

Fire damages historic downtown building

By Matt Jachman
Observer Staff Writer

No one was hurt and several downtown Plymouth businesses were slightly damaged Friday as the result of an early morning fire in a historic building on Main Street at Penniman, across from Kellogg Park.

The fire was reported just before 4 a.m. in the building that houses Kilwin's Chocolates and has smaller office-style businesses on the second floor. Kilwin's was closed on Friday while smoke damage was being cleaned up; a note on Kilwin's Facebook page said it was expected to reopen Saturday.

The fire was reported by a snow-removal contractor who saw flames in the window of second-floor business, said City Manager Paul Sincok.

The call brought Plymouth and Plymouth Township police officers to the scene, followed by firefighters from the Northville Fire Department, both from the new Plymouth station and the Northville station. Officers, arriving first, checked the building for occupants and found none, Sincok said.

Police arrived in three minutes and the on-call firefighters, on a pumper truck, in about 10, he said. Firefighters climbed ladders to climb to the second floor and pump water on the fire.

"We were very impressed with the response," said Sincok. "Clearly, the fire department was able to save a very historic building in downtown."

Fire, smoke and water damage was estimated initially at \$27,000, Sincok said. The fire had started in a suite occupied by the Skin Rejuvenation Center; the business phone number was not answered on Friday. Investigators determined the cause as a candle that had been left burning, Sincok said.

Two dozen firefighters from the Plymouth and Northville fire stations responded to the scene with four pieces of fire equipment. Also respond-

ing to the scene, city officials said, were two units from Huron Valley Ambulance as well as the police. Fire

Plymouth's partnership with the Northville Fire Department, which relies on on-call firefighters, began Jan. 1.

A cornerstone on the building notes it was built in 1898.

"It would've been devastating to downtown," if the blaze hadn't been put out quickly, said Tony Brusca, the Downtown Development Authority's operations director. Businesses there "probably would've gone up in flames pretty quickly," he added.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Cleanup from the early morning fire at Kilwin's. The fire was confined to the business upstairs, The Skin Rejuvenation Center.

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Santorum to visit Monday

For the second time in 11 years, a Republican presidential candidate will talk directly to a joint gathering of the Livonia and Greater Farmington Area chambers of commerce.

Former Sen. Rick Santorum will speak Monday at St. Mary's Cultural Center in Livonia. The program will run from 8:30-10 a.m. The breakfast program will conclude with Santorum answering audience questions.

Santorum's rival, former Gov. Mitt Romney, spoke to members from both chambers Feb. 16 in Farmington Hills.

"This is quite an honor for our chambers, and quite an opportunity to have both leading Republican presidential candidates visit our members ahead of Tuesday's primary election," said Livonia Chamber President Dan West. "Again, this is an informational chamber program and not a campaign event."

Together, the Livonia and Greater Farmington Area chambers serve nearly 1,400 members and represent Michigan's ninth and 10th largest cities. The Santorum event will be the fourth high-profile program presented in the chambers over the past year.

"We are better to respond to our chamber members who want information from policy makers," said Mary Engelman, executive director of the Greater Farmington Area Chamber of Commerce. "Our chambers have a great partnership and that enables us to bring these types of programs to our members."

West and Engelman added both chambers are nonpartisan organiza-

tions that promote their business communities. They said they plan to send an invitation to the White House welcoming President Barack Obama to speak at a joint luncheon for the two chambers.

Tom Stroup, chair of the 11th Congressional District Republicans, was asked for his thoughts on Livonia taking center stage with the Romney appearance at the Chamber last week, the Romney headquarters opening in Livonia and Santorum's appearance on Monday.

"I love it," Stroup said. "I love the attention. Livonia is one of the largest communities in the district, it has a vibrant business community and a vibrant Chamber of Commerce."

Stroup called Livonia a Republican community, naming Mayor Jack Kirksey and state Rep. John Walsh as prominent elected officials. "The (presidential) candidates are realizing that Livonia has a central geographic location," Stroup said. The committee itself has not endorsed a candidate, Stroup said, but members are encouraged to endorse if they strongly support someone. Stroup has endorsed Romney.

Seats for the Santorum event will be \$25 for chamber members and \$40 for nonmembers. Corporate tables of 10 will cost \$250 for members and \$400 for nonmembers. Proceeds from the event benefit the chambers.

The Livonia Chamber can be reached by calling (734) 427-2122 or sending an e-mail to Laura Sweeney at Sweeney@livonia.org.

Arts group nabs King as headliner

By Brad Kadrich
Observer Staff Writer

Jill Engel spent a lot of time trying to figure out what sorts of acts would make the best draws for fundraisers she's planning for the Canton Partnership for the Arts & Humanities.

But seeing the reaction of a nearly full house for Steve King's Valentine's show at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill, where Steve King and the Dittilies were the headliner for the Partnership's Feb. 10 fundraiser, settled that question.

Engel and King quickly reached agreement for King to become the featured act for the Partnership's spring fundraiser on an annual basis.

While the event raised nearly \$8,700 for the Partnership, Engel was far more impressed by the reaction of the 300-plus-person crowd, which came from all over metro Detroit to see King. Engel said they came from Plymouth, Canton, Livonia and surrounding western Wayne County communities, but also from places such as New Boston and Royal Oak.

"It was amazing to me leaving the theater that



Canton Partnership for the Arts & Humanities Executive Director Jill Engel with Steve King, he of "Steve King and the Dittilies" fame.

night," said Engel, the Partnership's executive director. "We had a group of 25- to 80-somethings and every single one of them just raved about the show."

Once inside, the crowd enjoyed the rock music from the 1930s through the current era the Dittilies have become known for playing. The set list also included songs that show the depth of the band and "showy stuff" that brings horns front and center.

King said the combination of the venue and the chance to promote

the arts made the pairing a natural.

"The venue is phenomenal, it's incredible ... as a performer, having a nice place to perform is huge," King said. "Secondly, I've always been a proponent of the arts. It's so important, anything I can do to help is great."

At the Valentine's performance, people were dancing in their seats, dancing in the aisles — King even invited some of them onto the stage.

"When you have people travel 45 minutes to see him, that's amazing," Engel said. "He's

a big promoter of the arts."

Engel also likes King's stage presence. In addition to singing "Happy Birthday" to Engel, who made it a show, King met it a point to bring the Forever After Productions youngsters back out on stage, and he honored a veteran who was in the audience that night.

"He's not all about just 'Steve King and the Dittilies,'" Engel said. "He connects with the audience."

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11:10, 1:40, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30
FRI/SAT LS 11:55
GONE (PG-13)
12:15, 2:40, 5:05, 7:25, 9:40
FRI/SAT LS 11:50
THIS MEANS WAR (PG-13)
11:50, 2:20, 4:50, 7:10, 9:20
FRI/SAT LS 11:35
SAFE HOUSE (R)
FRI, SUN-MON, WED 11:30, 2:00,
4:35, 7:15, 9:45
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Arts council hosts open exhibit

The Plymouth Community Arts Council announces a "Call For Artists" to submit work for its April exhibit, "About Face."

The juried exhibit is open to artists 18 and older who have created two dimensional artwork that focuses on the human face.

The exhibit will run April 4-26.

Artwork may be submitted in all two dimensional media. There will be a \$15 fee for up to two accepted entries per artist. Artwork must be framed and ready for

hanging, and of a reasonable size not to exceed 60" in any dimension.

The artist's name, contact information, media, and price must be clearly marked on the back. A copy of the entry form must accompany each piece. Entry forms will be available at drop-off, or artists can download one from the PCAC website, www.plymoutharts.com.

The show will be juried, with final show selections made by the PCAC Exhibit Committee.

• Monday, April 2, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Drop-off artwork at PCAC for

exhibit consideration.

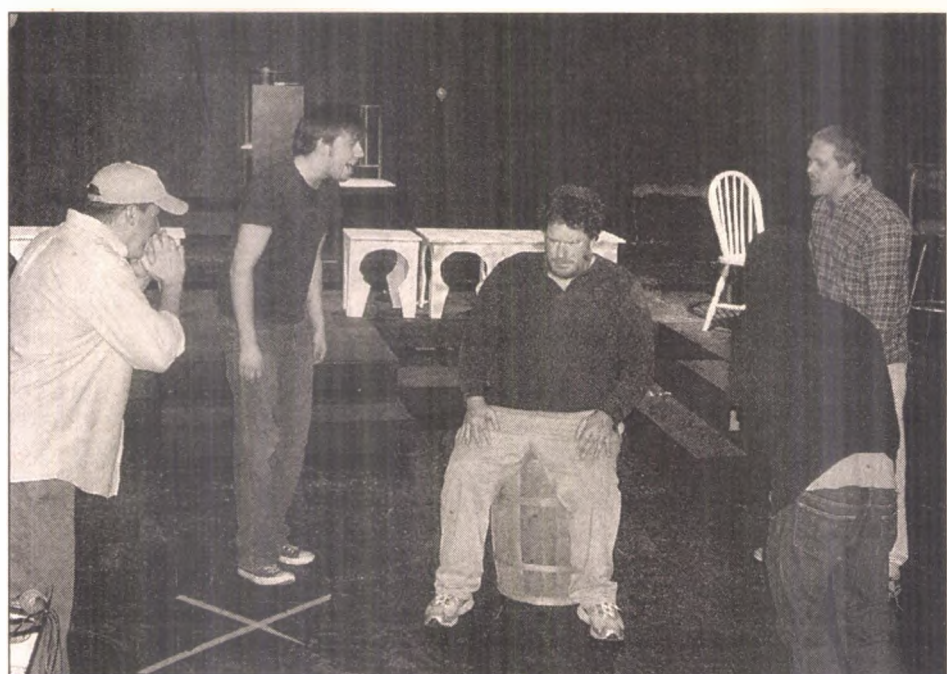
• Tuesday, April 3, "About Face" exhibit installation.

• Wednesday, April 4, exhibit opens to the public.

• Saturday, April 14, Artists Reception, 3-5 p.m., refreshments will be served. All are welcome.

Artwork is to be picked up on April 30, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.

The Plymouth Community Arts Council is located at 774 N. Sheldon in Plymouth. For more information, call Jeff Burda, (734) 416-4278 or e-mail jeff@plymoutharts.com.



Barefoot Productions presents 'Rimers of Eldritch,' by Pulitzer-Prize-Winning playwright Lanford Wilson, to be staged March 2-3 and March 9-10 at 8 p.m., with additional performances March 4 and March 11 at 2 p.m.

Barefoot stages award-winning play

Plymouth's Barefoot Productions will present the award winning play, *Rimers of Eldritch*, by Pulitzer-Prize-Winning playwright Lanford Wilson, to be staged March 2-3 and March 9-10 at 8 p.m., with additional performances March 4 and March 11 at 2 p.m.

Set in the dried up mining town of Eldritch, somewhere in the mid-west, *Rimers* is the story of a community torn apart by scandal when a reclusive hermit is murdered by a townswooman who believed she was preventing a crime.

