plumbing or utilities. Moreover, no site work had been done in preparation for placing the mobile home on a foundation. Do we have a basis to pursue the mobile home owner?

**A:** As in most of these bylaw enforcement matters, it depends on the facts of the case. To the extent that the association had the

right to approve any building on the lot, it is likely that buildings would include the

structures and mobile homes could reasonably be defined as structures. The fact that the mobile home was not connected to utilities did not mean that it was not a structure and, of course, it depends upon the language of your deed restrictions and whether the deed restriction expressly covered structures that were intended, designed or arranged to be used or occupied, and not just those actually in use.

**Q:** Can you tell me which states post the top state foreclosure rates, and how does Michigan stand?

**A:** As of August 2011, Nevada, California and Arizona posted the top state foreclosure rates. However five other states account for more than half of the U.S. total. Michigan documented 13,016 properties with foreclosure filings in August, the third highest state in the country. It doesn't look like things are slowing up in the foreclosure business. I can tell from my experience in representing community and condominium associations that unfortunately the need to pursue collections continues to increase.

**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](mailto: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. 30 to Sept. 2, 2011, at the Wayne County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

| CANTON                |           |
|-----------------------|-----------|
| 49655 Cherokee Cir    | \$269,000 |
| 568 Cherry Orchard Rd | \$119,000 |
| 50494 Coolidge St     | \$272,000 |
| 1520 Emerald Pines Dr | \$186,000 |
| 633 Filmore St        | \$340,000 |
| 47413 Fox Run Dr      | \$236,000 |
| 41543 Glade Rd        | \$128,000 |
| 220 Harvard St        | \$189,000 |
| 4675 Hunters Cir E    | \$60,000  |
| 43135 Ironsides Ct    | \$135,000 |

| 2160 Liberty St S    | \$290,000 |
|----------------------|-----------|
| 45471 Michael Ct     | \$138,000 |
| 637 N Corrine Blvd   | \$145,000 |
| 7129 Pittsford St    | \$204,000 |
| 41824 Princess Dr    | \$196,000 |
| GARDEN CITY          |           |
| 32533 Cambridge St   | \$82,000  |
| 30944 Florence St    | \$75,000  |
| 1525 Lathers St      | \$10,000  |
| 6456 Whitby St       | \$70,000  |
| LIVONIA              |           |
| 30599 Six Mile Rd    | \$200,000 |
| 18290 Bainbridge Ave | \$102,000 |
| 27656 Barkley St     | \$93,000  |
| 9599 Cavell St       | \$2,000   |
| 20616 Chestnut Cir   | \$85,000  |
| 17330 Fairfield St   | \$185,000 |
| 15055 Hubbard St     | \$17,000  |
| 9915 Mayfield St     | \$119,000 |
| 37077 Munger St      | \$107,000 |

| 28528 N Clements Cir     | \$59,000  |
|--------------------------|-----------|
| 30878 Orangelawn St      | \$127,000 |
| 16783 Penn Dr            | \$144,000 |
| 9004 Pere Ave            | \$115,000 |
| 33679 Pondview Cir       | \$33,000  |
| 35132 Scone St           | \$120,000 |
| 17341 Starwich St        | \$120,000 |
| 8925 Sunbury St          | \$94,000  |
| 18241 University Park Dr | \$70,000  |
| NORTHVILLE               |           |
| 245 First St             | \$80,000  |
| 45731 Clement Ct         | \$355,000 |
| 16740 Dover Dr           | \$106,000 |
| 44444 Larchwood Dr       | \$575,000 |
| 49697 S Glacier          | \$330,000 |
| 789 Thayer Blvd          | \$326,000 |
| PLYMOUTH                 |           |
| 9151 Briarwood Dr        | \$90,000  |
| 42910 Joy Rd             | \$74,000  |
| 382 N Evergreen St       | \$230,000 |

| REDFORD             |          |
|---------------------|----------|
| 11324 Garfield      | \$32,000 |
| 16841 Glenmore      | \$43,000 |
| 18763 Macarthur     | \$52,000 |
| 23310 Meadow Park   | \$35,000 |
| 18671 Norborne      | \$10,000 |
| 12130 San Jose      | \$26,000 |
| 17690 Wakenden      | \$40,000 |
| WESTLAND            |          |
| 37542 Barkridge Cir | \$54,000 |
| 1554 Berkshire St   | \$73,000 |
| 7421 Floral St      | \$53,000 |
| 34102 Majestic St   | \$81,000 |
| 5700 N Crown St     | \$23,000 |
| 8551 Perrin Ave     | \$90,000 |
| 32118 Sandra Ln     | \$83,000 |
| 1700 Stieber Ln     | \$40,000 |

### HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS-OAKLAND

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of Aug. 22-26, 2011, at the Oakland County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

| BEVERLY HILLS                   |           |
|---------------------------------|-----------|
| 18642 E Chelton Dr              | \$225,000 |
| 16904 Kinross Ave               | \$192,000 |
| BIRMINGHAM                      |           |
| 1998 Bowers St                  | \$355,000 |
| 1652 Henrietta St               | \$740,000 |
| 450 Larchlea Dr                 | \$400,000 |
| 2205 Pembroke Rd                | \$163,000 |
| 1601 Quanton Rd                 | \$482,000 |
| 1473 S Eton St                  | \$90,000  |
| 315 S Glenhurst Dr              | \$339,000 |
| 411 S Old Woodward Ave Unit 555 | \$55,000  |
| 1589 Sheffield Rd               | \$154,000 |
| 650 W Lincoln St                | \$325,000 |
| BLOOMFIELD HILLS                |           |
| 5592 N Adams Way                | \$110,000 |
| 2058 Fawnwood Way               | \$250,000 |
| 2451 Hunters Pond               | \$570,000 |
| 7371 Lindenmere Dr              | \$490,000 |
| 4438 Stony River Dr             | \$345,000 |
| 986 Stratford Ln                | \$135,000 |
| 2906 Whittier Dr                | \$250,000 |
| BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP             |           |
| 1523 Ashover Dr                 | \$246,000 |
| 2654 Bridle Rd                  | \$220,000 |
| 4602 Brightmore Rd              | \$500,000 |

| 3370 Burning Bush Rd      | \$650,000   |
|---------------------------|-------------|
| 6895 Castle Ct            | \$280,000   |
| 4861 Cimarron Dr          | \$1,260,000 |
| 2820 Colonial Way         | \$185,000   |
| 1100 E Glengarry Cir      | \$1,400,000 |
| 815 E Long Lake Rd        | \$240,000   |
| 2399 Heronwood Dr         | \$635,000   |
| 5103 Iron Gate Rd         | \$235,000   |
| 1411 Kirkway Rd           | \$1,550,000 |
| 125 Maywood Ave           | \$520,000   |
| 1322 N Glengarry Rd       | \$830,000   |
| 1872 Packer Rd            | \$160,000   |
| 4599 Ranch Ln             | \$450,000   |
| 4837 Stoneleigh Rd        | \$600,000   |
| 6775 Wing Lake Rd         | \$166,000   |
| COMMERCE TOWNSHIP         |             |
| 5299 Baronette Ln         | \$265,000   |
| 8627 Cooley Lake Rd # 303 | \$219,000   |
| 2100 Glen Iris Ct         | \$129,000   |
| 3700 Loch Bend Dr         | \$320,000   |
| 3291 Melmoor St           | \$35,000    |
| 1300 Penarth St           | \$118,000   |
| 5864 Pickbourne St        | \$75,000    |
| 3100 Pikewood Ct          | \$487,000   |
| 3144 Pikewood Ct          | \$425,000   |
| 4404 Racewood Dr          | \$195,000   |
| 2978 Ravineview Dr        | \$428,000   |
| 5604 Tuscola St           | \$72,000    |
| 8635 War Bonnet Dr        | \$120,000   |
| FARMINGTON                |             |
| 23077 Farmington Rd       | \$140,000   |
| 23450 Hillview Ct         | \$220,000   |
| 21027 Meadowlark St       | \$140,000   |
| 33315 Shiawassee Rd       | \$240,000   |
| 26347 Valhalla Dr         | \$277,000   |
| FARMINGTON HILLS          |             |
| 32268 Baintree Rd         | \$164,000   |

