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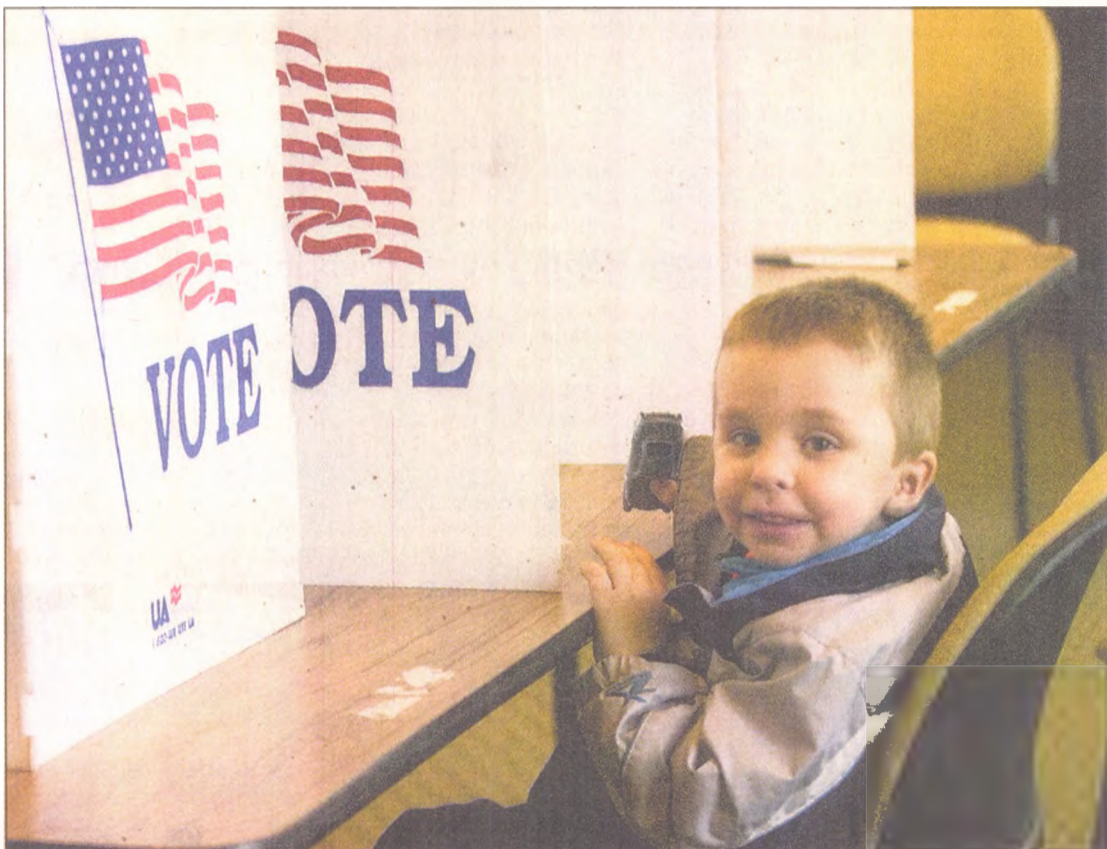
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**Bridal show**

Dearborn Jewelers of Plymouth presents its "Spring Bridal Trunk Show" 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, March 3, featuring the store's collection of engagement and wedding rings, along with Biba Design, pearl and gemstone bead jewelry.

The event will also feature Bella Mia Dressed Up for Bridesmaid dresses; Magnolia, A Fresh Flower Market for wedding flowers; Spa Agio for skin care analysis and services they offer; Special Moments Photography featuring their portfolio of wedding photos; and Fiamma Grille for rehearsal dinner and small wedding reception ideas. Refreshments and hors d'oeuvres will be served.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

**Big margin for Romney in Plymouths**

By Matt Jachman  
Observer Staff Writer

Voters in the Plymouth area helped pick the winner Tuesday, favoring Mitt Romney, a Michigan native and the statewide primary victor, in the Republican presidential contest.

The former Massachusetts governor, whose father George was a three-term Michigan governor in the 1960s, captured nearly 48 percent of the combined Plymouth-Plymouth Township Republican vote, about 18 points more than his nearest rival, former Pennsylvania Sen. Rick Santorum, who won just over 30 percent of the local vote. Former Georgia Rep. Newt Gingrich and current Texas Rep. Ron Paul took smaller shares of the GOP vote.

Michigan was seen as a must-win for Romney, and Santorum, leading in some recent polls, had made it a closer race than was expected a month ago. Statewide, Romney took about 41 percent of the GOP vote, compared to about 38 percent for Santorum.

**'They had to work it'**

"Mitt worked very hard. They spent a lot of money in this state," said freshman state Rep. Kurt Heise, R-Plymouth Township, a Romney backer. "They had a good campaign team in place and they had to work it. You can't take anything for granted."

Heise said Romney's strong showing in the Plymouth area, and in Wayne County overall, bodes well for his own re-election chances later this year.

"I actually thought he could've done a little better" in the area, Heise said. "It's more of a reflection of, you still have a viable four-person field."

With jobs and the economy the top issues on many voters' minds, those who said they voted for Romney pointed to his business experience as a plus. Romney was a co-founder, in 1984, of the investment firm Bain Capital, and also was the chief executive officer of the 2002 Olympics.

"He's talking about job creation," Sandy Hicks said after voting at Plymouth Township Hall. "He knows what's going on around Michigan."

Romney had his detractors Tuesday as well.

"He's too much of a moderate," said township voter John Zafarana, who said he voted for Santorum. "This country is extremely conservative."

Heise, however, said Romney, as the Republican nominee, would present a clear contrast to Democratic President Barack Obama.

**Nuts and bolts**

The Plymouth Historical Museum will host a free lecture, "The Nuts and Bolts of the Plymouth Historical Museum," 7:30 p.m. Thursday, March 8.

Dave Reitzel, the architect of the museum, will discuss the original concept for the Museum, design changes, the construction of the building, where the bricks came from, and other juicy tidbits about the building itself.

The lecture is free and open to the public as part of the monthly meeting of the Friends of the Plymouth Historical Museum. Enter on the Church Street side of the museum, located at 155 S. Main Street, one block north of downtown Plymouth.

**Felony shift**

Wayne County Prosecutor Kym Worthy has proposed legislation that would amend the Michigan Penal Code Section 316 regarding First Degree Felony Murder. The legislation would amend the statute to include the predicate felony of Intentionally Discharging a Firearm at a Dwelling or an Occupied Structure.

Three-year-old Ethan Rexin has to wait a while before he gets to cast a ballot, but he was happy to wait for his grandpa, Chris Rexin, to vote in Tuesday's primary election.

**Voters reject township SAD**

By Matt Jachman  
Observer Staff Writer

A tax proposal designed to provide revenue for the Plymouth Community Fire Department was soundly defeated Tuesday by Plymouth Township voters.

In a result that surprised no one, as township officials and citizens groups were nearly unanimous in urging its defeat, the plan to make a special assessment district of all taxable property in the township lost by a greater than 5-to-1 margin, with 6,517 no votes and 1,247 votes in favor.

The PCFD now discusses job cuts officials say will bring its budget in line with revenue, which fell by nearly \$1 million annually, beginning this year, when the city of Plymouth left the department it shared with the township for about 16 years.

A special Board of Trustees meeting to discuss staffing of the 23-member fire department is tentatively planned for

**Presidential Primary Results**

Republican		
	City	Township
Michele Bachmann	3	4
Herman Cain	1	6
Newt Gingrich	71	413
Jon Huntsman	2	15
Gary Johnson	0	1
Ron Karger	0	6
Rick Paul	184	605
Rick Perry	0	6
Buddy Roemer	4	12
Mitt Romney	622	3,085
Rick Santorum	394	1,926
Democratic		
	City	Township
Barack Obama	172	838
Plymouth Township Special Assessment District		
Yes	1,247	
No	6,517	

7 p.m. Thursday.

"This was not a revenue problem, this was an adjust-

the-department issue," said

Please see **VOTERS, A2**

Please see **ROMNEY, A2**

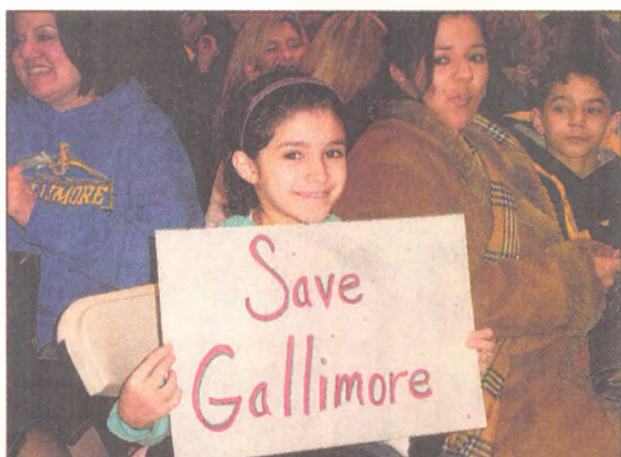
**INDEX**

- Business ..... A9
- Crossword Puzzle ..... B10
- Entertainment ..... B5
- Food ..... B8
- Homes ..... B10
- Jobs ..... B11
- Obituaries ..... B4
- Opinion ..... A10
- Services ..... B11
- Sports ..... B1
- Wheels ..... B12

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Eight-year-old Joelle Zourob, with mom Habeba, made it perfectly clear how she feels about closing her school. Said Joelle: "I want my school to stay open. I love my school."

**District explores Gallimore option**

By Brad Kadrich  
Observer Staff Writer

A couple of weeks ago, public forums to talk about the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools' facilities study were heavily populated by parents and teachers from

Hulsing Elementary School, which appeared (at least in their opinions) to be in the crosshairs for potential closing.

This week, it was Gallimore Elementary School's turn.

Dozens of parents and teachers from the Gal-

limore family turned out at Monday's public forum, the second conducted since the district received scenarios from Plante Moran CRESA designed to help the Board of Education

Please see **DISTRICT, A3**



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VOTERS

Continued from page A1

Supervisor Richard Reaume after results were announced Tuesday night. The plan would have allowed the township board, on an annual basis, to levy an assessment of up to 10 mills (\$10 for every \$1,000 of a property's taxable value) for fire department capital improvements, and an unlimited amount for operations, and the SAD would have had no time limit.

Little SAD support Layoffs, which "should not be a surprise to anyone," would have happened even if the SAD plan had passed, Reaume said: "The majority of the board were not in favor of the special assessment ... or any kind of a millage," he said. Neither were the Citizens Action Group of Plymouth Township, the group that put the question on the ballot through its petition drive and court action, nor the firefighters themselves. Both the CAG and the International Association of Fire Fighters Local 1496 publicly endorsed a no vote in recent weeks.



Plymouth Township poll worker Norma Funke assists voter Kathy McClain.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

"They read the tea leaves. They were able to get the pulse of the public," Reaume said. The almost unlimited nature of the SAD plan turned off residents who spoke outside township hall after voting Tuesday afternoon. "If they had them where it's not open-ended, I'd vote yes," said Eric McAllister. "When you take away the city of Plymouth, why would you need all these other guys (firefighters)?" said David Lijewski. "It just doesn't make sense." That the SAD would have no expiration, and the annual levy sub-

ject only to a vote of the board, "makes it even worse," Lijewski said. Sandy Hicks voted in favor of the SAD, even though she agreed having an open-ended tax plan was a flaw. "That's the down part, but on the other side, you need service," Hicks said. Fight continues The Citizens Action Group, which was organized a year ago to advocate against job cuts in the fire department, is continuing its fight in the Michigan Court of Appeals, where it hopes to have the court put on the ballot for a later election a plan for a smaller,

time-limited tax. It was CAG's petition drive, and followup action in Wayne County Circuit Court, that forced the SAD question onto the ballot. CAG's petitions, however, had called for a 1-mill tax for five years, but township officials' position was that the law governing such special assessment district proposals did not allow those limits. Some 7,927 township voters participated in Tuesday's election, more than 36 percent of the township's registered voters. mjachman@hometownlife.com (313) 222-2405

Summit hosts Home Improvement expo

Canton's annual Home Improvement Expo will be held 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, March 3, and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, March 4, at Canton's Summit on the Park. Highlights at the 2012 Home Expo will include free parking and refreshments; live broadcasts from special guest stars Murray Gula, Host of "Your Home with Murray Gula" on 1130 WDFN, and Joe Gagnon, "The Appliance Doctor" from 1600 WAAM; how-to workshops on a variety of topics from landscaping to solar energy; a hands-on children's project center; live wood-carving demonstrations; and multiple raffles throughout the weekend, including wood projects made by Canton Construction along with the Michigan Regional Council of Carpenters. The venue will include a welcome station featuring a free Expo Advertisement Booklet. The booklet is filled with vendor coupons, a map of the show, workshop schedules and several home improvement tips. To view a complete list of the vendors, obtain the Expo layout, and download the workshop schedule visit www.canton-mi.org/homeexpo.aspx. The Expo is free of charge and hosted by Canton's Building and Inspection Services Division, the Chamber of Commerce, and the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers.

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.

BRIDAL SHOW

Date/Time: Saturday, March 3 Location: Dearborn Jewelers in downtown Plymouth, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Details: Select local businesses join together to present a Spring Bridal Trunk Show, an opportunity to see wedding related fashion and jewelry. Dearborn Jewelers will feature their beautiful collection of engagement and wedding rings as well as attendants gifts. Also featured will be very latest "Pretty Maids" bridesmaid dresses from Bella Mia Dressed Up. Magnolia, Fresh Flower Market will be showing off bridal bouquets and centerpieces while Special Moments Photography will be on hand with their amazing portfolio of wedding photos. Spa Agio is the perfect destination spot for a bride who needs to de-stress before her "big day." Fiamma Grille will be serving up appetizers. Contact: Call Teri at Dearborn Jewelers of Plymouth, (734) 737-9525, or visit www.dearbornjewelers.com.

NEW MORNING OPEN HOUSE

Date/Time: Wednesday, March 7, 9:15 a.m. Location: New Morning School, 14501 Haggerty, Plymouth Details: New Morning School hosts an open house for families interested in enrolling their children in preschool through 8th grade. New Morning School is a non-profit, parent cooperative, offering individualized education that is tailored to your child's needs, daily student planning, small classrooms with 12:1 student-teacher ratio, and multi-age classrooms where children are grouped by ability. Contact: Visit www.newmorningschool.org or call Joan Barrett at (734) 420-3331.

NEWCOMERS MEET

Date/Time: Sunday, March 25, 2-4 p.m. Location: Plymouth District Library Friends room, 223 S. Main Details: Coffee and donuts with Plymouth Newcomers & Neighbors. Board members will be on hand to share information about their group. Men's Poker, Euchre, Ladies Bunco, a Kids' Playgroup and themed adult activities are just a few of the fun and exciting activities offered on a monthly basis.

ROMNEY

Continued from page A1

Heise said he favors Romney because of his experience, his electability and his ability to articulate a Republican vision for the country. "He's been a governor. He's been a businessman," Heise said.

Having their say Voters expressed a range of motivations for participating in the Republican primary process. "I would like to have some sort of say with that," Felicia Ghris said after voting at the Plymouth Cultural Center. Ghris said she is like-

ly to vote for Obama in the general election, but wants to stay informed about Republican candidates. She said she voted for Ron Paul because of his views on leaving more power to individual states and ending foreign military interventions. David Lijewski, after voting in the township, said he could vote for either Romney or Santorum, but ultimately chose Santorum because of his strong anti-abortion views. Lijewski said he personally believes abortion is wrong, but should remain legal. "Rick Santorum seems more like an everyday guy," Lijewski said. "I wouldn't say I'm a die-hard supporter of either one."

For Zafarana, defeating Obama in November seemed to be a primary motivation. "There were nine people on that (Republican) ballot who could do a better job," he said. Todd Naley, of Plymouth Township, said he liked Santorum's proposal to eliminate taxes on manufacturers as a way of bringing factory jobs back to the country. "I want to see all the manufacturing come back," said Naley, a part-time maintenance supervisor at a local shopping mall who said he had been laid off from Ford Motor Co. and is searching for full-time work.

Beyond the primaries

Mark LaPointe of Plymouth said he cast his vote for Santorum because

he'd be the weaker candidate, compared to Romney, against Obama in the fall. The economy is the big issue, LaPointe said, but Santorum's negative view of artificial contraception concerns him. "That's kind of scary that they're even talking about it," he said. Romney supporter Hicks said she doesn't like what she said is the spectacle of the four remaining GOP candidates criticizing each other in public instead of addressing issues that matter most to people. "I think the whole thing is just like a debacle," Hicks said. Voter participation in the primary was just over 35 percent in Plymouth Township and just over 21 percent in the city.

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE OF PERSONAL PROPERTY. Notice is hereby given that the undersigned will sell, to satisfy lien of the owner, at public sale by competitive bidding on Monday, March 19th, 2012 at 9:30 A.M. at the Extra Space Storage facility located at: 6729 N. Canton Center Rd., Canton, Michigan 48187 (734) 459-4821. The personal goods stored therein by the following may include, but are not limited to general household, furniture, boxes, clothes, and appliances. J346 Rene Kurtycz (aka: Renee Kurtycz). Purchases must be made with cash only and paid at the time of sale. All goods are sold as is and must be removed at the time of purchase. Extra Space Storage reserves the right to bid. Sale is subject to adjournment. Publish: March 1 and 8, 2012

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Advertisement for Dream Encounter with the Supernatural Kind. Text includes: Dream Encounter with the Supernatural Kind, Dr. Barbie Breathitt, Dreams, Visions & Prophecy, Learn what God is saying as you sleep, Friday, March 2 | 7-9 p.m., Saturday, March 3 | 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Sunday, March 4 | 10:30 a.m., Hosted by Open Arms Church, 33015 W. 7 Mile Road • Livonia, MI 48152 • (248) 471-5282, 1/4 mile east of Farmington Road, across from Joe's Produce, Pastor Grady Jensen Assoc. Pastor Abe Fazzini, For more information, www.barbiebreathitt.com

**DISTRICT**

Continued from page A1

decide how best to utilize the district's buildings.

The newest option put Gallimore front-and-center for possible closure.

"I have four children, two of them have gone to Gallimore and the other two are looking forward to going to Gallimore," said Canton resident Autumn Kearney, who spent the entire three-hour forum standing up holding a sign imploring the district not to close Gallimore.

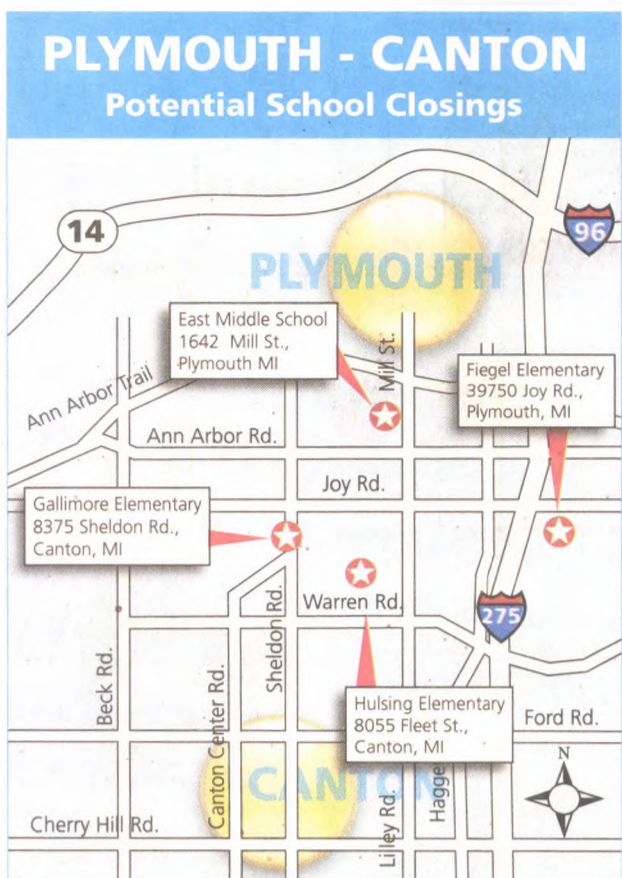
"We love Gallimore and we love our teachers. They've made a tremendous difference in the lives of my children. They are like family," said Kearney.

Gallimore figures prominently in one of the latest scenarios presented to the community. In the new option, the district could close both Fiegel and Gallimore elementary schools, both of which are at the lower end of utilization and the higher end of the cost-per-pupil chart.

**Location, location**

Gallimore's location, according to Phil Freeman, assistant superintendent for operations, makes it a good target for expanding existing programs (the district could move the Tanger Center there). Fiegel appears targeted as the new home for the alternative education high school program currently in Starkweather.

"One of the things that makes Gallimore a choice (for new or expanded programs) is its location on main roads," said Supt. Dr. Jeremy Hughes. "Hulsing is deep inside a neighborhood. There are complications if we want to put a special program there. Gallimore is much



more accessible."

What won't be happening is a reconfiguration of the elementary schools to a K-6 format. At a special meeting Tuesday, Board of Education members, based on feedback from administrators and teachers, told Hughes and his team to disregard any options that moves sixth-graders back into the elementary schools.

"I don't see any reason to go to K-6," trustee Mark Horvath said. "I'm not looking at Option 2. Some of these clearly won't work."

**Third option**

While board members seemed to be leaning toward options that would put elementary schools at 85 percent capacity and would close Fiegel and either Gallimore or Hulsing, Hughes urged them to take another look at a scenario that hasn't gotten much play.

That scenario, Option 3, would reconfigure elementary schools into K-2

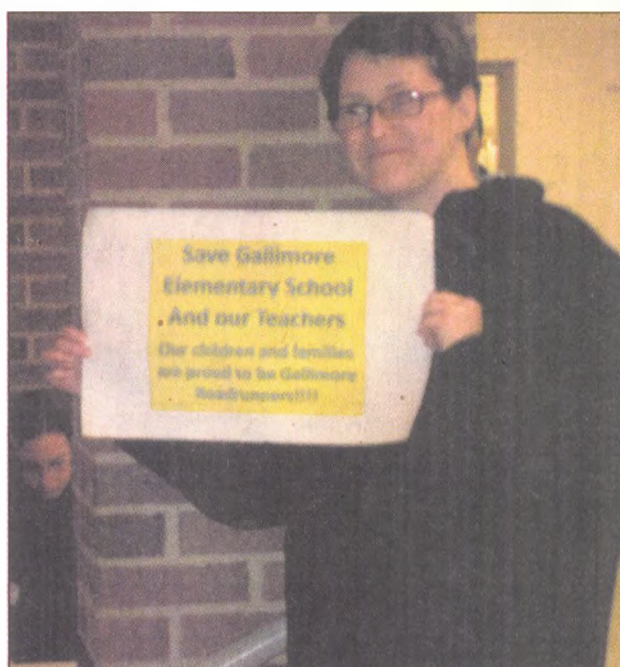
and Grades 3-5 buildings, pairing lower elementary with upper elementary "sister" schools. Under that scenario, the district would close Fiegel and Hulsing. According to the CRESA study, it would affect the least number of elementary students and allow the district to cut five bus runs from its transportation schedule.

"Instructionally, we have positive thoughts of K-2/3-5 elementary schools," Hughes said. "We are seriously discussing it as a possible recommendation."

**Timeline questioned**

While administrators have focused on scenarios that could be accomplished by the start of the 2012/2013 school year in September, at least one trustee wondered if the district wasn't rushing things.

Adrienne Davis suggested Tuesday the district take more time to consider, and implement, changes, despite suggestions



Autumn Kearney of Canton stood through a three-hour public forum Tuesday, holding a sign asking the school district not to close Gallimore Elementary School.

that some of the options could save the district more than \$2 million.

"It seems like we're trying to get this done this

year ... We don't have to do it that way," Davis said. "There are lots of ways to garner \$2 million. If we really need

two years (to implement improvements), let's take the two years."

Freeman pointed out massive redistricting was going to have to take place before September anyway, because the district is moving to all-day kindergarten. He said public feedback indicated parents do not want to see their children shuffled in that redistricting process, only to be moved again in 2013/2014 if the district delays action.