Throughout the murder

trial, presided over by the town preacher, Wilson examines the potential for prejudice and cruelty among the members of a small community. The citizens' false morality becomes blatantly evident as the trial shines a light on the desperation and intolerance of a small town in Bible-Belt America.

Rimers of Eldritch is co-directed by Craig Hane, Nathan Corliss, and Ann Cahalan.

The cast includes; Betty Berryman (Canton), Lauren Berryman (Farmington Hills), Ethan McIntyre (Livonia), Kar-

en Curtsinger (Canton), Mike Van Dusen (Ann Arbor), Christine Doulette (Plymouth), Beth Duey (Northville), Collette Cullen (Dearborn), Sean Randolph (Canton), David Fedewa (Plymouth), Laena Bradley (Livonia), Christine Steves (Woodhaven), Matthew Williams (Canton), Eric Bloch (Ann Arbor), Jamie Arindae (Wolverine Lake), Denene Pollock (Ypsilanti) and Eric Corliss (Westland).

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Village Theater hosts joint exhibit

The Village Theater at Cherry Hill presents the artwork of Ann Loveland alongside the poems of Lianne Spidel in a special exhibition at the Gallery@VT from March 1-27.

These talented artists first met in an art class at Redford High School in Detroit, when they were then known as Ann Brashear and Lianne Valleau. Together these artists eventually attended the Wittenberg University in Ohio — Loveland as a Fine Arts major and Spidel as an English major. Both went on to teach and raise families, Loveland in Michigan and Spidel in Michigan and Ohio — all while continuing to share a friendship and their artistic endeavors.



The Village Theater at Cherry Hill presents the artwork of Ann Loveland alongside the poems of Lianne Spidel in a special exhibition at the Gallery@VT from March 1-27.

In 2006 with the help of Ralph Pedersen, Loveland's husband, this talented duo self-published an Apple book, "Pairs," linking still-life paintings and poems

mostly about people. In the years since, they have continued to look for connections in their finished works, as well as to create watercolor portraits based on poems

and write poems about paintings, beginning with "Daughters of Eve," a popular watercolor based on the poem of the same title.

This special exhibit, "Pairings" will match the watercolors of Loveland's one-artist exhibit with Spidel's poems. A chapbook of the same name is set to be published in March 2012 by Dos Madres Press of Ohio, including 14 matched paintings and poems from the larger gallery exhibit.

Ann Loveland has exhibited locally, statewide and nationally. She has worked professionally at the Birmingham Bloomfield Art Center, the Visual Arts Association

of Livonia, and for both the Livonia Public Schools and Farmington Public Schools. Loveland's watercolor, "Theories," was the 2010 Best in Show Winner in the Canton Fine Arts Annual Exhibition. For more information about Ann Loveland's works, please visit www.ann-loveland.com.

Lianne Spidel's newly published manuscript, "What to Tell Joseme," is a memoir in poems featuring three themes: "Old Snapshots," "Everyone Gets Displaced," and "Who's to Say You're Nowhere?" Showcased on the book's front cover is a watercolor entitled "The Breakfast Table" paint-

ed by Ann Loveland. In addition to Spidel's recent manuscript, she has published over two hundred poems and the chapbook "Chrome."

This exhibition will be on display Monday-Friday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., as well as during public performances at the theater and also by appointment. The Gallery@VT is closed on holidays.

The Village Theater at Cherry Hill is located at 50400 Cherry Hill in Canton. For more information about this or other exhibitions at The Village Theater at Cherry Hill, please visit www.cantonvillage-theater.org or call (734) 394-5300.

Chamber helping job seekers look their best

By Nathan Mueller
Staff Writer

Novi Chamber of Commerce director Linda Daly said her members know the importance of first impressions during job interviews.

So for the 13th consecutive year, the chamber is hosting its Threads of Power Charity Breakfast at the Nordstrom Bistro. At the event on Feb. 29, the chamber will be collecting gently-used men's and women's business attire to give to people who are in the workforce or reentering who don't have appropriate clothing.

"It's extremely important," Daly said. "The more

confident you feel about the way you look it will help you feel more confident in a job interview."

Chamber members were able to fill a truck from Two Men And A Truck last year, and Daly hopes they can do the same again this year. The clothing will be donated to Church of the Holy Family and the Women's Center of Southeastern Michigan.

This will be the third year the event is being hosted at the Nordstrom Bistro, and the public also is invited to attend. There also will be a men's and women's fashion presentation by Nordstrom.

"As business owners, our members are excited

and very willing to help other people in the business world," Daly said. "The event is always well attended, and our members feel good about helping other people who are working."

The event, which includes breakfast, starts at 8:30 a.m. on Feb. 29, and the cost is \$15. People are asked to pre-register online at www.novichamber.com. The presenting sponsors of the event are Telcom Credit Union, Twelve Oaks, Two Men And A Truck, David M. Shepherd MD PC Ophthalmology and Jennifer J. Shaba OD Optometry.

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Reverse mortgage can help with cash flow

By Rick Bloom
Guest Columnist

Q: Dear Rick: I am a General Motors retiree. I've been retired for about 12 years. Between my pension and Social Security, it covers all my living expenses. In addition, when I pass away, my wife will continue to receive my pension. Friends told me that General Motors made an announcement that they will be ending pensions. Is that true? If it is and they do stop my pension, I will be short of income. I do not have much money in savings or investments, but my house is paid off and is worth \$200,000-\$300,000. If they take my pension away, probably my best alternative is to use my home equity loan to cover my expenses. I have a home equity line of credit, but I have never used it. Any suggestions would be appreciated.

A: You are correct, General Motors is moving to terminate its pensions. This is something that is happening across the country. Pensions have become very expensive for corporations, so they have gone more with 401(k) plans as a substitute. However, for someone like you who is already collecting a pension, there will be no change. Both you and your wife are protected.

Even though you are protected, I do want to discuss a different strategy if it turns out you need additional income in the future. You mentioned that you have a home equity line of credit.

If your need for additional income is minor, then a home equity loan may be something to consider. However, keep in



Money Matters
Rick Bloom

mind that the interest rate on home equity loans is generally adjustable, which means that when interest rates rise, which they will in a couple of years, then your cost to borrow will be substantially higher.

Generally, if someone needs income on an ongoing basis, a home equity line of credit is not something I recommend. In those situations, one thing to consider would be a reverse mortgage.

Access equity

A reverse mortgage allows you to access the equity in your home. When you obtain a reverse mortgage, unlike a home equity loan or a traditional mortgage, there are no monthly payments. The loan is not due until either the house is sold or you pass away. That is the beauty of a reverse mortgage. You do not have to make payments during your lifetime.

When you do a reverse mortgage, you either get a lump sum payment or a line of credit. Either way, you can access that money and use it on an as-needed basis; at the same time, you do not have to make any payments.

The loan is not due until the house is sold or upon death. At that point in time, the proceeds from the sale are used to pay off the home equity loan. If for some reason the pro-

ceeds from the sale do not pay off the mortgage, it is the mortgage company's loss. The risk that the proceeds would not cover the mortgage is solely borne by the mortgage company.

Not for everyone

While a reverse mortgage is a great tool that seniors can use, they are not for everyone, nor should they be used to make risky investments. A reverse mortgage is a great tool to cover additional living expenses or even to pay off an existing mortgage. In the past, I've also recommended reverse mortgages so grandparents can help their grandchildren with a college education.

Even though reverse mortgages are heavily regulated, whenever you're dealing with something regarding your house, it is important to deal with reputable companies. One company that I recommend is 1st Financial Reverse Mortgages (Michael Gruley), 1-800-720-7003; www.firstloans.net.

Don't rush into a reverse mortgage, do your homework. However, for seniors who are in need of extra income or who want to pay off an existing outstanding mortgage, it can be a great tool to increase the quality of life and, after all, isn't that what it's all about?

Good luck!

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



CITY OF PLYMOUTH

EXHIBIT A

NOTICE TO TAXPAYERS AND ELECTORS OF THE CITY OF PLYMOUTH, MICHIGAN OF INTENT TO ISSUE BONDS AND THE RIGHT OF REFERENDUM RELATING THERETO

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the City of Plymouth, County of Wayne, State of Michigan (the "City"), intends to issue and sell its refunding bonds pursuant to Act 34, Public Acts of Michigan, 2001, as amended, in an aggregate principal amount of not to exceed Two Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$2,500,000). The bonds are being issued for the purpose of paying all or part of the cost of refunding certain outstanding Water Supply and Sewage Disposal System Revenue Bonds of the City which were previously issued to pay the cost of acquiring and constructing water supply and sewage disposal system improvements. The bonds will be issued to refund the revenue bonds only if the City is able to realize debt service savings.

SOURCE OF PAYMENT OF BONDS

The principal of and interest on said bonds shall be payable from and secured by the general funds of the City lawfully available for such purposes including property taxes levied within applicable constitutional, statutory and charter tax rate limitations. However, it is the intent of the City to pay the principal of and interest on the bonds from revenues derived from the operation of the City's water supply and sewage disposal system.

BOND DETAILS

SAID BONDS will be issued in one or more series, payable in annual installments not to exceed fifteen (15) in number, and will bear interest at the rate or rates to be determined at public or private sale but in no event to exceed the maximum rate permitted by law on the unpaid balance from time to time remaining outstanding on said bonds.

RIGHT OF REFERENDUM

THE BONDS WILL BE ISSUED WITHOUT A VOTE OF THE ELECTORS UNLESS A PETITION REQUESTING SUCH A VOTE SIGNED BY NOT LESS THAN 10% OF THE REGISTERED ELECTORS RESIDING WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF THE CITY IS FILED WITH THE CITY CLERK WITHIN FORTY-FIVE (45) DAYS AFTER PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE. IF SUCH PETITION IS FILED, THE BONDS MAY NOT BE ISSUED WITHOUT AN APPROVING VOTE OF A MAJORITY OF THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS RESIDING WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF THE CITY VOTING THEREON.

THIS NOTICE is given pursuant to the requirements of Section 517, Act 34, Public Acts of Michigan 2001, as amended.

Linda Langmesser
City Clerk
City of Plymouth

Publish: February 26, 2012

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<p>2012 EDGE SE Sync, Sirius Radio</p> <p>\$227 per mo.* 24 month lease</p> <p>Buy for \$24,947**</p>	<p>2012 EXPLORER Sirius Radio.</p> <p>\$256 per mo.* 24 month lease</p> <p>Buy for \$26,224**</p>	<p>2012 F-150 SUPERCAB XLT 4x4, Sync, Tow Pkg, Chrome Pkg.</p> <p>\$299 per mo.* 24 month lease</p> <p>Rebates Up To \$5,750</p>	<p>USED CAR SPECIAL!</p> <p>Ford Certified</p> <p>2010 FORD FOCUS</p> <p>\$13,299</p>

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Vote 'NO' on February 28



The referendum on Tuesday's ballot for a millage increase to help maintain Plymouth's fire and emergency medical service is not the one proposed by the firefighters and the Citizen Action Group that supports our commitment to protecting our neighbors.

