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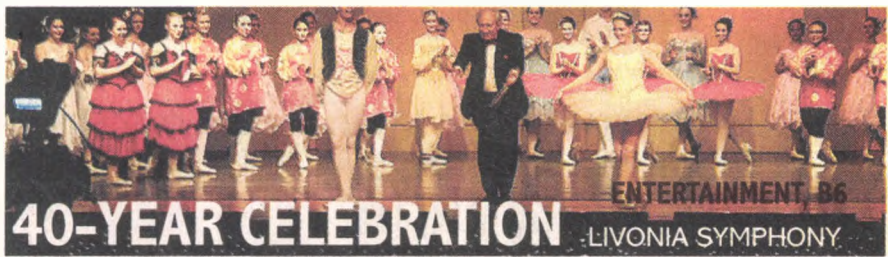
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Candidate forum

The League of Women Voters of NW Wayne County hosts a candidates forum at 7 p.m. Monday, Sept. 24, at the Canton Public Library, 1200 S. Canton Center, for those running for the 20th and 21st districts in the Michigan House of Representatives.

The 20th District seat includes Plymouth, Plymouth Township and part of Canton. The 21st District includes Belleville, Van Buren Township and Canton. Dian Slavens and Joe Barnabei, running for the 21st District seat, and Kurt Heise and Tim Rora-back, the 20th District candidates, have all agreed to attend.

The public is invited to attend the forum and submit questions for the candidates that will be asked by a League moderator. The public can also submit questions in advance through the League's email address: lwv-mail@yahoo.com. The forum will be filmed and will be available on the League's website for viewing.

Essay honor

Plymouth senior Marissa Campbell was among the honorees when Michigan Secretary of State Ruth Johnson and Patriot Week co-founder Oakland Circuit Judge Michael Warren announced the winners of a statewide essay contest for kids to encourage them to learn about the importance of voting.

Campbell earned honorable mention recognition with her essay, "Life, Liberty and Voting?"

The essay contest asked students in grades 6-12 to answer this question in 400 words or less: "How does a citizen's right to vote help make America the greatest country in the world?"

Primary featured wide spending gaps

By Matt Jachman
Observer Staff Writer

The vote margin was narrow but the spending gap was wide in the Republican primary for Plymouth Township clerk.

Incumbent Joe Bridgman, who lost to challenger Nancy Conzelman by 15 votes, outspent her by a more than 3-to-1 margin, listing expenses

in his two most recent campaign finance reports that total more than \$14,400. By contrast, Conzelman's campaign listed expenses of just under \$4,000.

Conzelman, however, also listed in-kind spending of just over \$4,500, adding to her total. The in-kind expenses appear to be goods and services — printing, office supplies and even a parking fee — for which Conzelman

paid from her personal funds. Bridgman listed no in-kind contributions or expenses in his two most recent reports.

The reports are filed in Wayne County Clerk Cathy Garrett's office and are available online. The most recent report cover the period between July 23 and Aug. 27; the primary was Aug. 7.

Please see SPENDING, A5

THE MONEY TRAIL

Here's how the campaign spending looked in the Plymouth Township clerk and treasurer races:

Clerk	Raised	Spent
Joe Bridgman	\$19,382	\$14,435
Nancy Conzelman	\$4,300	\$3,958
Treasurer	Raised	Spent
Ron Edwards	\$10,570	\$11,040
Ed Schulz	\$3,779	\$3,779



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
The restaurant crawl drew an early evening crowd to downtown Plymouth.

PennTasteTic has city 'crawl'-ing with diners

By Matt Jachman
Observer Staff Writer

Ann Lanzoneri was searching on line for five-kilometer races when she found something every good runner needs — a chance for carbohydrate-loading.

It was downtown Plymouth's restaurant crawl, and Lanzoneri was in. She brought friend Ron

More photos, A9. McNally and daughter

Amanda Lanzoneri along Tuesday evening.

"Of course, our first stop's got to be dessert," joked McNally as the trio sampled ice cream at Kilwin's, which also offered tastes of peanut brittle, fudge and taffy to what server A.J. Smith described as a steady stream of crawlers.

The Lanzoneris and McNally, all of Canton Township, were among the hundreds of people attending the seventh annual restaurant crawl, also known as the PennTasteTic. The event, a fundraiser for the



Debbie, Ray and daughter Katie Maloni, sampling some of the specials at Burger Spot.

Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce and the Penn Theatre, featured more than a dozen downtown restaurants and sweet shops, visits to all of which were included in the price of a \$20 ticket.

How many stops were they planning to make? "As many as we have room for," said Ann Lanzoneri.

"So far it's been great every-

where we've been," said Margaret Harris as she and husband Charlie left the Ironwood Grill on Ann Arbor Trail.

The Harris, of Plymouth Township, are PennTasteTic regulars.

"It's good each year to catch the ones you didn't catch before," said Charlie Harris.

Please see CRAWL, A3

Racy online flier draws city scrutiny

By Matt Jachman
Observer Staff Writer

A flier advertising drink specials and featuring photographs of scantily clad young women caused embarrassment Monday for management at the Plymouth Roc as they met with Plymouth's Local Liquor License Review Committee.

No action was taken against the Roc, but Plymouth officials said the ad was not in keeping with the business plan the Roc's owners filed when they took over the Ann Arbor Road bar and restaurant, formerly Boulders, three years ago, and also violated an improvement plan agreed to this spring, when officials threatened to recommend the state revoke the Roc's liquor license.

But Roc attorney Keith Kecskes said the flier, which advertised Thursday evenings as "college night," had been published via Facebook without the Roc management's knowledge or consent. The flier was a marketing idea from an outside company that had not been approved, Kecskes said.

"We find ourselves answering to a flier we didn't draft, we didn't print, we didn't post," Kecskes told the committee, composed of Mayor Dan Dwyer and City Commission members Ed Hingelberg and Meg Dooley.

Roc owners John Mourselas and Stavos "Steve" Stergiou were at Monday's meeting but did not speak.

"They didn't approve the promotion," Kecskes said. "They didn't post the promotion."

"It's out there," responded Dwyer.

"Are you going to have Pepsi pong for the kids?" said Hingelberg, referring to a drinking game called beer pong, which the flier did not mention.

The mayor said the flier promoted an atmosphere contrary to the "family-friendly" environment mentioned in the Roc's 2009 business plan, and that drink specials like the ones advertised vio-

Please see FLIER, A3

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Scene stealer

Mettetal provides backdrop for film crew

By Darrell Clem
Observer Staff Writer

Mettetal Airport in Canton became a movie location last Friday when director-writer-producer-actor Sam Logan Khaleghi brought in a film crew to shoot scenes for *Approaching Midnight*, which tells the story of a U.S. Army staff sergeant's return from Afghanistan and the emotional difficulties he faces in life.

Airport manager Pete Foster said Khaleghi and his film crew spent several hours shooting scenes of a Piper Twin Comanche taking off and landing — and segments of actors having conversations in the aircraft.

"It was great," Foster, a Livonia resident, said. "The weather was beautiful that day. It was a community thing on my part, and it's goodwill on the airport's part."

Approaching Midnight stars actors such as Khaleghi, Jana Kramer, Jason Waugh and Brandon T. Jackson. Kramer, also a country music singer, was among those who joined Khaleghi on the set.

Khaleghi, who was nominated for an Emmy as producer of another film, *Prison Boat*, said Mettetal Airport proved the perfect location for the new film. He found the airport through the Michigan Film Office.

"We needed a small-town airport. The narrative of the scene required a very private situation," Khaleghi said.

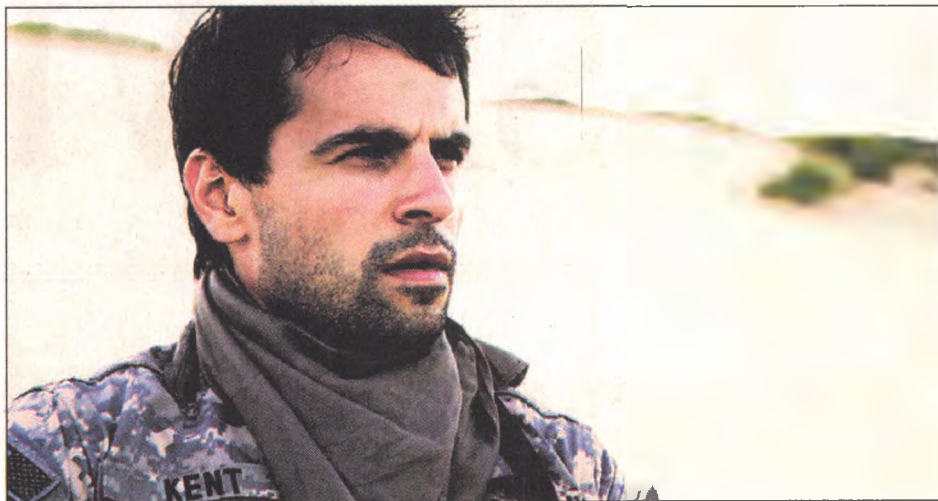
Moreover, the film crew was greeted enthusiastically by airport personnel such as Foster.

"He was very accommodating. He was an amazing guy," Khaleghi said. "It was like a housewarming. It was like going to a friend's house."

Foster said he didn't hesitate when the airport was contacted as a possible site for filming.

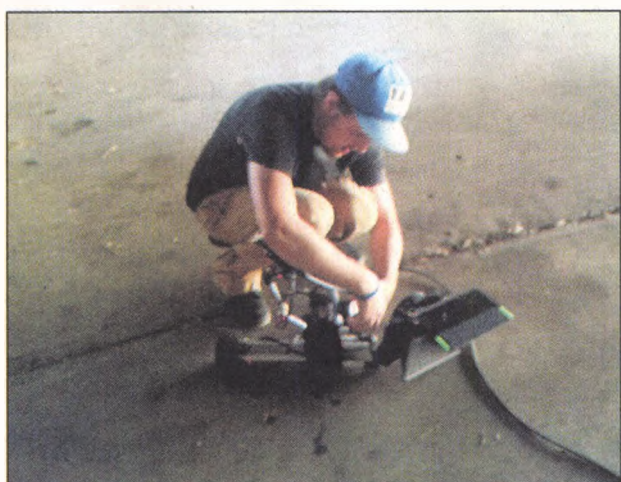
"Sam was delighted to come over (and shoot scenes)," Foster said. "It all came together for him and the airport."

Foster said a local pilot, Bill Brown (not of Bill Brown Ford), flew



SAM LOGAN KHALEGHI | 12 A.M. PICTURES LLC

Sam Logan Khaleghi, who plays U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Wesley Kent in his new film 'Approaching Midnight,' brought a film crew to Mettetal Airport to shoot scenes involving a small airplane.



PETE FOSTER | METTETAL AIRPORT

A crew member works on equipment during filming at Mettetal Airport.



PETE FOSTER | METTETAL AIRPORT

Director Sam Logan Khaleghi, directing a new film 'Approaching Midnight,' takes pictures during his visit with a film crew to Mettetal Airport.



SAM LOGAN KHALEGHI | 12 A.M. PICTURES LLC

Sam Logan Khaleghi, who is director, producer, writer and actor in 'Approaching Midnight,' stands near a scene where filming occurred at Mettetal Airport.

a plane for some of the scenes. Foster helped

behind the scenes by driving an airport

truck with a film crew in it, shooting scenes of the landing aircraft.

Khaleghi's film crew shot scenes for about seven hours, Foster said, estimating that 40 people were at Mettetal Airport for the film shoot.

The film crew used a Piper Twin Comanche, described by Foster as a light two-propeller aircraft that seats four people including the pilot.

Foster said he was lucky that not many local pilots were flying last Friday — a move that made it easier for Khaleghi to do his work. Pilots and others who were at the airport watched with interest as the film crew shot scenes.

"Everyone cooperated," Foster said. "I was very delighted to help the film crew out."

Khaleghi, also filming in areas such as Birmingham-Bloomfield, is a Detroit native directing his second film with *Approaching Midnight*. He said filming is expected to wrap up in a month, and the movie will be marketed on the independent film circuit in hopes of attracting a distributor for wide release.

It's a movie that could put Mettetal Airport on the movie map — at least for Foster and others who will recognize the setting.

Mettetal Airport, southeast of Joy and Lilley roads on Canton's north end, has about 100 planes based there. Foster estimated it has roughly 400 landings during good-weather months.

dclcm@hometownlife.com
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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.

CHARTER OPEN HOUSE

Date/Time: Tuesday, Sept. 25, 6-8 p.m.

Location: Plymouth Scholars Charter Academy, 48484 N. Territorial in Plymouth

Details: Plymouth Scholars Charter Academy hosts an open house, where staff members will be on hand to present information about the school. The meeting will include an informal question-and-answer period.

Contact: Call (866) 642-3676.

JAZZ @ THE ELKS

Date/Time: Tuesday, Sept. 25, 7-10 p.m.

Location: Plymouth Elks Lodge #1780, 41700 Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth

Details: The Plymouth Elks Lodge #1780 hosts the jazz mastery of the Paul VornHagen Quartet with Paul on Sax and Flute, Chuck Shermatero on Keyboard, Kurt Krahnke on Bass and Pete Siers on Drums. There is a \$10 donation at the door which includes hors d'oeuvres.

For more information, call (734) 453-1780 or email plymouthelks1780@yahoo.com.

BLOOD DRIVES

Dates: Various

Locations: Various

Details: The American Red Cross sponsors blood drives at the following dates, times and locations: Friday, Oct. 5, Busch's Market/Caribou Coffee, Plymouth, 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.; Sunday, Oct. 7, St. Thomas a'Becket Church, Canton, 8:30 a.m. to 2:15 p.m.; Monday, Oct. 8, Church of Christ, 1-6:45 p.m.; Sunday, Oct. 14, First Presbyterian Church, 7:30 a.m. to 1:15 p.m.; Tuesday, Oct. 16, Victory Toyota, 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.; Saturday, Oct. 20, NorthRidge Church, Plymouth, 7:30 a.m. to 1:15 p.m.; Monday, Oct. 22, Trinity Presbyterian Church, 2-7:45 p.m.; and Wednesday, Oct. 24, VFW Post 6695, Plymouth, 2-7:45 p.m.

Contact: Donors can contact Diane at (313) 549-7052 or Diane.Risko@redcross.org to set up an appointment.

FRIENDS OF MILLER WOODS

Date/Time: Wednesday, Sept. 26, 7 p.m.

Location: Plymouth District Library, 223 S. Main, Plymouth

Details: In our corner of Wayne County there is a remnant of a forest landscape that once greeted pioneers to this area in the early 1800s. This gem is a designated nature preserve and the objective of the Friends of Miller Woods is to protect and preserve it for future generations. The Friends extend an invitation to anyone interested in learning more about Miller Woods, including volunteer opportunities. Individuals or groups who want to become involved in big or small ways are encouraged to come to this meeting.

Contact: Call Joyce Holmes (734) 453-8457 or visit www.millerwoods.com.

USED BOOK SALE

Date/Time: Friday and Saturday, Oct. 5-6, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Location: Risen Christ Lutheran Church, 46250 Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth

Details: This annual sale includes hardcovers (\$1) and paperbacks (50 cents) along with DVDs and CDs covering a variety of subject matter and popular authors.

Contact: Call (734) 453-5252 or Dean at (734) 455-3536.

HEISE COFFEE

Date/Time: Friday, Sept. 21, 7:30-9 a.m.

Location: Panera Bread, 400 S. Main in Plymouth

Details: State Rep. Kurt Heise is sponsoring coffee hours to give residents a convenient opportunity to meet with him locally. Heise is also available to meet with constituents by appointment either in the district or at his Lansing office.

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

AMERICAN SEWING GUILD

Date/Time: First Thursday of each month, 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Location: First Presbyterian Church, 701 Church St., Plymouth

Details: the American Sewing Guild-Plymouth-Canton Neighborhood Group is open to all sewists of all levels. Demonstrations at upcoming meetings include "Sewn Yarn Scarf" Oct. 1; and "Purse/tote challenge judging and holiday gift ideas" Nov. 1.

Contact: For more information, email asgpc@comcast.net

CORRECTION

A story in Sunday's *Plymouth Observer*, "Recounts confirm clerk, treasurer race winners," should have said that Edwin Schulz, who lost the Republican primary to incumbent Ron Edwards in the race for Plymouth Township treasurer, was considering a write-in candidacy in that race.

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Jorge Manzano, of Zin, talks wine with Colleen Conklin and Elaine Thomas, both of Canton.

CRAWL

Continued from page A1

All crawlers in fact had a chance this year to sample new fare, as the Sardine Room, Panache 447 and the Greek Islands restaurants all opened within the last 10 months. Harris recommended the risotto with crab and lobster at the Sardine Room; the samples served there, he added, would bring people back.

At the Ironwood, Land-on Garrett, one of the owners, was serving up pulled-pork sliders and chips with spinach and artichoke dip.

"We do very well for this. It's a fun event," Garrett said. "It helps us out as well, brings people into the city."

Chamber president Wes Graff said PennTasteTic sold out of its 250 tickets — as it usually does. "This is downtown Plymouth," he said.

Proceeds are split

evenly between the chamber and the Penn; the restaurants get the publicity value.

"Get people in the door once, you hope they come back," said Nic Agostini, a manager at Burger Spot, on Forest, where crawlers ate mini Coney dogs and sliders.

"I think it's a wonderful event," said Debbie Maloni, who was at Burger Spot with her husband, Ray, and their daughter, Katie.

Maloni, who said she and her husband had long been involved in the Friends of the Penn and that she helped name the PennTasteTic, said she liked that the crawl gets people out in the community, supports local restaurants and benefits the theater.

"It's just fun," she said. PennTasteTic participants voted Nico & Vali, the Italian restaurant on Wing, as having the best food in the crawl.

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FLIER

Continued from page A1

late the improvement plan agreed to in May, after several incidents prompted a city review of the Roc's operations.

The Roc's owners disputed in May that all of the incidents cited arose from their establishment, but took a number of steps to tighten alcohol controls and improve security. Kecskes noted there has been no police involvement at the facility since the plan was adopted.

Kecskes said that while the flier was "not accurate" and "wouldn't be appropriate," the Roc isn't the same place at night that it is during the day.

"There are certainly times of the day when the character of the facil-

ity changes," he said, and that's not unusual for restaurants that serve alcohol.

Dwyer called for improved communication with the city regarding potential problems, and said he wanted the Roc's owners to know "we're watching."

"We want you to watch and we believe they deserve to have their feet held to the fire," Kecskes said.

City Manager Paul Sincoc said officials had been made aware of the flier within the past 10 days when a citizen saw it online and emailed it to the city. The LLLRC's quarterly review of the Roc had already been scheduled as part of the Roc's improvement plan, Sincoc said.

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Teens get up-close look at safe driving

By Brad Kadrich
Observer Staff Writer

Lael Wynne of Canton had a tough time navigating the obstacle course set up for teen drivers at Saturday's "Celebrate My Drive" safe driving event sponsored by State Farm and various law enforcement agencies.

She was texting while driving, part of the exercise set up by organizers, and she had difficulty getting around the orange cones at various stages of the course.

And since she was only driving a golf cart, the message organizers were hoping she'd get seemed to sink in.

"It's pretty hard to multi-task while driving," Wynne said.

That's the kind of thing State Farm officials, Wayne County Sheriff's Department deputies and Canton Police officers were hoping youngsters would learn Saturday in a series of activities designed to show teens the dangers of driving.

According to information provided by State Farm, car crashes are the number one killer of American teenagers, with their first year of driving being the most dangerous.

While what officials called "traditional scare tactics" still resonate with some new drivers, State Farm is adopting a more supportive, positive approach to teen driver safety.

"State Farm believes once teen drivers recog-



Brianna Briegel, 16, of Ann Arbor, rides the seat-belt convincer set up by Wayne County Sheriff's Department officers to demonstrate what a slow-speed crash might feel like.

nize (the dangers), they'll be more aware," said Ron Bodine, State Farm Agency Field Executive. "We know this approach of teaching and sharing is working."

To make sure Saturday was a teaching moment, the Wayne County Sheriff's Department provided a "seat belt convincer" and a rollover simulator to show teens what being in an accident can be like. The rollover simulator was a "watch and learn" device that used a test dummy to show the effects of a rollover accident on drivers not wearing seat belts.

The "seat belt convincer" was a hands-on ride that gently lowered teens down an incline to see what crashing and having an air bag deployed



Wayne County Sheriff's Department Cpl. Phil Migliaccio demonstrates what drivers might experience if they aren't seat-belted in during a rollover accident.

might feel like. "It's like an accident at 5- to 7-mph," said WCSO Cpl. Phil Migliaccio. "At a low speed like that it jostles you pretty good. Most accidents happen at 25 mph or

higher, so this gives kids some perspective." Lisa Briegel of Ann Arbor brought her daughter, Brianna, to the Canton event for just such perspective. She's got 16-



Canton teenager Lael Wynne learns how difficult it can be to multi-task while driving during Saturday's safe driving event in Canton.



Twins Benjamin and Joshua Reynolds of Highland take a break from conquering the inflatable obstacle course for a photo op during Saturday's safe driving event in Canton.

year-old Brianna already on the road, and a 15-year-old waiting in the wings.

"I think this is an excellent way to make kids aware," said Briegel. "Anything promoting safety is positive."

Brianna wasn't so sure, particularly when she was contemplating climbing

into the seat belt convincer. But one ride was enough to, well, convince her.

"I learned what actually happens ... you can experience it without getting hurt," she said after trying the convincer. "I don't want that to happen to me."

bkadrich@hometownlife.com
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CRIME WATCH

Purloined iPod

An iPod was taken from a vehicle belonging to a Northbrook, Ill., couple earlier this month in what police reports indicate was the fourth recent vehicle burglary at the Hilton Garden Inn on Sheldon Road.

The incident took place between Sept. 7 and Sept. 9 but was not reported until Sept. 12, according to a Plymouth Township Police Department report. The Jeep Liberty had been left unlocked, but police also noted pry marks on the lock to its driver-side door.

Three other break-ins of vehicles parked outside the hotel occurred on the night of Sept. 7 and were reported the next day. Entry into all three vehicles had been forced and cash and electronics reported stolen from them.

Vandalism

Two vehicles were "keyed," or scratched with a sharp object, a garage door was also damaged and backyard planters were knocked over one night earlier this month at a home on Canton Center Road just north of Joy Road.

The vandalism was reported the morning of Sept. 9 and had taken place some time since around 9:30 p.m. the day before, a police report said. The scratched vehicles, parked in the driveway, were a Honda Accord and a Mercedes Benz E350, and coffee had also been tossed on both cars, police said. Panels on the garage door had been

dentured and scratched, police said.

Trailer burglary

The radio was reported stolen Sunday from a motor home being kept at Travel Trailer Storage, on Ann Arbor Road east of Lilley.

The theft had taken place some time since Aug. 1, the complainant told police. The trailer had been left unlocked; the radio had been ripped from the dashboard, a police report said.

Car egged, scratched

A car was reportedly egged while parked outside a Plymouth Township home over the weekend, and the mother of the complainant told police it was the second time this month that her home had been hit by that type of vandalism.

The latest incident occurred Saturday night or early Sunday; the owner of the Nissan Cube told police he only noticed the dried egg remains on the car after leaving a church service in Saline later Sunday, but that he was certain the incident had happened on Pine Hill Drive in the township, not outside the church.

The victim's mother told police her house had also been egged on the night of Sept. 5.

Police noted the Cube had also been scratched on its rear passenger side.

— By Matt Jachman

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Sealed bids for the Plymouth Canton Community Schools, consisting of:

Fiegel School Building - Science & Toilet Room Remodel Project

will be received at the office of Mr. Brodie Killian, Executive Director for Business Services, Plymouth Canton Community Schools, 454 S. Harvey, Plymouth, MI 48170 until 1:30 p.m. local time on Thursday, October 4, 2012 at which time they will be opened and read publicly at Plymouth Canton Community School, E.J. McClendon Educational Center, 454 S. Harvey, Plymouth, Michigan, 48170.

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

Faxed or e-mailed proposals will not be accepted.

This Project will consist of separate sealed bids for the following Bid Divisions of work:

103 Selective Demolition	120 Painting
106 Masonry	125 Toilet Partitions
108 Carpentry & General Trades	129 Science Casework & Equipment
115 Metal Stud / Drywall / Acoustical Treatments	140 Plumbing
116 Hard Tile	142 HVAC
118 Resilient Tile Flooring	143 Electrical

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

Bidders may obtain one (1) set of bidding documents, beginning at 10:00 A.M. on Tuesday, September 18, 2012, by contacting the Construction Manager, **McCarthy & Smith, Inc.**, at (248) 427-8400. Additional plans may be ordered and purchased directly from Dunn Blue Reprographics Technology, (248) 288-5600. Bids are to be submitted in a sealed envelope supplied by the Construction Manager, **McCarthy & Smith, Inc.** The bid division(s) being bid is/are to be identified on the outside of the envelope.

There will be a pre-bid meeting held on Tuesday, September 25, 2012 at 3:00 p.m. at the Fiegel School Building located at 39750 Joy Road, Plymouth, MI 48170. The purpose of the meeting will be to review the project, schedule and to answer any questions that bidders may have.

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

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

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

This project is a prevailing wage rate project.