While trustees expressed an interest in also developing long-range plans, there seemed to be no sentiment for delaying. "Doing nothing next year is not an option," Horvath said. "We have to do something. We have to get that money (from savings) and get it back into the classroom."

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## Bedrooms ransacked in township home burglary

Bedrooms were ransacked and jewelry, cameras and an iPad were reported stolen after a daytime break-in at a house in Plymouth Township on Friday.

The house, on Pine Bluff Court in the area of North Territorial and Ridge, had been broken into through a sliding glass door that had been smashed, according to a Plymouth Township Police Department report. The break-in occurred between about 11:30 a.m. and just after 5 p.m.

All three bedrooms had been ransacked, police said, with drawers emptied and their contents strewn about. A backpack with paperwork in it was also reported stolen.

Police found a watch box on the deck of the house, and the victims said it didn't belong to them. Police also saw footprints from the yard leading through a wooded area and into a neighboring subdivision.

### Marijuana arrest

A Garden City man was cited on a marijuana-possession charge Sunday afternoon after police spotted drug paraphernalia in the minivan they later saw him driving.

The Ford Windstar minivan was unoccupied, parked in the area of Hines Drive and Gunsolly, when a patrol officer first saw it, a police report said. A "bong," marijuana grinders and rolling papers were clearly visible between the two front seats, the report said.

Police watched the minivan, later

spotting a man and a woman get into it and leave the area, police said. An officer then pulled the driver over, in the area of Hines and Haggerty, because of a broken taillight, police said.

The officer smelled marijuana upon speaking to the driver, police said, and the man admitted having marijuana in the minivan. He turned it over.

The suspect was ticketed and will be scheduled to appear in 35th District Court later this month. The woman was released.

### Vehicle burglaries

Cash was reported stolen from two vehicles as they sat in the driveway of a house on Wilson Drive, in the area of North Territorial and Ridge, on Friday.

Both the Dodge Intrepid and the Chrysler Town & Country had been left unlocked, police said, and both had been ransacked. In addition to the cash, six compact discs were reported stolen from the Intrepid.

### Valve system stolen

A brass valve attached to a sprinkler system was reported stolen from a building on Rofin Sinar Inc., on Concept Drive, recently.

The valve appeared to have been cut from pipes extending from the building, police said. The theft was brought to the company's attention by a contractor doing work there on Feb. 17.

— By Matt Jachman

## New Plymouth officer follows father's, grandfathers' footsteps

By Matt Jachman  
Observer Staff Writer

Officer David Edwards' new job with the Plymouth Police Department is the realization of a lifelong dream.

"It's pretty much all I wanted to do," said Edwards, who was hired in October and has just completed the department's field-training program, at the beginning of his shift one evening last week.

Edwards, who grew up in Detroit, comes from a family with long ties to police work. His father, Mark Edwards, was a Detroit officer, as were both of his grandfathers, and a cousin is currently with the Detroit Police Department.

Edwards majored in criminal justice at Grand Valley State University, went through the police academy at Macomb Community College, and said he never really considered another career.

"I just generally enjoy it," Edwards said of police work. "That's my motivation."

He likes the relative freedom a patrol job offers and said he'd like to take advantage of future training opportunities and different assignments in his career.

Edwards said he also likes being able to help people in times of need. "It's an easy way to connect with people," he said.



Officer David Edwards, who comes from a long line of police officers, has just completed the Plymouth Police Department's field-training program after being hired in October. He and Officer Mark Farhat are the latest additions to the police department.

He was partially inspired by the stories his father, who still works part-time in security at Metro Beach, would tell. "He was out on the street the whole time," working in special units as well as road patrol, Edwards said.

Edwards spent four months with a veteran officer, Justin Bulmer, in the department's field-training program, learning city streets and patrol areas and the policies and procedures specific to the department.

He was gradually given more responsibility and, during the "shadow phase" of field training was only monitored by Bulmer, who was wearing civilian clothes, from a distance.

Edwards began patrolling on his own early this week.

"They have a good program here. It's well structured," Edwards said of field training. "All our goals and expectations were very clear."

Edwards said he's pleased to be working in Plymouth.

"It's got a cool little downtown" that is especially busy Thursday through Saturday nights because of the bars and restaurants, he said.

"It's been interesting so far," he said.

Edwards graduated from GVSU in 2009 and worked part time for the university's police department for a little more than a year before being hired in Plymouth.

In his off hours, Edwards, who is single, enjoys mountain biking and military history.

mjachman@hometownlife.com  
(313) 222-2405

### CANTON POLICE AUCTION

These vehicles have been deemed abandoned and will be sold at public auction. The auction will be on Tuesday March 6th at 10:00 am. The auction will be held at 6375 Hix, Westland MI 48185. The vehicles will be sold as is, the starting is for towing and storage.

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\$17,016.00	1998	PONTIAC	SUNFIRE	1G2JB52T6W7500476
\$1,799.00	2000	CADILLAC	DEVILLE	1G6KD54Y22U174614
\$1,561.00	1999	DODGE	INTREPID	2B3HD46R9XH820637
\$1,409.00	2000	PLYMOUTH	VOYAGER	2P4GP2539YR548343
\$1,107.00	2002	GMC	SAVANNA	1GTEG15WX21201809
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### Band boosters host annual craft show

The Plymouth-Canton Music Boosters host their annual Spring Arts and Crafts Ensemble Saturday, March 10, at Plymouth High School. The fundraising event is a juried art show produced twice each year by the PCMB to help support the band and color guard programs at the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park.

More than 100 exhibitors with handcrafted items will be on display at this artistic event. Visitors can expect a high quality show with jewelry, handmade clothing, soaps, artwork, sculptures, floral arrangements, and many spring related items.

Plymouth High School is located at 8400 Beck in Canton. The Spring Arts & Craft Ensemble runs 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. In addition to more than 100 exhibits, there will be food, door prizes, a raffle, and entertainment by marching and concert band musicians throughout the day. Admission is \$2; strollers are welcome.

"The Arts & Craft Ensembles are two of the most successful fundraisers we host each year," said Erin Babcock, president of the 2012 Plymouth-Canton Music Boosters. "It's a wonderful community event that welcomes springtime each year. We're hopeful the community will come out and support our kids by visiting our craft show."

## Service planned for union activist

A memorial service will be held Saturday, March 3, at the First United Methodist Church in Ann Arbor for long-time Westland resident Pearl Eldora Asher, who died in her sleep Feb. 21.

An "uncompromising union activist," devoted mother, doting grandmother and celebrated waitress, Mrs. Asher died in her sleep on Feb. 21. She was 84.

Mrs. Asher lived at the Holiday Park Townhouse Cooperative in Westland, following a career which began in union activism that landed her in jail briefly in 1951 for her involvement in a workplace strike.

"She was a 30-year Westland resident who finished her career running the counter at the Senate Coney Island on Plymouth Road," said her son Richard Asher. "Mom hasn't worked at the Senate for 10 years, yet people still remember her."

It was during the labor strike that she met her future husband George Asher. She went on to become a celebrated waitress at many high-end Detroit area restaurants, ultimately being lauded by local media for her abilities.

Although she worked many split shifts over the years to support her children after the untimely deaths of her late husbands, George Asher and Lewis Craig, she also made time to be both mother and father to her



Pearl Asher was on the picket lines of Richard's Drive-In in 1951 when she met her first husband George.

five children and became an integral part of her nine grandchildren's lives.

Born March 21, 1927, Mrs. Asher left school before graduating in order to help her parents support a family of seven children. By the age of 16, she had become somewhat of a surrogate mother to her 3-year-old sister Connie. Her involvement with her younger sister was so great that many observers who didn't know Mrs. Asher thought she actually was Connie's mother, according to her son.

In the early 1950s, she worked at Richard's

Drive-In, the site of the Teamsters strike which landed her and future husband and highly successful union negotiator George in jail for contempt of court. According to a 1951 *Detroit Free Press* article, Mrs. Asher wept openly when her sentence was pronounced after being found guilty of failing to testify completely at the court hearings.

"Marvelous spirit" In a personal letter to Mrs. Asher during the court hearings, former labor leader Myra Wolfgang wrote, "Knowing that you are the kind of

person who would rather die on your feet than live on your knees, I don't think there is anything I can say to add to your marvelous spirit, inspiring courage and honorable instincts."

According to a front page article in the trade publication, *Michigan Hotel, Bar, Restaurant Review*, "Meeting on the picket line of strike-bound Richard's Drive-In, the couple managed to keep a romance going in spite of the juvenile antics of irresponsible hot rodders, a flare up of violence which saw the whole complement of the Shaeffer Police Station converge on the scene and the romance-dampening atmosphere of the Wayne County Jail."

On Feb. 1, 2012, the University of Detroit-Mercy announced that a new law clinic, opening in December, would be named after Mr. Asher, who was just months shy of obtaining his law degree there. However, Mrs. Asher did not hear the news because of her worsening condition, her family said.

**Renowned waitress** Mrs. Asher became a renowned waitress at a number of Detroit area restaurants, including Gagans, Thunderbird Inn, Hillside Inn in Plymouth and Carl's Chop House. She served thousands over the years, including a number of local Detroit celebrities, such as former Detroit Red Wings

Sid Abel, newsman Bill Bonds and Tiger's manager Sparky Anderson.

Her ability as a waitress was so highly regarded that on Sept. 12, 1980, the *Detroit Free Press's* Anonymous Gourmet wrote, "Two encounters at the Hillside are not to be missed. One is the dessert tray. The other is Pearl. No restaurant serving staff should be without its own Pearl - genial, attentive, patient, accommodating. When she served our table, Pearl embodied the reason the Hillside draws such a great and regular crowd. She - and it - are warm and friendly and unpresumptuous."

Mrs. Asher finished her illustrious restaurant career at the Senate Coney Island on Plymouth Road in Livonia, serving a packed counter of customers with the same warmth and efficiency she had shown her entire career.

The memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. at the First United Methodist Church, 120 S. State St., Ann Arbor.

Mrs. Asher is survived by daughter Annamarie, sons Roy, Richard and Wesley, grandchildren Patrick, Rory, Stephen, Alison, Katie, Robert, Rachel, Ryan and Matthew, brother Bill and sisters Liz, Dorothy and Connie.

She is preceded in death by husbands George Asher and Craig Lewis and sons Joseph and Patrick.

### Schedule set for frog, toad survey training

Training sessions to participate in the 2012 Frog and Toad Survey will begin this weekend, with sessions scheduled as follows:

- Saturday, March 3, from 10 a.m. to noon, Plymouth Township Hall, located at 9955 Haggerty in Plymouth.
- Tuesday, March 6, from 7-9 p.m., at Canton's Summit on the Park, located at 46000 Summit Parkway.
- Saturday, March 10, from 10 a.m. to noon, at the Livonia Civic Center Library, located at 32777 Five Mile Road.
- Saturday, March 17, from 10 a.m. to noon, at Bloomfield Township Hall, located at 4200 Telegraph Road.

Each training session will focus on frog and toad identification skills in order to help volunteers determine different species out in the field. Frogs and toads are considered excellent indicators of the environmental quality around us. The more species a site can support, the better the habitat.

To register, call the Friends of the Rouge at (313) 792-9621 or email [monitoring@therouge.org](mailto:monitoring@therouge.org).



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\*Based on Medicare's 2011 and 2012 Overall Plan Star Ratings. See full results at [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov). Plan Star Ratings are assessed each year and may change from one year to the next. Health Alliance Plan is a health plan with a Medicare contract. Alliance Medicare Rx (pdp) is a stand-alone Prescription Drug Plan with a Medicare contract.

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Gallimore advantages

We are concerned about the potential closing of Gallimore Elementary School. There are two classrooms of the district's Center Based Program for Autism Spectrum Disorder located at Gallimore. This program is dedicated to those students so affected by Autism Spectrum Disorder that they cannot be educated in a regular classroom setting.

Gallimore provides some very unique advantages for this program:

- Both ASD rooms are able to be located next to each other and are large enough to accommodate the sensory motor equipment the students require, such as ceiling swing, floor area with mats for motor movement, rocking chairs for calming activities, and time out areas.
- There is space for the students to work in their own work space since many of them cannot tolerate sitting closely to each other.
- The rooms have bathrooms located inside the classrooms which is a necessity because many of our students need assistance toileting, need to go to the bathroom

on a schedule, and need to have items such as extra clothing, wipes, latex gloves stored within easy reach of the bathroom.

- Gallimore, recently this year, added a seclusion room because some of our students have the potential to become violently aggressive. This room has been used on a regular basis since it was completed.

- We also have available close by a conference room area in case students need to work in a quiet area one on one with a teacher, para-pro, speech pathologist, OT, social worker or psychologist.

We welcome you to visit the ASD Center Based Program at Gallimore. We would be happy to answer any questions you would have about the program. We urge you to keep Gallimore Elementary School open, and keep the ASD Center Based Program here at Gallimore.

Jane Hasse and Carol Bachmann  
ASD Teachers

Sarah Tavierne, Susan Micek,  
Marybeth Jatzcak, Gina Moss, Bev  
DeVriese, Lisa Allen  
ASD Para-Pros

## Proposed fire changes cause irreparable harm

By Greg Mangan  
Guest Columnist

Plymouth Township officials have recently stated that the Plymouth Township Fire Department will be downsized and there must be a contraction of the department due to the end of the merger with the city of Plymouth. These changes will cause irreparable harm.

Plymouth Township is 18 square miles, with a population of some 28,000 that grows to over 38,000, a 35-percent increase, during the day due to the large amount of industrial, research and development areas, along with multiple manufacturing facilities.

Plymouth Township also includes I-96/M-14 and I-275, which are some of the busiest expressways in the state. It is also the CSX Railroads "Crossroads of the State of Michigan," with north/south and east/west trains passing through the area approximately every 15 minutes.

The Plymouth Community Fire department is a multi-faceted agency responsible for providing a wide range of emergency services, including fire suppression, hazardous materials response, advanced life support emergency medical service, and technical search and rescue.

In 2011, Plymouth Community Fire Department responded to 3,633 runs, with 2,622 in Plymouth Township. By comparison, in 1995, the first year of the fire department merger, there were a total of 2,564 runs, with 1,770 in Plymouth Township. That year there were a total of 25 employees of the fire department, as compared with 24 currently.

The department currently has a full-time staff of 24, which includes a chief, a fire inspector, an administrative assistant and 21 firefighter/paramedics. There are three fire stations, staffed 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Maximum, daily staffing is currently seven firefighter/paramedics per day between all three stations, with a minimum of six.

Plymouth Community Fire Department has seen a reduction of eight full-time personnel, three from layoffs last year, and the remaining through attrition, from a high of 32 in 2002, a 25-percent decrease. Daily maximum staffing between the three stations has decreased from nine to seven.

The Plymouth Township Board of Trust-

ees is proposing drastic reductions to the fire department. They have indicated that six more firefighter/paramedics will need to be laid off to "right size" the department. This will result in a nearly 30-percent decrease in firefighter/paramedics available to respond to emergencies. Daily, maximum staffing will be further reduced from seven to five, with no more minimum staffing requirements. Daily minimum staffing could realistically be reduced to three a day, with the firefighter's contract allowing two firefighters to be off per day. Consequently, Fire station No. 2 will be closed permanently due to the decrease in staffing. Station No. 3 would be closed on days where staffing is less than 4 firefighters, leaving only Station No. 1 to cover all emergencies in the township.

The Lake Pointe area of Plymouth Township has more than 900 residences. Lake Pointe is in Station No. 2 response area. The Lake Pointe area can be inaccessible from Station No. 1, the next closest fire station, due to the railroad tracks at Haggerty and the occasions when Hines Drive is flooded. In those instances when Hines Dr. is flooded and there is also a train going through the railroad tracks, the fire department, with Station No. 2 being closed, will have to take an alternate route going out of the community into Livonia and Northville Township to get back into the Lake Pointe area. This will dramatically increase response times to that particular area in these instances by as much as eight to 10 minutes.

Increased response times will not be limited to this particular circumstance in Lake Pointe. But, in fact, response times will greatly increase for many other instances in the township due to the decrease in staffing levels and closing of fire stations.

The staffing and apparatus placement allow The Plymouth Township Fire Dept. to maintain an average response time of four and a half minutes. Time is critical in search and rescue.

The changes being proposed by the township would cause irreparable damage to the residents, visitors, workers and those traveling through Plymouth Township. The increase in response times to emergencies, along with the lack of minimum resources through personnel decreases could have dramatic consequences to those requiring emergency services in Plymouth Township.

Greg Mangan is treasurer of the Plymouth Township Firefighters Local 1496.



Greg Mangan

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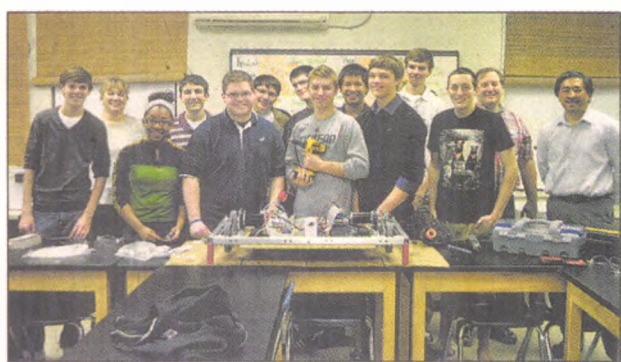
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Plymouth Christian Academy's FIRST Robotics team, the "Atoms Family," is one of 900 schools being sponsored by JCPenney.

### 'Atoms Family' gets help from JCPenney

The robotics team at Plymouth Christian Academy is getting ready for the annual FIRST Robotics competition, and they're doing it with some help from some friends.

PCA's FIRST Team 4405 is one of 900 high school teams being sponsored this year by JCPenney. FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) is a not-for-profit organization founded by Dean Kamen to inspire young people's interest and participation in science and technology by engaging students in innovative robotics competitions.

PCA's "The Atoms Family" is a newly formed team that has spent six intense weeks designing and building an original robot for the FIRST Regional Competition scheduled for March 9-10 in Waterford and March 23-24 in Northville.

"Having our students involved in FIRST is not just about increasing educational opportunities in science and technology; but instilling well-rounded life capabilities such as self-confidence, communication and leadership," said coach Joe Lemieux. "JCPenney's sponsorship represents a commitment to building the future lead-

ers of tomorrow-by making youth participation in FIRST possible."

JCPenney's sponsorship of 900 FIRST teams this season reinforces the company's philanthropic goal to introduce FIRST to more schools and communities throughout the U.S. and encourage greater participation among minority and female students. PCA officials said JCPenney's "legacy of working with national youth organizations through its signature charity, jcpenney afterschool, helps make it possible for more students to become involved in life-enriching learning opportunities during the after school hours."

Schools, communities and government acknowledge the need to improve the country's global economic competitiveness by increasing aptitudes in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) among America's youth. Studies show that FIRST students are three times more likely to major in engineering in college, 10 times as likely to have an apprenticeship their freshman year, more than twice as likely to pursue a science or technology career, and nearly four times as likely to pursue a career in engineering.

## Look at investments in considering Social Security

By Rick Bloom  
Guest Columnist

recently gave a speech at the Plymouth District Library and was asked

when should one start collecting Social Security - at age 62, 65 or at 70?

Like most things in the world of personal finance, there is no one right answer. Everyone's situation is different. However, I explained there are some issues to consider in reaching an individual decision.

The first issue to consider - and as far as I'm concerned the most important - is do you need the income?

#### Decision making

Some people have pensions, a working spouse, or other sources of income that cover living expenses. Do you have your living expenses covered without Social Security and without drawing from your investments? If the answer is yes, then generally you want to defer Social Security for as long as possible.

On the other hand, if you don't have other sources of income to cover living expenses, then taking Social Security is the way to go.

Where it gets a little difficult is if you need income from either Social Security or your investments, which one do you access first?

One of the key issues to look at is the type of investor you are. If you're a conservative investor who feels comfortable in CDs and U.S. treasuries, use investments first.

My reasoning is based

upon the return on your investments in CDs and treasuries, versus the return you get by delaying Social Security.

#### Are you a risk taker?

On the other hand, if you're an investor who understands risk and you feel comfortable having equities in your portfolio, I recommend taking Social Security now and letting your investments reinvest and grow. Once again, the theory being that the return on your investments over the long run will be a greater rate of return than by delaying Social Security.

The key is to be honest with yourself as to the type of investor you are. Looking at how you invested over the last few years is a great way to determine this. If over the last few years you've kept your

money in CDs and treasuries, then you are a conservative investor and you should use investments first.

If, however, you stayed invested in the market, that's a sign that you are a more moderate risk investor and delaying Social Security may be the way to go.

When it comes to personal finance, there is rarely, if ever, one right answer for everyone. When you read advice, whether it's in my column or elsewhere, always remember to apply it to your individual situation.

#### What's wise for you

Unlike the past when everyone in a certain age group was pretty much in the same financial condition, that's no longer the case. Don't do what's good

for the majority of people but rather make financial decisions that work best for your individual situation.

One last note, don't beat yourself up if you make the wrong decision. That accomplishes nothing. Some mistakes are irreversible and you have to make the best out of it. However, other mistakes can be fixed.

The bottom line is don't focus on the past, always look to the future and what you will do now to put yourself in a better financial position. Good luck!

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



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Welcome to "How to," one of the many sketches in the Park Players production of "How to Get Kicked Out of Private School."

# 'Sketch'y details

## Park Players bring their own work to stage

By Brad Kadrach  
Observer Staff Writer

Amanda Tabbey has been writing "little stories" since she can remember first picking up a pencil.

Her stories, about "crazy stuff that happens," were largely for friends and family. But when the curtain rises Friday for the first performance of "How to Get Kicked Out of a Private School," some of Tabbey's best work will be on display for a much larger audience.

Tabbey wrote several of the many sketches that make up "How to Get Kicked," the sketch comedy being put on by the Park Players Theater Company in the DuBois Little Theater at Canton High School.

"I've always liked to say things other people wouldn't say," said Tabbey, a Salem High School junior from Plymouth. "It helps me emotionally, and it brings joy to other people."

Tabbey and the other Park Players are responsible for all of the content in the sketches, put on in Saturday Night Live fashion by the 22-member cast.

It's the kind of ownership of material students showed last year, when director Johnathan Rase did the first sketch comedy show for the Players. He said students were "so impressed" last year by the reaction to their writings that some 75 students auditioned for this year's show (after just 13 last year).

"It was great to see that spark start up," Rase said. "These kids have so many good ideas. The sheer amount of things they wanted to talk about was amazing."

Students did "the whole shebang," Rase said, taking accountability for everything from script writing to costume design to prop work.

Salem High School senior J.J. Smudski



Brandon Bileti, Ben Davis and Meg Ellis in the sketch "Mr. Brown and Mr. Green."



Director Johnathan Rase speaks with actors Taylor Mabeltini and Ghadeer Nasser before rehearsal begins.

wouldn't have had it any other way. A few of the sketches — "Campfire," "First Date" and "Meeting the President" — are his, and he's not the least bit nervous about seeing his words put into action.

"I've always liked making up and telling stories," Smudski said. "I'm hoping people will leave the theater laughing and applauding."

The Park Players Theatre Company Presents  
"How to Get Kicked Out

of a Private School," in the Canton High School DuBois Little Theater on March 2-3 and March 9-10 at 7 p.m. with a 2 p.m. matinee on March 10. Tickets are \$7.

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Emily Gibson and Jonathan Shipman in a sketch exploring mishaps with cell phone auto-correct.



Brandon Armstrong as a rapper in "The Shack."



## IT'S YOUR BUSINESS Q&A



Trade Vine owner Mike Marogi said he's proud to offer a variety of Michigan-made products.

# Market features 'fine' products, services

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

**Trade Vine:** The store features wide selections of fine cigars, imported beer from all around the world, liquor at state minimum, discounted wine, RYO tobacco, check cashing, ATM, Lotto, copy & fax services, and weekly promotions.

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

**Trade Vine:** Location was the main reason; it helped to make my decision according to my 20 years of experiences in retail stores.

