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ENTERTAINMENT, B6

**SPRING SENIOR EXPO**  
SPECIAL SECTION

9th ANNUAL Spring SENIOR EXPO  
Tuesday, May 22, 2012  
9 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
Schoolcraft College  
VistaTech Center  
Livonia, MI

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**Peppers tickets**

Enter our Facebook contest for a chance to win two tickets to the Red Hot Chili Peppers concert at 8 p.m. Friday, June 1, at the Joe. The concert will be a homecoming for drummer Chad Smith, who graduated from Lahser High and stops in for sliders at Hunter House in Birmingham. Share the contest link with a Facebook friend and get an extra five chances to win if they also enter the contest.



Chad Smith of the Red Hot Chili Peppers.

**Prom pics**

Looking forward to prom? Why not share the magic with our readers? Send in your prom pics and we'll publish them on a special photo page and a photo gallery on hometownlife.com. Simply e-mail your best shots to Plymouth Observer Editor Brad Kadrich at bkadrich@hometownlife.com and be sure to include names and high school of those pictured. Please limit to two-three photos and send in JPEG format only.

**Going Barefoot**

Barefoot Productions presents *Angel Street* for a final weekend Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m., with a Sunday matinee at 2 p.m., at the Barefoot Productions theater, 240 N. Main in Plymouth.

The production features Michael Ludlum (Canton), Dana Naughton (Plymouth), Eric Bloch (Ann Arbor), Christine Doulette (Plymouth), and Joy Holloway (Northville).

Visit [justgobarefoot.com](http://justgobarefoot.com) for more information. Tickets can be ordered by calling (734) 560-1493.

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**Crowded field packs township race**

By Matt Jachman  
Observer Staff Writer

Twenty-one Republicans and three Democrats have lined up for this year's Plymouth Township Board of Trustees race, and all six of the incumbents seeking re-election face challengers in the August Republican primary.

Two-term Trustee Steve Mann, a former township police officer and supervisor, is the only incumbent not seeking re-election.

The deadline for filing nominating petitions for partisan township candidates was 4 p.m. Tuesday, and township hall saw a flurry of last-minute activity, said Eric Bacynski, the deputy clerk.

Republican Supervisor Richard Reaume, who is vying for a third four-year

term, is being challenged in the primary by Abe Munfakh, a former trustee who also ran, and lost, in the state Senate race two years ago.

Clerk Joe Bridgman, running for a second term, faces Nancy Conzelman in the GOP primary, and Treasurer Ron Edwards, seeking a fifth term, has three Republican primary challengers: Richard Sharland (who lost decisively to Edwards four years ago), Paul Garon and Edwin Schulz.

Democrat Rita White is in the race for treasurer with no primary challenger.

Among the candidates for the four part-time trustee spots are 13 Republicans, including three incumbents, and two Democrats.

Please see RACE, A2



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Plymouth Township Supervisor Richard Reaume, here at the recent state of the community event, will be challenged in the Republican primary by former township trustee Abe Munfakh.



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Ursula Cecile tries to catch flying cash in the Monroe Bank and Trust wind booth.

**Showcase view: Economy gaining, slowly in some areas**

By Matt Jachman  
Observer Staff Writer

The local economy is picking up steam — more slowly than some would like — but is still struggling in some sectors and hasn't returned to pre-recession levels.

That's a broad assessment based on interviews with several local business people at Monday's Showcase Plymouth, a Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce business exhibition and social event.

The Showcase and the Taste of Plymouth, with 20 participating restaurants and food providers, drew more than 650 people to the Inn at St. John's.

"We're just now coming back," said John Melville, owner of Mel's Truly Clean, a Plymouth Township janitorial service. Business started picking up in the last six months, Melville said, and membership in the chamber, which Mel's joined two years ago, recently



Kelly Dobson, of Kelly Dobson Photography, has a big smile for everyone who passes her booth.

helped land two new clients. "We've hit bottom and are bouncing back," said Jim Raines, a Realtor and team leader at the Keller Williams Realty office on Ann Arbor Road.

**Measuring trends**

Raines and Lloyd O'Dell, a Realtor and the office's operating principal, said housing

inventory is down, prices are picking up, they are seeing multiple bids for more properties and even selling some houses above list price, which was unheard-of a short time ago.

"We can't predict the future, but we can see the trends," O'Dell said of his optimism.

Please see SHOWCASE, A5

**Speakers, exhibitors, services at free expo**

Join hundreds of senior adults, their families and friends Tuesday, May 22, at the ninth annual Spring Senior Expo at Schoolcraft College on Haggerty Road (between Six and Seven Mile roads) in Livonia. This year's program features nearly 20 workshops and demonstrations along with more than 50 exhibits.

The five-hour event is chock full of information and offers seniors and their families a chance to speak one-on-one with experts in retirement planning, insurance, health and fitness.

This year's program, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the VisTaTech Center, is presented by the *Observer & Eccentric Newspapers* and *Hometown Weeklies* in partnership with Schoolcraft College.

Best of all, everything is free — admission, parking, morning coffee and doughnuts (by O&E and Schoolcraft) and orange juice and cinnamon melts (courtesy of McDonald's restaurants on Haggerty Road in Novi and Northville Township), workshops, presentations and more.

The first 100 guests through the door at 9 a.m. will receive a movie pass for two to any Imagine Theatre and a Buddy's cheese pizza voucher. In addition, prizes, gas cards and gift cards (to area merchants including Meijer, Kohl's and Target) will be awarded every hour.

Stop at the O&E/HTW exhibit at the Expo and find out how to win tickets to upcoming summer concerts.

**Featured speakers**

Presentations cover a wide range of topics from health to wealth.

Dr. Aziza Askari, the founder and doctor of dental medicine at Comfort Dental Spa in Farmington Hills (the exclusive gold level sponsor for this year's Senior Expo), will present "Oral Health is Overall Health."

Dental health affects the overall health of one's body and Comfort Dental Spa specializes in treating clients (with a range of services) in a relaxed, environment.

Please see EXPO, A2



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Some 100 volunteers spent nearly 290 hours sorting food at the Plymouth Salvation Army.

## Postal drive fills food pantry

By Brad Kadrich  
Observer Staff Writer

Lois Spritz, organizing the annual Postal Carriers Food Drive for the Canton Post Office, had an idea this might be a better year when she started getting donations in the middle of the week prior to the May 12 drive.

Then, when the calls started coming in from carriers that day, she knew it was a brand new year.

Canton residents did their part for the annual drive, which provides food for the hungry, donating 17,962 pounds of non-perishable foods. That's up from just under 12,000 pounds a year ago.

"Oh my gosh, it was phenomenal," Spritz said. "I think it might have been the most we've ever taken in. We were getting calls from our carri-

ers halfway through their routes saying, 'Come empty my truck.' It was so wonderful."

Canton wasn't the only community to show an increase over last year's drive. Plymouth nearly doubled, going from 7,558 last year to 13,532 in 2012. About 1,000 pounds of food was dropped off at the Plymouth Salvation Army.

Belleville postal carriers brought back 12,000 pounds, up from 11,588 a year ago.

That puts the drive up more than 11,000 pounds over 2011 totals. And that doesn't even count some 6,000 pounds of food and toiletries collected by members of NorthRidge Church.

"There are a great many people to thank," said Laurie Aren, director of family and outreach ministries for

the Plymouth Salvation Army, which benefitted from the drive. "It was a tremendous weekend for our community by our community."

Much of the donations were handled by volunteers. Nearly 40 volunteers put in some 138 hours in the drive itself. Another 109 volunteers spent nearly 290 hours sorting the food at the Plymouth Salvation Army.

"We were blessed to have dedicated and hard working volunteers working alongside us with great efficiency and speed," said Sandy Kollinger, the Salvation Army's volunteer coordinator. "It is the volunteers that help us and make us successful and we cannot do it without them."

bkadrich@hometownlife.com  
(313) 222-8899



Volunteers Judy Velasco and Caryn Hall sort through food at the Plymouth Post Office.

## EXPO

Continued from page A1

Dr. Askari will be offering free consultations and recommendations for improving oral health. Free professional neck and shoulder massages will contribute to the relaxing atmosphere.

Guests attending the Comfort Dental Spa program presentation will receive a gift bag (while supplies last) valued at \$100.

Returning to this year's event is Rick Bloom, *Observer & Eccentric Newspapers* guest columnist and frequent metro Detroit radio and television guest, who will discuss "Long-Term Retirement Planning: How to Ensure Your Finances Will Last 30 Years into Retirement."

Baby boomers turning 65 this year are invited to come and learn about Medicare and Social Security. Learn about long-term care insurance and how to assess the quality of home care services. Find out how to get a good night sleep at any age, check out home improvement exhibits and have some fun with chair yoga and zumba demonstrations.

See the special section inside today's edition for a schedule of programs and events for the upcoming expo.

Relax and take advantage of our special Senior Expo Red Trolley Service scheduled at the following locations: Westland Friendship Center, 1119 Newburgh Road; South Lyon Senior Center, 1000 N. Lafayette; and Livonia Senior Center, 15218 Farmington Road.

Call Choya Jordan at (313) 222-2412 or e-mail her at cbjordan@



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Pat Schmidt and her father-in-law Tom Schmidt check out what the Senior Expo has to offer during last year's expo.

hometownlife.com by noon Monday, May 21 to reserve a seat.

### Exhibitors

Plan to visit the following exhibitors: **Abbey Park at Mill River; Affordable HomeCare; AFS Wealth Management, LLC; Angela Hospice; Area Agency on Aging 1-B; Atlas Home Improvement; Office of the Michigan Attorney General; Bath Fitters; Bloom Asset Management, Inc.; Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan; Bouchey & Moore Associates, LLC; Ciena Healthcare; Comfort Dental Spa; Continental Management & Development Services; Detroit Media Partnership; and Ear Center Audiology.**

Also at the expo will be **Community Dental Associates; Fluke Hearing Instruments; Fox Run; Gaggos Law Firm, PC; Garden City Hospital; Golden Home Health Care, Inc.; Granite Transformations; Isagenix; Healthquest; Heartland Health Care Centers; HearUSA; Henry Ford Health System Center for Integrative Medicine; Humana; Huron-Clin-ton Metroparks; Independence Village of Plym-**

**outh; Keystone Home Improvement, Inc.; Kings Mill Cooperative; Law Office of David C. Brunell; The Care Plan Attorney; Managed Rehab; Managed Rehabilitation Consultants, Inc.; Manoogian Manor Assisted Living for Seniors; and Marycrest Manor.**

**Other exhibitors include Marycrest Heights; Medilodge; Nex-care Health Systems; the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers and Hometown Weeklies; Priority Health; Richmond Financial, LLC; Retired and Senior Volunteer Program-Catholic Social Services of Wayne County; Schoolcraft College; Senior Helpers; Sharing Hearts; SMART; St. Mary Mercy Hospital; Sunrise Medical Equipment, Inc.; The Heritage Southfield; Brookdale Senior Living; The Recovery Project; Physical Therapy; The Senior Alliance; The Senior Alliance AAA 1-C; Troy Advisors Inc.; University of Michigan Health System; My Home & Office Medical Interior Design; Unique Refinishers, Inc.; Village of Redford; Westland Nursing & Rehabilitation Centre; and Woodhaven Retirement Community.**

## RACE

Continued from page A1

In the Republican race are incumbent trustees Kay Arnold, the board's longest-serving member, Bob Doroshewitz and Mike Kelly. Republican challengers include Arthur Butler, Mark Christenson, former trustee Charles Curmi, former deputy clerk Sandy Groth, Christopher Hull, Andrew Justus, Jennifer Mann, Don Schnetler (who challenged and lost to Reaume in 2008), Paul Schulz and Janai Stepp.

Democrats in the trustee race are Joanne Lamar, a former Board of Education trustee, and Alanna Maguire.

The size of the Republican field means a competitive primary, which

### ON THEIR OWN

Here are the candidates in other local races who did not draw a primary challenge:

**35th District Court:** Judge Ron Lowe

**20th House District:** State Rep. Kurt Heise has no primary challenge, though Democrat Tim Rorabach of Plymouth will challenge him in the general election.

is scheduled for Tuesday, Aug. 7. The primary will whittle the GOP field to a single candidate for supervisor, clerk and treasurer, and to four candidates for trustee.

Democrats will appear on the primary ballot, but with so few Democratic candidates in the race, they are guaranteed nominations for the offices

they seek provided they win at least one primary vote.

Friday at 4 p.m. is the deadline for candidates to drop out of the election without having their names appear on the primary ballot.

Office-seekers can also skip the party primary process and run for township office as independents. Independents can get petitions at the clerk's office; signatures from at least 150, and no more than 300, registered township voters are required. The filing deadline for independents to get on the November ballot is Thursday, July 19, and the withdrawal deadline is Monday, July 23.

The general election is Tuesday, Nov. 6.

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# AUCTION

**Saturday, May 19<sup>TH</sup>**

**9 a.m. - 10 p.m.**

**Listen to the New 88.1 FM to bid on items every half hour. A special dream board of items will be available for bidding all day!**

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**"WSDP is owned and operated by the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools. The station is staffed by students at Canton, Plymouth and Salem High Schools and has been serving the community for 40 years. This is the station's biggest fundraiser each year and your support is appreciated."**



## 2012 Auction Items

DONOR	ITEM DONATED	ITEM VALUE	DONOR	ITEM DONATED	ITEM VALUE
WSDP	Two Tickets to see LMFAO.....	\$100.00	SOS Radio Network and Scott H	Five CD Pack .....	\$65.00
WSDP	Two Tickets for Warped Tour.....	\$90.00	SOS Radio Network and Scott H	Three CD Pack .....	\$40.00
Focal Point	Gift Certificate.....	\$100.00	SOS Radio Network and Scott H	Three CD Pack .....	\$40.00
Salon Bella Vi	Haircut.....	\$38.00	SOS Radio Network and Scott H	2 Veggie Tales DVD's .....	\$30.00
Premier Salon and Spa	Therapeutic Massage.....	\$75.00	Joel Thurtell	Novel "Cross Purposes" by Joel Thurtell .....	\$15.00
Plymouth Door	Garage Door Service Call.....	\$90.00	Duxter Family Grill	\$200.00	
Plymouth ROC	Gift Certificate.....	\$25.00	Grand Hotel	18 Holes of Golf for Four .....	\$475.00
Zack's	Gift Certificate.....	\$36.00	Canton's Back Home Bakery	Gift Certificate .....	\$55.00
Needles and Pins	Poncho, Blanket and Stadium Seat.....	\$50.00	Benito's Pizza Pizza Special	\$26.00	
U.P. Pasties Company	Dinner for Two once a month for a year.....	\$170.00	Kickers and Joey's Comedy Club	Admission for Two .....	\$32.00
Joe's Deli and Catering	A Three foot Sub Sandwich.....	\$30.00	Kickers and Joey's Comedy Club	Admission for Two .....	\$32.00
Espresso Elevado	Small Batch Roasting Workshop/6 people.....	\$120.00	Kickers and Joey's Comedy Club	Admission for Two .....	\$32.00
Premier Hospitality Furniture	Office Chair.....	\$150.00	Kickers and Joey's Comedy Club	Admission for Two .....	\$32.00
Perfectly Sweet Cake and Dessert	Gift Certificate.....	\$20.00	Kickers and Joey's Comedy Club	Admission for Two .....	\$32.00
Friend of WSDP	12 large pizzas w/one topping.....	\$60.00	Roy's Squeeze Inn	Two Small Combos and a T-Shirt .....	\$30.00
Ironwood Grill	Gift Certificate.....	\$50.00	Dandelion Sky Photography	Photo Session and Prints .....	\$500.00
Ironwood Grill	Gift Certificate.....	\$50.00	Purple Rose Theatre	Two Tickets .....	\$70.00
Hands On Center	Massage.....	\$40.00	Stratford Shakespeare Festival	Two Tickets .....	\$170.00
Hands On Center	Massage.....	\$40.00	Detroit Institute of Art	4 General Admission Passes .....	\$32.00
Jeff and Cindy Campeau	Starbuck's Gift Card.....	\$25.00	Oasis Golf Center	Golf Package .....	\$80.00
Jeff and Cindy Campeau	Buca Di Beppo Gift Card.....	\$25.00	Wayne State University	Theaters Two Tickets - Hilberry Theater .....	\$60.00
Tammy Hambrick Hair	Basket of Haircare Products & \$20 G.C.....	\$130.00	The Henry Ford	Four Passes .....	\$96.00
Lucky Duck Pet Grooming	One complete dog or cat grooming.....	\$50.00	Bahama Breeze	Appetizer Bash for three .....	\$50.00
E.G. Nick's Restaurant	Gift Certificate.....	\$20.00	Bahama Breeze	Two admit two passes .....	\$40.00
Sideways	Gift Certificate.....	\$25.00	Sweet Lorraine's	Gift Certificate .....	\$50.00
Hands on Leather	Angel Belt Buckle.....	\$18.00	Meadow Brook Theatre	Four tickets for a performance .....	\$156.00
Magnolia Fresh Flower Market	Gift Certificate.....	\$25.00	Detroit Zoo	Family Four Pack of tickets .....	\$40.00
Razzamatazz	Glass Vase.....	\$100.00	Fresh 100.3 / Jay Towers	One Hour in the studio with Jay Towers 8:30am - 9:00a.m.	
Merle Norman Cosmetics	Gift basket & \$25 G.C.....	\$100.00	Marvelous Marvin's Mechanical	\$10 of fun and games + \$10 off a birthday .....	\$20.00
La Casa Plymouth	Colibri Lighter.....	\$50.00	Marvelous Marvin's Mechanical	\$10 of fun and games + \$10 off a birthday .....	\$20.00
La Casa Plymouth	Colibri Lighter.....	\$50.00	Mark Riddley's Comedy Castle	One pass for two people .....	\$40.00
Delta Diamond Setters	Gift Certificate.....	\$50.00	Mark Riddley's Comedy Castle	One pass for two people .....	\$40.00
Delta Diamond Setters	Gift Certificate.....	\$50.00	Mark Riddley's Comedy Castle	One pass for two people .....	\$40.00
Panache 447	Gift Card.....	\$25.00	Mark Riddley's Comedy Castle	One pass for two people .....	\$40.00
Detroit Symphony Orchestra	Two Detroit Symphony Tickets.....	\$50.00	WSDP	Autographed CD of Jay Farrar and Benja .....	\$0.00
Detroit Tigers	Autographed photo of Miguel Cabrera.....	?	L'esprit Salon and Spa	Gift Card and Products .....	\$100.00
Rewind 94.9	Veggie Tales DVD Pack.....	\$50.00	Chateau Chantal (shattoe shan-TAV+P	Taste and tour for Six .....	\$150.00
Rewind 94.9	Jerry Rice and Nitus' Dog Football for Wii.....	\$20.00	Steven Bernard Jewelers	Gift Certificate .....	\$100.00
Rewind 94.9	Bedazzled 3 for X Box.....	\$20.00	WSDP	Candy Dish .....	\$16.00
Rewind 94.9	The Book "Kasey to the Rescue".....	\$15.00	WSDP	Two tickets to see Drake in Concert .....	\$100.00
Rewind 94.9	The Book "Love Lifted Me".....	\$15.00	Buffalo Wild Wings	Buffalo Wild Wing Gift Basket .....	\$30.00
Rewind 94.9	Tony Bennett Duets 2 DVD.....	\$20.00	Buffalo Wild Wings	Buffalo Wild Wing Gift Certificate and bot .....	\$29.00
Rewind 94.9	DVD of the movie "War Horse".....	\$20.00	Dairy Queen	Gift Certificate .....	\$25.00
Rewind 94.9	The Secret Life of the American Teenage.....	\$25.00	Holly's Nails	Manicure .....	\$15.00
Rewind 94.9	Rock CD Pack.....	\$40.00	Hungry Howies	Gift Card .....	\$25.00
Detroit Lions	Autographed photo of Matthew Stafford.....	\$100.00	Mills Family Ichiban Steakhouse	Gift Card .....	\$25.00
Rewind 94.9	Country CD Pack.....	\$50.00	Mills Family Ichiban Steakhouse	Gift Card .....	\$25.00
Rewind 94.9	Country CD Pack.....	\$40.00	Mills Family Buffalo Wild Wings	Gift Certificate and bot .....	\$29.00
Rewind 94.9	Classic CD Pack.....	\$40.00	Forest Place Optical	One Pair of Oakley Sunglasses .....	\$140.00
Summit on the Park	4 Guest Passes for the Summit.....	\$32.00	Forest Place Optical	One Pair of Coach Sunglasses .....	\$145.00
Yankee Air Museum	Ride in a Historic B-25 Airplane.....	\$400.00	10 Eagles Studio	Two Hours of Recording Time .....	\$60.00
SOS Radio Network and Scott H	Two CD Pack .....	\$30.00	Joe Giese	Two hours of live music .....	\$400.00
Duxter Family	Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory Gift .....	\$20.00	Canton City Car Wash	5 Car Washes .....	\$25.00
SOS Radio Network and Scott H	Three CD Pack .....	\$40.00			
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# Credit union hands out 'Thumbs Up'

Community Financial Credit Union recently announced the winners in its "Thumbs Up for Charity" program.

Throughout April, the community had the opportunity to nominate nonprofits to be finalists in the program and then vote from the five finalists to determine a winner.

New Hope Center for Grief Support, a Northville-based organization providing grief support services to adults and children grieving the loss of a loved one, was the leading vote getter and the \$10,000 grand prize winner.

"We are honored to have been included in this contest," said Cathy Clough, Executive Director of New Hope Center for Grief Support. "All of these organizations do such amazing work and we are proud to have been nominated alongside them."

Voting was competitive, and the margin of victory was narrow.

"This was an extremely close vote, which goes to show how valued each of these organizations are by the community," said



Shown are (from left) Tim Cassidy, fund development director; Cathy Clough, New Hope; and Bill Lawton, president/CEO of Community Financial Credit Union.

Sarah Cousineau, Community Financial Credit Union marketing manager. "At Community Financial, we are proud to be able to bring these organizations to the forefront and highlight the amazing work they do."

The other winners were:

- Second place and \$5,000 - WSDP Radio,

The New 88.1 - Plymouth-Canton Community Schools;

- Third place and \$5,000 - Friendship Shelter - Otsego County;
- Fourth place and \$2,500 - Old Village School, Northville;
- Fifth place and \$2,500 - Montmorency County Council on Aging - Montmorency County.

To connect with Community Financial and keep up-to-date on the latest financial news and information, as well as Community Financial's community involvement, please "like" us on Facebook at [www.Facebook.com/CommunityFinancial](http://www.Facebook.com/CommunityFinancial) or follow us on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/CFCreditUnion](http://www.twitter.com/CFCreditUnion).

## 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](mailto:bkadrich@hometownlife.com).

### OPEN HOUSE

**Date/Time:** May 26, 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
**Location:** PLAV Post 166, 39375 Amrhein Road (at the southeast corner of Echols)  
**Details:** The Polish Legion of American Veterans (PLAV) will host an open house in conjunction with Memorial Day. Both veterans and the public are invited. Refreshments will be made available on a first-come, first-served basis.  
**Contact:** For details call Roger L. Kehrier at (734) 453-2031.

### BOOK SIGNING

**Date/Time:** Saturday, May 19, 1-3 p.m.  
**Location:** Plymouth Coffee Bean, 884 Penniman in downtown Plymouth  
**Details:** Livonia resident Victoria Zande, an independent artist/author/musician/poet will be doing a book signing for her writing/poetry preview collection handwritten version. All copies will sell for \$5.  
**Contact:** For more information visit her website - [www.victoriazande.com](http://www.victoriazande.com)

### WRESTLING EUCHRE

**Date/Time:** Saturday, May 19, doors open at 6 p.m.  
**Location:** Plymouth Elks Club, 41700 Ann Arbor Road  
**Details:** The Salem Wrestling Boosters is hosting their annual Euchre Tournament. The cost is \$25 per player and you must be at least 21 years old to participate. Awards will be given to the top 3 players with the highest scores. There will also be raffles and great prizes. Complementary food is also available. Walk-ins welcome but seating is limited.  
**Contact:** E-mail [rkddox@aol.com](mailto:rkddox@aol.com), call (734) 981-7913 or (313) 706-3282 for more information.

### DAR MEETS

**Date/Time:** May 21, 6 p.m.  
**Location:** Plymouth District Library, 223 S. Main  
**Details:** The Daughters of the American Revolution Plymouth-Canton-Northville chapter meet to hear from guest speaker Sue Daniel, who will talk about the "One Room Schoolhouse."  
**Contact:** (734) 453-0750

## CRIME WATCH

### Luxury car reported stolen in township

A 2012 Audi A7 was reported stolen from outside a house on Portsmouth Crossing, near North Territorial east of Beck Road in Plymouth Township, on May 8.

The car, which had been sitting in the driveway, was taken between 9 p.m. the evening before and about 7 a.m. May 8, a Plymouth Township Police Department report said.

Prices for the Audi A7 start at about \$59,000.

The victim told police the keys may have been left in the car, or that they may have been stolen from inside his house, which was found unlocked that morning.

### Pot bust

A man was arrested on marijuana-possession and drug paraphernalia charges, and a woman ticketed on a drug paraphernalia charge, as police investigated a report about suspicious young people on the night of May 2.

The incident occurred shortly after 10 p.m. near the intersec-

tion of Farmbrook Drive and Dogwood Drive, where, police were told, four young people in a silver-colored parked car were acting suspiciously.

The car's occupants told a responding officer they had nothing illegal, but a search of the car turned up a suspected marijuana pipe on the floor of the back seat, a police report said. A passenger said the pipe was his and also admitted to having marijuana in his pocket, and turned it over, police said. He was arrested; the substance later tested positive for mari-

juana. Another passenger said she also had a pipe, claiming she was holding it for someone, police said. She was ticketed.

Both suspects have a Tuesday, May 22, court date in 35th District Court.

### Tire-slashing

A car was hit by vandalism earlier this month while parked outside the CVS drug store on Sheldon and Ann Arbor Road, police said.

Two tires on the driver's side of the car — the model was not

reported — were found slashed early on the morning of May 10, the owner told police.

### Plate theft

A license plate was reported stolen from a Ford Taurus parked in the township earlier this month.

The victim discovered the plate missing on May 11 as the Taurus sat in the driveway of a house on Farmbrook Drive near Five Mile, west of Haggerty, a police report said.

— By Matt Jachman

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# 'Outstanding' Showcase draws a crowd

By Matt Jachman  
Observer Staff Writer

More than 90 Plymouth area businesses and organizations opened their doors to about 650 would-be shoppers — all under one roof — on Monday.

It wasn't the opening of a new mega-mall, but the 23rd annual Showcase Plymouth and Taste of Plymouth, a businesses exhibition, social function and networking opportunity sponsored by the Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce.

"Showcase was the best we have hosted in the past five years five years with the chamber. The flow of the crowd and volume of attendees was perfect for the event," said Wes Graff, the chamber president, in an e-mail. "Our volunteers, the staff at the Inn at St. John's, chamber staff, participating restaurants and vendors did an outstanding job to make every facet, from set up through the awards celebration, outstanding."

The Showcase/Taste of Plymouth is a way for local businesses to market their products and services, a way for schools such as New Morning School and Eastern Michigan University to tout their programs and a way for visitors to sample the fare from area restaurants and markets and other food providers. There were 20 participants in Taste of Plymouth, with downtown Plymouth's Ironwood Grill winning the best restaurant title based on visitors' votes. Zin Wine Bar took second, Picnic Basket Market took third and the Rusty Bucket won an honorable mention.

There was also a best-dish competition in four categories, which replaced the chefs' cook-off at past events. The Rusty Bucket took both the best starter (spinach con queso) and best vegetarian entree (Nickel Sal-



Jay Coughlin checks in at the Plymouth Historical Museums booth, staffed by Liz Kerstens and Leslie Ryder.



Mark Hutchins has a big roll of 50-50 raffle tickets to sell.

ad) awards, the best meat entree title went to Happy's Pizza for its ribs, and the best dessert title went to Natfood USA for its mascarpone — a type of cheese — with fruit.

The chamber also gave \$1,000 college scholarships to each of five local high school seniors, an award largely based on their community service.

"I'm so honored," Rachael Hille of Plymouth Township, who is graduating from Plymouth High School, said of the scholarship. "It was about community service. ... It was really cool."

Other scholarship winners were Michael Fluegeman of CHS, who will attend the University of Alabama; Nicole Mott of Salem, who is going to

attend the University of Michigan; LaQuisha Davis of Starkweather Education Center, who plans to attend Schoolcraft College; and Rebecca Lawton of Washtenaw Technical Middle College, a charter high school, who also plans to attend U-M.

Also announced Monday were the volunteers of the year from local service clubs and community organizations. They were: Victoria Bennett, American Legion Post 112 Auxiliary; Donald R. Green, American Legion Post 112; William J. Lawson Jr., Community Foundation of Plymouth; Judith Elliott, Community Litera-

cy Council; Carolyn Baetz, First Step; Mark Hutchins, Kiwanis Club of Colonial Plymouth; Ronald King, Masonic Plymouth Rock Lodge; Philip Kozian and Mary Tabana, Plymouth Community Arts Council; and Kris Mayer, Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce.

Also: Cindy Morency, Plymouth Council on Aging; Elaine Anderson, Plymouth Garden Club; Roman Kuzma and Elaine Kuzma, Plymouth Goodfellows; Dan Packer, Plymouth Historical Museum; Fern Vining, Plymouth Lions Club; Monica Derosier, Plymouth Newcomers & Neighbors; Jerry Schoenle, Plymouth United Way; William McCarville; Plymouth-Canton Civitan Club; Carol Saunders, Rotary Club of Plymouth; Judy Wernette, Rotary Club of Plymouth A.M.; Nancy Whittle, Salvation Army Plymouth Corps; Barbara Bray, Trailwood Garden Club; David Reeves, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6695; and Walter Juterbock, German-American Club of Plymouth.

## SHOWCASE

Continued from page A1

With 109 agents, most of them in residential real estate, his office sold more than 1,000 homes in the last 12 months, O'Dell added, the most of any 12-month period.

Some of that may be due to increased "short sales," in which the seller's lender agrees to take less for the property than is owed on the loan, O'Dell agreed, but Raines said even short sales seem to have reached a "tipping point."

With the deflation of the housing bubble over the last several years and interest rates still low, home ownership is more affordable than it's ever been, with a home priced at the national median of about \$166,000 taking up a smaller-than-ever proportion of the typical family's income, Raines said.

At Mel's, in business for seven years, the last three years have been a struggle, Melville said, with the low point being right around the time of the 2008 presidential election. Mel's went from 11 employees to four and is now at seven, he said.

### Beyond automotive

His prescription for continued improvement? A more diverse Michigan economy, which has been tied for decades to the automobile industry.

"We're going to have to get beyond that," Melville said. "We should not base everything on automotive any more." But with the unused industrial capacity in the state, he added, manufacturing seems like a logical choice.

For their part, O'Dell

and Raines simply want to see more available jobs.

"That's our weakest link right now," O'Dell said.

At Music Plus in Plymouth, which sells instruments, repairs them and offers lessons, owner Dan Merski seemed less optimistic.

"The economy is still struggling, especially our retail portion of it," Merski said.

Repairs and lessons have been steady, Merski said, but sales have dropped off, not only because of the recession, but because of the proliferation of Internet options for buyers. Music Plus sells its products through its own site as well as two other sites, including eBay.

### Online pluses, minuses

"It's tough nowadays, because you're competing with the whole world," Merski said. He cut employees' hours, but not jobs, during the worst times, he said.

Music Plus, with two locations, in Plymouth and Livonia, is marking its 25th anniversary. The store at Harvey and Ann Arbor Trail, the third Plymouth area location in eight years, opened last July.

"I still consider myself a mom-and-pop store," Merski said.

And shopping those types of stores — and at any brick-and-mortar store over a non-local Internet-based retailer — would provide a big boost for the area's economy, Merski said. As a buyer, he said, he tries to practice what he preaches, but as a seller also, he has to have an Internet presence to survive.

"If the people shopped at the local stores, it would help the economy a lot," he said.

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**WAYNE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICES**  
**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

In accordance with the provisions of Section 224.18 of, Act 283 of the Public Acts of 1909, as amended, seven or more freeholders have Petitioned the County of Wayne ("County") to absolutely abandon and discontinue the following public road right-of-way:

A portion of the Al Smith Avenue lying South of Ford Road and West of Lotz Road and in the Otis O. Rowe Subdivision in Canton Township, Wayne County, Michigan, being more particularly described as:

All that portion of Al Smith, 60 feet wide, as platted in the OTIS O. ROWE SUBDIVISION, lying South of Ford Rd., a part of the NW 1/4 of the NE 1/4 of Section 13, T.2S., R.8E., Canton Township, Wayne County, Michigan, abutting and East of Lots 14 through 16 and the previously vacated public alley, 20 feet wide, adjacent to Lot 14, inclusive, West of the East line of said subdivision as platted, South of the Easterly prolongation of the South line of Lot 13 and North of the Easterly prolongation of the South line of Lot 16, as recorded in Liber 63 Page 37 of Plats, Wayne County Records.

Therefore, it has been decided a Public Hearing be held on Tuesday, June 26, 2012, at 1:30 p.m. at Wayne County Department of Public Services, 400 Monroe Street, 3rd Floor, Detroit, Michigan 48226.

A Hearing Examiner of the County shall hold said Hearing and obtain all necessary facts and information concerning the advisability of either granting or denying said Petition, and shall report all findings of fact to the Board of Wayne County Commissioners.