| 28334 Bayberry Rd       | \$105,000 |
|-------------------------|-----------|
| 38622 Brandmill         | \$102,000 |
| 32615 Briarcrest Knls   | \$119,000 |
| 27184 Cambridge Ln      | \$400,000 |
| 25628 Castlereigh Dr    | \$174,000 |
| 32580 Chesterbrook St   | \$128,000 |
| 30887 Country Ridge Cir | \$197,000 |
| 20910 Deerfield         | \$381,000 |
| 34239 Gloucester Cir    | \$238,000 |
| 28645 Herndonwood Dr    | \$96,000  |
| 24347 Kensington        | \$126,000 |
| 29692 Olympia Ct        | \$50,000  |
| 28314 Peppermill Rd     | \$20,000  |
| 29398 Regents Pointe    | \$107,000 |
| 30703 Shiawassee Rd     | \$28,000  |
| 29200 Spring St         | \$260,000 |
| 28455 Thorny Brae Rd    | \$123,000 |
| 23021 Tulane Ave        | \$45,000  |
| 26147 Valhalla Dr       | \$260,000 |
| 36634 W Lyman Rd        | \$144,000 |
| 29248 Wyndham Ct        | \$155,000 |
| FRANKLIN                |           |
| 24447 Bloomington Ct    | \$136,000 |
| Lathrup Village         |           |
| 26520 Meadowood Ct N    | \$116,000 |
| MILFORD                 |           |
| 1791 Bristol Dr         | \$480,000 |
| 832 Duke                | \$85,000  |
| 625 E Commerce St       | \$118,000 |
| 480 Rowe Rd             | \$219,000 |
| 2772 Stone Meadow Dr    | \$506,000 |
| 2051 Trinity Ln         | \$395,000 |
| NOVI                    |           |
| 25725 Arcadia Dr        | \$375,000 |
| 24482 Bashian Dr        | \$58,000  |
| 27491 Belgrave Pl       | \$45,000  |
| 233 Bernstadt St        | \$79,000  |

| 41294 Carriage Hill Dr | \$395,000 |
|------------------------|-----------|
| 50767 Drakes Bay Dr    | \$610,000 |
| 41683 Juniper Cir      | \$115,000 |
| 24576 Le Bost Ct       | \$425,000 |
| 40538 Lenox Park Dr    | \$229,000 |
| 22121 Shadybrook Dr    | \$232,000 |
| 25442 Sutton Ct        | \$50,000  |
| 21208 Wheaton Ln       | \$417,000 |
| SOUTH LYON             |           |
| 58753 Carriage Ln      | \$40,000  |
| 142 Easton Dr          | \$230,000 |
| 61116 Greenwood Dr     | \$41,000  |
| 25875 Hunters Ln       | \$245,000 |
| 24339 Martindale Rd    | \$172,000 |
| 23906 Prescott Ct      | \$61,000  |
| 23563 Prescott Ln W    | \$61,000  |
| 52933 Willowbrook Dr   | \$61,000  |
| SOUTHFIELD             |           |
| 27301 Apple Blossom Ln | \$60,000  |
| 19421 Cherry Hill St   | \$75,000  |
| 18165 Goldwin St       | \$93,000  |
| 21438 Hiawatha Trl     | \$115,000 |
| 21704 Midway Ave       | \$23,000  |
| 17241 Revere St        | \$78,000  |
| 28155 San Marino Dr    | \$88,000  |
| 27335 Selkirk St       | \$85,000  |
| 16055 Templar Cir      | \$71,000  |
| 5000 Town Ctr          | \$74,000  |
| WHITE LAKE             |           |
| 1112 Clearwater St     | \$148,000 |
| 8875 Eastway Dr        | \$260,000 |
| 1225 Grove Point Dr    | \$75,000  |
| 8431 Highland Rd       | \$385,000 |
| 8031 Springdale Dr     | \$110,000 |
| 1105 Sugden Rd         | \$193,000 |
| 2580 Tackles Dr        | \$187,000 |

### REAL ESTATE BRIEFS

#### Career Seminar

Keller Williams Realty will offer a Career Seminar 6:30-7:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 15, at 40600 Ann Arbor Road, Suite 100, Plymouth. Learn about the \$50,000 income guarantee. For more information, contact: Lesley Aiello at (734) 459-4700 or [laiello@kw.com](mailto:laiello@kw.com).

#### Finance Seminar

Learn how to finance your purchase and rehab projects in and around Detroit. Hear from an expert in the lending business, Trent Dalrymple, who has more than 25 years of experience. Real estate and investment profession-

als are welcome. Seating is limited so call (248) 547-3006, or sign up at [www.metro-mi.com](http://www.metro-mi.com). These free one-hour seminars will be 6-7 p.m. on the first and third Thursday of the month at Metro Mortgage Investments, 26711 Woodward Ave., Suite 301, Huntington Woods.

#### Real Estate Sales and Appraising

Learn about a career in residential real estate. Attend a free one-hour seminar, or shadow a top agent to get an inside feel of the business. Seminars are at noon or 6 p.m. Wednesdays.