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

Publish: September 20, 2012

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Event puts 'Bark' into fundraising

By Darrell Clem
Observer Staff Writer

Calling herself "a miracle girl," Canton resident Kathie McFry has strong support from husband Ron and other family members as she battles stage-four anal cancer that spread to her liver.

Yet, she has another untiring source of love and comfort, a 3-year-old Golden Retriever named Bo, who has tended to her when she comes home sick from chemotherapy and radiation treatment.

"There are times when I'm down and need to cry, and Bo



McFry

is here for me," McFry said.

"He's a good listener. He's a good comedian when I need a comedian. He's a cuddler when I need a cuddler. He

has meant everything. There's something about that unconditional love you get from a dog.

"They love you when your hair falls out and you look ugly," she said.

In an effort to honor furry friends like Bo and raise money for the American Cancer

Society, McFry and dog-lover Janet Stafford are co-chairing the second Bark for Life, a canine-centered fundraiser patterned after Relay for Life that includes a doggie costume contest, a musical sit game similar to musical chairs, a best-trick contest and a shortest- and longest-tail competition.

Registration starts at 10 a.m. Saturday at Canton's Heritage Park, off Canton Center south of Cherry Hill, and the event continues through a closing ceremony that ends at 3 p.m. Participants can pay \$20 for one dog — and \$5 for each additional pooch — by signing up at www.relayforlife.org/barkcantonmi, or just show up at Bark for Life.

Last year's event drew 78 dogs, 200 people and raised \$6,000 to fight cancer.

Jill Andra Young, who owns a Plymouth photography business specializing in pet portraits, is a Bark for Life committee member who is among the vendors coming to Saturday's event. Young, whose mother is a cancer survivor, has a 2-year-old Basenji named Henri.

"My main interest in Bark for Life is the canine companionship part of it," Young said. "If you've ever just had the flu, it's so nice to have a dog lie in bed

next to you and be a companion. It's healing, that unconditional love. They seem to know when you don't feel well, and they're just happy to have you at home."

McFry said Saturday's event will be followed by two other events: a fundraiser 6-9 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 25, at bd's Mongolian Grill on Ford Road in Canton featuring Detroit Lion Brandon Pettigrew, followed by a Plymouth Whalers game against Sudbury set for 7:05 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 29. Tickets for the latter event can be found at www.relayforlife.org/barkcantonmi.

SPENDING

Continued from page A1

Both candidates raised almost as much as they spent, with Bridgman's campaign committee ending the last reporting period with a \$75 balance and Conzelman's with a balance of about \$342. Bridgman, however, also filed a late contribution reporting listing contributions of just over \$4,900, nearly all of it from the candidate himself.

For Bridgman, the cumulative fundraising and spending totals date back to the day after the last township Board of Trustees election in November 2008, but for Conzelman, they date back only to May, when she formed her campaign committee.

Conzelman's big donors included township Supervisor Richard Reaume (\$500), Livonia retiree Therese Scharbach (\$600), and several of Conzelman's family members, who gave a total of \$1,300. Conzelman's reports indicate her committee owes her \$4,527 —

the same amount listed for the in-kind contributions she made.

Bridgman's biggest campaign contributors, aside from himself, were resident Tom Kelly (\$400), a firefighter in Royal Oak who was active in opposing recent cuts in Plymouth Community Fire Department staffing, which Bridgman also opposed, plus the 11th Congressional District Republican Committee, which gave Bridgman \$1,000. Bridgman's reports show his campaign owes him just over \$7,000.

Conzelman, who faces no Democratic opponent in the November general election, initially won the primary by eight votes; a recount last week, sought by Bridgman, increased her winning margin to 15 votes.

Treasurer spending

In the race for treasurer, incumbent Ron Edwards, who won the primary, outspent challenger Edwin Schulz by a wide margin, listing cumulative expenses of just over \$11,000. Schulz, who provided all of his

own funding, spent \$3,779 and ended with a zero balance, his campaign finance reports show.

Edwards raised money through a variety of donors, while Schulz listed his \$3,779 spending as a loan to his campaign.

For Edwards, who is seeking a fifth term, the election cycle dates back to November 2008, while for Schulz, who was making his first run for public office, it goes back only to May.

Printing, office supplies, postage and lawn signs typically account for the bulk of local campaign spending; Edwards also listed expenses incurred for a May fundraising event.

Edwards listed in-kind expenditures of around \$2,350 for the election cycle, while Schulz listed no in-kind expenditures.

Schulz lost the primary by 400 votes but called for a recount, which last week increased Edwards' winning margin to 404 votes. Edwards faces Democrat Rita White in the general election.

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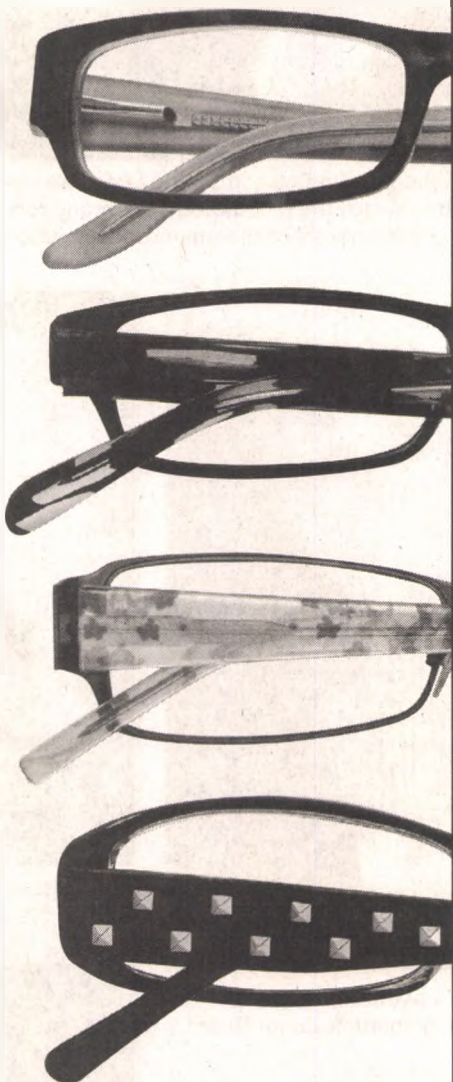


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Revolutionary War soldier's gravesite rededicated

By Karen Smith
Observer Staff Writer

The grave site of a Revolutionary War soldier buried in Livonia was rededicated during a ceremony Sunday attended by 13 of his direct descendants.

Pvt. David Dean was just 15 when he enlisted in the Continental Army on March 1, 1778, while living in New York. Chronicles have recorded that he marched to West Point and met George Washington. He took part in the famous battle of Minisink and was one of only 30 patriots to survive.

He moved to Livonia Township in 1836 to live near sons David, Gabriel, William and Luther. He died at age 76 on Sept. 23, 1838, and was buried in Newburgh Cemetery.

In 1930, the Sarah Ann Cochrane Chapter of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution decorated his grave-site with a Revolutionary War Patriot marker. But over time, the marker disappeared and his headstone broke into pieces.

The Sarah Ann Cochrane Chapter — headquartered in the Plymouth-Canton-Northville area — paid to replace the marker and restore the gravestone, said Kathleen Ripley Leo, the chapter's regent.

"Our mission is to celebrate their sacrifice," Leo said of Revolutionary War soldiers. "They sacrificed their fortunes, honor and sometimes their lives to make our freedom possible."

'They did it up royal'

Descendants came from as far away as California, but also from Canton, Plymouth, Pinckney, Rochester and Ypsilanti to attend the rededication, which included a fife and drum corps, color guard, sword ceremony and taps.

"They did it up royal. They did it full-tilt," said Sue Daniel, chair of the Livonia Historical Commission and a member of the Sarah Ann Cochrane DAR Chapter.

The ceremony was attended by about 60 people total.

Troy David Schmidt, the great-great-great-grandson of David Dean, traveled from California. He has been researching David Dean's descendants for three decades. He said little personal information is known about David Dean himself.

"We know about his military service, some land records and dates for births, deaths and marriages of David and his family, but there are no known written records to provide us with information about his personal thoughts, beliefs or experiences," Schmidt said.

"His granddaughter, Mary, described the family as 'sturdy Puritan stock, so strict (they) refused to cook on Sunday ...'"

"David's grandchildren further described him as a kind man of '(Scottish)' descent who loved children and enjoyed telling stories about the war," Schmidt said. "I imagine him as stern, determined and independent — a man who



The Sarah Ann Cochrane Chapter of the DAR provided boutonnieres for direct descendants of David Dean during the ceremony.

worked hard everyday and whose life was shaped by his Presbyterian heritage."

Enlisted three times

David Dean was born in 1763 in Little Britain, N.Y. According to the DAR, he served for just three months following his initial enlistment. Much of that service was fatigue duty and guarding the jail at Goshen, N.Y. Over the next two years, he enlisted twice more to serve for a total of 14 months and 16 days.

He married Phoebe Borland in 1784, and they had nine children who survived to adulthood. The family moved from Goshen, N.Y., to Canandaigua, N.Y., about 1800. Phoebe died Sept. 20, 1831, after which David Dean moved to Livonia Township.

"He didn't live very long (afterward)," Daniel said,

David Dean gave the musket he used in the Revolutionary War to his son, Gabriel, who had accompanied him on the move to Livonia Township, Daniel said. Gabriel served in the War of 1812, as did three of David Dean's other sons. Gabriel's son Henry fought in the Civil War.

Three of David Dean's sons went on from Livonia to Ingham, Eaton and Jackson counties. Luther stayed behind and also is buried in Newburgh Cemetery.

Daniel said David Dean is one of four known Revolutionary War soldiers buried in Newburgh Cemetery, the city's oldest. His headstone was close to a tree, and one of the roots had dislodged and toppled it as the tree grew.

Schmidt said attending the rededication of his great-great-great-grandfather's tombstone was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for him.

"I'm very happy to see it upright," he said.

ksmith@hometownlife.com
(313) 222-2098



Lawrence Dean Sr. and his brother, Bennett Joy Dean, visited the grave site sometime in the 1930s, after the original marker was placed by the Sarah Ann Cochrane Chapter of the DAR.



PHOTOS BY DAN DEAN

Giving the grave marker a sword salute are Sons of the Revolutionary War Honor Guard members, Gerald Burkland, Joe Conger and Rod Wilson.



Descendants of David Dean — siblings, John Dean, Ypsilanti; Lawrence Dean Jr., Rochester, and Barbara Hight, Plymouth — watch the rededication ceremony conducted by the Sarah Ann Cochrane Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution.



Descendant Troy Schmidt of Goleta, Calif., came to Livonia to attend the rededication of David Dean's grave site. "I'm very happy to see it upright," he said of the tombstone.



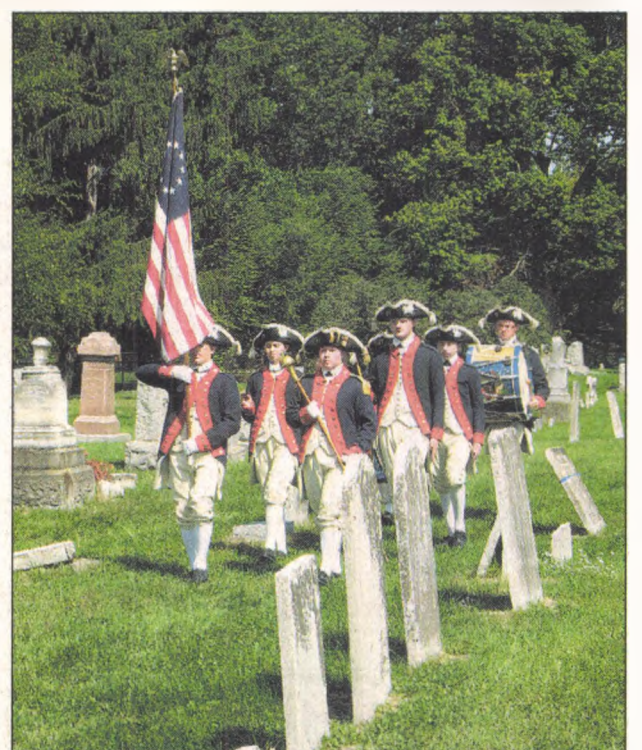
Lauren Evert of Pinckney takes a photo of the grave stone and Sons of the American Revolution Honor Guard member Joe Conger.



Ardis McLeod (right) and LuDean Peters read the inscription on the grave stone of David Dean.



Kathleen Ripley Leo, regent of the Sarah Ann Cochrane Chapter of the DAR, talks to the 60 or so people, including 13 direct descendants, who attended the grave rededication ceremony for Revolutionary War soldier David Dean.



The Plymouth Fife and Drum Corps starts the ceremony at Newburgh Cemetery.

Survivor takes walk to advance lung cancer research

By Sue Mason
Observer Staff Writer

When it comes to lung cancer, Mary Jo Grand knows the statistics.

Lung cancer surpassed breast cancer as the No. 1 killer of women in 1987. It kills more men each year than prostate cancer. It kills more people than breast, prostate, colon, liver, kidney and melanoma combined. It is the No. 1 cancer killer in the United States and the least funded when it comes to research.

She knows those statistics because she has lung cancer. Diagnosed four years ago, she has made it her mission to raise money for research and help those battling the disease. The Garden City resident is holding her third annual MJ Grand Breathe Easy Walk Fun Run/Walk and Dine on Sunday, Oct. 14, to benefit for the University of Michigan Lung Cancer Research Program.

"When I was diagnosed with lung cancer, I never expected the response I received, I was shocked," she said. "People didn't asked how I was doing, it was 'Oh, you must have been a smoker.' It's time to stop the blame game, it doesn't solve anything."

"People who have been diagnosed with lung cancer deserve to receive support and be treated with compassion. We can't get around the fact that smoking is bad for your health, but nearly 80 percent of all newly diagnosed lung cancer patient either never smoked or quit decades ago," she said.

Grand has raised more than \$42,000 for lung cancer research with her Breathe Easy event. It is one of the biggest fundraisers for the U-M research program, and she is hoping to get more



Mary Jo Grand and her husband Tom refer to their trip to Ann Arbor for her chemotherapy treatments as their spa day. Diagnosed with stage 4 lung cancer, the Garden City resident is holding her third annual Breathe Easy Fun Run/Walk and Dinner on Sunday, Oct. 14, to raise money for lung cancer research.

people to sign up and raise even more money.

The walk/run is along the Rouge River Gateway Trail and portions of the University of Michigan-Dearborn campus. Registration is at 10 a.m. with the run starting at 11 a.m. and the walk at 11:15 a.m.

The start and finish is adjacent to the Andiamo Italian Steak House which is the dining host for this year's event. The public is invited to gather at the restaurant for an afternoon of special moderately priced Italian food music, Sunday football, children's activities, including face painting and balloon art and a silent auction featuring sports memorabilia, golf packages, hotel packages, jewelry, wine baskets and more.

Andiamo, located at 21400 Michigan Ave., Dearborn, will donate a portion of each diner's food bill between the hours of noon and 4 p.m. to Breathe Easy.

"The gateway trail is spectacular at this time of the year, we couldn't ask for a more beautiful spot for the event," said Grand.

There is a \$20 registration fee. Participants can sign up online and create their own fundraising page at www.breatheeasy.kintera.org. Anyone who raises \$100 will receive a commemorative T-shirt. Children age 12 and under are free.

The afternoon also will include special guests Betsy De Parry and Sarah Murray. De Parry, a 12-year survivor of lymphoma, is the producer of *Candid Cancer Reports* on PBS, author of two books, *Adventures In Cancer Land* and the *Rollercoaster Chronicles*. She also is an advocate for cancer research. Murray is widow of Vada Murray, former University of Michigan football player, who will share her and her family's experience with lung cancer.

Grand was 47 years old when,

in 2008, she was diagnosed with stage IV lung cancer. She decided to participate in a clinical trial that used targeted therapy to deal with the disease. Every three weeks, she goes to the cancer center to receive an infusion of Avastin, a cancer drug that has kept the disease at bay. She just received her 78th infusion. Doctors, she said, "are rolling their eyes in wonder." Nurses look at her chart and say 78 can't be right.

"Four years ago I was given six months to a year," she said. "There were 47 people in phase two of the clinical trials. I got very lucky, it worked for me."

Having cancer has changed Grand. She appreciates the little things in life. Cancer, she said, has taught her "to live in the moment."

Grand and her husband, Tom, make the trip to the cancer center every three weeks. They call it their spa day. After her treatment, they stop for dinner at a favorite restaurant or try some place new. They have met many people at the center during those four years — people who can't eat or sleep, people who are "so scared." The Grands talk to them about their journey.

"She gives them hope and they leave there with hope," said Tom Grand.

"The Avastin is working, that and a lot of prayers," added Grand. "I told my doctor that No. 1, I put this in God's hand to let the medicine do what it can. With guided medication and prayer, I'm still here today."

"My doctor said he probably will never live to see a cure, but he will see it as a managed disease," she added.

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Library's 'Back to Business' school back in session

The Canton Public Library's Back to Business School is in session for the fall.

Library officials call the school "a great opportunity for entrepreneurs and small business owners to learn some new skills and get information to help them succeed in their venture."

All classes are free and open to anyone, but some require registration due to space limitations.

• Thursday, Sept. 20, noon to 1 p.m. — Beginning Business With SCORE: the business counseling professionals from SCORE will help you get your business off the ground.

• Tuesday, Sept. 25, noon to 1 p.m. — WordPress to Webpage: Advertise your business by converting a free WordPress blog page into a webpage — no HTML taught or needed.

• Thursday, Sept. 27, noon to 1 p.m. — Tweeting for Business Success: Learn why and how to best use Twitter to meet your business goals from Mike McClure, president of Social Media Club Detroit and Executive Creative Director at The Yaffe Group.

More information is available by calling the Canton Public Library at (734) 397-0999 or visiting www.cantonpl.org

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PLYMOUTH CHAMBER CHAT

Chamber breakfast

Lt. Gov. Brian Calley will be the featured speaker for the Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce's September breakfast, set for 7:30-9 a.m. Wednesday, Sept. 26, at the Schoolcraft College VisTaTech Center.

Calley has partnered with Gov. Rick Snyder to drive much of the legislative change that has occurred in Michigan during the last two years. More than most past lieutenant governors, he is extremely active at the capitol as the governor's point person to guide his reforms through the legislative process.

To RSVP, please respond no later than September 24 to teri@plymouthmich.org or call (734) 453-1540. The cost is \$12. Food will be served from 7:45-8:15 and Calley will speak shortly after.

Schoolcraft College's VisTaTech Center is located at 18600 Haggerty in Livonia.

Ladies night

It's time again for Downtown Plymouth's annual Ladies Night Out, set for Thursday, Sept. 27, from 5-9 p.m.

This event is a night for ladies to enjoy an evening on the town with friends, visit the participating stores and enjoy shopping, gifts, samples, prizes



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Scarecrows will be decorated this weekend in downtown Plymouth's Kellogg Park.

es and refreshments. Several restaurants will also have special drinks, appetizers and more.

Participating stores this year include: Agio Spa; Basket Kreations; Bella Mia; Bed & Boutique; Candy Trail; Creatopia Pottery Studio; Cupcake Station; Dazzling Daniela; Dearborn Jewelers; Delta Diamond Setters & Jewelers; Eclectic Attic; Genuine Toy Co.; GiGi's Mode; Hands on Leather; Home Sweet Home; Isabella's Copper Pot; Kilwin's; Lolaryan; Maggie & Me; Magnolia Fresh Flower Market; Merle Norman; Old World Olive Press; Opndohr; R.S.V.P.; Sharer Design Group; sideways; Simply the Best; Sun & Snow; Sunny J's Lingerie; That's Awesome/Primp and TranquiliTea.

Back by popular demand, Mr. 48170 will again be handing out roses

to the first 500 ladies, courtesy of Ribar Floral.

Seeing scarecrows

Reservations are now being accepted for the 2012 Scarecrows in the Park. Groups, businesses and families are invited to decorate a scarecrow in Kellogg Park from Sept. 21-23.

The cost to decorate a scarecrow is \$35 and reservations must be made through the Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce.

The Chamber will provide a bale of hay and a pole for you to create your scarecrow. The decorating of your scarecrow is left to your imagination, creativity and ingenuity.

To reserve your scarecrow, complete the form at www.plymouthmich.org and return to the Chamber office.



Sky Zone Canton will be hosting a fundraiser supporting the American Heart Association Monday, Oct. 15, to raise funds to aid in funding cardiovascular research, while also benefiting Plymouth-Canton schools through Jump Rope For Heart & Hoops For Heart.

Sky Zone starts community initiative

Staffers at Sky Zone Indoor Trampoline Park, creator of the world's first all-trampoline, walled playing court, is excited to give back to the community which has supported them since day one.

The sky's the limit as Sky Zone kicks off its community involvement initiative. Sky Zone Canton received an overwhelming amount of support from the community as they opened their doors in July, and the team feels very strongly about giving back.

A team of Sky Zone employees will go out into the community and participate in volunteer activities, provide donations for charitable causes and host fundraisers at its 35,000-square-foot facility in Canton. The efforts will be led by a core group of Sky Zone volunteers who will be looking for requests that best align with Sky Zone's priorities:

- Promoting a healthy lifestyle through a focus on fitness and fun
- Supporting children in need and their families
- Showcasing the unique benefits of Sky Zone to as many people as we can
- Maximizing the return on our fundraising efforts

For more information or to request Sky Zone volunteers, fundraiser or donations please go to the Sky Zone Canton website at www.skyzonesports.com/canton. Please click on the community involvement section which is located under the 'About Us' tab.

In order to kick off this



Staffers at Sky Zone Indoor Trampoline Park in Canton are starting a community initiative that will benefit Plymouth-Canton Schools.

initiative, Sky Zone Canton will be hosting a fundraiser supporting the American Heart Association. Nationally, Sky Zone is a proud supporter of the Association's Hoops for Heart and Jump Rope for Heart programs, and Sky Zone and the AHA hope to raise the bar here in Michigan.

On Monday, Oct. 15, the entire Michigan community is invited to help Sky Zone Canton and the AHA raise funds to aid in funding cardiovascular research, while also benefiting Plymouth-Canton schools through Jump Rope For Heart & Hoops For Heart.

The fundraiser will be held from 4-8 p.m. as Sky Zone will donate up to \$7 with each jump ticket purchased. The more people who come out, the higher the donation.

"Childhood obesity is a huge problem in this country and the AHA is doing some great work to combat this," said Colleen Fitzgerald, owner of Sky Zone Canton. "Sky Zone exists to provide the most effective

combination of fun and fitness that anyone can participate in, regardless of age, size or physical ability. Together, we can make a difference in children's lives."

Brittany Merritt, regional vice president of Youth Market for Michigan American Heart Association, said the initiative is important because childhood obesity can be prevented with programs and resources that influence healthy behaviors.

"Many parents don't realize simple steps like adding good nutrition and exercise to a child's daily regimen can help tremendously," Merritt said. "We commend Sky Zone Indoor Trampoline Park for believing in our mission and introducing youth programs to the community."

Sky Zone Canton is located at 42550 Executive Drive in Canton. For more information about Sky Zone Canton and the American Heart Association, visit www.skyzonesports.com/canton and www.heart.org.

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PLYMOUTH BUSINESS BRIEFS

Wedding show

Wedding Professionals of Metro Detroit sponsors a Wedding Educational Showcase 1-3:30 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 23, at Red Olive Banquet Center, 1051 Ann Arbor Road in Plymouth.

Cost \$5 or three canned goods for the Salvation Army Food Bank.

Wedding professionals will be on hand to help plan the perfect wedding. Tips to avoid common wedding planning mistakes, money saving ideas, and firsthand knowledge of how to plan your wedding. This event is all about teaching and sharing years of experience to help put on your special day — not selling.

The Salvation Army has said they are in extreme need at this time of year, with more requests coming in daily.

Register at www.weddingprofessionalsofmetrodetroit.com or call (734) 453-8872 or (734) 455-8893.

Business news

From the desk of the folks at the Plymouth Downtown Development Authority:

- Look for Painting Escapes to open on Penniman, in the former Penniman Gallery location. Tony and Genevieve Schmitt's concept will allow customers to paint in a class setting, with a teacher to help you create a piece of art.
- Welcome to hub/real estate solutions, which is moving next to the DDA office (formerly Core Sport). Cassie Hannahs and Shelby Fulkerson hope to be in sometime in October.
- The new construction on the corner of Ann Arbor Trail and Main St. is expect-



Wedding Professionals of Metro Detroit sponsors a Wedding Educational Showcase 1-3:30 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 23, at Red Olive Banquet Center, 1051 Ann Arbor Road in Plymouth.

ed to be enclosed by winter, according to the owners. The first floor is expected to have a number of eating establishments. A high-tech office is scheduled to make its home on the second level.

• The Christian Science Church is allowing downtown merchants and employees to use their parking lot during the deck reconstruction. There are 100 spaces available on their property, located on Ann Arbor Trail, just west of Harvey St.

Retiree luncheon

The Detroit Diesel Retiree Club will hold its annual luncheon and business meeting on Thursday, Oct. 18, at the Laurel Manor Banquet & Conference Center in Livonia. Cost to attend the lunch is \$25. For information on the luncheon and pre registration contact Robert Pavol, membership director, at (734) 455-2668 or jrpavol64@prodigy.net, or John Leidlein, president, at (313) 863-8850 or dieseljml@aol.com.