True copies of this notice are to be served, posted and published in accordance with the provisions of said Act No. 283 of 1909, as amended.

WAYNE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICES  
Engineering Division, Real Estate, Attention: Sandra Martin  
400 Monroe Street, 3rd Floor, Detroit, Michigan 48226  
313.224.7787 or 313.224.7772

Publish: May 17 and June 17, 2012

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# Market surge

## Crowds turn out for first farmers market

Mother Nature provided a pretty good day, weather-wise, and vendors and shoppers alike took advantage of it Saturday as the Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce opened its 2012 Farmers Market season with first-day shopping.

Good weather and good crowds, along with a large number of vendors, made for a good opening day.

"It was an excellent first-day crowd," said Wes Graff, executive director of the chamber. "We have a good variety of vendors participating this year."

The market takes place every Saturday in The Gathering, across Penniman from Kellogg Park, and on the street in front. The market runs 7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., and will run nearly every Saturday through Oct. 27.

The market will be closed Saturday, July 9, during Art in the Park, and Saturday, Sept. 10, during the Plymouth Fall Festival.

On the weekends the market is in full swing, shoppers will be able to find a variety of fresh produce, vegetable, herb and flowering plants, fresh and dried flowers, eggs, meats, baked goods, popcorn, cherry products, salsa and BBQ sauces, pastas and sauces, honey, jams and jellies and more.

There will also be a great variety of handmade and recycled items including candles, soaps, lotions, hand-painted furniture & frames, jewelry, birdhouses and garden & holiday deco and more.

"We've already sold out the number of vendor spots we have for this year," Graff said. "If we get some openings later, we'll be able to bring new vendors in."

For more information on the Farmers Market, call the chamber at (734) 453-1540.



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Paul Prielipp of Prielipp Farms in Britton helps customer Kim Riley of Canton load her car with plants.



Richard Waldecker offers buddy poppies for the VFW. Behind him, Kim Riley, of Canton.



The market is open Saturday mornings, rain or shine.



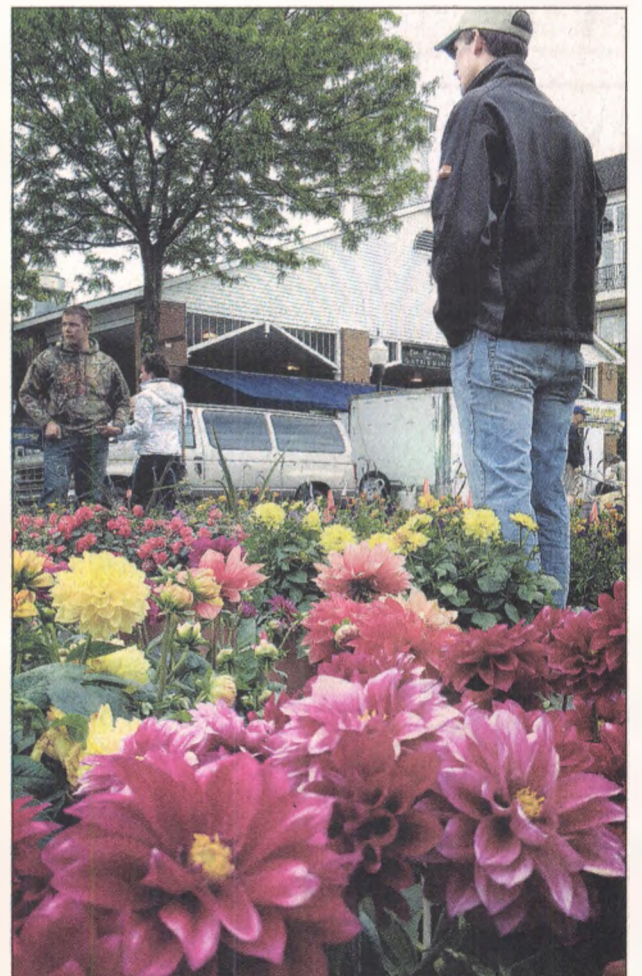
The first Saturday market draws a crowd, shortly after 9 a.m.



Brian Gaines of Westland selects corn at Saturday's opening day of the Plymouth Farmers Market.



Eighteen-month-old Walt Awdish tries out a rocker that fits just right. Dad and Mom, Randy and Rana Awdish, bought it for him. The family is from Northville.



John Delmotte of Dundee waits for patrons, surrounded by his flowers.

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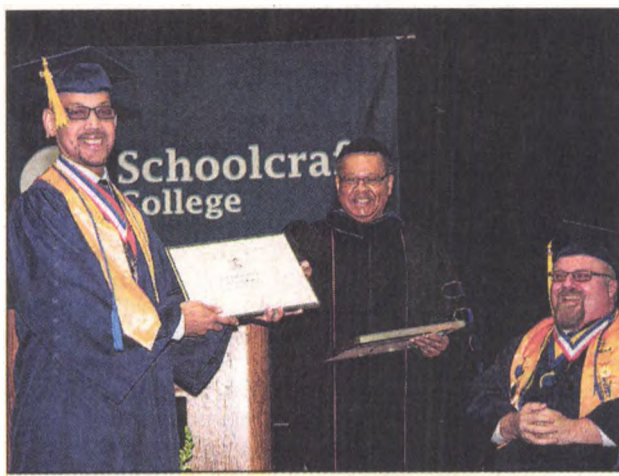
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Keith Dawkins collects his sheepskin from Dr. Conway A. Jeffress as Michael J. Wisniewski Jr. looks on.

# Schoolcraft College celebrates 47th Commencement Ceremony

Schoolcraft College recently celebrated its 47th annual Commencement Ceremony at Compuware Arena in Plymouth.

Of the 1,696 students eligible to participate — those earning an associate degree or certificate — 440 graduates donned their caps and gowns and invited friends and family to celebrate their accomplishments.

Michael J. Wisniewski Jr. of Romulus, president of the Schoolcraft College chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, the honor society for community colleges, presented the Student Reflection for the Class of 2012.

Following his speech, Wisniewski was recognized for his service to both the college's chapter of PTK and as president of the Michigan Region of PTK. The Michigan Region was named Distinguished Region and Wisniewski received the Distinguished Regional Officer award at the International PTK conference.

Two other student leaders were recognized as well, Keith Dawkins of Southfield and Leah Esslinger of Plymouth. Dawkins served as vice president of leadership for PTK; Esslinger was vice president of communications.

Following the special student recognitions, keynote speaker Paula D. Cunningham addressed the graduates and the 3,000 guests in attendance. Cunningham is president and CEO of Capitol National Bank (CNB), a subsidiary of Capitol Bancorp Ltd.

Jodi Latuszek of Lansing, formerly of Livonia, was presented with



PHOTOS BY PAUL JARONSKI

More than 3,000 guests filled Compuware Arena in Plymouth for Schoolcraft College's 47th annual Commencement Ceremony.



Leah Esslinger of Plymouth was one of three student leaders recognized at the commencement ceremony.

the Distinguished Alumni Award for 2012. As a young adult, Latuszek recognized that her family's financial situation made pursuing a college education, let alone a law degree, difficult at best.

She did not give up and chose to begin her pursuit of higher education at Schoolcraft College.

"My experience at Schoolcraft gave me the confidence to think bigger," she said. "If it was

possible to earn tuition doing what I loved, I knew it was also possible that I could be a lawyer." She currently works for Child Welfare Services State Court Administrative Office. She has been named one of the Top 5 lawyers under 35 by the Ingham County Bar Association.

The general Commencement Ceremony, held May 5, is one of several ceremonies celebrating the achievements of Schoolcraft College's graduates. Before that the Culinary Arts program held its ceremony, along with the nursing program's annual Pinning Ceremony, which featured the graduation of 110 nursing students. Eleven members of the Police Reserve Officer Training program graduated at the Radcliff Center in Garden City on May 10, followed by 34 graduates of the Police Academy graduation on May 11. Forty-four from the Fire Academy will graduate on Thursday, May 24.

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PLYMOUTH WHALERS

Whalers defenseman Colin MacDonald participates in a school visit earlier this year.

## Huntington, Whalers help local groups

While the Plymouth Whalers are perennially successful on the ice, the team also builds a strong connection with its passionate fan base through fundraising activities that support regional community groups.

Together, the Whalers and Huntington Learning Center of Canton joined forces in a simple but effective fashion for the Plymouth home games during the 2011-12 toward these fundraising efforts. The Huntington Learning Center's sponsorship of the 50/50 raffle raised \$20,000 for more than 21 different regional groups and organizations to help them continue carrying out their important missions.

This year's beneficiaries of the Plymouth Whalers and Huntington's 50/50 raffle proceeds include Gleaners Food Bank, Royal Oak Soccer Association, Relay for Life/Canton, Risen Christ Lutheran Church of Plymouth, the Computer Youth Hockey organization (and all teams within), St. Baldrick's Foundation, The New 88.1FM WSDP Radio, 2002 Plymouth Stingrays Youth Hockey, Livonia Career Technical Center, Plymouth Whalers Office Officials, Michigan Mustangs youth baseball, Karmanos Cancer Institute, Novi Woods Elementary School, Brighton Police Department,

Plymouth Whalers Booster Club, Suburban Stars Youth Hockey, Special Olympics of Michigan and March of Dimes of Michigan.

Huntington Learning Center – located on 44630 Ford Road in Canton – provides tutoring for students who need help with any subject. The Huntington Learning Center of Canton's mission is to give every child the best education possible.

The Huntington Learning Center of Canton's commitment to the Whalers while providing assistance to organizations complements their mission of helping students. Their presence at the game offered the opportunity to meet families who recognize the importance of academics while they also enjoyed the terrific entertainment and hockey delivered by the Plymouth Whalers.

"We help many children, including athletes, meet their goals of attending the schools of their choice, so they can continue to play hockey at the college level," said Wie Pan, Huntington Learning Center of Canton's Executive Director. "We can help students achieve dual aspirations of pursuing their league dreams while also fulfilling their academic goals."

The Whalers are actively involved in the community in a variety of ways, including player appear-

ances, school visits, Whalers Kids' Club and filling over 300 charitable donation requests during the 2011-12 season.

"We're always happy to get involved with the community," said Pete Krupsky, Plymouth Whalers Director of Communications and Community Relations. "And it's great to be paired with an organization like Huntington Learning Center of Canton who shares similar values as we do. We're able to help groups and entertain people while putting smiles on their faces. We look forward to working with Huntington Learning Center of Canton in the future."

## Social media tips for small businesses

By Jon Gunnells  
Guest Columnist

Small business owners are routinely asking what things they should be doing to promote their brands on social media. While there is no "one size fits all" content plan or engagement strategy for your small business, there are a few best practices you can follow to help strengthen your brand.

Whether you are interacting with fans through a Facebook page, Twitter account, YouTube channel or combination of sites, make sure your branding remains consistent. Nothing is more confusing for customers than a company with different logos, colors and other inconsistencies.

Brands should also make sure to link their websites and social properties together. That means if you have a Facebook page make sure your website is linked in the info page. If possible, put links to your Facebook page on the footer of your website too. This easy linking strategy will help drive traffic and fans that arrive to your Facebook page via your website can also be consistently engaged.

When creating a social platform to represent your business it is important to stay committed to your page and your goal. If you created a page to answer fan questions, then set a goal to answer all ques-



Tech Savvy

Jon Gunnells

tions within a certain time frame. If your goal is to simply interact with fans, be sure to post frequently. A few posts per week to a post a day will be enough to build lasting relationships with your customers and fans.

### Stay current

If your page is abandoned, however, fans will likely think less of your brand and label it as disorganized. Moreover, if you stop posting enough on Facebook, you run the risk of your posts not showing up in fans' news feeds.

Having crisp profile pictures, background art and cover photos are also a must-have for any brand in the social space. Images are the first thing fans see when coming to your page.

Owners can either have art professionally developed like they would for promotional brochures or a website, or they can try to shoot the photography themselves using the best digital camera available. Whichever option you choose, be sure to edit your images to fit the space they will occupy on each respective social network. You never want to have distorted or stretched photos because you didn't

take the time to shoot or edit the picture in the right size or dimensions.

### Accuracy counts

Depending on the size of your business, you may be writing the content yourself. When doing so, be sure to check and double check your content for any spelling or grammatical errors. Mistakes in copy will make your brand look sloppy and lazy.

Lastly, when posting text based content to any social network (Facebook, Google+ LinkedIn, MySpace, etc.), try to accompany your text with links or photos.

When links or photos are added to status updates or Tweets they not only catch readers' attention at a higher rate, but fans are more likely to click through and read more content. The end result is a fan spending more time listening to what your brand is saying helping you further strengthen your business relationships.

Strengthening relationships within your community is what your social network strategy should be focused on – not simply selling. By adhering to this one simple rule, you will be more likely to win over fans in the long run.

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.

## PLYMOUTH BUSINESS BRIEFS

### Business workshop

The Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce hosts a Customer Service Excellence Workshop presented by Tom Borg 8:30-9:30 a.m. Tuesday, May 22, at the chamber office, 850 W. Ann Arbor Trail in Plymouth.

The workshop will focus on customer service. This will be a great workshop for anyone who deals directly with customers. Chamber officials encourage business owners to also consider sending their staff people to this free opportunity to learn some new customer service skills and techniques.

The workshop will focus how to develop a "Cycle Service Process," how to determine the life time value of a customer and how to analyze and maximize your Customer Moments of Truth.

The workshop will be conducted by Tom Borg, who has done customer service training for large corporations, small businesses and governments. Borg has over 30 years of experience and is a published author.

To RSVP or for more information, contact the Chamber at [teri@plymouthmich.org](mailto:teri@plymouthmich.org) or call (734) 453-1540.

### Jobs coming

A German-based automotive supplier is locating in Van Buren Township and bringing jobs. Brose North America Inc. will invest \$60 million and bring 450 jobs over the next five years.

The deal hinged on a local tax abatement, which the Van Buren Township Board approved earlier this month.

The decision by Brose to consider the site was due in part to Gov. Rick Snyder's European trade mission earlier this year. The governor and Wayne County EDGE Director Ray Byers met with Brose executives in Germany to discuss possible sites in southeast Michigan with the Detroit Region Aerotropolis among the options.

"The addition of Brose within the Detroit Region Aerotropolis is another key piece in its continued expansion. I'm pleased that Brose management recognized the key advantage the location will offer their enterprise," said Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano.

In the first quarter of the year, there has been over \$50 million in investment commitments in the Aerotropolis.

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## OUR VIEWS

# Keep it clean

## Stick to issues in township race

They say you can't tell the players without a scorecard.

For Plymouth Township voters considering the Aug. 7 primary election for the township's Board of Trustees, that scorecard is now filled in.

Last-minute filers produced challenges to all three full-time elected officials. Supervisor Richard Reaume is being challenged by former township trustee Abe Munfakh. Clerk Joe Bridgman faces Nancy Conzelman and Treasurer Ron Edwards, seeking a fifth term, has three Republican primary challengers: Richard Sharland (who lost decisively to Edwards four years ago), Paul Garon and Edwin Schulz.

The trustee race drew 15 candidates. In the Republican race are incumbent trustees Kay Arnold, the board's longest-serving member, Bob Doroshewitz and Mike Kelly. Republican challengers include Arthur Butler, Mark Christenson, former trustee Charles Curmi, former deputy clerk Sandy Groth, Christopher Hull, Andrew Justus, Jennifer Mann, Don Schnettler (who challenged and lost to Reaume in 2008), Paul Schulz and Janai Stepp.

Democrats in the trustee race are Joanne Lamar, a former Board of Education trustee, and Alanna Maguire.

Now comes the hard part — the campaign. And, in the wake of last fall's contentious, sometimes ugly, race for the Plymouth-Canton Board of Education, we urge candidates to do just one thing.

Keep it clean.

There are certainly issues in the township, and clearly the biggest one is going to be the fire department. It's been a political hot potato for some time, and there's no reason to believe it won't be a hot-button topic between now and Aug. 7.

But there are ways to address the issue without attacking the people behind it. Stick to the facts, and leave the personalities out of it. We believe everyone acting on both sides of the issue did so with what they believed to be the best interests of the township at heart. They should be treated that way.

We also urge residents to become as informed as possible about all of the candidates before voting. They have different backgrounds, different experiences and differing views.

Voters should be clear on what they're getting before they cast their ballots.

## COMMUNITY VOICE

# Where is your favorite place to go to satisfy a sweet tooth?

We asked this question at the Plymouth District Library.



"I'm trying to get away from desserts. Dairy Queen, probably."  
**Maria Sidor**  
Plymouth Township



"I guess Kilwin's. That's my favorite."  
**Pam Hakala**  
Canton Township



"Dairy Queen. The ice cream is good, it's like softer."  
**Anam Ahmed**  
Canton Township



"Dairy Queen — ice cream."  
**Sabah Ahmed**  
Canton Township

## LETTERS

### Food drive thanks

On behalf of The Salvation Army Plymouth Corps, we wanted to share our sincerest thanks to the mail carriers of the Plymouth and Canton post offices for an outstanding food drive last Saturday.

We are so privileged to be the recipients of 31,494 pounds (up from 19,556 in 2011) of canned goods, dry goods and toiletries.

There are many people to thank. Thank you to the team leaders at the post offices, Barb Mitchell and Tammy Bosman at Plymouth and Lois Spritz and Gloria Gorny at the Canton Post Office. Thank you to the mail carriers and your families for supporting the effort and to Greg Stachura and his trucking company for donating his trucks (what a huge difference this made in this effort). To the many, many volunteers sorting out all the food this week — thank you.

And finally we thank the countless donors who left food by their mailbox.

Individually and together, we made a difference last Saturday that will continue to allow us to make a difference in the coming months.

**Majs. Dan and Jolene Hull**  
Corps officers (pastors)  
The Salvation Army-Plymouth

### 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.

legal union that shall be valid or recognized in this State. This section does not prohibit a private party from entering into contracts with another private party; nor does this section prohibit courts from adjudicating the rights of private parties pursuant to such contracts."

Whether read "broadly" or "narrowly," left, right or up or down, the amendment clearly attempts to limit anywhere within the confines of the United States any legal union between one man and one woman to marriage.

Read it this way: A man may not work for a woman. A woman may not work for a man. If a man and a woman want to form a union, they must marry, but prostitution is allowed. (See part about contracting between private parties).

In the year of our Lord, two thousand and eight, there were approximately 32,895 abortions in the state of North Carolina — protected by the North Carolina government. During that time, because of custom and law, there were no same sex marriages.

Not one.

Have those not able to tell right from wrong come to not being able to tell wrong from right?

**Alfred Brock**  
Wayne

### Right from wrong

The government of the state of North Carolina amended the Constitution of that state to include wording they believe outlaws same sex marriage for once and for all.

The definition of domestic is: of or pertaining to one's own or a particular country as apart from other countries. The North Carolina amendment: "Marriage between one man and one woman is the only domestic

# Help Relay teams reach 2012 goals

A myriad of teams and some 50 participants have already made a commitment, nearly a month before the event. They're going to relay. They're going to give up 24 hours of their time to walk so that someone somewhere will win their battle with cancer.

Plymouth's annual Relay for Life will be held 10 a.m. Saturday, June 9, to 10 a.m. Sunday, June 10, at West Middle School in Plymouth. The goal is to raise some \$80,000 for the American Cancer Society. Last year, the Plymouth Relay for Life, in its first year at West, raised that amount, and organizers hope to do even better this year.

The Relay for Life is a time to remember those lost to cancer and celebrate those who have survived. It is a time for people who have shared the same experience to comfort and console one another.

More than 3.5 million people in 5,000 communities in the United States, along with communities in 20 other countries who are walking this year to raise much-needed funds and awareness to save lives from cancer.

Throughout the spring, the teams have been holding fund-raisers and gathering donations, with it all leading up to next month's relay. But they don't want to walk alone. They want the community to come out and be a part of the event, and we agree.

Each and every one of us has been touched by cancer. Think about them and think about what you can do to help find a cure.

As of Monday, the teams had raised some \$7,500. That leaves them quite a way to go to reach \$80,000. We say now is as good a time as any to get out and get involved.

## STAFF COLUMN

# Event offers hopeful — and sobering — glimpse at school life

An event at Comcast's regional headquarters in Plymouth Township this spring offered reasons for both optimism and skepticism about the future.

I'm not talking about the future of cable television or Internet access, but the social and economic future of the Detroit area, and more broadly the nation, that, as is so often repeated, is in the hands of young people.



**Matt Jachman**

Rebecca Nadis and Ayesha Sajjad provided the reason for hope. They are recent University of Michigan graduates who are taking a year away from post-graduate studies and careers to work for City Year Detroit, a nonprofit that puts young people in middle schools and high schools to mentor at-risk students. City Year members spend four days a week in partner schools during the academic year; on Fridays, they work at more hands-on service projects such as park clean-ups, or take time for professional development, as they were doing on the day I met them.

Nadis, who grew up in Farmington Hills and lives in Detroit, and Sajjad, of Canton Township, were at a Comcast career day for about 80 City Year Detroit workers, learning how to polish their resumes and prepare for job interviews, and listening to tips from executives. Talking with them for a feature on Comcast's career day, I

was impressed with the smarts and dedication, the commitment to community, shown by Nadis and Sajjad. Both spend long days at their respective high schools — Sajjad at Osborn in Detroit, and Nadis at Truman in Taylor — where they tutor, encourage, coach students on their behavior and otherwise play a supporting role to often-beleaguered teachers. They're both focused on ninth-graders whose learning skills, behaviors or social problems put them in danger of dropping out.

The City Year idea is that, as staffers are in their late teens and early 20s, they're close enough in age and experience to relate well to adolescents while also providing positive role models.

I was also impressed with the long view Nadis and Sajjad took of their futures: Sajjad wants to go to medical school and work as a doctor in medically underserved areas, while Nadis wants to teach at the high school level. Despite having put their futures on hold for City Year, the real-world experience they're gaining now will be valuable throughout their careers.

It's probably fair to say new college graduates as a whole aren't as altruistic as Nadis and Sajjad, but if their peers in City Year programs and similar organizations around the country share their concern for the larger society, that's a big plus for their generation.

However, the stories told by Nadis and Sajjad and others familiar with City Year gave me pause, especially as the father

of a girl looking at high school options.

Their experiences suggest there are too many high schoolers out there with poor academic skills and little motivation. Too many who are struggling with problems at home, or in school, that sap their energy and attention. Too many who are unprepared, lack parental support and good role models and don't have a vision of how education can improve their lives.

In the wake of a devastating recession in which job losses cut across demographic lines and budget-slashing makes post-high-school education less attainable, that last problem's a tough one to crack. When high schoolers see unemployed of all educational levels, college graduates who can't find work in their fields and take unpaid internships or low-wage service jobs, and a murky employment forecast, it's not hard to understand why, amid the everyday turmoils and pressures of adolescence, they're less inclined to invest in their minds.

Politicians and opinion-makers often talk about the value of higher education and post-secondary training, and rightfully so, but struggling students need to see more concrete examples of that value in order to keep motivated in today's challenging educational environment.

**Matt Jachman** is a reporter for the Observer Newspapers. He can be reached at (313) 222-2405 or by e-mail at mjachman@hometownlife.com.

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# 'Sky is falling' rhetoric harms county's economic progress

By Robert Ficano  
Guest Columnist



Robert Ficano

Wayne County Commissioner Laura Cox has again been in the news with pointed criticism of county operations and me. Having worked with Commissioner Cox for years on park and road projects which have benefitted communities in her district, I will leave it for others to speculate about the motivation behind her harsh personal attacks at this point in time. However, as county executive, I cannot leave unchallenged her irresponsible characterization of key aspects of county business. I appreciate that the *Observer Newspaper* has provided this opportunity to set the record straight.

Commissioner Cox has stated that economic development

has ground to a halt and that the county is in imminent financial peril, with an emergency financial manager waiting in the wings. These reckless characterizations undermine our economic development efforts and the good will we have sought to foster among the business community. They also come at a time when we are working closely with the county commission and the state on plans to ensure the continued financial viability of the county in the face of unprecedented loss of revenue.

**Progress achieved**

Judge for yourself. In the area of economic development, Ray Byers joined the county as eco-

conomic development director about six months ago following a distinguished career with Ford Motor Co. He reports commitments of more than \$346 million in new investments this year that will result in more than 1,700 jobs, with additional investments on the horizon. The Detroit Region Aerropolis development area alone has seen nearly \$100 million in commitments from three multinational corporations. This progress has been achieved through hard work and successful collaboration with local communities and other organizations, including the MEDC, DEGC and Ann Arbor SPARK.

Our Chief Financial Officer Carla Sledge and her team is still intact and working hard on budgetary challenges. In the most recent fiscal year, the county finished with a balanced

budget and actually generated a small surplus. It is true that we continue to work to eliminate a structural deficit. For the past year, the county team has proactively identified ways to eliminate the accumulated deficit. Earlier this month an aggressive deficit elimination plan (DEP) was presented to the county commission and it was hailed as "creative" by some commissioners, while being approved by a 14-1 vote. The sole "no" vote was cast by Laura Cox. At a sensitive time when this DEP is now before the state for approval, the "sky is falling" rhetoric of Commissioner Cox undermines the combined efforts of my administration and the county commission to protect the financial health of the county.

Apart from mistakes that I have acknowledged, and the mis-

deeds of a small group of self-ish individuals that have been widely reported, Wayne County continues to be open for business. My executive leadership team has been bolstered by the addition of people of outstanding character and experience, who have joined other dedicated professionals who continue to stand with us. Together, we are undeterred in our efforts to move the county forward.

Despite the significant challenges of the recent past, our focus continues to be on bringing jobs to the area and effectively managing county government. We are committed to working with all interested parties who in good faith desire to make Wayne County a better place to live.

Robert Ficano is Wayne County executive. He is a Livonia resident.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Let me get this straight

Now that there is a slight lull in campaigning for the Republican presidential nomination, it gives me a chance to sort through and see if I understand what the candidates have been saying.

For instance, they say that government is too big, that it infringes too much into our personal lives. And yet they are telling us that, if they have their way, women will no longer have access to safe abortion procedures. Or to prescriptions for birth control.

What I don't understand is why it is the government's right to involve itself in such a personal decision, which should be solely between the procreators and their doctors.

After all, those advocating the right to choose are NOT forcing anyone to have an abortion, whereas the "right to lifers" do want to force their beliefs on everyone. Same with birth control, no one is forcing anyone to use it just because it is available through their prescription insurance. Don't the religious institutions trust their members not to use it? Do they not have enough faith in what they have taught their adherents?

Why would candidates want to cut off all funding to Planned Parenthood? Isn't the main purpose of that organization to provide birth control information? Isn't preventing a pregnancy a much better solution than having an abortion?

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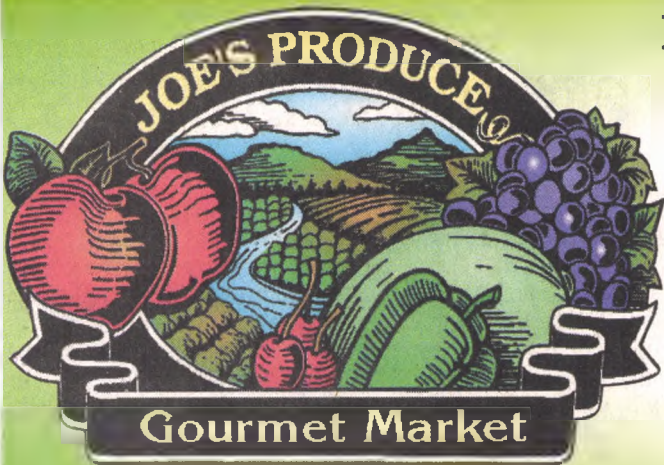
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# Sweet stretch run

## Canton senior volleyball star Muir happily gives track a whirl

By Tim Smith  
Observer Staff Writer

Even as Kristen Muir circles the track during practice, her allegiance to volleyball is evident.

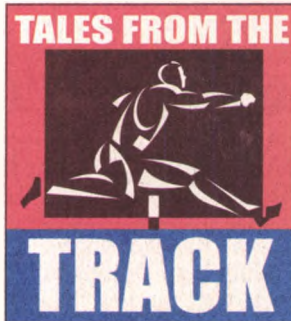
The Canton senior's T-shirt is from a 2011 camp and features her customary No. 4 on the back — the number she wore during a standout four-year career with the varsity volleyball team.

But the 18-year-old Muir is happily enjoying her first and only stint as a member of Canton's varsity girls track and field team — qualifying for Friday's regionals (with a personal best of 5:18 in the mile run) and having a crack at the Division 1 state meet with a good showing.

"It's an incredible feeling and I'm really thankful that I'll have the opportunity to possibly do that, so that's my goal," said the always-smiling Muir. "I'm just going to train and work really hard and hopefully it will pay off."

Muir will need to shave off five seconds at the regionals (at PCEP) in order to move on to the state meet.

Whether or not she makes it won't take away from why she's on the track team instead of just



counting down the days to graduation.

### The right decision

Muir said being part of a team one last time before walking across the stage at Eastern Michigan University in June undoubtedly played a key role in her decision to become a two-sport athlete this year. She couldn't run track in previous years due to her obligations with a club volleyball team.

"I wanted to stay active, and I miss participating in school activities and stuff," Kristen explained. "And so I thought it was a great opportunity for me because I've enjoyed running. That was pretty much my decision."

"And all the girls are really nice. So I tried it out for the first week and I wasn't sure if I was going to do it or not. But I really liked the team and

Please see MUIR, B3



During a practice last week, Canton senior Kristen Muir and teammates listen to instructions before beginning a running drill.

BRIAN QUINTOS

## Salem euchre tourney

The Salem Wrestling Boosters Club is hosting its annual Euchre Tournament. It will take place Saturday at Plymouth Elks Club, 41700 Ann Arbor Road. Doors open at 6 p.m. with games following at 7 p.m.

Players must be at least 21 years old to participate, with a \$25 entry fee per player.

Awards will be given to the top three players with the highest scores and there also will be raffles and prizes. Complimentary food also will be available.

Walk-ins are welcome, but seating is limited.

For more information, call (734) 981-7913, (313) 706-3282 or send an e-mail to rkddox@aol.com.

## Canton-EMU wrestling camp

Eastern Michigan University again is bringing its "Four-Day Intensive Wrestling Camp" to Canton High School. It's scheduled to run from 7:45 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday, July 23-26, in the Canton gymnasium. Cost is \$225 per camper. Applications are available at cantonchiefwrestling.com.

The camp showcases a combination of running, lifting, technique, drills, intense practices and end-of-day competitions. Contact Canton varsity wrestling coach Cory Mancuso at cory.mancuso@gmail.com for more information. There will be available concessions, through the Canton Chiefs Wrestling Boosters Club, for an additional fee.

# Salem 1-2 punch sparks team to win

By Tim Smith  
Observer Staff Writer

Throughout a disappointing season, Salem's Eric Duprey and Brian Patterson have been showing their mettle — and earning medals — as the best performers for the Rocks' varsity boys golf team.

Such was the case again Monday at Fox Hills, with Patterson the medalist with a 1-under-par 34 and Duprey scoring a 38 to spark Salem's 150-157 win over South Lyon East.

"Our No. 1 and No. 2 guys, Eric Duprey and Brian Patterson, they've been carrying us all year," Salem head coach Ryan Nimmerguth said. "They're very consistent golfers, a couple over par, right around par each time out."

"They've been playing really good. After that, we're looking for guys to step up."

Patterson in particular



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

On their way to the next tee Monday are Salem's Eric Duprey (left) and Brian Patterson, who finished 1-2 for the Rocks against South Lyon East.

had it going Monday, with three birdies and two bogeys.

Both Nick Danis and

Kyle Eggenberger registered 39 for the Rocks (2-4 in the KLAA Central Division).

David Nikkila (40) and Brady Cole (41) rounded out the varsity card, although their scores did

not count for the final tally.

South Lyon East (0-6) was led by Conner Kivisto (36), with Matt Sherry adding a 39.

Salem is starting to build some depth, however.

"Nick Danis a sophomore, spends a lot of time in the varsity lineup, and Brady Cole, another sophomore, he spends majority of time in the varsity lineup," Nimmerguth said. "Those guys are right on the verge. We're just looking for them to cut a couple strokes here and there and they'll be right there in the running."

### Second season

Still, Nimmerguth said it's been a tough season due to the fact the Rocks haven't been consistent enough.

As a result, Salem dropped several tough

Please see GOLF, B4

## Blazers earn lacrosse title

Senior Emma Ellswood scored five goals and added one assist Saturday as Livonia Ladywood defeated host Pontiac Notre Dame Prep, 15-12, to capture the Catholic League girls lacrosse championship.

Senior Alyssa Daly chipped in with three goals and two assists, while junior Jackie Snyder also added a hat trick and one assist.

Junior goalie Stephanie Mackley made 16 saves for the Blazers.

"With two of our top players out due to injuries, the rest of the team stepped up for them to secure the win, and ultimately, the championship," said Ladywood coach Kris Sanders, whose team improved to 12-3 overall and 8-0 in the league. "This is something we've been doing for the last three weeks when we lost our top scorer. We used the time clock to our advantage as we possessed the ball for a good majority of the second half. Our accurate passing was a key to our success as well as our defense."

Mary Eicher scored four goals, while Tia Jurkiew and Mara Maclean added three each for the Fighting Irish. Notre Dame Prep goalie Marin McInerney made three saves.

On Tuesday, host Ann Arbor Huron got three goals each from Kelsey Gradwohl and Taylor Standiford in an 11-6 victory over the Blazers.