To reserve a spot, contact Keller Williams Realty International, at (248) 893-2500, 27555 Executive Drive, Suite 100, Farmington Hills 48331.

#### Seminar on Tuesdays

A free Reverse Mortgage Seminar is 6:30 p.m. every Tuesday at Colonial Mortgage Corp., 33919 Plymouth Road, Livonia. No obligation.

Learn about reverse mortgages. RSVP with Larry Brady at (800) 260-5484, Ext. 33.

#### Free Foreclosure Tours

Free Foreclosure Tours are 1 p.m.

every other Sunday. Meeting place is Panera Bread on the southeast corner of Middlebelt and I-96. E-mail [Georgia@addedvaluerealty.com](mailto:Georgia@addedvaluerealty.com) or visit [FreeForeclosureTour.com](http://FreeForeclosureTour.com).

#### On Facebook

RE/MAX has launched a new Facebook page for customers and the public to get direct answers for their real estate questions from RE/MAX experts. The new site is a chance for the public to ASKRE/MAX and get clear, expert answers in real time.

Visit [www.facebook.com/ASKREMAX](http://www.facebook.com/ASKREMAX).

VOICES & VIEWS:  
COMMENT ONLINE



[hometownlife.com](http://hometownlife.com)



# HOMES

apartments.com HomeFinder

**Apartment**  
**FARMINGTON AREA**  
 Adult community, quiet country setting, heat/water incl. \$590/mo. Call: (734) 564-8402

**FARMINGTON HILLS ANNIE APTS.**  
 1/2 off sec. dep if qualified FREE HEAT! 1 bedroom \$505. 9 Mile/Middlebelt 248-478-7489

**GARDEN CITY:** Large 1 bedroom. Appl., heat & water Free \$560 + Security. 734-464-3847, 734-513-4965

**LIVONIA:** Mid 5/Middlebelt 2 bdrm w/laundry room in unit. \$666/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

**Apartment**  
**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

**Homes For Rent**  
**GARDEN CITY-\$950**  
 Home 3 Bdrms, 2 baths, 2 garage. No pets. Immediate Occupancy. Finished basement w/gas fireplace, fenced yard, deck w/gazebo, kitchen appliances w/ice, non-smoking, security deposit. 734-788-1635

**INKSTER:** Updated 2 bdrm w/partially fin bsmt. \$675/mo. + sec. Section 8 welcome. Call btwn 9-5pm. 313-999-3965

**PLYMOUTH:** 1 bdrm, hardwood, appl, washer/dryer, a/c, covered deck, on park near lake \$775. 517-655-2759

**REDFORD:** Newly decorated 4 bdrm, 2.5 bath, bsmt, lg family room, kit, & dining rm. 2.5 car gar. \$975 586-247-1186

**SOUTHFIELD:** 2 bdrm No bsmt. No pets. No Sect 8. Lg. lot \$1500 to move in. \$750/mo. 248-827-2122

# BUY & SELL

hometownlife.com

**Household Goods**  
**MISC:** Unfinished adult size rocking chair, \$50. Stationary exercise bicycle, \$50. Call 734-261-3327 after 7pm.

**SOFA RECLINER, TABLES,** queen bed, all in excellent cond. Best offer. Call Frank: (734) 394-3091

**SOFA:** Gold, 84 inch, like new, \$100 Triple dresser with mirror, twin headboards & night stand, \$100. Games table with 4 upholstered chairs, \$75. Call: (248) 486-8180

**TABLE - BUTCHER BLOCK:** With 4 king chairs, almost new, \$300. Call: 248-374-0873

**Musical Instruments**  
**PIANO:** Gulbransen baby grand piano circa 1918, walnut stain, orgin. ivory keys. Exc. cond./none! Asking \$2000. 248-626-3725

**Cats**  
**CAT/KITTEN ADOPTIONS**  
 Every Sun. 12-4 at Pets Supplies Plus, 43665 Ford Rd., Canton. (734) 595-3646

**KITTENS:** Cute, lovable, fluffy kittens. Great for Christmas! To good home only. Leave message. 248-672-2638

**Help Wanted-General**  
**Banking**  
**dfcu FINANCIAL**  
 Michigan's largest Credit Union Wants you to join their team!  
**FT Mortgage Servicing Rep**  
 Minimum 1 yr. mortgage servicing exp. and demonstrated understanding of basic real estate functions.  
 Complete job description and locations available at: [dfcufinancial.com](http://dfcufinancial.com) see Mortgage Servicing Rep  
 Applications accepted at all DFCU branches through December 31, 2011  
 Credit record in good standing required  
 Equal Opportunity Employer.