**Observer:** Why did you choose Plymouth?

**Trade Vine:** Plymouth Township has a constant growth in population, the quality of residents, safety, and support to local business.

**Observer:** What makes your business unique?

**Trade Vine:** The store

### TRADE VINE MARKET

**Business name and address:** Trade Vine Market, 40522 Ann Arbor Trail, Plymouth  
**Your name:** Mike Marogi, owner  
**Your hometown:** Northville  
**Business opened:** Sept. 1, 2011  
**Your business specialty:** Imported beer, fine wine, liquor at state minimum, Lotto, wide selection of cigars, discounted RYO Tobacco.  
**Number of employees:** 2  
**Hours of operation:** Sunday-Thursday, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.; Friday-Saturday, 10 a.m. to midnight.  
**Phone:** (734) 667-2469

is designed in a modern way when all products are at customers reach for more convenience to shop, The quality and the varieties of products, pricing and customer services make the store unique.

**Observer:** How has it changed since you opened?

**Trade Vine:** Business has been growing daily thanks to Plymouth Township residents' support to local businesses.

**Observer:** How has the

recent economy affected your business?

**Trade Vine:** The economy did not affect my business.

**Observer:** Any advice for other business owners?

**Trade Vine:** Customer service, cleanliness, and pricing are the keys for any business to succeed.

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

**Trade Vine:** My future goal for the store is to add gourmet deli and food services.

## Time for digital spring cleaning

By Jon Gunnells  
Guest Columnist

Don't let the snow on the ground fool you — spring is almost here. And what better time to take care of some much needed digital spring cleaning.

Many of the items you need to properly clean your electronics are already in your home, but that doesn't mean you should simply grab a bottle of Windex and start wiping down everything you own. Follow these helpful tips when it comes to cleaning and maintaining your electronic devices.

Never clean screens, monitors or other delicate devices with a multi-purpose cleaner or potentially damaging cloths. Take the same care with your computer monitors and television screens that you would with the clear coat paint on a fancy car. Use microfiber, fleece or other soft cloths to dust and use a combination of water and alcohol to remove marks and stains from screens.

Be sure to remove all excess water on screens, especially around edges so moisture doesn't reach behind the viewing surface and near speakers.

When cleaning handheld devices like smart phones, a damp, soft cloth is all you need. Alcohol or other cleaning products could damage the touch screen on the iPhone.



Tech Savvy

Jon Gunnells

delicate places, try purchasing compressed air (sometimes called canned duster). A 10-ounce bottle can be purchased for less than \$10 and will come with an extension tube to help you clean crevices like the ones all over your keyboard.

Canned air is odorless and can be moisture-less in some circumstances. When used for long periods of times, however, the can and the compressed air may become cold and make devices appear frosty for a few moments. The cold air won't damage your keyboard or most household products. Just be sure that you don't get any frost or moisture on circuits like the circuits found in your DVR, or your computer motherboard.

Digital cameras are another household item that can be cleaned with canned air, but more expensive devices and lenses require more sophisticated equipment. You can purchase digital camera, video camera and lens cleaning equipment at spe-

### Air cleaner

If you are looking to clean computer towers, keyboards or other small

cialty camera stores. Many electronics stores also carry lens-cleaning products for CD players, DVD players, Blue Ray players and the discs themselves.

### Cleaning tips

Nearly any electronic device in your home, from video game units to speakers, can be cleaned with dusters or whisks. Dirtier items can be wiped down with a damp cloth but, again, avoid getting moisture inside a speaker grille or video game console.

If your main goal is to disinfect your tech toys, you can always clean them with antibacterial wipes, or cotton swabs with rubbing alcohol. Cotton will clean and disinfect surfaces without leaving lint behind.

Of course, the dirtiest electronics you own are almost assuredly your cell phone and your tablet. Those filthy items that you touch with your dirty hands hundreds of times a day might be damaged with rubbing alcohol.

A solution: Wipe the screen down more often with water, and wash your hands with soap and water even more.

**Jon Gunnells**, a Northville Township resident, is a social media planner at a Detroit-based advertising agency. He can be reached at jonathan.gunnells@gmail.com. Follow him on Twitter @GunnSh0w.

## PLYMOUTH CHAMBER CHAT

### Personal property

Lobbyists at the Michigan Chamber of Commerce and 18 representatives from Plymouth Community Chamber member companies discussed in a conference call the potential of eliminating the personal property tax that burdens many businesses.

The Michigan Chamber believes there is momentum in legislature to make the change this year, but recognizes there will probably need to be approximately 80% replacement of revenue to get passage. While the personal property tax is difficult for many businesses to administer and is a capital investment disincentive, the legislation needs to address the substantial revenue the tax provides municipalities and schools.

There was also a discussion regarding the governor's focus on reviewing regulations on businesses to eliminate unnecessary/costly reporting and to create more predictable and simplified regulations. For example, on Feb. 21 the office of Regulatory Reinvention proposed 77 recommendations to the Governor that would eliminate 330 Department of Environmental Quality rules they feel are obsolete or overly-burdensome. The goal of the recommendations is to improve Michigan's environmental regulations while continuing to protect Michigan's citizens and environment.

If you are interested in expressing your opinion to our local legislators on any of these issues, you can contact Representative Kurt Heise at KurtHeise@house.mi.gov and Senator Patrick Colbeck at SenPColbeck@senate.michigan.gov.

### Fairfield Inn

The Fairfield Inn in Livonia is having a grand re-opening party March 1 from 4-7 p.m. at their location, 17350 Fox Drive in Livonia. There will be hotel tours, drinks and hor d'oeuvres and a ribbon cutting at 5 p.m. with Livonia Mayor Jack Kirksey. To RSVP call (734) 953-8888, Ext. 517 or e-mail sales\_FFIS-Livonia@marriott.com.

### United Way meeting

The Plymouth Community United Way will hold their 2012 Annual Meeting and Awards Presentation on March 2 from 7:30 to 9 a.m., at Comcast offices (41112 Concept Drive, Plymouth.) The morning



### Awesome opening

Awesome Tae Kwon Do opened their new academy at 9282 General Drive behind Plaza Lanes off of Ann Arbor Road. The school is owned and run by Champion Mike Brown with over 30 years of training. To contact the school about classes and training call (734) 667-4648.

begins with networking and a continental breakfast followed by the meeting at 8:00 a.m. The purpose of the meeting is to elect new board members and officers and includes reports on the organization's 2011 finances and programs. Campaign Chairman Jeff Bell recognizes contributors with Platinum, Gold, Silver and Bronze awards as well as those for community service.

To RSVP, call Pat VanDusen at (734) 453-6879, Ext. 2. For information about giving and volunteering, visit www.plymouthunitedway.org.

### Office Depot partnership

The Plymouth Community Chamber has partnered with Office Depot's Cleaning and Breakroom division to add nearly 150 new items to their core list of frequent chamber business buys.

Products like creamer, cups, hand sanitizer and popular brands including Clorox, Folgers and Kimberly Clark are discounted anywhere from 5-60% off. In addition to the new items, which are accessible to Plymouth Community Chamber members via the Chamber website or in store purchasing cards, take advantage of an unbeatable Keurig offer.

Until March 31st, use the Chamber program to order \$400 or more of eligible breakroom items and receive a Keurig B150 Single Cup Coffee Brewer (SKU# 217926-MSRP \$249.99) for one additional dollar.

## Spring Open House

Saturday, March 3rd  
10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
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**Master Gardener and Horticulturist**  
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10am-12pm

**Design Professional with much published work**  
**DENISE BROWN**  
OF DAZZLING DESIGNS  
will answer questions on how to blend function, lifestyle and aesthetics into your home design.  
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## OUR VIEWS

# Right sizing

## Local parishes spared, more collaboration, coordination sought

Right sizing is a phrase which has been used by school districts and manufacturers to talk about the layoffs of thousands of workers and the closing of schools, plants and businesses.

In Plymouth Township, officials are using the phrase in conjunction with its fire department. Plymouth-Canton Schools are using the same terminology in dealing with potential school closings.

But it's not a word you would expect to associate with religion. However, last week the Archdiocese of Detroit did just that in announcing what will happen during the second phase of its Forward in Faith plan. Its footprint — the number of churches it has in the metro Detroit — will shrink as it right sizes to accommodate the problem of too many churches and too few priests.

While the decisions are going to be a painful for a lot of churches, parishes in Plymouth and Canton were left largely unscathed. None will close, though three in Canton — St. John Neumann, Resurrection and St. Thomas a'Becket — and two in Plymouth — Our Lady of Good Counsel and St. Kenneth — have to submit "cluster" plans, showing areas where collaboration can take place, should the need arise.

The fact there's no rush — the plan for the Plymouth churches is due to the Archdiocese June 30, while the Canton churches have until the end of the year — suggests the local churches aren't in much danger.

However, in other parts of the archdiocese, the loss of churches will be profoundly felt by those who have considered them the rock of their faith and an important part of their social and cultural life.

We are not surprised at the scope of the plan, after witnessing the changes following the economic collapse in 2008. Auto companies shed hundreds of thousands of jobs and shuttered one plant after another and cities. Families fled the state in search of work, forcing school districts to close schools and lay off employees to stay fiscally viable. Young adults with families left the state.

For the archdiocese, the mission of the church is harder to accomplish with fewer and fewer priests. The statistics speak to the problem. Across the archdiocese, the average priest-to-people ratio is 1 per 2,839 parishioners, compared with 1 per 2,135 10 years ago.

The archdiocese is projecting a loss of nearly one-third of 290 priests who now run parishes in Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Monroe, Lapeer and St. Clair counties. By 2021, it's looking at having 192 priests to serve the faithful. And with the average age of priests serving in parishes about 57, the archdiocese could lose almost half to retirement and death in the next 10 years. It's a loss that's hard to cover when an average of only four priests are ordained each year in the archdiocese.

This is not an attempt to weigh in on the decisions made by the church hierarchy, which has spent much time studying the issues.

Instead, we want to offer encouragement to those who will be making adjustments. After all, does brick and mortar cement one's faith?

No, the body of a church lies with its people who gather together for everything from Sunday worship services and youth programs to community outreach efforts such as food pantries and clothing drives, who rely on their deep belief in God to lead them.

The operation will change, if necessary. But nothing will change that faith in God — and in each other.

**PLYMOUTH**  
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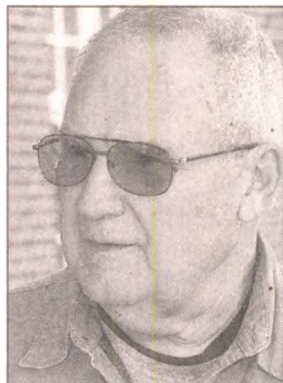
**Brad Kadrich,**  
Community Editor  
**Susan Rosiek,**  
Executive Editor

**Grace Perry,**  
Director of  
Advertising

## COMMUNITY VOICE

# Do you think Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano should resign over the scandals in his administration?

We asked this question at the Plymouth District Library.



"Yes."  
**Michael Schlott**  
Plymouth Township



"I think so. I think that's the easiest thing to do."  
**Catherine Jordan**  
Northville Township



"Yeah. ... He's the only one that's going to be left."  
**Don MacKinnon**  
Livonia



"It seems like he's in a lot of trouble. ... Either he didn't know what was going on or he didn't know how to make it stop."  
**Faye Lindsay**  
Plymouth

## LETTERS

### Safety first

Sure, everybody wants to save a buck. But at what cost are we willing to jeopardize the safety of our young elementary Plymouth-Canton toddlers?

It is understood Plymouth-Canton School District's demographics are changing, and something needs to be done to make our schools more efficient for our future minds. OK, got it. There is a need to redistrict, a probable need to close at least one elementary school, and perhaps a middle school or two. OK, got it again. But children's safety should be at the foremost of any decision, not an accountant's calculator.

According to Sunday's Canton Observer, the scenario Plant Moran's CRESA accountants most favor is option 1C which will close Fiegel and Gallimore elementary schools, and leave Hulsing school open (which contradicts earlier findings).

This option also puts our children in harm's way the most. Hulsing lacks the transportation infrastructure to safely manage the excessive overflow of buses, cars, bikes, scooters and walkers that would undoubtedly inundate this quiet, residential neighborhood. Yes, residential neighborhood with residential streets and their own inherent residential traffic flow problems. They are essentially not equipped for this.

I challenge anybody to visit Hulsing's constricting area and then answer this question: "Are you comfortable with your child, whom is one of 600-800 K-5 children coming and going throughout the day, darting in and out of traffic, attending this school." Unless you have dollar signs on the brain, nobody in their reasonable mind would answer yes.

### 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:**

**Web:** www.hometownlife.com  
**Mail:** Letters to the Editor, Plymouth Observer, 615 W. Lafayette, Second Level, Detroit, MI 48226  
**Fax:** (313) 223-3318  
**E-mail:** bkadrich@hometownlife.com

**Deadline:** Letters should be received by 9 a.m. Monday to be published in the Thursday edition.

Phil Freeman cites transportation issues will be a determining factor for school closing decisions. If any of the proposed options causes the most transportation issues, option 1C epitomizes it. There are better options which would achieve the school's objective of 85-percent capacity, and more importantly, keep our children safe. Our kids should be focused on attaining the highest education possible, not have to worry about being the frog in the frogger game of long ago. We cannot 'joy stick' our children safely to school and back. It would be gross negligence to put our kids in this position. The potential for law suits would far outweigh any perceived initial savings. No accountant can put a 'cost savings' on a potential life or life-threatening injuries. There are more important issues than saving the district the most money possible up front. Safety should be number one.

**S. Allen**  
Canton

### Obama spins the truth

February 2012 marks the three-year anniversary of the passing of President Obama's stimulus package. The rate of unemployment has remained above 8 percent since February 2009, making the last three years the longest stretch of high unemployment since the Great Depression. Nearly four million people have dropped out of the labor force and long-term unemployment is at Depression-era levels.

The Congressional Budget Office now projects that the unemployment rate will remain above 8 percent until 2014. The official unemployment rate excludes those individuals who would like to work, but have not searched for a job in the last four weeks as well as those who are working part time but would prefer full-time work. If those people were counted among the unemployed, the unemployment rate in January 2012 would have been about 15 percent. Also, the share of unemployed people looking for work for more than six months (long-term unemployed) exceeded 40 percent in December 2009 for the first time since 1948 when such data began to be collected.

Obama and his stunningly inexperienced (less than 10 percent of his administration has any real-world business experience) and inept administration spin the truth and claim that the economy is improving and unemployment is dropping. So much for hope and change. Who will you vote for in November?

**TC Howery**  
Salem Township

## GUEST COLUMN

# Trust must be regained to revive county

**By Kevin McNamara**  
Guest Columnist

**G**overnment cannot endure without some form of trust among the elected officials and by the taxpayers who voted for them.

The past decade's trend of elected officials and their appointees taking advantage of taxpayers, contractors and public resources is not only unethical and many times illegal, it creates the perception that Wayne County only has self-serving leaders. I caution anyone from throwing a blanket statement like this out there over all elected officials and government employees.

As a county elected official and a lifelong Wayne County resident, I am concerned and frustrated about the recent events that have surfaced in the news media.

An umbrella of distraction in Wayne County is redirecting time and limited resources away from providing services to taxpayers. It's time for Wayne

County Executive Robert Ficano to sit down with the entire commission and lay everything out that has occurred and is expected to happen. Everyone must be on the same page. Ficano needs to stop spoon-feeding us the truth as the news media uncovers it. Tell the whole truth to the commission members and, more importantly, to the taxpayers.

Now is the time to eliminate the mistrust and lack of transparency, to bring new cooperation among elected officials. There is no concrete evidence that Ficano has taken any illegal action. However, the allegations within his administration do make us question his leadership and managerial capabilities.

The executive branch and legislative bodies in local, state and federal governments have frequent disagreements due to the nature of varying perspectives and priorities. What they do have is trust among one another that nothing will be hidden. Certainly disagreements will occur with Ficano, but the valid concern and frustration is the hidden actions taken within his administration.

The mass exodus of key personnel from the Ficano admin-

istration is also a concern. The investigation has cost him half of his inner circle. Some of our best people are resigning and more are planning to leave shortly so their association with the administration will not tarnish their image and affect future careers. Until the allegations are resolved and everything is revealed it will be difficult to find qualified people to fill those key county government positions, since they serve at the pleasure of the county executive, whose own employment has the perception of being short-lived.

While I urge the Ficano administration to come to the table, I remain focused on the business that I was elected to perform. The distractions will not block me from focusing on improving the infrastructure, parks and recreation, youth programs, and senior services that citizens and businesses well deserve.

We will move forward, and we will make Wayne County an ideal place for families to live, work and play.

**Kevin M. McNamara** is a Wayne County commissioner from Canton.



**Kevin McNamara**

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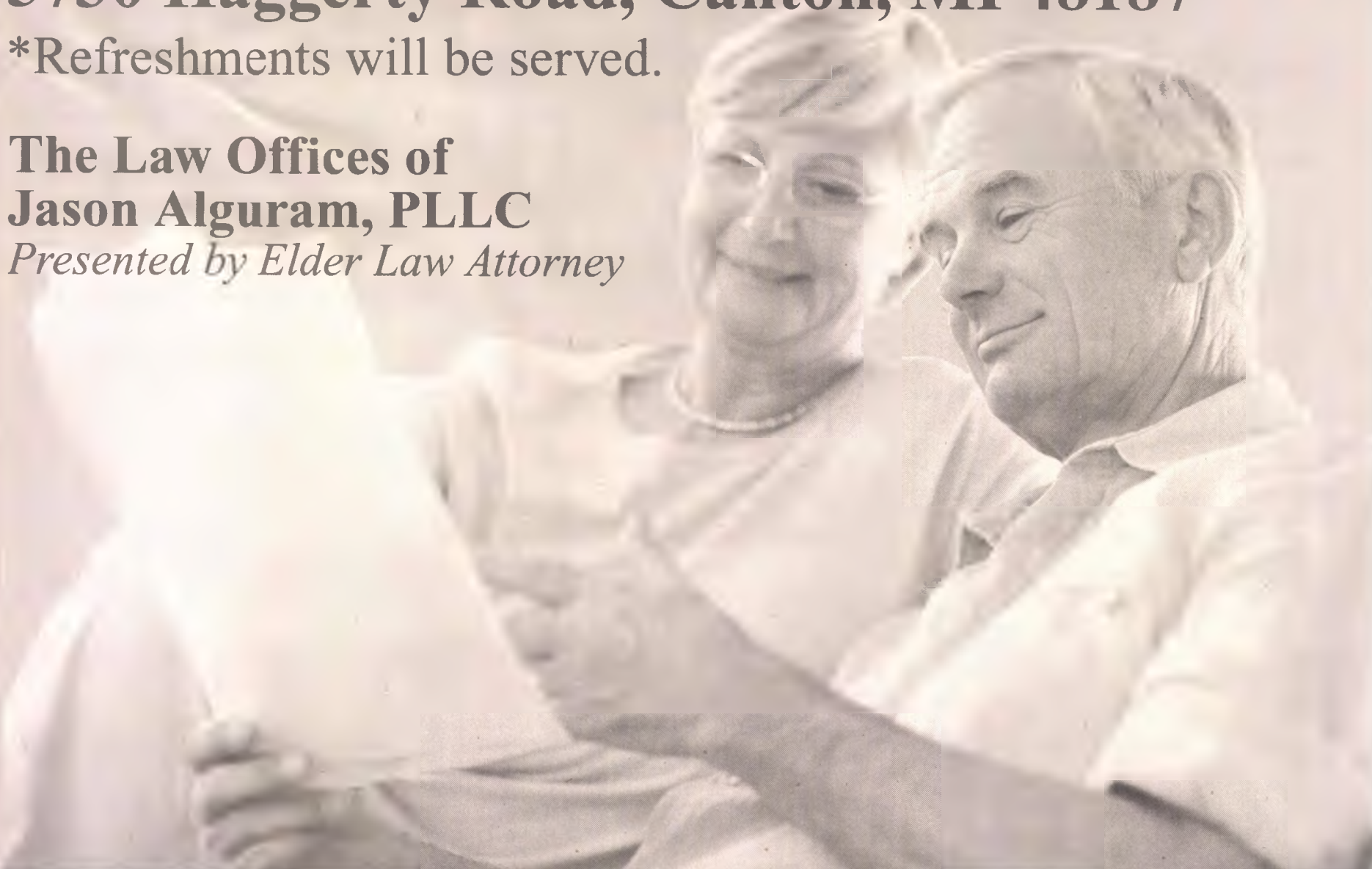
#### *Location:*

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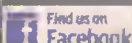
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# Rocks wear KLAAs crown

By Tim Smith  
Observer Staff Writer

When the going got tough Tuesday night, Salem's Tyler Stewart and Chris Dierker did all the heavy lifting.

Stewart and Dierker each scored nine of the Rocks final 18 points — beginning late in the third — for a come-from-behind 52-48 victory over Pinckney.

After the Rocks finished winning the KLAAs boys basketball championship game, the talented duo and their teammates got to do a different kind of lifting — the title trophy.

"You know those are

the go-to players," Salem head coach Bob Brodie said. "In big games, they've stepped up for us most of the season."

"They were bound and determined that they wanted their championship tonight."

Salem (18-2) trailed 34-32 with about one minute to play in the third when guard Nate Sass hit a jumper to even things up.

Stewart (20 points) then stole the ball and went in for a layup and Dierker (18 points, 11 rebounds, four blocks) walked in from the left corner to throw down a slam at the buzzer for a 38-34 lead.

They and their teammates kept it going in the

final frame, not allowing the Pirates to get any closer than three the rest of the night.

### Closing it out

The answers had all the answers down the stretch, with tight defense leading to several steals and transition buckets.

"I knew where they were going," explained Stewart after the game. "I anticipated well and knew we could fast break on them."

"We just needed to keep our defense going and fast break on them, take off when we got the rebound."

Concurring was Dier-

ker, who battled Pinckney's big and physical post players and often came away with the ball.

"We just had to get some rebounds, make some free throws at the end, hold the ball and don't turn it over," Dierker said.

Winning Salem's first KLAAs boys basketball championship wasn't easy, however.

The pesky Pirates (13-7) came out and carried the play early, building an 18-11 advantage after the first quarter.

"We knew they were going to come in very aggressive," Brodie said.

Please see **HOOPS, B2**



JOHN KEMSKI

The Salem Rocks hoist their newly won KLAAs championship trophy after defeating Pinckney Tuesday night.

## DIVISION 1 BOYS HOCKEY PRE-REGIONALS

# Chiefs hold off Rocks

By Tim Smith  
Observer Staff Writer

A few ticks on the scoreboard, a few inches on the Eddie Edgar Arena ice is all that separated Canton and Salem in Monday's Division 1 boys hockey pre-regional.

When the hard-fought, closely contested match-up was over, the Chiefs were 4-3 victors — advancing to Wednesday's regional semifinal against Livonia Churchill.

A furious late push by the Rocks to send the game to overtime was thwarted by Canton senior goalie Spencer Craig, who made several clutch stops.

"We had two, three or four great opportunities," Salem head coach Ryan Ossenmacher said. "Even before that we had a couple point-blank chances."

"Spencer Craig, for my money, is as good as it gets in high school hockey and when you fall behind against him you're going to have a hard time coming back."

According to Canton head coach Jeremy Majszak, the contest "was exactly what thought it was going to be, a hard-fought game. It was, all the way down to the buzzer."



Cutting around Salem defender Colin Pietron (No. 21) during Monday's pre-regional is Canton forward Brandon Grillo (No. 19). Trailing the play is the Chiefs Taylor Baker (No. 22).

Ossenmacher wondered what might have been had junior center Alek Zultowski not pulled up lame on a potential breakthrough in the final seconds of the second period and the game tied 2-2.

Zultowski, battling a hip flexor in recent weeks, aggravated the injury while stretching to reach a puck as it entered Canton's zone. He could not play the rest of the game.

"It's been lingering, and unfortunately it popped out at the wrong time," Ossenmacher said. "... It was just a bad break, one because it's a breakout and two, he's our top center and he was going to get a lot of ice time."