Daly scored three goals for the Blazers, while Mackley made a total of seven saves.

Ladywood is now 12-3 overall. Huron is 13-2.

# Local netters OK with 'A'

By Tim Smith  
Observer Staff Writer

Players from the Plymouth and Canton girls tennis teams could not get over the Northville-Novi talent barrier at Saturday's KLAA "A" tournament at Plymouth-Canton Educational Park.

Northville topped the 12-team field with 30 points, with Novi second (28 points). Plymouth and Canton placed 9-10 with six and five points, respectively.

But gutsy efforts by players such as Plymouth senior co-captain and No. 1 singles player Lindsay Stemberger — either reaching second round or semifinals — was not lost upon their respective coaches.

Stemberger won her

## KLAA GIRLS TENNIS

first match against Walled Lake Northern's Maddie Morton only to run into a top-seeded player in Livonia Stevenson's Aimee Moccia.

"It is frustrating, but that's what comes with 1 singles," Stemberger said. "It's the best of the best, so you win some and you lose some. But as long as I play my hardest then I'm OK with it."

"The score says who won and who lost but it doesn't say who played their hardest, so that's all that matters to me."

Plymouth's No. 5 doubles tandem of Lindsey Dean and Carly Curvin, defeated only once this season, lost 6-1, 6-1 to Northville in the second round "but almost every

game went to deuce and they were playing their hearts out," Wildcats head coach Robert McLaren said.

Ditto for Stemberger and for the No. 3 doubles team of Katie Bartek and Sarah Dillon, the latter also losing in Round 2 to the Mustangs.

### Good gauge

"You want to see how many points you get compared to other teams," McLaren said. "You get a pretty good understanding of how your team fares in the KLAA."

"... We can get a really good gauge. We know Novi and Northville are going to be at the top of that list. But we just want to see how many wins we

Please see TENNIS, B4



JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

Plymouth senior co-captain and No. 1 singles player Lindsay Stemberger, shown from earlier this season, reached the second round at Saturday's KLAA 'A' tournament.

# Benevolent baseball teams come through

By Tim Smith  
Observer Staff Writer

Baseball took a back seat to helping others at Saturday's third annual Strike Out Prostate Cancer doubleheader between Salem and Plymouth.

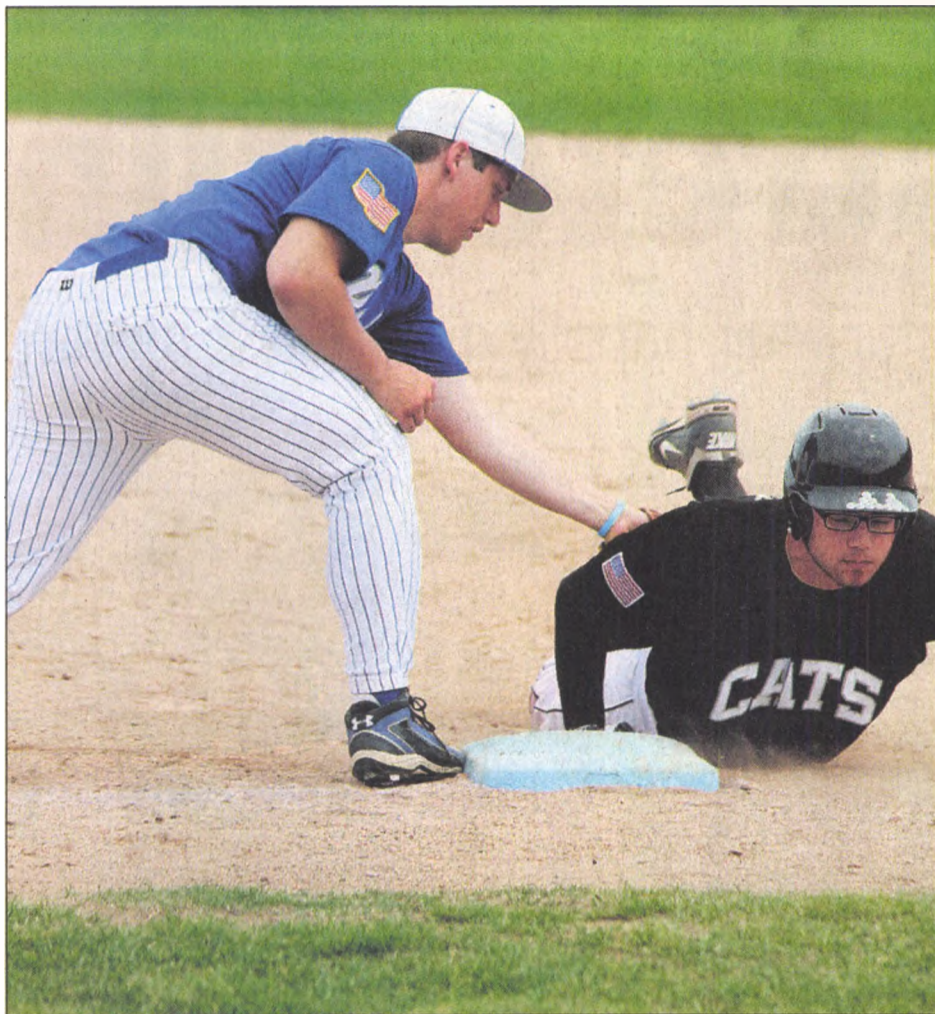
Through the sale of special programs, raffle prizes and other concessions, approximately \$2,000 was generated for the Prostate Cancer Foundation. Co-hosting the event were the two Park teams and booster clubs, as well as the Michigan High School Baseball Coaches Association.

Plus, players from both teams wore powder blue wrist bands to promote the cause and bases were blue instead of white.

"It's an honor to do something for a great foundation," said Anne Driscoll, a Salem fundraising coordinator whose son Jack is a senior shortstop. "The boys take a lot of pride in doing for others."

The varsity teams played a twinbill, switching venues. But the Salem and Plymouth junior varsity and freshman teams also participated.

Michelle Hubbard, a Plymouth fundraising coordinator whose son Seth plays for the JV Wildcats, said, "I think it's a great learning experience for them because they can come out and play for a worthy cause. And they understand it's not all about playing baseball.



Plymouth base runner James Willey dives back into the powder blue bag, eluding a quick tag by Salem first baseman Andrew Miller during Game 2 of Saturday's Strike Out Prostate Cancer doubleheader. Players sported light blue wrist bands for the cause.

MARY THEISEN

rience for them because they can come out and play for a worthy cause. And they understand it's not all about playing baseball.

"It's about donating to great events and great causes because cancer touches everybody in some way every day of their lives."

### Visiting teams win

The benefit — to also raise awareness about a disease that strikes more than 240,000 men annually — provided a worthy

backdrop to baseball, of course.

But on the diamond, home-field advantage didn't mean too much.

In the morning opener, the visiting Rocks pounded Plymouth 9-3.

Then at Salem's varsity field for the early afternoon tilt, it was the Wildcats' turn to shine.

Clearing the fence twice, doubling and knocking in seven runs for Plymouth was senior shortstop Brendan Swanson as the Wildcats won 12-2 in a six-inning contest.

"It felt great, just seeing the ball really well today," Swanson said about his power surge.

Clubbing a three-run homer off the foul pole in left in the sixth to make it a 10-run spread (invoking the mercy rule) was first baseman Austin Ebeling.

Nick Sandberg collected two hits as Plymouth's 12-hit attack helped starting and winning pitcher Andrew Page (five innings, two runs).

For the Rocks, first baseman Andrew Miller went 2-for-3, while catcher Lucas Salinas singled in all three at-bats.

"Everybody played today for the Wildcats and we feel good about that," Plymouth head coach Bryan Boyd said.

"And honestly, everybody contributed in one way or

another. A lot of guys did good things today."

Boyd said it would have been nice to have won the opener instead, however, because that game counted in the division standings instead of as an overall (which Game 2 did).

But he tipped his cap to the Rocks for the opener, which featured a two-run homer to left by Demetrius Dunlap and a two-run single by Zak Widlak.

"They deserved it," Boyd said about Salem winning the opener. "They were better than us in Game 1."

Earning the win with four innings of work was starter Zach Bird, with Jeremy St. Laurent finishing up the final three innings for head coach Dale Rumberger — instrumental in kicking off the annual fundraiser for prostate cancer in 2010.

It was Rumberger's 300th coaching win for Salem.

"Jack's learning it's not just about what he does on the field, it's about doing something off the field, too," Anne Driscoll added. "It helps him be a well-rounded young man. We appreciate that and we appreciate coach Rumberger encouraging this program."

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(734) 469-4128

## SPORTS ROUNDUP

### 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 informa-

tion, contact Mark Mangune at mark.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/cantonchiefsbasketball to get registration forms or contact Jimmy Reddy at redjy@slcs.us.

### State Senior Olympics near

The Michigan Senior Olympics will be hosting the 2012 Summer Games June 9-17 and a golf tour-

namment May 23-25. Softball and track and field will be held July 27-29.

Participants aged 50 and up will be competing for medals and the chance to go to the National Senior Games in 2013. There are more than 20 sports available in which to compete. The deadline to register for the summer games is May 4.

MSO is a nonprofit organization that promotes living healthy, competition and wellness programs. Volunteers are needed to help run the games and there are many positions that need to be filled. There are also sponsorship opportunities that can be customized to best suit your needs. Contact the MSO office to find out more about sponsoring the Summer Games.

Visit www.michiganse-niorolympics.org or call (248) 608-0250 to learn more about the organization, to register or volunteer for the upcoming games.

### Plymouth grid camp

The Plymouth High School Football Program will be holding its annu-

al 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.

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Putting a charge into the ball Tuesday is Plymouth Christian Academy's Emily Gerulis (No. 13), helping the Eagles defeat Ann Arbor Greenhills.

# PCA gives boot to Gryphons

By Tim Smith  
Observer Staff Writer

Plymouth Christian Academy is serving notice that this is a new era of Eagles varsity girls soccer, underscored by Tuesday's 3-0 win over nemesis Ann Arbor Greenhills.

"The girls played terrific today, probably one of their best games," PCA head coach Abby Lorion said. "They maintained possession 90 percent of the time and the game was played in our attacking third the entire time."

Lorion added that the Eagles "did an excellent job of connecting their passes and working the ball around the field. They played physical

and didn't give Greenhills any opportunities to score."

Blanking the Gryphons was Abigail Aitken, but she didn't even have to make a save.

As for PCA, freshman Abby LeMerise (two goals) scored the only goal the team needed about 15 minutes into the opening half. She scored off a cross from Rachel Zandee.

That lead held up almost until the end of the match. With seven minutes to play, Emily Gerulis converted a penalty kick to make it 2-0.

The Eagles then finished the scoring in the 36th minute of the second half, when LeMerise headed in a Gerulis corner kick.

That PCA breezed to victory perhaps exacted a bit of revenge as the Gryphons have been a thorn in the Eagles' side — both in the Michigan Independent Athletics Conference and state tournament.

Last spring, Greenhills blanked the Eagles 4-0 in the Division 4 district finals. Although the teams are not slated for the same district this year, they could meet up down the road.

**PCA 3, OAKLAND 2:** Last Thursday, Plymouth Christian Academy edged Oakland Christian 3-2, building a three-goal cushion at halftime and coasting from there.

Scoring early in the contest was Jenna Abraham, with Abby LeMerise and Katelynn Barkell also finding the

mark. Assisting on all three goals was Rachel Zandee.

Earning the win in goal was Haley Wright (three saves), who filled in for PCA's regular netminder (who was not available due to illness).

**PCA 2, WB 1:** Goals in the first half by Katelynn Barkell and Emily Gerulis held up Saturday against Division 1 opponent West Bloomfield. Barkell drilled a shot into the lower right corner, after receiving a through ball by Gerulis. The second goal also was a thing of beauty, with Gerulis scoring off a give and go from Abby LeMerise.

"The girls were first to the ball, winning balls in the air, and were playing excellent through balls and slotted passes," PCA head coach Abby Lorion said. "Emily Gerulis played very strong for us in the center of the field, while Katelynn Barkell had one of her best games as well."

Goalkeeper Abby Aitken made three saves for the victory.

# Salem clicks on Senior Night

It was Senior Night for Salem's varsity girls soccer team Monday night and the Rocks came through on their promise to play hard on behalf of seniors Megan McCormack, Gusti Kummer, Katelynn Krause, Emily Lundh and Claire Hud-das.

Salem earned a 4-3 victory over visiting Livonia Stevenson, to improve to 6-6-1 overall and 4-4-0 in the KLAAs Central Division.

Rocks head coach Joe Nora called the senior quintet "the heart and soul" of the team all season and the entire team came through with a complete effort.

"It was a back and forth exciting game," Nora said. "I thought both teams played well. We've

been working on combining and finding the second runner offensively and tonight it clicked."

The contest was knotted up 1-1 at halftime, with Salem scoring when Emily Barfuss drilled a 16-yarder off a cross from Nancy Krutty. Lundh started the play.

Stevenson (7-6-1, 4-4-0) evened things up on a penalty kick but the Rocks regained the lead early in the second half.

Kylie Knight slotted a perfect pass to Krutty for the tie breaker and Krause headed in a corner kick from Lundh for a 3-1 edge.

After the Spartans cut the deficit to 3-2, Salem answered when Knight crossed the ball to a sprinting Sarah Martin who one-touched a per-

fect shot from 15 yards out.

Stevenson closed the gap to 4-3, but could not even the score as Salem goalkeeper Ali Eggenberger held the fort. Eggenberger, who missed a week due to injury, stopped five shots.

• On Tuesday, Salem won again, whipping South Lyon 6-0 behind Eggenberger's fourth shutout of the season. She made three saves.

Hayley Rogers (from Krause) and Morgan Siterlit (from Taylor Jaaska) put Salem up 2-0 at the break.

In the second half, Krause finished a nice cross from Barfuss and Lundh's assist sprung Knight for a break-in tally.

Closing out the scoring were Rogers (from

Knight) and Olivia Kaye, who scored on a nifty header off a cross from Jaaska.

With the win, Salem upped its record to 7-6-1 overall. 5-4-0 in the division.

**PLYMOUTH 2, CHURCHILL 1:** Livonia Churchill (4-6-4, 4-3-2) turned in its best effort of the year Tuesday, but it wasn't enough as the host Wildcats (10-1-3, 8-0-1) clinched the KLAAs South Division title outright.

Plymouth took a 1-0 halftime lead on a Madi Lewis goal and Sydney Rouse scored early in the second half to make it 2-0.

Bailey Pizana then cut the deficit to 2-1 with a goal from Rachel Blackney on a play started by Erin Emmanuel, but the Chargers couldn't score the equalizer despite hitting a crossbar and being denied three times in the second half by Plymouth goalkeeper Kylie Robb.

## MUIR

Continued from page B1

everything."

Throw in some positive reinforcement from Canton's new coach (Tiffany Grubaugh) and it's been nothing but a winning situation for Muir.

"I didn't really have a lot of expectations going into it," she said. "The pros are I have met a lot of great people and I'm continuing to push myself and finish out my senior year. The cons? I don't really have any. Weather maybe, track meets are really long but I knew that coming into it."

"Plus Tiffany's been great, she's always talking to everybody getting their perspective on things."

If Muir was hesitant at the beginning, it didn't take long for her to go all-in. A victory in the 1,600-meter run against Plymouth in her very first dual meet did the trick.

"It was pretty exciting, I was so shocked," Kristen continued, with a laugh. "There's two really good girls from Plymouth that I beat. Yeah, it did feel pretty good."

### Hobby for life

Meanwhile, Muir emphasized that, although she intends to keep playing volleyball at the club level at Michigan State University, it's not the only sport she enjoys.

Back in fifth grade, she was on the track team at Our Lady of Good Counsel.

Then she focused on travel volleyball, although she did chalk up four years of experience in competitive gymnastics.

"I did (like running) then," she noted. "But I really liked volleyball better."

Muir still likes to run, by the way. "I've learned a lot and I really enjoy running, (it's a) hobby for life, too."

The sports are drastically different, but the same competitive flair that drives Muir to ram a spike over the volleyball net from the front row pushes her to pick them up and put them down as she tries to finish strong in a race.

While running the mile, she stressed that "you don't want to burn out too

## ALL ABOUT KRISTEN

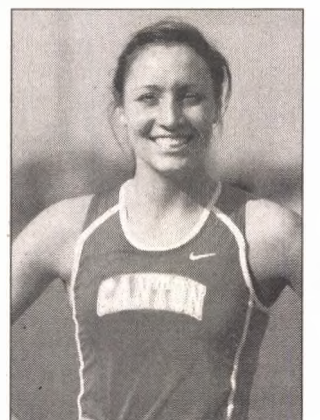
**Who:** Kristen Muir, 18-year-old Canton High School senior.

**Family:** She lives in Plymouth with parents John and Michele Muir.

**Athletics:** This spring marks Muir's first on Canton's varsity girls track and field team. She also was a standout, four-year player with the Chiefs' varsity girls volleyball team. In 2011, the outside hitter was co-captain.

**Misc.:** Muir is owner of a 3.5 grade point average and plans to attend Michigan State University. She hopes to play club volleyball at MSU. She enjoys family travel to western Michigan and Florida and holds down a part-time job.

**Sports:** Besides Canton athletics, other sports experience includes four years of competitive gymnastics, seven seasons with a travel volleyball team and one season (fifth grade) running track for Our Lady of Good Counsel.



Canton senior Kristen Muir is happy she decided to join the girls track and field team this spring.

early, you want to make sure you have enough in the end so you can run your hardest for the last 200. But it's all about pacing yourself."

Kristen Muir is reaching the finish line of her high school life. But with her enthusiasm, talent and determination, it looks like the best is yet to come.

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PHOTOS BY BRIAN QUINTOS  
Kristen Muir enjoys running and being part of the varsity girls track and field team.

# Chiefs nip Rocks at Massey

A complete game shut-out by Canton senior Alysa Boucher enabled the Chiefs to nip Salem 1-0 Monday night at Massey Field in the annual Massey Classic.

**PREP SOFTBALL** Boucher gave up just three hits and no walks and struck out seven as the Chiefs parlayed a triple by Paige Aresco and RBI groundout in the fourth for all the scoring they needed.

"You can throw all that records away," Canton head coach Jim Arnold said. "When Salem and Canton play, you're going to have a game. There's no question about it. Each team will step up, I don't care if each team was 0-20."

Arnold added that the teams played "a great game, a great defensive game. We

got lucky. We opened up an inning with a triple and a ground ball scores her. If it wasn't for that we'd probably still be playing."

Pitching a strong game for Salem was freshman Marissa Hunley, who Rocks head coach Bonnie Southerland said "showed great composure and poise in the circle."

She lauded her team's strong defense, calling it "one of the best defensive games we've played all year. We got out of a lot of tough situations and managed some great textbook plays."

But the Rocks (12-9 overall) "just didn't connect at the plate. We were a little over-anxious. But all in all a pretty evenly matched game that could have gone either way. That's what makes this annual game so great."

### PLYMOUTH 6, SOUTH LYON 3:

Also on Monday, the state-ranked Wildcats (No. 4 in Division 1) doubled up host South Lyon. Plymouth, now 23-4 overall and tops in the KLAAs Kensington Conference with a 13-1 mark, featured a lineup with four players collecting at least two hits.

Bri Giordano went 3-for-4 with a triple and drove in two runs to pace the attack. Brooke Senkbeil and Lindsay Lutton each doubled and singled while Brittney Miller doubled, tripled and knocked in two.

Going the distance for the win was Mik Marciniak (five hits, eight strikeouts).

• The Wildcats went 1-2 at Saturday's Canton Classic, losing 2-0 to Tecumseh and 7-6 to Sterling Heights Stevenson before turning around for a 15-1 thumping of Belleville.

Against the Tigers, Senkbeil went 3-for-3 (two doubles) and knocked in two while Kayla Rebin went 3-for-4. Chipping in with two hits and an RBI each were Cassidy Hewitt, Elaine Gerou and Lutton.

# Riverside roller skaters excel

Ten roller skaters from Riverside Arena earned top 10 placements at the recent Artistic Inter-Club skating competition held in Roseville.

Several skaters medaled in both individual and team events, while the Riverside RASCals Precision Team also added first place in their competitive debut.

Taking firsts in their respective categories were Stephanie Cueva, Ryan Heersink, Sofia Cueva, Jillian Heersink, all of Livonia, along with Valentyna Stadnik of Northville.

Members of the winning Riverside RASCals Precision Team included Jade Ross, Heersink, Stephanie and Sofia Cueva, all of Livonia; Amanda Smyser, Westland; Chloe LaMay, Plymouth; Hanna Denes, Garden City; Andrew Esser and Stadnik, both of Northville,

Both Heersink and Stadnik also captured bronze medals, while rounding out the club roster was Emma Chappell of Livonia.

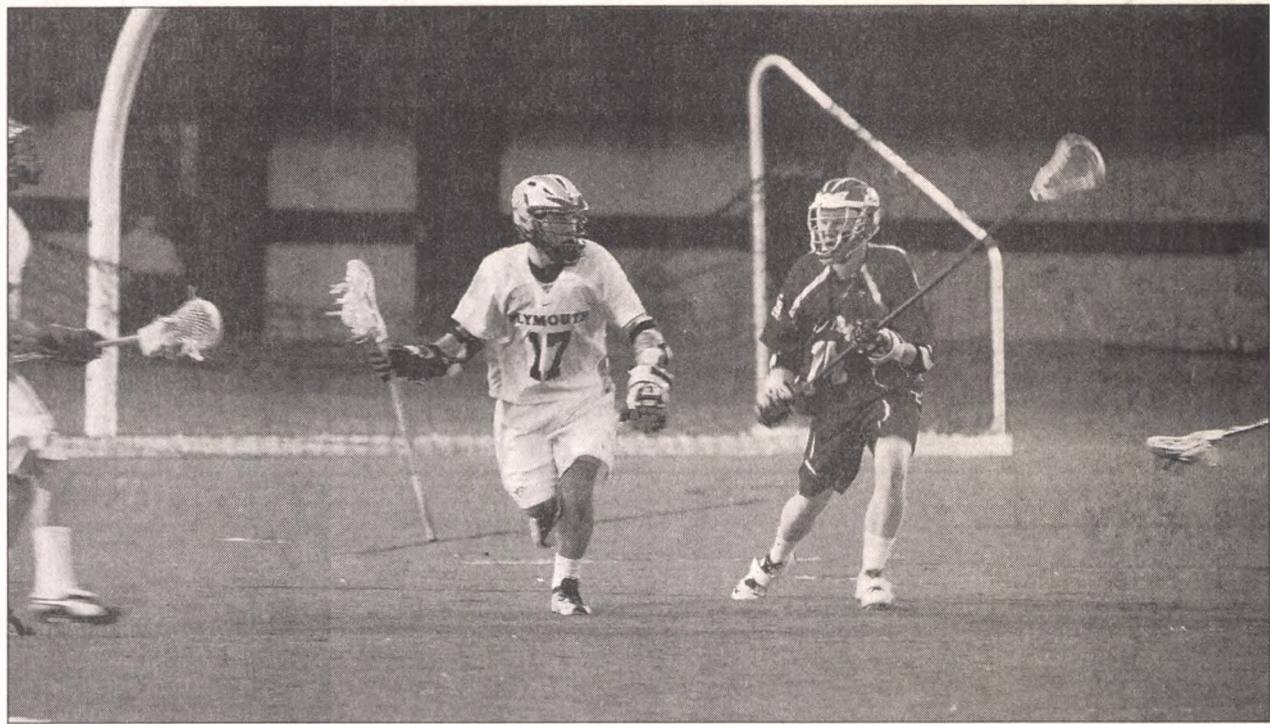
Proceeds from the show will benefit the Riverside Arena Skating Club, which will be travelling to Romeoville, Ill. and Lincoln, Neb. for the upcoming Regional and National Roller Skating Championships.

These skaters will be featured from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Sunday, May 20 in the Riverside Arena Spring Spectacular skating show.

Tickets, available in advance or at the door, are \$5 per person. Children under-5 will be admitted free.

Riverside Arena is located at 36635 Plymouth Road, Livonia.

For more information call, (734) 421-3542; or visit online at www.riversidearena.com.



Salem's Phil Sutfin (right) puts defensive pressure on Plymouth's Phil Flesch during the recent boys lacrosse matchup for the PCEP championship.

# Rocks club 'Cats for Park crown

Salem is the "best in the Park" for the 2012 boys lacrosse season following last Wednesday's 16-12 win over Plymouth. That win gave the Rocks the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park boys lacrosse title. Salem fell behind 7-4 after one quarter, but outscored the Wildcats 12-5 the rest of the way. Plymouth did cut the lead to one goal during the third, but Salem quickly reestablished a comfortable margin. Salem scored the first goal when Jake Perkins hit a cutting Jason Newel who ripped a shot that found the top corner for the first tally. Plymouth answered quickly with a nice assist from Gabe Osorio to Phil Flesch. The shot was blocked by Salem goalie Justin Oldani but found a way to just trickle over the goal line. From there Plymouth got on a roll scoring two goals from Kenny Fanelli with both assists coming from Kyle Durham. Salem then gained some momentum. First Patrick Kretschmer (six goals, two assists) answered the run with an assist from

## Salem girls back on track

After a tough loss April 27 to Plymouth, the Salem varsity girls lacrosse team turned things around with wins over Canton and Walled Lake United the following week. On May 4, on Canton's Senior Night, the Rocks fell behind 2-0 but roared back with five unanswered goals and prevailed 9-7. "It was a very close, exciting rival game with neither team yielding," Rocks head coach Dave Medley noted. "... I know the Canton girls feel bad and we have had to face those kind of losses ourselves over the past two seasons. "Perhaps they can take solace they still have the respect of our girls, and we were chal-

lenged by them to the final tick of the clock." Despite the loss, Canton senior co-captain Stephanie Bower had an outstanding night with four goals (one assisted by senior Megan Wherrett, her first point of the season). Senior Julie Podorsek also scored. Salem's big guns were Kiersten Vala (five goals, one assist) and Bridget Kerwin (two goals). Also scoring were Alex Godre and Lauren Harber. "Hats off to Salem for playing a tough, physical game and coming out on top," Canton coach Dave Bower said. Canton seniors honored during halftime were Stephanie Bower, Wherrett, Podorsek,

Kristen Larsen and co-captains Kaitlyn Allard, Julia Beard and Jenny Nyberg. **SALEM 10, W.L. UNITED 9:** On May 5 against Walled Lake United, Salem seniors Lauren Harber, Alexandra Godre, Mikhelle (Heather) Hughes and Laure Danis all contributed in a 10-9 win (on Salem's Senior Day). Scoring three goals each were Jenna Carter and Lauren Harber, with Kiersten Vala chipping in with two. Bridget Maul scored and freshman Joslyn Longe netted her first varsity goal. Stopping 12 shots for the win was goalkeeper Samantha Howell. **CANTON 10, NORTHVILLE 8 (OT):** Stephanie Bower's fifth goal of the game, in overtime, sparked the host Chiefs to this win on May 2. Scoring twice were seniors Kaitlyn Allard and Julie Podorsek while Sara Davenport added a marker.

Jason Newel (two goals, two assists); then Salem tallied another goal, Brandon Lee (four goals, one assist) from Mason Amin. Plymouth answered with a goal from Gabe

Osorio but then the Rocks began to pull away. Kody Duhl tallied two goals and two assists while Nick Giannini and PJ Rogers each chipped in one goal each. In the junior varsity

contest, Salem routed Plymouth 10-1. Earlier this year, the Rocks varsity and JV teams bested Canton (12-8, 6-3, respectively), thus giving them Park bragging rights for the year.

## GIRLS TENNIS RESULTS

**KLAA GIRLS TENNIS 'A' TOURNAMENT**  
**May 12 at Plymouth**  
**TEAM STANDINGS:** 1. Northville, 30 points; 2. Novi, 28; 3. Grand Blanc, 13; 4. Livonia Stevenson, 10; 5. (tie) Hartland and Brighton, 9 each; 7. Livonia Churchill, 8; 8. White Lake Lakeland, 7; 9. Plymouth, 6; 10. Walled Lake Western and Canton, 5 each; 12. Walled Lake Northern, 1.

**FINAL FLIGHT RESULTS**  
**No. 1 singles:** Abby Wang (Novi) defeated Aimee Moccia (LS), 6-1, 6-0; **semifinals:** Wang (Novi) def. Sabrina Dass (GB), 7-6 (7-2), 6-0; Moccia (LS) def. Erin Doud (N'ville), 6-1, 7-5.  
**No. 2:** Quincy Banini (LC) def. Rachel Byron (H), 7-5, 6-2; **semifinals:** Banini (LC) def. Erin Day (Novi), 6-2, 6-1; Byron (H) won by default over Danielle Romano (N'ville).  
**No. 3:** Paige Baal (N'ville) def. Dhivya Sridar (Novi), 6-0, 6-4; **semifinals:** Baal (N'ville) def. Rylie Fallu (LC), 7-5, 6-4; Sridar (Novi) def. Taylor Sims (WLL), 6-3, 6-4.  
**No. 4 singles:** Alex Jeannotte (N'ville) def. Caitlin O'Brien (Novi), 4-6, 6-2, 6-2; **semifinals:** Jeannotte (N'ville) def. Madison Johnson (Canton), 6-0, 6-1; O'Brien (Novi) def. Mara Karageozian (LC), 6-4, 6-1.  
**No. 1 doubles:** Mackenzie Powers-Claudia Ma (N'ville) def. Ala Nowakowska-Andrea Thompson (GB), 6-4, 6-3; **semifinals:** Powers-Ma (N'ville) def. Emily Sheeran-Amy Zhou (Novi), 6-4, 6-1; Nowakowska-Thompson (GB) def. Lexie Hayes-Laura Seifert (H), 6-2, 6-2.  
**No. 2:** Elizabeth Sakorafis-Jordan Hermiz (N'ville) def. Emily Kwederis-Ori Nagasaka (Novi), 6-3, 6-3; **semifinals:** Sakorafis-Hermiz (N'ville) def. Maddie Heatley-Rebekah Wright (B), 6-0, 6-1; Kwederis-Nagasaka (Novi) def. Morgan Ulseth-Hali MacMillian (GB), 6-4, 6-1.  
**No. 3:** Rebecca Chen-Asawari Kanitkar (Novi) def. Chloe Page-Libby Quinn (N'ville), 6-4, 6-2; **semifinals:** Chen-Kanitkar (Novi) def. Alyssa Pratt-McKenna Russell (B), 6-3, 6-1; Page-Quinn (N'ville) def. Josie Abdulbaki-Jenny Cami (LS), 6-0, 6-1.  
**No. 4:** Rachel Bailey-Dina Fawaz (Novi) def. Shannon Williams-Val Trupiano (N'ville), 6-1, 2-6, 6-3; **semifinals:** Bailey Fawaz (Novi) def. Sam DiGiovanni-Sarah Morse (LS), 6-3, 6-3; Williams-Trupiano (N'ville) def. Sam Elias-Christine Colasanti (GB), 6-4, 6-2.  
**No. 5:** Rachel Crittenden-Alison Kozerski (N'ville) def. Angela Huang-Alice Jiang (Novi), 6-2, 6-2; **semifinals:** Crittenden-Kozerski (N'ville) def. Kirstie Waller-Julie Hamlin (B), 3-6, 6-2, 6-2; Huang-Jiang (Novi) def. Madisyn Olivo-Haley Harasim (GB), 6-1, 6-1.

**May 12 at Novi Meadows and South Lyon East**  
**TEAM STANDINGS:** 1. Salem, 32 points; 2. Howell, 17; 3. Walled Lake Central, 16; 4. Milford, 13; 5. (tie) Livonia Franklin and South Lyon East, 11 each; 7. South Lyon, 10; 8. Pinckney, 9; 8. Wayne Memorial, 7; 10. Waterford Kettering and Waterford Mott, 2 each; 12. Westland John Glenn, 0.

**FINAL FLIGHT RESULTS**  
**No. 1 singles:** Carolyn McCullen (LF) def. Morgan Spencer (Salem), 6-0, 6-0; **semifinals:** McCullen (LF) def. Stephanie Tomlin (Wayne), 6-1, 6-0; Spencer (Salem) def. Brenna Dougherty (Milford), 6-2, 6-3.  
**No. 2:** Ashley Walker (Salem) def. Victoria Meeder (WLC), 6-2, 6-1; **semifinals:** Walker (Salem) def. Jenny Quang (SL), no score available; Meeder (WLC) def. Amy Jackowski (P), 6-2, 6-4.  
**No. 3:** Sushmi Diraviam (Salem) def. Haley Linkous (WLC), 6-3, 6-4; **semifinals:** Diraviam (Salem) def. Janae Strickland (Wayne), 6-0, 6-1; Linkous (WLC) def. Shannon Parr (Milford), 6-4, 3-6, 6-1.  
**No. 4:** Jordan Lewis (WLC) def. Sophie Welch (SL), 6-4, 6-4; **semifinals:** Lewis (WLC) def. Sarah Wagner (H), 6-3, 6-0; Welch (SL) def. Narges Pourmandi (Salem), 6-3, 6-3.  
**No. 1 doubles:** Courtney March-Katie Vena (Salem) def. Abbie Fielding-Sam Raney (SL), 6-4, 7-6 (7-1); **semifinals:** March-Vena (Salem) def. Jessica Rentsch-Krista Bagnick (P), 6-4, 6-1; Fielding-Raney (SL) def. Kylie Hartford-Courteney Schulke (H), 7-6 (7-2), 6-2.  
**No. 2:** Sarah Bellaire-Kathy Kemp (Salem) def. Lauren Bryne-Makayle Millington (H), 7-6 (7-5), 6-0; **semifinals:** Bellaire-Kemp (Salem) def. Morgan Witherspoon-Anna Mozata (LF), 6-2, 6-0; Bryne-Millington (H) def. Ashley Larmee-Kaielyn Zdanowski (P), 6-1, 6-2.  
**No. 3:** Meghan Barry-Monica Topolovec (Salem) def. Briana Browder-Kara Browder (H), 7-6 (7-3), 6-3; **semifinals:** Barry-Topolovec (Salem) def. Meghan Taylor-Rachel Erickson (Milford), 5-7, 6-0, 6-1; Browder-Browder (H) def. Nicole Kline-Leah Nonis (SLE), 6-4, 6-2.  
**No. 4:** Abi Collingwood-Julia Meireles (Salem) def. Alex Brown-Miranda Brunett (WLC), 6-3, 6-2; **semifinals:** Collingwood-Meireles (Salem) def. Holly Vasher-Alley Butler (P), 6-2, 6-7 (5-7), 7-5; Brown-Brunett (WLC) def. Kylie Gustafson-Keagan Belyk (H), 1-2 (retired).  
**No. 5:** Miranda Rios-Heather LaVanture (H) def. Maggie Sneiderman-Liz Gonzalez (Salem), 6-1, 6-2; **semifinals:** Rios-LaVanture (H) def. Grace Beck-Katie Bell (Milford), 6-1, 6-4; Sneiderman-Gonzalez (Salem) def. Emma Suris-Danielle Ruben (WLC), 6-1, 6-2.

