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LOCAL NEWS, A10



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Added concerts

The Michigan Philharmonic has expanded its calendar of performances in the spring and summer of 2012 that will precede the Oct. 5 opening of its regular 2012-13 concert season.

These spring/summer events now include:

- May 19 in Detroit (Music Hall Center for the Performing Arts, 7:30 p.m.): "Bollywood in the D" celebrates the music of the Indian film industry ("Bollywood") with a multicultural, multimedia fusion concert.

- June 22 in Milford (Kensington Metropark, 8 p.m.): "An American Salute" — This free event (with \$5 park admission) is an outdoor summertime pops concert celebrating our nation and its culture.

- June 30 in Plymouth (Kellogg Park, 7:30 p.m.): "An American Salute" will be reprised at this outdoor event in downtown Plymouth, again with free admission.

Casting call

CBS 62 is looking for interested competitors, ages 21 and up, to represent Detroit on the 14th season of *Big Brother* on CBS.

The TV station will hold an open casting call at CBS 62 Studios in Southfield 4-7 p.m. Tuesday, May 8. This is currently the only call scheduled in Michigan.

Each applicant attending the *Big Brother* casting call will need to bring a completed application, along with a copy of a valid United States driver's license or State ID, a copy of a passport or Social Security card, and two photos — a head shot and a body shot.

For more information, contact Melissa Rowe at (248) 355-7045 or log on to www.CBSDetroit.com.



Team members Cayla Phillips and Tessa Warner focus on the task at hand at the national culinary competition.

Top chefs

Culinary team second at national event

By Brad Kadrach
Observer Staff Writer

And then there were two. The Plymouth-Canton culinary arts team headed to Baltimore over the weekend to battle 43 other teams from across the country in the national culinary competition.

And beat all but one of them. In the competition, the team had to prepare a three-course meal in an hour, working in a 10-square-foot area with no refrigeration, electricity or heat elements with the exception of two camp stoves.

The performance came despite being, as coach/teacher Diana Woodward pointed out, the only team without thousands of dollars in equipment and corporate sponsorship, or from a multimillion-dollar technical or culinary center.

"Our ladies dazzled everyone," Woodward said. "We took second, but by what we were told was a very, very close margin."

The team — Cayla Phillips, Haley Chynoweth, Tessa Warner, Hannah DeAngelis and alternate Meagan Gaedtker — also had to execute chicken butchery and knife skill presentation. They also had to create a packet of standardized recipes and a calculated cost analysis report of their menu — "And with nine components minimum per course, that works out to about a 90-



Plymouth-Canton's culinary team came home from the national competition in Baltimore with the second-place trophy.

page document," Woodward said — that is scored and scrutinized to the last detail. Woodward said the team garnered a legion of followers, including judges, business owners, corporate executives and the president of the National Restaurant Association, all of whom, Woodward

page document," Woodward said — that is scored and scrutinized to the last detail.

Woodward said the team garnered a legion of followers, including judges, business owners, corporate executives and the president of the National Restaurant Association, all of whom, Woodward

Please see CULINARY, A4

Downtown streets to close for Green Street Fair

By Matt Jachman
Observer Staff Writer

The Green Street Fair will mean a red light for traffic on some downtown Plymouth streets this weekend.

The fifth annual Green Street Fair opens at noon Friday in Kellogg Park and on adjacent streets, and street closures are expected to begin Thursday evening and last through about 8 p.m. Sunday, according to city officials (see map). Pedestrian

access to businesses will remain open on streets closed to motor vehicles.

The fair, which began in 2008, spotlights artists, jewelers, clothing makers and other vendors who use recycled or organic material; gives groups and companies with an environmental or health focus a forum to talk about their services; and features major businesses, such as Ford Motor Co., heating and cooling companies and construction firms, that offer energy-saving products. There will be food vendors — with the emphasis on organic or "natural" foods — demonstrations and activities for children.

The fair expected to attract around 80,000 people or more during its three days, said Mandi Buckland of Element Event Design, which handles publicity for the fair.

"Obviously, the weather plays a factor in that," Buckland said. (The Weather Channel's forecast calls for clouds, scattered thunderstorms Friday, isolated thunderstorms Sunday, and high temperatures ranging from 69 to 80 degrees.)

Tony Bruscatto, operations director of the Plymouth Downtown Development Authority, said weekend events like the Green Street Fair, and related street closures, have become routine for downtown business owners and regular visitors.

"I'm sure smart business people will find a way to notify their customers," Bruscatto said.

While Main Street will be closed to vehicles between Wing and Fralick during the fair, drive-up access to two businesses on South Main north of Wing — PNC Bank and the May-

Please see FAIR, A4

Volunteers do some spring cleaning for seniors

By Brad Kadrach
Observer Staff Writer

Joan Brady of Plymouth turns 80 next month, and a bout with osteoporosis and some torn cartilage in her knees makes it nearly impossible for her to do her own gardening and yard work any more.

That's why she was so happy to see Bryan Fitzgerald and his crew from the Home Depot at Five Mile and Beck show up as part of the Plymouth Community United Way's annual "Rake and Go" effort Saturday.

The United Way program, which helps seniors and physically and financially challenged residents with yard work and chores they can't do themselves, benefited from some 121 volunteers who worked at 38 homes in the Plym-

outh-Canton area.

At Brady's house on Inbrook in Plymouth Township Fitzgerald, the store manager, and his staff trimmed bushes, pulled all the weeds in the front yard, cleaned out flower beds and spread mulch.

"God bless 'em, they did a beautiful job," Brad said. "Even the store manager, God love his soul, was on his hands and knees working. I just can't do the work I used to love doing, and it was really nice of them. They worked so hard."

Volunteers came from a variety of walks of life — there were students, football players, church groups, businesses and residents with rakes and shovels in hand, pushing wheelbarrows and pulling weeds.

Please see VOLUNTEERS, A5



Plymouth High School football players load up the top soil at Mary Lou Stetke's Canton home as part of the annual Rake and Go event sponsored by the Plymouth Community United Way.

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New Hope

Grief support woman's life work, passion

By Julie Brown
Observer Staff Writer

Cathy Clough was only 33 when her first husband died. At that time, she had a stepson, 16, and two younger sons, 5 and 9.

Clough was asked by the hospice nurse to start a support group. She was a stay-at-home mom and didn't have formal training, but worked 15 years at a local hospice as director of bereavement services.

In early 2000, she and co-founders John and Betty Baird of Northville began New Hope Center for Grief Support. It was on Dunlap in Northville nine years and now at 315 Griswold, near Mill Race Village in Northville.

Clough, a Plymouth resident and New Hope executive director, is looking ahead to retire in the not-too-distant future. She knows that New Hope, a Christian-based grief support facility, will continue as strong as ever.

New Hope serves those of all faiths and nonwor-



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Cathy Clough will soon be retiring from New Hope Center for Grief Support in Northville as its director. Here she stands by a 'memory wall' of some of the clients and their families who have used the center's support system.

shippers and offers age- and loss-specific support, such as for the death of a child. There are three groups for the loss of a spouse, depending on age. "We really like to break people out into groups with others they can

relate to," she said of New Hope (www.newhopecenter.net). An eight-week workshop, "From Grief to New Hope," meets at numerous churches in southeast Michigan.

There are also ongo-

ing support groups at the Northville facility, including separate groups for kids and teens experiencing loss.

All services are offered free of charge, with help of fundraising, sponsorships, some grants, but

primarily donations and events.

Staff and volunteers

Clough is quick to tip her hat to the hard-working staff and volunteers.

Tim Cassidy is fund development director, Arlene Kurzawa office manager, Carol Spennachio fund development assistant, and Elaine Dzwonkowski kids and teens group coordinator. They're helped by some 100 volunteers in a variety of roles.

"We have a lot of volunteers," Clough said. "We could not run New Hope without volunteers." Their work ranges from mailings, speaking, yard work, running groups and more.

Many volunteers have used New Hope services and want to give back.

"So many people feel helpless and hopeless" when a loved one dies, she said. "They can eventually get to that place of hope and healing."

Clough's worked in her field for 27 years now. "I

don't think I'll ever stop helping grieving people" in some way, she said.

The work is challenging, but Clough's got support on the home front. She met the Rev. Paul Clough, now outreach pastor at Ward Presbyterian Church in Northville Township.

"We got married five years after I was widowed," she said of Paul, who has a son and daughter close in age to her younger kids. "We didn't have an 'ours'; we had a 'his and a mine'."

An upcoming fundraiser, "Spring Appreciation Dinner" on Friday, May 18, will laud Cathy Clough for her contributions. New Hope's legacy will also be acknowledged at the dinner, which will include hors d'oeuvres, silent and live auctions and entertainment.

"It's going to be a really nice event," she said.

If you'd like to attend, visit www.newhopecenter.net or call (248) 348-0115. Advance reservations are needed.

jbrown@hometownlife.com

Arts council considers Damaris hopefuls

The Plymouth Community Arts Council will recognize a Plymouth-Canton School district high school senior who has displayed outstanding abilities in visual arts and plans to continue his/her education in this field with its Damaris Fine Arts Award.

Students should submit a minimum of three to a maximum of pieces of art. Each piece, as well as the portfolio, must be labeled. At least one piece of artwork must be framed. Students will also be required to submit two letters of recommendation, a statement about the work being submitted, a one page essay describing how art affects you life and a recent photo.

Applications will be accepted May 2-7. Art-

work will be Juried: May 8-10, and the Damaris will be announced May 10.

Students artwork will be judged on its originality, creativity, and use of material. Artwork will be professionally juried. This award is open to all students who are entered in the P-CCS Annual Art Show.

The Damaris Awards (The Damaris Fine Arts Award and The Damaris Starkweather Artist Award) were established in memory of Damaris (Dee) Schulte by her family, husband, Dick, and sons, Philip and Mike. Dee, an artist in her own right, earned a Bachelor's Degree in Art and a Master's Degree in Art Education.

For information on how to submit an application, call the PCAC at (734) 416-4278.

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.

DEMS CAUCUS

Date/Time: Saturday, May 5; check-in at 9 a.m., vote scheduled for 11 a.m.

Location: Station 885 banquet room, 885 Starkweather in Plymouth

Details: The 2012 Democratic Presidential Caucus will be held in Plymouth. This caucus site is for City of Plymouth and Plymouth Township voters. Get there early to mix and mingle, and meet your local Democratic candidates. Breakfast courtesy of the Plymouth Democratic Club, the local organizers of the Caucus. You will need ID that shows that you are a Plymouth resident. The registration form includes a declaration that you are participating in the Caucus as a Democrat and that you are or will be a registered voter by the November 2012 election.

Contact: PlymouthDemocrats@gmail.com if you have any questions.

NEW HOPE DINNER

Date/Time: Friday, May 18, 6 p.m.

Location: Italian American Banquet Center in Livonia
Details: New Hope Center for Grief Support hosts a Spring Appreciation Dinner to honor Executive Director Cathy Clough for her dedication and service to the success and history of New Hope Center. Hors d'oeuvres are at 6 p.m., dinner's at 7 p.m., live music from 9-11 p.m. The event features strolling musician trio and live and silent auctions. Celebrity emcee is WDIV traffic reporter Ashlee Baracy.

Contact: New Hope Office at 248-348-0115 or register at www.NewHopeCenter.net

LIONS EUCHRE

Date/Time: Saturday, May 5, 6 p.m.

Location: Plymouth Elks Club, 41700 Ann Arbor Road

Details: The Canton Lions Club is calling all euchre players in to play in the second annual Canton Lions Club Euchre Tournament. Awards will be given to the top 4 players with the highest scores. There will also be an optional raffle for more great prizes. Food is included. To guarantee a spot, players can preregister by May 3, 2012 for a \$20 ante fee payable at the door.

Contact: E-mail patnancywilliams@yahoo.com or calling (734) 358-4280. For more info, go to www.cantonlions.org.

OPEN HOUSE

Date/Time: Wednesday, May 9, 9:15 a.m. or 7 p.m.

Location: New Morning School, 14501 Haggerty in Plymouth

Details: New Morning School will be hosting two open house/parent informational meetings for families interested in enrolling their children in preschool through eighth 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: Call Joan Barrett at (734) 420-3331 or visit www.newmorningschool.org

TRIVIA NIGHT

Date/Time: Friday, May 11, doors open at 6:15 p.m.

Location: The "Barn" at Colony Farms, on Colony Farm Drive (south off Ann Arbor Road between Beck and Ridge) in Plymouth Township. Signs will be posted.

Details: The Plymouth-Canton branch, American Association of University Women, will offer a "Trivia Night." Games begin at 7 p.m. with doors opening 6:15 p.m. Participants will put knowledge of facts and factoids to good use with proceeds to benefit AAUW's scholarship fund. Tickets are \$20 per person or \$100 per team of five.

Contact: For tickets, call (734) 453-5009 or e-mail aauw_plymouthcanton@yahoo.com. Reservations are required.

PET-A-PET

Date/Time: Third Saturday of the month, 10 a.m.

Location: Woodhaven Retirement Center in Livonia

Details: PET-A-PET, Inc. is looking for enthusiastic, friendly pets and their owners to visit facilities one hour a month. Pets must be up to date with vaccinations, proof required.

Contact: Laurie Patterson at (734) 953-0438.

ART EXHIBIT

Date/Time: Through May 31


Location: Liberty Street Brewing Co., 149 Liberty in Plymouth

Details: David Stanton's artwork will be on view in the "upper hall" gallery. What makes Stanton's painting so engaging? Exhibit organizers said, "They aren't just windows into his own soul, they're invitations for the viewer to open up their own and maybe let their inner child come out and play for a bit."


Contact: (734) 207-9600

CORRECTION


A story in the Sunday, April 29, *Observer* said the Super Jess 5K run takes place Saturday, May 6. We had the date right; it is May 6. But that's actually Sunday.



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Fundraiser shows PCAC's reach in arts community

By Matt Jachman
Observer Staff Writer

A weekend fundraiser combined the musical and visual arts and brought a new set of fans to the Plymouth Community Arts Council.

Area folk musicians, many of them regulars at BaseLine Folk Society shows, took the stage at the PCAC during nearly sold-out concerts for the nonprofit PCAC's spring benefit: a Friday appearance by the Pairadocs Trio and a Saturday "hootenanny" with several performers.

Jeff Burda, the PCAC's executive director, said the concerts attracted many BaseLine fans who otherwise aren't seen at the PCAC.

"It was a really nice event to see some new faces," Burda said.

The event raised about \$7,000 so far for the nonprofit, Burda said Tuesday, but receipts are still coming in.

A highlight of the weekend was the unveiling Friday of printmaker Mike Mullen's antique, pedal-powered press, which he acquired last year and restored in time for the fundraiser.

Mullen spoke to patrons about the 1891 model Chandler & Price "jobber" press during a benefit kickoff Friday, and was able to demonstrate how it worked.

Burda said there was a line of visitors waiting to see the press up close and talk to Mullen about it.

"People really liked it.



PCAC Director Jeff Burda and artist Mike Mullen with the print.

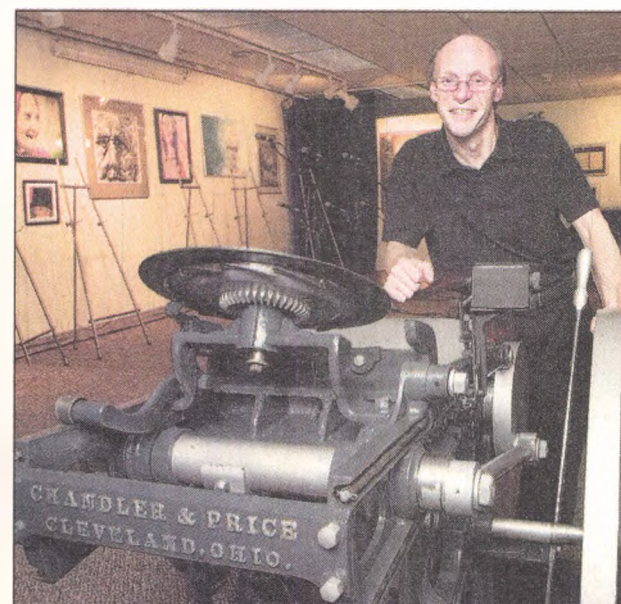
It was really fun having it there," said Mullen.

Mullen had made a limited-edition linotype, *Endless Possibilities*, as the first print off the restored press, and the prints were available for

sale as part of the fundraiser. The first five prints in the 100-print run — considered the most valuable because of their higher numbers — were auctioned off, and Sheila Paton, a Plymouth-Canton

Community Schools Board of Education trustee, was the highest bidder, snaring print No. 1. (Paton did not want her bid disclosed, Burda said.)

Copies of *Endless Possibilities* are still available through the PCAC for \$100.



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Artist Mike Mullen refurbished the Chandler and Price letterpress, used to make the print, *Endless Possibilities*.

Mullen, of Northville Township, said his restored press "ran like a dream."

"The press turned out great and ran even better than it looks, which I didn't think was possible," he said.

Later Friday, Mullen took the stage with Tom Ditkoff, an orthopedic surgeon, and Jeff London, a child psychiatrist, as the folk group Pairadocs Trio, which performs annually during BaseLine's concert season at the PCAC. Friday's concert was nearly sold out, Burda said.

Saturday's concert was a "hootenanny" featuring Kathy Nieman & Friends, The Folk Laureates, Marty Kohn and Craig Por-

ter and Alex and Maggie Zakem,

Burda, in his first year as executive director, said the fundraiser was designed in part to showcase some of the arts programs, such as hosting BaseLine concerts, with which the PCAC is involved.

The PCAC offers art shows, classes in painting, pottery, music and other arts, has arts summer camps for children, hosts monthly BaseLine Folk Society concerts from September through May, serves as headquarters for the Michigan Philharmonic and sponsors special events such as the summertime family concerts in Kellogg Park on Wednesdays.

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Green Street Road Closures this Weekend

It is anticipated that the following streets will be closed starting at 8:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 3rd through approximately 8:00 p.m. on Sunday, May 6th.

Legend:
Closed to vehicle traffic.



Source: City of Plymouth

FAIR

Continued from page A1

flower Meeting House — will be open.

On North Main, drivers will be able to get to the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home via Fralick and to Charter One Bank, at Main and Penniman, via the city's east-central parking lot (behind The Gathering).

"We do the best to make sure there's access," Bruscato said.

In addition, three of Plymouth's downtown parking facilities — the central parking deck off Harvey, the lot behind The Gathering and the lot behind the Plymouth District Library, will be run during the fair by the Plymouth Lions Club, which will charge \$5 a vehicle.

Local service clubs are given the chance, on a rotating basis, to manage the city's lots during special events, and Bruscato said that approach allows

the groups to raise money for their causes and allows the city to manage lot traffic and keep fair goers from having their vehicles blocked in by others who have parked haphazardly.

"While you may not like to have to pay, you know you'll be able to get in and out ... and you're also supporting clubs in Plymouth that do a lot of great things with that money," Bruscato said.

Those planning to attend the fair can buy discount parking passes for \$3 each through the Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce. Call (734) 453-1540.

The owners of privately owned parking lots in and near downtown are also expected to charge for parking during the fair.

Green Street Fair hours are noon to 7 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday. For more on the fair, visit its website, www.greenstreet-fair.com.

Homeowners report garage break-in try

Homeowners on Ann Arbor Trail east of Ridge recently reported an attempted break-in of their garage, police said.

The couple discovered the frame to a door on the garage broken, according to a Plymouth Township Police Department report, then learned from neighbors that the neighbors had been awakened by their barking dogs just before 4 a.m. on April 23.

The victims believe the dogs had been barking at someone trying to break into the garage, police said. The neighbors also reported that the windshield on a car parked at their house had been broken around the same

time.

Entry to the garage was not gained and nothing was reported stolen.

Vehicle burglaries

A stereo was reported stolen April 25 from a car parked at a business on General Drive north of Joy Road.

An employee told police he parked in the rear lot at the business at 8 a.m. on April 25 and returned about 2 p.m. to find a window on his Nissan broken and the stereo missing. Five compact discs were also reported stolen, police said.

In other recent vehicle burglaries:

- A stereo was reported

stolen from an Oldsmobile early on April 25 as the car sat in the driveway of a house on Butter-nut Avenue, south of Ann Arbor Trail and east of I-275.

The victim told police she parked the car there around 1 a.m. and returned a few hours later to find the stereo was gone. The Oldsmobile had likely been left unlocked, police said.

• Cash, an iPhone and credit and debit cards were among the things reported stolen recently from a Ford Flex parked outside a house on Karl Drive, east of Ridge and south of North Territorial.

The items were in a purse reported taken from the car, which had been parked in a driveway, a police report said. The Flex had been left unlocked.

Vandalism

A Mercury Mountaineer parked in the driveway of a house on Firwood, east of Haggerty and south of Ann Arbor Trail, was "egged" on the night of March 26, police said.

A police report said the vandalism apparently left scratches on a rear door on the right side of the Mountaineer.

— By Matt Jachman

CULINARY

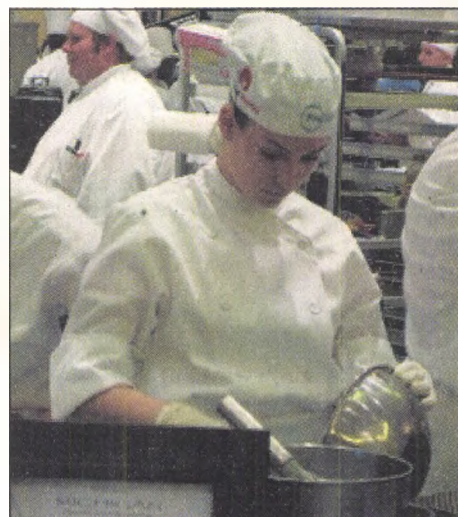
Continued from page A1

said, took the time to watch Plymouth-Canton compete.

Woodward said team members had received more than \$133,000 in scholarship offers per year, per student, including \$3,000 to the school of their choice.

"They performed like surgeons, and carried themselves with grace, dignity, pride for their state and school and gratitude just to be at such an amazing and high-level event," Woodward said. "This is what the competition should be about."

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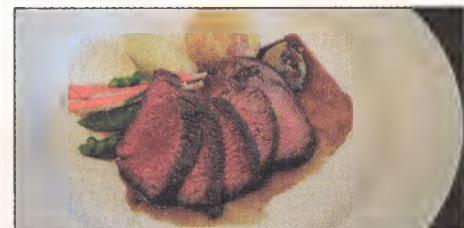
Hanna DeAngelis mixes ingredients as she prepares the meal at the competition.



In the competition, Plymouth-Canton's culinary team had to prepare a three-course meal in an hour, working in a 10-square-foot area with no refrigeration, electricity or heat elements with the exception of two camp stoves.



At one point, nearly every judge stopped to watch the Plymouth-Canton team.



Apparently, Plymouth-Canton's sous-vide beef chuck tender turned out pretty well, since the team finished second at the national competition.

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Career expo touts hundreds of new jobs

By Darrell Clem
Observer Staff Writer

Aiming to recruit hundreds of workers, national and local companies plan to converge on Canton Tuesday for a career fair hosted by the Michigan Institute of Aviation and Technology.

More than 80 firms representing the aviation, energy, automotive, technical, transportation, manufacturing and government fields, among others, are expected to attend the seventh MIAT Career Expo on the 750-student campus at 2955 S. Haggerty, north of Michigan Avenue.