"It just pushed us down

a guy. But we battled, we had our chances."

### Trying to rally

After falling behind 4-2 on Canton's third-period goals by senior forward Duggan Tear and junior forward Matt Cox, the Rocks made a spirited bid to extend the game.

Salem senior center and team captain Mark McGee netted his second goal of the game (and 61st of his career, second most in school history) on a 5-on-3 power play with 5:13 left to make it a 4-3 deficit.

Sophomore linemate Jake Sealy centered the puck in front, where McGee roofed his shot over Craig's blocker.

Although the scoring play began with the Rocks on a two-man advantage, it ended just a second after Canton's first penalty expired. That meant Salem lost the second power-play chance by the slimmest of margins.

"That's their call, they're the officials," Ossenmacher said. "I had our assistant coaches watching the clock specifically for that reason. 'We thought we lost two seconds, but if they say we didn't, we didn't. In the end, that's not the reason we lost the game, either.'"

Salem (9-14-1) either had the lead or were tied for the first two periods,

Please see **HOCKEY, B3**

# Churchill ices 'Cats

By Brad Emons  
Observer Staff Writer

It's only the first leg of the MHSAA Division 1 boys hockey tournament, but Livonia Churchill appears poised for another strong run.

The Chargers, who reached the state quarterfinals last year before losing in four overtimes to Orchard Lake St. Mary, improved to 19-6 on the season with a 4-1 pre-regional victory Monday night over Plymouth at Livonia's Edgar Arena.

Churchill avoided a 4-3 OT loss on Feb. 4 to the Wildcats, move into the pre-regional final beginning at 6 p.m. Wednesday

to face Canton, which also advanced Monday night at Edgar with a 4-3 victory over rival Salem.

Plymouth led 1-0 after one period thanks to a power play goal from John VanDenBeurgery off a two-on-one play from Cody Staub.

Churchill then came back at 5:09 of the second period to tie it on Kevin Louwers' rebound goal off a shot from the left circle by Tommy Carey.

And at 8:16 of the second, Churchill took the lead for keeps on senior defenseman Jim Lelekatch's goal from Niek Proben and Riley Brown.

Please see **ICERS, B3**



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Vying for a loose puck Monday night are Livonia Churchill's Brad Milks and Plymouth's Cam Nadell (No. 18).

## CLASS A GIRLS BASKETBALL DISTRICTS

# Too little, too late for Salem girls

By Tim Smith  
Observer Staff Writer

Monday's 41-31 loss to Novi in the Class A districts ended the 2011-12 season for Salem's varsity girls basketball team, but veteran head coach Fred Thomann liked how the squad battled against the Wildcats — and made much improvement since the schedule began in December.

"We're a much better team now than we were at the beginning of the year," said Thomann, whose team finished with a 6-15 record.

He added that the Rocks "competed in a lot of games this year and had we made a couple key baskets we might have made it to the .500 mark."

As for the district quarterfinal against district-host Novi, Salem kept it close throughout. It was a 7-6 Rocks lead after one quarter and the Wildcats were up 18-17 at halftime. Only late in the fourth quarter did the game slip away.

"They defended us pretty well," Thomann said. "But I thought this was one of our better outings. We played well for long stretches in this game."

Novi's Kerri McMahan and Jade Antolec scored 18 and 11 points, respectively.

Leading Salem 18 points was senior guard Bri Berberet, with junior forward Breanne Beaver tallying six.

Senior point guard Katelynn Krause



JOHN KEMSKI

Eyeing the basket Monday night is Salem's Breanne Beaver (No. 20). In the background for the Rocks is Katie Heitmeyer (No. 22).

(Salem's all-KLAAs first-team selection) and sophomore Kelly Whalen each led the Rocks with six rebounds.

Thomann added that Berberet and Beaver were named all-conference honorable mentions.

tsmith@hometownlife.com  
(734) 469-4128

# Wildcats fall in district opener

By Tim Smith  
Observer Staff Writer

Monday's season-ending defeat left Plymouth varsity girls basketball coach Bob de Bear wondering "what if?"

The Wildcats dropped a 36-32 decision to South Lyon in a Class A district quarterfinal at Novi High School.

"It was a tough end to our year," de Bear said. "We just did not play well. A lot of that had to do with South Lyon. They are a good team, well-coached, and their defense was outstanding."

He lamented not having senior point guard Kate Watson at full strength for much of the season, including Monday night. Hampered by a lingering ankle injury, Watson played under a min-



Plymouth's Kate Watson (No. 3) takes the ball to the basket during Monday's district game.

JOHN KEMSKI

ute in her prep finale and showed her mettle by scoring four free throws. "She was an exciting, exciting player," de Bear

said. "And it's a shame she didn't have a chance to show it her senior

Please see **DISTRICT, B2**









## Livonia Civic Chorus gets a bite out of restaurant's sales



The Livonia Civic Chorus performs its winter 2011 show. The Chorus' spring show is May 6.

By Sharon Dargay  
O&E Staff Writer

The Livonia Civic Chorus will hold its first fundraiser Monday, March 5 — 47 years after its members began singing together.

It will participate in the Good Neighbor Rewards program, 11 a.m.-midnight, at Max and Erma's restaurant, 37714 Six-Mile, Livonia and will earn 20 percent of sales from supporters' lunches or dinners that day. Patrons must submit an event flyer along with their bill when they pay for their meals. Flyers are available on the Chorus website, <http://www.livoniacivicchorus.org>, at the UPS Store at Five Mile and Newburgh, from a Chorus member, or call (734) 542-9071.

Why did the Chorus wait 47 years to raise money in partnership with a local business?

"The issue is we weren't eligible because we weren't a 501c3 organization," said Peggy Gaskill, publicity chair. "We just acquired the designation in our fall. It's a designation from the IRS."

"Organizations from Max and Erma's to other restaurants make that a requirement."

The all-volunteer group decided to start the move toward becoming a nonprofit, 501c3 organization approximately two years ago. The change creates more opportunities for fundraising partnerships and grants.

"We didn't have the tax advantages and designations for people who make donations," Gaskill said. "When we'd do a spring show, we'd have a patron section in our program. We'd ask people to donate money and we'd put in their name in recognition. Now, if they chose to do so, they can deduct that donation from their taxes."

The chorus performs two shows every year. Members who sign up for the fall-winter semester pay \$50 in dues and sing at a show in December. Those who participate in the winter-spring semester also pay \$50 in dues and sing at a concert in May.

### Scholarships

Dues, ticket sales and patron advertisements in the

show programs raise money for venue rental, a portion of costume costs and other necessities, in addition to funding annual scholarships. Livonia Civic Chorus awards two scholarships annually to Livonia students for Interlochen Academy or Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp. It also gives a scholarship each fall to a music student at Madonna University.

"Another thing the 501c3 allows us to do is to apply for possible grants from organizations," Gaskill said. "We applied for a grant from the Livonia Community Foundation. It opens up a number of doors."

Gaskill said the chorus' 45 members chose Max & Erma's for its first fundraiser through a survey.

"We looked on websites to see what policies were and saw several restaurants. We did a survey of members and asked where they'd want to go out to eat to support the chorus."

### Upcoming shows

In addition to the fundraiser next week at Max & Erma's, the Livonia Civic Chorus will perform at the Livonia Symphony Orchestra's "Water Music" concert, 4 p.m. Saturday, April

28, at the Louis Schmidt Auditorium, Clarenceville High School, 20155 Middlebelt, in Livonia.

The chorus' spring concert, "Legends" is planned for 3 p.m., Sunday, May 6, also at Schmidt Auditorium.

The program will include music from the 1930s-50s, such as *I Left My Heart in San Francisco*, *Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy* and *Diamonds are a Girl's Best Friend*.

"We don't hold formal auditions. We love to

sing...and all of our music has to be memorized for concert performance."

For more information about joining the Livonia Civic Chorus, its shows or future fundraisers, visit [www.livoniacivicchorus.org](http://www.livoniacivicchorus.org).

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# Zoo seeks volunteers to assist visitors

The Detroit Zoological Society will offer four monthly orientation sessions through June for prospective volunteers.

The organization seeks individuals 18 and older to guide and assist visitors at the Detroit Zoo for 2012 season.

Recruitment and training of volunteers begin in the spring to prepare for the peak summer season, starting with the Detroit Zoo's annual Bunnyville event on April 7. Training will be offered for both seasonal and year-round opportunities in the Zoo's Arctic Ring of Life, Australian Outback Adventure and Wildlife Interpretive Gallery.

Volunteer positions at the zoo include:

- Docents train to become educators and interpreters at animal habitats throughout the zoo. They also lead tours and assist with educational programs at the zoo and in the community.

- Mob Squad members volunteer at the Australian Outback Adventure, where visitors get a close view of kangaroos, wallabies and emus.

- Gallery guides are based in the Wildlife Interpretive Gallery and spend their time talking about butterflies.

- Ford Education Center assistants help as needed. No specific training is required.

- Arctic Ring of Life guest assistants help



FILE PHOTO

Visitors get a close-up view of a kangaroo in the Australian Outback Adventure Exhibit at the Detroit Zoo, where members of the "Mob Squad," volunteer.

with crowd control in the exhibit.

- Staff aides offer clerical and telephone skills

- Special events offer opportunities to volunteer as greeters, craft assistants, face painters, storytellers, costume wearers and registration helpers. Each event has its wish list of specialized assistance. No specific training is provided.

- Orientation times and dates are:

- 9-11:30 a.m., Saturday, March 24

- 6-8:30 p.m., Thursday, April 19

- 9-11:30 a.m., Saturday, May 12

- 6-8:30 p.m., Thursday, June 7

"Volunteering with the DZS is fun and interesting for individuals who enjoy continuing education. A minimum commitment of 20 hours annually makes it easy for those with busy schedules.

Try it out for one season, April to October, and see how it fits," stated Linda Denomme, volunteer services manager, in a press release.

No experience is necessary to become a Detroit Zoological Society volunteer — just a friendly and outgoing personality. Volunteers enjoy benefits in exchange for their valuable time, including discounts and an annual volunteer appreciation party.

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Volunteer orientation sessions are held in the Detroit Zoo's Ford Education Center. Advance registration is required. For information and an application, call (248) 541-5717 ext. 3802 or e-mail volunteer@dzs.org. Last year, 1,133 vol-

unteers contributed 98,195 hours of service to the Detroit Zoological Society, representing \$2,097,445 in support.

The Detroit Zoo is located at 10 Mile (I-696 service drive) and Woodward Ave., in Royal Oak.



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So, craving a burger and fries? Believe it or not, it's easy to make this traditional comfort food into a healthful meal. Use lean ground beef for the burger patty, and skip the cheese to lower saturated fat. Top with healthful veggies, and go light on the condiments to create a well-balanced meal. Even frozen fries are lower in fat and sodium than in the past.

For more recipes and serving ideas from the U.S. Potato Board, visit [www.potatogoodness.com](http://www.potatogoodness.com).

### Burger and Shoestring Fries

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Serves 4

- 1 pound lean ground beef (5% fat), thawed
- ½ teaspoon garlic powder
- ½ teaspoon onion powder
- ½ teaspoon ground black pepper
- 2 medium tomatoes, sliced
- 1 medium red onion, sliced thinly
- 4 leaves red lettuce (or other leaf lettuce)
- 4 whole wheat hamburger buns
- 8 teaspoons ketchup
- 2 teaspoons mustard
- 4 cups frozen shoestring French fries

In a medium bowl, mix ground beef with seasonings; shape into patties. Grill or pan fry. Bake shoestring French fries according to package directions.

To complete the meal, serve with about ¾ cup blueberry, red raspberry and kiwi medley, or other fresh, frozen, or canned fruit medley, and sparkling water with a lemon slice or wedge.

Nutrition per serving: Calories, 490; total fat, 13g; saturated fat, 3.5g; % of calories from fat, 24%; % calories from sat fat, 8%; protein, 31g; carbohydrates, 66g; cholesterol, 65mg; dietary fiber, 10g; sodium, 670mg.



Burger and Shoestring Fries



Grilled Potato Dippers with a Trio of Sauces

### Grilled Potato Dippers with a Trio of Sauces

Serve these potato dippers as a side dish or a fun appetizer at your next gathering. The dipping sauces all use fat-free Greek yogurt as a base and can be made up to 24 hours ahead and stored tightly covered in the refrigerator.

- 2 pounds russet potatoes, scrubbed and cut into wedges
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- Sea salt to taste
- Sauces (see below)
- Red Pepper Basil Dipping Sauce:
  - ½ cup fat-free Greek yogurt
  - ½ cup roasted red peppers, drained and patted dry
  - 2 cloves garlic
  - ¼ cup each: sliced green onions and basil leaves
- Sea salt and freshly ground pepper to taste
- Caramelized Onion and Chive Dipping Sauce:
  - 1 tablespoon extra virgin olive oil
  - 1 medium onion, quartered and thinly sliced
  - 1 cup fat-free Greek yogurt
  - ¼ cup sliced chives or green onion tops
  - 2 tablespoons fresh rosemary leaves
- Sea salt and freshly ground pepper to taste
- Avocado Cilantro Dipping Sauce:
  - ½ cup fat-free Greek yogurt
  - 1 ripe avocado, peeled and pitted
  - 2 cloves garlic
  - ¼ cup lightly packed fresh cilantro leaves
  - ½ tablespoon lime juice
- Sea salt and freshly ground pepper to taste

Place potato wedges in a large bowl with olive oil; toss well to coat. Grill over medium-high heat for 10 minutes, turning once or twice, until lightly charred and cooked through. Season with salt and serve immediately with dippers.

#### Red Pepper Basil Dipping Sauce

Puree yogurt, peppers and garlic in a blender or small food processor. Add onions and basil and pulse on and off until finely chopped. Season to taste with salt and pepper.

Nutritional analysis per serving: Calories, 15; fat, 0g; cholesterol, 0mg; sodium, 105mg; potassium, 20mg; carbohydrates, 2g; fiber, 0g; sugar, 1g; protein, 2g; vitamin A, 15%; vitamin C, 15%; calcium, 2%; iron, 0%.

#### Caramelized Onion and Chive Dipping Sauce

Heat oil in a medium skillet. Add onion and cook over low heat for 20 minutes stirring frequently; let cool. Puree onion and yogurt in a blender or small food processor until smooth. Add chives and rosemary and pulse on and off until finely chopped. Season to taste with salt and pepper.

Nutritional analysis per serving: calories, 40; fat, 2g; saturated fat: 0g; trans fat, 0g; cholesterol, 0mg; sodium, 55mg; potassium, 31mg; carbohydrates, 3g; fiber, 0g; Sugar, 2g; protein, 3g; vitamin A, 2%; vitamin C, 4%; calcium, 8%; iron, 0%.

#### Avocado Cilantro Dipping Sauce

Puree yogurt, avocado and garlic in a blender or small food processor until smooth. Add cilantro and lime juice and pulse on and off until finely chopped. Season to taste with salt and pepper.

Nutritional analysis per serving: calories, 70; fat, 4g; saturated fat, 0.5g; trans fat, 0g; cholesterol, 0mg; sodium, 60mg; potassium, 162mg; carbohydrates, 4g.



Buffalo Chicken Potato Skins Recipe

### Buffalo Chicken Potato Skins Recipe

- 12 ounces boneless, skinless chicken breast
- 1 cup water
- 4 medium russet potatoes (about 6 ounces each)
- 3 tablespoons hot pepper sauce (like Frank's, not Tabasco)
- ¼ cup non-fat milk
- ¼ cup fat-reduced sour cream
- 1 tablespoon margarine
- ¼ cup crumbled blue cheese
- 2 green onions
- 2 medium tomatoes
- 4 celery stalks

Center oven rack and preheat oven to 425°F. Place chicken in a sauté pan, add water, and cover. Simmer for 20 minutes and remove from pan; let cool slightly. When chicken is cool enough to handle, shred using two forks, one in each hand.

While chicken is simmering, prepare remaining ingredients: Wash potatoes and slit each one lengthwise about 1-inch deep. Place potatoes in a microwave-safe dish and microwave on high, uncovered, for about 10 minutes. Let cool slightly. Slice each potato in half length-wise, scoop out potato, leaving a ¼-inch shell. Mash potato together with hot pepper sauce, sour cream, margarine, and milk. Fold in blue cheese and shredded chicken. Spoon mixture into potato skins slightly denting center (to hold fresh toppings after baking).

Place filled potato skins on a 9- by 13-inch baking sheet and bake about 15-20 minutes until tops are golden brown. Dice tomatoes and green onions. Cut celery stalks into four-inch sticks. To serve, top potatoes with onions and tomatoes. Serve celery sticks on the side for scooping potato contents.

Nutrition: Calories, 360; cholesterol, 45 mg; sodium, 550 mg; fat: 12 grams; fiber: 8 grams; protein: 20 grams

### Potato and Egg Dinner Bake

Breakfast for dinner is one of our favorite things. Just whip together this veggie filled potato-and-egg casserole and pop it in the oven. In 45 minutes you'll have a nutritious and delicious dinner that's easy on the budget at just \$1.62 per serving.

- ¾ pound red potatoes, cut into ½-inch cubes
- ½ cup each: chopped red bell pepper and zucchini
- ½ cup sliced green onions
- 2 cups coarsely shredded 2% or regular sharp cheddar cheese
- 8 eggs
- 3 tablespoons flour
- ½ teaspoon baking powder
- 1 teaspoon garlic salt
- 1 cup low-fat cottage cheese

Preheat oven to 350°F and spray an 11- by 7-inch casserole dish with nonstick cooking spray. Spread potatoes, pepper, zucchini, green onions and cheddar cheese into prepared pan. In a separate bowl, whisk together eggs, flour, baking powder and garlic salt. Stir in cottage cheese and pour into prepared dish; stir lightly. Bake for 45 minutes or until eggs are puffed, golden brown and set in the center.

Nutrition: Calories, 310; cholesterol, 315mg; sodium, 800mg; fat, 14g; vitamin C, 60%; potassium, 379mg; fiber, 2g; protein, 23g.

### Creamy Potato Leek Soup with Tangy Tarragon Drizzle

- 2 tablespoons butter
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 5 cups leeks, cleaned and thinly sliced (white and light green parts only)
- ½ cup chopped shallots
- ½ cup diced onion
- 1 teaspoon salt
- ½ teaspoon freshly ground pepper
- 5 cups reduced sodium chicken broth
- 3 medium (5.3 ounce) russet potatoes, peeled and cut into ½-inch cubes
- 2 bay leaves
- 1 slice whole wheat bread, lightly toasted and torn in to small pieces

- 1 cup low-fat evaporated milk
- Tangy Tarragon Drizzle:
  - ¼ cup reduced fat or fat-free mayonnaise
  - 6 tablespoons buttermilk
  - 2 teaspoons chopped fresh tarragon
  - 2 teaspoons Dijon mustard
  - Salt and pepper to taste
  - Tarragon leaves for garnish (if desired)

In a large Dutch oven or heavy pot, melt butter and olive oil together over medium heat. Add leeks, shallots and onions and stir to combine and coat with melted butter. Season with salt and pepper. Reduce heat to medium and cook until vegetables are softened, stirring frequently, about 10-15 minutes.

Increase heat to high and add chicken broth, cubed potatoes and bay leaves. Bring mixture to a boil, reduce heat and simmer until the potatoes are soft and tender, about 12-15 minutes. Remove half the potatoes and set aside. Add toasted bread and cook until bread begins to dissolve, about 5 more minutes. Remove bay leaves. Puree soup until smooth using a blender or food processor. Stir in reserved potatoes and evaporated milk. Top with Tangy Tarragon Drizzle before serving.

#### Tangy Tarragon Drizzle:

Mix all ingredients in a medium bowl. Season with salt and pepper. May be covered and refrigerated until ready to use. To serve, drizzle on soup and garnish with tarragon leaves.

Nutrition: Calories, 280; cholesterol, 25mg; sodium, 820mg; fat, 15g; vitamin C, 25%; potassium, 731mg; fiber, 2g; protein, 9g.

## Report: Metropolitan Detroit housing market improves in recent months

The list of housing markets showing measurable improvement expanded by 29 metros in February to include a total of 98 entries on the National Association of Home Builders/First American Improving Markets Index (IMI), released Feb. 6. Thirty-six states are now represented by at least one market on the list.

Michael Stoskopf, CEO of the Building Industry Association of Southeastern Michigan, said the market has improved recently. "Over the last couple of months, locations in Michigan start showing up," he said. Those included Grand Rapids and Muskegon.

The metro Detroit area showed up in February's report, for the four counties of Wayne, Oakland, Macomb and St. Clair. "They look at three factors." Those are sustained improvement in home sale prices, new home permits, and employment.

"All three of those areas have improved consistently," a pleased Stoskopf said.

"Pleasantly surprised. You hope that the Lions make the playoffs and all of a sudden they do. Hopefully we stay on this list for a while."

He had looked monthly at statistics, and found "all of those factors are holding. It comes down to jobs."

"Once they get back to work and they feel secure in that job ..." Typically consumers who feel secure will begin to move or perhaps buy a car.

"That economic activity spurs additional activity. I think that's really what we're seeing," Stoskopf said.

In the last six months in the four-country metro area, 27,000 people have returned to work, he said. "That's 27,000 people that now have that potential to buy a home."

"It's pretty good news, we're

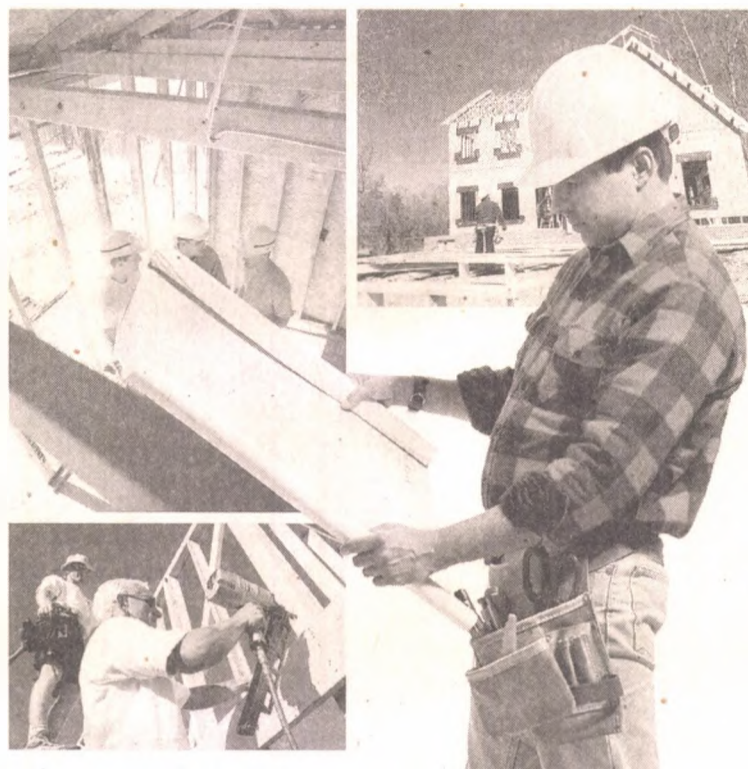
very excited about it. Hopefully we can sustain the momentum," Stoskopf added.

The index identifies metropolitan areas that have shown improvement from their respective troughs in housing permits, employment and house prices for at least six consecutive months. The February index adds some metropolitan areas that have been particularly weak; this is due to the fact that the IMI measures improvement from a bottom, and some of the hardest hit markets are showing signs of coming off of extreme lows. Keeping this in mind, notable new entrants to list in February include Miami, Fla.; Boston; Detroit; Kansas City, Mo.; Portland, Ore.; Memphis, Tenn.; and Salt Lake City.

"The number of improving housing markets has risen for six consecutive months, and 36 states now have at least one metropolitan area on the list," said NAHB Chairman Bob Nielsen, a home builder from Reno, Nev. "This indicates that despite the many challenges that continue to drag on a housing recovery — including the tight lending environment for builders and buyers — improving conditions are slowly but surely spreading from one housing market to the next."