## TENNIS

Continued from page B1

can get to see where we stand against the rest of the teams." Canton head coach Barb Lehmann added that being in the "A" tournament is a good learning experience. The top three teams from each division competed in that tourney; the bottom half per division took part in the "B" tourney. "If they were in the other half of the association, the bottom half, they'd be winning," Lehmann said. "But at the same time, I think it's just better credibility." She said she talks to the players about not getting caught up in the final rankings, particularly because they are going up against some of the state's elite. "With it being single elimination it's tough," she noted. "But in any of our tournaments we always talk about it, that anybody can be beaten. "On any given day something can change. So if you come out with all your energy and your positive attitude about where you're going, your chances are always there." The Chiefs did have two singles players reach the semifinal round, in No. 3 Haylee Cook and No. 4 Maddison Johnson. "I have two of my singles still in it, so that's

awesome," said Lehmann, following the second round. "And I think with the competition that's here, I think they've played extremely well."

**Salem tops B-list**  
 The "B" tournament, featuring the bottom three teams from each division, was played at Novi Meadows and South Lyon East High School with Salem finishing first. It was the first time the Rocks were bumped down to the lower tier, said head coach Lin Ware. "Salem is in a very strong division with both Northville and Novi so our rivalry is now with (Livonia) Stevenson," she explained. "Whoever wins that match plays in the upper tournament and the loser plays in the bottom tournament." Conference champions for the Rocks included Ashley Walker (second at No. 2 singles), Sushmi Diraviam (first at No. 3 singles), Courtney March-Katie Vena (first at No. 1 doubles), Sarah Bellaire-Kathy Kemp (first at No. 2 doubles), Meghan Barry-Monica Topolovec (No. 3 doubles) and Abi Collingwood-Julia Meireles (No. 4 doubles). "As 10 of 14 of my girls are seniors, this was a nice way for them to finish their year," Ware said.

tsmith@hometownlife.com (734) 469-4128

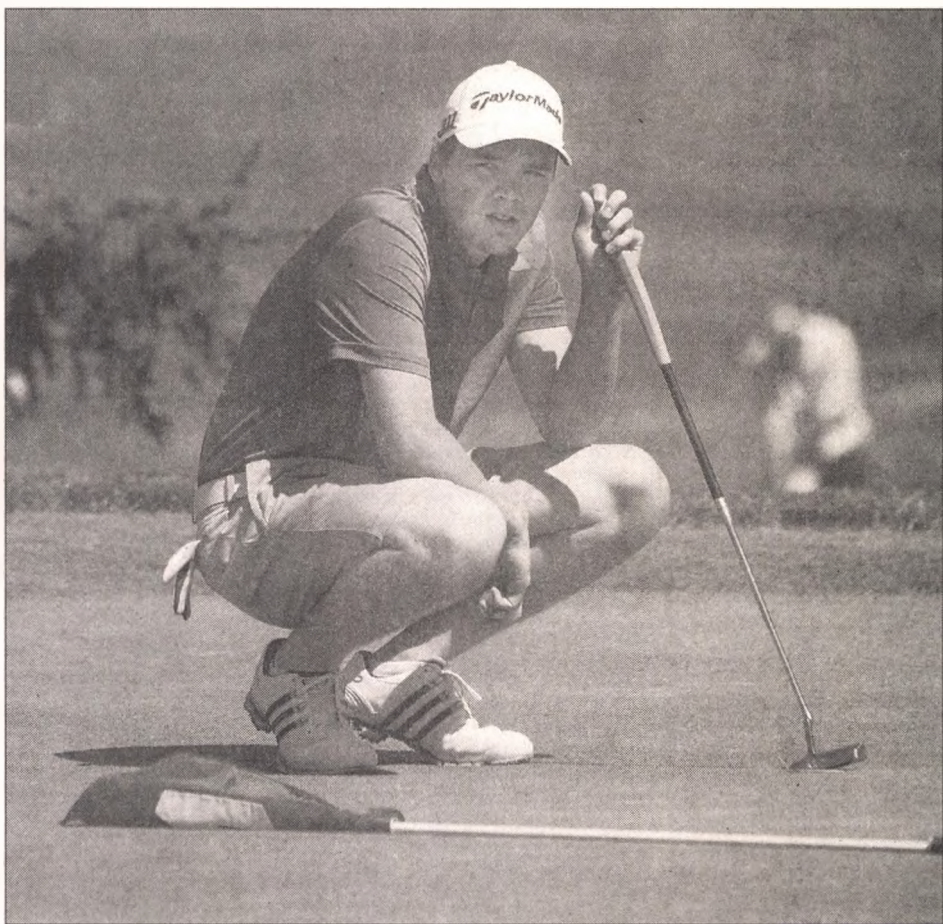
## GOLF

Continued from page B1

dual matches, by two strokes each. "We've been struggling to play our best golf, and when that happens it's hard to win, especially in our division," he said. "We have some of the better teams in the state in our division." Nimmerguth said he hopes the squad finds its collective game soon. The KLAA meet will be May 29 at Pheasant Run, followed with the districts May 31 at Whispering Willows. "Those are the two big tournaments the team is trying to peak for," Nimmerguth said. "We're looking to gain some momentum, get the kids feeling good about themselves. "When you get to conferences and districts, that's like a new beginning."

**Chiefs 7th**  
 On Monday, Canton finished seventh out of 26 teams at the Huron Valley Invite at par-72 Prestwick Village Country Club. Canton shot a 304, trailing champion Rochester Adams (298). Canton freshman Donnie Trosper was medalist with a three-under 69, finishing first out of 154 golfers and winning a three-hole playoff. Other Chiefs to score included Josh Maxam (77), Alex Champagne (78), Brent Perry (80), Tyler McMahan (80) and Chris Dooley (93).

**Record for 'Cats**  
 At Saturday's Bedford Invitational at The Legacy, Plymouth registered



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Scoping out the landscape before putting Monday at Fox Hills is Salem's Eric Duprey. a school-record even-par 288 and captured the 22-team field. Ryan Rieckhoff led the Wildcats with a school record 67 while Kyle Rodes contributed a three-under 69. Other performers included Josh Heinze (even par 72), Kyle Melnick (80) and Craig Whatley (82). • Meanwhile, Friday at Fox Hills, Plymouth bested Wayne 145-180 to improve to 5-0. Medalist with a 35 was Evan Chipman, followed by John Tatti (36), Josh Heinze (37), Kyle Melnick (37), Eric Thompson (44) and Daniel Furlong (49).



Sending a putt on its way Monday at Fox Hills is Salem's Brian Patterson. He was medalist with a nine-hole score of 34.

## SPORTS BRIEF

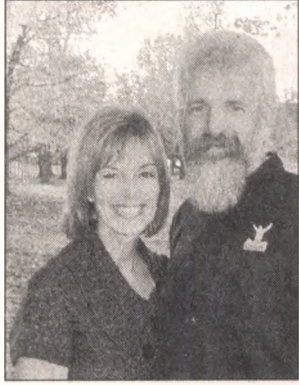
**Just a reminder**  
 Plymouth High School football is hosting a mandatory informational meeting for any student-athletes interested in playing in 2012. It will be Tuesday, May 22, in the high school cafeteria. Incoming freshmen will meet from 6-7:30 p.m. with upperclassmen meeting from 7:30-8:30 p.m. 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.



# Learn about Christian 12-step recovery program

Celebrate Recovery, a Christ-centered, 12-step recovery program at Connection Church in Canton, will hold an open house from 6-8 p.m. Friday, May 18.

The event will begin with dinner followed by guest speaker's Mac and Mary Owens of West Monroe, La. Mac is national director for Celebrate Recovery and Mary is the national encourager coach. Mac struggled with drugs and alcohol for much of his life and Mary wrestled with codependency. They will explain how their lives are being restored through Jesus Christ.



**Mac and Mary Owens will be the guest speakers at an open house for Celebrate Recovery, Friday at the Connection Church in Canton. Mac is the organization's national director and Mary is national encourager coach.**

The Canton Connection Church, located at 3855 S. Sheldon, launched a local branch of Celebrate Recovery in November 2011. In a press release, Jonathan Sherman, Michigan Celebrate Recovery representative, said "anyone with a hurt, habit or hang-up and a desire to change" is encouraged to attend the open house and see if the program is right for them. Family and friends also may participate.

Celebrate Recovery program associates specific Bible verses with each of the 12 Steps. The program has helped more than 17,000 people at Sad-

dleback Church, in Lake Forest, Calif., where it was launched in 1991, 700,000 individuals worldwide and has grown to more than 19,000 ministries in churches around the globe.

A national leadership conference for Celebrate Recovery will convene Saturday, May 19, at Ward Presbyterian Church in Northville. Participants may attend one of two seminars during the conference, which will run from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. One session will explain how to establish a Celebrate Recovery ministry. It's designed for pastors and lay leaders interested

in learning how Celebrate Recovery can reach out to their congregations and communities. The other will offer advanced training for Celebrate Recovery leaders whose programs have been in existence six months or longer. Celebrate Recovery founder, John Baker, and his wife, Cheryl, will kick off the conference with an

overview and history of the program. Ward Presbyterian Church is located at 40000 Six Mile. Anyone interested in attending the leadership conference should contact Patti at CR@wardchurch.org or call (248) 374-5964 to register. Walk-ins may register on the day of the conference.

## RELIGION CALENDAR

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

### May

#### ASCENSION SERVICE

**Time/Date:** 7 p.m. Thursday, May 17  
**Location:** Lola Park Lutheran Church, 14750 Kinloch, Redford  
**Details:** Special service celebrates Jesus' ascension into heaven; followed by ice cream social  
**Contact:** (734) 968-3523 or (313) 532-8655

#### BREAKFAST

**Time/Date:** 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Sunday, May 20  
**Location:** St. Theodore Social Hall, 8200 N. Wayne Road, Westland  
**Details:** French toast, pancakes, ham, sausage, scrambled eggs, applesauce, coffee, tea, juice, milk; adults, \$3 and children, ages 2-10, \$1.50  
**Contact:** (734) 425-4421

#### CLOTHING BANK

**Time/Date:** 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, May 26  
**Location:** Canton Christian Fellowship Clothing Bank, 41920 Joy Road, between Lilley and Haggerty, Canton  
**Details:** "Free" clothing and shoes to anyone in need  
**Contact:** (734) 927-6686 or (734)404-2480

#### CONCERT

**Time/Date:** 4 p.m. Sunday, May 20

**Location:** St. John Lutheran Church, 23225 Gill Road, Farmington Hills  
**Details:** Fourth annual Marie Walck Memorial Hymn Festival will feature a mass choir composed of members of the St. John Chancel Choir, the DTE Singers and guest singers from churches throughout the Metro area. Accompanists include St. John's organist, Wes Fishwick, pianist Brooks Hoste and Elaine Vermiglio, accompanist for the DTE Singers. Constance Markwick will play violin and Jeff Markwick will perform on trumpet. Troy Nelson, St. John's director of music, and guest director Dr. David Wagner will share directing duties. The program will include Handel's Hallelujah Chorus, Pachelbel's Canon in D, and other works. Free admission — a free-will offering will be taken — and refreshments will be served  
**Contact:** (248) 474-0584

**CONCERT**  
**Time/Date:** 7 p.m. Friday, May 18  
**Location:** The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, 7575 N. Hix, between Warren Road and Joy, Westland  
**Details:** The Michigan Concert Choir performs a spring concert, "A Garden of Sound." The group consists of members from different faiths across the Metro area who enjoy singing. Admission is free and registration is not required  
**Contact:** westlandMpublifaffairs@gmail.com

**CPR/AED**  
**Time/Date:** 6:30-9:30 a.m., Tuesday, May 22  
**Location:** Riverside Park Church of God, 11771 Newburgh, Livonia  
**Details:** Participants in the American Heart Association CPR/AED class will receive a two-year American Heart completion course card. Class fee is \$25  
**Contact:** RSVP to (734) 464-0990 by May 17

**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 priests' widows will include music by the Offbeats and entertainment for children. Tickets, including dinner and refreshments, is \$40 per person, with children, 12 and under, admitted without charge  
**Contact:** Mihaela Charlier at (313) 595-7640 or e-mail to mihaelacharlier@sbcglobal.net; or Richard Shebib at (734) 422-0278 or paschabooks@sbcglobal.net

**DRIVER SAFETY**  
**Time/Date:** 9:45 a.m. on Saturday, May 19  
**Location:** First Baptist Church of Detroit, 21100 Southfield Road, Southfield  
**Details:** AARP Driver Safety has helped millions of drivers stay safe on the roads. This course could entitle you to a reduction in your auto insur-

ance premiums. Although the course is geared to drivers age 50 and older, the course is open to people of all ages  
**Contact:** (248)-569-2972 or (888) 227-7669 to register.

**GRIEF SUPPORT**  
**Time/Date:** 7-9 p.m., Tuesday, June 5 and Thursday, June 7, 14, 21 and 28  
**Location:** Our Lady of Victory Parish, 133 Orchard Dr., Northville  
**Details:** The "Grieving with Great Hope" workshop offers a prayerful, practical and personal approach for individuals who are mourning the loss of a loved one. Speakers will include the Rev. Denis B. Theroux, as well as John and Sandy O'Shaughnessy from Good Mourning Ministry, a local Catholic bereavement organization. Registration forms are online at [www.goodmourningministry.net](http://www.goodmourningministry.net) or call the parish office.  
**Contact:** The church at (248) 349-2621, [www.olvnorthville.org](http://www.olvnorthville.org)

**GUEST SPEAKER**  
**Time/Date:** 4 p.m. Saturday, May 19  
**Location:** Grace Lutheran Church, located on Warren Road between Beck and Canton Center, in Canton  
**Details:** Radio host Bob Dutko of WMUZ, 103.5 FM's "The Bob Dutko Show" is the guest speaker. Dutko also hosts a nationally syndicated talk show called "Defending the Truth with Bob Dutko." No admission charge, although freewill donations will be accepted  
**Contact:** (734) 414-7422

**BUCKNER, ISABEL SUE**  
 Beloved wife of the late Noel Buchner. Dear mother of Noel (Robin Maisel) Buckner, Kevin (Melissa) Buckner, Elizabeth (the late Patrick Herbert) Buckner and Alexandra (Bruce Guile) Buckner. Dearest sister of Nancy Bauer. Also survived by six loving grandchildren and many other family members and friends.  
**MEMORIAL SERVICE WILL BE HELD ON SATURDAY, MAY 19, 2012 AT 2:00PM AT THE BIRMINGHAM UNITARIAN CHURCH, 38651 WOODWARD AVE, BLOOMFIELD HILLS, MI 48304, (248) 647-2380**

## Passages

Obituaries, Memories & Remembrances

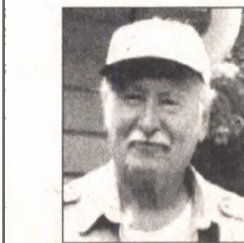
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1-800-579-7355 • fax 313-496-4968 • [oeobits@hometownlife.com](mailto:oeobits@hometownlife.com)  
 Deadlines: Friday 4:15 p.m. for Sunday • Wednesday 9:45 a.m. for Thursday

#### BUCKNER, ISABEL SUE

**KING, MARY E.**  
 Age 61, of Royal Oak, died 5/06/12. Service Thurs., 5/17/12, service 2:30pm at Casterline Funeral Home of South Lyon.

**MACH, ARVEDA P.**  
 Age 91, of South Lyon, previously of Northville, passed 5/12/12. Services were held 5/16/2012. [www.casterlinefuneralhome.com](http://www.casterlinefuneralhome.com)



**HALL, RONALD CHARLES**

Formally of Plymouth, Michigan, passed away April 24, 2012 at his residence in Erin, Tennessee. He was born February 21, 1927 in Ontario, Canada. He was preceded in death by his wife Faith Ann Godfrey Hall of Pontiac, Michigan. He was laid to rest at Cedar Valley Cemetery in Erin, Tennessee. Ronald Hall was loved, respected and honored throughout his life and will be truly missed. He is survived by his sister Marion Powers of Arizona, his children Rebecca Williams (Danny) of Tennessee, Bradley Hall of Michigan, Dawn Scott (David) of Michigan, and Laura Napier (Larry) of Ohio, 11 grandchildren and 18 great grandchildren.

**Let others know...**

When you've lost a loved one, place your notice on our website and in "Passages"... a directory located in every edition of your hometown newspaper.

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 Saturday Mass 11:00 a.m.  
 Sunday Masses 7:30 & 10:00 a.m.  
 Confessions Heard Prior to Each Mass  
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 Friends in Faith Service 9:00 am  
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 For information about our many programs

**WARD CHURCH**  
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 248.374.7400  
[www.wardchurch.org](http://www.wardchurch.org)  
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 Children's Programs available at 9:30 & 11 a.m.  
 The Traditional Service is broadcast on the radio each week at 11 a.m. on 560 AM

**Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church**  
 14175 Farmington Road, Livonia Just north of I-96  
[www.christoursavior.org](http://www.christoursavior.org)  
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 (734) 455-3196

## CONGREGATIONAL

**North Congregational Church**  
 36520 12 Mile Rd.  
 Farmington Hills (bet. Drake & Halsted)  
 (248) 848-1750  
 10:30 a.m. Worship & Church School  
**Faith - Freedom - Fellowship**  
 Rev. Mary E. Biedron Senior Minister

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## PRESBYTERIAN

**Fellowship Presbyterian Church**  
 Adult Sunday School: 9:30 - 10:15 a.m. • Worship: 10:30 a.m.  
 Childrens Sunday School: 10:30 a.m.  
**Pastor: Dr. Jimmy McGuire**  
 Services held at: **Saint Andrews Episcopal Church**  
 16360 Hubbard Road in Livonia • South of Six Mile Road  
 Nursery provided • [www.fellowship-presbyterian.org](http://www.fellowship-presbyterian.org)

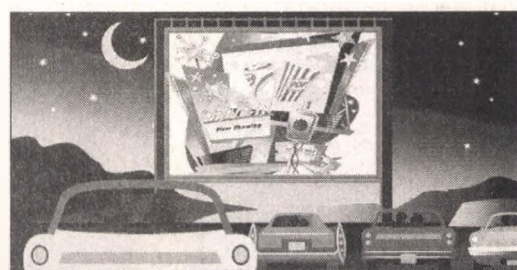
## ASSEMBLIES OF GOD

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## Drive-in movies

### Popular summer attraction starts this weekend



By Sharon Dargay  
O&E Staff Writer

Head for the great outdoors this weekend and track down *The Lorax* without leaving your lawn chair.

Then bring out the cream pies and get into the spirit of *The Three Stooges* — just make sure to have a tarp on hand for your car upholstery.

The Compuware Arena Drive-in makes it all possible Friday-Saturday, May 18-19 with double-feature sneak previews before it starts its daily summer schedule next month.

The animated feature based on the Dr. Seuss story, *The Lorax*, and the comedy, *The Three Stooges*, share Screen 1 at the outdoor theater, located at 14900 Beck Road, between Five Mile and M-14 in Plymouth Township.

If you're looking for heroics rather than laughs, try *The Avengers*-*John Carter* double feature on Screen 2, but bring a pillow — the combined running time is four hours and 20 minutes. *John Carter* is adventure-action



A truck bed makes for a perfect viewing area at the Compuware Arena Drive-in, in Plymouth Township. FILE PHOTO

atures Friday, June 8. Its eighth full summer season runs through Sept. 2.

#### Stormy weather

Patrons can get rain checks for screenings that are cancelled because of inclement weather.

"It happens occasionally, if there are thunderstorms in the area. We're pretty cognizant of that. If it's bad for families to be out in a thunderstorm or if there is lightning, we'll postpone it for the night," Krupsky said.

Admission for the drive-in is \$9 for adults, \$6 for children, 4-12, and free for kids, 3 and under. College and high school student tickets are available for \$7 with ID, Sunday-Thursday.

Patrons listen to the movies through the FM radio in their car. Or they can bring a battery-powered FM radio.

A full service restaurant, CJ's Brewing Company, is on-site, but concession fare also is available. Wednesday is \$5 pizza night. Visit <http://www.compuwarearena.com/drivein.html> or call the drive-in movie hotline at (734) 927-3284 for more information.

flick based on the classic novel by Edgar Rice Burroughs. *The Avengers* brings Iron Man and his Marvel Comics' superhero colleagues together to battle evil.

Screen 3 will show *Battleship*, an action-adventure in which the earth fights an invasion of space aliens. The film was inspired by Hasbro's

*Battleships* game. The other half of the double feature, *This Means War*, stars Reese Witherspoon in a romance-comedy-action film about two CIA agents who fall in love with the same woman.

#### Drive-in fans

Peter Krupsky, director of communications and public relations for Compuware Arena, said patrons are eagerly

awaiting the start of the summer drive-in season.

"We've had comments from families that love it on our Facebook page," Krupsky said. "We're getting calls."

"What have you decided to show? We are so excited!" a Royal Oak woman posted on the drive-in's Facebook page. A Plymouth man recommended seeing *The Avengers* ("Awesome") and a writer

from the West Bloomfield area figured *The Three Stooges* would be a funny film and noted "We liked your movie. We will be there this summer!"

Krupsky said gates open at 7:30 p.m. and the movies will begin between 9:10 and 9:30 p.m. Another sneak preview weekend will run Friday-Sunday, May 25-27. The drive-in will begin showing daily fea-

## Learn how to succeed in film at Actorfest

Professional and aspiring actors can audition for casting directors, attend workshops and browse exhibits at Actorfest Detroit, 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday, May 1, at Raleigh Michigan Studios, 1999 Centerpoint Parkway, Pontiac.

Actorfest Detroit is an interactive tradeshow that has been held in Los

Angeles, Calif., and New York City, N.Y., and is expanding to four new cities, including metro Detroit.

The event is designed to bring attendees together with dozens of professionals seeking talent for new and existing entertainment programming.

Workshops include a session on "How to Make

It in Hollywood," led by Tyler Perry's casting director, Kim Williams.

Other workshops are:

- Q&A sessions with casting directors Dan Velez of Big Dream Casting, Carrie Ray of Carrie Ray Casting, and Janet Pound and Kathy Mooney
- Finding, keeping and working with an agent, with Olga Denysenko of Productions Plus and Tony DiMambro of IGroup
- Fashion, runway and print modeling with Robere Lett of Affiliated Group Models
- Nailing the audition with Dayna Polehanki, owner of Detroit Casting Company
- Lisa Cole of Productions Plus—The Talent Shop will talk about what it takes to be a spokesmodel

- Headshot workshop
- Rich Goteri and Rachel Bellack of Michigan Actors Studio will present sessions for young performers and for new actors.

Basic admission to Actorfest is free and includes open casting calls, entry to the "Networking Cafe," and access to the exhibit hall where products and tools for performers will be on display.

Cost to attend one workshop, in addition to exhibit hall access and casting calls, is \$40. Two classes cost \$50, three cost \$75 and four cost \$100. A VIP "all access" pass is \$495.

All participants, including those with basic, free admission, must preregister at [www.actorfest.com](http://www.actorfest.com)

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**STARTS FRIDAY, MAY 18**  
CHECK LOCAL LISTINGS FOR THEATERS AND SHOWTIMES

MOBILE USERS: For Showtimes - Text BATTLESHIP with your ZIP CODE to 43KIX (43549). No charge from 43KIX. Msg&data rates may apply. Text HELP for info.

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# Event brings documentary storytellers together

By Sharon Dargay  
O&E Staff Writer

Got a story to tell? The Detroit Documentary Summit is designed to help you learn how to bring your story to life. "The panelists come from all aspects of the industry and reflect a diverse populosity of story telling. The purest form of documentary filmmaking is that everyone has a story, and if you let it unfold as you film — it can be an incredible journey," said Jennifer Champagne, an award-winning producer-director who teaches Madonna University's Capstone Film Class. The class will host the Summit, which runs 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, May 19-20 in the Franciscan Center Lecture Hall, room S100 at Madonna University, 36600 Schoolcraft, Livonia. Cost for the two-day event, which includes informational panels and networking, is \$149. Tickets are available online at [www.documentarysummit.com](http://www.documentarysummit.com) and will be sold at the door throughout the weekend. Participants will learn

about story structure, technology, crew, financial investment, distribution and more. They'll also get a chance to network with each other. The authors of *The Guerilla Film Makers Handbook* series, Andrew Zinnes and Genevieve Joliffe, created the Summit, which also will be held in Boston, Mass., and London, England this year. Champagne said she asked Zinnes and Joliffe to bring the Summit to Detroit this year. Her Capstone Film Class is team-taught by Charles Derry, director of broadcast and cinema arts. The class last year was nominated for a 2012 Detroit Music Award for a music video they filmed. This year's class is developing a comedy feature and will shoot several music videos. "Capstone is whatever the students want it to be. It's my job to teach them how to be filmmakers, it's up to them on what kind of film they wish to make," Champagne said. "This year's class is doing a

little of everything — feature film, commercials, music videos and documentaries." The Detroit Documentary Summit will look at other media in addition to film as vehicles for stories. "We have a panel focused solely on radio, other panels on film and it all gets tied together through the social media panel," Champagne said. Speakers include Zak Rosen, an independent radio producer; Billy Whitehouse, communications director for Michigan Film First, Lindsay Blackwell, Ingenex's social media director; entertainment and sports attorney Joe Bellanca; Harvey Ovshinsky, teacher at the College for Creative Studies and documentary producer; Oren Goldenberg, owner of Cass Corridor Films; Sue Marx, producer, director and writer; and Rachel Grady, who has produced documentaries for HBO, PBS and The Discovery Channel, along with many other professionals in the documentary field.

# Motorcycle Mania roars into senior community

Residents, employees, family members and fans of Botsford Commons Senior Community will prove you're never too old to ride — or at least look like you do — at Motorcycle Mania, 1:30-3 p.m. Saturday May, 19, 21450 Archwood Circle, Farmington Hills. Bikers of all ages may make a reservation to showcase their rides and share their travel stories with the senior community residents. The event will include food, live music and a photographer on hand to take souvenir shots of the seniors and their favorite motorcycle.

After the event, a ride will leave the campus and head to Boomer's Roadhouse in Waterford. "Motorcycle Mania will be a thrill for our residents who are young at heart and continue to live life to the fullest," stated Barb Smith, senior recreation program coordinator, in a press release. "One resident and her husband plan to get their photo taken with one of the fiercest looking motorcycles to use for next year's Christmas card." The entry fee to display a motorcycle is \$25. To reserve a spot, call Barb Smith at (248) 615-2898.

## GET OUT!

### Art

#### DETROIT INSTITUTE OF ARTS

**Time/Dates:** 2 p.m. Sundays  
**Location:** 5200 Woodward, Detroit  
**Details:** Target Family Sundays, storytelling, performances, free with admission  
**Exhibits:** 75th Annual Detroit Public Schools Student Exhibition through June 3 In Farmington Hills: The DIA and City of Farmington Hills present a free drop-in lecture at 1 p.m. May 23 at the Farmington branch library, 23500 Liberty, Farmington. The topic of discussion will be the seven masterpiece reproductions placed in various locations around Farmington Hills. A trained docent from the DIA will cover the history, details, and artistic significance of each artwork.  
**Contact:** (313) 833-7900, [www.dia.org](http://www.dia.org)

#### DOWNTOWN FARMINGTON

**Time/Date:** Booth hours are 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Saturday, June 2 and 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Sunday, June 3  
**Location:** On Grand River Ave., from Farmington Road to Grove, Farmington  
**Details:** More than 100 booths with paintings, sculpture, photography, jewelry, pottery, fiber, and mixed media; free entertainment, including live concerts and children's hands-on activities; and food booths  
**Contact:** (248) 473-1848

#### GALLERY@VT

**Time/Date:** Through May; gallery hours are 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Monday-Friday and during public performances at the theater  
**Location:** 50400 Cherry Hills Road, Canton  
**Details:** "US-12: Now and Then" a photo exhibit by Gwendolyn Day and Gregory Feight, features industrial cities, agricultural towns, churches, schools, and factories located along Michigan Avenue—the iconic stretch of highway connecting Detroit and Chicago. The exhibit showcases a wide variety of architecture that illustrates how mobility changed the look of US-12 and sparked an automobile culture  
**Contact:** (734) 394-5300; visit [cantonvillage-theater.org](http://cantonvillage-theater.org).

#### NORTHVILLE ART HOUSE

**Time/Date:** 1-5 p.m. Wednesday-Saturday, June 1-24; artist reception, 6-9 p.m. Friday, June 1  
**Location:** 215 W. Cady, Northville  
**Details:** "West of Center" 4th Annual All Media Show  
**Contact:** (248) 344-0497 or e-mail to [art-houseoffice@northvillearts.org](mailto:art-houseoffice@northvillearts.org)

### Comedy

#### GO COMEDY!

**Time/Date:** Various show times Wednesdays through Sundays  
**Location:** 261 E. Nine Mile, Ferndale  
**Details:** Improv most nights. Open mic/jam session show for improvisers is 10 p.m. Wednesdays  
**Contact:** (248) 327-0575; [gocomedy.net](http://gocomedy.net)

#### JD'S HOUSE OF COMEDY

**Time/Date:** Various show times Wednesday-Saturday evenings  
**Location:** 25333 W. 12 Mile, inside Star Theatre complex, Southfield  
**Details:** Stand-up shows, 8 p.m. Thursday and 8 p.m., 10:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday; Apollo amateur night, 8 p.m. Wednesday  
**Contact:** (248) 348-2420 or [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com)

#### JOEY'S COMEDY CLUB OF LIVONIA

**Time/Date:** 8 p.m. Mondays, open Mic; 8 p.m. Tuesdays, Local Legends; 8 p.m. shows Wednesdays, Thursdays; 8 p.m. & 10:30 p.m. Fridays, Saturdays  
**Location:** 36071 Plymouth Road, Livonia  
**Details:** Kyle Grooms, through May 19; Kevin Zeoli, May 23-26; Danny Browning, May 30-June 2; Steve Lott, June 5-8; Mark Poolos, June 13-16; Davin Rosenblatt, June 20-23  
**Contact:** (734) 261-0555, [www.kickerscomplex.com](http://www.kickerscomplex.com)

#### MARK RIDLEY'S COMEDY CASTLE

**Time/Date:** Jim Short, May 17-19; Bill Hildebrandt, May 24-26; Dave Waite, May 31-June 2; A.J. Finney, June 7-9; Nick Vatterott, June 14-16; Duncan Trussell, June 21-23  
**Location:** 269 E. Fourth, Royal Oak  
**Contact:** (248) 542-9900, [www.comedycastle.com](http://www.comedycastle.com)

### Dance

#### CONTRA DANCE

**Time/Date:** Beginner instruction at 12:30 p.m.; dance starts at 1 p.m., Sunday, June 3  
**Location:** American Legion Hall, 31775 Grand River Ave., Farmington  
**Details:** Farmington Contra Dance; cost is \$10, \$5 for students, with all proceeds benefitting a charity. No partner is necessary. Dancers should bring clean, smooth-

Please see GET OUT, B8

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### GET OUT

Continued from page B7

soled shoes for dancing — no street shoes. Peter Baker is the caller

**Contact:** American Legion at (248) 478-9174

#### DOWNTOWN ANN ARBOR

**Time/Date:** 7 p.m. June 7-9

**Location:** Four performance sites are WGS Gallery in the Pratt Building, 306 S. Main; Kline Gallery, Downtown Home and Garden on Liberty and Ashley, and the corner of First and W. Liberty

**Details:** "Corsets, Grains & Greenways" includes more than 90 minutes of contemporary dance performance. Audiences will walk along a four-block route to watch dance premieres by guest artists Monica Bill Barnes, Adesola Akinleye and Dance Works resident choreographers Jessica Fogel and Robin Wilson. Cost is \$15 for the general public and \$10 for students and senior citizens

**Contact:** www.mutotix.com for tickets; www.annarbordanceworks.com for information

### CITY BITES

#### Mexican fiesta

**FARMINGTON HILLS** — Try south-of-the-border favorites, like fajitas, burritos and quesadillas at the Mexican Fiesta, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Friday, May 18 at the Longacre House, 24705 Farmington Road, between 10 Mile and 11 Mile. The mood will be set with festive music, and the bar serve cervezas, margaritas, and tequila. Pre-registration is recommended. Cost is \$15 per person. For more information, call (248) 477-8404 or visit www.longacrehouse.org.