We called for a 1 mill increase for five years, a far superior approach than the Trustees' proposal to hire a private ambulance firm for \$1.6 million to "provide" emergency services and hire paid, on-call firefighters who are not required to hold a state paramedic license and whose 15-minute response times would be nearly four times the standard our firefighters/EMS paramedics currently achieve.



Worse yet, the current tax proposal on Tuesday's ballot is open-ended, instead of being limited to five years, as the Citizen's Referendum proposed.

Let's Have a Vote in November on the REAL Referendum

Plymouth Township politicians went to court to stop the Citizen's Referendum from getting on last November's ballot. Instead, they let the current proposal for an open-ended 2.44 mil tax increase get placed on the primary ballot this week.

In short, politicians killed a responsible Citizens Referendum and replaced it with a "poison pill" – a proposal radically different than the one the Citizen's Action Group and Firefighters wanted.

Plymouth Township's Trustees are even running a smear campaign against the proposal they maneuvered onto the ballot. It's the worst kind of political double dealing to prevent the public's will from being expressed.



Give the Trustees What They Deserve

Vote 'NO' on the February 28 referendum.

We don't need an unlimited tax, we need a focused effort to maintain public safety.

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KLAA BOYS HOOP CONFERENCE FINAL

Banner night for Salem

By Tim Smith
Observer Staff Writer

It couldn't happen in back-to-back games, could it? When Northville's Brett MacDonald launched a trey attempt with time running out Friday night, Salem head boys basketball coach Bob Brodie thought about how MacDonald buried a triple at the buzzer Thursday to upset Westland John Glenn.

This time, the shot from the left corner bounced high off the rim. When the ball came back down, Salem had a 42-39 victory and the KLAA Kensington Conference championship. The last time the Rocks won a conference title was 2002, when they played in the Western Lakes Activities Association.

"It was in the back of my mind," Brodie said. "In fact, I told the guys at the end. We got that timeout when Grant (Bettner) was at the line. I said, 'Listen, if we don't make this shot we must foul him. (MacDonald) is going to line up for a three, we don't want him to get a three. You got to make sure you get that foul early.'

"And I'll be darned, we didn't do it." But with a smile, Brodie added, "I guess it's destiny that he wasn't going to make it this time."

Northville head coach Todd Sander, whose team nearly came all the way back from a 46-36 deficit early in the fourth, said another clutch trey by the senior "would have been nice. This one only would have tied it, but we would have taken it. I'm proud of how we fought back."

According to Salem senior center Josh Peterson, the host Rocks were up to the challenge of playing harder and tougher against Northville than the previous time, when the Mustangs walked into Salem and came away with a 47-37 victory.

"We knew we had to come in here and show them that,

'You're not going to hoist that trophy in our gym,'" Peterson said. "We came ready to play and out-physicaled them all game. That was really the key to the game."

Let Dierk do it

Peterson had six rebounds for Salem, but the player who put the Rocks on his back was junior forward Chris Dierker. He was dominant on the boards at both ends of the floor, registering 16 rebounds. He also scored 19 points — with 14 of those coming in the second half.

Dierker really stepped up in the final minutes, with Northville (12-7) threatening to spoil Salem's championship party.

With the Mustangs down 36-35 with 3:20 remaining, Salem senior guard Tyler Stewart (16 points) dished the ball to Dierker in the paint. The 6-7 Dierker then lofted and made a rainbow jumper over a Northville defender from about eight feet to give the Rocks some breathing room.

Dierker and senior Markus Olind tacked on some free throws, and Salem was able to hold off the Mustangs.

"He had a great game, he was bound and determined," Brodie said about Dierker. "He's a fierce competitor. When you get him mad, and get him playing and he knows the game's on the line, he likes to take control."

"He did a good job for us, but we needed him, quite frankly. The other guys were looking to him and they recognized that fact, too. So give the other guys credit because they recognized the fact that, 'Hey, give the ball to Dierk, he can do it.'"

Early offense

Stewart was red hot to start the game, scoring Salem's first 10 points (including six on two treys) as the Rocks led 12-8 after one quarter.

When Peterson muscled in under the bucket for a put-

Please see HOOPS, B2



Salem's Chris Dierker (No. 23) sets his sights on another bucket during Friday night's conference title game against Northville.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Canton's top scoring line as the playoffs begin includes senior Duggan Tear (No. 8), shown from a game earlier this season.

PCEP icers set for postseason

By Tim Smith
Observer Staff Writer

Doubleheaders are becoming old hat for the Canton and Plymouth boys hockey teams.

After playing twin-bill Wednesday night at Arctic Edge Arena, the teams will play in part of another two-fer at Monday's Division 1 pre-regionals.

The Chiefs (13-9-1) will face Salem at 6 p.m. at Eddie Edgar Arena in Livonia; Plymouth (14-9-0) entering the regular season finale Friday) follows with an 8 p.m. matchup against Livonia Churchill.

"We know who we're playing and what to expect," Canton head coach Jeremy Majszak said. "But we're not looking beyond that, we're focusing on Monday night against Salem (9-13-1-1)."

"Even though we had two wins against them, they were both very close games."

Plymouth's first-year head coach Gerry Vento, likes how solid defensively the Wildcats

are playing down the stretch.

"I feel really good," Vento said. "The way we're playing defensively is what we're going to need to succeed in the playoffs."

"We're doing a great job of shutting teams down and limiting their chances."

Plymouth defeated Churchill 4-3 in overtime earlier this season.

As for the Wednesday games, Canton and Lake Orion played to a 2-2 tie and Plymouth followed in the nightcap with a 3-2 OT victory over Northville.

Senior forwards and linemates Andrew Gorski and Brandon Grillo were Canton's goal scorers (each also assisting on the other's). The third player on the line, senior Duggan Tear collected two assists while senior goalie Spencer Craig made 24 stops.

After Majszak put Gorski on the line, "he's taking that opportunity and running with it" with excellent production.

Please see HOCKEY, B2

GIRLS BASKETBALL

PCA gets ready for districts

Plymouth Christian Academy finished the regular season on Feb. 17 with a 39-33 victory over Allen Park Inter-City Baptist, but Eagles girls basketball coach Carol Gerulis sees room for improvement before the Class D districts begin this week.

An 8-for-21 performance from the free throw line is something the coach pointed to as a

Please see DISTRICTS, B3



JOHN KEMSKI

Canton senior point guard Robyn Mack wears a smile and ear buds as she listens to music during her pre-game ritual.

Chiefs' Mack winds down superb career

By Tim Smith
Observer Staff Writer

Robyn Mack isn't used to being the go-to player for Canton's varsity girls basketball team.

But top billing on the 2011-12 Chiefs goes to the senior point guard, a tag bringing extra attention and responsibility.

After all, during her first three seasons the likeable point guard often deferred to older teammates such as the Schmitt twins, Kayla Bridges, Melanie Pickert and CarolAnn Sexauer whenever points needed to be scored.

Mack was a valuable player, too, as Canton reached the Class A semifinals at the Breslin Center in 2010 and 2011.

"It was surreal, it was awesome

Please see MACK, B2

ALL ABOUT ROBYN

Who: Robyn Mack, Canton High School senior.

Preps: The 17-year-old is in her fourth season as starting point guard for Canton's varsity girls basketball team. She also plays varsity girls soccer.

Youth: She played basketball for the Western Wayne Wolfpack and then the MGBR Elite AAU team.

Misc: Her parents are Andrea and Robyn Mack. She carries a 3.58 grade-point average and is a member of the high school's Link Crew.

Future: Robyn would like to play college basketball. But her plans are to study psychology or pre-law and ultimately become a criminal defense lawyer.



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ANDY RUBENSTEIN

In a footrace during a recent game are Plymouth Christian's Jenny Malcolm (No. 25) and Lenawee Christian's Nicole Robideau. Malcolm and her teammates begin the Class D districts Monday.

DISTRICTS

Continued from page B1

sore spot that needs to be fixed.

"We played an OK game and still came out with a win," Gerulis said. "As a team we took really good shots they just didn't fall for us. We however did not shoot well from the free throw line and that's just not gonna get it done."

"I was happy with our effort as a team but we just didn't have the execution that I expected."

Leading PCA with 11 points was Karen Windle, who also chipped in with seven rebounds and three steals. Emily Gerulis (eight points, nine rebounds, four steals, four assists), Jenny Malcolm (eight points, seven rebounds) and Jenna Abraham (six points) also helped the cause for the Eagles, 14-5 overall and 10-2 (second place) in the MIAC Blue Division.

"We head into the state playoffs and everyone starts at 0-0," Gerulis noted. "So we need to work hard and tighten up some loose ends and get ready to compete. I am very proud of my girls they have accomplished a lot so far, they are a great group to coach."

PCA opens district play 6 p.m. Wednesday at host Westland Huron Valley Lutheran.

Jipping's milestone

Plymouth Christian's boys basketball team dropped a 61-53 decision Thursday to Allen Park Inter-City Baptist, despite 24 points from Mick Noel and 14 from Alex Huber.

PCA hosts Detroit City 7 p.m. Tuesday before preparing for the districts, which begin next week.

Eagles head coach Dominique Washington, meanwhile, said injured senior center Eric Jipping reached the coveted 1,000-point plateau for his career after all.

Burton accolade icing on the cake

By Brad Emons
Observer Staff Writer

Known for his left skater touch, Joe Burton's long and distinguished career in the Central Hockey League is now safely secured.

The Garden City native, assistant manager of the past six years at Westland's Modano Arena, was enshrined recently in the CHL's inaugural Hall of Fame class during All-Star weekend in Phoenix, Ariz.

"Obviously, it's a great honor to be inducted into the Hall of Fame, but it was never what I was striving to do," Burton said. "I just wanted to keep playing. It was kind of hard when I went back because I hadn't been around it in a long time. I saw a couple of the coaches, guys I played against. You just get that feeling you want to go out and play again when I was down there."

Burton spent 11 seasons in the CHL (1992-2003), all with the Oklahoma City Blazers. He is the league's all-time leading scorer with 985 points and 565 goals.

He was an All-Star six straight seasons (1998-2003) and the league's annual scoring championship trophy bears his name with the Joe Burton Award.

In 2001, Burton helped guide the Blazers to the 2001 Ray Miron Cup with 110 points (51 goals and 59 assists) during the regular season. He scored 11 more points during 13 postseason games.

Burton was also twice recognized as the CHL's Most Valuable Player (1998 and 2001).

"Coming out of college, I just wanted to basically keep playing hockey," said Burton, a 1985 Garden City High grad who is now 44. "I guess over the years the stats just kind of add up. You don't really think about it and I guess when I was done, it turned out I had a pretty good career."