"It's all different types of companies," Amy Kienast Linderman, MIAT's national director of business relations, said. "It really runs the gamut from flight attendants to engineers to accountants to mechanics to dispatchers."

Linderman estimated that 70 percent of the companies are looking to fill positions, though some educational and resource organizations also are set to attend. She said one firm, Indianapolis-based AAR Corp., a global provider of products and services to commercial aviation and gov-



MICHIGAN INSTITUTE OF AVIATION AND TECHNOLOGY

Much like last year's career expo, the Michigan Institute of Aviation and Technology is expecting a large crowd next Tuesday for job-seekers and companies looking to fill hundreds of positions.

ernment defense industries, is looking to hire as many as 600 workers.

The public is invited to attend the career expo, which is free for job-seekers, and MIAT has spread

the word to its current and former students and to more than 5,000 U.S. armed forces veterans.

MIAT President Chuck Hawes said the event is intended to link employers

to high-quality candidates who can be a good match for their companies.

"Right now, certain industries are experiencing rapid shifts in staffing requirements,"

Hawes said. "This career expo is an efficient way for employers to meet and interview well-qualified candidates for certain positions."

Job-seekers attend-

ing the career expo are encouraged to bring copies of their resumes, dress professionally and be prepared for possible on-site interviews.

Employers from across Michigan and around the United States are set to recruit workers. According to a MIAT statement, companies in hiring mode include Duncan Aviation, General Atomics Aeronautical Systems, Columbia Helicopters, U.S. Foods, Aggreko, L&W Engineering, DZ Atlantic, Howden North America, Ventower, England Logistics and Defense Support Services, among others.

Educational institutions are scheduled to share information about degrees and training opportunities, and a hospitality area for veterans is to include access to a variety of service organizations.

Linderman said job-seekers may simply show up for the expo without registering. For more information, call (800) 447-1310.

MIAT moved to Canton in 2010, though it has been in operation since 1969, formerly at Willow Run Airport. Its website is www.miat.edu.

dclcm@hometownlife.com
(313) 222-2238

VOLUNTEERS

Continued from page A1

East Middle School seventh-grader Ben Ludtke was earning community service hours — "It'll be fun ... it's work they can't do for themselves, so it'll be nice" to help, he said — with his mom, Shelly Ludtke of Plymouth.

"I believe volunteering in the community makes the community better," Shelly Ludtke said. "It's important to us for our kids to have that experience."

Cathie Siegler of Canton and Jeremy Russell of Livonia were on hand as part of a contingent from their church, Plymouth First United Meth-

odist. They said the group had recently done a study at church about putting faith into action.

"If we're truly living out our faith, helping others is carrying out our relationship with God," said Russell, who brought along children Caitlin, 11, and Spencer, 8.

Mary Lou Stretke of Canton has bad flood

problems in her back yard and, with arthritis and two bad knees, she couldn't do much about it herself. So parent volunteer Gregg Skopczyński arrived Saturday morning with a team of Plymouth High School football players to spread what Stretke called "a ton of dirt" to level off the yard. "I could not do this by

myself ... I'm very proud these young men would give up their Saturday to help me," Stretke said. "The coach wanted to build character in them. But if you look at (the players), it's there already. They're amazing."

Skopczyński said it was simply a matter of wanting to help. If his players

could get the yard leveled off, he said, "maybe it'll help."

"The community does a lot for us ... we just know they support the team, and it's important for these guys to give back," Skopczyński said. "It's pretty rewarding work."

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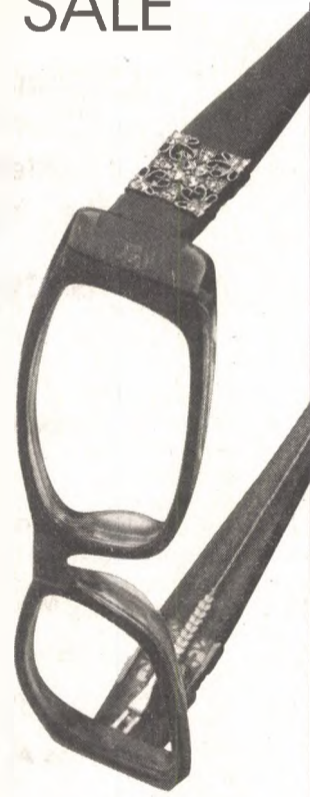
A volunteer team from Johnson Controls cleans up the front yard at one of the four Plymouth homes at which they worked Saturday.

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Coffee shop show features works by advanced art students

By Matt Jachman
Observer Staff Writer

High school senior Lindsey Davidson has been drawing since she was a young girl.

Classmate Leah Vuleich hadn't taken many photographs until about a year ago, but her influences also date back to childhood — mom Judy Vuleich is a longtime freelance photographer.

Now, Lindsey's paintings and drawings and Leah's photos are on display until Sunday at the Biggy Coffee shop on Ann Arbor Road in Plymouth.

Both women are advanced-placement students at Plymouth Christian Academy, and while PCA has its own exhibitions, the show is a chance to show their art to wider audience, said Susan Aitken, a PCA art teacher.

"That just really gives them a nice opportunity to show that work in more of a professional way," Aitken said during Thursday evening's opening event.

Lindsey and Leah are Aitken's only two advanced-placement students this year. Lindsey, who favors acrylic paints, has works in that medium as well as charcoal, pastels, pencil and pen and ink. She favors landscapes and still-lives, and her landscapes are taken from photographs of places she's visited on family vacations or scenes near her home in Canton Township. She's studied art privately as well as in middle school and high school.

"I love, like, the natural beauty of landscapes," she said. After a stressful day, she said, it's relaxing for her to drive out to a natural setting to take pictures on which she will base her paintings.

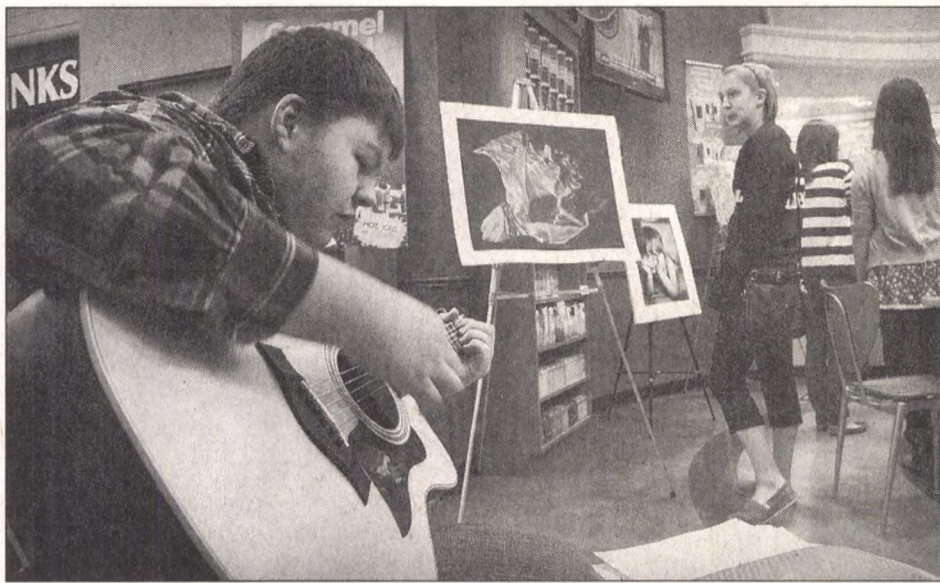
Lindsey said her art was more like photo-realism until recently, when she began to challenge herself and develop a slightly abstract style.

"She's got an eye for color and perspective and just has these natural drawing skills," said Aitken, her teacher.

Leah, who got her start in photography in Aitken's yearbook class at PCA last year, works in digital photography with, she says, a heavy dose of the computer program Photoshop. She likes portraits — and notes that many of subjects in the black-and-white portraits on display at Biggy have their faces in heavy shadows or otherwise obscured. That offers the viewer a sense of mystery, she said, and highlights other points of interest in the portrait.

"What I like is when your (viewer's) mind makes up the face," said Leah, who lives in Plymouth Township.

"She's willing to take risks, and I love that



Connor Roy's guitar work rounds out the art show.

PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Kiersten Gunderson is the model/muse for this portrait.

about her," Aitken said.

One of Leah's photos, Rebuilding Detroit, is a close-up of a brawny hand holding a brick at an in-progress wall, with shadows suggesting the wetness of the mortar and the roughness of the bricklayer's hand. The hand belongs to her father, Steve.

"Dad, grab the brick," Leah told her father, she explained, after being inspired by a Detroit building site. "The image just popped into my head."

Both women have different plans for how their art will fit into their lives and careers: Leah plans to attend Michigan State University and go into advertising and magazine photography, while Lindsey plans to go to Hope College and study elementary education, while keeping drawing and painting as a sideline.

"I don't want it to become a job," she said. "It'll always be a part of my life."

Biggy franchise owner Drew Wolford, who with his wife owns the Plymouth SuperCenter in which the coffee shop is located, said he frequently hosts student art exhibitions there, encouraged by Biggy corporate. In addition, a dollar from each drink sold during Tuesday's opening was set aside for PCA.

PCA junior Connor Roy Jr. played guitar and sang during the event, performing worship songs, both covers and originals.



Photography is the artistic medium for Leah Vuleich.



Lindsey Davidson uses bold colors in her work. This painting is titled "Forest Road."



Lori Shaffer, from Calvary Baptist Church, tapes off a bedroom wall prior to painting during her Christmas in Action volunteer effort Sunday.

Christmas comes early in volunteer effort

By Brad Kadrich
Observer Staff Writer

With only her Social Security and a little bit of savings to work with, Elaine Collings knew the roof on her Canton home wasn't going to be fixed any time soon.

So when her son saw something about Christmas in Action on the Canton Township website, a little ray of sunshine snuck in between the raindrops in her leaking roof.

And when a Christmas in Action representative stopped by her home a couple of weeks ago, he had good news.

"They came by two weeks ago and said, 'Elaine, you're getting a new roof,'" Collings recalled Saturday, while watching a volunteer crew remove and replace her aging roof. "I said, 'God love you.' All I had was my Social Security and my savings. I would have had to wait until it actually started leaking before I could have done anything."

Christmas in Action, a nonprofit agency that works to preserve and revitalize houses in an effort to help low-income elderly and disabled homeowners, took care of the problem for her.

Spring cleaning

Knowledgeable volunteer experts perform electrical, plumbing, heating and roofing repairs, while teams of other volunteers paint walls, wash windows, and do general interior and exterior spring cleaning.

Local businesses such as Home Depot, Monroe Bank & Trust and RepairClinic.com donate services, merchandise, expertise and volunteers to help make it happen.

"We couldn't do it without them," said volunteer coordinator Paula Kosbe, who helped wrangle the efforts of more than 200 volunteers to work at a dozen homes. "Without their generosity, this could not be done."

RepairClinic volunteers, participating in Christmas in Action for the second time, fixed appliances, did roofing and exterior repairs, painting and cleaning projects. The company's participation is led by RepairClinic Outreach, a group of employees dedicated to making a positive impact, locally and nationally.

"For us, it's a Saturday very well spent," said Joey Gagnon, a RepairClinic vice president. "We're grateful to Christmas in Action of Wayne County for the opportunity to put our skills to use to help those who need it most in the Canton community."

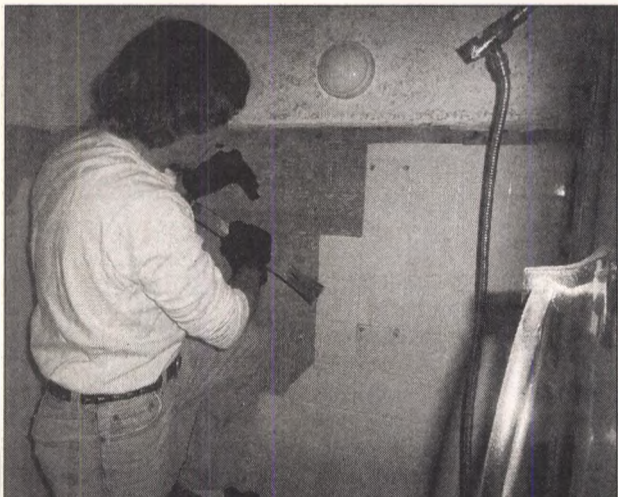
Helping hand

Bill Dunphy, a retiree who also does work for Habitat for Humanity, was a team captain on a Canton home where volunteers were ripping out bathroom tile, installing a new door in a bedroom and tearing out carpet for the homeowner, who was recently confined to a wheelchair.

Dunphy said Christmas in Action and Habitat for Humanity are similar efforts in that they're designed simply to help people.

"From that aspect, we're helping those who are less fortunate than us," said Dunphy, who led one of the larger teams Saturday. "We're helping those who can't quite make it. You have to pay it back."

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Cam Nellet of Canton, part of the Christmas in Action team, tears out bathroom tile at a home on Southwind in Canton.

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Students' video snags C-SPAN honor

By Brad Kadrich
Observer Staff Writer

Eighth-graders in Jodi Svoboda's classroom at East Middle School had been studying the 2000 election, when Vice President Al Gore won the popular vote but lost the election to George W. Bush in the electoral college, when it came time to enter C-SPAN's annual Student Cam Video Project.

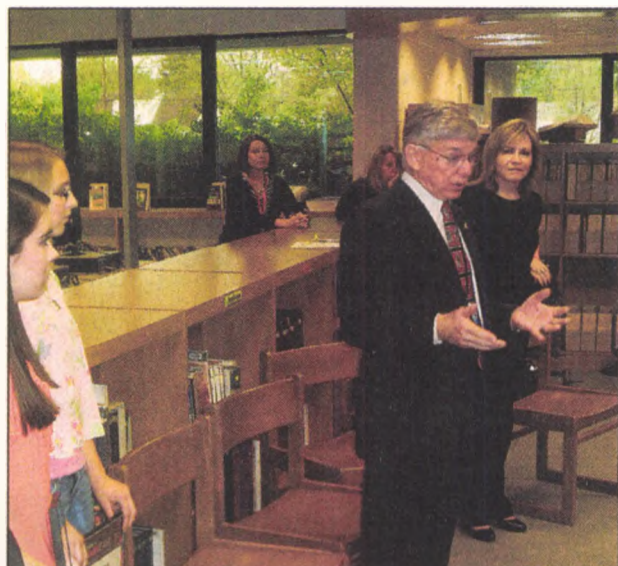
When topics came up for discussion, Paige Bimberg and Brigid Cummings, who had already decided to partner in entering the contest, decided they wanted to know more about the electoral college.

What they found out not only educated them on the political realm, but it impressed C-SPAN judges enough to earn an honorable mention in the contest, one of 75 videos from around the country chosen as winners.

"We talked about Bush-Gore in class a lot ... I wanted to learn more about that," Brigid said. "We learned that (elections) really depend on which seats you win, not on how many people voted for you."

A fortuitous trip to Washington, D.C., for Brigid and her family, which has relatives in the D.C. area, helped the teens put their video together. Accompanied by a cousin who helped handle the camera, Brigid combed the D.C. streets, talking to people about their feelings on the electoral college and its relevance.

Upon her return, the duo taped Paige's part — at the news desk of



Plymouth-Canton Superintendent Dr. Jeremy Hughes told students at East Middle School their voices are heard and their opinions to matter, and urged them to communicate with the district's Board of Education, which he called "the government body closest to you."

the fictional CBN (Cummings-Bimberg News) network.

They did the final edit and got the video (it can be viewed at <http://www.studentcam.org/>) to C-SPAN for the contest.

"That was my favorite part, the editing," Paige said. "I enjoyed putting it all together and seeing how it turned out in the final product. We got to make it our own."

Deborah Lamb, a coordinating producer for C-SPAN, said the video was impressive.

"Their choice of exteriors and the resources they used was impressive," Lamb said during an award presentation at East Monday. "It was very creative, and very insightful."

As part of the award ceremony, Lamb asked the seventh- and eighth-graders gathered in the school's media center whether they thought

their voices mattered. A disappointing number of them said, "No."

Lamb said the video contest was part of an effort to make sure kids know that their voices do, indeed, count.

"We want them to be able to formulate their own opinions," Lamb said. "It's important for kids to get involved, and to know their opinion does matter."

Svoboda said she was impressed that the girls got right to work on the video with Brigid's trip to Washington. She said the effort was consistent with the students' abilities.

"They wanted to focus on the electoral college and why it's relevant," Svoboda said. "They're smart and innovative. They're remarkable young ladies."

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East Middle School eighth-graders Brigid Cummings and Paige Bimberg accept awards from Maria Holmes of Comcast and Deborah Lamb of CSPAN.

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Deadline nears in POAM fundraising drive

The Police Officers Association of Michigan announced its annual donation drive to benefit soldiers recovering at the new Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda, Md.

Spurred on by the generosity of local communities and companies like ABC Warehouse/Sony and Anchor Bay Entertainment last year, POAM is attempting to outdo their efforts this year in delivering a wide array of products to recovering soldiers.

The donation drive runs through May 4, with all items being delivered to Walter Reed during National Police Week in Washington D.C., on May 11.

"This year's visit will allow us to see the new Walter Reed Military Medical Center, which has been built on the grounds of the former Bethesda Naval Hospital," said POAM president James Tignanelli. "Even as our number of troops overseas reduces, we know the dangers they are confronted with continue to exist. Our last vis-

it allowed us to bring a great variety of essentials and gifts to our wounded members of the armed services and I'm confident we will surpass our expectations."

The POAM is hoping to fill more than 30 recently donated Bristol Motor Speedway backpacks with items to give to the soldiers in May. Items that can be donated include the following:

- DVDs and DVD players
- Blu-Rays and Blu-Ray players
- MP3 Players (iPods, Touch and Shuffle)

- iPads
- Nintendo / PSP Portable Game players and games
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make out to Jim Tignanelli) POAM encourages churches, schools, colleges, businesses, VFW halls and local municipalities to arrange mini donation drives in an effort to bolster the total collective volume of items POAM can deliver to Walter Reed.

Individual donations can be sent to or dropped off by May 5 at POAM, 27056 Joy Road in Redford or at TM Productions, 309 B S. Main, Royal Oak.

For more information, please visit www.poam.net/ donate or call (313) 937-9000.



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Speed networking

The Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce hosts a speed-networking event at the chamber office, 850 W. Ann Arbor Trail, 8-9:15 a.m. Friday, May 4.

Speed Networking is like Speed Dating for businesses. With Speed Networking, members will have the opportunity to meet approximately 20-25 businesses in one hour. This structured networking event will allow you to meet most of the people in the room and within two minutes learn about each other's companies.

RSVP for the event by calling (734) 453-1540 or e-mailing teri@plymouthmich.org

Coffee connection

The Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce sponsors its next Coffee Connection 8-9 a.m. Thursday, May 10, at Kilwin's, located at 298 S. Main (at the corner of Penniman). Chamber officials said the Coffee Connection is "a great way to start your business day. You can enjoy a cup of coffee, Kilwin's famous chocolate and breakfast treats while making new connections with other chamber members."

Anyone interested in attending can call (734) 453-1540 or e-mail teri@plymouthmich.org.

Showcase Plymouth

Exhibit spaces for the Showcase and Taste of Plymouth, set for 5-7:30 p.m. Monday, May 14, are going quickly. Exhibit space prices are \$110 or \$135 (premium) and includes a 6' x 3' skirted table. This is a great opportunity to market your business to residents and

local businesses. If you are interested in exhibiting, please contact the Chamber at (734) 453-1540 or e-mail teri@plymouthmich.org. Cancellations must be received by May 10.

Showcase Plymouth takes place at The Inn at St. John's, 44045 Five Mile (at Sheldon) in Plymouth. Tickets are \$10.

Showcase & Taste of Plymouth attracts 600-800 attendees from the community and member businesses, features 90 total exhibitors including 20 restaurants, sees Community Service Awards presented to 20 honorees, and each exhibitor can bring three people.

Scholarship goals

With a couple of weeks to go, the Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce is more than halfway toward its goal for funding the Student Citizenship Scholarships.

Donations received, according to information provided by the chamber, came to more than \$3,700, well over halfway toward the \$5,000 goal set for May 2.

These scholarships will be based on student's community service only and up to five \$1,000 scholarships will be given. A selection committee will pick one student each from Canton, Plymouth and Salem high schools, the Starkweather Alternative High School and a non-P-CCS high school student who lives in the district.

Contributors will be recognized on the Chamber's web page and at Showcase Plymouth on May 14. Donations need to be received by May 2. To access a donation form, go to the following link on the chamber's web site at www.plymouthmich.org/chamber/student-citizenship-scholarships.

PLYMOUTH BUSINESS BRIEFS

New director

Bank of Ann Arbor announced Jan Garfinkle, founder and managing director of Arboretum Ventures, has joined the Arbor Bancorp, Inc. and Bank of Ann Arbor Board of Directors.

Garfinkle utilizes her educational background in biomedical engineering, extensive medical device operating experience and industry connections to select and nurture outstanding early-stage companies for venture capital investment specializing in the health care sector. Jan led Arboretum's investment in HandyLab and served on its Board of Directors for five years until the company was acquired by Becton Dickinson.

She has also led Arboretum's investments in CardioMEMS, Uptake Medical, BAROnova, Vasonova, Esperion, NXThera, Life Magnetics, Sonitus Medical and Cerève. She presently serves as a director of Accord Biosciences, NXThera, Life Magnetics, Sonitus and Cerève and as a board observer on Uptake Medical and Esperion.

Garfinkle is the past President of Michigan Venture Capital Association, an Advisory Board member of the Global Cardiovascular Innovation Center (GCIC) at the Cleveland Clinic, and a member of the Healthcare Advisory Board at the University of Michigan.

Business news

From the desks of the Plymouth Downtown Development Authority:

- Perfectly Sweet will soon be moving to its own location at 470 Forest #17, next to Cozy Café.
- Scheduled to open soon: Dazzling Daniela in the Mayflower Center the first week of May; The Sardine Room on Main Street in mid-May; Greek Islands restaurant on Main Street by the end of May; and Simply the Best Boutique on Forest sometime in June.
- Core Sport is offering a six-week running and pilates/stretch group starting Sunday, May 6, at 7:15 a.m., and continue every Sunday for six weeks. The seventh week is the Plymouth YMCA Father's Day Run in downtown Plym-

outh. For \$125 you receive entrance fee to the race, T-shirt from the race, the six-week workshop consisting of a 30-minute run (run/walk), followed by a 30-minute pilates mat/stretch class for runners.

Contact lisa@coresportstudio.com for more information or to sign up.

• The property management group, Armada, says it has a pending deal to lease 1,900 square feet of space in the former Georgia's Gift Gallery building on Forest Ave. Armada also has spaces of 3,600 square feet and 6,500 square feet available in the same building.

Anyone looking for downtown retail space can contact Darryl Goodwin or Bruce Goodwin at (248) 855-1221.

• Property owner Denny Pennington has two available storefronts and an office for lease — the former Scents of Delight and Sweet Peas and Little Sprouts in Westchester Square, which is 965 square feet; and the former Pam's Bead Garden in Westchester Mall, which is 1,150 square feet. The office is in Westchester Square and is 175 square feet. Interested parties can call Pennington at (586) 506-1225.

Grant requests

Michigan's Metro West Chapter of Credit Unions is seeking Detroit area nonprofit organizations in need of financial grants of up to \$2,500 each to support local community improvement activities.