#### Country lunch

**LIVONIA** — A Place at Catherine's Table includes a country lunch, tabletops showcasing cherished collections of china and linens, and door prizes at 12:30 p.m. Saturday, May 19 in the historic Alexander Blue House at Greenmead, located at Newburgh and Eight Mile.

Cost is \$30 per person. Call (248) 477-7375 for reservations.

#### Slurpee Lite

**NATIONWIDE** — Get a free 7.11 ounce Slurpee drink from 11 a.m.-7 p.m. May 23 at 7-Eleven stores. The giveaway celebrates the launch of Slurpee Lite, a reduced calorie version of 7-11's iconic frozen drink. The drinks contain 20 calories per 8 ounces, half the calories of an 8-ounce Fanta Wild Cherry Slurpee. Limited-release Slurpee summer flavors are sugar-free mango this month; Slurpee Lite Watermelon Lime for June; Slurpee Lite Fanta Sugar-Free Strawberry Banana and Slurpee Lite Fanta Lemon Creme for July; and Slurpee Lite Fanta Sugar-free Cherry Limeade and Slurpee Lite Fanta Orange Xplosion.



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Raspberry Cream Cupcakes with Cream Cheese Frosting

## Raspberry Cream Cupcakes with Cream Cheese Frosting

By Frankie Francollo

Yield: 24 cupcakes

Serving size: 1 cupcake with frosting

Cupcakes:

- 2½ cups all-purpose flour
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 2 cups granulated sugar
- 4 eggs
- 1 cup milk
- ¼ cup canola oil
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 2 cups raspberries, fresh or frozen

Cream Cheese Frosting:

- 2 packages of cream cheese (8 ounces) at room temperature
- 1½ cups powdered sugar, sifted
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract

Preheat oven to 350°F. Line muffin tin with 24 cupcake liners.

In small bowl, combine flour and baking powder. In medium bowl, combine sugar and eggs. Using electric mixer, combine until mixture thickens, about 1 minute. Add milk, canola oil and vanilla. Continue to mix. Slowly add flour mixture until fully combined, scraping sides of bowl with spatula to get out all lumps. Remove bowl from mixer.

Add 1 cup raspberries. Gently mix in raspberries by hand. Spoon mixture into muffin cups until about two-thirds full.

Bake for 20 minutes or until cupcakes spring back to touch. Remove from oven and cool cupcakes completely.

To prepare frosting: In medium bowl, mix cream cheese on medium speed until lump free. Slowly add powdered sugar and vanilla extract until fully combined. Spoon cream cheese frosting into pastry bag with medium round tip and pipe on top of cooled cupcakes. Top each cupcake with a raspberry. Serve right away or refrigerate until serving.

# DRIVE TOP FOOD TRUCK RECIPES

## INTO YOUR KITCHEN

No other trend has parked itself at the forefront of the culinary world quite like food trucks, but these aren't the stale doughnut and questionable hotdog stands of yore.

From coast to coast, a new generation of chefs has been putting unique cuisines on four wheels. But if you're not in an urban setting, that doesn't mean you have to miss out on these delectable dishes.

To celebrate the phenomenon, CanolaInfo partnered with four food truck chefs/owners representing different U.S. regions to create the Street Eats Recipe Collection, allowing home cooks everywhere to recreate delicious food truck fare.

"The economic downturn has driven the street food trend in recent years along with Americans' love of all things fast and convenient," says Josh Henderson, owner of Skillet Street Food in Seattle, Wash. "There are all of these wonderful chefs looking for a way to bring their creations to the masses, and now with mobile kitchens, it's easier than ever. This recipe collection provides yet another way of sharing our love of flavorful foods."

Because of its versatility, canola oil is used in each Street Eats recipe. At 468°F, the smoke point (heat threshold) of canola oil is among the highest of all cooking oils, which means it's perfect for sautéing and baking.

"I use canola oil in my food truck because it can take the heat and has a light texture and neutral flavor," says Henderson. "From my skillet dishes to my gravy, it is very adaptable, letting other ingredient flavors shine without weighing them down."

Canola oil can also help kick saturated fat to the curb when used in place of solid fat or other oils in recipes. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration authorized a qualified health claim on canola oil's potential to reduce the risk of heart disease when used in place of saturated fat.

For the complete Street Eats Recipe collection and list of food truck chefs, visit [www.CanolaInfo.org](http://www.CanolaInfo.org) or [www.Facebook.com/CanolaInfo](http://www.Facebook.com/CanolaInfo).



Kale Salad with Hazelnut-Balsamic Vinaigrette

## Kale Salad with Hazelnut-Balsamic Vinaigrette

Yield: 4 servings

Serving size: Just over 1 cup salad

Kale Salad:

- 4 cups chopped kale
- 2 tablespoons chopped, toasted hazelnuts
- 2 tablespoons dried cranberries
- 2 tablespoons blue cheese crumbles
- ¼ cup flat leaf parsley, whole leaf

Hazelnut-Balsamic Vinaigrette:

- ½ cup balsamic vinegar
- 1 tablespoon water
- 2 teaspoons Dijon mustard
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 1 shallot, minced
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 1 tablespoon fresh chopped thyme

- ½ teaspoon black pepper
- ¼ cup crushed, toasted hazelnuts
- ¼ cup canola oil

In large bowl, combine kale, hazelnuts, cranberries, blue cheese and parsley. Set aside.

To prepare vinaigrette: In medium bowl, combine all ingredients except canola oil using immersion blender. Then slowly blend in canola oil until emulsion forms.

Add Hazelnut-Balsamic Vinaigrette to Kale Salad, toss and serve.



Cheddar-Parmesan Poutine with Gravy

## Cheddar-Parmesan Poutine with Gravy

Yield: 4 servings

Serving size: 1½ cups poutine

- 4 Russet potatoes, peeled and sliced into uniform sticks
- 5 cups canola oil
- 2 cups poutine gravy (recipe follows)
- 1 cup sharp cheddar cheese, grated
- 1 cup Parmesan or Grana Padano cheese, grated
- 3 tablespoons chopped fresh dill
- 3 tablespoons chopped fresh flat leaf parsley
- 3 tablespoons chopped fresh sage
- ½ teaspoon salt
- ¼ teaspoon pepper

Soak cut potatoes in cold water overnight. Before deep-frying, remove potatoes from water and pat dry.

Using deep-fryer, heat canola oil to 375°F. Deep-fry for 8-10 minutes or until lightly golden. Remove fries from deep-fryer and drain on paper towels.

If necessary, in saucepan, reheat 2 cups poutine gravy and set aside.

Return fries to deep-fryer and fry for additional 3-5 minutes or until golden brown. Remove from deep-fryer to stainless steel bowl. Add gravy, cheese and herbs. Stir gently to combine. Season with salt and pepper. Serve.

## Poutine Gravy

Yield: 5 cups

Serving size: ½ cup

- ½ cup diced yellow onion
- 2 tablespoons diced carrot
- 2 tablespoons diced celery
- ½ cup canola oil
- 1 tablespoon chopped sage
- ½ teaspoon tomato paste
- ½ cup all-purpose flour
- 4 cups beef stock
- 1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce
- 1 teaspoon chopped garlic
- 1 tablespoon chopped rosemary
- 1 teaspoon salt
- ½ teaspoon pepper

In large saucepan, sweat onion, carrot and celery in canola oil over medium heat until slightly caramelized. Stir frequently. Add sage and tomato paste and sauté for 1-2 minutes.

Sprinkle vegetable mixture with flour and combine to form roux. Heat for about 30 seconds. Add stock, Worcestershire sauce and garlic. Simmer for 35 minutes.

Season with rosemary, salt and pepper. Simmer for additional 10 minutes. Using immersion blender, purée gravy. Leftover gravy can be frozen for future use.

Courtesy of Family Features









**GARAGE SALES**  
hometownlife.com

**Garage/Moving Sales**

**LIVONIA**  
LARGE GARAGE SALE  
14935 Harrison Street  
Thursday, Friday, Sat. day  
May 24-26, 9am-4pm

**LIVONIA WOODCREEK FARMS SUB - 16 HOMES!**  
May 17, 18 & 19, Thu-Sat, 9-4  
Furniture, toys, tools, etc.  
E/Farmington, btwn. 5 & 6 MI

**LIVONIA:** Tools, power equip., women's clothes, TV, kit items & lots more!  
May 23-25th, 8-5pm  
14085 Blackburn, btwn Schoolcraft & Perth

**LIVONIA:** 5 families, 1 HUGE Sale. Lots of toys, kid clothes & shoes, furniture  
29617 Hillbrook Ave. Fri-Sat  
May 18-19, 9-5, S/7, W/Middlebelt

**LIVONIA:** 15500 Oporto + 3 other homes 5/17-19, 9-5  
N/5 MI, W/Middlebelt. Misc. computer desk, bathroom sink, tools. See Craigslist.

**LIVONIA:** Burton Hollow Sub Sale!  
Over 50 Homes!  
May 19-20, Sat. & Sun.  
9am-5pm. S. of 6 Mile.  
W. of Farmington Rd.

**LIVONIA:** Proceeds will help Women's Missionary Fellowship.  
Jewelry & more! Thurs-Sat, 5/17-5/19, 9-5pm  
14835 Ingram, 5 Mile & Merriman.

**MILFORD**  
3 FAMILY - May 18-19, Fri-Sat, 9-5pm.  
2110 W Commerce Rd. Household, Building Supplies, Furniture, TV's, Linens, Books, Bar Collectibles, Golf Clubs & MUCH MORE!!

**MILFORD** Huge Moving Sale!  
Thurs-Sat, 5/17-19, 8am-1pm  
435 Heritage Drive, Milford.

**MILFORD** Huge Yard Sale -  
May 17/18, 9am-6pm. Home and Office furniture/equipment, Yard equip, kids' toys, too much to list!  
774 Rowe Rd, Milford 48380

**MILFORD: Moving Overseas Sale!**  
Furniture, chairs & household items. All must go!  
542 Hickory, Milford Village, Corner of Detroit St., near Commerce, 5/17-5/19, 9-4pm.

**MILFORD: Vintage Sale**  
210 Main, 48381. Sat & Sun.  
May 19 & 20, 10am-5pm.  
Books, furniture, clothing, purses, china & more.

**NEW HUDSON SUB SALE**  
Martindale Meadows Sub Sale  
Martindale Rd., S. of Pontiac Trail, N. of Travis. May 17, 18, 19, 9am-5pm.

**NORTHVILLE TWP. MILE-LONG GARAGE SALE.**  
Fri & Sat, May 18 & 19, 8am-5pm.  
Seven Subdivisions.  
Six Mile W. of Haggerty, both sides of the road.  
E. Northville Twp, Whitehaven, Maple Hill Drive, Sumner, Winchester (north & south), Bradner (north & south) Includes: Northville Colony Estates I-V, Northville Commons, Lakes of Northville, Northville Trails, Maple Hill and Parkstone.

**NORTHVILLE-DOWNTOWN HUGE SALE!**  
20 yrs of classic, high quality goods. Antiques, furniture, kitchen ware, toys, Victorian costumes.  
May 16-19th, 9-5pm.  
412 W Dunlap, N of Main St. W of Center/ Sheldon.

**NORTHVILLE: DOWNTOWN HUGE SALE**  
to benefit school & orphanage.  
May 16, 17, 18 & 19, 9-6pm.  
229 High St. N. of Main St., W of Center/Sheldon. Antiques, furniture, toys, misc.

**NORTHVILLE: WOODSIDE VILLAGE ASSOCIATION**  
Thurs-Sat, May 17-19, 10am-4pm.  
Off Haggerty btwn. 5 & 6 Mile on W. side of Haggerty.

**NOVI**  
Garage Sale - Whole House, everything goes!  
Sat, 9am to 5pm, Sun., 10am to 4pm.  
25915 Clark St., Novi, 48375

**NOVI:** Chase Farms & Riverbridge 5/18 & 5/19, 9-4pm.  
Off 8 & 9 Mile btwn Novi & Meadowbrook. Look for signs. Over 35 Homes.

**NOVI:** Children's, household, clothing & more! Bradford of Novi and Lexington Green Sub Sale.  
S. of 9 Mile, W of Taft Rd. Thurs-Sat, May 17-19, 9-3pm.

**NOVI: MULTI-FAMILY GARAGE SALE!**  
Thurs-Sat, 9-4p. 41248 Coventry Household items, crafts, scrapbooking supplies, clothes, records & more.

**PLYMOUTH TWP. RIDGEWOOD HILLS ANNUAL ALL SUB SALE**  
The RIGHT STUFF at GREAT prices.  
N. side of Ann Arbor Rd., 1/2 mile W of Beck.

**PLYMOUTH** Walnut Creek Sub Wide Garage Sale - Saturday, May 19, 9-5pm.  
Off North Territorial, between Sheldon and Beck.

**PLYMOUTH:** Heather Hills garage sale  
May 17 & 18, 9-5pm.  
13143 Latheron Ct. W of Beck/S. of N Territorial. Lots of furniture, home interior, kitchen items, linens, sporting goods, toys, kid's clothes, tools & much more!

**PLYMOUTH-Community Wide Garage Sale:** Colony Farms Condo Assoc.  
May 17-19, 10am-4pm.  
Colony Farm Dr. W of Beck, off Ann Rd.

**PLYMOUTH:** Big Garage Sale!  
May 18-19, 10-4.  
11324 Maple Valley Dr. Maple Ridge & Maple Valley.

**REDFORD MOVING SALE!**  
27212 Meadowbrook, S of 5 Mile, E of Inkster. Fri - Sun, May 18 - May 20, 9-5pm.  
Everything must go!

**SOUTH LYON**  
Multi-Family Garage Sale  
9910 Sunflower, South Lyon, 5/17-5/19 9am-5pm.

**Garage/Moving Sales**

**TROY:** 4085 Walnut Hill, Sat. May 19, 9-3pm.  
Refrigerator, furniture, designer clothes, jewelry, misc. items from \$1 to \$100. 17 Mile/Adams

**WESTLAND - BIRCH HILL COMMUNITY YARD SALE**  
Cherry Hill, E. of Venoy Saturday, May 19, 9am-4pm  
Rain Day, June 2nd

**WHITE LAKE**  
HUGE FAMILY SALE - 5445 W. Cedar Island Rd., off Bogie Rd. Household items, tools, electronics, camping, exercise equipment, more!  
Thurs-Sat, May 17-19, 8am-5pm.

**WHITE LAKE:** Brentwood Subdivision Sale  
May 17-20, 9am-4pm.  
Off Carey Rd. or off Bogie Lake Rd. Look for Signs.

**JOBS**  
edgobuilder.com

**Help Wanted-General**

**Accounting Manager**  
Canton is now accepting applications for Accounting Manager. Applications must be received in Human Resources by 4pm, Thursday, May 24, 2012. Visit [www.canton-mi.org](http://www.canton-mi.org) to view full job description.

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

**AUTO TRIMMER**  
Must have experience with convertible tops & seat covers. Valid drivers license required. Laird Glass & Upholstery. Please fax resume to: 734-453-1829

**Automotive - Now Hiring LUBE TECH - HI FT**  
Experience preferred. Mechanical aptitude and excellent customer service skills required. Wage with bonus program. Medical/dental/vision insurance. Wayne & Flat Rock locations. Apply at LubeMart 32960 Michigan Avenue, corner of Venoy in Wayne.

**Automotive**  
Snehtkamp Chrysler Dodge Jeep & Ram is looking for Lube Techs, and Express lane service advisors. Full and part time. Apply within to 23951 Plymouth Rd, Redford MI, 48239  
Tuesday - Thursday 9:00am till 4:00pm  
Ask for Tim Delaney.

**A word to the wise, when looking for a great deal, check the classifieds!**  
1-800-579-SELL

**Help Wanted-General**

**Experience Gravel Train Driver with Doubles Endorsement**  
We are currently seeking drivers in Detroit, MI. With a Class "A" CDL license in good standing. Not cited for any DOT Accidents in past 3 years. No more than 3 moving violations in past 3 years (any vehicle). Have at least one year experience. No DUI's, Reckless Driving within last 7 years. Must be able to pass - Physical and Drug Testing. Start immediately.  
Email Resume to: [katrenia@farrowgroupinc.com](mailto:katrenia@farrowgroupinc.com)  
No phone calls please!

**DELIVERY**  
Valid Driver's License Req. Co. Vehicle Provided.  
\$600-\$800/Week  
Call Mon-Fri, 10am-3pm  
(248) 471-9444

**DIRECT CARE STAFF**  
Full & art time positions available in Livonia and Westland  
\$7.40/hr 313-359-5959

**DIRECT CARE WORKER**  
PT positions avail. Positive attitudes a must. Must have clean driving record. Starting \$7.61/hr. (734) 341-1629

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

**INDEPENDENT CONTRACTORS NEEDED**  
Twice a week  
Thursday mornings & Saturday afternoons  
Deliver the Observer Newspapers to homes in Western Wayne County  
Must have vehicle, valid driver's license & insurance  
Please call 734-582-8690 for more information

**Help Wanted-General**

**Banking**  
**dfcu FINANCIAL**  
Michigan's largest Credit Union currently seeking friendly, service oriented individuals.  
Now hiring Branch Supervision for Metro Detroit and Ann Arbor Area.  
Minimum qualifications include: 2 yrs. supervision experience in a sales/financial environment. Coaching and customer service experience. Demonstrated professionalism with motivation to attain new skills in a dynamic environment.  
Complete job description and locations available at [dfcufinancial.com](http://dfcufinancial.com)  
See description for MRR Team Lead  
Accepting applications through Friday, June 1, 2012  
Apply in person at any DFCU Financial Branch Office  
Credit record in good standing required  
Equal Opportunity Employer.

**Help Wanted-General**

**Driver Attention Drivers**  
Immediate openings for local CDL A drivers in the Detroit area.  
Minimum 1 1/2 yrs. exp. & good MVR  
Great pay & Benefits  
Sign on Bonus up to \$850  
Call today: 877-977-4287

**Drivers CDL - A & CDL-B**  
Plymouth Co. Local runs, Hazmat endorsement, 2 yrs. exp. [lymm@ktransport.net](mailto:lymm@ktransport.net)

**ESCROW OFFICER**  
Bell Title Agency of Novi. Must have experience. Resume to: [MSMITH@BELLTITLE.NET](mailto:MSMITH@BELLTITLE.NET)

**GLAZIER NEEDED**  
Commercial & Residential Glass experience required. Must have valid drivers license - Laird Glass & Upholstery. Please fax resume to: 734-453-1829

**HAIR STYLIST**  
Male salon in Novi FT or PT. \$10/hr. + tips; or commission Also Massage Therapist needed (248) 478-2200

**HAIR STYLISTS, NAIL TECHS & ESTHETICIANS:**  
Newly expanded, established, full service salon in Westland is looking for exp'd applicants. Commission based salon offering direct deposit, optional health insurance and fabulous work environment. Call Ann: (734) 673-8224

**I.D. &/or O.D. Grinding & CNC Mill Set Up, Programming & Operating**  
Growing machine & tooling co. Unlimited overtime.

**OFFICE PERSON**  
Exp. in sales and marketing. Must be self motivated and eager to succeed, in a fast paced environment. Must have exc. computer, written & verbal communication skills & a degree in marketing is a plus.  
Positions offer competitive pay & benefits.  
Email resume to [sales@globalinc.com](mailto:sales@globalinc.com) or apply in person at 11865 Globe, Livonia, NO CALLS. E.O.E.

**PORTER - FT**  
Valid driver's license needed.  
**RALPH THAYER BODY SHOP**  
34501 Plymouth Rd. Livonia, MI 48150  
(734) 744-2187

**Property Manager**  
Established real estate/property mgmt co. Willing to do off-site showings. Co car avail. Resume & wage req: [dms2@msrealstate.com](mailto:dms2@msrealstate.com) or fax to: 313-533-0340

**PAINTERS NEEDED**  
Looking for exp'd painters & apprentices. Benefits avail. Driver's license & own transportation required. Email: [akimie628@gmail.com](mailto:akimie628@gmail.com) or call Greg: 248-884-8592

**PAINTERS NEEDED:** 3-5 yrs. exp. req. Interior, Exterior, Repaints Dependable & own transportation. 248-474-5372

**RECRUITER WANTED**  
For franchise real estate office in Northville area. Must have recruiting experience. Call 313-525-0152

**ROOFERS, SHINGLERS, LABORERS**  
Must be experienced. Call: (734) 335-8791

**SCREW MACHINE OPERATORS:** Run 2 Acmes. Apply at LYON MFG. 13017 Newburgh, Livonia.

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Please fax/email resume: [AISConstructionEquipmentCorp](mailto:AISConstructionEquipmentCorp)  
Fax: 248-437-9750  
[jobs@aisequip.com](mailto:jobs@aisequip.com)

**LIFEGUARD**  
For summer season at private outdoor pool in Westland. Must be certified and exp'd. Apply in person or send resume: Holiday Park Towne Houses, 34850 Fountain Blvd., Westland 48185

**MATERIAL HANDLER**  
Etna Supply Company is seeking a full-time Material Handler  
Must have 2 years warehouse and/or plumbing experience and forklift exp. Duties include shipping, receiving, loading/unloading trucks and picking orders. Please apply at [www.etnasupply.com](http://www.etnasupply.com) or in person at: 29949 Beck Road.

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**FUSION SPORT 2010** 1279401A 6 Cylinder moon roof, spotless, certified \$20,988 NORTH BROS. FORD 734-402-8774

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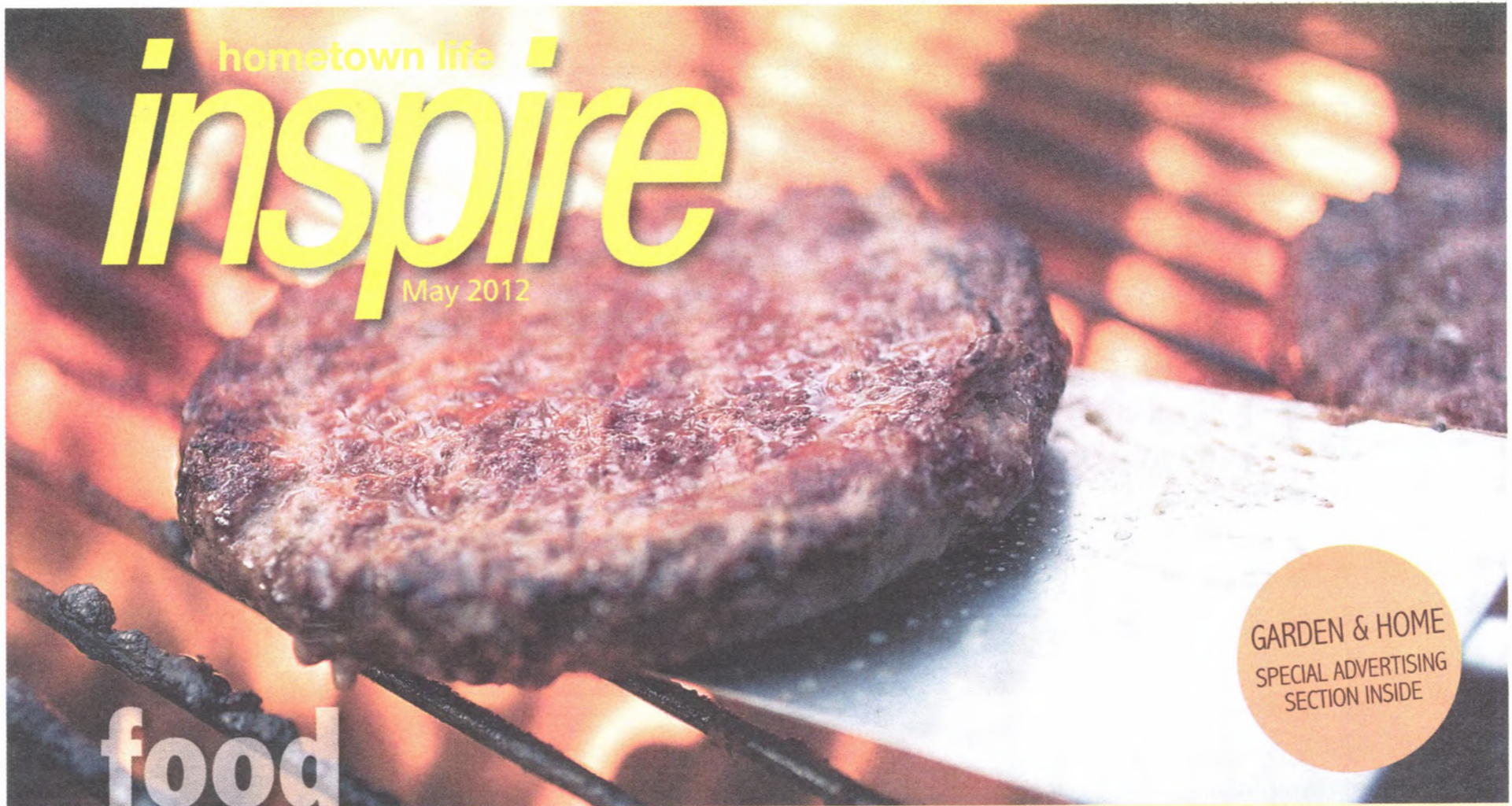
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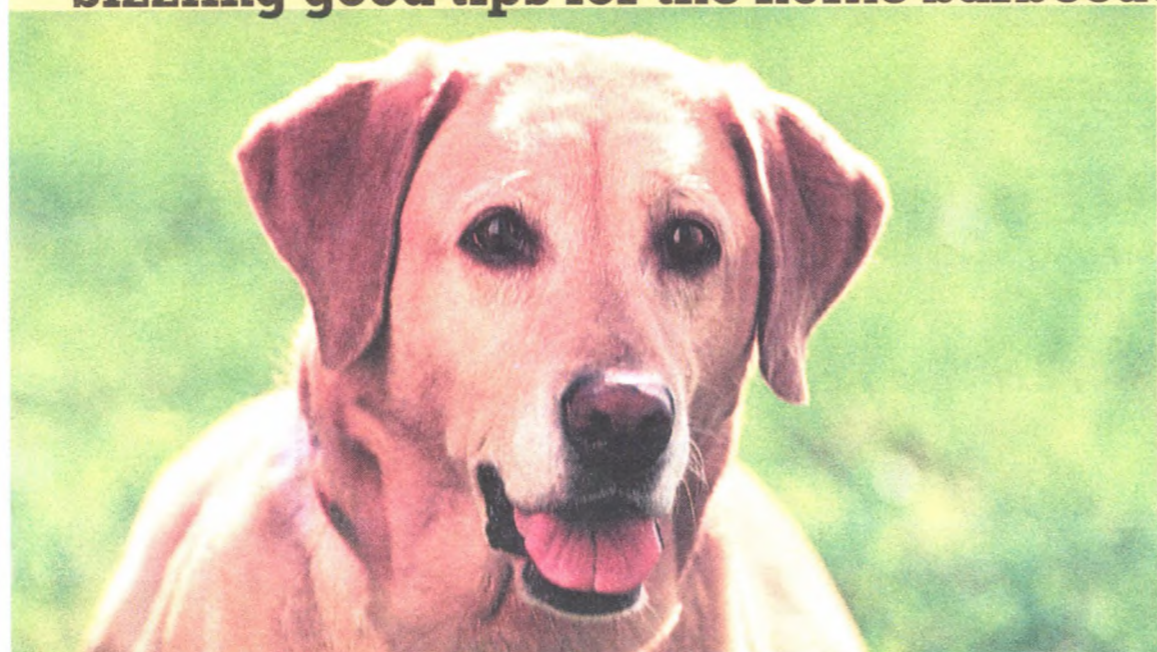


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# Spruce up your home, lawn, garden



Susan Rosiek

**R**ealtors call it “curb appeal,” that special something that sets your home apart from others. Perhaps it’s your lush lawn, great-looking entry door or up-to-date landscaping that makes your home special

Today’s *Inspire* can help you freshen up or change your home’s curb appeal, whether you are planning to sell your home or stay and enjoy your newly improved surroundings.

It’s also the second of our special advertising sections on spring gardens and home improvement. Inside you will find stories and advertisements that focus on lawns, landscaping, flowers and home improvement. The advertisements are from local businesses in our local downtowns and main streets. We urge our readers to shop local and hope that today’s section will connect you with the local business owner who has the products

or services you need.

And as Memorial Day weekend approaches, it’s the start of barbecuing season. May is barbecue month; read all about what’s new in barbecue equipment in today’s section.

As always, I welcome your comments or suggestions for future *Inspire* sections.

**Susan Rosiek**  
publisher/executive editor  
srosiek@hometownlife.com



4

**Ask the vet**  
Get you pets ready  
for summer, too



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**Special  
advertising  
section**



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**Getting grilled**  
For ‘National Barbecue Month’



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With new grilling  
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## Choose pet flea, tick medications carefully

By Dr. Julie Hass  
Guest Columnist

Michigan is my home state. However, half my family hailed from a small town in western Arkansas, just on the edge of the Ozark Mountains. Every summer, we visited. It was a wild place, a kid's dream. Thick woods, horses, goats, cows, snakes and wily farm dogs that roamed freely as there were no neighbors for at least a mile in all directions. It was a wonderful place to play and explore. The only hitch to outdoor exploration was the preparation. The bug spray, long pants and long sleeve shirts my mother, a native of Michigan, insisted we wear. In her estimation, Arkansas was a topical parasite and insect-laden, poisonous spider and snake-infested waste land.

The perimeter of the farm house yard was treated with chemicals to prevent

the encroachment of these pests and dogs were regularly doused with flea powder. But there were still "bugs." The parasites and other threats were very egalitarian — dog, cat, kid it did not matter. I recall a few episodes of chigger infestation that led to itchy, sleepless nights.

Back in Michigan, no one knew what a tick or chigger was and fleas were an infrequent bother. As time has passed, we travel more and we take our pets with us more often, and our winters have become warmer, and the pests that were isolated down South have crossed our borders.

Recently, the whole of the *Journal of Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care* was devoted to emerging infectious diseases. I was struck by how many of these increasingly more common diseases were spread by flea and tick infestation. Many of these diseases are zoonotic diseases, that means that they are diseases that can also infect people as well as their pets.



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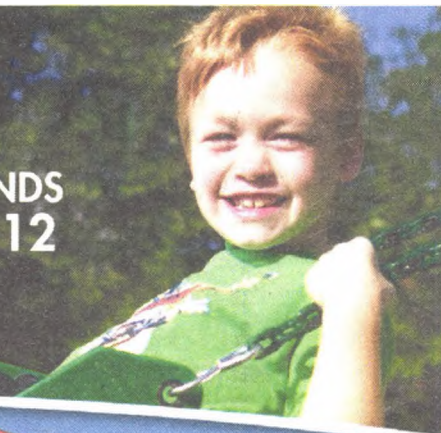
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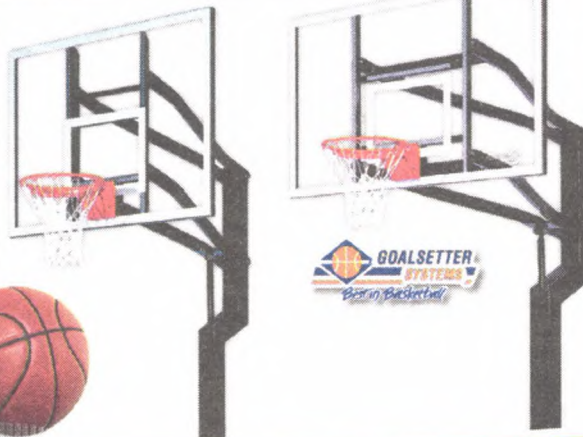
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A photograph showing a person's hands grilling various meats on a stainless steel grill. The grill is filled with sausages, including a large spiral sausage. A red bowl is visible in the foreground. The background shows a plaid shirt and a white apron.

# Celebrate 'National Barbecue Month' with a new grill

**By Helen Niemiec**  
Contributing Writer

May is National Barbecue Month but the true start of outdoor grilling is the venerated Memorial Day weekend, which most people consider the beginning of summer and its recreational activities.

Grills can be as simple as the charcoal-fueled hibachi or as elaborate as the smoker/griller units. Selecting a grill depends on personal preferences, space in the back yard and spare cash.

Steve Halcomb, store manager, Bourlier's Barbecue & Fireplace in Ferndale,

said the two big trends this year are infrared grills and the versatile grills that serve both as cookers and smokers.

"Infrareds save pre-heating time," Halcomb said. "I steer some people away from them. They have to know what they're doing because the temperature is so high. A delicate meat, such as a swordfish or chicken, will burn before you can take it off the grill."

He has one and does a 3-inch thick filet mignon in less than four minutes.

Should a customer insist on one, he said that they should find one that is a variable infrared, with the ability for some temperature adjustment. Those

without can crank up temperatures in the 1,400-degree range and there are no thermometers.

Ceramic charcoal grills are increasingly popular because they can serve as either grills or smokers. Because the heat doesn't dissipate as quickly as in more traditional metal grills, it "will give you the juiciest meat every time," Halcomb explained.

He sells the Big Green Egg brand of those kamado-style grills and said it is the best of both worlds.