**Help Wanted-General**  
**Billboard Sign Installer**  
 Key Tasks and Responsibilities:  
 •Installing, removing and maintaining billboard structures and advertisements.  
 •Perform job duties at various heights above ground up to 100'  
 •Familiar with the use of power/manual tools, equipment and machinery.  
 •Must attend all safety meetings as required and adhere to all safety regulations  
 Required Skills and Experience:  
 •Should have some billboard or steel erection work experience.  
 •Should have some welding experience  
 •Must be able to lift 75 lbs  
 •CDL B, clean driving record  
 •Minor electrical repair  
 •Crane operation helpful  
 Apply in person: Lamer Advertising 6405 N. Hix Rd. Westland, MI 48185 Located btwn. Ford & Warren Rds.

**Homes**  
**PLYMOUTH- For Sale By Owner**  
 Lovely 3 bdrm, 3 blocks from downtown! 1750 sq. ft., new kitchen w/maple cabinets, ceramic tile & oak flooring. New bathrooms. New windows & siding. Living room & master suite w/fireplace. Bsm't. Screened porch \$265,000 248-444-0896

**Call to place your ad at 1-800-579-SELL (7355)**

**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! 1 Month Rent Free (for qualified applicants) 1 Bdrm-\$550 2 Bdrm-\$650 FREE GAS & WATER (734) 729-6520 \*Short term leases available.

**Condos/Townhouses**  
**CANTON:** Luxury condo, 2 bdrms, bsmt, 2 car garage, fireplace, pool/workout room. \$1250/mo. 734-216-1933

**PLYMOUTH:** 1 bdrm with gar. in a unique country setting. Min from downtown Plymouth. \$675/mo + dep. 734-641-2009

**Homes For Rent**  
**CANTON:** 44750 Leslie 3 bdrm, 1.5 bath, 1900 sq. ft. 2 car garage, newly decorated, \$1500/mo. Call: 248-330-9262

**CANTON:** 720 SCOTTSDALE \$1,495/mo with a sec dep of \$2,492.50 to move in. 5 bdrms, 3 1/2 bathrooms, family room w/ fireplace, finished bsmt, 2 car garage, patio, shed, stove & refrigerator. Prices and Pets are neg. Showtimes for this home are Wednesdays and Sundays at 4pm or by appointment. Please call 313-920-5966 for more information or email us at [scm901@yahoo.com](mailto:scm901@yahoo.com)

**COMMERCIAL TWP.** Lovely 3 bdrm, 2 bath, bsmt, lake privileges, appl., fenced yard \$995. 248-568-6119

**WAYNE, MI**  
 34535 ELM - 3 Bdrms, bath, 2 garage, central air, basement \$950. 734-637-1945

**WESTLAND - Economical**  
 2 Bdrm, updated, C/A, bsmt, new furnace. Stove, fridge, W/D \$700/mo Sect 8 welcome! Agent: (734) 646-4857

**WESTLAND:** 3 bdrm, 1.5 bath, full bsmt, brick ranch, no garage, no pets, \$849/mo, 248-360-7916, 248-669-9519

**Auction Sales**  
**WATER SOFTENER**  
 Ultima II Series Model 100IX10 Very good condition. 248-486-9714

**AUCTION ON-SITE Sat. Dec. 10, 11am**  
 Building Shop Contents: 300 North Zeeb Road Ann Arbor, MI 48103 94 & Zeeb Road Electric Hi-Lo; Various Shop Tools; Electrical Equip; Commercial Riding Lawnmower; Office Items; Kitchen Equip. Cash/MC/Visa Discover Bank Debit Cards No Checks 10% Buyers Premium Viewing 9am Joe Carl, Professional Auction Service 734.451.7444 [jcauctionservices.com](http://jcauctionservices.com)

**Appliances**  
**FRIDGE - SIDE BY SIDE:** Gas range, wall microwave & dishwasher Very good cond, almost new 734-995-9510, call after 5pm

**Office Supplies**  
**BEAUTY SALON EQUIP FOR SALE:** Styling chairs, shampoo bowls and chairs, reception chairs, dryer chairs, pedicure chair, manicure station and chair, work stations, reception desk, glass shelves, chair mats, washer/dryer, ceiling fan and misc. items. Cash only. Dec. 10, 3:30-8pm & Dec. 11, 10-5pm. Only 2 days! 328 South Harvey, Plymouth. (248) 459-9888