He played junior hockey locally for the Redford Royals and went on to play collegiately at the University of Michigan-Dearborn for coach Tom Anastos, the former CCHA commissioner who recently became the head coach at Michigan State.

Burton played one season overseas in Denmark, but quickly became a fixture in Oklahoma City after getting an opportunity with the Blazers.

"It was neat playing in Denmark," he said. "It was a different culture, but I liked it better over here. I loved there it was more of a finesse game, but things over here happen a lot quicker."

During his stint with



DAVID BIRDSONG

Garden City's Joe Burton is pictured during a 2004-05 game with the Motor City Mechanics of the United Hockey League.

the Blazers, which also included three professional roller hockey seasons with the Oklahoma City Coyotes, Burton was undersized at 5-foot-9, 170 pounds.

But he always loomed large on the scoresheet.

"I played 11 years in the same organization," Burton said. "I just miss the competitiveness and playing. I loved to play and compete. I was a goal scorer, so that was my job. I enjoyed scoring goals. We always had good teams."

"It just turned out that I played in Oklahoma City where we averaging 10,000 fans most of my career ... it was just great place to play."

Back home

At age 37, Burton came back home and played his final pro season (2004-

05) during the NHL lock-out with the Motor City Mechanics of the United Hockey League.

Burton played alongside NHL players Chris Chelios, Derian Hatcher, Bryan Smolinski and Sean Avery. One of his rivals in the CHL, former Detroit Red wing Gary Redwood, became his coach with the Mechanics.

And in 76 games, Burton displayed his scoring prowess once again with 36 goals and 28 assists.

That was as close as Burton would come to the NHL.

"For me, I got one week of training camp in the NHL with the (Phoenix) Coyotes," Burton said. "So that was kind of where I was going to be my entire career, at that level."

Burton remains rooted in the game, while still

lacing up his skates from time to time.

"I play in the over-18 league at Modano Arena," Burton said. "And now I'm playing in front of 10 people instead of 10,000. It's a big difference."

Burton and his wife of 17 years, Julie — whom he met at UM-Dearborn when she was a student and basketball player — have two young sons, Luke and Joey.

"I coach the pee wee team in Westland," Burton said. "My kids are both playing. I got a squirt and a pee wee, so I kind of rotate and coach every other year one of them."

Burton didn't plan on a long pro career. It just happened.

"When I was in Oklahoma City, I told her (Julie) I was going to play two more years in the minors, then ended up playing 12 or 13," Burton said. "She's still pretty much at the rink now every night between two kids."

During the CHL's All-Star weekend, Burton was asked to drop the ceremonial puck and was an honorary coach.

The entire experience humbled him.

"When I heard about this honor I was honestly speechless," Burton said.

"As a youngster, I only dreamed about becoming a hockey player. And then as a teenager, you hope that you get the opportunity to keep playing at a higher level."

"But as a person with the chance to play professional hockey, the last thing on your 'to-do' list is to make a hall of fame. The CHL and Oklahoma City became my second family, and I am truly grateful to be honored in this way."

Salem girls win district tune-up

Salem enters the girls basketball districts on a high note, thanks to Wednesday's 47-39 victory over Milford in a KLAAs tournament consolation game.

The Rocks (6-14) square off against district-host Novi on Monday.

"It was a hard-fought game," Salem head coach Fred Thomann said. "We were able to figure out how to win it."

Salem built leads of 11-8 after one quarter and 22-14 at halftime.

Spearheading the victory were Breanne Beaver (17 points, nine rebounds) and Bri Berberet (12 points, seven boards).

Also helping the cause were Katelynn Krause (five points), Kelly Whalen (five points) and Katie Heitmeyer (four points).

On Monday, the Rocks lost 37-32 to Walled Lake Northern, despite 14 points from Berberet and seven from Beaver.

BRIGHTON 43, CANTON 39: Wednesday night in the final

regular season game for Canton, the Chiefs fell short in this hard-fought KLAAs tournament consolation bracket game.

Robyn Mack led Canton (15-5) with 18 points and five steals while Paige Aresco chipped in with 11 points and six rebounds.

"Overall, when you look at the regular season, going 15-5 is a solid season," Canton head coach Brian Samulski said. "The girls should be really proud of what they have accomplished so far. There wasn't a lot of people out there that thought this team would win 15 games after losing those five seniors last year."

GRAND BLANC 39, PLYMOUTH 38: Without four starters in the lineup, Plymouth got off to a slow start Wednesday against Grand Blanc and could not recover.

The Wildcats were down 13-5 after one quarter and 20-14 at the break. After a brief rally in the third, to cut the lead to 28-24, Grand Blanc wrapped up the victory with an 11-4 final frame.

Jada Woody scored 10 points for Plymouth, with Chyna Williams and Alyssa Burris contributing six each.

"We did get it down to four points to begin the fourth but could not get quality looks down the stretch," Wildcats head coach Bob de Bear said.

DETROIT BASKETBALL

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THE WEEK AHEAD

BOYS BASKETBALL
Tuesday, Feb. 28
KLAAs crossovers, TBD.
Ply. Christian at Garden City, 7 p.m.
MHSAA GIRLS BASKETBALL
DISTRICT TOURNEY DRAWS
CLASS A
at NOVI
Monday, Feb. 27: (A) South Lyon vs. (B) Plymouth, 5 p.m.; (C) Novi vs. (D) Salem, 7 p.m.
Wednesday, Feb. 29: A-B winner vs. Northville, 5 p.m.; C-D winner vs. Canton, 7 p.m.
Friday, March 2: Championship final, 7 p.m. (Winner advances to the regional semifinals, 5 p.m. Tuesday, March 6 at Farmington vs. Milford district champion.)
at LIVONIA LADYWOOD
Monday, Feb. 27: (A) Garden City vs. (B) Redford Thurston, 4:30 p.m.; (C) Livonia Franklin vs. (D) Livonia Stevenson, 6 p.m.; (E) Livonia Churchill vs. (F) Livonia Ladywood, 7:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Feb. 29: A-B winner vs. C-D winner, 6 p.m.; Redford Union vs. E-F winner, 7:30 p.m.
Friday, March 2: Championship final, 7 p.m. (Winner advances to the regional semifinals, 5 p.m. Tuesday, March 6 at Warren Cousino vs. Detroit Pershing district champion.)
CLASS D
at WESTLAND
HURON VALLEY LUTHERAN
Wednesday, Feb. 29: (A) Westland Huron Valley Lutheran vs. (B) Plymouth Christian Academy, 6 p.m.
Friday, March 2: Lutheran High Westland vs. A-B winner, 6 p.m. (Winner advances to the regional semifinals, 5 p.m. Tuesday, March 6 at Waterford Our Lady of the Lakes vs. District 6 champion.)
BOYS HOCKEY
MHSAA PRE-REGIONALS
DIVISION 1
at LIVONIA'S EDGAR ARENA
Monday, Feb. 27: (A) Salem vs. (B) Canton, 8 p.m.; (C) Livonia Churchill vs. (D) Plymouth, 8 p.m.
Wednesday, Feb. 29: A-B winner vs. C-D winner, 6 p.m. (Winner advances to the regional final, 1 p.m. Saturday, March 3 at Plymouth's Compuware Arena vs. Novi-Detroit Catholic Central pre-regional winner.)
at ORCHARD LAKE ST. MARY
Monday, Feb. 27: (A) Birmingham Groves vs. (B) Orchard Lake St. Mary, 5:30 p.m.; (C) Livonia

Stevenson vs. North Farmington-Harrison, 8 p.m.
Wednesday, Feb. 29: A-B winner vs. C-D winner, 8 p.m. (Winner advances to the regional final, 6 p.m. Saturday, March 3 at Livonia's Edgar Arena vs. Troy Sports Center pre-regional winner.)
DIVISION 2
at LIVONIA'S EDGAR ARENA
Tuesday, Feb. 28: (A) Livonia Franklin vs. (B) Temperance Bedford, 7:30 p.m.
Thursday, March 1: Grosse Pointe South vs. A-B winner, 6:30 p.m. (Winner advances to the regional final, 7 p.m. Saturday, March 3 at Wyandotte's Yack Arena vs. Trenton Kennedy Ice Arena pre-regional winner.)
MHSAA INDIVIDUAL WRESTLING FINALS
at PALACE OF AUBURN HILLS
Thursday, March 1
Round 1, 2:15 p.m.
Friday, March 2
Round 2, 3, 4, 8:30 a.m.
Semifinals, 7 p.m.
Saturday, March 3
Round 6, 7, 8:30 a.m.
Consolation final, 11:30 a.m.
Championships, 4:45 p.m.
PREP BOWLING
Friday, March 2
(MHSAA Team Finals)
Division 1 at M-66 Bowl in Battle Creek, 8:25 a.m.
Div. 2 at Century Lanes in Waterford, 8:25 a.m.
Div. 3 at Airport Lanes in Jackson, 8:25 a.m.
Saturday, March 3
(MHSAA Singles Finals)
Division 1 at M-66 Bowl in Battle Creek, 8:25 a.m.
Div. 2 at Century Lanes in Waterford, 8:25 a.m.
Div. 3 at Airport Lanes in Jackson, 8:25 a.m.
GIRLS GYMNASTICS
Saturday, March 3
MHSAA Regional at Plymouth, 10 a.m.
MEN'S COLLEGE HOOPS
Wednesday, March 29
S'craft at Flint Mott, 7:30 p.m.
WOMEN'S COLLEGE HOOPS
Wednesday, March 29
S'craft at Flint Mott, 5:30 p.m.
ONTARIO HOCKEY LEAGUE
Tuesday, February 28
Plymouth Whalers at Saginaw, 10:45 a.m.
Friday, March 2
Brampton vs. Plymouth Whalers at Compuware Arena, 7 p.m.
Tuesday, March 28
Windsor vs. Plymouth Whalers at Compuware Arena, 7 p.m.

'Cats girls lax meeting

Anyone interested in playing Plymouth High School girls lacrosse in the spring should circle Thursday, March 1, on their calendars. At 7 p.m., there will be a mandatory parent and player meeting in room 401 at Plymouth High School.

Rockettes pom clinic

The Salem Rockettes Kids Clinic is just around the corner, slated from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday, March 10. Participants will learn various routines, receive a T-shirt and pom poms and be invited to perform at the annual Rockette Show. To download the clinic flyer, go to www.pompon.salemrocks.com and click on documents.

Play GCYBSA ball

Registrations are now under way for the Greater Canton Youth Baseball Softball Association's baseball and softball programs. The GCYBSA offers progressively developmental recreational baseball and softball programs for players age 4-18 from Plymouth and Canton. GCYBSA is also home to a

SPORTS ROUNDUP

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For more information, go to www.gcybsa.com or contact Coralee Ott at (734) 394-5358, via e-mail at cott@canton-mi.org.