Peter Stuart, third-generation owner of Federal Fireplace & Barbecue in West Bloomfield, agreed that there is

an increasing popularity in the kamado style.

"It has the ability to slow cook. You can cook for 32 hours on one bag of charcoal," Stuart said. "You can smoke meat, grill or make pizza. They're very versatile and run in the \$800 range."

He, along with Halcomb, urge buyers to look for dependable, long-lasting grills, which basically are the American and Canadian brands. The grills will last longer and should a replacement part be necessary, they will be easy to find. Most American-made grills come with

Please see **GRILL**, 7



## GRILL

Continued from page 6

lifetime warranties.

Bill Martin, co-owner of Martin's "Do It Best" Hardware, 22970 Pontiac Trail (between Nine Mile and 10 Mile) in South Lyon, said grill sales at his store are ahead of last year.

"The warm weather got people in the mood for a lot of things and really sparked grill sales far beyond last year," said Martin, whose stores features a wide range of Weber grills — from the Genesis or Summit Series (in a variety of colors) — and other brands.

Martin is a fan of Weber because "of the good quality and good value."

"Once someone buys a Weber they stick with it because (replacement) parts are available and the warranty is unprecedented," added Martin.

### Quality sells

"We're selling quality," added Stuart. "People who have bought the cheaper grills are finding that they just don't last that long. People are moving up to better quality grills."

A trend Stuart is seeing is people turning their patio area into an outdoor room or an outdoor kitchen.

"We've sold a lot of the components and accessories to homeowners or to landscapers who are doing the work," Stuart explained. He said the outdoor kitchens have everything from grills to refrigerators to cabinets with drawers.

Will Cronkhite, barbecue and fireplace salesman at Towne & Country Hardware in Garden City, said that he sees the gamut of interest — charcoal kettle grills, propane and natural gas varieties. His biggest seller is the Weber, with a lot of interest in its new Summit line, which is a grill with a food cooking/preparation area.

The Traeger wood pellet grill, which smokes using flavored wood pellets, gets a lot of interest, he said.

"People are into smoking big time right now. The Traeger has a hopper on the side of the grill and the pellets are fed into the heating chamber," Cronkhite said.

Bourlier's in Ferndale sees a lot of interest in that area as well, and is offering a daylong event June 28 with vendors coming to the store for demonstrations and answering questions. A drawing will be held that day for a \$1,200 Green Egg grill.

At Martin's in South Lyon, Bill Martin said people are experimenting with smoking chips and his store sells the boxes that can be placed inside grills to impart food with a special flavor. Aromatic wood smoke flavors enhance

food, adding aroma and flavor which can't be found without real wood smoke.

At Town & Country, Cronkhite said that this time of year he sees a lot of shoppers coming in for replacement parts. With the economy, he said, they try to repair rather than replace.

Stuart and Halcomb noted that grilling always is popular, but especially since the economy went bad. Because people can't sell their houses without taking a financial loss, they're spending money to make their yards into more of an entertainment area.

"They're making the best of what they have," Halcomb said. "We're doing a lot more built-ins for people."

Stuart said the trend of patios with outdoor grills started in California and has moved eastward, settling into Michigan just a few years ago.

The warmer spring actually brought an earlier start to the grill purchasing season, Stuart added.

"April to June are our peak months. We got a kick start this year with the good weather. We've never had that kind of volume in March," he said. "It did slow down when the weather cooled but will come back up around Memorial Day."

Sheila Quigg, manager of ACO in Plymouth, said the warmer weather got people anxious to grill and her gas grills didn't arrive until the first week in May.

"Everyone definitely was jumping the gun this year. We had a really good spring and people wanted to go outside," she said.

Quigg said her store carries several types of gas grills but many customers want the grilling items, such as tongs and spatulas, plus decorative touches to place around the grilling and eating area.

Halcomb recommended those venturing out to buy a grill for the season look to get either a 304-stainless steel grill or a cast aluminum grill, because they don't rust and hold up in the Michigan weather. The full stainless steel runs in the price range of \$2,500 to \$6,500.

Each store offers a wide variety of price ranges, so the buyer can decide what level of financial investment they wish to make.

"If someone hasn't bought a grill in five or 10 years, when they see what's offered now, they'll be amazed," Halcomb said.

Martin's Hardware ([www.martins.doitbest.com](http://www.martins.doitbest.com)), which has been in South Lyon (and family-owned) since 1968, offers another great incentive for those in the market for a new grill — free assembly and free local delivery.



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# Go for 'curb appeal' with eye-poppers for the home

**By Helen Niemiec**  
Contributing Writer

It takes only seconds for a passer-by — or potential buyer — to look at a house and decide it's gorgeous, just so-so or one that is absolutely forgettable. Getting that positive first impression can be achieved through a number of ways to make a house just "pop."

It's about color, good maintenance and good lawn care.

Start with walking across the street and taking a good look at the house. Assess what its strengths are and then turn a more critical eye to the down-sides, especially areas in need of maintenance or replacing.

Nancy Austin, Realtor at Keller Williams Realty in Canton, has a ready list of things to look at for people thinking about listing their homes.

"It takes 10 seconds to make a good first impression," Austin said. "Even in winter, a person can tell how well the interior is taken care of by looking at the outside."

Two things that potential buyers don't want to deal with are roofs in need of repair or replacement and broken or heaved cement pieces. Heaved sidewalks can be professionally lifted but cracked or broken cement and bad roofs need to be replaced by professionals.

Siding and trim need to be painted, with no peeling or cracks, Austin added.

Landscaping is important too. "Look at the shrubs, the mulch, the trees and get an overall view. Trim away overgrown or dead growth. If you're on a tight budget and can't afford to replace them, at least have everything trimmed correctly. Put in new mulch, though. It looks fresh. Old mulch has that worn-out look," Austin advised.

Flowers in beds or in pots on the porch and patio or deck furniture are positives. "It should look inviting so people feel like they want to sit down and stay," she said.

Please see **APPEAL, 9**





## APPEAL

Continued from page 8

A definite no-no, Austin said, is the freestanding basketball hoops. "It's there and the homeowner forgets it's there but it is a big detractor."

Other issues on her list are the front door, trim and whatever else a person sees from the curb.

"The front door has to look absolutely perfect," Austin said. "If necessary, get a new front door or clean up the one you have. The address should be clearly visible. Polish or replace door handles, kick plates, house numbers and mailboxes. A homeowner may not see it but I sure do."

Jill Muschella, manager of Birmingham Door Co., said "a great entry to a house" makes a huge impression.

Fiberglass doors have been their biggest seller, over steel and the traditional wood doors, because of their versatile styles and carefree maintenance.

"A lot of people are going with a pop of color, especially with the traditional Cape Cod or colonial homes where you can't do a lot to change the appearance. The door should always complement the shutters," Muschella said.

For homes with circular drives, it's often the side door that visitors see first. If that is the case, a new door may be needed there, she added.

When looking at the door, a homeowner also needs to look around that area. Light fixtures often are overlooked.

"Most light fixtures are under scale to the door, so you may need to get a larger fixture," Muschella said.

### Landscaping counts

Jim Morris, landscape manager for English Gardens, said that the front of the house looks fresher with a well-

maintained and colorful front.

"The easiest way to add color is with annual plantings, whether in beds or in container pots. Keep in mind color and texture to add to the appeal," he said.

Unruly landscape needs to be pruned and fresh mulch is a must, with Morris likening it to a fresh coat of paint. He recommended using the traditional brown mulches.

"We have all-natural products here from double shredded hardwoods. It's very organic-looking. When you buy mulch with colors, it fades quickly and the quality isn't there," Morris said.

Because landscaping can be expensive, he recommended calling on a professional for an evaluation.

"Someone can bring us a photo or we at English Gardens will send a designer out for consideration. That person can figure out what the house really needs for that curb appeal factor. It's about putting the right plants in the right spot. You can spend a lot of money doing things yourself and find that the end result isn't what you had hoped for," Morris explained.

Leo Snage, owner of LPS Construction in Redford, does home improvements but started as a builder, so he has several lines of experience from which to draw.

"It's sizzle that sells the house," Snage said. "When I was building homes in the '90s, what got people buying was the curb appeal."

His list includes a well-manicured lawn, contrasting colors on shutters or doors to draw attention, nice light fixtures, a good mailbox and shiny kick plates or even a brass knocker on the front door.

"An easy pop is to fertilize your lawn to make it darker," Snage said. "You'll get that deep green — and people love that."

# Spring into home improvement with weekend projects

(ARA) — Sprucing up your home for spring doesn't have to mean spending huge amounts of time and money. In fact, there are many projects that you can complete in a weekend that will improve the look and feel of your home. With a little guidance and the right tools, you can easily get your home in top shape by Monday morning.

### Paint refresh

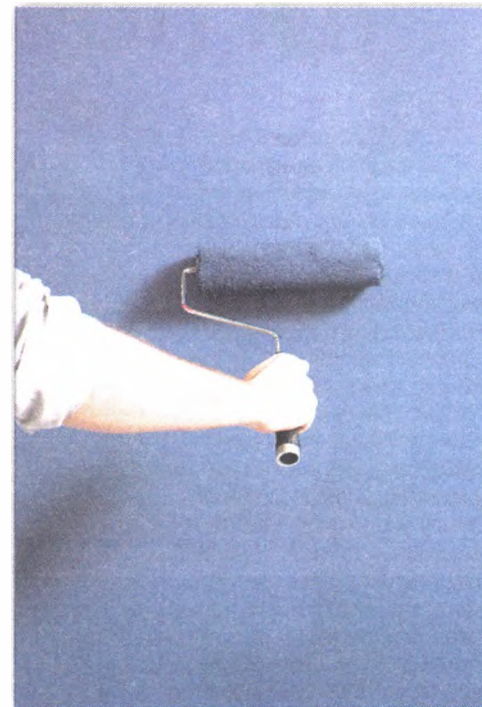
Commonly recognized as one of the most easy and cost-effective interior updates, painting is a weekend project that can completely transform the aesthetic of your home. When purchasing paint, a quality product will ensure your end results are beautiful. Low-quality, inexpensive paint will likely require a number of coats to get the coverage needed, resulting in more time and money spent. To avoid increased time and cost, use a premium line of paint like Pratt & Lambert's Accolade, which guarantees excellent hide and outstanding durability. Popular among interior designers, Accolade is available in more than 1,000 colors to complement any style. When choosing paint for your next weekend project, remember that a quality product will achieve the best end result and save you time and money in the long run.

### Lighting update

Tired of the same old lamps sitting on your end tables but don't have the funds to revamp your lighting decor? A new lamp shade will completely change the look of any piece. You can also easily transform pieces by renewing the lamp bases; a quick walk down the spray paint aisle will show limitless possibilities of colors and finishes. You can even renew plastic pieces with Krylon Fusion for Plastic, the first paint of its kind. Create a cohesive look by bringing that new finish to your hanging fixtures as well.

### Accessorize

Adding trendy, fun accessories will give any room a new and more put-together look. Think vases and bowls, wall art and rugs. When adding accessories, look for colors that complement what is already in the room. Plants and flowers can also add energy and color, some with the added bonus of a pleasant aroma.



### Furniture renewal

One easy way to update furniture on a budget is by recovering it or using slip covers. Premade covers are available in a variety of fabrics and designs, or you can create a custom cover for your sofa or armchair. More ambitious crafters may actually reupholster furniture to create a completely new-looking seating option. After repadding and covering cushions, sand and stain or paint wood pieces for a completely modern feel.

### Modern flooring

Carpet has seen better days? Replace it. Hardwood is scuffed and dull? Refinish it. You can also achieve the look of natural wood or stone flooring with luxury vinyl tile. This affordable option is no longer your grandmother's vinyl, now available in a variety of natural finishes that are both durable and modern. If replacing isn't in your budget, simply give your flooring a good cleaning and use accent rugs to cover blemished areas.

Check off a project on your home improvement to-do list this weekend, and enjoy the results through spring and beyond.

# FIRE IT UP

## with new grilling favorites

Craving new grilling recipes? For a flavorful spin on warm-weather meals, think beyond standard steaks, burgers and veggies. Trying a versatile protein, like pulled pork, will revitalize standby menus and add creativity to dinner.

Sandwiches may be the traditional way to serve up this favorite but, once prepared, pulled pork can be enjoyed throughout the week in grilled quesadillas, pastas and even savory pies. World champion pitmaster Chris Lilly's Grilled Pork Pie puts a fun spin on a backyard classic, when paired with a creamy slaw.

To prepare pulled pork on the grill, follow these tips from the National Pork Board:

- **Cut:** The best roast for preparing pulled pork is the flavorful shoulder, which is broken down into two parts, Boston Butt and Picnic Roast. Though both yield delicious pulled pork, uniformly shaped Boston Butt is more commonly used.

- **Temperature:** For tender pork, your best tools are patience and indirect heat. The ideal preparation calls for grilling at 285°F for 45 minutes per pound until tender.

- **Technique:** When finished cooking, remove from heat and let sit, covered in foil, for 15 to 30 minutes. Shred meat with two forks, discarding remaining fat.

For more on pulled pork, tips and recipes, visit [www.PorkBeInspired.com](http://www.PorkBeInspired.com). Also, follow the National Pork Board on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/PorkBeInspired](http://www.facebook.com/PorkBeInspired) and on Twitter @All-AboutPork

— Courtesy of Family Features



Grilled pork pie goes pairly perfectly with a creamy slaw.

### Grilled Pork Pie

Makes: 8 single-serving pies

Prep time: 1 hour

Cook time: 15 minutes

#### Dough

2 sticks butter

2½ cups flour

½ teaspoon salt

½ cup cold water

#### Soaking Sauce

½ cup white vinegar

½ cup cola

½ cup ketchup

2 tablespoons brown sugar

2 teaspoons Worcestershire sauce

1 teaspoon molasses

½ teaspoon paprika

½ teaspoon salt

¼ teaspoon black pepper

¼ teaspoon hot sauce

¾ pound chopped barbecued pork

Cut butter into ½ inch cubes; refrigerate. In small mixing bowl, combine flour and salt. Add in cold butter until mixture resembles coarse bread crumbs. Slowly add water, mixing continuously, until a dough ball is formed. Seal dough ball in cling wrap; place in refrigerator overnight.

Sprinkle countertop generously with flour. On floured area, roll out dough to a thickness of ¼-inch. Cut dough into five-inch diameter circles. Immediately peel, lift and flip dough circles, making sure they don't stick. Yield should be eight pie shells.

In small sauce pan, combine soaking sauce ingredients. Bring sauce to a light boil; reduce heat and simmer for 20 minutes. Remove sauce from heat and set aside.

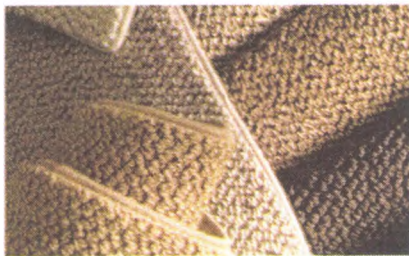
Preheat grill using Kingsford charcoal, until internal temperature reaches 400°F.

Combine chopped pork and ½ cup of soaking sauce in medium bowl. Spread three tablespoons of sauced pork onto one-half of each dough circle, making sure outer edge of the shell is uncovered. Lightly moisten edges of dough with water. Fold dough in half creating a half-moon with filling. Gently press pie edges together and crimp with a fork.

Prep the charcoal grill grate with a grill brush and a light coat of oil. Transfer pies to the grill and cook at 400°F over direct heat for two to three minutes on each side, or until dough turns a crispy golden brown. Remove from grill and serve with remaining soaking sauce and cole-slaw.

Recipe created by world champion pitmaster Chris Lilly on behalf of Kingsford® charcoal. For more, visit [www.Grilling.com](http://www.Grilling.com).

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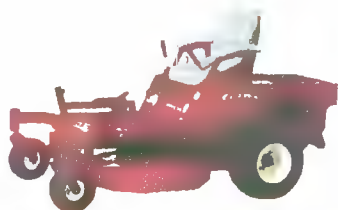


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## MEDS

Continued from page 4

### Recommendations

Over the past two summers, as we have been developing our general medicine and surgical service, VCS Pets First, I have struggled with counseling people about flea and tick control. I advocate the judicious use of all medications, including flea and tick medications, and trying to achieve a balance between chemical use and adequate protection is a challenge.

Our office recommends separating flea and tick medications from the heartworm prevention since there is no need for a flea control product, in most cases, from December to May. So, initially we offered a product that killed fleas and ticks for the spring and summer seasons, and then a separate year round heartworm preventative. However, I now feel we need to consider the risks carried by being bit by these parasites.

Most flea and tick products act by killing the parasite after it has bitten your pet. This is not very helpful if you want avoid the infectious diseases that are acquired by being bitten or if the pet is allergic to fleas and their bite triggers allergic responses.

This spring, we changed our recommendations to a product called Advantix made by Bayer. It is topical, once monthly, it repels fleas, ticks and biting flies and is well tolerated. There is also a product that we suggest for cats and it does have a heartworm preventative, since cats that go outside should be protected from fleas, ticks and heartworm from April to November.

### Decisions

The choice of which product to recommend is not an easy one and it actually is not a decision that you or I should take lightly. Not all flea and tick products are of the same quality, consistence of efficacy. Recently I have had a few pets presented through the emergency service

that have had serious reactions to topical, inexpensive, flea products they purchased at the pet store or grocery store. Their choice was driven by the low cost and the claims that they did everything the more expensive product did. Here is how the "grocery store alternatives" vary from the veterinary recommended products:

1. The chemical/drug being used — the cheap stuff has old school pharmaceuticals, they are strong and they have a small margin of safety, that means you are more likely to have problems with that drug than another. They also have more potential side effects. This is exactly why the other products have been formulated, to create a product that

is more safe and effective.

2. Topical flea and tick control products are not as tightly regulated as other medications. It is up to the companies to make the effort to provide the safe products. The companies that are true pharmaceutical organizations, that have ties to veterinary medicine and a reputation

to maintain go the extra step to be sure that their product is safe and adequately labeled so that professionals, i.e. veterinarians, will support their products.

3. Higher grade chemicals, more research, accurate and complete labeling, all these things result in a safer product.

Keep this in mind when you are making choices regarding flea and tick control: The skin is the largest organ system in (or on) our body. Even if these chemicals remain solely distributed in the skin, they are affecting our pets' whole body by affecting a major organ system. Be careful, choose wisely.

**Julie Hass**, D.V.M., M.S., is the co-owner of Veterinary Care Specialists/VCS Pets First Milford. She completed a residency in neurology and neurosurgery and regularly consults with area veterinarians and animal organizations on neurological issues. She writes a blog on pet care at <http://vcsmilfordblog.blogspot.com/>.



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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!

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

Level: Beginner

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

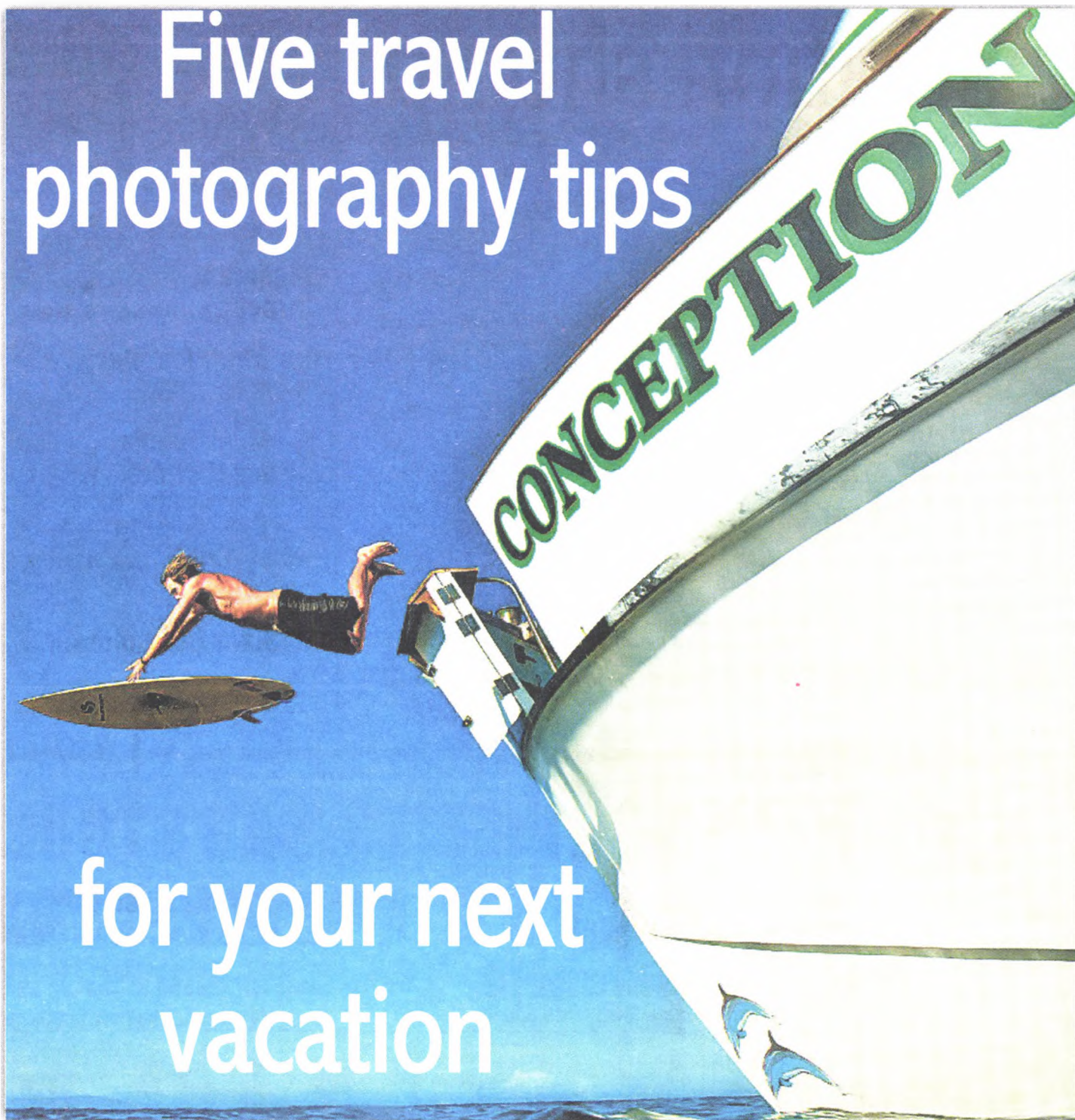
Level: Intermediate

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

Level: Advanced

Answers found on page 16

# Five travel photography tips



## for your next vacation

(ARA) — Nine out of 10 people are planning to take two or more leisure trips this year, according to TripAdvisor's 2012 Travel Trends Forecast survey. Of these travelers, 42 percent are planning cultural trips that combine precious downtime with enriching experiences. But no matter where or why people take trips this year, how can travelers make their getaways more memorable and share their experiences with others?

"Whether you're traveling half-way around the world or within your home state this year, you can capture these experiences and create lasting memories with your favorite digital device," says Gail Fisher, former senior photo editor for *National Geographic* and the *Los Angeles Times* and current department chair of visual journalism at Brooks Institute, a leading provider of higher education for film, graphic design, visual journal-

ism and photography. "It's more than just snapping photos during your vacation. It's about telling a visual story."

Fisher offers these five tips to help capture your favorite memories on your next vacation:

- **Do advance research.** Buy travel books and look online at photos to get a better understanding of where you're going and what you'll see. Talk to tourism centers and ask for recommendations based on your interests. Consider making an advance list of attractions or areas you want to photograph to help plan your trip and the visual story you want to tell about your experiences.

- **Be a backpack journalist.** With technology these days, it's

Please see PHOTOS, 16



# Insulation should cool the attic

By **Lon Grossman**  
Guest columnist



Lon Grossman

**Q:** In the summer the second floor of my home is too hot. I've been investigating installing a solar-powered roof vent until I read that an attic fan wasn't as effective at cooling attic spaces as adding attic insulation, reflective radiant barrier, and installing a light colored roofing.

I've installed soffit ventilation as well as ridge vents when I had a new roof installed. The original shingles literally curled and cracked after 10 years due to the overheated condition.

**A:** I have and like my solar-powered attic fan, but bringing insulation up to R-49-60 and insulating the exterior walls should solve your problem. The hot attic and walls act as a "heat sink." The insulation will also save on your heating and cooling bills.

**Q:** When using your central air unit, should you shut off your furnace pilot light?

**A:** If you have a pilot light, then it usually means your furnace is at least 30 years old and near the end of its useful life. It also means your furnace is inefficient and probably should be replaced for efficiency alone. But to actually answer your question, yes or no. It's OK to shut it off if you can re-light it yourself. But if you have to call a service company to re-light it, it will obviously cost more for the service call than if you had left the pilot light on to begin with.

**Q:** How can I improve the appearance of metal kitchen cabinets that are in excellent shape but seem so outdated? I would like to refinish or paint them but I am concerned that sanding the old surface could be hazardous because of the old lead-based paint that was used years ago.

**A:** Start by purchasing a lead test kit from a home or hardware store.

Cut into the finish with a knife to find out if the existing finish contains lead. If it does, call a professional. If not, begin by removing all the cabinet doors, drawers, handles and hinges.

Next, everything needs to be cleaned with Trisodium Phosphate (TSP) cleaner and warm water. After you rinse and wipe dry, allow everything to dry thoroughly. If there are any chipped areas or rust, sand them down and feather the edges so you'll get a smoother finish.

Lightly sand all the surfaces to get a better bond and prime any bare metal with two coats of zinc chromate primer. Otherwise, you can use an oil-based primer and allow it to dry. Finish with two coats of

premium oil base enamel. Follow the directions, which will tell you to let the first coat dry overnight before you apply the final coat. You might want to check out the Flood Company online ([www.flood.com](http://www.flood.com)) they have a product called Penetral Oil-based Paint Additive

that makes oil-based paint spread smoother without brush marks. It also provides a better adhesion.

Depending on the type of drawer slides and tracks, you may not want to paint the exterior slides of the drawers because the paint could prevent the drawer from sliding smoothly.

**Q:** I noticed in my basement that the floor under the toilet was damp and stained. What could be the problem since there is no water on the floor in the bathroom?

**A:** You probably need to replace the wax ring the toilet rests on. The wax ring seals the joint between the toilet and the flange. This is a pretty



Please see **GROSSMAN, 16**

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## PHOTOS

Continued from page 14

easy to have a picture or video camera on hand at all times — just like backpack journalists, who have creative control over the stories they tell since they act as reporters, videographers and producers. Travelers can take a similar approach. Consider capturing both still and video images, and spend time interacting or talking with locals who may be able to tell you stories beyond what you'll read in travel books.

- **Tell a visual story.** Whether you're an aspiring videographer or enjoy capturing everyday life on your digital camera, it's all about telling a great story to help translate the feelings you experienced at that moment to others. Go beyond shooting famous landmarks and traditional subjects. Find and capture everyday moments and people who can help bring to life the area's culture, history and story.

- **Take your time.** Never be satisfied

with your first shot. Instead, consider taking several photos to get yourself comfortable with the subject. Then, get creative by trying different angles, camera settings, lenses and lighting. If your schedule allows, return to your point of interest at different times of the day to capture new elements. Early morning light and the “golden hour” before dusk is a favorite for most professional photographers.

- **Shoot now, edit later.** Don't review each shot immediately after you take it. Instead, take multiple shots and edit later.

At the end of the day, you'll be able to reflect on your experiences and have a keener eye for those shots that invoke the same feelings and memories when you were in that particular moment. Also, consider adding audio to your story by collecting natural sound or interviews while you're in the field, or adding audio narration once you are back home and compiling your memories in a story that tells a narrative.

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## Sudoku Answers

### Beginner

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

### Intermediate

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

### Advanced

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

## GROSSMAN

Continued from page 15

common problem when toilets are not securely bolted to the floor. They rock back and forth letting water or sewer gas escape. The bolts securing the unit may have rusted, become corroded, or just loosened with time. Sometimes the floor becomes rotted due to escaping water.

There are two types of wax ring replacements, both costing under \$5, which are available at any home, hardware or plumbing store. The cheaper type is simply a wax ring. The more expensive has a built-in

plastic funnel that directs flow down into the flange.

Since they're both relatively inexpensive, I'd advise buying the costlier one since it's a better product. Once you're done, you'll have the best seat in the house and I'm not talking about front row center.

**Lon Grossman** of Bloomfield Hills is president of Technihouse Inspections Inc., a southeast Michigan residential and commercial inspection company. E-mail your questions to him at [drdiy@comcast.net](mailto:drdiy@comcast.net). Call (248) 855-5566. Visit his website [www.technihouse.com](http://www.technihouse.com). Follow Lon's Blog at <http://drdiy.wordpress.com/>.

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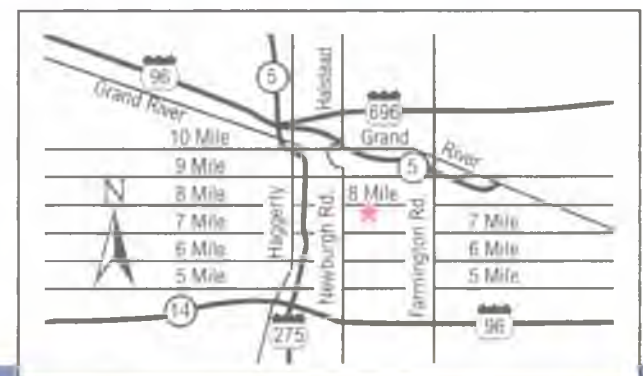


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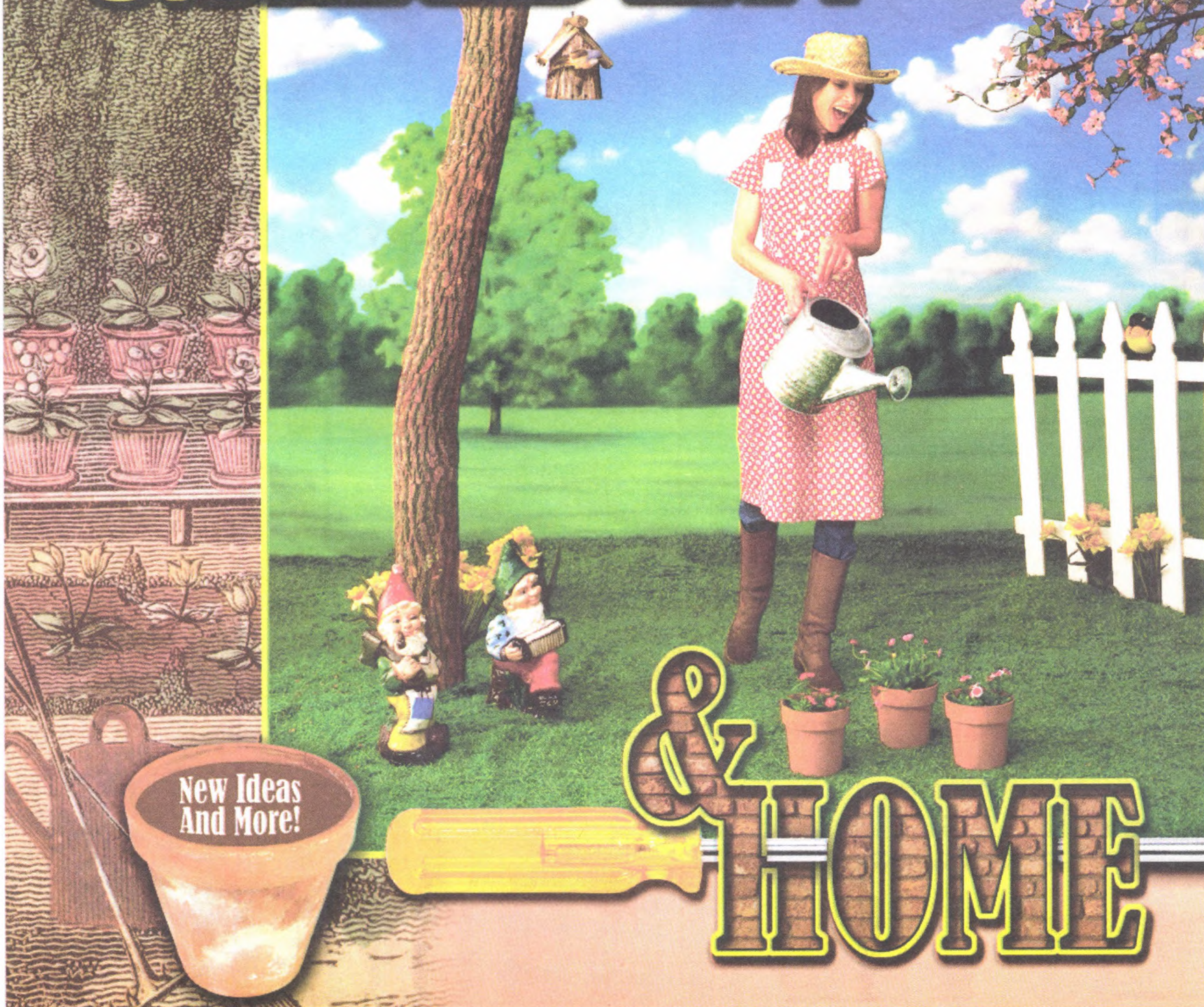
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# GARDEN & HOME

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Planting more plants and flowers around the property is one way gardeners can garden in a more eco-friendly way.

## ECO-FRIENDLY GARDEN THE NEW TREND

Gardening can be a rewarding and relaxing hobby, one that allows gardeners to escape from the daily grind and soak up some sun. As rewarding as gardening can be, it's even more so when gardeners ply their trade in an eco-friendly way.