**Video Games, Tapes, Movies**  
**PAC MAN MACHINE** Never been painted. Original condition. Takes quarters, Exc. cond. \$600. 313-277-6698

# JOBS

builder.com

**SHIH TZU PUPS:** AKC, non-shedding. Available for Christmas! 248.636.5133

**ACCOUNTANT/OFFICE COORDINATOR:**  
 Go to web site for details: [southyongfiratsumc.org](http://southyongfiratsumc.org)

**APPOINTMENT SETTER**  
 Ideal for anyone who can't get out to work. Work from home PT, schedule pick-ups for Purple Heart. Call Mon-Fri, 9-5pm. 734-728-4572 or email: [phonenumber@aol.com](mailto:phonenumber@aol.com)

**Banking**  
**dfcu FINANCIAL**  
 Michigan's largest Credit Union currently seeking friendly, service oriented individuals.  
 Now hiring Assistant Branch Manager for the Metro Detroit Area  
 Minimum qualifications include 2 yrs. supervision experience in a sales/financial environment. Coaching and customer service exp. Demonstrated professionalism with motivation to attain new skills in a dynamic environment.  
 Complete job description and locations available at [dfcufinancial.com](http://dfcufinancial.com)  
**See description for Asst. Member Relations Mgr** Accepting applications through Friday, December 30, 2011  
 Apply in person at any DFCU Financial Branch Office Credit record in good standing required  
 Equal Opportunity Employer.

**Manufactured Homes**  
**CANTON HOMES FOR SALE \$16,900**  
 Payments as low as \$525/mo. Includes insurance home payment and lot rent. Financing available. 3 bedroom/2 bath, deck, shed & appliances.  
**SUN HOMES**  
 Academy/Westpoint [academywestpoint.com](http://academywestpoint.com) 1-888-658-5659 \*Some restrictions apply. Expires 12/31/11 EHO Sun Homes Services, Inc. 2777 Franklin Rd., Suite 200, Southfield, MI 48034 OE087899346

**WESTLAND**  
 Hickory Woods Apts. \$224 MOVE IN! 1 Month Rent Free (for qualified applicants) 1 Bdrm-\$550 2 Bdrm-\$650 FREE GAS & WATER (734) 729-6520 \*Short term leases available.

**Homes For Rent**  
**GARDEN CITY -**  
 1 Bdrms only \$579 2 Bdrms only \$619 Newly updated. Hurry - Limited supply! New Management Bentley Square (734) 367-1087. EHO

**GARDEN CITY**  
 2 Bdrms, bath, 1 garage, central air, laundry facilities, large living /dinning/kitchen - very cute home ready to move in! No pets! Immediate Occupancy. \$850. 734-341-8713

# SERVICES

hometownlife.com

**Mobile Home Rentals**  
**END OF YEAR BLOW OUT!**  
 3 Br./2 Bath starting at \$868. Up to \$100 saving per month Must apply by 12/31/11 Call CELEBRATION HOMES for Details. 248-437-3443

**Office/Retail Space For Rent/Lease**  
**NORTHVILLE:** Newly renovated single office suites avail in historic downtown Northville Building. 734-667-3896

**Christmas Trees**  
**Mutch's Hidden Pines LLC**  
 303 W. Newark Rd., Lapeer (1/2 mile east of M-24) Featuring: Fraser, Canaan, and Blue Spruce  
 \*Cut your own & pre-cut  
 \*Visit our 150 year old barn for gifts, wreaths, hot chocolate & more!  
 \*Wagon Rides  
 \*Visit with Santa from 10am-4pm Sat. & Sun. only Free Shaking, Bailing and Drilling Business Hours: Friday, November 25, 9:00am-5:00pm. Friday's Dec. 2, 9, 16, 12:00pm-5:00pm. Saturday's & Sun's, Nov. 26-Dec. 18, 9:00am-5:00pm. Visa & MC accepted. (810) 667-2711 [www.mutchsheds.com](http://www.mutchsheds.com)

**Recycle This Newspaper**

**ACCOUNTANT/OFFICE COORDINATOR:**  
 Go to web site for details: [southyongfiratsumc.org](http://southyongfiratsumc.org)

**APPOINTMENT SETTER**  
 Ideal for anyone who can't get out to work. Work from home PT, schedule pick-ups for Purple Heart. Call Mon-Fri, 9-5pm. 734-728-4572 or email: [phonenumber@aol.com](mailto:phonenumber@aol.com)