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Worth the walk

Crowds were large and diners were sated Tuesday as the Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce and the Friends of the Penn Theater teamed up to offer their annual PENN-Taste-Tic fundraiser.

Plymouth Chamber executive director Wes Graff said the fund-

raiser, which divides the money evenly between the chamber and the Penn Theater, sold out "as it always does."

Diners were treated to samples from many downtown Plymouth restaurants, including several new ones that have opened in the last year.



Zin server Lauren Strachan offers Chicken Tandoori Rolls.



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The balloons tell everyone that E.G.Nicks is participating in the crawl. Becky McKinney of Canton, Dawn Walsh of Plymouth, Kathy Mihelick of Canton, and Cindy Saunders, also of Canton, enter the restaurant.



Dawn and Craig Lucier, of Plymouth, really enjoyed Arrancini (lobster risotto) at The Sardine Room.

E.G. Nicks was a popular choice during the restaurant crawl.



Susan Schmits, of Canton, Sandi Srodawa, of Plymouth, and Tia Barbera, of Canton, admire the martini display at Panache.

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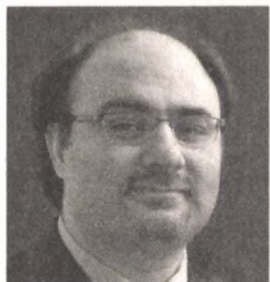
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OUR VIEWS

To register to vote, you must be a U.S. citizen, at least 18 years old by election day, a resident of Michigan and the city or township where you're applying vote. It's that simple, yet so powerful.

Powerful privilege

Register to vote, plan to be a part of the process

If you've forgotten the fact that voting in the United States is a privilege — and a duty — think again. If political ads, candidate bashing and venomous political division is causing complacency, think again.

Voting is the core of our democracy. We not only remind our readers to study all of the issues and candidates in this important 2012 election season, we also implore those who aren't registered to vote, to do so before the Tuesday, Oct. 9, deadline.

If you don't think it's important, just listen to five minutes of news reports from around the world. Our political system may have its faults, but it's no excuse to excuse yourself from the democratic process that ensures people have a voice in this country.

Whether you're just turning 18 and are eligible to vote; you've recently become a U.S. citizen; or you've just never been interested in voting — no matter your reason, now is the time to get registered. And, on Nov. 6, between the hours of 7 a.m. and 8 p.m., will be the time to exercise your right at the polls.

It's an amazing and empowering civic duty.

To register to vote, you must be a U.S. citizen, at least 18 years old by election day, a resident of Michigan and the city or township where you're applying vote. It's that simple, yet so powerful.

You can register in person at Plymouth Township Hall, located on Haggerty just north of Ann Arbor Road, or at Plymouth City Hall, at the corner of S. Main and Church.

If you'll be outside of the community on election day, or otherwise eligible, you can also apply for an absentee voter ballot from the clerk's offices.

Normal business hours for both the Plymouth Township and City of Plymouth clerk's offices are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday.

You can also download a mail-in voter registration from the Secretary of State's website, www.michigan.gov/sos but you must vote in person for your first election, except if you're age 60 or older.

Don't let your work schedule or vacation plans interfere with your right to vote. Absentee voter ballots are available for all elections. It's a good way to cast your ballot when you're unable to go to the polls on election day.

As a registered voter, you may obtain an absentee voter ballot if you are:

- 60 years old or older
- Unable to vote without assistance at the polls
- Expecting to be out of town on election day
- In jail awaiting arraignment or trial
- Unable to attend the polls due to religious reasons
- Appointed to work as an election inspector in a precinct outside of your precinct of residence.

Democracy is there, waiting for you to participate. There's no better time to be a part of the process than during this 2012 election, in which voters will decide offices from the president of the United States, all the way down to your state representatives and county commissioners.

Powerful, indeed. Don't miss out.

COMMUNITY VOICE

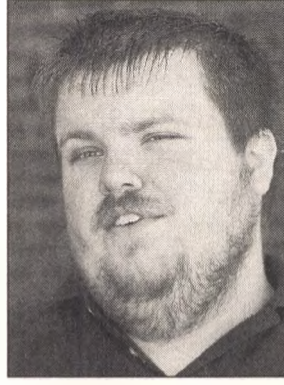
What is it that you most like, or dislike, about the fall?

We asked this question at the Plymouth District Library.



"The weather's nice, but it means winter."

Andrew Chase
Plymouth



"I kind of like and dislike the leaves and such. They're beautiful and all that, but they're a pain in the rear to rake up."

Axel Berry
Belleville



"Well, it's moving closer to winter. ... I like the cool weather."

Patricia Thomas
Ann Arbor



"I love the cool weather. Today is good. Changing leaves. Kids going back to school."

Penny Striegel
Plymouth Township

LETTERS

Governor's courage

Gov. Snyder has again shown courage and vision in negotiating the lease of Belle Isle. For 50 years I've enjoyed visiting Belle Isle but have seen it deteriorate to the dilapidated overgrown mess that it is today. Detroit will never have the money to restore it. Operated as a State Park it will again become a jewel of the Detroit Metro area as Central Park is to New York, as Kellogg Park is to Plymouth on a more familiar level.

The governor has demonstrated leadership in promoting a new international bridge. It is not in our best interest to have International border crossings that are privately owned or monopolized. It is government's job to assure our security and to promote commerce. This bridge will pay huge dividends in terms of commercial growth for our state.

The governor helped rein in the state's run-away health care expenses by limiting the state's contribution to health care for government employees. While that change has personally been painful to me financially, it was necessary as the cost trends were clearly unsustainable. This move is a major step in moving Michigan forward to meet our future challenges.

Mike Gerou
Canton

Better off?

"Are you better off now than four years ago?" is a stupid question pirated from a Ronald Reagan 1980 campaign debate speech and off-asked by "lazy journalists" in the words of Center for Budget Policies

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

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Fax: (313) 223-3318

E-mail: bkadrich@hometownlife.com

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

and Priorities lead economist Dean Baker, and this is why.

The assumption, of course, is that a "yes" answer should guarantee your support for the incumbent candidate who is allegedly responsible, but rarely are things that simple. Corporate CEOs certainly are better off enjoying an average 16-percent pay increase last year. The rest of the top 2 percent have generally "cleaned up," too, claiming 80 percent of all income gains achieved as a result of the TARP/FED/Stimulus driven recovery. Their answer to the "are you better off" question should definitely be "yes."

Retirees should also answer the "are you better off" question in the affirmative since they haven't been ravaged by inflation and have seen Medicare expanded to partially fill the Medicare Part D doughnut hole and totally cover annual wellness visits

while the solvency of the Medicare Hospital Trust Fund has been extended by eight years, all thanks to Obamacare. (These three expansions are the result of what Ryan/Romney claimed to be \$716 billion worth of "cuts" paid for through the elimination of waste, fraud and abuse.)

Autoworkers employed by the Big Three at the very least as well as thousands of Americans employed by companies in the supply chain and employees of foreign-based auto companies with production facilities here in the U.S. should have a "yes" answer to the "are you better off" question, too, since their industry once teetering on the brink of disaster has been, through government help, returned to profitability.

The fact is though, polls indicate the president can't count on any of these groups of workers even though most of these folks owe their livelihoods to the so-called auto bailout loan program that President Obama is largely responsible for. ... Well at least the president can count on the top 2 percent and Medicare recipients for their votes, right? Not at all, because polls indicate Obama trails his opponent in both of those demographics too. So it seems that an affirmative answer to Ronald Reagan's trite 1980 debate speech question is not at all an accurate predictor of support, at least in 2012.

My question for the 2-percenters, the seniors on Medicare and the autoworkers is, "where's the gratitude?"

Mitch Smith
Canton

STAFF COLUMN

Other side's grass not always greener

By Brad Kadrich
Observer Staff Writer

Last year, the company the Plymouth-Canton Board of Education contracted with for transportation after privatizing its bus drivers had to sub-contract with two different companies to fulfill the obligations, and still couldn't meet them.



Brad Kadrich

This year, working for a company that pays them \$16.25 per hour and offers no pension plan, bus drivers began leaving Michigan Education Transportation System in droves. According to district administrators, some 25 percent of the bus drivers have left over the summer, most for better-paying jobs with private companies or with school districts (Livonia, for example) that still offer pension plans.

Clearly, the privatization of the bus drivers isn't working, at least not yet.

The situation came to a bit of a head last week, when Plymouth resident Melissa Uhl told the story of how excited her young son was about finally being able to ride the school bus to kindergarten, only to find out it didn't come. Her neighborhood bus routes definitely suffered, with several substitute bus

drivers and even a sub-contracted company having to cover the routes.

Phil Freeman, the district's assistant superintendent for facilities and operations, tried to explain the situation, pointing out the departure of so many bus drivers (many of them in the week leading up to the start of school), and throwing in the myriad of construction issues and the need for time for new drivers to learn the routes.

School Trustee Mark Horvath jumped at the bait, telling Freeman pointedly, "Personally, I don't want to hear 'This is a part of doing business' ... We should never say 'it's the beginning of the school year.' We have a beginning of the school year every year. We've got to get it right."

Horvath and fellow Trustee Mike Maloney, who weren't part of the board that privatized bus drivers, have never been big fans of some of the decisions made by that previous board. They spent much of last year at the podium during board meetings, criticizing the board for some of those decisions (remember, it was a campaign year).

Considering three of the other board members — Judy Mardigian, Adrienne Davis and Barry Simescu — were part of the board that privatized bus drivers, it isn't surprising Horvath and Maloney were the only ones to speak up about the first-week busing issues. But their ire was misdirected.

Horvath is asking for charts and graphs and numbers and plans to solve the problem; it's how he

works. But Freeman is right; you can't throw numbers at this problem and fix it. And blaming administration for a problem the board has wrought seems wrong.

Like when the board kept sending the administration back to the drawing board for different scenarios before trustees closed Fiegel Elementary School, demanding constant reporting about the solutions now is a waste of Freeman's time.

Freeman and Kurt Tyszkiewicz, director of student services, put in hundreds of manhours figuring out how best to configure boundaries. The work was to no avail when the board, this time including Horvath and Maloney, failed to consider their work and found a solution of their own.

The decision to privatize bus drivers, which cost some \$500,000 more than expected last year alone, could reverberate for a long time, particularly if METS for some reason goes under.

I'm not suggesting the district bring the bus drivers back into the fold, although it would be nice to see them get a decent wage and a retirement package that won't leave them worrying about how they'll survive. But the transportation struggles do provide a cautionary tale.

The grass almost always looks greener on the other side.

Brad Kadrich is community editor of the Plymouth and Canton Observers. He can be reached via e-mail at bkadrich@hometownlife.com.

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Look for solid, long-term track record before investing

By Rick Bloom
Guest Columnist

I received a call from a client who wanted my opinion on an investment that he was considering. The investment was a new mutual fund that was going to follow a proprietary strategy that, according to the fund's prospectus, would be able to protect against downturns in the market and allow the investor to participate in market upswings.



Money Matters

Rick Bloom

The fund materials mentioned - a number of times - it was an alternative investment. The client liked what he read and wanted my opinion. Even before I studied the prospectus or looked deeper into the fund's management team and the past

track records, I told him that I could not recommend the investment.

When it comes to investing, in order to be successful, you have to set certain rules and criteria for yourself that you follow in virtually all cases and exceptions should be rare. One of the rules that I live by is that I do not invest nor will I recommend a new investment.

Criteria

One of the criteria I have before I will recommend an investment is that it must have a solid, long-term track record. The main reason you invest money is to make money and that is why before I recommend an investment, I want to see a solid long-term track record.

Any investment can have a good year or a bad year; therefore, I look at any one year as immaterial. I want to look at investments where I can look at five and 10-year track records. To me, that is much more of a

relevant time period than in the case at hand where the fund has only been around for three months.

The new buzz word in investing today is alternative. Fund companies have started marketing many of their funds as alternatives, which means that they're either investing in a non-traditional asset class or following non-conventional investment strategies.

I think all too often many of these mutual fund companies are rolling out new funds not because they have a better way of managing your money but rather, they're looking at market shares.

Looking back

It reminds me of what was happening in the late 1990s when fund companies were developing new funds all based upon the buzz word at the time and that was technology. Unfortunately, many of those funds didn't have a better way of managing your money

and many of those funds, after years of miserable performance, went out of business.

I don't personally invest in or recommend any investment that doesn't have a track record. That means that I may miss out on certain opportunities, but that's the cost I'm willing to pay to protect myself. I believe that as an investment advisor, my goal is to protect and grow a client's money. One way I can protect a client's money is to avoid new investments.

For someone who wants to invest in a new investment without a track record, I tell them that they should treat it not as investing, but rather, speculating. There's nothing wrong with taking a "flier" on an investment. As long as it is not a material portion of your portfolio and you recognize the additional risk you are assuming.

I look at speculating more akin to gambling than investing. When you have a new

investment, there is not a lot of independent information upon which to base your decision. On the other hand, with an investment that has been around for a while, there's a lot more information that you can use to analyze the investment and to make an informed decision. In principle, there is nothing wrong with gambling, however, there's a time and place for it. The same thing can be said about speculating on an investment.

I cannot stress enough how important it is that, as an investor, you follow a set of rules that work for your situation. This won't assure you of success, but it will put the odds more in your favor. Good luck!

Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial advisor. His website is www.bloomassetmanagement.com. If you would like Rick to respond to your questions, please email Rick at rick@bloomassetmanagement.com.

Former McCotter staffer pleads no contest to five misdemeanor counts in petition scandal

By Ken Abramczyk
Observer Staff Writer

A staffer for former Congressman Thaddeus McCotter pleaded no contest Tuesday to five misdemeanor charges in the congressman's petition scandal.

Lorianne O'Brady, 52, of Livonia, who worked as a scheduler for the former congressman, pleaded no contest in 16th District Court before Judge Kathleen J. McCann to five counts of falsely signing a nominating petition as circulator, a misdemeanor punishable by up to 93 days in jail. Her sentencing hearing is scheduled for Oct. 25 in front of McCann.

Attorney General Bill Schuette said there was no plea or sentencing agreement offered.

"As your attorney general, I have a duty to enforce the law and ensure public integrity," said Schuette in a prepared statement. "After a thorough investigation, my office determined that criminal acts were committed, and the appropriate criminal charges were filed.

"Our office will continue to prosecute the remaining defendants involved in this shame-

ful violation of the public trust."

Schuette alleges that members of McCotter's Michigan staff were involved in a deliberate fraud involving a pattern of copying and altering petitions in order to qualify the five-term congressman for the 2012 Michigan ballot. Schuette revealed examples of petitions that were allegedly manufactured electronically by transposing signatures collected in previous election years onto 2012 nominating petitions.

After the signatures were declared invalid by the Secretary of State's office, McCotter said he was going to run as a write-in, then decided that he would not run in the 11th Congressional District in early June. On July 6, McCotter, who was not charged in Schuette's petition fraud investigation, resigned from Congress.

Three other former staffers also face charges:

Mary Melissa Turnbull of Howell is scheduled for a preliminary exam on Sept. 27. Turnbull faces two charges: one count of conspiracy to commit a legal act in an illegal manner, a five-year

felony; and one count of falsely signing a nominating petition as circulator, a misdemeanor punishable by up to 93 days in jail.

Don Yowchuang of Farmington Hills faces 17 charges: 10 counts of election law forgery, a five-year felony; one count of conspiracy to commit a legal act in an illegal manner, a five-year felony; and six counts of falsely signing a nominating petition as circulator, a misdemeanor punishable by up to 93 days in jail.

Paul Seewald of Livonia faces 10 charges: one count of conspiracy to commit a legal act in an illegal manner, a five-year felony; and nine counts of falsely signing a nominating petition as circulator, a misdemeanor punishable by up to 93 days in jail. Pleas of not guilty were entered for Seewald and Yowchuang at their arraignments on Aug. 10.

Yowchuang and Seewald are scheduled for a pre-exam conference on Oct. 9 and a preliminary exam on Oct. 11 in 16th District Court.

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

Josh White highlights Barefoot concert

Barefoot Productions hosts celebrated blues and folk musician Josh White, Jr., for a rare appearance Saturday, Sept. 29, at the Barefoot Productions facility located at 240 N. Main in Plymouth.

White, a singer and guitarist of international acclaim, appeals to the emotional core of his audiences. He sings with intent to reach the best part of each listener, then to acknowledge and reinforce the most positive human trait. He paraphrases



White

es Woody Guthrie's commitment to "sing the songs that make you take pride in yourself," and for many years has given each audience a sense of fulfillment and joy.

White has been honored as a recipient of the "Harry Chapin Award for Contributions to Humanity" for his dedication to social

reforms and charitable organizations by way of countless benefit concerts. He has graced the stages of Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, Madison Square Garden, and recently sang on the stage of New York City Center and The Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., accompanying the Dance Theater of Harlem's rendition of John Henry.

Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased at the box office, by calling (734) 560-1493 or going to www.justgobarefoot.com.

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PLYMOUTH WHALERS PREVIEW

Whalers primed for success

DROP THE PUCK

What: Plymouth Whalers open the 2012-13 Ontario Hockey League season with a game Friday at Sault Ste. Marie and 7 p.m. Saturday at Compuware Arena against Belleville.

Listen: The home opener will be broadcast on 88.1 The Park, with Pete Krupsky handling play-by-play duties. There will be 24 Whalers games on the local station this season. Also, all games can be streamed live at www.plymouthwhalers.com.

Tickets: Call (734) 453-8400 for info.

Upcoming: The Whalers will play home games on several Saturday nights in a row. Those include Sept. 29 against Sudbury, Oct. 6 against Niagara and Oct. 13 against Sault Ste. Marie. All home games start at 7 p.m.

By Tim Smith
Observer Staff Writer

Year after year, it seems Mike Vellucci merely reloads his Plymouth Whalers roster for another shot at supremacy in the Ontario Hockey League.

And the 2012-13 team should have no trouble continuing that trend, with an enviable mix of seasoned OHL veterans and uber-talented newcomers to the Whalers.

They are a lock to make it to the playoffs a 22nd consecutive spring.

"I think people will tell you we're the favorite in our conference and I wouldn't shy away from it," said Vellucci, whose 12th season as head coach opens Friday night at Sault Ste. Marie. "That's something we should embrace and I would agree with it."

"We have some very good firepower up front, good defense now that we made a few changes and our goaltender has



RENA LAVERTY

Scoring threat Alex Aleardi of Farmington Hills is looking to hit the 50-goal barrier this season for the Plymouth Whalers.

been strong. I think we've shored up in all three areas now. We just got to bring the consistency every night."

Opposing coaches will

have plenty to worry about when their teams go up against the Whalers, who finished second in the Western Conference in 2011-12 with 97 points.

That's even after Plymouth lost a number of key players. Gone from 2011-12 are forwards Andy Bathgate, Jamie Devane and Mitchell Heard (recently signed by Colorado and currently with AHL affiliate Lake Erie); defensemen Beau Schmitz (Howell) and Austin Levi (Farmington Hills); and goalie Scott Wedgewood.

The Whalers, however, still boast offensive power in forwards Stefan Noesen (38 goals, 44 assists, 82 points), Farmington Hills's Alex Aleardi (36-29-65), Rickard Rakell (28-34-62), JT Miller (25-37-62) and Garrett Meurs (20-33-53).

"I want to be an offensive-minded guy this year, really be a go-to guy," said Aleardi, along with defenseman Colin MacDonald one of the team's overage players. "That's what I should be. I want to score 50 goals."

Please see PREVIEW, B4

Hole-in-one club grows

Golfers of all ages keep sinking tee shots, with the latest being an ace by 39-year-old Kyungsuk Oh of Novi on Saturday.

Oh used a 7-iron and Srixon golf ball on the 160-yard No. 14 hole at Fox Hills Golf & Banquet Center's Golden course in Plymouth.

• On Sept. 12 at Fox Hills' Woodlands Course, West Bloomfield resident Ren Swope, 82, used a 9-iron and Top Flite XL ball to sink the 108-yard No. 5 hole.

• On Sept. 9 at Fox Hills' Strategic Fox Course, Milford resident Carrie Tokar, 37, used a pitching wedge to sink a hole-in-one on the 78-yard No. 3 hole.

• Sheppard's Hollow Golf Course in Clarkston was where 30-year Canton resident Mark Burgoon registered his first-ever hole-in-one.

Burgoon's feat took place Sept. 7. He used a 9-iron to ace the 130-yard No. 21 hole.

• Back on Aug. 18, 75-year-old Frank Young of Livonia aced the 149-yard No. 14 hole at Fox Hills' Golden course. He used a 4-hybrid club and Titleist Velocity ball for his winner of a shot.

PCA spikers give it their all

By Tim Smith
Observer Staff Writer

First-year Plymouth Christian Academy volleyball coach Katie LeComte isn't using the lack of depth on her roster as a crutch for any setbacks the Eagles might endure this season.

On Tuesday, the host Eagles — with just two players on the bench, which will be the case all year — battled but lost 3-1 to Rochester Hills Lutheran Northwest.

PCA (1-1 in the Michi-

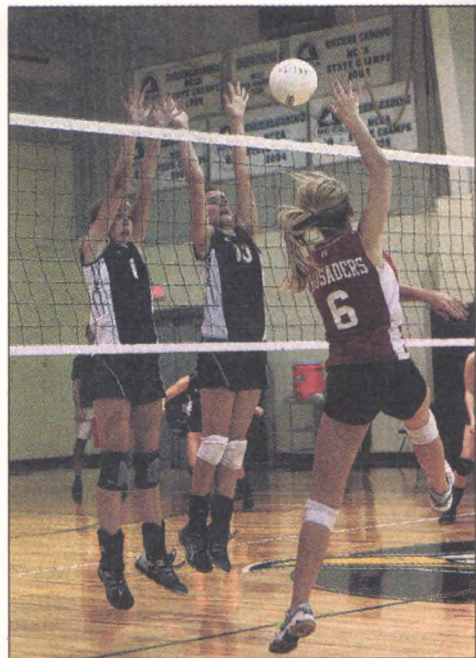
gan Independent Athletics Conference) won the opener 26-24, rallying from an early 7-2 deficit.

In Games 2-3, the Crusaders won by identical 25-21 scores and then finished off the Eagles in the fourth set with a 25-20 triumph.

"I don't think it's so much fatigue," LeComte said. "I think if somebody's off or not playing well I don't really have a lot of subs. Plus, they're so young. It's really forc-

Please see EAGLES, B2

Jumping in unison to try and block a spike attempt by Rochester Hills Lutheran Northwest's Emily Woodfin (No. 6) are Plymouth Christian Academy's Kelsey Williamson (No. 1) and Sydney Burton (No. 10).



JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO



JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

Plymouth's DK Kim (No. 22) gets the jump on Salem's Matthew DeMoss (No. 15) during Monday night's varsity boys soccer match.

Early goals power Salem

By Tim Smith
Observer Staff Writer

Two quick goals Monday night sparked state-ranked Salem to a 3-0 victory over Plymouth in KLAAs boys soccer action.

It was 2-0 before three minutes of the contest had elapsed at Plymouth-Canton Educational Park's varsity soccer field, to the dismay of Wildcats head coach Jeff Neschich.

"It was almost like we were sleepwalking when we started this thing and we never recovered from that," Neschich

said. "They were winning the battles in the box. They won two early."

On the flip side, Salem head coach Ed McCarthy emphasized that the early goals did not mean it was an easy victory for the No. 6 Class A team in the state (now with a record of 8-2-2 overall).

"I think maybe Plymouth started a little flat and we had two re-start goals in the first few minutes," McCarthy said. "Which really set the tone and made this game seem a lot further away than it was."

"This was a closer game than what that score indicated."

McCarthy added that the Wildcats came on strong later in the first half and could have cut the lead to 2-1 if not for some solid goalkeeping from junior Collin Hewett.

"I was not comfortable at halftime that this game was under control by any stretch because Plymouth had been dangerous," McCarthy said.

The Cole twins teamed up for Salem's first goal as Brady Cole headed

Please see SOCCER, B3

Officials training

The Michigan Women's Lacrosse Officials Association (MWLOA), a Michigan-based, US Lacrosse-endorsed non-profit, is hosting a series of clinics throughout the state over the next four months for adults interested in officiating women's lacrosse.

Three of the sessions — Jan. 16, 23 and 26 — will be held in Birmingham.

Each clinic is geared to give new officials — and those who would like to enhance their lacrosse officiating skills — the opportunity to learn the basic rules, penalty administration and positioning concepts as one begins the journey to becoming an official of the fastest sport on two feet.

"We are thrilled to be offering so many clinics," said Laura DeMeulemeester, the president of the Michigan Women's Lacrosse Officials Association.

"Introducing lacrosse to Michigan's adults and having them learn the right skill-set, from some of the best people in the sport today, is exciting. If someone wants to work up to six days a week, get exercise and make some good money, this is the right opportunity."

All adults over the age of 18 who welcome the challenge of learning or officiating a new sport are encouraged to sign up and attend one of the clinics. Games are played Monday through Saturday from March until June.

The cost for the six-hour clinic is \$50 and includes membership within MWLOA. Membership in United States Lacrosse will be required after completion of classroom and prior to any on-field work.