"While many of the markets on the February IMI are far from fully recovered, the index points out where employment, home prices and housing production are no longer retreating and have held above their lowest recession troughs for six months or more," said NAHB Chief Economist David Crowe. "This is a sign that a large cross section of the country is starting to turn the corner as local economic conditions stabilize."

"The fact that there are nearly 100 markets now on



the improving list shows that the momentum is building for a housing recovery and that more buyers and sellers are starting to feel confident enough to return to the market," said Kurt Pfothenauer, vice chairman of First American Title Insurance Company.

The IMI is designed to track housing markets throughout the country that are showing signs of improving economic health. The index measures three sets of independent monthly data to get a mark on the top improving Metropolitan Statistical Areas. The three indicators that are analyzed are employment growth from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, house price appreciation from Freddie Mac, and single-family housing permit growth from the U.S. Census Bureau. NAHB uses the latest available data from

these sources to generate a list of improving markets.

A metropolitan area must see improvement in all three areas for at least six months following their respective troughs before being included on the improving markets list.

Seven markets dropped from the NAHB/First American Improving Markets Index in February as they experienced softening house prices. These metros include San Jose, Calif.; Washington, D.C.; Kankakee, Ill.; New Orleans; Worcester, Mass.; Jackson, Miss.; and Sherman, Texas.

A complete list of all 98 metropolitan areas currently on the IMI, and a separate breakout of metros newly added to the list in February, is available at: [www.nahb.org/imi](http://www.nahb.org/imi).

O&E staff writer Julie Brown contributed to this report.

## Nashville shows some high notes

By Robert Meisner  
Guest Columnist

**Q:** I understand that downtown Nashville is a source of redevelopment, but do you have any information about it?

**A:** Like many cities, including Detroit, there was a mass exodus of commercial and retail

from downtown Nashville about 20 years ago. Slowly, but surely, however, retail and office building



Robert Meisner

development has returned to downtown Nashville particularly with the stadia that have been constructed as well as the commuter railroad which offers an opportunity for people to come directly to the downtown area have helped revitalize the area. Of course, there is still the honkytonk streets filled with bars providing all sorts of music which is a major attraction and results in increased activity. Also, a new convention center is planned which will also spur development and the increase in real estate property values.

**Q:** Our board has some concern about coyotes and other potentially dangerous animals entering our condominium project. Are we, in effect, responsible for the behavior of indigenous wild animals?

**A:** Generally not. Generally speaking, community associations are not responsible for the behavior of indigenous wild animals — a legal doctrine known as *ferae naturae*. However, a recent ruling in Georgia poses an inroad into the blanket immunity that community associations have enjoyed. In that case, the majority in the Appellate Court said that it is reasonable to consider whether liability exists for the association, based in part on its policy of removing alligators that were more than seven feet long. In that situation, the alligator that killed a woman was more than eight feet long. So in any situation, you should consult with your community association attorney and insurance carrier.

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

### HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS-WAYNE

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of Nov. 14-18, 2011, at the Wayne County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

**CANTON**  
39580 Cather St \$95,000  
50137 Grant St \$227,000  
5873 Meadowview Dr \$285,000  
4242 Monarch Ave \$154,000  
289 Selkirk St \$145,000

6921 Sylvania Ln \$350,000  
GARDEN CITY  
6148 Cardwell St \$93,000  
623 Gilman St \$65,000  
31983 Leona St \$75,000  
31930 Rosslyn Ave \$53,000  
LIVONIA  
30257 Acacia St \$108,000  
18975 Bainbridge Ave \$170,000  
36184 Fairway Dr \$45,000  
20626 Golf Ridge Cir \$262,000  
35638 Grennada St \$110,000  
18608 Irving St \$134,000  
11100 Karen St \$82,000  
29447 Mark Ln \$125,000

9870 Merriman Rd \$65,000  
30989 Orangelawn St \$130,000  
29870 Richland St \$115,000  
20218 Saint Francis St \$50,000  
9921 Seltzer St \$110,000  
15953 Woodring Dr \$124,000  
9289 Woodring St \$125,000  
NORTHVILLE  
16775 Black River Dr \$446,000  
46597 Crystal Downs W \$467,000  
39640 Rockcrest Ln \$115,000  
17697 Rolling Woods Cir \$448,000  
16115 Thornydyke Ct \$305,000  
39507 Village Run Dr \$240,000  
PLYMOUTH

676 Burroughs St \$190,000  
13200 Cambridge Ct \$320,000  
46490 Rockledge Dr \$280,000  
REDFORD  
25280 Five Mile Rd \$17,000  
14210 Breakfast Dr \$134,000  
9103 Dale \$35,000  
19512 Garfield \$35,000  
19452 Lexington \$45,000  
19782 Sumner \$45,000  
26245 W Six Mile Rd \$18,000  
WESTLAND  
32250 Hazelwood St \$70,000  
32726 Winona St \$98,000

### HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS-OAKLAND

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of Nov. 7-11, 2011, at the Oakland County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

**BEVERLY HILLS**  
32355 Eastlady Dr \$483,000  
BIRMINGHAM  
976 Bird Ave \$100,000  
2196 Manchester Rd \$210,000  
309 N Eton St \$40,000  
452 Park St \$260,000  
1889 Pine St \$379,000

1431 Washington Blvd \$547,000  
2601 Windemere Rd \$170,000  
BLOOMFIELD HILLS  
2735 Ayrshire Dr \$200,000  
518 Kingsley Trl \$555,000  
BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP  
2816 Birchwood Ct \$575,000  
1042 Brethaven Dr \$152,000  
702 Browning Ct \$1,100,000  
1839 Golf Ridge Dr \$137,000  
7285 Kingswood Dr \$370,000  
COMMERCE TOWNSHIP  
8627 Cooley Lake Rd # 309 \$256,000  
8648 Hummingbird \$265,000  
FARMINGTON  
23731 Ely Ct \$80,000  
33718 Grand River Ave \$150,000

35527 Heritage Ln \$78,000  
21246 Larkspur St \$118,000  
FARMINGTON HILLS  
26315 Drake Rd \$215,000  
27948 Gettysburg St \$148,000  
38887 Holsworth Ct \$196,000  
30139 Kimberly Ct \$230,000  
28634 Kirkside Ln \$240,000  
24829 Lakeland St \$185,000  
29041 Summerwood Rd \$200,000  
36838 Tanglewood Ln \$178,000  
31120 W Eight Mile Rd \$450,000  
35231 White Pine Trl \$160,000  
MILFORD  
803 Atlantic St \$212,000  
373 Whitewater St \$225,000  
NOVI

50829 Calvert Isle Dr \$463,000  
50708 Chesapeake Dr \$686,000  
25890 Clark St \$128,000  
24065 Cranbrooke Dr \$165,000  
23485 Winthrop Ct \$238,000  
SOUTHFIELD  
15834 Fairfax St \$90,000  
28530 Fairfax St \$12,000  
21420 Frazer Ave \$19,000  
29809 N Bedford St \$85,000  
19307 Nadol Dr \$69,000  
29351 Rambling Rd \$40,000  
23558 Russell St \$66,000  
20702 Woodburn Dr \$47,000  
WHITE LAKE  
8797 Cooley Beach Dr \$77,000

### REAL ESTATE BRIEFS

#### On the job

RE/MAX Classic announced Teresa McCollom has joined the Canton office. McCollom is a longtime resident of Canton and has branded herself as a real estate professional in Western Wayne, Oakland, Livingston, Washtenaw and Macomb counties

for the past 10 years. She specializes in residential and commercial sales and leasing, executive properties, golf course communities and buyer representation. McCollom is certified as a Short Sale and Foreclosure Resource Specialist and brings with her a strong

background in interior design and staging offering home sellers a unique edge selling their home in today's market.

"Teresa is genuine, professional and extremely dedicated when it comes to servicing her clients. Her knowledge and exceptional communication skills and caring have made her a much sought after Realtor in the industry," said Carol Boji, broker/owner of RE/MAX Classic.

"Real estate isn't just my career, it's my lifestyle," said McCollom on the secret to her success. "I live it continually in all facets of my life. I see a new door opening every day for families buying their first home, moving up or scaling down."

#### Wayne Investors

Wayne Real Estate Investors Association will

host Noel Selewski of Noel Selewski Insurance Agency Tuesday, March 6, speaking on insurance on empty or rented units. Meetings are 7:30 p.m. the first Tuesday of the month at Red Lobster on Eureka on Southgate. Call Wayne Koehler, (313) 277-4168.

#### Investors

"Mr. Landlord" (Jeffrey Taylor), a nationally known "Landlording Expert" and author, will cover finding qualified prospects, having tenants leave the property in move-in condition and how to increase monthly cash flow when filling vacancies at the regular meeting of the Real Estate Investors Association of Oakland on Thursday, March 8, 5:30-9:30 p.m. at Club Venetian, 29310 John R, north of 12 Mile, Madison Heights.

Seminar free to members. \$20 nonmembers. [www.RELAofOAKLAND.com](http://www.RELAofOAKLAND.com); (800) 747-6742.

#### Real Estate Career Seminar

A free Real Estate Career Seminar will be held 6:30-7:30 p.m. Thursday, March 15, at Keller Williams Realty 40600 Ann Arbor Road, Suite 100 Plymouth. For more information, contact Lesley Aiello at (734) 459-4700 or [laiello@kw.com](mailto:laiello@kw.com).

#### BIA courses

Building Industry Association of Southeastern Michigan will present all three courses needed for Certified Aging-in-Place designation by the National Association of Home Builders. Don Pratt, CAPS, CGB, CGR of CECS of Michigan,

LLC will be the instructor for all three. He will cover the technical, business management and customer service skills essential for competing. CAPS I, Marketing and Communication Strategies for Aging and Accessibility, will be held on Monday, March 12. CAPS II, Design/Build Solutions for Aging and Accessibility, will be held on Tuesday, March 13. Business Management, the third course required for this designation, will be held on Wednesday, March 14. Each session runs from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Association Offices, 2075 Walnut Lake Road, West Bloomfield. Registration for each course is \$195 per person for BIA members and \$225 per person for guests. For information, call (248) 862-1002 or register online at [www.builders.org](http://www.builders.org).









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# Spring rituals renew, refresh

**W**e all have our looking-for-spring rituals triggered by months of gray skies and cold, dark mornings. My ritual is peering out the kitchen window in hopes of seeing a loyal pair of mallard ducks who visit our backyard waiting to take advantage of the shallow pond created by the spring rains. I tell myself it's the same couple who have been visiting for many years, but I can't be sure. Nevertheless, they are fun to watch for as long as they stay.

Other rituals include the crocuses that poke out of the ground near my door, the sweet song of birds in the morning and, of course, Detroit Tigers spring training.

Think about those rituals that are close to your heart, because spring is just around the corner — 1:14 a.m. Tuesday, March 20, to be exact.

Although winter has been relatively mild, there's something about the first signs of spring that are invigorating.



Susan Rosiek

## Planning

Spring is all about renewal. It's about looking forward and planning too. And that's the theme of this month's *Hometown Life Woman*. Read about pampering yourself at the spa (renewing body and spirit) and planning your child's (or your) trip to camp this summer (it's time to save a spot).

Also inside is our special section on weddings and planning your special celebration.

Enjoy today's *Hometown Life Woman* and plan to add your voice and photo to our May edition — A Salute to Women. Tell us about a special memory of your grandmother (in 50 words or less, if possible). Whether you call her bubbe, babcia, nana, nona or just plain grandma, share that special memory and photo (jpeg format attached to email) with May readers.

Susan Rosiek  
publisher/executive editor  
srosiek@hometownlife.com

## Submit your memory of grandma!

E-mail your favorite memory and photo (of you and grandma) to srosiek@hometownlife.com. Be sure to include your first and last name and identify your grandmother with a first and last name, too. Include your hometown (Birmingham, Plymouth, Novi or other). Don't forget to provide a daytime phone number where you can be reached. Then look for your photo and/or memory in the May edition of *Hometown Life Woman*.

## 4 THE BANGLES

Birmingham artist shines at gift fair

## 6 GET CAMPY

Start planning now for awesome kid and adult camp experiences

## 8 FEMALE FINANCE

Retirement issues differ for women

# CONTENTS

## AAHHH, SPA

## 18

Before you go, learn all about spa etiquette



## 10 STYLE FILE

Finding jewelry accents at any price point

## 14 THE SKINNY

Small plates and slimmed-down snacks

## 15 THE EYES HAVE IT

Getting that perfect smoky look



## Weddings

Page 21 — Plan your Wedding from the Heart  
Page 22 — Picking colors  
Page 23 — Make your reception unforgettable  
Page 24 — The perfect dress  
Page 26 — Wearing glasses to your wedding  
Page 27 — Wedding shoes

Page 28 — Tips, sips for the perfect reception  
Page 30 — Avoid post-nuptial depression  
Page 31 — Crafting a Unity Candle  
Page 32 — Thoughts for the groom  
Page 34 — Being prepared: Wacky wedding facts

Weddings special section credits: Dennis Zelazny, advertorial editor; Eron Powers, advertorial designer

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# Birmingham woman's design shines at New York gift fair

The retailing industry's prestigious trade magazine *Retailing Insight* chose the hand-stamped wooden bangle bracelet by Birmingham artist Beth North as one of a dozen "Best in Show" pieces of the acclaimed New York International Gift Fair.

North was one of just 45 new designers juried into the "hand-made" section of the NYIGF, chosen from some 600 entries around the world.

The NYIGF, a style and design standard-setter among gift and home industry events, was held in late August in New York City. A bi-annual event, it brings top artists and designers from around the world and is attended by U.S. and international retailers, from world-class department stores to trend-setting specialty boutiques.

The Fall 2011 NYIGF exhibited 100,000 lines from 2,800 companies.

North's bracelet was showcased in the "Hand-Made Designer Maker" category, where she exhibited her jewelry collection.

*Retailing Insight*, in its January-February 2012 issue, raves, "Hand painted wood makes these bracelets truly one of a kind. Every inch is filled with hand-stamped 'be' words, each one expressing something different. What better way to celebrate individuality, intimacy, freedom and openness."

"Since my jewelry is hand-made," North said, "each piece is an original and bears its own unique fingerprint. Few things in life are ever as rigidly structured as they might seem, and it's this fluidity that really interests me."

North has been designing jewelry and accessories for 15 years out of her studio in Birmingham. She works in some of the Earth's most treasured elements: metal, wood, pearls and precious stones. North has won numerous awards, among them: "Gold Award, Our Town Art Show," "Best of Show, Art in the Park, Birmingham" and "Best of Show, Art Birmingham."

She is now venturing into the national and international wholesale market with her collection. Her website is [www.bethnorth.com](http://www.bethnorth.com).



Birmingham artist Beth North was one of only 45 new designers juried into the "hand-made" section of the NYIGF, chosen from some 600 entries around the world.



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**Jill Halpin**

Contributing Writer

Whether you have a budding Albert Einstein or the next Venus Williams or Prince Fielder on your hands, now is the time to start looking for the right summer camp for your child.

No matter where your child's interest lies — science, athletics or theater and performing arts — there is a camp out there just waiting for them to attend. The important thing is identifying it, making sure it is a good fit for your child and, most importantly, registering in time to reserve a spot.

These days, summer camps exist for just about anything, camp experts say, but when it comes to getting in, timing is everything, and the time to start planning for the summer is right now.

"Not all camps are the same. There are both subtle and dramatic differences between camps and planning ahead gives you the opportunity to make sure you have your choice between them," said Dan Maier, executive vice president of the YMCA of Metropolitan Detroit.

## YMCA camps

The YMCA of Metropolitan Detroit (<http://www.ymcadetroit.org>) runs a vari-

ety of day camps throughout both Oakland and Wayne counties, as well as offering week-long "sleep-away camps" in Holly and the northern Michigan town of Oscoda, Maier said.

At the Farmington YMCA, day campers are divided by age with each group enjoying age-appropriate activities and field trips including visits to state parks and Metropark beaches, or choosing from a variety of sports-related camps.

Similar day camp programs are also available at the YMCAs in Birmingham, Livonia, Milford, Plymouth and Royal Oak. Some YMCA camp attendees can hone their bowling or tennis skills, or pick up an entirely new sport such as archery or fishing.

## Value added experience

Although some of the YMCA day camps vary by location, most camps will offer value-added experiences, like weaving, reading and math literacy skills, throughout an activity, Maier said.

"They can be doing math at a picnic table, or learning to read and write while doing a play," he said.

Maier reminds parents looking for a summer camp to look closely at what the camp has to offer their child.

"You never want to look at a camp

based on price alone; you want to look at the value-added and the quality of the camp. If you start the process early, you'll find that the camps with the greatest quality fill up the fastest," he said.

## Register early

Registering early for camp also provides an opportunity for some families to obtain the scholarships or other financial assistance.

"Some camps offer assistance to families that need it in these troubled times and the earlier you apply, the more likely these funds will be available for you," Maier said.

Sue Seestadt, a Milford mother of three, agrees that advance planning is key to getting into the right camp and ensuring your child has a successful experience.

"Summer camps can be such a good use of their time; they provide a little bit of structure and education during the summer as well as an opportunity to learn some new skills," said Seestadt, whose children have attended camps through the local YMCA as well as sports camps through state universities and community programs.

Please see **AWESOME, 12**

# Summer camps aren't just for kids anymore

**By Jill Halpin**

Contributing Writer

Those in the business of providing camps and other vacation-learning opportunities for adults say that interest in summer camps is on the upswing.

"Camp isn't just for kids anymore. Lifelong learning, expanding skills and interests while spending time with friends is a growing phenomenon with adults today," said Peg Smith, executive director of the American Camp Association (<http://www.acacamps.org/>).

In fact, Smith added, interest in "camping" opportunities for adults has grown and as a result, opportunities abound for adults looking to learn new skills or refine old ones during their vacation time.

## Blue Lake

In northern Michigan, Blue Lake Fine Arts camp (<http://www.bluelake.org/>), world-renowned for its youth camping experiences, has also taken note of the increased interest in camps for adults. It has expanded its summer camp offerings for adults, offering camps for those interested in everything from chamber music and piano to "improvisational beading" as well as a Shakespearean Theater camp.

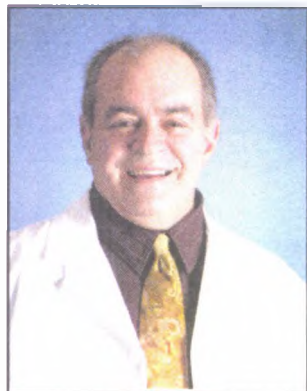
Interest and demand are the major drivers behind the program expansion, according Sandy Sheroky of the camp's International Exchange Program.

"I think there is a little bit of kid left in everyone," Sheroky said, explaining the surge in popularity. "People like to be together with others that have the same interests, and there is not always an

Please see **ADULTS, 13**

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# Retirement issues differ for women

By Richard W. Paul  
Guest Columnist

On average women live longer than men. This is good news if you are a woman, and have the right financial plan in place to cover those additional years.

Women have different financial planning needs than men, and these concerns need to be properly evaluated and controlled, to be financially prepared for retirement.



Richard Paul

## Issues to consider

Some of the issues women face on their road to retirement are:

- Women live longer so they need their money to

last for an additional five years on average. They should have a retirement plan in place for a 20- to 30-year span.

- Women make 77.8 cents for every \$1 a man earns. This results in women having smaller amounts to invest during their careers.

- Women on average spend less time in the workplace. Women are more likely than men to take time off from their careers to deal with family responsibilities, this can lead to significantly lower career earnings to invest.

- Women tend to have lower Social Security benefits in general because of lower income and less time in the workplace.

- Married women often are often caught off-guard by the passing of their husband. Most have not planned for the loss of one of the Social Security checks, and a possible reduction in the pension. If the husband takes the full pension with no survivor option, this situation needs to be addressed immediately by doing the necessary planning to ensure the spouse can maintain her lifestyle.

These are just a few considerations that should be examined when a woman is planning for a successful retirement. Because of these issues it is important for women to make retirement planning a priority. Educate yourself about the different investment vehicles and strategies available to help you reach your retirement goals.



## Retirement planning

Here are some of the issues to consider when creating a retirement income plan.

Develop a clear vision of how you want to spend your retirement. Do you want to move to a different area to be closer to family? Do you want to travel the world? Without this vision you will be unaware of how much income you will need in your retirement years.

A retirement plan should be a priority. This means putting your money to work. If your company offers a 401(k), 403(b) or 457 plan it would be to your benefit to contribute as much as you can afford into these vehicles monthly.

Educate yourself on investing – talk to a qualified financial planner. I recommend a Certified Financial Planner (CFP) because of his/her educational commitment to the profession that most advisers do not have. I also recommend working with a Registered Investment Adviser (RIA) because she/he has a fiduciary obligation to do what's in the best interest of the client. This is a higher level of commitment than the traditional suitability standard most advisers operate under.

Please see RETIRE, 9





# Ford, Kelly on list of top corporations for women's businesses

Ford Motor Co. and Kelly Services Inc. have been named to the nation's most prestigious list of corporations doing business with women's businesses.

The Women's Business Enterprise National Council (WBENC) last month announced its 13th annual listing of America's Top Corporations for Women's Business Enterprises, the only national award honoring corporations for world class programs that level the playing field for women's business enterprises (WBEs) to compete for corporate business.

This year WBENC recognizes 29 corporations for developing and driving innovative best practices across their organizations that result in productive business partnerships with women entrepreneurs and valuable products and services for their customers. On the list from Michigan are Ford Motor Co. for the first time and Kelly Services, Inc. for the third consecutive year.

"Our Top Corporations know that women's businesses drive innovation and competitiveness in today's marketplace," said Pamela Prince-Eason, President and CEO of WBENC.

Founded in 1997 and celebrating its 15th anniversary, WBENC will honor the companies and other outstanding women entrepreneurs later this month in Baltimore.

The list of 2011 Top Corporations for Women Business Enterprises also includes: Accenture, Alcatel-Lucent, Avis Budget Group, AT&T, BP America, Bank of America, Chevron, Coca-Cola, Dell, Inc., Energy Future Holdings, Ernst & Young LLP, Exxon Mobil, IMB, Johnson & Johnson, ManpowerGroup, Marriott International, Office Depot, Pacific Gas and Electric, PepsiCo, Pfizer, Pitney Bowes, Shell Oil, Staples, Target, United Airlines, UPS and Verizon.

For more information, go to [www.wbenc.org](http://www.wbenc.org)

## RETIRE

Continued from page 8

### Financial planner

Most initial meetings with a financial planner are complimentary and they will review your situation to see if you are on a solid path for your retirement.

Women have more obstacles to overcome when preparing for retirement, but this does not have to mean that they cannot enjoy their years of retirement. With a financial plan that is based upon a solid foundation for monthly needs, and the allocation of money in a diversified investment portfolio, retirement can be the best years of your life.

After all, a woman wears many hats in a lifetime — daughter, mother, wife, employee, grandmother, just to name a few. She is someone who gives of herself daily, whether it's to her family, her career, or both.

Retirement should be a time to enjoy. With proper planning, retirement can be some of the best years in life.

**Richard W. Paul**, a Certified Financial Planner, is founder and president of Midwest Financial Consultants, and Richard W. Paul & Associates, LLC, a registered investment advisory firm, both based in Novi. He is also a Certified Estate Planner (CEP®), Registered Financial Consultant (RFC®) and Registered Investment Advisor.

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# Style staples: jewelry essentials for every budget



(ARA) - Every woman knows there are some basics that have to be in her closet: a little black dress, a pencil skirt, a great pair of jeans and a classic purse. With the right building blocks, you can put together an outfit that's stylish, feminine and timeless, without a lot of fuss.

The same idea should apply to your jewelry collection. When you have the essential pieces, you'll be prepared for any occasion, whether you need to be subtle or want to turn some heads. Cristina Ehrlich, celebrity stylist and Pandora Jewelry ambassador, outlines six can't-live-without-them pieces that you should have on hand.

## 1. A statement ring

One jewelry trend that has lasted throughout many seasons is a cocktail ring that makes a statement. "Floral motifs and precious gemstones set in gold or sterling silver are classic choices," Ehrlich says. She also points out that you can experiment with different kinds of stones, such as bright orange carnelian or freshwater pearls, which are available in every color from creamy white to champagne or peacock blue. For a classic look stick to black onyx or spinel, which go with everything.