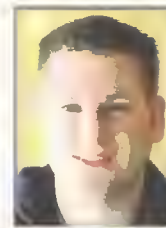
Nonprofit organizations that wish to apply must submit a written grant request of no more than two type-written pages by Friday, July 13. The request must include the name of the organization, contact information, website address if available, 501(c)3 number, organization's mission, requested amount of up to \$2,500, complete description of how the funds will be used within 12 months of receipt, and the estimated number of people who will directly benefit from the grant.

Grant recipients will be recognized at the annual Metro West Chapter Charity Golf Outing to be held at the Northville Hills Golf Club on Thursday, Aug. 16.

Organizations interested in receiving more details about grant submissions are requested to e-mail metrowest@cscu.org.

Testing the new iPad

By Jon Gunnells
Guest Columnist



Tech Savvy

Jon Gunnells

Even if you watch very little TV, you've likely seen dozens of Apple commercials boasting the new retina display and capabilities of the new iPad with 4G networking speeds.

Earlier this month, I tested the third-generation Apple product courtesy of Verizon Wireless which is selling the iPad 4G in stores and online.

After spending more than a week with the new iPad, I can say, the multitude of commercials don't do the HD screen on the new iPad justice. Whether you are streaming Netflix movies, tweeting or playing online games, the screen provided a picture as good as any I have seen before.

Even more impressive was the iPad's battery life and after streaming episode after episode of TV shows there was still plenty of juice left. The iPad can surf the web or stream music for up to 10 hours on a full charge. However, the tablet takes a lot longer to charge than a cell phone — and as charging is concerned — is similar to a laptop.

With the 4G network connection provided by Verizon there was no lag either. Not once did I have to wait for streaming content to buffer or for pages to load.

The only drawbacks to the unit were small ones. Like other Apple products the new iPad does not support flash.

So when I used the Domino's app to order one of those new artisan pizzas (fancy, I know), I couldn't experience the entire app because it was flash-based. (I have the same problem on my iPhone).

I found myself mostly using the iPhone for personal use because the setup is too difficult to type work documents efficiently. For those using the iPad for work use I recommend buying a case with a stand so your iPad can sit upright as you type. Keyboard accessories are also available for all generations of the iPad, however, they are a bit smaller than a traditional keyboard and may take some getting used to.

A variety of iPad accessories can be purchased at ABC Warehouse.

As I used the test iPad more and more, I noticed I began replacing other electronics I already owned. For example, if I was streaming Netflix on my TV or if I was gaming

it was instead of doing so on my iPhone or PS3.

Because I already have a functioning laptop and am constantly connected to my iPhone I don't know that I needed a third device to use each day. However, if I needed a new computer I could see the iPad filling that void.

It is fast, functional, fun and has a nice camera, video camera capabilities, and of course being wire free doesn't hurt — especially when streaming video or using Skype.

The Apple iPad 4G features a 9.7 inch screen, retails from \$499 (16GB) and can be purchased in black or white. A 32GB version can be purchased for \$599 and a 64GB version can also be purchased for \$699.

Each model comes with a power adapter, USB cable and limited warranty but additional warranties can be purchased through Apple Care which I highly recommend.

The unit comes in at a sleek 1.46 pounds, supports multiple languages and is bluetooth enabled.

For more information on the new iPad, visit Apple.com.

Jon Gunnells 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.

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Follicle frenzy

Hair-shaving fundraiser aims to stamp out children's cancer

By Brad Kadrich
Observer Staff Writer

Anton Furman thinks one of the saddest sights in the world is a child with cancer. That's why Furman, a Plymouth resident, was at the Claddagh Irish Pub in Livonia Sunday, taking part for the second straight year in the St. Baldrick's fundraiser to benefit childhood cancer research.

Organized by Eric Bacyinski, the Plymouth Township deputy clerk who has been involved with the foundation for four years, the fundraiser — for which volunteers raised pledges as they agreed to have their heads shaved — raised nearly \$26,000.

"I think it's a great cause," Furman said. "Kids with cancer ... you're not going to find anything much sadder than that. That's the biggest reason I agreed to this."

In addition to the shaves, the event included a variety of raffle items, donated by The Detroit Lions, Renewal By Anderson, The Detroit Red Wings, The Livonia Chamber of Commerce, Best Buy, A&E Jewerly of Canton, The Plymouth Whalers, Ford Motor Company, Dean Sadler Hair & Makeup Studio, Bikram Yoga of Northville, Claddagh Irish Pub, Sideways, Mary Kay, Fantastic Sams of Plymouth and Jeff Glover & Associates Realtors

Dramatic Dimensions Entertainment of Garden City provided the music, while Fantastic Sams of Plymouth donated the hair stylists.

But the focus was on more than 30 shaves, all of whom agreed to give up varying amounts of hair for the cause.

One of them was Abdul Shukairy of Farmington Hills.

"My fraternity brother introduced me to (Bacyinski), and he talked me into it," Shukairy said. "I thought, 'What the heck? It's only hair.'"

That attitude helped the fundraiser more than double its original \$10,000 goal. Bacyinski said the event, which drew more than 200 people Sunday, blew past that total quickly, and then flew past the re-established \$15,000 goal. He figures to have raised some \$26,000 by the time all the donations are collected.

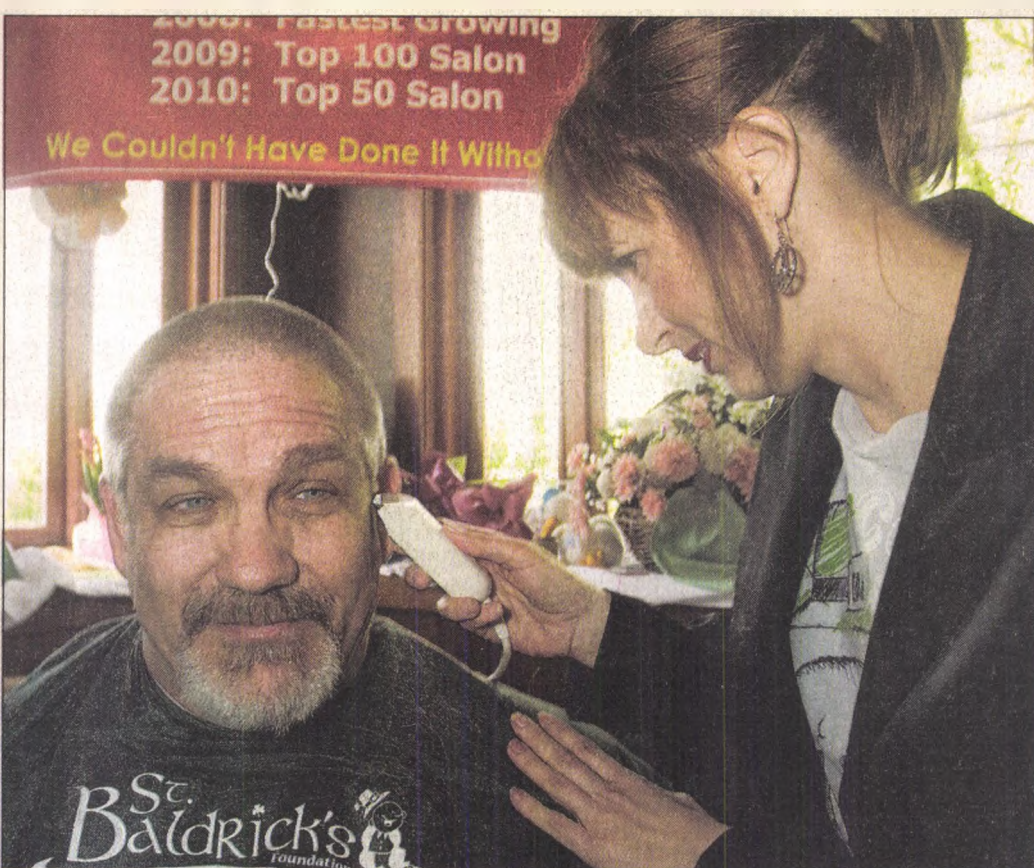
The totals were helped by a \$100 donation by the Plymouth Kiwanis -Evening Club, a fundraiser at downtown Plymouth's Dairy King, an early April fundraiser sponsored by the Plymouth Whalers and other events from The Penn Grill and Sun & Snow Sports of Plymouth.

"I've been extremely happy with the event's success," said Bacyinski, who has been in the event for four years and organized the last two. "By all accounts it was a huge success. I want everyone to know that none of this would be possible without the generosity of the many local businesses and donors who stepped up to help out."

bkadrich@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-8899



Abby Stonerook of Plymouth (right) was one of just a couple of women who volunteered to be shaved for the cause. She was also the event's top individual fundraiser. That's last year's top fundraiser, Ron Sears, doing the honors.



Brad Kadrich, editor of the Plymouth and Canton Observers, gets his head shorn by Fantastic Sams stylist Megan Hepp of Northville. Kadrich was one of some 30 shaves who helped raise money for the event.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Connor Stock takes his turn in the chair during Sunday's St. Baldrick's fundraiser.



Most of the hair on Brad Kadrich's head now lies at his feet.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Jean Pyykkonen of Hancock, Mich., browses the raffle items at the St. Baldrick's fundraiser Sunday. Pyykkonen was visiting sister Carol Pyykkonen, who works with Eric Bacyinski at Plymouth Township Hall. Of Bacyinski, who organized the fundraiser, Carol Pyykkonen said, "He puts in so much work on it. A lot of people say they don't have the time, and he just puts so much into it."



Joe Stamper and Joe Kerr of Dramatic Dimensions Entertainment of Garden City provided the entertainment.



I-96 stretch faces 2014 shutdown

By Ken Abramczyk
Observer Staff Writer

I-96 will be completely closed in 2014 between Newburgh in Livonia and Telegraph in Redford for a complete rebuild, the Michigan Department of Transportation announced Monday.

The estimated \$150 million project includes full reconstruction of seven miles of pavement, extensive repairs to 36 overpasses within the project limits, and the replacement of freeway drainage and lighting. Five of the overpasses will be totally replaced.

MDOT had sought public input earlier this year on whether to conduct a partial or a full closure of the seven-mile stretch. Partial closures would have been more costly and extended the project into 2015 or even 2016, MDOT said. Details are still being made final, but MDOT expects the closure will take place in early 2014.

"We put several options on the table for the public to consider," MDOT Met-

ro Region Engineer Tony Kratofil said in a press release issued by MDOT. "At the end of the day, the results favored the full closure and that's how we will proceed."

MDOT: Public preferred closure

On March 1, MDOT hosted a public meeting and presented various options, including the preference on whether to close the freeway or keep lanes open through the work zone. Details on how each option would affect the project timeline were included. In addition, a website, www.96fix.com, was launched, featuring project details and an online survey allowing motorists, business owners and residents to weigh in on their preferred option.

"We had tremendous response to our outreach," Kratofil said. "More than 1,700 responses later, 56 percent of the participants preferred the full closure in order to restore all lanes of travel within

one year." Rob Morosi, a spokesman for MDOT's Detroit region, said no schedule has been completed of the repairs. "We're still finalizing those details," Morosi said. "We wanted to make sure the public knew that this was what we're going to do. We'll be holding a public meeting in the fall. We're looking at September."

That particular artery of I-96 opened in 1977, according to Livonia city officials. Mayor Jack Kirksey said a meeting was held Monday morning with city officials and Chamber members who operate manufacturing companies. "There was a groan in the audience," Kirksey said of the closure news. "It's a situation that will seriously impact operations for a year."

'Short-term pain; long-term gain'

The freeway "gets a tremendous amount of use," Kirksey said. "It is a victim of age and use." Closing the freeway for one

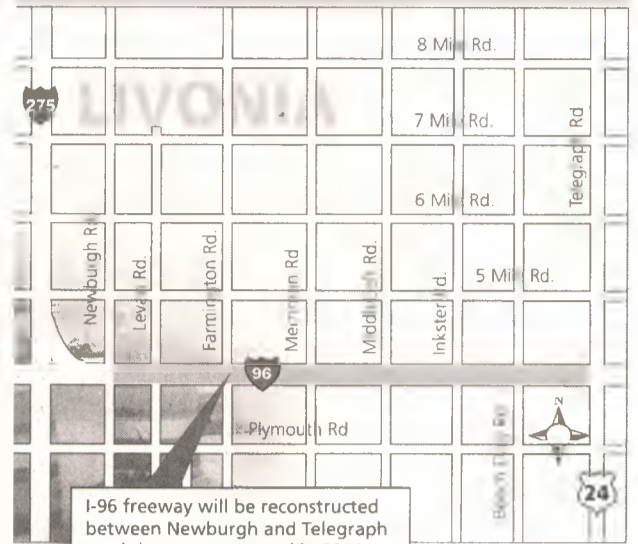
year is a better alternative for businesses than shutting it down for two or three, Kirksey said. "Most businesses can survive a year with it, but it is more difficult for them if it is beyond that," Kirksey said. "Sewers can best be accessed with the entire freeway closed."

"It is short-term pain for long-term gain. I know that is a little bit trite, but that's what it is."

The project will cost Livonia up to \$2.4 million, according to the mayor's office. Kirksey was hoping for more state money to help fund that. The city's portion will come from the city's roads millage, if voters approve it in August.

Dan West, president of the Livonia Chamber of Commerce, said he has discussed the project with some of the city's manufacturing companies, which will be impacted in terms of transportation of personnel, equipment and supplies. "For the most part, people want good roads to get to and from their businesses," West said.

I-96 CONSTRUCTION



I-96 freeway will be reconstructed between Newburgh and Telegraph roads late next year and in 2014.

The Michigan Department of Transportation announced Monday that I-96 will be closed between Telegraph and Newburgh roads in 2014 for a \$150 million full-scale rebuild of the freeway.

"Better roads make for a better infrastructure, which makes for better economic development."

Retail businesses along I-96 are concerned about a potential reduction in customers, West said. "Actually, I've heard more from residents who use I-96 as their primary route to get downtown for Tiger games, Red Wing games or concerts," West said.

"Right now, you hear the groan, but you realize it's the price of progress."

Residents can follow project developments at www.facebook.com/96fix and www.twitter.com/96fix, or can e-mail the project team at MDOT-96fix@michigan.gov.

kabramcz@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-2591 | Twitter: @KenAbramcz

P-CCS half-day kindergarten enrollment deadline nears

Parents interested in a half-day kindergarten option in the Plymouth-Canton School district are near the deadline for signing up.

There are still spaces available in P-CCS' half-day kindergarten program. The district continues to offer open enrollment, on a first-come, first-served basis through Friday, May 4.

Interested parties should go to Hoben Elementary School, located at 44680 Saltz Road in Canton, between the hours of 8-11 a.m. or 1-4 p.m.

This is a half-day kindergarten program open to students who will turn 5 years old by Dec. 1. Parents will be

responsible for transporting their child to and from Hoben Elementary School.

Parents should bring an original birth certificate, immunization records, vision screening, and two proofs of residency (such as property tax record, homeowners insurance policy, warranty deed/closing statement or a signed rental/lease agreement and a utility bill).

School officials said while registration will not be complete without these documents, parents will be able to reserve their child's place in this program with partial documentation.

For more information, call (734) 416-2757.

History of undergarments topic of talk

Kim Parr will discuss the history of undergarments from the Middle Ages through World War I in a presentation titled "Mentioning the Unmentionables: A History of Undergarments" at the May 15 meeting of the Livonia Branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW).

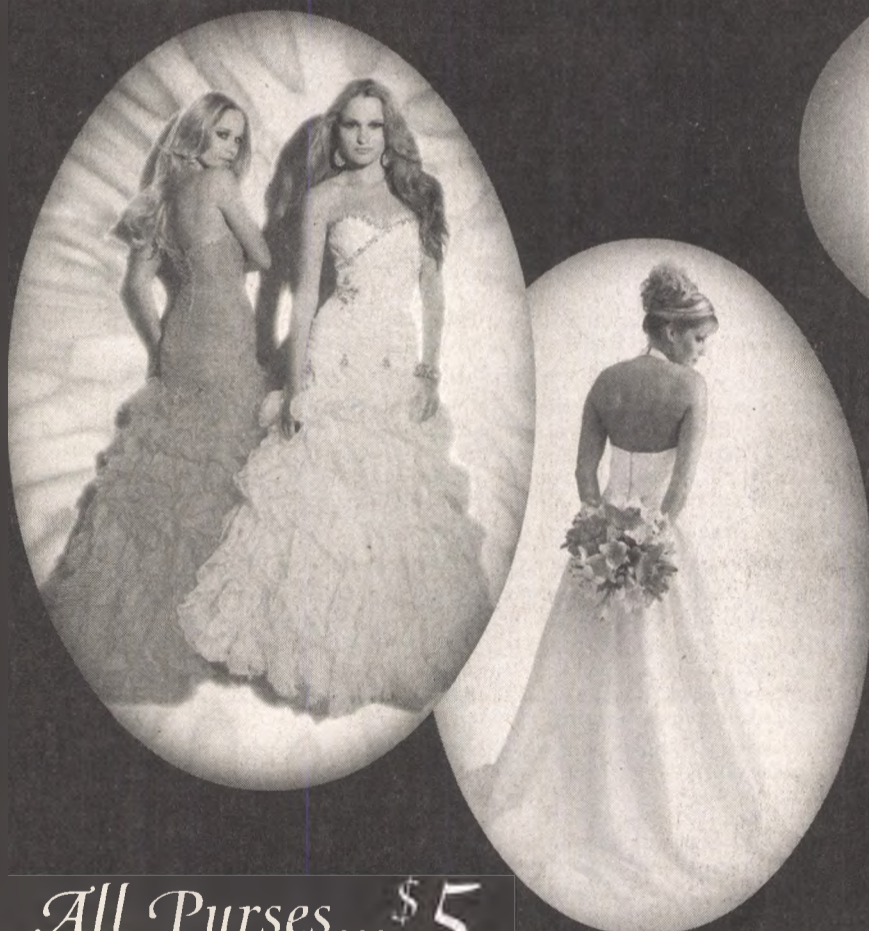
Parr is director of the Macomb County Historical Society and Crocker House Museum. She will review interesting aspects of 18th and 19th century underclothing, and demonstrate in what order a lady would dress. There will be a display of actual vintage underwear, and a discussion of how and why undergarments changed through time.

For nine years Parr worked at Green-

field Village as a living history on-site coordinator and master presenter. Wearing period clothing while performing typical daily chores gave her great insight into how our great-grandmothers lived. She developed an appreciation for the subject of domestic history, and will be answering some of the many questions she was asked such as: "What effects did waist cinching have besides providing an hourglass figure?" and "Did they wear a corset when pregnant?"

The AAUW Livonia Branch meets at Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 34567 Seven Mile Road, between Newburgh and Farmington roads. This meeting begins at 7 p.m. and is open to the public.

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Soccer clubs plan to 'Paint the Night Pink'

They may be cross-campus rivals on the field, but for their match on Monday, May 7, the Plymouth Wildcats and Salem Rocks Girls Varsity Soccer teams will have a more important opponent in their sights.

Breast cancer.

The 7 p.m. match, scheduled for the PCEP grass soccer field, will be dedicated to all loved ones who have lost battles with cancer and survivors who continue to touch our lives with their strength and spirit.

According to the National Breast Cancer Foundation, one in eight women will be diagnosed with breast cancer during their lifetime. Although over 200,000 women are diagnosed with breast cancer annually, when breast cancer is detected early (localized state), the five-year survival rate is 98 percent. Unfortunately, organizers said, more than 30 percent of women are diagnosed after breast cancer has spread beyond the localized state.

The Plymouth and Salem Girls Soccer programs are planning special activities to promote breast cancer awareness and the critical need for devel-

oping a self-exam and early detection routine. Besides player identification updates, public service announcements will also be broadcast via the PA. In addition, the players will wear special pink unity gear during the match as a sign of solidarity.

All proceeds from the sale of Pink Breast Cancer Awareness ribbons, along with the revenues generated from the night's 50/50 drawing, will be donated to the National Breast Cancer Foundation. To top it all off, customized Cancer Awareness cakes — decorated by the players — will be raffled off on-site, to the delight of community sweet-tooths.

A special invitation is being extended to all youth soccer players (and their families) in the community. This special match offers an excellent opportunity to take in high-quality girls varsity soccer action, while at the same time participating in an athlete-driven public campaign designed to educate and empower our community. Plymouth and Canton Soccer Club players are encouraged to wear their uniforms — or pink — to the game.

Local walkers put best foot forward for premature babies

By Julie Brown
Observer Staff Writer

Theresa Williams of Westland and her family had plans this past Saturday morning.

"We are walking for our twins," she said of Lea Marie and Hana Elizabeth, who were born and died July 22, 2004. The family, including dad Pat and kids Ashton, 11, and Liliana, 5, came to the Hines Park March of Dimes March for Babies.

"They're in heaven waiting for us," Theresa Williams said of the twins. Her family walked "to raise awareness and funds for these babies and their families."

The Williamses got emotional support as well as practical help from people they know. "We have a very close family so we kind of supported each other," she said of the twins, born at 21 weeks. "That's our goal for other babies to thrive."

Niece Ashley Effner of Livonia joined the family. She's about to earn an associate's degree in science from Schoolcraft College and proceed to Central Michigan University to enter a medical field.

The day's walkers gathered in the Nankin Mills area of Hines Park, prior to walking the six-mile loop along Hines just past Newburgh, in Westland and Livonia. Among those introduced to the cheering crowd was Rolland Walt of Farmington Hills, who's been in the walk for 39 years.



TINA BELLOMO

Walkers progress along the six-mile route to raise money and awareness for the March of Dimes Saturday, April 28, in Hines Park. March for Babies walks are held at a number of locations.

He recalled his dad collecting dimes when the organization started in the administration of President Franklin D. Roosevelt. Walt walks "to help babies," he said as the crowd gathered at the starting line.

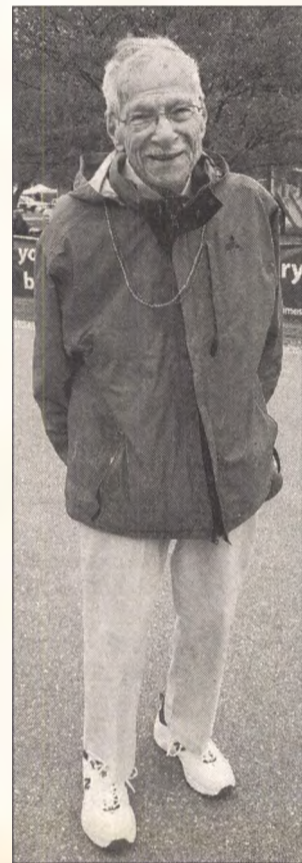
Daughter Judy Perry and her husband, Benn, were also there, with her brothers and their families traveling from Chicago and Boston for the March for Babies. "The whole family's here," Perry said with a smile.

"My dad's been marching 39 years. That's who he is," she said. "He's always been a community giver." Rolland is still active at 87 with the local Commission on Aging and the Service Corps of Retired Executives.

The Hines Park march had a goal of \$530,000, with some \$1.5 million the goal for metro Detroit and \$3 million for Michigan. Helping to reach that goal was Maria Anwar, 16, of Canton, a Canton High School junior.

"Because I like babies," said Anwar, who walked with friends. "I just like walking for babies. This is my first time."