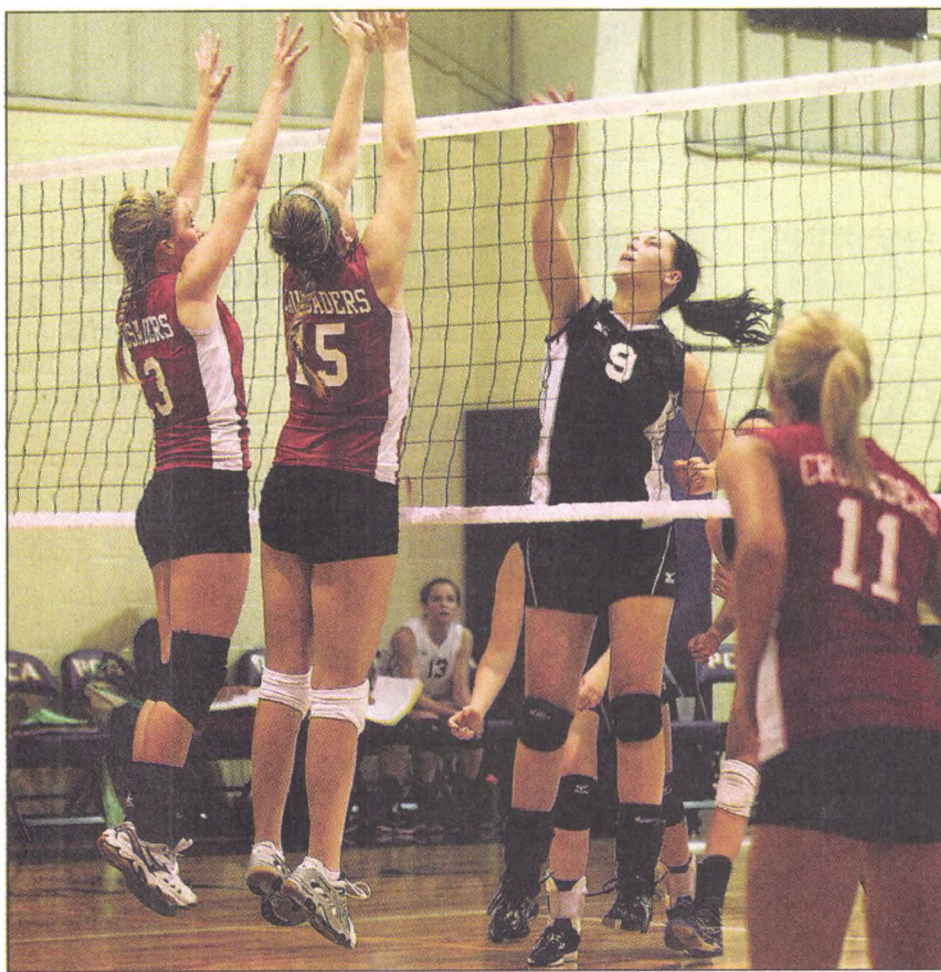
E-mail Elaine Torvinen at mwloaSecretary@gmail.com for additional information or to sign up for a clinic.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Getting a read

Looking to read one of the greens at Whispering Willows on Tuesday are Plymouth senior golfers Kelsey Murphy (left) and Sarah Thompson. The Wildcats defeated Livonia Churchill, 160-190. For more on the match, please turn to page B2.



JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO
Plymouth Christian Academy junior middle blocker Jennifer Malcolm (No. 9) squares off against Kayla Kokko (No. 13) and Katelyn Rasmussen (No. 15) of Rochester Hills Lutheran Northwest.

Weather doesn't stop cruising Wildcats

The wind whipped through Livonia's Whispering Willows Golf Course on Tuesday, but that didn't stop Plymouth from whipping through another KLAAs South Division opponent.

The Wildcats earned a 160-190 win over host Livonia Churchill to improve to 11-0 overall and 6-0 in the division.

Kelsey Murphy scored a 37 to secure medalist honors. She was followed by Sarah Thompson (38), Kayla Whatley (42), Katie Chipman (43), Sydney Murphy (44) and Danielle Allen (46).

Churchill's top performer was Jackie Burdette, who registered a 39.

"It was rainy at times, very windy," Plymouth head coach Dan Young said. "Obviously it's gotten colder, but we played well. We've been talking about it, that the worse the conditions the better it is for us, because we know we have a good team."

"We know we can get through that (poor conditions) and still score."



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Plymouth's Sarah Thompson gets set to drive a tee shot during Tuesday's dual meet against Livonia Churchill at Whispering Willows.

Pretty in Pink

Plymouth also prevailed at Saturday's Pretty in Pink Invitational in Farmington Hills with a score of 319.

The low score for 18 holes was Kelsey Murphy (72) while Thompson finished second overall with a 78. Other Plymouth finishers were Sydney Murphy (81), Chipman (88), Whatley (89) and Allen (92).

Also competing at the invite were Canton (5th place) and Salem (13th).

For the Chiefs, Kelsey McDougall registered an 80, followed by Chloe Luyet (90), Katie Adams (93), Alyce Krumm (95), Rachel Pisano (102) and Madelyn Mans (102).

Salem's top scorer was Gabby LeBlanc, with a 98. Other Rocks included Kiley Flynn (101),

Christine Li (110), Hope Warkoczeski (112), Katie Vena (115) and Amanda Bennett (133).

Meanwhile, the Wildcats will host Canton 3 p.m. Friday at the Fox Hills Classic course. The dual meet originally was scheduled for Thursday.

EAGLES

Continued from page B1

ing them to work through it.

"Even if they are kind of mentally down, and they have to stay in they have to work through it, which is tough to do, especially because there's so many young (players)."

The Eagles did show plenty of spunk, especially in Game 3, after falling behind 17-3 (thanks largely to a 9-0 serving run by the Crusaders' Katelyn Rasmussen).

"They put up quite a fight, they definitely don't quit," LeComte noted.

PCA junior middle blocker Jennifer Mal-

colm sparked the surge with four service points (including an ace) to make it a 19-9 game.

The rally, featuring excellent work at the net by Malcolm and senior outside hitter Mary Anleitner, enabled PCA to cut the lead to 24-21.

Looking to even the match in Game 4, and force a fifth game, the Eagles could not overcome an early seven-point serving stint by Emily Woodfin (including four aces).

"We wasted a lot of opportunities," LeComte said. "Especially on free balls, where we should have been putting the ball away."

In the opening game, the Eagles capped off a win when junior outside hitter Rachel Fuller served up three points

to bring PCA back from a one-point deficit. On the game point, Malcolm set up Anleitner for an impressive slam.

Also helping out in that game for PCA was sophomore right-side hitter Kelsey Williamson, with three service points to break a 16-16 tie.

Malcolm led the Eagles with eight kills, 15 defensive digs and 15 assists. Anleitner chipped in with seven kills and four aces.

Contributing nine digs was sophomore libero Callie Morby.

Leading the Crusaders (1-1 in the MIAC) with 12 kills was Kayla Kokko. Rasmussen tallied nine aces and Lexi Stroeters added 22 assists.

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Wildcats show they belong

Rebounding from a sluggish start, Plymouth's varsity girls volleyball team captured the Trojan Invitational Saturday at Trenton High School.

The Wildcats got past Macomb Dakota (24-26, 25-18, 15-10) in the semifinals before upending Utica Eisenhower 25-22, 28-26 in the finals.

In pool play, Plymouth lost to Dakota (23-25, 18-25) but defeated Macomb L'Anse Creuse (25-15, 25-22) and Trenton (25-12, 25-14).

Top performers for the Wildcats included Madelyn Betts (37 kills,

22 digs), Olivia Beyer (27 kills, nine blocks), Emilee Beyer (25 kills, 11 digs, four aces), Italian exchange student Cat Soli (11 kills, six blocks, seven assists), libero Zoe Irvin (26 digs, including four game savers in the semis), setter Shayla Smalls (67 assists, 10 aces) and defensive specialist Haylee Weber (19 digs).

"There were a lot of great teams there including Macomb Dakota who is currently ranked No. 1 in the state," Plymouth head coach Sarah Marody said. "My girls had a slow

start to the morning but as the day went on, their game just kept improving."

"The offense we have been working on began to click, our defense was impenetrable."

She also praised the team's unselfishness and enthusiasm, which contributed to the tourney victory.

Plymouth wins in 3

In a KLAAs South Division match Tuesday, host Plymouth defeated Westland John Glenn in three sets, 25-23, 25-17, 25-16.

Before the game, a special ceremony recognized Wildcats senior Madelyn Betts for signing her commitment letter to play at Robert Morris.

Canton rolls

On Tuesday, host Canton (12-7-1, 2-2) rolled to a 25-13, 25-14, 25-21 KLAAs South Division triumph over Livonia Franklin (8-12, 2-2).

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Lady Ocelots click in victory

By Ed Wright
Observer Staff Writer

WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL

When the Schoolcraft College volleyball team is running on all cylinders — like it did for roughly three quarters of Tuesday night's 3-1 victory over visiting Henry Ford Community College — the Ocelots sound a lot like the engine in a high-performance race car.

"There's almost like a hum in the room, like you can hear the efficiency of the game," SC head coach Rod Brumfield described moments after his team's 25-14, 25-7, 23-25, 25-10 demolition of the Hawks. "It's like pass-set-hit, pass-set-hit — we create a rhythm, which we did in the second part of the first set and in the second and fourth sets tonight."

The triumph improved the Ocelots' record to 12-7 overall and 3-1 in the Michigan Community College Athletic Association.

"What stood out tonight for me was that the girls started communicating and playing their game," noted Brumfield. "They

wanted to terminate the ball and pass on dimes."

Undoubtedly the most entertaining point of the entire night unfolded in the match's final moments when — with the Ocelots leading 21-10 in the final set — the two teams orchestrated a thrilling rally that featured players from both teams making improbable digs from all points on the court.

SC eventually won the impressive point when a Hawk sent a hit out of bounds — close to 60 seconds after it started.

"That's how we play," Brumfield asserted, when asked for his assessment of the point. "When we scrimmaged Madonna, I've never seen the girls play so well. What we need to do now is get to the point where we're playing like that on a regular basis."

"It's part of the maturity of the game. Unlike the four-year schools, we don't have juniors and seniors, so the girls we have are constantly

learning and growing."

A trio of Livonia natives impacted the match in a positive way. Twin sophomores Kara and Nicole Kempinski — products of the Livonia Churchill volleyball juggernaut — were spark plugs in the victory while Stevenson grad Monika Rudis was a piston, delivering a couple floor-denting kills in the fourth set.

Redford native Erica Pirronello played well for the Hawks, knocking down the 25th point in her team's narrow second-set win.

Allen Park Cabrini's Emily Bondar and Carlton Airport's Britta Sprinkles also sparked in the front row for Brumfield's crew, which returns to action tonight against St. Clair Community College.

"I think this team is going to enjoy a lot more success than not," Brumfield said. "We're going to have a winning season. At the same time, we can't let teams sneak up on us. We have to hum every set we're out there."

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 Sept. 13 at Wayne
No. 1 singles: Jordan Lu (P) defeated Tyler Harnos, 6-0, 6-1; **No. 2:** Charlie Hou (P) def. Sam Herber, 6-0, 6-2; **No. 3:** Kevin Hou (P) def. Josiah Ault, 6-2, 6-1; **No. 4:** Jon Conn (P) def. Andrew Watson, 6-1, 6-0.
No. 1 doubles: Cameron Earls-Dylan Grant (P) def. Daniel Selvia-Anthony Herrera, 6-0, 6-1; **No. 2:** Joe Klots-Danny Sinnott (P) def. Davion Holt-Antonio Heberling, 6-1, 6-0; **No. 3:** Akash Yerakola-Praveen Loganathan (P) def. Jack Delisi-Daniel Mills, 6-0, 6-1; **No. 4:** Jared Hopf-Tyler Smith (P) def. Brandon Revell-Sam Washington, 6-0, 6-0; **No. 5:** Charlie Anderson-Roger Matar (P) def. Tyler Dunn-Arthur Straw, 6-1, 6-1.
Dual match records: Plymouth, 5-1 overall, 4-0 KLAAs South Division.

PREP GRID PICKS

Week 5	Wright	Smith	O'Meara	Emons
Friday, Sept. 21				
N. Farmington (1-3, 0-3) at South-Lathrup (1-3, 0-3), 4 p.m.	North	Lathrup	Lathrup	Lathrup
John Glenn (0-4, 0-2) at Plymouth (3-1, 1-1), 6:30 p.m.	Plymouth	Plymouth	Plymouth	Plymouth
Churchill (4-0, 2-0) at Canton (3-1, 2-0), 7 p.m.	Canton	Canton	Canton	Churchill
Franklin (1-3, 1-1) at Wayne (0-4, 0-2), 7 p.m.	Franklin	Franklin	Franklin	Franklin
Stevenson (4-0, 2-0) at Northville (2-2, 1-1), 7 p.m.	Northville	Stevenson	Northville	Northville
A.A. Richard (3-1) at Clarenceville (3-1), 7 p.m.	Clarenceville	Clarenceville	Richard	Richard
Redford Thurston (3-1, 2-0) at Garden City (3-1, 2-0), 7 p.m.	Thurston	Garden City	Thurston	Thurston
Salem (4-0, 2-0) at South Lyon East (2-2, 1-1), 7 p.m.	Salem	Salem	Salem	Salem
Farmington (4-0, 3-0) at Oak Park (4-0, 3-0), 7 p.m.	Oak Park	Farmington	Farmington	Oak Park
Southfield (2-2, 1-2) at Harrison (3-1, 2-1), 7 p.m.	Harrison	Harrison	Harrison	Harrison
Saturday, Sept. 22				
South. Christian (1-3, 1-1) at Luth. Westland (1-3, 0-2), 1 p.m.	Christian	Westland	Westland	Westland
Last week	8-3	11-0	10-1	10-1
Overall	32-20	39-13	37-15	36-16

SOCCER

Continued from page B1

a corner kick by Connor Cole.

Shortly thereafter, Connor Cole tallied a goal on a play started when senior Chris Dierker threw the ball in from the left side.

McCarthy said the throw-in was deflected inside the 6-yard goal area and Cole headed it past Plymouth starting goalie Mario Gruszczynski.

With 30:09 left in the game, the Rocks scored again for good measure.

Senior defender Luke Hazen's sizzling direct kick from about 25 yards out rocketed to the top-right corner of the Plymouth cage, past sophomore James Gibbs (who played the second half).

"That was a fantastic strike, there was no doubt about it," McCarthy said. "I'm real proud of his hit there and it didn't even look like the keeper knew he hit it so well."

Salem also used two goalies, with senior Erick Beas entering midway into the second half to finish up for Hewett.



JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

Putting a good foot into one Monday night is Salem's Tyler Fosdick (No. 3), shadowed by Plymouth's Calvin McCracken (No. 16). Also pictured are Salem's Connor Cole (No. 9) and the Wildcats' Vikas Kanneganti (No. 5).

With the loss, Plymouth dropped to 2-8-2 overall. Neschich said his team will work on getting better at executing fundamentals needed to win.

"We played some really good soccer out there at times," Neschich said.

"But to make a couple mistakes like that in the first three minutes of the ballgame against a very strong team like Salem, you're not going to recover from it."

SALEM 1, S.L. EAST 0: On Tuesday at South Lyon East, Salem earned this KLAA

Central Division win on the strength of Andriy Pelekh's game-winning goal two minutes into the second half. Setting up the tally was Chris Dierker while goalkeepers Erick Beas and Collin Hewett shared the shutout.

The win puts Salem at 4-1-0 and in first place in the KLAA Central at the midway point of league play.

Chiefs offense has field day

Canton traveled to Westland John Glenn Tuesday and came away with a 9-4 KLAA South Division win on a wet and windy afternoon.

Senior co-captain Bobby Budlong scored three goals (he has seven for the season) and added three assists.

Scoring first in the contest was Canton senior co-captain Dan Ovesea, converting a pass from senior defender Nick Tomei.

Moments later, junior Cody Widlak slid a pass to Griffin Parks, and the junior one-timed a shot into the Glenn goal.

Budlong followed with a penalty-kick goal and scored again with about 15 minutes to play, when he drilled a volley off a crossing pass from sophomore Aiden Shennan.

The Rockets got a goal back late in the half to close the game to 4-1 at the break.

Canton scored twice in the first six minutes of the second half. First, Parks took a pass from Budlong that split a pair of John Glenn defenders, and walked in on the goalkeeper and calmly slipped it into the net.

Next up was senior Connor Shennan, who made it 6-1 with his first goal of the season, a header off a Budlong corner kick. John Glenn scored the next two goals to tighten things up at 6-3, but the Chiefs quickly pulled away again.

Ovesea got his second goal of the game and 13th of the year after a nice pass from sophomore Jack Zemanski to make it 7-3 at the

half's midway point.

Then, Budlong led Bryan Tolinski with a pass down the wing, and the senior beat the keeper to give Canton an 8-3 lead.

The Chiefs' final goal came on a counter attack, when Ovesea laid off a nice pass to Budlong, who tucked a shot inside the post. John Glenn got a goal in the last minute of the game to make the final score 9-4.

Senior Ian Wingate and junior Brandon Pickert split the game in goal for the Chiefs, making 11 and five saves respectively.

Canton improves to 9-2-2 (overall) and 5-0-0 in the KLAA South. The Chiefs host Livonia Churchill on Thursday night.

Aerial attack downs Warriors

By Brad Emons
Observer Staff Writer

Saturday's MIAC football clash between host Lutheran High Westland and Grosse Pointe Woods University-Liggett was reminiscent of a Shootout at the O.K. Corral.

And when it was all over, the only man that remained standing and was Liggett quarterback Nathan Gaggin, who accounted for 361 of his team's 459 total yards as the Knights gunned down the Warriors, 45-31.

Gaggin, a senior, was the game's Wyatt Earp.

He connected on 15-of-19 passes for 266 yards and four touchdowns, while rushing 16 times for an additional 95 yards and a TD as the Knights improved to 3-1 overall and 2-0 in the MIAC.

"He (Gaggin) is pretty good, but we helped him a lot," said Lutheran Westland coach Paul Guse. "We didn't tackle him very well. We were awfully high today. He does a good job and they do what they do well."

Double whammy

Liggett jumped out to a 12-0 first-quarter lead on a 12-yard touchdown run by Gaggin along with a 33-yard pass from Gaggin to Thomas Jackson.

The Warriors, meanwhile, went without a first down on their first three possessions and turned it over at their own 38 with a fumble after quarterback Jacob Richter hit Jacob Davenport on a 16-yard pass.

The Knights increased their lead to 26-7 at intermission when Gaggin fired TD passes of 32 and 30

yards to Drew Jerome. Lutheran Westland countered with their lone TD of the first half when Richter found Nick Andrzejewski wide open for a 37-yard scoring toss with 6:20 in the second to cut the deficit to 12-7.

With 8:28 to go in the third quarter, Liggett scored again on Gaggin's 1-yard TD run.

Andrzejewski, playing football for the first time after three years of soccer, answered on the ensuing play from scrimmage with an 80-yard TD run followed by Richter's two-pointer to cut the deficit to 32-15.

The Warriors then scored again on the final play of the third quarter when Richter scrambled and hit Andrzejewski on 30-yard TD play. Richter added the two-point conversion on a keeper to pull within nine, 32-23, entering the final period.

Gaggin's fourth TD pass of the game came with 8:56 remaining on a 15-yard hook-up with Jerome.

Defensive back KeVaughn Jackson then picked off a Richter pass at midfield and raced 50 yards for another Liggett TD to increase the lead to 45-23.

Richter completed the shootout with a 95-yard kick-off return with only 2:57 remaining. Andrzejewski added the two-pointer, but it was too little, too late for the Warriors.

Jonah Lambert, Alex Reardon and Martin Kemp each registered a sack on Gaggin, but it couldn't prevent Lutheran Westland from falling to 1-3 overall and 0-2 in the MIAC.

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Wildcats coast to victory

Tuesday's rain didn't dampen things for Plymouth's varsity boys cross country team.

The Wildcats earned a 20-40 victory over Wayne Memorial at Cass Benton Park.

Earning medalist honors was Plymouth's Brandon Dalton, who finished the course in a time of 17 minutes, 26 seconds.

Also eclipsing the 18-minute mark for the Wildcats were Zane Berlanga (17:30) and Liam Cardenas (17:31).

They were followed by Max Rogowski (18:04), Jonny Dalton (18:23), Nick Williamson (18:32), Caton Hacker (18:48) and Matt Pahl (18:51).

Leading the Zebras were Dan Malcolm and Devin Gibson, with times of 17:35 and 17:56, respectively.

"Our guys ran well," Plymouth coach Jon Mikosz said. "It rained hard right before the meet started so sometimes that can throw them off mentally but they didn't let them affect them."
"Brandon, Zane and Liam ran as a strong pack today."

Rocks run strong

Salem defeated South Lyon East 15-50 on Tuesday at Island Lake Recreation Area.

Leading the Rocks were freshman Chaz Jeffress and junior Donovan Drouillard, each finishing in 17:37. Also scoring for Salem were junior Evan Bruyere, senior Jeremy Drouillard and junior Brendan McCann.

"The guys ran great races with many new personal bests across the board," coach Steve Aspinall said. "We had a great pack."
• On Saturday at Stony Creek Metropark, Salem placed first out of 10 teams at the Warren DeLaSalle Invitational. The Rocks tallied 30 points.

BOYS CROSS COUNTRY

Top performers on the varsity were seniors Steve McEvilly (second overall, 16:43), Riley Doxtader (fourth) and Michael Karizat (fifth).

Sophomore Noah Engerer, Jeffress and Donovan Drouillard finished 9-11. In the junior varsity race, senior Alex Creekmore and junior Wesley Tsou finished 1-2.

"We competed very well and ran a strong race," Aspinall said. "The racing conditions were ideal for running fast times, even though the course was on the tough side."

"Of the 47 runners who competed, 25 ran season-best or personal-best times."

DUAL MATCH RESULTS

PLYMOUTH 20 WAYNE MEMORIAL 40
Sept. 18 at Cass Benton Park
Individual winner: Brandon Dalton (Plymouth), 17:26 (5,000 meters).

Other Plymouth finishers: 2. Zane Berlanga, 17:30; 3. Liam Cardenas, 17:31; 6. Max Rogowski, 18:04; 8. Jonny Dalton, 18:23; 9. Nick Williamson, 18:32; 11. Caton Hacker, 18:48; 12. Matt Pahl, 18:51.

Wayne finishers: 4. Dan Malcolm, 17:35; 5. Devin Gibson, 17:56; 7. Zack Williams, 18:10; 10. Michael Gibson, 18:41; 13. Uriel Figueroa, 22:36.

Dual meet records: Plymouth, 1-1 KLAA South Division; Wayne, 1-1 KLAA South Division.

CANTON 19 WESTLAND JOHN GLENN 39
Sept. 18 at Cass Benton Park
Individual winner: Billy Toth (Canton), 17:54 (5,000 meters).

Other Canton finishers: 2. Evan Dunklee, 18:16; 3. Josh Joy, 18:41; 5. Owen Ash, 19:15; 8. Jay Drennan, 19:26; 9. Andrew Stephens, 19:43; 11. Keith Olsen, 20:16.

John Glenn finishers: 4. Chris Codd, 19:04; 6. Ed Maya, 19:18; 7. Jesse Osoria, 19:22; 10. Micah Orr, 20:06; 12. Franka, 20:24; 13. Austin Hickerson, 22:52; 14. Jeff Busick, 22:52.

Dual meet records: Canton, 2-0 overall, 2-0 KLAA South Division; John Glenn, 0-2 overall, 0-2 KLAA South Division.

Salem girls a step ahead of competition

Salem's varsity girls cross country team keeps on rolling, whether at invitationals or KLAA dual meets.

On Tuesday, the Rocks improved to 2-0 in the KLAA Central Division with a 15-50 victory over South Lyon East at Island Lake Recreation Area.

The epitome of pack running, Salem took the top-15 places.

Freshman Kayla Hughes and Lauren Arquette took the top two spots for Salem, each clocking in at 21:25, while teammates Natasha Stevenson and Alexis Foley placed 3-4 (21:26 each).

The rest of the Salem lineup finished as follows: 5. Rebecca Lopez, 21:33; 6. Kayla Kavulich, 21:33; 7. Katy Robeson, 21:34; 8. Anya Cho, 21:34; 9. Kati Binsfeld, 21:44; 10. Emily Marcero, 21:51; 11. Alejandra Beltran, 21:52; 12. Shannon Flynn, 21:53; 13. Emily Bizon, 21:54; 14. Sierra Bowden, 21:54; 15. Madison Goodpasture, 22:40.

Holly Invite win

Head coach Dave Gerlach's squad also won Saturday's Holly Invitational, topping the 15-team field in Division 1



Salem's varsity girls cross country team celebrates its victory at Saturday's Holly Invitational.

with a total of 29 points. The Rocks were paced by overall medalist Kavulich, who finished in 19-minutes flat.

Salem also had six other medal winners. Those included Arquette (fifth, 19:43), Cho (sixth, 19:52), Stevenson (eighth, 20:13), Beltran (ninth, 20:13), Bizon (11th, 20:20) and Flynn (20th, 20:50).