YMCA spring leagues

The Plymouth Family YMCA is accepting registrations for spring co-ed soccer and girls volleyball leagues. Both leagues run from April 16 through June 9. There will be one practice and one game each week. The cost is \$84 for program members or \$115 for community members. The registration deadline is March 30. If you are interested in participating or coaching your child's team, please contact the YMCA at (734) 453-2904 or visit www.ymcadetroit.org.

YMCA starts registration

The Plymouth Family YMCA is registering for its instructional clinics. The focus of these programs will be on fun, exercise and social interaction through sports instruction. Clinics include Tiny Tikes Sports Sampler (ages 3-5), Preschool Basketball (ages

4-5) and Y Pucks (ages 6-8). The programs run the weeks of March 6 through April 17. All classes are held in local schools during the week. For more information, contact the YMCA at (734) 453-2904 or visit www.ymcadetroit.org.

Baseball clinics

Baseball fundamentals are on tap for youngsters looking to improve their skills, at the forthcoming Plymouth Wildcats Youth Baseball Clinic. Participants in grades 1-8 will receive age-appropriate instruction from 2012 Plymouth varsity baseball coaches and players. Stations will include hitting, pitching, infield, outfield, catching and radar gun readings. Sessions in the Plymouth High School gymnasium, will take place: 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday March 17 (for those in grades 1-4); Saturday March 31 (for those in grades 5-8). The pre-registration cost, which includes snack, is \$20. The fee is \$25 the day of the clinic. Pre-registration is urged, as the camp is limited to 100. Go to www.baseball.plymouthwildcats.com for more information.



Conference champs

Canton's varsity girls gymnastics team celebrates after capturing the KLAAs conference meet on Saturday, Feb. 18 at Euro Stars Gymnastics in Plymouth. It is the third season in a row that the Chiefs won the KLAAs tourney.

Guide to Employment
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Purebred rescues to exhibit at annual dog show

By Sharon Dargay
O&E Staff Writer

Chloe will get plenty of face time with the public during the Detroit Kennel Club Dog Shows next weekend in Detroit.

The miniature schnauzer won't put a paw into the judging ring, but will help promote purebred dog rescue — and might even catch the eye of a potential adopter.

"I want to get the word out to people that if you want a purebred dog, you can get one from a rescue. You can find just about any purebred you want through petfinder.com," said Mary McIver, a Livonia woman who heads the Great Lakes Mini Schnauzer Rescue. The group will be among a handful of rescue organizations with educational booths and adoptable dogs at the Kennel Club shows March 3 and 4 at Cobo Center in downtown Detroit.

Kirsten Borgstrom, a spokeswoman for the show, said the inaugural exhibit will feature purebred rescue organizations with these breeds: boxer, bullmastiff, Dogue de Bordeaux, English Bulldog, miniature schnauzer, pug, schipperke, and Soft Coated Wheaten terrier.

It will be McIver's first time exhibiting at the annual event.

"The other reason I wanted to do this was I want people to stay out of pet stores and away from disreputable breeders. Pet store puppies come from puppy mills. If you want a puppy, look for a reputable breeder."

Larry Nathan, a Farmington resident and founder of Michigan Pug Rescue, says he feels fortunate to be among the purebred



Kathy and Larry Nathan of Farmington show Scuito, one of their pugs.

rescues included in the Detroit Kennel Club shows this year.

"If it does nothing more than get our name out there, that's important. What we try to do is interact with the people there, give them our business cards or brochures," he said. "We take one or two dogs and it gives people the opportunity to interact with the dogs, learn what rescue is about and how they can go about adopting."

Michigan Pug Rescue participated in the annual dog shows two years ago as a part of Purina's Rally to the Rescue exhibit. But his group and other rescues shared the same space, along with Rally demonstrations and shows.

"This time each group will have an 8-by-10 booth and we can set up a table and chairs and have infor-

DETROIT KENNEL CLUB DOG SHOWS

When: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, March 3, and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, March 4

Where: Cobo Center, One Washington Blvd., in downtown Detroit

What: The 108th and 109th shows are "benched," meaning that dogs must stay in their assigned display areas when they aren't in the ring being judged, giving visitors a close-up view of the dogs and access to breeders, owners and handlers. The event includes vendors, animal rescue groups and dog breed clubs and many special attractions including pet first aid and CPR demonstrations, terrier racing and lure chasing, Dog Scouts of America, Therapy Dogs Incorporated, field training demonstrations, herding demonstrations, coursing and training techniques and puppy competition

Tickets: \$15 for adults; \$8 for seniors, 65 and older, and children, 3-12; \$40 family pass for two adults, two children. Tickets available at the door; cash only. Discount tickets — \$12.50 for individuals and \$35 family pass — available at Kroger stores

Contact: www.detroitkennelclub.com

mation. It will be more beneficial to the rescues," Nathan said.

New hobby

Michigan Pug Rescue has fostered and found homes for 450 dogs since



Chloe, a miniature schnauzer, will help promote purebred dog rescue next weekend at the Detroit Kennel Club Dog Shows.



Spencer, 5, is among the dogs available for adoption through the Great Lakes Mini Schnauzer Rescue in Livonia. The petite, feisty pooch was rescued from a puppy mill.

2000 when Nathan and his wife, Kathy, founded the volunteer-based nonprofit organization.

"She (Kathy) told me you've got to find a hobby," Nathan recalled.

"In the summer I like to work outside. In the winter, I didn't have a hobby. We owned a pug at the

time. So, she came home one day with a copy of *Dog Fancy* and there was an article about dog rescue. I contacted them and they gave me the name of a rescue here. But they were more of a breed club and I was more interested in rescue. So we broke off in April 2000 and set up our own rescue."

The group takes on dogs that have been surrendered by their owners because of divorce and financial or health difficulties; rescues puppy mill breeder dogs and pugs in shelters.


"A lot of people don't want a puppy because they don't want the house training issues. If you get a dog from a reputable rescue, they know what is going on with the dog, the health issues and if its potty-trained."

The couple has adopted some of the special needs dogs the group has rescued. Scuito lost a leg as a result of abuse when she was a puppy. Buddy is blind and Hannah was

Please see SHOW, B7

Dream Encounter

of the Supernatural Kind



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Dr. Barbie Breathitt

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Sunday, March 4 | 10:30 a.m.

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Reporter pens book on Maltese in Detroit

Diane Gale Andreassi, a Livonia resident and reporter for the *South Lyon Herald*, recently published *Maltese in Detroit*, a book documenting the emigration of residents from Malta, a small island country off the coast of Italy, to the Motor City.

Detroit has one of the largest Maltese populations outside the small nation, which is south of Sicily in the Mediterranean.

Published by Arcadia Publishing in the Images of America series, the book is filled with pictures of early immigrants and introduces readers to settlers and current residents. Pictures of Most Holy Trinity in Detroit and the Maltese clubs in Dearborn and Detroit offer a flavor of life among the Maltese today.

From 35,000-70,000 people of Maltese heritage



Diane Gale Andreassi

live in the United States and the Detroit area has the largest concentration. In fact, it is one of the largest Maltese populations in the world outside the small European nation in the Mediterranean.

"The response to the book has been overwhelming," said Andreassi, who was born in

Detroit of parents who left their homeland to settle in a large Maltese-populated Corktown neighborhood of Detroit. "It was wonderful to meet so many Maltese people and to learn about the pride they have in their heritage."

The book illustrates the importance of the Roman Catholic church in Malta and among the Maltese immigrants in their new land. It introduces readers to the Maltese priests who were among the notable people who welcomed and helped acclimate the others as they arrived.

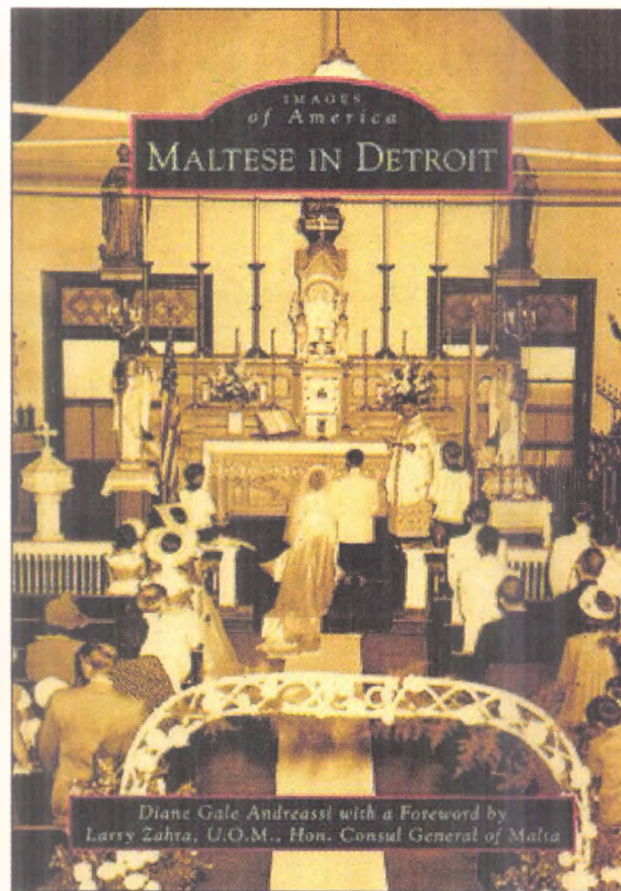
It took a year to assemble *Maltese in Detroit*, but it was a labor of love for Andreassi, who graduated from the University of Michigan-Dearborn with a double major in economics and English. She started her career in journalism at the *Dear-*

born Heights Leader and the *Observer & Eccentric Newspapers* as a reporter and a lifestyles editor before taking a leave to raise a family. She has worked on countless free-lance stories for a number of publications, including Gale Research, working on encyclopedia entries, one of which was about Malta and its people.

She was active in Livonia's St. Colette religious education program for more than 10 years and worked as a substitute teacher and volunteer in Livonia Public Schools. Andreassi is an avid reader of books and newsprint of all kinds.

The books are available at large and small bookstores and for a discount rate by calling (734) 432-5974.

Readers can contact Andreassi at dandreassi@hometownlife.com.



Reporter Diane Gale Andreassi said her book was a labor of love.

Livonia church seeks members for musical groups

Rosedale Gardens Presbyterian Church, 9601 Hubbard Drive, Livonia, offers four performance groups for anyone interested in making music a part of their spiritual journey during Lent and Easter.

The Chancel Choir is preparing new music for the Lenten season,

including the Palm Sunday Cantata. The Palm Sunday program will bring choir, orchestra, handbells and narration together. Rehearsal CDs are available. Chancel Choir meets 8-9 p.m. Thursday. In addition to singing during the 10 a.m. service every Sunday, the choir will participate in worship on Maundy Thursday at 7 p.m., and the Tenebrae Service on Good Friday, beginning at 7 p.m.