**What we offer to our team members:**  
 Base pay of \$10.00/hr Uncapped bonus potential A fun working environment Career advancement Paid Time Off \* Co-Matching 401k Program \*  
**Call (734) 462-6019** to start your career today!  
**CERAMIC TILE INSTALLER:**  
 Leave message at: 248-399-8453 or email: [r3tile@sbcglobal.net](mailto:r3tile@sbcglobal.net)  
**DAVENPORT SCREW MACHINE OPERATOR**  
 Exp'd only. Day shift, benefits. Call 313-255-0420  
**DIRECT CARE STAFF**  
 Must be trained with valid driver's license. Call btwn. 9-3pm: 734-722-7880  
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**BUY NOW!**  
**OWN YOUR HOME FOR AS LOW AS \$9,900\***  
 2 BEDROOM / 1 BATH NEARLY 1,000 SQ. FT. \$1,000 LOWE'S GIFT CARD UPON CLOSE! CENTRAL AIR CONDITIONING SPECIAL FINANCING AVAILABLE  
**SUN HOMES AT COLLEGE PARK ESTATES CANTON, MI**  
 (888) 265-9858  
 \*Financed amount \$8,800 at 12.5% APR, 36-month term; includes site rent of \$150.00 per yr. EXPIRES 12/30/11 • EHO • WAC  
[www.4collegepark.com](http://www.4collegepark.com)

**3 bed/2 bath homes starting at \$629**  
 College Park Estates Sun Homes Apply at: [4collegepark.com](http://4collegepark.com) Hurry won't last! (888) 284-9760  
 SUN HOMES \*Some restrictions apply, call for details. Exp. 12/31/11 EHO

**Chimney Cleaning/Building & Repair**  
**BEST CHIMNEY & ROOFING CO.** - New & repairs Sr. Citizen Discount. Lic & Ins. 248-557-5595, 313-292-7722

**Drywall**  
**COMPLETE DRYWALL SRV.** Plaster Repair All jobs welcomed! Lic/ins. Free Est. 29 yrs. exp. Mark 313-363-6738

**Electrical**  
**FAMILY ELECTRICAL** City cert. Violations corrected. Service changes or any small job. Free est. 734-422-8080

**Hauling/Clean Up**  
**A-1 HAULING** Move scrap metal clean basements, garages, stores etc. Lowest prices in town. Quick service. Free est. Wayne/Oakland Central location. 248-547-2764, 248-559-8138

**Estate Sales**  
**AN ESTATE SALE** Orchard Ln Rd & Old Dominion Dr. West Bloomfield, across WBHS. Thurs-Sat. Dec. 8-10th, 9:30am-5:30pm. Thomasville, Ethan Allen, Hitchcock, Waterford, Americana & antiques, vintage & good brand clothing, bdrm sets, dining rm set, leather couch, bookcases, desks, lamps, antique picture frames, household, etc.

**Estate Sale Filming for HGTV's Cash & Cari Season 3**  
**GREAT FINDS incl.** Mid-century furniture, Vintage Purses & Toilets 2750 Indian Mound S. Bloomfield Hills MI 48301 Dec 9-10th, 10-5pm <http://regpurposeestate.com> 248.719.8332

**ESTATE SALE- LIVONIA- Fri & Sat** Dec 9 & 10, 10-4pm. Reasonably priced. 27464 Five Mile; 1 blk W of Inkster

**GARDEN CITY ESTATE SALE** of Avid hunter & fisherman. 45 yrs accumulation. House & garage loaded! Pristine trophy mounts, Big Gun Downriggers and gear, antiques, jewelry, vintage trains, silver, cameras, tools, Juki sewing machine, household, furniture & much more! Thurs. 12/8 & Fri. 12/9, 10-4pm. 32135 Leona, Merriman & Cherry Hill.