Meanwhile, Rebecca Lopez was first overall in the junior varsity race

with a mark of 20:52. "The girls continue to surpass my expectations at this point of the season," said Gerlach, noting that they overcame fatigue from an intense week of training with determination and competitiveness.

He added that the squad is gearing up for the dual meet on Tuesday, Sept. 25 against state-ranked Northville.

"That will be a good measuring stick, ...

against a great team in Northville," Gerlach said.

DUAL MEET RESULTS

CANTON 28 WESTLAND JOHN GLENN 29
Sept. 18 at Cass Benton Park
Individual winner: Shekinah Johnson (John Glenn), 22:04.

Other Glenn finishers: 2. Barb Messics, no time available; 5. Caroline Mahalak, no time; 9. Courtney MacQuarrie, no time; 12. Hannah Mitchell, no time; 13. Bailey Paddock, 27:53; 15. Carissa Root, no time.

Dual meet records: Canton, 1-1 overall, 1-1 KLAA South Division; John Glenn, 0-2 overall, 0-2 KLAA South.



RENA LAVERTY

The top goaltending position for the Plymouth Whalers this season will be handled by Matt Mahalak, shown in this 2011-12 file photo.

Whalers' vets get the job done

By Tim Smith
Observer Staff Writer

For the first time in a few years, Howell native Beau Schmitz won't be captain of the Plymouth Whalers.

But Whalers' head coach Mike Vellucci isn't worried as the 2012-13 OHL season opens this weekend. He has a roster loaded with talented returnees with leadership capabilities.

Off the top of his head, Vellucci ticked off the names of forwards Stefan Noesen, Tom Wilson, Rickard Rakell, JT Miller and defenseman Colin MacDonald as players who could wear the C.

"Any of those guys can be a leader on our team," Vellucci said.

MacDonald could be the leader of that group, a calming presence on the blue line and in the locker room.

"He (MacDonald) brings work ethic, maturity and leadership off the ice and on the ice he's just steady," Vellucci said. "He's one of those guys you can always count on. He understands how to play the game."

Leading the way

When asked about possibly succeeding another D-man (Schmitz) as Plymouth's captain, MacDonald said he would be up to the task. But he also said the team has a "good leadership group, and anyone that gets named captain will do a great job."

One job a captain will have is making sure younger players such as defensemen Connor Carrick and Gianluca Curcuruto follow the veterans' lead.

MacDonald sees no problem to that regard. "Carrick and Curcuruto are both really hard workers and they're really going to contribute to our team," MacDonald noted. "I'm hoping we go



RENA LAVERTY

Stay-at-home defenseman Colin MacDonald will be a steadying influence for the Plymouth Whalers. He also is being considered to be the team's captain.

all the way and win it this year. ... We just got to get together and execute our game plan.

"If everyone buys in I think we'll have a really good shot at it."

One might also consider players such as Farmington Hills' Alex Aleari, a 20-year-old forward who has had several seasons to grow into the Whalers' way of doing things.

Aleari said his hockey career has been transformed since arriving at Compuware Arena in September, 2010.

"My whole style of hockey just changed when I came to Plymouth," Aleari said. "Just learning the defensive strategies and making my way up the ice with the puck, it's definitely changed."

Same approach

One thing that hasn't changed is the approach to the season Vellucci will take — despite knowing he has players with big-league connections wondering when the other

shoe might drop pertaining to the NHL lockout.

"I'm just going to play it day by day," Vellucci said. "There's nothing you can do about it. My job is to get the guys to the next level and when they're here to develop them. We'll continue to do that."

Miller currently is taking part in training camp with the AHL affiliate of the New York Rangers, but is expected to return to Plymouth.

Players drafted by NHL teams such as Noesen (Ottawa), Wilson (Washington) and Rakell (Anaheim) are with the Whalers as the season opens.

Still, the waters are murkier when trying to predict whether they'd be at Compuware all season should the lockout be settled sooner rather than later.

"While they're here they're going to play for us, and if anything changes we'll deal with it at the time," Vellucci stressed.

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PREVIEW

Continued from page B1

That was my goal last year, so hopefully I can accomplish it this year and help my team move on."

There's blue-collar grit in wingers Tom Wilson — a Washington Capitals draft pick expected to improve on his 2011-12 tally of nine goals and 18 assists — and Cody Payne.

First-round draft pick Zach Bratina can become a front-line offensive threat and pesky Danny Vanderwiell will be a thorn in opponents' collective sides.

Wingers Matt Mistele, Ryan Hartman and Connor Sills all could chip in when called upon.

New to the mix

Where Vellucci is all smiles is when he talks about the infusion of talent into his defense corps, namely trade pickups Connor Carrick (who opted to play in the OHL rather than skate for the University of Michigan) and Gianluca Curcuruto.

"He (Carrick) was slated to go to Michigan," said Vellucci, also general manager of the Whalers. "Washington drafted him and we got him (in a trade with Guelph). He's going to be our Beau Schmitz, so to speak, a power-play guy with excellent skill."

"The other guy we traded for is Curcuruto (acquired from Sault Ste.

Marie). He has a cannon of a shot from the point. I'm really excited about working with him over the next two years to get him used to our system."

Reliable, stay-at-home blueliner MacDonald (6-3, 190) will help settle things down in front of Matt Mahalak and backup netminder Riley Corbin.

Second-round draft pick Alex Peters also has the chance to make some noise, described by Vellucci as a "very big kid who skates well and has excellent skill. We're going to take it slowly with him this year."

Rounding out the defense will be returnees Nick Malysa and Curtis Crombeen.

"Nick and Curtis are just two good, solid junior hockey players," Vellucci said. "They had good years for us last year, but we're going to expect them to have expanded roles this year."

The top guy

Handling the majority of goaltending duties will be Mahalak (Monroe), taking over from Wedgewood (now playing in the AHL).

"He (Mahalak) hasn't been the exclusive No. 1 yet," Vellucci said. "So he's going to have to learn that role and be a lot more consistent than he was before."

"But he's worked extremely hard this summer. He's in the best shape of his career so he's off to a good start.

He's a calm goalie, plays his angles very well."

According to Mahalak, who posted a 2.66 goals-against-average in 30 games last season, he's up for the challenge.

"It's not much different," he said. "Just a few more games and a little bit more responsibility being the No. 1 guy and I think I'm ready for it."

Backing up Mahalak will be Corbin, traded to the Whalers from Sudbury.

"He's a smaller goalie, but he's extremely quick," Vellucci said. "It might take him a little bit longer to break in, but we expect him and Matt to share the time."

Rookie Alex Nedjkovic, a 16-year-old netminder, is third in the depth chart.

Mahalak said he can't wait to get the season going. Following Friday's tilt at the Soo will be Saturday's home opener against Belleville at Compuware Arena (7 p.m. puck drop).

"We'll see how things go this weekend," Mahalak said. "But I think everyone has an air of confidence in the room that we're going to go out there right off the bat and start things off strong."

For Plymouth Whalers tickets, go to www.plymouthwhalers.com or call the Compuware box office at (734) 453-8500.

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Salem swimmers rally to edge Wildcats

By Tim Smith
Observer Staff Writer

Whenever two Plymouth-Canton Educational Park girls swim teams meet it's bound to be a thriller decided by the final event.

Such was the case yet again last Tuesday, as host Salem nipped Plymouth 96-90 in a KLAAC crossover dual meet.

"It was a very exciting meet," Salem head coach Chuck Olson said. "It was very close the entire time. The last race was a winner takes all race."

That last event, the 400-meter freestyle relay, went to the Salem quartet of Julia Suriano, Lisa Zhang, Abby Aumiller and Linda

Zhang. They closed it out in 3-minutes, 41-seconds. That was good for a state cut, Olson said.

Finishing in second (3:48.74) was Plymouth's Sarah Dombkowski, Carolyn Stoddard, Emily Weiner and Alexa Earls.

The Rocks also garnered third-place points thanks to Stephanie Solterman, Andrea Ringer, Annie Patterson and Maddie Gorman finishing with a time of 3:59.68.

Salem also won the 200-medley relay (Aumiller, Linda Zhang, Patterson, Suriano), with a time of 1:55.32.

The Wildcats, meanwhile, captured the 200 free relay in another race to the wire.

Plymouth's Emily Toro, Linda Erickson, Weiner and Dombkowski's mark of 1:44.31 nipped Salem's Lisa Zhang, Solterman, Gorman and Suriano (1:44.90).

In individual events, double winners for the Rocks were Lisa Zhang (200 individual medley, 100 butterfly) and Linda Zhang (50 freestyle, 100 breaststroke).

Registering one event win each were Aumiller (100 backstroke) and Bridget Maul (1-meter diving).

Plymouth also had a swimmer nab two event victories as Dombkowski won the 200- and 500-freestyle races.

Erickson was victorious in the 100 freestyle.

DUAL MEET RESULTS SALEM 96 PLYMOUTH 90

Sept. 11 at Salem

200-yard medley relay:

1. Salem (Abby Aumiller, Linda Zhang, Annie Patterson, Julia Suriano), 1:55.32; 2. Plymouth (Alexa Earls, Emily Toro, Lydia Plencner, Linda Erickson), 1:57.34; 3. Salem (Mckenzie Maurice, Kristy Rupp, Claire Amin, Vincenza Zaia), 2:08.49.

200 freestyle:

1. Sarah Dombkowski (P), 1:58.58; 2. Aumiller (S), 2:02.55; 3. Emily Weiner (P), 2:06.33; 4. Maddie Gorman (S), 2:07.68; 5. Patricia Freitag (S), 2:08.25.

200 individual medley:

1. Lisa Zhang (S), 2:13.84; 2. Earls (P), 2:18.95; 3. Patterson (S), 2:27.46; 4. Amin (S), 2:30.69; 5. Samidha Visai (P), 2:35.79.

50 freestyle:

1. Linda Zhang (S), 25.71; 2. Carolyn

Stoddard (P), 26.79; 3. Erickson (P), 26.84; 4. Stephanie Solterman (S), 27.30; 5. Caylin Waters (P), 27.90.

1-meter diving:

1. Bridget Maul (S), 140.75 points; 2. Megan McKeenan (P), 120.85; 3. Katy Telega (P), 120.35; 4. Alexa Gullitti (P), 118.40; 5. Adelaida Jerguson (S), 103.15.

100 butterfly:

1. Lisa Zhang (S), 1:01.26; 2. Toro (P), 1:01.67; 3. Plencner (P), 1:04.84; 4. Andrea Ringer (S), 1:08.30; 5. Amin (S), 1:12.24.

100 freestyle:

1. Erickson (P), 58.34; 2. Weiner (P), 58.45; 3. Solterman (S), 59.15; 4. Patterson (S), 1:00.25; 5. Cassidy Sargent (S), 1:01.37.

500 freestyle:

1. Dombkowski (P), 5:07.47; 2. Suriano (S), 5:21.57; 3. Stoddard (P), 5:45.94; 4. Gorman (S), 5:50.31; 5. Vincenza (S), 5:54.40.

200 freestyle relay:

1. Plymouth (Toro, Erickson, Solterman, Dombkowski), 1:44.31; 2. Salem (Lisa Zhang, Solterman, Gorman, Suriano), 1:44.90; 3. Plymouth (Lydia Matson, Waters, Casey Wing, Stoddard), 1:52.41.

100 backstroke:

1. Aumiller (S), 1:00.52; 2. Earls (P), 1:03.71; 3. Patricia Freitag (S), 1:07.24; 4. Plencner (P), 1:09.19; 5. Maurice (S), 1:11.15.

100 breaststroke:

1. Linda Zhang (S), 1:10.57; 2. Toro (P), 1:14.81; 3. Matson (P), 1:19.32; 4. Visai (P), 1:21.53; 5. Rupp (S), 1:22.28.

400 freestyle relay:

1. Salem (Suriano, Lisa Zhang, Aumiller, Linda Zhang), 3:41.00; 2. Plymouth (Dombkowski, Stoddard, Weiner, Earls), 3:48.74; 3. Salem (Solterman, Ringer, Patterson, Gorman), 3:59.68.

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OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC
HOMETOWN WEEKLIES

Mingling, food, music kick off Livonia Symphony Orchestra season

By Sharon Dargay
 O&E Staff Writer

Bill Joyner hopes to raise awareness as well as dollars at a kick off for the Livonia Symphony Orchestra's 40th anniversary season.

"It's community-driven," he described the event on Thursday, Sept. 27. "The community got together and opted to do this on behalf of the Livonia Symphony."

Joyner and a coalition of business, community and government leaders organized the celebration and then reached out to potential new supporters.

"We tried to find people who appreciate Livonia's quality of life, but might not be aware of the symphony."

So far, 130 music lovers have paid \$140 each to attend the event, which will run from 7-9 p.m. at Laurel Park Office Center and will include a strolling supper prepared by Thomas's Catering, along with music by brass and string ensembles. Seven Livonia artists will exhibit their works, demonstrating that "art goes beyond the stage." The Livonia Civic Chorus, the Livonia Symphony Orchestra, and Phoenix Theatre have donated free tickets for concerts and shows.

"Everyone who comes to the event will get over \$100 in free tickets to events," Joyner said. "Even the Tuscan Cafe, my favorite place in Northville, is giving cups of coffee away."

40TH ANNIVERSARY KICK-OFF

What: A celebration of the Livonia Symphony Orchestra

When: 7-9 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 27

Where: Laurel Park Office Center atrium, Laurel Park Place Drive, north of Six Mile, west of Newburgh, Livonia

Details: Mingle, hear live music, eat a strolling supper. Tickets are \$140

Contact: Bill Joyner at (734) 427-2782



The Livonia Symphony performs with dancers during its annual holiday concert.



Volodymyr Shesiuk Livonia Symphony Orchestra conductor

Non-alcoholic

Coffee, tea, soda and non-alcoholic drinks will be served with the strolling supper.

"The unique thing is this is non-alcoholic. We wanted this to be a meet and mingle, for people to enjoy themselves and have a fun time," Joyner said. "We've got a gorgeous atrium at Laurel Park. Lights will be strung so it will look like a courtyard in the big city.



Volodymyr Shesiuk conducts the Livonia Symphony.

Thomas's Catering is the best in Livonia ... everything from Beef Wellington to kebabs."

Organizers planned to sell between 100-140 tickets to the kick off and were just 10 sales from their goal as of Tuesday. But Joyner said he'll "find room" for anyone who wants to buy a ticket.

With everything except invitations donated, all proceeds from admission will benefit the symphony. Joyner said he hoped \$40 from each ticket would be designated for expenses during the symphony's 40th season. The remaining \$100 would be set aside for the future.

Creating a cushion
 "His intent, when he started this whole thing was to raise \$10,000 to put in the bank and \$4,000 for our immediate treasury. It would start a (financial) cushion for us," said Rose Kachnowski, Livonia Symphony president. "It would be so nice to have a cushion. We go from hand to mouth all the time. It's difficult to keep symphonies

alive right now."

Although the Livonia Symphony has never cancelled a concert because of financial difficulties, cash flow can be a problem at the start of each new season.

"We try to start out with some money ... we've got to do mailings and send out brochures. But until the money comes in through ticket sales and donations, it's a tough cash flow," Kachnowski said.

More awareness

She said the kick off event will be a tremendous help in fundraising and in expanding the symphony's pool of supporters.

"If we find even five new people we've never had contact with and these five are willing to pay \$140 for tickets, that is something good for us. You never know where it will go."

In the meantime, volunteers hope to raise awareness of the symphony through a 40th anniversary sign campaign. They're placing signs in windows throughout the business community.

In addition to the symphony's regular concert schedule, outreach programs and special events — such as its 40th anniversary auction, dinner and concert on Friday, Nov. 16 — a performance with Steve King and the Dittilies is in the planning stages.

"I have so many ideas I'd like to still see done. I'd like to see a community outreach where musicians work with St. Mary Mercy Hospital, because music is so healing," Kachnowski said. "I'd like to see the musicians go out and play for patients. But we can't do that until we build up a fund."

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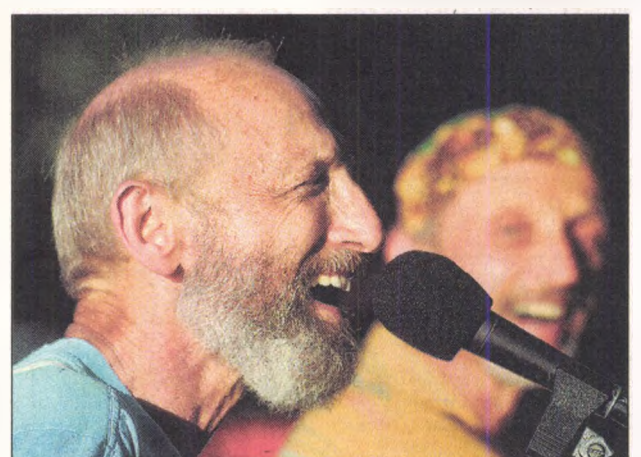
If you like your bikes smokin' hot, save Sunday, Oct. 14 for the 17th Annual Great Lakes Regional Chili Cook-off. The motorcycle show, a component of the annual cook-off, will run 11-4 p.m. and include two charity Chili Rides — one starting from Motor City Harley-Davidson in Farmington Hills and the other from Dick Scott's Classic Motorcycles in Livonia. There is a fee to enter a bike and all first place winners will receive a trophy with one lucky rider winning a Best of Show award. For more information about the bike show and ride, call Motor City Harley-Davidson at (248) 473-7433 or visit www.motorcityharley.com. Or call Dick Scott's Classic Motorcycles at (734) 398-5454 or visit www.dickscott.com.

Band performs children's music at peace event

See Gemini in concert and browse tables with information about peace organizations and initiatives at the fifth annual ONE PEACE, 1-5 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 22 at the Livonia Civic Center Library Auditorium, 32777 Five Mile, Livonia.

Sponsored by Citizens for Peace, the event will celebrate the United Nations International Day of Peace.

In addition to the Gemini concert at 2 p.m., Citizens for Peace members will read books from its Children's Peace Collection to young visitors. Participants also will view the Peace Pals International Art Display, hear the story of Peace Day and the history of ONE



FILE PHOTO

Sandor (left) and Laszlo Slomovits sing together as Gemini. They'll perform at ONE PEACE, Saturday, Sept. 22 in Livonia.

PEACE, and get a chance to engage in creative art activities.

For more information visit www.onepeace.us or call (734) 425-0079.

Culinary delights

Food, wine event raises scholarship funds

By Sharon Dargay
O&E Staff Writer

Executive Chef David Poirier will use almost all local ingredients in the Butternut Bourbon Soup he serves to patrons Sunday at the 21st Annual Culinary Extravaganza at Schoolcraft College in Livonia.

"All the products are Michigan products, except for the Maker's Mark," said Poirier, a Farmington Hills resident and co-owner of the Black Tulip Grille in Wixom.

Funds generated by his alma mater's fundraiser will stay local, too.

The Schoolcraft College Foundation will use proceeds from the event — which will feature more than 50 food and beverage stations — for student scholarships and to benefit the culinary arts department at the college.

"It's a tremendous event for the college. It's a benefit to students," said Marjorie Lynch, coordinator of special events and fundraising at the college. "Scholarships are more important than ever now."

Lynch said the Culinary Extravaganza raised approximately \$50,000 last year. She added that tickets are selling well for the event, which will run from 2-5 p.m. Sept. 23 in the VisTaTech Center on campus, located on Haggerty Road, just south of Seven Mile in Livonia.

"We expect about 600 or 700 people on Sunday."

Food, auction

Patrons pay \$50 each — \$20 of which is a charitable contribution — to sample food and drinks from Metro Detroit restaurants, pastry shops and beverage vendors. They can bid on a silent auction items, including sport event tickets and weekend getaways, buy a chance to win raffle prizes of cash and dinners at Schoolcraft's American Harvest Restaurant, and



A patron samples the fare served by Old World Olive Press at Schoolcraft College Foundation's Culinary Extravaganza.



Joan Gebhardt, a Schoolcraft college trustee, and her husband, Fred, peruse a dessert table at the Culinary Extravaganza last year.



Schoolcraft students set up a sweets table at the Culinary Extravaganza last year.

get expert advice on food and wine.

"We're bringing back Chef (Jeffrey) Gabriel and he's doing a demo on healthy food preparation. He's a certified executive chef and he did this for the first time for us last year," Lynch said.

Lee Hershey, who teaches wine classes at Schoolcraft, will hold a seminar on wine-tasting.

Vendors include Sive Restaurant at the Inn at St. John's, Plymouth Township; Black Star Farms, Suttons Bay; Dream Cakes, Commerce Township; Something Chocolate, Birmingham; Steve & Rocky's, Novi; The Sardine Room, Plymouth; Zumba Mexican

Grille, Royal Oak; Mitchell's Fish Market, Livonia; Toasted Oak Grill and Market, Novi; The Henry Ford, Dearborn; Wisteria Bakehaus, West Bloomfield; Vine2Wine Custom Winery, Northville; Vintners Cellar Canton Winery, Canton; The Elite Catering Company, Livonia; Skandis Fine Wines LLC, Kalamazoo; McCormick/360 Vodka; Michigan Grape and Wine Industry Council; Cadillac Coffee Company, Madison Heights; Coffee Express Company, Plymouth; Old World Olive Press, Plymouth and more.

"Many restaurants employ our students or are run by former stu-

dents," Lynch noted.

Former student

Poirier graduated from the college's culinary program in 2000, after spending 31 years in the auto industry as an electrical repairman. His grandfather was a chef in the Upper Peninsula. Poirier and his partner, Bill Widmyer opened Black Tulip Grille in April. Participating in the Culinary Extravaganza was an easy decision for Poirier who volunteered at the event as a student and staffed Holiday Market's vendor booth for three years.

"I'm one of the chefs in Michigan Chefs de Cuisine. I still do a lot of things with Chef Gabriel

at Schoolcraft."

Executive Chef Marius Maniac has participated in Culinary Extravaganza for several years with Compari's on the Park in Plymouth. He'll represent The Sardine Room at the event this year.

"Same company but different idea," he said, adding that the new restaurant opened in May in downtown Plymouth.

Look for his Brown Butter Sage Portuguese Sardines on Sunday at the Culinary Extravaganza. They're topped with fried capers and served with a goat cheese crostini.

Get tickets for Culinary Extravaganza by calling (734) 462-4518 or by visiting www.schoolcraft.edu/foundation.

CITY BITES

Brew, Brats, & Bands

CANTON — Beer enthusiasts and the 21 and over crowd can support the Canton Historical Society while also enjoying a Michigan craft beer, 6-9 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 22, at the Cady-Boyer Barn, located in Preservation Park at 500 N. Ridge Road in Canton. Tickets for the 3rd Annual Brew, Brats & Bands are \$30 and available at www.cantonhistoricalsociety.org, at the door, or in advance at the Summit on the Park, 46000 Summit Parkway; Canton Treasurer's Office and the Canton Parks Office, 1150 S. Canton Center Road; as well as the Canton Farmers Market, 500 N. Ridge Road. Designated Driver tickets also are available for \$10. Admission includes seven drink tickets, each good for a four-ounce beer tasting sample. Attendees will be able to choose from more than 50 different craft and specialty beers. A keepsake beer-tasting mug and brats with all the fixings will be included with admission. "All Directions" will play rhythm and blues standards and "The Tabasco Cats" will play Dixieland music. For more information on Brew, Brats, & Bands at the Barn, visit www.cantonhistoricalsociety.org or call (734) 394-5314.

Restaurant week

PLYMOUTH — Plymouth Restaurant Week celebrates the diversity of the city's downtown dining establishments, Sept. 28-Oct. 7. Each participating restaurant will offer a special three-course menu at a discounted cost of \$15, \$25 or \$35 per person. No tickets or passes are necessary. Patrons can simply dine out as frequently as they want over the 10-day period. Participating restaurants include E.G. Nicks, Fiamma Grille, Sean O'Callaghan's, Compari's, The Sardine Room, Penn Grill, Nico & Vali, Panache 447, Ironwood Grill and Zin Wine Bar. View their menus at www.plymouthrestaurantweek.com.

Food fight

LIVONIA — Lori Tepper, certified sommelier at d.vine fine wines, will battle it out with Michelle DeHayes, advanced sommelier, AHD Vintners, in a contest involving small plates and wine pairing. The action will run from 7-9 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 27 at d.vine fine wines, 17386 Haggerty. Brandon O'Sullivan will cater and serve three courses, along with a refreshing dessert. Each course will feature two wines — one chosen by Tepper and the other by DeHayes. Participants will cast their vote for their favorite wine and food pairing. Cost is \$35 per person, \$30 for Wine Club members. Make reservations by calling (734) 432-3800. Or visit d.vinefinewines.com.

Time-saving tips with go-to ingredients

It's easy to run out of time and energy to prepare a delicious family meal when school, sports and other activities beckon. How, then, do you bring the family back to the table? One easy way to reclaim precious time is to infuse your menu with palate-pleasing, leftover-friendly staples like pulled pork.

Easily repurposed throughout the week, pulled pork can be cooked once and incorporated in a variety of dishes your family will love. For example, this Chili Rub Pulled Pork recipe can be prepared in the slow cooker, yielding a flavorful meal that's ready to eat when you return home from an active day. Additionally, the leftovers can be enjoyed throughout the week in a number of different ways. Whether topping creative salads or savory pizzas, filling enchiladas or adding new flavor to baked potatoes, pulled pork is a perfect fit for a busy lifestyle.