Ken and Lori Smith of Livonia were walking for Delaney Smith, her great-



TINA BELLOMO

Rolland Walt, 87, of Farmington Hills did his 39th March of Dimes walk Saturday, April 28, in Hines Park.

niece and a "miracle" child. Delaney's parents, Warren and Michelle of Garden City, were on the team of 25-27 people.

Delaney was born at 25 weeks, her great-aunt said. She's almost 2 and healthy: "Fantastic. Sassy as ever." She agreed the March of Dimes does a great job. "I think it's a wonderful organization," Lori Smith said.

Their group walked last year in downtown Detroit. "We through we'd go for the six miles," Ken said of this year.

Work friends

Pat Snelling of South Lyon was walking with her friends from United Airlines. She's a retiree there and also walks for her niece's twins, who died after birth.

Her niece, from Tecumseh, was walking in the Sunday event in Dexter. The couple also has twin girls.

"Healthy and big and bouncy," their aunt said. She walked with friend and colleague Donna Saganek of Plymouth Township.

Saganek noted United Airlines has had bake sales and raffles for the March of Dimes. The local United goal's been surpassed, they added with pride.

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SECTION 00 11 13
ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Sealed bid for the Alternative Energy Solutions Projects for Plymouth Canton Community Schools' Bid Package #5 consisting of:

Site Lighting Replacement at Plymouth High School

will be received at the office of Mr. Killian Brodie, Executive Director for Business Services, Plymouth Canton Community Schools, 454 S. Harvey, Plymouth, MI 48170 until **11:00 a.m. local time on Thursday, May 10, 2012** at which time they will be opened and read publicly at Plymouth Canton Community School, E.J. McClendon Educational Center, 454 S. Harvey, Plymouth, Michigan, 48170.

Bids received after this time and date will be returned unopened.

Faxed or e-mailed proposals will not be accepted.

This Bid Package will consist of a separate sealed bid for the following Bid Division:
143 Electrical

Bidding documents prepared by **TMP Architecture, Inc.** will be available for public inspection at the office of the Construction Manager, **McCarthy & Smith, Inc.**, 24317 Indoplex Circle, Farmington Hills, MI 48335; the Dodge Plan Room, CAM, Reed, and Builders Exchange, Lansing.

Bidders may obtain one (1) set of full size bidding documents, beginning at 3:00 P.M. on Monday, April 23, 2012, by contacting the Construction Manager, **McCarthy & Smith, Inc.**, at (248) 427-8400. Additional plans may be ordered and purchased directly from Dunn Blue Reprographics Technology, (248) 288-5600. Bids are to be submitted in a sealed envelope supplied by the Construction Manager, **McCarthy & Smith, Inc.** The bid division(s) being bid is/are to be identified on the outside of the envelope.

There will be a pre-bid meeting held on Thursday, April 26, 2012 at 11:00 a.m. at the office of the Construction Manager, **McCarthy & Smith, Inc.**, 24317 Indoplex Circle, Farmington Hills, MI 48335. The purpose of the meeting will be to review the project, schedule and to answer any questions that bidders may have.

All bids should include 2 copies (1 original, 1 copy) of the Proposal Pricing Form (Section 00 41 26) and the Proposal Execution Form (Section 00 42 00). **The Proposal Execution Form provides a space for the bidder to disclose any familial relationship as required by Section 1267 of the Revised School Code, as amended, MCL 380.1267 and this form must be signed and notarized in order for the bid to be accepted.**

All bids shall be accompanied by a Bid Security, in either the form of a bid bond or certified check, in the amount of five (5) percent of the amount of the bid, payable to Plymouth Canton Community Schools, as a guarantee that if the proposal is accepted, the school district is secured from loss or damage by reason of the withdrawal of the bid or failure of the bidder to enter a contract for performance. Further, the bidder will execute the contract and file the required bonds within ten (10) days after notice of award of contract.

If awarded a contract, the successful bidder will be required to furnish a Performance Bond and Labor and Material Payment Bond. Plymouth Canton Community Schools reserve the right to reject any or all bids received and to waive any informalities and irregularities in the bidding.

This project is to be bid at the state prevailing wage rate. The project is subject to both the state prevailing wage law and the federal Davis-Bacon Act as it relates to reporting and compliance requirements.

This project is authorized by Plymouth Canton Community School's Board of Education Secretary Ms. Judy Mardigian.

Roth IRA conversion may make sense for you

By Rick Bloom
Guest Columnist

For the great majority of us, tax time has come and gone. Our 2011 tax returns have been filed and most of us won't think about taxes again until next year. And for many, that may be a mistake. Now is the time to consider a Roth IRA conversion.



Money Matters
Rick Bloom

At the end of this year, the Bush-era tax cuts are set to expire. What that means is that next year, many people will be in a higher tax bracket. Because of that, it may be a good idea to do a Roth conversion this year, when you can take advantage of the lower tax brackets. To be taxed at this year's rates, the conversion doesn't have to be done until the end of the year. However, the advantage of doing the Roth conversion now is that you will have more time for the money to grow, tax free.

Who should consider a Roth conversion? Since Roth conversions have been allowed, I use three rules to determine whether it makes sense.

- You must have the money to pay the tax on the conversion without touching the money you're converting. Remember, when you convert from a traditional IRA into a Roth IRA, the amount that you convert is subject to ordinary income taxes. If you convert \$10,000 and you are in a 28 percent tax bracket you would have to pay \$2,800 in taxes (\$10,000 x .28). In addition, don't forget that under Michigan's new tax law, many of you may also have to pay Michigan taxes. To make converting worthwhile, you must have the money to pay in taxes, without touching the money that you are converting.

- Make sure that converting the money won't throw you into a higher tax bracket. That is why using last year's return as a guide is a great way to determine how much you can convert without putting yourself into another tax bracket.

- You must be a long-term investor. You have to be able to leave the money within the Roth IRA for at least five to seven years. If you're going to need the

money within a few years, a Roth conversion just doesn't make sense.

If you meet these three requirements, then doing a Roth conversion makes sense for you. Keep in mind that if later in the year you determine that you made a mistake and you converted too much, there are ways to reverse the transaction.

When it comes to Roth conversions, many people believe that if you're over 70½, you either can't or shouldn't do a Roth conversion. That's not true. If you are over 70½, the only thing not eligible to be converted is your minimum required distribution. Other than that, you can convert as much as you like. Remember, life doesn't end at 70½.

Many may ask, what is the benefit of converting into a Roth IRA? There are many. Probably the most significant benefit is that once you convert money, it grows tax free, not tax deferred.

When money in a traditional IRA is withdrawn, it will always be subject to income tax. When you withdraw money from a Roth IRA, it is withdrawn tax free.

Another benefit is that money in a Roth IRA is not subject to required minimum distribution rules at age 70½. Therefore, money grows tax free for as long as you choose. So if you don't use your Roth IRA and it eventually goes to your beneficiaries, they also can withdraw the money tax free. That is not the case with a traditional IRA.

Who knows where tax laws will be next year? With the partisanship in Washington, it's anyone's guess. You and I can't afford to play the speculation game; we have to make decisions based upon current law.

Based on all these facts, converting money into a Roth IRA this year, is something most people should consider. Spend a few minutes to determine whether you should convert money into a Roth IRA. It may cost some money in the short run, but over the long run it may put more money in your pocket, exactly where it belongs. Good luck!

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

The RoboCruisers are (from left) Matthew Xiao of Canton, Alan Shi of Northville, Brian Ding of Northville, Eric Y. Liu of Canton and Eric K. Liu of Northville.



The Wasps are (from left) Mustafa Tambawalla, Daniel Li, and Bhanu Makkapati.

Canton teams top regional robofest

Two teams from Canton that won their divisions at the Michigan Regional Robofest Championship will compete in the 13th annual Robofest World Championship on Saturday, May 19, at Lawrence Technological University.

The winning teams at the April 14 regionals were:

- RoboFashion & Dance – RoboCruisers coached by Wui Liu.
- Junior Exhibition – Wasps of the Achieve Charter Academy, coached by Satheesh Makkapati.

Robofest is an international competition of autonomous robots – computer-programmed to act independently and not radio-controlled – that encourages students to have fun while learning principles of science, technology, engineering, and math.

Students design, construct and program the robots, and adult coaches are not allowed to assist during the events. Teams compete in the junior division (grades 5-9) or senior division (grades 9-12), using a variety of computer programming languages.

In this year's competi-

tion game, a rescue robot must circumnavigate a rectangular platform, grab silver balls on top of towers and then deliver the rescued balls to the "hospital," a black box on one end of the platform. During the mission, the robot must measure the distance between tower buildings and report it in millimeters.

Two other events, Exhibition and RoboFashion Dance, allow competitors to demonstrate their imagination and creativity.

The May 19 championship competition will be held 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at

Lawrence Tech's Ridler Field House, 21000 West Ten Mile Road, Southfield. Admission and parking are free. Spectators can become judges to select people's choice awards. They may win raffle prizes.

Last year almost 1,500 students from 11 states and four other countries participated in the annual Robofest competition founded in 2000 by CJ Chung, professor of computer science at Lawrence Tech.

For more information, call (248) 204-3566, visit www.robofest.net, or email robofest@ltu.edu.

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OUR VIEWS

Right call - for now

Board eventually has to deal with boundaries

The Plymouth-Canton Community Schools Board of Education, in considering recommended changes to elementary school boundaries around the district, essentially decided last week to do nothing.

And while, generally speaking, doing nothing is ill-advised, in this case it may have been, in the long run, the right thing to do.

The plan board members ultimately decided upon was to change nothing, except for the movement of students being displaced by the closing of Fiegel Elementary School. Those students will now be moved to Allen, Eriksson and Hulsing elementaries. The original plan would have moved some Allen students to other schools to make room for Fiegel students, but the board also adopted what has become known as the "Maloney plan," named for trustee Mike Maloney, who suggested it. Allen students will now remain where they are.

The board considered two other options, both of which would have dramatically altered some school boundaries. Both failed to muster consensus support, much less passage. Some trustees believe, as we do, the district should have closed a second elementary school this year, and will likely have to next year.

Others believe the changes in one of the first two options were needed to relieve overcrowding at Bird and Smith elementaries, where portable classrooms are still being used.

Those who believe the board will be right back in the same place next year, figuring out what building to close and where to move kids, didn't want to move them this year and then have to move them again next year.

They believe, and we think rightfully so, the less disruption to the lives of these students, the better.

There are things not to like about the decision. If it's true, as some believe, that board members were never going to vote for boundary changes, then forcing the administration to develop multiple scenarios wasted hundreds of staff hours. It's also a little unsettling, as a few residents pointed out, that Allen Elementary was spared nearly all change, considering Maloney's wife is a teacher there and it was Maloney who proposed the scenario that left Allen basically unchanged in all scenarios.

There may have been better options. For instance, there was private support within the district for a plan that would have restructured schools into a K-4, 5-6 and 7-8 configuration and closing two elementary and two middle schools, including Central Middle School.

But there's little political will to close Central, despite its obvious shortcomings as an educational facility. And reconfiguring the buildings in such a manner would have been nearly impossible to accomplish by the start of the 2012/13 school year, which would have delayed changes another year anyway.

In deciding to do nothing, board members were responding to a vocal group of residents, mostly from Allen and Bird elementaries, upset their neighborhoods were being considered for upheaval. They were also responding to threats — some veiled, some not so veiled — about moving students to the new charter school opening in Plymouth Township next year.

Even some in the administration agree the plan settled on by the board isn't a horrible plan. Doing nothing right now may have been the right thing to do. But there is an element of "kicking the can down the road" to putting off these decisions.

Eventually, trustees will have to deal with the can. Board members need to keep that in mind as they revisit these choices.

COMMUNITY VOICE

What do you think of the relaxation of Michigan's motorcycle helmet law?

We asked this question at the Plymouth District Library.



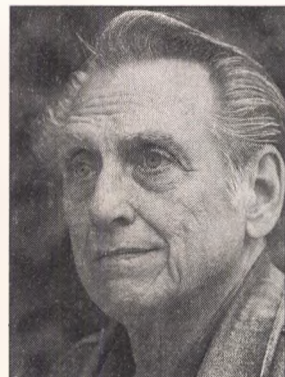
"I think the helmet law served a good purpose, and it's the greater good to have it enforced."

Marti Simms
Plymouth Township



"Personally I think the helmet law should exist. Ultimately, we'll all be paying additional insurance. ... I think it's for the greater good of the community."

Michele Santillan
Plymouth Township



"I guess it's up to those who ride to decide."

Ed Ruehle
Plymouth Township



"I think it's ridiculous. I think it's important that everybody wears a helmet. ... It's really a safety concern."

Kathleen Welsh
Plymouth Township

LETTERS

Wrong letter ran

A letter to the editor that appeared above my name in the April 19th edition of the Plymouth Observer was written in January of this year, immediately after the Komen Foundation announced that it would no longer be donating to Planned Parenthood.

As many know, that courageous decision was praised by most pro-life organizations due to Planned Parenthood's program of abortion services. While there is debate, there is also a scientific link to breast cancer following early abortion of a first pregnancy. It has always seemed inconsistent that an organization that is dedicated to stopping breast cancer (Komen) would be giving donated dollars to an organization (Planned Parenthood) whose activities may be contributing to the incidence of that very disease.

Three days after announcing the cessation of funding, Komen reversed their decision and said that they would once again consider donating to Planned Parenthood. Pro-life organizations, Right to Life-Lifespan included, were disappointed by this reversal and issued press releases to that effect.

I don't know how a two month old letter to the editor, submitted in January, came to be included in an April edition of the paper, but its content obviously no longer applies.

I am concerned that the wrong impression of the Komen/Planned Parenthood issue and Right to Life-Lifespan's position on that issue has been placed before your readers. I am turning to you to determine how we can be sure that Right to Life-Lifespan's correct position is conveyed to your readers, hopefully with a correction in the editor's section explaining that the letter was out dated and Right to Life-Lifespan's position is one of disappointment in Komen's reversal.

Diane E. Trombley
Media Relations Director
Right to Life-Lifespan, Inc.

Racism claim 'incredulous'

I found the April 19th letter in which a resident pronounced Plymouth-Canton schools guilty of "institutional racism" incredulous in its sweeping pronouncements that minority children in the district awaken each morning "... knowing that in order to make it through the day safely and successfully, they must learn how to navigate ..." not only institutional but individual racism as well.

His remedy to those serious, yet undocumented, charges is that the district implement a

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

Blog: You may also let your opinions be heard with your own blog at hometownlife.com.

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

Racial Equity Policy.

My daughter and her husband bought a house in Canton based on their positive impressions of the school system. My cousin's children have performed well in the school system and are doing well in college so unless there is specific evidence as to the serious allegations, I hope the board does not get side-tracked by passionate yet questionable charges.

While I live in Dearborn Heights, I baby sit my grandson in Canton. I am extremely interested in his future education.

Lydia Rodriguez de Marko
Dearborn Heights

Hospice needs help

It's hard to believe spring is here, but the sunshine and flowers in bloom are a reminder that it's that time of year again — time for The Arbor Hospice Foundation's second annual Savour the Journey gala. This year, "Savour the Journey: A Celebration of the Things We Love About Life," will be held Saturday, May 5 at The Fox Hills Golf & Banquet Center in Plymouth.

Last year our inaugural event was a great success, raising more than \$148,000. One hundred percent of funds raised through this event directly benefit the community through support of programs such as pediatric hospice care, grief support services for children, adolescents and adults, uncompensated care and complementary therapies. Through our fundraising efforts, Arbor Hospice is able to provide these services to communities across southeast Michigan, regardless of an individual's ability to pay.

While tickets for this year's event have sold out, we are still in need of sponsorship funds to reach our fundraising goal. Without the support of generous sponsors such as KeyBank, AJN Group Merrill

Lynch and Cooper Standard we would not be able to meet our goal of providing high quality hospice care and grief support services to all who need them.

We encourage individuals, businesses and organizations to support our efforts by becoming a sponsor to help us "Savour the Journey." Your support will ensure the highest quality care for our patients and their families.

Through the generosity of individual donors, corporate partners and foundation support, The Arbor Hospice Foundation raises funds to meet the specialized and ongoing needs of patients and their families. We thank you for your support and look forward to seeing you May 5 as we celebrate life's journey — together.

Please visit www.arborhospice.org/you-can-help/donations-and-events for a complete list of sponsors and exciting information about the event.

Terri Denhof
chair, "Savour the Journey"

Nurses are special

We don't often think about nurses ... if you ask a nurse why he or she went into nursing, they will most likely tell you they wanted to help others. Year after year, nursing is rated the most trusted profession.

When you think about it, nurses enter into patients' lives when they are most vulnerable. Nurses are privileged to share in patients' personal lives, helping them do tasks they may have never needed help doing before. These moments include helping with personal hygiene; coaching a new mom during delivery or helping her breast feed her newborn; providing encouragement before going into surgery; helping a patient cope with news they weren't expecting to hear, and sometimes, to hold a patient's hand as they take their last breath. Patients can be scared, nervous, anxious, elated and sometimes devastated.

Nurses help support patients through all stages of their lives. Often, it is not a glamorous job. It takes dedication, commitment, caring, and wanting to help others. It takes a special person to be a nurse.

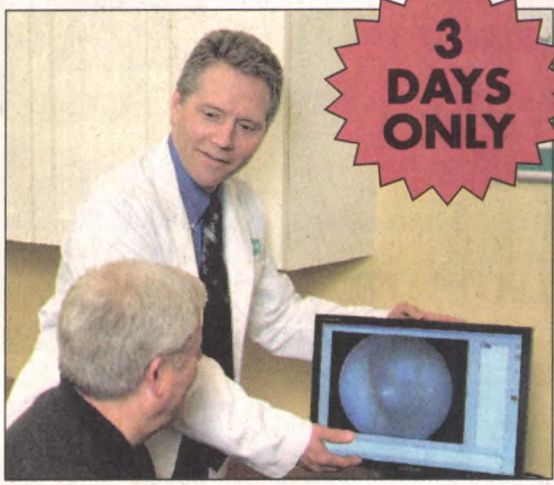
In recognition of National Nurse's Week, celebrated each year May 6 (National Nurse's Day) through May 12 (Florence Nightingale's birthday), I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all nurses, especially those at Garden City Hospital.

Bette Fitz
chief nursing officer
Garden City Hospital

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Top 'Cat

Plymouth senior athlete sets leadership pace

This marks the first of a series of "Tales From The Track" feature articles spotlighting young men and women from area track and field teams.

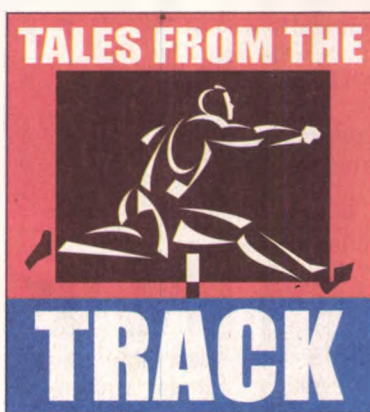
By Tim Smith
Observer Staff Writer

There are many words to describe Rachael Hille.

For starters: optimistic, positive, likable, respectful, humble yet driven.

And don't forget that the Plymouth senior also is a talented student-athlete, part of the girls track and field team's 3,200-meter relay team that set a new school record (9 minutes, 47.0 seconds) while qualifying for the 2011 state meet.

"The stars align with Rachael Hille, athletically and as a person," Wildcats head coach



Ricky Styes said. "She's a better person than she is an athlete and she's up on our school record board a couple times."

In addition to the 3,200-meter relay (shared with Nicole Trait- ses, Jada Woody and Brianna Lax), Hille set new Plymouth marks in the 800-meter run (2:20.96) and as part of the 1,600-meter relay team in 2010 (4:02.8).

Please see HILLE, B3



BRIAN QUINTOS

Whether running a race or leading a student leadership meeting, Plymouth senior Rachael Hille usually wears a big smile.

Strike Out Prostate Cancer

Salem Baseball Boosters are hosting the third annual Strike Out Prostate Cancer fundraiser on Saturday, May 12, at Plymouth-Canton Educational Park.

The Salem varsity, JV and freshman baseball teams will square off against their counterparts from Plymouth High School with all proceeds going to the fund to the Prostate Cancer Foundation to fight the disease. There will be raffles and concessions, with all money raised also going to the cause.

Go to www.rocks-baseball.com for more information.

Soccer equipment drive

As part of the Soccer Aid for Hope project, a soccer equipment drive will take place Saturday-Sunday, May 26-27, at the 2012 Canton Cup Soccer Tournament.

The drive is slated from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day, at Independence Park (Denton Road, south of Cherry Hill).

All soccer equipment will be donated to the Achievers Football Club and Futbol Club Leveriza in the Philippines.

Among needed items: jerseys, shorts, socks, T-shirts, soccer cleats, indoor soccer shoes, running shoes, goalie jerseys and gloves, warmups, bags/backpacks, soccer balls, shin guards, cones, practice pinnies/vests and ball air pumps.

For more information, contact Mark Mangune at mangune@gmail.com or visit www.facebook.com/SoccerAidforHope.

Golf outing

The fifth annual Canton Boys and Girls Basketball Golf Outing is slated for Sunday, June 3, at Fellows Creek Golf Club. A shotgun start will be at 1 p.m.

Included in the \$100 registration fee are 18 holes of golf with a cart, lunch at the turn, dinner and a prizes raffle. Go to: www.facebook.com/cantonchiefs-basketball to get registration forms or contact Jimmy Reddy at reddyj@slcs.us.

Coaches urged to report scores

Local high school athletic coaches are encouraged to report the results of their team's contests to Observer sports editor Tim Smith, who can be reached at (734) 469-4128 or tsmith@hometownlife.com.

The deadline for Sunday editions is 9 p.m. Friday. The deadline for Thursday editions is 11 p.m. Tuesday.

Shamrocks could face stiffer challenge

By Brad Emons
Observer Staff Writer

It's the 42nd renewal of the Observerland Boys Track and Field Relays, which happens to coincide with the 138th running of the Kentucky Derby.

And the question begs: Is it going to be a one-horse race again under the lights Saturday night at Livonia Churchill?

Novi Detroit Catholic Central is gunning for its fourth straight team title after running away with it a year ago when the Shamrocks scored 114 points.

Farmington (61), Canton (57) and Livonia Stevenson (52) were the next three finishers, but well off of CC's pace.

The Shamrocks remains the favorite, but could this year's field appears tougher to handicap.

"We're struggling because we lost those sprinters and distance kids from last year, plus our good miler, Jonathan Malone, is going to a graduation for his sister out west," CC coach Tony Magni said. "He won't be there and he's a 4:25 miler. He'd run four events,



Canton sprinter Ryan Jones, shown from the 2011 KLAA association team championship, is one of the Chiefs eyeing success at the Observerland Relays.

so we'll lose a lot of points there. Without him we're struggling to put relays together."

"I really don't know who's good in the Observerland area.

What's going to help us is our field events - shot put, discus, high jump and long jump."

Even without Malone, who was the Observerland individual 1,600

OBSERVERLAND BOYS TRACK RELAYS

What: 42nd annual Observerland Boys Track & Field Relays.

When: Saturday, May 5. Field events begin at 2 p.m.. Prelims for the 100-meter dash and 110 hurdles start at 6:30 p.m. Finals start at 7 p.m.

Where: Churchill High School, 8900 Newburgh Road (between Joy Road and Ann Arbor Trail).

Competing schools: Livonia Churchill (host), Franklin, Stevenson, Clarenceville, Westland John Glenn, Wayne Memorial, Canton, Plymouth, Salem,

Farmington, Farmington Harrison, North Farmington, Garden City, Redford Thurston, Redford Union, Northville, Novi-Detroit Catholic Central (defending champion).