**NOVI ESTATE SALE:** Fri., Sat & Sun. 9-5. 309 Eubank. Household items, tools, air conditioners, furniture.

**U-CUT-FIR, PINE & SPRUCE** Open 7 days. 10AM 'til Dusk Closed Thanksgiving Day **HOLTZ CHRISTMAS TREE PLANTATION** 9381 Day Rd. near Maybee MI 734-587-3155 Trees for higher ceilings (up to 20 ft. tall) SPECIALS Directions: South on US-23 to exit 25 Right on Plank. 7 miles to Day Rd., turn left 3 miles to farm P. Holtz Est. 1947

**WALDOCK TREE FARM** We Grow: Caanan, Concolor, Corkbark, Fraser & Korean Fir, Black Hills, Blue, Norway & Serbian Spruce. All trees shaken, wrapped & drilled for free! Large trees up to 10' Wreaths Homemade Donuts, Coffee, Tea, Hot Cocoa, Cider and a Gift Shop in our warm barn. Open Fri. Sat. & Sun. 9am 'til Dark. 3090 Dutch Rd., Howell. Take D-19 (at I-96, exit 137) South to Coon Lake Rd. West to Dutcher Rd. Follow the signs. For more info & a map. (517) 546-3800 [waldocktreefarm.com](http://waldocktreefarm.com)

**Hospitals/Medical Equipment**  
**Aluminum Loading Ramps** Handicapped & mobility, heavy duty & portable. For vans or RVs. 3 piece, One 6 ft & two 1 1/2 ft. with handles. Like new \$295/best 313-533-0098, 313-515-3330

**CI PAT MACHINE:** In mint cond., 2 yrs old, top of the line. \$350. 734-449-7226

**Miscellaneous For Sale**  
**BEAUTY SALON EQUIP FOR SALE:** Styling chairs, shampoo bowls and chairs, reception chairs, dryer chairs, pedicure chair, manicure station and chair, work stations, reception desk, glass shelves, chair mats, washer/dryer, ceiling fan and misc. items. Cash only. Dec. 10, 3:30-8pm & Dec. 11, 10-5pm. Only 2 days! 328 South Harvey, Plymouth. (248) 459-9888

**dfcu FINANCIAL**  
 Michigan's largest Credit Union currently seeking friendly, service oriented individuals.  
 Now hiring Assistant Branch Manager for the Metro Detroit Area.  
 Minimum qualifications include: 2 yrs. supervision experience in a sales/financial environment. Coaching and customer service experience. Demonstrated professionalism with motivation to attain new skills in a dynamic environment.  
 Complete job description and locations available at [dfcufinancial.com](http://dfcufinancial.com)  
**See description for Asst. Member Relations Mgr** Accepting applications through Friday, December 30, 2011  
 Apply in person at any DFCU Financial Branch Office Credit record in good standing required  
 Equal Opportunity Employer

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**MOVING SALE:** Grosse Pointe. By appt. Haversham drop leaf table. Hitchcock chairs, Ethan Allen nightstands, patio table, Sligh grandfather clock, Trek bikes (2), Drexel Heritage grand Tour dining room set, Henredon couch, & Baker wing arm chair. By Appt. Sat. 12/10 AM 313-623-5065 Visit Craig's List for pictures

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**Legal & Accepting Bids**  
**NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION CITY OF LIVONIA**  
 Accident and Impounded Vehicle Tuesday, December 13, 2011 Inspection begins at 9:00 am Auction begins at 9:30 am  
 Location: Livonia Towing 12955 Levan Rd. Livonia, MI 48150  
 Vehicles to be auctioned are as follows:  
 1989 BMW  
 1984 PORSCHE  
 1990 CHEVROLET  
 1997 MERCURY VILLAGER  
 1997 MERCEDES  
 1994 FORD F150  
 2000 CHEVROLET 3500  
 2003 FORD TAURUS  
 2007 JEEP  
 2005 CHEVROLET IMPALA  
 ALL ITEMS TO BE AUCTIONED ARE SOLD "AS IS" AND ALL SALES ARE FINAL. ALL SALES ARE "CASH ONLY" AND PAYMENT IS DUE, IN FULL, THE MOMENT THE BID IS ACCEPTED.  
 Publish: December 8, 2011

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**Legal & Accepting Bids**  
**NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION CITY OF LIVONIA**  
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Gray SLT, runs great  
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73K \$19,650  
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Black Hawk, sunroof, leather, p/pw & ABS! Sporty Elegance! Reduced to \$11,878!  
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**PONTIAC G6 2010**  
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4dr, auto, 30K Red \$11,995  
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Only 4,030 actual miles. 4 dr. exc cond., 35 MPG. Must sell, health issues. \$12,500. 734-722-6665 call after 5pm.

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**VOLKSWAGEN JETTA**  
Dk blue, 35K \$14,995  
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## OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC HOMETOWN WEEKLIES

### CLASSIFIED EARLY DEADLINES

The Classified Department of the Observer & Eccentric and Hometown Weeklies Newspapers will be closed Monday, December 26th & Monday, January 2nd, so our employees may observe the Holidays