For more pulled pork tips and recipes, visit www.PorkBeInspired.com. Also, follow the National Pork Board on Facebook at www.facebook.com/PorkBeInspired, Twitter @AllAboutPork and on Pinterest at www.pinterest.com/PorkBeInspired.

Chili Rub Slow Cooker Pulled Pork

Prep time: 10 minutes
Cook time: 5 1/4 to 8 1/4 hours
Makes: 8 to 10 servings

1 3-pound boneless pork shoulder or sirloin roast



Chili Rub Slow Cooker Pulled Pork

2 tablespoons chili powder
1 1/2 teaspoons salt
1/2 teaspoon cayenne powder
1/2 teaspoon canola oil or other neutral-flavored oil
1/2 cup chicken broth

Line a 9- by 13-inch baking pan with foil and place pork in pan. In small bowl, combine chili powder, salt and cayenne. Rub mixture over all sides of meat, pressing to adhere (if the meat is tied together with twine or netting, just rub the seasoning right over it). Set aside.

In large skillet over medium-high heat, warm oil. Add pork and brown on all sides, 6 to 8 minutes. Transfer meat to slow cooker.

Add broth to skillet, scraping up any browned bits, then add broth to slow cooker. Cover and cook until pork is very tender, 6 to 8 hours on low or 4 to 5 hours on high.

Transfer meat to cutting board and let rest 10 to 15 minutes. Use two forks to shred meat into bite-sized pieces. Moisten and season

with cooking juices to taste.

Serving Suggestions: This recipe is only mildly spiced, so if you like things with a kick, try adding more cayenne to the rub or add some of your favorite hot sauce to the finished, shredded meat. Use the pork to make a traditional pulled pork sandwich, with barbecue sauce and slaw, enjoy it in your favorite chili recipe, or on top of a Tex Mex Caesar salad.

— Courtesy of Family Features



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Jill Halpin

Contributing Writer

Autumn in Michigan is more than just cooler temperatures and color tours; it's also cider mills, pumpkin patches and fall festivals.

Here is a list of area events, cider mills and orchards to help you find the perfect way to celebrate the season.

Plymouth Orchards & Cider Mill, 10685 Warren Road, Plymouth, (734) 455-2290

Wagon rides through the orchard and a petting zoo make this cider mill and orchard a great place to visit with children. Cider, fresh-baked doughnuts and fresh-picked apples are available for purchase. Although not a u-pick apple orchard,

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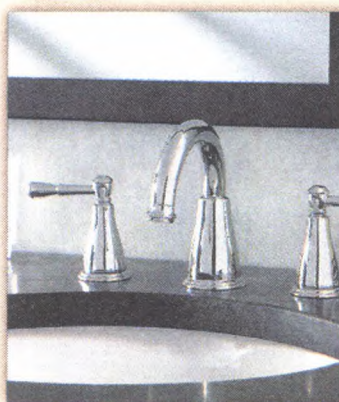


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Rain water needs proper direction

By Lon Grossman
Correspondent

Q: Despite several attempts to correct the drainage from gutters on my two-story colonial, water streams between the house and the gutters. How can I correct this problem?

A: If your gutters or downspouts are obstructed, rainwater will back up and cause your problem. Next, make sure the gutters are installed properly and not tilted backward.

Finally, you should have metal drip edging along the entire bottom edge of your roof boards under the shingles. The metal itself should not just be straight and flat, it should have a slight bend outward. The bend or slant directs water into the gutters and not behind them.

The starter course of shingles should overhang the metal drip edging approximately 1/4 to 1/2 an inch. Anymore of an overhang and the shingles will begin to sag with time. The protruding shingles and lip on the drip edging should effectively direct water run off into your gutters.

Q: I am planning on hiring a basement or mechanical contractor. What are some things I should watch out for?

A: If you need to hire a waterproofing contractor for your basement, you should be careful that they are not charging for work not done. Are they using poor-quality products? You really won't know, so get the "specs" on material and quality before you sign the contract.

- If they damage the foundation, landscaping, furnishings, etc., who pays for that?

- Are they making claims that cannot be attained?

- Are they doing unnecessary work?
- How good is the company and how long have they been in business?

- Do they guarantee the job? The guarantee may only be as good as how much water it can soak up!

Now, as for furnace repairs, some contractors use scare tactics to intimidate homeowners such as, "you'll die" (or worse yet) "your cat will die if



Lon Grossman



we don't replace the furnace," or "the furnace will blow up at any moment."

When they are selling you a new furnace, are they representing the furnace's efficiency to be higher than it actually is? Check with publications such as *Consumer Reports*.

Are they doing unnecessary repairs or replacement? Some have been known to deliberately break a part in order to increase the fee. (Oh, I'm surprised!).

Is the man who is doing the work qualified to actually perform the job properly? Remember, most contractors are honest. But check them, their licenses, their references, as well as their work.

Q: You recommend sealing concrete with 50 percent boiled linseed oil and 50 percent kerosene. I never heard of this. I asked a contractor who has been in the concrete business for 30 years and he said he never heard of this. He put in a new concrete sidewalk and apron. Should I seal it? Will it discolor the concrete?

A: The Michigan Concrete Association strongly urges that concrete be sealed approximately 30 days after it has cured. It must be dry and the air temperature above 70 degrees. The boiled linseed oil mixture will temporarily discolor the surface, but if you want you can use any concrete sealer. The sealer should be applied every two years. Check out the Michigan Concrete Association website at www.miconcrete.org.

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. Call (248) 855-5566. Visit his website www.technihouse.com. Follow Lon's Blog at <http://drdiy.wordpress.com/>.



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The Village Theater at Cherry Hill, Canton



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Saturday, October 27, 2012 • 7:30 pm • The Carr Center, Detroit

Dance Mix

Sunday, November 18, 2012 • 2:00 pm • The Village Theater at Cherry Hill, Canton

Home for the Holidays

Thursday, December 13, 2012 • 6:00 pm & 8:00 pm • Penn Theatre, Plymouth
Friday, December 14, 2012 • 7:30 pm • The Seligman Performing Arts Center, Beverly Hills

Miniature Masterpieces

Sunday, January 13, 2013 • 2:00 pm • The Inn at St. John's Chapel, Plymouth

The French Connection

Sunday, February 10, 2013 • 2:00 pm • First United Methodist Church, Plymouth

A Beatles Blast

Saturday, March 9, 2013 • 7:30 pm • The Village Theater at Cherry Hill, Canton

Adventures on Earth: an Orchestral Celebration of Earth Day

Friday, April 19, 2013 • 7:30 pm • The Seligman Performing Arts Center, Beverly Hills
Sunday, April 21, 2013 • 2:00 pm • First United Methodist Church, Plymouth



For tickets and information on all these concerts
and events call 734.451.2112, or visit

www.michiganphil.org



Clearing the air:

What an HVAC cleaner should really do in your home



The EPA recommends you interview companies to ensure they have experience working on your type of system, that they will take steps to protect your home and everyone in it from contamination, and that they comply with NADCA's air duct cleaning standards.

(ARA) – Those statistics about indoor air pollution and its relation to respiratory problems convinced you it was time to get your heating, ventilation and air conditioning system (HVAC) cleaned. You were even looking forward to the increased energy efficiency that a clean system can provide. But \$49 and one very noisy service call later, you're still sneezing and you haven't seen any dip in your energy bill.

What happened?

"A very low service charge may indicate the service provider isn't performing a thorough cleaning and maintenance of your home's entire HVAC system," says Matt Mongiello, president of NADCA, the HVAC Inspection, Maintenance & Restoration Association. "He or she may have done nothing more than blow air through the ducts and clean off vent grills inside the home. A cleaning performed to NADCA standards – which

are cited by the EPA as a best practice – encompasses much more than just the ductwork."

HVAC companies are among the top 10 industries with the most complaints, according to the Better Business Bureau. So how can a homeowner know if a service provider is doing a good job, or just blowing hot air?

The EPA recommends you interview companies to ensure they have experience working on your type of system,

that they will take steps to protect your home and everyone in it from contamination, and that they comply with NADCA's air duct cleaning standards.

NADCA members carry general liability insurance, have at least one person on staff trained and certified as an Air Systems Cleaning Specialist, and clean and restore heating and cooling systems following the association's standards and

Please see HVAC, 10

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FALL

Continued from page 3

a large u-pick pumpkin patch is open to the public throughout the fall.

**Donahee Farms, 6055 Tower Road,
Plymouth, (734) 459-0655**

More than 70 acres of pumpkins share space alongside corn stalks, straw, gourds, a giant pumpkin moonwalk and a children's straw maze at this farm. Cider, doughnuts, candy apples and popcorn are just some of the treats available for munching.

**Parmenter's Northville Cider Mill,
714 Baseline Road, Northville, (248) 349-3181**

In addition to the standard favorites such as cider and doughnuts, Parmenter's also offers a delicious frozen apple cider slush, homemade fudge and wine from the Northville Winery.

**Three Cedars Farm, 7897 Six Mile Road,
Salem Township, (248) 437-8200**

Tractor-pulled hayrides, a corn maze, bonfires, u-pick pumpkins and a barnyard play land are some of the highlights of this popular family destination. Cider, doughnuts, slushes and much more are available for purchase.

**Obstbaum Orchards, 9252 Currie Road,
Salem Township, (734) 560 2840**

This family-run cider mill offers a large selection of homemade baked goods as well as jams, jellies, salsa and fruit butters. Giant pumpkins, Indian corn stalks and seasonal crafts are also available for purchase.

**Franklin Cider Mill, 7450 Franklin Road,
Bloomfield Hills, (248) 626-2968**

A long-time institution, the Franklin Cider Mill offers a wide variety of products for purchase in addition to cider and cinnamon spice doughnuts. Carmel and candy apples, baked goods, jams and butters as well as honey and pumpkins are also available.

**Erwin Orchards U-Pick, 61475 Silver Lake Road,
South Lyon, (248) 437-0150**

In addition to apples, cider doughnuts and other baked goods, Erwin's Orchards kicks the visit to the cider mill up a notch with its "agri-tainment" offering for family fun. Featured activities include a corn maze, wagon rides, a hay maze, a goat walk, a trike trail that gives little ones a chance to ride a John Deere tricycle and "Mr. B's Big 3-D Adventures," a walk-through attraction for all ages. A children's spooky barn as well as a barn of horrors and labyrinth for adults add to Halloween fun.

**Long Family Orchard, Farm and Cider Mill, 1540
E. Commerce Road, Commerce, (248) 360-3774**

Apples and pumpkins take center stage alongside hayrides and a corn maze at this farm packed with loads of fun family activities. Cider, doughnuts and wagon rides are available, as well as an area complete with petting zoo, pedal carts, a bounce house and much more. U-pick pumpkins and a moonlight corn maze open the last three weeks of October.

Other apple orchards that are worth a short drive include:

Apple Charlie's, 38035 S. Huron, New Boston,
(734) 753-9380

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Yates Cider Mill, 1990 E. Avon Rd., Rochester Hills, (248) 651-8300
Wiards Orchards and Country Fair, 5565 Merritt Rd., Ypsilanti, (734) 482-7744

Upland Hills Farm, 481 Lake George Rd., Oxford, (248) 628-1611

Local fall festivals and fairs are listed below.

**Our Lady of La Salette Church
Fall FunFest**

Friday, Sept. 21

**Our Lady of La Salette,
2600 Harvard Road, Berkley**

This annual fall fundraiser features carnival rides, a huge garage sale, raffles, games, a fun run, chili cookoff, Vegas night with Texas Hold 'Em tournament, music and live entertainment.

Harvest Moon Celebration

Thursday-Saturday, Sept. 27-29

**Walter E. Sundquist Pavilion and
Riley Park, downtown Farmington**

Celebrate Michigan's most glorious season. Say farewell to summer and ring in autumn. Sample harvest food pairings, sip crafted cider or artisan ales, explore fine wines, relax by the fire or just enjoy the music. Kids will enjoy the Farmer John Petting Zoo and show along with the toddler hay bale maze. Go to www.downtownfarmington.org for a schedule of events.

New this year is a "Farm to Table Dinner" 6-11 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 29.

South Lyon Area Pumpkinfest

Saturday-Sunday, Sept. 29-30

Downtown South Lyon

This weekend-long celebration of crafts, music and community features live music, farmers market, food and beverage vendors and fun activities for all ages. The festivities will also include a beer tent, games, inflatables, an entertainment stage, movie night, pet adoptions and more. Come early for the three-mile Pumpkinfest Parade at 10 a.m. Saturday. The theme for the 2012 Pumpkinfest Parade is "Down on the Farm." Go to www.southlyonpumpkinfest.com for a complete schedule of weekend events.



**Fall Fair Artisan Market
Friday-Sunday, Oct. 12-14
Northville Community Senior
Center**

303 W. Main St, Northville

The 33rd annual Fall Fair Artisan Market is a juried indoor fine art and fine craft market that features more than 75 artists and craftspeople from around the country. Unique, one-of-a-kind pieces from a variety of hand-selected artists, along with delicious cuisine available from a local cafe, are available.

**Great Lakes Regional Chili
Cook-off and Motorcycle Show
Sunday, Oct. 14
Downtown Plymouth**

The 17th annual Great Lakes Regional Chili Cook-off and Motorcycle Show from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. in downtown Plymouth. More than 50,000 chili samples will be enjoyed. The event features a wide variety of chili for sampling, as well as live entertainment and family fun. Go to www.greatlakeschili.com for a complete schedule.



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HVAC

Continued from page 6

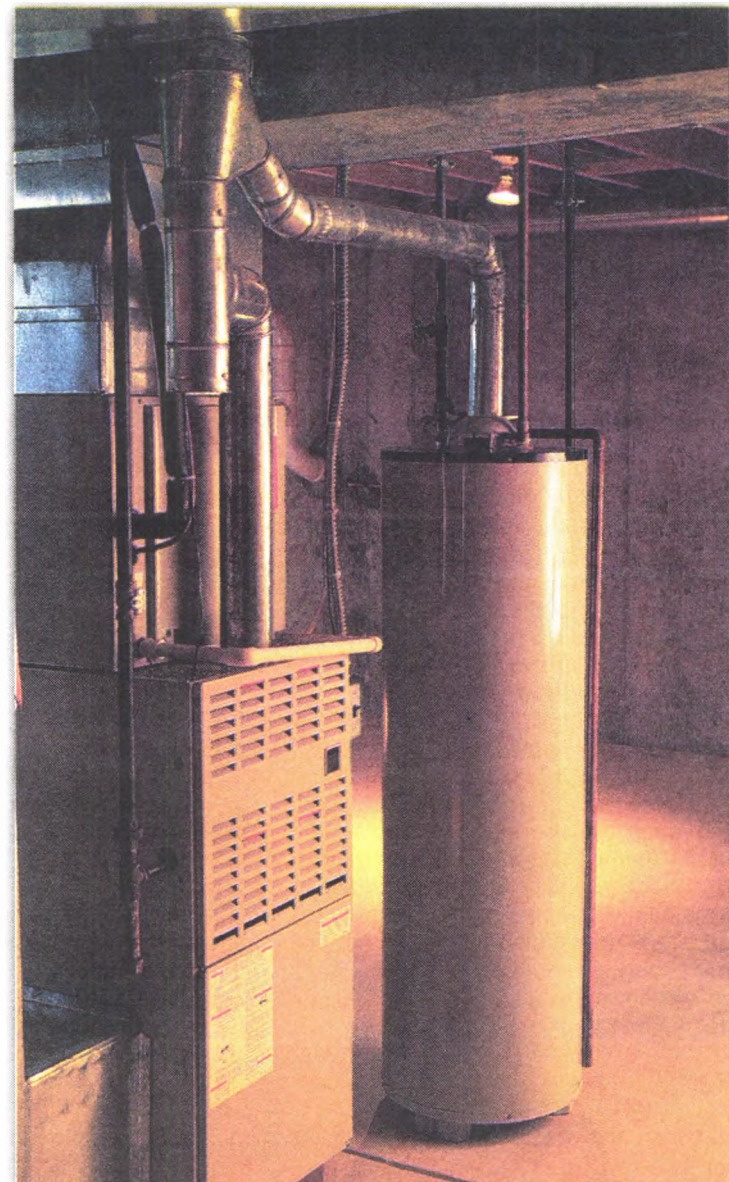
guidelines. A job done to NADCA standards should include:

- A thorough inspection of the HVAC system before doing any work, and full disclosure of any problems discovered during the inspection.
- Examination of metal ductwork at several random sites to ensure the interior surfaces are free of visible debris.
- Cleaning of both the supply and return air ductwork.
- Removal, cleaning and resetting of all supply registers, return air grilles and diffusers.
- Cleaning of the supply and return air plenums.
- Inspection and/or installation of access panels.
- Cleaning of the air-stream side of the heat exchanger and cleaning of the secondary heat exchanger.
- Removal, cleaning and reassembly of the blower motor.
- Cleaning and inspection of the blower blades and blower compartment.
- Cleaning of the evaporator coil, drain and pan. If the cooling coil is clean, light should shine through it when you point a flashlight at the coils.
- Inspection and repair of the coil fins if needed.
- Replacement of air filters.
- Washing of the air cleaner.

While some companies may tout "duct-cleaning" for very low prices, be wary of these offers, Mongiello advises. "A cleaning typically costs between \$450 and \$1,000 per heating and cooling system, depending on the services offered, the size of the

system, how easily accessible it is, the climate in your region and how dirty it is," he says.

Many of those variables will influence how long the job takes, too. Before you hire a contractor, contact at least two NADCA member companies to provide you with a time estimate for the job. "You'll get an idea of how long the job should take," Mongiello says. "But in general, a service provider who's in and out of your home in an hour or less may be leaving out some steps that are necessary to do the job right."



Finally, Mongiello advises, feel free to stick around while the technicians do their job. "As long as the homeowner's presence isn't compromising anyone's safety, there's no reason a consumer can't observe how a job is done," he says.

To find a NADCA-certified HVAC cleaning company in your area, visit www.nadca.com.



Enjoy harvest season at local markets

Enjoy seasonal fruits, vegetables and other local goods at these area farmers markets. Fall is harvest season and local markets are teeming with locally produced goods. Most markets are open through October with a few open later. Some are open year round. Enjoy the bounty of Michigan close to home.

Birmingham Farmers Market

Open Sundays, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. through October at Municipal Lot 6 on North Old Woodward, just north of Maple Road. Lots of fresh vegetables, fruits, flowers and handmade crafts at more than 70 booths. Food to eat sold on site.

Canton Farmers Market

Every Sunday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. through Oct. 14 in Preservation Park, 500 N. Ridge Road. The market offers seasonal produce, baked goods and a variety of handcrafted goods, all made in Michigan. For more information, visit cantonfun.org or call Tina Lloyd, market manager, at (734) 394-5375.

Farmington Farmers & Artisan Market

Open 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays

through Nov. 17, at the Sundquist Pavilion in Riley Park, located at Grand River Avenue and Grove. The market features a wide selection of seasonal fruits and vegetables, specialty products and baked goods. See cooking demonstrations by local restaurants, children's activities, entertainment and more. Go to www.downtownfarmington.org.

Garden City Farmers Market

Open 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesdays at the northeast corner of Ford Road and Middlebelt in the Garden City Town Center Plaza. The market runs through Oct. 24. Seasonal products along with a variety of special events are offered.

Lathrup Village Farmers Market

Lathrup Village Farmers Market at the Lathrup Municipal Complex, 27400 Southfield Road just north of I-696. The market is open Wednesdays, from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m., through Sept. 30.

Livonia Farmers Market

Runs through Saturday, Oct. 13, at the Wilson Barn, 29350 W. Chicago Road, at Middlebelt. Buy crafts, fruits, vegeta-

Please see MARKET, 12

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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!

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

Level: Beginner

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

Level: Intermediate

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

Level: Advanced

Answers found on page 14



MARKETS

Continued from page 11

bles and artisan foods from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Local farmers, crafters and bakers offer a variety of fresh produce, plants and handmade goods. Proceeds from the Farmers Market benefit the barn, located at West Chicago and Middlebelt. The barn, birthplace of Michigan's milk-hauling business, is a state and national historic site.

For more information, call (734) 427-4311 or visit www.wilsonbarn.us.

Lyon Township Farmers Market

Market runs Fridays, 12:30-6:30 p.m. at Bon-A-Rose, 56808 Grand River Ave. The market features vegetarian, gluten-free and dairy-free products. In addition to these edible offerings, there is selection of handcrafted soaps, candles, organic skin care, jewelry and more by local artisans.

Milford Farmers Market

Milford Farmers Market is open Thursdays, 3-8 p.m. 115 E. Liberty St., Milford next to Fifth Third Bank lot. The market offers foods and creations by Michigan farmers and local residents. Children's activities, cooking demonstrations and special events are also on tap. See milfordfarmersmarket.org.

Northville Farmers Market

Open 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursdays through Oct. 25, in the Northville Downs parking lot, located at Seven Mile and

Sheldon. The local market includes more than 125 Michigan-made and Michigan-grown products. Lunch food service available. Visit www.northville.org.

Novi Farmers Market

The Novi Farmers Market 2012 is located at Fuerst Park, 10 Mile and Taft roads, Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The market offers fresh in-season produce from local Michigan farmers and specialty products like pastries, sauce, sausages, honey, jam and arts and crafts.

Plymouth Farmers Market

The market is in The Gathering across from Kellogg Park in downtown Plymouth. Seasonal produce and plants available. The market runs 7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturdays through Oct. 27. For more information, visit www.plymouth-mich.org.

Redford Farmers Market

At the Marquee, located at the Town Hall complex on Beech Daly, one block south of Five Mile. The market runs 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sundays through Sept. 30 in the heart of downtown Redford. Plants, produce and special events are part of the market.

Royal Oak Farmers Market

One of southeast Michigan's premium market venues where farmers are only allowed to sell what they grow. Fruits, vegetables, baked goods, eggs, dairy products, meats, herbs and other goods are available 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. Fri-

days (through December) and Saturdays (year round). Also from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sundays (for antiques and collectibles). The market is at 316 E. 11 Mile Road, two blocks east of Main Street. Ample parking is available.

South Lyon Farmers Market

South Lyon Farmers Market runs Wednesdays 2-7 p.m. at the corner of Pontiac Trail and Liberty Street in downtown South Lyon. Produce, plants, baked goods and crafts are available.

Wayne Farmers Market

Wayne Farmers Market, run by the Wayne Chamber of Commerce for the 2012 season, is open 3-7 p.m. Wednesdays through September and then 3-6 p.m. through Oct. 24. Fresh fruits, vegetables, flowers and baked goods along with one-of-a-kind artisan works and great music. For more information, call the Wayne Chamber of Commerce at (734) 721-0100.

Westland Farmers Market

The market is open at Westland City Hall parking lot, 36601 Ford Road from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tuesdays through Oct. 23.

White Lake Farmers Market

White Lake Farmers Market featuring fruits, vegetables, plants and crafts runs Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Lakeland High School campus, 1630 Bogie Lake Road. Call (248) 755-1195 or email alaw4196@aol.com for more information.

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Greening your home:

Start at the tap

(ARA) - In today's environmentally conscious times, it seems we're surrounded by the need to shop, act and live "green." Some of our choices are easy and small, while others can be big and costly. But one thing is for sure - each choice can make a significant difference.

Some of the most important green choices we can make are right within our own home, according to Kevin McJoynt at Danze, Inc.

"Installing items like Energy Star appliances and energy-efficient windows is a great step in moving your home to be more green," says McJoynt. "But changing your in-home water usage can have the most impact."

According to McJoynt, water shortages, energy demands and the cost of transporting water continue to rise. "Finding ways to simply reduce our usage without dramatically altering our lifestyle could save billions of gallons of water each year in the United States."

McJoynt offers up these tips on how you can immediately start conserving water (and save money) in your home:

- Replace older toilets (1992 or earlier) with newer, high efficiency toilets



Be sure to turn off the tap when brushing your teeth — it could save nearly 3,000 gallons of water per year.

(HETs). They operate at 1.28 gallons per flush and could save 11 gallons of water per toilet per day. Danze has several new HETs that outperform and are more stylish than many toilets found in current homes.

- Be sure to turn off the tap when brushing your teeth - it could save nearly 3,000 gallons of water per year.
- Update your bathrooms with newer

WaterSense certified lavatory faucets. According to the Environmental Protection Agency WaterSense program, if every household in the U.S. installed these water-saving lavatory faucets, more than \$350 million in water utility bills and more than 60 billion gallons of water annually would be saved, plus \$600 million in energy costs for heating the water.

- Always turn the water off between tasks. Letting your faucet run for five minutes uses about as much energy as letting a 60-watt light bulb run for 14 hours.

• Make sure to wash only full loads of laundry. Using a high-efficiency washing machine is ideal, as they use about 28 gallons of water per load, versus an average machine that uses 41 gallons.

• Take a shower rather than a bath. A full bath tub requires up to 70 gallons of water, while taking a five-minute shower uses 10 to 25 gallons. Want to be even more efficient? Switch your showerhead to a water-saving option.

"We realize showers are a tricky one when it comes to saving water. Home-

owners want to make sure they have a well-performing shower experience," says McJoynt. "However, the EPA WaterSense program recently published standards for showerheads that consider both conservation and performance to build support of these water-saving units. Be sure to look for the WaterSense certification mark."