Carillon and Campanelle Bell Choirs offer an opportunity to perform on handbells. The Carillon Choir meets from 6-7 p.m. and the Campanelle Choir rehearses 7-8 p.m., both on Thursday. Positions are available in both groups, particularly for bass bell ringers.

The church's orchestra, Grace Notes, periodically adds an exciting element to worship with original arrangements by director Mark Adams. Instrumentalists of all kinds may join the group.

For more information, call Paula Clinard, director of music, at (734) 422-0494, Ext. 15, or via e-mail at officergpc@yahoo.com.

GARDEN & NATURE

Send garden and nature announcements to Sharon Dargay at sdargay@hometownlife.com.

Library series

The Redford Township District Library, 25320 W. Six Mile, will offer a free series of gardening classes, 6:45 p.m. Monday, beginning Feb. 27. Topics are propagating plants simplified, methods of starting plants, Feb. 27; timing and tips for pruning trees and shrubs, March 5; composting done easily and inexpensively, March 12; trellises, arches and vertical plantings, March 19; and spring gardening — do it the right way, March 26. Advanced Master Gardener LeRoy Wolff is the instructor. Register at adult reference desk, or call (313) 531-5960, Ext. 103.

Livonia Club

Marsha Heads, Livonia Garden Club member, and Alicia Gorbitt will present "Gourds in the Garden," 7

p.m. Tuesday, March 6, at the Livonia Senior Center, located at Five Mile and Farmington Road, in Livonia. For more information, visit www.orgsites.com/mi/livoniagardenclub/

Gardening seminars

The Master Gardener Association of Western Wayne County presents a seminar for the gardening public, 7-8 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 28, in the Wayne County Extension Office auditorium, 5454 Venoy, a quarter mile north of Van Born, Wayne. Cost is \$10. The topic is "Square Foot/High Yield Gardening," which will teach techniques, fertilization and space saving tips, including how to grow lots of vegetables in a small space and in a bale of straw. Taught by Paul Rodman, Advanced Master Gardener, and garden writer. For more information visit mgwwc.org. To register, e-mail mgwwcorg@gmail.com or call (313) 719-1181.

English Gardens

- Learn about starting seeds indoors at a free presentation, 1 p.m., Saturday, March 3.
- A free presentation focuses on herb growing at 1 p.m. Saturday, March 10.
- Plant four herbs in a stylish container at a "Make it and Take it" workshop, 2:30 p.m. Saturday, March 10. Cost is \$19.99. Register at www.englishgardens.com.
- Learn how to keep your lawn green at a free presentation, 1 p.m. Saturday, March 17.
- Get tips on landscape design at 1 p.m. Saturday, March 24.

Area stores are at 155 N. Maple, Ann Arbor, (734) 332-7900; 22650 Ford Road in Dearborn Heights, (313) 278-4433; 4901 Coolidge Highway, Royal Oak, (248) 280-9500; and 6370 Orchard Lake Road, in West Bloomfield; (248) 851-7506. For information, log onto www.EnglishGardens.com.

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Evangeline Pescasio, RN
In-Service Training Director

Evangeline presents educational sessions to Fours Seasons staff 6-10 times a month in small group settings. It's her job to give nursing staff the tools they need to provide quality care.

"... we care for the whole person, not just the physical being — spiritual, emotional, and families as well..."

"I teach about attitude and sensitivity, compassionate care and how to motivate staff to be exceptional," said Pescasio.

Before coming to Four Seasons, Evangeline worked as an RN for transplant and the surgical medical floor at Henry Ford Hospital, Detroit.

Her manager called her an ambassador for safety; everyone called her 'Angel' for a reason. "I got the inspiration from nursing to care for the whole person, not just the physical being. I spend time with residents, eye to eye, give them a hug. We're caring not only for residents, but families and co-workers.

I don't look at nursing as a job but as a calling."

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THE VALUE OF JOINT FLUID
 A patient with a painful and swollen knee sees a doctor who removes the fluid and injects a steroid. But the doctor does something more: he sends the fluid to a laboratory for analysis. The report comes back with a fluid white blood cell (wbc) count of 5,000. With that information, the physician knows that the patient has a knee condition more serious than a sprain.
 For physicians, joint fluid is not a watery substance to remove and discard. Rather, the fluid obtained needs analysis including a white blood cell count, a stain of a sample to uncover possible infection and a microscopic examination to look for crystals such as occur in gout.
 In the instance cited above, the finding of 5,000 wbc's was key. Normally, the cell count in synovial fluid ranges from 50-500 cells. In instances of injury the cell count could reach 900-1000. A higher number indicates an inflamed joint and tells the doctor that he needs to obtain additional information from the patient.
 In this case, further inquiry brought out that the patient had a past history of psoriasis, and that knee problems similar to the present one had occurred in the past, but always went away in time. Now the pain and swelling persisted which is why the patient made a doctor's appointment.
 With this additional data, the physician could make a diagnosis of psoriatic arthritis, initiate proper medication - an anti-TNF drug - and give the patient assurance that well being would return.
 This resolution occurred because the physician took the time to treat synovial fluid with care and attention.

Catholic & Divorced?
Married Outside of the Church?
Curious About Annulment?
Rev. Fr. Jerry Slowinski, J.C.L.
 Pastor of St. Jane Frances de Chantal Parish and member of the Archdiocese of Detroit's Marriage Tribunal, will join St. Michael pastor, Fr. Bill Tindall, to explain annulments, convalidation and the Catholic teachings on sacramental marriage.
Monday, February 27th
 7 p.m. in the school cafeteria
 No charge or reservations required.
St. Michael the Archangel Church
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www.livoniastmichael.org 734-261-1455

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Investigating appliance fires takes sleuthing

By Joe Gagnon
Guest Columnist

The Sacramento Bee, a newspaper in California, published an article on Feb. 2 about the defects in appliances that can cause a fire. Much of what I am writing today comes with permission from *Consumer Reports*, which supplied the data used in this eye-opening story.

The Web site address www.SaferProducts.gov should be written in your personal directory because it may be of great help to you once you have read this column. This a Web site where you can go back years to check out the model number of your appliances and check

to see if they were ever under a recall published by the Consumer Product Safety Commission, (CPSC).

In the past five years, more than 15 million appliance units have been recalled by the CPSC and manufacturers for defects that could cause a fire; 7.3 million (almost half) of the recalled units were dishwashers. Almost four of every five recalls in *Consumer Reports'* analysis involved products made outside of the U.S. with the majority coming from China. The biggest recall in *Consumer Reports'* analysis was for 2.5 million GE dishwashers in May 2007. In March 2009, 1.6 million Maytag refrigerators were recalled because of electrical failure in the relay, the component that turns on the compressor.

National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) data from 2002-2009 showed more than 69,000 fires in which

the appliance was the primary cause. Most incidents were attributed to ranges, followed by dryers, air conditioners, refrigerators and dishwashers.

Since March 2011, consumers have logged more than 850 instances of appliance fires on www.SaferProducts.gov, a site maintained by the CPSC that allows consumers to report product safety problems. The site has proved to be a useful forum for sharing safety concerns, but it has encountered resistance from companies that contend the information publicly posted is unverified. Consumers Union supports efforts to protect and promote the Web site as a way to publicly provide early warning of potential product problems. Consumers should be encouraged to share their experiences with unsafe products on the site to provide real-life experiences that can contribute to safety.

You will have to agree that the

above information is all pretty good stuff and I urge you to pass it around. I have spent the past 30 years writing books, this column, and doing radio shows across this country and always in my own polite way trying to scare the pants off of home owners. I have such a passion for this subject as most service technicians carry the same feelings. Talk to any appliance repair guy or gal and they have seen so much in regards to ever think I have a don't you ever think I safety. Don't you ever think I have a don't love for these manufacturers who I know could do so much more for the customer who purchases their product? I honestly think that appliance manufacturers don't have a clue what the words "quality control" means and if government put the same emphasis on them that they do on the automobile industry we would certainly have safer products in our homes.

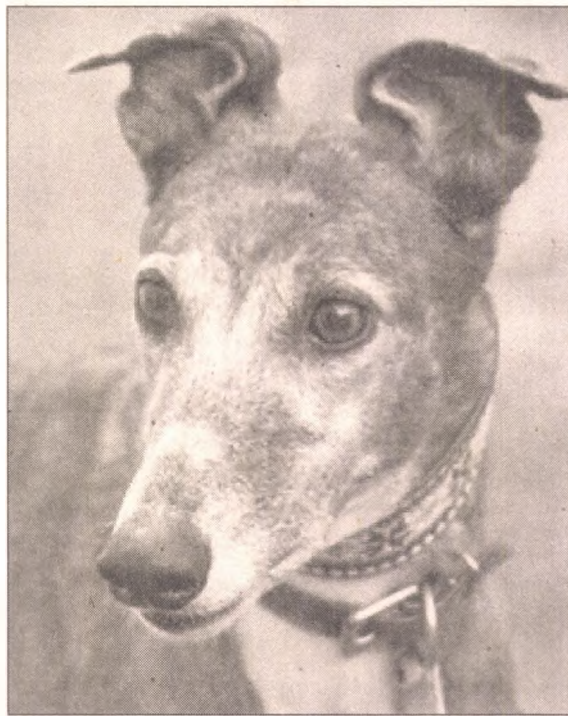
Register new appliances:

The large number of recalls is a sobering reminder of how important it is for consumers to register their products with manufacturers in order to be promptly notified in the event of a recall. Consumers concerned about their privacy or junk mail need only provide manufacturers with their name, contact information and the appliance model and serial number. I talk with thousands of homeowners every year and it still shocks me at how many people have plugged up vent lines on their clothes dryers. I will continue to scare every person I can in regards to the use of appliances and don't forget the Web site in this column. It could prove to be the most important address you have. Stay tuned.

Joe Gagnon can be heard at 8 a.m., Saturdays on WAAM 1600. You can e-mail your problems and questions on appliances to appldr@twmi.rr.com

Retired racer

My name is Image. I'm a retired racing Greyhound and I hope to find a home of my own. I'm looking for someone to love me and think I'm as special as I really am. My foster mom says that I'm actually the "Perfect Girl" so perhaps you will too. I'm a lovely brindle girl with eyes that will melt your heart. If you would like to meet me and learn a little more about me, please contact GRACE Greyhound Retirement Adoption Care and Education at (734) 558-4218 or e-mail gracegreyhounds@yahoo.com. Visit the GRACE website at www.houndsofgrace.org.



SHOW

Continued from page B5

among more than 20 dogs they took from a puppy mill raid nearly 12 years ago.

Activist, rescuer

McIver, who says her mini schnauzers are her "second family," after raising her own two children, has rescued dogs from puppy mills, too. She and her volunteer regularly foster mini schnauzers that have been surrendered by owners, taken from puppy mills or dumped in shelters.