## 2. Earrings of various lengths

This is a three-in-one essential: You should have studs, dangling earrings and hoops. "Studs are flattering on everyone," Ehrlich says. "They brighten the face and can easily be worn from day to night." Although stud earrings can be worn each day, every woman needs something dangly and eye-catching for a night out or to

dress up an everyday outfit. Choose a color that complements most of your existing wardrobe so you can wear them often, such as black onyx with diamond accents. And every woman should own a pair of hoop earrings in either sterling silver or 14-karat gold. "For a twist on classic hoops, choose interchangeable earrings that can be customized with long dangles or short drop pendants to create a different look for every day of the week," Ehrlich adds.

## 3. Bangles

Having a fun set of bangles is the key to dressing up any outfit for an evening. Ehrlich advises choosing a simple style in sterling silver for a polished look, or bangles with colorful accents for a bit more playfulness. Layer your bangles with other bracelets to create the look you want. "I love to layer silver bangles with black leather bracelets," suggests Ehrlich.

## 4. Chain necklaces

"A simple chain in sterling silver, oxidized silver or 14-karat gold is a classic piece that you will be able to reinvent again and again," Ehrlich says. Choose a long and a short chain to give you more options. Layer them together for a modern look, or choose to wear one with a beautiful pendant, clip or charm.

## 5. A watch

A great watch has been a jewelry staple for some time, but with prominence of cell phones, many women have mistakenly tucked their watches away in the jewelry box. Opt for a more delicate piece that looks like a

bracelet, or if it suits your style, go for a bigger, menswear-inspired watch. Ehrlich points out that some watch designers allow the wearer to switch out watch faces, bezels and bands to create a completely customizable look. No matter which you prefer, choose a classic style that can be worn with any outfit.

## 6. A bracelet you love

Building on an old tradition, contemporary charm bracelets allow the wearer to create a personalized and unique piece of jewelry, tailored to their own preferences and taste. The Pandora collection includes classic charm bracelets in sterling silver, 14-karat gold or two-tone, as well as more modern options such as the double-braided leather bracelet, all of which can be customized with a selection of hundreds of charms and clips. "You can change the charms on your bracelet to suit your mood or the occasion," Ehrlich points out. "Any event or milestone in your life can be the occasion for adding a charm to your collection."

When it comes to buying your essential jewelry pieces, look for those made from genuine, quality materials such as sterling silver, 14-karat gold, precious and semi-precious stones, which will retain their value and beauty for years. The key to choosing each piece in your collection is to keep in mind your wardrobe and favorite colors so that you will have a variety of accessories to wear for any occasion and any outfit. And of course, always choose something that celebrates your individual style.

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### By Shane L Stanley, D.C.

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**Age: 56**

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# AWESOME

Continued from page 6

## Save your spot

Dianne Zurawsky of Plymouth Township's New Morning School's popular "Discovery Days" camps puts it more bluntly: register as soon as possible and "save your spot."

Zurawsky said that some parents already understand the importance of planning ahead and registering early to reserve a space in the camp of their choice.

"I've actually had to send someone a draft of our camp schedule so she had the dates to register in advance and could be sure to sign up right away," Zurawsky said.

Zurawsky said that one of the most popular camps that New Morning School offers is a Lego camp, which features hands-on robotics and science.

"Our princess camp is always very popular, too," she added. The camps, which run summer mornings Monday through Friday, also offer an opportunity for parents and caregivers to have some free time while their children are enjoying a fun learning experience.

New Morning School offers camps for children ages 3-11; a complete listing can be found on its website at <http://www.newmorningschool.org>

## Kids on Campus

Schoolcraft College's Kids on Campus program also has offerings for day campers from first grade through high school. The program offers four week-long sessions focusing on a wide variety of topics ranging from pottery, robotics and culinary arts to choosing a career and video creation.

With camp sessions such as "Camp Scrubs: Adventures in Medicine" and "Make it Work: Structure and Design," the Schoolcraft program has a wide appeal for kids of all ages, said Program Manager Michele Bialo.

"Kids have a variety of interests and we want to appeal to them on many different levels," she said. "The week-long session allows them to explore a variety of interests over a four week session. We have a lot of repeat campers." For more complete information, see <http://www.schoolcraft.edu/koc/documents/koc-2012.pdf>.

## Cranbrook

The summer camp sessions at Cranbrook Schools in Bloomfield Hills ([http://schools.cranbrook.edu/ftpimages/209/misc/misc\\_91566.pdf](http://schools.cranbrook.edu/ftpimages/209/misc/misc_91566.pdf)) are aimed at students ages 3-14 and are also designed to appeal to a wide range of interests.



Although it is offering many science-based camps, concentrating on many levels of robotics, the school's day camps also focuses on the arts with its Summer Art Studio, Cranbrook Theatre School and a Young Authors camp. It also offers separate camps for both boys and girls, which include a variety of areas of focus as well as outdoor activities such as archery and lacrosse.

## Special opportunities

For Karen Austin of Plymouth, attending camps during the summer provided her sons with some unique opportunities to expand their athletic skills while developing some real life skills along the way.

Both Derek, now a freshman at Ferris State University, and Shaun, a senior at Plymouth High School, have attended a variety of summer camps focusing on both soccer and football from the time

they were 10 years old.

Going away to camp for a few days or a week helped them gain some independence as well as time management skills, Austin said.

"They had to manage themselves a little bit: get up on time in the morning for breakfast, make sure their clothes and shoes were clean without Mom being there to do it for them. It was a little touch of reality," Austin said.

Although she admits she missed her boys while they were away, she said she appreciates the opportunity that the elite sporting camps provided her sons, working with coaches they might not have otherwise encountered.

Shaun, a quarterback, spent a week last summer in Louisiana at the Manning Passing Academy, where he worked closely with Eli Manning of the New York Giants.

"It's an experience he'll never forget," Austin said.

## Music camps

Many in metropolitan Detroit have memories their own of unforgettable experiences from attending camp at Interlochen Academy (<http://camp.interlochen.org/>) in northern Michigan.

Set between two inland lakes in Interlochen, the internationally known arts school offers camps concentrating on motion picture filmmaking and creative writing in addition to intensive camps in fine and performing arts. New this year to the summer motion picture arts program are sessions focusing on animation and documentary film-making.

Campers attending Blue Lake Fine Arts in Twin Lake are able to choose both a major and minor for their camp sessions, picking between areas of instruction

including choir, dance, harp and music composition among others.

Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp (<http://www.bluelake.org>) also has a junior camp for younger musicians from grade 5 and up with lessons provided by conductors known both locally and on a national level.

## Sports camps

Parents of athletes will want to be sure to check with local colleges and universities to find quality sporting camps. The University of Michigan, Michigan State, Oakland University, Madonna University and Schoolcraft College's athletic departments all offer a variety of summer sports camps focused on everything from basketball and hockey to baseball and lacrosse.

Like many of the other camps mentioned above, these camps often fill up quickly with repeat attendees looking to refine their skills. One advantage of these types of sports camps is the opportunity for kids to "try out" a sport before committing to it, purchasing pricey equipment and then deciding they don't like it, many parents say.

## Language camps

Language enthusiasts may want to consider a summer camp offered by MSU's Confucius Institute. Their Chinese Language and Culture camp (<http://www.experiencechinese.com/index.php/programs/summer-camp>) is open to youths in grades K-5 and offers an opportunity for campers to learn the language and experience a taste of the Chinese culture.

Spring Hill Camps (<http://www.springhillcamps.com>) in the northern Michigan town of Evart offer a variety of week-long theme-based camp for kids in grades K-12. The watersports camps offer an opportunity for young campers to learn wakeboarding, waterskiing, kneeboarding and tubing. Their camps also focus on other kid-friendly subjects such as Extreme Skate, Paintball and Horseback Riding.

## Larger-than-life

Parents seeking out "larger-than-life" experiences for their summer campers may want to check out camps such as Second City's Summer Boot Camp (<http://www.secondcity.com/training/hollywood/coursecatalog/161/>) in Chicago for would-be comedians or Mt. Hoods Summer Ski Racing camps ([http://www.mthood.com/race\\_camps.htm](http://www.mthood.com/race_camps.htm)) in Oregon.

One thing is certain: whether your child is a day-camper or ready for the adventure of sleep-away camp, now is the time to start looking, planning and "save your spot."

## ADULTS

Continued from page 6

opportunity or outlet for that in our everyday lives.”

Blue Lake's adult camp program began with a single offering in 1997 and has grown ever since, as campers return each year after spreading the word throughout their community.

### Band popular

“Our most popular program is our concert band program, but the other programs are growing in popularity, too,” Sheroky said.

She believes that the camp's unique setting in the heart of the Manistee National Forest provides an opportunity for fine artists to be creatively inspired.

“The Michigan outdoors and the natural surroundings ... that is what it is all about,” she added.

The natural setting of woods and water in northern Michigan also provides a chance for camps across the state to offer something for almost every outdoor enthusiast with interests as varied as sailing, tennis and golf to fishing, archery and kayaking.

A simple Google search will turn up hundreds of options both locally and nationally. For fitness buffs, gyms in many communities across metro Detroit offer week-long boot camps that often fit busy work schedules.

Theresa Walker, executive director of ACA Michigan, said while some adult campers chose to spend their time on their own, many families are using camps as their typical family vacation — staying close to home and spending more time bonding together, as opposed to traveling out of state to theme parks.

### Family camp

“Family camps present a great chance to spend some good, quality time together,” Walker said.

Some camps even offer a chance for a brief respite from child care while keeping the kids happily occupied nearby.

Camp Tall Turf (<http://www.tallturf.org/>)

in Grand Rapids offers a special camp for single parents and their children with opportunities to meet others in a similar parenting situation.

“The single-parent family camp gives parents a chance to see what their child is doing at camp, too, while still allowing their child some free time on their own,” Walker said.

“It's a time of reprieve from some of the struggles of daily life as a single parent,” said Tall Turf's Sarah DeYoung.

Between bonding as a family and with others while swimming or canoeing, there is “something for everyone,” DeYoung said, adding that the camp gives both children and their parents a chance to meet others who are “going through the same situation.”

Like many others these days, Ray Sturdy, a retired attorney and Plymouth Township resident, is making it a priority to take his passion for his interests to the next level.

Sturdy loves to sing. A member of two choruses in metro Detroit, he manages time to sing with not one but two barbershop quartets, as well as scheduling time for vocal coaching in between.

During the summer, he attends camp — a vocal

camp known as Harmony College held on the Missouri Western State University campus outside St. Joseph, Mo.

### Barbershop

It is here each summer that Sturdy gathers with other barbershop singers and directors from around the world as they spend a week honing their quartet singing and performing skills. Although they do not stay in cabins, the spare dorm room accommodations provide the same impetus to spend most of their time busy focusing on their hobby.

“It's kind of like *Brigadoon*. It's only one week a year, but the camp provides support to help us improve our skills,” Sturdy said.

Those with a desire to spend their vacation or leisure time focusing on a specific activity of their choice are finding that these types of camps provide just that, experts say. They agree on one thing: summer camp is not just for the young, it is also for the young-at-heart.



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# Sudoku

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

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

Level: Beginner

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

Level: Intermediate

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

Level: Advanced

Answers found on page 16

# Slimmed-down snacks, small plates

Whether you're hosting a party or just enjoying some down time with friends, delicious, slimmed-down snacks and small plates made with lean pork are the perfect solution for the health-conscious host.

Chef and registered dietitian, Michelle Dudash explains the benefits of cooking with lean, delicious pork tenderloin. "Ounce for ounce, heart-healthy pork tenderloin is now as lean as a skinless chicken breast. That means you can enjoy serving a dish like Baked Pork Egg Rolls and still stay on track with your diet."

Try serving some of these slimmed down dipping sauces with them:

- **Sesame Soy** – Mix 6 tablespoons lower sodium soy sauce,  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup rice vinegar, 2 teaspoons sesame oil and 2 teaspoons honey or agave nectar.

- **Hot and Sweet** – 1 tablespoon Asian mustard, 2 tablespoons horseradish, 2 tablespoons red wine vinegar, 2 tablespoons lower sodium soy sauce,  $\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoon sweetener such as honey or agave nectar.

- **Honey Apricot** – Heat 1 cup honey,  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup low-sugar apricot preserves and  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup cold water in a sauce pan over low heat until boiling. Cool before serving.

- **Sweet and Sour** – Heat  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup low sugar pineapple preserves, 2 tablespoons vinegar, 2 tablespoons pineapple juice, 2 teaspoons soy sauce, 2 teaspoons ketchup,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoons cornstarch and  $\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoon mild paprika over low heat until well blended and slightly thickened.

For more information, including recipes to help you maintain a healthy diet year-round, visit [www.PorkBeinspired.com](http://www.PorkBeinspired.com) or [www.Facebook.com/PorkBeinspired](http://www.Facebook.com/PorkBeinspired).



## Baked Pork Egg Rolls

Makes: 16 servings

Prep time: 20 minutes

Cook time: 16 minutes

Cooking spray  
4 cups coleslaw mix  
2 green onions, thinly sliced  
1 cooked pork tenderloin (1 pound), trimmed  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  cup chopped fresh cilantro  
3 tablespoons hoisin sauce  
16 egg roll wrappers

Preheat the oven to 425°F. Spray large baking pan with cooking spray.

Place coleslaw mix and green onions in a medium microwave-safe bowl. Cover with wax paper and microwave on high until softened, 5 minutes. Transfer to a plate and let cool slightly.

Finely chop the tenderloin. Combine tenderloin, coleslaw mixture, cilantro and hoisin sauce in large bowl and toss to mix well.

Working with 1 egg roll wrapper at a time (keep remaining wrappers covered to prevent drying), place wrapper on a work surface with one corner pointing toward you. Brush edge of wrapper with water. Spoon about  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup pork tenderloin mixture in the center of wrapper.

Fold bottom corner of wrapper over filling. Fold in sides and roll up. Don't worry if your first egg roll doesn't look perfect; you'll master the easy technique after rolling a couple.

Place egg roll seam-side down on plate and cover with damp paper

towels to prevent drying. Repeat with the remaining wrappers and filling.

Arrange egg rolls in a single layer seam-side down in prepared baking pan. Lightly spray egg rolls with cooking spray. Bake until the bottoms are lightly browned, about 8 minutes.

Turn egg rolls and bake until tops are lightly browned, about 3 minutes longer. Serve hot or warm.

Nutritional Information per Serving: Calories: 100; Fat: 1g; Saturated Fat: 0g; Cholesterol: 20 mg; Sodium: 200mg; Carbohydrates: 14g; Protein: 9g; Fiber: 1g

# How to perfect the smoky eye

By Barbara Deyo  
Guest Columnist

Everyone's definition of a smoky eye is different. To me, it's delicately flirting on the edge of gritty and pretty. Images of Claudia Schiffer's Guess campaign circa 1989, and Helena Christensen in Chris Isaak's Wicked Game video immediately come to my mind.

Today's inspirations of course being J. Lo, Kim Kardashian and Beyonce. Generally when someone says "smoky," they usually mean that smudged liner look surrounding the eyes. However, a smoky eye can be done in any color palette and with many different intensities, it doesn't always have to be black shadow with black pencil. A bronze, green or violet version is beautiful, too!

As I explained in last month's "5 minute face" column, the most important part of being "good" at applying make-up — on you or others — is knowing what you are working with, experimenting and understanding how pigments work, realizing the difference in density of brushes — synthetic verses natural bristle brushes — and how to use which one when.

The rule of thumb with natural bristles: The larger and softer the brush, the more sheer the application. The tighter and shorter the bristles, the more dense the application. Synthetics are great for applying cream products such as concealer, cream shadow and liner. There are a many different ways you can enhance your eyes.

I will explain the most basic and wearable look to start.

## The classic smoky eye

Start with foundation, concealer and powder as your base on your lid and all the way around your eye. This is extremely important. If you do not prep the skin — the eye shadow will not stay on, blend properly, or even show up.

1) Use a light-colored eye shadow

and apply all over the lid, from the lash line all the way up to up under the brow bone. Use a large, soft, flat natural bristle brush. Be sure to use enough shadow to adequately cover the lid. Do not try to use a little smear and spread it all over — you will end up with basically nothing. Use a "pat/slide" motion to move the shadow upward and out toward the outer edge of the eye.

2) Use a medium/dark shade with a tapered/pointed crease brush — make sure it's soft and flexible — look straight into the mirror, keep your eyes open. Let your natural eye shape be your guide. Place the crease brush into the "interior ocular fold" — or simply put, your "eye socket" — and swish the brush back and forth like a windshield wiper — keep swishing until the color is blended.

3) Go over that edge with the brush you used for your all over color to blend it out further. No need to add more shadow — you are simply "buffing" the edge here.

4) If you want to intensify the crease, use a darker color in the same color palette, and use a smaller version of a crease brush — this time you want a more intense color — do the exact same motion as Step 2. Swish back and forth, eyes open, until it's blended.

5) Just like Step 3 — go over this edge with the larger crease brush to blend further.

6) Take a very light shimmery color, even lighter than your all over color you started with, and use a smaller flat brush to sculpt just under the brow. This is to give some pop under the brow, creating more dimension to the eye.

7) For eyeliner, I prefer a combination of pencil and shadow first, and if using cream or liquid, add it last. Make sure your pencil is sharpened and use a softer "kohl" type, as it's easier to blend and generally has more pigment, which means it will have more intensity.

Lay the point of the pencil on its side, resting along the lashes. You will want the eye closed, and can use your finger to gently smooth out the creasing — don't worry; you will not give yourself wrinkles by doing this. Use a gentle shadow



Barbara Deyo

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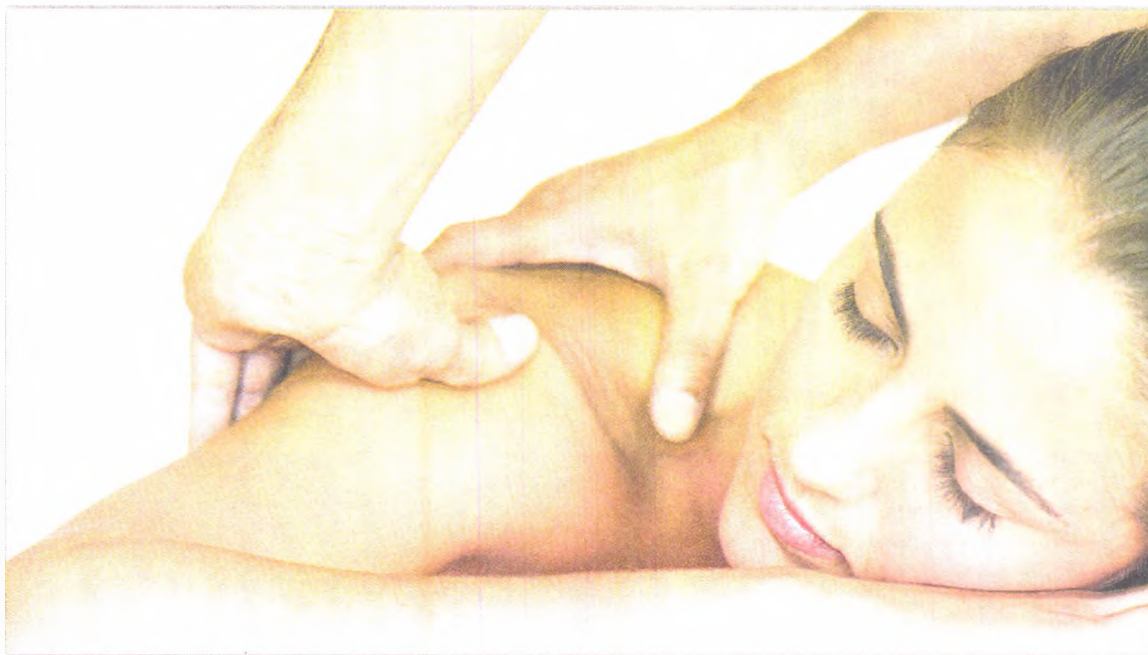
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Please see **SMOKY**, 16

Experts say plan in advance to get the most out of your spa experience.



## SPA

Continued from page 19

vide “a blissful experience.”

### Ask questions

Spa regular Renee O'Donnell of West Bloomfield said that in addition to filling out the questionnaire, it is important to ask spa professionals any question you might have, too.

“If you are new, be sure to ask the spa to give you suggestions for services you might enjoy. It is nice when they know that you are new because they can provide advice on the correct order to have the services done. It's also helpful because you know what to expect,” she said.

In South Lyon, Jan's Skin Spa's website has detailed explanations of the types of skin services available so that customers can match their skin types and needs with the service prior to booking an

appointment.

Remembering proper etiquette is also necessary to maximize both your spa experience and the experience of those around you, spa professionals say.

“It's important to respect the environment and remember that other people are getting services, too,” said Barbara Deyo, owner of Deyo Studio: for face and body, located in Birmingham.

“You need to be sure that you know where you are going,” Deyo said, adding that a lot depends on the type of service being provided. “If it is hair and nails, it might not be as quiet but other spas are all about relaxation and quiet,” she said. “Don't bring children, especially if it is a spa service.”

Mark Davis, of LaVida Massage for a Healthier Body, Mind and Life, a Michigan-based franchise with 13 locations in the metropolitan Detroit area, notes that cellphones should be put away unless it is absolutely necessary.

“It's important to remember that your time at the spa is all about you. It's your special time to get away from everything and relax,” he said. Davis said the LaVida locations he owns in Plymouth and Canton have signage gently reminding clients that turning off their cellphones will help increase their experience.

Another important point to remember is that like other personal service, tipping is encouraged. Although the gratuity is included on some gift certificates, most generally it is not, so it is always good to check first, said Deyo.

“Unless it says gratuity included, you should always tip on the services provided. Tip on the full amount of the service provided — 10 to 20 percent is standard but it is always at your discretion,” Deyo said.

Davis of LaVida added, “It's similar to any other service at a restaurant or beauty salon.”

Spa professionals also stress the importance of being aware of cancellation policies. It is important to give a spa as much notice as possible if you need to cancel your appointment and many spas may require at least 24-hour notification.

Early notification is necessary because “we schedule specifically for our clients,” said Pollard of Agio.

When clients do not show up and the spa is unable to re-book the time, the spa loses money, Deyo said.

“You should give adequate time for your service provider to use (schedule) your space. If you have a gift certificate and just don't bother to show up, you should consider it used,” said Deyo.

The most important thing to remember, Eldon said, “If you look good, you feel good. If you feel good, you look good.”

## SMOKY

Continued from page 15

ing motion to build up the line. By keeping it close to the lash line, you are preventing the line from becoming too thick. You can build up the thickness as you go, until you achieve the level of drama you want. Repeat for bottom liner — slightly look up, placing the pencil up under the lashes, and go “through” them to get as close to the lash line as possible.

**8)** Go over the pencil with eye shadow. Use whatever the darkest color you used in the crease to go over the bottom liner with a stiff flat brush. And for the top — use a small angle brush and choose a shadow color a shade darker than the darkest crease. Using a lighter color on the bottom prevents that “raccoon” look gals are so afraid of. The shadow also blends and sets the pencil for longevity and aides in creating the “smudge.”

**9)** If you want to add liquid or cream liner, do so now. Use a very fine brush to apply and make sure you are staying right along the lash line, still leaving the pencil/powder visible — and apply to the top only. Creams and liquids are generally too harsh for underneath.

**10)** If you really want to amp it up, you can fill in the lid with a darker color, and fill in the inner rim with black pencil.

**11)** Fill in the eyebrows with either pencil or brow powder. When you are wearing this type of look, defining the brows is very important. It balances the over all look and finishes the “framing” of the eye.

**12)** Finish with black mascara. Always use black. It brightens the whites of the eyes and gives more intensity to any eye color. Apply at the base of the lashes and wiggle up, and apply back and forth to both sides of the lashes. Using a primer first makes a big difference in amping up the lash line! Apply (or have applied) false eyelashes. The more lashes you have, the more dramatic the eye.