- Fix those leaks. Most leaky faucets can waste more than 3,000 gallons of water each year.

"Better design and engineering of many new bathroom products actually gives the user improved performance as well as efficiency," adds McJoynt. "Faucets, toilets and showerheads are great examples. They're just like other appliances that use less energy, but still work very well."

If all the water-saving green choices still have you overwhelmed, select one tip at a time and incorporate it into your home. Looking for other tips? Visit the EPA's WaterSense website.

For more information about the performance and efficiency of Danze faucets, showerheads and toilets, visit www.danze.com.

Sudoku Answers

Beginner

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

Intermediate

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

Advanced

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

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Turning a house into *your* home

The National Association of the Remodeling Industry (NARI) reveals that homeowners are personalizing their space during a remodel as the tough housing market forces more people to stay, rather than move.

According to a poll on NARI.org, 26 percent of respondents are planning to stay an additional 16 to 20 years in their homes because their home values have decreased during the recession. Twenty-three percent reported they are going to stay an additional six to 10 years in their homes.

The U.S. Census Bureau reports combined existing and new single family home sales decreased 5 percent in 2010. "This is very telling of what homeowners are experiencing as a result of the recession," says NARI National President Dean Herriges, MCR, CKBR, of Urban Herriges & Sons in Mukwonago, Wis. "Because many homes have recently decreased in value, people are deciding to stick it out for much longer than they had originally planned."

This in turn, has sparked a new remodeling trend that centers on making homes better reflect individual lifestyles and tastes as people decide to live in them longer. "Remodeling used to be about increasing resale value — making improvements that are appealing to the majority of buyers in order to boost the value of the home," Herriges says.

But that is simply not the case anymore. "More and more people are throwing out the resale theory and making specialized improve-

ments that suit their needs and their needs only," he says. And this trend stretches far beyond flashy paint colors and finishes. Homeowners are opting for spas with exercise pools, caterer kitchens, art rooms, yoga studios, motorcycle garages, dog spas, wine cellars and tasting rooms, helicopter pads, 3-D murals, built-in tepanyaki grills, sewing rooms and meditation rooms.

Herriges cautions homeowners, though, that it's important the customizations make sense to their lifestyle. "Make sure that whatever you're adding is going to be something that you really intend to use, otherwise the space will end up being under utilized and make you unhappy," Herriges says.

The entire poll results are as follows: 13 percent responded they had not planned to stay longer in their homes, 28 percent planned to stay one to five years longer, 23 percent planned to stay six to 10 years, 10 percent planned to stay 11 to 15 years longer and 26 percent planned to stay 16 to 20 years longer.

NARI is the source for homeowners seeking to hire a professional remodeling contractor because members are full-time, dedicated remodelers who follow a strict code of ethics that observes high standards of honesty, integrity and responsibility.

Visit the NARI.org site to get tips on how to hire a remodeling professional and to search for NARI members in your area.

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Homeowners who have tried to sell a home before are already likely to be familiar with the phrase "curb appeal." Curb appeal is similar to getting ready for a big date, only you're not dressing yourself up to make a strong first impression. Instead, improving curb appeal involves dressing your home up in the hopes it makes a strong first impression on prospective buyers, many of whom will have a strong opinion about the property before they even get out of their cars to have a look around.

A home with strong curb appeal can entice buyers who believe that a home with a well-maintained exterior is likely to have an equally impressive interior. Homeowners who want to improve the curb appeal can do so in a number of ways, many of which don't necessitate a substantial improvement budget.

Clean up.

The most effective way to improve curb appeal is to clean up the property. Many homeowners are savvy enough to remove toys and other items from the yard, but cleaning up goes beyond removing clutter from the property. Make sure all hedges are trimmed and remove weeds, sticks and other debris from any flower beds.

Get an "edge" on other sellers.

Edging is another easy and effective way to improve curb appeal. Edge driveways, sidewalks and other walkways around the property, trimming anything that is hanging over the driveway or walkways. If the boundary between your driveway and lawn is not distinct, consider installing edging materials. The edging can be level with the

driveway or elevated, but keep in mind that elevated edging can protect the lawn, preventing kids from riding their bicycles onto the lawn or cars from driving onto it.

Take to the trees.

Many homeowners grow accustomed to overgrown trees around their property and may not notice that branches are hiding the home from view. Buyers want to see the house, so take to the trees and trim any branches that hang too low or obscure your home.

Clean the gutters.

Leaves and sticks hanging from the gutters are a red flag to buyers, who tend to associate clogged gutters with roof damage. If your property includes lots of trees, install guards to keep twigs and leaves out of the gutters.

Make the home accessible through the front door.

Many homeowners enter through a side door or through their garage. If you fall into this category, keep in mind that buyers will be entering through the front door, so make this area accessible. In addition, make sure the lock on the front door works easily.

Make sure all plants, including flowers, are living.

Make sure all plants are alive and thriving and replace those that aren't. When purchasing new plants, choose low-maintenance varieties that appeal to buyers who want good vibrant plants but might not want to put in much work into the garden.

—Courtesy of Metro Creative



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Nailing down a new roof

There comes a time in many homeowners' lives when they're faced with the reality that a roof replacement is necessary. According to the site, The Average Cost of Things, courtesy of the Home Buying Institute, across the country one can expect to spend \$18,000 on average to replace a roof with asphalt shingles. Use of other materials, like tile or metal will cost more than this. In general, those living in big cities tend to pay more than those in rural areas. Because a roof replacement is expensive, it is something that some homeowners prefer to put off until it is absolutely necessary.

It's important to note that there really is no season where roof replacements are off-limits. Most roofers can do the job effectively unless the temperature is below freezing or if there is significant rain in the forecast. In fact, planning a roofing job for the middle of the winter actually may work to a homeowner's advantage. This is typically a slow time of year for some roofers, and they may be anxious to get work this time of year and be willing to negotiate on price. There's also a good chance that the roofer will not be bogged down with other jobs, enabling the company to start on a home right away. Some roofers prefer working in the colder weather to sizzling up on a roof under the

hot sun at another time of year.

Naturally, the spring is a prime time of year for roofing projects. After the rainy season, the weather is generally comfortable and homeowners are thinking about the projects they will start. A busy time of year for home improvement all around, homeowners may find that they have to compete with others for a good date to have a roof installed. They also may be paying top dollar for the work and materials that are in high demand. Another thing to consider during the busy season is that a project may be rushed along in order to move on to the next job or one being worked on concurrently. This may lead to corners being cut or less attention to detail.

A person may be limited in their choices of roof installation during the summer. Extreme temperatures can make working on the roof hazardous and uncomfortable for workers. For those who live in a climate where the temperatures generally cause the mercury to soar, choose a cooler time of year.

Many homeowners opt to have a roof replacement in the autumn. The crisp weather and the decline in home-renovation projects overall can make this a prime time to contract with a quality roofer. If the roof is very much damaged, replacing it before the harsh, winter weather sets in can be advantageous.

Some homeowners find they can get a discount on a roof installation if they bundle different renovations together. A contractor may offer a special on siding and roofing together. For those who have the funds, this may be the opportunity to get two jobs done at once.

A roofing project is no small undertaking, and homeowners are wise to get several referrals and investigate a variety of companies before settling on one. Review sites, such as Angie's List, or simply word-of-mouth appraisals from friends and family members can help make choosing a roofer an easier decision.

—Courtesy of Metro Creative



A roof can last between 15 and 30 years, but as the elements of time pass, your roof might need to be replaced. Experts tell us to watch for signs of wear and to consider replacement before major amounts of damage occur.

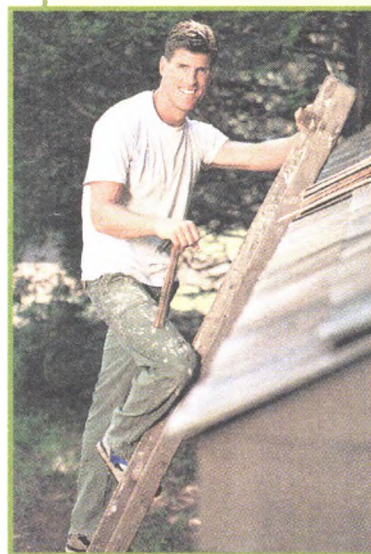
Signs of roof damage

By Neil Hirsh
Contributing Writer

The roof is the house's very first line of defense against the weather. With sturdy and well-designed roof covering, your residence is guaranteed defense no matter just how harsh the rainfall is or how serious the heat gets. Any type of sturdy roof will ultimately succumb to damages over the course of time. A home owner should familiarize himself with the key signs of roof degeneration.

Ceiling spots

Ceiling spots are indications your roofing is leaking. While there are number of sources for roofing holes, the typical ones often include missing or loose shingles, clogged roof drainage, and ice dams. Once ceiling spots are seen, it is essential to check your roof immediately.



Dark, dirty-looking areas on the roof

This could either signify shingle-aging or algæ development. The dark patch on your roofing can mean that it has actually lost most of its protective granules and needs replacement — this is known as shingle-aging. If not handled instantly, this might possibly be harming to your roof.

Missing, damaged, or curled shingles

Missing, cracked and curled shingles are sure indications that your roofing has already reached the end of its life and needs replacement. When these occur, it means that your roof has currently succumbed to the harsh elements.

Decay of exterior/interior paint

Proper air flow ensures that there is a constant flow of air throughout the house that supplies better insulation and lowers the temperature of a living space. When the ventilation is poor, temperatures rise up, causing the interior or external paint to fracture and peel off.



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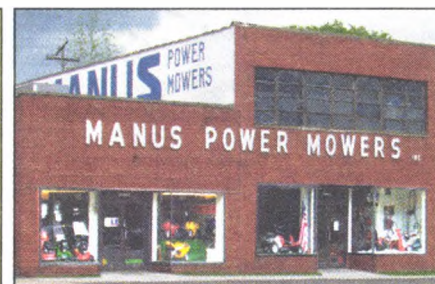
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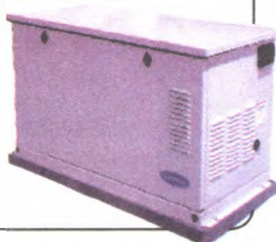
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Fall garden maintenance

By Rodney Melvin,
Contributing Writer

Maintaining your garden is very important if you want to get the most from your property and want to keep it looking its best. A garden is a highly relaxing and pleasant place to sit and unwind and it's a great place for just getting away from it all. At the same time your garden is also often your view from your living spaces and you will rely on it to make those rooms pleasant as well. If it's badly maintained, it can be a source of stress. At the same time if your garden is a mess it can be dangerous—branches can cause accidents if someone should trip, while overgrown trees can lead to damaged property. For these reasons, it's very important that you maintain your garden. Here we will look at how to go about ensuring your garden is safe and good looking at all times.



The lawn

Your lawn needs to be looked after in several ways, the most important of which is to regularly mow it. Ensure that you keep the lawn watered regularly which might mean using sprinklers if you don't get much rain where you are. Otherwise the grass can end up looking dry and dead and this will make your home look as though it's been abandoned.

Trees

You need first and foremost to make sure that the trees are pruned from time to time or you will risk the branches breaking through your fence panels and even dropping off and causing injury. You might also need to do some tree surgery if your roots start growing out of control. These can start to damage your fence and sidewalks as they begin to push through them and lift up the ground. They can also damage other plants if the roots of the trees are much bigger and they get all the water.

Patios

You should also make sure that you regularly sweep up leaves from your patio to keep it looking clean and neat. Grouting between the stones with sand or concrete to avoid weeds growing there and collecting dirt and debris is also a smart decision.

Tidying

Like the home, it is easy for your belongings and other things to collect around the garden and if this causes someone to trip it can be very dangerous. Take care to put things away, and tidy up your outdoor spaces.



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Tips for winterizing your lawn

Every weekend of the last few months you have spent mowing, weeding, edging, and trimming your lawn so that it will look its best. In order to ensure your lawn makes a complete recovery after winter hibernation, you may want to spend the fall taking steps to help your lawn survive the winter months ahead.

Remove fallen leaves and debris.

Leaf cleanup is among the tasks homeowners dread the most. Raking leaves can be arduous, but it is well worth the effort. Fallen leaves can smother the grass and lead to dead spots and decay next season. Wait until the majority of the leaves have fallen from the trees before you begin to rake; otherwise, you could find yourself repeating the process throughout the fall. Mulched leaves can be added in small amounts to garden beds to provide rich organic material for next year's crop of flowers.

Be sure to pick up any twigs and other debris as well. Additional debris can become up trapped under snow and hinder grass growth when spring arrives.

Cut your lawn short.

Unless the season is unseasonably wet and warm, your lawn shouldn't grow too much in October and November. Continue to cut your lawn until there is no visible growth for about two weeks. It pays to give it a short cut before frost arrives so that long piles of dead grass will not smother any new growth in the spring. Also, long grass tends to bend down upon itself, trapping moisture that can lead to fungal diseases like snow mold.

Aerate the lawn.

Soil can be compacted over time, especially in yards that see heavy foot traffic. You can rent an aerator from a lawn supply store so that water and fertilizer can reach the soil.

Fertilize.

Now is the time to give the lawn fresh food to overwinter and also replenish the strength of the root system. All summer long, the lawn has been depleting the soil of nutrition, but autumn presents a great opportunity to strengthen those roots. Consider a slow-release formula designed for winterizing that

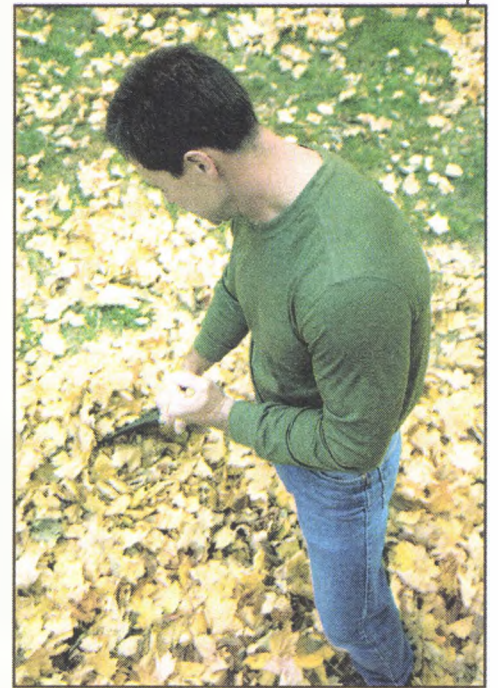
will feed the lawn all winter long.

Edge the garden beds.

Take advantage of the cooler weather and slow-growing grass to re-edge around flower beds. Even though the grass above the surface of the soil will stop growing, the roots will remain viable and the lawn will still be sending out rhizomes and tillers to produce new grass blades in the spring. These can easily encroach on garden beds. Edge now so you will have less work to do in the spring.

Trim hedges and trees.

If there are any overhanging tree branches or shrubbery blocking sunlight from reaching the lawn, cut back these areas once the foliage has thinned. Take advantage of your town's leaf and twig pickup services.



Raking leaves is a key step in preparing your lawn for the winter months

Seed bare patches.

Scour the lawn for bare patches and put down some seed in these areas. The cooler weather will enable the seeds to germinate without having to compete with weed growth.

Once you have prepared your lawn for the winter you can bring in any lawn tools that need repair and have them set and packed away for the spring.

—Courtesy of Metro Creative



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Vinyl siding options to flatter any home



Vinyl siding is trusted by homeowners looking to add aesthetic appeal to their home's exterior. Though vinyl siding may seem to be a cut-and-dry type of product, the vast array of vinyl siding colors and styles has created certain trends among consumers.

Made chiefly from polyvinyl chloride, or PVC, vinyl siding is the most commonly installed exterior cladding for residential construction in the United States and Canada, according to the Vinyl Siding Institute. The history of vinyl siding can be traced to Ohio, where it was introduced to the exterior cladding market in the late 1950s by a private company. The process of mixing colors was done by hand, and the product was very inconsistent. New innovations in siding manufacture during the next few decades helped solidify vinyl siding's place among cladding materials like shake, wood and aluminum.

Vinyl siding comes in several different types. Here are the key variations.

- **Seamless vinyl siding:** In the past, siding was created in specific lengths, requiring siding panels to overlap at points, often creating an unpleasant pattern. These points provided spots for insects, wind and moisture to infiltrate, leading to a weaker product. Today there are vinyl siding products that have removed the seams, creating a more visually appealing and durable product.

- **Solid core vinyl siding:** Even the best-made vinyl siding had a flaw: it was not rigid and generally didn't lie flat against the surface of a home. Solid core vinyl siding alleviates that problem by having a solid backing on which the vinyl panels are attached. The core is then attached to the home. These products also boast a higher-than-average insulation rating because the foam core interlocks during installation. This makes a solid barrier around the home.

- **Vinyl shake siding:** Vinyl shake siding has been designed and colored to look just like real cedar shakes, but without the maintenance, such as powerwashing or staining, associated with a wood product. Vinyl shake siding offers the same ben-

efits of other types of vinyl siding, but tends to look like it is an expensive cladding material.

- **Vinyl log siding:** Log cabins may seem like an adventure. However, being surrounded by wood can have its disadvantages, most notably maintenance issues surrounding wood. Vinyl siding manufacturers have created vinyl log products molded directly from real lumber, providing a look that mimics real wood, like that used for a log cabin.

As vinyl siding continues to be a favorite among homeowners, certain trends emerge each year. While rich-colored siding was a popular trend just last year, homeowners engaging in siding renovation products are now turning more to warm, earthy colors. Expect to see more gold, clay, and warm red shades with trim colors only one or two shades off, for a monochromatic effect.

Another trend involves a continued interest in renewable materials or siding comprised of some post-recycled consumer content.

Energy conservation is also on the minds of consumers, and some areas of the country have modified building codes to require continuous insulation of home exteriors to prevent heat and cooling losses more effectively. As a result, more customers may opt for solid core vinyl siding to meet demands for home insulation.

For homeowners who prefer a one-of-a-kind look to their homes, mix-and-match siding trends have developed. Mixing and matching siding styles can create instant curb appeal and an interesting backdrop for outdoor gardens and patios. Stone entry ways mixed with vinyl siding as well as a mixing of traditional horizontal siding with vinyl shake or board-and-batten are also considerations.

—Courtesy of Metro Creative

Make raking less of a chore

Raking leaves is an annual event for people in many parts of the country. Some enjoy getting out in the crisp, autumn air and spending a day cleaning up the yard. Others do not relish the idea of hours upon hours of leaf removal. Making the process more enjoyable benefits all involved.

Raking leaves is an activity that takes time and energy. It also can be strenuous work. However, by employing a few techniques, the work doesn't have to be that difficult and it might even be fun.

- Invest in a quality rake, particularly one that bends a bit with each stroke. This will maximize the leaves that will be collected with each pass.

- If raking routinely causes aches and pains in your arms, shoulders and wrists, look for ergonomic rakes that are the proper height for your body.

- Move your legs when you are raking instead of remaining stationary and just using your arms. This will help reduce your risk of back pain.

- Use smaller passes of the rake to collect leaves. This method is more efficient and less taxing on your muscles.

- Turn on music while you are raking. Sing along to the tunes or move with the beat, and it may take your mind off of the task at hand.

- Be sure to rake downwind; otherwise every pile of leaves you collect may end up blowing around and giving you more work.

- Rake leaves in groups. Enlist the help of all family members so that it will take less time. Talking and joking around will certainly pass the time more quickly.

- Use a leaf blower sparingly. Use the blower to dislodge leaves from hard-to-reach areas, like behind bushes or under decks. Then rake the leaves into manageable piles.

- Wait until after the peak time for leaves to be falling before you do the majority of raking. Otherwise, you could spend just about every Saturday and Sunday cleaning up leaves.

- Have contests to see who can rake the largest pile in the shortest amount of time.

- Host a leaf-raking party with friends and family members. Tie it into a day when there is a football game on television, or toss around the old pigskin after the job is done.

- Use two garbage pail lids to pick up leaves and put them into disposal bags. You'll grab more leaves in each pass.

- There are some leaf blowers that can vacuum up leaves and mulch them at the same time. Put a portion of this leaf mulch into a compost pile or in your garden beds.

- If your town collects leaves curbside, be sure to keep them in a neat pile to reduce the likelihood of leaves making their way into a nearby sewer.

Leaf cleanup is a necessary task, but the task doesn't have to be tedious and time-consuming.

—Courtesy of Metro Creative



Include kids when raking leaves to make this chore a family affair.

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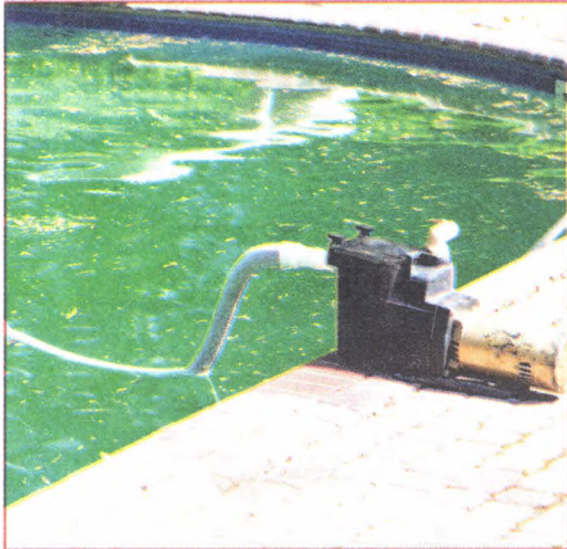
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Closing your pool for the colder months

After a summer's worth of memories and fun in the sun, pool owners know it's time to close their pool for the coming fall and winter seasons.

As the leaves begin to change color and the air starts to grow a little crisper, homeowners turn their attention to winterizing their pools. The goal is to begin the work early on so that you're not facing the hassle of leaves all over the ground or in the pool. Many times, closing the pool requires a team effort, so enlist the help of a spouse, friend or family member before beginning the process.

The first thing that is essential to winterizing the pool is having all of your equipment ready. Depending on the type of pool you have, this equipment can vary. But have all tools, winterizing chemicals and water plugs at the ready. Although in ground pools and above ground ones have similar winterizing



steps, there are a few differences between the two and it is important to be aware of the differences.

Thoroughly vacuum the bottom of the pool

and clean the walls. You want to remove as much organic material, such as algae and dead insects, as possible prior to covering the pool so that there is a greater chance the water will be crystal clear next spring or summer when you reopen the pool.

Once the pool has been vacuumed and cleaned, backwash the filter to remove any excess residue. Remove plugs or open drain ports on the filter and let all of the water flow out of the filter. Give the filter components, including skimmer baskets, a good rinse with water and allow them to dry.

Next, disconnect the pool's pump and filter. Everything should be totally drained of any water. With an aboveground pool, remove intake and output hoses and drain. For in ground pools, use an air compressor or a shop vacuum to blow out any residual water from the return pipes, and then promptly plug up the ports.

Some people prefer to plug-up the skimmer return as well and leave the water level of the pool as is. The pump should be moved into a garage or shed.

Homeowners should also test the pool water chemistry and adjust the pH, calcium hardness and total alkalinity according to recommended levels.

The cover should be placed on the pool and properly secured. This is where an extra body comes in handy so that the cover can be maneuvered easily. In above ground pools, an inflated pillow is often used to alleviate ice expansion and prevent the walls of the pool from splitting.

Store all of the pool equipment for the winter season, and during the cold weather, periodically check the cover, air pillow and water tubes for any damage.

Although closing a pool is not terribly difficult, it can be for those who have never owned a pool in the past. When in doubt, it is best to consult with a pool service.

—Courtesy of Metro Creative

Hot tub basics

By Sean Bradley
Contributing Writer

Hot tubs can be a fantastic addition to your home. They are great for parties and can also be a nice quiet place to relax after a hard day's work. The warm water is great for soothing muscles, relieving pain and calming. It can also help with arthritis or Type-2 diabetes as well as aches and pains.

Important hot tub maintenance tips:

Make sure that your chemicals are always at the right balance. If the pH level in your hot tub is too high it will dissolve your swimsuit, dry out your skin and irritate your eyes. To fix this, lower the levels of chlorine and bromine. If your hot tub is outside, the filters can get filled with leaves, sticks, insects and other debris. They should be taken out and rinsed with a hose once per week.

Keep an eye out for algae scum lines along the edge of the hot tub. You can remove this floating green or black scum by adding algacide.

When you are adding in the different hot tub chemicals make sure that you only add one chemical at a time to the water and leave two hours in between each one. This will minimize the risk of a negative chemical reaction in the water.

Always take a shower before getting in your hot tub, as the lotions and oils on your skin will change the pH of the water and cause foam.

Your hot tub should be left on at all times so that the water can continue to circulate so that algae and other residue do not build up in the filters.

Once a year, you should call a hot tub repairs company and have your hot tub properly serviced. They will lubricate everything and check that the motors, jets and all other parts are working properly.



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Waterproofing your basement

By Callum Tait
Contributing Writer

Many people work hard and save money so that they can own a home. As we all know, a home is an important asset and it is important to take care of it. When you become a homeowner, you have to make sure that you maintain your house and protect it from the elements. It is essential to take the necessary measures that will keep your home in good condition for a long time.