Individual events: 110 hurdles, 1,600 run, 100 dash.

Relay events: shot put, discus, high jump, long jump, pole vault, 6,400 relay (4 x 1,600), distance medley, 800, 3,200, sprint medley, shuttle hurdles, 400, 1,600.

Admission: \$5 per person.

champion as a sophomore CC remains formidable. The Shamrocks are 2-0 in the Catholic League's Central Division and took third only behind state powers East Kentwood and Saline in Ypsilanti April Showers meet and fourth behind the same two teams, along with Grand Blanc, at the Jackson Invitational.

"It's going to be one of those things where we'll have to rely on some young kids - freshmen and sophomore - to come

through," Magni said. "We have to depend on them to get better."

Farmington, last year's runner-up, won its ninth straight city championship and place third in Friday's 15-team North Farmington Raider Relays where a mere two points separated Milford, Birmingham Brother Rice and he Falcons.

"I was surprised we got second last year, because we had a meet a couple

Please see RELAYS, B4

'Cats sing Medley's praises

By Tim Smith
Observer Staff Writer

It was Senior Night for Plymouth's varsity girls lacrosse team, yet a Salem coach stole the show.

Of course, that coach is Dave Medley — credited by many as the key reason the sport is being played at Plymouth-Canton Educational Park.

"It (girls lacrosse) wouldn't be here if it wasn't for him," Plymouth coach Bob Hill said. "It's a testament to what he started."

Medley was honored Friday night before the Wildcats pounded Salem 18-8, a game in which Plymouth seniors who once played for him with the old Plymouth-Canton-Salem United team combined for 15 of those goals.

The Plymouth seniors signed a lacrosse ball

GIRLS LACROSSE

and presented it to Medley before the contest. He tried to choke back his emotion while talking about the presentation, even after his team had been thoroughly defeated.

"It's pretty emotional, you know?" said Medley, who founded the combined team in 2006 and coached until 2009 when several current Wildcats were freshmen. "My hat's off to the Plymouth people for doing that, the fans and the kids. The kids make up the game and it's been quite an honor." Two of five seniors who played for Medley had signed with Tiffin University (Ohio) earlier Friday. Hill's daughter, forward Katie Hill, scored seven goals against Salem while Shannon Lubin tallied four goals and an assist. The other senior play-

ers with ties to Medley include Amanda Kne (two goals Friday), Grace Stover and Janie Roberts (one goal each).

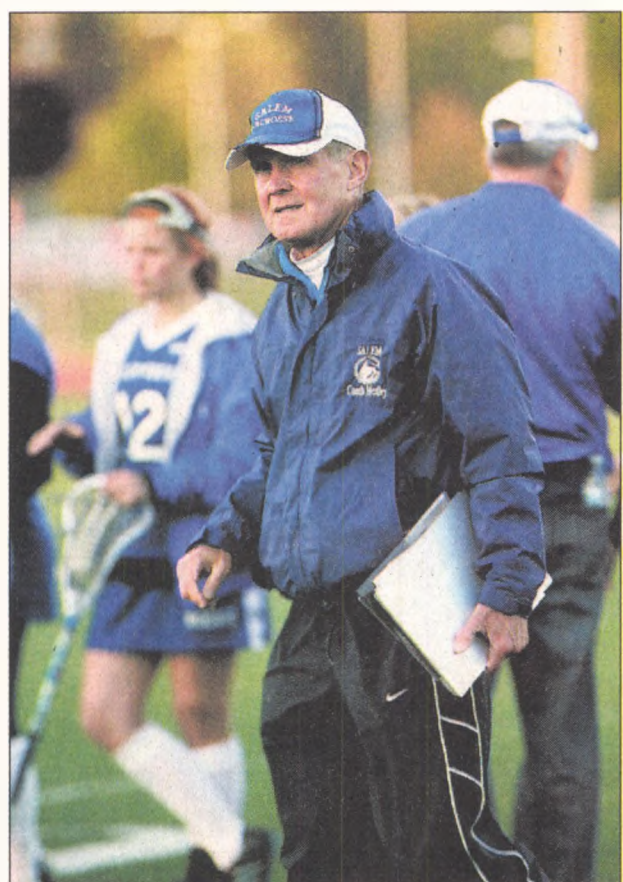
In an e-mail to the Observer sent over the weekend, Medley had time to elaborate about the presentation.

"I was having flashbacks of when I coached some of those girls in their first year of high school playing lacrosse," Medley noted. "I really would rather keep the attention on them, their hard work both in the classroom and on the field has paid huge dividends."

"It is nice to know lax scholarship money, especially from out of state schools, is coming home to this community."

Medley also tipped his cap to the hardworking parents and family mem-

Please see MEDLEY, B4



Watching his Salem girls lacrosse team take on Plymouth is coach Dave Medley.

Blazers red hot

Livonia Ladywood earned a signature girls lacrosse victory last Friday night with a 13-12 double-overtime victory over previously unbeaten Detroit Country Day in an indoor match played in Beverly Hills.

Sophomore Megan Leon's sudden victory goal with 1:46 left in the second 6-minute OT proved to be the difference as the Blazers improved to 8-3 overall.

"We were in an overtime situation against Okemos a week ago so we knew what was ahead of us," Ladywood coach Kris Sanders said.

"The girls played with tremendous heart and determination as they wanted this win very badly.

"DCD is a great team and this was their first loss."

Seniors Emma Ellswood and Alyssa Daly tallied five and three goals, respectively, for the Blazers.

"With the injury to Kylie Birney last Monday, the players are learning to play together and are stepping up to fill her shoes," Sanders said. "I couldn't have scripted a better ending to the game. It definitely

was exciting for all."

Country Day (7-1) got six goals from Carly Beitman and four from Shelby Gilyard.

Ladywood junior goalie Stephanie Mackley made 10 saves, while Anneke Seeger had four for the Yellowjackets.

LADYWOOD 21, REGINA 5: Senior Emma Ellswood tallied five goals Monday to lift host Livonia Ladywood (9-3, 6-0) to a Catholic League victory over winless Warren Regina.

Senior Mary Maslak added three goals and two assists for the victorious Blazers.

Goalie Stephanie Mackley, a junior, made four saves for Ladywood.

Angeline Fisher had seven saves for the Saddletites.



JOHN KEMSKI

Salem girls lacrosse coach Dave Medley (left) is presented with a lacrosse ball signed by senior members of the Plymouth Wildcats — several of whom Medley coached with the old PCS United team.

SPORTS ROUNDUP

Plymouth grid camp

The Plymouth High School Football Program will be holding its annual football camp June 25-27 at the PCEP varsity turf field.

Youngsters entering grades five-nine will participate from 5-7 p.m. each of the three days; those entering grades 10-12 will take part from 7-9 p.m.

The cost of the camp is \$40. Go to www.plymouthwildcats.com, click on sports and go to football for a camp brochure. Any questions, contact coach Mike Sawchuk at (734) 765-1766.

Football info meeting

Speaking of Plymouth High School football, a mandatory informational meeting for any student-athletes interested in playing in 2012 will be Tuesday, May 22, in the high school cafeteria.

Incoming freshmen will meet from 6-7:30 p.m. with upperclassmen meeting from 7:30-8:30 p.m.

On the agenda will be program expectations with distribution of necessary paperwork. Wildcat merchandise will be on sale at the meeting. Contact coach Mike Sawchuk at (734) 765-1766 for more information.

Canton grid camps

Football players of all ages have something they can benefit from thanks to a trio of camps being run in mid-late June by the Canton High School football program. All of the camps will take place at the varsity turf stadium at Plymouth-Canton Educational Park. All participants will receive Chiefs football T-shirts.

- Kicking it off from June 11-14 is the "Football Skills Camp," for youngsters entering grades seven-nine. Prospective participants must pre-register by May 21 (\$45), although latecomers to sign up will owe \$55.
- Sessions will run from 5-7:30 p.m. and focus on improving fundamentals while learning the Chiefs' football philosophy.
- Next up, June 18-21, is

the "Wing T/3-4 Camp" for those going into grades 10-12.

Times are 2-5 p.m. June 18 and 5-8 p.m. June 19-21 with registration fees \$25 (if pre-registered by May 21) and \$30 (for latecomers).

On the agenda will be become a "tough and agile back or an efficient passing and throwing quarterback."

- Wrapping things off June 25-28 is the "Fundamental Football Camp," for kids entering grades three-six. Times are 9 a.m. to noon all four days. Fees to sign up are \$75 (if signed up by June 1) and \$100 for those who register after that date.

Campers will learn about blocking, running, throwing and catching on offense and "proper footwork and techniques" on defense.

For more information, e-mail Enza Lanava of the Canton Chiefs Booster Club at elanava@wowway.com or call her at (313) 300-1173. All checks must be made payable to the Canton Chiefs Football Boosters Club.

MEDLEY

Continued from page B1

bers who have made big contributions to the continuing growth of girls lacrosse at PCEP.

Paying homage

Katie Hill said it was Medley who encouraged her to give the sport a try when she was a freshman, looking for a school activity to get involved in.

"He was just 'Hey, you want to play in the tournament on varsity?' And I was like 'I don't know what I'm doing,'" she said following Friday's game.

"Just his noticing of me gave me the confidence to continue and now I'm signing with Tiffin to play college in D-II."

She said all of the seniors, including those who did not play for Medley,

"A lot of the seniors don't know him, but those who do really respect him," Hill continued. "... Because of him this program has gotten so big. We obviously broke apart from PCS (in 2010) and now we're three separate teams."

"I don't know how many girls are playing right now but I know it's just going to be bigger and it all started with him."



BRIAN QUINTOS

Attempting to scoop up the lacrosse ball Friday is Salem's Lauren Britton (No. 7), shown being chased by Plymouth seniors Jordyn Burdick (No. 15) and Grace Stover (No. 21).

When Katie started with the PCS United team, that in turn got her dad involved.

"My daughter came from gymnastics and Dave Medley said he had a spot for her," Bob Hill recalled. "She said she wanted to try lacrosse because she was looking for something to do in high school, to be involved."

"... I thank Dave, he's a tremendous guy and he took a lot of time to do this. I wouldn't be here, I didn't know the game until I met Dave. He got my daughter into it and I followed."

And with college scholarships by Katie Hill, Lubin and others at the

Park, evidence is pouring in that what Medley started is beginning to take root.

"I think there's a couple girls from Canton as well that have been signed," Bob Hill said. "So I'm glad to see all three of our programs developing."

"Even though we have a rivalry, I think it's important we keep the focus on building the program here on campus."

Other Plymouth seniors include Nicole Brodzik, Jordyn Burdick, Samantha Arsenault, Emily Lehr, Avalon Dewaele, Amber Beattie and Dorienne Sherrod.

tsmith@hometownlife.com (734) 469-4128

RELAYS

Continued from page B1

days after that and we limited the kids to one, no more than two events," coach Charles Bridges said. "This year they won't have the same limits as they had last year."

While still a quality team, the Falcons don't have the depth they've had in recent years, Bridges added.

The throwing and distance events have been areas of strength for Farmington. It won the discus at the Raider Relays and was fourth in the shot put (after Churchill, Rice and Salem). The Falcons were second only to Royal Oak in the 6,400-meter relay.

"We do have some good throwers (led by senior Connor Ferguson)," Bridges said. "It will probably be tough to stack up against Catholic Central. It'll be nice to see how we stack up compared to the other (17) schools there. It will be a strong event for us and a good test for the boys."

Solid Chiefs

Another team to watch is Canton, which is off to a 4-0 dual meet start in the KLAAs South Division. The Chiefs are led by sprinter Ryan Jones.

"I think we'll do quite well," Chiefs coach Bob Richardson said. "We've got a nice, solid lineup as long as we have everybody there. I know there are some other good teams in the area."

"If Catholic Central's there we know how tough Tony Magni's team is. And Churchill has a good, solid team, we barely beat them in our dual meet. Livonia Stevenson won the city meet for them, they're a tough team. And then there's a few other teams I'm not really sure of that are a little further away that I don't really follow. But I think we can end up in the top five somewhere."

Stevenson, meanwhile, is 4-0 in the KLAAs South Division and captured last week's closely contested Livonia City Meet where only 28 points separated Churchill, Clarenceville and Franklin.

"Like I always say

it always comes down to where people have depth," Stevenson coach Scott Shaw said. "I think we can compete in a few events and hopefully we'll be alright."

Despite the absence of Malone, CC still enters the starting gate with a talented cast.

"Catholic Central again is the barometer for the rest of us (in the distance runs)," Bridges said. "Our distance crew is solid, but we haven't had any of those guys develop as a frontrunner. I think this will be about their toughest test."

Field events start at 3:30 p.m. followed by the individual 100 and 110 hurdles at 6:30 p.m. The finals are slated to start at 7 p.m.

"We've had a lot of success through the years at the Observerland, and it's one of my favorite meets," Richardson said. "You get to see everybody in the local area and that's good because we don't have dual meets against a lot of those teams."

bemons@hometownlife.com (313) 222-6851



Two for Tiffin

Signing last week to play women's lacrosse at Tiffin University are (seated, from left) Plymouth High School seniors Katie Hill and Shannon Lubin. Standing are Wildcats head coach Bob Hill (left) and PCEP co-athletic director Tom Willette.

Subscribing has REWARDS...

The following subscribers have won a complimentary pass for two to any of the area's Emagine Theaters just for being a subscriber.

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- Alvin Miller South Lyon
- Michael Nagle Livonia
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- Kathy Kempf Northville
- Joseph Bielaska Plymouth
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RELIGION CALENDAR

Send items for the religion calendar to Sharon Dargay at sdargay@hometownlife.com.

May

BARBERSHOP CONCERT

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Wednesday, May 9

Location: Faith Lutheran Church, 30000 Five Mile, between Middlebelt and Merriman, Livonia

Details: HarmonyTown Chorus, the Wayne Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society, will entertain with four-part harmony barber-shop-style music.

Contact: Call Beth at (734) 421-7249, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday-Thursday

BLOOD DRIVE

Time/Date: 1-7 p.m. Tuesday, May 15

Location: St. John Lutheran Church, 23225 Gill, Farmington Hills

Details: Most healthy individuals over 17 are eligible to donate. Participants should bring a driver's license or two other forms of identification to the blood drive.

Contact: (248) 474-0584

CINCO DE MAYO

Time/Date: 6:30-8 p.m., Saturday, May 5

Location: Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 34567 Seven Mile, Livonia

Details: The dance is aimed at adults with developmental disabilities, special needs and their caretakers.

Contact: For reservations call (248) 442-8822

CLOTHING BANK

Time/Date: 5-6:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 9 and 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, May 26

Location: Canton Christian Fellowship Clothing Bank, 41920 Joy Road, between Lilley and Haggerty, Canton

CONCERT

Time/Date: 3 p.m. Sunday, May 6

Location: Fort Street Presbyterian Church, 631 Fort, Detroit

Details: The Fort Street Chorale performs Dvorak's "Stabat Mater." Tickets are \$20

Contact: (313) 961-4533; www.fortstreet.org

DINNER DANCE

Time/Date: 5 p.m. social hour, 6 p.m. buffet dinner, Sunday, May 20

Location: Antiochian Orthodox Basilica of St. Mary, 18100

Merriman, Livonia

Details: Annual "Spring Fling" dinner dance to benefit retired Orthodox priests and widows will include music by the Offbeats and entertainment for children.

Contact: Mihaela Charlier at (313) 595-7640 or e-mail to mihaelacharlier@sbcglobal.net; or Richard Shebib at (734) 422-0278

EUCHRE TOURNAMENT

Time/Date: Register from 6-7 p.m.; play begins at 7 p.m., Saturday, May 12

Location: St. Michael School, 11441 Hubbard, south of Plymouth Road, Livonia

Details: Walk-ins are welcome but registration is encouraged. Cost is \$15 per player and all skill levels are welcome.

Contact: (248) 442-8822

will be randomly assigned for each round. Food and snacks are provided and players may bring their own choice of beverage.

Contact: (734) 261-1455, Ext. 200

GARAGE SALE

Time/Date: 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, June 9

Location: Canton Christian Fellowship Church, 8775 Ronda Drive, Canton

Details: "Great Expectations Church Wide Garage Sale," will include such items as clothing, furniture, electronics, and more.

Contact: (734) 404-2480; www.cantoncf.org

GRIEF SUPPORT

Time/Date: 7-9 p.m. May 8, 15, 22 and 23

Location: Holy Family Parish, 24505 Meadowbrook, Novi

Details: Grieving with Great Hope, a four-week grief support series for individuals who are mourning the loss of a loved one.

Contact: (248) 349-8847; www.holyfamilynovi.org

GRIEF SUPPORT

Time/Date: 6:30-8 p.m. Tuesdays for six weeks; began May 1

Location: Congregation Shaarey Zedek, 27375 Bell, Southfield

Details: No charge, non-sectarian community service of SPACE for Changing Families, National Council of Jewish Women Greater Detroit Section, is aimed at those who have lost a spouse or partner.

Contact: (248) 355-9936 or e-mail Space@ncjwgds.org

Passages

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



HILBERT, DALE DANIEL

Age 88, died Sunday, April 29, 2012 in Westland, Michigan. He was born April 30, 1923 in Defiance, Ohio.



KISS, LILLIAN GRACE (NEE MUTH)

Of Farmington Hills, age 90, April 26, 2012. Beloved wife of the late Stephen Kytka (d. '96). Dear sister of and preceded in death by Maxwill (Genevieve), Karl (Harriett) and Louise.



SCHNARR, DELORES

A long time resident of Brighton and former resident of Westland, died at her home in the care of her family on April 29, 2012, at the age of 73.

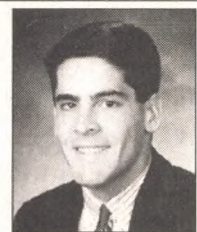
ROYE, JESSE ERNEST

Of San Angelo, age 85, died Monday, April 30, 2012. Services are under the direction of Shaffer Funeral Home/Sherwood Way.

Let others know...

When you've lost a loved one, place your notice on our website and in "Passages"...

Call 1-800-579-7355



VOSS, CHARLES T. "CHUCK"

Age 41 of Berkley, April 27, 2012. Beloved son of Ray and Ellen. Loving brother and close friend of Ray (Julie).

May you find comfort in Family and Friends

Catholics pray living rosary

Members of St. Michael the Archangel Parish will pray a "living rosary" at 7 p.m. Wednesday, May 16, in the church, 11441 Hubbard, just south of Plymouth Road, in Livonia.

will follow a day of Eucharistic Adoration at the church. In the service, each person will represent a rosary bead and lead the prayer it represents.

Area Catholics may join in the candlelit service that will commemorate May as the month of "Our Lady," and

For more information, call the parish office at (734) 261-1455 or visit www.livoniasmichael.org.

Your Invitation to Worship

Grid of church advertisements including: CATHOLIC (St. Anne's Roman Catholic Church), PRESBYTERIAN (U.S.A.) (Rosedale Gardens, Fellowship Presbyterian Church), EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN (Ward Church), LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSOURI SYNOD (Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church), CHURCHES OF THE NAZARENE (Plymouth Church of the Nazarene), CONGREGATIONAL (North Congregational Church), LUTHERAN CHURCH WISCONSIN SYNOD (St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church & School), PRESBYTERIAN (Fellowship Presbyterian Church), ASSEMBLIES OF GOD (Open Arms Church).

Open Arms Church advertisement: Worship: Sunday 10:30 am, Children's Programs Available, Kid's Stop Preschool Now Enrolling 248.474.0001, Meet our New Pastor Grady Jensen & Assoc. Pastor Abe Fazzini, 33015 W. 7 Mile Rd., Livonia 48152

For Information regarding this Directory, please call Karen Marzolf at 313-222-2214 or e-mail: kmarzolf@hometownlife.com

Music makes Green Street a well-rounded festival

By Sharon Dargay
O&E Staff Writer

Visitors to the Green Street Fair will hear a wide range of music — from rock to reggae to folk — this weekend in downtown Plymouth.

The Verve Pipe will headline the three-day schedule, performing Saturday on the Eco-Beats stage.

"Every year the line-up is different," said Raychel Rork, one of the festival organizers. "We want to make it family friendly ... festival friendly."

Organizers work with Eco-Beats Stage sponsors 93.9 The River and 107.1 F.M. to find a variety of bands that also jibe with the radio stations' demographics.

Being "green" isn't necessarily a prerequisite.

"It's not that we want them to get up there and sing about recycling," Rork said. What's important for us is that it's appropriate for the fair."

The Applesseed Collective, an Ann Arbor-based band, is a perfect fit on several levels.

"It makes a lot of sense for us. It's a great festival and it focuses on things we're interested in," said Katie Lee, a Beverly Hills native.

Supporting farmers

The band, which formed nearly two years ago, pledged the profits from the first run of its debut studio CD, *Baby to Beast*, to nonprofit Selma Cafe



The Applesseed Collective of Ann Arbor will bring its Americana folk jazz sound to the Green Street Fair in Plymouth.

in Ann Arbor. The CD is being sold on the band's website after a "soft" release in March. It features Andrew Brown on guitar, Sophie Tulip on upright bass, Brandon Smith on violin and mandolin, Vince Russo on washboard (outfitted with bells and cymbals), and kick drum, and Lee on banjo.

The band got its start playing Friday mornings at the cafe, which is located in the home of an Ann Arbor couple dedicated to developing and supporting local food production. Proceeds from the weekly Friday breakfasts help fund the construction of hoop-houses that enable farmers to extend their growing season.

"We've always been



The Verve Pipe headlines the Green Street Fair on Saturday, May 5.

interested in supporting the local food community," Lee said. "And it seemed like a natural fit to work with Green Street. We also just picked up an ecological festival (gig) in Ann Arbor."

Busking on tour

While touring, the band fits street performing into its schedule of festivals and concerts.

"It's a good way to connect with the community," Lee said. "We've done that on all of our tours."

The band performs mostly original songs with some cover tunes that Lee describes as "old-timey."

"It's cool to reach out to a wide range of ages in our music. Older people recognize the songs and younger people appreciate it as different from what they normally would listen to. There's nothing quite like what we do."

She calls the genre "Americana folk jazz" with country and other musical influences.

Lee performed at the Green Street Fair in the past as a solo artist. The Applesseed Collective will make its Green Street Fair debut on Sunday.

First time

That same day on the Eco-Beats stage, The Kids Who Cried Wolf, will make its first public appearance. Mat Buie hopes the Fair will be a big break for the group.

"This will be our very first gig. I hope it will get

FUN AT THE GREEN STREET FAIR

In addition to music and food, check out these other highlights of the Green Street Fair in downtown Plymouth:

- Visit a garden made of recycled materials in the heart of Kellogg Park. Visitors can contribute by constructing gardens and greenhouses out of recycled materials, such as cardboard, foam, and plastic bottles. Children and adults can create their own flowers and vegetables to "plant" in the garden.
 - Meet the birds of prey, such as falcons, hawks, owls, eagles and vultures, at the Leslie Science and Nature Center display.
 - Help construct a "Flip Your Lid Mural" and take a look at the over-sized birds scattered around the park. Students from Field Elementary School in Canton created the birds with collected plastic lids.
 - A petting farm with a miniature horse, miniature donkey, goats, sheep, a calf, alpaca, bunnies and ducks, will be set up in the park.
 - Donate gently-used clothing, shoes, toys, books and household items to IICD, a nonprofit organization. Its booth will be located on Penniman between Harvey and Main.
 - Browse dozens of vendor booths with products for the home, closet, health and beauty, backyard, and pantry. Eco art and fair trade items will be on display and nonprofit organizations, such as VegMichigan, Cass Community Social Services and Michigan Industrial Hemp Education will be on hand.
- The fair runs noon-7 p.m. Friday, May 4, 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Saturday, May 5, and 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday, May 6, in downtown Plymouth.