Gardening with the environment in mind is something many gardeners might do already without even knowing it. The following are a few ways to garden in a way that's mutually beneficial to gardeners and the environment.

- **Use mulch to conserve resources and reduce reliance on fertilizers.** Conserving resources is one of the best ways to help the environment, and applying mulch is a great way to conserve water. Mulch helps the soil retain water, keeping the water from evaporating into the air, which means less watering for gardeners who want to keep their gardens looking lush and healthy.

In addition to helping conserve water, mulch can also help reduce reliance on fertilizers. That's because mulch provides nutrients to the soil as it breaks down, providing an eco-friendly alternative for gardeners who don't want to rely on fertilizers to deliver nutrients to their soil.

- **Plant more flowers.** Planting flowers is another eco-friendly way to garden. Native flowers, in particular, can help maintain an area's natural ecosystem, providing food and shelter for insects and other wildlife.

More flowers and plants around the property also means there will be significantly less grass to mow, which reduces the amount of gas necessary to mow that grass in the warmer weather and the amount of greenhouse gases the lawn mower produces. In

addition, less grass means less need for fertilizers and pesticides to maintain that grass.

- **Choose gardening tools and products with the environment in mind.**

Veteran gardeners have a host of tools that help tackle every problem imaginable. But many older tools or gardening products might not be made of recycled materials. When shopping for gardening tools, whether you're a beginner who needs everything or a veteran gardener whose tools have seen better days, choose products made from recycled materials. For example, many gardeners use mats to help reduce stress on their knees when kneeling down to garden. When buying a new mat, choose one made from recycled tires.

But emphasizing recycled products shouldn't stop at the tool shed. Mulch, for instance, can be made from recycled rubber and won't impact the environment in a negative way. Just be sure to purchase recycled mulch that is nontoxic and does not consume natural resources.

- **Live and let live.** Insects might be a nuisance, but they can also be a gardener's best friend. Spraying insecticide simply because insects can be pesky is short-sighted and impractical. Certain spiders prey on other insects that can be harmful to a garden, while butterflies and bees help pollinate flowers. Earthworms are also very beneficial to a garden, helping to aerate and fertilize the soil and enabling plants to grow by removing harmful matter from the soil.

Gardening is a rewarding hobby, one that is even more so when gardeners institute eco-friendly practices.

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# TOP 2012 GARDEN AND LIFESTYLE TRENDS:

## EXPERIENCE THE POSITIVE POWER OF PLANTS

In today's world where news travels at the speed of now, people are searching for balance and purpose and are tapping into the power of plants to cultivate the 'new good life'.

"Plants are powerful," says Eric Liskey, deputy garden editor for "Better Homes and Gardens" magazine. "Whether it's enjoying garden-to-table meals or sharing great new plant finds, people are naturally drawn to plants."

Besides beautifying our homes and gardens, plants play a vital role in our health and well-being. They elicit powerful positive emotions, revive neighborhoods, and influence everything from what we eat to life's milestones.

"Plants are no longer a luxury, but a necessity for our lives," says Susan McCoy, trendspotter and outdoor living expert. "Plants can live without us, but we can't live without plants."

The power of plants. For a growing army of eco-conscious Gen X and Y's, recycling, repurposing and upcycling is now a lifestyle.

Dr. Charlie Hall, professor of horticulture at Texas A&M, says, "Gen Y's are embracing a connection with plants based on economics, environmental impact, health and wellness."

These rural and urban curators are planting home and community gardens and renewing urban spaces with an eye toward functionality and artistic design.

Here's what McCoy and her team of Garden Media Group trend spotters see for gardening in 2012:

### 1. URBAN KNIGHTS

A growing army of 'urban knights' are creating oases wherever they can find a patch of earth. They're planting shrubs, flowers, edibles and pop-up gardens on balconies, in alley ways, and on street parklets - even in abandoned buildings.

From yard sharing and raising chickens to 'step gardening' and harvesting rain water, urban



**Use Tangerine Tango, the hot color for 2012, to turn your backyard into a paradise with Bloomtastic! Hibiscus from Hines Growers.**

knights are finding a 'new good life' by getting grounded with the earth.

### 2. ECO-SCAPING

From rocks in the garden to rocks in the living room, nature's influence can be found both indoors and out.

"Borders are blurring between indoors and out as nature becomes more important in our lives," says Bobbie Schwartz, president of the Association of Professional Landscape Designers. "Many people want their gardens and their homes to be sanctuaries of tranquility, reflecting their ideal concept of nature."

Beauty and sustainability are key. Liskey says that people want the "beauty and romance" of a garden with less work. "Gardeners want easy, low-maintenance plants that give plenty of color."

The new Bloomtastic! dwarf butterfly bush Lavender Veil from Hines Growers is low maintenance and attracts butterflies and hummingbirds with richly-colored abundant blooms.

"Herbs are popular as cooking shows and healthy eating habits grow," says Briscoe White, head herb farmer at The Growers Exchange. "It's easy to pot up herbs indoors and out for fresh ingredients year round." He recommends planting containers of herbs de Provence for beauty and cooking

or edging a landscape border with lavender.

### 3. OCCUPY LOCAL

People are "occupying" local farmers markets and joining CSA's (Community Supported Agriculture) for fresh produce, plants and products.

"Farmers markets are our new backyard veggie gardens and are becoming our local grocery store," says McCoy.

According to the U.S. Dept of Agriculture, sales of "locally produced food" reached \$4.8 billion in 2008. They project that locally grown foods will generate \$7 billion in sales dominated by fruit and veggies in 2011.

### 4. CONSCIOUS CONSUMPTION

According to the 2010 Cone Survey, 83 percent of consumers still want to see more brands, products and companies that support worthy causes.

"We've finally moved from "me" to "we" and consider our earth and each other when we purchase," says McCoy.

American Beauties Native Plants' partnership with the National Wildlife Federation is a great example of this mind shift. When you buy an American Beauties' native plant like the new groundcover, Blue Moon' woodland phlox, for example, a donation is made to NWF's Certified Wildlife Habitat Program.

### 5. WATER WATCHERS

"There is no single issue greater than water," says Dr. Hall. Recent drought and regional water restrictions are causing us to grow plants, flowers and vegetables with less water.

Soil amendments like the new SoilReef biochar are considered by many scientists to be the "black gold" for gardening. Its high carbon content and porous nature help soil retain water and nutrients, saving gardeners time and money.

Look for EcoCover organic mulch discs in all Bloomtastic! plant containers to help save water

and reduce weeds.

Hydroponic gardening is hot, allowing plants to grow year-round in nutrient rich solutions that actually use less water.

### 6. IN LIVING COLOR

Neon colors, pop art and color blocking are influencing fashion on the runways and fashion in the garden. From Tangerine Tango, the new Pantone color of the year, to deep purples and soothing greens, colors are all over the landscape.

Rich, gem colors create your own personal piece of paradise. Tropic Escape Hibiscus from Costa Farms produces huge flowers that last twice as long as regular hibiscus and are perfect for decorating patios and landscapes.

Create a technicolor summer with new Bloomtastic! Bambino bougainvillea and multi-colored bougainvillea patio trees. Hines' new Patio Tropics Desert Rose, Adenium Kissable Pink adds intense tropical color to patios, balconies and poolsides.

### 7. INNER GARDENING

Decorating our inner gardens with houseplants for better, healthier lives is now the norm. These natural oxygen machines clean indoor air while bringing life to any room.



**Plants like the new dwarf butterfly bush from Hines Growers attracts wildlife to your backyard.**



**Rid your yard of pesky critters the humane way with Havahart's motion activated sprinkler repellents.**

Whether you want ferns, peace lilies or palms, bring nature in and green up your spaces. To learn more about the benefits of indoor houseplants check out [www.O2forYou.org](http://www.O2forYou.org).

### 8. TECHNO-GARDENING

With the rise of smartphone technology, consumers are able to go directly into the buying experience. According to TrendWatching, 'dealer chic' is on the rise where securing the best deal is not just accepted - it's admired.

Gardening is going digital with free e-zines. Costa Farms' "GrowingStyle" magazine brings designer tips and the latest plant info from growers and designers in this free app. Garden products are going high-tech, too. Now's there's a way to rid your yard of pesky critters. New motion activated sprinkler repellents from Havahart provide caring control solutions that safely rid animals from your yard.

### 9. SEEDLINGS

From the White House to the neighborhood schools, kids are learning how to grow their own food and take care of the planet.

having fun growing things. She says the popularity of fairy gardens is ideal for kids and the young at heart to share the whimsical world of plants and appreciate the joy of gardening.

For a complete look at the Garden Media Group 2012 Garden Trends Report, visit [www.gardenmediagroup.com](http://www.gardenmediagroup.com).

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# OUTDOOR LIVING SPACES WHERE CREATIVITY IS KEY

Outdoor living spaces have become increasingly popular over the last several years. The home improvement boom has shown many homeowners just how easy it can be to transform a home into a private sanctuary that caters to the personalities of the home's residents.

Outdoor living areas have become an extension of the home's interior, with many homeowners creating outdoor living rooms and dining areas so they can relax and eat meals outside just as they do indoors. But homeowners thinking of creating outdoor living spaces should consider a few tricks of the trade before beginning their projects.

• **Strategically place the space.** Property often dictates where the outdoor living space will go, but it helps to keep in mind that the outdoor space is more likely to be used if it's easily accessible from the inside of the home. For instance, if residents need to walk out the front door to access an outdoor living space in the backyard, then residents might find the area is too inconveniently located and they won't make the most of the



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space. Whenever possible, plan the outdoor living space so it's easily accessible from the home's interior, preferably from the kitchen so it will be easier to carry meals outdoors when dining outside.

• **Emphasize comfort.** Many homeowners look at their

outdoor living areas as places to kick their feet up and relax, so comfort should take precedence when planning the space. Forgo the plastic patio chairs of yesteryear for furniture that's more sturdy and roomy so you won't feel cramped or sweaty on warm sum-

mer evenings and afternoons. In addition, don't forget to shade the area. Some homeowners choose to build pergolas, but oftentimes an umbrella or two can do the trick at a fraction of the cost. If the outdoor living area is near trees, they might provide sufficient shade from the often-blistering summer sun. But keep a few umbrellas in the garage just in case.

• **Illuminate the area.** Summer nights spent relaxing in the outdoor living area make for great memories. But such nights are nearly impossible if the area doesn't have some lighting. Tiki torches might do the trick for some, while others who want to avoid giving their outdoor area a luau feel might prefer solar-powered accent lights, which won't require any wiring. If your backyard attracts its fair share of insects, look for insect-repelling lights or lamps. Whatever your preference, don't forget to have some lighting so those summer evenings spent under the sky don't have to end when the sun goes down.

• **Keep the design consistent with your home.** In addition to providing an outdoor respite from

the daily grind, an outdoor living space can also increase a home's resale value. However, homeowners who have one eye on R&R and the other on resale value should keep the design of their outdoor living space consistent with their home. One of the goals when designing an outdoor living space should be to create a seamless transition from the home's interior to its exterior. The best way to do that is to keep the designs of both living spaces consistent.

• **Don't forget the fire pit.** A fire pit provides a great focal point for an outdoor living area. Instead of sitting at the dinner table, families and friends can gather around the fire pit and relax with some s'mores and share stories. But even when guests aren't coming over, a fire pit makes for a great place to relax and let the time go by.

With more and more homeowners transforming their homes into their own private sanctuaries, outdoor living spaces continue to grow in popularity. By employing a few simple tricks of the trade, homeowners can create the outdoor areas of their dreams.

— COURTESY OF METRO CREATIVE

## CAST IRON PATIO FURNITURE BEAUTIFUL AND DURABLE

With the growing availability of outdoor wrought iron patio furniture on the market today it is easy to find furniture for your patio that will complement and coordinate with your indoor sense of style. For unsurpassed elegance, tying your outdoor patio furniture with your indoor decor will give you a perfect flow from inside to outside.

The advantages of cast iron patio furniture are many. They are heavy and weather durable making them long lasting. If you maintain your outdoor iron patio furniture you will have the set for years of enjoyment. But, you must maintain

it. It can rust, so a careful eye will always be needed. If you find any cracks or pits on the surface cover it up with paint, a project you can do when covering your furniture for the winter. If you live in a year round warm climate inspect your furniture at the beginning of each spring and fall. Cleaning your iron furniture is a cinch with a mild soap and water.

Another plus to a patio wrought iron patio set is that it never goes out of style. Its style is well suited to the modern decor as well as an antique décor. The cast iron patio set is timeless in its grace and beauty and the wrought iron is almost

indestructible. It is designed to hold various sizes and weights comfortably without fear of breakage or upset.

Adding class and sophistication to your patio area is easy using cast iron furniture. An additional benefit is the myriad of colors that can be chosen from, of course, black and white but also gold and silver and in most cases a forest green or red. The intricate and beautiful designs that the artisans of wrought iron patio furniture create will certainly be a source of conversation at your next garden or pool party. Garden motifs such as flowers, plants and wood nymphs are

typical designs used in the fashioning of iron patio design.

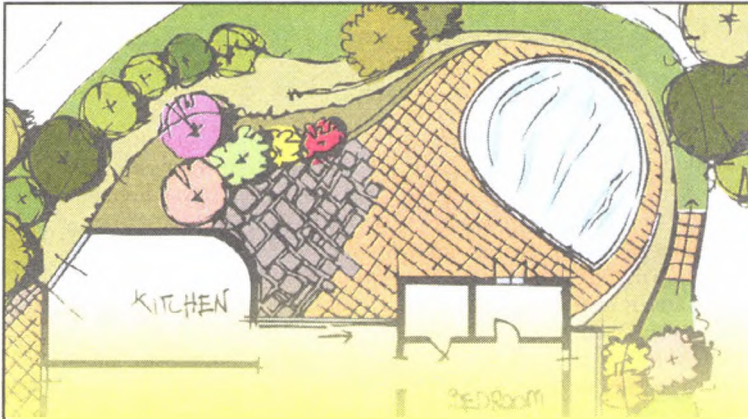
The wrought iron designers choose this medium because it is tough and malleable which makes it easy to fashion into a variety of themes. One of the basic benefits is that it resists corrosion and is moderately elastic allowing the artist to form the furniture to his imagination. Because it is not flimsy it will not be easily tossed around in a sudden summer storm.

For all its beauty and benefits there are some drawbacks. Wrought iron will absorb its environment, therefore if it is cold the furniture will be cold to the touch, likewise, it will be hot if exposed to hot sunlight for a long period of time. These are little detriments considering the lifetime benefits you will realize from your outdoor wrought iron patio furniture.

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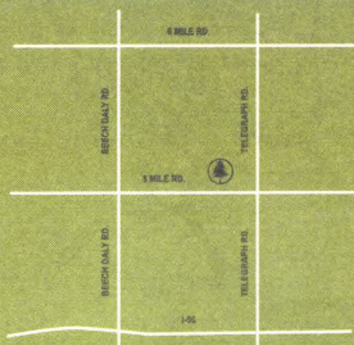
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# THREE-SEASON ROOMS: FAMILY FRIENDLY SPACES

A space that serves as an indoor-outdoor transitional area in a home can be a valuable living space. Screened-in porches are often attractive to buyers, but are typically not as popular as a room that can be used once the warm weather has passed.

Certain features of a home can increase a home's resale value. According to BankRate.com, a light, airy and spacious feel is one characteristic that prospective buyers find very attractive. Richard Gaylord, a member of the executive committee for the National Association of Realtors, says, "I haven't sold many homes that aren't bright and airy." Even the popular home improvement television network HGTV touts brightening up a home as a way to increase its value.

A bright, well-lit room helps people feel more cheerful and relaxed. To easily achieve more light and space, consider the addition of a three-season-room. When paired with energy-efficient new windows, this space can make a welcome addition to just about any home.

A three-season room is often called a sunroom or extended season room. It is not to be mistaken for a four-season-room, which is fully insulated and generally has heating and air conditioning just like the rest of the house. A three-season room does not have these amenities, but it may be used year-round with the help of a portable heater.

There are many advantages to three-season rooms.

- A room with regular windows can make the space more comfortable. This allows for the use of screens in warmer months – letting in air and sounds of nature. When

the temperature drops, the windows can be closed to help insulate against the cold.

- Three-season rooms can add much-needed extra floor space to the home.
- These rooms can also serve as a transition between the house and the yard, which is a good way to reduce tracking dirt and debris.
- They reduce the discomfort of sitting outdoors among pesky insects.
- A three-season room lets in more sunlight through windows or skylights, possibly reducing home energy costs as a result.
- The three-season room enables those suffering from seasonal mood disorders to extend their time spent in the sun.
- A three-season room is often the ideal place to entertain company because it tends to be bright and cheerful.

Handy homeowners may be able to convert an existing porch into a three-season room or build one from scratch or assemble the room from a premade kit. However, those homeowners who prefer to leave the work to someone more experienced can hire a contractor.

Before getting started, it is best to contact the local building and permits office to determine which building codes for the new room must be met. While screened-in porches may be adequate with a certain level of foundation and structure, rooms that will be using glass panels or standard windows may need some modifications to make them safe. Apply for the necessary permits and have the work inspected to be sure it is legal.

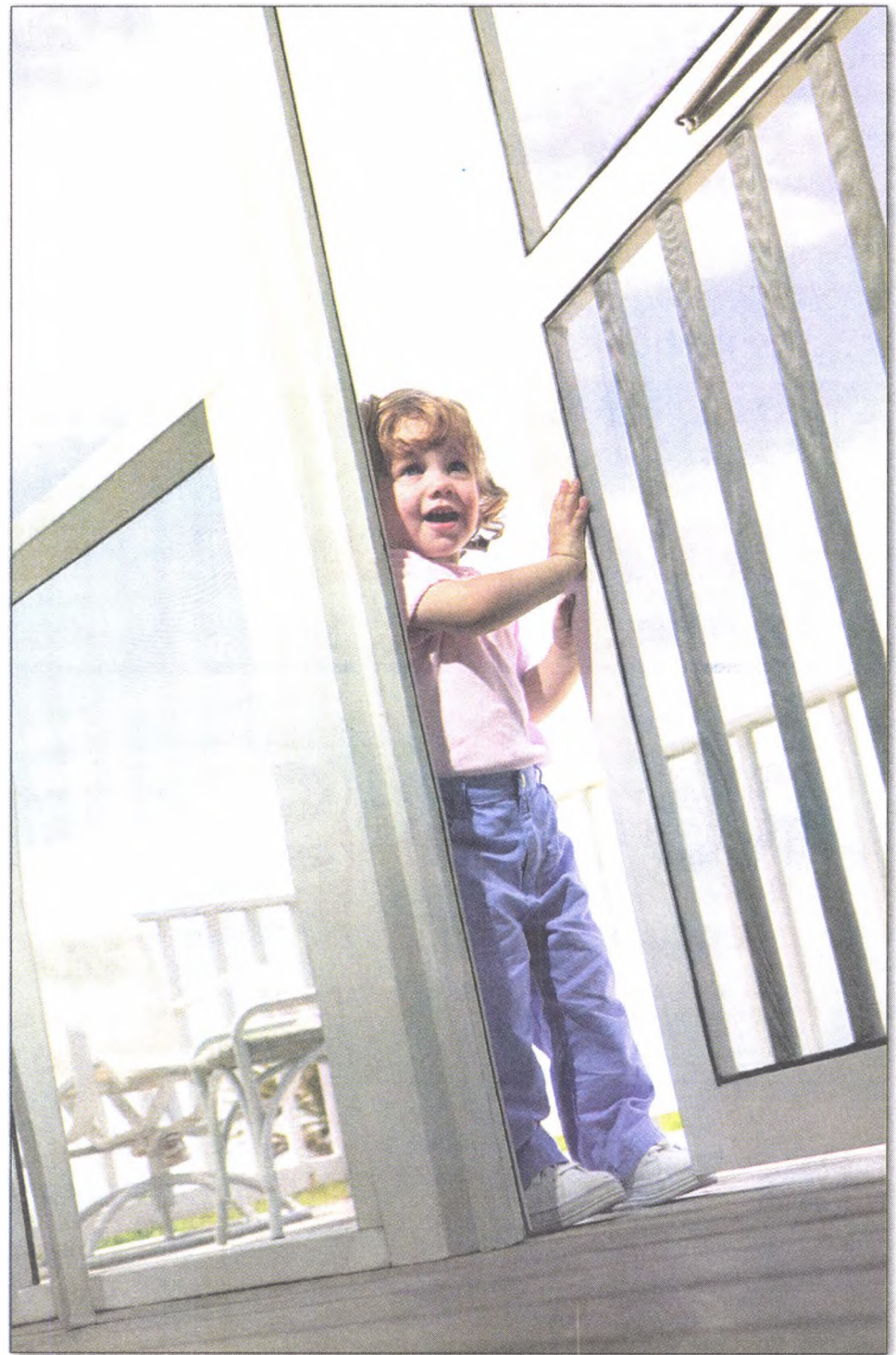
Where you locate your sunroom may depend on the direction of the sun or the space you have on the property. Consider your landscape and property lines before doing any building.

You may have to reframe certain parts of the room if you are converting a porch to a sunroom. Be sure to use materials that will accommodate the addition of heavier, thicker glass or windows.

Many homeowners find weatherproofing the room is a good idea. Use construction-grade materials you can commonly find at home improvement centers. Wrapping the room in a material that guards against heat, humidity and moisture will ensure a more comfortable environment once construction is complete.

Building a three-season room can add substantial value to your home and create another family-friendly space.

— COURTESY OF METRO CREATIVE



A three-season room can be a great addition to your home. There are many reasons to make this investment, including that bonus of much needed extra floor space, or to make a transition from the inside of your home to your outdoor living area, it also reduces the discomfort of sitting outdoors among the pesky insects. There is a healthy aspect too, a three-season room enables those suffering from seasonal mood disorders to extend their time spent in the sun. Which ever reason you choose your new space will be well put to use.



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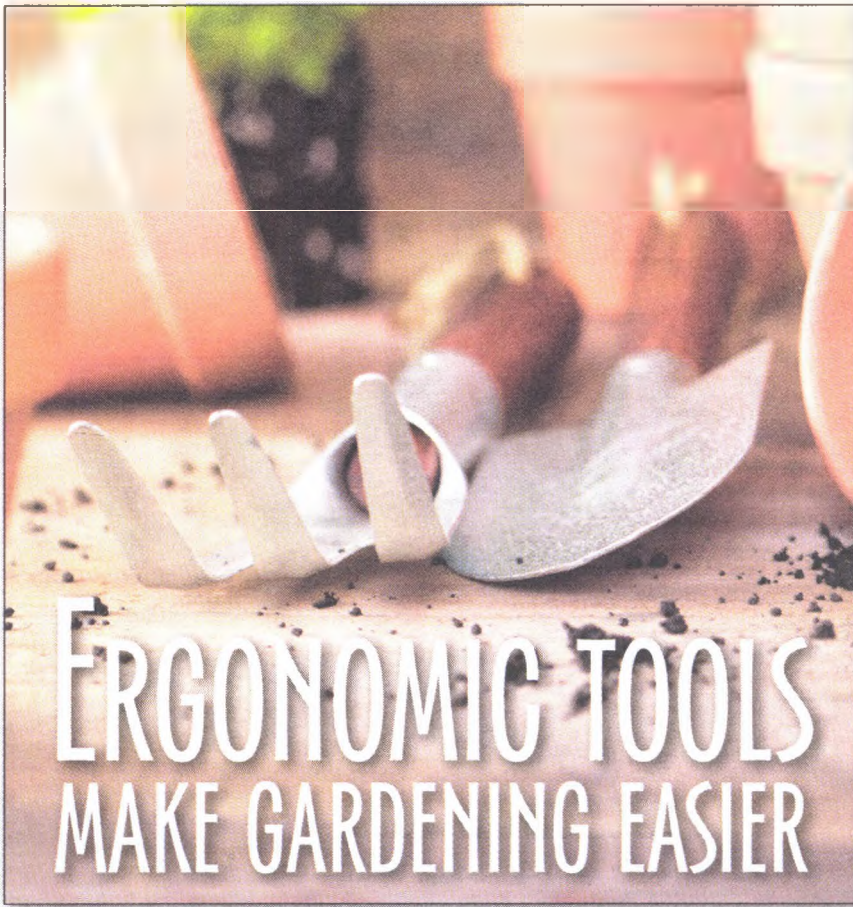
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## ERGONOMIC TOOLS MAKE GARDENING EASIER

Choosing the right garden tools can alleviate pain and strain. Many people have considered giving up gardening due to the pain that ensues from using the wrong tools. Here are some ergonomic tools to consider for use while gardening.

Hand injuries are a common side effect of certain occupations and hobbies. Tennis elbow or wrist and even carpal tunnel syndrome are well-recognized injuries. But ergonomic tools can help alleviate injuries due to repetitive motions.

The term ergonomics is derived from the Greek words "ergon," which means work, and "nomoi," which means natural laws. In the simplest terms, ergonomics is the study of how work is done and how to make-work better. It has led to an entire subset of ergonomics, including products that can make-work better and are safer for the body. Designing items that increase utility of the item, are more comfortable to use, and reduce injury through frequent use does this.

Ergonomic products are most readily associated with items of the workplace, including ergonomic keyboards, computer mice, office chairs, and lighting. But many industries have re-evaluated operations to include tools that are ergonomic in design. Gardening is one area where ergonomics has become especially popular.

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health estimates that the rate of hand injuries in the workplace is 25 hand injuries for every 10,000 full-time employees. However, hand, back and injuries of other areas of the body are also commonplace due to hobbies like gardening. Many people have considered giving up gardening due to the pain that ensues from using the wrong tools. Here are some ergonomic tools to consider for use while gardening.

• **Extend a Hand Ergonomic Gardening Tool Set:** These garden tools help individuals continue gardening tasks with ease and joint protection. The tools attach to the forearm and feature a right-angled grip to promote strength and leverage. Interchangeable heads turn the tool into a hoe, trowel, cultivator, or pruning saw.

• **Radius Garden 102 Weeder Hand Tool:** This device alleviates wrist and hand fatigue from gripping and pulling out weeds the traditional way. The weeder features a patented handgrip that provides more leverage with less wrist stress. The aluminum blade

helps to cut through weed roots and lift out weeds with minimal effort.

• **Garden Works Ergonomic 7 Pattern Sprayer:** Instead of squeezing a hand grip to activate the hose nozzle, this sprayer features a sliding thumb valve that controls water flow while reducing hand strain. The seven different water flow patterns allow gardeners to choose from misting to streaming water flows.

• **Bond LH029 Ergonomic Handle Garden Spade:** The handle and length of the tool is designed to create maximum comfort and leverage when digging in soil.

• **Miracle Gro® Ergonomic Garden Feeder:** This feeder has an ergonomic handle for an easy, stress-free grip. The trigger lock allows for one-handed control and three spray patterns.

Gardening doesn't have to be painful when you use tools that are specially designed to fit the hand. They help alleviate strain to the wrist and elbow while maximizing leverage.

— COURTESY OF METRO CREATIVE

## CONQUER YOUR STORAGE PROBLEMS

Storage space is often a coveted commodity. Apartment dwellers seek out more closet space, homeowners may desire more acreage, and even children may want more space for their toys and belongings. The purchase of a storage shed could alleviate some clutter issues and move items outdoors, hence creating more space.

Household garages are no longer as popular for storing vehicles. Instead, garages are used to store the extra items that do not fit inside the home. Many people even turn to self-storage units for extra storage space. According to the Self Storage Association, the storage industry earned roughly \$20 billion in revenues across North America in 2010. It has also been the fastest-growing segment of the commercial real estate industry for the last 30 years and is considered to be recession-proof.

Garden storage sheds present another place where individuals can keep items out of sight but easily accessible. As garages fill up with belongings quite quickly, many homeowners think about a shed purchase to at least keep outdoor lawn and garden essentials in their own place.

The process of purchasing a shed is not as simple as finding the least or most expensive type on the market. There are other factors that come into play when selecting a shed.

### APPEARANCE AND DESIGN

Although the function of a shed is to store items out of sight, the shed itself will be in full view in a yard. Therefore, plenty of homeowners prefer something that has just as much aesthetic appeal as it does storage capacity. An unsightly shed can affect the overall appearance of a property, or even hurt the sale price for homeowners thinking about putting the home on the market. It's important to select a shed in a price range that also complements the style of the home so it coordinates with other features. Some people choose to have a custom-built shed that can replicate the architectural style of the home and even features the same siding and finishing materials.

### SIZE

Sheds come in a variety of sizes, from compact locker-sized sheds to large buildings that may even double as a garden room, pool room or kids' playhouse. Homeowners should keep in mind that the size of the shed may have to meet local municipality rules for additions or structural changes to a



The process of purchasing a shed is not as simple as finding the least or most expensive type on the market. There are other factors that come into play when selecting a shed.

property. A larger shed may require a permanent flooring material, such as concrete, and may be subject to permit applications and inspections, whereas a smaller shed may not have such stringent requirements. Furthermore, certain towns actually may restrict the size and placement of a shed if it interferes with traffic visibility or impacts a neighbor in a negative way.

### SIDING MATERIALS

Sheds are constructed of various exterior materials. Some of the more affordable options are metal or plywood and particleboard. However, these materials can be easily compromised by rain and snow. The most, maintenance-free materials are vinyl or molded PVC-type plastics. However, these may look like cookie-cutout units and may not have as much visual appeal. Cedar and wood are popular siding choices but won't be maintenance-free. They need upkeep and also tend to be more expensive. But the cost may pay for itself in durability as well as an attractive appearance.

### MINOR ENHANCEMENTS

Touches like decorative architectural features, window boxes, shutters, or even simply planting shrubs and annuals around the shed can make it an integral part of the landscape instead of simply an eyesore. Double doors will ensure large pieces of equipment can fit inside the shed. The addition of a pressure-treated ramp at the entryway provides easy access to the shed as well.

Storage sheds can provide much-needed space for homeowners. Certain features as well as cost need to be factored into the decision before purchase. Homeowners should compare chain home improvement stores as well as private retailers to find a shed that is the best fit.

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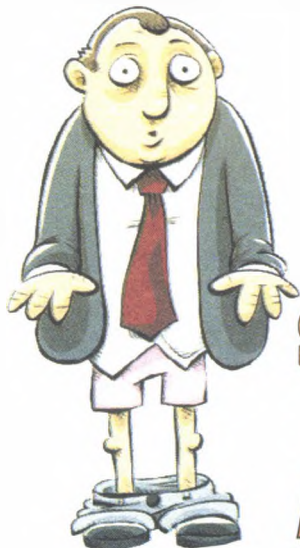
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# WANT A DREAM KITCHEN? MAKE THE MOST OF KITCHEN STORAGE

Forget about the living room; the kitchen is the social hub of a home. Today's homeowners want their kitchens to reflect their personal tastes and accommodate their daily lives; however, a kitchen that can do all this is in need of one thing – smart storage.

According to renowned chef Curtis Stone, "A dream kitchen is one that's designed for the way you live. The best advice I'd give anyone looking to remodel their kitchen is to think about how they will use it, and to choose the right storage features to suit their lifestyle."

Paul Radoy, manager of design services for Merillat cabinetry, agrees, "Everyone uses the kitchen to prepare food, but many homeowners use their kitchen for entertaining, crafting, or just spending time with their families. Each of these activities requires various storage options."

## THE HOME CHEF

Food preparation and cooking are the primary functions of a kitchen, but creating an environment for gourmet cooking is a special treat for homeowners who consider themselves "at-home chefs."

To create this environment, it's important to keep cooking items organized and within easy reach.



Curtis Stone, chef

Storage solutions could include a pull-out spice rack next to the stove, perfect for cooks who like to experiment. A cutting board kit can neatly store knives within a drawer and has a built-in cutting board. This feature, combined with a pull-out trash underneath, can make food prep a breeze.

"People who love to cook often have a lot of pots and pans, and they are usually in a jumbled mess," says Stone. "Well, Merillat has come up with an ingenious solution. Extra wide or deep drawers are great when installed under a cook top, and when you include peg dividers for the drawer it can be customized to neatly fit all your pots and pans as you like them.

It's not one-size-fits-all, so it can be nicely organized."

Another option is to install a utensil hanging system on the backsplash, or a pull-down cook book holder underneath a wall cabinet. Finally, grouping all these organizational conveniences near the cook top can create the perfect space to make culinary delights.

## THE ENTERTAINER

If you've ever had a party you know everyone ends up in the kitchen. This is why homeowners who like to entertain should consider whether or not their kitchen is functional for entertaining. Luckily there are several features that can help make the party successful.

One kitchen feature that helps make entertaining easier is an island. Not only can an island provide extra seating and serving space, it can include great storage. According to Radoy, "An island with a great focal point like wine storage is classy and practical. And adding spice drawers to hold napkins or small utensils like corkscrews is another great idea."

Open shelving also adds a great design element for a kitchen used for entertaining. These shelves allow the homeowner to display beautiful dishware and glasses; and guests can help themselves to a plate for appetizers or a glass for wine.

## THE MOMMY

Moms know that having young children can make the kitchen a challenging space, but there are features to make this room more kid friendly. Soft-closing drawers and doors can protect against hurt hands, while keeping the contents from rattling.

Deep drawers to store children's items like a backpack, schoolwork and crafts are a big plus. And a pantry or utility cabinet allows the homeowner to store many different items in one central location and at different levels making some things more accessible or inaccessible for children.