"You'll find me protesting at pet stores from time to time, although I can't do that as much because I've got the rescue," said McIver, who loves to watch rescue dogs "blossom" and "build confidence" while living in foster care. She got involved in animal rescue seven years ago after working in a pet store and took on leadership of the Great Lakes Mini Schnauzer



Julie Barnett of Livonia, a volunteer with Farmington-based Michigan Pug Rescue, gives Detroit Pistons mascot, Hooper, a chance to check out a pooch at an adoption event in Novi.

Rescue in 2006, after its founder retired.

"I saw behind the scenes at the store what went on, the sick dogs that came in. I said we have to change it. People will say where do you expect me to get a puppy if I can't go to the pet store? You want to support breeders who are doing it the right way," she said. "The thing about getting a rescue dog is they usually are older. They've been in a home, they are

potty-trained and past the chew stage. They're a lot less work than puppies."

Both McIver and Nathan said their favorite dog breeds make good family dogs. They like to "do whatever you are doing," McIver said.

For more about Michigan Pug Rescue, visit www.michiganpugrescue.com. For more on Great Lakes Mini Schnauzer Rescue visit members.petfinder.com/~M171/index.html.

REUNIONS

DEARBORN HEIGHTS AN-NAPOLIS

CLASS OF 1982

For information about the 30-year reunion on Saturday, Oct. 20, at Fr. Patrick O'Kelly Knights of Columbus in Dearborn, visit the "AH5 Class of 82" page on Facebook, or contact Diane Goodreau at dianeschofield@sbcglobal.net or (313) 363-0523; Jim Linaras at godofouzo@yahoo.com; or John Zadikian at zman6754@aol.com.

DETROIT MACKENZIE

CLASS OF 1962

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

FARMINGTON HIGH SCHOOL

CLASS OF 1967

Organizers of the 45th reunion on July 21 are looking for classmates. Send your e-mail address to Susan (Himmelspach) Whittaker at S_whittaker@comcast.net or Fred Gregg at fredge1@comcast.net to receive a reunion packet.

GARDEN CITY HIGH SCHOOL EAST

CLASSES OF 1968-1973

Reunion Sept. 22. Looking for classmates. Check out the "Garden City High School (East) Reunion 2012" on Facebook. Or e-mail to Cindy Eads Frens at irish4200@hotmail.com, Debi Cassidy Haller at debi.haller@gmail.com, Doris Fugaban Williams at doris1226@wowway.com, Lee A Gilligan at ee.gilligan@att.net, Sue Cook at stasselmyer@charter.net, Suzie Wright Rogiero at suzierogiero@yahoo.com, Jackie Kalifut at jackieideson@gmail.com or Jeff Fordell at jef-freyfordell@comcast.net.

LINCOLN PARK HIGH

CLASS OF 1963

Planning for 50-year reunion, set for Sept. 15, is underway. For more information contact JeanBadoud-Riddell at weaver@sbcglobal.net.

NORTHVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

CLASS OF 1971-75

The classes are joining together to celebrate with a reunion on Aug. 4. Reunion organizers are searching for classmates

from those years. Send your name, address, phone and e-mail to nhs40yearreunion@gmail.com. The organizers will send more details after receiving your information.

REDFORD THURSTON HIGH SCHOOL

CLASS OF 1962

Looking for classmates for reunion on Sept. 8. Contact: nikkiwestberg@yahoo.com or Sue (Hughes) Morman at (734) 414-9941 for more information.

WAYNE MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL

CLASS OF 1957

Looking for classmates for the 55th class reunion to be held May 19. For more information contact Wanda Putman Boice at boice@aol.com or polly-girl219@aol.com. Or call Richard Smith at (248) 747-6817.

CLASS OF 1962

Looking for classmates for 50th class reunion on May 19. E-mail to Judy (Ramsey) Oleson at joleson@sbcglobal.net or call her at (586) 268-1663 or e-mail to Kathy (Quinn) Hayes at bustchr@aol.com.

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SOCIAL SECURITY

Many people are wrongly rejected when they apply for Social Security Disability benefits. Money was taken out of their paychecks for Social Security taxes to ensure that they would receive disability benefits if they could no longer work full-time. Sadly, the government denies approximately 60% of those who apply for disability benefits.

Attorneys J.B. Bieske and Jennifer Alfonsi have 42 years combined experience representing only Social Security disability clients. And they personally meet with all clients and appear personally at all court hearings. Many large firms assign inexperienced attorneys to your case. And some of these firms are located thousands of miles away and only fly the attorney in the day of the court hearing. Attorneys Bieske and Alfonsi have vast experience before local Michigan judges.

subject and has been interviewed on various television programs. Both attorney Bieske and Alfonsi have also been interviewed on radio programs and have given speeches to many groups.

Attorneys Bieske and Alfonsi offer free phone or office consultation. If they represent you, there will be **no fee charged until after the case is won**. The fee is a percentage of retroactive benefits.

Bieske and Alfonsi represent clients from all over the state of Michigan. Their Livonia office is on Six Mile Road just west of I-275. Their Novi office is located on Haggerty Road just north of 12 Mile Road. Call them at 1-800-331-3530 for a free consultation if you have been denied, or if you are thinking of possibly applying for Social Security benefits.

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

BEANE MARY "PAT"

Age 79 of Livonia. Beloved wife of the late Robert "Bob". Loving mother of Mary "Sue" Sobocinski, Robert Jr. (Virginia) Beane, and Connie (Rick) Fletcher. Dear grandmother of Sarah and Sheila Sobocinski, Rebecca (Greg) Perdue, and Robert III (Cassandra) Beane, and Ricky Fletcher. Dearest great grandmother of 8. Please call Fred Wood Funeral Home for service times (734)464-8060. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Alzheimer's Association. Please share your memories at Fredwoodfuneralhome.com



HOLZHETER,
DOROTHY ANN

Dorothy took her final journey on Monday, January 9, 2012 at home in Virginia Beach, VA. She was born in Pennsylvania on July 16, 1926 and lived in Livonia the majority of her life, she was 85 years young. She is reunited with her husband Herbert Holzheter, daughter Laura and son Louis Heller. She is survived by her loving children, Denean Evans, Herbert Holzheter Jr. and son-in-law Jim. She took immense pleasure in, and loved, her grandchildren, Rick, Laurie, Heather, Michael, Ryan and Kim and her great grandchildren, Evan, Ayden, Dillon, Emma and Hailey, along with many nieces and nephews. Mom had many longtime friends who will miss her. She was a great mother, wife, friend and neighbor, and above all, kind to everyone. Mom always thought of others first and did not know a stranger. She was also an avid bowler and card player. Her Celebration of Life open house will be held at her Grandson's home at 34009 Edmonton Ave, Farmington Hills, Michigan on Saturday, February 25, 2012, from 1-6pm.

REDDIG, WILLIAM EDWIN AUGUST 8, 1923



REDDIG, BETTY FOLEY JUNE 15, 1924



Taking a cue from the ending of the movie *The Notebook*, on Tuesday, January 3, 2012, at 12:35pm, William Edwin Reddig passed peacefully from this world. On his way to heaven William walked the nine miles to his wife's apartment in Petoskey, Michigan. After being told by her husband of 64 years that it was time to go on to their next great adventure, Betty also went to heaven. The two, independent of each other for the past three months, left this world within two hours of each other. As in life, Betty and Bill are together still. Bill was born August 8, 1923, to James Burr and Rhoda Fischer Reddig of New Jersey. Bill was the youngest of four children. Betty was born on June 15th of 1924, and was the middle child of her family, three beautiful girls, born to Hazel and Michael Foley of Bellaire, Ohio. Bill was commissioned as a Navy Pilot through the V5 Program shortly after the conclusion of World War II; He returned to New Jersey and completed a course in Industrial Design at the Pratt Institute. They met on a blind date at Penn Station. He and Betty were married in 1947 at the Church of the Transfiguration (the Little Church around the Corner) in Manhattan. Betty excelled at everything she set her mind to during her busy and productive life. In Birmingham, she was the President of the League of Women Voters. Bill's considerable talents were recognized at American Motors Corporation. Bill was responsible for the design of the roof rack placed on top of a car. From AMC he accepted a promotion to be Head of Design at the appliance subsidiary Kelvinator. His signature accomplishment there was to apply the style of the auto side of the business to what were then plain white appliances. His concept shows "The Kelvinator Originals" featured refrigerators styled as fashion statements, integrating an elegant designer touch to custom kitchens. After divestiture of the appliance company, he rose through the management ranks to become Chief Executive Officer of White Consolidated Industries of Grand Rapids, Michigan. They are survived by three children, CAPT J.R. Reddig, USN-Ret., of Arlington, VA, Michael S. Reddig of Flagstaff, AZ, playwright and professional IATSE stagehand, Ann C. Reddig of Anchorage, AK, and seven grandchildren. There will be a memorial service in Shippensburg, PA, on Saturday, June 16. There will also be a memorial service in Bellaire, OH, on Sunday, June 17th. The family requests donations in lieu of flowers to be made in Bill's name to the Alzheimer's Association National Office, 225 N. Michigan Ave., Fl. 17, Chicago, IL, 60601, and/or donate to your local community library in Betty's name.

JOHNSON, GARY RAY

Age 60 of Bancroft/formerly of Howell passed away on Monday, February 20, 2012 at his home. A funeral service will be held in Livonia on Monday. Family will meet with friends on Friday from 1-8 p.m. at Watkins Brothers Funeral Home, Bancroft Chapel. Gary was born on February 15, 1952 in Detroit, the son of Raymond V. and Marcia A. (Kokones) Johnson. He was a graduate of Livonia Stevenson High School, Class of 1970. Gary was a Iron Worker. He is survived by his fiancée Myrna Wintermote, daughter Stacey (Richard) Griffin, grandchildren, James and Brianna, brother, Darrell D. (Donna) Johnson, step-brother, Nicholas Kokones, mother, Marcia (George) Kokones and several nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his father Raymond and brother Kevin. Memorials can be made to Bancroft Lions Club or Durand Eagles. Online condolences can be sent to: www.watkinsfuneralhomes.com



JONES, JACK

February 19, 2012, age 77 of Livonia. Beloved husband of Maureen. Dear father of Karen (Don) Taubly and John (Kim) Jones. Loving grandpa of Alec Jones. Mr. Jones is survived by 2 brothers and 1 sister. A memorial gathering will be held at Fred Wood Funeral Home 36100 Five Mile Road (E. of Levan) Livonia, Sunday February 26 from 2-4PM. In lieu of flowers donations may be made to the American Heart Association. Please share your memories at fredwoodfuneralhome.com

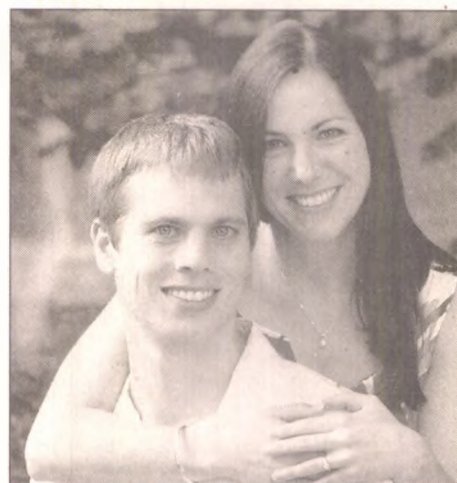
ROBISON, ALBERT R.