Kids who Cried Wolf will make their public performance debut at the Green Street Fair in Plymouth.

us known," he said.

The Northville High School sophomore plays bass and sings lead for the band that also includes his cousin, Spencer Hall of Northville, on lead guitar, Kaley Ross of Plymouth on rhythm guitar and Chaiya Sirgany of Plymouth on drums. Spencer, Kaley and Chaiya are all eighth graders, Mat said.

We can't count them out because they are young," Rork noted. "A lot of amazing bands met in high school."

Mat said a mutual interest in the same kinds of music compelled the group to form their own band last year.

"Our set list for Green Street Fair is half cover and half originals. Almost everyone in the band writes music."

He describes their sound as alternative but with elements of classic rock. Black Eyed Peas, Pink Floyd, Led Zeppelin, White Stripes and Green Day are among their

favorite bands. Mat said The Kids Who Cried Wolf is influenced by some of those bands, especially Black Eyed Peas.

"Our sound may be similar to those bands, but our sound is also unique to us."

Here's the Eco-Beats Stage schedule:

- Friday, May 4**
- Robin Horlock, 1:30-2:30 p.m.
 - Pato Margetic, 3:15-4:15 p.m.
 - The Wallclocks, 5-6:30 p.m.
- Saturday, May 5**
- Abigail Stauffer, 10:30-11:30 a.m.
 - The Difficulties, noon-1 p.m.
 - Cold Tone Harvest, 1:30-2:30 p.m.
 - The Macpodz, 3-4:15 p.m.
 - The Verve Pipe, 5-5:45 p.m.
- Sunday, May 6**
- The Applesseed Collective, 12:30-1:30 p.m.
 - The Kids Who Cried Wolf, 2-2:45 p.m.
 - One Love Reggae Band, 3:15-4:15 p.m.

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Ar

DEROIT INSTITUTE OF ARTS

Tim/Dates: 2 p.m. Sunday
Lodion: 5200 Woodward, Debit

Deils: Target Family Sundays, storytelling, performances, free with admission

Exhibits: Detroit Revealed: Photographs 2000-2010, an exhibit of 50 photos through April 29; Once Upon a Time: Prints and Drawings that Tell Stories, through May 13; Plant (3D), a three-dimensional investigation of the abandoned Packard auto plant in Detroit runs through April 29



'Seascape: Sunset 1861' by Martin Johnson Heade is among several art works that will be discussed at a free lecture 1 p.m. May 3 at the Farmington Hills Library.



Harpeth Rising performs May 11 at Trinity House Theatre in Livonia. The group of classically-trained musicians play violin, banjo, cello, and percussion. Their sound is influenced by folk, bluegrass, and Celtic music.

NORTHVILLE ART ROSE

Tim/Date: May 4-12, with a reception from 6-9 p.m. Monday; gallery hours are 1-5 p.m. Wednesday-Saturday

Lodion: 215 W. Cady, Northville
Deils: 13th annual student art show

Contact: (248) 344-0497 or email to arthouseoffice@northvillearts.org

Comedy

COMEDY!

Tim/Date: Various show times Wednesdays through Saturdays
Lodion: 261 E. Nine Mile, Feriale

Deils: Improv most

nights. Open mic/jam session show for improvisers is 10 p.m. Wednesdays

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

JD'S HOUSE OF COMEDY

Time/Date: Various show times Wednesday-Saturday evenings

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

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

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

JOEY'S COMEDY

CLUB OF LIVONIA

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

Lodion: 36071 Plymouth Road, Livonia

Deils: Vince Morris, May 2-5; Kyle Grooms, May 16-19; Kevin Zeoli, May 23-26; Danny Browning, May 30-June 2

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

MARK RIDLEY'S COMEDY CASTLE

Time/Date: Kevin Mcpeek, May 3; Norm Macdonald,



On stage

See Livonia resident, Kamryn Zorn, in the Detroit Actor's Theatre Company production of 'Legally Blonde: The Musical,' 8 p.m. May 3-5 and 10-12, in the iLounge at Clutch Cargo's in Pontiac. Zorn plays the role of Kate and is a member of the Greek Chorus. General admission is \$20; student and senior tickets are \$15. Buy tickets through www.ticketmaster.com or www.thedatc.org. Call (248) 333-0649 to avoid the Ticketmaster fee. Secure parking is available for \$10 per car.

May 4-5; Kathleen Madigan, May 10-12; Jim Short, May 17-19; Bill Hildebrandt, May 24-26; Dave Waite, May 31-June 2

Lodion: 269 E. Fourth, Royal Oak

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

Dance

BALLET

Time/Date: 8 p.m. Saturday, May 5 and 2 p.m. Sunday, May 6

Lodion: Music Hall Center for the Performing Arts, 350 Madison Ave., Detroit

Deils: Complexions Contemporary Ballet dances to pop, jazz, gospel and blues music. Tickets are \$30, \$40, and \$50, available at the music hall box office or at www.ticketmaster.com

CONTRA DANCE

Time/Date: Beginner instruction at 12:30 p.m.; dance starts at 1 p.m., Sunday, May 6

Lodion: American Legion Hall, 31775 Grand River Ave., Farmington

Deils: Farmington Contra Dance; cost is \$10, \$5 for students, with all proceeds benefitting a charity. No partner is necessary. Dancers should bring clean, smooth-soled shoes for dancing — no street shoes. Glen Morningstar, Jr. is the caller, with music by Stout Hearted String Band

Contact: American Legion at (248) 478-9174

FAIRLANE BALLROOM DANCE CLUB

Time/Date: 7:30-10:30 p.m. Thursday

Lodion: Lyskawa V.F.W.

Hall, 6840 Waverly, east of Telegraph, south of Warren in Dearborn Heights

Deils: Singles an couples dance to live bands on a hardwood dance floor. Admission is \$7 for members and \$8 for nonmembers. Free refreshments

Contact: Jean Orleans at (734) 516-0500

MOON DUSTERS

Time/Date: 8:30-11:30 p.m. every Saturday; dance lessons 7-8 p.m.

Lodion: Livonia Civic Center, 15218 Farmington Road, Livonia

Deils: Singles and couples; free refreshments. Dance lessons cost \$6; dance and lessons are \$11; dance only is \$7 for guests, \$6.50 for associates and \$6 for Moon Dusters members

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

POLKA BOOSTERS

Time/Date: Doors open at 1 p.m.; dancing from 2-6 p.m. Sunday, May 20

Lodion: Msgr. Hunt K of C Hall, 7080 Garling, Dearborn Heights

Deils: Admission is \$15 and includes beer, wine and pop. Food will be available for purchase. Music by The Hank Haller Ensemble from Eastlake, Ohio.

Contact: Terry at (734) 422-1901 or Joanna at (313) 561-8389

Film

PENN THEATRE

Time/Date: 7 p.m. and 9:10 p.m. Friday-Saturday, May 4-5 and 4:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. Sunday, May 6

Lodion: 760 Penniman Ave., Plymouth

Deils: "Albert Nobbs," \$3

Coming up: "Safe House," 7 p.m. and 9:15 p.m. Friday-Saturday, May 11-12 and 4:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. Sunday, May 13

Thursday classics: "Pillow Talk," May 3; "Lover Come Back," May 10; "Harvey," May 17; "The Man Who Knew Too Much," May 24; all shows start at 7 p.m. and tickets cost \$3

Contact: (734) 453-0870; www.penntheatre.com

Advertisement for Novi Town Center featuring Mother's Day gifts, chocolates, and new stores. Includes images of a building, a family, a gift, and chocolates. Text: 'We're Adding Something Sweet for Mother's Day', 'Free Chocolates with every \$25 Purchase!', 'Where's the one place to go for all your Mother's Day gifts? Come to Novi Town Center for the perfect way to say, "I Love You Mom" this year.', 'Watch for New Stores Coming Soon to Novi Town Center! Performance Bike, MassageLuXe and Suite Sweat Sauna Studio are already open. You'll soon be enjoying new stores like Bath & Body Works, Great Clips, Dress Barn, Plato's Closet, Clothes Mentor, Rue 21, ULTA Beauty and Dots - plus a Super Walmart - all set to open this Summer at Novi Town Center.'

hometown life

GET YOUR LEGS READY
FOR SUMMER

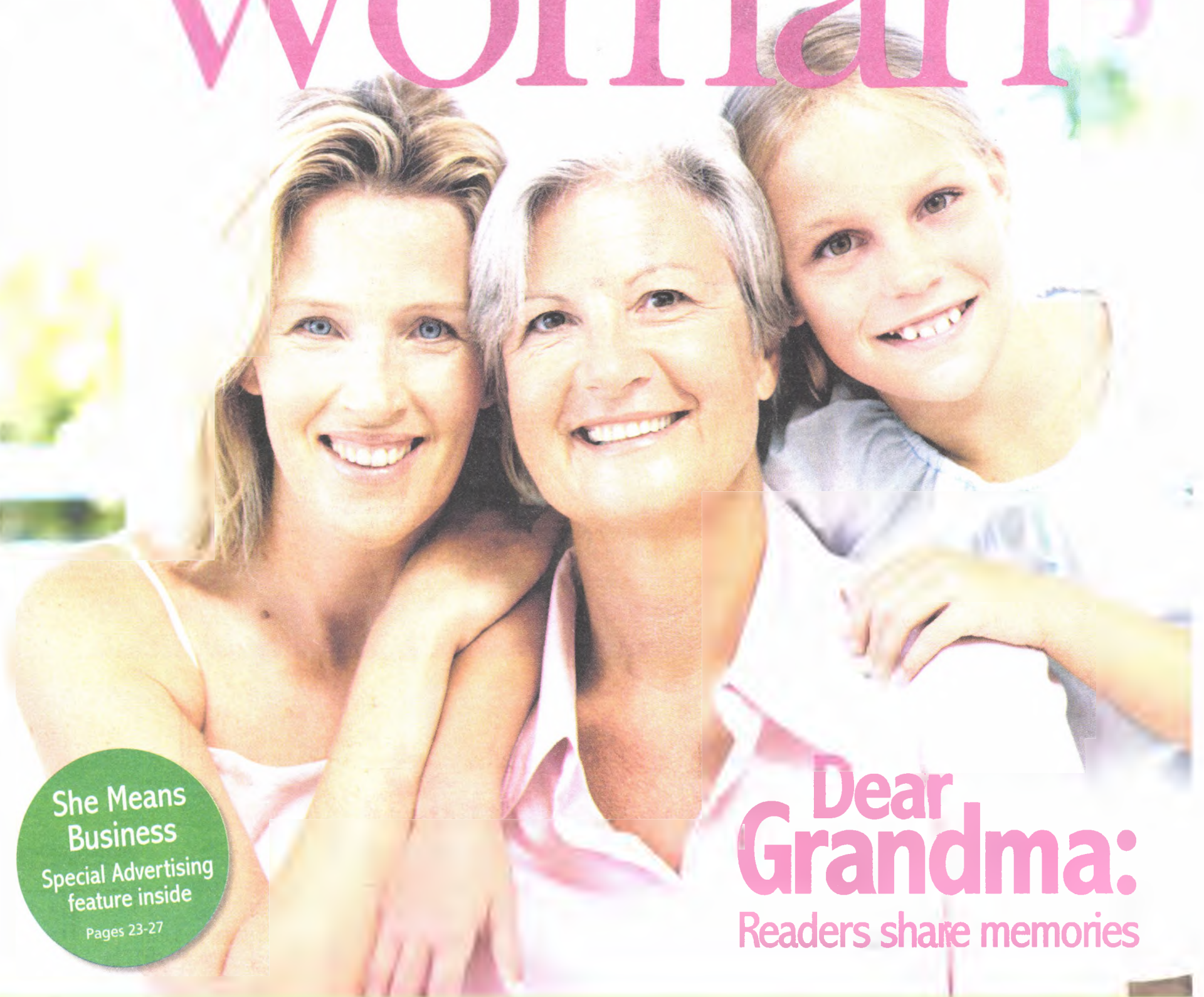
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RACE FOR
THE CURE

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MAY 2012

woman



She Means
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Pages 23-27

Dear
Grandma:
Readers share memories

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May is time to celebrate, participate

Happy Mother's Day to all moms, grandmas, aunts and all of the women who have been "like moms" in our lives.

Today's *Hometown Life Woman* contains a special tribute to grandmothers. Be sure to read the heartwarming, funny, poignant memories that our readers have been so kind to share. Read them and share them. It's our special gift to you this month.

Today's *Woman* edition also is full of stories and photos that will inform and inspire you.

Contributing Writer Jill Halpin details plans for this year's Susan G. Komen Detroit Race for the Cure and how early detection and research are vital in the



Susan Rosiek

mission to end breast cancer.

The Detroit race — the largest in Michigan and one the largest races nationwide — is presented locally by the Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute.

The Komen Foundation was in the news earlier this year when a decision to end grants to Planned Parenthood caused a national debate. The foundation reversed its decision, but the fallout from the political firestorm has yet to be determined.

"Although we had eight bad weeks, we have had 30 good years," said Maureen Meldrum, director of breast cancer special programs at Karmanos and local chair of the race.

"Our concern here is that if people decide not to support us, it is the most vulnerable populations that we will no longer be able to support," she said, adding that there has been "an unseen benefit to the controversy with support-

ers rallying to help sustain fundraising efforts."

"There has been a silver lining," she said. "Though many of us did not agree with the original decision made at Komen headquarters, we believed it was important to work together as one organization to correct the mistakes, rather than distance ourselves."

This year's race is Saturday, May 26, at Comerica Park in downtown Detroit.

Walk or run the pink balloon-lined streets and help local organizers as they continue their mission of saving women's lives.

As always, I welcome your comments via e-mail or on Facebook at hometownlife.com.

Susan Rosiek
 publisher/executive editor
 srosiek@hometownlife.com

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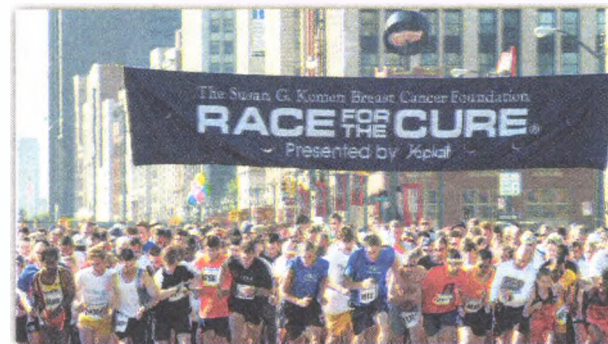
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Getting help for the big day



Barbara Deyo



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GREAT GRANDMAS

Readers share their memories of their grandmothers — just in time for Mother's Day

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May Day! May Day! Wedding SOS

By **Barbara Deyo**
Guest Columnist

He got down on one knee. You said yes. You both updated your Facebook status. Now what?

When planning a wedding, there are so many details to think about, it can make your veil spin. Without some assistance, you might find yourself in a full blown tulle-storm, making eloping seem like a viable option. There is a way to ease the pain.



Barbara Deyo

Leave it to the pros

There are two ways you can plan a wedding: The hard way or the eas(ier) way. The hard way is to march blindly into the eye of the wedding storm, hoping to come out of it with your bustle intact. Or, the eas(ier) way — hire a professional. You might feel that spending the extra money on a coordinator seems senseless when theoretically, you can do it yourself. I don't know about you, but I can't put a price tag on stress reduction.

"The most important part of my job is to listen, observe and ensure that all the details are perfect," Carolyn Hefner, owner of the China Closet (www.thechinacloset.com) in Birmingham, explained. I know from working with her, that Hefner's soothing voice alone, will lower a bride's blood pressure. "I listen to their dream, and guide them to the right resources to match their budget, personality and style, and then make sure that all details are in perfect order for the big day."

Erika Patterson, owner of Plume

(www.plume-inc.com) in Grosse Pointe, advises that delegation is key. "Hand off those tedious tasks to a coordinator so you are able to savor the time with your guests. I find that keeping track of the agenda makes for a flawless event. As long as I am one step ahead, I am able make the necessary adjustments on the fly. It minimizes stress for everyone involved." Yes, let them worry about what time the late-night Coney dogs should arrive.

Get it right, make it last

At the end of the day, after months of careful planning, your ceremony and reception will whip by so fast, it'll be over before you know it, and you will be lucky if you remember if you actually ate the cake you cut. Invest in a good photographer and videographer. Those are the tangible memories you will have for years to come. "Every wedding couple needs to think about what they will have in 20 years from this special day," Hefner said. "Photography is probably the most important element that will stand the test of time and where couples should invest their money for those long lasting memories."

Get ready for close up

Take advantage of your coordinator's experience with vendors and trust their recommendations. More than likely, they have experienced the good, the bad and the ugly and will prevent you from experiencing the latter.

Naturally, a bride and groom want to make sure that they are looking their best for their photos and take great care in selecting their attire and beauty regi-

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There are two ways you can plan a wedding: The hard way or the eas(ier) way. The hard way is to march blindly into the eye of the wedding storm, hoping to come out of it with your bustle intact. Or, the eas(ier) way — hire a professional.

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Get your legs, feet in shape for summer season

By Jill Halpin
Contributing Writer

Putting your best foot forward this season may be simpler than you think.

Taking a little extra time to pamper your feet and legs and get them ready to bare all during shorts and sandals weather is well worth the time from both a health and beauty perspective, local doctors say, and the sooner you get started, the happier you'll be.

Adding a few extra minutes into your daily beauty regime can make a big difference in the look of your legs, said Rana Jaber, a manager with New Face, New Body in Canton.

"When you look good, you feel good and ultimately you'll live better," Jaber said.

Easy steps like remembering to exfoliate your legs and using a proper moisturizing treatment can mean the difference between looking good and looking great.

Looking good

"Exfoliating and moisturizing are so important to maintaining the appearance of your legs. Exfoliating your legs sloughs off the dead skin and helps regenerate new skin cells," she said, add-

ing that she prefers simple salt or sugar scrubs as opposed to Loofah sponges or harsh brushes for exfoliating.

Recipes for easy homemade scrubs using ingredients found in your kitchen pantry can be readily found on the Internet with a simple search and are just as effective as many found on store shelves.

Following up with a moisturizer is necessary after any type of exfoliating, Jaber said.

Be sure to look for a thicker moisturizer for your legs and apply lavishly, she said.

Moisturize

"Moisturizing is so important. A creme-based moisturizer will penetrate the skin more and last longer," Jaber added.

Another important cosmetic touch to consider for those who struggle with rapid hair growth on their legs is laser hair removal.

"Some women have trouble with stubble growing — a five-o'clock shadow on their legs — within a few hours of shaving," Jaber said.

Laser hair removal gets rid of stubble

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LEGS

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permanently and is a simple way to eliminate the problem, she said.

If you are one of the many men or women plagued with spider or varicose veins, now is the time to address the issues in order to have your legs ready for summer.

"A lot people look down, and see veins and want them gone yesterday," said Dr. Jeffrey Miller of Miller Vein with locations in Novi, Troy and Dearborn.

"While the treatments (for spider and varicose veins) are quick and painless, it's better to get them treated as soon as possible" in order to have your legs looking their best for the season, Miller said.

Miller said that treatment for spider veins has vastly improved over recent years. Gone are the days of the heavy, uncomfortable socks that were used to treat spider veins in the past.

"A lot of people have avoided getting their spider veins treated because they don't realize how easy it really is," Miller said. "We use a method called VeinErase, which is quicker, just as effective and does not require the stocking."

Treatments for varicose veins have also vastly improved over the years, Miller said. For most varicose veins, it is almost always a one-time treatment and "looks phenomenal," he added.

Varicose veins

There are other reasons beyond the cosmetic ones for addressing spider and varicose veins in your legs, Miller said. As the weather warms up and outdoor activity increases, many women begin walking or running for fitness and weight loss.

"Some women may experience leg pain when they walk or run. The leg pain slows them down, or they discontinue their workout as a result and this impedes their weight loss. It can really affect their ability to get fit and shed pounds," Miller said.

The women do not realize that venous insufficiency, the cause of varicose veins, is the cause of their leg pain. Addressing the issue with a doctor and treating it can easily eliminate the problem, Miller said.

"They can be up and walking again in less than 45 minutes and able to restart their walking or running program," he said. "I have had patients come in a week or two later and say that they have already noticed a big difference."

Preparing your feet for the season by having a pedicure is also important for both health and beauty reasons. Pedicures remove unsightly dry skin and can help skin feel and look revitalized,

refreshed and glowing, said Tammy Dymkowski of Evolve Salon and Spa in South Lyon.

Pedicure: So together

"A pedicure can help you feel so put together ... especially during the summer season when you're wearing sandals," she said, adding that polished toes really make the look complete.

Getting your feet ready for the season should also include a visit to a podiatrist to help eliminate problems like unsightly warts or a fungus, said Dr. Vanessa Adelman, a podiatrist with Associates in Podiatry of Michigan, located in Plymouth.



"You want to be sure and address these problems prior to having a pedicure. Many of these things are passed along because someone else has gone and had a pedicure without taking care of the issues first," she said.

Without proper sterilization by your pedicurist, it is easy for these problems to become someone else's issue.

Dymkowski agrees that when you are going for a pedicure, it is very important to make sure that everything is sanitized that your pedicurist is using a new emery board and implements,

"You want to make sure that the whole area is very clean and sanitized — even make sure that the salon itself is very clean," she said.

Dr. Issam Mansour, D.P.M., of Advanced Foot and Ankle Care Center in Novi said that it is important to see a podiatrist before beginning summer activities.

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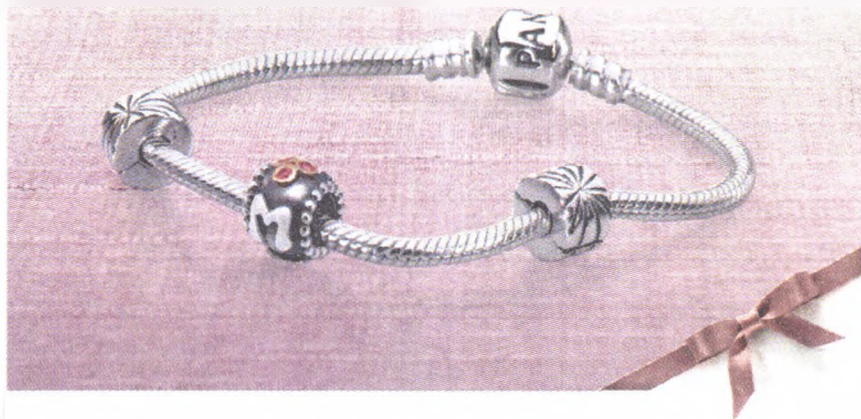
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LEGS

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"In the winter, we see people with a variety of issues like bunions or hammer toe, because they went from open-toed flip flops in the summer into confining winter footwear. In the spring and summer season, the opposite is true: we see people with a lot of pain in their heel or the balls of their feet," he said.

Once the warm weather seasons starts, people change their activity level from "zero to 100," requiring different footwear, Mansour added.