So, practice, play, experiment — let your inner Scherzinger come out. There are so many different ways to can enhance your eyes. Remember to have fun and, if you screw it up, it's only makeup. It washes off.

**Barbara Deyo**, owner of Deyo Studio for face and body is an internationally acclaimed makeup artist, having groomed the faces of Paul McCartney, Bob Seger, Kerrie Washington, Shaun Robinson and more. She has been named Best of the Best by Allure, Hour, Real Detroit and WDIV. She also teaches a mean makeup lesson. Deyo Studio is located at 576 N. Old Woodward Ave, 2nd floor in Birmingham. For more information call (248) 203-1222 or visit her at [www.deyostudio.com](http://www.deyostudio.com).

## Sudoku Answers

### Beginner

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

### Intermediate

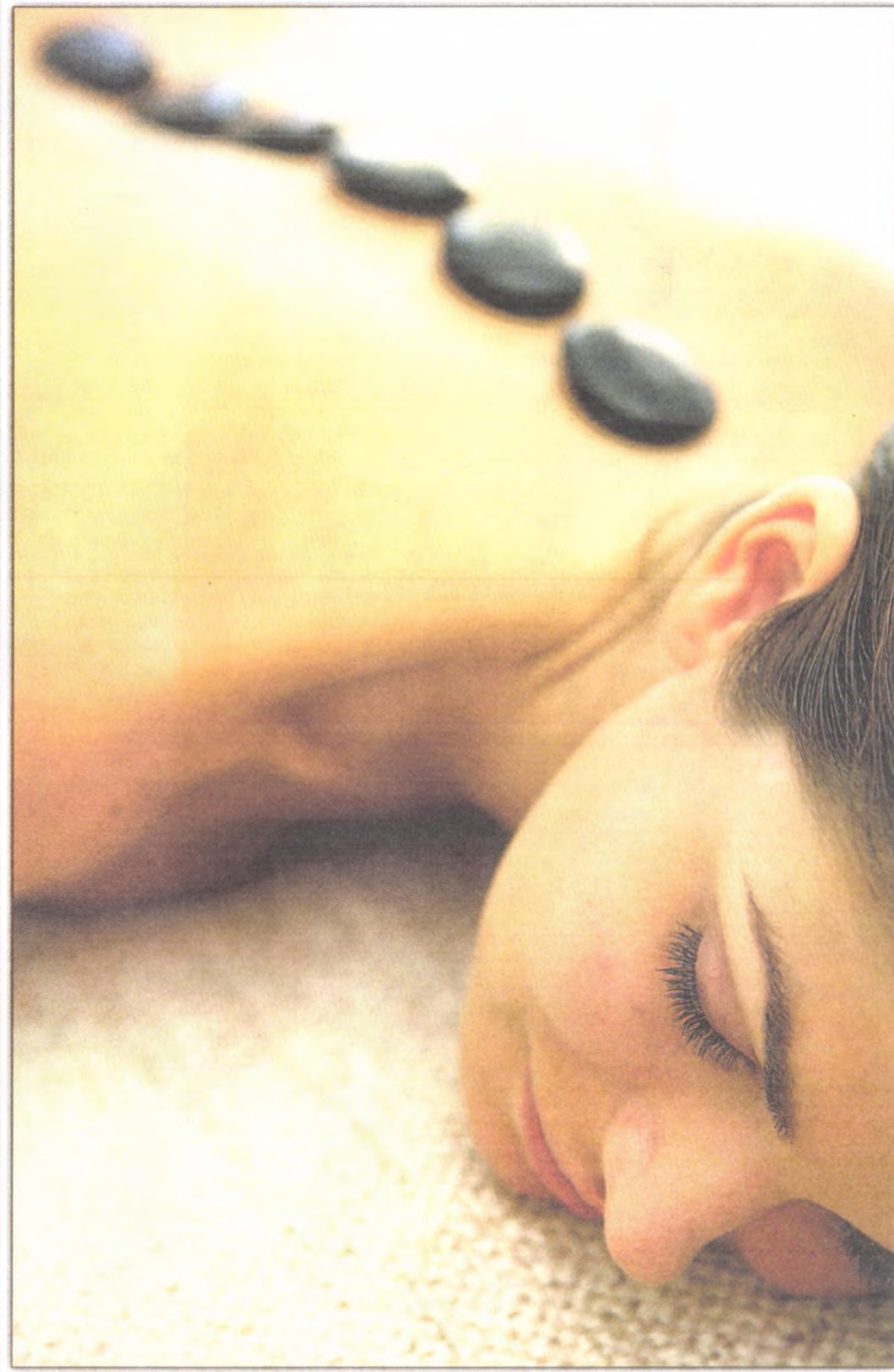
6	7	8	2	1	9	4	3	5
4	9	3	7	5	6	2	1	8
2	5	1	8	3	4	9	7	6
3	2	7	1	4	5	8	6	9
5	8	9	6	2	3	7	4	1
1	4	6	9	8	7	3	5	2
7	3	2	5	9	1	6	8	4
9	1	4	3	6	8	5	2	7
8	6	5	4	7	2	1	9	3

### Advanced

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



# Spa etiquette: Before you go, read this



A hot stone massage can be relaxing and therapeutic.

By Jill Halpin  
Contributing Writer

**O**K, so you're ready to use that Valentine's Day present: a gift certificate to a full-service spa for a massage, facial, manicure, pedicure, waxing or one of the other myriad services designed to give you some carefree relaxation. Now, it's decision time.

For the massage: Swedish, hot stone or a reflexology session focusing on pressure points on the feet?

For the facial: a green tea treatment, a skin brightening or something more intense like an anti-aging chemical peel?

Or perhaps an airbrush tan ... but is it a good idea to schedule that service right before a workout in the pool? These are just a few of the questions that may be running through your mind as you think about booking your first spa appointment or first one for 2012, and they are important ones. In fact, most spa professionals say that doing your homework before your appointment and answering these types of questions are key to making your spa experience a rewarding one.

"Planning in advance is very important to making your time at the spa as enjoyable as possible," said Kerri Pollard, spa director at Agio Spa di Reposo in downtown Plymouth. "We design our services around you; if you have questions, we want you to call and discuss it with us and we will answer as many questions as we can to help make it great for you. That is what we are here for."

Pollard said that the service providers at Agio, which opened four months ago in downtown Plymouth, appreciate the opportunity to learn about their clients' needs in order to help make them feel comfortable.

## Communicate

"Information is the key. It is really important to communicate with the front desk and the service provider to let them know what you want. Most reputable spas will ask questions of you not to be intrusive but to help make sure they understand your needs," Pollard said.

She added, "No one is offended if you tell us what you want and what you don't want."

Knowing the spa's expectations of you as a client are just as important in making your spa experience as wonderful as it can be, said Melissa Huetter, owner of Indigo Salon, Spa and Boutique in Canton.

There are definitely some things clients should be aware of prior to booking their sessions, Huetter said.

"In order to have the best experience, people need to know how to prepare for the service, what is going to happen during the service as well as post-service" care, Huetter said.



For instance, people need to be aware that if they are coming in for waxing, there needs to be at least 1/4-inch outgrowth of hair, she said. In other cases, people need to be aware that applying moisturizer prior to an airbrush tanning session is not a good idea, either. Huetter said that knowing as much as possible about the service to be performed will not only enhance the experience but also helps prolong the positive results.

"It is so important for clients to identify these things beforehand in order to prepare for the best outcome," said Huetter.

## Learning online

In fact, the salon features a "spa etiquette" tab on its website (<http://www.indigosalonanddayspa.com/>)

carefully detailing things such as Service Expectations, Prep, Contraindications, After Care and Potential Side Effects to help clients be as informed as possible. The spa website highlights many important precautions that clients should be aware of before they choose a service.

"Letting your service provider know about any medical conditions or allergies is also a must," Huetter said. "It is especially important with massage services" as they may not be recommended for clients in their first trimester of a pregnancy or have health issues such as cancer or a heart condition.

Jan Eldon of Jan's Skin Spa in South Lyon agreed that being upfront with your esthetician or service provider is a must.

"Be honest about what you are using, if it is something prescribed by your physician, your spa professional need to know what they can and can't use with you," Eldon said.

Liz Galdes, spa manager at Gina Agosta Hair Color and Design Spa in Novi, agrees. "It is essential to discuss any health concerns or problem areas so that we can address it appropriately. We are not only in the business of helping you relax; we want to make sure you feel better, too."

Galdes also notes that arriving 15 minutes early for your appointment is highly recommended, especially for new clients. Most spas ask clients to fill out questionnaires that are helpful in helping pro-

## Spa visit tips

Here are some other important tips to ensure a rewarding trip to the spa from local spa professionals:

### Dress for success

"Being comfortable is the most important thing," said Kerri Pollard, spa director at Agio Spa di Reposo in downtown Plymouth. "Come dressed comfortably ... you'll leave relaxed so plan for it."

### Arrive early

Arriving early gives you the opportunity to fill out paperwork as well as relax and become acclimated to the environment. "Give yourself the gift of time for you: relax and enjoy," said Barbara Deyo, owner of Deyo Studio: for face and body in Birmingham.

### Check terms of gift certificate

Some gift certificates do have expiration dates. Being aware of the terms and condition of your gift certificate can help avoid issues. "It's always better to use it sooner than later," Deyo said. Although she typically honors all gift certificates, "... everyone has a different policy so it is a good idea to check it out," she said.

### Communicate

"You should be open with your massage therapist in explaining what you are looking for," said Mark Davis, of LaVida Massage for a Healthier Body, Mind and Life.

Ken Grandon of Gina Agosta in Novi said that spa professionals are happy to help you decide what type of massage is best for you based on your needs and comfort level. "There are many different types of massages available ... sometimes people don't want to have to take their clothes off or have somewhere to go afterwards and we can help address that in finding the massage that works best for them," Grandon said.

Please see SPA, 16

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# Weddings

## Plan your Wedding from the Heart



A beautiful fondant styled white wedding cake can be made in various sizes and with many different batters. Consult your local baker for all the details.

*The average wedding now costs the bride, groom and their families an astonishing \$25,000 — that's more than many of us earn in a year. But declaring your love doesn't mean financial upheaval if you use a little invention and imagination.*

### **The venue**

A fairy tale castle or Jane Austen style country house might be every bride's dream wedding venue but consider your personalities and shared passions. Perhaps you've always loved your parent's garden or your husband-to-be is mad about cars.

A 'Wedding venue' doesn't have to mean a glittering lake dotted with pure white swans and often brides forget their priorities when arranging the perfect wedding.

Think carefully and you may realize that you'd be just as happy with a simple dinner at a favorite restaurant. But, don't write off that Caribbean beach wedding either. When the guests are whittled down from 100 to 10 and the grand reception becomes a beach BBQ, savings of thousands can be made so the bride and groom can relax in the sun during their dream honeymoon.

### **The dress**

For most brides their wedding dress is the one and only time a single item will set them back more than \$1000. Many high-end

street retailers, offer affordable wedding dress alternatives, second hand retail shops can also be an wise alternative. Sample dresses can be offered at incredible prices. However, if you've always dreamed of a handmade dress consider taking your honeymoon before your wedding. Likewise suits and bridesmaids dresses can be created from measurements provided by your wedding party.

### **The food & drink**

In an ideal world your guests will feast on caviar and sip champagne. In reality food and drink bills make up one of the biggest expenses of any wedding. Swap champagne for sparkling wine, cava or prosecco. Consider a cash bar or limiting the selection of beverages. Hog roasts, BBQs, picnics and buffets meanwhile are a relaxed and a good alternative to a sit-down meal and presented upon tables decorated with wild flowers make for a sweet and stylish look.

### **The cake**

Check with local bakeries and even the supermarkets in your

area. In today's stretched market everyone should be willing to work with you. Many offer beautiful designs and various sizes. Also consider the kind of cake you are thinking about serving. A traditional white battered cake with white frosting verses a red velvet cake with a cream cheese and butter frosting. If you are really adventurous and really needing to tighten up the budget consider simply buying three plain iced fruit-cakes of increasing size from your local bakery or supermarket, adding the pillars and decorating it with flowers matching the bride's bouquet.

### **The photographs**

Photographers also offer various packages. When having your engagement picture taken in the studio consider having your Wedding picture taken in the same studio.

This is a good alternative if hiring a photographer for the night is too much of a strain on the wedding budget. Many couples provide a couple of easy-to-use digital cameras for guests to use at the reception. Those unplanned candid shots will provide many happy memories of your reception.

Remember that choosing a professional photographer is an investment and almost a guarantee that your wedding will be documented properly. It is an event that can not easily be duplicated and would be ashamed if the photo opportunity was missed.

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# Deciding on color early can set the tone for making your day even more special

By Dennis Zelazny  
Advertorial Writer

Brides to be spend hours researching color trends. By the end of the day you have seen every color imaginable and still are left undecided. Everyone you ask has an opinion. And as you look through wedding magazines your imagination can run wild. In the end, however, go with what you like. Choose colors that you relate best to. What colors make you feel good, which colors excite you? Ask your friends to take note of what colors you normally wear. What colors do you feel confident in? No matter which single color or combination you choose, it is important to make a decision before you start making your wedding purchases.

Creating a truly unique and elegant wedding theme and color scheme is easy. Work with colors you enjoy and can relate to. Try looking around to see what items you would like to purchase and see what colors they are available in. It will help in picking that perfect color scheme. Following are some ideas for color schemes:

If you like purples try: lilac, lavender, periwinkle, purple, add sky blue as an accent.

If you love bright pink try: hot pink, fuchsia, light pink, red, add lime or tangerine as your accent color.

If you adore warm oranges try: tangerine, coral, red, add soft violet, sky blue or fuchsia as your accent color.

If you like burgundy try: dark green, champagne, creams, add metallic gold as your accent.

If you love blues try: deep ocean blue, navy blue, sky



Photo composite by Dennis Zelazny

**There are many hands that help you tie the knot for your wedding, when choosing colors, make it personal and choose "your colors" from the heart.**

blue, periwinkle, add tangerine, silver or sandy brown as your accent.

Color can be accented by the season your wedding will take place. Good to keep this in mind if you are leaning towards an outdoor wedding or having pictures taken in the park.

Fall colors are: burgundy, dark green, navy blue, silver, gold, creams, burnt orange, taupe, brown and plum.

Winter colors include: red, silver, white, cream, burgundy, navy blue, purple, plum and gold.

Spring colors are: pink, tangerine, lilac, periwinkle, hot pink, fuchsia, lime, yellow, cream, soft violet and white.

Summer colors are: red, yellow, orange, coral, fuchsia, blue, sky blue, green, lime, lilac and lavender.

Here are a few color combinations to consider:

• Diamond blue and coral

purple

• Teal blue and emerald green with gold peapod green

• Blue and mocha brown with apple red and touches of black

• Hot pink and black

• Hot pink and navy with gold, mauve and blush pink lavender accents

• Sky blue and red with blush pink

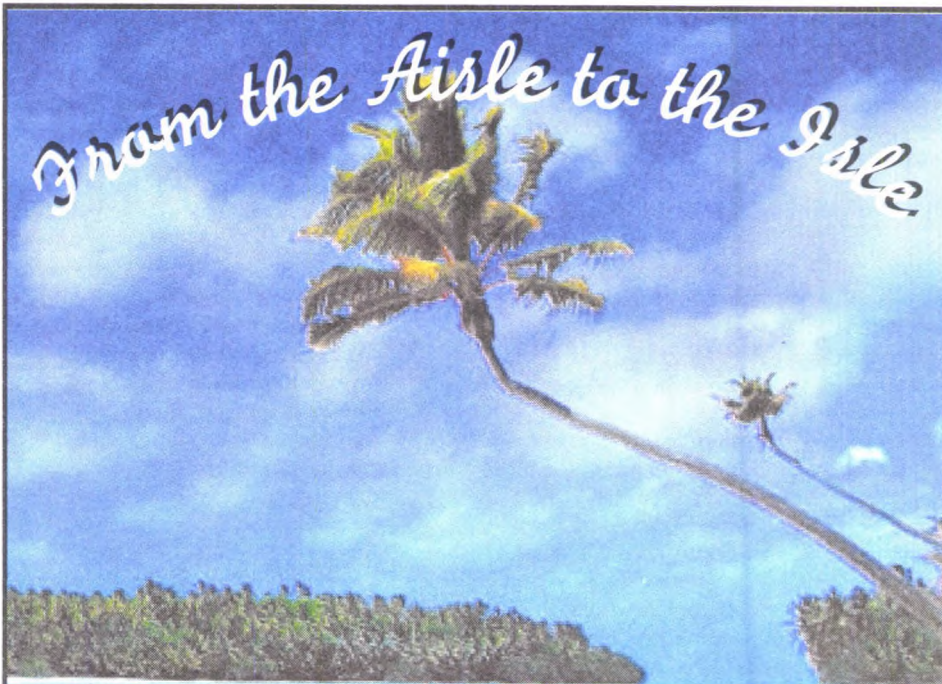
• Sky blue with light coral orange with light yellow

• Warm gray with any pink, coral or blue accents

• Purple and rustic brown with pink

Go with your heart. Match all pieces of your wedding stationery, favors, guest book, napkins, table clothes and more. This will make your special day visually appealing and reflect your personal creativity. It's your special day. Color it perfect for you and yours to enjoy!

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# Uniqueness will make your reception unforgettable

Over the course of their lifetimes, many people will be wedding guests on several occasions. During the height of wedding season, weddings can run into one another, as the format and the festivities are similar at various ceremonies. Couples interested in setting their nuptials apart may want to enhance the wedding reception with a few unique ideas.

Who hasn't attended a wedding that seems formulaic? The couple enters, they do their spotlight dance, there's food, a bouquet toss and then the cake cutting. Guests may actually be able to predict what's coming next. While it is often customary and easy to follow tradition, that doesn't mean you cannot buck with tradition and offer a few creative ideas to make your event stand out.

Here are several ideas you can introduce into your wedding to add something special to the reception.

• **Skip the big entrance.**

Those who were kind enough to attend the ceremony have already been introduced to the newly minted happy couple. Instead of spending the cocktail hour in the isolation of the wedding suite, mingle with your guests from start to finish. So much time is spent posing for pictures or being out of touch with guests, the cocktail hour can be a great time to sit and chat. Being with guests during the cocktail hour means you don't have to make that big entrance from behind closed doors. Guests will have all eyes on you when you step on the dance floor for your first dance together.

• **Consider your dance music to be an upbeat number.**

Guests are expecting a slow, sappy tune. What they may not expect is an upbeat song that shows you are willing to have a little fun. If you haven't mastered the waltz but enjoy a little quick step now and again, feel free to choose a tune that shows your excitement and love for each other.

• **Encourage couples to dance together.**

It's often customary for the bridal party to join the bride and groom on the dance floor midway through the first dance. However, that leaves spouses or significant others waiting in the wings while their dates tango with groomsmen or bridesmaids. Instead, don't have assigned partners. Rather, encourage

your bridal party members to dance with whomever they choose.

• **Swap the garter/bouquet toss for something more meaningful.**

If you're part of a couple who feels the garter and bouquet toss has become trite, there are other ways to create special moments in your celebration — ones that don't single out the singletons who haven't yet found their special someone's. Use this time to present a small gift or token of your affection to someone on the guest list who has served as a mentor or source of inspiration.

• **Choose one special component as an extra goodie for guests.**

Some couples feel the more they offer the better guests will view their wedding. Spending more money doesn't necessarily mean guests will have a better time. If you want to go above and beyond the ordinary, find one thing that you absolutely love and offer that at the party. It could be a flambe presentation, a chocolate or candy bar, a carving station with your all-time favorite food (even if that's PB&J), or a carnival-inspired automatic photo booth.

• **Hire a live performer.**

Although it's hard to beat the performance quality of your wedding song being performed by the original artist, unless you're cousins with Celine Dion, chances are she won't be available to sing "My Heart Will Go On" at your reception. However, a live band adds a certain level of excitement that a disk jockey may not be able to provide. Those who are adding a cultural or ethnic component to their wedding may want to hire a dance troupe or another type of performer, like a bagpiper, as an added measure of entertainment for guests.

• **Let them eat ... cookies?**

Some people just don't like cake. Therefore, why should a couple have to cut a seven-tiered white confection? Towers of different types of treats can be created from just about anything and serve as the perfect backdrop for that classic cake-cutting photo. A pyramid of cream puffs, stacks of brownies, a cookie castle, or cereal-cake concoctions can work. Some bakeries will decorate a "dummy" styrofoam cake, and then you can serve apple pie a la mode, if you desire.

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## Enjoy finding that perfect wedding dress

There are many stories about brides having difficulty in choosing their wedding dress. They wind up frustrated or reduced to tears. Sometimes, it's just because of all the other decisions and deadlines. Some of the frustration can begin when a well-meaning friend or family member tries to impose their ideas.

When it comes time to plan the wedding, there is great excitement and anticipation about the event. In addition, there are many details that must be addressed and the couple makes many decisions. One of the biggest decisions is the wedding dress.

While the bride and groom really are the focus for the big day, it is natural and acceptable for the bride to focus a little more choosing her the wedding dress, in some way it can set the tone for the day. Meanwhile, a wedding dress is much like a frame around the bride, and should be used to decorate and highlight the brides' best features.

The assumption is that the bride's dress should not detract from the beauty of the bride. Often it can be hard to achieve balance, but if the bride has enough patience



Finding that perfect wedding gown will only help enhance your memories of your special day.

and can also be open to suggestions her wedding dress choice will be perfect for her.

This is a situation where a wedding consultant can be very helpful. If you decide not to have a consultant it would be wise to pick person that can help you along the way. That third party brings a non-objective opinion and perspective on wedding dress. A non-objective party can also help the bride have the courage to stand up against preferences and choices that other may offer to her that she may not normally have the courage to say no to.

When choosing designs, options and styles, the bride's goal is to find "her" perfect wedding gown for that special day. Brides to be need to set aside as much time as possible for the shopping adventure. While out shopping also take note on wedding dress accessories and options. Pay close attention to how much time is needed for special orders. Ask yourself if the garment will be appropriate for the venue? Do you really like the dress and can you see yourself in it. How well will it photograph, will all the details show up. Lastly, do not forget about the importance of comfort. While every bride wants to look stunning on her wedding day, comfort is important and also ensures that she will her day as much as possible.

— COURTESY OF SLEEK ARTICLES



Be sure you have made the right choice for you. Be sure to take the time to shop around and try on as many as necessary to make sure you are more than happy with your final choice.



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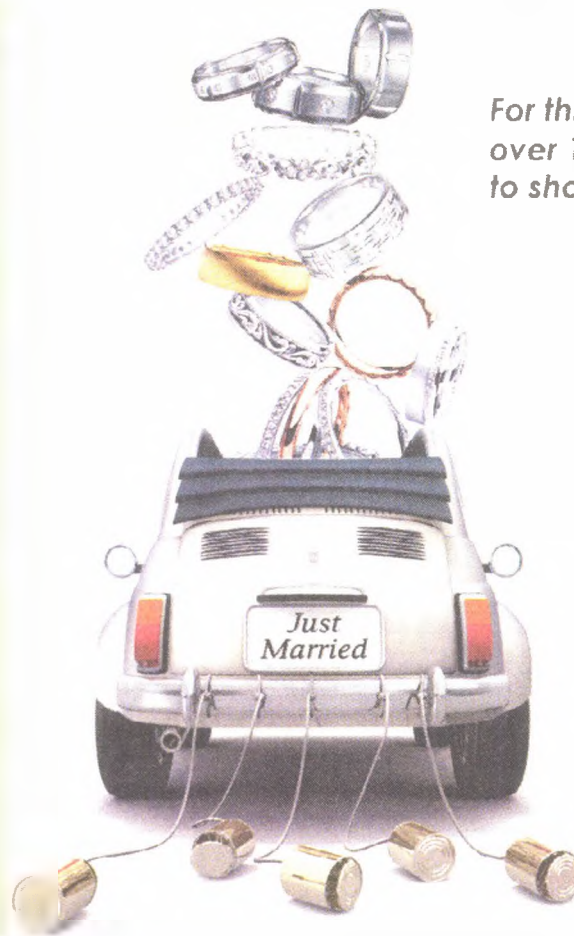
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## Are you going to wear your glasses on your wedding day?