One common problem that many homeowners experience is water seeping into the basement. The water can be due to a leaking pipe or heavy rainfall, can cause structural damage and ruin any items stored in the basement. The water damage can ruin the foundation of the home and the consequences can be devastating. To help avoid this type of situation, homeowners can install a waterproofing system.

Waterproofing can be applied either indoors or outdoors. Many waterproofing service providers can assess the home and determine the best system to use. Your home's waterproofing needs will depend on the design of the home, the location and the source of the water.

Advantages of waterproofing your home

1. Waterproofing protects the home's foundation. Structural damage that starts from the basement can affect the rest of the home, making it unsafe. The walls get cracks that can go all the way to the ceiling. Homes that have been exposed to water damage over a long period often end up being uninhabitable

2. It protects the inhabitants from health hazards that are caused by mold or mildew. Moisture encourages the growth of mold, which can be very harmful to health. There are people who have suffered from lifelong chronic conditions due to exposure to mold.

3. Protects the valuables stored in the basement. Many people store valuable items like paintings, photographs and even furniture in the basement. Water can cause irreversible damage to the items, leading to thousands of dollars in losses.

4. Waterproofing helps to maintain the value of the home by preserving it in its original condition. Water damage can lower the value of a home and the depreciation can affect your position if you need to sell your home. You cannot fetch a good price for a home with water damage and Realtors often advise their clients to fix the basement before putting the house on the market.

5. If you need to apply for a mortgage, the lenders will inspect the home before approving the loan. It is important to ensure that the house is in good condition and there is no water damage in the basement.

6. Waterproofing keeps the home dry and comfortable. Water damage can cause the home to smell and feel damp, which can be quite uncomfortable for the inhabitants. The damp atmosphere can also trigger allergies or asthma.

7. By fixing your basement, you can create a space that can help you to supplement your income. You can create a basement apartment that you can rent out for extra cash. You can also renovate and use the space as an extra bedroom or recreation space.



A frameless shower can take up less space in a small bathroom.

Small bathroom renovation—when every inch counts

Renovating bathrooms is commonly at the top of home improvement to-do lists. Though some rooms around the house may remain timeless, bathrooms, like kitchens, show their age (and era) much more easily, which could be why homeowners are always on the lookout for new ideas.

Although many people may dream about creating a spa-type oasis in their homes, not everyone is lucky enough to have a large bathroom, much less a large budget for a full-scale renovation. Small bathrooms are common, particularly in older homes, but they needn't force homeowners to compromise on style when renovating.

Small bathrooms may be a half-bath on a main home level or even a full bath, depending on the home. By thinking creatively, homeowners can maximize their spaces and redo bathrooms in ways that bring out their best assets.

- When space is at a premium, it's best to look for fixtures and items that fit with the scale of the bathroom. Although you may want a large vanity and cabinet in which to hide all of your toiletries, this simply may not be practical — taking up most of the bathroom real estate. Instead, look for elegant pedestal sinks that have a much smaller profile. They'll also help you control the clutter in the bathroom because there won't be anywhere to hide it.

- Use optical illusions to make the bathroom appear larger and roomier. For example, lay tile diagonally to create the impression of space. A large mirror will reflect the room back and make it appear much larger than it really is.

- Select lighter hues in paint colors and accessories. Dark paints and fixtures could make the room feel cramped. Dark colors are generally used to make spaces feel cozier. In a small bathroom, it may make the space feel claustrophobic. Instead, think light and bright and the room will feel more airy.

- Minimize wall hangings and keep fixtures smaller. Filling the walls with knickknacks may contribute to clutter and make the space appear closed in. Use decorative items sparingly.

- If possible, store towels in a closet outside of the bathroom. This way you won't have to devote space inside the bathroom to a closet, leaving more room for other things.

- While some people like the thought of a separate bath and shower, in smaller bathrooms this may not be possible. Instead, look for a combined shower and bath, or select a walk-in shower with a much smaller profile.

- Windows are often welcome in bathrooms because of the ventilation they provide, but they could be a hindrance in smaller bathrooms because they take up prime wall space. Cover a window in a shower stall to free up space. Just be sure to install a venting fan to reduce moisture in the bathroom.

- Maximize wall space if you need storage. Find cabinets that will fit beneath windows or be able to fit in thin areas between sinks and toilets. Over the toilet is a prime area for cabinetry.

- Consider a frameless shower. This is a partitioned area of the bathroom that's set aside for the shower and is typically only cordoned off by a thin wall or piece of glass. Or a shower with no walls at all is the ultimate in space-saving. The entire bathroom floor is decked out in tile, and a portion is sloped toward a shower drain.

- Think about installing a skylight if you prefer natural light, but there is no room for a traditional window.

Thinking creatively can help turn a cramped bathroom into a space-saving and well-designed room homeowner's desire.

—Courtesy of Metro Creative



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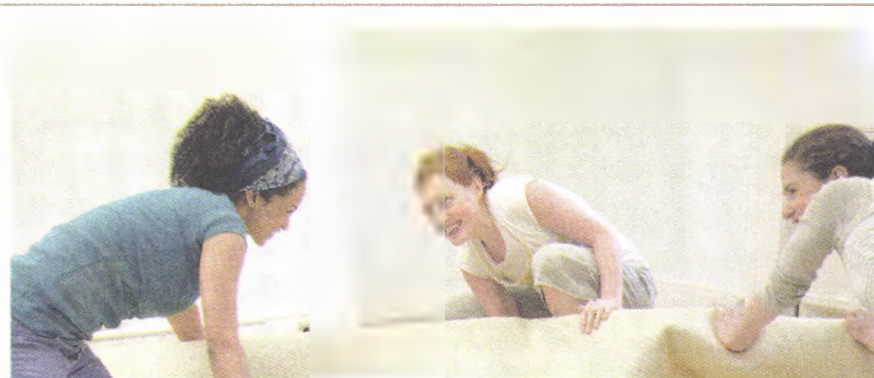
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The laydown on carpeting

Although many people may tout the benefits of hardwood flooring over carpeting, there are plenty of individuals who like to have the soft and luxurious feeling of carpeting underfoot. Selecting the right carpeting for a particular room and purpose can be a bit daunting because of the abundance of available colors and materials.

According to the Carpet and Rug Institute, carpeting is an added safety measure that makes play areas safer, potentially lessening the severity of an injury in the event of a fall. This is why carpeting is often preferred in children's rooms and play areas.

There are other advantages to carpeting as well. It can help insulate rooms both in the summer and winter. It can be easier on feet than a hard floor, and few materials absorb sound better than carpet.

Choosing the right carpeting for a room comes down to identifying the kind of foot traffic you expect in your home and which carpeting options most suit your needs. Here are some tips to get started.

- Don't overlook padding. Padding can make the difference in the way carpeting feels and how long it lasts. The thickest or most expensive padding isn't necessarily the best or the best suited for your home. However, it is wise to pick a pad that matches the type of carpeting you're selecting. You may be able to go with a thinner pad in low-traffic rooms and under dense carpeting like Berber. In high-traffic rooms, choose thicker, more durable padding. Padding prevents carpet backing and fibers from coming apart over duration of time, so if you're spending a lot on the carpet, it pays to invest in a padding that will last the duration of the carpet as well.

- Recognize the type of carpeting that best suits your needs. For example, plush and Saxony carpets are better in low-traffic areas. These carpets may show footprints and also vacuum tracks and dirt. Berber, meanwhile, is more flat and dense, making it highly effective at masking stains and tracks. Textured carpets like frieze are cut from fibers of different heights, so they mask stains and are also softer on the feet than Berbers. An entryway or a den may be better off carpeted in a dense carpeting, while a bedroom may be fine and luxurious with plush carpeting. Carpeting may come in stain-resistant varieties or low-maintenance options. These are generally best in homes with pets and children.

- Choose color wisely. Choosing a color comes down to preference and how much the room will be used. Although light, neutral colors are often preferred because they work well in just about any room, lighter colored carpets will show stains much more easily than other carpet colors. Textured, multi-colored carpets are preferable to hide stains and can look just as elegant as solid-colored carpeting. Much in the way paint colors are chosen, carpeting colors come down to personal preference. Drama may be created with bold colors that draw the eye to the carpet. However, for those who want the carpet to fade into the background instead of upstaging decor, neutral colors are better.

- Hire a good installer. Carpeting can make a fine addition to your home and make it feel more comfortable and inviting. Remember to take your time when selecting carpeting, as your decision will have long-lasting effects.

—Courtesy of Metro Creative

Consider a two-stage furnace for comfort and efficiency

Purchasing a new heating and cooling system could be in your future. Selecting the right furnace for your home requires understanding the various products available. A two-stage heating system is preferred by many HVAC contractors and could be the right fit in your renovation.

Choosing a new furnace and heating components can be difficult. The business has its own terminology, and there are scores of different equipment manufacturers all claiming that their brand is the best. Buying a new heating system is also expensive, making the process more stressful. Not everyone has an unlimited budget or the ability to simply select the top-of-the-line model. Therefore, understanding which features make one furnace stand out from another can help consumers make the best possible decision.

One factor that will come up as you browse for furnaces is whether to choose a single-stage furnace or a two- or dual-staged furnace. There are many advantages to the latter, which makes them a favorite of HVAC contractors.

Two-stage furnaces are designed to change the way British Thermal Units (BTUs) of heat are delivered to the home. In a single-stage system, when the thermostat registers a drop in home temperature that requires the heat to turn on, the furnace will produce one level of heat output until the desired temperature is reached. This furnace is designed to heat your home on the coldest days for your climate. In a two-stage system, the furnace

provides gradual heat production. In the first stage, which usually operates at around 70 percent of the system's heating capacity, the system will try to warm the space. On mild winter days or chilly autumn days, the first stage may be all that's needed. If the home requires additional heating, the furnace will kick into the second stage, increasing the heating power. Some two-stage furnaces not only offer two BTU offerings, but two blower speeds as well.

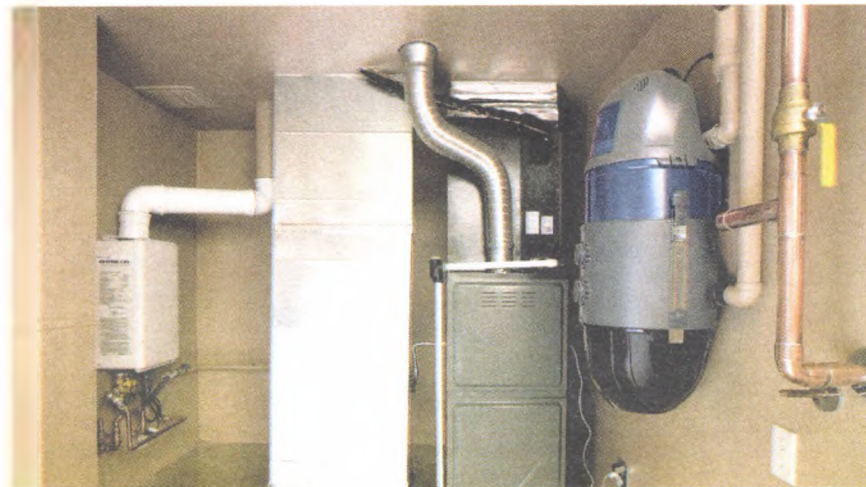
One of the advantages to these furnaces are that the two-stage system eliminates drastic temperature swings, which are common among single-stage furnaces. This can mean the home is more comfortable over a longer period of time.

Another benefit is that because the system starts in the lower stage and may operate at that stage more so than in the second stage, the furnace is generally quieter than traditional furnaces. This greatly reduces the initial noise of turning on the furnace at full power.

Two-stage furnaces will burn fuel more efficiently and may actually burn less fuel if they spend the majority of the time in the first stage of operation. If they have a variable speed blower, they may even save you money in electricity costs.

Two-stage furnaces may cost more money initially because they tend to be more expensive than traditional furnaces. But over time two-stage systems might pay for themselves in efficiency, noise reduction and comfort in a home.

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Kitchen choices

By Daniel Crow
Contributing Writer

White kitchens are a popular choice among many households because they look clean, fresh and bright. They are ideal for those who like to keep their house tidy and clean at all times, as any spillages and other types of mess can be easily spotted and wiped up quickly. Having a white kitchen is also nice on those dark and gloomy days, as it can brighten up the house and improve your mood due to it reflecting any light.

Adding color through the choice of accessories or appliances is a good idea if you wish to make the room more interesting. For example, you could have one wall or unit in bright red, with the rest of the kitchen in white and use a gray or black granite surface for the units. The appliances and crockery could also be red, so it adds a nice dimension of color without going overboard on too many different tones.

Country-styled kitchens are also a well-liked design. They often look fairly rustic and old-fashioned, so they present a styling of old-world English charm about them, making them feel very homely and cozy.

Some choices of cupboards are often made out of a light-colored wood with wickerwork baskets for storage, and a range of fruit and plants for decoration purposes. A country kitchen still can, however, have a more modern edge to it. Perhaps a shiny marble floor or dark granite worktops can finish the look and bring it up to date at the same time as keeping its old rustic charm. Photo frames and hanging pots can also add a country style to the room.

Some white kitchens in this

design may also feature wood painted in this color, including for all cupboards, tables and chairs. The room does not have to look plain though, as color and character can be added through the choice of the right accessories. In older houses, dark-colored beams may be present on the ceiling, which adds to the old country kitchen's charm once more. A chandelier or hanging light may complete the look and add an extra bit of class. Many kitchens with an old fashioned feel have their pots and pans on display to add additional character, while more modern designs go for a minimalistic look that keeps everything clean and fresh.

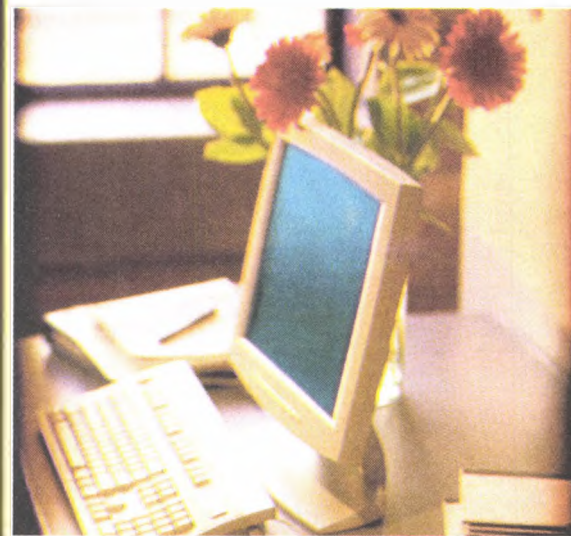
An island unit within the center of a kitchen is a nice way to make use of the space and is a popular option for larger rooms. This may often feature a sink or table and chairs, and can be used as a dining area at the same time as chopping or other culinary tasks.



Finding space for a home office

A home office is a necessity for many adults these days. While some people have entire rooms available to house a home office, others have to make do with less space, and that can mean fitting an office into a tight space. The first step in establishing a small home office is figuring out the space you have and any limitations that may accompany it. For example, maybe you have an unused corner in the living room but don't want to have wires and equipment out in the open. An armoire-type desk that can be closed when not in use is a viable option in such a situation. Perhaps there is an unused closet in a bedroom. A wall-mounted desk surface, such as a piece of custom-cut countertop material, completes with foldaway mouse and keyboard tray can easily turn the space into a compact nook. Maybe there is an entryway with a small table that would be large enough for a laptop. A stool or ottoman that can be tucked under it can serve as a desk chair and extra seating for company.

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After years of funny financing and few limitations on loans, banks and other lenders have tightened up their lending policies. As a result, homeowners considering a home improvement project might need to look elsewhere to secure financing.

There are no certainties in the real estate markets. Though statistics suggest marked improvement in home sales over just a few months ago, many homeowners remain weary about selling their home to try to move up to something bigger and better. The National Association of Home Builders says many people are choosing to stay put in their homes and remodel or make renovations to transform the house into something more comfortable.

While there are many worthwhile home renovation projects, the NAHB recommends projects that bring your home up to par with the neighbors'. It doesn't pay to transform your home into the most expensive on the street — unless you plan to live there for the rest of your life. Real estate experts recommend that a remodeling investment increase the value of your house by no more than 10 to 15 percent above the median sales price in your neighborhood.

When it comes time to finance a remodel or renovation, you may not know where to start. Credit restrictions on home mortgages that have troubled many would-be buyers have also plagued individuals looking to finance home improvements. However, homeowners hoping to finance a project do have options, and not all of them require stellar credit ratings.

- Borrow against a retirement plan. Many retirement plans, such as a 401(k), allow plan members to take out a portion of the savings to put toward a home loan. This does not mean you are taking money out of the account permanently. Rather, you are borrowing against yourself, with repayment necessary in a certain timeframe. Because these loans often offer very low interest rates, and essentially the interest is being paid back to

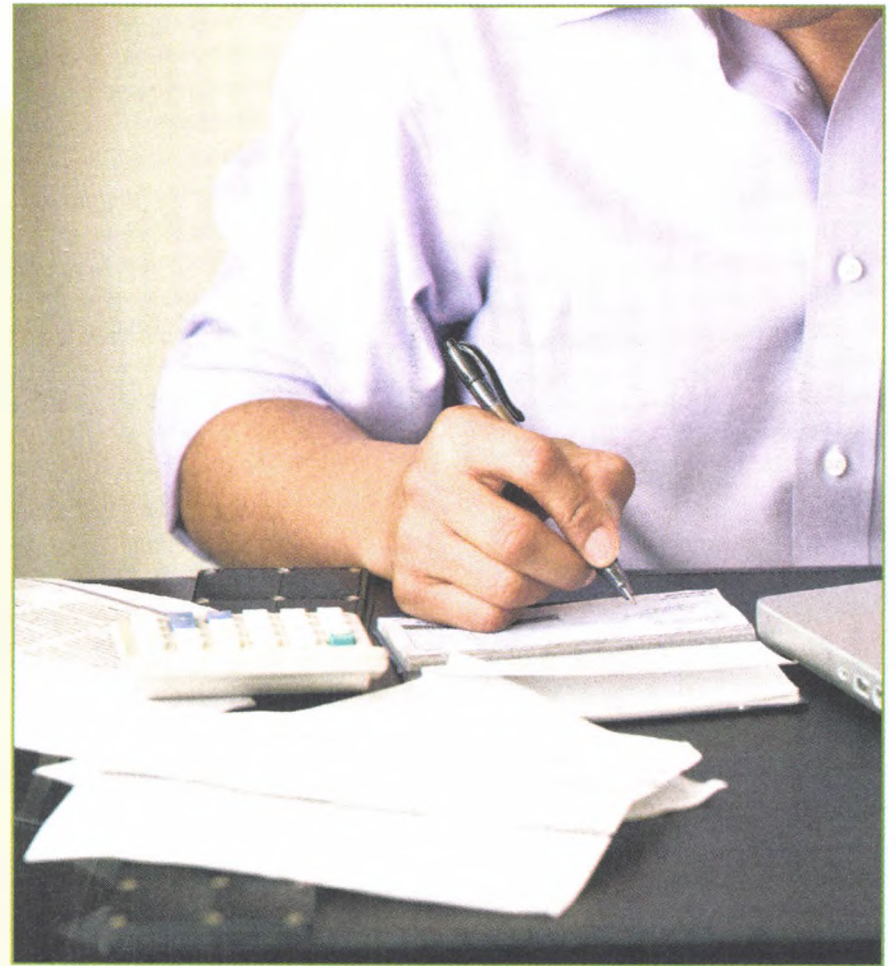
you, they might be a good option for men and women who cannot secure a traditional loan. However, if you have been laid off, there may be a shorter repayment period. Also, the interest on these loans is not tax-deductible.

- Borrow against other investments. CDs, bonds or mutual funds can provide the collateral you need and earn you a lower interest rate. Fixed-income investments are more stable options to borrow against, as their value won't have a chance to decline.

- Apply for a home equity loan. Many people have heard of a home equity loan, and it is usually the first choice when borrowing funds for renovations. Essentially a home equity loan is taking out a second mortgage on your home to pay for the work you want to have done, which is based on the equity, or the difference between the home's fair market value and the outstanding balance of all liens on the property. The interest on these loans is tax-deductible, which can make this financing option quite popular.

- Secure a home equity line of credit. A home equity line of credit, or HELOC, is another type of home equity loan. Instead of receiving a lump sum to use toward renovations like you would with a traditional home equity loan, a HELOC is sort of a credit card type scenario based on the equity in your home. You are given a line of credit, against which you can buy items. This is good for intermittent needs, when one large sum is not needed. HELOCs have a draw period, during which the borrower can use the credit, and a repayment period, during which it must be repaid. HELOCs generally have lower mortgage fees at the start and are generally subject to the same tax incentives as regular home equity loans.

- Consider refinancing. Interest rates on mortgages are at historic lows. You may qualify to do a cash-out refinance, where you borrow against the value of your home and create an entirely new mortgage at the low-



Many people use their credit cards to finance renovations, but there are better options.

er rate. Although you will start your mortgage all over from day 1 and have to pay closing fees, this type of refinancing can be more advantageous to homeowners with significant equity in their homes.

- Apply for a government-sponsored loan. The government may offer programs aimed at helping individuals who are underwater on their home loans borrow money to make necessary improvements. While the funding cannot be used to purchase luxury items, such as a swimming pool, it can be used for necessities. Residents of the United States can explore FHA 203(k) refinance options and an FHA title 1-improvement loan.

- Discuss financing with your contractor. Some contractors may offer financing. Keep in mind that the interest rates may be high, and it may be difficult to investigate the security of these types of loans.

Many homeowners also look to credit cards to help finance some home renovation projects, but they should be used as a last resort. Credit cards typically come with high interest rates, and while they are good for some small projects, financing larger projects on a card may land you very deep in debt.

Homeowners who choose to stay in their homes and make renovations have a host of options at their disposal to finance those projects.

—Courtesy of Metro Creative





Thousands of dollars are spent every year on home heating, cooling and electricity needs, but there are many different ways to conserve energy. This includes using alternative energy sources that may be better for the planet and more cost-effective for the average homeowner.

Green living options

Private residences consume lots of energy. The Energy Information Administration says that Americans are increasing their electricity consumption at home, with some homes even using more energy than small businesses. The EIA says that on average a home uses between 936 and 1,000 kilowatt-hours of electricity each month. There is also a heavy reliance on natural gas, one of the primary fuels used to heat homes. On average, homes use 100 million BTU for heating and cooking needs per year.

When considering green energy, many homeowners think of solar panels, which currently account for .01 percent of all electricity used in homes across the United States. However, solar power could provide as much as 10 percent of that electricity by 2025. California leads the nation with the most solar projects to date, but homeowners across the country are considering solar panel additions to their homes. While the initial cost of solar panel installation can be considerable, the panels generally pay for themselves in energy savings within a few years of installation. Also, some solar power companies now allow homeowners to rent the photovoltaic panels, which can cut down on the cost of installation.

Choosing green energy may not involve any effort on the part of the homeowner. In fact, there are many different companies that work in conjunction with traditional energy suppliers so that a portion of the energy supplied to homes

comes via an alternative energy source. Companies like Viridian Energy (www.viridian.com) enable homeowners to switch a certain percentage of their energy usage to renewable energy. The company says that their collective impact has reduced total carbon emissions by 478,000,000 pounds, saving roughly five million trees and 24 million gallons of gasoline as a result. Homeowners who choose this option will still receive the same bill and must still open an account with their local utility companies. Delivery of the energy to that local utility changes, but consumers won't have anything to do with that process.

Homeowners interested in making any other changes for energy savings can sign up to have an energy audit. Conducted through a utility provider or a third-party organization, energy audits assess many things in the home. Appliances are examined, as are insulation and the types of windows and doors used in the home and an inspector will check the home for drafts. A report is generated, and homeowners are provided recommendations as to how they can improve their home's energy efficiency. Making such changes may make homeowners eligible for tax breaks or even rebate incentives while reducing the cost of their monthly utility bills.

Homeowners hoping to embrace green energy have many options at their disposal. It's just a matter of researching those options and taking the initiative to make changes.

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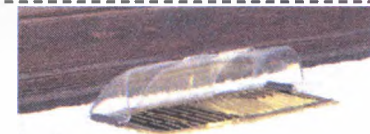
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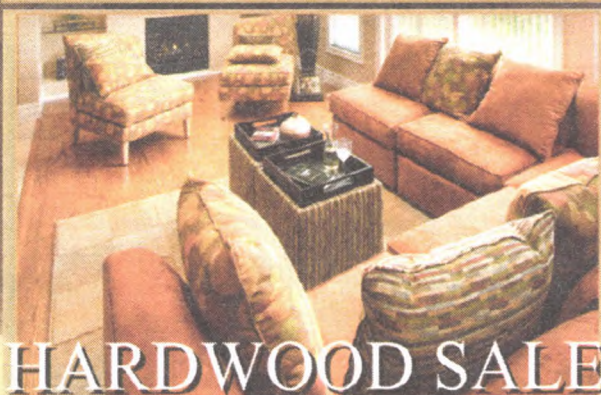
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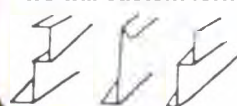


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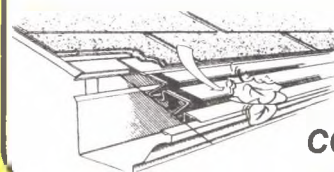
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