Podiatrists can help make sure you are biomechanically ready for the season as well as helping ensure you are wearing proper footwear for your chosen activity.

"We take the time to show exactly what a good quality shoe should look like and if it is appropriate for their activity," he said.

"For instance, gardeners need to make sure they are wearing proper shoes or sandals. We can also help runners or walkers by giving them stretching and warm up exercises to prepare their feet and legs properly," he said.

Adelman agrees and said that it is very important that both runners and walkers take the time to visit a podiatrist before beginning their spring or summer training in an effort to avoid injury.

"We are especially seeing a lot of runners who have not been as active during the winter pulling out their shoes from last season and coming in with ankle pains or stress fractures from wearing old shoes," she said.

Proper shoes

"We can evaluate if your shoes are appropriate for your activity level and help you with the right shoe," she said.

Many runners benefit from custom-fit orthotics that align your feet and legs in the best possible position to allow you to run for longer time periods and do more activities while staying in injury-free, she said.

"Most runner over pronate (roll foot inward) and orthotics help prevent that, giving you a more effective gait," she said.

Another important step in getting

your legs and feet ready for summer is remembering to apply sunscreen.

The American Academy of Dermatologists recommends generously applying a broad-spectrum water-resistant sunscreen with a Sun Protection Factor (SPF) of at least 30 to all exposed skin, including generally overlooked area such as your feet and the backs of your legs.

They also advise using extra caution near water and sand as they reflect the damaging rays of the sun, which can increase your chance of sunburn.

Adelman agrees that feet are often an



overlooked area for sunscreen application.

"Don't forget to apply sunscreen to your feet. Sun-related problems can occur there just as they can on other parts of your body," she said. "Most people forget about their feet and the problems go undetected until they are found by a doctor."

Adelman said that taking the time to get both your feet and legs ready for summer will pay off in the long run.

"The best way to avoid injury is through proper preparation," she said.

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Experts: Choose the right shoes



By Jill Halpin

Contributing Writer

Choosing the right shoe for the right activity can have a big impact on how you look and feel.

Making sure that the shoe you are wearing is appropriate for your type of activity is much more important than most of us realize, say local experts.

"Most of us focus on looking good first, without realizing that you can look good and feel good, too, especially for women. It is the way they are making shoes — fashion is comfort today, particularly in daywear," said Robin Hoffman of Sundance Shoes in West Bloomfield.

Ensuring that your shoes fits properly can mean the difference between foot pain and pure bliss, Hoffman said. "Not just foot pain, leg pain, back pain ... It can all be affected. It is very important to make the right choice."

Hoffman, who has been fitting shoes since 1977 and has background in children's orthopedics, said that there are some important things to remember when choosing both shoes and sandals for spring and summer.

Shoes need to have some flexibility and bend with the way that you walk, Hoffman said. She added that it does not matter if you have high arches or flat feet: flexibility in the right area is a key to a good shoe.

"Unless you are walking very stiffly, like a soldier, your foot naturally bends and it is important that the shoe bends with your foot," she said.

Dr. Issam Mansour, D.P.M., of Advanced Foot and Ankle Care Center in Novi, said that it is important that the flexibility in the shoe be toward the toe area of the shoe.

"It is very important that the flexibility of the shoe is in the correct area or it can put added stress on your feet and ankles," Mansour said.

Cushion your feet

Another important thing to look for when choosing the right shoe is the shock absorbency of the shoe.

"You want to make sure that your body weight is evenly distributed. It does not mat-

ter if you weigh 100 pounds or 300 pounds. You want the weight to be distributed evenly to keep the pressure off," Hoffman said.

"The shock absorbency is like the cushion, protecting your foot from hard impact. The even weight distribution helps you walk properly," added Hoffman.

Proper arch support is very important as it helps to keep the pressure off the ball of your foot, Hoffman said.

"It helps keeps the pressure off the ball of your foot," she said, alleviating pain and pressure.

Today's popular platform styles are good options for a sexy, stylish high heel and are good for helping keep all of the weight off the ball of your foot. The raised front platform helps even out the weight distribution even with a 3/2-inch heel, she said, keeping a little pressure off the front of the foot.

Mansour added that a good, stiff heel counter is also very important when selecting a shoe.

"The heel is the first thing to strike the ground," he said. That is why making sure you have a supportive heel is necessary.

Dr. Vanessa Adelman, a podiatrist with Associates in Podiatry in Michigan, located in Plymouth agrees that a stiff heel counter is very important in choosing a shoe.

"About 75 percent or more of us need some sort of stability in our walking and running shoes," she said.

She said that it is often necessary to spend \$80-\$90 to get a good quality shoe that will protect your feet from possible injury.

Although basic flip-flops remain a popular choice for many in the warm summer months keep in mind that they are for the pool or the beach and should not be worn for much more beyond that type of activity, Adelman said.

"You are actually injuring your foot by wearing them for long periods of time. It essentially changes your posture and can affect both your feet and back," she said.

Moderation is definitely the key for flip-flops, Mansour agrees.

"They are OK if you are wearing them for short periods of time, like in the back yard. But if you are going to go out shopping for a couple hours ... that is not smart," he said.



Eileen Kastura (front row center) celebrated race day 2011 joined by friends, family and co-workers. This year's race — Saturday, May 26 — marks the third year for her team "Tatas In Trouble" as part of the Susan G. Komen Detroit Race for the Cure.

Local effort regroups, keeps focus on ending breast cancer

By Jill Halpin
Contributing Writer

RACE FOR THE CURE

Date: Saturday, May 26
Time: 6:30 a.m. Team MEET opens; 7 a.m. packet pickup, registration, Survivor Cafe, children's area and sponsor booths open; 8 a.m. opening ceremony — survivor/memorial recognition; 9 a.m.; competitive 5K start (women and men) following 5K walk start (women and men), following one-mile walk; 10:30 a.m. closing ceremony — racers and team awards.

Place: Comerica Park, 2100 Woodward Ave, just south of I-75 (Fisher Freeway) and directly across the street from the Fox Theatre.

To learn more about how to register for the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure, go to <http://www.karmanos.org/race-for-the-cure/detroit/index.asp>.

When Eileen Kastura hits the streets of Detroit on Memorial Day Weekend with over 50 friends and relatives, they will all have one common goal: raise money to help find a cure for breast cancer.

As participants in the 21st annual Susan G. Komen Detroit Race for the Cure, Kastura and company will join approximately 40,000 other cancer survivors and their supporters in the May 26 5K walk/run through the pink balloon-lined streets of downtown Detroit, cheered on by even more survivors and supporters.

Entering the race this year for the third time, Kastura, 47, is the team leader for the group "Tata's In Trouble," a makeshift group of friends, family and co-workers intent on raising money to help put an

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CURE

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end to breast cancer.

Putting an end to the disease is a message that resonates deeply throughout Kastura's family. She will race alongside her sisters; the three bonded by an even deeper experience. All three sisters have had double mastectomies, the result of an inherited breast cancer gene they carry from their father. A fourth sibling, her brother, the father of two daughters, has been found to carry the gene as well.

Kastura, a Rochester Hills resident, who survived Stage 3 breast cancer in 2008 and an even more aggressive bout with metastatic breast cancer in 2009 following her mastectomy, is determined to help put an end to the disease that has had such a huge impact on her family.

"I believe very strongly that it is possible to change the face of the disease, and it is possible through increased research," said Kastura, mother of two daughters ages 19 and 20.

Research is key

"It's not about me; it's about the next generation. I don't want anyone to have to go through what I have," she said.

Kastura is certain that rather than racing against each other, participants in the event are racing together against breast cancer. Raising money for breast cancer research is a key to ending the disease, she said.

"This race is very empowering for all of us. This is no individual disease — it affects so many of us," she said.

Sponsored locally by the Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute, the 5K race is part of a nationwide effort by the Susan G. Komen Foundation to raise money to help fight the disease that claims the lives of more than 40,000 women each year in the United States alone.

Held in 140 cities across the world throughout the year, the event has grown dramatically since its inception in 1983, with over 1.6 million participants, said Maureen Meldrum, director of breast cancer special programs at Karmanos and local chair of the race.

"What is most important about the money raised in the 5K race is that 75 percent of the money stays right here in metro Detroit and goes to help fund local breast cancer screenings and to help the medically underserved," she said. The remaining 25 percent goes to fund researchers and scientists across the world that will be able to deliver results within the next 10 years if not soon-

er, she added.

"Their work will translate from bench to bed; developing newer, better therapies and new understandings of how to treat different types of breast cancer more accurately," she said.

Family ties

A leader in breast cancer fundraising, the Komen Foundation started with a promise made by Nancy Brinker to her sister, Susan G. Komen who at age 36 was dying following a three-year battle with the disease.

"Nancy promised her sister that she would do everything she could to find a way to end breast cancer forever," Meldrum said.

Following the loss of her sister in 1982, Brinker launched "Susan G. Komen for the Cure," a grassroots network of breast cancer survivors and activists fighting to promote awareness of the disease and raise money for research and ensure quality care for all.

"Thirty years later, we have invested over \$1.9 billion to fulfill the promise, becoming the largest source of nonprofit funds dedicated to the fight against breast cancer in the world. It's very impressive," Meldrum said. "The color pink and the pink ribbon have become synonymous with the fight against breast cancer as a result of our efforts and partnerships with organizations across the globe interested in helping combat breast cancer."

Komen controversy

Both Nancy Brinker and the Komen Foundation became regular features in the national press earlier in the year when the organization announced a controversial decision to suspend funding to health care provider Planned Parenthood while under congressional investigation.

Although the decision was quickly reversed, some Komen for the Cure events across the country have seen a decline in fundraising as a result, something that concerns Meldrum, a Lathrup Village resident and 21-year breast cancer survivor herself.

"Although we had eight bad weeks, we have had 30 good years. Our concern here is that if people decide not to support us, it is the most vulnerable populations that we will no longer be able to support," Meldrum said.

Meldrum said that despite the controversy, it does not mar the important work that Komen has done or will continue to do through its work and partnerships with sponsors, researchers and scientists. A majority of the grants awarded locally are funded through Komen activities in the metro Detroit community, like the Race for the Cure 5K event.

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Readers share special memories, favorite photos

As part of this month's Salute to Women, we asked readers to share a special memory of their grandmother. Gentle, kind, fun-loving, strong and generous are just a few of the words that readers used to describe their grandmother. As Mother's Day approaches Sunday, May 13th, take time to remember what your grandmother meant to you.

A grandmother is a little bit parent, a little bit teacher, and a little bit best friend. — author unknown



"My nanny, Ruth Campbell, has a very special place in my heart," wrote Angie McIlvaine of Northville. "She passed away just recently, but I will always remember how she traveled here by car with my parents a few years ago. We must have showed her a good time (gardening, drinking wine, watching a mama duck and her eggs near our front porch, cheering at her great-grandchildren's soccer games) because she came out the next year too. Our whole family is lucky to have these memories."

Stephanie Stadler of Westland is pictured with her grandmother, Patricia Freeman (deceased).

"To share only one memory of my grandma is like sharing only one page of a book," wrote Stadler. "One memory I do often have of her is when I used to stay the night at her house in the summer and she would let me stay up late. She would take me to the bulk candy store and we would buy a huge bag of patch candies. She always had Keebler Fudge Stripe cookies on hand. Her and I would stay up late talking, doing puzzles, playing games and eating candy and cookies. I used to think it was so weird to have a grandma that would stay up late and actually sleep in in the morning but that was her. In my world she was (and still is) the best grandma in the entire world. She was also great friend and role model. She will truly be missed forever."



"While I was growing up, no holiday ever passed without a party at my Mimi's," wrote Bethany Stawasz of Westland. "I could always count on a special meal, decorations, music and on Halloween, a funny costume. One year, when I was 'in love' with Beatles guitarist George Harrison, Mimi donned a suit and a mop-top." Above is a Halloween memory photo of Bethany Stawasz (who is now an associate attorney at a Detroit law firm), her grandmother Mimi Bee Dryovage of Garden City and Bethany's sister, Marie Stawasz of Westland.



Kate Martin of Farmington Hills and her "Glammy," Evelyn Ford, longtime Livonia resident, now deceased. "My grandma Evelyn Ford, or Glammy as we dubbed her after fusing the words Grammy and glamorous together in describing our fashion-minded matriarch, had over a dozen grandchildren to her credit," wrote Kate Martin, her granddaughter from Farmington Hills. "Keeping track of us all and our milestones would have left most people scrambling but not our Grandma. She made each of us feel as though we were her only grandchild. While it was nice to have tangible reminders of Grandma's love, her intangible gifts to us of unwavering support, enthusiasm and empathy are the ones that my cousins and I are honored to have been given. I will always remember her open door policy toward her grandchildren. No matter what the time, day or night, no matter what the circumstances, we always had a place to go and a friend — our Grandma — to share our troubles, fears and victories with. My cousins and I are all very distinct individuals and acceptance that reaches across generations is a pretty rare thing but steadfast acceptance is what my Grandma gave to each of us."



Donna, age 5, (center) with her twin sisters, Elaine (left) and Eileen, age 4.

"My grandmother, Viga Lewis, started teaching me to play the piano, when I was 5 years old," writes Donna Breece-Cole of Redford Township. "When I was 7, she and my mother, Edna Lewis, took me to Kalamazoo to perform on the radio (WKZO) in an amateur program for children called Uncle Jay's Happy Club. We did this three times."



Viga Lewis

"Three years later I started lessons from Mrs. Stewart. My dad paid 75 cents for each. He worked 1.5 hours to pay for each lesson because he only earned 50 cents an hour."

"I have always been very thankful for the piano lessons, from my grandmother, most of all because she got me started. I still play piano and accordion and entertain at nursing homes at age 81."

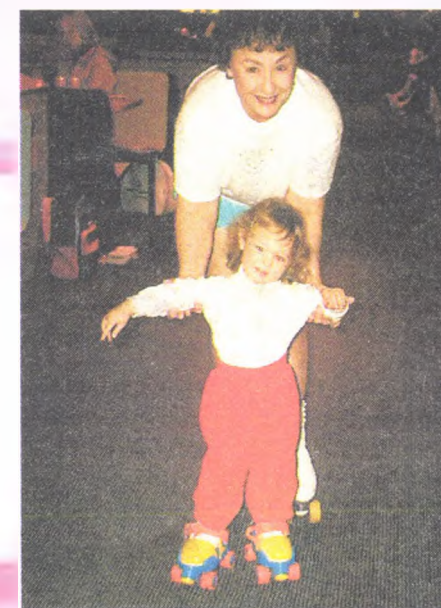
Andrea Revels (on skates) and her grandmother Charlotte Letourneau of Livonia. This photo was taken when Revels was about 2 years old. She celebrated her 20th birthday on April 21. She says the photo "was taken around 1994."

"The roller rink and the pounding from the organ music are the memories that come to mind when I think of my Grandma, Charlotte," wrote Andrea Revels of Canton. "My Grandma, Charlotte, was there from the beginning. She helped teach me to roller skate as soon as I could walk and I've never wanted to stop skating since. Seeing her there every week and laughing with her as we zoomed around the floor doing a Denver Shuffle are the things I will always miss the most about roller skating. I love you Grandma."



Joshua Henry, 6, and his grandma (and super baker), Jeannie Blandino.

"I love my grandma," writes Joshua of Canton (with a little help from his mom, Nicole Henry). "She made me a cake for my birthday."



"My grandma, Marion Vergho celebrated her 91st birthday on March 13," wrote Christine Rigel Riedy (standing left) of Livonia. "When my three sisters were growing up we were invited to stay with Grandma and Grandpa Vergho for a vacation (Grandpa Robert died in 1991). Each of us girls would stay with our grandparents in Monroe for a few days. My twin sister, Sue, and I would go together. Our grandparents would have lots of special activities to keep us busy and try to keep us from being homesick. We would spend hours making mud pies and topping them with shaving cream. We were certain that Grandma actually ate them! We would sew, bake bread, play Wiffle Ball®, dress up like Native Americans, take walks, work in their garden and play endless games of rummy. These were such special times with Grandma. How exhausted she must have been. Today our children get to continue the tradition of "Granny Camp" by spending time with my parents — Beryl and Frances Vergho Rigel (second from right) each year on Corey Lake in Three Rivers, MI. I know that they enjoy spending quality time with their grandparents as much as I did."

In a recent family photo are (from left) Christine Rigel Riedy of Livonia, Jen Rigel Dickerson of Lake Orion, Frances Vergho Rigel of Three Rivers, Kate Rigel of Three Rivers, Susan Rigel Tucker (sitting at right) of Brighton and Marion Vergho of Three Rivers.

SEE MORE MEMORIES, PAGE 18

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CURE

Continued from page 12

One such grant was recently awarded to Dr. Maria Worsham, M.D., director of Cancer Genetics Research at Henry Ford Hospital.

The grant is aimed at helping physicians better define breast cancers with poor prognosis and their associated genes, leading to development of new drugs for improved management of the disease.

"We need to get to the bottom of how we can improve survival rates," Worsham said.

Funding sources like the Komen foundation and other nonprofits provide great value to researchers, she said.

"The money that we get from Komen and other nonprofits helps connect us as physicians and researchers to real people," she said. "These grassroots fundraising organizations put us in touch with patients and caregivers so we can develop deeper understanding of what we can do to help. I just feel so strongly about it," she said.

Meldrum said that there has been an unseen benefit to the controversy with supporters rallying to help sustain fundraising efforts.

"There has been a silver lining," she said. "Though many of us did not agree with the original decision made at Komen Headquarters, we believed it was important to



Dr. Michael Simon



Dr. Maria Worsham

work together as one organization to correct the mistakes, rather than distance ourselves."

Kastura agrees whole-heartedly. Currently at some 18 months into remission, she believes that the bottom line is that "the research that Komen has funded has brought new drugs, better drugs and therapies to fight this."

"There is no person, no group, no one at all that you are going to agree with 100 percent ... that's just the way that it is. But if you can support or agree with 90 percent of what they say; then you stand by and you support them," Kastura said.

She admits that she has heard some remarks regarding the flap from some her friends.

"I have heard comments about the Komen controversy this year but I know in my heart of hearts that they are doing good work. It about much more than just the research; it's about education and awareness ... getting the word out to women. Knowledge is power," she said.

Dr. Michael Simon, M.D., a medical oncologist and multi-disciplinary team leader for Breast Cancer at Karmanos, said that despite the controversy, for him it is simple.

On the same side

"We are all on the same side of fighting cancer. There is no doubt that research has greatly benefitted from Komen dollars," he said, adding that he and his children are active participants in Komen activities, running in the 5K when his schedule permits.

For Kastura, events like the Race for the Cure have helped take the veil off a disease that was once considered "shameful or something to hide," she said, instead shedding light on a problem that needs to be corrected.

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SOS

Continued from page 4

ment for the day. It is wise for the bride to take time to schedule trials with their hairstylist and makeup artist. Patterson agrees with this and added, "Have a professional do your hair and makeup. Get the dress that you have always wanted. You will never have any regrets."

Don't lose focus

Try not to get swept up in the details and forget why your dearly beloved are gathered here today.

"The most important thing to remember is focusing on your love for one another and sharing that with family and friends," Patterson reminded us.

And on that note, I will leave you with these parting thoughts.

"You don't marry someone you can live with — you marry the person who you cannot live without." Author Unknown.

And please don't forget to reapply your lipstick.

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* (Best Wedding Makeup). Deyo Studio is located at 576 N. Woodward Ave, second floor in Birmingham. Call her at (248) 203-1222 or visit www.deyostudio.com for more information.

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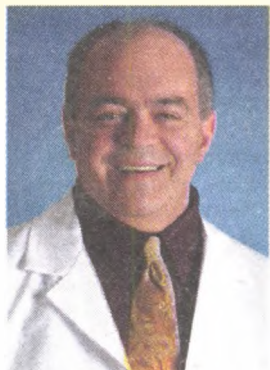
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“...I suffered with fatigue (and) when I came to see Dr. Atiyeh, DC, I was using the restroom 12-15 times a day! I feel like a different person... Honestly, four months ago I couldn’t even get out of bed. I was miserable. My family suffered. I feel like a new person! It changed my life!” – Jamie K. (34) patient/ seminar attendee

“...I was told I had Crohn’s Disease... I had constant bloating, constantly in the bathroom, I was upset all the time. I was constantly in the hospital... They (surgeons) have removed feet of my intestines. I suffered from depression & thyroid problems. (after 8 weeks) My symptoms are minimal. I have minimal pain, my mood is unbelievable! I have so much mental clarity!... I used to cry every day... now I never do but I cried last week because I had... my first clean CT scan in 10 years! ...my doctors were shocked!” – Christine W. (37) patient/seminar attendee

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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!

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

Level: Beginner

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

Level: Intermediate

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

Level: Advanced

Answers found on page 20

MEMORIES OF GRANDMA



Kim Riley and her grandmother, Norma Poppert. "I can't say that I have a favorite memory of my grandmother — at 96 years-old, Nana continues to provide me with very special memories every time I see her," wrote Riley of Canton. "She always tells us stories about how she grew up, how she met my grandfather and how it was raising her four children. She has an immense love for her family and that is something I cherish every day."



Nathan Barringer of Livonia his grandma Audrey Barringer of Garden City.

"My fond memory of my grandma is taking pictures with her at the beginning of every school year," wrote Nathan. "Since I started kindergarten I have taken a picture every year with my grandma on her front porch. She wears the same outfit every year so when you go through all the pictures you can see how much I've grown up."

SEE MORE MEMORIES, PAGE 19

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CURE

Continued from page 16

She recalls the experience of her mother-in-law, who died of the disease at age 43 after battling for over nine years.

"It was so different for my mother-in-law ... they called it a 'female cancer.' Breast cancer wasn't something that people talked about. The awareness and information that is out there now about breast cancer has helped take the screen away and expose it. Komen has helped do this by raising awareness," she said.

This year's race is facing another challenge, Meldrum said. Since the race begins and ends at Comerica Park, racing dates must conform to the Detroit Tigers' schedule.

Race date

The race date falls during a holiday weekend and there is some concern that attendance will be down as folks head out of town. However, that does not mean that people can't still participate in some way, Meldrum said.

"It's a great time to invite out-of-town guests and make a long, holiday weekend of it and enjoy all that our community has to offer. You can still donate or mail your registration in and wear your shirt at your fam-

ily barbecue. Send us a picture and we'll post it our website," Meldrum said.

This year's event will feature a special partnership with Wayne State Universities ArtsCorps Detroit and volunteers, who put together a special memorial site inside Comerica Park where participants and their supporters will be able to commemorate lost loved ones.

"This is truly a hometown effort," Meldrum said, adding that the memorial site adds a special touch for participants in the event.

Kastura is familiar with the remembrance sites that are a special part of Komen events.

"I remember my first Komen event, before I even had breast cancer. I felt a pull to participate because of my mother-in-law. When I was through walking, I went into a remembrance tent, a quiet place where you can go and think. I wrote a note to my mother-in-law there and it was very meaningful. I told her how sorry I was that she never got the chance to meet her granddaughters," Kastura said.

"I am very motivated to raise money so that my own daughters don't ever have to write that," she said.

To learn more about how to register for the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure, go to <http://www.karmanos.org/raceforthe-curedetroit/index.asp>.

MEMORIES OF GRANDMA



Livonia resident Shirley Jarrett, grandmother of Kelly Amo.