The question list goes on forever, and here's another; "Will you wear your glasses down the aisle", most brides will say no. Grooms on the other hand generally wear them proudly. If you're an eyeglass wearer and wear them everyday shouldn't you wear them on one of the most important days of your life? If you should decide to wear your glasses but are thinking about changing them here are a few thoughts.

Choosing glasses can be far from easy. They either make your face look too round, too angular, too geeky or sometimes just downright silly. Some styles of glasses can even compromise your sense of individuality by imposing their own character on your face. For example, cumbersome Ugly Betty-style frames can limit your make-up choices, cramp your features and quickly become dated.

Faces are very individual and there is a choice of eyewear to suit everyone. The aim is for the specs to become an integral part of the face without drastically changing it. So how do you pick the perfect pair of glasses for your face? Don't worry: Pauline Voce, style consultant for glasses firm Silhouette, is here to help. According to Voce you can't go wrong if you follow these three rules for getting the perfect glasses.

1. Forget fashion, focus on yourself Voce believes many people wear the wrong frames for their face as fashion rather than their personal features influences them. "Your glasses are beyond fashion - they are a part of you," she says. "It's fun to have loads of styles to fit in with fashion, but not everyone can afford to replace their glasses with every passing trend. We all need a classic pair that suits every trend simply because they are designed to suit you."

2. Analyze your face shape. Take a fresh look at your face. Its shape will map out which frames

will best suit you. Round faces are generally associated with wide foreheads and round chins. Angular frames are therefore the best option as they add a flattering contrast. Deep glasses can make a round face appear short, so choosing frames that are as deep as they are wide is an impressive remedy for this. Square faces have broad foreheads, wider jaw lines and angular chins. Curved frames will soften the structure of square faces, so choose round or oval frames. Steer clear of harsh lines, as these will accentuate square lines. Heart-shaped faces typically have broad foreheads with angular chins so you should look at both angular and rounded frames to see which complements your face best. The main rule is to avoid styles that are wider at the top than at the bottom, as these can make you look top heavy.

Oblong face shapes suit wide frames as they add structure and detract the eye from vertical length. Steer clear of narrow and round styles, as these will exaggerate the length of your face. Oval faces are considered the most fortunate, as they can carry off most styles, which is lucky but it makes it very hard to choose.

3. Express yourself with a flash of color Frame your eyes perfectly without detracting from their beauty with subtle hints of color across the bridge and on the arm of the glasses.

But that's not all. According to Voce, eyewear should not dominate the face; it should harmoniously complement it. This is because a face gives an asymmetric impression when the pupils are not in the middle of the lenses. For this reason, depending on your face type, you should ensure that your pupils are centered in the lenses. And above all, have fun experimenting with what suits you and enjoy the way your new glasses add to your own unique personal style.

— COURTESY OF FREE FEATURES



Don't be afraid or ashamed to wear your glasses on your wedding day, you want to be able to clearly see everything that is happening and enjoy the efforts you have sowed.





Elegance and sophistication can be achieved while still maintaining support and balance.

## Wedding Shoes should take top priority over your accessories

Every woman wants to look like a star on her wedding day, but let's face it: It is not enough to look good but you need to feel good too. After all, how much fun can you have if your feet are hurting midway through the day. Here are some ideas for wedding shoes that can be comfortable and stylish.

There is a platform trend this season. With a nod to the 1940s, platforms are being considered not to be not excessive and offer higher heels. There are some beautiful designs available with wedding-worthy luxury fabrics such as satin platform heels with ankle straps and twisted knot detail at the toe. T-strap sandals with crystals and sequins that match your dress along with some crystal bridal jewelry would be amazing.

For the bride, who's feet are sensitive to shoes, a pair of kitten heels could be

the answer. The heels on these shoes are much lower so that the shoe is more comfortable. Make sure shoes have a strap, instead of an open back mule style. Many kitten heel shoes are strap sandal models, these make them very feminine and beautiful. Choosing classic white or ivory would certainly be a good choice, but you can also look at soft metallic colors. Ballet pink silver or bronze would be good options with a wedding dress, and yet would be useful after the wedding.

Pointed toes are rare, and rounded toes are back in fashion. These have a little more toe room making them easier on your feet. White flats are certainly classic but how about trying on a shiny pair of silver flats. They would look fabulous wearing a wedding dress with crystals and silver wedding jewelry.

When you decide to go

shopping for your shoes, pick a day when you have been on your feet for awhile. Remember, on your wedding day you will not have much time to sit, you will be greeting guests, dancing and standing for pictures. A well fitting shoe will be worth the investment. When choosing a style, make sure there is enough cushioning for your personal taste. Too much can hurt the balls of your feet and too little will not be effective in supporting your arches. Finally, select shoes that have been crafted from a natural material such as leather or silk, these materials will allow your feet to breath and avoid moisture build up.

Fortunately, there are many great looking shoes available in bridal shops and shoe stores these days and every woman can find the shoes that work best for her.

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## Here are some tips and sips for the perfect bridal celebration

Whether it's an engagement party, bridal shower, the reception or post-wedding brunch, professional event planner Alison Hotchkiss knows a thing or two about creating memorable bridal celebrations. As the founder-owner of Alison Events, and author of "The Destination Wedding Planner: The Ultimate Guide to Planning a Wedding From Afar" (Chronicle Books), she's produced stunning weddings all over the world.

Whether you enlist the help of a planner or do it yourself, Alison's tips on entertaining will help you make your bridal celebration picture perfect.

- Bubbles add a festive, celebratory note to any bridal celebration. Try Cupcake Prosecco sparkling wine from Italy. It's crisp and refreshing and it is an affordable alternative to the pricier French champagnes.

- Food doesn't have to be complicated to be remarkable. To satisfy all guest preferences, include; 3 to 5 appetizers including chicken, beef and fish plus two veggie options (ideally one being vegan or dairy free).

- A signature drink is a fun way to welcome guests and get the party off to a great start. The Prosecco Ginger Cocktail is delicious and memorable. Serve it in unconventional glassware and garnish the drink with a with a Persian cucumber (mini seedless cucumber) "swizzle sticks" for even more impact.

- A popular alternative to the traditional sit down meal at engagement parties or showers: food stations with a range of different foods offered at each. Pair a different wine with each station to create maximum variety and enjoyment as guests taste and mingle.

For more tips from Alison for creating a bridal event to remember, visit [www.cupcakevineyards.com](http://www.cupcakevineyards.com).

— COURTESY OF FAMILY FEATURES

### Prosecco Ginger Cocktail

Yield: 12 servings, 2 glasses per serving

- 1 ½ cups water
- 1 cup (6 ounces) crystallized ginger
- ½ cup sugar
- 2 bottles (750 ml) Cupcake Prosecco, chilled
- 24 thin diagonal sliced seedless or Persian cucumber

Combine water, ginger and sugar in saucepan and bring to a boil. Simmer on low heat, uncovered, 15 minutes. Off heat let steep, covered, 30 minutes. Cool.

Puree in blender until smooth.

Add 1 tablespoon ginger puree to each champagne glass. Add chilled prosecco, and stir well with swizzle stick until blended. Garnish glass with cucumber slice.

### Shrimp Fajitas Salad on Crisp Flour Tortilla Chips

Yield: 12 servings, 2 pieces per serving

- 4 8-inch flour tortillas
- 1 ripe avocado, pitted and peeled
- 1 ½ teaspoons fresh lime juice
- 1 teaspoon finely chopped cilantro
- ½ teaspoon finely chopped jalapeno, or more to taste
- 6 ounces extra small (salad shrimp) cooked and peeled shrimp, chopped (about 1 ¼ cups)
- 3 tablespoons finely chopped peeled ripe mango
- 2 teaspoons finely chopped cilantro
- 1 teaspoon finely chopped jalapeno
- 1 teaspoon fresh lime juice
- 2 tablespoons thin sliced green onion (scallion) tops (garnish)

Preheat oven to 350°F.

Use ruler to trim tortillas into 4 large 6-inch squares. Cut 24 2-inch squares from the squared off tortillas; discard trimmings.

Spray baking sheet with nonstick spray. Arrange tortilla squares on pan and spray with nonstick spray. Bake until toasted golden and crisp, 10 to 12 minutes. Cool.

Puree avocado, lime juice, cilantro and jalapeno in a food processor until smooth. Set aside.

Combine shrimp, mango, cilantro, jalapeno and lime juice in small bowl.

Spread about ½ tablespoon avocado mixture in center of each toasted tortilla square.

Lightly press a tablespoon of the shrimp salad in center of each. Garnish with scallion slices and serve.



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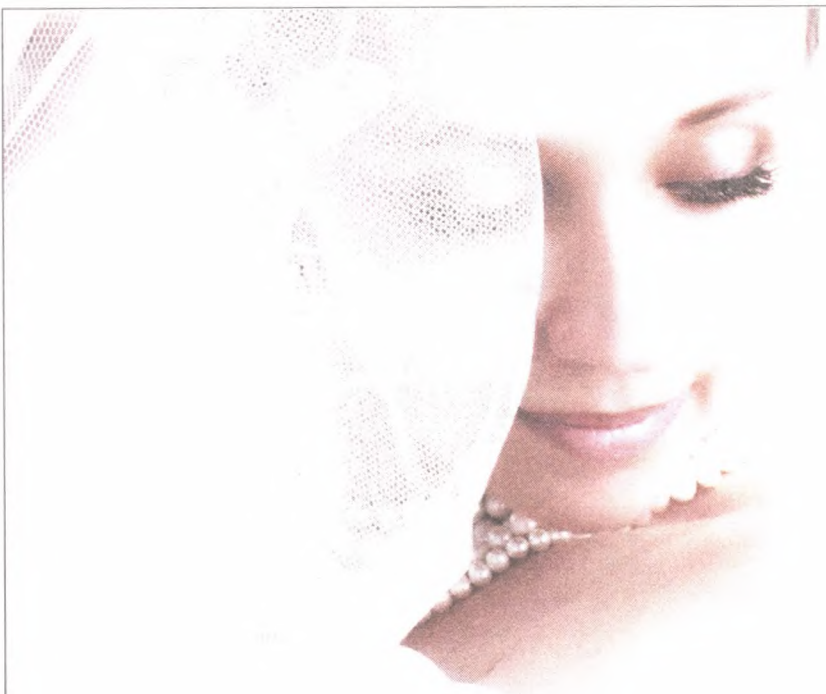
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# Post-nuptial depression is real but can easily be avoided

After many happy couples tie the knot at their dream wedding and jet off for a honeymoon of a lifetime, their return may bring newlyweds down to earth with a big bump.

As thousands of newlyweds settle down into married life, a startling one in ten will suffer from post-nuptial depression, or PND. Planning a wedding consumes a bride's life for a year, or more in some cases. Once the dress has started to gather dust in the loft and the wedding album has finished doing the rounds with relatives and friends, married life starts for real. For some couples, this finale is anything but a 'happy ever after' ending.

Experts warn of the very real existence of PND, which can continue well after the big day. The condition's effects leave sufferers, mainly women, feeling upset, disillusioned, confused and, in some cases, even questioning if getting married was a mistake. Award-winning wedding planner Tamryn Kirby says that for some couples settling down into married life can seem like a huge anticlimax after a dream wedding.

She comments, "Planning a wedding requires an enormous amount of time and effort, regardless of whether you have 20 or 200 guests and three months or two years to plan it. Some brides feel they've been made redundant when the big day is done."

PND stems from the belief that marriage will somehow elevate couples to a higher and somehow happier state of existence. But the mundane day-to-day actuality can lead to problems, especially after months of being the centre of attention and generally indulged and spoiled. Kirby explains, "Many people find the early months of marriage are full of differences of opinion. Often trivial issues get blown out of proportion. You've had months of talking about lovely wedding related things and then you're back to talking about who's doing the ironing and why the toilet seat has been left up. It can be a real culture shock.

"A lot of couples keep going on sheer adrenaline before the wedding, when they get to relax they find they are exhausted. An overstretched immune system can also lead to illness and depression." If you are planning to get married next year, don't let



Photo Composite by Dennis Zelazny

One in ten newly married couples suffer from post-nuptial depression.

the thought of PND put you off. Here are Tamryn Kirby's top five tips for avoiding the post-wedding blues.

- Plan a few social events in the months following your honeymoon so you've got things to look forward to. Your friends should remain as important to you during your wedding plans. Cutting them off while you're planning and saving for your wedding will make it much harder to settle back into normal life after the big day. You might be the centre of attention on your wedding day, but don't get too used to the idea. It will be much harder to get back to the 'real' world if you do.

- Try not to get consumed by the wedding.
- Take time out while planning to remember why you're getting married.

- Don't cling on to your wedding after the day.

- Throw away those wedding magazines and store your wedding album and look forward to your future together as a couple.

— COURTESY OF FREE FEATURES

## Relax and take a few minutes to create a beautiful Unity Candle

Unity candles are, believe it or not, a new comer to modern day weddings. This very popular wedding day addition was born in the United States, somewhere within the past 50 years (or so it is speculated). If you have chosen this candle ceremony to unite your future hubby and your splendid self-together, then wonderful. It's a beautiful ceremony full of symbolism and meaning. And there are ways to make it even more special.

### Themes and Decoration Ideas

You may choose to incorporate any number of items or themes into your candle set so that it holds special meaning. The options are absolutely limitless. Some couples attach their wedding invitation or a favorite bible verse or poem. Others festoon their candles with pearls or faux gemstones. Ribbons are always a wedding staple. And for the more naturally inclined couple, things like shells, leaves, pressed flowers, acorns and feathers can be used to fashion a candle that is completely pleasing. Who wouldn't like a custom candle for their big day? And wouldn't it be even better if you could have that unique candle without the big custom price tag?

### Cost Range

Wedding ceremony candles can be seen ranging somewhere around 30 dollars for the simpler sets, and up to 100 dollars for more elaborate candle trios. Although some fun variations exist, this item is simply two taper candles and a pillar candle dressed up for a wedding.

— COURTESY OF BRIDECRAFT.COM



Crafting your own unique Unity Candle will add another dimension to your wedding ceremony.

### Here is a step-by-step guide to creating this ribbon and pearl unity candle!

**Step 1:** You will need 1 pillar candle, 2 taper candles, scissors, sturdy wire cutters, a box of pearl head pins, and a ribbon of your choice.

**Step 2:** Unravel your ribbon and measure it up against your candle. Make sure you have enough to criss cross front and back several times. When you are ready, center the length you have measured out and position it against the "back" of the candle.

**Step 3:** Pull the ribbon forward and criss cross it to the other hand. In other words, the end that was in the left hand will now be in the right, and vice versa. Now perform a twist once again. **Tip:** Play with twisting the ribbon until you're comfortable! No need to rush.

**Step 4:** Create several criss crosses down the length of the candle. Make sure that the twists (the parts that look like knots) are even up and down, as well as the ones that are front and back.

**Step 5:** Tie a secure knot at the back, bottom of the candle. Cut any excess ribbon as neatly as you can.

**Step 6:** Take your pearl pins and trim them to about this length with your wire clippers. **Tip:** The length should be short enough to be easily pressed into the candle wax, but not so short that it could be knocked off.

**Step 7:** Select a space in which you would like a pearl, and simply push it firmly into the wax.

**Step 8:** The pearl should be flush up against the wax, but not deforming the wax.

**Step 9:** Continue adding pearls until you decide that your beautiful unity candle is complete! Store in a cool dry place until wedding day, and enjoy.



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# Will just wearing a tux be enough of a statement?

All eyes are typically on the bride during a wedding. But that doesn't mean the groom should be a shrinking violet. While the bridal gown may garner the "oohs" and "aahs," what the groom wears on his wedding day is quite important as well.

In many ceremonies, the groom spends several minutes standing beside the alter awaiting his bride-to-be. Before the first notes of "Here Comes the Bride" are played, all eyes will be on him as he anxiously awaits the start of the ceremony. As such, it is essential that the groom look well polished and is dressed in accordance to the tone and scope of the wedding.

Because most weddings are formal occasions, grooms often choose to wear a tuxedo or high-end suit. A well-fitted tuxedo combined with a formal shirt, tie and vest is the classic wedding



While eyes certainly may be trained on the bride, the groom can expect his share of admirers as well. Being well dressed at his wedding is essential.

ensemble. Generally the tuxedo jacket is single-breasted with three buttons and satin trim. This style is universally flattering to

most men's frames.

Accessorizing the tuxedo can mean different things. Some choose to wear a vest while others

opt for a cummerbund. Others add suspenders. These accessories, including the tie or bow tie and the vest, can be all black like the tuxedo or can be coordinated with the colors of the wedding party. For example, if the bridesmaids are wearing butter yellow gowns, the groomsmen can wear yellow accessories. However, to set themselves apart from the groomsmen and ushers, grooms tend to go with the classic black and white and forego colors. On some occasions, grooms may choose to wear a white tuxedo.

A well-groomed groom is also an important wedding day must. He should be well-shaven and have recently had a haircut. If he has facial hair, it should be trimmed and neat.

Because he will be photographed all day long, a groom can choose to take some cues from his soon-to-be-spouse. He may

indulge in a manicure to ensure nails and cuticles are neat. A dusting of translucent facial powder can tame shiny skin in photos. Some couples opt for teeth whitening prior to the wedding to ensure a sparkling smile.

When dressing the rest of the men in a wedding, they should take their cues from the groom, but not be carbon-copies of him. Fathers of the bride and groom can set themselves apart with a pocket square or a specially colored boutonniere.

The exception to a tuxedo or a suit would be for a casual wedding, particularly one held at the beach or in a park. Then the groom can wear what will coordinate for the occasion, such as a dress shirt and slacks, or even sandals and shorts for the ultra-casual wedding.

— COURTESY OF METRO CONNECTION

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# A man's grooming regiments says a lot about the man

Men's salon care is now a billion dollar industry, as today's man is more in touch with his physical appearance than ever before.

European men were among the first to look to salon treatments to aide their appearances, and that trend eventually caught on in North America. Today, it's common to find men getting manicures and pedicures. Botox® treatments, facials, highlights, and massages.

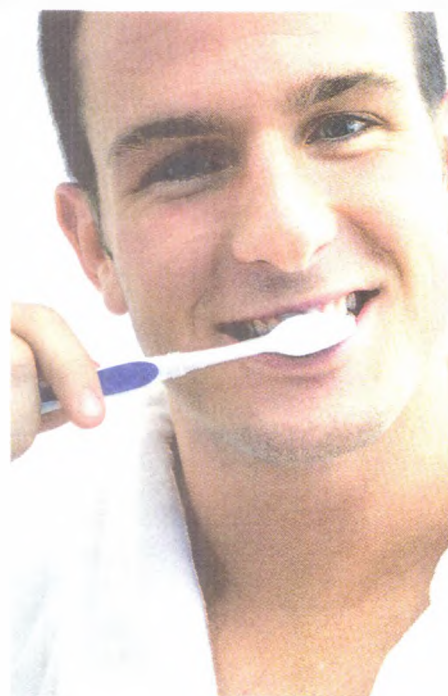
Many other men prefer to keep their primping to the privacy of their own homes. If so, there are some minimal grooming issues that should be tackled.

• **Eyebrows:** Neat, uniform eyebrows are appealing to most people. That's why waxing and threading stations have become so commonplace. At the very least men should brush the hairs of their eyebrows in an upward direction and use a small, sharp scissor to cut any unruly or long

hairs. If you have hairs growing between the brows, use a tweezer to remove them for a neater look.

• **Nails:** Clean, short nails are the mainstay of a successful-looking man. Take special care to wash under your fingernails, especially if you work in a profession where your hands are likely to get dirty. Use a hand cream or even a little olive oil to tame dry cuticles. A sharp nail clipper used to cut nails straight across will keep them tidy. After you have done your fingernails, pay attention to your toenails as well. Guys who live in the warm weather and like to wear sandals should be especially concerned with the appearance of their feet.

• **Skin:** It's important



Don't overlook the benefits of clean teeth and fresh breath. Good oral care can prevent other health issues as well.

to take care of your skin, which includes using an SPF product daily. Many men fail to protect their skin from the sun, which can prove dangerous. Skin cancer is one of the most common forms of cancer, and it doesn't discriminate among men and women. Use a combination moisturizer and SPF to take the ultimate care of your skin.

• **Mouth:** Don't overlook the benefits of clean teeth and fresh breath. Regular trips to the dentist's office as well as proper home maintenance are essential. And remember, bacteria from unhealthy gums can travel into the bloodstream and affect the heart. Therefore, always address dental issues promptly.

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# Wacky Wedding Facts

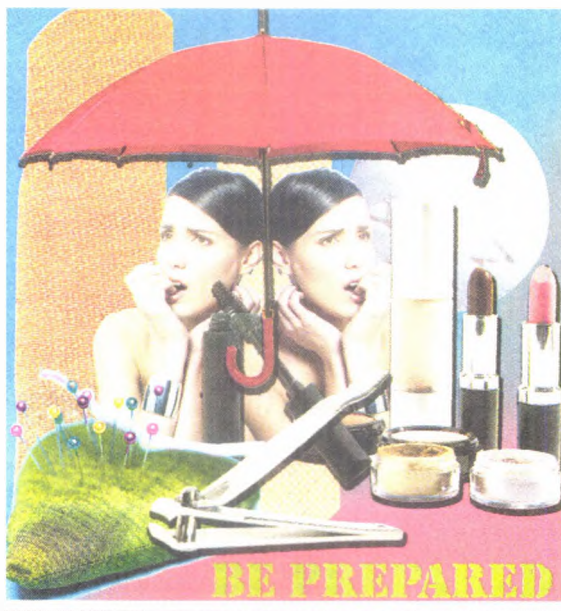


According to TheKnot.com, the unofficial experts on all things weddings, there are some things that may surprise the average person about weddings across the country. Here are some facts to consider.

- Weddings in Iowa and Nebraska are the biggest, averaging 200 guests.
- The average engagement ring costs more than \$5,800.
- Most brides have one do-it-yourself element, such as favors or escort cards.
- “Can You Feel the Love Tonight” and “Lady in Red” are the two most popular first dance songs (even though 87 percent of brides wear white).
- Only 19 percent of couples rely on a wedding planner.
- Ancient Romans broke a cake over the bride’s head to symbolize fertility. Today, brides must be fortunate to have only a little cake smashed in their faces!

— COURTESY OF METRO CREATIVE

## A simple collection of items to help keep the entire day on track



Brides and grooms-to-be hope and pray their wedding day will go off without a hitch. After a year or more of planning and writing checks for so many things, couples hope that it all comes together in the end. For most it does. Others may need a little help keeping things on track.

Although the idea is to hope for the best, being prepared for a few obstacles along the way can ensure the day goes smoothly. Many couples find it wise to pack an emergency kit, stocked with items to make repairs or handle tie-ups with ease.

Brides and grooms can use this checklist to compile a wedding day kit that meets their needs and customize with any specialty items.

— COURTESY OF METRO TIMES

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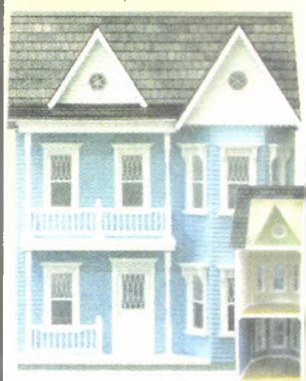
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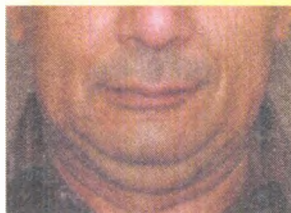
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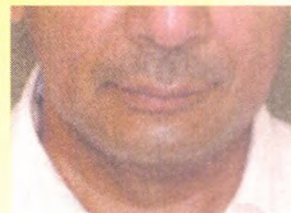
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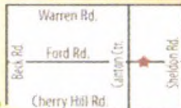
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