"Homeowners may also consider placing the microwave in a



**Pull-out Spice Rack.** A pull-out spice rack allows for easy access to spices or other small cooking essentials. It's perfect for cooks who like to experiment.

base level cabinet so everyone in the family can have easy access," suggests Radoy.

Another thing to keep in mind is that with kids come messes. Having an organized cleanup zone can minimize clutter and make any kitchen shine. Things like a tilt-out sink tray, which keeps soaps and sponges out of sight, an under sink tote and a pull-out waste basket

help to keep things tidy.

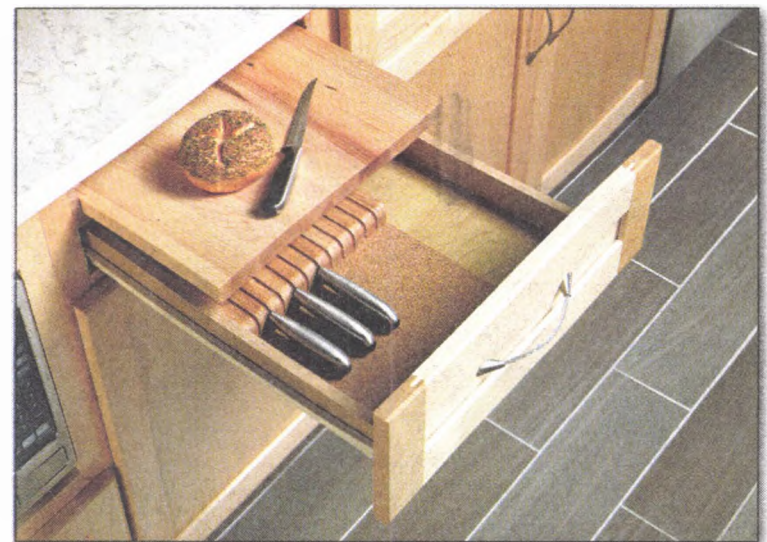
"From a chef's perspective, or from a home cook's perspective," concludes Stone, "with the right organizational features, cooking can be fun and relaxing."

For more information about the latest in beautiful and intelligent cabinetry options visit [www.Merillat.com](http://www.Merillat.com).

— COURTESY OF FAMILY FEATURES



**Drawer Organizer.** Keeping all of your cooking utensils organized is key to stress-free cooking; finding what you need fast is so much better than digging through a cluttered drawer.



**Cutting Board Kit.** A cutting board kit close to the stove or sink makes for easy food prep, and it includes built-in knife storage, right where you need it most.

# "GREEN" IS STILL NUMBER ONE IN HOME IMPROVEMENTS

Making home improvements doesn't have to mean compromising environmental ideals in the process. There are numerous jobs that a person can do that fit with a green lifestyle. While these improvements help protect the planet, they'll also help keep a few extra dollars in your wallet.

## 1. Conserve water.

Turn off the tap between brushing teeth and rinsing off dishes. Better yet, install low-flow faucets, showerheads and toilets that reduce the consumption of water in the household.

## 2. Motion detection:

Motion-detector lights can be installed in different rooms of the home and outdoors. Lights will automatically turn on and off depending on the activity in the area, reducing the chances of a light being left on inadvertently and wasting money and energy.

**3. Solar panels:** You may have been toying with the idea of solar panels for years. They can be installed on the roof or in the yard to power various components of the household, like lights during a traditional power outage or the swimming pool filter. Today it is possible to buy used solar panels, many of which still have a lot of life left to them and are considerably cheaper than new ones.

**4. Aluminum-clad storm door:** Insulate the entryway of your home with a storm door that will buffer against harsh weather conditions. While you're creating a more airtight space, caulk around windows and doors.

**5. Replace air filters.** Your HVAC system likely has filters inside that trap dirt and contaminants. Replacing the filters leads to cleaner indoor air and helps



Solar panels can be installed on the roof or in the yard to power various components of the household.

the unit run more efficiently.

**6. Power strips:** Stock up on power strips and plug all of your peripherals and computer equipment into these strips. This way when you want to power down everything completely, you simply turn off the power button on the strip. This ensures no devices are drawing power even in the off position, which many do.

**7. Install fans.** Fans aren't just useful in the summer. In the winter, the blades can be set to rotate in the opposite direction and help draw warm air into the room, heating more efficiently.

**8. Rainwater barrels:** Set up rainwater barrels at the downspouts of your home's gutter system. These barrels collect water that can be used to water indoor and outdoor plants, or even wash the car. Some feature a spigot to which you can directly connect a garden hose.

**9. Plant trees.** Trees are good for the environment in many ways, producing necessary oxygen for life and offering food and living areas for wildlife. Trees can also shade a home during the warm weather, helping reduce energy consumption.

## 10. Glass fireplace

**doors:** Install glass fireplace doors, which are safer than fireplace screens. They'll also help protect against heat loss up the chimney when there isn't a fire lit.

## 11. Buy a solar cover.

Warm up your spa all season long with a solar cover, which helps keep debris out of the water, too. Solar covers reduce the need to fire up the heater to warm the water.

**12. Dog waste compost:** Create a method to safely dispose of dog waste without having to toss it in plastic bags in the trash. There are devices that can be buried into the ground to serve as a dog waste receptacle. Or you can make one of your own by placing a container with a lid that seals on top but has an open bottom. Sprinkle a natural bacteria septic tank product, such as Rid-X®, down the hole routinely and it will break down the waste and turn it into soil fertilizer.

There are a variety of ways to go green with home improvements, whether extensive projects or small fixes.

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## BACKYARD PLAYSETS ENCOURAGE CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT

Outdoor play is a highlight of childhood. Being able to run, jump and swing outside is an excellent form of exercise and a way for kids to interact with their friends.

One staple of youthful play is spending time on a play set in the backyard. Parents without a play set in the backyard need only look into a neighboring yard with a play set to witness these prime congregation spots for the neighborhood children. And play sets don't just benefit kids. Parents who want to keep tabs on their children can do so much more easily with a backyard play set, and knowing they are having fun close by alleviates worries.

The decision to purchase a play set is one pondered by parents all across the country. There are scores of ready-made varieties available or sets that can be custom designed. The choice of which one to buy should be based on a number of factors, both in desired features and also models that offer safety.

### MATERIALS

The first decision parents face is which material to use for the play set. The main materials used to build play sets are plastic, metal and wood. Plastic sets tend to be very basic and may be reserved for young children's sets. While they can go outside, they may not last more than a few years and are often best relegated to indoor toys.

Metal sets are some of the most durable and strong. They are frequently seen at parks and playgrounds. Metal play sets are often cemented down to a foundation for stability, which doesn't make them ideal for a temporary set that will be removed when the kids



The decision to purchase a play set is one pondered by parents all across the country. There are scores of ready-made varieties available or sets that can be custom designed. The choice of which one to buy should be based on a number of factors, both in desired features and also models that offer safety.

outgrow it. Also, you cannot generally add onto a metal set.

Wooden sets are usually a compromise between the two. They're good for backyards because they can be taken down when they're no longer used. They can also be made more useful with add-on attachments, such as extra slides, rock walls and different swing variations.

### SAFETY

Play sets are designed for children, so all of them should be safe, right? Not exactly. Some manufacturers cut corners or create somewhat questionable designs. Look for recessed hardware and bolts so that clothing doesn't snag on pieces that stick out.

Choose play sets that have handles for extra stability while children are climbing. Avoid ones with metal hardware that can rust and weaken over time. Wood-to-wood attachments won't rust and will be more durable.

When choosing wood sets, be sure to select hardwoods that will not

soften and warp. In addition, choose designs that feature rounded edges so there will be less chance for splinters or injuries from hitting blunt edges.

Be sure to have plastic-covered chains on swings and other moveable parts so that fingers cannot get inside of the links and be pinched.

Check to make sure treated and stained wood does not contain harmful material, like arsenic, that can leach out of the wood into the surrounding soil.

Some parents also may want to look for a wooden play set that is made from materials harvested following sustainable forestry guidelines. This gives parents some peace of mind knowing their child's play set is eco-friendly.

Play sets can be fun additions to the backyard. They come in many different sizes and configurations, so it's possible to find one that will fit in any backyard.

— COURTESY OF METRO  
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For Ellis, spring offers endless opportunities to update and refresh interior spaces with touches of color. While she always recommends starting with a neutral foundation that includes walls and major pieces of furniture in shades of white, beige or brown, Ellis loves to add seasonal flourishes by changing up accents and accessories.

## CELEBRITY DESIGNER ENCOURAGES THE USE OF STRONG COLOR AND FLORALS

Kelli Ellis is an interior designer for all seasons. But when spring rolls around each year, she is truly in her element.

An award-winning celebrity interior designer, textile designer and design psychology expert, Ellis's work is everywhere, from television (as a featured designer on TLC's "Clean Sweep," HGTV's "Takeover My Makeover," and Bravo's "Real Housewives of Orange County" as well as guest spots on NBC, CBS and ABC) and the Web (as eHow.com's interior design expert) to print media (as the monthly design advice columnist for the Orange County Gazette). Known for her love of flowers and floral design, Ellis also serves as a spokesperson for the Society of American Florists.

For Ellis, spring offers endless opportunities to update and refresh interior spaces with touches of color. While she always recommends starting with a neutral foundation that includes walls and major pieces of furniture in shades of white, beige or brown, Ellis loves to add seasonal flourishes by changing up accents and accessories.

"With a neutral foundation," explains Ellis, "you don't have to invest a lot of time or money to refresh. Once you have the basics, those pieces of furniture that you absolutely love and will stand the test of time. The sky's the limit in terms of changing accents such as valances, pillows, rugs, candle holders, even the matting on a picture. A neutral foundation opens the door to a new look with minimal changes."

According to Ellis, one of the best and easiest ways to add seasonal color and refresh a living space is with fresh flowers displayed in a variety of containers. Fresh flowers not only enliven a room and bring in the sights and scents of the outdoors, they are perfect for playing up color and color combinations.

"A lot of people are afraid of color in their decor, so a less scary way of introducing color is with flowers and vases," Ellis notes.

"Fresh flowers can go with any type of decor and generally last as long as your mood, so there are endless opportunities to experiment without making a long-term commitment."

Decorating with flowers begins with choosing a container that is in sync with the season and the style of your home, counsels Ellis.

"There are so many container options for every type of decor," Ellis says. "If your home leans toward country, think about using old decanters, tins or even wooden boxes. For contemporary homes, glass vases with clean lines work best. And for traditional homes, go with urns or ornate vases."

The same principal applies to the flowers themselves. Mixed flowers tend to be more traditional; bunches of local flowers lend a homey, just-picked quality to a casual or country home; and monochromatic arrangements ooze modern. The key, notes Ellis, is to pair flowers with both their containers and the indoor environment in which they will be seen.

Next comes color. While Ellis leans toward monochromatic arrangements of white flowers such as stargazers, lilies, roses and orchids are among her personal favorites. She nevertheless appreciates the "pop" of color that can be achieved with bolder blossoms.

When choosing flowers for a particular spot or room, Ellis advises looking at complementary colors, those that are on the opposite side of the color wheel. For example, if the walls are a warm shade of yellow or gold, a container filled with blue flowers, such as hydrangeas, delphiniums or sapphire orchids, makes a bold statement. And in the green room? Try flowers in shades of purple and violet.

"I think the greatest thing in the world is to bring your own vase or container to the florist and ask for something special that works with it," she reveals. "Not every florist has a vase that suits your taste or will work in a particular spot, so I take in my containers and say, 'I want something blue.' Then I'm both surprised with the result and certain that it will work with the decor."

To learn more about Ellis and her latest projects, visit her online at [kelliellis.com](http://kelliellis.com).

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## EASY-TO-INSTALL AND EASY-TO-CLEAN BATHROOM REMODELING TIPS

Dreaming about a bathroom remodel? With today's easy-to-install products – many of which are also easy-to-clean – your new bathroom can actually exceed your wildest dreams. What could be better than an easy-to-clean new bathroom?

Here are some tips to bring your dream bathroom to life in less time and for less money than you might think:

**No tools toilet replacement:** The American Standard No Tools Toilet is so easy to install, it doesn't even require specialty tools. Everything you need is right in the box, along with simple, illustrated instructions. Whether you're a do-it-yourselfer, or direct-it-yourselfer, easy-to-install innovations make bathroom remodels speedy and simple, while reducing the possibility of delays from installation errors.

**Color confidence:** The Pantone Color of the Year for 2012 is "Tangerine Tango," continuing a trend toward brighter, happier colors. Paint is one of the easiest and least costly ways to completely change a bathroom. Donna Frasca,

an interior designer and color specialist who blogs at ColorSpecialist-Charlotte.Blogspot.com, recommends coordinating with colors that are already in the room.

"Look at the colors that are in your tile," Frasca says. "Do you see a lot of yellows? Does your tile look more gray? Sometimes all you have to do is just pick one color that matches your tile to tie in the look of your bathroom."

Not ready to do the Tangerine Tango all over your bathroom? Go neutral on the walls and add pops of color with towels, rugs or a shower curtain to create an attractive, finished look.

**Easy accessorizing:** Faucets are like jewelry for your bathroom, so they should be easy to update as styles and fashions change. Look for the wide variety of faucets that come with a pre-assembled Speed Connect drain that has just four parts instead of 14. No special tools or plumber's putty required. The drain seals tightly so water stays in the sink. The lift rod comes preset to the correct height and never comes loose.

**Fabulous finish:** Warmer finishes such as

oil-rubbed bronze make an instant style statement, tied together through lighting, cabinet hardware and faucets. A whimsical light switch cover in a complementary finish offers a beautiful and unexpected touch.

**Go easy on cleaning:** Spend more time enjoying your new bathroom and less time cleaning. Real Simple magazine recommends a semigloss paint for bathrooms, because it is resistant to humidity and staining, as well as easy to clean. Toilets with an EverClean surface incorporate a patented antimicrobial agent to inhibit the growth of mold and mildew, while the smooth, mirror-like finish helps keep surfaces cleaner. EverClean whirlpools feature an exclusive whirlpool circulation system that protects pipes and fittings from mold and mildew, and it never wears off.

With today's advancements in simple installation and easy-to-clean surfaces, there's no reason to wait on a beautiful new bathroom. Make it happen this spring.

— COURTESY OF  
ARA CONTENT

# ADVANTAGES OF A HALF-BATHROOM

When it comes to renovating a home, homeowners expect to spend money. No home renovation or home improvement project is free, but some are less costly than others.

The addition of a half-bathroom is a popular project among homeowners, and it won't necessarily break the bank. If converting existing floor space into a half-bathroom, such a renovation can cost as little as a few thousand dollars, making the addition of a powder room one of the few home improvement projects where the value added to the home exceeds the cost of the renovation. Before deciding to add a half-bathroom, it helps to consider some of the pros and cons of the project.

## PROS

- **Convenience:** A half-bathroom is often added on the home's main floor or in the basement or attic. This makes it more convenient for guests to use the restroom during a dinner party or when coming over to watch the big game in a basement home-theater area.

- **Problem-free:** Half-bathrooms are smaller because they don't have a shower or bathtub. That means common bathroom problems like mold and mildew are not as big a concern as they are for full bathrooms.

- **More choices:** Because mold and mildew aren't likely to present a problem in a half-bathroom, homeowners have more options at their disposal when choosing floors and countertops.



The addition of a half-bathroom is a project that often makes practical and good financial sense.

## CONS

- **Space:** As their name implies, half-bathrooms are much smaller than full bathrooms. As a result, they tend to feel cramped.

- **Value:** Though an inexpensive half-bathroom addition might recoup its value and then some at resale, the project won't add as much resale value to a home as a full bathroom addition might.

- **Loss of storage:** If storage around the house is sparse, homeowners might be better off keeping the area designated for the half-bathroom as a storage closet instead of a bathroom.

Once the pros and

cons have been weighed, homeowners who want to go forward with the project should then check with their local municipality to ensure the codes and requirements wouldn't restrict their project. Size or window restrictions might curtail the project or limit what homeowners can do, which might change their minds on the project altogether.

The addition of a half-bathroom often makes practical and financial sense. But before making any addition, homeowners must weight the pros and cons to make the best decision possible.

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## DECLARE A PEACE TREATY END THE CHORE WAR

When it comes to household chores, men and women don't always see eye to eye.

In fact, the second annual Scrubbing Bubbles Dirty Work Index survey found that 58 percent of women say it's their job to clean, and 25 percent of all women feel as if they are the cleaning leader in their homes.

In addition, more than half of women confided that they want more help around the house from their partner or spouse, but 38 percent don't trust them to meet their standards of cleanliness.

Today's families often have hectic schedules, making it even more important to approach household chores as a team. That's why Scrubbing Bubbles has partnered with John Gray, best-selling author of "Men are from Mars, Women are from Venus." Together, they will help couples engage in a healthy discussion to help resolve the age-old household chore debate.

How couples deal with household chores either strengthens the partnership or creates a divide. Gray offers this advice for creating the best atmosphere at home:

- **Define the roles.** It's important to identify all the household chores and discuss who will have ownership of each.
- **Discuss your expectations.** Since the survey showed that women don't trust men to meet their standards of clean, Gray recommends that women actually show men how they want the house cleaned and that couples discuss what clean means to each of them.
- **Look for timesaving cleaning tools.** Stock your home with cleaning products that are easy to use and efficient. For example, use Scrubbing Bubbles Automatic Shower Cleaner and Scrubbing Bubbles One Step Toilet Bowl Cleaner. These products make the tough tasks easier so anyone in the family can help clean.

• **Remember to say, thank you.** Whether or not the bathroom shines the way you want, don't forget to say thank you for the effort.

One simple tool you can use to minimize friction over chores? A checklist. For each room of the house, write down what tasks need to be completed and review it with your clean team so everyone knows exactly what's expected. These sample checklists for bathroom chores can help you get started.

### HEAVY-DUTY CHECKLIST

- Clean bathtub and shower. Focus on



Photo courtesy of Getty Images

parts of the shower where dirt and grime tend to build up most.

• Clean and disinfect the sink. Wipe the sink, faucets and vanity top with biodegradable antibacterial bathroom wipes. Scrub the drain with a toothbrush. Scrape any buildup between the sink and the counter with the edge of an old credit card.

• Make mirrors and windows sparkle. Spray with cleaner and buff surface with a soft cloth.

• Clean and disinfect toilet. Maintain a clean toilet by using a toilet bowl cleaner daily.

• Empty the wastebasket. Dispose of all trash. Before replacing the trash bag, wipe it out with antibacterial wipes.

• Clean the floors. Sweep or vacuum the floors to get rid of all large particles and then mop.

### LIGHT-DUTY CHECKLIST

• Let some fresh air in, open the door or a window to air out the room and reduce humidity.

• Check the toilet paper supply. Don't get caught with an empty roll.

• Feed the hamper. Toss dirty clothes and towels into a hamper and hang fresh towels.

• Clean the soft goods. Launder curtains, rugs and cloth shower curtains according to the care instructions. After washing a cloth shower curtain, hang it immediately and let it air-dry to prevent wrinkles.

• Restock supplies. In addition to refilling your cleaning supplies, check your stash of light bulbs, cotton balls and guest towels. Organize and store these items in sturdy containers.

### A HIS AND HER CLEANING TOOLBOX

Having the right tools for the job makes any chore more efficient and more effective. When it's chore time, make sure you have a cleaning caddy stocked up with these supplies:

• Microfiber cloths, they won't leave lint behind on clean mirrors and windows.

• Rubber gloves to protect your hands while you clean.

• Antibacterial products clean and disinfect at the same time.

# 4 EASY STEPS TO JUMP-START OUTDOOR SPRING-CLEANING

If the warmer temperatures, bright sunshine and greening of spring give you the urge to clean, you're not alone. If you want to make spring-cleaning easier, especially outdoor spring-cleaning, a little planning will save lots of elbow grease.

Make outdoor spring-cleaning a breeze with these four simple tips to ensure that you're ready for warm weather fun:

**1. Get the grill ready** – Barbecues and picnics are as much a part of summer as baseball and trips to the beach. Your grill is central to the fun when you're cooking and dining outdoors, so get it ready with a good cleaning. If you were diligent about cleaning the grill after every use last year, a good cleaning with a wire brush may be all the cooking grates need. If your grates have a lot of build-up and burnt-on food, remove and soak them in warm soapy water to loosen the debris. Use a wire brush and a little soapy water to clean out the inside surfaces of your grill, including the inside of the lid. Check the hose connection for the propane tank and repair or replace it if needed.

**2. Clean outdoor surfaces without scrubbing** – Over time, wood and composite decks, concrete, railings, awnings and outdoor furniture can accumulate mold, moss, mildew and algae. An environmentally sensitive mold and mildew cleaner like Wet & Forget works over time to gently remove outdoor stains on virtually any exterior surface without scrubbing. Perfect for mildew and mold removal, the non-caustic, non-acidic and bleach-free, biodegradable formula can be easily applied with a pump garden



sprayer instead of a more labor-intense power washer. The multi-surface outdoor cleaner reduces water usage and is designed for use around landscaping plants.

**3. Spruce up your view** – Clean windows not only brighten the interior of your home, they can make the exterior look fresher, too. Spring is a great time to remove screens (if you haven't stored them for the winter) and give them a good cleaning. Hosing them off should do the trick, but if they're very dirty try cleaning with a little soapy water and a soft scrub brush. Before you replace the screens, give the windows a good cleaning. Arm yourself with lots of paper towels and a good glass cleaner. One that contains vinegar will be effective and eco-friendly if you're concerned about exposing your landscaping to harsh chemicals. Be sure to clean the outside of your windows first. It will make another popular spring cleaning chore – washing the inside of windows – a bit easier.

**4. Taking care of your tools** – Yard work and gardening are realities of warm weather. All your landscaping maintenance chores will be easier if your tools are clean and in good repair. Unload the tool shed or garage of all the equipment you'll use this summer – from rakes and hoes to lawn mowers and trimmers. While you probably cleaned your garden tools before you stored them for winter, they'll still have accumulated dust – and possibly rust – from sitting idle for so many months. Clean rust spots and dirt from metal tools, and use a coating of mineral oil to ensure the rust doesn't return. Clean lawn mower and trimmer blades, and replace the line on string trimmers. Get blades sharpened if necessary, and run through all the maintenance tasks recommended in the manufacturer's handbook for your power equipment.

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# INSTANT GRATIFICATION:

## PAINTING PROJECTS UPDATE YOUR DECOR QUICKLY

Updating the decor in your home doesn't have to be a long, laborious or expensive process. Instead, get a little instant gratification by using paint to easily refresh areas and items throughout the house. With a little cash and a free weekend, you can makeover your house right now.

### FURNITURE FACELIFT

Whether it's an old pair of chairs in the attic or a desk that's seen better days, it's easy to breathe new life into pieces of forgotten furniture with a fresh coat of paint. You can add interest and a pop of color to any room. A semi-gloss finish works best when painting furniture because it's easy to clean and hides any imperfections.

### HOW TO:

- Make sure the surface is clean, dull and dry.
- Prime with a stain blocking primer to ensure the surface is properly sealed. This will help the paint go on evenly and uniformly.
- With a high-quality mini-roller, like those from Purdy, apply the paint of your choice to achieve the best finish. These tools are versatile, lightweight, and can quickly and easily deliver a perfect finish with smooth rolling action.
- For extra protection, brush on two thin, even coats of water-based polyurethane.

### DOOR DO-OVER

Changing the color of an interior door can make a big impact in any room. The key to getting this update right: color selection. Choose color similar to your walls for the door, because you don't want the contrast to be jarring. Be sure to paint the frame too, so the door doesn't seem



It's amazing so see the difference a simple coat of paint can make.

to float in space, and use a gloss or semi-gloss finish.

### HOW TO:

- Remove door and hinges from the wall.
- Make sure the door is clean dull and dry.
- Prime bare, sanded woodwork; there's no need to prime previously painted surfaces if they're in good condition. However, if you are going over an existing oil-based paint with a latex paint, follow the instructions on the paint can on how to prime.
- When applying paint or primer, work from the center of the door outwards in the following order: molding, inside panels, rails, stiles
- Once paint is completely dry, re-hang door using existing hinges.

### STEP TO IT

For an unexpected update, paint an area of the house that doesn't usually receive a lot of love - your stair risers. They can get nicked and scuffed easily, so a fresh finish - and color - can really perk up the staircase. If you're unsure of which shade to choose, cut

and paint cardboard pieces the same size of the risers and position them on the steps to get an idea of the effect.

### HOW TO:

- Dust risers with a broom and cover steps with masking paper; secure with painter's tape.
- Apply latex primer to wooden risers or metal etching primer to metallic ones. Brush horizontally and let dry for at least two hours. Mini rollers are another tool to consider especially over metal.
- Apply gloss, latex paint with a clean brush or mini roller. Let first coat dry two hours, then apply second coat.
- Wait a day for the paint to cure and then add a third coat for the most durable finish.

Remember: Painting is the easiest way to make a dramatic and instant impact on a room. This weekend, get inspired and makeover with these simple and inexpensive projects.

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ARA CONTENT



When the central air conditioning system is unable to handle all the heat a window air conditioner simply gives the pleasure of a cool spot in a cozy corner of your home.

## PORTABLE AIR CONDITIONERS OFFER "EXTRA" HELP

When the humidity is very high and providing central air conditioning is frightfully expensive. The solution lies in the portable air conditioner. It is also helpful for industrial sites, homes or offices.

The main advantage of such a type of air conditioner is that they are very quick and easy to install. Breaking down or lifting up of windowsills is not required at all. It can also be very easily shifted from one place to another and they are many times more advantageous than the window air conditioners. The central air conditioning system is often unable to handle the spots that are left out. These places become very hot. Thus this air conditioner simply gives the pleasure of a cool spot in a cozy corner of your home.

It helps to save money as well. This is because this air conditioner can cool only one room at a time. Thus the electricity consumed is obviously much less than

the other air conditioning systems. They also provide a high amount of energy efficiency.

The older air conditioning systems have a lower rate of efficiency. The average efficiency of portable air conditioners falls in the 8 to 10 range though it can rise up to 15. It is nearly 50 times better than the old ones. It is so small and portable that it can be set in a wall or can even be fitted in a small corner. It also acts like a dehumidifier if you do not want to vent the warm exhaust air through the window.

These are very helpful in reducing allergies as well as humidity. Even the small models are capable of removing 35 pints of moisture from the room per day. The portable air conditioners use the heat exchange principle, which is commonly used by other air conditioners as well. The room air circulates over the evaporator coils. This dehumidifies and cools the warm air inside the unit.

Then the room air is exhausted outdoor after flowing over the hot condenser. The cold air can never escape as the two ducts are being put to use.

What do purifiers do?

There are asthma air purifiers that have been specially designed for those who suffer from this ailment. This air purifier makes the quality of the surrounding air better. A chemical, a particular smell or even pollen often triggers asthma. Such air purifiers utilize both the techniques of mechanical and air purifier technology. By removing the causative agents air purifiers help to alleviate the pains of asthma.

Now you can have the advantage of electronic controls and have your desired room temperature. It also has an inbuilt air cleaner and oscillating louvers so that the air can be distributed properly.

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# GROW: PEPPERS SPICE UP YOUR DINNER

Peppers are an extremely popular plant to grow indoors or outdoors anywhere in the world whether you're in a hot or a cold climate, there is always a chance you will be able to grow peppers successfully and get great tasting peppers.

The choice of peppers in unbelievable at the moment, and with at least 2,500 new species of pepper being created each year and with many of them not even getting time to be named, your perfect pepper can't be far away.

The best place to get hold of peppers is normally at garden centers or seed specialists if you're lucky enough to have one close by. These areas will give you a huge choice of seeds for different peppers to grow and each should have a good description on the back of all the things the pepper will need and what the pepper is like taste wise, but in case you haven't got all the time in the world to scour through endless packets of seeds reading which will be best for you, here are some popular options which should suit most people's needs and tastes.

## HABANERO PEPPERS

These orange or red peppers are extremely hot; if you're looking to get some really hot and spicy peppers then these are for you. At about 200,000 - 300,000 scoville units you won't be able to taste too much after eating one of these.

## JALAPENO PEPPERS

These are a very popular choice in bottled salsa due to the strong flavor of these peppers, a good choice to grow if like something with bite but not as hot as the habanero, a great tasting pepper.

## BELL PEPPERS

These are the sweetest peppers available, very easy to grow and do not have a hot or spicy flavor to them at all, these peppers are great for family meals for kids and within salads, advised for first time pepper growers.

## CAYENNE PEPPERS

Another very hot pepper just falling short of the hot and spicy habanero, cayenne's have 5,000 - 30,000 scoville heat measurement

making them the second hottest of the popular peppers, a very nice strong tasting pepper great for salsas.

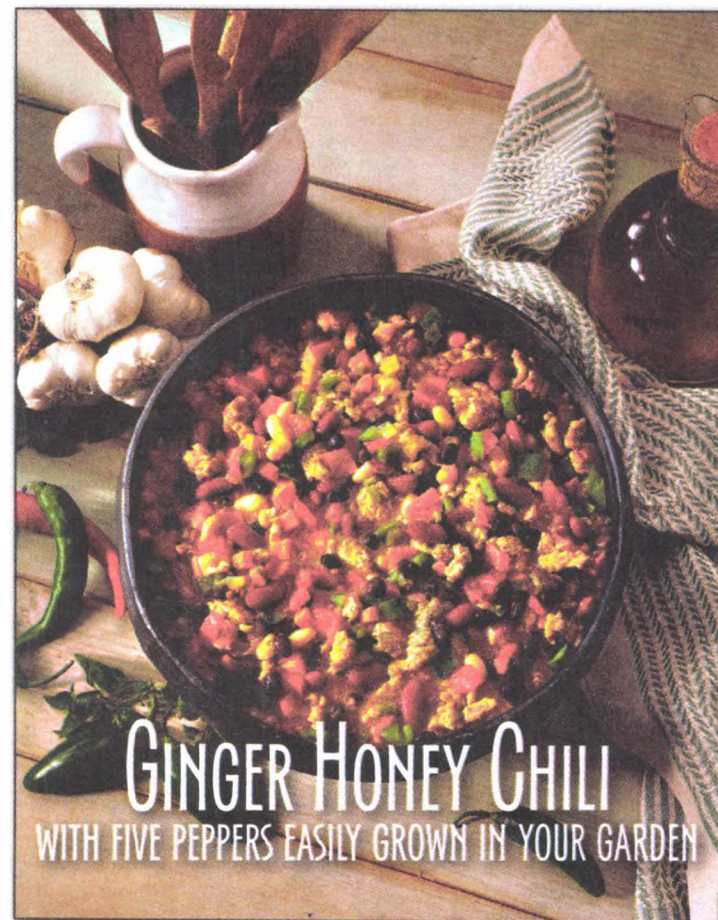
## SERRANO PEPPERS

These peppers have very thin walls making them easy to cook and prepare and are a good pepper to grow for all round taste, heat units, and ease to grow. They are best eaten when green and not left to ripen.

— COURTESY OF FREE ARTICLES



There are many varieties of peppers on the market, the best way to learn which one's you like are simply to visit your local plant distributor and give a few a try.



## GINGER HONEY CHILI

WITH FIVE PEPPERS EASILY GROWN IN YOUR GARDEN

This unique chili recipe starts each bite with a somewhat-sweet ginger overtone which then melds into a full bodied chile spice. This recipe is the stove-top version but it can easily be done in slow cooker as well (starting with step 4).

### Ginger Honey Chili

#### INGREDIENTS

¼ cup bacon drippings  
1 carrot, minced  
1 cup chopped red bell pepper  
1 cup chopped green bell pepper  
1 poblano pepper, diced  
2 jalapeno peppers, minced  
1 habanero pepper, minced  
2 cups chopped onion  
6 cloves garlic, minced  
3 pounds ground beef  
2 cups tomato paste  
1 cup tomato sauce  
1 cup dark beer  
(such as Negra Modelo®)  
2 fluid ounces tequila  
1 cup chicken broth  
3 tablespoons chili powder  
2 teaspoons hot paprika  
2 teaspoons ground cumin  
1 teaspoon ground coriander  
2 teaspoons kosher salt  
1 teaspoon cayenne pepper  
1 teaspoon ground black pepper

2 teaspoons white pepper  
¾ cup honey  
3 tablespoons finely grated ginger, or more to taste

#### DIRECTIONS

Heat bacon drippings in a heavy-bottomed stockpot over medium heat. Cook and stir carrot in the hot drippings for about 3 minutes.

Stir the red bell pepper, green bell pepper, poblano pepper, jalapeno pepper, habanero pepper, and onion with the carrot; cook and stir until tender, 3 to 4 minutes.

Stir in garlic and beef; cook and stir until beef is browned, about 10 minutes. Drain excess grease from the pot.

Stir tomato paste and tomato sauce into the beef mixture. Increase heat to medium-high heat; cook and stir for 2 minutes.

Pour in dark beer, tequila, and chicken broth; bring to a boil.

Reduce heat to medium-low; stir in chili powder, paprika, cumin, coriander, salt, cayenne pepper, black pepper, white pepper, and honey. Simmer for 45 minutes to 2 hours.

Stir grated ginger into the chili about 15 minutes before serving.





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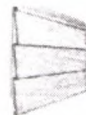
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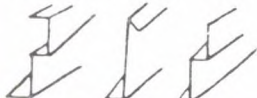
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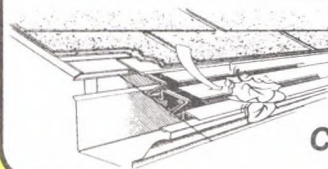
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