"Grandma — no, no, no. I got me a southern Mamaw and her name is Shirley Jarrett," wrote Amo of Garden City. "She is originally from Kentucky but has been a Michigander for more than half her life. Growing up with her southern roots has been a gift in itself — from her homemade gravy n' biscuits for breakfast and her soup beans and corn bread for supper — you never leave her house with an empty stomach. She taught me what's right by her praises but has never hesitated to tell me what's wrong either by making me go pick my own switches (LOL). She is the rock of our family and I'm so happy that I get to watch her be the same greatest Mamaw ever with my own children. We love you Mamaw!"



"My favorite memory of my grandmother was when as a 5 or 6-year-old, I wanted to help peel peaches," wrote Janice Rakes of South Lyon. "Grandma gave me a small (dull) paring knife and taught me how to peel peaches. My peach had a small amount of flesh around the pit when I finished, but I can still remember the praise I received for a job 'well done.'"

The photograph of Rakes and her grandmother, Della Whittaker, was taken in 1957.

Margaret V. Day, grandmother of Christine R. Day of Canton.

"Grandma loved her garden, full of rose bushes, lilies and award-winning sunflowers. A 'city gal' from Detroit's Belle Isle Bridge area, she married my grandfather in 1914 and moved to Belleville (their farm became a Centennial Farm). She taught her grandchildren about nature. I attribute my 'green thumb' to her."



Violet Gil Karolski

Pat Hardy of Bloomfield Hills offers this memory of her maternal grandmother, Violet Gil Karolski.

"She was always roly-poly. When I look at her wedding pictures taken in the early 1920s, I see a gorgeous, lithe bride with the same serious expression that Busha had all the years I had known her.

As a youngster, I loved going to her house. She always had a bowl of fresh fruit on the kitchen table, and if she expected us, there would be apple-nut filled pastries, brought from the neighborhood Polish bakery. Once a year, she would make apple pies, and I thought they were the best-tasting pies in the whole world. She made homemade kluski (noodles) and delicious chicken soup, and her apple pancakes were so delicious. The only thing I refused to eat was her czarnina, duck's blood soup, for reasons I need not explain.

I remember times sitting with her on the stoop of her spotless front porch, when I would try prying information from her about her life in Poland and how she came to America in the early 1900s. But, in broken English, she wouldn't tell me much, nor did she write anything other than her name. For all I know, Busha could have even been an "illegal," as I do not remember ever seeing or hearing anything about her officially becoming an American citizen.

She loved me as much as I loved her. My Busha has been gone for over 40 years, and yet I feel her love, and hear her words, as she introduced me to her friends, "Moya suitka," she would say proudly, and laughingly add, "Patsy runs so fast, because the devil is chasing her."

Marianne Dagnillo of Farmington Hills writes about her grandmother, Marianna Chinnici.

"I kissed my grandmother goodbye in December 1950 in Sicily. I was 14 and she was 75, my age now. I still feel her kisses and hugs. I was named after her and feel connected still. We both lost sons. Her son died at 35, an accomplished music composer. I lost mine at 39, also a musician. So the pain is connected. Best memories after the war were when we sat around a light bulb with no TV or radio and knitted and told stories. In summer, we would sit outside the door, neighbors would bring their chairs and all children were present. We would say the rosary and sing and tell stories and play until dark. It was the best childhood, the best love and never forgotten. Baci Nonna."



Carol (Swindler) Vettese of Livonia shared this memory of her Gramma Mom — Opal Edith (Law) Swindler.

"She lived and died alone on a farm in Edgerton, Ohio. I knew her as Gramma Mom, the most influential person in my life. She was a strong, honest no-nonsense woman who always

wore a dress, apron and rolled down nylons. Her laugh was loud, long and so hard that sometimes we both had to cross our legs. Sometimes we couldn't make it to the outhouse and...umm...relieved ourselves over by the well. Still laughing and howling together swearing to never tell. I've always been told I was too loud and boisterous but, was so proud when my aunts and uncles would say, 'your personality and laugh is just like Mom's' — Opal Edith (Law) Swindler aka Gramma Mom. Unfortunately Gramma Mom passed away (fall of 1971) when I was pregnant with my daughter."

Vettese's daughter was born in May 1972.

SEE MORE MEMORIES, PAGE 20

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Sudoku Answers

Beginner

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

Intermediate

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

Advanced

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

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MEMORIES OF GRANDMA

Westland residents (from left) Debbie Fielder (mother), Shelby Pelkey (daughter, granddaughter and great granddaughter) Judy Diener (grandmother) and Helen Dresden (great-grandmother).



"My memories of my great-grandma (Helen Dresden, 93) are when she would take me and my brother for a ride in our little red wagon to see the trains coming down Palmer," wrote Shelby Pelkey. "We would wave at the engineer and he would always toot his horn. She would have us rake leaves in the fall. Except, we would always dump the leaves right back on the lawn. She would always rock me to sleep with a little stuffed rabbit.

"My grandma (Judy Diener) would always have us color eggs for Easter. More dye was on the dining room table than on the eggs. We baked and cooked and took her dog for walks. She took me to dancing class and fairs and concerts.

"It is certainly a nice treat to have four generations all living in Westland. We can always count on each other since we are only five minutes away from each other. I am truly blessed to have these lovely ladies not only as relatives but also as my special angels. They have always been here for me whenever I needed them. It is certainly hard being a teenager today but with them, I am sure to succeed."



"I loved my grandma (Ida Crabill) and never doubted that she loved me, too," wrote Ellen Herscher of Farmington Hills. "Grandma was quick to admonish me for being disobedient, but always lovingly explained the consequences of my thoughtless behavior, followed with a hug and a promise of something fun that we would do together, later that day."

Erick Lucido of Northville sent this photo of him and special memory of his Grandma, Carolyn Griffith.

"One of my favorite memories with my Grandma Griffith is when we go to C.J. Barrymore's (the amusement park). We have done it many times and we always have a lot of fun. I love spending time with my Grandma."

He offers this memory of visiting his Grandma Juliann Lucido (not pictured) in Florida and picking grapefruits. "I remember going in my Grandma's backyard and seeing the tall trees with fruit. Once we picked them, she would wash them and I would eat one after dinner."



Power of women

By Julie Yolles
Social Scene columnist

The 19th annual Women's Breakfast was held April 17 at the GM Wintergarden in downtown Detroit. The sellout crowd helped raise over \$250,000, part of which goes to Gleaners' Backpack Program. Through this program, which distributes 4,000 backpacks per week during the school year, a child is sent home for the weekend, armed with seven nutritional meals.

A record 463 powerful women attended the breakfast. It was the second consecutive year that the event has sold out.

PHOTOS BY JULIE YOLLES



Vickie Dahlman-Anger of Milford (left) and Women's Power Breakfast Past Chair Betty Brooks of Detroit attended the Women's Power Breakfast Patron Party at Coach Insignia on April 16.



Women's Power Breakfast table hosts (left) Carla Schwartz of West Bloomfield and Dawn Rassel of Bloomfield Hills.

Alma Butkunas of Livonia (left) and Shalini Lawson were among the guests at the Women's Power Breakfast Patron Party at Coach Insignia.



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26 Michelle Conforti — Gateway Dental

24 Barbara Roden — Senior Helpers

23 Carolyn Tack-West —
Allstate Carolyn Tack-West Agency

25 Dr. Carrie Tokar — Milford Veterinary Clinic

26 Kathy Tosoian — Dale Carnegie

27 Michelle Schaffrath — Women's Urology
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"We are more than just insurance," Carolyn says, explaining that they provide a full line of financial products. The agency can help with fixed and variable rate annuities, stocks, IRA's, 401 rollovers and Term and Permanent Life Insurance. "This allows us to take a complete look at our clients' financial pictures, instead of just handling one piece at a

"We are more than just insurance. we can really save our clients a substantial amount of money in fees.

Carolyn Tack West

time," she points out. "We can really save our clients a substantial amount of money in fees."

The agency, which has been in Clawson for over 15 years and moved to its new office, in Bywood Square, just one year ago, prides itself on personal service above and beyond other agencies. "I have a personal drive to excel in customer service," Carolyn says, and makes sure

all agents in her office have the same drive. She never lets herself get complacent with long-term customers, but remains sharp as a "tack" in her abilities. The knowledge and experience of her agents is important, and they truly understand the policy coverage they provide to their clients.

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fied with the way their insurance claim is handled, the company will credit their premium. "It's really unique to Allstate and a big commitment to providing unparalleled service." Carolyn says.

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Photo by Dennis Zelazny

Standing (from left) Carolyn Tack-West, Bethany Schiell, Jennifer Miller, and Ryan Murphy. Sitting, Alexa Tack.

Senior Helpers

Barbara Roden

(248) 865-1000

Senior Helpers a Center of Excellence for Caregiving

Senior Helpers, based in Farmington Hills, is passionate about providing personalized, in-home care for their clients and their families. There are many businesses that provide a variety of services to help families care for loved ones, but only Senior Helpers is dedicated to satisfying the changing needs of clients and their families.

Senior Helpers is a leader of professional in-home care services, specializing in companionship, personal care and social interaction. "Our goal is to provide a safe and happy environment, where our clients can maintain independence and remain at home for as long as possible. Their loved ones can be assured that they are receiving compassionate, quality care," Senior Helpers owner Barbara Roden said. "We help our families no matter what the need or age of the client; Senior Helpers isn't just for seniors." Roden and her staff provide in-home care from one hour to 24 hours, including live-in caregivers.

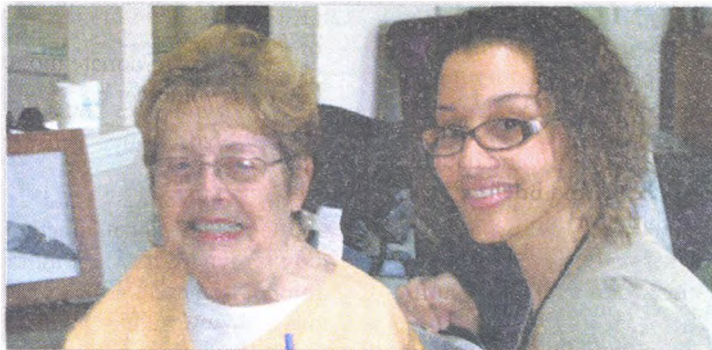
Roden, an entrepreneur,



Barbara Roden, owner of Senior Helpers, enjoys working with families of the elderly.

opened Senior Helpers in 2007. She recognized the need for providing superior, client-centered care because of her experiences with dementia in her own family. "Our family's struggle with my father's Alzheimer's was one of the motivating factors in opening my Senior Helpers business."

The locally-owned and operated company has been so successful in its quest to provide better-quality care, that it opened a second location in Grosse Pointe in 2011.



Mrs. Schlachter with caregiver Bonnie King

Submitted Photo



Photos by Dennis Zelazny

Standing (from left) Karen Adair, Barbara Roden (Owner), Colleen McDonald, Dawn Peters, Terrie Rodriguez and Dee Steadman. Seated in front (from left) Sirena Shaouni and Roxanne Gates.

A Cut Above the Rest

Senior Helpers provides a comprehensive assessment for every client so families can be assured that their loved ones are receiving personalized care. The staff utilizes the assessment to match clients with the best caregiver possible.

"Customer Service is priority one at Senior Helpers", Roden said. "We want our clients to be happy and to make sure there is a good fit between the client and the caregiver. We call each client and their family the day after services begin to make sure everything is going smoothly. If a change is needed, we make adjustments right away."

Additionally, Senior Helpers performs unannounced drop-ins to ensure employees are performing all aspects of their positions appropriately. Follow-up and follow through are the cornerstones of providing superior customer service.

When a loved one is struck with an unexpected illness or injury, Roden and her dedicated staff at Senior Helpers can meet with a family and deal with the

"Our goal is to provide a safe and happy environment, where our clients can maintain independence and remain at home for as long as possible."

— Barbara Roden, owner of Senior Helpers in Farmington Hills

many difficult situations families encounter within a moment's notice.

"Twenty four hours a day. Seven days a week. Our staff is available." Roden said. "No answering machines. Every staff member is trained to provide answers to difficult questions and has a comprehensive list of resources to share with our clients."

Dementia Certification

Caregiver training is required to keep caregivers skills fresh. They are required to take four online courses and attend two seminars each year. Also, caregivers receive certification training in dementia care giving skills. Senior Helpers attracts and maintains a quality caregiving staff by requiring high standards.

The State of Michigan does not require licensing for caregiv-

ers, but that isn't good enough for Roden's staff members.

"We operate like Senior Helpers is located in a licensed state. We are bonded, insured and perform thorough background checks and reference checks for all employees." Roden said.

The biggest difference between her company and the competition is Senior Helpers dedication to helping families, as well as clients, by responding to changing needs.

"When something changes with our clients, we work closely with them and their families to understand how their care needs have changed and quickly respond to their new requests," Roden said.

Senior Helpers is located at 28200 Orchard Lake Road in Farmington Hills and can be reached at (248) 865-1000.

— By Jon Gunnells

Milford Veterinary Clinic

Dr. Carrie Tokar

(248) 685-2240 • www.milfordveterinaryclinicpc.com

Little girl never lost passion for animals

When she was four-years-old, Carrie Tokar wanted nothing more than to become a veterinarian. She loved all furry friends, big and small.

"Pets are truly members of the family," she said.

Childhood dreams come and go, but this little girl never changed her mind. As a student, she was one of the few selected for a special scholars program at the Michigan State University College of Veterinary Medicine. She worked with animals in a small clinic for six years while she studied. By the age of 23, Tokar had accomplished her dream of becoming a veterinarian.

After 13 years as a surgeon and practitioner at a veterinary emergency service, Tokar joined the team at Milford Veterinary Clinic. Even after such extensive schooling and practice, she still feels the same tenderness toward pets that she had as a child.

"It gives me great joy to work



Photos by Alyssa Lazar

A close look at x-rays can be part of preventative medical procedures.

with animals," said Dr. Tokar. "The human-animal bond is very special and I get to witness that everyday."

There is nothing more exciting than saving the life of a pet who is injured or sick. It is one of the best parts of the job. But Dr. Tokar feels most satisfied when she can see pets regularly

"Preventing illnesses is crucial to helping pets live long, happy lives."

—Dr. Carrie Tokar

and help owners keep their pets in good health. She works hard to communicate easily with clients and help answer questions.

"Preventing illnesses is crucial to helping pets live long, happy lives," she said. "Educating clients is an important part of keeping pets healthy."

The caring veterinarian believes it is important to nurture good relationships and establish an open line of communication with pet owners. She works hard to answer phone inquiries promptly and spends a lot of time with each family, talking with them about their pet.

Milford Veterinary Clinic of-

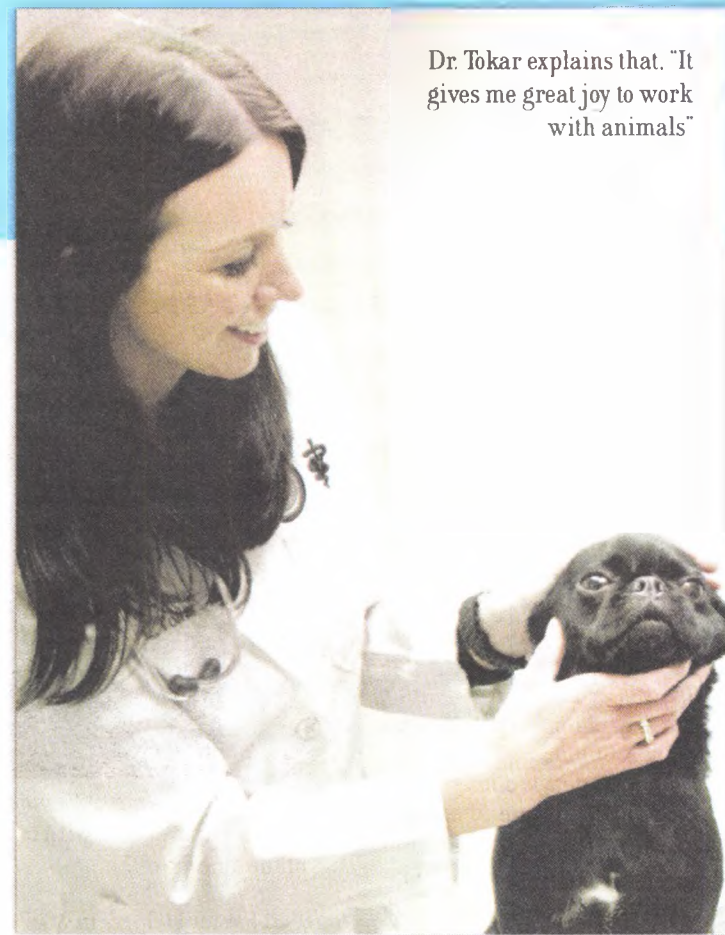
fers emergency care, including diagnostic testing and surgery. It also offers full service preventative care, including exams, vaccines, deworming, spay/neuter, declawing, growth removal and dental cleaning. Prescription food and medication are available on site.

"Although I have a number of years of experience in the field, I am dedicated to improving my skills and knowledge with continuing education," explained Dr. Tokar.

Even after a long day at work caring for animals, she has plenty of love left for her own pets. Dr. Tokar is happiest spending time with her husband, Mike, and daughters, Shayla, 5, and Brielle, 2, along with their family dog and cat. Dr. Tokar enjoys horseback riding and owns three horses of her own.

She loves living and working in Milford, which is the ideal

Dr. Tokar explains that. "It gives me great joy to work with animals"



place for those that own horses, dogs and other pets. There are so many places to walk with pets and even socialize with other pet owners.

"It is nice to see so many people out walking their dogs on Main Street, even sitting down with them at a restaurant's outdoor table enjoying a meal," she said. "I am proud that Milford is so dog-friendly."

Dr. Tokar believes in looking out for the well-being of animals throughout the community at large. She is a member of several veterinary societies. She continues to donate money as well as volunteer hours to animal rescue groups, year after year.

Milford Veterinary Clinic is located at 110 Canal Street in downtown Milford. For more information call (248) 685-2240 or visit www.milfordveterinary-clinicpc.com

—By Kate Phillips



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Dr. Michelle Conforti

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Dr. Michelle Conforti (seated) and staff.

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Our goal at Gateway Dental Care is to give our patients the very best and most affordable care possible. As an experienced team of professionals, we are committed to making your dental experience a positive one.

"It is unbelievable," said Dr. Michelle Conforti, who heads the practice. "No one else around here has anything like it."

While Gateway Dental has offered a low-radiation digital x-rays since it opened seven years ago, this technology goes far above and beyond all other digital x-rays. This brand new x-ray enables the dentist to spot cavities, deteriorating fillings

"We use the latest technologies to help patients see what is happening in their mouth and make informed decisions about what steps to take."

— Dr. Michelle Conforti Gateway Dental Care

and periodontal disease, and better assess treatment options.

Staff at Gateway Dental bring technology back into the hands of the patient by actually showing them digital photographs and x-rays that indicate problems with teeth. It is instantly available on a monitor in each treatment room.

"We use the latest technologies to help patients see what is happening in their mouth and make informed decisions about what steps to take," said Dr. Conforti.

As your dental health professionals, we want you to be confident knowing that we are a team of highly trained and skilled clinicians. We pride ourselves in providing the care you need to keep your smile

healthy and give you the best possible service and results, we are committed to continual education and learning.

The busy South Lyon office uses laser cavity detection and treatment, teeth whitening and even anti-aging treatments. Dr. Conforti also offers orthodontic care such as braces for adults and children.

At Gateway Dental Care, "Your smile is our goal." When you visit our office, your comfort is our top priority. Our entire team is dedicated to providing you with the personalized, gentle care that you deserve.

Gateway Dental Care is located at 25660 Pontiac Trail in South Lyon. For an appointment call (248) 446-2700.

— By Kate Phillips

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Nothing can replace the benefits of high self-esteem. Unfortunately, personal and professional success requires confidence in yourself and your own abilities. There is nothing that can take its place! And...it is one of the most significant benefits of the Dale Carnegie® Course.

As a former elementary school teacher, realtor, and stay-at-home mom, Kathy Tosoian, MA, LLPC, NCC became certified to teach the Dale Carnegie Course in 1993, less than one year after graduating from the course herself. After two years of teaching the course to adults and hearing them say, "I really wish I had taken this class when I was young-

er," Kathy believed that teenagers could greatly benefit from the skills taught in the course. She combined her passion for the course with her love for helping kids and realized that it was a winning combination. Kathy is the Director of Educational Services and Youth Development for the Ralph Nichols Group, sponsor for Dale Carnegie® in southeastern Michigan area. She began her career with them almost 20 years ago after taking the Dale Carnegie Course to boost her own confidence level and professional worth. Kathy also earned a Master's Degree in Counseling and is working as a counselor in an alternative high school.

"Psychologists have proven that people are held back in life because of a lack of faith in themselves," says Kathy. "They don't have the confidence to take risks and go after what they want. They're afraid of failure or rejection. Each class session is designed to build the student's self confidence, improve their communication skills, develop leadership skills, strengthen their relationships, help them manage stress and worry, improve their attitude, and help them to reach more of their potential. For many teens, this is a life-changing experience!

Summer classes are being offered in Ann Arbor, Troy, and Novi. For further information on how you and your teenager can attend a free Orientation session contact Kathy Tosoian at kathy_tosoian@dalecarnegie.com.

"If you are afraid of failure and rejection, you are more than likely not going to have the confidence to take risks and go after what you want."

— Kathy Tosoian, Dale Carnegie



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The Best Money I've Ever Spent!

I had laser hair removal on my lip & chin over three years ago with Beth. It changed my life. I had such severe facial hair I shaved my face every morning (like 5 o'clock shadow hairy.) After waxing me one day Beth gently asked me "Why don't you have the laser hair removal done?"

I told her that I had tried that. I went to Henry Ford Fairlane paid \$1000 for my chin area and had 8 treatments. I then sarcastically said "Clearly it doesn't work." She promised me that after one treatment I'd see a difference. I really wanted to believe that it could work. I had my first treatment and noticed a difference. After 3 treatments my friends and co-workers noticed it too. By the time I was done I finally felt like a girl. My self esteem was restored. It's been three years and I have thanked Beth, Renee, & Fatima every time I see them for taking such wonderful care of me. I referred every woman I know to see them. Laser hair removal is the way to go! I'm having my underarms done now. For less than the price of a Coach purse, I'm NEVER going to have to shave my underarms again. I'm investing in ME!

I've lived in Canton, Northville and now Dearborn. I don't care how far I am from them New Face New Body is my Laser Hair Removal Spot. The Brazilian wax is awesome too. I think I'll laser that next.

— Kimmy K.

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(or \$99 per treatment)

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Bikini Wax..... **\$15** New Clients Only
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Each treatment. 1 offer per visit. With this ad. Not valid with any other offer. Exp. 5/31/12

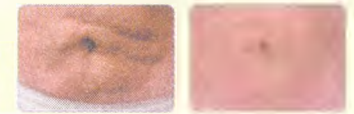
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Underarm	\$600	\$300
Bikini	\$800	\$400
Brazilian	\$1,800	\$900
Full Legs	\$3,000	\$1,500
Lower Legs	\$1,000	\$500
Arms	\$1,200	\$600
Back	\$3,000	\$1,500
Stomach	\$3,000	\$1,500
Navel	\$300	\$150
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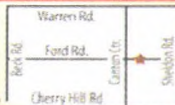
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