Age 83, February 20, 2012. Beloved husband of Bernice. Father of Diana (Greg) Cowling, Al (Dee), Rod (Michele) and the late Richard. Grandfather of Meredith (Shawn) Galdeen, Andrea, AJ (Jen), Ashley, Ryan, Kyle and Tyler. Great grandfather of Melody and Evangeline. Visitation Thursday 3-8pm at the John N. Santeiu & Son Funeral Home, 1139 Inkster Rd., Garden City (between Ford Rd. & Cherry Hill). In state Friday 10am until 11am funeral service at Garden City Community Baptist Church, 28237 W. Warren Rd. (Between Inkster Rd. & Middlebelt). www.santeiufuneralhome.com Family suggestions memorials to the Alzheimer's Association.

STREET, BERNICE L.

February 19, 2012, Age 92. A long time resident of Birmingham, she was the daughter of the late Lillian A. and Edward T. Leonard of Philadelphia, PA. Wife of Fletcher D. for 62 years. Mother of Richard L. of Birmingham, and Shirley E. (Nina Stark) of Troy, NY. Grandmother of Hannah D. also of Troy, NY. Sister of the late Elizabeth G. Leonard of Sarasota, FL. Highly intelligent, she received her degree in English at Temple University, and was a voracious reader. She had her masters in Bridge and loved to play. Above all though, was the kindness in her heart. Words cannot express how greatly she will be missed. Services have been held at First Presbyterian Church of Birmingham. A.J. Desmond & Sons, (248) 362-2500.

Milestones



Patterson-Jacobs

Mr. and Mrs. William Patterson of Plymouth are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter, Julie Ann, to Robert (Jake) Jacobs, both of Corvallis, Ore. Robert is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Jacobs of Webster Township. Julie is a graduate of Salem High School and University of Michigan and is employed as a fitness and nutrition coach. Robert is a graduate of Dexter High School and Purdue University. He is pursuing a doctorate in physics from Oregon State University. A summer 2012 wedding is planned.



Mitchell-Wooley

Elizabeth Ann Mitchell and G. Michael Wooley announce their engagement. The bride-to-be, daughter of Jim and Ruth Mitchell of Farmington Hills, graduated from Farmington High School and has a B.A. degree in special education from Michigan State University and an M.A. degree in education from Eastern Michigan University. She teaches elementary special education in East Detroit Public Schools. Her fiancé, son of Elizabeth Wooley of Colorado Springs, Colo., and the late George Wooley, earned a B.A. degree from Michigan State University and an M.B.A. degree from Walsh University. He is a sales director for Saturn Electronics in Rochester Hills. A March 2012 wedding is planned at the Royal Park Hotel in Rochester.



Freeman-Lorentz

Alexandria Freeman and John Lorentz announce their engagement. The bride-to-be, daughter of Kemper and Barbara Freeman of Livonia, will graduate in April with a BA degree in special education, language arts and elementary education from the University of Michigan Dearborn. Her fiancé, son of Joyce Lorentz of Novi, graduated in 2011 from Kettering University. He works for General Motors as an exhaust manifold DRE. A June 2012 wedding is planned in Dearborn.



Parzuchowski-Foess

Kelley Leigh Parzuchowski and Scott David Foess announce their engagement. The bride-to-be, daughter of Kim and Joanne Parzuchowski of Westland, graduated in 2002 from Livonia Churchill High School and received a B.A. in accounting in 2006 from the Eli Broad College of Business at Michigan State University. She earned a master's degree from The School of Hospitality Business at Michigan State University in 2008 and works as a CPA for Ernst & Young LLP. Her fiancé, son of David and Barbara Foess of Canton, graduated in 2003 from Salem High School and earned a B.A. degree in finance from the Eli Broad College of Business at Michigan State University in 2007. He received a juris doctorate degree in 2010 from the University of Detroit Mercy School of Law and works as a licensed attorney at Ernst & Young LLP. The couple met in 2005 during a summer business program with the Multi-cultural Business Programs at Michigan State University. They plan a fall 2012 wedding at Sts. Peter and Paul Jesuit Church, Detroit's oldest church building in use since 1848. Their reception will be held at the historic Colony Club of Detroit.



Bird-Smith

Ken and Linda Smith of Pinckney announce the engagement of their son, Jason, to Sarah Bird, daughter of Brian and Linda Bird of Tecumseh. Jason graduated from Farmington High School and Michigan State University, with a bachelor's degree in music education. He received a master's degree in music education from the University of Michigan and is employed as director of bands at Skyline High School in Ann Arbor. Sarah is a Tecumseh High School graduate. She received a bachelor's degree in music education from Eastern Michigan University and is employed as music director at St. Mary Catholic Central in Monroe. The wedding is planned for July 2012 in Tecumseh.

RELIGION CALENDAR

Send items for the religion calendar to Sharon Dargay at sdargay@hometownlife.com. Photos must be in jpg format, attached to the e-mail.

February

BLACK HISTORY
Time/Date: 11 a.m., Sunday, Feb. 26
Location: First Baptist Church of Detroit, 21100 Southfield Road, Southfield
Details: Observe Black History Month at 11 a.m. service. The church's Praise Dance Group and Children's Church will present dance and music selections. Light refresh-

ments will be served after the service. United Voices in Christ, a male singing group, also will perform at 3 p.m., Feb. 26
Contact: (248) 569-2972 or firstbaptist@fbc-detroit
BOWLING FUNDRAISER
Time/Date: 1 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 26
Location: Westland Bowl 5940 Wayne Road, Westland
Details: For Good Hope Lutheran Church in Garden City; tickets are \$20 for adults; \$15 for children and include three games, shoes, pizza, and pop
Contact: (734) 427-3660

GRIEF SUPPORT
Time/Date: 7 p.m. Feb. 29 and March 7, 14 and 21
Location: St. Michael's Catholic Parish, 11441 Hubbard, Livonia
Details: Grieving with Great Hope, a four-week grief support series for individuals who are mourning the loss of a loved one. Presenters will include The Rev. Bill Tindall as well John and Sandy O'Shaughnessy from Good Mourning Ministry. Register by calling the church or visiting Good Mourning Ministry's Web site.
Contact: (734) 261-1455; www.goodmourningministry.net

PAYING TRIBUTE
TO THE LIFE OF
YOUR LOVED ONE

Hospital, hospice partner on new inpatient unit

By Sharon Dargay
O&E Staff Writer

Oakwood Annapolis Hospital's new hospice and palliative care unit began receiving positive reviews even before it opened last week.

"Prior to the opening, the staff did have the opportunity to make the unit available to a couple of patients to make sure that everything was in place," said Christine Westphal, director of palliative care services for Oakwood Health Care System. "One of the families in particular said they had a hospice experience before with another hospice, and they said this hospice experience was just tremendous by comparison. They couldn't say enough about the unit, the staff and the care they received. It was fabulous feedback that let us know we are definitely doing the right thing."

The six-bed unit, which opened Thursday at the Wayne hospital, offers the comforts of home, along with the expertise of medical staff. It's the first time Oakwood and Hospice of Michigan have collaborated on an in-patient unit dedicated solely to end-of-life and palliative care. Palliative services help patients with chronic or progressive conditions live as well as possible with their illness for as long as possible.

"Most people go to hospice because they don't want to stay in



The new hospice and palliative care unit at Oakwood Annapolis Hospital includes spacious seating areas for families, in addition to a kitchen and private patient rooms.



The new hospice and palliative care unit at Oakwood Annapolis Hospital offers large, private rooms.

the hospital," said Dr. Michael Paletta, vice president of medical affairs and chief medical officer for Hospice of Michigan. But for some hospice patients, who need more intensive care than a private home or nursing center can provide, the hospital becomes a necessity.

"When that occurs, the patients are placed in whatever room is made available. They might be on a med floor. They might be in the emergency depart-

ment," Paletta said. "The thinking behind Annapolis is that this is a special area where all the staff is specially trained in end-of-life issues. We'll have the ability to transfer patients (from other floors) to there. And if a patient is in Oakwood Southshores or Oakwood Dearborn, they can be transferred to the unit without leaving the Oakwood system."

Like home
Diane Hartley, direc-

tor of patient care services for Oakwood Annapolis, said the new hospice unit originally housed a medical-surgical wing.

"We felt we could free up six rooms to provide hospice and palliative care," she said. "What we've done with the unit is made private rooms with more home-like furniture and amenities. The family has the ability to stay with the patient."

Families can sleep in a lounge and cook



Hospice nurse Rhonda Berndt is ready to welcome patients to the new unit at Oakwood Annapolis Hospital in Wayne.

in a common kitchen area. The unit also includes separate bathrooms for visitors and patients, as well as a consultation room.

Each patient will receive a keepsake blanket that they can take home when they leave the hospital.

"The unit is not designed for long-term residential," Westphal noted. "It's designed for patients who are too unstable to be discharged or just need round-the-clock attention while we fine-tune their plan of care. The goal for all the patients is to help that patient and family transition to a place other than the hospital, whether it's a home

or nursing care center. For patients who are too ill, they'll stay with us for their final days."

Partners

Oakwood Annapolis Hospital is located at 33155 Annapolis, Wayne; (734) 467-4000. Visit the Oakwood Health Care System site at www.oakwood.org. Hospice of Michigan offers pain and symptom management, emotional and spiritual support, home health aides, respite for family caregivers, equipment, supplies and grief support in the home, hospital and long-term care facilities. Visit its website at www.hom.org.

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Tuesday, March 6, 2012
5:30 pm – Registration
6:00 pm – Presentation

Sleep Disorders Center of Michigan
35600 Central City Parkway • Westland, MI 48185
(Located in the Westland Specialty Center; adjacent to Dick's Sporting Goods)

This event is free to the public and includes speakers:

- **Medical Director of the Sleep Disorders Center of MI, John Morrison, Jr., DO**
Reviews and explains the various sleep disorders
- **Pharmacist, Lisa Cayo, R. Ph.**
Discusses over-the-counter and prescription sleep aids, and the interactions and effects of medications
- **Sleep Medicine Specialist, Amal Omran, MD**
Provides an overview of sleep disorders in children
- **Diabetes Educator, Sharon Goodsell, RN**
Explains the link between Obstructive Sleep Apnea (OSA) and diabetes

Plus, tour our technologically advanced facility

Also, on-hand to discuss the latest products and services for improving sleep are: Garden City Home Medical Equipment and Sweet Dreamzzz, Inc.

There will also be a prize drawing that will include gift cards and more!

Light refreshments will be served, but space is limited and registration is required. To reserve your space, or for more information, call 734.458.3330

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